

**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.<sup>1</sup>  
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.<sup>2</sup>  
Major Russian advances into Austrian **Galicja** and Bukovina.<sup>3</sup>
- 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- Dec **Gallipoli** campaign ends unsuccessfully; allies withdrawn.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.<sup>4</sup>
- July-Aug Third battle of **Ypres**: largely unsuccessful British effort to break through.<sup>5</sup>
- 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.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

<sup>5</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>
August, 1916	Rumania enters war as associated power <sup>2</sup>
November, 1916	Greece enters war as associated power <sup>3</sup>
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

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>Mitteleuropa</i>
<i>Mittelafrika</i>	Defense of the Realm Act (DORA)

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

<sup>2</sup> 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!).

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