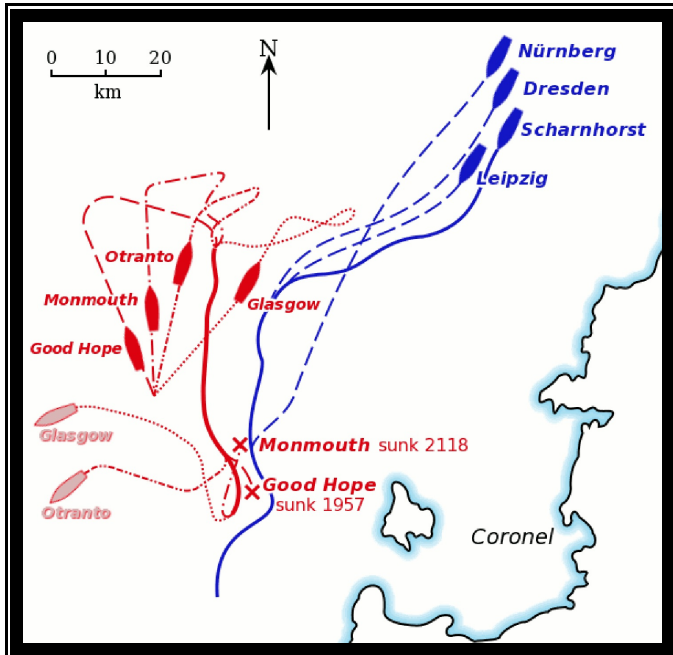


Le 1er novembre 1914

La Bataille de Coronel



Des Canadiens sur le *Good Hope*

La bataille de Coronel se déroule le **1er novembre 1914**. Il s'agit d'une rencontre navale entre les cuirassiers anglais et allemands, non loin du Chili.

L'escadron anglais vient des Iles Falklands pour faire la chasse à l'escadron allemand, qui a dû abandonner son poste dans le port de Tsintao, en Chine, au début de la guerre. Celui-ci poursuit une 'guerre de course' contre les navires marchands des Alliés sur les routes commerciales du Pacifique.

L'escadron anglais n'est pas de taille à confronter l'escadron allemand, mais l'Amiral Cradock espère pouvoir attaquer les navires ennemis séparément.

L'engagement se fait toutefois entre les deux escadrons en formation et les Anglais se font couler deux navires de guerre, alors que deux peuvent s'échapper. Ils perdent ainsi 1,600 marins en deux

heures.

Comme dans un film Western, l'amiral de Graff sait que la Royal Navy a mis un prix sur sa tête et que ce n'est qu'une question de temps avant qu'il doive faire face à des *Dreadnoughts* beaucoup plus impressionnants.

Pour le moment, il laisse aller un de ses navires en chasse solitaire dans la mer de l'Inde, et continue d'harasser les navires marchands qui croisent sa route et attaquer des installations portuaires insulaires tout en brouillant ses pistes.

Il y avait à bord du navire amiral *Good Hope* de Cradock quatre aspirants canadiens qui ont joint l'escadron à Halifax, quelques semaines plus tôt. Ils ont été les premières victimes de la guerre en provenance du Canada.

●Churchill, *World Crisis*, I: I: 418; ●Howarth, David, *The Dreadnoughts*, Ed.-in-Ch. Henry R. Grunwal, (Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books, Series *The Seafarers*, 1979), 79; ●Milner, *Canada's Navy*, 43.; ●Wikipedia.



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November 2nd, 1914

Minefields are the Thing

Coastal attack on Yarmouth

On November 2nd, 1914, the German Navy decides to carry out a naval bombardment of the coast of England, at Yarmouth.

The operation is a sort of jabbing, to show the enemy that his defences are not impressive and do not hamper access to the North Sea.

Eight gunships are involved in the raid, which starts in the afternoon from Heligoland, the entrance to the great German ports of Wilhelmshaven, Bremenhaven, Cuxhaven and Emden.

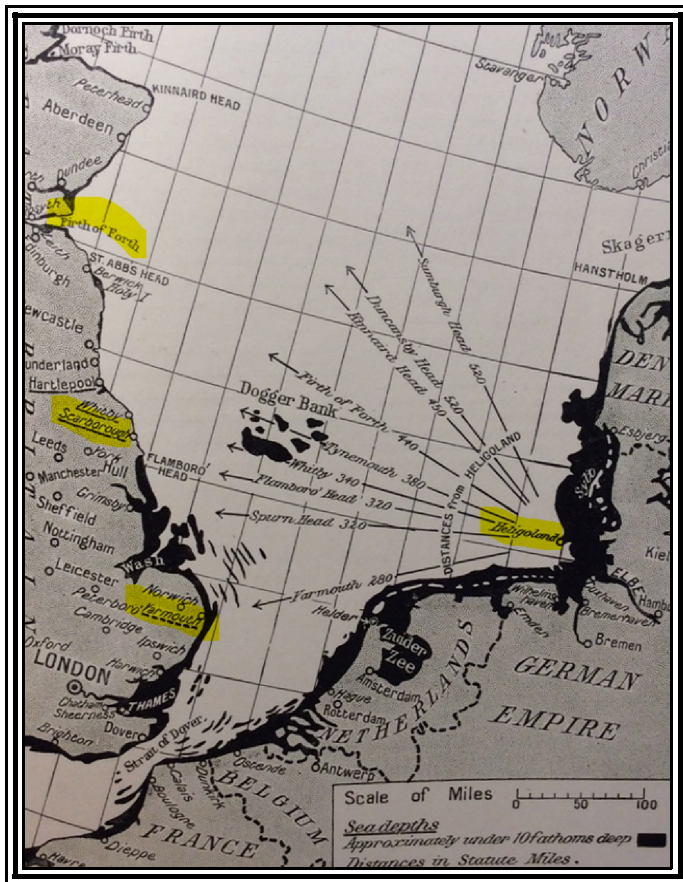
They reach Yarmouth at first light on the next morning and start firing their 11-inch guns, throwing shells of 640 lb. In addition to two dozens of these, they also have 8-inch guns blazing away in the early light.

However, the raid is a failure. Fearful of running into minefields, the armada stays at 15 kilometers of Yarmouth, at the extreme range of its guns. The major portion of the shells fall in the water and on the beach and the destruction of the town is not nearly as severe as intended.

After fifteen minutes of bombardment the Germans run back to their ports, pursued by the Royal Navy. One German ship hits a mine protecting her own port and sinks, and one British submarine hits a mine in the pursuit and is lost with its crew.

In this whole affair, minefields turn out to be the most effective killers. They are being constructed at an amazing speed, changing the nature of naval engagements.

• TIMES History of the War, Chap 43: «Early East Coast Raids», II: 357-96.



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November 3rd, 1914

A Gate to Cross



Dardanelles: A first naval effort

The bombardment of Russian ports in the Black Sea by the two Dreadnoughts *Javus* and *Midilli* (the former German *Goeben* and *Breslau*) a few days ago, has caused the ire of the Entente powers. They have declared war against Turkey and set about to demonstrate the full extent of their hanger.

British and French warships start bombarding the protecting forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles Strait.

The demonstration is quite energetic. The forts are considerably demolished and the Turkish forces

cannot give any effective return fire.

The First Sea Lord, Winston Churchill is impressed by the results. He conceives the idea that a rush by a potent naval armada could enter the channel, cross the Sea of Marmara and bombard Istanbul before the Turks could do anything about it.

The idea is not a bad one, but the Turks have a better one, suggested by their German advisors: rebuild the forts in a hurry, reorganize the defensive fire, and put sea mines in the Channel.

— The rest will be history – thick history.

●Churchill, World Crisis, I: 496; ●James, Gallipoli: Grand Strategy, p. 14-5; Liddell Hart, The First World War, 160.



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November 4, 1914

King, Queen and Kitchener



First Canadian Contingent Inspected

On November 4th, 1914, the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) has been in England, training and acclimatizing for a few weeks.

The training of most units is taking place in the Salisbury Plains, a chalk plateau in the southwestern part of central southern England covering 300 square miles. It is not far from Stonehenge.

The moment has come to extend high social welcome to the contingent. Their Majesties **King George the Fifth** and **Queen Mary** are accompanied by the extremely revered Secretary of State for War, **Field Marshal, the First Earl Herbert Kitchener**. British **Lieutenant General Edwin A.H. Alderson** is the appointed commander for the First Canadian Division.

The Division is being formed out of the units brought in the First contingent of 30,000 men. Already, in Canada, men are being called out to form a second contingent of similar numbers.

The arrival of this division is important. All the regular divisions of the British Army are in France, incurring horrific casualties, and Territorial divisions have now been sent as reinforcements. Kitchener is working the War Office hard to raise the volunteer «Kitchener's armies» to increase the British force in France and elsewhere.

— However, Kitchener told Joffre, in November 1st, : «On July 1st, 1915, you will have one million trained English soldiers in France. Before that date you will get none, or practically none.¹»

¹●Hunter, Foch, 81; ●Duguid, Official History; ●Photo:
<https://royalmontrealregiment.com/royal-visitors-to-the-rmr-in-1914/>



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Le 5 novembre, 1914

La fin de l'imbroglio Ottoman



Déclaration de Guerre à la Turquie

Il faut attendre **le 5 novembre 1914**, pour qu'une déclaration officielle d'état de guerre soit présentée par les grandes puissances de l'Entente à la Turquie, malgré le fait que leurs forces navales ont déjà ouvert le feu contre le territoire turc, en réplique aux bombardements turcs de la Mer Noire contre la Russie, il y a déjà une semaine.

C'est que la position diplomatique de la Turquie, pendant plusieurs jours, est restée ambiguë et cachée.

Il était devenu évident que des influences très importantes étaient exercées sur le Cabinet par les représentants diplomatiques et militaires allemands à Constantinople. Mais le Cabinet des Jeunes Turcs était toujours perçu dans les milieux diplomatiques comme étant divisé et peut-être sur le point de tomber comme gouvernement.

Les bombardements de ports russes ont en fait été déclarés, par le Ministre de la Marine, comme n'ayant pas été ordonnés par lui-même. On attendait donc, dans les

chancelleries du monde, une déclaration politique qui paraissait imminente.

Le 5 novembre, il est trop tard. Il est devenu clair que des officiers allemands ont pris le commandement d'unités et de formations turques, notamment, l'Amiral Souchez, qui dirige les opérations navales de la Mer Noire. Ceci est inacceptable. La Turquie hésitera jusqu'au 10 novembre pour répondre par sa propre déclaration de guerre.

— L'indécision de la Turquie emporte une grande partie du monde oriental dans une guerre 'mondiale'. Les conséquences de l'erreur des autorités Ottomanes en ce jour seront immenses pour le XXe siècle.

●Tuchman, Guns of 1914, p. 161-2; Churchill, World Crisis, I: 479; ●Fromkin, A Peace to end All Peace, 54-79.



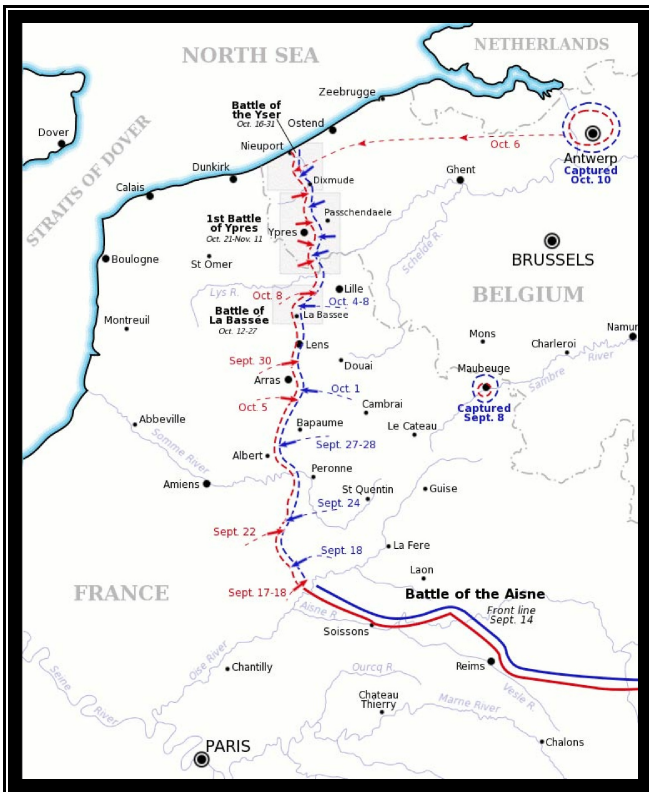
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November 6, 1914

Days of Bloody Hell in Flanders!



The ultimate effort for Ypres (5-11 Nov 1914)

General Falkenhayn is getting reports from the armies in the north that their offensives are simply not going through, that the resistance being put up by the allies, having been reinforced by the flooding of the Yser in the most northerly part of the right wing, are proving impossible to push back.

Falkenhayn is both Minister of War and Chief of the General Staff and he knows only too well what a lack of success will mean for German strategy in Europe.

He has another war to look after in the East against the Russians and the stakes are high there. The Austro-Hungarians are being pushed back and Hindenburg is clamoring to the Emperor that he needs armies fast in the East. Kaiser Wilhelm II is in fact himself before Ypres, demanding a victory.

Falkenhayn has to try again. He no longer seeks a strategic victory but will settle for a tactical one.

On November 5th, he orders the three German armies in Flanders to gain the enemy Salient of Ypres, at the center of Flanders, so as to separate the British from the French.

On 6 November 1914, that battle is raging with terrible sacrifice of life.

●Hunter, Foch, 81-2.



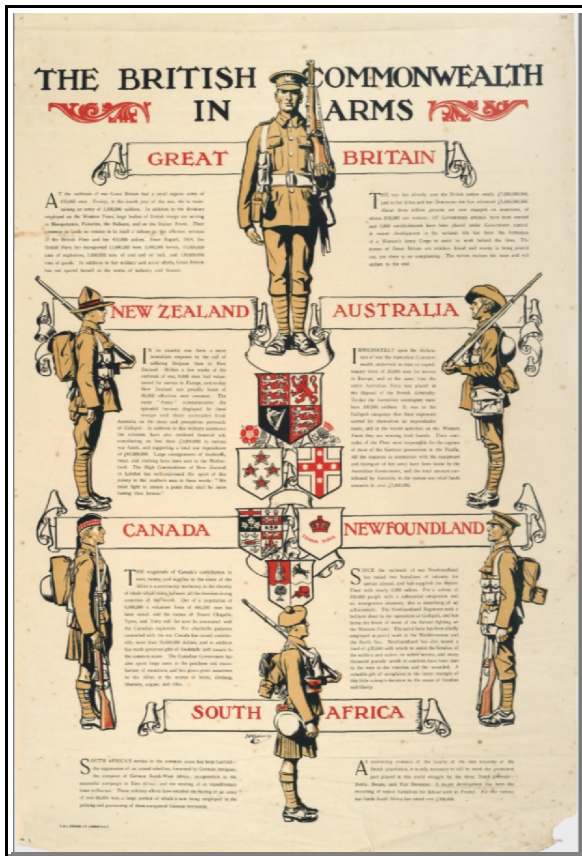
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November 7, 1914

How do you spell R-E-L-I-E-F ?



Canada – Mobilization of 30,000 more men

The Borden Government in Canada is being solicited by the British authorities for more troops. Kitchener is raising his volunteer armies in Great Britain, but the lack of equipment and experienced officers and NCOs means that no new unit will be ready before the spring, and then, barely.

The British Government is well aware that the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in France is being depleted to an impractical level. After having been involved in the battle of the Frontiers, the battle of the Marne, and the First battle of Ypres, casualties in relation to the numbers of men involved are of a level that will never be attained in the rest of the war.

The BEF's eighty-four infantry battalions stood, on November 1st 1914, at approximately 20% of their original numbers. And this includes the Reserve and Territorial replacements sent between August and November.

This means that 100% of the BEF infantry has been killed, wounded, taken prisoner, or unaccounted for, — 69% of it in «First Ypres».

The First Battle of Ypres marks the death of the «Old Contemptibles». They are carrying with them the

experience and the professional depth of the British Army.

The 25,000 men of the First Canadian Division are eagerly awaited. They may not be experienced, but they are there.

•Farrar Hockley, Death of an Army, 169-71.; •Terraine, Forst World War 1914-1918, 46.

November 8, 1914

Bring Us Your Wounded



No. 2, Canadian Stationary Hospital, Le Touquet, Boulogne

No 2 Stationary Canadian Hospital in Boulogne

The number of casualties suffered by the British Expeditionary Force in France is extremely high. The medical services cannot keep up with the needs. The Canadian Expeditionary Force in Salisbury Plains releases a Stationary Hospital immediately.

«No. 2 Stationary Hospital was granted the distinction of being the first of all Canadian units to place foot upon French soil.

This unit, under Lieutenant-Colonel Shillington, after the inspection by Their Majesties the King and Queen two days

previously, left the Plain on November 6th, 1914. At Southampton the O.C. was detained by arrangements concerning the nursing sisters, and thus it devolved upon Major H. C. S. Elliot, 61, the second in command, to take the unit across the Channel to Havre. For a few days it was billeted at Boulogne. On November 27th it opened up the well-known Hôtel du Golf at Le Touquet, on the dunes near Paris Plage, as a hospital of three hundred beds – the first of a series of Canadian base hospitals along the French coast between Boulogne and Dieppe.»

●Colonel J. George Adami, M.D., "War Story of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, Vol. 1, The First Contingent (to Autumn of 1915)," The Canadian War Records Office, London, 1918, <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/adami/camc/camc.html>

●Photo from <https://royalmontrealregiment.com/no-2-canadian-stationary-hospital-first-canadian-unit-landed-in-france/>



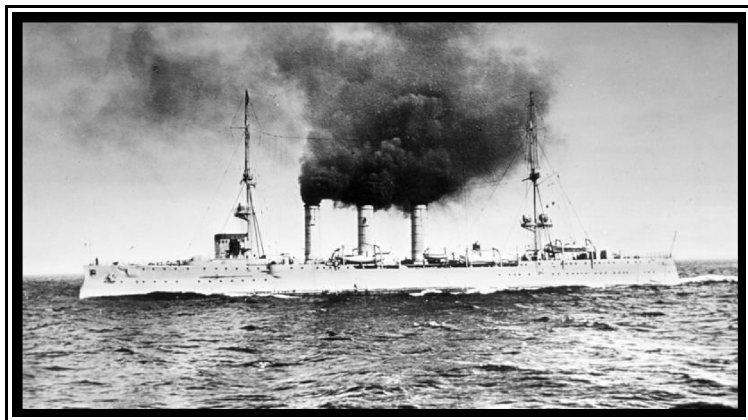
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November 9, 1914

The Destruction of *Emden*



Indian Ocean freed of commerce raiders

HMS Emden was one of the Dresden Class of light cruisers attached to the German East Asia Squadron under the command of Admiral von Spee. When the squadron had to leave Tsingtao on account of Japanese hostilities, *Emden* was sent on an independent mission to join *Koenigsburg* already involved in commerce raiding in the Indian Ocean.

Emden and *Koenigsburg* were both involved in hampering commerce in the Indian

Ocean for two months, sinking cargo and escorts.

In early November 1914, *Emden* raided the British station at Coco island, landing sailors to ensure the complete destruction of vital communications equipment. **On 9 November 1914**, the Australian Dreadnought *Sydney* caught the much smaller *Emden* while there, and destroyed it without allowing it to sail out.

The destruction of *Emden*, after *Koenigsburg* had been stranded in an African river, frees the Indian Ocean from German threat. This means that cargo can now circulate freely and that ships of all classes that helped in the chase can be released to sail to the Mediterranean and be involved there, now that Turkey has joined the War.

The destruction of *Emden* also means that Admiral von Spee remains stranded in the Pacific Ocean, trying to do damage while attempting to hide in the numerous small islands that can provide cover.

— But the destruction of Admiral Cradock's squadron, at Coronel, on 6 October, will be avenged. Spee is now being chased by a whole fleet of powerful Dreadnoughts that will shortly overpower him ten times.

●Churchill, *World Crisis*, I: 433-4; ●Kirchberger, Joe H., *The First World War : An Eyewitness to History*, p. 144.●Howarth, David, *The Dreadnoughts*, Ed.-in-Ch. Henry R. Grunwal, (Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books, Series *The Seafarers*, 1979), 78.; Wikipedia.



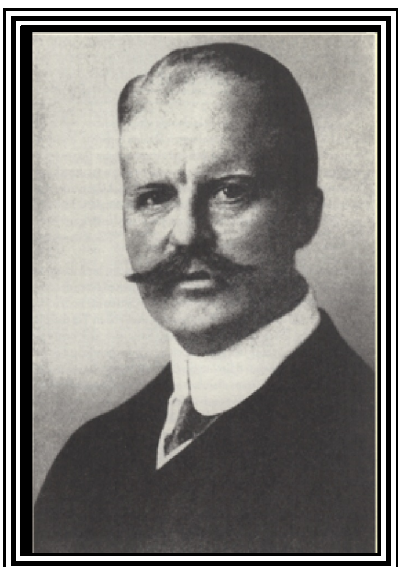
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Le 10 novembre, 1914

Au nom de la diplomatie morale



Le Président Wilson offre une médiation

Le Président Woodrow Wilson des États-Unis a insisté dès le début de la guerre que la position américaine demeurerait absolument neutre entre les belligérants. Sa Proclamation de Neutralité du 4 août 1914 interdit à tout citoyen des États-Unis de favoriser un côté ou l'autre.

La neutralité américaine s'inscrit dans le thème wilsonien de la 'diplomatie morale,' qui juge que tout conflit armé survient à la suite d'injustices et que ces conflits peuvent être évités si les partis en cause retournent aux principes d'équilibre des droits.

Wilson ne tarde donc pas à s'offrir comme médiateur dans la guerre d'Europe, pour arriver à une entente entre l'Alliance germanique et l'Entente tripartite.

Le 10 novembre 1914, le gouvernement allemand est mis au fait par son ambassade de Washington de l'offre de Wilson. Celle-ci arrive à un moment où le Ministre de la Guerre, le général Falkenhayn, a laissé entendre qu'à la suite du manque de succès en France, il croyait maintenant que l'Alliance allemande ne pourrait pas sortir avec une victoire définitive d'un conflit simultané contre la France, la Russie et l'Angleterre. En accord avec l'Amiral Tirpitz, il croit que des représentations devraient être faites pour une tentative de paix avec la Russie.

L'offre de Wilson et l'intimation de Falkenhayn reçoivent une réception très froide au ministère des Affaires étrangères de Berlin. Le sous-ministre **Arthur Zimmermann**, l'homme fort de la diplomatie allemande, s'objecte à grands cris à ce que l'Allemagne soit perçue comme cherchant à temporiser. Il insiste que l'Alliance germanique ne doit pas être détournée de ses objectifs de dominer ses trois ennemis.

Il n'exclut toutefois pas que si la Russie, à la suite de défaites cuisantes, se portait éventuellement offrande de termes de paix, qu'il serait alors possible de négocier un avantage déterminant contre les deux autres adversaires.

●Fischer, Germany's Aims in the First World War, 184-9; ●Blum et al, The National Experience: A History of the United States, (8th ed. 1993), 596.



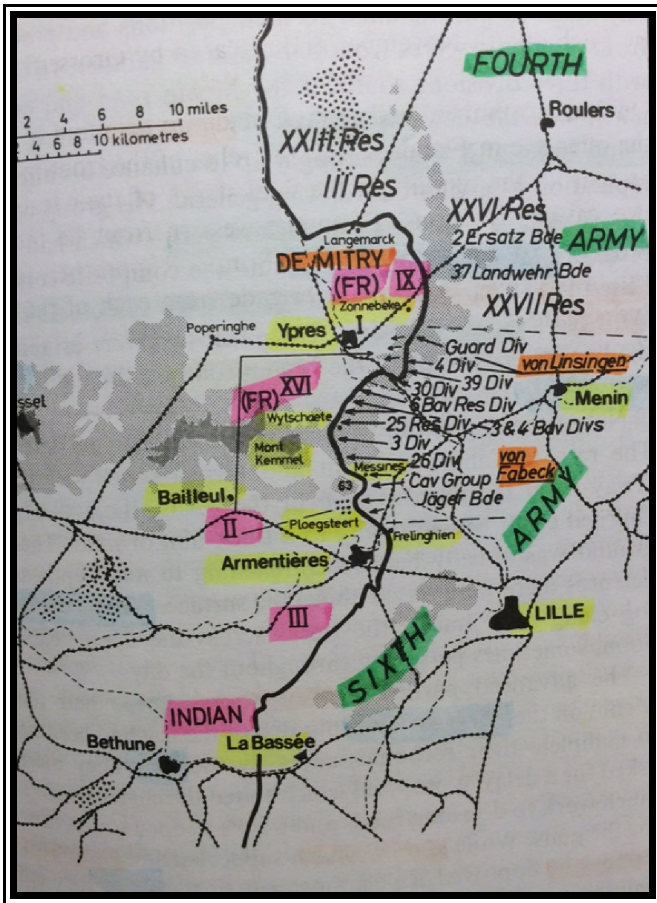
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November 11, 1914

A near-run thing



The Last Battle of the Yser

Falkenhayn is determined to give an ultimate *Letzter Druck* (Final Push) to the battle of the Yser, where the attacks by Sixth and Fourth armies, with reduced artillery (because of economy) have not succeeded in punching a hole in the last 9 days. This time, nothing is spared.

For the attack planned for 10 November, he opens the ammunition lockers and prepares two special army groups, Fabeck Group and Linsingen Group, for the tasks of narrow assaults in the aim of breaking the British and French defences at the southern part of the Ypres Salient.

Because of rain, the Fourth Army, to the north, begins its attack on the 10th, and Sixth Army, in the south begins its attack on **11 November 1914**.

These are attacks of a type not seen before. Division after division is thrown forward with no consideration of losses. They must go through at all cost!

What results is the mass killing of inexperienced young German troops, deprived of their leaders, and thrown into the action singing.

Although reduced to their bare minimum, the

«thin khaki line» is able to stay, inflicting so many casualties that the German will not come back. — This, indeed, was a near-run thing!

●Farrar Hockley, *Death of an Army*, 172-80; ●Liddell Hart, *Man from Orléans*, 156



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November 12, 1914

Dig In!



The end of the Falkenhayn strategy in the north

The repeated costly German attacks that were made in the north of France after a «Race to the Sea» have now failed. The difficult movements of troops direct from Germany, or from Antwerp or the Aisne River, did not suffice.

General Eric Falkenhayn, who cumulates the offices of Minister of War and Chief of the German General Staff, is a clear-thinking man who can see the writing on the wall.

From his Grand Headquarters, in Mézières, he now foresees that a victory in France will not be possible before the winter and that the whole German strategy for this war has been ruined.

The needs in the Eastern Front are pressing and forces must be pulled from the French Front to be sent to the Russian Front if Hindenburg is to have any chance of prevailing there against masses of Russian soldiers advancing through Poland.

The German armies in France must now adopt a solid defensive line to prevent any advance of the French or British forces east of the present positions. The general order will be to dig in, deep and solid.

The BEF is at its last strength. I Corps (Douglas Haig), supported gallantly by IX French Corps (Pierre Dubois), have defended the Ypres Salient with the last measure of valour. They were not overwhelmed in the end and a continuous line of defence is now in place from the Channel to Switzerland.

— Imaginations are now turning to the notion of siege warfare. The prospect is not unappealing to utterly exhausted and bruised troops, living among the corpses of their comrades.

●Keegan, The First World War, Chap 6: «Stalemate», p. 175ff,



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November 13, 1914

A Leg in the Trap



Eastern Front: Mackensen's Ninth German Army in trouble

The Russians have 55 divisions on their western front, facing 13 German and 31 Austro-Hungarian divisions. They also have plenty of room to manoeuvre and many recruits.

On 11 November 1914, **General August von Mackensen**, commanding Ninth German Army on the Eastern Front, surprised the First Russian Army in the north of Warsaw. If the Russians did not know that Mackensen was coming, Mackensen did not know either that the Russians were so numerous around Warsaw. The North Western Army Group has three armies nearby: First, Second and Fifth Russian armies.

Mackensen is soon surrounded in what is evolving to be a reversed Tannenberg, with a 'double envelopment' by the Russians against him.

Hindenburg, Ludendorff and Hoffmann, the star trio operators of the German East High Command, are immediately worried about Ninth. They make plans to help him out.

On 13 November 1914, Mackensen, a very cool operator himself, reassures them. He believes that he can get himself out of trouble.

Hindenburg has been calling for reinforcements. The fact that he was named Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Theatre, on November 1st, did not come with much additional support. Ninth German Army is a jewel of the force under his command.

The Russian Northern Army Group has caught this German army in its trap. Its demise should be easy now.

●Keegan, The First World War, p. 166; map p. 143.

November 14, 1914

An Important Ally with Great Weaknesses



Jihad proclaimed by Ottoman Sultan

With the declarations of war by all three of the Entente powers against the Ottoman Government, Constantinople's reply came on the 11 November 1914, with its own declaration of war, thereby officially joining the Central Germanic Alliance.

The Ottoman Empire represents a large pool of manpower and an immense geopolitical influence in the East of Europe and Middle East. Germany has promised that supplies of arms and money would be sent by train through the Balkans to Constantinople, with military expertise and leadership.

The Ottoman Government of the Young Turks, however, arrange for the **Sultan, Mehmet V**, to issue, as Caliph, a *fatwa*, two days later, allowing the proclamation of a *jihad*, or Holy War, throughout the world of Islam.

The Ottoman are joining Christian states to fight against other Christian states. This is not received with much enthusiasm in Istanbul, and with even less approval in other Islamic lands. Many Islamic people have allegiances to the British empire, such as in Egypt and in

India. The *jihad* binds them to revolt as a religious duty.

In fact the status of Mehmet V as Grand Caliph is challenged by Sharif Hussein bin Ali, the Guardian of the Holy Places of Mecca and Medina. Many Arabs of the Palestine and Hejaz feel oppressed by the Ottomans, particularly since the arrival of the Young Turks at the head of the central government.

– Germany thus gains an important ally, but it will not be without great political difficulties.

●Andrew Mango, Atatürk, p. 136.



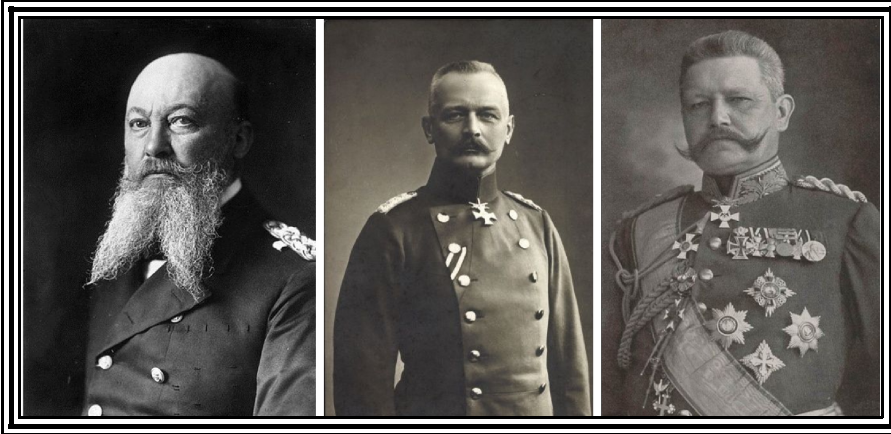
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November 15, 1914

Crisis in Command



Falkenhayn between Tirpitz and Hindenburg

The results of the Race to the Sea, with its end as an anticlimax in Flanders, is an important strategic failure for the German High Command.

The Minister for War, **General Falkenhayn**, who also happens to be the Chief of the General Staff, has to face many issues in his consideration of what the next steps will be, in the

West and in the East.

Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz, the architect of the German Imperial Navy and the Minister, has a powerful voice when he advocates that France is more important than Russia in the grand strategic plan because the greater cause for Germany is to prevail over the British by capturing the important ports of the Channel, Atlantic and Mediterranean, such as Antwerp, Marseilles and Toulon, developing the navy with resources acquired from the iron and coal-rich regions of France. Only thus can Germany gain the mastery of the seas, which will guarantee its Mitteleuropa dominance. For him, making a temporary entente with Russia is a solution to the new dilemma brought by the failure of the Schlieffen strategy.

General Paul Hindenburg, however, who was recently named Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Command, is an advocate of a strategy for success in the Eastern theatre first. He believes that the Russian continent has unlimited resources and that military success against Russia would secure military success in the West. He wants Falkenhayn to adopt a defensive stalemate in France and shift forces to the Russian front where victory can be had rapidly against a nation that is technologically and industrially backward.

— The Chancellor of Germany and the Minister for Foreign Affairs are becoming marginal in these discussions. In this military crisis, German grand strategy has fallen in the hands of the uniformed «High Command».

•Fischer, Germany's Aims in the First World War, p. 110-17.



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Le 16 novembre, 1914

Au Service de Sa Majesté



Le PPCLI au Camp Bustard

Le régiment d'infanterie légère *Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry* a traversé l'Atlantique avec le contingent canadien, mais il s'agit d'un régiment formé entièrement aux frais du Canadien Hamilton Gault.

Gault, un riche industriel, a réuni presque exclusivement des anciens de la guerre des Boer, ou du moins, des soldats matures qui ont de l'expérience de long service au sein de la Milice canadienne. Le lien avec la Grande Bretagne est aussi important pour la sélection des candidats. Ses membres portent déjà 771 décorations et médailles.

Le 4 novembre, lors de l'inspection du Corps canadien par le Roi et la Reine, Gault a présenté son régiment pour qu'il soit joint à l'Armée britannique et qu'il soit envoyé au front dans les plus courts délais.

Le Secrétaire d'État à la Guerre, le Maréchal Kitchener, a donc attaché ce régiment canadien à la 80ème Brigade, en préparation pour la traversée vers la France.

Le **16 novembre 1914** le PPCLI se rend au camp Bustard de la plaine de Salisbury pour se joindre à la formation britannique. Il y complète son entraînement. Fait à remarquer, le PPCLI n'utilise pas le fusil canadien Ross, qu'il croit de qualité inférieure au fusil Lee Enfield utilisé par l'Armée britannique. Il traversera donc en France avec ce dernier, s'évitant ainsi les difficultés cuisantes de la première Division canadienne.

Le Contingent canadien se forme en division au camp de Salisbury et poursuit son entraînement sous la pluie.

● <https://ppcli.com/timeline/regiment-joined-80th-bef/>



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Le 17 novembre, 1914

Comme les Britanniques



Réorganisation de l'artillerie de campagne canadienne

La division canadienne est arrivée en Angleterre avec quatre brigade d'infanterie, mais doit en conserver trois seulement dans sa formation définitive. Elle est aussi arrivée avec trois brigades d'artillerie légère.

Contrairement à ce que prévoit la table des effectifs, la division n'a pas de brigade d'obusiers, puisque les obusiers de 4.5 po, produits dans des usines britanniques n'ont pas été distribués au Canada. Le ministère de la Guerre en a réservé la distribution à l'Armée britannique. Il faudra donc en obtenir, alors que les nombreuses divisions des

armées de Kitchener, en formation, attendent aussi d'en recevoir.

Les canons de campagne canadiens sont ceux qu'emploient les Britanniques, soit des **canons légers de campagne à obus de 18 livres** (3.3 po, photo), pour les batteries légères, et des canons plus lourds, à obus de 60 livres (5 po), pour une batterie lourde.

Le 17 novembre 1914, l'artillerie légère est réorganisée selon les instructions britanniques. De trois brigades de trois batteries de 6 canons légers (54 canons), on fait quatre brigades de trois batteries de quatre canons (48 canons). De cette façon, trois brigades de douze canons chacune seront jumelées aux trois brigades d'infanterie, et une brigade de douze canons sera gardée pour l'artillerie divisionnaire. La batterie lourde (60 livres) reste à la division.

L'artillerie divisionnaire est intégrale à la division et se déplace toujours avec elle. Par contre, pour les tâches ardues, la division reçoit temporairement de l'artillerie de corps, qui lui est attachée. Elle peut aussi bénéficier du tir de l'artillerie de corps ou d'armée, soit d'obusier ou de canons moyens ou lourds.

●Duguid, Colonel A. Fortescue, Tr. Chaballe. *Histoire officielle de l'Armée canadienne dans la Grande Guerre 1914-1919. Histoire générale, vol. I: depuis le début des hostilités jusqu'à la formation du Corps expéditionnaire canadien, août 1914 à septembre 1915*, Ottawa, Imprimeur du Roi, 1947. xxvii - 660 p. + cartes. Accompagné d'un volume de documents.



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November 18, 1914

Go East!

General von der Goltz' Oriental strategy

The debate within the German High Command about the strategy to adopt in light of the failure of the Schlieffen Plan in France, cannot ignore the declaration of war made by Turkey in the last week. This geopolitical expansion of the Central Powers' reach brings a new vista to the big picture.

General Colmar Freiherr von der Goltz, 71, was brought back from retirement to become Governor of Belgium, after the German invasion. He proved a cold-blooded martinet, underwriting the systematic execution of innocent Belgians to prevent sabotage and resistance.

Recently posted to Constantinople to become the military aide to Sultan Mehmed V, Goltz is quite vocal in supporting the desires of the Ottoman Empire against the Russians and advocating an Oriental policy in support of Hindenburg. Goltz believes that Germany has shot its bolt in France and should now turn its might against Russia so as to prevail there. Goltz in fact has grandiose views of an 'Alexandrian campaign' in the East, which will allow the Central Powers to gain resources and address western Europe later. The Ottoman could prove quite instrumental in

pushing this sweeping campaign toward Egypt and Middle East.

This point of view is also shared by General Helmuth von Moltke, the Chief of the General Staff who oversaw the unfolding of the Schlieffen Plan in France, and resigned when it failed. Now in Berlin as Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Moltke the Younger criticizes Falkenhayn's strategy in France. He advocates that the Russian front should be dealt with immediately in light of the numerous advantages that a victory there would accrue, in the Balkans and the Baltics.

Falkenhayn is now facing schools of thought that differ diametrically between the westerners and the easterners. A new learned voice adds to the Orientalist view emerging from Constantinople.

●Goerlitz, History of the German General Staff, 168.



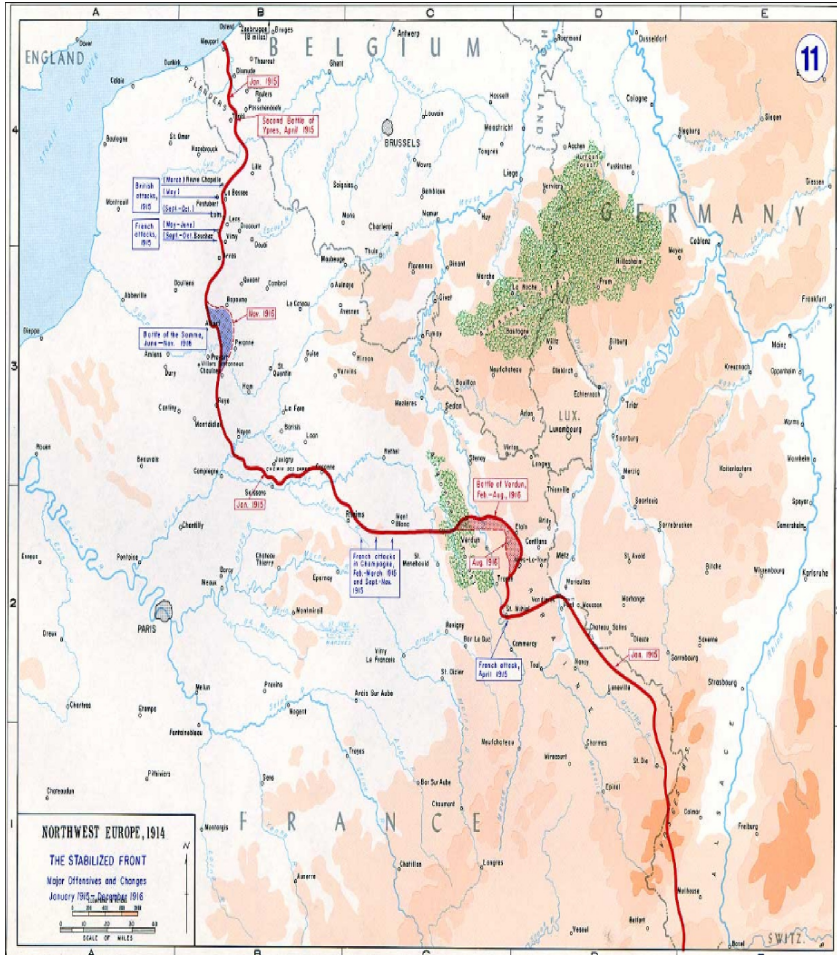
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November 19, 1914

The End of the Race to the Sea



The End of the Race to the Sea

Exhausted on both sides:

« During the month of October 1914 the western front had stabilized across Picardy and Artois, from the Oise to the neighborhood of La Bassée. The line had not been chosen at the will of either party, but marked the points which each side had reached and held during the confused and rapid series of actions known as the « Race to the Sea.» While there was still open country to the north it had been worth no one's while to attempt to dislodge an enemy present in any force, and when the sea had been reached and the German attacks upon the Yser repulsed, neither side retained the energy to advance. Both, therefore, had time to elaborate their defences in comparative peace, and thereby the sinuous and haphazard line already established became permanent.»¹

¹ Davidson, Major-General Sir John Humphrey, KCMG, CB, DSO, MP, « ARTOIS, THE BATTLES IN», Encyclopaedia Britannica, 12th Edition (1922), Vol. 30, pp. 271-81. •Map from image.search.yahoo.com



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Le 20 novembre, 1914

Le Rouleau Russe



Brusilov aux portes de l'Allemagne

Les offensives récentes des trois groupes d'armées russes, dans leur poussée au-delà de Varsovie (Warsaw), ont été couronnées de succès.

La Neuvième armée du général allemand Mackensen est présentement entourée par le groupe d'armées russe de Nord-Ouest et Mackensen lutte pour sa survie. La Huitième armée allemande esquivait les coups du mieux qu'elle peut.

Dans le sud de la Pologne, les Austro-Hongrois ont été repoussés de la grande forteresse de Przemysl, où il ne reste qu'une garnison abandonnée au siège d'une armée russe.

Le gros des cinq armées austro-hongroises a reculé vers Cracovie (Cracow), poursuivies par le groupe d'armées russe du Sud-Ouest.

Le 20 novembre 1914, le commandant d'armées Brusilov capture la passe de Lupkow, près de Cracovie, des mains du général autrichien Borojevic. Ces passes dans la chaîne des Carpathes donnent accès à la Hongrie et laissent entrevoir la frontière d'Allemagne.

Hindenburg a raison de réclamer des renforts de France. Les Russes sont en marche en très grands nombres et ignorent leurs pertes.

•Keegan, *The First World War*, p. 18-9, carte p. 143.



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November 21st, 1914

In for a Penny, In for a Fight



More troops needed in Basra

British interests in the oil fields near the Shatt-el-Arab, at the head of the Persian Gulf, existed before the War. The British Persian Oil Company (BPOC) was created in 1909 with a principal refinery built on the delta island of Abadan.

The British Government took a special interest in the company when Winston Churchill changed the Royal Navy from coal-burning to oil-burning, in 1913. Relations with Turkish authorities in Mesopotamia were amiable and legal until the War, when the treaties of Capitulations were revoked.

At the start of the War, the 6th Indian Division was despatched to Bahrein to remain as a security force in the Persian Gulf. Then, when Turkish authorities in the Mesopotamia, prompted by the German representatives with the Ottoman Government, became a nuisance, the division was ordered to seize the inland city of Basra, on the Shatt-el-Arab, so as to secure BPOC holdings. When the Turkish Navy bombarded Odessa, in the Black Sea, the British considered that their interests were severely at risk.

With the declarations of war between Great Britain and the Ottoman empire, things became even more tense. The Ottoman administrators of the Mesopotamia repeatedly attempted to use the local Arabs to attack British and Indian presence and assets along the Shatt-el-Arab.

On 21 November 1914, a second Indian division arrives in Basra. It is anticipated that more troops will be needed to secure pipelines up the Shatt-ell-Arab to the joining point of the Euphrates and Tigris.

— In for a penny... In for a Fight!

●A.T.Wilson, «Mesopotmia», *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Twelfth Ed. (1922), 31: 917-8; ●Wikipedia, «Mesopotamia»



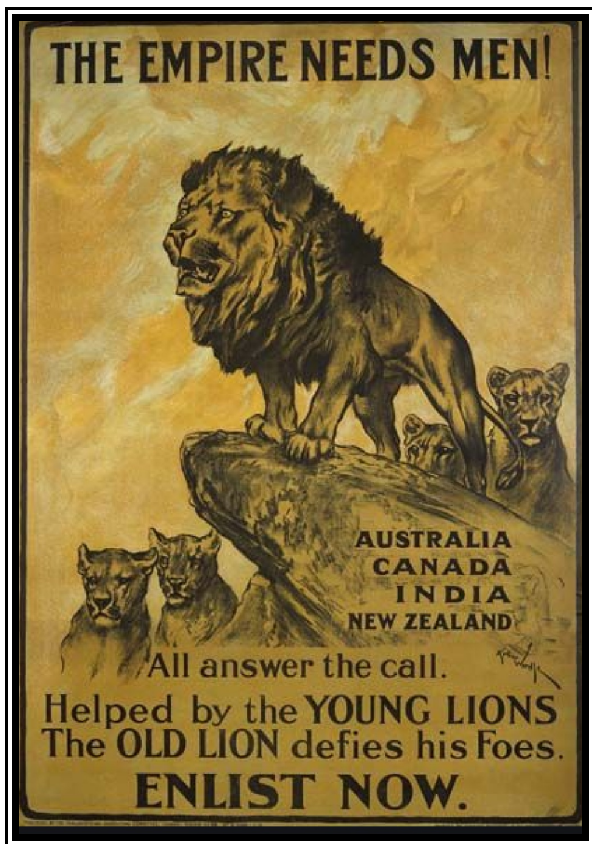
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November 22nd, 1914

Who's Where?



Britain's Householders' Return

Before the war there had not been in Great Britain, as was done in all major powers of Western Europe, a register for the purpose of national defence.

At the beginning of the war, the Liberal Government was therefore not informed in reliable terms of what the manpower situation was in the British Isles, and what resources could be counted on if a national crisis called for a conscription.

One thing that the Government knew, however, is that there was wide-spread opposition to any form of conscription, and the agency that was formed to inform the Government had to take the form of a Parliamentary Recruiting Committee, with the mandate of dealing only with volunteer recruitment.

It is therefore with great difficulty that the Government was able, in **November 1914**, to activate a «Householders' Return», a survey of potential voluntary men.

«This was a return of men eligible and willing to serve, and was secured by means of forms sent to every household in the Kingdom, with a covering letter signed by Messrs. Asquith, Bonar Law, and Arthur Henderson, the leaders of the three political parties, appealing to every eligible man to hold himself ready to enlist in the forces of the Crown.»¹

Speaking of conscription in 1914 is seen by all as repulsive. The recruitment is sufficient to fill all the positions that the Kitchener's armies are offering. Pals are joining as if there was no tomorrow.

¹ ●David Lloyd George, War Memoirs, Chap 23 - The Coming of Conscription, p. 714.



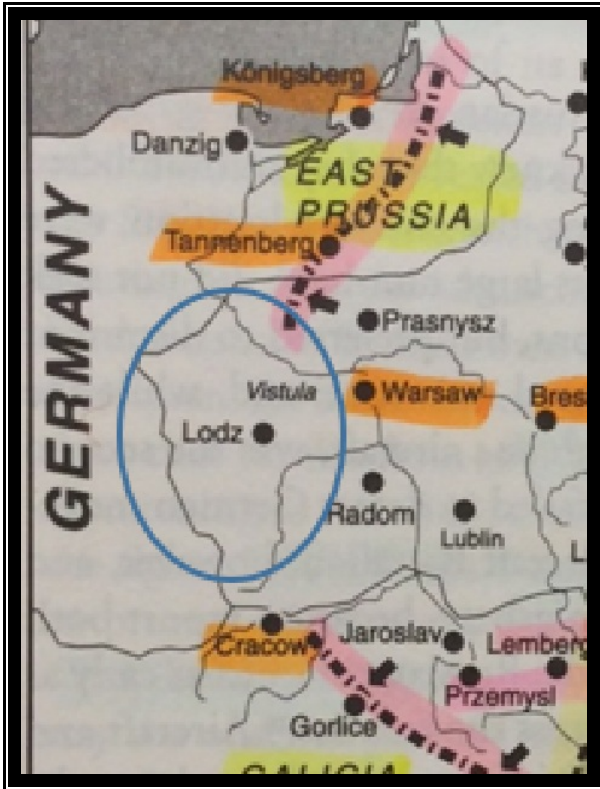
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November 23rd, 1914

The trains can't follow



The Battle of Lodz

Twelve days ago, General Mackensen, the commander of Ninth German Army on the Eastern Front, attempted to hit a Russian advance in the flank. In punching First Russian Army in its westerly advance from Warsaw, he did not know that he was exposing himself to the two other armies of the North-West Russian army group.

Mackensen has now been involved in a fight for the survival of his army. At one point, the Russians were on the verge of completing a double envelopment, which would have been the reversal of what happened in the terrible massacre of the battle of Tannenberg.

But the Germans, again, are able to intercept wireless communications between Russian headquarters to avoid the pitfalls while being outnumbered five to one.

Mackensen is able to extricate himself with substantial losses by withdrawing to the city of Lodz, to the east of Warsaw and holding that city.

The Russians have another problem that does not help. Their railroads are not of the same gauge as is found in western Poland. Their supplies can therefore

not follow them on the advance. Their logistical tail cannot extend swiftly, and their army corps cannot be transported from one place to another rapidly.

This is a crippling weakness. Hindenburg and Ludendorff are greatly encouraged by what they see as slow cattle being driven into their pens. They want reinforcements from the West — and they want them right now!

●Keegan, First World War, 167-8.



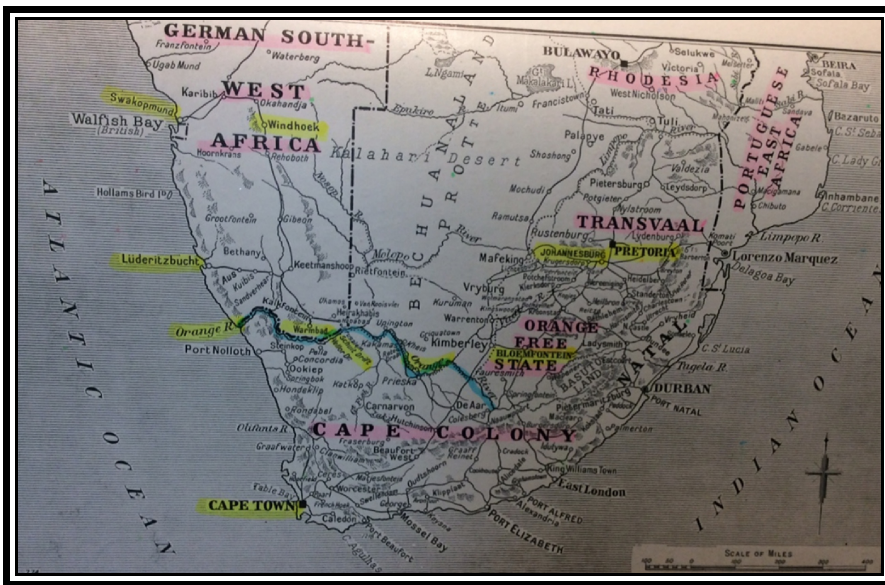
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November 24, 1914

A Dutch Rising Against British Policy



The South African Rebellion

The Union of South Africa took place in 1912, joining the republics of Transvaal, Orange Free State and Cape Colony under a single Dominion Government of the British empire in Cape Town.

With the opening of the War, in early August 1914, the South African Government took upon itself to execute a raid to harass German South Africa, and in particular destroy long range communications facilities that London identified as being useful to German naval raiders.

Some of the Dutch leaders of the provinces who had maintained friendly relations with the Germans were opposed to South Africa undertaking such missions of war against German South West Africa. Among them, the Commandant General of the Citizens Forces, General C.F. Beyers, who orchestrated a treasonous rebellion with officers of the army. This rebellion was very unsuccessful, due to bad planning and to the Government skillful reaction.

By 24 November 1914, the Prime Minister, General Louis Botha, and the Minister of Defence, General Jan Smuts, having taken to the field, are on top of the situation. They captured the main leaders of the rebellion without undue violence, amnestied many of the soldiers involved, and gained an overwhelming support in South African opinion.

— These two outstanding leaders of the Boer War are now key statesmen of the British empire.

• TIMES History of the War, Vol III, Chap 44 - «The South African Rebellion», pp. 481-512.



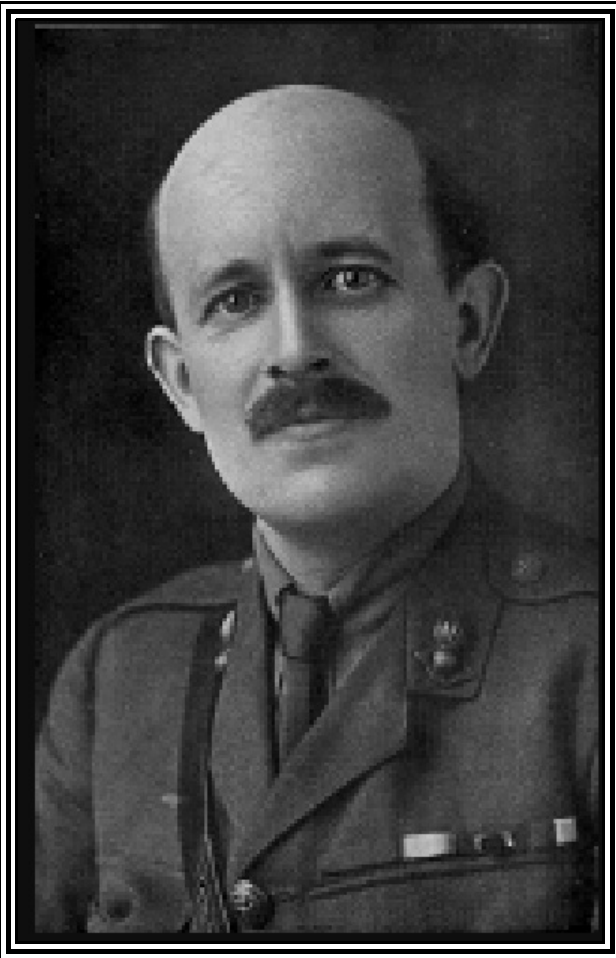
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Le 25 novembre, 1914

Un Secrétaire de Haut Niveau



Le Conseil de guerre britannique

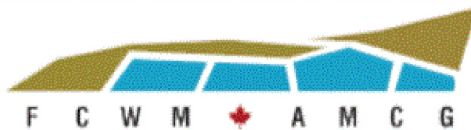
Le gouvernement impérial britannique, à Londres, se voit bombardé par des requêtes de décisions cruciales à la survie, et à la victoire des nations de tout l'Empire. Le Cabinet du Premier ministre Henry Asquith ne peut pas suffire à la tâche de s'informer adéquatement pour s'adresser à chacun des dossiers pressants qui lui sont présentés.

Depuis le début de la guerre, le nombre de comités et de sous-comités du Cabinet, chargés d'étudier les aspects techniques des questions soulevées, a grossi, de sorte que le Secrétaire du Cabinet, **le major Maurice Hankey**, ne peut plus suffire à la tâche d'orchestrer leurs délibérations.

Hankey, avec l'appui de Asquith et de ses ministres, réorganise donc les méthodes de travail du Cabinet et réussit à faire accepter la formation d'un Conseil de guerre où seulement huit membres du gouvernement siègent tous les jours pour prendre les décisions rapides qui s'imposent. Ceci réduit considérablement le nombre de personnes qui doivent être informées des détails, et réoriente le travail des 'briefers' de son Secrétariat auprès de chaque ministère, qui peuvent ainsi mieux assister les comités. Des sommaires suffisent ainsi à maintenir tous les ministres au fait.

— La haute direction politique de l'Empire britannique gagne énormément à améliorer substantiellement son habileté à prendre des décisions judicieuses. Le major des Royal Marines Hankey, un Secrétaire de grand talent, joue un rôle crucial dans l'acheminement des idées, de leur première conception à l'action efficiente.

● Rosskill, Hankey: Man of Secrets, I: p. 144-6.



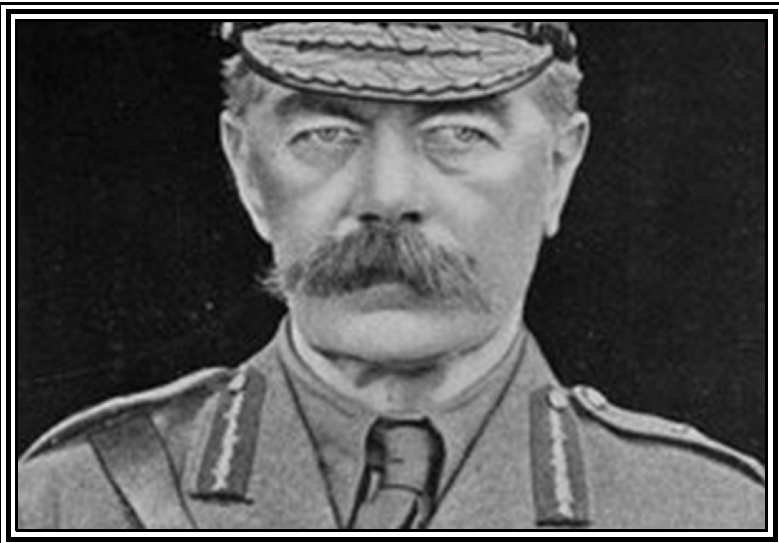
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November 26, 1914

Lord of War



Kitchener in the House of Lords

Field Marshal Earl Horatio Kitchener is the Secretary of War in the British Government. Brought back from Egypt as one of the greatest heroes of the British services, his life has mostly been spent abroad, as far back as being involved in the Prusso-French War of 1870 as a subaltern in exchange duties. His personality has been formed by commands in the Indian Army and as British Agent in Egypt.

Back in London in August, he took the management and direction of the War Office where the British tradition has almost exclusively had a civilian minister. His rank

of Field Marshal sets him higher in the military hierarchy than the Chief of the General Staff, and gives him a constitutional prerogative of military command that civilian ministers do not enjoy. He uses it without hesitation.

This British icon, who can be seen in the recruiting posters all over the empire, does not have the experience of democracy as it functions in Britain. Having been The Man in Charge for decades in colonies, he has developed a style of work in which consultation and accounting are not immediate requirements. His relationship with a Cabinet of talkative and curious ministers is not an easy one. He remains very much aloof of their counsel.

Today, **26 November 1914**, Kitchener appears before the House of Lords —he is not a Commoner- to report on the work of the War Office. The Lords can only eat his words and laud his supreme genius.

● Le Bas, Sir Hedley (Ed.), The Lord Kitchener Memorial Book (Published on Behalf of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund by Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1917. Contains own speeches, obituaries and remarks by Earl of Derby, Robertson, Joffre, Cadorna, Birdwood, Laubat, Arthur Henderson, Le Bas.



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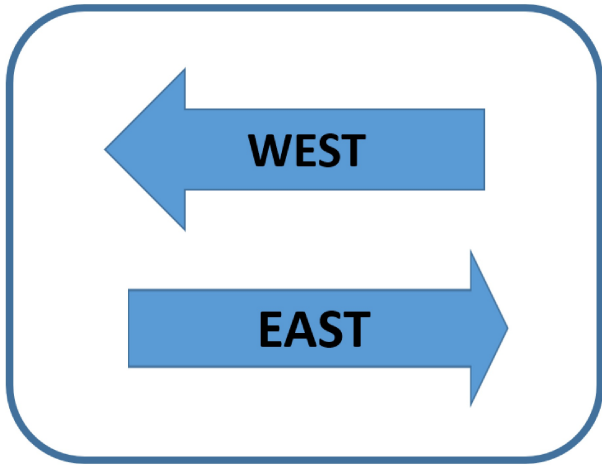
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November 27, 1914

A Big Choice to Make

Germany's strategic dilemma



The German Government is facing the evidence of the failure of the Schlieffen strategy, not having succeeded in eliminating France as the enemy in the West, before eliminating Russia as the enemy in the East.

The important factor that made a difference in France is the decision by Great Britain to enter the war and send its Regular army to fight on the continent. Although a small army, the British Expeditionary Force made a difference, providing additional weight to the ten French armies at two moments where it took a disproportionate importance in the balance, in Mons, in September, and in Ypres, in November.

Falkenhayn, the Minister of War, now has to face a grave dilemma as eleven Russian armies are progressing toward Austria-Hungary and Germany across Poland. As winter is coming, his High Command must decide right away what must be done next. He is receiving advice from all quarters, some saying that he must negotiate for peace with one side, some saying with the other side, some saying that he should continue on both fronts, managing a balancing act by allocating troops shrewdly when there are not enough.

Behind the scene, however, are important levers at work. The industrial complex of Germany has immense political influence in Berlin. For the continuous support of the war effort, industries need mineral and agricultural resources that are well identified: coal, steel, wheat, and manpower top the list.

Germany has already captured great industrial resources in Belgium and France. But this does not compare with what can be anticipated from a victory in Russia where not only resources abound, but almost unlimited manpower to move them would be available.

●Fischer, Germany' Aims in the First World War, Chap 5: «Popular pressures: Publicists, societies, parties and princes», p. 155-183.



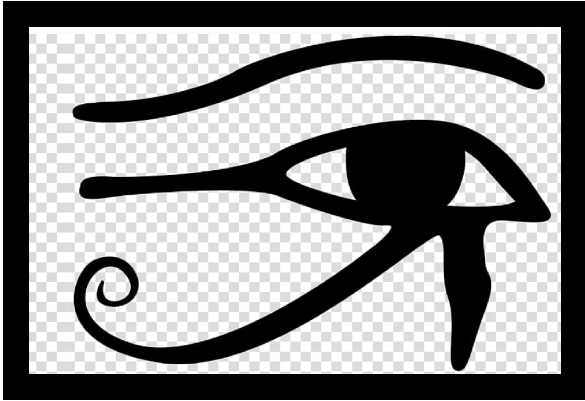
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November 28, 1914

Better the Infidel That You Know



Egypt: Martial Law

The declaration of *Jihad* made by the Sultan of Turkey against France and Great Britain is reaching all the Muslim populations of the world. His religious authority from Constantinople is not unanimously accepted among clerics of the various sects of the Mohammedan following, but his reach is nevertheless impressive.

The British authorities in Muslim colonies must deal with the curse as best they can. This is particularly important in Egypt, where the Sultan is still nominally the Suzerain, and where the strategic advantage of the Suez Canal is much coveted. German influence behind the

Grande Porte policy makes a great deal out of attempting to stop navigation through the Canal, and perhaps, even, gaining control of it.

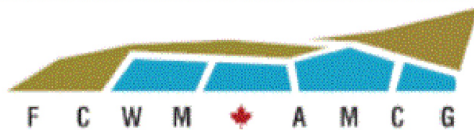
This is why the British Consul General in Cairo, the imperial authority in Egypt, decrees martial law for the Egyptians. An important part of the military forces there are formed of local regiments, many of them of the Muslim faith. Their allegiance to the British Imperial authorities might be shaken if Turkey attempted to 'free' Egypt from the British regime. This is something that is also in question in other places in the world, such as in India.

British policy in Egypt is, however, conciliant and as smooth as possible. If the martial law abrogates the Egyptian Legislative assembly, it however, does not give any obligation to Egyptians to serve in the War.

This policy will be successful. The Ottoman regime will find that there is much less enthusiasm in Egypt for their return than they anticipated.

The Egyptians can discern the German hand behind Sultan Mehmet V's *fetva*. Better the Infidel that you know...

●James Rennell Rodd, «Egypt», *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Twelfth Ed., 1922, XXX: 943; ●*TIMES History of the War*, III: Chap 58: «The Problem of Egypt: A New Regime», p. 281-320.



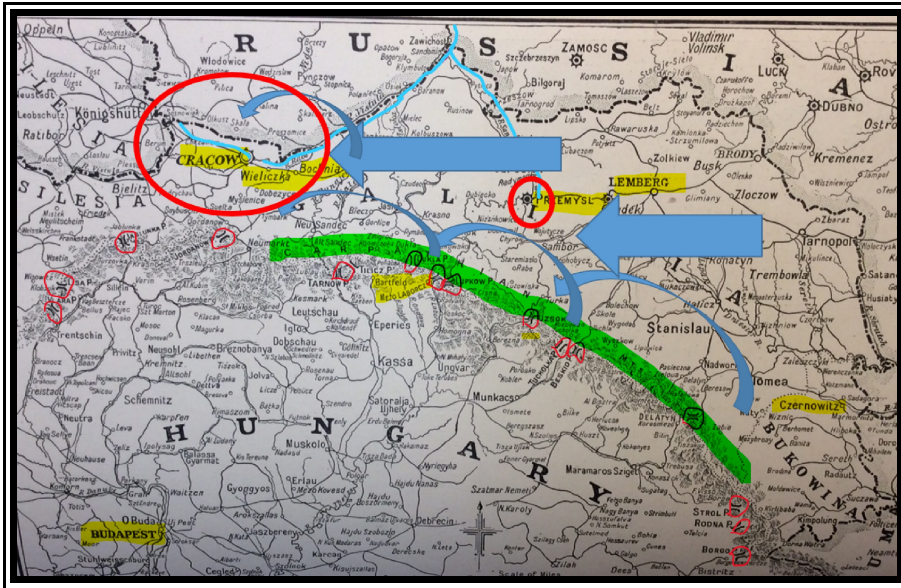
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November 29, 1914

Austro-Hungarian Retreat



The defence of the Carpathians passes

The Russian South-West Army Group is having a great deal of success in the south of Poland. It has now isolated the great Austro-Hungarian fortress of Przemyśl, on the San River, and driven the Austrian armies back to Cracow, which, on **29 November 1914**, is seriously threatened.

More important, the three Russian armies are following the north side of the Carpathian Mountains (Galicia), which mark the frontier between Russia and

Hungary.

Some Russian advanced guards have succeeded in crossing the passes through the Carpathian, entering 30 kilometres into Hungarian territory.

In the last half of November, the Russians have taken 50,000 Austrian prisoners, including 600 officers. Hindenburg, recently occupied by the battle of the Ninth Army near Warsaw, has to relieve Cracow. His demands for more troops is beginning to have an effect. German troops are being sent directly to support the Austro-Hungarian armies near Cracow.

— If the Russian can cross the Carpathians toward Budapest, or go west from Cracow into German Silesia, this will be a terrible blow to the Central Powers.

• TIMES History of the War, III: Chap 59: «The German Failure in Poland», 321-60.



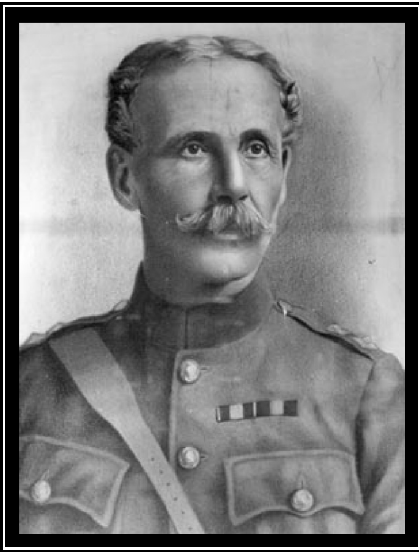
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Le 30 novembre, 1914

Mesures de Guerre au Canada



Les camps d'étrangers ennemis du Canada

À la suite d'un Ordre-en-Conseil du gouvernement du Canada en date du 28 octobre 1914, le Canada doit maintenant ouvrir des camps pour des étrangers ennemis pour qu'ils y soient internés pendant la durée de la guerre.

Ces prisonniers doivent être traités comme des prisonniers de guerre, selon les règles internationales promulguées par la Convention de la Haye de 1907. Ils ne doivent pas être emprisonnés comme des criminels et doivent jouir des avantages réservés à leur rang.

Les directives qui émanent des autorités impériales par la *Loi canadienne sur les Mesures de Guerre*, imposent au Canada que des camps soient construits, à plusieurs endroits au Canada, de sorte à faire travailler les hommes qui n'ont pas un statut équivalent à celui d'un officier militaire, et à donner des abris adéquats à leur famille.

Les règles sur la qualité de la nourriture et sur les aménités dépassent de beaucoup ce que les soldats de la Milice canadienne reçoivent en campagne. Les normes, toutefois, sont rarement respectées. Les groupes ethniques visés sont les Allemands, Autrichiens, Turcs, Ukrainiens, Ruthéniens, Tchèques, Moraviens et Slovaques, et beaucoup d'autres qui peuvent être associés aux ennemis déclarés des Puissances du Centre.

Le gouvernement nomme le **major-général William Otter**, 72 ans, fameux campagnard de l'affaire Riel et de la Guerre des Boër, pour gérer le système des 24 camps érigés rapidement partout au Canada, où il y a eu 8579 détenus.

C'est ainsi que naîtront le camp de Petawawa, en Ontario, où des Autrichiens et Ruthéniens jusque là détenus au Fort Henry de Kingston, seront mis au travail, comme à plusieurs autres endroits.

●Kordan, Bohdan S., Enemy Aliens, Prisoners of War – Internment in Canada during the Great War (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002);

●Chaplin-Thomas, Charmion, «Aliens and Prisoners of War Camps in Canada in WWI», La feuille d'Érable, Vol. 6, No. 40, le 29 octobre 2003.



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