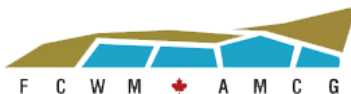
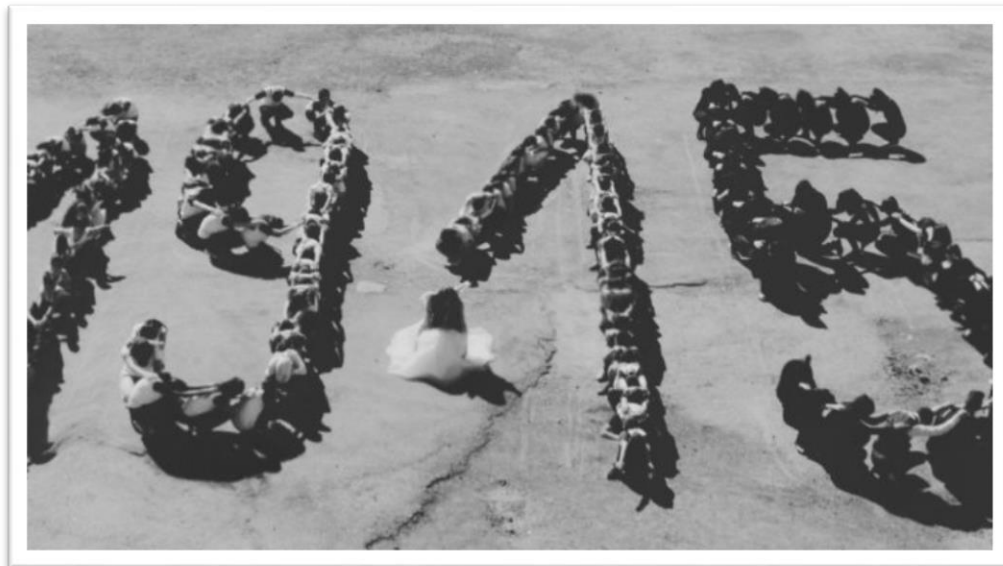


World War I
Day by Day
1915 – 1918

June 1915 / juin 1915

La première guerre mondiale
De jour en jour
1915 – 1918



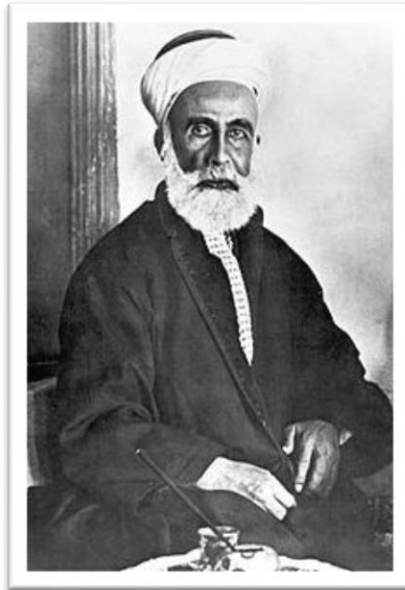
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1 June 1915

Faisal and the Damascus Protocol



Hussein bin Ali, Sharif and Emir of Mecca

At the end of May 1915, Faisal, son of the **Hussein bin Ali, Sharif and Emir of Mecca**, returns from a visit to the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire, in Constantinople. Faisal was informed, there, of the operations against the Armenians, and of plots that were discovered being hatched among Arab secret societies centered around Damascus.

Faisal visits Damascus on his way back and is informed, indeed, that a document called the **Damascus Protocol** has been prepared by rebellious Arab plotters to be offered to Emir Hussein, pledging support if Hussein should choose to seek the protection of the British in a revolt against the Turks.

Faisal brings the document to his father, who is aware that his political and religious authority on the Arab tribes is about to be undermined by Ottoman interventions. Hussein agrees to make an opening to the British High Commissioner in Cairo, Sir Henry McMahon. He is not immediately taken seriously there. But the Damascus Protocol will not die. More will follow through a series of exchange of letters between Hussein and McMahon between July 1915 and March 1916. The Arab Revolt will thus take life, one letter at a time.

Fromkin, [A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East](#) (1989), p. 175.

Cleveland, [A History of the Modern Middle East](#) (1994), p. 149.



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2 June 1915

Papa Joffre criticized



Papa Joffre and Président Poincaré

The Hero of the Marne, in October 1914, acquired such a reputation that his name became associated to the survival of France at the time of the German invasion.

'Papa Joffre,' the man who had rallied the armies of France to give a final counter-attack near Paris could do no wrong.

But by June 1915, his campaigns in Champagne and Artois have been breaking their teeth on the solid trenches that the Germans have been solidifying after their recoil from the Marne.

The Corps commanders of the French army are becoming vocal that the repeated attacks against the network of German trenches are not making a dent in the line. And they are losing men at an incredible rate. Joffre's strategy increasing looks to them as a self-inflicted murder.

President Poincaré is under increasing political pressure to intervene in military command. He is constantly being told:

The instrument of victory in being broken in our hands.

Liddell Hart, The Man from Orléans ([1931]; Penguin Books, 1937), Vol. I, p. 197.



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3 June 1915

Mesopotamia: Oil and Quicksand



General Charles Townshend

The strategy to protect the petroleum resources of the upper Persian Gulf involves using the Indian Army to secure the pipelines from the wells to the port of Shatt al-Arab.

But the local Commander, General Nixon, has decided that a defense even more to the north, in deeper Mesopotamia, will be more effective. **General Charles Townshend** captures the city of Amara on the Tigris on **June 3, 1915**.

An advance along the Euphrates is also contemplated, up to Nasariyeh, 68 miles beyond Kurna.

The Secretary for India, Austen Chamberlain, then decides to authorize a further advance by Townshend to Kut, 150 miles further up the Tigris, beyond Amara.

Townshend is already aware that he faces a quagmire, but he still does not see the quicksand of future Irak.

Dixon, *On the Psychology of Incompetence*, «The Siege of Kut», p. 95-109.



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4 juin 1915

Gallipoli: La Bataille du Quatre



La Bataille du Quatre Juin – Gallipoli

La hauteur de Krithia, qui fait face à la pointe de Helles, au sud de Gallipoli, a déjà fait l'objet de deux attaques très coûteuses pour les Alliés qui occupent les plages du sud de la péninsule.

Le 4 juin 1915, le Commandant de Corps, **le Général Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston**, décide de lancer une autre attaque, mieux préparée et mieux appuyée par l'artillerie, incluant l'artillerie navale.

La bataille qui inclut les forces françaises sur le flanc droit, fait rage pendant plus de vingt-quatre heures. Les opérations de nuit, très difficiles dans un terrain accidenté, donnent lieu à des engagements cruels, parfois à tâton dans des lieux mal identifiés.

Toutes les forces en contact subissent des pertes énormes. Les pertes du Corps britannique sont de l'ordre de 4,500, et les Français perdent 2,000 hommes. Mais les Turcs subissent un coup terrible lorsque 9,000 de leurs soldats doivent être évacués.

Pourtant, Krithia tient toujours, et les quelques verges de terrain montagneux qui sont saisies dans la mêlée signifient très peu dans le rapport des forces.

Les résultats de ces combats terribles sont une démoralisation générale des deux côtés. Des cadavres jonchent les lieux et sont couverts de mouches, qui se multiplient très rapidement dans la chaleur exténuante. Le refus, cette fois-ci, de reconnaître une trêve pour enterrer les cadavres signifie que la putréfaction et la maladie vont devenir hahurissantes.

Gallipoli, dans le fort de l'été, devient un charnier ouvert où des hommes cherchent encore à s'entretenir.

R.R. James, Gallipoli, p. 211-5.



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5 June 1915

French attack at Serre



In a diversion from the extensive effort that is being conducted in Artois and Champagne, and in the hope of drawing German resources from those theatres, the French launch an attack on **June 5, 1915** at Serre, near Beaumont Hamel, held by the Germans.

This attack, in what will be known the following year as the battlefield of the Somme, does not lead to marked tactical results.



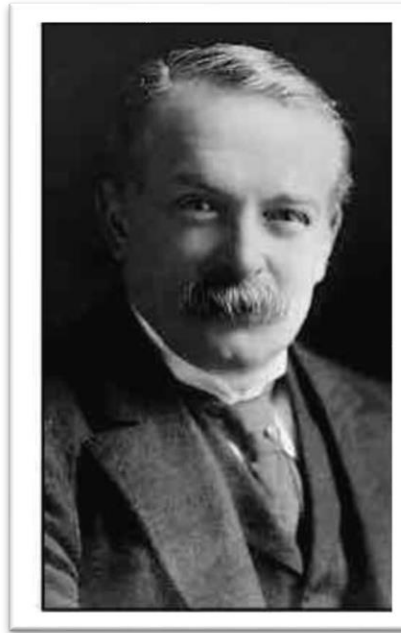
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6 June 1915

The Dardanelles Committee and the Munitions Act



David Lloyd George, British statesman and Liberal party politician

On 7 June 1915, the British Dardanelles Committee (in reality the War Council) is gathered for the first time after the change of Government to a Coalition Cabinet.

The first order of the day is to underwrite the Munitions Act, which creates the Ministry of Munitions. and gives it unprecedented powers to harness industry for the production of explosives of all kinds, as well as weapons, including heavy artillery.

David Lloyd George is a flamboyant Liberal who will concentrate his outstanding abilities into the shaping of a military-industrial complex that will revolutionize labor-management relations.

From this point, the whole British Empire, including the Dominion of Canada, will be at war in its daily life.



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7 June 1915

British Submarine E11 Returns from Constantinople



Lieutenant Commander Martin Eric Nasmith on the E11; he was later awarded a Victoria Cross

British submarine E11, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Martin Eric Nasmith RN, entered the Marmara Sea on May 19, only to return out of the Dardanelles Straits on **June 7, 1915**.

This, again, constitutes a feat of arms of the British submarine service in the First World War.

Nasmith was able to avoid all the mines, on his way out and on return, and he dared enter Constantinople itself, where he torpedoed a large vessel alongside the city's arsenal.

On return, E11 fouled a mine *that it carried on her port hydroplane for a considerable distance while under heavy fire from the Forts*.

Winston Churchill, World Crisis, Chap XX: «Darkening Scene».



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8 juin 1915

Les poètes la guerre : La littérature française perd ses artisans



Paul Louis Drouot – un écrivain et poète français

Paul Louis Drouot est un écrivain et poète français (c'est l'arrière-petit-neveu du Général Drouot, qui accompagna Napoléon à l'île d'Elbe). Après avoir publié des vers, il se consacre jusqu'à la guerre à son œuvre majeure, Eurydice deux fois perdue, qui restera inachevée. Il tient une rubrique littéraire (Revue des Marches de l'Est) et publie de nombreux articles. Mobilisé dès le début de la guerre, refusant un poste à l'arrière où sa santé fragile aurait dû le reléguer, il sera tué par un obus le **8 juin 1915** devant Notre-Dame-de-Lorette.

Cette phrase terrible est extraite d'une lettre à sa mère :

" On vivra toute sa vie avec ce qu'on aura fait durant cette guerre, et l'on ne saurait souhaiter à personne de ceux qu'on aime de traîner plus tard une conscience amoindrie et des regrets dont rien ne saurait consoler ..."

Au cours de la Première Guerre Mondiale, 450 écrivains français sont morts. Alain-Fournier, Charles Péguy, Louis Pergaud, Jacques Rivière furent de ceux-là.

Pour en savoir plus : *La Chanson d'Eliacin* (Psyché, 1906). — *La Grappe de Raisin* (La Phalange, 1908). - *Sous le Vocabulaire du Chêne* (Dorbon aîné, 1910). — *Derniers Vers* (La Belle Edition, 1920) - *Eurydice deux fois perdue*, roman poétique (Société Littéraire de France, 1921).

http://www.petit-patrimoine.com/fiche-petit-patrimoine.php?id_pp=08490 [1http://www.larevuecritique.fr/article-paul-drouot-101846970.html](http://www.larevuecritique.fr/article-paul-drouot-101846970.html)



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9 June 1915

American Secretary of State Bryan resigns over President Wilson's policy



Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan

The sinking of the Lusitania, on 7 May, has created a great deal of political turmoil in the United States. The loss of life of 128 American citizens, including women and children, in the sinking of this civilian liner by German U-Boat U20, challenged the American people to define what attitude it would take in the conflict.

Many American pacifists are adamantly against any involvement of the United States in the war. Among them, the **Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan**, a close supporter of President Woodrow Wilson when Wilson was also deeply committed to stay out of the conflict.

But Wilson has now denounced the sinking of Lusitania as a curtailing, by Germany, of the right of free movement, as neutrals, of American citizens. Wilson is also concerned about the high sea's commerce, when cargo toward Europe is threatened as support for the war effort by the Entente allies. This shipping, particularly to the British Isles, represents enormous eastern seaboard interests.

The matter came to a head when Bryan recommended that the Government of the United States restrict shipping of people and goods to Europe so as to avoid further confrontations and a fatal casus bello with Germany.

Wilson could not accept such a policy and rebuked his Secretary. When Brian, given to grandiloquence, replied: "*Why be so shocked by the drowning of a few people if there is to be no objection to starving a nation,*" the break was unbridgeable. Bryan resigned on **9 June 1915**.

Bryan represented a segment of the electorate that was adamant that nothing should be done by the United States to risk involvement in the war.

Wilson had to cater to that pacifist segment until the presidential elections of November 1916, but the slippage was obvious.

Bryan, William Jennings», Encyclopedia Britannica, Twelfth Ed., 1922, Vol. 30, p. 513.



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10 June 1915

The Ross rifle replaced in the Canadian Division



The Ross rifle is a straight-pull bolt action .303 inch-calibre rifle that was produced in Canada from 1903 until 1918.

The Ross earned a bad reputation among Canadian soldiers in WW1 as an unreliable weapon, and it was withdrawn from service by 1916. It wasn't tough enough for the hardships and demands of the Western Front, including the dirt and mud of the trenches, and the robust requirements of fighting with bayonets. The Ross also had a tendency to jam when firing – partly a result of the poorly-made British ammunition that worked fine in the more forgiving Lee-Enfields, but was unsuited to the Ross.

During the first ten days of June 1915 the Canadian Division was officially issued with **Lee-Enfield** rifles to replace the **Ross**. Many soldiers had anticipated this order. After the fighting around St. Julien, 1,452 of the surviving Canadian infantrymen had thrown away their Rosses and picked up Lee-Enfields left on the field by dead or wounded Imperials.¹

¹ Goodspeed, *The Road Past Vimy*, p. 49.

Robert Stewart, «The Obsessions of Sam Huges», *The Beaver*, Oct-Nov 2003, p. 14-20.

Ralph Allen, *Ordeal by Fire*, Chap. 12 : «The most loved, hated, and debated military weapon of its time: the Ross rifle» p. 97-107.

Colonel A. Fortescue Duguid, *Official History of The Canadian Forces in The Great War 1914-1919*, Appendices 111, p. 75-99; See also *A Question of Confidence: The Ross Rifle in the Trenches*, ed. Clive Law. Preface and Intro by R. Haycock (Ottawa: Service Publications, 2000).



11 June 1915

Censorship becomes law in Canada at War



Canada – Censorship

On Aug. 22, 1914, less than three weeks after the war began, Parliament passed the War Measures Act. It provided for “censorship and control and suppression of publications, writings, maps, plans, photographs, communication and means of communication” whenever the government determined that “the security, defence, peace, order and welfare of Canada” was under threat.

C.P. 1330 of 11 June 1915 – Introduces full censorship powers, in addition to original War Measures Act restrictions of 22 August 1914.

This is followed on 15 July with an ‘accord’ between Government and Press.

Charles C. Knowles and C. Langton Clark from Canadian Press named to be Press telegraph night and day censors.

Aimé-Jules Bizimana, « Le Canada et La Grande-Guerre: Les nouvelles du Front », Bulletin d'Histoire politique, 17:2 (hiver 2009), pp. 21-44.



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12 Juin 1915

La VC du caporal Angus



Le caporal William Angus (du 8th Royal Scots):
Un caporal écossais soulève son pays

À Givenchy-lès-La Bassée, le caporal William Angus (du 8th Royal Scots) quitte sa tranchée sous les bombardements et la mitraille, il part secourir le lieutenant Martin blessé à quelques mètres des positions ennemies.

Lors de cet acte héroïque, Angus reçoit une quarantaine de blessures; il perd un œil mais il s'en sort. Soigné à l'hôpital de Boulogne, il sera décoré de la Croix de Victoria par le roi George V, le 30 août 1915.

Né en Écosse en 1888, William Angus était footballeur professionnel (Celtic FC, Wisham Athletic).

Il est considéré comme l'un des grands héros de 14-18 et mourut le 14 juin 1959.



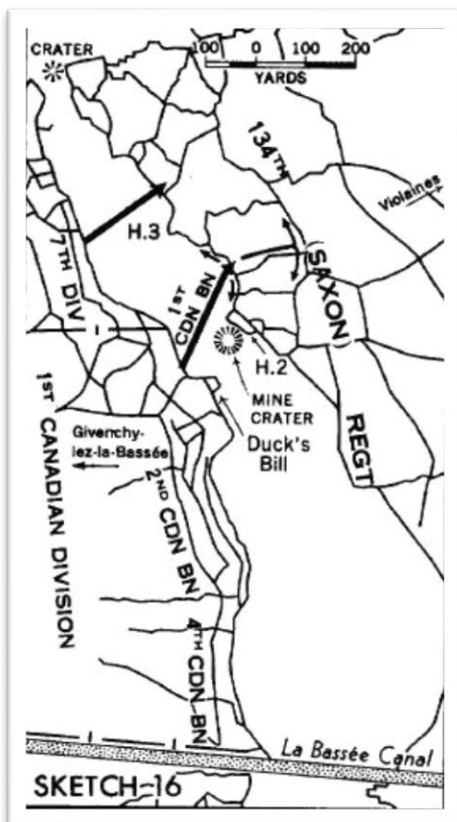
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13 June 1915

Canadian Division at Givenchy



OPERATION ORDER NO. 24

by Lieut.-General E.A.H» Alderson, C.B.,
Commanding 1st Canadian Division

13 June 1915

2. (a) The 4th Corps will on June 15th and following days attack and capture the German position from the GIVENCHY-CHAPELLE ST. ROCH Road to the northern end of the RUE D'OUVERT.

(b) The Canadian division will attack on the front H.2-H.3 both inclusive and will establish a protective flank from the right of the 7th Division to their present trenches.

3. 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade will attack H.2-H.3, both inclusive, with its left on, but clear of the road running through H.3 in a north-easterly direction.

Duguid, *The Canadian forces in the Great War*, App 813.



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14 juin 1915

Le Deuxième Contingent canadien à Shorncliffe



Royal Military Hospital – Shorncliffe Camp

Contrairement au premier contingent, il est décidé que les hommes du Deuxième contingent canadien, destinés à former la Deuxième Division, seront envoyés en groupes séparés vers l'Angleterre.

L'Amirauté britannique fournit dix-sept navires qui vont faire la traversée en mai et juin 1915.

Une fois arrivés en Angleterre, les hommes du contingent vont être réorganisés en division, avec son artillerie, ses ingénieurs et ses services intégraux.

On pense aussi à former un Corps canadien de deux divisions, ce qui nécessite des ressources de Corps, beaucoup plus lourdes en état-major, en services, en renforts et en administration.

Plutôt que de se rendre aux Plaines de Salisbury, de triste mémoire, les Canadiens se rendent cette fois à Shorncliffe, dans l'Est.

C'est l'illustre **major-général Sam Steele**, héros de la Gendarmerie du Nord-Ouest, qui va prendre la 'division d'instruction' jusqu'à ce qu'elle soit prête.

Nicholson, Le Corps expéditionnaire canadien, p. 122.



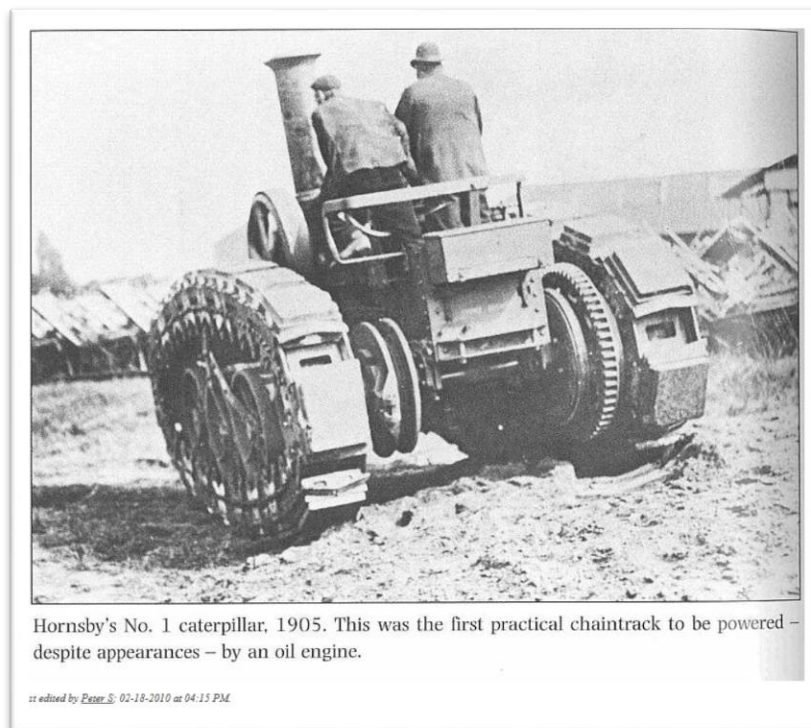
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15 June 1915

Landship project continues



The landship was the original name of the tank

With Winston Churchill out of the Admiralty, the Landship Project that he had undertaken to support in absence of War Office agreement continues.

Major-General Sir George Scott-Moncrieff, Director of Fortifications and Works, at the War Office, **on 15 June 1915**, creates a Joint Naval and Military Committee to deal with the issue of an armored vehicle that will not be stopped by barbed wire.

For a while both the Admiralty and the War Office will be working on separate designs, one with wheels and one with caterpillar (*'chaintrack'* imported from America).

The idea of the tank is heavily churning forth.

Fuller, *Tanks in Great War*, Chapter 2, « The Invention of the Landship », 18-34.

<http://www.practicalmachinist.com/vb/antique-machinery-history/ot-crawler-tractors-196276/index10.html>



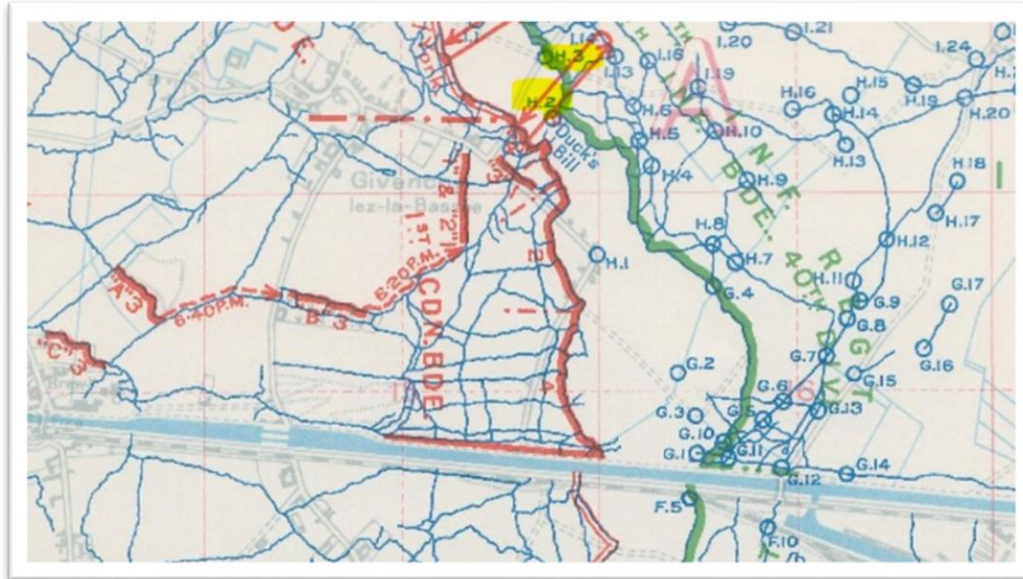
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16 June 1915

The Battle of Givenchy (15-16 June 1915)



For two days, the Canadian Division is involved in the Fourth British Corps' Battle of Givenchy.

The Division has such a narrow frontage that only 1 Brigade is involved at the very south, along the La Bassée Canal.

Two days of fighting around the feature called Duck's Bill, trying to gain points H.2 and H.3, result in nothing worthwhile.

The end of the battle marks the end of the French offensive in Artois. For two months the BEF has been trying to gain the Aubers ridge to support the French. Both sides have suffered terrible losses for no significant gain.

Map from Duguid, The Canadian Forces in the Great War, Map 13.



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17 June 1915

The Canadian Machine Gun unit to France



Raymond Brutinel



The mobile machine gun

Brigadier-General Raymond Brutinel was a geologist, journalist, soldier, entrepreneur and a pioneer in the field of mechanized warfare who commanded the Canadian Automobile Machine Gun Brigade.

The mobile machine gun unit created in Canada, erstwhile known as No. 1 Automobile Machine Gun Brigade, is finally allowed to cross from England to France. It was renamed **1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade (1CMMGB)** in early June.

After much clashing of opinion on the employment of this unique unit designed by a bright French engineer living in Canada, —including General Kitchener's disheartening derision, on the King's inspection of June 2nd [27], proclaiming highly, with Alderson's concurrence, that it would 'unbalance' the division's firepower, – on **June 17, 1915, Major Raymond Brutinel's** Brigade is allowed to proceed to France. Meanwhile it had been used as mobile reserve in England in case of landing, notably in Ashford, Kent.

But even in France, the concept of roving machine guns is so alien that no one seems to find a way to make it reap benefits.

The unit soon went into the line at Chateau la Hutte, in Flanders, in support of the 1st Canadian Division. By then, however, the trench lines had begun to solidify, and the conflict turned into a static slugging match that lasted three more years.

Cameron Pulsifer, "Canada's First Armoured Unit: Raymond Brutinel and the Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigades of the First World War", Canadian Military History, 10:1 (Winter 2001), pp. 44-57.



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18 juin 1915

Warneford VC



Reginald Alexander John Warneford (né le 15 octobre 1891 à Darjeeling), décède: aviateur du Royal Naval Air Service, c'est le premier aviateur à avoir abattu un Zeppelin. Affecté au 1er Wing, le 17 mai 1915, il tente d'abattre, sans y réussir, le Zeppelin (LZ39) qui revenait d'un raid sur l'Angleterre.

Le 7 juin 1915, après avoir suivi le LZ37 depuis Ostende, il décharge les mitrailleuses de son Morane-Saulnier, puis il lâche ses bombes de 9 kg au-dessus, le Zeppelin s'enflamme. Cette action stoppe le moteur de son avion et le force à atterrir dans les lignes ennemies. Il réussit à réparer son avion et à redécoller. Cette action d'éclat lui valut la Croix de Victoria.

Après avoir reçu des mains de Joffre la Légion d'honneur sur l'aérodrome de Buc, **le 17 juin 1915**, il décolle avec Henry Beach Newman, journaliste américain mais, à 60 m, l'aile droite de son avion se brise en éjectant ses passagers. Newmann est tué sur le coup et Reginald décède dans l'ambulance qu'il l'emmenait vers l'hôpital.

Pour en savoir plus: <http://www.victoriacross.org.uk/bbwarnef.htm>



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19 juin 1915 (La Partie 1)

Le Labyrinthe de Neuville-Saint-Vaast – près de Vimy



Les canadiens dans les tranchées qui prennent un repos et des boissons (pris du Bibliothèque Nationale de France).

S'il est un endroit qui, au front, explique bien le complexe réseau que sont les tranchées de la Première Guerre mondiale, c'est probablement ce secteur situé au nord d'Arras, près de la crête de Vimy, passé à la postérité sous le nom de Labyrinthe.

Construit par les allemands, d'Ecurie à Neuville, c'est un amoncellement de sacs de terre et de ciment formant plusieurs kilomètres de tranchées et de boyaux s'entrecroisant en tous sens, se prolongeant sous terre par de profonds abris, défendus par des canons sous coupes et, tous les 25 mètres, par des mitrailleuses, flanqués de fortins et de blockhaus bétonnés, protégés par des réseaux de fils de fer barbelés en rangs serrés et épais. L'ouvrage comporte deux tranchées principales dénommées von Kluck et Eulenburg.

Engagée dès le 9 mai 1915, la conquête de cet ouvrage se révèle extrêmement lente et difficile pour les Français. La prise de Neuville-Saint-Vaast permet d'accélérer la conquête du Labyrinthe qui, le 16 juin 1915, tombe entièrement entre les mains des Français.

Pour en savoir plus : [:http://enenvor.fr/des_malouins_ds_la_wwi/un_reseau_de_plus_en_plus_complexe.html](http://enenvor.fr/des_malouins_ds_la_wwi/un_reseau_de_plus_en_plus_complexe.html)



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19 juin 1915 (La partie 2)

La Conférence de Boulogne sur la production d'artillerie lourde et munitions



Albert Thomas (1878 – 1932)

Le nouveau ministre britannique des Munitions, Lloyd George, décide résolument qu'il ne fera pas confiance au ministère de la Guerre pour lui fournir des données sur les besoins en munitions. Il organise donc une conférence, **le 19 juin 1915**, à Boulogne, où il invite le sous-secrétaire d'État pour l'artillerie et les munitions de France, **Albert Thomas**.

S'y retrouvent aussi le général Du Cane de l'état-major général français, de même que le Colonel Walch, un visionnaire britannique dans le domaine de l'artillerie, présentement attaché britannique auprès du gouvernement de Suisse. Ces deux derniers sont particulièrement connus pour déroger aux vues de la 'prêtrise des artilleurs' sur la valeur du shrapnel et du canon léger de 75mm français.

Lloyd George est à même de comprendre, suite à cette conférence, les besoins primordiaux en artillerie sur le champs de bataille moderne: artillerie lourde de siège et obus explosants.

Ces indications vont influencer ses plans de production pour la prochaine année.

La production de mitrailleuses sera aussi grandement accélérée. Contrairement aux hésitations du War Office, il pousse cette arme pour que les nombres en soient décuplés au sein des unités combattantes. Il ne regrettera jamais ces décisions.

Lloyd George, Memoirs, II, 554-5, 606.



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20 June 1915

1.3 million casualties on the Western Front



1.3 million casualties on the Western Front in the first half of 1915

The Second Battle of Ypres and the French operations in Champagne and Artois in the spring of 1915 were as murderous as the better-known campaigns of 1916 and 1917.

Between January and mid-June 1915, the French had 744,000 casualties, including 227,000 dead.

In the same period the British had 160,000 casualties (with probably 45,000 dead).

The Germans had 432,000 casualties with perhaps 95,000 dead.

This makes for **1,336,000** casualties with **367,000** dead (27%).

The Allies suffered two thirds of the casualties (82% French).

Men were being killed in France at a rate of 2000 or wounded at the rate of 5,500 per day.

Figures taken out of Appendix on casualties in Winston Churchill, *World Crisis* (1931). This does not include losses on other fronts such as Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, Balkans.



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21 June 1915

Important decision by Ottoman authorities on the Armenian Question



Talat Pasha, Minister of Home Affairs

Important meeting of Djemal Pacha (GOC Fourth Army and Governor of Syrian province), Talat Pasha and Chükrü Bay takes place on **21 June 1915**: it is decided that only a very small proportion of deported Armenians will be allowed to resettle in Aleppa. For the others, it is deportation to deserts.

On the figures of deportations statistics: 650,000 are believed to have died of various causes, with perhaps 200,000 in the deserts. 850,000 were able to escape in various ways.

But these figures are contested, with a number as low as 200,000 put forward by some Turk historians, and 2,000,000 by Armenian historians.

James Bryce and Arnold Toynbee, The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman empire, 1915-1916: Documents presented to Viscount Grey of Fallodon by Viscount Bryce («Blue Book» of the British Parliament, original edition of 1916)

L'Histoire, #341, 18.

David Miller, «The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire - A History of the 'Blue Book'», RUSI Journal, Vol. 150, No. 4, August 2005, pp. 36-43.



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22 June 1915

The City of Lemberg (Lviv) returns to the Austrian-Hungarian Empire



The major offensive by the German-Austrian forces known as the **Gorlice-Tarnow Breakthrough**, started on May 2nd, allowing the Central forces to regain territory lost in earlier Russian offensives.

In this advance, Przemyśl was retaken on June 3rd, and on this day, **22 June 1915**, in the Battle for Galicia, the city of Lemberg (Lviv), in the Ukraine, was also retaken after having been lost to the Russians in September 1914.

In the next week the Austrian-Hungarian forces will cross the Dnieper. They are at the door of Russia. The population of Lviv suffered greatly through these two sieges.

Dupuy & Dupuy,
Encyclopedia of Military History (Rev. Ed., 1977), p. 950.



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23 juin 1915

La première des douze batailles de l'Isonzo (23 juin – 7 juillet 1915)



L'Italie a déclaré la guerre à l'Autriche-Hongrie le 23 mai 1915.

La longue frontière commune entre les deux pays devient un lieu de conflit constant. Les Italiens demeurent sur la défensive dans l'ouest (Trentino), mais tentent une avancée dans l'est (Venezia), dans la région du fleuve Isonzo.

Deux armées italiennes de 24 divisions sous le commandement du général Cadorna entreprennent une campagne le long du fleuve à partir du **23 juin 1915**. Mais leur matériel n'est pas suffisant pour compenser l'avantage évident que détiennent les Autrichiens qui occupent les hauteurs des Alpes de l'autre côté du cours d'eau en crue. Le tir plongeant rend la rivière impassable. Même s'ils ont deux fois plus d'hommes que les Autrichiens, les Italiens doivent retomber en défense dans une guerre de tranchées .

Mais ils vont essayer plus tard...

Liddell Hart, First World War, Chap. 5– «1915: The Deadlock».



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24 juin 1915

Le brigadier Currie se distingue avec le commandement de la division canadienne



Brigadier général Arthur Currie

La Division canadienne se trouve maintenant, **le 24 juin 1915**, dans un secteur plus calme, à Ploegsteert, en Belgique, près de Ypres, où les choses sont beaucoup plus calmes depuis la fin des campagnes françaises en Artois et Champagne. Il faut reconstituer la division après les pertes importantes, particulièrement au sein de l'infanterie.

On parle aussi beaucoup de la constitution d'un corps d'armée de deux divisions lorsque le deuxième contingent canadien sera prêt à prendre place en première ligne en France.

Le maréchal French, commandant-en-chef du corps expéditionnaire britannique, s'est déjà prononcé à l'effet que le **brigadier général Arthur Currie** avait été reconnu comme le plus prometteur des commandants de brigade canadiens, mais les autres commandants de brigade ne l'ont pas convaincu qu'ils étaient prêts pour le commandement d'une division. Kitchener l'appuie dans ce jugement et pense qu'un officier supérieur britannique devrait être choisi pour une des deux divisions.

Mais le ministre Sam Hughes n'est pas d'accord dans ce jugement. Il croit que le brigadier détenteur d'une Croix de Victoria, Richard Turner, serait un meilleur candidat, et que son propre fils, Garnet Hughes, qui n'a rien commandé à date, mériterait lui aussi une division. Il pense d'ailleurs à se présenter lui-même pour éviter que le lieutenant-général Alderson, éminemment qualifié, ne devienne commandant de corps.

Ils sont plusieurs à rire dans leur barbe du ministre si prétentieux, mais le décourager de tels propos n'est pas chose facile.



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25 Jun 1915

French Aerial bombing on the Douai railyards.



Pilots ready to drop bombs by hand

The seizing of the Douai railyard held by the Germans had always been one of the main aims of the recent French Artois campaigns.

Cutting the main train lines would have hampered German resupply to the other parts of the Western Front.

Now that the effort has come to an end without much success, the French turn to aviation to bomb.

Although airplanes were mainly used, so far, to provide artillery fire direction, aerial photography and reconnaissance, – with fighters assigned to defend them in their primary task, the carrying of bombs to distant targets by the larger models becomes another option.

On 25 June 1915, a bombing raid takes place with the French air force aiming at Douai, seeking to damage this priority target.

Bombing will prove of little efficacy in WWI due to the very limited weight of bombs that the early airplanes could carry. A battery of field artillery could fire the same weight of explosives in seconds.

Bomber aircraft did not represent the threat that the large dirigible balloons could be as bombing platforms.

Gleichen, [Chronology of the Great War](#), p. 108.



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26 June 1915

A Secretary for all seasons: Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Hankey, Royal Marines



Maurice Hankey, Secretary – British Cabinet, and his wife

Maurice Hankey is the Secretary to the British Cabinet. As such, his job is to prepare documents for the use of the ministers: correspondence, agenda, memoranda, Orders-in-Council.

One duty that he accomplishes with particular fascination is the preparation of briefing notes for the ministers, summarizing situations and problems at hand on which they have to decide. His influence in doing such work becomes all-permeating. Hankey is a superb writer who uses his uncanny intelligence to go to the core of an issue et suggest inescapable options to ministers.

On 26 June 1915, the Secretary prepares a particularly incisive memorandum ('my big paper') where he outlines the need for better communications between the French and British governments through conferences that will include all the higher leadership. His arguments are new and unquestionable. Recent events in France have made relationships between national military staffs very uncomfortable for Field Marshal French and General Joffre, who are now blaming each other for recent operational failures.

Hankey's initiative will result in a summit conference to be held in Calais in early July and will start a series of improvements in communications techniques that will organize and streamline government-to-government negotiations. — For once, a paper pusher will get some respect ...

Hankey, Supreme Command, 2 Volumes (1961), Vol. 1, Chap 33 «The Supreme Command among Allies», p. 346-51.
Roskill, Hankey: Man of Secret, Vol. 1, Chap 7: «Under the First Coalition: May-August 1915», p. 179-205, see p. 184, 8.



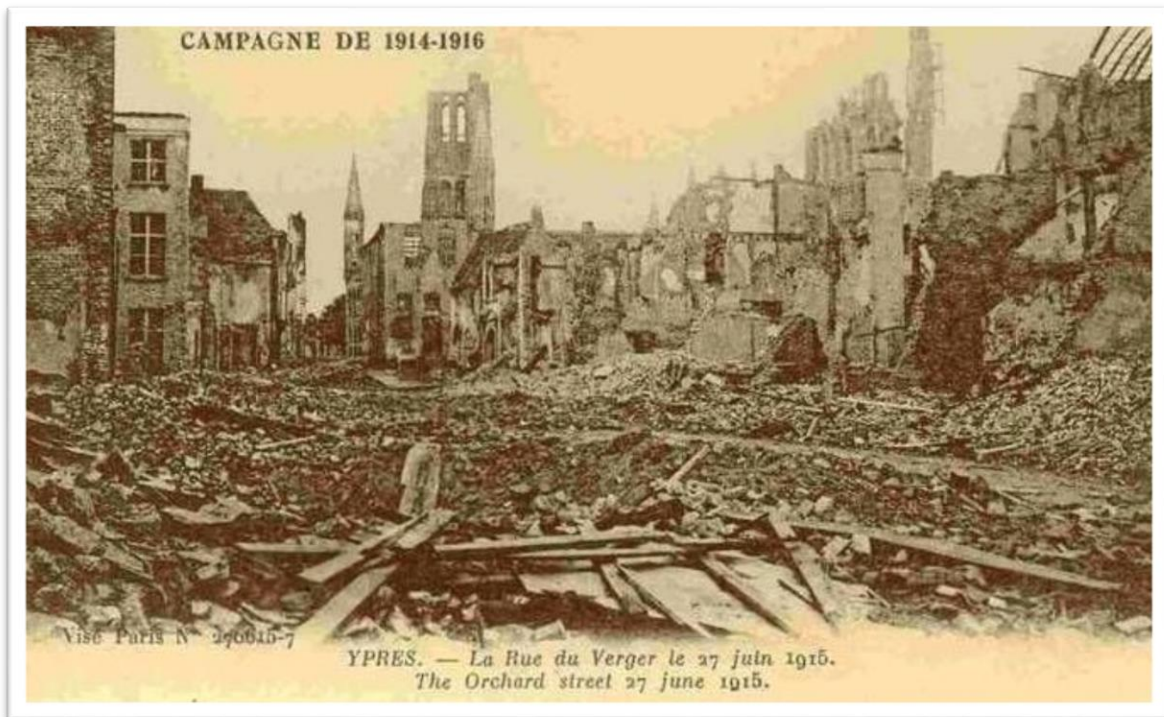
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27 June 1915

WW1 in Picture Postcards



The Orchard Street, Ypres, Belgium (27 June 1915) / La rue du verger, Ypres, La Belgique (27 juin 1915)

During the Great War, when the only means of communicating news was by newspapers and weekly illustrated magazines, the 'war' or 'military' picture postcard with an image and printed message or caption, was a welcome means of personal communication for many people.

Cards that showed the effect the war was having on the home front were frequently on sale in the shops - within days of an 'incident' happening.

Before the outbreak of the First World War, picture postcards were traded with numerous categories and themes available. People purchased them, not just to convey messages to friends and relatives but also to collect and save the cards in special albums.

When war erupted in August 1914, picture postcards were already the perfect medium to provide a link between the men on active service and their families and friends at home.

Throughout the war, postcard publishers, printers, photographers and artists helped to boost the morale of the people both at home and the soldiers, sailors and airmen on the war fronts.



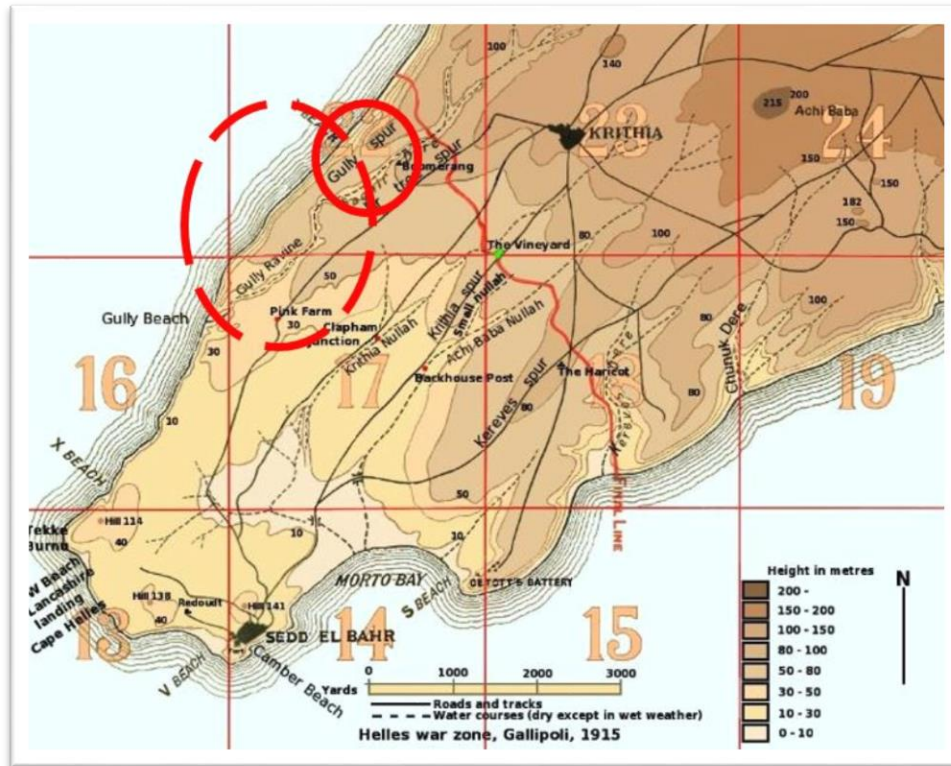
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28 June 1915

Deadly Action at Gully Spur (Gully Ravine), Gallipoli



An attack launched by two British and an Indian division of VIII Corps catches the Turks by surprise at Gully Ravine. Although the advance on the right does not progress much, the Turks lose five rows of trenches on the left, at Gully Spur, where the limited artillery support is more effective.

The Turks are stunned by this obvious deficiency in their defense and will counter-attack desperately in Gully Ravine over the next week. These retaliatory actions will be even more costly than the initial demise at Gully Spur.

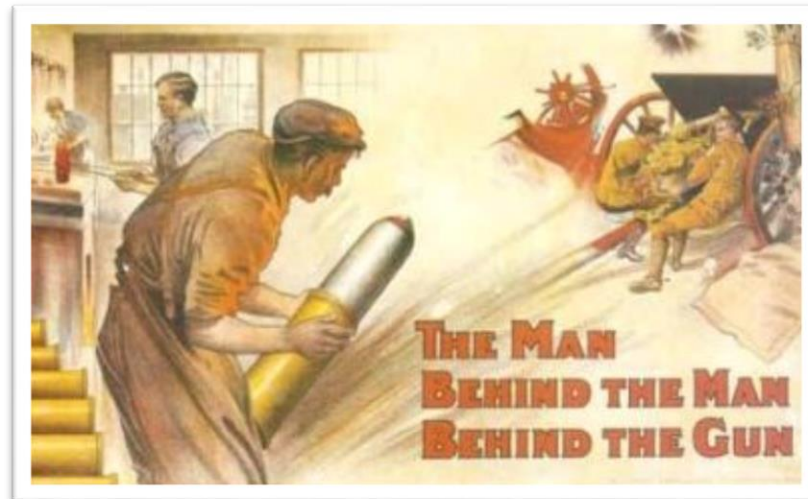
The British and Indian forces will lose 4,000 men in these battles, but the Turks will suffer 16,000 casualties, of which some 10,000 will remain to rot on the battlefield. Those corpses that could be reached were burned. **“The valley with its heaps of rotting refuse, its burning pyres and sickening stench, was a veritable Gehenna.”**

James, Gallipoli, 230-1.
Map from Wikipedia «Gully Ravine».



29 Jun 1915

Minister of Munitions reports to the House of Commons



The Minister of Munitions takes charge

The new minister of Munitions for the British Government, David Lloyd George, addresses the Parliament on **29 June 1915** to explain the extraordinary decisions that are being taken to create the industrial complex required to provide war material.

At least 90 men of first-class business experience have placed their services voluntarily at the disposal of the Ministry of Munitions, the vast majority of them without any remuneration at all.

The minister then proceeds to explain that a thorough reorganization of the peace industry will transform it into an efficient integrated complex of state-run factories; that the industrial output will be multiplied; that the production of crucial heavy guns, machine guns, ammunition and various war materials in vast quantities will become a priority. Labour will be largely state-controlled.

That such a radical liberal-minded politician as Lloyd George can take charge of an authoritarian centralist industrial program with the support of Parliament shows that democracy can sometime step on its own hat.

David Lloyd George, War Memoirs, Vol. 1, «The Ministry of Munitions: Establishment and Labour Problems», p. 237-353.



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30 June 1915

Gallipoli - Général Gouraud is wounded



French General Gouraud evacuated from Gallipoli

The commander of the French forces in Gallipoli, **General Henri Joseph Étienne Gouraud** is hit, **on 30 June 1915**, by artillery. Blown right over a wall, he lost an arm and had both legs broken.

Gouraud was the commander of the French forces in the Dardanelle region since 15 May. His relationship with the British Commander-in-Chief, General Ian Hamilton was not good. Robert Rhodes James says, in his authoritative Gallipoli: Grand Strategy:

«Very unfairly, the British had lost all confidence in the French, and Hamilton in particular never seems to have appreciated that they had been up against the most formidable part of the Turkish defenses since the end of April and had lost heavily from the Asiatic shelling.¹»

The truth is that the French, with almost 80,000 troops in the Dardanelles, were losing men at the same rate as the ANZAC. Their flank on the east, then known as 'Asiatic' part of the peninsula, was more efficiently defended than the west coast of Gallipoli. Gouraud had lost all hopes of being able to break through on his side. General Bailloud, who replaced him was even more pessimistic (or discredited by the British). Gouraud will later command an army in France.

¹. R.R. James, Gallipoli, p. 232.

John Horne. <http://theconversation.com/why-we-don't-hear-about-the-10-000-french-deaths-at-gallipoli-40014>

