The War to End All Wars

The Battles of the Great War
The Powder Keg in the Balkans

By 1914, Europe was in bad situation: countries had large armies & felt glory could be gained by winning war (militarism), were competitive after years of imperialism & rise of nationalism, had large alliances that might pull all countries into war.

After years of fighting for new territory, great tension in Balkans
On June 28, 1914, Franz Ferdinand was assassinated.
The War Begins

- On July 23, Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to Serbia:
  - Either allow Austria-Hungarian officials to investigate the assassination … **OR** …
  - Go to war

- On July 28, 1914 Serbia declined the ultimatum & Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia
World War 1 Begins

Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia & its ally Russia on July 28, 1914. Serbia declined the ultimatum.

On August 1, 1914, Germany declared war on Russia. On August 3, 1914, Germany declared war on France. Italy backed out of its agreement with Austria-Hungary and joined the Allies. On August 4, 1914, England declared war on Germany & Austria-Hungary.
New French Recruits
Schlieffen Plan

**Problem**: Germany had enemies on both west & east borders

**Solution**: Germany could defeat France quickly before Russia could enter war; Then fight Russia
The Schlieffen Plan

France anticipated a German attack & built up defenses between France & Germany. But... the Germans went AROUND these defenses & attacked through Belgium.
Meanwhile, Russia mobilized faster than expected, so Germany had to divert troops from France to fight the Russia army. The German army had early wins & seemed ready to take Paris. But, English & French saved Paris at the Battle of the Marne. Because France was not taken quickly & Russia got ready too fast, Germany had to abandon the Schlieffen Plan & fight a 2-front war.
Total War

World War 1 became the 1st war to use **total war** tactics

– Governments committed all their nation’s resources & took over industry to win the war

– Soldiers were drafted, the media was censored, propaganda was created to support the war

– The enemy became the other nation, not just its soldiers
World War I

Changes in Weaponry
1. Machine Gun
Usually, they were manned by 4 to 6 men. They could shoot 400 to 600 caliber shots per minute; however, they frequently jammed because they overheated. Water had to be on hand to cool the weapon down.
Grenade Launchers

Flame Throwers
2. Tanks
Tanks helped end the stalemate in the trenches; however, they had their problems. They were often not reliable by getting stuck in the mud or ditches or would break down.
3. U-boats (Submarines)
Germany invented the U-boat, a type of submarine that could venture deeper into waters and hold more weight at higher speeds than previous submarines. This caused countries to begin developing better submarines. A long time ago, submarine warfare was considered an unethical warfare tactic from the typical navy battleship; however, this changed during WWI. Torpedoes were added to them as well.
Allied Ships Sunk by U-Boats

Ships sunk by U-boats, Sept 1916-April 1917
4. Chemical Warfare (gas attacks)
There were three types in particular used:

a. Lachrymator—Much like today's tear gas and mace, this gas caused temporary blindness and greatly inflamed the nose and throat of the victim. A gas mask offered very good protection from this type of gas.
b. Asphyxiant- These were poisonous gases. This class includes chlorine, phosgene and diphosgene. Diphosgene is the deadliest and cannot be filtered out by standard issued gas masks.
c. Blistering agent- *Dichlorethylsulphide*: the most dreaded of all chemical weapons in World War I was Mustard gas. Unlike the other gases, which attack the respiratory system, this gas acts on any exposed, moist skin. This includes the eyes, lungs, armpits and groin. A gas mask offered very little protection from this type of agent.
The oily agent would produce large burn-like blisters wherever it came in contact with skin. It also had a nasty way of hanging about in low areas for hours, even days, after being dispersed.
5. The Zeppelin
No.....not this Zeppelin.....this one
The Zeppelin, also known as the blimp, was an airship that was used during the early part of the war in bombing raids by the Germans. They carried machine guns and bombs.
The Zeppelin
However, they were abandoned because they were easy to shoot out of the sky.
6. Planes
Planes were used for the first time. At first, they were used to deliver bombs and spying but later they became fighter aircraft armed with machine guns, bombs, and even cannons.
Fights between two planes in the sky became known as *dogfights*.
Total War

- New weapons were introduced: Machine guns, tanks, airplanes, flame throwers, poison gas, blimps, heavy artillery, submarines (u-boats)
- To protect themselves from the enemy, both the Allies & Central Powers built trenches
Realities of War Video

- Whitehead Torpedo
- Searchlight for Aircraft and Field Service
- Anti-Aircraft Gun
- Armored Tractor—Tank
- Springfield Rifle and Bayonet
- Lewis Machine Gun
- Colt Automatic Pistol
- Armored Motor Cycle
- Armored Motor Car
Military Tactics and Advances in World War I

Trench Warfare
**Trench**: a long, narrow passageway dug into the ground to serve as a shelter from enemy fire or attack.
• **Germans were the first to dig trenches in WWI**
  - Allies soon copied the practice
  - Germans had better areas, especially high grounds
  - Gave tactical advantages, as well as better life for troops in trenches
Frontline Trenches

- Usually approx 7 feet deep and 6 feet wide
- Front of trench = parapet
- Protected by barbed wire and machine gun posts
• Top 2 or 3 feet on the parapet and the parados (the rear side of trench) would have a thick line of sandbags
  – Absorbed bullets and shell fragments
• Duck boards placed at bottom of trench
  – Attempt to protect soldiers from trench foot, an infection caused by cold, wet, and unsanitary conditions
Trenches very often became water-logged
• Trenches were often below sea level
  – Flooded when rained (very often)
• Men stood in water for hours, sometimes days
  – Could not remove their wet socks or boots
• The feet would eventually go numb and the skin would turn red or blue
• If untreated, trench foot could turn gangrenous and result in amputation

• The only remedy was for soldiers to dry feet and change their socks several times a day
  – By end of 1915, British soldiers required to have 3 pairs of socks with them, and were under orders to change 2 times a day
  – Soldiers were told to dry feet, and cover with grease made from whale oil
Would you have "gone over the top"?

"No Man’s Land"
• Term used by soldiers to describe the land between the opposing trenches
• Very Dangerous to enter
  • Full of barbed wire
  • May be full of broken and abandoned equipment
  • After an attack, No Man’s Land would be full of bodies
Dysentery

• Disease that causes inflammation of the lining of the large intestine
  • Causes stomach pains and diarrhea
  • Can also include vomiting and fever
• Bacteria enters body through the mouth
  • Infected food or water
  • Can also be transmitted through contact with human feces
• Causes people to lose important salts and fluids
  • Can be fatal if body dehydrates
• Issue due to lack of proper sanitation in the trenches
Dysentery was especially bad at the start of the war

- Soldiers were supplied with refillable water bottles, but had little opportunity to fill with clean water
- Filled with water from shell holes or other cavities

Many of those killed were buried in the trench, which only added to the contamination
Decomposing bodies also attracted rats, which became a major health hazard as well.
Das Ergebnis einer viertelstündigen Kattenjagd in einem englischen Schützengraben.

Het resultaat van een rattenjacht van een kwartier in een Engelsche loopgraaf.

Le tableau d'une chasse aux rats d'un quart d'heure dans une tranchée anglaise.
• Lice were also a problem
  – Various methods used to remove
  – Lighted candles were effective, but difficult to use without burning clothes or skin
  – Army arranged for baths in hot water while clothes were put through delousing machines
    • A good portion of eggs survived, and within two or three hours, the man’s body heat would hatch the eggs.
I’m trying to get the lice out! I can’t seem to be able to though!

I can’t get the lice out of my clothes either!
Besides scratching, lice carried disease:

- Known as pyrexia or trench fever
- First symptoms were shooting pains in shins, followed by high fever
• Soldiers in trenches were also susceptible to gas attacks
  – An estimated 91,200 soldiers died as a result of poison gas attacks and another 1.2 million were hospitalized from it.
But in the end, trench warfare only created a stalemate.
Total War

- Trench warfare made it difficult for either side to win a victory.
- World War I became a war of attrition in which both the Allies & the Central Powers tried to out-last & wear down the enemy.
German Women Factory Workers
Recruitment Posters

London Opinion

Your country needs you.

1d London Opinion 1d
Anti-German Propaganda

Beat back the HUN with LIBERTY BONDS
The Great War was a "world war". Canada, Australia, & New Zealand supported Britain. France & Germany used African troops. Japan joined to take German colonies in South East Asia. Ottoman allied with Germany. England used Indian troops. Canada, Australia, & New Zealand supported Britain.
Chinese Soldiers
Mapping the Battles of WWI

- Identify the Allied Powers & the Central Powers
- Draw arrows representing the Schlieffen Plan
- Identify the Western Front, Eastern Front, and the Italian Front
The Schlieffen Plan

France anticipated a German attack & built up defenses between France & Germany. But...the Germans went AROUND these defenses & attacked through Belgium.