

Historical Officers Report March 2015

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

In Berlin the State regulation of flour and bread has begun. Everybody, including the Kaiser, receives a card with Coupons entitling the holder to four pounds of bread weekly.

Off Beachey Head the Government collier "Branksome Chino" (2020 tons) was torpedoed and sunk. The crew were saved.

The transports that carried the second contingent from the Commonwealth are being hurried back to Australia.

The bombardment of the Dardanelles was resumed on Thursday. All the forts at the entrance have been reduced to ruins. The operations will continue.

Two more British steamers, the Western Coast and the Deptford, have been sunk by German Submarines off Beachey Head.

The British have repulsed attacks in Belgium and gained important positions.

11th March 1915

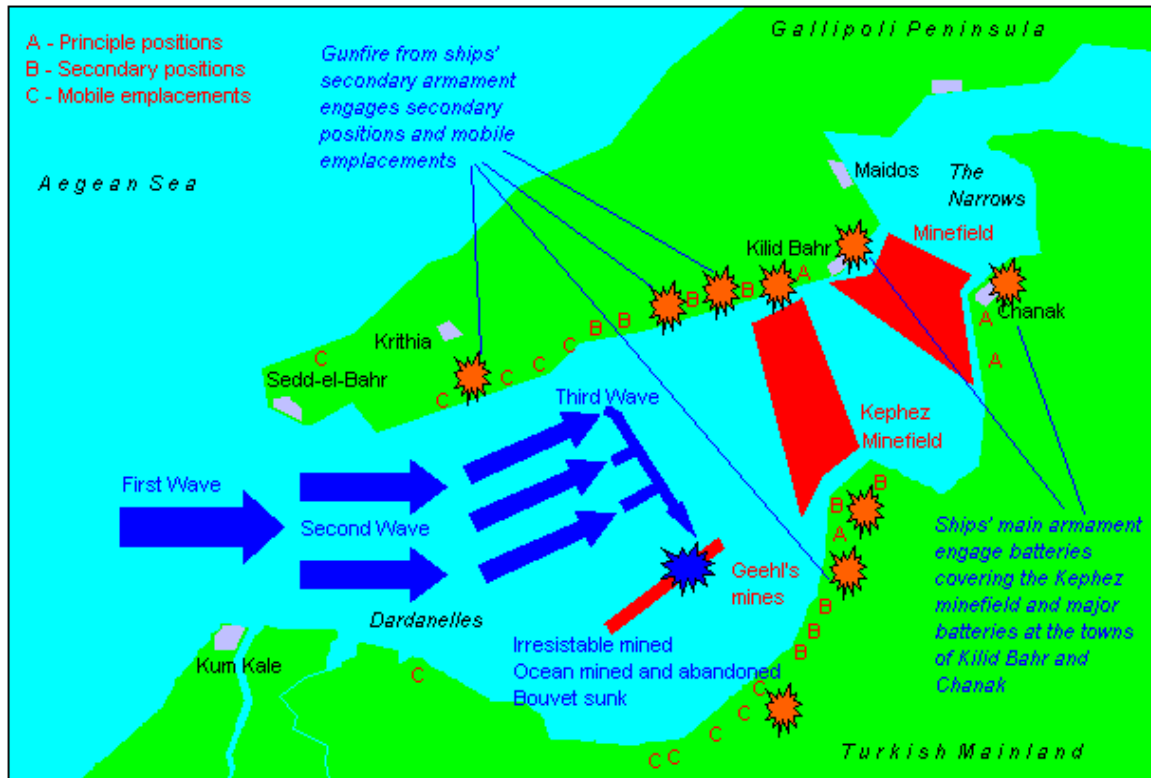
An inspired article in the "Ruskeye Slewe" suggests that when the Dardanelles problem is settled, the Suez Canal will become British property, and the Baghdad railway will be converted into an inter-national undertaking.

Madame Hayeux, Court martialled at Paris, and found guilty of espionage, has been sentenced to twenty years' detention.



The Admiralty reports that the battleships, Triumph, Ocean, and Albion on Monday entered the Dardanelles, and attacked the forts and batteries.

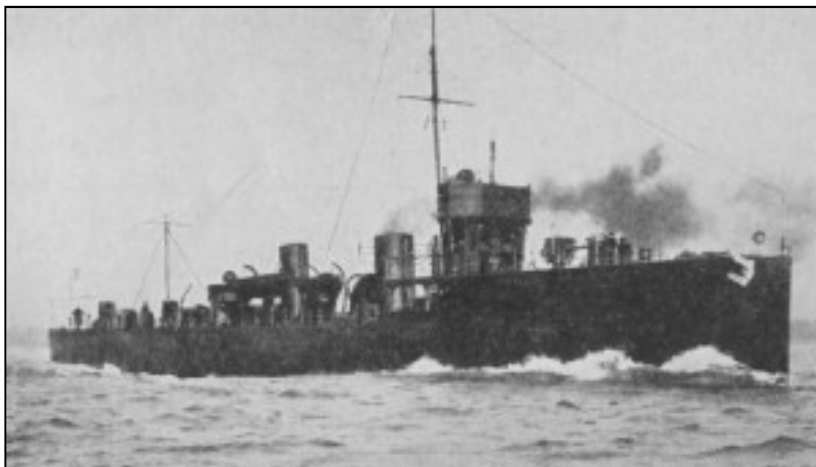
Four French battleships took part in the "operations.



Gallipoli Map 1: Naval Attack, 18 March 1915

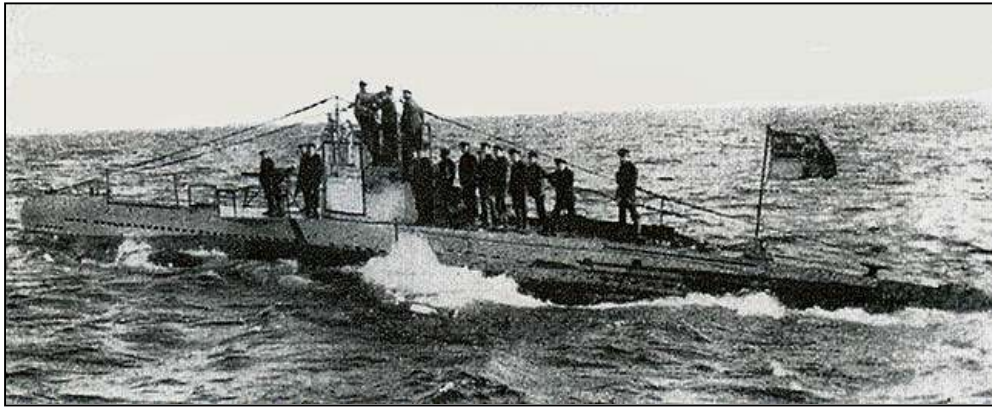
In France and Belgium the Allies are steadily gaining. The Canadians (Princess Patricia's infantry) showed great dash in an attack on the enemy's trenches.

Sergeant Mayes, of H.M.S, Kent has been recommended for the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal. He picked up a burning charge of cordite and throws it overboard, thus preventing a disaster which might have resulted in the loss of the ship.



The Admiralty announces that the destroy Ariel rammed and sunk the German submarine U20, the crew were taken prisoners.

H.M.S. Ariel



U 20

18th March 1915

Turkish authorities' have posted notices In Syria stating that they may have to evacuate the Dardanelles for strategical reasons.

Official lists show that half the Hungarian Army has been put out of action. Many regiments have lost 80 cent of their men.

A hundred tons of butchers' knives, destined for Germany, have been seized in Norway on the ground that they could easily be adapted for use as bayonets.

General Oba, representing the Japanese army on the Russian staff thinks that the culminating point in the German operations has been passed. General Oba anticipates peace within six months.

This morning's messages reported the torpedoing of 11 vessels, nine were British-owned, one a French steamer, and the other is believed to be a Swedish vessel.

The auxiliary cruiser Bayano was sunk on Thursday off the west coast.



Auxiliary Cruiser Bayano

French airmen dropped bombs on Strasbourg, which ignited the coal depot and destroyed 24,000 tons of coal.



British cruisers Glasgow and Kent and the auxiliary cruiser Orana caught the German cruiser Dresden on Sunday morning near Juan Fernandez, and after five minutes fighting the Germans surrendered when the Dresden was on fire and much damaged after the heavy bombard.

Cruiser Dresden

A general blockade of Germany has been proclaimed by Great Britain. All vessels bound for or Leaving German ports are to be seized and must discharge at a British port.

25th March 1915

The delivery of 8000 motor wagons ordered from America by Germany for the purpose of transporting troops from one front to another has been prevented by the Allies fleet.

The Admiralty announces that the British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet were mined and sunk during operations in the Dardanelles.



Battleships Bouvet and Suffern

All the vessels sank in deep water. Most of the English sailors were rescued but only 64 survivors from the Bouvet.

The Inflexible was struck by a shell and left the Straits convoyed by two cruisers. A shell also exploded on the deck killing 40 and wounding many.

The Admiralty announces that since the beginning of the war 54 British merchant vessels have been sunk or captured. Of these 12 were mined, and 30 sunk by torpedoes.

President Wilson, United States of America, announces that immediate and vigorous protest will be made against British decision to place an embargo on German.

A report has been received at Copenhagen that an explosion sank the German cruiser Karlsruhe at the end of last year, off the American coast.

Wounded Germans from the Dresden assert that the commander ordered the magazine to be exploded.

On the Home Front

The paper reported over two pages the winners of all categories at the Camden Show.

Attention is drawn through an advertisement in this Issue that on Easter Monday at Upper Burragorang the valley race club are holding a meeting.

World War 1 Poetry

In Memoriam (Easter 1915)

The flowers left thick at nightfall in the wood
This Eastertide call into mind the men,
Now far from Home who, with their sweethearts should
Have gathered them and will never do again.

Edward Thomas

1878 -1917

Killed, Arras 9th April

The General

“Good-morning, good-morning,” the General said
When we met him last week on our way to the line.
Now the soldiers he smiled at are most of ‘em dead,
And we’re cursing his staff for incompetent swine.
“He’s a cherry old card” grunted Harry to Jack
As they slogged up to Arras with rifle and pack.
But he did them all by his plan of attack.

Siegfried Sassoon

1886 -1967

Ray Herbert. Historical Officer