

World War I

Plunges into War

Alliances and Fronts of the War

- The Alliances

- Allies: Britain, France, Russia, Belgium and (Italy)
- Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Ottoman Empire



The Western Front

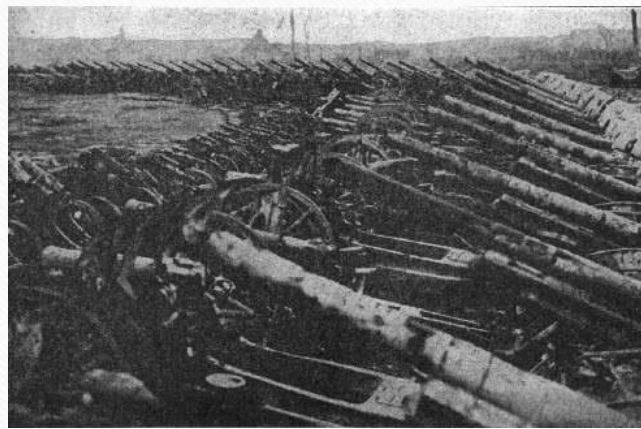
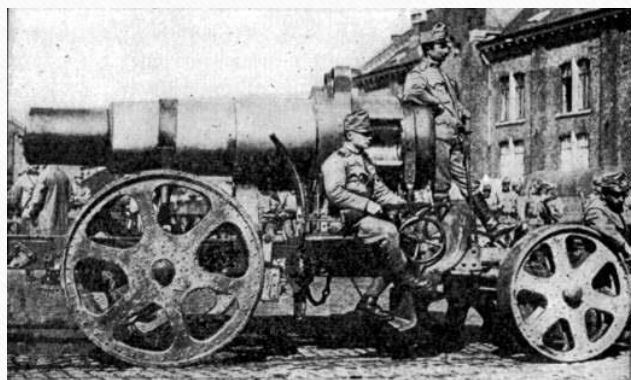
- The Schlieffen Plan (Germany)
 - “Paris for lunch, dinner in St. Petersburg.”
 - take France quickly and then turn to fight Russia
 - instead, battle lines formed in northeastern France and changed little
 - fighting was characterized by long battles that took 100’s of thousands of lives, but gained almost no ground for either side

The Western Front

- Why did Germany have the Schlieffen Plan & why did it fail?

New Weapons Used in WWI

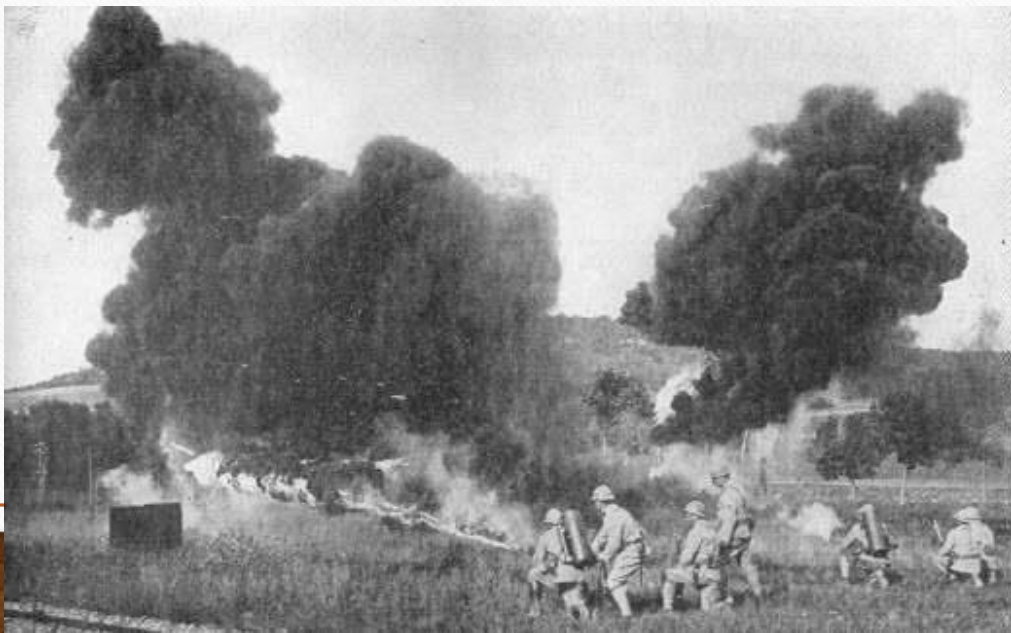
- The Machine Gun
 - modern machine guns replaced single-fire short range rifle
- Artillery
 - great power and carried much further
 - 24 million shells used in Battle of Verdun alone



Weapons of the Industrial Age

- 75 different types of poison gas bombs
- flame throwers
- tanks
- airplanes
- Submarines
- Trenches
- Machine Gun
- Battle Ship
- Heavy Artillery







Casualties of Modern Weaponry

- Tactics of sending masses of men toward enemy didn't work against modern weapons
- total losses of WWI exceeded 10 million



Q-Notes Topic:

Impact of Modern Weapons

- Essential Question: How did modern warfare impact soldiers, civilians, leaders of the time?

Confronted with this deadlock, military art remained dumb; the Commanders and their General Staffs had no plan except the frontal attack which all their experience and training had led them to reject; they had no policy except that of exhaustion.

Winston S. Churchill - *The World Crisis*



*I kneel behind the soldier's trench,
I walk 'mid shambles, smear and stench,
The dead I mourn;*

*I bear the stretcher and I bend
O'er Fritz and Pierre and Jack to mend
What shells have torn*

John Finley - *The Red Cross Spirit Speaks*



Trench Warfare

- The Race to the Sea
 - 475 miles of trenches dug across northern Europe
- Life in Trenches
 - Charging over the top, crossing no mans land
 - boring, terrifying = shell shock
 - horrible living conditions
 - POISON GAS!!!!

The Western Front

- Why did Germany have the Schlieffen Plan & why did it fail?
- How did the new weapons impact the fighting in WWI? [Hint: Why trenches?]

We set to work to bury people. We pushed them into the sides of the trenches but bits of them kept getting uncovered and sticking out, like people in a badly made bed. Hands were the worst; they would escape from the sand, pointing, begging - even waving! There was one which we all shook when we passed, saying, "Good morning," in a posh voice. Everybody did it. The bottom of the trench was springy like a mattress because of all the bodies underneath...

Leonard Thompson - quoted in
Ronald Blythe, *Akenfield*



No Man's Land



But No Man's Land is a goblin sight
When patrols crawl over at dead o' night
Boche or British, Belgian or French,
You dice with death when you cross the
trench

James H. Knight-Adkin
No Man's Land

Poison Gas



Effects of Poison Gas



Incredible Destruction





War of Attrition VERDUN, France

- 1 million dead in 6 months
- “They shall not Pass”



War of Attrition SOMME, France

- 1 million casualties in 6 months

