**FIRST BATTLE OF THE MARNE**

* Sept. 1914
* Military offensive by French/British troops
* Germany was within 30 miles of Paris (Schlieffen Plan)
* French reinforcements were driven to the front line by 600 Paris taxi cabs
* Allies forced Germany to retreat north of the Aisne River
* Both sides dug in- trench warfare began for next 3 years
* Ended Germany’s hopes of a quick victory on the Western Front

**BATTLE OF VERDUN**

* Feb-Dec 1916
* German offensive
* Known as the greatest and longest battle in history
* Over 900,00 casualties
* Only real outcome was the wounding of both armies
* No tactical or strategic advantage was gained by either side (war of attrition!!)

**BATTLE OF THE SOMME**

* July-Oct 1916
* Battle symbolized the horror of the modern WWI warfare and the futility of trench warfare
* British were relieving the French (decimated after Verdun)
* Massive amount of British casualties (420,000)
* All for an allied gain of 12 kilometers

**BATTLE OF CHATEAU-THIERRY**

* June - 1918
* Also known as the Battle of Belleau Wood
* First significant fighting of AEF (American Expeditionary Forces)
* AEF led by General John “Blackjack” Pershing
* Allies stop German advance to Paris
* This (combined with the 2nd Battle of the Marne) was the beginning of the German retreat

**BATTLE OF THE ARGONNE FOREST**

* Sept-Nov 11th (end of war) 1918
* Final Allied offensive of WWI (also called the Grand Offensive)
* All major allied powers were involved in breaking through German lines
* Sergeant Alvin York (Tennessee) -
  + His patrol had lost its way and wound up behind enemy lines
  + When a German machine gun emplacement fired on his patrol from a fortified hill, York took control and charged ahead
  + Details aren’t exact but he killed up to 25 Germans, captured the machine gun and captured 132 German soldiers
  + Received Medal of Honor
  + Most decorated American soldier of WWI
* Influx of fresh U.S. troops are credited with tipping the scale in the Allied favor on the way to victory