Germany entered into World War I on August 1, 1914, when it declared war on Russia. In accordance with its war plan, it ignored Russia and moved first against France—declaring war on August 3 and sending its main armies through Belgium to attack Paris from the north. The German invasion of Belgium caused Britain to declare war on Germany on August 4. Most of the main parties were now at war. In October 1914, Turkey joined the war on Germany's side, becoming part of the Central Powers. Italy, which was 22, 23, and the approach of war, p. 125; Kennedy, P. M., The rise of the Anglo-German antagonism 1660â€“1914 (London, 1980). 23 Fischer, F., 'The foreign policy of imperial Germany and the outbreak of the First World warâ€™, in Schöllgen, (ed.), Escape into war?, p. 21. 24 W. Gutsche, 'The foreign policy of imperial Germany and the outbreak of the war in the historiography of the GDR', in ibid. p. 50. 25 G. Schöllgen, 'Introduction: the theme reflected in recent German researchâ€™, in ibid. pp. 1â€“17; idem, 'Germany's foreign policy in the age of imperialism: a vicious circleâ€™, in Fischer, War of illusions, passim; Schulte, B. F., Vor dem Kriegsausbruch 1914. August 3, 1914 - Germany declares war on France, and invades neutral Belgium. Britain then sends an ultimatum, rejected by the Germans, to withdraw from Belgium. August 4, 1914 - Great Britain declares war on Germany. Aided by aerial reconnaissance and the interception of uncoded Russian radio messages, the Germans effectively reposition their troops to counter the initial Russian advance. Five days later, after surrounding the Russians, the battle ends with a German victory and the capture of 125,000 Russians. Following this success, the Germans drive the Russians out of East Prussia with heavy casualties. The impressive victory elevates Hindenburg and Ludendorff to the status of heroes in Germany.