

The Gallipollian

The Journal of the Gallipoli Association

No. 164 - Spring 2024



THE GALLIPOLIAN

No 164 Spring (March) 2024

The Journal of the Gallipoli Association

founded by Major E H W Banner in 1969 on the Campaign of 1915

The Gallipoli Association

Registered Charity No. 1155609

www.gallipoli-association.org

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Members occasionally change their email address without notifying the membership secretary. As a result notices and information do not reach the intended member. If you do change your email address please confirm the details to the membership secretary, who will change the information in our database.

This edition's cover:

Portrait of Lieut.-General Sir William Birdwood.

British Museum: Series: Generals of the British Army Museum number 1918,1011.149

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P_1918-1011-149

NEWS ITEMS

See <https://www.gallipoli-association.org/news/>

GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION MUSEUM OFFER

Ian Binnie, Education Officer

Many Association members have connections with the UK's military museums. Many of these have collections of artefacts, documents and photographs relating to the campaign.

Over recent years I have worked with Gloucester Museum, the Fusilier Museum, Warwick, the Museum of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, the Royal Lancers and Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum, the Staffordshire Regiment Museum, the Mercian Regiment Museum, the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum, the Chelmsford City Museum, the Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum, and York Army Museum.

I have a budget for projects in 2024. I am fully aware of the demands on museums, both in demands of time and finance. I have worked for three years as a volunteer at a military museum myself. I am offering my services, which are free, to any interested museums, to develop mutually-agreed projects.

In the past I have worked with museum staff and volunteers on:

- The production of booklets and banners.
- Commemorative events - at the museum or in nearby local churches.
- Talks by myself on Gallipoli with emphasis on a particular regiment.
- Activity days for local school children.

Next year, 2025, is the one-hundred-and-tenth anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign. Museums with Gallipoli collections will want to do something special.

I would be most interested to hear from any museum staff or members with links to museums. I can be contacted at education@gallipoli-association.org.

REQUEST FOR BACK ISSUES

Member Adrian Crotty is seeking the following issues of *The Gallipolian*:

No. 135 ; Nos. 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 ; and No. 154.

If anyone is able to assist please advise the editor or secretary.

FONTINI'S SEWING MACHINE

In 1915 the huge Mudros Bay on the island of Limnos became the Gallipoli Campaign's major logistical hub crowded with hundreds of Allied vessels. The once sleepy town of Mudros became a hive of activity, with the relatively small local population vastly outnumbered by the troops.

This huge change meant commercial opportunities for the island's farmers, fishermen and craftsmen to increase their income by selling local produce and merchandise, while some earned wages by working as stevedores.

There were opportunities too for the women of the island to earn their own money by providing much needed laundering services to the sudden influx of men.

One such hard-working and thrifty woman was Fontini Dimitrelli who worked hard cooking and cleaning for her family. She realised that by offering to repair and wash the uniforms of servicemen she would be able to earn extra money. Her high quality and speedy services in tailoring and laundering was in such demand that she worked long hours. The money she earned was thriftily saved towards her long cherished goal to buy a Singer sewing machine.

Over a hundred years later that sewing machine is still used by her granddaughter Dina who is the co-owner of the Hotel Ethaleia. This hotel is situated on a hill outside Mudros town with panoramic views of the spectacular and peaceful Mudros Bay. Dina has a fund of fascinating memories of her grandfather telling her about life on the island during the period of the Gallipoli Campaign.



Fontini Dimitrelli and her husband

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2023

Gallipoli Association at the Cenotaph

Hester Huttenbach

Members of the Gallipoli Association were again proud participants in the Cenotaph march-past on Remembrance Sunday in London.

We gathered on Horse Guards parade ground under the group number M16, although we called ourselves MI6, before marching through to Whitehall where we waited for over an hour for everyone to make it through and the service to start at 10.50.

Although we had some rain it did stop before 11.00 am. We were lucky to be right by a big screen so could follow the service with ease. The salute on the return to Horse Guards was taken by the Princess Royal.

Originally 20 were due to march but five dropped out, although four did watch from the sidelines. We had two from California, two from Ireland, and two from Australia. The rest of the group travelled from Hereford, Stoke, Warrington, Camberley, Oxford and London.

Most of the group stayed on for lunch. We descended downstairs at the Admiralty Public House and were treated to a well-deserved pub lunch by extremely attentive staff.



Members of the Gallipoli Association were again proud participants in the Cenotaph march-past on Remembrance Sunday in London.

WREATHS AND REMEMBRANCE

Lieutenant-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston and Gallipoli, 1921

Bill Sellars

In your name I am laying on each of the main beaches a wreath of wild-flowers gathered from the land made forever Britain by the bodies of the heroic dead. May we who survived do our best to spread the spirit of cheerful self-sacrifice, devotion to duty, and comradeship which they so gloriously exemplified, thus helping to attain the ideals for which we fought.

The “I” who laid those wreaths on a chill day in late April 1921 on the Gallipoli Peninsula was – depending on the views of his many admirers or critics – a slashing man of action, a rank amateur, Hunter-Bunter, or the Butcher of Helles: Lieutenant-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston.

The former commander of the 29th Division and then the British VIII Corps during the Dardanelles Campaign of 1915, and again later on the Western Front, Hunter-Weston was the first of the senior Allied commanders who served on the peninsula to return in the post-war years.

Many others followed, including the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force’s commander Sir Ian Hamilton, Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, Generals William Birdwood, Alexander Godley, Archibald Paris, and Corps Expeditionnaire d’Orient commander General Henri Gouraud.

However, it was Hunter-Weston who first made the pilgrimage to the battlefields of 1915, and who was the first senior officer to attend commemorative ceremonies on 25 April on the peninsula, the day he laid his wreaths on V and W Beaches, and at Anzac Cove.

Though having retired from the army in 1919, Hunter-Weston, a sitting member of parliament at Westminster, had returned to the peninsula on a mission. He had been tasked with inspecting the graves on behalf of the parliament’s National Battlefields Memorial Committee and to advise on a suitable site for the main memorial to the fallen of the empire.

That mission found Hunter-Weston, accompanied by his wife Lady Grace, on the beach at Anzac Cove on the morning of 25 April, taking part in the first large scale ceremony held on the peninsula to commemorate the landings.

The ceremony was conducted by the Reverend J Carter, a chaplain for the Hampshire Regiment, with the remnants of one of the piers at Anzac Cove serving as an altar.



Major-General Sir
Aylmer Gould Hunter-Weston
British Museum 1918.1011.155

While in the past two years since the beginning of the Allied occupation of Turkey there had only been a few people, mainly representatives of the Imperial War Graves Commission, who gathered at the cove on the morning of 25 April, in 1921 the beach was crowded. Apart from the Hunter-Westons, there were members of the British forces stationed on the peninsula, at Çanakkale and Istanbul, commission staff and their families as well as some local Greeks.

One who was there that Anzac Day was Sister Jean Morton, an Australian nurse serving with the British occupation forces in Istanbul.

In her account of the day, published in the Australian press the following year, Morton wrote that General Hunter-Weston gave an address, "in which he paid a tribute to the grand fighting and dying qualities of our Australian soldiers", after which the Last Post was sounded, followed by three minutes' silence.

"From the great scarred hills rising sheer from the beach down to the little crowd on the historic spot at the altar, the great silence descended, broken only by the lapping of the water, and the whisper of the wind on the sand. It was as though the world stood still for those gallant heroes," she wrote.

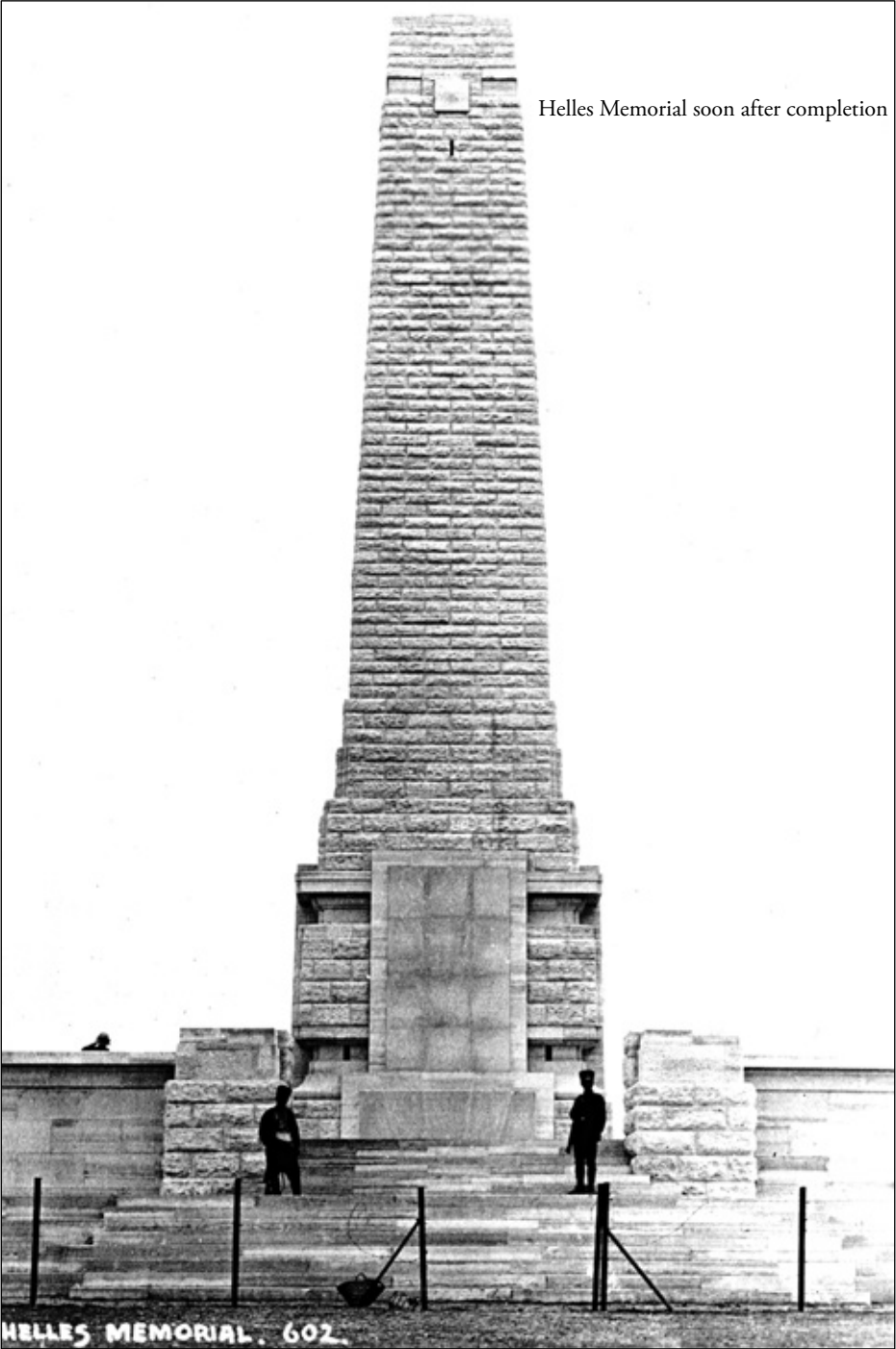
Following the service, according to Morton's account, some of the party boarded the Royal Navy sloop HMS *Byrony*, which was anchored off Anzac Cove and, after sailing past Suvla to the north, cruised down to Cape Helles. Here further wreaths were laid, including at a French memorial in Morto Bay, probably the 1st Division Cemetery on S Beach, while Hunter-Weston took advantage of the view from the sea to survey sites for the future memorial at Helles.

Locations for the proposed memorial had already been scouted, with IWGC architect John Burnet visiting the peninsula as early as April 1919, less than six months after the end of hostilities.

Burnet, who would go on to oversee the design of the Helles memorial, put forward a somewhat grandiose vision in his report submitted to the commission's board in June that same year, proposing that "a Great Shrine or monument to the Gallipoli campaign be erected at Cape Helles".

"Externally such a monument must necessarily be simple and even austere in its lines if it is to be in scale with either of the sites suggested from vessels passing through the Dardanelles, but internally it should be rich in decoration illustrative of the campaign and offer surfaces of sufficient area to meet the long roll of those who fell, and such Military memorials as may be considered desirable by the different units from New Zealand, Australia, Britain, etc., and in itself symbolise the unity of the action," he wrote.

Not only was Burnet's vision different from the final memorial, so too were his proposals for its location, "On the great rocky cliff (some 65 feet high) forming the east side of Cape Helles, or within the ruins of the old castle of Sidd-il-Bahr on the other side of the bay (close to which still lies the s.s. River Clyde from which the landing took place) are worthy sites for such a monument..."



Helles Memorial soon after completion

By April 1921, the River Clyde was long gone, as were Burnet's proposals for memorial sites, one sold into service under the Spanish flag and the others supplanted by that of Hunter-Weston, who in August presented the results of his survey to the British parliament.

The report, co-signed by another Gallipoli veteran, Royal Navy Commander Sir James Somerville on behalf of Mediterranean Fleet C in C Sir John de Robeck, read:

After an exhaustive inquiry as to the most suitable site, Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston has recommended that the national memorial should be erected on Guezji Baba (called on Turkish maps Kurgi Baba), an eminence about 150 feet above the sea, and 500 yards north-east of the Helles Lighthouse, the highest point on the southern end of the peninsula.

Symbolically, the site was between V and W beaches, the two main landing points at Helles on 25 April, though somewhat closer to the former, while also being close to another area of high ground, Hunter-Weston Hill just to the north-west.

Backed as it was by Hunter-Weston, the senior British field commander for part of the campaign, and de Robeck, who led the Allied fleet at the Dardanelles from March 1915 through to the campaign's conclusion, parliament soon gave its approval for the Helles memorial.

From then on, work proceeded at pace, with the IWGC approving a general design by Burnet in late 1922, which included some allusions to the architect's grand vision, with the stone column at the heart of the monument described as being the same height as the Colossus of Rhodes.

Though not fully complete, with panels listing the units and ships involved in the campaign not being added until later, the Helles Memorial was unveiled in 1924, and for a century has served as a focal point for ceremonies and pilgrimages, including by other senior commanders who returned to the peninsula over the years, following in the footsteps of Hunter-Bunter.

See photographs pages 32, 33.

ALIVE IN CAPTIVITY

A soldier was captured by the Turks on Gallipoli. Later he was able to escape and rejoin his unit. But he couldn't get all his back pay. It was admitted that he was alive when captured, and also on his return.

But he couldn't prove that he had been alive all the time he was captured.

– From *The Gallipolian* No. 15, Autumn 1974.

A STUDY OF BATTALION COMMAND IN 10 (IRISH) DIVISION AT SUVLA BAY

Richard Earl

10th (Irish) Division

29th Brigade

10/Hampshire Regiment - W D Bewsher
6/Royal Irish Rifles - E C Bradford
5/Connaught Rangers - H F N Jourdain
6/Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment - J Craske

30th Brigade

6/Royal Munster Fusiliers - V T Worship
7/Royal Munster Fusiliers - H Gore
6/Royal Dublin Fusiliers - P G A Cox
7/Royal Dublin Fusiliers - G Downing

31st Brigade

5/Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers - A S Vanrenen
6/Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers - H M Cliff
5/Royal Irish Fusiliers - M J W Pike
6/Royal Irish Fusiliers - F A Greer

Pioneers- 5/Royal Irish- B.A.W.P.H. Forbes, 8th Earl of Granard

This article complements the author's earlier work "A Mixed Bag" A Study of Battalion Command at Suvla Bay', which examined the performance of thirteen battalion Commanding Officers (COs) of 11 (Northern) Division and the claims that their COs were old and incompetent.¹ Here I look at their sister division in IX Corps, 10 (Irish) Division, and the records of their battalion COs, in an attempt to dispel some pernicious myths on their experience, competence and professionalism. I will show that not only were the battalion COs in 10 Division, for the most part, well under 50 and either active soldiers, or recently retired; but also that they put up a very creditable performance in the August offensive.

Part of the first 'Kitchener' wave of divisions (K1) formed shortly after the outbreak of war in 1914, 10 Division comprised twelve Irish battalions and one from England,

¹ Earl, R. "A Mixed Bag" A Study of Battalion Command at Suvla Bay' *The Gallipolitan* No. 150 (Autumn 2019) pp22-26.

10/Hampshire. Under the command of Lt. Gen. Sir Bryan Mahon the division conducted training in Ireland and southern England before embarking for the Dardanelles in July 1915. One brigade (29th) was detached to Anzac Cove while the other two (30th and 31st) participated in the new landings at Suvla Bay.² Ultimately all three brigades would meet with eventual failure in their first offensive action of the war,³ and as a result a degree of opprobrium has been put on both senior commanders, and also on the battalion COs.

The British Official History of the campaign gives a damning indictment of the battalion commanders in IX Corps, stating that:

most of the brigade and battalion commanders were men well over fifty years of age who had retired before the war ... some were men who would never have attained command in times of peace, and they lacked the power of inspiring the well-educated and enthusiastic young civilians who had flocked to the army.⁴

This confident assertion has been repeated by many subsequent authors.⁵ Alan Moorehead, for example, stated that many of the colonels were ‘men who were well over fifty and who had been in retirement when the war broke out.’⁶ However, the perception that the early Kitchener battalions on active service were commanded by elderly, long retired ‘dug out’ officers has been comprehensively debunked.⁷

Origins

The battalion COs in 10 Division were drawn from two main sources, serving regulars and the reserve of officers (retired regular officers receiving half pay). In total, five battalion commanders were active service regulars and eight were from the reserve of officers. A typical source of CO was the regular major serving in command of the regimental depot. In his post war history of the division, Bryan Cooper stated that in most cases the depot major was promoted and appointed to the command of the senior Kitchener battalion.⁸ In fact this appears to have been the case in only four instances. The commanders of 6/Royal Irish Rifles, 5/Connaught Rangers, 6/Leinster and 6/Munster were all depot majors, and it is telling that they were all aged in their early forties - slightly younger than the divisional average. Two, John

2 Westlake, R. *Kitchener's Army* (Spellmount, Staplehurst 1998:1989) pp58-60.

3 For the definitive account of the August offensive see Crawley, R. *Climax at Gallipoli* (Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman 2014) *passim*.

4 Aspinall-Oglander, Brig. Gen. C F *Military Operations: Gallipoli, Vol. II, May 1915 to the Evacuation* (Heinemann, London 1932) p140.

5 This phrase, or variations of it, can be found in, for example, P Liddle *The Gallipoli Experience Reconsidered* (Pen & Sword, Barnsley 2015) p152; L.

Carlyon *Gallipoli* (Bantam, London 2001) p421; P Liddle *Men of Gallipoli* (Allen Land, London 1976); J Lee ‘Sir Ian Hamilton and the Dardanelles’ in B Bond (ed.) *Fallen Stars* (Brassey's London, 1991) p46.

6 Moorehead, A. *Gallipoli* (Wordsworth, Ware 1997:1958) p203.

7 Hodgkinson, P ‘British Infantry Battalion Commanders in the First World War’ unpublished PhD thesis, University of Birmingham 2013.

8 Cooper, B. *The Tenth (Irish) Division in Gallipoli* (London 1918) pp6-7.

9 Monthly Army List August 1914.

for service in West Africa as a subaltern,¹⁰ and Craske for his actions during the Boer War.¹¹ Henry Jourdain of the Connaught Rangers was another depot commander. He appears to have been highly regarded for his conduct at Gallipoli, Sir Ian Hamilton specifically commended him in his despatch of 11 December 1915, and he was subsequently appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George.¹² Finally, Edward Bradford was appointed to the command of 6/Royal Irish Rifles from the regimental depot in Belfast. The other regular CO, though not a depot commander, was Frederick Greer, who was a serving Major in 2/Royal Irish Fusiliers.¹³

It might be considered that COs appointed from the reserve of officers would be elderly and out of touch. Yet the evidence shows that they brought with them a wealth of experience, and were no means superannuated. For example, Geoffrey Downing had only relinquished command of the regular 1/Royal Dublin Fusiliers as recently as 1912. Markham Pike of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers had seen active service in theatres as diverse as India, South Africa, Burma and Egypt.¹⁴ William Bewsher had also seen fighting, though Herbert Gore and Arthur Vanrenen had not. Patrick Cox made a good first impression on one of his new officers, who found him to be 'lithe and active in appearance...full of animation. I quite took to him.'¹⁵ He had retired from the prestigious Rifle Brigade in 1911. In contrast, Vanrenen of 5/Inniskilling Fusiliers was, having been retired since 1903, not considered to be 'up to very much'.¹⁶ Vanrenen does not appear to have been a very dynamic officer prior to leaving the army, languishing for 10 years at the rank of Captain before retiring at the age of 41.

Perhaps the most unconventional CO was the enigmatic Bernard Forbes, the eighth Earl of Granard, who commanded 5/Royal Irish Regiment. After service in the militia he obtained a regular commission in the Scots Guards, with whom he served in the Boer War as battalion adjutant, before going onto the retired list.¹⁷ The youngest battalion commander in 10 Division, he caused some difficulty in mid August by subverting the usual hierarchy of command and writing directly to the King in his capacity as a Privy Counsellor, behaviour which drew him a reprimand from Sir Ian Hamilton.¹⁸

Age and previous service

Contrary to the assertions of some writers, the average age of a battalion commander

10 *London Gazette* 30 June 1899.

11 *London Gazette* 27 September 1901.

12 Jourdain, Lt. Col. H F N. *Record of the 5th (Service) Battalion the Connaught Rangers from 19th August, 1914, to 17th January, 1916* (OUP Oxford 1916) pp226-227.

13 Monthly Army List August 1914.

14 Sandford, S. *Neither Unionist nor Nationalist* (Irish Academic Press, Ireland 2015) p54.

15 Grayson, R. (ed.) *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6th Royal Dublin Fusiliers* (Boydell Press, Suffolk 2022) pp20-21.

16 Imperial War Museum Sound Archive, T. Verschoyle Accession 8185.

17 *London Gazette* 26 Nov 1901.

18 Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, Hamilton 7/1/40 Granard to Hamilton 18 Aug 1915.

in 10 Division on landing at Suvla Bay was just over 46 years. This compares very favourably with the average age of a battalion commander of the BEF on the Western Front in the summer of 1914, which was nearly 48.¹⁹ Only two, Vanrenen and Harold Cliff were aged over 50, while Granard was barely in his 40s. Perhaps unsurprisingly the five active service officers had an average age four years below that of the eight retired officers. Nearly all had experience of active service, mostly in the Second Boer War. Bradford, Jourdain, Craske, Greer, Granard, Cox, Downing and Pike had all served in South Africa, while Bewsher (Aden), and Worship (West Africa) had also seen combat.²⁰ Jourdain, in particular, had a hectic war, seeing combat at several battles including Spion Kop, Colenso and the relief of Ladysmith. Towards the end of the war he was given command of a company of mounted infantry.²¹ Of the eight retired officers, four (Bewsher, Downing, Granard and Cox) had retired within five years of the outbreak of war, while only Vanrenen and Cliff had been out of the army for over a decade and thus were potentially out of touch with modern tactics.

Combat record

The Irishmen of 10 Division did not have a happy experience at Suvla Bay. The 29 Brigade was detached to Anzac, and the others were split up shortly after landing to support 11 Division, preventing the division from going into action as a cohesive unit, a fact that 'caused a certain amount of disappointment among the battalion commanders.'²² Despite this, the battalion COs seem to have led their units effectively, professionally, and often with great courage. Craske did well during a Turkish offensive on 10 August at Anzac, personally leading two companies of his battalion 'with a cheer' in a counter attack that stabilised the front line after some desperate hand to hand fighting. Wounded in the arm, this ended Craske's service at Gallipoli and he was required to temporarily hand over command to his second-in-command. For his good work he later received a CMG.²³ Vanrenen was killed during an attack by his battalion on Kidney Hill on 15 August, and he is now commemorated on the Helles Memorial to the missing, his body having lain in no-man's-land for three days before being recovered.²⁴ Cliff was wounded during a brigade attack across the Salt Lake on 7 August, along with a large proportion of his battalion of Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.²⁵ It is probably not a coincidence that the division's two oldest COs compensated for their lack of recent service by setting a courageous personal example, and thus became early casualties.

19 Hodgkinson, P 'The Infantry Battalion Commanding Officers of the BEF' in S Jones (ed.) *Stemming the Tide* (Helion, Solihull 2015:2013) p298.

20 Quarterly Army List Jan 1914. Markham Pike was wounded in a frontal assault at the Battle of Talana Hill in 1899.

21 Fallon, O. 'Early Career of Lieutenant Colonel H.EN. Jourdain The Connaught Rangers' *The Gallipolian* No. 104 (Spring 2004) p.8.

22 The National Archives, Kew (Hereafter TNA) CAB19/33 Evidence of the Dardanelles Commission, Earl of Granard 10 July 1917.

23 Lt. Col. EE. Whitton *The History of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) Part II* (Gale & Polden, Aldershot 1924) pp.190-191.

24 TNA WO95/4296 War Diary of 31 Brigade; Sir E Fox *The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in the Great War* (Constable & Company Ltd., London 1928) p.193.

25 TNA CAB45/241 Report by Brig. Gen. Downing 22 Feb 1931.

Downing appears to have led his battalion extremely well, and was credited as being the captor of Chocolate Hill by his brigade commander.²⁶ Cox took his Dublin battalion forward in support of 11 Division, and helped rally some disorganised men of the Lincolnshire and Border regiments – in one instance hitting one over the head with his telescope!²⁷ He also conducted a personal reconnaissance of the Turkish positions, with some of his officers, against the advice of his brigadier, who warned him he would draw enemy fire.²⁸ Worship was wounded in the foot by shrapnel during the advance of 21 August.²⁹ Bradford was also wounded, by a bullet in the head on 10 August during the Turkish counterattack.³⁰ The only significant failure seems to have been Gore, who despite leading his battalion from the front in an attack on 15 August, was relieved of his command two days later by Brig. Gen. Nicol.³¹ Although it is unclear from the official record precisely why he was dismissed, the fact that Nicol found the 7/Munsters greatly demoralised and having discarded their entrenching tools would surely have reflected poorly on Gore's leadership skills.³²

After the war Bewsher wrote a lengthy account, supported by original documentation, to the official historian detailing his actions at Anzac during the August offensive, and it is instructive to review this as a fine example of how a New Army CO coped with modern warfare at Gallipoli. Having deployed his forward companies in support of a Gurkha battalion, Bewsher stayed in close liaison with brigade headquarters, situated nearby, as well as visiting the neighbouring New Zealand brigade headquarters to ensure proper co-ordination. After dark he toured the front lines, checking dispositions, sending reinforcements forwards and relieving tired officers. In the early hours of the morning the line began to waver, so Bewsher took charge of the battalion reserve companies, and led them forward to the front line, where he was himself wounded. After some brief medical treatment in a dug out, he again proceeded to the firing line, but was intercepted and told that he was to take temporary command of 38 Brigade on the death of its commander. After another personal reconnaissance of the front line, he saw that the brigade's position was untenable, with both flanks turned, and so withdrew the line about 300 yards. Shortly after he was sent to a casualty clearing station in the rear.³³ For his actions that day Bewsher subsequently received the DSO.³⁴ On any analysis, his performance in a difficult

26 TNA CAB45/242 Hill to Aspinall-Oglander 2 Feb 1931. Credit for being the first battalion to the summit of Chocolate Hill caused considerable post war argument, which was skillfully resolved by the official historian by allotting credit equally to battalions from 10 and 11 Divisions. See A. Green *Writing the Great War* (Frank Cass, London 2003) pp.106-107.

27 Grayson, R. *The First World War Diaries of Noel Drury* p58.

28 TNA CAB45/245 Whyte to Aspinall-Oglander *nd*.

29 McCance, Captain S. *History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861-1922 Vol. II. From 1861 to 1922 (Disbandment)* (Gale & Polden, Aldershot 1927) p179.

30 TNA WO95/4296 *War Diary* 6/Royal Irish Rifles, Bradford to Aspinall-Oglander 26 Feb 1931.

31 TNA WO95/4296 *War Diary* 7/Royal Munster Fusiliers.

32 TNA WO95/4296 *War Diary* 30 Brigade.

33 TNA CAB45/241 Bewsher to Aspinall-Oglander 21 May 1927.

34 C.T. Atkinson *The Royal Hampshire Regiment 1914-1918* (Robert Maclehose & Company, Glasgow 1952) p.99.

tactical position was exemplary. In total seven battalion COs were wounded and one killed in the division's short time on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Leadership record

One measure of the success of an officer is his durability in command, and whether he was promoted to a superior rank or position. It is therefore significant that six of our battalion COs (Jourdain, Craske, Worship, Cox, Pike & Greer) served as temporary brigade commanders within 10 Division, occasionally for extended periods. Greer was actually promoted to substantive command of 30 Brigade in July 1917 – a position he held until the Armistice.³⁵ During the battle of Megiddo he was instrumental in driving his brigade in a tiring two-day march into a vital blocking position that ensured victory.³⁶ Downing was also promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

Administratively, the COs seemed to have excelled. Craske, described as an 'energetic and efficient' trainer, initiated a system of supplying water to his battalion so that 'they did not suffer so much from thirst as some other units.'³⁷ Pike was evidently a talented artist, submitting to divisional headquarters a series of sketches showing several key strategic points in the Suvla sector.³⁸ Granard too must also have been a fine administrator, for he was appointed Assistant Military Secretary to the Salonika Army in January 1916.³⁹

Downing of 7/Royal Dublin Fusiliers was a popular officer who inspired recruitment in Dublin and was seen as a '*tower of strength*' to his younger officers and men.⁴⁰ But at Suvla Bay he also displayed considerable physical courage, standing boldly in the open during an artillery barrage to encourage his men to accompany him to a well to obtain vital fresh water.⁴¹ His wounding on 15 August, shot in the foot by a sniper, was described as 'a great loss at a time when sound judgement, courage, and cheerfulness were most required.'⁴² Another inspirational leader was Paddy Cox who guided his men back from the front line after an extended tour carrying the rifles of two of his men and in spite of his own fatigue was 'as cheery as ever urging on strugglers.'⁴³ Despite the allegations that they were 'too old', most COs seem to have endured conditions at Gallipoli surprisingly well. Jourdain, for example, served from mid-August 1914 until January 1916 without a single day of sickness.⁴⁴

35 Major A.F. Becke *Order of Battle of Divisions, Part 3a* (HMSO, London 1938) p.12.

36 Captain C. Falls *Military Operations Egypt & Palestine Vol. 2 Part II*. (HMSO, London 1935) pp.501-502.

37 Whitton *The History of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment* pp.97, 193-194.

38 TNA WO95/4296 War Diary 5/Royal Irish Fusiliers; these images are reproduced in *The Gallipolian* No.152 (Spring 2020) pp.32-25.

39 Brig. Gen. S. Geoghegan *Campaigns and History of the Royal Irish Regiment 1900-1922* (Naval & Military Press, East Sussex 2007:1927) pp.107-108.

40 TNA WO95/4296 War Diary 7/Royal Dublin Fusiliers; H. Hanna *The Pals at Suvla Bay* (E. Ponsonby Ltd, Dublin 1916) p.15.

41 Hanna *The Pals at Suvla Bay* p.88.

42 Ibid. p.103.

43 Grayson *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury* p.93.

44 Jourdain, H. *Record of the 5th (S) Battalion the Connaught Rangers* p221.

Later career

Four of the COs ended the war on the staff (Bewsher, Bradford, Granard and Cox), though Cox had commanded various Royal Irish Rifle battalions on active service until late 1918. Two, Cliff and Vanrenen were dead; three, Jourdain, Worship and Pike, were commanding home-based battalions; Downing and Greer were generals, and Gore had retired from the army completely. Finally, the remarkable John Craske was still with 6/Leinster until it was disbanded due to the ravages of malaria in September 1918, having commanded the battalion for virtually the entire war.⁴⁵ It was a fine record of service.

Conclusion

Far from being elderly dug outs with little conception of modern warfare, the thirteen battalion commanders of 10 (Irish) Division contained a large proportion of serving regulars (5) or very recently retired officers (4). Not only did they have extensive experience of peace-time soldiering, but most had seen active service and two had previously been decorated. All appear to have acted gallantly in the field at Gallipoli, where one was killed and seven wounded. Nearly all were still serving at the armistice, two had been promoted and were commanding brigades, one a battalion, and four were serving on the staff, a remarkable durability. This fact alone shows that the popular view of the original COs of 10 Division as over-promoted incompetents was demonstrably false.

VANRENEN, ARTHUR SAUNDERS

Lieut. Col., 5th (Service) Battn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, born Meerut, India, 14 Dec. 1862; educated Cheltenham; entered the Militia in 1879; was gazetted Lieut. from it, to the Lincolnshire Regt., 12 May, 1883; and promoted Capt. 23 Dec. 1893; served with Malay States Guides, 19 Nov. 1897-1908, being acting Commandant from 1905. Retired from Lincolnshire Regt. on 3 Jan. 1903, but on outbreak of war in Aug. 1914 offered his services, and was gazetted major, 7th Battn. of that regt., 23 Sept. following, and Lieut.-Col. commanding 5th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 3 March, 1915; went to the Dardanelles, 10 July, 1915, and was killed in action at Kapanya Dagh, 15 Aug. 1915, after the landing at Suvla Bay. He was buried on the hill where the battle took place. He married at Bruges, Belgium, 28 Oct. 1897, Louisa Frances Isemonger, and had two children: Esmé Mildred, and Joyce Marguerite.



Source : *De Ruigny's Roll Of Honour* Volume 1.

No known grave. Name commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

⁴⁵ Whitton, F E. *The History of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment* pp515-516.

WILLIAM AND ALFRED STEZAKER

Randall Riley

Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant William Stezaker MSM, enlisted in the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment, on 5 March 1900, and volunteered for service during the South African War with the second service company of that regiment. Being only 17 years old, however, he was considered too young. Since that time he served consistently and enthusiastically, re-enlisting in the territorials when the volunteer system was altered and the 'Terriers' formed.



RQMS Stezaker MSM

William was up for the usual summer Territorial Army training in camp when war broke out and after hastily returning home to Burnley, where he was an overlooker at the Queen Street Mill in Harle Syke, he was mobilised on 5 August 1914. Being in the first draft sent out to Egypt he left Southampton as colour-sergeant of D Company, 1/5th East Lancashire Territorial Regiment, under Captain Harry Jobling. He arrived in Alexandria on 26 September 1914. Over a short time his strict attention to duty was rewarded by two promotions.

Born 7 August 1882 in Stacksteads, Bacup, Lancashire, William grew up in Burnley and attended North Street and Abel Street schools. He particularly remembered a Mr Gaukroger, the headmaster of the latter school, very kindly, for the interest he took in him as a scholar.

William remained in Egypt from the date of his arrival until 6 May 1915, when he and his unit embarked for Cape Helles, landing at 'Lancashire Landing.' Whilst on the peninsula he, of course, witnessed some remarkable events and had many terribly trying times during the approximately eight months he was there. In later years William mentioned to the local 'Burnley Express' newspaper two dates in particular when matters were exceedingly lively at Gallipoli. 4th June, when a sort of set battle took place between the combined British and French and the Turks, and again on 22 December, just before the evacuation of the peninsula. On the latter occasion the Turks were shelling the beach from three different points, and at the same time three of their aeroplanes dropped about 80 bombs in the same neighbourhood. William referred to this day as being indescribably awful.

He remained on the peninsula from 6 May until the evacuation and had much praise for the clever manner in which the evacuation was disguised and effected. On leaving the Dardanelles he was sent to Lemnos for a rest, and to allow of collecting and reorganising of units. Thence the unit returned to Egypt, and was for some time encamped in the region of the pyramids and, later, Tel-el-Kebir.

From April to 21 June he was kept in the Suez area, when the unit left for Alexandria, intending to embark for home. There it remained about five weeks waiting for a vessel, at the end of which time it received orders to return to duty on the Suez, on account of the Turkish menace about the end of July. They were sent from El-Fer-Dan to El-Kantara, and up to the desert, where the Battle of Romani took place.

William was mentioned in dispatches for his excellent work in Egypt and the Dardanelles. An extract from a dispatch received from General Sir Archibald Murray, Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, which dealt particularly with the smashing defeat inflicted on the Turks in their attacks on the Suez Canal in the early part of August of 1916:

Of the East Lancashire troops, commanded by Major-General Sir W Douglas, RCMG, CB, only two battalions were in action on 4th August, but the force carried out a march under very trying conditions on the subsequent days.

The Commander-in-Chief singled out a number of officers and men whom he wished to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for their splendid services, and many being well known in local territorial circles. Amongst these were Lieutenant G N Robinson and Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant William Stezaker, of the East Lancashire Regiment.

In 1917 William was aboard a ship deployed for troop transport that was torpedoed on the way to Alexandria. Coincidentally, that same ship had carried his sister, Emily, to the United States in 1910. The SS *Ivernia* was a British ocean liner owned by the Cunard Line, launched in 1899. The *Ivernia* was one of Cunard's intermediate ships, that catered to the vast immigrant trade. Together with her sister ship RMS *Saxonia*, the *Ivernia* worked on Cunard's service from Liverpool to Boston and then later on the immigrant run the Cunard Line had established from Fiume and Trieste to New York City. Following the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 the *Ivernia* was hired by the British government as a troop transport. In autumn of 1916, William Thomas Turner (made famous for being the captain of RMS *Lusitania* at the time of her sinking) was given command. On 1 January 1917, the *Ivernia* was carrying some 2,400 British troops from Marseille to Alexandria, when at 10:12 am she was torpedoed by the German submarine UB-47 58 miles south-east of Cape Matapan in the Kythira Strait, Greece. The ship went down fairly quickly with a loss of 36 crew members and 84 troops. William was amongst those rescued.

Amongst other curiosities and mementoes of the war that William sent his wife was a very fine cup made from a shell and engraved by a French craftsman. It had Turkish, French, and English bullets for handles.

For many years after the war there was an annual gathering of ex-servicemen – officers and other ranks of the 5th East Lancs; the Old Comrades Association. At the November 1937 annual dinner, nearly 200 gathered in the Burnley Co-operative Assembly Room on a Saturday night. The comradeship created during the war, in which the battalion saw active service in Egypt, Gallipoli, Sinai and France, became more cemented as the years passed and the pleasure on the part of officers and men

in meeting at these gatherings was the outstanding feature of the reunions. During the toasts on this particular day Capt. W H Baxter, referring to RQMS Stezaker, said he was one of the finest fellows any battalion could possess, followed by applause. The chairman, Mr John Bench, also congratulated Major Miller and RQMS Stezaker, who had completed respectively 22 and 37 years faithful service in the regiment. It was mentioned that RQMS Stezaker's record must have been unique in the annals of the Territorial Army. He had never missed a camp, and as one of the founders of the Association Mr Stezaker was naturally very proud of its growth.

It was noted of the 1951 reunion in the 'Burnley Express':

Together once again were ex-Q.M.S. W Stezaker, M.S.M., who served with the regiment from 1900 to 1937, and ex-R.S.M. D. Houston, M.B.E., D.C.M. (and bar), of Accrington, who served from 1911 to 1939.

William died 2 June, 1967 in Preston, Lancashire at 85 years of age.

Company Sergeant Major Alfred Grenville Stezaker DCM was born 18 October 1896 in Burnley, Lancashire. He was 14 years younger than his eldest brother William. Educated at Abel Street School, Burnley, he was a weaver at Atkinson's mill. Aged 17 and prior to the war he enlisted in the East Lancashire Regiment (TF) as his brother had done 14 years earlier. He went with them to Bury in August, 1914.



(Seated) RQMS William Stezaker, MSM
(Standing) CSM Alfred Stezaker, DCM

When war broke out Alfred volunteered for service abroad, and was sent out to Egypt with the 1/5 East Lancashire Regiment, his brother William's regiment. From there he was drafted to the Dardanelles, and landed at Cape Helles, remaining on the peninsula until the evacuation. During his stay there Alfred was Acting Sergeant Major. Second Lieutenant Victor Smith VC, of Burnley, was a friend of Alfred's, and Alfred was with him when he met his death, he having flung himself on a grenade that slipped from his hand to the bottom of the trench, saving the lives of the others in the trench. On the evacuation of the peninsula Alfred was drafted back to Egypt, and soon after was in some severe fighting against the Turks.

While in Egypt he studied musketry drill and scored 489 points out of 500 in his examination. Leaving Egypt with the Loyal North Lancashires, Alfred was drafted to France and went straight up to the trenches as a sergeant. About February of that same year he was given several weeks in a musketry school, becoming an instructor in April. It was during this period that he broke the British Army record for quick firing, his score being 35 shots per minute, the previous best being 33 per minute.

As one of his friends remarked, Alfred seemed to bear a charmed life, for though he had been out in the thick of it about three years, he had only once had a mere scratch on the nose by a shrapnel bullet at Gallipoli, though he had had dysentery whilst there.

Alfred was awarded the DCM and later a bar. The citation in the *London Gazette* of 21 October 1918 states:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. A warrant officer of the best type, invariably setting a high standard of discipline to the men of his company. He has on many occasions during the last six months volunteered for the performance of dangerous duties.

He had not yet attained his 21st birthday.

Alfred was recommended for a commission at the end of the war, but refused this to become a company sergeant major in the Worcester Regiment. He held that rank for four years, after which he returned to Burnley.

He was bedridden with rheumatoid arthritis for six years before his death and 11 years previously had to resign his post as assistant superintendent of the London and Manchester Insurance Company in Worcester.

Alfred died 29 November 1941 in Worcester, at 45 years of age.



RQMS William Stezaker (right) with RSM J Haslam, who was with Stezaker on service “practically all the time”

NEW ZEALAND SOLDIER'S ANZAC CHRONICLE

(By Sergeant 'X')

Part 3 (continued from *The Gallipolian* No 163)

The original account that follows, by an unidentified soldier of the NZEF, appeared in serialised form across five issues of the *Auckland Star* in April and May 1916. Though the writer is not identified, clues in the text suggest that he was a member of the 15th (North Auckland) Company, Auckland Infantry Battalion. — Editor.

[The value of this record lies in the fact that it is the actual story of memorable events on the Gallipoli Peninsula, as written on the spot by one who participated in, or was an eye-witness of, the most stirring occurrences. Nothing at all approaching this in stern realism and vividness of impression, nor any story so detailed and consecutive, has yet been published. — Editor 'Star.']

21 May 1915

Last Tuesday the Turks attacked Anzac, and were repulsed with terrific losses. There were 3000 dead in front of their trenches in one spot.

Great excitement prevails everywhere, for a six-weeks' long-looked-for mail has arrived. The war is now of no importance - till we have received and read our letters. and a new look seems to have come into the strained faces of everyone.

Tuesday, May 25

Since Friday we have had practically a complete rest, except for a daily 'fatigue' of two hours on road-making. Our bivouac is in a gully facing the sea on the left flank, where we act every night as a reserve to the firing line, the companies doing this duty in rotation. Our turn came last Sunday, and at dark we moved off silently to our post, no smoking or talking being permitted. We filed quietly past men sleeping in their dug-outs; past rows of hobbled mules, with Indians lying beside them; along a bridle track, then up a darksome gully enclosed by towering sandstone cliffs, from the top of which came the roar of rapidly-fired rifles and the hysterical clattering of machine-guns, with a continuous circle of light from the swift flashes edging the dark cliff-top. Further we went, till right underneath the savage activity, then we climbed up part of a steep, zig-zag road that led to the trenches where the mounted were fighting.

We lay down on the hard ground as we were, our rifles loaded in our hands. We straightway dropped asleep, but were awakened an hour later in alarm – the Turks were attacking the trenches above us. Hurriedly we jumped up, fell in, and awaited the order to climb up and join in the fight. The rifle fire was now thunderous and seemed to be spelling danger and death to our comrades above us. Suddenly it eased; the attack had been repulsed, and the Turks driven back. We lay down again and fell asleep.

Yesterday (Monday) an armistice was observed for nine hours whilst the two sides

buried their dead, the Turks having 3,000 in one spot alone. It was so strange, so unreal – the silence and peace, the oppressive stillness – that we really welcomed the sound of rifle-firing again at 4.30 p.m. when hostilities recommenced; the stealthy quietness made us uneasy.



Burying the dead during the armistice, Anzac, 24 May 1915

The weather is glorious, the keen, chill, cutting night air being now quite balmy; and the days are not too hot – just a glory of sunshine. We bathe in the sea every day, the water being so clear, calm and mild that we revel and sport joyously in it. Although occasional shells and bullets claim a victim, the attraction of the swim is greater than the fear of danger.

To-day a German submarine torpedoed the warship *Triumph* just off Anzac, and, from our bivouacs, we saw the sinking of this fine vessel. Destroyers dashed up at terrific speed, saving nearly all the *Triumph's* men; and then, with dozens of mine sweepers, they circled at top speed about the gulf, searching for the submarine, but were unsuccessful, although we saw a number of shots fired by our destroyers.

Whilst we were road-making yesterday Lieutenant Simpson, a Third Reinforcement (Auckland) officer, was shot dead, and another man was wounded. Every day our casualties mount up.

Anzac, Thursday, June 3

Yesterday we moved around, up Shrapnel Gully to a gully behind Pope's Hill, where we dug our holes in the hill-side (dug-outs). We had one man killed and four wounded before lunch, simply whilst moving up our gully.



Lt **William** Simpson
KIA 31 May 1915, aged 22

To-day we climbed the cliff to Quinn's Post, the Auckland Battalion taking this position over (the New Zealanders having relieved the Australians to-day in Quinn's and Courtney's Posts). At one place, No. 3 Quinn's Post, the Turkish and our trenches almost touch - not 8ft apart - and then the distance varies to about 30 yards at Courtneys. Where the trenches are very close they are roofed over with boards and bags of earth. We could hear the Turks speaking and could see them at their loopholes, through which they shot at anything they could see. All night and day they threw their awful bombs into our trenches, where these brutal missiles burst with terrific effect, shaking the ground and throwing up clouds of dirt. Fortunately we only had two killed and four wounded during our first day. Of course we threw bombs at them, and our rifles blazed all night: the trench mortar also dropped in their trenches a few huge bombs, which were greeted with terror stricken cries of 'Allah! Allah!' - At 10 p.m., in honour of the King's Birthday, we put in ten minutes' rapid fire from one end of Anzac to the other. It was deafening, and must have given the Turks an anxious time while it lasted.

Anzac, Saturday, June 5, 1915

On Friday, at 11 a.m., we left Quinn's Post for our dug-outs, where we rested till 10.30 p.m., when we left our bivouacs again and silently, in single file, marched along the track, then up the hill through the communication trenches to the entrance to the fire trenches at Quinn's Post. It was a glorious night, starry, brilliantly starry, with a soft, faint light that threw a mystery over everything. After a few minutes' waiting fierce rifle fire broke out on every side - above us, around us, on hilltop and ridge - the continuous rattle and crackle filling the vibrant air with deafening clatter, whilst the machine guns, which soon joined in with their spiteful, crackling, running reports, swelled the volume, which grew greater still as our artillery thundered their humming shells and trench mortars threw their fearsome bombs. The cruel hand-bombs, which burst with awful violence, put the finishing touch on the infernal orchestra.

The Auckland and Canterbury (volunteers) men now charged the enemy's trenches opposite Quinn's and Courtney's Posts, taking them with scarcely a casualty and capturing 36 prisoners. We were then sent to reinforce the men in the captured positions, and traversed a trench curving through heaps of sandbags till the blazing cliff-top was reached, where, with a pick and shovel we had to carry extra, we climbed over the top of the sandbag parapet out of safety into a chaos of death, and ran quickly across the ground intervening between our own and the taken trenches. The night was a somewhat anxious but rather easy one, the Turks not troubling us as much as we expected. At dawn, however, they more than made up for it, for their second trench was just at exact bomb-throwing distance, parallel right along to their first, which we now held. This latter was unsuitable for defence, being a miserable work, with dead Turks buried in the high earth parapet in front of us, which earth we required to move to be able to fire at the Turks. We had no bomb-proof shelter, and the trench was overcrowded with men. As dawn arrived black cricket balls and innocent-looking jam tins began to fly through the air all along our position, and to land on the front and back of, and some in, our trench - bursting within a second

of landing with deafening thunder and fearful results to those near, the men not injured being almost stunned with shock. Like rain they came, and our men began to thin rapidly, some falling dead, others writhing in agony, yet others running, stumbling, with fearful gashed-open wounds, to the entrance to a wee tunnel along which they now could crawl to our own trenches. Reinforcements replaced them; but, as we had no shelter and very few bombs, they suffered the same fate. This unendurable state of things lasted till about 8 a.m., when we were ordered to retire from the Turkish trench; then peace and almost quietness descended upon the scene. The platoon of which I was a member was reduced from 31 to 14.

The Trenches, Tuesday, June 8

On Sunday we went into Quinn's Post again for 48 hours. On Monday night we had an exciting time while sixty 3rd Aucklanders made another attack on the Turkish trench opposite us for the purpose of blowing it up. Owing to some misunderstanding, only a portion of the trench was taken, and these men found it so very much a death trap that they were compelled, after holding it for about an hour, to retire with considerable loss and with their mission unaccomplished. The night (Tuesday) was spent as supports at this same post.

Friday, 11th June, 1915

Since Tuesday we have been doing 'fatigues,' and today the Fourth Reinforcements, which arrived on Tuesday, joined us. Each battalion received 266 new men, and this then brought up their strength as follows: Wellington, 1,000; Canterbury, 940; Otago, 930; Auckland, 674.

The flies have, since the first week, been increasing by myriads, till now the ground and the air seem alive with them. The air is tainted revoltingly, the sun beats like a furnace into our deep, narrow trenches and gullies. The flies, which swarm in millions on the poor, silent forms along the lines, gather voraciously round the living also, swooping on our food, utensils, and hands, on our mouths as we put food into them, and absolutely obliterating from view with their endless myriads anything left down for a moment. They swarm over each other in heaps, fighting to get undermost. They bite most viciously, and there is no escape from them. They are a condition to be suffered in stoical disgust.

Wednesday, June 30

Since the 11th June nothing of importance has occurred, and we have been quietly engaged on road-making, tunnelling, and fighting in the trenches.

Both sides have improved and added to their trenches and tunnels. Ours are now wonders of construction, the trenches being comfortable, safe, and cleverly placed, and our tunnels being a marvel of engineering. Dozens of cross-tunnels and long, intersecting ones, with listening posts and mines, form a perfect system.

Shells, of course, continue to make life somewhat uncertain, the Turks plentifully bestrewing our position with them, from the wee six-pounder to 8-inch Jack Johnsons; and so little natural cover have we at Anzac that every day heavy casualties are caused.

On Monday, after lunch, the Australians made a fine attack on our right, and advanced a short distance in front of their trenches. We helped them with rifle fire, and the Turks replied savagely; but we had only a few men knocked about with sandbags, which were blown off our parapets and traverses by their shells. The Australians had nearly 100 casualties, but they accomplished their object before returning – that of drawing to Anzac a large Turkish force which was proceeding past to Achi Baba. As the Turks came to reinforce, our artillery made great havoc of them, cutting them to pieces.

This afternoon, whilst we were in reserve on the terraces behind Courtney's Post, a Turkish bomb came over and hit seven 15th boys, a splinter also flying below and slightly hitting one of the 15th cooks (Mick Boyle) in the abdomen.

Last night (Tuesday), a fierce windstorm sprang up just at dark, and the country being sandy loam, blew blinding clouds of dust everywhere. At this moment the Turks attacked us, making determined mass effort between Pope's Hill and Walker's Ridge. The rattle of rifles, the clack-clack of machine-guns, the sharp explosions of bursting shrapnel shells, the fearful thud and concussion of bombs, with the storm screaming around and wrecking bivouacs, made a perfect pandemonium, an inferno of fearsome noises, which the darkness, thick as a pall, accentuated manyfold. There was a secret trench at Walker's Ridge, supported by several machine-guns, and this unknown obstacle spelt disaster to the Turkish plans, their attack being crumpled up with terrible loss to them and practically none to us.

Friday, July 16

We are all heartily sick and tired of this trench-siege warfare; sitting-down-and-waiting-an-attack style; working at all hours of the day and night at navvies' work, digging roads, trenches, tunnels, carrying timber, bags of earth, gravel, stores of all sorts, water, and food up these fearfully steep, shell-swept hills and cliffs. The men's spirits and tempers are becoming ragged, and grumbling is now continual at every little thing. We have been eleven weeks under continual fire without a day's spell; in the reserve gullies we lose men daily; anywhere here it is the same. For the past fortnight Courtney's and Steele's Posts have been specially subjected to big gun high explosive shellfire, with consequent severe casualties, the Canterburys losing three sergeants and twenty men at one fell swoop at the former post, the Australians (holding Steele's) suffering heavily, too. These shells ploughed craters in the ground, filling in our trenches, blowing them up, and throwing lumps of earth considerable distances. But it is not a spell the troops want; they want to push on – to attack and advance. The food question is a scandal, and the general health of the men is fearfully low; the men going away from Anzac sick (without wounds) now amounts to 1000 weekly, and this wastage is serious.

Saturday, July 31.

The same old round, the same food, the same fatigue and trench duties, the same dangers from bullet and shell for the past fortnight. The only difference is the increase

in the millions of flies, and in the fearful heat. For many weeks now dysentery and enteric have been exacting their toll from our diminishing force.

A little very pleasing excitement was caused last Saturday by the official statement that 200,000 Turks were about to attack us, and drive us into the sea. Big defensive preparations were made on our side, the boys working joyfully in the anticipation of 'something doing.' This hope, however, also faded away, and left us again the prey of the sit-still policy. None of us knew that a week from to-day would see the big effort, the 'August advance,' in which we should more than make up for our months of comparative inaction.

[Here this record of active operations ends, as the chronicler had the misfortune to be ordered to the Base Hospital, suffering from severe sickness.]

This is the concluding piece in the three-piece series.

THE VERY BRAVEST THINGS

On the other hand, the very bravest things are done by lads who make no show of strength. One of these early June days there was brought in a pale-faced, spare-built boy, Davis by name, who belonged to the Border Regiment. His case was plainly desperate. His dark, lustrous eyes and bright smile won the kindly interest of everyone, and he was nursed to the end with tenderness and care.

Then a comrade was brought in badly wounded. Before anything could be done for himself, he wanted to know about his friend. Deep and genuine was his grief on hearing that Davis had died that morning.

Only then did we hear the story of Davis's heroism. Three days before, standing in a trench eight feet deep, he threw a bomb, which caught on the parapet and rolled back into the trench. He saw it would immediately explode. There were many men near. It was the decision of a moment. There was nothing else at hand, so he threw himself on the bomb, and was terribly mauled. He saved the lives of his comrades at the cost of his own.

(Ewing, Chaplain-Major W. *From Gallipoli to Baghdad*, London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1917, pp75-6).

8180 Private Charles Robert Francis DAVIS, 1st Battalion, Border Regiment. Born Tottenham, 1889. Soldier in regular army (serving in Burma in 1911 census). Died of wounds in 11 Casualty Clearing Station, 13 June 1915. Buried Lancashire Landing Cemetery, grave B.100.

RESCUE: SUVLA

by H Hough Lt 6 Border R 33 Bde 11 Div (156)

This is really a sequel to 'Cease Fire', Spring (page 14). At about 3 o'clock in the morning of 12th August, a man fell into our trench, exhausted and hysterical. He was a Sgt. of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, and begged someone to take him to the one who had earlier been shouting 'Cease fire, the English!' He was taken to Major Bridges, and told this tale:

'At about 6 a.m. on the morning of the 9th I had been wounded and rendered unconscious. When I came to, it was dark and I had no means of knowing on which side lay our lines. So passed the night of the 9th. I was in pain, had neither food nor water, and in this condition lay until I heard Major Bridges shouting later.'

He said that during the night, he had heard other men crying out for water, and begged the Major to bring them in. Very soon, four stretchers with bearers and twelve men as covering party, were ready and at dawn we moved off for the battlefield of August 9th.

The first thing that struck me was that the hands and faces of the dead were completely black; the next, that we were under observation and Johnny Turk was letting us know it. We began weaving across the Battalion front and soon we came to our first case. The stretcher bearers bandaged him and he was sent back to the line. Another case was collected and received the same treatment.

Our next and last case was one Pte Dickenson of the Borders, but when he had been bandaged, one of the Turkish marksmen scored a bull, and Dickenson was killed. We were now much closer to the enemy line, and could hear them shouting, sometimes in English. Dead bodies had become fewer, so we decided to call it a day, and returned to the line. We were out just over an hour.

It must have been a terrible ordeal for these men, and if any are still alive, how interesting their stories would be.

SS GALLON OF BEER

Cmdr A G Buchanan RN (36) writes: 'Do you recall The water-boat supplying Anzac? SS *Galliopia*, known of course as the 'Gallon of beer'. She was so precious that she had orders that if a shell fell anywhere near her she was to up hook and clear out.'

The above both originally appeared in *The Gallipolian* of Autumn 1971 - editor.

SENTENCED TO DEATH

Bryn Dolan

In his article 'Australia's 'Bad Characters' on Gallipoli', (*The Gallipollian* Spring 2012), Dr Peter Stanley notes that three Australian soldiers were 'sentenced to suffer death by execution' at Gallipoli. The soldiers are not named, however James Hurst notes that one of the soldiers was 2185 Private Oscar Harold Petterson, of the 11th Battalion.

Private Petterson was born in South Australia on 8 March 1896, making him 19 when taken on strength at Anzac from reinforcements on 4 August 1915, just in time for the heavy fighting at Leane's Trench.

Private Petterson was court-martialled and sentenced to death by firing squad on 4 September 1915 for the offence:

"When acting as sentinel on active service sleeping on his post."

The sentence was immediately commuted to 2 years imprisonment with hard labour by order of Major General H B Walker DSO, commanding First Australian Division.

Private Petterson was hospitalised within two weeks of the date of the sentence, passing through Mudros and Malta before eventually ending up in the King George Military Hospital in London.

A letter from Base Records in Melbourne to Petterson's mother, dated 16 August 1916, stated:

Dear Madam, in acknowledging receipt of your letter dated 4th instant, it is with regret I have to inform you that the rumour which has reached your ears is not without foundation, as the records of your son are endorsed to the effect that he was, on 4.9.15, sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.

However, in view of the fact that he has since been reported return to duty 23.2.16 it would appear that such sentence has been suspended.

Private Petterson was captured in 1917, and spent the remainder of the war as a prisoner of the Germans.

But that's another story.

See photograph of Private Petterson's grave, page 36.



2185 Private Peterson, O.H. "O" Coy. Sentenced to death by being shot by F.B.C.M. on 4/9/15 for the offence of "When on acting as sentinel on active service sleeping on his post".

Sentence commuted to 2 years imprisonment with Hard Labor by Order of Major-General H. B. Walker, D.S.O. Commanding 1st Aust. Division, 4/9/15.

PRESENTATION AT ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Tom Iredale and Mike Crane, on behalf of the Gallipoli Association, held a presentation on the Gallipoli Campaign on 26 February 2024; the audience being 60 boys and girls of St Mary's College, Liverpool. The session was designed with 14-year-old students in mind and consisted of:

- a short film about the landings on 25 April 1915.
- a brief overview of the campaign.
- descriptions of the conditions endured by the soldiers, together with the stories of young soldiers who were killed in the campaign.
- a re-enactment of a battlefield commemoration with student participation - using the whistle that Captain Sutcliffe used in the Third Battle of Krithia.
- a Q & A session with prizes for the best questions, which encouraged a flood of interesting questions from the students.
- viewing and handling a collection of weapons and artifacts from the First World War – this proved extremely popular with the students, many of whom stayed on during their break.

We presented the college library with copies of Klaus Wolf's GA-sponsored book *Victory at Gallipoli*, a copy of Little Gully Publishing's latest book *Lost Endeavour*, and all three of the Alec Riley volumes — *Egypt Diary 1914-1915*, *Gallipoli Diary 1915*, and *Netley Diary 1915-1916*.

Finally, the students were each presented with a 24-page, full-colour booklet, giving more details and maps of the campaign, expanding on what they had already heard during the presentations. They were also given information about Gallipoli Association projects as well as the benefits to the school in taking out Association membership.

We would like to thank Mr Niall Rothnie, head of history and OC Combined Cadet Force (CCF), for handling all the arrangements at the college.

See photographs pages 29 - 31.

DISCLAIMER

Readers are reminded that the observations and opinions expressed in articles and letters published in *The Gallipolian* are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of either the Editor, or of the Association



Mike Crane explaining about young soldiers in the campaign

Presentation at St Mary's College, Liverpool. See page 28.
Photographs courtesy Tom Iredale.



The GA-sponsored book *Victory at Gallipoli* being presented to Mr Niall Rothnie by Tom Iredale, a former pupil at St Mary's



The young lady who posed the best question with her prize – a women's munitions worker's badge and genuine Great War artifact.

Presentation at St Mary's College, Liverpool. See page 28.
Photographs courtesy Tom Iredale.



The display of artifacts, inter alia, included a .303 Lee-Enfield and bayonet, a .455 revolver, an officer's sword, holsters, compasses, Wolseley helmet and medals



A student trying on the Wolsley helmet

Presentation at St Mary's College, Liverpool. See page 28.
Photographs courtesy Tom Iredale.



Mike Crane presenting Mr Niall Rothnie with the Riley Trilogy for the College library



The Helles Memorial

Photographs this page and next courtesy Bill Sellars. See pages 5 – 8.







Figure 7. Anil Dinç stands on the retaining wall that shelters a fragile fragment of the old Greek village. Behind him is Kephalos Bay.

See pages 48 - 58



Figure 5. Remaining courses of the stone wall at the top of Eşelek village.

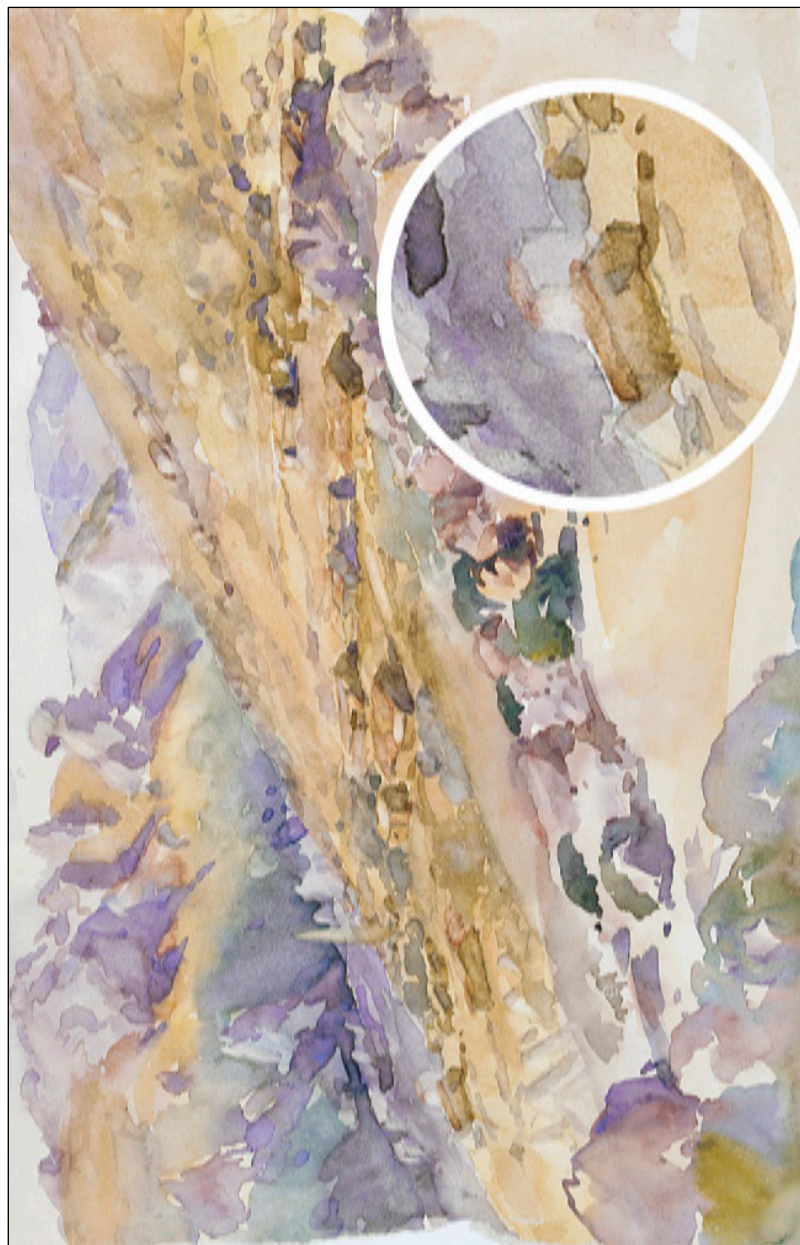


Figure 4. Watercolour sketch by Horace Moore-Jones (AWM ART03253) that shows the Greek village in which was found 'Chateau Pericles.'

The correspondents' cottage is probably the taller white building with red roof near the floor of the valley (left, middle). The inset shows an enlarged view. Horace Moore-Jones landed at Gallipoli with the NZEF. He was later attached to Birdwood's ANZAC Printing Section to make topographical pencil and watercolour sketches of the landscape and plans of allied and Turkish positions.

'Charles Bean and the war correspondents' cottage on Imbros'

See article pages 48 - 58.



Figure 6. A Greek two-storey building in Kaleköy that shows their typical construction. See pages 48 - 58.



Private Oscar Harold Pettersen, 11th Battalion AIF, was sentenced to death on Gallipoli, but went on to live a long life. See page 27.

CARIBOU HILL, SUVLA

By late summer of 1915 the heavy fighting at Gallipoli had all but ended, leaving the Newfoundland Regiment, which had landed at Suvla at 3am on 20 September, with little more to do than to hold the line. They were involved in an action in November which earned them their first battle honour – the capture of Caribou Hill (a position on the Kiretch Tepe Ridge) that was manned at night by Turkish snipers.

Extracts from the diary of Lieutenant Owen W Steele, First Newfoundland Regiment:

Thursday, November 4, 1915. It was decided today to take possession of a sniper's post midway between our firing line and the firing line of the Turks. Capt. Butler was acting O.C. Firing Line, so it naturally followed that C Company was given this to do. Lieutenant Donnelly with six men and an N.C.O. went out about 4 p. m. and occupied, or rather took up their position in this post, which could be easily occupied in the day- light unseen by the enemy. About 7.30 p.m. Lieutenant Ross went out with another six men and an N.C.O. as the N.C.O. of the first party had come in wounded, and was asked by Lieutenant Donnelly to ask for reinforcements to be sent out. It seems that just at dusk three Turkish snipers came stalking up to this post, as unconcerned as could be, and when quite close were challenged by Lieutenant Donnelly's N.C.O. The only answer they got was a babble of Turkish. The order to fire was then given to our men. They immediately got the first two men, but the third retaliated and succeeded in getting Lieutenant Donnelly's N.C.O. in the side of the neck--not seriously though. They claim they eventually got him, too.

When Lieutenant Ross went out with his men, whilst going along a small gully, he came in contact with a small party who challenged them, saying "Who goes there?" to which Lieut. Ross replied "Newfoundlanders." The Turkish party, for such it was, then said "Newfoundlanders; Allah, Allah il Allah!" (or something similar which they use as a battle cry), and then commenced firing. Our party, of course, returned the firing which continued for quite a while. Our party then returned, for Lieut. Ross and three of his men were wounded. Lieut. Ross was wounded in the arm, but the most serious was Joe Murphy of Mundy's Pond. He got struck by a couple of bullets and a hand-bomb. Lieut. Ross said large reinforcements would be needed to hold the post, in case the Turks endeavored to obtain it. No reinforcements were sent out that night, for no one knew exactly where to locate the post, nor did they know whether the first party, Lieutenant Donnelly's party, was O.K. or not. After midnight everything was normal again. Friday, November 5, 1915. Early this morning Lieut. Donnelly returned with the information that he and his party were O.K., excepting for two men who were slightly wounded. It was then decided to place about thirty men with N.C.Os. in the post. This was done later in the day, Captain Rowsell, accompanied by Lieut Rendell, going in charge.

The Newfoundland Regiment consisted of 1050 Officers and men of other ranks when it left England for the Gallipoli Peninsula. Of these, 933 reached Suvla. Of the remaining 127, some had been taken for other duties but most of them had become unfit for military service because of sickness. The Regiment sustained 39 deaths in action and from disease, and 76 casualties from wounds. The casualties brought about by disease and the storm of November 26-28 were so great that less than half of the Regiment was left to take part in the evacuation of Suvla.



Lieutenant J J Donnelly was awarded the Military Cross for his actions on Caribou Hill.



Cramm, R. *The First Five Hundred. Being a Historical Sketch of the Military Operations of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in Gallipoli and on the Western Front during The Great War*
Albany, New York, C F Williams & Son, 1921.

DENTISTS AT GALLIPOLI

Ritchie Wood and John Dixon

While aspects of the medical services during the Gallipoli Campaign have been examined in varying amounts of detail, not least by the Dardanelles Commission report of 1919, there has been little consideration of the provision of dental surgery within the medical services. During the campaign there is almost no reference to the men who were called upon to carry out dental work on thousands of men suffering a variety of dental issues. This was, in part, due to the general intransigence of the British Army to consider the issues of dental hygiene sufficiently important to warrant the appointment of specialist dental surgeons. It is also, in part, due to the fact that when the hurried plans were prepared for the campaign no consideration was given to dentists at all although some had by this time been appointed to the Western Front. In this aspect, as in others, the Gallipoli Campaign was very much the poor relation. It should not have been like this.

As early as 1886 an eminent dental surgeon, George Cunningham, gave an address to the annual conference of the British Dental Association (BDA) in the course of which he pointed out the high instance of dental disease among recruits for the army and also the inadequacy of dental training amongst medical officers in the army. He also pointed out the Army Medical Department's lack of provision for even the most basic dental care:

... a mouth mirror for examining the teeth, a probe for exploring cavities and a pair of tweezers or pliers for the application of dressings, surely the first three essentials of the simplest dental equipment, but are conspicuous by their absence.¹

Although Cunningham drew attention to the problems for the army nothing was done to improve the situation; dental surgery remained within the remit of regimental medical officers. During the South African War a dental surgeon, Mr Newland Pedley was attached to the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital and served for six months in South Africa in 1900. Pedley, a dentist from Guy's Hospital, became the first dentist to treat British soldiers in war and reported:

Disease, neglect, tough beef and hard biscuit play havoc with teeth. Nothing is done to preserve the soldiers' teeth While he has any, and when they are gone, he must go home as a man unfit for service.²

While his appointment to the hospital was a step forward it made little difference to the thinking of the army as a whole and dental surgeons remained absent from the medical establishment up to the start of the First World War. Similarly, when the Australian Medical Corps was being organised in the early years of the century, Surgeon General Williams asked that dental surgeons were provided. In spite of these calls nothing had been done by 1914 on the basis that dentists were not provided on

1 Dentistry and its Relation to the State; Conference of the BDA 1886.

2 British Dental Journal, March to August 1900.

the British 'war establishment'.³ No provision had been made for dentists to accompany the BEF to France. The first dentists to arrive seem to have been posted as a result of General Douglas Haig suffering from toothache during the Battle of the Aisne. Although this set a precedent there was no great influx of dentists with only 20 being sent to France by the end of 1914. However, although the importance of dentists was becoming recognised it seems to have been totally ignored during planning of the Gallipoli Campaign.



An Australian soldier receiving dental treatment, Anzac
(full particulars in reference section)

While the British and Australian medical services had maintained their stance on the provision of dentists the New Zealand Medical Services saw the need from the beginning of the war and indeed sent dentists with the Samoan Force in 1914.⁴ This rather more progressive outlook of the New Zealanders meant that they arrived in Egypt, and later Gallipoli, with dental sections ready to play their part in the treatment of soldiers.

As soon as the war started and men began to turn up at recruiting offices the likely extent of dental issues became apparent. Many potential recruits were rejected purely because of the poor condition of their teeth. Criteria were relaxed somewhat so that only those men 'whose mouth made them liable to break down from actual malnutrition' were rejected. Nevertheless, those rejected were still numbered in the thousands.

This led to some considerable public discussion such as exchanges by Sir E Ray Lancaster, a well-known zoologist and evolutionary biologist, and Norman G Bennett, chairman of the Representative Board of the British Dental Association.

³ Butler, *Australian Army Medical Services Vol 1*, p 26.

⁴ Carberry, *New Zealand Medical Service 1914 – 1918*, p14 and 263.

Lankester wrote to the *Times* in early September 1915 saying:

... let all nonsense about perfect teeth and other foolishness be dropped, and we can at once secure as soldiers half a million of the finest men in Great Britain and Ireland.

Bennett responded strongly both in the *Times* of 5 September 1914 and in the BDJ of 15 September saying:

Does not Sir Ray Lankester know that many thousands of men were invalidated home during the South African War solely on account of incapacity arising from defective teeth, and that ten dentists were eventually sent out by the War Office? ... it is not for the public good that a layman, however distinguished in other directions, should dogmatize on matters of special knowledge outside his experience ... to take a man who is unfit and put him through a three months' training, and send him abroad and have him invalidated home without having fired a shot is a sheer waste of money and for the benefit of nobody ...

This did little to improve the situation in the army but it did bring many of the issues to the attention of the wider public. Some efforts were made to alleviate the situation when Manchester Dental Hospital treated 300 men so that they could be classed efficient for enlistment. The cost was born by the establishment and clearly this was not an effective long-term solution to what was becoming an increasing problem. Some recruits were given a form to apply for free dental work but it is not clear how effective this approach was. In Leeds, Percival Leigh, of the Leeds Dental Services Committee, expressed disappointment at the 'failure of intending recruits to take advantage of the free dental attention offered, and to make themselves fit for active service.'⁵ Once again Mr Leigh called for the formation of a dental corps.

A similar situation pertained in Australia with the difference that on the outbreak of war Surgeon-General Williams had arranged for one dental surgeon to be appointed to each of the six military districts in the country. It was a move in the right direction but these six dentists had only an advisory role to the medical officers of the district. As the large training camps were established all over the country clinics were arranged, by state governments, and organised by civilian dentists, to take care of the dental health of the encamped recruits. In some cases, dentists who had enlisted in the ranks were allowed to treat men with the commanding officer's approval. Most had to use equipment from their own practices.⁶

In New Zealand, by June 1915, recruits were also receiving treatment before embarkation from volunteer dentists.⁷

The situation was slow to improve and on 15 September 1914 the British Dental Association (BDA) wrote letters, more or less identical, to both the Admiralty and the War Office asking that more dentists be included in the armed force. The letter to the Admiralty ran:

Dear Sirs,

⁵ Yorkshire Evening Post (date required). ⁶ Butler p26. ⁷ Carberry p14.

We venture to suggest that there is now, on account of the war, an urgent need for a large number of dental surgeons to supplement the civilian naval dental surgeons. We think that their services will be called upon in connection with the following:

To serve in Hospital ships

To serve in base hospitals at home

To provide treatment for accepted recruits and if necessary to render dentally fit recruits refused on account of teeth.

We wish to emphasize the fact that effective treatment of injuries to the face and jaws is often impossible without the assistance of dental surgeons who alone have the necessary experience for the construction and adaption of splints, etc. Such help will be especially needed in base hospital abroad and at home.

We are ready to confer with you at any moment or in any way to place our services at your disposal.

The similar letter to the War Office emphasises the experiences of the South African War and points out 'that the everyday practice of a dentist renders him a skilful administrator of many anaesthetics.'

In spite of these entreaties to the military and naval authorities, very little had changed by the commencement of the Gallipoli Campaign. The 29th Division had three Territorial field ambulances attached to it when it landed at Cape Helles but no dental surgeon was included in any. When the Australians landed at Anzac there was no formal arrangement for dental surgery. Major-General Bridges had pushed to get an enlisted dentist attached to an RMO with the rank of honorary lieutenant but his request was rejected and at the start dental care relied on MOs and combatant officers co-operating, unofficially, with enlisted dentists. This was far from ideal.⁸

The New Zealand contingent fared rather better. Two dentists were attached to the infantry's, and one attached to the New Zealand Mounted Brigade's Field Ambulances. One dentist was attached to No 1 Australian Stationary Hospital at Heliopolis, and a further five served in the overseas bases, Egypt. New Zealand was better prepared for the problems of dental care that were to arise throughout the campaign than any of the other allied forces concerned.

Initially, with the emphasis on making a success of the landings, there seems to have been little mention of dental issues, or for that matter more general sickness as the RMOs and field ambulances dealt with casualties from the battlefield. It was not long, however, before men began appearing at FAs with dental problems such as rotten or broken teeth, or broken plates as a result of the hard army biscuit forming a large part of soldiers' diets. There was little recourse left to the medical officers except to evacuate such cases, particularly for the British and Australian troops. In some cases men were sent to Mudros for treatment but often they were sent to Egypt where, because of the lack of any real dental facility, treatment was protracted and absence from the peninsula was extended.

⁸ Butler, p80.

By the end of July 1915, the 1st Australian Division had evacuated 600 men solely with dental problems of one sort or another. One dentist had worked in an unofficial capacity at Mudros up to this time but his work load, and lack of proper supplies, had caused a breakdown and men ended up in Egypt.⁹ Such a loss of manpower, probably similar in other divisions on the peninsula, could scarcely be borne by units already suffering from considerable battle casualties, not to mention the losses through increasing levels of sickness as the summer progressed. Any treatment available to the Australians at Anzac was unofficial 'with no special authority or recognition as to rank and status', meaning enlisted men were working alongside MOs wherever possible.¹⁰

Although signs of improvement were slow, the New Zealanders had once again shown themselves to have considerable foresight with the appointment of Captain B S Finn DSO NZMC, as Administrative Dental Officer at NZEF Headquarters. None of the other forces had taken anything like a similar move although recognition of the problem was by this time far more widespread. The appointment of a dentist to the staff of the New Zealand force meant that there was someone through which all problems of this kind could pass and would at least gain some attention at the highest level. At this time a New Zealand Medical Corps Dental Section comprised one dentist with the rank of captain, one dental mechanic, rank corporal, a dental orderly and a clerk, both privates.¹¹ With this basic structure the NZEF provided eleven Dental Sections for treating its servicemen. One of these sections, under Captain John Hallam Don NZMC, was established in Mule Gully by 3rd August and it was the only such section working on the peninsula at this time.¹²

While the August offensive saw a large influx of troops to the peninsula there was little immediate impact on the provision of dental services for these troops. At Anzac the only dental care remained that provided by the NZMC and unofficial work carried out by enlisted dentists. Things had improved somewhat in so far as on 12 August six Australian officers, six sergeants and six other ranks had arrived in Egypt forming six fully equipped Dental Sections to increase capacity for treatment in Egypt and, eventually, the UK. This had no immediate impact on dental care on the peninsula but rather on the drafts waiting to be sent to serve on the peninsula:

The amount of work to be done was stupendous, and within a week of the arrival of the corps in Egypt all the units were toiling against impossible odds to cope with the more urgent cases.¹³

To a large extent this problem had arisen because of the lack of forward planning during the preparations for the invasion and, of course, was not confined to the Australian forces.

In the latter part of August there was an improvement in dental care, at least for the Australians. A fully equipped dental section had been raised in London from personnel on the staff of No 3 AGH, and equipment had been purchased with available Red Cross funds. When No 3 AGH became established on Lemnos during the middle part of August the dental section was attached and began work there.

9 Butler, p248. 10 Butler, p420. 11 Carberry, p145. 12 Carberry, p78. 13 Butler, p420 - 1

Dental care was further improved for the Australians on Lemnos with the arrival of a second dental section, direct from Australia, on 1 September. However, the demands on these two units for dental care was far more than could be managed and two Canadian dentists and a British dentist were attached to help.¹⁴ This suggests, perhaps, that it was not only the Anzacs who benefitted from the dental facility at No 3 AGH at this time. Nevertheless, the DDMS, Anzac Corps, recorded in his war diary at the end of September that dentists were still required at Lemnos.¹⁵ Further, a memo, dated 29th September, from Major A J Aspinall, the DADMS, reinforced this call since it includes the following:

The Dentists at Mudros are absolutely unable to cope with the work required – only two dentists being available. Extra assistance is imperative, if the condition of the mouths of the 1st Brigade is to be benefitted many men are suffering from toxæmia due to septic condition of mouths or from asthenia due to urgent need for dentures.¹⁶

To a large extent the DDMS call for dentists was related to arrival of the brigades of the 1st Australian Division on Lemnos where they had been relieved in late September. The general condition of these men was very poor after months on the peninsula and their dental health was no different. During the first days of their arrival on Lemnos



Captain Bertram Sibbald Finn DSO NZMC
Archives New Zealand R24184928

the ADMS of the division carried out a short study of the health of some of the men which comprised a medical examination of in excess of 3,200 men. The ADMS discovered that about half of the men examined would not be ready for further service for about four weeks. While the remainder would require at least eight weeks rest before being considered fit enough for duty. Of more interest, perhaps, is the fact that almost 20 percent of the men, in excess of 600, required some form of dental care and that two thirds of those, the 'Bad Cases', required more serious dental treatment such as extractions or renewal of plates and so on. The ADMS is at pains to point out that:

These figures indicate only the minimum that would urgently need attention and are likely to break down unless attended to. Many of the "Bad Cases" require extractions and plates which take time to complete. The need for early attention is

¹⁴ Butler, p 390.

¹⁵ *War Diary* DDMS Anzac Corps, 29th September 1915, AWM 26/14/1. ¹⁶ *War Diary* DDMS, September 1915, Appendix 4, AWM 26/14/1.

therefore evident.¹⁷

Clearly the arrival of dentists on Lemnos had helped ease the situation but with so many men requiring 'urgent' dental care it is no wonder that the DDMS was still calling for more dentists. It appears that many of the men requiring treatment were evacuated to Egypt and were thus lost to the division for immediate duty.

As far as the British Army on the peninsula was concerned, September also saw some signs of improvement in dental care. No 11 Casualty Clearing Station at Cape Helles was to record that 'two dental surgeons' had arrived for duty on 24 September, unfortunately, they arrived without any dental equipment so were unable to make very much immediate impact on the care of the troops.¹⁸ Meanwhile, Lieutenant F M Barnes, dental surgeon, arrived for duty at No 14 CCS, Suvla Bay, on 25 September. This officer was, no doubt, faced with a similarly large workload that faced other dentists in the campaign but unfortunately he was evacuated sick on 30 October, apparently leaving 14 CCS without any dental cover. Similarly on 26 September, No 53 (Welsh) CCS recorded that 'Lieutenant J F Jopling, dental surgeon', had reported for duty at the hospital. There are no further details of his service but it is to be supposed that the amount of work required of him was similar to that across the rest of the peninsula. While records are far from complete as far as dentists are concerned it is clear that a number were serving with No 17 British Stationary Hospital at Cape Helles during the autumn and winter, as two were evacuated with the hospital staff on 1 January 1916.

There is no record of the condition of the dental health of the British troops during autumn on the peninsula. There is no study similar to that made by the Australians but dental health of the troops was probably very similar and, on the basis of the records examined there seems to have been little provision for dental care. A small number of dentists seem to have arrived during the autumn but it was probably too little too late as men suffered toothache and broken plates alongside all the other problems experienced on the peninsula.

It is worth noting that the New Zealanders appear to have continued to lead the way in dental care for their troops. Not only was there a dental section working out of Mule Gully but during the autumn they set up a dental hospital at No 2 Outpost. Here four dentists and four dental mechanics were fully equipped to handle a large portion of the local dental care.¹⁹

During the South African War, Newland Pedley reported from the battlefield that:

Disease, neglect, tough beef and biscuit play havoc with the teeth. Nothing is done to preserve the soldiers' teeth while he has any, and when they are gone, he must go home as a man unfit for service.

This report was largely ignored by the military and although changes were taking place on the Western Front, they were slow and the Gallipoli Campaign, as the poor

¹⁷ Report of the ADMS attached to the DDMS War Diary as Appendix for October 1915, AWM 26/14/2.

¹⁸ War Diary, No 11 CCS, 22nd – 24th September 1915. WO95/4356. ¹⁹ Carberry, p 127.

and needy relation, was left behind. This resulted in an overall reduction in strength of the units in the field as men became unable to eat the rations and were consequently debilitated by dental disease. This appears to have affected as many as 20 percent of the forces engaged. It was unacceptable but by the time it had been recognised and something done about it the campaign was already over.

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- Carberry, A. D. (Lieut-Colonel), *The New Zealand Medical Services in The Great War, 1914 - 1918*, Auckland, Whitcombe & Tombs, 1924.

Photographs:

Page 40: Gallipoli, 1915. 'Field Dentistry'. 'An Australian soldier receiving dental treatment, probably from members of the 4th Australian Field Ambulance, one of whom holds him down while the other operates.' (Collection A D Hood, donor J Borstel) AWM P01116.034

Page 44: Lieutenant-Colonel Finn DSO, New Zealand Medical Corps.
Born Invercargill 18 Oct 1880. Died Auckland 23 August 1952

AN INCIDENT OF 8TH MAY, 1915, AT HELLES

The brigade-major was down and the front line, which he had been leading, swept on. Normally the brigade-major should not have been in the front line, but the attack had been ordered so hurriedly that there had not been time for the necessary reconnaissance by battalion and company officers, and he had been detailed to lead the battalion to its place in the advance. There had been a general advance towards Krithia. French on the right, Victorians in the centre, and New Zealanders on the left. The Second Brigade (Victorians) had been brought down from Anzac, and now on the 8th May, at 5.30 p.m. it was moving over a bare plain swept by shrapnel, rifle, and machine guns. Casualties had been heavy, but on went the line.

As the brigade-major lay there, with a bullet through his lung, the second and third lines passed him going gallantly into that inferno. All the fire had been from the front and left front, but now bullets from the right front commenced knocking up the dust round him. In between painful bouts of coughing he partly raised himself

to see the cause of this new development. The French were far behind instead of being up in line with the Victorians, and the Turks, seeing this, were moving up the valley on the right in an effort to turn the flank of our troops.

Another burst of fire from them showed that the position was serious. A lonely private appeared at this moment from somewhere in rear, and in response to signals came over to the major. He was from the 5th Battalion, then coming up in support. Yes, he knew where his commanding officer was and could find him. A hurried message was scribbled and off went this lad - he was only 19 - to his colonel. In a few minutes he was back again. Neither frontal fire nor enfilade fire checked him.

During his absence the major had been hit again, through the right shoulder this time. The private then wanted to carry the officer away, but he was more valuable as a messenger. Another message was written, giving more details of the needs of the front line and the necessity for diverting the 5th Battalion to the right flank. The private took this message and brought back the answer. Then he set to work - all the time under heavy fire - and with his entrenching tool built up a bullet-proof parapet to save the officer from further injury. There was no thought of self. He worked until satisfied that the officer was safe from injury to the head or body.

Then he went to another wounded man close by. He also had been hit a second time and was obviously dying. Then this private went off for a stretcher party, through the bullet-swept area he searched, but all the stretchers were engaged. He directed a party to the officer, but they had no stretcher, so he continued his search until at last about 9 o'clock he found and returned with a stretcher. Meantime, others had arrived and carried the officer away on an overcoat. But the private was not satisfied, he searched on until, at last, back behind the naval division, he found the major. Then he went back over all that fire-swept ground and joined his company, with the consciousness of having done his duty as an Australian soldier. Who was he? No. 764, private Charley W. McDonnell, of the 5th Battalion. His father lives up near Nagambie in Victoria. - W. E. Cass.

(Walter Edmund Hutchinson Cass (1876-1931), soldier and teacher, born 28 August 1876 at Albury, NSW).

Charles Bean wrote of him: 'The leaders of the A.I.F. were mostly generous men, and marked for their sense of duty; but there were perhaps few in whom the recognition of duty was quite so strong, or sympathy with the rank and file so keen, as in Walter Cass.'

764 Charles William McDonnell MM, Mentioned in despatches, 5th Battalion, AIF, later Brigade Machine Guns, was batman to Major Cass. Cass has written this article in the third person, he being the wounded officer he refers to.



AWM AO1469

IF THIS WALL COULD TALK

Charles Bean and the war correspondents' cottage on Imbros

Bernard de Broglio

Traces of the Gallipoli Campaign can be found everywhere on the Peninsula, once you get your eye in. It's a little more difficult on the Aegean island bases of Lemnos, Tenedos and Imbros, which are short of trenches, shell fragments and shrapnel balls. But that doesn't mean there's nothing to see. Armed with contemporary maps, photographs and diaries, the battlefield walker can still make new discoveries. That's how I came across the war correspondents' cottage on Imbros in September 2022.

K for Kephalos

The island of Imbros, officially Gökçeada since 1970, sits about 15 miles (24 km) west of the Gallipoli Peninsula. It is the largest island in the Republic of Türkiye, and just 80 minutes by ferry from Kabatepe.

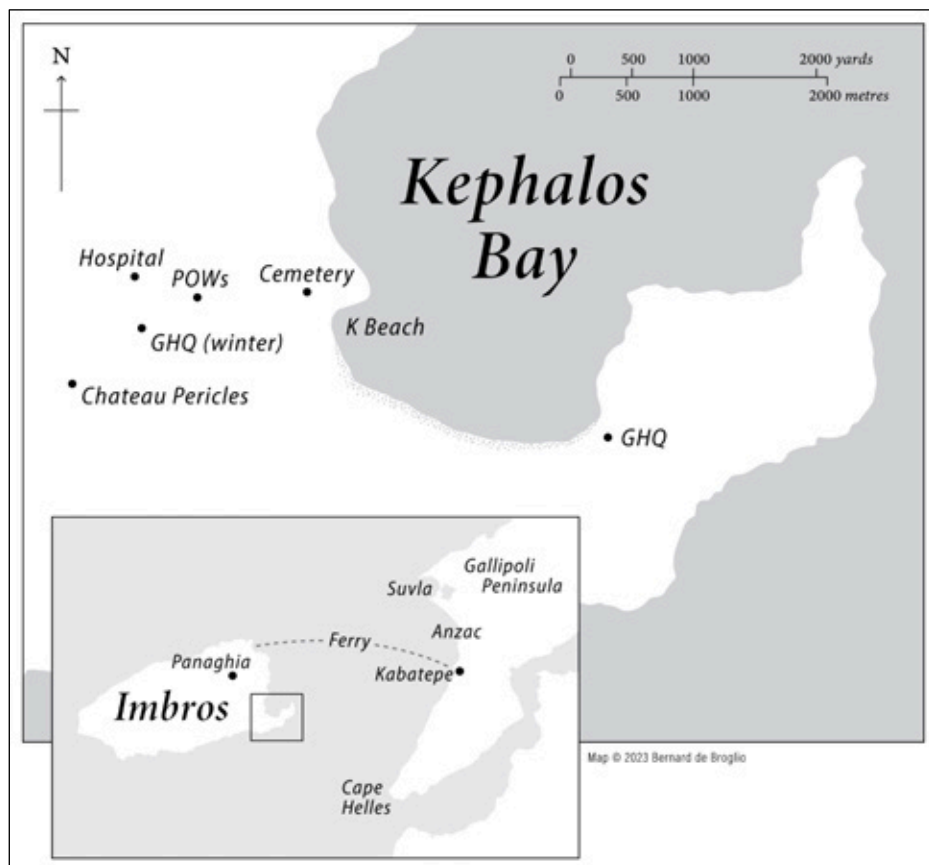
In May 1915, when German submarines rendered the seas about the peninsula unsafe, General Sir Ian Hamilton, commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, was forced to abandon his headquarters ship and decamp to Imbros. GHQ was established under canvas at the eastern end of Kephalos Bay. 'A bare sandy slope exposed to the sun and swept by storms of winds and sand,' wrote British war correspondent Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett in his diary. 'A horrible spot in fact.'

Ashmead-Bartlett was one of three journalists who accompanied the expeditionary force from the start. With him were Lester Lawrence, of Reuters, and Charles Bean, Australia's official war correspondent, later the official historian and the man most responsible for creation of the Australian War Memorial. But it was Ashmead-Bartlett whose report of the Gallipoli landings was the first eyewitness account to be published in the press. The Englishman was a brilliant writer and conversationalist, but also opinionated and outspoken, traits that made him a polarising figure at GHQ.

At first, Hamilton supported the presence of the journalists and allowed them almost complete freedom to move about the Allied lines. Later, in June 1915, when more journalists arrived at Gallipoli, he directed his staff to gather up the correspondents on Imbros. This came as a shock to Charles Bean, who was embedded with the troops at Anzac. 'I might as well be in Australia as in Imbros,' he grumbled.

Bean's impassioned request to remain at Anzac was declined, but GHQ granted him a concession: he could visit Anzac as often as he liked, and stay three or four days at a time. This made no sense to Bean until he spoke with Captain William Maxwell, Chief Field Censor on Hamilton's staff, and an experienced war correspondent.

The reason for rounding the rest of us up was in order to round up Ashmead Bartlett. They weren't at all satisfied with his proceedings, and wanted to have him thoroughly under control – and so made the rule apply to the lot of us.



Bean left Anzac for Imbros on 4 July 1915. The island paled in comparison to the industry and excitement of Anzac. ‘Dull as dishwater’ was his first impression.

There was something flat about the air – it was like lemonade without the tingle (as one officer said ‘beer out of the cup’).

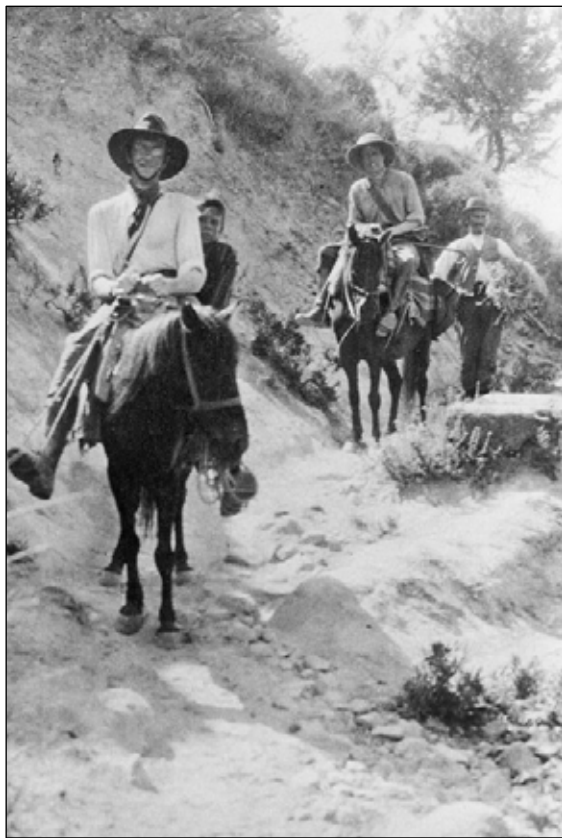
After checking in at GHQ, Bean walked back to the camps at the other end of the bay, a one-and-a-half mile (2.4 km) trudge along a sandy shore fringed by low dunes. The correspondents’ camp was a little distance inland from K Beach, under a stand of elm trees at the edge of a vineyard.

Ashmead-Bartlett’s well-shaded camp had been established just a few days before. It was copiously stocked with champagne. A fellow war correspondent at the camp, Henry Nevinson, gives us a vivid portrait of the charismatic 34-year-old.

About him hung an atmosphere of magnificence that often astonished me, as when, among the rocks of that savage island, among the pigs and sheep that infested our camp searching for the last leaves and grapes of summer in a vineyard hard by, he would issue from his elaborately furnished tent dressed in a flowing robe of yellow

silk shot with crimson, and call for breakfast as though the Carlton were still his corporeal home.

For another shot of island life, we can turn to Malcolm Ross, New Zealand's official war correspondent. On 15 July 1915, Ross joined Ashmead-Bartlett and Bean for an excursion to Panaghia, the principal village of the island. They lunched in a small hotel kept by 'George Christie' and drank good wine from Athens. Malcolm Ross describes their ride over the craggy pass from K Beach.



Mounted on the little Balkan ponies, led by sandalled Greeks across the mountain paths, we formed quite a cavalcade and looked for all the world like a scene from a passion play. In the gullies there was a wealth of fern and bracken and scented verbena, and many other wild-flowers. The mulberry trees were laden with ripe fruit ... At the top of the pass we came upon a fountain from which the water was slowly trickling from the solid basalt, clear and cool. Crickets sang in the hot sun, and butterflies – brown, and golden yellow, and palest blue - flew across the mountain path - a path that looked as if it had been made in the time of Caesar and had not been repaired since. We came upon flocks of goats with tinkling bells, and upon vineyards and olive groves. But for the distant boom of a ship's gun firing on Achi Baba one might have imagined that there was no such thing as war. And yet next day we were in the very midst of it.

Figure 1. Charles Bean and Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett on Imbros, photographed by Malcolm Ross, probably on their day trip to the village of Panaghia, 15 July 1915. (AWM A05382)

For three months, Bean and Ross commuted between bucolic Imbros and hellish Anzac, reporting on the August battles and their outcome. Meanwhile, Ashmead-Bartlett, whose scathing criticism of the staff and their conduct of the campaign had reached the highest circles of government, was banished from Gallipoli by Hamilton and sent home.



Figure 2. 'This is the cottage occupied by the war correspondents. The addition to the house was being built by our men to serve as a dining room.' Photograph by Charles Bean, October 1915. (AWM G01409)



Figure 3. Chateau Pericles. Photographer unknown, but perhaps taken by Bean on the same day as G01409 (above). The four men are not identified but are probably orderlies - Turner, Maloney and Griffin are among those named in the war correspondents' personal accounts. Griffin is probably the man seated, first from right. (AWM A05406)

Winter Quarters

When the August offensive failed, the prospect of spending the winter at Gallipoli began to occupy the minds of soldier, staff officer and war correspondent alike. Ross, the New Zealander, had his eye on a better 'ole.

On the side of a hill about a mile away, there was a small village of stone houses, and among them one that was almost new. It was a veritable castle, for it had two storeys. That is, it had one room on top of the other two.

Bean rented the property from its Greek owner.

October 3rd. I closed with the proprietor of a house in the village to-day - for winter quarters. It is a moderately new house and we shall turn the sanitary picket into it first, if Lt. Taylor befriends us. Rent - I was prepared to give £5 a month. Owner asked £2; so we closed for 30/- which he was delighted to get.

October 4th. Arranged for some timber for a porch for our new house.

Bean moved into the 'Correspondents' Cottage' with his batman, Private A W Bazley, on 8 October after returning from a short trip to Suvla. They had timed it just right, for that night a thunderstorm swept the island, the heaviest Bean had experienced since reaching the peninsula.

'There were now only three of us,' wrote Ross, 'for Bartlett had gone to London, and Nevinson was at Salonika.'

Bean and Lawrence occupied the upper room of our castle, and I a dark, narrow chamber down below, in which most of the room was taken up by two great corn-bins made of stone covered with a plaster of mud and straw. There were other inhabitants besides myself here, including mice. As my room was also the store-room, and the mice had a penchant for macaroni and candles, they remained with me to the last. The third room of the Chateau Pericles we used as a dining- and a writing-room, but one had to beware, for the room above had a wooden floor with great cracks in it, and when the floor was being scrubbed, or when at rare intervals its occupants had a bath, the man below was apt to get a bath also.

Our servants occupied a room outside, and the cook was given an outhouse that all our ingenuity failed to make watertight.

We have another description of the cottage from Lance Corporal 182 William George Hastings, 11th Battalion, AIF, who was being treated on Imbros in October 1915 for a second wound received at Anzac. The shrapnel wound did not stop him exploring the island, and he wrote home of 'our captain Bean' who had 'secured The "Chateau" of the Village - an imposing doll's house of two storeys, the only one I know of in the vicinity.'

Tiny in the extreme were its rooms, five in all, two above stairs, three below: the staircase was almost toy-like, and it is questionable whether a weighty man could have mounted it safely. Here again was simplicity of simplicity. A print of his Majesty

adorned the walls of the dining room, recent publications those of the bedrooms. A typewriter and writing wallets betrayed the journalist; the camp bedsteads, the helmets and leggings and the file of “orders” the martial trend of their days.

Chateau Pericles

Soon after the correspondents moved into their winter quarters, General Sir Ian Hamilton was recalled to England. Although rumours had been doing the rounds, the news came to Bean as ‘a bolt from the blue’.

Sunday 17 October. About 10 this morning a telegram arrived from Maxwell at GHQ across the bay: ‘Sir Ian Hamilton is going across to K Beach to say goodbye to some of the officers there this morning. He would like to say goodbye to the Correspondents too. Don’t know what time he is coming.’

About a quarter to one, an orderly arrived to say that the Commander-in-Chief was on his way to our camp, and Major [Jack] Churchill wanted us to come out and meet him. We jumped up and went out and found him just turning the corner from the transport camp, riding up through the scrub with about 7 of his staff with him. He rode ahead to us (the others held back a bit) and said: ‘I wanted to come and say good-bye to you - is that your new cottage? Quite architectural pretensions, hasn’t it?’

The general spoke with Bean and Ross. He told them of his successor, and repeated his mantra that success only wanted for more guns and men. ‘The poor old chap looked to me very haggard,’ Bean noted in his diary, ‘almost broken up.’

Malcolm Ross also recorded the general’s interest in their cottage, giving us the provenance of its name.

He smiled when he saw our quarters, the rude little stone house through which the wind whistled, and he expressed regret that he had not brought along the official photographer to make a picture of it. But with haughty pride we pointed to its two stories, and told him that it was the finest thing in architecture on the island since the time of Pericles. This seemed to amuse him, and from that day we dated our letters from the Chateau Pericles.

‘Our little Imbros cottage’

Bean’s diary now begins to record increasingly wild weather, with gales and torrential rainfall on 17/18 November, then an icy blizzard that froze Anzac on 28/29 November. The snow-fall caught Bean in his dugout on the peninsula.

I can’t work here – only walk; it’s far too cold. An issue of rum to all troops tonight – poor beggars, the novelty of the snow will soon wear off, but it’s worse for the Turks than for us. They get this in their backs – right into their dugouts.

With the piers destroyed and small craft sunk by the storm, Bean put off from Anzac on 30 November in the sole dinghy available, reaching a trawler anchored off-shore. When they sailed into Kephalos Bay, Bean found K Beach wrecked by the storm. Small craft had been sunk, the piers washed away, and the coastal road awash in seaweed and pools of water for a quarter-mile.

For Bean, Imbros was now a haven.

There was a light in the window of our little Imbros cottage – it looked so snug – when Bazley and I got there. I was very beat – with my heavy overcoat, and I suppose the jaundice has pulled me down a bit. I found the lower room dark, but a light in the upper, and there was poor old Ross in bed with an overcoat over him, and very much in the middle of an attack of jaundice – worse than mine was.

I am writing this over a warm wood fire, simply hugging the hearth ...

The Anzac Book

About this time, a plan was hatched to produce an Anzac annual or magazine to help the troops 'while away the long winter in the trenches'. Contributions were invited from the troops, with prizes for best sketch, verse and story.

The correspondents' cottage became a hive of activity as Bean's 'small army' got to work. Bean edited the copy, while Bazley, Bean's batman and clerk, typed the 'whole screed'. Among the artists working at the cottage were privates David Barker (5th Australian Field Ambulance), Frederick 'Ted' Collis (3rd Light Horse Field Ambulance) and Frank Crozier (22nd Battalion AIF).

Supplies were found close at hand. Ink, paint and paper were purloined from the Royal Naval Air Service photographic section and the Royal Engineers printing section at GHQ.

Closer to home, the local poultry found itself the object of some souveniring by 'the Gang at the Chateau Pericles', as an anonymous artist recounts in the Australian service magazine *Reveille*.

Billeted at the 'Chateau Pericles' at that time were Barker, Crozier, Collis, Bazley, and Maloney – the last named an old Imperial veteran, who knew all the ways of finding manna in the wilderness. The mulberry bushes which stood in the chateau grounds were a popular roost for poultry owned by Greeks in the immediate neighbourhood.

It was voted by the Gang that a dinner without poultry on the menu would be an insult to the Christmas season, so one night a party emerged silently from the cellar of the chateau, crept silently up to the mulberry bushes, and gave them a vigorous shaking, but the fowls scattered and eluded capture. The party then returned to the cellar, and held a council of war, over some cognac, and the outcome was that Maloney, the next day, visited the RAMC Depot, and secured a quantity of sulphur. That night – a beautifully still night – the party set fire to the sulphur under one of the mulberry trees, and as the fumes rose among the fowls on their perches the birds dropped thick and fast, like ripe apples, into the hands of the hungry men below.

Within an hour the birds had been killed and dressed, and the feathers and entrails securely buried, so that when mournful Greeks came sniffing around the grounds of the chateau the next day, looking for their missing poultry, they could not even find a clue. The Christmas dinner was a great success. Poultry was not the only luxury – the resource of Maloney saw to that.

The Last Despatch

With winter came the decision to evacuate Anzac and Suvla. The war correspondents readied themselves to record this unprecedented, and potentially calamitous, operation. On the morning of 14 December 1915, Bean left Imbros on the early trawler:

And so one is on an adventure again – like the landing ... It is an adventure – no one can foretell the ending.

At Anzac, Bean photographed one of the water-timed self-firing guns, and watched the subterfuge of smoking fatigues on Artillery Road and cricket on Shell Green. Then, from a warship standing off the coast, he witnessed the final, tense hours of the evacuation.

Steaming into Kephalos Harbour on the morning of 20 December, an elated Bean found the bay crowded with warships of all shapes and sizes, and an island crowded with troops. The journalists gathered at the correspondents' cottage and worked feverishly at their despatches. After the disappointment of the Suvla landing, here was a success worth trumpeting.

Alongside Bean were Nevinson, writing for the *Manchester Guardian* and provincial papers, George Ward Price of the *Daily Mail*, and Lester Lawrence of Reuters. Malcolm Ross was lying ill on a makeshift bed in the cottage, and Bean unselfishly drafted a second cable for the New Zealand press in Ross' name.

But elation turned to despair on Christmas Day when Bean learned that the censor had cut his account to shreds. Cape Helles had yet to be evacuated and the enemy should be given no hint as to how it was done.

This was like an unexpected shrapnel shell in the pit of the stomach. The despatch on which I had poured out more care than anything of which I have written here – the only chance one has had of even attempting to rival Bartlett's work ... the best article of the campaign goes to the wall.

Bean would have another, greater opportunity to tell that story. He left Imbros on 29 December 1915 with 25 diaries crammed full of valuable first-hand information, and a dozen notebooks beside. From these tightly-scrawled pages would come the first two volumes of Australia's official history of the war and the imperishable story of Anzac.

Also in his baggage was the *Anzac Book*, completed at Chateau Pericles. In 1916, it would sell more than 100,000 copies.

Looking for Bean

What, if anything, remains of the war correspondents' cottage on Imbros?

Peter Stanley, the distinguished Australian military historian, thought he had found it in 2002. His article in the Australian War Memorial magazine, *Wartime*, places the cottage on a country lane leading to Kephalos Bay, just before the cluster of modern holiday houses at the western end of the beach. But that proved to be a red

herring when the author made his first attempt to find Bean's cottage in 2016. The background does not match photographs of the cottage held by the Australian War Memorial. Also, the building is not visible in aerial photographs taken in 1915.

A clue is found in a contemporary 1:20,000 scale map produced by the MEF Survey Section in late 1915 that marks the site of GHQ's winter quarters. These were being completed when Hamilton was ordered home. The stone cottages were not far from Chateau Pericles.

Another clue is found in the silhouette of hills and rocky outcrops that frame the cottage in a 1915 photograph by Bean (figure 3, below).



Figure 4. The hills and rocky features that frame Bean's cottage in the 1915 photograph are easily identifiable from the modern road passing Eşelek village.

Feature no. 4 is useful to determine height as its summit quickly disappears from the skyline as you gain height.

The cottage was not far from this spot, probably a little closer to the bend in the road. The slope has been significantly altered by the modern road, which was recently widened.

The author's 2022 field trip focused on three valleys west of K Beach. According to the survey section map, these valleys housed the prisoners' camp, hospital site and GHQ winter quarters.

For the informal expedition, the author was joined by Anil Dinç, a Turk whose family left Thessaloniki to settle at Kilia Liman during the post-war population exchange with Greece. Anil was happy to walk twenty kilometres a day, and more! Before heading out, we had several conversations with Kenan Çelik, doyen of Gallipoli guides, who lived on Gökçeada when studying to be a teacher. Like Commander Charles Rumney Samson of the RNAS, Kenan had shot the local pheasant. Kenan was sceptical that any trace of the cottage could be found, and good-humouredly chided us on a fool's errand. His periodic phone calls to check on our progress only spurred us on!

We began from the site of the wartime cemetery near K Beach, and walked inland, straight up the tall ridge that affords an uninterrupted view of the hinterland and the high ground beyond. Someone else, perhaps a sailor or soldier, once chose this same spot to soak in the view. On the ground was a green-glass bottle marked J. Mills & Sons, London. Probably mineral water.

Once over the ridge, a pleasant few hours were spent in the shaded valleys with their mostly-dry watercourses, scrambling up and down the steep hillsides. We found no physical evidence of any camps but it's a large area and will reward further exploration. Along the way we stopped periodically, squinting from photograph to skyline in the bright sunshine, trying to match the landscape with the silhouette of the hills in the 1915 photograph of Bean's cottage. We had several false starts, but as we tracked from 'GHQ' to the modern village of Eşelek (Esh-eh-lek), we began to 'see' the background.

On the saddle of the spur above Eşelek, we met a farmer and showed him photographs of the cottage. Elders, he said, had spoken of a Rûm (Greek) village here, with stone buildings.

We walked the few streets of Eşelek, looking for old materials repurposed in modern dwellings, or renovated stone cottages. A woman stopped us and asked what we were doing. We showed her the photographs.

'We know this house,' she said.

Her grandfather had told her it was a big house, but it had been pulled down when the road at the back of the village was built.

'But one wall remains,' she said.

We could barely contain our excitement. 'Where?!'

'Just behind the road.'

We had walked right past it. Hidden by a concrete retaining wall along the road at the top of the village was the remnants of a stone wall.

Was it Bean's cottage?

The background is a match, almost. You have to drop a bit further down the hill to see feature no. 4 in the then-and-now photograph (figure 3). A small variation in height will cause that feature to appear and disappear from the skyline.

Bean's cottage was probably nearer the modern road, where the comparison photograph was taken (figure 3). It is not a perfect match, but Chateau Pericles must be within a radius of 200 metres (650 feet).

The fragment of wall at the top of Eşelek probably belongs to another house in the old Greek village. At a stretch, it could be an ancillary structure behind Bean's cottage. Nevertheless, this humble course is a physical, if fragile, connection to the momentous events of 1915.

If you visit Imbros, be sure to stop at Eşelek and look for this last vestige of the old village. Keep company with Charles Bean and the war correspondents and tragic Hamilton on his horse. And when you're done interrogating the mute wall, go off-piste and explore. Match the 1915 skyline for yourself. There is always more to discover.

Thirsty pilgrims will find cold drinks at a small shop on the main road. And if you have time, a restaurant has opened nearby. This would be a good spot to eat grilled chicken (tavuk izgara) under trailing vines, and you won't have to coax the poultry from the trees. *See photographs pages 34 – 36.*

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Figure 5. Imbros at sunset, seen from the heights of Anzac in 1919, photographed by William Swanston and William James of the Australian Historical Mission. In this picture, Kephelos Bay is at the extreme left of the island. (AWM G01848)

BOOK REVIEWS

All reviews in this edition are by Stephen Chambers

**From Imbros Over The Sea: Imbros & Gallipoli Revealed –
A Pictorial & Historical Overview and Exhibition Guide**

Author: Jim Claven.

Publisher: Imvrians' Society of Melbourne (2023), 132 pages, 3 maps, 80 photographs.

Price: AUD\$35 (Softback) Order via <https://imvrians-melbourne.square.site/>

ISBN: 978064689468

Many of you will know the name of Association member Jim Claven who is author of several articles and an excellent book titled *Lemnos & Gallipoli Revealed* (2019). Jim's new book, about the Aegean Island of Imbros, is designed as a pictorial and historical guide to complement a historical and commemorative exhibition on Imbros which he curated and launched in Melbourne in June 2023.

The title itself I was pleased to discover is a line from the Gallipoli poem "Achilles in the Trench" written by Hood battalion officer Patrick Shaw-Stewart. Jim's new work will certainly be of interest to anyone wanting to discover more about this beautiful Hellenic Island. Imbros, as a forward supply base, was a hive of activity during 1915. It was full of tented camps, Hamilton's HQ was located there as well as a field hospital, a bakery, a POW camp, several RNAS airfields, seaplanes, balloons, and even an airship hangar.

Of great importance to the Royal Navy was Kephalos Bay which offered safe anchorage to hundreds of Allied ships, protected by an anti-submarine boom and a headland to buffer the worst of the weather. All of this must have been quite a sight for the MEF forces as well as the local Imvrian inhabitants of this picturesque Aegean Island. This is the first time I ever seen such a rich collection of photographs, drawings and paintings of Imbros in a single volume, and together, with their excellent captions, it helps to tell the islands story.

Quite a few of the contemporary archival images will be new to readers, and these are complemented nicely with modern day photographs. The GA's Hidden Gallipoli tour visited Imbros (today it is the Turkish island of Gökçeada) in 2023 where this little guide would have come in useful. Little is lost though, as having this book in the pocket is a good reason to make a return visit. The book has helped to fill a gap in the Gallipoli historiography of this important little island.

Recommended reading.

In Chanak with the British Army, Some Impressions

Author: 'Z' (P J Bothwell)

Introduction, appendices and maps: Bernard de Broglio.

Publisher: Little Gully Publishing (2023).

Price: £11.99 (softback); £8.99 (ebook).

ISBN: 97806459276-4-1

When the Gallipoli campaign ended with its final evacuation of the Allied forces during the night of 8-9 January 1916, it was not the end of Allied interest in the area. The Royal Navy continued operations in the region, blockading the Dardanelles and patrolling Turkey's Aegean coastline. With the signing of the Armistice of Mudros in October 1918 hostilities in the Middle East with Turkey and its Ottoman Empire ceased. This led to the temporary Allied occupation of Constantinople, and with it the British were back in Gallipoli and in control of the Dardanelles. Their army was stationed in the old town of Chanak (modern day Çanakkale) which at this time was all but destroyed. On the horizon was civil war. This is where this book takes up the story.

The events covered in this little book are fascinating considering they took place when Britain was almost at war again with Turkey. Chanak, with its small British garrison, was all that stood in the way of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's army as it marched north to liberate Constantinople. While war was avoided, bar a few skirmishes, life was generally quiet in Chanak, where both Union Jack and the Star and Crescent flew side-by-side over the town.

The book was written by Percival James Bothwell, the branch secretary of the YMCA in Chanak, under the pseudonym 'Z'. It was originally published in 1923, which makes it today an almost impossible book to find. Bothwell describes the dilapidation of Chanak after the Gallipoli campaign; its poor roads, shops, army parades, and the YMCA to name but a few. These impressions of life in 1920's Chanak makes it a charming little volume to read, such a contrast to those who know the modern and vibrant city of today's Çanakkale.

While this modern edition of Bothwell's work has been reproduced with its original text, it has been enriched by the addition of contemporary photographs, maps, appendices and a biography of Bothwell including two stories by him that were published separately in *The Red Triangle*, the YMCA's magazine. This is still a slim book, but regardless of size it is a fascinating insight into one of the lesser-known exploits of Britain's little army of Chanak. Recommended.

Lost Endeavour**Author:** Charles Watkins**Editor:** Michael Crane & Bernard De Broglio**Publisher:** Little Gully Publishing (2023)**Price:** £16.99 (softback); £27.99 (hardback); £7.99 (ebook)**ISBN:** 97806459276-1-0

I first came across Charles Watkins when reading one of his many articles in early editions of *The Gallipolian*. Watkins wrote his Gallipoli book around 50 years after the campaign, so whilst his memories may have not been as fresh as others, it remains a vivid account of his Gallipoli experience. When I co-authored *Gallipoli – The Dardanelles Disaster in Soldiers' Words and Photographs* we used several extracts from Watkins because they were so descriptive, but anyone trying to find the first edition of *Lost Endeavour* would have been challenged, largely due to its limited print run which was for private circulation only. Little Gully have done a wonderful service by republishing Watkin's work, thus giving it the wider readership it truly deserves.

Charles Watkins, although commissioned in 1918, started as a private in the 1/6th Lancashire Fusiliers, part of the 42nd (East Midland) Division, who landed at Cape Helles in May 1915. In Watkins' own words "students of military strategy and tactics had best throw this book away for they'll learn nothing from it. In fact, I know even less of strategy and tactics than did the High-Ups who conducted the campaign. What's more, a lowly private soldier sees very little of the larger picture of war – his own grubby little nose is always buried too deeply in his own particular patch of the dung-heap ..." But accounts from lowly private soldiers are valuable as they help the reader understand the worm's-eye view of that particular patch of the dung-heap that was so familiar to ordinary soldiers. This book, a hotch-potch of observations, uses a lot of the common soldier's vernacular of the time, and is full of anecdote. "Fust thing Ah'll get me when Ah gets to Cairo will be to buy meself a big plate of fried eggs, stacks and stacks of good bread-and-butter, and a pot of tea – in a pot so bloody big you'd be able to swim in it. Wot does ta think o' that for a start, Sarge?" The Sergeant regarded the questioner quizzically, then burst out laughing. 'Knowing thee as Ah do, mate,' he said, 'that'll be the second thing tha'll be getting' thiself.' While it can take a few pages to get your eye in, it is most definitely worth the effort.

In this modern edition, the editors need to be congratulated for adding several useful appendices, including a short biography of Watkins, and notes on other individuals, events and places mentioned in the text. There is a 42nd Division Order of Battle, timelines, and a Gallipoli Roll of Honour for the 1/6th Lancashire Fusiliers. Also included are several articles Watkins, one of the original GA members, wrote for *The Gallipolian* during the 1970's and 80's. While the editors have rightfully highlighted several of Watkins' ripping yarns and questioned whether they may have been shared or confused memories, Watkins' account remains a must-read, so comes highly recommended. In Watkins own words, "Sorry! – but a chap gets carried away sometimes."

Birdie: More Than 'Soul of Anzac.' Field Marshal Lord Birdwood of Anzac and Totnes, 1865-1951

Author: Richard Farrimond.

Publisher: Helion & Company, 232 pp., 12 b/w illustrations, 13 colour maps.

Price: £35.00 (Hardback).

ISBN: 978180451236-4

One is rarely disappointed when reading a new biography of a First World War general, and this is no exception. Field Marshal Lord Birdwood of Anzac and Totnes was born in India, his father being a prominent member of the Indian Civil Service. An Old Cliftonian and graduate of Sandhurst, his path found him back in India and its North-West Frontier where he proved himself to be an efficient officer with a bright future. Noticed by Lord Kitchener, whose staff he joined during the Anglo-Boer War, his early path would soon cross with the likes of Ian Hamilton, Alexander Godley and even Winston Churchill. When Kitchener was appointed as Commander-in-Chief in India, Birdwood, then a colonel, served right by his side as his interpreter (Birdwood being able to speak several Indian languages). At the start of the First World War Birdwood helped with the deployment of Indian troops, but this didn't last long when in November 1914 he was ordered to Egypt to take command of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC).

Reconnoitring the Dardanelles' defences in early 1915, Birdwood cabled to Kitchener to report that he was "very doubtful if the navy can force the passage unassisted." It was Birdwood who began to plan for the landings as Ian Hamilton journeyed out to take control of the MEF. The landings as we know didn't go well for Birdwood who, under pressure from his divisional generals and with erroneous information that the landings at Helles were successful, favoured abandoning Anzac altogether. This is when he received the famous "Dig, Dig, Dig" order from Hamilton which helped to create the Anzac legend that was to follow. Despite an over-complicated breakout plan in August, which failed, the next major stage was the Gallipoli evacuation at the end of 1915. With Hamilton recalled to England, Birdwood became caretaker commander while Hamilton's replacement, Sir Charles Monro, journeyed out to Gallipoli. Birdwood was against evacuation at first which led to Kitchener's visit in November 1915. When Kitchener saw the situation for himself, he said "Thank God, Birdie, I came to see this for myself. I had no idea of the difficulties you were up against. I think you have all done wonders."

Due to the success of the evacuation Birdwood left the peninsula with his reputation intact, with both higher command and his own men. One humorous story to come out of Gallipoli was recounted by Birdwood at a post-war dinner. "I was going along a trench one day at a danger point, and a private called to me eagerly, "Duck yer bleedin' head, Birdie!". "Good gracious!" replied one of the diners, "what did you do?" "I bleedin' well ducked my head," said Birdie. Birdwood's popularity was widespread, and this led to his rise at a fairly young age through the higher ranks

of the military. It can be said that having friends like Kitchener had helped, which made some jealous. "It only shows what can be done by blowing one's own trumpet in the right quarter at which Birdie is of course a past master," commented one senior officer.

After Gallipoli, Birdwood's active service continued on the Western Front where he commanded 1st Anzac Corps before being promoted by Haig to command 5th Army. On 11 November 1918 Haig called all his Army commanders together for a famous photograph on the steps of his headquarters. Birdwood stands proudly in the centre of the group, just behind Haig and between Plummer, Byng, Rawlinson and Horne. A month later Birdwood and the Army commanders were photographed again, but this time with King George V. Birdwood certainly deserved the attention and accolades that came his way after the war. Many came from Australia and New Zealand where still today there is a township as well as parks, streets and buildings named in his honour. General Sir Ian Hamilton, as a sign of both commitment to the Anzacs and the bond of affection between them, wrote that Birdwood was the "Soul of Anzac", a saying that stuck with him. Sometimes I feel Birdwood is given a rough time by some historians, and not always credited where credit is due, but what is pleasing in this wonderful book is Farrimond's balanced approach. A gap in Birdie's history has been filled. A highly recommended biography that has taught me a lot more about this fascinating man.

It may be of interest to readers that this book is in the running for the prestigious 2023 Templer Medal and Chapple (First Book) Prize by The Society for Army Historical Research.



General William Riddell Birdwood's last day at Anzac standing on North Beach. AWM Goo659.

A MEDICAL PROBLEM

J W Traynor. MM RAMC 11 CCS 29 Div (271) writes:

I well recall an amusing but true story about one patient we had in the Casualty Clearing Station on Cape Helles.

A patient was brought with the usual ticket label tied to him. The MO asked him what was the matter with him and the casualty replied, 'Dysentery'.

'How do you know you have dysentery?' asked the MO.

'Because it's on my ticket,' replied the patient.

The MO then took the ticket off him and asked,

'What's the matter with you now?'

'I don't know,' said the casualty.

From *The Gallipolian* of Autumn 1971.

SEE YOUR ARTICLE IN PRINT!

Articles for the Gallipolian

Articles and smaller items of interest about any aspect of the Gallipoli campaign are always welcome. These should be submitted direct to the editor, preferably by email, at editor@gallipoli-association.org.

It is not always possible to feature articles in the issue following submission although where there is an element of topicality the editor will try to accommodate them, or refer them to colleagues responsible for the Association website. For those considering the submission of articles the editor can provide notes for the guidance of contributors on request.

LAST POST

It is with regret that the Association learnt of the death of the following member:

o839 Mr William Westall.



Where Many Australians have been Killed and Wounded.

This portion of one of the tracks to the trenches is commanded by enemy snipers. As the notice-board shows, it is a dangerous spot.



OBJECTIVES

To advance education for the public benefit by raising public awareness of the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915 and by encouraging and facilitating the study in the legacy and lessons of that campaign. To keep alive the memory of the campaign and to ensure that all who fought or served in it, and those who gave their lives, are not forgotten by applying such means as the Trustees deem fit.



The River Clyde at V Beach, 25 April, 1915

by Charles Dixon - reproduced by kind permission of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
(Queen's and Royal Hampshires)

The Gallipoli campaign is characterised by countless deeds of heroism and endurance. It took place in an area smaller than Southampton amid appalling conditions - heat, flies, lack of water, equipment and proper sanitation. Later on rain and a freak spell of sub-zero temperatures had to be endured, to say nothing of the desperate close-quarter fighting throughout the campaign. Some 559,000 Allied personnel were committed, of whom 420,000 were British and Empire troops, including 50,000 Australians and 9,000 New Zealanders, and 80,000 French. The cost in human terms was terrible. The Allies had 250,000 casualties, of whom approximately 58,000 were killed, with only 11,000 having known graves. Ottoman forces, with some Germans, numbered between 300,000 and 400,000 and of these some 87,000 were killed. The evacuations in December 1915 and early January 1916 were masterly operations – one of the great feats of military history.