

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

# January 1916 / janvier 1916

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



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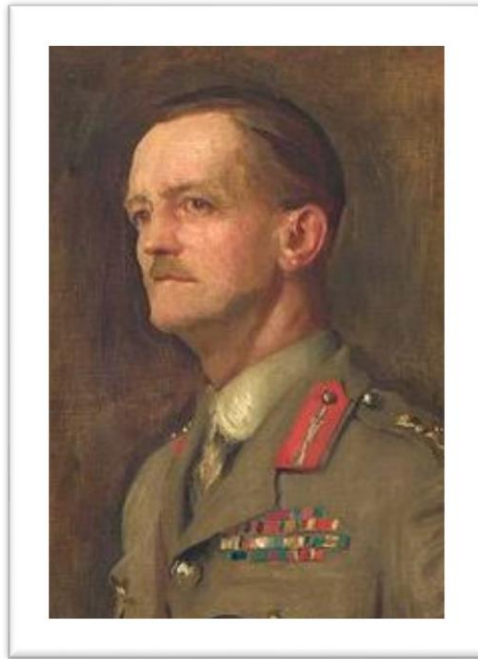
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# 1 January 1916

## General Dobell's New Year success in Kamerun

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Brigadier General Sir Charles Macpherson Dobell

On 1 January 1916, after a costly campaign and one failed attempt on the capital of the German west African colony of Kamerun, allied forces seized Yaounde, effectively conquering the colony.

The German forces retreated to the Spanish territory of Rio Muni and were evacuated to Spain and interned there. The allied force was commanded by Brigadier General Sir Charles Macpherson Dobell, a Canadian.

Dobell was born in Quebec City, the son of an MP, and educated in Canada and England before graduating in 1890 from the Royal Military College of Canada.

In the high noon of Empire, Canadian officers frequently served in British regiments and staffs; Dobell joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers. His postings reflected the military dimension of Imperial power, serving with British forces in the Boer War, in Nigeria and in the Boxer Rebellion in China. In 1913, he was promoted to Brigadier General as Inspector General of the West African Field Force.

After the Kamerun campaign, he served in Palestine with less success, bearing the blame for the first two failed offensives against Gaza.

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Wikipedia, «Charles Macpherson Dobell, KCB GMC DSO»

Andrew B. Godefroy, « The Royal Military College of Canada and the Education of Officers for the Great War», Canadian Military History, 18:4, Autumn 2009, p. 17-31.

Preston, Richard A., Canada's R.M.C.: A History of the Royal Military College (Toronto: UTP, 1979)



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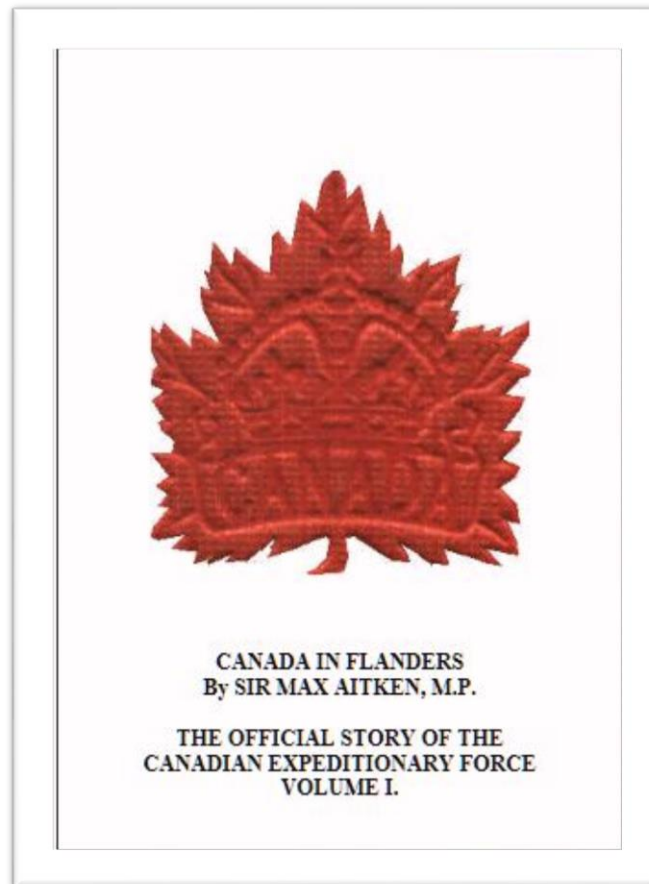
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## 2 January 1916

Max Aitken's bestseller: Canada in Flanders

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Max Aitken, the beavering Canadian agent in London appointed as the «Canadian Eye Witness» in early 1915, and «Records Officer» in April, has succeeded in obtaining that all the records of the Canadian forces be transferred from the War Office to his own London offices.

From this Aitken extracted a vivid narrative of the 'official' history of the Canadians' involvement in Flanders since their arrival.

The book was published well in advance of anything 'official' produced by the War Office for the British troops, and hit the market in January 1916.

Four printings were necessary in the first month, and three new editions will be made in three months.

Once again, Max the alchemist has shown that he can make gold out of mud.

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<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cansk/CanadaInFlanders/>

Sandra Gwyn, Tapestry of War, Chap 14: «'An Odour of Genius'»; Chap 15: The Eyewitness – and his Witness.



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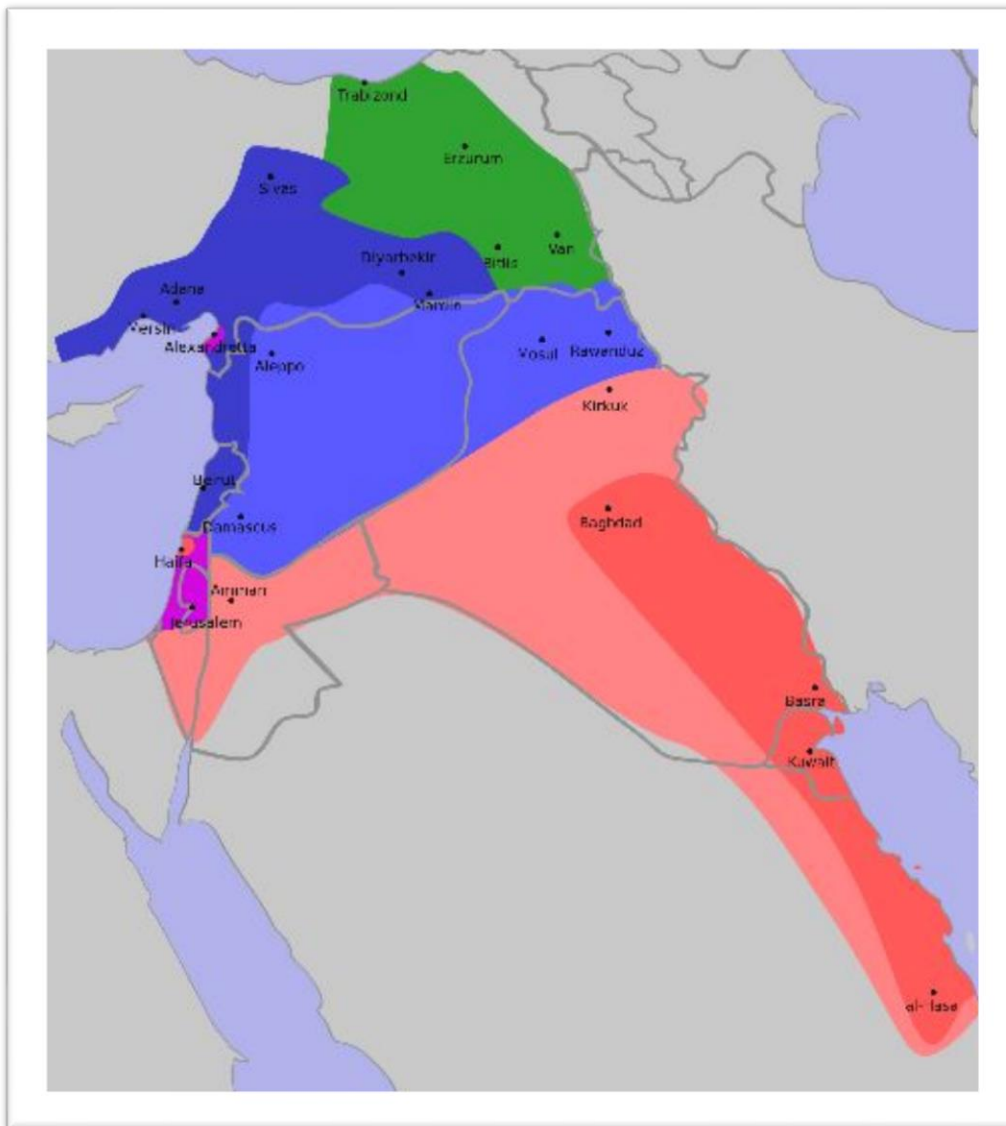
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3 January 1916

Weary neighbours in time of war : The Canada-United States border

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«Sometimes wars that were not fought are as interesting as wars that were. In 1914 Canada had plans for defence against the United States – [118/119] as the United States had plans for war with Canada. In the early years of the war Canada deployed 15,000 militia troops in border areas to protect bridges, railways, hydro-electric plants and other ‘vulnerable points.’ The deployment was fed by abundant - and abundantly fanciful - rumours of German and Irish terrorists filtering north across the border from the neutral United States. Despite resistance by the very sceptical chief of the general staff, Sir Willoughby Gwatkin, the government ruled that 50,000 members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force should be kept in training in Canada at all times to provide a reserve for the frontier garrisons. There was, moreover, no relaxation in home defence measures after the US entry into the war. The government feared the rise of Bolshevik inspired radicalism in the wake of the Russian revolution, with the danger of uprisings in Canadian cities, but, more particularly, in the US. Memories of the cross-border incursions by political radicals in the 1830s and late 1860s were deeply ingrained, as were prejudices about the republican system of government producing a violent and lawless society.»

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Bothwell, Robert, and Jean Daudelin (Eds), *Canada Among Nations 2008 – 100 Years of Canadian Foreign Policy*, Published for the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University, in cooperation with the Centre for International Governance Innovation (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2009). Chap 5, Roger Sarty, «The Interplay of Defence and Foreign Policy», p. 111-141, quote from p. 118-9.



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## 4 janvier 1916

L'Accord Sykes-Picot se négocie à Londres

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Sir Mark Sykes, principal British expert on Turkish affairs.

Les autorités britanniques et françaises au Moyen Orient ont entrepris des contacts avec les Arabes pour leur porter aide contre les Turcs.

En Égypte, les bureaux d'administration tant civils que militaires préparent déjà des plans pour leurs gouvernements respectifs sur la situation qui suivra la guerre, et comment les zones d'influence pourront exister après la défaite des Ottomans.

Mais bien avant que les agents des ambassades aient pu arriver à leurs conclusions, deux négociateurs sont réunis à Londres en secret.

**Sir Mark Sykes** et **François-Georges Picot** concluent **le 3 janvier 1916**, une note de très haut niveau diplomatique par laquelle le Moyen Orient sera divisé entre les sphères françaises, britanniques et russes.

Non seulement les Arabes ne sont-ils pas consultés, mais les agents officiels sur les lieux n'en savent rien.

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Fromkin, [A Peace to End all Peace](#), p. 192.



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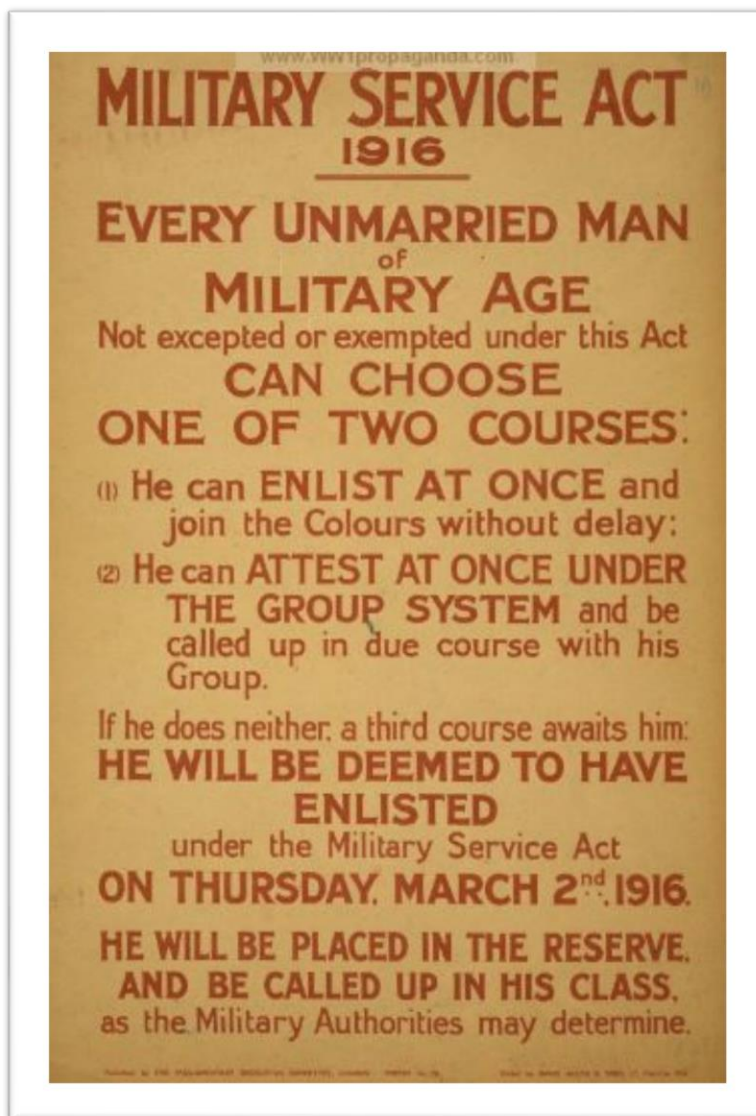
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5 January 1916

The British Military Service Bill before Parliament

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British Military Service Bill

With the failure of the recruiting campaign, the British Government introduces, on 5 January 1916, into Parliament the Bill that allows it to force compulsory service on classes of citizens.

«The Bill – which was not extended to Ireland – applied to all single men and widowers without children dependent on them between the ages of eighteen and forty-one on August 15, 1915.»

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Buchan, Episodes, 198.



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## 6 January 1916

### Speak Canadian, Hey?! Canadianization of the Canadian Corps

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Since the arrival of the Canadians in Europe, many British officers have been posted in its top command and staff positions on account of the lack of experienced Canadian senior officers.

Very few select Canadian officers had benefitted from training in the world-renowned Staff Colleges of the British Empire before the War.

In fact, excellent qualified British Staff Colonels were attached to the Corps Headquarters and to the Canadian divisions in the wake of Lieutenant-General Alderston, to whom much credit must be given for the good on-job training of the Canadian staff.

British artillerists and 'master gunners' were extremely important for the creation of an efficient Canadian-British artillery network with up-to-snuff expertise.

But in end-1915 the top brass were convinced that many Canadian officers had enough experience to fill those positions. A tough correspondence thus ensued between the Canadian Minister, Sam Hugues, and the War Office, for the appointment of Canadians in key posts.

Sam Hugues is not known to mince his words, and Max Aitken carried them to the Secretary for the Colonies, Bonar Law, and to Kitchener, at the War Office, without much diplomatic translation.

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Nicholson, CEF, 127-8.



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## 7 January 1916

### Out for Good - Leaving Helles Behind

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On New Year's night, the last French colonial troops were evacuated from Gallipoli, leaving British troops holding only the tip of the peninsula, Cape Helles.

British commanders feared a major attack on the retreating units, at their moment of maximum vulnerability.

Accordingly, 17,000 troops, mainly from the British 13<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> divisions, were left in place. Freshly dug and wired positions were laid out between the last front line and the sea, to provide for a staged fallback if necessary.

**On 7 January 1915**, Turkish artillery opened a fierce bombardment and infantry was seen to move up to attack positions. However, the attack never came and the few smallish attacks by the Turks were easily defeated by naval gunfire.

Debate remains as to how the Turks assessed the evacuation. Some argue that the allies' deception measures successfully confused the Turks. More likely is that prudence governed their decision making.

Having seen what concentrated naval gunfire could do to infantry attacking across open ground, the Turks most likely allowed the defeated British to quit the battleground without further loss to themselves.

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Robin Prior, *Gallipoli: the End of the Myth*.



## 8 January 1916

### End of the Dardanelles and Gallipoli adventures

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On the night of **8/9 January 1916**, the last troops left Gallipoli, with the Newfoundland Regiment in the rearguard.

Without including the sick, the allies had lost 188,000 men, of whom 56,000 were killed.

The Turks lost 174,000, with approximately the same number of dead.

For the small populations of Australia (28,000 casualties) and New Zealand (7,000 casualties), the toll was such that Gallipoli has remained to this day both a dark and a heroic part of their military histories.

For the allies, Gallipoli was a worthwhile gambit, in that seizure of Constantinople could have knocked the Ottomans out of the war. The defeat of the naval campaign in the Dardanelles and the subsequent defeat on land combined to make Gallipoli a disaster for the allies. It demonstrated that the Ottomans were not to be underestimated and that large resources would be necessary to defeat them in Palestine and Mesopotamia.

For the Turks, Gallipoli saw Mustafa Kemal rise to prominence as a military commander; he was later to be the founder of the Turkish Republic. He is known to history as the great «Ataturk».

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Robin Prior, *Gallipoli, The End of the Myth*



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9 January 1916

Musings of a chain pipe smoker

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Sir Basil Henry Liddell Hart (31 October 1895 – 29 January 1970)

*“If the British had used at the outset even a fair proportion of the force they eventually expended in dribblets, it is clear from Turkish accounts that victory would have been theirs, and equally clear from German verdicts how far-reaching would have been the effect on the main enemy.”*

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Liddell Hart, Man of Orleans, I:173.



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## 10 January 1916

Canadian Percy Lake takes command of Mesopotamian quagmire

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In December 1915, General Sir John Nixon, Commander in Chief in the Mesopotamian theatre requested that he be relieved, on account of illness.

His successor was **Lieutenant General Sir Percy Lake** who was born at Fulwood Barracks in Lancashire, of a Canadian military family.

He joined the 59<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot in 1873 and served in the Second Anglo-Afghan War and the Sudan. He served as Quartermaster General of the Canadian Militia in 1893 and Assistant Quartermaster General of the Army in 1899. In 1905, he was named Chief of the Canadian General Staff.

In 1911, he took command of the 7<sup>th</sup> Indian division and in 1912, became Chief of the General Staff of the Indian Army.

As Commander in Chief in Mesopotamia from **10 January 1916**, his task was to raise the siege of Kut and protect oil resources in Iraq for the Royal Navy.

After the surrender of Kut, he was recalled to London to appear before the Commission of Inquiry on the Kut disaster. He held no other command positions and was assigned to the Ministry of Munitions for the remainder of the war.

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Wikipedia, *Percy Lake*



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## 11 January 1916

### Drôle de guerre à Salonique

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**Le général Maurice Sarrail**, Commandant-en-Chef des armées de l'Orient de la France, est tombé sous l'autorité de Joffre lorsque celui-ci a été nommé Commandant-en-chef de toutes les armées de la France, en décembre 1915.

Sarrail est aussi coordonnateur conjoint des armées alliées à Salonique, où des troupes françaises, britanniques et russes –celles-ci tout juste symboliques- et serbes, attendent que la situation se développe, tentant d'encombrer au moins les Bulgares, qui occupent la Serbie.

**Le 12 janvier 1916**, Sarrail décide de faire sauter le pont de Demir Hissar sur la rivière Struma, sous les yeux des Grecs qui fulminent, afin de prévenir que les Bulgares et Allemands ne déploient leur artillerie.

Il y a là une drôle de guerre, alors que les alliés sont massés dans un port qui est observé par les ambassades ennemies, toujours présentes en Grèce 'neutre.' Celles-ci peuvent informer leurs armées de la moindre activité qui s'y déroule.

Avec la perte des Dardanelles, la présence de Sarrail à Salonique est pour l'instant théâtrale. Il représente l'intention de l'Europe de ne rien donner des Balkans qui ne soit gagné par les armes.

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«Salonika Campaigns», *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Twelfth Ed., 1922, XXXII: p. 347, fn.



## 12 January 1916

### PM Borden's understated overstatement - the 500,000 Man Pledge

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On **12 January, 1916**, the Privy Council passed an Order in Council that authorized the Minister of Militia and Defense to send a total of 500,000 men overseas.

This order proved to be controversial, because the figure referred to the total strength of the Army at any given time.

When casualties were factored in, Canada would need to provide 500,000 men up front, with 3,000 more being trained each month to replace those who were wounded or killed.

This enormous commitment was not favoured by the Senate, Members of Parliament and Cabinet, or the Governor General, all of whom thought that 500,000 man army was impracticable.

However, the overstated pledge having been made, Prime Minister Borden was determined to fulfill it.

This would eventually lead to a crisis about whether or not to implement conscription.

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G.W.L. Nicholson, Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1919: Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War, "The 500,000 Man Pledge," 215-222.



## 13 January 1916

### The origins of the Somme Offensive

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On **13 January, 1916**, the British War Committee responded to General Haig's proposition that France and Flanders be the principal theatre of operations in 1916.

The French Army would support the offensive, as agreed by **Generals Haig and Joffre** at the Chantilly Conference.

The British War Committee initially agreed, but began to have doubts after some ministers pointed out a general lack of preparedness, and the failure of the Loos offensive in September.

The Committee wrote to Haig, saying that they supported his ideas in principle, but reserved the right to review plans for the offensive before approving them, or to veto them.

Haig concluded that in order for a watered-down British offensive to succeed, a French effort of similar proportions needed to be mounted at the same time. He arranged to meet with Joffre to discuss this question later in January.

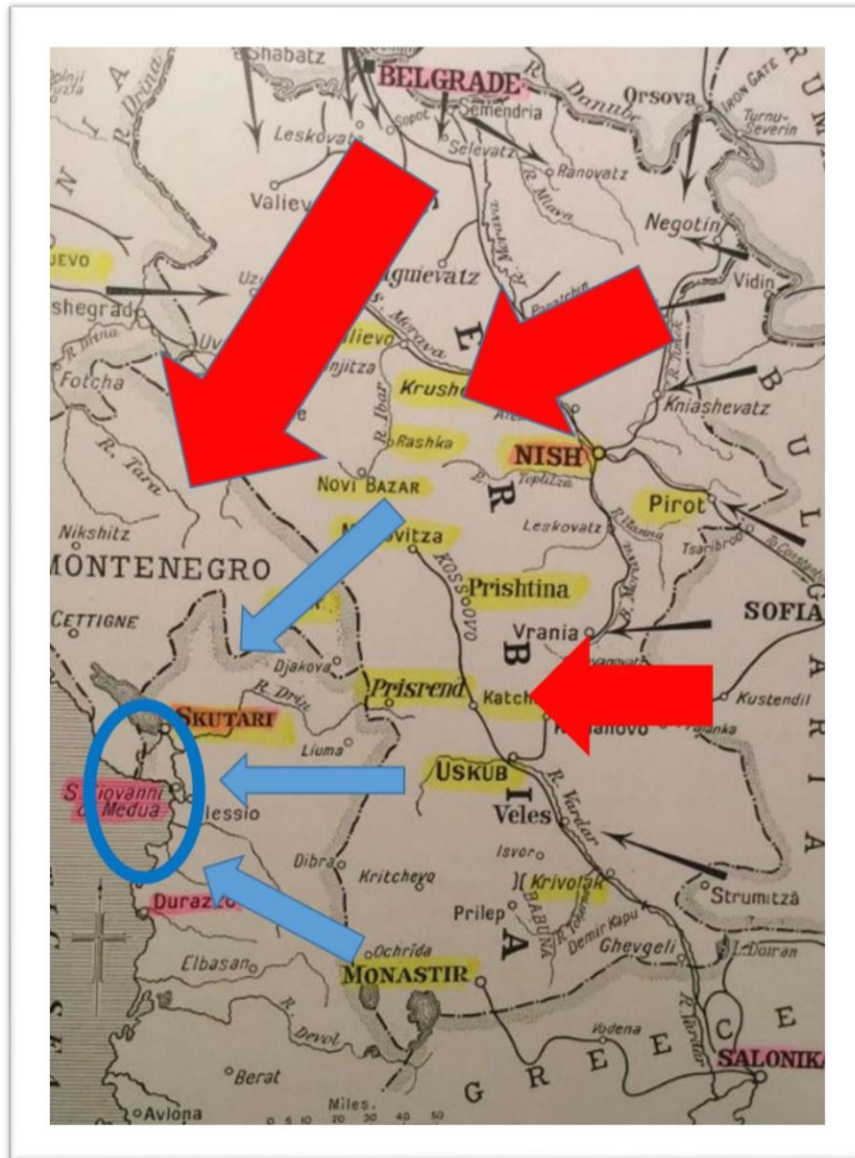
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Roy A. Prete, 'Joffre and the Origins of the Somme: A Study in Allied Military Planning', [The Journal of Military History](#), Volume 73, Number 2, April 2009, pp. 417-448.



14 January 1916

Les Serbes déracinés et extirpés



La campagne autrichienne-allemande-bulgare contre la Serbie, commencée à la fin de l'été, s'est poursuivie avec une cruauté terrible.

Depuis la fin-octobre 1915, le gouvernement, les trois armées serbes et une large proportion de la population se sont repliés vers le centre du pays pour ensuite traverser les montagnes du Montenegro et de l'Albanie vers la Mer Adriatique.

**Le 14 janvier 1916** marque l'évacuation de ceux qui n'ont pas péri dans cette marche en montagne, en plein hiver, à San Giovanni di Medua, où les Alliés tentent d'établir un pont maritime jusqu'à Brindisi, en Italie.

Ils sont toutefois harcelés encore par l'ennemi en poursuite et la marine autrichienne qui coule les bateaux chargés de denrées pour la population affamée, et de passagers sortants.

L'historien John Keegan dit des Serbes qu'ils ont démontré dans cette migration une endurance 'pré-moderne.'

John Keegan, *The First World War*, p. 253.



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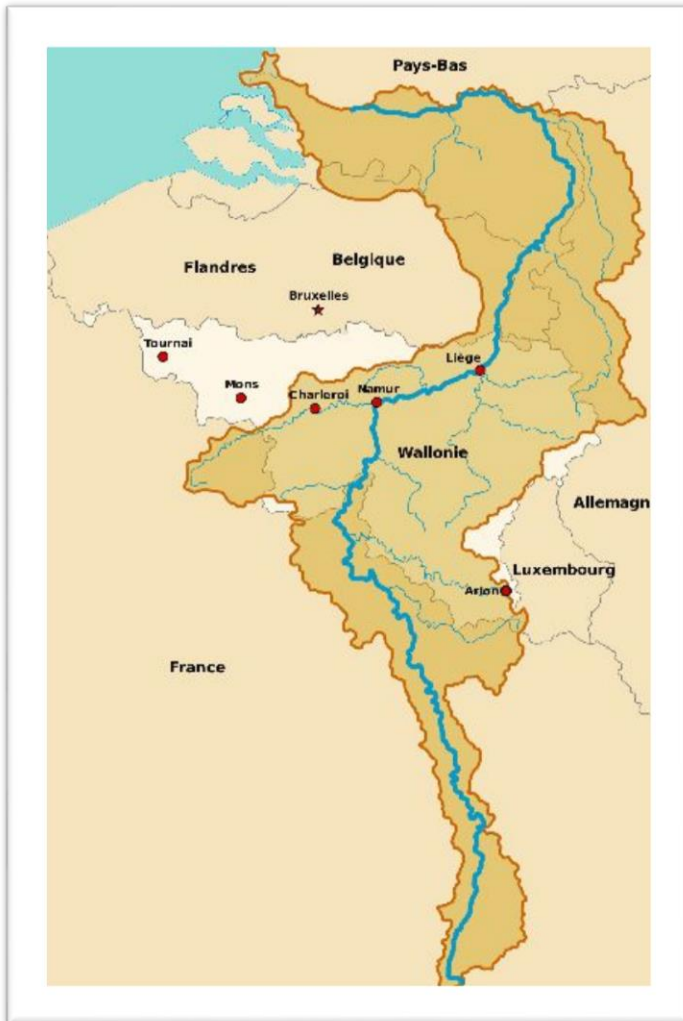
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# 15 January 1916

## Von Papen fait les Nouvelles

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Le major **Franz von Papen** est un officier allemand de grande famille qui affiche une certaine inclination à la diplomatie secrète.

Alors qu'il est Attaché militaire à Washington, il est impliqué dans la subversion et l'espionnage avec des agents infiltrateurs qui tentent de miner l'industrie américaine en appui alliés de l'Entente dans la Guerre.

**Le 15 janvier 1916**, les journaux américains publient des documents qui démontrent que von Papen a distribué des chèques qui sont associés à des incidents de sabotage et à des gestes traîtres, outrageux envers le Gouvernement des États-Unis. Il est déclaré persona non grata et retourné en Allemagne.

Von Papen sera lié, quelques mois plus tard, à des plans de sa main, préparés pendant qu'il était à l'Ambassade de Washington, pour endommager le Canal Welland, au Canada, entre les lacs Ontario et Érié.

Von Papen sera aussi lié, au cours de 1916, aux révoltes irlandaises, alors qu'il agira comme agent provocateur en fournissant des armes aux nationalistes impliqués aux troubles de Pâques de 1916.

Il sera plus tard Chancelier de l'Allemagne.

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Gleichen, Chronology. «Franz von Papen», Wikipedia.



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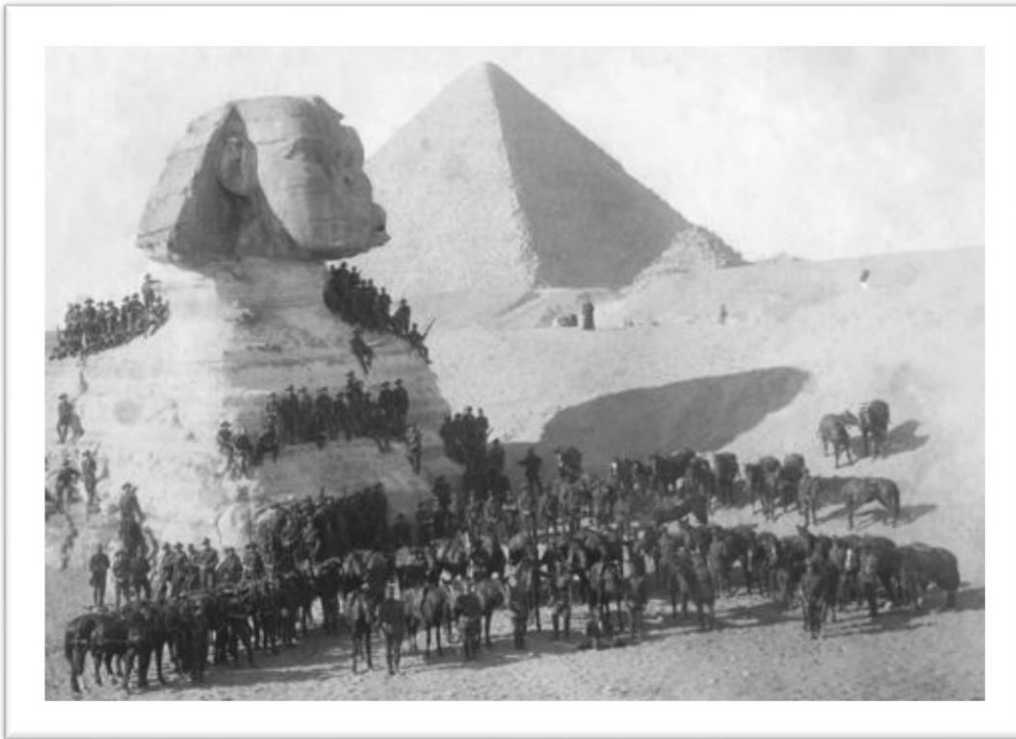
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**16 January 1916**

Two British armies in Egypt

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With the withdrawal of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) from Gallipoli and its return to Egypt, the number of British Empire soldiers there has increased to a quarter million.

General Munro's MEF falls under the Mediterranean Force commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Murray, while the Force in Egypt remains under General Sir John Maxwell.

Many say that the release of the MEF from Gallipoli will give the opportunity to the Turks to attack Egypt through Palestine and the Sinai, perhaps to the extent of threatening the Canal. But the number of troops stationed in Cairo and its vicinities, with the equipment that has been stored there for the support of the Dardanelles campaign over the last year, make it unlikely that any attempt by the Turks could be a real threat.

This prompts a certain Captain Thomas Edward Lawrence of the Cairo Intelligence Bureau to exclaim:

***One could hardly move for Generals! We had 108.***

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Wilson, Lawrence of Arabia, 241.



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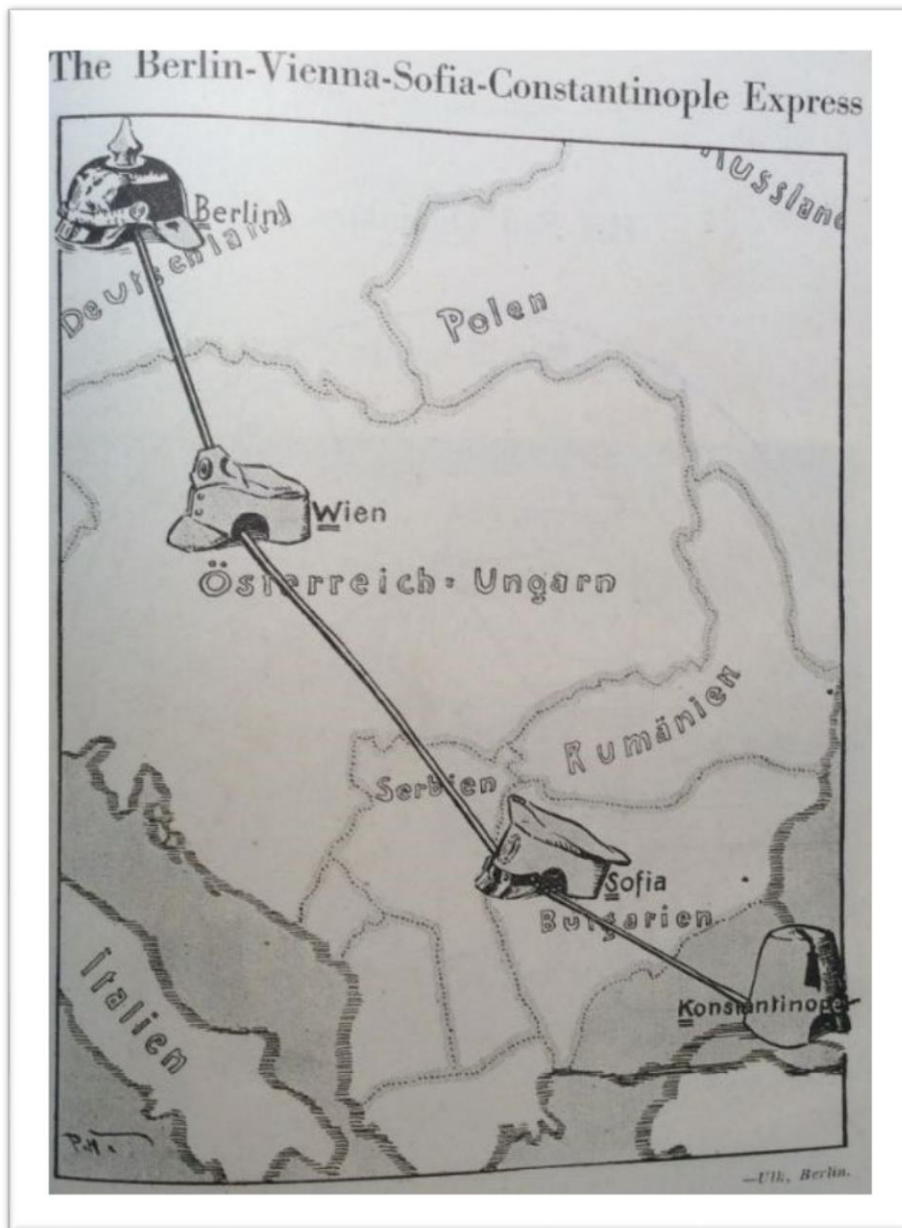
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17 January 1916

The German trains are running on time!

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The occupation of Serbia is allowing the Austrian-German-Bulgarian-Turk forces to repair the tracks that were demolished in the Serbian retreat so as to allow the trains to run on time from Berlin to Constantinople.

This means that the Ottomans will soon be supplied with material, including heavy materiel, without being exposed at any point along the tracks to enemy harassment.

It also means that Greece and Romania are directly exposed to the immediate reinforcement of well applied invading forces if they choose to oppose the Germanic Central Alliance.

That stretch of track is of overwhelming strategic importance.

Not only has it prevented the Allies from following the Gallipoli withdrawal by an invasion of Alexandretta (Turkey/Syria), but it has convinced the Oriental world that the Germans are on their way to win the war.

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Current History, Vol. III, Feb 1916, p. 1005.



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## 18 January 1916

### Admiral Reinhard Scheer appointed

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Admiral Scheer is appointed on **18 January 1916** to the post of Commander-in-Chief of the German High Seas Fleet.

At the moment the great High Seas Fleet is in ports of Northern Germany, under the protection of large minefields and land-based port defences.

Admiral Pohl, the previous Commander, has not risked the great Fleet out as previous experiences had demonstrated that the Royal Navy was poised to surge against it at a moment's notice if it was to sail out into the North Sea.

But Scheer has been critical of both Adm Pohl and Adm Ingenohl for what he considered too hesitant forays resulting in no resolute action.

Scheer is determined to use the High Seas Fleet, in conjunction with the German submarine force, to burst out of ports and bring out the heavy battleships to the High Seas where they could fight off the allied blockade.

This appointment sends a clear message that German sailors are not to expect to remain idle in ports.

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TIMES History of the War, «The Battle of Jutland Bank», IX: 121-160.



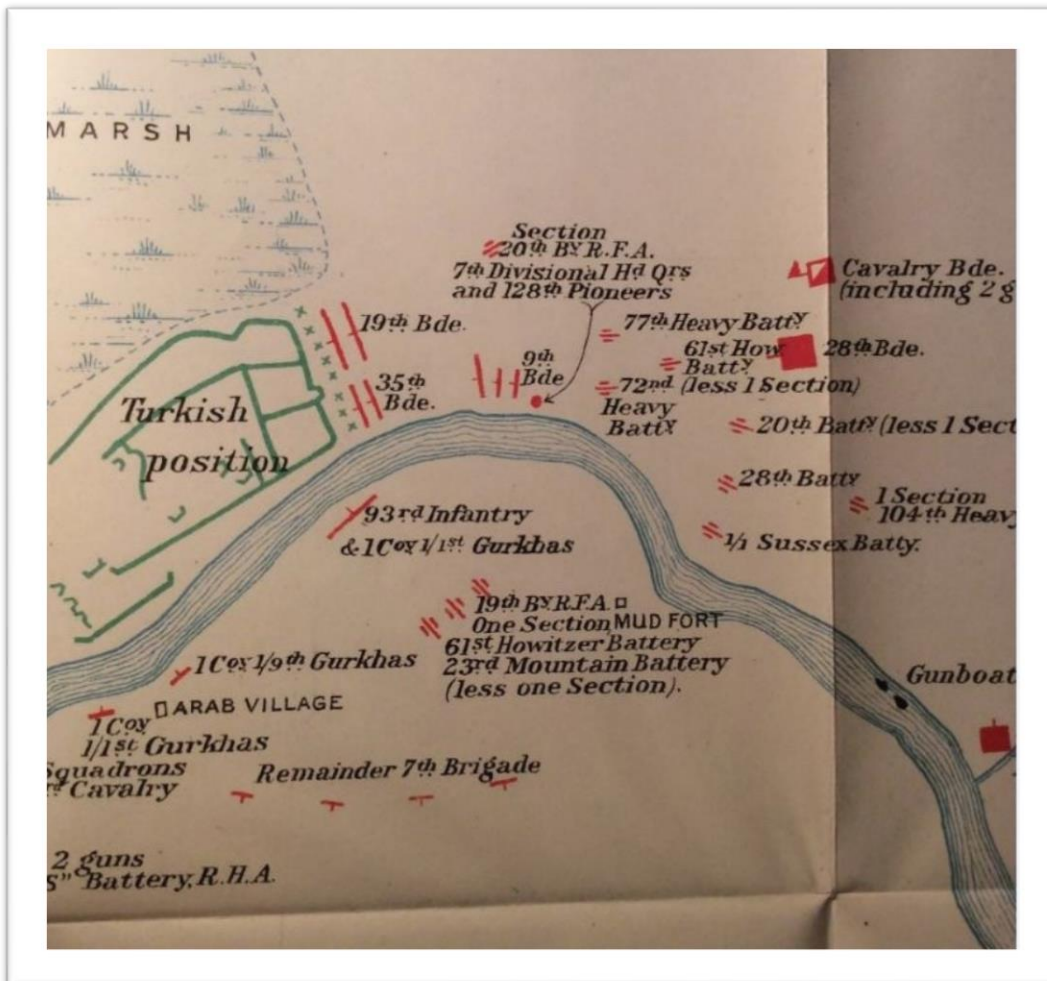
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# 19 January 1916

## The Battle of Hanna, Mesopotamia



General Townshend is caught in Kut, after having progressed up along the Tigris River to reach Baghdad.

An Army Corps under General Fenton J. Aylmer is sent up river to go relieve him.

The relieving force has to fight its way against the Turks in winter weather.

At the narrow of Hanna, between the Tigris and the Suwaikia Marsh, the Turkish defenders inflict heavy casualties to Aylmer's forces. He loses a quarter of his remaining infantry, 3000, in the attacks between 13 and 21 January.

The stranded garrison in Kut is now on half-rations.

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Moberly, The Campaign in Mesopotamia, Chap XXI.



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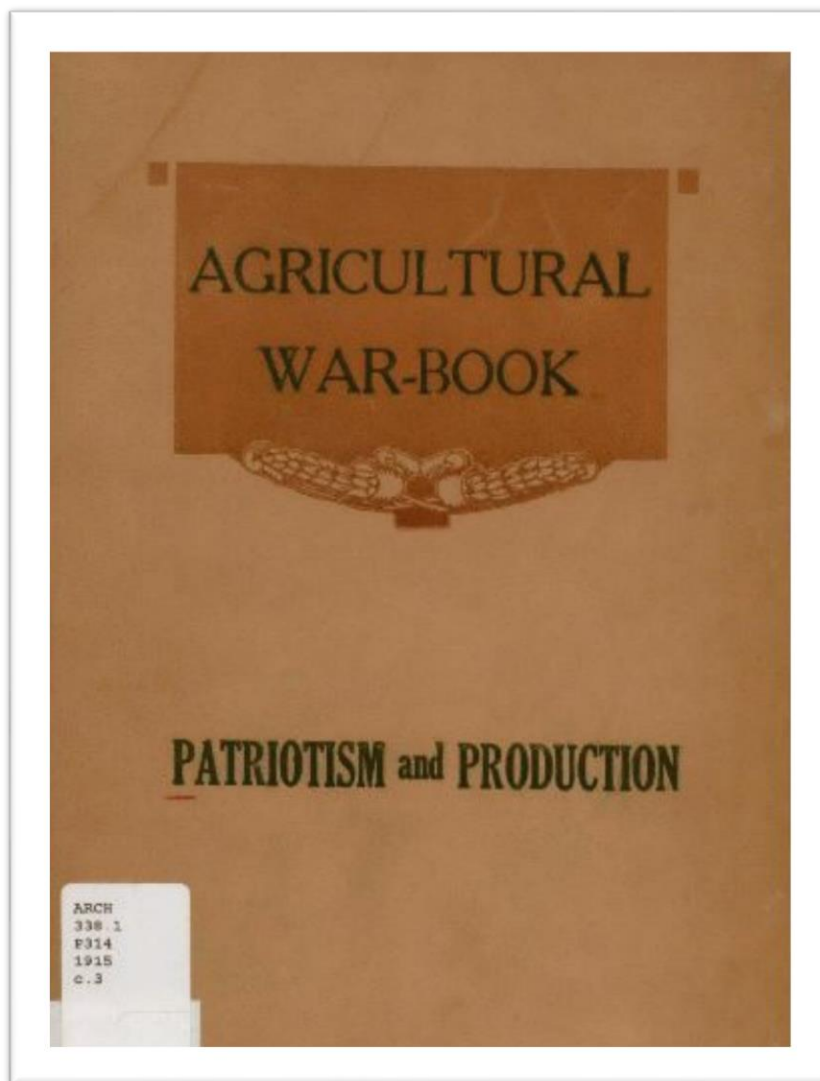
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**20 January 1916**

New Facts About Manure

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By the start of 1916, Canada is fully involved in the production of War supplies for the British Empire.

The campaign of the Canadian Federal government called «Patriotism and Production» emphasizes the need for Canadians to do «Better than Business as Usual.»

Farmers of all provinces are incited to enlarge their production so that exportation be increased to the maximum of possible food output.

The book ***Agricultural Food Production***, produced by the government, is distributed freely to all farmers as an educational tool to inform them on the needs overseas and on methods of production to increase their productivity.

It contains gems of wisdom on such issues as «Home Garden» and «New Facts on Manure».

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Mourad Djebabla-Brun, Combattre avec les Vivres: L'Effort de guerre alimentaire canadien en 1914-1918 (Septentrion, 2015).



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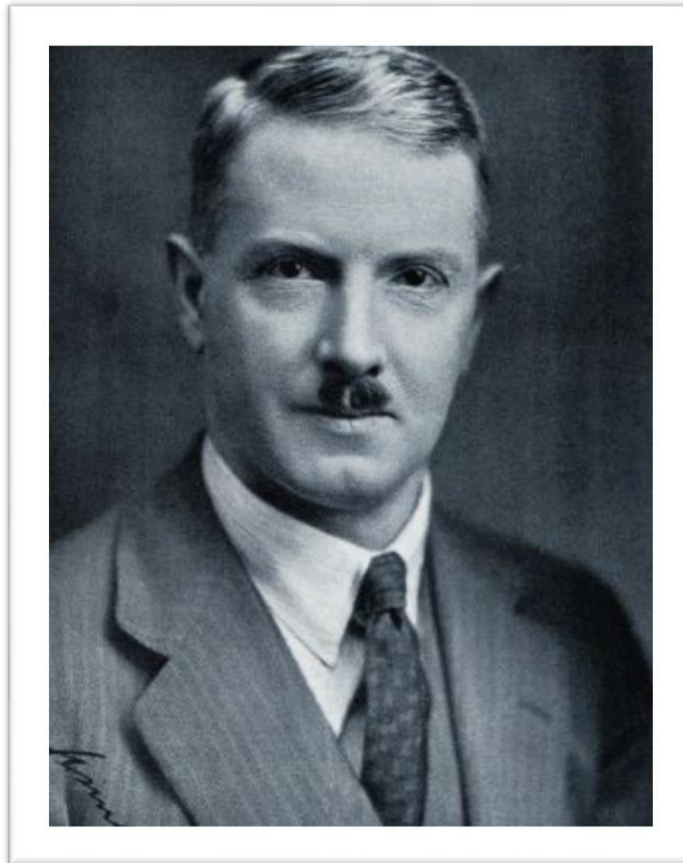
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## 21 January 1916

Dr. Sinton will not let go

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John Alexander Sinton MD VC

J.A. Sinton was born in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1884. He pursued medical studies in Ireland and Cambridge.

**On 21 January 1916**, he was a Medical Officer of the Indian Medical Service, which he had joined in 1911. He was serving in the Orah Ruins, in Mesopotamia.

On that day Dr. Sinton was involved in battlefield medicine with an Indian Cavalry Regiment. Under heavy fire, being himself seriously wounded, he insisted on continuing to provide medical attention to wounded soldiers until the end of the day. The citation for his VC read as follows:

***“For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to hospital, and remained as long as daylight lasted, attending to his duties under very heavy fire. In three previous actions Captain Sinton displayed the utmost bravery.”***

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Legion Magazine, Nov 2006, p. 31.



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## 22 January 1916

Hôpital de la Presse de Montréal

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Au cours de 1915, le journal *La Presse* de Montréal a fait campagne dans la province de Québec pour que les 1200 municipalités fournissent chacune un lit dans un hôpital canadien français à Paris.

L'hôpital «La Presse» a ainsi été créé et a fourni des services à l'Armée française jusqu'au **22 janvier 1916**, lorsqu'il est devenu trop difficile d'en assurer la relève.

L'hôpital a alors pris le nom d'Hôpital d'Écosse, et les ressources et personnel canadiens ont été versés à d'autres hôpitaux canadiens.

L'historien canadien Michel Litalien a retrouvé à Paris les vestiges de cet hôpital dans des noms de rue.

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Michel Litalien, *Dans la tourmente: Deux hôpitaux militaires canadiens-français dans la France en guerre (1915-1919)* (Montréal: Athéna, 2003); et *Bulletin d'Histoire Politique* (Université du Québec à Montréal), Vol. 17, No.2, p. 75-85.



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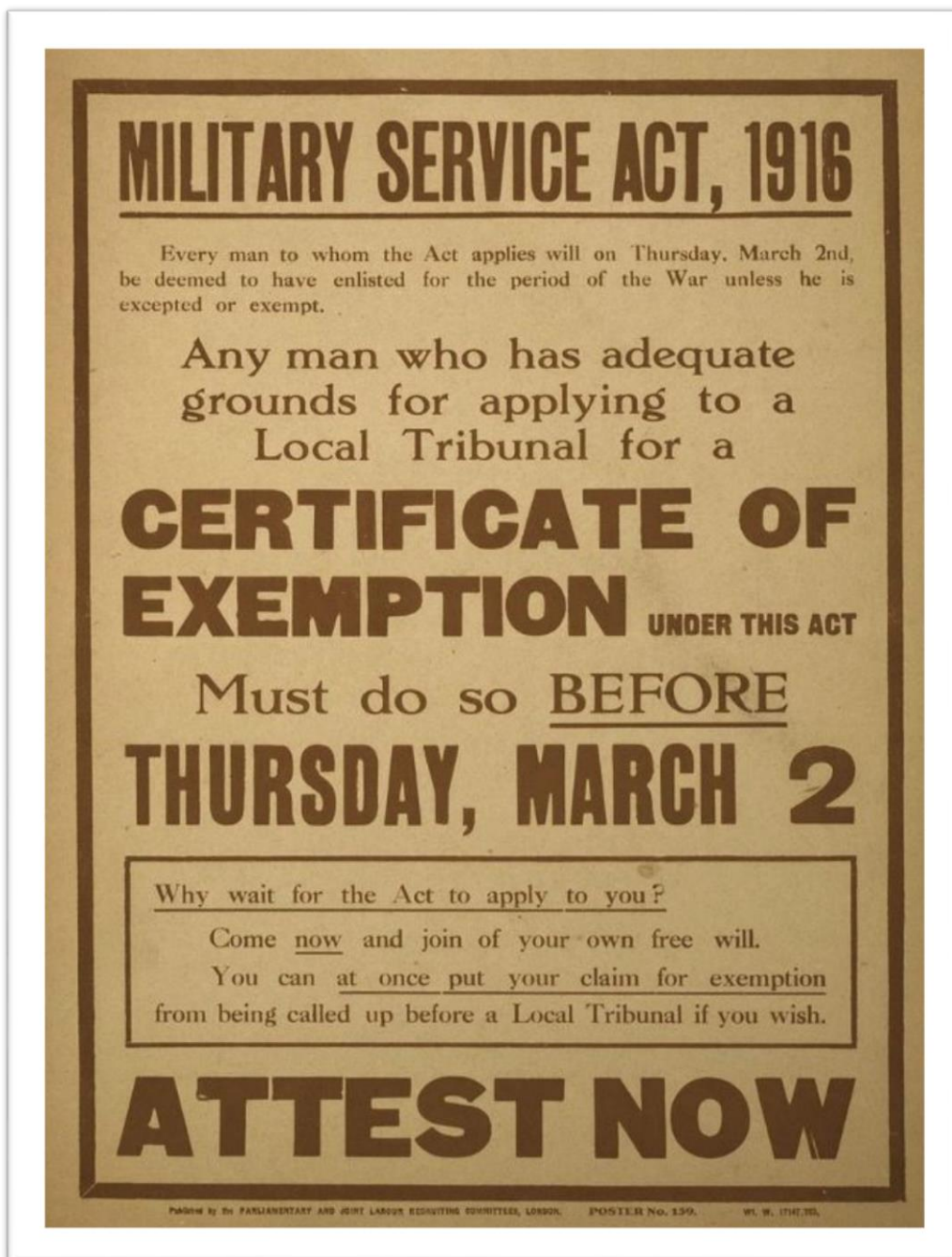
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23 January 1916

The Military Service Bill

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The Derby Scheme of October-December 1915 having proved that voluntary enrolment would not suffice to get the required manpower in the armed services, the British Government resolutely turned to compulsory military service.

**On 23 January 1916**, the Bill to enact the **Military Service Act, 1916** was put before Parliament. It became law four days later.

This meant that the initiative taken earlier by the Government to warn men about this outcome was heretofore supported in law.

All men of military age, 18 to 41, were separated in their Year/Class and were warned of their right to appeal on 'adequate grounds.'

This marks the end of the voluntary «Kitchener's armies» and the «Pals' regiments».

From now on, all are conscripts and join the British Army or Navy (option) on Class call for service until the end of the war.



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## 24 January 1916

Thomas-Louis Tremblay

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The only French-Canadian unit that became part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) in France was the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. It was part of the Fifth Brigade of Infantry.

Now that the Second Division has taken position in France in the Canadian Corps, francophones of the province of Québec and other provinces have their own unit.

Other francophones are in other units, but they are not operating in French. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion issues orders in French and generally functions as a French-speaking unit. All other units raised as French-speaking end up as reserves of manpower for the 'Vandoos.'

**On 24 January 1916**, the second-in-command of the unit is raised to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel to become Commanding Officer of the unit.

**Thomas-Louis Tremblay** will prove a superb leader for a unit that often sees itself as culturally different from the rest of the CEF. He will prove very tough when the unit will undergo difficult periods, gaining the reputation as a shrewd judge of men and tenacious disciplinarian. He will be promoted Brigadier General before the end of the war, the only French-Canadian CEF Infantry Brigade Commander in the War.



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## 25 January 1916

Is a naval blockade a bona fide act of war?

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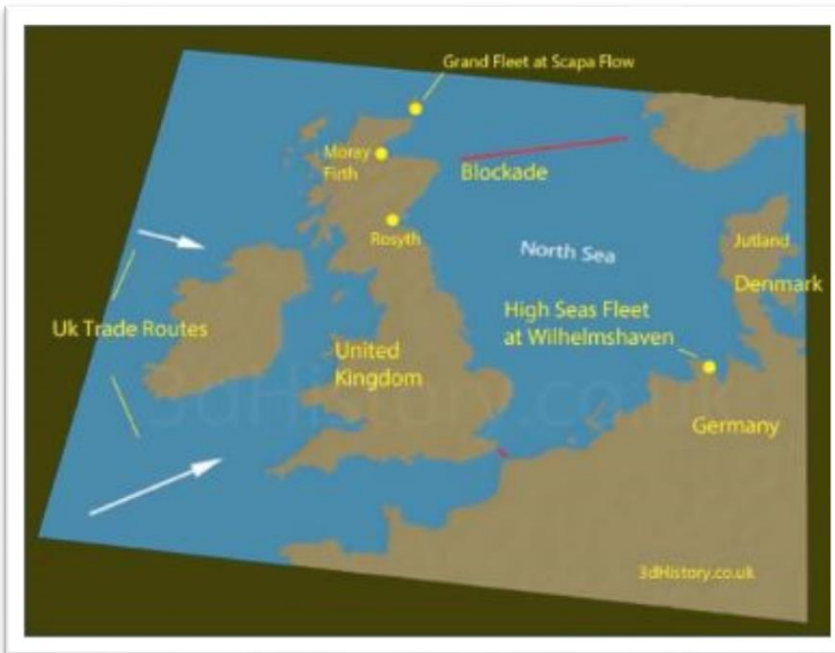


On 25 January 1916, the British Prime Minister, Henry H. Asquith calls in the media barons at 10 Downing to explain what the issues raised by the Order-in-Council of March 1915 were.

The bounds between international diplomacy and maritime warfare can be difficult to ascertain.

The Naval Blockade around the German ports of the North Sea is creating harsh conditions for the civilian population.

He asks Fleet Street for their cooperation in not raising controversy that would hamper national strategy.



Greg Kennedy, « Strategy and Power: the Royal Navy, the Foreign Office and the Blockade, 1914-1917 », *Defence Studies* 8:2 (June 2008), pp. 190-206.



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26 January 1916

Canada gunning with wheat

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The figures for the year 1915 are now in for the agricultural production across Canada.

The growing season has been superb in all regions and the federal, provincial and municipal programs to encourage war production were efficient in increasing both the acreage devoted to wheat (by 50 %), and the productivity of farmers, resulting in an increase of wheat of 244 % over 1914, to 393 million bushels!

The results is equal to wheat piled up in four towers with the surface of a Canadian football field and the height of the Toronto CN Tower.

This cartoon published in The Montreal Daily Star on 3 July 1915 captioned «*Jack Canuck – Some shell*» is confirmed by the year-end results.

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Mourad Djebabla-Brun, Combattre avec les vivres: L'effort de guerre alimentaire canadien en 1914-1918 (Montréal: Septentrion, 2015), p. 43, illustr. p. 256-xvii.



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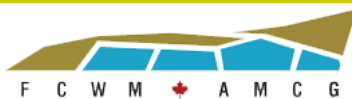
**27 January 1916**

La Loi du Service militaire en Grande Bretagne

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La Loi promulguée le **27 janvier 1916** ne s'applique qu'aux hommes non-mariés. L'opinion publique ne pouvait accepter que des hommes mariés soient obligés de servir avant que tous les hommes célibataires n'aient été enrôlés. Les hommes mariés seront forcés par la Loi du 26 avril 1916.



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28 January 1916

Conscientious Objectors and Conscription

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With the enactment of the Military Service Act in Great Britain, the question of conscientious objectors is raised.

7,000 will go to non-combatant jobs; 3,000 on useless labour camps, but 15,000 'absolutists' were sent to units, trained, and court-martialed when they refused to obey an order from an officer.

«Forty-one of them were transferred to France, where being on active service, they could be sentenced to death for disobedience, and they lived under this shadow for a month until personal intervention by [PM] Asquith had them brought back to England.»<sup>1</sup>

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A.J.P. Taylor, *English History, 1914-1945*, p. 54.



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## 29 January 1916

### Mother dances at Hatfield Park

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The Mother of all Tanks – Mark 1

The Admiralty has been involved in trying to build an armoured vehicle that will be able to clear barbed wire, go over trenches, and provide mobile fire for the protection of advancing troops.

Over the last year, many prototypes were discarded because of various difficulties.

But on **29 January 1916**, the first viable machine is brought to Hatfield Park, Hertfordshire, England, to test its capacities and to display them before a select crowd over a few days. Members of Parliament, War Office and BEF generals, as well as engineers see the machine at work.

This is where the Mark I, with its long tracks—able to cross trenches 9 foot wide—, its two naval 6-pounder in the side sponsons, and its roaring power, convinced the crowd (except perhaps, it is said, Kitchener) that a monster was born.

The Mark I prototype was soon called «Mother», and was to have children of both sexes: a 'Male' model with guns, and a 'Female' model with machine guns. The first order was for a litter of 100.



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## 30 January 1916

Le Parlement britannique se prolonge la vie

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Le Parlement britannique prolonge la session indéfiniment

**Le 30 janvier 1916**, le parlement britannique se vote une loi spéciale qui prolonge la session jusqu'à la fin de la guerre, avec des arrangements conciliés entre partis pour les élections partielles.

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David Lloyd George, Memoirs, IV, Chap 60 - Electoral Reform', p. 1964-82.



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## 31 January 1916

Munitions to go

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Meeting between General Haig, Commander of BEF, Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, Bonar Law, Secretary for the Colonies and General Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, concludes that the schedule of deliveries for munitions caters to the forthcoming needs of the 1916 campaigns.<sup>1</sup>

Canada's input is important in this equation.

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Roy Prete, « Joffre and the Origins of the Somme: A Study in Allied Military Planning », The Journal of Military History, 73, 417-448.



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