

The Push Toward War

NATIONALISM

- German pride in military & industry
- French anger toward Germany for previous losses
- Russian Loyalty to all Slavic people

ECONOMIC CONFLICTS

- Rivalries among Britain, Germany and France
- Desire to be the leader of industry
- Competition for colonies

MILITARISM

- Race to build bigger armies and navies
- Need to be ready for war
- Image of war was glorious
- Growing Power of Military leaders
- Fear of losing colonies to a rival

ALLIANCES

- Uniting of Central Powers
- Uniting of Allies
- Russian agreements with smaller Slavic nations
- Agreements to defend each other

No one wanted war but everyone was ready to fight!

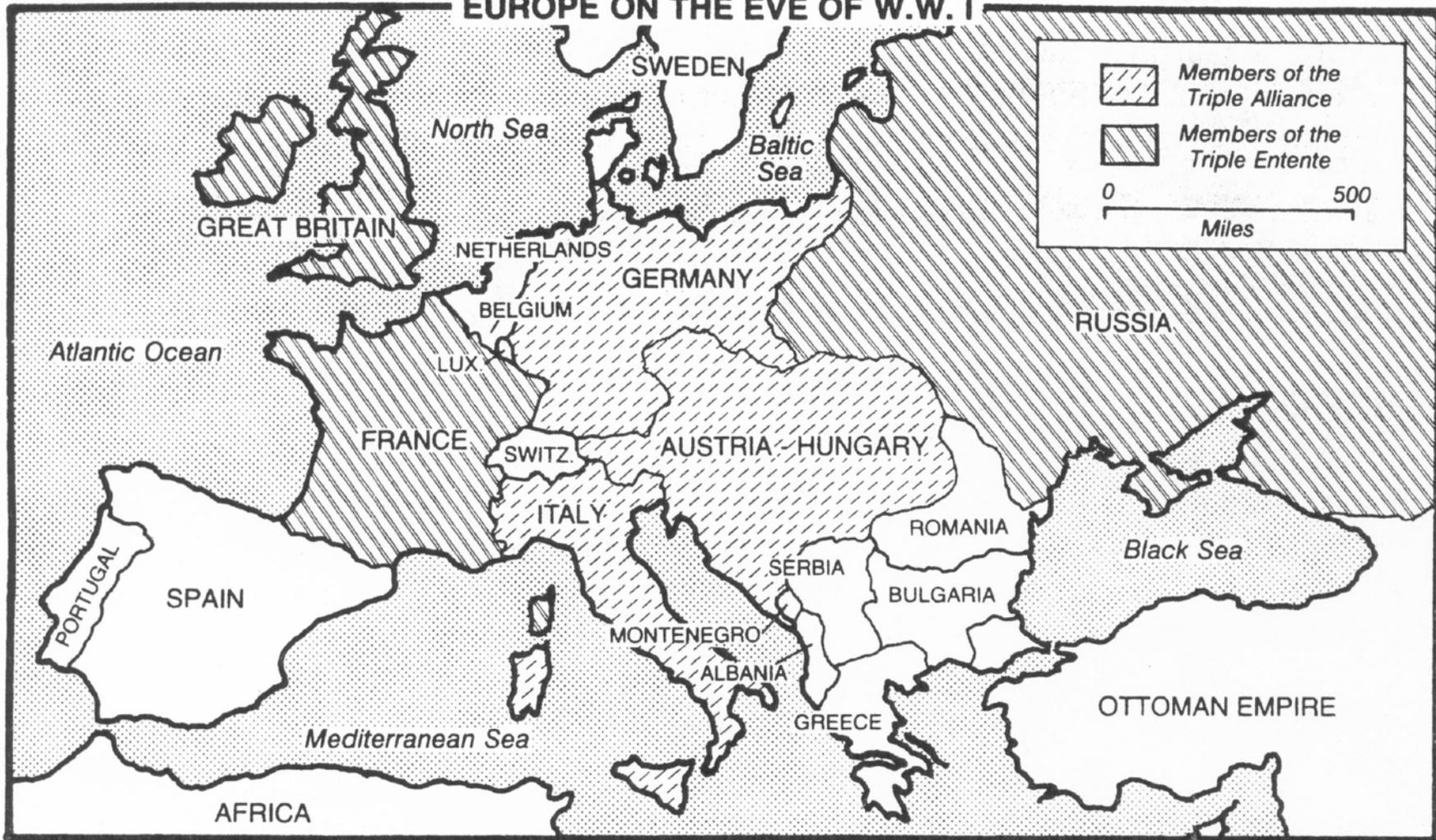
THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE

GERMANY
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
ITALY

THE TRIPLE ENTENTE

BRITAIN
FRANCE
RUSSIA

EUROPE ON THE EVE OF W.W. I



The Assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand

The Balkans was known as the “powder keg of Europe.” The Archduke and heir to the Austrian throne along with his wife Sophie were assassinated on June 2, 1914 in the Bosnian city of Sarajevo. Austria’s 1908 annexation of this Slavic province, with its large Serbian population, had angered not only Russia, but Serbia, which was now an independent nation with ambitions to grow larger. The killer was a member of the Black Hand, an organization to unite all of the South Slavic people into one nation. His name was Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian student of Serb descent. He fired the “**shot heard around the world.**”



The assassination causes an international outrage

Austria blames Serbia for the murders. On July 23, 1914 Austria gives Serbia a list of humiliating demands. If Serbia does not agree then Austria will wage war.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| July 28 | Austria declares war on Serbia |
| July 29 | Russia mobilizes 1,200,000 troops against Austria
Austria bombs Belgrade |
| August 1 | Germany declares war on Russia |
| August 2 | Russia invades Germany,
Germany invades France, Luxembourg & Switzerland |
| August 3 | Germany declares war on France and invades Russia
Italy declares neutrality |
| August 4 | Germany invades Belgium, England declares war on Germany |
| August 5 | United States declared Neutrality |
| August 6 | Austria declares war on Russia
Serbia declares war on Germany |
| August 9 | Germany & Austria threaten Italy with war if stays neutral |
| August 12 | France and Britain declare war on Austria-Hungary |
| August 23 | Japan declares war on Germany |

The Crime of the Ages—Who Did It?



Source: John McCutcheon, *The Chicago Tribune*; H. H. Windsor, *Cartoons Magazine* (adapted)

Conscription

Once England entered the war so did its imperial possessions and dominions including Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa

To fight the war a draft or conscription was needed. Millions joined the armed forces on both sides to fight in the “Great War”



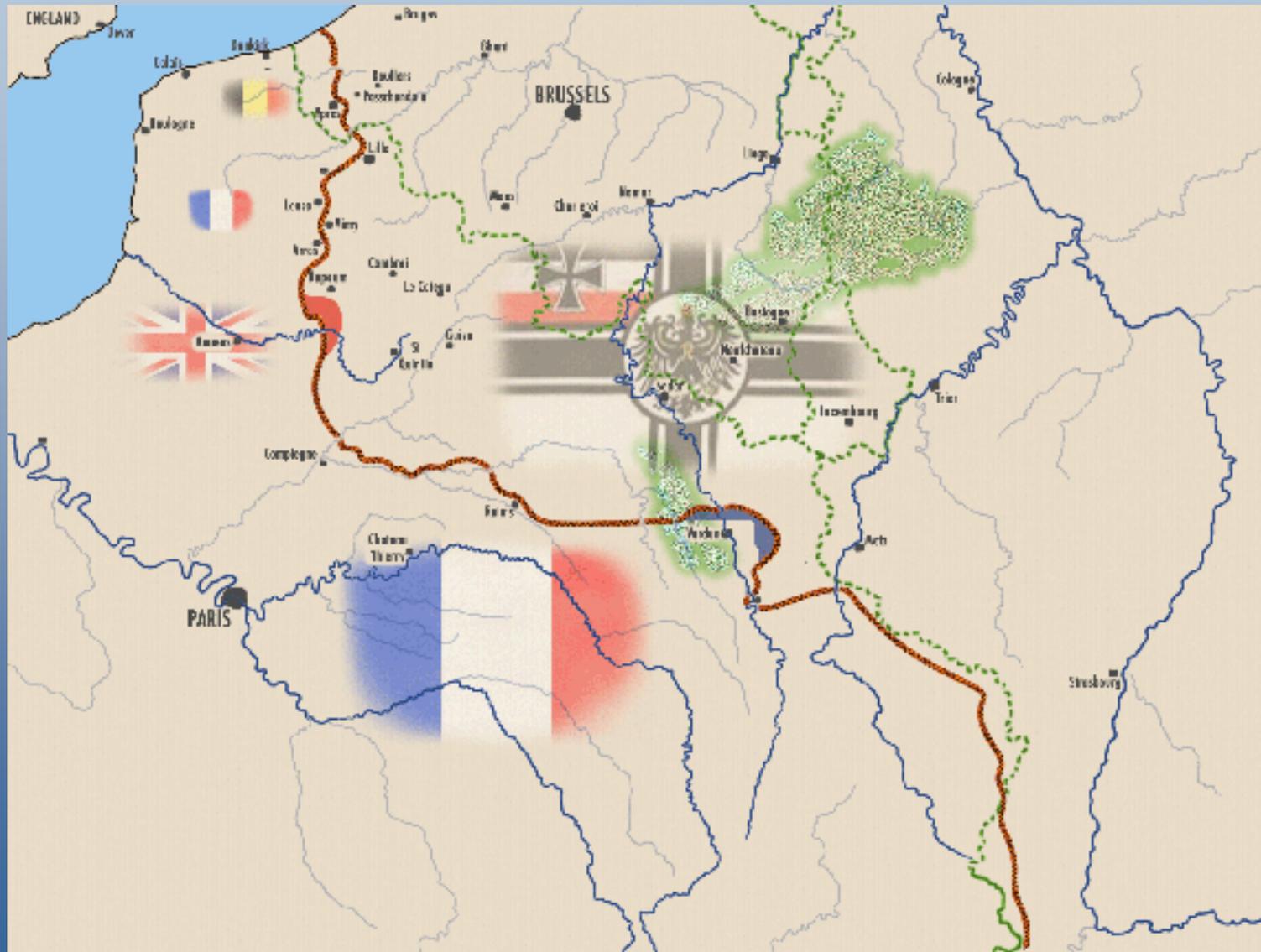
The Schlieffen Plan

The German Chief of General staff, Count Alfred von Schlieffen had worked on a military plan of war for years prior to the outbreak of war. It was a plan of attack on two fronts. He realized that the longer the conflict lasted, the more likely Germany and Austria were to lose.

It was a daring plan; send 75% of the troops to the Western Front against France, capture Paris and knock France out of the war in six weeks. The rest of the army, along with the Austrians would defend the Eastern Front against Russia. To catch the French off guard, the main attack force would move through the neutral country of Belgium. The illegal invasion of Belgium killed many innocent civilians and forced Britain to enter the war. The Germans were seen as the aggressors, “barbarians” and “Huns.”

The plan began in August but by early September it had failed. The Belgians resisted, Russia mobilized quicker than expected in the East, and the French made a heroic stand just outside Paris at the Battle of Marne. The war was not going to end in six weeks as planned!

The Western Front



The Western Front was a stalemate. Both sides were evenly matched and used modern technology. By the end of 1914 over 500 miles of trenches, bunkers, barbed wire, separated the enemies. The front stretched from the English Channel to Switzerland. Battles were bloody and futile. The Battle of Verdun and the Battle of the Somme, both in 1916 resulted in hundreds of thousands of casualties with no real ground gained by any side.



“All Quiet on the Western Front”

Not until 1917 and 1918 did tactical changes and new weaponry start to bring an end to the painful stalemate of trench warfare



The Eastern Front

- Totally different from the west; this front was over 1,000 miles long. Battles were more decisive.
- In November, 1914 Turkey ceased diplomatic relations with England, Russia, France and Serbia and entered the war as a member of the Triple Alliance.
- In September 1915 Germany offered parts of Macedonia to Bulgaria who then entered the war in October.
- Russia is now cut-off from it's allies. By 1917 Russia is nearing the end of its capacity to fight.



World War One: Who's Who

Alliances in 1917

Pre-war national boundaries shown

0 600 miles

Key to Alliances in 1917

Central Powers

Allied Powers

Neutral Nations

Propaganda from World War I



The Sinking of the Lusitania

OCEAN TRAVEL.

NOTICE!

TRAVELLERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk.

IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 22, 1915.

OCEAN TRAVEL.

CUNARD



EUROPE VIA LIVERPOOL
LUSITANIA

Fastest and Largest Steamer now in Atlantic Service Sails

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 10 A. M.

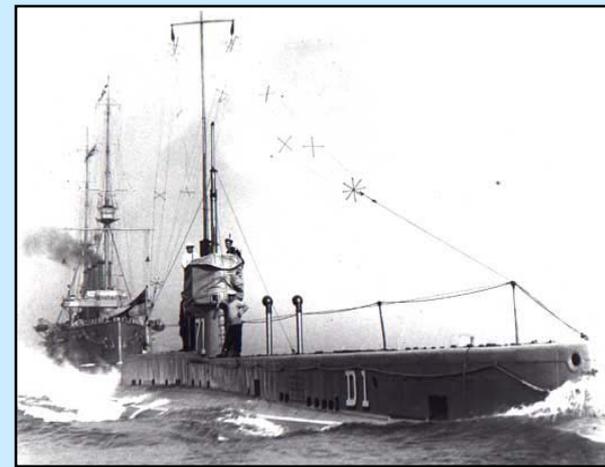
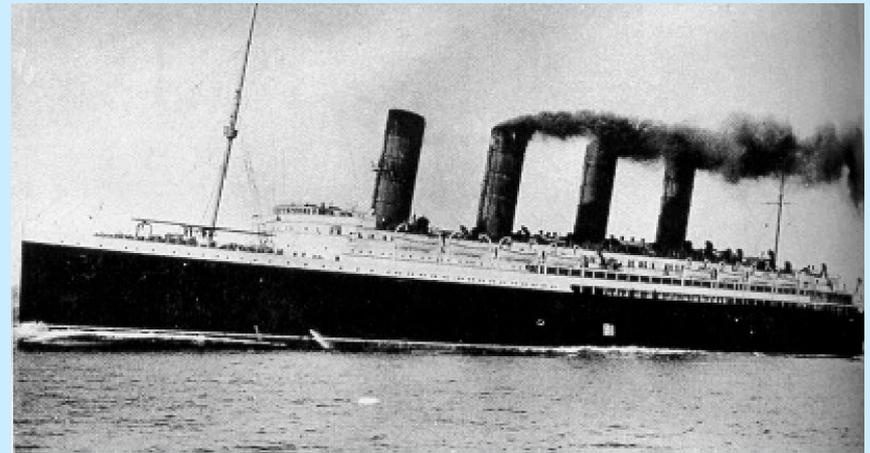
Transylvania - Fri., May 7, 5 P.M.
Orduna, - - - Tues., May 18, 10 A.M.
Tuscany, - - - Fri., May 21, 5 P.M.
LUSITANIA, - Sat., May 29, 10 A.M.
Transylvania, - Fri., June 4, 5 P.M.

Gibraltar—Genoa—Naples—Piræus
S.S. Carpathia, Thur., May 13, Noon

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Naval Warfare

The British Royal Navy imposed blockades on Germany and Austria. Germany made use of its most effective naval weapon; the submarine or U-boat.

Britain nearly ran out of food because the Germans sank the supply ships. Submarine warfare was diplomatically risky; they sunk neutral ships and killed civilians. The U-boat was a major reason why the United States entered the war!



The Global Dimensions of World War I



Allies – Green

Central Powers – Orange

Neutral - Grey

World War I became a global war. Britain & France used native troops in Africa. Britain also mobilized Sepoys, Sikhs and Nepalese Gurkhas against the Turks in the Middle East. When Japan joined the war they took over Germany's islands in the Pacific. Australia seized German New Guinea. The most important non-European theater of war was the Middle East. In 1915 the British, Australian and New Zealand troops tried to invade Gallipoli, near Istanbul. It failed badly and 50% of the Allies were casualties. A better result was Lawrence of Arabia (T.E. Lawrence) who persuaded Arab troops to take over the Ottoman Empire in 1917 and 1918.

The Final Stages of World War I

April 1917 USA declares war on Germany

- Unrestricted submarine warfare
- The sinking of the Lusitania
- The Zimmerman Telegram
- Public sentiment against the “barbarian” Germans

Russia was collapsing

- March 1917 tsarist regime falls
- October-November 1917 Revolution in Russia
- Lenin and the Bolsheviks pull out of the war

Germany sends all of her men to the Western Front

- Make one final push and capture Paris
- Win the war before the Americans arrive

The Yanks are coming!

By the summer of 1918 the first American troops arrived in Europe.

The Germans had launched a massive offensive against northern France. Once again, the British, Canadians and the French (along with the newly arrived Americans) held them off at the river Marne.

By the fall the Germans were in full retreat. In early November, strikes and mutinies convinced the Austrian and German governments to surrender.

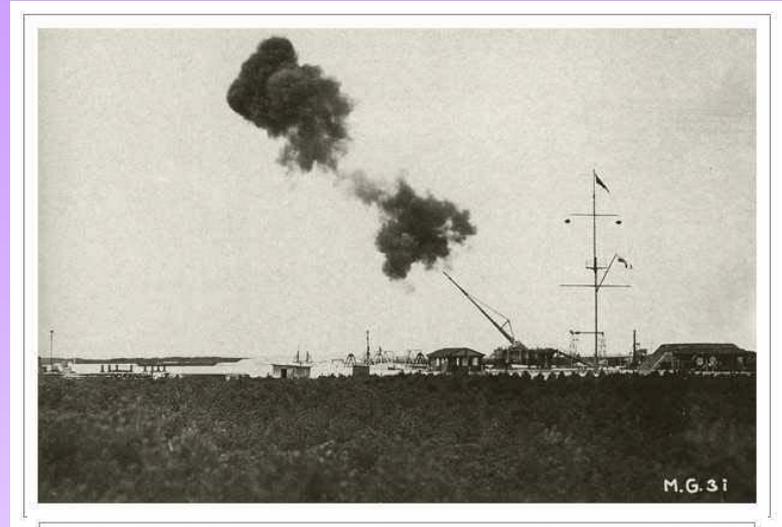
OVER THERE

Over There, Over There
Send the word, send the word,
Over There
That the Yanks are coming,
The Yanks are coming,
The drums rum tumming everywhere
So Prepare
Say a Prayer
Send the Word,
Send the word to beware
We'll be over, we're coming over.
And we won't be back till it's over,
over there!

Copyright © 1917 by Leo. Feist, Inc., New York

Big Bertha

World War I was no longer a gentleman's war. As the war progressed armaments became more advanced which created a greater killing power. Innocent civilians were now part of the war. The German army moved Big Bertha to the front by train. You can see the damage from just one shell.



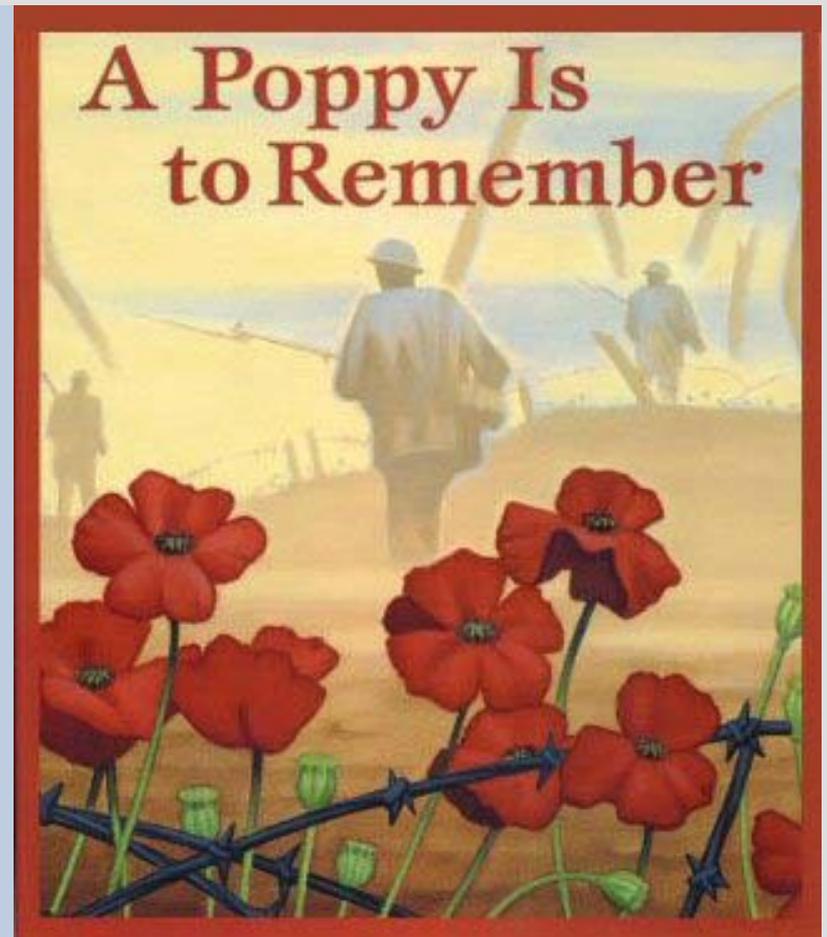
The final push – The Marne Offensive



World War I Ends!

It is called Armistice Day.
On the 11th hour of the 11th
day of the 11th month of
1918 World War I came to
an end.

What was once thought to last a
matter of a few weeks lasted over
four years.



Short-Term Consequences of the War

- Over 10 million soldiers killed
- 3 to 5 million civilians killed
- 28 to 30 million people wounded
- The cost was \$ 32 billion
(about \$400 billion today)
- Millions were homeless or even stateless
- A global epidemic of Spanish flu struck during the final months of the war. About 20 million worldwide died of this disease.



I am young, I am strong, I am ready
I can take on the world
For my country, I will win, I cannot fail
No one will defeat me
Because I am invincible

Hours tick by
Days drag on
Weeks are never ending
Months meander
Years pass me by

Crippling,
Trench foot lets wind whisk away my digits
Cramping,
Stiff positions mutate muscles into stone
Crumbling,
Mustard gas peels pieces of cartilage

I am old, I am weak, I am useless
I can't move, speak, breathe
For my country, I try, but I have failed
I am defeated, I will surrender to my fate



A final reflection

“As the car came abreast he stepped forward from the curb, drew his automatic pistol from his coat, and fired two shots. The first struck the wife of the Archduke, the Archduchess Sofia, in the abdomen....She died instantly. The second bullet struck the Archduke close to the heart. He uttered only one word, “Sofia” – a call to his stricken wife. Then his head fell back and he collapsed. He died almost instantly.... The only sign of regret was the statement that he was sorry he had killed the wife of the Archduke. He had aimed only at her husband and would have preferred that any other bullet should have struck General Potiorek....

Princip, because he was a minor (nineteen) and could not be executed, was sentenced to twenty years of hard labor. He died in prison in 1918”.

