

# World War 1

Air, Sea and Land  
By James Lawlor.



# **Air battles**

The goal in the air war was to win command of the skies by shooting down the enemies planes in order to allow one's own planes to take photographs of the enemies positions. Providing important intelligence for one's commanders, and targets for gunners. Aircrafts and balloons were used by the Allies from 1915-1918 to drop propaganda leaflets over occupied France, Belgium and Italy in order to combat German psychological warfare.

The first air battle of WW1 was on the evening of July 1, 1915, the very first aerial engagement by a fighter plane armed with a synchronized, forward firing machine gun occurred just to the east of Luneville, France. The German Fokker E1 was flown by Lieutenant Kurt Wintgens, earning the

victory over a French two-seat observation monoplane.



During World War 1 the Germans achieved moderate in long-range bombing operations with the Zeppelin-type rigid airship, which could attain higher altitudes than the airplanes available at the time. On two occasions during 1917, German Zeppelins made flights of almost 100 hours' duration. A number of zeppelins were distributed to the

Allied countries as part of postwar reparations by Germany.



Fighter aircraft armed with machine guns, however, made their appearance in 1915.

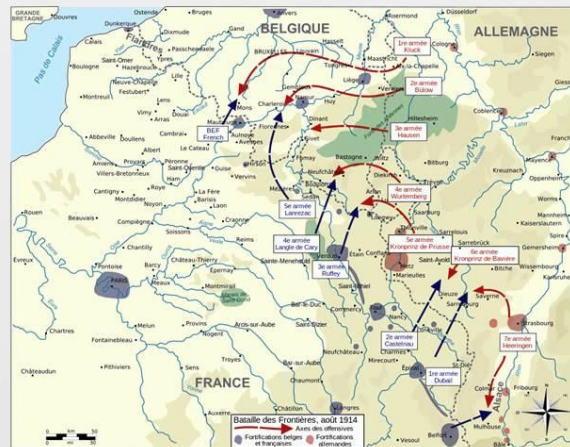
## **The Land battles**

1914: The German Invasion.

The German troops crossed the frontier into Belgium on the morning of August 4. A German brigade occupied the town of Liége itself into the night of August 5-6 and the citadel on August 7, but the surrounding forts held out stubbornly until the Germans brought their heavy howitzers into action against them on August 12. The howitzer guns proved too strong for the forts, which one by one succumbed. The vanguard of the German invasion was already pressing the Belgian field army between the Gete River and Brussels, when the last of the Liége forts fell on August 16. The Belgians then withdrew northward to the entrenched camp of Antwerp. The initial clashes between

the French and German armies along the Franco-German and Franco-Belgian frontiers are collectively known as the Battle of the Frontiers.

# Battle of the Frontiers



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bataille\\_des\\_Frontières.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bataille_des_Frontières.svg)

The First Battle of the Marne.

The French 6th Army, under M.-J. Maunoury, forewarned by Gallieni, had actually begun attacking on September 5, and its pressure caused Kluck finally to engage the whole first Army in support of his right flank when he

was still no farther up the Marne valley than Meaux, with nothing but a cavalry screen stretched across the 30 miles between the 2nd Army at Montmirail. The 2nd Army learned that the British too had turned and were advancing into the gap between them and the 1st Army. While both the 1st and 2nd armies retreated allowing the French 5th and 6th armies to advance forward and counterattack. This counterattack is known as the 1st Battle of the Marne. By September 11 the German retreat extended to all the German armies.



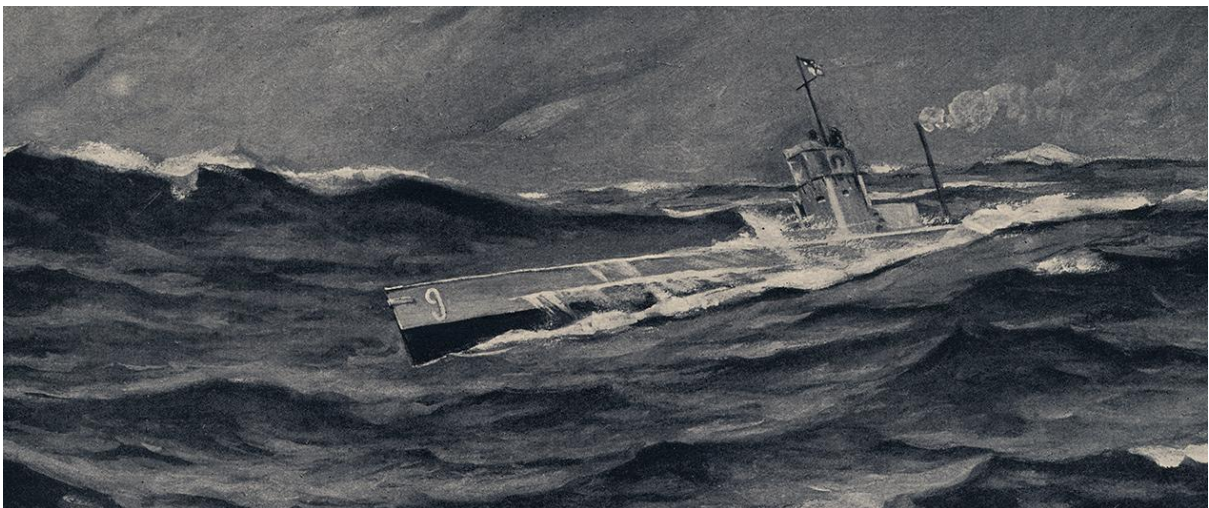
## The war at sea, 1914-15

In August 1914 Great Britain and Germany were the two great rival sea powers. Neither of them at first wanted a direct confrontation: the British were chiefly concerned with the protection of their trade routes; the Germans hoped that mines and submarine attacks would gradually destroy Great Britain's numerical superiority.

The first significant encounter between the two navies was that of the Helgoland Bight, on August 28, 1914, when a British force under Admiral Sir David Beatty, having entered German home waters, sank or damaged several German light cruisers and killed or captured 1,000 men at a cost of one British ship damaged and 35 deaths. For the following months the Germans in European or British waters confined themselves to submarine warfare- not without some

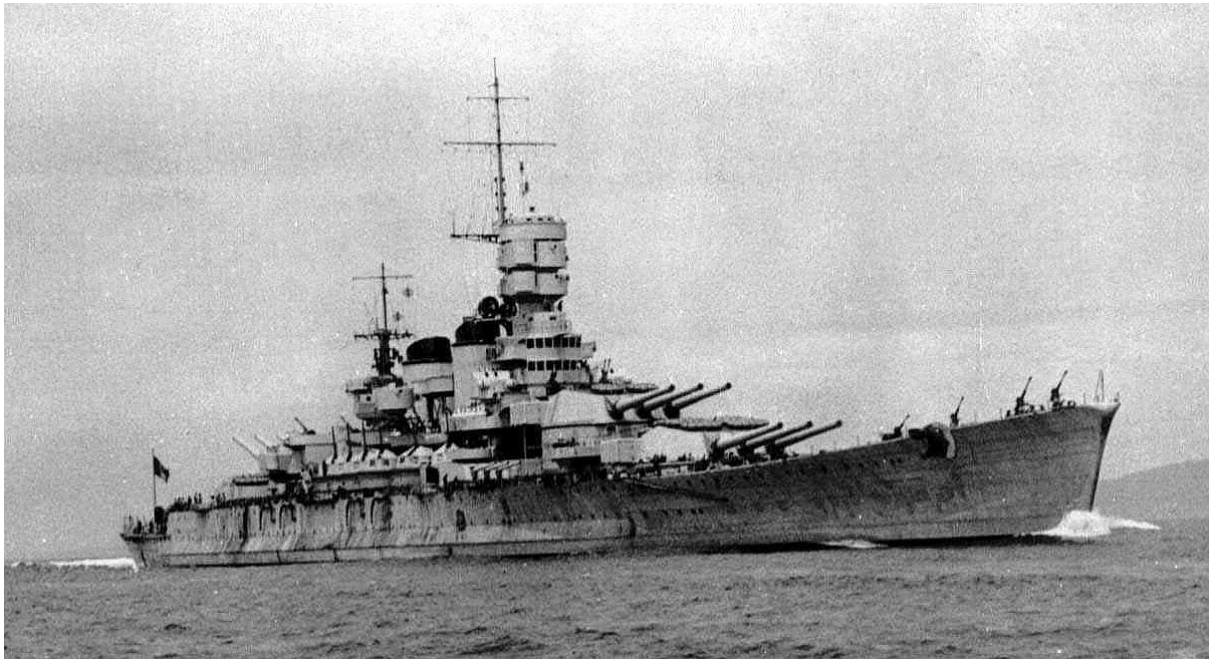


notable successes: on September 22 a single German submarine, or U-boat, sank three British cruisers within an hour; on October 7 a U-boat made its way into the anchorage of Loch Ewe, on the west coast of Scotland; on October 15 the British cruiser **Hawke** was torpedoed; and on October 27 the British battleship **Audacious** was sunk by a mine. On December 15 battle cruisers of the German High Seas Fleet set off on a sortie across the North Sea, under the command of Admiral Franz von Hipper: they bombarded several British and then made their way home safely.



On January 24, 1915, in the Battle of the Dogger Bank, the German cruiser

**Blucher** was sunk and two other cruisers damaged before the Germans could make their escape.



## The Balkan front, 1918

The initial assault, preceded by heavy bombardment at night, began in the morning of Sept. 15, 1918, and a five-mile penetration was achieved by nightfall on September 16. The next day the Serbs advanced 20 miles forward, while French and Greek forces on their flanks widened the breach to 25 miles. A British attack, launched on September 18 on the front between the Vardar and Lake Doiran, prevented the Bulgars from transferring troops westward against the right flank of the penetration; and by September 19 the Serbian cavalry had reached Kavadarci, at the apex of the Crna-Vardar triangle. Two days later the whole Bulgarian front west of the Vardar had collapsed. While Italian forces in the extreme west advanced on Prilep, the elated Serbs, with the French beside them, pressed on up the Vardar Valley. The British in the east now made such

headway as to take Strumica, across the old Bulgarian frontier, on September 26. The Bulgars then sued for an armistice; and on September 29, when a bold French cavalry thrust up the Vardar from Veles (Titov Veles) took Skopje, key to the whole system of communications for the Balkan front, Bulgarian delegates signed the Armistice of Salonika, accepting the Allies' terms unreservedly.



1914... Le dernier effort. Les Serbes poursuivant les Autrichiens en déroute. les culbutent au passage de la Drina

1914... The last effort. The Serbians pursuing the Austrians in rout tumble them as they pass the Drina

(E 5)

## The Armistice.

The Allies' armistice terms presented in the railway carriage at Rethondes were stiff. Germany was required to evacuate not only Belgium, France, and Alsace-Lorraine but also all the rest of the left (west) bank of the Rhine, and it had to neutralize that river's right bank between the Netherlands and Switzerland. The German troops in East Africa were to surrender; the German armies in eastern Europe were to withdraw to the prewar German frontier; the treaties of Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest were to be annulled; and the Germans were to repatriate all prisoners of war and hand over to the Allies a large quantity of war materials, including 5,000 pieces of artillery, 25,000 machine guns, 1,700 aircraft, 5,000 locomotives, and 150,000 railroad cars. And meanwhile, the Allies' blockade of Germany was to continue.

At 5:00AM on Nov.11,1918, the Armistice document was signed in Foch's railway carriage at Rethondes. At 11:00AM on the same day, World War 1 came to an end.

