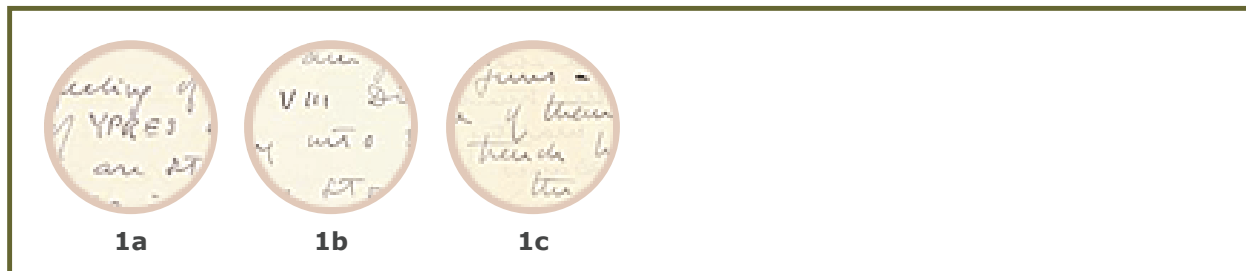




## Source 1

Extracts from reports written by Major General Sir Henry Rawlinson in November 1914  
(Catalogue ref: PRO 30/57/51)



### How to use this source:

Study this source carefully. It contains information that could be useful in your presentation on life in the trenches. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- What does extract 1a tell you about the impact of the Battle of Ypres on the officers and men?
- According to extract 1a, how good or bad is the relationship between the officers and the ordinary soldiers?
- What do these sources reveal about conditions in the trenches?
- What do these sources reveal about what it was like to be in front line trenches?
- Which aspects of trench warfare do these sources provide information on?
- How could any of these sources be used in your final presentation?



## Source 1a

My dear Field Marshal.

I find here a feeling of relief that the great battle of YPRES is now nearly over - The Germans are still attacking in places but the sting is out of their attacks and though we have lost ground at many points since I left a week ago the general line has been maintained - But we have had huge losses - When the figures are added up the losses will not be far short of 30,000 men in the last fortnight - Sir John is cheery and confident but he has had a very hard time and the responsibility and worry has left its mark on him - He will try to give my corps a weeks rest to get the 8 Div in order and to allow reinforcements to come up for the 7 Div which is reduced to under 3000 men - I hear the 1 Div is almost as bad



## Source 1b

During the past few days the former attacks have quieted down and certain of the Corps have been withdrawn from the firing line either to rest or to be transferred elsewhere - Since I have taken my place in the line between the III Corps and the Indian Corps we have had no severe fighting which I am glad of for it will enable the VIII Div to find its feet before getting into the thick of it - So far they have stood the work very

well and notwithstanding the cold and wet have had no undue proportion of sick but being given at the art of holding and making trenches they have suffered more casualties from snipers than they should have done - As you may imagine some of the trenches are in a terrible plight - There is liquid mud in them well over the men's ankles whilst the ground all round is a grey mire and the country about here being very low and flat there is no means of draining them



## Source 1c

I have 3 batt<sup>n</sup> of Trenchers now and they  
 have been doing good work digging trenches  
 but I am putting them into the trenches  
 gradually, a company at a time so as  
 to accustom them by degrees to the  
 enemy's bullets - The new howitzer

2. which we call "Mother" has been KITCHENER'S  
PAPER W 5/6  
 doing capital work and has already <sup>17</sup>  
 accounted for at least half a dozen of  
 the enemy's guns - We shall be glad  
 when more of them arrive - We also  
 want the trench howitzer badly as in  
 places where the opposing lines are only  
 some 30 to 50 yards apart we have  
 nothing to compete with the former  
 trench howitzer which throws bombs  
 containing very heavy charges of high  
 explosive and then do serious damage  
 to our trenches - We are trying mining

but not with very much success <sup>18</sup>  
 up to date for our saps are chiselled at the face.