

Trench Warfare World War I

Social Studies 8

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Trench warfare

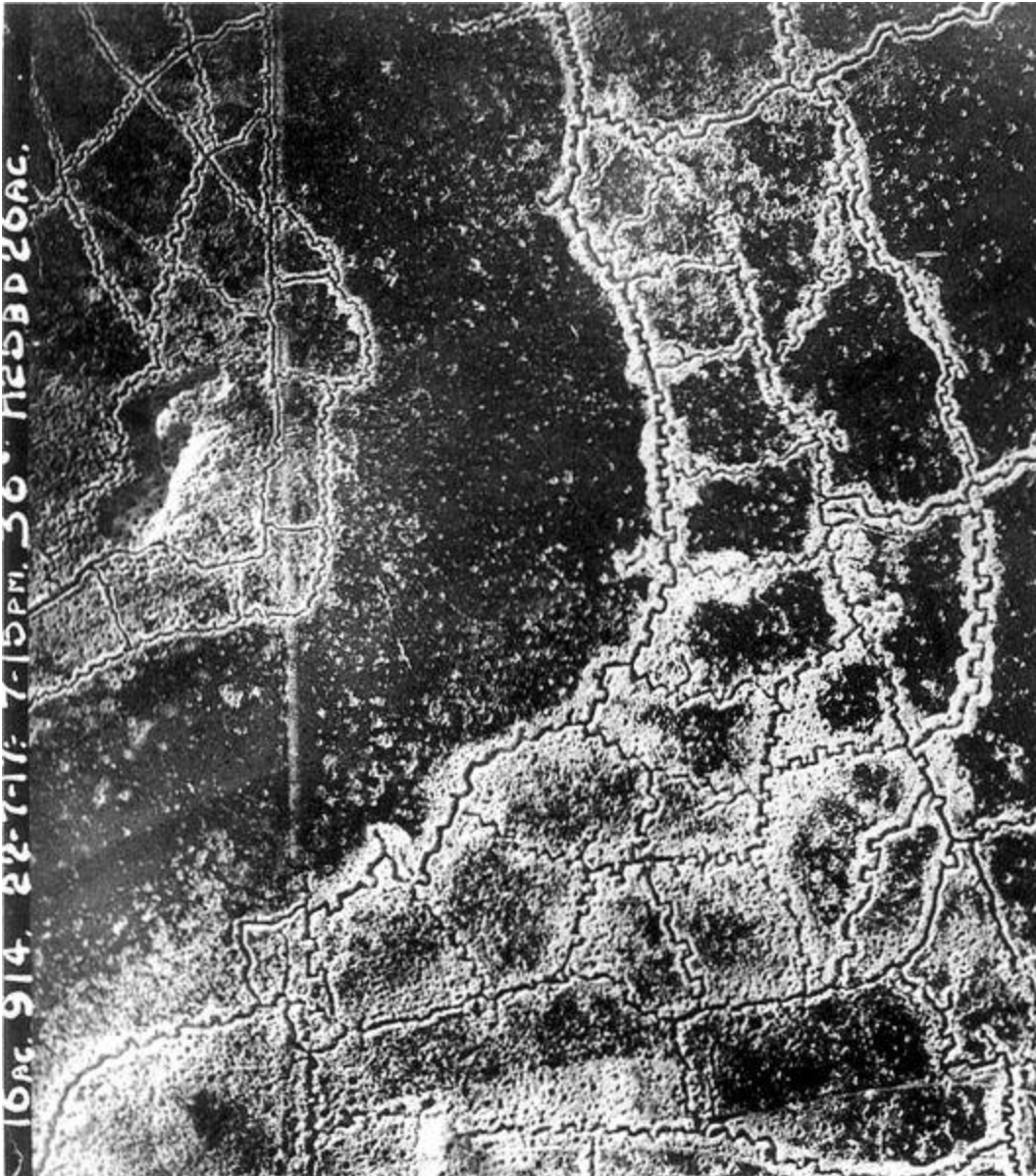
- Soldiers needed to find a new defensive strategy against the newly-invented machine guns first used in WWI.
- Building trenches to provide cover became part of this defense.
- Trenches in WWI were first built after the First Battle of the Marne in July 1915

Trench warfare

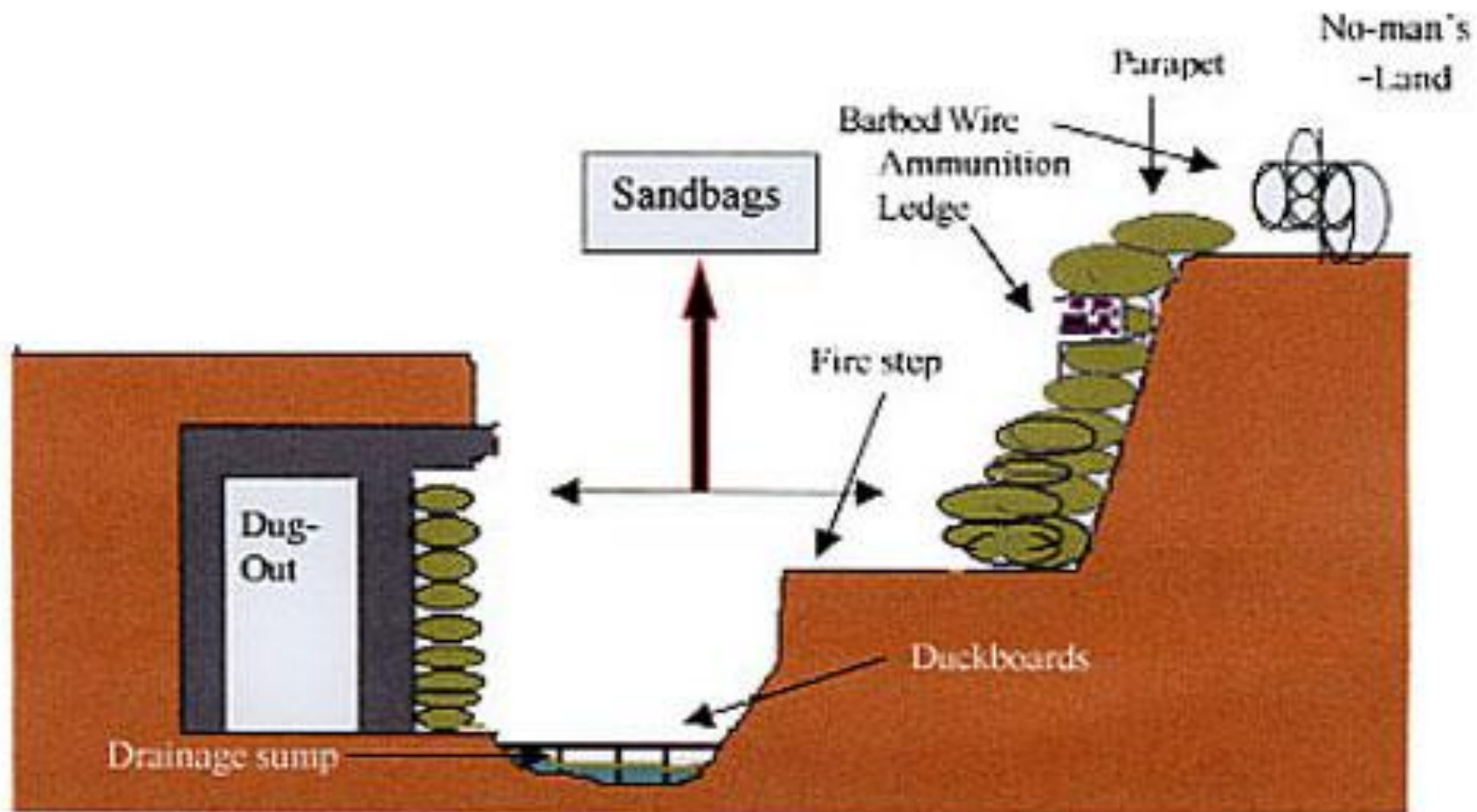
- Trenches consisted of:
 - trenches (front lines, communication lines, support lines and reserve lines)
 - barbed-wire fences
 - an area of desolate muddy land called No Man's Land
 - enemy trenches

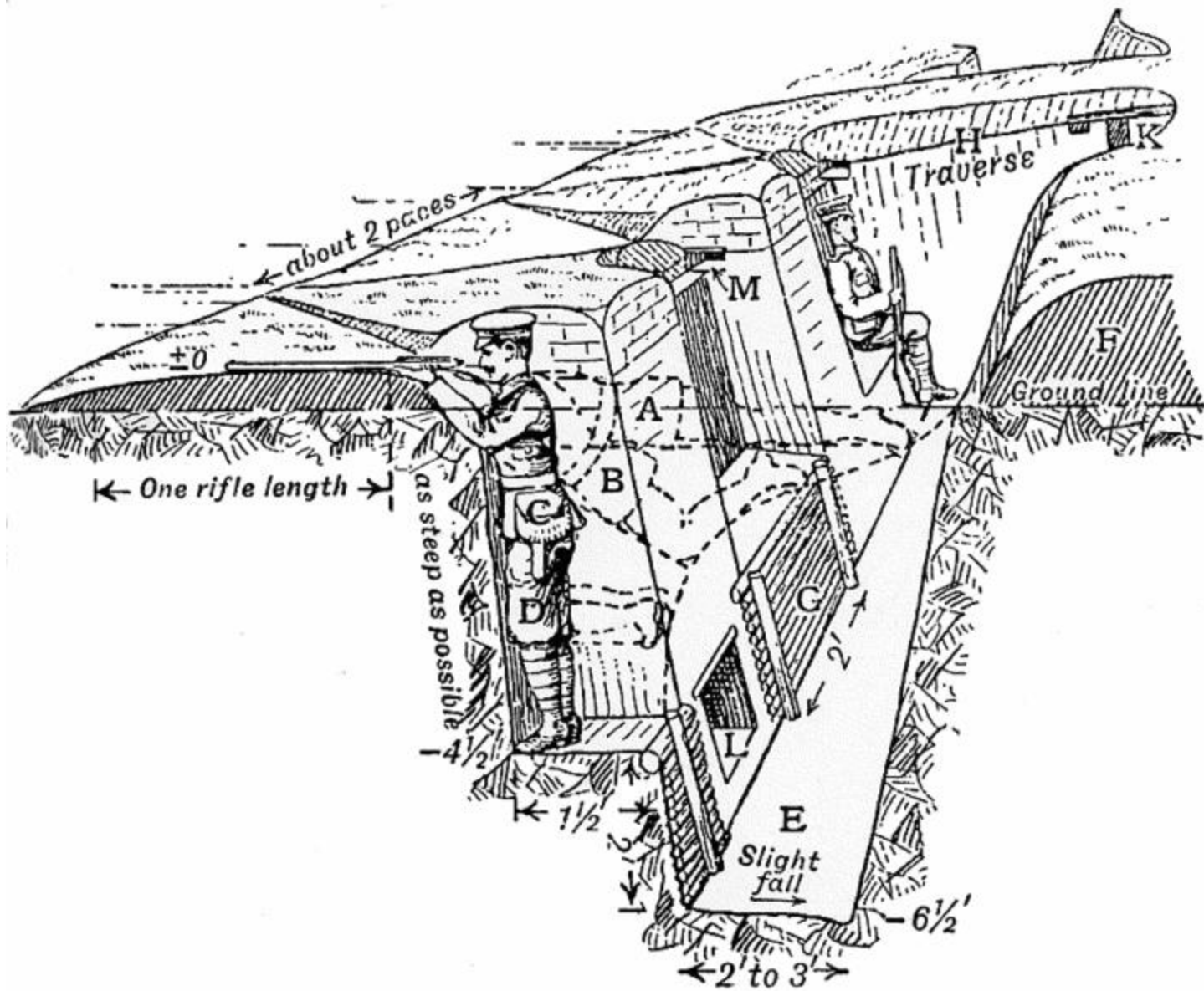
Trench warfare

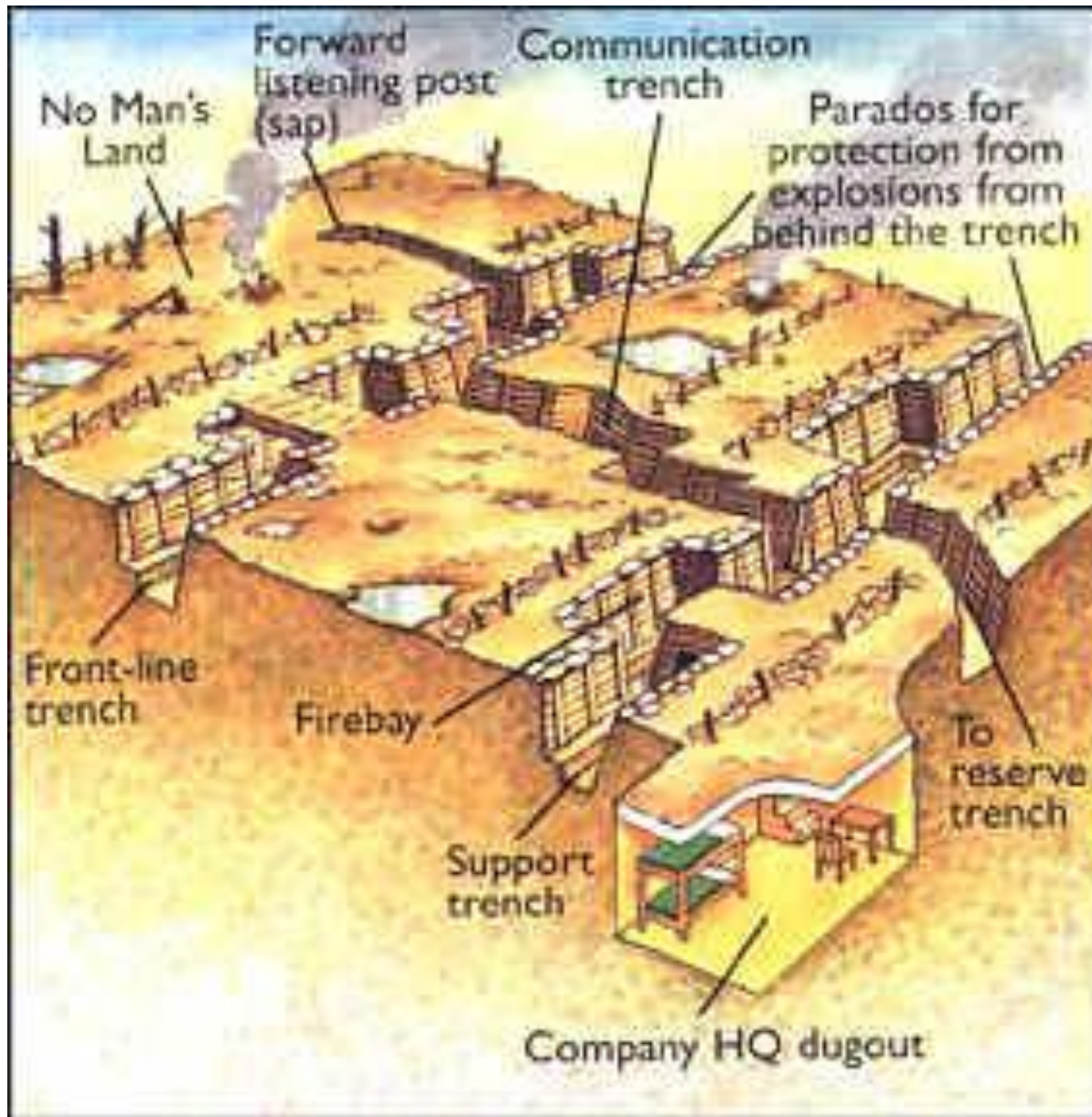
- Disadvantages:
 1. This defensive strategy restricted troop movement, creating a stalemate: a situation where no progress can be made (no one can win)
 2. This stalemate *lengthened* the war, as neither side could launch a successful offensive that could penetrate the trench system.



Aerial photo of trenches
in France







Trench Warfare

- A** Front line trench
- B** Support trench
- C** Reserve trench
- D** Enemy trench

Artillery line "softened up" resistance before an infantry attack.

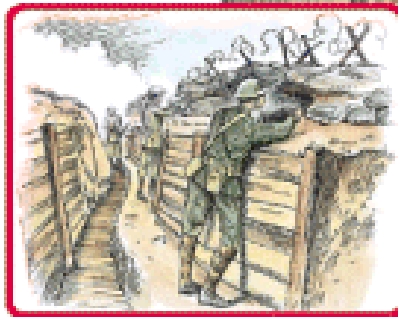
Communication trenches connected the three kinds of trenches.

Barbed wire entanglements

"No Man's Land"
(from 25 yards to a mile wide)

Dugout

Saps were shallow trenches in "no man's land," allowing access to machine-gun nests, grenade-throwing positions, and observation posts.



Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack



Concrete block house for a machine-gun

Long-range artillery is placed about 10 km behind the front line. These guns fire at advancing enemy troops

Barbed wire: metres deep and an impassable obstacle for any troops able to reach it

Front-line trench

Support trench

Reserve trench

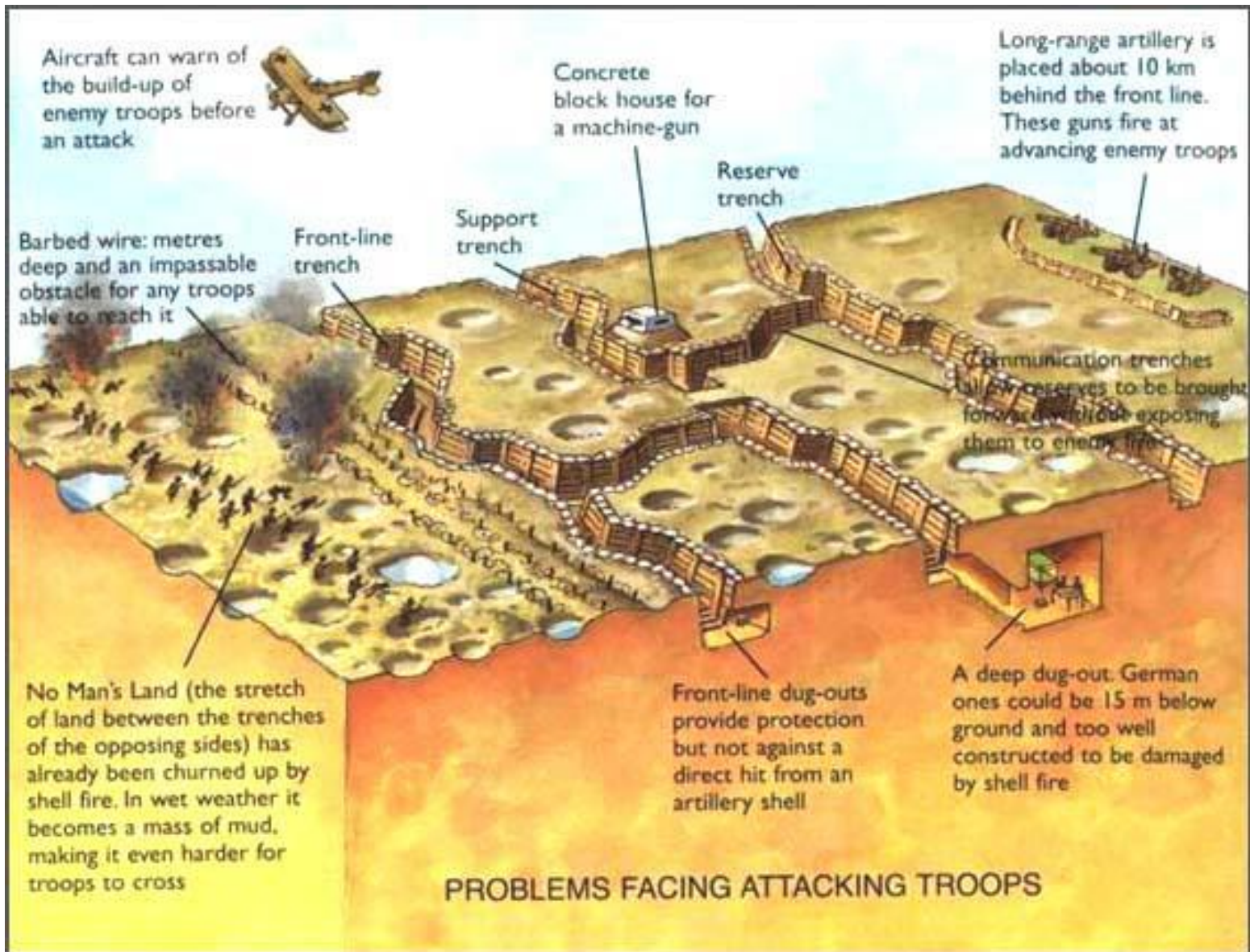
Communication trenches allow reserves to be brought forward without exposing them to enemy fire

No Man's Land (the stretch of land between the trenches of the opposing sides) has already been churned up by shell fire. In wet weather it becomes a mass of mud, making it even harder for troops to cross

Front-line dug-outs provide protection but not against a direct hit from an artillery shell

A deep dug-out. German ones could be 15 m below ground and too well constructed to be damaged by shell fire

PROBLEMS FACING ATTACKING TROOPS

























No Man's Land at
Passchendaele

Trench Warfare in Video

[Trench Warfare Battles](#)

[The Life of a Soldier](#)

Virtual Tour of Trenches

What Was Life Like In The Trenches?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone>

Battle of Beaumont Hamel World War I

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Battle of Beaumont Hamel

- Date: July 1, 1916
- Place: Beaumont Hamel, France
- major losses for the Newfoundland Regiment



What happened?

- Summary:
 - a main offensive attempt to break German lines and clear a path to the English Channel
 - NL Regiment was assigned to take the third enemy line (not much danger anticipated)
 - The Germans knew of the attack, and an earlier Allied attempt to weaken German defenses failed

What happened?

- At 2 a.m., the NL Regiment completed a five-hour march to the trenches
- At 8:45 a.m., they were ordered “over the top”

[Detailed Description of The Battle](#)

What happened?

- 801 Newfoundland soldiers participated in the Battle of Beaumont Hamel
- Casualties:
 - 233 dead
 - 386 wounded
 - 91 missing
 - only 91 men were left to answer the roll call the next day





Imperial War Museum

Q 754





Quotes

- The Newfoundland men advanced against the Germans "*with chins tucked down as if walking into a blizzard.*"
- "*It was a magnificent display of trained and disciplined valour, and its assault only failed of success because dead men can advance no farther.*" Major General Sir Beauvoir de Lisle

Memorial

- July 1 became a national holiday – Memorial Day – which is the same day as Canada Day
- The Beaumont Hamel Memorial Park was opened on the battle site on June 27, 1925, including a Newfoundland Memorial
- The names and death date of all NL'ers lost in WWI are recorded in the Book of Remembrance

[Beaumont Hamel Memorial Video Clips](#)









