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TUESDAY, 13 APRIL, 1915

*Admiralty,
13th April 1915*

The following despatch has been received from Rear Admiral the Hon Horace L. A. Hood C.B. M.V.O. D.S.O. reporting the proceedings of the flotilla off the coast of Belgium between 17th October and 9th November 1914 —

Office of Rear Admiral
Dover Patrol
11th November 1914

SIR — I have the honour to report the proceedings of the flotilla acting off the coast of Belgium between October 17th and November 9th

The flotilla was organised to prevent the movement of large bodies of German troops along the coast roads from Ostend to Nieuport to support the left flank of the Belgian Army and to prevent any movement by sea of the enemy's troops

Operations commenced during the night of October 17th when the *Attentave* flying my flag accompanied by the monitors *Severn*, *Humber* and *Mersey* the light cruiser *Foresight* and several torpedo

boat destroyers, arrived and anchored off Nieuport Pier

Early on the morning of the 18th October information was received that German infantry were advancing on Westende village, and that a battery was in action at Westende Bains. The flotilla at once proceeded up past Westende and Middlekirke to draw the fire and endeavour to silence the guns

A brisk shrapnel fire was opened from the shore which was immediately replied to and this commenced the naval operations on the coast which continued for more than three weeks without intermission

During the first week the enemy's troops were endeavouring to push forward along the coast roads and a large accumulation of transport existed within reach of the naval guns

On October 18th machine guns from the *Severn* were landed at Nieuport to assist in the defence, and Lieutenant E. S. Wise fell gallantly leading his men

The *Amazon*, flying my flag was badly holed on the waterline and was sent to England for repairs and during these early days most of the vessels suffered casualties chiefly from shrapnel shell from the field guns of the enemy

The presence of the ships on the coast soon