

In 1908, the country of Austria-Hungary annexed (took over) the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was known as the Bosnian crisis. A lot of people in Bosnia were very angry about this and wanted to join with Serbia instead. In 1912, a Bosnian man called Gavrilo Princip joined a secret group called the *Black Hand*. They wanted to fight back against Austria Hungary. Gavrilo was sick with tuberculosis, and wanted to use what was left of his life to free Bosnia. The black hand were armed with pistols and explosives.

Some people thought that they were terrorists, other people thought they were brave freedom fighters.



Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Duchess Sophie. When his father died, Franz would become the King of Austria Hungary.

On 24th June 1914, Franz and Sophie visited the city of Sarajevo in Bosnia.

The members of the black hand decided to assassinate (kill) Franz Ferdinand. As the motorcade drove through the streets, one of the black hand threw a bomb at the car where Franz and Sophie were passengers. It bounced off and exploded under a different car, injuring around 20 people. Gavrilo Princip did not act at this time.

The driver of their car got away, but took a wrong turn on route to the hospital. Gavrilo Princip saw them pass, and fired at Franz with his pistol. Both Franz and Sophie were killed.



Afterwards, the black hand were arrested and sent to jail. At his trial, Princip declared he did not mean to hit Sophie, but was aiming for Governor Potiorek instead.

Because he was only 19 at the time, Princip was not executed, but later died in prison of Tuberculosis.

The Emperor of Austria, Franz Josef blamed Serbia for the death of his son. He threatened to declare war, but knew Serbia was allied to Russia. This was known as the July Crisis.

The leader of Germany promised to back up Austria in a war. This led Austria to declare war against Serbia.

Make a list of reasons why you think Gavrilo Princip is a hero or a villain. Make a list of reasons why you think Gavrilo Princip is a hero or a villain. Villain Villain Hero Hero