

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

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.

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.

Weapons

Machine Guns: Very heavy; placed in fixed position on front lines; needed 3-4 men to operate; killed 25 men in the open, 0.1 in trenches.

Heavy Artillery: Large heavy cannons; fired 14 miles; fired large shells 2,700kg containing lead ball bearings; located on rear lines; killed 50 men out in open, 0.5 men in trenches.

Light Artillery: Could fire up to 10 miles (field gun) or 3 miles (trench mortar); used in front line or reserve trenches; more accurate than heavy artillery; some fired mortar bombs/ 'toffee-apple' bombs; killed up to 10 men in the open, 0.5 in a trench.

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.

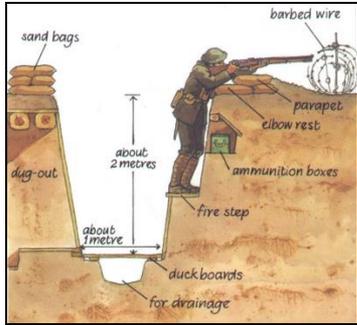
August 1 - Germany declares war on Russia.

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.



Trenches

Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night [2m deep by 1m wide]. There were 3 lines of trenches - Front Line, Service Line and Rear Line. They were dug in a zig zag pattern, which made them even more cramped. There were dug-outs for resting and a fire-step half way up so that soldiers could 'stand-to-arms'.

Life and Conditions in the Trenches

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. Disease was common - including pneumonia, typhus, dysentery and 'trench fever'.

No Man's Land

In the middle of the trenches 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. It was covered in barbed wire, mines, shell holes, and the rotting corpses of soldiers and horses.

The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand was a fluke event. If Gavrilo Princip was not in exactly the same café in front of which Franz Ferdinand stopped, the shooting would not have occurred at all. If he was not killed then Austria - Hungary would not have sent Serbia an ultimatum, and declared war on July 28, 1914. Without this event there would have been no 'spark' to cause war.

Many nations in Europe did not want war, and did everything they could to avoid it. England especially did not want to get drawn into a war and used diplomacy to try to dispel conflict.

At any point in the lead up to war in July 1914 the conflict could have been de-escalated.

Was War Inevitable in 1914?



Alliances - because of the system of alliances a threat to any single nation became an act of aggression to 3 countries. If any of the 6 countries in the alliance was attacked for any reason, all five of them would have to join the war.

Imperialism and trade - Before 1914 European countries were fighting over territory outside Europe (as it brought more raw materials, and possibilities for trade). By 1914 all available territory was already divided among them. This caused conflict as each country wanted more territory and had to fight with the others to get it. Thus a war would have started soon, because of territorial conflicts.

Militarism in Europe - Germany, especially Kaiser Wilhelm, wanted war and had dedicated time and money to building his army and navy and perfecting the Schlieffen Plan (the strategy to fight a war in Europe against Russia and France).