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war diaries, 1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

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Appendix, operational memoranda

August 1915

OPERATION MEMORANDUM No. 27

by
Brigadier-General H.B. Walker, D.S.O.,
Commanding 1st Australian Division.

Divisional Headquarters,
1st August 1915.

Map of GALLIPOLI
1/20,000.

1. - With reference to Operation Memorandum No. 25A dated 30th July, 1915, the following copy of Force Order No. 23 dated 30th July, 1915, (amended by Force Order No. 24 dated 31st July, 1915) is published for information : -

"The following names will be inserted in the new 1/20,000 Map of the GALLIPOLI PENINSULA -

ESKI HISSARLIK POINT	at Square 14.K.5.
DE TOTT'S BATTERY	" " 14.K.6.
MAGHRAM	" " 30.h.2.
IBRAHIM AGA	" " 38.g.4.
ESKI KEUI	" " 57.n.1-5.
KILIA LIMAN	The bay in which KILIA ISKELE is written, square 58.
AK BASHI LIMAN	The bay in which ODUN ISKELE is written, square 72.
SUVLA BAY	The bay in squares 116 and 103.
SARI BAIR	The whole mountain range in squares 80, 81, 93.
OLIVE GROVE	The groups of trees marked S.W. of GABA TEPE, square 56.m. to 47.c.

For the sake of uniformity the following names will be substituted for those on the 1/20,000 map -

SIDD-EL-BAHR will continue to be known as SEDD-EL-BAHR.

ILIAN BURNU(Sq.13)	do	do	HELLIE'S BURNU.
ERTOGRUL BAY(Sq.13)	do	do	SEDD-EL-BAHR BAY.
YALOVA DERE(Sq.84)	do	do	AK BASHI DERE.
HAUSLAR DERE(Sq.40,31)	do	do	JAMBAZ DERE.
KURIJA DERE(Sq.69)	do	do	KOJA DERE.
KUCHUK KEMIKLI(Sq.103)	do	do	NIBRUNESI POINT.
BIYUK KEMIKLI(Sq.116)	do	do	SUVLA POINT.
AJA LIMAN(Sq.153)	do	do	EJEMER BAY.

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Periscopes.

2. - By smoking, slightly, the lower glass of a periscope the glare can be lessened; this reduces also the reflection of the sun towards the enemy.

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C.B.B. W H I T E, Colonel,
 General Staff.
 1st Australian Division.

OPERATION MEMORANDUM No. 28

by

Brigadier-General H.B. WALKER, D.S.O.
Commanding 1st Australian Division

Divisional Headquarters,
10th August, 1915.

Message from
Army Corps
Commander.

Sniping.

1. Attention is drawn to the Army Corps Commander's message to the troops, copies of which are issued herewith.

2. From captured diaries and other sources of information it is apparent that the enemy has been suffering steady losses by the fire of our snipers. Non-commissioned officers and men will be informed accordingly. Commanding and other officers will explain to the men the value of this establishing a fire superiority, and encourage continual effort.

C. B. B. WHITE Colonel.
General Staff.

INFORMATION.

1. - (i) Troops. Aeroplane reports received early yesterday morning reported that a long line of transport and troops were seen between Gallipoli and Galata, the head of the column being at Galata at 7.30 a.m.

About 50 wagons and one battalion were moving towards Maidos from Hellas.

A later report received at midday stated that the camps at Turshen Keui were deserted.

No movements of troops could be seen on the roads in rear of our position either from the north or from Maidos.

Information received from Russian G.H.Q. shows the 9th, 10th, 11th and 15th Army Corps to be still in the Caucasus. The total number of men opposed to Russia on the Caucasus front is estimated at "120,000 men". The battalions on this front are less than 600 strong.

(ii) Prisoners. Anzac report that up to 5 p.m. on the 8th the total number of prisoners taken was 591.

Three German machine gunners were captured and stated that they arrived at Kilia Liman by steamer 6 days ago; with them were 150 Germans and 30 machine guns.

Most of the information shows that reinforcements are at best ill-trained and often untrained, and that many of the officers are mere lads with no experience or knowledge at all.

2. - Lone Pine. The Lone Pine position captured from the Turks was attacked many times during the 8th and night 8th/9th August, but in every case the assaults were repulsed. It was noticeable that our troops gained a complete ascendancy in the use of bombs, being markedly superior to the enemy, who it was reported showed signs of demoralisation.

It will be gratifying to the 1st Infantry Brigade and those battalions assisting in holding Lone Pine (the 7th and 12th) to know that the force brought against them comprised the whole of the three battalions of the 13th Regiment - a regiment held in reserve of the 400 Plateau position.

I N F O R M A T I O N .

GENERAL. As a result of a reconnaissance made on the 26th instant by French aeroplanes, a new Turkish aerodrome was discovered about due East of NAGARA LIMAN, viz: at Square 207.K.

The aerodrome was attacked with bombs, the petrol store set on fire and considerable damage done. The fire was still burning satisfactorily late last night.

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TROOPS. Some 4000 irregular and untrained troops, composed of Circassians, Kurds and Lazs, all equipped with old rifles have arrived in the Kuloli Burgas - Chorlu district.

N.B. (The Laz are a tribe who live on the South Eastern shores of the Black Sea, their headquarters being the coast town of RIZA, near TUBIZUID.)

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SUPPLIES. It is reported by the Greek General Staff that of a number of wagons of ammunition held in Roumania, about one third have recently passed through Bulgaria to Turkey.

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PRISONERS. Anzac report that a Turkish prisoner taken on the 25th instant stated that the Turkish Heir-Apparent, Yussuf-ezzed-Din, visited the position opposite Anzac about a week ago.

E-Qs. 1st A.D.
26th July, 1915.

OPERATION MEMORANDUM No. 29
by
Major-General H. B. Walker, D.S.O.,
Commanding 1st Australian Division.

Divisional Headquarters,
22nd August, 1915.

Standing
to Arms.

1. - With reference to Operation Memorandum No. 25, dated 28th July, 1915, the hour for standing to arms on and from the 23rd instant will be 0420 to 0500.

Local
Names.

2. - (i) The low razor backed enemy ridge just east of THE CORNFIELD and adjoining the southern end of SNIPERS RIDGE will be known as - THE KNIFE EDGE.
(ii) The trenches immediately north of ECHELON trenches will be known as - BIRD TRENCHES.

Bombs.

3. - All troops will be warned that, when handling boxes or bags containing bombs, the greatest care should be taken, and on no account should they be allowed to drop heavily on the ground.

C. B. B. W H I T E, Colonel,
General Staff,
1st Australian Division.

11. 00. 1945
11. 00. 1945
11. 00. 1945

11. 00. 1945

Bingo. 168

11. 00. 1945

11. 00. 1945

Sq. off. (RPH)

11. 00. 1945

11. 00. 1945

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OPERATION MEMORANDUM No. 30.

by

Major-General, H.B. Walker, D.S.O.,
Commanding 1st Australian Division.

Divisional Headquarters,
30th August, 1915.

Bombs and Fuzes.

1. As fuzes for grenades are now being issued which burn for 4 seconds instead of 5 seconds, it is most important that the attention of all ranks should be drawn to the necessity of carefully reading the notice on each box of fuzes giving the number of seconds the fuzes will burn.

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Destruction of
Enemy Overhead
Cover.

2. (i) The following device has been found useful in destroying enemy overhead cover. First the overhead cover should be broken by Letbiniere bombs; then jam tins containing kerosene oil, arranged to drip, should be thrown; and after that ordinary bombs, to set fire to the splinters soaked with kerosene. When close enough, lighted tow flares or incendiary bombs (see below) might be used instead of ordinary bombs.

Incendiary Bombs.

(ii) A good incendiary bomb can be made out of a small pickle bottle full of crude oil, with fuze and detonator inserted through cork. The bottle should be loosely wrapped and tied up in waste; fuze to be lit in the ordinary way before throwing. The explosion of the detonator suffices to burst the bottle and the flash ignites oil.

N.B. These should be used generally in the afternoon owing to damp.
in the morning

Trenches to be
Defined.

3. Officers commanding units will be held responsible that all ranks in the trenches are thoroughly conversant with the positions held by our own troops. This must be frequently pointed out, especially to new arrivals, until everyone is quite clear regarding the trenches held by our troops and those held by the enemy.

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D. J. G L A S F U R D, Major
for Colonel General Staff,
1st Australian Division.