

1. Ypres Salient

An area of a battlefield that extends into enemy territory, so that it is surrounded on three sides, therefore vulnerable

- Autumn 1914 – Germany launched an attack at Ypres
- Britain lost 50,000 troops**
- Kept control of Ypres though keeping the Channel ports.



2. Hill 60

Captured by Germany Dec. 1914

- Britain used mining in April 1915 to take it back. The high ground was a strategically important position
- 5 mines were placed and exploded



3. 2nd Battle of Ypres

22nd April – 25th May 1915

- First use of Chlorine Gas
- British losses 59,000 men**
- Germany moved 2 miles closer to Ypres on the Eastern side of the Salient



4. The Battle of the Somme

1 July 1916 – November 1916

To support the French at Verdun, the British attacked the Somme, trying to split the German army

- Day 1 – **60,000 casualties**
- Day 1 - **20,000 dead**
- By November **400,000** casualties and **60,000 dead**



Tactics used: Going over the top (Creeping Barrage). After artillery bombardment the troops would walk across no mans land to take the enemy's trenches.



5. 1917 Battle of Arras

April 1917

Arras was very chalky so lots of tunnels and caves had been built over many years. Britain linked these together to make shelter

- 24,000 troops attacked nearby Germany trenches.
- An initial advance of 8 miles
- No further advance
- 160,000 casualties** (British & Canadian)



6. 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele)

31st July 1917

To break out of the Ypres Salient

- Advanced 2 miles on the first day
- Heavy rain slowed progress. The ground became waterlogged. Men fell in the mud and drowned



- By the end, the Germans had been pushed back about 7 miles
- 245,000 casualties**



7. 3rd Battle of Cambrai

20th October 1917

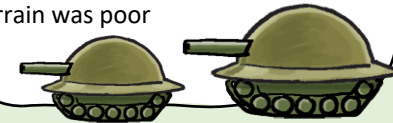
To threaten the rear of the German line at Calais

- Artillery barrage changed so the Germans had less warning
- First large scale use of tanks – 500. Could move across the barbed wire easily and their machine guns were effective
- However on 2nd day, half had become unusable.

- First use of blood banks**
- Showed a surprise attack could work, but the Germans countered with ferocity



First use of tanks, although ineffective with lots of technical issues and the terrain was poor



Issues with transport

The ground had been blown up with shells, making it difficult to move casualties in the ambulances.



In winter, the ground also became waterlogged and transport got stuck.

Horse drawn ambulances also suffered with the terrain, not just motor ambulances

