

WORLD WAR I

Also Known as The Great War & The War to End All Wars

BACKGROUND

Tensions were brewing throughout Europe, especially in the Balkans (Romania, Greece, and Serbia). Bosnia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Herzegovina wanted their independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Armenia wanted its independence from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey). Poland did not want to be part of the Russian Empire. The Irish wanted their freedom from Great Britain.

Use this mnemonic (memory aid) to remember main issues: **M. A. I. N.**

MILITARISM New weapons, military forces

Armed Forces & Navy

ALLIANCES Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy (neutral at first)

Aid & Cooperation

Triple Entente: Great Britain, France, Russia

Later, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire joined Germany and Austria-Hungary.

And Serbia joined Russia, France, and Britain. Later, Japan and Italy joined.

Note: The U.S. was neutral until later.

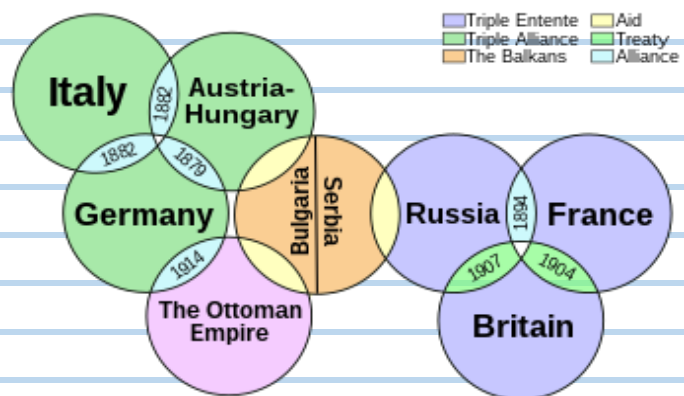
IMPERIALISM Austro-Hungarian Empire, Russian Empire, Africa

Building Empires

(More land = more revenue to the empire)

NATIONALISM Proving their strength, ethnic groups wanting their own nations

Loyalty & Patriotism

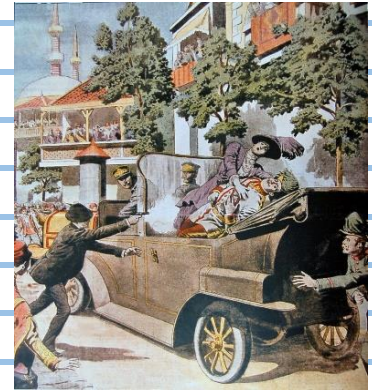


Military alignments in 1914. When the war started Italy declared neutrality; in 1915 it switched and joined the Triple Entente (i.e. the Allies). Source: Wikipedia.com

Austria

June 28, 1914

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, are assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia by Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb nationalist.



Source: images.google.com



Aim: Free Bosnia from Austria-Hungary and create a Serbian kingdom. Russia is on Team Bosnia.

Austria

July 28, 1914

Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.

August 1-28, 1914

Almost everyone else

Russia, Belgium, France, Great Britain, and Serbia ally against Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Germany declares war on Russia and France.

Implements the Schlieffen Plan, a two front war - Eastern Front, Western Front.

Germany demanded passage through Belgium, which was originally neutral, but that got Britain so angry, it declared war on Germany.

Austria declares war on Russia.

Montenegro, France, and Britain declare war on Austria.

Montenegro and Britain declare war on Germany.

Austria declares war on Belgium.

MAJOR BATTLES

Marne	The eastern part of France (Western Front for Germany).	1914
Ypres	In Flanders (an area of Belgium). Pronounced ee-pray.	1915
Gallipoli	On the European side of Turkey.	1915
Verdun	In France. Pronounced verhr-dan. Longest battle in WWI.	1916
Somme	In France.	1916
Jutland	A peninsula of Denmark. (Battleships)	1916
Cambrai	In France. (Tanks)	1917

Note: There were many other battles.

Germany,
France

September 6, 1914

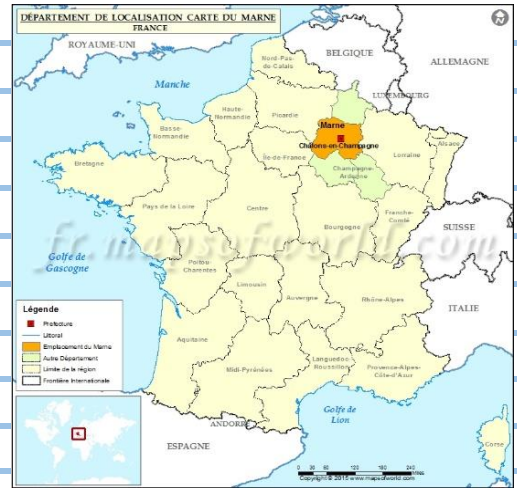
First Battle of the Marne (Sept. 6-9).

Germans advance to within 30 miles of Paris, but 6,000 infantrymen are transported by the hundreds to the front by taxis.



Source: images.yahoo.com

Triple Entente



End of mobile warfare. Beginning of trench warfare. Soldiers fought from trenches they dug.

Great Britain, France, & Turkey

November 5, 1914

Britain and France declare war on the Ottoman Empire.



Battle of Ypres and Use of Gas

April 22, 1915

The Battle of Ypres in Western Flanders (Belgium) begins.

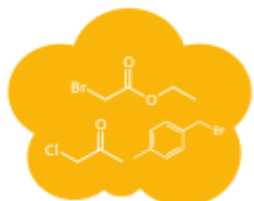


The Allies

The Germans begin chemical warfare by releasing a toxic chlorine gas on Allied trenches. About 5,000 French and Algerian troops are killed. By the end of the war, both sides have used chemical weapons and caused injuries to about 1,300,000 people, including 91,000 fatalities.

CHEMICAL WARFARE WORLD WAR I

WORLD WAR I IS SEEN AS THE DAWN OF MODERN CHEMICAL WARFARE, WITH A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT CHEMICAL AGENTS BEING EMPLOYED ON A LARGE SCALE, RESULTING IN APPROXIMATELY 1,240,000 NON-FATAL CASUALTIES, AND 91,000 FATALITIES. A VARIETY OF POISONOUS GASES WERE USED THROUGHOUT THE CONFLICT, WITH EACH HAVING DIFFERING EFFECTS UPON VICTIMS.



TEAR GASES

(ethyl bromoacetate, chloroacetone & xyl bromide)

SMELL & APPEARANCE

Both ethyl bromoacetate and chloroacetone are colourless to light yellow liquids with fragrant, pungent odours. Xyl bromide is a colourless liquid with a pleasant, aromatic odour.

EFFECTS

Tear gases are what is known as 'lachrymatory agents' - they irritate mucous membranes in the eyes, mouth, throat & lungs, leading to crying, coughing, breathing difficulties, and temporary blindness.

FIRST USED

1914 In August 1914, the French forces used tear gas grenades against the German army to little effect.

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

0 These gases were used to incapacitate enemies rather than to kill; symptoms commonly resolved within 30 minutes of leaving the affected area.



CHLORINE

SMELL & APPEARANCE

Chlorine is a yellow-green gas with a strong, bleach-like odour. Soldiers described its smell as 'a distinct mix of pepper and pineapple'.

EFFECTS

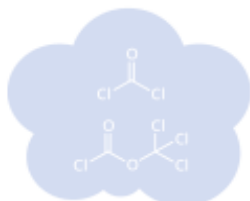
Chlorine reacts with water in the lungs, forming hydrochloric acid. It can cause coughing, vomiting, and irritation to the eyes at low concentrations, and rapid death at concentrations of 1000 parts per million.

FIRST USED

1915 Used by German forces at Ypres in April 1915, British forces used it for the first time at Loos in September.

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

>1,100 Chlorine was devastating as troops were initially unprepared to deal with it. Later, gas masks limited its effectiveness.



PHOSGENE & DIPHOSGENE

(carbonyl dichloride & trichloroethane chloroformate)

SMELL & APPEARANCE

Phosgene is a colourless gas with a musty odour comparable to that of newly mown hay or grass. Diposgene is a colourless, oily liquid.

EFFECTS

Reacts with proteins in lung alveoli, causing suffocation. Causes coughing, difficulty breathing and irritation to the throat & eyes. Can cause delayed effects, not evident for 48hrs, including fluid in the lungs & death.

FIRST USED

1915 In December 1915, the German forces used phosgene against the British at Ypres.

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

85% It's estimated 85% of all gas-related fatalities in World War I resulted from phosgene and diposgene, which were both used on 60 artillery shells.



MUSTARD GAS

(bis(2-chloroethyl) sulfide)

SMELL & APPEARANCE

When pure, mustard gas is a colourless and odourless liquid, but it's used as a chemical agent in impure forms. These are yellow-brown in colour and have an odour resembling garlic or horse radish.

EFFECTS

Powerful irritant and vesicant (blistering agent) that can damage the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract. Causes chemical burns on contact with skin. Forms membranes that react with DNA leading to cell death.

FIRST USED

1917 On 12th July 1917, German forces used mustard gas against the British at Ypres.

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

2-3% The mortality rate of mustard gas was low, but its effects were debilitating, and patients required elaborate care.

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For further information & references, see www.compoundchem.com/2014/05/17/chemical-warfare-ww1/



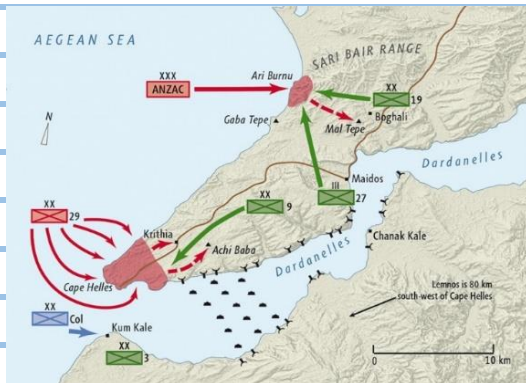
Source: <https://www.compoundchem.com/2014/05/17/chemical-warfare-ww1/>

Gallipoli

April 25, 1915

The British 29th and Royal Naval divisions land on the Gallipoli Peninsula (Cape Helles) and at ANZAC Cove.

There is a disastrous attempt to force the Dardanelles and capture the Ottoman capital (then Constantinople, now Istanbul). The Allies suffered more than 200,000 casualties during the nine month campaign. This was a signal event for Australian and New Zealand troops, which eventually lead to the collapse of the British government.



STALEMATE

Just keep fighting!

Source: nzhistory.govt.nz

The Lusitania

May 15, 1915

A German U-boat torpedoes the British ocean liner Lusitania off the southern coast of Ireland. It sinks in 18 minutes, and nearly 1,200 people are killed, including 128 U.S. citizens. The Lusitania was carrying over 170 tons of rifle ammunition and artillery shells, so Germany justified the attack as a legitimate target in a declared war zone.



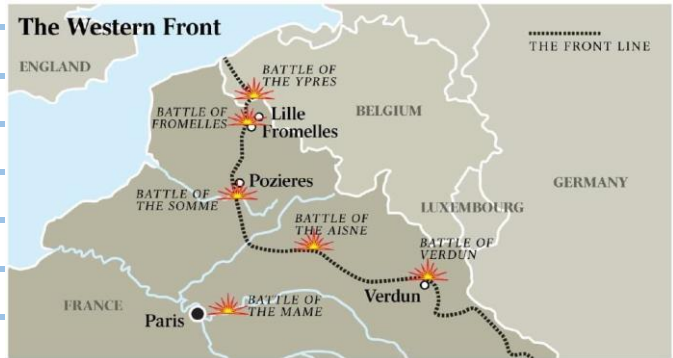
German U-boats

Sources: Yahoo Images

Battle of Verdun

February 21, 1916

The Battle of Verdun (France) begins. In 10 months, the French and German armies suffer over 700,000 casualties, including some 300,000 killed. By the end of the battle's, entire French villages had been wiped out completely. They were memorialized as having "died for France." More than 100 years later, over 10 million shells remained in the soil around Verdun, and bomb-clearing units continued to remove some 40 tons of unexploded munitions from the area each year.



Sources: Google.com

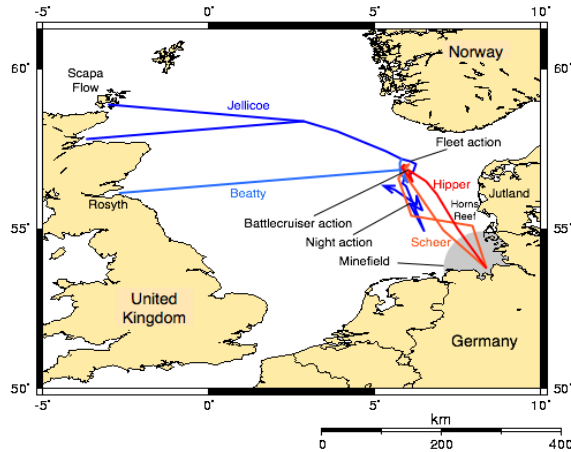


France

May 31, 1916

Jutland

The world's two largest sea powers, British and German fleets, meet 60 miles off the coast of Jutland, Denmark. This is their only major encounter in this war. Although a naval arms race between Britain and Germany was a cause of World War I, the clash of the battleships was mostly indecisive.

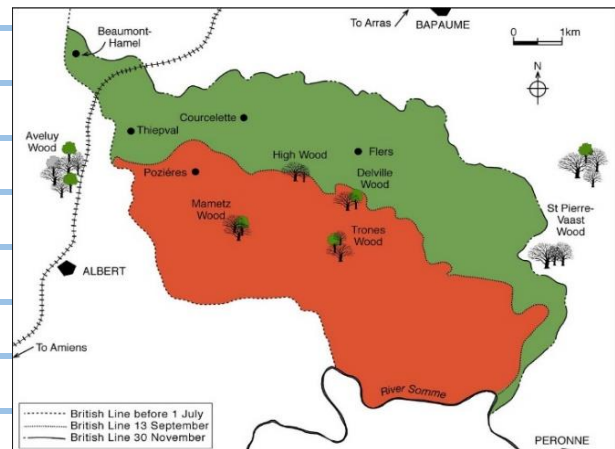


No winners
Just keep fighting!

July 1, 1916

The Somme

First Battle of the Somme begins. The British offensive drew German attention from Verdun. Nearly 20,000 were killed in action on July 1. This was the single bloodiest day in the history of the British Army. By the time the Somme campaign ended about four and a half months later, the combined casualties were more than 1,000,000. First use of tanks in battle.



The Triple Alliance

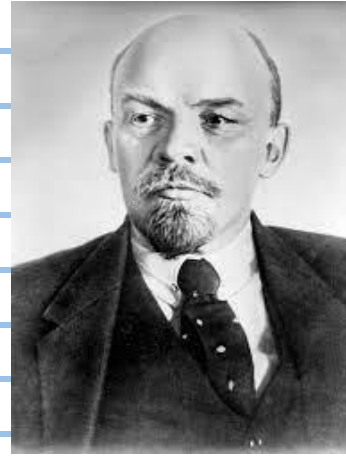
March 15, 1917

Russia

Tsar Nicholas II abdicates after a week of riots in St. Petersburg. The Russian Revolution overthrew the Romanov dynasty and led to the rise of Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks, ultimately, the rise to power of Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks. This is an inconvenience when your country is at war.



Tsar Nicholas II. Source: *Biography.com*



Vladimir Lenin. Source: *Encyclopedia Britannica.com*

April 6, 1917

US at War

The U.S. declares war on Germany. Four days before, Pres. Woodrow Wilson cited Germany's practice of unrestricted submarine warfare and the "Zimmermann Telegram" as key reasons for abandoning his long-standing policy of neutrality.



President Woodrow Wilson. Source: *White House Historical Association*

November 20, 1917

Tanks in Cambrai

The first large-scale use of tanks in combats starts with the British offensive at Cambrai (France). The British tanks tore through German defenses in a surprise attack and took about 7,500 prisoners with very few casualties. Attacking with complete surprise, the British tanks ripped through German defenses in depth and took some 7,500 prisoners at low cost in casualties. However, bad weather happened and enough infantry reinforcements could not follow through. In two weeks the British forces had been driven back almost to their original positions.



Source: GuidedBattlefieldTours.co.uk

March 3, 1918

Soviet

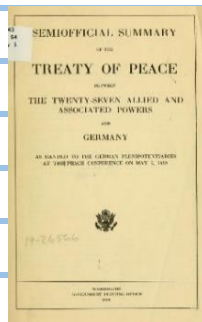
After months of delays, the Soviet government concludes a separate peace with the Central Powers as it accepts the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Russia surrenders claims to Ukraine, Polish and Baltic territories, and Finland.

Back to WWI

November 11, 1918

The End? Not quite.

Germany and the Allies conclude an armistice based mostly on Wilson's Fourteen Points. With the threat of revolution hits German industrial centers and Allies almost flanking the entire German defensive line, Germany could not continue to fight. However, Erich Ludendorff and some hard-core militarists perpetuated the "stabbed in the back" myth, claiming that Germany was betrayed by its politicians and it was unbeaten in the field. This helped the ascent of Adolf Hitler to power in 1933 and to World War II.



Treaty of Versailles Summary. Source: Library of Congress



Erich Ludendorff. Source: History.com

SUMMARY OF THE FOURTEEN POINTS

1. Open diplomacy without secret treaties.
2. Economic free trade on the seas during both war and peace.
3. Equal trade conditions.
4. Decrease military weapons and equipment among all nations.
5. Adjust all colonial claims with the intent of determining sovereignty.
6. Evacuate all Central Powers from Russia.
7. Evacuate and restore Belgium.
8. Return Alsace-Lorraine and all French territories.
9. Readjust Italy's border.
10. Austria-Hungary should have self-determination.
11. Redraw Balkan borders and create Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro.
12. Create the state of Turkey and guarantee free trade in the Dardanelles.
13. Make Poland an independent state.
14. Create the League of Nations.

Source: www.theworldwar.org/learn/peace/fourteen-points

WOMEN IN WORLD WAR I

Women played a big role in World War I.

No uniforms required:

Munitions factories - making explosives and weapons.

The Land Army - Volunteered and worked to replace men in agriculture.

Civil Service - Did government jobs previously done by men.

In Uniform:

The Front - Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), formed in 1917 to free up soldiers to fight at the fronts.

The Docks - Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS). The "Wrens" were formed in 1917. They worked off-ship or when a ship was moored to free up men for the frontline operations.

On Airbases - Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF). In 1918 in Britain and later in France and Germany.

In military hospitals. Because war means casualties. Lots of them.



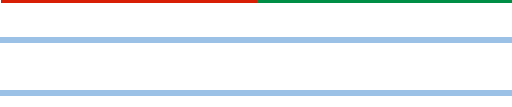

THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR I



The Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919.

The League of Nations was founded on January 10, 1920 by the Paris Peace Conference to promote peace among the nations. It failed. It was replaced after World War II by the United Nations. That also failed, but is still in operation.

The Austro-Hungarian, German, Russian, and Ottoman empires were dissolved and new countries and boundaries were created in Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East:

Austro-Hungarian Empire	Austria
	Hungary
	Czechoslovakia (now 2 countries)
	Slovenia (some parts)
	Poland (some parts)
	Romania (some parts)
	Italy (some parts)
	Ukraine (some parts)
	Yugoslavia (some parts of Bosnia, Herzogovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Slovenia) - before 1929. Later these countries got their independence.

Russian Empire



Finland

Lithuania

Estonia

Belarus

Latvia

Moldova (parts)

Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia)

Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Krygyzstan)

Ottoman Empire



North Africa (Algeria, Lybia, Egypt)

Malta

Qatar

Israel

Bahrain

Jordan

UAE

Lebanon

Turkey

Syria

Bulgaria

Cyprus

Romania

Greece

Moldovia

Iraq

Macedonia

Kuwait

Kosovo

Croatia

Serbia

Slovenia

Hungary

Bosnia & Herzegovenia

It Ain't Over Til The Fat Lady Sings

World War I was a war of imperialism, but everyone wants more.

The Third Reich is established in Germany, leading to the rise of Fascism and the start of World War II.

Russia → the Soviet Union, which will collapse. Countries separate.

Almost a century later, autocrat Vladimir Putin wants to put the Russian/Soviet Union territories back together again.

The Middle East becomes an unholy mess.

The U.S. gets into war to try to stop Communism from spreading.

Spoiler alert: Another failure.

For fun, watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHSQAEam2yc>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MunldKkc_As