**World War 1 And South Africa**

**Introduction**

World War 1 started in Europe in 1914. It ended in 1918. Germany was defeated. The Allies (Britain, France and America) fought the Axis powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey). South Africa joined the war on the side of Britain because it was a British colony at the time. White and black men volunteered for service in the armed forces but black men were not allowed to carry any weapons. Black, coloured and Indian men served as non-combatants.

**Battle Of Delville Wood 1919**

Delville Wood was one of the horrific battles of the war. It was fought at Delville Wood in France. 3 153 South Africans went into battle and only 755 men survived.

**Sinking Of The Mendy 1917**

The Mendi was a battleship that carried black South African non-combatant soldiers to the battlefields on the Western Front. These soldiers were from the rural areas of Eastern Cape. They were not allowed to fight with guns. They were expected to dig trenches, carry stretchers, repair roads and carry out other hard labour. Mendi sailed from Cape to France on 16 January 1917 carrying troops of the 5th Battalion (South African Native Corps). It stopped in England before crossing the English Channel to the Western Front. But it never made it to the battle-front. The Mendi sank on 21 February 1917. It was struck by another ship named the Darro and got badly damanged. The weather conditions were so bad for any rescue operations. It quickly sank within an hour. Stump was the captain of the Darro. He was blamed for having caused this disaster. The Darro was travelling too fast and was not putting on the ship’s fog signals. Moreover, he did not make any attempts to rescue those that were sinking after the accident.

**WORLD WAR II (1919 – 1945)**

**The Rise Of Nazi Germany**

**End Of World War 1: Weimer Republic: Treaty Of Versailles 1919 And Brief Summaries Of Germany Punishments.**

**End Of World War 1 And The Beginning Of The Weimer Republic**

After four years of fighting, Germany was defeated. Kaiser Wilhelm II had been overthrown. Germany was no longer ruled by a king but became a republic. A new democratic government was formed in the city of Weimer thus the name of the new government. The Weimer Republic signed the Versailles Treaty with the Allies in 1919.

**The Treaty Of Versailles And How Germany Was Punished.**

The victorious powers wanted revenge on Germany. Wanted Germany to pay for all the damages caused to their countries during the war. Thus, the terms of the treaty were dictated to Germany meaning that it did not have a say in how it was punished. Germany had to pay millions in reparations for the damage of the war. Germany lost land, among it Alsace and Lorraine to France, Posen to Poland, North Schleswig to Denmark among others. Germany was also made to sign the War Guilt Clause which meant that it was made to agree that Germany alone had caused the war. Germany was not allowed to build up a defence force again.

**Hitler And The Nazis In The 1920s**

Hitler joined the Nazi Party at the end of World War II. He became its leader in 1921. He immediately went about organizing it into a strong militant organization. Thus set up the Stormtroopers (SA), who were armed groups of supporters who wore brown shirts. The SA organized marching parades and carried flags with the Nazi symbol (swastika) on it. Their motto was “All opposition must be stamped to the ground.” The SA did not follow any rules. They used violence and beat- up people who disagreed with them. In 1923 Hitler and the Nazis staged a coup or putsch but it failed. Hitler was jailed for 9 months only for such a serious offence. Why? The judge, like many other officials of the Weimer Republic, did not support the new democratic government. While in jail, Hitler wrote his famous book called Mein Kampf (My Struggle).

**Questions**

* 1. Countries belonging to the Allied groups fought against countries belonging to the Axis group. Name the Allied countries and the Axis countries. (6x1) (6)
     1. Describe briefly what happened at the battle of Delville Wood in 1919. (4)
     2. Describe briefly the sinking of the Mendi in 1917. (5)
     3. Explain the meanings of the following terms:

1. Horrific (2)
2. Non-combatant soldiers (2)
3. Versailles Treaty (2)
4. Revenge (2)
5. Nazis (2)
6. Swastika (2)
7. Mein Kampf (2)
   * 1. What punishments were given to Germany at the Treaty of Versailles? ((6x1)