

The Aneurin Great War Project: Timeline

Part 10 - The War Itself, 1918

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[BUT UNDER CONSTANT EXTENSION AND CORRECTION, SO CHECK AGAIN SOON]

This timeline supports the *Aneurin* series of interdisciplinary scientific reflections on why the Great War failed so singularly in its bid to be *The War to End all Wars*. It presents actual or best-guess historical event and introduces theoretical issues of cognitive science as they become relevant.

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The Timeline Items

******* U.S. PEACE AGENCY PROMOTES WAR *******

1918 [1st-6th January (O.S. 19th-24th December 1917)] **The Russian Civil War [XV - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (All Eyes Turn To Brest-Litovsk)]:** [Continued from [22nd December 1917](#)] On 1st January 1918 the Russians broadcast their peace terms to their Entente allies, and appeal for diplomatic support in their ongoing peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk.

LEST IT BE OVERLOOKED: Historians have long puzzled as to what was agreed between Trotsky and British intelligence during his stay in NYC January-March 1917, or what then occurred during his "detention" in Halifax, Nova Scotia, April 1917 [see inset 1st August 1917]. One of the (many) possible explanatory scenarios is therefore that since the October Revolution he had been taking a **previously promised** stance in his negotiations with the Central Powers. If so, then in all likelihood he is by now beginning to suspect that London is renegeing on whatever had been agreed, because his appeals for Entente backing are being studiously ignored. It may or may not be relevant that he was presently under investigation by a U.S. Federal judge on suspicion of having received money from German contacts while in NYC, but the judgement of that inquiry - that he was **not guilty** - will not be made public until later this month [see 20th January below]. **OUR VERDICT:** For our part, we suspect that the Western Allies originally saw revolutionaries such as Lenin and Trotsky as no threat to their ally the Tsar, but of great potential value as fomenters of dissent amongst the working class soldiers and factory workers of their Central Powers enemies. They therefore gave them a little lukewarm support as politicians, and surreptitiously funded the network of *agents provocateurs* which channelled their words into Germany and Austria-Hungary - hence the carefully cross-choreographed Berlin workers' uprising about to take place [see 9th January below].

On 2nd January a high level meeting takes place in Berlin, attended by the Kaiser, von Hertling, von Hindenburg, von Ludendorff, von Kühlmann, and others, after which Chancellor von Hertling addresses the *Reichstag*. The German negotiating line is henceforth that the Russian peace terms are unacceptable in their present form, and the Russians are duly informed of this decision.

ASIDE: With the benefit of hindsight, it is highly likely that the Prussian High Command used this meeting to assure the politicians that **perhaps a surprise attack against the now largely unmanned Eastern Front might pay off rather handsomely**, for this is exactly what they proceeded to do in **Operation Faustschlag** seven weeks later [see 18th February 1918].

Trotsky replies by openly denouncing Germany's peace terms as "hypocritical" in that they fail to guarantee the independence of the ethnically distinct provinces their armies have occupied since 1914. He mentions Poland, Lithuania, Courland, parts of Livonia, and Estonia. To make the same point for the public at large, that day's *Izvestia* describes the Germans as "wolves in sheep's clothing". Also on 2nd January the American Ambassador in Petrograd, **David R. Francis** [Wikipedia biography] briefs Colonel **Raymond Robins** [check him out **ESSENTIAL READING**] of the **American Red Cross Mission** [check them out **ALSO ESSENTIAL READING**] as to how best to steer "Lenin and Trotsky and other officers of the Soviet Government" away from a separate peace ...

QUICKIE - THE AMERICAN RED CROSS MISSION TO RUSSIA: The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 as a donation-funded religious charity, and had become respected in Europe during the pre-American phase of WW1, as part of the humanitarian aid industry behind the battle lines. Their man Raymond Robins had impressed the Soviets with his apparent revolutionary sympathies during the summer of 1917, and was now the Petrograd Embassy's main informal channel of communication with the Bolshevik leadership (Service, 2011, p219). Until he had returned to Washington four weeks previously, his minder had been Colonel **William Boyce Thompson** [check him out **ESSENTIAL READING**], one of life's unmitigated hustlers and personally briefed by President Wilson. The Ambassador's briefing to Robins was in writing, and is reproduced in **Judah Magnes's** (1919/2012) "**Russia and Germany at Brest-Litovsk**" [Amazon **VERY USEFUL RESOURCE**].

On 4th January the Bolsheviks reaffirm their previously stated commitment [see 7th-9th December 1917] that they make no claim against the old Grand Duchy of Finland. On 5th January Lloyd George follows *Izvestia* in a speech to the Trade Union Conference in London. "No one who knows Prussia," he warns, "[...] can for a moment doubt her ultimate intention. **Whatever phrases she may use to delude Russia she does not mean to surrender one of the fair provinces or cities of Russia now occupied by her forces**" (Magnes, p45). On 6th January the French government recognises the independence of the Finnish Republic (it will prove to be a short-lived gesture however - see 27th January 1918)

[sub-thread continues at 7th January 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

******* WILSON'S "FOURTEEN POINTS FOR PEACE" *******

1918 [7th-8th January (O.S. 25th-26th December 1917)] **The Russian Civil War [XVI - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Trotsky to Brest-Litovsk)]:** [Continued from 1st January 1918] On 7th January 1918 Trotsky personally takes charge of the Russian delegation at Brest-Litovsk and engages in unofficial discussions with the Ukrainian and other delegates prior to the plenary sessions (due to begin again in two days' time). In Washington, meanwhile, [President Wilson](#) updates Congress on 8th January as to the longer-term relevance of events on the Eastern Front ...

CAMEO - WILSON'S FOURTEEN POINTS: Wilson used this speech to float his Administration's thoughts regarding a global peace - his famous "**Fourteen Points**" [[Wikipedia briefing](#)]. The individual objectives (and they will be widely re-quoted and argued about for the ensuing decade) were as follows ...

I There should be no secret diplomatic promises or deals.

REMARKS: We may safely disregard this objective as entirely risible, because every second word in the remainder of the present resource derives from secret diplomatic promises or deals, many of them initiated by Wilson personally.

II Freedom of navigation.

III Minimal economic barriers.

IV Maximal disarmament.

V Colonisation only with consent of "the populations concerned".

REMARKS: This is another insult to our intelligence for the reasons set out in the inset on <POLITICAL CHICANERY> in the entry for 9th January below.

VI Evacuation of Russian territory.

REMARKS: As we shall shortly be seeing [see 18th February], the Central Powers are about to execute one of the largest unopposed land-grabs in the history of warfare, thus making this objective doubly pertinent.

VII Restoration of Belgium.

VIII Restoration of French territory (including Alsace-Lorraine from 1871).

IX Rationalisation of Italian border with Austria to reflect local ethnicity.

X Autonomy for ethnic minorities within Austria-Hungary.

REMARKS: The peoples of Bohemia and Moravia - the future Czechoslovakia will - albeit after much further bloodletting - be particular beneficiaries.

XI Restoration of Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro.

XII Reduce the Ottoman Empire to its core (modern Turkey), with autonomy for its former possessions.

REMARKS: This is exactly what was done at Versailles, albeit in most cases the "autonomy" was simply subjugation by either the British or the French Empire instead of the Ottoman. Fighting in Palestine, Syria, and Iraq is still going on a century down the line [= February 2021].

XIII Autonomy for Poland.

REMARKS: As with X and XII above, more blood will shortly be flowing here.

XIV Creation of "a general association of nations" guaranteeing the "independence and territorial integrity" of the new order of things

REMARKS: After months of diplomatic squabbling, the **League of Nations** will be created [[see 10th January 1920](#)], earning Wilson the 1919 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. The United States promptly refuse to join it, thereby more or less single-handedly guaranteeing another world war (or two).

Twelve months later, ex-POTUS [Theodore Roosevelt](#) will dismiss "most" of the Fourteen Points as meaning "anything or nothing", so loosely have they been phrased.

American propaganda agents promptly distribute copies of the speech by the hundred thousand¹ in Russia (Williams, 1919) [sub-thread continues at 9th January 1918 ...]. [**THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD**] [**THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS**] [**THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING**] [**THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING**]

¹ These pamphlets were distributed using the **YMCA WW1 Mission's** [\[check them out\]](#) humanitarian(-plus) network (Polk, 2012 [\[full text online\]](#)). Polk mentions "car loads" of them, and we are pretty sure she is talking railway cars!

1918 [8th January] **The Flip Sides of Patriotism [IV - WW1 Left vs. Right (America Learns A New Word)]**: [\[Continued from 27th April 1917\]](#) On 8th January 1918 the **SS *Shilka*** [no convenient shipography] departs Seattle, having brought a not entirely welcome glimpse of the new Russia to the Americas, thus ...

"But the Bolshevik revolution sailed right into Elliott Bay [Seattle's sheltered anchorage - Ed.] around Christmas of 1917, in the persons of 63 sailors on the good ship 'Shilka'. Its arrival was a nine-day wonder not only in Seattle but throughout the nation. The business press went to work on the 'Shilka' - it carried \$100,000 in gold for the **I.W.W.** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), its hold concealed munitions for starting a Bolshevik revolution in America, its crew hid bombs in their pockets. The prosaic fact was that the 'Shilka' carried nothing more explosive than a cargo of licorice root, peas, and beans [even though] the sailors after leaving Vladivostok had declared a 'soviet' aboard - a strange term which translated into nothing more menacing than 'council' - and had decreed a six-hour day [...] The federals surrounded the 'Shilka' at her berth, arrested [her captain], and held the crew incommunicado for several days ..." (O'Connor, 1964, pp103-104).

The authorities then take the opportunity to arrest or harass many of those who had supported the crew during their stay [sub-thread continues at 17th April 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 PACIFISM AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE WW1 WORKING CLASS SOLDIER\]](#)

******* TROTSKY PUTS HIS FINGER ON THE PROBLEM *******
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1918 [9th-10th January (O.S. 27th-28th December 1917)] **The Russian Civil War [XVII - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (New Plenary at Brest-Litovsk)]**: [\[Continued from 7th January 1918\]](#) On 9th January 1918 the talks at Brest-Litovsk restart after their Christmas adjournment. The proceedings open with all four Central bloc representatives [that is to say, Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottomans, and Bulgaria - Ed.] expressing anger at ongoing Soviet wireless traffic trying to foment revolutionary discontent within their respective armed forces.

LEST IT BE OVERLOOKED: The idea that the working classes are put on earth to be exploited by their betters, even unto premature death in uniform, goes back to Roman times, became popular in the 18th Century, and achieved no little notoriety in the socio-economic theories of Proudhon and Marx in the mid-19th Century. The working classes have traditionally been happy to go along with their exploitation, thereby making it an act of pietà for leftists to go amongst them preaching class awakening. Hence *The Communist Manifesto's* (1948) famous exhortation (slightly embellished): "Workers of the world, unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains!"

Trotsky dismisses the Centrists' allegations as meaningless in practice, given that both sides are constantly seeking converts in the other's media. Trotsky then makes a substantial counter-allegation of his own, namely that it was not going to be acceptable to Russia for the Central Powers to rely on high-sounding appeals for the self-determination of the buffer states if **"the will of the people was in reality replaced by the will of a privileged group acting under the control of the authorities administering the occupied territories"** (Magnes, p58).

ASIDE - POLITICAL CHICANERY: What Trotsky is describing, of course, is that scourge of democracy known as "loading the dice", that is to say, removing the element of risk from an inherently risky event such as an election. The ploy had already been used to very profitable effect in the American annexations of **Hawaii** [\[start 6th January 1895, then as directed\]](#), **Cuba** [\[start 20th February 1896, then as directed\]](#), **the Philippines** [\[start 2nd May 1898, then as directed\]](#), **Panama** [\[start 1st June 1898, then as directed\]](#), and the first clutch of the famous *Banana Republics* (incl. **Venezuela**, **Mexico**, and the **Dominican Republic**) [\[start 13th February 1903, then as directed\]](#). It will positively flourish after WW1 with more Banana Republics (incl. **Nicaragua**, **Haiti**, and **Honduras**), only to fail dismally with **Chiang Kai-Shek's China** [\[start 1st June 1925, then as directed\]](#). It then became nothing short of performance artistry in the hands of the CIA during the Cold War with **Iran** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), **Guatemala** [\[start 18th June 1954, then as directed\]](#), **Indonesia** [\[start 25th September 1957, then as directed\]](#), and **South Vietnam** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#). And it continues to the present day [= February 2021] in the puppet regimes created by the **Arab Spring Offensive**

[[Wikipedia briefing](#)], **Brazil** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)], and (perhaps most blatantly of all, and still to be finalised) **Venezuela** [[start 27th May 2015](#), then as directed]. [It is even possible to argue that the American deep state couped its own democratic structures in the presidential elections of November 2015!](#)

Unfortunately for the Russians, the West has already decided to cast Trotsky aside, and its media is this very week beginning to brief remorselessly against him, thus ...

***** MAJOR SHIFT IN WESTERN POSITION ON BOLSHEVIKS *****
***** MAJOR SHIFT IN WESTERN POSITION ON BOLSHEVIKS *****
***** MAJOR SHIFT IN WESTERN POSITION ON BOLSHEVIKS *****

CAMEO - HOW OUR PAPERS REPORTED IT: Here is Lippmann again, explaining how the Western press was already actively promoting the idea that the Petrograd regime would shortly collapse, and that its views might therefore safely be disregarded ...

"The midwinter of 1917-18 is worth more detailed examination, because it has a character of its own. News items suggesting that the [Petrograd] regime was temporary appeared as follows. [Dates listed, totalling 20 in November 1917, 10 in December, 2 in January, and 14 in February.] [What strikes the eye immediately is the scarcity of the items in January. The first of the two items appeared January 9.](#) It is a special to the *New York Times* from **Harold Williams** (Petrograd, January 6) [Williams was London's chief state propagandist in Petrograd - [check him out](#) **ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND**] headed: 'RUSSIA SEEN ON VERGE OF UTTER COLLAPSE // PETROGRAD FACES FAMINE AND PARALYSIS, WHILE ANARCHY REIGNS IN PROVINCES.' The second item on January 10 is a dispatch from the Petrograd correspondent of the London *Times*, headed: 'CRIME IS RAMPANT IN PETROGRAD // BURGLARY, ROBBERY, AND MURDER COMMON - FOOD SUPPLY IS GIVING OUT.'"

In Paris, meanwhile, the French announce that they have made a loan to the Ukrainians, in the sum of 180,000,000 Francs [= ca. £7 million 1918, £200 billion 2021] according to some sources [sub-thread continues at 11th January 1918...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

1918 [11th-12th January (O.S. 29th-30th December 1917)] **The Russian Civil War [XVIII - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Krylenko Calls Holy War)]:** [Continued from 9th January 1918] On 11th January 1918 People's Commissar **Nikolai Krylenko** [[see 22nd November 1917](#)] calls for the formation of a "People's Revolutionary Guard" to conduct a "holy war of the Revolution at the front as well behind the lines" (Magnes, p65). On 12th January there are further angry words over the ongoing propaganda war, with the Germans accusing the Russians of wanting to spread their brand of class warfare in their direction, and Trotsky pointing out that the German newspapers available in Russia are constantly and openly encouraging counter-revolution [sub-thread continues at 13th January 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

1918 [13th January (O.S. 31st December 1917)] **The Russian Civil War [XIX - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (RRSC Back To Nagasaki)]:** [Continued from 11th January 1918] On 13th January 1918 the ship carrying America's **Russia Railway Service Corps (RRSC)**, having decided that Civil War skirmishing in Vladivostok renders immediate deployment unsafe, offloads the engineers and equipment destined to maintain the **Trans-Siberian Railway** in the safe haven of Nagasaki, Japan [the setting, 14 years previously, for Puccini's opera "Madame Butterfly" - Ed.] to wait on events.

CAMEO: As the railroad engineers enjoyed their R & R in Nagasaki, little did they know that the Russian Foreign Minister, Trotsky, was already factoring them into his strategic planning, thus (Robins, it will be recalled, was head of the American Red Cross Mission in Petrograd) ...

"Trotsky had said to Robins one day: 'Haven't you Americans got a Russian Railway Mission, of Americans, somewhere?' 'Certainly.' 'Where is it?' 'Nagasaki.' [blah blah] 'I am willing to share the railway system of Russia half-and-half with the United States; and if you will bring your Railway Mission into Russia I promise you that I will give its members complete authority over half the transportation of all the Russia of the Soviets. [...] I will accept anybody you Americans want to name as your railway chief and I will make him Assistant Superintendent of Russian Ways and Communications, and his orders will be orders. [...] You will use your half to evacuate war supplies

from the front and to carry them away into the interior, so that the Germans will not be able to get them.' [... Trotsky unrolled a map] It showed some six hundred miles of locations of cannon and of shells - nests of cannon, dumps of shells, usable stuff, quantities of it, the material leavings of a once mighty army. [...] 'There is all lies,' said Trotsky. 'It's of no more use to us. Our army does not fight in any more foreign wars just now. Lenin says the Germans will advance. If they do, they will take all that stuff. [...] The whole point is: our railways need new heads. Will you supply them?'" (Hard, *op. cit.*, pp97-99).

Robins duly conveyed Trotsky's offer to his Embassy, only for it to be "received without interest" now that American and Entente high commands had resolved to back the Ukrainian Whites against the Bolsheviks. Five weeks later the Germans did advance [see 18th February].

FURTHER READING: For more on the RRSC from people who actually served on it, see **Robert L. Willett's** (2003) "**Russian Sideshow: America's Undeclared War 1918-1920**" [[Amazon](#)], wherein the whole of Chapter 15 is devoted to the subject [sub-thread continues at 14th January 1918 ...]. [**THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD**] [**THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS**] [**THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING**] [**THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING**]

1918 [14th-15th January (O.S. 1st-2nd January 1918)] **The Russian Civil War [XX - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (The Question of Trust)]:** [Continued from 13th January 1918] On 14th January, back at the Brest-Litovsk talks, von Kühlmann accuses the Russians of lacking the same "attitude of compromise for which the Central Powers have striven" (Magnes, p79). As he has repeatedly stressed, this is not a general peace conference. The Central Powers still have a war to win in the West, and need to bring the Eastern question to a close. The arguments continue through to 15th January, but it is very much a lost cause for the Russians. That same day the British Labour Party makes a statement in support of the "Peoples of Russia and of Central Europe", calling for "good faith and reciprocity" in the overriding struggle against "militarism" in Europe [sub-thread continues at 16th January 1918 ...]. [**THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD**] [**THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS**] [**THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING**] [**THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING**]

1918 [16th-18th January (O.S. 3rd-5th January 1918)] **The Russian Civil War [XXI - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (The Refugee Question)]:** [Continued from 14th January 1918] On 16th/17th January 1918 the Austro-Hungarian delegation at Brest-Litovsk holds private talks with the Ukrainian delegation at which an understanding is reached as to how ethnic Polish communities straddling their common border are going to be handled. On 18th January the main talks turn to the problem of refugees. Speaking for the Central Powers, von Kühlmann asks whether it would be possible for the Russians "to give such emigrants certificates showing that before their evacuation they had lived in the regions in question". Trotsky replies that such refugees "had been grouped in Russia in accordance with their former places of residence, and that it would doubtless be possible to give them proper certificates" (Magnes, p91)

...

******* NOW HERE'S A COINCIDENCE *******

CAMEO - ENTER THE VON MOHRENSCHILDTS!: Readers familiar with the Kennedy Assassination may be interested to learn that **Sergius von Mohrenschildt**, father of international man of mystery and CIA asset **George de Mohrenschildt**, helped administer the certification process in German-occupied Minsk during 1918 - see the inset in the entry for <de Mohrenschildt, Dimitri> in the [Companion Resource](#). Indeed, the White Russian community who remained in the Soviet Union at the end of the Russian Civil War in 1925 appear to have retained their pro-German sympathies, because during WW2 they were willing cogs in Nazi spymaster **Reinhard Gehlen's** [[check him out](#) **ESSENTIAL READING**] anti-Stalin intelligence network. They also stand accused of repeating that favour during the Cold War when Gehlen delivered his *Org* [[Wikipedia briefing](#)] over to the Allies as part of **Operation Paperclip** [[check it out](#)].

[Sub-thread continues at 20th January 1918 ...]

[**THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD**] [**THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS**] [**THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING**] [**THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING**]

1918 [20th-25th January (O.S. 7th-12th January)] **The Russian Civil War [XXII - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Ukrainians Depart Brest-Litovsk)]:** [Continued from 16th January 1918] On 20th January 1918 the

U.S. Federal investigation into whether Trotsky received German money while in NYC in early 1917 concludes that he did not. At the peace talks, meanwhile, the Ukrainian delegation departs Brest-Litovsk for Kiev, where, on 25th they declare Ukraine as an independent sovereign nation partly occupied by the Central Powers as a German "protectorate" and partly in a state of civil war with the Ukraine Soviet. **BREAKING:** [Here is a recent BBC report from that very front, still active 104 years later.](#)

***** A NEW TYPE OF WAR DESCRIBED *****

Also on 25th January, the Bolshevik **Lev Kamenev** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) speaks at the Third All-Russia Congress of Soviets, [making the historically important observation that war was no longer "a struggle of one imperialist group against another, but, in Europe at any event, was a struggle of the general proletariat against the bourgeoisie"](#) (Magnez, p102). He went on to encourage ordinary Austrians and Irish to rise up against their respective imperialist masters [sub-thread continues at 26th January 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [26th-29th January (O.S. 13th-16th January)] **The Russian Civil War [XXIII - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Finnish Civil War Starts)]:** [Continued from 20th January 1918] On 26th January 1918 - presumably synchronised from Petrograd - there occurs a workers' uprising in and around Helsinki, mimicking the Bolshevik regime a mere 250 miles to the east [\[map\]](#), and threatening Germany trade and influence in the hitherto neutral (but markedly pro-German) states of Scandinavia ...

QUICKIE - FINLAND, WW1 TO JAN. 1918: Finland began WW1 as the **Grand Duchy of Finland** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), an autonomous territory within the Tsarist Russian Empire, and has remained neutral until now. On both 9th December 1917 and 4th January 1918 the Bolsheviks have explicitly stated that they make no claim against it. Its general political stance was nationalist centre-right, albeit - as in many other countries - with a murmuring left-wing element amongst its working classes.

On 29th January the workers' leaders go so far as to declare a **Finnish Socialist Workers' Republic** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), appointing one **Kullervo Manner** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) as Chairman of its Central Committee. Rightist Finns immediately separate off and call for a civil war. They also appeal for help from Germany, and the German High Command is only too pleased to start to assemble a task force ...

ASIDE: The two main players in German-puppet Finland over the coming months are (1) the Finnish-born **Carl Gustaf Mannerheim** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#), until recently a senior officer in the Russian Army, - unhappy with Bolshevik rule in Russia - had returned to join the Finnish Army earlier this month, and (2) the Prussian General **Rüdiger von der Goltz** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#), previously an infantry division commander on the Western Front. More on both of these characters shortly [see 1st March below]. [Note that the Finnish Army of early January becomes the White Finnish Army as soon as the Red Finnish Republic is declared](#) (just as had happened in Russia).

Britain notes developments in Finland with concern, because she has long maintained a bridgehead perimeter around the ice-free Russian Arctic port of **Murmansk**, and is worried by the prospect of a German-friendly Finland so close to the **Murmansk-Petrograd Railway** [\[University of South Florida map\]](#): the line is easy pickings for sabotage raids for the northernmost 800 miles of its 1000 mile length [sub-thread continues at 28th January 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [27th January (O.S. 14th January)] **The Middle Eastern Campaigns [XXVII - The Baku Expedition ("Dunsterforce")]:** [Continued from [9th December 1917](#)] On 27th January 1918 a small British/Commonwealth motorised column commanded by General **Lionel Dunsterville** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) sets out from Baghdad on a secret mission north-eastward through the mountains of ethnic Kurdistan and Armenian Trans-Caucasia, destination **Bandar Anzeli** [\[map\]](#) on the coast of the Caspian Sea. We shall let the expedition leader explain for himself the thinking behind this operation ...

"Fate ordained that, just at the time that the British [captured] Baghdad [\[see 8th March 1917\]](#), the Russian breakdown opened [the Southern Caucasus, Baku, and the West Caspian littoral] to the unopposed enterprise of the Germans. Until the summer of 1917 the Russian troops held firm, though it was obvious that the process of disintegration could not long be delayed. Their line extended from South Russia, through the Caucasus, across the Caspian, through North-West Persia until its left joined up with the British right on the frontier of Persia and Mesopotamia, east of Baghdad. By the autumn of 1917 this line was melting away [...]. Thus in the neighbourhood of **Erzurum** [\[see 10th January 1916\]](#) the Turkish Army, acting unconsciously as the Advanced Guard of German aims, found nothing between it and the long-coveted possession of the Southern Caucasus, with the exception of a few Armenian troops [...]. **Tiflis/Tblisi** [\[map\]](#), the capital of the Southern Caucasus, was likely to fall without serious resistance into the hands of the enemy, and the capture of this town would give the Turko-German armies control of the railway line between Batum on the Black Sea and Baku on the Caspian, the enormously valuable oilfields of Baku, the indispensable minerals of the Caucasus Mountains, and the vast supplies of grain and cotton from the shores of the Caspian Sea. [...] The only possible plan, and it was a very sound one, was to send a British mission to Tiflis [...] to reorganise the broken units of Russian, Georgian, and Armenian soldiery, and restore the battle line against the Turkish invasion" (Dunsterville, *op. cit. inf.*, pp2-3).

THE MISSION, PER GOOGLE MAPS: The Baghdad-Anzali route was either unpaved or in a poor state of repair, with passes often snowed in. Moreover, in the even more inaccessible hills to the north of the road, the Kurds did "a good business in highway robbery" (p18). Here is the route per Google Maps, in three sections ...

[Baghdad to Anzali](#)
[Anzali to Baku](#)
[Baku to Tiflis](#)

Time being of the essence, Dunsterville had to "push off" as soon as he could assemble an advance party. The remainder of his command trickled into theatre over the ensuing weeks. The force included "a splendid batch of Russian officers sent out from London, and various other Russians, refugees from the revolution who joined me later" (p10). **FURTHER READING:** For the first-hand account see Dunsterville's (1920/2007) "**The Adventures of Dunsterforce**" [\[full text online\]](#); or [hard copy from Amazon](#)]. [We continue the Dunsterforce story under the <WW1 in the Caucasus> sub-thread at 5th February 1918; the present <Middle Eastern Campaigns> sub-thread continues at 2nd February 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#)

1918 [28th January] **The Russian Civil War [XXIV - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Ukrainian Republic Recognised)]:** [Continued from 26th January 1918] [Read firstly the aside <Weaponisation of Diplomatic Recognition> at [30th November 1917 ESSENTIAL](#)] On 28th January 1918 Germany, France, and Britain all recognise the sovereignty of the break-away Ukrainian Republic, whose observers at Brest-Litovsk accordingly become a national delegation in their own right, rather than a provincial Russian one [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

******* THE "RED ARMY" IS BORN *******

1918 [28th January-4th February (O.S. 15th-22nd January)] **The Russian Civil War [XXV - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass ("Red Army" Declared)]:** [Continued from preceding entry] On 28th January 1918 People's Commissar Krylenko [\[see 11th January\]](#) gives added substance to Commissar Kamenev's recent words about the "struggle of the general proletariat" [\[see 25th January\]](#) by announcing the re-organisation of the Russian armed forces as the "**Red Army**" [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#). In Berlin, meanwhile, "Peace, Bread, and Liberty" riots - again presumably synchronised from Petrograd - break out, culminating in the declaration of a **Berlin Soviet** [\[no convenient briefing\]](#).

ASIDE - LENIN ON THE BERLIN SOVIET: Lenin had had his eyes on Germany (and she, him) for a long time, thus (from his conversations in winter 1917-1918 with the head of the **American Red Cross Mission** in Petrograd, **Raymond Robins** [\[check him out\]](#)) ...

"Lenin speaks English fluently. He was talking one day about Russia's industrial backwardness [...]. Russia is poorly prepared for the socialist experiment. Lenin knew this[, saying]: 'The flame of the Socialist revolution may die down here. But we will keep it at its height till it spreads to countries more

developed. The most developed country is Germany. [When you see a Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Deputies in Berlin, you will know that the proletarian world revolution is born](#)" (Hard, 1920/2012 [[Amazon](#)], pp2-3).

These Berlin protests [there will be others later in the year - Ed.] will be violently suppressed over the coming few days [sub-thread continues at 29th January 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [29th January-9th February (O.S. 16th-27th January)] **The Russian Civil War [XXVI - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Petrograd Encourages a Ukrainian Soviet)]**: [Continued from 28th January 1918] [Read firstly the entry for [Sir]¹⁹⁴³ Robert Lockhart in the [Companion Resource](#) **EXPLAINS MUCH**] On 29th January 1918 the Bolsheviki, who already control most of East Ukraine, foment local Red uprisings in the Ukrainian capital Kiev and the port of Odessa. This complicates the situation at Brest-Litovsk because both Reds (the Soviets) and Whites (reactionaries loyal to the *Rada* and cheered on - albeit for different reasons - by both the Entente and the Central Powers) duly lay claim to the Ukrainian seats around the negotiating table.

CAMEO - MASARYK'S CZECH LEGION GROWS: Coincidentally, the **Czech League** [[see Unterberger \(2000\)](#)], holds a Congress of its own in Kiev 30th January, at which the problem of ethnic Czech-Slovak prisoners-of-war from the Austrian Army now being released from Russian detention camps is discussed. It is resolved that they should be assimilated where possible ([despite being formerly attached to opposing armies](#)) into the existing **Czech Legion** [[see 5th December 1917](#)], where they will be free to concentrate on being Czechs and Slovaks in their own interests rather than in the interests of this or that predatory empire.

Fighting continues around Kiev until, with the arrival of Bolshevik reinforcements 8th-9th February, the Whites withdraw. They will, however, be back in triumph less than a fortnight later [see 18th February]. In Petrograd meanwhile, freshly arrived Robert Lockhart reports for duty 30th January at the British Embassy. He is a special commissioner for [Lloyd George](#) and has also been privately briefed by [Lord Milner](#) ([Schneer, 2020](#)). Insofar as the nature of that briefing has ever come to light, he is on a fact-finding visit to advise the Prime Minister as to Britain's best policy toward the Bolsheviki, making him "the most trusted and the most powerful British representative in Russia at that moment" (Hard, 1920/2012 [[Amazon](#)], p140) [sub-thread continues at 1st February 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

***** THE SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC STARTS HEREBABOUTS *****
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***** THE SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC STARTS HEREBABOUTS *****

1918 [31st January-31st March] **The Spanish Flu Pandemic, 1918-1919 [I - Day by Day (The "Herald Wave" Outbreaks)]**: The body of this entry is in the [Companion COVID Timeline](#).

***** SOVIETS OUTPLAYED BY THE CENTRAL POWERS *****

1918 [1st February (O.S. 19th January)] **The Russian Civil War [XXVII - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (The Ukraine Again)]**: Continued from 29th January 1918] On 1st February 1918 the White Ukrainian delegation at Brest-Litovsk remarks that because there is no stable Russian government to federate with, it proposes instead that the Ukrainian Republic should be recognised as an entirely independent state. The Petrograd delegation objects that the rival Ukrainian Soviet had yet to be consulted on the matter, and the meeting adjourns [sub-thread continues at 3rd February 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [2nd February] **The Middle Eastern Campaigns [XXVIII - The Palestine Offensive (Whitechapel Mobilises Its "Russians")]**: [Continued from 27th January 1918] In his "**High Walls of Jerusalem**" [[Amazon](#)], a history of the 1917 **Balfour Declaration** [[see 2nd February 1917](#) then as directed], historian **Ronald Sanders** takes us into 1918 with the tale of the **38th Bn. ["The Tailors"] Royal Fusiliers** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)], a battalion

recruited "almost entirely of 'Russian' aliens from the East End [of London]" (p631). Mounted at their head is later-to-be acclaimed "Godfather of the modern Israel Defence Force" Lieutenant-Colonel **John Patterson** [\[check him out\]](#), and in the marching column is White Russian journalist turned Zionist activist Lieutenant **Ze-ev Zhabotinsky** [\[check him out\]](#) [sub-thread continues at 14th February 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) >>>>[\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#)<<<<

1918 [3rd-7th February (O.S. 21st-25th January)] **The Russian Civil War [XXVIII - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Plot and Counterplot)]**: Continued from 1st February 1918] On 3rd February 1918 the delegations at Brest-Litovsk finally get round to the problems of the once-Tsarist and presently German occupied Poland, only to find that they are the same problems which have recently been adding to the bloodshed in the Ukraine and in Finland, namely that the voting is rigged in favour of the Central Powers. Trotsky puts it this way ...

"We for our part recognise the independence of the Polish State to its full extent. But we cannot close our eyes to the fact that its independence is only make-believe so long as Poland is under the regime of occupation [... and [we cannot regard as representatives of the Polish people those representatives who have been appointed by the will of the occupying authorities](#)" (Magnes, p113).

That same day, Britain's man in Petrograd, **Robert Lockhart**, has talks with the head of the American Red Cross Mission there, **Raymond Robins** [\[check him out\]](#), hearing him speak in favour of recognising the Bolsheviks. On 4th February there is a repeat of 2nd January's high-level council of war in Berlin, at which (we may safely presume) the Kaiser and his Chiefs discussed an imminent Western Front offensive using resources freed up in the East [and Lo, it became so - see 21st March]. In Petrograd, meanwhile, Lockhart now meets with journalist-spy **Arthur Ransome** [\[check him out\]](#), another who - in public, at least - professes a soft spot for the Bolsheviks. On 9th February the British War Cabinet holds a planning meeting of its own, at which they approve greater military intervention in Russia with a view to toppling the Soviets.

CAMEO - CAPTAIN PROCTOR'S TESTIMONY: Schneer (*op. cit.*) identifies one "Captain Alex Proctor, recently returned from Archangel" as having "briefed "the Russia Committee of the British government" (p36). Proctor's advice was to go ahead and occupy the bridgehead ports (listed below) with or without Bolshevik permission, for the Russian people would not object "because they despised Bolsheviks as Jews and German instruments" (*ibid.*). Schneer goes on to point out, however, that Proctor would be interned as a Nazi sympathiser during WW2.

This means expanding operations in the three available ports still in White Russian hands, namely (from the top, clockwise), **Murmansk** [\[map\]](#), **Vladivostok** [\[map\]](#) (where Japanese assistance will be called upon), and **Odessa** [\[map\]](#) (Schneer, 2020) [sub-thread continues at 8th February 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

***** **"BETWEEN THE CRESCENT AND THE SICKLE"** *****

1918 [5th February (O.S. 23rd January)] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XIV - Operations Resume (The Transcaucasian Spring Offensive)]**: [Continued from [15th November 1917](#); we also continue the "Dunsterforce" story from 27th January 1918] On 5th February 1918 the Ottoman Third Army launches a major push-back offensive against the Russian gains of 1917. The Armenians, of course, no longer enjoy coherent Russian support, and so cities like Bitlis, Erzincan, and Trabazond fall in a matter of days, threatening the Armenian uplands and, beyond them, the South Caucasus and the Baku Oilfield. As for Dunsterforce, the 41 vehicles of the advance group are presently making slow progress between **Kermanshah** and **Hamadan** [\[route map\]](#), finding that "the road was generally just a cross-country track often hardly distinguishable from the surrounding plain" (Dunsterforce, p23), at the end of which there was a 7,600-foot-high pass [sub-thread continues at 3rd March 1918 (but note 24th February 1918 *en passant* ...)]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 REPRISALS AND ATROCITIES\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 PROPAGANDA\]](#)

***** **THE PEACE CONFERENCE STARTS WARS** *****

"The United States went away from Petrograd and from Moscow diplomatically vanquished" (Hard, p3)

1918 [8th-10th February (O.S. 26th-28th January)] **The Russian Civil War [XXIX - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Kiev Yes, Petrograd No)]:** [Continued from 3rd February 1918] On 8th February 1918 the Petrograd Soviet tries once more to turn up the heat on its Entente Allies, this time by publishing the proposed wording of a decree to repudiate the new regime's inherited sovereign debt ...

ASIDE: Polk (2012 [[full text online](#)]) notes that the United States had advanced \$188m to the Provisional Government between March and November 1917 alone. No surprise, therefore, that arguments in favour of the Bolsheviks tended to fall on deaf ears in Washington.

******* THE TREATY >>SIGNED<< BY THE UKRAINIANS *******

In the early hours of the following day at Brest-Litovsk, the Central Powers execute a diplomatic masterstroke when they sign a separate peace treaty with the Ukrainian Republic. leaving the Russians well and truly out in the cold.

******* THE TREATY >>NOT SIGNED<< BY THE BOLSHEVIKS *******

On 10th February the talks are brought to a close, with Trotsky preparing to return to Petrograd for discussions with the constituent assemblies over whether or not to ratify what was for him an imperfect treaty. The Russian position in broadcast to the world at large as follows ...

"The peace negotiations are at an end. German capitalists, bankers, and landlords, supported by the silent cooperation of the English and French bourgeoisie, submitted to our comrades, the members of the Peace Delegation at Brest-Litovsk, conditions such as could not be subscribed to by the Russian Revolution. The Governments of Germany and Austria desire to possess countries and peoples vanquished by force of arms. To this authority the Russian people, workmen and peasants, could not give its acquiescence. We could not sign a peace which would bring with it sadness, oppression, and suffering to millions of workmen and peasants. But we also cannot, will not, and must not continue a war begun by Tsars and capitalists. We will not and we must not continue to be at war with Germans and Austrians - workmen and peasants like ourselves. We are not signing a peace of landlords and capitalists. Let the German and Austrian soldiers know who are placing them in the field of battle and let them know for what they are struggling. Let them know also that we refuse to fight against them. Our Delegation, fully conscious of its responsibility before the Russian people and the oppressed workers and peasants of other peoples, declared on February 10th, in the name of the Council of the People's Commissaries of the Government of the Federal Russian Republic to the Governments of the peoples involved in the war with us and of the neutral countries, that it refuses to sign an annexationist treaty. Russia, for her part, declares the present war with Germany and Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria at an end" (quoted Magnes, p133).

SO THE STORY SO FAR ...

THE CENTRAL POWERS HAVE PLAYED AN ABSOLUTE BLINDER

**THE BOLSHEVIKS ARE FRIENDLESS AND FIGHTING
AN INTERNAL WAR, AND THE WESTERN ALLIES HAVE
JUST SACRIFICED THE EASTERN FRONT FOR NOTHING
MORE IDEALISTIC THAN MONEY IN THE BANK**

Here is Hard again, pulling no punches ...

"In Russia, in the territory of the old Russia, along its eastern frontiers, there had emerged three governments. There was one in Finland. There was one at Petrograd. There was one in the Ukraine. The one at Petrograd was Red. The other two were White. In all three regions there was a struggle between Whites and Reds. [...] In Finland the French gave formal recognition to the White government. It was a 'law and order' government. It was fighting and killing Trotsky's and Lenin's Red Guards. It was a 'good' government. It at once called in the Germans and accepted German troops and turned Finland into a German dependency. In the Ukraine the Allies gave the White government their active favour and support. This government also was a 'good' government

and a 'law and order' government. It also was fighting Lenin's and Trotsky's Red Guards. From Allied money it received an official present of 130,000,000 francs. Four days later it called in the Germans and filled the Ukraine with German troops [and turned] Odessa into a German port. The government at Petrograd, among these three governments, was the only one that was Red [... and] the only one that never called in German troops against its domestic enemies [...]. In these circumstances, looking at the three governments and observing that the government at Petrograd was by far the largest and by far the most important, what did we [= the United States] do? [To the government at Petrograd we refused to give any officers for keeping goods from going into Germany, and to the government at Petrograd we refused to give any railway experts for the restoring of the railway system and for the transporting of munitions away into the interior and away from the Germans; but to the governments of Finland and the Ukraine, immediately thereafter outrightly pro-German, we gave diplomatic support and even military support](#) [...]. In the Ukraine, serving the Ukrainian White government, officers appeared and munitions appeared from Allied sources and under Allied orders" (Hard, 1920/2012 [[Amazon](#)], pp101-104).

Hard's summarising of the situation is factually flawless, and dates, it will be noted, from 1920, not 2020. Unfortunately, few others spoke out so loudly against the Galactic idiocy of this sort of dollar diplomacy, and tens of millions are now doomed to die in the resulting Russian Civil War ...

ASIDE - THE OTHER HUNDRED YEARS WAR: As we have detailed elsewhere [see the entry for **George de Mohrenschildt** in the [Companion Resource](#), then as directed], the Russian Civil War is still being fought out, in effect, if not actually in name. We have known it as the Cold War since 1945, and all whose homelands have signed up to NATO are in the firing line. **BREAKING:** At the time of writing [= February 2021], the latest Western intervention - and there are dozens active on any one day - involves a certain **Alexei Navalny** [[Wikipedia biography](#)] - [check out this YouTube from 12th February 2021 and carefully note the \\$\\$billions lurking in the shadows](#)

[Sub-thread continues at 9th February 1918 ...]

[[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

1918 [9th-10th February (O.S. 27th-28th January)] **The Russian Civil War [XXX - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Ukraine Declared Independent)]:** [Continued from 8th February 1918] On 9th February the Central Powers formally recognise independent Ukraine. This proves of little value, however, to the Don Cossacks making up **Alexey Kaledin's "Volunteer Army"** [[see 22nd December 1917](#)], for on 10th February the Bolsheviks in the Eastern Ukraine push through to the Sea of Azov at **Taganrog** [[map](#)], successfully cutting the Ukraine in two [sub-thread continues at 11th February 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

1918 [10th February (O.S. 28th January)] **The News as State Deception [II - WW1 Propaganda (Ministry of Information Formed)]:** [Continued from [20th February 1917](#)] On 10th February 1918 **Lloyd George** approves the creation of a **Ministry of Information** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)]. He appoints **Lord Beaverbrook** [[check him out](#)] (as *Aitken, William Maxwell*) as Minister, leaving **John Buchan** [[check him out](#)] to focus on the technical side of things as Director of Intelligence [sub-thread continues at 4th March 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY](#)] [[THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS](#)] [[THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA](#)]

1918 [11th-12th February (O.S. 29th-30th January)] **The Russian Civil War [XXXI - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Imperial Debt Repudiated)]:** [Continued from 9th February 1918] On 11th February 1918, feeling disgraced by the Soviet victory at Taganrog, General Kaledin shoots himself. This is also the date of the Revolutionary Congress's repudiation of Russia's past sovereign debt. The situation is further complicated by warlike articles in *Pravda*, wherein the editorial line is set by revolutionary firebrand **Nikolai Bukharin** [[Wikipedia biography](#)]. In his view, the Germans are as much the enemy of the Revolution now as they were of the Provisional Government in 1917, or the Tsar before then. Were they to capture Petrograd, no matter, for the front would simply move back toward the Urals. **FURTHER READING:** For a recent re-analysis of this repudiation see **Eric Toussaint's** (2020 [[full text online](#)] **FASCINATING STUFF**) paper entitled "**Russia: Origin and Consequences of the Debt Repudiation of February 10, 1918**" [sub-thread continues at 13th February 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

1918 [13th/14th February (O.S. 31st January/not 1st but 14th February)] **The Russian Civil War [XXXII - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Russians Go Gregorian)]:** Continued from 11th February 1918] At 23:59:59hr 31st January 1918 the Bolsheviks flip forward 13 days from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar, making the next day 14th February, and not 1st February [sub-thread continues at 14th February 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [14th February] **The Russian Civil War [XXXIII - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (The Central Executive Convenes)]:** Continued from 13th/14th February 1918] On 14th February 1918 the Central Executive at Petrograd hears the account of the Brest-Litovsk delegation, and, in the end, passes a resolution approving everything that they had said and done in their name [sub-thread continues at 15th February 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [14th-21st February] **The Middle Eastern Campaigns [XXIX - The Palestine Offensive (Jericho Captured)]:** [Continued from 2nd February 1918] On 14th February 1918 [General Allenby](#) starts to push east-north-eastward out of his strongpoints in and around Jerusalem, in a move against the Ottoman positions centred on **Jericho** [\[map\]](#). The main thrust follows on 19th February broadly following the Jerusalem-Jericho highway. A troop of light horse enter Jericho on the morning of 21st February. The Ottomans, however, remain in some numbers in the lands to the east of the Jordan River, as well as maintaining a bridgehead along the western bank and holding the river crossings [sub-thread continues at 6th March 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [15th February] **The Russian Civil War [XXXIV - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Full Scheme Ahead)]:** Continued from 14th February 1918] On 15th February 1918 the War Cabinet's man in Petrograd, Robert Lockhart, manages to get an audience with Trotsky himself. Britain, he^{Lockhart} informs him, wishes, after all, "to find a *modus vivendi*" with the Bolsheviks. Trotsky - understandably (for this is what he has been pleading for these past two months) - literally cannot suppress his laughter (Schneer, *op. cit.*). Britain, he replies, had "openly sympathised with and secretly supported every anti-Bolshevik movement in Russia". Also on the 15th, Germany announces that her feelings have been hurt by Trotsky's refusal to sign the Brest-Litovsk instrument, and that she will accordingly be treating the present Eastern Front armistice as ending at noon on the 18th (Magnes, *op. cit.*) [sub-thread continues at 18th February 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [18th February-3rd March (O.S. 5th February-3rd March)]

THIS ENTRY SITS IN TWO SEPARATE SUB-THREADS AS FOLLOWS ...

The Russian Civil War [XXXV - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Operation *Faustschlag*)]: [Continued from 15th February 1918, and continuing at 24th February 1918]

WW1 Grand Strategies and Carve-Ups [IV - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Operation *Faustschlag*)]: [Continued from [22nd December 1917](#), and continuing at 7th November 1918]

On 18th February, as per the warning they had given three days earlier, the Central Powers launch a major three-axis offensive - **Operation *Faustschlag*** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#) - on the no-longer defended Eastern Front, targeting (from north to south) **Pskov** [\[map\]](#) on the road to Petrograd, **Smolensk** [\[map\]](#) on the road to Moscow, and **Kiev** [\[map\]](#) capital city of the Ukraine (in the event, the Don Cossacks make the German advance into the Ukraine so easy that by mid-April they will get as far as **Kharkov** [\[map\]](#) and **Rostov-on-Don** [\[map\]](#)). With the Russians now squaring up against each other, it is a relatively easy advance, forming a new Eastern Front on average **150 miles further into Russia than the old one**. Fearing that Petrograd will be overrun, the Western Embassies quickly pack their code books and cigars and entrain for emergency premises at the rail hub town of **Vologda** [\[map\]](#), some 420 miles to the east.

Here is a Wikimap showing the territory gained

Key: Note that Germany now occupies all the buffer states from Estonia down to the Black Sea. Given that Finland (not coloured in because no offensive took place in the north) is in the process of becoming a German foederatus state, the effective final front line runs from Rostov-on-Don in the south all the way to the Arctic. The German advance into Finland will take place 1st March 1918 - see separate entry - at the invitation of **Carl Mannerheim's** puppet White Finnish Administration. Odessa is well-defended and manages to hold out until 13th March - see separate entry.



Faced with the total collapse of the Revolution, Lenin now realises that the Soviets have no choice but to sign up to the Central Powers' one-sided peace treaty. [And all these weeks the German rail system has been bursting its boilers carting spare divisions across Central Europe to face the three remaining Entente powers on the Western Front.](#) [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [24th February] **The Russian Civil War [XXXVI - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (In the Causasus Meanwhile)]:** [Continued from 18th February 1918] On 24th February 1918 the *Sejm* - the parliament - of Russian Transcaucasia resolves to pursue independence as the **Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic** [Wikipedia briefing] [sub-thread continues at 25th February ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [25th February] **The Russian Civil War [XXXVII - Red vs. White In The Ukraine (Kornilov's Volunteer Army Driven South)]:** [Continued from 24th February 1918] On 25th February 1918 sustained attacks by Bolshevik forces on the lower Don drive Kornilov's counter-revolutionary **Volunteer Army** from its stronghold cities of **Novocherkassk** [map] and **Rostov-on-Don** [map].

***** **THE "ICE MARCH"** *****

The ensuing White retreat - military units mixed with fearful White-minded middle-class civilians - takes them south through the frozen steppes of the equally hostile North Caucasian Soviet Republic until they eventually reach the Kuban River, where they lay siege to [Y]Ekaterinodar/Krasnodar [map]. Kornilov's second-in-command during this ordeal is one **Anton Denikin** [Wikipedia biography], of whom much more shortly [sub-thread continues at 27th February 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

***** **THE ROAD TO HIROSHIMA BEGINS HERE** *****

1918 [27th February-1st March] **The Russian Civil War [XXXVIII - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (The Japanese Called In)]**: [Continued from 25th February 1918] On 27th February Allied representatives in Vladivostok commence talks with the Japanese Empire concerning how best to safeguard each other's interests in that region.

QUICKIE - JAPAN IN FEBRUARY 1918: The Japanese Empire had been quick to blend modern technology with traditional Bushido militarism, and had been in a formal alliance with the British since 1902 [see 30th January 1902]. They had then roundly trounced Tsarist Russia in the war of 1904-1905 [see 8th February 1904], occupying Southern Manchuria as their reward. The Japanese had fought alongside the British at Tientsin [see 13th July 1900; alongside 2nd Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers, in fact] and Tsingtao [see 23rd August 1914; alongside 2nd Bn. South Wales Borders on this occasion], and the Imperial Japanese Navy had been helping to secure the Western Pacific since 1914.

Given the recent German advance into Western Russia and the prospect of a major German offensive in France, the Allies suggest some sort of international force to work alongside local White Russians.

ASIDE: This is the first of the three planned bridgeheads previously mentioned [see 3rd February above]. The second - at Murmansk - will follow a week later [see 6th March below]. Coincidentally, this is likely also the very day that U.S. Secretary of War **Newton D. Baker** [Wikipedia biography] will be considering his 26th February letter from political journalist **Walter Lippmann**, counselling him against joining any intervention (details in Steel, 1980, p137). The decision, however, seems already to have been taken.

Back on the Eastern (but not Far Eastern) Front, on 1st March the Petrograd Bolsheviks sign a mutual aid pact with the Red Finns, thus internationalising the Finnish Civil War [sub-thread continues at 3rd March 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

***** AN HISTORIC DAY *****

***** RUSSIA OUT OF WW1, NOW FREE TO FIGHT ITSELF *****

1918 [3rd March]

THIS ENTRY SITS IN TWO SEPARATE SUB-THREADS AS FOLLOWS ...

The Russian Civil War [XXXIX - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (Russia Bows Out of WW1)]: [Continued from 27th February 1918, and continuing at 4th March]

WW1 in the Caucasus [XV - Operations Resume (The Race For Oil)]: [Continued from 5th February 1918, and continuing at 10th April 1918]

On 3rd March 1918, after nearly a month putting it off, the Russian delegation at Brest-Litovsk finally signs the Treaty. They preface that moment with a defiant statement, which begins ...

"The Workmen's and Peasants' Government of the Russian Republic, which has announced the cessation of war and has demobilised its army, is compelled by the attack of the German troops to accept the ultimatum presented by Germany [...] and has delegated us to sign these terms which are imposed on us by violence" (Magne, p165).

The Germans duly call a halt to their *Faustschlag* advance the following day, leaving the Russians holding the line (from north to south) Murmansk-Petrograd-Mogilev-Gomel then more south-easterly down through the Don Bend. As it happens, they are presently doing quite well on the Don Front, having just taken Novochoerkassk and Rostov [see 25th February above], and having put Kornilov's **Volunteer Army** to flight southward toward the **Caucasus Mountains** [zonal map] whilst the German-Ottoman Third Army is approaching those same mountains (not to mention the **Baku Oilfields** in their shadows) from the south-west. Britain's tiny "**Dunsterforce**" [last mentioned 5th February above] is still snow bound *en route* northward out of Baghdad in the hope of arriving in time to act as referee. A Congress of all the Soviets is called for 12th March (later postponed to 14th) in Moscow. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [4th March] **The News as State Deception [III - WW1 Propaganda (Britain's Ministry of Information)]:** [Continued from 10th February 1918] [Lloyd George](#) upgrades the Foreign Office's **Department of Information** [see [20th February 1917](#)] into the **Ministry of Information** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)]. [Lord Beaverbrook](#) [[check him out](#)] is made Minister of Information, allowing existing departmental head **John Buchan** to concentrate on the technicalities of willed deception as Director of Intelligence [sub-thread continues at 6th April 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

1918 [4th-6th March] **The Russian Civil War [XL - Picking Over the Imperial Carcass (Last Minute Deals)]:** [Continued from 3rd March 1918] On 4th March 1918 [Kaiser Wilhelm](#) sends a congratulatory telegram to Chancellor **von Hertling**, thanking God and "the German sword" for their "great work" in the East. The following day the Bolsheviks announce that to escape the German advance they will be relocating their capital from Petrograd to Moscow. Also on 5th March **Raymond Robins** is granted an audience with **Trotsky**, who cuts straight to the chase. "The time has come to be definite," Trotsky tells him. "We have talked - and we have talked - about help from America. Can you produce it?" (quoted in Hard, p134). If America gives "a definite promise," he says, he and **Lenin** will oppose ratification of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty at the forthcoming Congress. Robins gets this offer in writing and takes it to Britain's **Robert Lockhart** for his thoughts. Lockhart promptly cables it to **Lloyd George**, and chats it over also with the propaganda establishment's man in Petrograd, **Harold Williams** [see CAMEO 9th January above], who on 6th March sends his own cable to Lloyd George, copied (as was his habit) to his editor. Williams's observations are in fact most astute (note how poorly the notion of Japanese involvement in the Far East [see 27th February above] has been received, given the recent humiliations of the **Russo-Japanese War** [see [8th February 1904](#)]) ...

"At the Congress convened to ratify the peace there will be a strong agitation in favour of revolutionary war with Germany. [...] For the present the Bolsheviks are the only party possessing real power in Russia. [...] National revival is certain [and] it should be our business to foster this revival. [...] Rumours of intended Japanese intervention in Siberia embitter the sense of humiliation in all classes and divert resentment from the Germans to the Allies and endanger the future of our interests in Russia" (Hard, p142).

The ball, for one last time, is well and truly back in the Allies' court, even though similar offers have been regularly cold-shouldered since early January [see CAMEO 9th January above] [sub-thread continues at 6th March 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

***** BRITAIN OPENS NORTH RUSSIAN FRONT *****

1918 [6th March] **The Russian Civil War [XLI - North Russian Operations (Murmansk Bridgehead Established)]:** [Continued from 4th March 1918] On 6th March 1918 an advance party of Royal Marines is landed at **Murmansk** [[map](#)] to secure the port in preparation for future landings [see 3rd February above]. They get on well with the Murmansk Soviet for the time being, because they share a common fear of a German/White Finnish move against the **Murmansk-Petrograd Railway** on its run south - where the enemy has fully a thousand miles of wilderness to choose where to attack [[route map](#)] [sub-thread continues at 13th March 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [6th-21st March] **The Middle Eastern Campaigns [XXX - The Palestine Offensive (Cutting the Hedjaz Railway)]:** [Continued from 14th February 1918] On 6th March 1918 [General Allenby](#) sends a mounted column across the Jordan River to threaten **Amman** [[map](#)] and raid the **Hedjaz Railway** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)] between **Damascus** and **Medina** [[route map](#)] [sub-thread continues at 18th September 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

***** THE 103-YEAR CURSE *****

***** **THE 103-YEAR CURSE** *****

***** **THE 103-YEAR¹ CURSE** *****

¹ and counting

1918 [13th-16th March] **The Russian Civil War [XLII - Picking Over The Imperial Carcass (The Fourth Congress of the Soviets)]**: [Continued from 6th March] On 13th March combined Central Powers/Ukrainian forces re-take Odessa from the short-lived **Odessa Soviet** [see 29th January above]. The following day, under continued threat from the Ottoman Third Army advancing through Armenia, the Transcaucasians open talks with the Ottomans at **Trebizond/Trabzon** [map]. Also on 14th March, having been delayed by some fevered last-minute politicking, the **Fourth All-Russian Congress of the Soviets** [Wikipedia briefing] finally gets under way in Moscow.

CAMEO - THE DELEGATES: Hard tells the story of how the head of the **American Red Cross Mission** to Petrograd, **Raymond Robins**, approached **Lenin** for the "credentials" of the delegates, which we reproduce here for the historical context which such details vividly convey ...

"Can I get the credentials of the delegates?" said Robins. Lenin consented. [...] There were 1204 delegates. Robins got 1186 credentials. He had them examined by two persons [and f]rom their reports he knew that this convention was not a packed [= full of stooges] convention [but rather] a valid convention of conscious Russia. It did not represent - it did not pretend to represent - Russia's 7 per cent of 'bourgeois'. It did effectively represent Russia's 93 per cent of peasants and wage-earners. [...] It was a Congress broadly based on the effective mass of Russia" (pp149-151).

After a day of introductions and preliminaries, attention turns on 15th March to the main business at hand, namely whether or not to ratify the Brest-Litovsk Treaty. This historical debate lasts two full days, until at around 2329hr 16th March, Lenin, who was about to bring proceedings to a close with a keynote speech, motioned Robins to come discretely to him on the stage ...

***** **HISTORY IS MADE** *****

***** **HISTORY IS MADE** *****

***** **HISTORY IS MADE** *****

CAMEO - LENIN'S MIDNIGHT SPEECH, 16th MARCH 1918: Hard explains what happened next ...

"Lenin said, 'What have you heard from your government?' Robins said, 'Nothing ... What has Lockhart heard from London?' Lenin said, 'Nothing'. Then Lenin said: '**I shall now speak for the peace. It will be ratified**'. He spoke for an hour and twenty minutes. He pointedly wanted to know with what resources [...] the Russians would fight the Germans. [...] His policy remained what it was in Petrograd. He would surrender [the big cities]. He would retreat to the Volga. He would surrender anything, and retreat anywhere, if only, on some slip of land somewhere, he might preserve the revolution [...] He spoke for a necessary peace [...] The count was had: Not voting, 204. Voting against ratification, 276. Voting in favour of ratification, 724. Russia was at peace. Russia was alone. **Russia was headed for a war with the world**. Robins still sat on the steps of the platform. [...] T]hrough him, **a question had gone to Washington, and an offer, begging a response. No response came** to him then. No response came to him at any time afterward" (pp151-153).

Unbeknown to Robins, of course, in countless officers' messes from San Diego to the Saint Cyr, intelligence officers have been deep in their Russian phrasebooks for probably all of two months.

FURTHER READING: For more on the politicking in the run up to this Congress see **James K. Libbey's** (1977) "**Alexander Gumberg and Soviet-American Relations, 1917-1933**" [Amazon] [sub-thread continues at 26th March ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WWI MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [21st March] **The German Spring Offensives [I - Operation Michael (The Battle of St. Quentin)]**: [New sub-thread] Having withdrawn all but a holding force from their Eastern Front during the preceding month [see 18th February above], the Germans launch their historically famed **Spring Offensive** [a.k.a. the *Kaiser's Offensive* or the *Ludendorff Offensive*] [Wikipedia briefing]. It is based around three axes of attack, activated a few weeks apart. The first - codenamed *Operation Michael* - requires the German 2nd and 18th Armies to attack

on the St. Quentin sector, break through as quickly as possible, and then drive westwards past the 1916 Somme battlefield *en route* for Amiens. The softening up bombardment is more than usually intense (more than a million shells in only five hours), and the infantry assault is spearheaded by specially trained *Stosstruppen* - "stormtroopers". The defences folded almost immediately around **Essigny** [\[map\]](#), forcing a general retreat westward along the entire Arras-Laon sector, with localised last-man stands here and there in order to gain time for reserves to be rushed into position. Fortunately for the Allies the Germans had overstretched their supply lines and had no cavalry or light tanks with which to exploit the moment, and the push was abandoned 5th April, a few miles short of Amiens. The second of the three pushes - codenamed *Operation Georgette* - will begin as soon as the supporting artillery has been repositioned [sub-thread continues at 9th April 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#)

1918 [26th-30th March] **The Russian Civil War [XLIII - Siberian Front (The Trans-Siberian Railway)]**: [Continued from 13th March 1918] On 26th March 1918 the Bolsheviks agree to evacuate the **Czech Legion** to Vladivostok on the Trans-Siberian Railway ...

QUICKIE - THE CZECHS AND SLOVAKS IN MARCH 1918: The fate of the ethnic Czechs and Slovaks of Bohemia and Moravia was decided in principle, remember, in the Tenth of [President Wilson's Fourteen Points](#) [see 7th January above], and then updated at the **Czech League's** Kiev Congress shortly afterward [see 30th January above]. The **Czech Legion** is now well-established as an autonomous Army Group within the French Army, albeit cut off in Russia, and has regularly fought battles against the Central Powers. Now, however, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk risks driving them "into the arms of the counter-revolutionaries" (Stewart, *op. cit. inf.*, k1609), and in May it will do precisely that. In the meantime they are putting out feelers for the 65 troop trains needed to ship them across Siberia for evacuation out of Vladivostok.

On 30th March 1918 the **Russia Railway Service Corps (RRSC)** re-embark for Vladivostok after their ten week lay over at Nagasaki. They will spend the coming weeks negotiating track repair duties with local warlords in the hope of opening secure transit with Muscovite Russia nearly 6000 miles to the west. **FURTHER READING**: For more on the Czech Legion in Siberia, see both **George Stewart's** (1932/2009) "**The White Armies of Russia**" [\[Amazon\]](#) and **Robert L. Willett's** (2003) "**Russian Sideshow: America's Undeclared War 1918-1920**" [\[Amazon\]](#) [sub-thread continues at 4th April 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [30th March-13th April] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XVI - The Transcaucasian Collapse (The March Days)]**: [Continued from 3rd March 1918] With Moscow now facing civil war in most of its southern provinces, the fragile **Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic** [see 24th February above] descends into bloody factionalism. This culminates 30th March 1918 with lootings and atrocities in and around Baku, aligned along religious lines between Armenian Bolsheviks and Muslims. Casualties seem to have been around 10,000 Muslims and 2000 Armenians killed. On 13th April the Bolsheviks establish the **Baku Commune** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), one of whose manifesto objectives - to Britain's horror - is the nationalisation of the region's oil resources [sub-thread continues at 10th April 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#)

******* TROTSKY BECOMES BOLSHEVIK MINISTER OF WAR *******

1918 [4th-9th April] **The Russian Civil War [XLIV - Siberian Front (The Vladivostok Landings)]**: [Continued from 30th March 1918] On 4th April 1918 four Japanese merchants are murdered in Vladivostok, whereupon a force of marines is landed from the cruiser **HIJMS Asahi** [\[Wikipedia shipography\]](#) to protect Japanese lives and property; the Royal Navy immediately follows suit with a detachment from **HMS Suffolk** [\[Wikipedia shipography\]](#); the **USS Brooklyn** [\[Wikipedia shipography\]](#) contents herself to raise her alert status, but refrains from sending a landing party (Willett, *op. cit.*). On 9th April 1918 Trotsky hands the Foreign Affairs portfolio over to his deputy **Georgy Chicherin** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#), **and - fully aware that what remains of Russia is at war with the world - becomes instead People's Commissar of Military and Naval Affairs - the Bolsheviks' Minister of War** [sub-thread continues at 10th April 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD](#)

= [THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

1918 [6th April] **The News as State Deception [IV - U.S. Propaganda (Wilson's "Force to the Utmost" Speech)]**: [Continued from 4th March 1918] On 6th April 1918 [President Wilson](#) gives a speech promoting War Bonds to an audience in Baltimore - [click here for the full transcript](#). The speech is noteworthy for its belligerent tone, thus (from the applause paragraph) ...

"Germany has once more said that force, and force alone, shall decide whether justice and peace shall reign in the affairs of men, whether right as America conceives it or dominion as she conceives it shall determine the destinies of mankind. **There is, therefore, but one response possible from us: Force, force to the utmost**, force without stint or limit, the righteous and triumphant force which shall make right the law of the world and cast every selfish dominion down in the dust."

[Sub-thread continues at 21st June 1918 ...]

[[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY](#)] [[THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS](#)] [[THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA](#)]

1918 [9th-29th April] **The German Spring Offensives [II - Operation Georgette (The Battle of the Lys)]**: [Continued from 21st March 1918] What will become known as the **Battle of the Lys** begins with an offensive by the Germans on the **Neuve Chapelle-Laventie** sector south of **Armientières** [\[sector map\]](#). Their immediate objective is the town of **Hazebrouk** [\[map\]](#), 15 miles to the west, thereby cutting the British supply lines up to their "Immortal" Salient around Ypres. This is the second of the three Spring Offensive pushes, and is assisted by the diversion of reserves to deal with the earlier **Operation Michael** in the St. Quentin sector. The Germans make rapid progress for the first 48 hours, capturing **Mesen/Messines** [\[map\]](#) on 10th April, and forcing [General Haig](#) to ordered a fight to the last man on 11th. It does not come to that, however, because on 13th April the **1st Australian Division** [\[Wikipedia history\]](#) helps fight the advance to a halt just short of Hazebrouk. Having lost the element of surprise, the Germans settle on consolidating the Messines Ridge [sub-thread continues at 27th May 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)]

1918 [10th-25th April] **The Russian Civil War [XLV - South Russian Front (The Eichhorn Offensive)]**: [Continued from 4th April 1918] On the Southern Front in general, the Central Powers and their White Ukrainian allies, commanded by Field Marshall **Hermann von Eichhorn** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#), are presently advancing in such strength through the Western Ukraine that the Bolsheviks have little option but to avoid major confrontation by falling back eastward toward the River Don. Whole trainloads of looted foodstuffs are sent in the opposite direction as spoils of war, reflecting privations at home resulting from the Allied blockade. Between 13th and 25th April there is a major push southward into the Crimean Peninsula [\[campaign map\]](#), successfully crushing the local Soviet and capturing important elements of the Russian Black Sea Fleet¹ [sub-thread continues at 11th April 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

¹ According to both the well-connected **Raymond Robins** and the even better connected **Robert Lockhart**, this was because the Royal Navy were instructed from above NOT to help the ships escape (Hard, pp202-204). Better they became German, than Bolshevik!!

1918 [10th-24th April] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XVII - The Kuban Spring Offensive (Exit Kornilov)]**: [Continued from 30th March 1918] In the Caucasus, meanwhile, the White withdrawal from Rostov-on-Don - the so-called "**Ice March**" [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#) - has now taken Kornilov's **Volunteer Army** southward through the frozen steppes of the North Caucasian Soviet Republic as far as the Kuban River at **[Y]Ekaterinodar/Krasnodar** [\[map\]](#), where they find the local Bolshevik garrison waiting for them. Although outnumbered 2:1 and seriously short of ammunition Kornilov attacks nonetheless, and may well have taken the city had not a lucky enemy shell killed him 13th April, command duly passing to his second-in-command, **Anton Ivanovich Denikin** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#). Denikin, however, is hearing news from the north that the Central Powers are pushing the Bolsheviks out of the Ukraine, and so on 24th April decides to abandon the Kuban adventure and head back northward to link up with them

[sub-thread continues at 23rd April 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)]

1918 [11th April] **The Russian Civil War [XLVI - Propaganda and Dirty Tricks (The Sisson Documents, I)]**: [Continued from 10th April 1918] On or around 11th April 1918 the British Establishment's man in Russia, **Robert Lockhart**, reports privately to about-to-become Minister of War **Lord Milner** that he has seen evidence - nowadays known as the "**Sisson Documents**" [see 7th May below] - purporting to prove that the rise of Lenin and Trotsky has - with their connivance - all been part of a German intelligence operation, but that in his judgement the documents are fakes ([Service, 2011](#)) [sub-thread continues at 28th April 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WWI MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

1918 [17th April] **The Flip Sides of Patriotism [V - The Legal Framework (The Sedition Act of 1918)]**: [Continued from 8th January 1918] On 17th April 1918 Congress begins to debate how best to control low-grade opposition to the war which fell short of the stricter definitions in the existing Espionage Act. The resulting **Sedition Act of 1918** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)], becomes law on 16th May, and includes provisions against treating the Government, the armed forces, or the war in general with contempt. Henceforth you could be locked up for as little as a "disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive" remark [sub-thread continues at 16th June 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY](#)] [[THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS](#)] [[THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA](#)]

1918 [23rd April] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XVIII - The Ottomans in Armenia (Confusion Reigns)]**: [Continued from 10th April 1918]

Before proceeding, [this modern map may help clarify the geopolitical scene](#). The Ottoman homeland - modern Turkey - butts up against the Armenian highlands from the west. Georgia and Azerbaijan are squeezed into the strip of lowland running broadly west-east between the Black Sea and the Caspian, with the Caucasus Mountains to the north and the northern half of the Armenian highlands to the south and west, respectively. Persia - modern Iran - butts up against the southern half of the Armenian highlands from the south-east. Ottoman Mesopotamia - modern Iraq - has been recently occupied by the British, and butts up against both Turkey and the Armenian highlands from the south. Confused? You're not the only one - after a century of subsequent diplomacy there's still bloodshed down there (and, not entirely coincidentally, a lot of oil).

South of the Caucasus, meanwhile, the advancing Ottoman Third Army has now reoccupied most of the territory it had lost during the 1917 Armenian/Russian Offensive [[see 15th November 1917](#)]. The Armenians, however, now without their Russian allies, are refusing to give up the strategically placed foothills town of **Kars** [[map](#)] and the Ottomans duly place it under siege. In the now-collapsed **Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic**, the Bolsheviks are concentrating their efforts over on the Caspian, where they are trying to suppress the Muslim faction amongst the local Azerbaijanis, who are tending to side with their co-religionists in Persia. The British presence - "**Dunsterforce**" [last mentioned 3rd March above] - is too small and too far from base to play much of a part in this Bolshevik-Muslim warzone, and it is keeping a low profile in and around **Hamadan** [[map](#)], in Northern Persia. **FURTHER READING**: For more on the political situation following the break up of the Transcaucasian Republic see Chapter III of **George Stewart's** (1932/2009) "**The White Armies of Russia**" [[Amazon](#)] [sub-thread continues at 11th May 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WWI MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)]

1918 [28th April] **The Russian Civil War [XLVII - The Political Front (*Pravda* Rallies the Troops)]**: [Continued from 11th April 1918] On 28th April 1918 *Pravda* "welcomes" the relocation of the German Ambassador **Wilhelm von Mirbach** [[Wikipedia biography](#)] from Petrograd to Moscow, and takes full advantage of the opportunity. He comes, notes Foreign Ministry firebrand **Carl Radek** [[Wikipedia biography](#)], not as the "representative of the labouring classes of a friendly people," but rather "of a military clique which kills and robs and violates wherever its bloody imperialistic bayonets can reach"

(Hard, pp179-180). The diatribe then broadens into an equally unsubtle dig at backsliders in their own ranks, thus ...

"Whining intellectuals among us, bourgeois hirelings among us, are convinced that there is no salvation for us from the tusks of imperialism approaching us from both sides. [...] They are mistaken. The revolution is only beginning to discover its forces. The liberated class has not yet risen to its full height. [...] The representatives of German imperialism have entered Moscow [in return for which] they have to admit the Red embassy of revolutionary Russia to Berlin. Our comrades go there as the representatives [...] of a country morally victorious. Not one workman in Berlin will greet [our ambassador] with the hate with which every workman in Moscow today greets the representative of German capital. The Red banner has been raised over the Red Embassy in Berlin. It floats there not as the banner of Russia, but as the banner of the rebellion of the labour of the world" (*ibid.*, p180).

And sure enough, as a symbol of revolutionary defiance, Russian embassies around the world duly take to flying the red flag [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [28th April] **The Russian Civil War [XLVIII - South Russian Front (The Skoropadskyi Government)]**: [Continued from preceding entry] On 28th April 1918 local Ukrainian hard man **Pavlo Skoropadskyi** [Wikipedia biography] is proclaimed *Hetman* [Wikipedia briefing] of a German puppet administration for the Ukraine. Unfortunately for his ultra-nationalistic ideas, German influence is set to decline rapidly during the coming summer as their armies gradually implode in the West [sub-thread continues at 1st May 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

"We have to have May-day" Lenin

1918 [1st May] **The Russian Civil War [IL - The Political Front (The First Mayday Parade)]**: [Continued from 28th April 1918] Concerned that proposals to hold a celebratory Mayday parade in Moscow are not a wise use of scarce resources, Raymond Robins raises the matter with Lenin, who reassures him as follows ...

"We have to have May-day. On every May-day past, for many years, we marched in honour of the revolution to come. Now, on the first May-day of the Soviet republic, we march for the first time in honour of the revolution accomplished. It has to be. We may march without shoes, but we have to march" (Hard, pp175-176).

Lenin was also fully aware of the dangers posed by rightist (or, indeed, extreme leftist) activists, and has already put the following protections in place ...

"On the afternoon of the 30th of April Robins was in his room in the Hotel Europe. Some men came in. They closed the windows and sealed the fastenings of the windows. They warned Robins against breaking the seals till the parade next day was over. A regulation had been issued. It had been issued to the legally responsible 'house committee' of every house along the line of march. If from that house there should be a shot fired at the parade by anybody, then the whole 'house committee' would be arrested and tried. Next day forty-two thousand people marched nine miles through a city filled with revolutionists and counter-revolutionists, and not a shot was fired, and not one man or woman was hurt" (Hard, 176-177 [similar protections for the 1963 JFK motorcade through Dallas were standard Secret Service practice, but were explicitly NOT applied on that occasion - Ed.]).

Here is some footage from the event itself ...

[YouTube contemporary newsreel](#)

The German Ambassador is amongst the VIPs present, only to find that one of the detachments in the parade is made up of liberated German prisoners-of-war, in uniform, doing the famed *Steckschritt*, and carrying banners lauding Karl Marx and encouraging all other Germans to come and join the revolution [sub-thread continues at 7th May 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1

MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [**THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING**] [**THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING**]

1918 [7th May] **The Russian Civil War [L - The Political Front (The Treaty of Bucharest)]**: [Continued from 1st May 1918] On 7th May 1918 the Central Powers and Romania sign the **Treaty of Bucharest** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)], agreeing territorial losses in the north and south of the country (to Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria, respectively) in exchange for formal union with Bessarabia in the east. German engineers promptly repair the **Ploesti Oilfields** [[see 4th November 1916](#) re the somewhat hopeful Norton-Griffiths sabotage mission] and in the remaining six months of the war manage to pump a million tons of oil homeward. The Treaty will be annulled six months later by the November Armistice, and further deals will be done - to Romania's great advantage - at Versailles [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [**THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD**] [**THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS**] [**THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING**] [**THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING**]

1918 [7th May] **The Russian Civil War [LI - Propaganda and Dirty Tricks (The Sisson Documents, II)]**: [Continued from preceding entry] On 7th May 1918 the Moscow head of the **U.S. Committee for Public Information (CPI)** [[check them out](#) **ESSENTIAL CONTEXT**], **Edgar Sisson** [[check him out](#)], sends a report back to the White House summarising the documents previously seen, and dismissed as fakes, by British political emissary **Robert Lockhart** [[see 11th April above](#)] and nowadays known as the "**Sisson Documents**" [[check them out](#) **ESSENTIAL CONTEXT**]. These documents [finally formally confirmed as fakes by Kennan (1956 [[full text online \(JSTOR registration required\)](#)]) - Ed.] purport to prove that the rise of Lenin and Trotsky has - with their conscious and recent connivance - all been part of a Berlin intelligence operation ...

ASIDE: It has been fairly well-established that the Bolsheviks and other anti-Tsarist dissident groups in Russia were indeed encouraged and funded by Berlin in the early years of the war as a good way of destabilising the Tsarist war effort. Leftists were "used", in other words; encouraged to go mess on other people's lawns. Things changed, however, once the Tsar abdicated 15th March 1917, because working class unrest suddenly started to spread to other countries including Germany itself. Fearful of blow-back, Berlin duly switched to other lines of provocation, such as stirring up nationalist sentiment in border states like Finland [[see Timeline 26th January 1918](#)] and the Ukraine [ditto 28th January 1918].

The CPI then ran a disinformation campaign through Summer 1918 based on the documents, [despite knowing them to be faked](#) ...

CAMEO - "THE GERMAN-BOLSHEVIK CONSPIRACY": Axelrod (*op. cit. inf.*) relates how the propagandists at the CPI republished the Sisson Documents as "**The German-Bolshevik Conspiracy**" [[full text online](#) (courtesy of the University of Colorado)]. The CPI milked this resource mercilessly as part of a publicity campaign promoting U.S. military intervention on the side of the White Russians in the Russian Civil War [[see Timeline 27th February 1918](#), then as directed]. In the event, of course, the Reds won that civil war despite all the foreign aid to the Whites; [the residual mutual hatred, however, continues to the present day](#) [= March 2021].

In his (2011) book "**Spies & Commissars: Bolshevik Russia and the West**" [[Amazon](#)], the historian **Robert Service** summarises the story thus ...

"In early 1918 British agents bought documents purportedly showing that Lenin and the Bolsheviks were the paid employees of the Germans. [... Deciding that they were expensive forgeries, t]hey put the documents back on the market and let Edgar Sisson of the American Information Service buy them up [...]. Sisson's 'revelations' failed to gain universal acceptance in the American press [examples given]. The Committee on Public Information under **George Creel** [[check him out](#)] investigated on the administration's behalf [... pronouncing] most of the documents to be genuine. The threat to civilisation in both Russia and America was said to come from a 'German-Bolshevik conspiracy'. [... The documents] in fact came from former officials of the Okhrana [...] either out of financial greed or because they frantically wanted to steer the Allies away from thinking that any kind of deal could be done with [the Bolshevik government] after the Brest-Litovsk treaty" (pp150-151).

FURTHER READING: For an extended history of the CPI in general, as well as more on the 1917 Espionage Act as a complement to the 1918 propaganda offensive, see **Alan Axelrod's** (2009) "**Selling the Great War: The Making of American Propaganda**" [[Amazon](#)] [sub-thread continues at 14th May

1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#)

1918 [11th May-4th June] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XIX - Peace Talks (The Batum Peace Treaty)]**: [Continued from 23rd April 1918] On 11th May 1918 the **Trebizond Peace Talks** [see 13th March above] move along the Black Sea coast to **Batum** [map], while at the same time the Ottoman Third Army continues its advance into the mountains of Armenia from the west. The Ottoman objective is to break up the **Transcaucasian Federation** [see 24th February above] and take control of the entire South Caucasus, including the Baku Oilfields in Azerbaijan and Tiflis in Georgia (the rail hub for getting Baku oil out to the Black Sea at Batum). On 26th May the ethnic Georgians [see map 23rd April] are persuaded to secede from the Federation as the **Democratic Republic of Georgia** [Wikipedia briefing], and on 28th May the ethnic Azerbaijanis do likewise as the **Azerbaijan Democratic Republic** [Wikipedia briefing], thereby securing Ottoman support in defeating the rival **Baku Commune** [see 30th March above]. Under the military cosh, therefore, and having lost their erstwhile allies, the Armenian delegation at Batum has little choice but to sign the **Treaty of Batum** [Wikipedia briefing] on 4th June 1918, ceding territory on all sides and being pushed back into their mountainous hinterland. **FURTHER READING**: For more on Transcaucasian politics at this time, see Chapter III of **George Stewart's** (1932/2009) "**The White Armies of Russia**" [Amazon] [sub-thread continues at 22nd June 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#)

1918 [14th May-18th June] **The Russian Civil War [LII - Siberian Front (Guarding the Trans-Siberian)]**: [Continued from 7th May 1918] On 14th May 1918 one of the **Czech Legion's** [see 26th March above] eastbound troop trains reaches the city of **Chelyabinsk** [map], a thousand miles east of Moscow, only to get involved in a firefight with other stranded prisoners-of-war, namely Hungarians (with whom they are still technically at war), heading west. Realising the risks of a free-for-all in the back of beyond, and being already strung out along the length of the Trans-Siberia Railway anyway, the Czechs decide to patrol the railway themselves, and shortly afterwards will establish a headquarters under General **Mikhail Ditericks** [Wikipedia biography] at **Chita** [map], in Mongolia [sub-thread continues at 18th May 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [18th May] **The Russian Civil War [LIII - South Russian Front (The Don Republic)]**: [Continued from 14th May 1918] On 18th May 1918 the Don Cossack parliament - the *Krug* - proclaims its independence as the **Don Republic** [Wikipedia briefing], choosing **Novocherkassk** [map] as their capital [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [18th May-18th June] **The Russian Civil War [LIV - North Russian Front (Maynard Ships Out)]**: [Continued from preceding entry] On 18th May 1918 there is an exchange of telegrams between the Murmansk Soviet (who have until now been cooperating with the growing Allied presence to maintain an anti-White patrol line along the hostile border with German-occupied Finland) and Trotsky, who now fears that the Soviets have been succouring a cuckoo in their northern nest. Six days later, on 24th May, (British) General **Frederick Poole** [Wikipedia biography] arrives aboard the veteran of the Manila Bay victory [see 30th April 1898] **USS Olympia** [she's still with us - [tour the museum ship now](#)].

ASIDE: Around the same time (Stewart says merely "at the end of May"), a second British contingent 370 further Royal Marines - arrives at Murmansk. The *Olympia*, and the French cruiser *Amiral Aube*, came nominally under the command of the British Admiralty while in theatre.

Also on 24th May **General [Sir]¹⁹¹⁹ Charles Clarkson Martin Maynard** [no convenient biography] is briefed at the War Office in London. He is to lead a force of 560 "instructors from combative and administrative branches", who, together with the 500 British marines already in theatre, will constitute the British Army's **North Russian Expeditionary Force (N.R.E.F.)** [Wikipedia briefing], and thus part of the broader Allied initiative the **North Russian Expedition** [Wikipedia briefing]. Maynard's force will sail

from Newcastle 18th June 1918 aboard the *City of Marseilles*, but succumb almost immediately to the **Spanish Flu Pandemic** [see 31st January above, then as directed]. They will arrive in theatre on or about 23rd June. **FURTHER READING:** For more on this early expansion of North Russian operations see **Sir Charles Maynard's (1928/2010) "The Murmansk Venture"** [Amazon] [sub-thread continues at 30th May 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [27th May-6th June] **The German Spring Offensives [III - Operation Blücher-Yorck (The Third Battle of the Aisne)]:** [Continued from 9th April] Better known in English-language histories as the **Third Battle of the Aisne** [Wikipedia briefing], *Operation Blücher-Yorck* is the third of the three substantive German spring offensives on the Western Front. It begins 27th May 1918 with a shock-and-awe attack against Britain's **IX Corps** [Wikipedia briefing] along the Chemin des Dames ridge. The line collapses between Reims and Soisson, the Germans cross the Aisne heading for **Chateau-Thierry** [map], and some 50,000 Allied troops are taken prisoner. The Germans are, however, prevented by lack of reserves from exploiting their breakthrough and are brought to a halt on the Marne [end of <German Spring Offensive> sub-thread]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS]

1918 [30th-31st May] **The Russian Civil War [LV - The Czech-Slovak Question (The Pittsburgh Agreement)]:** [Continued from 18th May 1918] Presently on a fund-raising and political lobbying tour of Czech-Slovak communities in the United States, nationalist leader **Tomáš Masaryk** stops off at Pittsburgh^{PA} and ceremonially signs the **Pittsburgh Agreement** [Wikipedia briefing], a declaration of independence of SORTS [sub-thread continues at 1st June 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [1st-28th June] **The Russian Civil War [LVI - Siberian Front (RRSC Meets Czech-Slovak Legion)]:** [Continued from 30th May 1918] On 1st June 1918 advance units of the U.S. Army's **Russia Railway Service Corps (RRSC)**, moving westward out of Vladivostok, meet advance units of the Czech-Slovak Legion pushing eastward out of Muscovite Russia. The driving of spikes takes place in the city of **Chita** [map], in Mongolia. This creates a highly mobile but at the same time highly *linear* field army, capable of turning up at short notice anywhere along the east-west Trans-Siberian Railway to the east of the Urals, or in the north-south network of railways west of the Urals [see Wikipedia map of Russian railways]. The war now becomes a war of armoured trains ...

[YouTube just such an armoured train in "Dr. Zhivago"](#)

***** **The Allies Now Show Their Colours** *****

***** **The Allies Now Show Their Colours** *****

***** **The Allies Now Show Their Colours** *****

(And They're Not Red!)

On 28th June the White Russian General **Mikhail Dieterikhs** [Wikipedia biography] dissolves the Vladivostok Soviet at the point of a gun and, with Allied approval, starts to take White troops westward in some numbers [sub-thread continues at 30th June 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [16th June] **The Flip Sides of Patriotism [VI - WW1 Left vs. Right (Debs Condemns Conscription)]:** [Continued from 17th April 1918] On 16th June 1918 the American workers' rights activist **Gene Debs** [check him out] delivers a speech at Canton^{OH}, urging non-compliance with conscription papers. He will be arrested 30th June and charged under the new **Sedition Act** [see 17th April above]. The trial will follow three months later [sub-thread continues at 14th September 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 PACIFISM AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION] [THREAD = THE WW1 WORKING CLASS SOLDIER]

"The Military Intelligence Bureau needs you"

1918 [21st June-14th July] **The News as State Deception [V - U.S. Propaganda (Lippmann Joins The Army)]**: [Continued from 6th April 1918] On 21st June 1918 journalist **Walter Lippmann** [see 27th February above] meets with U.S. Army propagandist Captain **Heber Blankenhorn** [Wikipedia biography] to discuss his imminent departure for Europe as an intelligence and public relations officer. "But I'm not even in the Army," Lippmann must have said at some point. "You are now!" must have come the response. Blankenhorn definitely then added (*op. cit. inf.*, p141): "**The Military Intelligence Branch** [check them out] **needs you**". Historian **Ronald Steel** explains the assignment in his (1980) book "**Walter Lippmann and the American Century**" [Amazon], thus ...

"Captain **Heber Blankenhorn** [Wikipedia biography] was a young journalist with some ideas about propaganda. A stint with Creel's information bureau [= the **Committee on Public Information (CPI)** - see 7th May above] had persuaded him that the army should have its own organisation to get America's message across to the other side, rather than relying on the British and the French. [...] His plan fell on receptive ears in the War Department, but was opposed by Creel, who was wildly jealous of rivals. Blankenhorn decided to put together a small team capable of doing propaganda work, and then go straight to Secretary of War Newton Baker for permission to set up an army intelligence unit independent of the Committee on Public Information. [...] How would Lippmann like to be appointed American representative to the Inter-Allied Propaganda Board in London for several months?" ...

ASIDE - THE INTER-ALLIED PROPAGANDA COMMISSION (IAPC): The IAPC [no convenient briefing but much to reward the determined browser] was a liaison committee set up in Spring 1918 to coordinate a from-all-directions propaganda offensive against the morale of the Central Powers. Britain's input came from the *Enemy Propaganda Department* at **Crewe House** [check them out], America's from the aforementioned CPI. The verbal onslaught against the Germans was field-headquartered in Chaumont, some 200 miles east of Paris, and that against the Austro-Hungarians was headquartered in Padua, Italy, and thus often referred to as the **Padua Commission** [Wikipedia briefing]. The first leaflets rolled off the presses in September. Mock and Larson (*op. cit. inf.*) further inform us that the MIB sent seven officers to join the A.E.F. in Chaumont, and that lines of demarcation between the CPI and the MIB were agreed 23rd July. The CPI controlled the editorial line and production, and the MIB were responsible for distribution in theatre. MIB officers in Washington, meanwhile, monitored the effects of anti-American propaganda in neutral countries such as Argentina, and of Bolshevik propaganda everywhere.

... "[...] What was the good of [President Wilson's] noble war aims if the German people did not know about them? [...] There would be nothing crude about it; rather, it would be 'getting away from propaganda in the sinister sense, and substituting for it a frank campaign of education addressed to the German and Austrian troops [...]. A week later Lippmann received his commission [... together with] a letter signed by [Secretary of State **Robert**] **Lansing** designating him as an envoy of the State Department" (pp141-144).

The MIB propaganda team will sail for France 14th July. **FURTHER READING**: If following the Lippmann narrative simply stick with Steel (link above). For more on the CPI see **James R. Mock and Cedric Larson's** (1939) "**Words that Won the War**" [Amazon **AN AWESOME RESOURCE**] [sub-thread continues at 24th July 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

1918 [22nd June-15th November] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XX - Events in Ciscaucasia (Denikin's Kuban Campaign)]**: [Continued from 11th May 1918] On 22nd June 1918 **Anton Denikin's Volunteer Army** [see 10th April above], now reinforced since the debacle at [Y]Ekaterinodar, launches an offensive against Soviet forces between the Rivers Kuban and Don led by the local warlord (and "Red Cossack") General **Ivan Sorokin** [Wikipedia biography]. On 7th August Sorokin's forces are routed in the field and fall back on the Red stronghold at [Y]Ekaterinodar [sub-thread continues at 27th June 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [AMERICAN INTERFERENCE]

1918 [23rd-30th June] **The Russian Civil War [LVII - North Russian Front (Things Get Frosty in the Arctic)]**: [Continued from 1st June 1918] On 23rd June 1918 General **Maynard's** troopship [see 18th May above] arrives at Murmansk and disembarks the latest 560 troops. On 30th June Trotsky, with his suspicions as to Allied intentions confirmed by the American-White Russian takeover at Vladivostok on 28th June [see 1st-28th June above], instructs the Murmansk Soviet to cease cooperation with the bridgehead. They

refuse, and in a telegram signed jointly by Trotsky and Lenin, are declared enemies of the people (Willett, 2003). Maynard, meanwhile, duly gets to work patrolling southward ...

ASIDE - OVERSTATING THE WHITE FINNISH THREAT: There is some suspicion in the histories - not least his own memoirs (which see) - that Maynard deliberately overplayed the military threat along the border with Finland, and over-reported White Finnish numbers.

Maynard's probing advance down the railway south from Murmansk took him as far as **Kandalaksha** [\[map\]](#), 130 miles south of Murmansk, and **Kem** [\[map\]](#), 170 miles beyond that (Willett, 2003). He met few Finns, but managed to confront Red Army trains heading northward out of Petrograd, whereupon "his high-handed actions opened armed hostilities between Allies and Bolsheviks, the first real signal of the conflicts to come" (*ibid.*, k547). The more Western-minded Murmansk Soviet simply proceeds to sign their own death warrants in the eyes of the Bolsheviks by putting their names to a mutual defence agreement with the allies in the Murmansk bridgehead [sub-thread continues at 6th July 1918 ...]. **[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]**

1918 [27th June-1st July] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XXI - Events in Transcaucasia (The Battle of Goychay)]:** [Continued from 22nd June 1918] On 27th June 1918 the Ottomans' Islamic Army of the Caucasus, that is to say, Muslim contingents from their recently allied states of Georgia and Azerbaijan, alongside elements of their own Third Army, moves to engage an Armenia-Bolshevik force fighting under the flag of the pro-Moscow **Baku Commune** [see 30th March above] [sub-thread continues at 10th July 1918 ...]. **[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]**

1918 [6th July] **The Russian Civil War [LVIII - The Political Front (President Wilson Again)]:** [Continued from 23rd June 1918] On 6th July 1918 an ultra-Leftist assassin named **Jakov Blumkin** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) gains entry into the German Embassy in Moscow and murders Ambassador **Wilhelm von Mirbach** [see 28th April above]. That same day, in Washington, **President Wilson** holds strategy talks with Secretary of State **Robert Lansing**, Secretary of War **Newton Baker**, and other senior figures in his administration, at which they lay down some ground rules for the developing intervention on the Siberian Front in Russia. They agree that American forces should advance no further than the city of **Irkutsk** [\[map\]](#), but that they should arm and supply the **Czech Legion** [see 1st June above] to act as proxy beyond there. Vladivostok would be secured by a joint American-Japanese task force [sub-thread continues at 26th July 1918 ...]. **[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]**

1918 [10th July] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XXII - Events in Transcaucasia (The Ottomans Get Religion)]:** [Continued from 27th June 1918] On 10th July 1918 the Ottoman Minister of War **Enver Pasha** [see 1st June 1917] orders that his Third Army in the Transcaucasus should henceforth be redesignated as the **Caucasian Army of Islam** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), the better to attract fellow-Muslims from the indigenous people of that region. In the field, the army continues its ongoing drive eastward across Azerbaijan toward Baku [sub-thread continues at 1st August 1918 ...]. **[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS]**

1918 [13th July] **Siegfried Sassoon** [see 1915 (29th May)] is wounded when a British sentry mistakes him for a German. It is his last action in harm's way, and he will spend the remainder of the war in Britain.

******* FOCH TURNS THE TIDE EAST OF PARIS *******

1918 [15th-17th July/18th July-6th August] **Decision Time on the Western Front [I - Back to the Aisne (The Second Battle of the Marne)]:** [New sub-thread, but continuing the <German Spring Offensives> narrative] On 15th July **General Ludendorff**'s forces at the *Schwerpunkt* of the salient created seven weeks previously [see 27th May above] launch an attack on the French Fourth and Sixth Armies holding the line **Chateau-Thierry - Massiges** [\[sector map\]](#). This is however, a particularly well-prepared sector, defended in depth

and proofed against surprise attack and infiltration tactics. As a result, the Germans suffer heavy losses and call the attack off on the third day.

***** THE TIDE TURNS RIGHT HERE *****
***** THE TIDE TURNS RIGHT HERE *****
***** THE TIDE TURNS RIGHT HERE *****

It also so happens that the German attacks have coincided with an Allied build-up in this sector, with fresh French, British, American, and Italian units to hand. [General Foch](#) therefore calls an immediate counter-attack in great strength, and on and after 18th July what will become known as the **Second Battle of the Marne** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#) now rapidly unfolds. The initial Allied attacks go in hard, and on 20th July Ludendorff orders a retreat to their pre-Aisne line [sub-thread continues at 8th August 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#)

1918 [24th July] **The News as State Deception [VI - U.S. Propaganda (Lippmann Meets The Bigwigs)]:** [Continued from 21st June 1918] On 24th July 1918 the newly commissioned U.S. Army propagandist Walter Lippmann accompanies his boss Heber Blankenhorn to a high-level meeting in London of the **Inter-Allied Propaganda Commission** [see 21st June above]. The meeting is chaired at **Crewe House** [see 21st June above] by *Daily Mail* proprietor **Lord Northcliffe** [see 5th August 1914, then as directed], with *The Times'* **H. Wickham Steed** [see 29th May 1917] and the Zionist **Lord Reading** [see 2nd February 1917] also present [sub-thread continues at 7th September 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA\]](#)

***** ARCHANGELSK UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT *****

1918 [26th July-2nd August] **The Russian Civil War [LIX - North Russian Front (Poole Moves On Archangelsk)]:** [Continued from 6th July 1918] On 26th July 1918 a company of French soldiers disembarks at Murmansk. On 30th July General Poole loads every man he can spare - about 1500 in all - onto his Murmansk Flotilla and sets sail for Archangelsk (the Americans contribute 50 men but keep the *Olympia* out of it for the time being). On 2nd August, having been delayed by runnings aground, shore batteries, and sunken blockships, they approach Archangelsk to find - lo and behold - that a British black op in that city has conveniently installed a puppet government under one **Nikolai Vasilyevich [T]Chaikovsky** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#), and that they are welcomed ashore [sub-thread continues at 1st August 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [26th July-5th August] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XXIII - Events in Transcaucasia (The Centrocaspian Dictatorship)]:** [Continued from 10th July 1918] On 26th July 1918 the Bolsheviks of the **Baku Commune** [see 27th June above] are overthrown by the Azerbaijani nationalist **Centrocaspian Dictatorship** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#). They immediately put out a call to Britain's **Dunsterforce** [see 23rd April above], who are still holding off at a safe distance in Northern Persia.

LEST IT BE OVERLOOKED: At the turn of the century Baku produced more oil than the U.S., and throughout the Russian Revolution Western capitalists had been concerned that the region would be overrun by one or other of the warring sides. Hence the region's magnetic effects on where the fighting took place. [Click here for the names and dates, if needed.](#)

On 31st July the **Caucasian Army of Islam** begins its assault on the Azerbaijani lines around Baku, and Dunsterville responds by sending up some 300 men out of the 1000 or so available to him. They arrive on 5th August. **FURTHER READING:** For more on the defence of Baku see **Lionel Dunsterville's** (1920/2007) "**The Adventures of Dunsterforce**" [full text online; or hard copy from Amazon] [sub-thread continues at 15th August 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#)

1918 [29th-30th July] **The Russian Civil War [LX - The Political Front (The Romanovs Terminated)]:** [Continued from 6th July 1918] Having been in exile in Tobolsk for over a year now [see 11th March 1917], the Tsar

and his entourage have of late become a symbolic thorn in the flesh for both sides in the Civil War. His detention has caused divisions on the left between those who want him executed and those who favour exile, and he has caused divisions among monarchists as to the best strategy for getting him restored to his throne. Indeed there is presently a distinct threat of a rescue attempt being mounted by White Army forces in the region of Tobolsk, and so the Bolshevik secret police - the *Cheka* - take over security on the prison-estate on 17th July, and, on the night 29th-30th July, lead all 11 Romanovs down into the cellars of the house and shoot them [sub-thread continues at 3rd August 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [3rd-16th August] **The Russian Civil War [LXI - Siberian Front (Boots On The Ground)]:** [Continued from 29th July 1918] On 3rd August 1918 the British **25th Bn Middlesex Regiment** [Unit memoirs RECOMMENDED] disembarks at Vladivostok. They will be followed in quick succession by the **Japanese 12th Division** [Wikipedia briefing] on 12th August and the American **27th Infantry Regiment** [Wikipedia briefing], transferring in from Manila, on 16th August (Stewart, *op. cit.*) [sub-thread continues at 14th August 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [8th August] **Decision Time on the Western Front [II - The Hundred Days Offensive (The Battle of Amiens)]:** [Continued from 15th July 1918] Following **General Foch's** victory on the Marne [see 15th July above], the Allies sense that the Germans lack the reserves needed to fight off a coordinated offensive in many sectors simultaneously. The first component of what will become known as the **Hundred Days Offensive** [Wikipedia briefing] begins with the **Battle of Amiens** [Wikipedia briefing], an offensive by the British against the salient created by **Operation Michael** back in the Spring [see 21st March above]. Further attacks follow throughout August, with notable gains at **Albert** [map], **Bapaume** [map], and **Noyon** [map] [sub-thread continues at 12th September 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS]

"You will be walking on eggs loaded with dynamite" Sec. War Newton Baker

"If we do what it seems we must, in my opinion, it will be in direct violation of the non-interference directive" Science Officer Spock

1918 [14th August] **The Russian Civil War [LXII - Siberian Front (Graves Sets Sail)]:** [Continued from 3rd August 1918] On 14th August 1918 General **William S. Graves** [Wikipedia biography] and 2000 of his command set sail from San Francisco *en route* for Vladivostok in the first of several ships carrying the **American Expeditionary Force Siberia (A.E.F.S.)** [Wikipedia briefing]. Graves carries instructions from **President Wilson** not to interfere in Russian affairs, but merely to protect humanitarian stores in transit and to keep the Trans-Siberian Railway open (Willett, *op. cit.*).

[YouTube the Prime Directive Here](#)

Back stateside, the **Committee on Public Information (CPI)** [see 21st June above] is busily explaining to the American people that there is a difference between being there and poking your nose in, except when there is no difference but for whatever reason it does not matter ...

HOW OUR PAPERS REPORTED IT: Here is Lippmann again, spilling more of the beans (note that once you have diplomatically recognised a puppet regime of your choosing, you can go in to aid it without interfering) ...

"On August 22, the Allied governments issued a statement at Archangel (Times, August 26): 'The Allies, then, **were called to Russia by the only legitimate and representative authority**, for the purpose of military action in common aiming at the expulsion of the Germans and the complete suppression by force of arms of the Brest-Litovsk treaty, traitorously signed by the Bolsheviks'" (k105).

Graves' and his men will be at sea until 4th September [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [14th-25th August] **The Russian Civil War [LXIII - The Political Front (The Lockhart-Reilly Plot)]**: [Continued from preceding entry] On 14th August 1918 Britain's chief *agent-provocateur* in Moscow, **Robert Lockhart** [see 7th May above], holds a clandestine meeting with Red Latvian Colonel **Eduard Petrovich Berzin** [Wikipedia biography] of the Latvian Army ...

QUICKIE - LATVIA IN AUGUST 1918: The Courland region of Latvia [Wikipedia briefing] had been occupied by the German Army since 1915. Further territory was lost in early 1917 when the Germans took advantage of Russian disorder on the Eastern Front following the February Revolution. Many Latvians fled eastward into Russia, only to be faced with the political choice between supporting the Reds or the Whites in the ensuing Civil War. Berzin was a Colonel in a prestigious Red Latvian unit, one of whose duties was to provide many of the Kremlin Guards.

Playing perhaps upon Berzin's patriotism Lockhart persuades/bribes him to commit his command to a coup against the Bolsheviks [remember that Lockhart has the authority as a special emissary of the British War Cabinet behind him - Ed.]. The two men meet again the following day, this time with Ukrainian-White masterspy **George Rosenblum/"Sidney Reilly"** [check him out **ESSENTIAL CONTEXT**] in attendance, and large sums of money change hands. On 25th August 1918 Lockhart and Reilly attend the U.S. Consulate in Moscow for topic-unknown talks with the consul-general, **De Witt Clinton Poole, Jr.** [Spartacus Educational biography; no relation to General Frederick Poole, presently heading the Allied intervention in Archangelsk]. **FURTHER READING**: The Lockhart Plot has been much discussed in the histories, and there is no definitive version. For Lockhart's admittedly picaresque telling of the tale see his (1932) "**Memoirs of a British Agent**" [Amazon]. For recent retellings see both **Robert Service's** (2011) "**Spies & Commissars: Bolshevik Russia and the West**" [Amazon] and **Jonathan Schneer's** (2020) "**The Lockhart Plot**" [Amazon **WELL-RESEARCHED AND CONVINCING**] [sub-thread continues at 17th August 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [15th August] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XXIV - Events in Ciscaucasia (Denikin Captures [Y]Ekaterinodar)]**: [Continued from 26th July 1918] On 15th August 1918, after a three-day battle, General Denikin's Volunteer Army captures the Red city of [Y]Ekaterinodar, securing the Kuban region for the Whites [sub-thread continues at 14th September 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS]

1918 [17th August] **Hugo Koehler, Secret Agent [I - Arrival]**: [New sub-thread] One **Hugo W. Koehler** [Wikipedia biography] Lieutenant, USN, arrives **Cobh** [pronounce as "cove"; then Queenstown, British Ireland; map] as part of an American anti-submarine flotilla commanded by Captain **Arthur J. Hepburn** [Wikipedia biography]. He particularly befriends one of the other officers, socialite-in-uniform **Harold S. ["Mike"] Vandebilt** [Wikipedia biography]. More on their adventures in due course [sub-thread continues at 18th December 1918]. [THREAD = HISTORICAL CAMEOS]

1918 [17th August] **The Russian Civil War [LXIV - The Political Front (Red Cross Aid)]**: [Continued from 14th August 1918] On 17th August 1918 Trotsky telegraphs Lenin, proposing to curtail shipments of Red Cross aid on the River Volga lest their humanitarian value become overshadowed by their potential political, indeed military, value (Service, *op. cit.*) [sub-thread continues at 30th August 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [26th August-10th September] **The Spanish Flu Pandemic, 1918-1919 [II - Day by Day (The Fever Ship Tahiti)]**: The body of this entry is in the [Companion COVID Timeline](#).

***** **THE "RED TERROR" BEGINS¹** *****
***** **THE "RED TERROR" BEGINS** *****
***** **THE "RED TERROR" BEGINS** *****

1918 [30th August-3rd September] **The Russian Civil War [LXV - The Political Front ("The Red Terror" Clamp-Down)]**: [Continued from 17th August 1918] On 30th August 1918 **Moisei Uritsky**, the **Cheka's**

Commissar for Internal Affairs in the north, is assassinated by an anarchist² dissident in Petrograd. Later the same day, Lenin is seriously wounded in Moscow by another anarchist² named **Fanny Kaplan** [Wikipedia biography]. The Cheka immediately round up suspects by the bus load, including, on 31st August, the up-to-his-neck-in-it British *agent-provocateur* **Robert Lockhart**. On 3rd September 1918 *Investia* breaks the story of the Latvian Plot as smoking gun evidence of Allied bad faith, and announces a "**Red Terror**" [Wikipedia briefing] clampdown by the Cheka to rid the Revolution of the conspirators. Lockhart will not be released until 1st October, when he is spy-swapped back to London. The trial will not take place until 25th November, and is separately covered [sub-thread continues at 31st August 1917 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD][THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

¹ Not to be confused with the "Red Peril" - see 14th November below.

² Both attackers were affiliated to the **Socialist Revolutionary Party** [check them out]. We describe them here as "anarchists" rather than "Socialists" because Socialists do not conspire to murder.

1918 [30th-31st August] **Metropolitan Police Strike:** On 30th August 1918 the "underpaid, over-disciplined, and over-worked" London Police Force comes out on strike. **Lloyd George** deals with the matter personally, delivering just enough conciliation to defuse the situation, and the strike will be called off on only its second day. **FURTHER READING:** The historian **Victor Madeira** reads a lot into these events in his (2008) "**Britannia and the Bear**" [Amazon], because they reminded the British Establishment that countries which did not keep their working classes suitably sedated¹ faced going the same way that the Tsarists had gone.

¹ The Valium of choice for the British working class was then - and still is - the "bread and circuses" of old [Wikipedia briefing]. Nowadays the bread is harder to come by, so the circuses - *mutatis mutandis* - are more persuasively marketed.

1918 [1st September-31st October] **The Spanish Flu Pandemic, 1918-1919 [III - Day by Day (The Camp Pike^{AR} Outbreak)]:** The body of this entry is in the [Companion COVID Timeline](#).

1918 [4th September] **The Russian Civil War [LXVI - The Political Front (Graves Arrives in Siberia)]:** [Continued from 30th August 1918] On 4th September 1918 General Graves and his men dock at Vladivostok and set about rapidly not intervening and guarding all the packing cases they can lay their hands on. However, on 8th September his prime directive softens somewhat when he receives a telegram from the War Department informing him that - despite all the *aides memoires* to the contrary - Britain, France, Japan, and the Czechs now want to strike westward to the River Volga before winter sets in. He will be receiving detailed new orders shortly

CAMEO - HOW OUR PAPERS REPORTED IT: Contemporary press coverage gives some idea of the cover story which was going to be aired. Here is Lippman again (note that there are, indeed, German and Austro-Hungarian troops in Siberia, the Bolsheviks having opened all their old prisoner-of-war camps) ...

"On September 4, for instance, when Allied intervention had become an accomplished fact, the [NYT] published an unidentified dispatch from London declaring: 'It is reported here on what seems to be good authority that the Germans have decided to take military action in Russia against the Allies and have delivered an ultimatum to the Bolshevik government demanding free passage for their troops'."

FURTHER READING: For insights into A.E.F.S. exploits over the coming months check out the adventures of one Major **Samuel**^[born Boris] **Johnson**^[born Ignatiev] [no convenient biography but a great deal to reward the determined browser] [Sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD][THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [4th September] **The Russian Civil War [LXVII - North Russian Front (Chaplin's Archangelsk Soviet)]:** [Continued from preceding entry] On 4th September 1918, after only five weeks in the job, Chaikovsky's British puppet government in Archangelsk is ousted in its turn by local counter-revolutionary sympathiser **Georgi Ermolaevich Chaplin** [no convenient biography but much to reward the determined browser]. Chaikovsky and all but two of his Cabinet are arrested for a couple of days for having got "in

General Poole's way", and then allowed to resume their posts having promised to be more moderate. With the politicking done, the military now turn their minds to where and how to break out to the south, and their planning will be aided by the imminent arrival of a new commander-in-chief, a tried-in-the-fire Brigadier-General fresh off the Western Front, one **[Lord]**¹⁹⁴¹ **[Sir]**¹⁹³⁸ **William Ironside [1st Baron Ironside]**¹⁹⁴¹ [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) [sub-thread continues at 10th September 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [7th September] **The News as State Deception [VII - WW1 Propaganda (Lippmann Prints Flyers)]**: [Continued from 24th July 1918] On or about 7th September 1918 the **Military Intelligence Bureau** propagandist **Walter Lippmann** [see 21st June above] has his first batch of trench propaganda leaflets printed in Paris. They are to be dropped over German troop concentrations by balloon or aircraft, and are worded to encourage desertion or quick surrender in return for a decent meal and good treatment. By the end of October some five million such flyers will have been produced (Steel, 1980) [sub-thread continues at 15th September 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA\]](#)

1918 [10th September] **The Russian Civil War [LXVIII - Siberian Front (Action In The Urals)]**: [Continued from 4th September 1918] On 10th September 1918 Red Army units launch a major offensive east of the Urals against the **Czech Legion** and White Russian forces pushing forward out of deeper Siberia. Over the coming weeks the Czechs fall back to the Amur River region between Chita and Vladivostok [\[map\]](#) and are replaced in the Urals by White reinforcements [sub-thread continues at 27th September 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [12th-30th September] **Decision Time on the Western Front [III - The Hundred Days Offensive (Operations in September)]**: [Continued from 8th August 1918] Following the Allied gains north of Paris in August, the Americans launch an attack against the **St. Mihiel Salient** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), on the Meuse 20 miles south of Verdun, making impressive gains. On 26th September the axis of attack switches 20 miles to the west of Verdun in the **Meuse-Argonne Offensive** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), again to great effect. On 28th September Belgian, British, and French forces attack out of the **Ypres Salient** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#). And on 29th the British 4th Army and the French 1st Army stage a set-piece assault on the **Hindenburg Line** [\[Wikipedia briefing and map\]](#) around **St. Quentin**, successfully capturing what was until very recently regarded as impregnable. With the Western Front crumbling around them, the Germans ask for an armistice on 4th October [sub-thread continues at 8th October 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#)

1918 [14th September] **The Flip Sides of Patriotism [VII - WW1 Left vs. Right (Debs Condemns Conscription)]**: [Continued from 16th June 1918] On 14th September 1918 **Gene Debs'** trial for sedition begins in Atlanta^{GA}. Debs does not deny that what he did was - entirely by design - forbidden under the new sedition law, but challenges that law's very legitimacy. In his (1964) book "**Revolution in Seattle**" [\[Amazon\]](#) historian **Harvey O'Connor** tells the tale thus ...

"Deliberately he accepted an invitation to speak in Canton, Ohio, on June 16, 1918. [...] 'The master class has always declared the war; the subject class has always fought the battles. The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has nothing to gain and all to lose - especially their lives.' That was enough! On September 14 Debs was condemned to ten years [...] Early in 1919 the Supreme Court rejected his appeal [...] and] on April 12, 1919, the weary old man, his head held high, left for prison. The Great Red Scare had jailed its greatest victim" (pp150-151).

[Sub-thread continues at 8th October 1918 ...]

[\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 PACIFISM AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE WW1 WORKING CLASS SOLDIER\]](#)

1918 [14th September] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XXV - Events in Transcaucasia (Baku Falls to Ottomans)]**: [Continued from 15th August 1918] On 14th September 1918 the **Caucasian Army of Islam** [see

10th July above] finally captures Baku. The men of **Dunsterforce**, now some 1200 strong, destroy their vehicles and escape down the Caspian back to Enzeli by boat. It will be the Ottoman's last offensive action in the region [sub-thread continues at 19th October 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS]

1918 [15th/29th September] **Collapse of the Central Powers [I - Collapse in the Balkans (Bulgaria Surrenders)]:** [New sub-thread] On 15th September 1918 Bulgaria becomes the first of the Central Powers to call a ceasefire on the Salonika and Serbian Fronts [map]. On 29th September Bulgaria formally signs the **Armistice of Salonika** [Wikipedia briefing] [sub-thread continues at 4th October 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = POST-WW1 INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENTS AND WW2 IN THE MAKING]

1918 [15th September] **The News as State Deception [VIII - WW1 Propaganda (America Deliberately Deceived)]:** [Continued from 7th September 1918] On 15th September 1918 the **Committee on Public Information (CPI)** [see 14th August above] releases the **Sisson Documents** [see 7th May above] to the media, with malice aforethought to smear the Bolshevik administration in Russia as part of the ongoing Allied "Intervention" [see 4th September above; in fact, the word "invasion" more precisely describes what is happening - Ed.].

CAMEO - HOW OUR PAPERS REPORTED IT: On 15th September, under the [NYT] headline "Documents Prove Lenin and Trotsky Hired By Germans", the Americans release the known-to-be-faked **Sisson Documents** [see 7th May above]. Here is Lippmann again ...

"It was about this time (September 15 to 21, inclusive) that the Sisson documents were published - proving in the eyes of the {NYT} that the Bolsheviks had ruled Russia 'as German valets'. That was still the loud note in the news from Russia during these days."

[Sub-thread continues at 23rd January 1919 ...]

[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

***** A NAME TO CONJURE WITH *****
***** A NAME TO CONJURE WITH *****
***** A NAME TO CONJURE WITH *****

1918 [18th September] **The Middle Eastern Campaigns [XXXI - The Palestine Offensive (Second Armageddon)]:** [Continued from 6th March 1918] On 18th September 1918 **Allenby** launches an attack against Ottoman positions around **Megiddo** [map] in Northern Palestine ...

LEST IT BE OVERLOOKED: We introduced this place many battle deaths ago, way back in 1479BCE [check it out], as the site of the Biblical **Battle of Har Megiddo** - "First Armageddon". Hence the 1918 battle became (at Allenby's personal suggestion apparently) "Second Armageddon". At time of writing [=March 2021], "Third (and Last) Armageddon" could take place at any time.

Thanks to "concentration, surprise, and speed" the Ottoman line is quickly overrun, opening the road to Damascus [Wikipedia briefing]. It is the last set-piece battle of the war in Palestine [sub-thread continues at 30th September 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [19th-27th September] **The Overman Committee Hearings [I - Committee Convened]:** [New sub-thread] On 19th September 1918 the Senate authorises a special committee to look into the extent of pro-German activities - illegal under the **Sedition Act** [see 17th April above] - in ethnic German communities across the United States.

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: We take it as read that one's past ethnicity does not cease upon migration and changes of citizenship. Thus an Icelander [to pick on one ethnicity at random - Ed.] just emigrated to Borneo [ditto] will still sympathise with Iceland in any international confrontation. And in the United States, of course, (Native American communities excepted) everyone is an immigrant. For one example among many, [see the entry for 23rd February 1905](#) for the work of the U.S.-based **Ancient Order of Hibernians** in trans-Atlantic fund raising

for Irish republicans in their struggle for Home Rule from Britain. The Sedition Act required (and modern MAGA patriotism demands) - perhaps impossibly - that such deep-seated herd instincts be totally suppressed.

They appoint Senator **Lee Slater Overman** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) to preside over the process, and hearings of his "**Overman Committee**" [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#) begin 27th September. The Committee's terms of reference will be fundamentally extended in the New Year [\[sub-thread continues at 4th February 1919 ...\]](#). **[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]** **[THREAD = THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BANKER-CONTROLLED PATRIOTISM]**

1918 [\[27th-29th September\]](#) **The Russian Civil War [LXIX - Siberian Front (A.E.F.S. Advances to Baikal)]**: [\[Continued from 10th September 1918\]](#) On 27th September 1918 the War Department informs **General Graves** that the political will in Washington is now that no Americans should advance as far westward as the middle of nowhere (specifically, **Tomsk** [\[map\]](#)) (Willett, *op. cit.*). **Harbin** [\[map\]](#) would be fine, otherwise as far as **Baikal** [\[map\]](#) if local circumstances permitted. His primary mission remained the protection of the Trans-Siberian Railway. On 29th September his next two troopships dock at Vladivostok [\[sub-thread continues at 1st October 1918 ...\]](#). **[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]** **[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS]** **[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING]** **[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]**

******* AN HISTORICALLY DELICATE MOMENT *******

1918 [\[30th September-3rd October\]](#) **The Middle Eastern Campaigns [XXXII^{LAST} - The Palestine Offensive (The Fall of Damascus)]**: [\[Continued from 18th September 1918\]](#) [\[Read firstly the entry for the Sykes-Picot Agreement in the Companion Resource ESSENTIAL PRIOR KNOWLEDGE.\]](#) Since Allenby's historic victory at **Megiddo** [\[see 18th September\]](#), the E.E.F. has been systematically working its way northward on the roads to Damascus. **Irbid** [\[map\]](#) was taken 26th September, **Quneitra** [\[map\]](#) on 28th, and **Kiswe** [\[map\]](#) (only 15 miles short of the city) on 30th. At the same time, **Prince Feisal bin Hussein** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) and his **Sharifian Army** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#) (complete with its legendary liaison officer, **T. E. Lawrence** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#)) has been advancing along the Amman-Damascus road, taking **Deraa** [\[map\]](#) on the 27th. On 30th September 1918 Allenby risks sending a mounted unit northward into Damascus, where they meet little resistance; they then stand respectfully to one side to allow Prince Feisal's column - feeling its way north along the desert road - to play through for the ceremonial entering of the city ...

[YouTube Contemporary Newsreel](#)

Readers unfamiliar with the [Balfour Declaration](#) should brief themselves from the ten entries in the [<Zionism During WW1> sub-thread between 2nd February and 2nd November 1917, inclusive](#)

The problem now, of course, is how to explain to Prince Feisal that his Arab Legion's fight to free the Holy Land from the oppressor has not brought freedom at all, but rather the straight-jacket of the Sykes-Picot Agreement and the Balfour Declaration. More on this when we get to Versailles itself [\[end of <Middle Eastern Campaigns> sub-thread but see <Collapse of the Central Powers> from 30th October 1918 ...\]](#). **[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]** **[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS]** **[THREAD = THE ARAB-ISRAELI WARS IN THE MAKING]**

1918 [\[1st October\]](#) **The Russian Civil War [LXX - Political Front (Lockhart Spy-Swapped)]**: [\[Continued from 27th September 1918\]](#) On 1st October 1918, after lengthy murky diplomatic haggling, Lockhart is released from the VIP-cell/suite in the Kremlin to be whisked off by train to Bergen, Norway, where he will be spy-swapped for Russian diplomats coming in from London [\[sub-thread continues at 15th October 1918 ...\]](#). **[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]** **[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS]** **[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING]** **[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]**

1918 [\[3rd October\]](#) **Collapse of the Central Powers [I - Collapse in Germany (Germany Seeks An Armistice)]**: [\[New sub-thread\]](#) On 3rd October 1918 the German Embassy in Washington lets it be known that Germany would be happy to negotiate an armistice along the lines of [President Wilson's](#) vague

and wishful **Fourteen Points** [see 7th January above]. The French and British are not impressed, having never signed up to that scheme in the first place. Wilson duly sends his negotiator **Colonel House** [see [1st September 1917](#)] to Europe to seek a way forward [sub-thread continues at 21st October 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = POST-WW1 INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENTS AND WW2 IN THE MAKING]

1918 [8th October] **The Flip Sides of Patriotism [VIII - Religion and Killing (The Sergeant York Story)]:** **Alvin York** [see [5th June 1917](#)], now promoted to corporal, takes part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive [see 12th September above], and successfully leads a small detachment in silencing an enemy machine gun nest and capturing 132 prisoners ...

ASIDE/RESEARCH ISSUE: It is not easy for a squad to capture an entire company, and so we presume (unproven) that Lippmann's ongoing propaganda leafleting [see 7th September above] has been having the desired effect of eroding the enemy's will to fight.

A dramatisation of this incident will be included in the (1941) movie "**Sergeant York**" [see [Timeline 2nd July 1941](#) and [YouTube clip](#)]. By the end of the war, this former pacifist has personally killed or wounded around twenty of his fellow human beings because - in the final analysis - a preacher told him that it was fine by God that he should do so [sub-thread continues at [2nd July 1941](#) ...]. [THREAD = WW1 RECRUITMENT] [THREAD = WW1 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION] [THREAD = WW1 PACIFISM AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION]

1918 [8th October] **Decision Time on the Western Front [IV - The Hundred Days Offensive (Operations in October)]:** [Continued from 12th September 1918] Following the collapse of the Hindenburg Line [see 12th September above], and with the Germans already suing for an armistice [see 3rd October above], a further offensive is mounted 8th-10th October in the Cambrai sector [map], again to great effect. Later attacks this month take place at **Koortrijk/Courtrai** [Wikipedia briefing] on 14th October, and to secure crossings over the Rivers Lys and Escaut [Wikipedia briefing], and Selle [Wikipedia briefing] later in the month [sub-thread continues at 1st November 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS]

1918 [15th October] **The Russian Civil War [LXXI - Political Front (End Of The Terror)]:** [Continued from 1st October 1918] On 15th October 1918 *Investia* indicates that the Cheka round-ups and hit-squad reprisals which have followed the recent anarchist attacks [see 30th August above] have come to an end. The British villain in the piece - **Robert Lockhart** [ditto] - has been hostage-swapped back to London two weeks earlier (the hand-over taking place in Bergen, Norway), and show trials are being prepared for conspirators less fortunate than he [see 25th November below] [sub-thread continues at 18th October 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [18th-28th October] **The Russian Civil War [LXXII - Political Front (The Washington Declaration)]:** [Continued from 15th October 1918] On 18th October 1918 **Tomáš Masaryk** announces a Provisional Government of the **First Czechoslovak Republic** [Wikipedia briefing], followed, on 28th October, by its formal constitution in Prague. Masaryk is installed as the new nation's "President-Liberator", **Karel Kramář** [Wikipedia biography] as premier and **Milan Štefánik** [Wikipedia biography] as Minister of Defence. One of Stefanik's first duties is to set the agenda for the **Czech Legion** [see 1st June above] in Siberia, many of whose units have lately been refusing to engage with Reds (Willett, *op. cit.*) [sub-thread continues at 22nd October 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1918 [19th October] **WW1 in the Caucasus [XXVI^{LAST} - Events in Ciscaucasia (Enter Pyotr Wrangel)]:** [Continued from 14th September 1918] Some weeks previously, **General Denikin** tasked General **Pyotr Wrangel** [Wikipedia biography] with securing the "**Terek**" [Wikipedia briefing], a rich farming region north of the Caucasus Mountains [map], where hatred between Muscovite Reds and indigenous Cossack Whites is particularly intense. On 19th October Wrangel crosses the River Urup near the village of **Ubezhenkaya** [map], before moving on to capture **Stavropol** [map] on 2nd November, thereby becoming one of the rising stars in the White Russian south. Henceforth Denikin will campaign in the Dombass, Wrangel in the

Terek (only joining forces after for a last stand in the Crimea in early 1920). The Soviets in the Terek regroup as 11th Red Army in the North-West Caspian under **Mikhail Svechnikov** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) [\[end of <WW1 in the Caucasus> sub-thread\]](#); these regions are now covered as <Russian Civil War>, starting at 8th December below ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [21st-24th October] **Collapse of the Central Powers [II - Collapse in Germany (Germany Ceases Submarine Warfare)]**: [Continued from 3rd October 1918] On 21st-24th October 1918 German U-boats are ordered to cease offensive operations and return to their bases [\[sub-thread continues at 25th October 1918 ...\]](#). [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = POST-WW1 INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENTS AND WW2 IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [22nd October] **The Russian Civil War [LXXIII - South Russian Front (Ukrainian Whites Exposed)]**: [Continued from 18th October 1918] On 22nd October 1918 there begins a general withdrawal of Central Powers forces in the Ukraine [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#). This is an historically important watershed event, because it leaves the largely White Ukrainians at the mercy of the vengeful Reds to north and east. Indeed it will not be long [\[see 18th December below\]](#) before French moves into the region's Black Sea ports open up the third of the originally intended Intervention Fronts [\[see 3rd February above\]](#) [\[sub-thread continues at 1st November 1918 ...\]](#). [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [25th October] **Collapse of the Central Powers [III - Collapse in Germany (House Arrives Paris)]**: [Continued from 21st October 1918] On 25th October 1918, fresh in from Washington, Colonel House sets up a headquarters in Paris to help "sell" Wilson's Fourteen Points to France and Britain. He accordingly arranges for Lippmann - who had helped draft said Fourteen Points in the first place - to be transferred from Chaumont to advise him on the geopolitical nuances. Here is how Steel (*op. cit.*) explains what happened next ...

"For a week House argued with the British, French, and Italians over the terms of the settlement [and f]inally, on November 4 they agreed to accept a German surrender loosely linked to the Fourteen Points. The fight had been bitter. The British reserved the right to interpret 'freedom of the seas' to mean supremacy of the Royal Navy; the French insisted that the Germans pay for damage done to civilian property. But agreement had been reached, and on November 11 the Germans signed the armistice" (p150).

House and Lippmann now turn their attention to preparing for the peace conference [\[sub-thread continues at 30th October 1918 ...\]](#). [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = POST-WW1 INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENTS AND WW2 IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [30th October-7th November] **Collapse of the Central Powers [IV - Collapse in Germany (The Kiel Naval Mutiny)]**: [Continued from 25th October 1918] On 24th October 1918 **Admiral Hipper** [\[see 30th May 1916\]](#) orders the German High Seas Fleet to prepare itself for one final Death Ride against the British Grand Fleet. The order is rescinded 30th October but not before a mutiny has broken out at **Kiel** [\[map\]](#) and **Wilhelmshaven** [\[map\]](#). A sailors' council is set up and public demonstrations will last until around 7th November. A war-weary Germany watches on with interest; indeed the spirit of revolution is in the air. More on this shortly [\[sub-thread continues at next entry ...\]](#). [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = POST-WW1 INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENTS AND WW2 IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [30th October] **Collapse of the Central Powers [V - Collapse in Turkey (The Armistice of Mudros)]**: [Continued from preceding entry] On 30th October 1918 the Ottomans sign the **Armistice of Mudros** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), surrendering all garrisons outside their Turkish homeland and opening the Bosphorus. An occupation force is installed at Constantinople and, after their six weeks away, **Dunsterforce** [\[see 14th September above\]](#) immediately moves to reoccupy Baku [\[sub-thread continues at 3rd November 1918 ...\]](#). [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = POST-WW1 INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENTS AND WW2 IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [1st November or hereabouts] **The Russian Civil War [LXXIV - South Russian Front (The Black Army)]**: [Continued from 22nd October 1918] On or about 1st November 1918, in the vacuum left in the Ukraine

following the collapse of the Central Powers, a Ukrainian anarchist group named the **Nabat** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#) establishes itself in **Kharkov** [\[map\]](#) and holds its first General Assembly 12th-16th November. Being anarchists, they are anti-Establishment, and ally themselves loosely with the Bolsheviks. However, they maintain an independent presence as the "**Black Army**" [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), under General **Nestor Makhno** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#). Reds and Blacks will campaign together against the Whites for 18 months or so, but eventually Black support melts away in favour of one or other of the larger contestants [sub-thread continues at 14th November 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [1st November] **Decision Time on the Western Front [V^{LAST} - The Hundred Days Offensive (Operations in November)]**: [Continued from 8th October 1918] Following October's Allied breakthroughs along the length of the Western Front, 1st-2nd November 1918 brings a further attack at **Valenciennes** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#), followed, on 4th November, by attacks in the Cambrai-St. Quentin sector at **Guise** and **Thiérache** [\[sector map\]](#). Such actions as occur thereafter are restricted to local skirmishing. The last death in the historicised war [many more would still die because of the war, due to starvation, disease and/or wounds, or in battlefield clearance - Ed.] was an American named **Henry Gunther** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#), at one minute before the eleventh hour on 11th November [end of sub-thread]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#)

1918 [2nd November] **The Spanish Flu Pandemic, 1918-1919 [IV - Day by Day (The Macdonald, et al. Report)]**: The body of this entry is in the [Companion COVID Timeline](#).

1918 [3rd November] **Collapse of the Central Powers [VI - Austria-Hungary (The Armistice of Villa Giusti)]**: [Continued from 30th October 1918] On 3rd November 1918 the Austro-Hungarian Empire signs the **Armistice of Villa Giusti** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#) and the war in the Alps and along the Adriatic comes to an end [sub-thread continues at 7th November 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = POST-WW1 INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENTS AND WW2 IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [7th-8th November] **Collapse of the Central Powers [VII - Germany (The German Revolution Intensifies)]**: [Continued from 3rd November 1918] As reports circulate concerning the mutinies at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven, cities and provinces across Germany start to establish Workers' and Soldiers' Councils of their own, and on 7th November 1918 **King Ludwig III of Bavaria** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) abdicates. He is replaced the following day by a **People's State of Bavaria** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#) with leftist **Kurt Eisner** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) as premier. In Berlin on 9th November the Kaiser, too, is forced to stand down, and one **Friedrich Ebert** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) becomes Chancellor of a hastily declared German Republic [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#) [sub-thread continues at 8th November 1918 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = POST-WW1 INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENTS AND WW2 IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [7th November] **The Rise of Herbert Hoover [XIV - The Food Hustle, 1918 (Mission Slip)]**: [Continued from 3rd May 1917] On 7th November 1918 **President Wilson** [\[check him out\]](#) to upgrade his **U.S. Food Administration** [\[see 3rd May 1917\]](#) into an international relief and reconstruction agency for Europe. On 17th November Hoover sails for Paris, to lodge alongside those who will be attending the **Versailles Peace Conference**, and to set up a bar tab for deliveries made. **FURTHER READING**: For more of the detail see **David Burner's** (1979) "**Herbert Hoover: A Public Life**" [\[Amazon\]](#) [sub-thread continues at 4th January 1919 ...]. [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL PRACTICE AND SHARP PRACTICE\]](#)

1918 [8th November] **The Spanish Flu Pandemic, 1918-1919 [V - Day by Day (The Soper Report)]**: The body of this entry is in the [Companion COVID Timeline](#).

***** WELL THAT WAS FUN - MUST DO IT AGAIN SOME TIME ... *****
***** WELL THAT WAS FUN - MUST DO IT AGAIN SOME TIME ... *****
***** WELL THAT WAS FUN - MUST DO IT AGAIN SOME TIME ... *****

1918 [8th-11th November] **Collapse of the Central Powers [VIII^{LAST} - Germany (The Armistice of Compiègne)]**: [Continued from 7th November 1918] On 8th a German negotiating team is taken through the lines to a concealed headquarters train in the **Forest of Compiègne** [photo / directions], and detailed drafting of the Allied-German Armistice begins. At 11am three days later the Armistice - the one we still gather for each Remembrance Sunday - comes into force.

LEST IT BE OVERLOOKED: We have previously noted [see 14th December 1860 **ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND**] that there exists a school of thought which holds that the French deliberately delayed the cease fire negotiations in order to have the signing on **Martinmas** [Wikipedia briefing], an important holy day.

The last shell is fired (by the Americans at Verdun) precisely 30 seconds before H-hour, knowing that it will be in the air for precisely 29 seconds [end of <Collapse of the Central Powers> sub-thread; the German narrative now continues as <German Revolution> (at 14th December), whilst the war narrative splits between the intensifying <Russian Civil War> (next entry but one), and <Preparations for Versailles> (at 30th November 1918) ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = POST-WW1 INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENTS AND WW2 IN THE MAKING]

1918 [12th-14th November] **The (Failed) Swiss Revolution**: On 12th November 1918 Swiss leftist factions, having been at odds with their government for several weeks, down tools in a general strike. Their action is particularly well-supported in the German-speaking north of the country, but will be called off upon threats of government force in the early hours on 14th November, for a return to work on 15th. Violence flares at a few late confrontations, resulting in deaths and injuries. In early 1919 the strike's ringleaders are tried for incitement and jailed. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

***** **THE "RED PERIL" INVENTED** *****
***** **THE "RED PERIL" INVENTED** *****
***** **THE "RED PERIL" INVENTED** *****

1918 [14th November-30th December] **The Russian Civil War [LXXV - The Political Front (The Americans Invent A New Enemy)]**: [Continued from 1st November 1918] On 14th November 1918, with whole Empires falling to proletarian revolts in both Russia and Germany, the American Establishment turns its journalistic creativity to a new and urgent task - that of nipping Bolshevism in the bud before it crosses the Atlantic. The copy-writers and narrative liners do not have to look far, and simply conjure up the with-us-to-this-day **Red Peril** [Wikipedia briefing] ...

CAMEO - HOW OUR PAPERS REPORTED IT: Here is Lippmann again (who was, it will be remembered, one of America's two best-placed copy-writers in those months). Note the recurring "infection" metaphor in this time of pandemic Spanish Influenza ...

"Three days after the armistice there appeared in the [NYT] these headlines:

BOLSHEVISM IS SPREADING IN EUROPE;
ALL NEUTRAL COUNTRIES NOW
FEEL THE INFECTION

Under these headlines there appeared a dispatch from London (unidentified) declaring "The most serious question of the hour, in the opinion of some newspapers here, is how far Europe is infected with Bolshevism."

On 21st November there came a cable from Berne worrying about the Swiss General Strike ...

"The general strike here, which lasted three days, must not be considered as a mere local disturbance, but as of international interest, because it shows the extent of the mischief which the Russian Bolsheviks have already succeeded in doing [...], hoping to extend it to the neighbouring countries, Italy and France'."

On 24th November calls for "military intervention" in Russia started to appear explicitly in print. On 13th December that intervention escalated to needing to be "formidable", and on 16th "landed immediately". On 18th December the cambion was duly delivered as follows ...

"RED PERIL PICTURED AS ALARMING"

Finally, in tones still gushing from today's much slicker newsrooms, on 30th December New Yorkers are given this to ponder over their breakfast coffee ...

"MENACE TO WORLD BY REDS IS SEEN"

[Sub-thread continues at next entry ...]

[[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

"Kolchak was the spearhead of the Russian intervention" Lippmann

1918 [18th November] **The Russian Civil War [LXXVI - Siberian Front (The Americans Invent A New Ally)]**: [Continued from preceding entry] On 14th November 1918 the American Establishment starts to promote the latest White Russian *Wunderkind*, one **Alexander Kolchak** [[Wikipedia biography](#)], who had just seized power in White Siberia ...

CAMEO - HOW OUR PAPERS REPORTED IT: Here is Lippmann again ...

"[On 18th November 1918 A]n Associated Press dispatch from Vladivostok tells the story: "Through a coup on the part of the Council of Ministers of the new All-Russian government at Omsk [[Wikipedia briefing](#)]. Admiral Alexander Kolchak has become virtual dictator and commander of the All-Russian army and fleet. Two ministers [names given] who opposed Admiral Kolchak's dictatorship, have been arrested. [...]"

COUP PLEASES WASHINGTON STRONG HEAD OF SIBERIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL"

Kolchak, the American press confidently proclaimed, would be the "powerful head of the government who cannot be swayed by popular demonstration and who will work toward the reconstruction of the government with a firm hand". **FURTHER READING**: For a concise history of Siberia see Chapter VI of **George Stewart's** (1932/2009) "**The White Armies of Russia**" [[Amazon](#)] [sub-thread continues at 25th November 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

1918 [18th-26th November] **Preparations for Versailles [I - Picking Over Another Empire's Carcass (Latvia Declares Independence)]**: [[New sub-thread](#)] On 18th November 1918, with the occupying Germans now departed and eager to stake a claim in advance of the [Versailles Peace Conference](#), the Latvian provincial government proclaims its independence and nominates one **Karlis Ulmanis** [[Wikipedia biography](#)] as its first prime minister, arrangements to become effective 26th November. The honeymoon will last but a few hours [sub-thread continues at 30th November 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

1918 [25th November-3rd December] **The Russian Civil War [LXXVII - The Political Front (The Lockhart-Reilly Trial)]**: [Continued from 18th November 1918] On 25th November 1918 Russia's Supreme Revolutionary Tribunal opens its case against (in absentia) **George Rosenblum/"Sidney Reilly"** and **Robert Lockhart** [see 30th August above], and (in person) 20 assorted accomplices. The hearings will last until 3rd December, with Reilly and Lockhart being sentenced to death when detained, and one of the accessories executed [sub-thread continues at 8th December 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS](#)] [[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING](#)] [[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING](#)]

1918 [30th November] **Preparations for Versailles [II - Picking Over Another Empire's Carcass (The Act of Tilsit)]**: [Continued from 18th November 1918] On 30th November 1918, eager to stake their claim in advance of the [Versailles Peace Conference](#), a Lithuanian nationalist faction passes the **Act of Tilsit** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)], calling for the restitution of historic lands annexed in the distant past by the Prussians [sub-thread continues at 1st December 1918 ...]. [[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD](#)] [[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR](#)

BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

- 1918 [1st December] **Preparations for Versailles [III - Picking Over Another Empire's Carcass (Romanian Great Union)]**: [Continued from 30th November 1918] On 1st December 1918 the independent provinces of Transylvania, Bessarabia, and Bukovina [[Wikipedia briefing](#)] are incorporated into the Romanian Kingdom, as a reward for loyal service to the Allies during the war [sub-thread continues at 5th December 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]
- 1918 [5th December] **Preparations for Versailles [IV - Picking Over Another Empire's Carcass (Latvia Goes Back To War)]**: [Continued from 1st December 1918] On 5th December 1918, on only his tenth day in office, Latvian Prime Minister **Karlis Ulmanis** finds his country invaded by ethnic Latvian elements of the Red Army, intent on replacing the new republic with a Soviet Republic affiliated to Russia. Latvian Whites, having heard on the grapevine that General **von der Goltz** [see 26th January above] and his very capable *Baltic Division* are preparing to depart Helsinki [see 12th December below] *en route* back to Germany, and impressed by their efforts keeping the Reds at bay in Finland, duly invite him to stop off on the way home to give them a hand [sub-thread continues at 12th December 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]
- 1918 [8th December] **The Russian Civil War [LXXVIII - South Russian Front (The Caspian Flotilla Goes To War)]**: [Continued from 25th November 1918] On 8th December 1918 **HMS Zoroaster** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)], one of the armed freighters commandeered into the British Caspian Flotilla, engages shots with Bolshevik gunboats. Similar engagements will continue through the years of the South Russia Intervention, 1919-1920 [sub-thread continues at 10th December 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]
- 1918 [10th December] **The Russian Civil War [LXXIX - North Russian Front (Karelia Hots Up)]**: [Continued from 8th December 1918] On 10th December 1918 the White Finns take leave of their German allies [see 8th February above], presently embarking **von der Goltz's** [see 26th January above] *Baltic Division* at Helsinki. This leaves a tense **four-way** politico-military struggle in the disputed **Karelia Region** [[campaign map](#)], with the Red Army pushing from the south, the Allied North Russian Front from the north, the White Finns from the west, and the deliberately radicalised Karelian nationalists in the middle. The region will see a lot of action in the New Year. **FURTHER READING**: **Sir Charles Maynard** devotes the whole of Chapter XI of his (1928/2010) "**The Murmansk Venture**" [[Amazon](#)] to the situation in Karelia in the period immediately following the Armistice, if interested [sub-thread continues at 18th December 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]
- 1918 [12th December] **Preparations for Versailles [V - Picking Over Another Empire's Carcass (Allied Supreme Council of Supply and Relief)]**: [Continued from 5th December 1918] On 12th December 1918 the Allies establish the **Allied Supreme Council of Supply and Relief (ASCSR)** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)], in order to coordinate the passage of food and fuel through regions laid waste by the in-many-respects-ongoing war [sub-thread continues at 13th December 1918 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]
- 1918 [13th-14th December 1918] **Preparations for Versailles [VI^{LAST} - Picking Over Another Empire's Carcass (Wilson Arrives France)]**: [Continued from 12th December 1918] On 13th December 1918 President Wilson, and a retinue of 1300 miscellaneous cooks and bottlewashers docks in Brest, France. "They had not the slightest idea of what they were supposed to do [for] Wilson was intent on running his own show" (Steel, 1980, p151), but that does not prevent Parisians cheering them into the Place de la Concorde the following day ...

[YouTube contemporary newsreel](#)

One of the 1300 is a young diplomat named **William C. Bullitt** [\[check him out\]](#), who comes as the State Department's Chief of the Division of the Current Intelligence Summaries. This requires him "to be in constant touch with everyone who was in the American delegation, and present information to the commissioners each morning" (Bullitt, 1919, testimony to Senate Foreign Affairs Committee) [\[end of <Preparations for Versailles> sub-thread\]](#); the Latvian War of Independence will be picked up in the New Year as part of the [<Russian Civil War> ...](#). [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [\[16th-29th December\]](#) **The German Revolution [I - From Kaiser To Weimar Constitution (The Berlin Congress)]**: [\[New sub-thread\]](#), but continues Germany's post-Armistice narrative from 8th November 1918] On 16th December 1918, German Spartacist dissidents start to assemble at Berlin's *Zirkus Busch* [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#) to hold their *First General Congress of Workers' and Soldiers' Councils*. However Acting Chancellor Ebert [\[see 7th November above\]](#) has ordered that this event be prevented and government troops duly open fire at the Spartacists, killing 16 of them [\[sub-thread continues at 29th December 1918 ...\]](#). [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE WW1 WORKING CLASS SOLDIER\]](#)

1918 [\[18th December\]](#) **Hugo Koehler, Secret Agent [II - Into High Society]**: [\[Continued from 17th August 1918\]](#) No longer needed in his anti-submarine duties in Ireland, **Hugo W. Koehler** is transferred to the U.S. Navy's London headquarters where he works to Admiral **William S. Sims** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) on post-Armistice administration. He now moves rapidly into England's social elite, thanks to his friendship with socialite **Harold S. ["Mike"] Vandebilt**, whose sister is **Consuelo Spencer-Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#). The handshaking and dapper white uniform quickly gets him an invitation to spend Christmas as a guest of (German born) **Walburga, Lady Paget** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#) at "**Cranmore**" [\[believed to be Southill House, Cranmore, Somerset - Wikipedia briefing\]](#), with a shoot included at nearby **Longleat** [\[Wikipedia briefing\]](#). Here is how he describes his experiences in a letter home to his mother [\[we have included names and details to help contextualise how Koehler ends up running one of the three Allied Interventions in Russia only a few weeks into the New Year - Ed.\] ...](#)

"The party was quite a heterogenous one and included every sort of person London produces: from her two brothers-in-law, Mr. [\[Arthur\] Balfour](#) [\[check him out\]](#); of [Balfour Declaration](#) fame, no less] and **Lord [Herbert John] Gladstone** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#); lately Governor-General of the Union of South Africa], to the ambassador from the new Tcheko-Slav republic [fairly certainly **Štefan Osuský** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#)] and the Archbishop of Odessa [perhaps one **Josef Kessler** [\[Wikipedia biography\]](#), presently on the run from the Ukraine for declaring Bolshevism the Antichrist]. You can imagine it was rather a job to handle a party of thirty-seven such diverse personalities [...] One evening at dinner **James Barrie** [\[see 2nd September 1914\]](#); "Mr. Peter Pan" himself, and one of the British government's retained soft propagandists] was told to construct the most wonderful play he had ever written. He did so the following morning; in the afternoon the play was rehearsed, and in the evening it was produced in seven acts, a tremendous success. It was wonderfully clever, for most of the actors had simply to act their own characters. Mr. Balfour took the part of a Foreign Minister; Lord Gladstone took the part of a Colonial Governor [...] and I was a dashing (sic!) young naval officer. The result was a screaming farce. [...] The day after Christmas we had a great partridge shoot ..." (Capelotti, *op. cit. inf.*, p33).

FURTHER READING: For more of the detail see **Peter J. Capelotti's** (1991) "**Our Man in the Crimea**" [\[Amazon RECOMMENDED\]](#) [\[continues at 5th February 1919 ...\]](#). [\[THREAD = HISTORICAL CAMEOS\]](#)

1918 [\[18th December\]](#) **The Russian Civil War [LXXX - South Russian Front (French Intervention In The Ukraine)]**: [\[Continued from 10th December 1918\]](#) On 18th December 1918 10,000 French troops disembark at **Odessa** [\[map\]](#) as the first instalment in the Allied Intervention on the South Russia Front ...

REMINDER: This is as planned nearly a year ago [\[see 3rd February above\]](#). Note that the southern intervention is several months behind those at Murmansk-Archangelsk and Vladivostok because the Central Powers have only just withdrawn from the region.

In the New Year further arrivals will create a 90,000-strong Allied army, which fans out across the Ukraine to fight alongside General Denikin's White Russians [\[sub-thread continues at 31st December 1918 ...\]](#). [\[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD\]](#) [\[THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING\]](#) [\[THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING\]](#)

1918 [29th-30th December] **The German Revolution [II - From Kaiser To Weimar Constitution (Germany Gets A *Kommunist Partei*)]:** [Continued from 16th December 1918] On 29th December 1918, following two weeks post-massacre chaos, the old anti-war **USPD** decides that it can achieve no more in Ebert's republic, and walks out of the coalition. The following day the Spartacists rebadge themselves as the ***Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands (KPD)*** [[Wikipedia briefing](#)] [sub-thread continues at [4th January 1919](#) ...]. [**THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD**] [**THREAD = THE WW1 WORKING CLASS SOLDIER**]

1918 [31st December] **The Russian Civil War [LXXXI - Food, High Finance, and Espionage Fronts (Congress Refuses Britain A Loan)]:** [Continued from 18th December 1918] On 31st December 1918 the U.S. Congress votes down a loan to Britain, causing knock-on effects on the gastro-economic front, as Burner (1979) now explains ...

"Hoover's work was complicated by a problem that originated in his wartime role of Food Administrator [[see 3rd May 1917](#)]. Having guaranteed pork prices and being charged with enforcing the congressional price of wheat, he now had the task in Europe of disposing of huge agricultural surpluses resulting from plans to support a war lasting into 1919. On December 31, 1918, after [the loan refusal], Great Britain, desiring to recapture its foreign trade, cancelled its food orders, threatening to buy more cheaply from distant sources such as Australia and the Argentine. The other major Allies followed [but] the continued scarcity of ships necessitated purchase from Hoover in any case, and his promises to [American] farmers were soon fulfilled" (p118)

[Sub-thread continues at [1st January 1919](#) ...]

[**THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD**] [**THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING**] [**THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING**] [**THREAD = FOOD AS "HERE, DOGGY" PROPAGANDA**]

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