

Duma which should have met January 25, 1917, was postponed for a month and the general congress of the Union of Towns and Zemstvas (County Councils) was forbidden. This Union was one of the most valuable agents for good Government. Early in March the food question in Petrograd became serious and March 12th, 1917 the revolution began, the soldiers of the Petrograd garrison siding with the people. From the Duma was chosen a Provisional Government with Kerensky as one member. The Council of Workmen's and Soldier's Delegates or Soviet represented the more radical elements.

On March 15th, Czar Nicholas abdicated in favor of his brother, the Grand Duke Michael. The Grand Duke, however, renounced his claim and accepted the Provisional Government. Unfortunately there was among the radical party a small body known as Bolsheviks whose leader was Lenin. They taught class war and the triumph of the working class or 'proletariat' over the 'bourgeoisie' or middle class. The discipline of the army was breaking down. When in July Kerensky ordered an offensive against the offensive Austrians in Galicia, the Russian army gave way and many of the soldiers went home. In November Kerensky had to flee and the Bolsheviks took control of the government with Lenin as premier and Trotsky as minister of war. A reign of terror began in Russia and plunged the nation into such distress as no other has ever experienced.

Finland declared its independence and was preparing to set up a monarchy with a German king. The Ukraine also set up a government of its own and the other Provinces were following. The Bolsheviks concluded with the Germans the treaty of Brest-Litovsk. In the summer of 1917 the Czar and his family were assassinated.

1917

On May 5th, 1917, the French began a great attack on CHEMIN DES DAMES, the highway which tops the ridge from the vicinity of Laon toward Rheims. Within two days the whole ridge was in the hands of the French but at a terrible cost. The battle was stopped at the height of the French success and a change of French commanders was made.

Ypres From early in the war the Germans had held Messines Ridge, a height running south west from Ypres several miles. The British for a month had worked at night, honey-combing the base with galleries into which they packed dynamite. On the morning of June 7th, 1917 they blew this up. The British guns fired on the German troops behind the ridge and the British infantry went forward and dug themselves in unopposed. After this General Haig began a series of attacks which lasted during the summer and autumn of 1917 and shoved the Germans slowly off the high ground east of Ypres.

In 1916 at Courcellette, in the Somme battles tanks had been used and now they were used again in large numbers against Cambrai. On the morning of November 30th, 1917 they went forward driving the Germans to the very gates of Cambrai; but the British

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