

Military Technology in the World Wars

- During the Second World War, many of the technologies that were used in the First World War became either outdated, or obsolete.
- The Second World War was very much a mechanized war



Assignment Description:

- Review the technological differences between the wars in the following slides
- Using the information, write a fictional letter home to a loved one.

of course in the bag every day
They are getting the drill just to us every day
pretty hard now. A lot of the fellows played
out as fast but the most of them are
getting used to it now a few days soon
harder than now. They are beginning
to eat our oats now. The grub is fairly
good but not in great quantities however.
We are living alright anyway you will
remember the chap that I was telling
you about that wanted to know what about
the show. He was just sent to me in breakfast
-pancake the other morning. He was telling the
mess man that when he came on first he
that he could never live at that all he
could eat but he now he says I
can just clean it up in a hurry and am
feeling just like a young man. He says I am
getting considerably with the left. It is all
kinds of such circumstances I must eat
my meals but just like Benks. There is
something about it that get hold of you and
after you have coldness a while they say it
get right under your skin and you can't
get above quick enough.
We have to go up for inoculations in the
morning so will be a little sore to morrow.
There were four or five fellows died from the
effects of inoculation the first time. Two were
down that was at Dunes Bath. One fellow
that bunked quite near me did not get up
Tues morning at noon he was still under the
blankets. Some fire school an HCO came the place
and seeing him made an inspection and found
him very seriously sick. The ambulance was
immediately sent for and he was removed
to the hospital but too late. He died shortly
after being admitted. In church parade one
-Sun

- Stick to battles and events we have already talked about in class! (Battle of the Atlantic, Battle of Britain, German *blitzkrieg* in Western Europe and Soviet Union)
- In other words, your letter should be dated sometime between September 1939 and August 1942.



- You can create any character you want to narrate your letter. Here are a few suggestions:

- A crewmember onboard a German U-boat in the early stages of the Battle of the Atlantic.
- A British RAF pilot during the Battle of Britain.
- An observer on the ground during the German *blitzkrieg* that swept through Western Europe



IMPORTANT!!!

- Your title should be the character you have created to be your narrator so that this is very clear to me before I read your letter. So, taking the three examples from the previous slide, your title would be:
 - German U-boat crewmember
 - RAF pilot
 - A farmer in France who fought in the First World War

- The emphasis in your letter should be on the technology, and how much it has changed since the last war.
 - For example, perhaps you remember the First World War stories of your father or an uncle and are thrilled about the new technologies at your disposal
 - Maybe you want to write to a relative who left Europe for a new life in Canada and you are describing the horrific pace of destruction you are witnessing as a direct result of technology

Marking Criteria:

- 250 words minimum
- Accurate descriptions of technology used in both the First and Second World Wars
(compare differences between the two)

- Top marks will be given to students who can offer some personal reflections on the technology in your letter. What does your narrator *think* and *feel* about the differences in technology, and WHY?



- What does your narrator think the new technology means to the future of warfare, or even to the future of mankind?



The Technologies...



Troop Movement

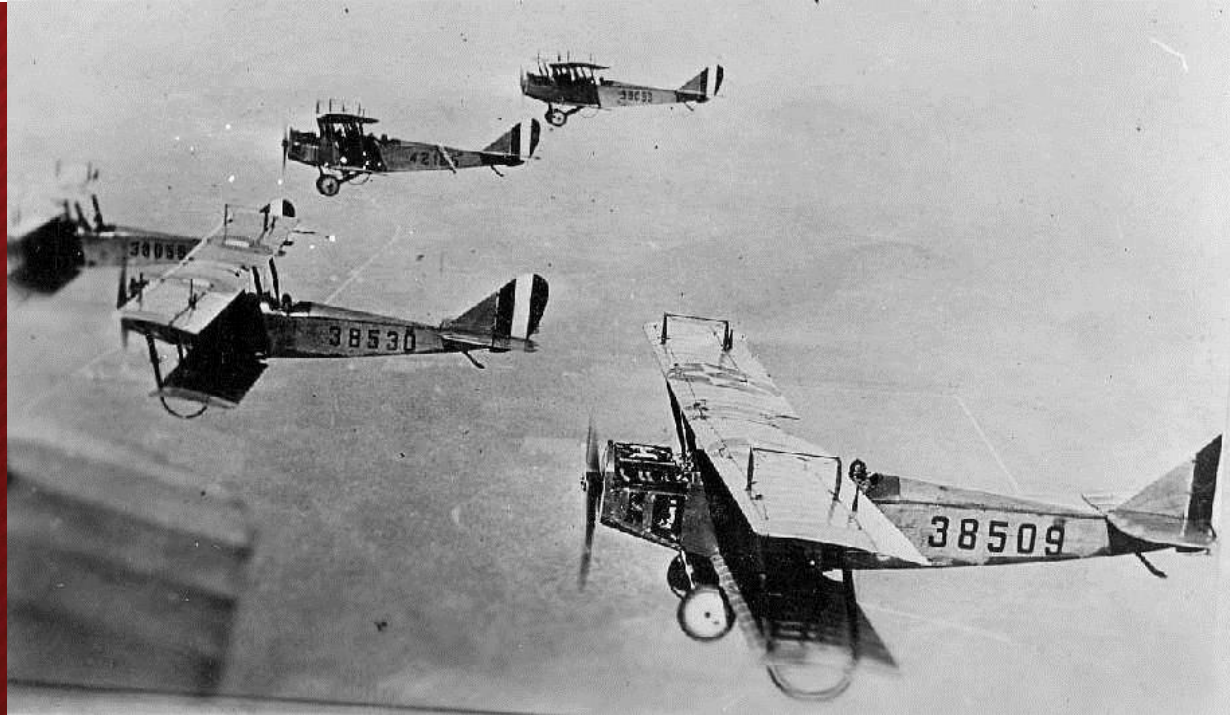
- The First World War soldier walked everywhere, while a few rode on horseback.





- The Second World War soldier walked considerably less, usually riding a truck to the combat zone, and often on some form of armored vehicle during actual combat.

In the Air



- First World War planes were mainly slow wooden biplanes with basic machine guns mounted in the front.
- “Bombing” consisted of pilots throwing grenades down on enemy troops from low altitudes.

- Second World War fighter planes like the British Spitfire or the German Messerschmitt 109 were highly maneuverable and flew at speeds exceeding 400 mph





- The use of new bombers during the Second World War meant that entire cities and armies could be leveled from high altitudes where they were safe from ground fire.

At Sea



- During the First World War, the most important naval ship was the battleship. Bigger, faster, and more heavily-armed battleships were used during the Second World War.

- During the Second World War, the aircraft carrier replaced the battleship as the most important surface vessel in naval warfare.



- Germany mastered the use of U-boats (submarines) in the Second World War, and nearly won the Battle of the Atlantic with its “Wolf pack” tactics



Armour

- First World War tanks were an important factor in breaking through the stalemate of trench warfare. However, they were slow and often got bogged down in the mud.



- Cavalry was still widely used during the First World War.



- Second World War tanks were fast and powerful. Germany realized the tank's full potential before any other country and used it as part of its *blitzkrieg* tactics to quickly smash through defending armies in Western Europe and the Soviet Union.





- During the Second World War, tanks made the use of cavalry a thing of the past.

- Feel free to research other military technologies that changed between the two wars!

