Second Battle of the Marne

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When and Where

- July 15th, 1918 - August 6th, 1918
- Developed out of German offensives
- Germans advanced 40 miles into France, making it to the Marne River
- French General Ferdinand Foch and 140,000 American troops defeated Germans

Map

The Marne River is located in France, around 35 miles away from Paris and around 40 miles away from the German border

Map

Line on May 20, 1918
Limit of German advance July, 1918
Limit of German advance Sept. 1914
Montdidier
Cantigny
Breteuil
Lassigny
Guiscard
Chauny
Noyon
Ribecourt
Carlepont
St. Just-en-Chaussée
Estrées-St. Denis
Clermont
Compiègne
Forêt de Compiègne
Soissons
Laon
Sissonne
Rethel
Vouziers
Bermericourt
Brimont
Cormicy
Braisne
Hartennes
Fismes
Villers-Cotterets
Senlis
Chantilly
Luzarches
Nanteuil-le-Haudouin
Dammartin
Château-Thierry
Meaux
St. Denis
Nogent-l'Artaud
la Ferté-sous-Jouarre
Crécy
Coulommiers
Montmirail
Montmont
Epernay
Châtillon
Jaulgonne
Rheims
Moronvilliers
Prosnes
Massiges
Suippes
Châlons-sur-Marne
Sézanne
Esternay
PARIS
R. Aisne
R. Marne
R. Suippe
R. Vesle
Petit Morin
Grand Morin
English Miles
0 5 10 15 20
Roads
Railways
Canals

Who Was Involved?

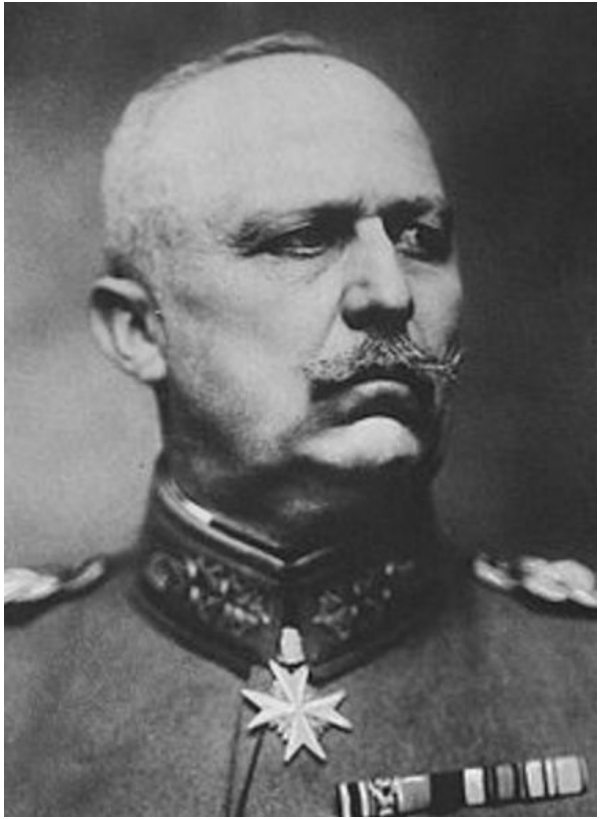
- Allied Powers: France, Great Britain, Italy, United States, and Russia

- Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria

Who Was Involved?

Erich Ludendorff

- A German field marshal
- Commander in chief, led German Army through the 2nd Battle of Marne
- Planned to defeat British forces on Northern End of Allied Front
- Skillful military leader and strategist, but ultimately led Germany to its demise



Ferdinand Foch

Who Was Involved?

- A Frenchman
- Sole commander of all the combined national forces of Central Powers
- Struck back against exhausted Germans in 2nd Battle of Marne
- Promoted to rank of marshal for his efforts in World War I
- Dictated peace terms with Germany after crushing them

Strategy - Germany

- Ludendorff ready to end WWI for Germany
- Planned 5 operations to attack and defeat British and French forces of Allied front
- Used smaller units that could break through weak points
    - Surprised British and French - very successful
- Germans gradually lost stormtroopers as attacks progressed
    - Resorted to traditional mass attacks

Strategy - Germany

- Instead of starting another grand offensive against British, Ludendorff decided to launch a diversion against city of Reims
  - US Forces came to France’s rescue
  - Germans forced to retreat

Strategy - Allies

- Foch tried to anticipate German attack
  - Made most extensive preparations in whole war
- Commit minimum forces to defense so rest can be used to resume offense when Germany is weakened
  - Used these forces when Germans resorted to retreating
  - Allied forces regained all lost territory
  - Germany army is now only on defense

Who won?

- The Allies won
  - Great Britain, Italy, France, the United States, and Russia
- The Central Powers lost
  - Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria

Why did the Allies win?

- Ludendorff's first two offensives → success for Germany but...
- Germans faced some problems:
  - A shortage of supplies
  - A loss of 250,000 men
  - Difficulty in execution of remaining offensives
  - A loss of morale
    - Many German soldiers left
    - Deserters revealed the place and time of Germany's next attack to the Allies
- The Allies gained back all their territory
- Ludendorff realized that the Germans had lost

EXTRA The Chicago Daily Tribune. FINAL

GREAT WAR ENDS

Washington, D. C., Nov. 11, 3 A. M. (By Associated Press.) Armistice terms have been signed by Germany, the State department announced at 2:45 o'clock this morning.

The world war will end this morning at 6 o'clock, Washington time, 11 o'clock Paris time. The armistice was signed by the German representatives at midnight.

USE WIRELESS TO GIVE WORD TO GEN. PERSHING

OUTLINE OF THE TERMS

REPUBLIC SET UP IN BERLIN BY SOCIALISTS

Kaiser Flees With Staff to Holland

RED FLAG FLIES OVER ALL BIG GERMAN CITIES

Impacts on the War/Europe

- Last Battle of World War I
- Half a million German men either dead, injured, or imprisoned
  - This led to a lack of workers and destruction of families
  - Highest number of losses sustained in a single battle

Impacts on the War/Europe

- The Allies gained back the territory they had lost
  - Helped them win
- Germany wasn't able to bounce back from this loss
  - Germany experienced a loss of morale from this point onwards
  - Cost them the war

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