

World War One News



Lest We Forget.

July 1916

Monthly News from Home & Abroad



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1st July The Battle of the Somme The offensive at the Somme lasted from July 1 to November 18, 1916. - The British Army suffers the worst single-day death toll in its history as 18,800 soldiers are killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The losses come as 13 attacking divisions encounter German defenses that are still intact despite the seven-day bombardment designed to knock them out. The British also attack in broad daylight, advancing in lines shoulder-to-shoulder only to be systematically mowed down by German machine-guns. The Somme offensive quickly becomes a battle of attrition as British and French troops make marginal gains against the Germans but repeatedly fail to break through the entire Front as planned.

10th July The Germans attack again at Verdun, using poison gas, and advance toward Fort Souville. Four days later, the French counter-attack and halt the Germans.

13th July The British launch a night attack against German positions along a 3.5-mile portion of the Somme Front. After advancing nearly 1,000 yards, the advance is halted as the Germans regroup their defenses. Two days later, the British once again penetrate the German line and advance to High Wood but are then pushed back.

19th July Battle of Fromelles (France). This combined action by British and Australian troops was partly intended to divert the German's attention away from the Battles of the Somme just to the south, combined with an operation to retake the ground just north of Fromelles.

27th July Captain Fryatt, of British S.S. "Brussels" shot by order of a German court-martial in Belgium.

30th July First aerial operations carried out by combined French and British air services on French Western front.

Wounded. Sapper Wm. Richards who went out to France with the first expeditionary force, is home on leave, having been wounded in the head and arm. He was in hospital for seven months. **Wounded** The parents of Mr. John Simon were notified by the War Office last week that their son is in hospital in Newport, Mon., suffering from internal injuries received by the falling in of a dug-out roof. He was buried for over twenty-four hours and is seriously injured. He is in the bombing section and has been in the front line trenches several times.

Wounded. Lance-corporal Harry Roberts, who was some time ago wounded in France, has been wounded once again. His parents received a letter from him from France stating that he had been wounded by shrapnel in the left arm. Since then they have received a letter from him from Southend Hospital where he is under medical treatment. He is progressing favourably, but will be unable to use his arm for some time.

Captured By Germans. The steamer "Lestris" of the Cork Steamship Company, bound from Liverpool to Rotterdam, captured last week by the German High Fleet and taken to Zeebrugge, was commanded by Captain J. H. Roberts who is well known at Borth. Captain Roberts, who is a native of Borthygest, Portmadoc, married the only daughter of the late Captain R. Williams of the "Ocean Belle," and prior to their removal to Liverpool lived at Gordon Villa. A brother of Mrs. Roberts is Mr. Whitlock Williams of the Post Office, Aberystwyth.

Published by Borth WW1 1914-18 Commemoration Committee.