

## Historical Officers Report

Events of the Great War as reported in the Camden News  
Cables from the European War October 1916

### 5<sup>th</sup> October

The largest body of Australians ever paraded in England was reviewed by the King at Salisbury Plains on Wednesday.



Up to date the Somme offensive has yielded to the Allies 200 square miles of fortified ground (including 44 villages) and 70,000 prisoners besides inflicting 300,000 casualties on the Germans.

Sir Douglas Haig reports excellent progress the enemy's trenches were carried on a front of 2000 yards north of Flers.

About 1800 rifles, four flammenwerfs and many thousands of rounds of artillery ammunition and grenades were taken

The British centre attacked and realised the whole of its objective east of Eaucourt L Abbaye to the Albert-Bapaume road.

The tanks did invaluable work in clearing the trenches.

### 12 October

Seven German Airman are said to have dropped sweets, containing virulent disease germ in Bucharest. The Rumanian authorities have warned the inhabitants of the danger of eating the sweets.

German submarine operating on the American Atlantic coast, have opened a campaign; against trans-Atlantic shipping. The new move opened with the sinking of four British one Dutch and one Norwegian steamers. All the ships were freighters except the Stephane which was a passenger ship and which was sunk shortly after leaving New York harbour. America has become greatly excited over the happening.

The Allied advance on the Somme on Saturday afternoon averaged two thirds of a mile over a front of 11 miles. Mr. Phillip Gibbs says that the capture of Le Sars removes another fortress defending Bapaume

Mr Phillip Gibbs of the Daily Chronicle special correspondent on the western front tells of a grim story of the capture of the monastery at Eaucourt L' Abbey.

A dogged fight continued for two days amid heavy thunder storms. The Britishers desperately clung to the water-logged poles. The fighters were wet to the skin covered with mud utterly weary, wounded, and in tragic plight, but the fighting spirit did not desert them throughout the hottest fighting which was continued underground. Finally

We cleared up Eaucourt L' Abbey. This technical phrase has an ugly significance. It means that there was not a single German left in the abbey vaults, except, the bodies of the dead. If the ghosts could walk of the old monks who once came blinking down with horn lanterns to fetch the Abbot's wine they would have seen British soldiers, covered with mud, cleaning up their rides, binding up wounds, and chatting cheerfully of the fight that was over.

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

A French report says that the enemy is making frantic efforts to dig a fresh line and fortify villages for the defence of Bapaume. The "Echo de Belge" says that 53 train loads of youthful German soldiers have been sent to the Somme.

General Sir Douglas Haig reports that successes were secured in an attack on the low heights between, the British front and the Bapaume Road, Fighting continues.

Violent fighting has been taking place on the western front. The French communiqué speaks of two brilliant attacks, the capture of many prisoners and important positions.

In a statement, the Press Bureau sends out the results of the three months fighting on the Somme. The Germans have been beaten on a line chosen by them as the best possible, the statement says. They must now fight on a weakened line.

**21<sup>st</sup> October** 5th Australian Division arrives at the Western Front

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

On Saturday British aeroplanes did most valuable work. Five German machines were destroyed, and four others driven down.

Grave riots in Vienna followed the shooting of the Austrian Premier, and wholesale arrests of Polish, Bohemian and Croatian lenders have commenced.

A message from Rome states that the Germans are releasing 10,000 Italians, mainly women, children and invalids and old men from the concentration camps owing to food difficulties.

An enemy seaplane dropped bombs on Sheerness Harbour and one near the railway station. The Admiralty announces that the raider was brought down.

Sir Douglas Haig reports an advance of the line east of Gueudecourt, and the capture of 1000 yards of trenches. Aeroplane activity continues. Seven enemy machines were brought down and many others damaged. Eight British machines have not returned.

### **28<sup>th</sup> October First Australian Conscription referendum (Lost)**



*Sergeant John Lambert Richardson Poole, Wounded in Action 12<sup>th</sup> October*

*Died of Wounds 5<sup>th</sup> November*

### **From the Home Front**

Water from the catchment area (Cataract) is running down to Prospect Reservoir to the full capacity of the connecting tunnel 122,000,000 gallons per day.

### **OLD-AGE PENSIONS RAISED.**

In the House of Representatives on Friday last, on the second reading of the bill to amend the Old-age and Invalid Pensions Act, the Treasurer, Mr. Higgs, stated that the bill provided for the raising of the pension from 10s - to 12s 6d a week. The bill was passed through the remaining stage without amendment.

### **THE NEPEAN IN FLOOD.**

Record rains have fallen in the Camden district for any one given period and with similar falls in the upper reaches of the Nepean general floods were; expected. Since the rain started last week Camden has recorded 1130 points, the largest fall for Twenty four hours was from 9am Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup> to 9am this morning Thursday 5.70 points, this constitutes a record for the district the previous greatest rain in one day was January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1902, when 5.64 point's were Recorded,

At the meeting of the City Council the Lord Mayor said that damage to the extent of £40 was caused at the Town Hall meeting last week. 'The wreckage, he said, was due to women wearing high heeled shoes standing on cane chairs, and piercing the seats.

### **THE REFERENDUM, SATURDAY NEXT, OCTOBER 28 FOR AND AGAINST**

The battle over the Compulsory Service Referendum to be taken on Saturday [next](#), October 28th, is fought in the best of public spirit locally every night there are meetings advocating one side or the other are characterised by perfect order and fairness extended to the speakers. A band of local workers are speaking in various centres in favour of the referendum.

On Friday night next the Foresters Hall will have speakers making a final appeal in favour of the referendum, while in front of Mc Donald's Hotel the No-Conscription League will hold its final rally.

An increase in the price of milk of 2d per gallon wholesale was granted country milk suppliers on Monday of last week. The increase brings the retail price of milk to 5d per quarter.

Ray Herbert  
Historical Officer