

1916

Date Event

Date	Event
January 1916	
9 January	Last troops evacuated from the Helles beachhead at Gallipoli. Campaign abandoned.
10 January	In the Caucasus, Russian forces push back the Turks and go on to capture Erzerum and Trabzon. Fighting continues until 18 April.
24 January	First Military Service Act passed by the British parliament making all single men between 18 and 41 eligible for conscription into the army
29 January	Last German airship raid on Paris
February 1916	
10 February	Conscription begins in Britain when the Military Service Act comes into effect
18 February	Last German forces in the Cameroons surrender to British
21 February	Battle of Verdun. Following a heavy bombardment, Germans launch major attack against the French intending to cause heavy casualties. Fighting continues until 18 December.
25 February	Fort Douaumont captured at Verdun by the Germans
March 1916	
1 March	Germans recommence submarine attacks against merchant and passenger vessels approaching Britain. Continues until April.
9 March	Germany declares war on Portugal
April 1916	
24 April	Irish republicans launch an uprising in Dublin. It lasts until 1 May and is suppressed by the British authorities. The leaders are executed, causing deep resentment.
29 April	Siege of Kut ends. Anglo-Indian garrison finally surrenders to the besieging Turkish forces after 143 days.
May 1916	
14 May	Austro-Hungarians launch an attack against Italian troops on the Asiago front in the Italian alpine region of Trentino, advancing up to 19 km (12 miles). Continues until 10 June.
16 May	Second Military Service Act passed by the British parliament, extending conscription to married men
21 May	Daylight Saving (British Summer Time) introduced in Britain for the first time to encourage longer working hours in factories and on farms
31 May	Battle of Jutland. British Grand Fleet confronts the German High Seas Fleet in the North Sea, off the coast of Denmark. Although the British lose more ships, the German fleet is driven back to port and remains there for the rest of the war.
June 1916	
4 June	Led by General Alexei Brusilov, a major Russian offensive is launched in western Ukraine, principally against the Austro-Hungarians, who are forced into steady retreat. Fighting continues until 17 August.
5 June	British Secretary of State for War, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, drowned en route to Russia when HMS <i>Hampshire</i> strikes a mine off the Orkney Islands and sinks Arab Revolt against Turkish rule launched in the Hejaz region of Arabia by Sherif Hussein of Mecca
7 June	Fort Vaux captured at Verdun by the Germans
July 1916	
1 July	Battle of the Somme. Major Anglo-French offensive launched in Picardy. On the opening day, the British Army suffers 57,470 casualties, including 19,240 killed – its heaviest ever casualty toll in a 24 hour period. The battle continues until 18 November.
7 July	David Lloyd George appointed Secretary of State for War in place of the late Lord Kitchener
11 July	At Verdun, only 5km (three miles) from the city, the Germans suspend their attacks in order to move troops to the Somme
14 July	Battle of Bazentin Ridge. On the Somme, the British launch a dawn attack that captures the villages of Bazentin and Longueval. British and Indian cavalry make a short-lived charge towards High Wood.
19 July	Battle of Fromelles. Australian and British troops suffer heavy casualties in an attack on the German line in French Flanders.
August 1916	
4 August	Battle of Romani. Advancing Turkish forces defeated in the Sinai Desert by Australian, New Zealand and British troops from Egypt. Turks begin to fall back towards Palestine.
6 August	Sixth Battle of the Isonzo. Italian troops in the north-east advance and capture Gorizia, one of the few significant advances on the Isonzo front. Fighting continues until 17 August.
21 August	<i>The Battle of the Somme</i> documentary film released for viewing in 34 cinemas in London. Nationwide release follows a week later. The film is the first documentary to show actual footage of men fighting in battle. It is seen by more than 20 million people.
27 August	Romania enters the war on the Allied side but is quickly defeated by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria
28 August	Italy declares war on Germany
29 August	In France, General Erich von Falkenhayn is replaced as Chief of the General Staff of the German field armies by Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, with General Erich Ludendorff as Chief Quartermaster General
September 1916	
3 September	First German airship shot down over Britain, to the north of London
4 September	British forces take Dar es Salaam in German East Africa
15 September	Battle of Flers-Courcelette on the Somme. Allied forces advance, using the support of tanks for the first time.
26 September	Village of Thiepval captured on the Somme. Later the site of the great Memorial to the Missing.
October 1916	
24 October	Major French counter-attack at Verdun under General Robert Nivelle pushes the Germans back. Fort Douaumont is recaptured by the French. Fighting continues until 18 December.
November 1916	
2 November	Fort Vaux recaptured by the French at Verdun
7 November	Woodrow Wilson re-elected President of the United States of America
13 November	Battle of the Ancre. Final action on the Somme begins.
19 November	Battle of the Somme ends in snow and heavy rain after 142 days of fighting At Salonika, Allied forces liberate the Serbian town of Monastir after an offensive lasting two months
December 1916	
7 December	Herbert Asquith replaced as British Prime Minister by David Lloyd George, who takes over leadership of the wartime coalition
12 December	German Chancellor, Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg, sends a peace note to the Allies offering to open talks in a neutral country General Joseph Joffre replaced in command of the French armies by General Robert Nivelle
19 December	Battle of Verdun ends
21 December	British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, rejects the German peace note and the offer of talks

Military events	highlighted in khaki
Naval events	highlighted in green
Aviation events	highlighted in orange
Political events	highlighted in light blue
Social events	highlighted in red