

8 Use your own knowledge and Sources B and D to answer this question.

6

Outline how the experiences of trench warfare changed soldiers' attitudes to the war over time.

The Great War was initially thought to be a war of movement and many soldiers held Romantic ideas to war believing it would be over by Christmas 1914. As Germany faced a war on two fronts and due to the terrain they 'dug in' starting a war of attrition and trench warfare. Source B and D reveal how soldiers' attitudes changed over time due to their experience of trench warfare. Source B reveals "the trenches had made themselves rather than been made" reinforcing the tough <sup>and soggy</sup> conditions of the frontline. Source B is an account from 1915, an early stage of the war and reveals German superiority in weapons "we have... nothing to equal the German savage bomb." This stage of the war hardships encountered by soldiers were still a new concept and war weariness ~~was~~ had not set in. Source D reinforces the concept of "no 'proper' trenches, only weather eroded muddy ditches". The poor conditions of trench warfare matched to how the soldiers felt as it was a "matter of enduring until the relief unit arrived." It is clear from Source B and D initial excitement for the war from the Allied perspective did not last as the war continued. War weariness and discontent rose as the war continued and casualties increased.