

# **JULY CRISIS 1914**

## **SUNDAY JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>**

The Archduke is assassinated in Sarajevo

## **MONDAY JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>**

- Serbia renounces the Black Hand and orders all public meeting places closed
- Widespread rioting and looting by Croats and Moslems in Sarajevo directed towards the Serbian population. Good deal of property damage with injuries
- Austrian Foreign Minister Count Leopold von Berchtold demands; dismiss Belgrade's minister of police, jail all suspected terrorists, and dissolve extremist groups.
- Austrian army Chief of Staff General Conrad von Hotzendorff wants invasion but he needs 16 days to mobilize his troops. Austria agree to take no action until July 23<sup>rd</sup> when the French President Raymond Poincare and Prime Minister Rene Viviani have returned from their planned visit to Russia (It would not do to have French and Russians in such close contact during the crisis to follow)
- Hungarian Prime Minister, Count Istvan Tisza, does not want any action that could bring war with Russia. He is in direct conflict with Austrian counterpart, Count Berchtold.

## **SUNDAY JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

- The Austrian Chief of the Foreign Office Alexander Hoyos takes a letter from Emperor Franz Josef and Foreign Minister von Berchtold (where they request German support) to Berlin. Together with the Austrian Ambassador in Germany Count L. de Szogyeny-Marich they meet with the Kaiser. No notes exist from this meeting but it is widely accepted that they received the promises of support they sought. The blank check had been given.
- All but one of the assassins has been apprehended

## **THURSDAY JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

- The Austrians meet to formalize their strategy. A non-ultimatum super-ultimatum will be used. A non-ultimatum in that it will be in the form of a simple timed note; a super-ultimatum in that it will be formulated to generate a refusal. The fate of Serbia has been sealed.

## **TUESDAY JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>**

- Berchtold wins over Tisza by promising that no territorial demands will be placed upon Serbia. Berchtold was lying - Serbia had already been partitioned on paper. Tisza had written several letters to Emperor Franz Josef pleading for leniency in dealing with Serbia. Berchtold had these intercepted before they made it to the Emperor.

***DURING THIS WEEK WORDS OF A PLANNED AUSTRIAN ACTION IS SPREAD WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT...***

## **SUNDAY JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

- The Austrian Ministerial Council meets in secret. They decided to OK the plan of Berchtold and General Conrad von Hotzendorff
- The Ultimatum to Serbia is drafted... Two days later Berchtold manage to get Emperor Franz Josefs approval to the ultimatum

## TUESDAY JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>

- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Sazonov warns German Ambassador Count Friedrich von Pourtales that Russia will not allow Austria-Hungary to take any military action against Serbia.

## THURSDAY JULY 23<sup>RD</sup>

- Austrian Ambassador to Serbia, Baron Vladimir von Giesl, delivers the ultimatum at 6:00 pm sharp. The reply must come within 48 hours. Giesl has been instructed to regard any reply as unacceptable – and to prepare for departure...

## FRIDAY JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>

- Giesl and staff begin burning sensitive diplomatic papers and cipher books. They are already preparing for their departure from Belgrade on tomorrow's evening train.
- Russia advises Pasic to "*proceed with extreme caution.*"
- Serbia makes the contents of the ultimatum public - to gain public support
- The Kaiser hears about the ultimatum from his yacht's radio officer who read it in a Norwegian newspaper.

## SATURDAY JULY 25<sup>TH</sup>

- Serbian leadership fears for the worst - therefore **Serbia orders general mobilization of its army (at 3:00 pm).**
- Serbian Prime Minister Pasic personally delivers the reply to Giesl at 5:55 pm. The reply yields almost everywhere possible (without losing public support)
- The Austrian legation departs Belgrade on the 6:30 pm train as planned.
- Berchtold tells the Emperor that the Serbs were already attacking – Emperor Franz Josef signs the Austrian mobilization order 7:23 pm. Troop movements were planned to start Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>
- NOTE: **Germany has not been informed of these actions by her ally, Austria-Hungary.**

## SUNDAY JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>

- **Russia enters state of pre-mobilization.**
- General Conrad von Hotzendorff informs Berchtold that he will not be ready for full military action before August 15<sup>th</sup>. Shelling would have to do until then...

## MONDAY JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>

- Kaiser Wilhelm cuts short his cruise and returns to Potsdam.
- The British fleet has just completed its summer maneuvers and is preparing to return to routine duty. The First Secretary of Naval Affairs Winston Churchill orders the fleet to proceed to war stations
- **The French issue standby mobilization orders.**

## TUESDAY JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>

- 11:00 am. One month after the assassination, almost to the minute, **Austria telegrams a declaration of war to Serbia.**
- Austrian artillery opens up fire on Belgrade from across the Danube.
- German Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg admits he was duped by the Austrians and offers his resignation to the Kaiser. The Kaiser refuses stating: "*You have cooked this broth, now you will eat it.*".

### WEDNESDAY JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>

- At 1:00 am the Kaiser and Czar Nicholas II begin the famous Willy-Nilly correspondence via telegram.
- The Czar orders mobilization of four military districts: Moscow, Kiev, Odessa, and Kazan.
- Germany demands that Russia demobilize at once.
- The Czar calls off mobilization, for the moment. The Russians decide on only partial mobilization and only against Austria, not Germany.
- Austrian Ambassador, Count Szapary, urges Russian Foreign Minister Sazonov to call off Russian mobilization. During the meeting Sazonov is informed that Austrian monitors are shelling Belgrade from the Danube. The meeting ends in a shouting match and Szapary walks out

### THURSDAY JULY 30<sup>TH</sup>

- **At 5:00 pm Austrian Emperor Franz Josef declares full mobilization.**
- Bethmann-Hollweg wires his Ambassador in Vienna, Tschirschky, that the Austrians must be made to negotiate some sort of settlement. Occupation of Belgrade would be preferable to war. The Chancellor is convinced that Britain will come in against Germany
- The Czar changes his mind for the third time: **Russia proclaims general mobilization.**

### FRIDAY JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>

- **Triggered by the Russian general mobilization, at 11:55 am Germany declares *Kriegsgefahr Zustand*.** Danger of war - a state of pre-mobilization.
- Germany issues an ultimatum to Russia: demobilize fully within 12 hours or Germany would begin mobilization and declare war on Russia.
- Germany issues an ultimatum to France: declare neutrality within 18 hours and hand over the frontier forts at Liege and Namur in a show of good faith.
- **At 5:15 pm the French cabinet authorizes full mobilization.**

### SATURDAY AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>

- In light of Russia failing to meet the terms of the demobilization ultimatum, **Germany mobilizes and declares war on Russia.**

### SUNDAY AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>

- Germans request free passage through Belgium.
- Germany and Turkey sign a secret treaty of alliance.
- Italy declares neutrality.

### MONDAY AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>

- **Germany declares war on France.**
- The Belgians refuse the German army passage through their country.

### TUESDAY AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>

- The German army violates Belgian neutrality as the Schlieffen Plan is put into motion. The invasion of France is on.
- The British issue an ultimatum to Germany: withdraw all troops from Belgian soil by midnight or a state of war will exist between the two countries.
- Germany never responds to the British ultimatum...