

I think barbed wire was the biggest obstacle because, on the front line, soldiers laid out the wire to defend their trenches, but also to create areas where the Huns could be trapped together. The wire was used to block off the trenches from the enemy and make it extremely hard to get through. Most soldiers had a pair of pliers to help with this situation, but the wire was very hard to cut through. Most soldiers would be killed before they even started cutting through it but the people who were lucky enough to start cutting away at the wire would most defiantly be killed after a few seconds. If a lot of people would get to the wire and start cutting at the same spot, eventually a hole would form. Then they would send lots of soldiers to get through the hole and attempt to get into the trenches but pretty much no one got through because having lots of men at the exact same place is a very easy target so they would be shot easily. This is why I believe barbed wire is the best defensive item because it was extremely difficult to get through.

Another really important defensive feature is the zig zag trenches. This meant that if someone, somehow did get through the barbed wire, it would be easier to see round corners, shoot around corners etc. All the front-line trenches were built like this also so enemies can't shoot straight down trenches killing lots of soldiers. Also, if a grenade or artillery shell would land in the trench, it would only get soldiers in that section, not further down the line. That is why I think zig zag trenches were also an amazing defensive technique because it saved lots of soldiers from dying.

Also, shells and grenades. These are used to force the enemy into the open, providing targets for rifle and machine gun fire. Offensive grenades used shock waves to wound soldiers while defensive grenades exploded, scattering shell fragments and creating craters in the ground. The craters were also very useful because lots of soldiers would drown in the mud in them, killing many. That is why I believe that shells and grenades were a big part in the defensive strategies

used in WW1 because they would create disruption and big ditches in the ground.