



# OVER THE TOP

By Miss Boughey

[www.WeatherheadHistory.uk.org](http://www.WeatherheadHistory.uk.org)

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WHO'S ABSENT?



*Is it You?*

AT THE FRONT!



Every fit Briton  
should join our brave men  
at the Front.

**ENLIST NOW.**

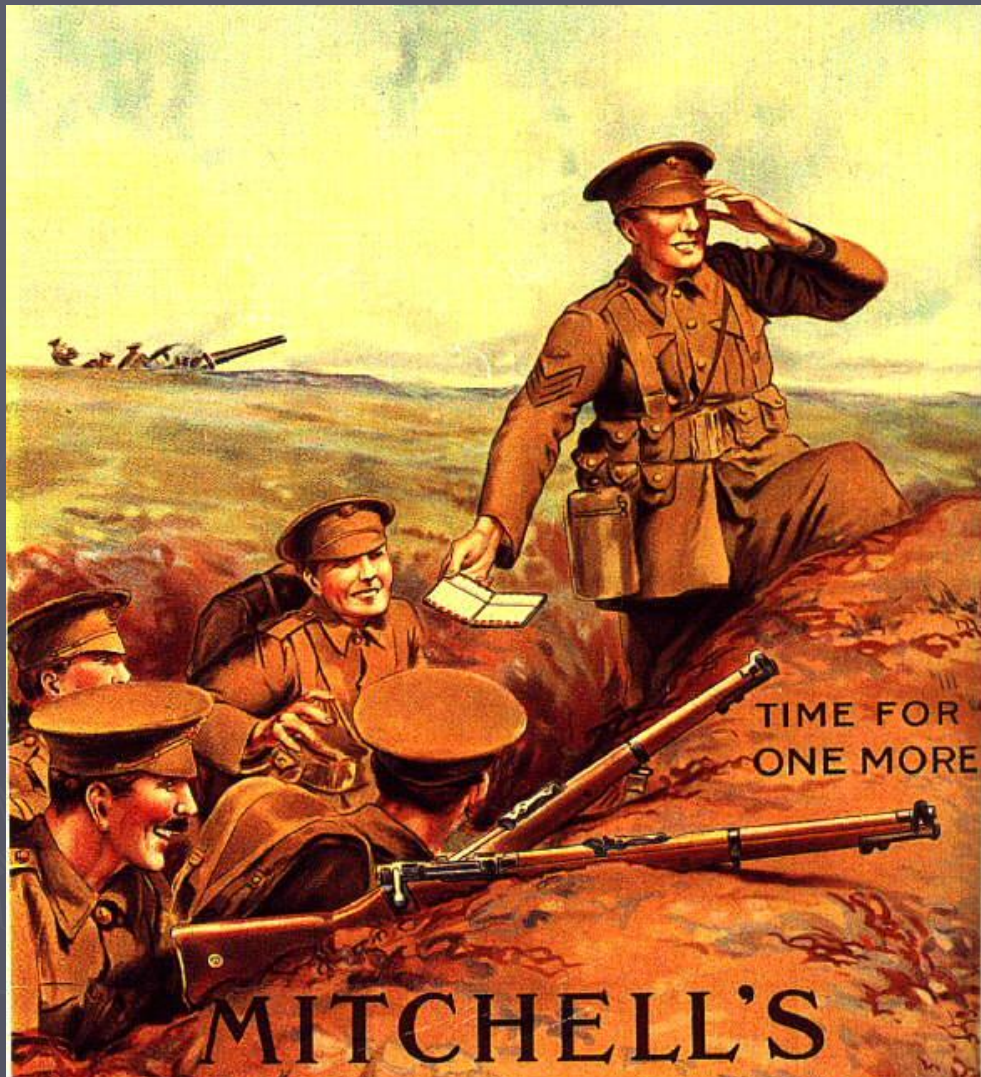
WOMEN OF BRITAIN  
SAY—  
**GO!**



IT IS FAR BETTER  
TO FACE THE BULLETS  
THAN TO BE KILLED  
AT HOME BY A BOMB

JOIN THE ARMY AT ONCE  
& HELP TO STOP AN AIR RAID

GOD SAVE THE KING



A picture of soldiers going  
'Over the Top'

The British government  
wanted to encourage  
men to enlist for war.

They said the war  
would be safe, hardly  
any fighting, a good  
lark and over by  
Christmas.

They used advertising  
posters to encourage  
this idea!

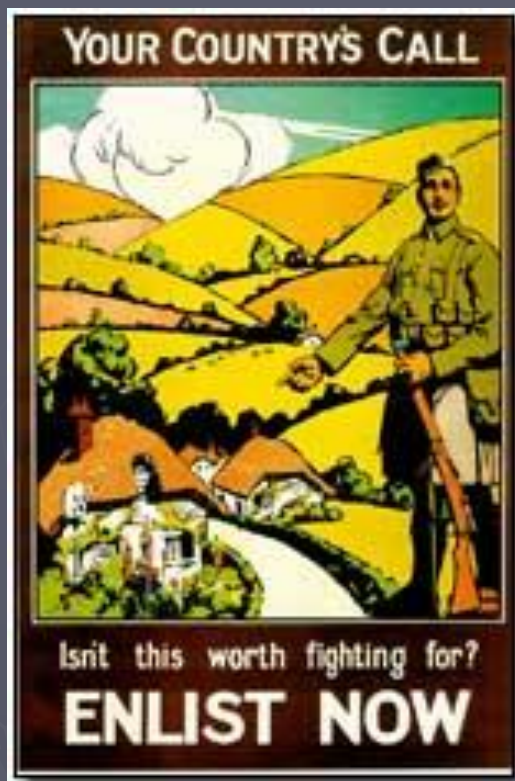




The reality of 'going over the top' was very different!

Soldiers were expected to carry all of their equipment with them at all times.

They were supposed to keep it clean and in good condition - they were British after all.







BRITISH OFFICER AS SEEN BY  
THE MILITARY TAILOR,



AS HE ACTUALLY APPEARS ON  
LEAVING FOR THE FRONT,



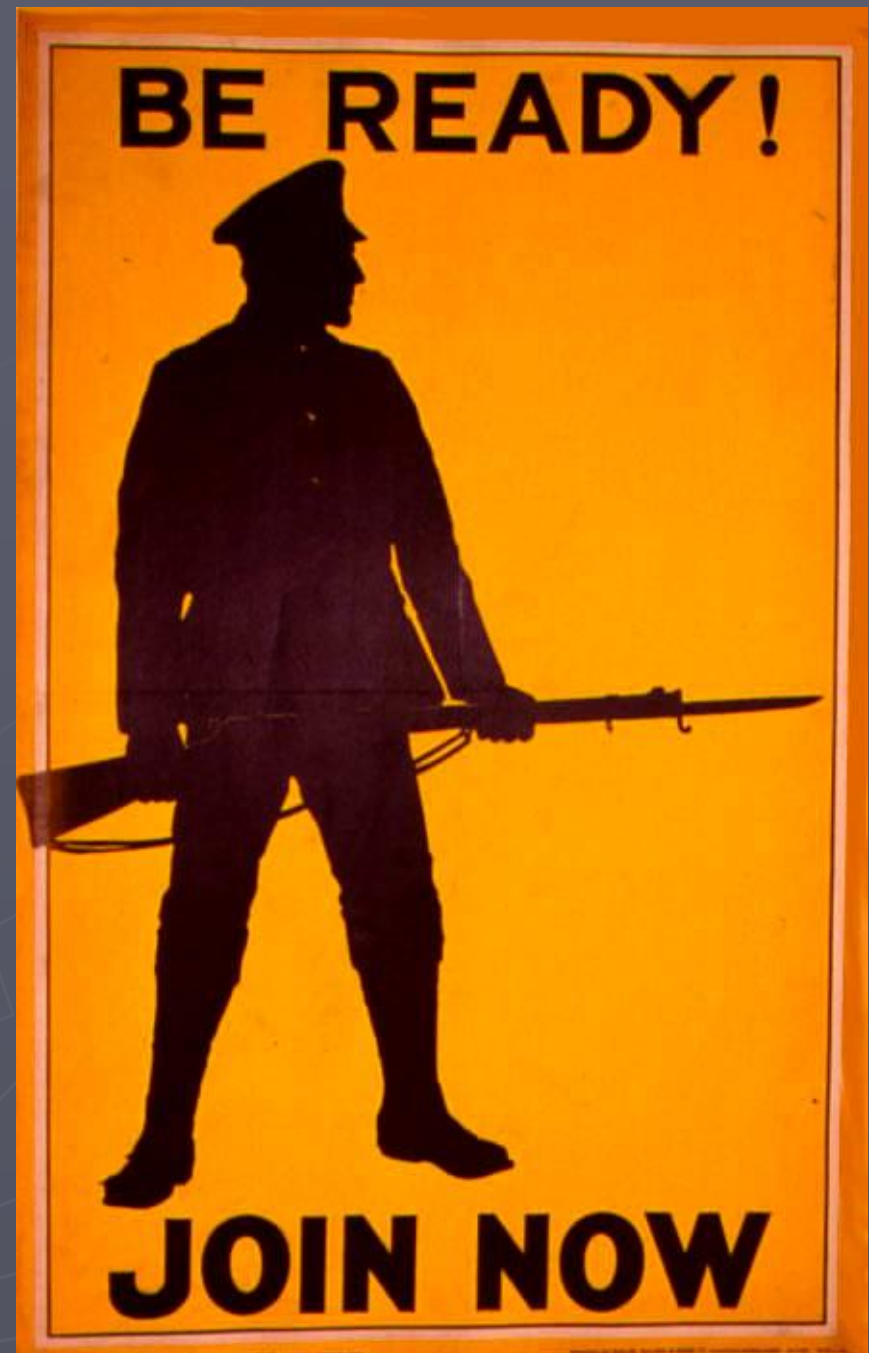
AFTER THREE WEEKS IN  
THE TRENCHES.

How the uniform and equipment changed after just three weeks in the trenches...

Posters always showed men ready and willing to fight.

They never showed the boredom of the trenches or actual fighting taking place.

Why do you think the government showed no fighting?











No smiling and relaxed faces...

No clean uniforms...

Their equipment is scattered everywhere...

Boredom and sleep are obvious...







Mass Devastation

# Freezing Winters









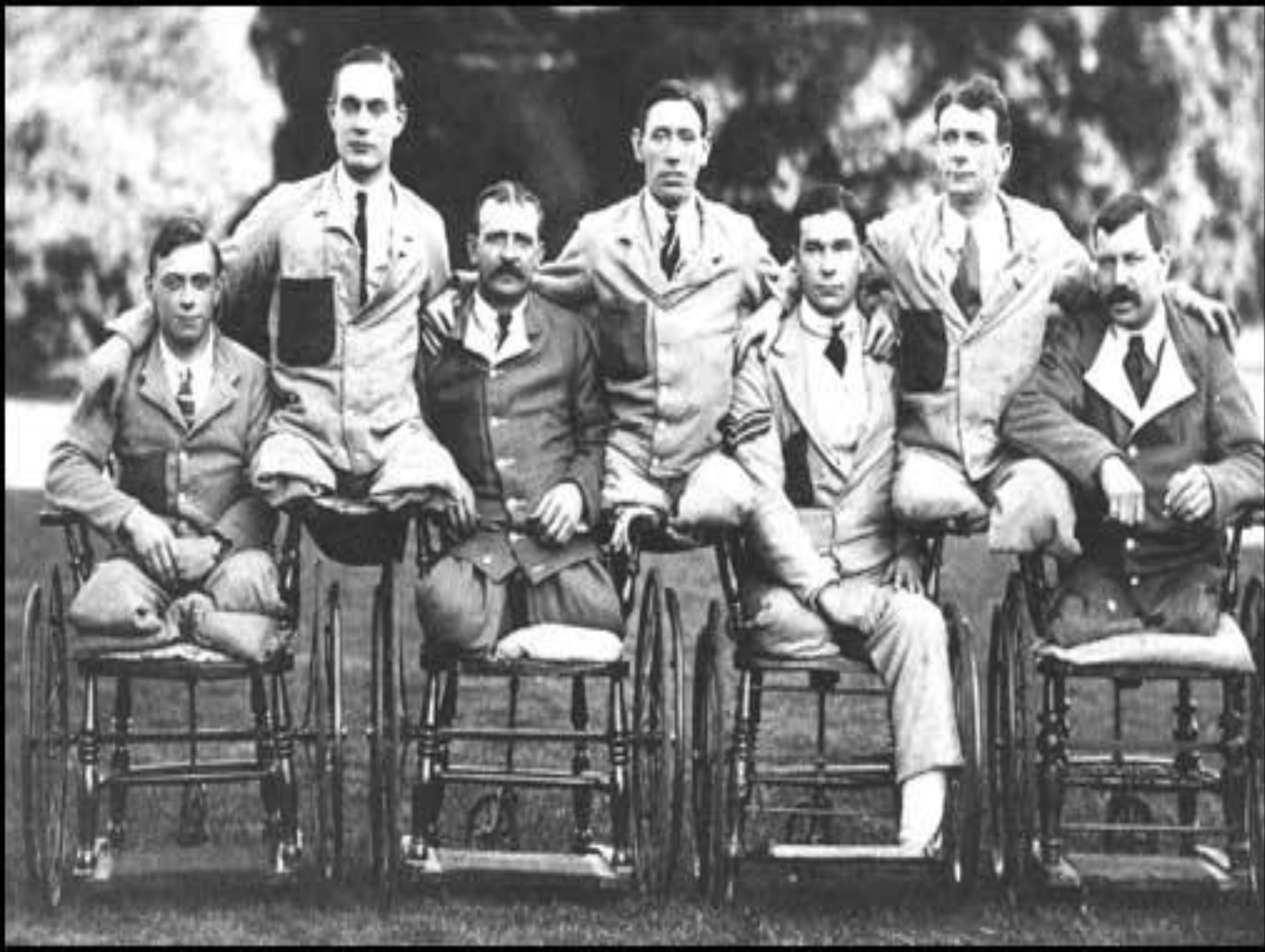


The soldiers had very little decent food, and what food they had was often attacked by rats.

These rats were the size of small rabbits and badgers because they had fed on the decomposing bodies of dead soldiers.

A black and white photograph showing the undersides of two feet. The skin is severely damaged, appearing white, swollen, and peeling in many areas, with dark, necrotic tissue visible at the heels and between the toes. The feet are positioned side-by-side, with the left foot on the left and the right foot on the right. The background is dark and out of focus.

# Trench Foot





# Task

You have looked at the posters that the British government used to persuade men to go to war.

You have looked at photographs showing what war was really like.

Write a paragraph, using detail from the visuals in this PowerPoint as evidence, to describe the disparity between the perception of WWI for soldiers before enlistment and during the war.