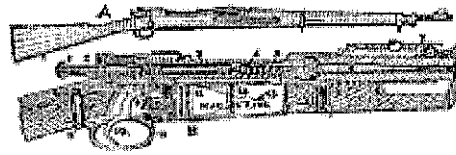


First World War Weapons

During World War One, a wide variety of weapons were used:

The main weapon used by British soldiers in the trenches was the **bolt-action rifle**. 15 rounds could be fired in a minute and a person 1,400 metres away could be killed.



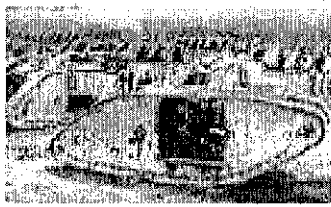
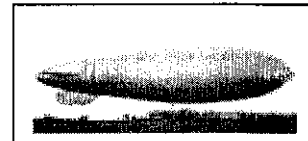
Machine guns needed 4-6 men to work them and had to be on a flat surface. They had the fire-power of 100 guns.

Large field guns (**artillery**) had a long range and could deliver devastating blows to the enemy but needed up to 12 men to work them. They fired **shells** which exploded on impact

The German army were the first to use **chlorine gas** at the battle of Ypres in 1915. Chlorine gas causes a burning sensation in the throat and chest pains. Death is painful – you suffocate! The problem with chlorine gas is that the weather must be right.

Mustard gas was the most deadly weapon used. It was fired into the trenches in shells. It is colourless and takes 12 hours to take effect. Effects include – blistering skin, vomiting, sore eyes, internal and external bleeding. Death can take up to 5 weeks.

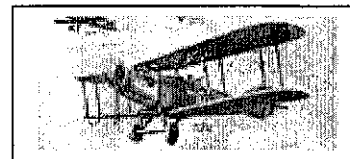
The **Zeppelin**, also known as blimp, was an airship that was used during the early part of the war in bombing raids by the Germans. They carried machine guns and bombs. However, they were abandoned because they were easy to shoot out of the sky.



Tanks were used for the first time in the First World War. They were developed to cope with the conditions on the Western Front. The first tank was called 'Little Willie' and needed a crew of 3. Its maximum speed was 3mph and it could not cross trenches.

The more modern tank was not developed until just before the end of the war. It could carry 10 men, had a revolving turret and could reach 4mph.

Planes were also used for the first time. At first they were used to deliver bombs and for spying work but became fighter aircraft armed with machine guns, bombs and some times canons. Fights between two planes in the sky became known as 'dogfights'



Torpedoes were used by submarines. The Germans used torpedoes to blow up ships carrying supplies from America to Britain.

The Germans torpedoed the passenger liner Lusitania on May 1st 1915 which sank with a loss of 1,195 lives. Americans were outraged and joined the war in 1917 on the side of the allies.

Weapons of WWI

1. Which weapon(s) did the British use during WWI?
2. Which weapon(s) did the Germans use during WWI?
3. This weapon fired off 15 rounds in a minute.
4. What did Large Field Guns fire off?
5. Mustard gas took roughly how long to take effect?
6. The maximum speed of a tank was?
7. What was the main purpose of a zeppelin?
8. The original purpose of planes was not for fighting, but for what?
9. Battles in the sky were given what nickname?
10. What did a torpedo do?
11. Which weapon led to the American involvement in the war?
12. Which weapon(s) would have the biggest impact on winning a battle?
13. Which weapon(s) is still used today?
14. How are these weapons different from what is used today?
15. Was the creation of these modern weapons a positive or negative step for mankind? Why?