

## **Historical Officers Report January 2015**

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

### **14<sup>th</sup> January 1915**

Lord Kitchener has reviewed in the House of Lords the ebb and flow of the tide of battle. The Germans, he said, "Were left in sufficient strength to hold the trenches in the West." German aspirations in Poland had suffered a severe check. Kitchener congratulated Serbia and Russia on their extraordinary victories.

Lord Kitchener remarked that, the much talked of Turkish advance in Egypt had failed. Germany's great initial advantages were undoubtedly diminishing.

The Allies were daily increasing their resources. The War Office had completed cadres of officers for the expeditionary force, there had been 20,100 officers appointed since the war began.

General French's forces at the front had been increased by Territorial units and a new Division, including a fine Canadian regiment.

In Belgium 50,000 volunteers are distributing relief. There are 1,400,000 destitute people, and many have died of starvation.

The Turks at Sarikamish fought under German orders, but were outmanoeuvred by the Russians. Their losses were appalling, and for days after the dead and wounded lay on the ground for miles.

At Lille the Germans' attempted to flood the Allies' trenches, but failed. The Scheldt and the Lys have overflowed inundating the whole of the districts in southern Belgium.

Copenhagen reports that thousands of Motors are running to Belgium and Germany with copper fittings to be melted down at the gun factories.

### **21<sup>st</sup> January 1915**

Two German submarines attempted to enter Dover Harbour the land batteries opened fire on the vessels which disappeared in a hail of shells. It is reported that both were sunk.

Many rumours are current of air-ships crossing the English Channel.

The Germans have begun the bombardment of the whole Russian front with 11 inch and other guns and rifles.

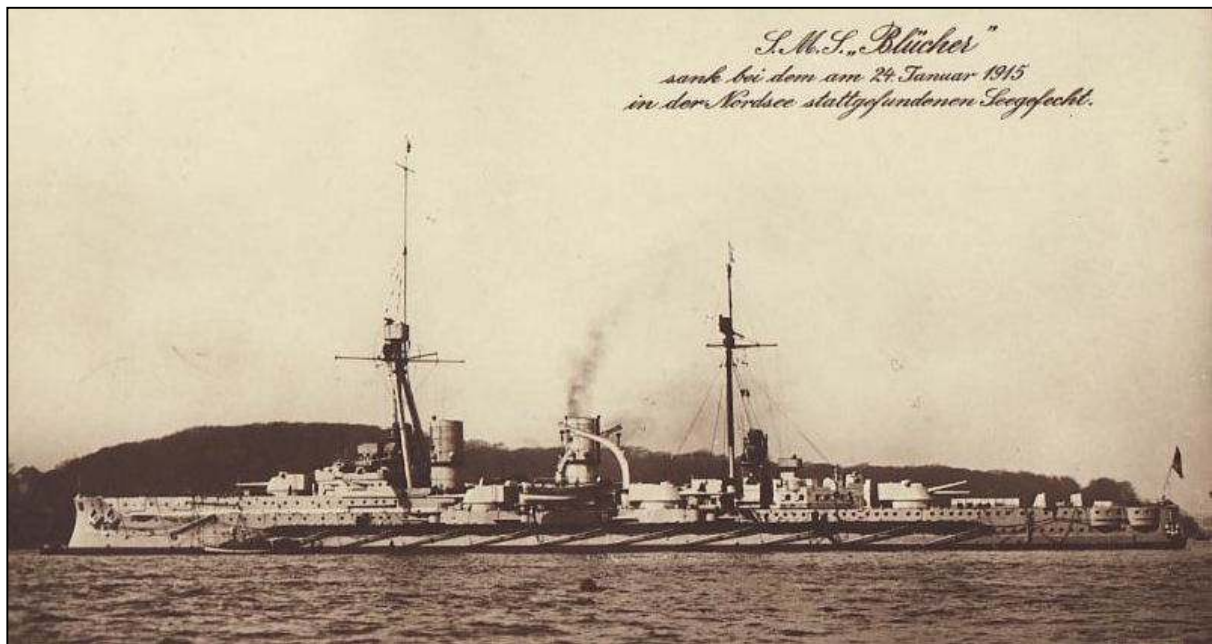
Many of the Turks who propose to invade Egypt are said to be starving and ill clothed. The German officers suggested a postponement of the advance but were advised from Berlin to undertake the expedition.

### **28<sup>th</sup> January 1915**

A German proclamation forbids the population of Belgium to purchase bread after February 2. The people must attend at the Town Hall and receive a **voucher** according to the number in each family.

Refuges report a steady concentration of Turkish troops 150 miles from the Suez Canal. Reuter's Cairo correspondent states that the Australian troops are anxiously awaiting the Turkish attack.

The German armoured cruiser Blucher was sunk in an action with the British in the North Sea on Sunday morning "Two enemy battle cruisers were damaged.



Sir George Reid, interviewed on his return to London from Egypt, said that the presence of the Australians in Egypt was working an effect greater than if they were actually in the fighting line.

Further contingents of Cossacks and supplies of war material are being sent to reinforce the Serbian army.

A Dutch paper reports that as the result of the British air raid at Zeebrugge a motor repair shed and 400 cars were wrecked.



### **On the Home front.**

A period of unprecedented activity will be assured for the Australian boot manufacturing industry if certain negotiations which are understood to be now in progress should result in orders for immense quantities of footwear for the Allies.

### **Tickling the Funny bone**

A pharmacist was visiting an elderly patient in a nursing home to conduct a Medicine review.

While he was talking with her, he noticed a bowl of peanuts on the bedside table and feeling a bit peckish, he asked the lady if she'd mind if he ate a couple.

"Help yourself", she replied

By the time the two had finished the review the pharmacist had polished off the whole bowl of nuts and feeling very embarrassed, apologised to the patient for his greed.

"That's Okay", she replied. "They would have just sat there anyway. Without my teeth all I can do is suck the chocolate off and put them back in the bowl.

Ray Herbert, Historical Officer