Sounding the Somme – Kit Bag
Fact File: A WW1 Kit Bag

Photograph from the Daily Telegraph
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-one/11006139/Inventories-of-war-soldiers-kit-from-1066-to-2014.html?frame=2994148

A WW1 Soldiers kitbag would contain around 30 kilos (4½ stone!) of equipment. It was notoriously heavy to carry. British soldiers were pretty well equipped for the time (more so than their French allies) and would have had the following items in their packs:

Dog Tags – with name and personal number for identification
Uniform –underclothes and outerwear such as a trench coat and helmet
Clothing – spare clothes, laces, boot polish, ground sheet, helmet, trench coat,
Personal hygiene items – soap, razor, comb, foot powder,
Food items and equipment – cutlery, tins of food, tin opener, biscuits, chocolate, oxo cubes, water
Weapons – rifle, bayonet, ammunition, gun oil and rag,
Safety – two field dressings, wire cutters, entrenching tool, pen knife
Personal items – cigarettes, matchers (Lucifers) watch, notebook/diary, pen, photographs and lucky charms

For a complete and detailed list of kit bag contents, please visit:
http://www.mylearning.org/ww1-battlefield-souvenirs/p-4673/
Or see the link to the Telegraph article above.

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Supported by The National Lottery® through the Heritage Lottery Fund

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND