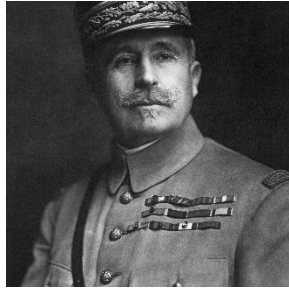


Paper 1:B - WWI 1894-1918

Module 2: The war from 1914 - 17



Part 2: The War from 1914 - 1917

1B: 2.1

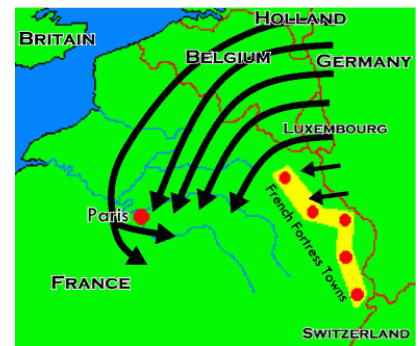
- The Schlieffen Plan: its failure.
- The Battle of Marne and its contribution to the stalemate.
- Race to the sea and the eastern front.

1B: 2.2

- Trench warfare including attrition and attack.
- Military tactics and technology.
- Key battles: Verdun, Somme and Passchendaele.

1B: 2.3

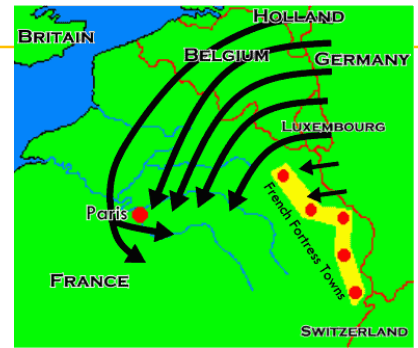
- The wider war: Gallipoli.
- The war at sea and air.



1B 2.1 The Schlieffen Plan, its failure and the Marne

Schlieffen Plan: Where did it come from?

Created as the result of the Franco Russian Alliance, the plan was to deal with a German war on two fronts. **The plan was created by Alfred Von Schlieffen** who decided it would be better to attack France first and then Russia to avoid splitting the German Army. The plan assumed Russia would take weeks to mobilise so France could be defeated quickly and then Russia could be focused on after.



Problem with the Plan:

- Assumptions were made that Russia would take 6 weeks to mobilise.
- Germany would have to attack France through Belgium which violated the Treaty of London 1839 which could bring Britain into the conflict.
- It was the only plan Germany put into place.
- The plan was changed by Moltke who reduced the numbers of men the initial plan included.

The failure of the plan.

- The plan relied on speed to attack and defeat Belgium quickly but the Belgium army slowed down the German advance, especially at Liege, which delayed the plan by 4 or 5 days.
- Britain sent the BEF (British Expeditionary Force) to assist the Belgium troops who were well trained and despite being smaller than the Germans delayed the plan and forced the Germans to abandon the sweep around Paris.
- **Russia mobilised in just 10 days rather than the 6 weeks** initially planned forcing Germany to send troops to the east sooner than they wanted.

The Battle of the Marne

Germany had had no choice but to turn away from Paris early causing them to reach the River Marne just 40km outside of Paris. There were fewer troops by this time too giving Britain and France the opportunity to attack.

- **Britain and France attacked on September 6 from the West** forcing the Germans to stop their advance to meet them.
- This created a gap in the German army which the allied troops could take advantage of.
- The push by Britain and France forced the Germans back to the River Aisne.
- **More than 2 million men were involved in this battle** and more than **half a million were injured or killed in less than one week** of fighting.
- It was clear Germany would not be able to advance so began to dig trenches which they added machine guns and barbed wire to fortify their position. This signified the end to the war of movement for now.

Race to the Sea

By **September 1914 both sides were developing trenches** and each tried to get around the back of the other. There were several battles during this time but the result was the development of a trench system that spanned 400 miles and the positions hardly moved for the next 4 years. **A stalemate had begun.**

War in the East

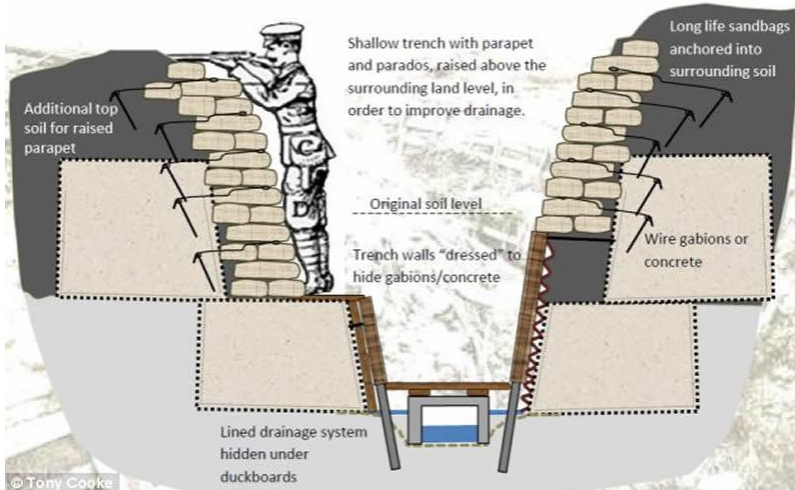
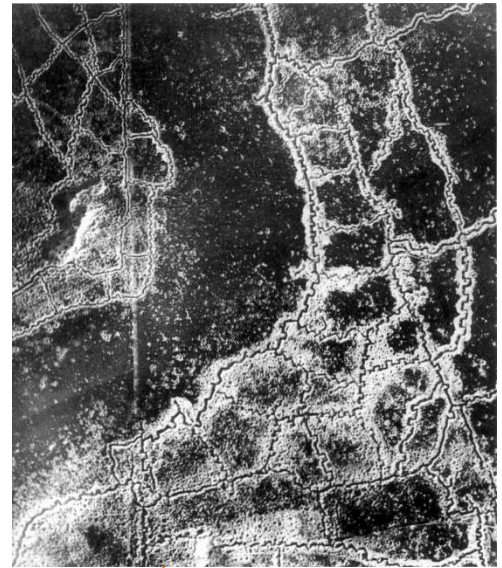
The **Russian Army of over 1 million men had marched into German territory** but were badly equipped. Under the leadership of **Hindenburg and Ludendorff the Germans managed to make gains back.**

The Russians had greater success against Austria forcing several retreats and over a few months the Eastern Front developed spanning nearly 1000 miles.



1B: 2.2 Trench Warfare

- The trenches began from holes the soldiers dug to **protect themselves from artillery and machine gun fire.**
- These holes were extended and fortified with barbed wire and sandbags for protection.
- The land between two opposing trenches was called no-mans land.
- Trenches were designed in a zigzag pattern to disperse the explosions to reduce the loss of men.
- Both sides trenches followed a similar structure of a front line trench, support and reserve trenches all connected by communication trenches.
- **Often trenches were only 50 to 200 metres apart.**
- The German trenches were often better built as the Germans realised far sooner than the British and French the war of movement had stopped so their trenches were deeper and more fortified. **German dug outs could be up to 10 metres below the ground with electricity and beds.** The British and French developed their trenches much later.

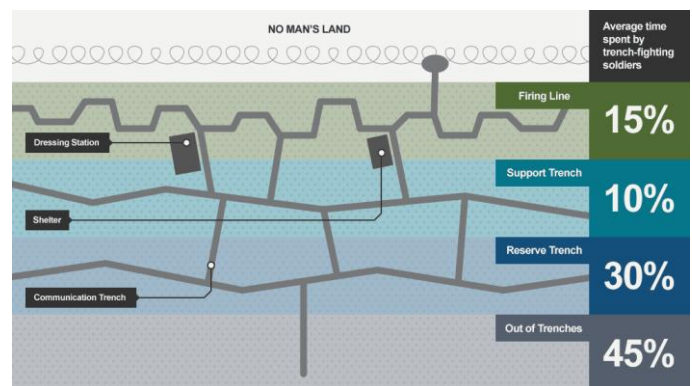


- The general system of attack in the trenches followed the same plan:
 1. Artillery would strike the enemy position to smash the opposing system and hopefully blow holes in the barbed wire.
 2. Soldiers then go over the top by climbing out of the trench and then head across no-mans land.
 3. The soldiers enter the enemy trenches and shoot or fight the soldiers not killed by the artillery.
 4. This general plan very rarely worked as the shells did not often destroy the barbed wire and the **German trenches especially were strong due to being reinforced with concrete.**

- **Attrition warfare is what the First World War became.**
- Attrition means to wear away.
- In most cases leaders of both sides believed if they could kill more of their opponents than the losses they suffered then they would win.
- This view meant that the side with the most resources (manpower, equipment etc) would most likely win.
- Occasional breakthroughs did happen along the front lines but the retreating forces simply withdrew to reserve trenches then within a matter of weeks or occasionally months they would then counter attack to re-occupy the original trench.

1B: 2.2 Life in the trenches

- The trenches were probably the dirtiest, unhealthiest and most frightening places in the world.
- Soldiers lived a rather boring daily life when there were no battles to be fought.
- The men in the front line trench rotated their duties so one third of the men were on sentry duty, one third on repair duty and collecting supplies and the other third would rest.
- In a typical month soldiers may serve up to 4 days in the front line trench, four days in the support trench, 8 days in the reserve trenches and then the remainder of the time behind the lines in towns or villages.
- Soldiers on both sides performed the 'stand to' before sunlight which was the highest state of alert in readiness for an enemy attack.
- Some soldiers tried to cope with the tedium of the trenches by using humour. *The Wipers Times* is a good example of a collection of stories and jokes which the soldiers printed using the old printing press found in Ypres.
- There were lots of medical condition in the trenches with disease accounting for almost a third of British casualties.
- One particular condition was trench foot which was the result of weeks of cold wet feet causing the foot to swell and sores to develop.



- Shell Shock was common and was caused by the noise and constant fear of death.
- Soldiers found it impossible to keep clean and almost everyone was infested with lice. There were no toilets and rats infested the trenches too.
- Food was basic: stew, bread and hard biscuits. Water tasted of chlorine and some soldier had to boil water from shell holes.
- Around 12 million letters arrived in the trenches every week from home. Parcels could contain toiletries and other gifts from people back home.
- Soldiers could also send letters home but often did not discuss the horrors for fears of upsetting loved ones and knowing their letters were read by commanding officers first who would censor the content.

1B: 2.2 The weapons of trench warfare

Artillery



Artillery were the large guns fired over long range to soften the enemy. **Artillery was responsible for about 60% of all wounds** and before a major assault artillery could be used hours or days before a major attack. Artillery could be loaded with gas, high explosive or shrapnel shells.

Machine Guns



Machine guns were well used during the war with devastating effect. **They could fire 10 bullets per second and the French reported 200,000 casualties in the first 2 weeks of the war**, mostly down to machine gun fire. One machine gun was the equivalent to about 100 rifles.

Gas



Gas was a weapon of terror. First used by Germany in 1915 it opened up a 6km gap in the French lines but there were not enough Germans to hold the opening. After that gas was used by all sides and using different types but it was not as deadly as other weapons.

Rifles and bayonets



The rifle was the standard weapon used by the soldiers. **The rifles were accurate up to about 600 metres and a soldier could fire between 15 and 20 rounds per minute.** A 40 centimetre bayonet knife was attached to the end which could be used in close range combat, such as inside the trenches.

Grenades



There were a total of 15 WW1 hand grenades in use between 1914 to 1918. These were medium range weapons designed to slow attacking forces or damage enemy trenches at close range.

Flamethrowers



Flamethrowers were used to clear out small areas like dugouts. If flamethrower units were spotted these would be the fired upon by soldiers.

Tanks



First used by the British in 1916 they could roll over the battlefield and crush barbed wire. **Germany only produced 20 tanks** as they were unreliable and slow. **Britain produced 2636 tanks and France 3870.**

1B: 2.2 Key battles of WW1 - Verdun

The battle of Verdun took place in North Eastern France where the French defended against the Germans. It was considered the strongest fortification and due to Verdun's historical significance to France, the Germans considered defeat here would diminish French pride. **It was the longest battle of the First World War.**

The German attack began on the 21st of February 1916 with an artillery bombardment on the north side of Verdun. On the first day at more than 2,000,000 high explosive shells were fired by 1400 guns. On the 2nd day of the attack the French retreated to their reserve trenches and it looked as if Verdun was going to fall.

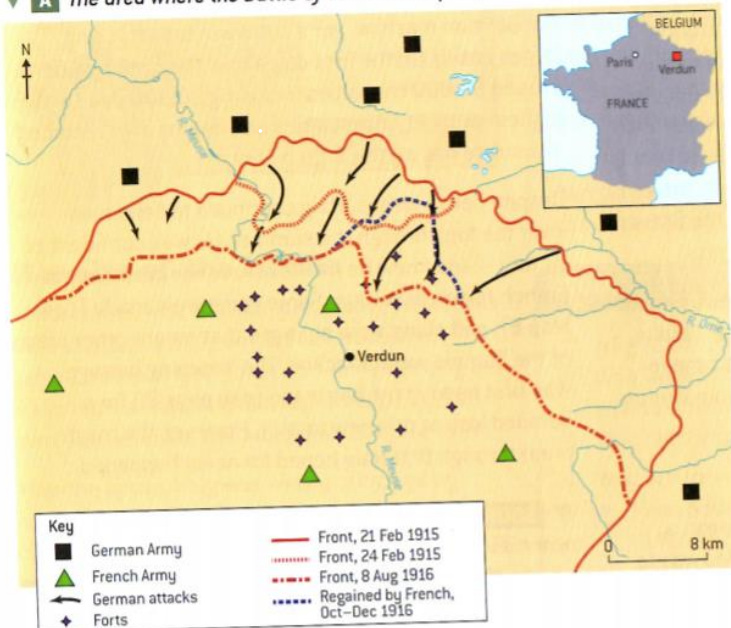
The French army were committed not to let the Germans beat them but realised the defence of Verdun would result in a lot of French casualties. The French were determined to inflict as much damage on the Germans as possible while holding Verdun. Plans were put in place to make sure enough food and ammunition could get to the soldiers in Verdun and **over the next 5 months tons of supplies and thousands of soldiers were sent to Verdun along a single road.**



The German attack was initially halted in February but on the 6th of March a new German attack saw them **advance a further 3 kilometres.** Then in April the French army began to counter attack. This continued over the next few months.

Further fighting in Verdun continued throughout the summer and early autumn but the size of the German attack was reduced on the Western Front because of the battle of the Somme which the German sent troops to reinforce. Also the Germans were being attacked by the Russians on the eastern front which meant that German troops were needed there as well. This allowed the French at Verdun to gain back several kilometres from the Germans.

▼ A The area where the Battle of Verdun took place



By the time the battle was over and the Germans called off the attack, they had lost 280,000 soldiers, used over 23,000,000 shells destroying Verdun in the process and killing about 315,000 French soldiers.

Despite losing more men the French saw themselves as the victors at Verdun yet neither side had made any real military gains.

When the war was over **170 square kilometres surrounding Verdun were declared a red zone due to unexploded bombs in the ground.** As a memorial to those that died in France, the 9 villages that were destroyed have never been rebuilt.

1B: 2.2 Key battles of WW1 - Somme

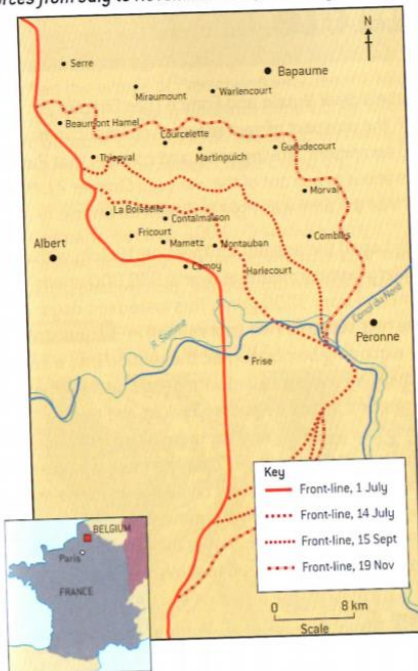
The battle of the Somme was the largest battle of the First World War taking place between the 1st of July and the 18th of November 1916. It was fought near the River Somme in northern France by both armies of French and Britain against the Germans.

More than 3 million men were involved in the battle over all and around 1,000,000 were wounded or killed making it one of the bloodiest battles ever to have taken place in history.

Since the summer of 1915 both Britain and France had been planning to Co ordinate an attack in hope of breaking the stalemate and pushing Germany back. The reason the Somme was chosen as a battle site is because that was where Britain and French lines met together. The British were led by general Sir Douglas Haig and the majority of the British forces involved were the volunteer army who had been signing up to the war since 1914.

When the Germans attacked at Verdun the British decided to attack at the Somme to try and relieve some of the pressure on the French troops. The battle began by a huge artillery bombardment of the German trenches. The idea was to destroy their front lines allowing attacking soldiers to walk across no man's land into German held territory. More than 1,500,000 shells were fired in 8 days but the Germans knew that the attack was coming because their spotter planes had seen enemy artillery moving into position. The Germans had secretly pulled back from their front lines and taken shelter in concrete dugouts. The Germans had stretched Barbed wire in a 30 metre wide band in front of their trenches and the French and British had simply lifted the wire and dropped it back down and even more tangled mess.

▼ E The advance of the British and French forces from July to November 1916, near Belgium



▼ SOURCE D The body of a German telephone operator near his dugout at the Somme, 1916



As soon as the shelling ended the British troops got into position to attack the German lines but this was also when the Germans moved into position to counter attack. The British were told they would be virtually no opposition to their attack however the Germans opened their machine guns cutting down the attacking forces easily. This led to 60,000 casualties on the first day alone.

Despite these heavy losses, the general continued to send men over the top throughout the summer as he was confident of victory. He knew he had to relieve the strain on the French forces at Verdun. Some gains were made during this battle and a new tactic the creeping barrage was developed during this time but the major breakthrough that Haig hoped for never happened.

In November of 1916 the attacks were stopped. British and French troops had gained a strip of land about 25 kilometres long and 6 kilometres wide and they'd lost around 620,000 men the Germans had lost about half a million men.

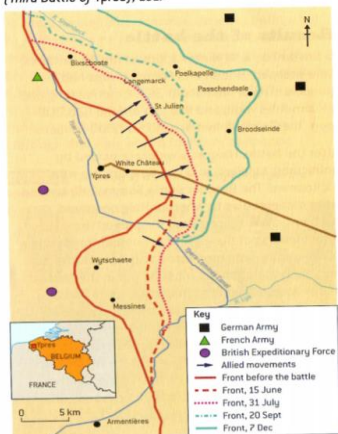
After the battle general Haig was criticised by politicians soldiers and newspapers and he was nicknamed the butcher of the Somme. There has been debate whether he deserves this title he certainly mastered the effectiveness of the eight day bombardment continued to send men into battle for months on end but his actions must be put into context of the time none of the military leaders had any experience of trench warfare on this scale. He himself argued that the battle of the Somme did achieve its main aim. This was to alleviate pressure on the French at Verdun saving hundreds of thousands of French lives and killing hundreds of thousands of German troops therefore weakening the German army.

1B: 2.2 Key battles of WW1 - Passchendaele

The soldiers fighting in the battle of Passchendaele in 1917 experienced some of the worst conditions in the entire war. The battle took place from July to November of 1917. It was fought between troops from Britain and its empire against Germany for controlling the hills South and East of the Belgian city of Ypres.

In the spring of 1917 several attacks were planned by both the French and British in an attempt to breakthrough the German lines the results were mixed. On the 9th of April the British managed to push the Germans back at Arras and British Empire forces including Canadian troops managed to capture Vimy Ridge. However, the German soon brought back up reserves and the British advanced stopped.

Advances made at the Battle of Passchendaele (Third Battle of Ypres), 1917



The French suffered a mutiny within the army after the failure of the Nivelle offensive. Half of the entire army refused to follow orders and this was only stopped when hundreds of mutineers were sentenced to death and the French army were given improved food rations preventing mutiny from continuing.

While this was going on the British attacked once more at Messines. This attack was successful because the British had dug trenches and tunnels underneath the German lines. **They laid millions of tonnes of high explosives and on the 7th of June 1917 they were detonated.** This explosion completely destroyed the Hill which opened the German lines and the British soldiers were able to push the Germans back.

Encouraged by this victory general Haig ordered the army to advance further towards the Belgian town of Ypres. Haig was convinced he could achieve a quick breakthrough here and advanced enough to capture the Belgian ports which were being used by the Germans as submarine bases. A further reason Haig thought this was a good time to attack was America just joined the war and the British were being reinforced by American troops. Also there were suspicions that Russia was about to pull out of the war as well.



The attack on Ypres started on the 18th of July with an artillery bombardment of 4,500,000 shells launching from 3000 guns and this went on for 10 days. The explosion from the shells coupled with the heaviest rainfall in 30 years turned the entire area into a quagmire of sticky mud. When the troops began their attack they had to get over the mud by laying boards down and walking on those were tricky due to the wood being slippery. If a soldier slipped off the boards into the mud they would almost certainly drown because they were weighed down by their equipment. As the battle went on, people died and their bodies were left to rot in the mud contributing to the stink.

SOURCE: An aerial view of the village of Passchendaele before and after the Third Battle of Ypres, 1917



Within the 1st week of this battle the British lost 30,000 men the artillery bombardment had also failed to destroy the German positions. The British continued to attack again and again and by October the fighting had reached the village of Passchendaele about 8 kilometres from the starting point. **The village was captured in November of 1917** and then because the conditions were so bad on the battlefield the attacks were called off.

In total 400,000 soldiers in the British in its empire were killed and injured. The Germans lost over 300,000 soldiers. General Haig's reputation was further discredited after the battle.

One of general Haig's officers commented "my God did we really send men to fight in that?"

1B: 2.3 The Wider War - Gallipoli

The background

Soon after the First World War broke out Turkey joined Germany's side. Before long Turkey and Russia were fighting each other which compelled Russia to ask their allies for aid. The British and French knew that if they could control the Dardanelles they will be able to get supplies by sea to Russia. But this was not the only reason for attacking Turkey.

The plan

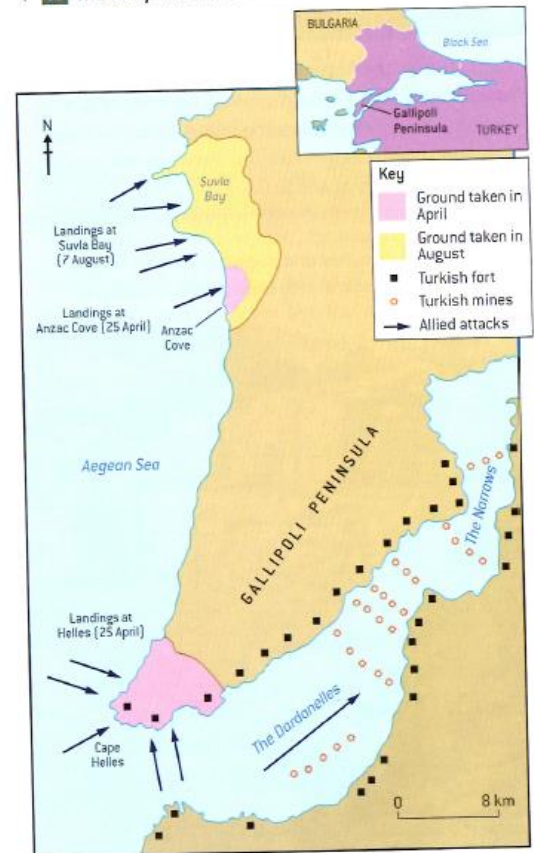
The British believed that by attacking at Gallipoli they would distract Germany's allies. Up until now Germany and Austria would only be fighting on the Eastern and Western Front. This was putting a strain on Germany so **Winston Churchill who was head of the British Navy** believed an attack on Turkey would mean the Germans would have to send soldiers to help. He believed the Turks were not very strong so it would be an easy victory which would allow British and French troops to Mount a huge attack and breakthrough enemy lines. Churchill also believed that the defeat of Turkey would allow other countries such as Greece and Bulgaria to join the war on Britain's side and defeat Austria Hungary.

Approval of the plan

Churchill thought the Navy would be able to do this task alone as it was believed that the British Navy was the most powerful in the world.

On the 15th of January 1915 the war council agreed that the plan should be put into action.

▼ A The Gallipoli Peninsula and the Dardanelles Strait



Phases of the attack

Phase 1

On 19 February 1915, British and French ships began their attack on the Turkish forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles. Several forts were hit and abandoned by the Turks. The Turks had put mines in the water so special ships, called minesweepers, were brought forward to clear them. By 25 February the entrance to the Dardanelles was clear of Turkish forts and mines.

Phase 2

The main naval attack was launched on 18 March. Eighteen large battleships, supported by smaller warships and minesweepers, sailed into the Dardanelles but soon came under a hail of shell fire from Turkish forts further up the coast. A new line of mines in the water sunk three ships and severely damaged three more. The rest of the ships retreated.

Phase 3

Churchill was told by naval commanders that they couldn't sail up to Constantinople unless the Turkish forts were destroyed – so this would mean a land invasion of Gallipoli by soldiers. Churchill agreed, and General Ian Hamilton led troops in invading Gallipoli and destroying the Turkish forts. The British were told by Greek army leaders that around 150,000 soldiers would be needed to take Gallipoli – but Lord Kitchener (a leading army general and Minister for War) felt that about half that number were needed. So, Hamilton gathered a force of 70,000 soldiers to begin the invasion on 25 April. These were mainly ANZAC (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) troops, but they also included soldiers from Britain and its Empire, and France. However, the Turks had received information ahead of the invasion and realised that an attack was coming. They quickly moved 84,000 Turkish troops along the coast and told them to prepare for an invasion from the sea.

1B: 2.3 The Wider War - Gallipoli

The land invasion

Troops began to land at Gallipoli on the 25th of April 1915 and comprised of both British and French troops. On three of the five beaches the attacks were successful but there was heavy fighting on the other two. The attack by the Anzac troops (Australia and New Zealand) went badly wrong. The Turks were waiting above on the clifftops and thousands of Anzac troops were gunned down within minutes of leaving their boats. Despite these losses the Anzacs managed to capture some of the enemy positions but they could not advance any further because the Turkish resistance was too strong so instead the British, French and Anzac troops dug trenches to protect themselves just like on the Western Front.

Trench life in Turkey

The conditions in the trenches in Turkey were terrible. There was sweltering heat, water shortages and the food was often contaminated. About 80% of the Anzac army contracted dysentery which is an infection of the intestines. In August 1915 the British landed 60,000 troops in silver Bay to try and drive the Turks out of Gallipoli but the soldiers were eventually brought back.

▼ SOURCE C Trenches and dugouts of ANZAC troops, protected by sandbags, during the Gallipoli Campaign



News reaches home

The military leaders at Gallipoli were being heavily criticised. Hamilton had been slow in making decisions which cost many lives. On the 14th of October 1915 he was replaced by general Munro. He recommended the troops should withdraw. By now the soldiers were facing the winter temperatures at Gallipoli and many suffered from frostbite and died from the cold. On the 12th of December groups of troops were led away at night awaiting boats and more than 80 thousand soldiers escaped without a single death arguably the most successful part of the entire campaign.

Results The campaign is regarded as many as a failure but there were some achievements

Failures	Success
Turkey was not knocked out the war	The campaign diverted Turkey from helping Germany
Bulgaria joined the war on Germany side	no troops died during the evacuation
Churchill resigned and took years for him to improve his reputation	a few British submarines managed to get through the Dardanelles attack Constantinople and sink Turkish warships and supplies affecting Turkey's war effort.
there were over 200,000 allied deaths	
The Russian German short supplies	

1B: 2.3 The Wider War - The war at sea

▼ **SOURCE B** British ship HMS Inflexible picking up sailors from a sunken German ship after the Battle of the Falkland Islands



The importance of control

The seas were incredibly important to have control of because they were the main way of getting supplies to where they were needed. Controlling the seas allowed the country to stop valuable supplies getting to the enemy and this tactic is known as a **blockade**.

Impact of blockades

In November 1914 the British ocean, mainly the North Sea, was a warzone and any ships entering it did so at their own risk. British sailors would stop any ships and air their cargo stopping supplies reaching Germany. This led to a shortage of coal and oil in Germany, fertilizers were in short supply so there were food shortages and also a shortage in medicines and drugs.

Early clashes

Both Britain and Germany were cautious with their navy's. This was mainly due to the fact that both cost a lot of money to build and they didn't want to risk losing them in a large scale battle. There were however small clashes between Britain and Germany. In August 1914 for example German ships were destroyed in the North Sea while in November the German sank 2 British ships off the coast of Chile. Near the Falkland Islands the British sunk four German warships and over 2000 sailors drowned and again in 1915 another German warship was destroyed in the North Sea at Dogger Bank.

Stalemate at sea

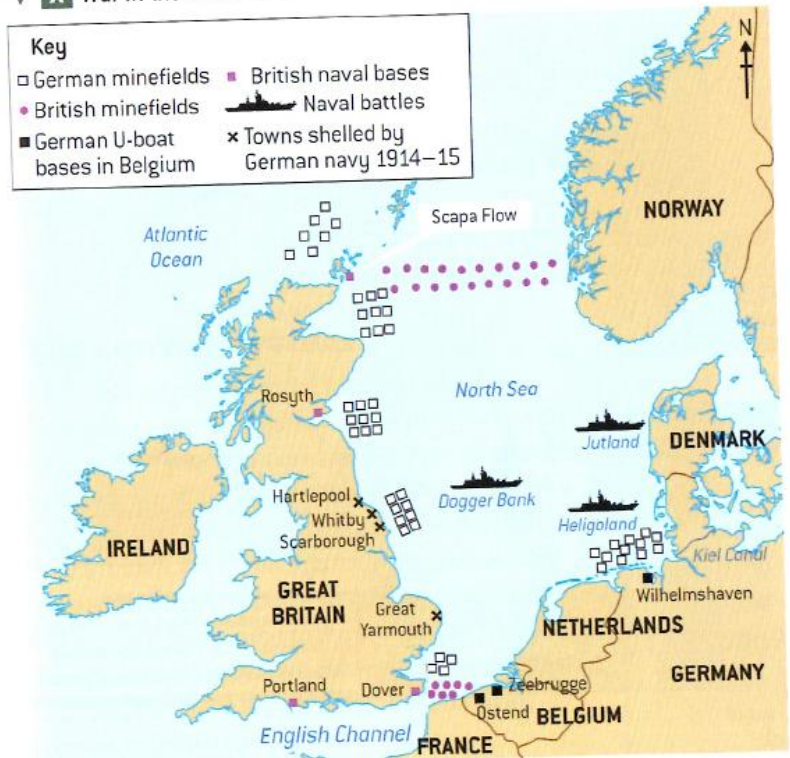
In the first 2 years of the war the British Navy spent most of its time patrolling the North Sea or near its neighbours in Scapa Flow. The German ships remain safe in their ports. During this time many ships sail between Britain and France without ever been sunk by an enemy ship.

A New German approach

The one major sea battle during World War One was at Jutland near Denmark in May 1916. Reinhard Scheer had been put in charge of the German Navy and he felt that the German Navy had been too timid up until this point. His plan aimed to bring the British out into the open so he could defeat them in the North Sea.

He planned to send a few German ships into the North Sea to act as bait under the command of Admiral Hipper. He assumed the British Navy would then sail out to attack the German ships and when they did that the rest of the German fleet leaving port one hour and a half after Hipper would sail back behind the British ships and attack them. He believed that the British would fall into this trap and be destroyed by the German fleet.

▼ A War in the North Sea



1B: 2.3 The Wider War - The war at sea

The Battle of Jutland

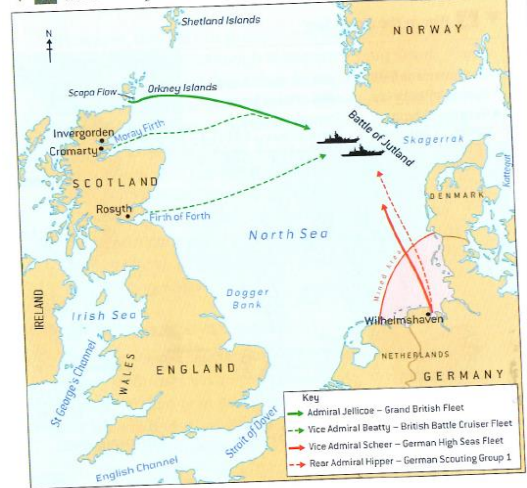
On the 31st of May the Germans set up their plan to send their ships into the North Sea. What the Germans didn't know is that the British had captured a German code book in 1914 and were listening in and decoding all of their radio messages.

The British knew this was a trap and sent a small fleet of ships under the command of Admiral Beatty to meet Admiral Hipper's bait ships.

The two fleets opened fire from 15 kilometres away and a British ship was destroyed within the first 20 minutes of the battle. Three more British ships were sunk before the rest of the German ships arrived under Admiral Scheer. Another British battleship arrived before the rest of the British fleet got there.

When the main British fleet arrived from Scapa Flow the Germans sailed North. The British thought this was another trap so it did not follow. Instead they tried to cut off the Germans where they thought they would try to return home. The two sides fought each other twice more before the Germans returned to port.

▼ E The Battle of Jutland



▼ D Total losses at the Battle of Jutland

	Britain	Germany
Battleships	0	1
Battle cruisers	3	1
Cruisers	3	4
Destroyers	8	3
Sailors killed	6100	2550

Who won the battle

The Germans claimed victory based on the number of ships destroyed and the casualties inflicted however the Germans fled the area of battle and the British fleet was ready to sail again. The Germans also failed to make any impact on the blockade plus Germany's fleet never left port again during the war.

Sinking of the Lusitania

In May 1915 the Germans sank the passenger liner Lusitania. Over 1000 passengers died including 128 Americans. There was a large public outcry over the sinking and tensions between the US and Germany increased as a result the Germans scaled back their use of U boats.

War under the sea

After Jutland the Germans relied entirely on the U boats to wage underwater war. In the early stages of the war the Germans announced all ships in British waters will be attacked and they called this unrestricted submarine warfare. The British responded by laying minefields around Britain to protect the coastline and also developing Q ships which were heavily armed warships disguised as supply ships. Despite these measures the German U boats had an important impact on Britain and they sank an average of two supply ships a day.

The second U boat campaign and convoys

By February 1917 the Germans resumed unrestricted submarine warfare due to (in no small part) the blockade surrounding Germany. By April Britain only had six weeks of food supply left. The British responded by introducing a convoy system. By sailing the supply ships close together they could be protected by warships. They also used depth charges to sink German u-boats. This was so successful that between July and August of 1917 only 5 of 800 ships were sunk by Germany.



1B: 2.3 The Wider War - The war in the air

The first aeroplanes in warfare

Airplanes were first invented in 1903 but they developed significantly during the First World War.

Initially airplanes are very slow clumsy and unreliable and they were mainly used for reconnaissance.

During the battle of the Marne airplanes spotted a gap in the German lines and it allowed the French and British troops to attack and split the German army to drive them back.



Bomber planes

Both sides used airplanes to drop bombs on enemy positions. In the first war however the bomber planes could carry small bombs but the pilots had to drop them manually.

Military engineers worked to develop new aircraft that could fly further and even bomb enemy cities.

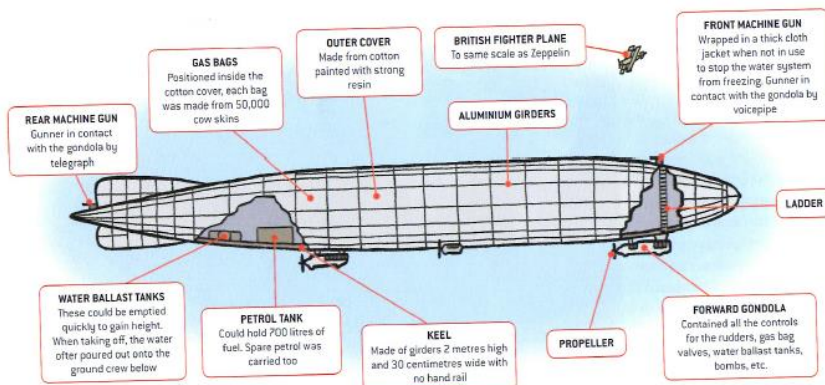
In June 1917 a 20 bomber raid on London killed 16 people including 18 children. The British responded by using their own long range bomber known as the **Handley Page** and by the end of the war these planes have flown more than 200 bombing raids over Germany.

Fighter planes

At first pilots would fight each other by shooting pistols and even throwing bricks at each other but this proved to be ineffective. Even machine guns fitted to the aircraft often shot the propellers so special mechanisms were developed that allowed machine guns to fire between the gaps of the blades.

Pilots would engage in dog fights in the skies above the trenches. Pilots with the most kills were known as aces and were regarded as heroes with the public back home.

The most famous ace pilot was the red Baron and when he was finally shot down by the British they gave him a military funeral with honours as recognition of his skill as a pilot.



Airships

Airships were both useful reconnaissance and bombings. The Germans made more use of them and developed one known as Zeppelin. Zeppelin bombed French Belgium and British cities and resulted in the deaths of more than 188 people. Airships became less used as aircraft improved as zeppelin's could be easily shot down.

1B: 2.3 The Wider War

Bulgaria joined in the war on the side of Germany and Austria-Hungary in October 1915, after promises of land after the war. Soon, Serbia was under attack from these three countries. Britain, France, Italy and Russia sent troops to help Serbia. They landed in Salonika in Greece but were immediately halted by Bulgarian troops with German support. Another front developed – the Salonika Front – and a stalemate soon developed like that on the Western Front.

Italy stayed out of the war to begin with, but joined on the side of Britain, France and Russia in 1915. They hoped they would gain land from Austria-Hungary and a share of German colonies at the end of the war. The Italians attempted to attack Austria-Hungary through the difficult Julian Alps mountain range around the Isonzo river. Eleven fierce and bloody battles were fought between 1915 and 1917 but the Italians never advanced more than 10 miles. In November 1917, the Germans scored a major victory over the Italians at the Battle of Caporetto. The Italians were pushed back and nearly knocked out of the war, but help from Britain and France prevented this from happening.

The German colony of Togoland was captured by the British and French forces in the first month of the war.

German controlled Cameroon was attacked in August 1914 and German forces put up strong resistance. The colony was eventually captured in February 1916.

South Africans, fighting for the British Empire, conquered German South West Africa (now Namibia).

In German East Africa (now Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania) German forces, under the leadership of Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, amounted to 12,000 men (3000 German and 9000 African), but they managed to keep around 200,000 Allied troops occupied until the end of the war.

Japan and Britain had been allies since 1902. In August 1914, Japan declared war on Germany and captured German colonies in the Pacific Ocean (the Mariana, Caroline and Marshall Islands) and German-controlled territory in eastern China (Kiaochow).

In the Pacific region, troops from Australia and New Zealand (ANZACs) captured German colonies Western Samoa (now Samoa) and New Guinea within a few weeks of the outbreak of war.

British and Indian troops fought the Turks in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq, Kuwait, parts of Syria and southeast Turkey). After a Turkish victory at the Siege of Kut (December 1915 to April 1916), a new British-Indian force was joined by ANZAC troops and began to drive the Turks back out of Mesopotamia and towards Turkey. The Turks also faced opposition from Arabs in the region, who wanted independence from Turkish control. Helped by a British army officer named T.E. Lawrence (known as 'Lawrence of Arabia'), the Arabs waged a hit and run war against the Turks. They attacked Turkish positions and blew up railway lines used by the Turks. At the same time, British and ANZAC troops pushed the Turkish Army further back and defeated the Turks at the battles of Beersheba and Megiddo.

The war from 1914 - 17 - Tasks

TASK 1:

Using Page 2 about Schlieffen Plan you need to:

- Explain how the failure of the Plan caused the war to develop into a stalemate.
- Explain what was important about gaining access to the sea
- Evaluate how important the failure of the plan was to the development of attrition warfare.

TASK 2:

Using pages 3, 4, 5 and you need to create a 1 page poster demonstrating what life was like in the trenches. Be sure to include;

- The layout of the trench
- The conditions in the trenches
- Daily life for the soldiers in the trenches
- Weapons the soldiers used in the trenches and on the battlefields

TASK 3:

Create a table with 3 headings (Battle, winner, Why?) and complete this table using pages 6-12 of the guide. The table may continue for several pages, so you may want to complete on the PC? Or print

Use the following battles; Verdun, Somme, Passchendaele. Gallipoli. Jutland

Winner: State which country won this battle.

Why?: Justify why using the most thorough explanation you can and taking into account all different angles

Battle	Winner	Why?

TASK 4:

Create a revision card for each key person or battle, with a picture of them on one side and key details about them on the other. If there are only a few key details then leave space, because you may find more about them in the other revision guides.

TASK 5:

Review the entire revision guide creating revision flashcards or another revision activity which focuses on key S.P.E.D (Statistics, People, Events, Dates) and other key knowledge relating to each thing you need to know. Then get a friend or parent to quiz you.

If you have friends (or acquaintances / people you know) then feel free to come and grab one of our departmental board games to use your flash cards as part of. We have zombie themed, fantasy themed and an expanding collection of other versatile board games

The war from 1914 - 17 - Quiz

1. What was the Schlieffen Plan supposed to deal with?
2. What did the plan aim to do?
3. Why was France to be attacked first?
4. Give 3 problems with the plan?
5. How long did the Belgians delay the plan by?
6. How long did it take for Russia to mobilise?
7. On what date did the Battle of the Marne begin?
8. What did Germany do when they could not win at the Marne?
9. What is it called when neither side could win?
10. Why were the trenches developed?
11. What is the name of land between 2 opposing trenches?
12. How far apart were trenches usually?
13. Why were the German trenches built better than the Allied ones?
14. What was the 3 step process to attack an enemy trench?
15. What does attrition mean?
16. How long did soldiers serve in the trenches?
17. What could happen to soldiers whose feet were permanently wet?
18. What was shell shock?
19. Which weapons was responsible for the most wounds in WW1?
20. Why were machine guns so deadly?
21. Why did the Germans want to attack Verdun?
22. When did the Battle of Verdun begin?
23. How long did this battle go on for?
24. How many high explosive shells were fired on the first day?
25. Why were the Germans not able to defeat the French at Verdun?
26. How many men did the Germans lose at Verdun compared to the French?
27. How many men were involved at the Battle of the Somme?
28. Why did the British launch their attack here?
29. What tactic was first used at the Somme?
30. What nickname did General Haig pick up because of the Somme?
31. What was the biggest problem at Passchendaele for the soldiers?
32. What did the French army do in 1917?
33. How many losses did Britain suffer at Passchendaele?
34. Why was Gallipoli chosen as a battle site?
35. What were the 3 phases of the attack?
36. Give 3 ways the trenches in Gallipoli were different to the Western Front.
37. Why did both sides claim victory about the Battle of Jutland?
38. Why did the Germans stop using U-boats in 1915 and start using them again in 1917?
39. How did planes develop during WW1?
40. Why were planes so important as the war went on?

QUESTION 3:

Write an account of how the failure of the Schlieffen Plan led to a war of attrition. (8 marks)

Write an account of how the battles of the war impacted the soldiers. (8 marks)

Write an account of the significance of new technology in WW1. (8 marks)

Write an account of the impact of the failure at Gallipoli. (8 marks)

QUESTION 4:

'The machine gun was the main reason for the war of attrition' How far do you agree?

Explain your answer. (16 marks)

'The failure of the Schlieffen Plan was the main reason for stalemate on the Western Front' How far do you agree?

Explain your answer. (16 marks)

'The actions of the generals was the main reason for so much loss of life' How far do you agree?

Explain your answer. (16 marks)