

# THE FRONT LINE

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FOR HISTORY MATTERS

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## VICTORY FOR WOMEN: IS THIS THE FIRST STEPS TO EQUALITY?

After a long hard struggle, the Representation of People Bill has finally been passed through Parliament allowing property-owning women over 30 the right to vote. This grants roughly 8.5million women across the country the right to vote in public elections. This a momentous occasion for the advancement of women's rights nationwide and an act that'll be remembered for generations to come.

With the first mass petition for this bill being presented over 50 years ago, it has been a long struggle for women and there is definitely a long way to go. However, through the passing of this Act, Britain has certainly come a long way and is setting a beacon of example for countries worldwide to follow in its footsteps. It reinstates the belief that women are not second class citizens, not inferior to men, and should not be subordinate to the will of man. It is a powerful statement of a progressive nation.

Women like Emmeline Pankhurst will go down in History for pioneering the woman's suffragette movement along with her daughter Sylvia Pankhurst and the late Emily Davidson who put her life on the line for equality. The sacrifices these women made to further the social platform of women and changed the very nature of the UK political system forever.

Arguably, it is the violent actions of the Suffragette movement that pushed for this reform however, the peaceful, constitutional methods of protest should not be forgotten. With their 'deeds not words' motto and notoriety for hunger strikes, the movement was guided by a collection of strong-willed, powerful women who relentlessly put their lives on the line to further the position of women in the UK.

The women's efforts throughout the war, particularly through the Women's Social and Political Union, should also be noted for their considerable contribution to furthering the position of women in the UK. The relief work undertaken by women towards the war effort is admirable and shows the strength of the nation in the face of adversity.



*Emmeline Pankhurst (above) will undoubtedly go down in history as a great feminist icon who persistently fought for justice, even in the face of harsh opposition. To the right, we see the valiant fight from British women, with this poster published in 1909*



This is a highly controversial issue with female advocates receiving numerous death threats from angered men. MPs who supported the passing of this act are also in the firing line from those who believe this is a reckless move that undermines the political stability of the country.

However, in the face of war, it is more important now than ever before- that Britain shows its unity behind this movement and uses it as a Launchpad to further wartime efforts and secure a brighter future for British men and women alike.

This is a battle for equal representation that is long from over but for now, Britain can celebrate taking the first step towards equality.

**Reporter: Devyani Patel**



# **BOLSHEVIKS OCCUPY KIEV AFTER BLOODY BATTLE**

On the 8th February 1918, the Bolsheviks under the leadership of Red Guard Commander Mikhail Murayov, finally took control of the city of Kiev after fierce clashes with Ukrainian forces. The Bolsheviks already occupy regions of Ukraine including Kharkiv, Ekaterinoslav and Poltava and have now extended their power to Kiev.

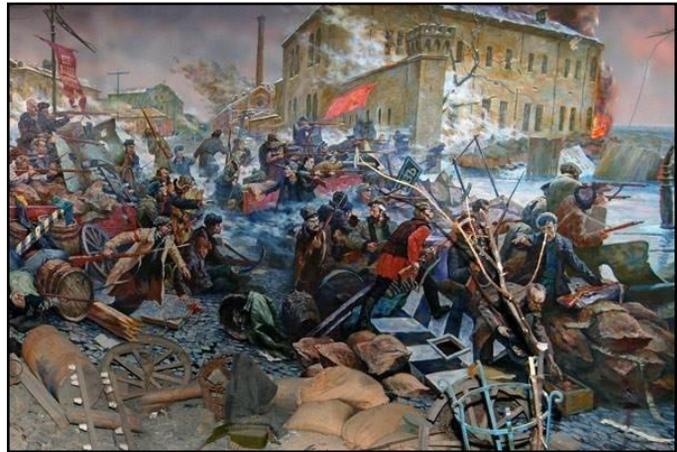
The Soviet troops first appeared in the city two days earlier following the January uprising of the pro-Bolshevik workers at the Kiev Arsenal Factory. The rebel action to disrupt the ongoing elections to the Ukrainian Constituent Assembly inadvertently diverted native troops into the city thus supporting the Red Army's progression. Despite the eventual suppression of the rebels by Ukrainian nationalist Symon Petliura and his troops, the damage had already been done as the Bolsheviks seized this opportunity to advance quickly.

After mounting pressure on the Ukrainian troops, Commander Murayov took control of the railway stations and many parts of the city. The Red Guard forces quashed the opposition, some of them declaring their neutrality or even their support for the Bolsheviks. The triumph at the battle also resulted in the evacuation of the Assembly.

This offensive seems to be a distraction by the Russians to stall the armistice with the Central Powers, as the Soviets slowly take over Germany's ally, Ukraine. As peace treaty terms with Germany seem distant amidst their turbulent relationship, the Bolshevik leaders are looking to maintain power and authority within their own state and throughout negotiations, thus targeting Kiev to expand the ever growing Soviet Empire. To keep the red flag flying in Russia, Lenin and other Officials may consider the harsher treaty terms offered to them by Germany, but this evident staling by Foreign Minister Leon Trotsky suggests that perhaps the Russians will not accept Germany's terms.

However, negotiations are set to continue, with both Germany and Russia hoping to find a deal before the end of the month.

**Reporter: Sejal Solanki**



**THE FRONT LINE REMEMBERS  
'LEST WE FORGET'**



**RALPH BEESON**

In remembrance of Ralph Beeson. He was stationed in India, as a Second Lieutenant in the Indian Army Res. On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1918, he drowned at Roorkee, age 29.

*He attended WBGs from 1899 – 1905.*

**HERBERT A. JAMES**

In remembrance of Herbert Arthur James. He was a Lance Corporal in the 5<sup>th</sup> Dorsetshire Regiment. He died on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1918, age 20. He was also wounded in July and November 1916.

*He attended WBGs from 1907 – 1908.*

**GEORGE W. EVANS**

In remembrance of George White Evans, a Corporal in the 1<sup>st</sup> Hertfordshire Regiment. He was killed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1918, age 23. He was also wounded in 1916.

*He attended WBGs from 1907 – 1910.*

*Contributor: Katherine Watson*



# THE FRONT LINE RECOMMENDS:

**Trench Weekends: Royal Warwickshire Regiment 1914-1918 Living History Group**

(WEBSITE: [www.thewarwicks1418.com](http://www.thewarwicks1418.com))

*In this activity, you will be living in the trenches at weekend events. Trench clearing, bombing, gas attacks are just a few of the wonderful activities given to get you in the real scenario of a war-like environment.*



**Women's Work 100 – Imperial war Museum, London**

*Wondering what the female experience of the First World War was across the world? Or even how it was for a woman in the workplace for the first time? This exhibition and series of talks Recognises and celebrates the working lives of women in the First World War, against the backdrop of the struggle for female suffrage. One for the budding feminists out there! Contributor: Fleur West*



# BLOODSHED IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February, the capture of Jericho occurred to the east of Jerusalem beginning the Occupation of the Jordan Valley during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign of the First World War. Almost prophesied in the Bible, this feat in Palestine was a great success for the allies in the Middle East.

Commanded by the British General Edmund Allenby, the Allied troops began the offensive on the outskirts of Jerusalem whereby they attacked 300 Ottoman positions, forcing them back to Jericho and eventually across the Jordan River. As a result, they also captured 25 prisoners and two machine guns. Despite battling adverse weather conditions and a determined enemy in the Turks, the Allies were able to move nearly 20 miles toward Jericho in just three days.

It soon became clear that the Turkish line had been broken enabling the Allies to enter the sacred city of Jericho without much opposition at about 08:00. The Turks acknowledged the fact that they had lost control of the city and therefore, chose to retreat rather than fight. Eventually, in the end, the total number of Turkish prisoners were 46.

During these three days of operation, the Royal Air Force Airplane No. 1 Squadron also played a vital role. They reported to headquarters on progress and estimates of Ottoman dispositions and strength and alongside this, they also dominated all enemy aircraft, bombing and machine-gunning Ottoman positions.

The capture of Jericho was deemed to be a victory as it's strategic importance to the allies is undeniable, as they are now in control of some of the most vital roads in the region, including the main road to the coast and the mountain highway leading to Jerusalem that reached the northern end of the Dead Sea. However, with the Great War expanding now over so many territories, many are questioning how much longer each side can continue for.

**Reporter: Saman Kashif**