



Daily grind

The most intense experience of the Great War was taking part in a battle like the Somme or the battles around Ypres. However, the troops also spent a lot of their time doing much more routine things. British and Empire forces were more often behind the lines than on the front line.

This case study shows you a range of sources that give a sense of daily life in and around the front line - and how the Tommies filled their time when not involved in the fighting.

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



Film of soldiers digging trenches, 1915



General Haig's war diary, June 1915



Letter from a British soldier, August 1916



Letters & postcards sent home, 1915-18



Battalion war diary, 1915



Film of preparations for battle, 1916



Photos of meal time in the field, 1916-17



Notices sent to British Army units, 1916-17