



Causes of Tension and War

- Militarism** Building up military forces.
- Alliances** Agreements between countries to support each other in war.
- Nationalism** Pride and devotion to one's country.
- Imperialism** One country taking over another country economically and politically.
- Assassination** The murder of Franz Ferdinand.
- Competition** Rivalry over trade.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand

- A member of the Austrian Royal Family - nephew of Emperor Franz Josef
- Heir to the Austrian throne (next in line to be the Emperor / ruler of Austria-Hungary)
- Not very well liked in Austria
- Married to Sophie and had three Children
- Was sent on a Royal tour to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia - a county which Austria has just taken over.
- Assassinated on June 28, 1914 by Gavrilo Princip



Gavrilo Princip

- Gavrilo Princip was born in Bosnia in 1894, the son of a postman.
- He became a member of the Black Hand - a Serbian terrorist organisation which wanted to hurt Austria and get it out of Bosnia.
- Planned to assassinate Franz Ferdinand

Timeline of 1914 - events leading up to the start of WW1

June 28 - Archduke Franz Ferdinand, prince to the Austria-Hungary throne, is assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serbian named Gavrilo Princip. **July 23** - Austria-Hungary demands Serbia pay for the assassination of Franz Ferdinand. Serbia does not meet these demands. **July 28** - Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Russia begins mobilizing its troops. **August 1** - Germany declares war on Russia. **August 3** - Germany declares war on France as part of the Schlieffen Plan. **August 4** - Germany invades Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany. **August 23 to 30** - The Battle of Tannenberg is fought between Germany and Russia. The Germans defeat the Russian Second Army. **September 5 to 12** - The advancing German army is stopped before Paris by the British and French at the First Battle of the Marne. The Germans dig in and four years of trench warfare begins.

Alliances

In 1914 there were two main power blocks / alliances:

- The Triple Entente- Great Britain / France / Russia
- The Triple Alliance- Germany / Italy and Austria-Hungary

Each member promised to help its allies if they were attacked by a country belonging to another alliance.

Conscientious Objectors

There were over 16,000 conscientious objectors in Britain. These 'conchie' or 'Cuthberts' (as they were often nicknamed) had many different reasons for refusing to fight: • Some were pacifists who were against war in general. • Some people felt the war was wrong or thought it went against their conscience or personal beliefs. • Some were political objectors who did not consider the government of Germany to be their enemy • Some were religious objectors who believed that war and fighting was against their religion. Groups in this section were the Quakers and Jehovah Witnesses. • Some were 'absolutists' who refused to have anything to do with the war and would not participate in any activity even related to fighting such as munitions. Many of these COs decided to go before special courts to ask to be excused from military service. The courts turned down most of these requests, believing that those asking for exemption were cowards.

Life in the Trenches

Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night. Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night. In the middle, was No Man's Land, so-called because it did not belong to either army. Soldiers crossed No Man's Land when they wanted to attack the other side. Soldiers in the trenches did not get much sleep. When they did, it was in the afternoon during daylight and at night only for an hour at a time. They were woken up at different times, either to complete one of their daily chores or to fight. During rest time, they wrote letters and sometimes played card games. The trenches could be very muddy and smelly. There were many dead bodies buried nearby and the latrines (toilets) sometimes overflowed into the trenches. Millions of rats infested the trenches and some grew as big as cats. There was also a big problem with lice that tormented the soldiers on a daily basis.

Key Terms

Military
The army and navy - fighting forces

Alliances
Promises between countries to support each other

Colony
The countries that make up an Empire

The Balkans
Serbia and Bosnia

Nationalism
Profound pride in ones country

Slav
An ethnic group from Russia

Annex
Forcing a nation to become part of yours

Archduke
A senior member of the Austrian royal family

Assassination
Politically motivated murder

Sarajevo
The capital of Bosnia

Ultimatum
Do it or else!

The July Crisis
The events leading to war in 1914

Mobilisation
Getting ready to fight

Conscientious Objectors
People who refused to fight or be involved with war.