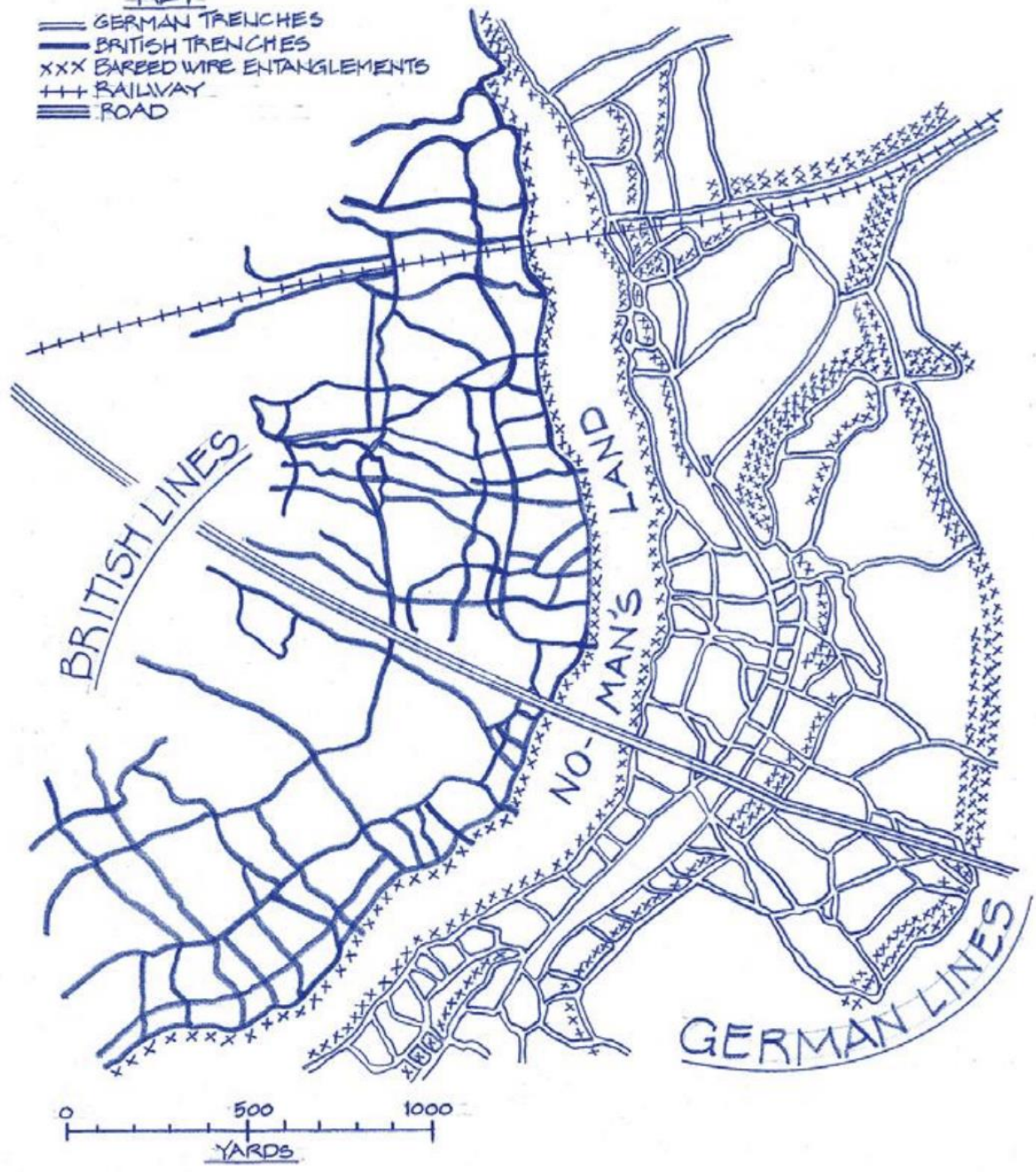


# SECTION OF THE WESTERN FRONT

- KEY
- == GERMAN TRENCHES
  - BRITISH TRENCHES
  - xxx BARBED WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS
  - ++ RAILWAY
  - ≡≡≡ ROAD



# TRENCH SYSTEM

The German advance to Paris was stopped at the First Battle of the Marne in 1914. Casualties on both sides were heavy. After retreating north for 40 miles, the Germans stopped the River Aisne, where they dug a series of trenches. This complex network created a new way of fighting. From the front line of the trenches, soldiers hurled grenades and fierce machine guns at each other. For the next few years a stalemate developed, because neither side wanted to face the dangers of advancing toward enemy trenches.

Estimated Casualty Statistics for the First Battle of the Marne  
Allied Powers 263,000  
Central Powers 250,000

## Excerpt #4

There's a zone  
Wild and lone  
None claim, none own,  
That goes by the name of No-Man's Land;  
Its frontiers are bastioned [defended], and wired, and mined,  
The rank [foul] grass shudders and shakes in the wind,  
And never a roof nor a tree you find  
In No-Man's land.

- Major "H.D.A.B., *No-Man's Land*, exact date unknown