

September 1<sup>st</sup> 1916

The daily life in the war is tough; I never would have thought it would be this rough. The food we get fed is mostly supplied in cans. Machonochi contains slices of turnips and carrots. My friend says "When it is warm it's edible, but cold it can be a man killer.", but that is just his way of saying that it is horrible.

The sleeping arrangements suck. We have to sleep on a hard floor with a coat but when it rains we are sleeping in a puddle. Sometimes, during the night, rats, frogs and hornet beetles come and sleep with us.

Rats! There are hundreds of them! The 2 most common rats are brown and black. These rats can grow to the size of a cat. We try clubbing the rats with bayonets. It doesn't always work.

Rats by far aren't the only source of infection. Lice are the never ending problem. They breed in the seams of our dirty clothes causing us to itch... a lot!

Lice cause trench fever, a very painful disease that starts suddenly with painful pain, followed by a high fever. For the recovery it takes 12 weeks away from the trenches. It's only a matter of time before I get it.

After we finish all of our assigned tasks we get to do what we want. I normally spend my time reading and writing letters, playing cards and sleeping whenever nobody needs help.

One of the morning rituals is to stand guard for surprise attacks until morning light. I have only had to do that twice.

Anna