

Paper 1:B - WWI 1894-1918

Module 3: The End of the War



Part 3: The End of the War

1B: 3.1

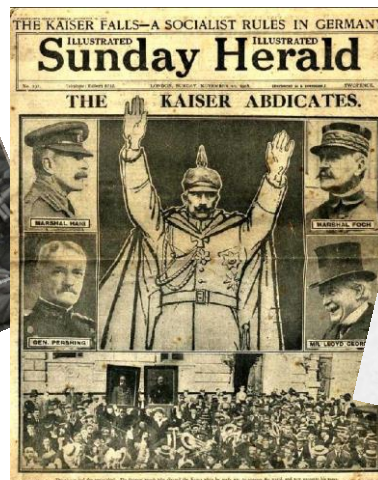
- Consequences of the Bolshevik Revolution and the withdrawal of Russia on Germany strategy;
- Reasons for and impact of the entry of the USA into the war.

1B: 3.2

- The evolution of tactics and technology;
- Ludendorff the German Spring Offensive;
- The Allied advance during The Hundred Days.

1B: 3.3

- Impact of the blockade;
- Abdication of the Kaiser;
- Armistice;
- The contribution of Haig and Foch to Germany's defeat.



3.1 Changes in the Allied Forces: consequences of the Bolshevik Revolution and the withdrawal of Russia on Germany strategy.

Russia's role in the war:

- At the beginning of the war Russia had won some significant battles against Austria-Hungary and Germany.
- However, a shortage of military supplies and poor leadership had led to some major defeats on the Eastern Front.
- Russia were hugely important in dividing the enemy armies and forcing Germany to fight a war on two fronts.

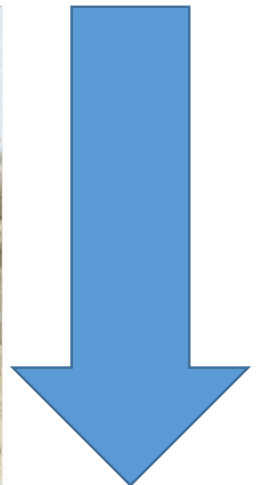


The effects of war on Russia:

- Russia's Tsar (emperor) Nicholas II was an incredibly weak and unintelligent leader. He tried to inspire his country's troops by going to the Eastern Front to lead the Army. This only worsened his reputation, and he was personally blamed for the country's defeats.



Meanwhile, back in Russia, the government was in the hands of the her 'manipulative' monk Rasputin! Faith in the leadership of the country was seriously declining.



- In addition to this distrust in the royal family the Russian people were suffering hugely.
- 15 million men had left to join the army, which meant factories, mines and farms had no workers - leading to shortages of fuel and food.
- Russia railway systems also could not cope with the demands of war, and fuel could not get to the cities, leading to widespread power-cuts. The Tsar nor the Tsarina appeared to have any solutions to these problems, so they continued.
- By 1916 over 1 million soldiers had been killed in the fighting and all support for the war was dwindling; both at the front and at home.

3.1 Changes in the Allied Forces: consequences of the Bolshevik Revolution and the withdrawal of Russia on Germany strategy.

The Revolution!

- By early 1917 discontent had spread to open opposition. Riots and strikes broke out across Russia. The soldiers guarding the Tsarina were ordered to fire upon the protesters, but instead they refused and joined the protests.
- Soldiers on the front lines also refused to follow orders and deserted in their thousands.
- When the Tsar returned to the capital he no longer had soldiers loyal to him and was forced to abdicate (give up his position as King). The royal family were then arrested and imprisoned by the revolutionaries.



Along comes Lenin...

- Lenin was a **BOLSHEVIK** revolutionary who had previously been exiled by Russia - Germany helped smuggle him back into Russia in the hope he would further destabilise their new provisional government.
- Lenin staged a second revolution, overthrew the new government, took over control of Russia and sought peace with Germany to end their part in the war.

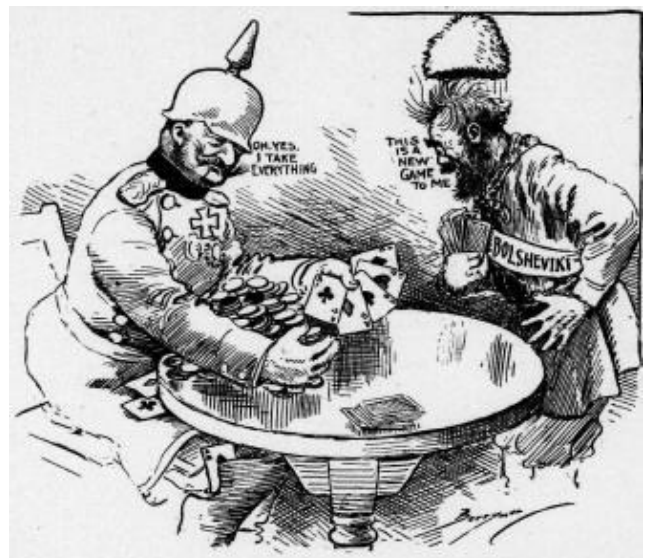


The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk - How did it help Germany?

- This was the peace treaty signed between Russia and Germany in March 1918.
- The Germans were incredibly harsh on Russia and demanded some of its best farmland and natural resources.
- Germany now had a sudden advantage!

What did this mean for Germany?

- Germany could now pull many of its troops away from the Eastern Front and concentrate their troops on the Western Front.
- The farmland, iron-ore, coal and railways meant that Germany could now ease some of the shortages that had occurred due to the naval blockade.



3.1 Changes in the Allied Forces: the reasons for and impact of the entry of the USA into the war.



Why did America stay out of the war for so long?

- When war broke out America decided to stay **neutral**... Although America had a lot in common with Britain; similar culture, same language and religious links, they had not been involved in European conflicts before this and had no interest in taking sides in this one.
- Despite America staying out of conflict they did end up supporting the Allies by selling them food, weapons and other goods.
- American banks also loaned a lot of money to the Allies (around \$2 billion) - which they then used to buy food, weapons etc from the USA!

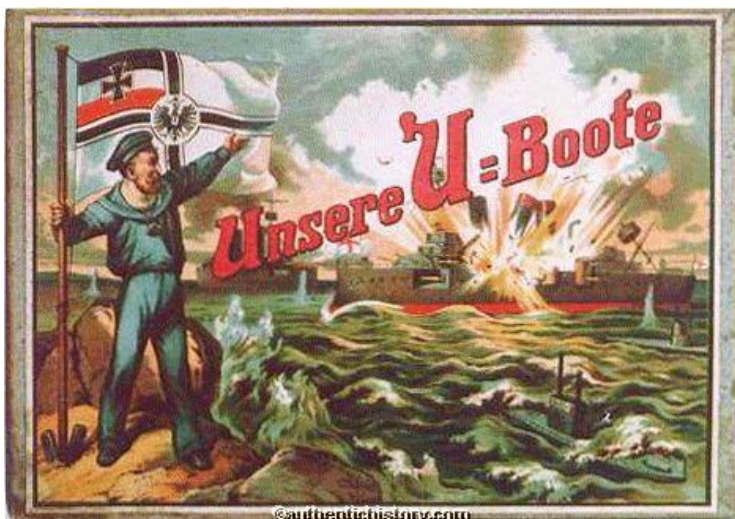
What brought America into the war?

1. Submarines:

- America were shipping goods to the Allies across the Atlantic. At the start of the war Germany used unrestricted submarine warfare, and in 1915 when German U-boats sunk the *Lusitania* carrying US citizens (as well as war supplies) Germany decided to cut back on their attacks after this - scared the US would join the war.
- By 1917 the Germans were in a desperate situation. The Allied naval blockade meant German soldiers and civilians were starving ('Turnip Winter'). Germany felt its only chance of success was to attack any and all ships sailing into British and French waters. Within a few months German U-boats had sunk 8 US ships and demands in the USA grew strong to declare war on Germany.

2. The Zimmermann Telegraph:

- In March 1917 the Americans discovered that Germany were trying to forge an alliance with Mexico, encouraging Mexico to wage war on America and take the US states of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.
- This was the final straw for America and they declared war in April 1917.



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SOME PROMISE!

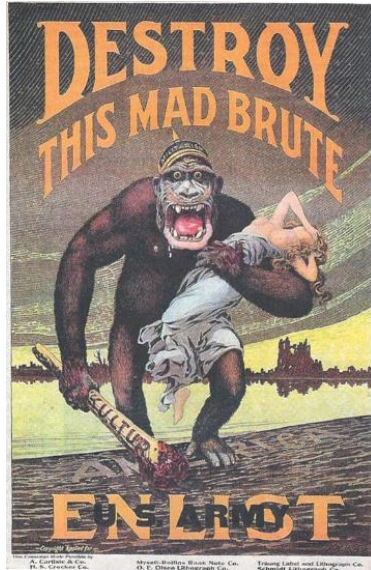
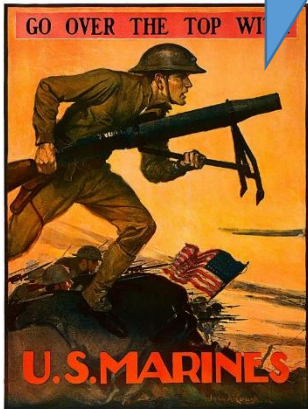
April 1917

3.1 Changes in the Allied Forces: the reasons for and impact of the entry of the USA into the war.

Short-Term Impact



1. America's entry into the war came at the same time Russia's commitment was in doubt. This gave a huge morale boost to the Allied troops and would help re-balance that loss. Also - it's a huge blow to the Germans!
2. America were also to increase their provision of supplies and weapons to the Western Front, providing the Allies with tanks, planes and guns.



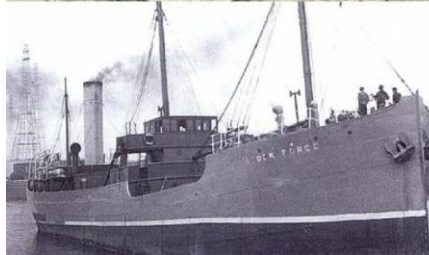
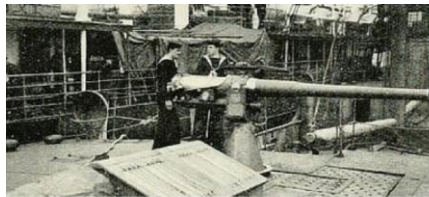
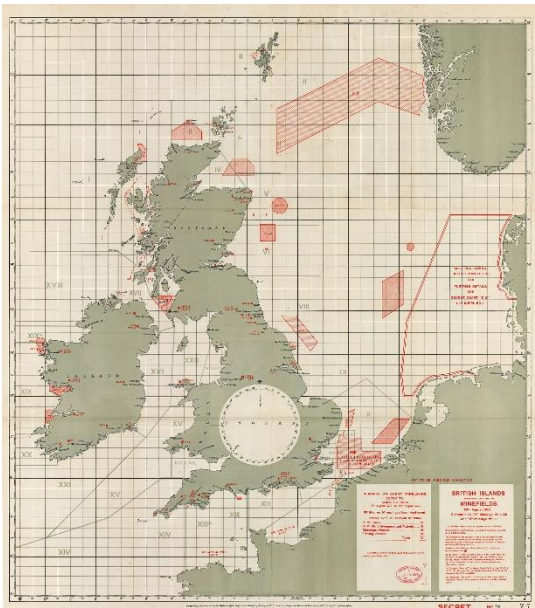
Long-Term Impact

- By the summer of 1918 America had sent over a million well-fed, well-trained, soldiers to join the Allies on the Western Front, just in time to force back the devastating German Spring Offensive.

3.2 Military developments in 1918 and their contribution to Germany's defeat: the evolution of tactics and technology; Ludendorff the German Spring Offensive; the Allied advance during The Hundred Days.

What was new at sea?

Many of the main developments were as a response to the German U-boat attacks, which had sunk tonnes of supplies and killed thousands of sailors and civilians...



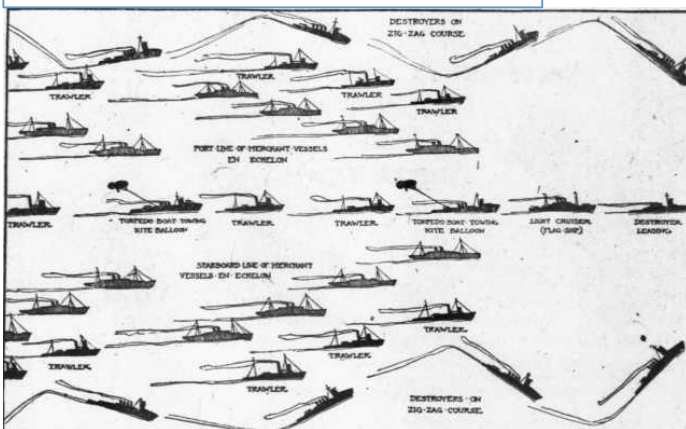
Q-ships - heavily armed decoy vessels that tricked submarines to reveal themselves, luring them into surface attacks.

Minfields - prevented the movement of U-boats from bases in Germany to the Atlantic shipping lanes bringing supplies to the British Isles.

Convoys - The Royal Navy introduced a convoy system in June 1917. It worked by providing escort vessels for individual ships. These escorts not only guarded against surface gunfire attacks, but also dropped depth charges. The convoy system resulted in a rapid decrease in German attacks on Allied shipping during the last 17 months of the war.



Depth charges - high explosives dropped by ships intended to destroy nearby submarines. Monthly use of depth charges increased from 100 to 300 per month during 1917 to an average of 1745 per month during the last six months of World War I.



3.3 Germany surrenders: impact of the blockade; abdication of the Kaiser; armistice; the contribution of Haig and Foch to Germany's defeat.

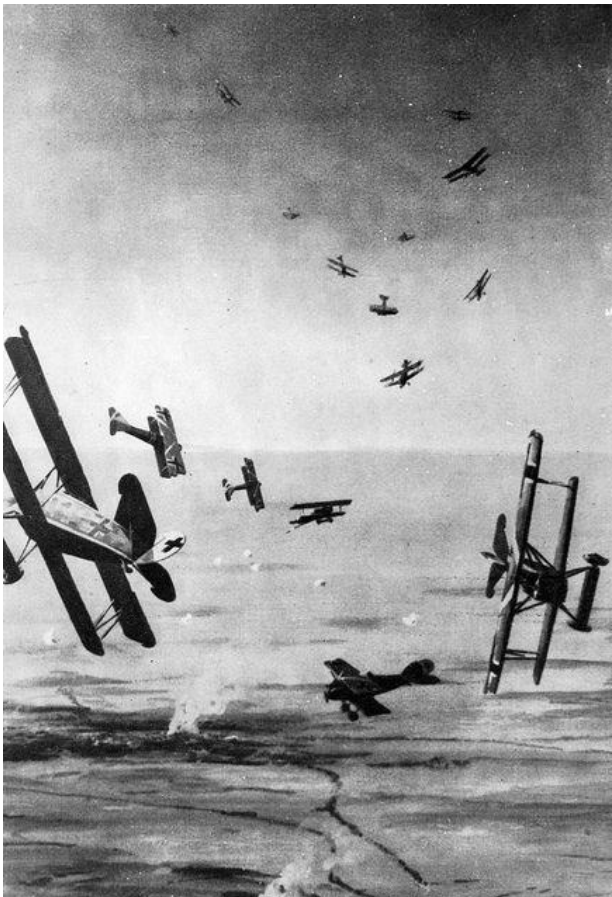
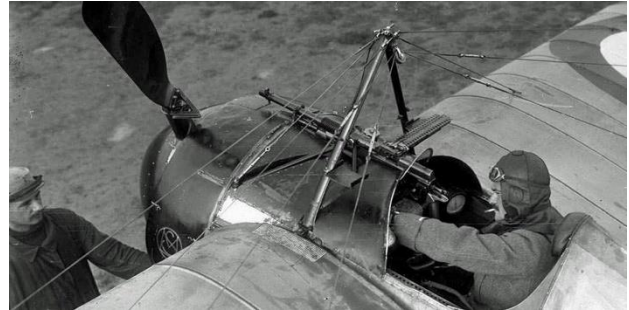
What was happening in the air?

At the start of the war aeroplanes were mainly used for reconnaissance. Over the next four years air warfare developed at a rapid pace.



1. Planes were made from stronger materials becoming more manoeuvrable.
2. Anthony Fokker developed a mechanism to attach machine guns to the front of the plane that shot between the propeller blades.

3. Stronger planes meant larger fuel tanks, which meant they could travel greater distances.
4. Stronger planes were also able to carry multiple bombs - long range bombing attacks were possible. Some planes were even able to carry torpedoes to help with the war at sea.



5. Fighter and bomber planes supported troops as they attacked the enemy trenches.
6. At first aeroplanes either flew alone or in groups of two or three. By 1917 pilots were flying in large patrols or formations.
7. By 1917 pilots could communicate with ground troops by radio, thus producing more co-ordinated attacks.



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What was changing on land?

The first ever tanks were used during the Battle of the Somme in 1916, not to much success. Just a year later 400 tanks were used at the Battle of Cambrai; crossing No-Man's-Land, crushing German machine guns and gaining 8km of land with a fraction of the usual troop losses.

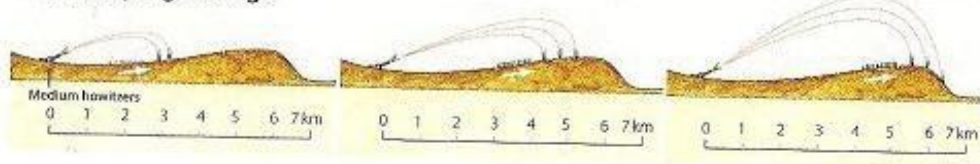


At the Battle of Amiens 1918 around 600 tanks led an attack on German lines, and saw Allied troops advance 32km.

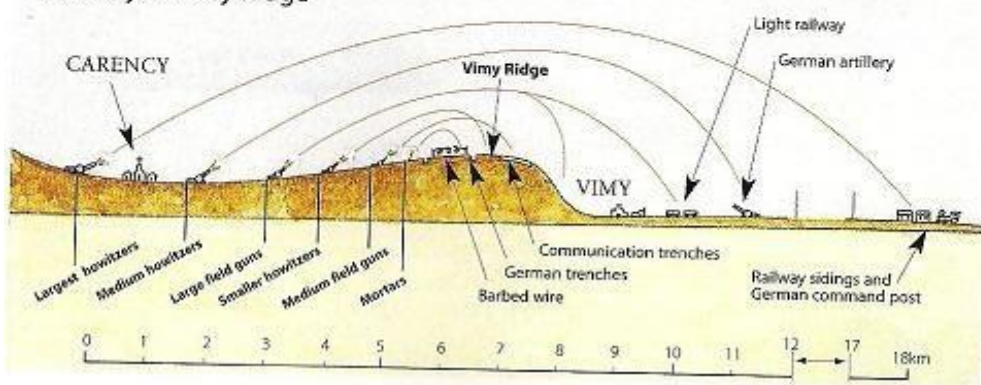
However, Germans did develop guns that could punch a hole through the side of a tank, and long-range anti-tank guns that could blow them up from a distance. The Germans also dug anti-tank trenches, which were ditches to prevent tanks from crossing.

Artillery!

A Creeping Barrage



Artillery at Vimy Ridge



Creeping Barrage:

A slow-moving artillery attack acts as a defensive 'curtain' for the troops following close behind.

It relied on the accuracy of the guns, and was used to great success in the last year of the war.

- Special shells were developed that could destroy barbed wire and blasted apart on contact with the ground (instead of getting buried in the mud).
- Mine warfare became increasingly used. Tunnels were built under enemy trenches so that explosives could be placed and blown up in specific key locations.



3.2 Military developments in 1918 and their contribution to Germany's defeat: the evolution of tactics and technology; Ludendorff the German Spring Offensive; the Allied advance during The Hundred Days.

How did tactics develop?

In the early stages of the war the common method of attack was an artillery bombardment followed by a rush of troops in an attempt to overwhelm the remaining enemy troops (attrition warfare).



What were the new infiltration tactics?

- Starting with the French, armies created specially trained, elite soldiers armed with **light machine guns, grenades** and **flamethrowers**.
- These troops advanced shortly before a main attack and disabled the enemy machine guns, control centres or artillery placements.
- The German elite troops were known as **Stormtroopers**.



Who was General Foch and how did he improve command?

- Following the 1918 Spring Offensive it was clear that better co-ordination between the Allied troops was needed.
- It was decided that a 'commander-in-chief' would be selected to command British, French and US troops against the German Army.
- This was known as '**unified command structure**' and the well-experienced, well-respected **French General Ferdinand Foch** was selected.
- Almost immediately Foch coordinated the French, British and US troops in an organised counter-attack on the Germans.



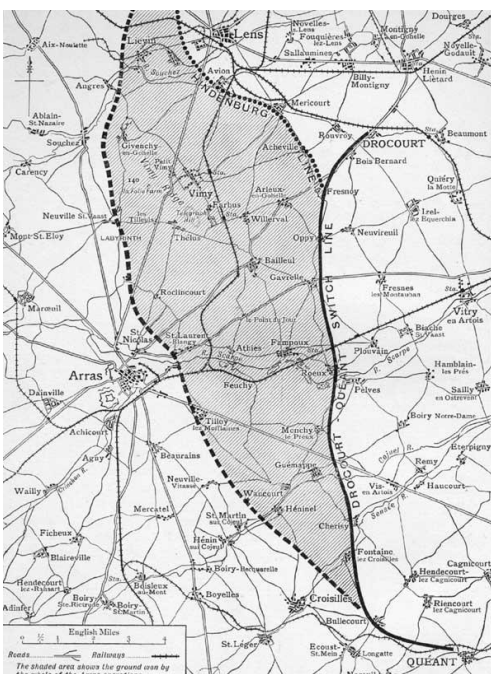
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The Ludendorff Spring Offensive 1918 - What happened?

With Russia having left the war and US troops not yet on the ground along the Western Front, Germany had a small window of opportunity to lead an offensive against the Allied forces and attempt to win the war. General Ludendorff devised a plan to attack the British and French troops at several points along the Allied front lines.

Where?

The Germans focussed their main offensive at the 'weak-spot' of Arras.



How?

- The Germans started with a '**hurricane bombardment**' - five hours of bombardment of over 3000 shells a minute.
- The Stormtroopers would then be sent through to create panic amongst the Allied troops.
- Attacks would then happen in three other places, weakening the Allied lines and allowing a larger German force to push through.
- The aim was to weaken the British into surrender, with the French then surrendering having lost British support.



The Offensive Begins...

- 21st March 1918.
- The bombardment was followed by a release of poison mustard gas, and an attack from thousands of Stormtroopers.

Stalemate is broken!

- On the first day of the offensive 20,000 British had been killed, 35,000 were wounded and another 21,000 had been taken prisoner.
- Between March and April of 1918 the German offensive had gained 60km...
- 183 shells had hit Paris they were so close!
- However, they had lost 220,000 men and did not have enough soldiers in reserve to replace those killed and injured.



Stormtroopers just TOO good!

- Having pushed so deep into enemy lines it became increasingly difficult to bring food and supplies to German troops.
- This slowed down the German advance, with many being captured as they stopped to loot food.

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How did the Allies advance during the Hundred Days?

Previously the French and British troops had acted independently of each other. During the panic of the German advance an inspired decision was made to coordinate the Allied troops - including the arriving Americans.

Unified Command Structure in action!

- The map shows a bulge in the German advance.
- This left German troops vulnerable to attack from all sides... So this is what Foch did!
- **8th August 1918** was the first day of the Allied Offensive at **Amiens** and 11km of ground was taken by the British and French forces.
- Within a week the Germans had lost 30,000 men compared with 6,500 Allied soldiers and the Allies were gaining around 8km per day.



Back to the Hindenburg Line!

- In 1917 the Germans had built a fortified concrete trench system called the Hindenburg Line.
- In September 1918 French and 1.2 million American forces were attacking the line in the **Meuse-Argonne Offensive**.
- In Belgium, Belgian, British and French troops attacked in the **5th Battle of Ypres**, whilst Commonwealth soldiers, Australian and American troops fought alongside the British at the **Battle of St. Quentin Canal**.
- As the Germans retreated they destroyed railways, bridges and roads, and poisoned water supplies...
- But, they also abandoned heavy guns, equipment and supplies in their panic.
- The Allied advance forced German leaders to admit defeat and accept that the war should be ended.

3.3 Germany surrenders: impact of the blockade; abdication of the Kaiser; armistice; the contribution of Haig and Foch to Germany's defeat.

How did the Naval Blockade affect the German home front?

- By 1916 Germany were deprived of soap, cheese, butter and eggs, whilst coal and shoes were in very short supply.
- The winter of 1916-17 was nicknamed 'Turnip Winter' after a very poor harvest and next to no meat.
- In addition to heavy losses in war and the shortages of food and fuel at home the German people were angry. They rioted and looted shops, there were protests at the Reichstag (German parliament) to bring the soldiers home.



The Kaiser abdicates!

- The German people had always been sold the idea that they were winning the war. People were prepared to make sacrifices if it led to victory...
- But when Ludendorff admitted the hopeless position of Germany and that they should abandon the war on **29th September 1918** there was shock and anger throughout Germany.
- The Kaiser reluctantly agreed to hand over power to the formation of a new government.
- This was too little, too late for a lot of Germans who were now talking about **REVOLUTION**.
- In **late October 1918** the German Navy at Kiel refused to follow orders to attack the British Fleet in the North Sea and **MUTINIED**.
- The country was in chaos, the Kaiser's generals and military had abandoned him - on the **9th November** he had no choice but to abdicate!



The abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II

3.3 Germany surrenders: impact of the blockade; abdication of the Kaiser; armistice; the contribution of Haig and Foch to Germany's defeat.

Germany's surrender:

The leader of the new German government was Friedrich Ebert. Ebert sent a group of representatives to France to negotiate an **armistice** (ceasefire).

The Germans wanted to work out a fair deal... But the French, British and US were in no mood to bargain.

TERMS:

1. All fighting on land, sea and in the air should end within 6 hours.
2. All occupied land in Belgium, Luxemburg and France (including Alsace-Lorraine) to be evacuated by German troops within 15 days.
3. Allies to occupy land in Germany to the west of the River Rhine up to a distance of 30km.
4. German troops to withdraw from Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Romania.
5. Germany to hand over 10 battleships, 6 battle cruisers, 8 cruisers and submarines. Give up its largest weapons, hand over trains, carriages and railway trucks.
6. The naval blockade would continue.
7. Germany were to pay a financial settlement for all damage caused.



Despite the terms being incredibly harsh, the German representatives had no choice but to agree. The paper was signed at 5.10am and the war officially ended at 11am on the 11th November 1918.

How did Haig and Foch contribute to the war?

There are mixed views about these Generals – some argue they were reckless with their troops' lives and rigidly stuck to plans when other strategies were available. Others argue that no-matter what you think about their tactics, they did win the war.

Haig was the product of his time, there's nothing to say that anyone who replaced him wouldn't have done the same.



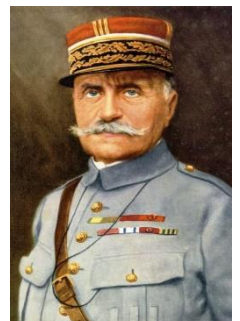
Haig's numerous mistakes at the Battle of the Somme contributed to the $\frac{1}{2}$ million casualties suffered by the British Army.

If the British hadn't attacked at the Somme the French would have been overwhelmed and forced to surrender.

In 1915 Foch's leadership of the Artois Offensive gained little ground and saw a huge number of casualties.

Foch was well enough respected to be chosen to be the commander-in-chief of the Allied forces.

Foch's co-ordination of the Allied forces led to the ultimate defeat of the German Army.



Revision Guide - TASKS

1. Using pages 1-4 of the Revision Guide create a fact file of the Long-Term and Short-Term impacts of changes to the Allied forces.
2. Create a table of the reasons for Germany's defeat and their significance on the outcome of the war.
3. Write a report explaining the reasons for the Kaiser's abdication.
 - Why did Germany have no choice but to accept the terms of the armistice?

Revision Guide - QUIZ

1. Who did Germany smuggle into Russia in the hopes of destabilising the government?
2. What was then name of the communist group that continued the Revolution in 1917 in Russia?
3. What was the name given to the note that brought the USA into the war?
4. When did US troops arrive on the Western Front?
5. What were Q-ships?
6. What was introduced in 1917 to protect merchant ships carrying supplies across the Atlantic after the Germans reintroduced unrestricted submarine warfare?
7. What were aeroplanes mainly used for at the start of the war?
8. What new technology helped organise coordinated attacks between ground troops and the air?
9. How many tanks were used in the Battle of Amiens?
10. What is the name given to the strategic use of artillery to advance troops towards the enemy line?
11. What name was given to the elite mobile soldiers used in the Spring Offensive?
12. Who led the Spring Offensive?
13. Give one reason why the Spring Offensive failed.
14. What did the Allies do differently during the Hundred Days Offensive?
15. Where did the Allied troops reach that forced the Germans to seek an end to fighting?
16. What is the name given to the Allied efforts to deprive the Germans of food and fuel?

Some possible knowledge-based exam-style questions:

▼ **SOURCE B** From British magazine Punch, 12 June 1918; the title was, 'A German "Peace" (For the instruction of our pacifists)'; it comments on the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk; German troops were stationed in the territory Russia had to give up



- Study **Source B** This source supports the continued fighting by the French and British armies on the Western Front. How do you know? Use the source and your own knowledge in your answer.

- Explain why Americans fought in the First World War.
- Write an account of how new technology and tactics tried to solve the problem of trench warfare.
- Study **Source B** This source supports the Allies. How do you know?

Use the source and your own knowledge in your answer.

▼ **SOURCE B** A cartoon from Punch magazine on 31 July 1918; it shows General Ludendorff and had the title, 'A Champagne counteroffensive'



- 'Appointing General Foch as the Supreme Allied Commander was the main reason for the failure of Ludendorff's Spring Offensive.' How far do you agree with the statement? Explain your answer.
- 'The failure of the Spring Offensive was the main reason for Germany's surrender.' How far do you agree with the statement? Explain your answer.