

EDEXCEL GCSE

HISTORY

PAPER 1: Thematic study and historic environment
Option 11: Medicine in Britain, c1250-present *and* The
British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries,
treatment and the trenches

SET 3

Insert

Sources for use with Section A.

Source A: From an account written after the First World War by Captain Impey. Captain Impey was an officer in the Royal Sussex regiment, which served on the Western Front. Here he is describing the conditions in the trenches and the problem of trench foot.

Source B: A photograph showing a medical inspection in a support trench on the Western Front, 1918. The Medical Officer is carrying out a foot inspection.

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The trenches were wet and cold and some of them did not have duckboards covering the mud on the floor of the trench. Many trenches also did not have dug-outs where soldiers could shelter while they slept. The battalion lived in mud and water.

These conditions caused many men to develop trench foot. Altogether about 200 men with trench foot had to be evacuated from our section of the trenches.

Trench foot was a new illness and it was vitally important to provide dry socks for the troops. Rubber boots were provided for the troops in the worst positions in the trenches. One section of the trench was kept as an area where men were sent, two at a time, to rub each other's feet with grease. They would do this at least once a day.

Source B: A photograph showing a medical inspection in a support trench on the Western Front, 1918. The Medical Officer is carrying out a foot inspection.

