

Soldier planning to leave

Today, like every other, is the same frightful experience, not knowing when you die, not knowing how to escape. I just want to end, for it all to stop. I can't even remember what day of the week it is. The trenches are in a disgusting condition. Rats and lice are scattered no matter where you go, even the dug in the ground toilet. The toilet is over-flowing, full of little sins, and even worse, not a sign of hygiene in sight! It makes me wretch at the very sight of it. I miss my home comforts. Even the thought of home brings me to tears. I can't continue here, I just can't. I need to escape to see my family. I need to escape to see my home.

I knew that our captain would shoot us from being away from the frontlines, it's like he could read our thoughts, he'd shoot anyone who tried to take a walk! I had planned a special route: at 10:32 in the morning without fail, the captain would go to the sinister bathroom for exactly two minutes. That was my time. I would sneak out the little underground hut I made into an unused part of the trenches, which was our backup hole. Then I would carefully climb out the trench. I knew there was a small village nearby, so I'd hide there for a day. It was a horrible thing to do, to abandon your country. I was overwhelmed by the fear of getting caught and the sensation of betrayal, but I knew it had to be done.

It was 10:30, I felt sick. The thought going over and over in my head was: "I can't do this, I'm too cowardly to run away". I nearly puked all over myself. 10:32, now's the time. I told my body to move, it wouldn't, It knew something wasn't right. I forced myself to get up. I came out the door, the captain was in the toilet. I ran quietly through the sludgy trench. I was crying, I could smell tear gas, my eyes streamed even more. All my friends were getting gassed back in the trench, and because I ran, I was further away from it. The tear gas made your nose itch, your eyes stream. I climbed over the trench wall, filled with the need to cry, to vomit, to do something. I climbed mound after mound until I reached the forest. And no one ever found out.