

# World War I

## Changes in Modern Warfare

World War I introduced many advances in science and technology into modern warfare. These advances changed the nature of warfare including battle strategies and tactics. Scientists and inventors on both sides worked throughout the war to improve weapon technology in order to give their side an edge in the fight.

### War in the Air

World War I was the first war where the airplane was used. Initially, airplanes were used to observe enemy troops. However, by the end of the war they were used to drop bombs on troops and cities. They also had mounted machine guns that were used to shoot down other planes.



*German Albatros by a German official photographer*

### Tanks

Tanks were first introduced in World War I. These armored vehicles were used to cross "No Man's Land" between the trenches. They had mounted machine guns and cannon. The first tanks were unreliable and hard to steer, however, they became more effective by the end of the war.



*A tank during the Battle of the Somme*  
by Ernest Brooks

## **Trench Warfare**

Much of the war along the western front was fought using trench warfare. Both sides dug long lines of trenches that helped to protect the soldiers from gunfire and artillery. The area between enemy trenches was called No Man's Land. Trench warfare caused a stalemate between the two sides for many years. Neither side gained ground, but both sides lost millions of soldiers.

## **Changes in Naval Warfare**

The most dangerous ships during World War I were large metal-armored battleships called dreadnoughts. These ships had powerful long-range guns, allowing them to attack other ships and land targets from a long distance. The main naval battle in World War I was the Battle of Jutland. Besides this battle, Allied naval ships were used to blockade Germany to prevent supplies and food from reaching the country.

World War I also introduced submarines as a naval weapon in warfare. Germany used submarines to sneak up on ships and sink them with torpedoes. They even attacked Allied passenger ships such as the Lusitania.

## **New Weapons**

- Artillery - Large guns, called artillery, were improved during World War I including anti-aircraft guns to shoot down enemy planes. The majority of the casualties in the war were inflicted using artillery. Some large artillery guns could launch shells nearly 80 miles.
- Machine gun - The machine gun was improved during the war. It was made much lighter and easier to move around.
- Flame throwers - Flame throwers were used by the German Army on the western front in order to force the enemy out of their trenches.

- Chemical weapons - World War I also introduced chemical weapons to warfare. Germany first used chlorine gas to poison unsuspecting Allied troops. Later, the more dangerous mustard gas was developed and used by both sides. By the end of the war, troops were equipped with gas masks and the weapon was less effective.



*Vickers machine gun crew with gas masks*  
by John Warwick Brooke

### **Interesting Facts about WWI Changes in Modern Warfare**

- Tanks were initially called "landships" by the British. They later changed the name to tank, which was what the factory workers called them because they looked like a large water tank.
- The main form of transportation of troops during the war was the railroad. Armies would build new railroads as they advanced.
- British soldiers in the trenches used a bolt-action rifle. They could fire around 15 shots in a minute.
- Large artillery guns needed as many as 12 men to aim, load, and fire them.
- The first tank was the British Mark I. The prototype of this tank had the code name "Little Willie."

## TIMELINE OF WORLD WAR I

### Background to The War

#### Early 1900's

- Alliances were formed in Europe to insure safety in the upcoming conflicts:
- Triple Entente and Triple Alliance were established
- Nationalism was prevalent in Europe and gave people a desire to fight in order to promote their countries interests
- Imperialism and colonization created conflict and competition in Europe
- Militarism brought new war technologies and techniques



#### June 28, 1914

- Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated by Serbian terrorist, Gavrilo Princip

#### July 5, 1914

- Germany gave Austria-Hungary the "Blank Cheque," meaning Germany would support their country, even in war

#### July 28, 1914

- Austria-Hungary prepared for war against Serbia

### When Each Major Country Entered The War

#### July 28, 1914

- Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia

#### August 1, 1914

- Russia declared war on Austria-Hungary in support of Serbia

#### August 3, 1914

- Germany declared war on Russia in support of Austria-Hungary

#### August 3, 1914

- France declared war on Germany in support of Russia

#### August 3, 1914

- Germany declared war on France

#### August 4, 1914

- Germany planned to attack France through the neutral country of Belgium, using the Schlieffen plan

#### August 4, 1914

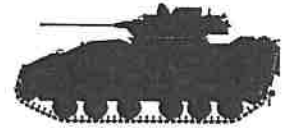
- Britain declared war on Germany, as they had agreed to protect Belgiums neutrality



## War Measures Act

August 4, 1914

- Passed by the parliament of Canada
- Stated that emergency measures could be taken in the midst of war or invasion
- Included violating civil rights in the name of war



## Schlieffen Plan

August 4, 1914

- Germany planned to attack France through the neutral country of Belgium, using this plan
- Plan was designed to avoid a two-front war
- If Germany had a two-front war, they would have to fight France and Russia simultaneously

## Second Battle of Ypres

April 22, 1915 - May 25, 1915

- The first occurring of trench warfare for Canadians
- The French and Canadian troops that were defending Ypres were forced to retreat when Germany started using chlorine gas against them
- Was the first poison gas attack in history



## Battle of Somme

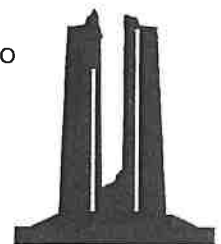
July 1, 1916 - July 18, 1916

- Allied commanders tried to end trench warfare with a large attack on Germany
- They were unsuccessful
- Over 20,000 Canadian soldiers were killed
- Battle ended five months after it began

## The Battle of Vimy Ridge

April 9, 1917 - April 12, 1917

- German soldiers took Vimy Ridge
- The ridge was a strong natural fortress that was easy to defend and dangerous to attack
- The Allies bombed the ridge for three weeks to weaken the German defences
- Canadian troops attacked
- Canada and the Allies were successful, though they did suffer many casualties



## The Battle of Passchendaele

July 31, 1917 - November 10, 1917

- Canadian troops were asked to take the town of Passchendaele
- They were successful, though 16,000 soldiers died (1/5 survived)
- The Germans soon won back the 7km of mud the Canadians had gained



## Suffragists

1914 - 1918

- Women helping in jobs that were seen as unsuitable for women, such as volunteering to work overseas as nurses or ambulance drivers
- Large increase in the amount of women working in the industry
- Women organized themselves to gain the right to vote
- Members of this organization were called "Suffragettes"

1916

- Women were given the right to vote in most provinces

1917

- Wartime Elections Act was passed
- Gave the federal vote to mothers, sisters, and wives of soldiers who were at war
- By the end of the war, almost all women over 21 could vote in the federal election
- Most minorities still couldn't vote

## Conscription Crisis

1917

- Volunteer enlistments were not keeping up with the number of men killed or wounded
- Conscription was suggested
- Canada was very conflicted and divided over the issue
- Military Service Bill was introduced
- Made conscription compulsory for men between ages 20 and 35, as long as they weren't vital in wartime production jobs, sick, or pacifists
- Riots broke out and many were hostile towards those who were against the war (pacifists)



## Military Voters Acts

1917

- Granted the federal vote to mothers, sisters, and wives of soldiers in the Armed Forces

## Halifax Explosions

December 6, 1917

- French munitions ship carrying 3,000 tons of explosives collided with another vessel in the Halifax harbour
- Caused fires, tidal waves, and the levelling of many parts of the city
- Thousands of people were killed, injured, or left homeless



## Armistice

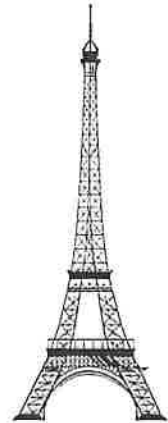
November 11, 1918

- Signed to stop countries from fighting and move to a peace conference
- Early in the next year, delegates met in Paris to discuss peace terms
- These peace terms were mainly set by the victors

## Paris Peace Conference

January 18, 1919

- Meeting at the end of World War I where peace terms were established
- The Treaty of Versailles was proposed, along with four other major treaties



## Treaty of Versailles

June 28, 1919

- Most important international agreement of the 20th century
- Was meant to prevent another war from occurring
- Brought World War I to an end
- Punished Germany by reassigning boundaries and by making them liable for reparations

## League of Nations

January 10, 1920

- The first international organization whose mission was to maintain world peace
- Result of the Paris Peace Conference
- Has been replaced by the United Nations



Name:

# World War I - Changes in Modern Warfare

Questions on this quiz are based on information from  
World War I - Changes in Modern Warfare.

1. What new technology was used to drop bombs from the air?
  - a. Tanks
  - b. Artillery
  - c. Submarines
  - d. Airplanes
  - e. Machine guns
2. What armored vehicles were used to cross the dangerous area between trenches?
  - a. Tanks
  - b. Artillery
  - c. Submarines
  - d. Airplanes
  - e. Machine guns
3. What kind of warfare caused a stalemate along the western front for several years?
  - a. Guerrilla warfare
  - b. Biological warfare
  - c. Siege warfare
  - d. Nuclear warfare
  - e. Trench warfare
4. What was the land between two enemy trenches called?
  - a. Danger region
  - b. Kill zone
  - c. No man's land
  - d. Death valley
  - e. Fighting area
5. Which of the following used mustard and chlorine gas?
  - a. Artillery
  - b. Submarines
  - c. Machine guns
  - d. Flame Throwers
  - e. Chemical weapons
6. Which type of weapon was responsible for most of the casualties during the war?
  - a. Artillery
  - b. Submarines
  - c. Machine guns
  - d. Flame Throwers
  - e. Chemical weapons



7. What were tanks first called by the British?

- a. U-boats
- b. Cruisers
- c. Landships
- d. Dreadnoughts
- e. Ironclads

8. What weapon was used by German troops on the western front to force soldiers out of the trenches?

- a. Artillery
- b. Submarines
- c. Machine guns
- d. Flame Throwers
- e. Chemical weapons

9. What was the main way troops were transported during the war?

- a. Submarine
- b. Railroad
- c. Airplane
- d. Tank
- e. Taxi

10. What weapon was less effective once troops were equipped with gas masks?

- a. Artillery
- b. Submarines
- c. Machine guns
- d. Flame Throwers
- e. Chemical weapons