

Glossary

- ABATIS.** Obstacles having the effect of barbed wire, formed by cutting down trees, sharpening and entangling the branches, and turning them toward the enemy.
- ARTIFICER.** A soldier or civilian mechanic who performed skilled labor with troops in the field.
- BANQUETTE.** A step on the inside of the parapet for troops to stand on when firing.
- BARBETTE.** A raised platform enabling guns to fire over a parapet without an opening being cut for them. Guns set in this position are *en barbette*.
- BASTION.** The part of a fortification that projects at an angle toward the field, enabling defenders to sweep their fire along the face of the main wall.
- BATTERY.** A fortification mounted with artillery.
- BERM.** A narrow ledge between the ditch and the parapet which serves as a passageway and also prevents earth from rolling into the ditch.
- BLIND.** A screen made of branches for concealing troops.
- BREACH.** An opening made anywhere in a fortification by the besiegers prior to a direct assault.
- BREASTWORK.** A defensive work hastily constructed above ground, usually breast high, to protect defenders while standing.
- CARCASS.** An incendiary projectile.
- CASEMATE.** A bombproof structure.
- CHAIN (surveying).** A chain with standardized links used in measuring distances on the ground.
- CHANDELIER.** A timber frame filled with fascines.
- CHEVAL-DE-FRISE.** A timber frame inserted with iron-tipped lengths of wood. The marine version was weighted and sunk to the river bottom to obstruct the passage of enemy vessels. Generally used in a series (*chevaux-de-frise*).
- CIRCUMVALLATION, LINE OF.** An earthen wall and trench placed between the besieging troops and the field to provide protection from an attack by a relieving army.
- COUNTERSCARP.** The exterior slope of the ditch.
- COUNTERVALLATION, LINE OF.** An earthen wall and trench placed by the besiegers between themselves and the fortress to provide protection from counterattack.
- COVERED (COVERT) WAY.** A flat space above the exterior slope of the ditch, usually with its own banquette and wall terminating in a slope toward the field.
- CURTAIN.** The part of a wall that joins two bastions, towers, or like structures.
- DEMI-BASTION.** A bastion with one face and one flank.
- DEMI-LUNE.** See ravelin.

DITCH. A large, deep trench surrounding a fortification.

EMBRASURE. An opening at the top of a wall through which cannon may fire.

ENCEINTE. The main wall or "body" of a fortress, including the rampart with its parapet.

ENFILADE. A position exposed to fire along its whole length; to fire along the length of a trench.

EPAULEMENT. A type of breastwork providing cover from flanking fire.

ESCALADE. An attack on a fortified position using ladders.

FASCINE. A bundle of small branches used to fill ditches and strengthen earthworks.

FLANK. The part of a bastion extending from the curtain to the face.

FLECHE. A V-shaped earthwork erected in the field.

FOSSE. A ditch, usually filled with water.

FOUGASS. A small mine.

FRAISE. A defense made of pointed stakes that are generally placed obliquely or horizontally on the outward slope of an earthen rampart.

GABION. A bottomless, cylindrical wicker basket filled with earth and used in field fortifications.

GALLERY. An underground passage connecting the inner and outer works of a fortification; the largest type of mine tunnel.

GLACIS. An earthen bank sloping gradually toward the field from the top of the counterscarp or covered way to help make the attackers visible from the parapet.

HORNWORK. An outwork consisting of two bastions joined by a curtain.

HURDLE. A rectangular wicker construction used to strengthen batteries, aid in crossing shallow water, and protect workmen. *See gabion.*

LUNETTE. A work consisting of a salient angle with two flanks that are open to the rear.

MANTLET. A movable screen placed at the head of a sap for protection.

MERLON. The solid part between two openings in a wall.

PALISADE. A fence-like defense formed of pointed stakes (also known as palisades) set several inches apart in the ground.

PARALLELS. A series of trenches placed in front of and parallel to the face of a fortress to provide cover for the attackers.

PARAPET. An elevation of earth or other material on the main wall.

PERCH. A unit of measure equal to ten feet.

PIONEERS. Troops detailed to clear obstructions placed in the line of march or before enemy fortifications, dig trenches, and construct bridges and roads.

PLANE TABLE. An instrument, used to plot maps, consisting of a wooden panel mounted on a tripod.

RAMPART. The broad earthen wall on the interior side of a ditch surrounding a fortified place.

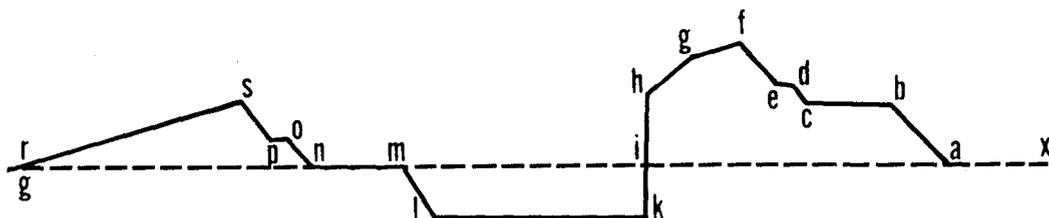
RAVELIN. A crescent-shaped outwork, usually placed between two bastions, also called a *demi-lune*.

REDAN. A V-shaped work often joined with other works to form a simple fortification.

REDOUBT. An enclosed work used to defend a prominent point in the field.

REENTRANT. An angle projecting into a fortress from the field.

- REMBLAI.** Material, usually the earth excavated from the ditch, that is used in erecting the rampart and the parapet.
- REVTMENT.** A masonry covering providing protection for an earthen embankment.
- SALIENT.** An angle projecting from a fortress into the field.
- SAP.** A deep, narrow trench forming an approach to a besieged place.
- SAPPERS.** Engineer troops who dig trenches (saps) and mine galleries. Usually referred to as sappers and miners.
- SAUCISSON.** A large fascine.
- SCANTLING.** A small piece of lumber.
- SCARP.** The inner slope of the ditch.
- SLEEPER.** The undermost timber of a gun battery.
- SOUTERRAIN.** An underground passage.
- TAIL.** The point of a trench where the besiegers first break ground.
- TALUS.** The slope of the face of a work.
- TENAILLES.** Low works placed in the ditch in front of the curtain.
- TERREPLAIN.** The flat part of the wall on which cannon are placed.
- TRACE.** The ground plan of a fortification; to make such a plan.
- TRAVERSE.** An embankment to provide protection from the sweeping fire of the enemy, usually placed across the covered way.
- TRIANGULATION.** A surveying technique employing triangles to determine distances between points.
- ZIG-ZAG.** The winding pattern of approach trenches designed to prevent the besiegers from being swept by gunfire.



VERTICAL PROFILE OF A FORTIFICATION. *The mass of earth, a-h, forms the rampart with its parapet, e-g; a, b is the interior slope of the rampart; b, c is the terreplain; d, e is the banquette; g, h is the exterior slope of the parapet; h, i is the revetment; h, k is the scarp; i-m is the ditch; l, m is the counterscarp; m, n is the covered way; n-p is the covered way banquette; and r, s is the glacis.*