

WWI BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1918 AND JUNE 1919: Germany agreed on an armistice that went into effect 11:00 at the 11th of November 1918. That did not mean that the war was over...

- **BLOCKADE CONTINUES:** The blockade of Germany continued (many German died of starvation due to this blockade)
- **DECIDING DEMANDS:** France, Great Britain, USA and Italy met and started to discuss the demands they were going to put on Germany in a coming Peace Conference
- **GERMANY PREPARES:** Germany thought President Wilson's 14 points were going to be the model for the coming Peace Conference
- **DEMANDS PRESENTED:** The agreed demands were presented to Germany the 7th of May 1919 – the reaction against them were very strong! The German Army had been allowed to march home with uniforms and weapons which led the German population (with the help of media) to believe that the army was undefeated... They (the German people) strongly resented that there would be no negotiation at Versailles
- **GENERAL HINDENBURG'S REACTION:** General Hindenburg was asked if Germany could defend itself if Germany did not sign the Peace Treaty. He said that the German Army could not in the long run defend itself but he added “– *I would rather fight on my knees than sign this treaty*“!
- **GERMAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL IN VERSAILLES:** In Versailles Count Brockdorff-Rantzau (Head of the German delegation) gave a long speech where he criticized the statesmen that had put this Peace Treaty together. After a few days of work the German delegation sent a counter-proposal based on President Wilson's 14 points. Great Britain thought it was so well written that they nearly accepted it but there was no chance that Clemenceau (the “Tiger”) and France would accept it so it was rejected
- **GERMAN FLEET SUNK:** At the 21st of June 1919 the German Admiral Ludwig von Reuter gave the order to sink the German Fleet in Scapa Flow (at the Orkney Islands in Scotland). Over 50 ships were lost and nine German sailors lost their life. These were the last war casualties in WWI
- **TREATY SIGNED:** At the **28th of June 1919** (exactly 5 years after the assassination of Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand) Germany reluctantly signed the Versailles Treaty