

AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/50/20 Part 8

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 5th
Australian Division

October 1917



AWM4-1/50/20PART8

WIRELESS NEWS - 1/10/17.

British Official. 9.34 p.m. Early this morning the enemy heavily bombarded our position between TOWER HAMLETS and POLYGON WOOD and subsequently launched 3 attacks, all of which were repulsed with loss. The first attack, delivered South of REUTELBEEK, was beaten off by our fire before reaching our position. Shortly afterwards hostile infantry advanced astride the YPRES - MENIN Road, under cover of a thick smoke barrage and accompanied by Flammenwerfer detachments, and succeeded temporarily in driving in one of our advanced posts. An immediate counter-attack by our troops recaptured the post, together with a number of prisoners and machine-guns. Later in the morning an attempt to repeat this attack was broken up by our artillery fire. The enemy raided our trenches early this morning East of LOOS and captured one of our garrisons. As the hostile party was attempting to withdraw across "No Mans Land", it was pursued and attacked by our troops. Our man was recaptured and a number of the enemy were killed or taken prisoner. Hostile artillery has been active during the day along the front between the YPRES - COMINES CANAL and ZONNEBEKE, and in the NIEUPOORT sector. Our own artillery activity on the Battle Front has continued.

On 29th September, the weather was unfavourable for aerial work. Bombing of the enemy's aerodromes, billets, dumps, and railways, was continued vigorously by our aeroplanes by day and night, and over 7 tons of bombs were dropped. GONTRODE Aerodrome was the chief target for our machines, and a large fire was caused. One of the enemy's balloon sheds also was set on fire and destroyed by a Naval pilot. The enemy's fighting machines were not very active yesterday, and there were consequently few combats. One German was brought down, and 2 of our aeroplanes are missing, one of which was seen to land under control.

French Official. On AISNE front, after artillery preparation, 3 German detachments attempted this morning to enter French trenches North of BERRY-au-BAC. Small German party who had succeeded in penetrating an advanced element of our lines was ejected from same. At all other points the French fire stopped the enemy, who sustained considerable losses. Artillery duel remained lively throughout day on both banks of MEUSE, notably North of HILL 344 and near CHAUMEWOOD.

German Official. Owing to unfavourable visibility, fighting was less active on all Army fronts, than during past few days. In FLANDERS, violent artillery duel on COAST, and in the evening from the YSER to the COMINES - YPRES CANAL.

Advancing British reconnaissance detachments were repulsed at several places.

At VERDUN, apart from a temporary increase of artillery fire, fighting kept within moderate limits.

Aviation. Our aeroplanes again attacked the LONDON Docks and warehouses, as well as RANSGATE, SHEERNESS and MARGATE. Fires marked the efficient work of the bombs.

General Sir William Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, speaking at London yesterday said that our troops were now fighting on the same ground as they did with General French in 1914-1915. It was no exaggeration to say that the Battle of YPRES was one of the greatest in the War. It marked the decisive defeat of the Germans in their attempt to overrun France. We were then under-equipped in numbers and material, but now the tables were turned. Our equipment was complete in every sense and the enemy was unable to stem our advance, and were falling every time. During 1917 alone we had taken from the Germans more prisoners and four times as many guns as we lost to them during the whole war. We were now fighting with men of the very best material, whilst the enemy's resources were diminishing, and he was placing young men in the field two years before they were due for military service. His losses were heavier, whilst ours were lighter.

233

W I R E L E S S P R E S S .

1/10/17.

* - - - - - *

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 30/9/17. 10.12 a.m. Artillery activity continued during the night on both sides. Concentration of German infantry east of POLYGON WOOD, was dispersed by our fire. East of LOOS, a hostile bombing attack was driven off by our troops. We captured some prisoners as result of patrol encounters south of LENS.

9.34 p.m. Early this morning the enemy heavily bombarded our positions between TOWER HAMLETS and POLYGON WOOD, and subsequently launched 3 attacks, all of which were repulsed with loss. The first attack, delivered south of the REUTELBECK, was beaten off by our fire before reaching our position. Shortly afterwards hostile infantry advanced astride the YPRES-ENIN ROAD, under cover of a thick smoke barrage and accompanied by "Flammenwerfer" detachments, and succeeded temporarily in driving in one of our advanced posts. An immediate counterattack by our troops recaptured the post, together with a number of prisoners and machine guns. Later in the morning an attempt to repeat this attack was broken up by our artillery fire. The enemy raided our trenches early this morning east of LOOS and captured one of our garrison. As the hostile party was attempting to withdraw across "No Mans Land", it was pursued and attacked by our troops. Our man was recaptured and a number of the enemy were killed or taken prisoner. Hostile artillery has been active during the day along the front between the YPRES-COILLES CANAL and ZONNEBEKE, and in the NIEUPORT sector. Our own artillery activity on the Battle Front has continued.

On 29th September, the weather was unfavourable for aerial work. A number of valuable photographs were taken, however, and some observation was carried out for the artillery. Bombing of the enemy's aerodromes, billets, dumps, and railways, was continued vigorously by our aeroplanes, by day and night, and over 7 tons of bombs were dropped. GONTRODE Aerodrome was the chief target for our machines, and a large fire was caused. One of the enemy's balloon sheds also was set on fire and destroyed by a Naval pilot. The enemy's fighting machines were not very active yesterday, and there were consequently few combats. One German machine was brought down and 2 of our aeroplanes are missing, one of which was seen to land under control.

AIR RAIDS. Latest report of last night's air raid shows that determined and simultaneous attack was made upon LONDON by 3 groups of raiders. Each of the groups, which approached from different directions, was broken up by our anti-aircraft gun-fire, and only two or, at the most, three machines penetrated the defences. The 4th group of enemy machines, which attempted to approach LONDON later was driven off, none of the raiders penetrating the outer defences of the Capital. Bombs were also dropped at various places in Kent and Essex. Police reports state that the casualties in all the districts visited were: 11 killed, 82 injured.

During the afternoon of September 29th a bombing raid was carried out by Naval Aircraft on ST. DENIS WESTREP. Many bombs were dropped and direct hits were observed among the sheds and BESSONNEAUX tents. Bombs also exploded amongst 5 machines lined up on the aerodrome. All our machines returned safely.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. On the AISNE Front, after artillery preparation, three German detachments attempted this morning to enter the French trenches north of BARRY-AU-BAC. A small German party, who had succeeded in penetrating an advanced element of our lines was ejected from same. At all other points the French fire stopped the enemy, who sustained considerable losses. The artillery duel remained lively throughout the day on both banks of the MEUSE, notably north of HILL 344 and near CHAUME WOOD. Intermittent cannonade on the remainder of the front.

Aviation. German aeroplanes bombed the DUNKIRK district on 27th, 28th and 29th September. The two first bombardments caused considerable damage. The last, which was particularly violent, caused several victims among the civil population. 2 German aeroplanes were brought down by our pilots during the day of 29th September. During the night 28th-29th September, COLMAR STATION and German establishments north of SOISSONS were visited by French aeroplanes. 4,000 kgs. of bombs were dropped with success.

----- /ITALIAN OFFICIAL.....

* Bombs were dropped in the north-eastern and south-eastern districts.

(over).

ITALIAN OFFICIAL. We have improved our positions towards the southern edge of the BAINSIZZA PLATEAU. A few slopes to the south of PODLATA, and to the south-east of LADONI, were captured also from the enemy. We took prisoner: 49 Officers and 1366 men. Successive violent enemy counter-attacks were repulsed and our positions maintained. During the night of 28th September and the following day, fresh attempts of the enemy to dislodge us from our positions occupied between SELLA-DI-DUL, and on the northern slopes of SAN GABRIELE failed completely, and we captured 86 prisoners, 6 of whom were Officers. During the day our airmen bombarded enemy depots at BERJE.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL. Nothing of importance to report.

AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL. 29/9/17. Italian War Theatre. On the northern slope of MONTE SAN GABRIELE, the fighting activity considerably revived. On CHIISO in JUDILANIA the Italians attacked but were repulsed.

In return for the attack by an Italian airship on September 18th against LUSSIN PICCOLO, an attack made without causing any damage to us, a detachment of our hydroplanes attacked the airship station at the port of JESI, near ANCONA, which, together with an anchored airship, we had once before destroyed in 1916 and which had again been put in working order. This time also our naval flyers obtained a complete success. The airship garage was hit, and the airship within exploded, while flames rose to a height of over 130 feet. The explosion was observed by other aeroplanes at 20 miles distance. All our machines returned safely. Simultaneously an enemy attack was made on the surroundings of POLA and PARENZO, but without success. On 28th inst., a hostile machine bombed one of our hospital ships in the Southern Adriatic, although the ship was provided with all the prescribed signs.

GENERAL NEWS. General Maude denies the reports of British reverses in the BAGHDAD Theatre of Operations, which have been appearing in the Turkish Communiques. He says that the Turkish Communiques are constantly fictitious. They announced on 28th September the complete annihilation of a British Cavalry detachment on the EUPHRATES, whilst the fact was that only 3 British horses were wounded in a brush between cavalry patrols.

The German Admiralty report the sinking by one of their submarines of the armed British steamer "QUEEN ANALIA", 4278 tons, with Flax from Archangel.

America's first regiment of Field Engineers has commenced work on one of the important strategical lines of the French Army. All the necessary supplies were received from the French Commissariat, with the exception of the clothing. The regiment is composed almost exclusively of former employees of the Western American Railroads.

The Austrian Reichsrat sat almost continuously on Thursday and Friday, and during the morning of the last named day discussed the internal situation, which is considered serious. The present Cabinet, it is stated, is almost certain to be overthrown.

* *

WIRELESS PRESS.

2/10/17.

* - - - - * - - - - *

AIR RAIDS. Further groups of enemy aeroplanes attempted to penetrate the LONDON defences on the night of 1st October. A few succeeded in reaching LONDON and dropped some bombs in the south-western district. Others succeeded in reaching north-eastern districts, where bombs were dropped. No casualties or damage yet announced.

MESOPOTAMIA. The King telegraphed to General Maude; "I send best congratulations to you and all troops concerned in capture of Turkish forces at RAMADIE. I fully appreciate skill of leadership, as well as spirit of gallantry of all ranks, which enabled them to overcome difficulty of country and climate and resistance of stubborn enemy."

A Mesopotamian War Correspondent says that the Victory at RAMADIE on 29th September, though not on a scale of the western battles is one of the most complete successes of the war. The situation on the borders of PALESTINE had become more delicate than it should have been, and the Turks and their masters had taken the opportunity to amass in the ALEPPO region a large number of Turkish divisions, and it was probable that some British General this winter would be attacked. It was therefore necessary for the British War Cabinet to take precautions in both minor war theatres, and this has been done. It will be a considerable business to transport 12 Turkish divisions from ALEPPO to the EUPHRATES and attack there as well as on the TIGRIS. The force which General Maude has overwhelmed was doubtless destined for advance down the EUPHRATES when reinforcements joined it. General Maude moved rapidly as soon as climatic conditions permitted, and trusted to surprise. Successful use of cavalry, as ascertaining the force west of RAMADIE, is particularly to be remarked. It is a finished piece of work, for which British and Indian troops deserve praise. Turks on the EUPHRATES must now collect at a greater distance from BAGHDAD, and a greater difference will be between the two river lines, whereon Turks depend on new supplies. The power of the British Commander to strike in one direction or other is thereby increased, while the moral effect of such an entirely crushing disaster at the outset of campaign for the recapture of BAGHDAD cannot fail to have an appreciable effect.

GERMANY. An Amsterdam Correspondent says that suspicion is entertained in HOLLAND that the reported differences between Michaelis and Kuhlmann do not really exist. It is believed that the German Government is intentionally allowing the Press to discuss such differences to allow its temporising with Pan-Germans and Reichstag Majorities.

GERMAN WIRELESS WAR REPORTS.

WESTERN FRONT.

Army Group Crown Prince Rupprecht. In the centre of the FLANDERS Front the artillery battle was violent, increasing repeatedly between LANGEMARCK and HOLLEBEKE to waves of most intense drum-fire. In the morning our assault troops captured from the British ground to the depth of about 500 metres at POLYGON WOOD, north of the MENIN-YPRES ROAD, and held it against several powerful counterattacks. In addition to considerable casualties, the enemy lost prisoners to us.

Army Group of the German Crown Prince. North-east of SOISSONS the artillery activity intensified. At VERDUN, lively artillery fire in conjunction with a successful enterprise on the east bank of the MEUSE. In the morning, near BEZONVAUX, infantry assault groups, accompanied by pioneers, penetrated as far as the French support line, where they destroyed the trench emplacements, and returned to their own positions, in accordance with orders, bringing in over 100 prisoners.

EASTERN FRONT AND MACEDONIA. With only slight fighting activity the situation remains unchanged.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE. Marked activity of both artilleries on the entire AISNE Front, chiefly in the sector of CRAONNE. 2 German "coups de main" one north of BRAYE-EN-LAONNAIS, the other in the vicinity of AILLES, were without result. In the region north-west of RHEIMS, the French artillery dispersed German concentrations. On the right bank of the MEUSE, the artillery struggle assumed great intensity during the night from SAMOGNEUX to BEZONVAUX. The Germans twice attacked the French trenches in the BEAUMONT sector, but each time the French fire stopped the assailants and inflicted considerable losses on them. The night was calm everywhere else.

* * *

Further groups of enemy ...
LORDS defences on the night of 1st ...
LONDON and dropped some bombs in the ...
succeeded in reaching north-eastern ...
No casualties or damage yet announced ...

W. J. ...



1

RAMADAN. I truly appreciate skill and ...
gallantry of all ranks, which enabled ...
and climate and resistance of ...

A ...
1st ...
TIME had become more delicate ...
their masters had taken the ...
large number of Turkish ...
General this winter would be ...
British war cabinet to take ...
this has been done. I will be a ...
Turkish divisions from ...
on the Taurus. The force ...
defined for advance from the ...
General hands moved rapidly ...
was to surprise. Success ...
west of ... is particularly ...
work, for which British and ...
MURAD must now collect as a ...
all forces will be between the ...
supplies. The command of the ...
on other is thereby ...
evolving situation ...
cannot fail to ...

... in ...
HOLLAND that the reported ...
not really ... It is believed ...
allowing the Press to discuss ...
with Pan-Germans and ...

GERMAN AIR FORCE REPORT
...
AT ...
Front the artillery ...
LAWRENCE and ...
one result troops captured from ...
500 ... at ...
against several powerful ...
annihilated, the enemy lost ...

...
AT ...
action with a successful ...
In the morning, near ...
planes, contacted as far as the ...
the French engineers, and ...
with orders, bringing in over 100 ...

...
marked activity of both ...
ALICE ... in the sector of ...
one north of ... the other in ...
at least results. In the ...
dispersed German ...
very strategic assumed ...
BELOVAUX. The Germans twice ...
order, but each time the ...
considerable losses on their ...

233

WIRELESS PRESS.

2/10/17.

* - - - - * - - - - *

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 1/10/17. Noon. Hostile artillery has shown great activity during the night east and north of YPRES, and in the NIEUPORT sector. Otherwise there is nothing of special interest to report.

9.29 p.m. At 5.30 a.m. this morning the enemy launched a powerful attack on a front of over a mile against our new positions north of the YPRES-MENIN ROAD and east of POLYGON WOOD. The German infantry, advancing in 3 waves, suffered heavy casualties from our rifle fire and artillery barrage, and were driven back in disorder. Our troops followed up the retreating enemy and captured a few prisoners. In the course of the next 3 hours the enemy twice renewed his attacks, with strong forces, on the same front. Heavy fighting was ensued and again the enemy was repulsed at all points, except opposite the south-east corner of POLYGON WOOD, where the enemy succeeded in occupying 2 of our advanced posts. Hostile artillery has shown some activity during the day in the neighbourhood of BULLECOURT, and south and north of LENS.

The number of German prisoners taken by us in September 1917 is 5,296, including 146 Officers; in the same month we also captured 11 guns, including 3 heavy guns, 57 trench mortars and 377 machine guns.

Visibility improved on 30th September, and a great deal of artillery and photographic work was accomplished by our aeroplanes. Bombing raids continued without respite by day and night, and over 11 tons of bombs were dropped on the enemy's aerodrome at GONTRODE, on hostile billets and communications in the Battle Area, and on a dump and Headquarters near CAMBRAI. The enemy also carried out many bombing raids during the night, but did little damage of military importance. A photograph taken of the results of our bombing at GONTRODE Aerodrome shows that on the night of 29th-30th September one of the sheds at the aerodrome was hit. The same photograph shows that 3 large German machines have landed in a field 5 miles south of GONTRODE Aerodrome. Two of the machines are clearly damaged and reconnaissances, carried out today, found all 3 machines still lying in the field. The large airship shed, which is now used for the accommodation of "GOTHA" aeroplanes at this aerodrome, is reported to have been set on fire last night. Enemy aircraft were not very active yesterday, but a few large formations were encountered. 4 German machines were brought down, and 8 were driven down out of control. 5 of our aeroplanes are missing.

R.N.A.S. RAIDS. The Admiralty announce that during the night of 29th September, bombing raids were carried out by Naval Aircraft over the following objectives: The lock gates at ZEEBRUGGE, the aerodrome at ST. DENIS WESTREM, the THOUROUT Aerodrome, the BRUGEOISE Works, and trains. Several tons of bombs were dropped with good results, a large fire being caused at ST. DENIS WESTREM Aerodrome. During patrol, several aerial combats occurred, with the result that 2 enemy machines were destroyed and 1 driven down completely out of control. A "GOTHA" was also driven down and is thought to have been damaged. All our machines returned safely.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. On the AISNE Front, rather lively artillery actions in the LAFFAUX and AILLES sectors, and in the region between LA MIETTE and the AISNE. North of BRAYE, a French detachment composed of an Officer and 12 men carried out a surprise attack on ^{one of} the enemy's trenches, and without sustaining casualties, brought in 13 prisoners. On the right bank of the MEUSE, after a violent bombardment, the Germans launched an attack between CHAUME WOOD and BEZONVAUX. A desperate combat ensued in the advanced French trench elements, where the Germans had succeeded in penetrating, and ended in favour of the French. Their line was re-established intact, and they took 15 prisoners. Intermittent cannonade on the remainder of the front.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL. On the BAINSISSA PLATEAU, the enemy resumed his attack on the positions recently occupied by us. He was everywhere completely repulsed. The number of prisoners taken in the Offensive region during the last 3 days amounts to 2019, including 63 Officers.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL. in the RIGA region, 4 miles south of the railway, in the SPITALI FARM sector, our vanguard detachments pressed back the enemy posts and advanced between 800 and 1000 yards. /AIR RAID CASUALTIES.....

AIR RAID CASUALTIES. Later reports state that the casualties in last night's air raid in all districts were: Killed 9, Injured 22 (?). Only 2 persons were killed in LONDON. The material damage is not great. One enemy machine is reported to have been brought down off DOVER. FRANCE. There has recently been placed in the Hall of the Citadel at VERDUN a Flag gifted by Britain to commemorate the heroic defence of the City. In handing over the Flag, General Cowans, Quarter-Master-General, said: "Here is the Flag, the homage of my Country, a lasting remembrance of the admiration which we bear for your City and your incomparable Army, which resolutely and magnificently denied entrance to the invaders battalions, battalions which were ceaselessly renewed."

* * *

5th Australian Div



WIRELESS NEWS.

2/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL. Early morning 28th Sept. Mushaid Ridge was occupied with little difficulty. British column continuing advance manoeuvred away from river attacking Turkish main positions about RAMADIE from south-east whilst cavalry moved round west of RAMADIE. Severe battle ensued lasting throughout 28th but by nightfall British had carried enemy's main positions and were encircling RAMADIE from east, south-east and south at distance under two miles from the town. During night enemy attempted break out westwards but headed back by British cavalry. British resumed attack vigorously 29th Sept. daybreak. Next morning enemy surrendering everywhere. Included in capture are guns, arms, ammunition, stores, equipment and much other booty—several thousand prisoners Turkish Commander, Ahmed Bey, and Staff included. Enemy taken by surprise—whole garrison at RAMADIE captured. British forces display great gallantry, determination and endurance under most difficult conditions. On night 27/28th, another column moved out north-east of BAGHDAD and after sharp skirmish with Turkish cavalry detachment inflicted casualties capturing 4 prisoners and 300 supply camels. RAMADIE is on right bank Euphrates, about six miles west of Baghdad.

Lloyd George, in letter to Secretary of War and First Lord of Admiralty, authorises increase in soldiers and sailors pay and says—, "The War Cabinet has long felt, however, that betterment should be made in this respect. It is impossible to exaggerate the deep appreciation of those at home for the men who have endured unspeakable hardships of modern warfare—many for three years—for the defence of their country's liberty and honour. The Government feels sure that the nation wishes anything which will show men at the front their appreciation of their heroism and self-sacrifice should be done. Their prowess, patience and superabundant valour not only renewed the glory of the name of our race throughout the world but surpassed any achievement in the long annals of British Army records." Increase involves 50 millions annually.

Several groups enemy aeroplanes attempted to raid London on 1 evening 30th Sept. singly but only 10 penetrated outer defences. Four or five reached London where bombs were dropped. No casualties reported.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS. London 1/10/17. Noon. Hostile artillery has shown great activity during the night east of YPRES, and in the NIEUPORT sector. Otherwise there is nothing of special interest to report.

9.29 p.m. At 5.30 a.m. this morning the enemy launched a powerful attack on a front of over a mile against our new positions east north of the YPRES-MENIN Road and east of POLYGON WOOD. The German infantry, advancing in 3 waves, suffered heavy casualties from our fire and artillery barrage, and were driven back in disorder. Our troops followed up the retreating enemy and captured a few prisoners. In the course of the next 3 hours the enemy twice renewed his attacks, with strong forces, on the same front. Heavy fighting ensued and again the enemy was repulsed at all points, except opposite the south-east corner of POLYGON WOOD, where the enemy succeeded in occupying two of our advanced posts. Hostile artillery has shown some activity during the day in the neighbourhood of BULLECOURT and south and north of LENS.

The number of German prisoners taken by us in September 1917 is 5,296, including 146 Officers; in the same month we also captured 11 guns, including 3 heavy guns, 57 trench mortars and 377 machine guns.

AIR RAID CASUALTIES. Later reports state that the casualties in last night's air raid in all districts were: Killed 9, Injured 22 (?). Only 2 persons were killed in London. The material damage is not great. One enemy machine is reported to have been brought down off Dover.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL. On the BAINSISSA PLATEAU, the enemy resumed his attack on the positions recently occupied by us. He was everywhere completely repulsed. The number of prisoners taken in the offensive region during the last three days amounts to 2019, including 63 officers.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL. In the RIGA region, 4 miles south of the railway, in the SPITALI Farm sector, our vanguard detachments pressed back the enemy posts and advanced between 800 and 1000 yards.

WIRELESS PRESS,

3/10/17.

MESOPOTAMIA. The King telegraphed to General Maude: "I send best congratulations to you and all troops concerned in capture of Turkish forces at RAMADIE. I fully appreciate skill of leadership as well as spirit of gallantry of all ranks which enabled them to overcome difficulty of country and climate and resistance of a stubborn enemy."

A Mesopotamian War Correspondent says that the victory at RAMADIE on 29th September, though not on a scale of the western battles is one of the most complete successes of the war. The situation on the borders of PALESTINE had become more delicate than it should have been, and the Turks and their masters had taken the opportunity to amass in the ALEPPO region a large number of Turkish Divisions, and it was probable that some British General this Winter would be attacked. It was therefore necessary for the British War Cabinet to take precautions in both minor war theatres and this has been done. It will be a considerable business to transport 12 Turkish Divisions from ALEPPO to the EUPHRATES and attack there as well as on the TIGRIS. The force which General Maude has overwhelmed was doubtless destined for advance down the Euphrates when reinforcements joined it. General Maude moved rapidly as soon as climatic conditions permitted, and trusted to surprise. Successful use of Cavalry, as ascertaining the force west of RAMADIE, is particularly to be remarked. It is a finished piece of work, for which British and Indian Troops deserve praise. Turks on the EUPHRATES must now collect at a greater distance from BAGHDAD, and a greater difference will be between the two river lines, whereon Turks depend on new supplies. The power of the British Commander to strike in one direction or other is thereby increased, while the moral effect of such an entirely crushing disaster at the outset of the campaign for the recapture of BAGHDAD cannot fail to have an appreciable effect.

The Secretary of the War Office makes the following announcement: Mesopotamia. It is at present impossible, owing to the extent of the area over which the fighting at RAMADIE took place, to give a definite or complete list of our captures. We have, however, taken 13 guns and 12 machine guns. Approximately 200 Turkish killed have been buried, and about 600 wounded and 3,200 unwounded prisoners, among whom 300 (?) are officers remain in our hands.

R.N.A.S. Raids. During the night of Sept. 30th Naval Aircraft dropped bombs on STDENIS WESTERN Aerodrome, which fell among the hangars and set fire to one on the south side; fire spread and was visible 30 miles away. Bombs were also dropped on ZEEBRUGGE lock gates. Another bombing raid on STDENIS WESTERN was carried out by day at 12.30p.m. on 1st October, several direct hits being observed; also two sheds were set on fire in the south-eastern corner of the aerodrome. A large shed on the south side of the aerodrome, reported as being hit and set on fire on Sunday night, appears to be completely gutted.

AIR RAID. Latest police reports state that in last night's air raid, casualties in all districts visited by the raiders were: 10 killed, 38 injured.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. In Belgium, and at several points on the AISNE front rather violent artillery actions. On the right bank of the MEUSE following the intense bombardment reported this morning, the Germans launched a strong attack between Hill 344 and SAMOGNEUX. The violence of the French fire prevented the enemy assault detachments from reaching our lines, except at one point to the north of HILL 344. After desperate fighting, we retook the greater part of the advanced elements in which the Germans had set foot. Intermittent cannonade on the rest of front.

W I R E L E S S P R E S S .

3/10/17.

* * - - - - - * *

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 2/10/17. 11.4 a.m. Latest reports show that yesterday and last night no less than 5 separate attacks were made or attempted by the enemy upon portion of our new front lying between the YPRES-MENIN ROAD and north-east corner of POLYGON WOOD. Another hostile attack was made without success south of the YPRES-ROULERS Railway against our positions in ZONNEBEKE. Except for loss of 2 small advanced posts, already reported, all these 6 attacks ended in complete failure. Enemy has suffered severely in these attacks and gained no advantage. A hostile raiding party was repulsed with loss during the night south of LENS.

9. 2 p.m. Beyond artillery activity on both sides on the Battle Front there is nothing of special interest to report.

On 1st inst., a heavy ground mist hindered aerial work until the evening. Some successful observation was then accomplished for the artillery, and our aeroplanes took many photographs. Bombing was again carried out by day and night. GONTRODE Aerodrome was twice attacked and several bombs were observed to burst on the sheds. CARNIERES Aerodrome, near CAMBRAI, was also bombed, and a large hangar was hit. Two attacks were made on a German long range gun, and two others on hostile billets in the Battle Area.

During the month of September 105 tons of bombs have been dropped by our aeroplanes on various enemy targets. Hostile aircraft were not particularly active during the day, but carried out some bombing by night. 5 German machines were brought down, and 3 others were driven down out of control. 2 of ours' are missing.

MESOPOTAMIA. The Secretary of the War Office makes the following announcement: Mesopotamia. It is at present impossible, owing to the extent of the area over which the fighting at RAMADIE took place, to give a definite or complete list of our captures. We have, however, taken 13 guns, and 12 machine guns. Approximately 200 Turkish killed have been buried, and about 600 wounded, and 3,200 unwounded prisoners, among whom 300 (?) are Officers remain in our hands.

R.N.A.S. RAIDS. During the night of September 30th Naval Aircraft dropped bombs on ST. DENIS WESTREM Aerodrome, which fell among the hangars and set fire to one on the south side; fire spread and was visible 30 miles away. Bombs were also dropped on ZEEBRUGGE lock gates. Another bombing raid on ST. DENIS WESTREM was carried out by day at 12.30 p.m. on 1st October, several direct hits being observed; also 2 sheds were set on fire in the south-east corner of the aerodrome. A large shed on the south side of the aerodrome, reported as being hit and set on fire on Sunday night, appears to be completely gutted.

AIR RAID. Latest police reports state that in last night's air raid, casualties in all districts visited by the raiders were: 10 killed, 38 injured.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. In BELGIUM, and at several points on the AISNE Front, rather violent artillery actions. On the right bank of the MEUSE, following the intense bombardment reported this morning, the Germans launched a strong attack between HILL 344 and SAMOGNEUX. The violence of the French fire prevented the enemy assault detachments from reaching our lines, except at one point to the north of HILL 344. After desperate fighting, we retook the greater part of the advanced elements in which the Germans had set foot. Intermittent cannonade on the rest of front.

Aviation. Last night, German aeroplanes bombed the town of TOUL. Many victims are reported.

German aeroplanes again attacked the town of DUNKIRK last night. The very violent bombardment caused serious material damage. Many victims are reported among the civil population. As a reprisal for the bombardment of DUNKIRK and BAR-LE-DUC by the Germans, French aviators during the night 1st-2nd October dropped bombs on the towns of STUTTGART, TREVES, COBLENTZ and FRANKFORT-ON-MAIN. In addition, French bombing aeroplanes.....

aeroplanes made several expeditions, in the course of which 2120 kilograms of bombs were dropped on the depots of ROULERS, 6000 kgs. on the railway stations of SOUTH METZ, WOIPPY, THIONVILLE, the aerodrome of CHAMBLEY, the bivouacs at SPINOUCOURT and TILLY, and munition stores at LA FERME LONGEAU, where a violent explosion was reported. During the day of October 1st, 2 German aeroplanes were brought down by French pilots, and 4 were forced to land damaged.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL. Northern Front. In the RIGA region, south of the railway in KRONENBERG SPITALI FARM sector, our vanguard detachments advanced 1 mile.

AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL. 1/10/17. Italian War Theatre. On the ISONZO Front the Italian infantry attacks have abated. Near PODLAKA and BAINSISSA PLATEAU, a hostile advance was stifled at the beginning. Artillery combats continued with undiminished violence in the district of MONTE SAN GABRIELE, in the region north-east.

Austrian Admiralty announces: On the evening of 27th September, our hydroplanes efficiently bombed the aero station at BRINDISI and the torpedo boats and submarines anchoring in this port. One group of destroyers were hit by two heavy bombs; other hits were also observed. A successful enterprise against the Italian airship establishments at JESI on the evening of 29th is reported, also a successful attack against the airship garages at FERRARA. Once more an airship was destroyed, the airship being burnt, as observed by the blazing flames which rose from the garage after being hit by two bombs. The same evening, factories at PONTELAGOSCURO were effectively bombed. The enemy on 28th and 29th repeated his aeroplane attacks on POLA, which caused no military or private damage worth mentioning. 2 sailors were wounded. 1 Italian aeroplane was shot down in air fighting on 29th and fell in the sea; the occupants, 2 Italian Lieutenants, were dead.

WESTERN FRONT. A French report, dealing with the wastage of the German Army on the Western Front, says that from the commencement of the Franco-British Offensive in April up to September 21st., the Germans employed no less than 130 different divisions, each of which it was found necessary to withdraw, not for rest purposes but to permit of it being reformed behind the lines before being again used. Out of these 130 divisions, 30 were employed in the fighting line from 3 to 5 times each, the greater number of the remainder twice, and about 30 only once. The total of these engagements (divisions sent into the line and withdrawn after being exhausted) really amounts to about 250.

* * * *

WIRELESS PRESS.

4/10/17.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE. To the east of NEELAS our batteries effectively countered the German artillery and frustrated an attack in preparation in the enemy's trenches. West of L. VAILL, our detachments penetrated the German lines, blew up several dugouts and brought back prisoners. Another incursion in the region of the CASQUIN gave us good results. On the VILLEN front, the night was marked by a violent artillery duel on both banks of the MEUSE, particularly in the district to the north of HILL 344, where lively patrol engagements took place. The night was calm everywhere else. During the night 1st-2nd October and the day of 2nd October, French aeroplanes bombarded the station of FRIBOURG, works of VOLKLINGEN and of HOFTENBACH, stations of BREUILLES, LONGUYON, METZ, WOIPPY, ARNAVILLE, MEZIERES-LES-METZ, THIONVILLE, and SARREBOURG. 7,000 kilograms of projectiles were dropped during these various expeditions. As a reprisal for the bombardment of BAR-LE-DUC, 2 French machines dropped several bombs on the town of BADEN.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 3/10/17. The artillery activity continued on both sides during the night east of YPRES; otherwise there is nothing of special interest to report.

9.12 p.m. This morning shortly before dawn the enemy heavily bombarded our positions between TOWER HALLS and POLYGON WOOD, and soon afterwards his infantry attempted to advance. Our own artillery opened fire vigorously, and on the greater part of the front of assault the enemy's attack broke down before reaching our lines. In the area immediately north of the MENIN road, where a few of the enemy's troops succeeded in passing through our artillery barrage, they were completely repulsed by our infantry. Our positions are intact. There has been great artillery activity on both sides during the day east of YPRES.

On 2nd inst. weather was again misty, but in spite of this, much successful observation work was done for the artillery and many photographs were taken. Some of these showed the damage done by our bombing raids. About 8 tons of bombs were dropped by our aeroplanes on various targets, and hits were observed on 3 aerodromes in the COCHAMBI area, and on a 4th near GELDERI. Huts and dumps near LOUAI, and sidings at ROULERS were also successfully attacked. The enemy generally avoided our fighting machines, but attacked our long distance bombing machines vigorously when far east of the line. 6 German machines were brought down in air fighting and 4 others were driven down out of control. 6 of our aeroplanes are missing.

SUBMARINE REPORT. The Submarine Returns for the last week show that the preventive measures against piracy are having a continued effect. Arrivals number 2680 and sailings 2745. The number of British merchant vessels mined or submarined, over 1600 tons, was 11; under 1600 tons 2. 13 vessels were unsuccessfully attacked by submarines. No fishing craft were sunk.

R.F.C. AIR FIGHT. A War Correspondent describes the air battle, wherein the famous German aviator Voss, was killed by a British airman of great reputation. Whilst patrolling, the British airman was attacked by a machine piloted by Voss and another machine. 2 other British machines flew to their comrades assistance and a third German machine also came up. 11 German machines were in the distance, hoping for a favourable opportunity, but 10 British machines prevented them from approaching to machine gun range. The 3rd enemy fighter retired, but the other two fought skilfully and a keenly fought duel followed. Voss suddenly swerved to avoid machine gun fire, but the British airman dived after him, showering bullets into his machine, which reeled, dropped, and disappeared, the broken machine being found on the battlefield with Voss's body wedged in the pilot's seat.

WIRELESS PRESS.

4/10/17.

* * - - - - * - - - - *

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 3/10/17. 10.42 a.m. The artillery activity continued on both sides during the night east of YPRES; otherwise there is nothing of special interest to report.

9.12 p.m. This morning shortly before dawn the enemy heavily bombarded our positions between TOWER HAMLETS and POLYGON WOOD, and soon afterwards his infantry attempted to advance. Our own artillery opened fire vigorously, and on the greater part of the front of assault the enemy's attack broke down before reaching our lines. In the area immediately north of the MENIN ROAD, where a few of the enemy's troops succeeded in passing through our artillery barrage, they were completely repulsed by our infantry. Our positions are intact. There has been great artillery activity on both sides during the day east of YPRES.

On 2nd inst. weather was again misty, but, in spite of this, much successful observation work was done for the artillery and many photographs were taken. Some of these showed the damage done by our bombing raids. About 8 tons of bombs were dropped by our aeroplanes on various targets, and hits were observed on 3 Aerodromes in the GOURERAI area, and on a 4th near CAMBRAI. Huts and dumps near LOUAI, and sidings at ROULERS were also successfully attacked. The enemy generally avoided our fighting aeroplanes, but attacked our long distance bombing machines vigorously when far east of the line. 5 German machines were brought down in air fighting and 4 others were driven down out of control. 6 of our aeroplanes are missing.

R.N.A.S. RAIDS. During the night of 1st-2nd October a bombing raid by Naval Aircraft was carried out on the lock gates at ZEEBRUGGE. Many bombs were dropped. Yesterday afternoon an attack was made on ST. DENIS WESTREM Aerodrome, where a quantity of explosives was dropped on the sheds and machines. During the usual fighting patrols, 2 enemy aircraft were shot down out of control. All our machines returned safely.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. The day was relatively quiet and only marked by artillery actions north of the AISNE and on both banks of the MEUSE.

Eastern Army. Rather great artillery activity in the region of the JUMNICA and on the CERNA BEND. A strong Bulgarian patrol was repulsed by Greek troops north of MONASTER.

BELGIAN OFFICIAL. During the past 48 hours our artillery has subjected the enemy's communications and encampments to gunfire, in reply to the bombardments directed against the installations on our front. Today a violent bombing struggle, supported by an intense bombardment, ended in our favour. During the last two days our aviators made 47 flights, several of which were occupied in bombardments at night as reprisals for the bombing of our rear by enemy aeroplanes.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL. At dawn yesterday the enemy attacked our positions on the western slopes of MONTE SAN GABRIELE. The attack failed completely. The assault company was destroyed, and the battalion following it, caught, in its turn, by the fire of our batteries and attacked by our parties, was dispersed. 1 Officer and 79 men remained in our hands. On the remainder of the BAINSISSA PLATEAU Front, we captured by successful patrol actions some other prisoners and 3 machine guns.

Air activity was very lively during the day. One of our squadrons carried out a bombardment on the railway station of GRAHOVO. Last night, in 2 successive raids, the military objectives of POLA were bombarded with 4 tons of projectiles and greatly damaged. 2 enemy machines were brought down by our airmen.

SUBMARINE WARFARE. The Submarine Returns for the week ending 30th Sept. show that the preventive measures against piracy are having a continued effect. Arrivals number 2680 and sailings 2742. The number of British merchant vessels mined or submarined, over 1600 tons, was 11; under 1600 tons - 2. 16 vessels were unsuccessfully attacked by submarines. No fishing craft were sunk.

R.F.C. AIR FIGHT. A War Correspondent describes the air battle, wherein the famous German aviator Voss was killed by a British airman of great
/reputation.....

reputation. While patrolling, the British airman was attacked by a machine piloted by Voss and another machine. 2 other British machines flew to their comrade's assistance and a 3rd German machine also came up. 11 German machines were in the distance, hoping for a favourable opportunity, but 10 British machines prevented them from approaching to machine-gun range. The 3rd enemy fighter retired, but the other 2 fought skilfully, and a keenly fought duel followed. Voss suddenly swerved to avoid machine gun fire, but the British airman dived after him, showering bullets into his machine, which reeled, dropped, and disappeared, the broken machine being found on the battlefield with Voss's body wedged in the pilot's seat.

WESTERN FRONT. A War Correspondent on the Western front says that the artillery battle is endless and on both sides intense. 5 German counter-attacks on Oct 1st-2nd failed to reach our lines. Very desperately the enemy is trying to push us back from the positions which are essential to the strength of his defence. "It is the last phase of the war. Does the enemy know that he must win or lose all? Our men have that hope in their hearts, and fight more grimly and with higher spirit because of it. The success of the last 2 battles has deepened the hope, and the men come from the line back to rest billets with old conviction newly revived that at last they have the enemy down and under, and very near hopelessness."

The Military Correspondent of the "Berliner Morgenpost" admits that the general military and political situation has led to a general defensive position.

* * * * *

...the enemy's counter-attacks and encroachments to ...
 ...the assault company was destroyed, and the ...
 ...of the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...

WIRELESS PRESS.

4/10/17.

* * - - - - * - - - - * *

GERMANY'S FOOD SUPPLY. A New York Correspondent says that according to figures published here Holland in one year shipped enough food into Germany to supply 1,200,000 soldiers. The publication of these and other figures has had the effect of causing the American Public to heartily endorse the embargo. The Correspondent learns from Washington that France, Italy, and the other countries arraigned against Germany are following the lead taken by Britain and America, and the combination will absolutely prevent materials entering northern neutral territory, unless it is established beyond all doubt that Germany is not profiting.

RUSSIA. A telegram from Petrograd states that Verkhovsky, Minister of War, in a Democratic Conference declared that the soldiers as a whole were well meaning and had the right instincts, but were easily misled by malicious agitators. He insisted that Officers should resume their proper place, should have the right to command and be not merely technical advisers but leaders. The measures he proposed for restoring discipline differed a little from those of Korniloff.

GENERAL NEWS. A Rome telegram states that the "Corriera Italia", the semi-official organ of the Vatican, denies that the Pope addressed a fresh Note to the Powers, but merely communicated to the Entente the Central Powers replies.

The submarine returns for September are the most encouraging we have had since the ruthless submarine warfare began. The arming of merchantmen has proved to be a valuable insurance.

A Washington telegram states that a fresh loan of 2,000,000 Dollars to Belgium is announced by the Treasury. The total amount loaned to this country by America is now 5,000,000 Dollars.

=====

GERMAN WIRELESS WAR REPORTS

WESTERN FRONT.

Army Group Crown Prince Rupprecht. Yesterday the activity of the enemy in FLANDERS was the same as on the preceding days, namely heavy destructive fire, directed far into the country behind our positions and on the Belgian villages; against isolated sectors in the centre of the Battle Front there were most violent bursts of concentrated fire. Throughout the night the powerful artillery battle continued with undiminished force from HOUTHOLS WOOD to the LYS, intensifying this morning to drum-fire. With the launching of powerful British attacks on the YPRES CURVE the battle in FLANDERS is again resumed.

On the other Army Fronts fighting throughout the day was generally slight in extent, owing to bad visibility, and only livened up in the evening.

Army Group of the German Crown Prince. On the east bank of the MEUSE, violent artillery fire was directed at nightfall on HILL 344, east of SAMO-GNEUX. Shortly after this the French advanced deeply-ranked to the attack, in an attempt to recapture the positions taken by us there. The assault broke down with heavy losses, and without result, under the defence fire of our artillery and the stubborn resistance of Wurtemberg troops.

Army Group Grand Duke Albrecht. Lively artillery combats developed temporarily just west of the MOSELLE, & in SUNDEGAU; no attacks were made there.

EASTERN FRONT. Near JACOBSTATT, DWINABURG, on the ZBRUCZ, as well as on the arm of the DANUBE near GALATZ, artillery activity increased temporarily. Reconnaissance combats at several places resulted in our favour.

Macedonian Front. Unchanged.

=====

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

The night was fairly calm, except on the right bank of the MEUSE, where both artilleries were very active.

As a reprisal for the bombing of BAR-LE-DUC, French aviators dropped bombs on FRANKFORT and RASTATT.

* * * * *

4007

W. W. ...

3



... A New York Correspondent ... that according to ...
 ... in one year ... enough food into Germany ...
 ... The publication ... and other ...
 ... the American ... to heartily ...
 ... from Washington ... that France ...
 ... against Germany ... following the ...
 ... and the ... of ...
 ... Germany is not ...
 ... A telegram from Petrograd ...
 ... that the ...
 ... and had the right ...
 ... insisted that ...
 ... have the right to ...
 ... proposed for ...
 ... of ...
 ... A Rome telegram states that the "Corriere Italia", the semi-
 ... of the Vatican, ... that the Pope addressed a ...
 ... to the Powers, but ...
 ...
 ... for September are the most encouraging we have
 ... since the ...
 ...
 ... a fresh loan of 5,000,000 Dollars
 ... by the Treasury. The total amount loaned to this
 ... is now 5,000,000 Dollars.

GERMAN WIRELESS WAR REPORTS

WESTERN FRONT.
 Army Group Crown Prince Rupprecht. Yesterday the activity of the enemy
 in Flanders was the same as on the preceding days, namely heavy destructive
 fire, directed for into the country behind our positions and on the Belgian
 villages; against isolated sectors in the centre of the Battle Front there
 were most violent bursts of concentrated fire, throughout the night the
 powerful artillery battle continued with undiminished force from HOUTSCHE
 WOOD to the LIS, intensifying the morning to dawn-fire. With the launching
 of powerful British attacks on the YPRES CURVE the battle in FLANDERS is
 again resumed.
 On the other Army Fronts fighting throughout the day was generally slight
 in extent, owing to bad visibility, and only lived up in the evening.
 Army Group of the German Crown Prince. On the east bank of the KHEUSE,
 violent artillery fire was directed at nightfall on HILL 344, east of SMO-
 GHEUX. Shortly after this the French advanced deeply-ranked to the attack,
 in an attempt to recapture the positions taken by us there. The assault
 broke down with heavy losses, and without result under the defence line of
 our artillery and the stubborn resistance of Willemberg troops.
 Army Group Grand Duke Albert. Lively artillery combats developed tem-
 porarily just west of the KOSSEL, & in BUNDEWALD attacks were made there.
 EASTERN FRONT. Near JACOBSTADT, WILHELMSTADT, on the ERBOS, as well as on the
 east of the DANUBE near GALTZ, artillery activity increased temporarily.
 Reconnaissance combats at several places resulted in our favour.
 Macedonian Front. Unchanged.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

The night was fairly calm except on the right bank of the
 REUSE, where both sides were very active.
 As a reprisal for the bombing of BAR-LE-DUC, French aviators
 dropped bombs on FRANKFORT and BASTATT.

WIRELESS NEWS -- 5/10/17.

British Official, London 4/10/17. 10.35 a.m. At 5.45 this morning we again attacked on a wide front East of YPRES. Our troops are reported to be making satisfactory progress and a number of prisoners have already been taken.

10.11 p.m. On the 3rd inst., low clouds and a high West wind made aerial work almost impossible. In spite of these conditions a little artillery work was carried out, and 4 of our machines attempted to bomb the enemy's aerodromes. One of these machines reached and bombed its objective, and two succeeded in dropping their bombs on other targets behind enemy's lines. One German aeroplane was driven down out of control, and one of our machines is missing.

Our attack this morning was launched on a front of over 8 miles from South of TOWER HAMLETS to the YPRES - STADEN Railway, North of LANGEMARCK, and has been completely successful. All objectives have been gained. Positions of great importance have been won and over 3,000 German prisoners have already reached the collecting stations. We are now in possession of the main ridge up to a point 1,000 yards North of BROODSEINDE. The weather, which during our preparations for the attack gave promise of continuing to be favourable, became yesterday less settled. The wind steadily increased, and last night and throughout battle has blow strongly from West at times with force of gale, and has been accompanied by storms of rain. These adverse conditions added to difficulties of advance and to work of our airmen. Notwithstanding this our aircraft performed valuable work and afforded useful information from time to time, both regarding position of our own troops and assembly of enemy for counter-attack.

Assault was delivered by English, Australian and New Zealand Divisions. Included among English troops were battalions from 28 English counties. There were also a few battalions from Scotland, Ireland and Wales. At all points rapid progress was made from the start. South of MENIN ROAD, where only a short advance was intended, our objectives were reached at an early hour. North of the road, English battalions carried hamlet of POLDERHOEK and POLDERHOEK CHATEAU, where sharp fighting took place, and drove enemy from numerous farms and small woods W. and E. of POLYGON WOOD. Australian troops captured MOLENAARELSTHOEK and cleared the houses on ZONNEBEKE - BROODSEINDE Road. New Zealand troops took GRAVENSTAFEL, and on left English divisions continued the line of our advance and reached outskirts of POELCAPELLE. Within short time of opening of assault, our first objectives had been gained on whole front of attack.

Our advance against our final objectives was carried out in accordance with plan, and was attended by equal success. English troops took villages of REUTEL and NOORDEMDHOEK, and secured high ground overlooking BECELAERE. Australian regiments captured BROODSEINDE, and established themselves well over crest of ridge, 5 miles East of YPRES, which gives observation Eastwards. On left of our attack, English troops carried greater part of POELCAPELLE Village and secured line of their objective East of POELCAPELLE Church. Whole of our objectives had been captured before midday.

Information obtained from prisoners and confirmed by identifications of German units, and by number of German dead, establishes fact that our attack anticipated by a few minutes an attack in force by 5 German divisions against our front line from POLYGON WOOD to ZONNEBEKE. Our artillery barrage descended upon enemy's troops as they were assembling and hostile attack never took place. Those of enemy's infantry who escaped fire of our artillery were overwhelmed by advance of our infantry. In consequence of enemy's losses in area of his intended attack few counter-attacks have yet developed. Two counter-attacks, attempted in early afternoon East of GRAVENSTAFEL were in each case broken by our fire before reaching our positions. Another counter-attack Northeast of LANGEMARCH resulted in severe fighting but was unable to drive our troops from positions gained by them. Later in afternoon 3 other unsuccessful counter-attacks were made by enemy S.E. POLYGON WOOD. Enemy's losses throughout whole of fighting exceedingly heavy. Our casualties have been light. In addition to prisoners taken by us we have also captured a few guns and much other material.

WIRELESS PRESS.

6/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 5/10/17, 10.15 a.m. During the night the enemy heavily shelled our new positions east of YPRES, but has made no further counter attack. Our troops have been engaged in organising the captured positions. A hostile raiding party endeavoured to enter our trenches last night north of GOUZAUCOURT, but was driven off with loss by our rifle and machine gun fire. Three other raids were attempted by the enemy in the neighbourhood of LENS. All three raids were repulsed, in one case after stiff fighting.

10.10 p.m. No infantry fighting of importance has taken place on the Battle Front today. Our troops have consolidated their positions. There is nothing to report on the remainder of the British front. The number of prisoners taken since yesterday morning is 4,446, including 114 Officers.

On 4th inst. the weather was almost impossible for flying, but in spite of the rain, low clouds and exceptionally strong wind, our artillery machines watched our advancing troops and reported their positions and movements of the enemy. Some of our fighting scouts flew over and attacked troops, transport and guns from the air. One of our machines is missing.

WESTERN FRONT. A War Correspondent, describing the new British advance, says that the enemy had himself prepared a tremendous

advance same morning for which he had brought up an additional 5 divisions, of which 3 were in the front line, one being the 6th Guards Division. His intention was to recapture ZONNEBEKE, sweep us back to ZEVENKOTE and take from us all the POLYGON WOOD area to the MENIN ROAD. We attacked at 6 a.m. while it was still half dark. Our attack utterly surprised the Germans, who calculated that we would not be ready for 2 days. Their attack was intended to cover a front of 3 km.

with ZONNEBEKE-GORNER. We attacked on a front of 12 km. from POELCAPELLE to near GHELUVELT. When our preliminary bombardment began, it was terrific. When the infantry went forward the Germans on most of the line were simply overwhelmed and ran or surrendered, the result being that behind the disorganisation of his ranks was such as we have never before encountered. Here and there on the line were clusters of concrete forts or solitary blockhouses. These were points where resistance was mostly anticipated, but so unexpected was our attack that the redoubts surrendered as soon as the first bombs burst on the doors. The most important part of our advance was from ZONNEBEKE to BROODSEINDE. There was short hard fighting on the way thereto, but BROODSEINDE offered little difficulty, and very large numbers of prisoners were taken from this part of the line. The Germans would not have yielded this to us if they had been able to prevent this, BROODSEINDE being the final core and critical section of the ridge. There was sharp fighting at other points, but everywhere our objectives were attained, and though resistance delayed us at some points nowhere was there any real failure. German losses were colossal. One German unit lost one third in killed and wounded before the rest surrendered. It would be difficult to praise too highly the perfect organisation of our attack and spirit and dash of our men.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE. The Germans attempted to surprise us during the night in the CHAMPAGNE to the east of the BUTTE de SOUAIN and in Upper Alsace near MICHELBACH. Violent artillery actions on the right bank of the MEUSE, in the neighbourhood of BEZONVAUX and HILL 344.

GERMANY German Admiralty reports the sinking by their submarines of a new British Sailing Vessel and armed British Steamer 3885 tons. Fear of aerial reprisals has caused the German public much concern, minute instructions having been issued to the public at COLOGNE and other large towns in the Rhenish provinces. The Museum at Cologne has been closed and the pictures removed to a place of safety.

W I R E L E S S P R E S S .

6/10/17

- - - - * * * * * - - - -

WESTERN FRONT. A War Correspondent says that the enemy counterattacks, which were varying in strength, were launched immediately after their defeat. At some points of the line 6 counterattacks were made, at others 2 or 3. Only at REUTELBECK, which is not a critical part of the line, did the enemy make a slight impression, forcing our troops back a little. Throughout the afternoon of October 4th the weather was unfavourable for aviation and the mist prevented observation, thus allowing the enemy to assemble for counterattack unseen. So far as the central area is concerned, the way in which we swallowed his divisions, which were already massed and deploying for counterattack, evidently so upset his plans and used up his available troops that he has not been able to do anything. Reports from all parts of the line reveal the enormous number of German dead. Everywhere in the neighbourhood of the enemy's concrete defences, great numbers of killed lie on the ground. Some of these had escaped by running or crawling back, after being wounded by our early shell fire, but each time the whole ground was swept clean of every man there except some lucky fugitives who were made prisoners. In the last three victories our methods resulted in the clearing of all troops in occupation of the ground attacked, and so commanding is the high ground captured that we can see BRUGES. The enemy lost the southern half of the PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE and have only a low spur containing the site of the village of BECELAERE. As to the northern half of the ridge our forces are within 2500 yards of PASSCHENDAELE Village, which should soon be untenable. Nothing else remains to the Germans except the Keiberg Spur and the isolated height of MOORSLEDE. Whether their ejection from the ultimate elevation comes sooner or later, our object has already been served.

=====

GERMAN WIRELESS WAR REPORTS.

WESTERN FRONT.

Army Group Crown Prince Rupprecht. In the Battle Area of the FLANDERS Front, the powerful destructive fire throughout the day intensified in the evening to isolated bursts of drum-fire between POELCAPPELLI and GHELUVELT. The British made no attacks. Advancing reconnaissance detachments were repulsed.

Army Group of the German Crown Prince. North-east of SOISSONS the artillery activity increased in force and method. North-east of RHEIMS a French thrust failed. On both banks of the MEUSE, our assault troops penetrated the enemy's positions near MALANCOURT, BETHINCOURT, FORGES, SAMOGNEUX and BEZONVAUX and returned at all points with prisoners.

AVIATION.

Stormy weather limited aerial activity. 5 enemy aeroplanes were shot down.

Lieutenant Müller won his 29th air fight.

EASTERN FRONT.

No fighting of importance to report.

Macedonian Front. Repeated livening up on the part of both artilleries, which were more active than usual.

East of LAKE DOIRAN, an assault by a British battalion was repulsed by Bulgarian advanced troops.

=====

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

German surprise attacks on small French posts in the HURTEBISE - CRAONNE region failed. On the right bank of the MEUSE, a bigger attempt on the French trenches north-west of HILL 344 gave rise to a lively combat. French soldiers repulsed a group of the enemy, who had set foot in the French advanced trench elements. The French carried out several successful incursions into the enemy's lines south of the BUTTE de SOUAIN north-east of FAYE-EN-HAYE and north-west of REGNEVILLE. The French detachments penetrated as far as the support lines, destroyed several dug-outs and brought in prisoners. Intermittent artillery activity on the greater part of the front.

* * * * *

W I R E L E S S P R E S S .

7/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 6/10/17. 10.14 a.m. Enemy artillery has shown increased activity on Battle Front, but no action has been attempted by his infantry. Attempted raid on our trenches south of HOLLEBEKE was driven off by rifle and machine gun fire. Welsh troops successfully raided the enemy's lines north-east of GOUZEAUCOURT, bombing dugouts and inflicting casualties on the garrison.

10. 0 p.m. Our artillery has been active all day upon the whole Battle Front. The enemy's artillery fire has been directed mainly against our new positions on the Ridge from BROODSEINDE southwards, but no counter-attacks have developed. An additional 380 prisoners have been taken by us in the last 24 hours. On the rest of the British Front there is nothing of special interest to report.

10. 1 p.m. The weather on 5th inst. continued to be unsettled and stormy, and again made flying difficult. Successful artillery work was nevertheless accomplished, and many photographs were taken. Enemy aerodromes in the LILLE Area were attacked with bombs. The railway stations at WESTROOSEBEKE, ISEGHEM and COURTRAI were attacked during the day, and the latter two were also attacked at night, and over 2 tons of explosives were dropped. Enemy aircraft were active in the Battle Area. 4 of his machines were brought down, and 3 driven down out of control. 5 of our machines are missing.

MESOPOTAMIA. General Haude, replying to congratulatory telegram from the Secretary for India, replied: "Most grateful to you for your kind message. British and Indian troops fighting side by side strove in friendly rivalry to be first to close with the enemy, and so succeeded in making victory complete and decisive."

FRENCH OFFICIAL. Fairly great activity of both artilleries in the neighbourhood of BRAYE-EN-LAONNAIS and on the right bank of the MEUSE north of CHAUME WOOD. In the VOSGES, the French carried out a surprise attack in the SENONES district. Nothing to report on the remainder of the front.

Eastern Army. The day was quiet along the whole front. Some Bulgarian patrols were repulsed west of LAKE OCHRIDA. Allied aeroplanes bombed the Bulgar-German establishments to the north of CUEVGUELI and near RESNA.

GERMAN SEA RAIDERS ACTIVITY. A Despatch to the Navy Department, Washington, from TUPULLA (Samoa) announces the arrival there of an Open Boat, containing the Master of American Schooner "C. SLADE". He stated that the German raider "Seadler" ran ashore and was abandoned on MOPELI, Lord Howe Island, on August 2nd. Later the Commander and crew of the Raider seized a motor sloop and the French Schooner "LUTECE", which were armed and put to sea respectively on August 21st and September 5th for the purpose of carrying out raids. The "SEADLER" sank the American Schooners "C. SLADE", "A. B. JOHNSON" and "MANILA". The "SEADLER" left 47 prisoners on the island, and they are now in a state of destitution.

WESTERN FRONT. A War Correspondent telegraphs: Germans most determined counterattacks were between BECELAERE and GHELUVELT, with the evident intention of piercing the salient intensified by the latest British attack and drive in a strong wedge south of POLYGON WOOD. English and Scottish troops have been stoutly holding a difficult line and refusing to give ground. German efforts on other parts of the front are much less determined. Australians and New Zealanders dug themselves into substantial line beyond BROODSEINDE and around GRAVENSTAFEL. There have been wonderful examples of perfect organisation. Before dusk on 4th October British batteries had taken positions assigned as part of new advance and were searching the enemy's country at new range. In the same period some German guns were going back. All the intricate machinery of the British Fighting Armies advanced with the men who had taken fresh ground. There was no time when Officers directing the battle did not know every movement of own divisions and also enemy's. Correspondent was informed that 15% of the prisoners were from 19th reserve division, and in the units of the 8th division were men who had been medically rejected several times. Boys of 18 years were plentiful and there were several of 17. British troops state that the Germans made a poor fight; their infantry avoided conflict at close quarter

*

WIRELESS NEWS -- 7/10/17.

A War Correspondent says that the enemy counterattacks, which were varying in strength, were launched immediately after their defeat. At some points of the line, 6 counter-attacks were made, at others 2 or 3. Only at REUTELBEEK, which is not a critical part of the line, did the enemy make a slight impression, forcing our troops back a little. Throughout afternoon October 4th, weather was unfavourable for aviation and mist prevented observation, allowing enemy to assemble for counterattack unseen. So far as central area is concerned, way in which we swallowed his divisions, which were already massed and deploying for counterattack, evidently so upset his plans and used up his available troops that he has not been able to do anything. Reports from all parts of line reveal enormous number of German dead. Everywhere in neighbourhood of enemy's concrete defences, great numbers of killed lie on ground. Some of these had escaped by running or crawling back, after being wounded by our early shell fire, but each time whole ground was swept clean of every man there except some lucky fugitives who were made prisoners. In last three victories our methods resulted in clearing of all troops in occupation of ground attacked, and so commanding is high ground captured that we can see BRUGES. Enemy lost southern half of PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE and have only a low spur containing the site of village of BECELAERE. As to northern half of ridge our forces are within 2,500 yards of PASSCHENDAELE Village, which should soon be untenable. Nothing else remains to Germans except KILBURG Spur and the isolated height of MOORSLEDE. Whether their ejection from the ultimate elevation comes sooner or later, our object has already been served.

British Official. Strong enemy artillery activity, but no attempt by his infantry. Attempted raid on our trenches South of HOLLEBEKE was driven off by rifle and machine gun fire. Welsh troops successfully raided enemy lines Northeast of GOUZEAUCOURT bombing dug-outs and inflicting casualties on garrison.

Italian, French and Russian fronts, nothing of interest to report.

Washington, Friday. Despatch to Navy Department from TUTULLA (Samoa) announces arrival there of open boat containing master of American schooner, "C. Glade". He stated that German raider, "Seeadler", ran ashore and was abandoned on "Mopelia", Lord Howe Island on August 2nd. Later commander and crew of raider seized motor sloop and French schooner, "Iutchle," which were armed and put to sea respectively on August 21st and September 5th, for purpose of carrying out raids. Before she stranded, "Seeadler" sank American schooners, "C. Glade", "A.B. Johnson", and "Manilla". "Seeadler" left 40 prisoners on Island and these are now in a state of destitution.

WIRELESS NEWS -- 8/9/17

British Official, 7/10/17. 10.44 a.m. There has been considerable artillery activity on the Battle Front during the night. We successfully raided enemy's positions Southeast of BROODSEINDE, inflicted several casualties, and brought back 20 prisoners and machine-guns. A raid attempted by the enemy South of the YPRES - COMINES Canal was repulsed. Another successful raid was carried out by Leicestershire troops West of CITE ST. ELIE. The weather is showery and much colder.

9.57 p.m. The weather is stormy and heavy rain has fallen all day. An advance attempted by the enemy South of REUTEL at dawn this morning was broken by our artillery, rifle and machine-gun fire. Towards dusk this evening the enemy put down a heavy artillery barrage on the greater part of our front between BROODSEINDE and HALLIEBEKE? but no infantry action followed. Artillery activity on both sides has been considerable to-day on the Battle Front. There is nothing of importance to report from the remainder of the British Front.

The weather was still very unfavourable for flying on 6th inst., but a little artillery work was done. 1 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped on enemy targets, including railway station, and our fighting machines went out when possible. One failed to return. A bombing machine is also missing which went out on night October 4/5th.

American Naval Success. Details of a fight between an American Destroyer and a German submarine in European waters, in which the submarine was destroyed by "depth bombs" are published by the Nave Department. Name of Destroyer and time and place of encounter are withheld. It mentioned as a feature of interest that the encounter was the occasion of a letter of appreciation from the British Admiralty. An Exchange message states that other submarines were sunk in encounters the total number of which is not given, but it is merely stated that "a number were sunk".

Germany. German newspapers which have reached Switzerland show that the intention of the Allies to increase the stringency of the Blockade is viewed by that country with gravity. These newspapers endeavour, however, to lay emphasis on the effect such rigid control of foodstuffs, etc., will have on neutral countries, and describe in a serious vein the unfairness of the Entente towards Neutrals. All these statements serve, however, only to show the great disquietude prevailing in Germany at this new step.

Western Front. A War Correspondent says that the fact that most of the prisoners taken in the recent counter-attacks were found to be equipped with new gear suggests that von Arnin had thrown in the best troops of which he could dispose. The great majority of killed, wounded and captured in these desperate struggles are of a good type between 25/30 years of age, soldiers whose places the Higher Command cannot possibly fill. The only result of this tremendous expenditure of life has been to slightly bend back our line on the extreme advance in the region of CAMERON COVERT, which ground is inclined to be swampy and not nice to hold, but even here the latest news is that we have straightened out our front since the last fierce effort of the Germans. There is reason to believe that out of 6 enemy divisions bet een GHELUVELT and just North of PASSCHENDAELE village, 6 battalions suffered so heavily as to be incapable of further fighting for some time. A large proportion of the enemy wounded brought into our casualty clearing stations were found to be suffering from bayonet wounds. One platoon from a Scottish regiment, in the course of a hard fight for a large concrete em placement, killed 4 Officers and 23 other ranks with their bayonets. The proportion of officers captured since Thursday morning appears to be in the ration of 1 to every 40 men.

WIRELESS NEWS -- 9/10/17

British official. 10.44 a.m. After the enemy had put down a heavy barrage yesterday at dusk on our front between HOLLIMBERG and BROODSEINDE, an infantry attack developed against our positions East of POIRYON Wood. The attack was beaten off by our fire; a few prisoners remained in our hands. We successfully recaptured the enemy line East of MONCHY last night.

10.34 p.m. Bad weather has continued throughout the day and heavy rain has fallen. Both artilleries have been active during the day on the YPRES Battle Front. There is nothing of interest to report on remainder of British front.

There was a short spell of fair weather on 7th before the heavy rain, which fell almost all day. While this lasted considerable work was done by our artillery machines, and our bombing machines dropped over 2 tons of explosives on STADEN and COURTRAI Railway Stations and other targets. Enemy showed marked activity in vicinity of our newly won territory and attacked our bombing machines vigorously. 2 hostile machines were brought down and 3 were driven down out of control. 1 of our machines is missing.

Western Front. A War Correspondent in the Field says that the 4th German Army acknowledges defeat by remaining quietly in broken defences. It is clear that German Commander is having a difficult task sorting out and relieving demoralised troops and trying to readjust his plans. Statements of prisoners and other information confirm original impression of pure demoralisation and partial destruction of many battalions. No German reverse has been so pronounced or so swiftly accomplished in any previous battle of this war. Enemy must have lost equivalent of at least 3 good infantry divisions in Thursday's barrage alone, and sudden and complete collapse of carefully prepared German attack on a front of over 2 miles had no parallel in the experience of the German High-Command. They cannot explain it satisfactorily to their discouraged Army. Of divisions chiefly involved in this catastrophe at least two, namely 4th Guards and 45th Reserve were among the best in the German Army. Every Company of the Guards Division is represented among the prisoners and no fewer than 7 out of 9 Guards battalions suffered terribly. 45th Reserve had at least 6 out of 9 battalions rendered unfit for serious effort. Other divisions were hammered to exhaustion.

Another War Correspondent says that there is every evidence that the Germans were expecting to hold the Western slopes of PASCHENDAELE RIDGE and to make their winter quarters in STADEN, ZONNEBEKE defences now broken and overrun by British Armies. The enemy must now consider the question of trying to dig new winter quarters somewhere else and must arrange artillery, establish fresh railheads, aerodromes and hutments, and try to provide against future catastrophes. Higher Command must be seriously perplexed and anxious to fathom our plans. Various orders have been captured offering tempting rewards for the capture of British prisoners and complaining that identifications are "urgently desired." One order says: "It is extremely important that prisoners be taken without delay from 25th to 27th Sept." There is another extract from an order which sets forth that the English always respect stretcher parties. Troops therefore in preparing for attack are advised to screen their movements as much as possible with such parties.

233

War Diary

WIRELESS NEWS -- 10/10/17.

British Official, Longon 9/10/17. 10.28 a.m. At 5.20 a.m. this morning we again attacked on a wide front Northeast and East of YPRES, in conjunction with our Allies on our left. Reports indicate that satisfactory progress is being made on all parts of the front. The weather continues to be stormy.

10.59 p.m. Heavy rain fell continuously during the afternoon and evening yesterday, causing the ground to become sodden and very difficult for the passage of troops. Notwithstanding the stormy weather and the waterlogged condition of the ground our troops succeeded in launching an attack at 5.20 a.m. to-day, in conjunction with the French on our left, with very successful results. The front of attack extended from a point Southeast of BROODSEINDE to ST. JANSBEEK, one mile Northeast of BIXSCHOOOTE. On the extreme right Australian Troops moved forward over the crest of the ridge East and Northeast of BROODSEINDE, securing all their objectives. On the right centre a Third Line Territorial Division, comprising the Manchester, East Lancashire and Lancashire Fusilier Regiments, advanced one mile northwards along the ridge in the direction of PASSCHENDARLE, capturing all its objectives under the most trying and difficult circumstances, with great determination and gallantry. In the centre, between the Main Ridge and POELCAPPELLE, a considerable advance was made which includes the capture of many fortified farms and concrete redoubts. In the left centre we have completed the capture of POELCAPPELLE. On the extreme left of the British attack, English, Welsh and Irish Troops, and the Guards, have taken all their objectives and gained the outskirts of the FOREST of HOUTHOUST, nearly 2 miles North Northwest of POELCAPPELLE. On our left flank the French crossed the BROEM-BEEK STREAM, which was in flood, and have also gained the outskirts of the FOREST OF HOUTHOUST, capturing all their objectives including several hamlets and many fortified localities. More than 1,000 prisoners have already passed through the collecting stations.

The weather was even more unfavourable for flying on 8th inst. than on previous days. Much work was, however, done in aerial reconnaissance and some artillery work was successfully carried out. 2 enemy machines were driven down out of control, and ground targets were also attacked with machine-gun fire. 2 of our aeroplanes are missing.

Germany's Claims. A German Wireless message on 8th inst., claimed that on the Western Front during July - August - September, the German Army had captured 13,849 prisoners, 4 guns, 49 mine throwers and 463 machine-guns. The British have not lost a single gun on the above front during the first 9 months of this year, and the following authentic figures, showing the British captures and British losses, establish our great superiority. During the first 9 months of 1917, on the Western Front alone we captured 51,435 German prisoners, 332 field and heavy guns, excluding machine-guns and trench pieces. We lost during the same period 15,506 men but not one single gun. In all theatres of war, during the same period, we captured 72,513 prisoners and 470 guns. British losses in all theatres of war were Prisoners 15,850, Guns - Nil. The 3 months on which the German Wireless bases its claims for the Western Front show that the British Army alone (exclusive of captures by other Allies) took 18,614 prisoners, 57 guns, 830 machine-guns and 162 trench mortars. Since then over 5,000 additional German prisoners have been taken.

WIRELESS NEWS -- 11/10/17.

British Official, 10/10/17. 10.17 a.m. Enemy delivered heavier counter-attacks yesterday evening in neighbourhood of YPRES - STADEN Railway. All these were repulsed, but to South of Railway on a front of about 2,000 yards our advanced troops were forced back a short distance. Other counter-attacks made by the enemy northeast of BROODSEINDE during the course of yesterday's fighting were repulsed with loss. We carried out some successful raids South of the River SCARPE. Heavy rain again falling to-day.

9.42 p.m. In the course of day hostile attacks against our new positions in neighbourhood of YPRES - STADEN Railway led to local fighting without effecting any material change in situation. No further counter-attacks have been made by enemy and our troops on Battle Front have been actively engaged in organising positions captured by them yesterday in spite of great difficulties arising from state of ground. Artillery activity has continued on both sides. The number of prisoners taken by us yesterday and so far reported is: 2,038, including 29 Officers. This number includes 400 taken by the French. We also captured a few field guns and a number of machine-guns and trench mortars.

On 9th inst. little flying took place except on Battle Front, where a great deal of work was done in spite of a strong gale and thick clouds. Enemy's new gun positions and other suitable targets were reported by our aeroplanes to our artillery, which then dealt with them. Touch was kept with our infantry all day and enemy's troops were harassed by machine-gun fire at every opportunity. A ton of bombs was dropped on STADEN during the day, and at night 2 tons were dropped on ROULERS, COURTRAI, MENIN and LEDEGHEM Stations. A direct hit was obtained on a hostile train, causing a number of explosions. In air fighting 4 German machines were brought down and 2 others were driven down out of control. 2 of our machines are missing.

A War Correspondent, writing of yesterday's Offensive, says: "Until midnight, when it began to clear, sheets of rain driven by a northwest wind swept over the battle area. There was no shelter in the submerged land except in shallows which were pools of icy water. After the rain ceased the night continued intensely cold and mist overlay the entire landscape. Everywhere low-lying lands were studded with concrete defences, sometimes single blockhouses, sometimes groups making veritable fortresses. "Pill-boxes" sunk three-quarters of their height below the surface are never wholly dry inside but in them the German troops had shelter from the storm and comparative dryness and warmth. Some shelters were broken by artillery fire but many were undamaged. None, however, offered really stubborn resistance. There was scattered fighting and the enemy casualties again appear to have been heavy. Half an hour before the attack the German put a barrage fire on the greater part of the line. It did little harm but was hard on the nerves of the men both tired and wet. Despite all these things, the attack was pushed with perfect determination and gallantry to fine and complete success. Germans on the whole fought badly. On immediate right of French, British troops found a new enemy division, namely 227th, who had only come in at 3 a.m. that morning, ignorant of the terrain, disorganised and with no stomach for fighting. On extreme left some resistance was offered

Submarine warfare. The Admiralty announces that the total arrivals of all merchant vessels for the week ending 7th October is 2,519 and sailings 2622. British vessels sunk by mine or submarine over 1,600 tons -- 14. Under 1,600 tons -- 2. Vessels unsuccessfully attacked -- 5. Fishing vessels sunk -- 3.

WIRELESS NEWS -- 12/10/17.

British Official, 11/10/17. 10.9 a.m. Heavy rain fell again last night. The enemy's artillery showed considerable activity during the night West of PASCHENDAELE. Otherwise there is nothing of special interest to report.
9.30 p.m. To-day improved weather and good visibility favoured the work of our artillery. Much effective counter-battery work has been carried out by us on the Battle Front, in addition to bombardments of the enemy's positions and harassing fire directed against his communications and back areas. Hostile artillery has been less active.

On the 11th (10th?) stormy weather continued and flying was only possible in the early morning and in the evening. These opportunities were taken by our machines to carry on artillery and photographic work, and a number of bombs were dropped by us on hostile billets and hutments and upon a German big gun position.

In air fighting three enemy machines were brought down and two were driven down out of control. Four of our machines are missing.

War correspondents, describing the ground over which the last advance took place, say, "At no time on this ground can water soak away, as the earth is barely above sea level. Shells have everywhere driven through the thin earth layer to the underlying water till it has become a marsh of deep craters separated only by narrow banks of mud. Men waded up to the waist in shell holes and struggled through. Nowhere has the enemy driven us back, but what has robbed our success of some completeness is the unspeakable condition of the battlefield."

"The line whereto our troops have fallen back is still much in advance of that held until the morning of 9th inst. The retirement was not caused by German infantry, but it was found that portions of the battlefield were absolute wastes of water and unfordable mud, and that supplies could not advance with the usual speed, but nowhere did the enemy infantry drive us out, and all the final objectives were reached in a wide region covered by our principal thrust."

Germany. A Rotterdam telegram, dealing with the mutiny in the German Flæet, says that the reason for the Pan-German propaganda in the Army is made clearer by this event. It confirms the words of prisoners that the German troops view another winter of war with growing disgust and are increasingly inclined to question the wisdom of those responsible for Germany's continued resistance to the will of two-thirds of the human race.

Amsterdam states: A Berlin telegram announces that the Peruvian Minister called at the Foreign Office and asked for his passports.

The Washington State Department has published a telegram from the German Foreign Office to Bernstorff, dated 3rd January: "Secret. General Staff desires energetic action with regard to proposed construction of Canadian Pacific at several points with view to complete and protracted interruption of traffic. Captain Boehm, who is known on your side and is shortly returning, has been given instructions. Inform Military Attache and provide necessary funds." Telegram is signed "Zimmermann".

WIRELESS PRESS

13/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 12/10/17, 9.40 a.m. We attacked at 5.25 this morning on a front of about 6 miles north-east of YPRES. Our troops are reported to be making satisfactory progress. Rain fell heavily during the night.

9.58 p.m. Progress made along entire front which extended from YPRES-ROULERS Railway on the south to our junction with the French on the southern edge of HOUTHOUST FOREST. On the whole of this front a large number of defended localities, fortified farms and woods and concreted strongpoints were captured by us together with a number of Prisoners. Fighting was especially severe on the slope of the main ridge west of PASSCHENDAELE and on the main ridge itself south of that village. Rain has continued with increasing violence and has impeded our progress and in consequence it was decided not to make any further effort to reach our final objectives. Approximately 500 prisoners were taken today. One hostile machine was brought down yesterday in combat and another was shot down by our infantry. Two enemy machines were driven down out of control. Five of our machines are missing.

Reuter's Correspondent on the British Front telegraphs: "This morning British and ANZAC Troops resumed process of pushing the Germans off what remains of their foothold upon great ridge system east of YPRES. French infantry was not moving this morning, but the artillery is pounding the enemy position's vigourously. The Germans were caught unexpectant. We have driven the Germans practically out of whole depth of defensive front over width of several thousand yards and the result is that the Germans have now to oppose with flesh and blood instead of dugouts and concreted redoubts. The enemy are shovelling and running up wire in feverish haste in rearward positions. "pill-boxes" cannot be fashioned in wet weather because the concrete will not set. Our troops are rather sorry the enemy is practically beyond zone of these works because they have proved death traps to the Germans. There are reports that the Germans are getting short of big gun ammunition. They have been firing some of our own shells captured from the Russians. Reports from line are very encouraging. At 7.40 it was reported all was going splendidly. In many places troops have gained first objectives and are digging in."

BRITISH PREMIER AND GERMANY. Britain's Premier gave an emphatic answer yesterday to von Kuhlmann's declaration that concessions regarding ALSACE-LORRAINE will never be granted. Mr. Lloyd George said: "I cannot conceive any statement more calculated to prolong this terrible war than that made by Baron von Kuhlmann in the Reichstag, when he announced that under no conditions would Germany contemplate the granting of any concession to France in respect of Alsace-Lorraine. However long the war may be, however great the strain on the resources, this country intends to stand by her gallant ally France."

NORWAY. Not only has Germany organised in Norway a staff of dynamitards supplied with bombs to be placed in vessels leaving port, but it would appear also that she has mobilised in that country bands of incendiarists, whose mission is to set fire to the industrial establishments working for the Entente. That, at least, is how it is reported by a prominent Christiania paper. Less than a month ago, on the outskirts of the town a big condensed milk depot and some warehouses full of merchandise destined for England were set on fire. Later in same week 3 workshops suffered same fate. Enquiries following the fires in the places have shown that several workers have disappeared as if by magic. Several statements made before the Police revealed the state of affairs.

Mr. ASQUITH AT LIVERPOOL. Mr. Asquith, speaking at Liverpool, said: "Cessation of fighting will be merely a precarious halting place unless it provides adequate and durable safeguards against renewal of strife. There are genuine demands for peace in Germany and in the Reichstag itself, and signs of revolt, but the dominant factor is the German Government. Does it mean business? It has studiously avoided answering plain questions and this is not business. The territorial adjustments claimed by the Allies do not involve aggressive annexations. They mean giving wronged nations natural boundaries, repaying a debt long demanded by justice"

WIRELESS PRESS.

14/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS. London, 13/10/17. 10.37 a.m. Heavy rain fell throughout the night and still continues. No hostile counter-attacks have yet developed. Nothing to report on rest of front.

9.24 p.m. Beyond the usual artillery activity on both sides on the Battle Front nothing of special interest has occurred. Number of prisoners taken by us yesterday and so far reported is 741, including 41 Officers.

9.28 p.m. On 12th inst. the weather could not have been less favourable for the co-operation of aeroplanes with our infantry in their attack. None the less machines went out until 4 p.m., both in the rain and during fine intervals, and with great difficulty succeeded in locating our troops. Movements of enemy watched and hostile batteries located and reported to our artillery. Over 1,000 rounds were fired by our aeroplanes at hostile infantry in trenches and shell holes and on roads. Only a few German machines were encountered, and little fighting took place in the air. 4 enemy aeroplanes were brought down; 5 others driven down out of control. 10 of our aeroplanes are missing. The very strong west wind and the suddenness with which storms of driving rain came up, accounted for the non-return of many of our machines. Several of those missing belonged to patrols which were not engaged in fighting and evidently were lost in the storms.

FLANDERS OFFENSIVE. A War Correspondent in the Field refers to the splendid heroism of the British Troops. "Every officer from Haig downwards knows that nothing but fine unshaken spirit of infantry could have carried them through to victory. Wounded who have come back say they have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. Germans appear to have fought well in many places and on the whole better than usual. Prisoners were coming back in small groups during the morning, Jager, and men of the 68th, 201st and 441st Regiments. All the wounded spoke of the great amount of bayonet fighting. One officer said he thought his men had killed at least 3 times as many of the enemy as he had lost in his battalion.

BRITAIN & HOLLAND. A telegram from Holland states that immense quantities of materials for concrete defences have been forwarded through Holland to Belgium for defence works in Flanders. Holland previously refused to allow the British to send military supplies through Dutch waterways and Britain is now demanding similar treatment for Germany. The Dutch Government sent a Commission of Officers to inspect lots of sand and they declared that it was used for roads and railways. The Dutch Government therefore assumed that it was for civil use, but such quantities went through that they ultimately informed the Germans that sufficient had been imported into Belgium and traffic must cease. Assurances to this effect were given to the British Government that it would not be resumed from 12th August until 1918, but to the surprise of the Government the traffic did not cease. The Dutch Government's explanation was that as the works might be interrupted by frosts early in 1918 they had decided to anticipate contingency by allowing transit to exceed date, whereon the British Government refused Dutch commercial cable facilities, which cannot be claimed as a right. It is understood that the British Government takes a serious view of the question.

ADMIRAL CAPPELLE RESIGNS. An Amsterdam telegram states: "According to the 'Frankfurter Zeitung' Admiral Cappelle has resigned." The 'Cologne Gazette' says: "Cappelle in his declarations regarding events in the German Navy did not act according to the Chancellor's views and instructions." (Later News) The resignation of Admiral von Cappelle the German Minister of Marine, was tendered by the Chancellor to the Kaiser by telegram. The resignation, and this action on the part of the Chancellor are the result of a stormy scene in the Reichstag.

RUSSIA. Today comes the news from Petrograd that German troops have landed on the Islands of OESSEE and DACO, at the mouth of the Gulf of Riga. Only this bare fact is given, and it is left to speculation what object Germany can have in thus marooning valuable fighting troops.

WIRELESS PRESS.

15/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London. 14/10/17. 10.40 a.m. The enemy's artillery has been active during the night north-east of YPRES. Hostile reconnoitring parties were repulsed west of BECELARE and north of POELCAPPELLE. We carried out a successful raid in the neighbourhood of HULLUCH.

9.25 p.m. Eastern County troops successfully raided the enemy's trenches this afternoon south-east of MONCHIELE-EPREUX and captured several prisoners. On the Battle Front there has been considerable activity during the day on the part of both artilleries, but no infantry action. The total number of prisoners captured by us on 12th inst. is now ascertained to be 943, including 41 Officers. Owing to the weather very little flying was done on 13th inst. In the fine intervals a certain amount of artillery and photographic work was accomplished and the enemy's new position was reconnoitred. One of our patrols encountered an enemy formation of double the number of machines and a determined fight took place, from which 4 of our aeroplanes failed to return. Owing to the close nature of the fighting, the number of hostile planes could not be determined by our pilots. Other Allied machines, which arrived too late to take part in the fight, saw from a distance several machines falling out of control.

THE FLANDERS BATTLE. A War Correspondent on the Flanders Front describes the renewed use of machine guns, which the Germans found necessary to support their exploded "pill-box" series of defences. The German front line was reinforced from every possible quarter on narrow front attacked before PASSCHENDAELE, and innumerable machine guns supporting it were massed close up to the British on eve of forward movement. Combined with slow progress, inevitable through mud, this machine gun resistance created a situation which makes success achieved by British Infantry a remarkable feat and almost unbelievable under such conditions. It is now clear that only the frightful condition of the ground saved the Germans from suffering in this defeat one of the greatest trouncings of the whole series which they have suffered before YPRES. Bavarians repeat the customary allegations of unfair treatment, giving the impression the ill feeling between them and the Prussians is much more acute and well-founded. Some prisoners taken on 12th inst. had heard of the mutiny in the German Fleet, and said that a large number of machines was recently drafted into the Army to prevent further trouble and were being organised in disciplinary battalions.

R.N.A.S. OPERATIONS. On 13th, owing to unfavourable weather, operations by Naval Aircraft were restricted. One of our fighter patrols, however, during the day shot down an enemy machine over OSTEND. The machine was observed going down in flames.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. Both artilleries continued to be very lively during the day on the AISNE front, chiefly in the region of the PLATEAUX between AILLES and CRAONNE, as well as on the right bank of the MEUSE. There was no infantry action. In the MORNE, a German attack on the small posts to the south of the village of BERTHOFF failed. The day was calm everywhere else.

EAST A.S.T. 13/10/17. In the course of the night Russian troops repulsed a Bulgarian reconnaissance detachment in the region of the LAKES.

GERMAN WIRELESS-EASTERN FRONT. The Army and Navy have begun joint operation on powerfully fortified Russian island of OESSEL, a defence and strong point in the Gulf of Riga. After extensive mine sweeping we bombarded fortifications on SWORBE PENINSULA, at KIELKOND, on the TAGGA BIGHT and on SEOLO SOUND on the morning of the 12th inst. The Naval Forces concerned splendidly maintained the vigorous spirit of enterprise and competence of the fleet. Troops were landed in the TAGGA BIGHT, on the north-western shore of the island. They quickly broke down the Russian resistance in a spirited attack, and are now advancing to the south-east. ZEREL, on the southern point of the SWORBE PENINSULA, and APENSBURG, the chief town of the

WIRELESS PRESS.

16/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS. London, 15/10/17. 10.8 a.m. During the night the enemy heavily bombarded our positions on the main ridge south of BROODSEINDE. No infantry action has taken place. In successful raid we captured 35 prisoners and 2 machine guns yesterday afternoon south-east of MONCHY-LE-PRÉUX. About 200 Germans were killed by our infantry and 7 of the enemy's dugouts were destroyed with explosives. Another successful raid was carried out by South Midland Territorials early last night north-east of ROCHUX; a number of the enemy were killed, his dugouts were destroyed and 12 prisoners taken by us.

9.13 p.m. On 14th inst. there was a slight improvement in the weather. Artillery work and photography were carried out by our aeroplanes, and by loss of bombs were dropped on LEDEGHEM Railway Station and on hostile billets east of LENS. In air fighting 3 German aeroplanes were brought down and 1 was driven down out of control. 2 of our machines are missing. Later reports show that the number of prisoners captured by us in yesterday's raid south-east of MONCHY-LE-PRÉUX is 64, including 2 officers. A hostile raiding party was repulsed last night east of SHREWSBURY FOREST. On the Battle Front the activity of our own and the enemy's artillery continues. Hostile artillery has also shown more activity during the day in the neighbourhood of LENS and in the NIEUPORT Sector.

WESTERN FRONT. A War Correspondent in Flanders states that apart from ARRAS and VIMY RIDGE fighting, the British have driven the enemy out of 50 square miles of territory this year in the YPRES Area, in the Battle of MESSINES and in the FLANDERS Campaign. Each yard of this ground was of unusual importance as enemy's chosen position for the defence of all Belgian Plains beyond, and he knows what it means commencing next year's campaign with these in our hands. Geography, however, gives no adequate standard of measure of our success. The real measure of our gains is the wasted German manhood and the shock to German moral. Captured officers are well aware of the naval mutiny and talk freely of the widespread mutinous spirit which brought it about. They do not conceal how much the same spirit has spread in the Army, and the Bavarian units especially are affected, men in some cases threatening to shoot their Battalion Commanders. Our new positions have brought a wide circle of new objectives within range of our guns and many points of great importance will now be kept under regular fire. The observation we now have, giving command of the enemy's communications for a long distance behind his lines must make him particularly uncomfortable.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL. BALTIC SEA. Yesterday the fighting for the possession of the Island of OESSEL still continued. Following reports of October 13th: ARENSBURG was occupied by the enemy at 7 p.m.; advanced detachments were observed day before to be 4 to 6 miles from town. Enemy naval and aerial forces are energetically supporting their land operations, and are attacking north and south of the island. In the south a squadron of the enemy, cruisers, torpedo boats and trawlers, attempted to force the entrance of IRRE CHANNEL. Further movements into the GULF of RIGA are covered by our long range artillery from island of OESSEL. The northern group of the enemy warships despatched a squadron of torpedo boats between the islands of OESSEL and DAGO, which pushed back our patrol boats between in the direction of MOON SOUNDS. Our Naval Forces reinforcing patrol boats, accepted battle and retired. Third group of enemy warships consisting of cruisers and torpedo boats approached in the afternoon the south-western coast of the Island of OESSEL and bombarded an unimportant part of the coast. Enemy submarines were observed several times at different places in the BALTIC SEA.

WIRELESS PRESS.

17/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 16/10/17. 9.45 a.m. Irish troops carried out a successful raid early this morning north-west of BULLECOURT. Hostile artillery showed considerable activity during the night in the neighbourhood of the YPRES--STADEN RAILWAY.

9.15 p.m. Our patrols have been active during the day on the Battle Front and have brought in a few prisoners. There has been considerable artillery activity on both sides, and assisted by clearer weather, much counter-battery work has been carried out by us. A small party of South Midland troops entered the enemy's trenches last night in the neighbourhood of ROEUX and inflicted casualties on the garrison. Another successful raid, in which we secured a few prisoners, was carried by us during the night north of LENS. Early this morning a strong hostile raiding party, which attempted to approach our lines south-west of ACHEVILLE, was repulsed with loss by our rifle and machine gun fire.

During the morning of the 15th inst. much successful artillery work was accomplished by our aeroplanes. Many photographs were taken and the enemy's infantry were harassed by our machines with M.G. fire from low altitudes. In the course of the day 2 tons of bombs were dropped by us on a large German Ammunition Dump near CONTRAI and on hostile billets and huts in the Battle Area. A number of bombs were dropped by night also on various targets in the enemy's forward areas. In air fighting 3 German machines were brought down and 2 driven down out of control. 3 of our machines are missing.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL, Baltic Sea, On October 14th at 4 p.m. our patrol squadron off SEOLA SUND, consisting of 4 torpedo boats and 2 gunboats, was shelled by a German Dreadnought squadron. The torpedo boat "GROM" was severely damaged. Following this, 12 (and afterwards more) German Torpedo Boats of the newest type forced their way through into SEOLA SUND under cover of German Battleships. Our patrol squadron accepted battle. The Gunboat "KHRABRY" twice took the Torpedo Boat "GROM" in tow under violent fire. The other torpedo boats covered them and energetically engaged the enemy, whose fire was principally directed on the "KHRABRY" and "GROM". On the latter all the guns were put out of action and the vessel was set on fire. A big wave cut the hawser, but the "KHRABRY" again approached the "GROM" and once more endeavoured to take it in tow but without success. The "GROM" sank, but the bulk of its crew was saved by the "KHRABRY". Simultaneously one of the enemy torpedo boats was sunk by the fire of the "KHRABRY". Other of our warships appearing on the scene the enemy turned back. The rest of our warships were only slightly damaged. The Commander of our Fleet testifies to the good firing and stubborn spirit of our Gunboats and Torpedo Boats, especially of the "KHRABRY" and "KHIVENETZ" and Torpedo Boats "ZABIKA", "POBEDITEL" and "KONSTANTIN", which stood the brunt of the fighting against superior enemy forces. Eye-witnesses report the sinking of 2 enemy torpedo boats and the damaging of 2 others.

On the Island of OESSEL the enemy is developing his success and reinforcing himself. We have received reports that the enemy is directing his offensive against SWORBE PENINSULA with the purpose of capturing our batteries at CEREL, which are covering the entrance into the Gulf of Riga.

SWEDEN AND CONTRABAND. The British Prize Court has condemned £140,000 of wood consigned to the Swedish Army Administration Department, on the ground that it is contraband destined for the enemy. The President expresses surprise that the name of a Government Dept. of a neutral country should have been employed to get absolute contraband into Germany. It was stated that the total value of the wood consigned to the Swedish Army Administration Department and which was now lying unclaimed in the Prize Court was nearly £300,000.

GENERAL. Orders have been placed in CANADA by BRITAIN for 22 Steel Vessels of 3400 to 8000 tons, total tonnage now under consideration 150,000 tons. Report from Athens states that very soon fresh peace overtures will be made by the Central Powers. Peace is imperative owing to their desperate position.

W I R E L E S S P R E S S.

18/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 17/10/17. 10.25 a.m. There is nothing of special interest to report.

10.15 p.m. Hostile artillery has shown considerable activity during the day north-east of YPRES and in the COAST Sector. The activity of our own artillery on the Battle Front continues. There is nothing further of special interest to report.

10.15 p.m. British aeroplanes carried out a very successful bombing raid this afternoon into German territory. A factory west of SAARBRUCKEN, some 40 miles beyond the German frontier, was attacked. Many bombs were dropped with good effect and fires were seen to break out in the factory. All of our machines returned safely. On 18th inst., our aeroplanes took advantage of the fine period from dawn till 3 p.m. to carry out artillery work and photography. A large number of bombs were dropped also during the day on hostile billets, hutments and trenches. 2 German machines were brought down in air fighting and 1 other was brought down by our anti-aircraft guns. One of our machines is missing.

WESTERN FRONT. A War Correspondent says that the battlefield shows signs of improvement, but the mud is still very bad and the weather cold. No counter-attacks have been attempted by the enemy, and only a marked alteration in his line is further withdrawal below BROODSEINDE, where our outposts established forced him to leave nearly all the wood on the slope east of NORDEMBOCK and establish a new lower line round it. We are shelling the enemy's position mercilessly and without cessation. Correspondent watched the bombing of BRUGES DOCKS and the basins on ZEEBRUGGE CANAL by British Naval Airman. Long after the raid was over a great red fire burned on through the night. Such affairs are almost daily and nightly incidents on the Battle Front.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL BALTIC SEA. During the day our patrol ships had encounters with enemy torpedo boats. The enemy continued to develop his success on the Island of OESSEL, pressing back our detachments who were covering mole between OESSEL and MOON. Land communications have thus been interrupted between the two islands and we have completely lost touch with our forces on OESSEL. Eye-witnesses, who escaped after the landing of the enemy at TAGA BAY, report that on the morning of the 12th Oct., enemy Dreadnaughts ran into one of our minefields defending island. After the explosion which followed, the warship made for the COAST; its ultimate fate is unknown.

SUBMARINE WARFARE. (WEEKLY STATEMENT). Week ending 14th October: Arrivals of merchantmen of all nationalities over 100 tons net at United Kingdom ports, exclusive of fishing and local craft, 2124; sailings 2094. British merchantmen sunk by mine or submarine, 1600 tons gross or over-12; under 1600 tons-6, including 1 in week ending 30th September and one in week ending 7th October. British fishing vessels sunk-1 (sunk in week ending 7th October.)

GENERAL NEWS. It is reported from NEW YORK that U.S.A. will probably participate in the Allied Conference at PARIS.

A New York telegram states that Lieutenant Rudolph Gladpelder, formerly on the German Cruiser "MAGDEBURG", and who escaped to Switzerland after taking part in the German Naval Revolt, has communicated to a New York newspaper that 12,000 sailors from 25 (?) ships rioted all day, mobbed the Admiral and 50 officers, fired the Barracks, Zeppelin sheds, warehouses and wharves and blew up 5(?) unfinished warships and the harbour buildings.

Mr. Bonar Law stated in the House of Commons that a British Air Ministry would be constructed.

GERMANY. It is reported that the Socialist Party in the Reichstag will vote against the German vote of Credit in December unless Dr. Michaelis is removed from the Reichstag-Chancellorship.

WIRELESS PRESS.

19/10/17

BRITISH OFFICIAL, London, 18/10/17 10 p.m. London troops carried out a successful raid last night in the neighbourhood of GAVRELLE. Several of the enemy were killed or taken prisoner, and our own casualties were light. Hostile artillery has been active during the night against our positions south of the YPRES-COMINES CANAL, and in the neighbourhood of ZONNBERKE and BROODSEINDE. Otherwise there is nothing to report from the Battle Front.

9.3. p.m. During the day hostile artillery has shelled vigorously various localities in our forward and battery areas east of YPRES. This afternoon our positions south-east of POEL-CAPPELLE have been heavily bombarded. The activity of our own artillery continues. Successful counter-battery work has been carried out and concentrated fire has been directed with good effect upon a number of targets. Our patrols on the Battle Front have brought in a few prisoners, but there has been no further infantry action. On remainder of front nothing to report.

On 17th inst. fine weather produced great aerial activity. Visibility was excellent and enabled our machines to do a great deal of successful artillery work and successful photography. 98 bombs were dropped by our aeroplanes during the day on the enemy's billets and hutments. The strong west wind and clear atmosphere were ideal for the enemy's artillery reconnaissance and fighting machines, which were active and very aggressive in the forenoon. Several flights at high altitudes were made over our lines, with the result that of the enemy machines brought down 3 fell in our territory. In all 11 German machines were brought down by us, including 1 shot down by anti-aircraft gun fire, and 4 others were driven down out of control. 3 of ours missing.

WESTERN FRONT. Sir Douglas Haig replied to message from the Prime Minister: "British Armies in France proud to have won congratulations of War Cabinet and generous appreciation conveyed in your message of efforts made and results achieved in FLANDERS since 31st July. All ranks determined to achieve Victory and feel confident of doing so."

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL BALTIC SEA. Enemy has completely occupied island of OESSEL. He has also penetrated into Gulf of Riga where Russian and German Battleships were engaged. As a result the Russian Battleship "SLAVA" sank-the crew being saved by torpedo boats. The Russian batteries were put out of action in a short time by enemy Dreadnoughts. On the south-western coast of the island of DAGOE, the enemy again landed some small detachments which, however, returned to the ships as a result of the fire from the coast batteries.

GERMANY The transport difficulty has reached a crisis in Germany. The military needs, the wearing out of material, the lack of staff, have all gone to cause a situation in railway transport, which is being aggravated every day. Already, at different times, the Railway Administration has appealed to the public to stop journeys solely for pleasure, but these appeals have not been listened to and now today a series of restrictive measures have been issued. Many trains will cease running, others will be limited in size, but the most efficacious restriction is the raising of the fares, which will shortly be nearly doubled. In certain towns here passengers have fought for seats in the trains the number of tickets sold will correspond to the number of available seats, and no person can on any account have luggage exceeding 110 lbs. Even the heating of the trains is to be reduced and if these measures are not successful more stringent ones will be put into use.

R.N.A.S. OPERATIONS. During the day (October 17th) patrols were carried out by the Royal Naval Air Service, several patrols being encountered. 1 enemy seaplane was brought down and seen to

233 War Diary

Wireless News 20 Oct APPENDIX 7

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 19/10/17 11.7 a.m. A hostile raiding party was repulsed by our troops last night east of VERMELLES. We had no casualties. On the Battle Front, the enemy's artillery activity has been directed chiefly against positions in the neighbourhood of the MENIN ROAD and against ZONNEBEKE.

9.10 p.m. On the Battle Front the usual artillery activity has been most marked in the ZONNEBEKE Sector and against our back areas in the neighbourhood of ST. JULIEN and the STEENBEK. Our own artillery has carried out concentrated bombardments of the enemy's positions. Hostile artillery has also shown more activity than usual in the neighbourhood of ARLEUX. Elsewhere there is nothing to report.

On the 18th inst., the early morning was brilliantly fine, but at 9 a.m. low black clouds drifted up from the west. Reconnaissance artillery work and photography were carried out by our aeroplanes, and in the course of the day 2½ tons of bombs were dropped on a large gun position near DOUAI, on railway sidings near GHENT, and on various hostile billets and hutments. At night a further ton of bombs was dropped by us on COURTRAI Station and on the German aerodrome in that vicinity. In air fighting 6 hostile machines were brought down and 4 were driven down out of control. Another machine was shot down by anti-aircraft gun fire. 7 of our machines are missing.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL, BALTIC SEA. No news of any importance. 2 enemy torpedo boats which ran into our minefields were sunk; also two trawlers which came under the fire of our warships.

GERMAN WIRELESS. Under the command of Lieut. Genl. Estorff, our troops, fighting in boats and on the stone mole leading to the small sound, took the western shore of the island of MOON. In a rapid advance the Russians, wherever they made a stand, were overrun. By midday the whole of the island was in our possession. From the north and south, landing detachments of Marines and the guns of our battleships contributed largely to the rapid success. 2 Russian infantry regiments, 5000 men strong, were captured. The booty is considerable. On the islands of CESEL and MOON a Divisional and 3 Brigade Staffs fell into our hands.

GERMANY DAY BY DAY A Spanish message states that a captured German submarine has arrived at New York, flying the British flag. An announcement has been made by the Liberty Loan Committee, inviting the Public "to inspect the instrument of ruthless piracy, which was the cause of our going to war".

The "Weser Zeitung", in an article on the Dutch Sand and Gravel question, threatens Holland with German military force if she admits Britain's representation.

A report from ATHENS says that both TURKEY and BULGARIA are anxious concerning the Macedonian Front and are demanding German reinforcements. Germany is, however, suffering such heavy losses on the Western Front that she is anxious to withdraw troops from Macedonia rather than to increase them, and this is met by Turco-Bulgarian threats to conclude a separate peace. The real object of the recent meeting of the Monarchs at SOFIA seems to be for Austria and Germany to cajole or menace their Allies, who are fearing that Greece's intervention will have far-reaching effects.

The "Belgisch Dagblad" reports a mutiny last week at OSTEND among the German sailors, who refused to board a submarine. An officer was thrown into the sea.

Herr David, the well-known Reichstag Socialist Member, speaking at a Conference recently, said, "Our submarines have not protected us against the 4th Winter of the war. They will not in a few months or even in one or two years force Britain to peace as the Pan-Germans say. We uttered a warning against this unrestricted campaign, the consequence has come to pass."

WIRELESS PRESS.

21/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS, London, 20/10/17. The enemy's artillery showed great activity yesterday evening and in the early part of the night north of LENS and on the Battle Front between TOWER HAMLETS and the YPRES-ROULERS Railway. There was also considerable artillery activity on both sides during the night north-east of YPRES.

9.2. p.m. A hostile raiding party which attacked our posts west of LENS this morning was repulsed with loss. Our own and the enemy's Artillery have been active north-east of YPRES. A number of destructive shoots have been carried out by us in spite of indifferent visibility. On 19th inst., dense mist almost entirely prevented aerial work. A little artillery work was carried out by our aeroplanes and 50 bombs were dropped by us on various targets. There was very little improvement in the weather during the night, but a few bombs were dropped on a hostile railway station. No fighting took place during the day.

AIR RAID Six or seven airships raided the eastern and north-eastern counties on the night of 19th-20th, but did not carry out any definite attack. Bombs were dropped at various points, a few in the London area. The following casualties occurred in all districts visited by raiders: Killed 23; Injured 53. Some material damage was caused to house property and business premises.

GERMAN RAIDERS IN THE NORTH SEA. Two very fast and heavily armed German raiders attacked a convoy in the North Sea about midway between the SHETLANDS and the NORWEGIAN COAST on 17th October. Two British Destroyer Ships, "MARY ROSE", Lt. Commander Charles L. Fox and "STRONGBOW", Lt. Commander Edward Brooke, which formed anti-submarine escort, at once engaged the enemy vessels and fought until sunk after short and unequal engagement. Their gallant action held the German raiders sufficiently long to enable 3 of the merchant vessels to effect their escape. 5 Norwegian and 3 Swedish vessels all unarmed, were thereafter sunk by gunfire without warning or examination. No effort was made to rescue the crews of the destroyers, and the Germans left doomed merchant ships whilst still sinking. British patrol craft rescued some 30 Norwegians and others of whom details are not yet known. Enemy raiders succeeded in evading the British watching squadrons on long dark nights, both in their hurried outward dash and homeward flight. It is regretted that all 88 Officers and men of "MARY ROSE", and 48 Officers and men of "STRONG BOW" were lost.

EASTERN FRONT. GERMAN WIRELESS. We have landed detachments on the Island of DAGOE, where already a few days ago landing detachments of Marines disembarked to hold the points selected for this operation. The operations begun there are proceeding according to plan.

GENERAL NEWS. The French Chamber yesterday paid homage to the late Captain Guynemer, the celebrated aviator, who met his death recently on the Western Front. The following motion was moved: "The Chamber invites the Government to place in the pantheon an inscription destined to perpetuate the memory of Capt. Guynemer symbolic of the aspirations of the Army and the nation."

The Commandant of the German submarine which was interned at Cadiz has made good his escape. The Spanish Authorities lay stress on the fact, that in the presence of the German Consul and several Spanish Officials, the submarine commander gave his word of honour not to attempt to escape.

233 War Diary

WIRELESS NEWS -- 22/10/17

4 Zeppelins destroyed, 4 disabled. A message from PARIS states that 4 Zeppelins have been brought down, while 4 others are still wandering about in a disabled condition. Of these latter, 2 are in the South-West, 1 over the MEDITERRANEAN, and the 4th on the SWISS FRONTIER.

A later report states that 11 Zeppelins flew over France, but were chased all over the country like a flock of frightened birds and utterly routed. It is believed that a 5th was also destroyed, but this is not yet confirmed. In addition to the 2 reported in the French Official Communique of yesterday as having been brought down, further details illustrate the defeat of the other 2 mentioned above. They were attacked by aeroplanes and defensive posts, and came down in the SAONE VALLEY, and were forced to land in the neighbourhood of SISTERON. The crews, after setting fire to the airships, attempted to take to flight but were made prisoners.

British Official, 21/10/17. 9.14 p.m. Irish troops carried out a successful raid at Noon today Northeast of CROISILLES and captured a few prisoners. Our men returned without loss. Our patrols captured 12 prisoners this morning southeast of POLYGON WOOD. There has been great artillery activity during the day on both sides of the Battle Front.

Aviation. A large number of bombing raids were successfully carried out. In the course of the day a total of 9 German machines were brought down, and 4 were driven down out of control. 3 of our machines are missing.

Mesopotamian Front. The G.O.C., Mesopotamian Force, reports that during October 18th, 19th and 20th, successful operations were carried out in vicinity of DELTAWA and KIZIL ROBAT. Our columns, concentrating during night 18/19th, took offensive on following morning and by an enveloping movement drove enemy across the DIALA at a point North of BELED RUZ and at KIZIL ROBAT, where the Turkish forces destroyed the bridge, and occupied the Southern hills of the JEBEL HAMRIN Ridge. Some prisoners were taken and also some wagon loads of ammunition.

German Official, Eastern Front. On the Island of Dagoë, our troops have reached the east coast. Raiding parties are pressing through the interior. Up to present several hundred prisoners are reported. We have occupied the Island of SCHILDAU, situated between the Island of MOON and the Mainland. The Russian Naval Forces have left the MOON SOUND towards the North, giving up the wreck of the "SLAVA" and 4 ships lying on the shore.

Submarine Warfare. The German Admiralty issues the following: "One of our submarines, commanded by Captain Pohrbeck, sunk on October 2nd, to the North of Ireland, the British Armoured Cruiser, "DRAKE", 14,300 tons displacement."

Belgium. The Germans have posted up notices in a number of districts in Belgium announcing that all men between 15 and 60 years of age must present themselves, on a date given, for work under the Germans, the penalty for not obeying being 2 years' imprisonment.

W I R E L E S S P R E S S,

23/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS. London, 22/10/17. Early this morning we carried out local counter-attacks on both sides of the YPRES-STADEN RAILWAY. French troops co-operated on our left. Progress in these operations is reported to be satisfactory.

10.24 p.m. Highly successful minor operations were carried out by us this morning in the neighbourhood of POELCAPPELLE and in conjunction with the French south of HOUTHOUST FOREST. East of POELCAPPELLE battalions of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Berks Regiments and Northumberland Fusiliers attacked on a front of about 1½ miles and captured a number of strongly fortified buildings and concrete dugouts on the hill east of the village. Gloucester, Cheshire, Lancashire Fusiliers, Manchester and Royal Scots Battalions, in co-operation with the French, attacked on a front of over 2 miles from the YPRES-STADEN RAILWAY to a point north of MANGELAERE. Southern defences of HOUTHOUST FOREST were captured with a further series of fortified farms and strong points. About 200 prisoners have been captured and heavy casualties have been inflicted on the enemy. During the night the enemy raided one of our posts south of the SCARPE RIVER; a few of our men are missing.

On 21st inst. a great deal of artillery observation and photography was done. During the day a total of 4 tons of bombs was dropped by our aeroplanes on aerodromes near COURTRAI and ROULERS, on a large gun position near DOUAI, on billets east of IENS, and on other targets in the Battle Area. One of our pilots arrived at a German aerodrome as the enemy's night bombing machines were getting off and dropped his bombs amongst them. Heavy fighting in the air chiefly over the enemy's lines. 12 hostile machines were brought down and 3 others were driven out of control. Another German machine was shot down by anti-aircraft gunfire. 3 of our machines are missing, including 1 which has not returned from night bombing. The Naval Squadron attached to the Army have been fighting throughout these operations and accounted for a large share of the hostile machines brought down. The Australian Squadron, who up to the present have been training, have now commenced active work and have already proved themselves worthy of the high opinion that was formed of them on their arrival.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL. BALTIK SEA. The islands of OESSEL and MOON have been definitely occupied by the enemy. In spite of extremely difficult fighting conditions against superior enemy forces, and in spite also of efforts of the enemy to close to us the entrance of MOON SOUND, we succeeded without loss and in perfect order in withdrawing our principal Naval Forces from the GULF of RIGA. We also succeeded in removing from MOON SOUND all floating craft, such as tugs, transports, barges, cutters, etc. Our Naval Forces, ready for battle, are defending the entrance to the GULF of FINLAND. A British submarine, which is with the Baltic Fleet, encountered an enemy squadron consisting of Cruisers and Dreadnoughts, but being violently shelled, was forced to submerge without witnessing the result of two torpedoes which were launched towards the leading Dreadnought. The same submarine, after travelling a certain distance, attacked some big enemy transports which were being convoyed by destroyers. One of the transports was blown up by a torpedo.

THE ZEPPELIN DEFEAT. The "Daily Chronicle" Paris says all indications point that the Zeppelins chased across France, where 4 were brought down and 2 more at least, probably brought down, came from raid on London. One prisoner from L.50 stated that they started from OLDENBURG on the afternoon of 19th for LONDON, but lost their bearings in the fog near Norwich and then drifted before the wind. According to other evidence, this was the case with other airships. The captured log-book of the Zeppelin brought down at Bourbonnès-Bains proves that the objective was London. A later Paris telegram states that it is believed that the Germans have already lost 6 Zeppelins since one was seen passing near Cannes; aviators chased it but lost it in the fog. When last seen the Zeppelin was drifting seaward in a vertical position. An Amsterdam telegram says the disaster was announced in Germany and caused grave consternation and was alleviated by the wild statements that they had previously bombed Birmingham, Manchester and other cities. These German Admiralty reports are now accepted with reserve in Germany.

WIRELESS PRESS.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS. London, 24/10/17. Yesterday evening the enemy again attacked our positions in HOUTHULST FOREST. The attempt was made against the point of junction of the British and French armies and was completely repulsed. Since our attacks on morning of 23rd inst., the enemy has now delivered seven counter-attacks against our new line without achieving material results at any point. A successful raid was carried out last night by Gloucester troops south-east of HAVRELLIE. A number of the enemy were killed, several of his dugouts were blown up, and a few prisoners and a machine gun were brought back by us.

p.m. We captured a few prisoners during the night in the course of patrol encounters south-west of HAVRINCOURT. On the Battle Front, hostile artillery has been active this afternoon against our positions in HOUTHULST FOREST. Our artillery has carried out counter-battery work and destructive bombardments at different points. In the NIEUPORT sector, a large explosion was caused behind the enemy's lines by our artillery fire. The weather is wet and stormy. On 23rd inst., weather was unfavourable for flying and nothing of special interest to report occurred in the air. One of our aeroplanes, reported missing on 21st inst., has since been located. The pilot of the machine is slightly wounded.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. North of the AISNE, the German artillery was particularly active in the LA ROYERE-LES BOYETTES sector and in the region of the Fort of LA MALMAISON. On the new French front, which runs from the MONT DES SINGES, which we occupied entirely, to CHAVIGNON the Germans have attempted no infantry action. Patrols sent out by the French in the region of CHAVIGNON and of VAUDESSON brought in a large number of prisoners. It is confirmed that Assault Troops played an important part in yesterday's attack. The number of prisoners captured by the French yesterday now exceeds 3000. Of the booty left in their hands, of which it will not be possible to complete the inventory for several days, it has only been possible up to the present to enumerate 70 guns, 30 trench mortars and 80 machine guns. In CHAMPAGNE, in the region of the MONTIS the French carried out successfully two "Coups de main", the one now east of PRUNAY and the other on MONT HAUT, and brought in 15 prisoners. On the right bank of the MEUSE, lively artillery actions in the region of SAMOGNEUX, VACHERAUVILLIE, CHAUME and to the west of DOUAUMONT.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL. The enemy has concentrated strong forces on our front for offensive purposes. A large proportion of these troops are German. However the blow may fall, the enemy will find us steady and prepared. During last night, the increased intensity of the artillery fire on various positions of the JULIAN front, and the heavy bombardment, mostly with special gas shells, between the ROMBON and the northern portion of the MAINSIZZA PLATEAU, marked the beginning of the attack.

GERMAN LATE OFFICIAL. On the Italian front the common offensive operation is taking its intended course. Up to now several thousands of prisoners reported.

SUBMARINE WARFARE. Admiralty announces total arrivals merchant vessels week ending 21st October: 2648, sailings, 2689. British merchant vessels sunk (over 1600 tons) -17; under 1600 tons-6. Vessels unsuccessfully attacked-7.

COMMONS DEBATE ON IRELAND. Mr Duke, the Irish Secretary, said that 200,000 young Irishmen were enrolling for purpose of fomenting new rebellion. The men have been told by the organisers: "We have considerable store of arms and shall have more when the fateful day comes." Arms could not be bought in Ireland. The helping hand that brought about the abortive rebellion in 1916 was the helping hand of Germany. Last February, when it became necessary to deport from Ireland some people engaged and still engaged in that conspiracy it was because the helping hand had hired them out again and the British Government knew it. Mr Redmond explained it, because it was desired to wreck Irish Convention which was doing well. Mr. Lloyd George said that the Government knew arrangements had been made for the landing of arms in Ireland by Germany.

WIRELESS PRESS.

26/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS. London, 25/10/17.

Following on the action of his artillery already reported, the enemy delivered another strong counter-attack yesterday south of HOUTHULST FOREST. His troops were once more completely repulsed. Successful raids were carried out yesterday afternoon and early in the night by Gloucestershire Worcester and Berkshire troops against enemy's positions between ROEUX and GAVRELLE. Many Germans were killed and enemy's dugouts were destroyed. We captured 1 machine gun.

10.1 p.m. A raid attempted by the enemy last night east of LOOS was met with rifle and machine gun fire and failed to reach our wire. Early this morning two hostile raiding parties attacked our line north of the LA BASSEE CANAL. One party was repulsed by our fire before reaching our lines. The other succeeded in reaching our trenches, but was driven out. One of our men is missing. We captured a few prisoners during the night in patrol encounters east of POELCAPPELLE. Our artillery has been active during the day on the Battle Front.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. This morning the French carried out a general advance beyond the positions reached yesterday evening, and are now on the bank of the OISE-AISNE CANAL. The village and forest of PINNY are in their hands, as well as the village of PARGNY-FILAIN south of FILAIN, where their patrols have penetrated. They occupy the farms of ST. MARTIN and of the CHAPELLE SAINTE-BERTHE. Under this pressure the Germans had to abandon important booty amongst which were 20 guns, several of them being "obusiers" of 150. The total number of guns captured by the French since 23rd and counted so far is about 120, to which have to be added several hundred trench mortars and machine guns. In the course of the day the French took more than 2000 prisoners. The total number captured since the beginning of this operation exceeds 11,000, including over 200 officers. On the right bank of the MEUSE, the German bombardment of the French positions in CHAUME WOOD, reported this morning, was followed by an attack which was stopped by the French fire.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL. Yesterday morning, after an interval of a few hours, the enemy resumed his violent bombardment all along the front, with special destructive fire on the portion between the southern slopes of MOUNT ROMBON and the northern edge of the BAINSISSA PLATEAU, where afterwards a strong infantry attack was launched. The narrows of SAGA resisted the hostile blow, but further south, the enemy succeeded in breaking through our advanced lines on the left bank of the ISONZO. Taking advantage of the bridgehead of S. MARIA and S. LUCIA he then brought the battle on to the slopes of the right bank of the river. At the same time powerful attacks were made to the west of VOLNIK (BAINSISSA PLATEAU) and on the western slopes of MOUNT SAN GABRIELE, but these were kept in check. Our troops captured a few hundred prisoners. On the CARSO a violent enemy bombardment was effectively countered by our troops' bombardment.

GERMAN WIRELESS. United in arms, German and Austria-Hungarian troops, gave battle to their former Ally. Advancing to the attack, after a short powerful artillery preparation on a front of over 30 km, well-tried divisions broke through the Italian ISONZO Front in the FLITSCH and TOLMEIN Basins. The strong enemy valley positions were taken in the first assault. The stubborn resistance of the Italians had to be broken down at several places in bitter close fighting. The fighting is proceeding. Up to yesterday evening, more than 10,000 prisoners, including Divisional and Brigade Staffs, and much booty in guns and war material, were reported.

W I R E L E S S E R R O R S .

23/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS. London, 27/10/17. Two heavy counter-attacks were made by enemy yesterday afternoon against positions captured by us in the morning south and west of PASSCHENDAELE. Both attacks were successfully repulsed by Canadian Troops, leaving number of prisoners in our hands. During night ground gained by us was consolidated without interference from enemy. West of PASSCHENDAELE our troops were able to make further progress, capturing 18 M.G.s.

10.24 p.m. The operations of the French north of the ST. JANS-BEEK were continued with success this morning. French troops, advancing on both sides of the BIXSCHOTTE-DIXMUIJN ROAD in spite of floods and heavy ground, captured villages of ASCHOOT, RIPPE and MERCKEM with many farms and strong points. Number of prisoners taken. On British Front great activity on part of both artilleries, but no infantry action. The number of German prisoners captured since commencement of our operations yesterday morning now exceeds 1100. This number includes 300 taken by French. Hostile raid was repulsed early this morning west of LENS.

ITALIAN FRONT. After having crossed our boundary line between MT. CANIN and the head of JUDRIO VALLEY, the enemy attempted to reach the opening on the Plains. On the CARSO, the hostile effort is increasing; strong offensive thrusts of the enemy were repulsed by our troops.

GERMAN WIRELESS. Under the personal Command of His Apostolic Majesty, the Emperor Charles of Austria, King of Hungary, the preliminary operation against the main forces of the Italian Army is maturing in co-operation with the incomparable thrusting power of German troops, who, shoulder to shoulder with their brave brothers in arms took up the battle on the ISONZO, and who are meeting with the greatest success. The Italian 2nd Army is beaten. Favoured by good weather, German and Austro-Hungarian Divisions pressed forward over the heights and through the valleys, breaking down the stubborn resistance of the enemy at several places. The jagged ridge on the STOL Heights was taken by the Imperial and Royal 22nd Guards Division. The strongly fortified summit of MOUNT MATAJUR, 1641 metres high, had already fallen on 25th October at 7 a.m., 23 hours after the beginning of our attack near TOLMEIN. This was carried out by the splendid action of Lieut. Schnieber who with 4 companies of the Upper Silesian Regiment No. 63 stormed the powerful Italian strong point on the frontier. The fighting and marching achievements of all troops, who are pushing forward over advanced mountains of the Julian Alps, cannot be sufficiently praised. The number of prisoners has increased to 60,000 and the captured guns to 450. Immense quantities of war material were left by the Italians in the positions captured by us. The Italian ISONZO Front is wavering as far as WIPPACH; on the CARSO PLATEAU, the enemy is making a stand, 26 enemy aeroplanes were shot down during the past two days.

MESOPOTAMIA. On 23rd Oct., Turkish columns moving on both banks of the TIGRIS from the direction of TEKHIT approached our positions about SAMARRA. On the advance of our troops however, the Turks retreated upstream during the night without fighting.

ZEPPELIN RAID. The loss of the Zeppelin which drifted over the MEDITERRANEAN is now established, this making the 6th definitely destroyed after disastrous attempt to raid England. Two French airmen who pursued the Zeppelin saw it dive nose downwards into the sea and disappear. The fates of the 3 others which were seen drifting in a damaged condition is unknown.

ARGENTINE AND GERMANY. Oct. 26. The Chamber of Deputies by 149 votes to 1 decreed a state of war to exist between Argentine and Germany.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. (Extract) During the evening of 25th Oct., German aeroplanes dropped bombs of large calibres on DUNKIRK. 30 victims are reported among the civil population.

233

WIRELESS NEWS -- 29/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL. 28/10/17 - 9.45 a.m. We have improved our positions slightly during the night in the neighbourhood of the YPRES - ROULERS RAILWAY. On the night of the 26/27th inst., Belgian troops carried out a successful raid north of DIXMUDE, capturing 15 prisoners and a machine-gun. Yesterday morning Belgian troops acting in conjunction with the French, crossed the inundations and occupied MERCKEM PENINSULA in the neighbourhood of VIJHULZEN.

10 p.m. In the course of the day the operations of the French and Belgian forces, north of MERCKEM have been successfully carried out. The village of LUIGNEM was captured this morning by French troops and the whole of the MERCKEM PENINSULA is now in the hands of the Allies. A further number of prisoners have been captured. On the Battle Front the activity of both artilleries continues. Hostile artillery has also been more active than usual north of LENS.

GERMAN OFFICIAL - ITALIAN FRONT. The rapid progress of the general attack on the ISONZO was also yesterday fully successful. Italian forces, who tried to prevent our divisions from leaving the mountains, were driven back in a powerful assault. In the evening German troops broke into CIVIDALE, which is in flames, the first town on the Plain. The Italian front is wavering as far as the ADRIATIC, and our Corps are pressing forward along the whole line. GORIZIA, the much fought for town in the ISONZO Battles was taken early to-day by Austro-Hungarian Divisions. The number of prisoners has increased to over 80,000, and guns to over 600.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL. Failing resistance of some units forming our Second Army, which in cowardice retired without fighting or surrendering to the enemy, allowed the Austro-German forces to break into our left wing on the JULIAN Front. Valiant efforts of other troops were unable to prevent the enemy from advancing into the sacred soil of our Fatherland. We are now withdrawing according to plan prepared. All stores and depots in the evacuated places have been destroyed. Record of so many memorial battles fought by our brave soldiers during the 2½ years of war is sufficient to assure our Commander-in-Chief that our Army, to which the honour and safety of our country are confided, will know how to fulfil this duty.

AMERICAN OFFICIAL. 27/10/17, 8 p.m. Some battalions of our first contingent, pursuing their training with a view to serving as a basis for the instruction of future contingents, occupy the front line trenches in a quiet sector on the French front in common with the war-hardened French battalions. Our troops are supported by some batteries of our artillery in conjunction with the tried French batteries. The sector remains quiet. Our men have adapted themselves to the trench life in the happiest fashion.

NORWAY. The recent barbarity of the German raiders is still causing great bitterness in Norway and the Sailors Associations in CHRISTIANIA and TRONDJEM have sent strong protests to the Norwegian Government.

1st ANZAC "I"

WIRELESS PRESS.

30/10/17.

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS. London, 29/10/17. We raided the enemy's trenches last night opposite WAPNETON. A hostile reconnoitring party was repulsed in the neighbourhood of REUTHEL. In the course of yesterday's operations north of MERCKEM a Belgian patrol captured a post of 25 men. Early in the night Belgian troops carried out a successful raid north of DIXLAUDE and brought back 23 prisoners and machine gun.

Infantry Fusiliers raided the enemy's trenches this afternoon north-east of CROISELLES and captured a few prisoners. Successful raids, in which a number of prisoners were taken, were carried out early this morning by Belgian troops north and south of DIXLAUDE. On the Battle Front hostile artillery has been active north of the YPRES-ROUILERS RAILWAY. On 28th inst., although the weather was fine a thick haze hung over the lines, greatly hindering work in the air. Our aeroplanes fired a great number of rounds at the enemy's troops in his trenches and in..... Over 100 bombs were dropped by us on hostile aerodromes and billets at night. GONERODIN Aerodrome and COURTRAI station, and billets and railway stations in the neighbourhood of ROULERS were bombed. There was not much fighting in the air owing to the mist. One German machine was brought down and one was driven down out of control. One of our machines is missing. (..... words missing-atmospherical disturbance.)

GERMAN WIRELESS. Imbued with the spirit of offensive in consequence of their successes, the German and Austro-Hungarian divisions comprising the Army commanded by Infantry General Otto von Below have overwhelmed the whole of the Italian ISONZO Front. The defeated Italian 2nd Army is retreating towards TAGLIAMENTO. The Italian 3rd Army only made a stand for short time against the attacks on their positions from the VERRACIO to the SEA, and is now hastily retreating along the ADRIATIC COAST. Also north of the wide breach the Italian front in KARNIEN (CARNITHIA) as far as the PLOECKEN PASS is wavering. Enemy rearguards have tried up to the present but in vain to check the impetuous advance of the allied armies. German and Austro-Hungarian troops are in front of UDINE, which up to now has been the General Headquarters of the Italians. Austro-Hungarian divisions have taken CORMONS and are approaching the frontier in the coastal region. All the roads are crowded with columns of vehicles of the Italian Armies and population, who have taken to disorderly flight. The prisoners and booty grow continually. Violent thunderstorms, accompanied by heavy rain, broke over the mighty battlefield of the 12th ISONZO Battle yesterday.

R.N.A.S. RAIDS. On the evening of the 27th October, the Royal Naval Air Service carried out bombing raids on the following objectives; Enemy aerodromes at ENGEL and ST. DENIS WESTREM. Many tons of bombs were dropped. Close to sheds and railway junctions at CORTEMARCK and LICHTERVELDE about 2 tons of bombs were dropped.

GENERAL NEWS. Following on a Conference between the French War Minister and Generals Petain and Foch, a French Cabinet Meeting was held on Sunday to consider the Italian Military situation and to determine the co-operation of the Allies on the Italian Front. The Official Note issued at the conclusion of the Meeting indicated clearly that the Allies will give all possible help to Italy immediately, if the turn of events is not clearly seen. It is certain, however, that the means which necessitate the co-operation of the Allies were fully discussed. The French War Committee met again to-day.

NAVAL OPERATIONS Admiralty announces that 6 British and French Destroyers sighted and attacked 3 German destroyers and 17 aeroplanes on 27th inst., off Belgian Coast. Two direct hits were obtained on enemy destroyers, which immediately retired under cover of land batteries. The aeroplane formation was broken up by anti-aircraft fire.