

# Main Medical problems on the Western Front



- Trench conditions were unpleasant.
- Trenches were overcrowded and unsanitary.
- in summer sewage and dead bodies were a problem.
- In Winter the problem was flooding & frostbite, in November & December 1914 there were 6,500 cases of frostbite.
- Rat infestations caused diseases.

# Rifles and explosives



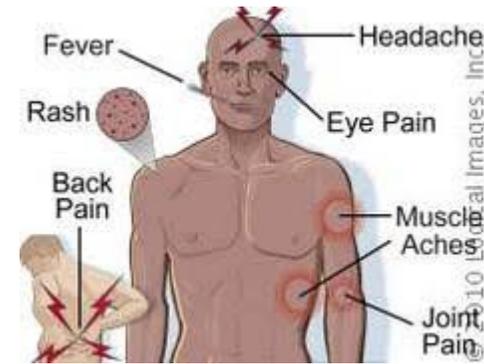
- Out of 200,000 men taken to Casualty Clearing Stations (CCS) 58% of them had shrapnel wounds.
- When shells exploded they could kill instantly.
- Shrapnel could fly over large areas.
- 60% of injuries were to arms and legs.
- 39% of injuries were bullets.
- Machine guns could fire 450 rounds per minute & rifles could fire up to 500m.
- Bullets could pierce organs and fracture bones.

# Trench Foot



<b>Symptoms</b>	<b>Attempted solutions/cures</b>
<p>-Painful, swollen feet, caused by standing in mud or water.</p> <p>-Stage 2 was gangrene, this means the flesh starts to die due to lack of blood to the flesh.</p>	<p>-prevention was key</p> <p>-Rub whale oil into your feet.</p> <p>-keep feet dry &amp; change socks.</p> <p>-Amputate feet that had gangrene so it did not spread up the leg.</p>

# Trench fever



<b>Symptoms</b>	<b>Attempted solutions/cures</b>
<p>-Flu-like symptoms, high temperature, aching muscles.</p> <p>-This condition affected half a million men fighting on the western Front.</p>	<p>-By 1918 the cause of trench fever was identified as lice.</p> <p>-Delousing stations were set up; this saw a drop in the number of cases of trench fever.</p>

# Shellshock



<b>Symptoms</b>	<b>Attempted solutions/cures</b>
<p>-Tiredness, headaches, nightmares, loss of speech, uncontrollable shaking &amp; complete mental breakdown.</p> <p>-Thoughts are that 80,000 British troops suffered from shellshock.</p>	<p>-the condition was not understood at the time.</p> <p>-Some got treated back in Britain, at <b>Craiglockhart Hospital</b> in Edinburgh 2,000 men were treated.</p> <p>-Some were accused of cowardice &amp; some were even shot!</p>

# Shrapnel, wound infection & head injuries.

- When soldiers were injured by bullets or shrapnel the object carried part of their uniform **fibres** into the wound, this could cause infection.
- Fertilizers in the soil contained the bacteria for **tetanus & gas gangrene**.
- When wounds were exposed to soil they caught infections. In 1914 they used a **Tetanus vaccination**, there was no cure for gas gangrene it could kill someone within a day!
- At the start of the war men wore a cloth cap, by 1915 they were given a steel **Brodie Helmet**, this reduced head wounds by 80%.

# Gas attacks



-Gas attacks caused mass panic and fear, 6,000 British soldiers died as a result of gas attacks.

-In 1915 gas masks were issued on the Western front (before this soldiers used cotton pads soaked in urine)

<b>Chlorine</b>	<b>Phosgene</b>	<b>Mustard</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-1<sup>st</sup> used by the German at Ypres in 1915.</li><li>-Killed by suffocation.</li><li>-No known treatments so had to experiment with cures.</li><li>-Britain used Chlorine at the battle of Loos in 1915 but the wind blew back on the British troops.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-First used in 1915 at Ypres.</li><li>- Suffocate like Chlorine but much faster, it could kill within 2 days.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-First used in 1917 by the Germans.</li><li>-Odourless gas that worked in 12 hours. Caused internal and external blisters.</li></ul>

## Famous fighters

	Name & why famous	Medical treatment received in WWI
	<p><b>A. A. Milne</b> -Wrote Winnie the Pooh.</p>	<p>Treated for <b>trench fever</b> in 1916, did not return to the war.</p>
	<p><b>R.R. Tolkien</b> -Wrote the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings.</p>	<p>Treated for <b>trench fever</b> in 1916, did not return to the war.</p>
	<p><b>C.S. Lewis</b> -Wrote the Chronicles of Narnia</p>	<p>Treated for <b>trench fever.</b></p>
	<p><b>Wilfred Owen</b> -Poet, wrote <i>Dulce Decorum Est</i></p>	<p>Treated for <b>Shellshock</b> in Craiglockhart Hospital, Edinburgh.</p>

