

Historical Officers Report October 2015

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

7th October

Messages from Athens declare that war for the Greeks is certain. The road to Constantinople will then be along the Salonika-Dedengatch railway, not through the Dardanelles.

The landing of an Anglo-French Balkan Expeditionary Force at Salonika has not been officially announced, but it is assumed that the landing is either progressing or completed.

Eleven British doctors, 25 nurses, and 50 orderlies are proceeding to Petrograd to establish the new field hospital, which is a British's gift to Russia.

"Washington, U.S.A., has been officially advised from London that already 60 German submarines have been destroyed.

Cavalry took an important part in the offensive in Champagne. After the infantry had cleared the first line the cavalry swept down upon the enemy like a hurricane.

14 October

Sir Ian Hamilton reports that during the past month the fighting at Suvla Bay (Gallipoli) has not been on a scale for special reports.

It is reported from Athens that 32,000 Allied troops had landed at Salonika, including 5000 British.

It is reported that all convents in Jerusalem have been transformed into barracks, and that thousands of recruits are drilling. All roads in the Holy Land are full of caravans.

A number of Bulgarian officers are offering their resignations, but the King refuses to accept them. King Ferdinand also issued a proclamation which declares that in the event of war, officers who resign will be considered traitors.

A Sofia message states that the Russian, French, British, Italian, and Serbian Ministers have requested their passports. Diplomatic relations with Russia are said to have been broken.

Washington messages report that the Arabic case has been settled on the basis of Germany apologising and paying compensation for the loss of American lives.

A party of Anglo-American journalists inspected a French fleet of 200 new, armoured cannon-carrying aeroplanes. One battle plane carries a crew of 12, with two 3-inch guns. High powered cruiser aeroplanes, capable of rising almost vertically and flying at 90 miles an hour, carried out thrilling evolutions.

19th October 1915

Malay Archipelago patrols by HMAS Warrego, Parramatta, Yarra and Una



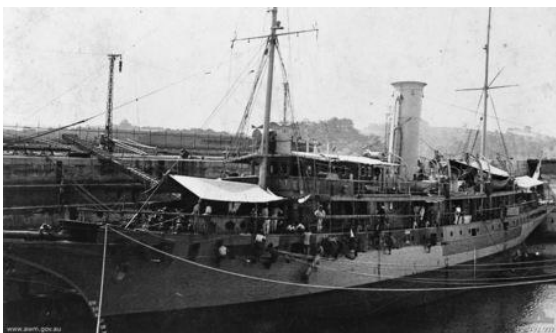
HMAS Warrego



HMAS Parramatta



HMAS Yarra



HMAS UNA

HMAS UNA the former German Ship Komet was captured by Australians in New Guinea in 1914.

21st October

Rumours that the facts regarding the Dardanelles campaign are being hidden are causing grave perturbation in London colonial circles.

A high military authority characterises as purely fantastic the reports of a Blackening in operations at Gallipoli. The Allies, he says, are being reinforced and so great is the pressure that not a Turk can be released to assist Bulgaria.

Major General Charles Monro has been appointed to the command of the forces at Gallipoli. Sir Ian Hamilton is returning to England to report.

28th October

A message from Berlin states that the Admiralty admits that the cruiser Prinz Adalbert itself was sunk by a British Submarine. Only a portion of the crew was rescued.

An American note to Britain insists that neutrals shall be entitled to ship non contraband to Germany, and demands "freedom of the seas".

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle declares that it is too early to say that we have failed at the Dardanelles, and makes a glowing plea for less pessimism.

Nurse Cavell's execution has profoundly stirred all Allied and neutral countries. Probably no personality during the war has evoked the same intense admiration. It is suggested that the name of *very* German concerned should be secured for future punishment.

After a violent bombardment, the Germans attacked east of Rheims using dense gas clouds. The attackers were decimated and failed to reach the first line of trenches.

Letters Home

Trooper Stanley A. P. Doust (Camden lad), son of Mr. A.J. Doust, thus gives an idea how those fighting at the Dardanelles meet with hair-breath escapes:—

"It is a difficult to "get writing materials in the trenches.

There were only two sheets of paper issued for every four men, and those were tossed for, and I won one. I have been under very heavy Shell fire the last few weeks, but have been very lucky.

The first morning I was at the front, a roll call was hold, and the boys about a yard behind me were wounded, and another three yards behind me was killed, before they had time to answer their names. They never had time even to look at the trenches. The next day one of my follow trooper was killed, and one shot through the leg. Three shells burnt in our sap and one scorched and tore the left sleeve of my tunic but never did any damage except nearly covering us with soil. Another day a piece of Shrapnel bullet fell on my leg and bounced off, it was hot when I picked it up, but it never made a mark, so my luck must be in."

THE LATE BUGLER MILTON THORNTON.

Mr and Mrs. T. Thornton, of Camden, are in receipt of letters relating to the circumstances connected with the death of Milton Thornton while on active service: Chaplain James Green, (a few years ago Superintendent of the Camden Methodist Circuit) writes: You have my deepest sympathy in connection with the death of Milton he went through the real fighting of the 19th unscathed, and remarked to a comrade, James Schunbery, of B Company that he was very thankful to have got safely through the attack, when shortly after he was hit by a spent bullet which killed him. He did not linger. He was buried in Shrapnel Gully, and a substantial cross has been placed on his grave with his name, No. and the date of his death and Killed in action has been deeply carved on it.

The Bugle Sergeant of the 3rd Battalion also wrote to the family.

Believe me I do not wish to open up an old wound, but I know you would like to know how he met his end. As you know he was killed on the 19th May. Now I will explain to the best of my ability. At 12.30 a.m. that day the Turks made that determined efforts to drive us into the sea, which no doubt you have heard about.

Tho battle lasted until 7 a.m. Our trenches being rather crowded we could not all be actually shooting at the enemy, and I saw your son that morning. He was carrying water and ammunition to the firing line and carrying wounded from there.

Tpr. Iley Dunn, son of Mr. G. L Dunn, of Spring Creek writing home to his parents, dated Sept. 5th, 1915, from Anzac, says he is well after his four months experience at Gallipoli, and mentions that Sergt. J. Poole and Tpr. Ryder are progressing favourably.

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer