

## **Historical Officers Report**

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

### **1<sup>st</sup> February**

A statement made by Sir Joseph Ward at a function in London is attracting considerable notice. Speaking of the German colonies, he said that Australia and New Zealand were determined that those in the Pacific would never be handed back to Germany, adding the Dominions would not allow anybody, even President Wilson, to suggest their peace terms. The men who fought the war were alone entitled to arrange peace.

Mr. Phillip Gibbs, the official war correspondent, states that the hardest frost of the war is being experienced in France and Flanders. The health of the armies however is amazingly good.

Twenty British women carpenters have gone to France, and others are training in readiness. They wear khaki sweaters and shirt riding breeches and putties. They will be employed in hut-building for the troops. Their work will cover 10 hours a day. Their pay is 28/- per week.

In order to re-establish communication with some points on the Italian front it has been necessary to pierce tunnels 500 yards through the avalanches of snow.

### **5<sup>th</sup> February Capt. Harry William Murray VC at Gueudecourt, France**



### **8<sup>th</sup> February**

It was announced in Washington that Britain has 4000 small armed boats in the North Sea engaged in countermeasures against submarines.

Germany's declaration of unlimited piracy is the topic of London newspaper and public discussion. It is generally regarded as a declaration of war against the world. There is every indication that the United States is in complete

accord with the Allies in their determination to combat Germany's new move by every means.

## 15<sup>th</sup> February

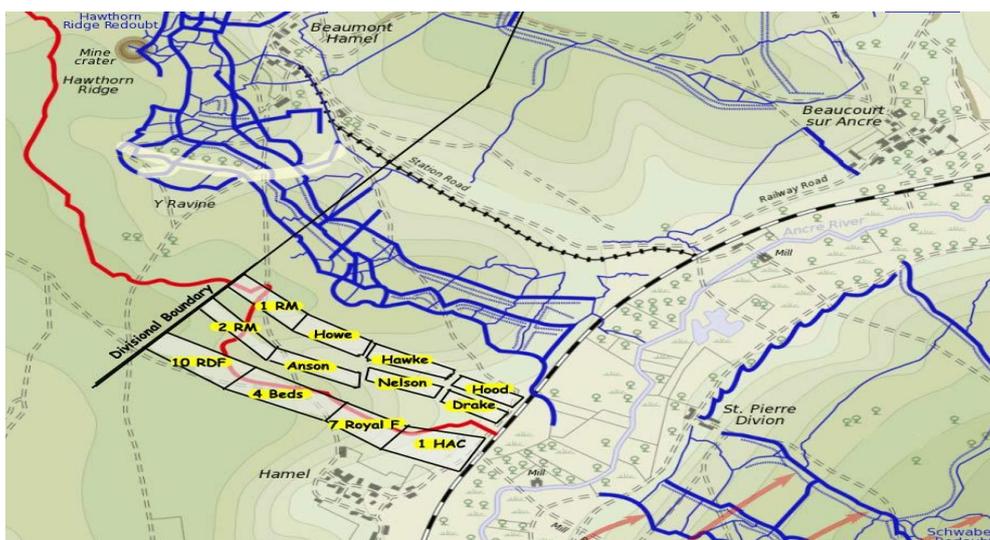
The tension between America and Germany has been intensified by a report indicating that the German Government has refused Mr. Gerard the American Ambassador at Berlin his passports.

Mr. Bonar Law said that while the submarines formed one of the greatest dangers, there was no chance of Germany starving Britain out. Mr. Phillip Gibbs says that the German abandonment of Grandcourt, without resistance, shown that the German command preferred at this stage to save casualties. Grandcourt was a sinister spot, because it was from here that the German massed guns had been mining explosives on the whole of the Contalmaison and Pozieres country.

The United States will not fight unless an American ship is proved to have been deliberately torpedoed under circumstances admitting of no extenuation. Mr. Henry Ford, motor car manufacturer, announces that if war breaks out between U.S.A. and Germany he will loan the Government 100,000,000 dollars without interest.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> February

The British took 771 prisoners on the Ancre on Saturday. Three waves of German infantry in the morning, with supporting troops attacked the new positions at Baillescourt Farm. They came under concentrated artillery fire and did not reach the British lines. They were repulsed with heavy losses.



A review of the Allies military position is published with the consent of the British War Office in the New York Times. It says that ruthless submarine is a confession of Germany's failure. During the last two years the Germans have steadily dropped behind in material resources.

At the same time tho Allied pressure has forced Germany to draw upon inferior material, and she is now showing the strain of assisting her weaker Allies

There is practically no news from the European fronts.



Private Leslie Charles Phair Grundy Died of Disease 20<sup>th</sup> February 1917 Fargo Military Hospital, Rollestone, England

Private Ross Loveday Died of Disease 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1917, Military Hospital, Devonport, England

### **From the Home Front**

The Ottoman Government's promise that Australian graves on Gallipoli would not be disturbed has been well kept according to the pictures of the graves taken by a Vatican mission.

Australian Reinforcements will in future by granted full final leave before embarkation.

Unless headmasters report them as necessary the Education Minister says proceedings will not be taken against the parents of truant school children.

Since Australian women persist in asking for passports to travel the Home and Territories Minister declares they are as courageous as their menfolk.

Les Darcy will fight Mike Gibbons on April 10<sup>th</sup>, at Milwaukee, U.S.A. for a purse of 110,000 dollars equally divided.



Les Darcy



Mike Gibbons

Ray Herbert  
Historical Officer