

British Navy v. German Army 193

fire, which enfilades the German line, and enemy's prisoners taken yesterday and the day before testify to the heavy losses they have suffered from this cause. Fire was also opened in the afternoon on the German batteries near Ostend.

"Admiral Hood now has a fine flotilla of vessels very suitable for this work, but at the same time not of great naval value. During the day our ships were persistently attacked by an enemy's submarine, and torpedoes were fired without success at 'Wildfire' and 'Myrmidon.' Other British vessels again attacked the submarine. The naval aeroplanes and balloons aided in the direction of the fire."

No effort was spared by the enemy to drive off our ships, the fire from which was principally responsible for the failure of the whole German advance along the coast. The flotilla, as is mentioned in the foregoing statement, was repeatedly assailed by German submarines, and whole batteries of the heaviest guns obtainable were brought down to the shore to play upon the British ships. But all these efforts were in vain. The crushing cannonade from the sea could not be silenced, and the Germans had no alternative but to abandon those positions which were within range of Admiral Hood's guns.

On October 27th the flotilla received a notable reinforcement in the shape of H.M.S. "Venerable," a 15,000-ton battleship carrying four 12-inch guns, besides twelve 6-inch quick-firers. The arrival of this ship meant that the enemy was subjected to a bombardment by projectiles weighing 850 lbs., filled with a heavy charge of deadly lyddite. The "Venerable" could fire