

WORLD WAR I BEGINS

How it all Starts....

Europe had been having problems and tensions were growing long before WWI started. The 'spark' that started the war was _____ on June 28th 1914 in Sarajevo, Bosnia by the terrorist group the _____.

When this happened Austria-Hungary took three weeks to respond. When they did, they gave the Serbians an _____ which was a one time offer. They expected that Serbia would reject and deny the _____ and Austria-Hungary was prepared to launch a 'limited war' against Serbia for killing their Archduke Ferdinand.

HOWEVER...Serbia had long had Slavic (traditional) ties with _____ and had a Treaty with Serbia that they would help them if needed. Austria-Hungary had not expected Russia to get involved in any war with Serbia other than through words of diplomatic protest. To be sure, Austria-Hungary confirmed their alliance with Germany that they would help should the unthinkable happen and Russia declare on Austria Hungary. Germany gave a full promise to help IF Russia did go that far.

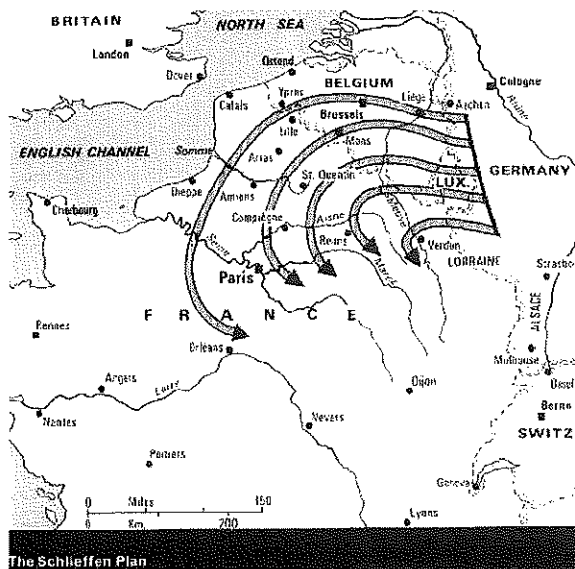
What Happens Next?

- Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia on July 28th 1914
- Russia then mobilizes it's army to help Serbia (takes 6 weeks)
- Germany viewed Russia's mobilization as an Act of War against Austria-Hungary and declared war on Russia on August 1st 1914
- France (bound to Russia in the Triple Entente) automatically becomes involved in the war
- Germany declares war on France on August 3rd
- Britain is now upset that both allies (France and Russia) have had war declared on them and then they declare war on Germany on August 4th 1914. (automatically bringing Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand, and South Africa into the war –all were British Colonies)
- The USA decides to stay neutral and NOT go to war at this time
- Britain had an alliance with Japan so Japan declared war on Germany too help Britain on Aug 23rd
- Austria-Hungary then declares war on Japan (to help Germany) on August 25th.
- Italy is supposed to help Germany and Austria-Hungary but decides to stay neutral for now.... (they will change sides in May 1915)

THE SCHLIEFFEN PLAN:

Before the war ever started, Germany had developed a plan 'The Schlieffen Plan' which was a bold strategy for a **two-front war**. (2 major areas of fighting) The Germans thought that they could fight France in the west (**the Western Front**) and the Russians in the east (**the Eastern Front**). The plan was for the German army to quickly invade Belgium (a neutral country) then France, and capture the city of Paris. Once this was accomplished, Germany could turn it's attention to Russia.

The Plan almost worked....by late August of 1914, the Germans were only 35 km away from Paris!



The Germans were exhausted from working so hard, and the Allies (Britain & France) were able to push them back into Northern France.

The Germans began building a Defensive line of trenches.

The Allies also dug their own Trenches often just meters away from the enemy.

Eventually, trenches were built from the English Channel to the Swiss border for both the Germans and the Allies. In between the trenches was _____, a terrible wasteland of corpses, barbed wire, and mud.

By Christmas of 1914, the Western Front was locked in a **STALEMATE**. (a situation where neither side was able to advance so they just stayed fighting because no one would give up). These muddy trenches would be considered 'home' to these soldiers for another 4 years..... this was called **TRENCH WARFARE**.

