

- Declarations of war greeted w/ enthusiasm
  
- Soon, millions on move
  - Active duty = mobilized
  - Reservists = summoned
  - Horses & trains mobilized
  - Mobilization causes social upheaval
  - British uniforms
  - German uniforms
  - French uniforms
  - Austrian uniforms
  - Russian uniforms
  - All carried equipment
  
- Footrace to frontier in West = tri-fold
  - Irony: resembled Franco-Prussian War
  - Differences = efficiency, direction & new players
  - French troops marched north-eastward

- British BEF ferry across English Channel
  
- German Plan = RRs to Belgium to Paris
  - Standing in way = Liège & Namur
  
  - Schlieffen Plan = cross the Meuse
  
  - Krupp 420mm howitzer – Big Bertha
  
  - Skoda 305mm Model 1911
  
- Aug 4<sup>th</sup> – Ger crosses into Belgium
  - Siege of Liège = Aug 5<sup>th</sup>
  
  - Siege of Namur = Aug 20<sup>th</sup>
  
  - Ger pivot to FR
  
- Battle of the Frontiers
  - FR = Plan XVII
    - Joffre invades Alsace-Lorraine
  
    - 1<sup>st</sup> = Alsace – Aug 5<sup>th</sup>
  
    - Joffre doesn't adjust when Ger in Bel

- Ger counterattack @ Mulhouse
- 2<sup>nd</sup> = invade Alsace & Lorraine simultaneously
  - Plan = complicated
- Joffre doesn't adjust when "size" of Ger in Bel
- Ger turns tide; drives FR out
- All 5 FR armies suffer defeats
- Brits = move to BEF to FR flank
  - Battle of the Mons
  - Ger outnumber Brits 6:1
  - Ger march right into Brit position
  - BEF slows Ger advance
- Joffre's strategy failed
  - 1) underestimated Ger strength
  - 2) Overestimated Fr ability
  - Refused to accept blame
  - Casualties = high

- “Great Retreat”
  - Joffre plans recovery
  - Dispatch to Defense Minister Messimy
  - New Plan = rebuild left flank
  - “New offensive mass” @ Somme
  
- Ger’s 1<sup>st</sup> blunder
  - Moltke the Younger modifies Schlieffen Plan
  - Then changes objective again
  
- Defense of Paris
  
- Joffre orders counter-strike
  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Marne
  - Ger 1<sup>st</sup> Army attacked on three sides
  - FR & Brit pounded Ger 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Armies
  - Moltke orders retreat
  - Ger withdraws to Aisne
  - 2 million men fought

- 1<sup>st</sup> victory for FR & Brits
- “Race to the Sea” begins
  - Falkenhayn repositions forces
  - Fr, Brits & Bels uses RRs
  - Five battles fought
  - Run out of room
  - 400 mile front forming
- Last attempted Ger breakthrough = 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres
  - NOTE: Flanders Plan
  - Ypres = fortified town
  - Neither moves fast enough
  - War shifts from fluid to static
  - Stunning casualties
  - NOTE: Private Adolf Hitler

- Western Front forms Nov-Dec 1914
  - Development unforeseen in any pre-War plans
  - Falkenhayn = focus on defensive positions
    - Defenses based on material not men
    - Willing to retreat
    - Why change?
  - Allies = exact opposite
    - Retreat = political nightmare
    - No solid fortifications
  - Result = catastrophic blunder
    - Brits & FR didn't adapt
    - Applied principles of old warfare to present conditions
    - Create catch 22
    - NOTE: beware of hindsight
  - Static warfare = war of attrition
  - Developed for unexpected reasons

- Christmas 1914
  - Hostilities subside
  - All believed war over by X-mas
  - Several calls for Christmas truce
  - Nov-Dec = unofficial truces
  - Dec 1<sup>st</sup> = 1<sup>st</sup> fraternization
  - NOTE: FR-Ger tensions
  - Weather truces
  - Proximity made truces possible
  - Christmas Eve truce = different; spontaneous
  - Two sides serenaded each other with carols
  - Other bizarre events occur
  - No truce on Eastern Front
  - Few on FR-Ger lines

— Most = Brit-Ger lines

- Greetings
- Exchanges
- The Dead
- “Football” matches
- Sudden silence
- Truce= temporary
- Fighting erupts next day
- Reporting = delayed
- Ger efforts for 1915-17 fail