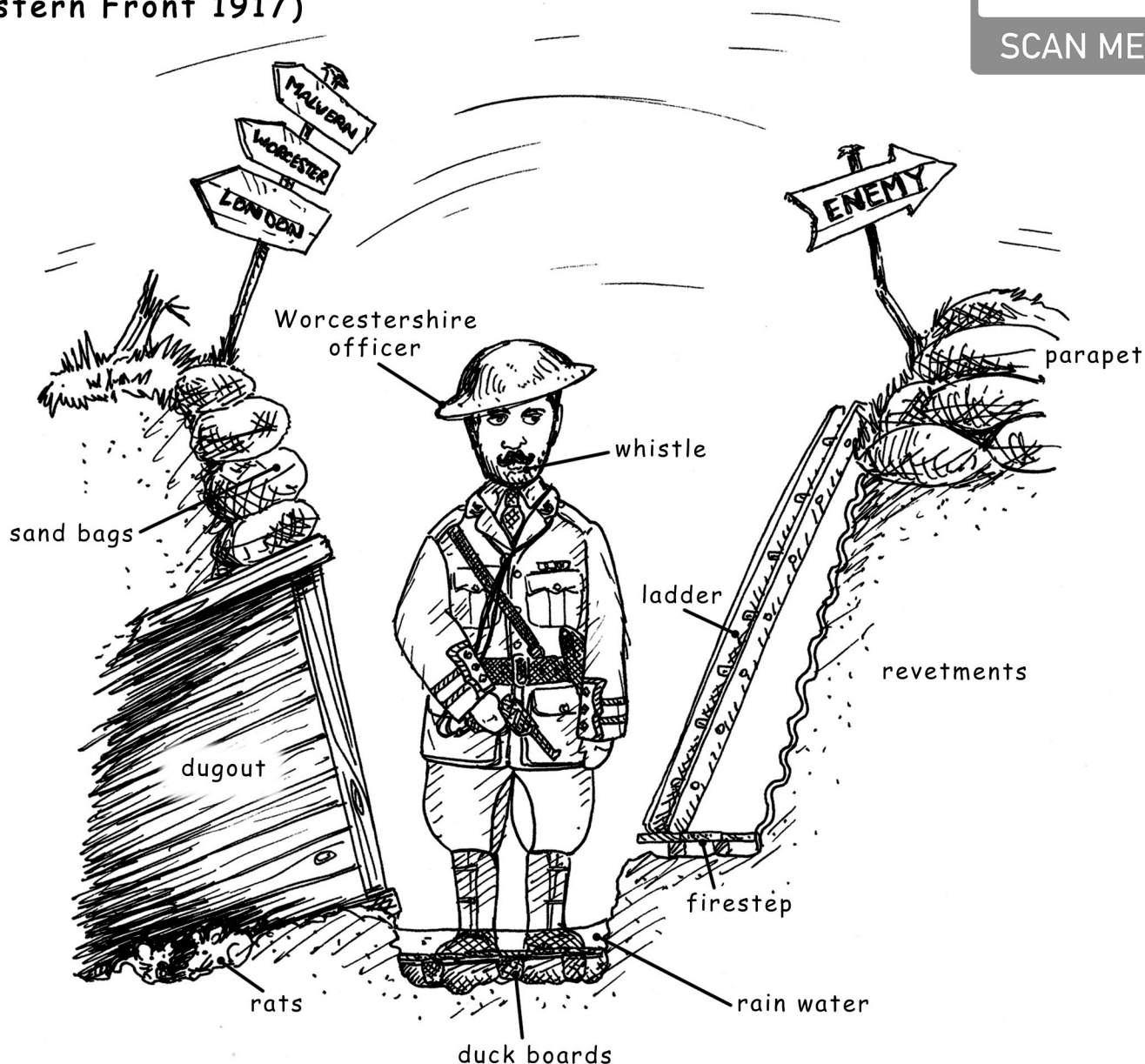




SCAN ME

The First World War Trench (Western Front 1917)



Dear Mum,

Life in a WW1 trench on the Western front is really not a picnic. Apart from the enemy throwing over artillery shells and disturbing my sleep, it is cold, wet and loud. When it rains the water doesn't drain away properly and so my men and I often have wet and cold feet, it is a problem called Trench Foot. Even the wooden **duck boards** don't really help that much.

We try to sleep in our underground **dugouts** or holes but have to share them with **rats** and lice. They are not cute and fluffy and are definitely not our pets. It makes life a little more uncomfortable. During the day we have to keep our heads down so we won't lose them, as the enemy likes to shoot anything that moves. Thank goodness for those **sandbags**. To see the enemy we use a trench periscope so we don't get shot and when we want to do a spot of shooting ourselves, we use the **firestep** and shoot over the **parapet**. Don't worry Mummykins, I always try to keep my head down.

Sometimes I get to blow my **whistle** and the men and I must scramble up the **ladders** and run as fast as we can towards the enemy trench before our artillery boys stop firing their guns. This is the really dangerous part of my job and we have lost many good men attacking like this. In fact many thousands have been killed going "Over the top", but I keep my fingers crossed and my lucky charm close to me at all time.

Can't wait to see you and Papar soon. I hope the girls are fine and don't forget to feed flossy.
Forever your loving son,

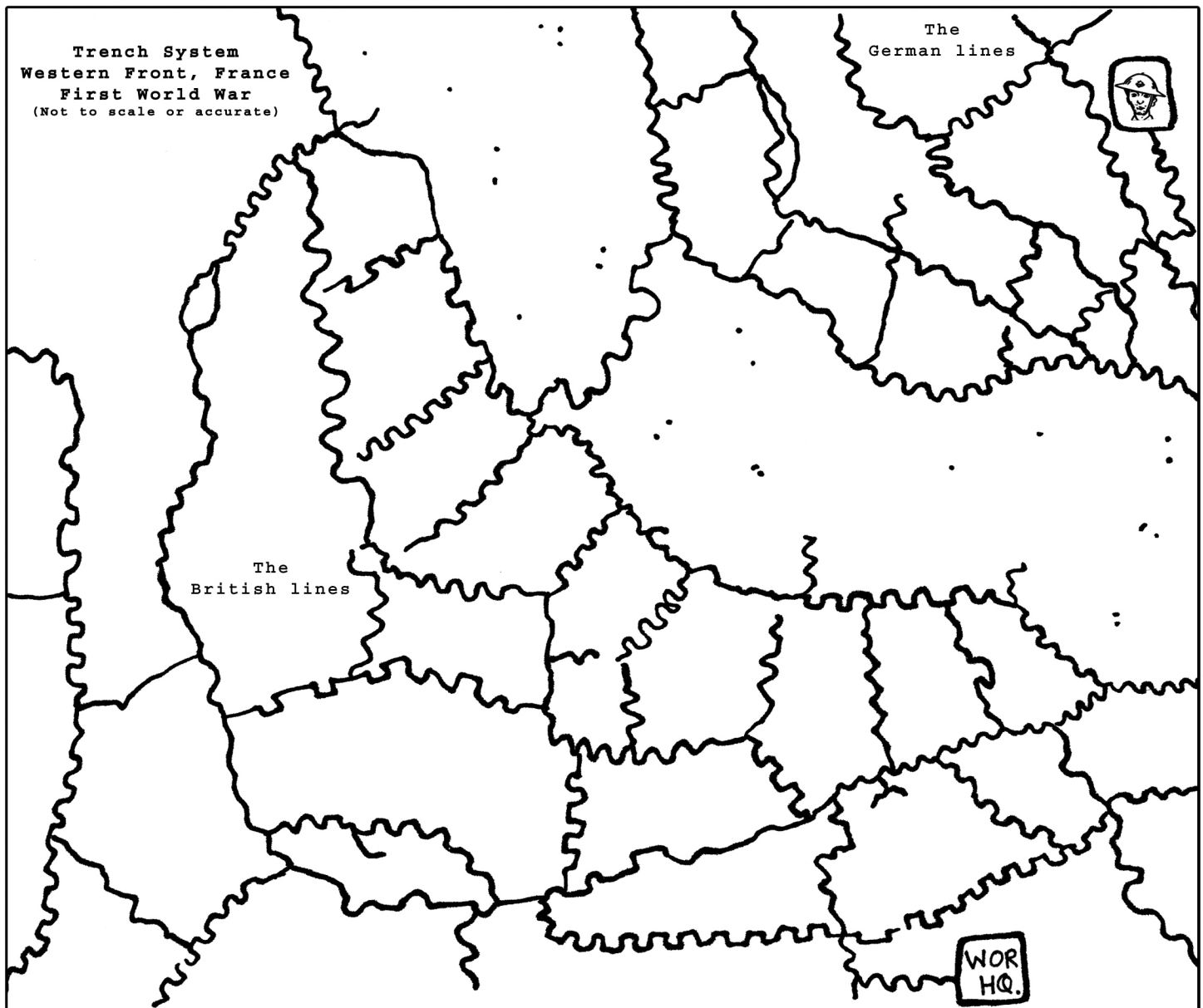
Charles



SCAN ME

First World War Trench System

Help Tom find his way back to Battalion HQ
from deep behind the enemy lines.



World War One trenches looked like a maze from the sky.
They were dug in wiggly patterns to make defending them easier.

But, why were they zig-zags? When a trench was made in a straight line the enemy could just shoot down it, easily hitting anyone standing in the trench. Soldiers decided to dig the trenches in zig-zags so that if the enemy did manage to get into a trench, the defenders could hide behind its walls and shoot back, making it harder to capture.

The space between the friendly lines and enemy lines was called "No-Mans Land". This was a dangerous stretch of land without anything to hide behind, which was well in range of the enemy machine guns and artillery. No man wanted to go there!

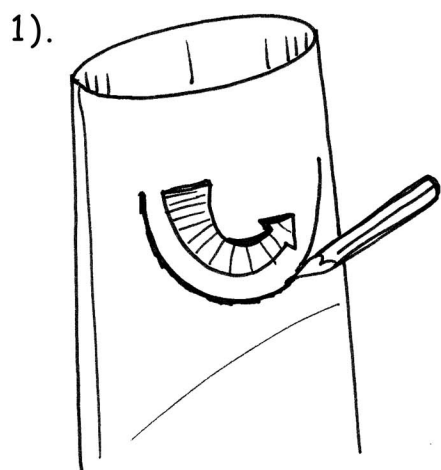


SCAN ME

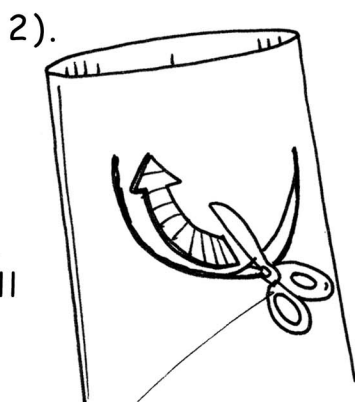
Make your own WW1 trench periscope

All you need is:

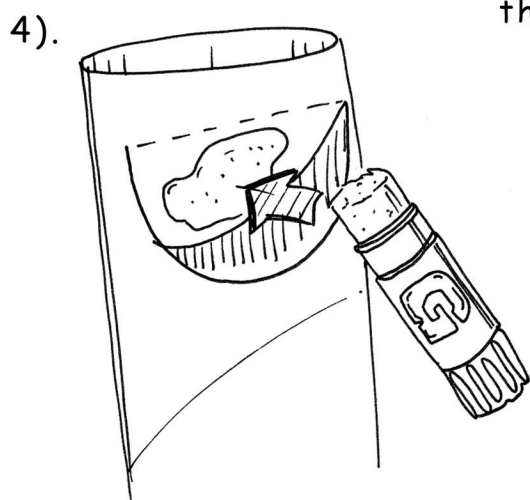
- 1x kitchen roll
- 1x pencil
- 1x pair of scissors,
- 1x glue stick
- 2x small mirrors or pieces of aluminium foil (3cm x 3cm)



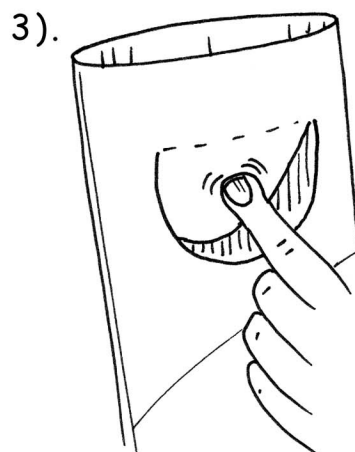
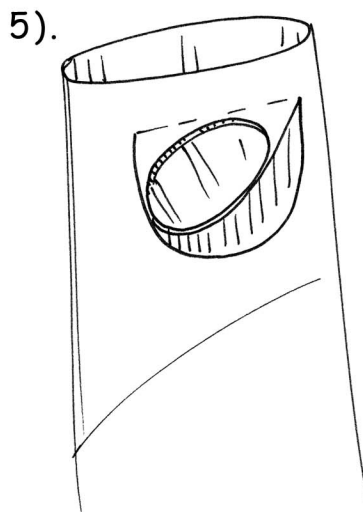
Draw a semi circle at the top and bottom of the roll (on opposite sides!).



Then cut out both of the semi circle lines.



Next put glue onto the "flaps"



Now push the "flaps" into the tube, at an angle.



Last of all stick the mirrors or foil onto the flaps.

Does your periscope look like the picture above?