

## **Historical Officers Report**

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

### **4<sup>th</sup> October**

A correspondent on the British front writes:—"After hurricane lighting the British Gathered themselves at dawn and dealt another smashing blow on the whole new Ypres battlefield, from southward of Tower Hamlets to eastward of St. Julien. Sir Douglas Haig reports that the attack was entirely successful.

It is reported that Argentina will send troops to Europe provided the Allies find the shipping and artillery. Twenty thousand troops are available.

Philip Gibbs stated that though the fighting was severe the Australian losses were not heavy. The Australians took 600 prisoners on Tuesday. The Australian casualties have been very light. Generally, the war correspondents lavish much praise on the gallantry of the Australians, who carried out their difficult tasks in a creditable manner.

The "Petit Parisian" states "In the fight 'at Zonnebeke, General "Prince Rupprecht ordered his troops to fight to the death, and so they did where they stood." "The Australians had before them men oppressed by Germany, and forced into the fight, the Saxons, who surrendered with smiling faces."

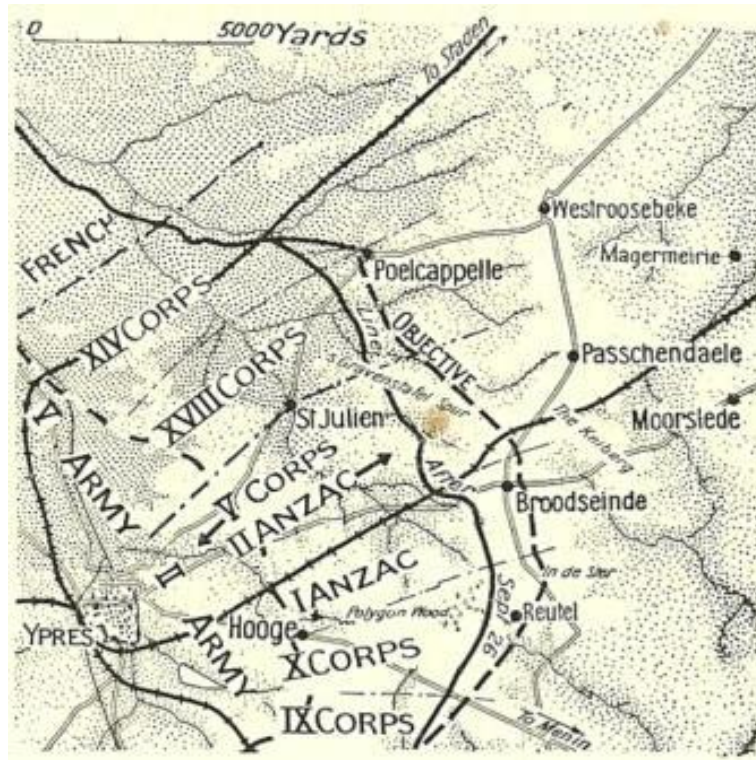
Sir, Douglas Haig reports three attacks on the British positions between Tower Hamlet and Polygon Wood on Sunday morning. All the attacks were repulsed, with losses to the Germans. In only one instance was the British position-reached but the enemy was quickly ejected.

Sir Douglas Haig reports that the enemy made five attacks between the Ypres Menin Road and one at the north-eastern corner of Polygon Wood. All six attempts ended in complete failure, with the exception of the Loss of posts previously reported. The enemy suffered heavily.

Mr Philip Gibbs writes that there has been ceaseless artillery fire on the new front since September 26. He says "It is the greatest artillery battle seen in the war. Never were there such concentrations of batteries, such intense fire."

### **10th October 1917**

#### **Battle of Poelcappelle, Western Front**



## 11<sup>th</sup> October

Over eight miles of the front southward of Tower Hamlets to the Ypres-Staden railway, and northward of Langemarck was completely successful. All the objectives were gained, and positions of great importance won. Over 3000 prisoners have already been counted. We are in possession of the Main ridge to a point a thousand yards northward of Broodseinde. Australians participated in the attack. Correspondents pay a tribute to the steadiness and determination displaced in their advance; they gained all the desired ground, equalling their achievements on September 20 and 26.

Mr Philip Gibbs, writing to the "Dally Chronicle," says "Nothing could stop our men. They swept beyond Gravenstafel and Abraham heights, traversed the ruins of Zonnebeke, and with great heroism gained the high ground about Broodseinde. English troops shared the honour of the day with the Anzacs, and all were splendid,"

Mr Philip Gibbs says that the New Zealanders and Australians, fighting up Abraham Heights, took prisoners over 2000 Germans. In their descriptions of the fighting, they say that the number of Germans dead is unprecedented.

Other Australians fighting for the Broodseinde cross roads counted 900 dead Germans. Mr Gibbs adds "It was a great day for the Australians and New Zealanders: their greatest and most glorious day they went grimly and cheerfully to their goal over every obstacle."

Correspondence description of the Ramadie fighting saw the Turks were outmanoeuvred. The main body of Turks, with all its guns, was trapped; in the final stage was an intense bombardment by the British replied to, not by Guns, but by the white flag

### **18<sup>th</sup> October**

Sir Douglas Haig reports: "The enemy artillery was active during the night north-eastward of Ypres. We repulsed reconnoiters westward-of Becelaere, and northward of Poelcapelle. We made a successful raid in the neighbourhood of Hulluch." In a despatch issued last night Sir Douglas Haig states:—Eastern, country troops successfully raided south-eastward on Monchl-le-Preux. Friday's prisoners now total 943, including 41 officers.

A British-air-patrol on Saturday encountered a formation double its strength. A determined fight ensued, four of our machines have-not returned. Allied machines arriving too late to participate in the fight, Saw several enemy machines falling uncontrolled.

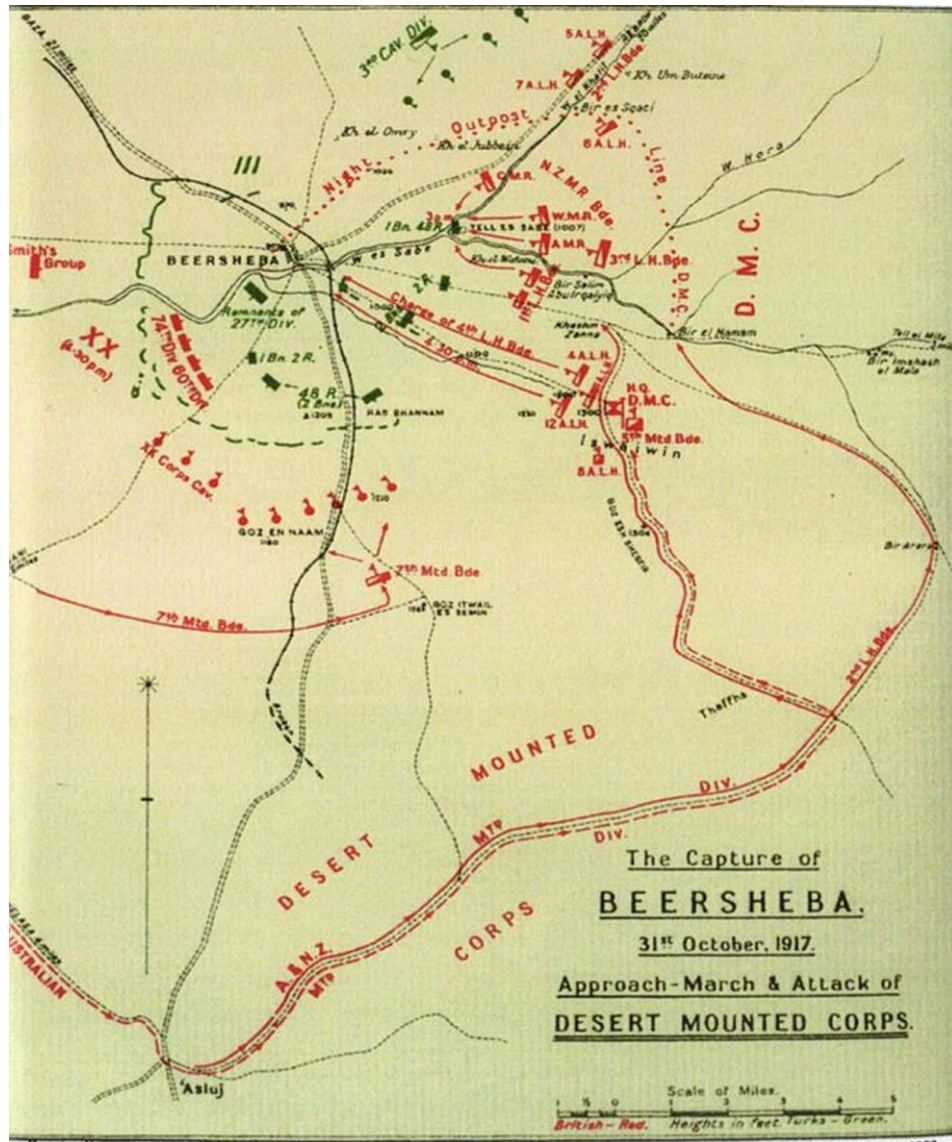
Our aircraft yesterday dropped one and a half tons of bombs on Ledeghet railway station and billets eastward of Lens. Three German machines were brought down, and one was driven down. Two of ours are missing.

### **25<sup>th</sup> October**

Six or Seven airships attacked the eastern and north eastern counties of England on Saturday night. Eleven Zeppelins also raided French places. In England the raid killed 27 and injured 53. Material damage was done to houses and business places, though there were no definite attacks. The engines of the Zeppelins over London were comparatively noiseless Bombs were dropped over London, but none over Paris. One Zeppelin was brought down in flames east of Luneville, In France, another was driven down near Bourbonne les Baines, and two fell in the interior zone.

It is officially advised from Russia that a battle has been fought in the Gulf of Riga. The Russian battleship Slava (13,516 tons) was sunk, The Germans penetrated Riga Gulf. Three Russian battleships drove the vanguard back, and defended the entrance until severely damaged.

### 31st October Attack on Beersheba





## **From the Home Front**

The shortage in the supply of State-trawled fish is likely to be further intensified; there is now only one trawler in commission.

The local Recruiting Committee gave an enjoyable entertainment last Friday night in the Foresters Hall, a send-off reception and appeal for recruits combined. There was a crowded house, but principally middle aged people, young girls and school children,—very few: "eligible's" visible.

The pictures "Australian Soldiers in the Making, from enlistment to embarkation," were very clear and most interesting. All divisions were seen at work. Light Horse, Infantry, Field Engineers and Artillery, Signallers etc. Ordinary drill did not appeal much to the audience, but the "riding tests" and artillery work did and applause was frequent and loud.

Some of the "kiddies" naive- remarks were very, funny: One boy, on seeing the, efforts of the gunners to drag their "carriages" up the heights, declare! "That sort of thing would stop a cove enlisting in summer! Another objected to the catering arrangements, "Where's the tables."

The trans-continental railway, was linked up on Wednesday October 17th at-Ooldea halfway between Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie.

Since 1st January 40000 Australians have enlisted.' Over 300,000 have been sent abroad altogether.



Private Edgar Earl Jarvis  
Wounded in Action, 17th May 1917  
Killed in Action, 1st October 1917, Belgium

Private John Joseph Face  
Killed in Action, 12 October 1917, France.



Lance Corporal James Hunter  
Killed in Action, 27th October 1917, Belgium

Ray Herbert  
Historical Officer