

Historical Officers Report

Events of the Great War as reported in the Camden News
Cables from the European War. August 1918

1st August

Patrol encounters and raids are frequent on the British section of the Western Front. English, Australian, Canadian, and New Zealand troops are participating.

Advices from Constantinople state that relations between Germany and Turkey have been severed. This action is stated to have been brought about by the German demand that Turkey should hand over her navy.

As a result of the German retreat on Saturday the French re-occupied 20 villages and several important forests. The Allies are in pursuit of the Germans between the Onreque and the Marne. The resistance is breaking down.

The greater portion of the Alamo salient has been retaken by the French, and the Allies pressed forward on all sides. The enemy losses are said to be unprecedented.

8th August

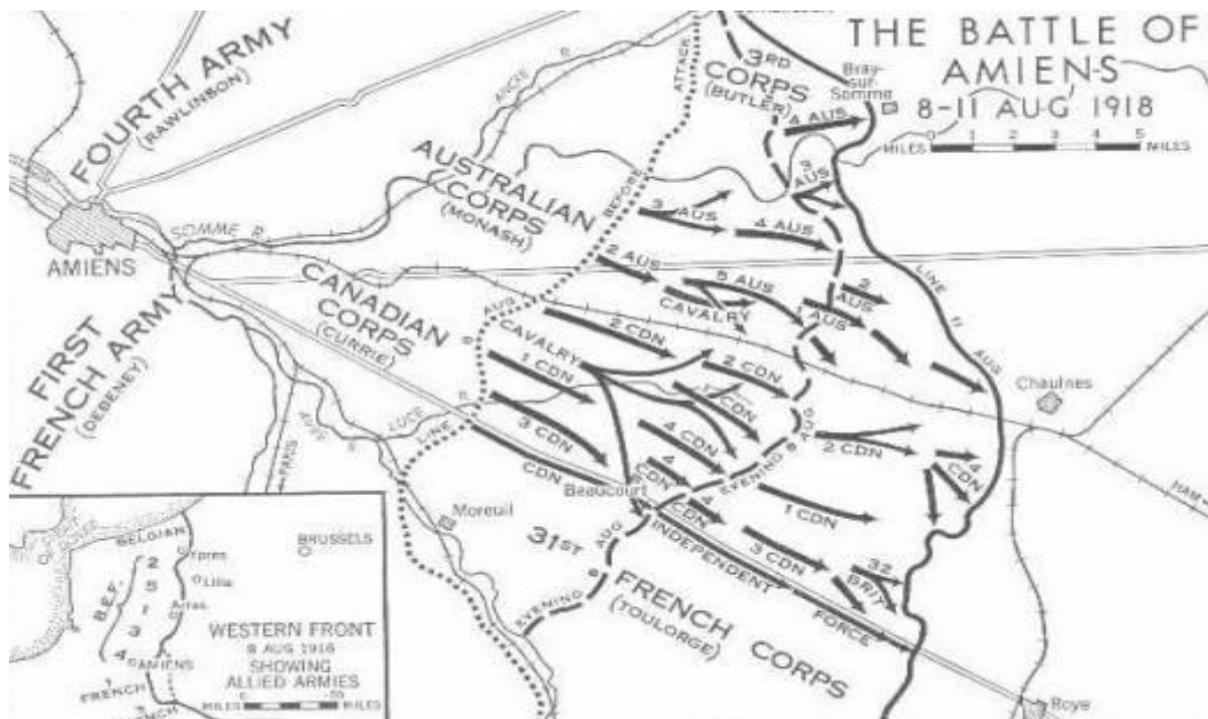
The hospital ship, Warilda, formerly in the Australian trade, was torpedoed and sunk in the English Channel on Saturday night. The vessel was carrying between 600 and 700 wounded men. 123 men are missing, including seven of the crew. The outrage is described as among the worst that the Germans have committed on the Red Cross. The Australian members of the crew were all saved. In addition to the wounded, men there was a full medical complement, including a number of women. The commandant of the, latter was killed.

It was reported on Saturday that the Allies attacked on a ten-mile front four miles south, of Soissons, and wiped out a considerable salient.

Fismes is in the hands of the Americans, who took the town by assault, and now hold the south bank of the Vasse.

Soissons has been captured and the French have reached the Aisne east of Soissons. There was a big haul of prisoners. After the capture of Soissons the enemy retreat became general.

8th August Battle of Amiens Begins



9th August PTE Robert Mathew Beatham VC at Amiens



12th August SGT Percy Clyde Statton VC at Proyart

15th August

A strong and effective Franco-British attack on the Western front east and south-east of Amiens was launched at dawn on Thursday last. All Sir Douglas Haig's first objectives were secured, and several important villages were reached. Hundreds of tanks led the attack, which followed a three minute's bombardment surprising the Germans. The drive continued on

Friday and Saturday and met with remarkable success. On a 16 mile front on Saturday the French penetrated four miles. The Australians were most successful in their attacks, and with the British preceded by cavalry and tanks, were on Friday at 3 p.m. ten miles from the starting point. The American and the Canadian troops also participated in the advance. The capture of prisoners and guns was remarkable; the majority of the early batch of 17,000 prisoners was taken by the Australians and Canadians.

Chaulnes was captured by the Australians and Canadians after a desperate struggle. The prisoners taken numbered 30,000, and the guns captured totalled 600.

The Australian and Canadian advance is reported to be a record for any single day during the war. There is no notable change on the Australian, Canadian and British fronts. The maximum depth of the Allied infantry's penetration is 13 miles, the average in depth being between nine and ten miles.

16th August: Australian Flying Corps Squadrons in raid on Somme



18th August LT. William Donovan Joynt VC

At Herleville Wood, France



18th August LT. Lawrence Dominic McCarthy VC
At Madam Wood, France.

22nd August

The great battle on the West front continues with the Allies still making progress slowly. British troops on Saturday repulsed a strong counter-attack at Damery, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. Substantial progress has been made in the direction of Fresnoy les Roy and Fransart. The Germans admit that south of Thiescourt the Allies captured Attiche Farm.

Sir Douglas Haig declares we have progressed north of Roye Road and north of the Ancro. The British have also advanced north of Lihons. West of Roye the French continue to press back the enemy, despite determined resistance.

Aviation reports for last week indicate that the enemy lost 339 planes and the British 123.

Various indications, confirmed by aerial observations, suggest that the Germans are preparing an important retirement in Flanders. There is positive proof that the July counter-offensive completely upset German plans for an attack on a vast scale at Ypres.



27th August LCPL. Bernard Sidney Gordon VC at Bray,
France.



31st August SGT George Cartwright VC at Road Wood, France.

31st August, Battle of Mont St Quentin begins



Gunner Arthur Clifford Pain
Killed in Action, 8th August 1918, France



Private Edward Horace Huggett
Wounded in Action, 12th June 1917, Belgium
Killed in Action, 10th August 1918, France

Private Milton Newton

Killed in Action, 13th August 1918, France



Private Cecil Herbert Clark

Killed in Action, 15th August 1918, Villers-Bretonneaux, France

Private Frank Claude Kenniff

Died of Disease, 23rd August 1918, Port Said, Egypt



Private Harold Lancelot Stevens

Killed in Action, 23rd August 1918, Proyart, France

Private William Henry Ellis

Killed in Action, 31st August 1918, France

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer