II. What Effect Did New Technologies Have on Fighting World War I?
1. Germany was fighting the French in the west, hoping to crush them before Russia in the east could fully mobilize its troops. This was known as the von Schlieffen Plan.
Von Schlieffen Plan, 1905
2. The French, however were able to push the Germans back in the First Battle of the Marne, and by late 1914 the war had become a stalemate, or a situation in which neither side could win a decisive victory.
First Battle of the Marne, 1914
3. Eventually Germany was forced to fight a two-front war. (France in the west and Russia in the east)
4. On the **Western** Front the armies were using **trench** warfare. Trenches were cold, wet, and dirty, and infested with mice and fleas.
Rats
Water
Trench Foot
Trench Foot
5. New Weapons/technologies

- **Trench** Warfare
- **Machine** guns: capable of firing 400-600 rounds per minute
- **Grenades**: filled with shrapnel or poison gas
- Poison **gas** (chlorine and mustard gas) and gas masks
- **Tanks**
- **Airplanes**: Used to gather information, shoot down enemy planes, fire on trenches.
- German U-boats (**submarines**)
- Naval Minefields
Machine guns and gas masks
The 1917 Sopwith Camel biplane accounted for more aerial victories than any other allied aeroplane during WWI, destroying over 1,200 enemy in combat. The Camel acquired its name from its twin Vickers .303 calibre machine guns, which were housed in a “hump” forward of the pilot.
6. Early battles on the western front include the Battle of Verdun and the Battle of the Somme. Neither battle resulted in much gain, but nearly 1 million men were killed. The stalemate continued.
Verdun