

angel that they retreated by rail and river, leaving the town temporarily in the hands of the pro-Ally element. They were afforded no time to rally.

"Salvator," with Major-General Poole on board, arrived at 8 p.m. Next morning the squadron proceeded up the river, leaving the "Amiral Aube" to control the approaches. It was found that two large icebreakers, "Sviatogor" and "Mikula," had been sunk, with the intention of blocking the channel at a narrow point in the river, but fortunately leaving enough room for ships to pass. The two icebreakers were raised shortly afterwards and refitted. The squadron anchored off Archangel, which was occupied, troops having been landed at Solumbola and other places on the way up. The Russian tricolour and naval flag had everywhere replaced the red flag of the Soviet. At 7 p.m. the "Attentive" captured the armed yacht "Gorislava," which was firing on the town, and brought her down. Early on August 3rd I ordered "Attentive" to Bakaritzan to assist the Army in warding off an attack. She took up a good position in shoal and confined waters, and did excellent work both with guns and a landing party in helping to save this important terminus.

*Dwina River Expedition.*

The decision of the General Officer Commanding to despatch a considerable military force up the Dwina River with a view to co-operation with Admiral Kolchak, who, it was hoped, would take Kotlas, made naval co-operation necessary. This expedition had not formed part of the original intention, and no provision in the shape of river gunboats had been made. The Bolshevik element, in retreating from Archangel, had taken with them the best of the river craft. The river was intricate, with many shallow spots, while pilots, barges and tugs of suitable draft were few and in bad order.

Four river paddle-craft were manned and armed, and, together with "M.25," and two small seaplanes from "Nairana," were placed under the immediate command of Captain Edward Altham, R.N., of the "Attentive," with orders to co-operate with Army. "M.25" drew 9 feet of water, and it was not possible to reduce her draft materially. Only abnormally high water in the river during the summer permitted her employment. During the latter half of August, September and until the advent of ice-conditions in October caused the flotilla to be withdrawn to Archangel, it was in constant action with the enemy gunboats and shore batteries. Three enemy ships were sunk and twenty-four mines swept up. Much zeal and gallantry was shown by the flotilla,

and the value of their services in assisting the Army to establish themselves in their advanced positions some 200 miles up the river before winter was warmly appreciated by the General Officer Commanding.

*Work of Seaplane Carrier "Nairana."*

The "Nairana" did excellent work on all fronts. Her intrepid pilots made many flights where the lack of water surface meant disaster in case of a forced landing. They were constantly in action with the enemy, and generally had tangible marks to show of the latter's attention.

H.M. river gunboats "Glowworm," "Cockchafer," "Cicala," and "Cricket" arrived at Murmansk on October 30th. They wintered in Archangel, ready for work next season. The navigation of these frail craft to the far North in the stormy weather of late autumn was a noteworthy achievement.

On November 15th I handed over the command of the Station to Rear-Admiral John F. E. Green, C.B., and returned to England, having held the command of these waters since September, 1915.

I beg to attach herewith a list of officers specially mentioned for good service in 1918.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. W. KEMP,

Rear-Admiral, Retired.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

LIST OF OFFICERS MENTIONED FOR GOOD SERVICES DURING NAVAL OPERATIONS IN N. RUSSIA, 1918.

- Captain Louis Jules Petit, French Armoured Cruiser, "Amiral Aube."
- Captain B. B. Bierer, United States Armed Cruiser, "Olympia."
- Captain John L. Pearson, R.N., Chief of Staff.
- Captain James U. Farie, R.N., H.M.S. "Cochrane."
- Captain Edward Altham, R.N., H.M.S. "Attentive."
- Acting Captain Henry A. le F. Hurt, R.N., H.M.S. "Alexander."
- Commander Charles F. R. Cowan, H.M.S. "Nairana."
- Engineer-Commander Francis H. Lyon, R.N., H.M.S. "Attentive."
- Lieutenant-Commander Edward H. Richardson, A.M., R.N.R., H.M.S. "Glory."
- Paymaster Lieutenant Norman H. Beall, R.N., Secretary to Rear-Admiral.
- Mr. S. Harrison, Civilian (for special services rendered to Navy).

LONDON:  
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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Printed under the authority of HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
By Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. 4.

Thursday, 8 July, 1920.

Price Four Pence Net.