

# WWI

## Health and Safety Guidelines For a Happier Healthier War

Little known facts about how it all began (not necessarily accepted by the average Historian): One August morning the Kaiser called his Cabinet together and announced he was going to Britain. His Chancellor asked him if there was a reason and he replied; that his entire British family was out shooting pheasants and had not asked him to the shoot, shoot lunch or apres shoot activities. This was due to the last time he was there when he thought they said they were going “peasant shooting” and must have upset someone when he bagged a Gillie. So now he was jolly well going over there to show them and he would shoot their peasants as it was fun. The question was then raised about how to proceed without giving a lot of prior warning. It was decided to march over Belgium and Holland and probably take in a bit of France on the way. Make it a bit of a gourmet tour.

Belgium proved to be recalcitrant and refused to let the shooting party over its land. So the Kaiser thought that to save having anymore of his polite requests for access turned down, and as he was bigger than the King of the Belgians; plus the fact that Holland and France didn't have anyone of sufficient royal class to deal with him he would declare war on them. Which meant he could just go and not suffer the embarrassment of having his requests for access and use of their transport refused.

His Minister for Health and Safety then laid down the rules of warfare according to his Department:

Instructions for the use of weapons, in at least five languages, must be included with each weapon kit.

All soldiers under 21 will be issued with wooden guns to avoid them getting hurt.

All soldiers over 21 will have a safety warning on their guns: i.e. this gun will kill if fired.

No guns should be pointed directly at people of either side to avoid accidents.

Anyone losing his or her gun would be sent back to Berlin to throw a six and start again.

Anyone finding a lost gun must carry it barrel downwards until reaching an adult over 21 who could put it back in it's box and return it to the owner.

No-one must pull the pin out of a grenade with his teeth, as it may damage their teeth.

Anyone throwing a grenade must have bowled for Germany at least once.

Ear defenders must be issued to anyone with a weapon making a noise of more than one decibel.

Trenches must be thoroughly serviced each day and chairs provided for soldiers to rest for half an hour after each hour's duty.

Music by favourite composers should be piped through the trench system for relaxation.

Wheelchair access to all trenches.

Toilet facilities to be provided for males, females, and the disabled. Females toilets to include mirrors, non-scented soaps and hand lotions. There should also be more than three female toilets on the battlefield.

Each soldier must have 6' of personal space in the trench and the facility to phone a friend/councillor if he feels lonely/depressed or has other problems.

When expected to “Go over the top” lifts must be provided from the deeper trenches and all barbed wire must have the barbs removed, blunted or covered with foil so they glitter and can be avoided.

Soldiers should be asked politely which are the most convenient days for them to fight upon so they are able to fit in a bit of “me” time. Important to morale.

Name calling of the enemy is preferable to throwing sticks or stones, however referring to the marital status of their parents or having the words teaching, grandmothers, sucking and eggs in one sentence should be discouraged as it might make them really cross.

Soldiers should try at all times to avoid situations where the other side might have legitimate cause to sue the German Government.

All Government issued clothing should have a label saying that the Government take no responsibility for the consequences of wearing the article on a battlefield whilst carrying a gun. Expecting troops to splash through muddy puddles across No-Man's Land must be discouraged. Due to the difficulty found in previous wars of getting the mud off the boots and out of the uniforms. For cleaning purposes a non-allergy detergent must be provided.

All soldiers must have "5 a day" fruit and vegetables included in their diet and gluten free must be offered.

Weapons of any sort must not be fired during: breakfast, elevenses, lunch, siestas, afternoon tea or dinner.

Hot milky drinks must be available to help sleep during the night and weapons must be silent after 10.30pm.

There was silence after this and then the Minister for Health and Safety, at a nod from the Kaiser, was taken out and quietly shot. So the war proceeded on the usual appalling lines and no one realised how much better it would have been for everyone had the above rules been followed.

