

HISTORY IN THE HEADLINES. 1900-1909

1900.

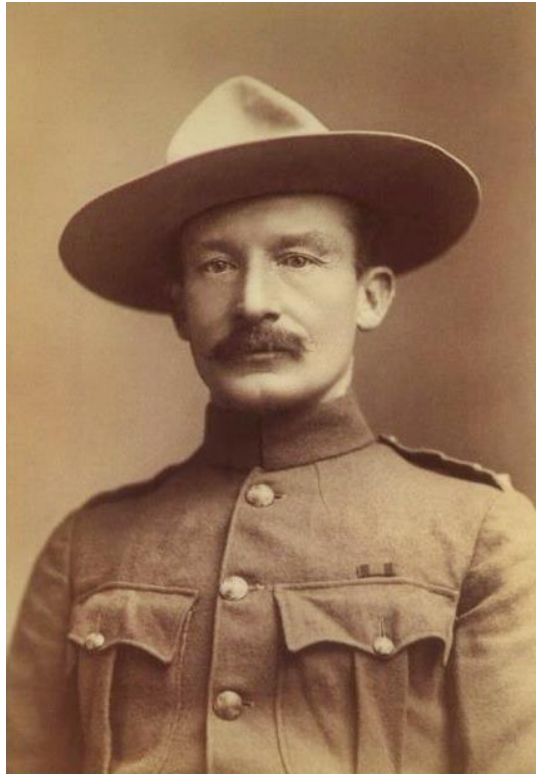
- The Siege of Mafeking was the most famous British action in the Second Boer War (1st Boer War was 1881). It took place at the town of Mahikeng (called Mafeking by the British) in South Africa over a period of 217 days, from 13th October 1899 to 16/17th May 1900.
- The Boer 'Long Tom' in action during the siege.



The (later)founder of the Boy Scout movement became a hero.

- Although heavily outnumbered, the British troops under Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, managed to survive until they were relieved.
- This was partly because of Baden-Powell's tricks.

- Baden-Powell in 1896.



Some of the tricks.

- Baden-Powell had his troops lay fake landmines and climb over imaginary barbed wire.
- To give an air of normalcy he had some of his men dress as women and walk around carrying buckets of water.
- He introduced his own currency for the duration of the siege.



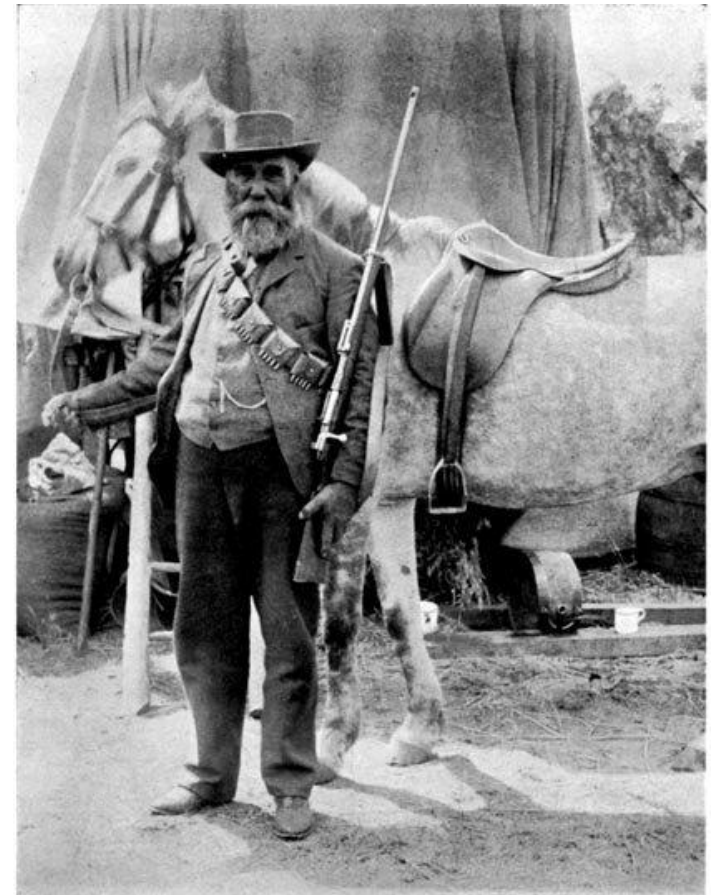
A gentleman's War?

- Sunday ceasefires were negotiated so that sports, competitions and theatrical performances could be held. Notable were the cricket matches held on a Sunday.



Spoilsport!

- Initially, the religious sensibilities of Boer General J. P. Snyman were offended, and he threatened to fire upon the players if they continued.
- The article from which this photograph came stated that Snyman was the least competent of the Boer Generals.



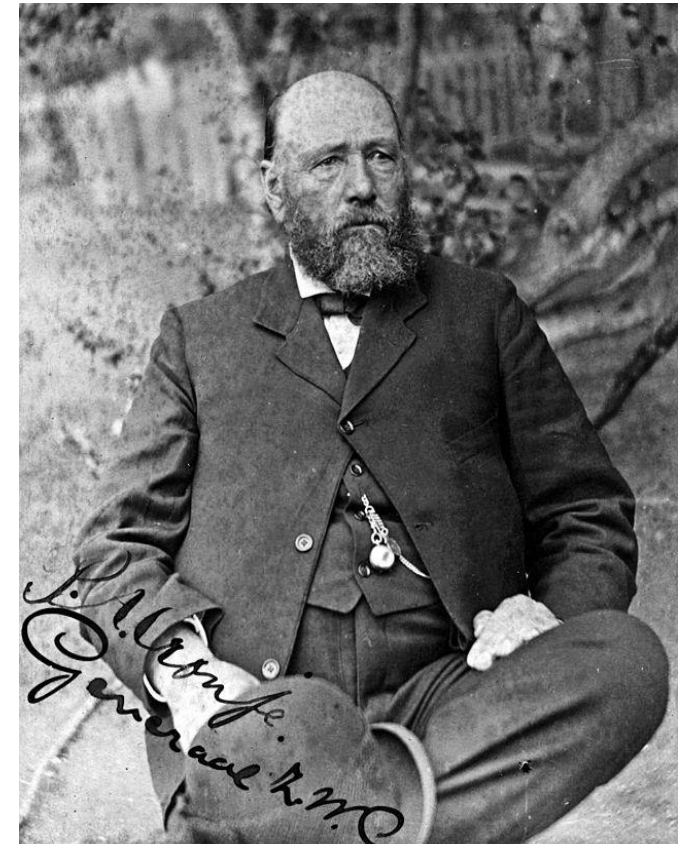
Was the invitation sincere?

- Eventually Snyman relented and even invited the British to a game. Baden-Powell replied that first he had to finish the present match, in which the score was '200 days, not out'!
- A postcard that circulated after the successful relief.



The British outnumbered.

- The siege of Mafeking lasted seven months from October 1899, when the little town was surrounded by a Boer force of some 5,000 men, Piet Cronje.
- The British garrison commanded by Colonel Robert Baden-Powell numbered about 2,000 officers and men.
- In November, Piet Cronje withdrew with two-thirds of his men, leaving the rest under Commandant J.P. Snyman to continue shelling the town and trying to starve it into surrender



An Irishman to the rescue.

- The siege was finally lifted on 17th May 1900, when British forces commanded by Colonel B T Mahon of the army of Lord Roberts relieved the town after fighting their way in.

Bryan Mahon.



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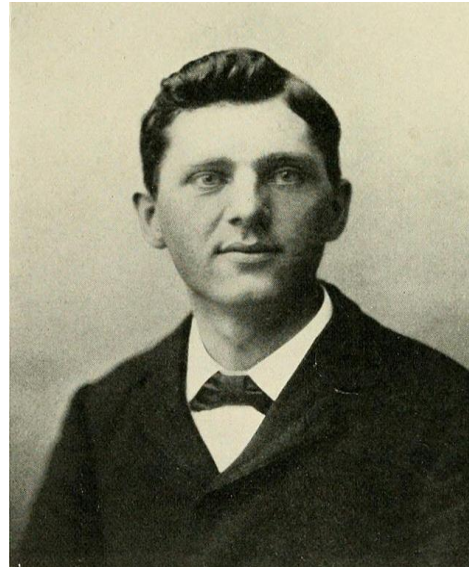
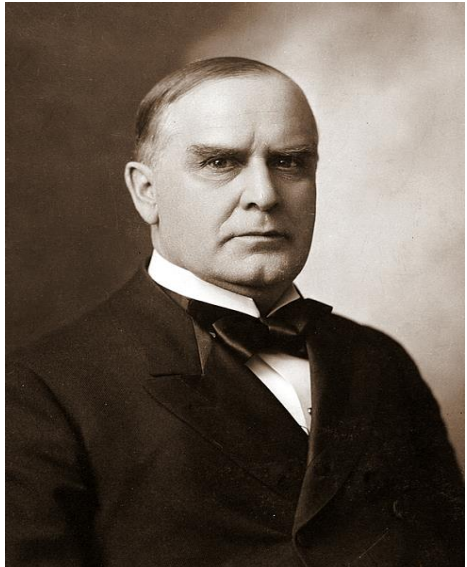
1901.

- January 22nd: Queen Victoria died.
- Her reign of 63 years and 7 months, is longer than that of any other British monarch and the longest of any female monarch in history.
- Elizabeth II will exceed that on 6/8/2015. (She acceded to the throne on 6/7/52.)
- Victoria with her spaniel Dash, 1833 Painting by George Hayter.



1901.

- September 6th: William McKinley President of the U.S. was assassinated by Leon Czolgosz (American born of Polish descent) who claimed to be an anarchist.
- Czolgosz was electrocuted in Auburn Prison on October 29, 1901, just 45 days after his victim's death.



1901.

- December 10th: the first Nobel Prizes were awarded.
- Physics Nobel Prize: William Röntgen(left) who discovered X-Rays.
- Chemistry Nobel Prize: Jacobus Henricus van 't Hoff, Jr (right) for his discoveries in chemical kinetics, chemical equilibrium, osmotic pressure, and stereochemistry.



1901.

- Physiology or Medicine Nobel Prize: Emil von Behring(left) his discovery of a diphtheria antitoxin.
- Literature Nobel Prize: René François Armand (Sully) Prudhomme (right).



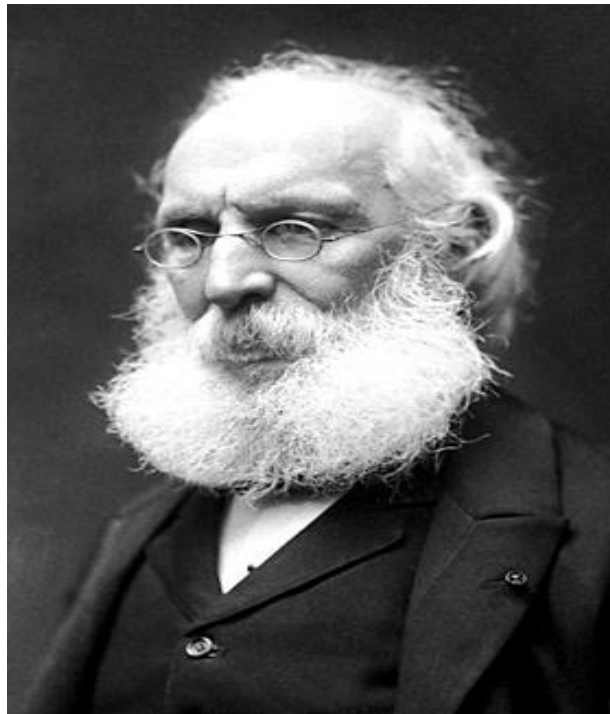
1901: John Henry Dumont was one of two recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.

- The Battle of Solferino on 24th June 1859 resulted in the victory of the allied French Army under Napoleon III and Sardinian Army under Victor Emmanuel II(King of Italy 1861) against the Austrian Army under Emperor Franz Joseph I.
- Jean Henri Dunant witnessed the horrific aftermath of the battle.
- He recorded his memories and experiences in the book *A Memory of Solferino* which inspired the creation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1863.



1901.

- The 1864 Geneva Convention was based on Dunant's ideas.
- Frédéric Passy who was a member of the International Bureau of Peace at Bern, Switzerland, shared the 1901 Nobel Peace Prize with Dunant.



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1902.

- In 1902, the newly established Australian Parliament passed the Commonwealth Franchise Act 1902, which enabled women to vote and stand for election for the federal Parliament.
- Edith Cowan (1861-1932) was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly in 1921 and was the first woman elected to any Australian Parliament.



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1903.

- Edmund Barton resigned as Prime Minister in 1903 to become a judge of the High Court of Australia, serving until his death in 1920.



February 1903.

The United States leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba.

A perpetual lease for the area around Guantánamo Bay was offered February 23, 1903.

In 1934 a new Cuban-American Treaty of Relations reaffirmed the lease at \$4,085 in U.S. dollars per year.

Since the revolution the Government of Cuba has cashed only a single cheque from the U.S.



December 1903.

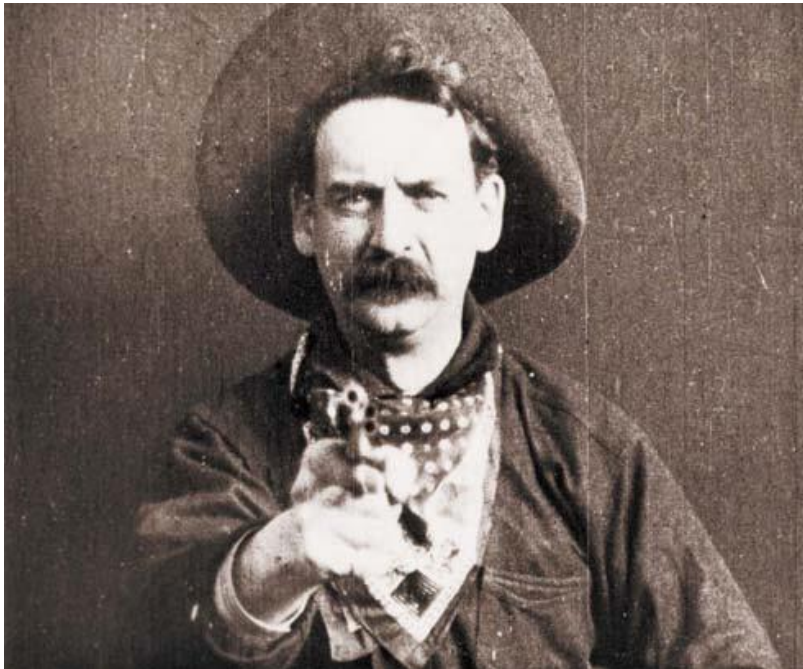
- The first silent short Western film, “The Great Train Robbery”, was released.
- It was written, produced, and directed by Edwin S. Porter.



Not on location.

- Actors in the movie included Alfred C. Abadie, Broncho Billy Anderson and Justus D. Barnes, although there were no credits. Although a Western, it was filmed in Milltown, New Jersey.

Justus D. Barnes.



Edwin S. Porter. Broncho Billy Anderson.



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The Russo-Japanese War (8th February 1904 – 5th September 1905).

- This was fought between the Russian Empire and the Empire of Japan over rival imperial ambitions in Manchuria and Korea.
- Russia sought a warm-water port (Port Arthur in China's Manchuria) on the Pacific Ocean for their navy and for maritime trade.
- The Japanese government perceived a Russian threat to its strategic interests and chose to go to war.
- Japanese infantry during the occupation of Seoul, Korea, in 1904

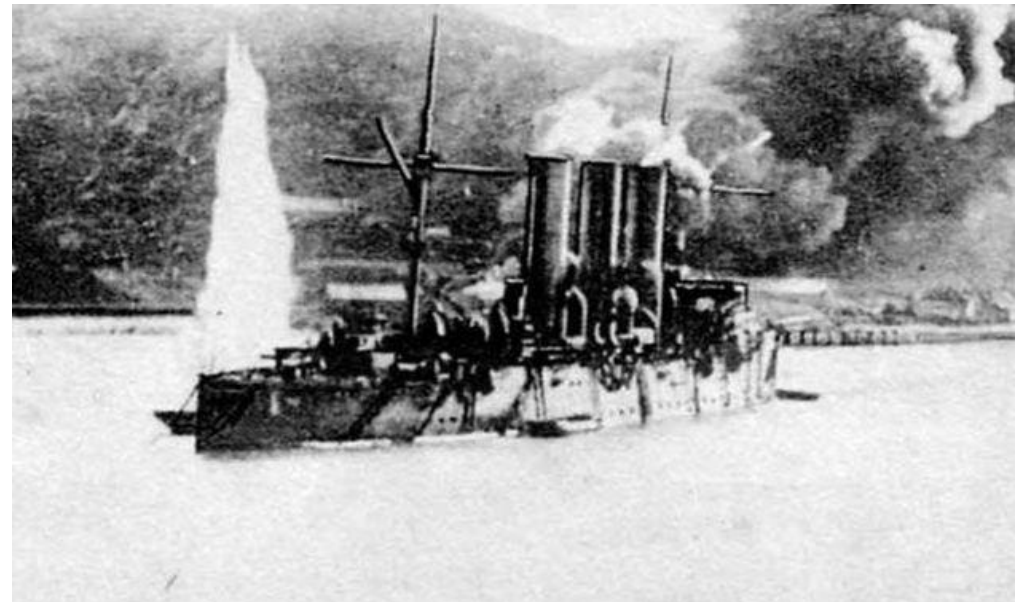


A dress rehearsal for Pearl harbour?

Japan issued a declaration of war on 8th February 1904.

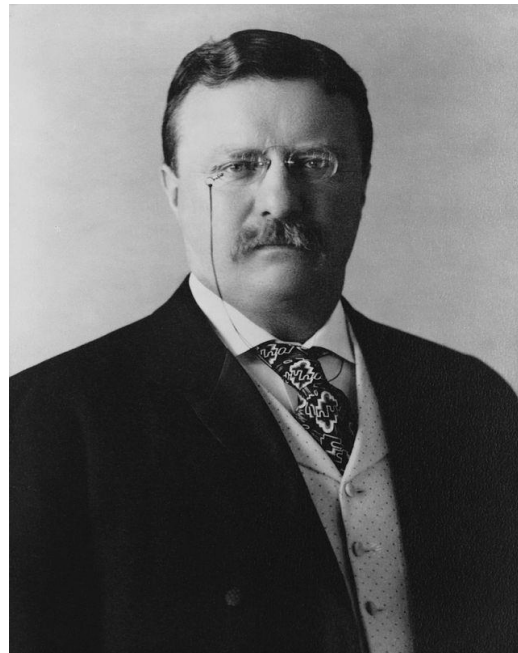
However, three hours before Japan's declaration of war was received by the Russian government, the Japanese Imperial Navy attacked the Russian Far East Fleet at Port Arthur, a naval base in Liaotung Province leased to Russia by China.

The Russian cruiser Pallada under fire at Port Arthur.



Roosevelt mediates.

- At the Treaty of Portsmouth New Hampshire 5th September 1905, mediated by Theodore Roosevelt, Russia recognized Korea as part of the Japanese sphere of influence and agreed to evacuate Manchuria.
- Roosevelt earned the Nobel Peace Prize for his effort.



Divider Slide.



1905.

- Albert Einstein publishes his Special Theory of relativity.
- Included in the theory was the famous formula that related Energy (E), mass M and the velocity of light (C): $E = MC^2$.

- Albert Einstein in 1904 (age 25).



Divider Slide.



1906.

- Finland is the first European country to give women the vote.
- Women's suffrage in Australia began in the late 19th century, beginning with South Australia in 1895 and Western Australia in 1899.
- Australia's first female political candidate, South Australian suffragette Catherine Helen Spence (1825-1910).
- South Australian women won the vote in 1895 and Spence stood for office in 1897.
- Unfortunately she wasn't elected.



Divider Slide.



July 25th 1909.

- Frenchman Louis Blériot is the first person to fly a heavier-than-air craft across a body of water, from a farm near the beach at Les Baraques, between Calais and Sangatte, to a field near Dover Castle.



A prize to be won.

- The Daily Mail newspaper had offered a £1,000 for the first successful crossing.
- The Daily Mail prize was first announced in October 1908, with a prize of £500 being offered for a flight made before the end of the year.



Scepticism.

- When 1908 passed with no serious attempt being made, the prize money was doubled to £1,000 and the offer extended to the end of 1909.
- Like some of the other prizes offered by the paper, it was widely seen as nothing more than a way to gain cheap publicity: the Paris newspaper Le Matin commenting that there was no chance of the prize being won.



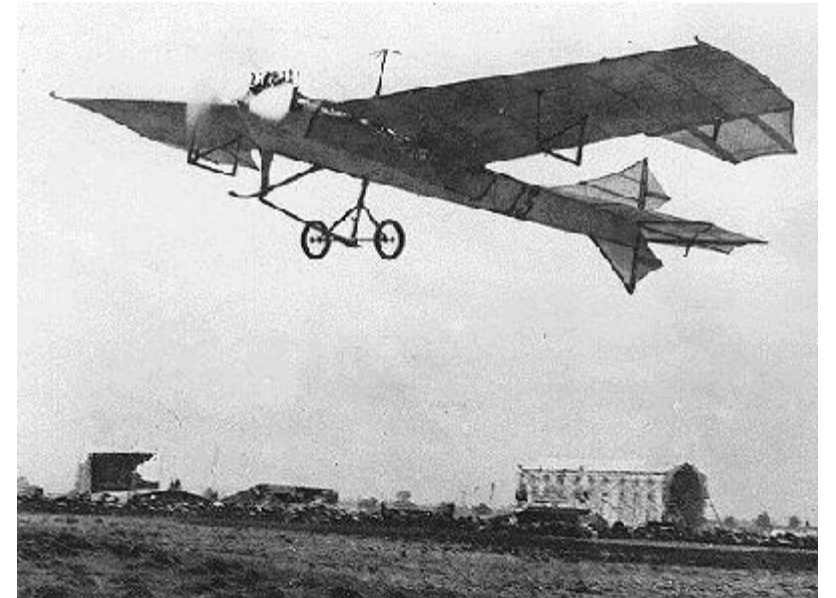
Earlier crossing.

- The English Channel had been crossed by an unmanned hydrogen balloon in 1784 and a manned crossing by Jean-Pierre Blanchard and John Jeffries followed in 1785.



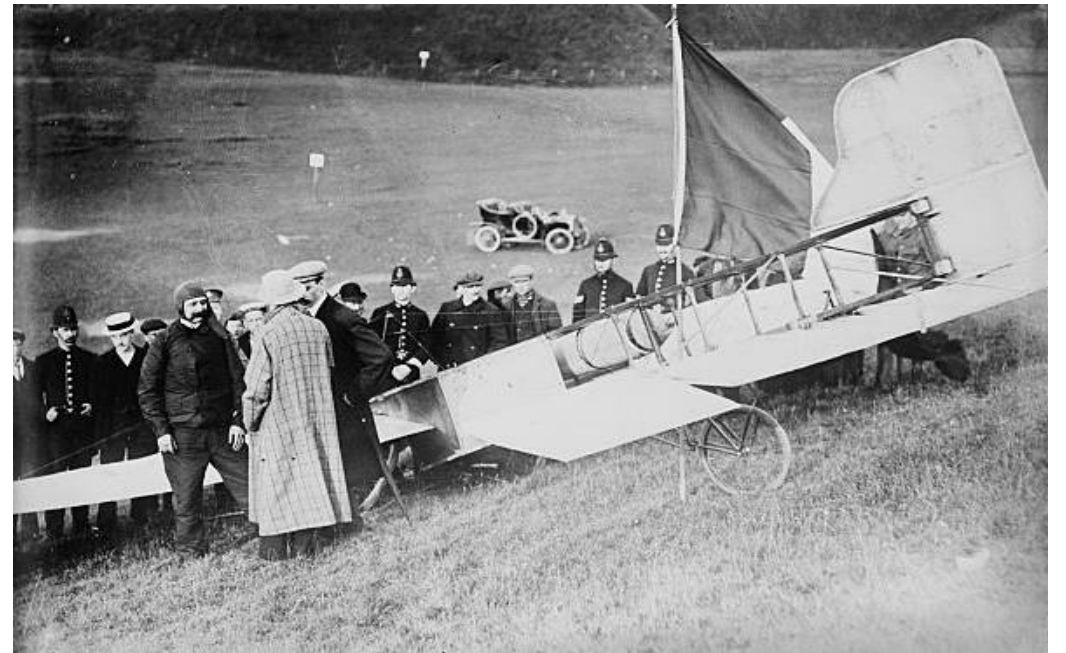
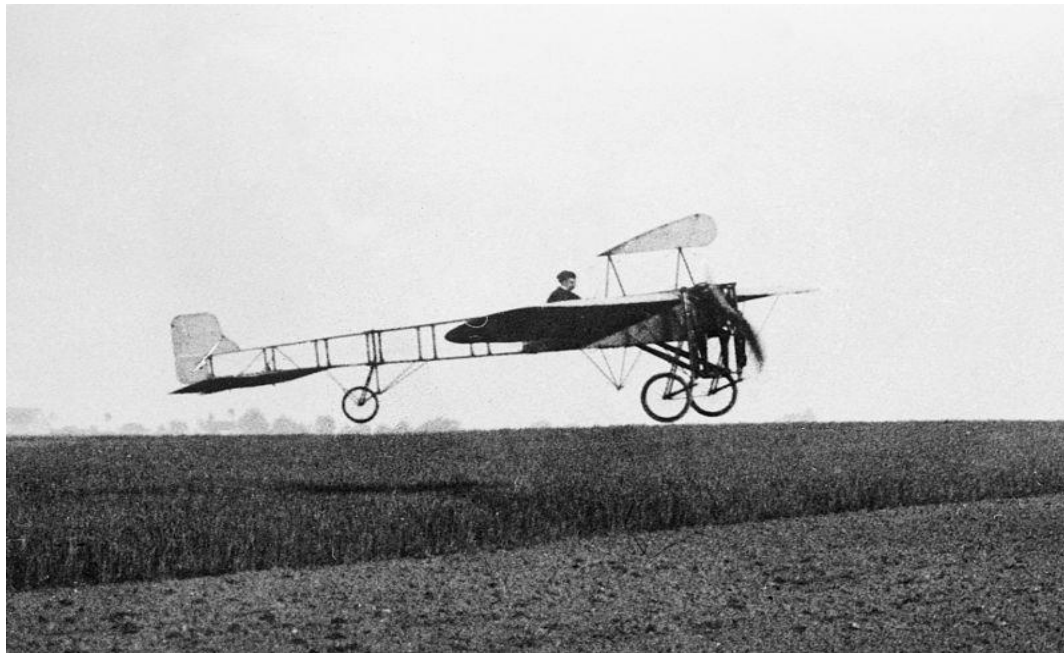
Bleriot's rivals unsuccessful

- Blériot had three rivals for the prize, Hubert Latham, Charles de Lambert, and Arthur Seymour.
- Latham made the attempt on 19th July, but 9.7 km from his destination was forced to make the world's first landing of an aircraft on the sea.
- De Lambert got as far as establishing a base at Wissant, near Calais, but Seymour did nothing beyond submitting his entry to the Daily Mail.
- Antoinette IV aircraft flown by Latham.



“Crash landing”.

- Blériot made a heavy "pancake" landing due to the gusty wind conditions; the undercarriage was damaged and one blade of the propeller was shattered, but Blériot was unhurt.
- The flight had taken 36 minutes and 30 seconds.



Divider Slide.



October 26th 1909.

- Prince Itō Hirobumi of Japan was assassinated by Korean nationalist An Jung-geun.
- Itō had been the 1st, 5th, 7th and 10th Prime Minister of Japan and Resident-general of Korea since it became a Japanese Protectorate in 1905.



Disastrous result for Korea.

- Itō's policy on Korea was to keep it as a protectorate while The Imperial Japanese Army, and others in Japan, wanted to annex it.
- The IJA forced his resignation in June 1909.
- The assassination had the opposite effect than the freedom that the assassin had wanted for Korea since it allowed the Japanese annexation to go ahead without opposition in 1910.

Prince Itō and the Crown Prince of Korea Yi Un.

