

Keegan – Chapter 8 – Wee Quiz

Keegan 8 “The Year of Battles”

09 August 2015

1. Who sailed the “High Seas Fleet,” and who sailed the “Grand Fleet”?
2. How did Britain’s navy change significantly between 1896 and 1913? Describe the Admiralty’s attitude toward such changes.
3. In the early 20th century, what countries’ shipyards produced most major war vessels? Why?
4. Why—and with what major results—did British command cling to the “culture of the signal flag”?
5. How fast is a speed of 33 knots per hour? Of 23.6 knots?
6. How big was Germany’s access to the sea? And where? And how did that affect German naval warfare?
7. How and whence did Britain acquire German codebooks significant to detecting ships’ movements?
8. What was 40 OB? And what did people there do?

9. During 1915, about how many merchant ships did Britain lose each month to enemy depredations?
10. Why did the British transfer their fleet to Rosyth and Scapa Flow. Please locate both on a map.
11. In April 1916, German ships bombarded England's east coast and Lowestoft on what day—the day of a highly significant rebellion against the British government?
12. Because of their acquisition of German codebooks, the British could quickly decrypt German naval messages. Scheer imagined, however, that what allowed the British to learn of his ships' movements?
13. What is the German name for the Battle of Jutland? Who won? How do we know? What did the journalist mean when he called the battle "an assault on the gaoler, followed by a return to gaol"?
14. Who was Douglas Haig? Whose command did he assume—and how did he manage that? How does Keegan characterize him? How sympathetic a human being was he?
15. What in particular—perceived or real--led to Falkenhayn's fall and Hindenburg's replacing him?
16. What was Falkenhayn's plan to take Verdun? How successful was the plan? Describe the "exchange ratio" for casualties?

17. Why were the forts at Vaux and Douaumont significant? What happened to them?
18. Verdun pitted the Germans against the French. Contrast de Castelnau and Petain and Nivelle as French military leaders during Verdun. What was the *voie sacree*? How many trucks and horses were used and abused on the *voie*?
19. In contrast, the Somme pitted the Germans mainly against the British. When did infantry fighting begin? How many shells had been fired between February and June 1916 in preparation for the actual fight? By the end of June, how many men had been killed or wounded?
20. When Keegan describes Haig as “sinuous,” what does he mean?
21. Why are the Ulster Volunteer Forces so celebrated for the Somme? Who were they?
22. What is a “creeping barrage”? Why did such a tactic often fail utterly, resulting in many casualties?
23. See page 293-294, paragraph 1: “What the infantry . . . such an outcome.” Summarize Keegan’s main point in a sentence or two.
24. What happened to the 36th Ulster at Thiepval on the first day of the battle of the Somme? Why? What happened to the Tyneside Irish? Why?

25. Germany lost 600,000 at the Somme; Britain and France lost over 600,000 together. Examine the last paragraph of section 2, pages 298-299. What does Keegan tell us about loss?

26. How successful was the tank when first introduced? What caused the failures?

27. What was the Brusilov offensive? What did it achieve? Why did Brusilov succeed when everyone else seemed to fail?

That's it. I have more questions, but I will be amazed if you finish these. Long, dense, wonderful chapter. Happy reading.