

# THE GREAT WAR—TIMEINE

## BRITISH EMPIRE—1901 TO 1921

### DEATH OF VICTORIA TO AFTERMATH OF THE GREAT WAR

#### EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE WAR

**June, 1914** Assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand by Serbian secret society.

#### 1914

**Aug 3** Germany declares War on France, invades neutral Belgium.  
**Aug 20** Germany enters Brussels after ignoring protests. England declares War on Germany.  
**Sep 6** First Battle of Marne—French Victory; Germans retreat to Western Front.  
**Dec 24** First German air-raid on Britain, civilian cities targeted.

#### 1915

**Apr 17** Battle of Ypres—First use of poison gas.  
**Apr-Dec** Battle of Gallipoli, costly defeat for allies against Turkey.  
**May 7** British passenger liner Lusitania sunk by the Germans.  
**May 23** Italy enters war on the side of the allies.  
**Oct 13** German execute Edith Cavell, a British nurse, for helping soldiers escape Belgium.  
**Oct 14** Bulgaria enters the war on the side of the central powers.

#### 1916

**Feb-July** Battle of Verdun, failed German offensive, over 1 million killed .  
**May 31** Largest naval battle of the war off the coast of Jutland.  
**Jul-Nov** Battle of Somme, failed British offensive, over 500 thousand killed.  
**Aug 29** Hindenburg takes supreme command of German armies.

#### 1917

**Mar 11** Baghdad captured by British.  
**Apr 6** America declares War on Germany .  
**Jul 20** Kerensky succeeds as premier of Russia  
**Nov 7** Overthrow of Kerensky by the Bolsheviks—Russia withdraws from the war.

#### 1918

**Apr 9** German offensive between Ypres and Arras.  
**May 27** German offensive near Chateau-Thierry and Marne River.  
**Jun 11** American offensive in Belleau Wood.  
**Jul 18** Second Battle of Marne—Allied Victory.  
**Sep 22** British victory over the Ottomans in Palestine.  
**Oct 1** Hindenburg Line taken by the French.  
**Oct-Nov** German losses at Laon, Ostend, Lille, Aleppo.  
**Nov 11** Armistice signed between Allies and German powers.