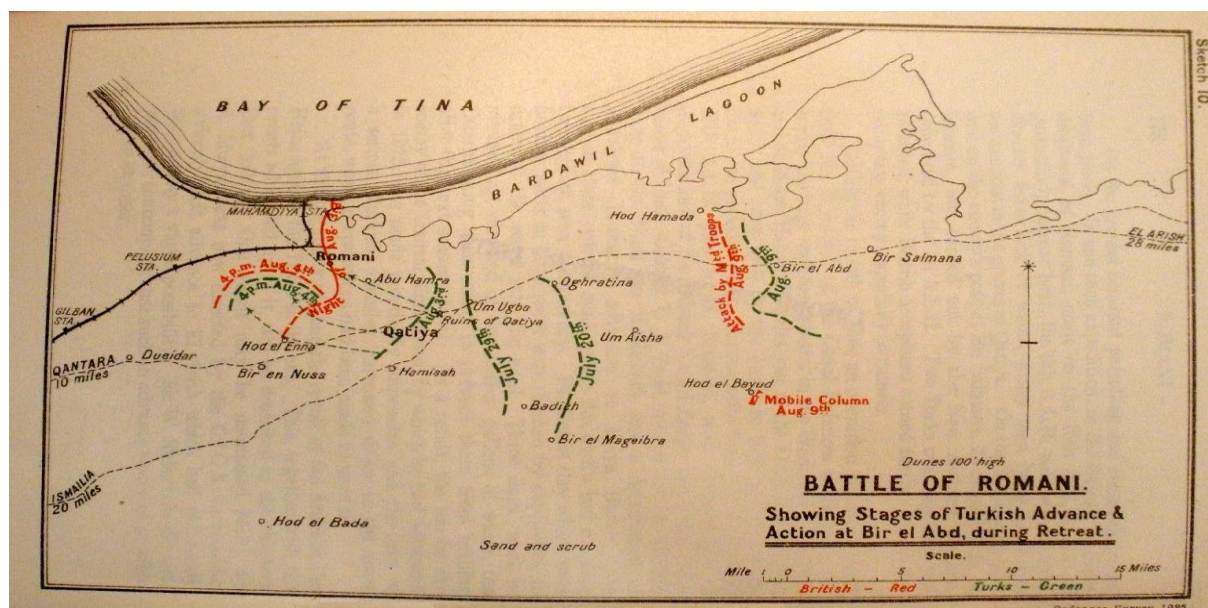


Historical Officers Report

Events of the Great War as reported in the Camden News
Cables from the European War August 1916

3rd August Battle of Romani (Australian Light Horse)



3rd August

General Sir Douglas Haig reports there is fierce fighting and bombing at various places throughout the day. 'The artillery drove back a German infantry attack on Pozieres from the north-east.' The Germans on the Somme front were further reinforced by infantry and guns. There was a hostile bombardment throughout yesterday which was fairly continuous and some times of the heaviest nature. 'Our artillery frustrated an afternoon attack upon, our right flank.

The Germans last night launched two further infantry attacks against our centre, preceded by especially violent artillery fire. Our concentrated gun fire and rifle fire now stopped both attack's. The Germans nowhere reached

the British trenches. The losses in these fruitless attacks must have been, severe.

8th August Battle of Mouquet Farm on the Somme



10th August

Anzac troops were attacked by 14,000 troops with heavy howitzers on Friday in the Romani district near Katia, Suez Canal. Our troops retired for a while before a flank attack until the evening when they counter attacked inflicting heavy losses on the enemy who retreated.

The German second line system on a front of 2000 yards north of Pozieres was captured by the British on Friday night. Australians participated in the capture.

12th August Private Martin O'Meara VC at Pozieres



17th August

The Commonwealth Official Correspondent says that fighting on the Australian front beyond Pozieres has not ceased since the first attack although some easing is only local.

Australian casualties announced to date, are officially reported to number 45,178. They include 1013 Officers, 26 Chaplains, 68 Nurses and 43471 men.

24th August

Between June 4 and August 12, General Brusilov, Russia is reported to have captured 7757 officers and 350000 men and also 405 cannons, 1320 machine-guns and 300 powder Carts.

The British advanced their line on a frontage of 2 miles to a depth of from 200 yards to 600 yards from High Wood to the junction with the French.

Much activity has been displayed in the Verdun area. The French have captured the houses, held at Fleury by the Germans and the whole of Fleury is now in French possession

The Germans on the Russian front are using a new invisible gas, the only warning of its approach being a sickly sweet smell which causes dizziness. They are also using a simple magazine which enables the rifle to fire 25 shots without being reloaded.

The Rotterdam correspondent of the London 'Daily Telegraph' says that trawlers off the Dutch Coast on Saturday met a squadron of 10 German warships, accompanied by two zeppelins.

Karl von Wiegand, the Berlin correspondent for the New York 'World' writes: The French and British artillery on the Somme is superb. I take off my hat to it and also to the Germans who stand the frightful battering and hammering day and night. The Anglo-French, have enormous quantities of artillery and they are firing 200,000 shells daily.

There are 10000 guns in action on both sides. In guns numbers of troops and its fierceness the "battle of the Somme is unparalleled in history."

The much glorified charge of the Light. Brigade and British valour at Inkerman pales by the side of the fearlessness and bravery of the Australian and New Zealand farmer boys and London clerks in the charges into certain death at Pozieres and Delville Wood and no Spartan died more bravely.

26th August 6th Aust Brigade attacks Mouquet Farm on the Somme

31st August

The prize court has awarded H.M.A.S. Sydney 1985 pounds for sinking the Emden.

Since the beginning of the war 34 air raids have been made on England. The Allies have accounted for 35 Zeppelins.



Private Edward Percy Clout, Killed in Action 11th August France



Private James Coleman Clarke, Killed in Action 12th August Pozieres, France

Private William G Davis, Died of Wounds while in Action 21st August France

From the Home Front

Both Camden and Narellan Red Cross continue to supply items of clothing and bandages to Sydney and Menangle Camp.

Nurse Rose McAnene matron of the Camden Cottage Hospital has been called upon by the authorities to present herself for military duties on Saturday next.

Her position at the local hospital will be vacated and some difficulty is expected in filling the position owing to the shortage of nurses.

Matron McAnene is not likely to be leaving for service abroad for some time but will take up duties at the Randwick Military Hospital.

Letters Home

Trooper Stan Doust writing from the desert scene where the Turks recently received a severe handling from the Australian and New Zealand troops says:—'I witnessed an aerial combat over our camp last week, between a German aeroplane and one of ours. Both were using machine guns;'

The German flew away with ours in pursuit, and we could see them in the distance like two blow-flies, and could hear the reports from, the machines. I do not know if those in the combat enjoyed it, but I know we did."

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer