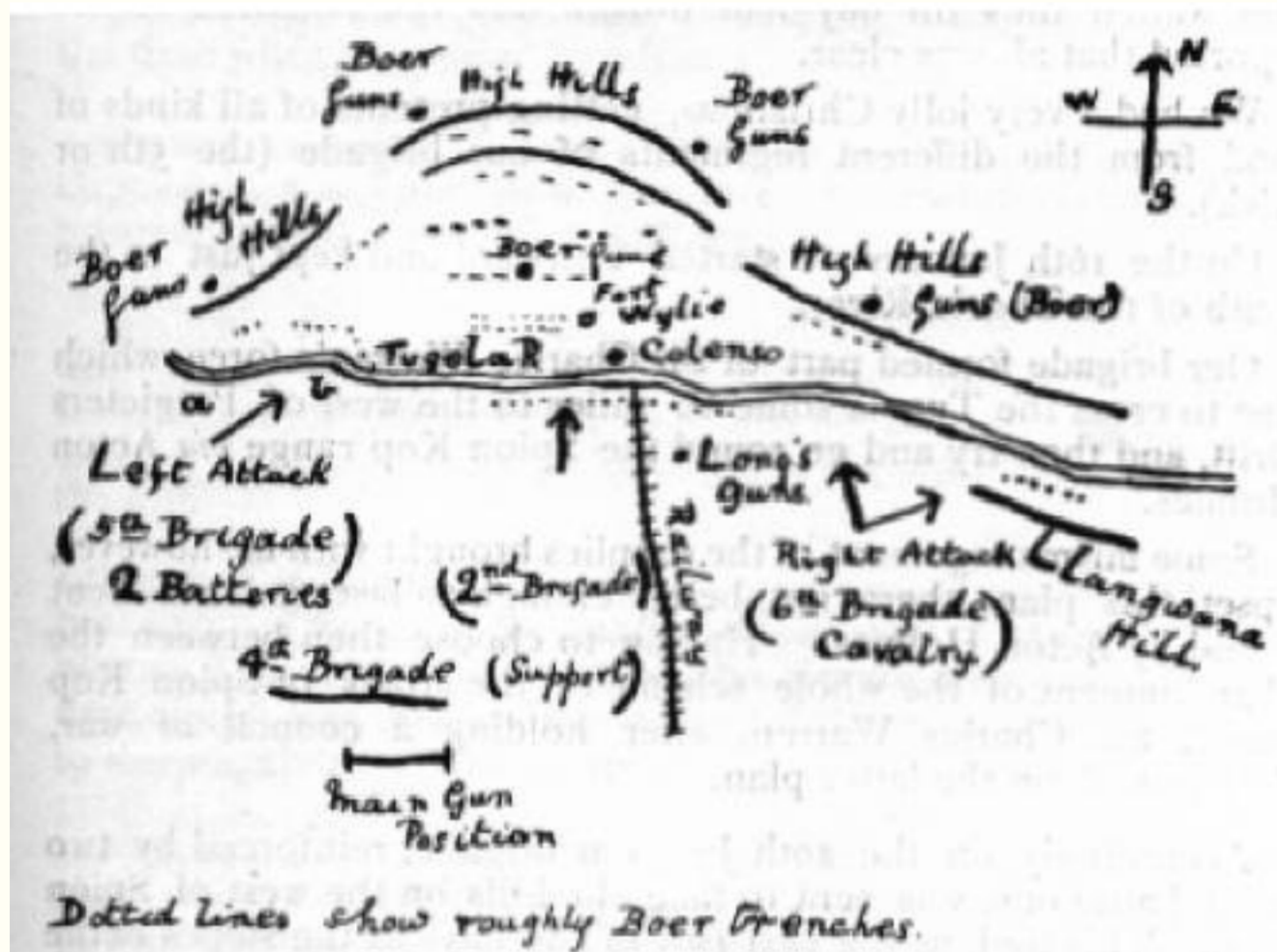


The Anglo-Boer War, October 1899 – May 1902

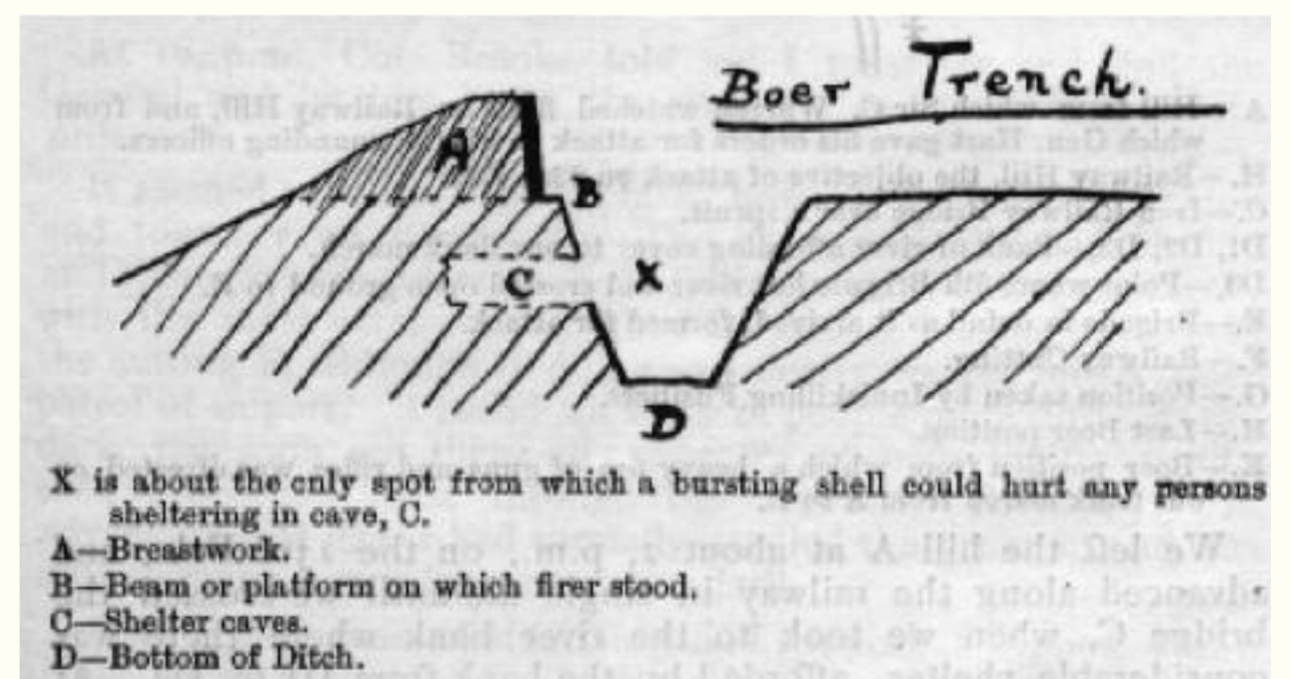
The Anglo-Boer War was fought between the British Empire and the two independent Boer republics of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic. In the South African war sixty-six O.K.Ws were on active service. Many of them joined the Cambridge University Rifles which was sent out after training at Aldershot. The most prominent O.K.W. was Sir George White, V.C., the hero of Ladysmith. Many decorations were gained, including the Victoria Cross awarded to Captain R. Johnston of the Imperial Light Horse in the battle of Elandslaagte, 21st October, 1899.

Lt. R.V.O Hart O.K.W served in South Africa and sent a letter to GL Colbourne, his former Housemaster, dated the 11th July, 1900, with the following sketches and a report on each:



"On the 11th Dec, we fought the battle of Colenso of which it can only be said we came off far better than we might have done. How Sir Redvers (Buller) ever came to attack such a death trap is a wonder to everyone. The position appeared almost impregnable, and the disadvantage to the attacking force of being shaped like a horseshoe, facing north, so that the further we pressed forward and upward, the more enveloped would we become. The following rough diagram will show you what I mean."

"On the 21st Feb, we all crossed the river (Tugela) for the last time, and I had a good look at the Boer trenches and places of shelter. The latter were numerous and cleverly laid, and as you will see by my diagram, unless a shell actually burst in the air opposite the mouth of a hole, the occupants were quite safe..."



"On the 23rd Feb, Sir Redvers Buller sent the 5th Brigade to take the hill (H in my sketch), most generally known as Railway Hill, but for which every one seems to have his own appellation.

In my sketch I have tried to show the pieces of ground which actually concerned our attack, and just as they appeared to me in nature."

