



Battle of Verdun

The Battle of Verdun took place over approximately 10 months, from February to December, 1916. It was both the longest and one of the costliest battles of World War I.

The battle began when the Germans attacked the fortified French town of Verdun with a ten-hour bombardment. The French held their ground, and the battle continued into the summer. At that point the Germans moved some troops away from Verdun to counter British and Russian offensives in other locations. The reduction in German forces allowed the French to retake lost ground in the fall and ultimately defeat the Germans at Verdun before the year was over.

The losses on both sides were devastating. Over 430,000 Germans and approximately 550,000 French died. The losses at Verdun has far-reaching effects on France. It also had significant strategic implications for the remainder of WWI. The Germans had seriously reduced the size of the French military, leaving the British to lead the offensive on the Western Front.

1. How long did the battle of Verdun last?
2. How did the battle start?
3. Why did the Germans pull some of their troops away from Verdun?
4. How did this battle impact the remainder of WWI?