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First World War Timeline, 1914-1918



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FIRST WORLD WAR TIMELINE (esp. Western Front)

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This timeline was originally produced by the then Grange Museum of Community History (now Brent Museum) for an exhibition on the First World War in 1998. With minor changes it has now been published as an e-text to mark the release of the pamphlet *Wembley in the First World War 1914-1919*, which is available from Brent Archive, Olive Road, Cricklewood.



FIRST WORLD WAR TIMELINE (esp. Western Front)

1914 Belgians

Germany enters
Luxembourg (1 Aug.)
GERMANY INVADES
BELGIUM (3 Aug.)

DEFENCE OF LIEGE FORTS (4-16 Aug.)

Brussels falls (20 Aug.)

SIEGE OF ANTWERP (20 Aug.-10 Oct.)

Large number of Belgian
refugees flee to Britain,
France and neutral Holland

BELGIAN ARMY
RETREATS ALONG
COAST (9-14 Oct.)

BELGIAN ARMY REACHES
YSER LINE (14 Oct.)

1914 British

BRITAIN DECLARES WAR
(4 Aug.)

First British troops arrive in
France (8th Aug.)

MONS (23 Aug.)

'GREAT RETREAT' (24
Aug.-5 Sept.)

Landrecies (25 Aug.)

LE CATEAU (26 Aug.)

Néry (1 Sept.)

Villers-Coterêt (1 Sept.)

1ST MARNE (6-9 Sept.)

Advance to Aisne (9-13
Sept.)

AISNE (13-27 Sept.)

First Indian troops arrive at
Marseilles (26 Sept.)

'RACE TO THE SEA' (1-14
Oct.)

Antwerp (4-9 Oct.)

1/9th Middlesex Regt. to
India (Oct.)

1ST YPRES (19 Oct.-11
Nov.)

1st Indian Army V.C. (31
Oct.)

WAR DECLARED ON
TURKEY (6 Nov.)

British/Indian troops land in
Mesopotamia (6 Nov.)

TRENCH LINES STABILIZE
(Nov.)

Christmas Truce (25 Dec.)

1914 French

GERMANY DECLARES
WAR (3 Aug.)

**'BATTLE OF THE
FRONTIERS' (PLAN 17)**
LORRAINE (14-22 Aug.)
SAMBRE (21-23 Aug.)
ARDENNES (22-24 Aug.)

RETREAT

GUISE (29 Aug.)

1ST MARNE (5-9 Sept.)

Advance to Aisne (9-13
Sept.)

AISNE (13-27 Sept.)

'RACE TO THE SEA' (17
Sept.-14 Oct.)

1st Ypres (19 Oct.-11 Nov.)

WAR DECLARED ON
TURKEY (6 Nov.)

TRENCH LINES STABILIZE
(Nov.)

1ST ARTOIS (17 Dec.-4
Jan. 1915)

Christmas Truce (25 Dec.)



1915 British

1st Zeppelin raid (Jan. – on Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft)

DARDANELLES (19 Feb.-9 Jan. 1916)

NEUVE CHAPELLE (10-13 Mar.)

Hill 60 (16 Apr.)

2ND YPRES (22 Apr.-25 May)

Germans use Chlorine gas, Ypres (22 Apr.)

Lusitania sunk (7 May)

AUBERS RIDGE (9-10 May)

FESTUBERT (9-26 May)

Givenchy (11-18 May)

Italy enters the war (23 May)

1st Zeppelin raid on London (31st May)

2 coys. 2/9th Middlesex Regt. to Gallipoli (Aug.)

LOOS (25 Sept.-8 Oct.)

1st British use of poison gas, Loos (25 Sept.)

Haig replaces French as C.-in-C. (15 Dec.)

1915 French

VOSGES (25 Nov. 1914-16 Mar.)

1ST CHAMPAGNE (20 Dec. 1914-18 Mar.)

DARDANELLES (25 Apr-9 Jan. 1916)

2nd Ypres (22 Apr.-25 May)

Germans use Chlorine gas, Ypres (22 Apr.)

2ND ARTOIS (9 May-18 Jun.)

Italy enters the war (23 May)

2ND CHAMPAGNE (25 Sept.-6 Oct.)

3RD ARTOIS (25 Sept.-11 Oct.)

FIRST WORLD WAR TIMELINE (esp. Western Front)

1916 British

Conscription (except Ireland) (2 Mar.)

Germany declares war on Portugal (9 Mar.)

Easter Rising, Dublin (24 Apr.-1 May)

Kut-el-Amara surrenders, Mesopotamia (29 Apr.)

JUTLAND (31st May)

Battle of Mount Sorrel (2-13 June)

SOMME (1 Jul.-17 Nov.)
1st use of tanks, Somme (15 Sept.)

Lloyd George replaces Asquith as Prime Minister (7 Dec.)

1916 French

VERDUN (21 Feb.-18 Dec.)

Somme (1 Jul.-17 Nov.)

Nivelle replaces Joffre as C.-in-C. (12 Dec.)



FIRST WORLD WAR TIMELINE (esp. Western Front)

1917 British

Unrestricted U-boat warfare (1 Feb.)

GERMANS START STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL TO HINDENBURG LINE (16 Mar.)
Bapaume captured (17 Mar.)

AMERICA ENTERS WAR (6 Apr.)

ARRAS (9 Apr.-mid-May)
VIMY RIDGE (Canadians) (9-12 Apr.)

Allied shipping losses peak (Apr.)

1st *Gotha* bomber raid (25 May)

MESSINES RIDGE (7 Jun.)

3RD YPRES (31 Jul.-6 Nov.)
Passchendaele (captured 6 Nov.)

CAMBRAI (20 Nov.-6 Dec.)
1st massed use of tanks, Cambrai (Nov.)

Russia leaves war (2 Dec.)

1917 French

GERMANS START STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL TO HINDENBURG LINE (16 Mar.)

AMERICA ENTERS WAR (6 Apr.)

NIVELLE OFFENSIVE (16 Apr.-5 May)

Pétain replaces Nivelle (15 May)

'MUTINIES' IN FRENCH ARMY (May-Jun.)

Clemenceau replaces Painlevé as P.M. (15 Nov.)

Russia leaves war (2 Dec.)



FIRST WORLD WAR TIMELINE (esp. Western Front)

1918 British

LUDENDORFF OFFENSIVES

'MICHAEL', SOMME (21 Mar.-5 Apr.)
Foch becomes Allied 'Co-ordinator' (26 Mar.)
'Mars', Arras (28 March-5 Apr.)

RAF formed (1 Apr.)

'GEORGETTE', FLANDERS (Portuguese involved) (9-29 Apr.)
Haig's 'Backs to the Wall' Order of the Day (12 Apr.)

Zeebrugge raid (23 Apr.)

Largest and last *Gotha* raid on London (19/20 May)
'Carlton' tavern destroyed by bomb, Kilburn (19/20 May)

ALLIED OFFENSIVES

Hamel (Australians) (4 Jul.)

INFLUENZA I (mild) (Jun.-Jul.)

Last *Gotha* raid (June)

Great Universal Remembrance Day (4 Aug.)

AMIENS (8 -13 Aug.)
'Germany's Black Day' (8 Aug.)

GENERAL OFFENSIVE (21 Aug.-11 Nov.)

INFLUENZA II (virulent) (Sept.-Feb. 1919)

Germany declared a republic (9 Nov.)

ARMISTICE (11 Nov.)

General Election (14 Dec.)
Lloyd George wins election (28 Dec.)

1918 French & Americans

LUDENDORFF OFFENSIVES

Foch becomes Allied 'Co-ordinator' (26 Mar.)

AISNE (27 May-5 June)
Noyon (9 June)

CHAMPAGNE/MARNE(15 -18 Jul.)

INFLUENZA I (mild) (Jun.-Jul.)

ALLIED OFFENSIVES

2ND MARNE (18 Jul.-6 Aug.)

GENERAL OFFENSIVE (20 Aug.-11 Nov.)
St. Mihiel (Americans) (12 Sept.)

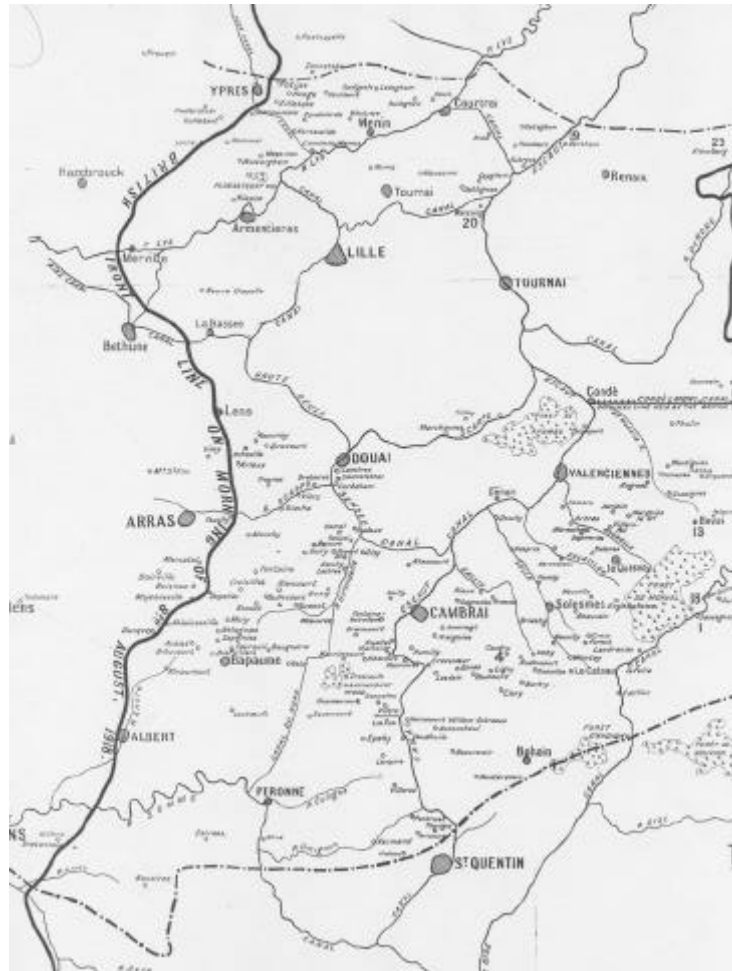
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FIRST WORLD WAR TIMELINE (esp. Western Front)



British Sector, Western Front, August 1918

(from E. Wyrrall - *The Die-Hards in the Great War* [Harrison & Sons, n.d.], Vol. 2, facing p. 290)

WEMBLEY MAN WINS THE MILITARY CROSS.

The congratulations of the district are extended to Temporary Lieut. C. R. Bolton, Royal Sussex Regiment, son of the late Mr. T. Bolton, of Chouwinges, East-lane, who was for years one of the most prominent municipal workers in the district. has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. The following wording taken from the official "London Gazette" best expresses the brave action: "Temporary Lieut. C. R. Bolton, Royal Sussex Regiment, for conspicuous gallantry during operations. He organised parties and kept the battalion supplied with munitions and bombs in the enemy's lines, and kept his C.O. informed of the progress of the fight. He showed great coolness under heavy fire." The young hero, who is only 23, gave up his business career in the Argentine and came home to enlist.

Harrow Observer, 1st September 1916

