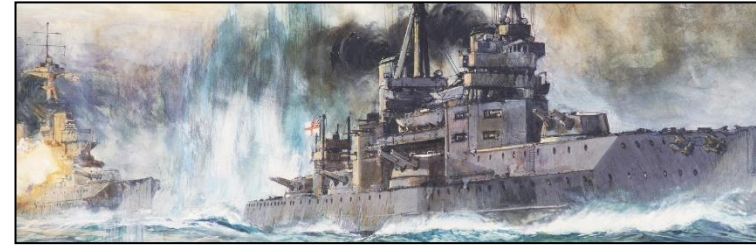## Gallipoli (25th April 1915-9th January 1916) The Gallipoli peninsula, Turkey.

Winston Churchill wanted to create a physical link with Russia in Eastern Europe in order to open up an Eastern front against the Germans. To do this he needed to capture the Dardanelles, a passage of water from the Mediterranean sea to the Black sea. He planned a huge assault on the Gallipoli peninsula to capture the area and allow his ships safe passage. Unfortunately for Churchill, the Dardanelles were full of anti-ship mines that caused huge losses to his fleet of ships and the fighting on land became a desperate war of survival for the Australian and New Zealand (ANZAC) soldiers dug in on the edge of cliffs. The Turkish enemy used snipers to great effect and after a desperately cold winter, the attack was called off.
Casualties: 200,000 Allied and 200,000 Turkish though the Turkish held all of their ground.

Jutland (31st May-1st June 1916) The North Sea, near Denmark

Over the previous 20 years, the British and German Navies had been growing to compete with each other. After the start of the First World War, the Navies began to see action. The German High Seas Fleet wanted to ambush the British Grand Fleet in the North sea to weaken the Royal Navy. British code breakers warned the British fleets of this plan and the British Grand Fleet was prepared for battle!
The two Naval powers fought at the Battle of Jutland for the first and last time in the war. The British lost more ships but the Germans were forced to limp back to port where they remained for the remainder of the war.
Causalities: 14 ships and 6,000 men Allied, 11 ships and 2,500 men, German

The Somme (1st July-18th November 1916) Northern France near Albert

The French were desperately hanging in at Verdun further south on the line and needed the Germans to be distracted. A joint French and British assault was planned for the summer of 1916 in the Somme valley to force the Germans to commit more troops away from Verdun. The first day was widely remembered as the worst day in British military history with 19,000 dead and around 57,000 casualties. They captured barely any ground. The preliminary bombardment had warned the Germans of the attack and not destroyed the defences as hoped. This was followed by further attacks including the first use of tanks in September. Finally by November, the Allies had worked out how to use infantry, tanks, artillery and aircraft together to gain victory.
Casualties: 420,000 British, 200,000 French, 465,000 German.

Passchendaele (31st July-6th Nov 1917) Belgium—near Ypres

The British commander Douglas Haig wanted to capture German submarine bases in Northern Belgium. This meant attacking the Germans at a village known as Passchendaele to cut off their supply lines. After a two week artillery bombardment, the British began their assault on the 31st July . The shelling had churned up the battlefield but there were some initial successes. A few days later, the heaviest ran in 30 years flooded the battlefield. Men and horses drowned in the water filled craters. After several months of fighting, the British and Canadians managed to capture Passchendaele and Haig called off the offensive.
Casualties:325,000 Allied, 260,000 German
Luckily, the British losses were replaced by American soldiers.