

# World War I

The War to End All Wars

By the end of 1914, not only Europe was at war, but also all of Europe's colonies in Asia, Africa and South America.

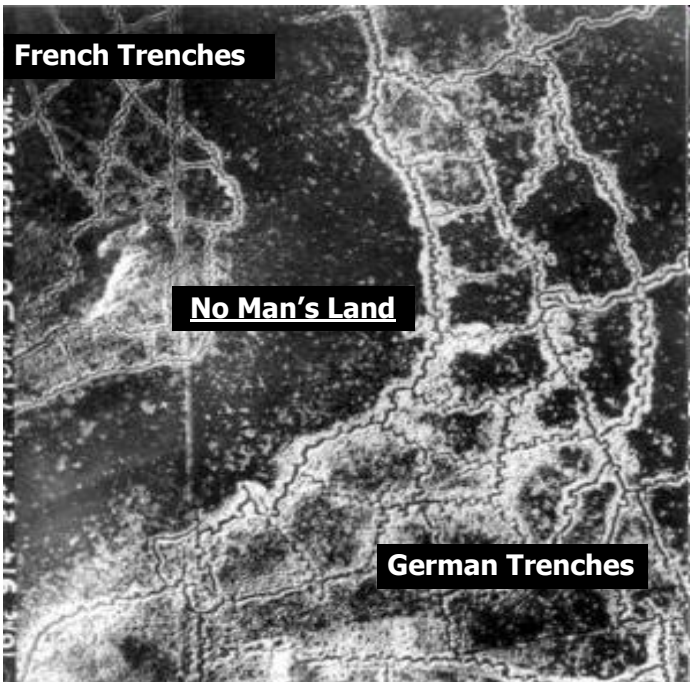
# Trench Warfare

- Both sides dug long trenches that faced each other. The trenches ran for miles.
- From time to time, one side would attempt to cross the “No-Man’s Land” the area in between the trenches
- Trench warfare made WWI extend from a few months of fighting to four years of fighting

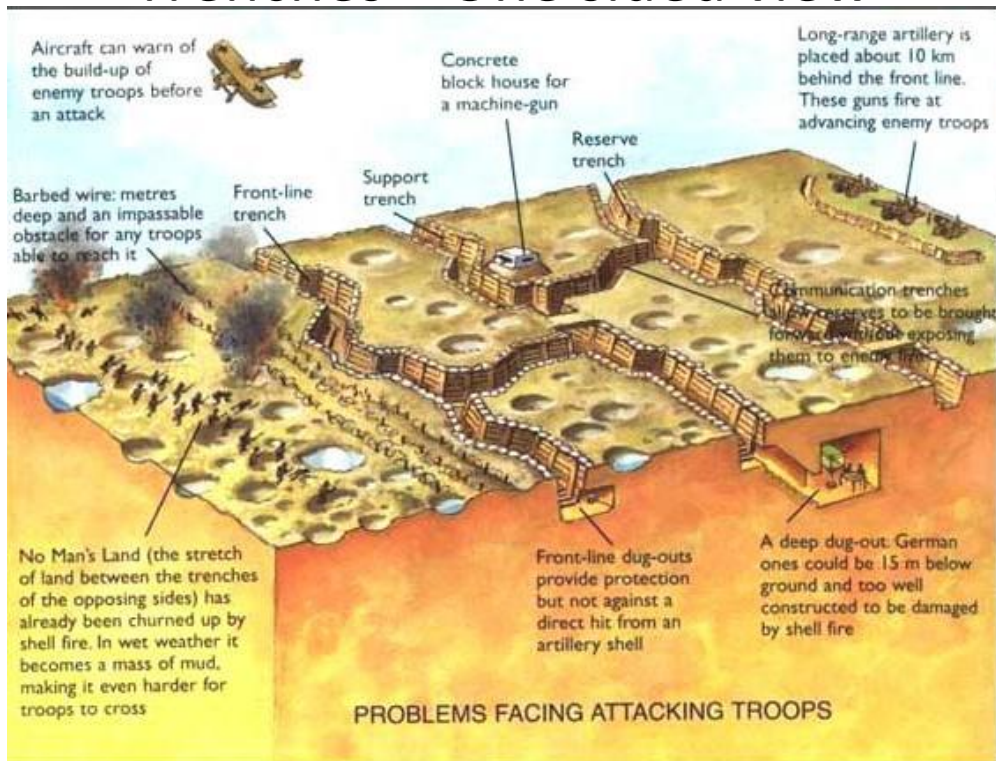
## No Man’s Land



# Trenches Aerial View

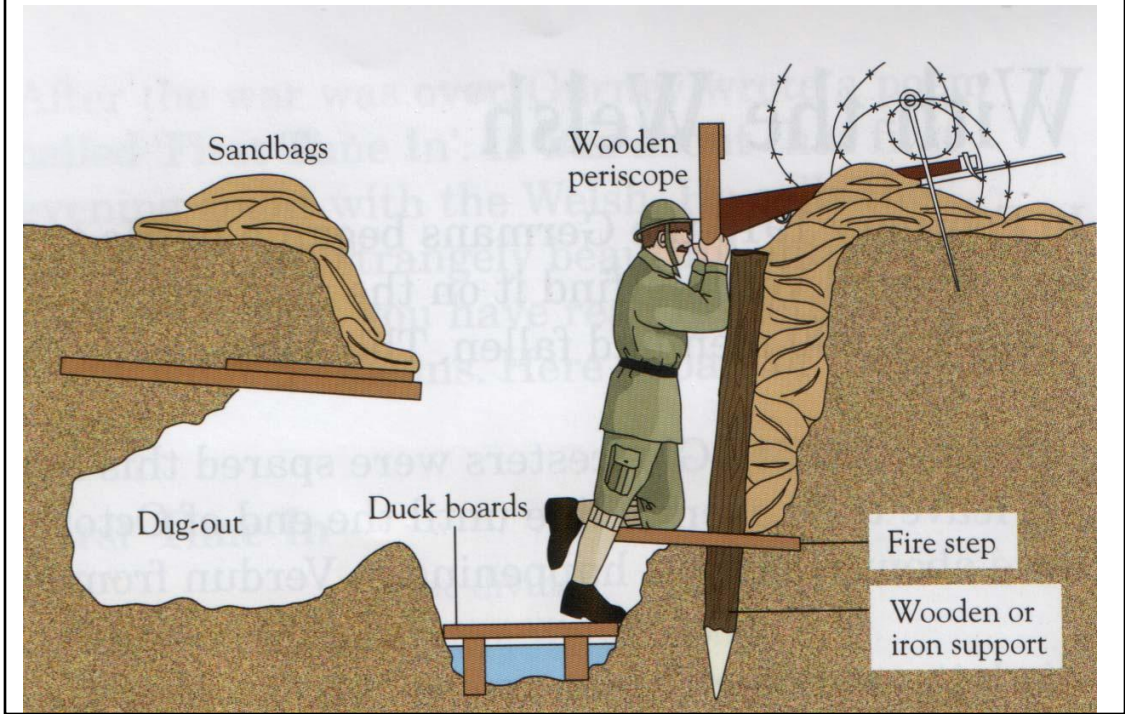


# Trenches—One sided view





# Diagram of a Trench



# The Trench Cycle

- Typically, a battalion would be expected to serve a month or two in the front line.
- This would be followed by a short time spent in support, and then in reserve lines.
- A period of rest would follow - generally short in duration
- Then the whole cycle of trench duty would start again.



## Death

- **Death was a constant companion to those serving in the line.**
- **Inexperienced soldiers were cautioned against their natural inclination to peer over the parapet of the trench into No Man's Land.**
- **Many men died on their first day in the trenches due to a precisely aimed sniper's bullet.**
- **It has been estimated that up to one third of Allied casualties on the Western Front were actually sustained in the trenches.**



# Trench Reality



## Barbed Wire

**Bodies were left on the barbed wire because no one was willing to risk their lives to take the bodies down. They could rot for weeks.**



## Trench Rat

**Rats began to feed off the dead bodies of soldiers rotting in the trenches. They were known to get as big as CATS from all of the "food" left in the trenches. Rat produced 900 offspring a year**





## Lice

- Lice were also never-ending problem causing men to itch unceasingly.
- Lice caused Trench Fever, a particularly painful disease that began suddenly with severe pain followed by high fever.
- Recovery - away from the trenches - took up to twelve weeks.
- Men shaved their heads or burned areas infected with lice. They also asked their families to send special pomades to help get rid of lice – they didn't work. Men also picked lice from their clothing – they called this chatting.



Flooding in  
the trenches

Men ate, slept, fought  
and died in water that  
could be knee deep for  
days and weeks at a time



**Because of the weather and the terrain (land) the mud could get waist-deep**



## Trench Foot

Questions  
12-13

**If a soldier stood in flooded trenches too long, they got "trench foot"—when their feet literally rotted off**



