

APPENDIX No. 29.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE CAPTURE OF
SAMOA.

Admiral Patey's letter to the German Governor.

His Britannic Majesty's Australian

Ship *Australia*,

off Apia, 30 August 1914.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that I am off the Port of Apia with an overwhelming force, and, in order to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, I will not open fire if you surrender immediately.

2. I therefore summon you to surrender to me forthwith the town of Apia, and the Imperial possessions under your control.

3. An answer must be delivered within half-an-hour to the Bearer.

4. Wireless communications are to cease instantly or fire will be opened on the Station.

5. If no answer is received to this letter, or if the answer is in the negative, the Cruisers have orders to cover the landing parties with their guns.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

GEORGE E. PATEY,

Rear-Admiral Commanding Ships and Vessels
of the Allied Fleets.

His Excellency the Governor,
The Imperial Station,
Apia.

Acting Governor's reply, dated 30th August, 1914.

ADDRESS:—An

den Herrn Oberbefehlshaber des vereinigten Geschwaders
vor Apia.

Text: (heading as above).

Euer Excellenz

Beehre ich mich folgendes im Auftrage des kaiserlichen Gouverneurs zu erwidern.

Nach den Grundsätzen des Völkerrechts ins besondere den Abmachungen der II Haeger Friedens-Konferenz ist die Beschiessung unverdeitigter (*sic*) Häfen und Plätze verboten ebenso daher auch die Androhung einer solchen. Ich lege daher gegen Euerer Excellenz Verfahren ergebenst Protest ein. Im Uebrigen habe ich, um den von Ihnen angekündigten militärischen Massnahmen vorzubeugen, angeordnet, dass der funkentelegraphische Dienst einzustellen und dass keinerlei Widerstand zu leisten sei.

Ich stelle Euerer Excellenz anheim, dass (*sic*) Schutzgebiet Samoa zu besetzen und bemerke noch ergebenst, dass Euerer Excellenz damit auch die Verantwortung für Leben und Eigentum der europäischen Bevölkerung zu übernehmen haben werden.

Mit der Versicherung meiner vorzüglichsten Hochachtung habe ich die Ehre zu sein Euerer Excellenz ergebener

S. N. RIMBURG,
stellvertretender Gouverneur.

[*Translation.*]

To the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Squadron off Apia.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to reply as follows by order of the Imperial Governor.

According to the principles of international law, especially the agreements of the 2nd Hague Peace Conference, the bombardment of undefended harbours and towns is forbidden, and therefore also the threat of bombardment. I therefore respectfully enter protest against

Your Excellency's action. For the rest, to avoid the military measures of which you have given notice, I have given orders that the W/T Service is to be discontinued, and that no resistance of any sort is to be offered.

I leave it to Your Excellency to take possession of the Protectorate of Samoa, and only beg to observe that Your Excellency must also take over the responsibility for the life and property of the European population.

With the assurance of my deepest respect,

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

S. N. RIMBURG,

Acting Governor