

**Banbury Cross Players** added 2 new photos.

Published by Linda Shaw · 4 February at 23:36 ·

## MY BOY JACK - Behind the Scenes

### The Trenches of World War 1

Living conditions in the trenches were horrific and the soldiers would often share them with rats, lice, and frogs. Rats were huge a problem and would often eat the soldiers food, even sometimes the soldiers while they slept. Trench Fever was brought on by lice, and made the soldiers' itch terribly, as well as causing fever, headache, sore muscles and aching joints.

Soldiers living in the trenches were also at risk from Trench Foot. Rain would flood the trenches making them boggy and muddy, which could block weapons and make it difficult to move in battle. Prolonged exposure to the wet, muddy conditions could cause Trench Foot, which could turn gangrenous and sometimes resulted in the foot being amputated. As it was so cold, soldiers would often lose fingers or toes to frostbite and some even died from exposure.

It is estimated that there were approximately 2490km of trench lines dug during World War 1. 2490km of rats, lice and mud, and the constant threat of being shot or blown to pieces.

Helen Watson - Director

Aerial view of opposing trench lines between Loos and Hulluch, July 1917. German trenches at the right and bottom, British at the top-left. From the collections of the Imperial War Museums.

Soldier in the trench - <https://media1.britannica.com/eb-media>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zr7PfG5eSB0&t=10s>



