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was described by Mr. Granville Fortescue, in a despatch published in *The Daily Telegraph* on October 21st :

"To-day," he said, "I saw a little detachment with a machine gun which had dug itself in across the road, and every face of the men of that detachment showed lines of determination that brooded no good for the enemy. Coming along the road I had sighted a certain number of British warships. With my glass I could make out the long slender barrels of the guns. These ships I knew could come within 200 yards of the shore, and from such a point they could rake the land 6 miles back from the coast. It was a simple matter for the ships to drop their heavy shells into the rear of the Germans. For even the staunchest troops this is a disconcerting experience.

"Suddenly a deep boom sounded across the water. Then a ball of white smoke rose and hovered a moment above the decks. The whistle of a shell cut through the air. Another boom came as an echo to the first, and a shell burst fair among the enemy. 'Lovie' and 'Slype' were the targets of the gunners. There is a sort of block-house near the first village that the enemy had occupied. This point received special attention. After the ships' batteries had searched the country south of Middlekirk for some time, the order was given for the infantry to move forward.

"As with one impulse the men sprang from the trenches, and crept forward on the invader. The rattle of the machine gun supplemented the noise of the naval guns. Then the field artillery added to the chorus. But all this noise could not drown the irregular rat-tat-tat of the infantry. The country here is flat, and criss-crossed by a most complicated system of canals.

"It is plain to be seen that the Germans did not