

In the Trenches

For the WWI infantry man, life in the trenches was a hard existence. Due to the use of high explosive, machine guns and accurate firearms, moving about in the open was nearly impossible. To compensate the combatants began digging trenches to anchor their lines and protect the men. This led to a stalemate since neither side was able to penetrate the other's defenses. The trenches were often full of water, mud, waste and rats. Disease ran rampant and there was little to alleviate the boredom between episodes of the terror of "going over the top" to attack. Here is a WWI U.S. issued canteen that shows repair work done to it in the field by a soldier.

