

Historical Officers Report

Events of the Great War as reported in the Camden News
Cables from the European War. December 1917

6th December

Sir Douglas Haig reports that the British withdrew unmolested on Saturday from a sharp salient formed by the Masnlere operations. Ten hostile attacks on this front launched within 24 hours were completely repulsed.

Fighting occurred in and around Gonnelleu and the British broke up attacks in the neighbourhood of Lavacqueric and Bourlon.

Mr. Philip Gibbs supplies further details of the Fighting particularly the enemy's counter-attacks at Cambrai. He says that our advance towards Cambrai tempted the enemy to retaliate heavily for the blow dealt him. Referring to the southern portion of the attack he says that it was certainly a menace to the fruits of our recent victory until the infantry and tanks-drove back the enemy. "Unfortunately the enemy captured some of our guns, which were very far forward, but most of them were recovered after being in his hands some hours." In a later despatch he says, "More Germans were killed than ever before in the same time. It was a massacre. A great number of our guns were recaptured at Gonnelleu, where 300 prisoners were taken."

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports that the enemy has resumed his offensive in the Cambrai sector with great violence. The British positions were maintained everywhere except at La Vac Querie and eastward of Mareoing, where the line has been slightly withdrawn. The enemy broke through at one point southward of Mareoing but an immediate counter-attack restored the situation.

9th December 1917

Jerusalem occupied by the Desert Mounted Corps



13th December

It is officially announced from Palestine that General Allenby has occupied Hebron, 16 miles south-west of Jerusalem. An official message says that the

Turks have been forced back to the last line they can occupy west of Jerusalem, on the hills surrounding the city. On December 8 we attacked positions west and south of Jerusalem. Welsh and Home County troops, advancing from Bethlehem, drove back the enemy, and, passing eastward of Jerusalem, established themselves on the Jericho Road. Simultaneously the London Infantry and dismounted Yeomanry attacked strong positions westward and north-westward, and established themselves astride the Jericho Road. The Holy City, thus isolated, surrendered."

Mr Bonar Law added that British political officers with the British Governor, accompanied by the French, Italian, and Mohammedan representatives, were on their way to safeguard the city and the holy places.

General Allenby said Mr. Bonar Law "proposes to enter the city officially tomorrow, accompanied by the commanders of the French and Italian contingents, and the heads of the French political mission. "The capture of Jerusalem was in some degree delayed in consequence of the great care taken to avoid damage to the sacred places in and around the city.

20th December

Mr.-Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, in the House of Commons on Wednesday night read a telegram stating that General Allenby, commander of the British forces in Palestine had entered Jerusalem on Tuesday at noon. The message also stated that the General was accompanied by his staff, the commanders of the French and Italian detachments, the heads of the political mission, and the military attaches of France, Italy, and the United States. The procession was on foot, and at the Jaffa Gates was received by a guard representing England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, India, France, and Italy. It had an excellent reception.

Guard have been placed at the holy places, the holy places the Russian and Greek representatives supervising the arrangements, while the Mosque, of Omar has been placed under Moslem control. A military guard of Mahammedans has been placed around the Mosque.

Second Conscription Referendum Lost 27th December

Official reports dealing with the air raid on London states that between 10 and 20 aeroplanes participated. Three groups of raiders crossed the Kent coast and three other Groups crossed the Essex coast. Ten persons were killed and 70 injured in London, and five were injured elsewhere. Lloyd George states that the International Peace Congress must settle the fate of German colonies, having regard to the wishes of the inhabitants themselves.

Drunken disorders continue in Petrograd, which is in a state of siege, says the Daily Chronicle. A Petrograd message states that it is announced that Lenin is issuing a decree releasing tho Czar and all other members of the imperial family to allow them to go abroad. The British on Tuesday captured some prisoners in patrol encounters south of Cambrai. There is mutual artillery activity west of La

Bassee and east of Ypres. Enemy aeroplanes dropped bombs on Dunkirk on the 22nd. There were several victims.

General Allenby's troops have advanced to a line nine miles north-east of Jaffa. The enemy is being driven towards the Jordan. The Mesopotamia campaign is being continued successfully.

From The Home Front

CAMDEN POLICE COURT.

On Monday, the monthly Camden Court day, Mr. T. P. Clegg, P. M., the annual licenses were dealt with. Billiard room licenses were granted to Messrs. Frederick Cutts, H. C. McDonald, J.J. Curran and M. L. Hennessy (The Oaks). Auctioneer's license was granted to Mr. N. H. Gibbs; and a district auctioneer's license to Mr. Fred Watson. Hawker's license granted Messrs. Herb. Marden, J. E., Dowle and William Hayes.

In the police court cases, C. E. Kelloway was charged by the nuisance inspector of the Camden Municipal Council that his horse was found straying on the Main Southern road; the case was dismissed. Annie Margaret Smith and Maud May Smith were fined £2 each and court costs, for using indecent language.

The military authorities have decided to abolish the height standard in regard to the militia forces. In future youth when they attain the age of 18 years will be required to serve in the citizen's forces, no matter what their height may be. The authorities have also decided to give every lad physically fit to stand the training and opportunity of going through the cadet course.



Driver Eustace Clavie Peverell

Died of Wounds, 12th December 1917

5th Divisional Artillery, Neuve-Eglise, Belgium

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer

NOTE

To reduce the cost of mailing out from the 1st January 2018 the Historical Officers report will be uploaded to the Camden RSL Sub Branch website, limited copies will be available at the meetings.

Our Website

www.camdenrslsubbranch.com.au

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