

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.

Initially, soldiers were excited to go to war, particularly in Britain and Australia. However, due to the low hygiene and living conditions of trench warfare, these soldiers' attitudes drastically changed over time.

In source B, we are given a clear insight into the low morale that came about due to the enemy's advances both territorially and with new weapons. Seeing a comrade die right next to you would undoubtedly have a significantly detrimental impact on one's morale levels. This was further worsened by the living conditions in which the soldiers had to live. An insight into these harsh conditions can be achieved through studying source D where strong emotive language such as "appalling" and "weather-eroded muddy ditches" is used to portray their living environments. Low hygiene levels in these areas often led to fatal diseases such as gangrene, rabies from rats and frostbite.

The unpredictable nature of trench warfare is also outlined in source B where the risk of seeing a "nife-grade" is put right next to the standard act of eating breakfast. This poses the idea that the soldiers were never given a chance to feel safe and secure during battle and often suffered serious cases of "shell shock" due to such bombardments.