



1918 Influenza

Kirizyu, Melissa, Jevon, Dinda



What is it?

Also known as the Spanish Flu.

The 1918 Influenza (better known as The Spanish Flu) is a dangerous strain of H1N1 virus. It is a form of avian influenza that has evolved to be able to do cross species infection. This form of influenza infected humans worldwide later on during the end of World War 1. After this, it was also able to pass from humans to pigs. Now, almost every flu pandemic relating to influenza (Swine Flu, etc.) has mutated from these pigs. These pigs essentially became the "parent" of every flu pandemic since 1918.

Symptoms

The symptoms were similar to the symptoms of typical seasonal flu. What differentiated it was how fast it made people sick and killed them. Reportedly, people who woke up healthy got sick in the morning and were dead by nighttime. This is exceptionally quick compared to the typical five to seven days of flu symptoms. Another thing that differentiated this flu was its mortality rate, which is estimated to be around 10% or 20%.

The symptoms include fever or feeling feverish/chills, coughing, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness), and vomiting and diarrhea in some people (though this is more common in children than adults).

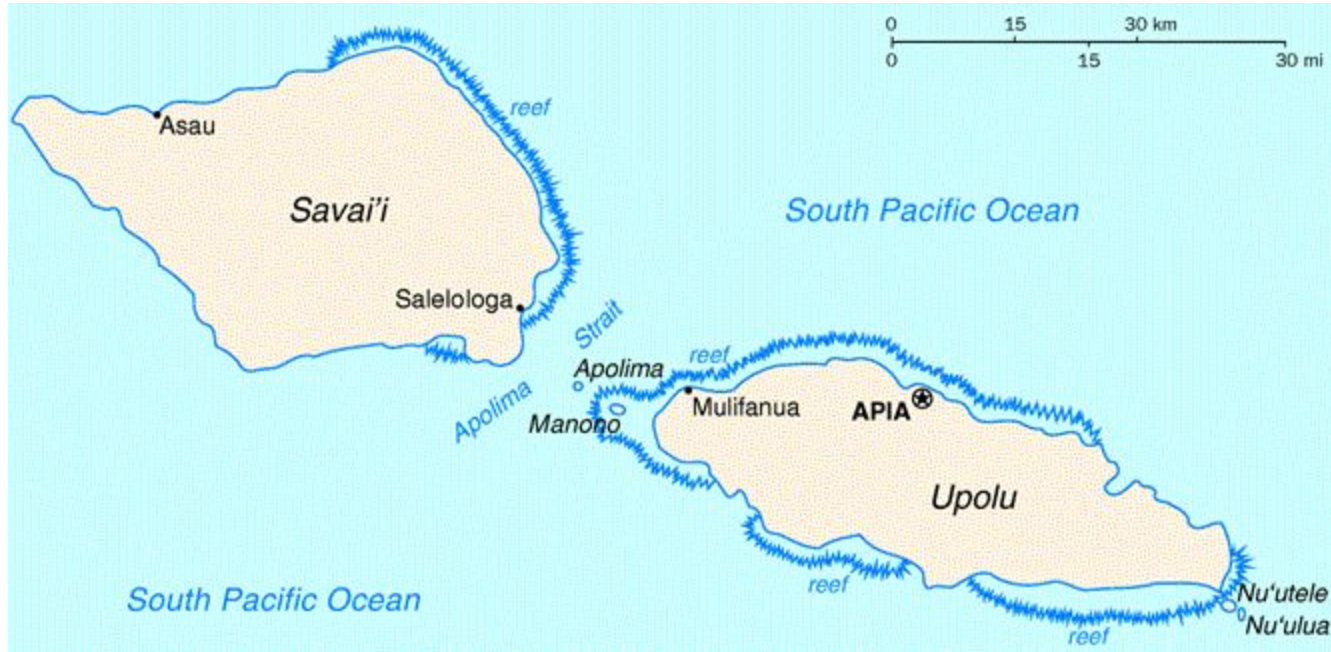
10% - 20%

Estimated Mortality Rate.

History of the Disease

As stated before, the outbreak happened in 1918, the period where World War 1 still rages on but is coming to an end. The poor hygiene quality in the trenches was the perfect place for this virus to procreate. This disease hit Americans and Germans very hard, but both sides suppressed the news in fear of losing the morale of their soldiers. The only nation broadcasting the news openly at the time was Spain, hence the name of the disease. Alfonso XIII, the king of Spain at the time, was infected by the disease himself. Unlike leaders from the Entente or Central Powers, their neutrality in the war allowed them to broadcast the disease in their country openly.

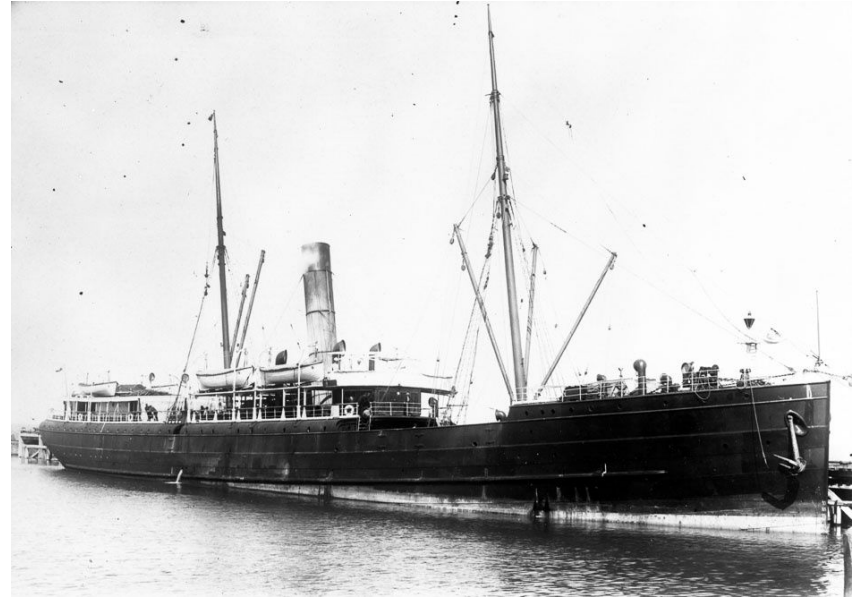
Western Samoa



Islands of Savai'i and Upolu

What happened in Western Samoa?

The disease came there through an island trader ship known as the *Talune*. It killed 8500 people there, almost one-fifths of the population of the islands at the time, hopping from both islands of Opulu and Savai'i before claiming thousands of lives




Picture of the Talune.

The influenza also killed at least 20 to 50 million people worldwide with high estimates being at around 100 million people. 675,000 of these people were Americans, therefore there were many people who died from this disease.




Past Treatments and Vaccines

At the time, there were no effective vaccines or drugs to treat this dangerous flu strain. Citizens were ordered to wear masks and they weren't allowed to cough or sneeze in public. Schools, theatres, and businesses were shut down as bodies were piled up in makeshift morgues. This disease could spread this much because of the public negligence towards the disease that in itself is an effect from the propaganda and restrictions imposed on the journalists seeking to report on this disease. At the time of the first, second waves, the scientists weren't able to fully classify this disease due to the censorship from the government. As a result, there wasn't any permanent vaccines or treatment that could be given out from the government or the scientists. This is a major factor why the disease is very infamous to this day



All Hope is Not Lost!





Wilhelm II,
Kaiser of the German Empire



Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States



Alfonso XIII,
King of Spain



Haile Selassie I,
Emperor of Ethiopia

Heads of States Infected by Spanish Flu

Famous People who were Infected by Spanish Flu but Survived!



Walt Disney,
Founder of Disney



Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States



Franz Kafka,
Austrian Writer

Popular Figures infected by Spanish Flu

Famous People who were Infected by Spanish Flu but Survived!

Cover your Mouth,
Cover your Nose,
Cover your Life!