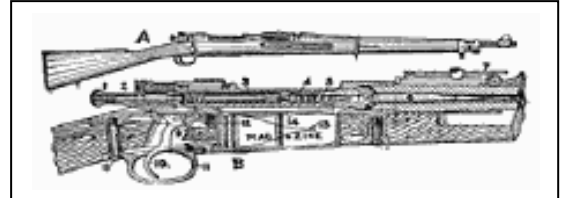


World War I – Technology

By the early 1900's almost all of the nations in Europe had become industrialized. These new factories were now used to create weapons and machinery for war. As a result, European nations were able to create weapons and supplies more quickly and efficiently.

New technology of World War I

The main weapon used by British soldiers in the trenches was the **bolt-action rifle**. 15 rounds could be fired in a minute and a person 1,400 metres away could be killed.



Machine guns needed 4-6 men to work them and had to be on a flat surface. They had the fire-power of 100 guns.



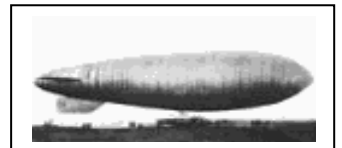
Large field guns (**artillery**) had a long range and could deliver devastating blows to the enemy but needed up to 12 men to work them. They fired **shells** which exploded on impact.

The German army were the first to use **chlorine gas** in 1915. Chlorine gas causes a burning sensation in the throat and chest pains. Death is painful – you suffocate.

Mustard gas was the most deadly weapon used. It is colourless and takes 12 hours to take effect. Effects include – blistering skin, vomiting, sore eyes, internal and external bleeding. Death can take up to 5 weeks.



The **Zeppelin**, similar to a blimp, was an airship that was used during the early part of the war in bombing raids by the Germans. They carried machine guns and bombs.



Tanks were used for the first time in the First World War. They were developed to cope with the conditions on the Western Front. The first tank was called 'Little Willie' and needed a crew of 3. Its maximum speed was 3mph and it could not cross trenches.

Planes were also used for the first time. At first they were used to deliver bombs and for spying work but became fighter aircraft armed with machine guns, bombs and some times canons.



Torpedoes were used by submarines. The Germans used torpedoes to blow up ships carrying supplies from America to Britain.

TOP SECRET

Dear Commander Haig,

Below is a list of the new technology we suggest for use on the Western front:

Name of the new technology	<u>Strength</u> of the new technology	Possible weakness of this new technology
1.		
2.		
3.		



War Injuries

The technology of the First World War led to many deaths and injuries. Estimates vary, but it is believed that about 16 million military and civilian deaths occurred with over 21 million wounded. The men were injured in many ways as a result of dangerous explosives. The effects of these new weapons on the bodies and minds of the soldiers was devastating.

TASK: In groups you will analyze one type of injury which came as a result of the new war technology you learned about today.

Name of the injury	Cause of the injury	How you think this injury will affect the soldier and their family after the war

