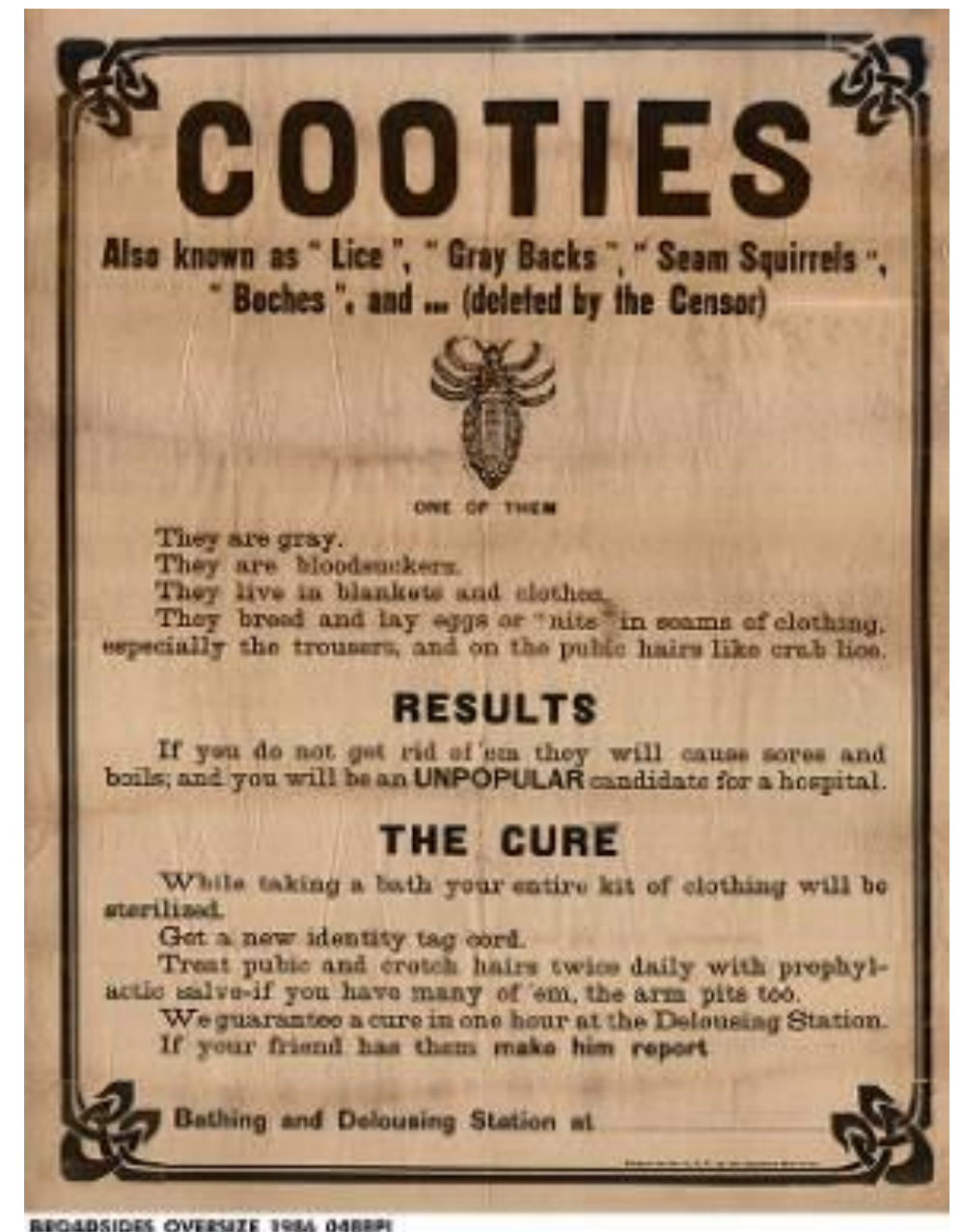


Bugs and Parasites in the Trenches

Lice, Mosquitoes and Bed-bugs!



BEOADSIDES_OVERSIZE_1966_0488P1

Source: The Indiana Historical Society

Head Louse (*Pediculus humanus capitis*)

The head louse is a wingless insect which feeds on human blood and lives amongst the hair on human heads. It does not carry disease unlike the Human Body Louse (*Pediculus humanus humanus*). This was responsible for Trench Fever by infecting the human body with disease through biting. This was treated by delousing soldiers' clothes with insecticide.



<http://www.iwm.org.uk/>



Common House Mosquito (*Culex pipiens*)

The mosquito is well-known as a disease carrier, particularly of malaria. The tiny flying insects gather on stagnant water. The mosquito bites and sucks blood from humans causing transfer of disease. Mosquitoes were a particular hazard in the hotter climates of Gallipoli and the Middle East. Protective clothing was essential at night. The drug quinine offered some protection.

Bed Bug (*Cimex lectularius*)

These are brown, wingless insects, about the size of an apple seed, that need to feed on human blood every few days to progress from egg to adult. Then they can survive without food for a year. Once a few are present, their numbers increase exponentially. There is an anaesthetic in their bite so it goes unnoticed until red swellings and sores appear on the skin.

