

NATIONAL  
**WWI**  
MUSEUM  
AT LIBERTY MEMORIAL

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**News Release**

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**Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand Featured in New Light in National World War I Museum Special Exhibition *On the Brink: A Month That Changed the World***

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – A teenaged assassin fired two shots that forever changed the world on June 28, 1914. The series of events that led to the outbreak of World War I will be interpreted in the special exhibition [\*On the Brink: A Month That Changed the World\*](#), which opens March 15 at the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial.

Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian-Serb nationalist, set the world “on the brink” in 1914 as the bullets fired from his pistol killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) and his wife, Sophie, in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The special exhibition, *On the Brink: A Month That Changed the World* examines the underground organizations, diplomatic communications and international newspaper reporting of the assassination and its political aftershock in a manner never seen before. The assassination led to the Austro-Hungarian Empire declaring war on Serbia on July 28, 1914, and within a few months, the world’s first global war.

“With the Centennial of World War I approaching, it’s absolutely critical that we examine the causes of the outbreak of World War I,” said National World War I Museum President & CEO Matthew Naylor. “This exhibition presents the series of events in June and July of 1914 in an entirely new manner. Through this exhibition, we’re able to view reactions from diplomats and newspapers in a chronological order that reflects the developing tension, which, ultimately, resulted in the Great War.”

The exhibition incorporates a journalistic and documentary approach and portrays the story of the assassination and its aftermath through a series of newspaper articles, photographs and quotes from diplomatic sources. The comprehensive exhibition is represented with items from:

- Austria
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Italy
- Russia
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- United States

The exhibition, located in Memory Hall and free with admission to the Museum, runs through Sept. 14. This special exhibition was created with support from the Austrian National Library, Serbian National Library, Library of Congress, Kansas City Public Library and The British Library.

**About the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial**

The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial is the only American museum solely dedicated to examining the personal experiences of a war whose impact still echoes in the world today. The National World War I Museum holds the most diverse collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and experiences of the war. The Museum takes visitors of all ages on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice. Designated by Congress as America's official World War I Museum and located in downtown Kansas City, Mo., the National World War I Museum inspires thought, dialogue and learning to make the experiences of the Great War era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations. To learn more, visit [www.theworldwar.org](http://www.theworldwar.org).

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