



# Practices of World War I

Paper 2

- AH bomb Belgrade, Serbia – July 30, 1914
- Russia mobilized against Germany– July 31<sup>st</sup>
- German Declaration of War against Russia, F/Belgium mobilize – Aug. 1
- German Declaration of War against F/Belgium – Aug. 3
- British Declaration of War on Germany – Aug. 4
- Siege of Liege – Frustrated German invasion of Belgian fortifications – Aug 4-16
- AH Declaration of War on Russia, F/B invasion of German Togo – Aug. 6
- British Expeditionary Force (BEF) lands in N. France -120,000 professional soldiers – led by John French

- Who is first to attack?
- Who is first major country to mobilize?
- Why is the Siege of Liege significant?
- Describe the BEF.

Triple Entente – Red – list countries and year they enter war

Triple Alliance (Central Powers) – Yellow – list countries and year they enter

Outbreak of WWI

[http://www.the-map-as-](http://www.the-map-as-history.com/kiosque/lit_carte_vimeo.php?numtome=1&num=129567610)

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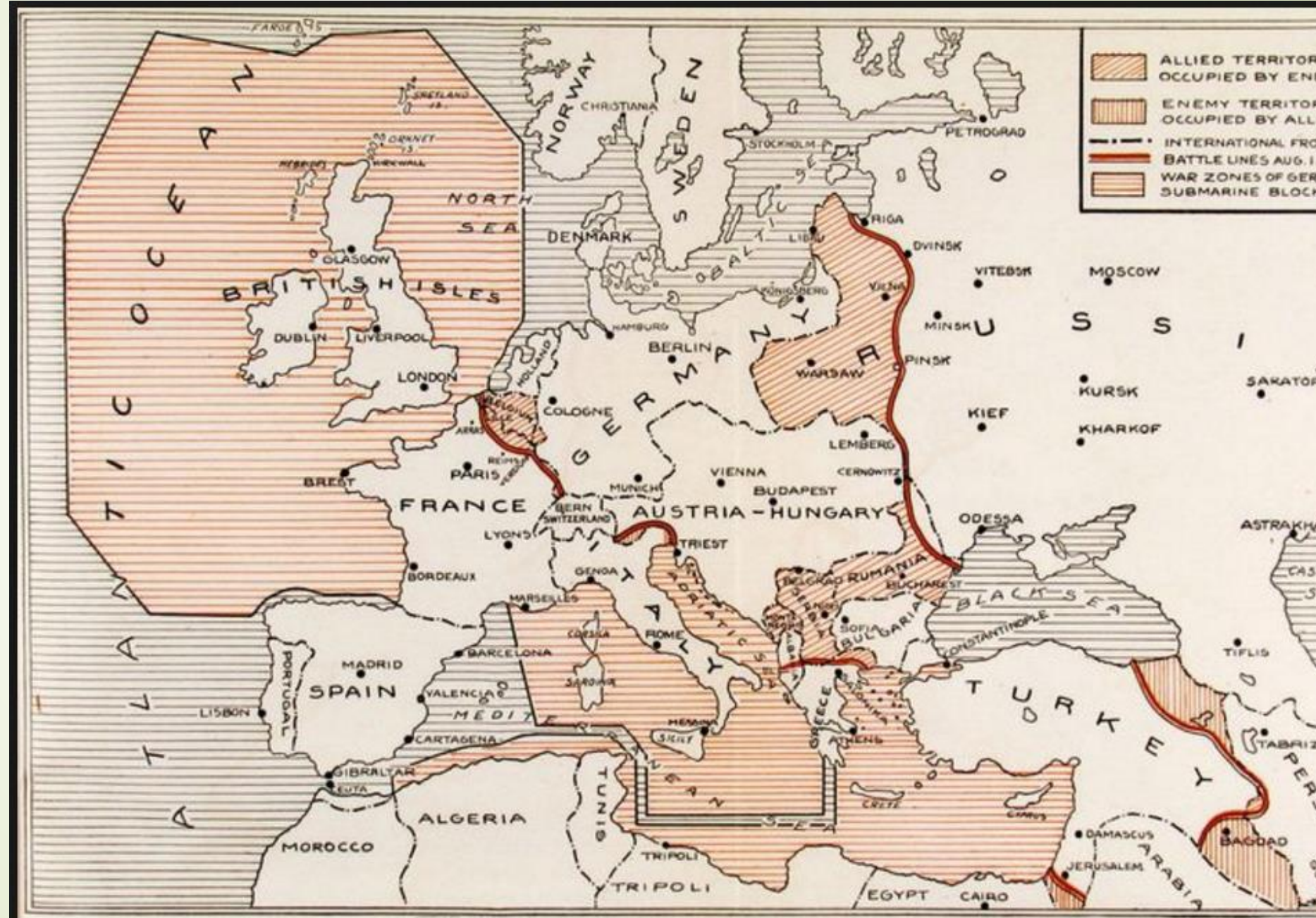
# Practices of War – The Great War

## Potential Paper 2 Questions

- To what extent did one 20<sup>th</sup> century war see the full mobilization of human and economic resources?
- Discuss the relative importance of a) war on the land b) war at sea, and c) war in the air in determining the outcome of 20<sup>th</sup>-century war.
- Examine the impact of technological developments on the course and outcome of one 20<sup>th</sup>-century war.

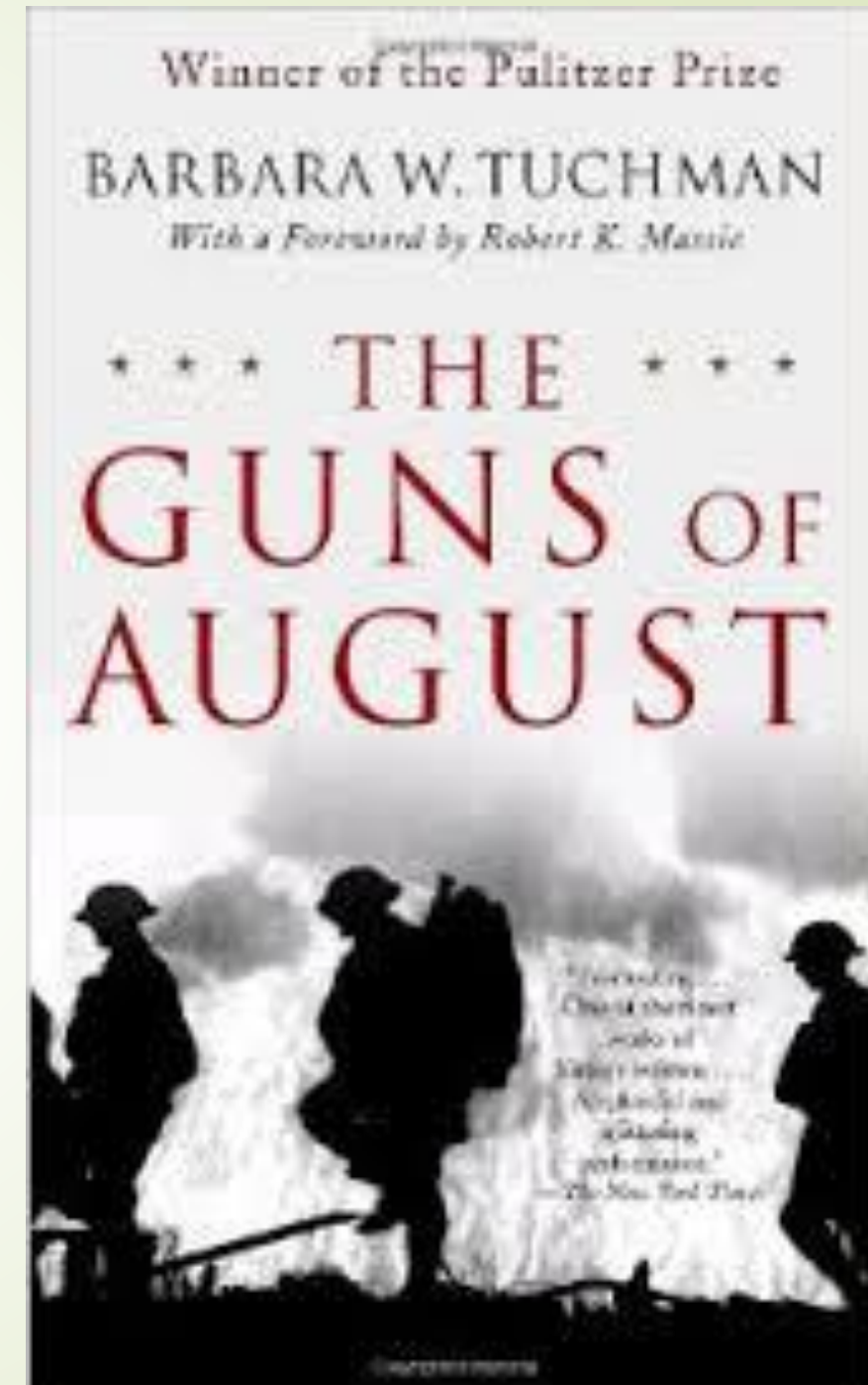
# General layout

- August 1914 – November 1918
- Many originally thought war would be short/decisive
- Most important front was Western Front – 200 miles from Channel to Swiss Alps
- Eastern Front – Austria Hungary and Russian incursions into Germany
- Diversionary Fronts – Gallipoli, Italy, Balkans, African and African colonies



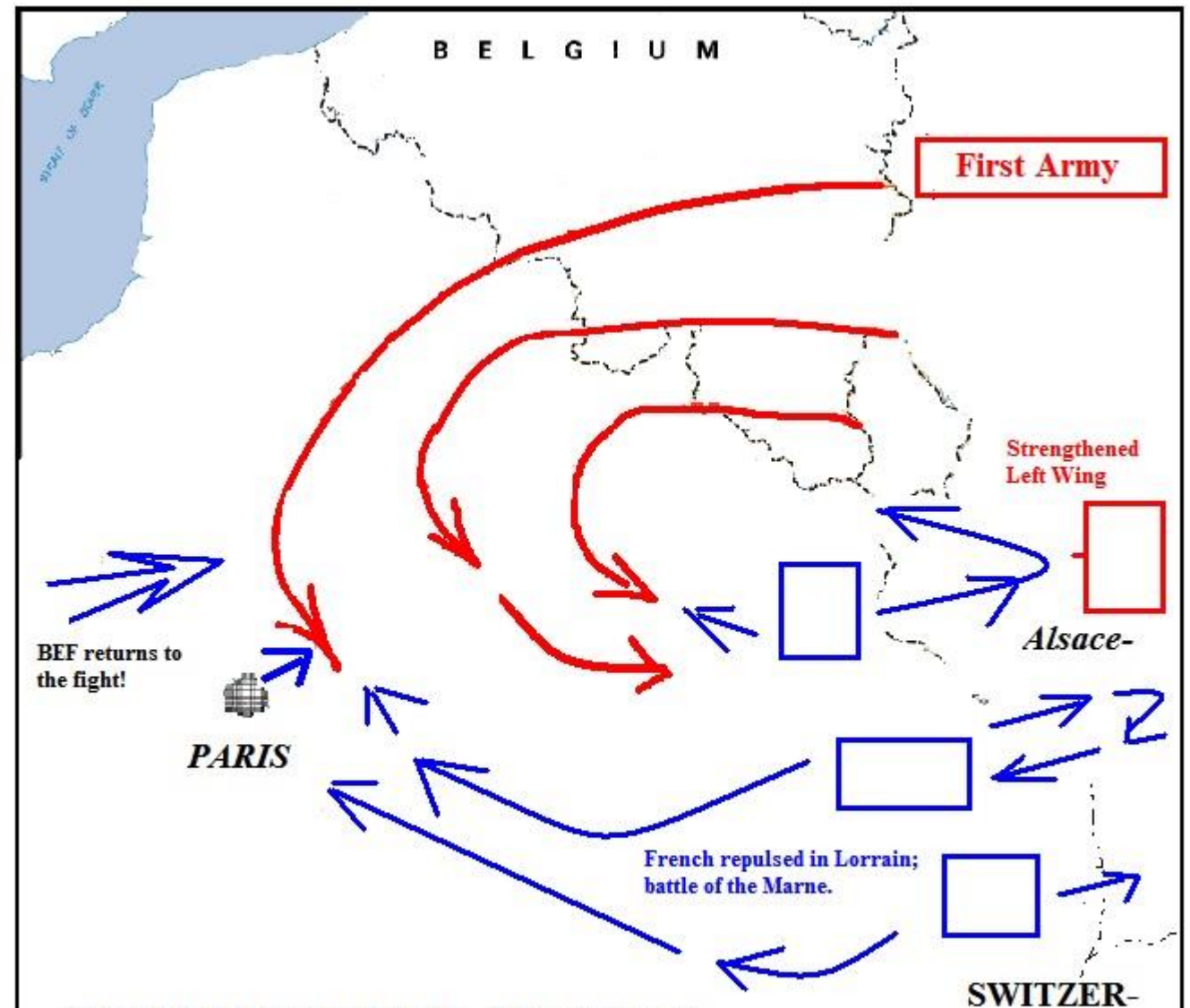
# First Moves

- ▶ “The Guns of August”  
Tuchman’s Thesis –  
Misconceptions,  
Miscalculations, and Mistakes
  - ▶ Leaders overestimated power of free trade to bring war to quick end
  - ▶ Morale and offensive “*élan*” would win war – almost all refused defensive strategy
  - ▶ Military leaders refused to see political consequences of their actions



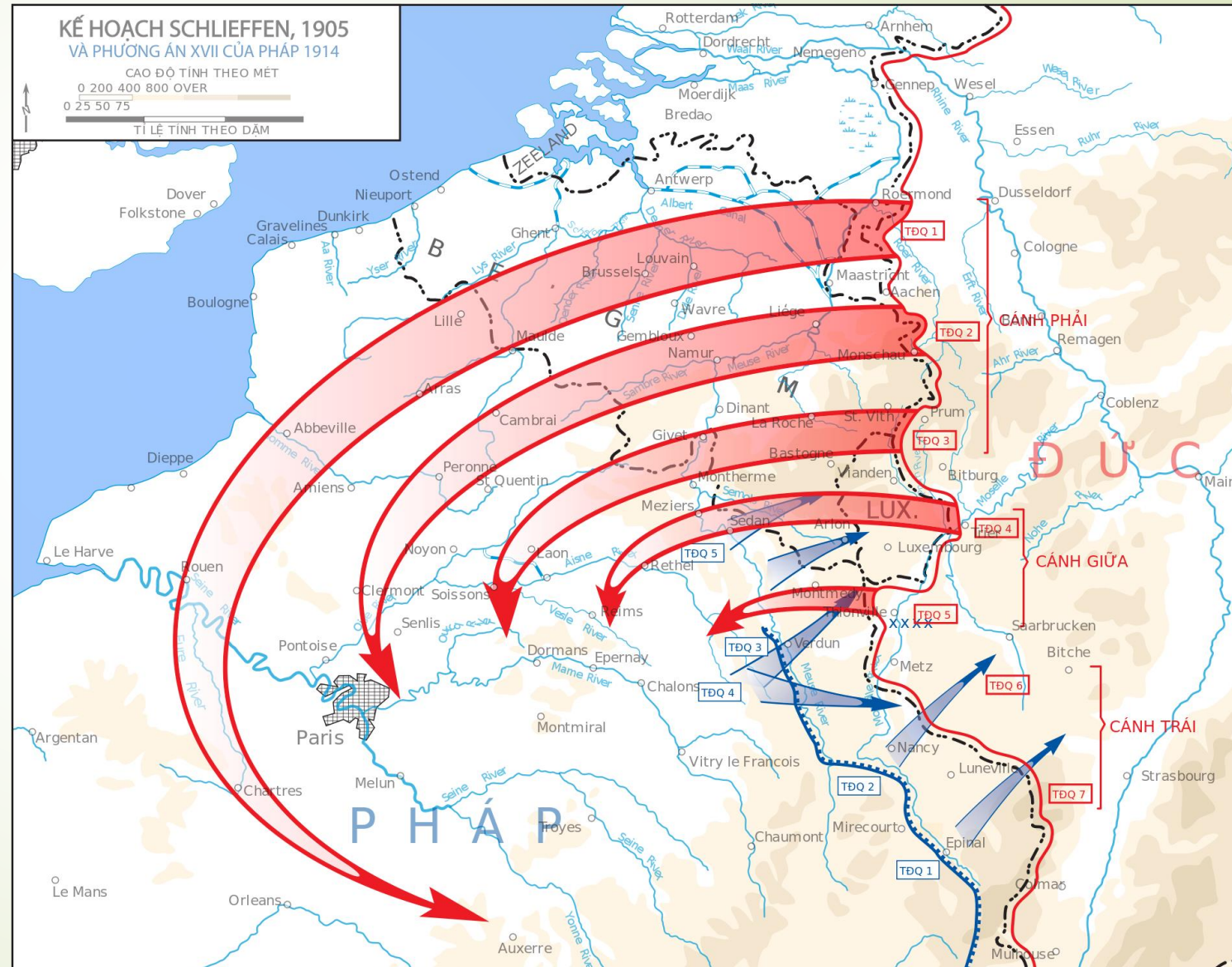
# Short War of Movement becomes Trench Warfare Stalemate (Aug. 1914 to 1915)

- Russia mobilized quickly – invaded East Prussia Aug. 1914 – Moltke draws troops away from Western attack
- Did not keep Right strong, decided to meet French forces instead of encircle Paris
  - This exposed the German Flank
  - French forces were to be allowed to invade Alsace-Lorraine but that was not politically possible – keeping the left intact meant weakening the right (they left 60% of forces in this area, not the prescribed 10%)



# Short War of Movement becomes Trench Warfare Stalemate (Aug. 1914 to 1915)

- Schlieffen Plan (1905) failure — “No plan survives contact with the enemy” – Clausewitz
  - Plan was overly ambitious, troops became exhausted, supply lines were stretched, communication broke down, right wing could not move quickly enough
  - Now really Moltke's Plan – “Schlieffen's Plan has failed thus Moltke is out of ideas”
  - Pesky Belgians – did not surrender country, took 2 weeks to capture Brussels, guerilla combat, brought Britain into the war (Treaty of London 1839)
    - Germany could not take Channel ports, gave Brits time to transfer BEF





# Parisian taxicabs to the Rescue!



- Actually more like the Paul Revere story of France
- Actually only moved about 5,000 men to what was then the largest land battle in history – The Battle of the Marne – 1m + combatants



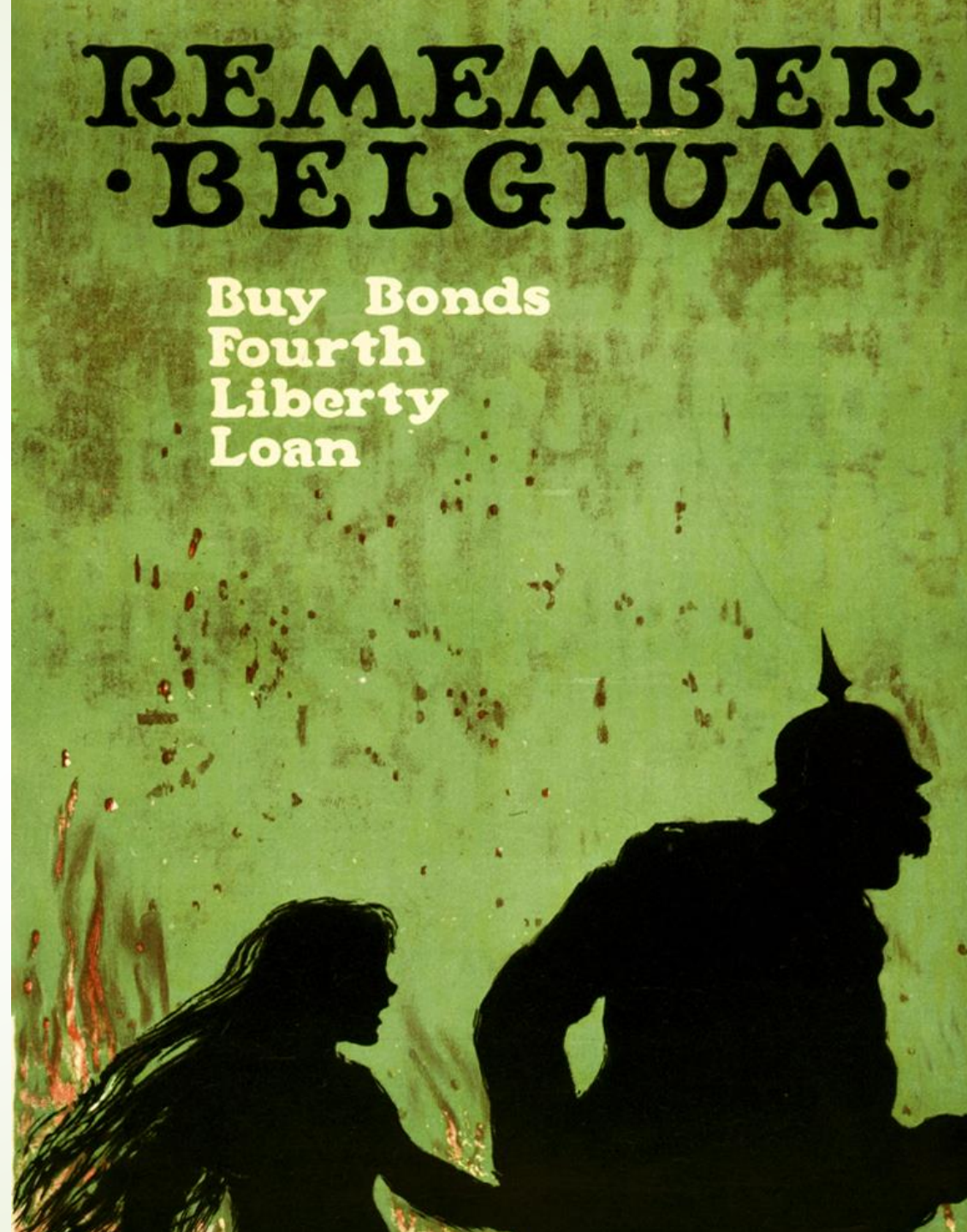
# “Miracle of the Marne”

Explain how were the Germans turned in this Battle? Significance of this battle?

- Saved Paris from capture
- Ended war of Movement – marked failure of Schlieffen Plan
- Start of the “Race to the Sea” – each side continually trying to outflank the other
  - Degenerated into stalemate along “Western Front”

# The Rape of Belgium (stop at 4:00)

- ▶ German invaders frustrated with civilians not following old rules of war
  - ▶ In Louvain – Medieval library burned, 250 executed for resisting
  - ▶ About 6,000 total civilians executed in first months of war
  - ▶ Basis for British (and American) propaganda
  - ▶ Atrocities did happen, often exaggerated as recruiting tool
- 
- ▶ Describe and characterize what the Germans did in Belgium
  - ▶ To what extent was German leadership responsible for British outrage for the “Rape of Belgium”?
  - ▶ In what ways did the British use the “Rape of Belgium”?



# BEAUTIFUL CITY OF LOUVAIN IS SACKED

## MASSACRE REPORTED BEFORE TORCH APPLIED

### Fugitives Who Escape From City Tell A Thrilling Story Of Awful Destruction.

LONDON, Aug. 29.—That the beautiful Belgian city of Louvain is in ashes and that the Germans massacred a north population and sacked the city before the torch was applied in a dispendent at Ternheuzen, dispendent states is based on the report of fugitives who escaped from the city.

"The Germans said they massacred the children and clergymen. They did not save them and among the noble English. All the noble including the town hall, de Ville), library and university were destroyed. The explanation for the outrage they were fired upon by inhabitants."

Many of the refugees at Ternheuzen, however, that the civilians did not fight the soldiery. They offer an explanation for the alleged sack made on the Germans.

## "LOUVAIN PEOPLE BURNED ALIVE; SLAUGHTERED LINED THE STREETS"

Chicago.—The Tribune prints the following special cable from Rotterdam:

Il. W. Rutgers, manager of the Louvain water works, who escaped from the city with his wife and two children, tells of old and young being burned alive by the Germans, of streets lined with slaughtered people, and of cellars of houses filled with trembling innocent people who were awakened Tuesday night by wholesale murder and destruction.

The Dutch press is filled with awful details of the great crime and an overwhelming wave of reaction against Germany has been created. The Telegraf says: "Neutral or not, a protest must be made to the civilized people against the destruction of high culture by the Germans. Even if it is true that the Germans are not to be trusted, they are not to be destroyed."

Mines on the previous day, fell back upon Louvain in some disorder. Reaching the town in German fugitives were error by their own troops. "Rage at this misfortune at their defeat seem to the invaders, who set to work to massacre and destroy the city, and destroy the city, as to Belgium. "It is not possible to the accounts of the were given in gesture exclamations rather than The purport was that That the civil population, but that at nothing, but that at retreating German arrive, suddenly the angry and began to and destroy."



## GERMANS BURN LOUVAIN, BEAUTIFUL BELGIAN CITY

### UHLANS FIND BRITISH KNOW HOW TO FIGHT

Learn a Sad Lesson When 2,000 Tackle 700 of the Foe.

BRITISH LOST 400, BUT GERMANS MANY MORE

### German Army Destroys Beautiful City of Louvain, Driving Women and Children Destitute From Homes

Say Belgians Made Perfidious Attack and Torch Is Punishment.

BELGIANS DENY THIS IN PROTEST TO U. S.

Assert One Body of Invaders Fired on Another—City



### BOULOGNE IN FEAR OF UHLAN INVASION

Nothing to Prevent Germans From Entering French Seaport.

FIGHTING NOT FAR AWAY

Land to East Obscured by Thunder and Smoke—City Is Calm.

### GERMANS RUSHING MADLY ON TO PARIS

Witness of Fighting Says Main Army Is Acting as Battering Ram.

WILLING TO "PAY PRICE"

Told by Officer That Kaiser's Strategists Care Little for Planking.

# 1915 – A Year of Inconclusive, but Deadly Fighting

According to the source – 3 effects of chlorine gas

- ▶ Attempts to break stalemate
  - ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> Ypres – German offensive that gained apx. 3 miles
    - ▶ First use of poison gas- chlorine gas – Germans were overwhelmed with success and did not know how to follow up on it
- ▶ “Dusk was falling when from the German trenches in front of the French line rose that strange green cloud of death. The light north-easterly breeze wafted it toward them, and in a moment death had them by the throat. One cannot blame them that they broke and fled. In the gathering dark of that awful night they fought with the terror, running blindly in the gas-cloud, and dropping with breasts heaving in agony and the slow poison of suffocation mantling their dark faces. Hundreds of them fell and died; others lay helpless, froth upon their agonized lips and their racked bodies powerfully sick, with tearing nausea at short intervals. They too would die later – a slow and lingering death of agony unspeakable. The whole air was tainted with the acrid smell of chlorine that caught at the back of men's throats and filled their mouths with its metallic taste”
- ▶ — *Captain Alfred Oliver Pollard, The Memoirs of a Victoria Cross Recipient (1932)*



# 1916 – Verdun and the Somme

List 4  
significant  
changes that  
take place in  
1916

- Though geographically separated both battles were strategically interconnected
- Feb. 1916 – winter 1917 - Verdun
- German plans – Eric von Falkenhayn
  - French prestige will not allow giving up of historical fortifications
  - Take high ground, shell from a distance - turn it into a “meat grinder”
- “Just behind the French lines on the Western Front there are objectives in which the French command must defend to the last man...the French army will be exhausted by its bloody losses in the inevitable combat, regardless of if we win the objectives immediately. If on the other hand, it lets them go (Verdun), the damage to French morale will be enormous...The essential question is not to take Verdun...but to pin down the French, pull them towards the battlefield, and since they have will have to defend it shoulder to shoulder, **we shall bleed them white** with our superior guns” – Falkenhayn
- French hold ground, lose 315,000 men
- Germans lose 280,000
  - Falkenhayn sacked
  - Human record for Killing and destruction

How would he  
bleed them  
white?



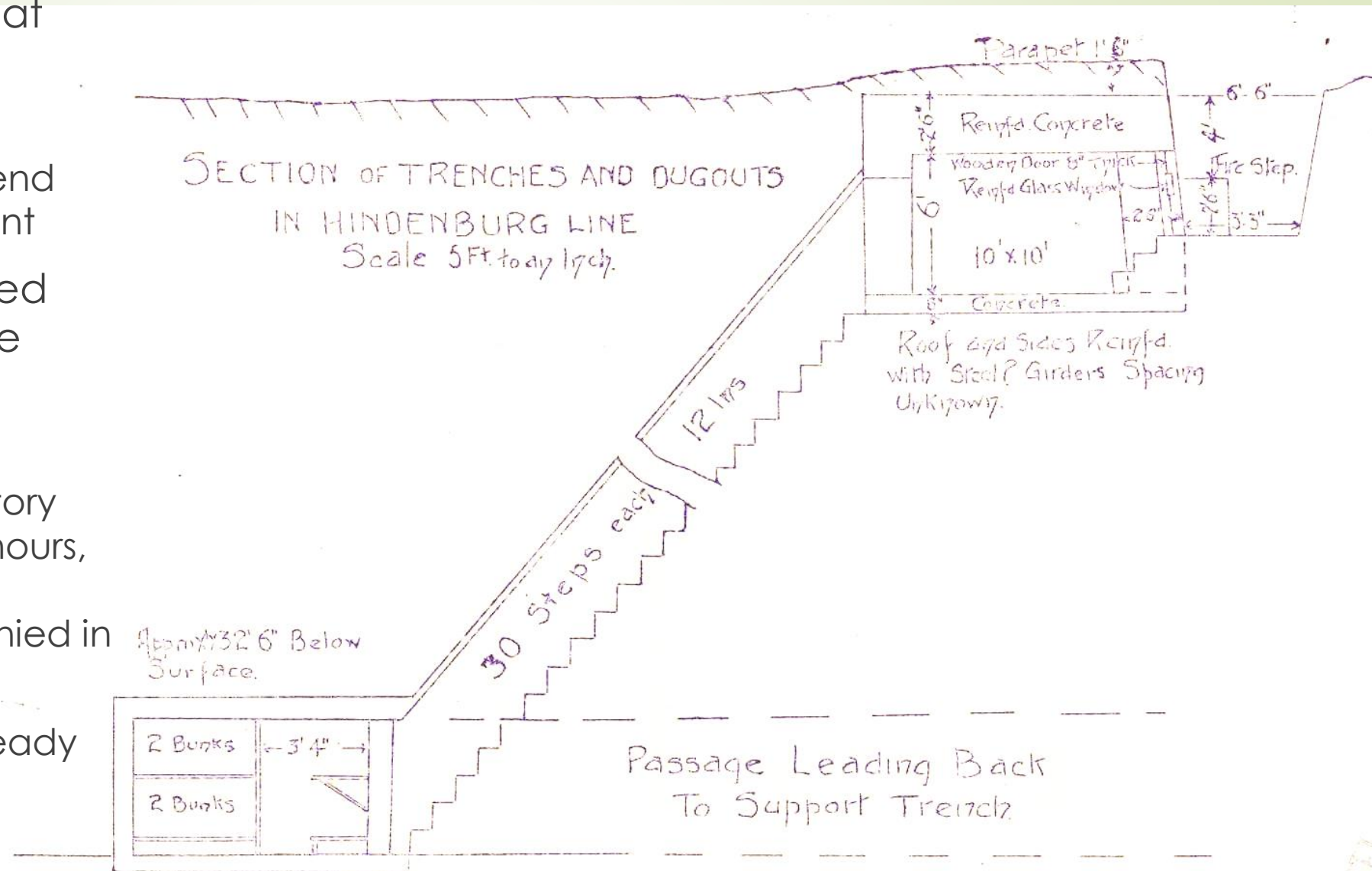
# Battle of the Somme

- ▶ British offensive to take heat off French in Verdun, press Germans to save Eastern Front from collapse
- ▶ First use of Tanks – called such to disguise their purpose – Churchill considered landships
  - ▶ British Commander Haig uses them in small number at first instead of waiting to overwhelm with surprise
  - ▶ No major breakthrough
- ▶ New record for most deadly battle – over 1m casualties



# 1917 – British and French Offensive Continues

- Feb. 1917 – Germans retreat behind well constructed Hindenburg Line
  - Less men needed to defend shorter, better fortified front
- British and French continued offensive strategy in Nivelle Campaign and Passchendaele (3<sup>rd</sup> Ypres)
  - Nivelle had promised victory over Germany within 48 hours, once this had failed the demoralized French mutinied in mass
  - The French Army had already suffered 1m killed







# Hindenburg/Siegfried Line

- German manpower problems – can not suffer similar casualties as allied side.
- Spend months preparing well designed fortifications to fall back on
- Create “desert” in what becomes enemies front

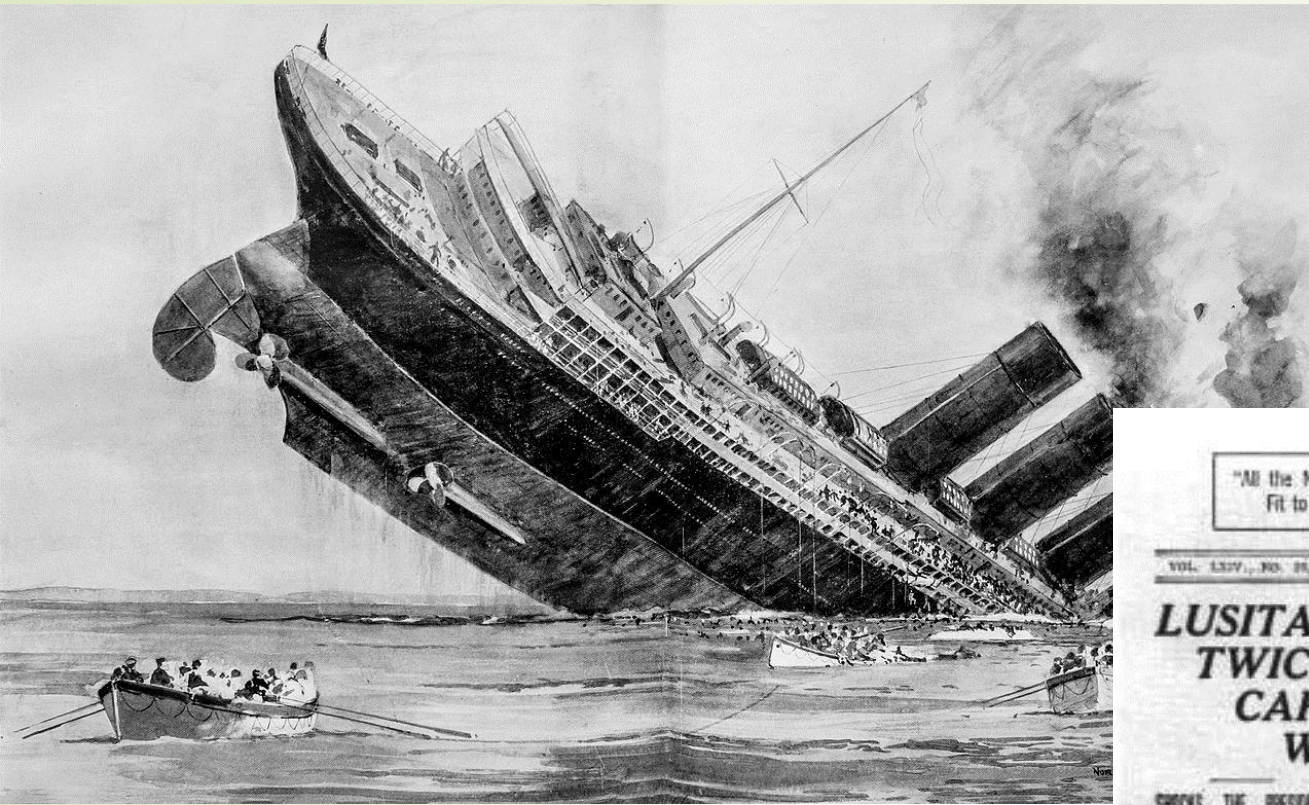
# United States Joins World War I

- German Unrestricted submarine war discontinued after Lusitania sinking cost 128 American lives in May 1915
  - Germany declared British Coast a war zone, declared all allied ships in area would be sunk
  - Lusitania neutral ship? – carried 50 tons of ammo
  - Stirred anti-German sentiment in US, but country remained neutral
- By 1917 Germany was desperate to bring war to end soon
  - 1. Sent cable to Mexico pleading for military alliance against US – Zimmerman note – intercepted and published by British
  - 2. Hoped to strangle Britain by cutting off her U.S. imports
  - 3. Believed she could sign advantageous treaty before U.S. training and mobilization

## **NOTICE!**

**TRAVELLERS** intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk.

**IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY,**  
WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 22, 1915.



"All the News That's Fit to Print."

# The New York Times.

**EXTRA**  
5:30 A. M.

VOL. LXXV., NO. 25,991. 1917

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1917.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

ONE CENT

## LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

### SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Stirred by the Loss of American Lives.

### BULLETINS AT WHITE HOUSE

Wilson Reads Them Closely, but is Silent on the Nation's Course.

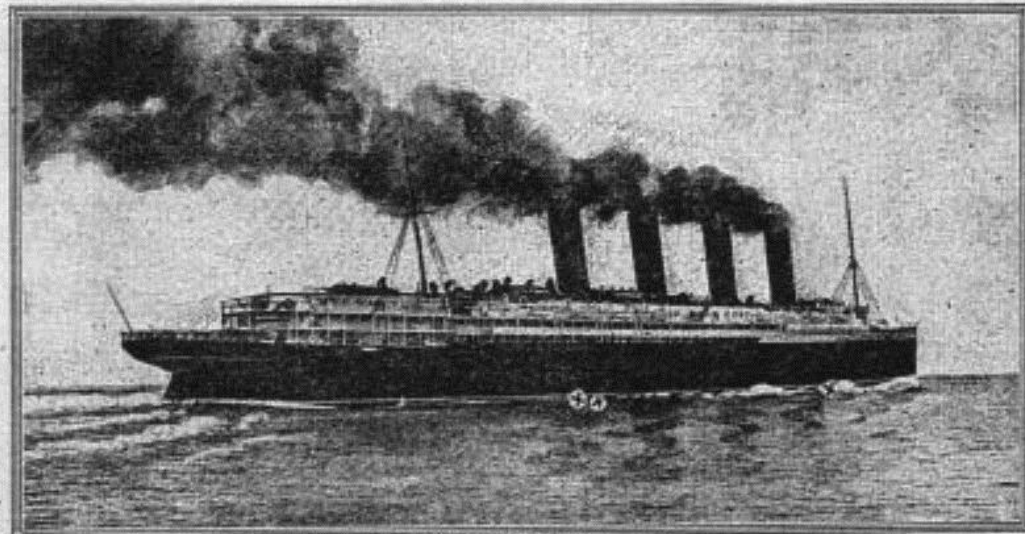
### HINTS OF CONGRESS CALL

Loss of Lusitania Recalls Firm Tone of Our First Warning to Germany.

### CAPITAL FULL OF RUMORS

Reports that Loss Was to be Made Were Made Before Actual News Came.

Special to The New York Times.  
WASHINGTON, May 5.—The news that the Lusitania, the great liner which was sunk by a submarine off the Irish coast, had been torpedoed twice, and that she was sinking in 15 minutes, has shocked the nation. The news is being received with a sense of relief, for it is believed that the ship was carrying a large amount of munitions, and that her sinking would have been a grave crisis for the United States.



The Lost Great Steamship Lusitania  
X Where the First Torpedo Struck. — X Where the Second Torpedo Struck.

### SOME DEAD TAKEN HOME

Several Hundred Survivors at Queenstown and Kinsale.

### STEWARD TELLS OF DISASTER

One Torpedo Crashes into the Divided Liner's Bow, Another into the Empty Room.

### SHIP LISTS GIVEN TO PORT

Many It Impossible to Locate Many Ships, the Portals Must Have Gone Down.

### ATTACKS IN BROAD DAY

Passengers at Queenstown-Wanted Not Sent Back to Germany to Live the Day Last New York.

Only 650 Were Saved.  
Few Cabin Passengers  
QUEENSTOWN, Sunday, May 5, 4:25 A. M.—Survivors of the Lusitania who have arrived here number about 650 of those aboard. The first were saved, and the rest of

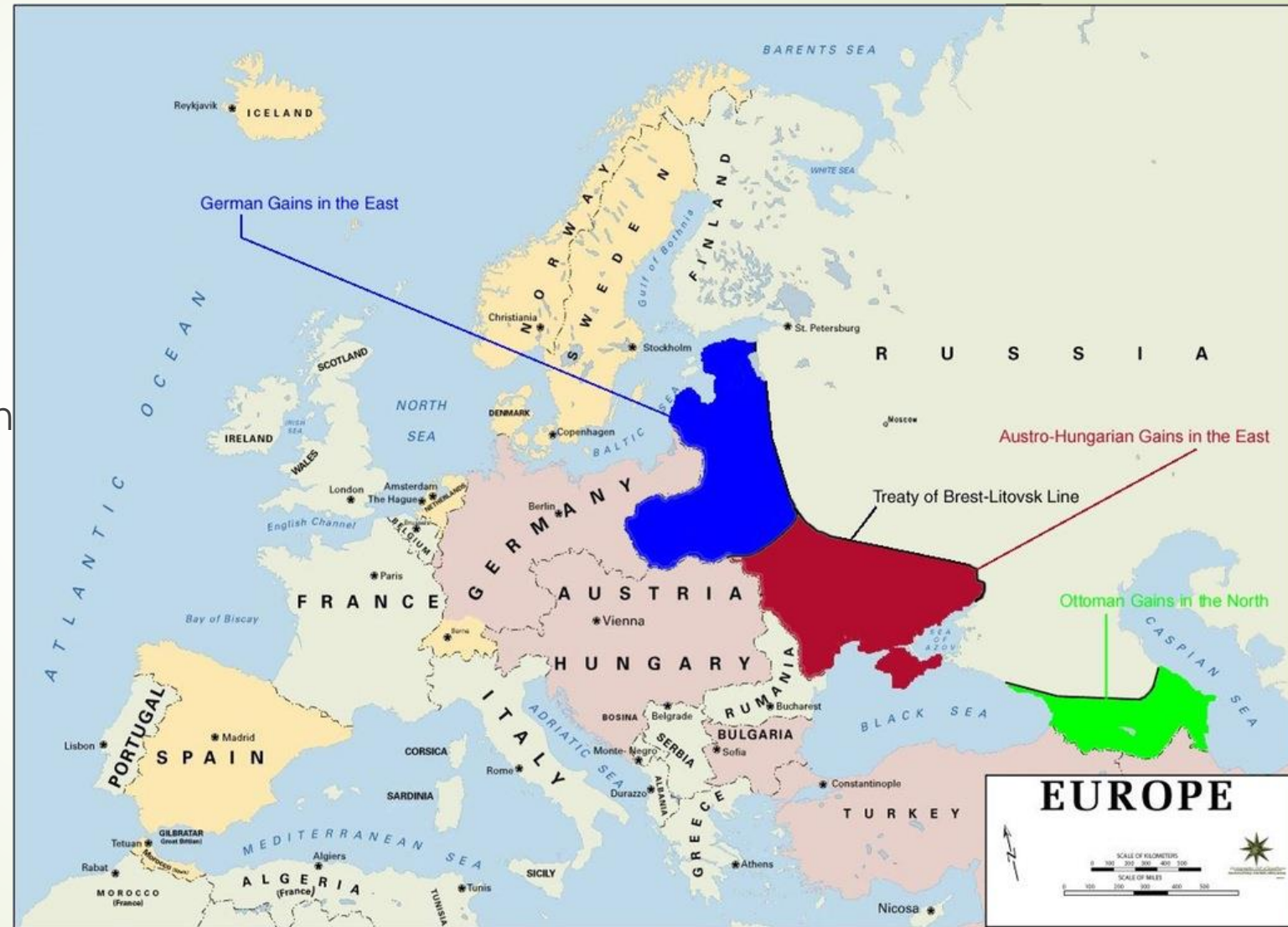
# Russian Revolution

- ▶ Lenin took over Russian government in Oct. 1917
  - ▶ Assisted by German High Command – sealed train from Switzerland, 50m+ deutschemarks in funding
- ▶ Was willing to deal with harsh German terms in order to end war and thus consolidate Revolution



# Russian Revolution

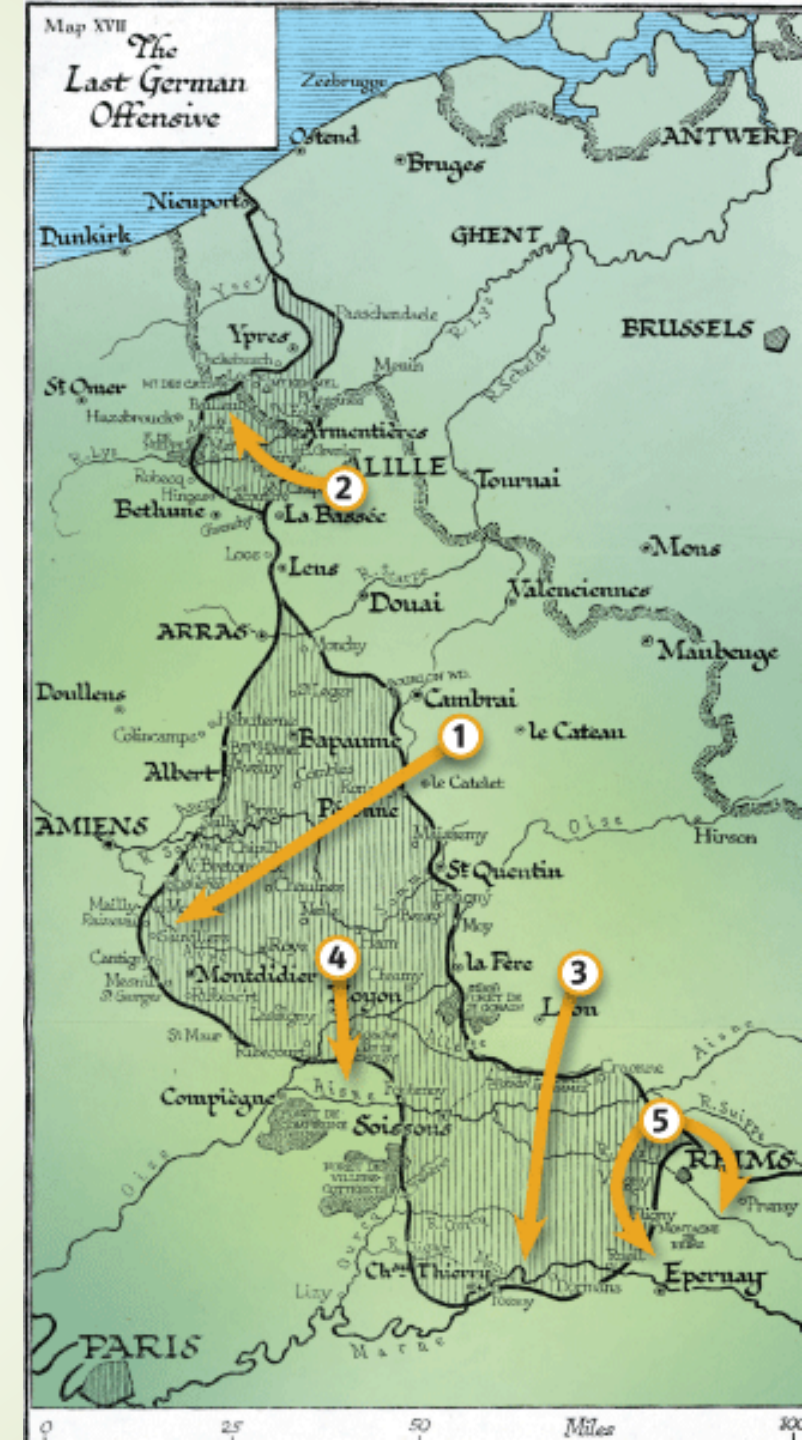
- ▶ Treaty of Brest-Litovsk – signed March 1918 - “robbers peace”
  - ▶ Trotsky had refused the terms after armistice, helpless/chaotic Russia invaded again
  - ▶ Baltic states – German vassal states
  - ▶ Poland and Ukraine – rump countries under German domination
  - ▶ Indemnity – 5 billion rubles, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> ag. Land, 1/2 of all industry. 2/3<sup>rd</sup> coal mines, 1/3 population.
  - ▶ Showed Western allies what to expect if they were to lose
  - ▶ Allowed Germany to move forces and gave them numerical superiority in West for first time – 190 divisions to 170 B/F combined



# 1918 – Allied Victory

- Germany was on verge of starvation due to effective Allied blockade
- US Troops were arriving in larger and larger numbers
  - US leaders had hoped to wait longer to build up forces and create separate command but due to French Mutiny, Russian Surrender began to trickle in to serve with British and French units
- Ludendorff Gambled everything in 1918
  - Artillery bombardment followed by “storm troopers” instead of infantry
    - Small bands that skipped hard defensive points to reach strategic ones
    - Stealthy, mobile
  - Attacked in unison on entire Western Front with success – reached within 50 miles of Paris
  - Attack cost Germans casualties(800,000) they could no longer spare – offensive stalled
- French and British who had often worked disjointedly now agreed to joint command

Explain in what ways Stormtroopers changed WWI



# August 8<sup>th</sup> – Amiens - “The Black Day of the German Army” - Ludendorff

- German salient already cut and forces retreated back to Hindenburg line (Sept. 1918)
- Also known as the “Hundred Day Offensive” – collapse of Germany’s war effort
  - German morale hit rock bottom with surprise allied attack
  - German soldiers begin surrendering in large numbers
  - Give up 7 miles of front in one day
- German High Seas Fleet Mutinied at Kiel- Nov. 3



Painting of German POW's being led towards Amiens

## Quote from J Laffin from 'British and Bunglers of World War I.'

- This quote is an indication of the impact that the Allied counter offensive had on the Germans.
- It demonstrates that how through a combined force, under one leader (General Foch) that the Allies were able to push back the German advance.

*"8 August was the black day of the German army, the worst day I ever went through. We had to resign ourselves now to a continuation of the enemy's offensive. Their success had been too easy. Their wireless was jubilant, announcing with truth that the morale of the German army was no longer what it had been."*

*Laffin. J, British and Bunglers  
of World War I.*

[BACK](#) 



# 1918 – Allied Victory

## ► Collapse of Central Powers

- Bulgaria – Sept. 30
- Germany's Hochseeflotte mutinies – Oct. 29
- Ottoman Empire – Oct. 30
- Austria-Hungary – Nov. 3
- Ludendorff request Kaiser to “request armistice without hesitation”
- Would be only way to save Germany and its army from total ruin – Nov. 11

Explain the significance of the Kiel Mutiny



"All the News That's Fit to Print."

# The New York Times

THE WEATHER  
Fair today and Sunday; diminishing northwest winds.  
All the weather reports are based on the 11th hour.

VOL. LXXVIII... NO. 22,286... NEW YORK, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1918. TWENTY-FOUR PAGES... TWO CENTS

## ARMISTICE SIGNED, END OF THE WAR! BERLIN SEIZED BY REVOLUTIONISTS; NEW CHANCELLOR BEGS FOR ORDER; OUSTED KAISER FLEES TO HOLLAND

**SON FLEES WITH EX-KAISER**  
Hindenburg Also Believed to be Among Those in His Party.  
**ALL ARE HEAVILY ARMED**  
Automobiles Battle with Rifles as Fugitives Arrive at Dutch Frontier.  
**ON THEIR WAY TO DE STEEBS**  
Belgians Yell to Them, "Are You On Your Way to Paris?"

**Kaiser Fought Hindenburg's Call for Abdication; Failed to Get Army's Support in Keeping Throne**  
By GEORGE BENNETT.  
Hindenburg, Nov. 10.—The Kaiser fled from Berlin today to the Netherlands, according to a report received here from London. The Kaiser's flight was the result of a revolution which broke out in Berlin last night. The Kaiser fled with his family and a few attendants. He is believed to have fled to the Netherlands. The Kaiser's flight was the result of a revolution which broke out in Berlin last night. The Kaiser fled with his family and a few attendants. He is believed to have fled to the Netherlands.

**BERLIN TROOPS JOIN REVOLT**  
Reds Shell Building in Which Officers Vainly Resist.  
**THROWING DEMAND REPUBLIC**  
Revolutionary Flag on Royal Palace—Crown Prince's Palace Also Seized.  
**GENERAL STRIKE IS BEGUN**  
Burgomaster and Police Substituted—War Office Now Under Socialist Control.

**Socialist Chancellor Appeals to All Germans To Help Him Save Fatherland from Anarchy**  
BERLIN, Nov. 10, (Associated Press).—In an address to the people, the new German Chancellor, Friedrich Ebert, said today that he would do everything in his power to save the fatherland from anarchy. He appealed to all Germans to support him. He said that he would do everything in his power to save the fatherland from anarchy. He appealed to all Germans to support him.

**WAR ENDS AT 6 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING**  
The State Department in Washington Made the Announcement at 2:45 o'Clock.  
**ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED IN FRANCE AT MIDNIGHT**  
Terms Include Withdrawal from Alsace-Lorraine, Disarming and Demobilization of Army and Navy, and Occupation of Strategic Naval and Military Points.

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**GERMAN DYNASTIES BEING WIPED OUT**  
King of Württemberg Abdicates—Sovereign of Saxony to Follow Suit.  
**PRINCES MAY BE EXILED**

**MORE WARSHIPS JOIN THE REDS**  
Four Dreadnoughts in Kiel Harbor Oppose the Revolutionary Cause.  
**GUARDSHIPS ALSO GO OVER**  
Socialists Are Demanding That These Protecting Misses in the

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# The Armistice (11/11/18) at Compiegne

- 11 am
- Removal of all German troops from – F/Be/Lux./A-L.
  - All troops out of Rhineland, make way for occupation
  - Removal back to Aug. 1 1914 line in Eastern Front
    - Renounce Brest-Litovsk
- Internment of Naval Fleet
- Promise of reparations, disposal of Navy
- Precursor to signing of Treaty 6 months later
- German Gov't handed over to Social Democrats and Catholic Center Party and their representatives sign the armistice
  - Source of “stab in the back myth”



Painting of German representatives being seated in Foch's railway car

# There were 2,738 men killed on the last day of the war – Why?

- Men didn't want to haul back ammo
- Primarily, because the peace was not settled, wanted to make clear to German army they had lost, which they did not believe

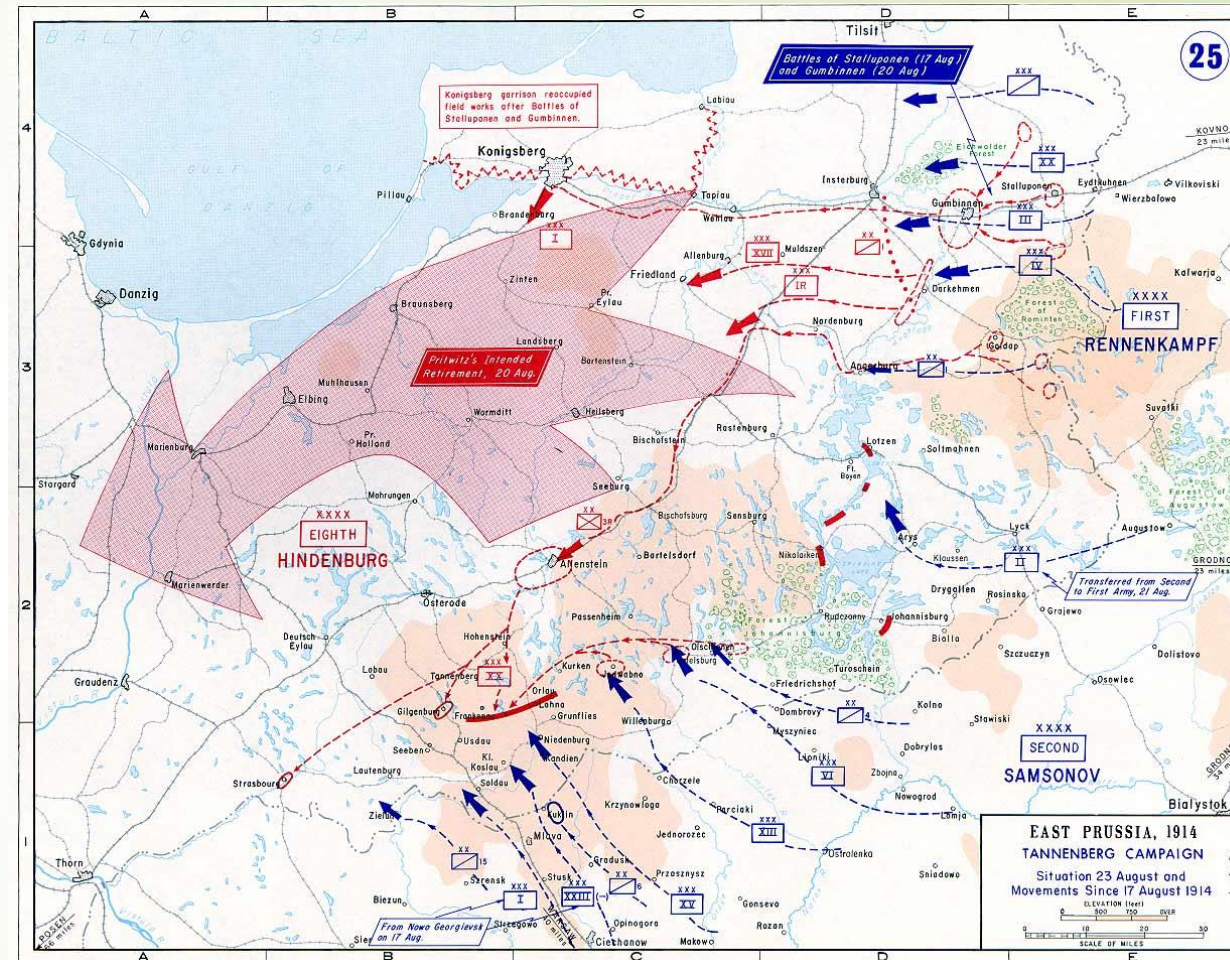
# War in the East

- Aug 1914 – German Schlieffen Plan contingent on Russia's slow mobilization
  - France had extensively loaned Russia money in order to speed process in years before war (instead took 10 days instead of 40)
  - Invasion of France was slowed by unexpected Belgium resistance
- Aug. 17 – Russian soldiers moved into East Prussia
  - Moltke unwittingly ruined Western campaign by sending troops to defend this border region
  - Russians also invaded Austrian Galicia – with success

Why do you think German command was overly sensitive to an attack in East Prussia?

# Tannenberg and Masurian Lake

- German leadership fighting in their own “backyard” – Hindenburg/Ludendorff
- Russian leaders plan pincer attack in East Prussia used 2 armies
  - Russian communication and supply poor – lacked telephone lines, radio code broken, lacked aircraft for surveillance – thus both armies in dark about others movements
  - German leadership takes advantage and decisively defeat Russian invaders by attacking each force independently
  - Russian leadership in both armies refused to cooperate in helping the other, did not understand geography of the region.
- Russia forced out of Germany, German confidence boosted, Turkey joined war on German side and cut off Russian trade



# 1915 Eastern Front

- Russian Front pushed back 450km, 1m dead, 1 m prisoners
- Turkish blockade of Dardanelles weakened already weak Russia
  - Anonymous Russian General – “ A third of the men have no rifles. There poor devils have to wait patiently until their comrades fall so they can pick up their weapons. The army is drowning in its own blood.”



# 1916-1917 Eastern Front

## ➤ Russia begins invasion of Austria – Brusilov Front

- Pressured by Britain and France to take pressure off Verdun
- After Russian success German army brings reinforcements and bring offensive to halt – another 1m Russian dead
- Austrian morale hits rock bottom
- Romanov dynasty collapsed (Feb. 1917), replaced by provisional government
  - Replaced by Bolsheviks (Oct.), Lenin's promise – "PEACE, bread, land"



# Balkan Front

- A-H failed to occupy Serbia – 1914
  - Bulgaria joined Central Powers and with German help Belgrade fell Oct. 1915
- Romania joined Allies in 1916 and quickly overrun by G/AH/T/Bu.

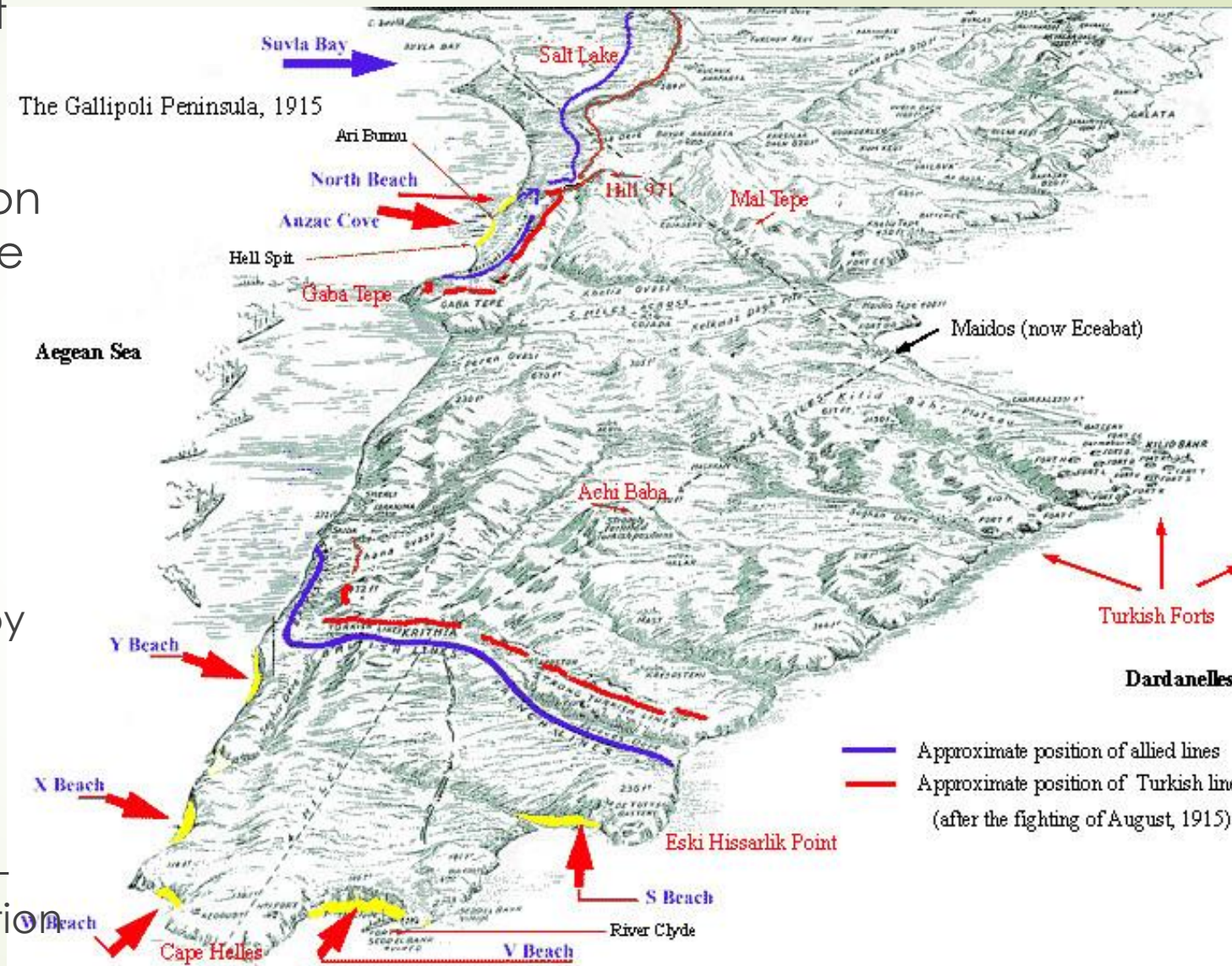
# Italian Front

- Italy joined allies in 1915 – Treaty of London
  - Promised Austria's Italian speaking areas + Dalmatia
- Battle of Caporetto – Italians smashed, retreat 110km
  - at least for B/F, Italy tied up about ½ of AH forces



# The Middle East - Gallipoli

- ▶ Turkey joined the war in 1914 with intent of halting Russian expansion near Black Sea
- ▶ By 1915 plan becomes attractive solution for stalemate in West – British preference for sea power
- ▶ Gallipoli campaign – British warships would sweep through Dardanelles and take Constantinople, knock out Turkey, open trade to Russia
  - ▶ Would further break stalemate in West by opening new Balkan front with AH
- ▶ Turkish mines, shells from forts halt British naval advance, try landing instead
  - ▶ Invasion mostly conducted by ANZACs – suffering from shortages, poor coordination – lose 250,000 men



# The Middle East

- Mesopotamia -British successful in taking oil rich region from Turks
- Palestine Front – Allies aided by Arabs who were promised freedom after war
  - Assisted by British military advisor T.E. Lawrence in guerilla tactics against Turks
    - Attacked rail lines, raided supply depots



# Colonial Conflict

- ▶ Though all Great Powers had colonies Britain dominated the sea so all overseas combat were Allied attacks
- ▶ Most colonies protected by relatively small garrisons
- ▶ By 1917 all German forces in Africa defeated
- ▶ Most significant effect of colonies was recruiting for European theatre
  - ▶ British recruitment -1.5m Indian volunteers, and many from Aus./NZ/SA/Canada
  - ▶ French recruitment – nearly 1m from N. Africa - primarily Algeria



# War in Asia

- ▶ Japan joined allied cause
  - ▶ Opportunity to take German possessions in region –



# How was WWI fought?

- Most fighting was on Western Front
  - 320km from North Sea to Swiss border
  - Continuous 4 year battle with no significant breakthroughs
  - Resulted in making other battles “diversionary” – to break deadlock

# Lions led by Donkeys myth

- French “Elan Vital” (Will to Win) – “Foch was later asked why he advanced at the Marne when he was technically beaten. “Why, I don’t know. Because of my men, because I had a will, and then – God was there”
- Why did French military leaders fail to replace red trousers until after Plan 17 failed?
- Historical Example - British General Haig is oft criticized for his actions
  - Stayed in luxurious HQ far from front
  - Poor communicator/delegator
  - Refused to adapt
- Now generally accepted that most accusations are unfounded
  - 200 British generals were wounded or killed dealing with an unprecedented situation in which would be difficult for anyone to act effectively
- War technology grew unevenly
  - Communication technology lagged behind technology for mass killing – Keegan

# Why did trench warfare lead to stalemate?

- Both sides emphasized speed and offensive strategy early on
  - Made few contingencies for prolonged fighting
- After battle of Marne, and “race to the sea” war became static/positional
- Hastily dug ditches evolved into permanent defensive forts
  - Attackers suffered twice the casualties as defenders
    - Attackers usually followed more and more elaborate “creeping barrages”
    - Had to overcome mines, barbed wire, mud, barricades, craters (no man's land) to take high ground defended by fortified machine gun post
- Eventually war did not become about “winning” but about attrition – eventually against Germany's favor
- Military education/military mindset ill prepared for new type of war?

# How did Technology impact fighting on Western Front?

- ▶ Infantry carried rifles – 10 round bolt action such as British Enfield was typical (25 round per min.)
  - ▶ Accuracy, range, rapidity advanced greatly
  - ▶ Carried bayonets – almost NEVER used
- ▶ Machine gun – 600 rounds per min. (300 was practical limit) – early on required 4-6 men, large amounts of water, new barrels
  - ▶ Germany had advantage in this tech early on, British lessons at Somme (60,000 casualties in one day), French offensive strategy made allies reconsider value of machine guns
  - ▶ By wars end light and sub machine guns were being used for offensive maneuvers



# How did Technology impact fighting on Western Front?

- Hand grenades – British Mills bomb, German potato-smashers
  - primarily defensive– blast range greater than throwing range



# How did Technology impact fighting on Western Front?

## ► Heavy artillery

- Real killer of the war – not machine guns! – 70% of all casualties
- Took well covered permanent positions and fired incessantly
- Every attack was preceded by complex artillery barrages
- Could not destroy trenches completely – shells rarely fell in – smaller short range mortars more effective for this



- ▶ Battle of Somme – 1.5m shells over 5 days
  - ▶ Did not cut barbed wire or destroy German trenches
- ▶ Immobile, could not be brought up quickly if there was a breakthrough
- ▶ When firing stopped it gave warning to defenders that infantry was nearing
- ▶ Grim effects of prolonged exposure – brain damage, shell shock (PTSD), ear bleeding
- ▶ Fire-control became more accurate and strategies such as creeping barrage advanced along with war





# How did Technology impact fighting on Western Front?

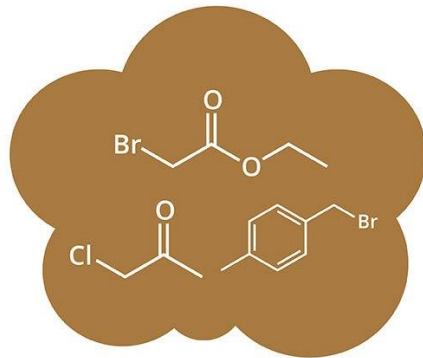
## ► Chemical Warfare

- Dependent on shifting winds, less ineffective with gas mask usage later in war
- First used at Ypres by Germans – April 1915 – successfully cleared 6.5km of trenches
  - Chlorine gas – heavier than air sank into trenches usually killed by lungs filling with fluid
- Most feared – Mustard gas
  - If not killed immediately - could unknowingly be in a cloud of it, hours later would be covered in yellow pus filled blisters, eyes swollen shut, burn respiratory system – highly carcinogenic



# CHEMICAL WARFARE WORLD WAR I

WORLD WAR I IS SEEN AS THE DAWN OF MODERN CHEMICAL WARFARE. SOME 50 DIFFERENT CHEMICAL AGENTS WERE DEPLOYED ON THE BATTLEFIELDS, AND 3,000 CHEMICALS WERE INVESTIGATED AS POTENTIAL WEAPONS. THEIR USE CAUSED APPROXIMATELY 1.3 MILLION NONFATAL CASUALTIES, AND 90,000-100,000 FATALITIES. HERE, WE SUMMARIZE THE MOST PREVALENT OF THE CHEMICALS USED.



## TEAR GASES

(ethyl bromoacetate, chloroacetone & xylyl bromide)

### SMELL & APPEARANCE

Both ethyl bromoacetate and chloroacetone are colorless to light yellow liquids with fruity, pungent odors. Xylyl bromide is a colorless liquid with a pleasant, aromatic odor.

### EFFECTS

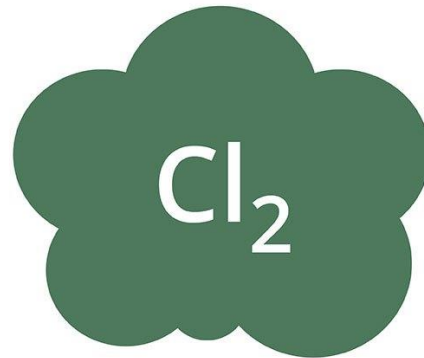
Tear gases are what are known as lachrymatory agents: They irritate mucous membranes in the eyes, mouth, throat, and lungs, leading to crying, coughing, breathing difficulties, and temporary blindness.

### FIRST USED

**1914** In August, the French used tear gas grenades against the German Army, to little effect.

### ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

**0** fatalities in World War I These gases were used to incapacitate enemies rather than to kill; the symptoms commonly resolved within 30 minutes of leaving the affected area.



## CHLORINE

### SMELL & APPEARANCE

Chlorine is a yellow-green gas with a strong, bleachlike odor. Soldiers described its smell as "a distinct mix of pepper and pineapple."

### EFFECTS

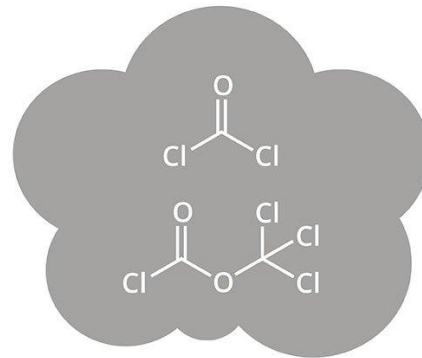
Chlorine reacts with water in the lungs, forming hydrochloric acid. Coughing, vomiting, and irritation to the eyes occur at low concentrations. At concentrations of 1,000 parts per million, it leads to rapid death.

### FIRST USED

**1915** German forces used chlorine near Ypres, Belgium, in April. British forces retaliated in September, at Loos, France.

### ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

**> 1,100** Chlorine was devastating because troops were initially unequipped to deal with it. Later, gas masks limited its effectiveness.



## PHOSGENE & DIPHOSGENE

(carbonyl dichloride & trichloromethane chloroformate)

### SMELL & APPEARANCE

Phosgene is a colorless gas with a musty odor comparable to that of newly-mown hay or grass. Its density is four times that of air. Diphosgene is a colorless, oily liquid.

### EFFECTS

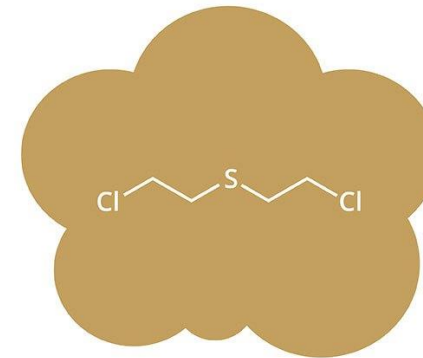
They react with proteins in lung alveoli, causing suffocation. They cause coughing, difficulty breathing, and irritation to the throat and eyes. Have delayed effects, not evident for 48 hours, leading to death.

### FIRST USED

**1915** In December 1915, German forces used phosgene against the British at Ypres.

### ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

**85%** of all gas-related fatalities in WWI It's estimated that this pair caused a majority of gas-related fatalities. Phosgene was primarily deployed from gas canisters. Both chemicals were used to fill artillery shells.



## MUSTARD GAS

(bis(2-chloroethyl) sulfide)

### SMELL & APPEARANCE

When pure, mustard gas is a colorless and odorless liquid. In its impure form, it's used as a chemical agent. Then, it's yellow-brown in color and has a variable odor resembling garlic, horseradish, or rubber.

### EFFECTS

Irritant and blistering agent that damages the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract. It causes chemical burns on contact with skin. Effects are delayed by hours, and repeat exposure increases sensitivity and blistering.

### FIRST USED

**1917** On July 12, 1917, German forces used mustard gas against the British at Ypres.

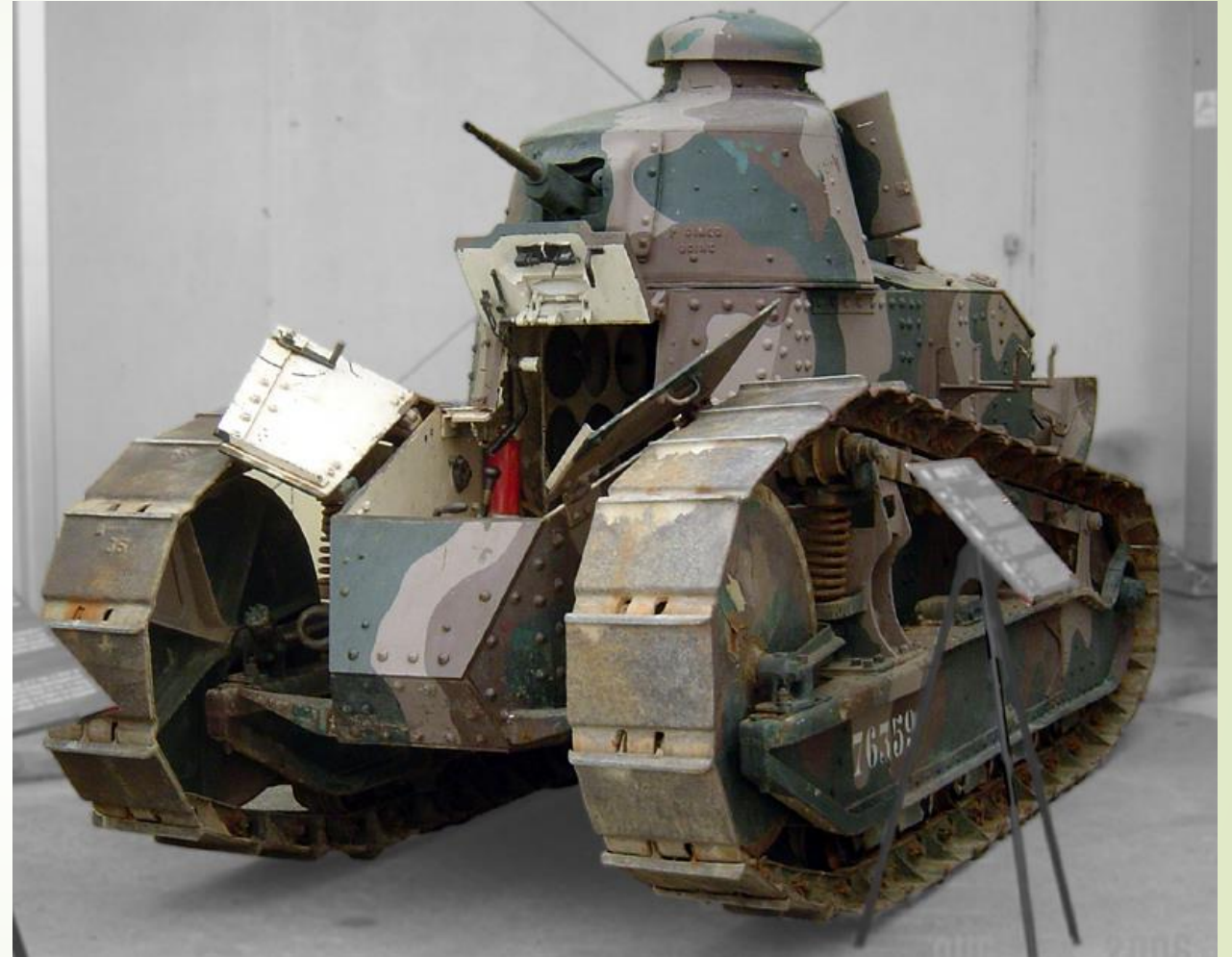
### ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

**2-3%** of mustard gas casualties died in WWI The mortality rate of mustard gas casualties was low, but the gas's effects were debilitating, and patients required elaborate care.

# How did Technology impact fighting on Western Front?

## ► Tanks

- British solution to trench warfare – “land ships” deemed inappropriate name – German’s would know their purpose – disguise was mobile water tanks
- British commander Haig first used tanks at Battle of Somme in small numbers against advice of many leaders including Churchill – no decisive outcome in their first use
- Used to protect occupants and supporting infantry from fire during offensive
- Extremely slow, unreliable, could not resist artillery fire



Renault FT – 1917 – over 3000 produced – first “Modern Tank”

# How did Technology impact fighting on Western Front?

- ▶ No technology proved to be decisive in breaking stalemate, but did result in changing tactics that made front easier to eventually crack
  - ▶ Poor early implementation? – British tanks at Somme, German gas at Ypres
  - ▶ “In 1914 the British soldier went to war dressed like a gamekeeper in a soft cap, armed with only a rifle and bayonet. In 1918 he went into battle dressed like an industrial worker in a steel helmet, protected by a respirator against poison gas, armed with automatic weapons and mortars, supported by tanks and ground attack aircraft, and preceded by a creeping artillery barrage of crushing intensity. Firepower replaced manpower as the instrument of victory. This represented a revolution in the conduct of war”. - John Bourne.
  - ▶ Soldiers were able to adapt to a changing battlefield







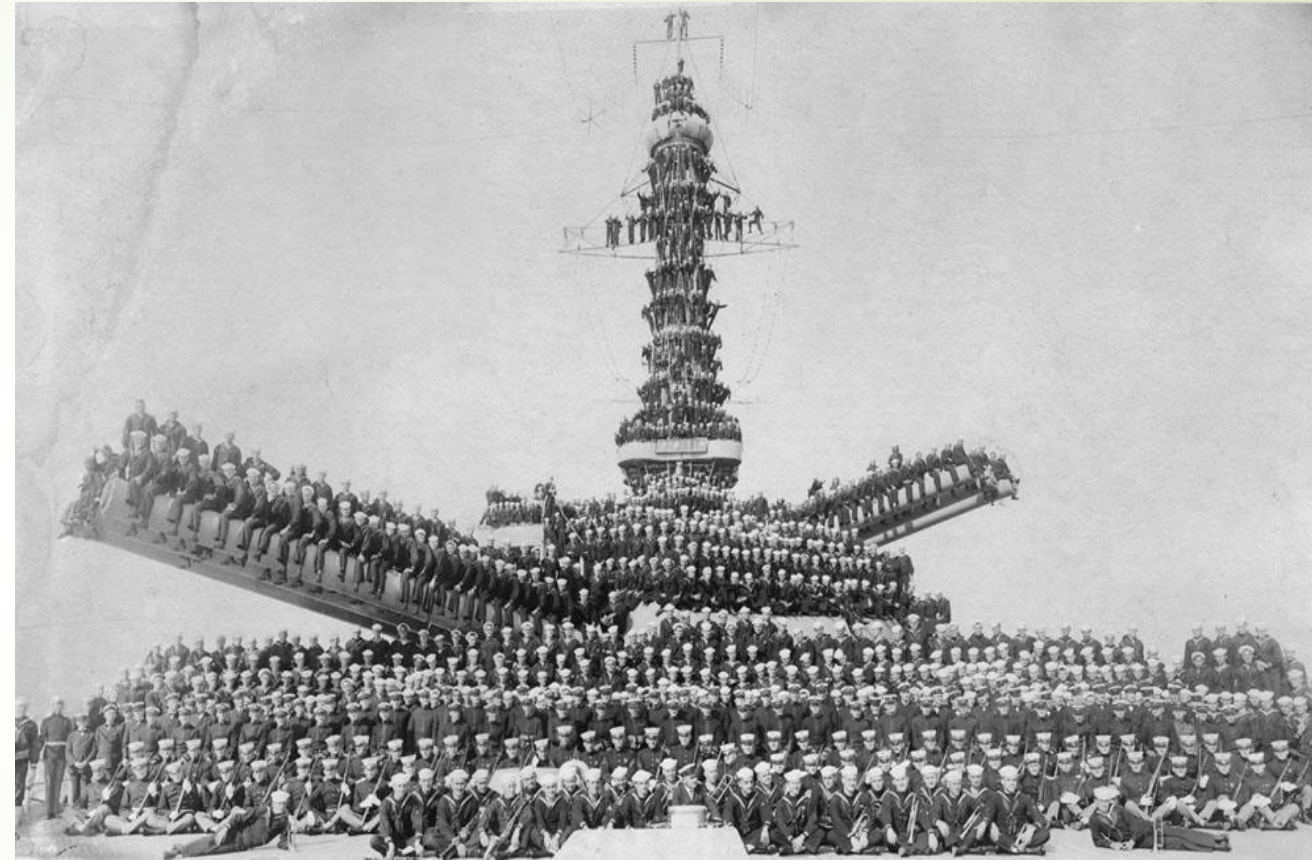
➤ French soldier on parade in 1914

➤ German soldier uniform – 1918



# War at Sea – How important?

- ▶ British necessarily had to control seas
  - ▶ Island nation dependent on
    - ▶ US for manufacturing
    - ▶ Canada for raw materials
    - ▶ Aus./NZ/Canada for soldiers
  - ▶ Needed to protect routes to colonies – Conflict in Middle East
  - ▶ Had most to lose – “lose the war in an afternoon” – Churchill
    - ▶ Could not risk large surface fleet against mines and submarines
- ▶ Germany needed food from overseas
  - ▶ British successful in control most of the sea routes
    - ▶ Example – sinking of German squadron in Falkland's – S.A.

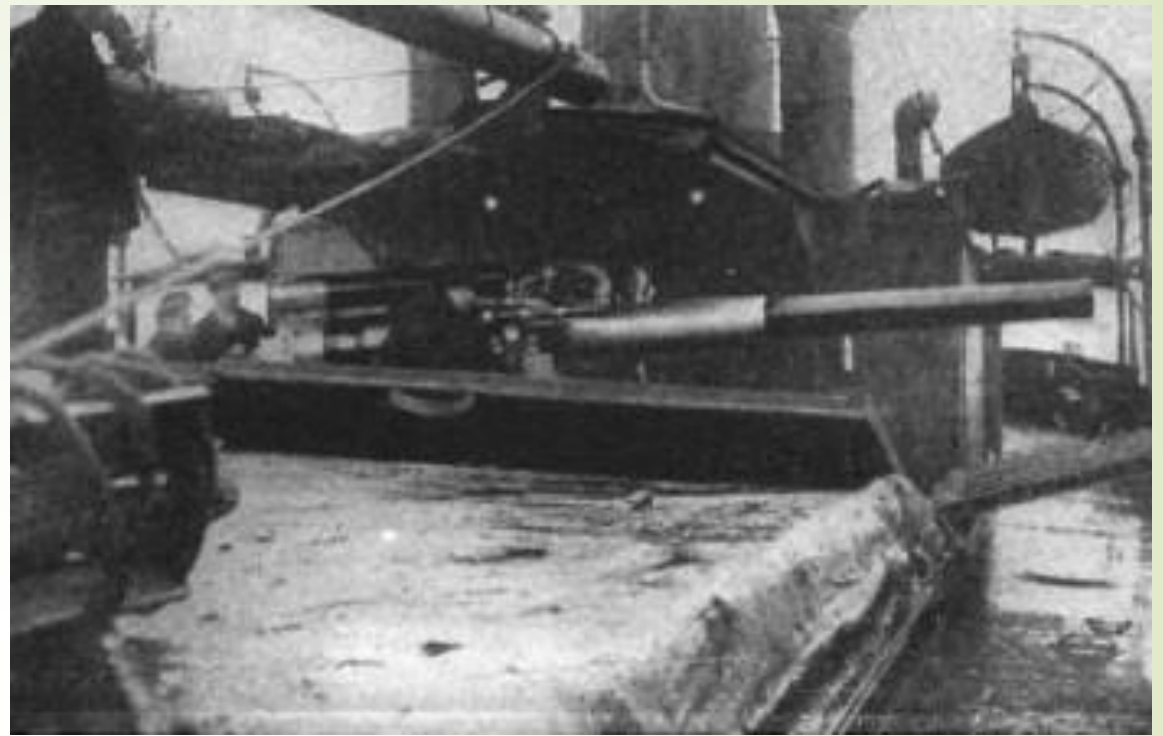


## WWI Battleships

- complement – 1000+
- Firing range – Apx. 20 miles
- could fire a broadside of 10 1400lb shells

# Mines and Submarines

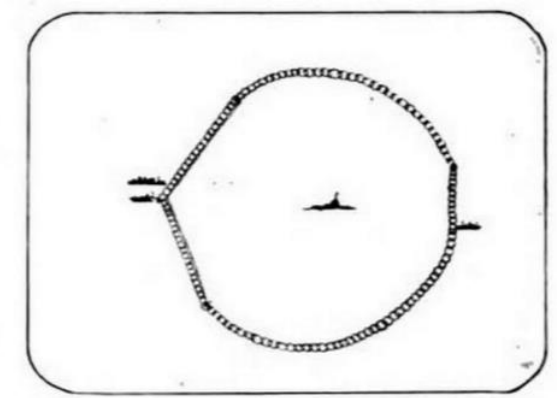
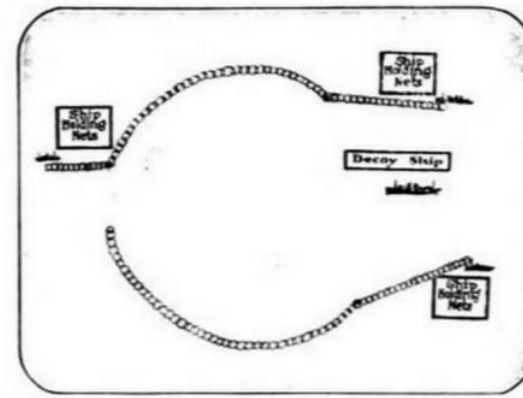
- ▶ Germany moved away from surface vessels towards cheaper unterseebooten
  - ▶ Would enforce own blockade on Britain
  - ▶ Large expensive battleships almost defenseless
  - ▶ Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
    - ▶ U-boat crews discovered they could not stop or board merchants (follow Prize Rules) without endangering themselves
    - ▶ Designated area around Britain “War Zone” anything could be sunk (about ¼ of ships in this zone were – including Lusitania)
    - ▶ Policy stopped until 1917 - Tirpitz decided that war had to be won soon, Britain could be starved before US entrance
      - ▶ Nearly worked - Britain was down to a few weeks of food reserves



Q-ship – Allied war vessel disguised as merchant ship. Would wait to expose guns until after U-boat would surface for boarding operations

# Mines and Submarines

- Never successful at economically starving Britain
  - British P.M. Lloyd George supported convoy – large group of merchants sailing together under military escort
    - Losses dropped by nearly half by late 1917
  - Weapons technology improved during war
    - hydrophone detection
    - Depth charges
    - Echo ranging and sonar
    - Air support
    - Dazzle camouflage
    - Submarine nets



*Popular Science Monthly*

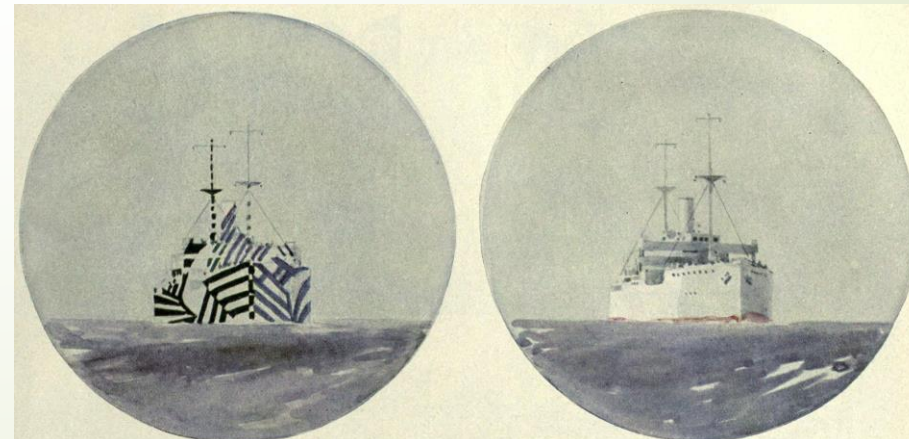
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The traps are spread from the coast of France clear across the English channel



The English fleet, anchored in the Orkney Islands, is completely protected by the nets

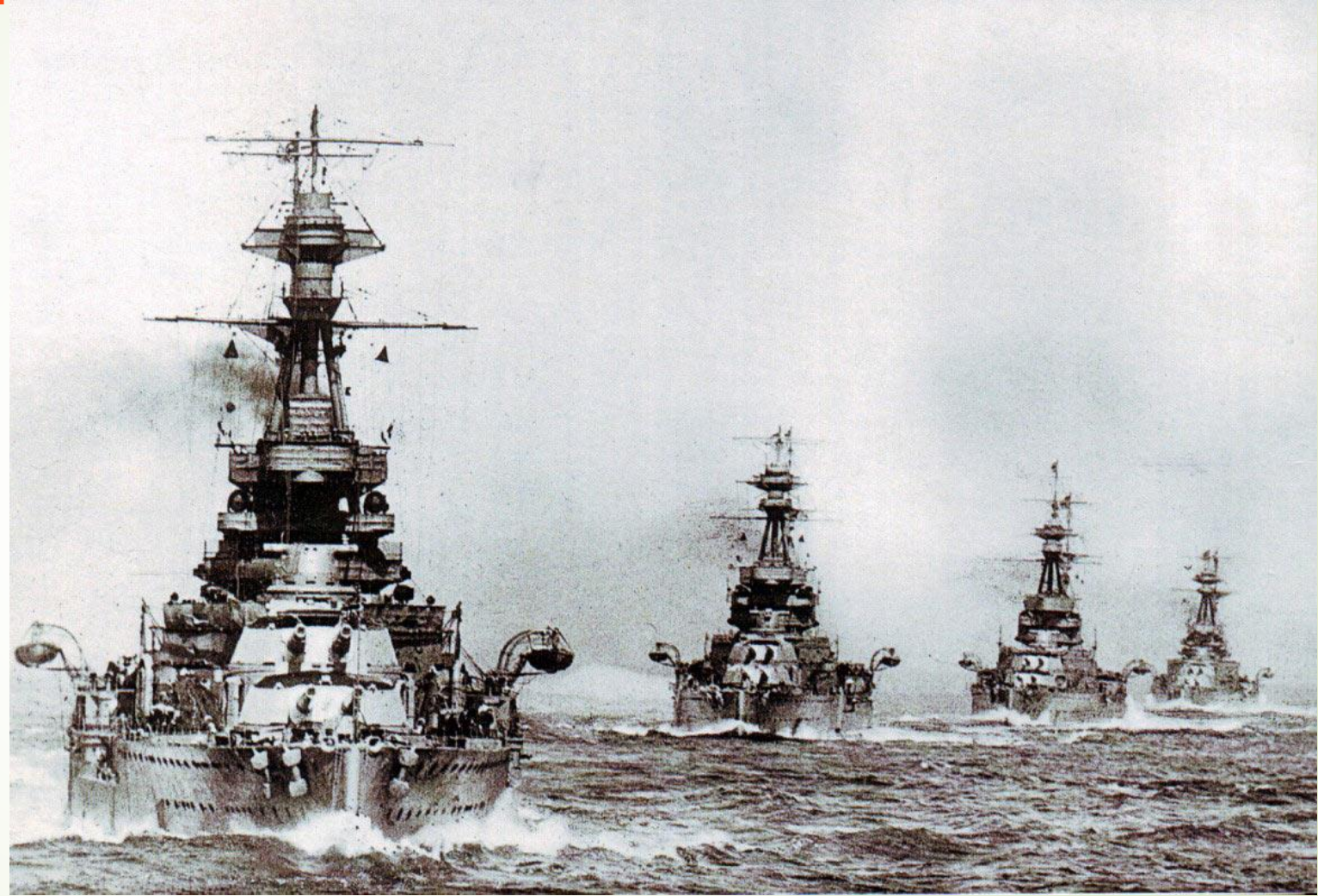


Merchant vessel dazzle-painted as seen through a submarine periscope.

The same vessel on identical course painted grey.

# Battle of Jutland Sea

- ▶ Most experts and civilians alike expected war to be primarily at sea
  - ▶ Relatively little compared to land battles
    - ▶ New unorthodox technologies made large naval battles extremely risky undertakings
    - ▶ Too much to lose from submarines and mines



British 5<sup>th</sup> Battle Squadron at Sea before Jutland

Why did the battle happen?

What advantages did each side have?

Who do you consider lost the battle – Why?

# Battle of Jutland Sea

- ▶ High cost(8,000 men) British strategic victory
  - ▶ Maintained control of the high seas for rest of the war



# War in the Air

- ▶ Airships – most important aerial tech. in early stages of the war
  - ▶ Were more reliable, could carry heavy loads, had longer range
  - ▶ Used by British to spot u-boats
  - ▶ German with 30 highly advanced zeppelins attacked civilian and industrial targets such as London
    - ▶ Contained 57,000m<sup>3</sup> of hydrogen
      - ▶ Were reasonably safe due to high altitude flying, until defenses improved
  - ▶ Eventually replaced with around the clock attacked by bomber fleets
    - ▶ 3000 casualties in London alone, many large German cities targeted



German Zeppelin attack over Antwerp Belgium

The Red Baron eventually reached 80 kills

# War in the Air

- Reconnaissance
  - Reports on troop/artillery positions
  - Assisted in targeting own artillery
  - Combined with aerial photography and radio as war continued on
- “Dog-fights”
  - Pistols and rifles -> mounted machine guns-> interrupter gear
  - Became common sight over trenches – free flying aces juxtaposed with industrial death of trench stalemate
- Aircraft became essential for victory - 8,000 aircraft in operation by all sides by 1918



List 5 ways in which air power changed during the war

\* What is the Fokker scourge?



# Why was Germany Defeated?

- “Iron die” – Bethmann quote, Von Schiller, von Clausewitz all emphasized risk taking in battle
- Time was in most cases against Germany, she would have to gamble in order to win
  - Hoped for quick decisive victory early – failed, gambled at Verdun – failed, U-boat campaign gamble, Spring Offensive – fail
- Weak allies – had to constantly support A.H.
  - Bulgaria – surrendered in Sept. 1918
  - Austria, Ottomans – Oct.
- Ludendorff Offensive – collapse of army made it a matter of time before Germany would lose
  - Epidemic of Spanish Flu also broke out
- Ludendorff – “No reliance can be put on the troops any longer. Since August 8<sup>th</sup>, it has gone rapidly down hill. Continually units have proved themselves so unreliable that they have hurriedly had to be withdrawn from the front...the High Command and the German Army are finished.”



# Why was Germany Defeated?

Turnip Winter 1916-1917

- Economic Hardship – supplies not arriving to troops, population near revolution
  - Allied blockade
  - 83% of gov't. spending was going to war effort in Germany – compared to 62% in Britain
    - Thus there was a shortage of basic civilian goods
  - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk – Though may seem to be an advantage – Germany had to occupy (w/ 1m troops) expansive lands that for time being would not produce for Germany

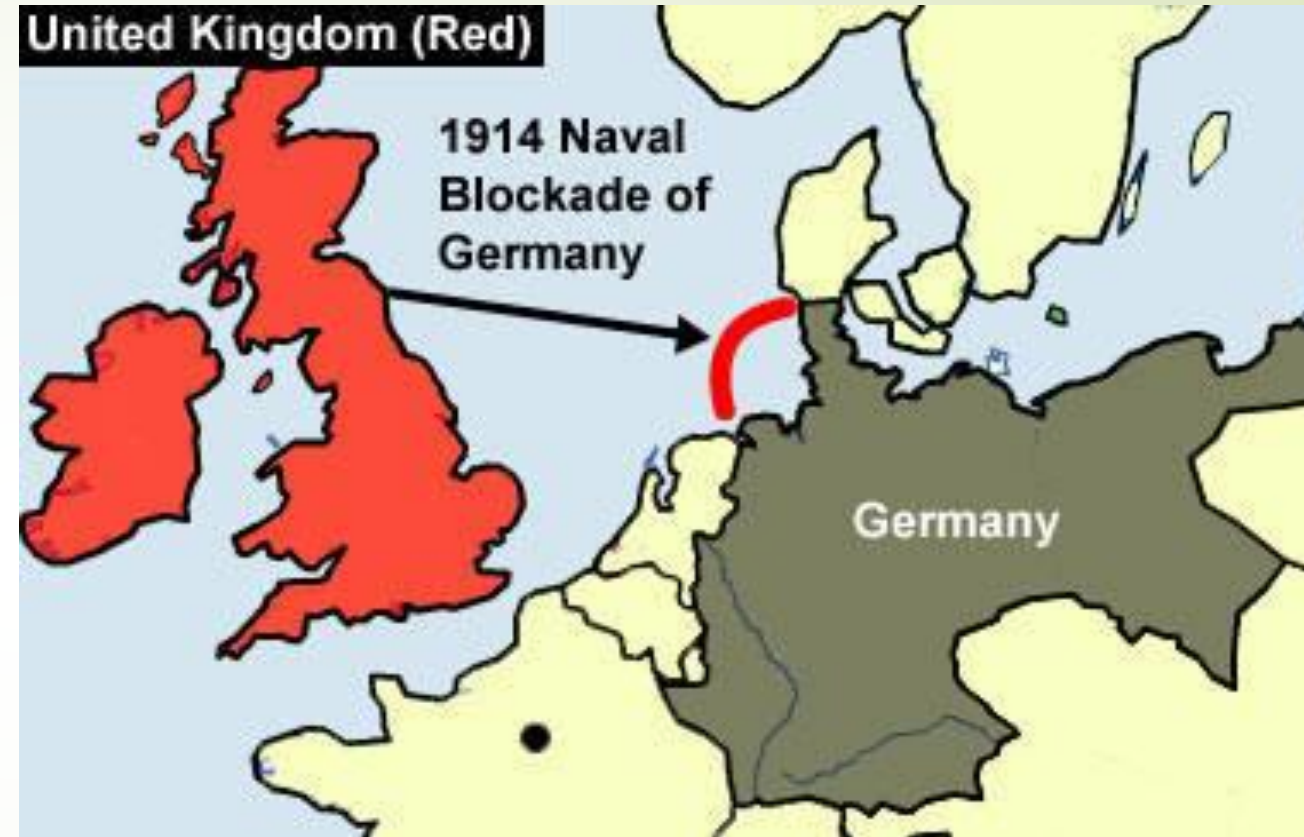


Potato and cereal crops devastated by poor harvest and blockade – Germans on avg. consumed about 1,500 calories about half of what is needed for long term health

# Why was Germany Defeated?

## ➤ Allied Strength

- Had greater numbers of men and resources – time was with them
  - War became a war of attrition – one Germany could not win
- Control of the seas – blockade led to food shortages in Germany while Britain could continue imports through convoy system
- By 1918 – Allied counter offensive was well coordinated – Beckett calls it a “distinctly modern style of warfare” – took advantage of all new technologies and closely combined them cooperatively – tanks, airplanes, artillery, infantry
- US involvement – started arriving in Jun 1918- 2m soldiers that lacked war weariness + huge economic resources (US lent \$7.7B to Allies)



- Allies eventually deployed 42m soldiers v. allied 22m
- \$125B spent v. \$60B spent

“Germany was at a distinct disadvantage, from an economic point of view, in carrying on a protracted war. She was dependent on imports of food, fats, and oils and strategic chemicals such as nitrates to fill many of her vital needs. Manpower shortages also began to loom ominously in the picture, and eventually proved to be the Achilles heel of the German war machine. That she was able to hold out as long as she did was an indication of the national discipline, the scientific ingenuity, and the marvelous organizing capacity which the war elicited from the people and its leaders... The most important factor, however, was the organization of the entire economy of the country by the military to serve the ends of the war machine – the so-called Kriegswirtschaft, or war economy. From a relatively free economy in 1914, Germany emerged in 1918 with a thoroughly militarized economy of state socialism in which government controls and regulation covered all phases of economic life.”

(Pinson, *Modern Germany*, p.322)



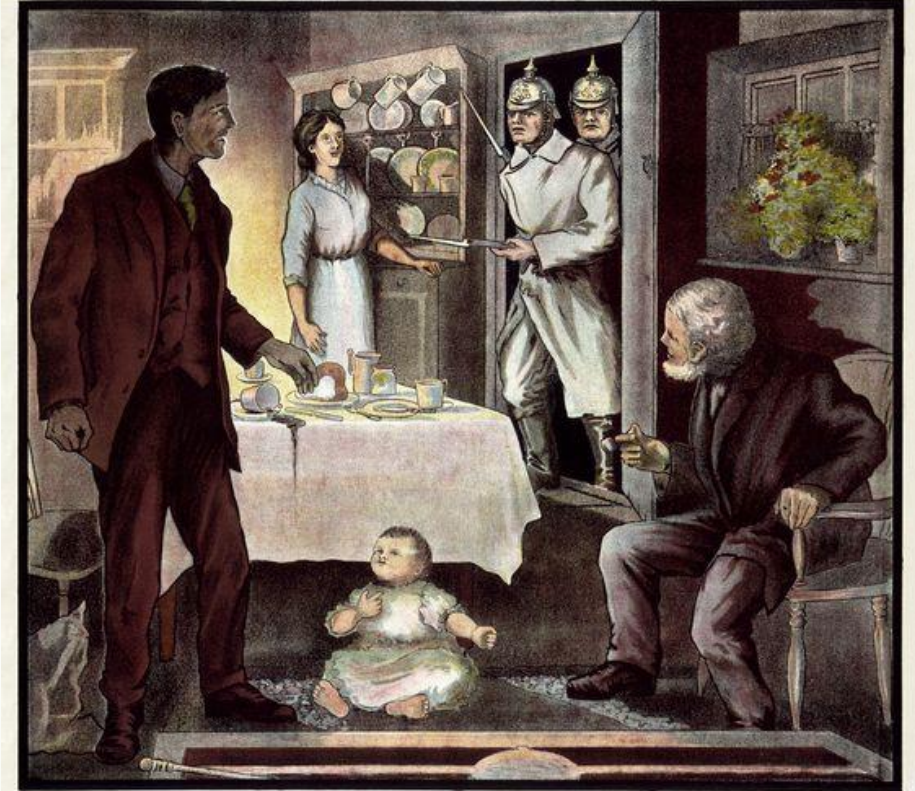
"If you want oil, then collect beech nut seeds.  
War Committee for Oils and Fats" (1917)

To what extent was Germany's effort a "Total War"?

# Was WWI a Total War?

- Both sides fought for total victory using all technologies possible, involved all people of the major countries, and welded state into unified war making machine
- Aims of Belligerents – unlikely to have negotiated peace due to totality of effort, and had extensive war aims they were reluctant to give up
  - France determined to reclaim Alsace-Lorraine
  - Britain and France determined to crush “Prussian militarism”
  - Propaganda on both sides reinforced nationalism, justified war effort, and demonized the enemy
  - Calls for from Pope and Lenin on terms of 1914 lines and no financial demands
    - Unanswered due to nations believes that they still could obtain total victory – public opinion would not allow it

**IS YOUR HOME  
WORTH FIGHTING FOR?**



**IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO FIGHT  
WHEN THE ENEMY IS AT YOUR DOOR**

**so JOIN TO-DAY**

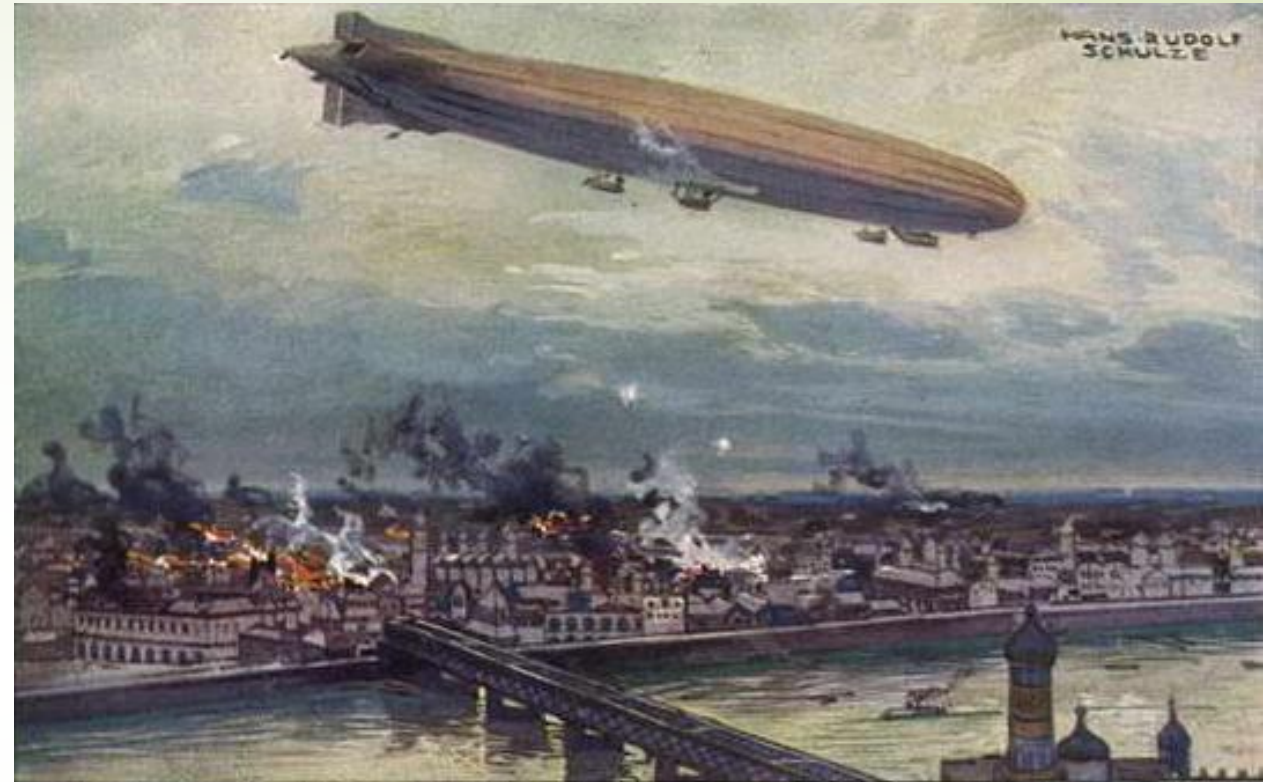
# Was WWI a Total War?

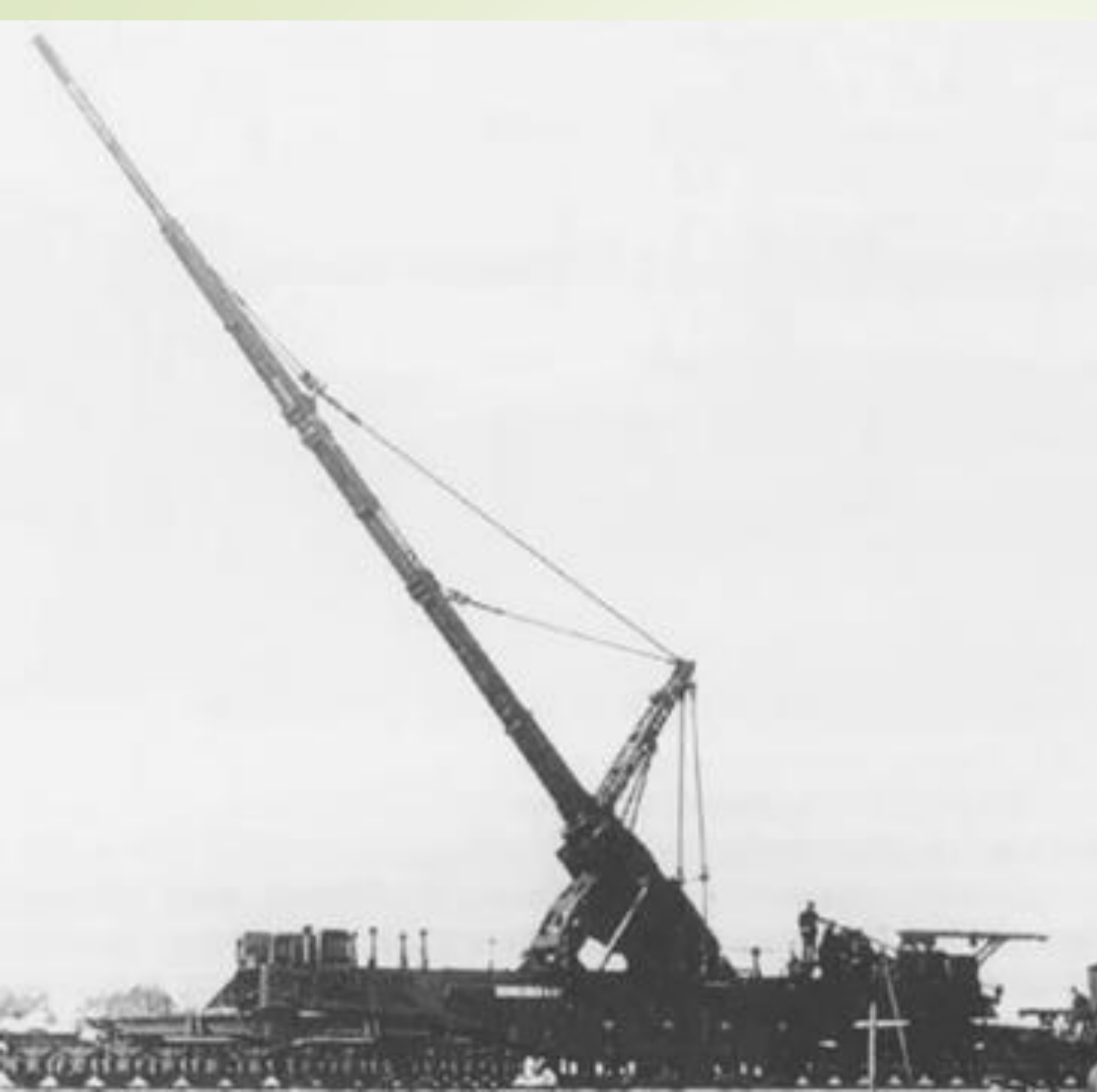
## ➤ Weapons

- To reiterate both used a host of new weapons including gas – breaking Hague Convention of 1899

## ➤ Civilians

- Were purposefully targeted – example Paris first attacked by German Zeppelins then Paris Gun
- British and then later German cities also targets of airplane bombers
- Eastern Front – Civilians would also get swept up in rapidly moving fronts and be fired upon
- Like Belgians, 1000's of Serbs executed by enemy (AH)
- In Russia Jews were seen as a fifth column, as were Germans, Hungarians, Roma and others were forcibly removed/executed
- All families and villages faced consequences of “lost generation”?





- Paris Gun as Total War
- In early 1918 Parisians civilians noticed that city blocks were being targeted by the enemy, but at first had no idea how.
- Gun was highly inaccurate, had to be targeted by spies in the city
- Range = apx. 70 miles

# Was WWI a Total War?

## ➤ Genocide (4:30-8:30)

- Turkish propaganda presented Armenians as pro-Russian, fifth column, saboteurs
- 100,000's died from starvation and thirst after being deported into Syrian desert in 1915-1916
- Explain the causes of the Armenian Genocide

## ➤ Economic Warfare

- Blockades of especially German and Russia created food shortages that lead to the defeat of both countries





# Was WWI a Total War?

- Women as a part of the war
  - Large numbers joined workforce in Britain, France, and Germany
  - Though there was resistance to this in all countries – recruitment didn't start until 1915
  - Employers and trade unions negotiated to keep women out of “men's jobs”
    - Demanded it be temporary and not be trained as fully skilled
    - Wages remained lower
  - French Gen. Joffre “If the women in the war factories stopped for 20 minutes we should lose the war”



AC provided catering, storekeeping, vehicle maintenance and clerical duties for the British Army



Young girls were hired by British gov't. to fill vacant agr. Jobs

# Was WWI a Total War?

- Growth of Government Power – citizens found themselves subjected to much greater control from gov'ts in order to ensure maximum was made of economic and human resources
  - Britain Defense of the Realm Act (DORA) – control people's daily lives – control pub hours, stop sale of binoculars, limit bonfires
  - French gov't. placed 33 departments under direct military control
  - Czar Nicholas used war as excuse to stop calling Duma

## DEFENCE OF THE REALM Regulation 21A.

# SHOOTING HOMING PIGEONS.

**Killing, Wounding or Molesting Homing Pigeons**  
is punishable under the Defence of the Realm Regulations by  
**SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT OR £100 FINE.**

The Public are reminded that Homing Pigeons are doing valuable work for the Government, and are requested to assist in the suppression of the shooting of these birds.

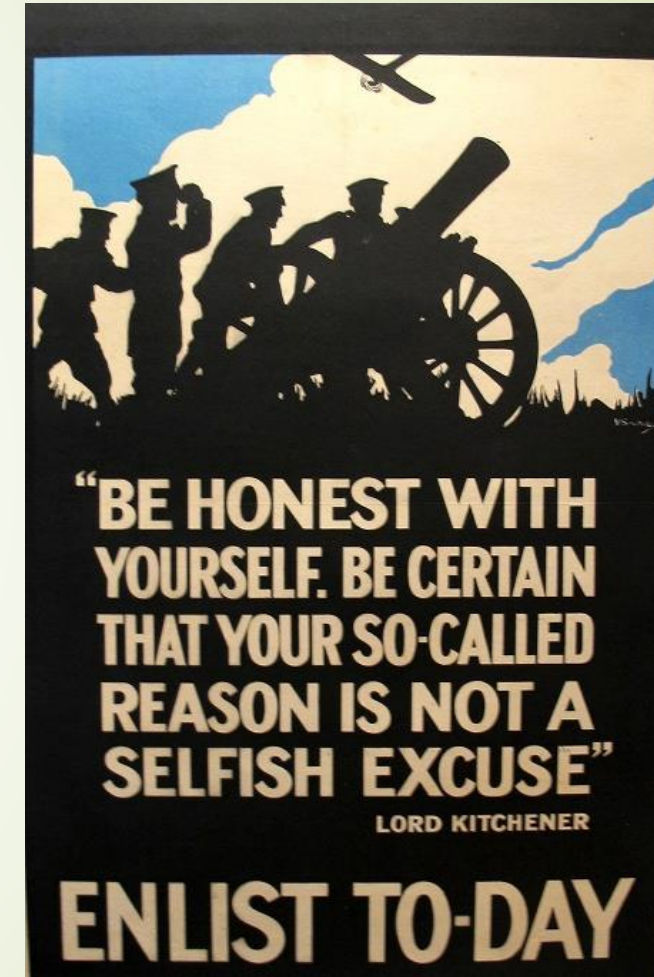
# £5 REWARD

will be paid by the **NATIONAL HOMING UNION** for information leading to the conviction of any person **SHOOTING HOMING PIGEONS** the property of its Members.

Information should be given to the Police, Military Post, or to the Secretary of the Union, **C. C. PLACKETT,**  
**14, EAST PARADE, LEEDS.**

# World War I as Total War

- Conscription – introduced in most countries
  - Britain was recruiting so many men from necessary industries it start conscription 1916 to control human resources directly
  - 3 workers were required to supply 1 soldier
- Controlling Production – Britain nationalized key industries such as coal mining and shipping
  - Set prices to keep inflation in check
  - Germany had less success in controlling industry



DOMINION OF



NEW ZEALAND.

# WAR CENSUS.

## NATIONAL REGISTRATION ACT, 1915.

BY PROCLAMATION issued under the above Act, EVERY MALE Resident of New Zealand between the ages of SEVENTEEN and SIXTY is required to register  
**NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY, 9th NOVEMBER, 1915.**

## A PERSONAL SCHEDULE

must be filled in by every person to whom the Proclamation applies. The schedule, on being completed, is to be placed in the addressed envelope provided, and handed to an officer of the Post and Telegraph Department, or posted to the Government Statistician at Wellington. POSTAGE FREE.

**SCHEDULES ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL POST-OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE DOMINION.**

Any person who fails to furnish the particulars required, or who makes any false statement, is liable to

**A FINE OF £100 OR IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.**

The Register to be compiled is purely a CIVIL REGISTER for the purpose of ascertaining the resources of the Dominion in men, and the registration DOES NOT INVOLVE ENLISTMENT, NOR IS IT IN SUBSTITUTION FOR THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF ENLISTMENT. Those desirous of enlisting can obtain enlistment forms at the nearest post-office or Defence Office.

**WARNING!** The obligation to register is a personal one. The fact that a form has not been addressed to or received by any person DOES NOT ABSOLVE HIM from responsibility to register. ANY PERSON LIABLE TO REGISTER WHO REFUSES, FAILS, OR NEGLECTS TO DO SO WILL BE PROSECUTED.

**ALL INFORMATION WILL BE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.**

(BY ORDER.) **MALCOLM FRASER,**

Government Statistician.

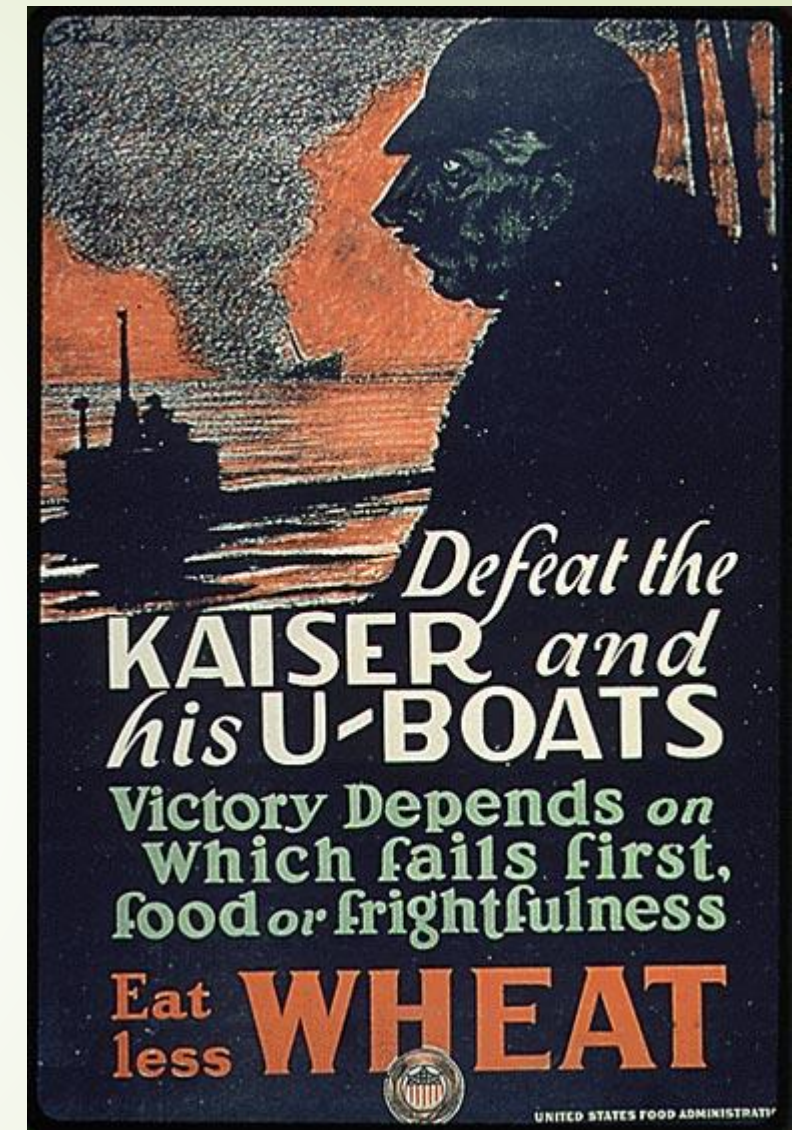
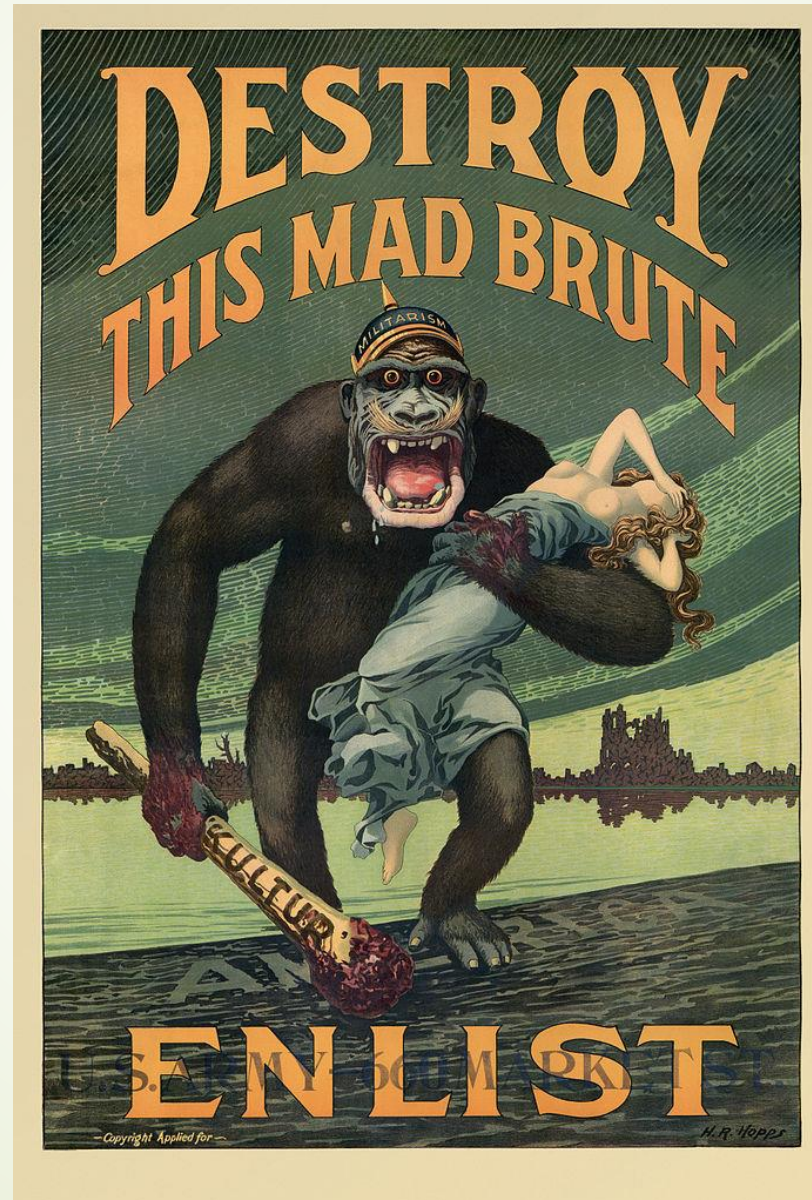
Wellington, 18th October, 1915.



- CO's in Britain had to face a tribunal of local leaders who were above the fighting age and self selected to judge hence were usually patriots and made objection difficult
- White Feather Campaign

# Was WWI a Total War?

- ▶ Gov't. - Controlling Morale
  - ▶ Propaganda first emphasized defensive nature of war
  - ▶ Then used to justify length of the war – enemy inhuman, must be defeated at all cost



- Controlling the economy
  - Britain increased direct taxation
  - Abandoned policy of free trade
  - All countries borrowed immensely to pay for war
  - Russians, French, Italians borrowed from Britain, all allies borrowed from US
    - US borrowed from own people through war loans
    - Russia's currency suffered severe inflation – resulted in 1917 Rev.
  - Germany borrowed from own people through savings bonds and loans
    - Would repay when victory came – little came from taxation 6% v. 20% in Britain

