

I Can...

- ♦ Identify how the balance of power was influential in the outbreak of World War I
- ♦ Explain Canada's role in World War I
- ♦ Discuss how World War I impacted people from different ethnicities in Canada

War Fever



**BUSHMEN AND SAWMILL HANDS
WANTED**

**JOIN THE
224TH CANADIAN FORESTRY
BATTALION**

ALEXANDER McDOUGALL
LT. COL.

HEADQUARTERS
43 BANK ST. OTTAWA

Triple Alliance / Triple Entente



Domino Effect

- ♦ Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was killed by Serbian Nationalist group called the Black Hand
- ♦ Austria blamed Serbia for Ferdinand's death and declared war on Serbia
- ♦ Germany pledged their support for Austria Hungary
- ♦ Russia pledged their support for Serbia

Domino Effect

Germany declares war on Russia.



France pledges their support for Russia.



Germany declares war on France.



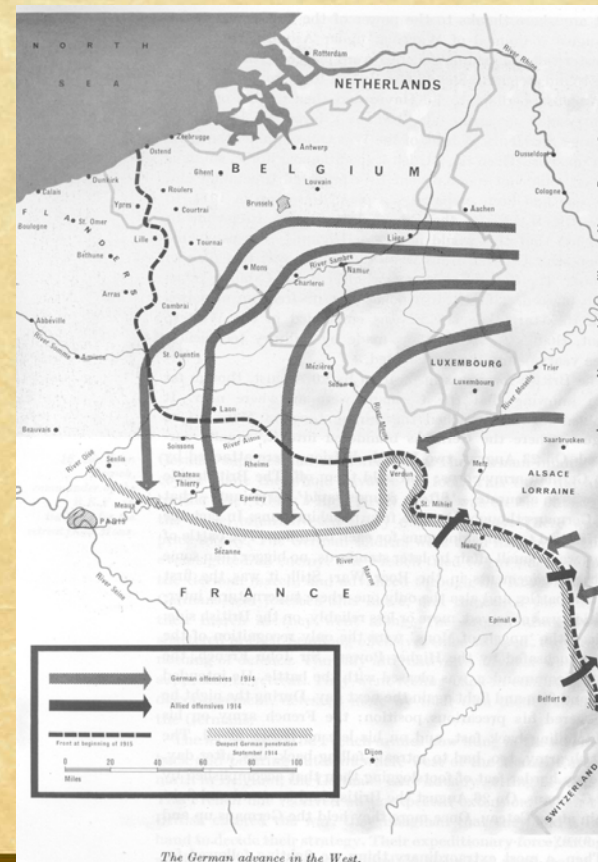
Germany invades Belgium on the way to France.



Great Britain supports Belgium and declares war on Germany.

- ♦ the Schlieffen Plan attempted to avoid a two front war
- ♦ the plan
 - ♦ Quickly knock out France by capturing Paris
 - ♦ Attack from North (Belgium and East)
 - ♦ Then turn on Russia before they can mobilize

Count Alfred von Schlieffen



Canada's Response

- ♦ Britain declares war on Triple Alliance – August 4, 1914
- ♦ Canada, as a British Dominion (colony) was automatically with Brits
- ♦ in 1914, Canada's population was 8 million,
 - ♦ over 630 000 would serve
 - ♦ 425000 overseas



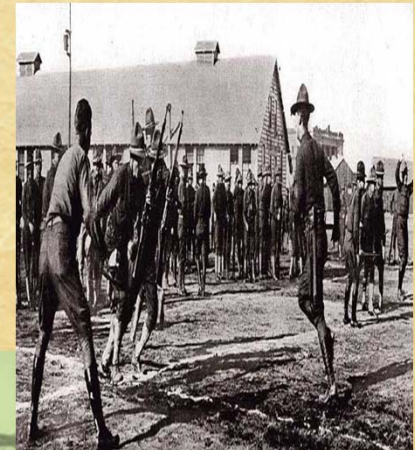
Background

- ♦ When war was declared
- ♦ a great wave of enthusiasm (imperialism, nationalism)
- ♦ seen as a glorious adventure,
 - ♦ gain honor
 - ♦ Worried war would be too short
- ♦ some people signed up because it meant a steady job
 - ♦ \$1.10/day – Private
- ♦ 30 000+ volunteers signed up in 1st month (The Canadian Expeditionary Force, CEF)



PREPARING THE TROOPS

- ♦ Nationalist sentiment grows
- ♦ wartime training centres brought diverse Canadians together and built **national identity**



- ♦ women could not serve in combat
 - ♦ only as nurses and ambulance drivers behind the front
- ♦ Forces did not want to accept Indigenous people
- ♦ Hesitant to take Japanese and African-Canadians
 - ♦ Some managed to overcome discrimination and join anyway



Canada Prepares to Defend the Empire



- ♦ Canada was ill-prepared to fight this war and Borden knew that he had to act quickly to change the situation.

♦ **War Measures Act** introduced

- ♦ **authority to do everything necessary “for the security, defence, peace, order, and welfare of Canada**
- ♦ Cabinet can bypass parliament to pass laws – rule by decree
- ♦ Gov’t could intervene directly in economy
- ♦ Could strip citizen of rights and limit the rights/freedoms of immigrants
- ♦ Mail censored

Prime
Minister
Borden





- Sam Hughes - appointed Minister of the Militia,
 - put in charge of training and the armament industry
- Awarded government contracts to friends – **profiteers**
 - *People who look to make money from war*
- criticized for the poor quality of armaments & equip
- most infamously,
 - Ross Rifle – jammed frequently
- Uniforms were substandard
 - Leather fell apart
 - boots were improperly constructed





Inside the Ross Rifle Factory, Quebec City, ca. 1900-1905

To Sir Sam Hughes and other politicians, the Ross Rifle had the advantage of being Canadian-made. However, the Ross factory in Quebec City could not withstand the severe blow of the challenge to the weapon's reliability.

The firm was expropriated by the government in the spring of 1917.

National Archives of Canada

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