

# RESOURCES

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## Key Personalities of World War I

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**Albert I (1875–1934)** King of Belgium who is considered one of the Allied Powers' heroes of the war for his resistance to Germany's 1914 invasion and for commanding the Allied reconquest of Belgium's coast in 1918.

**Edmund Allenby (1861–1936)** British general who commanded Allied forces in the Middle East from 1917 to 1919; later British high commissioner in Egypt (1919–1935).

**Edith Cavell (1865–1915)** British nurse working in Belgium who was executed by Germany for helping Allied prisoners to escape.

**Winston S. Churchill (1874–1965)** British politician who as first lord of the Admiralty in 1915 championed the ultimately disastrous Gallipoli campaign. He was minister of munitions in 1917 and secretary for war from

1919 to 1921. Best known as prime minister through World War II.

**Georges Clemenceau (1841–1929)** French prime minister in 1906–1909 and 1917–1920; presided over the postwar peace conference and pushed for harsh terms for Germany.

**Franz Ferdinand (1863–1914)** Austrian archduke and heir to the Austrian throne whose assassination triggered the war.

**Ferdinand Foch (1851–1929)** French army general who held several command positions through the war until April 1918, when he was appointed commander in chief of all Allied forces.

**George V (1865–1936)** King of Great Britain throughout the war.

**Douglas Haig (1861–1928)** Chief British army commander who succeeded General French in western Europe in 1915–1917.

**Paul Ludwig Hans von Hindenburg (1847–1934)** Supreme commander of the German army through most of the war. After the war served as president from 1925 to 1934.

**John Rushworth Jellicoe (1859–1935)** British admiral who commanded the Great Fleet in 1914–1916, served as First Sea Lord in 1916–1917, and was made admiral of the fleet in 1919.

**Joseph Joffre (1852–1931)** French general who as the first supreme French commander in 1915–1916 pushed for strong and often costly offensives.

**Franz Joseph (1830–1916)** Last ruler of the Austria-Hungary Empire.

**Horatio Herbert Kitchener (1850–1916)** Britain's most distinguished army commander before the war, served as secretary of state for war in 1914–1916. His image was used extensively in military recruitment posters.

**Thomas Edward Lawrence (1888–1935)** British scholar of the Middle East and army officer who helped organize and direct the Arab revolt against Turkish rule in 1916–1918.

**Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870–1925)** Russian revolutionary leader who as head of the Bolsheviks took Russia out of the war in late 1917 and led the creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

**Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck (1870–1964)** Commander of German forces in German East Africa (now mainland Tanzania), where he directed guerrilla operations that tied up Allied forces until after the 1918 armistice.

**David Lloyd George (1863–1945)** British politician who held several ministerial posts during the war until 1916, when he became prime minister, a position he held until 1922.

**Erich von Ludendorff (1865–1937)** German general who served as Hindenburg's chief of

staff through most of the war and played a leading role in planning German offensives.

**Helmuth Johannes Ludwig von Moltke (1848–1916)** German general who modified the Schlieffen Plan in the first great offensive of the war and was removed from command when it failed.

**Nicholas II (1869–1918)** Last Russian tsar (emperor), whose assumption of command of military forces in mid-1915 proved disastrous. Forced to abdicate by the Russian Revolution in 1917 and killed, with his entire family, the following year.

**Vittorio Emanuele Orlando (1860–1952)** Italian politician who became prime minister in late 1917 and represented Italy in the postwar peace conference.

**Wilfred Owen (1893–1918)** British poet and soldier who was killed in action exactly one week before the armistice.

**John Joseph Pershing (1860–1948)** General who commanded the American Expeditionary Force, which he steadfastly insisted on preserving as an autonomous component among the Allied armies. After the war, he became US chief of staff.

**Henri-Philippe Pétain (1856–1951)** French general credited with saving Verdun from a

German offensive in 1916 who was French commander in chief by early 1918. His reputation as a war hero was ruined in World War II, when he collaborated with the German occupation of France.

**Gavrilo Princip (1894–1918)** Bosnian Serb who, acting as an agent of a radical Serbian nationalist organization, assassinated Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914. He died from tuberculosis in prison.

**Manfred Richthofen (1892–1918)** Ace German pilot credited with shooting down 80 enemy planes, the most of all pilots during the war. Nicknamed the Red Baron because of the red triplane he frequently flew.

**Edward Rickenbacker (1890–1973)** Top American ace aviator during the war.

**Jan Christian Smuts (1870–1950)** South African military and political leader who had fought against Britain during the South African War (1899–1902) but supported Britain in both world wars. In 1914–1915, he led a column against German positions in Southwest Africa. In 1916–1917, he commanded British operations against Lettow-Vorbeck in German East Africa. He later became prime minister of the Union of South Africa.