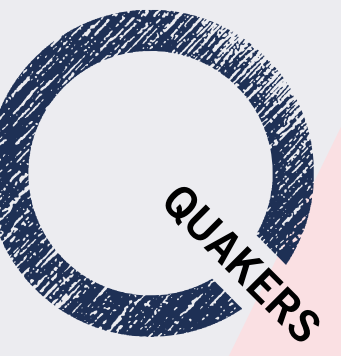


World War I timeline



A timeline of some of the activities of the Friends' Ambulance Unit and the Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee from 1914 to 1919. Some of the military and historical dates of this period are also included.



Historical and military events



Friends' Ambulance Unit (FAU)



Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee (FWVRC)

04 Aug 1914: Great Britain declares war on Germany after German troops enter Belgium.

08 Aug 1914: *To Men and Women of Goodwill in the British Empire* is released by the Religious Society of Friends and is widely published in British newspapers.



21 Aug 1914: A letter appears in *The Friend* from Philip Noel-Baker asking for volunteers to join an ambulance corps.

Early Sept 1914: The first FAU training camp takes place at Jordans, Buckinghamshire. Sixty young men are taught first aid, stretcher drill and field cookery.

06 Sept 1914: The French and British Armies face the German Army at the First Battle of the Marne. Trench warfare begins as soldiers on both sides dig in.

01 Sept 1914: The Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee reforms to undertake relief work in Europe, with administrative headquarters in London.

1914–1915

Jan 1915: The Château Elisabeth Hospital at Poperinghe is taken over by the FAU before being moved to Ferme de Rycke, Watten, in July 1915.



1915 to the Armistice: The FWVRC works in the Netherlands in camps set up for Belgian refugees and other civilians.

Early 1915: The FWVRC sets up two hospitals at Sermaize-les-Bains for war casualties and refugees.



Nov 1914: The Queen Alexandra Hospital opens at Malo-les-Bains and is staffed by eight FAU nurses.

Oct–Nov 1914: The FWVRC begins training male volunteers under Roderick Clark. It starts medical work in France, where Hilda Clark and Ruth Fry set up a maternity hospital at Châlons-sur-Marne.

31 Oct 1914: The first FAU party leaves for Dunkirk, eventually setting up its administrative headquarters at Malo-les-Bains, a seaside suburb of Dunkirk.

22 Apr 1915: The Second Battle of Ypres begins, during which the Germans first use poison gas. The FAU treats some of the casualties.



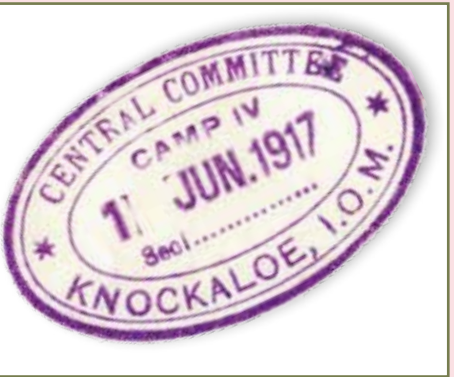
25 Apr 1915: Allied troops land at Gallipoli in Turkey and sustain heavy casualties.

May 1915: London Yearly Meeting confirms its commitment to pacifism.

23 May 1915: Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary. The Anglo-Italian Ambulance Unit is set up. FAU members work in Italy for the rest of the war.



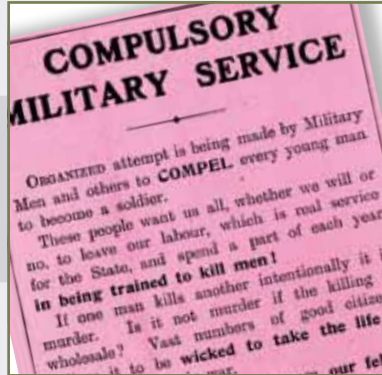
Aug 1915: Emergency Committee for the Relief of Germans, Austrians and Hungarians in Distress is appointed by Meeting for Sufferings.



1916

Early 1916: The FAU acquires two hospital ships, the *Western Australia* and *Glenart Castle*. A year later the FAU ends the service due to a conflict of principle regarding the transport of munitions.

21 Feb 1916: The Battle of Verdun begins. The longest battle of the war, it lasts ten months and results in a million casualties.



24 Jan 1916: The British parliament passes the Military Service Act, introducing conscription for the first time in British military history. The Act comes into force on 2 March 1916.

01 Jan 1916: 'Adjourned Yearly Meeting' is held to consider conscription. 450 young men attend, declaring with few exceptions that Quakers do not feel free to take any service that would assist the war effort.

12 Oct 1915: Edith Cavell, a British nursing instructor working with the Red Cross, is shot by a German firing squad. She is accused of being a spy and helping Allied soldiers escape Belgium.

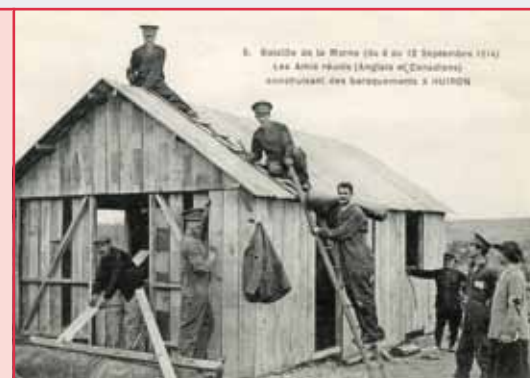
12 Sept 1915: The genocide of Armenians by the Ottoman Army begins in Turkey.

Summer 1915: The FAU sets up a hospital in England at Haxby Road in York (the recreation and dining block of the Rowntrees' factory).

Spring 1916: The FAU contributes staff to two London hospitals until 1919 – the King George Hospital on Stamford Street and the Star and Garter Home on Richmond Hill.

31 May – 01 Jun 1916: The Battle of Jutland, the major naval battle of World War I, ends with the German Fleet irreparably damaged for the rest of the war.

Spring 1916: The FWVRC opens a workshop for pre-fabricated wooden houses at Dole in the Jura. They are used to replace homes that have been destroyed.



01 Jul 1916: The Battle of the Somme begins. By the end of the first day nearly 60,000 men are dead, wounded or missing.

Aug 1916: The Military Service Act provides a sudden influx of conscientious objectors. A General Service section is started to offer them alternative training.

Sept 1916: The FAU's headquarters in Belgium are moved to the Hotel Pyl in Malo-les-Bains.



1917

Apr 1917: The FWVRC gains members from the AFSC. Together they start reconstruction of a 200 square mile area of Lorraine, near Verdun.



Apr 1917: The American Friends' Service Committee (AFSC) is founded.

06 Apr 1917: The United States of America declares war on Germany.

1917: The FWVRC sets up three centres in the Volga region of Russia in an effort to combat famine among refugees.

1917: In Pec, Serbia, the FWVRC rebuilds two villages, an orphanage, a hospital and two dispensaries.

12 Dec 1916: As the Battle of Verdun comes to a close, Germany delivers a Peace Note to the Allies suggesting compromise.

01 Dec 1916: The FAU sets up a second hospital with 80 beds at the home of Barrow and Geraldine Cadbury in Uffculme, Birmingham.

Apr 1917: Several Americans join the FAU after the United States' entry into the war.

01 May 1917: English workers call strikes, and over 250,000 engineers protest against long hours, low wages and shortages of food and fuel.

08 Jul 1917: The Women's Peace Crusade, an organisation of mainly working-class women, organises an anti-war demonstration in Glasgow, attracting 14,000 people.

31 Jul 1917: The Third Battle of Ypres, known as Passchendaele, begins. It lasts until November.

07 Nov 1917: Tsar Nicholas II of Russia abdicates as Bolsheviks overthrow the Russian government.

1918: By the end of the war there are eight hospitals in France and Belgium staffed by the FAU. 640 men work in Europe and 720 men work in Britain.

Apr 1918: The FAU treats casualties from the German advance towards Hazebrouck, part of their Spring Offensive.



1918–1919

1919: After the armistice the FAU works for another year on civilian relief and repatriation. It is laid down in 1919 but is revived in World War II.



1919 onwards: Severe deprivation exists in large parts of Europe. Quakers provide food relief for malnourished populations until 1924.

28 Jun 1919: Precisely five years after the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, the Treaty of Versailles is signed by Germany and the Allies, officially ending the war.

11 Nov 1918: At Sam Germany signs an armistice with the Allies. Hostilities cease at 11am.

09 Nov 1918: Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates and a German Republic is proclaimed.

May 1918: *Challenge to Militarism* is produced by the Friends' Service Committee. It leads to the trial of three Quakers at the Guildhall in London.