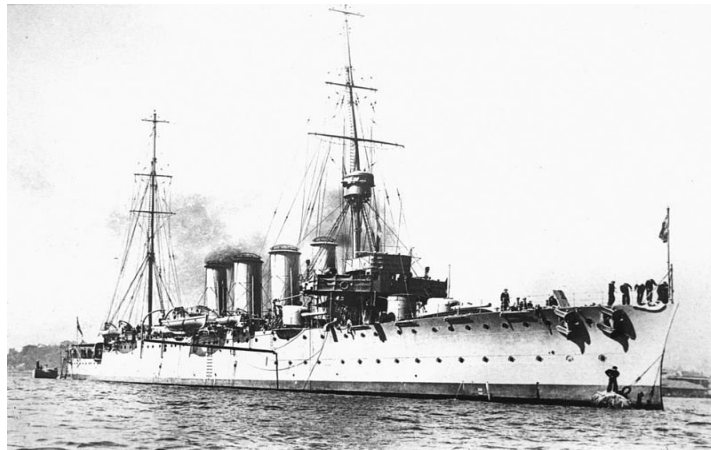


## **Historical Officers Report**

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

**No Copies of the Camden News exist for December 1916**

**11<sup>th</sup> December HMAS Sydney and Melbourne in 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron in North Sea**



**H.M.A.S. Sydney**



**H.M.A.S. Melbourne**

**21<sup>st</sup> December Light Horse captured El Arish**

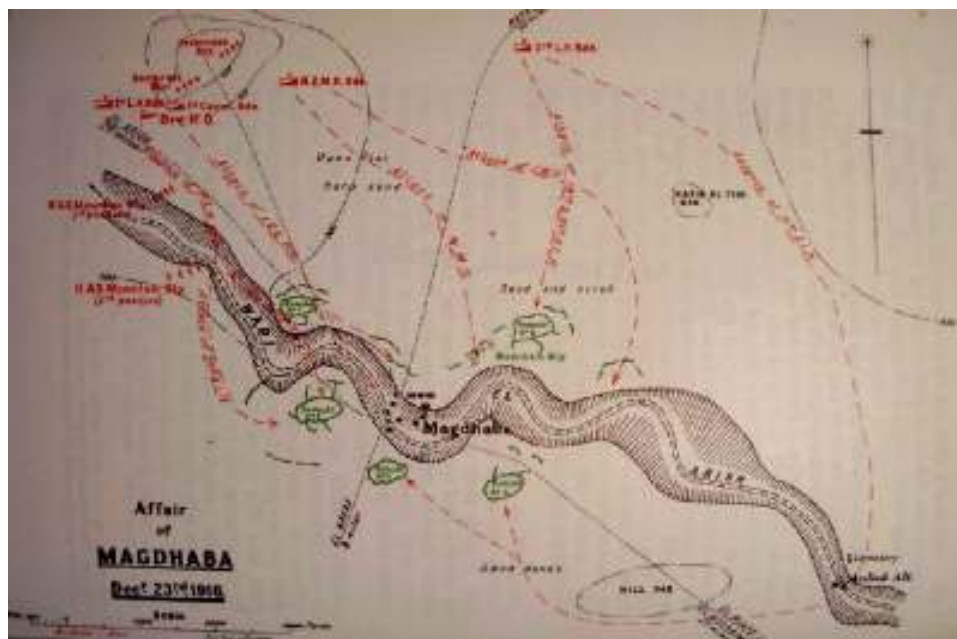




**22<sup>nd</sup> December Anzac Mounted Division on night march to Magdhaba**



**23<sup>rd</sup> December Battle of Magdhaba**





### **Camel Corp at Madghaba**

Fighting began in January 1915, when a German-led Ottoman force invaded the Sinai Peninsula, then part of the British Protectorate of Egypt, to unsuccessfully raid the Suez Canal.

After the Gallipoli Campaign, veterans from each side formed the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) and the Fourth Army in Palestine, to fight for the Sinai Peninsula in 1916.

During this campaign the Anzac Mounted Division and the 52nd (Lowland) Division succeeded in pushing German-led Ottoman Army units out of the area, beginning with the Battle of Romani and pursuit in August, the Battle of Magdhaba in December, and in January 1917 the newly formed Desert Column completed the recapture of the Sinai at the Battle of Rafa.

These three victories, resulting in the recapture of substantial Egyptian territory, were followed in March and April, by two EEF defeats on Ottoman Empire territory, at the First and Second Battles of Gaza in southern Palestine.



*Lance Corporal Henry Charles Lillywhite Died of Wound 29<sup>th</sup> December, France*

I would like to wish all members and their Families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ray Herbert  
Historical Officer