Battles of The Great War

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| **The First Battle of the Marne** | |
| When? | Sept 5-12 1914 |
| Where? | Western Front  Very close to Paris |
| Who? | Germans vs British and French |
| What? | -Part of the Schlieffen Plan  -Germans trying to advance to Paris to take the capital  -One half of the German army moved southward, leaving a gap between the two armies, which the allied powers were able to then advance into  -German army retreated and dug trenches to wait for the allies to advance further |
| Canadian Contribution | None |
| Cost | -Over 1 million French and British soldiers died  -Over 750,000 German soldiers died |
| Significant events/  interesting info | -German railway guns could reach to Paris  -Parisian taxis were used to move troops from Paris to the frontlines  -aircraft used to find weak spots in enemy line |
| Significance for the war | -Marked the end of the German advance into France  -Marked the beginning of Trench Warfare |

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| **Second Battle of Ypres** | |
| When? | April 22nd to May 25th 1915 |
| Where? | Ypres, Belgium (Western Front) (now known as Leper) |
| Who? | British and Canadians vs Germans |
| What? | -Allies wanted to protect Ypres because of its railway lines and roads leading to ports on the coast  -Last major centre in Belgium that hadn’t been taken, important symbolically to hold onto it  -1st attack - Chlorine gas that kills one division Algerians and two of French soldiers.  -Canadian and British stop Germans from surrounding them and hold their ground  -2nd gas attack - onto the Canadians, many died, those that survived did so by tying a urine soaked cloth around their nose and mouth |
| Canadian Contribution | - |
| Cost | -6000 Canadians casualties, 2000 dead  -59,000 British |
| Significant events/  Interesting info | -First major battle fought by Canadian troops  -First time a former colony (Canada) defeated a European Empire (Germany)  -In Flanders Fields was written in 20min during this battle, John McCrae |
| Significance for the war | -First time Germans had successfully used chemical weapons on a large scale on the Western Front. They would continue to do so for the rest of the war  -Following this battle, the British and French started developing their own chemical weapons and gas masks |

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| **Gallipoli** | |
| When? | Feb 1915 to Jan 1916 |
| Where? | Gallipoli Peninsula |
| Who? | British and French vs Germans and Ottoman Empire |
| What? | -Goal was to help the Russians and control the waterways to access Russia  -Started with naval attacks  -land attack went poorly as there were some wrong landings  -Allies dug trenches to wait for a Turkish attack  -Evacuated |
| Canadian Contribution | Newfoundland Regiment fought there  Earned an impressive reputation |
| Cost | 30 men from Newfoundland Regiment died  250,000 casualties, 26,000 of whom died (Allies)  250,000 casualties, 65,000 of whom died (Turks) |
| Significant events/  Interesting info |  |
| Significance | -Seen as a failure for the allies - lack of preparation and drive  -Last victory of the Ottoman Empire in the wake of a crumbling empire |

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| **Jutland** | |
| When? | May 31st to June 1st 1916 |
| Where? | The North Sea |
| Who? | British vs Germans |
| What? | The biggest naval battle in WW1. |
| Canadian Contribution | -Contribute in building some of the ships |
| Cost | -14 British ships sank  -11 German ships sank |
| Significant events/  Interesting info | -The last major battle fought primarily by battleships in World History |
| Significance for the war | -Britain and Germany’s arms race for the largest navy is finally put to the test  -Tie - both sides claim victory, but Britain keeps control of the area |

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| **Battle of Verdun** | |
| When? | Feb 21st - Dec 1916 |
| Where? | Verdun near the German and French border |
| Who? | French vs Germans |
| What? | -Goal is to weaken the French Army |
| Canadian Contribution | None  they were in the battle of Somme |
| Cost | 337,000 for both sides |
| Significant events/  Interesting info | -The longest single battle in the war  -The reason the British started the battle of the Somme, to relieve the French troops here |
| Significance for the war | -Not much significance to the overall war effort, despite the large number of casualties  -British see that the French are in desperate need of help |

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| **Battle of the Somme** | |
| When? | July 1- Nov 18 1916 |
| Where? | France by the River Somme |
| Who? | French and British vs Germans |
| What? | Aim was to relieve pressure on French forces at Verdun by drawing German reserves southward - ie goal to drain German supplies  Day 1 - British sent troops over the top and 60,000 were gunned down  Months of a stalemate  No clear winner  In 3 months, only 12 km of ground was gained |
| Canadian Contribution | Only participated in the last 3 months  First Newfoundland Regiment participated (not officially part of Canada yet) - loses 700 casualties on Day 1  Canadians captured some strategic points including Courcelette, Thiepval, and Ancre Heights |
| Cost | 1.5 million people were wounded or died  More than 600,000 casualties a side |
| Significant events/  Interesting info | Germans used gas warfare.  Chlorine Gas - Green, visible, painful death. Allies had to wear cloth over their mouth and nose soaked in urine to protect themselves from it  Phosgene gas - colourless, more deadly that Chlorine  Rifles - bolt-action rifle used  Machine guns - large, needed at least 4 men to operate. Germans had these, British did not. British soldiers would walk right into open fire  Mines - British used 11 in this battle  No man’s land  First time tanks are used  Trenches - disease, bad toilet situation, dysentery, poor water supply, lice,  Pyrrexhia/trench disease - disease carried by the lice - shooting pains in the legs and fever  Trench foot - infection because of standing in cold and wet, not able to change shoes or socks, could lead to gangrene in which case you would need to amputate  Rats |
| Significance for the war | The longest of attritional campaigns, deadliest battle in the war  Controversial because so many people died, and soldiers were sent over the top without proper weapons or tactics to break through enemy trenches  Others argue that it did help relieve some pressure at Verdun, so allies were able to hold there  Forced allies to reconsider their tactics for the upcoming battles |

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| **Vimy Ridge** | |
| When? | April 9-12 1917 |
| Where? | Western Front, France |
| Who? | Canadians vs Germans |
| What? | -Stalemate along the Western Front had been going on for a long time, and wasn’t getting them closer to victory.  -Decide to launch an attack - French in the south and British (and Canadian) in the North, called the Battle of Arras. |
| Canadian Contribution | -Canadians given the task of taking Vimy Ridge.  -The Ridge is important because it is higher up and gives Germans the ability to see the trenches for miles in both directions. 7km long hill.  -French had already tried to take in in the past, unsuccessfully, which meant that the fighting would take place over an open graveyard. |
| Cost | -3,500 dead and 7,000 wounded Canadians  -20,000 German casualties |
| Significant events/  Interesting info | -First time that all four of the Canadian divisions fighting together for the first time  -New tactics used for this, lots of training, dug tunnels to get soldiers closer |
| Significance for the war | -Was the greatest Allied victory up to that point in the war  -The battle comes to be seen as a symbol for Canadian nationalism, the “Birth of a Nation”  -Despite it being built up in Canadians’ minds, the battle itself was relatively insignificant to the overall war |

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| **Passchendaele (Third Battle of Ypres)** | |
| When? | July - Nov 1917 |
| Where? | Near Ypres |
| Who? | British, Canadians vs Germans |
| What? | -Goal is to secure the Belgian coast and wear out the enemy |
| Canadian Contribution | -Canadian corps that actually captured the town of Passchendaele  -All four Canadian divisions fought in this battle |
| Cost | -270,000 British casualties, 220,000 German casualties |
| Significant events/  Interesting info | -Battleground was a horrible swampy, muddy mess, with big craters and dead soldiers from previous battles there  -Tanks were used |
| Significance for the war | -Remembered as a symbol of the horrors of WWI |

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| **Canada’s 100 Days** | |
| When? | Aug 8th to Nov 11th 1918 |
| Where? | France |
| Who? | Allies vs Germans |
| What? | -[Battle of Amiens](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Battle_of_Amiens_(1918)), [Second Battle of the Somme](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Second_Battle_of_the_Somme_(1918)), [Battle of the Scarpe](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Battle_of_the_Scarpe_(1918)), [Battle of the Canal du Nord](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Battle_of_the_Canal_du_Nord), [Battle of Cambrai](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Battle_of_Cambrai_(1918)), [Battle of the Selle](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Battle_of_the_Selle), [Battle of Valenciennes](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Battle_of_Valenciennes_(1918)) and finally at [Mons](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Mons), |
| Canadian Contribution | -played a substantial role in this offensive  -100,000 Canadians |
| Cost | -45,000 Canadian casualties |
| Significant events/  Interesting info | * November 11th is a celebration of armistice |
| Significance for the war | -Last 100 days of the war |