

## What motivated British soldiers to continue fighting in the trenches?

Use this sheet to help you record evidence to back-up each explanation. Read through your evidence pack and record any information in the right-hand column that might be useful in your investigation.

<p><b><u>EXPLANATION 1 - BRITISH SOLDIERS WERE WELL CARED FOR</u></b></p> <p>The army did as much as they could to keep morale high. A rotation system made sure that soldiers did not spend too long at the front line. The army tried to ensure that soldiers were well fed and that they received good medical care.</p>	
<p><b><u>EXPLANATION 2 - TRENCH CONDITIONS WERE NOT BAD</u></b></p> <p>Trench conditions were not as bad as they have been presented in poems, films and novels. Trenches were carefully designed and kept as hygienic as possible.</p>	
<p><b><u>EXPLANATION 3 - ARMY DISCIPLINE</u></b></p> <p>Men continued to fight because they were afraid of being punished if they did not follow orders.</p>	
<p><b><u>EXPLANATION 4 - COMRADESHIP</u></b></p> <p>Men continued to fight because they did not want to let their friends down.</p>	
<p><b><u>EXPLANATION 5 - POPULAR COMMANDING OFFICERS</u></b></p> <p>British soldiers were not let down by their commanding officers. The tactics and decisions taken by generals and commanding officers were not as bad as some accounts of the war make out. The British commanders remained popular with the soldiers.</p>	
<p><b><u>EXPLANATION 6 - THE JOY OF WAR</u></b></p> <p>Soldiers carried on fighting because they enjoyed it.</p>	
<p><b><u>EXPLANATION 7 - DIFFERENT TIMES/ DIFFERENT ATTITUDES</u></b></p> <p>Soldiers were brought up in a different Britain from the one that exists today. Their attitudes were very different to those that exist among people in Britain today. People at the time were used to hardship.</p>	