

**Growing Pains Part 2**  
Canada's Role in WWI

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**Preparing for War**



- Prime Minister Borden assured Britain of Canada's full support.
- The Canadian people were behind their prime minister in his promise
  - Most English Canadians supported the war
  - Patriotic feelings towards British Empire
  - Britain controlled Canada's foreign policy (no choice but to join the war)
  - French-Canadians were not as excited.
- Parliament quickly passed a War Measures Act giving the government extraordinary powers.
- A nation wide recruiting campaign was organized by Sam Hughes, the Minister of Militia and Defence.




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**Canada's Response**

- Borden promised 25,000 troops - 30,000 volunteered in the first month
- Called "The Great War" (hmmm ...)
- Women were relegated to supporting roles (Women in armed forces acted as nurses and ambulance drivers behind front lines)
- By 1915 women were filling jobs in all of Canada's industries.
- Many Canadian women served overseas as nurses and ambulance drivers.
- There were many reforms improving the lot of women but the vote was denied to most until 1917.
- Women's groups campaigned against the use of alcohol. **PROHIBITION**

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### Canada's Response

- Armed Forces were reluctant to accept Aboriginals, African- and Japanese Canadians
- The few that did join were not promoted.



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## Canada's Response

- A large training camp was established at Valcartier, Quebec.
- Troops were armed with the questionable Ross Rifle and outfitted with equally questionable Canadian manufactured equipment.
- Over 30,000 Canadians sailed for England in late September of 1914.
- The first Canadian troops arrived at the front in February of 1915.
- These were the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)



**Ross Rifle**

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## First 10 Men to War 1914 Medicine Hat, Alberta




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## Diary of Stanley Brown- November 1917



**STANLEY BROWN**

Nov. 20 MEMORANDA  
 We left Montreal on Tuesday on S.S. Megantic. Only the 79th and some R.F.C. men went on board there. We anchored (and) went on board on the evening before. We left the docks at 5:30 A.M. and that evening about 5 P.M. we anchored near Sorel for the night.

We left Montreal on Nov. 20th Tuesday on S.S. Megantic. Only the 79th and some R.F.C (Royal Flying Corps) men went on board there. We anchored (and) went on board on the evening before. We left the docks at 5:30 A.M. and that evening about 5 P.M. we anchored near Sorel for the night.

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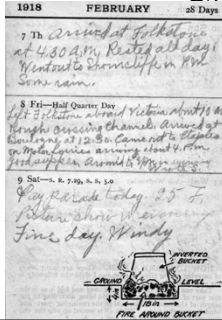
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## A Soldier's Diary - From Folkestone, England to France

Feb 8, 1918



Left Folkestone aboard Victoria about 10 A.M. Rough crossing channel. Arrived at Boulogne at 12:30. Came out to Etaples on motor lorries arriving about 4 P.M. Good supper around 7 P.M. in evening. Wrote S.

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## Canada's Response

- National identity was fostered because men of different regions of Canada worked and trained together
- Fought as an independent unit




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## War Measures Act

- Borden introduced act which allowed government to control the country's affairs
- Granted authority to do everything necessary "for the security, defense, peace, order and welfare of Canada"
- Control economy, manufacture, trade and transportation
- Could deny Canadians their civil liberties
- Arrests without charges, internment camps, deportation

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### Canada's Minister of Militia

- Sam Hughes was put in charge of the armament industry
- Ineffective administrator
- Ross Rifle, Poor Shell quality



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### Sam Hughes

- Issued \$170million in contracts
- \$5.5 million in shells were produced
- Issued contracts to friends who profited from war
- Fired in 1916 after being knighted by George V
- **The Shell Committee was marked by corruption and inefficiency and was soon replaced by the Imperial Munitions Board headed by Joseph Flavelle.**

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### War & Economy

- 1916 Canada's economy was in full swing
- Hundreds of thousands of Canadians were employed making shells, ships and airplanes
- Canadian products in demand: lumber, nickel, copper, lead, wheat and beef
- Goods became expensive
- Wages didn't increase to match rising costs

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## Contributions by Ordinary Canadians

- The Canadian Patriotic Fund collected money for soldiers' families.
- The Military Hospitals Commission set up hospitals to care for the wounded.
- The YMCA organized canteens and support services for soldiers on leave.
- The Red Cross provided humanitarian aid and kept track of wounded soldiers.

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## Families were Separated by War



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## Financing the War



- As costs increased, the Canadian government began borrowing money from citizens in order to pay for the increasing costs of the war. "Victory Bonds" were guaranteed to be repaid after the war.
- Victory bonds were offered for sale at an interest rate of 5%.
- The sale of bonds vastly exceeded expectations and raised \$500 million in 1917.
- Well-off citizens were expected to pay 3% of income.
- Businesses were taxed 4%
- Intended as a temporary measure! (hmmm)
- 18% average today



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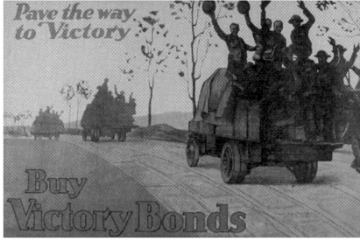
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## Victory Bonds



By 1918 the war was costing Canada over one million dollars a day. Large sums were raised through the sale of Victory Bonds.

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## Food

- The produce of Canada's agricultural industry was one her most vital contributions to the war.
- Farmers profited from the sale of wheat to war-torn France and Britain.
- Over use of soil or grain mining was to help cause the dustbowl conditions of the 1930s.



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## Enemy Aliens

- German and immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire were looked on by many Canadians with hostility and suspicion.
- In 1915 over 8,000 "enemy aliens" were interned in camps.
- The city of Berlin, Ontario was forced to change its name to Kitchener

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## Halifax Explosion

- In 1917 war came suddenly and violently to Halifax, a naval port and departure point for overseas convoys.
- Ships formed up in Bedford Basin and passed out through the the harbour narrows on their way to open sea.
- The Mont Blanc a French munitions ship collided with the Imo a Norwegian ship in the Narrows
- The resulting explosion destroyed most of the north end of Halifax and killed or injured 11,000 citizens.

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## Halifax After the Explosion



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## War Technology - Machine Guns



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### War Technology - Chemical Warfare



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### War Technology Airplanes



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1oxX4Q6ndo>



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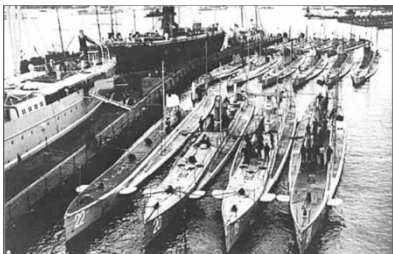
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### War Technology - Submarines



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## War Technology - Tanks



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## War Technology

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUCacptNgKM>

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## Conscription Crisis of 1917

- Quebec had supported the war in 1914 and many hoped that the war might encourage national unity.
- Recruiting in Quebec was difficult because many men married young and were often employed in labour intensive farm jobs.
- There were no separate French speaking units until late in the war.

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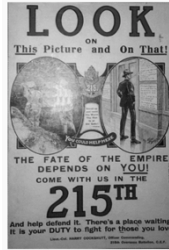
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## What was Achieved by the Military Service Act?

- 404,395 men were called up.
- 380,510 men applied for exemptions.
- 20,000 men reported for training.
- In all only 24,000 conscripted men saw service in France.




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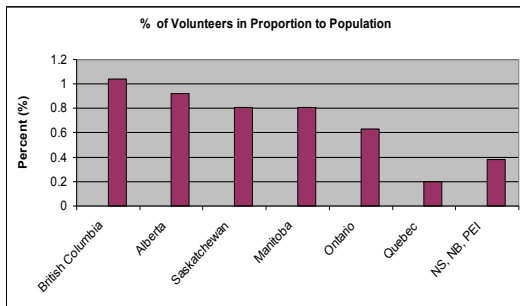
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## Source of Volunteers in Proportion to Population




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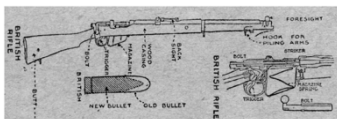
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## Native Canadians

- Nearly 4,000 of the 11,500 Native Canadians eligible for war service enlisted.
- They were much sought after for their skills as infantry and snipers.
- Johnny Norwest, a Cree sniper, personally killed 115 of the enemy before losing his own life in 1918.




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### Conscription and The Military Service Act

- Mounting casualties forced the government to introduce a conscription bill in 1917.
- All men between the ages of twenty and forty-five could now be forced to enlist.
- There was widespread opposition to the Military Service Act particularly in Quebec.
- Borden was forced to fight the election of 1917 on the issue of conscription.

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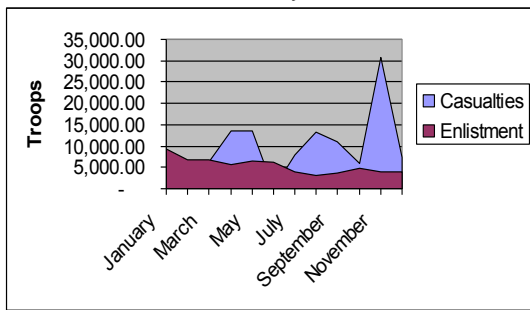
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### Casualties and Enlistments - 1917




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### The Khaki Election of 1917



- Borden entered the election with a Union Government.
- This was a coalition of Conservatives and English speaking Liberals.
- Debate on the conscription issue divided Canada.
- Borden's victory was assured by the War Time Elections Act giving votes to female relatives of soldiers and the Military Voters Act which allowed soldiers to vote outside their home ridings.

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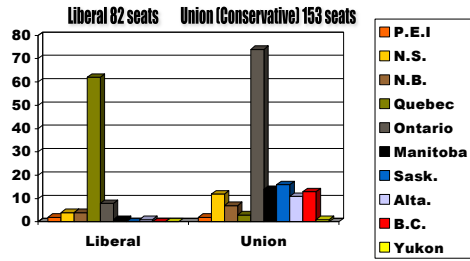
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### Results of the 1917 Election



The split in Canada on the issue of conscription was clear but Borden was free to enforce the Military Service Act.

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### Writing:

- Provide a brief definition and/or example for the following terms and ideas:
  - Mobilization (for war)
  - War Measures Act
  - Internment Camp
  - Western Front
  - War of Attrition

Trench Warfare Document/Questions - Answer Questions 1-7 (including the letter)

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