





## JANUARY

- 9**  Last troops evacuated from the Helles beachhead at Gallipoli. Campaign abandoned.
- 10**  In the Caucasus, Russian forces push back the Turks and go on to capture Erzerum and Trabzon. Fighting continues until 18 April.
- 24**  First Military Service Act passed by the British parliament making all single men between 18 and 41 eligible for conscription into the army
- 29**  Last German airship raid on Paris

## FEBRUARY

- 10**  Conscription begins in Britain when the Military Service Act comes into effect
- 18**  Last German forces in the Cameroons surrender to British
- 21**  Battle of Verdun. Following a heavy bombardment, Germans launch major attack against the French intending to cause heavy casualties. Fighting continues until 18 December.
- 25**  Fort Douamont captured at Verdun by the Germans

## MARCH

- 1**  Germans recommence submarine attacks against merchant and passenger vessels approaching Britain. Continues until April.
- 9**  Germany declares war on Portugal

## APRIL

- 24**  Irish republicans launch an uprising in Dublin. It lasts until 1 May but is suppressed by the British authorities. The leaders are executed, causing deep resentment.
- 29**  Siege of Kut ends. Anglo-Indian garrison finally surrenders to the besieging Turkish forces after 143 days.

## MAY

- 14**  Austro-Hungarians launch an attack against Italian troops on the Asiago front in the Italian alpine region of Trentino, advancing up to 19km (12 miles). Continues until 10 June.
- 16**  Second Military Service Act passed by the British parliament, extending conscription to married men
- 21**  Daylight Saving (British Summer Time) introduced in Britain for the first time to encourage longer working hours in factories and on farms
- 31**  Battle of Jutland. British Grand Fleet confronts the German High Seas Fleet in the North Sea, off the coast of Denmark. Although the British lose more ships, the German fleet is driven back to port and remains there for the rest of the war.

## JUNE


- 4**  Led by General Alexei Brusilov, a major Russian offensive is launched in western Ukraine, principally against the Austro-Hungarians, who are forced into steady retreat. Fighting continues until 17 August.
- 5**  British Secretary of State for War, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, drowned en route to Russia when HMS *Hampshire* strikes a mine off the Orkney Islands and sinks
- 7**  Fort Vaux captured at Verdun by the Germans
-  Arab Revolt against Turkish rule launched in the Hejaz region of Arabia by Sherif Hussein of Mecca









# 1916

-  Military events
-  Naval events
-  Aviation events
-  Political events
-  Social events





## JULY

- 1**  Battle of the Somme. Major Anglo-French offensive launched in Picardy. On the opening day, the British Army suffers 57,470 casualties, including 19,240 killed – its heaviest ever casualty toll in a 24 hour period. The battle continues until 18 November.
- 7**  David Lloyd George appointed Secretary of State for War in place of the late Lord Kitchener
- 11**  At Verdun, only five kilometres (three miles) from the city, the Germans suspend their attacks in order to move troops to the Somme
- 14**  Battle of Bazentin Ridge. On the Somme, the British launch a dawn attack that captures the villages of Bazentin and Longueval. British and Indian cavalry make a short-lived charge towards High Wood.
- 19**  Battle of Fromelles. Australian and British troops suffer heavy casualties in an attack on the German line in French Flanders.

## AUGUST

- 4**  Battle of Romani. Advancing Turkish forces defeated in the Sinai Desert by Australian, New Zealand and British troops from Egypt. Turks begin to fall back towards Palestine.
- 6**  Sixth Battle of the Isonzo. Italian troops in the north-east advance and capture Gorizia, one of the few significant advances on the Isonzo front. Fighting continues until 17 August.
- 21**  *The Battle of the Somme* documentary film released for viewing in 34 cinemas in London. Nationwide release follows a week later. The film is the first documentary to show actual footage of men fighting in battle. It is seen by more than 20 million people.
- 27**  Rumania enters the war on the Allied side but is quickly defeated by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria
- 28**  Italy declares war on Germany
- 29**  In France, General Erich von Falkenhayn is replaced as Chief of the General Staff of the German field armies by Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, with General Erich Ludendorff as Chief Quartermaster General






## SEPTEMBER

- 3**  First German airship shot down over Britain, to the north of London
- 4**  British forces take Dar es Salaam in German East Africa
- 15**  Battle of Flers-Courcelette on the Somme. Allied forces advance using the support of tanks for the first time.
- 26**  Village of Thiepval captured on the Somme. Later the site of the great Memorial to the Missing.






## OCTOBER

- 24**  Major French counter-attack at Verdun under General Robert Nivelle pushes the Germans back. Fort Douamont is recaptured by the French. Fighting continues until 18 December.

## NOVEMBER

- 2**  Fort Vaux recaptured by the French at Verdun
- 7**  Woodrow Wilson re-elected President of the United States of America
- 13**  Battle of the Ancre. Final action on the Somme begins.
- 19**  Battle of the Somme ends in snow and heavy rain after 142 days of fighting
-  At Salonika, Allied forces liberate the Serbian town of Monastir after an offensive lasting two months

## DECEMBER

- 7**  Herbert Asquith replaced as British Prime Minister by David Lloyd George, who takes over leadership of the wartime coalition
- 12**  German Chancellor, Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg, sends a peace note to the Allies offering to open talks in a neutral country
- 19**  Battle of Verdun ends
- 21**  British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, rejects the German peace note and the offer of talks
-  General Joseph Joffre replaced in command of the French armies by General Robert Nivelle