The French soldiers played a significant role in stopping the Germans from taking Paris. The Battle of the Marne was one of the first big battles on the Western Front, one of the most important in the war. The French used the first motorized troop transport by bringing men from Paris in taxis and buses. France had mobilized a force of 900,000 men, a force that could clash with the German army head on. In the battle of Marne, they used planes to scout enemy and find weak points to exploit them. With Britain’s Enfield and France’s artillery power they pushed the Germans back over 90 kilometers and gained thirty guns and one hundred machine guns. Many believe the Battle of Marne caused the Schlieffen plan to fail and saved Paris. This failure of the Germans forced them to fight a war on two fronts against France and Russia, the exact situation the German strategists had feared.

Now come the Russians. The Germans had estimated that Russia would be ready after six weeks when France had surrendered. However, the Russians attacked after only three weeks. The Russians didn’t use just any old soldiers, they used the Cossacks. The Cossacks were feared as they were Russia’s most powerful cavalry force. They savaged German’s Eastern Front, forcing the Germans to pull back most of their soldiers from France and have traverse the country to face the Cossacks.

After this point the war was mostly fought in trenches due to the failure of Germany’s Schlieffen Plan. But which country was the most important in Germany’s failure? I believe that it was France. At the Battle of the Marne, it was their troops and their artillery fire that devastated the German men and led to the failure of the Schlieffen Plan and Paris being saved. Britain’s Enfield and Russia’s Cossacks played significant roles in stopping the Germans. However, it was the French that took the most blows and the country that delivered the most in return. That is why I believe that the French played the biggest part in stopping the Schlieffen Plan.