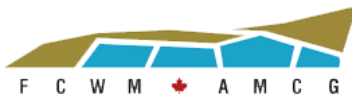
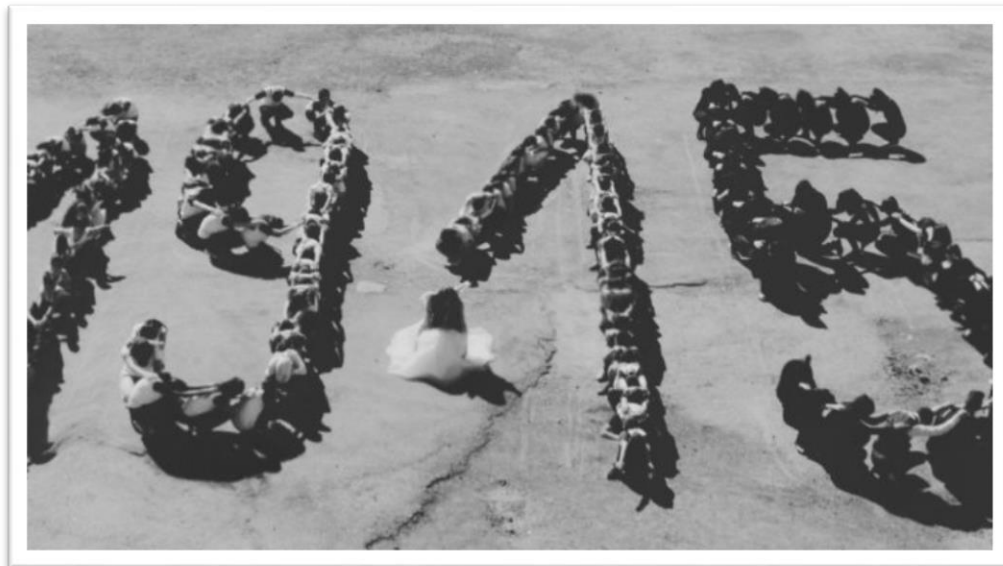


World War I
Day by Day
1915 – 1918

July 1915 / juillet 1915

La première guerre mondiale
De jour en jour
1915 – 1918



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1 July 2015

We will remember them - Nous nous souviendrons d'eux.

The Friends of the Canadian War Museum invite you to delve into the Centennial of World War I (1914-1918) by gaining knowledge on daily events of the war as originally shared with the world through their daily Twitter program «**The First World War Day-by-Day**».

Les Amis du Musée canadien de la Guerre vous invitent à marquer le Centenaire de 1914-1918 en vous informant sur les événements de la Première Guerre mondiale comme partager à chaque journée par le programme AMCG Twitter «**La Première Guerre mondiale de Jour en Jour**»

An art installation “Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red” at the Tower of London, marked one hundred years since the first full day of Britain’s involvement in the First World War.

It consisted of 888,246 ceramic red poppies, each intended to represent one British or Colonial serviceman killed in WW1. The poppies encircled the iconic landmark, creating not only a spectacular display visible from all around the Tower but also a location for personal reflection. The scale of the installation was intended to reflect the magnitude of such an important centenary and create a powerful visual

Each day in the moat at sunset, names of 180 Commonwealth troops killed during the war were read out as part of a Roll of Honour, followed by the Last Post.

Belgium ships cannon back to Canada for WWI centenary commemorations: Photos of the cannon from the Canadian War Museum commemoration in Ottawa on March 13, 2018 with King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium.



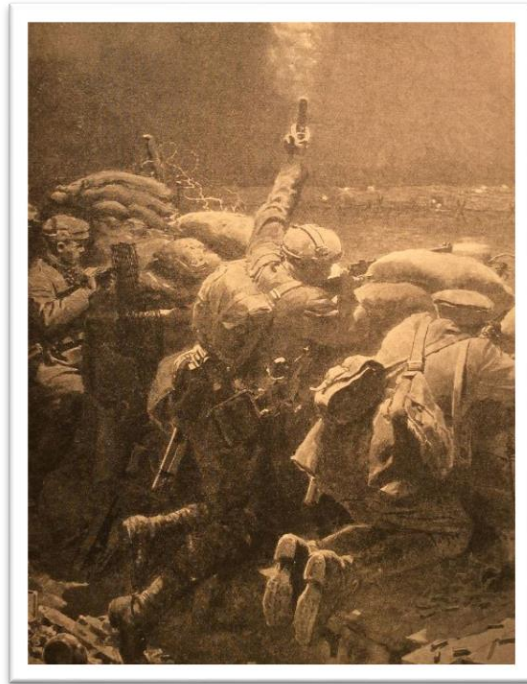
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2 July 1915

Night fighting in the trenches



Holding off a night attack in the trenches

Fighting in the trenches extends to night engagements. Parties of soldiers are sent in No Man's Land to create new obstacles and repair barbed wire, destroy enemy defensive work, and gain information on opposite positions.

Night sentries are constantly involved in deadly cat and mouse play, each developing its own techniques to outwit the adversary.

In this illustration above published in the TIMES, British soldiers are sniping at the German work parties with the help of flares.

One-man fires a round to mask the sound of the flare gun as it is fired. Another is poised to snipe at a man caught in the first glare of the flare as it explodes in the sky.

Night after night, men are left dead or wounded in No Man's Land. Some bodies are retrieved for burial, but more often than not, patrols sent out to bring back their comrades add to the unending burden.

TIMES History of the War (1916), VI: 879.



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3 July 1915

The Battle of Poland: Russian withdrawal



The German Tarnow-Gorlice Offensive

Although Poland did not exist in WW1, the area of the old Kingdom of Poland was a territory of contention between the Empire of Russia and the Empires of Germany and Austria-Hungary. East Prussia, Galicia, Transylvania, Moldavia were all territories of contention between Imperial dynasties, Romanov, Hohenzollern and Habsburg.

The Russian offensives of early 1915 in the south had run out of steam. Falkenhayn, the commander of the German forces, gave priority to the Austrian-Hungarian push in the south, and put the brakes on Ludendorff in the north, for a counter-offensive near Krakow, between the towns of Tarnow and Gorlice. The famous German offensive of Tarnow-Gorlice, started on 2 May, took full advantage of the acute shortage of arms and munitions suffered by the Russians. Their industries were incapable of adjusting to the enormous demands of war.

By 3 July 1915, the Russians are using their space to retreat so as to give themselves breathing space. The Germans are running out of railway and have to invest much more on transport, especially through marshes between big rivers. They are now fighting between the Vistula River and the Bug River, famous areas where armies in other eras have sunk their energies, pursuing fleeing rear-guards.

Keegan, *The First World War*, pp. 229-234.



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4 July 1915

Casualties in the Dardanelles



Allied casualties in the Dardanelles/Gallipoli Front

On this day the British Cabinet learns that so far in the Dardanelles/Gallipoli campaign, the losses are of 1,823 officers and 39,621 other ranks in the British Empire forces.

This does not comprise losses on the French side which are approximately half.

Total losses: 60,000 in 60 days!

Hankey, Supreme Command, I: 344.



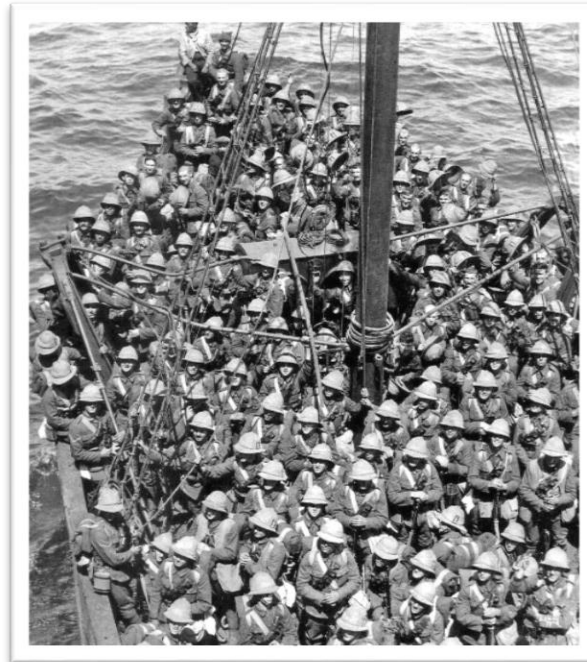
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5 July 1915

Strategic Planning (Part 1)



The British government decides to reinforce both the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (Gallipoli) and the British Expeditionary Force (France): «...on July 5th [1915], the Dardanelles Committee met to take its final decision on the two additional divisions. Balfour was able to report that the necessary transport could be found both for them –they could arrive [in the eastern Mediterranean] at the end of July and early in August respectively–and for bringing reinforcements from Egypt.

The necessary small craft could be also made available. Kitchener had anticipated the verdict of the Dardanelles Committee to the extent of ordering one of the additional divisions to embark on July 13th. He had also arranged to send the bulk of the available high explosive shell to the Dardanelles during July.

He was able to reassure the Committee on the position about reinforcements to the Western Front. The six divisions of the second new army were already under orders for France and their transport would occupy the whole of July. ★★★ They would be followed by the second Canadian Division. Two divisions of the third new army were already complete and the remaining four divisions would be ready for embarkation. »

Hankey, Supreme Command, 343.



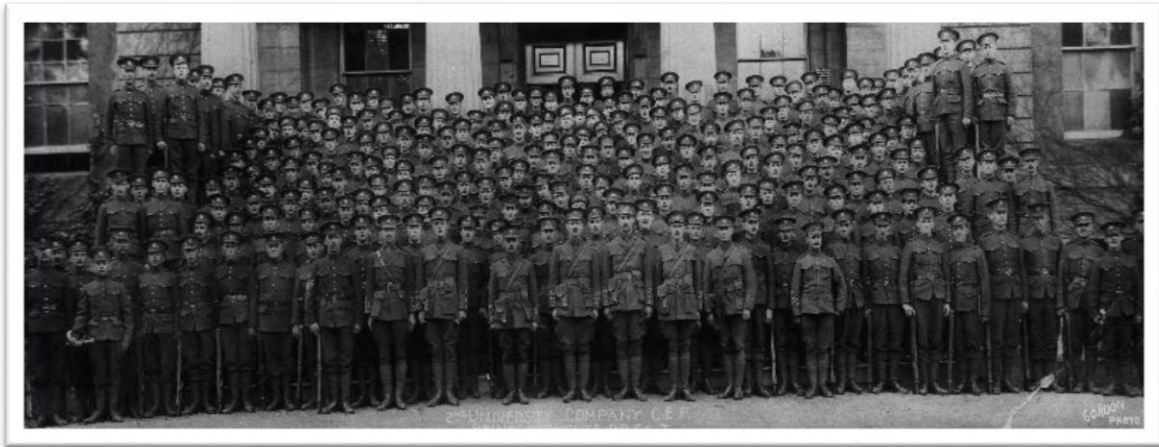
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6 July 1915

Strategic Planning (Part 2)



Reinforcements at the ready



A farewell to troops sent off via ship

The British Government is planning on bringing 13 new army divisions to the BEF as well as 2 Territorial divisions to the MEF. *We now had twenty-four divisions in France and thirteen more were to go there in due course.*

In the last half of September, the fourth new army would be ready and the seventh by the latter part of December.

By April 1916 they hoped to reach a total of seventy divisions, i.e., from 1,400,000 to 1,500,000 men. Two divisions of Territorials, drawn from home defense, therefore, would make little difference to the western theatre.

Lloyd George made clear that the real difficulty was in the matter of munitions and deprecated sending out reinforcements until the Army could be properly supported with heavy guns and ammunition.

Hankey, Supreme Command, I, 343.



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7 juillet 1915

Les Conférences de Calais (6 juillet) et Chantilly (7 juillet)



Marshal Joffre in Chantilly

Sur les recommandations du Secrétaire du Cabinet, Maurice Hankey, le premier ministre britannique Asquith a fait des arrangements avec les ministres du gouvernement français pour qu'il y ait rencontre au sommet à Calais, le 6 juillet. Cette première rencontre où les premiers ministres s'entendent sur la coordination de leur politiques de guerre nationales est suivie le lendemain, **le 7 juillet 1915**, par une rencontre des chefs militaires au Grand Quartier général français de Chantilly, près de Paris.

La grande décision qui ressort de ces rencontres est que la politique de guerre des deux nations va se rejoindre dans l'entente selon laquelle le reste de l'année 1915 sera consacré à une 'défense active' en France, et que les efforts seront désormais orientés vers Gallipoli, où les forces tant de la France que de l'Empire britannique sont embourbées contre les Turcs, sous la direction du Haut Commandement allemand.

Les conséquences politiques et diplomatiques d'une victoire en Turquie seraient encore immensément avantageuses en ce qu'elles pourraient encore faire balancer la Bulgarie et la Roumanie, indécises, vers le camp des Alliés.

Cette décision permet donc de faire parvenir rapidement des divisions supplémentaires vers l'Égypte pour qu'elles soient mises à service dans les batailles envisagées, tant navales que sur la péninsule, avant la fin de l'été.

Bien qu'il se soit dit d'accord avec ces politiques concertées, le général Joffre, le commandant-en-chef des forces françaises en France, ne cessera pour autant de préparer la deuxième phase de sa campagne offensive de Champagne. Joffre, on le sait, a la tête dure...

Hankey, Supreme Command, I:348-9.



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8 juillet 1915

La Canada fournira 150,000 hommes en Europe



Le Corps expéditionnaire canadien

Le **8 juillet 1915**, le gouvernement canadien s'engage à augmenter à 150,000 le nombre de soldats dans le Corps expéditionnaire canadien

Elizabeth Armstrong, Le Québec et la crise de la conscription, 1917-1918 (Montréal: vlb éditeur, 1998), p. 133; The Crisis of Quebec, 1914-1918 (Toronto: ed. rév., 1974)



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9 July 1915

German South-West Africa capitulates to General Botha



General Botha, right, accepts the surrender of German South-West Africa from Lt. Col. Francke, left, at Kilo, 9 July 1915

The long struggle between British South Africa and German South-West Africa comes to an end when the German forces are stranded from lack of naval support and maritime supply.

The role of the Royal Navy in eliminating the German Navy's vessels on the High Seas and in preventing maritime supplies to reach South-West Africa is crucial in ensuring the defeat of the German colonial forces. South Africa will now become an important Ally in the British Empire forces.



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10 July 1915

The Lusitania Diplomacy: German Reply

On 8 June, the German Government issued a reply to the famous Second Note by the Government of the United States of America. That reply was published in the Press on 10 July 1915. Its excited public opinion in the United States and no less a public figure as Theodore Roosevelt took up the challenge of criticizing the Government for not starting to prepare for war against Germany.

The German reply offered the United States to allow special steamers flying the American flag to cross into the areas restricted by submarine warfare, as long as the American Government guaranteed that these steamers did not carry war material ('contraband' in terms of the law).

This flies in the face of a principle stated by President Wilson in his First Note to Germany, immediately following the sinking of Lusitania, on May 7, 1915:

American citizens act within their indisputable rights in taking their ships and in traveling wherever their legitimate business calls them upon the high seas, and exercise those rights in what should be the well-justified confidence their lives will not be endangered by acts done in clear violation of the universally acknowledged international obligations, and certainly in the confidence that their own Government will sustain them in the exercise of their rights...



The First Lusitania Note of 13 May 1915, Thomas G. Paterson (Ed.), Major Problems in American Foreign Policy: Documents and Essays, Vol. 2: Since 1914 (Lexington, Massachusetts: D.C. Heath, 1984), p. 30-3.

TIMES History of the War (1916), V: 276.



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11 July 1915

Sinking of Königsberg in Africa



Königsberg in Africa

The German light cruiser Königsberg had been caught in the region of the Red Sea without coal at the beginning of the war. Its action was therefore limited in capturing small coalers to provide it with a minimum of power. It took refuge in a river of Tanzania, the Rufiji, in East Africa, where it hid from the British Navy.

By the middle of 1915, its presence there was known to the British and shallow-draft monitors were sent up-river to destroy it.

The Königsberg crew fought the ship with skill, damaging the monitors, but the issue was sealed by the incapacity of the cruiser to sail on its own. It was sunk on **11 July 1915**.

The German crew succeeded in extracting Königsberg's ten 10.5-cm guns and most war supplies before its final demise. The naval guns were used by German South-West Africa in its fight against British South Africa.

«SMS Königsberg», Wikipedia.



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12 July 1915

King Coal Rules



Coal miners at work

Coal delivery is still the key to industrial production in Europe. All means of heavy transportation, railroad and shipping, need coal to move. The steel industry is directly dependent on availability of coal. Heat of residences and public buildings is all produced by the dirty, heavy and soot-producing mineral.

But the embargo around the Central powers is now reducing the amount of coal that Germany and Austria-Hungary can import.

On 12 July 1915, the Government of Germany gives itself the authority to regulate the commerce of coal so as to protect war industries from shortages. Where possible, other fuels will be used, mainly wood and petrol products.

King Coal is a resource that the British Isles have in large amounts. The British can supply France's industries while the most productive French mines, to the east, are held by the Germans. The coastal traffic of innumerable commercial transporters in the Atlantic continues despite the submarine threat.

Perhaps most indicative of the discrepancy in availability between the Alliance and Entente, the South Wales coal workers are refusing wages offered by the Government, despite the fact that new laws have now been enacted to force labour into war industry.

Gleichen, [Chronology](#).



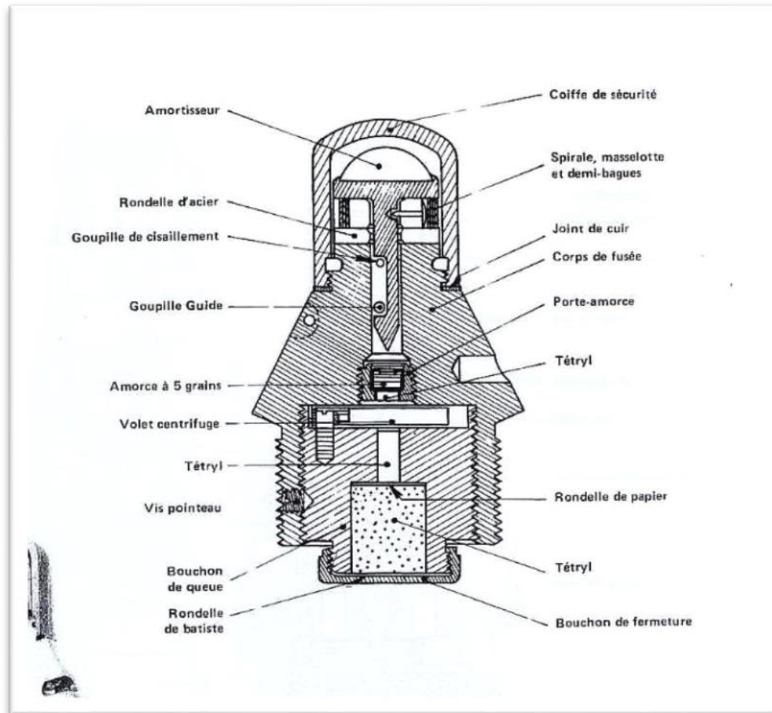
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13 juillet 1915

Ministère britannique des Inventions



Le nouveau ministre des Munitions insiste auprès du Cabinet pour que les départements des inventions de l'Amirauté et du Ministère de la Guerre soient unifiés au Ministère des Munitions de sorte que l'on puisse amener une coordination aux travaux d'invention de toute l'industrie de guerre britannique.

Les ressources en intelligence, matériel et ateliers hétéroclites pourront donc être partagées par des inventeurs provenant de toutes les sources disponibles, incluant les universités et les commerces privés.

Lloyd George insiste ainsi pour établir des priorités dans les investissements créatifs.

De là naîtront de nouvelles techniques révolutionnaires, de même que des améliorations des instruments de production nationale existants.



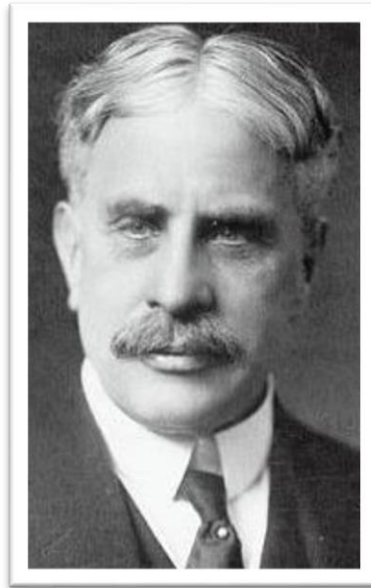
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14 July 1915

Prime Minister Borden in British Cabinet Meeting



Canadian Prime Minister Robert Laird Borden

The Canadian Prime Minister Robert Laird Borden has traveled to London to attend a meeting of the British Cabinet.

On 14 July 1915, it is the first time that a Prime Minister of Canada takes part in the actual deliberations of the British Cabinet.

British Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith wishes the prime ministers of the Dominions of the British Empire who are providing troops for the War to be given a view of the decision process.

Prime Minister Borden will also visit troops at the Front and meet with the principal British and Canadian officers in the field.

The Canadian Government has just authorized the recruitment of an extra 50,000 men, bringing its participation to 150,000 men in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

But Borden will be given evidence, during his trip, that more will be required.



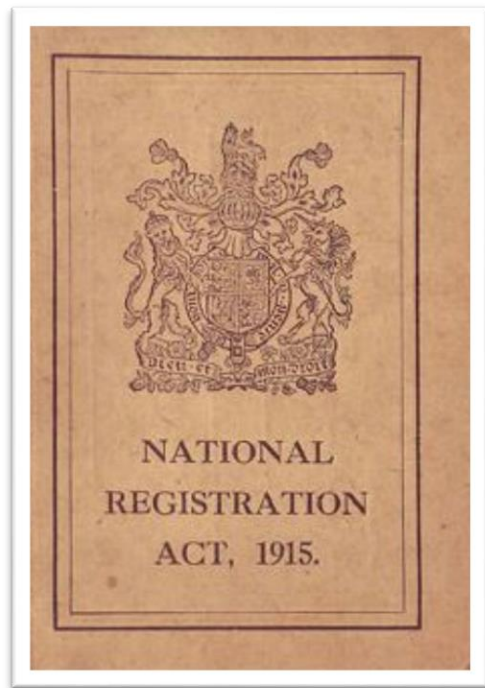
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15 July 1915

National Registration Act of the United Kingdom



The National Registration Act of Great Britain

By the summer of 1915, the British parties in Parliament are divided on the question of Conscription. Influential politicians are also expressing views different from that of their party. The belief, for many, is that the substitution from voluntary to compulsory service will allow the Government to select those best qualified for industry and for armed services. The issue is emotional among the electorate.

As a measure of slow progress, the Government decides through the *National Registration Act* of 15 July 1915, that a complete survey of all men and women between the ages of 15 and 65 will be taken, with details on their marital status and employment qualifications. 29 million forms are issued through England, Scotland and Wales, with each individual receiving in return a National Registration Identification Card.

This allowed the Government to compute statistics on available manpower and make plans for the growth of war industries as well as armed services.

But Conscription did not come for another year in Britain. Voluntary service, although often depriving industry of its most skillful workers, still fed the Royal Navy, the Air services and the New Armies with the necessary reinforcements.

Canada will follow suit on this initiative.

Hankey, *Supreme Command*, I: 427.

<https://derbyscheme.wordpress.com/2013/01/19/national-registration-act-1915/>



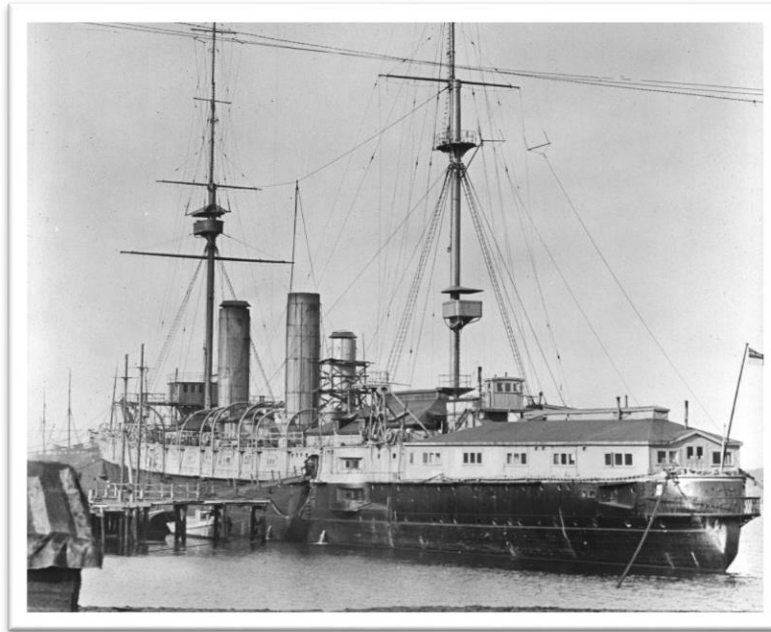
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16 juillet 1915

La Patrouille navale du Saint-Laurent



La navire de guerre: Niobe

Le Canada désire se prémunir d'une protection contre les sous-marins allemands qui pourraient s'aventurer dans l'ouest de l'Atlantique pour attaquer les navires de marine marchande à leur départ.

À la mi-juillet 1915, le Canada crée une flotille de navires, la **Patrouille du Saint-Laurent**, avec les navires Grisle, Florence, Tuna, Hochelaga, et Stadacona. Il s'agit de grands yachts achetés par des propriétaires riches qui les ont prêtés ou donnés au Gouvernement pour la durée de la guerre et qui sont armés pour des tâches de protection côtière et chasse antisous-marine. La Patrouille du Saint-Laurent est commandée par le Capitaine Fred C.C. Pasco, retraité de la Royal Navy.

Le Canada a aussi pris à sa charge les navires de guerre Rainbow et **Niobe**, qui ont été reconfigurés aux frais du public pour assurer la défense armée des installations portuaires.

Les navires du Service de la protection de la pêche, les Canada, Gulnare, Sable et Margaret sont aussi mis à service pour la protection armée des côtes canadiennes.

Chapitre 5: *Surveillance des sous-marins allemands au large de la côte Est du Canada: 1915-1916*, Johnson, Rawling, Gimblett et MacFarlane, *Histoire officielle de la Marine royale du Canada*, Volume 1 : Du Littoral à la Mer, 1867-1913, (Dundurn, MDN, TPSGC, 2010), p. 316-78.



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17 July 1915

Second Canadian Division



Prime Minister Borden inspecting the Second Canadian Division at Beachborough Park

The Second Canadian Division has now arrived at Shorncliffe, England for its training.

In contrast with the experience of 1st Division from the previous winter, the soldiers of 2 Div. enjoy warm and clear summer weather. They also benefit from experienced instructors who recently fought in France.

On 17 July, Prime Minister Borden and Minister of Defense Sam Hugues inspect the young division. At that time, it is still being discussed what further contribution Canada will make to the land forces in France. Canada is now committed to provide 150,000 men in uniform, which will fill and sustain a 2-division army corps.

The Chief of the General Staff in Ottawa, General Gwatkin, is recommending that Canada limit herself to providing enough manpower and materiel to adequately reinforce and maintain a small, 2-division, 50,000-men corps.

But the push is strong for a third division to be joined to the yet-not-born Canadian Corps.

Great Britain has now formed a Third Army in France, and Borden is being discreetly asked for more.

Granatstein and Hitsman, Broken Promises, 22. • (Photo of PM Borden is of 1917)



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18 July 1915

Sharif Husayn of Mecca writes a letter



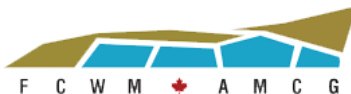
Sharif Husayn

Husayn bin Ali, Sharif of the Mecca, writes to Sir Henry McMahon, British High Commissioner of Egypt.

The Arab tribe chiefs of the Ottoman empire have fomented among themselves the Damas Protocol, suggesting that they would unite under Sharif Husayn if he chose to join the British. Husayn makes a first secret move in July 1915.

In July 1915 Husayn sent a letter to the British High Commissioner in Egypt, Sir Henry McMahon, setting forth the conditions that might persuade him to enter into an alliance with Britain and to launch a revolt against his own Ottoman government. This was the beginning of the famous Husayn-McMahon correspondence (July 1915-March 1916), an exchange of the letters that lie at the root of an immense controversy over whether Britain pledged to support an independent Arab state and then reneged on the pledge.

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



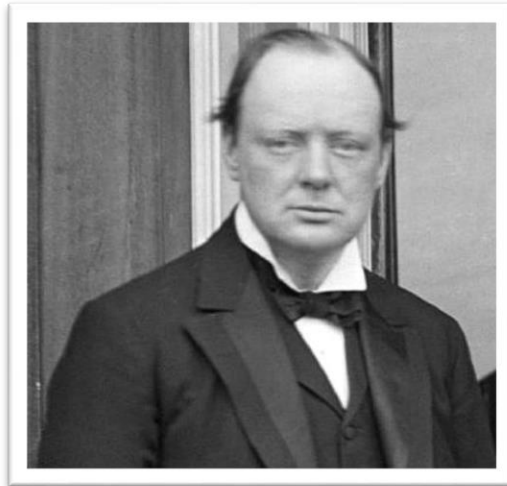
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19 July 1915

Winston in the Dog House



Winston Churchill

With the recent change in the British Government, Winston Churchill has lost his Cabinet post as First Lord of the Admiralty and has been excluded from the direction of the Dardanelles operations, of which he was the principal instigator.

But the Liberal Prime Minister, H.H. Asquith, despite the reluctance of the Conservatives to see Churchill anywhere near a Government table, has kept Winston in the wing by giving him the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, a post without portfolio where his brilliant intelligence can still be used indirectly.

Now Asquith wants Churchill to go as a special observer to the Dardanelles, accompanied by Maurice Hankey, the Secretary to the Cabinet, and get a first-hand report from the two of them.

But the Conservatives, led by Bonar Law, now Minister for the Colonies, will not allow it. Hankey will have to go alone. Churchill will be kept in the dog house for the moment...

When Hankey will return with his report, Churchill will not hesitate to say that some generals in Gallipoli should be court-martialed... Which will not help his standing with the Conservatives...

Magnus, Kitchener, p. 411.



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20 July 1915

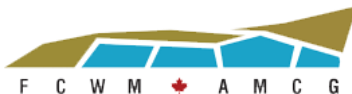
The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Brigade to France



The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA) Brigade on the move

The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA) Brigade is an artillery component designed to support cavalry formations.

On 20 July 1915, the RCHA crosses over from England to France. It will be attached to the British Expeditionary Force's Grand HQ as Army troops, to be ready on demand. Great hopes are still held for cavalry action in France.



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21 July 1915

Colonel Mustafa Kemal writes a letter



Colonel Mustafa Kemal (fourth from left) with officers and staff of the Anfarta group

Mustafa Kemal was one of the key officers of the Ottoman defense of the Gallipoli on the days following the Allies' landings, on 25 April 1915.

Recently promoted Full Colonel at Gallipoli, Kemal writes, **on 20 July 1915**, to a woman friend, Corinne Lütfü, on Muslim promise of heavenly rewards for heroes:

Our life here is truly hellish. Fortunately, my soldiers are very brave and tougher than the enemy. What is more, their private beliefs make it easier to carry out orders which send them to their death. They see only two supernatural outcomes: victory for the faith or martyrdom. Do you know what the second means? It is to go straight to heavens. There, the hours, God's most beautiful women, will meet them and will satisfy their desires for all eternity. What great happiness!

Biographer Andrew Mango hastens to add: "Mustafa Kemal did not associate himself with his men's beliefs."

Mango, *Atatürk*, p. 150.



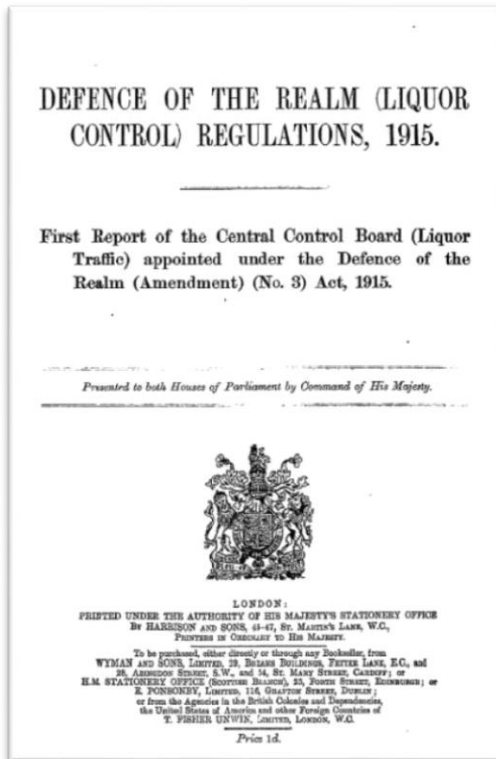
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22 Jul 1915

British Government creates Board of Liquor Control



A tradition of heavy drinking in the British Isles mars the plans for the better exploitation of agriculture in the context of war. With the difficulty of importing grain through the German submarine blockade, the British Government has to face a need to restrict the wasteful production of alcohol. On 22 July 1915, the new Coalition Government enacts an Order in Council for the set-up of the Board of Liquor Control, «empowered to close venues in the chief munitions areas so as not to impede work», as well as many measures to reduce the potency and availability of alcohol.

A strong campaign of publicity encourages better eating instead of drinking. Such organizations as the YMCA promote the Canteen movement for better food availability in the work place. Between 1914 and 1918, alcohol consumption will go down from 89 to 37 million gallons per year, a decline of almost 60%. Generally, the lower classes of the British Isles, including a proportion of soldiers, ate better during the war than previously because of public concern and reduction of alcoholism.

Under the patriotic zeal of the Dominion Alliance, temperance movements and prohibition laws will be instigated in Canada following these impressive British results.

Lloyd George, Memoirs, «The Drink Trouble», Vol. I: p. 322-44.

Graeme Decarie, «Temperance Movement», The Canadian Encyclopedia (Edmonton: Hurtig, 1985).



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23 juillet 1915

La Bulgarie fait l'objet de négociations dures.



Ferdinand I – Tsar of Bulgaria (5 October 1908 – 3 October 1918)

La Bulgarie occupe un espace géographique important pour les deux camps dans la Première Guerre mondiale. Depuis le début de la bataille des Dardanelles le renforcement de la Turquie à partir de l'Allemagne et de l'Autriche-Hongrie est privé des chemins de fer bulgares puisque la Couronne observe une neutralité stricte. Les Alliés de l'Entente voudraient aussi pouvoir aider les Russes en contournant la Turquie par la Grèce, la Bulgarie et la Roumanie.

Sophia devient donc un lieu de diplomatie sérieuse en juillet 1915. Les délégations spéciales des deux côtés promettent au **Roi Ferdinand I** le territoire de la Macédoine qu'il convoite depuis toujours comme récompense d'une alliance. Chacun renchérit de promesses nouvelles pour influencer les politiciens des diverses factions.

Bien que personnellement enclin vers les Allemands, Ferdinand laisse entendre qu'il se tournera vers les vainqueurs pour épargner à son peuple les affres de la guerre qu'ils ont vécues pendant le malheureux conflit des Balkans, en 1913.

Mais des considérations politiques influencent le roi. Il ne croit pas que sa dynastie pourra survivre un refus au Kaiser ou au Tsar s'ils sortent gagnants de cette guerre. Les enchères sont ouvertes au palais royal, et les enjeux sont sérieux. Il ne peut rester beaucoup de temps avant que le roi fasse son choix.

Elinor F.B.Grogan, «Bulgaria», *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Twelfth Edition, 1022, XXX: 516-22.



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24 July 1915

The Smell of Conscription in Montreal

The news of the *National Registration Act* of Great Britain is not received with complete enthusiasm in Canada. In many quarters, the survey of all available individuals for war services looks, smells and sounds too much like full Conscription.

For the last few days, newspapers in Canada have been pondering the possible consequences for Canada of such a law being enacted in Great Britain. Many are nervous about the outcome for the Dominion.

On 23 July 1915, thousands of citizens in Montreal rally at the Lafontaine Park and shout «*Nous ne voulons pas la Conscription!* » This is a first public gathering that will not be followed by other such public outcry for a while, but the message is clear that forced service overseas will not go down easy.

The first evidence of John Bull demands for Empire «solidarity» are met head-on by the French-speaking press in the Province of Québec. Journalists such as Henri Bourassa question if such solidarity has to extend to compulsory war service overseas.

When it comes to solidarity, what was reserved for French-speaking Catholics in Ontario, who could not obtain schools of their own, shows an extent of solidarity that was not forwarded...

That argument will not go dead on its own...



E. H. Armstrong, *The Crisis of Quebec*, 141.

Granatstein & Hitsman, Chap 2: «The Great War: Manpower Problems, 1914-1917», *Broken Promises*, p. 22-104.



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25 July 1915

A submarine net in the Dardanelles



Submarine nets

The Turkish defenses of the Dardanelles Straits have always comprised mines planted at various places so as to stop surface ships and submarines.

But the Strait is deep enough that submarines have been able to come and go through the passage despite strings of mines laid at various depths.

On 24 July 1915, the British submarine E7 commanded by Lieutenant-Commander A.D. Cochrane returning from mission in the Sea of Marmara got temporarily entangled in a new submarine net that the Germans were installing.

«This was a much more formidable obstacle than anything the submarines had encountered before. By the end of July, it was completed—a vast steel mesh of two-and-a-half-inch wire stretching entirely across the straits and reaching 220 feet down to the floor of the channel. A line of buoys painted alternately red and black supported in on the surface, and one end was secured on the peninsula about a mile north of Maidos, the other on a steamer anchored near Abydos on the Asiatic side. Turkish motorboats loaded with bombs patrolled the surface like spiders waiting at the edge of a web. Specially sited guns were set up on either bank. »

Moorehead, Gallipoli, 215.



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26 July 1915

Greece in a tight corner



The intense negotiations going on in Sophia (Bulgaria) are pushing Greece in a tight corner.

With the failure of the Allied attacks in the Dardanelles, the Bulgarians are on the verge of opting for an alliance with the Turks. The entry of Bulgaria on the side of the Central Powers would immediately dedicate her to an attack of Serbia, where the Serbs have been resisting against all odds repeated assaults from the Austrian-Hungarian armies.

The Greeks have a Treaty of mutual defence with Serbia that dates back to the Balkan Wars. But the King is pro-German and the most influential Liberal leader, PM Venizelos, is pro-Entente.

The Allies are now forcing their way into Salonika so as to be in position to defend Serbia. Venizelos supports them, at the risk of creating civil war in Greece.

The whole of the Balkans are watching the Dardanelles. The next few weeks will shift the balance.

Winner will take all...

Barbara Jelavich, History of the Balkans, Vol. 2: Twentieth Century (Cambridge UP, 1982), pp. 106-133.

John Nicolas Mavrogordato, «Greece», Encyclopaedia Britannica, XIIth Ed. (1922), XXXI: 300-10.



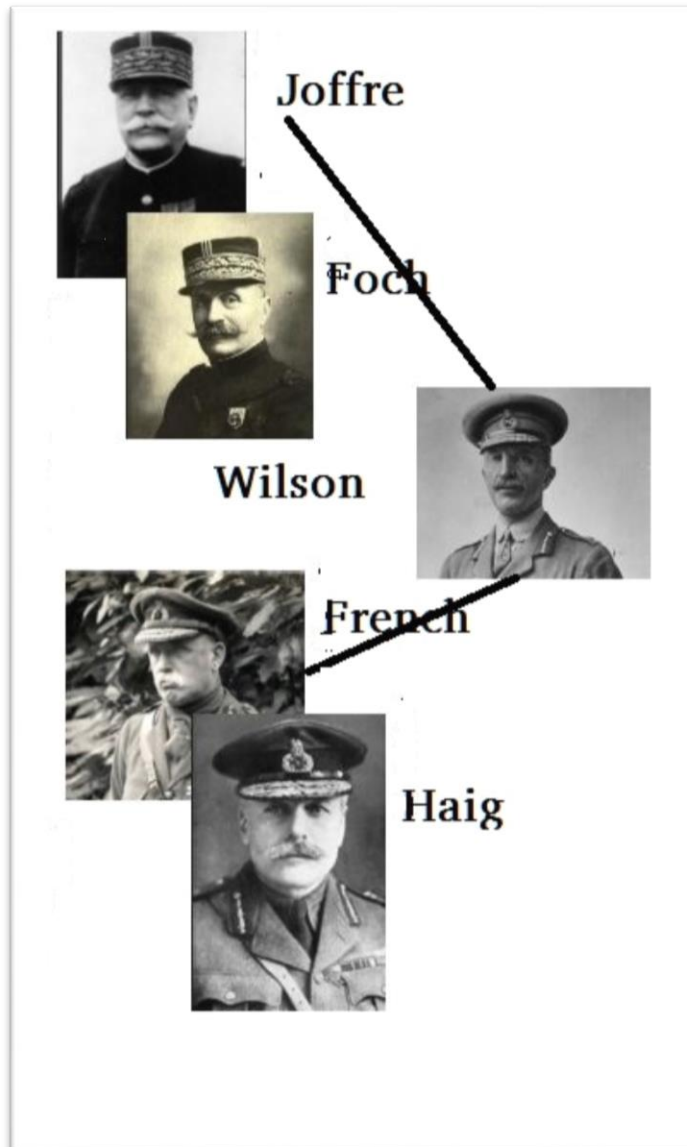
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27 July 1915

Field Marshal French caught in a triangle



Despite the intentions professed at the summit conference of Calais on July 6th, and at the inter-army conference the next day, Joffre will not give up on his idea of renewing the offensive in Artois and Champagne. He believes to be on the cusp of victory.

Joffre wants the British to attack between Lens and La Bassée, once again to pin down German forces to the north of the main French thrust areas (near Arras in Artois).

Field Marechal French has to face his First Army Commander, Douglas Haig, who is adamant that a repetition of the failure that was attempted earlier in the year is foolish.

French is under the direct influence of Foch who supports Joffre, but he attempts to play both to Joffre and to Haig with a double set of plans.

General Henry Wilson is the BEF Liaison Officer with Joffre's HQ. He reveals French's double play to Joffre as well as Haig's reluctance.

There is a bit a tension between the Allies in France, and a bit of tension inside the BEF too...

Haig is getting quite annoyed to see French manipulated by the French.

Liddell Hart, Man of Orleans, I: 204; First World War, Chap 5



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28 July 1915

Premier usage des lance-flamme



Les Allemands introduisent le lance-flamme près du chemin Menin, à Ypres.

Ils ne seront pas utilisés fréquemment, de sorte que leur ré-apparition pour la bataille de Verdun, en février 1916, constituera encore une surprise.

Les Flammenwerfer deviendront dès lors la signature des Sturmabteilung (Storm Troops).

Major-General Sir John Humphrey Davidson, KCMG, CB, DSO, MP, "ARTOIS, The Battles in", Encyclopedia Britannica, 12th edition (1922), Vol. 30, pp. 271-81.



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29 July 1915

Le colonel Hankey visite Gallipoli



Le Secrétaire du Cabinet Britannique, le Colonel Maurice Hankey, a reçu la mission directement de son premier ministre de visiter les Dardanelles et de lui faire des rapports hautement confidentiels sur ce qu'il peut voir et comprendre de ce qui s'y passe.

Le 28 juillet 1915, Hankey écrit deux lettres à bord du navire HMS Exmouth : une au premier ministre Asquith, où il fait état de ses premiers contacts avec les amiraux et généraux, ainsi que d'une visite qu'il a faite du secteur du Corps Australien et Néo-Zélandais (ANZAC), qui l'impressionne.

La deuxième lettre non moins confidentielle est à son épouse, pour qu'elle la garde pour son retour. La lettre au premier ministre doit être circulée aux autres ministres, mais la lettre qui va à son épouse lui servira à ajouter des détails pour l'informer verbalement de sujets qui pourraient donner l'impression aux autres que sa mission en est une d'espionnage...

Hankey, Supreme Command, p. 378-80;
Roskill, Hankey, I:194-5.



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30 July 1915

Minister of Munitions speaks at mining conference



David Lloyd George, Welsh lawyer and politician

The Minister of the new Department of Munitions is adamant that there cannot be “business as usual” in industry when the British Empire has to face the urgent requirements for material to win the war.

David Lloyd George is a brilliant politician from Wales, a coal-rich area where he honed his skills as a lawyer. He is also a fulgurant orator, considered among the very best in British politics. On 30 July 1915, he stirs emotions at a conference of mining industry. When soldiers are being killed by the thousand, how can one deny the wholehearted support of all classes, capitalists, industrialists, managers and workers he argues.

But the cold facts are not lost on his quick intelligence:

Clemenceau one said that there was no difficulty in inducing Frenchmen to give their lives for their country, but they would not give their money. This is not to be wondered at when we remember that in actual fact the first of patriotism are too often quenched when they come up against the cool waters of ‘business’. Trade unionists flocked to the stand of their country when volunteers were called for to face death, but I was told that men at the front, daily confronted with death and needing shells to protect and defend themselves, wrote home to their fellow trade unionists entreating them not to surrender any of the privileges of their craft, although strict adherence to these privileges was impeding the supply of the munitions they so sadly needed. The war-time profiteers were not infrequently brothers or fathers of those who suffered and died at the front, and with altered circumstances might have shown equal self-sacrifice. But unhappily for sentiment, when you come to business matters you discover that business is business, and admits of no divided loyalties. Our statesmen more recently have rediscovered this truism at Ottawa.

Lloyd George, David. War Memoirs of David Lloyd George, Vol. 1: pp. 308-309.



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31 Jul 1915

Pope Benedict XV sides with no one



Pope Benedict XV

Cardinal Chiesa was elected Pope after the death of Pius X. At the age of 59 he was selected by other Cardinals on 10 September 1914, for a stand that he had taken in trying to influence the Holy See toward observing strict neutrality: *not of indifference, but of impartiality, while leaving nothing undone to restore peace and good-will and to mitigate suffering.*

His stance was a courageous one. Many of the Cardinals were inclined to support Austria.

On 30 July 1915, he issued a declaration promising to devote all his energies for the return of peace, and offering the Holy See as a place for exchange of views between the parties involved in the war.

He included in his Apostolic Benediction those 'not yet belonging to the Roman Church'.

«Benedict XV», Encyclopaedia Britannica, Twelfth Ed., 1922, XXX: 448.

Gleichen, Chronology of the Great War (Published in three books in 1988-1920, Republished in one Book Greenhill Books, 1988; Paperback L. Leventhal, 2000).



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