



GWA HISTORY Knowledge Organiser - Topic : The British Sector on the Western Front, 1914-18

Timeline

1	Oct – Nov 1914	First Battle of Ypres – the British stopped the Germans from capturing the port of Calais.
2	Apr – May 1915	Second Battle of Ypres – A German attack using Chlorine gas for the first time.
3	July – Nov 1916	Battle of the Somme – Major attack led French and British to move German troops from Verdun.
4	Apr – May 1916	Battle of Arras – large scale Allied attack. Very high casualties.
5	Jul – Nov 1917	Third Battle of Ypres – Aim to capture Passchendaele ridge near Ypres. The ground turned to mud.
6	Nov-Dec 1917	Battle of Cambrai – first use of a large number of tanks by the British. 40,000 British casualties.
7	Spring 1918	The German Spring Offensive – Large scale German attack to bring the war to an end before the Americans arrived.
8	Summer – Autumn 1918	The final months – the Allied army, reinforced by the fresh US troops broke through German lines.
9	11 Nov 1918	Germany surrendered and the war ended.

Types of Sources

10	National Army records for individual soldiers	14	Photographs
11	National newspaper reports	15	Hospital records
12	Government reports on aspects of war	16	Army statistics
13	Medical articles by doctors or nurses who worked in the war	17	Personal accounts of medical treatments by soldiers, doctors, nurses or others involved.

Key Words/Terms

18	Terrain	The type of ground – was it hilly, muddy, flat, easy to walk and run on?
19	Front line Trench	The firing line –the trench nearest the enemy.
20	Communication Trench	Linked the firing line with the command support and reserve trench.
21	No Man's Land	Area between the enemy front line trenches where the fighting took place.
22	Trench Fever	Spread by lice and caused headaches, shivering and pain in joints. Lasted 5 days.
23	Trench Foot	From standing in waterlogged trenches, feet became numb and swollen. Some cases became gangrenous and needed amputation.
24	NYD.N.	Army code for shell shock.
25	Shrapnel	Fragments of metal or lead designed to cause maximum injuries.
26	Artillery	Heavy fire causing half of all casualties.
27	Steel Helmets	Introduced to British troops by autumn 1915 & widely available by Summer 1916 to reduce head wounds.
28	Gas	Weapon causing blindness, loss of taste and smell and coughing.
29	Evacuation Route	How injured soldiers accessed medical treatment from front line fighting. Stretcher bearers, Regimental Aid Post (RAP), Field Ambulance and Dressing Station, Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) and Base Hospital.
30	Thomas Splint	A splint to help fractured bones heal in the leg - 1916
31	Plastic Surgery	Improved during WW1, led by Harold Gillies, who opened a specialist hospital in Kent in 1917.