

## Historical Officers Report

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

### 7<sup>th</sup> November

Turkey has surrendered unconditionally. The Allied fleet passed through the Dardanelles at 6 a.m. on Thursday last. The Turkish armies will lay down their arms, and the British Fleet will occupy Constantinople. All the Dardanelles and Bosphorus ports will be occupied by the Allies. Turkey agreed to the opening of the Dardanelles, and the immediate repatriation of Allied prisoners.

Austria has called for peace, and hostilities on the Italian front ceased on Monday afternoon. The armistice was signed by the Italian Commander-in-Chief on Sunday.

The Hungarian Government requests that the occupation be by French or British troops. The Allies has occupied Trieste and Trent.

The Allies have unanimously agreed to the terms to be offered to Germany. If they are accepted, it will mean Germany's surrender and the immediate end of the war.

Final peace terms will then be left to the dictation of the allies. The terms have been forwarded to Germany.

The Allies have continued their progress of successes on the Western Front. Last month the Allies captured 108,000 prisoners 20640 guns and 13,639 machine-guns. Since July 15, they have taken 803,000 prisoners, 6217 guns, and 38,622 machine-guns.

### 11th November 1918 Armistice



**14<sup>th</sup> November**

**Germany has Signed the Armistice  
How Camden Received the News**

The glorious news was received in Camden on Monday night, and as one of the first means of publicity it was announced at the lecture given by Rev. Stacy Waddy. At first the news seemed too good to be true, and many were cautious having in mind an experience on Friday last, when similar news was circulated only to be officially denied.

The "Camden News" has been particular in its daily war telegrams and this saved Camden from the fiasco last week, so when it became known that this office had received the word, the Church bells of St. John's were rung, and the peel sent forth the news and the people began to feel and realize the truth. It was not long before a few old kerosene tins were heard in the main street and almost simultaneously the fire bell and the Catholic Church bell rang with joy; the whole town seemed alive, the streets were quickly filled with an enthusiastic crowd. Processions of men and women, boys and girls, armed with bells, trays, tins or anything that made a noise marched the town; cheering and singing. Never such an out burst of enthusiasm has been seen in Camden.

It was a bright, happy, excited gathering letting loose their feelings of joy. Everybody wanted to do something unusual. A feeling of relief must come out. A happy idea hoists the Honour Flag. Yes the flag must fly, even if it was hard to see in the dark, and as the Mayor pulled at the rope, cheers rent the air, and the whole assemblage with bare heads, sang heartily the National Anthem. This added a little more power to the enthusiasm, and more kerosene tins were requisitioned, band instruments were found and more processions round the various Streets of the town, with much more cheering and noise.

Every now and again the strains of the National Anthem and Rule Britannia gave vent to the feelings of the crowd. Someone was inspired by the thought of a thousand-gallon tank rolling over the metal, and the pushing of it through the town made some more noise, and it was noise,, more noise that was needed. At midnight a Circle was made round the fountain in the main street, God Save the King, and Auld Lang Syne were sung as a final rally. But no, many were not yet ready to end their jollifications, but insisted in marching the town with their tins, etc, until a procession headed for Elderslie; they afterwards went on to Narellan, returning to Camden between 3 and 4 o'clock.

These exultations were continued with vigour on Tuesday night, the Camden Town Band adding much to the harmony.

Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. was a gala day in our district. The town was resplendent with flags' and bunting, and a glance from face to face revealed

the fact that the awful cloud of war had lifted and the sunshine of peace was shining again in our midst.

At 5 p.m. a number of the Red Cross Society met at the Foresters' Hall, and with flags and banners marched in procession to the fountain in Argyle Street, where a large crowd of residents were assembled. Various patriotic songs were sung in a very enthusiastic manner by the Red Cross ladies.

The meeting began with a brief religious service which opened with the singing of The Doxology by the whole assemblage to the accompaniment of the Town Band. The Rev O. J. King, ALA., read the Psalm of Praise, as sung by all the crews of the warships just after the famous battle of Jutland.

The Rev. G. C. Percival then led the gathering in a prayer of thanksgiving, which he had prepared with a view to voicing the devotional feeling of the people assembled, who were most earnest in response at its close. The prayer was followed by the Lord's Prayer by all, after which Mr. Percival pronounced the Benediction.

His Worship the Mayor of Camden, Ald. G. F. Furner, JP. Contrasted the position of today: the Day of Victory with that of four years ago, when the German hordes began forcing their way through Belgium, and France committing atrocities and crimes of the most fearful description. Today was indeed a day of rejoicing to us all and would never be forgotten by us as a people.

## **21<sup>st</sup> November**

### **VICTORY CELEBRATIONS.**

Following upon the religious service which formed the first part of the open air commemoration, on Tuesday afternoon November 12th, as reported in last week's issue, well attended services of thanksgiving were held in the Camden Methodist Church on Wednesday evening and at St. John's Camden on Thursday evening.

But the best of all in point of attendance was the united service at noon on Friday, in the Foresters Hall, Camden, conducted by Rev. C. J. King, M A and Rev. G. O. Percival. Canon Allnutt, of Cobbitty, who had intended to take part, was prevented from doing so by ill health.

The hall was filled to overflowing by a gathering of people whose earnest and reverent mood was evident in the hearty singing, and in the hush of intense interest with which the prayers and addresses were followed by all.

The hymns were specially selected from a printed sheet, the singing being led on the pianoforte by Mr. O. S. Frost, organist of St. John's. After the first hymn, Mr. Percival read the 72<sup>nd</sup> Psalm, in which the note of optimistic

outlook and of a thanksgiving which rises to the point of a challenge is so distinctly evident. The Rector led the assembly in the thanksgiving prayers, as well as in the prayers of confession of sin at "the close.

Each clergyman delivered an address bearing on the great occasion which had called the assembly together.

## **28<sup>th</sup> November**

In accordance with the terms of the Armistice Germany last week surrendered to the British nine battleships five battle cruisers, four light cruisers, 40 destroyers and 59 submarines. The remaining German warships will be surrendered in due course.

The Board of the Admiralty has sent the following message congratulating the officers of the Royal Navy and of the Royal Marines on the completion of their great work: 'It is a triumph to which history knows no parallel.

The surrender of the German Fleet, accomplished without a shot or battle, will remain for all time as an example of the wonderful silence and sureness with which sea-power attains its end the world recognises that this consummation has been due to the steadfastness with which the Navy has maintained its pressure on the enemy through more than Four years of war a pressure exerted no less insistently during the long monotony of waiting than in the rare opportunities to attack."



Ray Herbert  
Historical Officer