

*Bulgaria* In October, 1915 Bulgaria entered the war on the side of the Central Powers. Serbia was soon over-run, the Allies being unable to furnish help without weakening the defense on the Western Front.

### 1916

In February, 1916, began the great German drive on VERDUN. The first attack lasted until April, and gained for the Germans considerable territory but only one of the outlying forts of Verdun, Fort Douaumont. The second attack began May 3rd and lasted until July. It was also unsuccessful.

The defense system of Verdun was similar to the 'ring fortresses' at Liege and Namur. The line of forts and batteries formed a circuit of about thirty miles. The city lies in a valley between the heights of the Meuse. To the north and east the chief hills are: Hill 304, Dead Man's Hill (LeMort Homme), the Goose's Crest, Talon Hill, Pepper Hill and the heights around the forts Douaumont and Vaux. General Petain was in charge of the defense. It was at Verdun that the expression 'They shall not pass' was first used.

On May 31st, 1916 the BATTLE OF JUTLAND, also called the battle of Horn, was fought resulting in a victory for the British. This was the first great naval battle in over a century. The fight began at 3 p. m. and lasted six hours. The Germans then sought shelter and although a running fight was kept up all night 'low visibility' prevented the British from destroying the German fleet.

**The annual convention of the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Union will be held at Charlottetown, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd of June.**

**Prominent speakers will be present to assist in making the program interesting and instructive.**

**It is hoped a large number of teachers will avail themselves of the privilege of attending this profitable convention.**

June 5th, Lord Kitchener was drowned off the Orkneys on his way to Russia.

FIRST BATTLE OF THE SOMME, July to November, 1916. The objects of this offensive on the part of the British and French was thus stated by Sir Douglas Haig: "To relieve the pressure on Verdun; to assist our Allies in the other theatres of the war by stopping any further transfer of German troops from the Western Front; and to wear down the forces opposed to us." All this was accomplished. The Germans had made some attempts to forestall this offensive by making attacks in the Ypres salient, held by the British. In March and April, 1916 there was fierce fighting at St. Eloi in which the Canadians took part. On June 2nd was fought the battle of Sanctuary Woods and the Princess Pat's and the Canadian Rifles suffered heavily.

During Easter week, 1916 a serious rebellion broke out in Ireland. It was suppressed and the leaders executed.

While the First Battle of Somme was in progress the French made a great assault on VERDUN, winning back in a few days what it had taken the Germans eight months to gain.

*Roumania and Greece* In 1917 Roumania entered the war on the side of the Allies. Greece was divided, the King, Queen and Court pro-German but one large section of the people headed by M. Venizelos was in favor of Intervention on the side of the Allies. It was hoped that an election would put M. Venizelos in power but before it could take place the Bulgarians and Germans had begun an offensive on the Saloniki front. On August 30th a revolution broke out at Saloniki and the supporters of Venizelos gained power. It was January, 1917 before the demands of the Allies were complied with and by that time the Austro-Germans and Bulgarians had over-run the most of Roumania. Russia might have saved Roumania but Russia was nearing revolution.

### 1917

On the British front fighting continued during the winter, 1916-1917. In March the British were near Bapaume. The Germans retreated to the 'Hindenburg Line' and Bapaume and Poronne were occupied by the British. But the 'Hindenburg Line' was well defended. On April 9th, 1917 the Canadians captured Vimy Ridge.

*United States* On Good Friday, April 6th, the United States declared war on Germany.

Bagdad was taken by the British March, 1917 and Jerusalem in December of the same year.

### THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

December 29th, 1916 Rasputin was assassinated by several Russian nobles. Rasputin was a most disreputable character who had great influence with the Imperial Family. Alarmed by his death the Court party tried to strike at the liberal elements. The