

Chronology of the First World War—1914-1918

JUNE, 1914

28th—Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife assassinated at Sarajevo by the Serbian student, Princip.

JULY

23rd—Ultimatum from Austria to Serbia, demanding punishment of assassins.

28th—Austria declared war on Serbia. Germany mobilizes.

31st—Russia mobilizes: World's stock markets close.

AUGUST

1st—Germany declares war on Russia, occupies Luxemburg. France mobilizes.

2nd—Germany demands of Belgium free passage of troops through her territory.

3rd—Germany declares war on France and invades Belgium.

4th—Great Britain declares war on Germany.

6th—Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.

7th—First British troops in France.

10th—France declares war on Austria-Hungary.

12th—Great Britain declares war on Austria-Hungary.

23rd—Japan declares a state of war with Germany.

26th—Germans destroy Louvain. Russians defeated at Tannenberg.

28th—British sink five German naval ships in North Sea.

30th—Allies retreat to Seine; Germans take Amiens.

SEPTEMBER

3rd—French Government removed to Bordeaux. Russians occupy Lemberg.

4th—Germans cross the Marne.

5th—England, France, Russia make no-separate-peace agreement.

6-10th—First Battle of the Marne; Germans retreat to the Aisne.

27th—German southwest Africa conquered by General Botha.

OCTOBER

9th—Germans occupy Antwerp.

17th—First battle of Ypres, German drive to channel ports repulsed.

28th—German armies driven back from Warsaw.

NOVEMBER

1st—German squadron wins naval battle with British off Chili.

5th—Great Britain declares war on Turkey and occupies island of Cyprus.

7th—Japan captures Tsingtau.

DECEMBER

8th—British sink four German cruisers off Falkland islands.

9th—French Government returns to Paris.

16th—German warships raid British coast towns, killing 99 persons.

17th—Egypt proclaimed a British protectorate.

24th—First German air raid on England.

JANUARY, 1915

*8th—British, reply to U. S., claim right to detain neutral ships.

24th—German armored cruiser sunk in North sea by British.

FEBRUARY

2nd—Britain places all food shipments on contraband.

4th—Germany proclaim "war zone" around British Isles after Feb. 18th.

*10th—U. S. protests against "war zone" decree.

18th—German decree goes into effect, submarines begin activity.

MARCH

1st—Great Britain declares blockade of German coast.

17th—Russians capture Przemyśl.

APRIL

*5th—U. S. demands reparation of Germany for sinking of S. S. William P. Frye.

26th—Allied troops land on Gallipoli peninsula.

MAY

- *1st—Gullflight, American steamship sunk by submarine, 2 Americans lost.
- 2nd—Russians retire from the Carpathians, loss 30,000 men.
- *7th—British liner, Lusitania, sunk by submarine, 1,154 (114 Americans) lives lost.
- *13th—U. S. protest sinking of Lusitania.
- 23rd—Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary.
- *28th—Germany replies to U. S. that Lusitania was armed.

JUNE

- 3rd—Przemysl retaken by Germans and Austrians.
- *8th—U. S. Secretary of War Bryan resigns, Lansing appointed.
- 22nd—Austro-Germans recapture Lemberg.
- *29th—S. S. Armenian sunk by Germans; 11 Americans lost.

AUGUST

- 4th—Germans capture Warsaw.
- *19th—White Star liner, Arabic, submarined, 2 Americans lost.

SEPTEMBER

- 1st—Germany agrees to sink no more liners without warning.
- *8th—U. S. demands recall of Austro-Hungarian ambassador, Dr. Dumba.

OCTOBER

- 6th—Austro-German-Bulgarian conquest of Servia begins.
- 14th—Great Britain declares war on Bulgaria.

DECEMBER

- 1st—Turks drive British from Bagdad.
- *4th—Ford "peace ship" sails.
- *10th—Captain Boyed and Captain Von Papen, German military attaches, recalled at the request of the U. S.
- 15th—Sir Douglas Haig takes command of British troops in France.
- *30th—British passenger ship, Persia, sunk without warning, 200 loss, including an American consul.

JANUARY, 1916

- 6th—Great Britain adopts conscription.
- 8th—Allies evacuate Gallipoli.

FEBRUARY

- *10th—Germany warns neutral nations that

armed merchantmen would be sunk without warning.

- 21st—Beginning of unsuccessful attempt of Germans to take Verdun.

MARCH

- 8th—Germany declares war on Portugal.
- *24th—French steamer, Sussex, torpedoed without warning, Americans killed.

APRIL

- *18th—U. S. protests Sussex sinking, Continuation of submarine warfare to result in severing of diplomatic relations.
- 24th—Irish revolt in Dublin, twelve killed.
- 29th—British garrison at Kut-el-Amara surrenders to Turks.

MAY

- *4th—Germany acknowledges sinking of Sussex, meets demands of the U. S.
- 16th—Austrians begin attack of Italians in Trentino.
- 31st—Naval battle off Jutland; British lost 14 ships, Germans 12.

JUNE

- 5th—Lord Kitchener drowns on cruiser.
- 21st—Allied conference agrees on a boycott of Germany after the war.

JULY

- 1st—Battle of the Somme begins, Allies fail to break German lines.

AUGUST

- 3rd—Sir Roger Casement hung for treason.
- 8th—Italians capture Goriza.
- 27th—Italy declares war on Germany. Roumania enters war with the Allies.

SEPTEMBER

- 14th—British make first use of "tanks".

OCTOBER

- 8th—German submarines sink ships off American coast.

NOVEMBER

- 21st—Emperor Franz-Joseph of Austria-Hungary dies.
- *29th—U. S. Protests against Belgium deportations.

DECEMBER

- 6th—Lloyd George heads new British ministry.
- 12th—Germany's peace proposals rejected by Allies.
- *20th—President Wilson issues peace proposals to belligerents.

JANUARY, 1917

*31st—Germany announces unrestricted submarine warfare in specified zones.

FEBRUARY

*3rd—U. S. severs diplomatic relations with Germany, Ambassador Bernstoff handed passports.

24th—Kut-el-Amara taken by British.

*26th—President Wilson asks authority to arm merchant ships.

*28—U. S. reveals German plot of an invasion of U. S. by Mexico and Japan.

MARCH

*7th—U. S. begins to arm merchant ships.

11th—British capture Bagdad.

11-15th—Russian revolution, Czar deposed.

19th—Germans retire to Hindenberg line.

APRIL

*2nd—President asks for a declaration of war on Germany.

*6th—U. S. declares war on Germany.

8th—Austria-Hungary severs diplomatic relations with the U. S.; Brazil severs relations with Germany.

*20th—Turkey severs relations with the U. S.

*24th—President Wilson signs \$7,000,000,000 war bond issue.

MAY

*4th—U. S. destroyers arrive in British waters.

17th—A. F. Kerensky became minister of war in Russia.

*18th—President Wilson signs selective service, (draft), bill.

JUNE

*5th—10,000,000 Americans register for service.

7th—British blow up Messines Ridge, capturing 7,500 prisoners.

12th—Greeks depose King Constantine.

*15th—First Liberty Loan of Two Billion Dollars, oversubscribed by \$1,035,000,000.

*26th—First American troops reach France.

29th—Greece enters war against Germany and Austro-Hungary.

JULY

1st—Russia begins unsuccessful offensive in Galicia.

*20th—Drafting of selective service army

takes place in Washington.

Kerensky becomes premier of Russia.

AUGUST

*10th—Congress passes fuel and food control bill.

15th—Pope Benedict's peace proposals submitted to belligerents.

SEPTEMBER

*8th—Luxburg dispatches "spurlos versenkt" revealed by the U. S.

OCTOBER

*23rd—First American troops enter trenches in France.

24th—German Austrian drive begins in Italy, Italians forced to the Piave river.

*25th—Americans capture first German prisoner.

*27th—Second Liberty Loan for \$3,000,000,000 oversubscribed.

30th—Count von Hertling made Chancellor of Germany.

NOVEMBER

*2nd—Privates Enright, Gresham and Hay—first Americans killed.

7th—Kerensky Government overthrown by Bolsheviki.

13th—Clemenceau becomes French premier.

22nd—Battle of Cambrai.

*29th—First meeting of Interallied conference held in Paris.

DECEMBER

6th—Munition ship explodes in collision in Halifax, 1,600 killed, city burned.

*7th—U. S. declares war on Austria-Hungary.

9th—British army captures Jerusalem.

*18th—18th (prohibition) Constitutional Amendment submitted to the States.

23rd—Russia opens peace negotiations with Central Powers at Brest-Litovsk.

*26th—U. S. takes over the railroads.

*31st—204,965 American troops in France.

JANUARY, 1918

*8th—President Wilson announces his 14 points (rectification of wrong and assertion of right)

8th—Peace signed Russia and Germany and Finland and Germany.

*16th—"Heatless Monday" announced by U. S. fuel administrator.

24th—Chancellor von Hertling replies to

peace terms of Lloyd George and President Wilson.

FEBRUARY

- *1st—General March made Chief of Staff.
- *2nd—American troops take over Toul sector.
- *5th—British liner, *Tuscania*, 2,200 American soldiers on board, torpedoed off Scotland, 170 Americans die.
- 9th—Ukraine surrenders to Central Powers.
- 14th—Bolo Pasha sentenced to death for treason.
- *22nd—American troops in Chemin des Dames sector.
- 26th—Roumania makes peace with Central Powers.
- *27th—Japan proposes to intervene in Siberia, U. S. withholds approval.

MARCH

- *10th—American troops at four points on the western front, Lorraine, Champagne, Alsace and Chemin-des-Dames.
- *11th—American soldiers at Toul go "over the top" for first time.
- *20th—U. S. takes German vessels.
- 21st—German drive on Amiens begins.
- 23rd—Paris bombarded by "Big Bertha," a long range gun.
- *27th—Pershing offers all American troops in France to stop German advance.
- 29th—German advance halted after gain of 1,000 square miles, 9 days fighting Marshal Foch made generalissimo of Allied forces.

APRIL

- 4th—Germans start drive for Channel ports.
- *4th—American troops occupy sector around Verdun.
- *5th—U. S. Army totals 1,500,000 men and 127,700 officers.
- 11th—France asserts claim to Alsace Lorraine; and re-establishment of Belgium and Serbia.
- 16th—Messines Ridge taken by Germans.

APRIL, 1918

- *16th—Americans repulse German attack near St. Mihiel.
- *17th—First U. S. Division in line at Montdidier.

*17th—Charles M. Schwab made director of Fleet Corporation.

- *20th—26th Division victors in conflict at Seicheprey.
- 21st—Guatemala declares war on Central Powers.
- 23rd—British bottle up harbors of Ostend and Zeebrugge by sinking concrete laden ships.
- 24th—Germans break through defences at Amiens and Ypres fronts.

MAY

- 3rd—Germans complete conquest of Finland.
- *4th—Third Liberty Loan oversubscribed.
- 5th—Austrians start drive on Italy.
- 7th—Nicaragua declares war on Central Powers.
- 13th—Austro-German alliance agreed upon.
- 14th—Italian submarine sinks Austrian battleship in Pola harbor.
- 27th—Germans start drive on 40 mile front, through Marne salient; take Chemin-des-Dames.
- *28th—Americans take Cantigny—first American offensive.
- 29th—Germans take Soissons; drive halted near Rheims.
- 31st—Germans reach Marne near Chateau Thierry.

JUNE

- 1st—Allies declare for an independent Poland, and approve the national aspirations of the Czechs and Yugoslavs.
- *2nd—7th Machine Gun Battalion hold Chateau-Thierry bridge, and Marines stop Germans near Chateau-Thierry.
- *3rd—Submarines sink vessels off American coast.
- *7th—French and American Marines drive Germans out of Chateau-Thierry.
- *11th—United States Marines take Belleau Woods.
- 17th—British, French and Italians stop Austrian drive.
- 21st—Dr. von Seydler resigns as Austrian premier.
- 27th—Canadian hospital ship, *Landoverly Castle*, torpedoed, 234 killed.
- *30th—American, British and French marines occupy Kola on Arctic coast.

JULY

- *1st—American troops capture Vaux.
- 1st—Grand Duke Michael starts counter-revolution in Siberia.
- *3rd—More than a million U. S. troops in France, Secretary Baker announces.
- *4th—Americans take Hamel.
- *4th—91 wooden and steel ships launched in American shipyards.
- 6th—Austrians retreat before French and Italians in Albania.
German Ambassador, von Mirback, assassinated in Moscow.
- 11th—Serbian republic formed.
von Kuehlmann succeeds Admiral von Hintze as foreign minister of Germany.
- *12th—Eleven American Division in battle line.
- 15th—Germans begin final drive on Paris.
- 18th—Marshal Foch launches counter-offensive.
- 19th—Germans began withdrawing across Marne.
Japan decides to send an army into Siberia.

AUGUST

- *5th—U. S. troops land at Archangel, Russia.
- *6th—U. S. troops capture Fismes on the Vesle river.
- *15th—U. S. troops land at Vladavostok.
- *31st—1,553,000 U. S. troops in France.

SEPTEMBER

- 6th—Allied advance on a 90 mile front in Picardy.
- *12th—Beginning of St. Mihiel offensive.
- *14th—Salient wiped out, 16,000 prisoners and 443 guns taken.
- *26th—Beginning of Meuse-Argonne offensive.
- 27th—British capture 45,000 Turks in Palestine.

*28th—Americans capture 10,000 prisoners in Argonne Forest.

*29th—30th and 27th Divisions smash Hindenburg line.

30th—Bulgaria surrenders to Allies.

OCTOBER

1st—French capture St. Quentin.

*1st—1,976,000 American troops in France.

*2nd—2nd and 36th Divisions on Rheims front.

OCTOBER, 1918

3rd—Turkey sues for peace.

*4th—Second phase of Meuse-Argonne battle begins.

*6th—Germans ask U. S. for Armistice.

*10th—Argonne forest cleared of Germans.

11th—Allies take Lille, Bruges, Ostend and Zeebrugge.

19th—Austrian peace plan rejected.

*19th—Fourth Liberty Loan largely oversubscribed.

30th—Italians rout Austrians.

NOVEMBER

*1st—Third and final phase of the Meuse-Argonne battle begins.

3rd—Austria surrenders to the Allies.

*6th—American troops enter Sedan.

8th—Marshal Foch received German armistice delegates.

9th—Kaiser and Crown Prince renounce throne of German, flee to Holland.

*11th—Armistice Declared 11:00 A. M.

The last soldiers killed during the World War were three French soldiers, Corporals Rene Beaufls and Jean Durocq and Machine Gunner Pierre Seyler, killed one minute before the bugle sounded "Cease Firing", at Dom-le-Mesnil, on the Meuse.

*June 28, 1919, Peace Treaty signed at Versailles.

*Indicates dates of particular interest to the United States.