

Historical Officers Report July 2015

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

1st July 1915

Athens report that the Allied fleets violently bombarded Gallipoli on Wednesday; at the end of the cannonade immense flames were seen to shoot up in different parts of the town. It is believed that the munitions lying in the dock were set afire, besides several military warehouses.

Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, writing from the Dardanelles says that Von Sanders who threatened to drive the British into the sea received another hiding on May 18th from the Australians and New Zealanders.

Turkish losses, Mr. Bartlett says, amounted to at least 8000 as compared with 500 Colonials, killed and wounded.



Ellis Ashmead Bartlett

Except for a violent artillery duel north of Arras operations on the western fronts are quiet.

A party 330 Australian and New Zealanders wounded has been landed at Plymouth all except one were able to walk.

8th July 1915

General Hamilton reports that fierce Turkish attacks have been made upon the Allies Forces in Gallipoli and an attempt made to drive the Australians into the sea. The attacks were repulsed inflicting tremendous losses. Sir Ian Hamilton state that reports from the Australian and New Zealander Corps shows the attack was commenced with very heavy fire at midnight on the 28th June and lasted to 1.30 a.m.

To this attack the Australians and New Zealanders only replied with a series of Cheers

15th July 1915

News from the Dardanelles reported that extremely intense artillery fire was opened against the French first line. The attacks were all repulsed decimated by artillery and mown down by machine guns the attacking Turks were annihilated. Sir Ian Hamilton reports that the Turkish general attack was a complete failure.

The bombardment of the forts in the interior of the Dardanelles is proceeding. The Turks are experiencing difficulty in revitalizing their troops. A correspondent reports that the fighting Gallipoli on July 11th was the heaviest since the landing.

22nd July 1915

French soldiers are being armed with short knives, as the long bayonets are not suitable for the rough work necessary in the narrow trenches. The British may soon be similarly armed

Unless Turkey secures big consignments of ammunition at once, says a correspondent, the defence of Gallipoli is bound to crumple dramatically at an early date

Germany is now not merely beaten, the Wall Street Journal adds, but bankrupt. In another six months German paper money will rank only a little above shin plaster, as far as the world's trade is concerned, adding it is possible that the war will be over by October.

29th July 1915

There has been a furious engagement on the Gallipoli Peninsula during the last three days; fighting has been obstinate. The Allies continue to gain ground slowly but surely. The warships are assisting.

Lance Corporal Albert Jacka of the 14th Australian Battalion has been awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery. He attacked and killed seven Turks single handed.



Lance Corporal Albert Jacka VC

Arrivals from the Dardanelles state that the Turks apparently believe that the Allies will choose the Asia Minor coast for a new attack and are feverishly fortifying the shore.

Two submarines shelled a fishing fleet without warning, and nine trawlers were sunk. The Germans jeered at the fishermen, but the crews escaped.

From the Home Front

.MEMORIAL SERVICE The late Bugler Milton Thornton.
A Memorial Service for the late Bugler Milton Thornton, who was "killed in action at the Dardanelles, was held at the Camden Methodist Church on Sunday evening last. The military and town band attended.

Pte Sid Wye, of Bringelly, who was wounded at the Dardanelles while serving with the "A" Company, 2nd Battalion of the 1st Australian Division had written home and an extract, was included in the paper.

Camden Cottage Hospital 22nd June 1915 saw the resignation of the Matron Mary McAnene who has accepted duty with the Army Nursing Corps.

It was recommended that the Matron's resignation not be accepted, but that she be granted leave of absence during the tenure of the war, and that Nurse Rose McAnene to be appointed acting Matron.

A Memorial service was held in St. Johns Church, Camden in memory of Sergeant Rex Smith and Lance-Corporal Frank Paul, both local men who fell while on active service at the Dardanelles.

Lance Corporal Hector Small having died of enteric and haemorrhage at the Australian Hospital Heliopolis, Egypt. His death was reported in the News.



Hector Small

As far as can be ascertained the following are the names of volunteers who have enlisted from Camden up to the 22nd July 1915.

Colonel A. J. ONSLOW THOMPSON

Major G. M. M. ONSLOW

Sergt. R. S. SMITH.

Sergt. J.R. POOLE

Sergt. FRANK H PAUL

Artificer W. J. SCHWARER

Tpr. I. G. DUNN

Tpr. C. RYDER

Tpr. MACKANESS

Corporal H. SMALL

SS Corporal D. SMALL

Pte V. C. HANSEN

Pte G.E. HANSEN

Tmptr. M. THORNTON

Pte W. DUNN

Pte W. MOORE

Pte WALTER MORRIS

Pte T. SCOTT

Pte LLOYD SALTER

Pte CECIL WHEELER

Pte M. WASSON

Pte F. SMALL

Pte J. BLATTMAN

Pte W. BLATTMAN

Pte F. CARPENTER

Pte A. HOLDSWORTH

Pte C. DAWBON

Pte J. STAPLETON

Pte G. ROWNEY

Pte R. J. HAWKEY

Pte ERIC LOWE

Pte W. N. NEISS

Pte C.W. THOMAS

Pte A. BUNKER

Pte M. O'DONNELL

Pte SIDNEY WELLS

Farrier BERT DOUST

Pte J. CRANFIELD

Pte S. BRAIN

Pte H. CHESHAM

Pte E. PATTERSON

Pte E. MAXWELL

If you know any of the families of the soldiers listed above then please have them contact me as we would like to have a photo to go with the name.

Ray Herbert

Historical Officer