

Grenadier Guards 1st World War



The Treaty of London

The Treaty of London also called the First Treaty of London was signed on 19th April 1839; the signatories were the *Concert of Europe*, the *United Kingdom of the Netherlands*, and the *Kingdom of Belgium*.

The Concert of Europe represented the European balance of power from 1815 - 1848, and again between 1871 and 1914.

The Concert of Europe was also referred to as the Congress or Vienna System after the 1st Congress of Vienna (1814-15, and was dominated by the powers of Europe: Russia, Prussia, Austria, France and Great Britain.

The more conservative members of the Concert of Europe used this system to oppose revolutionary movements, weaken the forces of nationalism, and maintain a balance of power.

The United Kingdom of the Netherlands was created following the Napoleonic Wars through the fusion of territories that had once belonged to the former Dutch Republic, Austrian Netherlands, and Prince-Bishopric of Liege.

Historically the Kingdom of Belgium was part of an area known as the Low Countries and divided into three separate governing regions: Flanders in the north, Wallonia in the south, and Brussels-Capital Region.

Under the **Treaty of London** the European powers recognized and guaranteed the neutrality and independence of Belgium, it also established the full independence of the German-speaking part of Luxembourg.

The treaty required that Belgium remained perpetually neutral, and by implication committed the signatory powers to safeguard that neutrality, in the event of its invasion.