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Games at Higher Levels The decade of the 1900s was a period of great technological advancement on the Western Front. In the naval arena, British battleship HMS Vanguard had been launched in 1911 and used as a test platform for new naval weapons and equipment for the next three decades. The development of armour plate in the British Army was also advanced during the period, and massive infantry trenches, called saps, were dug by the army in the Western Front, and tactics to defend them were developed. In the Russian Imperial Army, the Martos Armored Train was developed. It was designed to provide better mobility for Russian cavalry regiments and other smaller units that were being sent into battle. The ship proved to be a great success in combat and by World War I had been built in numbers. The cavalry regiments provided by the Imperial Railways were also used to propel the armoured trains forward, and these massive vehicles proved to be very effective in combat against the regular armies of the day. The Russian Artillery took the most innovative approach to the design of new equipment. They created artillery pieces specifically designed to attack fortifications, and by the First World War large numbers of these were in service. The Russian artillery also took the lead in the introduction of artillery aided tactics. The Stavka, or Supreme Headquarters, in the Imperial Russian Army, devised tactics that relied on large numbers of artillery pieces firing in a coordinated manner. The Russian infantry also took the lead in the adoption of tactics of the nature as adopted by the Germans and the British. By the First World War the trenches had become as formidable and well guarded as any known enemy positions. In 1914 the largest offensive mounted by any army in history began. In this case the Russian army launched a huge invasion in the south of East Prussia and captured the fortress of Eylau. An important part of the preparations for this invasion of East Prussia was the development of new weapons for use in the Russian infantry. The Russian army experimented with a new type of firearm. This was the Tokarev SVT submachine gun. The gun was developed in 1910 and trials were started in 1912. After they were tried out by the army, other firearms companies stepped in to produce small numbers of these guns, and by the start of the First World War a large number of the guns were in use by the Russian army, and were even used by the British and French armies on the Western Front. By the end of the war

