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.
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.
Cost: Equipment and men: In a week

**French:**
- 3000 military and civilian trucks
- 190'000 French troops
- 25’000 tons of munitions, food and supplies ferried

**Germany:**
- 1’200 artillery pieces
- 2.5 million shells
- 1,300 trucks were used to transport munition

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Verdun: After 8 months of bombing by the Germans, Of the 800’000 casualties at Verdun, 70% were caused by artillery

Trucks that were used for transportation of munition
https://getkahoot.com/?utm_name=controller_app&utm_source=web_app&utm_medium=link
Sources

- http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Battle_of_Verdun