

# Petersburg National Battlefield VirtualCache Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Site 8: WWI Trenches

N 37° 13'58.521  
W 77°22'19.576



The evolution of trench warfare reached a plateau here in 1864-65 but fifty-years later in World War I Europe it had reached a level unimaginable in Civil War America.

In the summer of 1917 Camp Lee was established to help train American soldiers for the fighting in World War I Europe. These training trenches reflect the dramatic changes in technology, but not the negligible change that tactics had gone through. Narrower, deeper, and with built-in traverses, these were designed with earth-piercing artillery shells, barbed wire and machine guns in mind. What had not changed was the use of massed infantry assaults that would claim the lives of millions in trying to capture trenches like these in Western France.

### Visit Instructions:

Take a picture of the trenches and bring it to the Eastern Front Visitors Center. Do you think that trench warfare has a place in today's army? Why or why not?