



# World War 1

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# How it started

World war 1 started when Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated by a Serbian-nationalist terrorist group called 'The Black Hand'. Their first attempt failed when they threw a grenade at their car but the driver avoided it, but they succeeded when Gavrilo Princip shot the Archduke and his wife. Austria-Hungary sends a big list of demands to Serbia, but Serbia refuses. This led to Austria-Hungary declaring war on Serbia. Since Serbia and Russia had an alliance, Russia began to gather their troops to defend Serbia. That's when Germany declared war on Russia and France.

# 1914

Germany's plan was to take over France while Russia prepared for the war, but France has troops all along the border so Germany decides to march 750 thousand troops through Belgium. Belgium fights back which slows down the Germans. This is when Britain decides to help Belgium so they declare war on Germany. While this is happening, Austria-Hungary try to push back Russia but they fail so Germany have to send troops back to the east to help Austria-Hungary. When Austria-Hungary try to invade Serbia but they fail miserably. In the north, Russia try to invade Germany but the Germans almost completely wipe out Russia's second army. On the western front, Germany continue towards Paris but France and Britain launch a counterattack pushing Germany back. They later dig trenches to defend themselves, France and Britain do the same. Both armies advance north to the sea trying to outflank each other. They both have trench systems going from the coast to Switzerland, this is the beginning of trench warfare on the western front.



This is how trench warfare works: you have two armies on opposite sides of each other with No-man's land in the middle. One army will rush out of their trenches into No-man's land, a wet mess of barb wire artillery shells, while the other army shoot at them through the trenches with machine guns causing thousands of injuries and deaths. Thousands would die to just get a few kilometers of land. The trenches were a horrible place to live because there were rats, diseases, corpses and awful smells. Millions of soldiers put up with these conditions for years.

In the sea, Britain force a naval blockade on Germany that stops goods, such as food, from reaching Germany. But then a British cruiser, HMS Pathfinder, becomes the first ship to get attacked by a submarine-launched torpedo from a U-boat. German U-boats can attack ships undetected from below the sea. Back on the eastern front, Russia tries to invade Prussia but it ends up as a disaster for Russia and a victory for Germany. Germany took 90,000 Russian prisoners and killed an entire Russian army. After a second in Masurian, the Russians are forced to retreat. The Russian army loses 320,000 soldiers in six weeks.

# The Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire joined Germany and Austria-Hungary in fighting The Allies and began their by fighting the Russians in Odessa, Ukraine. During the battle, the Ottoman Navy launched a raid on the Russian Black Sea Fleet. After the raid Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire. Enver Pasha, the Turkish Minister of war, planned the whole thing. There were two German battleships in Turkish water, Pasha got the crew to pretend to be Turks and bomb the Russian ports on the Black Sea hoping that Russia would declare war on Turkey. His plan worked. So now there were three countries fighting Russia. Russia sent troops to east Turkey while the British and French bombed the Dardanelles even though both countries wouldn't declare war on the empire for another few days. The people of the empire were not happy. There was a revolt in Adrianople against the German army. On the 13th of November, a bomb went off in Enver Pasha's palace which ended up killing five German officers but did not kill Pasha. There were committees formed around the country to get rid of any one who was on Germany's side.

# Africa

In North Africa, The Zaian War took place in 1914. The war was fought between France and The Zaian confederation of Berber tribes in Morocco. Morocco had become a French protectorate in 1912. The war started off great for the French, but they had heavy losses, including 600 troops at The Battle of El Herri. The French kept most of their territory despite raids by the Zaian, who were supported by the Central powers. The Zaian had gotten some of their land back, but the war never ended until 1921.

On the other side of the continent, German troops invade British East Africa and stay in Taveta, while British forces fail to invade German Cameroon. The Allies do end capturing Togoland, but a month later, British ships landing at Tanga are defeated by a much smaller German army.



# Italy

Italy joined the war alongside the allies in 1915. Before the war broke out, Italy had an alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary, meaning that they were supposed to lend to The Central Powers in 1914 but instead declared neutrality. The Italian Front is where Italy and Austria-Hungary fought. Italy were hoping to take land from there enemy but instead they were stuck in trench warfare, meaning that both sides wouldn't be moving much. Italy fired the first shots at Austria-Hungary a later captured where they were fighting from. A few hours later, the Austro-Hungarians captured an Italian railway station. Fun fact about the Italian trenches, they were dug often dug up to 3,000 feet up the Alpine rocks.



# Bulgaria

Bulgaria joined the war in 1915 on the side of The Central Powers. Bulgaria were seen as potential allies to both sides of the war, but in the end they decided to side with the central powers. Also Bulgaria's prime minister at the time, Vasil Radoslavov, considered Serbia to be his country's "greatest foe." After declaring war on Serbia, they marched troops to invade their country. In the the summer of 1916, Bulgarian troops were marched into Greece to invade then occupy the country. After an allied attack in December of 1918, Bulgaria exited the war after losing 90,000 soldiers.





# America

America joined the war on the side of the allies in 1917. Before they joined the war, America had declared neutrality, but then German U-boats were attacking ships with American goods and civilians on them. The President of America, Woodrow Wilson, gives Germany a warning to stop or they will attack them and this stops Germany for a few years until they start doing again. That was when America declared war on Germany. The first American troops joined the Allies on the Western Front. Later in the year, America declared war on Austria-Hungary. When the war ended, over 50,000 American troops did not survive the war.