

PRINCIPAL BATTLES OF THE WORLD WAR

1914

- Aug. 4-7 Battle of Liège, a fortress on the Belgian frontier. Here was heard the first roar of hostile artillery in the World War. The determined stand of the Belgians upset the enemy's programme and made the German army ten days late in reaching the French frontier.
- Aug. 21-23 Battle of Mons-Charleroi, in Belgium. The combined forces of the British and French were defeated by the Germans, whose path into France was now open.
- Aug. 26-Sept. 1 Battle of Tannenberg in East Prussia, called by the Germans the "Sedan of the East." Hindenburg here crushed one of the Russian armies that had invaded East Prussia.
- Sept. 6-10 First Battle of the Marne. One more decisive battle of the world. The Allied troops stopped the German advance within sight of Paris and turned it into a German retreat.
- Sept. 6-10 First Battle of the Masurian Lakes, in East Prussia, resulted in the crushing of the second Russian army by the Germans, and the making of Hindenburg the idol of the German people.
- Sept. 12-17 Battle of the Aisne began the trench warfare, which lasted until 1918.
- Oct. 16-30 Battle of the Yser, in Belgium; the Belgians halted the German advance by cutting the dikes and turning the country into a lake.
- Oct. 22-Nov. 15 First Battle of Ypres (a city in Belgium), or, as it is sometimes called, the First Battle of Flanders. The Germans failed in their attempt to pierce the lines and reach Calais.
- Nov.-March 22 (1915) Siege of Przemyśl, a strong Austrian fortress in eastern Galicia. 120,000 Austrians were made prisoners when hunger forced Przemyśl to surrender to the Russians. The fortress was retaken by the Austrians and Germans on June 2, 1915.

1915

- Jan. 24 Battle of Dogger Bank, a naval engagement in the North Sea between battle-cruiser squadrons of the British and Germans. The German vessels finally retired to the mine-strewn German waters, leaving the victory to the British.
- Feb. 4-12 Second Battle of the Masurian Lakes; like the first, it ended in disaster for the Russians.
- March 10-12 Battle of Neuve-Chapelle, a little village in northern France, near Lille. The British captured a few miles of territory at a terrific cost. As much ammunition was expended in this one battle as was used during the entire Boer War.
- Apr. 22-26 Second Battle of Ypres, or the Second Battle of Flanders. The Germans for the first time used poison gas (chlorine), through pipes and bombs. In spite of the heroic behaviour of the Canadians the Germans gained two miles on a five-mile front.
- Apr. 26-Jan. 8 (1916) Invasion of Gallipoli, the peninsula between the Dardanelles and the Aegean Sea. After many months the British forces, made up largely of colonial troops (Anzacs) and the French army were withdrawn with nothing accomplished.
- May 2 Battle of Dunajec River, in western Galicia, Austria. The Austrian and German troops forced back the Russian line, taking many prisoners. This was the beginning of the terrific drive which expelled the Russians from Galicia and conquered Russian Poland (July 12-Sept. 18).
- Sept. 25-Oct. Battle of Champagne, which began after several days of heavy bombardment. The desperate offensive of the French, British, and Belgians resulted in some advance and many prisoners, but it failed to break the German lines.

1916

- Feb. 21-July Battle of Verdun, a fortified city in eastern France. This was one of the greatest battles of the war. The German Crown Prince sacrificed 500,000 men in the vain attempt to take the city.
- May 31 Battle of Jutland, in the North Sea, off the Danish coast, was one of the greatest of naval battles. The losses on both sides were heavy, but the British remained in control of the sea.
- July 1-Nov. 18 First Battle of the Somme, in northern France, one of the fiercest battles of the war. The French and British, using tanks for the first time, drove the Germans back nine miles on a 20-mile front.

1917

- July-Nov. Third Battle of Ypres, or Third Battle of Flanders (Passchendaele Ridge) was a slight gain for the British, French, and Belgians over the Germans. Fought in mud, which rendered tanks useless.
- Oct.-Nov. Battle of Caporetto. The Austrians began a counter-offensive against the Italians by this surprise attack, which resulted in a terrible rout. The Italians were driven back to the Piave River and lost all that they had gained in two years, besides 200,000 prisoners and 2,000 cannon.
- Nov. 20-Dec. 13 Battle of Cambrai, a city of northern France on the river Schelde, was begun by the British and French tanks without any artillery preparation. The gains that were made at first were lost in the German counter-attack.

1918

- March 21-Apr. 21 Second Battle of the Somme, or Battle of Picardy, on the west front from La Fère to Ypres and beyond, began the German offensive in 1918, and proved one of the "greatest and most momentous battles in the history of the world."
- May 27-June Third Battle of the Aisne, a second success for the Germans over the British and French. When they were within about 40 miles of Paris, however, they were stopped by the French and the Americans at Chateau-Thierry.
- July 15-18 Second Battle of the Marne resulted in some gains by the Germans, but their plans were suddenly upset by the counter-offensive of the Allied troops under Foch.
- Aug. 8-Sept. Battle of Amiens, a great gain for the British, French, Belgians, and Americans. The operations spread until the Germans were pushed back beyond the "Hindenburg Line."
- Sept. 12-13 Battle of St. Mihiel, the first battle in which the Americans acted independently. As a result of the battle the salient which had been held by the Germans since 1914 was wiped out.
- Sept. 19-22 Battle of Samaria, resulted in the annihilation of the Turkish troops by the British and Arabs under General Allenby. Turkey soon withdrew from the war.
- Sept. 26-Nov. 11 Battle of Argonne Forest. This was a part of the battle which was raging all along the western front and which caused the collapse of the German military machine.
- Oct. 24-31 Battle of the Piave. This removed Austria from the war and led her to ask for peace because her army had been completely routed.