

caused alterations in the enemy's plans, less and less of their troops were seen, while more and more heavy guns were gradually mounted among the sand dunes that fringe the coast.

It soon became evident that more and heavier guns were required in the flotilla. The Scouts therefore returned to England, while H.M.S. "Venerable" and several older cruisers, sloops and gunboats arrived to carry on the operations.

Five French torpedo-boat destroyers were placed under my orders by Admiral Favereau, and on the 30th October I had the honour of hoisting my flag in the "Intrepide," and leading the French flotilla into action off Lombartzyde. The greatest harmony and enthusiasm existed between the allied flotillas.

As the heavier guns of the enemy came into play it was inevitable that the casualties of the flotilla increased, the most important being the disablement of the 6-inch turret and several shots on the waterline of the "Mersey," the death of the Commanding Officer and eight men and the disablement of 16 others in the "Falcon," which vessel came under a heavy fire when guarding the "Venerable" against submarine attack; the "Wildfire" and "Vestal" were badly holed, and a number of casualties caused in the "Brilliant" and "Rinaldo."

Enemy submarines were seen and torpedoes were fired, and during the latter part of the operations the work of the torpedo craft was chiefly confined to the protection of the larger ships.

It gradually became apparent that the rush of the enemy along the coast had been checked, that the operations were developing into a trench warfare, and that the work of the flotilla had, for the moment, ceased.

The arrival of allied reinforcements and the inundation of the country surrounding Nieupoort rendered the further presence of the ships unnecessary.

The work of the squadron was much facilitated by the efforts of Colonel Bridges, attached to the Belgian Headquarters, and to him I am greatly indebted for his constant and unflinching support.

I would like especially to bring to your notice:—

Captaine de fregate Richard, of the "Dunois," Senior Officer of the French flotilla, whose courtesy and gallantry assisted to make the operations a success.

Captain C. D. Johnson, M.V.O., in charge of 6th Destroyer Flotilla.

Commander Eric J. A. Fullerton, in command of the monitors, whose ships were constantly engaged in the inshore fighting.

Commander A. D. M. Cherry, of the "Vestal," who commanded the sloops, which were constantly engaged for the whole period. He remained in command of the flotilla after my departure on 7th November, and continued the bombardment on 8th November, returning to England the next day.

Commander H. C. Halahan, of the "Bustard," whose gunboat was constantly in action close to the shore.

Commander A. L. Snagge, of the "Humber."

Commander H. G. L. Oliphant, of the "Amazon."

Lieutenant-Commander R. A. Wilson, of the "Mersey."

Lieutenant-Commander G. L. D. Gibbs, of the "Crusader," in which ship my flag was hoisted during most of the operations.

Lieutenant-Commander J. B. Adams, R.N.R., on my staff.

Lieutenant H. O. Wauton, of the "Falcon," who maintained his position in a heavy fire on the look-out for submarines, and was unfortunately killed.

Lieutenant H. O. Joyce, of the "Vestal," who was badly wounded by a shell, but rallied his men to attend to the wounded, and then got his gun again into action.

Sub-Lieutenant C. J. H. DuBoulay, of the "Falcon," who took command of his ship after the Captain and 24 men were killed and wounded.

Petty-Officer Robert Chappell, O.N. 207788, of the "Falcon," who, though both legs were shattered and he was dying, continued to try and assist in the tending of the wounded. He shortly afterwards died of his wounds.

Petty-Officer Fredk. William Motteram, of the "Falcon," O.N. 183216, for immediate attention to the wounded under fire on 28th October.

Able Seaman Ernest Dimmock, of the "Falcon," O.N. 204549, who directly the casualties occurred in "Falcon," finding himself the only person unwounded on deck, went immediately to the helm and coned the ship.

Herbert Edward Sturman, of the "Mersey," Boy, 1st class O.N.J. 24887, who, when wounded by shrapnel, continued to serve the guns.

Leading Seaman John Thos. Knott, O.N.J. 1186, of the "Brilliant," who, when all men at his gun being killed or wounded, and himself severely wounded, endeavoured to fight his gun.

The following are specially recommended by their Commanding Officers for their good behaviour and coolness under fire:—

Chief Engine Room Artificer William Ernest Brading, of the "Falcon," O.N. 268579.

Private R.M.L.I. Alfred J. Foster, of the "Brilliant," O.N. Ch./10605.

Petty-Officer Sydney Edric Murphy, of the "Mersey," O.N. 190841.

Petty-Officer Henry Sayce, of the "Mersey," O.N. 132956.

Herbert Edward Sturman (Boy), of the "Mersey," O.N. J. 24887.

Leading Signalman Cyril Henry Swan, of the "Sirius," R.F.R., O.N. 230592.

Petty-Officer James Weatherhead, of the "Rinaldo," O.N. 127747.

Leading Seaman John Keane, of the "Rinaldo," O.N. 204128.

Private R.M.L.I. Joseph Martin, of the "Humber" (who landed with Marine detachment), O.N. Ch./15582.

Stoker, 1st, Samuel Johnston, of the "Humber," O.N. Ch./282822 (R.F.R. Ch.B. 4090).

Petty-Officer Robt. Frederick Jennings, of the "Vestal," O.N. 157343 (R.F.R. Po. B. 1481).

Petty-Officer Charles Henry Sutton, of the "Vestal," O.N. 158086.