

Chronology of the War

ORIGIN OF THE WAR

ON June 28, 1914, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne, and his wife, the Duchess of Hohenburg, were assassinated in Serajevo, the capital of Bosnia. The assassin, a student named Prinzip, was arrested and held for trial. Although he was a Bosnian, feeling in Austria ran high against Serbia, which, it was claimed, was responsible for the deed, if not positively, at least negatively, by permitting her soil to be made the basis for anti-Austrian intrigue.

At 6 o'clock in the evening of July 23, 1914, the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Belgrade presented to the Serbian Government a note containing the demands of the Dual Monarchy with regard to the suppression of the Pan-Serbian movement and the punishment of Serbians alleged to have been concerned in the murder of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The document, which sought to make Serbia a vassal of Austria-Hungary, was harsh, peremptory, and provocative.

Serbia's answer to the Austro-Hungarian note was sent on July 25, 1914. It conceded all the demands except two, which infringed upon its rights as a sovereign State, and these two it offered to submit to arbitration.

The Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office denounced Serbia's reply on July 27 and issued a formal declaration of war the next day, the text of which follows:

The Royal Government of Serbia not having replied in a satisfactory manner to the note remitted to it by the Austro-Hungarian Minister in Belgrade on July 23, 1914, the Imperial and Royal Government finds itself compelled to proceed to safeguard its rights and interests and to have recourse for this purpose to force of arms.

Austria-Hungary considers itself, therefore, from this moment in a state of war with Serbia. COUNT BERCHTOLD, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria-Hungary.

Attempts at mediation by France and England were fruitless. Austria persisted, and Germany refused to curb her ally.

After vainly pleading with the Kaiser to intervene for peace, the Czar of Russia mobilized a portion of his army to go to the aid of Serbia; Germany invaded Belgium, Great Britain declared war on Germany, and the great conflict that was to shake the world for more than four years had begun.

TWENTY-EIGHT NATIONS INVOLVED

At various stages of the struggle one nation after the other became more or less actively engaged until the aggregate reached twenty-eight. In some cases the intervention was military, in others economic, while some went no further than the severance of diplomatic relations. The dates of their entrance into the conflict follow:

- Austria against Belgium, Aug. 28, 1914.
- Austria against Japan, Aug. 27, 1914.
- Austria against Montenegro, Aug. 9, 1914.
- Austria against Russia, Aug. 6, 1914.
- Austria against Serbia, July 28, 1914.
- Belgium against Germany, Aug. 4, 1914.
- Brazil against Germany, Oct. 26, 1917.
- Bulgaria against Serbia, Oct. 14, 1915.
- China against Austria, Aug. 14, 1917.
- China against Germany, Aug. 14, 1917.
- Costa Rica against Germany, May 23, 1918.
- Cuba against Germany, April 7, 1917.
- Cuba against Austria-Hungary, Dec. 16, 1917.
- France against Austria, Aug. 13, 1914.
- France against Bulgaria, Oct. 16, 1915.
- France against Germany, Aug. 3, 1914.
- France against Turkey, Nov. 5, 1914.
- Germany against Belgium, Aug. 4, 1914.
- Germany against France, Aug. 3, 1914.
- Germany against Portugal, March 9, 1916.
- Germany against Rumania, Sept. 14, 1916.
- Germany against Russia, Aug. 1, 1914.

- Great Britain against Austria, Aug. 13, 1914.
- Great Britain against Bulgaria, Oct. 15, 1915.
- Great Britain against Germany, Aug. 4, 1914.
- Great Britain against Turkey, Nov. 5, 1914.
- Greece against Bulgaria, Nov. 28, 1916, (Provisional Government.)
- Greece against Germany, July 2, 1917, (Government of Alexander.)
- Greece against Germany, Nov. 28, 1916, (Provisional Government.)
- Greece against Germany, July 2, 1917, (Government of Alexander.)
- Guatemala against Germany and Austria-Hungary, April 22, 1918.
- Haiti against Germany, July 15, 1918.
- Honduras against Germany, July 19, 1918.
- Italy against Austria, May 24, 1915.
- Italy against Bulgaria, Oct. 19, 1915.
- Italy against Germany, Aug. 28, 1916.
- Italy against Turkey, Aug. 21, 1915.
- Japan against Germany, Aug. 23, 1914.
- Liberia against Germany, Aug. 4, 1917.
- Montenegro against Austria, Aug. 8, 1914.
- Montenegro against Germany, Aug. 9, 1914.
- Nicaragua against Germany, May 24, 1918.
- Panama against Germany, April 7, 1917.
- Panama against Austria, Dec. 10, 1917.
- Portugal against Germany, Nov. 23, 1914, (resolution passed authorizing military intervention as ally of England.)
- Portugal against Germany, May 19, 1915, (military aid granted.)
- Rumania against Austria, Aug. 27, 1916, (allies of Austria also consider it a declaration.)
- Russia against Germany, Aug. 7, 1914.
- Russia against Bulgaria, Oct. 19, 1915.
- Russia against Turkey, Nov. 3, 1914.
- San Marino against Austria, May 24, 1915.
- Serbia against Bulgaria, Oct. 16, 1915.
- Serbia against Germany, Aug. 6, 1914.
- Serbia against Turkey, Dec. 2, 1914.
- Siam against Austria, July 22, 1917.
- Siam against Germany, July 22, 1917.
- Turkey against Allies, Nov. 23, 1914.
- Turkey against Rumania, Aug. 29, 1916.
- United States against Germany, April 6, 1917.
- United States against Austria-Hungary, Dec. 7, 1917.

SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

The nations that formally severed relations with Germany and her allies, whether afterward declaring war or not, are as follows:

- Austria against Japan, Aug. 26, 1914.
- Austria against Portugal, March 16, 1916.
- Austria against Serbia, July 26, 1914.
- Austria against United States, April 8, 1917.
- Bolivia against Germany, April 14, 1917.
- Brazil against Germany, April 11, 1917.
- China against Germany, March 14, 1917.
- Costa Rica against Germany, Sept. 21, 1917.
- Ecuador against Germany, Dec. 7, 1917.
- Egypt against Germany, Aug. 13, 1914.
- France against Austria, Aug. 10, 1914.
- Greece against Turkey, July 2, 1917, (Government of Alexander.)
- Greece against Austria, July 2, 1917, (Government of Alexander.)
- Guatemala against Germany, April 27, 1917.
- Haiti against Germany, June 17, 1917.
- Honduras against Germany, May 17, 1917.
- Nicaragua against Germany, May 18, 1917.
- Peru against Germany, Oct. 6, 1917.
- Santo Domingo against Germany, June 8, 1917.
- Turkey against United States, April 20, 1917.
- United States against Germany, Feb. 3, 1917.
- Uruguay against Germany, Oct. 7, 1917.

CHIEF EVENTS OF THE WAR

1914

- June 28—Francis Ferdinand shot at Serajevo.
- July 5—Kaiser's War Council at Potsdam.
- July 23—Austro-Hungarian note to Serbia.
- July 28—Austria declared war on Serbia.
- July 31—State of war in Germany.
- Aug. 1—Germany declared war on Russia.
- Aug. 2—German ultimatum to Belgium.
- Aug. 3—Germany declared war on France.
- Aug. 4—Great Britain declared war on Germany.
- Aug. 10—France declared war on Austria.
- Aug. 12—Great Britain declared war on Austria.
- Aug. 15—Fall of Liège.
- Aug. 16—British Army landed in France; Russian advance into East Prussia.
- Aug. 20—Germans occupied Brussels.
- Aug. 23—Japan declared war on Germany.
- Aug. 24—Fall of Namur.
- Aug. 25—Sack of Louvain.
- Aug. 27—German victory of Tannenberg.
- Aug. 28—British victory in the Bight.
- Aug. 29—New Zealanders in Samoa.
- Sept. 2—Russians took Lemberg.
- Sept. 3—Paris Government at Bordeaux.
- Sept. 4—Pact of London signed.
- Sept. 5—End of retreat from Mons.
- Sept. 6—First Marne battle begun.
- Sept. 15—First Aisne battle begun.

- Sept. 16—Russians evacuated East Prussia.
- Sept. 23—First British air raid in Germany.
- Oct. 9—Fall of Antwerp.
- Oct. 13—Belgian Government at Havre.
- Oct. 20—First battle of Ypres begun.
- Nov. 1—Naval action off Coronel.
- Nov. 5—Great Britain declared war on Turkey.
- Nov. 7—Fall of Tsing-tao.
- Nov. 10—Emden sunk.
- Nov. 21—British occupied Basra.
- Dec. 2—Austrians in Belgrade.
- Dec. 8—Naval battle off the Falklands.
- Dec. 14—Serbians retook Belgrade.
- Dec. 16—Germans bombarded West Hartlepool.
- Dec. 18—Huessein Kamel, Sultan of Egypt.
- Dec. 24—First air raid on England.

1915

- Jan. 24—Naval battle off Dogger Bank.
- Feb. 2—Turks defeated on Suez Canal.
- Feb. 18—U-boat "blockade" of England.
- Feb. 23—Allied fleet attacked Dardanelles.
- March 10—British captured Neuve Chapelle.
- March 22—Russians took Przemysl.
- April 22—Second battle of Ypres begun; first gas attack by Germans.
- April 25—Allied landing in Gallipoli.
- May 3—Battle of the Dunajec.
- May 6—Battle of Krithia, Gallipoli.
- May 7—Lusitania torpedoed.
- May 8—Germans occupied Libau.
- May 11—German repulse at Ypres.
- May 12—General Botha occupied Windhuk, (Africa.)
- May 16—Russian retreat to the San.
- May 23—Italy declared war on Austria.
- May 25—British Coalition Cabinet formed.
- June 2—Italians crossed Isonzo.
- June 3—Russians evacuated Przemysl.
- June 22—Austro-Germans recaptured Lemberg.
- July 2—Pommern sunk in Baltic.
- July 9—German Southwest Africa conquered.
- July 24—Nasiriyeh, on Euphrates, taken.
- Aug. 4—Fall of Warsaw.
- Aug. 5—Fall of Ivangorod.
- Aug. 6—Now landing at Suvla Bay. Germans took Warsaw.
- Aug. 8—General Birdwood's advance at Anzac.
- Aug. 17—Fall of Kovno.
- Aug. 18—Russian victory in Riga Gulf.
- Aug. 19—Fall of Novo-Georgievsk.
- Aug. 21—Cotton declared contraband.
- Aug. 25—Fall of Brest-Litovsk.
- Sept. 1—General Alexeieff as Chief of Staff.
- Sept. 2—Fall of Grodno.
- Sept. 5—Czar as Generalissimo.
- Sept. 7—Russian victory near Tarnopol.
- Sept. 18—Fall of Vilna.
- Sept. 21—Russian retreat ended.
- Sept. 25—Battle of Loos and Champagne.
- Sept. 28—Victory at Kut-el-Amara.
- Oct. 4—Russian ultimatum to Bulgaria.
- Oct. 5—Allied landing at Saloniki.
- Oct. 6—Austro-German invasion of Serbia.
- Oct. 9—Belgrade occupied.
- Oct. 14—Bulgaria at war with Serbia.
- Oct. 17—Allied note to Greece.
- Oct. 22—Bulgarians occupy Uskub.
- Oct. 28—M. Briand French Premier.
- Nov. 5—Fall of Nish.
- Nov. 22—Battle of Ctesiphon.
- Nov. 29—British withdrew from Ctesiphon.
- Dec. 2—Fall of Monastir.
- Dec. 3—General Townshend at Kut.
- Dec. 9—Allied retreat in Macedonia.
- Dec. 13—Saloniki lines fortified.
- Dec. 15—Haig British Commander in Chief.
- Dec. 19—Withdrawal from Gallipoli.
- Dec. 25—Turkish defeat at Kut.

1916

- Jan. 8—Gallipoli evacuation complete.
- Jan. 13—Fall of Cetinje.
- Feb. 9—General Smuts appointed to East Africa.
- Feb. 16—Russians entered Erzerum.
- Feb. 18—German Kamerun conquered.
- Feb. 21—Battle of Verdun begun.
- Feb. 24—Germans took Fort Douaumont.
- March 16—Admiral von Tirpitz dismissed.
- April 9—German assault at Verdun.
- April 17—Russians entered Trebizond.
- April 24—Rebellion in Ireland.
- April 29—Fall of Kut-el-Amara.
- May 24—British Conscription bill passed.
- May 31—Battle of Jutland.
- June 4—General Brusiloff's offensive.
- June 5—Lord Kitchener lost at sea.
- June 14—Allied Economic Conference in Paris.
- June 21—Mecca taken by Grand Sherif.
- July 1—Somme battle begun.
- July 25—Russians occupied Erzincjan.
- Aug. 6—Italian offensive on Isonzo.
- Aug. 9—Gorizia taken by Italians.
- Aug. 10—Russians at Stanislau.
- Aug. 27—Rumania entered the war.
- Aug. 29—Hindenburg Chief of Staff.
- Sept. 15—First use of "tanks" by British in battle of the Somme.
- Sept. 26—British took Thiepval and Combes.
- Oct. 10—Allied ultimatum to Greece.

- Nov. 1—Italian advance on Carso.
- Nov. 13—British victory on the Ancre.
- Nov. 18—Serbians and French took Monastir.
- Nov. 21—Charles I. succeeds Francis Joseph.
- Nov. 29—Grand Fleet under Sir D. Beatty.
- Dec. 1—Anti-allied riot in Athens.
- Dec. 5—Resignation of Mr. Asquith.
- Dec. 6—Germans entered Bucharest.
- Dec. 7—Mr. Lloyd George Prime Minister.
- Dec. 12—German "peace proposals."
- Dec. 15—French victory at Verdun.
- Dec. 20—President Wilson's peace note.

1917

- Jan. 1—Turkey denounced Berlin Treaty.
- Feb. 1—"Unrestricted" U-boat war begun.
- Feb. 3—America broke with Germany.
- Feb. 24—British recaptured Kut-el-Amara.
- March 11—British entered Bagdad.
- March 12—Revolution in Russia.
- March 15—Abdication of the Czar.
- March 18—British entered Péronne.
- March 21—First British Imperial War Cabinet.
- April 6—America declared war on Germany.
- April 9—Battle of Vimy Ridge begun.
- May 4—French took Craonne.
- May 14—New Italian offensive.
- May 15—General Pétain French Commander in Chief.
- May 18—Selective draft law passed in United States.
- June 7—British victory at Messines Ridge.
- June 12—Abdication of King Constantine.
- June 26—First American troops in France.
- June 29—General Allenby commander in Egypt.
- July 1—Last Russian offensive begun.
- July 14—Bethmann Hollweg dismissed.
- July 17—British Royal House styled "Windsor."
- July 19—Reichstag "peace" resolution.
- July 21—Kerensky in power at Petrograd.
- July 24—Russian defeat in Galicia.
- July 31—Great allied attack around Ypres.
- Aug. 29—President Wilson's note to the Pope.
- Sept. 4—Germans occupied Riga.
- Sept. 15—Russian Republic proclaimed.
- Sept. 28—British victory at Ramadieh.
- Oct. 9—Allied attack in Flanders.
- Oct. 24—Italian defeat at Caporetto.
- Oct. 29—Fall of Udine.
- Oct. 30—Chancellor Michaelis dismissed.
- Oct. 31—British captured Beersheba.
- Nov. 1—German retreat on Chemin des Dames. Hertling German Chancellor.
- Nov. 4—British troops in Italy.
- Nov. 6—British stormed Passchendaele Ridge.
- Nov. 7—Lenine and Trotzky in power; Bolshevik coup d'état in Russia.
- Nov. 9—Italian stand on the Piave.
- Nov. 16—Clemenceau Ministry.
- Nov. 17—British in Jaffa.
- Nov. 18—General Maude's death in Mesopotamia.
- Nov. 20—British victory at Cambrai.
- Nov. 29—First plenary session of Inter-allied War Council.
- Nov. 30—German success at Cambrai.
- Dec. 6—Armistice on Russian front.
- Dec. 10—British enter Jerusalem.
- Dec. 22—Brest-Litovsk Conference opened.
- Dec. 26—Sir R. Wemyss First Sea Lord.

1918

- Jan. 8—President Wilson's fourteen points.
- Jan. 20—Breslau sunk; Goeben damaged.
- Feb. 1—Germany recognized Ukraine.
- Feb. 9—Ukraine peace of Brest-Litovsk.
- Feb. 18—German invasion of Russia.
- Feb. 21—British capture Jericho.
- Feb. 24—Turks recover Trebizond.
- Feb. 25—Germans at Reval.
- March 3—Russian peace of Brest-Litovsk.
- March 7—German peace with Finland.
- March 11—Turks recover Erzerum.
- March 13—Germans at Odessa.
- March 14—Brest-Litovsk treaty ratified at Moscow.
- March 21—German offensive in France.
- March 23—First long-distance bombardment of Paris.
- March 24—Bapaume and Péronne lost.
- March 28—General Foch made allied Generalissimo.
- April 5—Allied landing at Vladivostok.
- April 11—Armentières lost.
- April 13—Turks occupied Batum.
- April 22—Naval raid on Zeebrugge and Ostend.
- April 24—Battle for Amiens.
- April 26—Kemmel Hill lost.
- April 27—Turks occupied Kars.
- April 30—Germans at Viborg.
- May 1—Germans at Sebastopol.
- May 7—Rumanian peace of Bucharest.
- May 9—Second raid on Ostend.
- May 27—Second German offensive.
- May 29—Soissons lost; Rheims held.
- May 31—Germans reach Marne.
- June 1—Attacks toward Paris held.
- June 9—New German assault.
- June 15—Austrian offensive in Italy.
- June 23—Great Austrian defeat.
- July 2—One million Americans are in France.
- July 15—Last German offensive. Second Marne battle begun.