

Historical Officers Report May 2015

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

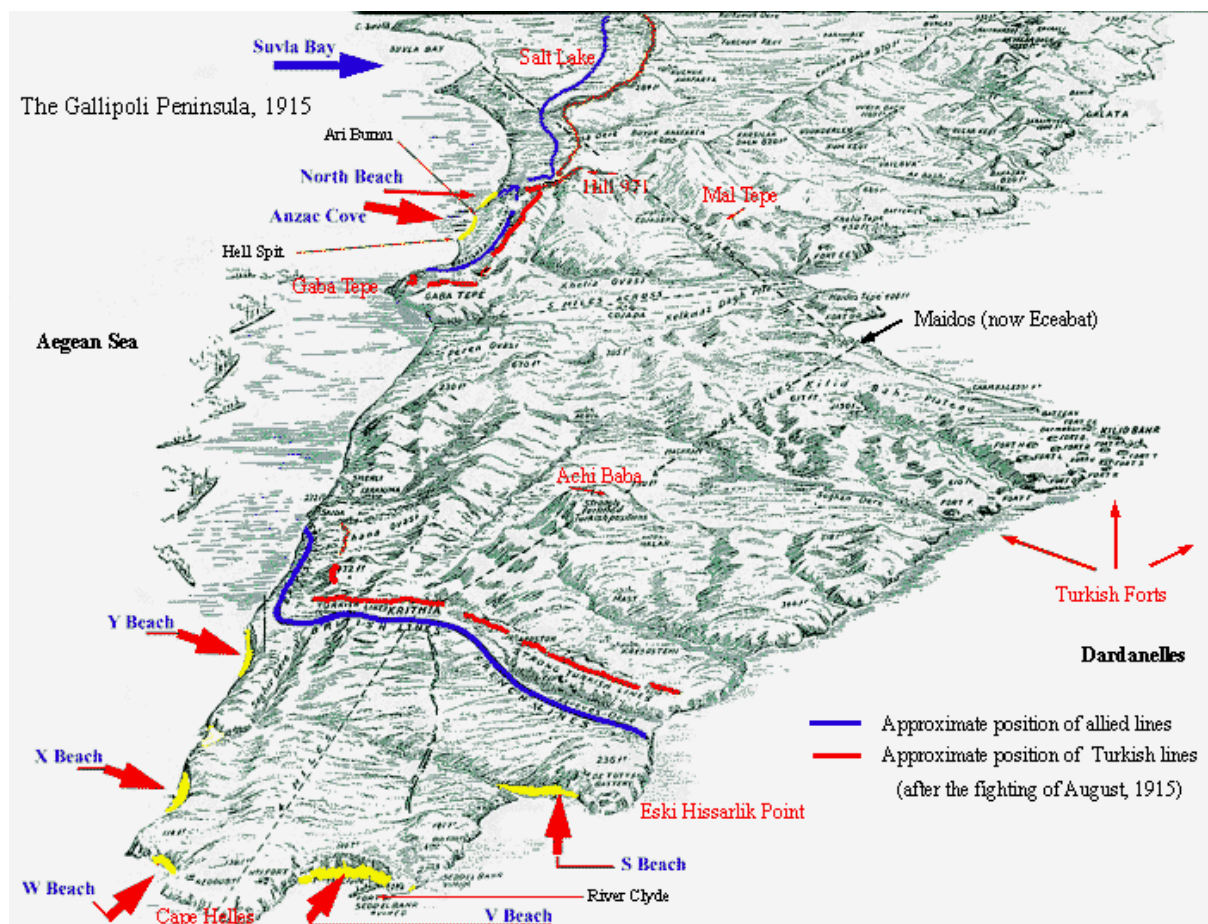
4th May 1915 ***Australians Attack Gaba Tepe***

5th May 1915 ***Landings at Cape Helles***

6th May 1915

On April 25th the Australian and New Zealand troops landed at the Dardanelles. A Turkish division, after heavy artillery fire attacked and a hot engagement followed.

The Armies casualties are heavy, and the fleet's slight. Turkish Warship repeatedly attempted to interfere with the landing but always fled on the approach of the Queen Elizabeth.





The Imperial Government has communicated its warmest congratulations on the splendid gallantry and magnificent achievement of the Australians in the action at the Dardanelles

A message despatched to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Governor-General said: "The Government and people of Australia are deeply grateful to learn that their troops have won distinction in their first encounter with the enemy.

A Battle of big gun on both sides is now proceeding along the Ypres front. The guns are being used to cover the concentration of troops

Colonel MacLaurin, Officer Commanding the First Infantry Brigade of the Australian Imperial Forces was killed while leading a landing party at the Dardanelles.

There has been issued a further official list of Australia's losses at the Dardanelles.

The list brings the total number of killed up to 59, while the wounded remain at 37.

The Fifth Australian casualty list shows that forty-eight more men have been killed and ten wounded making a total of one hundred and seven killed and forty seven wounded.

Among the killed are Colonel MacLaurin, Major Irvine Swannell, and Lieuts. Steen, Duchesne, Williams, Soiling, Kelly Dawson, Heugh. Smith, Captains Concanon, Burns, Leer.

Also Lieut. Colonel Thompson, second Lieut. Evans all from New South Wales.

13th May 1915

When the news floated to Camden that Lieutenant Colonel Thompson had fallen in action at the Dardanelles, quite a shock was experienced in the district, and his death cast quite a shadow over the community.

He was popular in the district, and greatly esteemed not only by the employees of Camden Park, but also by the public generally.

AUSTRALIANS LANDING AT THE DARDANELLES

Mr. Ashmead Bartlett is representing the London press at the Dardanelles reports.

The country near the landing place looks formidable and formidable from the sea. It presented a steep front, broken into innumerable ridges, bluffs, valleys and sandpits and rising to a height of several hundred feet.

The surface is of bare, Crumbly sandstone, covered with thick shrubbery, about six feet in height. It is ideal country for snipers, as the Australians soon found to their costs

On the other hand the Australians proved themselves to be adapt at this kind of warfare.

19th May 1915 *Defence of Anzac*

20th May 1915

Engagements north of Arras continue with extreme violence. The Germans were reinforced and made several Counter attacks, but without result. The British troops returned heroically to the assault again and again.

The allies carried by the assault of the village Carency and a wood near hill 125. The Germans offered a desperate resistance. Hundreds were bayoneted, 1050 taken prisoner.

The Australians' heroism is described as unique in the history of modern warfare their losses are thought to be solely due to their irresistible dash.

24th May 1915 *Formal Truce on Gallipoli to bury the Turkish Dead*

27th May 1915

It is officially announced that Brigadier General Bridges in command of the Australian Imperial forces, died from wounds at the Dardanelles. Colonel Legge is to succeed him.

Sir Ian Hamilton reports that General Bridges died on the passage to Alexandria. The whole force, Sir Ian adds mourns his irreparable loss



Brigadier General Bridges Brigadier Legge

In a brilliant action the dead General's own troops, Australasia's, took their revenge by inflicting a loss of 7000 on the enemy, at a cost of less than 500 to themselves.

Italy has declared War on Austria

The Pope has personally subscribed 100,000 francs (£4000) to the Italian war fund, and has allotted 1,000,000 francs (£40,000) to the Italian victims of the war.

29th May 1915 Attack on Quinn's Post

From the Home Front

The Riverina is still suffering from an unprecedented drought, which is said to be the worst since 1851.

The State Government may within the next day or two become the nominal owner of all hay and chaff in N.S.W.

Owing to the depilation of the Government veterinary staff by Military demands the Minister for Agriculture has suspended the examination of stallions for this year

MEMORIAL SERVICE

In Memory of Lieut. Col. A. J. Onslow Thompson.

Far away from the seat of war, reverently, and devoutly, did the large gathering at St. John's Church on Sunday, afternoon last, assemble in memory of Lieut. Colonel A. J. Onslow Thompson, who fell in action at the Dardanelles.



Unprecedented enthusiasm marked the arrival of Australian and New Zealand wounded at Malta. The majority were slightly wounded.

EMPIRE DAY

Empire day was celebrated in Camden on the 24th May, with 400 to 500 school children taking part in the procession.

Mr, F.W. Sluman, head master of the Camden school, took supremo charge of the children, assembling them in front of the grandstand and at 2 p.m. he addressed tho gathering pointing out that they assembled together that day to do honour to their soldiers who were fighting the enemy in our own defence, and to also honour tho gallant men who had fallen in the cause.

He called upon the Mayoress, Mrs. Geo. P. Furner to unfurl tho Union Jack. This action performed, the Boy Scouts led with a general salute followed by cheers from tho children, and the singing of the National Anthem by all present.

Empire day services were also held at Cobbitty and Cawdor.

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer