Stalemate in 1915

- After the battles of Marne and Tannenberg, which brought about the use of trench warfare, a stalemate occurred along the western front.

- **Stalemate** - a situation in which further action or progress by opposing or competing parties seems impossible.

- Due to introduction of trench warfare, new machinery and technology.
Battle of Gallipoli (Feb. 1915-Jan. 1916)

- Allies sought to weaken the Ottoman Empire (Central power) and seize access to aid Russia during the stalemate.
- Participation from colonies and outside forces (New Zealand, Australia, etc)
- Heavy death tolls – evacuation of troops

Importance:
- Defining moment for Ottoman Empire- victory boosted moral
- Defining moment for New Zealand and Australia
Battle of Jutland (May- June 1916)

◦ Largest naval battle of the First World War.
  ◦ It was the only time that the British and German fleets of 'dreadnought' battleships actually came to blows.

Importance:

◦ British victory

◦ battle confirmed British naval dominance and secured its control of shipping lanes, allowing Britain to implement the blockade that would contribute to German defeat in 1918.
Battle of Verdun (Feb-Dec 1916)

- Longest battle of WWI.
  - It was also one of the costliest. It began in February 1916 with a German attack on the fortified French town of **Verdun**, where bitter fighting would continue for most of the year.

- The Germans had lost over 430,000 men killed or wounded and the French approximately 550,000.

- French victory by the end of the year
Battle of Verdun

Importance:

◦ The trauma of this loss not only affected French political and military decision-making during and after the war, it had a lasting effect on French national consciousness.

◦ Verdun also had serious strategic implications for the rest of the war. The Allies had planned to defeat Germany through a series of large coordinated offensives, but the German attack at Verdun drastically reduced the number of French troops available.

◦ Britain had to take the lead
Total War
Battle of the Somme (July-Nov. 1916)

- Goal was to achieve a final Allied victory over Germans after Verdun
- Did not go as planned - More than one million men from all sides were killed, wounded or captured. British casualties on the first day – numbering over 57,000, of which 19,240 were killed – make it the bloodiest day in British military history.
- Battle of attrition- brutality
- Tanks enter the war
Battle of the Somme

Importance

◦ Has come to represent the loss and apparent futility of the war.

◦ But the Allied offensive on the Somme was a strategic necessity fought to meet the needs of an international alliance.

◦ Led to strategies that would ultimately win the war for the allies.
2nd Battle of Marne (July-Aug. 1918)

- Last major German Spring Offensive on the Western Front during World War I.
- It failed when an Allied counterattack led by French forces overwhelmed the Germans, inflicting severe casualties.
- German army was severely run down and loosing strength

Importance
- The German defeat marked the start of the relentless Allied advance which culminated in the Armistice with Germany about 100 days later.