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BRIEF HISTORY OF GREAT WAR

Important Events Of History's Greatest Struggle That Has Raged Since July 28, 1914

On June 28, 1914, the Archduke Ferdinand, Heir Apparent to the throne of Austria, and his morganatic wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, while on a visit to Sarajevo, Bosnia, were shot to death by Gavrio Prinzip, a Serbian student.

The world showed passing interest, but in the chancelleries and Departments of State men wore an anxious look. It has been learned since that the mighty war machine and plans of the Hohenzollerns, after more than forty years of preparation were ready for use, and only the pretext was sought to plunge the world into mourning that one man might dominate it.

Nearly a month passed. On July 23, humanity was surprised by the ultimatum delivered by the government of the aged Francis Joseph of Austria to little Serbia; it imposed terms which no self-respecting nation could accept. They were uncalled for, insulting. The world cried out at the injustice of it all. Serbia, however, in the hope of preventing the carnage which now loomed as a terrible probability, accepted all the humiliating terms but one, and on this it asked further information. Austria answered with her cannon.

July 28 was the fateful date. The Kaiser had hurried to Berlin, and every capital in Europe knew the portent of things. All efforts of mediation had failed.

Aug., 1914, was a month of declarations of war. On the first day Germany declared war on Russia; on the third it declared war on France, and demanded of Belgium the right to march her troops through that neutral country to attack her neighbor on the west and south. But Belgium was true to her treaties and refused, whereupon the same day Germany declared war on Belgium. Then, to the disgust of Germany and Austria, Italy, the third nation of the Triple Alliance, declared her neutrality, basing her action that the alliance was for defense and not offense.

England, a signatory to the treaty which guaranteed the neutrality of Belgium, demanded that Germany respect that treaty, but the German Chancellor termed this sacred obligation a "scrap of paper," and refused. Aug. 4, England, true to her promises, declared war on Germany. In anticipation her mighty High Seas Fleet had been mobilized and had sailed away. Germany's ports were blocked from the outset, and British men-of-war began scouring the seas for such of the Kaiser's warships as were not locked up at home. In a trice the German merchant marine sought shelter in neutral ports.

Aug. 5, Montenegro declared war on Austria, and the American Congress voted money and planned relief for the thousands of American tourists in Europe who were cut off and left stranded by the war. Aug. 6 Austria declared war on Russia. Aug. 7 the German army occupied the city of Liege and the first British troops landed on French soil. The French took Altkirk, in Alsace. Two days later they took Muelhausen, and the same day Serbia declared war on Germany. Aug. 11 German troops entered France by way of Luxemburg, and the day's declarations of war were of France on Austria and Montenegro on Germany. The next day England declared war on Austria.

On the 15th, from the extreme East came Japan's ultimatum to Germany to give up her Chinese possession of Kiao-Chau. On the 20th the Belgian Government abandoned Brussels. On the 25th the invaders destroyed Louvain, with its library and all its priceless, irreplacable treasures of ancient volume and manuscript. The same day Austria declared war on Japan. The month found the Germans advanced as far as Amiens, in France, while Russia was pouring her armies into East Prussia and Galicia.

By Sept. 3 the German rush had reached such a menacing position that Paris was imperilled, and the French Government removed to Bordeau. But on the 7th the drive was checked and the Germans began to fall back, continuing to do so until much French territory had been recovered, and Paris was saved from any menace.

The submarine, destined to play such an important part in the war, showed its might on Sept. 22 by sinking the British cruisers Aboukir, Cressy and Hogue. Antwerp fell to the invaders Oct. 9, Ghent Oct. 12 and Lille Oct. 13. On that day Prinzip, whose shot was used as the excuse for the war, was placed on trial at Sarajevo. Oct. 29 he was sentenced to 20 years in prison, and four of his associates were condemned to the gallows. On the 30th Russia declared war on Turkey.

With the war in full swing, incident followed incident without cessation. The more important events in chronological order follow:

1914

Nov. 1, British squadron sunk by German ships off Chile.

Nov. 5, Great Britain declares war on Turkey and annexed Cyprus.

Nov. 7, Japanese capture Kiao-Chau.

Nov. 9, Germans surrender Tsingtau to Japanese.

Nov. 18, Turks fire on U. S. S. Tennessee in Smyrna harbor.

Nov. 19, American Government demands explanation from Turkey. Nov. 27, Secretary Bryan announces that the Tennessee incident is closed.

Dec. 2, Austrians capture Belgrade, Serbia's capital.

Dec. 7, Serbians destroy Austria's Army of invasion.

Dec. 8, British fleet destroys German fleet, consisting of the cruisers Leipzig, Scharnhorst, Gniesenau and Nuernberg, off the Falkland Islands.

Dec. 14, Serbians retake Belgrade.

Dec. 16, Germans shell British coast towns of Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby, killing ninety-three civilians.

Dec. 27, United States protests against British stoppage of American trade.

1915

Jan. 2, the Russians started the new year by invading Hungary at four points.

Jan. 6, Russians defeat Turks at Sarikamysh, destroying an entire army corps.

Jan. 25, British ships sink German cruiser Blucher in the North Sea and win a battle against Boer rebels at Uppington, Bechunaland, South Africa.

Feb. 2, Great Britain makes food contraband.

Feb. 3, Anglo-French fleet destroys four Turkish forts at the Dardanelles.

Feb. 4, Boer rebels surrender to the British, who also rout the Turks north of Suez.

Feb. 5, Germany hurls mighty force against Russia at Borijmow, and is defeated. British smash Turks at Suez.

Feb. 11, the United States warns both Great Britain and Germany not to abuse the American flag or attack American ships.

Feb. 16, America protests proposed German blockade of British sies.

Feb. 18, Germany rejects America's protest.

Feb. 21, American steamship Evelyn sunk by a mine.

Feb. 23, American ship Carib sunk by a mine in the North Sea.

Feb. 27, General Botha leads a British invasion of German West Africa.

Mar. 1, Great Britain declares a virtual blockade of the German coast.

Mar. 10, German auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich runs the British blockade and later interns at Newport News, announcing the sinking of the American ship William P. Frye.

Mar. 18, British battleships Irrestible and Ocean and French battieship Bouvet sunk in Dardannelles.

Mar. 22, Russians capture the Galician fortress of Przemysl.

Mar. 23, Allied troops land at Gallipoli.

Mar. 25, Turks massacre American missionaries and other Christians to the number of 20,000 in Persia. Russia begins terriffic battle in the Carpathians and captures Lupkow Pass.

Mar. 27, French capture heights of Hartmanns-Weilerkopf.

Mar. 28, Germans torpedo British passenger steamship Falaba off South Wales, and 112 passengers are lost.

Apr. 5, American demands reparation from Germany for the sinking of Frye.

Apr. 9, Germany agrees to compensate owners of the Frye. French capture Les Eparges, dominating the Woevre.

Apr. 11, German auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm arrives at Newport News, and later interns.

Apr. 12, German Ambassador von Bernstorff, ignoring the government, calls on the American people to stop exporting arms and munitions to the Allies.

May 2, Austria wins great victory over Russians in West Galacia.

May 7, British liner Lusitania sunk without warning by German submarine off Kinsale, Ireland, entailing the loss of more than 1200 persons, among whom were more than 100 Americans.

May 8, Germans capture Libau, Russia.

May 13, President Wilson sends a stern note to Germany, demanding reparation for the loss of American lives on the Lusitania and demanding that submarine attacks on passenger vessels cease.

May 22, Italy declares war on Austria.

May 24, Italians invade Austria.

May 31, Germany replies to the Lusitania note, and intimates that the vessels carried troops and munitions. Washington dissatisfied with the reply.

June 2, Teutons recapture Przemysl. San Marino declares war on Austria.

June 3, British advance in Mesopotamia and occupy Amara, Asiatic Turkey.

June 9, William Jennings Bryan resigns as Secretary of State.

June 10, President Wilson sends another vigorous note to Germany on the Lusitania matter and reiterates his demands for the observance of international war.

June 14, General Mackensen begins drive against Russians.

June 15, French airmen bomb Karlruhe, in Baden.

June 22, Teutons occupy Lemberg.

June 30, Russians win naval battle in the Baltic Sea.

July 5, United States refuses to negotiate informally with Germany on its reply to the Lusitania notes. Government takes over German wireless station at Sayville, Long Island. British capture all of German Southwest Africa.

July 19, greatest battle to date of the war begins in Russian Poland, with 6,000,000 men engaged and covering a front of 900 miles. Italians make big gains in Austria.

Aug. 4, British reply to American protest asserts that nation is acting strictly in accordance with international law, and expresses a willingness to submit disputed questions to arbitration. Germany asserts in note that sinking of the Frye was legal.

Aug. 5, Germans capture Warsaw, capital of Poland.

Aug. 10, Turkish army of 90,000 defeated by Russians in Armenia.

Aug. 14, German submarine sinks British transport Royal Edward, in the Aegean Sea, and 1000 soldiers and sailors are lost.

Aug. 19, White Star liner Arabic sunk by German submarine; 20 lives lost.

Aug. 26, Germans occupy Russian fortress of Brest-Litovsk.

Sept. 1, Germany agrees to sink no more merchant ships without warning.

Sept. 10, President Wilson demands that Austria recall its Ambassador, Dr. Dumba.

Sept. 22, Bulgaria orders her army mobilized.

Sept. 24, Greece orders the mobilization of her army and navy.

Sept. 25, Entente Allies begin big drive against Germans from North Sea to Verdun and take 20,000 prisoners.

Sept. 28, British smash German line at Loos.

Oct. 5, Germany disavows sinking of the Arabic and offers to pay indemnity. The U. S. demands of Turkey that massacre of Armenians cease.

Oct. 6, French and British troops land at Salonika. King Constantine dismisses Premier Venizelos.

Oct. 7, Austro-German invasion of Serbia begins.

Oct. 10, Bulgarians invade Serbia and declares war against her. Greece refuses aid to Serbia promised by treaty.

Oct. 15, Great Britain declares war on Bulgaria.

Oct. 16, France declares war on Bulgaria.

Oct. 19, Russia and Italy declare war on Bulgaria.

Nov. 6, Germans capture Nish, Serbia.

Nov. 8, Secretary Lansing tells Great Britain that blockade is illegal.

Dec. 1, British army in Mesopotamia driven back to Kut-el-Amara. America demands of Austria an explanation of the sinking of the Italian passenger liner Ancona.

Dec. 4, Henry Ford's peace ship sails.

Dec. 9, Germany announces the conquest of Serbia.

Dec. 16, Austria replying to the Ancona note, evades the issue.

Dec. 19, British withdraw army from the Gallipoli.

Dec. 23, American sends second note to Austria on the Ancona question. German reply to last Frye note is unsatisfactory.

Dec. 25, Henry Ford, ill, leaves the peace party and starts for home.

Dec. 30, Austria yields in part on Ancona matter, agrees to punish submarine commander and admits American contention as to the safety of passengers. British passenger steamship Persia sunk without warning in the Mediterraenan. R. M. McNeely, American Consul, and 200 others drown.

1916

Jan. 7, Von Bernstorff agrees that no merchant ship shall be sunk until all passengers have been made safe and assures full satisfaction in the Persia incident.

Jan. 11, Germans begin big offensive in Champagne and are repulsed by the French.

Jan. 28, President Wilson asks all belligerents to agree to the disarming of merchant ships and to rules on submarine warfare.

Feb. 1, British steamship Appam, supposed to be lost, enters Norfolk harbor under a German prize crew.

Feb. 4, Germany refuses to admit the illegality of the Lusitania sinking.

Feb. 14, all single men in Great Britain called to the colors.

Feb. 23, Germans begin drive on Verdun.

Feb. 26, Germans take Fort Douaumont, of Verdun defenses, after suffering heavy losses.

Mar. 3, United States Senate tables Gore resolution warning Americans off armed merchantmen.

Mar. 4, French report loss of auxiliary cruiser Provence, with about 3000 soldiers.

Mar. 7, House of Representatives tables McLemore resolution warning Americans off armed merchantmen.

Mar. 8, Germany declares war on Portugal.

Mar. 20. Allied airmen raid Zeebruge.

Mar. 24, British steamship Sussex, with Americans on board, torpedoed.

Mar. 27, President Wilson demands explanation from Germany on the sinking of the Sussex.

Apr. 1, Zeppelin raid on England kills 28, injures 44.

Apr. 2, second Zeppelin raid on England kills 16 and wounds 100.

April 4, new British budget, $9,000,000,000, largest in world's history.

Apr. 10, Germans start offensive near Verdun.

Apr. 11, Germany denies sinking the Sussex, but admits sinking several others, including the Eagle Point and Manchester Guardian.

Apr. 12, President Wilson sends ultimatum on Sussex to Germany and summons Congress to tell why. Russians capture Trebizond.

April 19, Russian army lands at Marseilles. French begin offensive at Verdun.

Apr. 24, Irish rising in Dublin. 12 persons killed.

Apr. 28, British garrison at Kut-el-Amara surrenders to Turkey.

May 1, Irish rebellion ends. Leaders, including President Pearce, executed.

May 5, Germany tells United States illegal U-boat methods will stop if the U. S. force Great Britain to raise her blockade.

May 10, Germany admits sinking the Sussex.

May 23, French make large gains in Verdun section.

May 27, U. S. demands that Allies stop illegal seizure of mails.

May 31, Sea battle off Jutland. British lose fourteen ships; German losses heavy, but concealed.

June 2, Russia begins new offensive against Austria.

June 7, Earl Kitchener and staff lost when British cruiser Hampshire is sunk on the way to Russia.

June 11, Russians force Austrians back 25 miles on a 100-mile front, taking 108,000 prisoners.

July 1, Russians recapture Czernowitz.

July 1, Allies begin grand offensive on both sides of the Somme and make large gains.

July 5, General Foch captures second German system of fortified line on a ten-mile front and several towns.

July 10, German submarine Deutschland reaches Baltimore.

July 12-14, British make substantial gains in France.

July 22, Russians pierce Von Hindenburg's line at several points and also drive Austrians back.

Aug. 1, German submarine Deutschland leaves Baltimore for Germany.

Aug. 3, Sir Roger Casement hanged for treason.

Aug. 8, Italians capture Goritzia.

Aug. 9, Germans execute Captain Fryatt of the British steamship Brussels for an alleged attack on a submarine.

Aug. 23, Deutschland reaches Germany, completing the first round trip across the ocean of a submarine merchantman in the history of the world.

Aug. 27, Rumania declares war on Austria and Germany declares war on Rumania.

Sept. 25, Allies capture Combles and Thiepval.

Oct. 7, the German war submarine U-58 reaches Newport, R. I.

Oct. 8, U-boat sinks five British and neutral steamships off Nantucket and survivors are rescued by American warships.

Oct. 12, Italians make new drive on Carso plateau.

Oct. 16, Entente powers recognize Greek Government set up by Venezelos, occupy Athens and take over navy and forts.

Oct. 29, British steamship Marine, with 50 Americans on board, sunk without warning.

Nov. 1, German merchant submarine Deutschland reaches New London, Conn. Italians begin new offensive against Austrians and take 15,000 prisoners.

Nov. 8, American steamship Columbian attacked by German submarine.

Nov. 21, Emperor Francis Joseph, of Austria, dies.

Nov. 22, Germans sink British Hospital Ship Brittanic. Fifty lives lost.

Dec. 6, Austro-Germans capture Bucharest.

Dec. 11, Detuschland reaches Bremen.

Dec. 12, Germany and her allies propose peace.

Dec. 14, Entente Allies demand reparation, restitution and security for the future.

Dec. 21, President Wilson tells Europe America has been brought to the verge of war and demands peace terms as a basis for future conduct.

1917

Jan. 9, Allies reply to President Wilson giving peace terms.

Jan. 22, President Wilson tells Senate peace without victory necessary if United States enters league to enforce peace.

Feb. 1, Germany declares U-boat blockade and says that all neutral ships entering defined zone will be sunk without warning.

Feb. 3, the U. S. severs diplomatic relations with Germany. Federal officers seize German liner Kronprinzessin Cecile. American steamship Housatonic sunk near Scilly Islands by submarine.

Feb. 10, British passenger steamship California sunk without warning. 46 drown.

Feb. 26, President Wilson asks Congress for authority to use armed forces to protect American rights and shipping. Cunard liner Laconia torpedoed, and three Americans were killed.

Mar. 1, State Department reveals German plot to induce Mexico and Japan to invade the U. S.

Mar. 7, the President decides to arm merchant ships in spite of Congress' refusal to approve.

Mar. 12, President Wilson notifies nations armed guard will protect American ships. British capture Bagdad.

Mar. 14, American steamship Algonquin torpedoed without warning. Russian revolution announced in Petrogad. Czar dethroned.

Mar. 17, British take Bapaume.

Continued on page 3

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