

188 Heligoland to Keeling Island

British ports for Brazil and were acquired on the outbreak of war, have proved particularly well suited to this class of operation. A heavy bombardment of the German flank has been maintained without intermission since the morning of the 19th, and is being continued to-day. Observation is arranged from the shore by means of naval balloons, and all reports indicate that substantial losses have been inflicted upon the enemy, and that the fire is well directed and effective against his batteries and heavy guns.

"Yesterday (Wednesday), a considerable explosion probably of an ammunition wagon, followed upon a naval shot. The naval losses have so far been very small considering the damage done and the important assistance rendered to the Belgian left flank. All reports received by the Admiralty show the courage and determination with which the Belgian army, animated by the King in person, is defending the last few miles of Belgian soil.

"The naval operations are under the command of Rear-Admiral the Hon. Horace L. A. Hood, C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O.

From that date onward bulletins were periodically issued with regard to the work of the "bombarding flotilla." Day after day the powerful naval guns out at sea hurled shot and shell into the crowded German trenches, causing terrible havoc and often driving out the occupants in headlong flight. In every previous land engagement the advantage in heavy artillery had been on the side of the Germans, but in this coastal battle the superiority was for once on the Allies' side.

The effect of their fire on the German position