

# How did World War One begin?

*It's all about the alliances!*

Before World War 1, the countries in Europe were competing for power and making alliances.

Germany made an alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy in 1881. These countries all agreed to protect each other if another country attacked them.

However, Italy then went and made a secret alliance with France saying they would not help Germany!

France and Russia made an alliance in 1892.

In 1904, Britain and France signed their alliance.

In 1907, France, Britain, and Russia signed a big alliance together called the *Triple Entente*.

Russia also had an alliance with Serbia!

Germany felt that this powerful alliance surrounding them was a big threat.

All of these countries in Europe were making their armies stronger and bigger.

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, who was going to be king of Austria-Hungary, was killed in Serbia.

Austria-Hungary blamed the Serbians and declared war on them on July 28, 1914!

Russia (who had an alliance with Serbia) then declared war on Austria-Hungary!

Germany, Austria-Hungary's close friend, declared war on Russia on August 1st!

A few days later, Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium!

Britain then declared war on Germany and World War I had begun!



Archduke Franz Ferdinand – he was killed in Serbia and World War 1 began!

# **How did World War One begin?**

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who was killed to start World War 1?
2. Why were the countries in Europe making alliances?  
Give two reasons.
3. What made Germany feel threatened?
4. Which country declared war first? Who did they declare war on?
5. Make a diagram of the alliances between the countries before the war began!

# New Zealand Enters the War

*It's all about the Mother Country!*

When Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August, the First World War had begun.

On the other side of the world, in New Zealand, on 5 August 1914 the governor, Lord Liverpool, announced the news from the steps of Parliament to a crowd of more than 12,000 people. New Zealand were joining the war.



*The Governor of New Zealand, Lord Liverpool, declaring that New Zealand was going to war on 5 August 1914.*

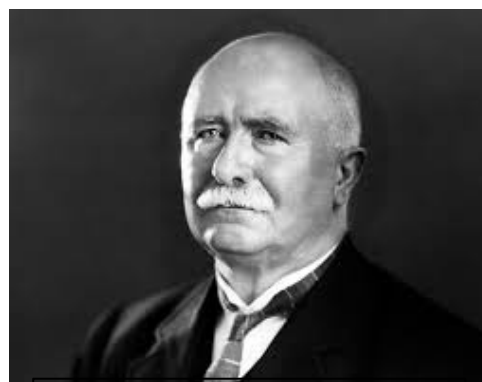
Many New Zealanders regarded themselves as British and Britain as home, so most people wanted to support the 'Mother Country' and go to war too.

New Zealand's Prime Minister William Massey said that New Zealand would be sending troops to Europe to help fight the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, The Ottomans/Turks, Bulgaria). These troops would be called the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

New Zealand also had a powerful warship, a battlecruiser called the HMS New Zealand, which it sent to fight with the British Royal Navy.



*The Battlecruiser HMS New Zealand – it fought in many sea battles during World War 1 with the British Royal Navy.*



*New Zealand's Prime Minister in 1914 - William Massey.*

# **New Zealand Enters the War**

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the date that New Zealand joined World War One?
2. Why did the New Zealand people want to go to war?
3. Which nations were New Zealand going to fight against in the war?
4. What was the New Zealand Expeditionary Force?
5. What was to happen to the HMS New Zealand?

# The capture of German Samoa

*New Zealand's first action on the war!*

When World War 1 began in Europe in August 1914, Britain asked New Zealand to seize German Samoa as a 'great and urgent service'.

New Zealand's response was fast.

Led by Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Logan, the 1400 strong Samoa Advance Party of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force landed at Apia in Samoa on 29 August.

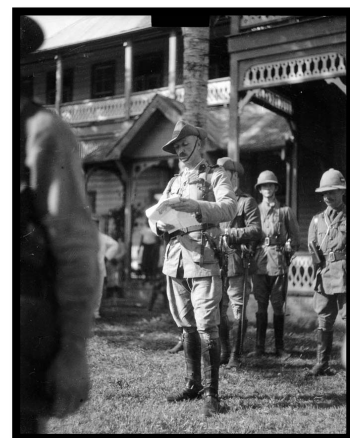
The New Zealand troops took the island without a fight as there were only 80 German soldiers there...and they all surrendered!

On 30 August, the German flag was lowered and the British flag was raised outside the government building in Apia.

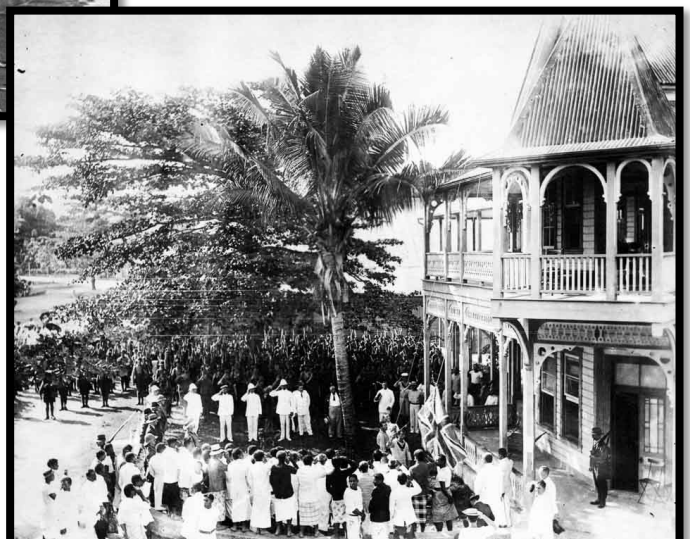
This was the second German territory, after Togoland in Africa, to fall to the Allies in the First World War.



New Zealand troops from the Samoa Advance Party arrive in Samoa.



Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Logan at the flag-raising ceremony in Apia.



The British flag being raised at the Government building in Samoa – 30 August 1914.

# **The capture of German Samoa**

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was a 'great and urgent service'?
2. Who was the leader of the Samoa Advance Party?
3. Why do you think the Germans surrendered without a fight?
4. Why do you think the British Flag was raised and not the Samoan flag?
5. Why do you think Britain asked New Zealand to do this job?

# Leaving for the War

*The New Zealand Expeditionary Force sets sail!*

On 6 August, Britain accepted New Zealand's offer of 8000 men to join the war.

Recruiting for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force began on 8 August 1914. New Zealand was divided into 4 areas for men to enlist in: Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago.

Thousands of men rushed to enlist and go on what they thought would be the adventure of their lives!

On October 16 1914, The New Zealand Expeditionary Force left Wellington. 8500 men, 4000 horses along with their supplies and weapons were crammed into 10 ships. It was the biggest number of people to ever leave New Zealand at once. Thousands of people came to say goodbye and to see the soldiers leave.

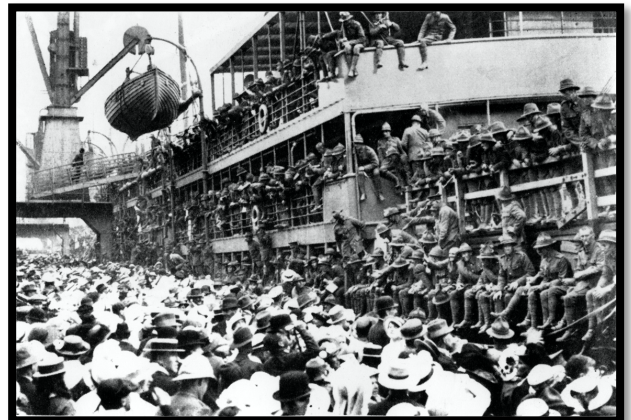


*The ships carrying the New Zealand Expeditionary Force leaving Wellington.*

Warships from the both British and Japanese Navy met the New Zealand ships to protect them on the way to Australia. This was in case German warships were near. When they got to Australia, they joined with ships carrying the Australian Army and set off for Egypt.



*Troops from Canterbury getting on their ships near Christchurch. Next they sailed to Wellington.*



*A ship filled with NZ soldiers ready to leave Wellington. Lots of people are there to say goodbye.*

# **Leaving for the War**

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why do you think the men thought the war would be 'the adventure of their lives'?
2. Where was the NZ Expeditionary Force going to? What country was their destination?
3. Why do you think they needed 4000 horses?
4. Why did the Australian and Japanese Navy need to protect the NZ Expeditionary Force?
5. How do you think the soldiers were feeling as they set off from Wellington?