

## Trench Warfare <sup>(1)</sup>

# The First World War

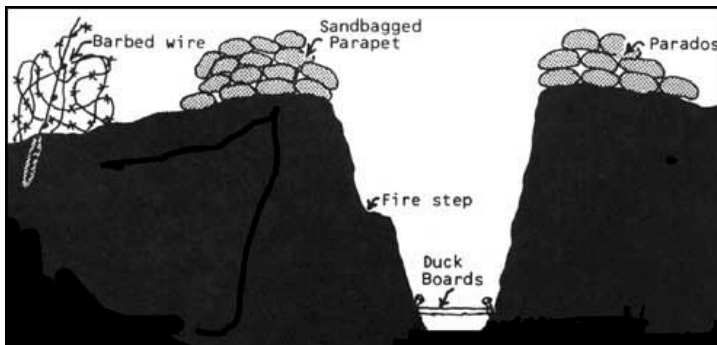
In 1914 the Germans declared war on France and attacked. The Germans had a plan called the Schlieffen Plan. Using his plan the Germans invaded Belgium and then France. They thought that they would be able to avoid the French defences and defeat them very quickly. The plan didn't work. The French and British armies 'dug in' and stopped the German advance. In doing so they had started Trench Warfare.

### Why did the French and British 'Dig in'?

The Germans were advancing very quickly and the only way to stop them was to put a large barrier in their way.

### How did the French and British dig in?

The diagram below shows us how the trench was designed.



#### What is in a Trench?

**Barbed wire:** to make running at the trench difficult.

**Sandbagged parapet:** to stop the trench collapsing.

**Parados:** to stop 'shrapnel' getting into the trench.

**Fire step:** to shoot from.

**Duck Boards:** stopped the bottom of the trench getting very muddy and slippery.

### Activities

- Copy the diagram of the trench into your exercise book. Label it clearly using the descriptions in the textbox to help you.
- Write a sentence to say why the French and British dug trenches.
- Copy and complete the following passage.

The First World War broke out in \_\_\_\_\_. The Germans invaded Belgium and then France. This plan was called the \_\_\_\_\_ Plan. The Germans advanced very quickly so the British and the French decided to dig \_\_\_\_\_. Each trench had \_\_\_\_\_ parapets to try and stop the trench from caving in. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ for soldiers to shoot from and \_\_\_\_\_ wire in front of the trench to stop attackers from running at the trench.