





August 5th 1914

I love my new diary, especially its soft red cover. I'm going to write down all my plans for the future. But those plans might have to change. Father received a telegraph. Britain has declared war on Germany – on my birthday!

Prime Minister Cook said, 'When the Empire is at war, so also is Australia.'

Father and Joe were talking about the German leader, Kaiser Wilhelm II. He's invaded Belgium and Belgium is our ally, that's why we have to help. Joe also said something about Archduke Franz Ferdinand. I'm not sure who he is. It was too windy to hear properly.

I wonder if war will change things for us here on Breaksea?





Kaiser Wilhelm II



King George V



MESSAGE FROM THE KING

The Prime Minister (Mr. Cook) on Wednesday officially announced an outbreak of war between England and Germany. He added: "Australia is now at war."

From His Majesty the King the following message has been received by the Governor-General, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies:— "I desire to express to my people of the overseas dominions the appreciation and pride with which I have received the messages from their respective Governments during the last few days. These spontaneous assurances of their fullest support recall to me the generous self-sacrificing help given by them in the past to the mother country. I shall be strengthened in the discharge of the great responsibilities which rest upon me by the confident belief that in this time of trial my Empire will stand united, calm and resolute and trusting in God."

Mr Cook

— he has a kind face, I think.

