The war at a glance

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John
WHAT AND WHY

This little book is meant purely as a handbook for ready reference. It has no literary pretensions, and no claim to be a contribution to serious discussion of war problems. For the reader who wants to get a date in a hurry, or to refresh his memory concerning any particular campaign or event of significant importance it is hoped it will live up to its title "The War at a Glance."

The writer had made a vow to himself that he would not perpetrate a war book. His excuse is that just this kind of book has not been done by anybody else, so far as he knows.

The bold marginal headings are a quick eye guide to the matter in the body of the type. "The War Month by Month" makes it possible to find quickly important events. "The Great Campaigns" gives a condensed survey of the big movements of the war. The tables are careful estimates based on such figures as were available before the end of the year.

The writer is indebted to Mr. Frank H. Simonds, of the New York Tribune, whose two volumes on "The Great War" have been used for reference, and to the New York Times' "Current History," an invaluable source of information.
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THE WAR MONTH BY MONTH
June 28, 1914 to December 31, 1916

A Serbian assassinated the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, and his wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, in the streets of Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia, on June 28, 1914. The deed is supposed to have been a mad protest against the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Austria charged that the assassin represented an organization with headquarters in Belgrade, Serbia.

Following a speech that reassured the capitals of Europe, made in the Austrian parliament by Count Tisza about the middle of July, Austria sent an ultimatum to Serbia on July 23, demanding a reply in 48 hours. Foreign ambassadors at Vienna immediately warned their governments that the situation was serious. The tone of the ultimatum suggested the most dangerous possibilities. On July 25, at 5:45 p. m. Serbia answered, astonishing the world by accepting all but one of eleven demands made by Austria. She refused only to permit Austrian agents to engage in the work of suppressing an alleged anti-Austrian movement on Serbian territory. She agreed, however, to report to Austrian agents the progress of her own efforts in this direction. In conclusion she offered, if Austria were not
satisfied with her concessions, to submit the whole matter to The Hague or any tribunal constituted by the Great Powers. The Austrian minister in Belgrade, a few minutes after receiving Serbia’s reply, asked for his papers, severed diplomatic relations and left for Vienna. The reply was not considered. It was barely read. Manifestly he had his instructions.

Events followed in rapid succession. Wires buzzed with the passing of diplomatic communications. Statesmen and rulers conferred in every capital of Europe.

July 27—England proposed to Germany that the points at issue between Austria and Serbia be considered at a conference of Germany, France, Italy and Great Britain. Germany declined the proposal by which peace might have been preserved. Russia opened direct negotiations with Vienna for a peaceful settlement. Vienna refused to discuss her ultimatum to Serbia. Serbia and Austria mobilized. Russia mobilized five army corps.

July 28—Austria declared war on Serbia, and hostilities began at once. Germany mobilized her fleet.

July 29—The bombardment of Belgrade began. Russia mobilized in her southwestern provinces, without menace to Germany, and renewed her effort to negotiate with Vienna.

July 30—The semi-official Lokal Anzeiger, of Berlin, issued an extra edition con-
taining a decree for the general mobilization of the German army. It was immediately suppressed, but not before word of it reached Petrograd. At the same time Germany demanded that Russia cease mobilizing within twenty-four hours. Russia answered by a general mobilization order.

July 31—England, having made every effort either to prevent war or localize it, asked France and Germany if they would respect the neutrality of Belgium. France promptly agreed. Germany made no reply.

On the first day of August Germany declared war on Russia and made public her suppressed mobilization order. The following day England assured France she would use her fleet to protect the French north coast. On the same day a German patrol crossed the French frontier at Cirey.

August 3—Germany served an ultimatum on Belgium, demanding right of passage across her territory. It was at once rejected. Germany declared war on France and Belgium, and German troops entered the town of Arion, across the Belgian frontier. Italy broke with the triple alliance, asserting her neutrality because her former allies were not engaging in defensive warfare.

August 4—Great Britain sent an ultimatum to Germany demanding that she
respect the neutrality of Belgium and answer by midnight. Germany's answer through Herr von Jagow, secretary of state, was "No." Chancellor von Bethmann Hollweg denounced Great Britain for putting such stress on the mere word "neutrality" and on a "scrap of paper." At midnight in London it was announced a state of war existed between Great Britain and Germany. While this was happening the German guns were opening the bombardment of Liege.

AUGUST 7—German troops penetrate Liege.
French invasion of Alsace begins.

AUGUST 8—First British troops land in France.

AUGUST 11—German sweep through north-Belgium begins.

AUGUST 14—French troops enter Belgium near Charleroi.

AUGUST 15—Czar promises restoration of Poland.

AUGUST 18—Russians begin invasion of East Prussia.

AUGUST 20—Germans occupy Brussels; Belgians retire on Antwerp.


AUGUST 22—Germans take Namur, and battle of Mons-Charleroi begins.
August 23—French defeated at Charleroi, and Anglo-French retreat from Belgium begins. Russians advance in East Prussia. Austrians are driven from Serbia. Japan declares war on Germany.

August 26—New French ministry formed. Anglo-French forces continue retreat. Louvain is burned. Russians win in East Prussia, occupying Allenstein, and begin attack on Lemberg, in Galicia.

August 29—Germans pass second line of French defense.

August 31—Allies fall back on Paris and the Seine.

The month is memorable for the battle of the Marne; Von Hindenburg’s victory at Tannenberg; the fall of Lemberg and the beginning of the siege of Antwerp.


September 3—French government leaves Paris for Bordeaux. Von Kluck begins his turning movement toward the Marne.

September 6—Battle of the Marne begins with attack on Von Kluck’s flank.

September 7—Von Kluck begins retreat of German right wing.

September 10—Whole German army in retreat from Marne.
SEPTEMBER 12—Battle of the Aisne begins.

SEPTEMBER 21—The U-9 sinks British cruisers Cressy, La Hogue and Aboukir in North Sea.

SEPTEMBER 24—Germans reach Niemen river in Russia, and drive wedge across Meuse at St. Mihiel, south of Verdun.

SEPTEMBER 28—Siege of Antwerp begins.

October, 1914. The extension of the battle line to the North Sea coast, and the beginning of trench warfare in France and Flanders characterize this month. In the east the Germans reached Warsaw and were driven back, and Turkey entered the war. Rebellion broke out in South Africa.

OCTOBER 4—The Germans, having been defeated on the Niemen, fall back on the East Prussian frontier. Belgian government leaves Antwerp for Ostend.

OCTOBER 8—Antwerp surrenders, and Germans enter the following day.

OCTOBER 12—The Maritz-Beyer-De Wet rebellion begins in South Africa.

OCTOBER 13—Belgian government leaves Ostend for Havre.

OCTOBER 14—British take Ypres.

OCTOBER 17—Germans reach the Vistula, in Russia, and bombard Warsaw and Ivan-gorod.