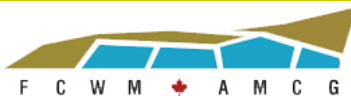
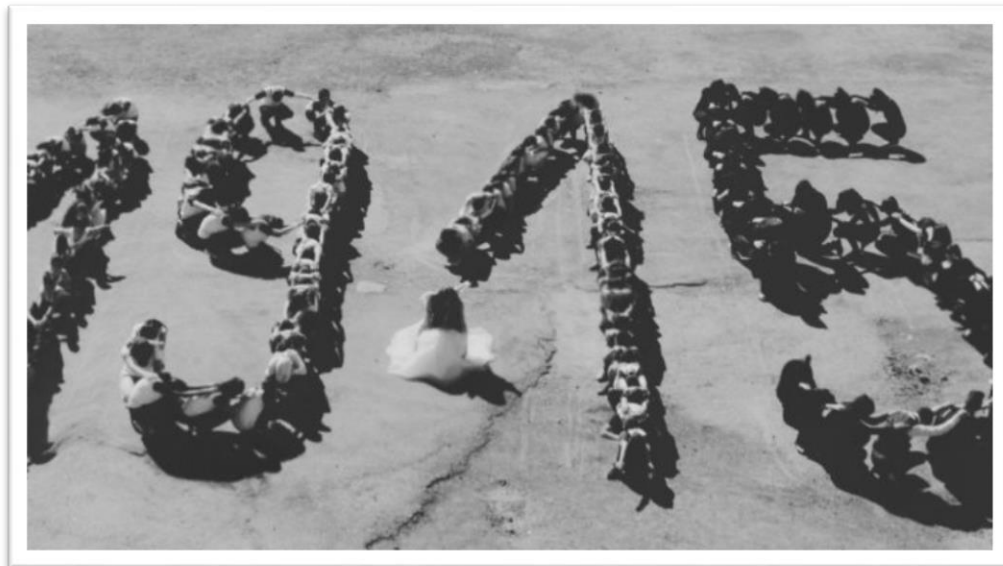


World War I  
**Day by Day**  
1915 – 1918

# May 1915 / Mai 1915

La première guerre mondiale  
**De jour en jour**  
1915 – 1918



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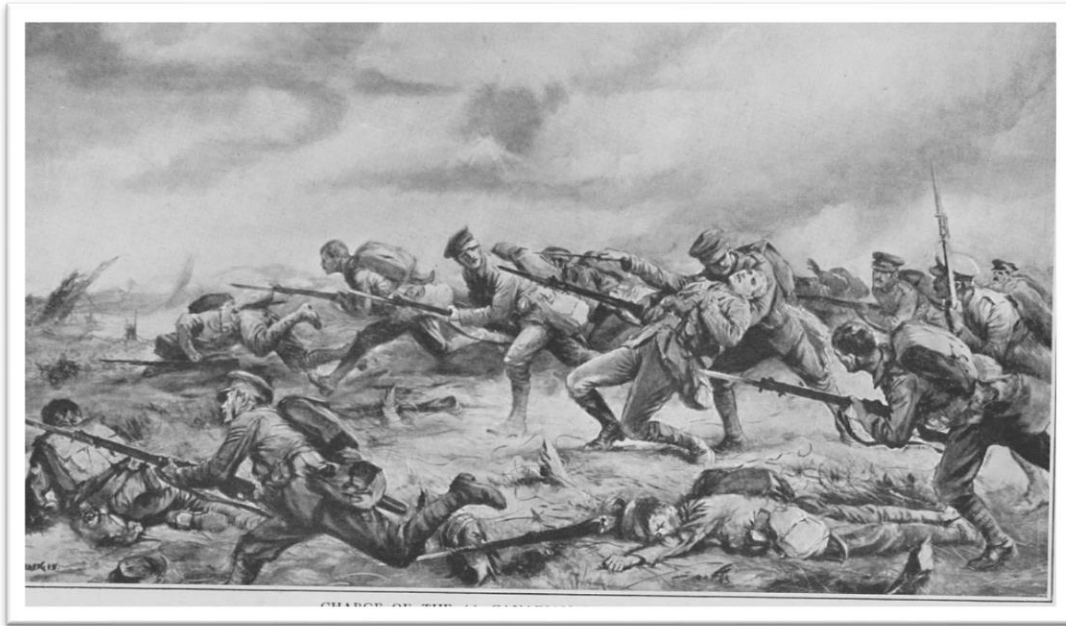
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# 1 May 2015

## A heralded introduction to war: Ypres-The Canadian Connection

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The Second Battle of Ypres was the occasion that Max Aitken seized to introduce a new genre of reporting from the battlefield. His newspaper reports, describing action with more precision than any produced through the British censorship, were circulated around the world.

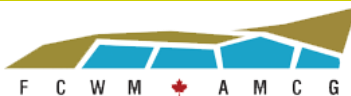
Historian A.J.P. Taylor in his biography of Beaverbrook writes: *'Aitken's success in carving out a distinguished record for the Canadians as an almost separate fighting force rather than as dominion troops fighting within a much larger BEF structure, left some British politicians and officers complaining that it appeared to be only the Canadians fighting the Germans, with a little support from the British.'*

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Tim Cook, "Documenting War & Forging Reputations: Sir Max Aitken, the Canadian War Records Office in the First World War", paper presented at the Conference of the Western Front Association, 22 Sep 2001; also *War in History*, 10:3 (Jul 03), pp. 265-95.

Sandra Gwyn, *Tapestry of War*, Chap 15, «The Eyewitness and his Witness», 255-72.

A.J.P. Taylor, *Beaverbrook*, (Hamish Hamilton, 1972; Penguin, 1974).



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## 2 May 1915

### German Offensive in the East-Falkenhayn's Spring campaign against Russia

---



Ludendorf and Hindenburg had tried twice before to make manoeuvres of encirclement against Eastern Russian Front. In August 1914, a thrust in the South did not succeed in bagging Russian armies as expected, and in January 1915, another thrust was made in the North (Prussia) with incomplete success, although large numbers of prisoners were captured. A third such movement was contemplated for April, but the Chief of General Staff, Falkenhayn, found that such a movement was too large for resources at hand. Austrian General Conrad von Hötzendorf proposed thrust-like attacks in South of Galicia to push back the Russians out of Galicia. These thrusts took place from 2 May 1915, with ample success. Mackensen commanded the operation which was directed toward Cracow.

Throughout June and July, successive thrusts will force Grand Duke Nicolas to withdraw. This Russian withdrawal will create anxiety in the West that German troops may be likely to be transferred during the summer. *'This was the only genuine breakthrough on any front in the whole course of the war: the only one, that is, so wide and deep that it could not be sealed off.'*<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> A.J.P. Taylor, *The First World War – An Illustrated History* (Penguin, 1966), p. 93.

Churchill, *The World Crisis*, II, Chap XX - «The Darkening Scene», p. 410ff.

Lloyd George, *Memoirs*, 453ff.



# 3 mai 1915

## In Flanders Fields / Au Champ d'Honneur

---



Le poème de John McRae a probablement été écrit le 3 mai 1915, au lendemain des funérailles de son ami le lieutenant Alexis Helmer. Voici deux traductions de ce fameux poème:

### Traduction libre

Dans les champs de Flandres  
Dansent les coquelicots  
Ils couvrent nos lits  
De croix en croix  
En rangs serrés

Et dans leur vol  
Bravement  
Chantent les alouettes  
Sourdes  
Aux bruits des armes  
Nous sommes les morts  
Hier encore nous vivions  
Sentions l'aurore  
Goûtions les crépuscules dorés  
Nous aimions  
Et nous étions aimés  
Maintenant nous sommes couchés  
Dans les champs de Flandres

À vous de lutter  
Nos mains blessées

Vous tendent la flamme  
À vous de la brandir

Si vous trompez notre foi  
Nous qui sommes morts  
Comment pourrons nous reposer

Même sous des coquelicots  
Dans les champs de Flandres

### Traduction officielle<sup>1</sup>

Au champ d'honneur, les coquelicots  
Sont parsemés de lot en lot  
Auprès des croix; et dans l'espace  
Les alouettes devenues lasses  
Mêlent leurs chants au sifflement  
Des obusiers.

Nous sommes morts  
Nous qui songions la veille encor'  
À nos parents, à nos amis,  
C'est nous qui reposons ici  
Au champ d'honneur.

À vous jeunes désabusés  
À vous de porter l'orflamme  
Et de garder au fond de l'âme  
Le goût de vivre en liberté  
Acceptez le défi sinon  
Les coquelicots se faneront  
Au champ d'honneur

---

<sup>1</sup> Adaptation française du major Jean Pariseau. Taken from  
[https://www.museedelaguerre.ca/cwm/exhibitions/remember/flandersfields\\_f.html](https://www.museedelaguerre.ca/cwm/exhibitions/remember/flandersfields_f.html)



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## 4 May 1915

### Ready for the Battle of Artois – The French Plan



In Artois, the French order of battle was as follows:

- The left of the **XVII Corps** was around ROCLINCOURT.
- North of them stood the **XX Corps**, its left facing LA TARGETTE and extending a little north of that village.
- North of the XX came the **XXXIII Corps**, commanded by **Pétain**, the future commander-in-chief of the French armies on the western front. His extreme left faced ABLAIN.
- North again, astride the LORETTE RIDGE and on to the ARRAS-BÉTHUNE high road, stood the **XXI Corps** which, always under **Maistre**, had held the sector from the beginning.

The **XX** and **XXXIII Corps** had three divisions each, the other corps two. All four corps formed part of the **Tenth Army**, now commanded by **D'Urbal**.

**Foch**, the **North Army Group Commander**, shifted his headquarters from Cassel to **FREVENT** on the Doullens-St-Pol road in order to follow the operation more closely. The troops were in high spirits at the prospect of quitting the foul and muddy trenches, and in the hope of fighting in the open thenceforward. » [268]

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Major-General Sir John Humphrey Davidson, « Artois, The Battles in », *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition (1922), Vol. 30, pp. 271-81.



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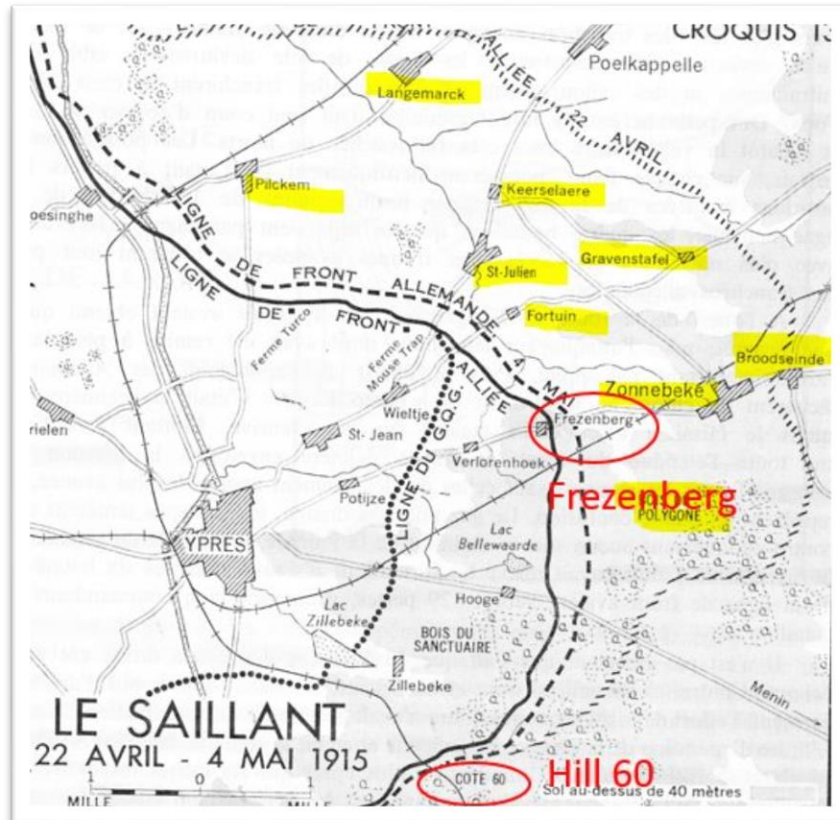
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## 5 May 1915

### Hill 60 Lost at Ypres

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On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1915, the German Army succeeds in taking Hill 60, to the south of the Salient of Ypres, where the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Brigade was held in reserve on 22 April, and from where it was recalled in haste to come to rejoin the Canadian Division in Saint-Julien.

On this date, a lot of ground has been seized by the Germans. SAINT-JULIEN has been lost, as well as all the blood-soaked neighbouring villages which were defended in two weeks of so desperate and all-out fighting: **Langemarck, Pilkern, Keerselaere, Gravenstafel, Fortuin, Broodseinde, Zonnebeker, Polygone Wood.**

**Frezenberg** now stands to face the onslaught. The 27<sup>th</sup> British Division prepares for the imminent battle.

Among its units, the Canadian PPCLI.

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•Nicholson, CEF, Chap 3: «The Battles of Ypres».



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## 6 May 1915

### No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill)

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The hospital staff embarks for overseas on **6 May 1915**. With a strength of 33 officers, 73 nursing sisters, and 205 other ranks, the unit sailed from Montreal aboard the Canadian Pacific liner, Metagama. The hospital embarked with Dr. Arthur Mignault's Hôpital stationnaire No. 4 (canadien-français)<sup>1</sup>.

The hospital will arrive in Devonport on May 15. There it will be considered for separation among other units, to which the authorities of the hospital will object. However, it will be accepted that the hospital was staffed in excess of War Office establishments and some personnel will be shared. It will there be named «No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill).

It will be assigned to duty «on the lines of communication of the BEF in France. » It will cross to France on the night of June 7<sup>th</sup> through Boulogne, to Dannes-Camiers, twelve miles away. There it will join a great camp of tented hospitals.

*«By the end of July, roads had been built, sanitary equipment had been installed, 257 tents and marquees had been erected, and the Hospital [...] stood ready to admit the first convoy of wounded. »<sup>2</sup>*

The first convoy of 20 walking wounded and 16 stretcher cases arrived on August 7.

See diary entries of Clare Gass, Nurse, with, as Appendix 6, «Matron [K.O.] MacLatchy's Recollections».

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<sup>1</sup> Litalien, Tourmente, 37.

<sup>2</sup> Fetherstonhaugh. McGill, p. 46.

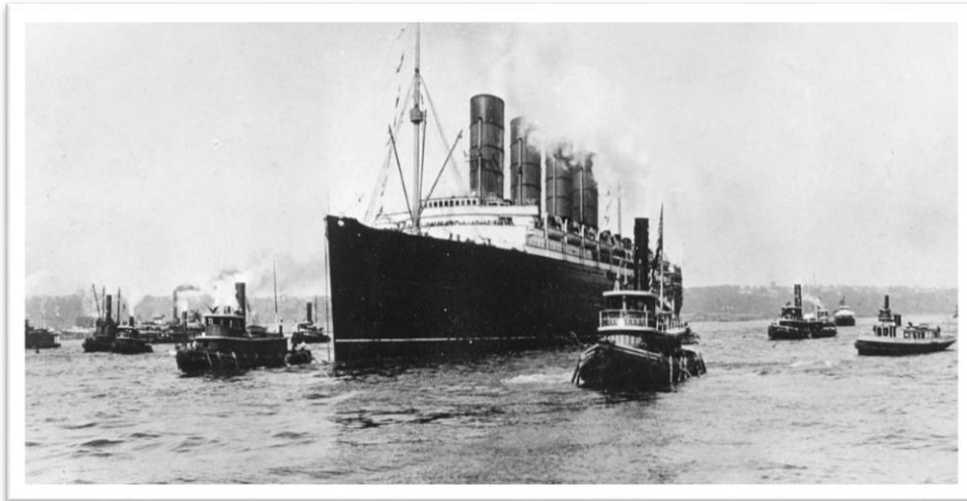
<sup>3</sup> Mann, The War Diaries of Clare Gass, p. 8, 243-58.



## 7 May 1915

### The sinking of RMS Lusitania

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RMS Lusitania, a British ocean liner

The British cargo and passenger ship RMS Lusitania sets out for England from New York City on May 1, 1915. On May 7 1915, a German U-boat torpedoed the Lusitania off the coast of Ireland. Of the 1,959 people on board, 1,195 perished at sea. The 32,000-ton liner, commissioned in 1907, sank in 18 minutes. The loss of so many of its passengers, including 128 of the 197 Americans on board, aroused a wave of indignation in the United States.



A porthole recovered from the sinking of RMS Lusitania



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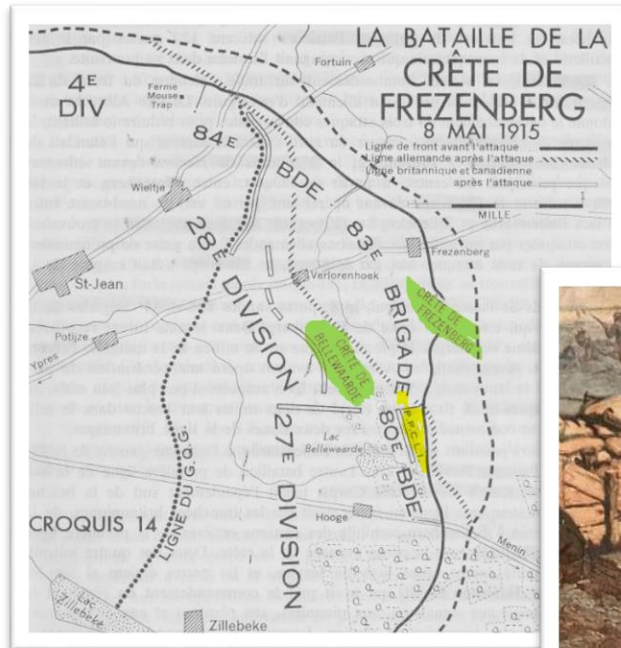
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## 8 Mai 1915

### La bataille de Frezenberg

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Le **Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry** défend le secteur de la petite localité de Frezenberg, dans le périmètre est du Saillant de Ypres. L'unité fait partie de la 27e Division britannique. Dans la défense des crêtes de BELLEWARDE et de FREZENBERG, le **8 mai 1915**, l'unité perd 392 hommes pendant la journée.

À minuit il ne lui reste plus que 4 officiers et 150 hommes.

L'unité doit temporairement s'amalgamer au 4e King's Royal Rifles.

Cette bataille se poursuit jusqu'au 13 mai et résulte par la perte des deux crêtes si péniblement défendues.

Il s'agira de la dernière avancée allemande dans le Saillant pour deux années.

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Nicholson, Corps Expéditionnaire canadien, p. 97-9



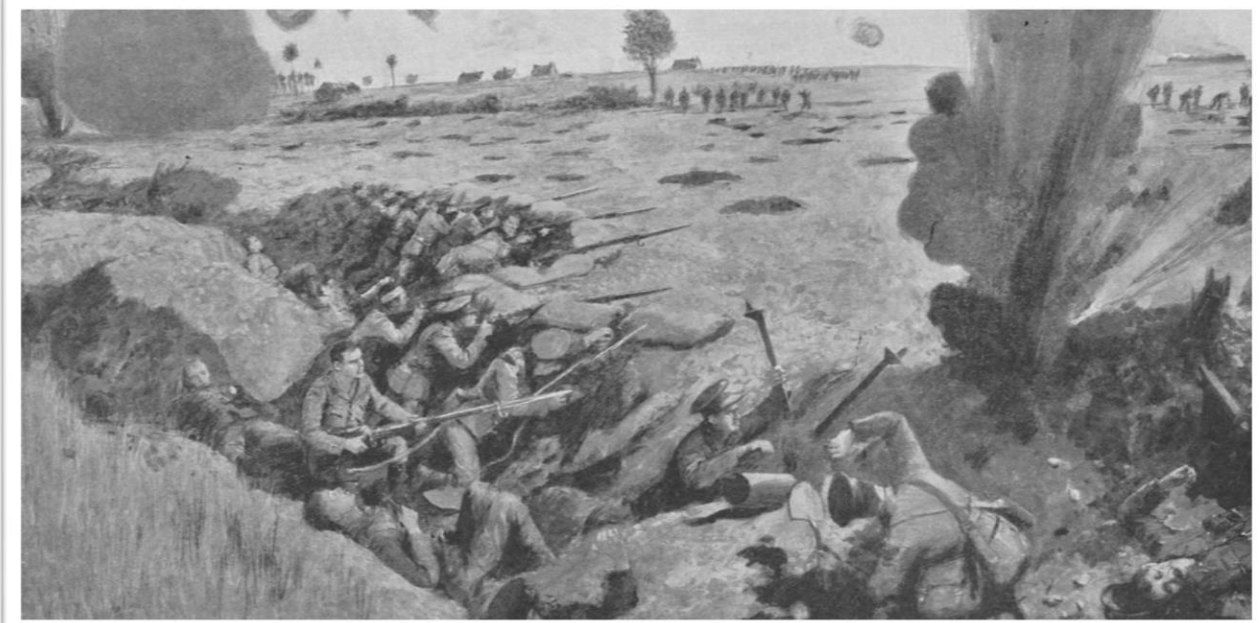
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## 9 – 15 May 1915

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Princess Patricia's Light Infantry beating off a German attack

The First British Army is attacking 15 miles to the north of Vimy Ridge so as to assist the French attack at Vimy.

**The Dixième Armée** is attempting to dominate Vimy Ridge to as to progress to the East to disrupt railroad lines supplying the German defences in northern France.

On **9 May 1915**, both attacks are launched simultaneously.

On the morning of 9 May, the great battle of Artois, under preparation in General Foch's Groupe d'Armées du Nord for more than a month, was launched. Général d'Urbal Dixième Armée undertook to burst through the German defences between Arras and Lens, with Gen Pétain's three-division XXIII Corps as a spearhead.

The French divisions rushed the Vimy Ridge '*à l'emporte-pièce*' (headlong), succeeding in creating surprise among the German defenders.

The foremost battalions succeeded in ascending the ridge to its top, far enough to see the Douai Plains on the other side.

But they were not being followed by immediate reinforcements. Those who had rushed the objective found themselves stranded, without communications, unable to report their success so as to allow headquarters to direct artillery or reinforcements to reinforce success.

The first day of the Artois offensive on the French side was therefore one of wasted successes.



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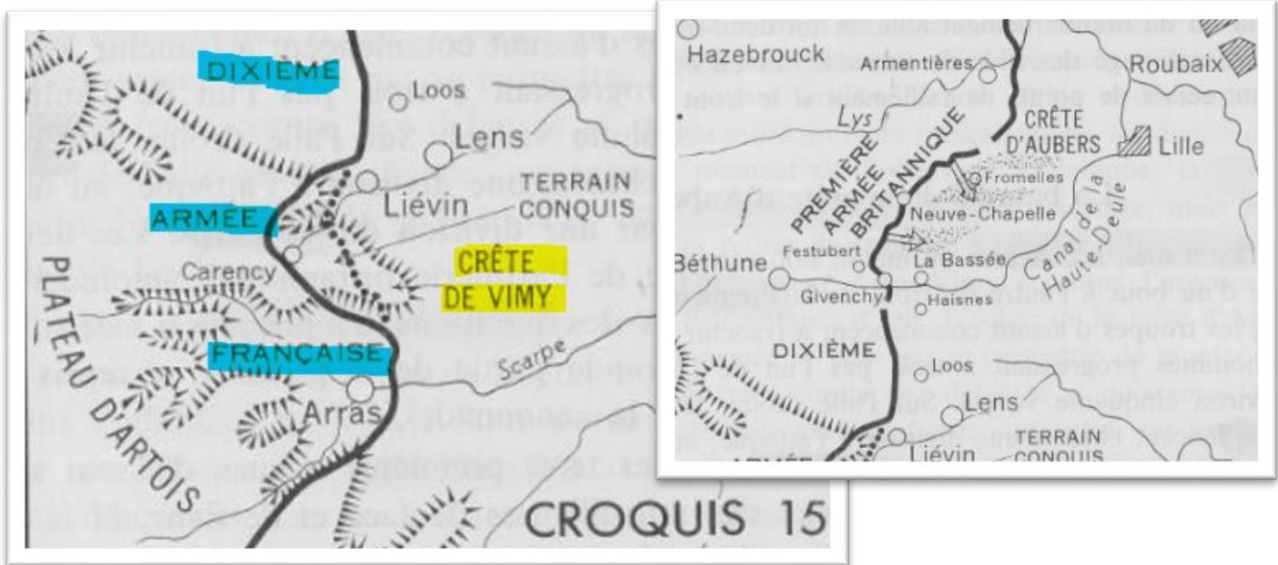
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## 9 May 1915

### The Battle of Aubers Ridge

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Aubers Ridge is 15 miles north of Vimy Ridge, on the east of the Plateau d'Artois. Simultaneous attacks are planned against each, by the British in the north, and by the French in the south.

The British attack on the **Crête d'Aubers** is a diversion so as to prevent the German to send reinforcements south.

For some time, FM French has agreed with Gen Joffre that he would support Pétain's Corps rush toward the Vimy Ridge with a simultaneous attack, 15 miles to the north, so as to prevent German divisions from being moved south. Haig's First Army is tasked, again, with taking the Aubers Ridge, which was tried at the battle of Neuve Chapelle with bad results on 10-12 March. This time Haig will use a two-pronged assault, north and south of Neuve Chapelle, to attempt to take the ridge in pincer.

On **9 May 1915**, the second attempt to take this ridge fails. The three divisions involved in the assault are, again, stopped dead in their tracks by the crossing fire of German small arms and artillery. The assault does not even prevent the German movement of troops south, where they deal a counter-blow to the French Army's initial successes at Vimy.

The Aubers Ridge will dictate some lessons to the British high command. They definitely need more artillery munitions to deal with the German defenses before the assault. Surprise is not enough. With 11,000 casualties in 12 hours of fighting, in addition to the 13,000 lost in the first assault in March, the facts are quite plain.

More limited objectives have to be utterly disorganized by massive shell fire before the infantry goes over the top.

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Nicholson, CEF, Chap 3.



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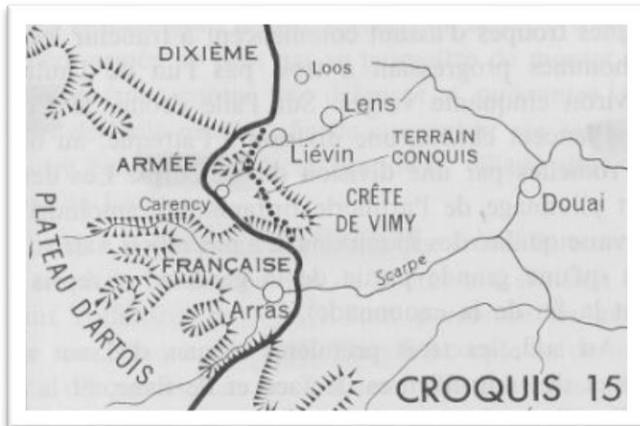
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## 10 May 1915

### French Campaign of Artois – the Battle of Artois

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On the morning of **10 May, 1915**, the Germans are plugging the holes, wiping out the pockets of French soldiers, including many from African regiments, which are holding on to their hiding places on the ridge.

### Cérémonie pour les pertes canadiennes à la Cathédrale Saint-Paul de Londres

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Le **10 mai 1915**, une cérémonie spéciale est organisée pour reconnaître les pertes importantes subies par les Canadiens dans la Bataille de Ypres. L'Empire britannique reconnaît le rôle crucial joué par la Division canadienne lors de l'attaque aux gaz du 22 avril, et dans les combats qui ont suivi jusqu'au 2 mai.

Mabel Adamson, épouse d'un officier canadien du PPCLI, rapporte que l'église était bondée, que des membres proéminents du Gouvernement britannique s'y trouvaient, et que les interprétations, par la fanfare de la Division des Gardes, de *La Marche funèbre de Saul*, de Handel, et du *Dernier Appel*, étaient on ne peut plus impressionnantes.



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Sandra Gwyn, *Tapestry of War*, p. 158.

### Curtiss Flying School Opens in Toronto

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Twelve first pilots undergo training. New York Glen Curtiss and Jack McCurdy (of Silver Dart fame) issue Fédération aeronautic 'tickets'. \$400.00 for 400 minutes of training (not necessarily sufficient for service, but for commission). From **10 May, 1915**, Curtiss turns out 129 potential pilots in two seasons in two sides: Long Branch and Harlan's Point. The school moves to Toronto Island in 1916. Will be taken over by the Government of Canada, in 1917, to house the Royal Flying Corps program. It will then move to Borden.

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Charmion Chaplin-Thomas, 'Fourth Dimension,' *Maple Leaf* (Canadian Forces) column #45.

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# 11 May 1915

## Massive Casualties in Gallipoli

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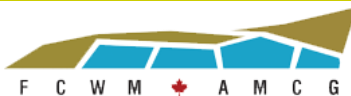


Casualties receiving medical attention in Gallipoli

*Between April 26 and May 10th over 10,000 casualties of the 29th Division had been evacuated; between April 25th and May 12th the French had suffered 12,610 casualties out of a total strength of 22,450. On May 11th, Hamilton visited several units, and was depressed by the intense weariness of the men, 'caked as they were with mud, haggard with lack of sleep, pale as [155/156] the dead, many of them slightly wounded and bandaged, hand or head, their clothes blood-stained, their eyes blood-shot.*

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R.R. James, Gallipoli, 155-6.



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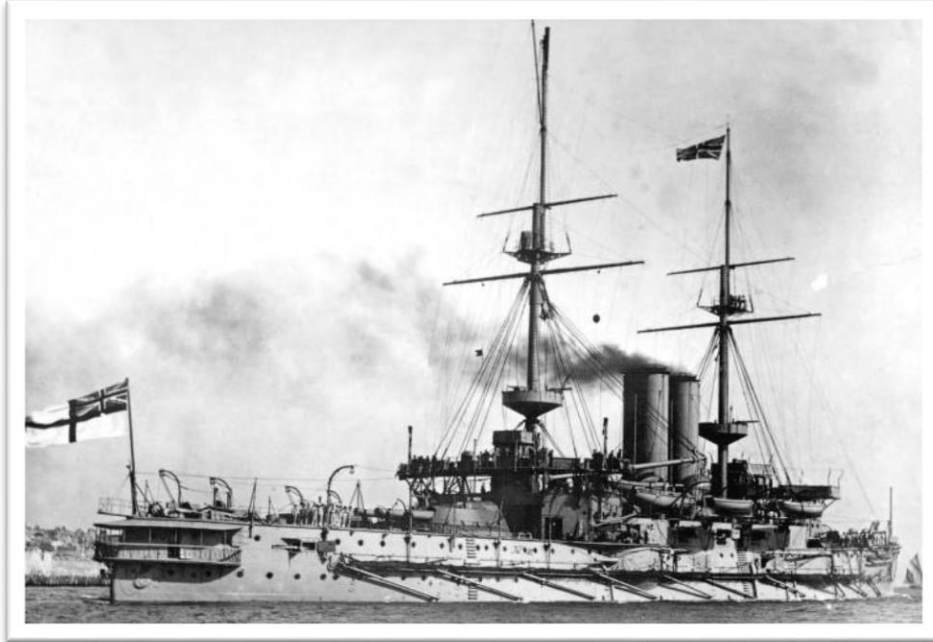
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**12 May 2015**

Further naval losses in the Dardanelles

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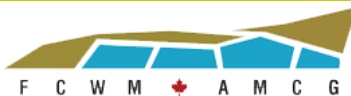
HMS Goliath

Hostile Submarines sink three British war ships in Strait. **HMS Goliath** sunk on **11 May 1915** with 500 lives by destroyer commanded by German lieutenant.

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Joe H. Kirchberger, [The First World War: An Eyewitness to History](#) (Oxford: Facts on File, 1992).

Moorehead, [Gallipoli](#), 167



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## 13 May 1915

### HMS Queen Elizabeth recalled from the Mediterranean

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HMS Queen Elizabeth

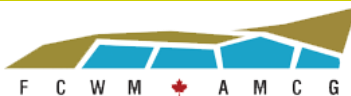
Churchill recalls HMS Queen Elizabeth back from its location in the Mediterranean. Admiral Fisher and Field Marshal Kitchener at loggerhead over it.

A submarine is believed to have been seen in eastern Mediterranean and Fisher is adamant that the Queen Elizabeth must not be lost. Two monitors with 14-inch guns are to replace her as bombardment artillery. Kitchener is nevertheless not happy to see the navy getting out as the army is getting in.

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Moorehead, Gallipoli, 168.

Hankey, Supreme Command, I, 304-5.



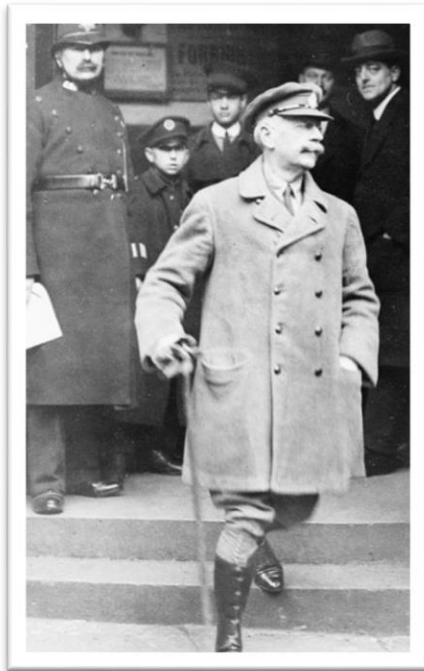
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14 mai 2015

## La question des munitions en Angleterre - un scandale de gros calibre



Col. Repington

Deux officiers de l'état major du Maréchal sir John French rencontrent le **Colonel Repington**, correspondant du TIMES, pour lui remettre des documents qui contiennent les pièces justificatives des rapports secrets alarmants sur les carences en munitions, qui ont été acheminés au Secrétaire d'État du War Office, le Maréchal Kitchener. Celui-ci n'a pas pris de mesures efficaces pour améliorer la production industrielle. Le TIMES publie le **14 mai 1915**.

Les échecs récents de Neuve Chapelle de Ypres, et leur pertes en vies humaines ont fait éclater Sir John French. Son initiative noire causera une crise ministérielle au sein du Gouvernement et la création d'un ministère des Munitions dont le ministre David Lloyd George prendra dorénavant charge.

Kitchener garde son ministère grâce à sa grande popularité personnelle auprès du peuple anglais, qui le considère un héros. French survit aussi à ce scandale, mais pour un temps seulement.

Magnus, Kitchener, 398.

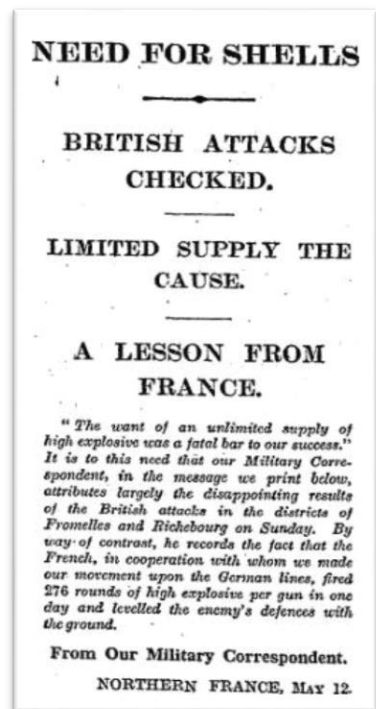
### The Shell Scandal Explodes in the TIMES

The Shell Scandal hit the press on **May 14, 1915**, when newspapers were informed that recent reverses in arms were caused by the lack of shells for guns, in particular heavy artillery pieces.

When the public hears that some guns used in the battle of Neuve Chapelle were under restrictions to fire four shells per day, when 13,000 casualties were incurred on the first attack, on 10-12 March, and 11,000 casualties in the second attack of 9 May, the uproar is universal.

Behind the scene, figures were leaked by the Commander-in-Chief of the BEF who was exasperated by the lack of action toward industrial production at the War Office.

A political crisis ensued, with David Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, transferred to a new Department, the Ministry of Munitions. Field Marshal Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, will barely keep his job. Field Marshal French will eventually lose his.



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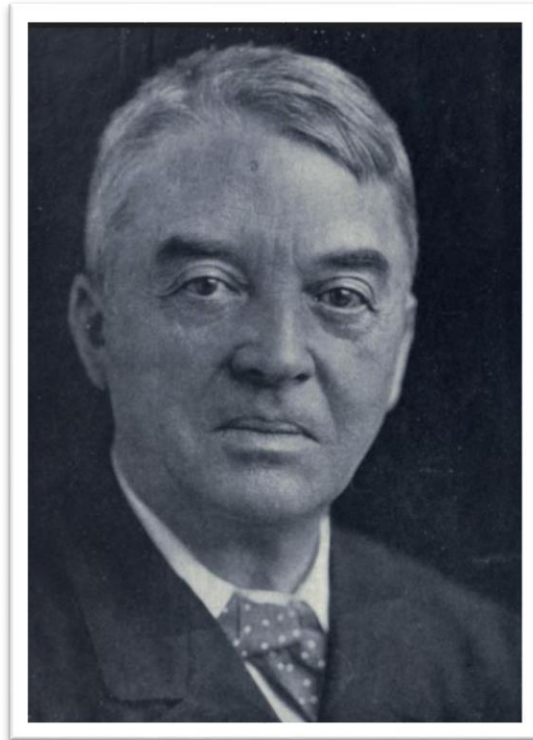
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## 15 May 1915

### Admiral Fisher Resigns – Fall of the Asquith Government

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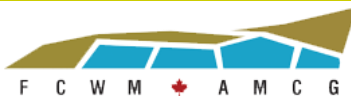
Admiral "Jackie" Fisher

Admiral 'Jackie' Fisher is 74 years old. He was invited out of retirement by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, to return as First Lord of the Sea, the Admiral in charge of the Royal Navy.

The pair have been working hard to manage the war at sea since August 1914. The problem of the Dardanelles was particularly acute because Churchill had been the Cabinet instigator of the campaign, and the results were becoming quite clearly alarming.

When Churchill, used to usurp, as a minister, the constitutional powers of command that were reserved to the Admiral-in-Chief, Fisher, a firebrand and explosive character, became suddenly perturbed. The withdrawal of the Queen Elizabeth from the Mediterranean, her replacement by monitors for the bombardment, and the assignment of submarines to the theatre, all ordered manu militari by a civilian minister, sent Fisher reeling. He submitted his resignation and hid, without communications, in protest.

Fisher's sudden and dramatic resignation, on **15 May 1915**, the day after the Shell Scandal in the Press, blew over the Government of Prime Minister Asquith. If the Shell Scandal was a deathly blow, the Fisher resignation was the coup de grâce that prevented the throes of agony. — So went Mr. Churchill tumbling down.



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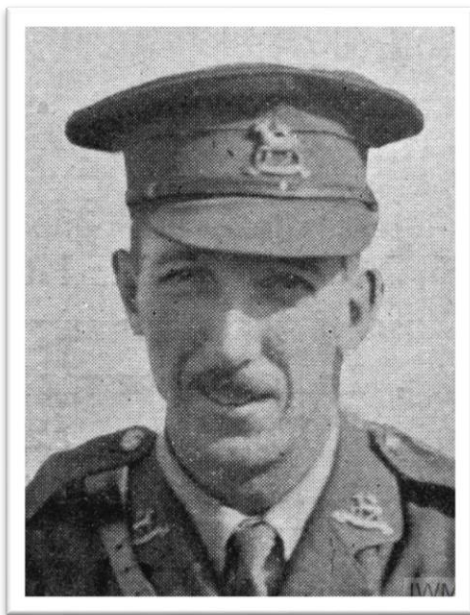
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## 16 May 1915

### Counter-attack in the Ypres Salient - 'One huge artillery target.'

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Capt. William Blyth Fuller (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment)  
lost his life on 16 May, 1915 in Festubert, Western Front.

The recent loss of ground in the Ypres Salient has pushed back the British line to an awkward, exposed position.

Field Marshal French nevertheless sticks to the new line, refusing to give more and withdraw to a line on the city's edge, along the canal, that would be more defensible. His hopes are pinned to the prospect of a counter-attack with the French, to the north, in preparation for days

The counter-attack planned so as to relieve this difficulty, on **16 May 1915**, does not bear fruit.

*«...both its scale and its scope were small, and it merely removed the German foothold on the Allied side of the canal—truly a mountain that was long in labour and brought forth a mouse. And having forfeited sixty thousand men for the privilege of acting as midwife, the British were left to hold the cramped new salient, which was aptly termed 'one huge artillery target'.* »

---

Liddell Hart, Man of Orléans, I:189.



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## 17 May 1915

### Fisher's Exit - Admiral Jack Fisher is Out

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Winston Churchill and Admiral lord Fisher leaving the Admiralty.

Convinced that he was indispensable, Fisher wrote a foolish letter to Asquith.

*'If the following six conditions are agreed to,' it began, 'I can guarantee the successful termination of the war.'*

Among the conditions were that Churchill be removed from the Cabinet, and that he, Fisher, have:

*'absolute sole disposition of the fleet, the appointment of all officers of all ranks whatsoever, absolutely untrammelled sole command of all the sea forces, sole absolute authority for all new construction.'* and the same for *'all dockyard work of whatever sort whatsoever.'*»

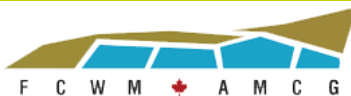
Asquith replied:

*'Dear Lord Fisher, I am commanded by the King to accept your resignation of the office of First Sea Lord of the Admiralty.'*

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David Howarth, The Dreadnoughts (Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books, Series The Seafarers, 1979), p. 91.

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## 18 May 1915

### Death of General Sir William Throsby Bridges, KCB, CMG

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Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges, Senior Australian Army officer

General Bridges, who had commanded the Australian division of the ANZAC was shot through the leg on 15 May as he was inspecting his troops, as he did every day, in the Gallipoli beachhead. He died of his wound on **18 May 1915**.

General Bridges was a former resident of Canada and had followed a course of studies at the Royal Military College of Canada in the second graduating class of the college. He left before the end of the course when his family moved to Australia.

Of great interest, C.E.W. Bean, the Australian official historian, has made the point that since Bridges had been educated in Canada and was seen as the best soldier in Australia, it might have been conceivable, had he lived, that he might have commanded a Dominion Army comprising the Anzac and the Canadian Corps.

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John C. Blaxland, [Strategic Cousins: Australian and Canadian Expeditionary Forces and the British and American Empires](#) (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006), p. 43.



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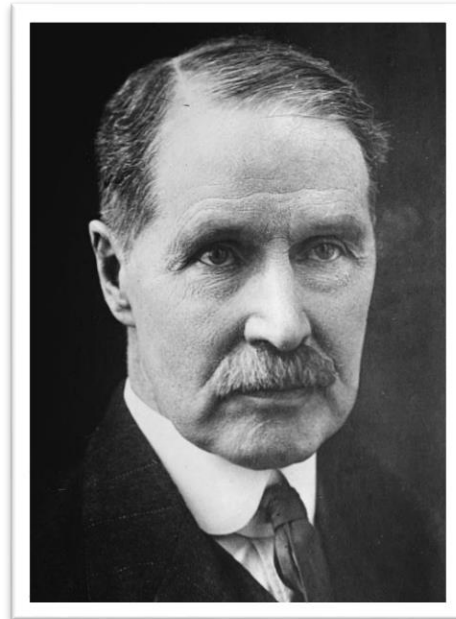
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## 19 May 1915

### Coalition Government in Great Britain - Andrew Bonar Law becomes King Maker

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Andrew Bonar Law  
Leader of the Conservative Opposition

After the Shell Scandal and the Fisher Resignation, the Leader of the Conservative Opposition, **Andrew Bonar Law** (born in New Brunswick), imposed a Coalition Government on the Liberal Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith.

The Cabinet will henceforth have to be constituted by ministers from all parties, Liberals, Conservatives and Labour.

All Liberal ministers are asked to present their resignation. Asquith remains as a Liberal Prime Minister, but Bonar Law becomes Colonial Secretary. Arthur Balfour, former Conservative Prime Minister, replaces Churchill at the Admiralty, with Admiral Henry Jackson replaces Fisher as First Lord of the Sea.

Liberal Chancellor of the Exchequer David Lloyd George now becomes minister of Munitions production.

Field Marshall Sir Horatio Kitchener remains at the War Office, supported by the Conservative and a strong public opinion in his favor, despite his pitiful handling of the industrial production of munitions so far. This is now taken away from him.

Max Aitken, shortly to be known as Beaverbrook for his role in this political upset, sees in the preponderance of remaining Liberals in key posts as the seeds of further problems for PM Asquith.

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Beaverbrook, *Politicians and War*, 126ff.



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## 20 May 1915

### End of Churchill's influence at Admiralty - not entirely missed in the Royal Navy

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Churchill was made First Lord of the Admiralty in 1911

This was the first reverse Churchill suffered in his political career. Until the storm broke, he had had no conception of the strength and the extent of the personal hostility against him. Of all his Cabinet colleagues, only **Kitchener** called to express his condolences. **Admiral Beatty** commented that 'the Navy breathes freer now it is rid of the succubus<sup>1</sup> Churchill'; **Admiral Wemyss** - at the Dardanelles - was to write that his name would be handed down to posterity as that of a man 'who undertook an operation of whose requirements he was entirely ignorant'; **Admiral Jellicoe** described him as 'a public danger to the Empire'; the **King** described him curtly as 'impossible'. In the [76/77] late 1920s and the 1930s, the harsh judgements delivered against Churchill for the Dardanelles campaign were amended, and subsequently became so amended that the balance has been taken too far in his favour. It was unfair that he should have borne the full responsibility, but there was a certain amount of rough justice in the overwhelming tide of feeling against him.

As he himself wrote more than thirty years later:

*'I was ruined for the time being over the Dardanelles, and a supreme enterprise was cast away, through my trying to carry out a major and combined operation of war from a subordinate position. Men are ill-advised to try such ventures.'*<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Female demon suspected of having sexual intercourse with sleeping men.

<sup>2</sup> R.R. James, Churchill: Four Faces and the Man, p. 76-77.



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## 21 May 1915

### A Not Insignificant Hero - John 'Simpson' Kirkpatrick killed with his donkey

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Private Simpson with his donkey, Duffy

Perhaps the most enduring episodes that entered folk-lore was that of an Australian private of the Anzac known as 'Simpson' who commandeered a donkey called 'Duffy' by everyone and ferried wounded men down Monash Valley under fire day after day until he and his donkey were killed on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

'Simpson and his donkey' had become so much one of the sights of Anzac that the news of his death spread quickly throughout the troops. It was subsequently discovered that his real name was Kirkpatrick, and that he had carried out his self-appointed task entirely on his own initiative.

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R.R. James,  
Gallipoli, p. 176.



Alfred Charles William Harmsworth, 1st Viscount Northcliffe (15 July 1865 – 14 August 1922), British newspaper and publishing magnate

### Le Scandale des munitions en Angleterre - Northcliffe et Kitchener

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**Alfred Harmsworth, Lord Northcliffe** est un baron des journaux anglais et exerce une influence politique énorme.

C'est lui qui est derrière la décision de publier les informations qui ont été fournies au correspondant de guerre, le Colonel Repington, par le Maréchal French sur les manques terribles de munitions dans les opérations en France. Ses article du *Daily Mail* du 19 et surtout du **21 mai 1915** sont des bombes.

Le Scandale des Munitions au Ministère de la Guerre est arrivé au moment même où l'Amirauté a subi sa crise de leadership avec la résignation de l'Amiral Fisher, déçu des décisions navales prises par son ministre dans la campagne de Gallipoli. Les deux affaires forcent un Gouvernement de Coalition.

Le but de Northcliffe était d'exposer l'incompétence du Maréchal Kitchener en tant que Ministre de la Guerre et de forcer le Gouvernement à mettre sur pied un programme industriel pour la production de munitions tel que la France en a déjà institué un. Mais Kitchener est un héros national que le public adore. Ses démarches pour créer les 'Armées de Kitchener' au début de la guerre ont été considérées brillantes par l'électorat britannique, et la campagne the Northcliffe échoue à le faire tomber. Non seulement Kitchener garde-t-il son ministère, mais l'influence conservatrice, – et non moindre, celle, personnelle, du Roi George, le nomme immédiatement Chevalier du Très Noble Ordre de la Jarrière, en reconnaissance de ses services au War Office.

Il s'agit d'un pied-de-nez au Libéral radical Lloyd George, qui a maintenant la tâche de nettoyer le gâchi que Kitchener a fait de la production de guerre dans l'industrie.

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Herbert Wrigley Wilson, «Northcliffe, Lord», Encyclopaedia Britannica, (Douzième Édition, 1922), Vol. p. 1146-8.



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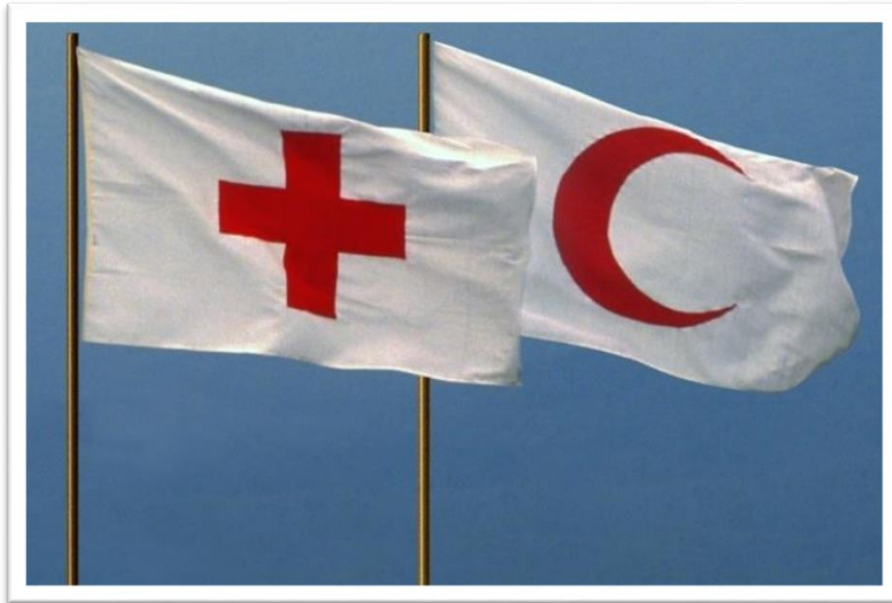
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**22 mai 1915**

A truce please / Un truce s.v.p.

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Gallipoli: General Von Sanders' writes a letter to General Hamilton for a truce to bury the dead - A Request for a temporary humanitarian cease-fire.

Le General Von Sanders écrit un lettre a General Hamilton pour un truce pour enterrer les décedés

*Grand Quartier Général de la 5e Armée Ottomane*

*Le 22 mai 1915*

*Excellence,*

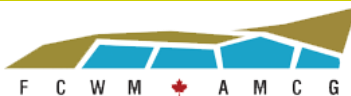
*J'ai l'honneur d'informer Votre Excellence que les propositions concernant la conclusion d'un armistice pour enterrer les morts et secourir les blessés des deux parties adverses, ont trouvé mon plein consentement—et que seuls nos sentiments d'humanité nous y ont déterminés.*

*J'ai investi le lieutenant-colonel Fahreddin du pouvoir de signer en mon nom.*

*J'ai l'honneur d'être avec assurance de ma plus haute considération.*

*Liman von Sanders*

*Commandant en chef de la  
5me Armée Ottomane*



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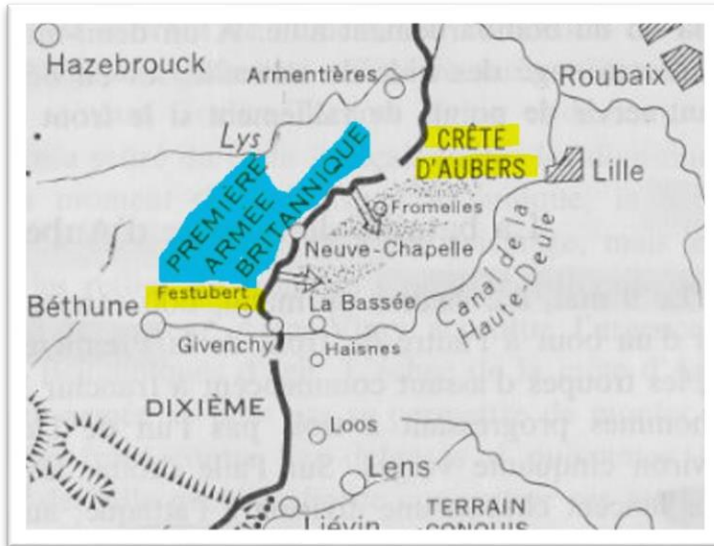
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## 23 May 1915

### Canadian Division in the Battle of Festubert – The Alderson Force

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The Battle of Festubert is the continuation by the First British Army of the earlier operations to take the Aubers Ridge. These operations are undertaken to assist the French in the Artois campaign, immediately to the south, in the vicinity of Vimy.

The Canadian division is in army reserve at the start of the operation, but the Commander of the division, a Lieutenant General, is soon set to the task of commanding a temporary corps formed with 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division for this operation. The 'Alderson Force' was in existence from 19 May to **23 May 1915**.

The Canadian Division will be involved in five days of fierce fighting in the vicinity of 'Canadian Orchard', a location christened in blood, to the east of the Festubert. It will lose 2,500 men in the process, with about 600 yards to show.

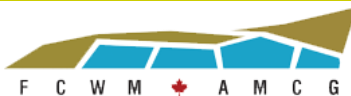
Many are doubtful that the losses incurred by the British have spared higher losses on the French side. The lack of artillery munitions is again blamed for the poor results. But General Foch, in the south, is adamant that these operations are helping him in Artois. How this is helping is not evident, however. He is no less stalled.



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Nicholson, Canadian Expeditionary Force, 106-14.

Goodspeed, The Road Past Vimy, Chap. 3.



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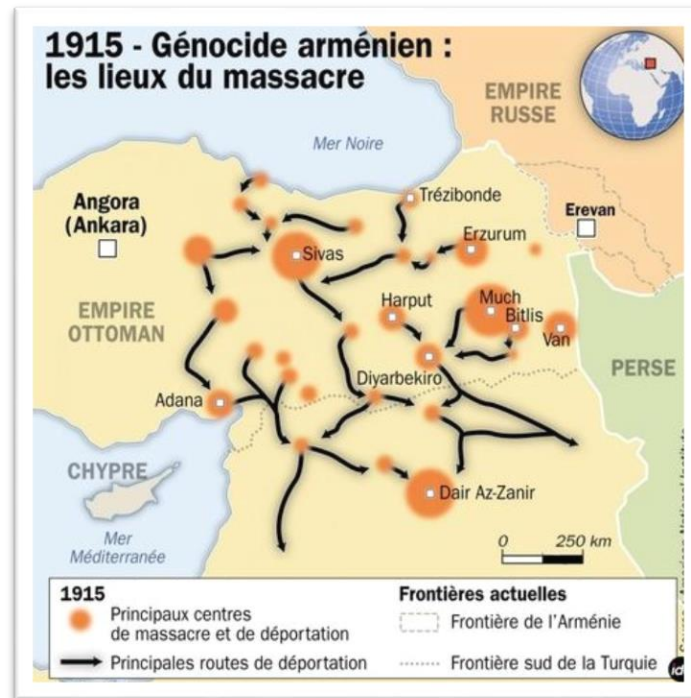
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## 24 May 1915

### A Truce to Bury the Dead in Gallipoli

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Following the ferocious battles of 18 and 19 May, arrangements were made for the two sides to enter the No Man's Land on **24 May 1915**, and look after the dead and wounded that litter the ground.

In a field, there are 4000 dead Turks with only two men still alive.

Both sides took their dead to three cemeteries, one Ottoman, one Allied, and one for both.

The truce of nine hours ended without incident, each returning to his side to resume hostilities.

From this date, the contempt that the Allies had for the Turk disappeared. 'Johnny Turk' had proved himself as noble as he was brave.

Subsequently, ANZAC soldiers refused to wear the masks that were issued to them.

*«The Turks won't use gas. They're clean fighters.»*

---

Moorehead, Gallipoli, p. 189.



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## 24 mai 1915

### Mise en garde pour le régime Ottoman sur la déportation des Arméniens

---

Le **24 mai 1915**, la Triple Entente, alertée sur l'ampleur des massacres dans l'Empire, a mis en garde les autorités turques dans une déclaration commune:

« *La France, la Grande-Bretagne et la Russie tiendront pour personnellement responsables ceux qui auront ordonné ces crimes contre l'humanité et la civilisation.* » depuis à présent un mois, les populations turques et kurdes d'Arménie massacrent les Arméniens ensemble et souvent avec l'assistance des agents du Gouvernement Ottoman. De tels massacres ont eu lieu autour de la mi-avril à Erzeroum, Teran, Egin, Bitlis, Mouch, Sassoun, Zeitoun, et à travers la Cilicie. La population entière de près de 100 villages autour de Vana été assassinée. Le quartier arménien de Van est assiégé par les Kurdes. En outre, le Gouvernement Ottoman a fait subir à Istanbul des mauvais traitements à la population arménienne inoffensive.

Au regard de ces nouveaux crimes que la Turquie commet contre l'humanité et la civilisation, les Etats Alliés déclarent publiquement à la Sublime Porte [Bab-i Ali] que tous les membres du Gouvernement Ottoman et ceux de ses agents qui sont impliqués dans ces massacres seront tenus personnellement responsables de ces crimes.

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Carte de déportation arménienne: <http://aujourd'hui.over-blog.fr/article-24-avril-1915-le-debut-du-genocide-armenien-103937133.html>

Source: note de protestation des puissances de l'entente rédigée par le ministre des Affaires étrangères russe Sazonov.

Miller, «The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire - A History of the 'Blue Book', *RUSI Journal*, August 2005), pp. 36-43.



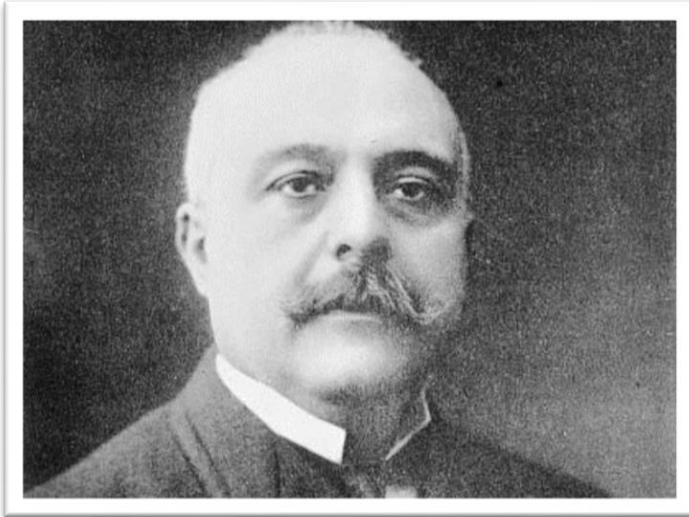
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## 25 May 1915

### Italy Enters the War– The Salandra Government Declares War to Austria-Hungary



The Italian government under interventionist **Antonio Salandra** wins a decision over neutralist Giovanni Giolitti.

Allies, stalled on Western Front, were ready to offer a great deal, in spite of Russian opposition to the assignment of the Dalmatian coast to Italy because of Serbia's designs on that region.

In the final agreement, South Tyrol, Trentino, Gorizia, Trieste, Istria, most Dalmatian islands and some other territories were promised to Italy—as well as full sovereignty in the Dodecanese Islands already occupied by Italy and a share in the German colonies.

Italy was also given a loan and a promise of a part of the indemnities expected after victory, and finally diplomatic support was promised in case the Pope should intervene in favor of a compromise peace.

*«Italy first denounced the Triple Alliance and then declared war on Austria-Hungary.»*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Kirchberger, Joe H., The First World War: An Eyewitness to History (Oxford: Facts on File, 1992), p. 86.

Churchill, World Crisis, II, 460].

### Gallipoli periscope rifle introduced

The periscope rifle was introduced successfully by Lance-Corporal William Beech, in Gallipoli, on **25 May 1915**.

It allowed to point a rifle over the parapet of a trench without being exposed to enemy fire.

Sniping fire of this sort imposed trench warfare similar to that in France despite a wide difference in terrain.



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<http://www.warwickdailynews.com.au/news/history-of-a-weapon-warwick/1843078/>

R.R. James, Gallipoli, p. 183.



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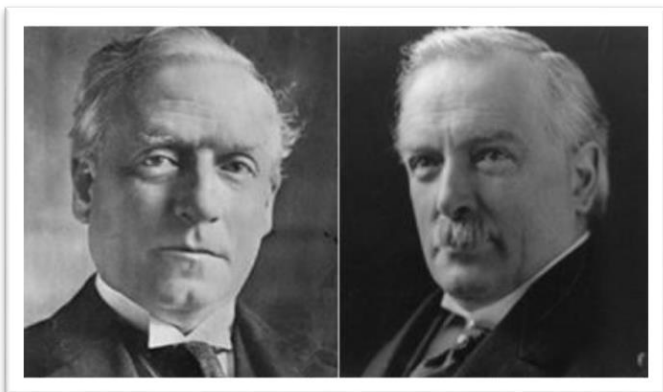
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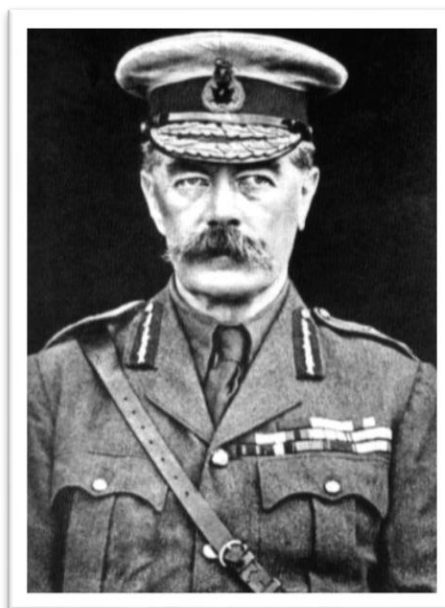
26 mai 2015

## Le nouveau gouvernement de coalition libéral britannique

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Premier ministre Libéral H.H. Asquith et  
Ministère des Munitions, David Lloyd George



Le maréchal Kitchener

Le nouveau gouvernement de coalition se rencontre pour la première fois le **26 mai 1915**. Le **Premier ministre Libéral H.H. Asquith**, garde la direction du gouvernement. Les deux changements les plus importants sont que l'Amirauté va maintenant être dirigée par Arthur Balfour, ancien premier ministre conservateur, et qu'un nouveau ministère des Munitions va être créé par **David Lloyd George**, celui qui a été le Chancelier de l'Échiquier (ministre des finances) depuis le début de la guerre.

Il est clair qu'il existe déjà des tensions dans ce gouvernement. Lloyd George est très critique du Ministre de la Guerre, le **maréchal Kitchener**, qui a refusé de lui donner les statistiques sur les productions et dépenses de munitions au cours des tristes défaites militaires récentes, tant à Ypres, à Neuve Chapelle, ou à Festubert, en France, qu'à Gallipoli, en Turquie. Lloyd George avait été nommé président d'un comité du Cabinet pour étudier la question des munitions, mais Kitchener a refusé d'y participer, objectant que les munitions relevaient uniquement de son ministère. De là le récent scandale dans la Presse.

Le gouvernement de coalition a maintenant imposé que le ministère des Munitions aurait toute autorité pour obtenir les statistiques nécessaires et imposer des politiques industrielles pour la production de munitions suffisantes.

Kitchener est ainsi marginalisé. Il ne doit son siège qu'à sa popularité immense chez les conservateurs impérialistes.

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Hankey, Supreme Command, Vol. I, Chap 29: «The End of the Liberal Government», p. 308-19.



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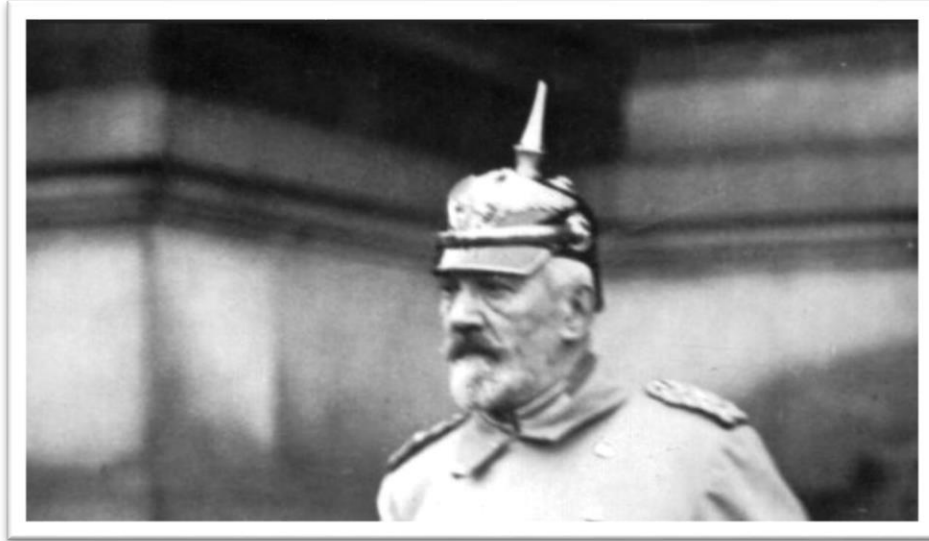
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## 27 May 1915

German Chancellor restates Germany's war aims before the Reichstag

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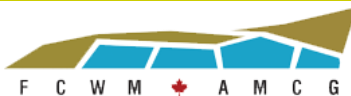
A few days after the entry into the war of Italy, the Parliament of Germany is mesmerized by an address by its first minister.

This event drove the Chancellor, who felt the need to counteract the effect on German morale, to publish his war aims to the world in a speech in the Reichstag on May 28 which was delivered with passion, instinct with 'righteous anger', and described by contemporaries as 'splendid, powerful, steel-sharp'.

*«The great danger which we have to face from the ring of enemies round us... the more necessary is it for us to hold out until we have fought for and achieved all possible real guarantees and safeguards that none of our enemies will again dare appeal to arms, alone or in company. »*

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Fritz Fischer, Germany's War Aims (1961), p. 194-5.



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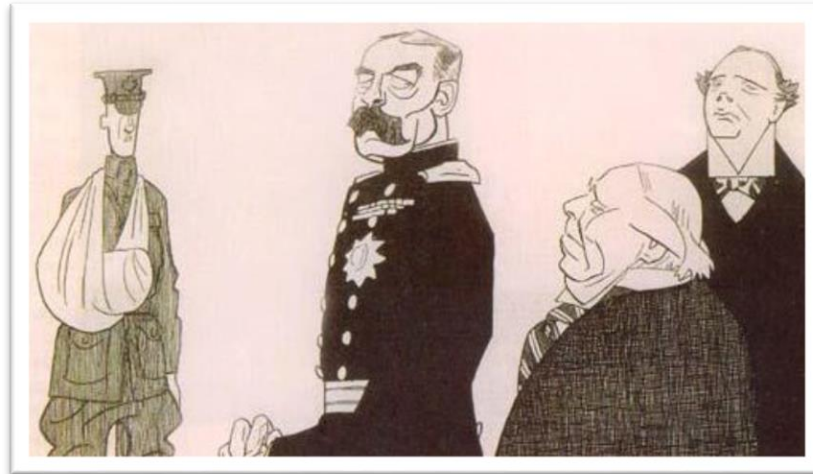
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## 28 May 1915

### Kitchener and the Dardanelles

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Lord Kitchener telling Herbert Asquith and Winston Churchill that things are not as bad as they look. Cartoon from the German magazine, *Simplicissimus* (May, 1915)

The Secretary of State for War, **Field Marshal Kitchener** faces a dilemma. He has to present his recommendations to a new committee of the Coalition Cabinet, the Dardanelles Committee. The Committee has to decide what to do with the Gallipoli operations that are stalled, and with General Hamilton's requests that more troops and munitions be sent to Turkey.

Kitchener is also harried by the Shell Scandal, which forces him to consider sending re-supplies to France where Field Marshall French and a cabal of newspapers are clamoring for more artillery munitions.

Kitchener would want the activity in France to be slowed down, but the French allies are adamant that they must be supported actively in their crucial activities in Champagne and Artois, especially that the Germans are having success in the East, and that more support must be given to the Russians by keeping at it in the West.

Kitchener's brief to the Dardanelles Committee on **28 May 1915**, shows that he is losing his grip on the situation. He is ambivalent and unclear as to what he wants. The Committee is drawn into drafting a war policy that the War Office cannot enunciate clearly.

*«Kitchener's indecision alarmed his colleagues; and his credit in the Cabinet and Dardanelles Committee began to evaporate, until by the end of the year it had fallen to zero. As his colleagues ceased to look to him for guidance, he was judged increasingly critically as a member of a team.»*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Magnus, *Kitchener*, 407.

Lord Kitchener telling Herbert Asquith and Winston Churchill that things are not as bad as they look. Cartoon from the German magazine, *Simplicissimus* (May, 1915)

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## 29 May 1915

### 100,000 Canadian Volunteers Recruited

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The Canadian Expeditionary Force has now succeeded in recruiting the first one hundred thousand for service overseas.

Prime Minister Borden will shortly raise the ceiling to one hundred and fifty thousand.

But recruiting will not be the same from this point, as less are ready to volunteer.

---

Le Corps expéditionnaire canadien a maintenant réussi à recruter le premier cent mille pour le service outre-mer.

Le premier ministre Borden va bientôt augmenter le plafond à cent cinquante mille.

Mais le recrutement sera différent à partir de ce point, car moins sont prêts à se porter bénévoles.

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Campbell, David, « 'The First 100,000 Came Easily': Recruiting the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War », in *Revue Internationale d'Histoire Militaire*, *Le recrutement militaire à l'époque contemporaine (XIXe - XXe siècles)*, Bruxelles: Commission Internationale d'Histoire Militaire (CIHM), 2006 No 86, pp. 62-87.



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## 30 mai 1915

### Fin de la Bataille de Festubert

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In the trenches at Festubert

deux jours y voient l'information sur le Scandale des munitions. Il n'y a rien là à se réjouir...

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Duguid, *L'Armée canadienne dans la Grande Guerre*, Chap 18, p. 533-54, Carte, p. 500.

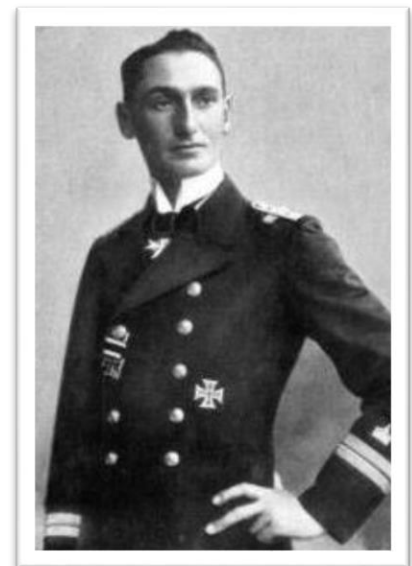
### Un sous-marin allemand cause des dommages sérieux à Gallipoli

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Les sous-marins britanniques et français se sont aventurés à avancer par le canal des Dardanelles depuis le début de la bataille, il y a cinq semaines. Deux ont réussi à pénétrer dans la mer de Marmara, à y faire des dommages considérables jusqu'à Constantinople, et revenir indemne. Quatre ont fini par des échecs. Les commandants Boyle et Nasmith se sont couverts de gloire dans ces incursions audacieuses.

Mais le 17 mai, un sous-marin allemand a été aperçu à traverser le détroit de Gibraltar. Huit jours plus tard, il est dans les parages de Helles et se met à couler les navires alliés. Triumph est coulé le 25, et le 27 mai, le Majestic est lui aussi frappé par des torpilles. Les deux grands bateaux coulent à la vue de tous les soldats de Gallipoli, aux cris de joie des Turcs. Ces deux grands coups démoralisent considérablement les troupes alliées qui voient soudainement autour d'eux la mer balayée d'une flotte imposante qui cherche refuge dans les îles.

Le commandant Otto Hersing du U21 est décoré de la croix *Pour le Mérite* pour son exploit. Son intervention a changé la donne pour la Royal Navy et la Marine française.



Le Commander Hersing du sous-marin U21 aux Dardanelles



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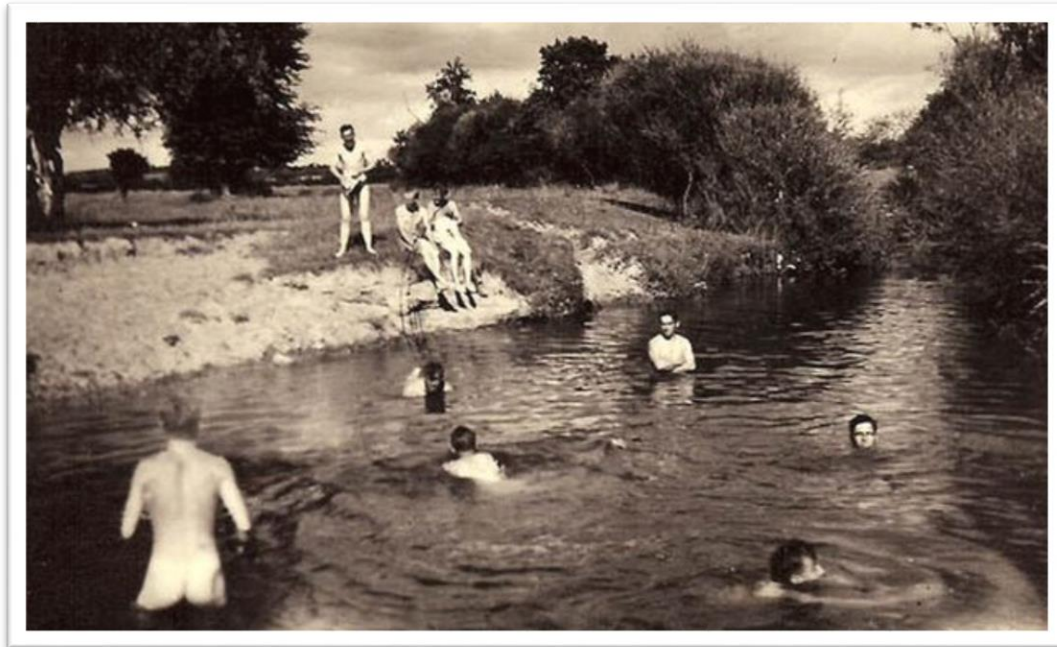
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# 31 May 1915

## Rest and Recreation

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After the battle of Festubert, the survivors enjoy a swim

With the end of the battle of Festubert, the Canadian Division is again shifted to another formation.

It will now be going to IVth Corps for the next operation in the vicinity of Givenchy. Until then, the hard-hit division is withdrawn so as to reconstruct the units most depleted by the last fighting.

*«On the last day of May the Canadians moved south to the Givenchy area and went into reserve billets around Oblinghem, Essars, and Béthune It was pleasant to be out of the line, to eat eggs and chips in the estaminets, and to drink the [48/49] harsh vin ordinaire that was made palatable only by the addition of a little grenadine. The weather was warm and the soldiers enjoyed swimming naked in the La Bassée Canal, until some staff officer, shocked by the crowds of women who lined the canal banks to watch the men at their aquatic sports, forbade anyone to swim without 'an adequate bathing costume'. [...] However, some ingenious enthusiast hit on the idea of cutting two leg holes in a sandbag; modesty was saved and the men were able to enjoy their brief period of relaxation. »*

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Goodspeed, The Road Past Vimy, 48-9.



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