

The War in the Air and at Sea

In the Air:

1. In 1914, the airplane was a new and unproven invention. At first it was used for _____ (to observe/ spy on the enemy).
2. _____ airplanes changed the way airplanes were used in war when a machine gun was mounted on the front of the plane and the bullets were synchronized to pass through the propeller blades.
3. Canada had no air force of its own, Canadians who wanted to fly joined the _____ Air Force/ RAF (by 1918, ____% of the RAF pilots were Canadian)
4. Germany seemed to have the upper hand in the air war, they had more air planes, superior planes (Fokker) and _____ (large hydrogen "blimps"). These airships were used for observation missions and bombing raids.
5. Men flocked to the air force - trench warfare offered no glory... but flying in WWI did! Some of the advantages that the men serving in the Air Force had over the men in the trenches were:

6. But these men often paid a high price for this glory...the percentage of pilots killed was higher than any other branch in the military - the average lifespan of a pilot in 1916 was _____!!!!
7. The men often referred to the planes as " _____ " - there weren't even any _____ on board the planes at the beginning of the war!
8. Pilots often flew low over enemy lines (vulnerable to ground attacks) with no radios. When they encountered an enemy plane or planes, they would engage in _____, dangerous aerial duels (often involved maneuvering light planes to dive in on the enemy from the rear and then fire).
9. An " _____ " was a fighter pilot who shot down at least five enemy planes
10. Some of these rivalries and famous duels have become engrained in our popular culture. Manfred Von Richthofen, known as the " _____ " was a German pilot who downed _____ planes in his career and flew with the "flying circus". He was the greatest "ace" of the war
11. _____ was the Canadian pilot (from Carleton Place) who may have shot down the "Red Baron".

12. Canada's greatest flying ace of the first world war was _____. He is said to have shot down _____ enemy planes by the end of the war & was awarded the Victory Cross in 1917 for bravery.

At Sea:

1. The only official sea "battle" of the war was at _____ in May 1916, just off the coast of Denmark (German navy vs. British Navy.). There was no decisive victor -both navies return to ports...

2. Both sides then tried to "starve each other into submission" by using _____. This meant that each side tried to stop the other side from receiving supplies and food by _____.

3. German submarines were called *unterseeboot* (or _____ for short). The German's eventually announced the policy of " _____ " - Germany warned that it would sink all ships in enemy water without warning. Why did they do this? _____

4. Perhaps one of the best known civilian tragedies of the war at sea was the sinking of the _____ in 1915, in which _____ people were killed - more than half of them were American!

5. One answer to the u-boat threat was the " _____ ". This was the system in which ships with huge quantities of food and war materials coming from _____ and _____ began to sail in fleets... supply ships were escorted by armed destroyers that kept constant watch like sheepdogs guarding a flock of sheep. " _____ " were also used as decoys in this allied defensive plan.

6. Canada's navy had only _____ warships at the beginning of the war!!!!

7. By the end of the war, Canada's navy had grown to _____ warships. These ships took part in many of the convoys to Britain and helped to get the necessary supplies through (By 1918, we had reduced losses due to u-boat attack to less than _____% of allied shipping!)

8. The _____ was the largest human-made explosion until the atom bomb was developed. It occurred in _____ of 1917 and for many Canadian represented the first time that the war had hit the home front.