

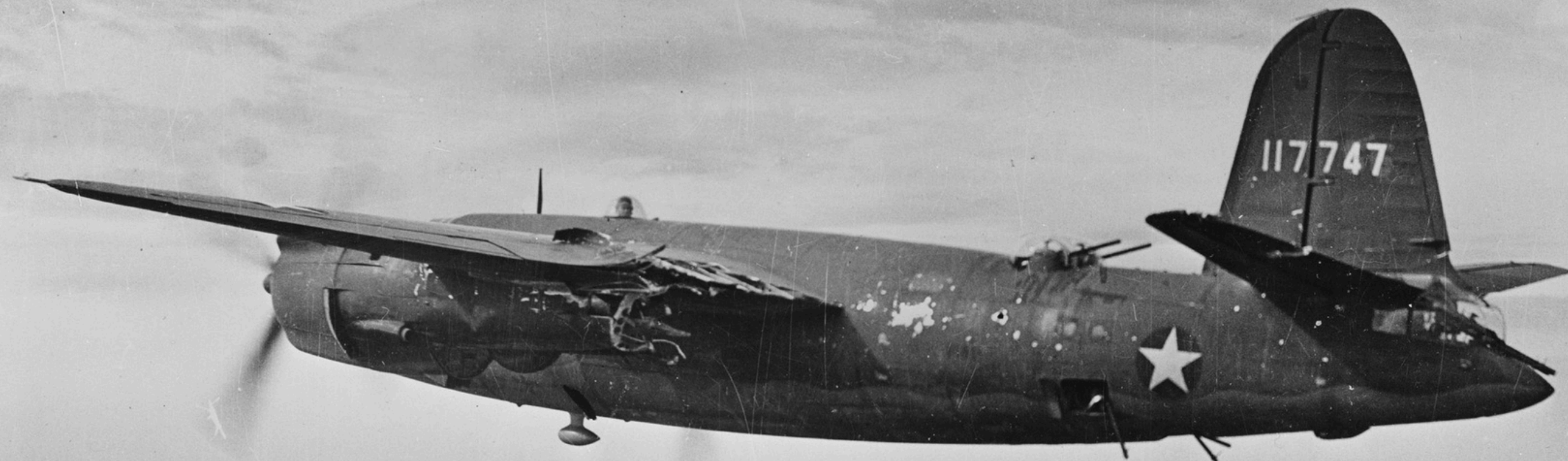
World War I

Key Events Timeline



1914-1918

The War That
Changed the World





Overview

World War I lasted from 1914 to 1918. It was fought mainly in Europe, but involved countries all around the world. World War I was also called The Great War.

MAIN Causes

M Militarism

A Alliances

I Imperialism

N Nationalism



MAIN Causes

Militarism

building
huge armies

Alliances

secret
partnerships
between
countries

Imperialism

taking over
other lands

Nationalism

extreme
pride in
one's
country

MAIN Causes

Militarism

Rapid, competitive military buildup and inflexible mobilization plans meant that once a country mobilized troops, it was difficult to halt the march toward war.

Alliances

Europe was divided by alliances, turning a local conflict into a global one.

Imperialism

Competition for colonies, resources, and markets in Africa and Asia fueled rivalry among major European powers.

Nationalism

Intense patriotism and the desire for self-determination, particularly in the Balkans (the "Powder Keg of Europe"), created deep ethnic and political tensions.

1914
War begins after assassination

1915
Poison gas and Lusitania sunk

1916
Battles of Verdun and Somme

1917
U.S. joins the war; Russia exits

1918
Germany surrenders; war ends

1919
The League of Nations is formed

1914

- **Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand:** This event sparked the "July Crisis," causing Austria-Hungary to declare war on Serbia, which escalated into a general European conflict.
- **Alliance Systems:** (Triple Entente: Britain, France, Russia; Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy) that bound nations to intervene

1915

April:

**First large-scale use of poison gas
(Battle of Ypres).**

May:

**Sinking of the RMS Lusitania by a
German submarine — kills 1,198
civilians.125 Americans**

October:

Bulgaria joins the Central Powers.



The longest and deadliest battles in World War 1



1916

Battle of Verdun (February-December):

- Longest battle of the war; over 700,000 casualties.

Battle of the Somme (July-November):

- Over 1 million soldiers killed or wounded.
- Tanks are used for the first time.

1917

February Revolution

Bolsheviks Revolution (Vladimir Lenin) - Russia begins to pull out of the war.

April 6: United States enters the war on the side of the Allies.

November: Second Russian Revolution - Bolsheviks take over (Communist government).

U.S. enters World War 1

- **Reasons for Entry:** Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare, sinking civilian ships, and the intercepted Zimmerman Telegram.
- **Official Declaration:** President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war in April 1917, aiming to make the "world safe for democracy".

1918

- **Reasons for Surrender:** The German army was defeated in the field, the economy had collapsed, and their allies (Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria) had already surrendered.
- **Terms of the Armistice:** Germany was required to evacuate all occupied territories, including Alsace-Lorraine, and surrender substantial military equipment, including submarines, warships, and railway cars.

March:

Germany launches a final massive attack (Spring Offensive).

July:

Second Battle of the Marne - Allies push back German forces.

November 11: Armistice signed - fighting stops at 11 a.m.

1919

Treaty of Versailles officially ends the war. New countries are created including Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

The League of Nations is formed to prevent future wars.

- The League of Nations was an international organization aimed at preventing war through collective security, disarmament, and negotiation. Proposed by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, it was headquartered in Geneva and operated until 1946, ultimately failing to stop World War
- Goals: Promoted collective security—meaning an attack on one member was considered an attack on all—disarmament, and the settling of disputes via arbitration.

Failure and Legacy of the League of Nations

The League struggled due to the

(A) absence of the U.S.,

(B) limited enforcement capacity,

and its inability to stop aggressive actions by the Axis powers (e.g., Japan, Italy, Germany) in the 1930s. It was dissolved in April 1946, with its assets transferred to the

World War I

in images:



WWI Still Matters

WWI changed the map of the world. It changed how wars were fought and shaped the modern world we live in today.

