

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.