

## The Great War 1918

### Timeline:

April 2, 1917	In war address (make the world safe for democracy)
June 26,	American Troops arrive in Europe
January 8, 1918	Fourteen Points address to Congress
March 3,	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
March 11,	First case of Spanish Flu
March 27,	Ludendorff's Spring Offense
May 27,	3 <sup>rd</sup> Battle of Arras
May 28,	Battle of Cantigny
June 3,	Battles of Chateau-Thierry & Belleau Woods
July 15,	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Marne – last offensive of Germans
July 28,	Tsar and family murdered by Red's
August 8,	Battle of Amiens
September 26,	Battle of Meuse-Argonne
September 27,	Battle of Cambrai – Corporal York & 132 Germans
October 4,	Germans asked for Armistice
October 21,	Germans end unrestricted U-boat war
November 3,	Austria-Hungary ask for peace
November 7,	Germany and Allied begin negotiations
November 9,	Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated
November 11,	Battle of Mons
	Armistice begins 11a.m. on 11 <sup>th</sup> Day of 11 <sup>th</sup> Month

## Notes 1918

**January 8,**

Wilson's Plan For Peace: **The Fourteen Points**

1. Open Covenants
2. Freedom of seas
3. Removal of trade barriers
4. Reduction of armament
5. Impartial adjustment of boundaries
6. Evacuation of occupied lands
7. Belgium restored
8. All France restored (Alsace-Lorraine)
9. Readjust frontiers of Italy
10. Austria-Hungary autonomous development
11. Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro - National self-determination
12. Turkish secure sovereignty & Dardanelles open
13. Polish State independent
14. League of Nations

Germany saw the 14 points as a possible way to save them from defeat.

### **Allied powers never bought into the 14 points**

There were 40,000 U.S. troops in Europe under General Pershing. He saw the European warfare as being wrong. That open warfare would win the war with no retreat. The leadership of Europe was out of touch with reality of war in 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Douglas MacArthur was promoted to Colonel to lead the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division a National Guard unit.

British were upset that the Americans were not put in their under command.

The U.S. Army began to worry about all the young boys away from home and the night life around the military camps so the government developed Venereal - Disease Division of Health Services.

### **March 3,**

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk released 30-50 German division to the western front. The Allied nation had 178 divisions. They were able to have numerical superiority with 192 divisions now in the west. General Ludendorff play a gamble that he could end the war before the Americans had enough troops to save the Allied powers.

The plan was to use the new tactic of Storm Troopers, aircraft (700), tanks (copies of British), and gas to break through.

**March 11,**

Spanish Influenza begins at Camp Funston at Fort Riley in Kansas. That month 84,000 American soldiers were headed for Europe. The flu spread through the ranks and the first person of note to die was the King of Spain. The Flu became known as the Spanish Flu. The Flu was a major problem for civilians and soldiers.

The people at home were told to wear tight clothes to prevent spread. President Wilson said nothing about the Flu for fear that it would shut down factories and war effort (H1N1 virus- pig born). The life expectancy with those that caught the Flu 12 days. November wave of the Influenza ran through Washington D.C. killing 3,900. Spanish Influenza strand was carried by pig (swine) and by the end 500,000 Americans died and 20,000,000 sick. The World lost was at 20 to 60 million. King Alphonse XIII of Spain first notable person to die. Flu first seen in U.S in Feb. The flu hit France in early April and Germany late April.

**March 21,**

Spring Offensive started with the allied power being pushed back. The result was the Allied command consolidated under General Ferdinand Foch on March 26. Allied powers in trouble and ask General Pershing for troops to plug the lines. Pershing agreed to loan the troops to save Paris and the collapse of the front.

**April 9,**

A Second Offensive on in Flanders pushed the Allies to finally appoint Commander-in-Chief of Allied forces.



**April 21,**

Baron von Richthofen shot down at the Somme by Canadian pilot Arthur Roy Brown. The Australian infantry also claimed the kill was from their machine gun fire at the low flying plane.

**May**

A third Push came as the influenza was hitting the German lines. The Germans pushed the French back some 60 miles to the Marne River once more.

**Supply Lines**



**June 3,**

Battles of Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Woods American Marines of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment were placed in the battle line against the Germans the advance. When French soldiers told the Americans to retreat Captain Williams was reported to have say “Retreat, Hell we just got here!”. Later Sargent Dan Daly a two-time Medal of Honor winner told his men “Come on, you son’s-o-bitches! Do you want to live forever?”. One company of Marines lost 380 men out of 400. The Marine stop the Germans at Belleau Woods. The Germans gave the Marines the name “Devil Dogs” for their ability with the rifle.

**July 15,**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Marne began with German success.

**July 18,**

Last German offensive of the war.

**June**

USA Intelligence forecast German attack in Reims and Montdidier-Noyon areas the French and British refused listen to the new Americans.

**June 9,**

German did launch their attack

**August 3,**

Camp Leach lab in Washington D.C. had a mishap that released cloud of Mustard Gas it was the second mishap. Today it is Spring Valley and in the 1990’s a contractor uncovered a canister of Gas that was part of more buried shells from WWI.

**September 12,**

Allied Command planed a Winter Offensive at Saint-Mihiel. The Americans would attack 550,000 with 110,000 French. The attack would start at 6 a.m. after a 4-hour bombardment. This tactic was used by the Germany with their Shock Troops (Storm Troopers)



Argonne plan to cut the German lines in three days of open warfare. This failed on massive scale of 'open warfare' tactics. Pershing said that men who turned back should be shot if necessary. For 47 days the American troops lost an average of 550 men a day in the Argonne while the press was given stories of success. The pressure and stress of command had General Pershing collapse and turn the field command. Two commands were established to finish the Argonne. President Wilson and General Pershing wanted a major American victory to set stage for post war settlement.

During this battle a Doughboy (Lee Duncan) found a German Sheppard dog with pups. He took them back to American lines and gave all away except two. He named his two pups Nenetie and Rintintin. When he returned home the two dogs went with him. The pup Nenetie died soon after arriving in the States and

Rintintin became a movie star in 1922 named Rin-Tin-Tin 1922 made 27 films.



### **October 8,**

The French shifted the battle front from Saint-Mihiel to the Mouse-Argonne  
Corporal Alvin C. York was credited with killed 20 and capturing 132 Germans.

### **October**

N.Y. 77<sup>th</sup> Lost Battalion in area 350 yards by 100 yards with some 700 men during the fighting they came under Allied fire a message was sent out on a pigeon "We are along the road parallel 276. 4 our artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. For heaven's sake, Stop it!" After their relief 194 walked out, 190 were carried, and 107 dead with 63 missing. The pigeon was given a decoration.

### **October 26,**

Choctaw Code talkers were used for the first time to confuse the Germans. After this a Choctaw speaker was placed in every unit.



**October 29,**

Kiel Revolt of German surface Fleet order out to battle the British Fleet. The U-Boats remained loyal and the surface fleet began to demonstrate against the orders. Many of the men were arrested and taken to jail. Then on November 3, sailors and civilians marched on the jail. The next day a meeting was held between the government and the protesters. The protesters issued 14 demands. On

**November 5,**

Red Flags were flying over the German surface Fleet and

**November 6,**

Hamburg City was flying the Red Flag.



**November 1,**

Argonne battle resumed –and U.S. had 2million men in Europe

**November 3,**

Austria granted an Armistice

**November 5,**

General Ludendorff fled to Sweden

**November 7,**

German delegated enter France to request an Armistice



Signed at Compiegne at 5:15 a.m. would take effect at 11 a.m. on 11<sup>th</sup> day of 11<sup>th</sup> Month

Allied Troops



German POW's



Reason for collapse of German

1. British Blockade and starvation of German people eating turnips
2. Exhausted from war on all fronts
3. The Flu hit Germany as the Allied power gained the advantage
4. Revolts and revolution back home
5. Wilson's 14 points "Peace without Victory" Germans believed they could get better terms thru President Wilson.
6. The Germany Army under Ludendorff told civilian government to ask for terms for Peace. Then turned-on civilians with Ludendorff using the term "stab in the back" by Jews and communist
7. The German army was allowed to march home to celebrations (Victory?). It did not see itself as beaten in the field.

Armistice then the Treaty of Versailles

The British kept the Blockade until Treaty was signed causing more starvation in Germany.

Colonel House wrote home the Allies in their war plans and after the war "It is all bad in they are making it a breeding place for future war" - secret treaties

### Effects of the war:

Muster Gas would stay in ground for weeks – gas wounded 1/3 of wounded Americans .

Artillery killed 70% of the men in combat and the machine gun was most feared weapon. It was said that the U.S. troops killed more chicken than Germans with the bayonet'



**November Election** Republicans gained control of both Houses in Congress and ending the Progressive period.

**The cost to one British Family:**

Wilfred Smith of Barnard Castle, England lived with 12 members of his family in 3 rooms.  
His father was chimney sweep – 6 sons went to war – Only Wilfred returned at Queen’s request  
Robert died September 1916 at age of 22  
George died 1916 at age of 26  
Fredrick died July 1917 at the age of 21  
John William Stout (mother unmarried at time of birth) died October 1917 at age of 37  
Alfred died July 1918

This family’s life was hardly noticed until the film of *Saving Private Ryan*

**The American War Effort produced:**

U.S. Production:	Overcoats	9.5 million
	Shoes	34.0 million
	Rifles	3.1 million
	Gas Mask	5.4 million
	Blankets	22.0 million
	Locomotives & trucks	

1918 produce 533 ships and by 1919 1,180 ships with 350,000 – 100 ships per month

**United States Lost in War**

K.I.A	53,402 killed in combat
	63,114 other deaths
Wounded	320,518
M.I.A	2,000
Life expectancy	1917 51 years old
	1918 39 years old – 12 years drop
	1919 51 years old

General Pershing wanted 625,000 men at first by the end of the war there were 4.7 million men in the military with 2 million in Europe.

Most of what America produced would arrive in Europe after the Armistice.

## Home Front in Germany

Germany Military rushed to save the Army at the expense of the civilian government. General Ludendorff would be the first to use the phrase “Stabbed in the Back”. The army would sign secret agreements with the New Soviet government that allowed them to violate the Treaty and rebegin to build a new fighting force.

### Germany 1914



Germany 1918 They were welcome home as ‘heroes’ no German territory was taken by allied powers. Giving credence to the idea the Army was betrayed back home by the government leaders. The next decade would be controlled by military leaders or their supporters.

