



CHALKE VALLEY
HISTORY FESTIVAL
FOR SCHOOLS
TEACHER NOTES



SCHOOLS HISTORY HUB: FEEDING THE FRONT LINE IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Age Group: Key Stages 2/3

**Key Question: Did the army
make sure that front line
soldiers in the First World
War were well-fed?**

cvhf.org.uk



BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- When the First World War broke out in August 1914 the British Army consisted of 250,000 soldiers. By September 1914 750,000 volunteers had joined up. In January 1916 conscription was introduced. With a few exemptions, every male aged between 18 and 41 was required to fight. By the end of the war in 1918 the size of the army was 3,820,000.
- For most of the war, from late 1914 to mid-1918 both armies dug in to trenches for 475 miles across northern France and Belgium.
- At the Chalke Valley History Festival re-enactors turn part of the site into a First World War training camp for new recruits. Visitors find out what recruits were told about life in the army on the front line.



In this video, Staff Sergeant Harry Potts tells you how soldiers in the trenches were fed. He uses several genuine utensils and items of equipment from the war.

MAKE A NOTE ABOUT EACH ITEMS BELOW:



Number of calories per day each soldier was expected to receive

Blank area for notes, with a pencil icon in the top right corner.

How was food carried to the front-line trenches? What was in the knots on each corner?

Blank area for notes, with a pencil icon in the top right corner.

What was hard tack? How was it made edible?



A large, empty, light gray rectangular box for writing the answer to the question about hard tack.

What was the mess tin? How was it used?



A large, empty, light gray rectangular box for writing the answer to the question about the mess tin.

What was the Tommy Cooker? How was it used?



A large, empty, light gray rectangular box for writing the answer to the question about the Tommy Cooker.

What kind of jam was supplied?



A large, empty, light gray rectangular box for writing the answer to the question about the kind of jam supplied.

What was 'bully beef'?



A large, empty, light gray rectangular box for writing the answer to the question about 'bully beef'.

**What was in the tins soldiers received from Princess Mary and King George?
What did soldiers get from the Sergeant Major after the order to "Stand to"**



A large, empty, light gray rectangular box for writing the answer to the question about tins and the order to "Stand to".

on a cold morning?



A large, empty, light gray rectangular box for writing the answer to the question about a cold morning.

AFTERWARDS

In groups, talk about your answers then talk about our key question: **Did the army make sure that front line soldiers in the First World War were well-fed??**

