

15. My thanks are due to the following Officers of our Naval Allies:—

Read-Admiral N. A. McCully, U.S.N.;
 Captain Z. H. Maddison, U.S.N., U.S.
 Cruiser "Des Moines";
 Capitaine de Vaisseau J. E. Hallier,
 C.M.G., French Cruiser "Gueydon";
 Capitaine de Vaisseau Lequerré, French
 Cruiser "Condé,"

whose cordial co-operation and assistance were at all times of much value.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your obedient Servant,
John F. E. Green,
 Rear-Admiral.
 Late Senior Naval Officer,
 White Sea.

Admiralty, S.W. 1,
 1st January, 1920.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit the following report on the operations of the Naval flotilla employed in the Archangel River Expedition:—

It will be recalled that on 1st August, 1919, H.M.S. "Attentive," then under my command, assisted by the seaplanes of H.M.S. "Nairana," attacked the forts on Modyuski Island which formed the chief defences of Archangel.

These were silenced by bombardment and bombing after a short but hot engagement, in which the "Attentive" sustained damage by shell-fire.

Archangel was subsequently occupied without opposition.

2. In the subsequent pursuit of the enemy up the Dwina River it at once became evident that armed ships would be essential to co-operate with the Russian-Allied forces ashore and counteract the fire of the enemy's ships. A river flotilla was evolved mainly out of local paddle steamers, which were armed and equipped with an expedition and ingenuity which reflected much credit on the technical Officers of the "Attentive."

3. Later in the month the flotilla was strengthened by the addition of the small monitor "M.25" (Lieutenant-Commander S. W. B. Green, D.S.O., R.N.). The fighting developed, and by desire of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Allied Forces, I went up-river and took command of the force which originated our naval obligations on this front.

4. The flotilla successfully countered the attacks of the enemy ships, sinking two of them. With our support the shore forces were established some 200 miles up river. The lateness of the year then necessitated the withdrawal of the ships before the ice set in.

5. In October, 1918, the "Attentive" returned to England, H.M. Gunboats "Glowworm," "Cockchafer," "Cicala" and "Cricket" were sent out, and together with H.M. Monitors "M.23" and "M.25" wintered at Archangel in readiness for the opening up of the river in spring.

6. In February, 1919, it was decided that the situation on the Archangel front necessitated the provision of a strong Naval flotilla, more particularly in view of the part the Navy

might be called upon to play in an evacuation.

7. The ships composing this force were:—

(a) *Up-River Force.*

Monitors "Humber," "M.24," "M.26,"
 "M.27," "M.31" and "M.33."
 Gunboats "Moth" and "Mantis."
 4 Tunnel Minesweepers.
 6 Coastal Motor-boats.
 River Depot Ship—H.M.S. "Hyderabad."

(b) *Flying force attached to above.*

8 Seaplanes (number subsequently increased).
 1 Kite balloon.

(c) *Ships at base. (Archangel.)*

H.M.S. "Fox" as flotilla depot ship.
 H.M.S. "Pegasus"—Seaplane Carrier.
 H.M.S. "Cyclops"—Repair Ship.

The flotilla was organised solely for active operations, the whole of the transport work being undertaken by the Naval Transport Service.

8. Having been appointed in command of the flotilla, I reached Archangel in H.M.S. "Fox" on 16th May.

The majority of the ships of the up-river force arrived during the month of June.

The monitors and gunboats which had wintered at Archangel had already proceeded up-river, and were under command of Commander (Act.) S. W. B. Green, D.S.O., R.N., until my arrival.

I.—Commencement of Operations.

"M.23" (Lieut.-Commander St. A. O. St. John, R.N.) left Archangel on the 3rd May, and, forcing her way through thick ice in the lower reaches of the river, reached Pless on 5th May.

2. The first Naval offensive of the year was opened on 6th May by "M.23" in co-operation with a scouting party, when Tulgas was bombarded.

"Cricket" (Lieut.-Comdr. F. A. Worsley, D.S.O., R.D., R.N.R.) and "Cockchafer" (Lieut.-Comdr. C. Hester, R.D., R.N.R.) arrived off Pless on the afternoon of 6th May, and the following day the "Glowworm" (Commander (act.) C. Ackland, R.N., Retd.) and "Cicala" (Lieut. E. T. Grayston, R.N.R.) entered the Vaga River and bombarded Nijni Kitsa.

3. The prompt arrival of our ships at the front when the ice broke, and the good seamanship displayed in getting them up-river, prevented what might have proved a critical period when the enemy's ships could have come down and bombarded our positions without having their fire returned by heavy long-range guns which only the ships could bring to bear.

4. The Allied forces at this time held Kourgamen and Shushuga, the enemy Topsis and Tulgas, on the right and left banks of the river respectively.

5. On 18th May the flotilla co-operated in an attack on the enemy's positions at Tulgas. The attack was completely successful, and resulted in the enemy being driven out with the loss of 30 prisoners and 12 machine-guns. Our forces sustained no casualties.

Heavy fire from the enemy gunboats was countered by our ships.

One of the enemy ships was observed to be hit, but was not sunk.