



Text for the blackboard:

Mechanisation in World War I.

The First World War was characterized by mechanisation and total warfare:

Warfare:

- Two-front war
- static warfare with its dugouts
- new weapons of war
 - o were align not to kill but to wound the soldiers
 - o new type of warfare
 - o killed anonymous and mechanical

Technology of war:

- modern warfare material: tanks, heavy artillery, submarines, machine guns, aircraft, toxic gas
- weapons of war and munitions were inserted massive (battle of material)

Effects on the soldiers

- Static warfare led to an exhaustion of the soldiers
- Gas masks dehumanized the adversarial soldiers → killing became easier
- The soldiers suffered from permanent fear, because of artillery barrage or bombing
- With the progress in medicine more operations and amputations were possible.
- Soldiers were confronted with wounded and dead men who illustrated them the power of the new weapons

Soldiers of World War I

- Heroisation of the soldiers through the community
- dead soldiers → heroic death!
- alive invalids → heroes??
- Attempts for occupational and social rehabilitation
- Community combined beggars and hurdy-gurdists with the invalids
- Invalides reminded the community of the lost war → So they wanted the war cripples out of public

Why were there so many invalids?