

Warm Up

1. Update your Table of Contents

Entry	Date	Title
12	02-12	Trench Warfare

2. You will have five minutes to review for your
WWI Vocabulary Quiz!

3. Turn in LATE 1914 Maps in to the front tray.

Dates to Remember

- Tomorrow: Social Studies Benchmark (*not a grade!*)
- Friday: WWI Concepts Quiz
- Monday: We will begin our WWI Project! (*more details to follow*)

After the Quiz

Grab Entry 12 (*Trench Warfare in World War I*) and fill in #1 based on the following passage.

Trench warfare was a **major feature** of World War I. Because the combination of **machine guns** and **heavy artillery** made life above ground too dangerous, the opposing armies dug a series of trenches from which to **defend themselves** and to **launch attacks**. The trenches outline only some of the **deplorable conditions** the troops were forced to endure. There were other dangers in the trenches as well as **disease, starvation and boredom**.

TRENCH WARFARE in WORLD WAR I

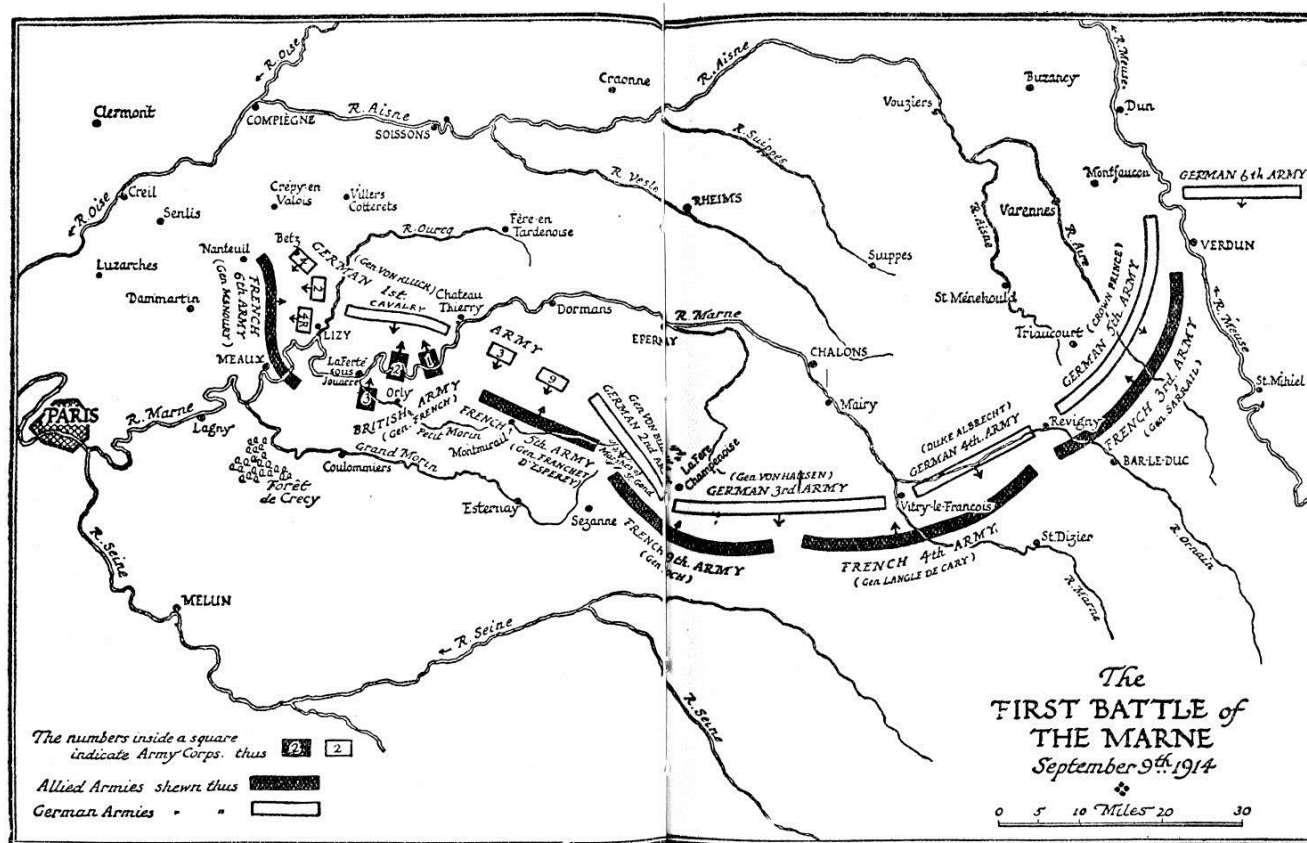
Examine how trench warfare affected soldiers in the war and the overall death toll.

What is the definition of trench warfare?

- Military operations in which the opposing forces attack and counterattack from systems of fortified ditches rather than an open battlefield
- **Strategy of defending a position by fighting from the protection of deep ditches**

First Battle of the Marne

- French troops stop German advance
- Germans dig in and prepare to hold their ground
- Two massive systems of opposing trenches stretch for 400 miles across the Western Front



**Why
Trenches?**



Why Trenches? Video

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

Reserve trench

Support trench

Front-line trench

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

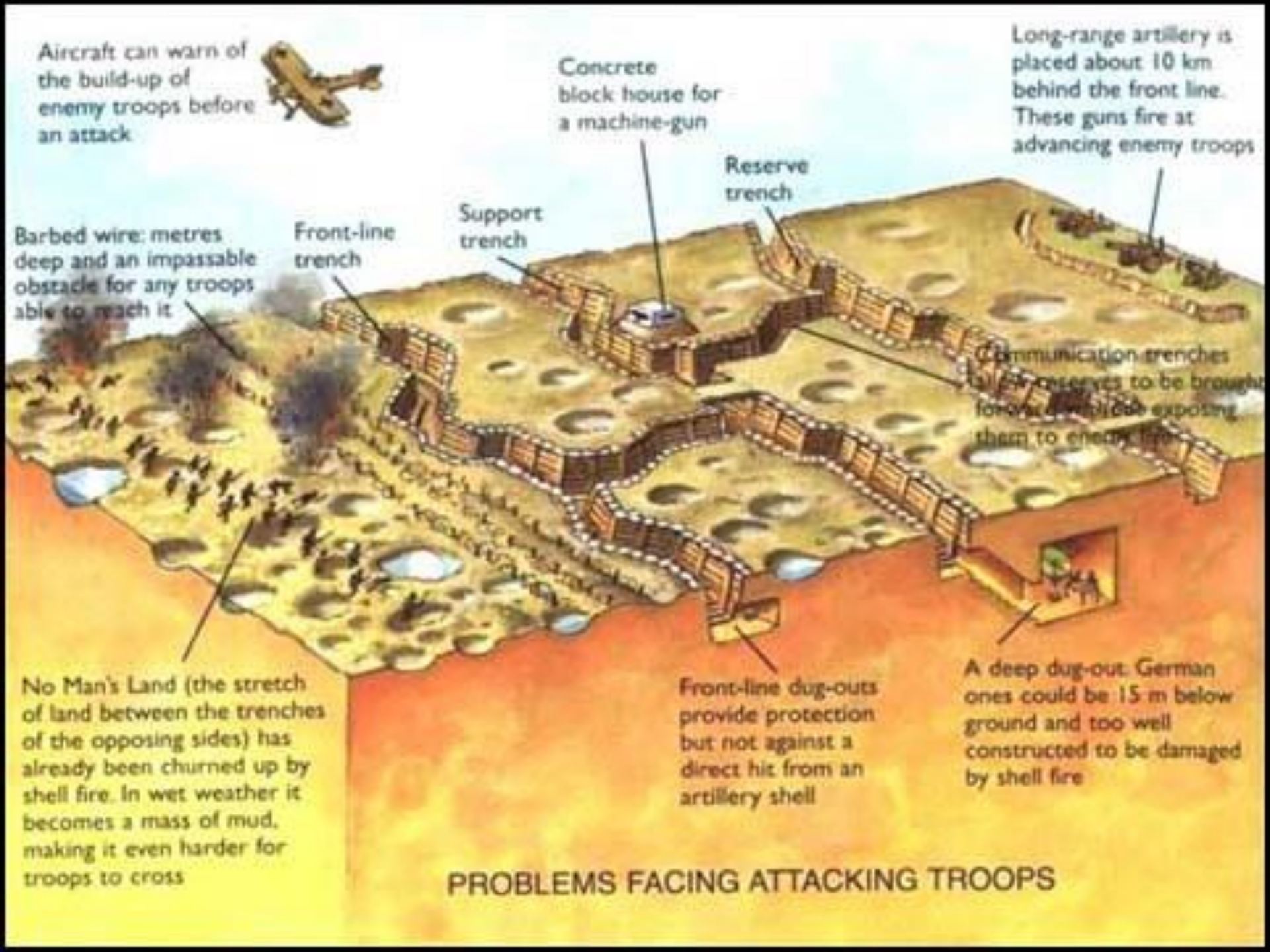
Communication trenches allow reserves to be brought forward without exposing them to enemy fire

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



Trench Warfare

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

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

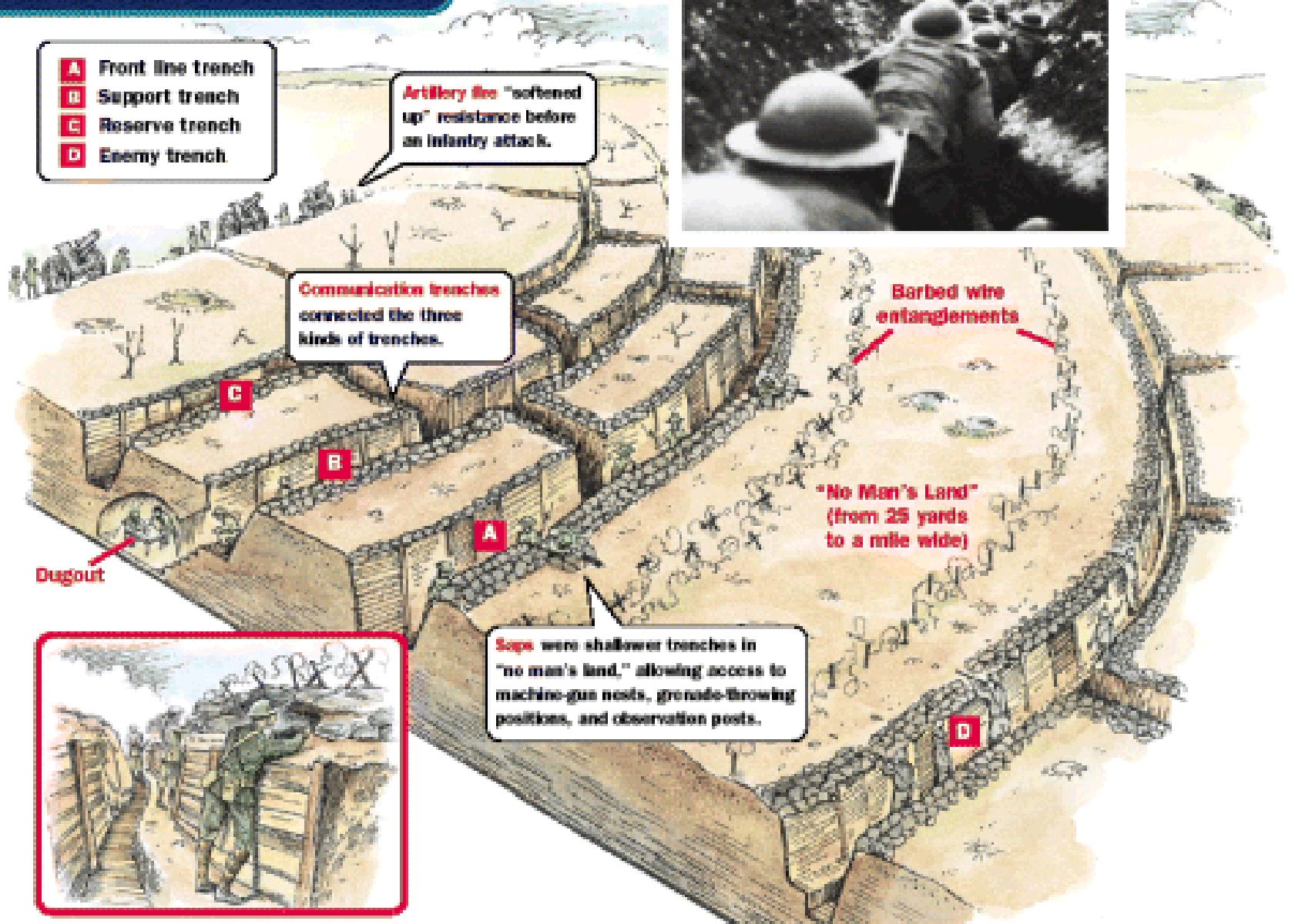
Communication trenches connected the three kinds of trenches.

Barbed wire entanglements

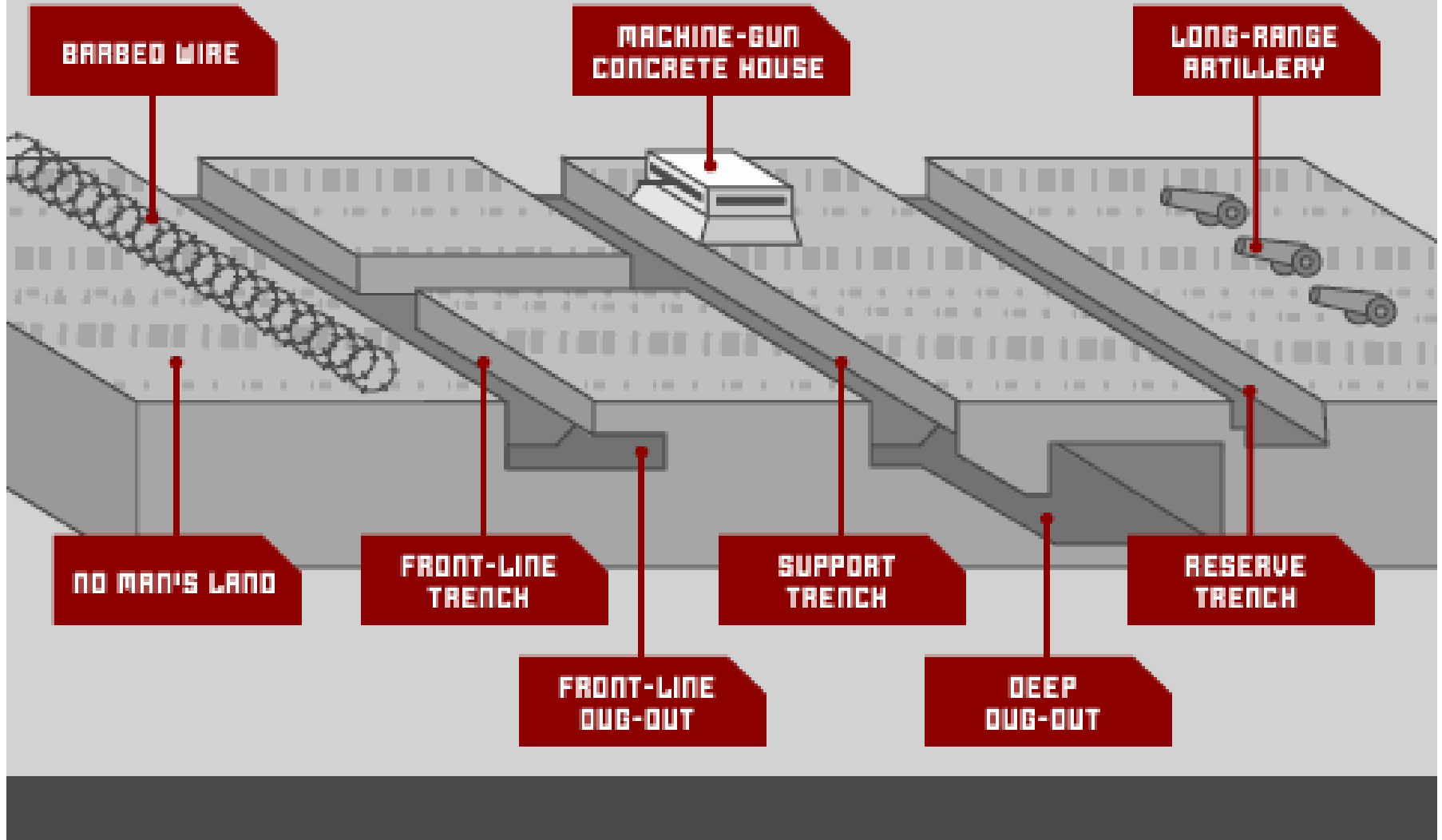
"No Man's Land"
(from 25 yards to a mile wide)

Dugout

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



OBSTACLES FACED BY ATTACKING TROOPS



What were the trenches like?

- “Nothing to see but bare mud walls, nowhere to sit but on a wet muddy ledge; no shelter of any kind against the weather except the clothes you are wearing; no exercise you can take in order to warm yourself.”



'Morning Hate' & breakfast

Weapon cleaning & inspection

Night working parties

00:00 - 04:00

04:00 - 06:00

06:00 - 09:00

09:00 - 19:30

19:30 - 21:00

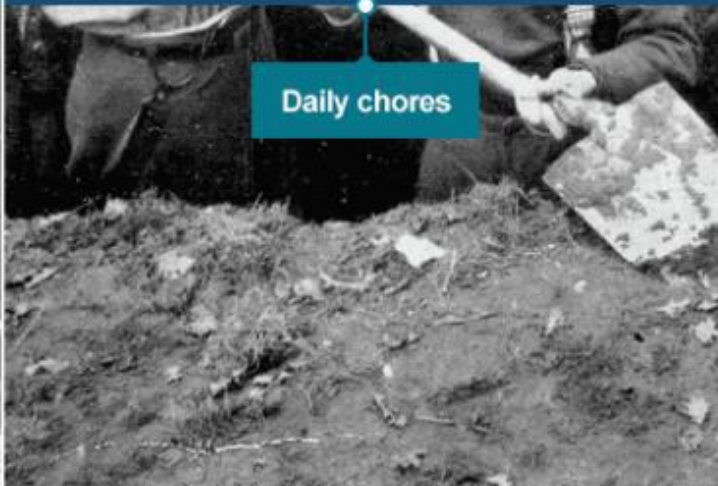
21:00 - 00:00

Wake up & 'Stand To'

Daily chores

'Stand To'

Relief



Trench Conditions

- Hopeless
- Bleak and uncomfortable
- Trenches ranged from simple holes to complex networks that were six to eight feet deep with rooms for sleeping and eating
- Cold, wet, and dirty
- Many health problems- disease spreads rapidly
- Wide enough for 2 people to pass
- Little shelter from the elements
- Boring- could only repair trenches at night under cover of darkness
- Attacks came before dawn
 - Soldiers “go over the top” and are mowed down by machine gun





Canadian Soldiers Going into Action From Trench: A company of Canadian soldiers go "over the top" from a World War I trench. *(Photo Credit: Bettmann / CORBIS)*



“No Man’s Land”

- The stretch of land between the front line trenches was dangerous. No Man's Land contained miles of barbed wire, hundreds of corpses, and land mines.
- Sometimes as narrow as 15 yards or as wide as several hundred yards, No Man's Land was heavily guarded by machine gun and sniper fire.
- Soldiers were forced to cross No Man's Land to advance or scout for enemy positions. Official truces were often necessary to retrieve the wounded or bury the dead.

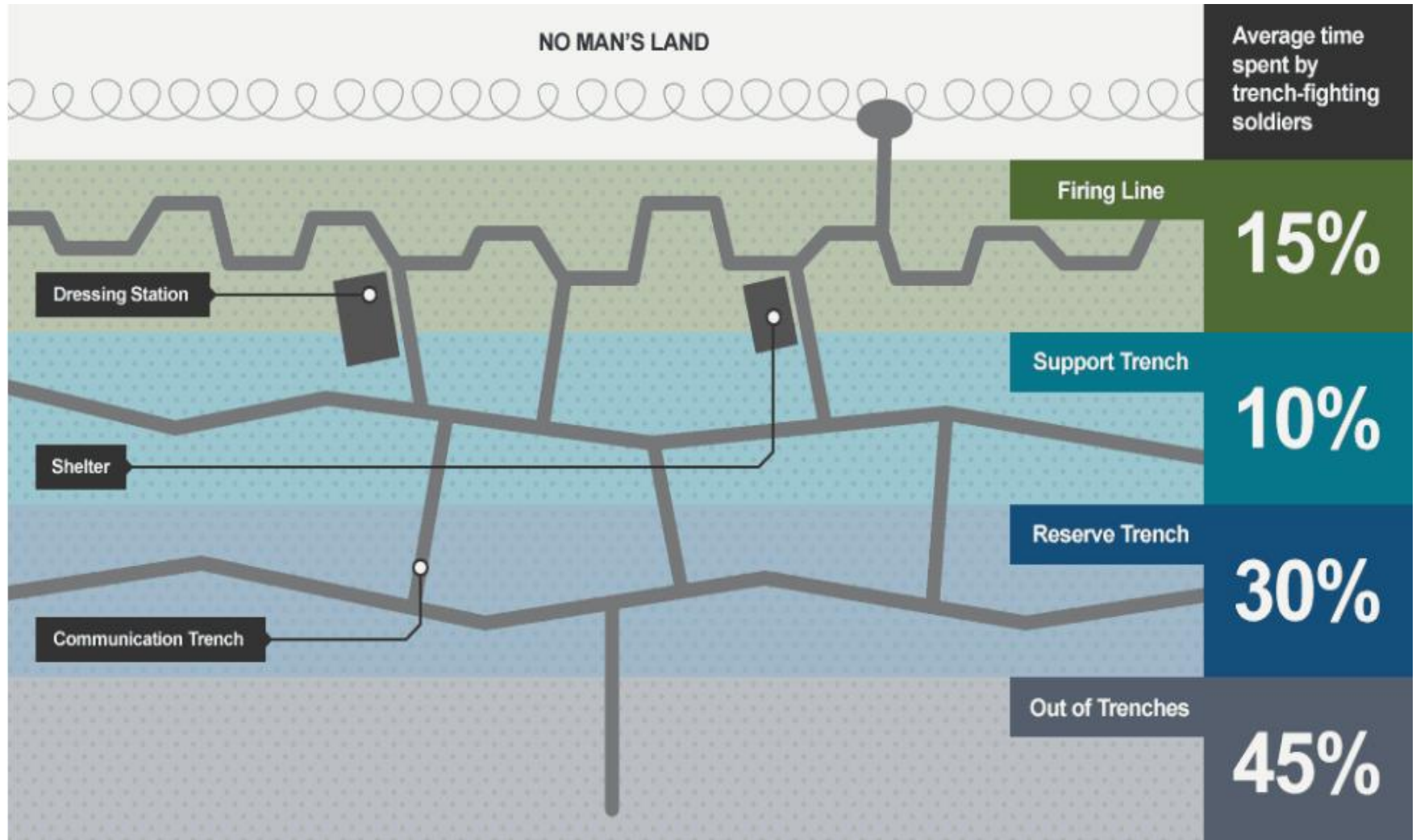
The Myth of the Trenches

- Millions of soldiers died on the Western Front in World War One. The horrific stories and images from the frontline all reinforce the idea that fighting in the trenches was one long bloodbath. But statistics tell a different story. There were certainly days of great violence during four years of war – such as the first day of the Battle of the Somme. But nearly 9 out of every 10 soldiers in the British Army, who went into the trenches, survived.

How Often Were Soldiers in the Firing Line?

- To keep pace with the demands of the war and help sustain morale, the British Army often rotated its soldiers around the trenches.
- One soldier, Charles Carrington of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment's 1/5th Territorial Battalion, worked out that his section of the Front could be held by just 10% of his platoon's troops.
- So the bulk of soldier's time was divided between a range of specialist areas behind the front line, all of which was made safer by the ingenious design of the trench system itself.

Average Time Spent by British WWI Soldier



Escaping the Trenches Video

Use this video to answer #9!