



# SUBJECT: History

## UNIT: WWI 1914-1918 – How did Charlie Buchan go from SAFC to the Somme?

**Charlie Buchan:** Many people remember Charlie Buchan as one of Sunderland's greatest footballers of all time however, we can learn about WWI through his experience of war. On the outbreak of the First World War, Buchan took time away from football and joined the Grenadier Guards. In 1916 he was sent to the Western Front and saw action at battles such as the Somme. By 1917 he had won a Military Medal for his bravery, including storming a look out post and returning to the mess tent to get food during open fire.



### Causes of WW1 – MAIN & The Assassination of Franz Ferdinand

**Causes:** In 1914 Austria owned Bosnia. This was a part of their Empire known as Imperialism (having colonies) > Many Bosnians hated Austria and wanted to be free- known as Nationalism (strong attachment to a particular country). The Archduke Franz Ferdinand was to become the next Emperor of Austria, so many Bosnians wanted to kill him. Many of these were part of the Black Hand group.

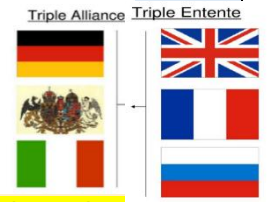
**Events:** Archduke Franz Ferdinand was inspecting the army in Sarajevo with his wife Sophie. Seven young Bosnian Serbs planned to assassinate Franz Ferdinand. Princip pulled out a gun and shot at Franz Ferdinand. Both he and his wife were killed.

**Consequences:** Austria-Hungary immediately blamed the Serbian government for the attack. On July 28, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, and the fragile peace between Europe's great powers collapsed, beginning the devastating conflict now known as the First World War

### World War was sparked due to Germany's want to expand their empire and the Alliance System

- A group of countries who promise to support and protect each other. Rival groups
- The Triple Entente- Great Britain / France / Russia (Russia supported Serbia)
  - The Triple Alliance- Germany / Italy and Austria-Hungary

Each member promised to help its allies if they were attacked by a country belonging to another alliance.



**Trenches: WW1 was fought in trenches. Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night.** In the middle, was No Man's Land, so-called because it did not belong to either army? Soldiers crossed No Man's Land when they wanted to attack the other side.

### Life in the trenches:

**Trench foot:** The wet and muddy conditions in the trenches caused feet to swell up and go black. The flesh would go rotten and the soldiers would be in terrible pain.

**Lice:** The trenches did not have running water or showers, so soldiers found it very hard to keep clean. They soon became infected with lice that lived on all parts of their bodies.

**Rats:** The dirty conditions and the lack of storage attracted rats to the trenches. Some were the size of cats

**Food:** Food was rationed, many ate tinned food as food often went off by the time it reached

**Why Join?** Charlie Buchan was eager to join and went to the local recruitment office in Sunderland to 'do his bit.' Many joined up to see the world, go on an adventure and join up with 'Pals.' Recruitment poster encouraged men to join and many did as they believed they would be home by Christmas. From 1916 the government needed more men so introduced the Military Service Act, forcing healthy single men aged 18-41 to fight in the war. Later it was extended to 51 and included married men. **Impact at home:** Many of those who remained 'at home' worked in industries, including women, to support the country and its armed forces. This is known as the Home Front. Defence of the Realm Act (DORA), 1914- Allowed the government the ability to control and censor essential communications such as newspapers and radio and also restricted people's lives e.g. banning church bells ringing and people not allowed to feed ducks. **End of WWI/Remembrance:** On the 11am of the 11th month 1918 (November 11th). This became known as Armistice Day – the day Germany signed an armistice (an agreement for peace) which caused the fighting to stop. Each year on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November we remember those who died. The poppy is worn by millions each November.



**The Battle of the Somme** by December 1915, it was still a stalemate on the Western Front. In response to the Germans attacking the French, the British planned an attack. The main aim of the battle was to relieve the important northern French fortress of Verdun. At the end of June, a huge artillery bombardment took place for 5 days. On 1<sup>st</sup> July the order to "go over the top" was given. On the first day of the Battle almost 20,000 soldiers died and 40,000 more were injured. In total 1 million men were wounded or killed. By November when fighting ended. Only 6 miles of land had been gained by the allies. At home, whole villages and towns had lost most of their young men who fought in this battle. Those who returned suffered PTSD and disabilities.

