

Historical Officers Report January 1916

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

9th January Evacuation of Cape Helles, Gallipoli



No copies of the early January Newspapers are available

20th January

Violent fighting continues in the Champagne region a great number of Germans have surrendered, while those who fled were decimated by the French artillery. Prisoners Include Imperial Guardsmen The number of German dead, left on the field was enormous. The Germans were utterly unable to defend themselves.

A violent battle is raging on the Herzegovinian front "The Montenegrins failed to hold an important position. The Austrians are constantly using gas.

An official report from Cairo states that a British column on January 13 dispersed a band of 400 Arabs in Oman, without any British casualties.

27th January

Sir Douglas Haigh reports further air attacks. Nineteen air encounters took place in one day. Five German machines were brought down and two English.

After nine explosions and a violent bombardment a German attack at Neuville-Saint-Vaast penetrated the French front line trench. Counter

attacks were immediately launched and the enemy dislodged all except a Salient in the French line.

Russia captures prisoners and Artillery in the Erzerun region continues. During the head long flight of the Turks the road was strewn with frozen bodies. Reports indicate that the whole position in the Middle East has greatly improved. Russian forces are co-operating with the British Kut-al-Amara.

From the Home Front

One of the heroes of Lone Pine was in Camden last week on a visit to his brother at Camden Park, Mr. McLeer. Another Gallipoli hero is Private Scott, who visited Mr. Donald Campbell, at Cawdor, where he was formerly employed. Both tell sensational experiences at the front, and both were wounded. They intend to return to the front when fully recovered to health and strength.

The appeal for field-glasses is meeting with an encouraging response. The total number in hand is 764.

In a late letter Corporal Butler Dec 9 1915, says we were shifted up into the horse lines yesterday and we are looking forward for some horse work now. The horse Arthur brought away with him is the biggest break-up you ever saw he is what the niggers here call "Magoon" which means mad. If you hit him 'he goes mad". I was introduced to a Sergt. Hill today, he was in Africa with Art he also knew Rex Smith. Will Dunn has not gone to the front yet, and by the look of things we will be here for some time .We are expecting, Sid Moore and the rest of our unit over here any time now.

We have officers who have been to the front drilling and we have to move to it. We get quite as much drilling as we want. I have an easy job know but I don't know how long it will last. I have a dozen or so men and a stable of horses to look after, and a few natives who help. They have formed a mounted squadron but I did not get in. I expect they will form another Shortly and i might get a job in it. I had to escort a prisoner over to the detention camp today. Jack Cranfield was removed from here to the hospital to Suez he is nearly right again now. 'There are few of the old hands out of the squadron; Art was in here.

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer