

# 1916

Date	National / International	In/affecting Matlock Bath
<b>Jan 4</b>	A first attempt is made to relieve the besieged British troops in Kut, Mesopotamia. The British force the Turkish to withdraw, but sustain 4,000 casualties.	
<b>Jan 8</b>	End of the Gallipoli campaign with the successful evacuation of Helles with only one casualty.	
<b>Jan 24</b>	Military Service Act passed which imposes conscription on all single men aged 18 to 41, except those in essential wartime occupations, the medically unfit, religious ministers and conscientious objectors.	
<b>Jan 31</b>	Zeppelins pass over Derbyshire. Derby and Burton-on-Trent bombed.	
<b>Feb21</b>	Start of the Battle of Verdun. The German plan is to 'bleed the French dry of men and resources'. The battle lasts for 10 months and inflicts over 1 million casualties.	
<b>Mar 6</b>	Women's National Land Service Corps inaugurated.	
<b>Mar 9</b>	Germany declares war on Portugal.	
<b>Mar 15</b>	Austria-Hungary declares war on Portugal	
<b>April 5</b>	A third and last attempt to relieve the besieged forces at Kut, Mesopotamia, sustaining 23,000 Allied casualties.	
<b>April 24</b>	Irish Rebellion starts with Sinn Feiners seizing Dublin's Post Office.	
<b>April 29</b>	Besieged British forces surrendered to Turkish forces at Kut, Mesopotamia, after 143 days. 3,000 British and 6,000 Indian troops are taken prisoner, most die of starvation and disease in prison camps.	
<b>April 30</b>	Dublin rebels surrender.	
<b>May 21</b>	First day of 'Daylight Saving Time' scheme, British Summer Time, introduced to give longer daylight working hours, particularly for farmers.	
<b>May 31</b>	Battle of Jutland. Despite losing 14 ships and over 6,000 men, the British navy inflicts great damage on the German fleet which does not recover for the rest of the War.	
<b>June 4</b>	Start of the Russian Brusilov Offensive on the Eastern Front which was meant to aid the Allies at the Somme by diverting German forces away from the Western Front.	
<b>June 5</b>	T. E. Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, helps the Arab revolt against	

	the Turks in Hejaz. Lord Kitchener sets sail for Russia on HMS Hampshire. The ship hits a mine off the Orkney Islands and 643 men, including Kitchener, are lost.	
<b>July 1</b>	Start of the Battle of the Somme. Three quarters of a million Allied troops advance along a 25 mile front. In one day, 60,000 British troops are wounded or dead. Very little advance is made. It is the largest single day's loss of life in British military history.	
<b>July 14</b>	End of the first Somme Offensive. The British troops break the German line, but do not deploy the cavalry fast enough to take full advantage. 9,000 men are killed.	
<b>July 23</b>	The second Somme Offensive on the village of Pozieres. Allies sustain 17,000 casualties, mostly Australian.	
<b>Aug 28</b>	Italy declares war on Germany.	
<b>Sept 2</b>	First Zeppelin is shot down over Britain by the Air Corps.	
<b>Sept 9</b>	Battle of the Somme continues. British troops capture the strategically important village of Ginchy, commanding a full view of the Somme battlefield.	
<b>Sept 15</b>	Third Somme Offensive and the first use of tanks at the Somme.	
<b>Sept 26</b>	Tanks again play a role in the Battle of Thiepval village. A Memorial to the Missing, who have no known grave, and who died in the Somme before the 20th of March 1918 is located at Thiepval.	
<b>Nov 13</b>	The fourth phase of the Somme Offensive, the Battle of the Ancre. The village of Beaumont Hamel is captured by British troops who take almost 4,000 prisoners.	
<b>Dec 7</b>	Lloyd George becomes British Prime Minister.	
<b>Dec 12.</b>	Germany issues a proposal to begin negotiations to end the War. On December 30, 1916, the Allies reject the proposal, which they deem unworthy of serious consideration	
<b>Dec 18</b>	The Battle of Verdun started on February 21 <sup>st</sup> and ended on December 18 <sup>th</sup> , 1916. It was the longest battle of the War and estimates put casualties at close to 1 million men over 10 months.	

