

The First Battle of Ypres

1914

The BEF had moved to the town of Ypres in order to prevent the German advance.

Autumn 1914--> Germans launched an attack on the British positions to the East.

British lost 50,000 troops.

They held on to Ypres, which allowed them control of the English Channel ports.

End --> The Germans had extended their control around the edge of the Ypres Salient as far as the village of Messines.

The Battle of Arras

1917

24,000 men who had been hiding near the German trenches attacked. This was to break through the German line.

The British advanced 8 miles.

160,000 British and Canadian casualties

Trench System

Communication trench ran between the other trenches.

At the end there were artillery emplacements.

Dugouts for protective cover.

Support trench was **80 metres** behind the front line. Troops would retreat here if the frontline came under attack.

Trenches were in zig-zag patterns.

Reserve trench was **100 metres** behind the support trench and was where reserve troops could be mobilised if the frontline was captured.

Frontline trench was where attacks would be made from.

Third Battle of Ypres

1917

Break out of the Ypres Salient (vulnerable position of battlefields)

Wanted to remove advantage of German higher ground.

The British marched East towards Passchendaele. Advanced about 2 miles.

Ground became waterlogged and men drowned.

Had to move edge of salient back by about 7 miles.

245,000 British casualties.

Hill-60

Hill-60 --> Man-made hill to the south-east of Ypres.

Germans captured it in 1914.

British used offensive mining to take it back in 1915. They tunnelled under the hill.

Chain of Evacuation

RAP 200m of the Frontline, in communication trenches or deserted buildings. To give immediate first aid.

ADS 400m from the RAP, located in abandoned buildings for shelter. Each dressing station was staffed by ten medical officers. Used a triage system.

MDS 800m from the RAP, dugouts or bunkers. Used a triage system.

Chain of Evacuation (cont)

CCS Sufficient distance from the frontline to provide safety, however it was close enough to be accessible by ambulance wagons. Specialised injuries. Set up in buildings such as factories and schools, to provide shelter.

Ambulance Train -- --

Base Hospitals Located close to the French and Belgium coast, so that wounded men could board onto hospital ships easily. They experimented with new techniques, of which successful ones were used in CCS'. For example, wards.

Hospital Ship

The Second Battle of Ypres

1915--> Straight after Hill-60

First time the Germans used chlorine gas.

59,000 men lost

Germans had moved two miles closer to the town of Ypres by the end.

Battle of the Somme

1916

First Day --> British Casualties 57,000 //
Deaths 20,000

Creeping Barrage - Artillery launched from
the trenches towards the German lines just
ahead of the British infantry as it advanced
forward

First use of tanks in warfare, and it was not
successful.

400,000 casualties

Arras

1916 - British decided to link the existing
tunnels to create an underground network
around Arras.

2.5 Miles / 25,000 Men could be stationed
there

Contained electric lights, running water,
railway system and a hospital

The Battle of Cambrai

1917

Artillery Barrage was changed so that less
waning of the coming attack was given to
the Germans.

First **large scale use** of tanks. - 450 Tanks

They were very effective.



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