

World War One News



Lest We Forget.

Monthly News from Home & Abroad



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April 1916

The events of the year 1916, the third year of the war. During this year the Germans attempted to "bleed France white" at Verdun, and the British strove to breakthrough along the Somme river. Both were doomed to failure; both were titanic struggles with correspondingly heavy losses.

1st April [Approximate date] End of period of German mastery of the air on the Western front. Third Attempt to relieve Kut begins 3rd April. Greek Government refuse overland route for transport of Serbian army from Corfu to Salonika.

9th April The Germans attack again at Verdun, now along a 20-mile-wide front on both the east and west banks of the Meuse River. Once again the attack only yields partial gains in the face of stiff French resistance.

14th April Constantinople and Adrianople attacked by aeroplanes of the Royal Naval Air Service from Mudros.

17th April British attack on Kondoa Irangi (German East Africa) Trebizond (Asia Minor) taken by Russian forces. Italian Government issue decrees prohibiting trading with Germany.

18th April Action of Bait Aissa (Mesopotamia). United States Government send note to German Government on "Sussex" case and submarine policy in general. President Woodrow Wilson threatens to sever diplomatic ties between the United States and Germany following the sinking of the passenger ferry Sussex by a U-Boat in the English Channel. The attack marked the beginning of a new U-Boat campaign around the British Isles. But in response to Wilson, the Germans call off the U-Boats.

19th April US President Wilson publicly calls for the German's to stop their submarine policy of sinking all ships in enemy waters without warning. Kondoa Irangi (German East Africa) taken by British forces. Field-Marshal von der Goltz assassinated by an Albanian officer.

20th April Disguised German transport "Aud" sinks herself after capture while trying to land arms on Irish coast. Roger Casement lands in Ireland from a German submarine and is arrested.

24th April Outbreak of Rebellion in Ireland. Final attempt to succour Kut: loss of H.M.S. "Julnar". Laying of Belgian coast barrage commenced by British navy.

25th April Lowestoft (Suffolk) and Yarmouth (Norfolk) raided by German battle cruiser squadron.

27th April Martial law proclaimed in Dublin and the county. H.M.S. "Russell" sunk by mine in the Mediterranean. Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, the British Secretary of State for War, asks for US military participation in Europe.

29th April Capitulation of Kut. "Havre Declaration" signed by France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and Russia guaranteeing integrity of Belgian Congo. In the Middle East, the five-month siege at Kut-al-Amara in Mesopotamia ends as 13,000 British and Indian soldiers, now on the verge of starvation, surrender to the Turks, the largest-ever surrender by the British Army comes after four failed attempts by British relief troops to break through to the surrounded garrison. Described by one historian as "the most abject capitulation in Britain's military history", British Empire forces surrender to Turkish forces at Kut in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq). Of the 13,000 soldiers captured, less than half would survive the Turkish jails.

30th April Battle of Lake Naroch ends.

BORTH. On Leave. Lance-corporal J. D. Evans, Private T. Davies, and Seaman J. Tibbott were home for the week-end, looking well. A large number of visitors spent their Eastertide at Borth. The weather was favourable.