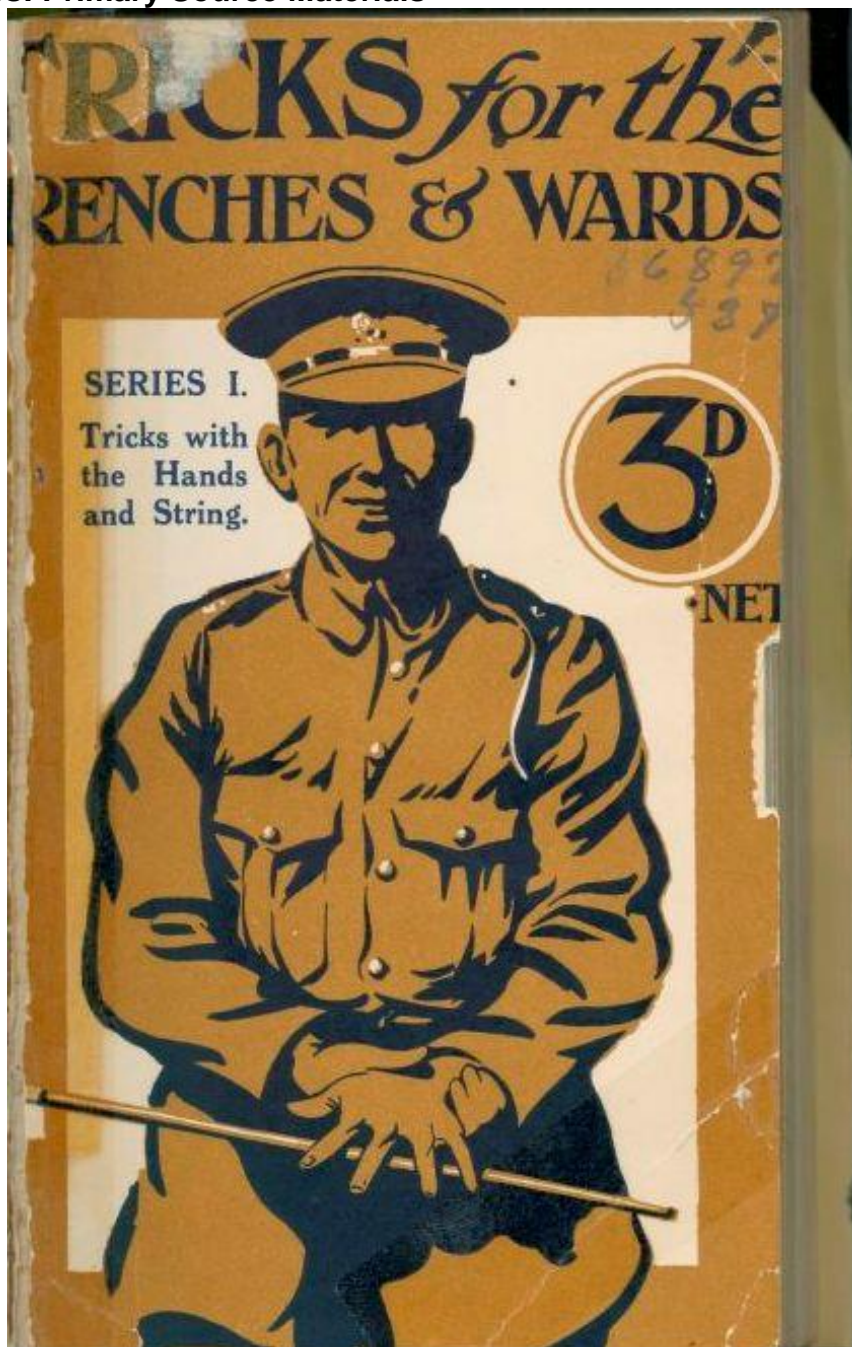


A Soldier's Life

Resources: Primary Source Materials

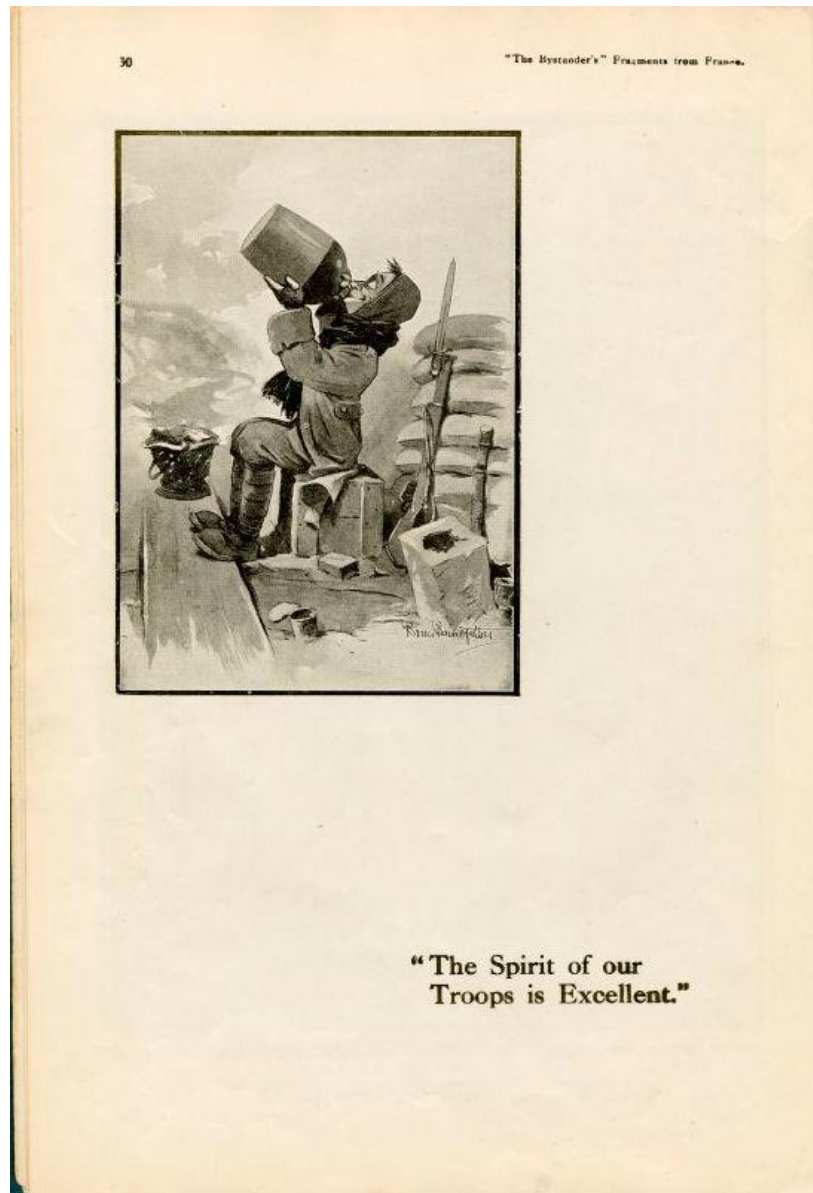


Tricks for the Trenches and Wards

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

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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

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Tea Set

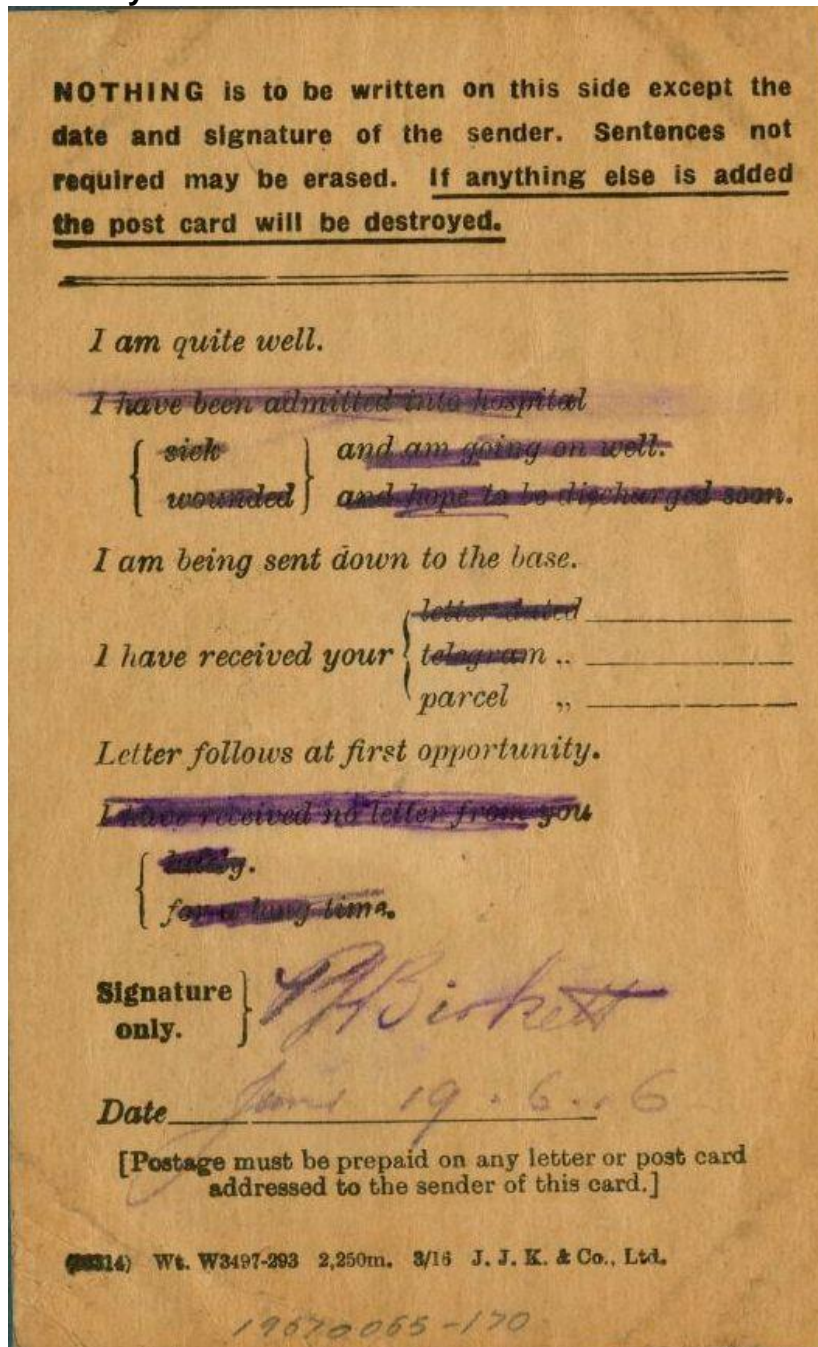
Corporal Frank Alexander Cameron of Barrie, Ontario was a signaller with the 2nd Canadian Division. In his spare time, Cameron crafted a four-piece tea set for his mother, sending each piece home as it was completed. The materials include British 13- and 18-pounder shell cases, a French 75 mm case, and 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



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"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

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Resources: Primary Source Materials



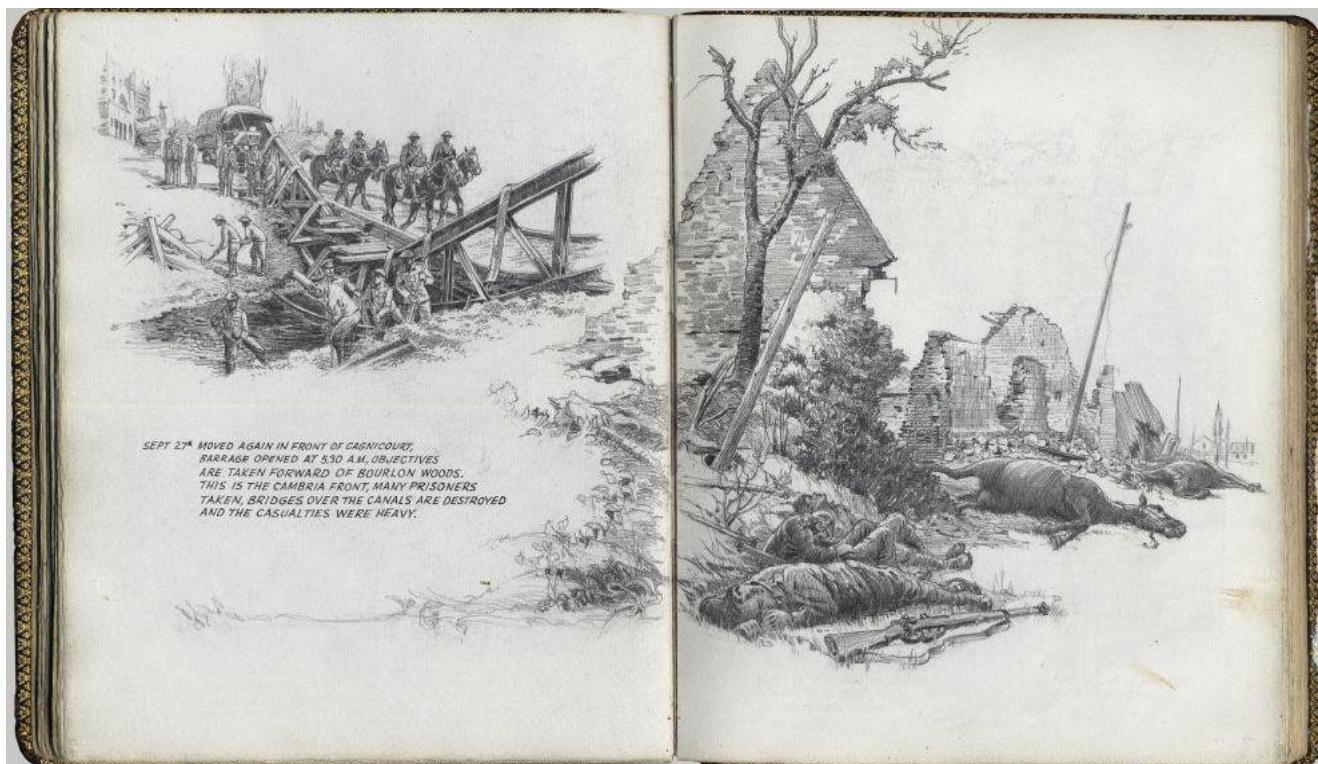
Teddy Bear

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

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Resources: Primary Source Materials



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



CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM
MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA GUERRE

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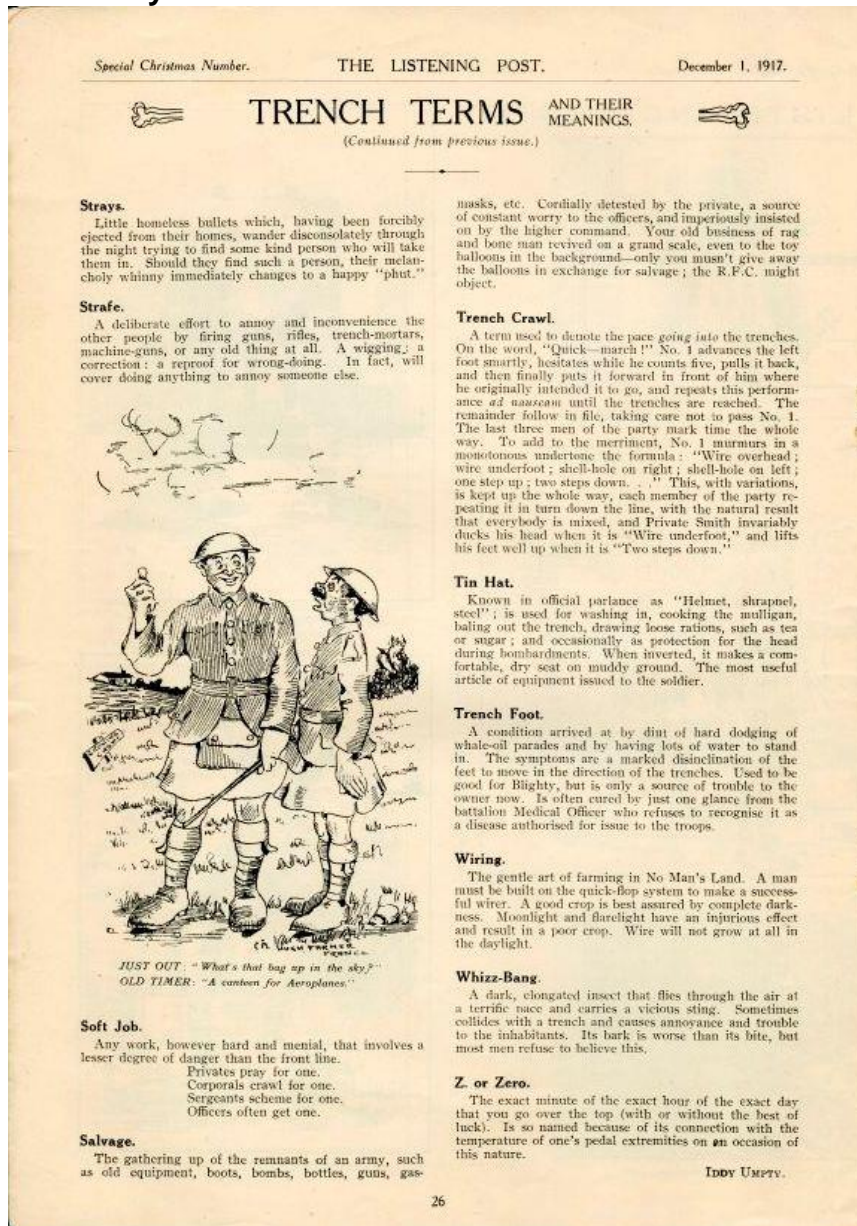
Helmet

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



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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,"

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

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Resources: Primary Source Materials



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