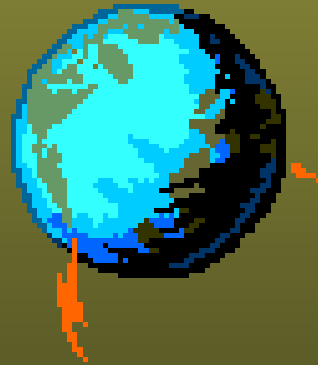


World War I



World War I Weapons



KEY WEAPONS OF WWI

- Gas
- Tanks
- Machine Guns
- Rifles and bayonets
- Grenades
- Artillery
- Submarines
- Flame Throwers
- Airplanes and zeppelins

A Deadly Weapon

GAS

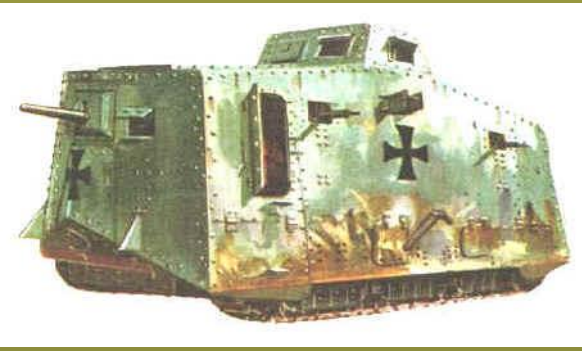
- As World War I went on, poison gas was used more often everyday.
- Introduced by the German army in 1915 at the Battle of Ypres, the gas could be shot out of a special gun or be bombed from planes.
- The gas was made up of many different chemicals, including Chlorine and Phosgene and (Mustard Gas). Anyone breathing it could become very sick or even be killed instantly.

Australian infantry with gas masks, Ypres, 1917.



German warning bell for gas.





The Tank

German Schwerer

Kampfwagen A7V

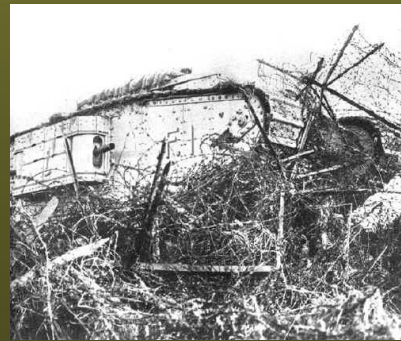


Gunners and drivers of a Canadian Army motor machine gun detachment cleaning their weapons and vehicles after a successful operation in the Somme area.

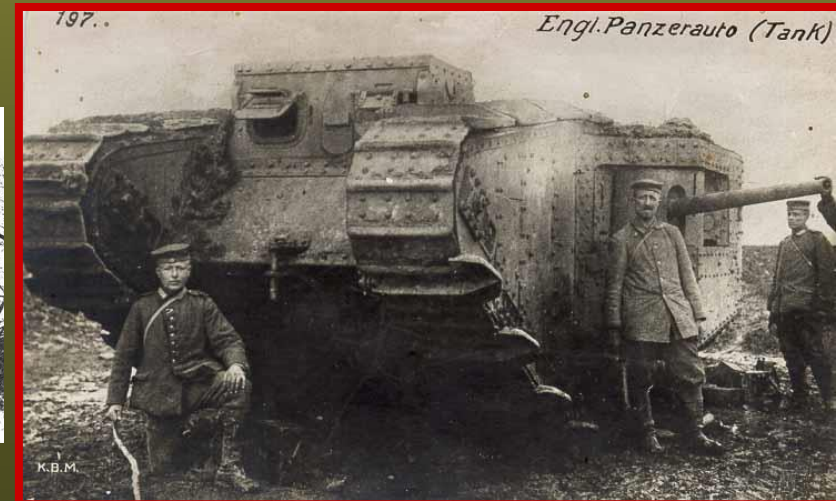
- idea of the tank inspired by farming vehicles that used caterpillar tracks.
- Armored vehicles were already made, but they weren't able to cross trenches.
- The first tank was used by the British at the Battle of Somme. The name tank came when the British tried to hide the armored cars in crates marked as "Tanks".
- Maximum speed 3 mph.



Climbing and crossing



Breaking through



Germans with a captured British tank; the tracks at the front are higher in order to climb obstacles, and the side-mounted guns keep the centre of gravity low.

The Machine Gun



Above—American Negro Machine Gunners in the Marne Sector in France.
Below—In the trenches: a French Officer explaining operation of the hand grenades to Senegalese and American Negro soldiers.



This is a WWI German Maxim machine gun 7.92 mm (MG08/15). It is named after its inventor, Hiram Maxim.



The machine gun was one of the decisive technologies during World War I.

Picture: British Vickers machine gun crew on the

Western Front.

During World War I most of the fighting happened in the trenches. The armies dug deep trenches into the ground and faced each other and used machine guns to fire 300 to 350 rounds per minute and required 4-6 men to operate them.

"The enemy started to advance in mass down the railway cutting, about 800 yards off, and Maurice Dease fired his two machine-guns into them and absolutely mowed them down. I should judge without exaggeration that he killed at least 500 in two minutes. The whole cutting was full of bodies and this cheered us all up." (Tower 10)

A Canadian Failure: The Ross Rifle

The Ross rifle was the principal weapon of the Canadian corps in Europe during WWI, and it turned out as a complete failure. The Ross Mark III rifle was too sensitive for dirt and fouling and overheated easily during intense battles. The Ross was dropped by the Can. Army in 1917 and replaced with reliable British Lee Enfield Rifle

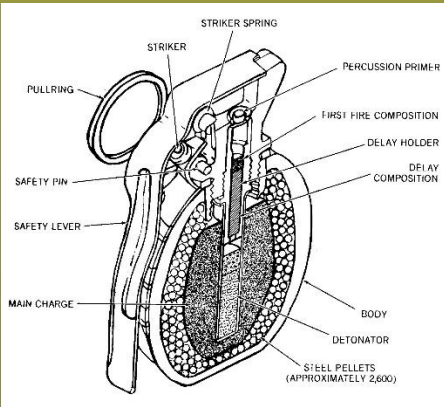


Ross Rifle, Mark III



bayonet

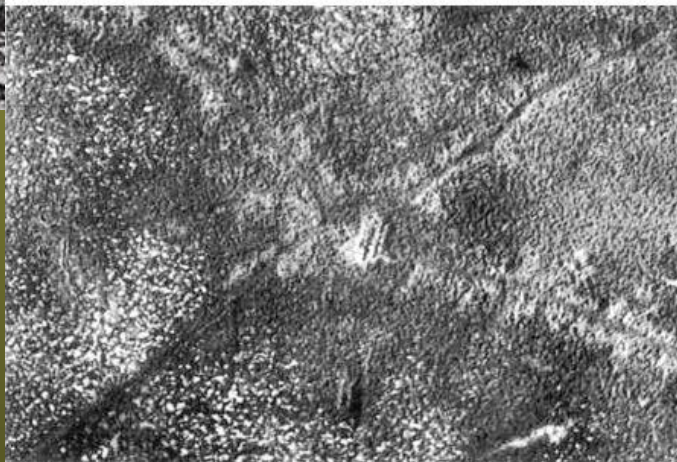
GRENADES



Mills Bomb invented 1915 by British; 75 million were used during World War One



ARTILLERY



Loading a 15-inch howitzer

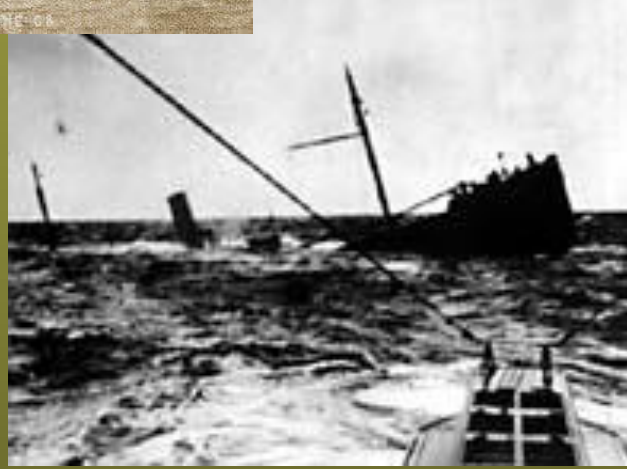
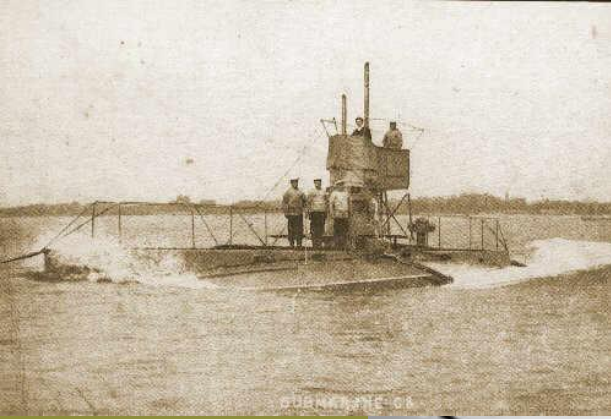
—
Passchendaele village, before
and after the 3rd Battle of Ypres.

The devastation of Ypres -
barely a building was left
undamaged by shell
bombardment

In August 1914, the British Army had 1,226 of the 18 pounders. Such was its reliability, that by the end of the war, the army had 9,424 in service. The 18 pounder could fire shells of high explosives of between 4.6 kg and 8.4 kg. The 18 pounder had a range of 5,966 meters



Submarines



The submarines were not considered much of a threat at the beginning of World War I, but it wasn't long until they became a major threat for both sides. A submarine is a ship that travels under water. Germany's were called U-Boats. Most submarines are used in the war to attack enemy ships with torpedoes.



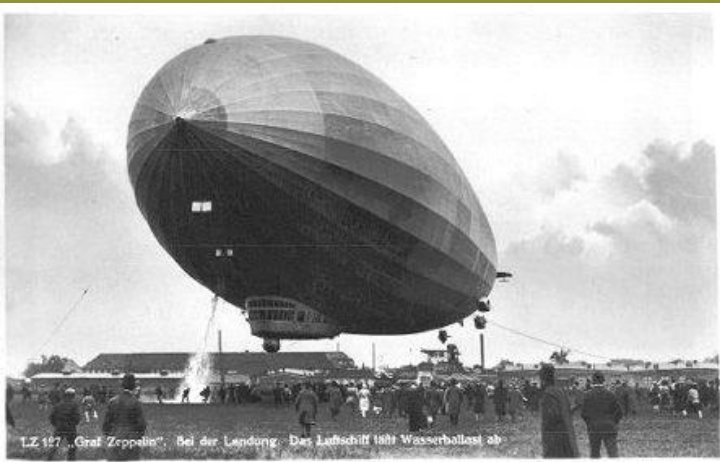
The Flamethrower



- The Flamethrower, which brought horror to the French and British soldiers during WWI, was first used by the German army. The flame-thrower used pressurized air, carbon dioxide or nitrogen to force oil through a nozzle. Ignited by a small charge, the oil became a jet of flame.
- The basic idea of the flamethrower was to spread flames throughout the battlefield or trench to terminate any enemy infantry.



World War I Airplanes and Pilots



"We do not consider that aeroplanes will be of any possible use for war purposes"

— *Richard Haldane*
British Secretary of War, 1910

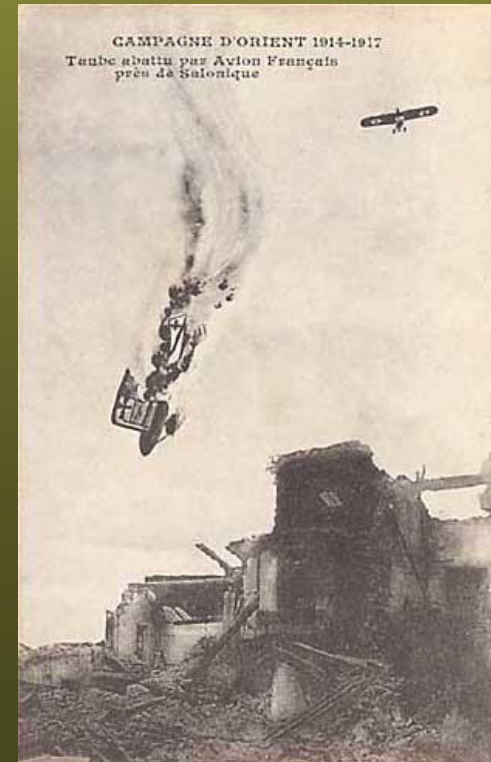
88 Zeppelins were built during the war. Over 60 were lost, roughly evenly divided between accident and enemy action. Fifty-one raids were undertaken, in which 5,806 bombs were dropped, killing 557 people and injuring 1,358.



World War I Planes



Bristol fighter bi-plane, 1917 (British)



- WWI was the first war to have airplanes used as weapons. This changed the way wars were fought.
- The planes were quite small and were made from wood and canvas and thus were quite fragile and crashed easily
- Planes became fighter aircraft armed with machine guns and bombs; they were also used for reconnaissance work
- Pilots known as "aces" would often engage enemy aircraft in the air, in "dogfights"



The Red Baron



Manfred von Richthofen, known as "The Red Baron" was an elite German fighter pilot famous for his ability in dogfights; he was eventually shot down and killed by a Canadian ace fighter.



The Red Baron was famous for the Fokker Triplane that he flew with great success.

Canadian Flying Ace: Billy Bishop



Billy Bishop as a cadet, ca. 1914 – age 20



- **Here is Billy Bishop "a man incapable of fear" - according to one American ace - and a Nieuport 17**
- **Bishop totaled 47 "kills" during WWI and earned a Victoria Cross medal for bravery**

Resources

- <http://www.firstworldwar.com/>
- <http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/timeline/>
- <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/w1frm.htm>
- <http://www.firstworldwar.com/timeline/>
- Medals [Online images] available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/medals.asp>
- "World War One." [World Book](#). ed. 1989. Parenthetical Within Text (World War One 454-469)
- Images and Videos from Multimedia Project Kit Resource CD
- Microsoft Clipart Online
- Flamethrower, gasmask, gun submarine, and tank, [online images] available at <http://www.firstworldwar.com/weaponry/machineguns.htm>
- Bi-planes [online images] available at www.century-of-flightsfreeola.com