

BRITAIN AT WAR



Why did WWI start?

- **Tangled Alliances:** Countries promised to help each other in a fight, making a small war explode into a massive one.
- **Land Grabbing:** Countries competed for colonies and empires, fueling tensions.
- **Arms Race:** Countries built bigger and stronger armies, scaring each other.
- **National Pride:** People felt their country was the best, leading to clashes.
- **The Spark:** The assassination of **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** by Gavrilo Principe sparked WWI.



The Trenches:

The war was fought mainly in giant dugouts called **trenches**, with terrible casualties on both sides. New deadly weapons like machine guns and **tanks** caused immense destruction.

The End:

Germany **surrendered in 1918**, ending the war. The winning Allies punished Germany harshly in a treaty. Millions died, empires crumbled, and the seeds for another war were sown.

World War II (1939–1945): A Terrible Fight

- **Angry After WWI:** A harsh treaty after the last war left Germany unhappy, making things tense.
- **Hitler's Ideas:** A powerful leader in Germany, Adolf Hitler, wanted to take over more land.
- **Giving In Didn't Help:** Britain and France tried to avoid war by letting Hitler have some things, but it only made him want more.
- War Breaks Out

Germany Starts the Fight

- **In 1939, Germany invaded Poland**, and Britain and France declared war. World War II had begun!
- **Britain Holds Strong:** Germany tried to invade Britain by air, but the British Air Force stopped them (Battle of Britain).
- **Turning the Tide:** Allied forces, including the US, landed in **France on D-Day (June 6, 1944)** to fight back against Germany.
- War in the Pacific

Surprise Attack

Japan attacked a US naval base in Hawaii (Pearl Harbor) in 1941, bringing the US into the war.

A Shocking Weapon: The US dropped atomic bombs on Japanese cities to end the war quickly (though this was a terrible event).

The War Ends

Finally Over: By 1945, Germany and Japan were defeated, and the war was finally over.

A Devastating Impact: Millions died, and many countries were destroyed.

First World War 1914–1918

Timeline of events

August 1914	Britain declares war on Germany
October 1914	First Battle of Ypres
Jan–Feb 1915	Ottoman Empire attacks Suez Canal
February 1915	Gallipoli Campaign begins
May 1915	Italy joins the Allied Powers
Feb–Dec 1916	Battle of Verdun
June–Sept 1916	Brusilov Offensive
July–Nov 1916	Battle of the Somme
April 1917	United States joins the Allied Powers
November 1918	Germany surrenders, and the war ends

Second World War 1939–1945

Timeline of events

September 1939	Germany invades Poland, and Poland surrenders
April 1940	Germany invades neutral Norway and the Netherlands
May 1940	Germany takes control of Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands
May–June 1940	Germany invades France and Operation Dynamo rescues Allied soldiers from Dunkirk
June 1940	France surrenders to Germany
July–Oct 1940	Battle of Britain
December 1941	Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, and the United States enters the war
July 1943	Allied forces invade Italy, and Italy later surrenders
June 1944	D-Day
May 1945	Germany surrenders (VE Day)
Aug–Sept 1945	The United States drops atomic bombs on Japan, Japan surrenders, and the war ends