

Writing task- Wednesday 1st April

Walter had to live in freezing cold trenches as his life as a soldier began in France.

Read the information about life in the trenches for the soldiers and watch the videos on BBC bitesize.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqhyb9q/articles/z8sssbk>



Use the information to write a diary entry.

A typical day in the trenches

- 5am** 'Stand-to' (short for 'Stand-to-Arms', meaning to be on high-alert for enemy attack) half an hour before daylight
- 5.30am** Rum ration
- 6am** Stand-down half an hour after daylight
- 7am** Breakfast (usually bacon and tea)
- After 8am** Clean selves and weapons, tidy trench
- Noon** Dinner
- After dinner** Sleep and downtime
- 5pm** Tea
- 6pm** Stand-to half an hour before dusk
- 6.30pm** Stand-down half an hour after dusk
- 6.30pm onwards** Work all night with some time for rest (patrols, digging trenches, putting up barbed wire, getting stores)
Soldiers only got to sleep in the afternoon during daylight and at night for an hour at a time.

Here are some reminders of how to write a diary entry.

Colloquial Language

You should try to use chatty/informal language.

Follow a “Diary Style”

Start each entry with a date and “Dear Diary”.



Chronological order

Your diary should be in time order, using adverbials.

HOW TO WRITE A:

DIARY

Self-reflection

Try to include your thoughts, feelings, opinions and hopes (inside speech marks).



Past Tense

A diary is about what has already happened.



First person

Remember to use personal pronouns (in particular: I/We)

Detailed descriptions

Remember to use more than one sense, to make your description more imaginable. Similes and metaphors can also be effective.

Read these two extracts to help you write your own diary entry.



21st March 1916

Today has been an exhausting, long day. Every part of my body aches; my head; my back; my feet. Everything. I am certain that there are going to be long days ahead of me, which I will dread and despise. But what keeps me alive and going is the distant memory of my pregnant wife, Olivia.

Dear Diary,

Today has been quite exciting but shocking actually. It was me and the lads' first day training and seeing our trenches. Training was fun. I got to hold my rifle for the first time! The trenches were worse than I expected them to be. I know they're trenches but I thought we would have our own space. The officers laughed shamefully at me when I asked for more food. The food is absolutely horrible.



IWM

We look forward to reading your diary entries.

