

1914

■ **Jun 28: Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, heir to Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife assassinated in Sarajevo by Serb nationalist **Gavrilo Princip**



■ **Jul 28:** Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia

■ **Jul 31:** Russia, ally of Serbia, announces full mobilisation of its army

■ **Aug 1:** Germany mobilises its armed forces and declares war on Russia

■ **Aug 3:** Germany declares war on France

■ **Aug 4:** Germany declares war on neutral Belgium and invades in right flanking move designed to defeat France quickly. Incensed, Britain declares war on Germany

■ **Aug 5:** Conflict begins in **African Theatre** between German colonial troops and British Empire

■ **Aug 6:** Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia

■ **Aug 22: Battle of the Frontiers** – 27,000 French soldiers die during one day in offensive east of Paris, close to French-German border

■ **Aug 23:** Japan, then allied to Britain, declares war on Germany after ultimatum to withdraw warships from Chinese and Japanese waters goes unanswered

■ Japan also demands Germany transfer control of Tsingtao, China, then under German rule, to Japan

■ **Aug 26-30:** German army, led by **Erich Ludendorff** and **Paul von Hindenburg**, achieves its greatest victory on Eastern Front against Russia at **Battle of Tannenberg**

■ **Sep 5-10: First Battle of the Marne** halts German invasion in France

■ **Sep 6: Battle of Tsingtao** – first air-sea battle in history. Japan attacks enemy shipping with bombs dropped from French-built Farman aircraft

■ **Sep 15:** First trenches dug on **Western Front**



Belgian soldiers on their way to front near Ypres, 1916

■ **Oct 19-Nov 22: First Battle of Ypres** sees Franco-British and German armies attempt to outflank each other around Belgian town

■ **Dec 25:** Unofficial Christmas truce declared by soldiers in **Western Front** trenches. German and British soldiers play football in **No Man's Land**



"Going over the top"

1918

World War One Centenary

2018

### Theatres of war

In 1914, European nations are linked by series of diplomatic alliances:

■ Germany/Austria-Hungary/Ottoman Empire form **Central Powers**

■ Britain/France/Russia make up **Triple Entente** or **Allies**

**Italy**, seeking to gain Austrian territory, enters war on side of Allies in May 1915.  
**Bulgaria**, with territorial ambitions in Serbia, aligns with Central Powers in October 1915

- Central Powers and their colonies
- Triple Entente/Allies and their colonies
- Switch allegiances during war
- Neutral nations



1915

1916

1917

■ **Feb 4:** Germany begins submarine blockade of Britain. Ships approaching coast are considered legitimate targets

■ **Apr 21-May 25: Second Battle of Ypres** marks first mass use of poison gas by Germany on Western Front

■ **Apr 25:** Allies begin nine-month battle for Turkish peninsula of **Gallipoli**. Troops include many from Australia and New Zealand

■ **May 7:** German U-boat sinks **RMS Lusitania**, killing 1,198 civilians – including 128 Americans



RMS Lusitania sets sail from New York on its last fateful voyage, May 1, 1915

■ **Feb 9:** Britain begins conscription of men aged 18-41

■ **Feb 21-Dec 18: Battle of Verdun**, longest battle of war, ends in stalemate. Estimated one million French and German casualties

■ **Apr 9:** Canadians take **Vimy Ridge**

■ **Apr 19:** U.S. President **Woodrow Wilson** warns Germany not to continue unrestricted submarine warfare

■ **Apr 24:** Irish Republicans stage armed uprising in Dublin to assert **Irish independence**. British forces crush rebellion and execute leaders

■ **May 21:** Following Germany's initiative of previous year,

Britain introduces **daylight saving time** (winding clock back one hour), so munitions and factory workers rise earlier in summer

■ **May 31: Battle of Jutland.** Britain loses more ships and men, but German fleet is more heavily damaged and is mostly confined to home ports for remainder of war

■ **Jun 5: Lawrence of Arabia** assists Arab Revolt against Turks

■ **Jul 1-Nov 18: Battle of the Somme** causes one million casualties, with no allied breakthrough. Britain introduces tank, effective weapon but too few in number to win any advantage

■ **Nov 7:** Woodrow Wilson re-elected U.S. President with campaign slogan, "He kept us out of the war"

■ **Dec 7: David Lloyd George** becomes Prime Minister of Britain

■ **Dec 31: Rasputin**, self-proclaimed holy man, is murdered in Russia

■ **May 23:** Italy, which had avoided conflict until now, declares war on Austria-Hungary – switching political allegiance from Central Powers to Allies

■ **May 31:** London is attacked from air for first time with bombs dropped by German **Zeppelin** airships

■ **Sep 5: Tsar Nicholas II** takes command of Russian armies

■ **Sep 15:** Britain uses poison gas near Loos, but shifting winds cause 60,000 British casualties

■ **Oct 14:** Bulgaria declares war on Serbia

■ **Nov 11:** Armistice signed. War ends at 11th hour of 11th day of 11th month

1918

■ **Jan 8:** President Wilson declares 14-point path to permanent world peace

■ **Mar 3:** Soviet Russia signs peace treaty with Central Powers

■ **Mar 21:** Germany launches first of five major offensives on Western Front to win war before U.S. troops appear in trenches

■ **Apr 22: "Red Baron"** Manfred von Richthofen, 25, killed in dog-fight over France. He is credited with shooting down 80 aircraft



"Red Baron" pictured in 1917

■ **Apr 25:** British and Australian troops stop German advance near **Amiens**

■ **May 23:** German shells land on Paris

■ **May 31:** Germans halted by U.S. forces at Chateau-Thierry

■ **Jul:** German troops being shipped from Eastern to Western Front begin to desert their transport trains in large numbers

■ **Telegram offers Mexico "generous financial support" and "lost territory in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona"**

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

via Galveston

JAN 20 1917

GERMAN LEGATION MEXICO CITY

130	13042	13401	8501	115	3528	416	17214	6491	11310
18147	18222	21560	10247	11518	23677	13605	3494	14936	
98092	5905	11311	10392	10371	0302	21290	5161	39695	

■ **Mar 15:** Tsar of Russia abdicates

■ **Apr 6:** U.S. enters war after Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare

■ **Apr 16-29:** French launch disastrous offensive at **Chemin des Dames**. Horrendous losses trigger mutinies by French troops

■ **May 18: Selective Service Act** empowers U.S. Government to draft men for armed forces

■ **Jul 1: Alexander Kerensky** orders Russia into disastrous offensive in **Galicia**, suffering 400,000 casualties

■ **Jul 3:** First wave of **American Expeditionary Force** lands in France

■ **Jul 16:** Arab forces liberate Aqaba in Jordan

■ **Jul 31-Nov 10: Battle of Passchendaele.** Allies win ground after months of fighting in muddy quagmire

■ **Oct 26: Brazil**, major Atlantic trader threatened by Germany's submarines, declares war

■ **Nov 7-8: Lenin** directs storming of Winter Palace in St Petersburg, and establishment of **Bolshevik** government

■ **Dec 19:** British Empire and Arab troops capture Jerusalem, ending 673 years of Turkish rule

■ **Jul 16-17:** Former Tsar Nicholas II and his family murdered by Bolsheviks

■ **Aug 3:** President Wilson agrees to co-operate with Allies in sending "volunteer" troops into Russia

■ **Aug 8:** Allied counter offensives on Somme force German army into retreat

■ **Sep 27:** Allied troops break through German defences at **Hindenburg Line**

■ **Sep 30:** Fall of Damascus secures stability in Middle East

■ **Oct 28:** German sailors mutiny at port and refuse to engage British fleet

■ **Oct 30:** Turkey signs armistice

■ **Nov 9: Kaiser Wilhelm II** abdicates

■ **Nov 10:** German republic founded

■ **Nov 11:** Armistice signed. War ends at 11th hour of 11th day of 11th month

1919

■ **Jun 28: Treaty of Versailles**, signed by Allied Powers and Germany, officially ends war. Treaties with rest of Central Powers follow



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Treaty signing at Palace of Versailles