

Le 1er juin, 1918

Un Bouche-Trou à l'Emporte-Pièce



Villers-Cotterets et Château-Thierry

Les Allemands s'enfoncent dans leur avance vers Paris, alors qu'ils percent la Sixième Armée française qui défend entre Soissons et Rheims.

Ludendorff voit ses divisions dépasser leurs objectifs et creuser dans les défenses françaises. Tout devient tout-à-coup improvisé. Mais l'idée que

Paris pourrait être atteinte par un coup de dague étroit et profond le fait renchérir sur les divisions qu'il y engage.

Foch a appelé la Dixième Armée de Mangin, en réserve, derrière Arras. Celle-ci contient des divisions africaines.

Le général américain Pershing est aussi sollicité pour fournir tout ce qu'il peut pour entraver l'avance.

Ces formations tentent de bloquer, **le 1er juin 1918**, sur les chemins de Rheims et Soissons vers Paris, à Villers-Cotterets, et Château-Thierry, de sorte à y appuyer les défenses françaises déjà disposées pour opposer l'avance déferlante.

— C'est un grand coup de coeur, qui devient, aux yeux du monde, la Deuxième Bataille de la Marne.

•Pitt, 1918, p. 166-71.



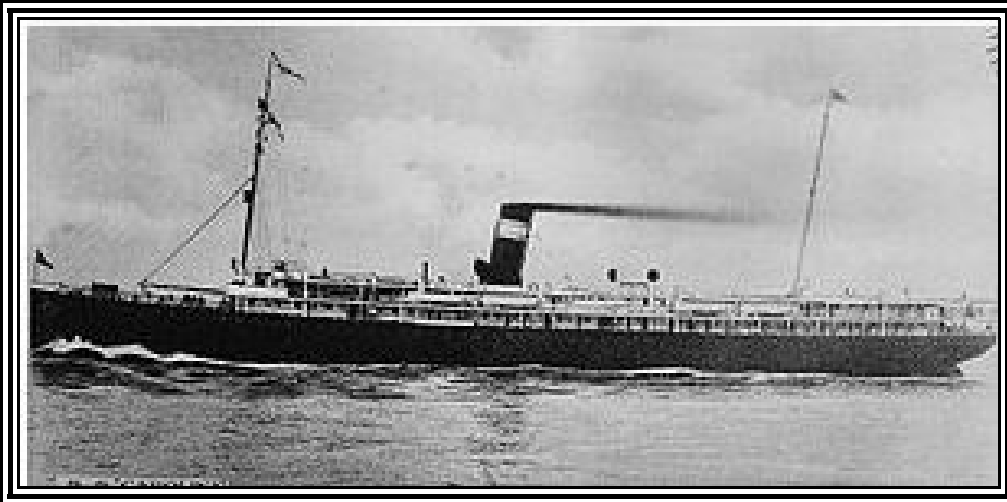
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June 2nd, 1918

That Shark U-151



The sinking of the SS *Carolina*

On June 2nd, 1918, the SS *Carolina*, a passenger liner carrying 218 passengers, a crew of 117 and a cargo of sugar from Puerto Rico, has the misfortune to encounter German submarine U-151 off the coast of New Jersey.

The U-151 is the first U-Boat to operate in U.S. territorial waters, a lone predator stalking and sinking

unarmed vessels.

After firing three warning shots the U-151, operating on the surface, signals the *Carolina* to abandon ship, which the captain immediately does, piling all passengers and crew into available lifeboats and rowing westward towards the coast while witnessing the shelling and sinking of his ship.

Amazingly, all survive except 8 passengers and 5 crew members when their boat capsizes during a squall that night, thus becoming the first loss of life caused by U-Boat activity on the U.S. Atlantic seaboard.

— The SS *Carolina* is the last of six vessels sunk on this day by the U-151, a day that is now known as Black Sunday.

Further reading: [German Submarine Activities on the Atlantic Coast of the United States and Canada](#), (Office of Naval Records and Library: Historical Section, Washington Government Printing Office, 1920), pp.36-ff.



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June 3rd, 1918

A Peace Message to Push the Battle

Friedensturm

German plan for Peace Offensive

The German military planning for further operations in France is faced with evidence of failure after failure despite unrelenting effort.

The most successful offensives of the spring did not bring real strategic success. Ludendorff falls into a scheme of pretensions, deluding himself more than anyone else with the deviousness of his 'high strategy'. Lloyd George summarizes this double edged political warfare at this point.

« A notorious Memorandum written by Colonel von Haeften on June 3rd, 1918, which Ludendorff forwarded to the Imperial Chancellor with 'the strongest possible recommendations,' advocated a 'Peace Offensive' – not as a sincere effort to secure peace, but to delude the enemies of Germany into thinking she was ready to make peace. This, it was suggested, would rally pacifist sentiment, make war weariness more vocal, and rouse opinion in Britain against the Government – especially to the point of displacing its Prime Minister whom von Haeften honoured by regarding him as the main obstacle in the path of a peace that would fulfil the ambitions of the Prussian militarists. And 'when the English home front breaks down, we should have to expect the moral collapse of France and Italy also.' Germany would be left victorious, able to impose her terms on her enemies. That was as far as the 'will to peace' of Germany's rulers had gone in June, 1918.»

•David Lloyd George, Memoirs, VI, p. 3235.



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June 4, 1918

A False Start at Friendship



Middle East - Meeting of Feisal and Weizmann

On 4 June 1918, Chaim Weizmann, the leader of the world-wide Zionist movement is brought to the Headquarters of the Arab Army in Aqaba. His visit to Palestine is to meet personally **Sherif Faisal**, the Commander of the Arab Army.

The aim of this meeting, arranged by the British, is to bring the representative of the Jewish movement with the son of King Hussein of Mecca, to agree on arrangements for a Jewish land within Palestine after the war.

The meeting takes place in the presence of Colonel Pierce Charles Joyce, commander of British Forces with the Arab Force.

Feisal remained non-committal, refusing to comment on any future plan for Palestine after the war.

— He «personally accepted the possibility of future Jewish claims in the territory in Palestine but he could not discuss them publicly.»¹

•¹J. Wilson, Lawrence of Arabia, p. 513. •Photo from Wikipedia, «File: Weizmann and Feisal 1918.jpg – Annotated: «Emir Faisal and Chaim Weizmann (left, also wearing Arab headdress as a sign of friendship.» The photo was taken later in the year in Syria. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Weizmann_and_feisal_1918.jpg



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Le 5 juin, 1918

Le Caucase Tombe aux Ottomans



Le traité de Batoum, le 4 juin 1918, met fin aux hostilités sur le front du Caucase. L'Empire Ottoman signe des traités avec l'Arménie, la Géorgie et l'Azerbaïdjan.

La Turquie ne reconnaît à l'Arménie indépendante qu'un minuscule territoire composé du district de Novo-Bayazet et des parties de ceux d'Etchmiadzine, d'Erivan et d'Alexandropol; par un traité additionnel, le gouvernement arménien consent «à ce que l'armée ottomane fasse effectuer toutes sortes de transports militaires de transit sur les voies ferrées de la République».

Par le même traité, les Géorgiens abandonnent aux Ottomans les districts d'Akhalkalaki et d'Akhalsikhe.

Quelques mois plus tard, les Ottomans et les Allemands, vaincus, devront quitter la Transcaucasie.

— Fin 1918, l'Arménie et la Géorgie entreront en conflit à propos d'Akhalkalaki.

Sources : ● http://www.wikiwand.com/fr/Traité_de_Batoum

Pour en savoir plus : ● <http://www.aniarc.am/2017/11/17/armenian-turkish-relations-in-french-tatul-hakobyan-repair/>

● Map: South Caucasus, Western Iran and Mesopotamia: July-October 1918 (A. Andersen, G. Partskhaladze)

● http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/The%20Caucasus/Cauco_Mesopotamia_WWI/Nr5_Jul_Oct_1918.jpg



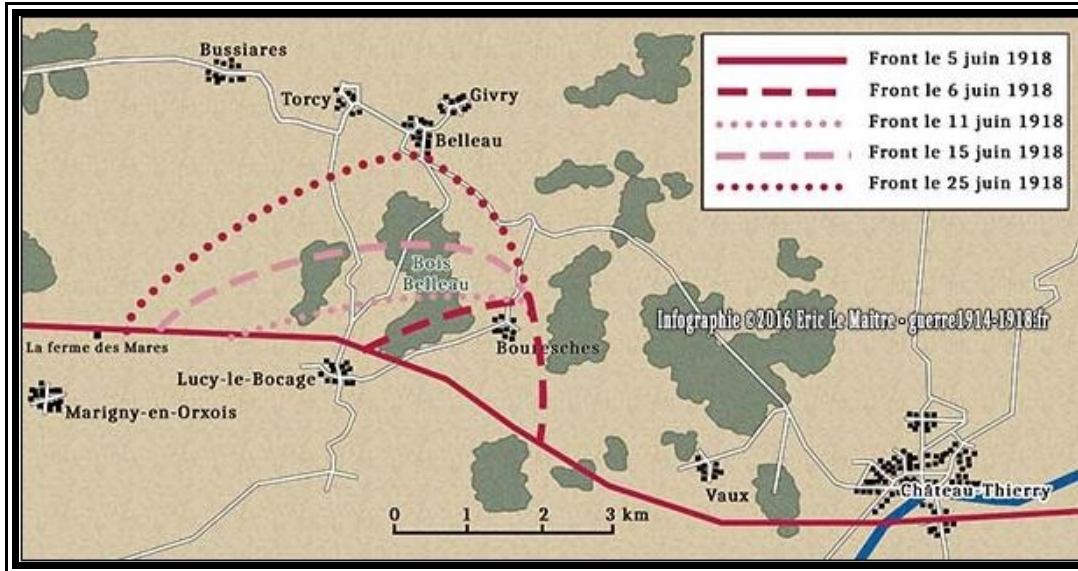
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June 6, 1918

Bloody-Mindedness at Belleau Wood



By American *savoir faire* alone

The Second American Division is defending in the vicinity of Château Thierry, along the road from Rheims to Paris.

On 6 June 1918, 4 US Marine Brigade receives the order to push from Lucy-le-Bocage in pursuit of retreating German troops in the village of Boursches and le Bois

de Belleau.

The brigade advances in lines in open fields of young June corn without adequate artillery preparation and unaided by explosives or flame-throwers. To the unbelieving eyes of the German defenders, lines of US Marines appear before their machine guns in the open fields, something not seen since the beginning of the Battle of the Somme. More than one thousand Americans become casualties right there on this day.

Despite these terrible one-day casualties, for a four-battalion brigade, the Marines reach the 600-acre Belleau Wood and enter it for three weeks. It will be the scene of murderous charges in conditions of sheer terror. The wood will be taken on 25 June at the price of 5,711 casualties.

— This is the price to pay when you want to learn by yourself...

•Barry Pitt, 1918, p. 173-8.



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June 7, 1918

A Foch-Haig Clash



Once again, «une prise de bec !»

Since January, Général Foch has been working toward building a mobile strategic reserve that can manoeuvre so as to hit solidly at the right place and the right time, anywhere in France. The production of French trucks has now brought in a new mobility.

But the right place and the right time for a reserve to hit is when the attacking force is exhausted, after having done much damage.

Of course, front-line troops always think that the reserves come too late for their taste, if they still can think by then...

Once again, **Field Marshal Haig** is battling in Paris against **Général Foch** to get to keep his own divisions to act as his own reserves. He wants to use them sooner and with his own armies.

This time Foch is adamant and tells Haig to complain to his own Government if he does not

agree with the central plan. This is what the status of Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces now allows him to do...

The reserves will be maintained in the rear so as to smash only when it will have become evident that the latest German offensive will have run out of steam...

●Lloyd George, Memoirs, VI, 3092.



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Le 8 juin, 1918

Keable VC



Le premier Canadien-français à recevoir une Croix de Victoria

Le 8 juin 1918, à Neuville Vitasse, non loin de Vimy, le caporal **Joseph Keable** du 22e Bataillon canadien-français (natif de St-Moise au Québec) subit vers 21h un violent barrage d'artillerie suivi d'une attaque allemande sur la position qu'il tient avec sa section.

Celle-ci étant complètement décimée, il saute hors de la tranchée et, avec sa mitrailleuse Lewis, vide tous ses chargeurs sur les vagues ennemies qui finissent par se replier. Gravement blessé il meurt le lendemain.

Déjà décoré de la Médaille Militaire, il reçoit la Croix de Victoria à titre posthume: il fut le premier Canadien français à être récipiendaire de la plus haute distinction des forces du Commonwealth.

Bien qu'il soit baptisé Joseph Keable, son nom est souvent mal orthographié Joseph Kaeble, surtout

en anglais. Le caporal Keable est inhumé à l'annexe du cimetière communal de WANQUETIN, section II. A. 8., Pas de Calais, France.

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

Pour en savoir plus : <https://www.premiere-guerre-mondiale-1914-1918.com/joseph-keable.html>



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Le 9 juin, 1918

Savoir Écouter aux Portes

A • D • F • G • V • X

Depuis mars 1918, l'armée allemande utilise un nouveau code pour communiquer, le chiffre **ADFGVX**, ou GEDEFU 18 (GEheimschrift DER FUnker 18, chiffre des télégraphistes 18). Ce chiffre est constitué d'une substitution de type carré de Polybe, suivie d'une transposition. Pour réaliser la substitution, les 26 lettres de l'alphabet et les 10 chiffres sont rangés dans un tableau 6×6, aux extrémités desquelles on a ajouté les lettres ADFGVX.

L'équipe française de cryptographie est particulièrement talentueuse : dès le début des hostilités, la majorité des messages chiffrés allemands sont compris, mais malheureusement ces exploits sont gâchés par des indiscretions dans la presse. Avec l'apparition du chiffre ADFGVX, la situation se complique sérieusement... Le cryptologue le plus doué est le paléontologue Georges Painvin, ancien major de l'École Polytechnique. Après un travail acharné, il parvient le 2 juin 1918 à déchiffrer les fameux messages allemands, dont un radiogramme à destination d'une unité située au nord de Compiègne.

Le maréchal Foch est immédiatement averti des intentions de l'ennemi, et fait masser les troupes au lieu adéquat. L'assaut allemand a lieu **le 9 juin 1918**, il est stoppé net.

— La dynamique de la victoire s'enclenche. Pas étonnant que ce message chiffré ait reçu le nom de Radiogramme de la Victoire.

Sources : <http://mathweb.free.fr/crypto/debvingt/adfgvx.php3>

Pour en savoir plus : <http://www.bibmath.net/crypto/index.php?action=affiche&quoi=debvingt/adfgvx>



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Le 10 juin, 1918

Le Tigre Montre ses Dents



Pétain évite tout juste d'être congédié

En mai 1918, alors que l'infanterie allemande franchit l'Aisne et avance dangereusement vers Paris, Clemenceau se rend chez le Président de la République, Raymond Poincaré, qui réclame la tête de Pétain et exige des sanctions. Clemenceau résiste et sauve Foch et Pétain du limogeage.

Pour autant, Poincaré ne désarme pas, et une fois l'offensive allemande enrayée, Clemenceau découvrant que Pétain fait étudier un projet d'abandon des positions

au nord d'Amiens et de retraite sur la Somme, s'inquiète à son tour.

Le **10 juin 1918**, il se rend à Provins décidé à lui retirer son commandement. L'entretien est pénible, et Pétain demande à être relevé si « le pays n'a plus confiance en lui ».

La soumission du général aux ordres de l'État impressionne favorablement Clemenceau, d'autant plus qu'à ses côtés, le général Mordacq le soutient et met sa propre démission dans la balance.

— Clemenceau cède et confirme Pétain dans son Haut commandement.

Sources : <http://www.etaletaculture.fr/histoire/les-commandants-francais-de-la-premiere-guerre-mondiale/>

Pour en savoir plus : <http://www.clemenceau2018.fr/a/17/petain-et-clemenceau/>



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June 11, 1918

The Imminent Collapse of Morale



A question of morale

Napoleon said that an army's effectiveness depends on its size, training, experience, and morale, and morale is worth more than any of the other factors combined.¹

By June 1918, after four years of war, low morale is affecting both sides, but, from this point on, more so the Germans.

While the Allies receive a boost in morale by the additional manpower of the arriving fresh American troops, the Germans have no more replacements after the worn out troops from the Eastern front have been moved to the trenches in the Western front.

The Central Powers civilian populations even more than the military, suffers from bad food and poor medical treatment caused mainly by the sea blockade, while the Allied peoples are seen to receive good food and effective care, – thus the Spanish flu that began to affect both sides the previous month is more devastating for the Central troops. The grim news from their suffering families are utterly demoralizing.

As occupiers in an enemy country the Germans are also being forced into a defensive position, despite victories in the spring offensive, and are beginning to fear that their homeland will be invaded.

— The numbers of prisoners taken is now indicative of the erosion of their determination.

¹ http://www.napoleonguide.com/maxim_war.htm . For more information: ● <http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/1039>

● https://www.rtb.be/ww1/topics/detail_going-on-leave-and-the-morale-of-the-german-troops?id=8356034

● Barrie Pitt, 1918: The Last Act, 180-4.



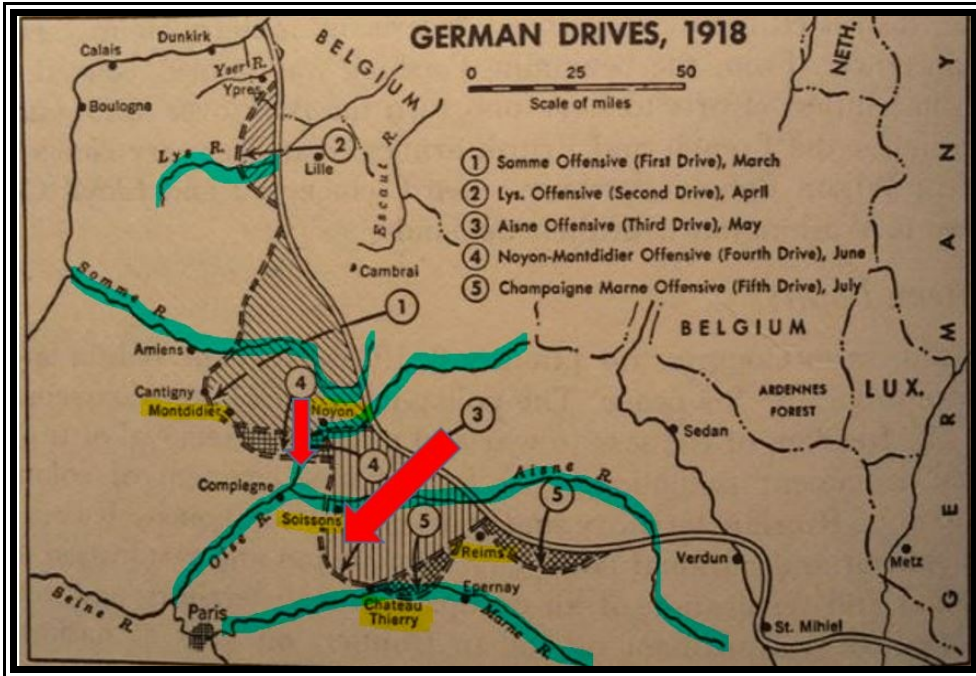
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June 12, 1918

A Good Blocking Job



The Fourth Offensive: Noyon-Montdidier, 9-13 juin 1918

While the German drive, started on 27 May between Soissons and Reims (*Blücher*), was still going on, with allied defences holding the Marne River at Château-Thierry, Ludendorff launched a fourth offensive (*Gneisenau*) at Noyon and Montdidier, some 60 km to the north, three days ago.

This time the assault was fully expected by Allied Intelligence.

On 12 June 1918, after an effective Franco-American

counter-attack the day before, the Seventh and Eighteenth German Armies are stopped in their tracks.

This is the first time that one of the German Spring offensives is blocked before it runs out of strength.

•Dupuy & Dupuy, The Encyclopedia of Military History, (Rev. Ed, 1977), p. 980, map p. 878.



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June 13, 1918

Washing the Dirty Laundry by Sub-Committee

Prime Minister Borden gets an earful in London

Canadian Prime minister **Robert Borden** arrived in London on June 7th, to participate in the Imperial Conference.

Although interested in the arrangements that Sir Albert E. Kemp made to the Ministry of the Overseas Canadian Forces in England since his arrival, in January, Borden was particularly interested in hearing from **Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie**, the Canadian Corps Commander in France.

What he gets from Currie is quite an earful of complaints, both about the British High Command and the Overseas Ministry. Currie is not happy with his relationship with both, complaining, mainly, that the support that he is in right to expect is not being provided forthrightly.

Borden is quite pleased with the feedback as it corresponds somewhat with the ideas that he had on what needed to be done, particularly by the British.

On 13 June 1918, Borden makes a critical speech at the Imperial Conference that is not unwelcomed by British Prime Minister Lloyd George.

– Borden is rewarded by the creation of a subcommittee of the War Cabinet, where Commonwealth voices can now get a high profile tribune.

●Morton, A Peculiar Kind of Politics, p. 172-5.



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June 13, 1918

Biting Remarks



Borden Blasts Conduct of the War

In mid-June, **PM Robert Borden** met with General Currie in preparation for the forthcoming meeting of the Imperial War Cabinet.

Currie was deeply critical of British preparation of the defences against the German offensive.

At the Imperial War Cabinet on 13 June, Borden delivers an epic tirade against the performance of the British Army:

"There has been conspicuous failure to remove incompetent officers."

Lloyd George, who shares Borden's opinion regarding the generals, is delighted and knows full well that Borden had consulted Canada's top general who he greatly respects.

Speaking as an ally, not as a colonial, Borden lays down Canada's demands:

"We came to fight in earnest; and Canada will fight it out to the end. But earnestness must be expressed in organization, foresight, and preparation."

Further information: Tim Cook, [The Madman & the Butcher: The Sensational Wars of Sam Hughes and General Arthur Currie.](#)



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Le 14 juin, 1918

L'Empereur des Beaux-Parleurs



Le discours du Kaiser Guillaume II

Pour son trentième anniversaire comme «César» («*Kaiser*») de l'Allemagne Unie, le Grand Quartier Général de Ludendorff, en France, prépare un banquet pour Guillaume II.

Père d'un des commandants de groupes d'armées au front, Guillaume joue encore le jeu du 'Seigneur de la Guerre,' un rôle qu'il prend au sérieux avec les accoutrements les plus exagérés pour se donner des airs de grandeur. Sa grandiloquence et son optimisme ridicules ont fait de lui un monarque maintenant méprisé, alors que Hindenburg et Ludendorff ont pris la direction de la Guerre totale depuis un an.

Au cours de ce banquet, **le 15 juin 1918**, Guillaume exulte des succès énormes obtenus en Russie, où tout un continent est maintenant raclé de ses ressources pour alimenter l'industrie allemande. Pourtant il dénigre le capitalisme à l'anglaise, qu'il entend détruire dans sa mission hautement morale.

«Soit la philosophe globale Prusso-Allemande-Teutonique – justice, liberté, honneur, moralité, ou soit l'Anglo-Saxonne – qui signifie succomber à l'idôlatrie du

veau d'or. Dans ce combat une ou l'autre de ces philosophies doit tomber. Nous combattons pour la victoire de la philosophie allemande.»

— Il lui reste 38 jours d'illusion.

●Fischer, Germany's Aims in the First World War, p. 618; ●General Mangin, «Verdun», Encyclopedia Britannica, 1922, p. 918.



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Le 15 juin, 1918

Une Défaite Pénultime



Italie: L'Assaut Austro-Hongrois sur la Piave

Les Austro-Hongrois combattent à présent seuls contre les Italiens, les Français et les Britanniques, après que l'Allemagne ait retiré ses troupes afin de les utiliser pour l'offensive du printemps sur le front français.

Le moment semble propice pour la monarchie des Habsbourg de lancer une offensive mais il existe un fort antagonisme entre les deux maréchaux, von Hötendorf et von Bojna. L'archiduc Joseph-Auguste d'Autriche décide de mener une attaque dans deux directions.

L'offensive du Piave débute le **15 juin 1918**, le long du fleuve du même nom. Dès le premier jour, l'offensive austro-hongroise doit affronter une armée italienne décidée à la tenir en échec. En effet, parfaitement informées des projets autrichiens grâce à des déserteurs, les contre-mesures italiennes font échec aux concentrations austro-hongroises. Les pertes austro-hongroises sont estimées à 150 000 soldats, et l'empire est alors battu. L'offensive prend fin le 25 juin, lorsque l'Autriche-Hongrie cède.

Les Italiens attendront le rétablissement complet des troupes pour lancer une offensive en octobre. Elle sera fatale pour l'Autriche-Hongrie.

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- Sources : <http://dictionnaire.sensagent.leparisien.fr/Bataille%20du%20Piave/fr-fr/> Pour en savoir plus :
 - https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bataille_du_Piave;
 - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Battle_of_the_Piave_River,_June_1918_Q19080.jpg



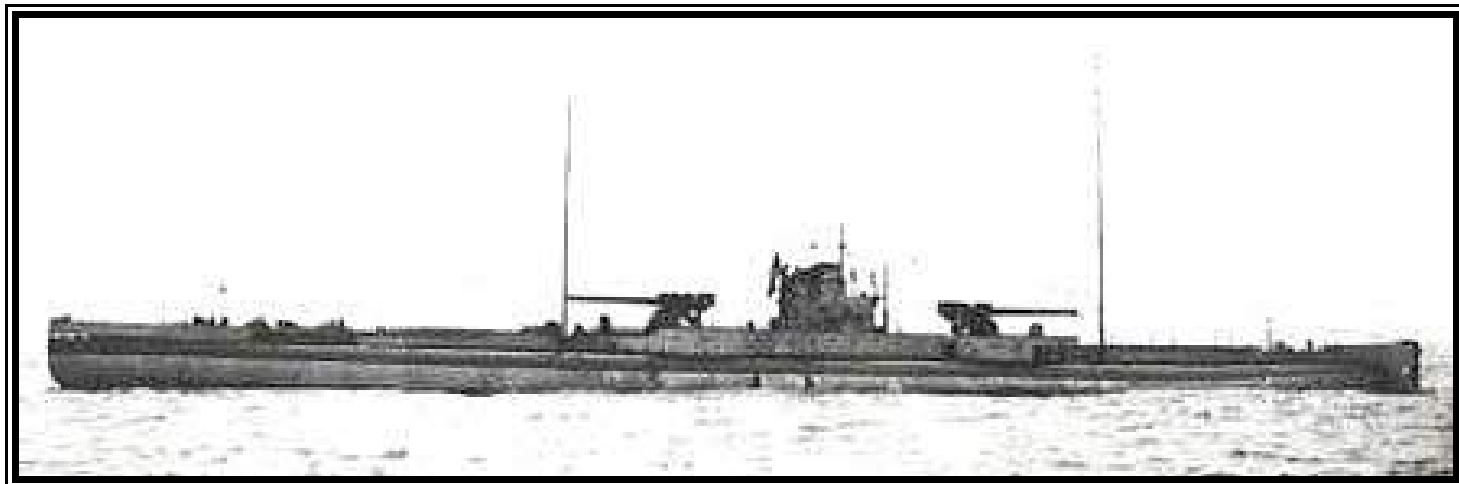
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June 16, 1918

Sharks on the American Coast



U-156 takes over on the American Coast

The exploits of the German cruiser submarine U-151 along the American coast are now well publicized, serving German propaganda, but also warning the United States of the new dangers along her shores. U-151 left to return to Kiel on 12 June, after having sunk 23 ships for a total of 61,000 tons in 56 days.

On **16 June 1918**, **U-156** heads out across the Atlantic to replace U-151 in the American hunting grounds. She will sink a British steamer on June 26, and continue preying along the United States and Canadian coasts until August.

U-156 will be sunk on her return voyage home, at the end of September 1918, when she will hit a mine in the Northern Barrage, 200 km west of Bergen.

U-140 and U-117 will also be active along the coasts, but with a lot less success due to defensive measures set in place by the Allies of America.

U-155, U-152 and U-139, also sent for sinking American coastal shipping, will not achieve any significant success before the end of the war.

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- Marc Milner, "The U-boat Summer of 1918: Navy, Part 8", Legion Magazine, 1 March 2005.
 - Douglas Botting, The U-Boats (Alexandria, Virginia: Times-Life Books, 1979; Series Seafarers), p. 68-70.



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June 17, 1918 Ottoman Exhaustion



The Ottomans Fatally Overextended in the Caucasus

Defeated by expansionist Russia in 1878, the Ottoman Empire suffered huge territorial losses in the Treaty of Berlin, including three Muslim heartland provinces in the Caucasus: Kars, Ardahan and Batum. This is a loss analogous to that of Alsace-Lorraine for France.

By the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918) the Bolshevik government surrendered the three provinces to Turkey.

After occupying the returned provinces, Enver Pasha, leader of the Young Turk's government, decided to extend Ottoman control to oil-rich Baku in Azerbaijan,

dominated by a violent revolutionary Bolshevik-Armenian regime.

The Azeris sought Ottoman assistance. In mid-June, Enver Pasha, acting against the advice of the German High Command and for a time, active German competition, despatched an infantry division to the theatre, followed by additional troops.

— These deployments stripped forces from the critical fronts in Mesopotamia and Palestine, contributing to the defeat and fall of the Ottoman Empire.

Further information: Eugene Rogan, [The Fall of the Ottomans](#)



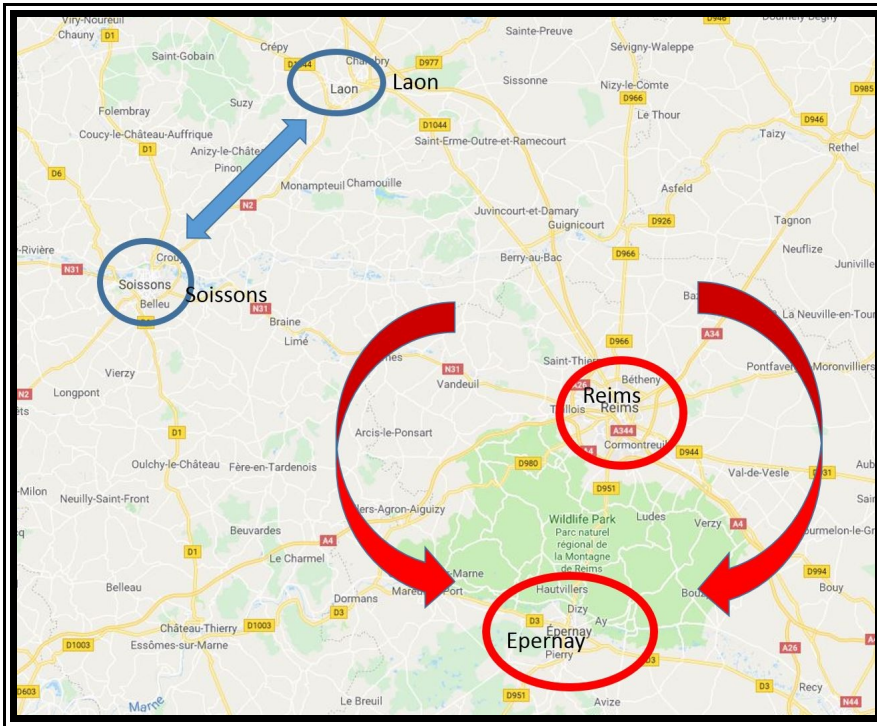
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June 18, 1918

Get On or Get Out



The whole premise of the German attacks that were launched in Champagne is that the final attack must be made in Flanders against the British, after the allied reserves have been committed to the south.

This has not happened yet. Foch has refused to commit the front reserves and Ludendorff is caught in a quandary. His own reserves have been committed to support the Champagne operations, as the attacking troops were advancing too fast. He is now faced with the choice of pushing further or withdrawing.

His own staff are telling him that the only railway that he can use, the Laon-Soissons line, is proving insufficient to the needs. He must seize the railway yards in Reims or

pull out.

Knowing that the British Flanders front is still too strong for a final blow, Ludendorff chooses to reinforce the Champagne operations by encircling Reims and seizing the rail assets that he needs. This is a case where Logistics drives Operations.

On 18 June 1918, Ludendorff issues orders to the First, Third and Seventh German armies for a mid-July pincer attack to surround Reims and focus on Epernay across the River Marne.

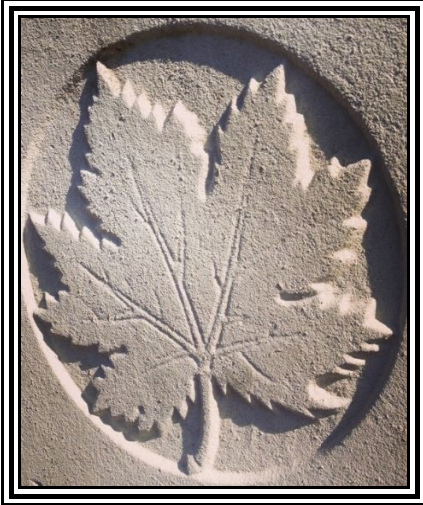
Convinced that this will draw the allied reserves, he also plans for an attack against Hazebrouk, in Flanders as an immediate final follow-up.

— These are the last bets of a losing gambler.

•Liddell Hart, History of the First World War, Chapter 8, Scene 4.

June 19, 1918

Canadian Foothold at GHQ



Overseas Ministry establishes a ‘Canadian Section’ at General HQ

With the final consent of Currie, who was not enthusiastic about the Overseas Ministry’s plans until they were clearly spelled out in his favour, Minister Kemp arranged for a Canadian Section to be established at FM Haig’s GHQ.

This Canadian Section to be headed by BGen J.F.L. Embury will be there to represent Currie’s and Kemp’s wishes in regard to organization and administration.

Kemp obtained War Office support to finally convince the GHQ COS, Sir Herbert Lawrence, that this is acceptable. He also conveniently overpassed some of Lawrence’s initial conditions. The section is established on four principles stated as such:

- «(1) That the will of the Canadian Government through its responsible minister, is supreme in all matters relating to Canadian Forces and Canadian Personnel.
- «(2) That in matters relating to military operations, there has been delegated to the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces control of all Canadian Troops under his command with respect to Military operations.
- «(3) That the Officer Commanding the Canadian Corps shall not have the Corps’ personnel or policy interfered with without his consent. In cases where differences arise which cannot otherwise be disposed of, the matter shall be referred to the Minister for decision.
- «(4) It is essential that all questions be approached in a spirit of mutual trust and good will, and that a sincere desire shall prevail to work in common accord for the efficiency of the whole.»¹

¹ Desmond Morton, *A Peculiar Kind of Politics*, p. 166-7.



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June 20, 1918

Triaging Food for the War Effort



The Canada Food Board's Responsibilities

The double task of increasing production and promoting food conservation rests with the Canada Food Board, created in February 1918.

To this end, on **20 June 1918** the Food Commissioner conducts a survey of 5,044,034 Canadians, of which 2,471,280 are men, to determine employment of people who could work to improve food production.

The main problem of food control is to maintain adequate supplies for home demands while reducing consumption of certain food items required for overseas by providing substitutes, as well as to control prices, to regulate waste, and to gather all surplus thus obtained to supply the Allies.

The Food Board, through a licensing system, also controls the production and selling of all foodstuffs for consumers at home and those serving overseas.

Still, food production remains a concern and innovative programs such as "Soldiers of the Soil" for boys and the «The Farm Service Corps» for women contribute to enhanced productivity.

— Canada's contribution to the war effort, in food, soldiers and war materiel, for a population of just under 8 million, is a truly outstanding effort.

- <http://wartimecanada.ca/sites/default/files/documents/CanadaWarEffort.1914-1918.pdf>
- Mourad Djebabla-Brun, Combattre avec les vivres. L'effort de guerre alimentaire canadien en 1914-1918.



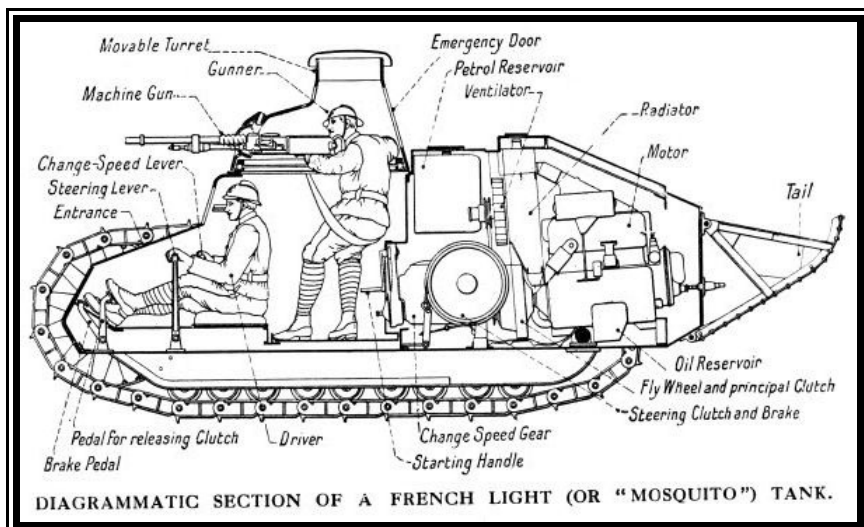
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June 21st, 1918

Winston Looking at 1919



Winston Churchill at Munitions has a meeting in Paris to plan industrial production for the year 1919.

The prospect of receiving one million American infantrymen in the France battlefields and keeping men in British industries for materiel production makes the planning jump in scale.

Production of tanks and motor lorries will change the face of battle.

« Thus at last the highest authority was engaged behind the true ideas, and the objections of half-informed potentates could be shouldered out of the way without the need of dangerously elaborate explanations. Although around us great battles raged and the thunder of the guns was unceasing, my mind amid a vivid life of movement and activity always rested on one picture of the future: 10,000 fighting tanks, large and small, specially adapted to the ground they had to traverse, moving forward simultaneously behind the artillery barrage on fronts of assault aggregating 300 or 400 kilometres; behind them, working with them, British, French and American infantry; and behind these again, 10,000 caterpillar vehicles unarmed and unarmoured, but each carrying forward across country, over fields and trenches, all the food, ammunition, kit and supplies of every kind which one platoon would require, while the roads remained clear and free for the advance of artillery and reserves.»¹

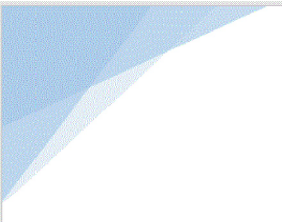
¹ •Winston Churchill, World Crisis, Book III, Part II, Chap XX, p. 490



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June 22nd, 1918

Haig Gets a Scrap of Paper

Field Marshal Haig gets his status with Foch settled

Field Marshal Haig is quite unhappy that his British Forces now officially fall under the command of the French Commander-in-Chief, General Ferdinand Foch – who is not a Marshal yet, – and that this is a situation that was brought about by his own Prime Minister, David Lloyd George.

Haig has been given lip service that if he disagreed with Foch, he could bring the matter to his Government and get a hearing there. But he wants this to be confirmed in writing.

This finally comes on **21 June 1918**:

«You will carry out loyally any instructions issued to you by the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces. At the same time, if any order given by him appears to you to imperil the British Army, it is agreed between the Allied Governments that you should be at liberty to appeal to the British Government before executing such order. While it is hoped that the necessity for such an appeal may seldom, if ever, arise, you will not hesitate in cases of grave emergency to avail yourself of your right to make it.»

— There you go!

— He will never use this prerogative before the end of the war.

●Hunter, Foch, p. 175.



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Le 23 juin, 1918

Une Armée polonaise en France



Les combattants polonais en France

Raymond Poincaré, président de la République, remet les drapeaux, offerts par les villes de Paris, Nancy, Belfort et Verdun aux régiments de l'armée autonome polonaise à Dienville, dans l'Aube, le **22 juin 1918**, en compagnie de Roman Dmowski, président du Comité national polonais.

Les autorités assistent à la bénédiction des drapeaux et décorent de la croix de guerre le fanion du « bataillon des Bayonnais » qui combat depuis 1914.

Les soldats prêtent alors le serment « Devant Dieu [...] la fidélité à [leur] Patrie, la Pologne une et

indivisible [...] de sacrifier la vie pour sa cause sacrée, sa réunification et sa libération, de défendre [leur] drapeau jusqu'à la dernière goutte de sang, respecter la discipline et l'obéissance [...], de veiller à l'honneur militaire polonais ».

Devant l'afflux de nouveaux volontaires, on crée les 1^{ère} et 2^{ème} Divisions d'infanterie polonaises qui formeront l'Armée polonaise en France.

Placée sous le commandement du général HALLER, l'Armée polonaise sera engagée en Champagne en septembre 1918, puis dans les Vosges et en Lorraine.

Sources : http://www.cndp.fr/crdp-reims/memoire/lieux/1GM_CA/cimetieres/polonais/auberive.htm

Pour en savoir plus : <http://m2patrimoine.univ-lemans.fr/fr/lieux-de-memoire/memoire-de-l-armee-polonaise.html>



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June 24, 1918

Stamping the Fires Out in Berlin



German Parliamentarians speak too much

The repeated successes recorded by the High Command since 21 March do not amount to any obvious strategic advantage so far. And this is becoming obvious in Berlin despite the best efforts of the propaganda.

The suffering of the civilian population of Germany, facing poverty, famine and losses of manhood, is not without agitating Parliamentarians. They are asking for answers and calling for greater openness on what is really happening in France and elsewhere.

On 24 June 1918, the Chancellor of Germany, **Richard von Kühlmann**, a man who was involved in the foreign policy of Germany since the start of the war, and one of the architects of the Treaty of Brest Litovsk, speaks with a well-informed mind when he says that Germany should now look into arrangements for an armistice. He is trying to introduce smoothly the idea that the war may very well not be won. For him, a conditional surrender before it is too late might mean that portions of the war's conquests might be kept as part of a negotiated settlement.

But his mild speech in the Reichstag is immediately seen by the Conservatives as a weakening of the resolve. The military High Command is shocked that the Chancellor spoke in this way without warning.

— It will be a matter of a month before Kühlmann will be toppled for being, as Chancellor Bethmann Hollweg had been before him, too much of a realist.

●A.J.P. Taylor, The First World War, (Penguin, 1976), p. 230.

●Fischer, Germany's Aims in the First World War, 618-21.



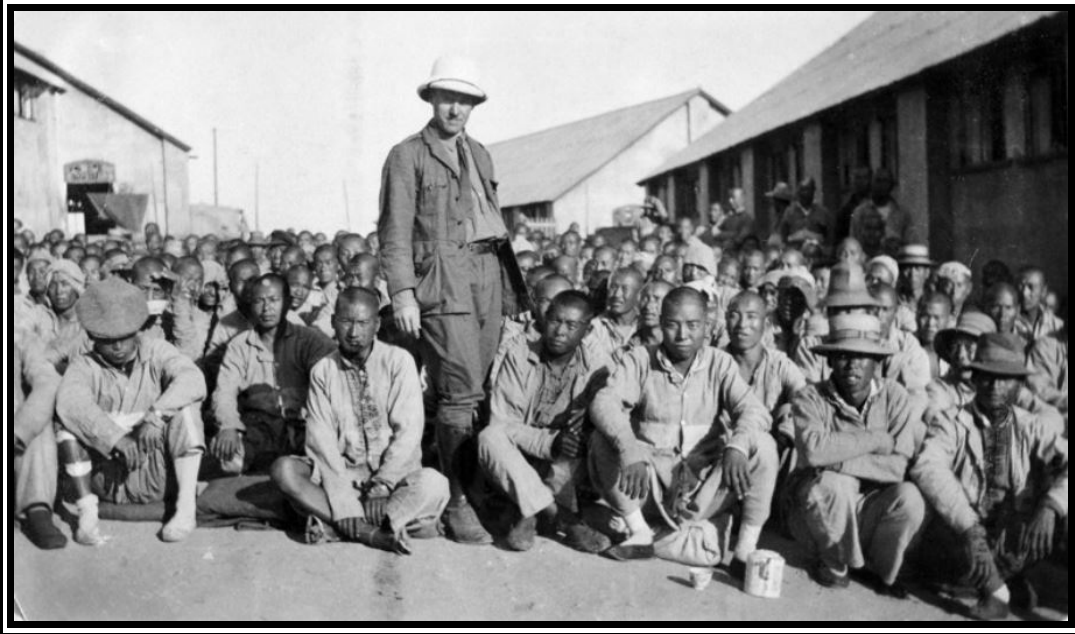
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June 25, 1918

The Labourers' Toil of War



The Use of Substitutes in Gigantic Armies

The use of heavy materiel such as trains as main transport, massive artillery, with its million tons a munitions, and tanks, now arriving from the foundries by the hundreds at a time, creates an enormous manpower requirement.

Armies are becoming gigantic with the pumping of more materiel and more

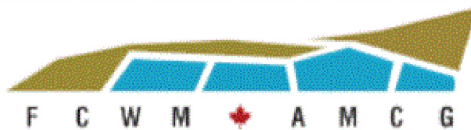
specialised troops to handle it.

The manpower shortage can be better managed with the importation of workers to accomplish the day labourers' toil near the battlefields.

Workers from Asia, most notably from China, India and Africa, are brought to Europe to create massive semi-military labourers' units that look after tasks such as digging trenches, constructing military huts and stockyards, water systems, and building or mending roads and railways.

— Thousands of Chinese workers are secretly railroded from Vancouver to Halifax in their trip from Asia to France.

For more information, see South China Morning Post, «The Forgotten army of the First World War: How Chinese laborers help shape Europe», <http://multimedia.scmp.com/ww1-china/>



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June 26

Help from China



The Chinese Labour Corps

Faced with manpower shortages, Britain and France looked to their colonies and then to China for labour.

China, although not a belligerent, allowed recruitment for non-combatant duties. After declaring war in August 1917, China officially organised recruitment.

Men - identified only by a reference number - were sent by sea to Victoria B.C. and landed in secret at the William Head Quarantine Station. They were transported, again in secret, in cattle cars across Canada for

onward sea transport to France.

Because Canada restricted Asian immigration, the entire movement was carried out in secrecy to avoid race riots in British Columbia. By June 1918, about 90,000 men constituted the Chinese Labour Corps; 30,000 served with the French. They moved munitions, repaired roads and railways, and unloaded ships. Two thousand died, mainly in the 1918 flu epidemic.

— Their inhumane treatment long remained a Chinese grievance against Britain.

Further information: ●Wikipedia, Chinese Labour Corps

●Photo: Chinese Labourers Load Shells into a Freight car for Movement to the Front.



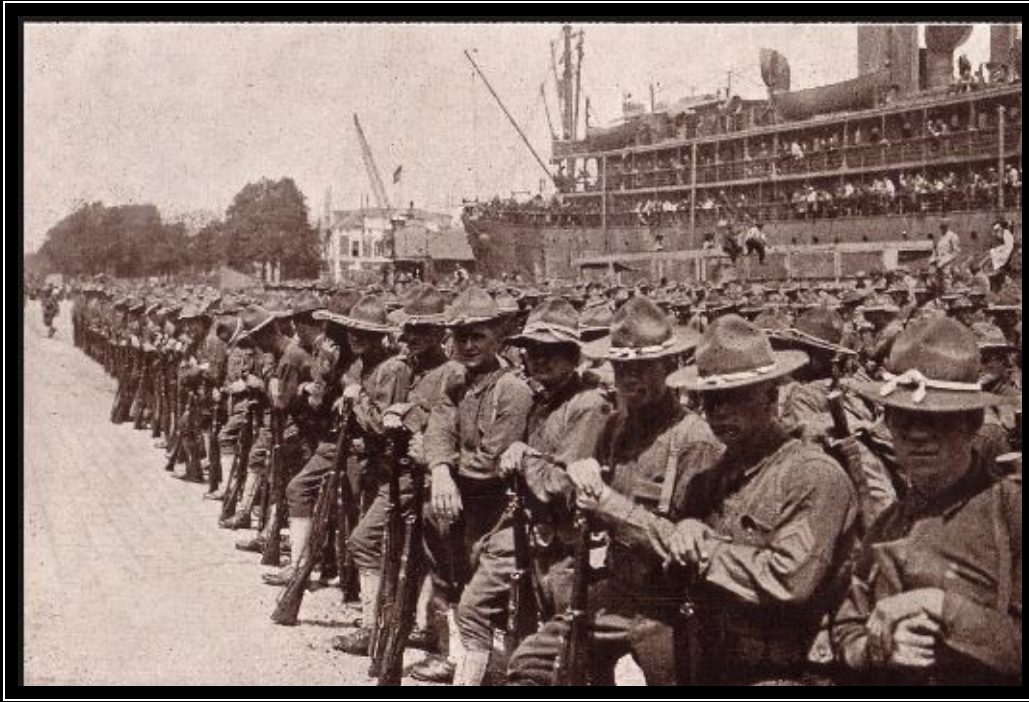
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June 26, 1918

More and More Yankees



US Build-Up in France

By end-June, the US Army numbers 996,000 men in France, out of a total manpower of 2,380,000¹.

It has fought limited actions under French and Australian command but its Commander in Chief, General John Pershing is adamant (much like Canada's Minister Sam Hughes) that US units will not be parcelled out to allied formations as reinforcements.

In June, the Americans helped stop the

German offensive as it thrust towards Paris.

The US Army was largely equipped by France (Spad and Nieuport fighters, FT tanks, artillery) and trained by British, Canadian and Australian officers and non-commissioned officers.

An enormous logistical effort, the Services of Supply, moved provisions and munitions from ports and base areas to the front. It catered to four enormous divisions ready for combat, and training camps.

— From a focus on border skirmishes in Mexico and colonial policing in the Philippines, the conscripted First American Army is now ready to confront the Germans.

¹ Brian Neuman, « A Question of Authority: Reassessing the March-Pershing 'Feud' in the First World War », The Journal of Military History, 73 (October 2009), 1117-1142.

Further information: •David Woodward, The American Army and The First World War.



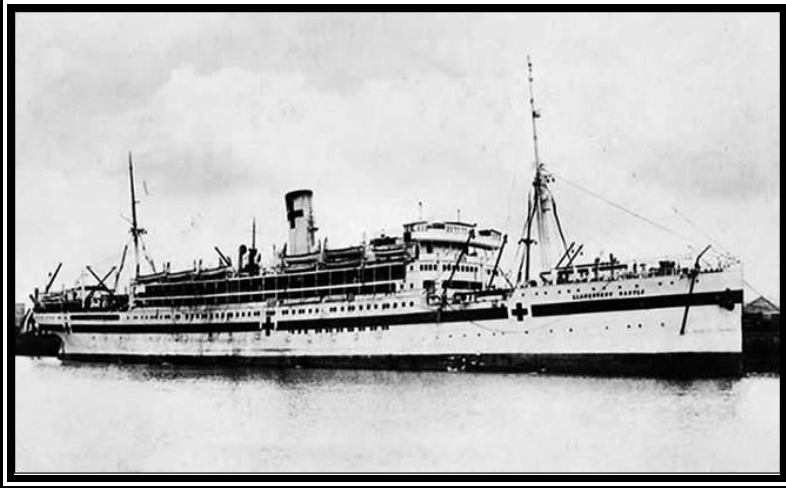
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Le 27 juin, 1918

Un Crime de Guerre Jamais Oublié



La tragédie du *Llandovery Castle*

Le navire-hôpital *Llandovery Castle* revenait à vide du Canada, ayant rapatrié 644 blessés, lorsqu'il fut torpillé à 9h30 du soir au large des côtes irlandaises par le U 86.

Il portait les couleurs de la Croix-Rouge. Quatorze infirmières se noyèrent alors qu'elles étaient dans un canot de sauvetage.

Le capitaine du navire, R. A. Sylvester, dans son canot de sauvetage, repêchait des survivants quand on lui donna l'ordre d'accoster au U-boot.

Son commandant, l'enseigne de vaisseau Patzig, l'accusa de transporter des soldats de l'armée de l'air américaine dans son navire. Sylvester nia cette accusation mais le commandant du sous-marin avait déjà décidé de ne laisser aucun témoin : il donna l'ordre de détruire les canots en les éperonnant puis de mitrailler les survivants. Seul un canot avec 24 hommes échappa à ce carnage, qui fit au total 234 victimes.

Ce massacre provoqua un émoi considérable dans les forces alliées et particulièrement dans l'armée canadienne.

Le brigadier-général George Tuxford, qui commandait la 3^{ème} Brigade, donna la consigne de s'élaner au combat, le 8 août, en criant le nom du *Llandovery Castle*.

Sources : •Wikipedia; •http://www.1914-1918.be/infirmieres_canadiennes.php

Pour en savoir plus : •<http://www.archeosousmarine.net/hopitaux.php> et <https://www.canadian-nurse.com/fr/articles/issues/2016/novembre-2016/le-torpillage-du-llandovery-castle>



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June 28, 1918

A Canadian Siberian Expedition



Canada approached for troops for the Russian Expedition.

Discussions of the Russian question took place at the Imperial Conference in June and July, and on **26 June 1918**, PM Borden of Canada took the stand that he agreed that the Allies should get involved in introducing anti-German elements in Russia to unite those who would still fight against the Central Powers.

The Allies, hostile to the Bolsheviks and concerned about their “trade and

economic interests,” decided to intervene and, at the same time, help Czechoslovakian troops escape from Russia.

Canada, following Borden’s policy of support for England, will agree to send a contingent. In August 1918, 4192 soldiers under the command of Major General James H. Elmsley will be shipped to Vladivostok. Before their return in spring 1919, they will be involved in little fighting and serve as police in the volatile port city.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains a site as part of the Churkin Naval Cemetery with the graves of 14 Canadians and several other nationalities.

— The site was neglected during the Soviet period but during a visit of Canadian warships in 1996, sailors from HMCS Protecteur with the assistance of Russian sailors, repaired the Canadian graves.

●Commander Ian Moffatt, «Forgotten Battlefields - Canadians in Siberia 1918-1919», Canadian Military Journal, 8:3, Autumn 2007, pp. 55-6273-83. ●Wikipedia, «Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force».



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Le 29 juin, 1918

Le Chef d'Orchestre Bat la Mesure



Il s'agit maintenant d'une question de temps

Le général Foch, en tant que Commandant-en-chef des forces alliées en France, doit se pencher sur la stratégie militaire qui doit tirer parti de tous les éléments positifs des armées sous son commandement.

L'arrivée du million d'Américains vient appesantir ses moyens, mais la décision la plus importante qu'il envisage est celle du moment propice. Puisque l'aspect psychologique des assauts allemands est si important sur le moral allié, et puisque Foch sent que l'initiative est en train de glisser de son côté, il entrevoit qu'une contre-attaque massive, sur plusieurs fronts successifs, doit exploiter au maximum le pouvoir qui émane du mouvement lui-même.

Foch entrevoit maintenant la phase de guerre de mouvement, où chaque armée agira à son tour pour débalancer l'adversaire et lui asséner des surprises.

Il entrevoit des assauts hautement coordonnés, successifs et rapides dans la Lys, la Somme et la Marne, lancés aux moments parfaits. Ce choix stratégique, qu'il croit pleinement réalisable au niveau tactique, doit commencer à se préparer maintenant.

Il émettra donc, de son Quartier général central, dès le début de juillet, des ordres explicites pour dégager trente divisions (12 américaines, 12 françaises et huit britanniques) de leurs tranchées, et les placer sur une ligne de départ de sorte à pouvoir frapper au signal.

— Foch reconnaît que le moment arrive. Il est convaincu que son instinct a raison. La seconde fatidique d'instabilité allemande doit être saisie dès qu'elle se présentera.

●Hunter, Foch, 176-80.



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June 30, 1918

Tanks Do Weigh in the balance



Allied Tank Production

Although unreliable, the first British tanks could cross 10 foot trenches and shell craters, smash through barbed wire and engage defensive positions thus allowing the infantry to breach enemy trench lines.

By June 1918, the Allies are deploying two evolved designs: the British heavy tank, in its improved Mark V variant, and the French Renault FT.

Some 400 Mark Vs and 2700 FTs were constructed by the end of the war.

The FT is often considered the first modern tank: it mounts a 37mm cannon in a revolving turret and divides the hull into separate crew and

engine compartments.

These two tanks set the conceptual framework for tank development through WW2: heavy tanks for infantry support and lighter, faster tanks for exploiting breaches.

— The USA supplied surplus licence-built FT tanks to Canada in 1940 for training Canada's first tankers.

Further information: Steven Zaloga, [French Tanks of World War 1](#)



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