# Battle of Verdun

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The Battle of Verdun took place near the Franco-German border, on the hills of Verdun-sur-Meuse, in north eastern-france.

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#### **Battle Events:**

- The battle began on the 21st of February, the German 5th army attacked the French defences in the Région Fortifiée de Verdun.
- By March 29th French Artillery had successfully been set up on the west bank allowing them to constantly bombard the German flank.
- In July the so far successful German attacking force was reduced due to troops being drawn out to help the Somme front.
- Once the Germans captured the village of Douaumont, a German attempt to capture Fort Souville in late July was repulsed by artillery and small-arms fire.
- By the end of July 1916 the German force was once again reduced due to troops being moved to the Somme front.
- In August through December French counter-attacks regained much of the lost ground, leading to an eventual capture of Fort Douaumont and Fort Vaux, and a French Victory on December 16th.

### **Significant Events**

- Germany used flamethrowers for the first time
- Although France won the battle, they had more casualties
- Britain starting the Battle of the Somme against Germany helped France



#### **Reasons for Success/Failure pt.1**

- A German victory would push Britain out of the war
- The Meuse river would be beneficial for defense
- Germany felt that France could not afford to allow the Forts to fall at Verdun because the national humiliation would be too much
- Also capturing Verdun would reduce the strength of the French





## **Reasons for Success/Failure pt.2**



- Due to bad weather, it delayed Germany's attack thus allowing France to rush 2 divisions of 30th corps to the area's defense
- French Captain Charles de Gaulle getting captured gave the French time to bring up 90,000 men and 23,000 tons of ammunition from the railhead at Bar-le-Duc to Verdun
- Britain starting a battle with Germany helped France by taking pressure off them

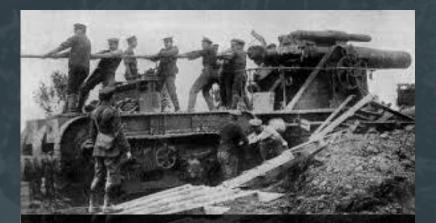
#### Significance of the Battle

- One of the most important battle of WW1
- Longest battle of that war
- Everyone hoped that this would have been the last battle of the war based on how many people died
- The casualties from this battle led to Britain starting the Battle of the Somme to take German pressure off of the French at Verdun

#### **Canada's contribution**

Canada was not involved in this battle as it was a battle fought at the border between Germany and France. Canada was in the Battle of the Somme at the time.





#### Battle of Somme 1916

#### Cost: Equipment and men: In a week French: Germany:



3000 military and civilian trucks

190'000 French troops

25'000 tons of munitions, food and supplies ferried



Verdun: After 8 months of bombing by the germans

Of the 800'000 casualties at verdun, 70% were caused by artillery

1'200 artillery pieces2.5 million shells1,300 trucks were used to transport munition

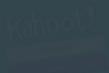


Trucks that were used for transportation of munition



#### <u>https://getkahoot.com/?utm\_name=controller\_app&utm\_source=we</u> <u>b\_app&utm\_medium=link</u>





#### Sources

• http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Battle\_of\_Verdun