

The War in the West

A. The Schlieffen Plan

1. Germany faced the daunting task of simultaneously fighting France on its western border and Russia along a lengthy eastern front.
2. In order to prevent a two-front war, General Alfred von Schlieffen drew up a master plan calling for an all-out attack against France. The Schlieffen Plan gambled that France could be knocked out of the war before Russia had a chance to fully mobilize its forces.
3. A lightning attack on France meant invading neutral Belgium.
4. Germany's unprovoked attack on Belgium outraged Britain. On August 4, 1914, Britain declared war on Germany.

B. Stalemate

1. The Schlieffen Plan narrowly failed, making a quick victory impossible.
2. Both sides now constructed an elaborate system of trenches stretching more than 600 miles from the English Channel to the Swiss border.
3. Trench warfare produced a stalemate that lasted about four years and claimed unprecedented casualties.

D. All Quiet On the Western Front

1. *All Quiet on the Western Front* is a war novel written by Erich Maria Remarque, a German veteran of World War I.
2. Remarque vividly described the senseless slaughter and suffering endured by soldiers on the Western Front.