WW1 Battles

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Battle of the Somme

- July 1st-November 18th, 1916
- Allied French and British forces against the Germans

SM

Battle of the Somme (cont.)

- This battle took place in the Somme River, north-central Somme, and south-eastern Pas-de-Calais Departements, France
- This battle lasted for 140 days

SM

Battle of the Somme (cont.)

- Casualties:

  British- 420,000
  German-434,000-600,000

  French- 200,000

- There is no clear indication of who won since this is known as one of the bloodiest battles. However even though the Allies failed to conquer this battle they made serious inflictions on German positions in France, causing them to retreat. Those who survived gained valuable experience and military generals gained insight and military strategies that were key to future battles in WW1.

SM

Battle of the Somme (cont.)

- There was a minor Allied territorial gain as they were able to take 6 miles into German occupied territory, the largest since the Battle of Marne.The Anglo-French however were unable to fulfill their goals as they failed to capture Pérronne and were stopped at Bapaume, where Germany maintained their positions.

- The first day of the Battle of the Somme was one of the most bloodiest battles as in one day 57,470 British casualties (19,240 fatalities) gaining only 3 square miles of territory
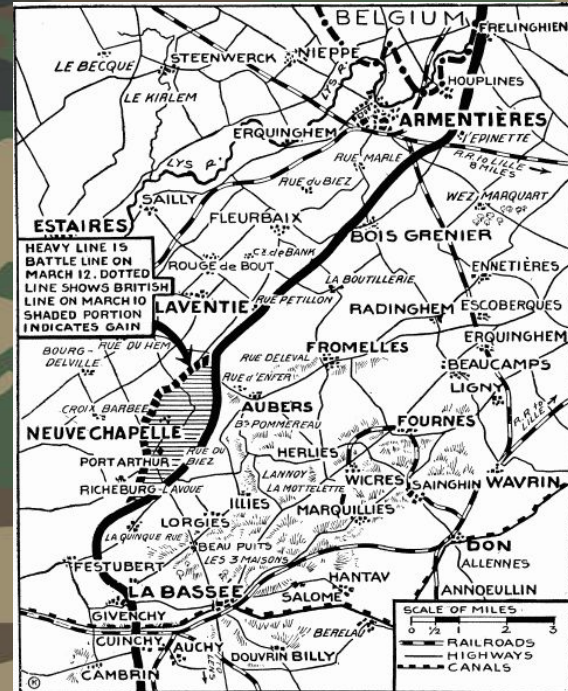
SM

Battle of Fromelles

- July 19th, 1916 - July 20th, 1916
- Included British and Australian Troops

Battle of Fromelles

- Battle took place in Fromelles, France.
- Lasted about 1 day.

Battle of Fromelles

- Australian Casualties: over 5,500 | German Casualties: 1,793 | British Casualties: 1,547
- The Battle of Fromelles was said to have no tactical justification whatsoever and caused many casualties in the span of 24 hours. There is no definitive winner but Australia's casualties were the worst in 24 hours in their military history.

Battle of Fromelles

- No land was gained during this battle.
- The Battle of Fromelles was the first major battle fought by Australian troops on the Western Front and served as an unsuccessful ruse to prevent Germans from reinforcing troops for the Battle of Somme. According to awm.london.gov, the Australian toll at Fromelles was equivalent to the total Australian casualties in the Boer War, Korean War and Vietnam War put together.

Battle of Pozières

- The Battle of Pozières took place from July 23rd, to to September 3rd 1916.
- The Battle was fought between The British/Australian and the German Empire.

Battle of Pozières

- The location of the Battle of Pozières was around the village Pozières, during the battle of Somme, France.
- The battle lasted 42 days in total, it was one of the shorter battles.

Battle of Pozières

- Less than seven weeks into the battle there were 23,000 casualties among three Australian divisions. Out of these, 6,800 men were killed or died of extreme wounds, The 48th Division suffered 2,844 casualties from July 16th to 28th and 2,505 more from August 13th. From July 27th, to the 13th of August the 12th Division had 2,717 casualties.
- This battle was a German win, due to the immense unluckiness the Australian and British had, along with their poor leadership and rash decisions.

Battle of Pozières

- This battle was fought not to gain/lose land, but to infiltrate or break through.
- There were numerous songs written about this battle, in tribute of the lives lost.

Battle of Ginchy

- This battle took place during the Battle of the Somme on September 9th, 1916
- This battle was between the French, Irish and British forces on the Germans

SM

Battle of Ginchy (cont.)

- This battle took place in Ginchy, France
- The Battle of Ginchy lasted one day (September 9, 1916)

SM

Battle of Ginchy (cont.)

- There is no specific number accounted for that one day however by September 12th after the successful capturing of Ginchy and the biggest attack of the Battle of the Somme casualties raised German casualties to 130,000.
- This war resulted in British/Irish victory

SM

Battle of Ginchy (cont.)

- Due to the capturing of Ginchy the Germans were stripped of their observation posts where they were able to examine the battlefield in its entirety by the Allied forces, and took away their salient at Delville Wood which was a struggle to defend.

- Though the 48th brigade was able to capture 200 prisoners advancing into Ginchy, they however suffered heavy casualties, some being two out of the six battalion commanders.

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Nivelle Offensive

- The Nivelle Offensive battle was fought from April 16th to May 9th, 1917.
- The Battle was fought with the alliance of France, The United Kingdom, and Russia against Germany.

Nivelle Offensive

- The Location of the Nivelle offensive was France.

- The battle lasted for 23 days.

Nivelle Offensive

- The casualties on the French side were 187,000, British were 160,000, Russian were 5,183, and Germany, within 48 hours, hasd 10,000 casualties.
- There was no definitive winner of the Nivelle Offensive battle, but the battle caused soldiers to learn from their experience.

Nivelle Offensive

- There were no gains or losses of land, but there was at least 20,000 Germans captured.
- This battle is particularly interesting because it was so poorly planned.

Battle of Arras (1917)

- The Battle of Arras was fought in 1917.
- The British troops attacked the German defense near the French city of Arras on the Western Front.

Battle of Arras cont

- The Battle of Arras took place on the western front near the French city of Arras.
- The battle lasted for around 39 days. It started on April 9, 1917 and ended on May 6, 1917.

Battle of Arras cont

- The battle resulted in around 300,000 casualties.
- British casualties: 158,000 casualties
- German casualties: 130,000 casualties
- The British won morally despite the high casualties in the first two days.

Battle of Arras cont

- Although there were very many casualities, there was very little gain that came from the Battle of Arras.
- The Battle of Arras was fought underground where engineers from New Zealand worked to create a network of underground tunnels that then allowed soldiers to exit directly onto the front line.

Battle of Vimy Ridge

- The Battle of Vimy Ridge was fought from April 9-12 in 1917.
- Canada and Germany were the main participants however Britain was in control of Canada at the time of the battle.

Battle of Vimy Ridge cont

- It took place in Vimy Ridge in northern France when Canadian troops were ordered to seize it from the Germans.
- The Battle of Vimy Ridge took place for three days.

Battle of Vimy Ridge cont ND

- More than 10,600 Canadians and 20,000 Germans were killed and wounded in the assault.
- The Canadians won the battle both morally and physically. They had less casualities than the Germans and it also started a wave of Canadian nationalism.

Battle of Vimy Ridge cont

- The Canadians obtained the area of Vimy Ridge and used it as a memorial for the battle and also it was utilized as a high vantage point with a view of miles of the surrounding land.
- In 1922, Hill 145 at Vimy Ridge was chosen by Ottawa as the site for a major national memorial to the country's First World War dead.

Third Battle of Champagne

- This battle was during April 17-20, 1917
- This was between the French defense on the German offensive

SM

Third Battle of Champagne (cont.)

- This battle took place in the province of Champagne, France.
- This battle lasted 3 days.

SM

Third Battle of Champagne (cont.)

- The French Fourth Army had casualties of 21,697 men. There were 6,120 German prisoners taken among their casualties as well.
- The result of this battle remains inconclusive due to the stop German defenses halting the French advancement, and to the possession of the crest the French now held caused heavy detriment for the Germans.

SM

Third Battle of Champagne (cont.)

- The French were able to have possession of the crest, which denied German any observations from the South. This possession was crucial to the downfall as German general Ludendorff states that it was a "severe blow".
- Aside from the 6,120 German prisoners taken, 52 guns, 42 mortars, and 103 machine guns
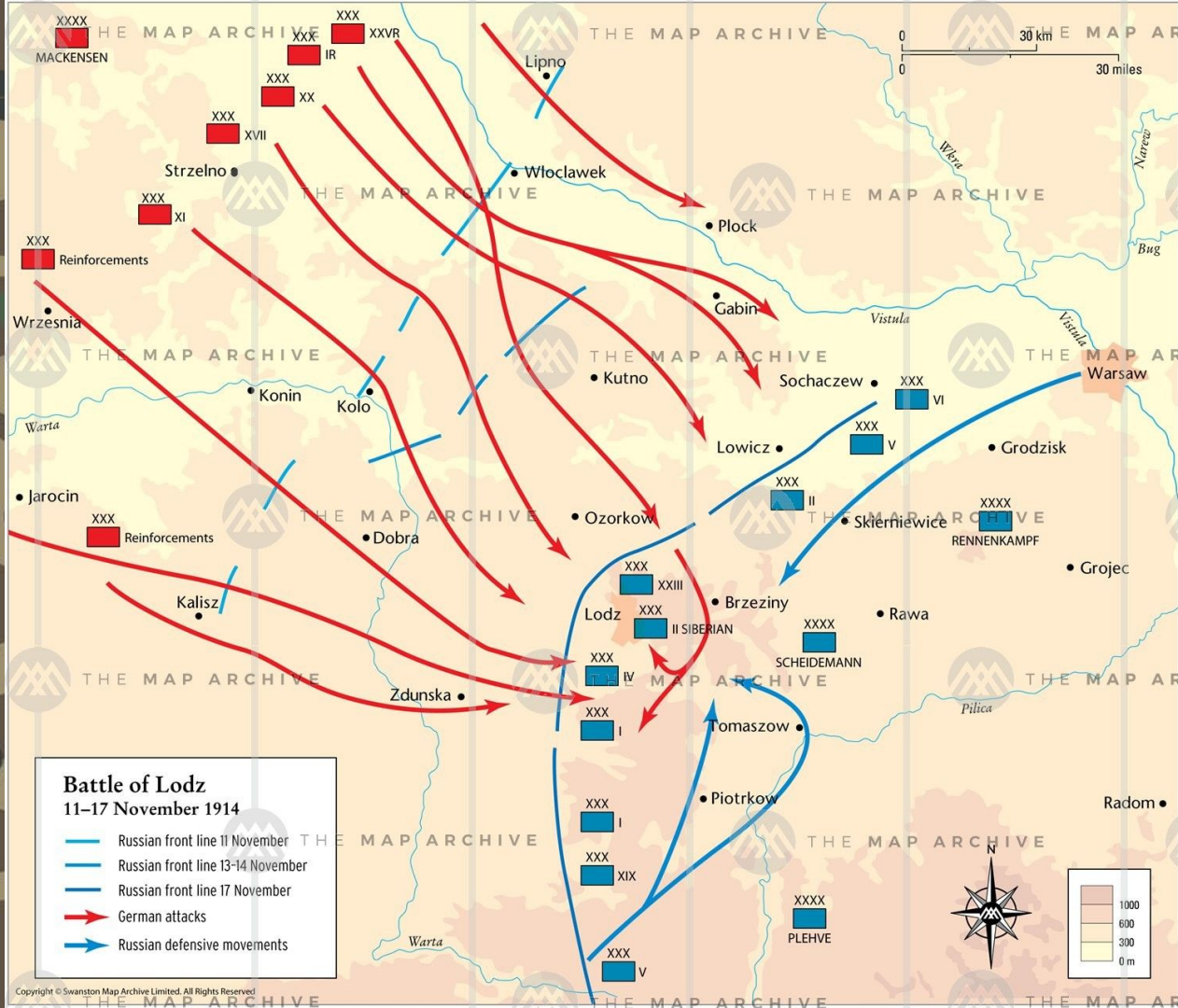
SM

Battle of Łódź (1914)

- November 11, 1914 – December 6, 1914
- It was fought between the German Ninth Army and the Russian First, Second, and Fifth Armies

Battle of Łódź Cont.

- It took place near the city of Łódź in Poland
- The battle lasted 3 weeks and 4 days

Battle of Lodz
11–17 November 1914

Russian front line 11 November
Russian front line 13-14 November
Russian front line 17 November
German attacks
Russian defensive movements

MACKENSEN · XXXX

XXX XXVR
XXX IR
XXX XX
XXX XVII
XXX XI
XXX Reinforcements

Lipno
Włocławek
Strzelno
Plock
Wrzesnia
Gabin
Vistula

Konin · Kolo · Kutno · Sochaczew
Warta · Ozorkow · Lowicz
XXX VI
XXX V
XXX II
Grodzisk
RENNENKAMPF · XXXX
Skierniewice
Jarocin
XXX Reinforcements
Dobra
XXX XXIII
Brzeziny · Rawa · Grojec
XXX II SIBERIAN
Lodz
SCHEIDEMANN · XXXX
Kalisz
XXX IV
Zdunska
XXX I
Tomaszow
Pilica
XXX I
Piotrkow
XXX XIX
Radom
PLEHVE · XXXX
Warta
XXX V

0 — 30 km
0 — 30 miles

AM

Bug
Wkra
Narew
Warsaw
Vistula

1000
600
300
0 m

Battle of Łódź Cont.

- Russian casualties: 90,000; German casualties: 35,000 men.

- It resulted in an overall German victory with the Russians having 110,000 troops either being wounded, killed, or captured

alamy stock photo

Battle of Łódź Cont.

- The Germans occupied a major industrial city with a population of more than 500,000 (about 70% of the population of Warsaw)
- Russian losses were 70,000 plus 25,000 prisoners and 79 guns

Battle of Limanowa (1914)

- It was fought from December 1st to December 13, 1914
- It was between the Austro-Hungarian Army and the Russian Army

A KRAKKÓI CSATA.

Battle of Limanowa Cont.

- It took place near the town of Limanowa, 25 miles south-east of Kraków
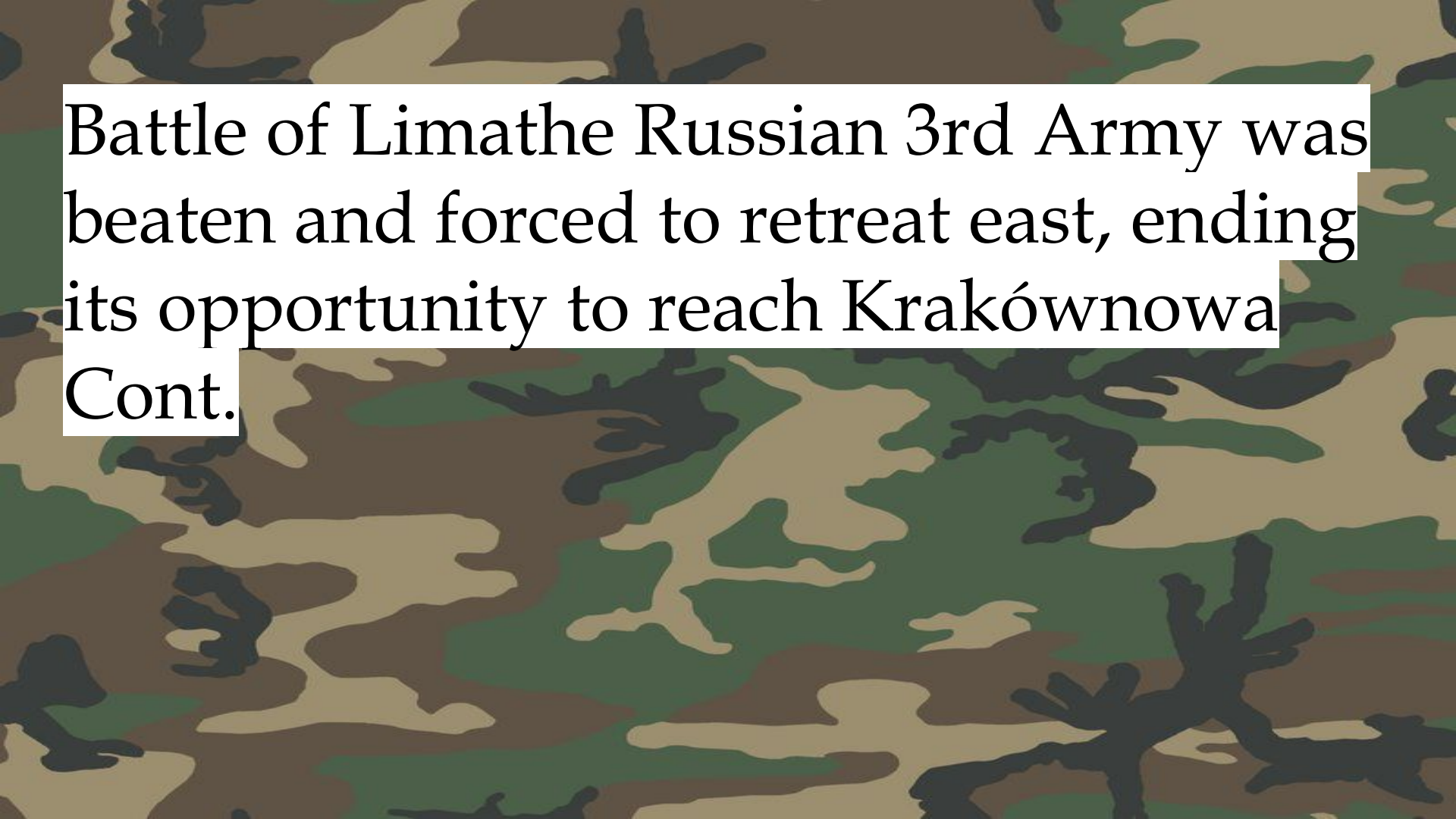- It lasted 7 days

Battle of Limanowa Cont.

- Austria-Hungary had 12,000 dead, wounded, or captured; Russia has 30,000 dead, wounded, or captured
- the Russian 3rd Army was beaten and forced to retreat east, ending their opportunity to reach Kraków

Battle of Limanowa Cont.

- There was no known land gained or lost
- To avoid being surrounded, the Russian 8th Army also had to retreat, stopping its advance toward the Hungarian plains.

Battle of Limathe Russian 3rd Army was beaten and forced to retreat east, ending its opportunity to reach Krakównowa Cont.
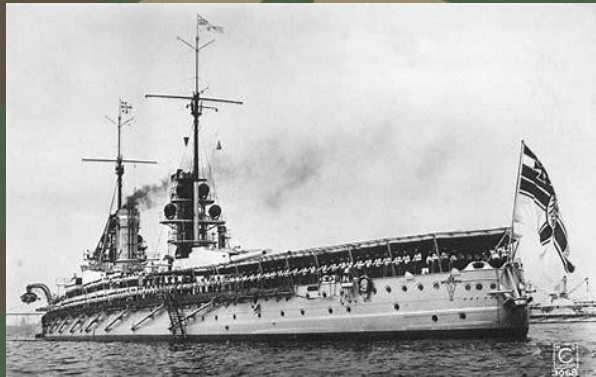
Naval Forces

Naval Warfare was usually categorized by blockades. The Allied powers successfully blockaded Germany and the others, the Central powers. The Central powers tried to break this blockade by using submarines and commerce raiders, they failed though, and their attempt was unsuccessful. This all started with the Naval Arms Race.

Naval Forces (cont'd.)

Naval technology was dominated by the dreadnought battleship. They were built along the dreadnought model with large turrets the size of guns. British ships had larger guns and were equipped and produced quicker fire than German ships. German ships had better optical equipment and larger range, were much better compartmentalized and able to deal with more damage. The Germans also had better propellant handling procedures, which had dire conseuemces for the British battlecruisers at Jutland.

The Battle of Dogger Bank

- The Battle of Dogger Bank was fought in 1915.
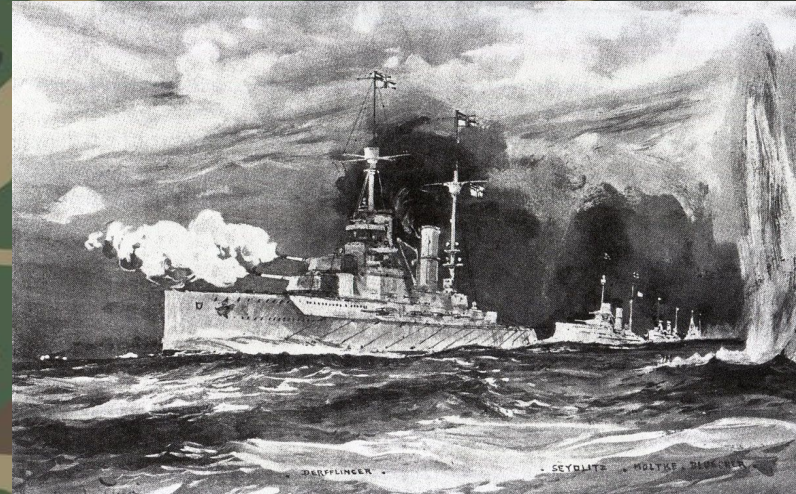- It was a naval battle between the German High Seas Fleet and the British Grand Fleet.

The Battle of Dogger Bank cont

The Battle of Dogger Bank was fought near Dogger Bank in the North Sea.

- The battle was fought for one day on January 24, 1915.

- Casualties for the British: 1 battlecruiser out of action, 1 destroyer out of action, 15 killed, 32 wounded
- Casualties for the German: 1 armoured cruiser sunk, 1 battlecruiser heavily damaged, 954 killed, 80 wounded, 189 captured
- The Battle of Dogger Bank was a physical and moral victory for the British. It boosted morale in Britain and changed the way that Germany used their military.
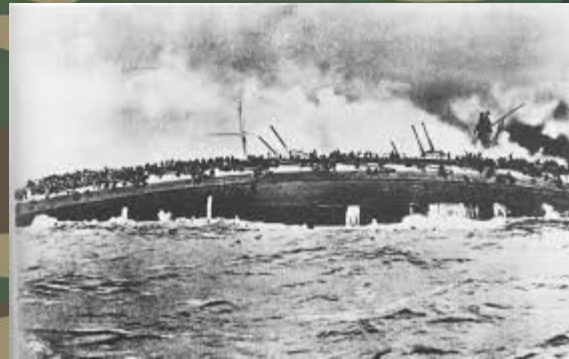
The Battle of Dogger Bank cont.

The Battle of Dogger Bank resulted in no gain or loss of land but the German fleet was obliterated to the point where they wouldn't even think of re engaging with the British navy. Many ships were lost, however they knew how to prepare for the future.

- Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty and Rear Admiral Sir Archibald Moore commanded the British Squadron against Rear Admiral Hipper and Rear Admiral Funke who commanded the German Squadron.
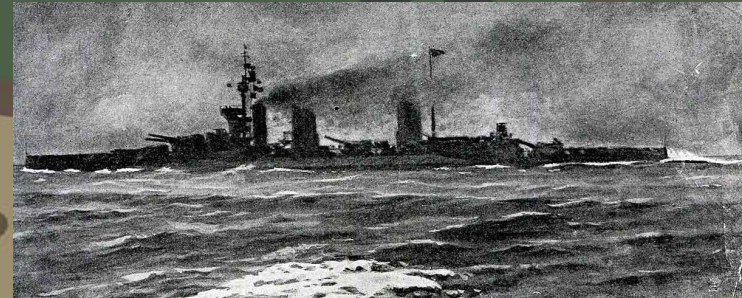
Otranto Barrage

- Between Brindisi, Italy and Corfu on Greece side of the Adriatic Sea
- Lasted from 1915-1918

Otranto Barrage

- In place from 1915-1918
- Naval blockade put in place by Allies (primarily the British)
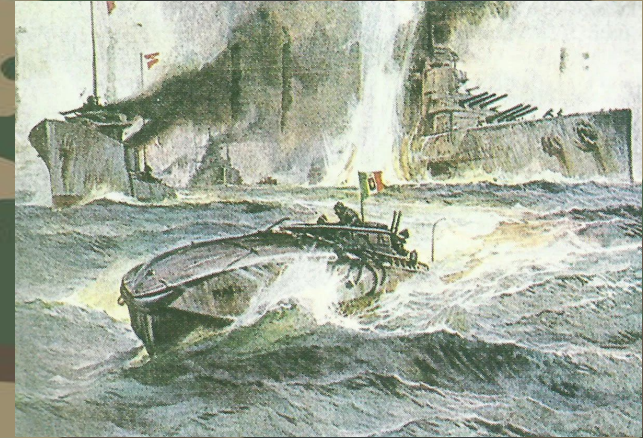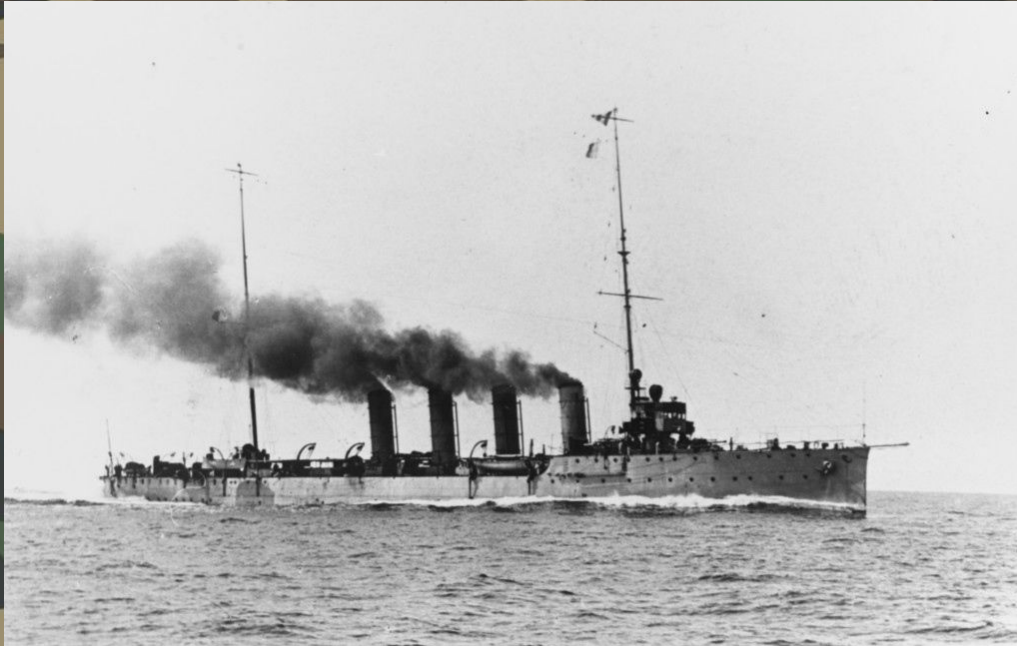
Otranto Barrage

- There were no casualties with the exception of raids that took place on the barrage by the Austro-Hungarians. As far as I can tell there were not many.
- This wasn't a specific battle rather than a blockade created by the Allies to capture enemy submarines and ships. The barrage itself did not work in the way it is intended and is known as a relative failure. Many Austro-Hungarian ships passed the barrage and were not stopped by the Allies.

Otranto Barrage

- No additional land was gained or lost
- Assume reasoning for its failures is insufficient resources as well as straits being too wide to be netted, mined or patrolled effectively.

Battle of Jutland

- The battle occurred through May 31–June 1, 1916
- It was considered as the only major encounter between the main British and German battle fleets in World War I

Battle of Jutland Cont.

- The battle was fought near the Skagerrak, an arm of the North Sea, about 60 miles off the west coast of Jutland, Denmark
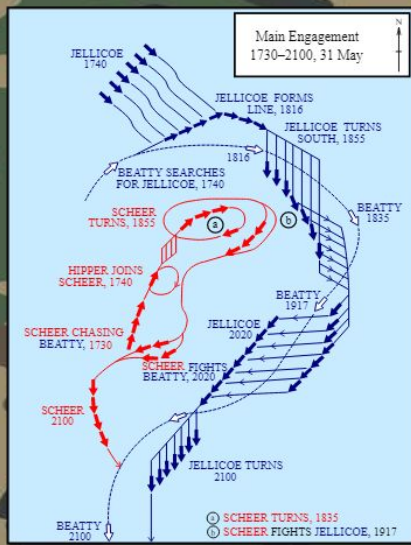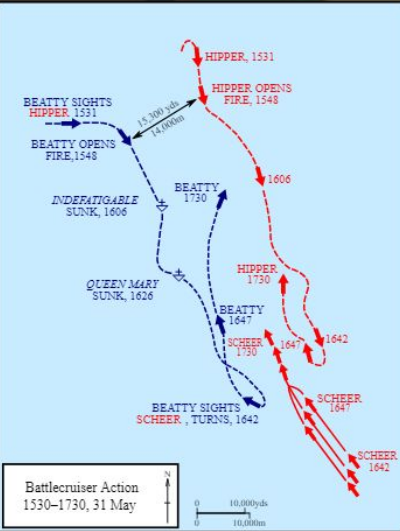- The battle lasted 36 hours with two major phases

AM

Main map labels:

SHETLAND IS.

Bergen

NORWAY

Kristiania

SCAPA FLOW   ORKNEY IS.

Stavanger

Sailed Late
30 May

MORAY FIRTH

JELLICOE
1400, 31 May

SKAGERRAK

Aberdeen

SCOTLAND

BATTLE AREA

HIPPER
1400, 31 May

BEATTY
1400, 31 May

NORTH SEA

FIRTH OF FORTH

Glasgow

Edinburgh

SCHEER
1400, 31 May

KATTEGAT

DENMARK

Newcastle

Sunderland

DOGGER
BANK

Sailed Early 31 May

Esbjerg

Belfast

IRELAND

IRISH SEA

Kiel

Dublin

Manchester

Hull

Mined Area

Wilhelmshaven

Hamburg

Liverpool

Grimsby

Bremerhaven

Bremen

WALES

ENGLAND

GERMANY

St GEORGE'S CHANNEL

Amsterdam

Rotterdam

Cardiff

Bristol

London

NETHERLANDS

Cologne

Southampton

Zeebrugge

Antwerp

Folkestone

Nieuwpoort

STRAIT OF DOVER

Dunkirk

BELGIUM

Plymouth

Dartmouth

Boulogne

Falmouth

ENGLISH CHANNEL

Cherbourg

Le Havre

Rouen

Brest

Paris

FRANCE

Lorient

LEGEND

Battlecruiser Movements ----

Battleship Movements ——

Each Arrow Represents Several Ships

Destoyers and Cruisers not shown.

NORTH SEA
BATTLE OF JUTLAND
Movements on 30–31 May 1916

Top right inset — Battlecruiser Action:

HIPPER, 1531

HIPPER OPENS
FIRE, 1548

BEATTY SIGHTS
HIPPER 1531

15,300 yds
14,000m

BEATTY OPENS
FIRE, 1548

1606

INDEFATIGABLE
SUNK, 1606

BEATTY
1730

HIPPER
1730

QUEEN MARY
SUNK, 1626

BEATTY
1647

HIPPER
1642

SCHEER
1730

1647

BEATTY SIGHTS
SCHEER, TURNS, 1642

SCHEER
1647

SCHEER
1642

Battlecruiser Action
1530–1730, 31 May

N

0   10,000yds
0   10,000m

Bottom right inset — Main Engagement:

Main Engagement
1730–2100, 31 May

N

JELLICOE
1740

JELLICOE FORMS
LINE, 1816

1816

JELLICOE TURNS
SOUTH, 1855

BEATTY SEARCHES
FOR JELLICOE, 1740

SCHEER
TURNS, 1855

a

b

BEATTY
1835

HIPPER JOINS
SCHEER, 1740

BEATTY
1917

SCHEER CHASING
BEATTY, 1730

JELLICOE
2020

SCHEER FIGHTS
BEATTY, 2020

SCHEER
2100

JELLICOE TURNS
2100

BEATTY
2100

a SCHEER TURNS, 1835

b SCHEER FIGHTS JELLICOE, 1917

Battle of Jutland Cont.

- British losses were 6,784 men and 111,000 tons, and German losses were 3,058 men and 62,000 tons
- The Germans claimed the victory for their High Seas Fleet even though it also worsened and diminished the German naval fleet capabilities

Battle of Jutland Cont.

- No land was gained or lost in battle
- The battle had the British Navy losing more men and ships but it still remained, while it also left the German Navy too diminished to set out on sea again while the war lasted
- Churchill said that the war could have been possibly lost in that one battle
- Jutland was the last major battle in world history fought primarily by battleships
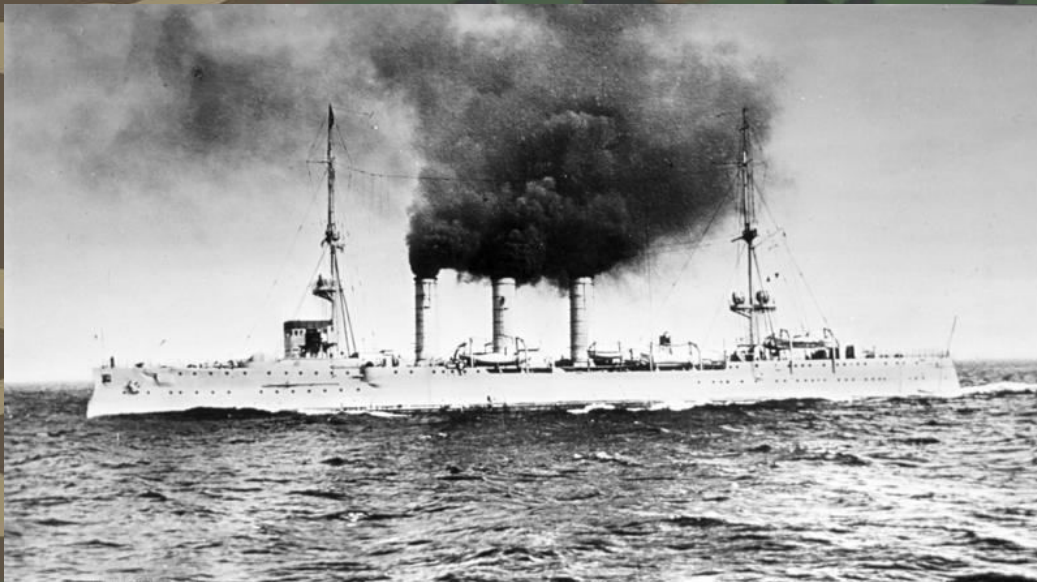
Battle of Penang

- Took place on October 28, 1914
- Germans and Allies (Naval Battle)
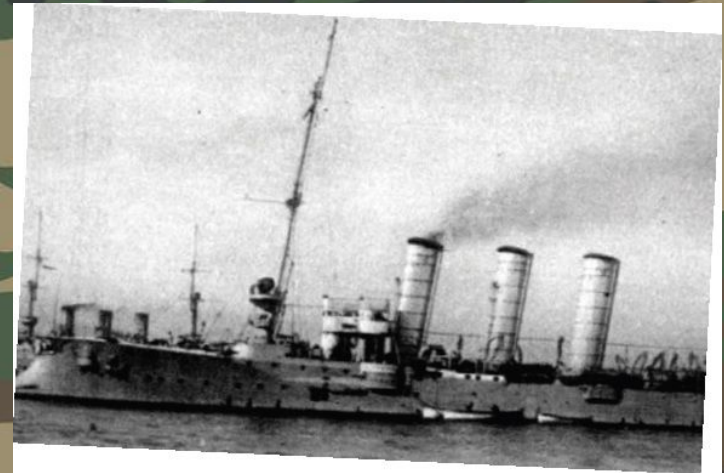
Battle of Penang

- Took place in Penang (British Malaysia) waters
- Ended within a day, short land battle

Battle of Penang

- 292 Allied casualties: 88 deaths and 121 wounded for Russia, 47 deaths and 36 wounded for French
- The German attackers had a clear victory as they got the jump on the Allied forces on Penang. They didn't suffer one casualty, as stated by wikipedia.

Battle of Penang

- No land was gained for Germany as they were carrying out raids, but many of those occupying Penang lost their lives.
- The Aftermath of the battle resulted in the Russian Commander of the destroyed vessel to be court martialed (due to him not being on the ship during the attack) and the German ship, *The Emden*, was destroyed 10 days later by an Australian cruiser.

Screencap image from YouTube Channel The Great War

Chemical Warfare
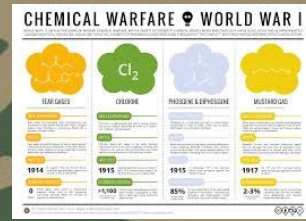
Three substances were responsible for most chemical-weapons injuries and deaths during World War I: chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gas.

https://www.sciencehistory.org/distillations/a-brief-history-of-chemical-war

Chlorine gas, used on the infamous day of April 22, 1915, produces a greenish-yellow cloud that smells of bleach and immediately irritates the eyes, nose, lungs, and throat of those exposed to it. At high enough doses it kills by asphyxiation.

Phosgene, which smells like moldy hay, is also an irritant but six times more deadly than chlorine gas. Phosgene is also a much stealthier weapon: it's colorless, and soldiers did not at first know they had received a fatal dose. After a day or two, victims' lungs would fill with fluid, and they would slowly suffocate in an agonizing death. Although the Germans were the first to use phosgene on the battlefield, it became the primary chemical weapon of the Allies. Phosgene was responsible for 85% of chemical-weapons fatalities during World War I.

Mustard gas, a potent blistering agent, was dubbed King of the Battle Gases. Like phosgene, its effects are not immediate. It has a potent smell; some say it reeks of garlic, gasoline, rubber, or dead horses. Hours after exposure a victim's eyes become bloodshot, begin to water, and become increasingly painful, with some victims suffering temporary blindness. Worse, skin begins to blister, particularly in moist areas, such as the armpits and genitals. As the blisters pop, they often become infected. Mustard gas could also contaminate land where it had been deployed. Exposure sensitized victims; further exposure even at lower doses produced symptoms. Mustard gas caused the highest number of casualties from chemical weapons—upward of 120,000 by some estimates—but it caused few direct deaths because the open air of the battlefield kept concentrations below the lethal threshold.
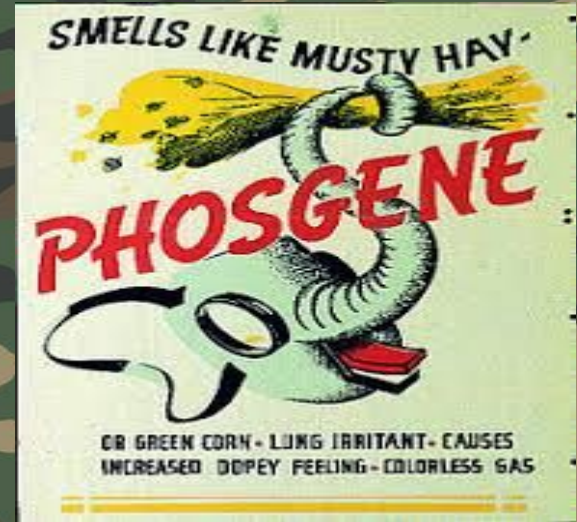
Chemical Warfare (cont.)

- By November 11, 1918, the use of chemical weapons such as chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gas which ended in more than 1.3 million casualties and approximately 90 000 deaths
- Chlorine gas, used on the infamous day of April 22, 1915, produces a greenish-yellow cloud that smells of bleach and irritates the eyes, nose, lungs, and throat when people are exposed to it. At high doses it will kill you by asphyxiation.

Chemical Warfare (cont.)

- Phosgene, which smells like moldy hay, is also an irritant but six times more deadly than chlorine gas.
- Phosgene is a more secretive weapon: it's colorless, and soldiers did not at first know they had received a fatal dose. After a day or two, victims' lungs would fill with fluid, and they would slowly suffocate into their deaths.
- Although the Germans were the first to use phosgene on the battlefield, it became the essential chemical weapon of the Allies.
- This was responsible for 85% of chemical-weapons fatalities during World War I.

SMELLS LIKE MUSTY HAY·

PHOSGENE

OR GREEN CORN · LUNG IRRITANT · CAUSES INCREASED DOPEY FEELING · COLORLESS GAS

SM

Chemical Warfare (cont.)

Mustard Gas - Mustard gas was the most commonly used, and said to be the most effective. The first time mustard gas was used was in Germany, in July of 1917. Mustard gas was not usually fatal, but it was extremely painful when one would come into contact with it. It would cause blistering, vomiting, and occasionally internal bleeding.

MUSTARD GAS

Smells like
GARLIC...

HORSERADISH · MUSTARD
STRONG VESICANT

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