

1,800 PRISONERS TAKEN AT BEERSHEBA.

ATTACK ON THREE SIDES.

(From the War Office.)
EGYPT.

General Allenby reports that, after a night march, our troops attacked Beersheba on the morning of October 31.

While the infantry attacked the defences covering the town from the west and south-west, mounted troops made a wide turning movement through the desert and approached it from the east.

Beersheba was occupied in the evening, in spite of a determined resistance by the enemy.

LATER.
General Allenby reports that in the successful operations against Beersheba the British forces captured 1,800 prisoners and nine guns.

Our losses were slight in comparison with the results obtained.

ANCIENT BEERSHEBA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Beersheba is a small town on the north bank of the Wady-as-Sebâ, and derives its main interest from its connection with the Biblical patriarchs. It served as residence successively to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Its name is related to the covenant of Abraham with Abimelech (Gen. 26, 33), and means "Well of the Oath," but in our day many Orientalists think that it involves the idea of "seven wells, of which, however, only five have so far been identified. The low plateaus round the town are very fertile, but cultivation is neglected by the neighbouring fellaheen. The district was, in the Roman and Arab times, very thickly populated, and the ruins of a Greek church, with apse, sacristy, and aisles, attract the eyes of the tourist.

On the west bank of the Wady are situated the two wells famous among the Arabs for the good quality of their water and for their size; the biggest measures more than 12 metres of circumference, and, according to seasons, has an average of some 13 metres of depth till water surface is reached. Round these two proverbial wells are seen many fragments of glazed pottery, old houses, and traces of public buildings, testifying to the importance of the town in ancient times.

The desert of Beersheba is very beautiful in spring and early summer, when the ground is carpeted with flowers and grass, but in this season of the year it offers to the Tommies nothing but a dry and parched surface, with not a single tree to break the monotony of the landscape. The arable land of Palestine comes practically to an end with Beersheba, which is distant only 28 miles from Hebron, and about 53 miles from Jerusalem in a south-westerly direction. In the first years of the Moslem era the famous Arab general Omar retired there to lead an ascetic life, and it served also as the residence of the Caliph Sulaiman, son of Abdul-Malik, before his election at the end of the first Islamic century.

KIFRI BOMBED.

The Secretary of the War Office makes the following announcement:—

Mesopotamia: On the morning of the 31st October our aeroplanes dropped bombs on the enemy aerodrome at Kifri with good results. There is no other news from the Mesopotamian theatre of war.

A CONSTANTINOPLE REPORT.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent says a *communiqué* issued in Constantinople on Wednesday says that no important event has occurred on any of the fronts.

COUNT HERTLING AS GERMAN CHANCELLOR.

AMSTERDAM, THURSDAY.

The latest news from Germany received here indicates that the appointment of Count Hertling as Imperial Chancellor has now been finally decided upon. He was received in audience by the Kaiser this afternoon. Herr von Payer is mentioned as Vice Chancellor, and Herr Friedberg (National Liberal) as acting Premier of Prussia. It is understood that Count Hertling's programme includes the carrying through of the reform of the Prussian franchise and the conduct of Germany's foreign policy on the lines of the German reply to the Papal Note.—Reuter.

NAVAL AIR RAID.

THE ADMIRALTY, THURSDAY.

During October 31 (Wednesday) a bombing raid was carried out by naval aircraft on Sparapelhoek aerodrome. The targets were partially obscured by clouds, making results difficult to observe.

Many offensive patrols have been carried out, during which one hostile machine was shot down out of control. All our machines returned safely.

THE PIRMASENS RAID.

AMSTERDAM, THURSDAY.

A telegram from Pirmasens to the "Frankfurter Zeitung," reporting an enemy air raid, says that bombs were dropped on the town and environs. The casualties were one person killed and four wounded. Small material damage was done.—Press Association War Special.

SWEDISH MILITARY CONFERENCE

COPENHAGEN, WEDNESDAY (Received Yesterday).

The Malmö correspondent of the "National Tidende" states that the Swedish Government has asked all the generals and some other staff officers to meet in conference with the Government at Stockholm on November 13.—Exchange.