

1914-18

Investigating Objects



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Our Handling Boxes are designed to allow pupils to access materials that will assist their knowledge and understanding of the World War I topic of the course. The box contains a range of original and replica objects and documents that the pupils can engage with directly; this will then allow them to complete a number of questions that will assist their learning.

The box can be used either in the classroom or in conjunction with a visit to The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum.



Sentries in the trenches, c1915.



An 8th Battalion soldier with his daughter, 1917.

Handling Guidelines

Two items in each Handling Box are original – a service dress jacket and an embroidered postcard - the rest of the objects and documents are replicas.

By following the guidelines below you can ensure that damage and wear is kept to a minimum, please:

- take care when lifting and carrying the Handling Box;
- keep the Handling Box under lock and key at all times when not in use;
- examine the objects and assess any potential risks before a session;
- supervise the handling of the objects at all times;
- handle the objects on a clean surface, such as a tabletop;
- ensure that all of the objects and documents have been returned to the Handling Box; and,
- report any missing or damaged items to the Museum immediately.



Musical entertainment..

Object Investigation Sheet 1

Think	See	
<p>What is it?</p> <p>Who might have used it?</p> <p>How does it work?</p> <p>What might it have been used for?</p> <p>What is it made of?</p>	<p>What shape is it?</p> <p>What colour is it?</p> <p>Are there any marks, badges, patterns or decorations on it?</p>	
<p>Is it broken? Is there anything missing? If so, how did it happen?</p> <p>What would you be doing if you were using this object?</p>	<th>Touch</th> <p> <p>Is it heavy or light?</p> <p>Is it rough or smooth</p> </p>	Touch
<p>Where might it be used?</p> <p>Why is it made of these materials?</p>	<th>Smell</th> <p> <p>Does it smell of anything?</p> </p>	Smell

Object Investigation Sheet 2

Draw the object.

Draw a detailed part of the object.

Contents of Box 1

Uniform



British Service Dress Tunic (Original)

An original 1902 Pattern Service Dress tunic. The tunic was used by the British Army throughout World War I. The Scottish Regiments adopted a 'cutaway' at the front to allow for the wearing of a sporran. They were said to be heavy, limit movement and were uncomfortable in extreme conditions. It is a drab khaki colour and made of wool; it has pockets for ammunition, field dressings and personal items.



Kilt

One of the most distinctive parts of the Scottish Highland Regiments' uniform. Made of wool and worn, for the most part, on active service in all conditions. It could be uncomfortable in hot weather or when wet and caked in mud. Equally, soldiers were vulnerable to gas attacks and small wounds. It was often covered with a drab khaki cotton apron.



Glengarry

Headgear varied between regiments. This design belongs to The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. In 1915 the Glengarry was replaced by the less visible khaki Balmoral, although the Glengarry was still being worn long after this date, along with other forms of hats such as balaclavas and helmets.



Helmet

During the first couple of years soldiers went into action wearing cloth hats which offered little or no protection from weapons. The first helmets were introduced in 1915. The British helmet was made of steel. The bowl shape and wide brim was designed to protect the head and shoulders from projectiles bursting from above, but offered less protection to the lower head and neck. The helmets were a dull, non-reflective khaki colour.



Webbing

A 1908 Webbing Equipment Set made of cotton. The design distributed the weight evenly and could be removed like a coat. The weight of clothing, weapons, ammunition and 'marching order' equipment was estimated at over 60 pounds (27.2 kgs). The set includes:

- two sets of five ammunition pouches attached to the belt at the front, ten pouches each holding three 5-round chargers of ammunition, a total of 150 rounds;
- one water bottle and carrier; and,
- a cover for the head of an entrenching tool (large flat cover).

In the Trenches: Food and Drink



Water bottle

A water bottle with a heavy felt cover and cork. It was often used with the webbing set.



Mess Tin

A 'D' shaped three piece set with a folding handle. Used for drinking, and cooking.

Equipment/Weapons of War



Smoke Hood (Hypo Helmet) and Bag

The Smoke Hood / Hypo Helmet was issued to combat the use of gas attacks. First issued in 1915 it was made of flannel with a celluloid window. The grey flannel helmet was dipped in Sodium Hyposulphite which would prevent certain gases getting through the hood. It was placed over the head and tucked into the tunic which was stuffy and limited the soldier's hearing and sight.



Trench Whistle

A whistle was blown for action. It was attached to a lanyard. It was tucked into the officer's top pocket ready to blow, the other end of the lanyard looped around the shoulder strap.



Dog Tags

Dog Tags were issued to all soldiers during the war; they would have been stamped with the soldier's:

- surname and initial;
- rank (if an Officer);
- religion; and,
- Army number.



Trench Lighter and Cover

A Trench Lighter was made from a spent bullet case. It was ignited by a flint and fuelled by lighter fluid. The sliding storm guard shielded the flame.

Documents Box 1

1. Embroidered Postcard - I Love You (Original)
2. Trench Orders
3. Soldier's Pay Book
4. Collection of Information Regarding the Enemy
5. National Registration Act 1915
6. Help to Win the War
7. Instructions for use of Respirator and Smoke Helmet
8. Field Service Pocket Book 1914
9. Pass
10. The Gospel According to Saint John Active Service
11. Newspaper – Daily Graphic
12. Poster – The Veteran's Farewell
13. Photos – A3 (x2) A&SH soldiers
14. Poster - Royal Fusiliers
15. First World War Uniform
16. Trench Food
17. Maconochie's Stew

Contents of Box 2

Uniform



British Service Dress Tunic (Original)

An original 1902 Pattern Service Dress tunic. The tunic was used by the British Army throughout World War I. The Scottish Regiments adopted a 'cutaway' at the front to allow for the wearing of a sporran. They were said to be heavy, limit movement and were uncomfortable in extreme conditions. It is a drab khaki colour and made of wool; it has pockets for ammunition, field dressings and personal items.



Kilt

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Glengarry

Headgear varied between regiments. This design belongs to The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. In 1915 the Glengarry was replaced by the less visible khaki Balmoral, although the Glengarry was still being worn long after this date, along with other forms of hats such as balaclavas and helmets.



Section of Webbing

A belt from a 1908 Webbing Equipment Set. Made of cotton, the Set was designed to distribute the weight evenly and could be removed like a coat. The weight of clothing, weapons, ammunition and 'marching order' equipment was estimated at over 60 pounds (27.2 kgs). The Set would have included:

- two sets of five ammunition pouches attached to the belt at the front, ten pouches each holding three 5-round chargers of ammunition, a total of 150 rounds;
- one water bottle and carrier; and,
- a cover for the head of an entrenching tool (large flat cover).

In the Trenches: Food and Drink



Water bottle

A water bottle with a heavy felt cover and cork. It was often used with the webbing set.



Mug

A brown tin mug stamped with a war arrow on the base.

Equipment/Weapons of War



Smoke Hood (Hypo Helmet) and Bag

The Smoke Hood / Hypo Helmet was issued to combat the use of gas attacks. First issued in 1915 it was made of flannel with a celluloid window. The grey flannel helmet was dipped in Sodium Hyposulphite which would prevent certain gases getting through the hood. It was placed over the head and tucked into the tunic which was stuffy and limited the soldier's hearing and sight.



Rubber Gas Goggles and Black Veil Mask

Rubber Gas Goggles and Black Veil Mask were introduced soon after gas was first used in 1915. They offered limited protection and consisted of dust goggles and a mask filled with wool waste which was impregnated with Sodium Hyposulphite, Sodium Carbonate, Glycerine and water.



Trench Whistle

A whistle was blown for action. It was attached to a lanyard and tucked into the officer's top pocket ready to blow, the other end of the lanyard looped around the shoulder strap.

Injuries and Illness



Field Dressing

A Field Dressing was worn in the inside pocket of the Service Dress Tunic. A type of bandage, it was intended for immediate use. It consisted of an absorbent pad and a strip of cloth to tie it in place. It was sealed in a waterproof pouch to keep it clean and dry.

Documents Box 2

1. Embroidered Postcard – Easter (Original)
2. Signals
3. Confidential – Proceedings of a Medical Board
4. Our Kitchener
5. Patriotic Pledge
6. Instructions for the Civil Population
7. Maconochie's Stew
8. The Gospel According to Saint John: Active Service
9. Trench Orders
10. Poster – Rally Round the Flag
11. Poster – Women of Britain say Go
12. Magazine – The Illustrated War News
13. Photos – A3 (x3) A&SH soldiers
14. Wipers Times

Feedback Form

Please fill in this form and send back to:

Education; The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum; Stirling Castle; Stirling;
FK8 1EH

Tel: 01786 475165

Email: education@argylls.co.uk

Contact Name and School

Address of School/Group

Email

Telephone

Number of Sessions

Numbers of Users

What did your group enjoy most about this resource?

What did your group enjoy least?

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

