

Historical Officers Report February 2015

Events of the Great War as reported in the Camden News

Cables from the European War

4th February 1915

Athens reports that 120,000 Turks are marching on to Egypt and fighting is said to have occurred east of El Kantara 20 miles south of Port Said.

The Turks opened fire with mountain guns, the British patrol replied with Machine guns and rifle fire. The Turks did not show any desire to come to close quarters.

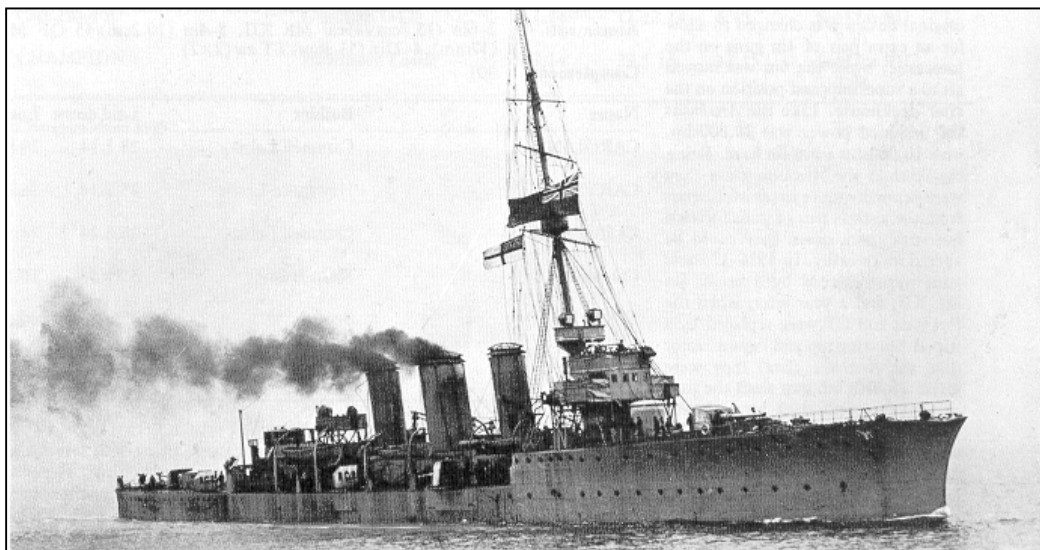
It is semi officially stated at Cairo that during a reconnaissance Severe losses were inflicted upon the Turks near Mezera.

Merchantman have been ordered to enter the Suez Canal with conveys and ships bridges are to be protected with sandbags or steel plates

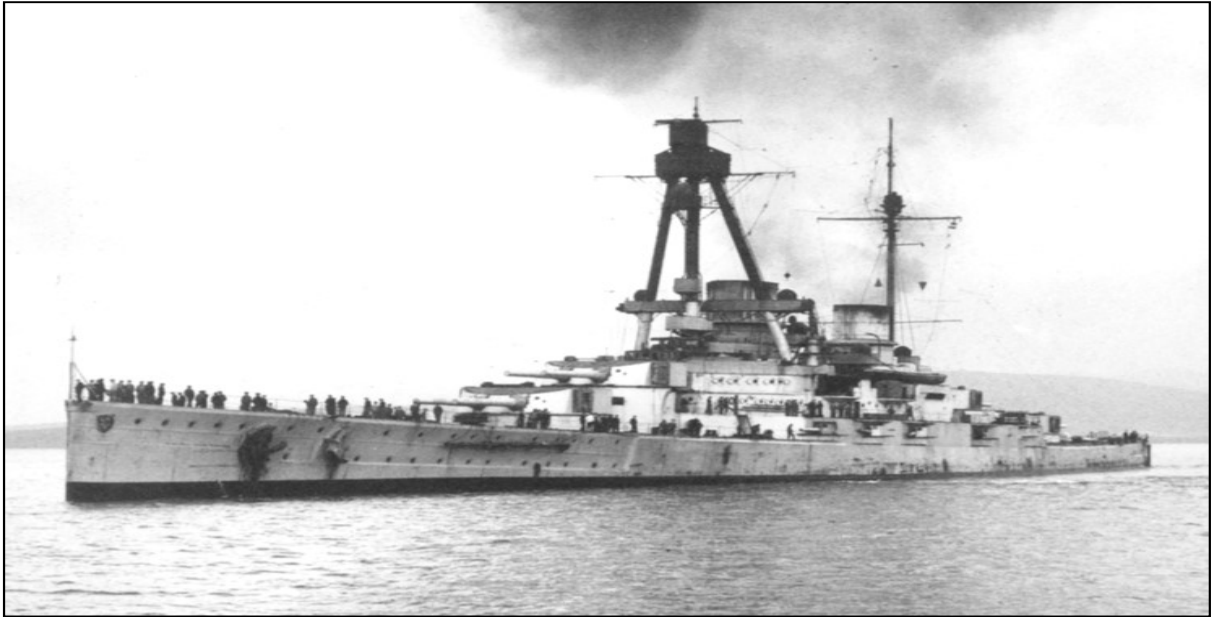


The light cruiser Arethusa, finished the German armoured cruiser Blucher with a couple of torpedoes. The Seydlitz and the Derfflinger got home little more than afloat. The latter had every gun gut out of action.

Seydlitz



Light Cruiser Arethusa



Derfflinger

The crew of the Zeppelin which was shot down at Libau by the Russians are to be court martialled on a charge of murder for attacking an undefended place near Libau.

The New South Wales division of the Australian Red Cross Society has arranged for the erection and maintenance of three huts at the Red Cross Hospital Netley England. The cost for each hut is £300 and the weekly maintenance per hut is £20

The Turks attacked a post near Suez but were repulsed. They have withdrawn several advance posts owing to fright caused by aeroplane bombs.

The German submarine U15 has blown up two merchantmen of the English coast A third vessel is reported to have been sunk



U 15

11th February 1915

An attempt by the Turks to bridge the Suez Canal has been repulsed. Another force attacked El Kantara, but was easily defeated.



Australian engineers are employed in Suez Canal defence and have been under fire, they comported themselves as you would wish them to do. The War Office has accepted the offer to send a further 10,000 troops in April. In addition to the monthly reinforcements.

19,000 Turks with six batteries attacked the Suez Canal and repeated sallies were repulsed by the British who had 10 killed 60 wounded. The enemy's losses were heavy, their transports were already in difficulties, their camels are dying, and prisoners are arriving at Cairo poorly clad and miserable looking.

The German Admiralty warns Central nations that after *February 18* every hostile merchant ship in British seas will be destroyed.

18th February 1915

Russian destroyers bombarded Turkish batteries at Trebizond on the Black Sea, and sank fifty sailing vessels. Commercial activity in Asia Minor is at a standstill.

A fleet of 34 aeroplanes under the direction of the British Admiralty made an attack lasting 24 hours on several important Belgian ports held by the enemy. It

is related that the departure of the fleet from the English Coast was a fascinating Spectacle. 'The Channel was crossed in 20 minutes.

The railway station at Ostend was bombed and burned to the ground. Bombs were dropped on German gun positions at Middlekerke, and on mine- sweepers at Zeebragge.

The steamer Carmen, supposed to contain sugar, but actually heavily laden with copper, for Germany, has been seized at Copenhagen.

25th February 1915

The late Captain W Macarthur Onslow has been mentioned in General French's despatch for distinguished services.

On Friday and Saturday an allied fleet bombarded the Dardanelles and silenced the forts on the European side. The possession of the Dardanelle would decide the mastery of Constantinople, and open a way to the Black Sea ports, where 10,000 000 quarters of wheat are available.

It is officially announced that Germany has called up for service the men between the ages of 30 and 52 years.

An English governess who has returned from Berlin states that the principal food in Berlin is potatoes, stale bread and dripping.

World War 1 Poetry

WAR by Leslie Coulson 1889 -1916

Where war has left its wake of whitened bone,
Soft stems of summer grass shall wave again,
And all the blood that war has ever strewn,
Is but a passing stain.

Died of Wounds, the Somme, 8th October

Ray Herbert, Historical Officer