

Trench conditions: What was trench warfare like?



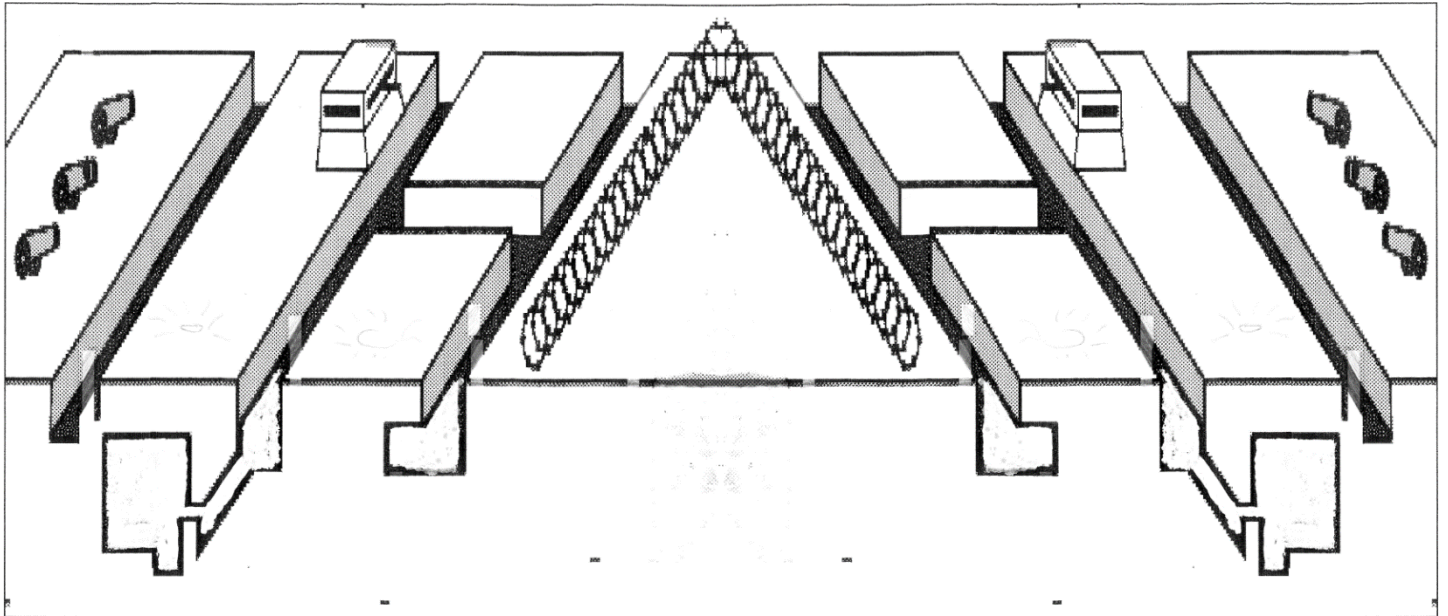
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**Task One:** Using the letters that make up the words **Trench Warfare** see how many words that you can create. Add your words to the table below:

1. Trench	2. Warfare	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12
13.	14.	15.	16.
17.	18.	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.
29.	30.	31.	32.
33.	34.	35.	36.
37.	38.	39.	40.
41.	42.	43.	44.
45.	46.	47.	48.
49.	50.	51.	52.
53.	54.	55.	56.
57.	58.	59	60.

Your first task is to create a labelled diagram of a typical *Great War* battlefield.



Draw a simple line drawing/diagram of a typical battlefield during the *Great War*.

Your diagram will need to be labelled with the following:

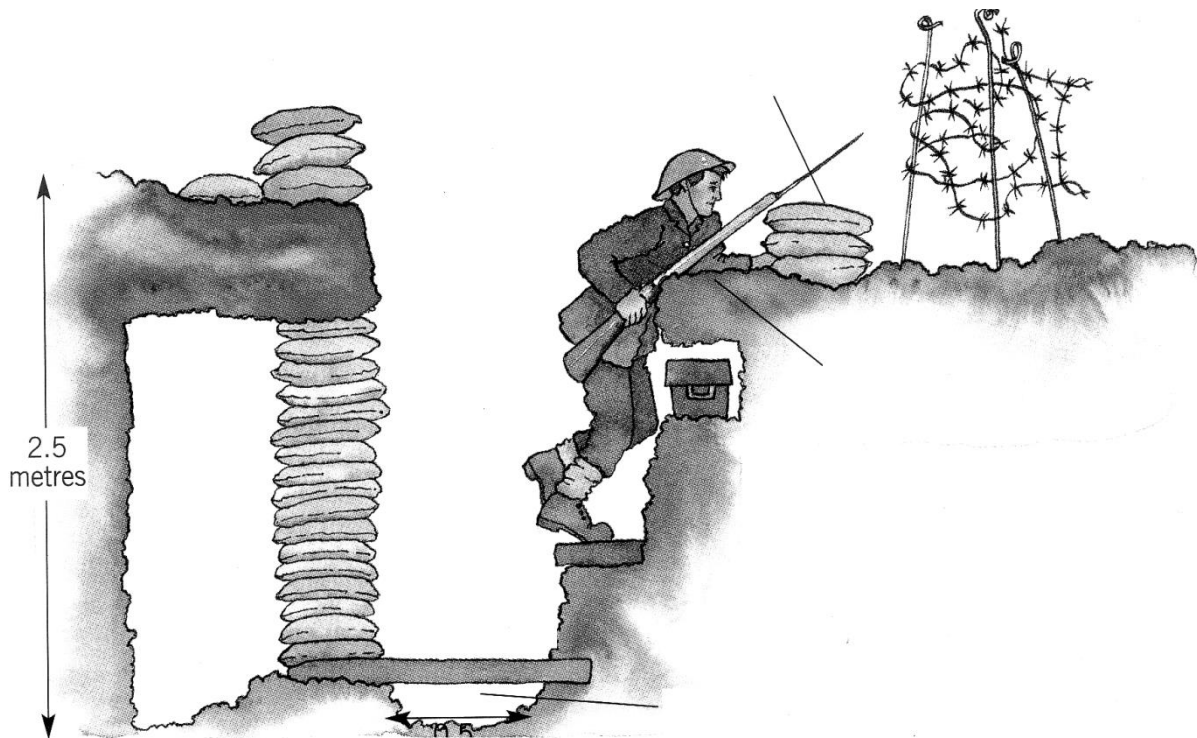
No Mans Land; Barbed Wire; Artillery/Howitzers;

British Trench; German Trench; Mud filled Shell holes/Craters;

Clouds of poison gas; Exploding shells; Machine gun tower;

Basic Dug Out; Underground bunker.

Your second task is to label tidily the following picture  
of inside  
A typical Great War trench.



Your next task is to research into conditions facing the average soldier in the trenches.

Use BBC Bitesize to help you research the following:

Conditions

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Disease

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Food

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Duties

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Fears

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How are each of these pictures linked to trench conditions?



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How are the sources presenting life in the trenches?

Tell me your opinion and give examples from the sources

**Source A - Sergeant A. Vine, diary entry, 8th August, 1915**

*The stench of the dead bodies now is awful as they have been exposed to the sun for several days, many have swollen and burst. The trench is full of other occupants, things with lots of legs, also swarms of rats.*

**Source B - 'The Harvest of Battle', by CRW Nevinson in 1919**



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## Source C - Extract from General Haig's war diaries, June 1915

After lunch I had a meeting with the three corps commanders. The following also present: General Hobbs, Surgeon-General Macpherson and Butler, on the question of trench sanitation, in consequence of a report which had reached me. One para. stated "there were two bodies buried in front parapet, one of which had "only two inches of earth on it. There were many bodies within a "few yds. of the parapet. The stench was sickening. Hundreds of "half empty jam tins were littered about, and naturally crowded "with flies. The latrine arrangements were not adequate."

We agreed that incinerators should be erected for burning all refuse. When impossible to burn the corpses, ample quick lime to be sent up to the trenches to cover them with. Sacks must be provided for the removal of tins, waste paper, etc. Buckets to be provided for the latrines, and to be renewed where possibly nightly. The several wooden tramways which have been constructed enable this to be done without much difficulty in most sections.

Since I saw the Surgeon-General this morning, he had been into the trenches at Givenchy, and now reported that the condition of affairs was not so bad as some had represented, still it was very urgent that every possible precaution should be taken to prevent insanitary conditions. Corps commanders are fully alive to the importance of this, and are personally to go into the matter.

Make a list of all the bad things Haig is mentioning in his letter.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



Complete the definition

Censorship is...

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Censor the two letters to make sure that people back home know the soldiers are having a good time! Scribble out the negative sentences.

1. Written by Private H. F. Leppard of East Grinstead on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1914.

Dear mother,

I trust you are keeping well. I am holding up well. On a lower point the soldiers at the front need more rest. While in the trenches the water is over our knees most of the time. The war is going to last some time yet, and might be another twelve months before it is over. The war has only just begun and it's going to be a war of exhaustion. The sooner people understand this the better it will be for the nation. I hope to see you soon, love Harold.

3. Written by Private James Mitchell o East Grinstead, on 17th October, 1914.

Dear Father, how are you and mother coping? I am holding up just fine. Me and the boys always cheer each other up. Yesterday we started away just after dawn from our camp and I think it was about an hour later that we encountered the enemy. They were on the opposite side of the valley and as we came over the brow of the hill they opened on us with rifle fire and shrapnel from about 900 yards. We lost three officers and about 100 men killed and wounded in that half hour. I do not want any more days like that one. Anyway we drove the Germans back and held them there for eight days. I cannot tell you all I should like to, as it would never reach you. I will see you again soon, I promise. Love to everyone, James.

Why do you think the government censored letter?

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*Write a letter home to your parents or loved one explaining the horrors of trench warfare. Make sure you include: What were conditions like in the trenches? What was the morale of your fellow soldiers? How do you feel about going 'over the top'? Describe in detail your emotions: fear, desperation, helplessness etc.*

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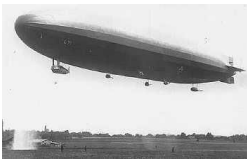



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## Attacking a Trench

Do some research on each of these weapons and come up with some advantages and disadvantages.

Weapon	Advantages Good thing about this weapon.	Disadvantages Bad thing about this weapon.	Cost
Artillery (Shells) 			<b>£250 each</b>
Zeppelin 	Very quiet, so can't be heard coming.	Expensive!	<b>£2,000</b>
Flamethrowers 			<b>£65 each</b>
Tanks 		Expensive!	<b>£1,500</b>
Grenades 			<b>£5 each</b>

Machine Guns 			<b>£175 each</b>
Gas 	If you don't have a gas mask it can either blind you or kill you.		<b>£15 per canister</b>
Plane 		Expensive!	<b>£1,750</b>

Which weapon would have been the best and why?

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# TRENCH ATTACK REPORT

NAME OF PLATOON COMMANDER: \_\_\_\_\_

## TASKS:

1. LABEL THE ADVANCE TO THE ENEMY TRENCH ON THE MAP
2. COMPLETE THE TABLE BELOW TO SHOW WHAT WEAPONS WILL BE USED:

Name of weapon	What will it be used for?	Number needed	Total cost
			£
			£
			£
			£
			£
			£
Total:			£

## 3. WHAT WILL YOU DO DURING THE ATTACK?

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## 4. IF YOU'RE DONE –

LABEL THE WEAPONS ON THE OTHER WORKSHEET AS EITHER **SOLDIER WEAPONS** (CAN BE USED BY ONE PERSON) OR **BATTLE WEAPONS** (HAVE TO BE USED BY SEVERAL PEOPLE AT ONCE)

Bring in the TANKS!

Tanks have played a large role in land \_\_\_\_\_ during the \_\_\_\_\_ century. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the tank can be found in the First World War. The war was being dominated by the \_\_\_\_\_, and this, combined with \_\_\_\_\_ on the battlefield was creating a stalemate situation with troops unable to move forward. The British Army started to develop a \_\_\_\_\_ machine able to move over obstacles with ease using caterpillar tracks. The first \_\_\_\_\_ was tested in February 1916. It was a success and the army started the \_\_\_\_\_ manufacture of this weapon. If tanks were to be effectively used in the war, then they had to be used in large \_\_\_\_\_ and on suitable \_\_\_\_\_.

### Words

Numbers Bulletproof

Origins

Prototype

Barbed Wire Machine Gun

Secret

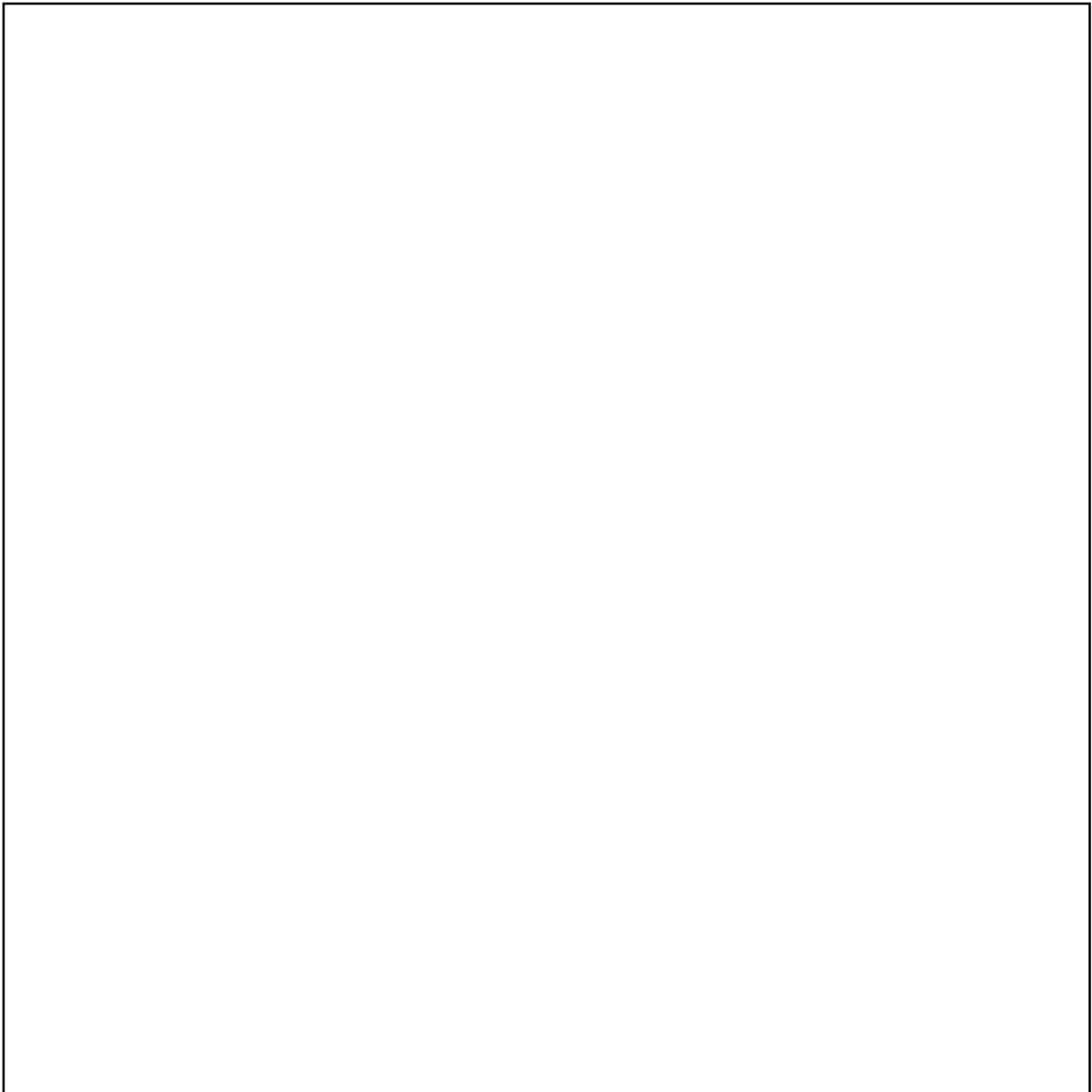
Twentieth

Terrain

Warfare



Design your own tank to present in a Dragon's Den style interview.



Hello Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am here today to present you with my product \_\_\_\_\_

I have designed the tank because

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It works by \_\_\_\_\_

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The strengths of my product are obvious. My tank can do things like

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The audience for my product is \_\_\_\_\_.

This would attract buyers because \_\_\_\_\_

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## Battle of the Somme

Create a list of at least 5 things you know about World War One and life in the trenches.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Watch the videos and answer the questions

Part 1 - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAz\\_msoBAR0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAz_msoBAR0)

What year was the battle of the Somme occur?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many people were killed or wound during the Somme?

\_\_\_\_\_

What was a stalemate?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who was the commander of the British forces?

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the problem with Kitchener's army?

\_\_\_\_\_

What was good about Kitchener's army?

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the plan before the battle?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIX-0PpEYxQ>

What were the soldiers to do after the bombing?

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Why the shells not effective?

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How many shells were dud?

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How else did the British try to attack the Germans?

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Why did this not work as a surprise attack?

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How do the historians view Haig?

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**Part 3** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7av4gCOAIS4>

How did the Germans have an advantage?

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Why were British trenches not well built?

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Why did the soldiers not want to fight on foot?

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What were German soldiers able to see from their position?

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What was a major error made by high command?

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What did the generals want the soldiers to do on no man's land?

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**Part 4** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FY5opCc\\_i30](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FY5opCc_i30)

How many were killed in 3 minutes during the 2:30 east Yorkshire division attack?

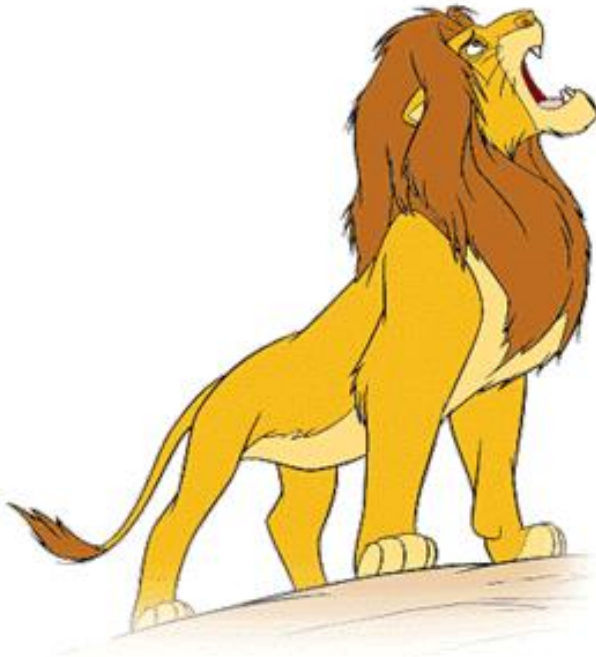
What was one of the only successes of the battle?

How far had the soldiers moved after the Somme?

How should we remember the Somme? As a success or Failure?

Explain your opinion.

General Haig



Who would you rather lead you out of these two animals? Explain.

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Watch the video link and to find out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rblfKREj50o>

Which animal are people saying Haig was?

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These sources say different things about General Haig.

**SOURCE A** - Professor Seymour Clearley, a military historian in his book 'Why Britain won the Great War' in 2014. He was a long distant relative of General Haig.

At the end of the day, the British Army won a series of victories unmatched in our military history.

Haig and his generals did well to win WW1 with an army that was formed from inexperienced men and boys who had no knowledge of war.

Had General Haig not carried on sending troops into battle during the Somme then the French would have been defeated and Germany would have won WW1.

WW1 was a very modern war. No one had ever used tanks and machine guns in a war before. No one knew what to do. The Generals did very well to try new tactics and had to try new things. By 1918 the British army had better tactics than they had in 1916 and were the best.

**SOURCE B** -Terry Orange in an interview with a newspaper in 2014. They were writing an article on how terrible the battle of the Somme was. Terry's great great grandfather had fought and died in the Battle.

1.2 million people died in the Battle of the Somme and for what? The Allies only secured 70 square miles of land! That's nothing!

Haig was employed as Commander as the British army because he was supposedly experienced. He should have known what to do. To send wave after wave of men over defenceless to face the German machine guns was barbaric! He is responsible for the mass slaughter of these young men and boys.

Where were the generals when this was going on? They were sat in their comfy dugouts behind the front lines. They did not even take part.

It is without a doubt that General Haig deserves his nickname 'the Butcher of the Somme'.

**Why do sources A and B say different things about General Haig?**

What does source A say about Haig?	What does source B say about Haig?
Who wrote Source A? What is their job or background?	Who wrote source B? What is their job or background?
When was source A written? Is there anything else happening?	When was source B written? Is there anything else happening?



Why was source A written and who would the audience be?	Why was source B written and who would the audience be?
Where might they have got their information from? What might they have used?	Where might they have got their information from? What might they have used?
Why might the author of source A be biased?	Why might the author of source B be biased?

What is your opinion? What Haig a good leader?

You need to write a balanced answer- this means having a agree paragraph (Haig was a good leader) and disagree paragraph (Haig wasn't a good leader)

Explain your answer and use quotes from the source to back up your ideas

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## End of World War One

Read thought the information about why world war one ended.

Describe the factors and use key statistics to support those factors.

Factor 1 \_\_\_\_\_

How did this end the war?

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Factor 2 \_\_\_\_\_

How did this end the war?

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Factor 3 \_\_\_\_\_

How did this end the war?

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On the next page you are to write a newspaper article about the end of the war and

CREATE A FRONT PAGE OF A NEWSPAPER ON THE NEXT PAGE LETTING PEOPLE KNOW THAT THE FIRST WORLD WAR IS OVER.

- YOU MUST INCLUDE:
  - A PICTURE
  - A TITLE
  - A GENERAL SUMMARY OF HOW THE WAR ENDED
    - THE DATE,
    - THE MEETING IN THE RAILWAY CARRIAGE
  - AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE WAR ENDED
    - DISCUSS IN DETAIL ALL THREE FACTORS
    - USE STATISTICS





Now you have finished looking at living in trenches and fighting in the war in detail reflect on what you have learn by answering the questions in the final task.



What have you learnt?

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What would you like to know about next?

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What was the trigger event?

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Did Germany deserve the blame for the War?

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What was a benefit of the War?

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Was the War worthwhile?

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