

# The Battle of Somme

**Was every soldier's experience of the Battle of the Somme as bad as Wilfred Owen believed it to be?**

From the poems you have read by Wilfred Owen and Walter de la Mare and from the information about the experiences of The Durham Light Infantry, you have gathered evidence to help you decide whether The Battle of the Somme was a glory mission that soldiers enjoyed or a horror story that they hated.

Use the evidence in your table to try and answer this essay question.

**"Was every soldier's experience of the Battle of the Somme as bad as Wilfred Owen believed it to be?"**

This writing frame might help you to structure your answer.

Wilfred Owen said that in World War One soldiers died "as cattle" in massive numbers and with no thought. He also said...

In this essay I will use evidence to see if Owens's opinion of life in the trenches of the *Great War* was really as terrible as he thought.

1. On the one hand there is evidence that the fighting was terrible in the Battle of the Somme...

2. Sources show that living in the trenches was awful, even when there was not any fighting...

3. On the other hand things were not all bad. There is a lot of evidence that soldiers had some good times during the war...

4. Overall I think that the experience of the *Great War* for a lot of soldiers was...