Weapons of World War I
THE WEAPONS THAT CHANGED THE WAR
BY DR. PAUL VICKERY
ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Trench Warfare: Life in a Trench

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_G4ZY66BG38
Machine Guns

• 400-600 small-caliber rounds per minute (doubled by the end of the war)
• Required cooling and jammed frequently

Machine Guns

• Single machine gun worth 60-100 rifles
• Best for defensive warfare
• Adapted for tanks and aircrafts
Trench Warfare: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al7m8TDBH2I

**Submarines**

- Considered ineffective before WWI because there was no space to carry prisoners or enough sailors to man captured ships
- Germany began unrestricted submarine warfare in February 1915
Submarines

- Germany hit fifty ships between February and September including the *Lusitania* where 138 of the 1,198 lives lost were American
- The Allies used this disaster as propaganda
Submarines: Sinking of the *Lusitania*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G8iU1KOjsg

**Poison Gas**

- Chorine and Phosgene gases attacked the lungs; could be avoided with respirator
- Mustard gas attacked moist skin (eyes, armpits) and left painful, searing blisters
Poison Gas

Poison Gas: Germans Release the First WMD | History

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHJIbKn2Vnc
Effects of Phosgene Gas Poisoning

- Used as a choking agent
- Responsible for the majority of deaths in WWI
- Can damage the skin, eyes, nose, throat, and lungs
- Blurred vision, difficulty breathing, nausea and vomiting

Effects of Chlorine Gas Poisoning

- Burning pain in throat and eyes
Effects of Mustard Gas Poisoning

- Blistering on contact with skin
- Altering DNA, cell death, delayed mutations, or cancer

Poison Gas: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

[YouTube video link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoYWrgiAKwk)
Airplanes

- Constructed of wood, canvas, and wire
- Top speeds of 100 MPH
- Short life expectancy for pilots (no parachutes)

Airplanes

- Pilots wore silk scarves to prevent chaffing his neck while constantly twisting his head to look for enemies
- First used for reconnaissance photos
Airplanes: Dogfights | BBC

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f85CDEpiMhQ

Tanks

- Initially unable to cross trenches, extremely hot inside
- Increasingly used by Allied Forces in the summer of 1918
Tanks

- By the end of the war, the British had 2,636 tanks; France had over 3,870; Germany had 20
- Added movement and action to the redundant trench warfare

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVu05Mt-A30
Other Weapons

• Zeppelin

Zeppelin LZ 4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfaA4TrSPPA
Other Weapons

• Stokes Mortar

Other Weapons

• Grenades
Bibliography


