

**Worksheet 6 – Action.**

**Units stationed in the Fovant area during World War I:**

**March - July 1915**

Oxford and Bucks Pioneers - Royal Engineers - 78th Brigade - 26th Division - A.S.C. Company - Berkshires - Worcestershires - Gloucestershires

**August 1915 - January 1916**

31st Yorkshire Division - 31st Divisional Artillery - 15th, 16th and 18th Battalions West Yorks - Durham Light Infantry - 31st Training Battalion - Royal Engineers - East Yorks - R.O. Yeomanry

**January - May 1916**

4th, 6th, 9th City of London Rifles - 5th Battalion London Rifle Brigade - 3rd Battalion Queen Victoria Rifles - 8th Battalion Post Office Rifles - 7th City of London (Shiny Seventh) - 1st, 2nd, 11th, 12th Wessex Divisional Training - ASC.

**August 1916**

The London Battalions were amalgamated and the Camps occupied by Australians. A number of German prisoners of war were brought to the Royal Engineers camp, and were still there until the end of the war.

**January - March 1917**

The 59th Division arrived from Ireland where they had been stationed during the 1916 rebellion. Lincolnshires - Leicestershires - Sherwood Foresters - Notts and Derbyshires.

**March 1917**

Australian - Oxford and Bucks. Training Battalion - Berkshires - Dorsetshires Training Battalion - Warwickshires.

**From October** the camps were mainly occupied by Australian troops except for West Farm where there was a Labour Battalion. With the ending of the war Fovant became a Demobilisation Camp.

**The reality of war on the Western Front 1914 - 1918**



Machine gun crew amongst the shell holes of No Man's Land.



Battle of the Somme 1916. Note the early version of the poison gas mask.



Poised to go over the top? German lines could be 200 yards away.



British troops entrenched on the Western Front.



Telephone wire layers on the Western Front. Why are they walking on boards?



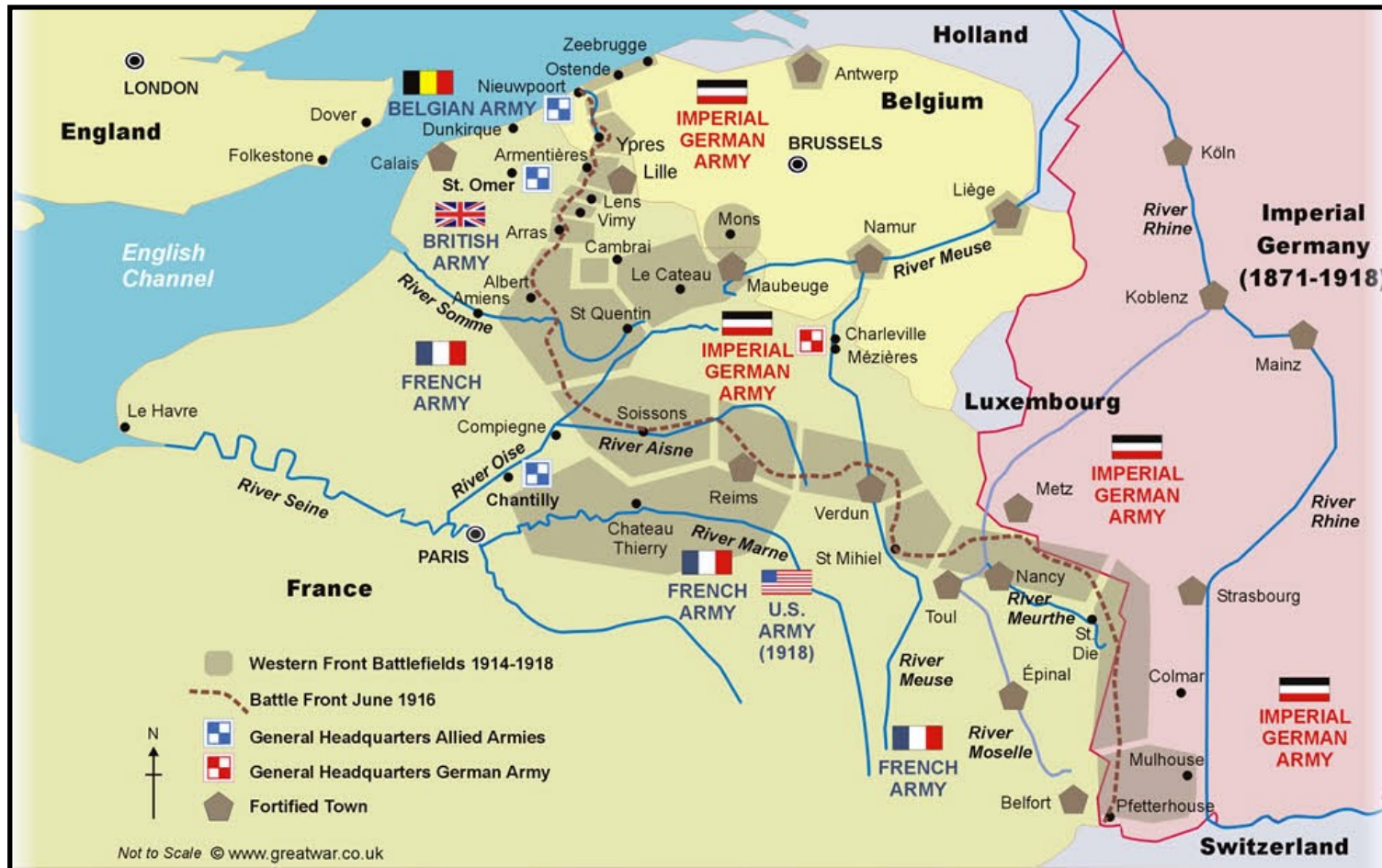
Men of the Manchester Regiment at Serre in France. Find out where Serre is.

- The Battle of the Somme started on 1st July 1916. On that first day British casualties numbered 60,000 of whom

Study in detail one of the regiments on the list of those stationed in Fovant during World War I. The Internet will give you the complete history of each regiment ... and tell you what part your chosen regiment played in World War I. Don't forget that there were Australians here too ... and they will also have their own website.

Remember also that Europe was not the only theatre of war during World War I. Where else were British and Empire Forces fighting?

Over the years some regiments have been amalgamated with others. so you may well have to search for 'your' regiment.



World War I started in earnest in early in September 1914 when the German Army invaded Belgium. They had advanced as far as the Belgian town of Ypres before battle was joined with the allies in October of that year. Swiftly moving battles followed during which each side tried to outflank the other with limited success. After some initial German advances, stalemate was reached and both sides dug in along a long line of battlefields which eventually stretched from south west Belgium to north eastern France. This line, which remained largely unchanged for most of the war, was known collectively as the Western Front.

Along this line fierce battles raged back and forth between opposing trenches. Ground was repeatedly gained and lost to no great advantage to either side. The numbers of men killed, wounded or missing were horrendous. It was to this man-made hell of trench warfare that most of the relatively novice infantrymen were sent.