

100 Decisive Battles from Ancient times to the Present by Paul K Davis

First Battle of Marne 5-10 September 1914

I. Vocabulary: 1st: Guess what the word means from context **2nd:** Look up each definition

Erratic	Contingency	Bogged	Obsolescent	Ponderously
Adage	Blitzkrieg	Visionaries	Subordinates	

II. Forces engaged – who fought and who were the leaders

III. Historical Setting

1. Why is asking what caused World War I a hard question to answer
2. When did General Alfred von Schlieffen start to develop his plan against France and when did he launch his attack?
3. In order to bypass the French army and fortress, Germany had to pass through what country, this would cause who to enter the war against Germany, but Germany thought they could do what before that country could get it?
4. After the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, what was the chain of alliances that led to the start of World War I?

IV. The Battle

1. The original Schlieffen Plan called for what percentage of the German Army to attack France, but what did the new general of the German Army do with his troops?
2. What did the French realize about Plan XVII, what did General Joseph Gallieni do to gain men for his army and how were they sent to the battlefield?
3. What allowed the German army to move faster than planned and why did this have a negative impact on their army?
4. What major mistake did General Moltke make by abandoning the Schlieffen Plan and how did this help the French and British?

V. Results

1. What 3 things doomed the German attack during the Schlieffen Plan?
2. What was Schlieffen's final word on his deathbed?
3. What was the primary difference between Germany's attack of 1914 and 1940 and what other introduction helped speed France's downfall?

4. If the Schlieffen Plan had been implemented properly, what effects would it have had on France, Britain, Russia, and Germany?

VI. Tannenberg

1. What did General Max von Prittwitz's subordinates on his staff convince him to do?
2. What 2 unfortunate things did Prittwitz do that got him removed from command?
3. What were the positive and negative things that Moltke did?
4. The victory at Tannenberg was just as what compared to their defeat at Marne and what might have happened had they lost at Tannenberg?