

LINE OF FIRE: Glossary of Key Terms

Army corps	Made up of two or more divisions and comprised of upwards of 20,000 men. Commanded by a lieutenant general .
Artillery	Guns that are too big for one man to carry; firing shells bigger than what could be fired from a personal weapon, such as a rifle or a pistol; used to be towed around on horses.
Barracks	A military building or group of buildings used to house soldiers.
Battalion	300 to 1,000 soldiers. Four to six companies make up a battalion, which is normally commanded by a lieutenant colonel . A battalion is capable of independent operations of limited duration and scope
Billets	Accommodation for a soldier in a civilian dwelling.
Captain	The army rank of captain is a commissioned officer, historically corresponding to command of a company of soldiers.
Colonel	A senior commissioned officer. Usually the highest or second-highest field rank.
Company	62 to 190 soldiers. Three to five platoons form a company, which is commanded by a captain .
Cavalry	Troops on horseback.
Deploys	Moving into battle formation.
Mobilisation	The act of organising and moving troops ready for war.

Lieutenant	A junior commissioned officer. Historically the lieutenant was the deputy to a captain, which came to mean that a captain commanded a company and had several lieutenants, each commanding a platoon.
Light Infantry	Soldiers on foot, carrying small weapons.
Major	A military rank superior to captain and subordinate to lieutenant colonel.
NCO (non-commissioned officer)	A military officer who has not been given a commission, meaning they have risen from the rank and file to a supervisory role rather than a managerial one.
Platoon	16 to 44 soldiers. A platoon is led by a lieutenant and consists of two to four squads or sections.
Rearguard	A unit protecting the rear of the army, especially in retreat. In <i>Line of Fire</i> , the Rearguard was comprised of 34-49 year olds – to which our soldier may have belonged. These <i>Territoriaux</i> were known affectionately as <i>Les Pepères</i> meaning the granddads – they were considered too old and no longer fit enough for frontline action.
Reconnaissance	Obtaining information about the position, activity and resources of the enemy.
Regiment	The size of a regiment varies greatly depending on the country and which part of the army it belongs to. Usually commanded by a lieutenant colonel, colonel, brigadier or brigadier general.
Sergeant-Major	A senior non-commissioned rank.
Shells	Fired out of cannons and set to explode

	either during flight or on impact.
Shrapnel	Shell filled with bits of metal with an explosive charge.
Squad	Nine to 10 soldiers. Typically commanded by a sergeant or staff sergeant , a squad or section is the smallest element in Army structure, and its size is dependent on its function.
Vanguard	The leading unit or division of the army.
Territorial Infantry	NB: Not the same meaning as the British 'Territory Army'. The French 'regiment d'infanterie territoriale' (RIT) were regiments comprising of older soldiers (34 – 49 year-olds), possibly like our own soldier. These 'territoriaux' were affectionately known as 'Les Pepères' (granddads), and their duty was usually rearguard duty, because they were considered too old for front line action.