

Le 1er décembre, 1914

Ils venaient de partout



Les armées britanniques

L'armée de campagne régulière britannique qui a combattu en France depuis le début de la guerre sous le nom de Corps Expéditionnaire britannique (CEB) était l'**Armée régulière** d'avant-guerre, chargée d'assurer la présence militaire à travers l'Empire.

Ce n'est qu'un peu avant la guerre que les quatre divisions d'infanterie et la division de cavalerie du CEB ont été réunies en un corps d'armée qui a traversé en premier, au début du mois d'août. Le CEB a ensuite été renforcé par des divisions de soldats de la régulière qui ont été rapatriés pour servir en France.

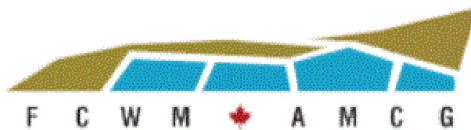
Ceci s'est toutefois avéré insuffisant et il a fallu affecter des soldats de l'**Armée Territoriale**, dont le contrat n'incluait pas le service outre-mer. Les soldats de la Territoriale qui se sont portés volontaires ont suivi un entraînement court et ont été affectés à des divisions du CEB quelques semaines seulement après le début de la guerre.

Suite aux besoins pressants pour plus de soldats, dès septembre 1914, les **Armées de Kitchener**, soit les contingents de volontaires formés dans tous les districts de la Grande-Bretagne, ont été entraînés à qui mieux mieux. Ils ont traversé en France à partir de 1915.

Lorsque le volontariat s'est éteint, les armées de conscrits ont été formées, à partir de 1916, et ont joint les combats pour la bataille de la Somme.

L'Empire britannique comptait aussi sur les armées des Dominions et des colonies, qui ont servi dans tous les théâtres.

●Wikipedia, 'British Army during WW1'



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 2nd, 1914

A Surge of Serb Energy



Back and Forth in Serbia

The four field armies of the Serbian Army commanded by General Putnik were successful in repulsing the Austro-Hungarian forces involved in an invasion on the north-west of Serbia, in September, but since then, the Austrians have returned with a slow and methodical advance, greatly helped by a materiel advantage.

The Serbs have defended with unbounded courage. But help that might have been coming from Romania, from Greece or from Italy has not materialized. Their munitions for rifles, machine-guns and artillery has dwindled to a point where soldiers are limited to

bayonet charges, incurring terrible losses.

After having received gun ammunitions from the Allies, the Serbs undertake, on **December 2nd, 1914**, a surprising counter-offensive with much success. They push back on the Austrian army corps that had invaded in the north, forcing them to re-cross the Save and Drina Rivers. Many Austrian formations are caught in valleys and overwhelmed by plunging fire from the banks. The moral of the four Serb armies rises as that of the Austro-Hungarians is hit hard.

The five Austro-Hungarian armies in south Poland, at the extreme east of the empire, have had great losses along the Carpathian mountains against the Russians. This setback for their three armies in Serbia, after months of trying to subdue this small country, is a very tough blow.

— The Austro-Hungarians know that they must redress immediately. Morale and reputation are at stake.

● TIMES History of the War, III, Chap 60 - «Second and Third Austrian Invasions of Serbia: Fall and Recapture of Belgrade», p. 361-400; Photo «Serbian artillery entraining for the front», p. 376.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 3rd, 1914

A Sudden change in Destination



Australians and New Zealanders in Cairo

The Australia and New Zealand contingents were on their way across the Indian Ocean toward the Suez Canal when Turkey finally declared war against the Entente powers.

Since Egypt will be an obvious target for the Ottoman army, the British Imperial High Command decides that these Dominion forces will not come to France, as originally anticipated, but will stop in Cairo. The recent *jihad* proclaimed by the Muslim Caliph may lead to unrest in Egypt and the British General Consul there has called for reinforcements. Field Marshal Kitchener, having been the acting governor there until the beginning of the War,

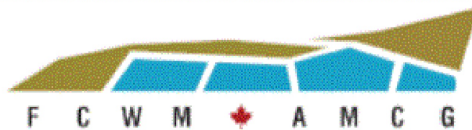
understands the issues and reacts immediately. They arrive in Cairo on **December 3rd, 1914**.

The two Dominions' contingents form a division and are commanded by Lieutenant-General William Bird, brought in from the Indian Army with his Corps staff. The division will immediately undergo training in Egypt to adapt to an environment for which it was not prepared.

The 1st Australian Division is commanded by Scottish-born, Canadian-educated (RMC) Major-General Sir William Throsby Bridges. The first Dominion officer to command a division, he will be killed in Gallipoli.

The 1st Light Horse Brigade is commanded by Brigadier H.G. 'Harry' Chauvel, the only Australian-born regular officer to receive a senior command in the original force.

●Firkins, Peter, The Australians in Nine Wars: Waikato to Long Tan, Chap 3-5, p. 18-50; ●TIMES History of the War, Vol. XIII: Chap 198 - «New Zealand in the War», p. 145-80.



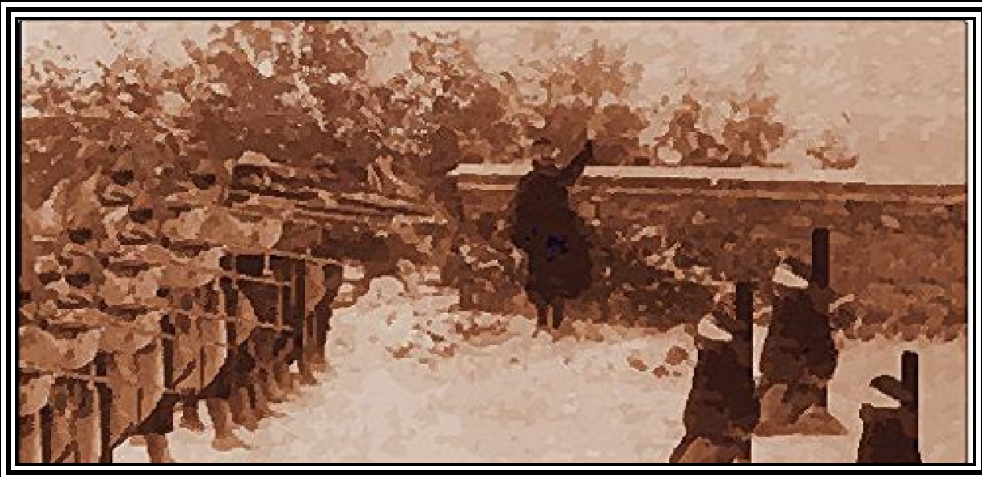
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les Amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 4, 1914

Shot in the Morning



«Discipline à outrance»

The German invasion of France has been a traumatic event for the French people. Memories of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 recall the terrible aftermath of the Communes, where all institutions of government were challenged in violent risings calling for better government and better laws.

These consequences of defeat, long felt in French

society at the end of the XIXth century, were very important in the determination of the French government not to let that happen again. The spectre of French defeat in this War was greatly enlarged by the prospect of revolution and unrest after an armistice. France could not cope with more revolution and more internal violence. The defence of the «*Nation en danger*» was therefore elevated over all individual rights.

This is why the French government and the French High Command entered into '*Justice d'exception*' early in the war, shoving aside all liberal principles of the military justice system. Commanders were given powers that the republic had never allowed before. The Court Martial system, already much more expedient than the civilian tribunals, was replaced by Summary Trials, where commanders judged alone of cases in which the accused was not assisted, had no appeal, and where the rule of evidence had no foundation. Commanders were in a position to have soldiers shot for no other reason than '*pour l'exemple*,' to instill unconditional obedience for conscripts and volunteers. Extreme injustice prevailed.

– **By December 1914**, the average number of *Fusillés pour l'exemple* was 40 per month, and continuing.

●Bach, Général André, *Fusillés pour l'exemple, 1914-1915*, (Paris: Tallandier, 2003); ●Bach, «Les fusillés français de la Grande Guerre», *1914-18*, No 29, décembre-janvier 2006, p. 6-13. ●Labayle, Éric, «Les fusillés de Vingre», *14-18*, #29, p. 22-9.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 5, 1914

No Case for Alliance

Italian Neutrality Maintained

The pressure on Italy to join the war is immense. Being one of the signatories of the Treaty of Alliance, the Central Powers are now seeing Italian neutrality as a dereliction of duty.

On 12 December 1914, former Prime minister of Italy, **Giovani Giolitti** speaks to the Italian Parliament, explaining why Italy remains out of the War.

While he was Prime minister, in August 1913, the Austro-Hungarian government had proposed that there was, indeed, a *casus foederis* with Serbia, and that the Alliance powers, in accordance with the terms of promised mutual support, had to provide united military assistance against Serbia.

Giolitti had opposed this view and refused that a *casus foederis* (the obligation to unite) existed at all in the conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia at the end of the Second Balkan War. He had said at the time:

«If Austria intervenes against Serbia, it is clear that a *casus foederis* cannot be established. It is a step which she is taking on her own account, since there is no question of defence, inasmuch as no one is thinking of attacking her. It is necessary that a declaration to this effect should be made to Austria in the most formal manner, and we must hope for action on the part of Germany to dissuade Austria from this most perilous adventure.»¹

The Italian objection had been accepted at the time, and the Treaty continued on. One year later, the situation had not changed legally. Serbia was still not threatening to invade Austria-Hungary.

•Snyder, Historic Documents of World War One, «Giolitti's Justification of Italian Neutrality, December 5, 1914», p. 129-30.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 6, 1914

Daring the Mountain Snow



Enver Paça on the Russian Front

One strong personality of the triumvirat of the Young Turks government in Constantinople is Pasha Enver.

Nominally the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Ottoman Forces, he is *de facto* CiC as the Sultan, Mehmet V, the constitutional CiC, does not take part in any planning. Enver has also made himself the Chief of the General Staff, orchestrating the plans for all armies,

as well as Commander of the Third Ottoman Army.

Enver has set in his head that he would take his Third Army and would attack the Russian frontier posts in the Caucasus. This will get the Central Powers nearer to Baku, on the Caspian Sea, where immense resources in petrol make it a big target that the Russians control. The German advisors to the Ottoman government are very near behind, with General Bronsart von Shellendorf acting as the Army Chief of Staff.

On 6 December 1914, Enver arrives in Erzerun to undertake the climbing of the heights that will take him into Russia. The moment, he believes, is well chosen. The winter is gripping the Russian mountain outposts and his army of tough peasants will catch them at their most vulnerable time.

●Andrew Mango, *ATATÜRK: A Biography of the Founder of Modern Turkey*, (1999), p. 141; *TIMES History of the War*, Vol III: Chap 49, 50, 51.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 7, 1914

Pitiless in the Falklands



The End of Admiral Spee

Since he destroyed the British squadron of Admiral Cradock, at the battle of Coronel, on November 1st, German Admiral von Spee has been continuing to raid merchant shipping and enemy installations on the west coast of South America.

In December, he decides to make a raid on the British installations at the Falkland Islands, where he believes that he can destroy important assets of the Royal Navy. With his cruisers *Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau*, and *Leipzig*, he resolves to silently cross into the Atlantic and surprise the garrison.

Meanwhile, Winston Churchill and Admiral Fisher have been working hard at the Admiralty to detach a strong armada to catch von Spee. Fisher despatched ships so fast that dockyard workers on board did not have time to go ashore. No less silent, the two powerful Dreadnoughts *Inflexible* and *Invincible* have arrived at the Falklands after having been steaming at top speed across the Atlantic. On **7 December 1914**,

they precede the German raid by 12 hours.

Von Spee sees the two Dreadnought in port too late. This is a fatal mistake. It takes one day for the modern British warship to catch up with the German cruisers and send them all to the bottom.

— Remembering Cradock, they are pitiless.

•Howarth, David, The Dreadnoughts, Ed.-in-Ch. Henry R. Grunwal, (Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books, Series The Seafarers, 1979), Chap 5: «Fifty Minutes of Fury», p. 122-41.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 8, 1914

A Friend in the Right Place



The Japanese Emperor's Speech

The Anglo-Japanese Alliance dates from 1901, and was somewhat of an obstacle when the time came for Great Britain to have an alliance with Russia. The Japanese had defeated the Russian Navy in the Pacific in the Japanese-Russian War of 1904, and the loss had greatly weakened the power of the Tsar.

But the ambitions of the Japanese in Asia made them play *real politik* with the Tri-partite Entente of Great Britain, France and Russia. The Japanese-British alliance continued. In fact, Japan was uncomfortable with the presence of the Germans in the Pacific. China had given Germany a concession at Tsingtao by which its navy could protect its merchant fleet involved in the China trade. However, the policy of Wilhelm II had fortified the Tsintao enclave to a point where it took the form of a citadel with perceptions of offensive intents.

The start of the war gave an opportunity to Japan to eradicate the German presence in the Pacific. Through its alliance with Great Britain, the Japanese forces chased out the German naval squadron of Admiral von Spee out of Tsintao early in the war, and then, crossing into China, laid siege to the German citadel. The destruction of the German enclave was total, leaving no hope for comeback. This was seen in Great Britain as a gesture

of support of great importance.

On 8 December 1914, Emperor Taisho of Japan, makes a speech at the opening of the Diet in Tokio, in which he reaffirms Japan's commitment, as an ally of the Entente, to take control of those Pacific island colonies that are administered by Germany.

— Japan's affirmation of support is a statement of power in the Asian Pacific. It is not improvised.

• Times History of the War, II: Chap 64, «Japan's Part in the War», p. 397-437.



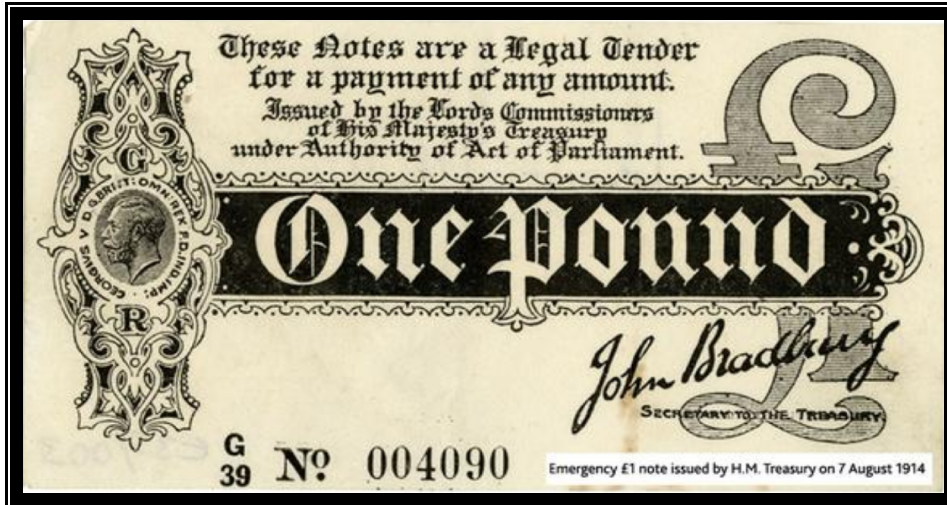
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les Amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

Le 9 décembre, 1914

Le Nerf de la Guerre



Canada - Finances improvisées

Le financement de l'effort de guerre depuis août 1914 a forcé le gouvernement à faire des emprunts assez lourds.

Au cours d'une session spéciale du parlement, en septembre, dédiée à légiférer sur la questions de la *Loi sur les Mesures de Guerre*, le sujet du financement de l'effort de guerre a été débattu.

Il en est résulté que le Canada, par son agent, le Haut Commissaire canadien à Londres, a négocié un prêt de 7 million de Livres Sterling de la Banque d'Angleterre, agent du Gouvernement Impérial. Il a fallu ajouter un 5 million de Livres rapidement en considérations des vraies dépenses encourues. Le prêt était à 3.5% d'intérêts par année et frais attenants (6%).

À la fin du mois de décembre 1914, il sera alors calculé que les dépenses totales se seront chiffrées à 26 millions de dollars canadiens. Ces dépenses ont d'abord couvert les 12 millions de dollars en salaires des personnes engagées dans des activités reliées à la guerre, incluant les plus de 30,000 volontaires qui ont formé le premier contingent canadien. Leurs uniformes ont de plus coûté 3.8 millions et le transport outre-mer un autre 3.3 millions, en plus d'autres frais.

Le Gouvernement canadien entrevoit alors que, pour fins financières, il faudra rapatrier les soldats en mars 1915 (...). Il est donc budgeté qu'un tel retour va coûter un autre 3.5 millions de dollars canadiens.

— Il ne s'agit que d'une première expérience pour le Canada. Il fera bientôt appel à ses citoyens comme bailleurs de fonds. Une vente de Bons du Canada servira de financement supplémentaire aux emprunts de Londres.

•Duguid, Colonel A. Fortescue, *Official History of The Canadian Forces in The Great War 1914-1919. The Record of Five Yeas of Active Service. General Series, Volume 1: From the Outbreak of War to the formation of the Canadian Corps, August 1914 to September 1915.* (Ottawa: Minister of National Defence, 1938). Separate book, *Chronology, Appendices and Maps* (1938). 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. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/themes/defence/caf/militaryhistory/dhh/official/book-1938-great-war-1-1-en.pdf>

December 10, 1914

Little Fight Left in the Austrian Dog



Last gasps of Austrian strength

For over fifty years, the Old Man of Europe, the Ottoman Empire, has been prompted standing by a concerted view, among the Great powers, that its collapse would lead to a terrible fight among them to grab its various parts in the Middle East and in the Balkans.

Bismark's conference of Berlin, in 1878, and the recent

Conference of London, after the Balkan Wars, in 1913, strove to patch up the many attempts to tear up this broken empire and run with its pieces. All knew that the «powder keg of Europe» needed just a spark to blow up.

The weakest of the Powers, Austria-Hungary, itself on its last leg, flinted the fateful explosion. It launched the Great World War by attempting to draw out of the Balkans that part which it thought belonged to its sphere of influence. When Germany did not hold it back, the dogs of war were unleashed.

After five months of war, Austro-Hungary is exhausted. The nine armies that it was capable of rising are fighting separately in Serbia and Galicia, and proving that they do not have the power to prevail in either place. It has lost a quarter million men in Serbia without prevailing, and even more in Galicia against the Russians, now at the doors. There is very little remaining as reserves. Exhaustion is evident everywhere. From the end of 1914, the *Imperial and Royal Army of Austria-Hungary* will have to be supported by German assistance everywhere.

– There is now little fight remaining in the earliest dog in the fight.

●Keegan, *The First World War* p. 170. ●Glenny, Misha, *The Balkans: Nationalism, War, and the Great Powers, 1804-2012* (2012), Chap 5: «A House of Wars: War and Peace, 1914-24».



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

Le 11 décembre, 1914

Le Général Hiver prend le contrôle



Fatigue russe

Les batailles de Galicie (sud de la région polonaise) et de Silésie (sud-ouest) au nord de la chaîne de montagnes des Carpates, ont amené beaucoup de succès au groupe d'armées du sud-ouest de la Russie.

Les armées d'Ivanov et de Brusilov ont repoussé les armées austro-hongroises sur des centaines de kilomètres, ont isolé et formé le siège de la grande citadelle de Przemyśl, sous

bombardement, et elles forcent maintenant les passes dans la chaîne des Carpates pour pénétrer en territoire hongrois et allemand. Cracow est un bouchon autrichien sur le point de casser.

Mais les armées russes sont maintenant fatiguées. Leur queue logistique ne suit plus, les trains ne fonctionnent plus, et les troupes ne veulent pas passer l'hiver dans des tranchées, alors que des renforts arrivent de l'ouest pour remonter les armées allemandes sur le Front Est, qui pourraient couper leurs arrières, au sud de Varsovie, avant l'hiver.

Les Autrichiens ont essuyé des pertes terribles et ne reçoivent que de mauvaises nouvelles de Serbie, où on y retient les réserves qui aideraient à Cracow. Mais ils tiennent. La bataille à Limanova-Lapanow, le 5 décembre 1914, démontre qu'ils n'abandonnent pas.

L'hiver arrive sur le front est, et il ne reste que quelques jours avant que toute manœuvre devienne impossible. Partout, l'espoir se tourne déjà vers le printemps.

●Keegan, The First World War, p. 138-74; ●Strachan, The First World War, Chap 4: «The Eastern Front in 1914», p. 281-372.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

Le 12 décembre, 1914

Quid Pro No



L'offre de Chypre

Depuis la déclaration de guerre de la Turquie, le Conseil de Guerre britannique considère les options pour croiser le fer de façon à tirer parti d'une victoire contre l'Empire Ottoman.

Winston Churchill et l'Amiral Fisher considèrent les avantages d'une attaque navale sur le Déroit des Dardanelles. Des bombardements récents des forts protecteurs de Sedd-el-Bahr et Kum Kale ont laissé entendre que leur résistance serait courte.

Churchill entrevoit donc d'approcher le gouvernement grec et de l'inciter à fournir une armée pour attaquer la péninsule de Gallipoli, de sorte à maîtriser les forts, pour permettre à une flotille de s'y engager, aller détruire le Goeben, et bombarder Constantinople jusqu'à sa reddition.

Il serait prêt à promettre **l'île de Chypre** en retour, cette île de Méditerranée majoritairement grecque, mais devenue un protectorat anglais depuis la conférence de Berlin, en 1878.

Le gouvernement grec semble à prime abord intéressé, mais le roi de Grèce, Constantin I, beau-frère de Guillaume II d'Allemagne, interdit tout pour parler sur cette question.

● Moorehead, Gallipoli, p. 34.



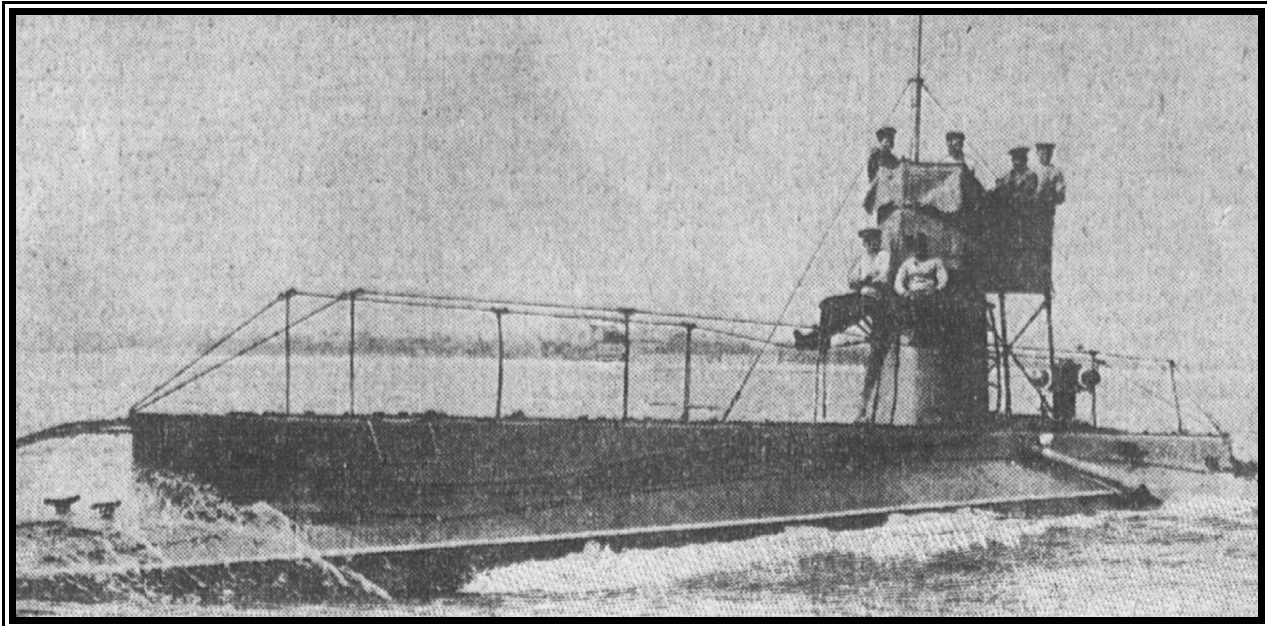
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les Amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 13, 1914

Bumping Along the Bottom



British submarine enters the Dardanelles

The Strait of the Dardanelles has become a focus of study for the British Admiralty. The Lord of the Sea (Winston Churchill) and the First Sea Lord (Admiral Fisher), are drawn to see the entry into the Sea of Marmara and the transit into the Black Sea as a panacea to open the gates to Russia and reinforce its offensive against the Central powers.

On 13 December 1914, a feat of naval cunning fills them with joy. Lieutenant Norman Holbrook, captain of the submarine B-11, (313-ton, 135 feet, 15-man crew), succeeds in entering the Strait undetected and torpedoing the Turkish battleship *Messudieh* anchored in Sari Sigla Bay. He then crawls back out, 'bumping along the bottom'¹, avoiding the minefields, exiting and reaching deep sea.

Holbrook is honored with a Victoria Cross for his bravery. Not only is this the first feat of the war for a submarine, but it is an inspiration for the Admiralty in its planning against the Dardanelles.

¹ •Moorehead, [Gallipoli](#), p. 34.



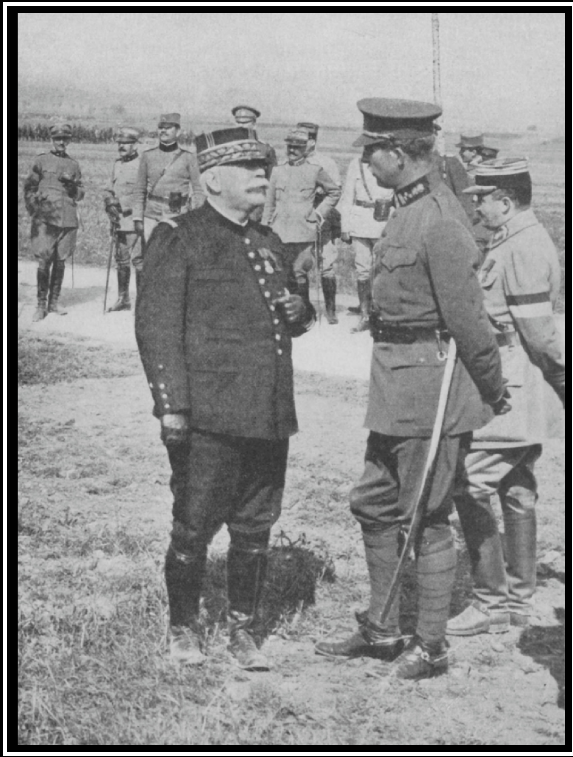
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les Amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 14, 1914

●Flanders – Last Offensive of the Year



Joffre's December Plan (14-24 Dec)

Joffre has conceived the idea of an allied offensive covering the whole of the left wing, from Verdun to Neuport, with one week of preparation between 7 and 14 December. Attacks are to take place in succession along the line starting on the 14 for 10 days. He is optimistic and wants to punch hard. Foch is in agreement and will work his whole northern Army Group to this end. However, troops are tired, formations are depleted, and moral is not high.

In reply to Joffre's plans, the British High Command has come up with a plan for a navy-army joint venture by which the BEF would be moved to the shore of the English Channel and advance along the north edge toward Belgium under the protection of naval artillery. Although it is presented on behalf of the Cabinet, all recognize Winston Churchill behind the scheme. The French government, with Joffre and Foch in agreement, laugh off the plan and advise against the move of the BEF to the north just before the offensive.

The French army commanders are generally against the plan. They voice their opinion that there should be more artillery ammunition brought to their sites before they attack the well-dug German positions, especially along the Aisne, where the Germans have had lots of time to dig. Joffre is adamant that he does not want the allies to dig in for good.

The first attack takes place on **14 December 1914** just to the south of Arras. It flounders and does not achieve anything.

— «**No one, in fact, beyond Foch showed a desire to do anything. And the only effect was on Franco-British relations.**»¹

¹ ●Liddell Hart, Foch, 164; ●Photo «General Joffre and King Albert of Belgium inspecting troops», Wikipedia Commons.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 15, 1914

A Matter of Means



Belgrade retaken by the Serbs

A resupply of ammunitions coming from Greece and France, in early December, allowed the Serbian armies to regain for the second time the territory that had been captured by the Austro-Hungarian armies. **On 15 December 1914**, the Serbs are back in their capital, Belgrade, along the northern frontier.

The lines of Austrian General Potiorek's Fifth and Sixth armies, across the rivers Drina and Sava, were so thin that he had to regroup and retreat again into his national territory, in the fear that

a Serbian flanking attack could unravel his whole offensive system and cut into his rear.

The Serbian government is adamant that it will not surrender and will fight for every inch of the country. More than this, it vows to regain from Austro-Hungary those lands where Serbians live, in Croatia and Slovenia:

«Convinced that the entire Serbian nation is determined to persevere in the holy struggle for the defense of their homesteads and their freedom, the government of the Kingdom (of Serbia) considers that, in these fateful times, its main and only task is to ensure the successful completion of this great warfare which, at the moment when it started, also became a struggle for the liberation and unification of all our unliberated Serbian, Croatian and Slovenian brothers. The great success which is to crown this warfare will make up for the extremely bloody sacrifices which this generation of Serbs is making.»¹

— To date, the Serbs have lost 170,000 fighting men, but they have inflicted 215,000 casualties on the invaders.

¹ Serbian Government, Statement made on 7 December 1914, quoted in Wikipedia, «Serbian Campaign.»



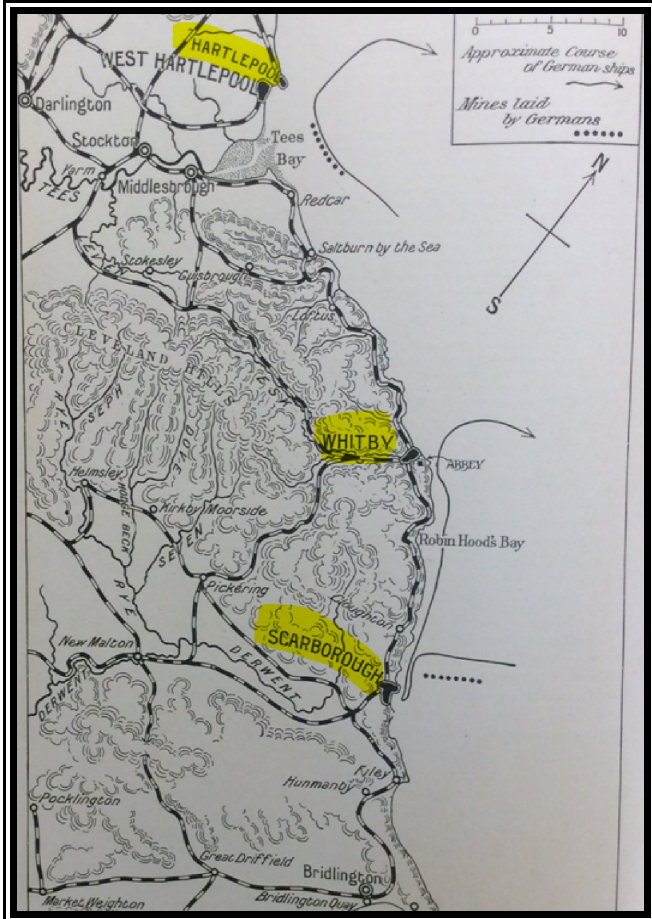
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les Amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 16, 1914

Risky Coastal Business



A naval bombardment raid along the English coast

On 16 December 1914, the German High Seas Fleet makes a second raid against the English coast. The first one took place against Yarmouth, on November 3rd, with mitigated success.

This time again, the bombardment is a cover to lay mines near the shores so as to hit Royal Navy ships that may come to the rescue.

Mining operations are conducted all the time, and the Channel and the North Sea are being sewn with mines disposed mainly at night, on what is expected to be avenues of enemy movement.

The raiders have to be cautious not to hit mines themselves. The raids are therefore very risky.

What is also risky is that if the raiders are observed in time, the British cruiser fleet of General Beatty, deployed in the southern North Sea, may come out for a pitched battle.

On 16 December, there is a thick fog that hides the raiders so that they are not observed by cruisers that were alerted by signal intelligence.

The bombardment takes place against Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool, on the east coast of England. Damages are serious, and the Germans succeed in planting the mines that they had brought.

— Mines are treacherous things. They do not recognize flags.

• TIMES History of the War, Chap 63: «Early East Coast Raids», p. 357-96, map p. 388.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

Le 17 décembre, 1914

Le Charnier des Inconnus



Les Hauteurs de Lorette et Arras

L'offensive déclenchée par Joffre le **14 décembre 1914** commence dans le secteur d'Arras. Le but de cette sortie est d'avancer jusqu'à Douai et Cambrai, ce qui s'avère irréaliste.

Déjà, les constructions défensives des Allemands sont élaborées au point d'être indestructibles à l'artillerie de campagne. Les fameux 75' français et toute l'artillerie au shrapnel s'avèrent impuissants à déloger les troupes enterrées et bien protégées.

Sur les hauteurs de Lorette, à quelques kilomètres de la crête de Vimy, les offensives françaises se heurtent à des positions superbement bien placées qui dominent les axes d'avance et couvrent les pentes du feu croisé de mitrailleuses. Vague après vague d'attaquants sont couchés par le feu.

Les hauteurs de Lorette et la crête de Vimy dominent l'Artois et constituent des places fortes pour les Allemands, d'où leur regard peut porter aussi loin que leur artillerie.

Pendant des années, les Français vont se heurter à ces positions, se contentant de les 'grignoter' mètre par mètre, au prix d'un sang généreux et héroïque.

La colline de Lorette est aujourd'hui marquée par la nécropole nationale de Notre-Dame de Lorette. Les cimetières et ossuaires qu'on y trouve contiennent des milliers de soldats dont les chairs méconnaissables et le courage anonymes y sont honorés.

●Buffetaut, Yves, Notre-Dame De Lorette - 1914 (Louviers: Ysec éditions, 2007). ●Davidson, Major-General Sir John Humphrey, KCMG, CB, DSO, MP, and Captain C.T. Atkinson « Artois, The Battles in », Encyclopaedia Britannica, 12th Edition (1922), Vol. 30, pp. 264-81.

December 18, 1914

Change at the Top

British Protectorate in Egypt.

The suzerainty of the Ottoman Government over Egypt became unacceptable to the British Government from the moment that Turkey joined Germany in the war.

By the end of November, Director of Military Intelligence (DMI) in London, and the Intelligence Department in Cairo, also realized that there might very well be an attack by the Turks on Egypt, from ongoing concentrations in Syria.

So far, it was believed that the preparation of Enver's expedition for the Caucasus would be the only immediate action by the Ottomans, and it would be mainly defensive. But the Turks are being pressed by the Germans to act swiftly against Egypt, even if the effect is short-lived. Demal, the Turkish commander of the expedition, has definite ambitions for himself in Egypt.

On 18 December, 1914, the British Government proclaims a Protectorate over Egypt. Another proclamation, the next day, will dethrone the Khedive, Abbas Hilmi, while he is in Constantinople. His uncle **Prince Hussein Kamel** will immediately become 'Sultan of Egypt', proclaiming Egypt's independence from Constantinople.

The situation is difficult in Egypt as the Germans have promised the Muslims that they would rid the Egyptians of the British when they win the war.

With the arrival of the Australians and New Zealanders, the new Sultan, bound to British rule, will help in curtaining a wind of revolt that may grow at the instigations of Egyptians still loyal to the traditional Caliphate of Istanbul.

●Strachan, *The First World War*, Vol. 1, p. 735ff; Cana, Fank Richardson, and the Right Honorable Sir James Rennell Rodd, «Egypt», *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, (Twelfth Ed., 1922) XXX: 939-42-47.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 19, 1914

Real Cavalry for Afficionadi



Canada's Cavalry in Salisbury Plains

The Canadian Contingent in Salisbury Plains contains two squadrons of cavalry and one battery of horse artillery, all brought recently by ships from Valcartier. They are the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Lord Strathconnas's Horse, and the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.

Minister Sam Hugues' plans for the first contingent did not comprise other cavalry than a squadron of the 19th Alberta Dragoons, to be joined to

the Infantry division for usual reconnaissance tasks. Lobbying by influential cavalry groups succeeded in including these units at the last moment.

On 19 December, 1914, the cavalry units are joined in Salisbury Plains by an Imperial squadron, the 2nd King Edward's Horse, a British unit known to count many Canadians among its horsemen. Together they form a brigade of cavalry, but their role is not clear.

At this moment, the British army claims to have no need for more cavalry. A full British Cavalry Division was included in the BEF when it went to France, but the need is for infantrymen. The cavalry too often remains in reserve behind the BEF. Now that the lines of defence have stabilised in France, it is called up only when needed.

It is therefore suggested that the Canadian cavalry might stay with the division to form 'mounted infantry,' that is, cavalry of a different type which moves on the saddle but fights on the ground. This is not really what the Canadian horsemen volunteered for. They are still attached to the idea that real cavalry fights with the saber and charges *en masse*.

— There will be more lobbying on that one...

●Marteinson, John, and Michael R. McNorgan, with Sean Maloney, The Royal Canadian Armoured Corps: An Illustrated History (Robin Brass and Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Association, 2001), Chap. 2.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 20, 1914

Keep Them Here!



A Magnum Battle of Champagne

The second offensive to be launched in the series planned by General Joffre takes place in Champagne, on **20 December 1914**.

Fourth French Army has three army corps attacking the German defensive positions along the Aisne, near Reims, with very little results.

Once again, Joffre does not want the French armies to dig in too permanently. His attacks in succession are meant to acquire new positions and keep the will to move forward, despite the coming winter. His nightmare is that the German might succeed in establishing themselves so solidly in their

dug in bunkers that they are able to send troops to the East Front and deal with the Russians, then come back to France with all of their forces. This is the reverse of the Schlieffen plan, but it might work better for them. It is well known that the Russians do not have a strong war industry, that they are out of materiel, in particular ammunitions and large guns, and, at the moment, they are at the end of their communication lines, in Galicia.

Joffre also learns that there are in fact whole army corps of German troops that are being railroaded to East Prussia and to Salesia to reinforce the existing German and Austro-Hungarian armies there. Action might come swiftly and brutally against the Russians.

Joffre will therefore not let go. Foch, his appointed deputy, understands his views and supports them fully with his army group in the north.

— The French will not let up in their attempts to force the Germans to keep their troops in France, despite the fact that they are paying everyday for it...in blood.

● <https://ww1revisited.com/2014/11/28/champagne-ww1-trenches-at-massiges/>



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

Le 21 décembre, 1914

Infanterie canadienne en France

RECRUITS WANTED!

FOR

PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

RAISED BY A. HAMILTON GAULT, Esq.

COMMANDED BY LT.-COL. F. FARQUHAR, D.S.O.

(Colours in the Guard)

This unit will be equipped as soon as possible, and placed at the disposal of the Imperial Authorities.

Preference will be given to ex-regiments of the Canadian or Imperial Forces or men who saw service in South Africa.

QUALIFICATIONS: (1) Physically fit. (2) Age limit, 35. (3) "Good" Certificate of Discharge for ex-soldiers.

CONDITIONS: Engagements for one year or the war. Pay Canadian Rate.

APPLY TO RECRUITING OFFICE WITHIN

Le PPCLI arrive au Havre

La première unité de combat canadienne arrive sur le sol français le **21 décembre 1914**. Le **Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI)**, une unité créée et financée par un riche particulier, a traversé la Manche dans un bateau à bétail pour arriver à Le Havre. L'unité s'est ensuite rendue immédiatement à Saint-Omer, où se trouve le quartier général du Corps expéditionnaire britannique (CEB).

Les premiers soldats canadiens font partie de la 80^{ème} brigade de la 27^{ème} division britannique. Il s'agit d'une division créée un mois plus tôt de bataillons de la Régulière rapatriés de l'Inde pour se joindre au CEB.

L'arrivée du PPCLI coïncide avec les offensives de Joffre qu'il a ordonnées tout le long de la ligne sur la gauche de l'Armée française. La division ne participe toutefois pas à ces offensives puisqu'elle doit subir une acclimatation qui commence en réserve d'Armée.

Progressivement, les unités de la division s'approchent des premières lignes après avoir appris les consignes et méthodes du commandant de Corps. Le PPCLI sera à Blaringhem, en Flandre, pour Noël.

Le PPCLI se joindra plus tard au Corps expéditionnaire canadien lorsque la 27^{ème}

divisions sera envoyée en Méditerranée.

•Sandra Gwyn, Tapestry of War, p. 116-7; •Obe, PPCLI, 1919-1957, p. 1-2.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 22nd, 1914

Enters the Tiger



French Government returns to Paris

The French Government was moved from Paris to Bordeaux, on the Atlantic coast, on 14 September. The threat to Paris at the time of the Battle of the Frontiers made the City vulnerable. But the Government returns, on **22 December 1914**, after the Battle of the Marne has made the situation more stable and lines of defence have stayed in place for over a month in Champagne.

The French Government has of course been much disturbed by recent events. Just like the British Parliament, the *Assemblée nationale* continues to sit, but matters pertaining to the war or which could have an interest to the enemy, are handled by commissions that sit in secret sessions.

These secret sessions are very tough for ministers. They must attempt to answer questions and criticism from individuals and party representatives.

Prime Minister Viviani must face such individuals as **Senator Georges Clemenceau** - a former PM, who is also owner and principal writer of *L'Homme Libre*, a newspaper made famous by his political writing. Clemenceau renamed his paper *L'Homme Enchaîné* when measures of secrecy prevented him from relating the debates that he attends in Senate commissions.

He will soon become president of a commission on the Army, where he will acquire his surname, *Le Tigre*. His tireless intelligence, keen on prodding and criticizing policy and method, will make him the most feared of all parliamentary debaters. Clemenceau is adamant that France must win the war at any price, and that all citizens must sacrifice as if they were soldiers.

The Government has offered him to be a minister but he has refused. He wants, for now, to be free to think and not be bound by collegial decisions in a Cabinet. He needs to be in charge if in executive position at all.

— There will be no elections during the War, but Clemenceau will eventually gnaw his way back to the top.

● Michel Winock, *Clemenceau* (Paris: Perrin, 2007), p. 408ff.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 23rd, 1914

Blue Potties Go on their Own



Newfoundland Regiment leaves the Canadian Contingent

The only battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment never intended to remain with the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The unit which was from the first known as the «Blue Putties», was adamant that it was not Canadian.

The Blue Potties nickname is due to the dye that was used to teint the textile for their ankle support bands, named putties, which were, of course, khaki in all regiments of the British army. This made them conspicuous from the start.

On **23 December 1914**, the 'Blue Putties' leave the Camp at Salisbury Plains where they have undergone training with the Canadians, to join the British 88th Brigade, at Fort George, Scotland, where the brigade will become part of the new 29th Division.

29th Division will become a very well known division in the British Army, and not only because of the Blue Putties. Recognized as the «Incomparable Division», it will incur the largest number of casualties of any division in the First World War: 94,000! It will also receive more Victoria Crosses than any other divisions in the War: 27!

The Newfoundland Regiment will very soon be named the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and serve with the division in Gallipoli.

This Regiment will forever be commemorated for the battle at Beaumont Hamel. — But that's a later story...

- Nicholson, Colonel G.[erald] W.[illiam] L.[ingen], The Fighting Newfoundlander: A History of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (London: Government of Newfoundland, 1964; Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, reprint 2006).
- Facey-Crowther, David R., Lieutenant Owen William Steele of the Newfoundland Regiment McGill-Queen's, 2002).



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 24, 1914

The Humanity of It All



The Christmas Truce of 1914

Christmas of 1914 brings events that are astounding in the context of the war. Despite the fact that Germans, French, British and soldiers of many other nations have been killing each other by every manner imaginable for five months, the spirit of Christmas prevails among many groups of men. Joyous meetings happen between enemies to exchange greetings and goodwill.

In many places along the lines of defence, opportunities arise to make contact, exchange body language and words, sometimes

cigarettes and sweets as gestures of friendship.

These events underscore the plight of the soldiers, who nurture no real hatred for each other, but are overtaken by national movements that carry them into the war in a social upheaval that they do not fully understand.

Across the No Man's Land, they can see that the beasts that have been described in propaganda are people just like them, under orders that they can not refuse without paying for it with their lives.

Of the many revolting images of the war, with their depiction of abject destruction and violent death, this one, carried in many newspapers, later in January, conveys a message of hope for humanity, as well as of the agony of sensitive human beings having to kill each other for reasons of state.

— The Spirit of Christmas, for a short moment, defies the logic of nationalism.

•Picture from Collectors Weekly - <https://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/the-christmas-truce-of-1914/>



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

Le 25 décembre, 1914

Un Cadeau Matinal



Attaque des Zeppelins par l'aéronavale

À plusieurs endroits, le long des lignes avancées près de ce qui est en passe de devenir le « *No Man's Land* », des groupes de soldats se joignent à leurs ennemis pour marquer la trêve de Noël, une trêve complètement improvisée, sporadique, et jamais reconnue officiellement par les autorités militaires.

Pendant ce temps, la guerre continue ailleurs, notamment dans les airs, où des bombardements aériens sont organisés par les escadrons de l'aéronavale britannique.

L'escadrille No 3 du *Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS)*, établie à Dunkerke, est

chargée des patrouilles pour surveiller la Manche en vue d'y détecter rapidement les mouvements de navires, de sous-marins ou d'avions. Leur rôle de combat est limité, puisque leurs appareils sont très légers, dangereusement fragiles.

Par contre, des essais ont été effectués au cours des dernières semaines pour voir s'il serait possible d'utiliser des bombes pour attaquer l'ennemi de différentes façons.

Le 25 décembre 1914, l'escadrille organise un raid de bombardement contre un hangar de Zeppelins allemands à Dixmude, très près des lignes de front, d'où ces engins eux-mêmes font des bombardements.

Les appareils de l'aéronavale ne peuvent transporter que de toutes petites bombes qui ne font pas beaucoup de dommages. Mais le raid de Noël fait preuve de bravoure et de détermination, et encourage ceux qui en entendent parler dans les tranchées. Il est bon de savoir que les Zeppelins inatteignables par les armes, ont des ennemis à qui ils doivent faire face, et que leurs missions ne sont pas sans risques.

Il s'agit d'un cadeau qui vient du Ciel, pour les soldats terrestres qui l'invoquent.

●Wise, *Aviateurs canadiens dans la Première Guerre mondiale*, p. 143-4; ●TIMES *History of the War*, II: Chap 35.



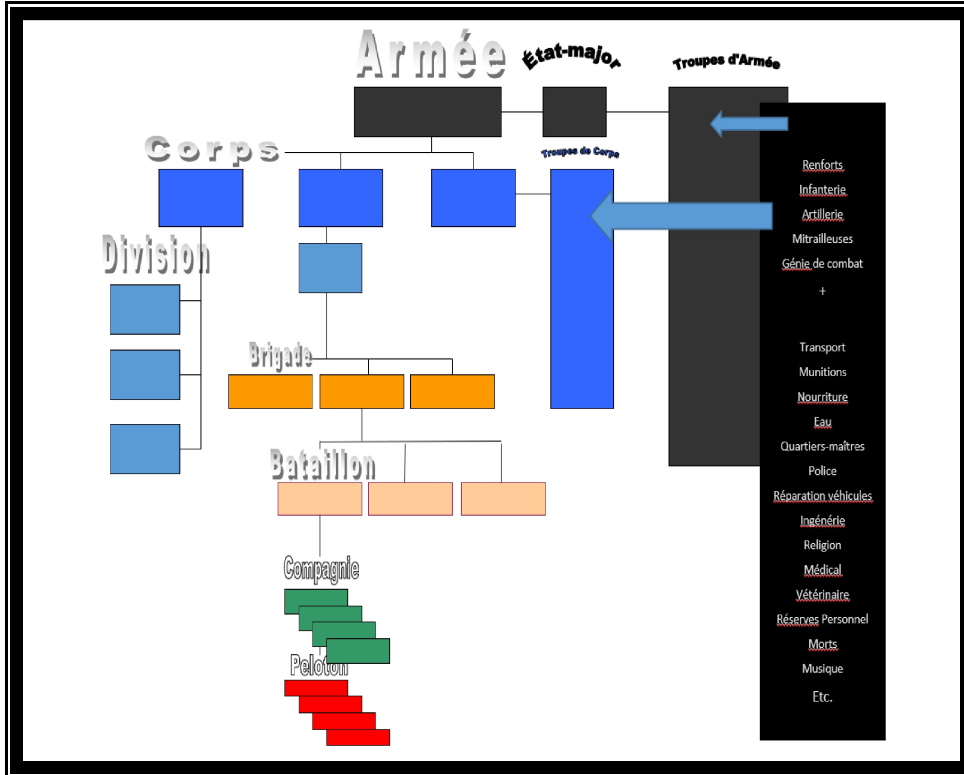
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les Amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

Le 26 décembre, 1914

Une Ville en Mouvement



Une Deuxième Armée britannique

Le 26 décembre 1914, le gouvernement britannique crée une Deuxième Armée au sein du Corps expéditionnaire britannique (CEB).

Il s'agit d'une décision très importante puisque les effectifs d'une armée de campagne sont immenses.

Une armée représente un quart de million d'hommes divisés entre troupes de combat, troupes d'appui au combat, et troupes de support logistique.

Les **troupes de combat** se retrouvent dans les divisions d'infanterie ou de cavalerie et incluent l'artillerie; les **troupes de support au combat**

(ingénieurs, communicateurs, etc) sont attachées aux divisions à long terme; et les **troupes de support logistique** sont gardées dans les Troupes de Corps ou Troupes d'Armées. Elles peuvent être prêtées aux divisions pour des tâches spécifiques.

La création d'une seconde armée britannique exige des renforts d'hommes de tous les métiers ainsi qu'un matériel immense. Il s'agit d'une ville en mouvement, qui se déplace avec ses habitants et ses infrastructures pour suivre les chemins de la guerre.

•Love, David W., A Nation in Making: The Organization and Administration of the Canadian Military during the First World War, 2 Volumes (Service Publications, 2012).



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 27, 1914

Vimy in Perspective



Le Général de division Barbot – Hero of Arras

Once again, on **27 December 1914**, the French attempt to advance in the Arras region, after having tried many times in the week before Christmas. It will be the last all out effort of 1914 to pursue the Battle of Artois, under the firm direction of General Foch.

This battle of Artois, which started as soon as the German troops reached Arras, in the Race to the Sea, back in October, has a local hero. **Général de division Ernest Jacques Barbot**, the commander of 77th French Infantry Division, was an inspiration to all who came across his path. Made of the same mold as Foch, he was an aggressive fighter who was instrumental in saving Arras by holding it at all costs.

A well-known figure, easy to distinguish for his *tarte*, the large and flat beret that he wore in regiments of mountain troops, Barbot will die in the field on May 10, 1915, directing from the middle of the action, as he always did. He was killed by fire in Cabaret Rouge, near Souchez, where now stands the Canadian cemetery where the Canadian Unknown Soldier was buried,

before being moved to Ottawa in 2000.

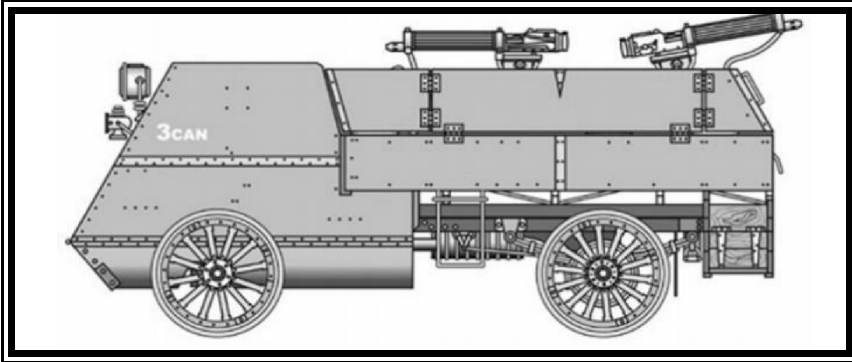
His 'mountains' were the hills of Vimy Ridge, Lorette Heights and Souchez, very familiar to Canadians who visit the Vimy battlefield. These locations were the site of horrific battles, where the French had to pay in thousands of lives for each hundred meters gained. The village of Souchez is still haunted by the stories of carnage that took place in its ruins, in 1915, particularly for the Zouaves, who fought there hand-to-hand, and died by the full regiments.

Barbot's monument, dedicated to him and his 77th Division, is prominent in Souchez. He is a great regional hero that many Canadians salute in passing.

●Catherine Dhérent (textes), et Steve Lhomme (photos), Vimy-Lorette, (Lille, France: La Voix du Nord, 1995).

December 28, 1914

Genius Unappreciated



Kitchener and Canadian Motor Machine-Guns

It is perhaps a measure of the strength of political patronage in Canadian affairs that Raymond Brutinel succeeded in taking his Motor Machine-Guns Brigade to Great Britain and use it in the field in France.

The ingenuity of Raymond Brutinel was not only technical, but also

political. A well-to-do industrialist from the Canadian West, he succeeded in obtaining the support of a very influential politician from Calgary who had been minister for both parties, Clifford Sifton. Sifton did not have any difficulty in convincing his friend Sam Huges of the genius of the idea. Minister of Defence Huges was looking all over to prove that he was himself an inventor of great insight, about to revolutionize warfare with special shovels and Canadian-made rifles.

Brutinel is probably one of the officers that historian J.F.C. Fuller had in mind when he apparently said, on their arrival in England, that the Canadian troops would perform well « if only all their officers were shot» — and that, without apparently having met Sam Huges...

The contraption of trucks that Brutinel put together did not impress the British military establishment very much for quite a long time. Even the Secretary for War, Field Marshal Kichener, who was not enamoured with the idea of machine-guns, as they would spend too much ammunitions for too little results, let it be known that if Canadians wished to make donations, they would be well advised to think of motor ambulances or mobile kitchens.

Sam Huges will be somewhat vindicated when Brutinel's outfit will be called urgently to the rescue of Fifth British Army, in 1918, to save it from the sweeping German offensive. Mobile machine-guns, already recognized by then, will have a field day.

— But at the end of 1914, Brutinel's genius is still unappreciated by the haughty British professionals.

•Baylaucq, Brutinel, p. 27.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

Le 29 décembre, 1914

Un Secrétaire stratégique



Maurice Hankey, 1st Baron

Hankey, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, PC FRS, 1877– 1963

“Sales Civitatis, Suprema Lex” (The Safety of the State is the Highest Law) - Lord Hankey.

Le Memorandum du ‘Boxing Day

En tant que chef du Secrétariat du Cabinet britannique, Maurice Hankey, un lieutenant-colonel des Fusiliers marins, assiste aux réunions quotidiennes du Conseil de Guerre du Premier ministre Asquith. Il y organise l’agenda et enregistre les minutes. Mais son intelligence extraordinaire lui a donné une réputation solide parmi les ministres. Il participe aux conversations et fournit aux débats des connaissances variées, précises et correctes.

Le lendemain de Noël, ‘Boxing Day,’ il prend le temps de rédiger un long memorandum qui résume les grandes questions stratégiques et apporte des suggestions de solutions.

Le memorandum du Boxing Day de Hankey, présenté au Conseil le **29 décembre 1914**, sera à la source de plusieurs idées importantes qui seront poussées par le Premier ministre et son Conseil de guerre dans les mois qui suivent.

Le Cabinet britannique fait face à des circonstances jamais vues auparavant où la gestion des ressources et les décisions stratégiques deviennent plus compliquées qu’elles n’ont jamais été. Les structures organisationnelles du gouvernement ne fournissent pas aux décideurs des produits issus d’agences dédiées à la réflexion stratégique globale.

Le chef du Secrétariat, qui suit depuis des années les travaux du Cabinet, du Parlement et du Comité de Défense impériale, fournit tout-à-coup un éclair d’intelligence qui, selon les mots de l’historien Liddell Hart, saisit ce qu’il est convenu d’appeler, dorénavant, la «Grande Stratégie».

●Liddell Hart, The First World War, Chap 5, Scene 1: «The Birth of a ‘Plan’ - the Dardanelles»; ●Roskill, Hankey, I: p. 148-56, esp. p. 151.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 30, 1914

Not a VC, Not a DSO

Creation of the Military Cross (MC)

The Military Cross was created on **28 December 1914** for commissioned officers of the substantive rank of captain or below and for warrant officers, as a lower decoration than the Victoria Cross or Distinguished Service Order (DSO - restricted to officers).

The first 98 awards were gazetted on 1 January 1915, to 71 officers, and 27 warrant officers. Although posthumous recommendations for the Military Cross were unavailable until 1979, the first awards included seven posthumous awards, with the word 'deceased' after the name of the recipient, from recommendations that had been raised before the recipients died of wounds or lost their lives from other causes.

Awards are announced in *The London Gazette*, except when awarded to foreigners.

From August 1916, recipients of the Cross were entitled to use the post-nominal letters MC, and bars could be awarded for further acts of gallantry meriting the award, with a silver rosette worn on the ribbon when worn alone to denote the award of each bar.

From September 1916, members of the Royal Naval Division, who served alongside the Army on the Western Front, were made eligible for military decorations, including the Military Cross, for the war's duration. Naval officers serving with the division received 140 MCs and eight second award bars.

The MC is still awarded in Great Britain one hundred years later, under modified criteria. Canadians received the MC for the last time in the Korean War.

●Wikipedia, «The Military Cross»; ●Christopher McCreery, [The Canadian Honours System](#).



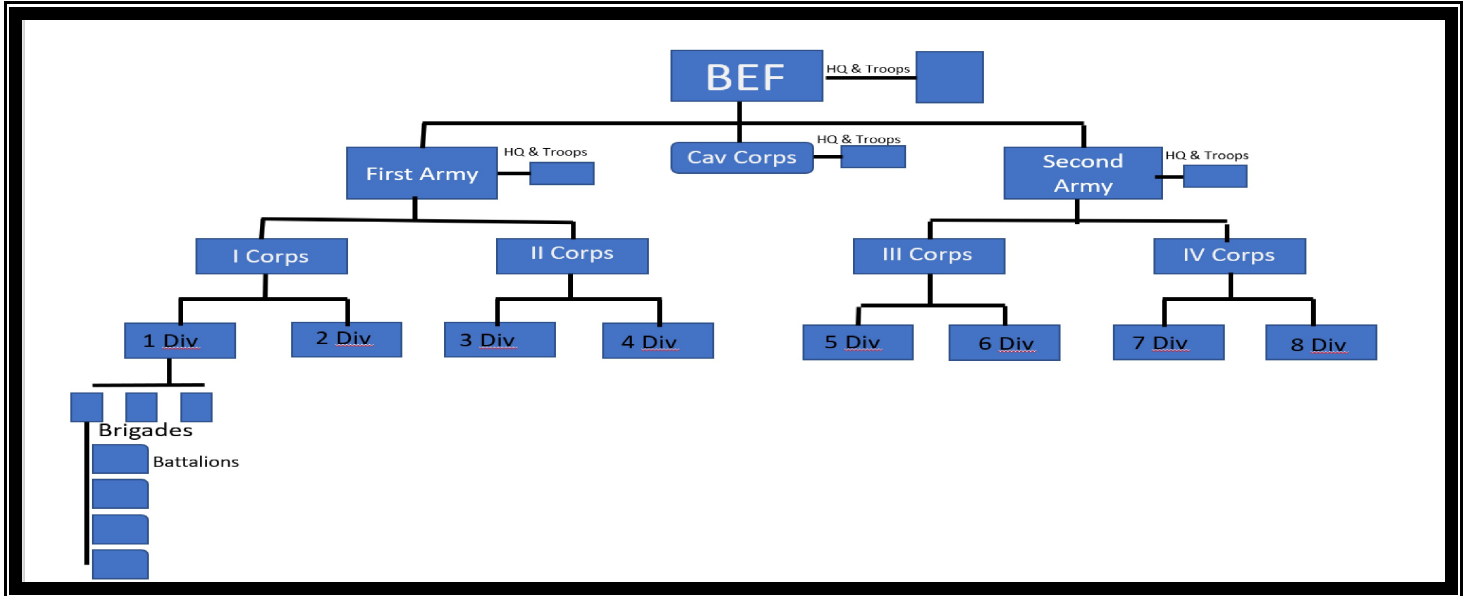
Friends of the Canadian War Museum – Les Amis du Musée canadien de la guerre

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG

December 31st, 1914

Expanding at a Fast Rate



The two-army BEF

On the last day of the year 1914, the **British Expeditionary Force** has just expanded into a two-field army force.

It contains four infantry corps and one cavalry corps, with eight infantry divisions and three cavalry divisions. These command 24 brigades of infantry and 6 brigades of cavalry.

There are therefore 96 battalions of infantry in this organisation.

23 battalions of infantry, 15 engineer companies and 7 Yeomanry regiments come from Territorial Force.

Artillery is included at BEF, Army, Corps and Divisional levels. Already some 100,000 men were casualties since the beginning of the war. The personnel for these two small armies totals 250,000 men. They will be greatly enlarged in the next few months, despite casualties.

— This is the organisation that the Canadian division will join in a few months.



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG



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

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

© 2020 FCWM - AMCG