

# LIFE IN THE TRENCHES

www.smokyhillmuseum.org/exhibits/traveling-exhibit/life-in-the-trenches.html

*Explore the human face of WWI and the miserable nature of trench warfare. This unique exhibit focuses on first person accounts of Kansas soldiers and their harrowing accounts of life in the trench.*

This mobile exhibit offered to you comes in a flexible arrangement that can be modified to meet your space requirements. Students, teachers and visitors will love the concise story that focuses on Kansas soldiers in the trenches of WWI. Best of all, the Smoky Hill Museum will take care of delivery, installation and training. When the exhibit is finished we will come and take care of removal. Included with this exhibit are three interactive elements and a packet of educational activities that can be utilized by staff and/or teachers to expand upon the topics covered.

## Exhibit Content:

- Trench Construction and Design – Soldiers ate, slept and fought in a maze of trenches.
- Life in the Trenches – The soldiers' senses were bombarded with the noise of battle, the fog of smoke, and the smell of death and decay. Rations were, at times, sparse. Disease was a constant struggle living in mud, water and waste. Experience the fear of a gas attack with a gas mask challenge.
- First Accounts of Battle – With determination, and sometimes a little luck, soldiers fought heroic battles. Meet a few of the people involved in World War I through the interactive Vet Vignettes.
- Ending of the War – The sweetest sound was the silence, then cheering, when the cease-fire of Armistice was called.
- Returning to Normalcy – Soldiers faced new battles upon their return home, such as unemployment and PTSD.

Many soldiers were proud to enter WWI and fight for their country. Little did they realize the horrendous and life-altering conditions they would face. Some made it home, while others made the ultimate sacrifice. Those who came home would be changed forever. Some would talk about their experiences, others stayed silent. Some soldiers welcomed coming home to a new life, but others brought the war home with them.



211 West Iron Avenue, Salina, KS 67401 | 785.309.5776 | [www.smokyhillmuseum.org](http://www.smokyhillmuseum.org)  
For booking or additional questions contact Joshua Morris. [josh.morris@salina.org](mailto:josh.morris@salina.org)





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## QUICK FACTS

- +450 sq. ft. needed for exhibition.
- Electricity needed for 2 of the interactive elements.
- Standard booking period 1-3 months. Longer periods can be negotiated.
- Fee is \$750 per month or \$1800 for 3 months plus shipping. SHM will make shipping arrangements.
- Educational activity packets included.
- One staff member from the Smoky Hill Museum will deliver, install and train.

## VET VIGNETTES

Information and accounts from Kansas, American, Allied and Central Power troops in a simple to navigate touch-screen format.

## GAS ATTACK

Users will be challenged to respond quickly and prepare themselves for a gas attack before it's too late.

## NOT FIVE STAR FOOD

Explore a WWI era mess kit and the recipes they might have used on the battlefield.



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