

World War 1



Teaching
PACKS

By Helen and Mark Warner

The Outbreak of War

In this section, you will learn about...

1. How the world has changed since the war began.
2. Some of the causes of World War I.
3. The timeline of events that led up to the start of World War I.

The world in 1914 was very different to today. The Earth's population was half the size and it wasn't as easy to learn about or understand life in other countries

and **cultures** because people could not travel as quickly.

The television, internet and many other forms of **communication** had not been invented either.



A taxi and bus driving in the snow at Trafalgar Square in London in 1915.

Many countries were part of large **colonies** that were ruled by European countries such as Britain and France. Britain had a vast overseas **empire** which included Canada, the West Indies, Africa and India. France had control of colonies in Africa and Southeast Asia. This control helped these ruling countries to grow powerful and rich, as they had a cheap supply of raw materials, control over **trade** routes and access to strategic **military** bases.



This map shows how the world was governed in 1900, fourteen years before the war began.

The Causes of World War I

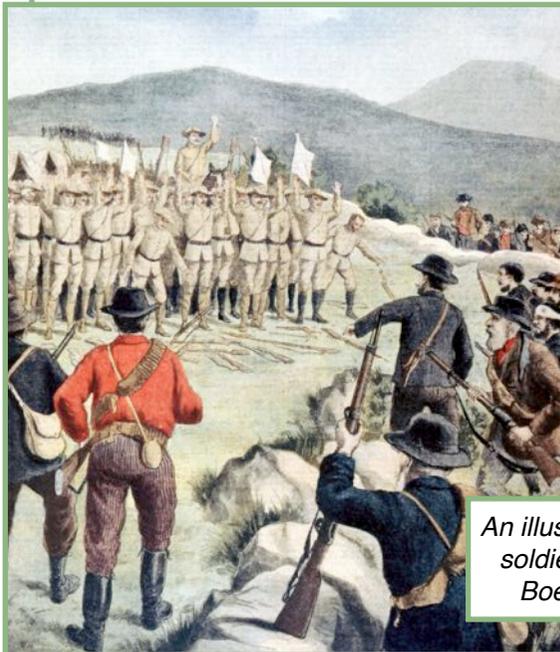
A number of factors and events led to the start of World War I in 1914.

Nationalism

Wilhelm I, the German emperor from 1871 to 1888, envied the huge empires of Britain and France. During the Franco-Prussian War (from 1870 to 1871) Germany fought against France and gained control of Alsace and Lorraine, expanding the German Empire.

In the Second Boer War in South Africa (from 1899 to 1902), the German Emperor Wilhelm II, supported the Boers who were fighting

against Britain. As a result, Britain and France began to view Germany as a threat to their Empires.



An illustration of the British soldiers surrendering to Boer forces in 1901.

Naval Rivalry

During the 19th century, Britain had the largest and strongest **navy** in the world. However in 1898, Wilhelm II announced his intention to develop a stronger German navy. When Britain developed a new **battleship** called the Dreadnought, a naval race broke out between the two countries. The Dreadnought was quicker and had more fire power than any other battleship that had been developed. Whoever had the most Dreadnoughts would have the strongest navy, which made Britain and Germany become very suspicious of each other.



An illustration of the battleship Dreadnought.

Economic Rivalry

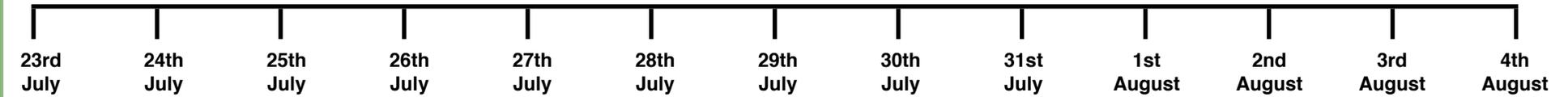
During the 1800s, Britain had become rich because of their ability to **manufacture** and produce goods to sell and trade.

By 1914, Germany was producing more iron, steel and coal. This meant they were able to manufacture more items (such as cars), making them economically stronger than Britain.

5th July 1914

Kaiser Wilhelm II promised support to Austria against Serbia.

Austria saw the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serbian as an opportunity to gain control of Serbia. The following events then took place:



23rd July 1914
Austria gave Serbia a list of demands.

28th July 1914
Serbia humbly agreed to all those demands except one, so Austria declared war on Serbia. As a result, Russia sent troops to help defend Serbia against Austria.

29th July 1914
The Austrians attacked Belgrade, the capital of Serbia.

30th July 1914
The Russians ordered the mobilisation of more troops against Austria. Britain attempted to mediate between the two sides but failed.

1st August 1914
Germany declared war on Russia. France ordered the movement of troops to support Russia and defend their borders.

3rd August 1914
Germany declared war on France and its troops entered Belgium without permission. The British sent an ultimatum to the Germans, calling for them to remove their troops from Belgium.

Did You Know?
Britain used these posters to encourage its people to **enlist** in the army. It describes a **treaty** that Germany had previously signed (known as the Treaty of London) but which the German Chancellor called 'a scrap of paper' after its troops entered Belgium.

31st July 1914
The Germans gave an **ultimatum** to Russia to stop moving troops to defend Serbia. Germany also presented an ultimatum to France, demanding they remain neutral and hand over **border** fortresses as a guarantee. Germany knew that France would never comply with these demands.

2nd August 1914
Germany wanted Belgium to allow them to send troops through their country. The Belgians refused.

4th August 1914
Britain declared war on Germany. Now all the major European powers were involved. World War I had begun.



European Armies

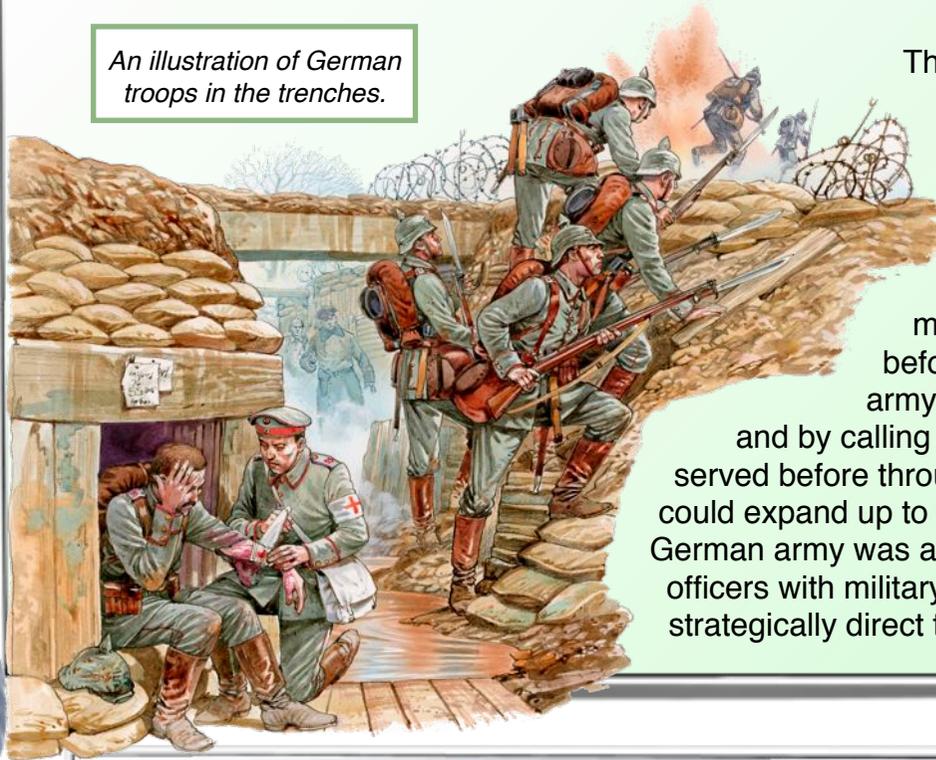
France

The French army was the second largest army in Western Europe. It was mostly made up of conscripts between the age of 18 and 45. The rest of the army was made up of over 2,700,000 volunteers. The French knew they must attack the Germans at every opportunity to weaken their strength, and hoped that, by matching the size of the German army, they could defeat their enemy quickly in battle. However, the volunteer soldiers were poorly trained and had little military experience. Therefore, the French army was not as strong or as well organised as the German army.



An actor dressed as a French World War I soldier.

An illustration of German troops in the trenches.



Germany

The German army was considered to be the strongest, best organised and most professional army in Europe. Anticipating war, Germany had been enlisting young men and training them long before the war began. Its regular army was 700,000 troops strong and by calling up those who had already served before through conscription, the army could expand up to four million troops. The German army was also controlled by high ranking officers with military experience who could strategically direct their troops on the **battlefield**.



A Belgian soldier at the front line in 1918.

Belgium

Belgium was one of the smallest countries and had one of the smallest armies in Europe. Because Belgium remained **neutral**, they did not expect to have to fight so had not attempted to **recruit** more troops before the war began. Conscription had not been introduced until as late as 1913.



A cartoon from 1914 showing 'little' Belgium blocking 'big' Germany's path.

The British trench system

The British trenches were dug in three lines:

The **front line** was two metres deep and two metres wide. When soldiers were ordered to fire at the enemy, they would stand on dug out **fire steps**. Sandbags were placed at the top of the trench to protect it from heavy **artillery** fire and **grenades**. Coils of barbed wire were placed in front of the sandbags to trap enemy soldiers, if they managed to get that close. Observation posts were also dug out so that soldiers could observe the enemy using **periscopes**.

Support trenches were dug out behind the front line. This was where military orders were given as they contained the company headquarters. They also housed first-aid posts, cooking shelters, **ammunition** stores and toilets.

Behind the support trenches were **reserve trenches**. These were dug in case the front line and support trenches were heavily shelled or overrun by the enemy.

The three lines of trenches were linked by **communication** trenches. All of the trenches were also dug to include blind alleys to confuse the enemy, if they did manage to breach the trench during an attack. They were also dug in a zigzag, rather than a straight line, to prevent the enemy being able to fire down a trench and kill **troops** easily.

Did You Know?

*The area of land between the German and Allied trenches was called '**No Man's Land**'. The size of this area varied. Sometimes it was a kilometre wide, but in other places only fifty metres separated the two sides.*

This aerial view shows the trench lines between Loos and Hulluch in 1917. The British trenches are at the top-left and the German trenches are at the right and bottom.



Gallipoli Beach Attacks

The Allies then planned a second attack on Turkey. Allied forces were instructed to land on the beaches of Gallipoli. Their mission was to capture the forts that guarded the entrance to the straits and clear the mines. On 25th April, **Anzac** soldiers (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) landed on the bay that is now called Anzac Cove. The Turkish forces were waiting for the attack and thousands of Anzac soldiers were killed by machine gun fire. The remaining troops were forced to dig **trenches** to protect themselves.

On 6th August, a second Anzac attack took place at Sulva Bay. They initially met no resistance from Turkish forces but when they tried to advance two days later, they met heavy **resistance**. Once again, they had to dig trenches to protect themselves.



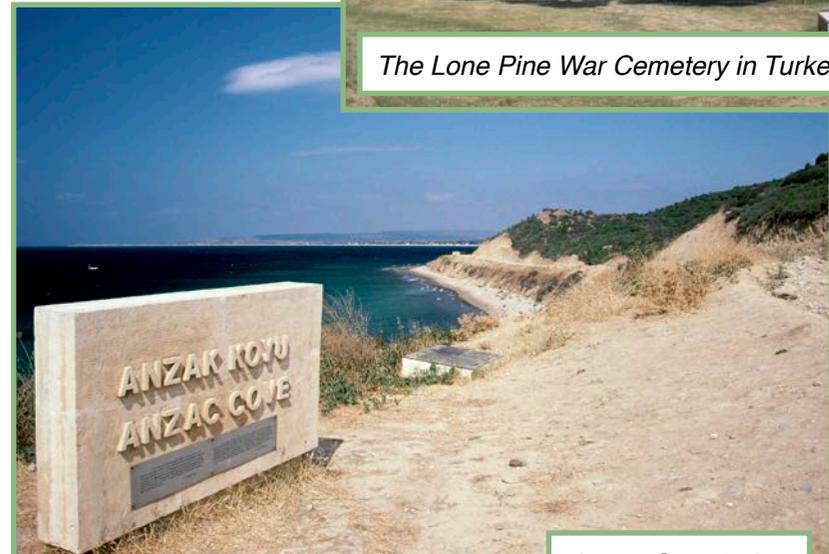
Trenches built during World War I for Gallipoli Campaign.

Withdrawal

Both Anzac attacks were a failure and had resulted in **stalemate** and trench warfare like the Western Front. The Anzac soldiers also had high temperatures and a severe shortage of water to contend with. This caused **disease** to spread quickly and led to more Anzac soldiers dying from disease than from gunshot wounds. Between December 1915 and January 1916, over 135,000 Anzac troops were **evacuated**.



The Lone Pine War Cemetery in Turkey.



Anzac Cove today.

Airships

The Allies and the Germans both used **airships** during the war. One of the most famous types of airship was the **Zeppelin** (named after their German designer Count Zeppelin). These were fuelled by hydrogen gas and travelled very slowly. However, they were able to travel long distances and were used by the Germans for reconnaissance and to bomb cities in Britain and France. During 1915 alone, Zeppelins had carried out twenty raids on Britain and killed 188 civilians.

An illustration of a Zeppelin airship and a Fokker triplane under attack.



The crater from a Zeppelin bomb in Paris in 1916.

One of the advantages of the Zeppelin was its ability to travel higher up in the air than any other aircraft. This meant that it was safe from attack by British fighter planes. However, this changed as the war progressed and fighter planes were improved so they could fly higher and attack the Zeppelins.

Did You Know?

*Pilots who shot down more than five enemy aircraft were called **aces**. Germany's famous ace was Manfred von Richthofen (known as The Red Baron) who shot down eighty aircraft.*

Propaganda

To win the war, a strong army and the support of the people was essential. To achieve, the Allied forces used advertising to convince the public that the Germans were

evil. The advertising urged people to join the war effort - either to enlist or volunteer as nurses or ambulance drivers or to work the land. This type of advertising was called

propaganda. Information was carefully selected and only bad things were reported about the enemy (or even made up). By

the end of 1914, it was believed that German soldiers were killing babies in occupied Belgium. Germany also used similar tactics in their own country.



*'The End of the Baby-Killer,'
A British propaganda postcard.*



A British recruiting poster from 1915.

Remembrance

In this section, you will learn about...

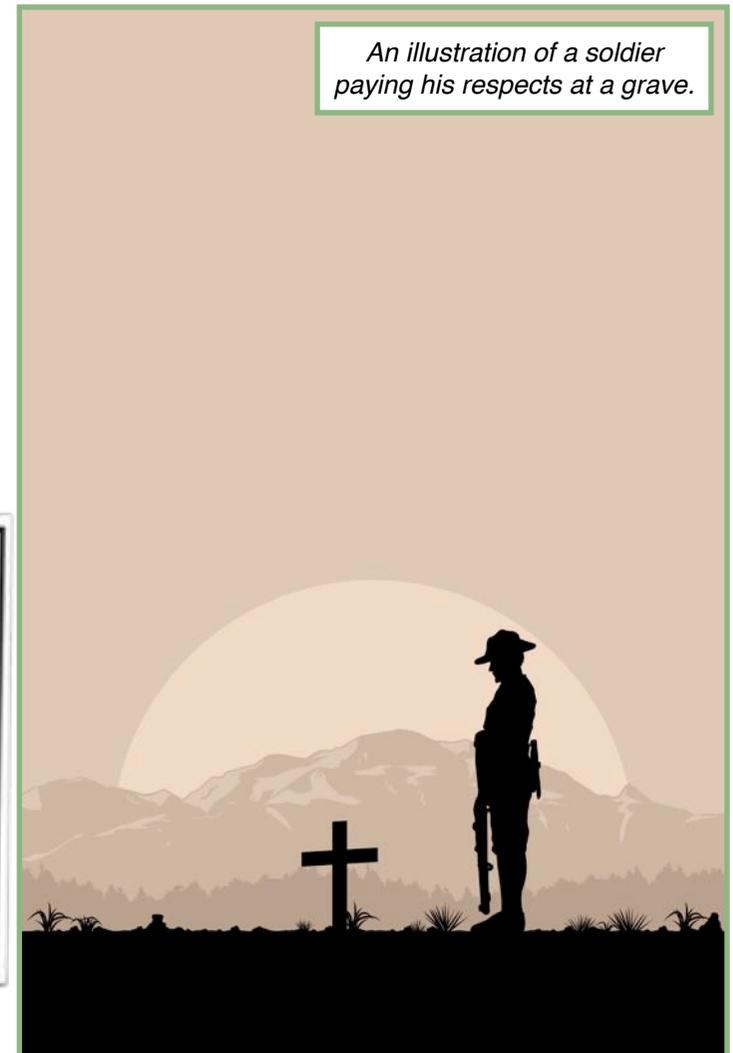
1. How people remember those who lost their lives.
2. The cemeteries and memorials that have been built around the world.
3. How the war is remembered in other countries.

In total, it is estimated that over 16 million people lost their lives during the First World War. After it ended, people felt that it was important to remember those who had fought so bravely and lost their lives.

Did You Know?

*A famous poem called 'In Flanders Fields' was written by a Canadian soldier called John McCrae in May 1915. This became very significant and led to the poppy being adopted as a symbol of **remembrance**. Other poets who served during the war also wrote of their experiences. These include Wilfred Owens, Edmund Blunden, Rupert Brooke, Robert Graves and Siegfried Sassoon, and many of their poems are used today as part of services.*

An illustration of a soldier paying his respects at a grave.



Other Countries and Remembrance

France

Like Britain, France marks 11th November as their Remembrance Day. Special church services are also held there and poppies are used to mark shrines. This day is also used to remember all the war dead, including those killed in World War I.

A war memorial in Lille, France.



Australia and New Zealand

ANZAC Day is held on the 25th April to remember all the service men and women who have died. ANZAC means 'Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' and this day is significant as it marks the day when Anzac troops landed on the beaches of Gallipoli. This was the first major military action that Anzac troops were involved in during World War I.

Canada

Canada marks their Remembrance Day on 11th November. This commemorates Canada's servicemen and women. Like Britain, they hold a special two minute silence. The day is a national holiday.



A war memorial in Ontario, Canada.



The Canakkale Martyrs' Memorial in Turkey.

Turkey

Turkey holds remembrance services on 18th March. This was the date on which Turkey won a major victory against the

Allied powers during the Gallipoli Campaign in World War I. The day now commemorates all Turks who have lost their lives in military conflicts.

Italy

Italy remembers their dead on National Unity and Armed Forces Day (on 4th November). This marks the day when Austria-Hungary surrendered to the Italians in 1918.



A building in memory of soldiers who died in Northern Italy during the First World War.

The flag of Nigeria.



Nigeria

When Nigeria was part of the Commonwealth, it observed Remembrance Day on November 11th. Now this is no longer the case, their Remembrance Day has moved to 15th January which marks the end of the civil war in Nigeria in 1970.

Glossary

Abdicate

When a ruling king or queen gives up their throne.

Ace

A pilot who shot down five enemy aircraft.

Advance

Move forward on the battle field.

Air raid

An attack in which bombs are dropped from aircraft.

Airship

An aircraft filled with gas that can be steered.

Alliance

An agreement between two or more countries that is of benefit to each country.

Allies

The collective name given to all of the countries fighting against the Central Powers in World War I.

Ammunition

Bullets or shells that are fired with guns.

Anzac

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Armistice

A truce agreed between two opposing sides.

Artillery

Large guns used during land battles.

Assassination

The act of deliberately targeting an individual and killing them.

Barbed wire

Wire with short, sharp spikes running along it.

Battalion

A large group of organised troops trained and ready for battle.

Battle field

The ground on which a battle is fought.

Battleship

A heavy warship that has armour and large guns.

Biplane

An early type of plane with two pairs of wings, one above the other.

Blockade

When a country is prevented from importing or exporting supplies.

Boers

Members of the Dutch population who relocated and settled in South Africa in the 17th century.

Bolshevik

A member of an extreme political party that caused the revolution in Russia at the end of the war.

Bombardment

A continuous attack on the enemy with shells and missiles.

Border

A line that separates two countries.

Brigade

A part of the army that consists of infantry battalions and other parts.

Cargo

Goods that are carried on ships, aircraft and other vehicles.

Carrier pigeon

A pigeon that was used to carry messages.

Casualty

A person killed or injured.

Casualty clearing station

The place where the wounded could be treated properly by army doctors, nurses and volunteer nurses.

Ceasefire

A suspension of fighting.

Cemetery

A special burial ground where the dead are laid to rest.

Censor

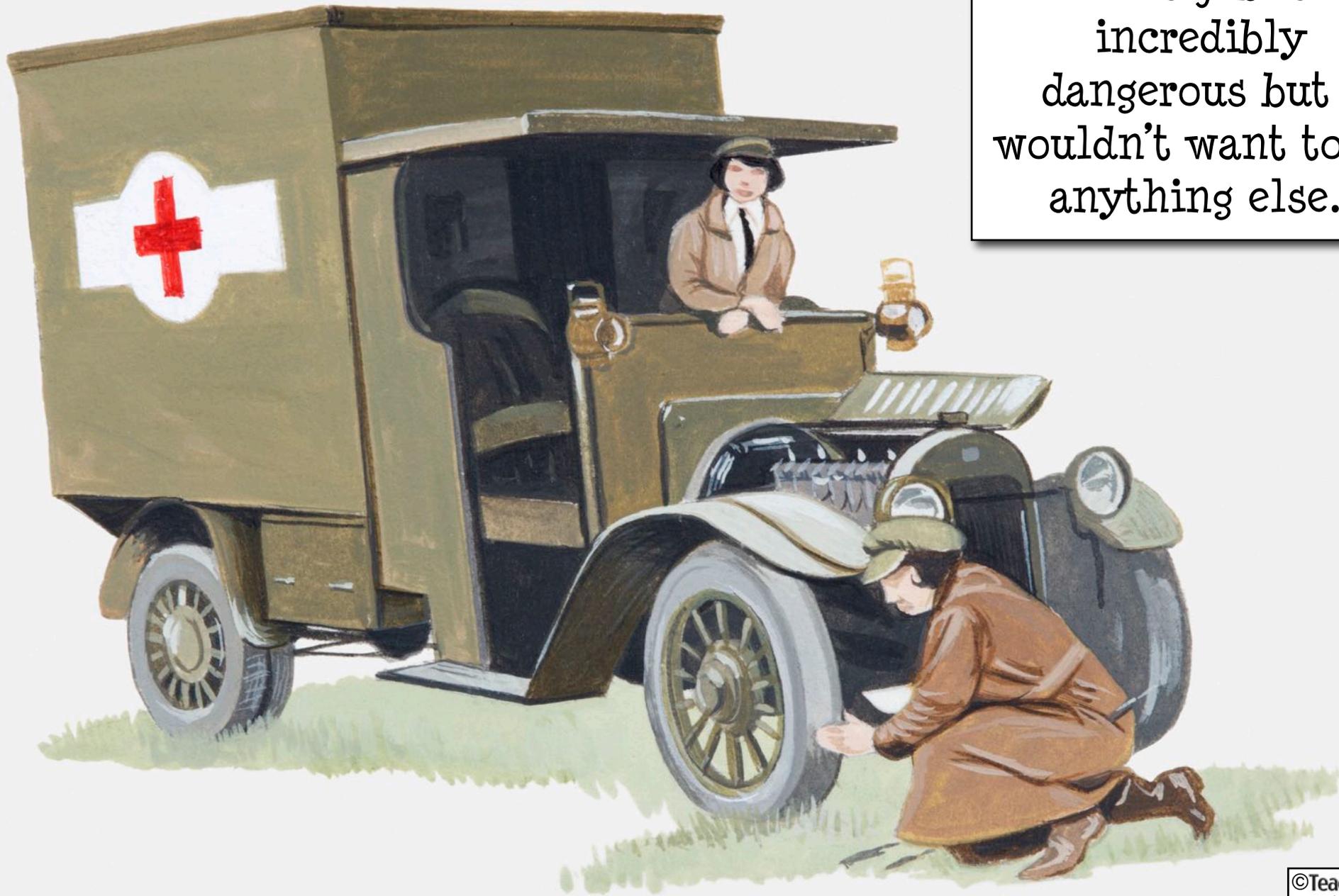
To monitor and control what information is given out in communications or in the media to protect security or morale.

Central Powers

The name given to Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Turkish Ottoman Empire.

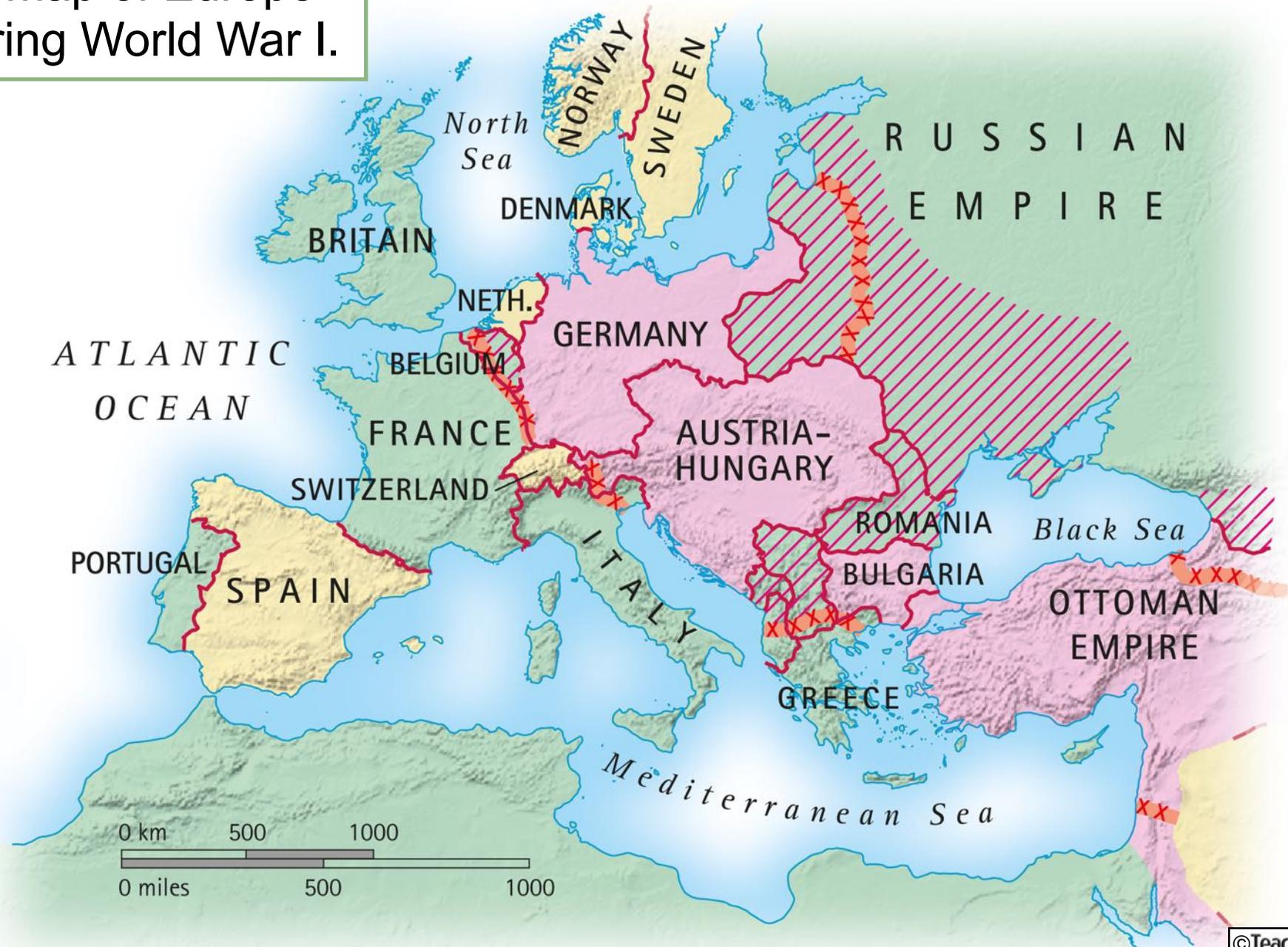
As I looked over the parapet,
I couldn't believe what I was seeing!





This job is
incredibly
dangerous but I
wouldn't want to do
anything else..

A map of Europe during World War I.



London Opinion



1^D LONDON OPINION 1^D

PRINTED BY THE VICTORIA HOUSE PRINTING CO., LTD., TUDOR ST., LONDON, E.C. SEPT. 5, 1914

This poster shows Lord Kitchener, the British Secretary of State for War, calling for people to enlist in the army.

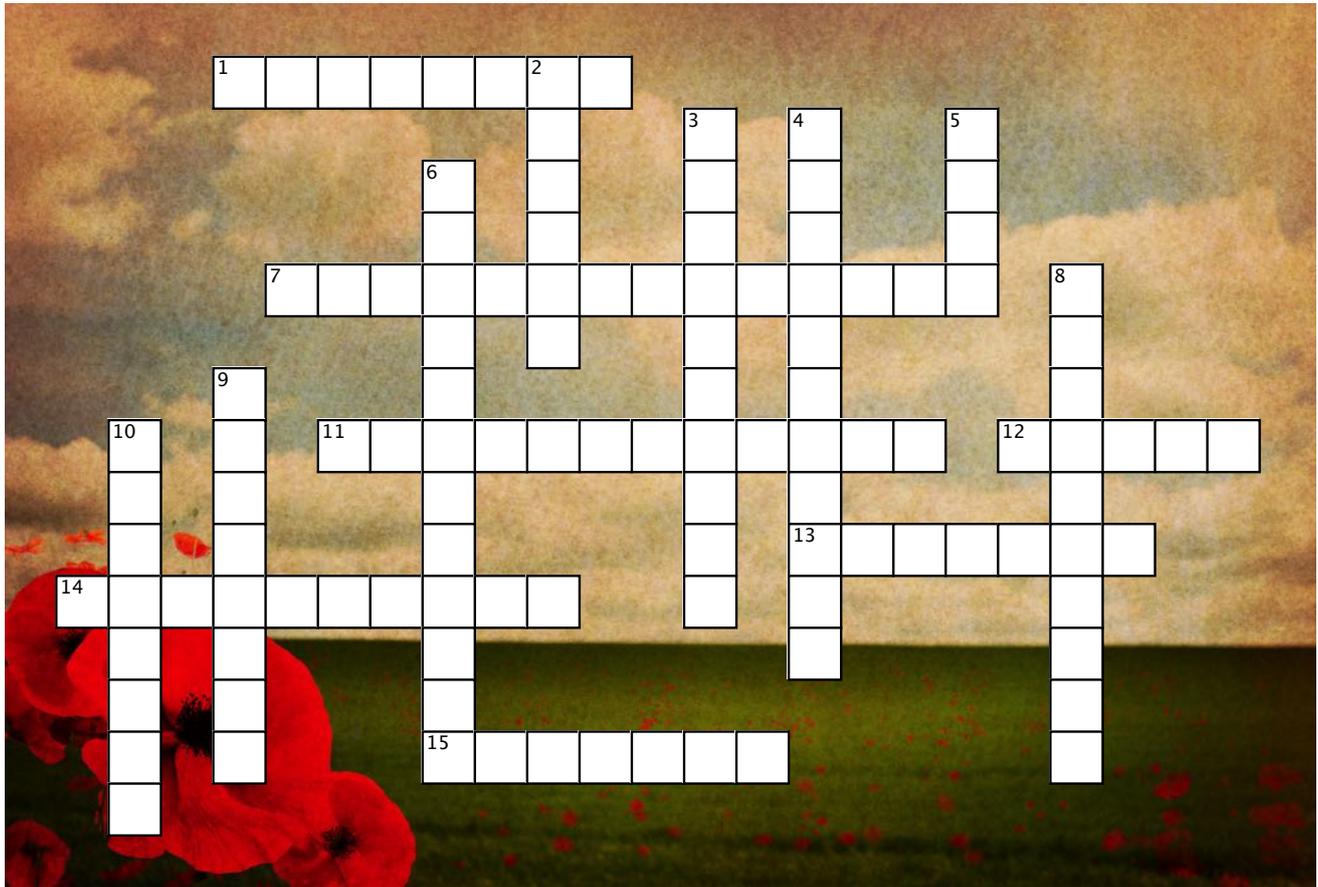


Stretcher bearers at Passchendaele in 1917.



The 'Sanctuary Wood' trench system in Belgium. Troops took cover here away from the front line trenches.

World War 1



Across

1. Remembrance Day takes place in Britain in this month.
7. The group of women who worked on the land during the war.
11. A zone of intense fighting in Western Europe during World War One.
12. A group of ships that sail together.
13. Equipment that protects a person from a gas attack.
14. The area of land between the Allied trenches and the German trenches.
15. An aircraft that is filled with gas and can be steered.

Down

2. To choose to enrol in the armed forces.
3. A serious infection of the feet caused by constant cold and wet conditions.
4. One of the most effective kinds of warship during World War One.
5. The armed services who work at sea.
6. A British liner that was sunk by a German U-boat on 7th May 1915.
8. An illness that soldiers developed as a result of the shock and horror of what they witnessed during the fighting.
9. An agreement between two or more countries.
10. A structure that is built to remember people who have died.



ANZAC DAY

What is ANZAC Day?

ANZAC Day a day of remembrance. It happens every year on the 25th of April in Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Niue and the Pitcairn Islands. The date was chosen because the 25th of April, 1915, was the date of the first military operation for the troops of Australia and New Zealand. At dawn on that day, ANZAC troops landed on the Gallipoli peninsula, Turkey.

What does ANZAC stand for?

ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. All of the soldiers in the Corps were volunteers, and had chosen to sign up. Australian soldiers were nicknamed "Diggers" and New Zealanders were known as "Kiwis".

What happened at Gallipoli?

Germany and Britain declared war on each other in August 1914 and Turkey fought alongside Germany. By early 1915 the Allies (including Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand) wanted to knock Turkey out of the war. Their idea was to take control of the capital of Turkey, Constantinople (now Istanbul). On the 25th of April British, French, Indian and ANZAC troops landed on the Gallipoli peninsula, planning to move through the country to Constantinople. They were not able to get very far, however, because the area was much better defended than they had thought. Many men were killed on both sides before the Allies were evacuated eight months later. Over 10,000 Australian and New Zealand troops died, as well as over 85,000 Turkish troops.



Conditions in the trenches at Gallipoli were terrible; the ANZACs had to eat dry emergency rations for months, with no fresh food. Soldiers' families sent them hard ANZAC biscuits, which had no egg or fat in them. This meant that they could stay fresh for the long trip to Gallipoli. Many men also died of illnesses such as dysentery. The bravery and stamina shown by the ANZACs at Gallipoli is an inspiration to people to this day.

How has ANZAC Day changed over the years?

The first ANZAC Day was on the 25th of April 1916, when ceremonies were held in Australia, New Zealand and London. In Sydney, 4,000 ANZAC soldiers paraded through the city. Over the years, the meaning of the day has broadened out and is now a commemoration of all Australian and New Zealand troops who have served in the armed forces, as well as those who have died in wars around the globe.

How is ANZAC Day marked?

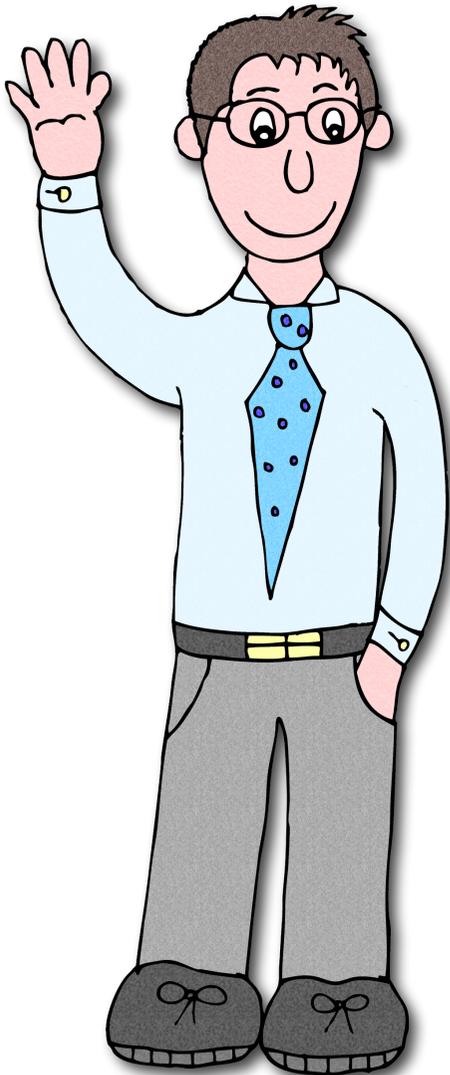
Remembrance services are held at War memorials at dawn. Wreaths of poppies are laid as a symbol of remembrance, and sprigs of rosemary are worn. Ever since the Ancient Greeks, Rosemary has been believed to improve memory. It also grows wild all over the Gallipoli peninsula.

Later in the day parades take place in towns and cities. People who have served in the armed forces, their families, and soldiers, sailors and members of the air force march to mark the occasion.



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