

## The Great War 1914

### TIME LINE: of 1914

- April 9, Mexico arrested U.S. Sailors creating the Tampico Affair
- June 28, Archduke Francis Ferdinand and Sophie of Austria-Hungary are assassinated by Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo (Black Hand)
- July 5, Kaiser Wilhelm II and war council promise support to Austria-Hungary (Blank Check)
- July 23, Austria sent ultimatum to Serbia (Black Week) Serbia agree to all but one term Kaiser was satisfied and did not pressure Austria to accept
- July 24, Serbia mobilized army
- July 25, Austria mobilized army  
Russia partial mobilization
- July 28, Austria declares war on Serbia
- July 29, Kaiser Wilhelm II communicated with Tsar Nicholas II by wire
- July 30, Germany sent ultimatum to Russia
- July 31, Russia mobilized for war
- August 1, Germany declare war on Russia and mobilized for war  
France mobilized  
Italy declare neutral as did Sweden, Demark, Norway  
Ottoman sign secret treaty with Germany
- August 2, Germany ultimatum to Belgium and invaded Luxemburg
- August 3, Germany declared war on France  
Belgium denies Germans permission through their territory  
Switzerland declares its neural
- August 4, Great Britain declared war on Germany as it violated Treaty of London  
Germany called Treaty a scrap of paper (*chiffon de papier*)  
United States declares neutrality  
Germans siege fortresses at Liege, Belgium
- August 5, Montenegro declares war on Austria/Hungary  
Ottoman close the Dardanelles
- August 6, Austria/Hungary declare war on Russia  
Serbia declares war on Germany  
Spain declares it is neutral
- August 7, Battle of the Frontiers – Battle of Mulhouse  
Spain declared neutrality
- August 8, Montenegro declares war on Germany
- August 9, War starts in Togoland, Africa
- August 11, France declared war on Austria/Hungary
- August 12, Great Britain declared war on Austria/Hungary
- August 14, Battle of Lorraine  
Panama Canal open
- August 15, Fall of Liege  
Russian troops move into East Prussia
- August 16, British troops in France (BEF)

August 17, Russian troops in East Prussia -Schlieffen Plan starts to fall apart  
 August 20, Germans occupy Brussels  
 August 21, Battle of the Ardennes  
 August 23, Japan declares war on Germany  
 Battle of the Tannenberg begins  
 August 24, Retreat to the River Marne  
 August 25, Japan declares war on Austria-Hungary  
 August 26, French and British conquer Togoland, Africa  
 August 27, Russian defeated at Tannenberg  
 Japanese and British capture Tsingtao, China  
 August 28, Austria/Hungary declare war on Belgium  
 August 30, New Zealand occupies Samoa  
 September 1, Saint Petersburg renamed Petrograd  
 September 5, 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Marne  
*HMS Pathfinder* sunk by *U-21* off Scotland  
 September 6, 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Marne (Taxicab Army)  
 September 7, 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Masurian Lakes  
 September 9, Theobald von Neman set Germany war aims  
 September 13, The race to the sea begins  
 September 14, Helmuth von Moltke the younger is replaced by Erich von Falkenhayn  
 Toma, New Guinea under siege by Australian forces  
 September 15, South African Boers revolt  
 September 16, Russians pushed out of East Prussia  
 September 20, German naval victory in Battle of Zanzibar  
 September 23, British air raid Germany  
 September 29, Japan occupies the Marshall Islands from Germany  
 Battle of Warsaw begins (Vistula River)  
 October 9, Fall of Antwerp  
 October 20, 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres ends the Race to the Sea  
 November 1, Russia declares war on Ottoman Empire  
 November 2, British blockade of Germany  
 November 3, Montenegro declares war on Ottoman Empire  
 November 5, France and Great Britain declares war on the Ottoman Empire  
 November 7, Japan capture naval base at Tsingtao  
 November 11, Sultan Mehmed V calls for *Jihad* on Allied powers  
 Silesian Offensive begins Battle of Lodz  
 November 16, Austro-Hungarians begin with draw from Serbia  
 November 19, Bolsheviks in State Duma are arrested and sent into exiled to Siberia  
 December 3, Battle of Qurna in Mesopotamia  
 December 8, Naval Battle off the Falkland Islands  
 December 14, Ottoman's occupy parts of Persia (Qotur) then withdraw  
 December 20, 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Champagne  
 December 24, Christmas Truce unofficial on western front in places

## Reason for the War

1. Militarism = glorification of war (Take a Pick)



Goose Step and Hobnail Boots (Make a Loud sound when marching)

2. Marshal Music popular

3. Imperialism = colonies and rivalry

4. Nationalism = spread by Napoleon  
prejudices

Friedrich Nietzsche – leader must be an (overman) superman and  
follow no rules but his own

“God is Dead”

Doom of Civilization for rebirth

5. Charles Darwin Origin of Species 1859 natural selection / “survival of fittest”

6. Herbert Spencer – Social Darwinism

7. Secret Alliances = diplomats

8. Press = sensational stories

9. Romance and excitement - honor

10. Spiritual renewal

11. Healing the division between classes

12. Alienated intellectuals

13. Arms Race = naval build up

14. Family – feud – related kings

15. Patriotism – marshal music popular

16. Concept of war being obsolete

17. Industrial Revolution – steel and iron

17. Loss of manliness with a major war

18. Reform – war would be an enema explosion of socialism

Albert Einstein Special Theory of Relativity  $E=MC^2$

Electrons weighed more at rest than moving

Energy is equivalent to mass times the velocity of light squared

Fabric of the universe – proven November 7, 1919

1<sup>st</sup> postulate – all things measured to arbitrary reference points – there is no  
stationary reference points therefore all measurement is relative

2<sup>nd</sup> postulate – the speed of light is always the same this constancy unifies  
space and time there is no time at the speed of light -- @99.5%  
of speed of light one year will be 10 earth years

## **The Start of the War**

### **Assassinations:**

Franz Joseph was cursed by Countess Karolyi for executing her son.

- \* Joseph wife Elizabeth assassinated 1898
- \* Oldest child Sophie died at age of two in 1857
- \* Brother Maximilian executed by Mexican in 1867
- \* Son Rudolf committed suicide in 1889
- \*Niece died when dress she wore caught fire

### **France:** Revenge driving force

Labor – Socialism – anti-war

Jean Jaure's Raoul Villain shot Jean Jaures and had a plan to kill Caillaux at same time

Dreyfus and Caillaux Affairs had the state in disarray

Revenge for defeat in 1870 on military mind

### **Austria-Hungary:** remove Serbia

Austrian war party – speed in punishment of Serbia

Hungary peace movement – avoid war – slow to stop

Austrian Army on “harvest leave” until July 25,

Austria used ambiguous statements to manipulate Hungarians and Germans to take steps to punish and remove Serbia as a threat to Empire

Hungarians control of their parliament – 8 million non-Magyars had 42 Deputies /  
Magyars of 8 ½ million had 392 Deputies – Archduke wanted to change this with  
universal suffrage to give the minorities a share in the Empire.

Archduke Ferdinand married a low level noble woman name Sophie and resented by the upper class nobles. They were not invited to dinners and if they were the treatment of Sophie was poor. The archduke was not popular in the upper circles of the royal group. He supported the Serbian movement to make the State to become a Tri-monarchy.

### **United Kingdom:** stay out

Irish Problems

Fear of German new naval building program

Competition of German industry

### **Russia:** opportunity to take land from Ottoman's

Recovery from Russo-Japanese War

15 time zones economy

Need for warm water ports – looked South to Ottomans

### **Ottoman Empire:** Sided with Germany against Russia

In a State of decline

Young Colonels take power

### **Germany:** Land in east before Russia becomes too strong / France not a problem (6-weeks)

All armies saw the “Decisive victory” key to winning a short war. That this war would be short at a small cost.

## ***Start of War*** – Balkans (Powder Keg)

War started with the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria/Hungary by a Serbian (a member of the Black Hand) at Sarajevo – Serbia/Bosnian – Gavrilo Princip “Black Hand” plot

This date was the anniversary of the defeat of Serbs by Turks in 1389 A.D. Battle of Kosovo - Austria demands on Serbia caused the following events July 23, 1914, for punish and complete surrender.

Sarajevo – Franz Joseph sure of victory waited a month to issue ultimatum

1. stop anti-Austrian groups
2. allow Austria to check
3. 48 hours
4. or invade

Peter agreed to 1,2, & 3

Serbia mobilization – Reply

Russia Mobilization start July 30. Fast

Austria – German “Blank Check” Mobilized

Germany Aug.1 declared war on Russia – August 2 asked Belgium for road and refused – August 3 War on France



Celebrations off to war

## **Low Countries**

Belgium treaty with all parties to protect.

“Scrap of paper” War guilt

England enter war for Belgium “...a nation not a road map.”

Italy – stayed out an honor treaty with France

Turkey joined Germany Why?

\*\*\* The war would use some 16 million horses

## Western front 600 miles

Belgium slowed down German drive.

Russia mobilized fast – Germany reacts and sent 100,000 men to the east to stop the Russians  
 “Russian Steam Roller” forced the Germans to changed plan and turned to soon on Paris.

Plan called for the last man to brush his sleeve on the English Channel.

## Trench Warfare 100 yards at times in “No Man’s Land” “over the top”

Routine “dull” day

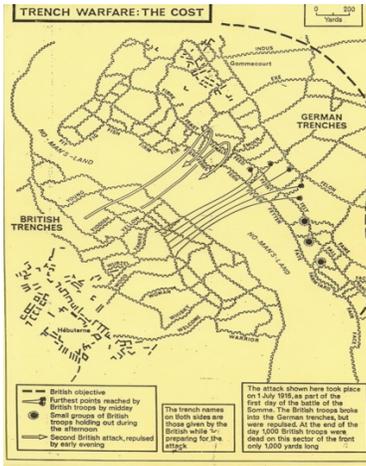
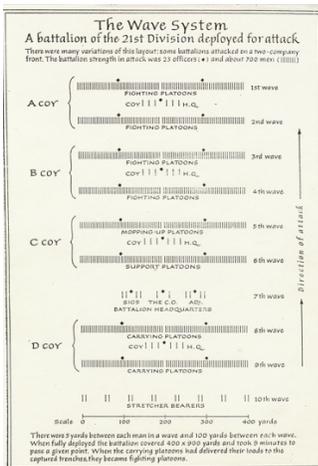
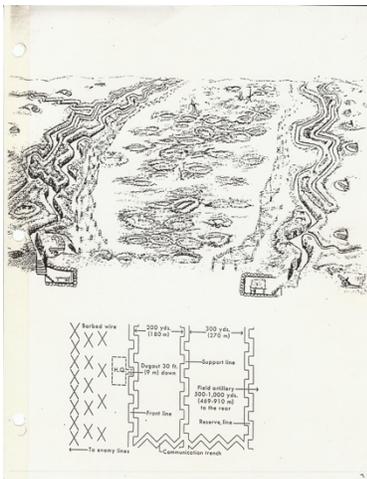
1. Stand-to before dawn in case of attack
2. Breakfast
3. Quite time = jobs or rest
4. Stand- to at “dusk” once more
5. Dinner and Rum
6. Sentries and raids

## Trench system:

Forward Zone = light garrison to delay attack and fragment attack

Battle Zone = 1-2 miles back / 2,000 to 3,000 yards deep / 2/3 of guns and reserves

Rear Zone = 4-8 miles back



English Battalion 1,000 men  
4 Companies  
Company 240 men  
4 Platoons

Scots “Ladies from hell”

German Battalion 800 men

Prussians/most aggressive  
Silesians/ lazy  
Bavarians/easy-going  
Saxons

French not willing to give an inch of land to Germans –PRIDE

6 machine guns per regiment

300 heavy guns / 270 mm

France started war with artillery of 4 rounds per day

British not willing to give land for fear of being cut off at sea

High command did not think artillery needed in attack –

General Kitchener had beaten the “fuzzy-wuzzies” without artillery and created the Modern “pal’s” army (height and chest requirements)

British officers were shaped by colonial war when decisive results were gained with little output and casualties

Germans give land for advantage in battle and built a better trench system

Machine gun battalions

3,500 heavy guns

75 mm / 2 feet long

170 mm / longer than man’s leg

280 mm / 750 lb. shells

420 mm / “Big Berthas” –one ton shell

German caste system (“Junker” from Teutonic Knights) – Ludendorff of humble origins had to wait before the war the Kaiser always won the war games

Class War: England middle class was 23% of population

The upper class 10% owned 92% of the wealth

Victorian values of accepted class inheritance – unquestioning of superiors – mute acceptance of war conditions and incompetence of leaders

British called by Napoleon “contemptible little army”

General Haig – attack with cavalry in coastal Flanders – did not like General Pershing

1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Aisne – after Battle of Marine

Battle of Neuve Chapelle – March 1914 1<sup>st</sup> major scale battle by British

Sir Douglas Haig ordered an attack without regards to loss

## Battles of Ypres – 1<sup>st</sup> 1914

November 10, 1914

Fourth Army order into battle at Langemarck – hopeless battle - Young men of the 26<sup>th</sup> Reserve Corp were beaten back – then they heard one voice singing *Deutschland, Deutschland, Uber alles* which was picked up by others as they turned to attack the British line once more – the field was litter with dead and dying men with calls for “Kamerad” as the attack slowed again – the song was again picked up by the young men and they rushed into the lead teeth of British guns.

General Joffre – war of “attrition” wear down the enemy. He never went to the front for he could not stand the death. He lacked curiosity and imagination and could not communicate. At the end of the battle he spoke of “victory in defeat”.

Day’s activity:

- Up late morning
- Sign papers at 11:00 a.m.
- Lunch at 12:00
- Walk in forest
- Afternoon orders 17:00
- Dinner at 19:00
- Did not allow want telephone

Sept. 1914 the U-9 sank 3 armored cruisers on the English coast

Aug. 1914 = at Magdeburg they found a dead radioman with his German code book.

Room 40 (code room)

In 1912 shells fired at 7,000 yards hit target only 42% of time

German U-boats sunk 2,000 war and merchant ships and 578 fishing boats with 178 U-boats sunk

British Blockade

Neutrals & Contraband

British armed merchant ships

Cunard Shipping Lines on May 12, 1913 special shell racks installed along with revolving gun-rings mounted on rear deck for 2 six-inch guns and 4 six-inch guns along the sides.

August 8, 1914, the guns were installed, and the ship was registered as an Armed Auxiliary Cruiser with Admiralty

In 1914 Winston Churchill wrote to the Board of Trade “We need to entangle neutral ships with German submarines, and the ships we most need to involve are the Americans” British ships were ordered to sail under neutral flags in British waters. The Cunard Line flew under the American flag.

December 23, 1914, British warships told to fire on U-boats under a “White Flag”

## **Eastern Front** 1,100 miles

Russia only had 6 double railroad tracks lines and two single lines running west – this allowed 200 trains per day – yet bridges and rail beds were poor, and failure was common. Signal boxes were at a greater distance than German boxes. The idea was to limit the Germany invasion mobility. Russia had available 214,000 railroad wagons in 1914.

Germany had double this capacity and excellent construction with large platforms for debarking troop at board for an invasion plan.

Russia plan to be at full mobilization by m-15 and like most of the armies of Europe believed that the bayonet and offense way to conduct war in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Those that supported offensive war fell into the Darwinist camp that saw inferior enemies overcome with fear at a bayonet charge. Bayonet over bullets if unit had high moral and would destroy enemy moral. Based on Prussian victory at St. Privat in Franco/Prussian War.

Old Guard were slow to learn lesson of past wars. The Russian “old guard” was made up of non-Russian Germans from the Baltic States in Russia and they feared an expansion of the army would lead to more Russian officers diminishing “old guard” power.

German “old guard” who were Prussian Junkers (landowners) who feared an expansion of army would lead to other German states would fill officer ranks.

Old Guard saw cavalry as elite force and ended war games with mass cavalry charge.

All nations saw the war as a short war and artillery was not a major factor:

- \* France had 2,000 rounds per day
- \* Germany had 3,000 rounds per day
- \* Russia had 1,000 rounds per day

Russia paid more for war goods than other armies:

\* Twice as much for socks and boots – individual soldiers sold boots and then issued another pair.

Austria/Hungary army was two different armies under one command and was tied to the Emperor instead of the State.

Austrian battle plans given to Russia by Col. Alfred Redl when Col. Nikolai Batvushin discovered Redl was a homosexual. The Austrians place Redl in charge of the investigation to find the spy. Russia supplied Redl with other spies in Austria to protect his cover. He was exposed in 1913.

**Battle of Tannenberg** 300,000 Russians killed, wounded or missing

80% of troops illiterate left few reminiscences

Paul von Hindenburg and Erich Ludendorff sent east with 100,000 more men out numbered 4 to 1.

Russian called up 15,000,000 men caused a slowdown in industry, agriculture, and transportation. – 100,000 POW's taken in battle

1915 573 factories closed down

1916 50% of iron industry shut down

Grigory Rasputin – Czar and Empress's son – hemophilia

Prince and Conspirators Dec. 30, 1916

Hutier Tactics end of stalemate short artillery attack followed with infantry assault.

\*machine gun and artillery in combination with fortification and barbed wire inhibited frontal assaults and ended the value of shock of horse cavalry.

Strom Troopers

Tannenberg was the site of Polish victory over Prussians in 1410 – Germans saw it a reclaiming land lost.

Hindenburg was appointed because Ludendorff who the army wanted was too low in the command ranks. Hindenburg was known for not being worried about tactics and would not get in Ludendorff's way. Hindenburg claimed victory

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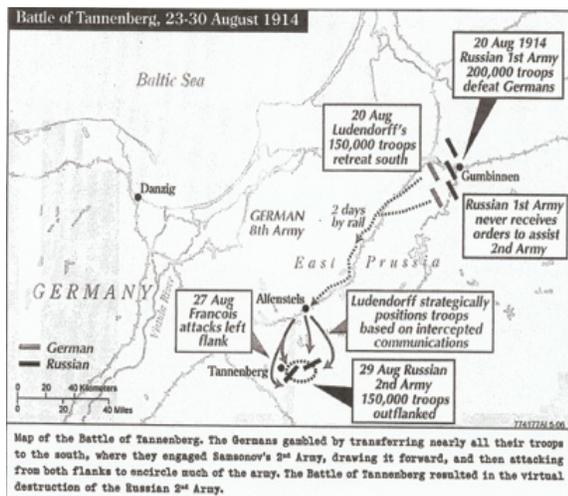
General der Infanterie Francois was who the victory belong to – others took credit.

Francois disobeyed order and won victory after victory on battle field.

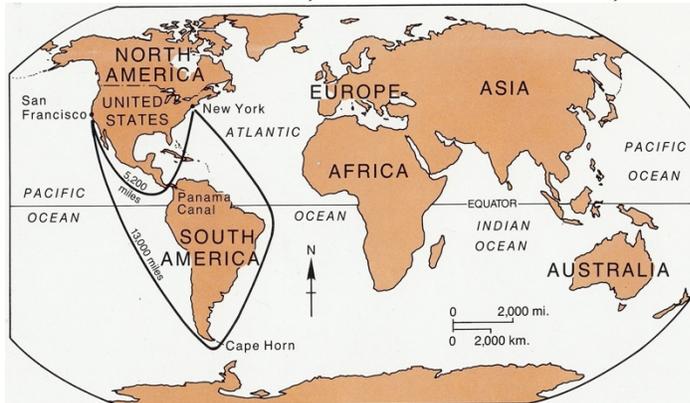
Battle of Lodz was the high-water mark for Russian Army 1914 December - poor supplies, lack of weapons, organization, coordination of movement, communications, and leadership reason for failure to follow up victory.

Battle of Tannenberg – 2<sup>nd</sup> Russian Army August 1914

Battle of Masurian Lakes – 1<sup>st</sup> Russian Army



Panama Canal 1914 – 5,000 miles instead of 12,000 miles



Each nation wrote a Justification for the Great War and Why they went to war.

German's view on 3 of August 1914 – *White Book*

British's View on 5 of August 1914 – *Blue Book*

Russian View in September 1914 – *Orange Book*

Belgian View in October 1914 – *Grey Book*

Austrian View in 1915 – *Red Book*

France's View – *Yellow Book*

1911 Francisco Madero removed from office by Porfirio Diaz then on February 1913.

General Victoriano Huerta shot Madero to take office.

Venustino Carranza, Francisco "Pancho" Villa, and Emiliano Zapata opposed Huerta.

Huerta resigned Carranza took power.

Then Villa and Zapata challenged Carranza and President Wilson support Carranza and help his Government in the rebellion.

Villa stopped a train and killed 17 American engineers

Then 1916 Villa attacked Columbus, New Mexico killing 18 Americans then had a firefight with U.S. Troops at Camp Furlong.

Wilson sent troops into Mexico after Villa under General John Pershing.

The U.S. and the Panama Canal became a concern. Japan was pushing Mexico for a port on the west coast and Germany was making efforts to open a port on the east coast. A foreign power from Europe or Asia between the canal and the U.S.?