



Tricks for the Trenches and Wards

This army pamphlet of simple hand and string tricks provided entertainment for soldiers. In spite of routine military tasks and the trenches ever-present danger, soldiers often had free time.

Tricks for the Trenches and Wards, cover D 525 W37 v.65, Hartland Molson Library Collection







The Spirit of Our Troops is Excellent

Bruce Bairnsfather, the famous British officer and cartoonist, illustrated the soldiers' appreciation of rum with playful use of the word 'spirit'. Rum was a significant part of trench life in the First World War, serving as reward, medicine, and combat motivator.

"The Spirit of our Troops is Excellent," The "Bystander's" Fragments from France, p. 30, D 526.2 B25 v.1, Hartland Molson Library Collection







Tea Set

Corporal Frank Alexander Cameron of Barrie, Ontario was a signaller with the 2nd Canadian Division. In his spare time, Cameron crafted a four-piece tea set for his mother, sending each piece home as it was completed. The materials include British 13-and 18-pounder shell cases, a French 75 mm case, and French rifle bullets. Cameron took four years to complete the set. He survived the war, but his younger brother, Allan Stanley, was killed in action in 1918.

Tea Set CWM 20010174-001







"Whiz Bang": Field Service Postcard

Nicknamed "whiz bangs" after light-calibre German shells that arrived with little warning, these field service postcards provided an easy way for soldiers to keep in touch with loved ones. Writers scratched out phrases that were not applicable and were warned that any additional information would result in the card's destruction by military censors. George Metcalf Archival Collection CWM 19670065-170







Teddy Bear

Ten-year-old Aileen Rogers gave this bear to her father, Lieutenant Lawrence Browning Rogers, before he left for war. The gift was meant as both a good luck charm and as a memento of home. Rogers, a lieutenant with the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles, was killed by enemy fire at Passchendaele in 1917, as he tended to a wounded soldier. This bear was found in Rogers' pocket and returned home to his family. Teddy Bear CWM 20040015-001







Sketch-book

This drawing by Sapper Russell Hughes Rabjohn is one of many in his wartime sketchbook. It depicts a bridge repair operation and the aftermath of recent fighting on the Western Front.

Sketch-book CWM 19920154-001







Helmet

Helmets, first used at the battle of St. Eloi in Spring 1916, were introduced to help reduce the number of head wounds due to shrapnel and shell fragments. A helmet generally could not stop a bullet fired directly at its wearer. The red rectangle on the front of this helmet indicates its owner served in the 2nd Infantry Battalion. Helmet CWM 20000112-010







A deliberate effort to annoy and inconvenience the other people by firing guns, rifles, trench-mottars, machine-guns, or any old thing at all. A wigging; a correction : a reproof for wrong-doing. In fact, will cover doing anything to annoy someone clse.



Salvage. The gathering up of the remnants of an army, such as old equipment, boots, bombs, bottles, guus, gasmasks, etc. Contially detested by the private, a source of constant worry to the officers, and imperjously insisted on by the higher command. Your old business of rag and hone man revived on a grand scale, even to the toy halloons in the background-only you must't give away the balloons in exchange for salvage; the R.F.C. might object.

Trench Crawl.

Tench Crawl. A form used to denote the pace going into the trenches. On the word, "Quick-march I" No. 1 advances the left foot smartly, hesitates while he counts five, pulls it back, and then finally puts it forward in from of him where he originally initended it to go, and rejeats this perform-time ad aussions until the trenches are reached. The remainder follow in file, taking care not to pass No. 1. The last three men of the party mark time the whole way. To add to the merriment, No. 1 mirrinurs in a motiotonous underticent the formula: "Wire overhead; wire inderfoot; shell-hole on right; shell-hole on left; ne step up; two steps down..." This, with variations, is kept up the whole way, each member of the party re-seting it in turn down the line, with the natural result that everybody is mixed, and Private Smith invariably tucks his head values it is "Wire outerfoot," and lifts his fect well up when it is "Two steps down."

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Tin Hat.

Known in official parlance as "Helmet, shrapnel, steel"; is used for washing in, cooking the multigan, baling out the trench, drawing loose rations, such as tea or sugar; and occasionally as protection for the head during bonhardments. When inverted, it makes a com-fortable, dry seat on mucdy ground. The most useful article of equipment issued to the soldier.

Trench Foot.

I rench Foot A condition arrived at by dint of hard dodging of whale-oil parades and by having lots of water to stand in. The symptoms are a marked disinclination of the feet to nove in the direction of the trenches. Used to be good for Blighty, but is only a source of trouble to the owner now. Is often cured by just one glance from the battalion Medical Officer who refuses to recognise it as a disease authorised for issue to the troops.

Wiring.

Wiring. The gentle art of farming in No Man's Land. A man must be built on the quick-flop system to make a success-ful wirer. A good crop is best assured by complete dark-ness. Moonlight and flarelight have an injurious effect and result in a poor crop. Wire will not grow at all in the daylight.

Whizz-Bang.

A dark, clongated insect that files through the air at a terrific nace and earries a vicious sting. Sometimes collides with a trench and causes annoyance and trouble to the inhabitants. Its bark is worse than its bite, but most men refuse to heliceve links.

Z. or Zero.

The exact minute of the exact hour of the exact day that you go over the top (with or without the best of luck). Is so named because of its connection with the temperature of one's pedal extremities on **on** occasion of this nature.

IDDY UMPTY.

Trench Slang

"Trench Terms and Their Meanings" was a regular installment of The Listening Post, a Canadian trench newspaper. This page covers "Soft Job," any work with less danger than being at the front, and "Whizz-Bang," a small shell humourously described as a dark, elongated insect. Trench slang was an exclusive dialect that helped to unify front line soldiers. At the same time, it excluded civilians from the inner world of the trenches. "Trench Terms and Their Meanings,"

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The Listening Post, No. 29, 1 Dec 1917, p. 26, RARE PER D 501 L578, Hartland Molson Library Collection







Long Way to Tipperary

This handkerchief displays a scene of marching soldiers around the words to the popular wartime song, *It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary*. Tipperary was one of the most popular songs of the war, widely sung by both civilians and soldiers. In the trenches, its popularity led to many derivations and innovations, including the addition of cruder lyrics concerning drink, sex, and conditions at the front. Handkerchief CWM 19830170-002

