

Historical Officers Report November 2015

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

4th November 1915

A Turkish communiqué reports from the Dardanelles that there is increased activity by enemy artillery, supported by warships.
A transport is said to have been hit, and forced to withdraw.

Eight thousand British, wounded soldiers from the Dardanelles will shortly arrive at Palermo (Sicily), where full hospital preparation has been made.

Rotterdam messages state that the Germans have instituted a reign of terror in Belgium. Executions, imprisonments, and fines continue. There is great distress in some cities.

Copenhagen reports state that news from an unquestionable source shows that the food crisis in Berlin has become a panic. The poorer classes are on the verge of starvation.

11th November 1915

It is officially announced by the French Admiralty that the submarine *Turquoise* was sunk by gunfire in the Sea of Marmara. Twenty-Six of the crew were made prisoners.



A Dutch lifeboat rescued a German submarine which signalled for assistance two torpedo-boats took the craft to an anchorage, where it is guarded.

A Zeppelin exploded and fell near Namur on October 13. Some of the crew were saved. Elaborate precautions were taken to hide the disaster.

18th November 1915

Rome papers say that Italy will, declare war on Germany if it be found that the submarine which sank the *Ancona* was German.

Loss of the British Submarine E20 at the Dardanelles is presumed. Twenty-one members of the crew are missing.

Experts declare that Sheffield is now the largest arsenal in the world, easily surpassing Essen.

Mr. Winston Churchill ex-War Minister has resigned from the Cabinet and will join his regiment at the front.

British and Australian prisoners of war in Turkey do not total 450.

Arrangements have been made through the American Ambassador for their comfort.

Mr. Winston Churchill, explaining his resignation in the National Cabinet, suggested that the campaign against Germany in 1916 might be settled by the latter's shortage of men. He regards the Dardanelles campaign as a legitimate war gamble for a price of inestimable value, and accepted full responsibility. Lord Kitchener, he added, was responsible for the military operations in Gallipoli, which should have been carried through with the utmost fury during the summer.

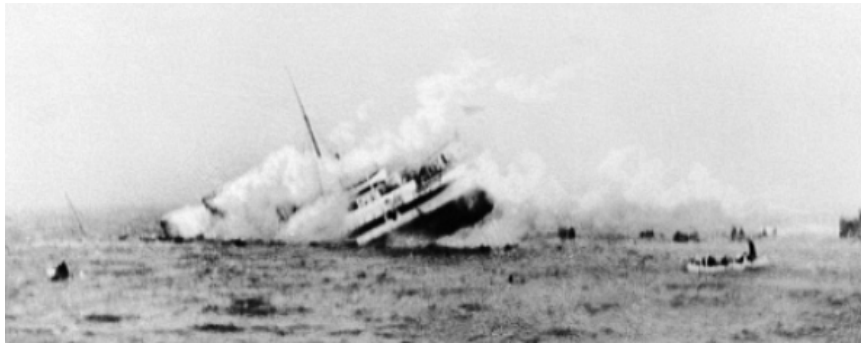


25th November 1915

British troops have resumed the offensive in the Dardanelles; the 52nd Division captured 260 yards of trenches. A counterattack was easily repulsed.

It was stated in the House of Lords that General Munro had reported in favour of withdrawing from the Dardanelles, and was opposed to winter operations.

The British hospital ship Anglia fouled a floating mine in the Channel and sank. Out of 375 on board about 300 were saved. Several warships raced to the Anglia's help, and one vessel was able to pass under her stern and take off 40 men. The Anglia floated for 30 minutes after the explosion.



There has been little activity on the British front, and the weather is very wintry. Major Churchill has had his first spell in the trenches with the Grenadier Guards.

From the Home Front

The New South Wales newspapers had taught the Commonwealth the power of the press. In appeals to the State for patriotic purposes the assistance of the newspapers had resulted in £750,000 being raised for the various funds.

Napoleon had said that four hostile newspapers were more to be feared than 1000 bayonets, and at this juncture it could be said that when we were passing through the stress of war a united press was more to be feared by the enemy than not only a 1000 bayonets, but as many armies, because of the influence they wielded in galvanising the young men into action.

CAMDEN VOLUNTEERS

Again we have to record the names of local volunteers from the district. On Thursday evening last a gathering of local citizens thronged the Foresters' Hall to bid farewell and God-speed to:

Capt. E. H. K. DOWNES.

Sergt. B. F. A. DOWNES.

Pte. ALBERT BRIGDEN.

Pte. J. FISHER.

Pte. A. D. DENGATE.

Pte. J. O. DENGATE

Pte. W. KETTLEY.

Pte. FRED KELLOWAY

Pte. GOSS

At The Oak Literary Institute a large gathering met for a similar purpose on Saturday night, when Mr. M. Devitt Sen. presided.

The volunteers then honoured were:—

Lieut. SYD. MOORE.

Sergt. T. SEYMOUR.

Pte. J. ROBERTS.

Pte. HAYES.
Pte. H. BRIGDEN
Pte. A. BRIGDEN

BUSH FIRES

During the past week several large bush fires have been raging in the mountain country. Kedumaba, Kowmong Colong, Oakdale and Werombi localities have suffered severely.

Another bush fire that caused a great deal of anxiety was at Oakdale, the local residents saved their property, but the fire has burnt black the stretch of country from the Oakdale Public School to Red Hill near the top of the Burragorang Mountain; this fire has been turned westward.

Still another fire raged at the head of the Nattai towards Picton Lakes and Bargo, causing no end of work to check its progress.

The decisions to establish a camp pay corps in all the A.I.F. camps will come into immediate operation.

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer