

Introduction

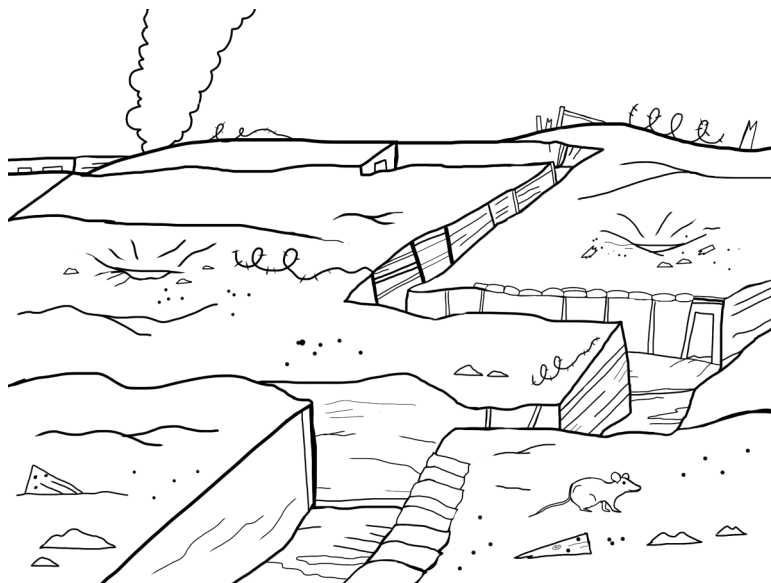
Welcome to Battles of World War I Facts Copywork! In this book, you'll find information about five key battles of World War I. Each battle unit begins with a short description of the battle. Following that is a key vocabulary word related to the battle or time period that students can copy. Next, students can continue practicing handwriting by copying key facts about the battle. A page is included for students to record additional information about the battle if they wish. I hope you enjoy discovering battles of World War I!



First Battle of the Marne

The fighting in World War I began in August 1914 as Austria-Hungary, Serbia, Germany, Russia, and France all quickly took sides. German General Helmuth von Moltke made changes to the original plans Germany had for the invasion of France and moved troops through France to within 30 miles (48 km) of Paris. The military governor of Paris, French General Joseph-Simon Gallieni, recognized a possible weakness in the German strategy. He convinced French General Michel-Joseph Maunoury to take his troops and be ready to attack the Germans on September 5, 1914, near the Ourcq River, a tributary of the Marne River.

The Germans under General Alexander von Kluck attacked, forcing the French troops to retreat. On September 6, French General Joseph-Jacques-Césaire Joffre ordered a counterattack on the German troops. On September 7-8, thousands of reserve troops who were in Paris hurried to the battlefield in approximately 600 taxis. On September 8, French General Louis Franchet d'Esperey and his troops made a surprising attack at night. On September 9, the British troops crossed the Marne and moved in between two German armies. The Germans under General Karl von Bülow and followed by those under General Kluck, decided to retreat on September 10, and stopped north of the Aisne River. They dug trenches that marked the beginning of the trench warfare. The trenches remained until the end of the war years later. Both sides had hundreds of thousands of casualties in the battle.



Vocabulary

Casualties: those who were killed, wounded, or captured in battle

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killed, wounded, or captured in
battle

First Battle of the Marne

Facts

1. Date: September 6-12, 1914

2. Place: Ourcq River and
Marne River, near Paris, France

3. Allied leaders: Generals

Joseph-Simon Gallieni, Michel-

Joseph Maunoury, Joseph-

Jacques-Césaire Joffre, Louis

Franchet d'Esperey

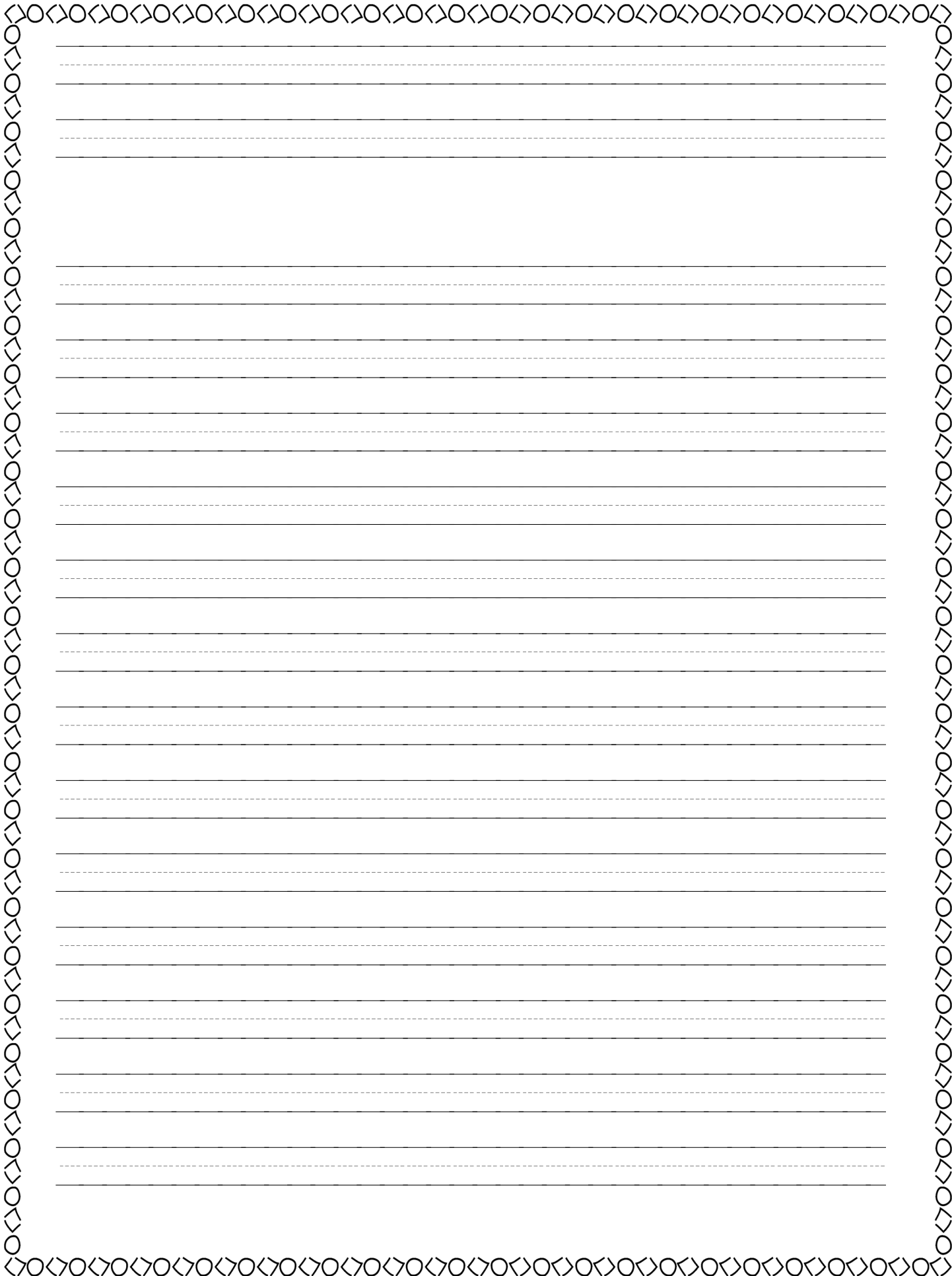
4. German leaders: Generals

Helmuth von Moltke, Alexander

von Kluck, Karl von Bülow

5. Defeated: Germany

6. Victory: Allies



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First Battle of Ypres

After the First Battle of the Marne, both armies continued to try to find an advantage to favorably turn the tide of the war to their side. There were many battles and many attempts to outmaneuver each other. French General Ferdinand Foch was appointed deputy to the French Commander in Chief General Joseph-Jacques-Césaire Joffre. Foch tried to get the Belgians to help him in his plan to outmaneuver the German forces. This would require King Albert I of Belgium to abandon his defense of the coast, however, and he was not willing to do that. It would be very dangerous to lose ports on the English Channel to the Germans. Troops began amassing between La Bassée, France, and Ypres, Belgium, but neither German attacks nor French attacks brought much advancement for the armies.

British General Douglas Haig reorganized and strengthened his line during a lull in the battles. German General Erich von Falkenhayn began moving toward the Belgian troops who were defending the coast. If the Belgians lost, the Germans would win the race to gain ports on the sea. The Belgians were exhausted and low on ammunition. However, King Albert had another plan. On October 25, 1914, the Belgians began working with the floodgates to cause a backup of water. When the German army began their attack on Belgian positions on October 29, Albert ordered Belgian engineers to open the floodgates at Nieuport, which flooded the battlefield. The German troops had to quickly retreat to escape the floodwaters. German General Max von Fabeck and Duke Albrecht continued attacks against the British. They were stopped in one meaningful attack by British General Charles FitzClarence and General Edward Bulfin, but the attacks continued. As the British, Belgian, and French troops continued to hold back the German troops, Germany shifted from offense to defense, protecting the ground it had already gained and sending troops to other battles. The British troops were finally relieved by French reinforcements on November 21.

Vocabulary

Trench warfare: opposing systems of ditches dug in the ground for protection that are used to carry on fighting during a war

Trench warfare: opposing
systems of ditches dug in the
ground for protection that are
used to carry on fighting
during a war

First Battle of Ypres

Facts

1. Date: October 19-

November 22, 1914

2. Place: Ypres, Belgium

3. Allied leaders: King Albert I

of Belgium; Generals Ferdinand

Foch, Joseph-Jacques-Césaire

Joffre, Douglas Haig, Charles

FitzClarence, Edward Bulfin

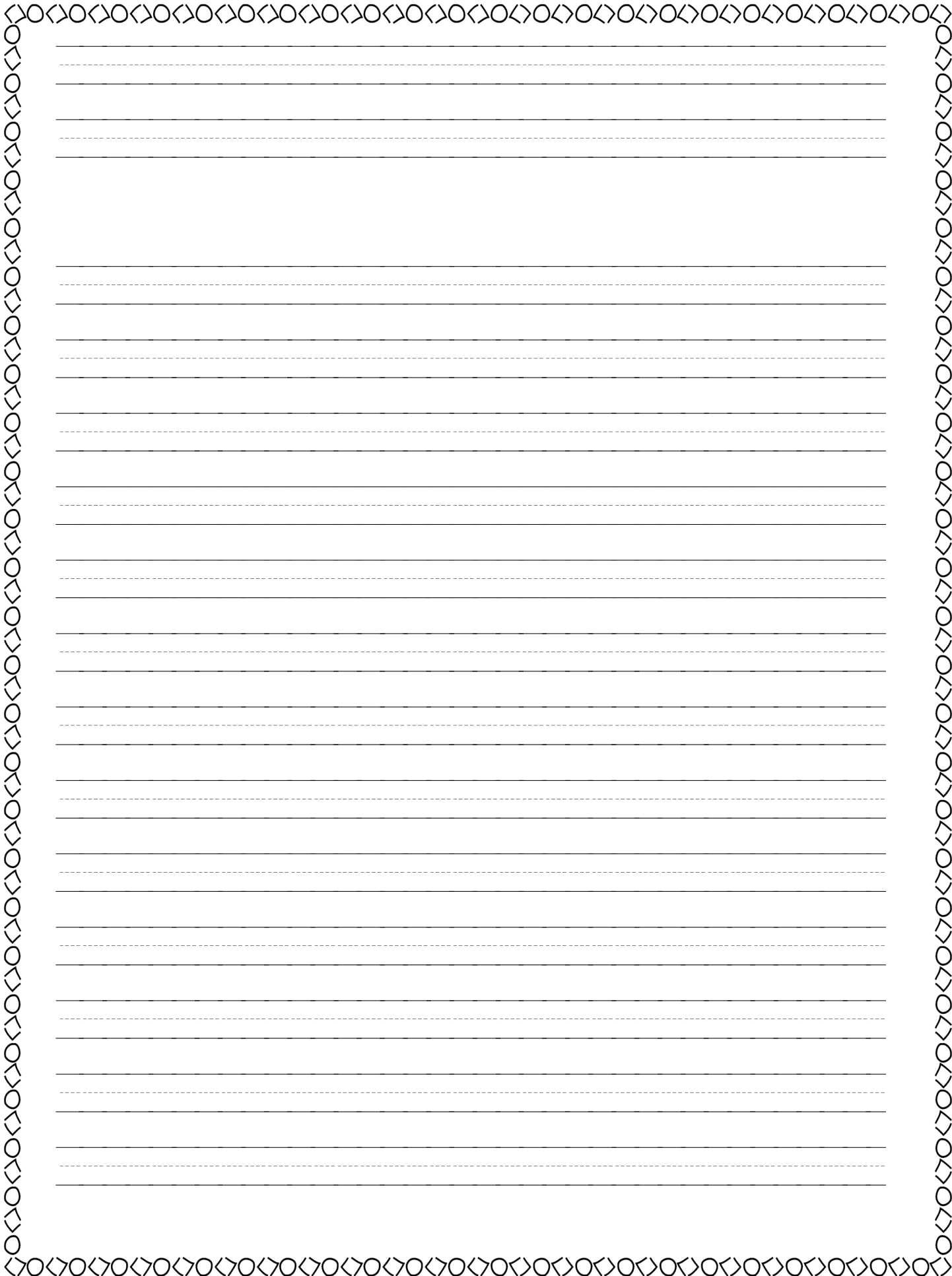
4. German leaders: Duke

Albrecht; Generals Erich von

Falkenhayn, Max von Fabeck

5. Defeated: No clear loser

6. Victory: No clear victor



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 15 rows. Each row is defined by a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line.

Gallipoli Campaign

The Gallipoli Campaign took place on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey at the entrance to the Dardanelles, a 38-mile (61-km) long strait that connects the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara. The Sea of Marmara then connects to the Black Sea through a second strait, the Bosphorus, which goes through the city of Istanbul (then Constantinople). Turkey was part of the Ottoman Empire and allied with Germany, but the Allies needed access to the Black Sea to reach Russia, who was also one of the Allies. British first lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill's plan was to open the strait and attack Constantinople. A victory would take the Ottoman Empire out of the war, hurt Germany, and allow access to Russia.

On February 19, 1915, the British and French entered the Dardanelles. Bad weather caused delays, and after the last delay, they did not resume attacking until March 18. Ottoman defenses on the shore and mines in the sea stopped the Allies. The Allies turned back and planned to invade by land. General Sir Ian Hamilton commanded the force assembled for the invasion.

On April 25, the Allies attacked. The British landed on the southern tip of the peninsula, French troops created a diversion across the strait, and ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) forces landed in an area now often called Anzac Cove. The Allies established small beachheads after fierce fighting but were unable to move farther inland. The Ottoman Empire had realized there would be a land invasion and was ready for it, with defenses and trenches in place. Allied leaders underestimated the strength of the opposition and the difficulty of the terrain.

Months passed with neither side gaining ground. The troops from the Ottoman Empire, under the command of Mustafa Kemal, kept the Allies to the beaches but could not win the battle. A temporary truce allowed both sides to bury their dead and bring in reinforcements. More months passed, both sides still stalemated. General Hamilton was recalled and replaced with General Sir Charles Monro, who recommended withdrawing the troops and abandoning the campaign. In autumn of 1915, many Allied troops were moved to other areas of fighting. Eventually, the Allies decided to pull out of Gallipoli. The pullout started in December 1915, and the last troops left on January 9, 1916.

Vocabulary

Beachhead: foothold; enemy area taken with the intention of using it to bring in more troops

Beachhead: foothold; enemy
area taken with the intention
of using it to bring in more
troops

Gallipoli Campaign

Facts

1. Date: February 16, 1915 -
January 9, 1916

2. Place: Gallipoli Peninsula,
Ottoman Empire (Turkey)

3. Allied leaders: Winston
Churchill; Generals Sir Ian
Hamilton, Charles Monro

4. Ottoman Empire leader:
Colonel Mustafa Kemal

5. Defeated: Allies (decided to
pull out)

6. Victory: Ottoman Empire
(held out against the Allies)

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Battle of Verdun

Verdun is a town in northeastern France located on the Meuse River. The city was surrounded by fortresses that made a great barrier to any army trying to get to Paris and were a source of national pride. The Germans knew the French would fight hard to defend them for both reasons. In January 1916, airmen realized the Germans were preparing to attack Verdun, and on February 11, French intelligence discovered that the Germans were reinforcing their troops along the Meuse River.

The French had been so focused on their own offensives that they were almost too late in reinforcing Verdun. From February 11-21, the French moved thousands of men and dozens of guns to Verdun, which was very difficult because rail lines had been cut in some places and were under attack in others. They used more than 3,000 trucks to move men and supplies to the front. The German army under the command of Crown Prince William began bombarding the area on February 21, at 7:15 a.m. The infantry attacked around 4:45 p.m. For the first three days, the German army made advances. Then, on February 24, the French artillery stopped some of the German forces, though others still advanced.

The French commander General Joseph-Jacques-Césaire Joffre was replaced by General Philippe Pétain, who brought another army with him to help in the fight. While the French were reorganizing, the Germans captured Fort Douaumont, one of the strongest forts near Verdun. As the battle raged on, the French tried to prevent the Germans from taking all of Verdun while also trying to prepare to help the Allies in a planned offensive in the summer. General Pétain was promoted, and General Robert-Georges Nivelle and General Henri Berthelot were sent to divide the previous command. New field commanders were also appointed to the German armies, with General Ewald von Lochow and General Hermann von François taking command of different sections of the German troops.

Fighting continued into December. French General Charles Mangin proposed an offensive that began on October 21. As the French continued to attack, they gained more and more of their ground back. The final fighting occurred on December 18, where the French captured more than 11,000 German prisoners. The Battle of Verdun was over. In this battle, the two armies saw more than 700,000 casualties, which included over 300,000 who were killed.

Vocabulary

Offensive: an attack

Offensive: an attack

Battle of Verdun

Facts

1. Date: February 21, 1916–
December 18, 1916

2. Place: Verdun, France

3. Allied leaders: Generals

Joseph-Jacques-Césaire

Joffre, Philippe Pétain,

Robert-Georges Nivelle, Henri

Berthelot, Charles Mangin

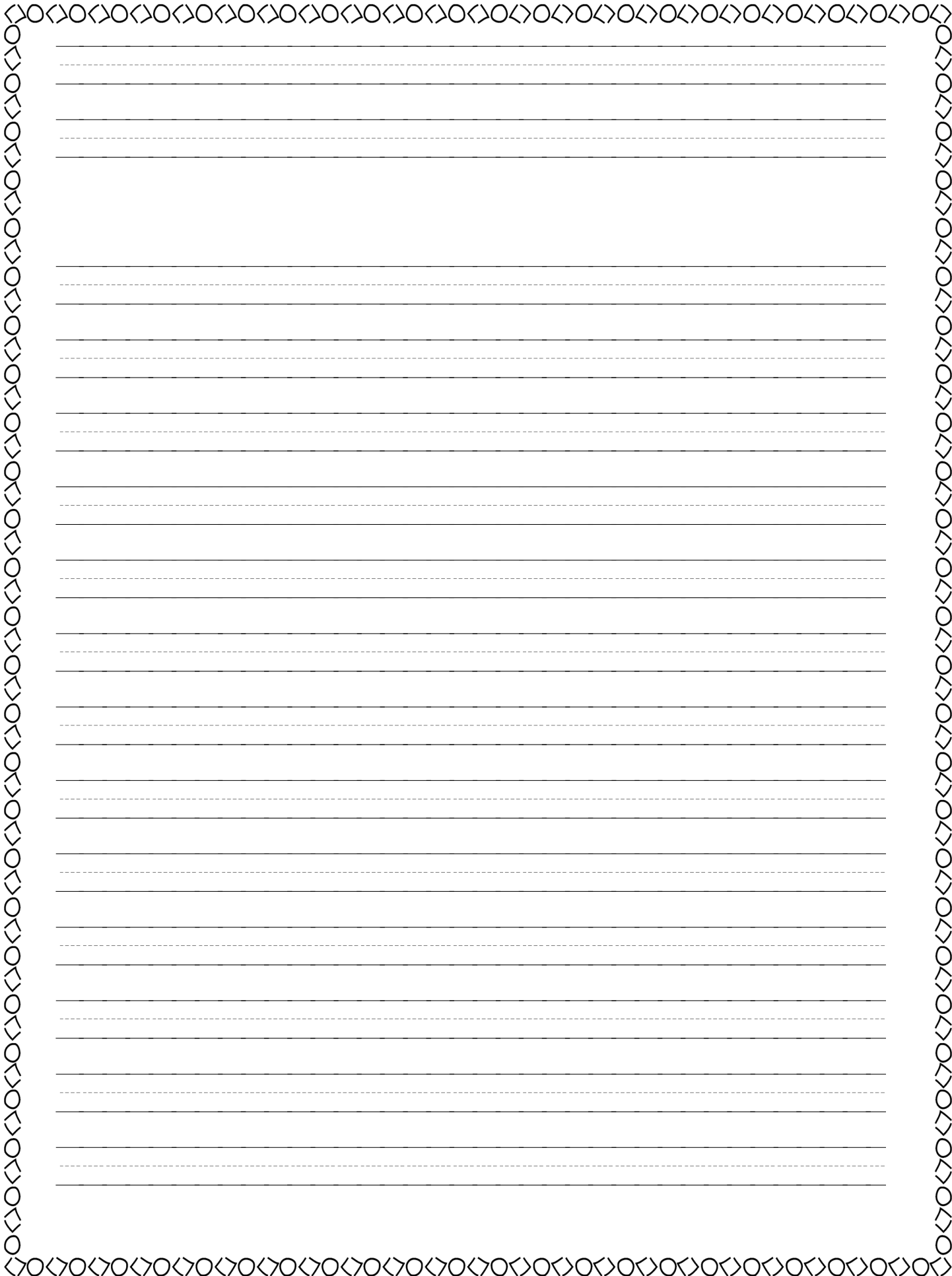
4. German leaders: Prince

William; Generals Ewald von

Lochow, Hermann von François

5. Defeated: Germany

6. Victory: Allies



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First Battle of the Somme

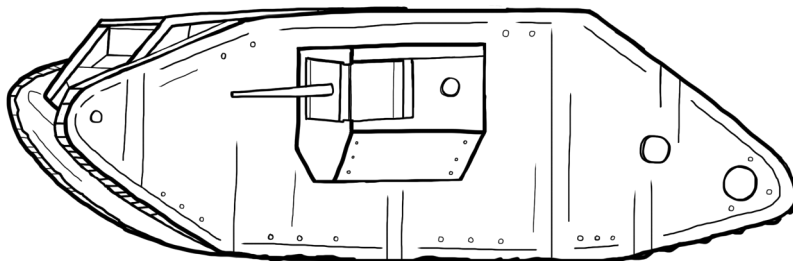
The first battle of the Somme was fought in the trenches near the Somme River in France, between Amiens and Peronne. For about a week prior to the start of the battle, the British under Sir Henry Rawlinson bombarded the Germans under General Fritz von Below with the intention of destroying their defenses and causing fear in the troops. On July 1, 1916, under orders from British Commander in Chief Douglas Haig, the British left their trenches and went into no-man's-land, thinking there would be little resistance from the Germans. They did not realize that their bombardment had not been effective. On this first day of battle, the British infantry suffered huge losses, with about 20,000 British soldiers killed and about 40,000 wounded.

On July 14, the British captured part of the German army, but they failed to press their advantage to the fullest. Both sides continued to fight with little advancement and heavy losses. On September 15, the British received a new weapon, the tank. However, the wet and muddy ground lessened its effectiveness. The stalemate continued until October when a terrible rain hit the area and turned the battlefield into a muddy lake.

The use of air reconnaissance to spot artillery and photograph the enemy became important in World War I. During the battle, William Barker, a Canadian pilot with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), earned the first of a dozen gallantry awards assisting the British in the capture of a village in November.

The First Battle of the Somme ended on November 13. The Allies had only pushed the Germans back about 7 miles (11 km). After all this fighting, the Germans still held the important rail junction of Bapaume.

It has been estimated that there were more than 1 million casualties in this battle. Though neither side truly won, the Allies did make a major dent in the reserves of the Germans and learned new tactics that would help later in the war.



Vocabulary

No-man's-land: an area, often between two opposing lines of trenches, that neither army can hold

No-man's-land: an area, often
between two opposing lines of
trenches, that neither army
can hold

First Battle of the Somme

Facts

1. Date: July 1–Nov. 13, 1916

2. Place: Near the Somme

River in France, in the area

between Amiens and Peronne

3. Allied leaders: Sir Henry

Rawlinson; Field Marshal

Douglas Haig

4. German leader: General

Fritz von Below

5. Defeated: No clear loser

6. Victory: No clear victor

A series of 20 horizontal writing lines. Each line set consists of a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

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