

# The Great War Diary

1914-1919



## 25th December 1914 (continued)

Sir John French orders the formation of the first two British armies on the Western Front. General Haig is to command the First Army (comprising 1st, 4th and Indian Corps), whilst General Smith-Dorrien is to command the Second Army (comprising 2nd, 3rd and 5th Corps).

Christmas 'fraternisation' episode on the Western Front.

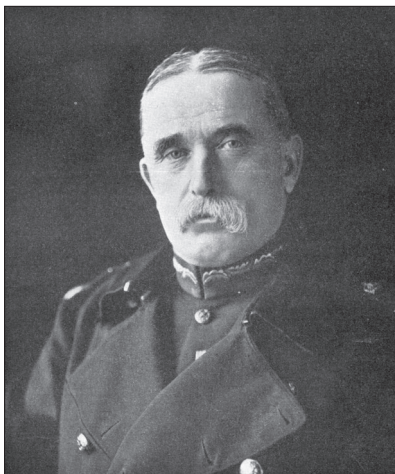
Zeppelins over Nancy.

Italians occupy Avlona in Albania.

The German offensive against Warsaw is arrested.

Russians recover the Lupkov and Dukla Passes in the Carpathians. Austrians are defeated at Tarnov in Galicia.

Turkish forces reach Khorasan - Sarikamish in Armenia.



Sir John French.

## 26th December 1914

With a severe gale in the North Sea the Grand Fleet abandons its sweep. One man is washed overboard from HMS *Caroline*. HMS *Indomitable* joins the Battle Cruiser fleet at Rosyth from duties in the Mediterranean.

Admiral Sheer is transferred from the 2nd to the 3rd German High Seas Squadron based at Wilhelmshaven. Squadron now comprises *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, *König*, *Grosser Kurfürst*, *Margraf*, *König Albert*, *Kaiser*, *Kaiserin* and the *Kronprinz*.

German air raid on Reims.

French planes bomb air ship sheds at Frescati (Metz).

French advance near Cernay, Alsace.

The Germans abandon a direct attack on Warsaw.

The Austro-German offensive in Galicia is broken.

## 27th December 1914

The British ships *Conqueror* and *Monarch* are disabled by a collision during heavy gales off Scapa Flow. Three torpedo boat destroyers also damaged and forced to dock.

HMS *Success* is wrecked off Fife Ness.

Sir John French confers with General Joffre at Chantilly.

Belgian troops near Lombaertzyde take German trenches.

French success at Carency.

St Dié (Vosges) is shelled by the Germans.

Germans are defeated at Skiernevice on the river Rawa in Poland.

## 28th December 1914

The British SS *Hemisphere* is sunk by the German AMC *Kronprinz Wilhelm*, 400 miles north east from Pernambuco.

Admiral Burney resumes command of the 1st Battle Squadron after a short illness.

