

1914

Date	National / International	In/affecting Matlock Bath
June 28	Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne assassinated at Sarajevo along with his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, by a Bosnian Serb, Gavrilo Princip	
June 29	Austria-Hungary accuses Serbia of complicity in the assassination.	
July 5	Kaiser William II promises German support for Austria-Hungary against Serbia.	
July 20	Austria-Hungary sends troops to the Serbian border.	
July 28	Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.	
July 29	Great Britain warns Germany that it cannot remain neutral. Austrians bombard Belgrade, the Serbian capital. German patrols cross the French border.	
Aug 1	French order military mobilisation. Germany declares war on Russia. Italy and Belgium announce neutrality.	
Aug 3	Germany declares war on France. Great Britain gives the order for troops to mobilise.	Bank Holiday Monday
Aug 4	Germany declares war on Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany. United States announces neutrality.	
Aug 5	Lord Kitchener made War Secretary.	
Aug 6	The first British casualties of the war. 150 men are lost when the Royal Navy cruiser HMS Amphion is sunk by German mines in the North Sea.	E Company 6 th Battalion Sherwood Foresters march through Matlock Bath.
Aug 7	First members of the British Expeditionary Force land in France.	
Aug 8	Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) passed; 'for securing public safety'. Originally brought in to cover sensitive military information, as the War goes on its scope allows for the regulation of almost all aspects of the home front, including British Summer Time and pub opening hours.	
Aug 11	The call for 100,000 men to join Kitchener's New Army is made under the slogan 'Your King and Country Need You'. The call is answered within two weeks.	
Aug 13	First squadrons of Royal Flying Corps arrive in France.	
Aug 19	Kaiser's alleged order for destruction of British "contemptible little army"	

Aug 20	German troops occupy Brussels.	
Aug 23	Battle of Mons. British Expeditionary Force starts its retreat.	
Aug 25	British Flying Corps claim first 'kill' when three planes force down a German reconnaissance plane.	
Aug 26	The British Expeditionary Force suffer 7,812 casualties at the Battle of Le Cateau and are forced to continue their retreat. Russian army defeated at Tannenburg and Masurian Lakes.	
Sept. 6 - 10	Battle of the Marne checks the German advance. Over ½ million men are casualties; 250,000 French, 250,000 German and 13,000 British	
Sept 22		First Matlock Bath Resident comes under fire – Mrs Edith Ramsdale
Sept 25		Headmaster at the school started weekly collections from the pupils
Oct 19 – Nov 17	First Battle of Ypres.	
Oct 29	Turkey enters the War in support of Germany.	
Nov 1	Battle of Coronel, off coast of Chile. A major blow to the Royal Navy with the sinking of HMS Good Hope and HMS Monmouth and the loss of almost 1,600 men.	William Henry Gregory Stoker 1 st class died when all hands were lost on the sinking of HMS Monmouth at The Battle of Coronel
Nov 22	Trench warfare begins to dominate the Western Front and trenches are established along its entire length from Switzerland to the North Sea, 440 miles. This line changes very little during the four years of the War. Britain lost almost 1 million men during the War, the majority along the Western Front.	
Nov 23	British troops from India enter Basra and secure oil supplies to maintain the Navy.	
Dec 8	Battle of the Falkland Islands. The Royal Navy regains its superiority and takes revenge for the Battle of Coronel with the sinking of 3 German cruisers involved. Only one German ship escapes.	
Dec16	German warships bombard the coastal towns of Hartlepool, Whitby and Scarborough, killing 137 civilians, bringing the War to mainland Britain.	
Dec 24	Dover bombed by German aeroplane. It is the first airborne attack on Britain.	
Dec 26		Traditional 'fete the aged' held – 200 sit down to dinner