

The Gathering Presents...

Trench Warfare

Guest Speaker .. Kevin Cropp



(L to R) Ben Romero, Kevin Cropp

During the August Gathering meeting our guest speaker, CAPT Kevin Cropp, USN (Ret), presented a historical discussion based on Trench Warfare in WWI. That war started in 1914 and continued until 1918. It involved Germany and Allied European Forces and was known for the role of trench warfare. During that period, a number of innovations in warfare were developed including tanks, aircraft, artillery, machine guns, and chemical weapons, as well as tactics and methods of operation. The most prominent figure from the war was the development of a stalemate on the Western Front, which consisted of a near-continuous line of trenches from the English Channel to Switzerland.

The trenches were an elaborate construction that allowed the troops of both sides to have shelter from opposing forces. During the war, the forces developed routines of daily operation, with new methods for providing food, medical support and logistical support for weapons, as well as new clothing for winter and summer. Soldiers often received clothing from home for protection in winter weather. Clothing often mirrored traditional local styles. For example, the Scots used kilts. Soldiers wore soft hats for the first part of the war until helmets were introduced in 1916. Food included hardtack, bully beef and spam.

Our guest speaker provided a number of details and examples about weapons systems, trench designs and styles of weapons, which created an interesting presentation on era of Great War! Our thanks to CAPT Cropp.

