Timeline of Technological Advances in Warfare Through WWII

300,000BC  Oldest recorded hunting weapons, Schöningen Spears, made of spruce and pine.

2000BC  Domestication of the horse and widespread use of spoked wheels result in horse drawn chariot, used frequently in ancient battle by the Sumerians.

700BC  Origin of the hoplite phalanx defensive formation in Ancient Greece.

500BC  Chinese general and strategist Sun Tzu, author of The Art of War, proposes guerilla warfare.

850  Chinese discover gunpowder.

1150  First recorded use of gunpowder on a battlefield in China, and counter-weight trebuchet invented by Mardi ibn Ali al-Tarsusi during the Ayubbid dynasty.

1364  First recorded use of a firearm by the Chinese.

1775  Guerilla tactics first used by Patriots at Battles of Lexington and Concord during the American Revolutionary War.

1849  First air-dropped bombs from balloons are used by the Austrian Army during the siege of Venice.

1859  The French Navy builds the first ironclad warship, Gloire.

1862  Gatling gun invented, precursor to the modern machine gun, used during U.S. Civil War by Union Army.

1864  First sinking of an enemy ship by submarine (H. L. Hunley of Confederate States of America), during the American Civil War.

1914  First widespread trench warfare by Great Britain, France, and Germany. First aerial bombing of civilian target (Antwerp) by German airship.

1915  First large scale use of lethal gases by German Army.

1916  First use of tanks by British Army.

1939  First large scale and successful use of blitzkrieg by German armed forces.

1940  First all-aircraft ship-to-ship naval attack at Taranto by Royal Navy.

1942  Last major cavalry charge by Italian Army in Soviet Union.

1945  First test of atomic bomb and first use at Hiroshima.