

## **Historical Officers Report**

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

### **10<sup>th</sup> January**

An official despatch received in Washington states that General Allenby has captured four important points north of Jerusalem.

In 1917 we captured 73,131 prisoners, 149 heavy guns, 392 field guns, 643 trench mortars, and 2639 machine-guns. The Australian Administrative Headquarters in London is collecting a quantity of war trophies, including guns, and storing them until such time as transport to Australia can be arranged.

Mr. Phillip Gibbs, writing to the "Daily Chronicle," says: The frost is breaking up, and there are signs that a great thaw has now begun, and will soon transform Flanders into a quagmire. The indications are that January may pass without big battles and with luck, February. Probably in March we may look to the opening of the enemy's threatened Offensive. His preparations behind the lines include hospital accommodation for scores of thousands.

By the Ides of March other counsels may prevail, for it is only on the last hazard that the enemy will order this new sacrifice of German manhood and the German nation may refuse to counter sign the order for that blood. Our defensive lines are strong and if subjected to massed attacks similar to Verdun will exact a fearful price.

### **17<sup>th</sup> January**

Mr. Phillip Gibbs-telegraph that despite Thursday night's thaws the battlefields after another heavy blizzard is still under a deep shroud. It is strangely and uncannily quiet on the front, the guns mostly being silent owing to poor visibility through the whirling snowflakes.

The British repulsed a raid southward of Armentieres and dispersed working parties south-eastward of Monchy-le-Preux. Hostile artillery has been more active north-eastward of Cambrai and near-Lens and Messines. British aeroplanes dropped two tons of bombs on an ammunition depot in the vicinity of Courtrai and on other targets. The French report an intense artillery duel in the region of St. Quentin.

A return of A.I.F. casualties to date shows: Deaths 41,830, missing 1560, prisoners of war 3026, and wounded 114,434 sick 66,189 casualty not specified 212, total 227,269.

Official reports state that matters are quiet at present on the Western front. Everything is under a pall of snow. A neutral in Paris, just returned from a visit to Berlin, states that the coming German offensive will be mainly directed against Verdun.

## 24<sup>th</sup> January

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: "The enemy's artillery was active westward of Lens. Our aeroplanes bombed various targets and machine-gunned trenches. We brought one machine. None of ours are missing.

An official message from Palestine reports.—"Successful patrol actions have taken place in the coastal area, our forces brought in prisoners.

The battle-cruiser Goeben, the light cruiser Breslau, and destroyers were engaged by British ships near the Dardanelles on Sunday. The Admiralty report states that the Breslau was sunk, and the Goeben driven ashore badly damaged.

Aircraft are busy completing her destruction. The monitor

Raglan and a smaller vessel of the same type were the only British losses



## 31<sup>st</sup> January

There has been great activity in the air on the West Front over 300 bombs were dropped on Courtrai, Ledeghem, and Douai railway stations, on an aerodrome at Courtrai and billets near Cambrai. Twenty eight enemy machines were put out of action. Seventeen of these were shot down.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig; reports:—"There has been hostile artillery fire in the neighbourhood of Ribecourt and south westward of Cambrai. In a later report he says: We dispersed by fire an enemy party approaching our lines southward of Lens.

There has been increased activity against the British the Western front. Hostile parties have been dispersed. Successful French raids have been made on the enemy's lines in the Champagne quarter. Prisoners were taken.

The Arabs have carried out extensive raids and destroyed telegraph works and railway tracks, inflicting heavy damage.

## **From The Home Front**

The military authorities are inviting pigeon breeders to give practical effect to their patriotism by providing homing pigeons for war purpose.

The Camden Post Office rainfall records for this year read:—January 1st 43 points; 11th, 112, 12th, 275, 13<sup>th</sup>, 105, 14<sup>th</sup>, 28, 17th, 16.—Total 584 points.

Trotting events at agricultural shows are to be stopped. The military authorities state that they have no option in this matter, and are compelled to stop trotting handicaps as the result of the regulations governing the restriction of sport.

## **RETURNED SOLDIERS BATTALION.**

It is believed that there are considerable numbers of returned soldiers in Australia who have become fit for service having been discharged, who would be glad of an opportunity to join a Battalion made up exclusively of returned officers, non-commissioned officers and men. It is known that a large number of these returned soldiers are contemplating re-enlisting, but who are disinclined to go into camp and go through training, together with raw recruits. There are others who would prefer to join a Battalion of returned men, rather than go back to their original units, where, in a large number of cases, they would find themselves superseded by those who were formerly their juniors in the service. The matter is at present under consideration

## **CAMDEN POLICE COURT.**

Arthur Nunn and Roy Curtis were charged with riding horses furiously on the main road, the same being dangerous to travelling public. The police constable gave evidence that after a picture show at 11 p.m. those youths rode down the main Southern road at a furious manner knocking down an elderly woman and a girl fortunately no serious damage was done.

Curtis was fined 20/- with 8s costs, and Nunn who explained his horse became uncontrollable was fined 10/- with 8/- costs.

Ray Herbert  
Historical Officer