

## THE EASTERN FRONT

### **-1914:**

- August 17<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Stalluponen – Russian East Prussia Offensives – aggressive local German leadership attacks and defeats a much larger Russian advance into East Prussia.
- August 20<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Gumbinnen – Russian East Prussia Offensives – encouraged by Stalluponen, the outnumbered Germans attack the Russians, but poor coordination leads to a defeat. The resulting German retreat leads to Hindenberg and Ludendorf taking command in the East.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Battle of Tannenberg – Russian East Prussia Offensives – German forces counterattack and inflict a severe defeat upon the Russians, almost completely destroying a large Russian army. So complete was the victory that the Russian general Samsonov committed suicide.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Battle of Krasnik – a phase of the Battle of Galicia – Austrian offensive into Russia achieves some success.
- August 26<sup>th</sup> – Battles of Komorov and Gnila Lipa – a phase of the Battle of Galicia – Austrian success in the north is undone by a disastrous rout in the south.
- September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Battle of Rawa – a phase of the Battle of Galicia – Austrian forces re-align themselves in order to stop the Russian drive into Galicia, only to be defeated.
- September 9<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Masurian Lakes – Russian East Prussia Offensives – German forces under Hindenberg/Ludendorf defeat the other Russian army invading East Prussia decisively, although not as completely as they had done at Tannenberg.
- September 24<sup>th</sup> – Siege of Przemysl begins – after the Battle of Galicia, Russian forces besiege isolated Austrian troops trapped behind Russian lines.
- September 29<sup>th</sup> – Battle of the Vistula River – German offensive towards Warsaw gains initial success, but is defeated and driven back to its starting position.
- October 11<sup>th</sup> – due to fears of an Austrian offensive, the siege of Przemysl is suspended.
- November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bergmann Offensive – Caucasus Front – Russian offensive against the Ottomans fails.
- November 9<sup>th</sup> – Siege of Przemysl is resumed.
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Lodz – A Russian offensive is in turn attacked by the Germans, resulting in heavy Russian casualties and an outcome.
- December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Battle of Sarikamis – Caucasus Front – disastrous Turk offensive against the Russians loses nearly as many soldiers to the cold winter conditions than to actually fighting the Russians.

### **-1915:**

- January 14<sup>th</sup> – Ottoman forces take Tabriz in Persia.
- January 30<sup>th</sup> – Russians retake Tabriz.
- January 31<sup>st</sup> – Battle of Bolimov – Germans limited offensive uses large amounts of gas, which fails due to the cold. A Russian counterattack fails with heavy casualties.
- February 7<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Masurian Lakes – German offensive fails, despite inflicting very heavy casualties on the Russians.
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Przemysl surrenders.
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – Defense of Van – Caucasus Front – Armenians resist the Turks, who had started massacring Armenians.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> – Germans begin a minor offensive, beginning the Gorlice-Tarnow Offensive. The attack is a complete success, annihilating a Russian army and breaking their lines.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Russians come to the aid of the Armenians in Van.
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Przemysl is recaptured by the Central Powers.
- July 13<sup>th</sup> – the Central Powers resume the Gorlice-Tarnow Offensive and the Russian army breaks, beginning a long retreat.

- July 16<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Manzikert – Caucasus Front – a Turk force defeats a Russian force, only to be later defeated at the Battle of Kara Killisse.
- August 25<sup>th</sup> – German forces capture Brest-Litovsk.
- September 8<sup>th</sup> – Tsar Nicholas II takes personal command of the Russian Armies.
- September 19<sup>th</sup> – German forces capture Vilnius.

### **-1916:**

- January 10<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Azkani Village – a phase of the Erzerum Offensive – Russian forces take the village, opening the way to Erzerum.
- January 17<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Koprukoy – a phase of the Erzerum Offensive – Russian forces press towards Erzerum.
- January 18<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Hassankale – a phase of the Erzerum Offensive
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Battle of Kargabazar Dag – a phase of the Erzerum Offensive
- February 5<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Trebizond – Caucasus Front – well planned and coordinated Russian land/sea offensive succeeds in taking Trebizond.
- February 7<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Hinis – a phase of the Erzerum Offensive – Russian forces take Hinis in order to prevent the Turks from reinforcing Erzerum.
- February 11<sup>th</sup> – Deve-Boyun Ridge is taken, giving the Russians important artillery positions near Erzerum.
- February 14<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Fort Tafek – a phase of the Erzerum Offensive – Russians take an important Turk stronghold near Erzerum. The remaining Turk fortresses are abandoned the next day.
- February 16<sup>th</sup> – Russian forces take Erzerum.
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Battle of Bitlis – Caucasus Front – a back and forth battle between the Russians and Turks ultimately results in a Russian victory.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Lake Naroch – Russian offensive intended to relieve German pressure on France at Verdun is a complete failure, with very heavy Russian casualties.
- March 21<sup>st</sup> – a secondary Russian attack on Riga fails.
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Lutsk – beginning of the Brusilov Offensive, achieving great success against the Austrians.
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Battle of Erzinjan – Caucasus Front – Turkish offensive aimed at retaking Trebizond fails and is counterattacked by the Russians, resulting in many Turkish prisoners.
- September 20<sup>th</sup> – Brusilov Offensive ends as a huge success, with Russian forces reaching the Carpathians and transferring troops to Romania. The Austrian Army is devastated, unable to undertake offensive actions for almost the remainder of the war.

### **-1917:**

- February 11<sup>th</sup> – riots in Petrograd
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> – a strike in Petrograd leads to a demonstration, in which the soldiers are unwilling to suppress and in some cases even join the protesters.
- February 26<sup>th</sup> – Nicholas II orders the Russian Duma to disband. Many members refuse.
- February 28<sup>th</sup> – Russian High Command suggests that Nicholas II abdicate.
- March 1<sup>st</sup> – the Russian Provisional Government issues Order No. 1, which is intended to create a more democratic government but leads to further deterioration of the Russian Army.
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tsar Nicholas II abdicates the Russian throne.
- April 16<sup>th</sup> – Vladimir Lenin arrives in Petrograd.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – Kerensky Offensive begins.
- July 16<sup>th</sup> – Kerensky Offensive collapses when the Russian troops refuse to fight any longer.
- July 18<sup>th</sup> – German troops counterattack the Russians, meeting little resistance.

- July 20<sup>th</sup> – Russian Lines collapse.
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Several Bolshevik leaders, including Trotsky, are arrested.
- September 1<sup>st</sup> – German troops capture Riga when the Russian troops refuse to fight and flee.
- September 9<sup>th</sup> – Kerensky dismisses Kornilov, who responds with a march on Petrograd. Kerensky then arms the Bolshevik Red Guards and releases their leadership while Kornilov's force fragments and his march fails.
- November 7<sup>th</sup> – the October Revolution – Bolshevik forces seize control of Russian Government buildings, most notable being the Winter Palace.
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – Red Guards crush a Junker Student revolt in support of Kerensky.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> – the Don Cossacks declare their independence from the Bolsheviks, a major point in the beginning of the Russian Civil War.
- December 20<sup>th</sup> – the Bolshevik secret police force, the Cheka, is created.
- December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Peace negotiations begin between Bolsheviks and the Central Powers.

### **-1918:**

- February 10<sup>th</sup> – Frustrated by German demands for concessions, the Bolsheviks under Trotsky withdraw from negotiations.
- February 18<sup>th</sup> – the Central Powers repudiate the armistice and resume offensive operations.
- February 23<sup>rd</sup> – the Red Army takes Rostov as Kornilov begins the Ice March.
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Treaty of Brest-Litovsk is formally signed between the Central Powers and the Bolsheviks, with the Russians forced to concede even more than what was originally demanded.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – White Russian forces attack superior Red Army forces but fail. However, the “Red Terror” infuriates the Cossacks and leads to a massive uprising, swelling the ranks of the anti-Bolshevik forces.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – Battles of Sardarapat and Bash Abaran – Caucasus Front – Armenian forces defeat Turks in desperate battles for survival.
- May 24<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Karakilisa – Caucasus Front – Armenians force the Turks to retreat.
- August 26<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Baku – Caucasus Front – Final battle of the Caucasus Front.
- August 27<sup>th</sup> – A follow-up treaty forces the Russians to pay huge reparations to Germany.
- November 5<sup>th</sup> – Germany renounces the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in retaliation to Soviet revolutionary propaganda.
- November 13<sup>th</sup> – the Soviets annul the treaty following the armistice on the Western Front.
- December 18<sup>th</sup> – French forces occupy Odessa in support of the White Russians. They remain there until November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1920.