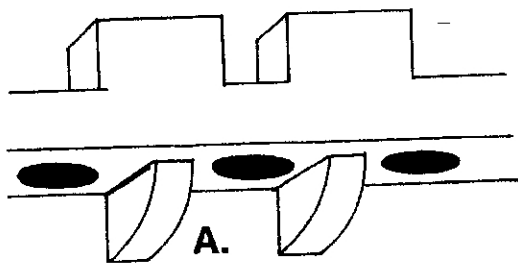


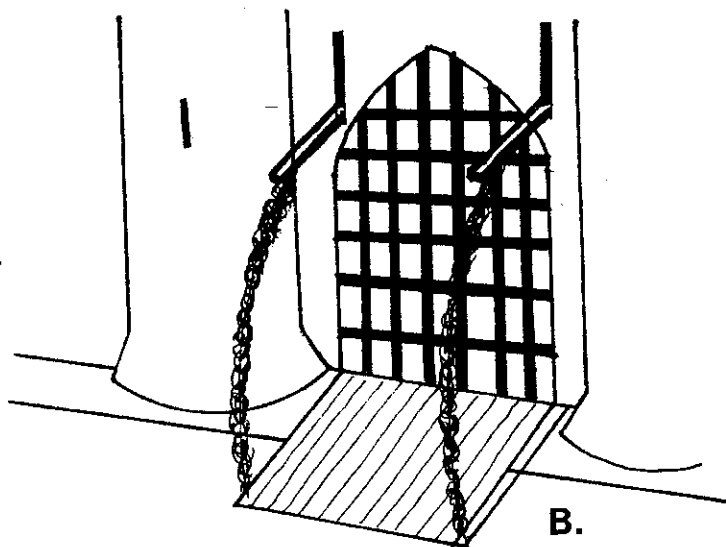
# Offense or Defense?

1. *Moat*. A ditch, usually filled with water, surrounding a castle. A *drawbridge* over the moat could be raised to prevent access to the castle. Offense or Defense
2. *Tunnel*. Perhaps the surest way of weakening a castle's wall. The tunnel was dug by men called sappers. The sappers propped the tunnel with timbers as they burrowed. When they reached the foundation, they removed stones until the wall was weak enough to collapse. Sometimes they set fire to the timbers causing the tunnel and the castle wall to collapse. Offense or Defense
3. *Ballista*. A gigantic crossbow which required several men to operate. The ballista was very powerful and accurate. The word *ballista* came from the Greek word *ballein* meaning to throw. Ballistics is a modern term taken from the same word. Offense or Defense
4. *Tower*. The tower was a roofed stairway on wheels. It was used to scale the high walls of a castle. It was usually covered with wet hides to prevent being set on fire. Towers could not be used where there was a moat, unless of course the moat was first filled in, which was sometimes done. Offense or Defense
5. *Machicolations or Holes*. Overhanging parts of the castle walls called parapets contained holes. When the castle was under siege, from these holes stones were dropped, boiling oil and water poured, or red hot iron thrown on the men below. Offense or Defense
6. *Battering Ram*. Widely used by the Romans, the battering ram continued to be popular well into the Middle Ages. It consisted of the largest and strongest tree trunk that could be found. The tree trunk was suspended on chains and housed in a shed with a roof and wheels. Sometimes the tip of the trunk was covered with metal spikes. As many as fifty men would swing the huge tree back and forth in its cradle against the castle wall. This usually went on nonstop until the wall was weakened and collapsed. Offense or Defense
7. *Portcullis*. A device for protecting the entrance to the castle. The portcullis was a gate usually made of heavy wood and iron crossbars. It was pulled up and down by chains and slid in specially carved grooves. Offense or Defense
8. *Trebuchet*. This device operated like a giant seesaw. The short end was heavily weighted down with stones. Many men were required to pull down the long end which when released fired a variety of unpleasant things such as huge stones or Greek fire, a burning mixture of chemicals, pitch and sulfur. Sometimes dead animals such as horses were shot over the castle's wall. The trebuchet was powerful and accurate. Offense or Defense
9. *Mangonel*. Usually shot heavy stones from a sling-like contraption. It was not as accurate but worked on the same principle as the *ballista*. Offense or Defense
10. *Postern gate*. A secret back gate to the castle. Its purpose was to allow the defenders to sneak out and surround their attackers. Offense or Defense.
11. *Rocky ledge*. Castles built on rock could not be threatened by tunnels. Ridges also gave the castle the advantage of height. Offense or Defense
12. *Thick walls*. It was not unusual for a castle to have walls ten or more feet thick. Offense or Defense
13. *Murder holes*. Holes in the flooring over the entrance just past the castle's front gate. If the attackers got through the gate, they were assaulted by heavy objects dropped through the holes from the ceiling above them. Offense or Defense.
14. *Arrow-loops*. Narrow openings in the towers of the castle just large enough for archers to fire their arrows on the enemy. Offense or Defense

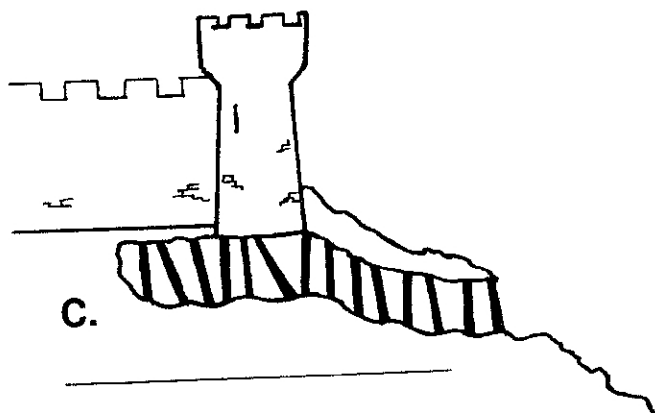
# Offense or Defense?



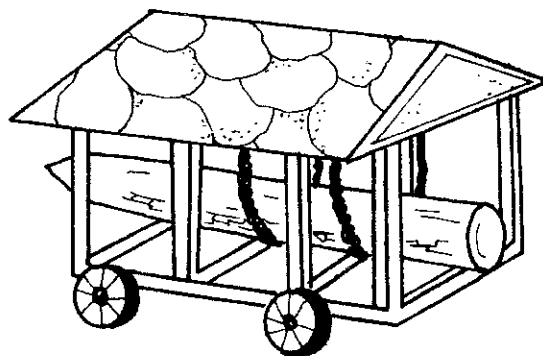
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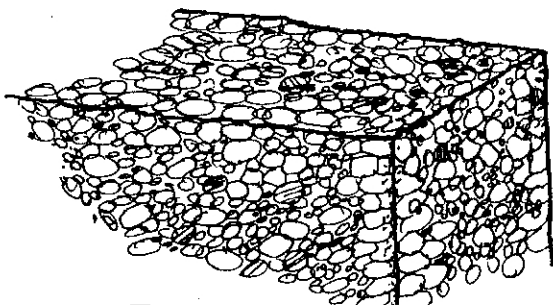
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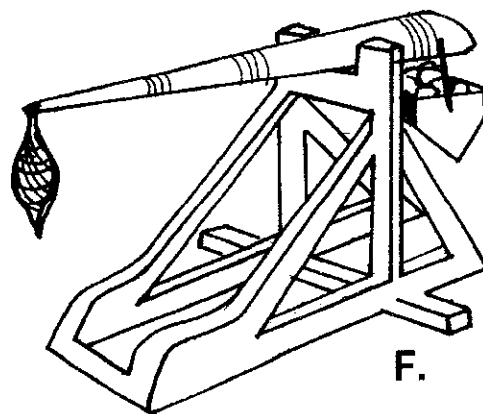
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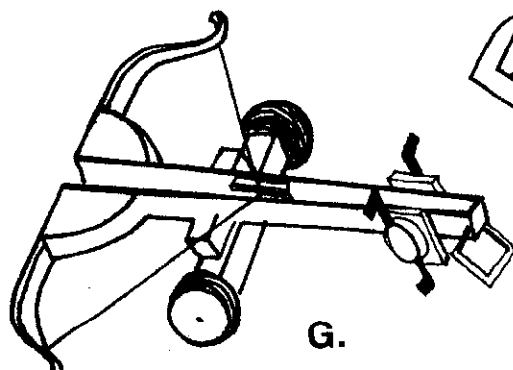
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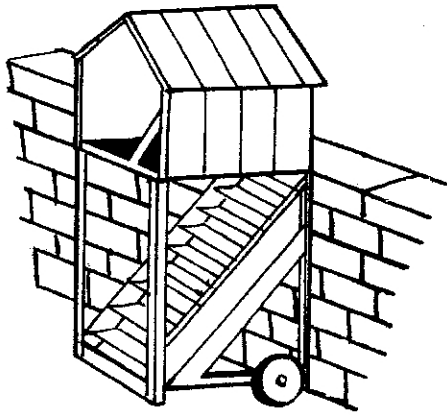


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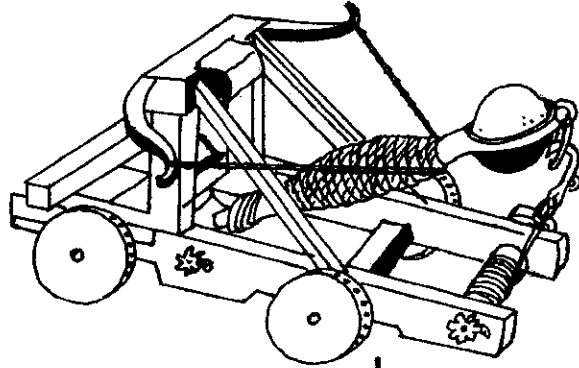


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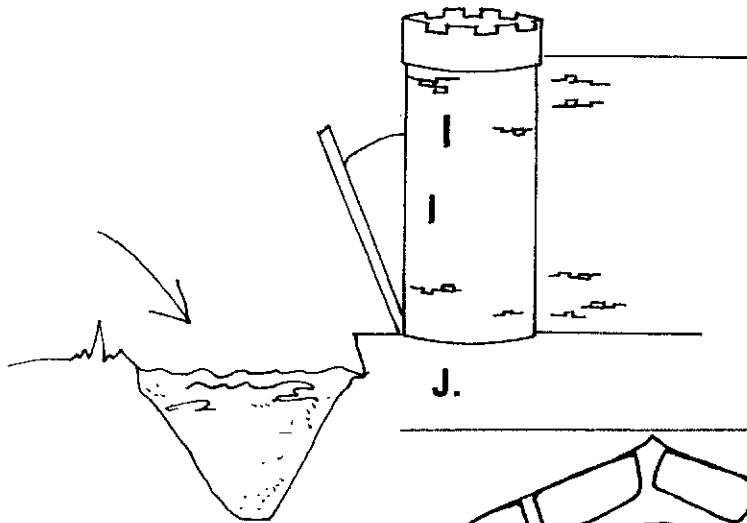
# Offense or Defense?



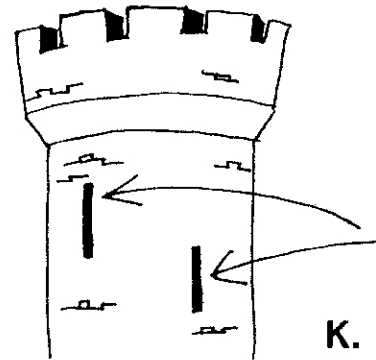
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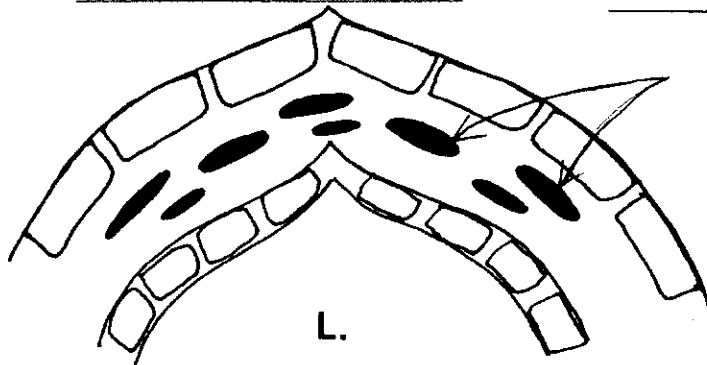
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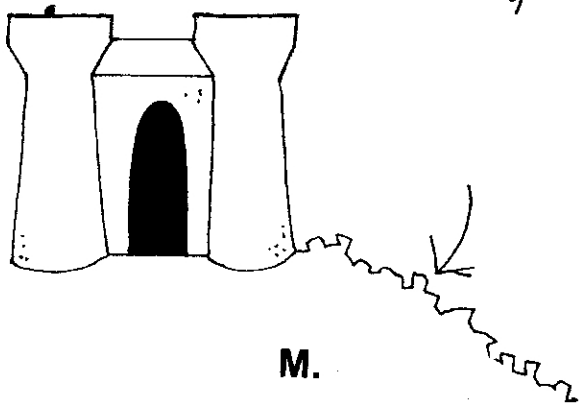
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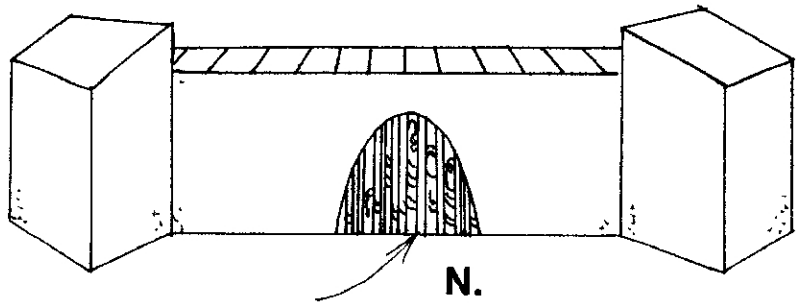
K.



L.



M.



N.