

NAME THAT SHELL

German shells brought terror as well as death to the Allies. Learn their names and what they do.

COAL-BOX	Heavy shell, usually a 5.9inch. Name comes from the black smoke of the shell-burst
CRUMP	5.9inch shell. Name comes from the noise it makes
FOUR-TWO	4.2inch artillery shell
GREEN CROSS	Full of phosgene gas, it lands and gasses you. It has a green cross painted on the shell casing
JACK JOHNSON	Shell that bursts with black smoke. It's named after the boxer (1878-1946), the first black American world heavyweight champion (1908-1915)
MINENWERFER	A trench mortar
MOANING MINNIE	This is the name given by the British to the minenwerfer because of their noise the fired shells make
POTATO MASHER	Stick grenade. It looks like a potato masher!
SAUSAGE	Mortar bomb
SILENT SUSAN	Very fast shell – it explodes and kills you before you even hear it coming
WHITE STAR	A mixture of chlorine and phosgene gas. A white star is painted on the shell casing
WHIZZ_BANG	A very fastshell. Name comes from the noise of the flight and the explosion
WOOLLY BEAR	Explosive shell, bursts with a cloud like a woolly teddy bear
YELLOW CROSS	Gas shell. A yellow cross is painted on the shell casing

The Allies also made up comic songs about German shells. Songs like, 'I want to go home'

*I want to go home, I want to go home.
I don't want to go in the trenches no more,
Where whizzbangs and shrapnel they whistle and roar.
Take me over the sea, where the Germans can't get at me,
O my, I don't want to die, I want to go home.*