



## An allied army

The British forces were not all from Britain. A British army could be made up of divisions of Indians, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans, West Africans and Canadians, as well as British troops. Behind the lines were the Chinese Labour Corps, which built and repaired road and rail links to the front.

The largest forces were from France and the French colonies, such as Algeria. They carried the main burden of the war in 1914-16, while Britain desperately tried to recruit and train a large land army almost from scratch. There were also two million American troops who arrived in France in 1918 to play an important role in achieving victory.

The sources in this case study will give you a sense of the range of different people the average British soldier might have met while serving in the Great War.

You will probably find it helpful to study the [Background](#) before you start looking at the sources.

Use the [Worksheet](#) as you look through the sources. This will help you plan your research and think about how to present your findings.

### Sources



Service record of  
Wilfred Owen, 1917-  
18



Photo of Walter Tull,  
1st Football Battalion



Photo of West Indian  
troops, 1916



Report & photos of  
Canadians, 1915-17



Newspaper report on  
VC winner, 1915



Photo of an Irish  
raiding party, 1916



Photos of Australian  
& NZ soldiers, 1916



Film of US soldiers in  
France, 1918



Letter from a British  
Red Cross nurse,  
1915



'The British Empire's  
Contribution', 1919