



THE LATVIAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1918 - 1920

The Latvian War of Independence began when the newly-formed Republic of Latvia was invaded by the Red Army of Soviet Russia in the November of 1918, and lasted until the signing of the Latvian-Soviet Peace Treaty on 11 August 1920

TIMELINE

1918

18 November
The Republic of Latvia proclaimed



German soldiers in Daugavpils, October 1918



The Latvian National Theatre where the independent Republic of Latvia was proclaimed on 18 November 1918

Late November
Latvia invaded by the Soviet Red Army

3 January
Provisional government leaves Riga and moves to Liepāja

5 January
First significant Latvian Army unit formed in Jelgava

16 January
Latvian Independent Battalion wins its first battle against Bolsheviks near Lielauce

29 January
Bolsheviks ejected from Skrunda, liberation of Kurzeme begins

February
Latvian Northern Brigade is formed

16 April
Pro-German forces attempt a coup in Liepāja and form a government led by Andrievs Niedra, and Latvian Provisional Government is forced to hide aboard the ship Saratov

22 May
Latvian-German force recaptures Rīga

6-23 June
A combined Latvian-Estonian force defeats the Baltic Landeswehr and Iron Division in the Battle of Cēsis

1919

3 July
Strazdumiža Armistice signed

8 July
Latvian Provisional Government returns to Rīga

10 July
After the Latvian Independent Battalion and Northern Brigade are merged, the Latvian Army is formed

Autumn
West Russian Volunteer Army, a Russian monarchist force supported by Germans, is formed in Jelgava under Colonel Pavel Bermondts

8 October
Bermondts and his army attack Rīga

11 November
Latvian Army expels Bermontians from Rīga

3 January
Joint attack by Latvian and Polish troops on Bolshevik forces in Latgale

21 January
The last Bolshevik bastion in Latgale, Rēzekne, falls

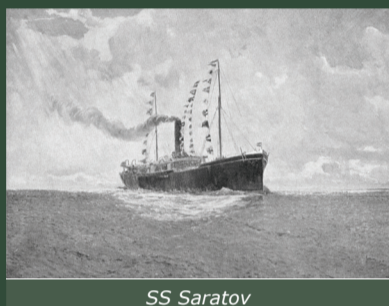
1 February
Latvia finally cleared of all enemy forces

11 August
Latvia and Soviet Russia sign Peace Treaty

1920



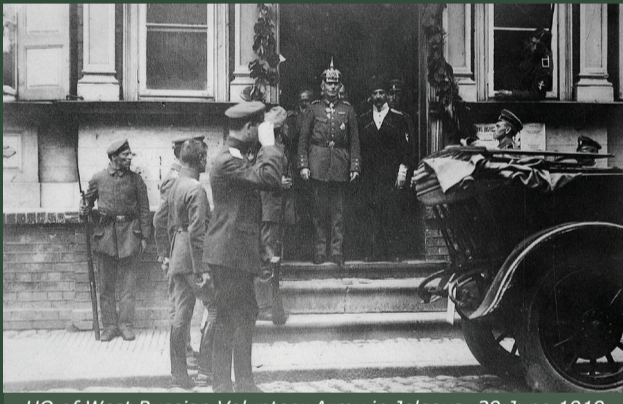
2: Cēsis Infantry Regiment, early July 1919



SS Saratov



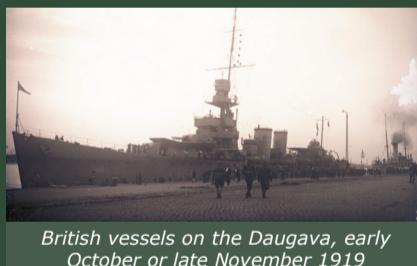
Officers welcoming the Latvian Provisional Government, Riga, 8 July 1919



HQ of West Russian Volunteer Army in Jelgava, 29 June 1919



Latvian Army Band marches the streets of Riga after expulsion of Bermontians



British vessels on the Daugava, early October or late November 1919



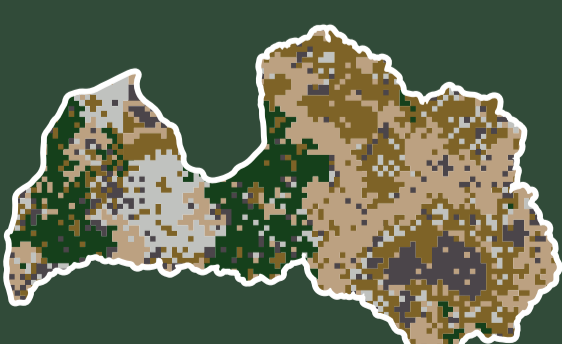
Latvian Army machine gun unit at a church in Ludza, spring 1920



Polish and Latvian officers at the Polish command post in Daugavpils, February 1920



Signing of the Latvian-Soviet Peace Treaty, Riga, 11 August 1920



WE HAVE DEFENDED, DEFEND TODAY AND WILL DEFEND LATVIA!

