



RESOURCE 1: IN THE TRENCHES

“The impression of soldiering in the Great War is of a young patriot enlisting in 1914 to do his bit, and then being shipped off to France... He marches all the way to the Front...

Reaching the firing line, he is put in a filthy hole in the ground and stays there until 1918. If he survives, he is fed on a tasteless and meagre diet of bully beef and biscuits.

Most days, if he is not being shelled or bombed, he goes ‘over the top’ and attacks a German in a similar position a few yards away across no man’s land.

He never sees an officer and rarely changes his lice-ridden clothes, while rats gnaw the dead bodies of his comrades.”

-from ‘Mud, Blood and Poppycock’, by Gordon Corrigan, published in 2003

In this “impression” there are **eight** unpleasant aspects of being a soldier in the First World War. List them below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Keep this list. In this enquiry we are going to see how accurate this “impression” is.

You will your give judgement in your own presentation.