

Historical Officers Report

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

5th July

On Mr. Fisher's return to London, he said he was particularly glad to see the Australians in Switzerland, in beautiful surroundings, excellent conditions, and as comfortable as they could reasonably expect to be away from home. Their relatives could be satisfied that they lacked nothing.

On June 25 the French captured "Dragon H Cave," an excavation 300 metres deep, with many shafts, in which machine-guns were placed. It had many exits, and constituted an important stronghold and point of departure for enemy counter-attacks.

A huge contingent of American soldiers has arrived in France. The arrival was not expected by the people, but the new soldiers were given an enthusiastic impromptu welcome.



Mr. Gibbs has given a curious description of the manner in which the defenders of Lens were harassed by drums of blazing oil and suffocating smoke screens. "Our sheila at the opening of the battle," he says, "burst with a wide sweep around Lens, lighting fires there. A long chain of golden fountains arose like miniature mines, followed by a high bank of white impenetrable smoke. Above the smoke clouds rose one of the strangest things seen in the war. It was the figure of a colossal woman, whose head reached the heavens above Avion. The figure seemed carved out of rock and blaring across the battlefield, and remained unchanged for several minutes."

12th July

Australian soldiers interned in Switzerland have recovered wonderfully after their tragic experiences in Germany.

Over 15 aircraft raided London and dropped many bombs, causing fires. The damage was heavy. Three raiders were brought down at sea. It is officially announced that the casualties are as follows:—Killed 28 men, 6 women, 3 children, total 37; injured 74 men, 30 women, 37 children, total 141

Thirty-one aeroplanes participated in an air raid over Essen. Enormous military damage was done to Krupp factories, which were the chief objective of the aeroplanes over Essen.

The Russians made a successful offensive move westward of Stanislay. General Korniloff captured several villages, 131 officers, 7000 men, and 48 guns, including twelve heavy pieces. He also captured many machine-guns.

19th July

The United States of America has let a contract for 2,170,000 army boots, the price being 10,000,000 dollars.

From Amsterdam it is reported that "Vorwnerts," with unexampled daring, status: The German Empire is on the way to a peaceful revolution. It may come in one blow or piecemeal; but when completed it will be counted among the greatest events of history. It will completely change the world's situation. A majority has been found in the Reichstag to give the Germans the freedom and peace they need."

After 24 hours intense bombardment the Germans attacked the British positions on the Nieuport front. This sector had been isolated by the bridging of the Yser. The enemy penetrated the British positions on a front of 1400 yard with a depth of 600 yards; and reached the right bank of the Yser near the sea. The German report claims that 1250 of the British were taken prisoners. The heavy gunfire of the Germans' intense bombardment was heard in London.

Many Parisian newspapers argue that the Kaiser is convinced that Germany has lost the war. He wishes to saddle his son with the responsibility of extricating the dynasty and the country from its present plight, which is daily getting worse.

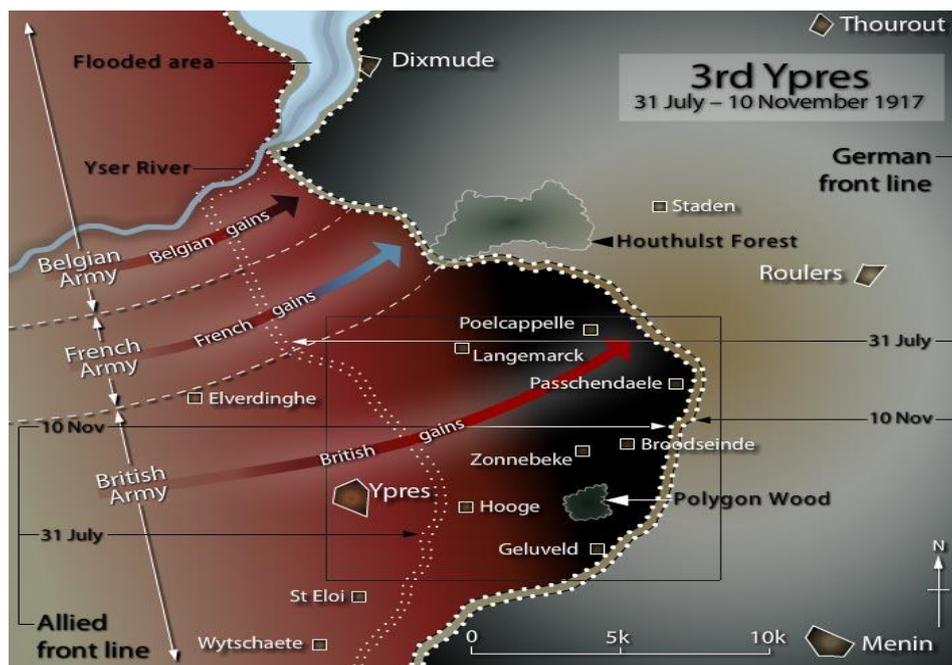
26th July

A squadron of between 15 and 21 aeroplanes dropped bombs near Felixstowe and Harwick at 8 am on Sunday. Heavy aircraft fire met them; some retreated, and the remainder were fired at as they went south and hence to sea. A late estimate of the casualties shows that 11 were killed and 26 injured. Damage was insignificant.

A Paris message states that Siam has declared war on Germany. The action involves the taking over of a number of German ships, as Germans had monopolised the coasting trade on the Gulf of Siam.

It is reported that there is now full evidence that the Germans financed the Russian revolution. Several hundreds of arrests were made of men whose pockets bulged with Germany's money

31st July 3rd Battle of Ypres Begins



From the Home Front

If Soldiers under the influence of drink are found in the vicinity, of Liverpool hotels in future, the premises will be closed at 4 pm. on week days and noon on Saturdays under The War Precaution Act.

Sapper Bob Sidman writes that he in well, and still at the front. The weather where he is working has been excessively cold, with heavy frost and snow, now the spring in France is coming the weather is more kind and humid. Bob desires to be kindly remembered to all his Camden friends.

Word has been received from Bomber B. C. Dunk of Orangeville, was having a good time in England, visiting most of the important places in London. He has met a "few Camden boy", and this fact helps to make things bright. In

sending best regards to old friends that he would like a line from them, letters are appreciated «.-

Sapper Bob Kidman in recent letters mentions meeting, amongst other the following local boys:—Arthur Dengate, Herb. Harris, Ray Steward, J. and K. Adams, Cecil Butler, Bert Doust, Roy Stafford, Walter Kettley, G. and C. Chesham, Charles Wheeler, Walter Nethery, and George Longley.

In the letter received yesterday morning, he says he has seen George Longley since his illness, and sincerely trusts he will be better before his letter gets to Camden. Bob says he is very well.

The Westminster Gazette announced that the King has adopted the family name of Windsor. The king signed 11 proclamations adopting the family name of Windsor, and relinquishing all German titles and dignities. The King's family name hitherto was Wettin.

The King's decree creates a separate royal house, instead of it being the most exalted branch of the house of Saxe-Coburg Gotha.



Lance Corporal Reginald Patrick McKervey
Killed in Action, 21st July, Belgium

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer
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