

THE WESTERN FRONT

-1914:

- August 2nd – Luxemburg occupied without opposition
- August 3rd – First German troops invade Belgium, violating its neutrality
- August 5th – Belgium city of Liege is attacked
- August 7th – Battle of Mulhouse – a phase of the Battle of the Frontiers – French offensive with limited success. Joffre is warned of the German advance into Belgium, but delays sending support immediately.
- August 8th – Joffre orders French forces to invade Alsace-Lorraine
- August 12th – Battle of Haelen – first and minor cavalry skirmish of war, fought between Germans and Belgians.
- August 14th – Invasion of Lorraine – a phase of the Battle of the Frontiers
- August 15th – Joffre finally sends forces into Belgium to confront the German advance
- August 16th – Despite strong resistance, Liege falls to the Germans thus opening the way for further advances into Belgium
- August 20th – German forces attack the French in Alsace-Lorraine, slowing the French offensive
- August 21st to 23rd – Battle of the Ardennes – a phase of the Battle of the Frontiers – German and French forces fight a blundering battle, in which the Germans emerge victorious. Germans also attack the city of Namur and Dinant, both of which are evacuated on the 23rd. German brutality at Dinant is used as Allied propaganda.
- August 22nd to 23rd – Battle of Charleroi – a phase of the Battle of the Frontiers – German forces attack French attempting to intervene in Belgium, forcing the French into beginning the Great Retreat.
- August 23rd – Battle of Mons – a phase of the Battle of the Frontiers – First British combat in France, in which they delay the German advance, inflicting heavy casualties on the Germans.
- August 24th – Siege of Maubeuge begins as German troops surround the fortress. It holds out until September 7th.
- August 26th – Battle of Le Cateau – a phase of the Great Retreat – British troops attempt to stop the general retreat, but barely avoid destruction. They retreat to St. Quentin. The Germans, due to a fear of a perceived Allied offensive, savages the town of Louvain.
- August 29-30th – Battle of Guise-St. Quentin – a phase of the Great Retreat – French forces counter-attack the Germans. While only a very limited success, it slowed the German advance
- August 31st – the German Right Flank changes direction to one which would fall short of Paris
- September 5th – First Battle of the Marne begins – French forces preparing to attack the isolated German Right Flank are attacked themselves and scattered, alerting the Germans of the major French counter-offensive.
- September 7th – the Germans obtain plans for the French trap, proving the danger they faced.
- September 8th – French attack the German 2nd Army, which withdraws slightly and thus opens a gap between itself and the German Right Flank, which the Allies exploit. The risk of annihilation forces the Germans to abandon the “Schlieffen Plan” and begin retreating.
- September 9-13th – the Germans retreat nearly forty miles and begin establishing their defensive line, the beginnings of the trench system
- September 14th – 1st Battle of the Aisne – the Allies launched several attacks to break the German defensive line over the next few days without success. Also, von Moltke is replaced with Falkenhayn as the head of the German Army.
- September 18th – The Race to the Sea begins - as both sides recognize a stalemate in the south, both attempted a series of maneuvers in order to outflank the others in the North, with neither side succeeding.
- September 25th – The First Battle of Albert – a phase of the Race to the Sea
- September 28th – Germans besiege Antwerp, as it poses a threat to their rear.
- October 1st – First Battle of Arras – a phase of the Race to the Sea

- October 6th – the remaining Belgium forces withdraw from vulnerable Antwerp, joining the Allied line near Ypres
- October 9th – Antwerp falls to the Germans
- October 14th – First Battle of Ypres begins – a phase of the Race to the Sea – German forces attempt to destroy British and Belgian forces near the town of Ypres and almost succeed, but are barely driven back.
- October 18th – Battle of the Yser – a phase of the Race to the Sea – when a German offensive seems on the verge of breaking the Belgian armies, the Belgians open the sea locks at Nieuwport, stalling the Germans.
- November 11th – Falkenhayn stops the German offensive against the British and Belgians, ending the First Battle of Ypres.
- December 16th – Raid on Scarborough and Hartlepool – the German High Seas fleet attacks and bombards English fortified port towns, outraging the British public and embarrassing the Royal Navy.
- December 18th – Battle of Givenchy – minor British success is lost when the Germans counterattack. The Germans then attacked the British the next day only to be driven back themselves due to British reserves.
- December 20th – 1st Battle of Champagne – First major Allied offensive involving trench warfare achieves little but lost lives.

-1915:

-
- March 10th to 13th – Battle of Neuve Chappelle begins – British offensive makes small gains but fails to breakthrough
- April 1st – French Pilot Roland Garros becomes first pilot to shoot down another plane with guns shooting through the propeller blades
- April 22nd to 23rd – Battle of Gravenstafel begins, initiating the 2nd Battle of Ypres – German experimental use of Poison Gas at Gravenstafel allows for a series of offensive drives.
- April 24th to May 4th – Battle of St Julien – a phase of the 2nd Battle of Ypres – German offensives take St. Julien despite desperate resistance.
- May 8th to 13th – Battle of Frezenberg – a phase of the 2nd Battle of Ypres – Germans use poison gas to aid another offensive, but gain little ground.
- May 9th to 2nd Battle of Artois – A French offensive gains some initial victories, but fails overall
- May 15th to 27th – Battle of Festubert – A failed British offensive coordinated with other Allied attacks.
- May 24th 25th – Battle of Bellewaarde – a phase of the 2nd Battle of Ypres – Final German gas attack on the Ypres salient gains the Germans victory but little overall success.
- August ? – Fokker Eindecker gives the Germans air supremacy, beginning the “Fokker Scourge”
- August 15th – British forces take and hold Hill 70 from numerous German counterattacks over the next 10 days in a diversionary move.
- September 15th – 3rd Battle of Artois – a French part of a large series of planned Allied Offensives
- September 25th – 28th – Battle of Loos and 2nd Battle of Champagne begin – British and French coordinated offensives designed to break the stalemate are simultaneously launched.
- September 28th - the British part of the large series of planned Allied Offensives through making use of poison gas, partially succeeds. However the Germans regroup and force the British back.
- October 6th – the planned French offensive against the Germans makes some gains at huge costs, but these are eventually lost again due to German counter attacks.

-1916:

- February 21st – Battle of Verdun begins – German forces attack the historic French fortress in an attempt to break French morale and sap France’s manpower.
- February 29th – French resistance stops the powerful German advance on Verdun.
- March 6th – Failing to take Verdun in a frontal assault, the Germans shifted their attacks to the flanks, taking Le Mort Homme
- March 8th – Germans assault Fort Vaux, which falls on the 31st
- April 9th – a major German drive on both sides of the river Meuse near Verdun fails.
- April 27th – Battle of Hulluch – Germans use a clever ruse to use a gas attack with devastating effect, despite countermeasures being available by now.
- April 29th – another German gas attack near Hulluch fails when the winds blow the gas back to the German lines.
- June 2nd – German offensive attempts to take Hill 62 and succeed
- June 12th – the British succeed in retaking Hill 62, although with heavy casualties
- June 23rd – Germans attempt to take the ridges which commanded Verdun and the Meuse bridges, nearly succeeding
- July 1st – Battle of the Somme begins – A massive artillery bombardment and several underground detonations signal a major British offensive intended to relieve French forces at Verdun. Staggering losses were endured and the successes failed to be exploited, but fighting over the next few days did push the Germans back.
- July 14th – Battle of Bazentin Ridge – A phase of the Battle of the Somme – marginally successful British offensive. However, successes were not followed up once again.
- July 15th – Battle of Delville Wood – A phase of the Battle of the Somme – A costly British offensive
- July 19th-20th – Battle of Fromelles – A phase of the Battle of the Somme – Disastrous British offensive
- July 23rd – Battle of Pozieres begins – A phase of the Battle of the Somme – British forces attempt to take the town of Pozieres and its nearby highpoints. They succeed and hold onto it despite German counterattacks over the next few days.
- August 8th – Battle of Mouquet Farm – A phase of the Battle of the Somme – British forces attempt to undermine the German stronghold of Thiepval’s position.
- September 3rd – Battle of Guillemont – A phase of the Battle of the Somme – British forces finally succeed in taking Guillemont (after numerous failures) thus damaging the German defense network in the Somme area.
- September 9th – British Somme offensive captures Ginchy, depriving the Germans of a very important observation site.
- September 15th – Battle of Flers-Courcelette – a phase of the Battle of the Somme – Final large front British offensive during the Battle of the Somme. First use of tanks in battle, although they were ineffective. Minor gains were made, but the offensive failed to be decisive.
- September 25th – The Somme offensive is renewed, as French forces drove to Bouchavesnes. Once again, minor gains made as the Germans quickly restore the line.
- September 26th – Battle of Thiepval Ridge – a phase of the Battle of the Somme – Final large British offensive of the Battle of the Somme sees the German fortress of Thiepval captured after withstanding attacks for months.
- October 1st – British begin a deliberate battle of attrition when the weather turns for the worse, slowly driving the Germans back at terrible cost with little to no gains being made.
- October 21st – French forces counterattack in the Verdun area
- November 2nd – French forces retake Fort Vaux
- November 13th – British forces take Beaumont-Hamel and Beaucourt by surprise attack in the final phase of the battle of the Somme.
- December 11th – French forces finally drive the Germans back to their starting positions before the Battle of Verdun
- December 13th – Joffre is replaced by Neville in charge of French forces.

-1917:

- February 2nd – German forces begin to retreat to the powerful new system of defenses called the Hindenburg Line, destroying everything behind them as scorched-earth policy.
- April 4th – British Royal Flying Corps begins attempting to gain air supremacy near Arras, but sustain devastating losses due to improved German aircraft. The “Red Baron” Manfred von Richthofen becomes a symbol of fear to the British pilots, and the British losses earned the month the nickname “Bloody April”
- April 5th – German evacuation to the Hindenburg Line is complete.
- April 9th – the Arras Offensive and the Battle of Vimy Ridge – a phase of the Nivelle Offensive – due to poor decisions and a lack of understanding of the new German defense doctrine on the part of local German leadership, a limited British offensive is far more successful than expected. Subsequent minor offensives strengthen the newly won territories, despite German counterattacks.
- April 16th – 3rd Battle of Champagne (2nd Aisne) – a phase of the Nivelle Offensive – major French offensive meets strong German resistance awaiting them, taking huge casualties. Numerous limited offensives later achieve minor gains.
- May 15th – Neville is replaced by Petain as head of the French forces.
- May 27th – French Army begins to see mutinies due to the huge casualties endured.
- June 7th – Battle of Messines – highly planned and coordinated British assault succeeds in taking the strongly held high ground near Ypres. German counterattacks over the next few days gain nothing but more casualties.
- July 31st – Passchendaele Offensive (or 3rd Ypres) begins – Battle of Pilckem Ridge – Opening offensive of the British offensive gains decent ground at a terrible cost, but ultimately fails due to very poor weather.
- September 20th – Battle of Menin Road – a phase of the Passchendaele Offensive – limited British offensive succeeds in taking territory and holding it.
- September 26th – Battle of Polygon Wood – a phase of the Passchendaele Offensive – another limited British advance succeeds in minor gains, but puts the British in an exposed position.
- October 12th – 1st Battle of Passchendaele – a phase of the Passchendaele Offensive – a large British offensive against the German position threatening their position won after Polygon Wood makes very minor but expensive gains.
- October 26th – 2nd Battle of Passchendaele – final phase of the Passchendaele Offensive – another large British offensive succeeds in gaining the town of Passchendaele despite huge casualties, although the town has been completely destroyed by this point.
- November 20th – Battle of Cambrai – a carefully planned British offensive using combined Infantry and tanks succeeds in driving the Germans back. However, a lack of strong reserves leads to a British failure to break through.
- November 30th – Germans massively counterattack the British near Cambrai, driving them back from their positions and even past their positions prior to the Cambrai offensive in places.

-1918:

- March 21st – the Ludendorf Offensive begins - the German army, freed from its Eastern Front, uses the troops to launch a massive offensive planned to end the war. Foggy weather aids the German offensive in completely overrunning the British defenses.
- March 26th – Ferdinand Foch becomes Supreme Commander of the Allied forces due to Petain’s slowness in responding to the British retreat.
- March 28th – a hastily conceived attack by the Germans on the British at Arras is repulsed
- April 9th to 29th – Battle of the Lys (or 4th Ypres) – a phase of the Ludendorf Offensive – German offensive designed to destroy the British army achieves minor success, but fails in its main objective.
- April 21st – Airplane legend Manfred von Richthofen “Red Baron” is killed.

- May 27th to June 6th – 3rd Battle of the Aisne – German offensive breaks the Allied lines and drives forward in a massive diversionary attack. Due to the momentum, however, the German advance does not halt until it reaches the Marne River.
- May 28th – Battle of Cantigny – United States soldiers’ first offensive in the war gains the village of Cantigny.
- June 1st to 26th – Battle of Belleau Wood – limited Allied Offensive lead by United States Marines.
- July 15th – 2nd Battle of the Marne begins – a large German diversionary attack begins.
- July 17th – German offensive along the Marne is stalled, allowing for a major counter-attack the following day to break the German line.
- July 18th – Battle of Chateau-Thierry – a phase of the 2nd Battle of the Marne – limited offensive conducted by U.S. troops as part of the overall Allied counterattack.
- July 20th – Germans begin to retreat after the disaster of the 2nd Battle of the Marne.
- August 8th – Battle of Amiens – a phase in the Hundred Days Offensive – a large offensive by the Allies succeeds in breaking German lines, also breaking German morale in the process. Huge numbers of German soldiers surrender, becoming known as the “black day of the German Army”.
- August 21st – the Amiens offensive is renewed, making methodical but not explosive gains.
- September 12th – Battle of Havrincourt – a phase in the Hundred Days Offensive – a minor battle in which outnumbered British attackers defeat the German defenders, showing the loss of morale in the German army.
- September 12th to 15th – Battle of Saint-Mihiel – a phase in the Hundred Days Offensive – U.S. troops attack German soldiers retreating to new defensive positions.
- September 18th – Battle of Epehy – a phase of the Hundred Days Offensive – minor British success owing to low German morale.
- September 18th to October 10th – Battle of the Hindenburg Line – a phase in the Hundred Days Offensive – a well planned British Tank offensive succeeds in penetrating the powerful trench system of the Hindenburg Line.
- September 26th – November 11th – Meuse-Argonne Offensive – a phase in the Hundred Days Offensive – final large offensive of the war in which U.S. troops defeat and drive the Germans back from their positions following the Battle of Verdun two years earlier.