

Historical Officers Report

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

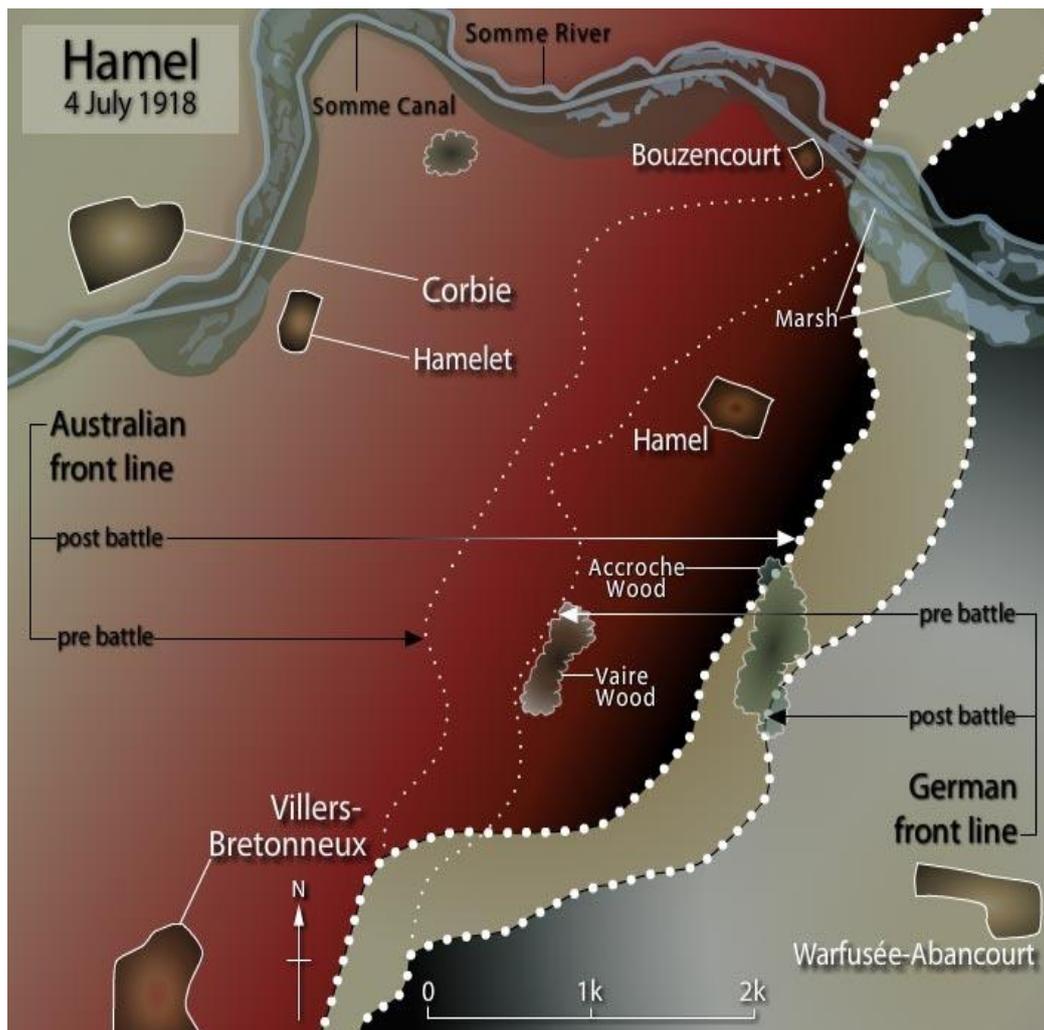
4th July

Since the outbreak of war, it is learned from a reliable source, Japan has mobilised about 2,000,000 men.

Regarding her possible intervention in Russia it is believed that Japan could mobilise an expeditionary force of nearly a million men.

The Navy Department has officially announced that the loss of the steamer Wimmera was sunk last Wednesday morning by striking a mine. The vessel was on her regular trip from Auckland to Sydney. There were 76 passengers and 75 crew members; with the total missing are 20.

4th July, Battle of Hamel, France





4th July LCPL Thomas Leslie Axford VC at Vaire & Hamel Woods



4th July PTE Henry Dalziel VC at Vaire & Hamel Woods



6th July CPL Walter Ernest Brown VC at Villers Bretonneaux

11th July

Australians and others captured Hamel and part of the wedge-shaped ridge overlooking Amiens. About 1500 prisoners were taken in this battle east of Amiens. Another operation on a 1200 yard front carried their line forward to a depth of 40ft yards. The German attack, which has long been expected, still hangs fire. There has been nothing in the weather to prevent the attack, while every day increases the advantage to-the Allies. Events however, are moving towards a great crisis.

Messrs. Hughes-and Cook visited the Australian troops in the firing line. The sector was quiet, and though they motored the whole day, they saw only 5 per cent, of the Australian, forces. They reviewed troops from all parts of The Commonwealth.

An official Italian message states that the enemy on the afternoon of July 6 was completely driven to the left bank of the Piave. Since June 15 the Italians have captured 4434 prisoners. Also they have captured 63 guns, 65 trench mortars, 1234 machine-guns, 37,105 rifles, 49 flame thrower and other material.

The Australians have further advanced their line astride the Somme for a depth of three-quarters of a mile. Mr. Lloyd George says that the victory of Hamel will rank with the greatest of Australian achievements.

14th July Australian Light Horse Fighting at Abu Tellul, Palestine



18th July LT Albert Charmers Borella VC at Villers Bretonneux



18th July

Sir Douglas Haig reports that English and Australian troops carried out successful minor enterprises near Vieux-Berquin and Morris.

The restless activity of the Australians at Villers-Bretonneux and Morris has completely shattered the morale of the German front line defenders. Upon the approach of the Australians the Germans abandon their positions and bolt.

The French advance in the Maily-Raineval sector supplemented the brilliant Australian action at Hamel.

Turkish troops attacked the Jordan crossings north of Jericho the positions were restored by the Australians and New Zealanders.

25th July

The Australians attacked along a 2000 yard front, advancing a mile. The Australians brought in 100 prisoners during the operations at Meteren.

Scottish troops have captured Meteren village. The Australians also advanced their line to the south of that town. As the result of the operations the British line in the Meteren sector WBB advanced about 4000 yards.

As a result of the offensive 17,000 prisoners have been counted and 300 guns and 1000 machine guns captured.

The Air Ministry reports on several raids over Germany.

The steamer Barunga, carrying invalided Australians has been torpedoed, and sunk. There were 700 persons on board, all were rescued without a casualty.

Following the German offensive which started on Monday of last week, General Foch's statement to Mr. Lloyd George that he was well satisfied with Monday's fighting, was exemplified by the French attack on the enemy's flank in the Soissons sector. Thursday and Friday last brought the news of the success of this attack which was more of an Allied advance in the regions of the Aisne and the Marne. Several thousands of prisoners and guns were captured.

From The Home Front

LATE SERGENT T. MAXWELL

Mr. T.I. Maxwell, Camden-, is in receipt of the following letter, giving information concerning the death of his son, Sergt. T. Maxwell.
7th L.H. Regt., Palestine, 8/5/18.

Dear Sir it is with very deep regret that I have to write you and your family in the death of your son Sgt T Maxwell.

He was a man we could ill spare and his place will indeed be difficult to fill. He had a splendid way with his men, and was a great soldier and always ready for any job no matter how serious.

Yesterday morning an enemy plane crossed our lines bombing, and dropped right on the spot where your son was sleeping, instantly killing him and seven of his comrades.

He was buried yesterday morning with military honours in the military cemetery just below the site of old Jericho,

A memorial service is being held this morning for these eight brave Tho Navy Department has officially announced that the lads who have done the greatest thing any man can do, giving their lives for their country.

T L Willsallin, Major

KEROSENE and BENZENE TINS.

Owing to the shortage of tinslates in Australia a War Precaution Regulation has been issued providing that no person shall, without the consent of the Minister for Defence, cut or destroy or pierce the side or bottom of any tin for containing kerosene, petroleum, benzene, or other petroleum. Every person who has in his possession any empty tin of this kind shall on demand by a duly authorised person, and on obtaining the fixed price deliver up those tins.

THE RAINFALL CAMDEN, JULY, 1918.

Monday, July 22nd 83 points

Tuesday, July 23rd 180

Wednesday, July 24th 235

Total for three days 498 points

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer