End of the Great War

The Treaty of Versailles was the peace treaty that ended WORLD WAR I. It was signed on June 28, 1919, at Versailles, near Paris, France. The treaty imposed a heavy penalty on Germany, blaming it for causing the war. It took away much German territory, and required Germany to pay costly war damages.

Canada had little voice in making the terms of the treaty. However, it was an important step for Canada in gaining full independence from Britain.

Prime Minister Robert BORDEN insisted that Canada have a place at the peace table. It was the first treaty that Britain did not sign on behalf of Canada. The two people who signed the treaty for Canada were Borden and Arthur SIFTON.

Bulgaria was the first to sign an armistice (29 September 1918).

Faced with the opening of a second front in the Austrian rear, Ludendorff and Hindenberg demanded that the government pursue a negotiated peace.

On 3 October, Germany and Austria-Hungary appealed to President Wilson for an immediate armistice.

The sailors of Germany's High Seas Fleet mutinied starting 29 October, and rebellion quickly spread throughout western Germany.

On 30 October, the Ottoman Empire capitulated.

On 4 November, the Armistice with Austria was granted to take effect at three o'clock on the afternoon. Austria and Hungary signed separate armistices following the overthrow of the Habsburg monarchy and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Following the outbreak of the German Revolution, a republic was proclaimed on 9 November, marking the end of the monarchy. The Kaiser fled the next day to the neutral Netherlands, which granted him political asylum.
On 11 November, an armistice with Germany was signed in a railroad carriage at Compiègne in France where Germans had previously dictated terms to France, ending the Franco-Prussian War in 1871.

At 1100 hours of 11-11-1918 a ceasefire came into effect and the opposing armies on the Western Front began to withdraw from their positions.

A formal state of war between the two sides persisted for another seven months until it was finally ended by the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919 with Germany.

Some war memorials date the end of the war as being when the Versailles treaty was signed, 1919; most commemorations of the war's end concentrate on the Armistice of November 11, 1918. Legally the last formal peace treaties were not signed until 1923.

Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia