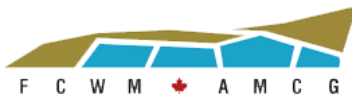
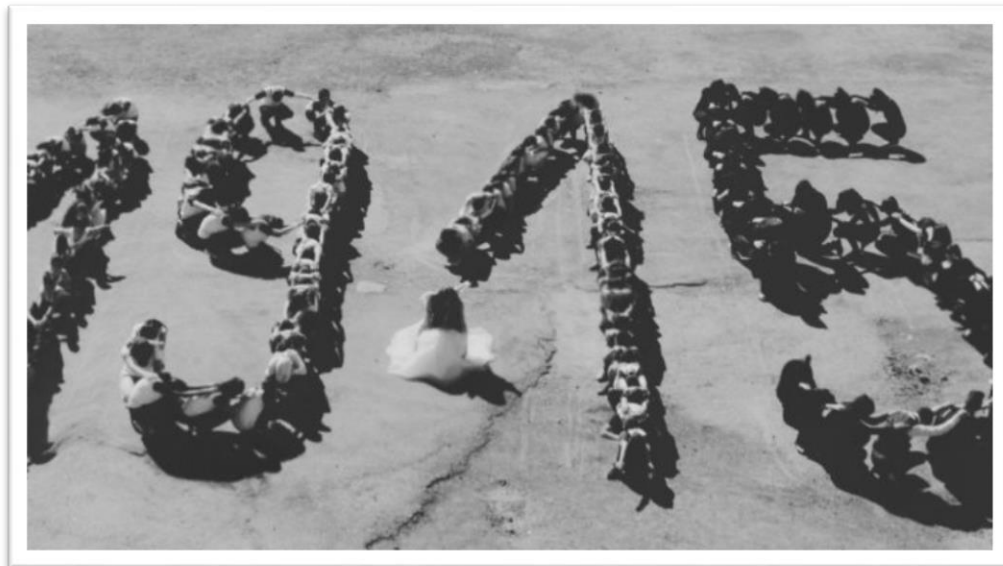


World War I
Day by Day
1915 – 1918

August 1915 / août 1915

La première guerre mondiale
De jour en jour
1915 – 1918



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

1 août 1915

Le Front Est – La prise de Lublin et Chelm

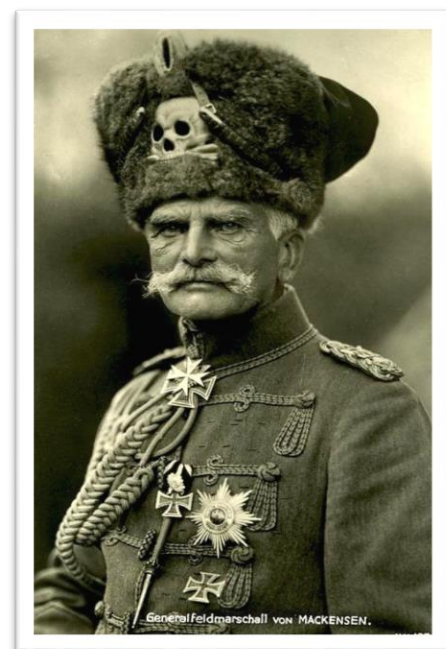


Lublin. 1915.

La lancée de Mackensen vers Varsovie: Les forces allemandes ont déjà repoussé les armées russes de Lemberg, en mai.

Le 31 juillet 1915, elles entrent dans les villes de **Lublin** et **Chelm** (Cholm) sans s'arrêter, dans l'intention de saisir le saillant de Varsovie de la même foulée, dans les prochains jours.

Les Russes décrochent comme ils peuvent. Leurs matériel, provisions et munitions sont écoulées.



August Mackensen, German field marshal

Crutwell, History of the Great War, (Oxford: Clarendon, 1934, 2nd Ed., 2nd Rpt, 1969), Chap 9 «The Retreat of Russia», p. 171-86.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

2 August 1915

Greater Syria under Ottoman authority



Jamal Pasha in Syria

The Ottoman administration of Jamal Pasha in Greater Syria is marred by the dismal failure of his operations against Egypt, and the draconian decisions to prosecute and execute or deport Syrians and Lebanese for their pre-war connection with France.

Jamal Pasha becomes known as the « Blood Shedder» by the locals, unimpressed by his lack of success as a commander and by his injustice as an administrator.

Eleven notables known for their pre-war legitimate political activities with the Decentralization Party are hanged in Beirut. Jama will have 21 more hanged in May 1916, in addition to the deportations.

These injustices will become associated to the anti-CUP Arab Revolt's cause, and the victims will become heroes of Arabism.

However, his tight grip on Syrian élite prevented the Arab Revolt from initiating within Greater Syria.

William L. Cleveland, History of the Modern Middle East, (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1994), p. 145-7.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

3 August 1915

German Divisions in Europe

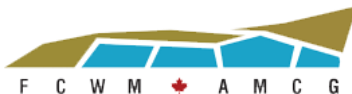


A painting of a German Division in Europe

In August 1915, the German Army has 172 divisions:

- 104 in France;
- 67 on the Eastern Front
- 1 in Italy

3.5 million men



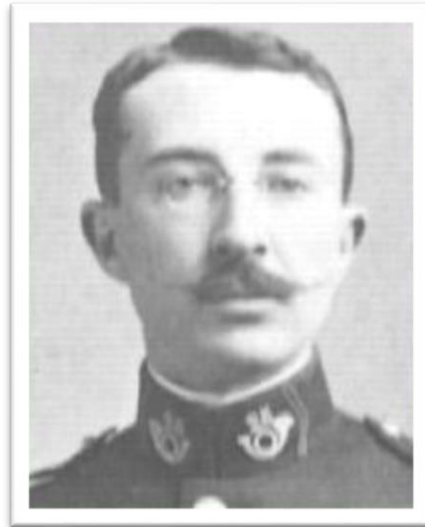
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

4 August 1915

Capitaine Laffargue's treatise on the infantry attack



Capitaine Laffargue offers a new French doctrine for the attack

French Captain André Laffargue's *Étude sur l'Attaque dans la période actuelle de la Guerre* comes out in August 1915.

Laffargue's book, inspired by German advances in *Strosstruppen* (Shock troops), is immediately officialized by General Joffre as 'doctrine d'infanterie' for the conduct of trench raids.

Laffargue proves much stiffer in approach than the Germans and still controls tightly the small bodies of attacking troops who go forward in 'lines of fire'. But the use of artillery is of interest and introduces the notion of protective barrages to isolate operation area.

The translation of the book, ***The Attack in Trench Warfare***, does not have much effect in Britain. British generals are convinced that untrained troops could not operate so loosely on the battlefield. The proportion of well-trained soldiers is much lower in British ranks than in German or French units as compulsory service did not exist in the British Empire before the war, as it did on the continent. The vast majority of British non-regular infantrymen are completely new to the job, especially those in the New Armies, who benefit from very little time in tactical training.

This emerges at a time when the Germans are already making strides in ***Strosstruppen*** action.

English and Gudmundsson, *On Infantry* (Revised Ed., Praeger, 1994), Chap 1: «The Open Order Revolution».
<https://archive.org/stream/attackintrenchw00laffgoog#page/n0/mode/2up>



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

5 August 1915

The Fall of Warsaw



Troops on the streets in Warsaw

The German and Austro-Hungarian advances in Poland under the joint command of German Field Marshal August von Mackensen are crowned with success. On August 4th, the fortress falls, and on 5 August 1915, the city of Warsaw itself surrenders.

For the German Government, the fall of Warsaw is a moment in diplomacy. The Central Powers offer Russia a 'cheap peace,' with the understanding that there would not be further incursions into Russian territory. Otherwise, the only peace to be offered, after a conquest such that Russia would not remain integral, would be a 'dictated peace'.

Tsar Nicholas refuses to consider the loss of Warsaw as a blow such as to convince him that Russia is in jeopardy as a nation. He vows to continue fighting the Central Powers and prevail in reconquest.

German politicians such as Prime Minister Bethman Hollweg saw the prospect of giving Russia a 'cheap peace' as a good deal, allowing a concentration of force against the Western Front.

But after this refusal, there will be no holds barred.

Fritz Fisher, [Germany's Aims in the First World War](#) (New York: Norton, 1967), «The Tsar's 'No' and the Advance in the East: East and West Again», p. 198-201.



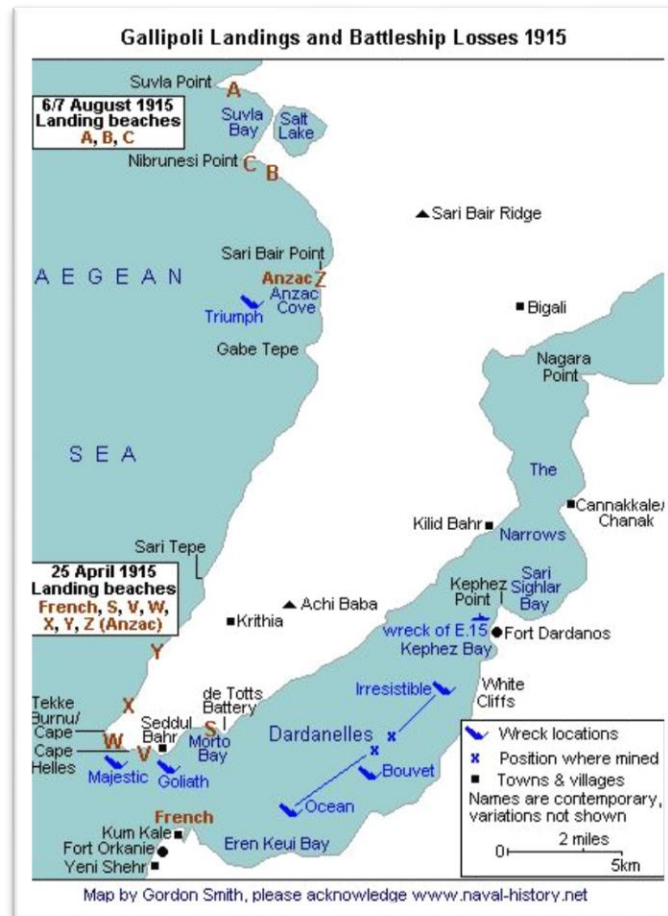
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

6 August 1915

Suvla Bay Landing



The Suvla Bay Operations

With the tension produced by the situation in the Balkans, the Allied forces in the Dardanelles were forced into an all-out attack to finish the job.

A new point of entry into Gallipoli, to the north of the previous landing beaches, at Suvla Bay, was used to introduce a new Army Corps into the battle in view of seizing the heights at the top of the peninsula and cutting the Turkish forces from their lines of communications.

But the landing at Suvla, on 6 August 1915, with its night marches up the steep hills of Sari Bair Ridge, although supported by strong deception to the south, was too much for the inexperienced New Army troops. Their linking with the ANZACs failed and they were stranded and remorselessly defeated by the surprised but very well led Turks.

R.R. James, *Gallipoli*, Chap 11-«The Fight for Sari Bair», 261-302.
http://www.historyofwar.org/Maps/maps_gallipoli3.htm



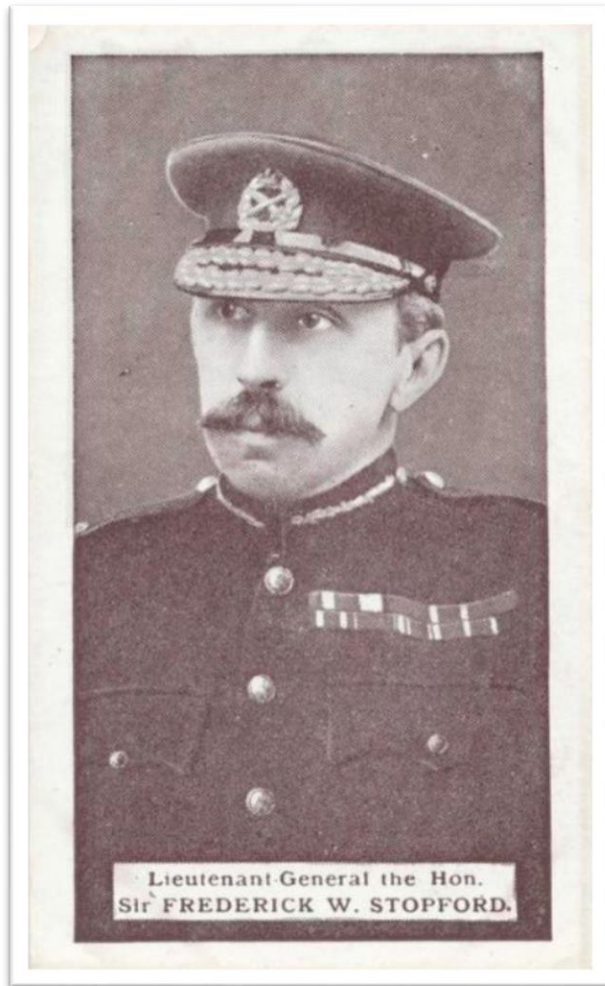
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

7 August 1915

The Stopford Moment



Lieutenant General Sir the Hon. Frederick
«Stop for Tea» Stopford, KCMG, KCVO

The landing at Suvla Bay at dusk, on the 6th of August, did not go as the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, General Ian Hamilton, had expected. IX Corps under the command of General Frederick Stopford took a somewhat leisurely approach to the operation. This was due to the fact that Stopford had been convinced by his Chief of Staff, Brig.-Gen H.L. Reed, VC, that, as had been proven repeatedly in France, trenches could not be taken without the support of howitzers. Stopford had therefore resolved that he would wait for the landing of his artillery, on the next day, 7 August 1915, to push inland.

This was his fatal mistake.

His operation was to be a raid – a full Corps raid – in which surprise and speed was everything. His divisions were to rush up the Sari Bair Ridge and attack a small force of Turks, –three battalions–, at night, before it could be reinforced, then link with the main attack on the right carried out by the Anzac and dominate the peninsula with observation and fire from these heights.

Stopford's mistake was fundamentally induced by his lack of confidence in his New Army troops.

He was known henceforth as «Stop for Tea» Stopford.

MGen Sir Charles E. Callwell, KCB, «Dardanelles Campaign», *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Twelfth Ed., 1922, XXX:798-808.

Moorehead, *Gallipoli*, passim, 272-7. •R.R. James, *Gallipoli*, Chap 11.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

8 août 1915

Les opérations de Gallipoli



le général Alexander Godley

Sur trois plages dont la troisième est un nouveau lieu de débarquement. À Helles, au sud, et à la baie des Anzac, à l'ouest, les forces en place tentent à nouveau de monter sur les crêtes qui se dressent devant eux, avec leurs crevasses et falaises habilement défendues par les Turcs.

Au nord, le IX Corps arrive d'Angleterre comme renfort et débarque dans la baie de Suvla, un endroit qui n'a pas encore été attaqué par les forces alliées. Ils surprennent les Turcs, dont les renforts sont à 30 heures de marche.

Mais le **général Alexander Godley**, qui a la direction opérationnelle des trois Corps impliqués dans cette bataille, néglige de cordonner les plans des trois plages. Il se tient au milieu avec ses Néo-Zélandais, en espérant que le IXe Corps va rejoindre les siens sur les hauteurs, et déjouer les Turcs du promontoire qui leur donne le contrôle de la péninsule.

Tout va mal dans cette affaire, et en particulier le rôle joué dans le nord, où la progression trop lente des nouveaux arrivés donne au général allemand von Sanders, commandant des Turcs, le temps d'amener ses réserves juste à temps. Les Alliés subissent 18,000 pertes, sans compter 22,000 évacués pour maladie.

James, Gallipoli, Chap. 10 et 11.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

9 August 1915

Enters Mustafa Kemal



Colonel Mustafa Kemal charged with the defense of Chunuk Bair

General Liman von Sanders is hard pressed to send reinforcements to the heights of the Sari Bair range, now that he knows that a strong landing has taken place in Suvla Bay. He cannot withdraw troops already engaged in the Anzac bay beachhead or at Helles where constant pressure is continuing night and day. Sanders knows that he has very little time to intercept the climbing of the British troops before they reach and gain the weakly defended top, the vital point of the whole defence. His reinforcements have to come from the rear, from Bulair and from the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles.

When Feisi Pasha, the commander of the Bulair forces, which have been marching on the double for more than a day, arrives, in the middle of the night, he begs von Sanders to give a rest to his troops before committing them to battle. Von Sanders fires him on the spot. He gives command to Colonel Mustafa Kemal, a martinet of superb authority.

Just before sunrise of 9 August 1915, Kemal takes the terrible gamble, carrying the ultimate hope of the defenders, to rush down the mountain face with his troops and attempt a silent attack with bayonets on the British division, collapsed by the fighting and the night climbing. The moment is perfect.

Thus, did Atatürk, the Father of the Turk, become immortal.



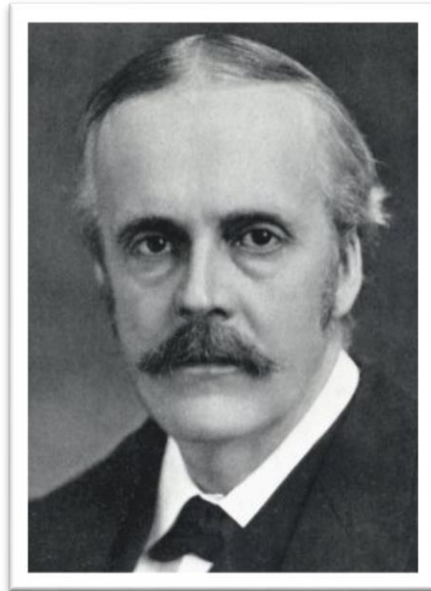
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

10 August 1915

What to do about Zeppelin Raids?



Arthur Balfour, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (1902 – 1905)

The Germans have been conducting Zeppelin bombing raids over England with mitigated success during 1915.

The reasons for the shortcomings of these raids are that blackouts are being enforced at night and no information is published about their results. The Germans can therefore not have feedback on what they have accomplished.

But the advantage for them is that they can say anything in the Press about their tremendous success without it being contradicted.

Arthur Balfour, the former Conservative Prime Minister who replaced Winston Churchill at the Admiralty, opposes this stance. He believes that the German propaganda should be contradicted by the facts exposed, that none of the terrible results described in the German press have actually happened.

There is controversy about the real advantages of this policy. To who's advantage would it be if the real results of these raids were known?

The real solution to the German raids is to get ground artillery and fighter aircraft to develop so as to be able to effectively attack these craft at their high altitude.

The challenge is there. Many minds are pouring over it.

The TIMES History of the War, X:24-6.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

11 août 2015

La Deuxième Division canadienne



Deuxième Division canadienne

L'entraînement de la Deuxième Division canadienne se poursuit en Angleterre.

Cette fois-ci, une unité canadienne française en fait partie.

Le premier contingent avait une compagnie française dans son 14e Bataillon.

Le 22e Bataillon est maintenant une unité francophone.

En fait, à l'été 1915, 4,000 francophones sont enrôlés dans le Corps expéditionnaire.

Les 41e, 57e et 69e Bataillons, toujours au Canada, cherchent à les embrigader.



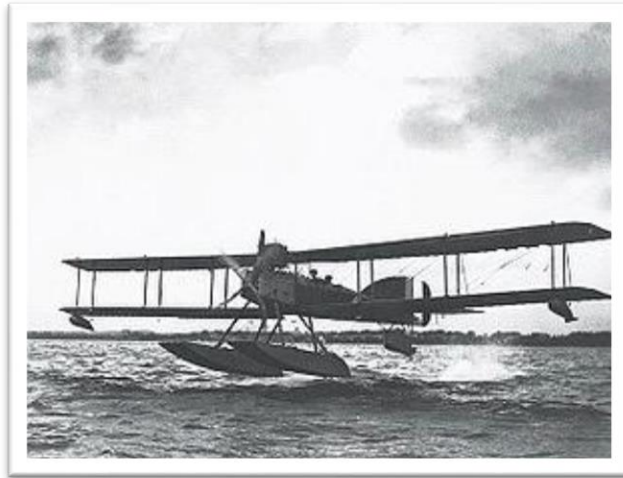
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

12 August 1915

The Torpedo Plane Takes Flight



Aircraft Torpedoes ship – A First

On August 12, 1915, a Short Type 184 piloted by Flight Commander Charles H. K. Edmonds from HMS Ben-my-Chree operating in the Aegean Sea sank a Turkish supply ship in the Sea of Marmara.

Basil Liddell Hart claims that this flight gained the distinction of being the first to torpedo a ship.

Five days later Edmonds sank a Turkish steamship.

His formation mate Flight Lieutenant G. B. Dacre sank a Turkish tugboat after being forced to land on the water with engine trouble.

Dacre taxied toward the tugboat, released his torpedo and was then able to take off and return to Ben-My-Chree.

Liddell Hart, [History of the First World War](#), p. 359.
<http://wwiaviation.blogspot.ca/2011/06/torpedo-bombers-1917-1918.html>



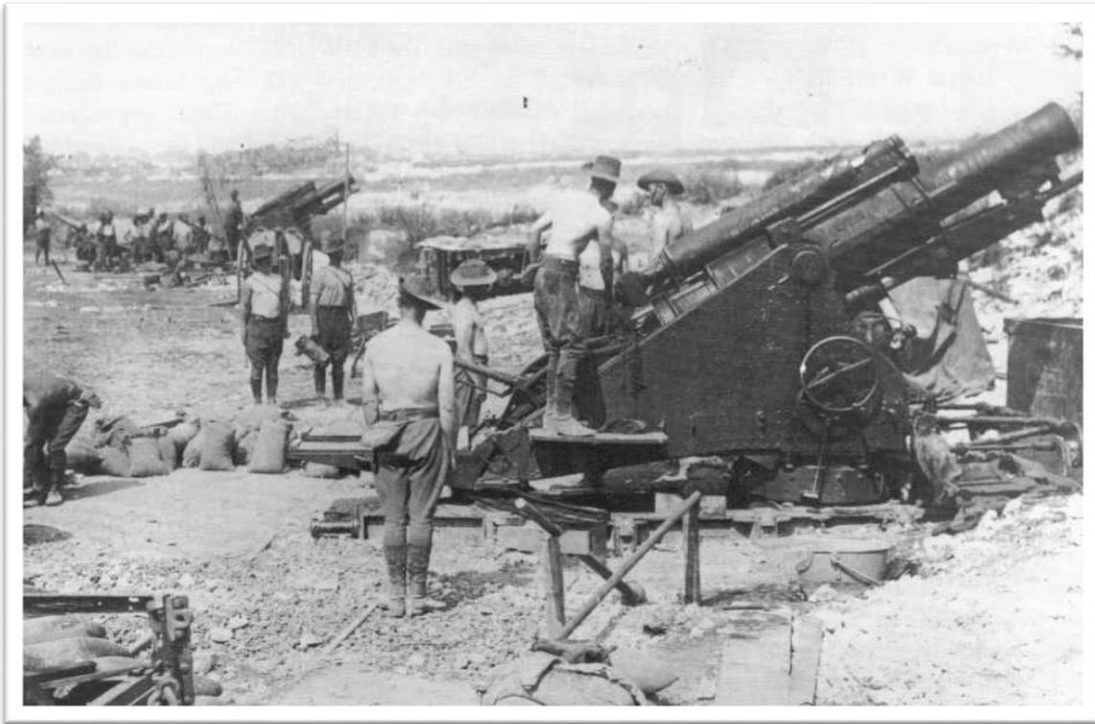
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

13 August 1915

The British Big Gun Program (1)



Lloyd George's Big Gun Program: A Howitzer in action

Following his all-important meeting of Boulogne, in June, the first meeting held since the beginning of the war to review, with combatant artillerists, the needs in production at the Ministry of Munitions, and the orders put forward by the War Office on the strength of this unwanted meeting, **Lloyd George** decides to increase all plans of production into a « Big Gun Program » that will, to his view, respond to the real needs of the situation better than the soldiers themselves know.

From this day, he aims to expand the Munitions and Guns industry beyond all plans.

Lloyd George, Memoirs, Vol. II, pp. 556-65 (Follow tomorrow)

Picture Wikipedia, 9.2-inch British howitzers produced by the Big Gun program in use during the Battle of the Somme, in 1916.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

14 August 1915

The British Big Gun Program (2)



Lloyd George's Big Gun Program

Lloyd George challenges Kitchener and takes his debate to Cabinet.

Kitchener could not accept that his figures were challenged and would not train additional artillery experts to serve the excessive guns.

Asquith created a committee to review the matter (Lord Crewe).

LG dismissed the committee and went on with the program. He insisted that any surplus guns and ammunitions would be sent to the Russians, in British calibers.

In the end, the Big Gun Program proved insufficient to British needs, but infrastructure created?

And yes, in November 1916, CIGS Robertson and C-in-C Haig were calling for even more big guns and ammunitions [564].

David Lloyd George, Memoirs, Vol. II, pp. 556-65. •Photo Wikipedia, British 15-inch howitzer.



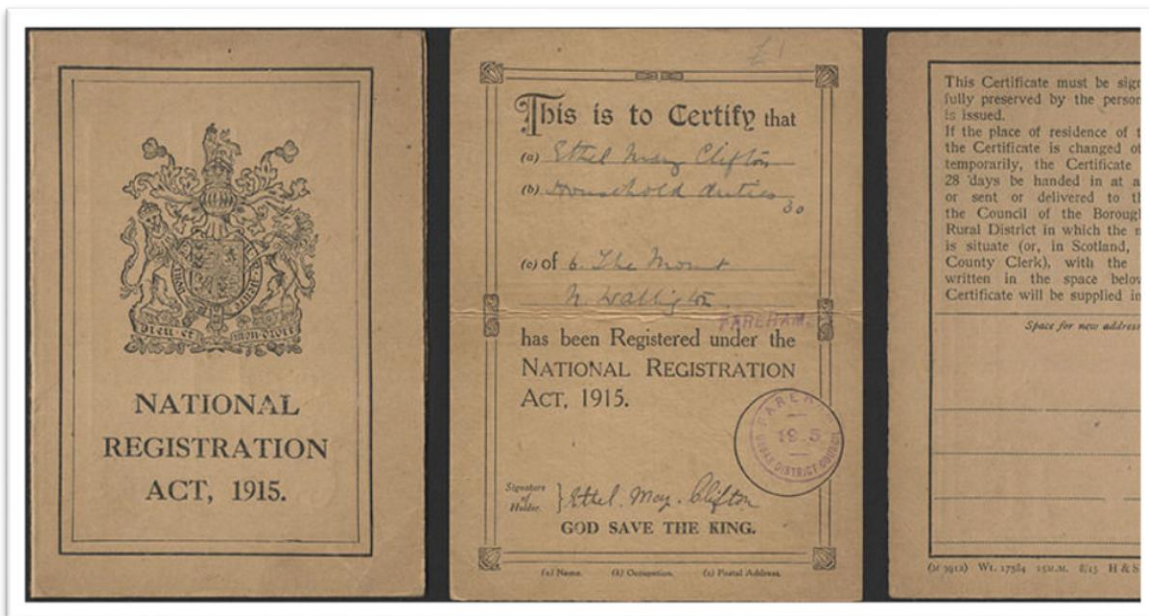
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

15 août 2015

Le registre canadien pour la main d'œuvres de guerre



Le Registre national du Canada

Le Premier ministre canadien Robert L. Borden a été influencé par la *Loi sur le Registre du Royaume Uni*, passée le 15 juillet 1915.

Le 15 août 1915, son Gouvernement décrète, par le passage d'un Ordre-en-Conseil, que le Canada lui aussi va créer son Registre National du Canada pour se donner une idée des ressources en main d'œuvres disponibles pour les activités de guerre.

Un recensement pour tous les hommes de 18 à 45 ans leur demande de faire état de leur occupation, des circonstances familiales et de leur condition personnelle pour un service national.

Cette information est vouée à l'établissement de plans à long terme en vue d'une industrie de guerre et pour les services armés.

Ce registre est accompagnée par une carte d'identité que chacun doit porter avec lui.

Comme on l'a vu lors du passage de la loi britannique, beaucoup de Canadiens s'opposent à une Conscription dont ils voient dans Le Registre national les signes avant-coureurs.

Bill Twatio, «The Conscription Crisis – The Threat of the Military Service Act and Prohibition hangs over a divided Canada.» *Esprit de Corps*, in three parts: 11:6 (mai 2004); 11:7 (juin 2004); 11:8 (juillet 2004).



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

16 August 1915

The Kitchener-Joffre Friendship



Kitchener (2nd from left) visits Joffre (3rd from left)

Joffre has sent Kitchener an invitation to visit the French Army. On **16 August 1915**, Kitchener is given all honours as a guest of the French Army.

Joffre and Foch then undertake to convince him that FM John French, the commander in chief of the BEF, must give his all in a forthcoming offensive in Artois and Champagne despite the few results of a similar offensive in May.

Gen Henry Wilson, the British Liaison Officer with Joffre, is hard at work with Kitchener, supporting the French army point of view.

Kitchener will see Sir John to discuss the objections that are raised on the British side, in particular by Haig. He will insure that Joffre gets to direct operations, even if the losses are heavy, in view of forcing a common front. Kitchener, despite the fact that he is not a Westerner, acts here as one...

This is the visit at which Kitchener asked Haig to report direct to him behind the back of French. The King has also asked previously for the same. Both have lost confidence in French.

Liddell Hart, *Man of Orleans*, I:204.
Magnus, *Kitchener*, 412.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

17 August 1915

Major General Richard Turner, VC, Takes 2 Canadian Div.



Lieutenant General Sir Richard Ernest William Turner, senior Canadian officer

The Second Contingent has been in the hands of BGen Steele or its period of training at Shorncliffe, in England. But the decision to form a Canadian Corps calls for the nomination of a corps commander and two division commanders.

Views vary widely as to who should be promoted or appointed to these prestigious posts, heavy with responsibilities for operational decision-making. Many believe that Canadians do not have enough experience for these posts and that British officers should be appointed.

The Minister of National Defense, however, is adamant that Canadians are better fitted to command Canadians than Brits. He wants a corps commander and two division commanders from the ranks of Canadians.

On 17 August 1915, he gets one wish. A man that he admires is appointed Second Division Commander. Richard Turner won a Victoria Cross in the Second Boer War. He is a respected senior officer with experience, and few challenges the appointment. He thus becomes the senior Canadian Major General. But who will get First Div.? Who will command the Canadian Corps? Rumors are abuzz...

Major John R. Grodzinski, « We Few, We Happy Few...: Canadian Generalship in the First World War », Canadian Military Review, 7:3 (Autumn 2006), p. 82.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

18 August 1915

A wave of Anglophobia in the Reichstag



Cardinal Bégin

The lack of political success in getting Russia to accept a separate peace in the East, despite the great military successes of the last months in Poland, unleashes an explosion of Anglophobia in the Reichstag.

The uproar is led by the German Chancellor, Bethmann Hollweg, on 18 August 1915, in a resounding speech.

Bitter that Britain did not keep 'unconditional' neutrality in the conflict, he unleashes at the dreadful balance of power that Britain has played for centuries in the continent.

German opinion, he says, looks at Britain as:

the most audacious, the slyest and the most dangerous enemy.

Fritz Fischer, Germany's Aims in the First World War, (New York: W.W. Norton, (1961),1967) p. 200].



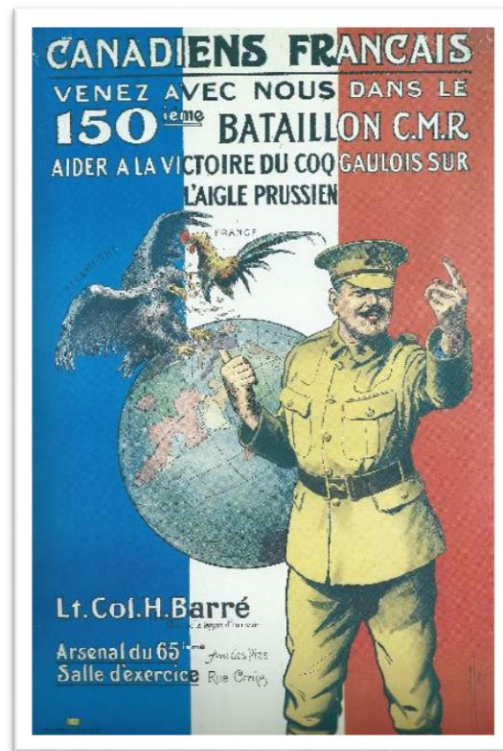
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

19 August 1915

Rumblings of feud in Canada



The National Register

Already in mid-July, the enactment of the British law for the creation of a national register of manpower in the United Kingdom had ignited fears in Canada that measures of Conscription were being considered secretly by the Federal Government. Montreal then saw its first public manifestation of opposition to such measures.

But other quarters in Canada agreed profoundly in setting up a system of compulsory service overseas to support Imperial war policy.

The specter of division is already raising its ugly head in newspapers. And the 1912 Ontario law on French schools has kept the embers of religious strife warm enough to ignite any fuel.

On 19 August 1915, the Toronto News is quoted in Montreal's La Presse with the following brûlot:

It is true, we believe, that the French ecclesiastics oppose recruiting in Quebec... Since the war began they have written only another chapter in the long conspiracy to dominate Canada.¹

¹ J.L. Granatstein and J.M. Hitsman, *Broken Promises: A History of Conscription in Canada*, 27.



20 August 1915

Newfoundland Regiment sails for Gallipoli



The symbol of the 1st Newfoundland Regiment

The Newfoundland Regiment was stationed in Ayr, Scotland, since it arrived in Great Britain with the First Canadian Contingent, in October 1914.

The 'Blue Putties' therefore did not train with the First Division at Aldershot and were quite happy to be distinguished from the rowdier Canadians. As the oldest British colony, Newfoundland was, in the eyes of the beholders, a Tudorian pearl in the Crown.

On 20 August 1915, the First Newfoundland Regiment embarked with 34 officers and 1042 troops from Aldershot (Davenport) for the Dardanelles. When it left England, the Regiment was honored to be slated to join a Regular Division. The 29th British Division comprised three brigades, the 86th, 87th, and 88th. 88th Brigade's four battalions were: The 4th Worcestershire Regt; 2nd Hampshire Regt, 1st Essex Regt and 5th Royal Scots (Territorial).

It was fate that married the Newfies with «The Incomparable Division», and their arrival at Suvla Bay was seen by the crusty Regulars as a draft of 'civilians'.

The Newfies would definitely have to prove themselves.

Middlebrook, The First Day on the Somme, (Penguin/Trafalgar Square, 1971), pp. 21-2, 26-7.



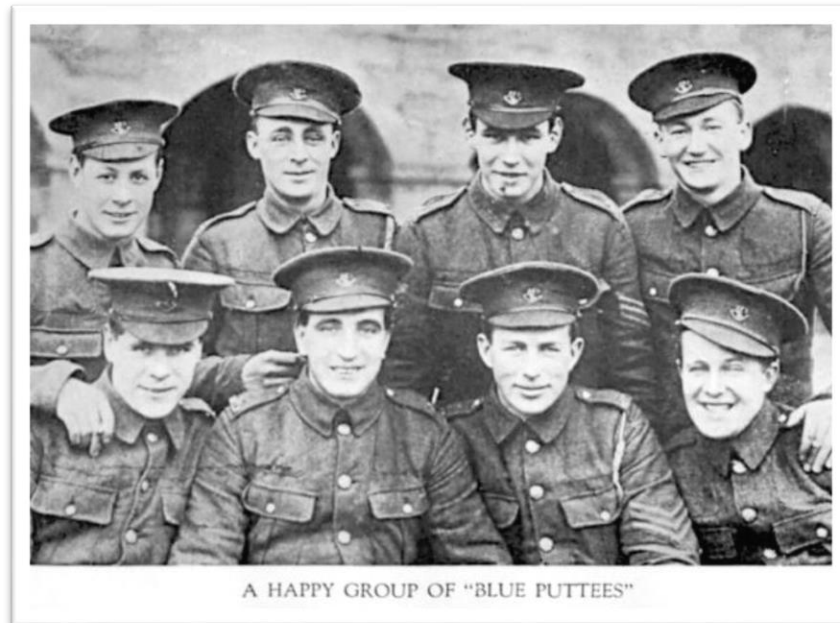
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

21 August 1915

The Newfoundland Regiment's place under the sun



The first 500 Newfoundlanders in the British Order of Battle wore non-standard leg gear they wore due to a shortage of khaki fabric on the island and became known as the Blue Puttees

How the «Blue Puttees» came to belong to the 29th British Division, known as «The Incomparable Division».

Of the twelve battalions in the division's three brigades, six had returned from service in India, three from Burma, and one each from China and Mauritius. In the absence of a twelfth regular battalion to complete the order of battle, the 1st Battalion, 5th Royal Scots, an Edinburgh Territorial unit, was selected to fill the gap.

The experiment was successful. Carefully groomed by the divisional commander, MGen Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston, and his successor in June, MGen Sir Beauvoir de Lisle, the Scots were not long in taking their place on an equal footing with the veteran battalions of the 88th Brigade. Unfortunately, the Edinburgh unit received no reinforcing drafts to make good its heavy losses in the early fighting in Gallipoli, and its numbers became too depleted for it to function effectively at the front. At the end of July, a decision was taken to replace the Royal Scots with the Newfoundland Regiment. Thus it was that the Newfoundlanders, assigned to the 88th Brigade under the command of BGen D.E. Cayley, found themselves the only non-regular battalion in a division of veteran troops.

Nicholson, Fighting Newfoundlander (1964), 168-9



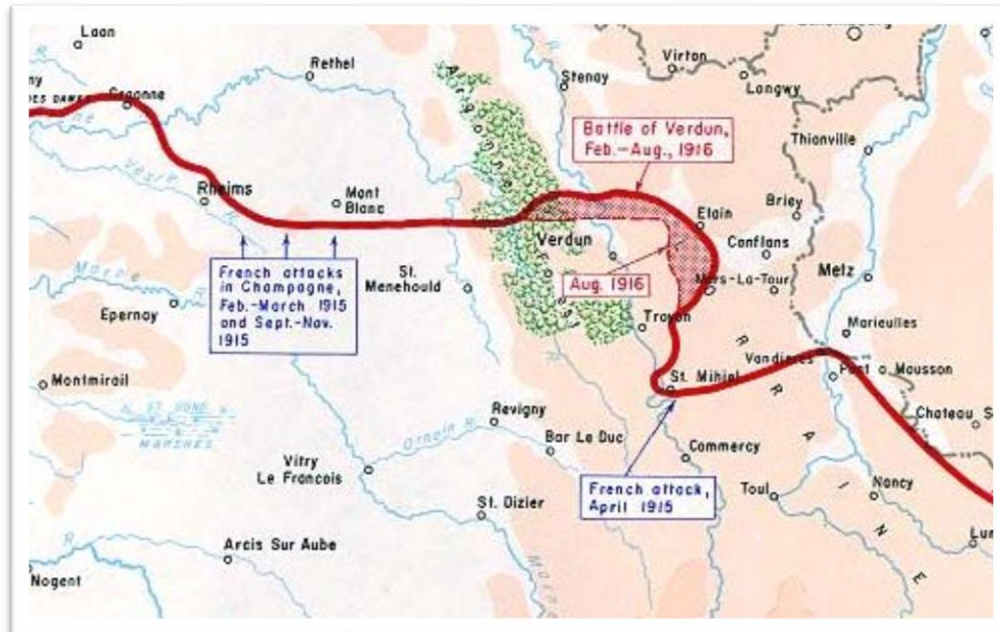
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

22 août 2015

Le général Kitchener et la campagne de Champagne



L'influence de Joffre à Londres

Le maréchal Kitchener, de retour de sa visite en France, annonce au Cabinet britannique, le 21 août 1915, qu'il supporte les plans du général Joffre d'une autre offensive en Champagne qui doit commencer la troisième semaine de septembre.

Il a ramené à Londres avec lui le maréchal French, qui supporte l'idée.

Bien que tous les deux aient des doutes sur les résultats à escompter, ils sont convaincus par les arguments de Joffre qu'une telle offensive est le seul vrai moyen de venir en aide aux Russes qui sont en retraite sur tout le front est. Le Tsar a courageusement refusé de signer un armistice distincte après la perte récente des grandes villes polonaises.

Le Cabinet s'incline, plein de craintes et d'objections sérieuses. Il s'agit d'une décision extrêmement difficile, dont plusieurs grands acteurs se dissocieront dans leurs Mémoires.

Lloyd George, Memoirs, Chap 16: «The Futile Allied offensives on the Western Front», 1:484-8.



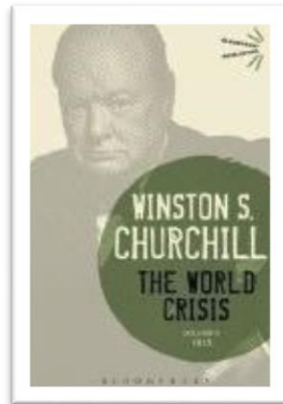
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

23 août 2015

Churchill et Kitchener: Le Feu et l'Eau



Le récit de Winston Churchill sur la Première Guerre mondiale

Winston Churchill, Kitchener et la décision de la campagne de Champagne: Winston Churchill n'occupe plus un poste de ministre important au sein du Cabinet. Il est conseiller du Premier ministre Asquith, qui l'a gardé près de lui après sa déchéance. Pourtant lorsque Kitchener lui annonce en privé qu'il a donné son accord pour une participation britannique au plans de Joffre pour l'automne, Churchill se cabre et implore Kitchener de reconsidérer sa décision. Leurs positions sont comme le Feu et l'Eau.

Pourtant Churchill se rend compte, tout comme Kitchener, que l'Alliance entre la France et la Grande Bretagne sera considérablement endommagée si l'Armée anglaise ne supporte pas l'initiative de Joffre, tout aussi désespérée qu'elle soit. C'est le Feu qui fait bouillir l'Eau.

Churchill avoue ainsi, dans ses Mémoires,

J'ai été obligé d'admettre que si les Français, après avoir entendu ce que nous avons à dire, persistaient dans leurs intentions, nous devrions évidemment nous y conformer.

Mais il ajoute:

J'ai bien vu que nous étions confrontés à la ruine de la campagne autant de l'Est que de l'Ouest.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

24 August 1915

Canadian Overseas Railway Construction Corps (CORCC) arrives in France



Canadian Railway Construction badge

In the spring of 1915, the War Office requested the Canadian Government to send over two Railway Construction Companies. These, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company undertook to organize at the request of the Department of Militia and Defense with the result that the Canadian Overseas Railway Construction Corps (CORCC) proceeded to France in August 1915.

This Unit was made up of 500 picked men from the construction

gangs of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Each man before enlisting was required to pass a test as to his technical ability before he joined the unit, which was the pioneer Canadian Railway Construction Unit in France.

They were first used for building 60-cm gauge railroads and bunkers in Belgium. Innovations were also made in the development of 9-pound rails with 2-foot gauge, for horse-drawn or small gas-engine movement of loads along front lines. Railway cars on these small tracks could carry 10 tons when trucks could take a max of 3 tons.

Major George Jager, Major George, «Sinews of Steel: Canadian Railway troops on the Western Front, 1914-1918», Canadian Army Journal, Vol. 11:3 (Fall 2007), pp. 66-79.

Report of the Ministry Overseas Forces of Canada, 1918, (London, Printed by Authority of the Ministry Overseas Military Forces of Canada). http://www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp/his/docs/OVERSEAS_report1918_E.pdf



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

25 August 1915

Gallipoli – The smell of defeat



An Australian carrying his wounded mate down to a medical post on Walkers Ridge in Gallipoli

Four months after the initial landing on Gallipoli and in the wake of the August battles on which so much hope had been invested, not only by the Allies, but by the still uncommitted countries who wanted to join the victors, the prospect is now bleak.

«In August, 43,553 men had been evacuated, of whom 12,968 were suffering from dysentery; the 1st Australian Division, which had landed 13,300 strong and received reinforcing drafts of 7,700 men, was now reduced to a total of 8,500; the evacuation rate for sick alone was 1.7 % at Suvla, 5.1 % at Helles and 7.5 % at Anzac.»¹

General Hamilton is now asking for 95,000 more troops to be added to his MEF, but FM Kitchener has now committed to a large BEF operation in the fall in France. Men and munitions will have to be shared between the two fronts. Delusions and false hopes wear thin.

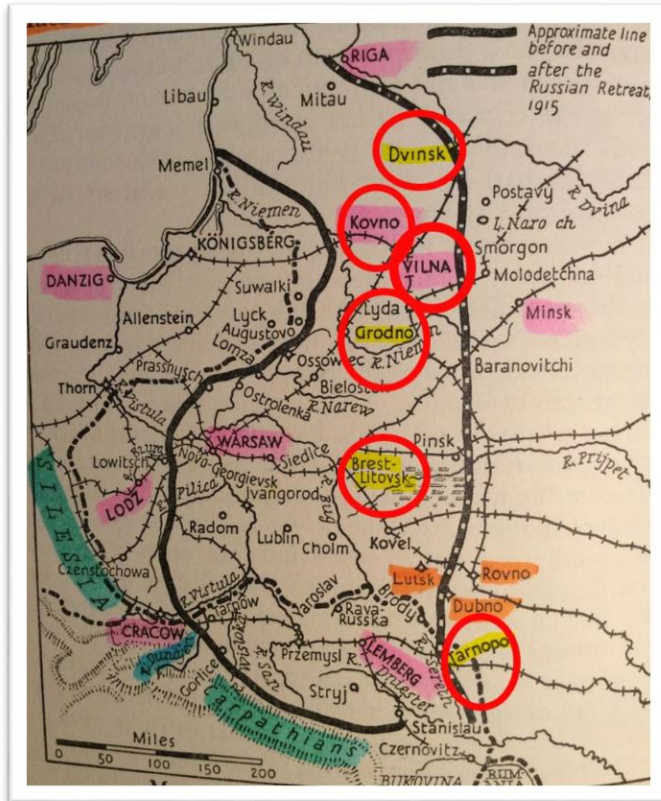
A smell of defeat now surrounds the Allies in Gallipoli.

¹ R.R. James, Gallipoli, p. 310.



26 August 1915

The Eastern Front: The Germans are not nibbling!



German offensive in the east rips into Russia

While the French and British can only attempt to 'nibble' at their defences in France, the German and Austro-Hungarian forces on the Eastern Front are chewing the Russians.

The cities of Dvinsk, Kovno, Vilna, Grodno, Brest-Litovsk and Tarnopol now all fall under their assaults, including the fortresses that meant so much for the defence of Russia.

The Army Groups that are under Makensen in the south and Hindenburg in the north progress in accordance with Falkenhayn's master plan.

Their failure to encircle a mass of troops is due to the rapid withdrawal of the Russian armies and the difficult terrain.

But this loss of ground will cost Grand Duke Nicholas his position as Commander-in-Chief of Russian forces.

This in itself might be the costliest price of defeat. The Tsar himself will be no match as a strategist.

Cruttwell, *History of the Great War*, (Oxford: Clarendon, 1934, 2nd Ed., 2nd Rpt, 1969), Chap 9 «The Retreat of Russia», p. 171-86.



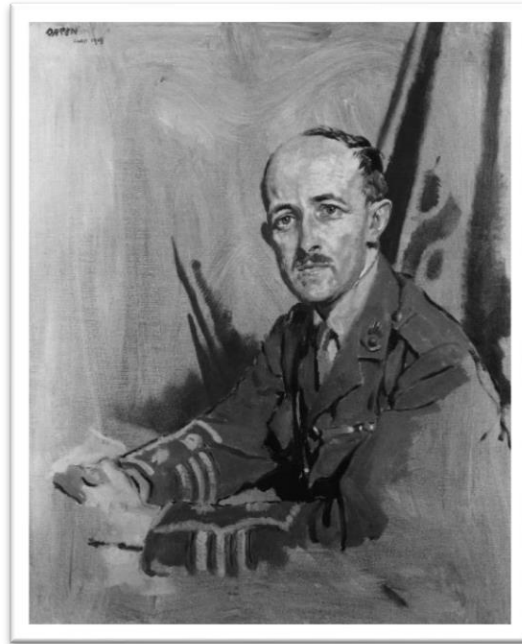
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

27 August 1915

Hankey's Report Hit Home



The return of Colonel Hankey from the Dardanelles

There can be few examples where a British staff officer was given so much power to report directly to the Cabinet on a Commander-in-Chief in the field. But Colonel Maurice Hankey's judgment, as Secretary of the Dardanelles Committee, was surrounded with so much confidence with ministers of the Coalition that his special mission to the Dardanelles to report directly back to the Supreme Command of Great Britain was indeed remarkable.

After spending three weeks away, Hankey's report was printed as a bona fide account of the campaign, in competition with Sir Ian Hamilton's own daily dispatches from the front.

Hankey came back with terrible evidence that General Hamilton's dispatches misrepresented the situation as it was in the Dardanelles, and that his management of affairs there was highly discreditable. His report would indeed be confirmed by many other sources in the weeks to come.

From the beginning of September, after Hankey's report had been considered by ministers thoroughly in light of other evidence, Hamilton's command was doomed.

Hankey, Supreme Command, Chap 36 - A Visit to the Dardanelles, p. 376-89; Chap 37 - Suvla, p. 390-405; Chap 38 - After Suvla, p 406-12; Chap 40 - The end of the Dardanelles Committee, p. 424-35.
R.R. James, Gallipoli, Chap 12 - The Darkening Scene, p. 303-32.
Roskill, Man of Secrets, Chap 8 - Frustration and Disaster, p. 206-42.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

28 August 1915

Railroad as a sinew of war



With the realization that the forecast of expenditures of materiel in modern war were completely unrealistic, the need for transportation took a new perspective. Railroads became the sinews of war by which sheer energy could be transported to the front lines.

The Germans had established a Government monopoly on railroads well before the war, with lines designed and built for no commercial purposes. Their

'strategic network' of interior lines of communications was oriented toward the frontiers to feed armies on the go. On the eastern front, the German rail crosses mountains at manageable grades.

The French had commercial railroads over which the Government had imposed modification for military defense. The rush to the frontiers was done by rail.

The British had no Government control over their commercial railroads, but the Government took over the rail operations at the start of the war. The BEF also got involved in building rail in France.

All are now scrambling to build new lines to support their armies. Experienced railroad men are prevented from joining other military services than military railroad units.

Throughout Europe, rail is a crucible where steel is poured by the million tons.



The TIMES History of the War, Chap 100 – Railways and the War, Vol. VI: pp. 160-200.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

29 August 2015

A decoy submarine - HMS C29 – lost with all hands



HMS C29

On **29 August 1915** Submarine HMS C29 was on patrol in the estuary off Humber, England some 70 miles off Scarborough and was connected to the trawler **Ariadne**, when it was dragged into contact with a mine and sank. Lieutenant Commander William R Schofield went down with his ship and all 16 crew were lost.

The C-29 was a Type 'C' Class coastal submarine of the Group-2 design and formed part of a trawler - submarine decoy team in which the trawler towed the submarine trimmed down so that its deck was almost awash. When a German U-boat was sighted the trawler would alert the submarine, which would surface and fire one of its torpedoes. C-29 was used twice successfully as a decoy for U-boats attacking the British fishing fleet until she finally sank.

The Roll of Honour:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| A Ahern | • Able Seaman |
| FW Bignell | • Stoker Petty Officer |
| FG Chambers | • Leading Stoker |
| EJ Darby | • Able Seaman |
| TE Evans | • 1 st Lieutenant |
| WH Faux | • Leading Stoker |
| RC Gibson | • Engine Room Artificer |
| CE Hobbs | • Able Seaman |
| FG Moore | • Engine Room Artificer |
| LG Norris | |
| WR Schofield | • Commander |
| AM Sinclair | • Engine Room Artificer |
| AH Smith | • Leading Seaman |
| HF Watson | • Boy telegraphist |



The crew of the HMS C29

Roll of Honour taken from <http://rnsubs.co.uk/boats/subs/c-class/c29.html>



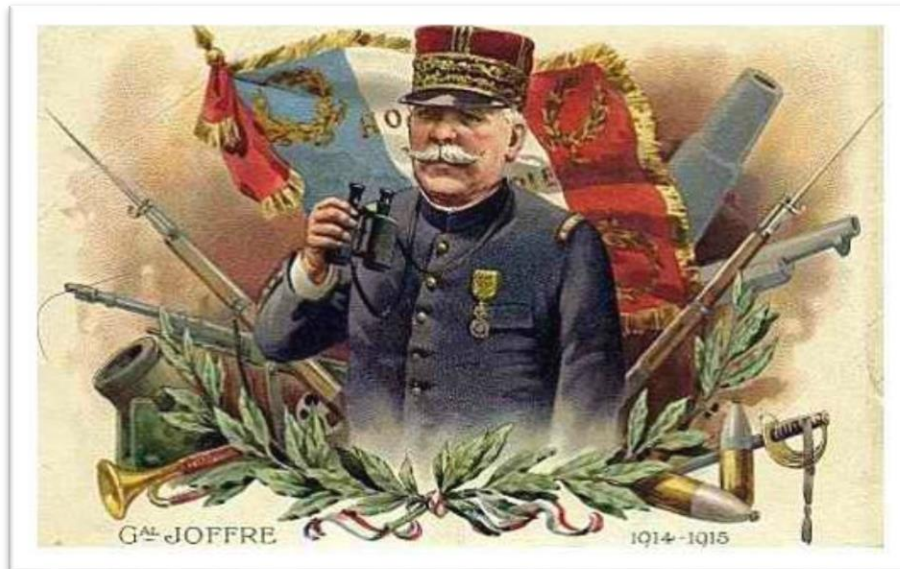
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

30 August 1915

Four French Divisions to spare



A postcard of Papa Joffre

In light of the great controversy surrounding his intentions to start on a large offensive campaign in Artois and Champagne, General Joffre states that he is willing to send two more French corps (4 divisions) to Gallipoli.

The news is received with jubilation in London where the reinforcement of Gallipoli has become a very difficult responsibility, now that Kitchener has committed to support Joffre in France in a few weeks.

But it will soon become clear that this is not quite what is happening. Joffre has been forced by his government to send these troops to Salonica, in support of French General Sarrail, who is taking command there of a multinational force.

And also, Joffre has been able to negotiate that these troops will be sent there only after the Champagne offensive will have proven completed ... and successful.

Might as well forget about it...

Hankey, Supreme Command, Chap 38 - After Suvla, p. 406-412.



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG

31 August 1915

130,000 Canadian Troops Under the Flag



The Red Ensign

The Red Ensign was commissioned to include a fly bearing the quartered arms of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1871. From approximately 1873 to 1921, as new provinces entered Confederation or received some mark of identification (sometimes taken from their seal), that mark was incorporated into the shield. By 1921, it was made up of the coats of arms of the nine provinces then in Confederation. It was unofficially used on land and sea as Canada's flag.

On **31 August, 1915**, there are approximately 130,000 Canadian soldiers serving under the “Canadian” flag:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| In France | 21,581 |
| In England | 46,195 |
| <u>In Canada</u> | <u>61,777</u> |
| Total: | 129,553 |

Duguid, App, p. I



Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

<https://www.friends-amis.org/>

© 2019 FCWM - AMCG