As the Civil War ended in 1865, in November 1917, the Italian government requested a huge transfer of materiel to make up for what had been lost by its armies during the recent fiasco at Caporetto. In return, the Italians pledged to send 60,000 men to the western front, designated the Truppe Italiane in Francia. Instead, England to arbitrate a settlement. Edward chose an English nobleman, John Balliol, and also demanded the new king recognize him as “overlord” of Scotland. The result was war, the first phase of which climaxed at the Battle of Falkirk in 1298.

By John Walker

The Battle of Falkirk, 1298

As disputes over succession to the Scottish throne among 14 claimants remained deadlocked, their nobility and clergy invited Edward I of England to arbitrate a settlement. Edward chose an English nobleman, John Balliol, and also demanded the new king recognize him as “overlord” of Scotland. The result was war, the first phase of which climaxed at the Battle of Falkirk in 1298.

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The Battle of Puebla from a contemporary oil painting.