

WORLD WAR I

THE GREAT WAR BEGINS

JUNE 28, 1914-NOVEMBER 11, 1918

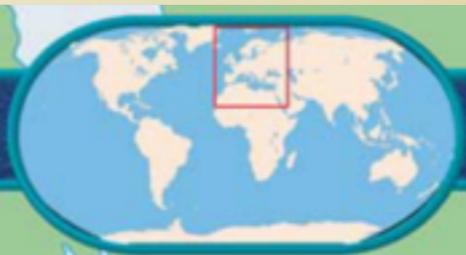
THE FIGHTING BEGINS

EARLY BATTLES

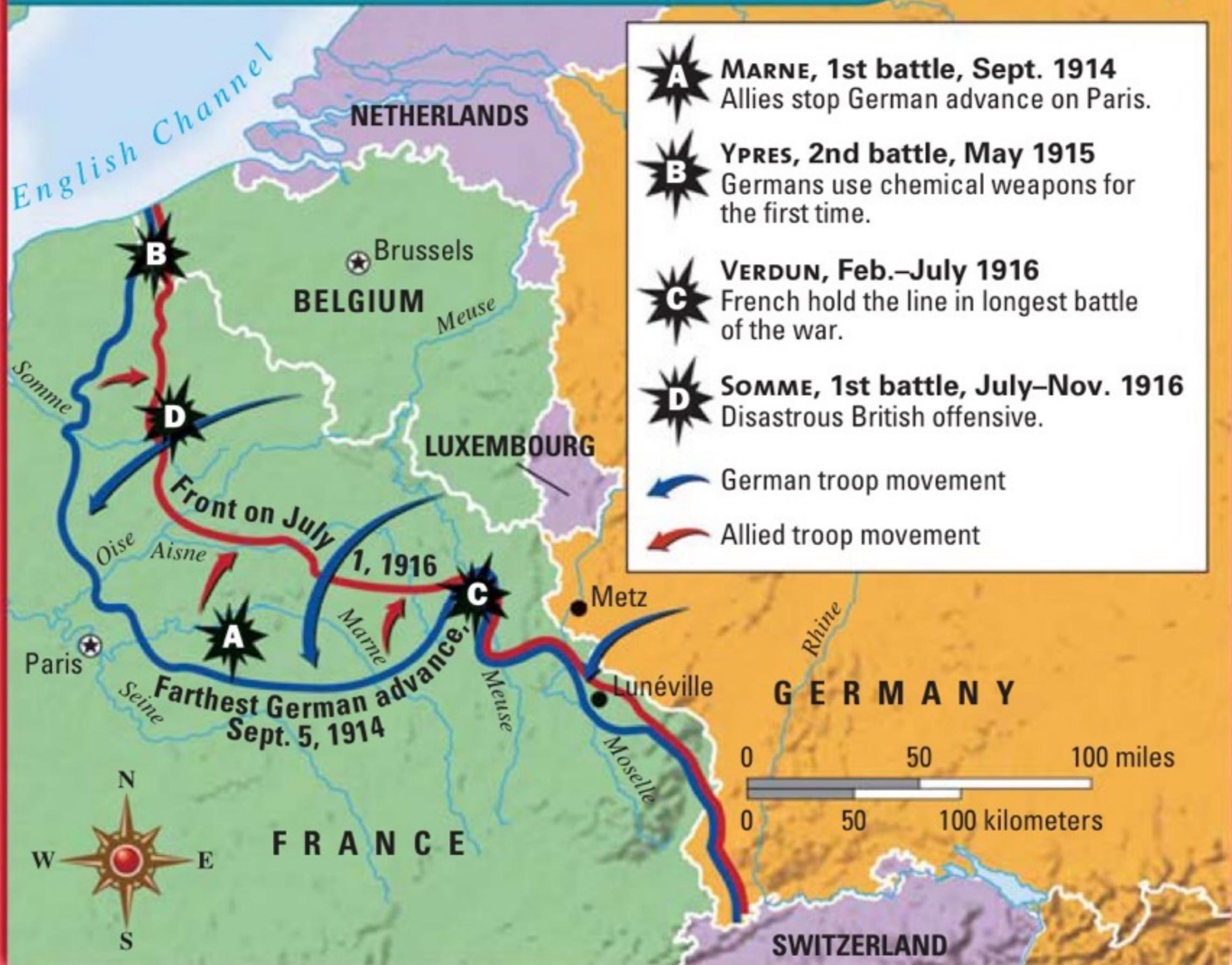
- Germany's Schlieffen Plan: hold Russia, defeat France, then Russia
- German troops sweep through Belgium, cause major refugee crisis
- By Spring 1915, 2 parallel systems of trenches cross France

Europe at the Start of World War I

INTERACTIVE



The Western Front 1914–1916





TRENCH WARFARE

TRENCH WARFARE

- "No Man's Land"—barren expanse of mud between opposing trenches
- Scale of killing horrific, inconclusive
- Armies fight to gain only yards of ground in bloody trench warfare

Trench Warfare

INTERACTIVE

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

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

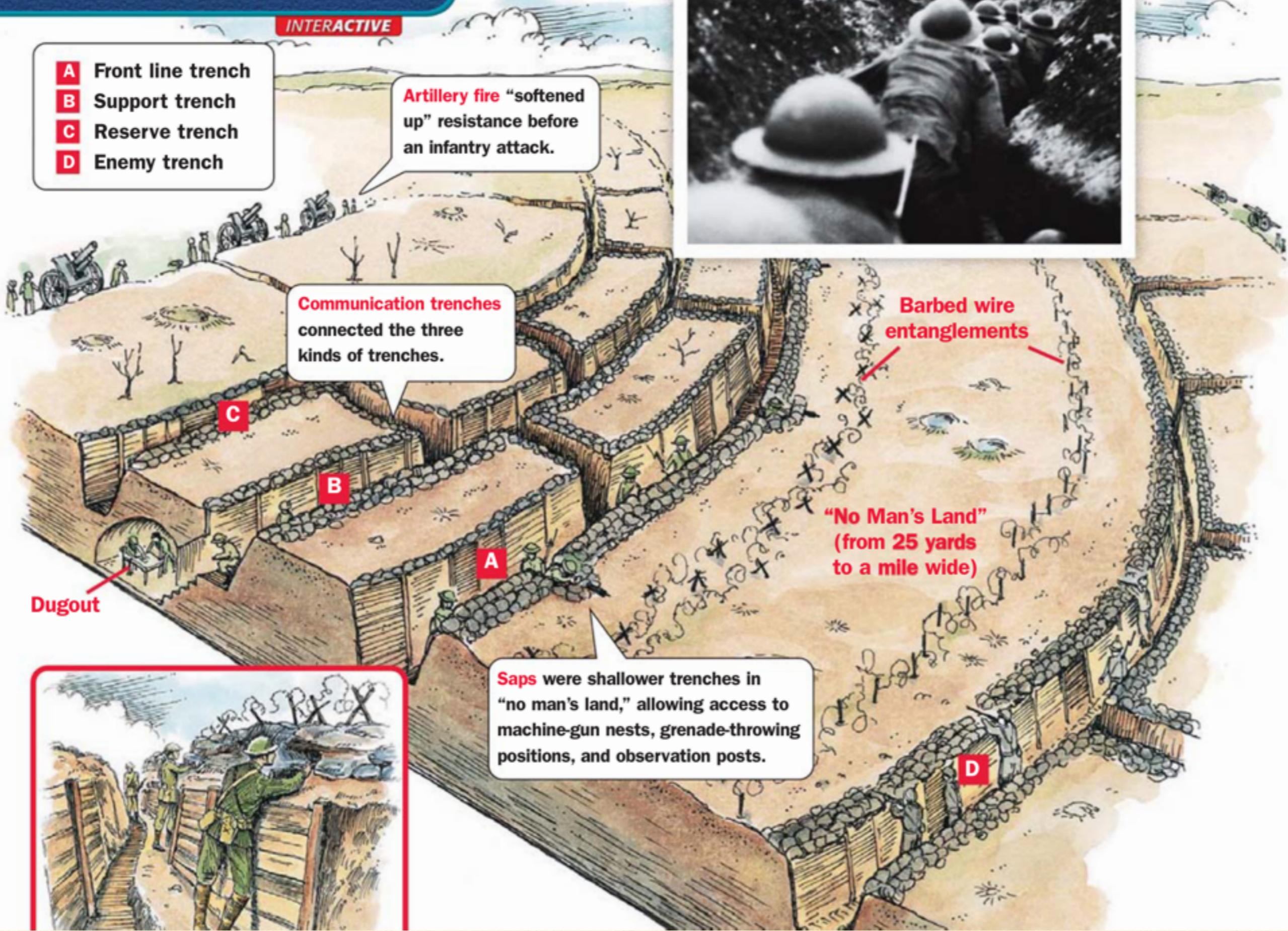
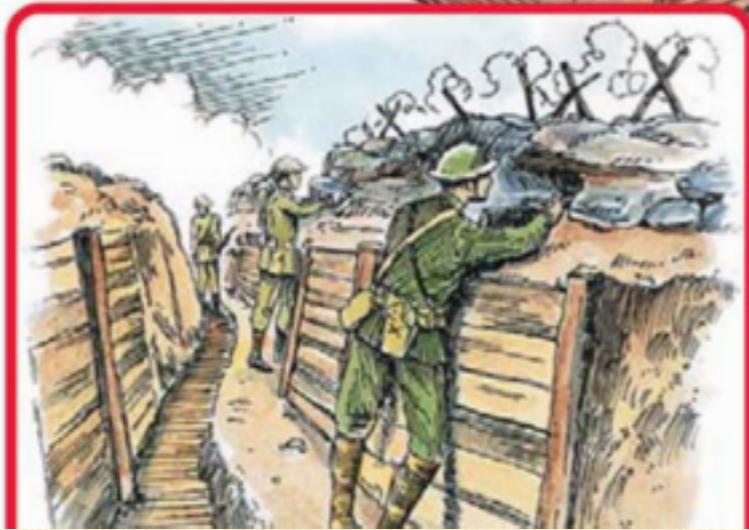
Communication trenches connected the three kinds of trenches.

Barbed wire entanglements

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

Dugout

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





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TRENCH WARFARE CLIP FROM "WAR HORSE"



[HTTPS://M.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=U-
PUCTY510K](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=U-PUCTY510K)

AMERICAN NEUTRALITY

DIVIDED LOYALTIES

- Socialist, pacifists, many ordinary people against U.S. in war.
- Naturalized citizens concerned about effect on country of birth
- Many feel ties to British ancestry, language, democracy, legal system
- U.S. has stronger economic ties with Allies than with Central Powers.

THE WAR HITS HOME

THE U.S. PREPARES

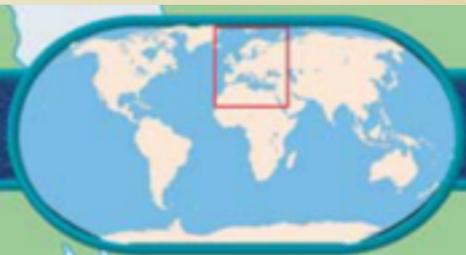
- By 1917, U.S. has mobilized for war against Central Powers to:
 - ensure Allied repayment of debts
 - prevent Germans threat to U.S. shipping

THE BRITISH BLOCKADE

- British blockade, mine North Sea, stop war supplies reaching Germany
 - also stop food, fertilizer
- U.S. merchant ships seldom reach Germany
- Germany has difficulty importing food, fertilizer; by 1917, famine

Europe at the Start of World War I

INTERACTIVE



THE WAR HITS HOME

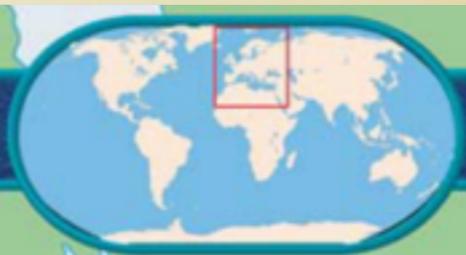
GERMAN U-BOAT RESPONSE

- Germany sets up U-boat counterblockade of Britain
- U-boat sinks British liner **Lusitania**; 128 Americans among the dead
 - turns U.S public opinion turns against Germany
- President Wilson protests, but Germany continues to sink ships
- Germany asks U.S to get Britain to end food blockade
 - otherwise will renew unrestricted submarine warfare



Europe at the Start of World War I

INTERACTIVE



May 1915
Lusitania sunk.

Tannenberg, Aug. 1914
Germans stop Russian advance.

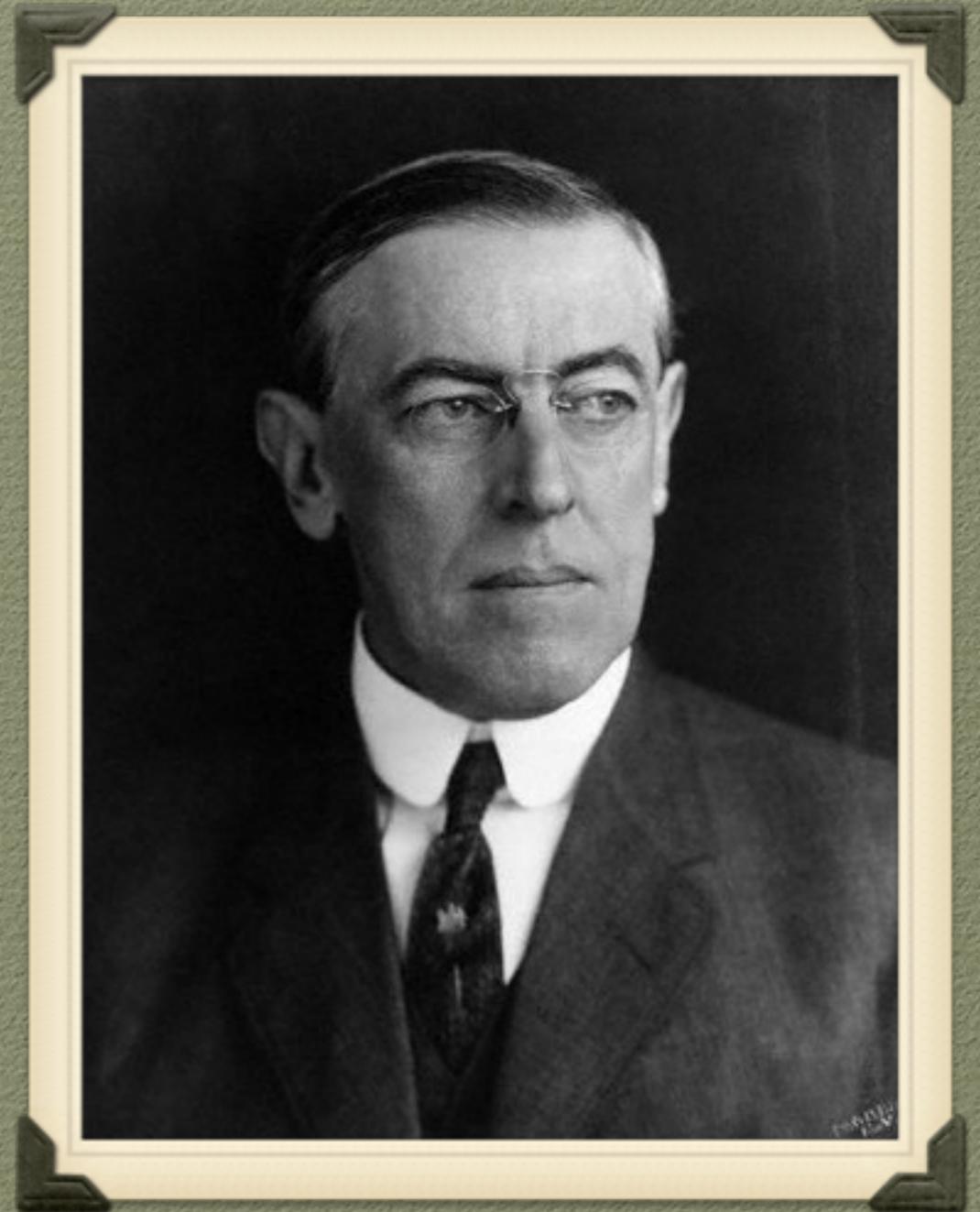
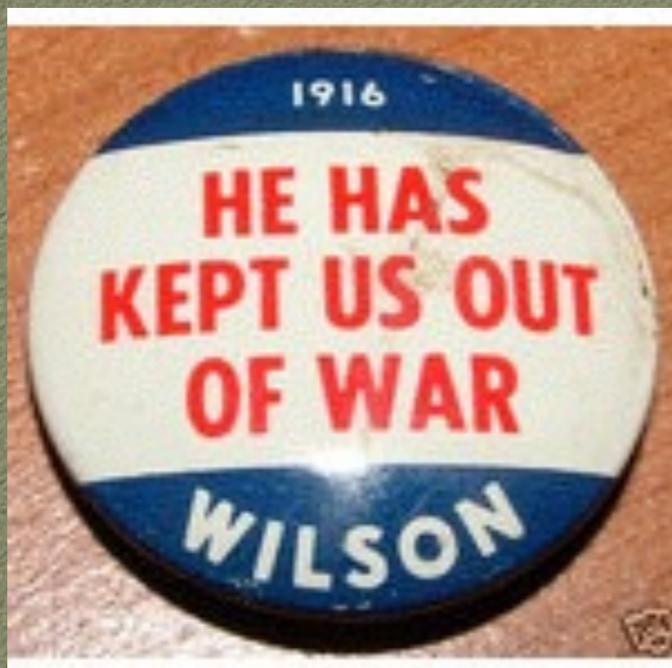
Sarajevo, June 1914
Archduke Franz Ferdinand is assassinated.

Eastern Front Oct. 1917

THE WAR HITS HOME

THE 1916 ELECTION

- Democrat Wilson defeats Republican Charles Evans Hughes





BRINGING IT HOME.

PRESIDENT WILSON. "WHAT'S THAT? U-BOAT BLOCKADING NEW YORK? TUT! TUT! VERY INOPPORTUNE!"

THE UNITED STATES DECLARES WAR

GERMAN PROVOCATION

- Wilson tries to mediate, calls for "a peace between equals"
- Kaiser announces U-boats will sink all ships in British waters
- **Zimmerman note**- proposes alliance of Germany, Mexico against U.S.
- Four unarmed American merchant ships sunk
- Russian monarchy replaced with representative government
-war of democracies against monarchies

THE UNITED STATES DECLARES WAR

AMERICA ACTS

- Wilson calls for war to "make the world safe for democracy"

