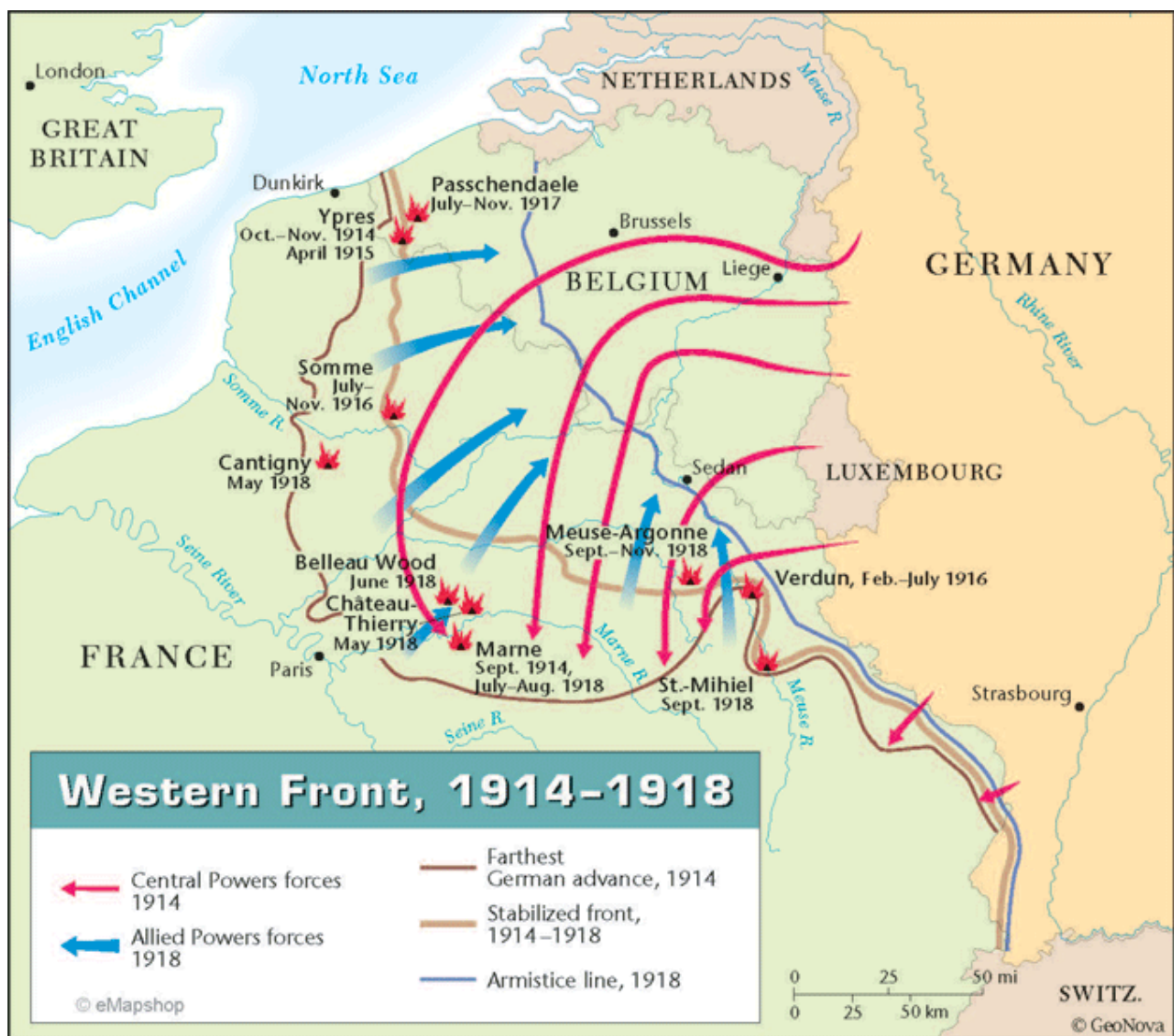


OVERVIEW of WORLD WAR 1

Route 2

In your overview, using the Rogers-Thomas text, please be sure to include a text primary source, an image text source, and if you have time a link to a YouTube video. Feel free to add more sources.

THE WESTERN FRONT (Britain and France vs. Germany)



- Schlieffen Plan
 - wars of German unification convinced strategists that rapid mobilization and strong opening attack were key elements necessary for victory
 - Schlieffen Plan → quickly defeat France, then attack Russia
 - attack the unsuspecting French forces defending the German border from behind (via Belgium → northern France → west of Paris)
 - then move to the Russian border to confront the Russian Army, which, given its large army and larger land mass, would have just mobilized
 - Why did the Schlieffen Plan fail?
 - the attack on Belgium brought Britain, who, in the 1839 Treaty of London, vowed to guarantee Belgium's neutrality, into the war
 - Belgian resistance was unexpectedly strong → Germans took more than two weeks to capture Brussels → this freed the Channel ports and allowed the Britain to organize their troops → British Expeditionary Force could land
 - Some German troops transferred to the Eastern front, and transporting supplies (food and ammunition) was difficult → this weakened the German army → they attacked Paris from the east, rather than the west, which would have given Germany control over the French government
 - France sent reservists to meet the Germans troops via taxi → 9 Sept. 1914 -- Battle of Marne
- 'Race to the Sea'
 - each army tried to outflank the other to get behind them and cut them off
 - result: in both sides built trenches from the Alps to the Channel coast → this was the cause of trench warfare
- 1915 Stalemate
 - Nov. 1914 -- Battle of Ypres → both Britain and Germany failed to break through each other's defenses
 - Dec. 1914 France failed at Artois and Champagne
 - 1915 British failed at Neuve Chapelle and Loos
 - 1915 French failed at Champagne
 - end of the stalemate → April 1915 Allies drove the Germans back
- Feb. 1916 -- Battle at Verdun → Germany launched a massive attack on Verdun, an important French fortress town
 - Erich von Falkenhayn's Plan: *"Just behind the French lines on the Western Front there are objectives which the French command must defend to the last man. If it so defends them the French army will be exhausted by its bloody losses in the inevitable combat, regardless of whether or not we win the objectives immediately. If, on the other hand, it lets them go, the damage to French morale will be enormous... The essential question is not to take Verdun... but to pin the French, pull them towards the battlefield, and since they will have to defeat it shoulder to shoulder, we shall bleed them white by virtue of our superiority in guns."*
 - behind the French lines → 'objectives' (e.g. World Trade Center)

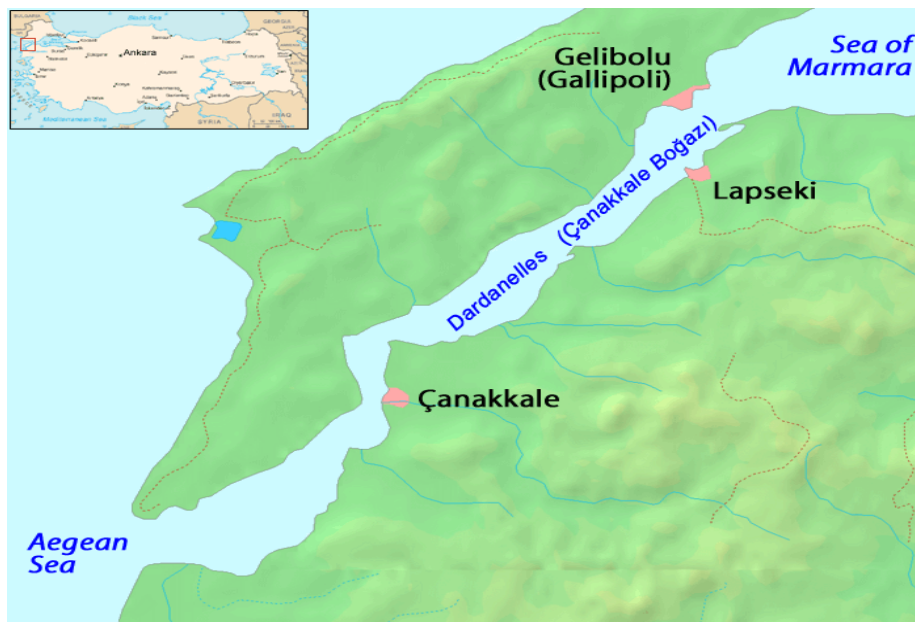
- if Germany attacks these 'objectives', France must
 - defend them, and lose many men in the process
 - give them up, and damage their own morale
 - by attacking, Germany can draw France onto the battlefield and defeat them by sheer superiority
 - Results
 - French casualties → 315,000 men
 - German casualties → 280,000 men
 - Falkenhayn did not expect such heavy German casualties
 - total casualties → 800,000 men
 - broke all records for killing and destruction
- 1 July ~ Nov. 1916 -- Battle at Somme
 - Aims
 - take some pressure off the French at Verdun
 - ensure that Germany could not send reinforcements to the Eastern Front
 - both sides engaged in the most intensive preliminary bombardment attempted to destroy their enemy's forward defenses → this failed
 - Results
 - limited advances (between 4 km and 50 km) by the Allies
 - British casualties → 418,000
 - German casualties → 650,000
 - French → 194,000
- Feb 1917 -- Germans withdrew behind the heavily fortified Hindenburg Line (trenches)
- Stalemate continued → France faced mutiny and courts martials
- 4 April 1917 -- US declared war on Germany
 - Causes
 - America had suffered due to and disliked Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare in the Atlantic
 - British intercepted the Zimmerman Telegram
 - Zimmerman Telegram = attack the US in the South in exchange for three states
 - However, the Western Front still looked bleak because...
 - it took some time for America's troops to arrive in Europe
 - French army was recovering from mutinies
 - successful Bolshevik Revolution → armistice between Russia and Germany → Germany could focus on fighting at the Western Front
- 1918 -- Allied Victory
 - Erich Ludendorff 'Peace Offensive'
 - Causes
 - Allied blockade → Germany was near starvation
 - threat that the US troops would soon join the war
 - Plan
 - preliminary bombardment

- small bands of specially trained, lightly equipped 'storm troopers'
- Germany made rapid advances → overstretched themselves with no reserves
- 8 Aug. 1918 -- Allies achieved their furthest advance
- Germany was weak because...
 - low morale, hunger, and indiscipline
 - Allied blockade → Germany's allies surrendered
- 11 Nov. 1918 -- Armistice → ended the fighting between the Allies and Germany
 - Terms
 - terminate military hostilities
 - remove German all troops from France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Alsace-Lorraine; territory on both sides of the Rhine (which the Allies will occupy); the Eastern Front
 - renounce the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Russia and the Treaty of Bucharest with Romania
 - confine the German fleet and surrender all other weapons
 - signed in Foch's railway siding in the Forest of Compiegne

THE EASTERN FRONT



- (1914) The Schlieffen Plan flopped due to tough Belgian resistance, France not being defeated, and Russia mobilising faster than expected
 - Russia moved into East Prussia (Eastern Germany), forcing the Germans to divert troops to the East - something they had wanted to avoid
 - In general, Germany had to prop up the Austrians, forcing Germany to send troops - Russia for the most part lost battles, men and materials
 - Turkey joined the war on the side of Germany (hoping to revitalize its empire), making Russia nervous about being cut off from receiving supplies via the Dardanelles



- (1915) The Russians were pounded back 450km and had to dig in.
 - grossly under-equipped
 - continued defeats (1 million dead, 1 million prisoners)
 - Turkey blockaded Russia from receiving supplies (in the Dardanelles)
- (1916-17) Britain and France pressured Russia to launch an offensive on the Eastern Front; the Russians prepared better equipment
 - June 4 1916 Brusilov Offensive launched, but were pushed back (1 million Russians killed)
 - PRIMARY SOURCE:

In 1915 Hamilton Fyfe began reporting the war on the Eastern Front for the Daily Mail.

Brussilov was the ablest of the army-group commanders. His front was in good order. For that reason we were sent to it. The impression I got in April was the Russian troops, all the men and most of the officers, were magnificent material who were being wasted because of the incompetence, intrigues, and corruption of the men who governed the country.

In June Brussilov's advance showed what they could do, when they were furnished with sufficient weapons and ammunition. But that effort was wasted, too, for want of other blows to supplement it, for want of any definite plan of campaign.

The Russian officers, brutal as they often were to their men (many of them scarcely considered privates to be human), were as a rule friendly and helpful to us. They showed us all we wanted to see. They always cheerfully provided for Arthur Ransome (a fellow journalist), who could not ride owing to some disablement, a cart to get about in.

- Austria-Hungary had huge losses as well
- Morale in A-H and Russia suffers: in Russia many people lost support for the Tsar, who was forced to abdicate the throne
 - A provisional government was set up, conveniently called the Provisional Government, but continued the war and thus continued the losses and hardships on Russians
 - Russian economy suffered, giving more support to the Bolshevik party, which plotted to overthrow the cleverly named Provisional Government (which the successfully did in October 1917)
 - The Bolsheviks pulled Russia from the war, signing a controversial treaty (Brest-Litovsk), and giving Germany more resources for the Eastern Front and other theatres of war

The Balkan Front

- There was another front in the Balkans, which was dominated by the Central Powers - Bulgaria, Austria-Hungary, Germany and Turkey
 - Romania was dragged into the conflict but chose to support Russia
- Allies finally won in 1918

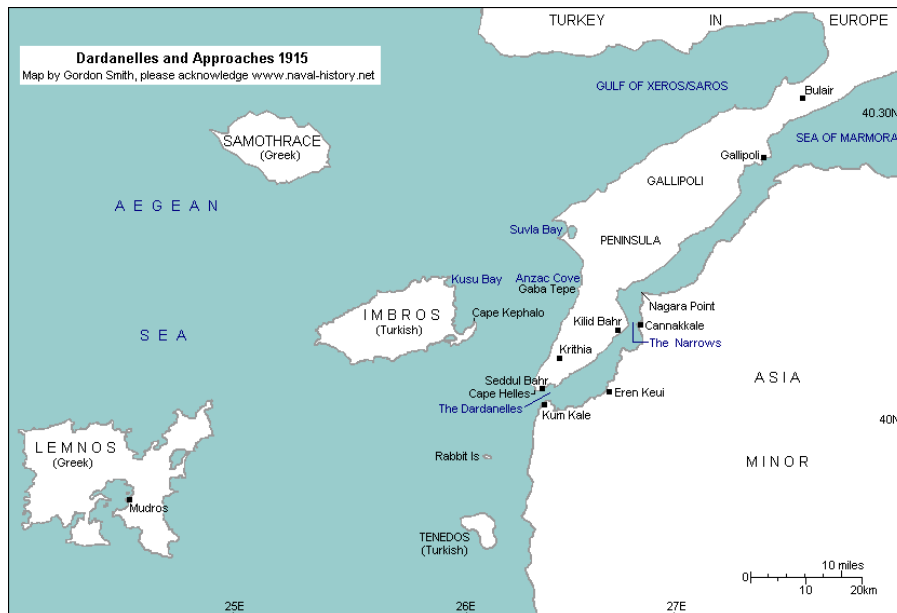
The Italian Front

- Britain and France promised Italy territory from Austria and the along the Adriatic, so in 1915 the Italians joined the Allies
- The Italians had problems fighting in the mountains, and as usual the Germans supported the Austrians and thwarted any Italian efforts until the British arrived
 - the opening of the Italian Front did, in fact, drain some of the Central Powers' resources

Turkey & the Middle Eastern Fronts

- The Turks joined in 1914 in an effort to thwart (there's that word again) the efforts of Russia to expand into the Balkan and Black Sea areas
- The Allies attempted to push Turkey out of the war and get a waterway to Russia (to help supply their ally); they could also march through the Balkans to avoid the stalemate on the Eastern Front

- This became known as The Gallipoli Campaign, with British general but mostly Australian and New Zealand soldiers (ANZACs)
- Step 1: The naval bombardment flopped
- Step 2: A poorly coordinated and poorly planned land invasion that started on April 25th 1915 and resulted in 250,000 deaths, injured or captured (they abandoned the campaign in November of the same year)



Song: [And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda](#) (includes lyrics)

- A second effort: attacked Iraq to gain oil supplies; fierce resistance but eventually the Allies won

- A third effort included Brits, Indians, Anzacs pushing Turks back into Turkey through Palestine
 - The Arabs were promised independence if they fought a guerilla war; T.E. Lawrence (aka, Lawrence of Arabia) became the famous British leader for advising the Arabs
- Turkey finally surrendered on Nov. 3rd 1918 (holding out pretty much until the end of the war)



The Role of the Colonies / War in the Territories

- Britain dominated the seas and oceans, and thus attacked colonies of their enemies (usually poorly garrisoned and pretty easy to capture)
- People in the colonies were involved in the fighting (for Britain this included Canadians, Indians, South Africans, Anzacs, and more; the French recruited many West Africans)
 - although some non-whites had hoped to reran respect they were treated poorly and faced a great deal of racism (in fact, African and Native Canadians, for

example, weren't allowed to enlist until Canada was desperate for new recruits!)

[Book](#)

- Japan joined in hopes of taking Germany's Pacific colonies; Germany lost them all eventually

THE AIR WAR

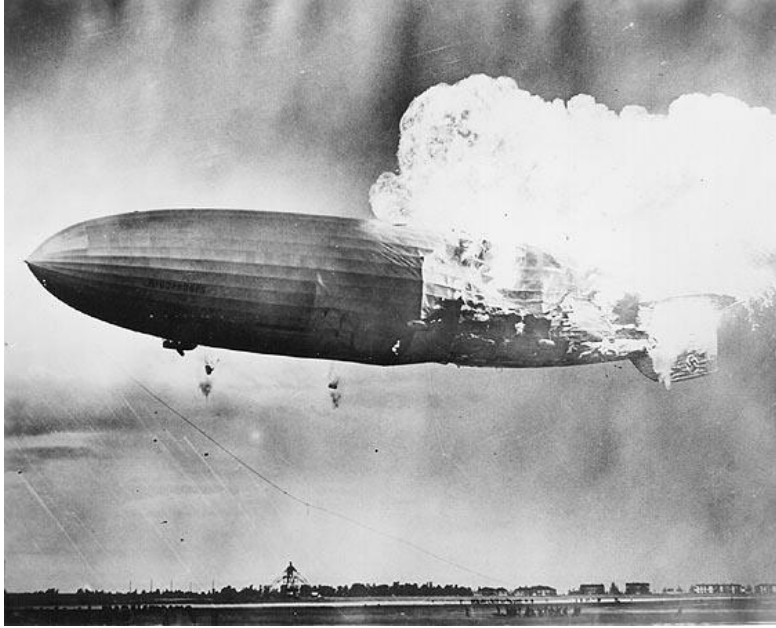
air crafts were used as military weapons in the first time in WW1.

(Suzie)

Airships, bombs and civilian targets

Airships

- initially considered more useful than aeroplane
- British used for escorting ships and for spotting U-boats
 - greater range
 - reliable
 - carry heavy loads
- However, Germans realized airships' potential as weapons= dropping bombs on civilians and industrial targets in Britain
 - ex. 30 Zeppelins (more advanced German airship) contained 57,000 cubic meters of highly flammable hydrogen= easy target= replaced with Gotha
 - Gotha(bomber aircraft) caused nearly 3,000 casualties in raids against London and south-east England



- As a response Britain developed their own bomber fleet as part of Royal Flying Corps (RFC)
 - By the last year of the war British aircrafts could make bombing raids into enemy territory as well
 - By February 1918, first 'round the clock' raids, with British DH4 planes attacking town of Trier by day and Handley-Page attacking at night
 - In March, raids on Manheim, Mainz and Stuttgart during day

Attacking Civilians from the air became feature of 20th-Century war by 1918

Aircraft-reconnaissance, dog-fights and ground attack

- Aircraft were recently invented at the beginning of the war = primitive & unreliable
- HOWEVER they become crucial on battlefields.
 - speed+mobility= **reconnaissance** work over enemy trenches
 - pilot report on troop concentration, artillery positions and enemy movements and directing the fire of their own artillery position target
 - technical progression
 - by 1918 photographic images could be taken as high as 4500m
 - messages could be dropped from the aircraft, including propaganda
 - aerial wireless developed = communication between aircraft and the ground
 - Dog Fights
 - Airmen in the reconnaissance planes started to use weapons to bring down rival reconnaissance flights
 - First started with rifles and pistols

- by 1915, machine guns were fitted and synchronized so that they could shoot through the propeller (Dutch Fokker)
 - Soon became a common sight over the trenches
- Ground-attack aircraft
 - ex. in 1918, played big part in Allied victory
 - dropped 1563 bombs and firing 122,150 rounds of machine-gun ammunition in support of land offensives.
- growing awareness of the importance of air power = aircraft evolved rapidly
 - # of aircrafts grew
 - by 1918, more than 8000 aircraft in operation on all sides
 - Politicians and commanders in all countries realized the key role in undermining enemy's morale
 - The end of WW1 was determined by what happened on ground BUT change in strategy and tactic, involving aircrafts, signaled new type of warfare.

THE WAR AT SEA

(Jiwoo)

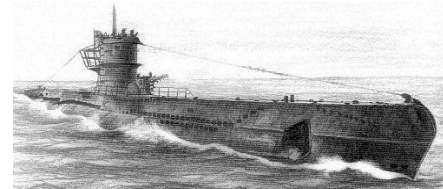
The Importance of Naval Warfare in World War I

- Britain
 - The control of sea was crucial to Britain
 - to be able to transport men and supplies to the battlefields of Europe and the Middle East
 - key to country's survival
 - as an island country, sea was its major access to food and industrial supplies from the other countries, particularly from the USA
 - Thus, Britain was cautious in its use of its navies; it could not risk losing many ships to mines and submarines or in surface battles.
- Germany
 - Germany did not need naval routes to supply and help its allies. However, Germany also needed food and other supplies from overseas.
- Therefore, the control of naval trade routes was vital to both Germany and Britain, both for their own needs and to stop supplies reaching the enemy (blockade).
- Britain's success in pursuing the latter objective
 - Royal Navy vessels went into action against German units stationed abroad, and destroyed one of the main German squadrons at the battle of the Falkland Islands in 1914.

- The Allies also started blockading German ports; British naval vessels enforced the right of search on neutral shipping to ensure that Germany and its allies were not getting supplies through other countries.

Mines and Submarines

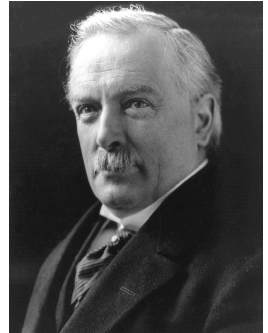
- Germans turned to submarine attacks and tried to enforce their own blockade of Britain using U-boats to sink merchant ships
 - U-boats
 - Unterseebooten - meaning 'underwater boats'
- Submarines, also the use of sea mines, changed the conduct of naval warfare
 - Before the use of sea mines
 - Naval attacks had been carried out on the surface, often at close range.
 - With the development of the torpedo and submarine
 - made the large battleships vulnerable and almost defenceless
 - the submarine campaign caused serious loss of Allied ships and cargoes
 - submarine warfare was also politically dangerous warfare.
 - Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
 - emphasized on Germany's inclination to the unregulated usage of its submarines or U-boats to attack without any warnings in the war-zone waters around Britain.
 - some of the ships sunk belonged to neutral countries
 - the sinking of Lusitania by torpedo attack and the lost of 1,000 lives, including 128 Americans
 - led to a strong protest from the USA
 - contributed to America's involvement in the war
 - Germans scaled down their U-boat campaign in September 1915 to keep America out of the war
 - However, the failure at The Battle of Jutland led to a decision to renew the campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare in February, 1917.
 - Germans hoped that the underwater blockade would starve Britain and France into surrender before the USA could have any impact on the war, and they were nearly successful.
 - In February 1917, for example, Britain lost 4,640,000 tons of shipping
 - In April, it lost 834,000 tons



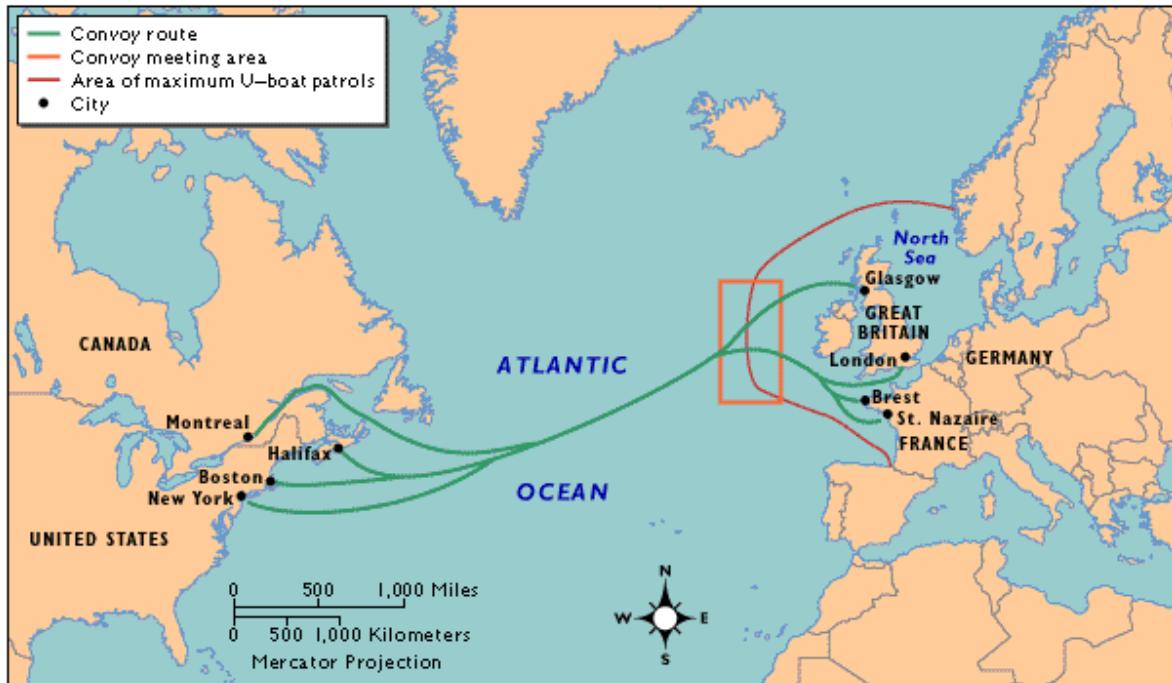
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCrzaC4aLPg> (The use of U-boats in WW1)

Why was Britain able to survive the U-boat blockade?

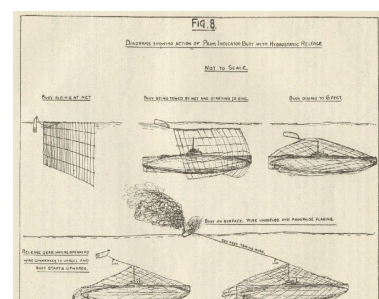
- The success rate of U-boats was due to the fact that they were attacking unarmed merchant ships that were travelling alone or in small groups without any protection.
 - Therefore, British Prime Minister **Lloyd George** supported the idea of a **convoy system**
 - Convoy System
 - large numbers of merchant ships would sail together with a naval escort.
 - By October 1917, a total of 99 homeward-bound convoys had reached harbour safely and only 10 vessels had been lost



Convoy System

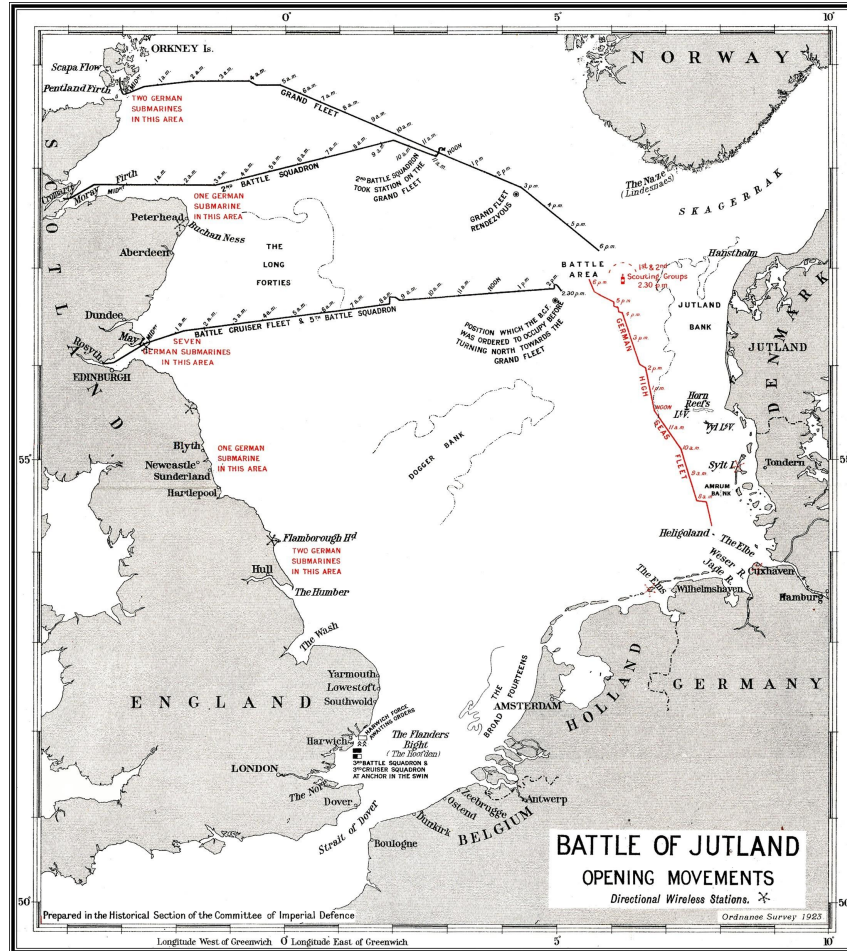


- Other factors that helped defeat the U-boat threat:
 - Convoy System → Increase in Allied shipping
 - As losses went down due to the convoy system, the total tonnage of Allied shipping increased due to the vast increases in output from American shipyards; thus the U-boat campaign was unable to achieve a reduction in overall volume of Allied shipping
 - Technology
 - Weapons technology progressed so that surface vessels could locate and attack U-boats even when they were submerged.
 - The **hydrophone passive listening device** enabled ships to listen for U-boat engine noises, and **depth charges** were developed and the French were also using echo ranging.
 - Technologies allowed U-boat detection
 - German lost 69 U-boats, however, at this stage in the war, they could not replace them.
 - Improved **Submarine Nets**



- Improved submarine nets were designed and deployed across the entrances to the English Channel, which forced the U-boats to go north around the top of Britain, thus seriously reducing their operational time in the war zone.

The Battle of Jutland



- Despite the expectations of a major confrontation between the main German and British fleets, and the new dreadnoughts, such a clash did not occur until 1916.
 - Why?
 - mainly because both sides realised that they had too much to lose if they waged a head-on battle.
- Instead, the war at sea was dominated by submarines and mines. Nevertheless, there was only one major challenge to British supremacy of the sea at the battle of Jutland (31 May — 1 June 1916)
 - The battle began when German Admiral **Reinhard Scheer** tried to lure part of British fleet out from its base, so that an attack could be made by numerically superior German forces.
 - However, since Britain could decipher German radio signals, more British ships came out than anticipated, and so Scheer had to flight an engagement involving some 250 ships in total
 - Although Germans could claim victory after several hours of exchanging artillery fire, having lost 11 ships to Britain's 14, the



Germans had not destroyed the British fleet, and Britain was left in control of the surface waters.

- The German High Seas Fleet stayed in **Kiel** for the rest of the war, and instead the Germans switched their focus to the submarine warfare outlined.
 - *“As one journalist famously remarked, the High Seas Fleet had succeeded only in assaulting its gaoler(jailer) before returning to gaol(jail)” (Ian Beckett, The Great War 1914-1918, 2001)*
- The fact that Britain's navy enjoyed supremacy for the course of the war was central in allowing it to move 8.5 million troops across the British Empire, as well as troops and supplies from Britain across the Channel to France.
- Imports continued to reach Britain, and the Allies were able to establish and maintain the devastating blockade on Germany.
- Ultimately, they were also able to sustain the convoy system and transport American men and equipment to Europe for the final battles.

HOW THE WAR WAS FOUGHT (TECHNOLOGY)

(Seira)

Trench warfare



- A place called home dug underground for millions of young men to live, eat, sleep, fight, and die together during the war

- A form of land warfare where soldiers held positions, keep out of line of machine-gun and artillery fire
 - Soldiers dug down (length of front) into defensive system
- “No-man’s land” -> hastily dug ditches became permanent = complex defensive systems for both sides, area between opposing trenches
 - Represent area of ground between opposing armies, in this case trenches.
 - Reconnaissance missions were similarly common.
 - Injured men trapped in No Man’s Land. Often be brought in under cover of darkness,
as were corpses for burial.
- Artillery shelling of No Man’s Land was common, quickly reducing it to a barren wasteland

comprised of destroyed vegetation, mud-soaked craters - and rotting corpses.

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/atoz/nomansland.htm>

- **The open space between two sets of opposing trenches became known as No Man’s Land because no soldier wanted to traverse the distance for fear of attack.**
- The climate in **France and Belgium was quite wet, so No Man’s Land soon became a mud bath.** It was so thick that **soldiers could disappear into it never to be seen again.**
- <http://ww1facts.net/the-land-war/life-in-the-trenches/>
- Deadlier for attackers than defenders
 - Artillery barrage (major attack) -> attempt to reach/capture enemy trenches
 - Had to walk/run into direct firing line of defenders
 - Mines, thick rolls of barbed wire slowed down progress -> increased chance of getting hit by enemy machine-gun fire
- **Diary:**
 - **Lice** and wind-up came into my life about the same time. At stand-to one morning a flight of whizz-bangs skimmed the top of the trench. The man next to me went down with a scream and half his face gone. The sand-bag in front of me was ripped open and I was blinded and half-choked with its contents.
 - My first spell in the line lasted three weeks. **Water was scarce**, and even the tea ration was so short there was none left over for shaving. I had a **nine days' growth of beard** when we went down to rest. Some of us looked like Crimean veterans and we all began to feel like it. My socks were embedded in my feet with caked mud and filth and had to be removed with a knife.

- **Lack of rest became a torment.** Undisturbed sleep seemed more desirable than heaven and much more remote. This is why two occasions stand out like beacons in my memory. One was when I found myself in bed in a field hospital for the first time.
- The most awesome and in some ways **most dreadful thing I ever saw was a kind of ceremonial gas attack** in the autumn of 1917. We withdrew from the front line to the support trench, so that the engineers could operate on the ground between.
- It was a still moonlight night, one of those nights when the guns on both sides were quiet and there was nothing to show there was a war on. **The attack began with a firework** display of golden rain. The fireworks petered out and a line of hissing cylinders sent a dense grey mist rolling over No Man's Land.
- *“First published in Everyman at War (1930), by Harold Saunders. edited by C. B. Purdom.”*
- <http://www.firstworldwar.com/diaries/trenchesatvimyridge.htm>
- Effect:
 - Diseases - **rat / wet feet**
 - Violence - **Comrade's death / Bombardment / Rat eating corpses (comrade)**
 - Condition - **Summer hot, Winter cold / not enough foods(+rat eats) / Stress (Lice), Smell of rotting**
 - result.... Morale - nostalgia, Shell Shock Causality.. Disease > Weapon
- Morale
 - In a trench situation, with churned mud in the summer and frozen earth in the winter, the status of food took on an increased importance; death is always near; shell shock affected people; claustrophobia; lice; rats; away from family and loved ones.
 - *“No man will follow you merely because of the official relationship. If you want the trust of your men, and their devotion and belief in you, you must treat them as human beings [...] The foundation of human life is food. The first duty of an officer is to look after his horse because it is dumb, then to look after his men and see that they are comfortably housed and fed, and, not until he has done this, to look after his own wants.” - Major Desmond Chapman- Huston*
 - <http://ergo.slv.vic.gov.au/explore-history/australia-wwi/abroad-wwi/morale-relaxation>

Machine guns and grenades

- Machine guns



- - far more lethal against mass targets
 - could fire more than bolt-action rifles
- Submachine gun ("Trench sweeper") - able to hold with hand



- - lightweight hand-held automatic weapon - fired pistol-calibre ammunition
 - low-power-> soldier could control recoil better
- Heavy artillery tactics



- - 'Creeping barrage' -> steadily advancing wall of fire
 - 'Artillery ambush' -> sudden storm of shells against specific target
 - Pros
 - WW1 - inflicted 70% of all casualties
 - launch massive numbers of high explosive shells
 - Key to overcome defenses of enemy
 - Cons
 - not accurate, not effective enough to destroy enemy trench systems completely
 - ex. Battle of Somme

- British fired more than 1.5 million shells in 5 days - failed to cut barbed wire/destroy German trenches
 - Gave enemy warning of attack to come - when barrage stopped -> signal for attack
 - Brain damage, bleeding ears, shell-shock
 - Churned up land into sea of mud and craters -> attacking across no-man's land more difficult
- Chemical warfare
 - Poison gas attack
 - First: at Ypres (Passchendaele) by Germans in April 1915
 - Carried chlorine gas through wind -> caused panic amongst Allied soldiers, disabled trenches
 - Phosgene gas -> 18 times stronger than chlorine
 - Mustard gas -> burned, blinded, slowly killed victims
 - Pros
 - Useful for causing panic among troops
 - Cons
 - Did not play any key role in breaking stalemate
 - Dependent on wind for distribution
 - Would blow back towards side that used it (happened to British battle of Loos 1915)
 - Gas masks quickly developed -> less effective



- Tanks



- Developed by British and French - Battle of Somme
- “Mechanical contrivance” with potential usefulness only as adjunct to combine infantry and artillery assault -
- Pros
 - Able to advance of infantry, crushing barbed wire fences, attacking enemy with machine-gun/cannon fire
 - Inside: crew protected from small arms fire by outer metal armour
 - caused initial panic amongst enemy (ex. Germans)
- Cons
 - Slow, unreliable, many broke down before reaching trenches
 - Armour plating-> not strong enough to resist artillery
 - Heat generated inside tank -> choked men inside

A video on [how trench warfare led to rapid development of technology](#). (for the purpose of breaking the stalemate and winning the war)

[Dulce Et Decorum Est](#) (Wildred Owen) - What does this tell us about trench warfare and Owen's view?

WHY DID GERMANY LOSE?

Germany's Weaknesses

Tactical Mistakes

- Schlieffen Plan
 - good Belgian resistance → they had to fight a two front war
 - went through Belgium → brought Britain into the war
- U-boats
 - unrestricted submarine warfare (sinking of the Lusitania) → America supported the Allies, later entered the war
- Battle of Verdun and Battle of the Somme
the effort to break stalemate with massive attacks failed due to losing almost as many men

Weaknesses

- Weak allies (e.g. Austria-Hungary) which they had to support
- Low morale - losing desire to fight
 - the Allies had a little boost with America entering the war
 - Germany didn't
- 1918 Spanish Flu → led to even lower morale
- Blockade
 - longer the war, the weaker Germans got - limited in ability to fight long war due to fewer resources, raw materials
 - no imports/raw materials that they needed → weak economy
 - civilians → hungry, poor, low standard of living → want to end the war
- Government spent too much on military and too little on civilians
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
 - negotiations → couldn't withdraw troops from the Eastern Front
 - had to maintain two fronts

Allied Strengths

- more nations on the Allied side = more men, more resources
 - Britain had a lot of colonies (e.g. Canada) to provide resources / raw materials / men
 - Allies could sustain longer war; Central Powers could not
- Convoy System
 - it worked - had enough supplies and resources to continue the long war
- Britain and France managed economies better than Germany
 - rationing food, oil, metals, etc
 - supported civilian population
 - mobilized women well
- America's entrance into the war

- more ships, pilots, food, stuff...
- the fighting men were fresh/weren't war weary
- tipped the scale in favour of the Allies
- money (in the form of loans) and economic resources could be sent to Allied nations