

# ASSASSINATION COULD LEAD TO WAR!

Franz Ferdinand and wife, Sofia, devastatingly murdered by a trained 19 year old terrorist.

Reported by D. Boy

Yesterday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 1914, a heart-breaking tragedy took place in Sarajevo (Bosnia). Franz Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated whilst on a visit to inspect troops. The pair were killed by a Black Hand Gang member, from Serbia, as they wanted to be independent.

Franz Ferdinand's visit to Bosnia led to an assassination. Archduke Franz Ferdinand wanted to strengthen relations with the Bosnian people. A number of reports suggest the loving couple planned to have lunch at

City Hall and then go to inspect the nearby troops. However, in an unbelievable turn of events, a Serbian terrorist group - The Black Hand Gang - made multiple attempts on the royal group. Disaster struck when one suspect threw a grenade that unfortunately bounced off the vehicle behind causing several severe injuries. The poor victims were then taken to the closest hospital. Even though it had already been a terrifying morning, Sofia and the Archduke carried on with their day. When they had finished

their lunch, they chose to visit the injured from the previous attack.

Just after, the new driver - who had just been replaced - accidentally took a wrong turn. The incident occurred when he tried to reverse not knowing that would be a big mistake. At this moment, Gavilo Princip (a Black Hand terrorist) walked out of a full cafe and, not caring, brutally fired two shots towards the car. According to witnesses, the initial shot pierced straight into Archduke Franz Ferdinand's neck, causing him to die within seconds. The next bullet went right into Sofia rupturing her stomach and killing her and her baby almost instantly. Moments after, Princip was seized by the police and they brought him into custody.

What was planned to be an amazing welcoming for Franz Ferdinand and Sofia tragically turned into huge crowd left shocked from the assassination attempt. Robert Carlos, the driver: "I could not believe my eyes; it was one of the most devastating experiences of my life. That one wrong turn has made me regret being asked to take this amazing couple." He also added that it was all his fault and he will never drive anyone to any destination again.

A witness from the cafe, a parent stated, "I was shocked when I saw the man pull out his gun. It was so scary! I do hope that my child does not turn to be like this. It's so sad!" She also exclaimed that she does not think that this place will be safe again.

For so many years, the

Balkans have been filled with rising tensions, mainly because Austro-Hungary were annexing lands close by to build up their power. Adding to this, nationalistic groups were more divided and separated. Most people were not happy as many had different beliefs and spoke different languages, they were forced to live under one flag. Consequently, their anger was then directed towards Vienna.

Eventually, more terrorist groups (including Peoples Defense, Black Hand and Young Bosnia) came together to get rid of Austro-Hungary's control. Rumours have spread that the Serbian government agreed and helped train members of the Black Hand ready for violent missions. Soon after planning their deadly act, they followed through with their horrid intentions leaving us to where we are today.

Still shaken by the terrifying event, members across Sarajevo started to show their respects. People would gather and lay beautiful flowers, Church bells would ring and candles would be lit in honour of Franz Ferdinand and Sofia. Meanwhile, soldiers would attempt to calm people down around the crime scene whilst others were hearing about the chaotic incident.

The police have informed us that the young man who is responsible for the assassination, Gavrilo Princip, is currently being questioned by other police officers. Even though he will be found guilty, he is unlikely to face the death penalty as his age is surprisingly low for committing a horrific crime.

Since the assassination, tensions around Europe have worsened with Austro-Hungary blaming Serbia's government for helping the Black Hand. This

has left many worrying  
about one question: Do  
Serbia need to prepare to  
fight?