

APPENDIX

The British official statement explaining the reason why the Royal Naval Division was sent to Antwerp

THE First Lord welcomes the Royal Naval Division home on its return from active service. Officers and men of all ranks and ratings have acquitted themselves admirably, and have thoroughly justified the confidence reposed in them. The loss of a portion of the First Brigade through a mistake in no way reflects upon the quality or character of the Division. The Brigade of Royal Marines throughout the operations sustained fully by their firmness, discipline, and courage the traditions of the corps. It is not necessary to say more than this. The Naval Brigades bore themselves admirably under the artillery fire of the enemy; and it is to be regretted that no opportunities of closer contact with his infantry were afforded them.

The dispatch of the Naval Brigades to Antwerp has interrupted for a time the progress