On 28th July 1914 Austria-Hungary backed by Germany, declared war on Serbia.

- France/Russia were allies & made it clear it would stand by Russia.
- On 30th July 1914 TSAR Nicolas II ordered mobilisation of the Russian Army.
- On 1st August 1914, because Russia had mobilised and so threatened Germany declared war on Russia. France mobilised in support of Russia.
- Germany’s military plans required that they defeat France first, best way invade Belgium.
- 2nd August 1914 Germany declared war on France. German troops crossed the Belgium border.
- Britain had long standing alliance with Belgium; Britain declared war on Germany 4 August 1914.
- Europe went to war in August 1914 amid great joy and a belief by all sides that this was an honourable war and that it would be over by Christmas. Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary however understood the reality of it. “The lamps are going out all over Europe” he said “We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime”

The British Connection = held emotional loyalty/deep affection for Britain, isolation made bonds stronger, mother country would protect its children if threatened, proud of British heritage, political/legal system, culture, customs, manners were essentially British, 24th May Empire Day, maintained trade links.

The causes of the war and the justification for it became unimportant, and emotional concepts of honour, duty and obligation became the reason to fight.

As soon as war was declared PM Joseph Cook offered 20000 men and the ships of the Australian Navy were placed under British admiralty.

Preparing for war was particularly difficult for a young nation that had little experience.

* Troops recruited, trained, equipped, transported.
  - Finance had to be allocated, munitions, weapons developed, technical, medical services expanded.

Recruitment not a problem, enthusiasm brought young men to enlist as soon as call made. By the end of the year enlistments for war service stood at 52000.

The Australian Imperial Force.

- Brigadier General N.T Bridges was commissioned by the Cook Government to organise a military force.
- Had a separate identity to the British Forces.
- About 74% recruits aged 21-40, about 80% were Australian born.
- Men had to be at least 168 cm tall/very good high health.

Summing Up:
- Links that bound Aus to Britain
- WWI caused by years of rivalry and distance among the great European powers.
- Australia gave full support.
- In November 1914 troops set sail for war.

Initial Engagements
- Initial AIF completed its training in Egypt
  - On November 1, 1914, 39 transports packed with Aus/NZ troops left Albany escorted by 1 English, 1 Japanese and 2 Aus cruises.
  - On 9 November ‘the Sydney’ made contact with the German Cruiser Emder, destroyed it off the Coco islands.
- 11 September Australian Naval/Military expeditionary force seized German