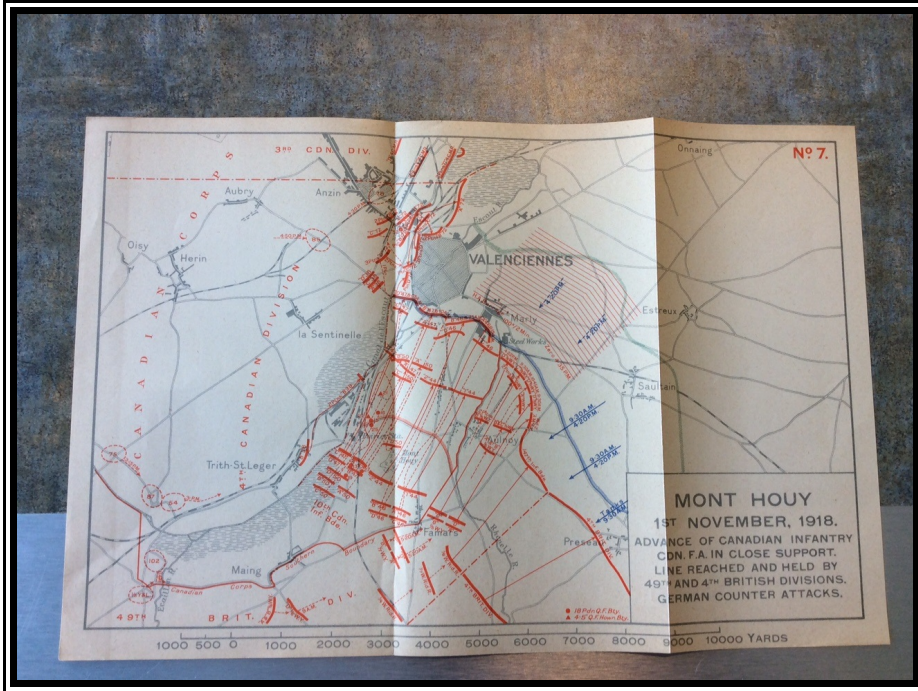


November 1st, 1918 [Day 11]

Shock Effect to Shorten the War



The Canadian fireworks of Mount Houy

The taking of Mount Houy, on 1 November 1918, by the Canadian Corps, just to the south-west of Valenciennes, should be remembered as an impressive battle.

General Currie asked the artillery to do a special job, as Mount Houy and Valenciennes might very well be the last set-piece battles that the Canadians might do in the war.

Currie specifically wanted Canadian casualties to be low and the artillery barrage and counter-battery to precede the infantry

assault with especial thoroughness.

Brigadier General Andy McNaughton described how the fireplan was made so heavy that the enemy was blown away in its defences with 2 kilotons of munitions.

The result was that with 60 killed and 360 wounded, the Canadian Corps reaped 800 enemy dead, 1,379 unwounded prisoners and 75 wounded. It also increased its reputation as unstoppable shock troops.

— The Canadian Corps is now killing flies with sledgehammers for the shock effect to shorten the war.

•McNaughton, «The Capture of Valenciennes: A Study of Coordination», *CDQ*, Vol. X, No. 3, April 1955. •McNaughton, *The Development of Artillery in the Great War - Counter Battery Work, the Capture of Valenciennes, Machines and Weapons of War, Trends of Army Organization with Particular Reference to Recent Engineering Developments*, (np, nd) 56 pages and annexes, five articles. •Tim Cook, Vol. II: *Shock Troops*, (2008), Chap 36: «We steeled ourselves not to let down the Corps»: *The Battle of Valenciennes, November 1-2, 1918*», pp. 551-69.



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November 2nd, 1918 [Day 10] From the Jaws of Defeat



The Serbs are returning to Serbia

During the First World War, the Serbs were the people who had the highest level of losses per capita.

They were the first to be involved in the war, when Austria-Hungary declared war on the Serbs, in August 1914, following the archducal murder of Sarajevo.

The invasion of their country forced them to flee so massively that hunger and disease were as deadly as the force of arms in decimating their population, civil as well as

military.

But on **2 November 1918**, the Serb armies, which have been rushing up and down the peaks of the Vadar valley, where they have conquered all in their path from Salonica, are re-entering their homeland.

They have prayed their god for this day, that sees the defeat of both the Ottoman, who have ruled them for more than 400 years, and of the dreaded Austrians-Hungarians, who were so eager to bend them to their imperial yoke.

— The Croats and Slovene now see the Serb armies as their Yugo-Slav liberators.

●Major Charles F. Atkinson, «Serbia», p. 398-408, and Robert Wm Seton-Watson, «Serbian campaigns», p. 408-419, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Twelfth Ed., 1922. W4, ●Flag of the Kingdom of Serbia, 1882-1918.



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November 3rd, 1918 [Day 9]

A Sideshow Brings Down the Habsburg House

The battle of Vittorio Veneto

The picturesque town of Vittorio Veneto, north of Venice, is the site of a historic victory in what appears, at this time, to be almost the end of the Great War.

Led by **Italian General Armando Diaz**, a combined Italian force made up of 57 divisions, of which three are British and two French, along with a single U.S. regiment, launched an attack against Austro-Hungarian forces in the Veneto region on October 23, 1918.

Initially resistance was fierce, but a thoroughly demoralised Austro-Hungarian force quickly collapsed in the following days and the empire itself began to crumble.

On 31 October, Hungary dissolved its union with Austria. Other parts of the empire also declared independence, notably what later will become Yugoslavia.

In the end, the Austro-Hungarian army is no longer a coherent fighting force and some units are simply abandoning their positions and beginning to march home to their new nation states.

— Finally, on this day, **3 November 1918**, the Italians capture Trieste and claim a resounding victory that ends the war on the Italian front. This is the «*coup de grâce*» for the Hapsburg Empire.

References: ●<https://www.firstworldwar.com/battles/vittorioveneto.htm>;
●<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Battle-of-Vittorio-Veneto>;
●https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Vittorio_Veneto

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Le 4 novembre, 1918 [Jour 8]

Les Notes du Secrétaire



Le 4 Novembre 1918 – Une journée pas comme les autres

Hier, les Autrichiens ont signé un armistice, ce qui a ouvert immédiatement leurs chemins de fer aux Alliés, qui peuvent s'en servir pour transporter leur matériel de guerre jusqu'aux frontières de l'Allemagne, à des points très vulnérables.

Ceci marque la fin de tout espoir de victoire pour la seule puissance du Centre non vaincue. Dans les rues des grandes villes, les Allemands se révoltent contre la guerre et veulent que leur gouvernement la terminent immédiatement.

À Versailles, le Conseil Supérieur de Guerre des Alliés a maintenant terminé ses délibérations sur les exigences pour un dernier armistice. Les Anglais et les Français se sont avérés plus exigeants que les Américains. Si les Quatorze Points de Wilson servent encore de principes, Clemenceau exige des compensations et Lloyd George les avantages du libre usage des mers. Mais tous sont d'accord qu'il n'y aura aucune

condition acceptable de la part de l'Allemagne. Le régime monarchique prussien doit être renversé et son armée démantelée.

Dans la voiture qui le ramène de Paris avec son premier ministre, le secrétaire du Cabinet britannique, **Maurice Hankey**, arrive à deux conclusions préliminaires sur ce qu'il vient d'entendre.

— Il croit que le général Foch a fait preuve de génie dans sa conduite des armées au cours de 1918, et il croit que Lloyd George a été l'homme le plus important de la guerre.

•Hankey, Supreme Command, II: 872.



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November 5, 1918 [Day 7]

The Offer of Peace

Point 2 – Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, ~~except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcements of international covenants.~~

Wilson's Fourth Note to Germany

After the conclusion of the Summit of the Supreme War Council in Paris, from October 28th to November 4th, President Wilson in Washington is informed of the exigencies expressed by the Allies for an armistice to be possible.

Wilson sends his Fourth Note to the German Government, on **5 November 1918**, outlining the conditions that the heads of states have found adequate for a surrender.

Wilson's own Fourteen Points, first expressed in January 1918, remain at the centre of the position, but French and British exigencies in regard to full reparations for civilian damage, and amendments to Point #2 on the Freedom of the Seas, are spelled out.

— Wilson informs the German Government that Maréchal Foch will be the contact for their representatives to obtain all the details on the requirements for an armistice to be signed by military authorities of both sides.

●«Correspondence between the United States and Germany regarding an Armistice», The American Journal of International Law, (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press) Vol: 13, No. 2, (1919), p. 85-96. ●Palat, La Part de Foch dans la Victoire, p. 234.



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November 6, 1918 [Day 6]

German Proletariat in the Streets

Revolution in Germany

By 3 November, unrest among the sailors at Kiel, the Navy's principal port, had become widespread mutiny. "Sailors Councils" refused orders and broke into armouries; there were some deadly clashes with troops but most Army units refused orders to attack the sailors.

Prince Max, the Chancellor, and the Majority Socialists in the Reichstag were able to moderate the most extreme demands of the mutineers, but they did not understand that in reality the entire population was war-weary, and enraged at the imperial and military leadership.

Karl Liebknecht, the radical socialist leader of the Spartacus faction, had been freed from jail in October; Lenin urged him to embark on outright revolution. All the radical socialist groups flocked to his side; fear grew of a Russian sponsored revolution.

By 6 November 1918, it was a race between revolution or abdication. Neither Prince Max, nor Ludendorff's replacement as Chief of Staff, General Wilhelm Groener, were able to persuade the Kaiser to abdicate.



Karl Liebknecht, Revolutionary

Further information: ●Richard Watt, [The Kings Depart: The Tragedy of Germany: Versailles and the German Revolution](#)



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November 7, 1918 [Day 5]

A Sudden Turn of Affairs

Matthias Erzberger



Germany agrees to Armistice talks

With wide public demonstrations taking hold in all major cities of Germany, the Socialist party in the Reichstag states that if the Kaiser has not resigned by noon the next day, they will walk out of Parliament and join the revolutionaries. The Conservatives understand that this would mean the scaffold for the Kaiser.

Immediately a movement of Conservative politicians and military officers determines that the Kaiser must abdicate to avoid regicide.

Meanwhile, the military High Command sends a wireless message to the Allies that they accept the invitation contained in President Wilson's Fourth Note, to meet Maréchal Ferdinand Foch and learn more about the conditions of the proposed armistice.

Mathias Erzberger, the Foreign Minister, will be the representative of the German government and will be accompanied by a civilian official, two senior military officers and one interpreter.

Arrangements are made for the German delegation to cross the line at night and be escorted, in the next morning, to maréchal Foch's traincar, at the Forest of Compiègne, to obtain the details of the requirements for an armistice, to be signed at a later date.

It is obvious, on **7 November 1918**, that the most pressing factor for Germany to rush an agreement is the internal commotion. It is a matter of hours before Germany sinks into violent revolution.

●Palat, La part de Foch dans la victoire, p. 234-6. ●Cowles, The Kaiser, 399-400.



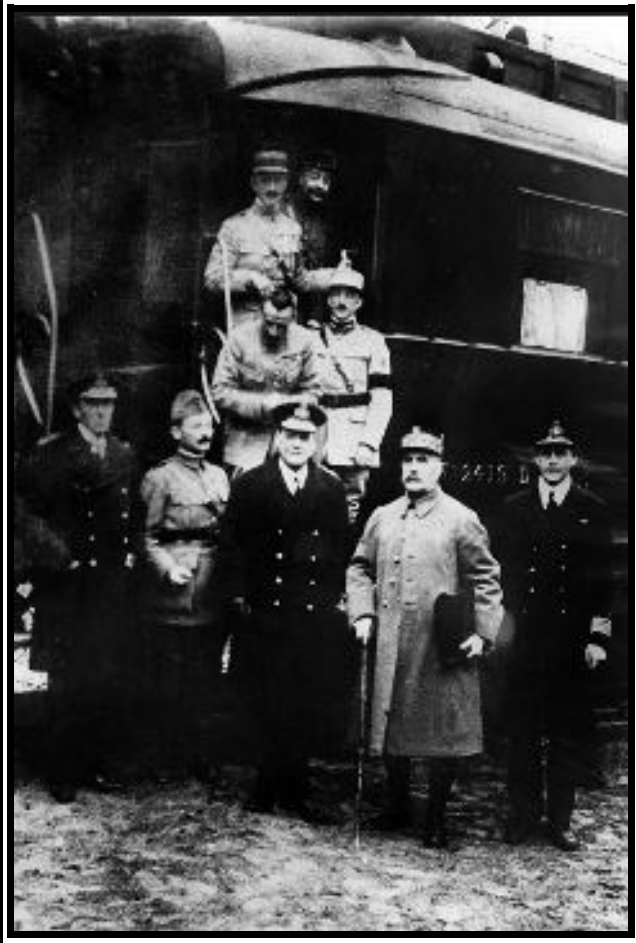
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November 8, 1918 [Day 5]

Getting the Small Points Right



A meeting in the woods

During the night of **7 to 8 November 1918**, Maréchal Foch answers to the German Government's request for a meeting to discuss the cease-fire.

He instructs the German delegation to present themselves immediately on the road from Mauberge-LaCapelle-Guise, in General Debeney's army command.

From there they are taken by train to Rethondes, on the line Compiègne-Soissons, in the Forest of Compiègne, where they arrive at 0700 hours. Foch has already parked his train on a parallel rail.

At 0900 hours, the German delegation meets the Allied delegation in Foch's train.

Général Weygan is asked to read the important parts of the conditions of armistice.

From there, the German delegation return to their train while Captain Helldorf, the German interpreter, leaves with the documents for the German Headquarters in Spa.

There, a detailed study of the clauses will take place and a coded wireless reply will be sent to Foreign Minister Erzberger, authorizing him to sign.

– Everything now hangs in the balance. Foch has given them until 11 o'clock on 11 November to decide.

•Palat, La part de Foch dans la Victoire, p. 235-8.



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November 9, 1918 [Day 3]

An Emperor Without an Army



Kaiser Wilhelm II ends Hohenzollern rule

On 9 November 1918, with widespread disorder in the streets, the Kaiser abandoned Potsdam and took a special train to Army headquarters in Spa, Belgium.

He hoped to rally the Army to support him, in fulfilment of their "blood oaths" of personal loyalty.

However, both General von Hindenburg and the new Chief of Staff, General Groener, have already concluded that abdication is inevitable.

At Spa, Wilhelm still resists. Finally persuaded by von Hindenburg and General Groener ("Sire, you no longer have an Army"), Wilhelm

acquiesces.

He departs Spa by train for exile in Holland, ending 400 years of Hohenzollern rule in Germany. Prince Max cedes the chancellorship to Friedrich Ebert, leader of the Social Democratic Party; Von Hindenburg and Groener assure Ebert that the Army will support the new government. Meanwhile, Karl Liebknecht proclaims a "free and socialist" republic.

A civil war erupts between the Spartacist radicals and the new government led by Chancellor Ebert. It will fundamentally influence German politics.

Further information: ●Richard Watt, The Kings Depart: The Tragedy of Germany: Versailles and the German Revolution

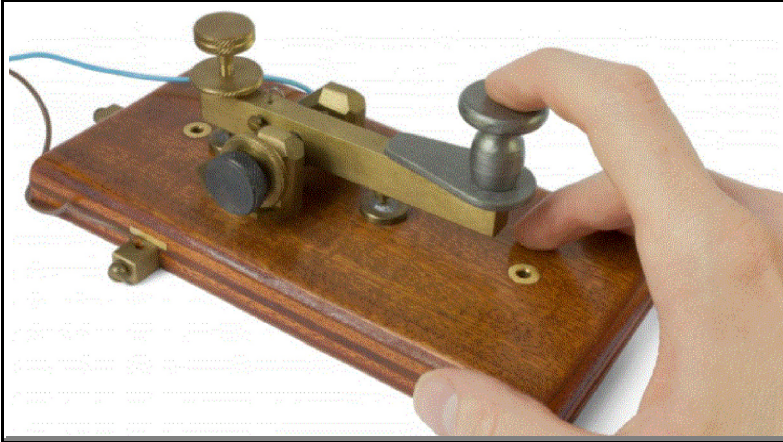


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**November 10, 1918 [Day 2]
MESSAGE PAST – OVER!**



At 20:00 hours, on 10 November 1918,
an Allied-intercepted coded message
reads as follows:

**«The German Government to the
plenipotentiaries at the Allied
Headquarters:**

**The German Government accepts the
conditions of the Armistice
communicated to it on November 8th.
The Imperial Chancellor-3,084.»**



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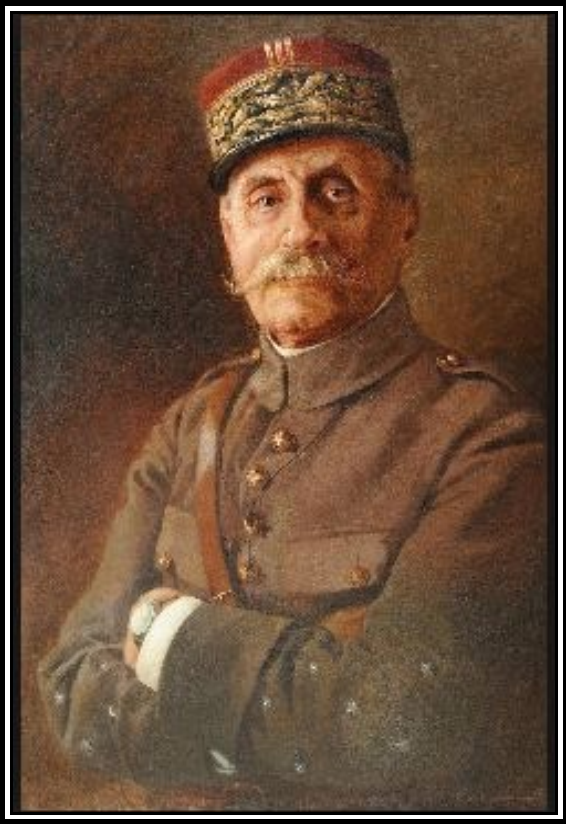
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Le 11 novembre, 1918 [Jour 1]
«They Signed! They Signed! They Signed!»

THE WAR IS OVER!

The documents of Armistice were signed at 0500 hours in the morning of **11 November 1918**, to take effect at **1100 hours on the same day**.

The Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces, **Maréchal Ferdinand Foch**, then sent the following message to all Allied armies, after signing :

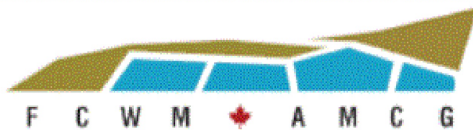


«Vous avez gagné la plus grande bataille de l’histoire et sauvé la cause la plus sacrée, la liberté du monde.

«Soyez fiers.

«D’une gloire immortelle vous avez paré vos drapeaux.

«La postérité vous garde sa reconnaissance.»



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