



Glossary of Terms – The Muddy Choir

Word	Meaning
Comminiqué	A special type of message or object serving to communicate information.
Court Martial	A court-martial is a military court. Court martials are set up to determine the guilt of soldiers and other members of the armed forces, who have acted outside the decrees of military law. If the defendant is found to be guilty, these courts also decide on the punishment of the soldier.
Dugout	Dugouts, usually sited close to the trench line - often within or below the trench wall - were used as a form of underground shelter and rest for both troops and officers. Occupants of dug-outs would eat their meals, arrange meetings and often make their bed there.
Firing Squad	Execution by firing squad is a method of capital punishment. A firing squad is normally composed of several soldiers or law enforcement officers. Usually, all members of the group are instructed to fire at the same time, preventing the disruption of the process by a single member and the identification of the member who fired the lethal shot. A combination of blank and active bullets would be placed in the soldiers guns to further prevent this being known. The prisoner is typically blindfolded or hooded, as well as restrained.
Gas	“Gas” refers to the chemical weapons of the First World War that were primarily used to demoralise, injure, and kill. The types of weapons employed ranged from disabling chemicals, such as tear gas and severe mustard gas, to lethal agents like phosgene and chlorine. Chemical warfare was a major component of the First World War.

Krauts	Kraut is a German word recorded in English from 1918 onwards as a derogatory term for a German, particularly a German soldier during World War I and World War II. ^[1] Its earlier meaning in English was as a synonym for sauerkraut, a traditional German and central European food.
Lance Corporal	Lance Corporal is a military rank, used by many armed forces worldwide. It is below the rank of corporal, and is typically the lowest rank of officer.
Observation Post	An observation post, temporary or fixed, is a position from which soldiers can watch enemy movements, to warn of approaching soldiers (such as in trench warfare), or to direct artillery fire.
Rations	A fixed amount of a commodity officially allowed to each person during a time of shortage, as in wartime.
Shell	A shell is a load-carrying projectile - an object projected into space by the exertion of a force – which contains an explosive or other filling. Shells are usually large-calibre projectiles fired by artillery and combat vehicles (including tanks), and warships. Shells usually have the shape of a cylinder topped by a roundly tapered nose for good aerodynamic performance; but some specialised types are quite different.
Ypres	Ypres is a Belgian municipality located in the Flemish province of West Flanders. During the First World War, Ypres occupied a strategic position because it stood in the path of Germany's planned sweep across the rest of Belgium and into France from the north (The Schlieffen Plan). As such, Ypres was the centre of intense and sustained battles between German and Allied forces. The action of <i>The Muddy Choir</i> is set in the Third Battle of Ypres, also known as the Battle of Passchendaele. British soldiers found it difficult to pronounce "Ypres" and called it "Wipers", which is how it subsequently became known.