

the ships were undischarged when I arrived. In concert with Mr. Douglas Young, British Consul, it was arranged that these food stores should be turned over to the Russians, provided that a large number of Allied refugees, whose safety was a primary consideration, should be sent to Kandalaksha. There was a strong disposition on the part of the Archangel Soviet to hold these refugees as hostages, and send them back to Moscow.

I found the position very strained. Two days before my arrival an unprovoked hostile demonstration had been made against "Alexander." She had been surrounded by armed vessels and field batteries on the shore. The courage and address of Captain Henry A. le F. Hurt, R.N., saved the situation. To save further trouble of this nature I sent her to Murmansk, as her armament was too light to be of practicable use.

The Allied position in North Russia was explained to the local authorities, but all efforts to secure their co-operation failed, and I was given plainly to understand that any attack would be resisted. I was also convinced that active assistance on an organised scale was not to be hoped for from the pro-Ally element, who were very closely watched.

I returned to Murmansk on July 17th, calling at Kem on the way. On my return I was informed by General Poole that the Allied occupation of Archangel had been decided on. This decision entailed the following considerations from a naval point of view. Resistance was probable. The known fixed defences consisted of a battery of eight 6 in. guns on Modjuga Island, and a minefield operated from the shore. The battery covered at close range a narrow dredged channel up which the expedition must pass. The ascent of the river, about forty miles, could be undertaken by only medium-draft ships, and ample field artillery existed to dispute the passage at any point. Lack of pilots, removal of buoys and beacons, and the presence of mines or sunken obstructions in the channel might cause serious difficulty. The garrison was numerically ample, and included at least one Lett regiment, and could be reinforced to any extent from Petrograd at 36 hours' notice. The nature of the ground and the meagre forces at our disposal did not admit of an encircling attack by land.

In our favour were the idle and undisciplined state of the garrison, lack of competent leadership, the moral effect of aircraft—then a novelty in Archangel—and the hope that, though no direct assistance could be expected from the pro-Ally element, they were in a position to help materially by putting obstructions in the way of defence.

Such arrangements as were possible were made to cope with the above, and it was arranged for the expedition to start on August 3rd. An urgent message from the Allied Ambassadors, who had arrived at Kandalaksha on July 30th, made it necessary to modify these arrangements and start at once.

A body of 500, consisting of French Marines and French Colonial troops, with a detachment of British Royal Marines and a small party from "Olympia," in all 600, was distributed between "Amiral Aube," "Attentive," and "Nairana." Brigadier-General R. G. Finlayson, C.M.G., D.S.O., and myself embarked in latter. These three ships left at 9 p.m., July 30th, and proceeded for

Archangel at 16 knots. A trawler detachment with "Tay and Tyne," under Captain Henry A. le F. Hurt, R.N., left at 10 knots at 6 p.m. the same day. Another trawler detachment was left behind as an escort to the transports "Stephen," "Asturian," "Kassala," and "Westborough," which it was hoped would leave at noon next day with the main body of the troops in charge of Captain John L. Pearson, R.N., Chief of Staff. These arrived at Archangel on August 4th.

Major-General Poole and staff and Captain B. B. Bierer, U.S.N., of the "Olympia," left in "Salvator" at 10 p.m. at 11 knots.

A thick fog was encountered, in which "Amiral Aube" got separated from the "Attentive" and "Nairana." At 12.6 a.m., August 1st, I received a signal from "Amiral Aube" to say that she was aground at Intzi Point. After consulting with General Finlayson I decided to go on with "Attentive" and "Nairana," telling "Amiral Aube" to come on to a rendezvous on the coast 15 miles N.W. of Dwina lightship. "Nairana" and "Attentive" anchored at this rendezvous at 3 a.m. on August 1st.

The weather was then fairly clear and blowing strongly from the north-east. Final arrangements were made, and three seaplanes got out, one with orders to demonstrate over Archangel and the other two to work with the ships. "Attentive" was sent on to the lightship (which, contrary to our expectations, was in place), with orders to seize her and any pilots found, and to telephone an ultimatum to the Island. The Island was required to surrender within half-an-hour. "Nairana" followed as soon as the last seaplane was in the air. The Island agreed to surrender, and to hoist the white flag on the battery. "Nairana" and "Attentive" accordingly stood in, and prepared to land troops. A tug then arrived from the lightship with a message from the battery refusing to submit, and saying that landing parties would be fired on. Troops were therefore re-embarked, and "Attentive" and "Nairana" anchored close to the north point of the Island. "Attentive" was ordered to open fire and seaplanes to bomb. The fort, which was about 5,000 yards distance, replied, and made pretty good shooting. "Attentive" was hit through the base of the foremost funnel, putting one boiler-room out of action, but without casualty. "Attentive" made good shooting, and the seaplanes bombed effectively.

The fort gradually ceased fire, and the troops were landed in ships' boats with some difficulty owing to the necessity of finding a channel and the shelving nature of the beach. The troops were under the command of Captain Alliez, of the French Army, who had orders to work down South and occupy the battery and all mine-firing posts found. It was afterwards found that the battery and minefield arrangements were in good order.

The landing party encountered slight opposition from rifles and machine-guns, and the Island was in our possession by 8 p.m.

Some prisoners were made, but the majority of the garrison escaped in boats. Our casualties were slight. In the meantime the "Amiral Aube" got off and joined me at 3 p.m. on August 1st.

The result of the action at Modjuga was so discouraging to the Red garrison in Arch-