

**SOURCE A: From the recorded memories of William Easton of the RAMC. Here he describes conditions near Ypres in 1917**

Up at Ypres we used to go up the line and we'd be waist deep in mud. We were carrying the wounded down near a place called Hooge, where there had been a terrible amount of fighting. One trip down a trench in those conditions and you would all be all in (exhausted). If you got two or three wounded men down in a day. That was all you could expect to do. We had to carry men in fours there and we had to be very careful because you could do more damage to a man than the shell if you jolted him too much or he fell off the stretcher. To make carrying easier we had slings which we put round our shoulders and over the stretcher's handles.

**How could you follow up Source A to find out more about the terrain on the transport of the wounded on the Western Front?**

**Detail in Source A I would follow up**

*I would follow up on what Easton says about the further damage that stretcher bearers and the conditions could cause wounded men*

**Question I would ask**

*What wounds were made worse by jolts whilst on the stretcher?*

**What type of source I could use**

*I could use Hospital records*

**How this might help answer my question**

*Hospital records could provide information about the nature of wounds that soldiers arrived with and whether they were caused by fighting or by the conditions while on the stretcher.*

**SOURCE A: From a report on Gas Gangrene by Anthony Bowlby, Consulting Surgeon to the British Army October 1914**

The gangrene found amongst our wounded soldiers is directly due to infection introduced at the time of the wound, and this is likely to occur if muddy clothing has been carried by the projectile or if earth had been carried by the explosion.”

**How could you follow up Source A to find out more about the causes of death of wounded soldiers on the Western Front**

**Detail in Source A I would follow up**

*I would follow up on where Bowlby says that the infection was due to the earth which had been carried*

**Question I would ask**

*Why was this earth causing infection in wounds?*

**What type of source I could use**

*I could the site itself.*

**How this might help answer my question**

*The site might provide information about what the land was used for before it became a battlefield - for example was it used for farming in which case it might contain animal manure.*

## **SOURCE A: An extract from a letter written by Vera Brittain a VAD nurse between 1915 and 1918**

The fighting is continuing very long this year, and the convoys keep coming down, two or three a night.... We have heaps of gassed cases at present; there are 10 in this ward alone. I wish those people who write so glibly about this being a holy War could see a case – to say nothing of 10 cases – of mustard gas in its early stages – could see the poor things burnt and blistered all over with great mustard-coloured suppurating blisters, with blind eyes all sticky and stuck together, and always fighting for breath, with voices a mere whisper, saying that their throats are closing and they know they will choke.

**How could you follow up Source A to find out more about the impact that the use of gas had on the First World War?**

**Detail in Source A I would follow up**

*The detail I would follow up on is “We have heaps of gassed cases at present; there are 10 in this ward alone”*

**Question I would ask**

*How many soldiers were killed by the use of mustard gas in WW1?*

**What type of source I could use**

*Army Statistics*

**How this might help answer my question**

*There would be detailed and accurate statistics about the number of soldiers who were killed by gas over the course of the whole of the war as well as how many soldiers were killed by other weapons.*

## **SOURCE A: An extract from an article in the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps 1915**

Admirable as was the organisation of the large base hospitals, the transport of the wounded from the fighting seems to have been very badly managed during the advance of the Germans through Belgium and northern France. The supply of motor ambulances proved totally inadequate and the slightly wounded had to shift for themselves and squeeze into goods trains.

Use the previous three example of this kind of question to provide an answer to the question:  
**How could you follow up on Source A to find out more about the transportation of wounded soldiers at the beginning of the First World War?**

**How could you follow up Source A to find out more about the transportation of wounded soldiers at the beginning of the First World War?**

**Detail in Source A I would follow up**

**Question I would ask**

**What type of source I could use**

**How this might help answer my question**

