

## Ending the war: *Changes in Allied Forces, Military developments in 1918 and Germany Surrenders*

### KEY WORDS

- Abdicate:** A monarch gives up their claim to the throne.
- Bolshevik:** Far left communists who followed Lenin and wanted a violent revolution.
- Desert:** Abandon (a person, cause, or organization) in a way considered disloyal or treacherous.
- Neutrality:** The country refuses to pick a side in conflict.
- Hurricane Bombardment:** A very quick and intense artillery attack.
- Salient:** A bulge in the front line. It can be attacked from all angles.
- Home Front:** It is a British term which describes the full participation in war effort back at the countries homeland.
- Armistice:** An armistice is a formal agreement of warring parties to stop fighting.

### KEY INDIVIDUALS

- General Ferdinand Foch:** A French general who served as the Supreme Allied Commander during the First World War.
- General Erich Ludendorff:** Was a top German military commander in the latter stages of World War I.
- Vladimir Lenin:** Was a Russian revolutionary, politician, and political theorist.
- General Douglas Haig:** A senior officer of the British Army. Head of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF).
- Woodrow Wilson:** The American President during WW1. He was an advocate for world peace and kept America neutral until they felt that had to join the war. He was one of the BIG 3 who determined what the terms were for Germany following the war.
- David Lloyd George:** The British Prime Minister at the end of WW1. He was one of the BIG 3 who determined what the terms were for Germany following the war.
- Georges Clemenceau:** The French Prime Minister at the end of WW1. He was one of the BIG 3 who determined what the terms were for Germany following the war.
- General Paul von Hindenburg:** Was a German general and statesman who commanded the Imperial German Army during World War I and later became President of Germany in 1925.

### Factors Question (16 marks + 4 SPaG)

- 1) 'Appointing General Foch as the Supreme Allied Commander was the main reason for the failure of Ludendorff's Spring Offensive.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

### How do you know Question (4 marks)

- 1) Study Source B. This source supports the Allies. How do you know? Explain your answer using Source B and your contextual knowledge.

### Source Usefulness Question (8 marks)

- 1) Study Sources C and D. How useful are these sources to a historian studying the reasons why Germany asked for a ceasefire in 1918?

**Source D:** In 1919, Hindenburg gave evidence to a German government enquiry about why Germany lost the war; this cartoon from the humorous German magazine *Simplicissimus*, November 1919, comments on his evidence; the cartoon shows him revealing a theatrical performance.

### Write an account Question (8 marks)

- 1) Write an account of the USA's entry into the war.
- 2) Write an account of how new technology and tactics tried to solve the problems of trench warfare.



**Source B:** A cartoon from *Punch* magazine on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1918; it shows General Ludendorff and had the title, 'A Champagne counteroffensive'.

Source Type  
Author  
Date  
Purpose



**Source C:** From a speech made in the German parliament by General Hindenburg in November 1919.

In spite of the superiority of the enemy in men and materials, we could have brought the struggle to a favourable conclusion if determined and unanimous cooperation had existed between the army and those at home. The Germany Army was stabbed in the back. It is plain enough on whom the blame lies.



# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

Germany

Russia

The Allied Armies

USA

## Revolution puts Lenin in charge; wants to end war (October 1917)

Lenin was smuggled back into Russia and in November Lenin and his supporters staged a second revolution, overthrew the provisional government and created his own. They decided to make peace with their enemies on the **26<sup>th</sup> October**, and then Russia withdraws from the war.

## Revolution overthrows the Tsar (February 1917)

Riots and strikes broke out across Russia. As well as that soldiers refused to follow orders. This was because the Tsar was a poor leader and the Tsarina caused many Russians at home to suffer. No one was loyal to the Tsar anymore so he had to abdicate on the **15<sup>th</sup> March**. The Tsar and his family were quickly captured and imprisoned.

## Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (3<sup>rd</sup> March 1918)

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk – Russia must pay 6,000 million DM, lost ¼ population, 1/3 wheat producing areas to go to Germany.

## The Second Battle of the Somme (21 August – 3 September 1918)

Australian, British and French troops started to capture towns and cities along the Somme that were originally dominated by the Germans.

## German Sailors mutiny at Wilhelmshaven, shortly followed by Kiel (28<sup>th</sup> October 1918)

German soldiers and sailors no longer were loyal to the Kaiser and turned against him, disobeying his rules.

## The Kaiser abdicated (9<sup>th</sup> November 1918)

The German people were suffering, the army was losing and very few people were loyal to the Kaiser, they no longer wanted him to rule. As his country turned against him, he was forced to abdicate. Friedrich Ebert the leader of the SPD took over as the temporary leader of Germany and the Kaiser ran away to Holland.

## French counter-offensive at the Marne (15<sup>th</sup> July 1918)

The Allies joined under a new tactic joined together under the command of Foch and attacked the salient that was left due to the 'stormtroopers' pushing forward during Ludendorff's spring offensive. The Germans lost around half a million men as part of the Ludendorff Spring Offensive. From then on the allied armies started pushing the Germans back by launching smaller attacks along the front line.

## Battle of the Aims (8<sup>th</sup> August 1918)

It was a coordinated attack from the British and French which countered the German spring offensive. It resulted in German surrender in November 1918. This began the 'Hundred Days'.

1917

1919

## USA declared war on Germany (6<sup>th</sup> April 1917)

After the Germans sunk the Lusitania and 8 other American ships. The Zimmerman Telegram was the last straw. American joined Britain and France. Bringing money, supplies and fresh new troops with them.

## Zimmerman Telegram (March 1917)

Britain's Royal Navy intercepts the German telegraph promising weapons to Mexico if they went to war with the US.

1918

## Ludendorff's Spring Offensive (21<sup>st</sup> March - 15<sup>th</sup> July 1918)

As the USA were joining the war and Russia had left, Ludendorff felt it was time to move all the Germans to the Western Front and launch one last attack. The Germans left the Hindenburg Line and enacted a series of offensives. Highly trained and heavily armed 'Storm troopers' pushed through the line at weak points and moved rapidly. Other troops were to follow. It was highly successful and pushed through the allied lines, advancing 65km in 3 weeks. Unfortunately, rapid advancement meant it was difficult to keep troops supplied. As well as this Germany had heavy losses and didn't have well trained troops to replace them. Finally, troops were tired and weak from lack of rations (impact of blockade).

## Turkey requested an armistice (30<sup>th</sup> October 1918)

## Austria-Hungary concluded armistice with allies (3<sup>rd</sup> November 1918)

## Captured Hindenburg Line (September 1918)

The Germans were pushed back to the Hindenburg line and Allied armies began small attacks on the Germans along the line hoping to stretch out and wear down the enemy. By October the Allied armies had completely broken down the line. The Germans started to retreat leaving behind weapons, equipment and supplies. As they left they tried many techniques to slow down the allies. Most military leaders accepted at that point that the war had ended.

## The Armistice (11 am, 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918)

In a train carriage German politicians and representatives of the Allies met in a railway carriage. Germany signed the Armistice and the first world war ended at 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## The Treaty of Versailles (28<sup>th</sup> June 1919)

The BIG 3 and other country leaders came together to create a treaty full of terms for Germany to abide by. It was signed in Versailles on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1919. Germany took the blame for the whole of WW1.

