The First Documentation of Lytic Activity
1896 – Ernest Hankin
- English bacteriologist working in India studying Cholera and other diseases.
- Published paper describing a marked antiseptic action against *Vibrio cholerae* in the waters of rivers in India.
- Arguably the first documentation of lytic phage activity.

The First Documentation of Phages
1915 – Frederick Twort
- English bacteriologist who discovered bacteriolytic agents, but did not identify these agents as phages, and instead thought they were enzymatic. “May it be a cultivable enzyme?” – Frederick Twort
- Published his discovery in *The Lancet* then joined the Army Medical Corps.
- Abandoned his pursuit of phages, and his work was largely ignored or forgotten.

The First Discoverer (or Co-?) of Phage
1917 – Felix d’Herrelle
- French-Canadian citizen – Independent of Twort, he discovered “an invisible antagonistic microbe of the dysentry bacillus”.
- On Sept. 3rd 1917 published his landmark paper “The Bacteriophage”.
  “Bacteria are susceptible to infection and are hosts to ultramicroscopic, filter-passing agents, named Bacteriophages – eaters of bacteria”.
  – Felix d’Herrelle

The Fundamental Experiment
- A fecal sample was taken daily from an adult patient suffering dysentery.
- Feces were inoculated into broth, cultivated, and filtered through a Chamberland filter.
- Successive passages of the filtrate were inoculated to a culture of *Shiga bacilli*
- Instead of losing potency, it increased in lytic capacity.

The Birth of Phage Therapy
1919 – Felix d’Herrelle
- Isolated plaques from chicken feces, then successfully treated a plaque of chicken typhus
- After this successful experiment, tested the first ever application of phages on a human patient in 1919. The patient was healed of dysentery using phage plaques and Phage Therapy was born.