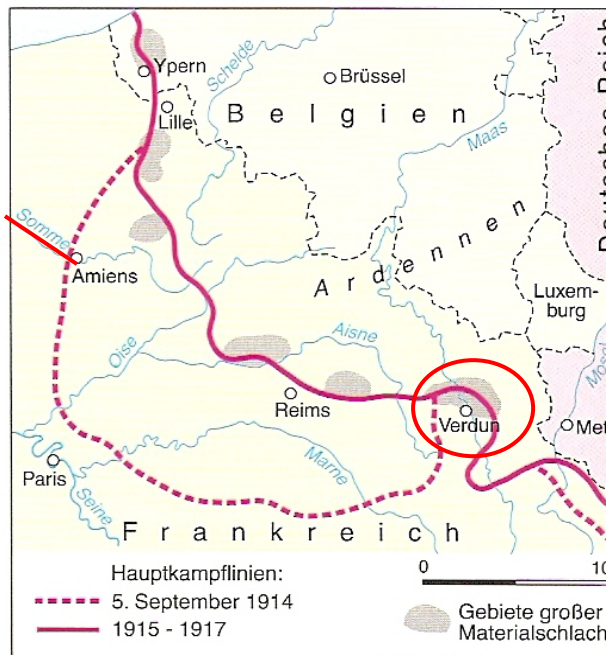


A new kind of warfare



In: Geschichte kennen und verstehen 9, S. 63.

French and English soldiers were killed. An even worse killing happened at the 'Battle of the Somme' where 1.2 Million soldiers lost their life.

We stay in the front line eight days and nights, then have eight days' rest. At the front, the men are wet through much of the time. They are shelled² and mortared³, and even if they are not hit, they are always under a strain. They work all night, and a good part of each day, digging and filling sandbags – that is when they are not on sentry⁴. The weather is icy, and the men can keep warm only when they are digging. When they sleep they freeze.

Adapted from a letter written by Lieut-Col Feilding in December 1916. In: The Twentieth-Century World, Oxford University Press 1995, S. 12. Bild ,trench' : <http://www.harris-academy.com/departments/history/Trenches/GillianR/layout.jpg>

➔ Answer the questions:

1. How long did the soldiers stay in the front line?

2. What hazards did the soldiers have to face?

3. Write down the duties of the soldiers.

4. What did the soldiers do when they were off duty?

¹ trench = Schützengraben

² to shell = beschießen

³ mortar = Minenwerfer/Mörser

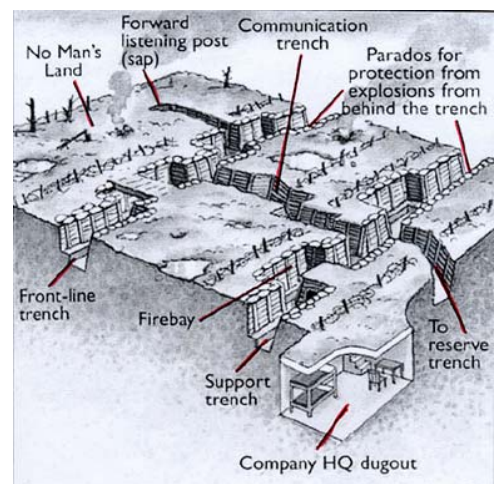
⁴ sentry = Wachposten

Source A)

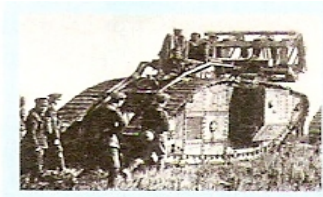
The First World War was an horrible and cruel war. After the failure of the 'Schlieffen Plan' German troops got stopped in Belgium and northern France.

The Allies couldn't push them back to Germany. As a consequence both sides had to dug trenches¹ to protect themselves against the enemy.

In 1916 the Germans and the French fought for the fortress of VERDUN. 240.000 German soldiers and 270.000



Modern warfare



Source B)

As both sides had taken up trench positions the war soon became a static warfare⁵. The answer to this deadlock was the English invention of the **tank**⁶ and in 1917 the allies were able to break through the German lines.

The Germans on the other hand used poison gas to kill their enemies. They also had the MG 08/15 – a machine gun that had the firepower of 80 rifles⁷. Machine gun crews soon became the elite infantry units and together with the



barbed wire they were responsible for the largest number of casualties⁸ during the war.

Bilder: Entdecken und verstehen 9, S. 85; http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/MG_08

→ Read the questions and tick (✓) right or wrong:

- | | R | W |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Both sides became stuck in the trenches. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. A tank is an armoured vehicle. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Allied tanks couldn't break through the German lines. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. The French used poison gas first. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. The MG 08/15 was an German aeroplane. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Machine gun crews were elite infantry units. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. The combination of machine guns and barbed wire was responsible for the largest number of casualties during the First World War. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

⁵static warfare = Stellungskrieg

⁶ tank = Panzer

⁷ rifle = Gewehr

⁸ casualties = Verluste