

World War I—Knowledge Organiser

How did World War I begin?

- **Arms Race:** Tension between Germany and Britain grew after they competed with each other to build Dreadnoughts for their navy.



- **Alliances:**

Triple Alliance = Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy.



Triple Entente = Britain, France, Russia

- The Assassination of Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand: When Serbian man Gavrilo Princip assassinated Austrian Franz Ferdinand, Austria sought revenge. Russia promised to support Serbia if they were attacked. Germany's alliance with Austria meant that they became involved and then Britain and France became involved after this due to their alliance with Russia.



Why were trenches used?

- The Battle of the Marne showed that "open warfare" was simply too deadly.
- 263,000 British and French wounded, 220,000n Germans.
- Machine guns and explosives were far too strong, so soldiers had to protect themselves.
- By the end of 1914, trenches were built across the entire battlefields

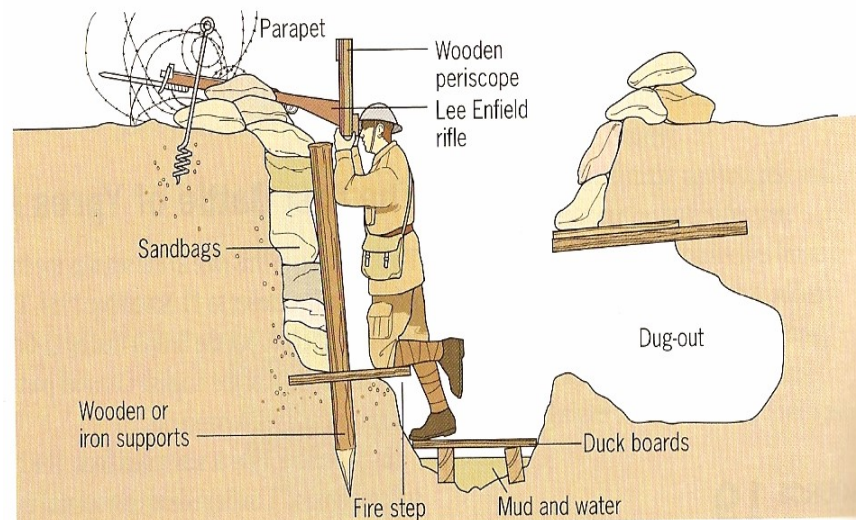
The Battle of the Somme

- More troops died than in any other battle
- Both sides suffered around 600,000 casualties. 60,000 on first day
- Douglas Haig was Field Marshall and ordered wave after wave of British troops to go "over the top"
- He carried on even with high casualty rates
- Haig's tactic of bombing the German trenches to soften them up didn't work as it just let the Germans know an attack was coming
- Haig never visited the front line himself
- The attack was seen as necessary to divert attention from the French in the Battle of Verdun.

Consequences of WWI

- Before WWI, many British people celebrated war. Crowds of people paraded outside of Buckingham Palace when WWI was announced.
- However, the horrors of trench warfare and the injured soldiers who came back changed people's attitudes
- There was some change for women. Women played a key role at home during WWI.
- Although many women had to return to unemployment after the war, women were able to get the vote in 1918, 2 weeks after the war ended.
- The war changed British attitudes towards its empire after soldiers from India, Australia, the Caribbean all fought alongside British troops against the Axis powers.

WWI Trench



Why was it hard to attack a trench?

- Trenches were well designed to be hard to attack: zig zag routes and reserve trenches led to stalemate
- Planes and tanks were not advanced enough to overcome trenches
- No man's land in between opposing trenches was nearly impossible to cross.