

Historical Officers Report September 2015

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

2nd September

It is reported that two Allied cruisers have penetrated the Dardanelles and bombarded the batteries of Kashauan. 40,000 Turkish troops are being hurriedly sent to the Dardanelles from Constantinople.

Russian aeroplanes flew over the Aelatio suburbs of Constantinople and dropped bombs, the population was panic stricken. Thirty Turks, eight Greeks and three Armenians were killed or wounded.

A British submarine sank four large Turkish sloops transporting troops.

A British aviator destroyed a German submarine by bombs dropped from an aeroplane. The submarine was completely wrecked and sank off Ostend.

Mr Harry Hawker, the Australian airman, has been awarded the height record certificate for a pilot alone. He attained an altitude of 18,303 feet.

Queen Alexandra gave an audience to Sir George Bold, the Chief Commissioner for Australia, expressing her admiration of the gallantry of the Australasia's at the Dardanelles.

3rd September 1915

Temp Lieutenant W.T. Dartnell awarded Victoria Cross at East Africa

9th September

Romania has told Austria and Germany that she desires to maintain strict neutrality, and to preserve her friendship with Italy.

Germany undertakes to apologise to the United States for the sinking of the Arabic, and admits that the submarine failed to return. Mr. Lansing made it clear that the United States could not bargain with Germany regarding the British blockade.

A Japanese official declares that when the facts are known the world will be astonished at what Japan is doing to help the Allies, especially Russia,

There is a general impression in Rome that the lack of ammunition will lead to the early fall of Constantinople, the second and decisive phase of the war.

The capture or sinking of numbers of German submarines by the British Navy have received a certain amount of confirmation by the story; of an officer of another White Star steamer, the Adriatic, a vessel of 24,000 tons. He states that the submarine which sank the Arabic was afterwards captured by a naval vessel, and that the crew are now prisoners in England.

A message states that British submarines torpedoed and sank four Turkish transports. The news is confirmed since August twenty five Turkish transports have been sunk.

An official message from Paris states that the Turks made a might attack on South Sector hold by the Australians, the attack was repulsed with heavy enemy losses.

16th September

According to an Athena report, the Sultan has sent an urgent demand to the Kaiser for help, declaring that the Turks are unable to hold out any longer at Gallipoli.

A correspondent says that the Allies are daily progressing at Gallipoli as the result of intensified attacks at Anafartn. Turkish navigation in the Sea of Marmara has ceased.

A member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies says that the Japanese Ambassador informed him that if the Entente asked Japan to send a largo army to Europe, the invitation would be accepted with alacrity.

On the re-opening of the French Chamber, a bill will be introduced enabling France to place in the field a well-trained army of at least 700,000 new black troops.

Another Zeppelin raid on the English coast is reported, the total casualties wore 100, including 20 killed.

The bombardment of Zeebrugge by the British warships did enormous damage, killing 110 and wounding 100 soldiers destroying two submarines.

23th September

Anglo-French guns have silenced the Turkish batteries on the Asiatic shore of the Dardanelles.

The British submarine E7 has been sunk at the Dardanelles and the crew taken prisoners.

The total casualties at the Dardanelles to August 21 were 37630, including 17,008 officers and men killed.

Reuter's correspondence at the Dardanelles states that the Australians gained a further 400 acres of ground during the last week in August.

30th September

It is reported from Athens that Allied batteries violently bombarded the Anafarta heights, Dardanelles which may be taken without the necessity of an assault.

War Office reports state that recent operations at Gallipoli have been mainly confined to aircraft attacks, on both aides, with artillery duels and mining operations. After an important engagement, the Suvla' and Anzac forces at Gallipoli have joined.

Over 1,500,000 Belgians are utterly destitute. It will cost £218,000 a week to feed the Belgians.

From the Home Front

One of our local boys, Ray Cranfield, who is with the Australian Naval forces, writing home to his parents in Camden, says:—I suppose you have read in the papers about the recent operations, now that it is out in the press we are allowed to write about it. You will remember that early in the war the German cruiser *Konigsberg* sunk H.M.S *Pegasus* in Zanzibar; she then went into the Rujiji River in German East Africa, and stayed there.



There are several mouths to the river and we have been helping to watch them, to see that she did not get out ever since we came here. Well, she would not come out so it was decided to go in after her, and there were no ships here suitable for the job.

First some seaplanes were brought out to bomb her, but they were a failure in this climate; then two Monitors, the same as were bombarding the Belgian coast were brought out, they are a very shallow draught ship, built especially for rivers, with heavy guns mounted, and they are protected especially for going up rivers. At the same time as these came some aeroplanes, lighter machines than seaplanes.

Well on the 6th the monitors went in the river, and it was a grand sight to see them go in, the batteries on both banks fired at them, and they returned a perfect hail of fire back, and we closed in with the rest of the ships and shelled all the banks from as close as we could get. The Monitors went up to within about 5 miles of the *Konigsberg*, and by this time the aeroplanes were overhead to give them the range.

Of course they could not see the *Konigsberg* for bends in the river; they got to work and gave her a pretty good pasting, but did not completely break her up. So the operations had to be repeated, and on the 11th the Monitors went in again, and we had just such another time with the banks. The monitors soon got to work and made it so hot for the *Konigsberg* that they blew her up and totally destroyed her, but we were not without our share of the losses.

On the first day one of the Monitors had four killed and four wounded, two of whom have since died, and on the second day the same Monitor had two wounded; one aeroplane was brought down during the second day's action, but dropped in the river, and its two occupants got on board one of the monitors.



So that is the last of the German Ships outside of Germany, and the Pegasus is revenged. We were lucky all through; we fired about 250 shots at the batteries and did not get one on board in return.

This is Germany's last colony now, and I suppose we will carry on the blockade of the coast till the land forces finish the job ashore. Ray adds, I suppose you have read all this long ago, but I know you will be waiting to hear from me that "all is well."

Other News

H.M.A.S. Torrens was launched at Cockatoo Island by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson performing the naming ceremony.

A visit to the milk platform at Camden any morning will reveal to the onlooker a serious jumble up of carts and vans owing to the smallness of the yard allotted to the local milk producers. Frequently, the conveyances are locked together.

The Menangle Sand Bag Society meet every Tuesday evening in the local hall to make bags, 100 have been sent to Sydney. A dance was held on Saturday last, and the proceeds amounting to £2 was handed over to the Society.

The Postal Corps to be despatched to Egypt to take charge of the mails for the Australian forces is being organised.

FALLEN AT THE FRONT.

Lance CORPORAL SIGNALLER ERIC LOWE.

Quite a gloom passed over Camden on Wednesday evening when news came through that Lance Corporal Signaller Eric Lowe, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Lowe, of Elderslie had died of wounds in King George Hospital, London.

This intelligent young officer, who was only 19 years of age, left Sydney as recently as the 25th of June, and received his wound at the landing at Sulva Bay, Signaller Lowe had always been a prominent member of the Camden Boy Scouts, was Colour Sergeant in the Camden Cadet Force for some time a member of the Camden Rifle Club & Cycling Club, and during his stay in Armidale he was O.R. Sergeant in the Armidale Light Horse.

During his school days he received two Military Medals in the Cleveland Street Champion squad for Battalion competition.

The Local Red Cross help collect money for the National Belgium Relief Fund with the names of all contributors' shown in the paper

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer