

Journal #10



An officer of the 10th Scottish Rifles leads his men over the top as shells burst around them on 24 March 1917.

The First World War was ironic in that it combined both modern technology and medieval tactics. One created the other. Why did the soldiers of the First World War develop such an elaborate system of trenches and fortifications? **REQUIRES PARAGRAPH**

Letter

Robert Graves describes the smell of front line trenches.

The smell was a compound of stagnant mud, latrine buckets, chloride of lime, unburied and half-buried corpses, rotting sandbags, stale human sweat, fumes of cordite and lyddite. Sometimes it was sweetened by cigarette smoke and the scent of bacon frying over wood fires, sometimes made sinister by the lingering odor of poisonous gas.

1. Define cordite. **(REQUIRES SENTENCE)**
2. Describe the contrast present. **(REQUIRES SENTENCE)**
3. Would you stay sane in such an environment? **(REQUIRES SENTENCE)**

Vocabulary

Bomber: One trained in the use of hand grenades; known as grenadier early in the war. The Grenadier Guards, however, protested to the War Office about the use of the term *grenadier*, claiming that the title was exclusively theirs.

Brodie: British steel helmet, introduced (originally for snipers only) in February 1916. Early examples of the helmet were officers' private purchases and differed slightly from the regulation pattern. The design can be traced back to the type of helmet worn by English archers at Agincourt in 1415, during the 100 years war. Named after the inventor, John L Brodie.

Chin-Strapped: Tired, exhausted. From the sense that a man could be so tired he was held upright only by the chinstrap of his cap or helmet. Generally speaking, chin straps were employed only by mounted troops, other soldiers believing that if a bullet or piece of shrapnel were to strike their helmet, the chinstrap may cause choking or break their jaw.

Lid: Steel helmet.