

## 94 Facts You Need to Know!- The First World War

1. **Kaiser Wilhelm II**- The German ruler 1888-1918
2. **Weltpolitik**- the Kaiser's foreign policy- intended to make Germany a major world power by expanding its empire and armed forces
3. **The Triple Alliance**- alliance- formed 1882-Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
4. **The Triple Entente**- alliance- formed 1907- Britain, France, Russia
5. **Morocco Crisis, 1905**- flashpoint over imperialism- Germany and France- Kaiser made speech supporting Moroccan independence, conference followed
6. **Morocco Crisis, 1911**- flashpoint over imperialism- Germany and France- Kaiser sends gunboat *Panther* to Agadir
7. **Balkans Crisis, 1908**- - flashpoint over nationalism- Austria takes over provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Russia angry at occupation of Slavic land
8. **Assassination of Franz Ferdinand**- 28<sup>th</sup> June 1914, heir to Austrian throne killed by Serbian assassin Gavrilo Princip
9. **Slav nationalism**- desire for the Slavic people to have their lands in the Balkans- popular in Serbia and Russia
10. **July Crisis**- the chain of events in the summer of 1914 which led to war being declared
11. **Strength of the British military forces in 1914**- 0.5 million men
12. **Strength of the German military forces in 1914**- 1.5 million men
13. **Strength of the French military forces in 1914**- 0.9 million men
14. **Strength of the Russian military forces in 1914**- 0.5 million men
15. **Dreadnought** – Large and expensive battleship- Britain had 29 in their navy by 1914, Germany had 17
16. **Alfred von Schlieffen**- German Field Marshal (general)- created the Schlieffen Plan
17. **General Moltke**- changed the Schlieffen Plan
18. **War Games**- the process through which the German Army tested its plans (a trial run of the real thing on a smaller scale)
19. **August 1914** outbreak of the war
20. **B.E.F.**- British Expeditionary Force- the British army who went to fight in France at the start of the war- 15,000 highly trained men
21. **Battle of the Marne, September 1914** (known as Miracle of the Marne)- German advance held up- over 12,000 British troops killed
22. **Western Front**- the battlefields of France and Belgium
23. **Stalemate**- when the two opposing armies on the Western Front couldn't move due to the nature of defensive trench warfare
24. **Ottoman Empire** (Ottomans also known as Turks), modern day Turkey. Fought on the side of the Central Powers
25. **Gallipoli Campaign**, also known as the Dardanelles Campaign, 1915 to Jan 1916
26. **Gallipoli Campaign**: Allied casualties 252,000
27. **Gallipoli Campaign**: Ottoman casualties 315,500
28. **ANZAC** – Australia and New Zealand Army Corps
29. **Battle of Jutland**, June 1916
30. **Battle of Jutland- John Jellicoe** - Royal Navy, Admiral of the Fleet (cautious)
31. **Battle of Jutland- David Beatty**- Royal Navy, Admiral of the Fleet. Took over from Jellicoe after Jutland (aggressive)

32. **Battle of Jutland- Franz von Hipper-** German Commander-in-chief of the High Seas Fleet (main battle fleet). Commander in battle of Jutland.
33. **Battle of Jutland- Reinhard Scheer** - German Admiral, led the German fleet at the battle of Jutland
34. **Battle of Jutland:** Royal Navy ships lost 14
35. **Battle of Jutland:** German Navy ships lost 11
36. **Battle of Verdun-** began in February 1916- the Germans attacked the French fortress network at Verdun
37. **Battle of Verdun-** attritional warfare- the aim was to 'bleed France white'
38. **Battle of Verdun-** French forces were led by General Pétain
39. **Battle of Verdun-** there were around 700,000 casualties in the battle- they were about even on the German and French sides
40. **Battle of Verdun-** huge use of artillery- two sides fired 40-60 million shells- caused around 70% of casualties
41. **Battle of Verdun-**the British Somme campaign was launched to take German attention away from Verdun
42. **Douglas Haig** – British Field Commander- in charge of the British army from December 1915 to end of the war- including at Somme and Passchendaele
43. **Battle of the Somme-** July- November 1916
44. **Battle of the Somme-** 57,000 British casualties on the first day- 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916- worst day in British military history in terms of losses
45. **Battle of the Somme-** over 600,000 British and French casualties (disputed)
46. **Battle of the Somme-** 430,000-500,000 German casualties (disputed)
47. **Battle of the Somme-** July- November 1916
48. **Battle of Passchendaele (Third Ypres),** July- November 1917
49. **Battle of Passchendaele (Third Ypres),** Allied casualties 325,000 (disputed)
50. **Battle of Passchendaele (Third Ypres),** German casualties 260,000 (disputed)
51. **Battle of Passchendaele (Third Ypres),** 350 tanks used at Cambrai in November 1917 but the soldiers were unable to hold the ground they captured
52. **U-boats-** 217 German U-boats sunk 1914-18
53. **U-boats-** February 1917- German U-boats begin unrestricted submarine warfare
54. **U-boats-** sink over 860,000 tons of Allied shipping in April 1917 German. If this carried on Britain would lose the war
55. **Torpedoes** – Launched from a ship or plane, they explode on contact with a ship
56. **Depth charges:** dropped from a ship or plane which sink and then explode under pressure. Used to blow up Uboats
57. **Mines or Sea Mines** – Metal bombs which were placed in the water which explode when a ship either moves over them or knocks into them
58. **Destroyer-** a type of Royal Navy Ship which fought on the surface (smaller than Dreadnought)
59. **Q ships-** ships which pose as merchant ships but actually hunt Uboats
60. **Lusitania,** sunk on 7 May 1915 brought USA into the war after 128 Americans killed
61. **Dugout** – protective holes dug out of the side of a trench
62. **Tommy-** Name for British Private- an ordinary soldier
63. **NCO-** Non-Commissioned Officer (just above a Private)
64. **Battle of Flers-Courcelette** (part of the Battle of the Somme) September 1916. First use of tanks in WW1
65. **Platoon-** group of around 50 soldiers

66. **Artillery**- creeping barrage- the tactic of firing artillery guns just ahead of your troops as they advance on the enemy to give them cover
67. **Artillery**- estimated that 60-80% of all deaths and injuries were caused by artillery fire during the war
68. **Machine Guns**- British army created its first unit dedicated to machine guns in 1915- called the Machine Gun Corps
69. **Machine Gun**-by 1918 most platoons had their own machine guns and troops even had their own light sub-machine guns
70. **Gas**- First Poison Gas Attack- April 1915- chlorine gas used by Germans
71. **Gas**- only 3,000 British casualties from gas attacks during the whole war
72. **Aircraft**- originally used for observation- used to spot targets for the artillery on the ground
73. **Aircraft**- in April 1915 aircraft were fitted with machine guns for the first time leading to air battles called 'dogfights'
74. **Aircraft**- by October 1918 the British RFC (Royal Flying Corps) had over 20,000 aircraft
75. **Paul von Hindenburg** – German commander, from 1916 lead Germany in a *de facto* military dictatorship throughout the remainder of the war
76. **Erich Ludendorff** – German commander (deputy to Hindenburg)
77. **Ferdinand Foch**- Commander-in-Chief of the French Army and Marshal of France, "Generalissimo of the Allied Armies" from spring 1918
78. **Joseph Joffre** - Commander-in-Chief of the French Army and Marshal of France
79. **The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** - a peace treaty signed March 1918 between the Russia and the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire), that ended Russia's participation in World War I.
80. **US Impact**- April 1917- USA enter the war on the side of the Allies
81. **US Impact**- by early 1918 the US were sending 50,000 troops per month to France, along with heavy guns and tanks
82. **Division**- A military unit, in WW1 this consisted of roughly 30,000 men or more
83. **Spring Offensive** 1918- Germany's last big effort to win the war- Germans break through the Allied lines and get within 64km of Paris
84. **Operation Michael**, the German military operation which began the Spring Offensive
85. **Attritional warfare (war of attrition)** – the slow 'wearing away' of the enemy force like the sea eroding a cliff. Constant but slow.
86. **Fluid or Mobile warfare** – Where forces move quickly over territory and fight a moving battle unlike trench warfare (July to November 1918 on the Western Front)
87. **Stormtroopers**- Specialist soldiers of the German Army in World War I. In the last years of the war they were used new tactics to attack the Allies
88. **Hundred Days Offensive**- August to November 1918, the final push of WW1 where the Allies launched a series of successful offensives against the Central Powers
89. **Hindenburg Line**- A German defensive line, broken in 1918 during the Hundred Days Offensive
90. **US Impact**- had 1 million men in France by the summer of 1918- the largest army taking part by the end of the war
91. **Allied Blockade Impact**- Turnip Winter (1916-17)- German population living off little more than turnips
92. **Allied Blockade Impact**- November 1918- riots began at Kiel navy base and spread to many German cities
93. **9<sup>th</sup> November 1918**- Kaiser abdicates and flees the country- paves way for German politicians to negotiate a peace settlement
94. **11<sup>th</sup> November 1918** the end of the First World War