

MEDIEVAL SIEGE WEAPONS

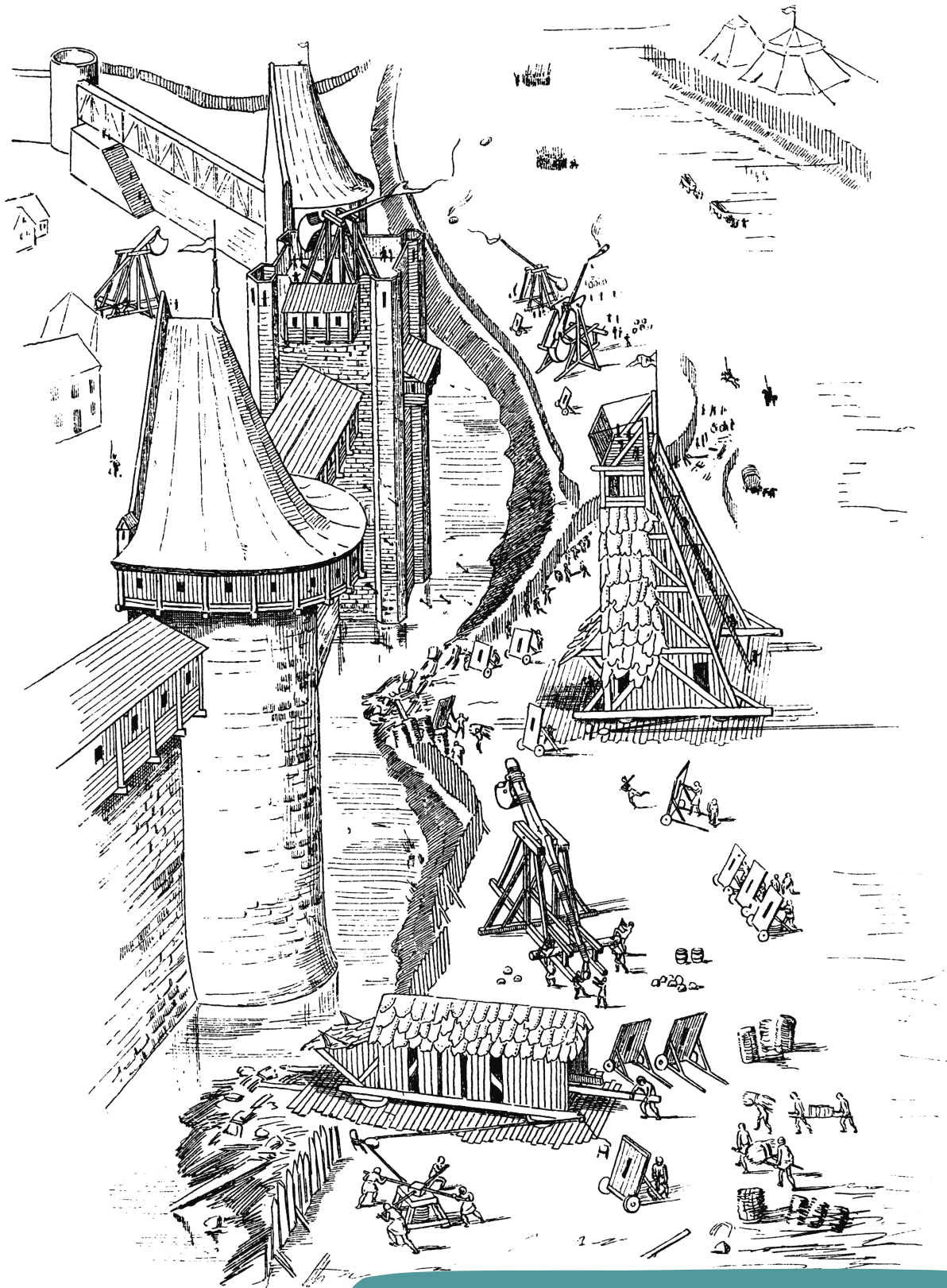


Name	How it worked	Pros and cons
siege tower	The tower was built high enough so that when it approached a castle wall, or tower, it could drop a platform down that let soldiers cross over it.	The tower protected the attackers inside as they approached the enemy castle, but it had to be on level ground and didn't work if there was a moat.
battering ram	This was usually a huge felled tree that was pushed on wheels into a castle door or wall to break it down.	The ram could break down a strong gatehouse door but needed to get to it before the drawbridge was pulled up.
mangonel	Like a catapult, the mangonel could fling a stone weighing up to 25kg. The stone sat in a cup, held down by a rope – when the rope was released, the cup threw the stone into the air.	The mangonel could launch projectiles over a moat but had to be aimed carefully so the projectile hit its target.
mantlet	This was a sloping board that covered attacking archers on the ground as they aimed arrows at a castle.	This provided good cover for the archers but it needed holes to let the archers see where to aim.
mining	Miners, or 'sappers', would have crept up to the base of the walls under the cover of a hurdle (frame) and mined into the foundations.	This was a skilled operation that needed trained miners. Square towers were easier to undermine than round ones.

A siege tower, catapult and battering ram being used in a re-enactment.



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A medieval castle being besieged, with the attackers using various siege weapons including a battering ram, trebuchets, a siege tower and mantlets.