

## Historical Officers Report June 2015

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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1915

A message from Cairo says that the Australian Light Horse volunteered to go to the Dardanelles as infantry.

On May 23th the Turks asked for and were granted a suspension of hostilities opposite the Australian and New Zealand armies to bury their dead. Over 3000 were all killed between May 18th and 20th.

An Athens despatch states that a British submarine in the Sea of Marmara on Monday sank three Turkish transport carrying Troops and ammunition also two torpedo boats and a collier.

Describing the operations at the Dardanelles on the 28th the Press Bureau states that the Turks advanced in the moonlight and sustained at Least 2000 casualties. The British loss was 300.

It is officially announced that a submarine sank the British battleship

Majestic (14,900 tons) off Gallipoli in the Dardanelles. Nearly all on board were saved.

Turkish artillery with shrapnel could easily have blown up the boats rescuing the survivors of H.M.S. Triumph, who was torpedoed near Gallipoli, but did not hinder operation.



Doctors, in referring to the use of gases by the Germans declare that they have never seen a more painful sight than the row of men, in the prime of life, stricken down by a power they are without the means of resisting.

### **10<sup>th</sup> June 1915**

The Allies on Friday attacked the Turks along the entire front with the object of taking certain points. The British occupied two lines of enemy trenches, and the French took the first line of trenches opposite them.

The fleet assisted effectively and the Turkish losses were very high Ten officers and several hundred men were captured.

Fighting with the utmost violence continues north of Arras but the progress of the Allies is maintained.

The Allies sprayed the trenches at Vauquois with burning liquid by way of reprisal to poisonous fumes.

Krupp's have established a cannon hospital at Saint Quentin for repairs to worn out guns.

### **17<sup>th</sup> June 1915**

The Turks have decided to abandon their operations in Egypt and Persia and concentrate all their forces at the Dardanelles.

The crew of the Australian submarine AE2 (three officers and 20 seamen), which ran ashore in the Sea of Marmora, were saved.



Reuter's Athens correspondent reports that the Allies at the Dardanelles are firmly established and that the Australasia's are in the host of spirits.

The Allies after successive attacks occupied on Wednesday the heights dominating Maidos, capturing 600 Turks. The fighting was fierce.

The Australasia's are said to hold on impregnable position dominating Maidos' and Kilid Bahr (Dardanelles).

The present strength of the Australian medical services at the war totals 5495, sufficient to deal with 8810 beds. One third of Australia's medical profession is on the field.

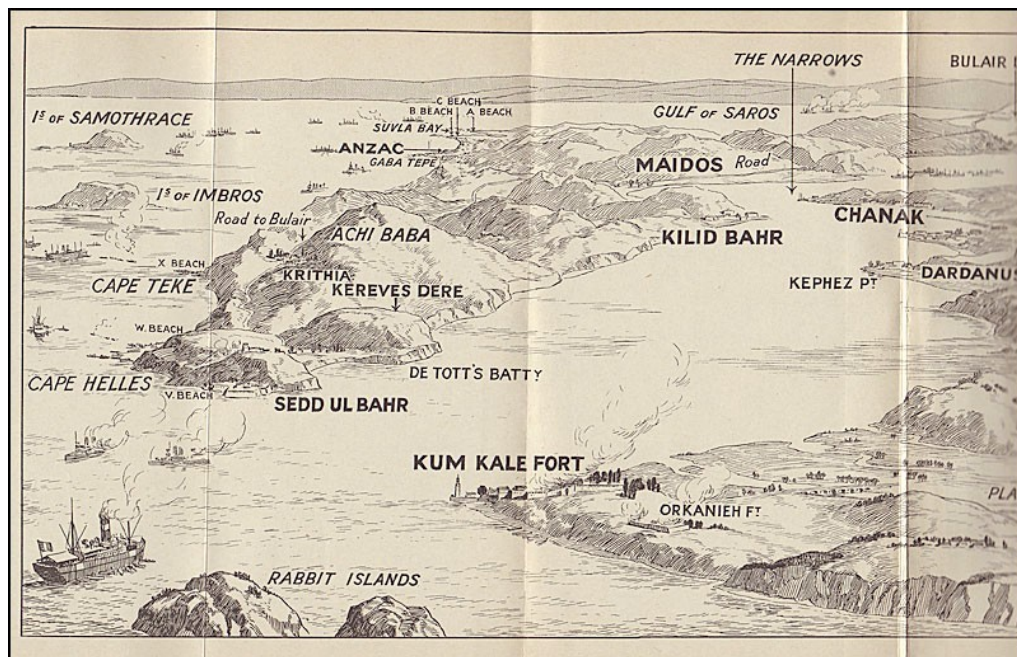
## **24<sup>th</sup> June 1915**

Three Turkish transports were sunk by a British submarine beyond Nagara (Dardanelles).

During the air raid on Karlsruhe, (Germany), the inhabitants blind with panic, fled to their houses and cellars, leaving the dead and wounded where they fell. No part of the city was spared

Reuter's correspondent gives a gripping report on the Allies assault on Achi Baba (Dardanelles) after a tremendous bombardment of the British and French warships.

The infantry charge carried as far as the fifth trench in the centre but Turkish reinforcements the next day compelled the Allies to abandon two of the trenches.



## **From the Home Front**

MAJOR ONSLOW SENDS A MESSAGE TO CAMDEN

7th L.H., Australia,

Meady Camp, Cairo, Egypt,

9th May, 1915.

A few lines to tell you that I am very well and also to thank you for the Camden News which I receive regularly.

You will be sorry I am sure to hear of Colonel Onslow Thompson's death.

He was killed instantaneously whilst leading his men against a strong position held by the Turks on the Gallipoli Peninsula on the 26<sup>th</sup> April

'What is Camden doing in the way of sending men especially the young ones? Do all you can to send all those who can be spared, and don't let it be said that Camden is backward in sending her sons to fight for the Empire.

"Please remember me to all *my* friends in Camden, and tell them I am very well. This Regiment expects to receive its Marching Orders to go to the front very soon now.

Best wishes.—Yours sincerely

G. M. MACARTHUR ONSLOW.

Leonard Hammond from the Camden Boys home has fallen in the Dardanelles.

Sergeant Rex S. Smith, of Wilton, with the Australian Light Horse, is reported to be dangerously ill.

Rex Smith



Trooper Stanley A. P. Doust native of Camden, and now at the front, gives enlightenment in the conduct of some of the guides to the Pyramids and other scenes of interest in Egypt. The guides pitch fairy tales at times to our men.

Owing to the number of teachers who have gone to the war, the State Education Department is finding it extremely, difficult to keep the small schools in the country going.

In the dairy produce section of the Sussex Street, markets extreme scarcity prevailed in supplies of butter, lard, cheese, margarine, and other butter substitutes. Bacon was less plentiful, but eggs were cheaper.

Mr Thomas Thornton received the sad news of the loss of his son Bugler Milton Thornton of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion was killed in action.

Lance Corporal Hector Small, of Brownlow Hill, now with the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Regiment, on active service reports on the daily routine.

13th April.—it has been very hot today, and we have had a fairly long day. Up at 5.30a.m, parade at 6 rifle exercise till 6.40, stables 6.45 till 7.45; breakfast at 8 second parade 9.30 till 2.30, mounted, out in the desert, roasting hot, dinner, Stables at 3.30p.m. Until 4.30 so we had about eleven hours.

One of the State trawlers secured 4 1/2 tons of fish just outside Sydney Heads. The sale on the same day was attended by about 1200 people, and the catch realised £75.

Ray Herbert

Historical Officer