

Historical Officers Report

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

7th September

Important captures have been made on the Somme front "The British have taken the whole of Guillemont and are now 500 yard east of Guillemont.'

The air raid on Saturday night on England by 12 Zeppelins was *the* most formidable that has yet been attempted. Only three of the Zeppelins were able to approach, tho outskirts of London. One Zeppelin was downed and all the crew were killed.

The "Mornings Post" correspondent at Headquarters says that the 1st Battalion of the Prussian Guards defended Mouquet Farm in Sunday's battle. The Anzacs made an Irresistible dash and despite an informal fire surrounded the farm and fully attained their objective. A message from "Mr Phillip Gibbs to the Daily Chronicle" confirms this statement. He says that the Australians at Mouquet Farm defeated "Germanys best troops—the first Prussian Guard Reserves." He says that one of the most valuable factors in the British advance on Sunday was the Australian attack on Mouquet Farm.



14th September

Lieutenant Robinson in addition to receiving the V.C. for bringing down a Zeppelin at Cuffley north of London is also entitled to 3000 pounds as rewards privately offered for the first Airman to bring down a Zeppelin on British soil.

General Douglas Haig reports that during the past weeks heavy fighting in France the British advance on a front 6000 yards to a depth varying from 300 to 3000 yards.

15th September Tanks first used in France



21st September

The French attacks on Tuesday were the most brilliant yet achieved on the Somme. For the first time since trench warfare has been firmly established on the west front the Allies pierced the German line. The work has taken Two and a half months, and has resulted in the capture of 55,000 prisoners, 250 Guns and 650 machine guns. But the important of it must not be exaggerated.

The French have not yet secured a strategic rupture such as General Brussiloff (Russia) has achieved. Since the offensive on the Somme commenced the Germans have been digging for miles behind the present lines. Much must be done before a final victory is gained, but nevertheless General Fayelle has every reason to be pleased with the troops.

Additional success was on Thursday achieved by the French, who captured Priez Farm and extended their positions opposite Crombie.

Mr. Phillip Gibbs the well known 'Daily Chronicle' correspondent says the new British Armoured Cars are proof against bullets, bombs and shell splinters. "The actual sight of them he writes was monstrously comical but they did good work and scared the Germans dreadfully."

28th September

German aviators were very active on Sunday. There were 29 air combats on the Somme Front. Ten enemy machines were brought down and several others severely damaged.

The Tanks performed great service in smash the deeply dug and heavily wired German trenches and facilitated the New Zealand advance.

Guns of all calibres are firing thousands of tons of projectiles and the earth tremors are like earthquakes.

General Sir Douglas Haig reports: "We were yesterday everywhere successful." We stormed the positions on a six mile front from Combles and Martinpuich to a depth of more than a mile.

We captured the fortified villages of Morval and Les Bocufs practically severing communications with Combles. The enemy losses were very heavy

From the Home Front

MENANGLE NEWS

Official word was last week received to the effect that Signaller Bert Gale has been wounded In France. The extents of his Injuries are as yet unknown, but we sincerely trust they are not of a serious nature.

The telephone has now been installed at the local Police Station---
Camden 61.

A raid was made by the Police on the I.W.W. room on Saturday Afternoon. Four men were arrested and charged with treason. A load of pamphlets were taken away on the police patrol wagon.

Hotelkeepers within five miles of Liverpool Camp have been served with a notice prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquor unless it is consumed on the premises.

The continuance of *Dry* weather is seriously affecting dairy farmers and it in a bad thing to see so many loads of chaff going out instead of from farms. Shortage of water is giving trouble on some farms, and causes great anxiety.

An increase in the price of milk now would be justifiable.

On Friday night of last week the Mount Hunter School of Arts was crowded to bid farewell to a number of local recruits.

An outburst of cheering greeted the brave fellow as they came forward. Mr. G. L. Dunn presided over the meeting and presented Pte. Charles Wheeler, Pte. Bartley Chesham, Pte. Keith Roe, Pte. Harold Fallon and Pte. Walter Pike were presented with a fountain pen and pocket wallet.

Major Curran; Mr. J. Pulling, Mr. Martin, and Recruiting Sergeant Desmond spoke.

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer