

## THE WIDER WORLD

### **-1914:**

- August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Secret entry of the Ottoman Empire into the Central Powers.
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – Austrian forces invade Serbia, opening the Serbian Front.
- August 15<sup>th</sup> – German East African troops raided some villages in the Belgian Congo.
- August 16<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Cer – Serbian Front – Austrian offensive into Serbia is defeated, resulting in the first Allied victory of the war.
- August 27<sup>th</sup> – Fall of the German colony of Togoland to the British.
- August 28<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Heligoland Bight – First Naval Encounter of World War I, during which a far more powerful Royal Navy force destroys a small German patrolling squadron and leaves barely scathed.
- September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Siege of Tsingtao – Japanese forces attack the German naval base in the Far East
- September 5<sup>th</sup> – Royal Navy light cruiser Pathfinder becomes first surface ship to be sunk by a submarine.
- September 8<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Drina – Serbian Front – Austrian forces invade Serbia again, achieving minor successes but hurting the small Serbian army.
- September 11<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Bita Paka – a small German radio post in the Far East is taken by Australians
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Submarine U-9 sinks three antiquated Royal Navy surface warships.
- September 26<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Sandfontein – German forces in German South West Africa ambush a larger but exhausted British force.
- September 27<sup>th</sup> – the capital of the German colony of Kamerun, Douala, is captured by the Allies
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – the British government in the Union of South Africa declares martial law in response to a potential rebellion from Boers sympathetic to the Germans.
- October 15<sup>th</sup> – Submarine U-9 sinks yet another Royal Navy ship, making the crew heroes.
- October 17<sup>th</sup> – Royal Navy Battleship Audacious is sunk when it strikes a mine.
- October 20<sup>th</sup> – First unarmed ship sunk by a submarine, although the crew was forewarned and allowed to safely leave.
- October 26<sup>th</sup> – First unarmed ship torpedoed without warning by German submarines.
- October 29<sup>th</sup> – Turkish-German ships shell Odessa, marking the first hostile action undertaken by the Ottoman Empire.
- November 1<sup>st</sup> – Battle of Coronel – Modern German raiding squadron decisively defeats a patchwork British Squadron in the Pacific.
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Tanga – German East African forces under Lettow-Vorbeck defeat a vastly larger British force of Indian reserve soldiers.
- November 6<sup>th</sup> – Mesopotamian Front is established when British Colonial forces land in southern Mesopotamia.
- November 7<sup>th</sup> – Tsingtao surrenders to the Japanese.
- November 16<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Kolubara – Serbian Front – Serbian forces decisively repulse the Austrians, although the losses prevent Serbia from being able to make any offensives of its own.
- November 21<sup>th</sup> – Capture of Basra – Mesopotamian Front – British colonial forces take the city of Basra
- December 4<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Qurna – Mesopotamian Front – British colonial forces take the town of Qurna
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – Battle of the Falkland Islands – A powerful Royal Navy Squadron assembled after Coronel hunts down and destroys the German victors of that previous battle.

### **-1915:**

- January 24<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Dogger Bank – After the German Raid on Scarborough and Hartlepool, an attempted repeat was intercepted with losses. However, the bulk of the German squadron was able to escape.
- January 28<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Suez – Palestine Front – a Turkish Offensive against British Egypt fails.

- February 4<sup>th</sup> – Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany declares the seas around the British Isles a war zone, and subject to submarine attacks without warning. This became effective February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- February 19<sup>th</sup> – Allied Forces bombard the Turkish held Dardanelles, achieving little but alerting the Turks of their vulnerability.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – British naval forces attempt to force their way through the Dardanelles, only to retreat when faced with the threat of mines.
- April 11<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Shaiba – Mesopotamian Front – British colonial forces repulse a Turkish offensive.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – Allied forces land at the tip of the Dardanelles, opening the Dardanelles Front.
- April 28<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Krithia – Dardanelles Front – Allied advance stalls due to a variety of reasons.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> – Battle of Eski Hissarlik – Dardanelles Front – Turkish offensive to drive the Allies from the Dardanelles fails.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Krithia – Dardanelles Front – second Allied advance makes small gains at great cost but fails to meet objectives.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> – sinking of the Lusitania causes outrage in the United States.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – the capital of the German South West African colony, Windhoek, is occupied.
- May 19<sup>th</sup> – Turkish forces attack the Allied beachheads, but are repulsed with heavy casualties.
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Italy declares war on the Central Powers, opening up the Italian Front.
- May 25<sup>th</sup> – U-21 sinks one Royal Navy Battleship and 2 days later sinks another, forcing the British to withdraw their bombardment squadron from Gallipoli.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> – Battle of Amara – Mesopotamian Front – British forces take the city of Amara despite considerable opposition.
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Krithia – Dardanelles Front – Allied Forces attempt once again to break beyond their beachhead, making small gains but ultimately failing.
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – Italian offensive fails against Austrian forces possessing the highground. Nearly 12 battles will be fought in this same area.
- June 27<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Nasiriyeh – Mesopotamian Front – British forces take the major Turkish supply base at Nasiriyeh.
- June 28<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Gully Ravine – Dardanelles Front – an Allied limited offensive achieves its goals at high cost.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – German colonial forces in German South West Africa are defeated. They surrender 8 days later.
- July 18<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – an unsuccessful Italian offensive.
- July 24<sup>th</sup> – British secretly armed ship Prince Charles deceives and then destroys a U-Boat.
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – Battles of Sari Bair, Krithia Vineyard, Lone Pine, and the Nek – Dardanelles Front – Allied forces make another landing at Sulva Bay in an attempt to break the stalemate of the Dardanelles Front. However, poor leadership leads to the Allies failing to capture any objectives until the Turks were prepared.
- August 19<sup>th</sup> – A German U-Boat is sunk by a British Q-Ship, disguised with an American flag. The crew of the U-boat is killed by the British sailors, but the story leaks leading to outrage in Germany.
- August 21<sup>st</sup> – Battles of Scimitar Hill and Hill 60 – Dardanelles Front – final Allied attempt to break the stalemate of the Dardanelles Front fails.
- September 18<sup>th</sup> – Unrestricted submarine warfare is called off by the Germans.
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Bulgaria mobilizes after joining the Central Powers.
- September 28<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Kut-al-Amara – Mesopotamian Front – British forces attack regrouping Turkish forces, defeating them once again.
- October 7<sup>th</sup> – Austrian forces invade Serbia once again.
- October 11<sup>th</sup> – Bulgarian forces invade Serbia in a coordinated offensive with Austria.
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – Battles of Morava and Ovche Pole – Serbian Front – Bulgarian offensives overruns Serbian positions, nearly breaking the Serbian army.

- October 18<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – a failed Italian Offensive.
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – a longer duration Italian offensive that makes minor gains, but still ultimately fails. However, casualties cause Austria to request German assistance.
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Kosovo – Serbian Front – desperate Serbian forces attempt to make a stand, but are defeated by Bulgarian forces thus ending the Serbian Front.
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Ctesiphon – Mesopotamian Front – British forces engage the Turkish forces, both sides taking heavy casualties. However, the Turks realize their advantage and pursue the retreating British.
- December 7<sup>th</sup> – Siege of Kut-al-Amara begins on the Mesopotamian Front as British forces retreated there after the Battle of Ctesiphon are surrounded by the Turks awaiting supplies from further south.

## **-1916:**

- January 6<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad – Mesopotamian Front – a relief expedition to bring supplies to Kut-al-Amara is badly defeated by the Turks.
- January 7<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Mojkovac – Austrian forces invade Serbia's ally Montenegro after Serbia's collapse, only to be surprisingly defeated.
- January 9<sup>th</sup> – Final Allied forces are evacuated from the Dardanelles Front.
- January 13<sup>th</sup> – Battle of the Wadi – Mesopotamian Front – a second relief expedition also fails to supply Kut-al-Amara.
- January 21<sup>st</sup> – Battle of Hanna – Mesopotamian Front – a third relief expedition to Kut-al-Amara also fails.
- January 25<sup>th</sup> – Facing hopeless odds, the small Montenegro army surrenders.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Large Belgian colonial forces from the Belgian Congo capture Kigali
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Dujaila – Mesopotamian Front – a large attempt by British forces to break the siege of Kut-al-Amara fails to break the Turk lines.
- March 9<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – another Italian offensive, designed to relieve pressure off French forces at Verdun, fails due to lack of artillery.
- April 5<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Kut – Mesopotamian Front – Final British attempt to relieve Kut-al-Amara makes some headway against the Turks but fails to break through.
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – the defenders of Kut-al-Amara surrender to the Turks.
- May 15<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Asiago – Italian Front – major Austrian offensive nearly succeeds in destroying the Italian army, but fails when the Austrians are forced to move troops East against Russia.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> – Battle of Jutland – Largest naval battle of the war, as the German High Seas Fleet faced off against the Grand Fleet of the Royal Navy. Ultimately, the Germans broke off and retreated, leaving the British with a dubious victory despite heavier losses.
- June 6<sup>th</sup> – Belgian colonial forces take Usumbura
- June 8<sup>th</sup> – Grand Sharif Hussein, leader of the Arab nationalists, aligns with the Allies against the increasingly antagonistic Ottoman Empire.
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Battle of Romani – Palestine Front – a second Turkish offensive against the British-held Suez Canal fails.
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – Italian forces make significant gains against reduced Austrian forces.
- August 17<sup>th</sup> – German and Bulgarian forces attack Allied troops assembling in Salonika and are repulsed, opening the Salonikan Front.
- September 12<sup>th</sup> – Serbian troops counterattack along the Salonikan Front and drive the Bulgarians back several miles.

- September 14<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – Italian forces attempt to strengthen their recently acquired position, only to fail with heavy losses.
- October 10<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – Italian forces make another attempt to strengthen their position, but fail.
- November 1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – Italian forces make one final offensive before winter, but gain little.
- November 19<sup>th</sup> – Capture of Kaymakchalan – Salonikan Front – Allied troops take the high ground, forcing the Germans and Bulgarians to withdraw.
- December 13<sup>th</sup> – on the Mesopotamian Front, British forces had regrouped under Frederick Maude and began an offensive to drive the Turks from Mesopotamia.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> – Allies compel Greece to demobilize its army and expel representatives from the Central Powers.
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Battle of Magdhaba – Palestine Front – British forces drive Turks back from positions threatening to the Suez Canal.

### **-1917:**

- January 9<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Khadairi Bend – Mesopotamian Front – British pierce Turkish lines near Kut-al-Amara.
- February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Kut – Mesopotamian Front – British forces retake Kut-al-Amara.
- February 26<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Nah-al-Kalek – Mesopotamian Front – British forces destroy the Turkish naval power operating in Mesopotamia.
- March 1<sup>st</sup> – contents of the Zimmermann Telegram released to the American Press.
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – British advance resumes towards Baghdad in Mesopotamia.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – British forces capture Baghdad.
- March 26<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Gaza – Palestine Front – British forces attempt to out-flank the Turks, but fail.
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – the United States officially declares war on Germany.
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Gaza – Palestine Front – Another attempt by British forces to break the now reinforced Turk line fails.
- April 24<sup>th</sup> – Allied offensive along the Salonikan Front makes small gains at terrible costs.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – large Italian offensive gains some ground but loses it due to Austrian counterattacks.
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Otranto Straits – small battle between the Austro-Hungarian Navy and the Allies
- August 17<sup>th</sup> – Romania joins the Allied Powers.
- August 18<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo – Italian Front – large Italian offensive makes some gains but falters against powerful Austrian fortresses. Both Austrian and Italian armies are exhausted.
- September 1<sup>st</sup> – Romania is invaded by the Central Powers
- September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Battle of Turtucaia – Romanian fortress is attacked and falls to Bulgarians.
- September 15<sup>th</sup> – Romania suspends its offensives into Transylvania and assist the Russians.
- September 18<sup>th</sup> – Falkenhayn, in command of the Central Powers' efforts against Romania, counter-attacks the Romanians and prevents them from linking with the Russians.
- October 24<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Caporetto (or 12<sup>th</sup> Isonzo) – Italian Front – German-reinforced Austrian armies attack and nearly destroy the Italian Army, driving them back nearly to Venice. British and French troops are rushed in to prevent Italy's collapse.
- October 25<sup>th</sup> – Romania is forced back to its original borders.
- October 31<sup>st</sup> – Battles of Beersheba and 3<sup>rd</sup> Gaza – Palestine Front – British forces succeed in taking the Turkish fort of Beersheba, followed by a general break in the Turkish lines.
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – Romanian defenders are attacked and driven back from their defenses.

- November 13<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Mughar Ridge – Palestine Front – British forces pursue the Turks, destroying them before they could regroup effectively.
- November 17<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Heligoland Bight – small skirmish between the German and British Navies
- November 18<sup>th</sup> – Maude dies in Mesopotamia, leaving his successor Marshall to finish the capture of Mesopotamia.
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Lettow-Vorbeck crosses into Portuguese Mozambique for supplies and recruits.
- December 1<sup>st</sup> – Romania launches an ambitious offensive to drive the Central Powers from its lands, but it fails. While the Romanian Army would fight on, much of Romania was occupied by the Central Powers.
- December 11<sup>th</sup> – British forces capture Jerusalem.

### **-1918:**

- June 15<sup>th</sup> – Battle of the Piave River – Italian Front – last great Austrian offensive of the war intended to finish off Italy ends with a major Austrian defeat.
- July 14<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Abu Tellul – Palestine Front – Turkish offensive gains minor success, but is defeated by a British counterattack.
- September 15<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Dobro Pole – Salonikan Front – Decisive Allied victory breaks Bulgarian army.
- September 18<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Doiran – Salonikan Front – Allied offensive is defeated by Bulgarian army, which then withdraws.
- September 19<sup>th</sup> – Battle of Megiddo – Palestine Front – British forces completely destroy the Turk army in Palestine.
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Battle of Vittorio Veneto – Italian Front – Allied offensive breaks the Austrian lines, marking the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
- November 14<sup>th</sup> – Mosul is captured in Mesopotamia, the last major acquisition on that Front.
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Lettow-Vorbeck formally surrenders his undefeated East African army