**Battle of the Somme – 1916**

**The Plan**

* This battle was a British plan to take out the Germans for good
* 7 days of a barrage of shells fired over to the German lines.
	+ This was supposed to have taken out the Germans
* After the 7th day of bombing, (July 1, 1916) British troops followed more than 40 tanks into no man’s land.

**Problems**

* When the bombing started, Germans dug down.
	+ Up to 15 meters into their trenches, they were protected and their heavy artillery guns survived.
* Tanks were used for the soldiers to follow behind on foot.
	+ The tanks were too primitive and broke down half way across No Man’s Land.
* Very few British men made it to the German trenches (1000 Allied lives per 100 yards).
* This was one of the biggest battles of the entire war. It lasted five months and resulted in a high number of casualties.
* On the first day of battle (July 1, 1916), casualties totalled 57, 470 troops

**The Canadians**

* The Canadian regiments were operating under the orders of **British General Douglas Haig**
* The first day of the Battle was horrible for Newfoundland troops. This was at **Beaumont-Hamel**
* The soldiers had to face rapid fire from machine guns as they walked through no-man’s land. 90% of the regiment was dead or wounded.
* The overall Battle ended on November 18, 1916 after Haig called off the months of slaughter.

**Results**

* High casualty loss on both sides. Canada lost 24,029 men during those five months.
* It reinforced Canada’s reputation as a strong fighting corpsThe Germans began calling Canadian troops Storm Troopers, *Sturmtruppen*, because of their skill and persistence.
* It was considered a useless battle; over 1 million deaths and 5 months of brutality for 11 km of land.