

1 novembre 1917

Un nouveau chancelier en Allemagne: von Hertling

Le monde politique en Allemagne est considérablement excité par deux facteurs importants: la reddition des Russes et l'échec récent à sortir l'Italie de la guerre, malgré le succès militaire de Caporetto.

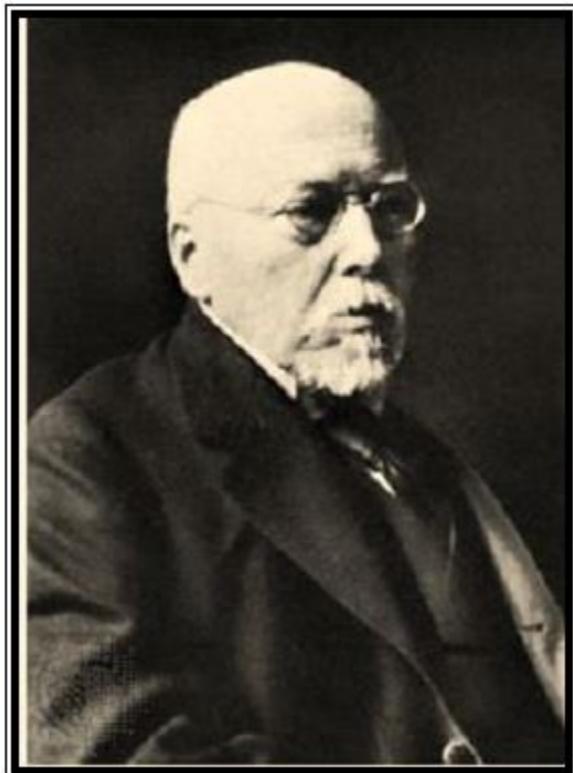
Les diplomates croient que l'attaque de l'Italie est une erreur et que l'exploitation des territoires conquis à la Pologne et la Russie empêche les meilleures relations susceptibles d'aider l'Allemagne contre ses adversaires.

Le Parlement regagne donc de son influence et remplace le chancelier Georg Michaelis qui avait été mis en place au début de l'année par le Haut Commandement militaire. Hertling est un civil de 75 ans élu par compromis.

Georg von Hertling ne s'oppose pas aux militaires, mais il représente la volonté des parlementaires pour que les relations internationales retombent aux mains des ministres civils et diplomates.

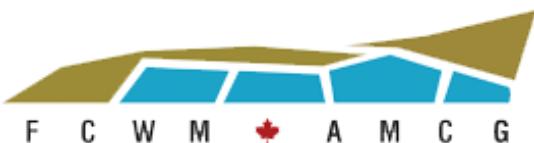
Il aura finalement peu d'influence dans le va-et-vient des affaires courantes de l'Allemagne, divisée par des factions souvent muselées, mais énergiques.

— Les relations civiles-militaires en Allemagne vont au gré des batailles tant militaires que politiques.



Sources : Goerlitz, History of the German General Staff, p. 191; Fischer, War Aims, p. 439-40;
<http://dictionnaire.sensagent.leparisien.fr/Georg%20von%20Hertling/fr-fr/>

Pour en savoir plus : https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georg_von_Hertling

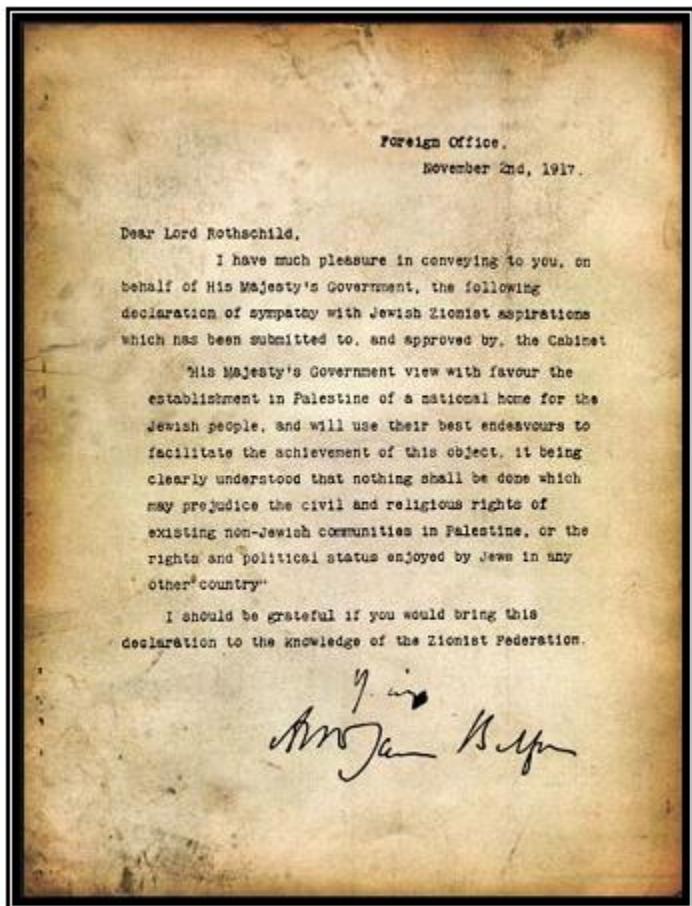


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2 November 1917

The Balfour Declaration of 2 November 1917



On 2 November 1917, Arthur Balfour, former Conservative Prime Minister of Great Britain and Foreign Secretary in Lloyd George's Second Coalition Cabinet, sent a letter to Lord Rothschild, important London financier and patriarch of the British Jewish community, outlining the Government's policy in regard to Palestine.

The letter contained these famous words:

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

The words of this statement —which was made for deep and intricate diplomatic and political British War aims, were among the most resonant of the War. They gave wings to Zionism which Chaim Weizmann spent the rest of his life promoting.

— The Balfour Declaration was delivered as an encouragement and taken as a sacred promise.

For more information see Barbara Tuchman, Bible and Sword, Chap 17, « Culmination» p, 310-47.



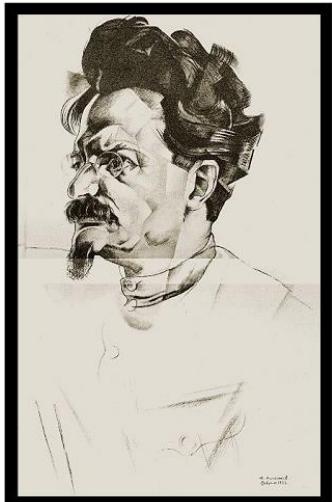
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3 November 1917

Trotsky's statement of Bolshevik policy

In the thick of the Russian Revolution, Trotsky grows hoarse from exposing the principles of a Bolshevik Government, with nationalisation of banks, land, and instruments of production.

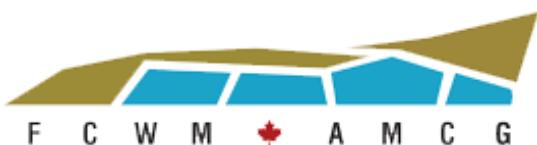


The Revolutionary Government, he promises, will bring in the repudiation of imperialistic conflicts on the backs of the soldiers, workers, and the poor.

« What about Belgium, Alsace-Lorraine? We did not at the commencement of the War believe, and we do not believe now, that the War is carried on by the ruling class for the sake of guarding the rights of weak nations. No! The bourgeois of all countries are fighting for property. If it could be imagined that the War will pass without punishment to the ruling classes, and that imperialism will remain the guiding hand in politics of so-called civilised people, it would be naïve to think of the defending of weak and backward nations. Imperialism took everything and made slaves of everybody. Only the undefeated revolution of the working classes against imperialism can free Belgium, Alsace-Lorraine, and all weaker countries.¹»

¹Quoted from Lloyd George, Memoirs, V: 2597-2600.

Photo: Trotsky in a 1922 cubist portrait by Yury Annenkov, a version of this appeared on one of the earliest covers of Time magazine. Wikipedia.



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4 November 1917

Agreement on the principle of sharing of tonnage by the Allies



On 4 November 1917, the British Foreign Office hosts a conference where the Allies agree on the principle of the sharing of maritime tonnage in which competition for hulls will be determined by a common agency.

This agency will be officially created at the Inter-Allied Supreme Council on 29 Nov-3 Dec 1917 as the **Allied Maritime Transport Council - AMTC** (*'Conseil interallié des transports maritimes'*).

The AMTC will have a determining influence in tonnage management for the benefit of the all allied nations involved in the war at large.

With a knowledge of world availability on a daily basis, it can re-direct traffic according to the needs.

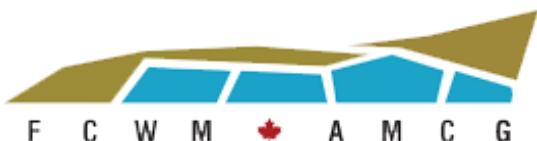
The success of this program will also trigger other agencies to regulate the purchase and commerce of specific goods within the constraints of the war.

Three large areas get their own councils, Food, Munitions and Primary Resources, with numerous specific programs. The expansion of those programs will continue until the end of the war and will be credited with great improvements in efficiency.

— « **The foundation of the Munitions Budget is Tonnage; the ground floor is Steel; and the limiting factor in construction is Labour.¹** » — Winston Dixit.

¹Churchill, World Crisis, III (2), 315.

Duroselle, La Grande Guerre des Français, 249-54.



5 November 1917

The Rapallo Conference



The disaster at Caporetto forced large scale British and French reinforcements for Italy, with General Foch taking over defence.

Salvaging the Italian front demonstrated that no theatre was completely independent of others, given that the urgent transfer of troops prevented a potential total collapse of Italy.

Lloyd George had long been frustrated by the allies' inability to work together; he proposed that the opportunity be seized for British, French and Italian political and military leaders to meet at Rapallo in early November for decisive coordination.

On 5 November 1917, these governments agree to the formation of a Supreme War Council to be established at Versailles with prime ministers, ministers and permanent military representatives ready to act decisively in cooperation. **The Rapallo Convention** will be signed in two days.

Lloyd George had long envisaged a multi-national unified command where politicians would have a say in military strategy.

— Until the Germans impose another disaster on the allies in the coming spring, the Supreme War Council will have in fact little influence in directing allied strategy.

Further information: David Lloyd George, Memoirs, Vol. IV, Chap 66: «The Caporetto Disaster», p. 2275ff.

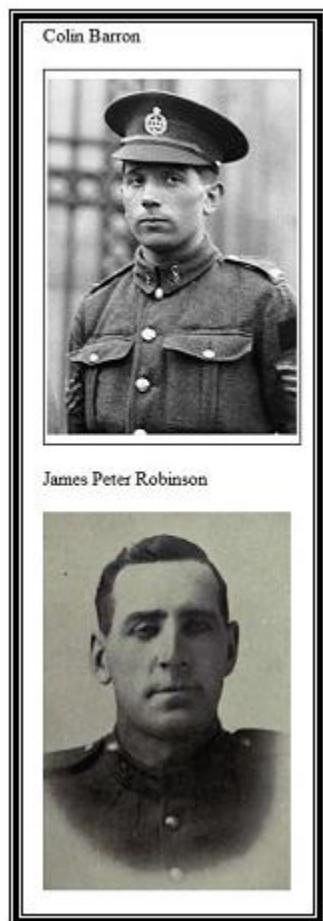


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6 November 1917

Canadians renew the offensive in Passchendaele



6 November 1917 marks a new phase in the Canadian assault of Passchendaele.

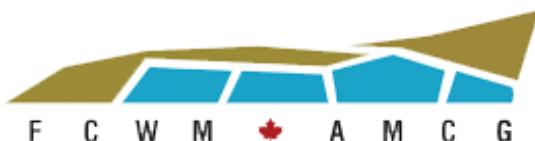
This is the day in which Canadians **Colin Barron** and **James Peter Robinson** received the Victoria Cross.

Colin Barron, a corporal with the 3rd Canadian Inf. Bn., inched his way forward on his stomach and tossed several Mills bombs into a machine-gun nest which killed most of the gun crew. With his bayonet fixed he took the rest as prisoners. He then turned one of the captured guns on the rest of the fleeing Germans.

James Peter Robinson volunteered to take out a German machine-gun that was firing on soldiers of the 27th Bn. at point blank range. Charging forward into the open in the direct line of fire he reached the machine-gun nest and killed four of the enemy gunners with his bayonet. The captured machine-gun was turned on the fleeing Germans. After returning to his own line Robinson ventured into no man's land to rescue two wounded comrades. He brought one of the wounded men back to the line, but when he went back to rescue the second he was wounded by a bullet.

He brought the second comrade back near his own line before a shell exploded, instantly killing him.

Arthur Bishop, Royal Canadian Legion Magazine, May 2005, pages 39-40.



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7 November 1917

Victory at Gaza

After surprising the Turkish left flank at Beersheba with the diversionary attack on 31 October, the main British thrust at Gaza (launched on 1 November) made steady progress and by **7 November 1917**, Turkish forces had begun a disciplined general retreat from the Gaza-Beersheba line to avoid encirclement.

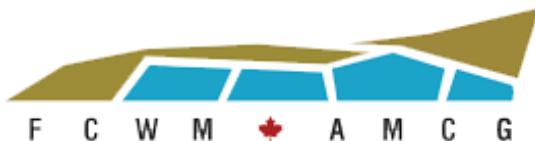
However, strong Turkish opposition north of Beersheba delayed Allenby's cavalry long enough to permit most Turkish forces to escape encirclement.



British troops found Gaza deserted and badly battered by their own artillery.

The Turkish plan was to withdraw seven miles to the Wadi Hesi to regroup but as darkness descended on the 7th, the leading British units crossed the wadi at its outlet to the sea, again outflanking the Turks, who continued to retreat to the next defensible position, another 15 miles.

Further information: Anthony Bruce, [The Last Crusade: The Palestine Campaign in the First World War](#)

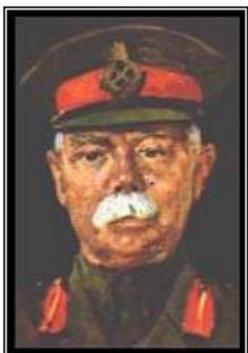


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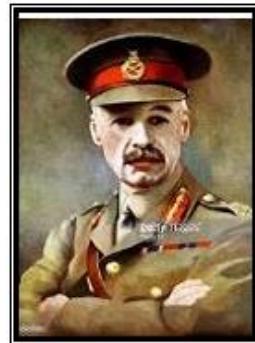
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8 November 1917

Rawlinson replaces Plumer at head of Second Army



On 8 November 1917, as the advance of the Canadians toward Passchendaele is drawing the Flanders offensive to a close, **General Herbert Plumer**, the commander of the Second Army in which the Canadian Corps is now at the forefront, is sent to Italy to take charge of the British divisions that are being sent to save the Italian front.



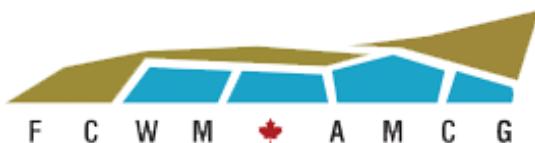
General Currie will now report to **General Henry Rawlinson**, his boss in the Somme, who leaves his Fourth Army, which has not been particularly busy in the last few months.

This is just a temporary assignment. Rawlinson's army was supposed to attack along the Channel coast toward the heart of Belgium following success in Flanders. But the Flanders offensive having only reached Passchendaele in 100 days, and the winter weather not allowing any more thoughts on wide-sweeping offensives, Fourth Army will not be active offensively until the spring.

The Canadians are giving a last push in Passchendaele. First and Second Canadian Divisions are getting near the village at the top of the height. They can barely see the light at the end of the mud.

— Meanwhile some British soldiers are singing in the trains going to warm Italy.

Beckett and Corvi, Haig's Generals (2006).



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9 November 1917

Shipping, Shipping, Shipping!



A conference takes place at Downing Street, on **9 November 1917**, about arrangements that can be made to carry the United States Army troops across the Atlantic at the fastest pace possible.

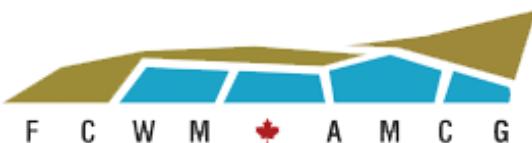
Shipping is very limited and all shipping is used for top priorities: vital supplies from the Americas, troops across the Channel, food, coal to France and Italy, support to the Middle East and Salonica, etc.

But the High Command has to come to grips that the first priority is to get manpower for the armies in France. The American Army is preparing for two million soldiers to be sent to Europe, but there are not enough ships to carry them for the summer campaigns of 1918. At the present rate, they will not be all there until 1920.

The British Government is facing the fact that British shipping will have to be sent to America as the United States does not have the hulls to carry its legions.

— This is an enormous decision. This new top-of-the-top priority will leave many fronts stranded. But it's for a good cause...

Lloyd George, Memoirs, V:3012.



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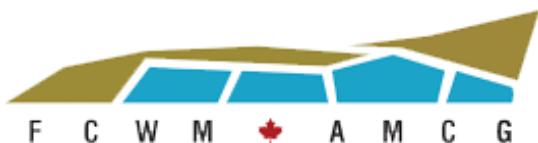
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10 novembre 1917

Reposer en paix



Le 10 novembre 1917, dernier jour de la Troisième Bataille de Ypres (31 juillet-10 novembre 1917).
Puissent-ils tous reposer en paix – Ils le méritent.



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11 November 1917

Meeting of the German General Staff at Mons



On 11 November 1917, the senior officers of the German General Staff meet at Mons.

Ludendorff, von Kuhl and von der Schulenberg (chiefs of staffs to Bavarian Prince Ruprecht's and the German Crown Prince's army groups), and strategic adviser **Major Wetzel** direct the proceedings.

They decide that a supreme offensive must take place in February or March 1918, before the Americans can intervene; that the British must be attacked; that nothing else must confuse the issue.

«... our general situation requires that we should strike at the earliest moment, if possible at the end of February or the beginning of March, before the Americans can throw strong forces into the scale. We must beat the British.»

— Little do they know that in exactly one year, the Canadians will be marching before the windows of their meeting place in Mons.

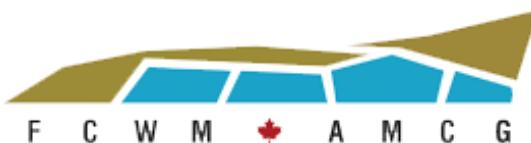
Ferguson, The Pity of War, 316;

Barrie Pitt, 1918: The Last Act, 60.

Photo: German official photographer, n.d., Mons, Hainaut, Belgium. IWM (Q 24005)

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/20526432>

https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/rupprecht_crown_prince_of_bavaria



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12 November 1917

Italian Front Stabilised

After the Caporetto disaster, Marshall Cadorna, who blamed the rout on the cowardice of his troops, was finally sacked and replaced by General Armando Diaz.

Diaz, with significant allied support, assessed that the defences at Caporetto had lacked depth, and command and control was too centralised. Accordingly, Diaz set up a flexible and deep defence along the Piave River.



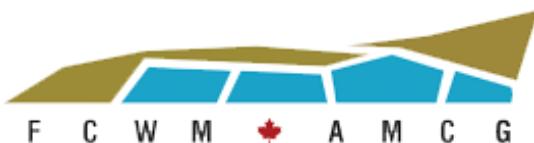
On 12 November 1917, an Austro-Hungarian army group launches an assault against the Piave line but runs into well-defended positions and gets repulsed.

The attack fails because the German divisions which had added critical mass at Caporetto have now returned to the Western Front.

The Austrians are exhausted and at the far end of a long supply line which is not capable of sustaining a renewed offensive.

— The Austro-Hungarian forces will not attack again until June 1918.

Further information: John Schindler: [Isonzo: The Forgotten Sacrifice of the Great War](#)



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13 novembre 1917

Des chalutiers de combat construits au Canada

Depuis que des sous-marins allemands ont apparu le long de la côte américaine et y ont fait du torpillage de navires marchands, la protection de la navigation côtière de l'ouest de l'Atlantique a pris une ampleur nouvelle.

Mais les gros vaisseaux de guerre sont employés dans les convois trans-Atlantique, et ne peuvent être retenus dans les ports américains et canadiens pour la défense côtière.

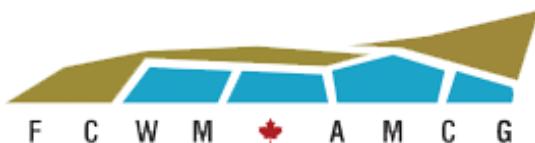
Il a donc été décidé, au début de 1917, que les chantiers maritimes de Toronto et de Montréal se consacreraient à la production de petits navires armés, chalutiers et avisos, qui pourront patrouiller les côtes et repousser les sous-marins avec des canons.

En novembre 1917, les chalutiers de combat canadiens commencent à sortir des chantiers. Le **13 novembre 1917**, six chalutiers de 320 à 350 tonnes sont officiellement lancés à Toronto: *Festubert, Messines, St.Eloi* (photo), *St. Julien, Vimy, Ypres*, portent chacun des canons à obus de 12 livres, avec une capacité de 10 noeuds.

— Ces braves petits navires marqueront un effort industriel et naval continu jusqu'à la fin de la guerre.



Johnston et al., Du Littoral à la Mer, Chap 6: «Des destroyers aux chalutiers, 1916-1917», p. 379-452.



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14 novembre 1917

Les Canadiens quittent Ypres



La Troisième bataille de Ypres, commencée le 31 juillet, incluant sa dernière phase, la bataille de Passchendaele, commencée en août, et à laquelle les Canadiens se sont joints le 22 octobre, a pris fin il y a deux jours avec des pertes de 250,000 troupes britanniques (l'équivalent d'une douzaine de divisions neuves), dont près de 16,000 Canadiens.

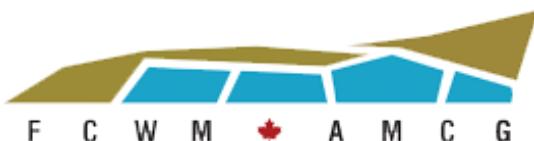
Le Corps canadien retourne maintenant à Lens, d'où il est venu, pour réintégrer la Première Armée britannique après son séjour d'un peu plus de trois semaines d'enfer en Flandre belge.

Les Canadiens se sont montrés habiles dans les trois dernières grandes batailles auxquelles ils ont participé: Vimy (du 9 au 12 avril); la Cote 70 (du 15 au 26 août); et Passchendaele (du 22 octobre au 12 novembre) ont toutes trois montré qu'un Corps qui conserve ses divisions intégrales travaille bien.

Il est clair que le Corps canadien s'acquiert la réputation, tant chez les Allemands que chez les Alliés, de «troupes de choc.»

Le problème, maintenant, c'est de remplacer ses pertes...

Nicholson, Le Corps expéditionnaire Canadien, Chap 10.



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15 novembre 1917

Malgré la guerre, il croit en Dieu



Le 15 novembre 1917, le ministre du culte **Oswald Chambers** meurt des suites d'une intervention chirurgicale pour appendicite rupturée, alors qu'il servait en tant qu'aumônier au sein du YMCA (*Young Men's Christian Association*) auprès des troupes de l'Empire britannique en Égypte.

Chambers est un évangéliste, théologien, enseignant écossais, et puissant prédicateur appartenant à l'Église baptiste et au mouvement de sanctification.

Il est particulièrement connu pour son petit ouvrage de dévotion *My Utmost for His Highest* publié après sa mort.

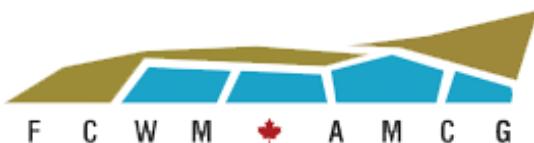
Cet ouvrage, qui réunit des extraits de ses sermons très admirés, est traduit en plus de 40 langues, et reste à ce jour une référence dans le monde évangélique.

Sa veuve, Gertrude, passera le restant de sa vie à rassembler ses notes et sermons en une trentaine de livres.

— Le best-seller en français Tout pour qu'il règne continue à se vendre.

Sources : https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oswald_Chambers

Pour en savoir plus : <https://www.babelio.com/auteur/Oswald-Chambers/251709>

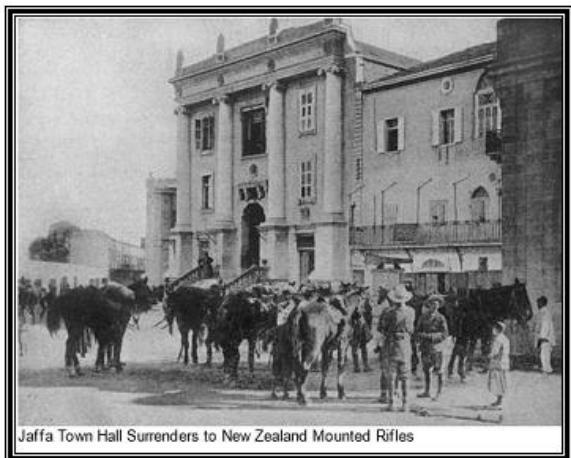


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16 November 1917

Allenby Seizes Jaffa



After the victory at Gaza, Allenby pushed north. British and ANZAC cavalry seized key points and repelled counter-attacks.

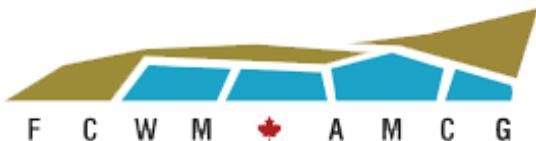
On the 14th, the cavalry cut the Jerusalem railway. **On 16 November 1917**, the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade captured **Jaffa**, the port for Jerusalem.

The Turkish 7th and 8th Armies withdrew into the Judean Hills around Jerusalem and north of the Ajalon River.

Despite poor morale and breakdowns in organization, the Turks escaped encirclement. The ten day pursuit after the third Battle of Gaza covered 60 miles on the right flank and 40 on the coast; it cost the Turks over ten thousand prisoners, 80 guns and 100 machine guns. British casualties were about 6,000.

— Allenby's next objective is the Holy City of Jerusalem, of paramount political and religious importance.

Further information: Anthony Bruce, *The Last Crusade: The Palestine Campaign in the First World War*



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17 November 1917

Paris Conference for the re-armament of Italy



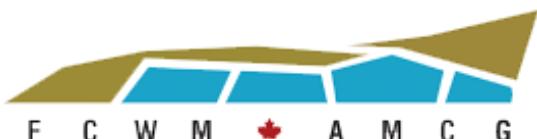
General Alfredo Dallolio
Italian Minister of Armaments

Winston Churchill, Minister of Munitions in the British Government, heads a British delegation to a Paris conference to see how Allies can re-arm Italy after the defeat of Caporetto, – and with the stupendous expense of material incurred in the recent Flanders campaign.

In Paris with General Sir William T. Furse, Winston discusses the dire needs of Italy with ministers, **General Dallolio** of Italy and Mr. Loucheur of France.

«It was imperative that Italy should be rearmed to the utmost possible extent by France and England. On November 18 [1917] I proceeded to Paris to meet in conclave with Loucheur and the Italian Minister of Armaments, General Dallolio. It was a cheerless experience; our margins were so small, our needs so exacting—and the Italian void gaped. In those hard days defeat was not leniently viewed by over-strained Allies. We all went through it in our turn—the politeness which veiled depreciation, the sympathy which scarcely surmounted resentment. And here I must pay my tribute to the dignity and quiet courage of the Italian Minister, and to the respect which in such circumstances he knew how to command from all.»¹

¹Churchill, World Crisis, III (2), p. 342.



18 November 1917

Death of Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Maude

Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Maude died in Baghdad of cholera on **18 November 1917**, sharing the fate of over 12,000 of his troops who died of disease in the Mesopotamian theatre, probably the single most unhealthy battleground of the Great War.

Maude had served in Canada as Military Secretary to the Governor General, the Earl of Minto, from 1901 to 1904.

Maude did time at Gallipoli and arrived in Mesopotamia to witness the last humiliations of the Indian Army and British Imperial forces.

Appointed commander of the Middle East forces in 1916, he systematically built up an efficient river and light rail logistics system to overcome the supply failures which had led to the defeat at Kut. His administrative genius was widely recognized.

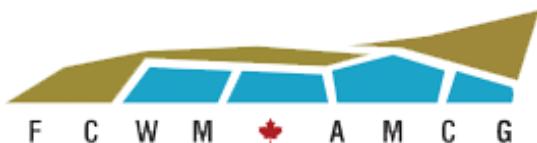
His Tigris campaign culminated in the occupation of Baghdad, in March 1917, a major victory after a poisonous string of catastrophes.



Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude in 1917

Further information:

Eugene Rogan, The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East
Encyclopaedia Britannica, Twelfth Ed. (1922); XXXI: 885-6.



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19 novembre 1917

Lloyd George défend sa décision de Paris

De retour de la conférence de Paris, le premier ministre britannique **Lloyd George** doit défendre sa décision d'y avoir donné son accord à l'établissement d'un **Conseil de Guerre Suprême des Alliés à Versailles**.



Ce Conseil Suprême de représentants nationaux politiques et militaires sera habilité à diriger la stratégie commune pour la victoire.

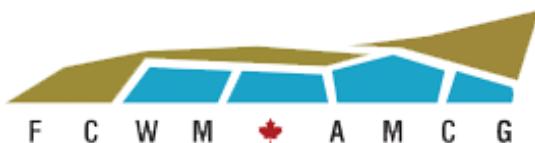
Cette décision, qui répond à un désir que Lloyd George nourrit depuis longtemps, déplaît énormément aux autorités militaires britanniques, qui n'hésitent pas à rechercher l'appui parlementaire conservateur pour détourner le premier ministre de cet engagement.

Lloyd George défend sa position avec toute l'adresse qui lui est bien connue, invoquant les principes constitutionnels de la primauté du pouvoir civil sur le pouvoir militaire, et le devoir du Gouvernement de chercher le meilleur avis possible où qu'il croie qu'il se trouve.

Lloyd George a plus confiance à Foch qu'en Haig. Il veut que l'avis militaire fourni au Conseil Suprême provienne de Foch pour l'ensemble des opérations alliées et que les armées anglaises s'y conforment.

— Ce débat est de la plus haute importance pour l'issue de la guerre: Lloyd George aura raison.

John Grigg, **Lloyd George**: Vol 4: War Leader 1916-1918 (Penguin, 2003), see Chap 18: «Allied Conclaves», p. 319-38.



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20 novembre 1917

La Bataille de Cambrai



La Bataille de Cambrai débute le **20 novembre 1917**, c'est un tournant important dans "l'art" de faire la guerre.

Réalisée par des milliers d'hommes, la ligne "Hindenburg" est une muraille réputée imprenable. Le haut commandement allemand est convaincu de la puissance de sa ligne de défense. C'est justement à cet endroit que le Haut Commandement britannique décide de porter son attaque avec une arme nouvelle... le tank ! 476 tanks britanniques, utilisés pour la première fois en grand nombre, parviennent à démontrer leur efficacité grâce à une préparation méticuleuse et à l'effet de surprise.

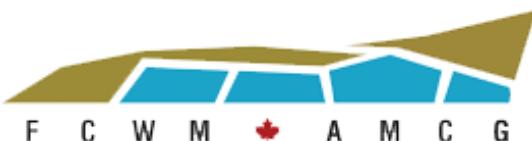
Les Allemands, un moment désesparés, entament une vigoureuse contre-offensive. Britanniques comme Allemands connaîtront le summum de l'horreur pour la capture de Bourlon.

Finalement, les deux armées complètement à bout de force après ce sanglant bras de fer, doivent se résoudre à oublier momentanément leurs prétentions.

Sources : <https://www.tourisme-cambrai.fr/page-11139-novembre-1917.html>

Pour en savoir plus : <http://ville-de-bourlon.fr/Hist%20-%20nov%2017.htm>

<http://walesatwar.org/en/theatresofwar/cambrai>



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21 novembre 1917

Clemenceau s'installe au pouvoir

A la mi-novembre 1917, le président de la République Raymond Poincaré nomme à contrecœur l'un de ses grands rivaux à la tête du gouvernement.

A 76 ans, **Georges Clemenceau** entre dans la légende qui fera de lui "Le Tigre". Radical devenu un des tenants de l'ordre républicain, Clemenceau s'oppose au pacifisme qui émerge après plus de trois ans de guerre.

Quatre jours après sa nomination, **le 21 novembre 1917**, il prononce son historique discours d'investiture à la Chambre des députés et obtient la confiance.

Mais l'union sacrée est brisée. Le Premier ministre britannique, Lloyd George, l'a dit à Paris quelques jours plus tôt : l'heure est grave. L'usure de la guerre a des effets sur la cohésion des alliés. La société française - et britannique - supporte de plus en plus mal les lourds sacrifices : les grèves se multiplient. Dans l'armée, le moral n'est pas meilleur: les mutineries massives l'ont montré quelques mois plus tôt.

— Patriarche de grand théâtre et intellectuel indomptable et dévoreur, Le Tigre devient premier ministre pour devenir un irréductible dictateur.



Sources : D.W. Brogan, The Development of Modern France, 1870-1939, Vol. II: **The Shadow of War** (1966), p. 536-7.

http://www.francetvinfo.fr/replay-radio/france-info-y-etait/20-novembre-1917-clemenceau-s-installe-au-pouvoir_1758277.html

Pour en savoir plus : https://www.herodote.net/17_novembre_1917-evenement-19171117.php



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22 November 1917

Admiral Kingsmill takes things in hand

With the introduction of the convoy system shipping losses declined. As a result U-boats had to reach further and further for their targets, and by 1917 they had reached the eastern seaboard of North America, where they feasted on Canadian and American freighters and fishing vessels.

Against this darkening background the RCN organized the East Coast Patrols but Canadian patrol vessels had neither the guns, the speed, nor sufficient vessels to stop the U-boats.



Admiral Charles Kingsmill, the Director of Naval Services of Canada, in a lengthy memorandum to the British Admiralty dated **22 November 1917**, sets out in plain language the problems that Canada faced in its dealings with the Admiralty and the lack of trained seamen and guns, due to these having been made available to the Royal Navy.

The memorandum managed to resolve the issues by resulting in the construction of anti-submarine patrol vessels in Canadian shipyards.

This laid the groundwork for the rapid expansion of the Canadian anti-submarine flotilla to a force of some 130 vessels and 5,000 personnel by early 1918.

Roger Sarty, "Admiral Kingsmill and the Early Years of the Canadian Navy, Part III", Canadian Military History, 19:4, p. 75.

Tony German, The Sea at our Gates: The History of the Canadian Navy (Toronto, McLelland & Stewart, 1990).



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23 November 1917

General Sir Arthur Currie Honored



Following the victory at Vimy Ridge, Canadian troops seized Hill 70 in August, and Passchendaele Ridge on November 10th, 1917.

Success was in large part due to effective leadership and sound planning by **General Sir Arthur Currie**, the Commander of the Canadian Corps in France, and other senior officers, and the truly astonishing courage of men who had overcome the terrible conditions.

Subsequently Currie received his share of the victors' honours. He was knighted in July 1917 by King George V, and is now feted by the French and the Belgians.

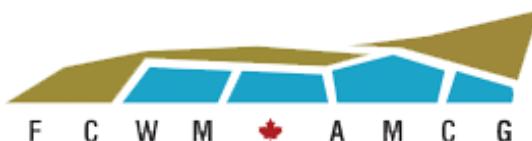
On 23 November 1917, he is on his way back to his Headquarters, having been the guest of honour at a banquet at Hôtel Meurice de Paris, the previous evening, where he received the Croix de Guerre with Palm from the hand of the French Minister of the Interior Gabriel Hanotaux.

— The French minister effusively hoped that Currie would become the 'Duke of Passchendaele.'

Hyatt: [General Sir Arthur Currie](#).

Photo: City of Vancouver Archives, File 62a761d1-b7a3-4070-be4e-106d9c0fe9f0-A26581.jpg

<http://searcharchives.vancouver.ca/head-and-shoulders-portrait-of-general-sir-arthur-currie-2>



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24 November 1917

Cutting shipping to the bone



On 25 November 1917, Winston Churchill, the British Minister of Munitions is blowing his top.

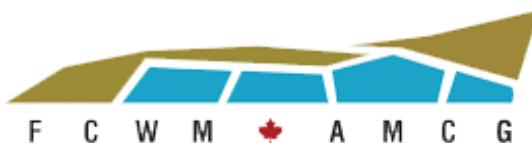
The Inter-Allied Commission of Food Supplies, in Paris, has decided that two million tons (mt) of British shipping would be urgently allocated to the transport of food to France and Italy! Winston has just finished his allocation for munitions for 1918, and this cuts 1.5 mt out of his available shipping for transport of steel to his factories, and munitions to the battlefields.

Letters are being shot in broadsides out of his office to convince the French, Italians, the Inter-Allied Commission as well as his own War Cabinet that steel is more important than food!

Churchill is also adamant that a reduction of shipping will convince the Canadians to allocate their production capacity to the United States, reducing resources in iron ore, steel and manufactured shells for the British war effort.

«There is no more melancholy chapter in the history of British Munitions Supply than the laborious creation of large and vitally needed shell plants in Canada, only for them to be dispersed and destroyed at the moment they have come into bearing ...»¹

¹Winston Churchill, World Crisis, Vol II (Part 2), p. 324.



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25 November 1917

Admiral Jellicoe is losing the Prime Minister's confidence



By 25 November 1917, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George is fighting in Parliament for civil government control over military strategy. His quarrel with the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Robertson, is a public political duel.

Lloyd George is also unhappy with the **First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir John Jellicoe**, whom he sees as evasive, pessimistic and ineffective.

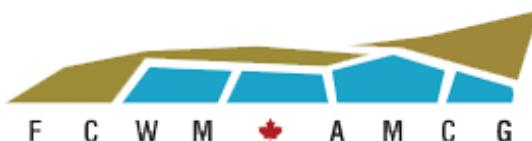
In the eyes of Cabinet Secretary Maurice Hankey, Lloyd George has been «shot for getting rid of Jellicoe» since July.¹ He is determined to fire Jellicoe as he has recently removed Lord Edward Carson from the Admiralty, replaced with Sir Eric Geddes, a favorite martinet.

Jellicoe is still unaware that the noose is being tightened, but critical articles are being allowed in the Northcliffe Daily Mail.

Back in 1914 Jellicoe carried the letter that fired Admiral Callaghan, whom he replaced in command-in-chief of the Grand Fleet.

— It looks like he is about to get a letter himself...

¹Hankey, Supreme Command, Vol. II, Chap 63 «Changes at the Admiralty», p. 655.;
Barnett, The Swordbearers, p. 127-8;
Wilson, The Myriad Faces of War, 626-7;
J. Allan C. Macfarlane, «A Naval Tragedy: The Dismissal of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe», PhD Thesis, p. 128;
Lloyd George, Memoirs, Vol. V.



26 November 1917

Russia – No Longer a Fighting Force

The day after the October Revolution Lenin issued his «Decree of Peace»; he ordered the army HQ to propose to the enemy (Germany) a cessation of hostilities; and on November 22nd 1917, addressed a note to all Allied Ambassadors in Petrograd proposing “an immediate armistice on all fronts and the immediate opening of peace negotiations.”



General Nicholas Dukhonin (acting Commander-in-Chief) refused and was dismissed and murdered.

On November 22nd a peace delegation met with the Germans at Brest-Litovsk and signed an agreement ensuring no hostilities between November 24th and December 4th.

On **26 November 1917**, the Allies are informed by General Knox, the British Military Attaché in Petrograd, that the Russian army will fight no more. Divisions are disbanded, POWs released to return to Austria, and roads are blocked by renegade soldiers. Discipline has collapsed completely, and General Kerensky has been toppled.

Lloyd George writes of this day in his Memoirs “**It was clear that Russia as a fighting force was falling to pieces.**”

Vernadsky: A History of Russia;
Riasanovsky: A History of Russia;
LG Memoirs, Vol V, p. 2565.



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27 November 1917

Lord Beaverbrook chastised

The Commanding Officer of the 22nd Battalion, **Lt. Col. Thomas-Louis Tremblay**, is proud of his French-Canadian heritage. He is particularly proud of the key role his «22ème» played in the Allied victory at Courcelette the previous year, during the Battle of the Somme.

He feels strongly that the men of his Battalion must conduct themselves in a manner that brings honour to French Canada, especially in light of the anti-conscription demonstrations taking place in Quebec.



Lt. Col. Thomas-Louis Tremblay

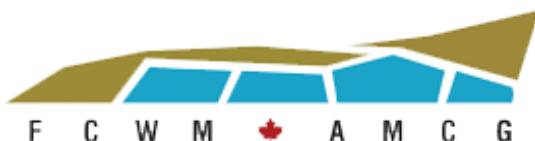
He is enraged reading in the English Canada and British press criticism of French Canadians questioning their loyalty. He is particularly upset with the newspapers owned by Canadian born Max Aitken (Lord Beaverbrook) whose journalists heavily criticize not only French-Canadians, but dare to criticize the «Vandoos»!

His journal on **27 November 1917** records that in an encounter with Aitken he advised him “to keep clean of the 22nd Battalion whose men are fighting side by side with the British Tommies, and dying every day for the cause.”

— Was Lord Beaverbrook listening? He never did much.

For further reference:

Béatrice Richard. Collège militaire royal. [The Canadian Historical Review](#), Vol. 89, No 2, juin 2008;
<http://www.athenaeditions.net/pages/histoire-militaire/journal-de-guerre-1915-1918.html>

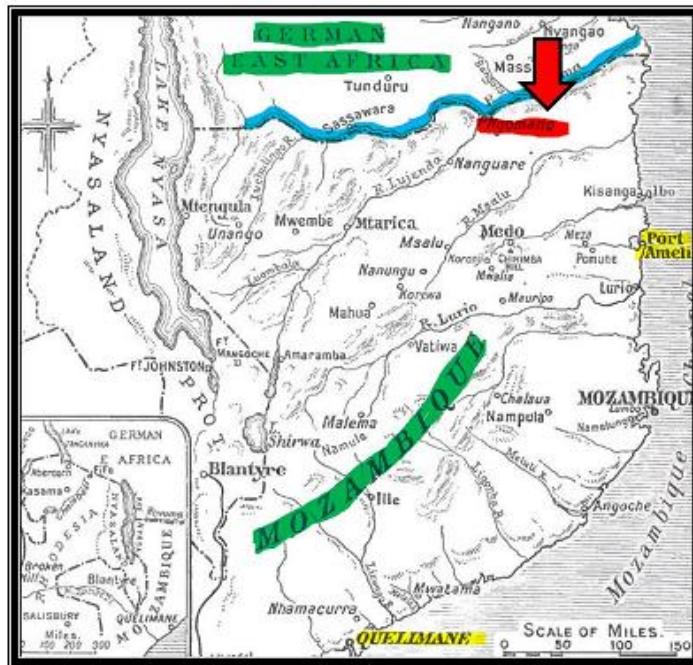


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28 novembre 1917

La Bataille de Negomano



La bataille de Negomano, oppose les armées allemande et portugaise sur le sol africain, dans le nord du Mozambique.

Affrontant en Afrique orientale allemande ou Tanganyika (la Tanzanie d'aujourd'hui) des forces britanniques dix fois plus nombreuses que les siennes, le général allemand Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck décide, pour échapper à ses adversaires, de franchir le fleuve Rovuma au sud du pays et de continuer la lutte au Mozambique, alors colonie portugaise.

Ils entrent au Mozambique **le 28 novembre 1917** et attaquent Negomano.

Pris par surprise, les Portugais sont défaites tandis que leur chef est tué dès le début de l'offensive.

Sources : [https://wikivisually.com/lang-fr/wiki/Bataille de Negomano](https://wikivisually.com/lang-fr/wiki/Bataille_de_Negomano) ;

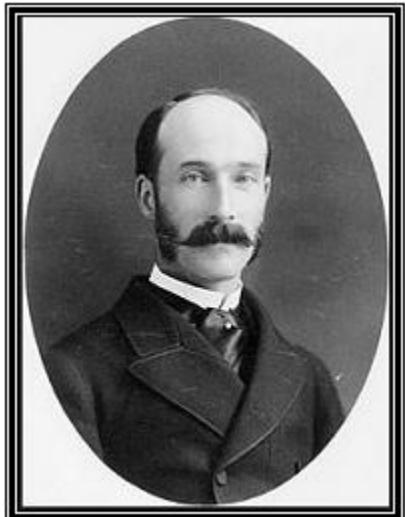
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Ngomano

Pour en savoir plus : <https://acerettranches.wordpress.com/2016/03/09/paul-emil-von-lettow-vorbeck-linvaincu-lion-dafrique/>



29 November 1917

‘Peace Now’



On 29 November 1917, Henry Petty-Fitzmaurice, the 5th Marquess of Lansdowne, made public, one year after having presented his views to Cabinet¹, a letter asking Britain to try and negotiate peace with Germany.

According to the Marquess, the war’s “wanton prolongation would be a crime, differing only in degree from that of the criminals who provoked it.”²

The Lansdowne Letter was negatively received by many who felt that Lansdowne and his Radical supporters no longer believed that the Allies could win the war, and that the letter was in fact a plea for surrender. Many were surprised by Lansdowne’s message.

The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Sir William Robertson, was among them:

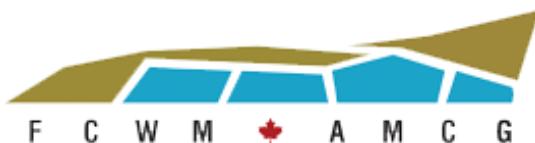
— “The idea had not before entered my head that any member of His Majesty's Government had a doubt on the matter.”

¹Our Twitter Series, 16 November 1916.

²Douglas Newton, “The Lansdowne ‘Peace Letter’ of 1917 and the Prospect of Peace by Negotiation with Germany,” *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, 48, no. 1 (2002): p. 16-39.

Lansdowne is a former Governor General of Canada. See «PETTY-FITZMAURICE, HENRY CHARLES KEITH, 5th Marquess of LANSDOWNE», *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.

http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/petty_fitzmaurice_henry_charles_keith_15E.html



30 novembre 1917

Le Vimy de Vickers prend son vol

Le premier vol du bombardier britannique Vickers Vimy qui représente la dernière génération des bombardiers lourds britanniques de la Première Guerre mondiale se produit le 30 novembre 1917.

Destiné à l'attaque de cibles éloignées du front situées en Allemagne, la conception du Vimy prévoyait une autonomie capable de le faire voler jusqu'à Berlin.

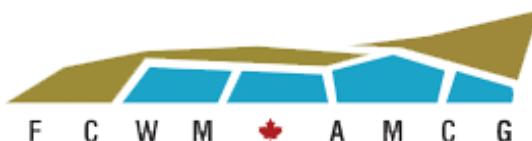


L'avion fut nommé ainsi en mémoire du haut fait d'armes britannique, qui eut lieu dans la commune de Vimy au nord de la France (Pas-de-Calais).

Une première commande de 150 exemplaires, en mars 1918, établit un nombre prévu atteignant le millier d'exemplaires. Toutefois trois exemplaires seulement du Vimy rejoindront les détachements opérationnels avant que l'armistice ne brise la carrière guerrière de l'avion, entraînant l'annulation de la majeure partie des contrats de production.

— Le nombre final des appareils construits s'élèvera à 221 exemplaires.

Sources : <http://www.avionslegendaires.net/avion-militaire/vickers-f-b-27-vimy/>
Pour en savoir plus : https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vickers_Vimy



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