

WHY DID RUSSIA LEAVE THE WAR IN 1918?

PUT THE EVENTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER IN THIS TIMELINE

AUGUST 1914

Another heavy defeat was suffered at Masurian Lakes against Hindenburg's German forces, losing around 100,000 men.

SEPTEMBER 1914

Russia, under General Brusilov, mounted a successful counter-offensive against the Austrian and German troops. However, Russian forces became exposed to poison gas attacks when the artillery support ceased. A Russian retreat followed with more than 500,000 Russians killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

1915

Tsar Nicholas was forced to abdicate and a Provisional Government was established in Russia.

JUNE 1917

Russia entered the war in August 1914. The war started well with Russia enjoying early successes against Austria-Hungary and Germany.

The Germans soon recovered and heavily defeated the Russians at Tannenberg, however. The Russians suffered 30,000 casualties.

MARCH 1917

The Provisional Government was overthrown by the Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks took the decision to end the war. Russia and Germany signed the Treaty of Brest Litovsk in March 1918. Russian troops had in fact stopped fighting at the end of 1917. This treaty was extremely harsh on Russia.

NOVEMBER 1917

The British and French were horrified as the signing of the treaty meant that thousands of German troops would return to fight on the Western Front.

Tsar Nicholas took the role of Commander-in-Chief of the Russian forces. During 1915 Russia retreated in the face of German advances. Warsaw was abandoned and by the end of the year the Russians had been forced out of Poland.