

# FIRST YEAR OF THE GREAT WAR EVENTS IN A BRIEF REVIEW

### Diplomatic and Military Preliminaries and the Campaigns and Battles Which Followed in the East and in the West.

## MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC PRELIMINARIES.

**JUNE, 1914.**  
23. Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, and his wife assassinated in Bosnia.

**JULY, 1914.**  
22. Austria demanded reparation from Serbia, alleging Serbian complicity.

25. Serbia replied, granting Austria's demands except permission to try Serbian officers. Diplomatic relations severed.

26. Russia notified Germany she would protect Serbian integrity. Hostilities on Serbian border.

27. Sir Edward Grey proposed international conference.

28. Grey's proposal rejected by Germany and Austria.

29. Austrians bombarded Belgrade, capital of Serbia.

Russia mobilized.

Germany and France prepared for war.

Germany demanded that Russia suspend mobilization.

Germany proposed mediation at Vienna.

Russia ordered general mobilization.

Czar, Kaiser and George V. of England attempted negotiations.

State of war declared by Germany.

Austrian and Russian diplomatic relations severed.

**AUGUST, 1914.**

1. Germany declared war on Russia.

2. Russians invaded Germany. Germans invaded Luxembourg. Belgium appealed to England. Germans attacked French frontier. England declared war on Germany.

Germany demanded from Belgium free passage for her troops.

3. Germany rejected England's proposal to respect Belgian neutrality. Germans invaded Russian Poland.

4. England sent ultimatum to Germany. Germany declared war on England and France. France declared war on Germany. England announced "state of war" with Germany. United States, Sweden and Denmark declared their neutrality. Germans attacked Liege forts.

5. Germany sent ultimatum to Italy demanding her loyalty to the triple alliance. United States tendered mediation plans.

6. British light cruiser Amphion sunk by mine in North sea. Austria declared war on Russia.

7. Germans in Liege. French invaded southern Alsace.

8. French occupied Altkirch and Muelhausen, Alsace. Montenegro declared war on Austria.

9. France withdrew ambassador from Austria. French retired from Muelhausen. British admiral announced North sea closed. Austrian ambassador ordered to quit Paris.

10. England declared war on Austria. German cruisers entered Dardanelles. Germans advanced beyond the Meuse, in Belgium. Sharp engagements between Belgians and Germans at Ieper, Diest and Tirlemont. France declared war on Austria.

11. British troops joined French. Junction of French and Belgian armies affirmed.

12. Japan sent ultimatum to Germany, demanding surrender of Kiaochow by Aug. 23. Austrians entered Serbia.

13. Severe fighting around Dinant, Belgium, and in Lorraine, Germany.

14. Belgian government removed from Brussels to Antwerp. Beginning of five day battle in Lorraine, ending in repulse of French. Beginning of five day battle between Serbs and Austrians on the Jadar, ending in Austrian rout.

15. Germans advanced on Brussels.

16. Belgians defeated by Germans at Louvain, Belgium.

17. Brussels occupied by Germans. Belgian army retreated on Antwerp.

18. Germans began attack on Namur.

19. Japan declared war on Germany. Fleet bombarded Tsingtao. Germans entered Namur and attacked Mons. Austria announced victory over Russians at Krasnik, Poland.

20. British retreated from Mons.

## GERMAN MARCH ON PARIS.

**AUGUST, 1914.**

21. Muelhausen, Alsace, evacuated by French. Nonpartisan French cabinet organized. Germans took Longwy. Germans forced allies back along entire French frontier.

22. Part of Louvain burned by Germans.

23. Germans occupied Amiens, France.

**SEPTEMBER, 1914.**

1. Germans advanced to Creil, about thirty miles from Paris. French center between Verdun and Rheims driven back. Seat of French government removed from Paris to Bordeaux. Gen. Joffre directed the defense of Paris.

2. Battle south of the Marne and east of Paris, in which German right wing was pushed back, followed by a general retreat toward the Aisne.

3. German retreat halted on the Aisne.

4. Germans bombarded Rheims and damaged famous cathedral.

## THE WESTERN FRONT.

**OCTOBER, 1914.**

1. Heavy fighting begun near Arras, France, the allied left flank.

2. Germans forced the passage of the river Nethes, in front of Antwerp.

3. Germans began bombardment of the city of Antwerp; also stormed and carried Belgian fortified positions beyond the Nethes. Belgian forces and government abandoned the capital and moved to Ostend.

4. Zepplins bombarded Antwerp and the civil authorities surrendered the city to Gen. von Beseler, the German commander.

5. Formal military occupation of Antwerp by the Germans. King Albert and the officials of Belgium escaped to Ostend.

6. French cavalry engagement around Hazebrouck, northwest of Lille, over German raiding troops.

7. Belgian government transferred from Ostend to Havre, France; third removal in two months.

8. Allies occupied Ypres, Belgium.

9. Ostend occupied by Germans, who marched out to attack the French fortress of Dunkirk on the channel coast.

10. Belgian army, which had escaped from the lines at Antwerp, reached Ypres.

11. English gunboats participated in bat-

## Naval and Miscellaneous Actions, Air Raids and Grave Diplomatic Incidents Involving This Country.

tle of Neuport, on Belgian coast, engaging the German batteries on land.

24. Heavy fighting on the Belgian coast; the Germans crossed the Yser-Ypres canal, near Neuport.

25. In battle on the coast of Belgium German siege guns drove back British warships in the English channel.

26. Belgians flooded the German camps on the river Yser, in Belgium, by cutting the dikes and forced the German troops to withdraw.

**NOVEMBER, 1914.**

7. The Kaiser's troops made a series of attacks from their lines at Arras and in the Vosges and Argonne forests, southeastern France.

12. Germans crossed the Ypres canal, Belgium, at two points after defeating the allies.

15. French and Belgian troops repulsed Germans on the Yser and regained lost ground.

16-17. German long range guns bombarded Rheims the second time.

**DECEMBER, 1914.**

7. German outpost in front of La Bassée, France, captured by the allies.

16-18. French and Belgian troops advanced on the Yser and at Ypres, forcing Germans back toward Ostend.

27. Fierce artillery battle along the entire front in southeastern France. French air scouts located German targets for allied guns.

28. French were advancing in Alsace and firmly held the Vosges passes.

31. French captured important ground at Steinbach, in Alsace.

**JANUARY, 1915.**

4. French troops recaptured Steinbach, in Alsace.

8. Germans attacked by the allies at Soissons, France.

11. Flood on the Aisne prevented the allies from re-enforcing their line north of the river.

14. Allies withdrew south of the Aisne, losing 5,000 prisoners and many guns.

15. Heavy fighting at Arras, in Belgium and Alsace. Germans captured trenches from the French at St. Mihiel.

22. Allies captured La Bassée, in France. German aviators dropped bombs at Dunkirk.

**FEBRUARY, 1915.**

21-22. Germans threw 2,000 shells into city of Rheims.

**MARCH, 1915.**

10. Beginning of British attacks on German line at Neuve Chapelle, France. The village captured.

12-13. French attacks and German counter attacks continued at Neuve Chapelle, with heavy losses on both sides.

27. French troops captured the German position on Hartmannswellerkopf, in Alsace.

**APRIL, 1915.**

20. French occupied Les Eparges. Germans bombarded Rheims.

13. German attack at Les Eparges repulsed with heavy loss.

22. Germans captured the heights of Les Eparges on the Meuse line and recaptured Hartmannswellerkopf, in the Vosges mountains. They repulsed an attack by allies along the Ypres canal which asphyxiating gas crossed that barrier to the west side.

24. Fighting continued at Ypres, both sides gaining ground at separate points.

27. French recaptured Hartmannswellerkopf, in Alsace.

3. German artillery at Neuport, Belgium, bombarded Dunkirk, on the French channel coast, inflicting casualties, at 22 mile range.

**MAY, 1915.**

3. Germans captured important positions in Flanders, including Hill No. 60, where British defenders were overcome by gas.

**JUNE, 1915.**

1. British army casualties to date in France and Belgium 238,000, including 50,312 killed.

17. French troops, with heavy artillery support, gained ground north of Arras in France. They also advanced on Alsace.

19. French forces made gains around Arras, where there was a fierce battle over a point known as the Labyrinth.

22. French troops occupied the Labyrinth.

**JULY, 1915.**

3. Germans forced the French line back in Alsace.

13. Souchez cemetery and trenches near Arras, France, captured by Germans.

15. Germans captured a mile of French trenches in the Argonne.

24. In the Argonne the French repulsed German attacks and gained ground.

26. French reports stated that there was a violent cannonade in Le Pretre forest, German bombardment of Point-a-Mousson and also of Hartmannswellerkopf, in Alsace. French aviators dropped shells and steel arrows on a German military railroad station near Montfaucon, France.

## ON THE EASTERN FRONT.

**AUGUST, 1914.**

15. Austrians marched from Krasnik, Poland, toward Radom.

25. Russians reached point twenty-six miles from Danzig. Main Russian army 140 miles from Berlin.

29. Russians defeated in three day battle near Tannenberg, East Prussia.

**SEPTEMBER, 1914.**

3. Russians occupied Lemberg, capital of the Austrian province of Galicia.

23. Russian patrols penetrated Carpathian passes into Hungary.

**OCTOBER, 1914.**

2. End of week's battle at Augustowo, in which Germans were defeated and forced out of Russian territory with heavy losses sustained in the Suwalki swamps.

11. German advance from Thorn and Kalisz, in Poland, approached the Vistula and threatened Warsaw. North of Warsaw, on the East Prussian border, Gen. Rennenkampf's Russian cavalry drove the Germans from Lyck. An Austrian column advanced from Cracow into Poland to co-operate with Von Hindenburg's attack on Warsaw.

Von Hindenburg's outposts reached within six miles of Warsaw.

12. Battle on the Vistula, Poland, which began on the 7th, raged furiously, Russians having the advantage over Von Hindenburg.

13. Germans in front of Warsaw were checked and driven back to the river Pilica.

25-26. On the Pilica river, Poland, a desperate battle went against the Austro-

Germans, who withdrew toward the river Warthe, abandoning Lodz and Radom.

**NOVEMBER, 1914.**

2. Austrians were expelled from Kleck, Poland, by Russians marching southward on Cracow.

4. Sandomir, Poland, taken by Russian column aiming at Cracow. Austrians were retiring toward Cracow after reverse on San river.

6. Russians recaptured Jaroslav, Galicia, which they had been forced to abandon in October.

7. Russians reached Pleschen, in Silesia, and entered East Prussia. The move in East Prussia threatened Koenigsberg, on the Baltic seacoast. The invaders of Silesia proved to be raiding Cossacks, who rode within 30 miles of the fortress of Thorn.

12. Russians under Gen. Rennenkampf occupied Johannsburg, in East Prussia.

14. Heavy fighting between Soldau and Stalluponen, in East Prussia. Germans defeated the Russians, driving them upon Plock, on the Vistula, in Poland.

17. Germans defeated Russians south of Kutno, Poland, but were on the defensive on the Gumbinnen-Angerburg line, East Prussia. Fighting was desperate in southwest Poland, where Russians were contending with Austrians alone for the passes to Cracow.

24. A great battle developed in Poland between the rivers Vistula and Warthe. The Germans lost Strykow, which they had captured on the 19th, and generally were checked.

26. Von Hindenburg's army defeated Russians in front of Lodz and Lowicz, Poland, and again captured Strykow, a decisive success in the Warsaw campaign.

**DECEMBER, 1914.**

2. Russians recaptured Plock, on the Vistula, in Poland, and repulsed a German lunge at Lodz in front of Warsaw.

6. Von Hindenburg's Germans occupied Lodz, which Russians abandoned, retreating toward Warsaw.

**JANUARY, 1915.**

21. The German cruiser Emden, Capt. Carl von Mueller commanding, sank four British steamers and captured one off the coast of British India.

22. German submarine sank British cruisers Aboukir, Cressy and Hogue in the North sea.

23. German warships bombarded Japanese position before Kiauchau.

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**NOVEMBER, 1914.**

12. The Austrian troops at Cracow defeated the Russians east of the city and recaptured Nowy Sandec.

18. Germans captured Lowicz, on Bura river, 25 miles southwest of Warsaw, after a fierce battle.

20. Germans before Warsaw made a series of desperate assaults on the Bura and Rawa rivers, winning several crossings.

23. Russians abandoned siege of Cracow, which the Austrians firmly held as the key to Germany and Austria.

**JANUARY, 1915.**

5. Russian forces were south of the Carpathian mountains, invading Hungary.

23. Russian advance checked near the East Prussian border of Poland.

33. A large Russian army was advancing from the Russian border against Koenigsberg, a German fortified city in East Prussia.

29. Russian invaders of East Prussia reached Tilsit.

**FEBRUARY, 1915.**

3. Germans checked in a desperate attack on Russian lines at Bolimow, turned Warsaw.

7. Germans, by a forced march, turned the Russian flank at Johannsburg, in East Prussia, and forced the enemy to retreat back to Russian territory.

8. Germans in Russia cut the railroad behind the retreating Russian army. North of Augustowo the Russians deserted their positions east of the Masurian lakes.

18. Germans recaptured Czernowitz, Bukovina, which the Russians had captured early in the war.

21. Russians checked German advance over the Russian border north of Grodno.

27. Russians recaptured Przasnysz.

**MARCH, 1915.**

22. The Austrian fortress of Przemysl, in Galicia, surrendered to the Russian army after a gallant and prolonged siege.

**APRIL, 1915.**

3. Russians advanced through Varezca pass, piercing the Austrian lines in the Carpathians.

23. Austro-Germans gained a victory on the Dunajec line, in western Galicia.

**MAY, 1915.**

1. Austro-German forces crossed the Dunajec, in Galicia, driving the Russians and making heavy captures.

7. Germans captured the Russian post of Libau.

12. Heavy fighting continued in West Galicia, where the Germans continued to drive the Russians eastward.

14. Austro-Germans recaptured Jaroslav, on the west bank of the San river, Galicia, forcing the Russians to abandon the Carpathian mountains.

19. End of three days of heavy battles in Galicia, in which the Germans lost heavily, but were the victors.

**JUNE, 1915.**

3. Austro-Germans, under Gen. von Mackensen, recaptured Przemysl, Galicia, which the Russians had occupied March 22, after a siege of 30 days.

7. Austro-Germans pursued Russians across Dniester river, Galicia.

9. Austrians captured Stanislaw, Galicia, a pass to Lemberg.

17. Austro-German forces reached Grodek, a fortified town 15 miles from Lemberg, Galicia.

21. Germans captured Rawa-Ruska, a railroad center northwest of Lemberg and guarding that fortress.

23. Lemberg, Galicia, recaptured by Austrians after 10 months' occupation by a garrison of Grand Duke Nicholas' command.

28. Austro-Germans captured Hultsch, on Dniester river, in Galicia, virtually controlling all eastern Galicia.

**JULY, 1915.**

15. Germans again captured the Russian post of Przasnysz, 50 miles north of Warsaw.

20. Austrians captured Radom, Poland, 57 miles south of Warsaw.

21. Austro-German forces cut the Radom-Ivangorod railway line south of Warsaw, menacing Ivangorod. Their advance columns reported within 16, 22 and 26 miles of Warsaw, on the west, north and south respectively.

23. Germans captured Russian fortress of Putusk, north of Warsaw.

## WORK OF THE NAVIES.

**AUGUST, 1914.**

23. British fleet sunk five German warships off Helgoland.

**SEPTEMBER, 1914.**

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**JANUARY, 1915.**

24. In a German naval attack on the English coast the German cruiser Bluecher was sunk with about 700 of her crew.

30. German submarines attacked British ships in the Irish sea, 80 miles from the nearest German naval base on the Belgian coast.

**FEBRUARY, 1915.**