A Letter from the Trenches

Imagine you are a young soldier sent to fight on the Western Front during World War One.

Describe your experiences in the trenches in a letter to your parents. You should include all of the following words in your letter. Tick them off as you use them.

☐ Trench
☐ Dug out
☐ No Man’s Land
☐ Barbed Wire
☐ Mud
☐ Machine Gun
☐ Lice
☐ Flies
☐ Rats
☐ Smell
☐ Gas
☐ Gas mask
☐ Rifle
☐ Soldier
☐ Rations
☐ Bombing
☐ Trench Foot

| Vocabulary that may be useful - you could look up meanings in a dictionary if you need! |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Awful               | Onslaught | Hunger   |
| Barbarous           | Stench    | Decaying |
| Gruesome            | Petrified | Boredom  |
| Horrendous          | Disease   | Hopeless |
| Horrific           | Blighty   | Stale    |
| Terrible           | Squalid   | Torture  |

Phrases that you could adapt for your own use:

“I will never forget these terrible conditions …”

“It was so horrible, I can hardly bring myself to write about it …”

“So many innocent lives have been lost … “

“I am so lucky to have survived so far- I will never forget those who died fighting alongside me …”

“The trench is horrible, but it gives us somewhere to rest …”

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