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Extra, Extra

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The TRENCHES

Death was a constant companion to those serving in the trenches. Many men died on their first days in the trenches. It has been estimated that up to one third of Allied casualties on the Western Front were actually sustained in the trenches. Aside from enemy injuries, disease was a heavy toll.

Rats were also a big part of living in the trenches. Rats infested trenches. There were two types of rats. Both were disliked but the brown rat was especially feared. Filling themselves with the remains of humans because they could grow to the size of a cat! The rats would scamper across the soldiers faces in the dark. How the soldiers would get rid of the nuisances is they would fill the trenches with gunfire with bayonet or clubbing them to death. Many veteran soldiers swore that rats sensed impending heavy enemy shellfire and consequently disappeared from view.

Food for soldiers in the trenches during World War One was at times considered a luxury. Getting decent hot food from the field kitchens to the front line trenches could be impossible when a battle was either about to happen or in full flow.

Their food consisted of:

- 8 ounces of fresh vegetables
- 1/20 ounce of mustard
- 1/36 ounce of pepper
- ½ ounce of salt
- 4 ounces of jam
- 5/8 ounces of tea
- 3 ounces of cheese
- 20 ounces of bread

Life was difficult for the soldiers. We should appreciate what they have done for us. Thank you, soldiers, all over the world.

By: Jessica 6B