

Battle of Passchendaele

July 31, 1917

- Takes Place in Belgian City of Ypres in West Flanders
- Known as Third Battle of Ypres
- Famous for Scale of Casualties & Mud
- British Troops Lost: (Over) ~300,000
- German Troops Lost: (Over) ~220,000
- British Commander Sir Douglas Haig's Allied breakthrough in Flanders 1917
- Vital Supply Line of German 4th Army due to Railway Junction at Roulers [Roeselare]
- Immediate Goal: Seize German Railways in Occupied Country
- The Next Goal After Passchendaele was 2 Other Belgian Cities in West Flanders: Torhout & Koekelare
- Part of a Larger Goal: Destruction of German Submarine Bases on Belgian Coast
- British Prime Minister David Lloyd George was Opposed to Haig's Strategy & Tactics
- Preliminary Artillery Bombardment 10 Days Prior to Launch of Attack with use of 3,000 Artillery Guns and 4.5 Million Shells
 - o Artillery Resulted in no Surprise Attack as the German Fourth Army Expected the Imminent Offensive
 - o This Artillery Destroyed Water Drainage Systems which Increased the Mud Issue
- Attack Began at End of July (31 at 03:50)
 - o Heavy Rain During First Night of the Attack
 - The rain was the heaviest every in 30 years
 - o Shell Holes Filled with Water Creating Ponds
 - o Tanks were Immobile and Stuck
 - o Infantry Suffered Severe Mobility Limitations
 - o Attackers had to Struggle Through Thick Mud Conditions
 - o Little Machine Gun Cover from German Concrete Pill Boxes
 - o Ally Forces Gained Ground Slowly towards the Fall
 - o Resulted in Halting of Renewing Offensive Forces until August 16
- Attacks Began Fresh on September 20th
 - o Battle of the Menin Road Bridge
 - o Followed by Battle of Polygon Wood on September 26
 - o Then Battle of Broodseinde October 4
 - o Further Attacks in October Failed
 - o Resulted in Capture of East Ridge of Ypres November 6
- Canadian Attack on November 10th Claimed Victory as Germans were Cleared from Eastern Edge of Passchendaele Ridge
- Nine Canadians Earned Victoria Cross (Highest Military Award for Military Valour)
 - o Two of the men did not survive to receive the medal

(**Images Below Sources [More to Come])

Sources

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/battles-and-fighting/land-battles/passchendaele/>

- Good Information in Short

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/battle_passchendaele.shtml

- Used for Cross-Checking Legitimacy of Information

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/battles/ypres3.htm>

- Main Source Used for Timelining

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Passchendaele

- Used for Name Checking & Additional Information Checking

http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-world-war/fact_sheets/passchendaele

- Name & Numbers Checking

Images

Before Artillery (1916)



After Artillery (November 1917)

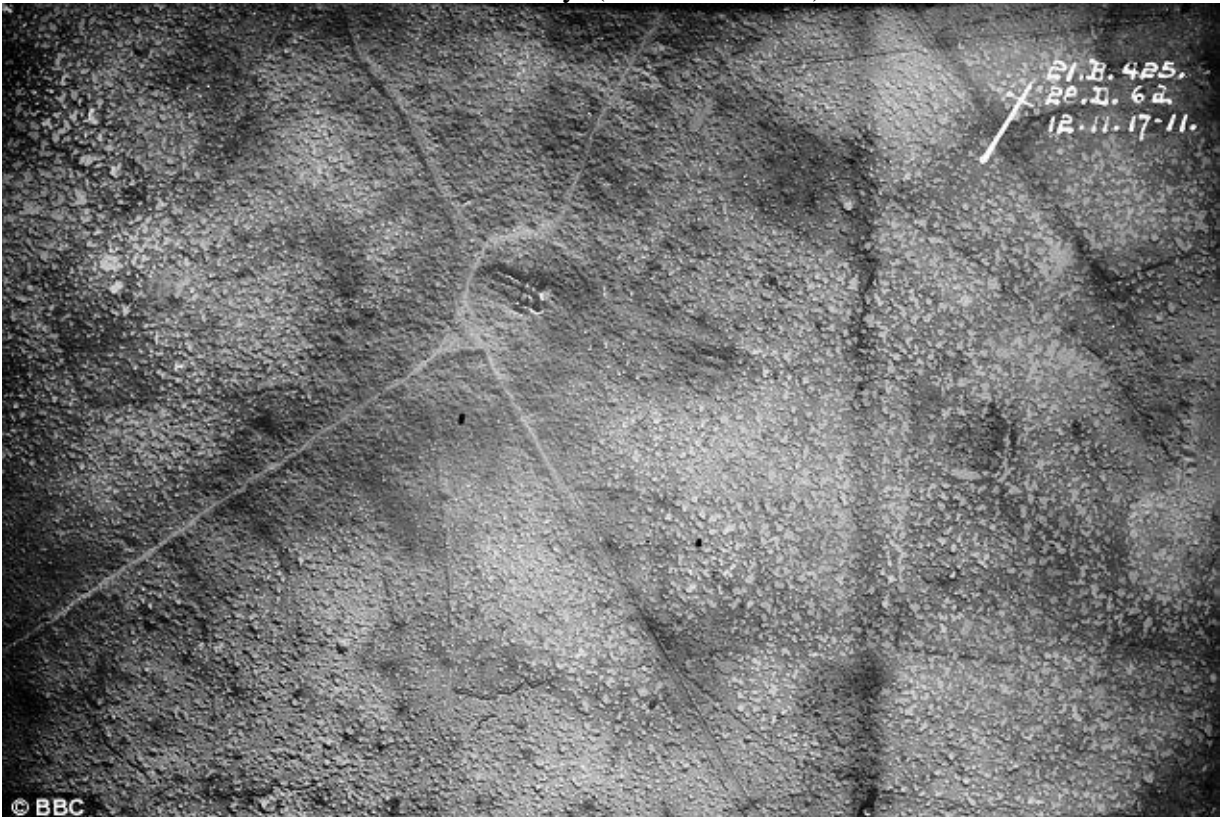


Chart Showing Progress of Battle

