

# The Battle of Verdun

- One of the biggest battles of WWI
- Fought between the French and Germans
- Key to determining who would win on the Western front



# Soldier's Experiences of Verdun



# The Toll

- Verdun resulted in 306,000 battlefield deaths
- And at least 1/2 million wounded
  
- Counts as a strategic victory for France
- But – was a costly stalemate for both countries in terms of death tolls

# Verdun today

- Land around Verdun is still marked by war
- War memorial

# Battle of the Somme

An overview of the battle

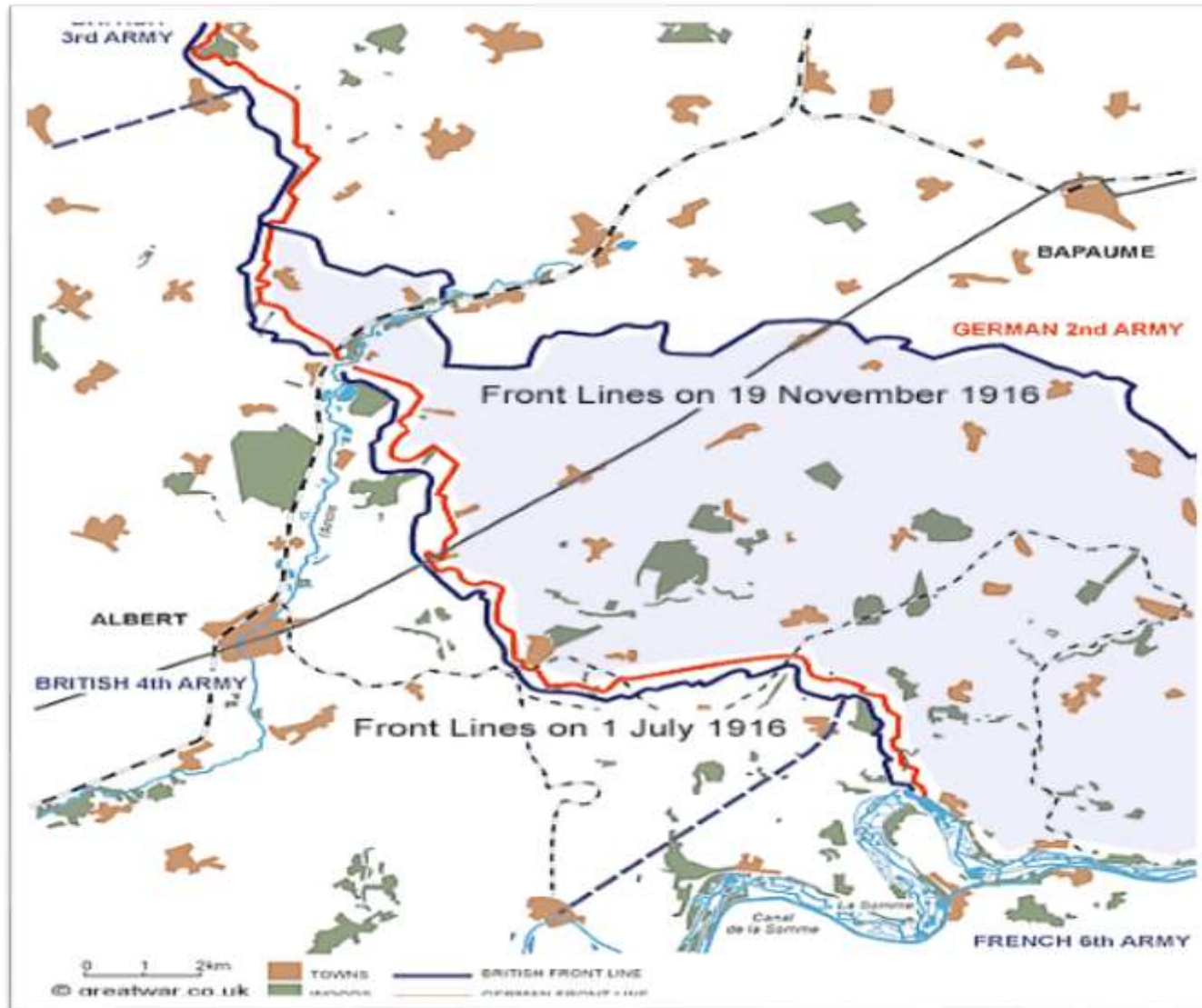
# Overview

- July 1 – Nov. 18, 1916
- One of the costliest battles of WWI
- Approximately 1.2 million casualties



*Dead German soldiers at Battle of the Somme*

# British gains





# Cause and effect

- Attempt by the British to “push through” the German lines
- Fought along northwestern part of the Western Front
- After months of fighting, and several assaults up and down the front, resulted in small gains in land for England
- Greatly weakened German war effort overall

# Causes of high death toll

Massive loss of life  
due to new military  
technologies:



*British gun crew wearing PH-type anti-gas helmets*