

Historical Officers Report
Events of the Great War as reported in the Camden News
Cables from the European War November 1916

2nd November

The Ministry of Munitions contemplates erecting a huge arsenal in the centre of France covering 600 acres. The building will cost £4,000,000 The Minister contemplates establishing a model city for the workers.

The Czar has given a personal pledge that Russia's resources will be utilized in repelling the invasion of Romania and in building up a greater nation.

Mr Lloyd George stated that the Allies were doing everything possible to assist Romania.

Mr Ashmead Barlett describes the area of ground at Verdun formally No Man's Land but now occupied by such: Thousands of rifles broken machine guns and debris are sticking out of the mud while smashed fragments of guns lay all round.

9th November

No publication available

11th November Light Horse raid Maghara, Sinai



16th November

A great air battle between British and German air Squadrons took place in the neighbourhood of Bapaume. Thirty eight German machines and 30 British machines were engaged. The enemy's squadrons were dispersed with great losses.

North of the Somme the French completed the conquest of Saily-Saillsel. The German losses were of the heaviest nature. The 'Observer' states that the battle of the Somme practically censed a few weeks ago. There can be no break through the German lines this year. The paper added "We must face the presumption of the war lasting far into 1918."

The Allies have demanded the return of the breach blocks of the Greek torpedo flotilla, which are missing.

More reassuring reports have come to hand from Romania. The Russians have taken over 78 miles of the Romania front south of Dorna Water, and have released the soldiers' engaged there for service elsewhere.

Beaumont Hamel which the Germans considered impregnable and valuable trenches north of Somme were also taken. The enemy's losses were severe, and 3300 prisoners were taken. More are coming in.

18th November Battle of the Somme ends



23rd November

The War Office is placing orders for khaki cloth in the West Riding of Yorkshire, estimated at 10,000,000 yards.

The Paris "Le Liberte" newspaper; states that the battle for Beaumont Hamel will go down in history as one of the bloodiest of the war. The Germans must have lost 8000 men at this point alone.

The great victory on the Ancre is described as one of the most brilliant successes of, the Somme offensive, if not of the whole war. Six thousand prisoners have already been counted and others are coming in.

Mr Frederick Palmer representative of American news papers has arrived In New York from the front. He says that the Somme battle is the greatest in the war surpassing Verdun for intensity and casualties. It will continue as long as the war—perhaps for two or three years.

Six thousand British French and German guns have been in action on the same day. There have been 150,000 casualties in 24 hours 1,500,000 men have been hit since the Somme battle began.

Next summer the British will be prepared to lose 3,000,000 men if necessary when they will have twice their present supply of gunpowder.

30th November

The front page is damaged with the sections of the war news missing.

The Rumanian retreat continues. The enemy claim the capture of the ancient capital of Wallachia and Giurgevo a town on the Danube 40 miles south of Bucharest. It is claimed on Romania's that the retreat is being carried out in an orderly manner.

The Zeppelin raid over the northern counties of England ended with the destruction of two zeppelins. An aeroplane dropped bombs on London. An aeroplane was brought down in France after the raid containing a map of London.



Sergeant John Lambert Richardson Poole Died of Wounds 5th November, Shorncliffe, Kent, England



Lance Sergeant Frederick George Toovey Killed in Action 14th November, The Somme France.

Lance Corporal Arthur Peter McEvoy Killed in Action 18th November, The Somme France



Private Frederick Oscar Kelloway Died of Wounds 29th November, Fiers, France

From the Home Front

A rainbow trout has been caught in the Cox River by hook and line.

It is understood that the medical standards for men called up is to be raised to the AIF standard. It is expected that probably under 6 per cent will fail under the standard.

The Wheat Board has advanced the price of wheat for the manufacture of flour for export to Egypt and the United Kingdom from 5 Shilling and 6 pence to 5 Shillings and 7 1/2pence per bushel.

PETROLEUM DISCOVERY

Some excitement has been caused at Penrith by an alleged discovery of petroleum spring wells near the Nepean River. It is said that the discovery was made by an American oil expert who says the Sydney Daily Telegraph has made overtures to the owners in the vicinity for options over properties with the view of introducing oil boring plant from America.

This year has been remarkable for the production of local potatoes the season being particularly good for them. Many local growers speak in glowing terms of the fine spuds under their vines.

Sir Hiram Maxim, inventor of the automatic systems of firearms is dead.

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer