

Exciting and Useful Info® #5
Some Important Engagements / Campaigns in the War

1914

- Aug Battle of **Tannenberg** in East: Germans defeat Russian armies in East Prussia.¹
Austrian offensive against Serbia is repelled.
- Sept Battle of **Masurian Lakes**: 2nd major German victory over Russia in E. Prussia.
Battle of **Marne**: Entente allies stop the German advance in West.²
Major Russian advances into Austrian **Galicja** and Bukovina.³
- Oct First battle of **Ypres**: Germans unsuccessfully attempt to dislodge allies.
- Dec Austria's 3rd offensive against Serbia takes Belgrade only temporarily.

1915

- Feb/Mar Entente begins **Gallipoli** campaign against Turkey along Dardanelles
- April Second battle of **Ypres**: Germans fire chlorine gas at allies in Belgium.
- May/June Austrian and German forces retake **Galicja** from Russian
- Aug-Sep Austrians and Germans take major portions of Poland, Lithuania, & Courland
- Oct-Nov Serbia attacked and overrun by Germans, Austrians, & Bulgarians.
- Dec **Gallipoli** campaign ends unsuccessfully; allies withdrawn.

1916

- Jan Montenegro & Albania (the latter was neutral) fall to Austrians.
- Feb Beginning of battle of **Verdun**: Germany's unsuccessful attempt to "bleed" France.
- May Inconclusive naval battle of **Jutland** between Germany & Britain
- June Britain launches **Somme** offensive against Germans ("the Great Fuck-Up")
- July/Aug Russians launch **Brusilov offensive** against Austria, recapture parts of **Galicja**
- Oct-Dec Germans launch attack against Rumania, capture Bucharest in December

1917

- June/July Russians launch unsuccessful **Kerensky offensive** against Austria.⁴
- July-Aug Third battle of **Ypres**: largely unsuccessful British effort to break through.⁵
- Oct-Nov Italians defeated at **Caporetto**, driven back from frontier by Germans & Austrians
- Dec Bolsheviks sign armistice with Central Powers.

1918

- March Germans launch "Ludendorff offensive," ultimately unsuccessful.

¹ This German success establishes the hero status of Paul von Hindenburg and Erich Ludendorff.

² By stopping the German advance, this indecisive battle ensures that the war will not be short.

³ The Austro-Hungarian army loses almost 1/3 of its combat strength in these engagements. These losses also make Austria-Hungary almost completely dependent on Germany.

⁴ By this time the first (February) Russian revolution had occurred, and so this campaign was undertaken by the Provisional Government.

⁵ This battle is sometimes called **Paaschendale** and is generally associated with *mud*.

A Chronology on Entry and Exit from War

| | |
|----------------|--|
| July, 1914 | Austrian declaration of war on Serbia |
| August, 1914 | Entrance into war of Germany (on Austrian side) and Russia, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, Luxembourg, and Japan (with Entente) |
| November, 1914 | Ottoman Empire enters war with Central Powers |
| May, 1915 | Italy enters war on side of Entente |
| October, 1915 | Bulgaria enters war with Central Powers |
| March 1916 | Portugal enters war as associated power ¹ |
| August, 1916 | Rumania enters war as associated power ² |
| November, 1916 | Greece enters war as associated power ³ |
| April, 1917 | United States enters war as associated power |
| March, 1918 | Bolsheviks sign treaty of Brest-Litovsk, lose western portion of empire |
| May, 1918 | Rumania signs separate treaty of surrender with Central Powers |
| November, 1918 | Armistice |

The two Blocs (with month & date of entry for each):

Central Powers Austria-Hungary (07.14), Germany (08.14), Ottoman Empire (11.14), Bulgaria (10.15)

Allied & Associated Serbia (07.14), Russia (08.14), Luxembourg (08.14), France (08.14), Belgium (08.14), Great Britain (08.14), Montenegro (08.14), Japan (08.14), Italy (05.15), San Marino (06.15), Portugal (03.16), Rumania (08.16), Greece (11.16), US (04.17), Cuba (04.17), Guatemala (04.17), Siam (06.17), Liberia (08.17), China (08.17), Brazil (10.17), Panama (11.17), Nicaragua (05.18), Costa Rica (05.18), Haiti (07.18), Honduras (07.18)

Various terms, concepts, people, institutions, and other such stuff

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| Burgfrieden (Truce of the Fortress) | Union Sacrée (Sacred Union) |
| "Business as usual" | "Miracle on the Marne" |
| Tannenberg & Masurian Lakes | Austrian Galicia |
| Erich von Falkenhayn | Liège (Belgium) |
| <i>Franc-tireur</i> | <i>Schrecklichkeit</i> (lit. "frightfulness") |
| Pact of London (Sept. 1914) | Sykes-Picot agreement (1916) |
| September Program (Bethmann-Hollweg) | <i>Mittleuropa</i> |
| <i>Mittelafrika</i> | Defense of the Realm Act (DORA) |

¹ Portugal committed itself to military actions against Germany in November, 1914 and seized German ships in its harbors in February, 1916.

² Rumania signed a separate treaty of surrender with Central Powers (Treaty of Bucharest) in May, 1918, but re-entered the war in November, 1918 (with eight days left!).

³ A provisional government in Greece entered the war in November, 1916, but the royal government's declaration came only in June, 1917.