

Battle of the Somme

The Battle of the Somme on the Western Front involved British and French forces against the Germans. It was not a clear victory; however, valuable lessons were gained.

141 DAYS

The Battle of the Somme lasted from 1 July to 18 November 1916. British forces advanced 7 miles over 141 days on a 25-mile front along the Somme River in France, making it the longest and most significant battle of the war.

The 'Brodie' Helmet

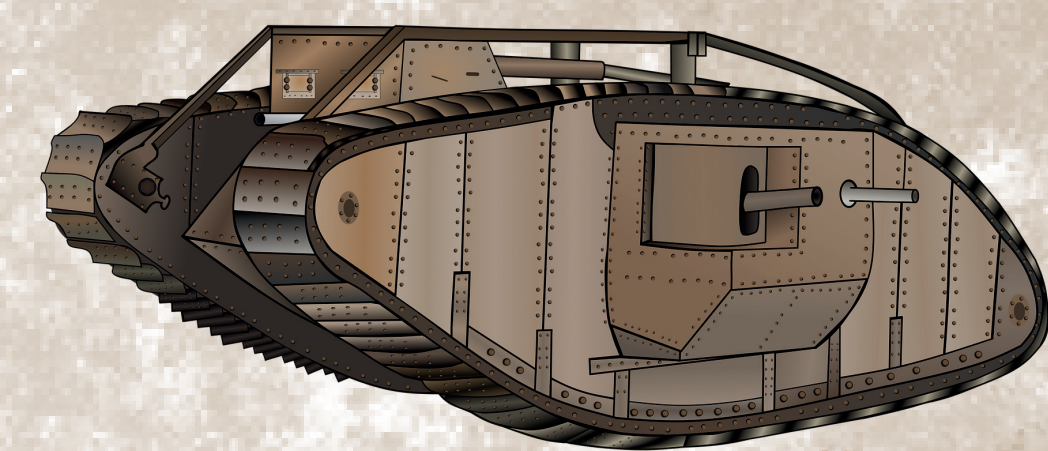
First combat helmet issued to British & Commonwealth soldiers.

1M issued to soldiers in July 1916.

1.5m

shells used by the British during the Somme.
250,000 used on day one, including some filled with gas

15 September 1916



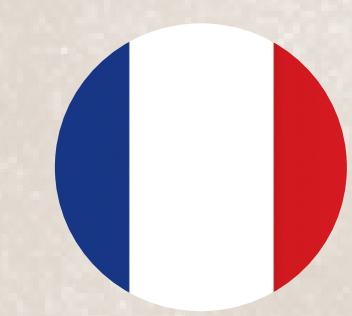
The British first used tanks. A milestone in armoured warfare history.



Commemorations

Casualty Numbers

Key: 50,000

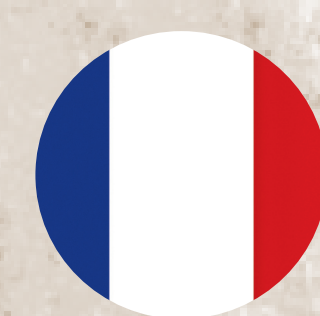


1.m Casualties

across all British, French, Commonwealth & German forces.

The British suffered 57,000 casualties & 19,240 fatalities on the first day, marking it as the deadliest day in British military history.

410  COMMONWEALTH Cemeteries

 22 FRENCH Cemeteries

13  German Cemeteries



Battle of the Somme trench map created by the Royal Artillery Commander using information from German prisoners and aerial photographs from 3 October 1916.

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