

School resource

Espionage in the First World War

Chronology

28 June 1914	Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife, are assassinated in Sarajevo.
28 July 1914	Austri-Hungary declares war on Serbia.
3 August 1914	Great Britain gives order for troops to mobilise.
4 August 1914	Carl Hans Lody obtains an American passport from the United States Embassy in Berlin in the name of Charles A. Inglish. Lody spoke excellent English with an American accent.
27 August 1914	Lody arrives in Newcastle, UK before travelling to Edinburgh where he is tasked with spying against the British on behalf of Germany.
29 August 1914	1,600 men take their Oath of Allegiance at the Tower to join the army and form the 'Stockbrokers' Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.
29 September 1914	Lody travels to Dublin where he writes a letter in German which is intercepted by postal censors. MI5 orders Lody's arrest.
2 October 1914	Lody is arrested at his hotel in London.
30 October – 2 November	Lody is put on trial as a German spy in London.
2 November 1914	Lody is found guilty of all charges against him and sentenced to 'suffer death by being shot'.
5 November 1914	Lody writes two letters – one to his guards, thanking them for their kind treatment during his confinement, and one to his family.
6 November 1914	Carl Hans Lody becomes the first spy to be executed at the Tower. He is executed by a firing squad of Grenadier Guards.
23 June 1915	Carl Muller is executed at the Tower of London.
30 July 1915	Willem Roos and Haicke Janssen are executed at the Tower of London.



September 1915	Ernst Melin, Augusto Roggin and Fernando Buschman are executed at the Tower of London.
October 1915	George Breeckow and Irving Ries are executed at the Tower of London.
December 1915	Albert Meyer is executed at the Tower of London.
April 1916	Ludovico Zender is executed at the Tower of London.
11 November 1918	Germany agrees an armistice, ending the war in victory for the Allies.
6 November 1934	Memorial plaque unveiled on Lubeck town gate in memory of Carl Hans Lody.

Espionage in the First World War