

DECEMBER 31ST 1915 Since my last note, our troops have been drawn from the Suvla & 'Anzac' (Australian & New Zealand Army Corps) district in Gallipoli. Kitchener apparently reported it to be an impossible situation. The withdrawal was one of the best done things in the war - men, munitions, supplies etc all suddenly cleared off during the night under the nose of the enemy - with the loss of only 3 men wounded, 6 guns (used till the last moment and then destroyed), and a small supply of food etc. We still hold on to the corner near the entrance to the Dardanelles. We and the French have retired to Salonika which is now being strongly fortified. What the enemy intend to do is not clear.

Sir John French has resigned his part as Commander-in-Chief of our army on the Western Front and it has been succeeded by Sir Douglas Haig. the general situation at the close of this year is not very cheering. The country is growing very sick of the lamentable want of foresight, prompt decision and firm action on the part of the Government. Our casualties have been considerably over half a million men - killed, wounded, taken prisoners or missing. What has the New Year in store for us? May god grant that it may be all over long before this time next year with a crushing and decisive victory for us all!

JANUARY 31ST 1916 At the beginning of the month Gallipoli was finally evacuated by the British and French troops which were still holding on to the Southern portion. another masterpiece of organisation. there was only one casualty, (wounded British), 17 worn out guns and some stores were left behind. The 'Military Service No 2 Bill' to compel unmarried strikers to enlist has been placed - a very feeble measure as all sorts of exemptions are provided for and yet there was some opposition to it in The House of Commons, (1st reading 105 against, including Irish Nationalists, although Ireland is excluded from the scope of it, 2nd reading 39 against - the Irish not voting, 3rd reading, 36).

Owing to Serbia being defeated, Montenegro has also been practically knocked out although a remnant of the army is still sighting. If we had been in time to save Serbia we should have saved Montenegro also. The Franco-British forces are now at Salonika which has been strongly fortified but the enemy do not appear inclined to attack at present. They have got their hands pretty full just. Perhaps we shall see some big blow somewhere before long. In Mesopotamia our relief force, going to the assistance of our small force which is surrounded at Kut, (about 100 miles from Baghdad), has been unable to proceed owing to incessant rain and floods. On the French, Russian fronts there have been the usual incessant artillery actions, local attacks and counter attacks, mirming, bombing etc - but no appreciable gain on either side. It has been proved that Germany is obtaining large supplies of food etc, through neutral countries but we are doing all we can to stop it. The danger is that if we adopt too drastic measures we may cause these neutral countries to declare war on us for having violated their 'rights'.

MARCH 1ST During the past month there were several enemy air raids in various parts of this country - one on the night of January 31st over the east coast and midlands resulting in 67 persons being killed and 117 wounded, (mostly women and children). The Russians in spite of deep snow, terrific blizzards and intense cold, have captured Enzerum, a fortified place of great importance and routed the Turks.

This may have far reaching effect, especially upon the Turks.

We have completed the conquest of the German colony of the Camaroons, (W. Africa), and are preparing to finish off Germany's last remaining colony - viz in E. Africa.

The Germans are at present making a tremendous attack on the French lines near Verdum; terrific fighting has been going on for days with appalling slaughter. the French have fallen back a little, but are confident of being able to withstand this supreme effort of the Kaiser to 'hack his way through' to Paris.

'Nothing doing' at Salonika at present. The enemy continue to sink our merchant ships and liners, (also some of neutral countries) - generally without warning. America continues to expostulate whenever Americans are amongst those drowned' such diplomatic 'Notes' - talks very big but does nothing else!

MARCH 2ND The Military Service Act comes into operation today and unmarried men who are eligible and not specially exempted and who have not voluntarily attested, become liable for service as though they had actually enlisted. It is very discreditable the number of men who are appealing before the local tribunals to obtain exemption; a great many are 'conscientious objectors' - who display a vast amount of theological ignorance, stupid unreasoning, fanaticism and most intense selfishness and cowardice.

APRIL 1ST During the past month Portugal commandeered some German ships that were lying in Portugese ports, whereupon Germany declared war on Portugal, which in the circumstances does not signify much. The Germans under the Crown Prince are still attacking Verdum most ferociously with enormous losses. General Townshend's force at Kut has not yet been relieved. this Mesopotamian expedition seems to have been very badly muddled.

There have been the usual sinking by the enemy of merchant ships and liners without warning - including the Folkstone-Dieppe mailboat 'Sussex', 2 big Zepp. raids, one in the early part of the month and one last night and 72 casualties reported. One Zepp. near the mouth of the Thames, was brought down.

There are constant strikes for more wages - chiefly among the highly paid engineers and miners to their utter discredit. They want the war carried on without their having to suffer the least inconvenience! Many of them as a matter of fact, are having the time of their lives, earning £5 or £6 a week. (Later on, when wages had been forced up by the Trade Union action, many men were earning £12 or £15 a week)

APRIL 3RD Later reports state that the casualties in the air raid on Friday night, March 31st, were 43 killed, 66 injured. There was another raid on Saturday night - over 100 casualties, and another last night. The areas affected were the East and North East coasts of England and the S.E. coast of Scotland. I hear that one or more Zepps. were in the vicinity of Campsea Ashe on each occasion.

APRIL 5TH McKenna brought in his Budget last night by which he hopes to raise £65,000,000 by new taxation - including increase on Income Tax, (which will vary 2/3 in the £) with a SuperTax of 3/6 on incomes over £2500 - 8/6 in the £!.

Increased taxes on motors, cocoa, coffee, sugar and 'excess profits', and new taxation of Railway tickets, admission to places of entertainment, mineral waters, cider, perry and matches. The importation of various articles of luxury - motor cars, except for military or commercial purposes, etc. etc., has been already forbidden, so it is not possible to tax them. Perhaps he might with advantage, have put a further tax on alcoholic drink, but I am afraid the 'Trade' and the drink decoted working man are too strong for him.

APRIL 27TH Things have been lively during the last week. On Good Friday - 21st, an attempt was made to land arms on the W. coast of Ireland by a German ship disguised as a Norwegeian merchantman, accompanied by a German submarine. Of 3 passengers of the 'merchantman' who landed in a boat, 2 were caught, one of them being the notorious Irish traitor, Sir Roger Casement. The merchantman on being approached by one of our ships, was 'scuttled', (apparently), by the crew and sank, the crew being rescued from the sea. The submarine escaped. On Easter Sunday an attempt was made to wreck a train in Ireland. On Monday a serious revolt took place in Dublin; a large force of the disloyal society called the Sinn Fein seized the Post Office, cut the wires and occupied other parts of the city. Fighting ensued and a number of lives were lost. Information at present is scanty, but the situation seems grave. The Government knew that these disloyalists were armed, constantly drilling etc. but took no steps to suppress them. Next day (Tuesday), a German squadron bombarded Yarmouth and Lowestoft and beat a hasty retreat when our ships arrived. There was also a Zepp. raid that day on Essex and Kent.

On Tuesday Parliament met in secret session to discuss the situation as regards the country, the need of more men and whether compulsory Service for unattested married men of military age should be instituted. The secret session was continued yesterday and today.

The Labour party are opposed 'on principle' to any further extensions and compulsion. Perhaps when they are told the facts, in the course of the secret sessions, the Labour Members will be convinced that more men must be obtained.

Kut, (Mesopotamia), has not yet been relieved, our troops being terribly hindered by floods and the strongly fortified positions of the enemy. I am afraid the beseiged garrison must be in great distress. Fierce fighting still goes on at Verdum. Russian troops have landed at Marseilles to help the French. How they got there is a mystery to the 'man in the street'.

(Note; They went from Russia, across Siberia, China Sea, Indian Ocean, Suez Canal and Mediterranean - a journey of about 80- days!)

There is the usual bombarding and local attacks, all along the rest of the W. Front. there have been 'scraps' on the E. side of the Suez Canal. Nothing special at Salonika. We seem to be gradually getting the better of the enemy in E.Africa.

On Tuesday night, my second son, in the Royal Engineers, was passing through London with his men en route for Meopotamia, so we went to Paddington where they had to wait from 11pm till 1am for their train to Devonport - to say goodbye to him.

APRIL 30TH SUNDAY The sad news has been published of the surrender of the beseiged force at Kut - due to the final exhaustion of supplies - after holding out for 143 days. the force

consisted of 2970 British and 6000 Indian troops. An attempt was made a few days ago to send a boat with supplies but it got stranded and captured. Martial Law has been proclaimed throughout Ireland. Troops have been poured into Dublin and part of the City occupied by the rebels has been surrounded by the Military.

Fierce fighting going on; houses destroyed and shell-fire, or in flames; much bloodshed; but it is thought that it will all collapse in a few days. This is another failure of German diplomacy and intrigue! Last Thursday the Government withdrew their latest Recruiting Bill, another most feeble compromise, as the House was - on the whole - satrongly opposed to it. Asquithe, with his over cautious legal mind, or his utter lack of statesmanlike courage, is producing a serious crisis.

MAY 7TH The Irish Rebellion which took place not only in Dublin but also in many other towns, has come to an end. It was very serious; there was great loss of life, about 2 millions worth of damage in Dublin alone. The rebels who were taken prisoners are being tried by Court Martial; several have been shot and others sentenced to penal servitude.

The Government has at last brought in a Bill for Compulsory Service for all men between the ages of 18 - 41, with certain exceptions. If this had been done 18 months ago, the War would probably have been nearly over by now. There are many persons in a good position to judge, who think the war will go on for another 18 months or even more!

Our Government is so weak and irresolute we are so lamentable slow; we have had 3 bad 'setbacks' in the Balkans, Gallipoli and Mesopotamia due to want of foresight and energy. The war area extends now through central Europe, from the Baltic and North Sea, right away to the Persian Gulf and victory seems obtainable only by one simultaneous successes on all the several 'fronts' and at present we are having no definite success anywhere! However, much may happen during the next few months.

MAY 20TH SATURDAY The Irish rebellion casualties, in Dublin alone, were 521 military and police, over 800 civilians. 15 ring leaders were fired and shot. Sir Roger Casement and Bailey, the ex-soldier who landed with him, are being tried now. The 3rd man who landed with them has not yet been caught.

The 'Summer Time Act' passed this week - comes into operation at 2am tomorrow morning. time will be advanced one hour until the middle of September. The primary object of the Act is to economize in coal and artificial light. A great deal of coal is required for munition and other war work and we also have to send large supplies to our Allies. The cost of living is now bout 50% above pre-war prices - wheat is fetching 60/- a quarter, hay £7 a load; petrol 2/10 a gallon, coal 30/ to £2 per ton; bread, meat etc are all dearer but not to any serious degree. Milk 6d per quarter. Everything is a good deal dearer than it was .

On Wednesday May 31st, the German Fleet at last came out and met our Fleet or rather, a portion of it, off the coast of Jutland. Apparently the whole, or nearly the whole, of the German Fleet was engaged, whereas only a squadron of our lighter and faster ships, under Admiral Beatty, was engaged at first.

We were outnumbered and the enemy had heavier ships. A terrific battle ensued, the losses on both sides being very heavy.

Later on when Admiral Sir John Jellicoe came in sight with his big battleships, the Germans turned and ran for home.

It was not until the following Friday that any news of the battle was published in our papers and the account was then so brief and vague that the general impression was that we had had the worst of it, and there was consequently a general feeling of great depression and anxiety.

Later reports however, showed that though our losses were severe, 3 battle cruisers - Queen Mary: Indefatigable & Invincible, 3 cruisers - Defence: Black Prince & Warriro and 8 destroyers lost, and several others more or less badly damaged, the German losses were still heavier and would have been heavier still if they had remained to face our big ships! In spite of their heavy losses and of their rapid retreat to their bases, the Germans loudly proclaimed that they had utterly defeated the vain glorious British Fleet! Admiral Jellicoe's Report has not yet been received. It will be interesting reading!

JUNE 6TH TUESDAY Came the appalling news of the tragic disaster to Lord Kitchener and staff on the evening of the 4th. As it seems probably that I shall come to the end of my spare pages before the War ends, my notes hereafter will have to be very brief.

JUNE 30TH Sir Roger Casement has been convicted of treason and sentenced to be hung. Bailey was let off. Russia has been making a big push for nearly a month; making a great advance; taken over 200,000 prisoners. The Verdun battle is still going on, nearly 4 months now. Great activity on the British front in France at present, perhaps preparation for our big push.

JULY 1ST the 'Big Push' began at 7.30 am after a weeks incessant and terrific artillery bombardment.

By 17th July we had taken all the German firstline defences, most strongly fortified; most fierce fighting; very heavy casualties. N & S of the Somme, also some of their secondline defences. It will be seen from the map that the actual area captured is very small compared with the entire Front, but the advantage to us and the effect on the enemy are very considerable.

I heard today that my younger brother - a Captain in the Berkshire regiment - has been wounded; a bullet in his chest, passed round his ribs and out at his back, fortunately missing his lungs etc. He was awarded the Military Cross.

AUGUST 4TH 1916 The third year of the War, as regards this Country, begins today. The tide has turned but Peace may still be a long way off. Germany will fight desperately for as long as possible, but we and our Allies are daily increasing in strength and munitions etc. whereas our enemies are gradually weakening. The Germans are bursting out into another fit of 'frightfulness'. They have pseudo-judicially murdered Captain Fryatt for attempting to ram a

submarine that attacked his ship, the G.E.R. mailboat 'Brussels' and they have made 3 Zepp. raid during the last week on the E. & S.E. coasts doing no damage except killing a few horses. The bombs all fell either into the sea or in open fields. the German papers say they did much damage to London, Harwich, other fortified places, munition works etc! They did not get near London.

Roger Casement previously deprived of his knighthood, was hung yesterday for high treason.

The 'great push' goes on steadily - slow but sure.

AUGUST 29TH Romania has at last joined in with us, having been 'sitting on the fence' hitherto, waiting to see which side was likely to win. The Salonika Force now comprises contingents of British, French, Russian, Italian, Serbian, Montenegrin and Albanian troops - an inspiring practical illustration of our Alliance. This force is now beginning to get active and Romania's help ought to be useful. More Zepp. raids lately - one Zepp doing some damage on the outskirts of London. Gradual progress on the French Front, it must be slow and costly in lives and munitions.

On the night of Saturday and Sunday, September 2nd and 3rd, there was a very extensive Zepp raid. Over a dozen Zepps. in different parts of the country. A few casualties and not very much damage done. One Zepp. was brought down - all ablaze - by one of our aeroplanes near Enfield, smashed to pieces and all the crew killed.

Lt. Robinson who shot it down, got the V.C. for it. Another Zepp. is supposed to have been badly damaged somewhere on the E. Coast but got away. The German uproar is that 'the fortress of London, the city, and the northern and north western district were repeatedly bombed for 4 hours.' (!) London was not touched. The airships are so high up, and all outside lights in towns etc are extinguished or shaded, that the crew can see nothing; they drop bombs at random and invent the results.

SEPTEMBER 24TH -25TH SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY MORNING Another Zepp. raid but doing very little damage. One Zepp was brought down in flames into the sea, off the Durham coast; another off the Norfolk coast while a third is reported to have been seen coming down blazing, by fishermen off the coast of Norway. About midday on November 28th a German aeroplane, flying at a great height, dropped half a dozen bombs on London, (Sloane Square district), and then quickly flew away.

As the atmosphere was hazy, this foe appears to have arrived unnoticed. Luckily very little damage was done, only a few persons injured; none killed.

On its way back, it was brought down by the French so the Huns lost heavily that day!

Important changes have been made at the Admiralty - Sir J. Jellicoe has been brought to London as First Sea Lord and Sir David Beatty has succeeded him in the command of the Grand Fleet.

Owing to the continual disputes about wages and the prospect of a serious Strike, the Government has taken over all the Coal Mines in South Wales as 'controlled establishments' - much to the surprise of both owners and miners.

DECEMBER 6TH Great excitement! Asquith, Prime Minister, has resigned, (yesterday), and Bonar Law has been asked by the King to form a Ministry. There has been very strong and very widespread feeling about the weak and procrastinating methods of the Cabinet and Lloyd George and other Ministers threatened to resign unless certain alterations were made. Perhaps now we may get a more resolute and energetic Government and get a move on in the conduct of the war.

The Germans are stinking - by means of submarines - every ship they can - even neutrals, in the hope of cutting off supplies from us and of reducing the number of ships available for commerce, transport etc. There is bad news from Rumania, where the Germans are pressing on with enormous force and it looks as if Bukarest, the Capital, must fall in the next day or two. We, ie, our Allied party of which the French Admiral, du Fournet, is in command, made certain demands from the Greek Government, which were refused. We landed troops which marched to Athens, where they were suddenly attacked, while lunching, and there was much blood shed. We had to retire and a very serious and difficult situation has been created.

DECEMBER 7TH Bonar Law having declined to form a Ministry, Lloyd George was asked and has consented to do so. The Germans have captured Bukarest and Ploeskei, the centre of the oil district.

DECEMBER 13TH The new War Cabinet consists of Lloyd George, Prime Minister, Lord Curzon, Lord Milner and A.Henderson, Labour Member, together with Bonar Law who will be Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the House of Commons and will not be expected to attend regularly the meetings of the War Cabinet which are to be held every day. The appointments to the various Government Departments included a good deal of 'new blood'. A 'Food Controller' (Lord Davenport) and a 'Shipping Controller' (Sir Joseph Maclay), a 'Minister of Labour' (Mr J.Hodge) and a 'Minister of Pensions' (Mr G.Barnes) have been invented.

The German Chancellor in a very bombastic and hypocritical speech, in the Reichstag, announced that the central powers wishing to avoid further bloodshed, were prepared to enter into negotiations for Peace. Report says that Germany's terms are a return to the 'status quo' before the War.

The text has not yet been published. Germany poses as the innocent victim, forced into the war, but now, having proved herself unconquerable, is willing to be magnanimous and merciful!

If the offer is rejected, all further bloodshed will be upon the heads of the Entente Powers, ie,'our side'. They will certainly have to fight it out or else give in and leave it to us to dictate the terms. The rejection of this insulting peace offering will probably be a still more ferocious and inhuman display of 'frightfulness' on the part of the Germans, and there are rumours of their intention to bombard us from airships, with bombs laden with germs of most virulent plagues!.

This would be, no doubt, the best time for Germany to make peace. The Central powers appear, on the surface, to be the winning side but they have about reached the limit of their power and resources, whereas the Entente Powers will not attain to their full strength until next

spring at the earliest. The situation suggests the case of a burglar who has pillaged a house and when confronted by the owners, says 'If you let me keep the swag, I am ready to shake hands and say no more about it'!!

Peace now would mean only a still more terrible war as soon as Germany had recovered her strength. the Prussian spirit of military aggression and 'World Dominion' must be crushed, before there can be any hope of an enduring peace.

DECEMBER 19TH Lloyd George made his first Speech (in the House of Commons), as the new Prime Minister - a very eloquent, vigorous speech.

DECEMBER 31ST Today has been observed in all churches throughout the country, as a day of special Prayer in connection with the war, (as was the case of the 1st Sunday of the new year in 1915 and 1916). Kitchener, at the beginning of the war, foretold a 3 years war. It seems as though he will prove correct. All the Central Powers want peace badly. We all want it, but we do not want and will not have any such inconclusive peace as Germany now is prepared to make.

President Wilson, U.S.A., has lately appealed to all belligerent to meet and discuss peace terms. His message was so badly or ambiguously worded that it has caused great resentment.

Romania is still being pressed back, about half that country is in the enemies hands. It appears that Romania was not sufficiently equipped and was urged by our own side not to enter the fray until later. She did not take the advice and has suffered heavily.

The French have lately scored good success near Verdun; we have routed the Turks on the East side of the Suez Canal near the Egyptian - Palestine boundary. Also we have advanced on the Tigris.

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JANUARY 1ST May God grant that the new year may bring us a decisive victory and a peace that shall be righteous and lasting.

From today no white flour is to be milled. 'War bread' is to contain 80% 'straight run flour, with the germ' which is more nourishing than white bread, very palatable and ought to be cheaper. Also the train service on all lines is to be considerably reduced and fares increased by 50%. This is due partly to shortage of rolling stock, (many engines having been sent to France and elsewhere), the need of trains for moving troops, munitions etc. shortage of railway men and of coal, partly to encourage economy by the public.

We are all practicing economy, except the highly paid artisans who are from all accounts, spending money freely - on furs, jewellery, pianos etc amongst other things.

At restaurants, hotels etc, no dinner must exceed three courses, at breakfast or luncheon only two courses.

The reply of the combined Entente Powers to Germany's note re Peace is published today. In firm dignified language, it exposes Germany's insincerity and gives an emphatic 'No' to the suggestion of a Peace Conference at the present time.

JANUARY 12TH Today's papers contain the Allies reply to President Wilson's (U.S.A.) Note re Peace Conference (sent out at the same time as Germany's request for the same thing). Our terms are set out in plain language and we declare that 'the Allied Governments are each and all determined to put forth all their strength and to endure every sacrifice in order that they may press to a victorious close a conflict on which they are convinced, depend not only their own safety and prosperity but the future of civilisation.'

Greece apparently preparing to side with our enemies, has been blockaded by us for the last few weeks and this week received a 48 hours ultimatum, with certain demands, to safeguard our position at Salonika and to put a stop to the present intolerable state affairs in Greece. It is reported that she has accepted our demands. News of another success in Egypt on the Egypt-Palestine boundary, in which the Turks were badly routed; also of further progress on the Tigris. In France the bad weather and deep mud prevent any great offensive, but local raids and artillery bombardments are constant. Fierce fighting in Romania and also in N. part of Russian line.

Prospectus of the new War Loans, popularly called the 'Victory Loans', issued today. 5% @ 95 and 4% @ 100, free of Income Tax. Received with great enthusiasm.

The German official lists of their Casualties, exclusive of Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria, show a total of over 4 million casualties, including wounded etc, since the beginning of the War.

FEBRUARY 1ST Germany, becoming desperately short of food owing to our blockade, has announced that from today - her submarines, of which she has lately built a considerable number of a large and powerful kind, will destroy, without warning, every merchant ship they can, of any nationality - in the hopes of cutting off our food supply from abroad and further more will also destroy without warning, any Hospital Ship in the North Sea or English Channel! on their entirely false assertion that we have been using these ships for the transport of troops and munitions!

It remains to be seen how the neutral countries will act now under this latest declaration of lawless barbarity.

Lord Devonport our Food Chancellor, has now, (February 3rd), put the nation 'on its honour' to voluntarily restrict its consumption of food and to observe the following scale:-

Bread 4lbs (or 3lbs of flour for breadmaking) per person per week

Meat 2.5lbs per person per week

Sugar 3/4lb per person per week

If the appeal is not satisfactorily responded to, ration tickets will be instituted. The above scale, though it may appear small, is really quite sufficient.

FEBRUARY 4TH SUNDAY Today's papers announce that America has 'several diplomatic relations' with Germany. There are rumours that a big naval battle has been fought in the North Sea, but there is nothing in the papers about it. (Later: This rumour has proved quite false).

FEBRUARY 17TH We have had an unusually hard winter - snow and hard frost since before Christmas. It is now thawing and the weather looks like changing. It has been awful for the men in the trenches and at sea.

It is now stated that the foregone Food Allowances are to include 1. Meat - as weighed and uncooked, including the bone. 2. Flour - to include what is used for other cooking purposes besides bread making. (In many places, sugar is not obtainable). The allowances of meat and bread are hardly satisfying to a healthy outdoor appetite!

FEBRUARY 20TH Our daily War expenditure, including loans to our Allies and own overseas Dominions, has now risen to £5,790,000. The estimated total from the beginning of the war until the 31st March next is £4,200,000,000! A 'National Service' appeal has been made to all men between the ages of 18 - 60 who are eligible for Military Service to volunteer for service, wherever most needed, in munitions works, agriculture etc. A similar appeal is shortly to be made to women.

FEBRUARY 27TH Kut, Mesopotamia, has fallen! Good news. We are also making steady and considerable progress in France - 'nibbling' (General Joffre expressed it) a bit and sometimes a good bit of the enemies trenches every week now.

The War Loan has succeeded beyond all expectation; the amount of new money (exclusive of the 'conversion' of former loans with this one, not yet complete) = £1,000,312,950. This will show the Huns that we are not yet bankrupt nor downhearted!

German submarines are sinking several ships every day and so to provide sufficient freightage for War material, further restrictions have been put on various non essential imports including some kinds of foodstuff. The brewing of beer is to be restricted to 1/4 of the 1913 quantity and a similar reduction re. spirits and wine. Re. beer this will provide vast quantities of barley and sugar for food; also set free a great deal of coal, labour, transport etc and furthermore will tend to restrict the liquor swilling habits of the Nation.

MARCH 10TH The Turks are in full retreat towards Baghdad closely pressed by our troops and the Russians are closing in towards Baghdad from the N.E. The Germans have retreated before us in the Ancre and Somme districts - whether for some crafty strategic purpose or because they can't help it, seems uncertain. The Report of the Dardenelles Commission has been published. It severely criticises Asquith, Kitchener, Churchill, Fisher - in fact all those chiefly responsible for this appalling blunder which cost us (excluding the French) some 40,000 lives and several ships and an enormous amount of money.

There is now a great shortage of potatoes throughout the country. Unfortunately the hard frost destroyed a great deal of the seed as well as eating potatoes, that were not very carefully stored away. Great efforts are being made to increase the supply of foodstuffs on farms, gardens etc.

MARCH 12TH The unexpected good news has come that Baghdad was captured by our troops early yesterday morning; a fine achievement, reflecting great credit on General Sir Stanley Maude and his Troops.

MARCH 16TH China has now 'severed diplomatic relations' with Germany and seized a number of German ships lying in Shanghai harbour. Good! There has been a revolution in Russia - serious, but unlikely to prove salutary. Its object was to get rid of the pro-German and reactionary element in the Government. The Czar has abdicated; a new Government has been formed and things are settling down.

The Turks are in full retreat and our troops in full cry after them - now 30 miles or more beyond Baghdad.

MARCH 18TH We have captured Bapaume (France), an important place and the French have also won a lot of ground and have also brought down - by gunfire - a Zeppelin which was making for Paris.

There was a Zepp. raid in Kent 2 or 3 nights ago; little or no damage done. By the way, Count Zeppelin (the originator of these airships) died recently, without seeing the fulfilment of his intention of 'laying London in ashes'!

Details of the Russian revolution are now published. It was most successfully executed - a coup d'etat for deliverance of the Nation for tyranny injustice and corruption of the late Government. It wisely directed it ought to 'result in the regeneration of Russia'.

I am sorry for the Czar, who was well meaning and devoted to his country, but too weak to resist the power of his reactionary Prussian like advisors.

APRIL 1ST We and the French are making steady progress on the Somme district in spite of vile weather and many difficulties. We have also advanced again on the Palestine border and got close to Gaza.

The Germans have torpedoed without warning, another of our Hospital ships (in flagrant defiance of all laws); about 40 lives lost, (R.A.M.C. men, crew, 1 nurse and 1 steward) Luckily the ship had landed its wounded, (over 900) the previous evening.

Wheat has fetched 90/ a quarter in some markets and the 4 lb loaf is no1/-. Most newspapers have doubled their prices, owing to shortage of paper.

APRIL 8TH EASTER DAY America has at last formally declared war against Germany. The British and Russian advanced detachments have now joined hands about 70 miles N.E. of Baghdad. The Turks are retreating towards Mosul. The Kaiser is reported to be seriously ill of Bright's disease. 'Summer time' begins today, till September 17th, it is generally acknowledged to be a great boon.

MAY 3RD The King has issued a Royal Proclamation waging strict economy in the use of wheat flour and other breadstuffs. The matter is becoming serious, as so many ships are being sunk each week by German submarines and our stocks of food are getting low. Racing will

stop after this week and no oats are to be fed to horses, except a little for horses in hard work etc. No more petrol licences will be issued for private motor cars except for those used for War purposes and other special cases.

The South American States are breaking off relations with Germany:- that will keep indirectly.

The limit of German 'Kultur' appears to be reached in their having set up factories to which dead soldiers are conveyed, wired together in parcels of 4, and converted into oil, fat, manure and pig food! A report of this - from Berlin paper - has horrified the World. The dead Hun is utilized to feed swine; the living Hun eats the swine and therefore - indirectly - eating perhaps their own father or son or brother! I wonder what the Turks think of this. I also wonder if they treat our dead soldiers in this manner!

Our 'Big Push' began early on Easter Monday and the French started a week later. Along a wide front, we have made a considerable advance regaining much lost territory, taking some 40,000 prisoners, several hundred guns and inflicting enormous casualties on the enemy.

Steady advance on Mesopotamia. In Palestine our troops are up against Gaza which is strongly fortified.

We have had a most severe winter lasting from the middle of October till middle of April; the trees are only now beginning to break.

MAY 20TH Affairs in Russia have lately been in a very critical state owing to the extreme Socialists and others who have 'lost their heads' under the new regime of political and social freedom. They have tended towards license and anarchy and towards 'peace at any price.' However the prospects of discipline and commonsense and of carrying on the war to a successful end seem now more hopeful. There has been another serious and widespread Strike in England amongst the engineering trades - hindering considerably the output of munitions, ships etc. An agreement was come to yesterday and the men will probably start work again tomorrow, (Monday).

There has been some progress on the French front lately - both in our and the French sections. America has sent over some Destroyers to help us to cope with the German submarines; is also about to raise a big army - which however will take some months to train.

MAY 28TH A fleet of about 16 German aeroplanes bombed Folkestone last Friday in broad daylight - about 5.30pm killing over 70 persons and wounding about 170 and damaging many houses. 3 of them are reported to have been shot down on their way home. The Italians are now making their 'big push' towards Trieste and have taken over 20,000 prisoners during the past week. Things have been comparatively quiet elsewhere.

JUNE 10TH Haig is again 'pushing' vigorously and successfully south of Ypres, having taken about 7,000 prisoners etc. since last Thursday. The attack opened at 3am that day with the simultaneous firing of about 20 big mines which we had been making for many months past, under the German trenches. The report was actually heard in England and the damage seems to have been terrific.

Russia is still in a very grace state of disorder, the socialist extremists doing a vast amount of mischief. The Russian Army declines to make any offensive movements and is to a great extent, in a state of thorough insubordination, and the civil population the same.

JUNE 13TH King Constantine ('Tino'), of Greece, under pressure by the Allies, has abdicated; succeeded by his 2nd son Alexander. Serious air raid at midday, over city and east end of London - 104 killed - 423 injured.

JUNE 16TH 2 Zepps. raided the country last night, one did much damage to a Kentish Coast town; the other dropped bombs, (little damage), in Suffolk; passed over Campsea Ashe and was afterwards brought down in flames, close to Leiston. Crew all killed (through falling out or being burnt in the wreckage) except 3.

JULY 1ST M.Venizelors has been made Premier in Greece and that country has now declared itself on the side of the Entrent; the pro-Germans are being cleared out; the army is to be reorganised and things now look more hopeful. Russia also seems to be getting over its outbreak of anarchy and confusion - which was much intensified by German agents. A large force of American regulars has arrived safely in France. The Report on the Meopotami muddle (at the early part of the Campaign there) has been published, revealing a most scandalous and lamentable state of affairs - especially as regards the utter lack of proper organisation for the care of the sick and wounded who suffered terribly and the criminal folly of ordering an advance on Baghdad (1915), with a totally inadequate force which resulted in the loss of our army besieged in Kut.

JULY 8TH The Russians took the offensive with much vigour and success on the Southern sectors a week ago, which has had an excellent effect throughout Russia. Another very nig Air Raid on London yesterday morning; 22 enemy aeroplanes - 37 persons killed and 141 injured.

We seem to have knocked out 3 or 4 of the raiders before they got home again; but we do not seem able to prevent them reaching their objective. They come over very quickly; very high up and do their mischief in a few minutes and are off home again.

JULY 18TH The King has taken the name of Windsor to be borne by the Royal Family and all German titles and dignities hitherto borne by them are to be relinquished.

JULY 26TH Unfortunately affairs are now going very badly in Russia again. Insubordination in many regiments is rampant and they have in many cases, refused to fight; have cut and run and the Germans are carrying all before them. The country seems to be on the brink of anarchy and disaster - to a great extent engineered by German agents and bribes, and matters are in a very critical state.

A German Socialist M.P. has 'let the cat out of the bag' in a speech he made recently in the Reichstag which goes to prove that on July 15th 1914 the Kaiser and several German and Austrian high officials met at Potsdam and decided that if Russia resented the ultimatum to be despatched to Serbia 18 days later, war should at once begin! And yet Germany is now persistently decalring that we began the war and dragged the Central Powers into it against their will.

AUGUST 1ST After about a fortnights ceaseless and tremendous artillery firing, Haig began his infantry attack at 4am yesterday, on a 15 miles front at the Ypres saliany.

AUGUST 4TH The 3rd Anniversary of our entry into the War. Special forms of prayer have been issued for use in churches today and tomorrow (Sunday).

How do we stand after 3 years incessant and terrific fighting? Everyone is, of course, longing for Peace: our enemies want it badly, but Germany - or rather the Kaiser - and his immediate counsellors declare they will not have it unless on their own terms. they are desperate and will probably fight as long as they can.

We and our Allies are equally determined to fight on to Victory - cost what it may. There are, however, signs of 'war weariness', staleness and irritability - in Parliament, and the Press, (too much fault finding and worrying the Government), and in 'organized labour' (constant strikes or threats to strike for higher wages to keep pace with the increasing cost of living).

Socialists and pacifist-kranks are also troublesome demanding peace at once 'without annexations or indemnities, (which would mean a 'draw' in favour of our enemies and another war in a few years time).

In Flanders the battle started last Tuesday, is raging fiercely in spite of incessant and heavy rain (We have had wet weather ever since St Swithin's Day!), but we are slowly gaining ground. Russians still losing ground in some places, but discipline seems to be gradually reasserting itself. Nothing much doing, except frequent artillery bombardment, aeroplane bombing, local raids etc. in Mesopotamia, Macedonia, Egypt, E. Africa, Italy. The German submarines still take heavy toll of our shipping each week, but they won't starve us out!

All patriotic people are voluntarily rationing themselves, especially as regards bread. The present heavy rains may have a serious effect upon the harvest.

Apparently we shall have to face another winter of it and 'stick it out' till America can bring her full strength to keep us with a final push in the spring. But Divine Providence may mercifully give us Victory and Peace earlier than we expect in which case we shall indeed sing 'Te Deum Laudamus'.

SEPTEMBER 1ST China has declared war with Germany and Austria.

My gardener tells me that broad beans are this year growing with their tips on the opposite side to the base of the pod, that it is the same all over the country; that such a thing has not happened since the year when the Guinean was ended and 'ergo' the War will end this year! How far these statements are based on fact, I cannot say. I only hope his conclusion may come true!

SEPTEMBER 5TH Russia has lately had a bad relapse of indiscipline. In many places troops have declined to fight; have retreated without firing a shot. Consequently the Germans have advanced considerably and now are in possession of Riga and the country around. The Italians have lately been making a splendid advance. In France the wet stormy weather has been hindering operations.

SEPTEMBER 16TH Affairs in Russia seem to be going from bad to worse - almost hopeless disorganisation on the verge of Civil War. Nothing special to report elsewhere. 'Summer time' comes to an end at 2am tomorrow morning.

OCTOBER 5TH During the past fortnight, Haig has made 3 very successful attacks, gaining some most valuable ground including the Broodsende Ridge, inflicting very heavy losses on the enemy and taking about 8,000 prisoners. Maude has also captured a Turkish force in Mesopotamia by a surprise attack on Ramadie, about 60 miles from Baghdad. I have been staying in London since September 24th. That evening there was an air raid and 6 more during the next 7 nights!

There was no raid one night because our airmen in France bombed the German 'Gottas' (aeroplanes) which were drawn up ready to start for London! Last Monday, Oct. 1st, 4 bombs were dropped close to the house where I was; one so close that it shook our house.

During this series of raids, carried out under the light of the Harvest Moon, there were about 40 persons killed, 250 injured and some houses destroyed. The firing of our anti-aircraft guns was terrific. We are living in stirring times!

NOVEMBER 8TH More airraids on London and elsewhere, during the moonlight nights, Oct 19th - Nov. 1st. On the former date, some of the Zepps when returning home lost their way and 4 of them were brought down in France and another is said to have been lost in the Mediterranean. On the Belgium-France front we have recently made slow but steady progress. Italy has had a severe reverse, having to retreat all along the line. British and French troops have been sent to help her. In Palestine we have taken Beersheba and Gaza.

Russia is still in a hopeless state of disorder and anarchy. Ireland is in a serious state - Sinn Fein redition is rampant and may break out into rebellion at any moment.

DECEMBER 1ST Russia is now in the hands of the anarchist, under the leadership of a pro German firebrand named Lenin who in violation of the solemn agreement between all the Allies is offering to make peace with Germany. It is hoped that he may be ousted from his usurped position before irreparable disaster happens. On November 20th, General Byng made a surprise attack opposite Cambrai (France) and drove the enemy 4 or 5 miles back. Since then the Germans have been trying with massed forces, to recover the lost ground and very severe fighting is still taking place there.

The Italians are now holding up the enemies advance which threaten Venice; fierce fighting is going on. In Palestine we have got within 3 or 4 miles of Jerusalem which the Turks are stubbornly defending.

NOVEMBER 19TH The sudden death from cholera of General Sir Stanley Maude in Mesopotamia was announced; a serious loss to us. Last week the U-boats sank more than the usual number of our ships. There is a serious strike in Coventry stopping munition work at a very critical time and threats of Strikes among railwaymen, cotton spinners etc. How these people can be so disloyal to their country and so utterly greedy and selfish is inconceivable!

We are threatened by the Food Controller with compulsory rationing re many kinds of food, as so many people are still eating far more than they ought to do. On the whole things are rather depressing at present; no signs of peace yet a while, I fear!

DECEMBER 11TH Jerusalem was surrendered to us on Sunday 9th. The date of the promise given by God to Abraham that he and his descendant should possess the 'Holy Land' is given in our Bibles as BC1917. That land has been re-taken from the Turks by the British in A.D.1917- and a promise has been given to the Jews by our Prime Minister that we will facilitate their resettlement in that land.

This is indeed good news! On the Cambrai front, owing to the Germans having been able to withdraw large forces from the Russian front, where the traitorous Leminist government has declared an armistice, we have been obliged to withdraw - before overwhelming masses of the enemy - from some of the ground which we had taken.

DECEMBER 31ST Russia under usurped anarchist government, is taking steps to declare peace with Germany etc. and is likely to fall into the German trap with disastrous results, unless some strong man arises to save the situation. Allenby is advancing N of Jerusalem. Severe fighting on the French and Italian fronts. God grant that the New Year may bring us Victory and Peace!

1918

JANUARY 6TH SUNDAY Day of special prayer in connection with the Ar, observed in all places of worship throughout the country and also overseas. Lloyd George made great speech yesterday to gathering of Labour Representatives clearly setting out our War aims, outlining our conditions of Peace etc, Hope it will show the enemy that we are determined to fight to the bitter end for Honour, Justice and Liberty.

We are now on sugar rations, by tickets - 1/2 ? per head per week if you can get it. Meat getting very scarce; tea, bacon, milk, matches, paraffin etc etc. often unobtainable for weeks together or only very small quantity in stock.

Prices of nearly everything about double pre war prices; consequently a good deal of unrest amongst working classes in spite of their repeated increases of wages. The winter of 1917-18 was a record for many years, about 5 months of frost and snow. We had a heavy snowstorm on December 16th last and frost and snow ever since - adding to the hardships and suffering of the War.

FEBRUARY 1ST Owing to the weather there is not much doing on the W. Front, France & Belgium, except constant artillery firing, local raids and aircraft work. Russia is still in a hopeless state of Anarchy, murder and rapine and it looks as if the attempt to make peace with Germany will come to nothing.

The spirit of social Revolution is spreading now in Germany - a good thing for us; but unfortunately a large number of our own working men are threatening to organise a wholesale strike and even a revolution unless the Government will at once consent to a 'peace at any

price'. These white livered traitors are really activated by fear of being 'called up' to serve the colours; we are very short of men and must have them at once as the Germans have moved about 1.5 million men from the Russian front to the West and appear to be preparing for a huge (and they hope, victorious) defence in a few weeks time.

Rationing of meat, butter and margarine comes into operation on the 26th of this month in London and the home counties, to be soon extended throughout the country.

FEBRUARY 23RD Trotsky, Lenin & Co - the Bolshevik Government in Russia, demobilised the bulk of their troops; plunged the country into anarchy and ruin; attempted to make peace with Germany but broke negotiations when they saw that Germany's terms were preposterous. The Germans are now marching towards Petrograd - almost unmolested; gathering up food supplies, abandoned guns etc. etc and Trotsky and Co are shrieking to the disorganised, terror stricken, unarmed people to resist the Germans and if they don't, they are to be shot etc.

In the Palestine campaign we have just taken Jericho.

2 or 3 air raids in London last week, as usual when there are calm moonlight nights.

FEBRUARY 25TH Germany demands the surrender by Russia of Livonia, Estonia, Lithuania, Finland and the Ukraine, and the internment of the Russian Navy. It is reported that Russia has agreed to this!

MARCH 7TH Russia is entirely at the mercy of Germany who however, is showing much mercy! Rumania deserted by Russia, and surrounded by enemies, has been obliged to give in and Germany has exacted most extortionate and cruel terms with Russia.

John Redmond, Leader of the Irish Nationalist Party, has died. Since Facism is rampant in Ireland now, crime and anarchy are spreading rapidly and there will be very serious trouble if our weak kneed Government does not deal vigorously and promptly with the matter.

MARCH 23rd The expected German attack in France was begun at daybreak on the 21st and very severe fighting is going on. The Germans, reinforced by the bulk of their troops who had been on the Russian front, are endeavouring to overwhelm us by sheer force of numbers of men and guns; but we are fairly holding our own, on the whole, though driven back in places. The attack at present is against the British line, over a distance of nearly 60 miles, from near the river Seusee, S. of Arras, to the Oise, near La Fere. Our casualties are reported to be heavy, but those of the enemy to be far greater - as they advanced in massed formation, wave after wave, and were terribly punished. May God be with us in this critical time and grant us victory!

MARCH 24TH SUNDAY 'Summer Time' began at 2-3 this morning and will continue for 6 months.

MARCH 25TH In France we have been obliged to retire over a wide front in places to a distance of 5 - 6 miles - after terrific fighting. The Germans claim to have taken 25,000 prisoners and 400 guns. This is bad news. An astounding report comes from Paris that the City

is being bombarded by a huge German gun, fired from behind the lines - a distance of some 75 miles.

MARCH 28TH We have retired to approximately the line held by guns in 1916; but today's report is that we have now stopped the evenings advance and have even driven them back in places. Our reserves are coming up in good numbers. Our men are full of confidence though outnumbered by the enemy 4 or 5 to 1.

APRIL 2ND The German objective was to break through between the British and French Armies; take Amiens guns and be in Paris by April 1st. However, we have made an April Fools of them over that. They have driven us back almost to Amiens, but the line has not been broken and their terrific onslaught seems to have exhausted itself for the present.

The fighting has been awful, and the loss of life - especially to the enemy - simply appalling. This will be a long and terrible battle, I fear. It is a very critical and anxious time. We are making steady progress in Mesopotamia and Palestine. On Good Friday, March 29th, the German mysterious long-gauge gun hit a church in Paris crowded with worshippers, killing 75 and wounding about 100 persons and seriously damaging the church - a typical Hunnish performance!

APRIL 7TH The German attack was resumed on Thursday, with desperate effort. They have gained a little ground in some places, but we have retaken other lost ground. We are lamentably short of men, although our Government was warned 16 months ago that this would be so. They have funked calling up men who ought to be serving but are earning enormous wages as miners, engineers, artisans etc. - funked it through fear of strikes!

They fail to realise that the primary duty of a Government is to Govern. Conscription is not applied to Ireland from the fear that the men will rebel and refuse to serve! What would Alexander Lincoln have thought of our pusillanimous Government?

The rationing of meat and butter and margarine is now extended to all parts of the country. At present the meat ration is 1s/3d worth of butchers meat and 5d worth of bacon or poultry, tinned meat etc. per head per week, 1/4lb of butter or margarine. For some time past we have been sugar rations - 1/2 ? per head per week.

Meat prices fixed by the Government, vary from about 1/6 to 2/6 per lb according to the cut and this a weeks allowance - about 1oz a day! Butter is 2/6 per ?. Eggs during winter were 6d each.

APRIL 10TH Prime Minister, Lloyd George, yesterday introduced his man power Bill - raising age for conscription, to 50; cancelling many forms of exemption and applying conscript to Ireland. Nationalists M.P. all furious - vowing rebellion. The 'Convention' to settle terms of Home Rule for Ireland has apparently failed to come to any satisfactory agreement.

APRIL 21ST The Man Power Bill has been passed. The Government propose bringing in a scheme of Home Rule for Ireland. The Irish disloyalists declare they won't have conscription at any price and the loyalists that they won't have Home Rule!

The Germans have forced another big salient into our line near Ypres, but our line remains intact - which is the all important matter.

Desperate fighting, heavy casualties, but we mean to 'stick it' till we win - cost what it may. The Germans are 5 to 6 to 1 against us; coming on in endless waves, but our men are heroic!

APRIL 23RD Bonar's Law Budget Proposals were introduced last night in the House of Commons. He wants to raise £68 million by new taxes - including increase of Income Tax and of super tax, spirits, beer, tobacco, tea, postage and cheque stamps, matches, farmers rents and 'luxuries' - (to be defined by a select committee).

(Later) On the eve on St George's Day or rather, at about midnight, a small squadron of our Navy made a most gloriously daring raid on the German submarine bases at Zeebrugge and Ostend, and to a great extent achieved their object of blocking the harbour entrances by sinking some old cruises, filled with concrete. Our losses were very heavy, but the enterprise was magnificent and the result probably very important.

MAY 11TH Zeebrugge harbour was effectually blocked, but not that at Ostend, and so two nights ago a small party of our Navy went and successfully sank the old cruiser 'Vindictive', filled with concrete, which had taken a leading part in the Zeebrugge job - right across the harbour entrance! another most daring and brilliant performance.

The Government is becoming very unpopular - having got rid of Admiral Sr J. Jellicoe, General Sir W. Robertson, (2 popular heroes), General Trenchard and others, because, so it is alleged, these experts on warfare will not agree with the politicians who think they can run the show better than the experts.

There is also great discontent with the attitude of the Government with regard to Ireland. The New Home Rule Bill is not yet ready and so has been postponed and with it the question of Conscription in Ireland.

We have advanced further in Mesopotamia. In France there is another lull at present, preparatory no doubt, to another terrific onslaught by the enemy in their desperate attempt to knock us out.

The 'lull' is a comparative term - local raids at night and artillery bombardments and aircraft day and night never cease.

MAY 20TH WHIT MONDAY In Saturday's papers there was published a proclamation from the new Lord Lt. of Ireland, General Sir John French, stating that a plot have been discovered, which many people have suspected for some time, organised by the Sinn Feiner and the Germans; that it is to be severely dealt with etc. and appealing to the Irish to enlist voluntarily so as to avoid the necessity of conscription. A large number of arrests have been made - chiefly persons who were sent to goal after the Rebellion of Easter 1916, and who were very foolishly - let out again later on, and told 'not to do it again'. This is the result.

Got no paper today, being Bank Holiday, so have no further news yet. The German attack in France has not yet begun. It will be desperate fighting when it does start.

MAY 31ST The German attack began on the 27th - on 2 sectors, the most severe being between Rheims and Soissons, where our Troops and the French have been forced back by the enemy who outnumbered us by about 5 to 1. We have been obliged to evacuate Soissons, but the latest report is that the enemys advance is now being checked.

The Germans a few days ago bombed one of our large hospitals at Etaples in France for 2 hours and killed a large number of the patients, nurses and doctors. this of course, a deliberate violation of the rules of the 'German Consecution'.

JUNE 26TH The German 'push' in France has been brought to a close for the present. The Austrians launched a big attack along a great part of the Italian line on the 15th and gained some ground, but during the last 3 or 4 days have been driven back across the Piave river - with considerable losses. Another German organised plot in Ireland has lately been discovered and a number of Sinn Feiners arrested. Home Rule and Compulsory Conscription for Ireland have been temporarily dropped.

JULY 12TH No further big scale attack by the Germans has yet taken place in France - and the local raids on all Fronts have lately been in our favour.

The King and Queen celebrated their Silver Wedding on the 6th with a special service in St Pauls Cathedral.

The Huns have torpedoed another Hospital ship and committed other atrocious crimes, eg, killing in the water passengers and crew of ships which have been torpedoed to 'destroy all trace' if possible as they are ordered to do so.

JULY 31ST The long expected German attack was launched in the early morning of the 15th on a 55 mile front on the E & W of Rheims which they hoped to encircle and capture.

They gained ground on the W. side but on the 18th Foch, the generalisation of all the Allied forces in France, made a big counter attack S.W. of Soissons on a 300 mile front, and fierce fighting is still going on and we were slowly driving the enemy back, and reducing the extensive salient which existed.

The Bolshevits, Russian Anarchists so-called Government, have shot the ex Tsar of Russia in cold blood to prevent his being rescued from his imprisonment by the counter-revolutionists. It is reported that his son has died of exposure.

AUGUST 4TH SUNDAY Today we enter the 5th year of this terrible War. Special Forms of Prayer, of remembrance and intercessions, used in all churches and in most Non Conformist places of worship. King & Queen and both Houses of Parliament attend St Margaret's in the morning.

News from France is good - we have retaken Soissons and the enemy are retreating, though fighting still desperately, all along the line between Soisson and Rheims.

SEPTEMBER 1ST Since my last note, we have counter attacked from Arras to Rheims and have been slowly but consistently driving the enemy back, and recovering the ground which we lost in the spring. The fighting has been very heavy. We have taken very large numbers of prisoners. During August, the British alone took 57,318 prisoners, including 1283 officers, 657 guns and 5750 machine guns.

The Allies, British, French and Japanese, have sent small forces to Arhangel and to E. Siberia to help the Czecho Slovaks, the pro-ally faction in Russia, against the Bolsheviks.

Strikes for higher wages continue to break out with most annoying regularity. During the last few days the bus and tram tube worker, in London and elsewhere, suddenly struck and the men came out 'in sympathy' - with the claim for mens pay for doing mens work; and on Friday, the London Police - of all people - struck. this encourages others to strike with the same object; but the Government is helpless in this War Crisis.

SEPTEMBER 30TH During the past month the war news has been splendid. In France we have advanced on many sectors, from Dixmude to below Verdum, capturing stretched of the strongly fortified 'Hindenburg Lisies', taking thousands of prisoners, many guns etc.

In Palestine, General Sir E. Allenby by a swift well executed movement, has destroyed the 2 Turkish Armies on the W. of the Jordan, capturing over 5,000 of them, broken up the army of the E. side and is marching on Damascus. On the Salonika Front, we have at last made a move and have driven the enemy well up into Bulgaria and Serbia. The Bulgarians are reported to be suing for peace and Austria has also put out peacefulness.

Russia is still in a hopeless state of anarchy and 'red terro' - the Bolsheviks murdering their opponents, including a British Naval Attache, wholesale. In Siberia our Entente forces are gaining ground against Bolshevik and German forces, but it will be some tiume before Russia can be reduced to a state of order. The ex-Empress and her daughters are reported to have been murdered and thus the whole family wiped out - a most cruel tragedy.

Two more serious and quite unjustifiable strikes have taken place - railwaymen and shipbuilders on the Clyde.

We are now being rationed for coal, gas and electric light - about 1/2 ones's usual consumption. Horses are rationed on a small allowance of chaff - no long hay, oats or bran.

OCTOBER 6TH Bulgaria surrendered unconditionally on the 30th. Damascus has been captured. The enemy is being gradually forced back all along the French front though with fierce fighting.

OCTOBER 14TH Splendid news! Every day we continue to force the Germans back along the French front and now seeing that their case is hopeless and not wanting to have their own country invaded and desolated as they have desolated the invaded parts of France and Belgium, the Germans, who pretend to have suddenly turned democratic, profess to be willing to accept the peace terms as set forth by President Wilson, U.S.A., and are asking him to arrange an armistice while the matter is being discussed.

But their 'Note' is vaguely worded and the Allies are not to be caught in the Hun diplomatic trap. The popular demand in all the allied countries is for unconditional surrender. I think we shall get it before long. Austria and Turkey can not stand much longer.

OCTOBER 31ST Excellent news from the Fronts lately. In Belgium the Germans have been driven back to a line running almost due South from the Dutch border via Ghent, not yet captured by us, Valenciennes. Le Cateau and Laon. Below this - opposite La Fere, Reims and Verdun of the intermediate country - very fierce fighting is going on in our favour. In Italy we have heavily defeated the Austrians taking 33,000 prisoners during the past week and they are being driven out of Serbia - we have nearly got to Belgrade and the Austrians are reported to be willing to capitulate' and the Turks also. We shall see in a few days time. In Syria, we have driven the Turks beyond the Aleppo and in Mesopotamia we are driving them towards Mosul, 50 miles from their present position.

An important inter-Ally Conference is now being held in Paris, which will probably result in some very exciting news shortly.

The whole country and indeed, a great part of the world, is at present suffering from a serious epidemic of influenza, in many cases followed by pneumonia. Last week there were 1256 deaths recorded in London alone from this disease.

NOVEMBER 1ST The Turks have given in and ask for peace. Good!

NOVEMBER 4TH Austria has also surrendered. The armistice is to commence at 3pm today. the Austro Hungarian Empire is in a state of collapse, splitting up into a number of separate states, each claiming independence. We have now to deal only with the brutal barbarian Huns who are still arrogantly truculent and desperate, but I fancy we shall bring them to their knees before very much longer. The ever increasing records of their fiendish, pitiless brutality to our prisoners and to the inhabitants of the Allied countries occupied by them are almost incredible.

NOVEMBER 9TH German delegates are on their way to interview Marshal Foch with reference to peace terms and which they will find, no doubt, amount to unconditional surrender on their part. We shall hear in a day or two whether they will capitulate or mean to fight it out to the bitter end. We are driving the brutes back at several points along the Western Front; have taken Sedan and other important places; there is mutiny in the German Fleet at Kiel; their Austrian frontier is now exposed to attack by us and things look most hopeful for us.

NOVEMBER 9TH SATURDAY The Germans have been given until Monday at 11am to decide whether or not they accept the Allies terms. The delegates have sent one of their party back to Spa, the German Head Quarters, for final instructions. Instruction is spreading rapidly through Germany; their army is retreating fast; we are mopping up great quantities of prisoners, guns etc; the German Chancellor, Prince Max of Baden, has resigned; acknowledging that their case is helpless and everything points to a German surrender.

NOVEMBER 11TH MONDAY The Kaiser has abdicated and fled to Holland; all Germany in a state of Revolution and a temporary Socialist Government has been formed; the Armistice

has not yet been signed, apparently because the German delegates sent to Spa for final instructions, have been delayed on the road. The German army is retreating rapidly; we have reached and taken Mons, Sedan and other places. there is something dramatically appropriate in this final battle - it was at Mons that we first came to grips with the enemy in 1914, and it was at Sedan that the French surrendered to the Germans in 1870. The tables have now been turned and we our brave allies have been avenged.

(Later) PEACE! 6pm. Have just received a telegram from London saying that the Armistice has been signed. Thank God! This awful world devastating war is over at last - on the 100th day of its 5th year.

NOVEMBER 12TH The Armistice was signed yesterday at 5am and hostilities ceased at 11am - at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month! On the Feast of St Martin, the Soldiers Saint. The terms are very severe as they ought to be and are calculated at preventing the enemy from resuming hostilities. The enthusiastic rejoicing in London and everywhere else in this and the Allied countries is indescribable. Vast crowds assembled in front of Buckingham Palace, shouting 'We want the King' , who came out on to a balcony with the Queen and others and made a short speech. Great cheering etc.

This occurred twice yesterday. The 2 Houses of Parliament adjourned soon after assembling and marched in procession to St Margarets Church for a short special Service of Thanksgiving . Similar services were held in many other churches during the day, very largely attended.

NOVEMBER 13TH A special Thanksgiving Service was held yesterday at St Pauls Cathedral at 12.15; crammed to the doors; attended by the King and Queen, Stateman and persons of every class.

The extemporised German Government is asking for a speedy Peace conference as they are threatened with famine, but there is a doubt whether this Government is likely to prove sufficiently powerful to maintain authority. I hope there will not be a repetition there of the Russian catastrophe - rival parties setting up against each other and producing state of anarchy and helpless disorder.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17TH Thanksgiving Services were held in all Places of Worship, very large attended.

NOVEMBER 21ST In accordance with the terms of the Armistice, the German Troops are retiring towards the Rhine and the Allied troops are moving up behind them; the Germans are delivering to us the ships of their Fleet which have been specified; and our prisoners of war are being set free; but with characteristic Hunnish brutality the prisoners are simply turned out of the prisons without food, and told to find their own way home! Consequently they are obliged to walk - perhaps for several days - towards our lines or to Holland, and are arriving half starved, in rags, bootless, many wounded and very ill; some have died on the road.

The British casualties, including Dominion and Indian troops, up to November 10th are approximately;

Killed or died of wounds	Officers - 37,876	Other Ranks 620,828
Wounded	Officers - 92,664	Other Ranks 1,939,478
Missing	Officers - 12,094	Other Ranks 347,051

TOTAL OFFICERS - 142,634 OTHERS 2,907,357
GRAND TOTAL - 3,049,991

The German casualties are stated to be about 6,385,000, including 1,600,000 killed.

Parliament after 8 years - was prorogued on November 21st and dissolved on the 25th. The General Election is to be on December 14th. Counting votes on December 28th to allow time for arrival of voting papers from soldiers serving abroad.

DECEMBER 19TH Some few days ago the Allied forces reached the Rhine and now occupy the towns and districts specified in the Armistice. The Armistice has been extended till January 17th and preliminary meetings will soon beheld to outline the Peace terms. President Wilson, USA, has arrived in France for the proposal. Germany is in a state of some disorder, rival parties contending for the post of Government.

Russia is still in a very serious condition, the Bolshevists are gaining power in many parts. Allied forces are there trying to stem the tide and establish some kind of order. We are still in rations, as there is a world shortage of food and also at present, a shortage of ships to bring over food stuffs, but the situation will gradually improve. The ex- Kaiser stil in Holland, is said to be going off his head. there is an almost universal demand in this and allied countries that he and others responsible for the gross injuries committed or sanctioned during the war, shall be brought to trial and adequately punished.

DECEMBER 29TH The result of the General Election is :- For the Coalition Government - 484. All other parties combined - 222. Majority 262. Result of Kennington not yet declared.

1919

JANUARY 5TH A Liberal Coalitionist was elected for Kennington. Asquith and 17 out of his 20 ex-Ministers were badly defeated at the polls. Only one woman out of 17 candidates was selected and she is a Sinn Fein Revolutionist - Countess Markievicx, wife of an unnaturalised Pole - who got in for St Patricks, Dublin.

JANUARY 12TH Preliminary meeting of Peace Conference takes place in Paris today. Official list of casualties, in England, through air-raid and bombardment by enemy warships - from December 1914 to January 1918 = 120 Raids. 1570 killed. 4041 injured.

FEBRUARY 5TH The new Parliament met for the first time yesterday. Right Hon. J.W. Lowther was re-elected Speaker of the House of Commons. The Peace Conference in Paris seems to be making satisfactory though necessarily slow, progress.

Russia is still in a state of most awful Revolution - wholesale murders, terrorism, starvation and misery. Bolshevism is at present triumphant. Here we are in a condition of grave disorder and unrest, with Strikes all over the country in all sorts of industries and occupations; some of the strikes being organised by professed revolutionaries of the Bolshevist breed. It is to be hoped that the Peace Conference will succeed in securing Industrial Peace as well as Political and National.

MAY 7TH Today the preliminary Terms of Peace with Germany are to be presented to the delegates of that country who have gone to Versailles for the purpose. The terms for the other enemy nations are not yet ready.

MAY 16TH The Germans are crying out - as was to be expected of them - against what they call the harsh and brutal terms submitted to them. (I wonder what their terms would have been if they had been victorious!) They deny that they wished for or began the war, that the terms mean the utter ruin of Germany; that they can not possibly fulfil them etc. etc.

They have still a few more days in which to study the terms and make their comments, after which a date will be fixed when they must either sign or take the consequences.

JUNE 16TH The German delegates asked for and obtained an extension of time for the consideration of the Peace terms and presented main objections - full of anger, arrogance, bluff and falsehood.

Today the Allies have replied to these objections; have made a few small concessions and have given Germany 5 days within which the Peace Terms must be signed or the Armistice will forthwith come to an end. Later - 7 days, instead of 5, have been granted. The Germans must decide no later than 7pm next Monday.

JUNE 28TH SATURDAY The Peace Terms were signed today at 3pm at Versailles - by the Representatives of the Allies and associated Powers and by the German Plenipotentiaries on the 5th Anniversary of the murder of the Austrian Archduke which was the reason falsely put forward by our enemies for the cause of the War! They were signed in the same room in which France signed her submission to Germany in 1871! How far the Germans who recently scuttled nearly all their warships interned at Scapa Flow, in direct defiance of the terms of the Armistice, intend to fulfil their solemn obligations or to regard the document as a mere 'scrap of paper' remains to be seen. The signing of somewhat similar peace terms with the other enemy nations will shortly take place.

JULY 6TH SUNDAY Thanksgiving Services in all Churches etc.

JULY 19TH SATURDAY Peace celebrations. Public holiday. Triumphant march of troops - British and Allies - through the streets of London. Entertainments, bands, dancing etc. in the Parks - fireworks. Bonfires on hilltops all over the country at night. Local festivities - dinners, teas, sports etc. everywhere. Unfortunately it was very wet here - from midday onwards. In London, rain began about 5pm.

AUGUST 3RD Yesterday a march through London to Buckingham Palace of Indian Troops, quartered at Hampton Court, who arrived too late for the procession on July 19th. Tomorrow,

anniversary of our joining in the war, a great Procession of Royal Barge with King and Queen, Naval Boats etc. on the Thames.

The country is still terribly unsettled; all Yorkshire miners on strike, causing factories to close; another Police Strike last week, however, only about nine hundred struck London; very few elsewhere. They are all to be dismissed; forfeit their pensions - having been warned that this would be the result of another strike. Other strikes among bakers and all sorts of trade - are going on.

There is a powerful and energetic Bolshevist element in the country - but on a Revolution if possible. Everything is very expensive - 2,3, and 4 times pre-war prices.

Serious shortage of coal and many kinds of food stuff and it is expected that things will get worse during the winter months. It is the same in other countries.

It was hoped and predicted that after the war it would be found that 'the Soul of the Nation' had been chastened by all its suffering and sorrow; that this and other countries would be reconstructed on better and happier lines; that we should almost attain the Millenium with 'peace on earth and goodwill amongst all men' It does not look like it at present enter

It has been found that much of this Bolshevism is being spread and financed by foreigners - Russians, Germans etc.

SEPTEMBER 10TH Austria signed Peace Terms today

NOVEMBER 11TH Today at 11 am - 11th hour of 11th day of 11th month, the anniversary of the Armistice was solemnly observed at the invitation of the King - throughout the Empire, by 2 minutes silence, for thanksgiving, prayer and grateful remembrance of the fallen. All traffic was stopped in the streets, trains and ships stopped, all work ceased and everyone stood still, men with hats lifted for 2minutes. I witnessed this in Winchester, near which city I am now living, and it was a very impressive sight.

America is raising difficulties about the Peace terms and the League of Nations and prgress is suspended. As the terms have not yet been signed by Turkey, Hungary and Bulgaria, ther is no formal Peace.

The world is in a very unsettled state with strikes, revolutionary efforts and financial and industrial chaos. The cost of living is increasing; there is a serious shortage of coal, milk, butter and many other things and in spite of Lloyd George's optimism things look gloomy at present.

We have withdrawn our troops from Russia and that country seems likely to be soon overwhelmed by the Bolshevists.

NOVEMBER 27TH Bulgaria singed Peace Terms today

1920

1920 JANUARY 10TH The Peace terms were today ratified by the German delegates in Paris and thus there is now official Peace with that country.

JUNE 4TH The Peace Treaty with Hungary was signed today.

AUGUST 4TH The Peace Treaty with Turkey was signed today.

When these 2 last named Treaties have been 'ratified' the War will be declared to be officially or legally terminated; but the world is still full of wars, revolutions, disorder, unrest, everything most un-peaceful.

NOVEMBER 11TH The 2nd anniversary of 'Armistice Day'. The body of 'An Unknown Warrior' - exhumed from the battlefield in France and a symbol of all those British fighting men who died for their country during the war - was carried with much solemn pomp from Victoria Station, where it had arrived from France, to the new Cenotaph in Whitehall, which was then officially unveiled by the King at 11am. Silence for private thanksgiving, prayer and remembrance, was then observed for 2 minutes - not only there but throughout the country and Empire. The Procession then moved on to Westminster Abbey where the 'unknown warrior' was buried with the highest possible honours and amidst the most solemn and impressive circumstances. The King was chief mourner, Field Marshalls and Admirals were the pall bearers.

1921

SEPTEMBER 1ST 1921 Today the War is officially declared to be over, the Armistice giving place to Peace although the Peace Treaty with Turkey has not yet been ratified and we are certainly far from having attained a state of actual peace. Turkey and Greece are still fighting hard. Ireland has been in open rebellion for a long time past. At the present moment, a truce is being observed while the Sinn Fein party consider the very generous terms of 'Dominion House Rule' offered them by the Government. The whole world is still suffering heavily, the result of the war; trade and commerce paralysed; widespread unemployment; excessive taxation; the spirit of revolution everywhere prevalent; social and industrial unrest etc. etc. Russia is ruined; bankrupt and starving; the educated classes to a great extent abolished by assassination, and the lower classes terror stricken, hopeless, dying off from disease and starvation; the all powerful 'Soviet' Government alone living in luxury.

Germany is doing her utmost to get out of her obligations to pay up for some of the damage done by her; we have demanded very little compared to what we would have been justified in demanding; Germany says she can't pay and we shall get very little out of her. However, she is working very hard to regain her former position of industrial wealth, not to make her repay her conquerors, but to enable her to have enemys.

If there ever is another European or Worldwide War I hope I may not be alive to see it. With ever improving instruments of human destruction the results will be indescribably awful.

This War has taught us that War does not pay, even the victors lose far more than they gain. The evils are felt for many years afterwards.

To repeat what I have said before, the only Remedy is Religion; the spirit of christianity; a real living belief in things spiritual, with spiritual ideals and efforts; belief in the fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of all men; goodwill amongst all men which alone can produce true peace, prosperity and happiness; the establishment of the Kingdom of God upon earth.

The present state of political, social and economic disorganisation, industrial stagnation, widespread unemployment, excessive taxation, the high cost of living; the spirit of revolution with its doctrine of class-hatred and violence; the whole atmosphere of materialism - all this tends to hinder any progress towards spiritual ideals.

Let us hope and pray that there may soon be a reaction.

P.S. The Peace Treaty between the Allies & Turkey was not signed until July 24th 1923 - after many protracted conferences.

It is difficult to obtain reliable statistics as to the number of casualties caused by the War, because 1. Many recurred in fighting which went on in various parts of the world, after the Armistice was signed. 2. Many deaths resulted later on from wounds received during the war. 3. Statistics from some nations are incomplete.

The total number of men of the British Empire who lost their lives in the Great War, was officially given as 1,075, 312

Later on the number was corrected to 1,104,890