Canadian Airmen And The First World War

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At the start of the First World War, aircraft like the B.E.2 were primarily used for reconnaissance. Due to the static nature of trench warfare, aircraft were the only means of gathering information beyond enemy trenches, so they were essential for discovering where the enemy was based and what they were doing. 3. How much training did airmen receive? Insufficient preparation. Some men had only a few hours of training before being sent on active missions due to an ever increasing demand for pilots. Canada’s contribution to the First World War led to growing autonomy and international recognition, but at great cost. In Canada’s first major battle, the outnumbered Canadian Division faced the first use of chlorine gas as a battlefield agent. A third of the force, or 6,000 soldiers, were killed, wounded, or captured, but the Canadians kept the Germans from breaking through. 1 July 1916: Beaumont Hamel. The Newfoundland Regiment went into battle at Beaumont Hamel as part of a general British offensive on 1 July 1916. Due to error and miscalculation, the Regiment attacked through uncut barbed wire against heavy machine-gun fire. Within 30 minutes, 324 of its 801 soldiers were dead or missing, and another 386. The First World War began in August 1914. It was directly triggered by the assassination of the Austrian archduke, Franz Ferdinand and his wife, on 28th June 1914 by Bosnian revolutionary, Gavrilo Princip. This event was, however, simply the trigger that set off declarations of war. The actual causes of the war are more complicated and are still debated by historians today. Loading Scroll down for a comprehensive discussion of the causes of World War 1. Alternatively, if you would like to watch a video covering the same events, click below. Causes of WW1: Alliances. An alliance is an agreement involving an international agreement between two or more countries to support each other in case of war or other conflicts.