

New Weapons of War



Machine Guns

Each of these guns could fire about 400-600 rounds per minute (as much as 60-100 rifles). With a shorter range than howitzers soldiers had to see the enemy to fire.



Howitzers

These cannons were designed to lob heavy fire at the enemy to weaken them before a ground attack. Their high, curving trajectory was similar to mortars, but with a longer range. Soldiers could fire without being able to see the enemy.



Tanks

These heavy vehicles were designed to cross rough terrain and other obstacles. They could also crush whatever was in their path, though early models got stuck a lot.



Zeppelins

These large airships, filled with light hydrogen gas, carried bombs, guns, and poison gas. They could fly higher than airplanes and were much quieter. Though their slow speed made them easier to shoot down, it took a lot of men to do so.



Poison Gas

Different types of gases were used, to cause breathing distress (as chlorine gas) or blisters (mustard gas). Death usually came days later. Canisters filled with poison gas were shot at the enemy. These ghastly weapons were outlawed after the war.



U-Boats

Underwater submarines were armed with torpedoes. Though they could sneak up on the enemy, they had to surface to fire. Germans used their U-Boats against both navy and merchant ships.



Airplanes

Airplanes were used mainly for spying and reconnaissance. Later in the war, they were loaded with bombs and pilots fought each other in "dogfights." The early warplanes were very noisy and unreliable.



Trench Mortars

This short tube could fire a bomb at a steep angle so it fell straight down. Mortars could be fired from the trenches. When one was coming, the enemy would hear the "plop" of the launch and take cover.



Weapons and the War

WEAPONS	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	IMPACT ON "WAR"	RANKING
Machine Guns				
Howitzers				
Tanks				
Zeppelins				
Poison Gas				
U Boats				
Airplanes				
Trench Mortars				