

Historical Officers Report

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

7th February

In an air raid over Paris, within a few minutes between 20 and 50 people were killed. Two hospitals were hit.

Sir Douglas Haig tells of minor patrol encounters and activity on the part of the enemy artillery south of the Arras-Cambrai road.

A new party, called the, Independent Anarchists, has arisen in Petrograd. It denounces the Bolsheviks as a bourgeois Government. The Polish Legion has declared war against the Bolsheviks, who have attacked a Polish division.

Sir Douglas Haig reports an enemy raid on Poelcappelle as having been repulsed. Patrol encounters southward of Lens were to the advantage of the British.

The British forces in Palestine have advanced slightly north westward of Jerusalem.

A Washington message states that the Greeks are able to mobilise 400,000 troops at Salonika in two months. It is thought that the Allies have 1,000,000 men available at Salonika for an impending drive.

14th February

Sir Douglas Haig reports that the British successfully raided eastward of Armentieres, taking prisoners. There has been hostile artillery fire at Cambrai and Lens.

German papers say that plans for a big campaign against Northern Russia and the Western Powers are complete.

Aeroplanes on Sunday bombed camps at Miskeh, Palestine, scoring 47 direct hits. The Arabs at Hedjaz routed eleven battalions of Turks 11 miles northward of Tafele. They killed 400 and captured 300 men, two mountain guns, 18 machine gun and 800 rifles. The Arabs on January 23 successfully attacked a Turkish post on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea.

Sir Douglas Haig reports that the Australians took 37 prisoners in their raid south-east of Messines. Heavy casualties were inflicted by the raiding Australians.

The Australian Red Cross Society has arranged for a period of free training in wool-Classing at Bradford for discharged men.

21st February

Sir Douglas Haig has congratulated the Australians on the successful raid westward of Warneton.

The cleverness of the Australian raid at Warneton is greatly appreciated by military men. It was so designed that the Germans were completely outwitted and their positions smashed.

Sir Douglas Haig reports considerable hostile artillery in various sectors, The Canadians' carried out a successful raid on trenches at Lens.

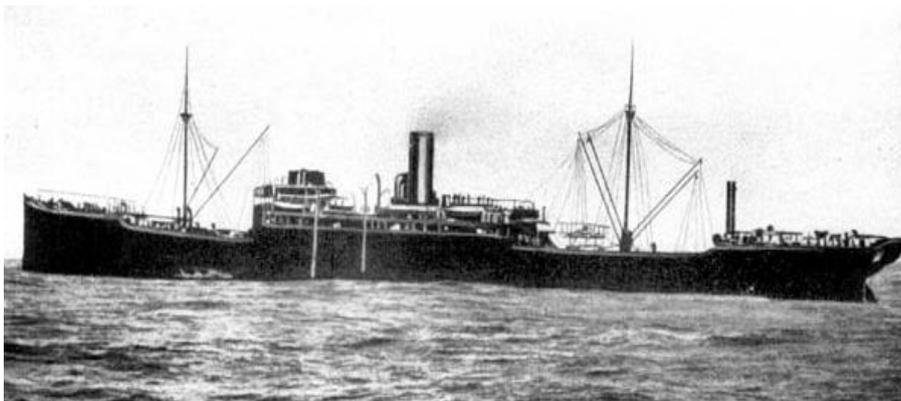
American barrage in the Champagne out off the German from their retreat and protected advancing French.

28th February

Australian troops, under General Allenby's command, have captured Jericho. -They advanced on Thursday morning and encountered but small opposition. A British front has now been created which cannot be turned.

British operations in Mesopotamia are reported to be meeting with success.

The German raider Wolf has reached Pola after a 15 months' cruise. The British Admiralty presumes that the raider sunk in the Indian and Pacific oceans 11 vessels in all, taking the crews prisoners.



On the Western front the British repulsed raids eastward of Armentieres and against two posts on the Ypres-Comines Canal. Americans raided German trenches capturing 22 prisoners.

There have been many raids and counter-raids on the West front. Artillery is also active, while the aeroplanes have made many successful flights.

From The Home Front

SAVE TBENCH FEET—SEND SOCKS,

A very special effort is being made at the present time by the 2nd and 54th Battalions' Depot to collect at least one, thousand pairs of socks before the 30th March next and to this end your assistance is asked. In the event of wool being unprocurable supplies may be had on application to the Hon. Sec, 379 Kent St., Sydney.

Socks should be—

Ribbing to be 5 inches long;

Legs to be 12 inches from top to beginning of heel;

Feet to be 10 inches long;

Top of sock to stretch 15 inches, and the name and address of the worker should be attached to the socks as well as to the parcel or letter of advice. The name and address will be left in the socks so that the recipient at the other end may acknowledge them direct.

It should perhaps be mentioned that as this Depot pools the whole of their clothing with the "War Chest" all friends may help.

In future all recruiting for the A.I.F. will be for general service, and will not be allocated to specific units until they have left Australia. On arrival in England or Egypt reinforcements will be allotted as required to the units for which they are deemed suited.

Camden Gas Company, offering tar in ten casks lots or over at 7/- per cask of 42 gallon, a reduction of 3/6 per cask on old rates.—The council decided to accept the offer, and purchase what tar was needed accordingly, on the motion of Aldermen G. F. Furner and W. Larkin.

On Thursday morning last February 21st Mr. W. Sidman, the senior proprietor of "*The Camden News*" peacefully passed away at his residence in John Street in his 71st Year.

The military authorities are arranging for the employment of women orderlies in the big army hospitals in Australia. This is owing to the need that requires every available soldier to be sent overseas at the earliest possible moment.

Maize crops in this district look splendid. On one small farm, that of Mr. Percy Scott's, at Elderslie, there is about 30 acres of green fodder. And the most of this is maize, a great part of which is copping splendidly. Some farmers aver they never had better maize than they have at present.

Camden Police Court

Edmund Gorman was charged with failure to comply with motor traffic regulations; he sold a motor bicycle registered in his name and failed to hand in the number plate or report the exchange. Fined 5/-, and cost 6/-, and ordered to pay cost of a number plate.

Percival Jensen, or Thomas Hayes, who was recently before the Camden Court on charges of forging and uttering cheques, pleaded guilty at the Darlington Quarter Sessions, and was sentenced to four years imprisonment.



Private John Francis Dunstan

Killed in Action, 10th February 1918 Belgium

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer