

# Knowledge Organiser - The historic environment: The British sector of the Western Front 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches

Context of the Western Front		Key Words	
1	<b>The Western Front</b> is a stretch of land through France and Belgium where most of the fighting took place during WW1. It is where most of the main battles occurred.	11	<b>Front line</b> The trench nearest the enemy
		12	<b>The command trench</b> 10-20 metres behind the firing line
		13	<b>The support trench</b> 200-500 metre behind the front line
		14	<b>The reserve trench</b> At least 100 metres behind the support trench. Reserves would be here ready to mount a counter attack if enemy entered the front line
		15	<b>The communication trench</b> Linked to front line with the command support and reserve trenches
		16	<b>No mans land</b> The land between the allied and German trenches in WW1
		17	<b>Trenches</b> Long narrow ditches dug during WW1 In which soldiers fought
2	<b>August 1914</b> The war begins	18	<b>The Ypres Salient</b> Vulnerable as Germans had advantageous position – higher ground – could see Allies and build stronger defences Tunneling/ mines were used by British at Hill 60
3	<b>August-September 1914</b> The first trenches are built on both sides of the war	19	<b>The Somme</b> July 0 November 1916 by River Somme On 1 <sup>st</sup> day 60,000 British casualties and 20,000 dead In total over 400,00 Allied casualties = pressure on medical services
4	<b>October-November 1914</b> First Battle of Ypres	20	<b>Arras</b> Before battle Allies dug tunnel network below – made easy due to chalky ground. Rooms were created with running water and electricity – also a hospital Allowed troops to front in secrecy
5	<b>April-May 1915</b> Second Battle of Ypres	21	<b>Cambrai</b> 450 large scale tanks used to launch surprise attack on German front line – but not enough infantry support. British lost ground they has taken First Blood Bank used
6	<b>February-December 1916</b> Battle of Verdun		
7	<b>July-November 1916</b> The Battle of the Somme		
8	<b>July-November 1917</b> Third Battle of Ypres		
9	<b>November-December 1917</b> Battle of Cambrai		
10	<b>Summer and autumn 1918</b> The final months of the war		

## Key Events

# Knowledge Organiser - The historic environment: The British sector of the Western Front 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches

Conditions needing treatment			Evacuation Route		
1	<b>Trench Fever</b>	Transmitted by lice, flu like symptoms, drugs were not effective – electric current through affected area worked Prevention – disinfect clothes/ delousing stations ½ m men affected	16	<b>Stage 1 Stretcher bearers</b>	Go into No mans land at night/ a break in fighting to collect the dead and wounded. Each battalion had 16 and it took 4 to carry a stretcher
2	<b>Trench Foot</b>	Soldiers stood in mud and water – swelling in feet Symptoms = tight boots/ restricted blood flow/ gangrene Advised clean and dry feet/ amputation Prevention – clean dry socks/ using whale oil into feet 1914-5 20,000 affected	17	<b>Stage 2 Regimental Aid Post (RAP)</b>	RAP was always close to the front line. <b>Battalion regimental medical officer</b> was in the RAP - identified those who were lightly wounded and those who needed more medical attention
3	<b>Shell shock</b>	Caused by stress of war, Symptoms = tiredness/ nightmares/ shaking/ mental breakdown Wasn't understood during the war Treatment = rest 80,000 affected – some accused of being cowards – punishment being shot.	18	<b>Stage 3 Field Ambulance and Dressing Station</b>	Large mobile medical unit with medical officers, support staff and nurses (from 1915) Dressing station = where emergency treatment given to wounded. About 1 mile from front line Triage set up = more/ less wounded separated.
4	<b>Shrapnel</b>	Fragments of a bomb, shell or other object thrown out by an explosion	19	<b>Stage 4 Casualty Clearing Station</b>	CCS = first large well equipped hospital or building wounded would see. Used x ray machines/ wards with beds – located in tents/ huts about 1- miles from fighting
5	<b>Artillery</b>	Large-caliber guns used in warfare on land			
6	<b>Machine guns</b>	Could fire 500 rounds a minute – bullets pierced organs and bones	20	<b>Stage 5 Base Hospitals</b>	Usually civilian hospital/ converted building. Wounded would come via train, motor ambulance/ canal. Operating theatres x rays and specialist areas for gas poisoning. - Most sent home using trains.
7	<b>Rifles</b>	Bullets pointed so drove deeper into the body.	21	<b>FANY</b>	First Aide Nursing Yeomanry – 1907 carried supplies to the front and drove motorised kitchens to supply food
8	<b>Chlorine gas</b>	A biological weapon first used by the Germans at the Second Battle of Ypres 1915	22	<b>RAMC</b>	Royal Army Medical Corps – organized and provided medical care – included all ranks of doctors
9	<b>Phosgene Gas</b>	Used by Germans 1915 – faster than Chlorine – similar effects – could kill within 2 days	23	<b>Triage</b>	A system of splitting the wounded into groups according to who needed the most urgent attention
10	<b>Mustard Gas</b>	Used by Germans 1917 – odourless gas worked in 12 hours – caused blisters and could burn skin through clothing	24	<b>Radiology department</b>	The hospital department where x rays are carried
11	<b>Infection</b>	The process of infecting or state of being infected	25	<b>Debridement</b>	Cutting away of dead, damaged and infected tissue
12	<b>Triage</b>	The system of splitting the wounded into groups according to who needed the most urgent attention	26	<b>Mobile x-ray unit</b>	Portable x ray machine which could be moved around western front in a truck
13	<b>Antiseptic</b>	A type of surgery that kills germs in wounds	27	<b>Compound fracture</b>	Broken bone goes through skin – increased infection
14	<b>Aseptic</b>	A type of surgery that prevents germs reaching wounds	28	<b>Thomas Splint</b>	1916 – stopped two joints moving and increased survival
15	<b>Blood transfusion</b>	An injection of a volume of blood, previously taken from a healthy person, into a patient	29	<b>Carrel Dakin method</b>	Using sterilised salt solution in wounds through a tube to deal with infection – only lasted 6 hrs – difficult with high demand

# Knowledge Organiser - The historic environment: The British sector of the Western Front 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches

<u>Blood transfusions</u>		
1	<b>James Blundell</b>	1819 – First person to person blood transfusion. Blood not stored and donor had to be present – connected by a tube to the recipient. Not always effective.
2	<b>Karl Landsteiner</b>	1901 discovered blood types O A and B – AB discovered 1902
3	<b>Lewisohn</b>	1915 – adding Sodium citrate to blood meant you could store blood – prevent clotting
4	<b>Rous and Turner</b>	1916 – adding citrate glucose solution to blood allowed it to be stored for up to 4 weeks
5	<b>Cambrai</b>	1917 – Blood stored in glass bottles at a blood bank – treated wounded without a donor present.
6	<b>Blood transfusion</b>	Blood from healthy person and given to another.
7	<b>General anaesthetic</b>	Putting a patient to sleep during a surgery
8	<b>Local anaesthetic</b>	Numbing of localised area for treatment – patient is still awake
<u>Brain Surgery</u>		
9	<b>Harvey Cushing</b>	Using magnets to remove metal fragments
10		Used local not general anaesthetic when operating – brain swelled as a result of general - decreased risks in a n operation
11	<b>Neurosurgery</b>	Surgery on the nervous system – brain or spine

<u>Plastic Surgery</u>		
12	<b>Harold Gillies</b>	1915 – interested in facial reconstruction – replacing/ restoring parts of destroyed face
13		Developed skin grafts – skin taken from another part of patients body to repair wounds.
14	<b>Queen's Hospital Sidcup</b>	Main hospital for plastic surgery from August 1917 - Gillies designed it to match his needs
15	<b>Tube pedicle</b>	leaving the flesh attached at one end, rolling it into a tube and attaching the other end near to where the graft was needed - this method allowed Gillies to move tissue from A to B without worrying about infection

