



What did WW1 sound like?

Video transcript – Film Two

On the first of July 1916, British and French forces launched an offensive in the Somme region of northern France. Thousands of the men would have trained on this very range before marching off to war.

But no amount of weaponry training could prepare the soldiers for the first and bloodiest day of action at the Somme. There were 57,000 casualties, of whom nearly 20,000 were killed.

On a front that stretched for 12 miles, the most intense fighting was around the village of La Boisselle.

What must it have been like on that battlefield?

With the help of modern technology, our audio soundscape recreates the terrible cacophony that would have been heard at La Boisselle.

The ferocious continuous sounds of firing that artillery teams were exposed to caused horrific damage to soldiers hearing.

Armed conflict can be a chaotic nightmare. Mine explosions... rapid fire weapons... human screams... All mixed together, some far away, some very, very close by.

We can never truly comprehend what the soldier of World War One experienced.

But perhaps these sounds can bring us a little nearer to understanding the horror they faced.