Use of tanks another attempt to break stalemate.

Developed by the British and the French, 49 tanks were first used at the Battle of the Somme → The tank was able to advance ahead of the infantry, crushing barbed wire fences and attacking the enemy at the same time with machine-gun and cannon fire. Crew protected by outer metal armor.

Why tanks didn’t break the stalemate:
  ▶ slow and unreliable, broke down often (use our computers as a way to remember these tanks - they have similar problems)
  ▶ armor plating not strong enough to resist artillery
  ▶ heat & fumes generated inside tank nearly choked the operators

Larger numbers of tanks were used in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917, but here initial successes were not sustained and breakthroughs were quickly reversed.
Advantages of different war fields

War at Land
New technological advances that weren’t as risky as the new developments on land and sea. Obviously what soldiers were already trained for. Trench warfare.

War at Sea
Crucial to both sides. Britain needed it to transport soldiers and get supplies. Germany needed overseas supplies. Key to Britain’s survival. Britain the most successful.

War in the Air
Airships = most important in air warfare early on. Germans had the Zeppelin. Eventually replaced by bomber aircraft. Reconnaissance, dog fights, ground attack. Most famous bomber is the Gotha.
Airships

- Most important role in the early stages of war
- More reliable, could carry heavy loads, & had a much greater range
- Germans had the Zeppelin, which could drop bombs on civilian and industrial targets (especially in Britain)
- Raids on London, the Midlands, and the East Coast resulted in hundreds of civilian deaths → Britain defenses too good, Germans turned to bomber aircraft

Bomber aircraft

- Germans made them, then British responded with their own bombers in the Royal Flying Corps
- 1915 - machine guns fit to reconnaissance planes → dog fights
In summation...

As a result of the limitations to these new developments, they were not ultimately decisive in the outcome of the war on the Western Front. However, they did allow for a change in tactics in 1918 that led the Allies to victory.

Some Examples

*Compare and contrast* communications (or lackthereof) between armies before and after the development of wireless aerial communication.

*The technological developments led the war out of a stalemate because* the tactics finally changed in accordance to the new technologies. (Be able to provide examples)

*The most effective development vs. the least effective*... i.e. heavy artillery vs. gas attacks; air bombers vs. airships