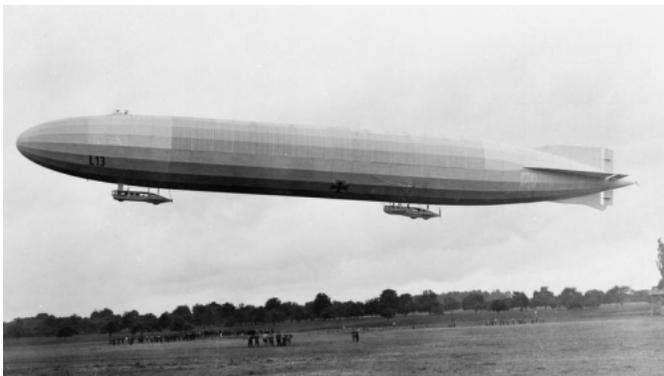


The Great War 1915

Time Line:

- January 19, 1915 - First Zeppelin attack on England
- February 4, - Germans announce blockade of England
- February 19, - Allied powers attack Dardanelles
- February 21, - Russia lost the Second Battle of Masurian Lakes
- March 1, - U-28 sinks HMS *Falaba* - with 104 lives lost
- March 11, - British blockade German ports
- April 22, - 2nd Battle of Ypres Germans released 200 tons of Chlorine gas on Canadian
On a 4 Kilometers front killing 6,000 in 10 minutes
- April 25, - Allied powers land at Gallipoli
- May 7, - *Lusitania* sunk
- May 23, - Italy enter war on Allied side
- May 31, - Zeppelin attack on London kills 28 and wounded 60
- June - Russia pushed out of Poland
- July - U.S. Marines occupy Haiti
- August 4, - Germans capture Warsaw
- August 19, - *Arabic* sunk
- August 31, - Germans end focus on Russia and turn to western front
- September 5, - Tsar takes command of Military forces in Russia
- September 22, - 2nd Battle of Champagne
- September 25, - Battle of Loos the British released 140 tons gas wind blew it back
- October 19, - U.S. Recognized the government of Venustiano Carranza in Mexico
- December 19, - Sir Douglas Haig replaced Sir John French as BEF Commander



German Zeppelin

NOTES

The war was to be a short war and over by Christmas and that did not happen. Neither side was prepared for a long war or the blood bath that was taking place. The year 1915 was a build-up of war materials for 1916. The planners were looking for the “breakthrough” battle to end the war. Winston Churchill plan to end the war in the “soft underbelly” of the Central Powers.

Battles of Ypres – 1st 1914 – 2nd Battle April 22, 1915, Germans used chlorine gas for 1st Time a greenish – white mist open gap to coast filled by British & Canadians before Germans reacted. They had used it in January 3, 1915, but weather was so cold the gas froze instead of vaporizing.

Dec. 1915 Germans used Phosgene gas for 1st time

The Gas was developed by Fritz Haber (a Jewish chemist) for IG Fabre to make up shortage of nitrates for explosives.



Gassed by John Sargent

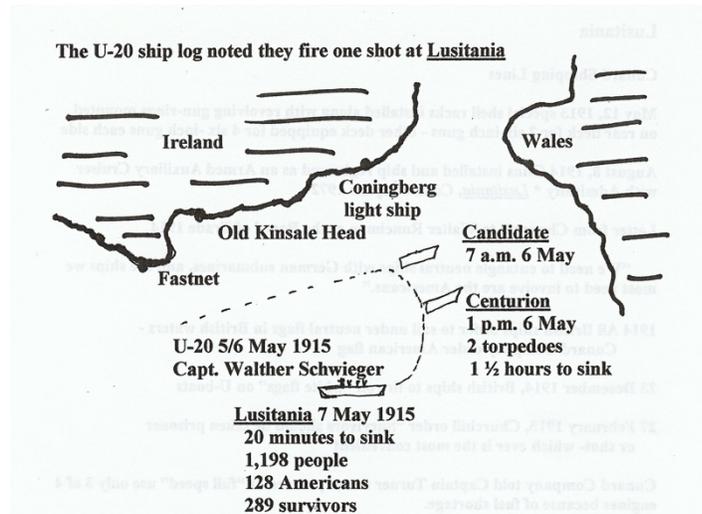
August 19, *Arabic* sunk 44 lives lost – went down in 10 minutes 380 in lifeboats



August 21, U.S. press reports that America getting ready to send troops to Europe

August 30, U.S. Demands Germans stop attacking without warning
 Sinking of Lusitania May 7, 1915

1. 1,198 dead of which 128 were Americans.
2. The army strengthened
3. The navy strengthened: \$600 million a year for enlargement



Admiral Coke order Juno to pick-up survivors then Admiral Fisher order it back to port for fear of a torpedo attack on the destroyer.

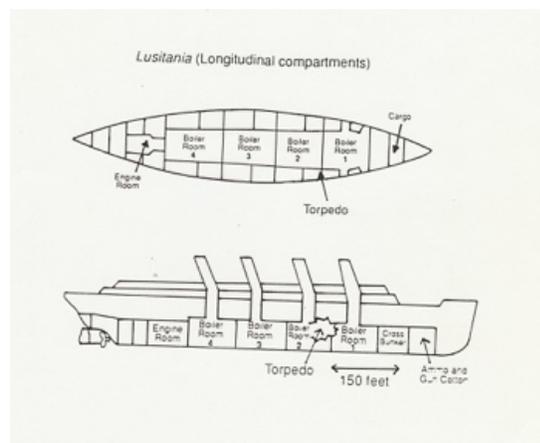
British navy took survivors off civilian ships before they reached port. Only 13 survivors made public statements.

The official report did not mention the ammunition onboard in forward holes or the guns mounted on the deck. The report said there were two torpedoes explosions.

The U-20 Captain said he fired only one torpedo.

Admiral Fisher cabled Admiral Coke “make sure that bodies selected for the inquest have not been mutilated (damaged) by means that we do not wish to be made public.”

Captain Webb said that Captain Turner was incompetent or the Germans had gotten to him.



SS Titanic sank in 150 minutes

SS Lusitania sank in 20 minutes

History of sea warfare:

Germans started the war with a warning and gave time to remove crew and passengers off ships. Then the British gave bonus to ship captains that ram U-boats. U-boats stopped warnings and British called then uncivilized. Then the British began arming passenger shipping and flying neutral flags on their 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”

February 27, 1915, Churchill order “survivors should be taken or shot – whichever is the most convenient.

Captain Turner of the *Lusitania* told not to proceed at “full speed” to use only 3 of the 4 engines because of fuel shortage

Before the ship set sail the German Government representative place a notice in the newspapers warning of the danger of ailing on the *Lusitania* – that it would be sailing in a combat zone.

The warship that was to escort the *Lusitania* was order to Queenstown because it had no torpedo protection.

The Government did not notify the *Lusitania* of this or to take a different route.

On May 7, 1915, at 11 a.m. the Admiralty sent a signal to all British ships of U-boat activity in the Southern Irish Sea. “Make certain *Lusitania* get this”

The Battle of Gallipoli was a major concern in May of 1915

May 7, 1915, Churchill was in France and Admiral Fisher was at home
British Blockade – Neutrals and Contraband

German government printed a commemorative coin for the sinking

2 ½ inches and 1 ½ oz

One side had “No Contraband”

The other “Business above All”

United States Actions:

Freedom of the Seas: (Civil War) continuous voyage rule

March 28, 1915, *Falaba* 1 American killed

May 1, 1915, *Gulfight* 2 Americans killed

May 7, 1915, *Lusitania* 128 Americans killed – Secretary Bryan resigned

Arabic 2 Americans killed

Germany gives -- *Arabic* Pledge that it will warn ships

Italy was offered land in Austria and Africa to join the allies – nobody asked the Arabs and Jews.

Southern Front 320 miles

Gallipoli Peninsula “soft under belly” April 1915, – Jan. 1916

Campaign started with a naval run through the Dardanelles – Idea was the recent defeats of the Russian in 1914 and 1915 plus the Russian movements into Ottoman front made the Dardanelles campaign look positive. The Dardanelles are 41 miles long and empty into the Sea of Marmara that exits at the Bosphorus. The plans called for the Russians to move on the Bosphorus once the Dardanelles were taken. This was after negotiations over the partition of Ottoman land. France wanted Syria and Palestine and Russia control of passage to the Mediterranean Sea. The Agreement was signed April 10, 1915, called the Constantinople Agreement.

Lord Kitchener changed the plan to a naval and land operation. Combined naval fleets of France and Britain would remove the forts on the coast and troops would land to advance on Istanbul. The British used their first aircraft carrier the *Ark Royal* with two cranes for placing planes in and out of the water.

First shots fired on Feb. 19, 1915. Naval fire was loud and had some effect but Turks were able to put the guns back into service in a short time. The Germans introduced mobile howitzer artillery on reverse slope firing making a difficult target for naval guns.

March 18, 1915, saw the Allied powers lose 4 ships of the line (one was a battleship) to mines and 3 put out of service with a loss of 1,000 sailors. This was 1.3 of the battle force.

April 25, 1915, troops land on five beachheads and could only hold four. Mustafa Kemal told his troops “I don’t order you to attack, I order you to die.” General Hamilton refused to re-bark Anzac’s for him the worst was over. Fighting continued at close quarters until June 7, 1915, when the question was put forward to stay or evacuate. Lord Kitchener pushed to reinforce the troops on the Peninsula. (History has Winston Churchill taking the blame for the mess at the Dardanelles)

August 6, 1915, troops landed at three beachheads. At Suva Bay little resistance was met. The officers in charge failed to take the high ground since there was no resistance and then took a day of rest at the beach. The cost was 40,000 men in the following days. The navy lost 3 Warships to German U-Boats.

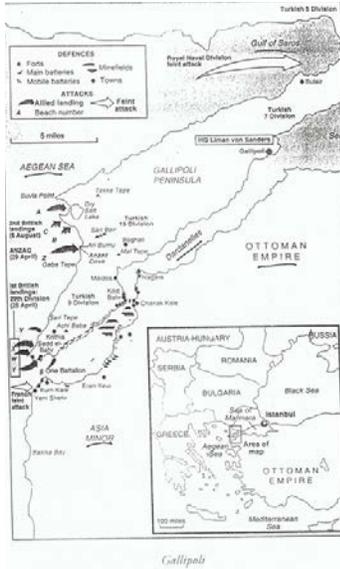
September saw the war take a turn when Bulgaria enter the war on the Central Powers side. Serbia and Greece needed Allied support from Bulgarian attacks. Troops were pulled from the Dardanelles and General Hamilton wanted to pull out of the Dardanelles. Lord Kitchener advocated re-enforcing the Dardanelles. General Hamilton was relieved of command and his replacement said the peninsula could not be held. Lord Kitchener made a personal visit to the front and agreed. The last man off the beach was at 3:45 a.m. January 9, 1916. The Anzac’s have never forgotten the waste of their manpower at the Dardanelles.

The battle lasted 259 days with 500,000 men K.I.A., W.I.A, M.I.A. or POW’s.

205,000 British

47,000 French

290,000 Turks



Armenian Problem for Ottoman's Lost Land

Constantinople fell to Ottomans 1453 ending Byzantine rule

1820 – Greece Full Independence 1830

1829 - Serbia - full Independence 1878

1830 - Algeria

1878 Treaty of London – Bulgaria – full Independence 1908

Montenegro

1881 Tunisia

1882 Egypt

1878 Congress of Berlin – Armenians made claims on territory 0 Russians took control of 3 Ottoman Provinces and the transfer of hundreds of thousands of Armenians.

1887 *Hunchak* (Bell) Society – socialism ideas

1890 *Dashnak* (Federation)– self-defense – nationalism - Both espoused the use of violence

1894-1896 saw a series of massacres against Armenian

1894 Kurds attacked Armenians for refusing to pay protection tax and were aided by Ottoman 4th Army in punishing Armenians

1895 The *Hunchaks* organized a march for reforms – Ottomans killed 60 protestors

1896 A wave of massacres ended with 300,000 Armenians homeless and up to 300,000 dead.

August 26 a group of 26 *Danhnaks* took control of the Ottoman Bank in Istanbul setting off a massacre of 8,000 Armenians – bank owned by Europeans and did not win support for *Danhnak* goals.

Shift in movements to cooperation and joined the Committee of Union and Progress

1909 April 25-28 counter-revolution ended with 20,000 Armenians dead

Young Turks saw Russia as the greatest threat to Empire

Russia saw Islam as the Koran in one hand and the other held a sword

After attacks against Armenians over the years the Young Turks tried a new approach of a Reform Project.

Armenian Reform Project by Young Turks ended when Russia refused to go along Ottoman's lost seven war with Russia since 1711

1908 September - Young Turks – Bulgaria independence

1909 Young Turks took control of Ottoman Empire

1911 Italian-Turkish War

Libya target of Italian empire dream – Mustafa Kemal led guerrilla war

1912 Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria and Montenegrins declare war on 8 October – Balkan

States saw opportunity Greece - grabbed Crete and Aegean Islands

Bulgarians carried the heavy fighting

1913 Treaty of London 30 May

Turks lost 60,000 miles of territory and 4 million people - prosperous provinces

(Albania, Macedonia, and Thrace) the heart of Ottoman's economy

June 1913 Bulgaria felt they did the hard fighting and deserved more territory and

attack Serbia and Greece positions in Macedonia – ottoman's regained some

lost land in Thrace.

1915 Genocide – Armenians / Northeast Christians

“War politics by other means” became “War is Hate”

Nationalism movements developed in Arab, Turks, Iraqi, Islam, Armenians, and language groups.

The Great War

Turks did not trust non-Muslims – allowed them to pay a tax to avoid service

By spring of 1915 Armenians were seen as enemies of the state and government used force to

relocation of Armenians to Greece in Feb. 1915 and the kills started. Kurds were used to move

the Armenians and replace Muslim in the vacated homes and Armenian children taken as

servants. The government issued verbal orders to kill all males over 12 years old. July 31, 1915

was the Great retreat to Russia Armenia by Armenians and Assyrian Christians. Many died in the desert that escaped the murder in the villages.

Myths:

1. WWI did not start to de-humanize war – technology just made it bigger and faster
2. All sides were bad in coding information – radio and telephone to new
3. German Army was good but all sides over estimated German armies abilities

Eastern Front

Russia is a nation with 15 time zones

Russia called up 15,000,000 men – reduced factory and farmer workers – wagons and vehicles

1915 - Russian Industry starts to collapse - 573 factories closed down lack of skilled workers

Food could not get to markets lack of vehicles and horses

Russian Front



Russian POW's



United States

Wilson urged neutrality

Many immigrants from the Central Powers
Old-line Americans for Allies
Role of propaganda
William Jennings Bryan – pacifist

Lusitania May 1915 Freedom of seas
Notice in newspaper
Arabic and Sussex pledge
U.S. Marines enter Haiti in 1915



American neutrality strained

Financial assistance to Allies

Freedom of the seas

German submarine warfare

1. Germans declared war zone around British Isles.
2. German sinking of two ships: Lusitania and Sussex
3. American protests
4. Resignation of Sec. Bryan

The Pledges:

1. Arabic
2. Sussex