

The Gallipolian

***The Journal of the
Gallipoli Association***

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The River Clyde at V Beach, 25 April, 1915

*by Charles Dixon - reproduced by kind permission
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THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT : 20 OCTOBER 2010

The Committee have met five times during the year.

GALLIPOLI DAY – 25 APRIL 2010

This year the normal arrangements had to be completely rearranged due to the fact that the London Marathon was held on the same day. The ceremony at the Cenotaph took place at 0800hrs where, at the invitation of the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions, I laid a wreath on behalf of the Association and a number of members were present. This was followed by the service in Westminster Abbey which, as usual, was most impressive and followed much the same form as previous years.

Our annual wreath laying ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral could not be held until 1245hrs but was well attended. Wreaths were laid by Mr Quentin Davies MP, Minister for Defence Equipment and Support on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty's Government; Vice Admiral Richard Ibbotson CB, DSO, Deputy C-in-C Fleet; Lieutenant-General Paul Newton, Commander Force Development and Training; Mr Derek Leask, High Commissioner for New Zealand; Mr John Dauth, High Commissioner for Australia; Colonel Laurent Kolodziej, Army Attaché France; H.E. Mr Yigit Alpogan, Turkish Ambassador, and myself as Chairman of the Association.

Last Post was sounded by Musician Stephanie Barrett, Band of the Coldstream Guards, and a lament was played by Piper Major Roger Huth, formerly Scots Guards. James Watson Smith, Secretary of the Association, whose Great Uncle Colonel E P Smith was killed at Gallipoli on 1 May 1915 while commanding 17th Brigade Royal Field Artillery, recited 'They shall grow not old ...'. The Reverend Canon Martin Warner conducted the ceremony.

After the service we held our lunch at The Albion in Ludgate Circus.

SOME OF THE OTHER EVENTS HELD DURING THE YEAR

[See also *The Gallipolian* and the Website]

29TH DIVISION MEMORIAL – 14 MARCH 2010

The annual wreath laying ceremony at the 29th Division Memorial, Stretton-on-Dunsmore was attended by Association members, local authority representatives, including the mayor, and a number of other organisations and individuals.

THE COLLINGWOOD MEMORIAL – 4 JUNE 2010

The wreath laying ceremony at the Collingwood Memorial, Pimperne has been a major annual event for the past 60 years, originally organised by member Roy Adam.

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL LUNCH – 25 JUNE 2010

Organised by Committee member John Crowe, and held in the Guildhall, King's Lynn in the presence of the Mayor, the lunch was much enjoyed by those present.

SERVICE AT WEST NEWTON – 12 SEPTEMBER 2010

This year we were very honoured to have HRH The Duke of Kent at the service. The church at West Newton, near Sandringham, was full to capacity to remember all those who fought at Gallipoli, and in particular the 5th Territorial Battalion, The Norfolk Regiment and the Sandringham Estate workers who fought at Suvla Bay on 12 August 1915. The event was organised by John Crowe and was attended by many eminent people including the Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, and representatives from Australia, New Zealand and Turkey. After the service, His Royal Highness met many members of the congregation in the village hall. Next year, the service may have to be held at a different church.

OTHER REGIONAL EVENTS

Many other commemorative events are held each year. Unfortunately space does not permit mention of all of them in this report. It is clear from the above paragraphs that local or regional events can be very popular, especially in areas where there is a strong Gallipoli connection. If anybody would like to organise such an event in their locality in the name of the Gallipoli Association do please let us know.

AUTUMN LUNCH – 15 OCTOBER 2009

The Association's Autumn Lunch was again held at The Naval Club. Our speaker was Professor Richard Holmes, the renowned military historian and broadcaster, who gave us a most excellent talk. We were very grateful to him for giving his time to be with us. As usual, our thanks are also due to the Naval Club for all the arrangements they kindly make on our behalf for our lunches.

THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL BURSARY

This year bursaries were awarded to two teachers from Smithdon High School, Hunstanton, Norfolk. They went to Gallipoli accompanied by John Crowe. As well as visiting the peninsula, they were able to renew contact with a High School in Canakkale previously visited by bursary holders in 2007. Also, thanks to the hospitality of 'Gelibolu Dernegi' (The Gallipoli Association of Ankara), they visited the District

Governor and Mayor of Canakkale and the local military museum. Exchanges may take place between the two schools in the future.

FINANCE

Last year, I reported that we would have to consider whether we needed to increase the subscription for 2011. Since then, John Crowe has been carrying out an extensive exercise which has resulted in a good collection of unpaid subscriptions. At this stage, therefore, we will not be recommending an increase for 2011 but will keep the situation under careful watch.

Bill Marsh, our Treasurer for twelve years, announced that he would like to retire from that post with effect from the AGM in October 2010. Accordingly, the Committee are recommending that Mrs Vicki Genrich should be appointed as Treasurer subject to ratification at the AGM. Vicki is a Chartered Accountant who comes originally from Australia but has lived in London with her husband for the last twelve years. Bill, I am glad to say, has indicated that he would like to continue to serve on the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

As mentioned above, John Crowe is in the process of following up people on the membership list who appear not to have paid their subscriptions. Sadly, I have to report that this has resulted in discovering that a large number of people were, in fact, no longer members but were, nevertheless, still receiving *The Gallipolian*. This has been happening partly because of un-notified deaths and partly because over time a number of people decided for whatever reason not to keep renewing their subscription and did not notify us. Problems have also arisen with members who have not instructed their bank to increase their standing orders to reflect increases in subscription, and the same with some Paypal payers. It has been an immensely time-consuming affair for John who has had to contact over 500 people by various means including the telephone. As far as the Association is concerned, the most satisfactory method of payment is, of course, by direct debit. Payment by standing order is no longer an option for new members, and we are hopeful that we can convert all remaining standing order payers to direct debit. I cannot comment accurately at the moment on the precise number of members of the Association as John still has some 300 people to check through. I can only say that it is considerably less than I reported last year. We have now put in place much stricter control of the situation.

On the plus side, however, some £5,000 of unpaid subscriptions has been recovered and there will be a considerable reduction in the cost of sending out *The Gallipolian* to those whose membership had in fact lapsed.

The need for new members is now urgent. At the moment the website is producing the lion's share of new members. We will be embarking on a publicity campaign which will

hopefully have a positive effect. However, in an Association like ours, members can be of great help by encouraging people to join. I suggest using our excellent brochure and its easy-to-complete inserted application form. (Make sure it is an up-to-date form). There really are an enormous number of people who will have had a relation who fought in the Campaign, and others who will be interested for historical reasons.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members who have not yet changed from standing order to direct debit are urged to do so without delay. Those who have not altered their payment to the new subscription rate will now only be given a limited time to do so or their membership will be lapsed. (Direct debit payers have no need to worry! After due notice of any increase this takes place automatically).

THE GALLIPOLIAN

I believe that the standard of *The Gallipolian* is as high as ever and I know that members look forward to receiving it. Foster Summerson is to be congratulated on continuing to produce three excellent editions per year. I hope that members understand the immense amount of time, thought and effort that goes into this production, and how lucky we are to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable editor.

THE WEBSITE

We are constantly developing the website and the new Members' Forum is now operational. Hopefully it will become used more and more. It is indicative of the success of the website that it is the main source of new members. More developments are underway and Andy Crooks is to be congratulated on all that he has achieved. Andy has found it very difficult to find the time to attend Committee meetings and so has withdrawn from the Committee. However, he remains as Webmaster and Simon Kleinig, who has joined the Committee with some knowledge of websites and IT, has taken on the responsibility of reporting on website and allied matters.

THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

At Westminster Abbey on Thursday 6 November, the Association had its usual allotted plot and it contained a large number of crosses sent or ordered by members. We were again delighted that our Patron HRH Prince Philip came and spoke to Hugh Jenner who was kindly standing in for me. The Association can arrange to have crosses placed on behalf of members to commemorate anyone who took part in the Campaign. This year the formal opening will be on Thursday 11 November.

BATTLEFIELD TOURS

Sadly, no tours took place this year, due partly to the disruption caused by the Icelandic volcanic ash and also to the lack of sufficient people willing to commit themselves in advance.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

John Crowe has again produced an Association Christmas card. The Christmas cards make a good contribution to our income and I would encourage all members to support the Association and order some from John on 0208.697.2787 or newseditor@gallipoli-association.org.

LEGACIES

The Association benefits from time to time from legacies. These range from any amount, both small and large. If you would like to consider remembering the Association in your Will I can assure you that it will be in a very good cause, and help to perpetuate the memory of all who took part in that Campaign.

THE COMMITTEE

Without repeating myself every time, I find it very difficult to think of new ways of saying the same thing. I hope very much that members of the Association realise that all Committee members work on an entirely voluntary basis. In some cases the barest essential personal expenses are refunded, but they all give a great deal of their time and no doubt at some financial cost to them as well.

I have already mentioned the retirement of Bill Marsh as Treasurer. Bill took over this task some twelve years ago and had to preside over a very substantial increase in membership, which increased his workload greatly. At that time Norman Pollitt was also acting as Membership Secretary and it was he who started the modernisation of the way in which membership was handled. When Norman retired, Bill volunteered to take on that role as well, since the two tasks were closely linked. Not content with that, Bill was a founder member of our tour organisation and involved with a number of the earlier and very successful tours. More recently, he handed over the role of Membership Secretary to John Crowe at a time when it became clear that the combined role of Treasurer and Membership Secretary became too onerous. Over his time on the Committee, Bill has contributed an enormous amount to the Association and we owe him our profuse thanks. I am glad to say that he has agreed to stay on the Committee.

My sincere thanks are also extended, in alphabetical order, to Andy Crooks, John Crowe, Colonel Michael Hickey, Hugh Jenner, David Saunders, Foster Summerson, and last but not least James Watson-Smith, who has now been the Secretary for twenty five years. Colonel James Stopford has remained on the Committee, but is absent due to military service.

We welcome two new members to the Committee. Mrs Vicki Genrich, who is a chartered accountant and our Treasurer elect, and Mr Simon Kleinig who is taking on the role of overseeing the website and also Public Relations/Marketing. Both are from Australia and actively involved in London Legacy, the London branch of a large Australian organisation which cares for the widows of Australian servicemen.

To everyone mentioned above, I add my most sincere personal thanks for all they do for the Association and for the support that they have given me. Remember that we would always like to hear from anybody who feels that they may be able to give us help in whatever form or subject. If you feel that you would like to offer us any help please do let us know.

GENERAL OUTLOOK

Whilst the affairs of the Association are running smoothly, with some difficult tasks already in the process of being addressed such as the membership list, I think that the Association is reaching another watershed. One previous such occasion was when it was decided to open membership to people who had not fought in the Campaign. If that had not happened the Association would not exist today. Now, we believe that the average age of members is quite high and we have discovered that we do not have as many members as we had thought. If the Association is to continue healthily into the future, beyond the centenary in 2015, then all members must try and recruit new members. If anyone has access to appropriate media etc., do please get in touch with us. Luckily the financial position is strong with good reserves, and the Committee intend to use some of this to promote the Association to a wider audience. However, the success of this will be limited if the membership do not also play their part.

C T F Fagan, Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

The Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2009, duly certified by the Independent Examiner, are enclosed with this issue of *The Gallipolian*.

The Association's finances remain generally sound. The downward trend in our income as compared with our expenditure has at last been arrested. Subscription income is up by slightly over £2,100. Donations by £490, Sale of Merchandise by £699 and the contribution made by the Tour Account is up by £338.

Overall, Expenditure during the year under review shows an increase of £1,336, due mainly to an increase in our marketing costs. I am pleased to be able to report that the Committee's efforts to reduce its own costs are at last bearing fruit with Committee Expenses showing a year on year reduction of £860.

This is the last set of Accounts that I shall produce as I am now stepping down as Treasurer after 12 years of continuous service in the post. My successor, Mrs Vicki Genrich is younger and, I suspect, more able and will, I am sure, prove well qualified to take the Association's financial affairs safely into the future. I wish her well and commend her to every member.

These are the second set of the Association's Annual Accounts that have been prepared by our Independent Examiner Mr B C Edmonds, FCCA, and I commend them to you.

I once again, and for the final time, record my thanks to the Chairman of the Association and to my fellow committee members for the support given to me in my role as Honorary Treasurer of the Gallipoli Association over the last 12 years.

W J Marsh, Honorary Treasurer

SUBSCRIPTIONS – 2011

Members are reminded that subscriptions become due on 1 January 2011. If you have not already arranged to pay your subscription by Direct Debit (or Standing Order under previous arrangements), please do so on, or before, the due date. Members paying by Standing Order are asked to check that the amount payable reflects the current rate of subscription.

A Membership Renewal Form (for those paying by cheque) is enclosed and should be sent, together with the subscription, to the Membership Secretary (address on renewal form and inside the front cover of the journal). The current rates are:

Members in the UK - £20 per annum (**£18 if paid by Direct Debit**)

Overseas Members - £25 per annum (**£22.50 if paid by Direct Debit**)

Those who subscribe via Paypal can obtain details for making or renewing payments from the Association website (www.gallipoli-association.org).

I would ask all UK members not already paying by **Direct Debit** to consider changing to this method of payment, as it is very labour saving and cost-effective for the Association. **It also attracts a 10% membership discount.** There are enhanced safeguards nowadays through the 'Direct Debit Guarantee Scheme' offered by banks and Building Societies, and the Association undertakes to notify members 30 days in advance if the amount paid, or the payment date, is to be changed.

Direct Debit forms can be downloaded from the Association website or obtained from me, or from John Crowe, the Membership Secretary.

Vicki Genrich, Hon. Treasurer

BURSARY VISIT TO TURKEY – MAY 2010

Association Bursaries were granted to two teachers from Smithdon High School, Hunstanton; namely Paul Mooney and Heidi Wright. Regrettably, Paul Mooney was taken ill at the 11th hour and unable to travel. He was replaced by Heidi's partner Louis Tunmore. The trip went ahead, both being accompanied by Membership Secretary, John Crowe.

On arrival at Istanbul, they were met by Baris Tas, founder of 'Gelibolu Dernegi', (the organisation in Turkey devoted to the study of the Gallipoli Campaign) who very kindly took them to their hotel. The following morning they were picked up and taken to Canakkale, again with the compliments of 'Gelibolu Dernegi'.

The group only had 2 days in Canakkale but a great deal was achieved. The first morning was spent visiting the same High School that had been visited by the Norfolk Army Cadet Bursary holders in 2007. Since that time email contact has been maintained with the school with a view to eventually establishing exchange visits between Norfolk and Canakkale. Heidi presented a letter from the Head Teacher of Smithdon High School. Gifts were exchanged and Heidi and Louis spoke to some of the students.

The President of 'Gelibolu Dernegi', Mr Suleyman Tas, a retired colonel, travelled from Ankara especially to meet the group. He personally arranged three visits in the afternoon – to the Mayor, The District Governor and the Army Colonel at the local military museum. All were presented with Gallipoli Association's Shields to commemorate the occasion. Suleyman Tas and his son are very keen and anxious to establish good relations between the two Associations and were keen to assist the group in Turkey in any way that they could.

The second morning was spent accompanying students from the High School in Canakkale, together with exchange students from Germany, to historic Troy. Heidi was keen to see how the two groups got on together since this would assist her when planning ahead for the joint exchanges with Norfolk. The group spent the afternoon visiting the peninsula. They saw that the Helles Memorial undergoing extensive improvements by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. They then visited 'V' Beach cemetery, Lancashire Landing, Pink Farm cemeteries and also Lt. Col. Doughty-Wylie's grave. With the informative display at the military museum together with their time on the peninsula, they were able to gain a valuable insight into the Gallipoli Campaign.

The assistance rendered by the 'Gelibolu Dernegi' Association in the form of its President, Suleyman Tas and his son Baris Tas, the founder, was instrumental in making the bursary visit a great success. Photographs taken during the visit can be found on pages 29 – 30.

COMMEMORATION OF MAJOR HERBERT JAMES VC MC

Over a hundred people gathered at the West London Crematorium, Kensal Green Cemetery on 2 July to attend a service of remembrance and the dedication of a plaque to commemorate Major Herbert Walter James VC MC.

Readers will be aware that the Gallipoli Association, together with the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, the Victoria Cross and George Cross Society, the Mercian Regimental Association, the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum in Australia (who purchased James' VC) and others contributed to the cost of the plaque.

The service in the cemetery chapel was led by Padre John C Duncan, Chaplain, 2 Mercian (Worcesters and Foresters) Regiment. The Gallipoli Association were represented by John Crowe, Simon Kleinig and Foster Summerson who gave the eulogy, the text of which is reproduced below:

"It is never easy to give a eulogy for someone you have not known personally but four things are apparent about Major James. That he was brave goes without saying – he was awarded the Victoria Cross, the Military Cross and received two Mentions in Despatches. He was also determined and had a true sense of duty – evidenced by the fact that despite being wounded three times, he returned to the Front. What is also noticeable is his modesty and unassuming manner. He never sought and indeed hated the limelight. However, the fact that he was essentially a 'private person' means that we know little about the 'real man'. So what follows is essentially a brief summary touching on the salient points in his life, which I hope will serve as a tribute to him.

Early Life

Herbert James was born on 31 October 1887. His father, Walter, was a jeweller and engraver, originally from Coventry. His mother, Emily, came from Walsall, marrying Walter in 1885. After their marriage they lived in Smethwick and had four children – Evelyn (the eldest), Herbert, Beatrice and Doris. Herbert attended Bearwood Road School in Smethwick, completing his education at the Smethwick Central School. One of his sisters later recalled:

"After he left the Smethwick Central School, it was decided that my brother should enter the scholastic profession. He became a trainee teacher; first at Bearwood Road School and then at Brasshouse Lane School; but he never seemed to care much for teaching. He seemed to be of a roving disposition, and wanted to go abroad; but his father did not wish him to do so. Things went on until he said that unless he was allowed to go abroad he would join the Army and one day he came home and said:

“I have enlisted”. The family, not surprisingly, were extremely concerned by his decision but he assured them “I shall come out all right, you need not worry”.

The Army

Herbert James joined the 21st Lancers at Canterbury in 1909 as a private soldier. He served in Egypt for three years and then India. At the outbreak of war in August 1914, he was still in India and had risen to the rank of Lance-Corporal. His potential had clearly been recognised because he was recalled to England for officer training. He was commissioned in November 1914, and a few months later joined the 4th Bn. Worcester Regiment, which had just returned from Burma.

2/Lt. James sailed for the Dardanelles – Gallipoli – with his battalion on 21 March 1915. The 4th Worcesters landed at ‘W’ Beach, Cape Helles, on the southern tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula, on 25 April. The following day, 2/Lt. James was wounded in the head and was evacuated to Malta. He returned to Gallipoli six weeks later. At this time, the 4th Worcesters were holding positions in Gully Ravine.

Gully Ravine

The VC citation only gives a very brief and formal account of the events that led to the award, and underplays the seriousness of the situation. This is what happened.

On the morning of 28 June 1915, the British launched a major assault on the Turkish lines, which became known as the ‘Action at Gully Ravine’. Gully Ravine is a deep water course – dry in summer – and was an important communication route for the British to the front line. The attack took place on Turkish positions on both sides of the Ravine but the advance on the right side stalled, and the attacking units suffered heavy casualties.

The Worcesters took no part in the assault but 2/Lt. James was attached as a liaison officer to the 5th Bn. The Royal Scots, who were in reserve. They were ordered forward in the afternoon, and also suffered heavy casualties. It was at that stage James was sent forward to assist. When he arrived, he found that all the officers involved in the assault had become casualties and that the Turks were launching counter-attacks. James assumed command and set about organising the defence. When this had been done he went back to battalion HQ to try and get help but none was available; on returning, he again took command and held the position against further Turkish attacks until nightfall when reinforcements arrived.

Four days later, when 2/Lt. James was back with the Worcesters, it was decided to mount a series of raids – bombing attacks – on Turkish forward positions. James led a party of 30 men, which initially made good progress. But Turkish resistance stiffened and all but four of his men became casualties. A Turkish counter-attack

killed two of the remaining group, so sending back the only other unwounded survivor for help, James fell back, keeping the Turks at bay by bombing from each bend of the twisting trench. Halfway back, he created a temporary barrier against the advancing Turks. Alternatively firing from behind the barricade, and rising to bomb the Turks, he kept them at bay until reinforcements arrived.

Award of the VC & Home

The award of the Victoria Cross was gazetted on 1 September 1915, when James – now a Lieutenant – was still in Gallipoli, and had further distinguished himself by bringing in two badly wounded men from No Man's Land. A month later, he was wounded in the foot and evacuated, first to Egypt, and then to the UK.

After treatment in a London Hospital, he was given convalescent leave and returned to Birmingham on 27 November. There were no crowds or fanfares to greet him. Indeed, there is strong evidence to suggest that he got an earlier train from Euston to avoid any 'fuss'. By coincidence, he ended up on the same train as another Birmingham VC – Arthur Vickers whose award had just been gazetted. Vickers got off to a large reception at New Street Station, while James left quietly in a taxi.



Lt. James outside Buckingham Palace on the day of his VC investiture

Once his arrival home was announced, reporters descended on the James' home. A photograph taken outside his house reveals a man not at ease with publicity. However, he could not avoid things altogether. On 7 December the Lord Mayor, Neville Chamberlain, proposed giving framed resolutions to James and Vickers at a public event. This was held in Victoria Square four days later, with hundreds of people present. By this time Vickers had returned to the Front, so James was alone. It must have been an ordeal for him. He attended several other celebrations in Birmingham, most notably the Christmas Dinner of the Smethwick Teachers' Association, and visits to his old schools where, perhaps, he was more at ease.

Return to the Front

The following year, Lt. James rejoined the Worcesters, who were now in France. In July 1916, he took part in the Battle of the Somme and was seriously wounded in the head during the fighting for the village of Contalmaison. He was evacuated back to England for treatment and it is said that he was never quite the same again. He married on 5 September 1916. The couple had a son, Anthony Howard James, who would follow his father into the army, also serving in the Worcesters.

James returned to active duty on 1 May 1917 and was promoted to General Staff Officer (Grade 3) with the rank of Temporary Captain on 18 August. He was promoted to Brigade Major the following year – again a temporary appointment. He was awarded the Military Cross on 16 October 1918, although no details of the award are known.

Post War Life

After the war, Lt. James decided to remain in the army. On 11 November 1920, he was one of those chosen to form the Guard of Honour for the burial of the 'Unknown Warrior' in Westminster Abbey. The same year he was promoted to Captain and transferred to the East Lancashire Regiment. James became a Brigade Major in the Aldershot Command in October 1927. The following year he transferred to the York and Lancaster Regiment where he remained until March 1930 when he retired on health grounds.

Little is known of him after he left the army although it appears that he never settled easily into family life. Both his marriages failed, and he seems to have become reclusive, devoting much of his time to buying and selling oil paintings. He was found unconscious in his lodgings, and died soon after on 15 August 1958. His funeral was attended by the Colonel of the Worcestershire Regiment, General Sir Richard Gale, who at the time was Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and other representatives of the Regiment.

Following the service his body was brought to Kensal Green for cremation. His ashes were scattered in the Crematorium gardens".

After the service, the guests moved to the Crematorium Atrium where the plaque was unveiled by **Pte. Alexander Kennedy MC**, 2 Mercian (Worcesters and Foresters) Regiment – see photographs on pages 30 – 31. Readers will no doubt be aware that Pte. Kennedy is the youngest recipient of the Military Cross since the Second World War; the award being made in recognition of his bravery for rescuing his wounded platoon commander under heavy enemy fire in Helmand Province, Afghanistan in June 2009. The ceremony concluded with the laying of wreaths and the sounding of Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths were laid by Foster Summerson on behalf of the Gallipoli Association and by Simon Kleinig, an Australian member living in London, on behalf of the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum.

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL LUNCH

John Crowe

The fourth annual lunch took place at the historic King's Lynn Town Hall on 25 June. Thirty members and guests attended, together with Councillor Trevor Manley, the Deputy Mayor of King's Lynn. Photographs taken during the day can be found on page 32. The occasion began with a welcoming glass of wine in the Stone Hall, where great interest was shown in display board featuring the activities of the Association and historic scenes from Gallipoli, with particular emphasis on information relating to the Norfolk Regiment's role in the campaign.

Lunch followed in the impressive Assembly Room. Grace was said by the Deputy Mayor who also proposed the loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen. A longstanding member, Lt. Commander Arthur Coxon, toasted the Association. Arthur's father was a Captain with the 5th Norfolk's at Gallipoli and was wounded and taken prisoner. His Grandmother, Nola Coxon, was the first Lady Mayor of King's Lynn. A family with strong Norfolk connections indeed!

This year's speaker was association member John Harvey. His subject was 'The Lonely Anzac'. John gave a moving account of the life of Sgt. Thomas Hunter. Born in County Durham, Thomas emigrated to Australia in 1910 and enlisted in the 10th Bn. Australian Infantry at the outbreak of war in 1914. After service in Gallipoli, he saw action on the Western Front. He was badly wounded at Pozieres and died from his injuries in the Peterborough Infirmary on 31 July 1916. John's book on Sgt. Hunter entitled '*The Lonely Anzac*' is currently out of print but can still be obtained through Amazon from time to time.

Another lunch has been booked for the same venue on Friday 24 June 2011. For further information and early bookings, please contact John Crowe (address inside the front cover) or email: johncrowe@uwclub.net

HAWICK'S GALLIPOLI COMMEMORATION

Tom Holmes

When the local Gallipoli Comrades' Association became depleted in numbers, Hawick Callants Club were asked to continue the annual Gallipoli commemoration. At 7.00pm on Monday 12 July, a large crowd watched as Club President Ronnie Nichol, accompanied by Honorary Provost Zandra Elliot, laid the Callants Club wreath at 'The Horse Monument' in tribute to over 50 men from Hawick who were killed on 12 July 1915 in Gallipoli, when more than half of the 1/4th (Border) Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers were wiped out in a single action. After a short silence, Alex Burgeon, recited Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen*.

The Company reassembled at 7.20pm at the town's museum in Wilton Lodge Park. There, Piper Colin Turnbull led Club President Nichol, Provost Elliot and the parade – including representatives from King's Own Scottish Borderers, British Legion, and the Ex-Servicemen's Club together with Past Presidents, Council and Members of Hawick Callants Club – to the War Memorial. Piper Turnbull then played a Lament and after Bugler Colin Crozier sounded the Last Post, President Nichol laid the Gallipoli Comrades Wreath. A minute's silence followed, ending with Reveille. Afterwards, an informal gathering was held in the Hawick Ex-Servicemen's Club.

AGM & AUTUMN LUNCH

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association was held at The Naval Club, on 20 October during which the Chairman and Treasurer presented their reports and the officers and committee of the Association were elected; their names being reproduced inside the front cover.

The AGM was followed by the ever popular Autumn Lunch and we were honoured to have our Patron, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh as our guest. In his speech of welcome, the Chairman recalled the visit made by Her Majesty, The Queen, and His Royal Highness to Gallipoli in October 1971 and the message Her Majesty sent to the Association at that time. The Chairman also noted that since becoming our Patron in 1982 his Royal Highness had been incredibly generous in the time he had devoted to Association events, and the support he has given in many other ways.

After lunch Col. Michael Hickey spoke on the subject of 'Men of Gallipoli' outlining the moving and sometimes humorous stories of some of those who served on the peninsula during the campaign. Photographs taken by the official photographer are on pages 33 – 34. Anyone wishing to see the complete photographic record and purchase a particular photograph can do so by going to www.markthomasphotos.com/naval A 9"x 6" colour print in a presentation mount costs £15.27 inc. VAT and postage.

ROOM FOR ONE MORE – A FORGOTTEN ANZAC

Pte. Edwin Tompkins finally honoured in his Australian hometown

Mike Irwin

Readers will recall the article, *New Headstone for Gallipoli Casualty*, which appeared in the Winter 2009 issue of *The Gallipolian* (No. 121) about the efforts of the Northamptonshire Branch of the Western Front Association (WFA) to have a new headstone erected on the grave of Pte. No. 54 Edwin Tompkins, 8th Bn. Australian Infantry in Dallington Cemetery, Northampton. Pte. Tompkins was seriously wounded soon after the landings at Anzac Cove and evacuated to Alexandria, and then to the 4th London General Hospital at Denmark Hill where he died of wounds on 16 August 1915.



Meeniyah c.1918

The article noted that Pte. Tompkins had enlisted from Meeniyah, a small town in the Gippsland area of Victoria Australia. Since I live in Gippsland, I decided to drive the hour or so to Meeniyah to photograph Tompkins' name on the war memorial, which I thought would make an interesting postscript! However, on arrival in Meeniyah, I found no mention of Tompkins. After making enquiries at the Post Office, I was directed to

Richard Powell, Secretary of Meeniyah & District RSL Sub-Branch. Richard was interested in the story but understandably wanted more information before he could submit any proposal to his committee.

Meeniyah is situated approximately 150km (90 miles) from Melbourne and had a railway line from 1891 until 1991. The area comprises rolling hills with dairy and grazing properties. Edwin worked on one of the many farms in the vicinity. The aboriginal name for Meeniyah means 'moon between the trees'. The main street is the South Gippsland Highway; in 1914 the town comprised 400 people, about 20 shops plus a local pub.

Back home, I looked up Pte. Tompkins' Service File on the Australian National Archives website. However, the 27 page file contained no mention of Meeniyah. Edwin had listed his father, Henry, in Northamptonshire, as next-of-kin. However, on further searching via the AIF Project site, the Embarkation Roll page for Tompkins clearly states Meeniyah as his address! This was enough for Richard Powell to begin the formalities to include the name on the Meeniyah Cenotaph.

Enlistment in the AIF

Edwin Tompkins most likely caught the steam train to Melbourne; the Recruitment Centre in Melbourne Town Hall being a short walk from Flinders Street Station. From there, he was directed to Broadmeadows Army Camp, approximately 20km away to be officially inducted. Most of the men in 'A' Company of the 8th Battalion were from Ballarat and surrounding goldfields towns.

As noted above, Edwin did not mention Meeniyah on his original Enlistment Form but it seems six weeks bonding with his Aussie tent mates and a slouch hat, was enough to claim Meeniyah as his home town on embarkation!

The landing at Gallipoli

The 8th Battalion began landing from the TS *Clan MacGillivray* in the 2nd wave of boats early on 25 April. Later in the morning most of the 8th were scattered on the right flank extending as far as Pine Ridge. Late in the afternoon, they were forced to withdraw to Bolton's Ridge. There, during the first few days, the Turks made repeated day and night attacks. It is likely that Edwin was critically wounded during one of these attacks around 28-30 April. On 1 May, Pte Percy Lay of 'A' Coy. wrote in his diary: *'Had a roll call and it was sad to see how many of our mates from 'A' Coy. were killed, missing or wounded. Rifle fire all along the line was very hot.'* Edwin was transferred to W Beach CCS and evacuated to Alexandria on 10 May.

Edwin's Family

In early 2010, David Parish made contact with a niece of Edwin Tompkins – Elise



Members of 'A' Coy., 8th Bn. at Broadmeadows Camp, Sept. 1914. Edwin (possibly 5th row back, 2nd from left) [Photograph – The All Australian Memorial]



The 2nd Brigade including 8th Bn. marching up Collins Street, Melbourne prior to embarkation October 1914 (AWM Photograph)

Daniels of Steetly, West Midlands. Elise, whose father Harry Tompkins was a brother of Edwin, is the custodian of family photographs and Edwin's service medals. Elise subsequently provided the following information on Edwin's life and family.

The Tompkins family

By Elise Daniels (Tompkins)

'Edwin's parents, Henry and Mary Ann, started married life in a small village. Edwin was born at Great Houghton, Northamptonshire in 1894, the eldest of 5 children. His siblings were Annie Nash (1896), Maggie (1898), Harry (1900 – the father of Elise Daniels) and William (c. 1902).

Henry Tompkins was a builder's labourer but early in the 1900's the family moved to Northampton where Henry became a tram driver. They lived in a shop opposite the tram depot. They also had a small holding about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. They grew produce to be sold in the shop. Later, the two sisters made hats and small items to sell in the shop.

On leaving school, Edwin worked as a farm labourer until old enough to join the army, the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry [see end note]. We don't know what prompted Edwin to emigrate to Australia. I thought he had joined a family member there: he had 4 uncles and one had emigrated to Canada! Perhaps it seemed the logical



The Tompkins shop in Northampton with school at side (Photograph: Elise Daniels)

thing to do! Harry Tompkins followed the same route as Edwin: from farm hand to joining the army as soon as he was able. William worked on the Railway at Northampton; the station was very close to where they lived.

Edwin was very close to his mother and left his few belongings to her when he died. In 1922, Mary Ann died of cancer. She was buried in the same grave as Edwin. The family never recovered from losing them both. My father (Harry) left the army to help at home. The sisters failed to run the shop and went to work in the local toy factory. After a year at home trying to motivate the family, Harry re-joined the army. Following postings to Germany (Occupation Force) and India, my parents married and lived at various army barracks in the south of England. Father (Harry) came out of the army in 1933. In 1937, we, (my parents and I – an only child) returned to Northamptonshire. Father's other siblings had remained in Northampton. My Grandfather Henry, after Mary Ann died, lived with Annie for some time before moving back to the country. Annie never married. Maggie became an antique dealer. William married and remained on the railway. My parents remained in Northamptonshire until father (Harry) retired. I had married and moved to Birmingham where we had two children. My husband died in 1964, after which my parents moved here to be closer and help support the children.

Thank you for the photographs and the trouble you have taken to have Edwin's name engraved on the Meenyan memorial.'

Another Tompkins in the AIF

The information from Elise Daniels led to the discovery of **Albert James Tompkins**, a cousin of Edwin; who enlisted in the 11th Battalion, AIF at Blackboy Hill Camp near Perth, Western Australia in August 1914.

Albert, from Towcester, Northamptonshire, was 3 years older than Edwin. Prior to coming to Australia in 1912, Albert spent 4 years in Alberta Canada where his uncle Fred had emigrated '*years before.*' It is likely that *Albert's* decision to come to Australia in 1912 may have influenced *Edwin* to also emigrate in 1913, albeit to opposite sides of Australia! Both Edwin and Albert would have spent over 4 months at the AIF Mena camp, near the Giza pyramids before the Gallipoli campaign and may well have got together in Cairo.

The 11th Battalion participated in the landings on 25 April where Albert's rank was a 'driver', not infantry. He was evacuated sick from Gallipoli on 19 May to Alexandria and suffered several bouts of illness throughout 1915. After serving in France, Albert returned to Australia in late 1918.

A letter from the Repatriation Commission in Melbourne 1925 states that 'Albert Tompkins had applied for a Service Pension, giving his postal address as Care – General Delivery, Vancouver BC Canada'. Their letter to him was returned 'unclaimed': and was the last page in his file.

The Dedication Service at Meeniyán

At Meeniyán, a stonemason was engaged and in July 2010 ‘Tompkins E’ was added to the list of WW1 casualties from the district. The memorial has 55 names on the 4 panels. All of these men were KIA, DoW or Died-in-Service; a high level of sacrifice from a small district population!



Top: Mary Tompkins – Younger Edwin. Bottom; Edwin in Cairo 1914 & after enlisting AIF (Photographs: Elise Daniels)

On 31 August, a large crowd assembled in Meeniyar to officially celebrate the inclusion of Edwin Tompkins' name on the cenotaph. The crowd included the recently re-elected Federal Member of Parliament, Russell Broadbent, local councillors, members of surrounding district RSLs wearing their service medals and the general public.

RSL Sub-Branch President Peter Hill conducted the service including *The Ode to the Fallen*, The Last Post, Silent Tribute & Reveille. I was honoured to be asked to be the guest speaker, and began by noting that:

'Edwin Tompkins chose to come to Australia; he chose to come to Meeniyar and he also chose to join the Australian army. It is therefore fitting that today, we welcome Edwin back to his Australian hometown where his name will be permanently remembered'.

I then gave an historical background to the project and read a letter of thanks from Elise Daniels. In conclusion, I paraphrased the poem, *The Soldier*, by Rupert Brooke, mentioned in the 2009 service at Dallington Cemetery:

*"If I should die
Think only this of me
That there's some corner of an English field
That is forever Australia"*

The solemn dedication was conducted by Rev Tom Binks. The final segment comprised laying of floral wreaths by RSL President Peter Hill, Richard Powell and myself. The Project was sponsored by donations from: the WFA Northamptonshire Branch, the Meeniyar RSL, Mike Irwin and a personal donation by a member of the Gallipoli Association in the UK.

Photographs of the memorial and some of those involved in the project are on pages 34–35.

Note: According to his enlistment form, Edwin served 1 year in the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry and had *'left to come to Australia'*.

Editor's Note: Mike Irwin has written a book on Pte. Tompkins entitled 'Room for One More' (58 pages softback) which has recently been published. At Meeniyar, copies of the book will be sold locally, with proceeds going to the Meeniyar RSL Welfare fund. Those in the UK interested in purchasing the book should contact the Editor who can arrange for delivery and advise on price and payment arrangements in £ sterling. Those living in Australia or New Zealand can contact Mike at mirwin@eftel.net.au

GALLIPOLI IN THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM'S LORD ASHCROFT GALLERY

Nigel Steel

The Imperial War Museum (IWM) has now had a gallery relating to the Victoria Cross and George Cross for over 40 years. Over the decades the location of the gallery has changed and its style of presentation has been modernised for an ever-changing audience.

On **12 November** the Museum opened its latest VC and GC gallery. At its heart lies the Lord Ashcroft Collection. Methodically acquired since 1986, Lord Ashcroft's collection of Victoria Crosses is not only the largest in the world – now totalling 164 – but it also spans the whole history of the award from the earliest awards in the Baltic at the start of the Crimean War through to the last one of the Twentieth Century. Civilian awards, ballots, early posthumous VCs, forfeitures – all are represented in the Lord Ashcroft Collection, and of course Gallipoli can be found there too.

Combined, the collections of the Imperial War Museum and Lord Ashcroft total over 240 VC and GC medal groups. To interpret such a huge number a whole host of new techniques have been used. Supporting the display of the medals themselves are artefacts directly linked to VC and GC actions such as the 'Jolly Roger' flag flown by Commander 'Tubby' Linton VC's submarine HMS *Turbulent*, scale models including the *SL11* German airship shot down by William Leefe Robinson VC on 2/3 September 1916, and full size replicas of key objects like the SC1000 bomb removed by Lieutenant Robert Davies GC from beneath St Paul's Cathedral on 12 September 1940. The life stories of every person featured in the gallery are told in a detailed and comprehensive interactive, and eight key stories are retold in animated cartoon films. The Lord Ashcroft Gallery is a very busy place and not somewhere for the faint-hearted who have no wish to learn.

But what of Gallipoli? How is it represented? There are 11 Gallipoli VCs in the gallery. Mostly they relate to Helles, but two are from Suvla. Five were awarded to the Royal Navy, and two by ballot.

Probably the most impressive group is that relating to the *River Clyde* landing on 25 April. Many members will remember that, in the old IWM VC and GC Gallery, we were fortunate to display the medals of Commander Edward Unwin RN and Midshipman George Drewry RNR. The Lord Ashcroft Collection holds the other three *River Clyde* VCs: Midshipman Wilfrid Malleson RN, Seaman George Samson and Able Seaman William Williams. In bringing both the IWM and Lord Ashcroft Collections together, all five will go on public display together for the first time. The medals are displayed in a single showcase underneath a short extract from the 1931 feature film,

Tell England, showing Unwin and Williams running down to secure the boats to the beach, and alongside the *Clyde*'s chronometer on loan from the Royal Hampshire Regiment.

In a different area of the gallery, there are also two of the famous 'six VCs before breakfast' awarded to the 1st Battalion, the Lancashire Fusiliers for their landing on W Beach. The Museum already has on display at IWM North the VC awarded to Captain Richard Willis and this will remain in Manchester. But now in London we are also able to show the medals awarded to Sergeant Alfred Richards and Corporal John Grimshaw. With the VCs are some of Richards's demobilisation papers recording the loss of his leg as a result of the landing, and some fragments of barbed wire picked up from the beach.

The day after the landing, as the troops on V Beach finally began to push into Sedd el Bahr, Corporal William Cosgrove of the Royal Munster Fusiliers distinguished himself by charging into the bank of barbed wire above the beach and tearing it down with his bare hands. From another Irish regiment in the 29th Division, Captain Gerald O'Sullivan twice tipped the balance in bombing fights during the intense trench warfare that developed along the upper reaches of Gully Ravine in June and July. The medals of both these men complete the Helles VCs.

Only weeks after his gallant actions at Helles, O'Sullivan was killed at Suvla on 21 August on the slopes of Scimitar Hill. Only a few hundred metres away on the same day, Trooper Fred Potts of the Berkshire Yeomanry was badly wounded. Joining up with Trooper Arthur Andrews, for two days the pair slowly inched back towards the British lines. On 23 August, in desperation, Potts loaded Andrews onto a shovel and pulled him back under heavy fire for more than 500 metres.

A fortnight earlier, in almost exactly the same place, Captain Percy Hansen, adjutant of the 6th Battalion, the Lincolnshire Regiment had brought in six men who had become isolated in the burning scrub following the forlorn attack from Green Hill on 9 August. The following month Hansen earned the Military Cross for a bold reconnaissance of Turkish positions on the seawards slopes of Kiretch Tepe. Later in the war he also received the Distinguished Service Order, making his medal group one of the few to show the VC, DSO and MC all together.

The new Lord Ashcroft Gallery at the Imperial War Museum has much to offer anyone. But for members of the Gallipoli Association it offers a particularly rewarding visit. We hope to see you all there.

Editor's Note: Nigel Steel, a long standing member of the Gallipoli Association, is Principal Historian, Lord Ashcroft Gallery at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London. I am most grateful to Nigel for providing this article at a time when he was extremely busy preparing for the formal opening of the new Gallery.

THE 29TH DIVISION MEMORIAL

The annual commemoration at the 29th Division Memorial, Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire will take place at 1130 for 1200 on **Sunday 13 March 2011** when a wreath will be laid on behalf of the Gallipoli Association. Wreaths will also be laid by representatives of other organisations, and by individuals. The memorial is in the centre of a large roundabout on the A45, at the junction with the B4455, about 5 miles east of Coventry (grid reference SP 415733). Please contact James Watson-Smith (address inside the front cover) for more information.

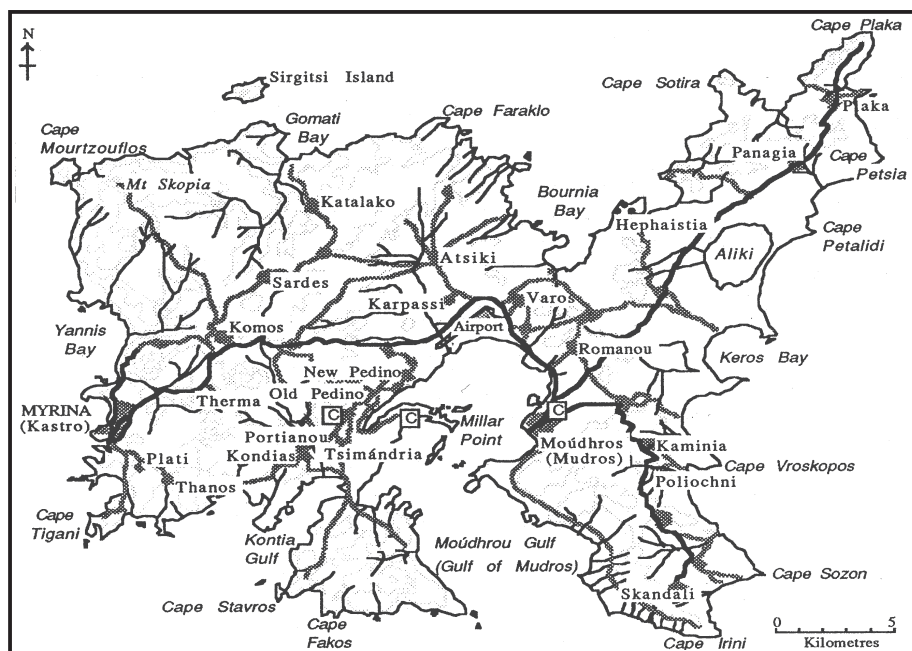
LEMNOS AND THE GREAT WAR

Member **Nigel Crompton** spent a week last year in Lemnos, the allied advanced base for the Gallipoli landings. There is also a family connection as his wife Val's great uncle was wounded at Gallipoli and they think it likely that he spent time on Lemnos. Nigel sent me an account of his trip, which I have abridged somewhat, together with some interesting photographs. The map is reproduced from *Gallipoli : A Battlefield Guide* by Taylor & Cupper (Kangaroo Press) ISBN 0-86417-272-9; in the Editor's view, the best guidebook to Gallipoli.

We started our journey at the Portianos Military Cemetery, which is situated on 'Anzac Street' in the village Portiano, The church at Portiano appears in a photograph showing a funeral cortege taken by A W Savage who served there in 1915. The cemetery was in use from August 1915 until August 1920. It contains 347 burials from the Commonwealth, with an additional 5 war graves from other nations. Despite the climatic conditions the up keep of the cemetery was to the usual high standards of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

Moving on, we followed Mudros Bay until we reached the settlement of Mudros itself, which is the second largest town on the island. East Mudros Military Cemetery (see CWGC photograph on page 35) is located on another 'Anzac Street'. This area is noted in war diaries and letters home from both the troops and the medical staff for flies. I can vouch for this, as it is still a factor today and made photography difficult. The gardener at East Mudros deserves an award for working in such difficult conditions but despite this the grass and flower beds are well maintained.

We were interested in finding the grave of a Gretna man who is buried at East Mudros Cemetery. Finding the headstone of Private D Murray, 1st Bn. Kings Own Scottish Borderers who died on 28 August 1915, we added a suitably worded cross. We spent some time in the cemetery, using details from the CWGC so we knew that burials had started in April 1915. The cemetery was closed for First World War burials in September 1919 although some later burials can be found there. Walking around we found memorials to fellow shipmates from their colleagues serving on HMS *Endymion*,



Lemnos (Limnos)

whilst a larger one commemorates crew from HMS *Agamemnon* lost in action. Also located in the grounds was a memorial and the last resting places of Russians who died during the evacuation of Novorossisk in 1921. East Mudros contains 885 Commonwealth burials including one from the Second World War.

We encountered a few problems finding the West Mudros Moslem Cemetery but with the help of the gardener at East Mudros Cemetery and the Balkans Office of the CWGC in Thessaloniki providing translation, we discovered its location and it was worth the trouble. The cemetery can be found by driving out of Portiano towards the coast and then taking the track heading to the left, before you reach the sea! The cemetery commemorates 170 men of the Egyptian Labour Corps and 57 members of the Turkish Armed Forces – none of which are marked individually being commemorated on a memorial in the cemetery. The Egyptian Labour Corps had been used extensively during construction work, building roads and railways in and around the hospitals in this area. A photograph of the cemetery and memorial is on page 36.

Returning to Mudros, we located the Dr Ross Bastiaan bronze plaque occupying a prominent place on the water front of the town. Just like those found on the Western Front and other sites where ANZAC troops fought, this gives a very interesting description of Australian involvement with Lemnos. It shows the locations of hospitals, convalescent areas and casualty clearing stations. According to a local we met, a number

of buildings from the Great War period can still be found in the area and perhaps on another visit we might try and track these down.

We located the sites of several of the hospitals near East Mudros although it is difficult to find anything tangible on this side of the bay due to the use of tents and timber framed buildings at the time. However, using the maps and bit of leg work you can find out at least where these sites were. At different times the following hospitals and camps were located in the area:

Number 1 Australian Stationary Hospital with 624 beds

Number 15 British Stationary Hospital with 624 beds

Number 16 British Stationary Hospital with 624 beds

The Indian Field Ambulance Hospital with 150 beds

A Convalescent Camp plus a Medical Supply Ship moored in the bay

We had also consulted the Regimental History of The Royal Engineers and were able to see the general location of Egyptian, Australian and Ispatho Piers. The last is located of the island of Koukonisi to the north of the town, accessible by causeway. It was near here that the supply vessel was moored.

Leaving Mudros, we decided to go for a drive around the island and discovered a war memorial in the village of Atsiki. It was only later I found that those listed were local soldiers who had died fighting during the Battle Skra di Legen, up on the Balkan Front, in May 1918.



The memorial at Atsiki to those who died in the Battle of Skra di Legen

The following day, we decided this time to concentrate on the other side of Mudros Bay near to the villages of Tsimandia, Kontias, Nea Koutali, Portiano and lastly Pedino. Pedino was useful as a point to locate the hospitals on the opposite side of the bay. The small harbour and promenade is a great place to enjoy a cold drink whilst mulling over where best to head for! At this point you could take three different routes. One is the causeway near Pedino. Coming off the causeway you are in the area of Nos.1 and 3 Canadian Stationary Hospitals and by moving further up the track you pass the site of No. 18 British Stationary Hospital, then the ground once occupied by No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital with 624 beds, and finally in this sector No. 3 Australian General Hospital which had 1,700 beds available (see photograph on page 36). Following on were the Director of Works, Stores, a Signal Office and to the left as you drop down into a valley were Water Pier, a desalination plant and on the right the Royal Engineers stores. This is the most interesting area as we located a number of foundations and the remains of piers and jetties. A small white chapel found in this area, and more importantly marked on the plans in the National Archive, is a very good point to start any exploration.

After spending some time tracing Railway Pier and walking around Pioneer Pier and Supply Jetty we tried to locate any remains of the railway depot or track bed. Unfortunately we didn't find anything of note and so continued towards the village of Tsimandia, skirting along the sea in an attempt to find any indication of Hospital Pier without success. This was a disappointment, as the pier would have given us our bearings for what was marked on the plans as 'The Dardanelles Hospitals'. These appear to have been large establishments although Dr Bastiaan's plaque only shows No. 27 British General Hospital with 1040 beds on the site. Retracing our steps, we also endeavoured to find the area of Sarpi Rest Camp, which was predominantly used by ANZAC Troops. A large number of the photographs we found for our research followed the arrival of nurses to Lemnos. These feature their working conditions, the construction of hospitals, roads plus views of Mudros Bay and the shipping.

Is a trip to Lemnos worthwhile? In simple terms I think the answer is a very positive 'yes'. The memorials and CWGC sites are well worth stopping at, and by doing research you can learn a great deal. Perhaps too, if you had a longer stay than we had the visitor might understand something of the difficulties faced by those men and women who served there, especially during the first few months of the island's military occupation.

However, apart from the Bronze Plaque on the water front in Mudros there is nothing else immediately visible to explain what happened here during the Great War, including the signing of the Armistice between the Turks and the Allies in October 1918. Even a collection of photographs on show might serve to increase visitors' knowledge. The Tourist Office in Myrina could offer us nothing of interest for the Great War period. However, a lady we met in the Nea Koutali Museum of Maritime Tradition & Sponge Fishing, along with a group of local residents, are keen to establish a museum dealing with the impact the Great War had on this island and have plans to renovate a building relating to this period in the islands history.



Bursary recipient Heidi Wright at the Helles Memorial [Page 9]



Bursary recipient Heidi Wright and John Crowe meet the District Governor [Page 9]



Bursary recipient Heidi Wright meets the Head Teacher of the Canakkale High School
[Page 9]



Padre John C Duncan (Chaplain, 2 Mercian) welcomes those attending the Service of Remembrance to commemorate Major Herbert W James VC MC [Pages 10–14]



The plaque commemorating Major James VC MC [Pages 10–14]



Pte. Alexander Kennedy MC (2 Mercian), Padre John Duncan (2 Mercian) and L/Cpl Terry Hissey RAMC (V) following the unveiling and wreath laying [Pages 10–14]



John Harvey (left) the speaker at the East Anglian Regional Lunch and other guests study the displays about the campaign in the Stone Hall, Kings Lynn [Page 14]



Group photograph of those attending the East Anglian Regional Lunch [Page 14]



His Royal Highness talks with Association members before the Autumn Lunch [Page 15]



Association members applaud His Royal Highness following the Chairman's speech of welcome at the Autumn Lunch [Page 15]



Col. Michael Hickey speaking at the Autumn Lunch [Page 15]



[Left to right] Peter Hill (President), Richard Powell (Secretary) Meeniyen & District RSL Sub Branch and Mike Irwin lay floral tributes at the Meeniyen Cenotaph [Pages 16–22]



Some of those involved with the commemoration of Pte. Tompkins at the Meeniyen Cenotaph in main street (the South Gippsland Highway) [Pages 16–22]



East Mudros Military Cemetery [Pages 25–28]



The West Mudros Moslem Cemetery situated high on the road out of Portiano with commanding views over Mudros Bay [Pages 25–28]



The general area of the No 3 Australian General Hospital and the medical store site. The harbour is a recent addition. Located close to the harbour was Hospital Pier [Pages 25–28]

**THE LANDING FROM THE 'RIVER
CLYDE' AT V BEACH – 25 APRIL 1915 BY
A COMPANY COMMANDER IN THE 1ST
ROYAL MUNSTER FUSILIERS**

The above is the title of a report contained in the War Diary of the 1st Bn. The Royal Munster Fusiliers held at The National Archives (NA) under reference WO 95/4310 and is reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees. The report is reproduced as it appears in the original other than the omission of full stops where initials and decorations are used, and some paragraphing adjustments.

The author is not named but is almost certainly **Captain G W Geddes** of X Company. This seems to be confirmed by the account of the landing at ‘V’ Beach in the *Official History of the War: Military Operations – Gallipoli (Volume 1)* where Geddes is referred to, and a sketch map he drew (reproduced below) can be found.

The account begins:

After three weeks at MUDROS, during which we practised landing from our Transport into ships boats – in full marching order – by the aid of a pilot's rope ladder, we left at 5.30pm on April 23rd for the great adventure. A perfect evening, as we steamed steadily out on HMHT 'CALEDONIA' an incident memorable for its solemnity and one might say grandeur. Men-o-War, Transports and ships of every sort "Dressed Ships". All the crews cheering us on our way, and those with bands playing us a farewell. What struck me most forcibly was the demeanour of our own men, from whom, not a sound, and this from the light hearted, devil may care men from the South of Ireland. Even they were filled with a sense of something impending which was quite beyond their ken.

We arrived at RABBIT ISLAND [which lies between Tenedos and Imbros] early the following morning, the wind had got up and, in consequence, the sea. Wild rumours were prevalent that the elements might force a postponement. However, at 4.30 we transhipped to an ex-channel steamer and went aboard the RIVER CLYDE, which we had previously inspected at MUDROS Harbour.

The Battalion was accommodated on the RIVER CLYDE as follows:

FORWARD MAIN DECK HOLD X Coy. Comdr. Capt. G W Geddes
Z Coy. Comdr. Capt. C L Henderson

FORWARD LOWER HOLD Y Coy. Comdr. Major C H B Jarrett
W Coy. Comdr. Major W K Hutchinson

Two Companies of the Hampshires, and one Company of the Dublins were in the after part of the CLYDE.

The Orders regarding the landing had been given us at MUDROS on HMHT 'CALEDONIA', and we all knew our job and what was expected of us, but, we felt we should have liked to have viewed in reality the scene of our landing beforehand. The maps issued were indifferent, and painted but a poor picture of the topographical features as we found out later.

The Orders issued by the Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel H E Tizard were briefly:

1. That the Battalion would embark on the RIVER CLYDE, which, under the guns of the Navy (HMS ALBION) would be beached at dawn on Z day. The intervening gap between the CLYDE and the shore would be bridged by lighters. Large Ports in the sides of the RIVER CLYDE would be cut, from which gangways would be let down to the lighters.
2. Strict orders were given that the signal to 'Go' would be given by the Naval Authorities, and no movement until then.
3. X Company. Cmdr. Captain G W Geddes was ordered to disembark on the Port Side. Objective Fort No. 1. (I think Hill 112).

Z Company. Comdr. Capt. C L Henderson to disembark from the Starboard side. Objective SED-EL-BAHR FORT & VILLAGE.

Y Company. Comdr. Major C H B Jarrett in support.

W Company. Major W K Hutchinson with 4 Vickers Guns under Lieut. Dorman in Reserve on the RIVER CLYDE.

In the early hours of April 25th we sailed from RABBIT ISLAND. I had been lucky to make friends with Commander Josiah Wedgewood MP RNVR who gave me a shake down on his cabin floor, and I got a hot cup of chocolate, so had a very pleasant night's rest, Dawn broke on April 25th a beautiful morning and not a breath of wind, and a slight haze, which rapidly disappeared.

The RIVER CLYDE beached according to plan at 6.30. None of us felt it, there was no jar. As she beached 2 Companies of the Dublins in "TOWS" came up on the Port side and were met with a terrific rifle and machine gun fire. They were literally slaughtered like rats in a trap. The steamer hopper towing the lighters from the CLYDE was either shot away or broke loose, anyway it beached alone. The lighters swung cross-ways across the bows of the River Clyde. In the meantime the Dublins were struggling to get ashore.

Within five minutes of the CLYDE beaching Z Company got away on the Starboard side. The gangway on the Port-side jammed, and delayed X Company for a few seconds, and off we went the men cheering wildly, and dashed ashore with Z Company.

We got it like anything, man after man behind me was shot down but they never wavered. Lieut. Watts who was wounded in five places and lying on the gangway cheered the men on with cries of “follow the Captain”. Captain French of the Dublins told me afterwards that he counted the first 48 men to follow me, and they all fell. I think no finer episode could be found of the men’s bravery and discipline than this – of leaving the safety of the RIVER CLYDE to go to what was practically certain death.

Leaving the CLYDE I dashed down the gangway and already found the Lighters holding the dead and wounded from the leading platoons of Z Company [The next words – ‘including 2nd Lieut. O’Sullivan an ex CSM, a fine fellow’ – are crossed out from the original text.] I stepped on the second lighter and looked round to find myself alone, and yelled to the men following out of the CLYDE to come on, but it was difficult going across the Lighters. I then jumped into the Sea and had to swim some dozen strokes to get ashore. There is no doubt that men were drowned owing chiefly, I think, to the great weight they were carrying – a full pack, 250 rounds of ammunition, and 3 days rations – I know I felt it. All the Officers were dressed and equipped like the men.

There was a small rocky spit jutting out into the sea, which was absolutely taped down by the Turks and few, if any, survived who attempted to land there.

We all made, Dublins and all, for a sheltered ledge on the shore which gave us cover. Here we shook ourselves out and tried to appreciate the situation, rather a sorry one. I estimated that I had lost about 70% of my Company, 2nd Lieut’s Watts and Perkins were wounded and my CQM. Sgt killed. Henderson was wounded. He died from his wounds later. Lieut. Pollard killed, and 2nd Lieut’s. Lee and Lane wounded, all of Z Company. Captain Wilson, the Adjutant, and Major Monck Mason were wounded on the CLYDE itself.

Seeing that SED-EL-BAHR and the beach to our Right was unoccupied, and fearing the Turks might come down I called for volunteers to make a dash for it, and make good the Right of the Beach. The men responded gallantly. Picking Sergt. Ryan and 6 men we had a go for it. Three of the men were killed, one other and myself wounded. However we got across, and later picked up 14 stragglers from the Company of the Dublins who had landed at CAMBAN BAY. This little party attempted to get a lodgement inside the Fort but we couldn’t do it so we dug ourselves in as well as we could with our intrenching tools. Sergeant Ryan made some daring reconnaissances during the day, reporting the further side of the FORT well held.

I reported to Colonel Tizard by semaphore from the shore that I could do nothing, as I had no men left. He told me to go for my objective Fort No 1. but it could not be done. About two hours afterwards Lieut. Tomlinson and three men crawled over to me.

At about 1100 hours Major Jarrett with half of Y Company landed and met the same fate as the rest of us, after which no further landing was attempted.

The Guns of HMS "ALBION" did no material good.

At about 8.30 pm when it was quite dark Major Jarrett, Lieut's Russell, Lee & Nightingale with the remnants of W, Y & Z Companies came over to me without molestation. I suggested to Jarrett that the best thing was to establish oneself in the FORT and try and get the village of SED-EL-BAHR. He was killed alongside me, and shortly after Lieut's Russell and Lee were wounded.

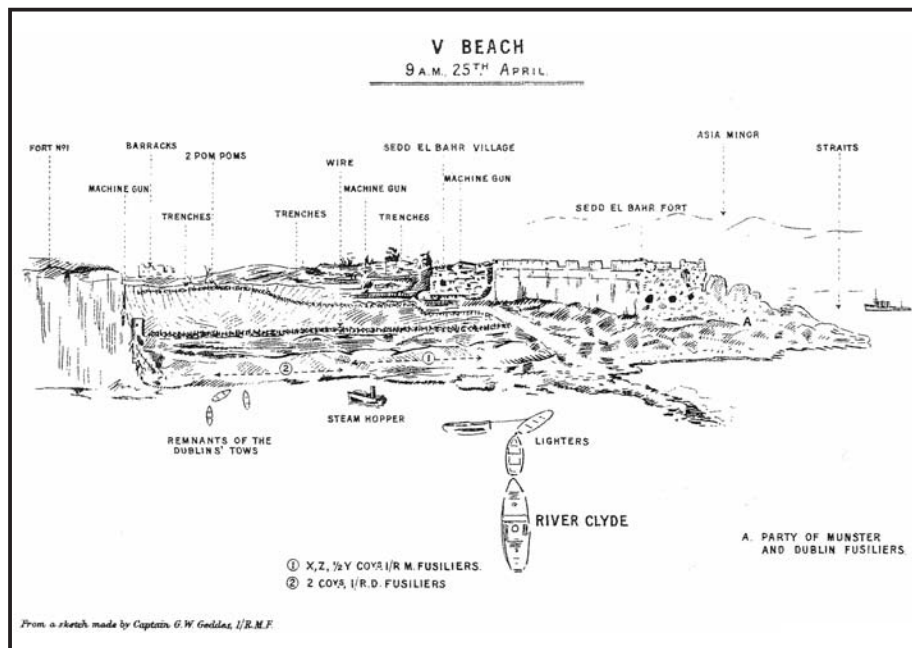
Suddenly Major Williams and Beckwith appeared out of the dark with two Companies of the Hampshires from the River Clyde. Not a shot being fired as they were unobserved. Major Williams asked me about the situation and I told him all I knew, and that I was going to get my wound dressed. I had been hit then for 13 hours and was rather doubled up with stiffness and feared gangrene. The situation was now in far better hands than mine. I got my wounds dressed on the River Clyde and with about 200 other wounded was put on a trawler where we tossed about the whole of a bitter cold night till we were taken aboard HMHT. "ALAUNIA" at 0730 hours the next morning.

[There follows what appear to be conclusions or points that the writer wished to stress]

The Turkish fire was opened on us immediately we debouched from the RIVER CLYDE. They seemed to have the water edge particularly marked. V Beach formed an Amphitheatre about 300X [yards?] in diameter with SED-EL-BAHR FORT on the Right, and on the Left high cliffs surmounted by Fort No.1. In no instance was the range greater than 300 yards. There were two lines of trenches in front of each barb wire fence, the most fearsome I saw on any front. Solid metal stakes riveted to plates sunk in the ground.

Each belt of wire was about 15 feet thick. I have an interesting photograph which shows the men detailed as wire cutters, dead in front of the wire. I estimated the strength of the Turks at 400 to 500, with 2 Pom-Pom and 6 Machine Guns. They had Machine Guns.

There was little or no fire from SED-EL-BAHR. The fire came chiefly from the high ground in enfilade from the Left, and the Village itself. The attached rough panorama sketch will perhaps describe better than words.



*V Beach : 9am 25 April – From a sketch made by Captain G W Geddes
[The Official History of the War : Military Operations, Gallipoli (Vol. 1)]*

As regards my own personal feelings:-

I felt we were for it. That the enterprise was unique and would demand all I was possible of giving, and more. That it was no picnic but a desperate venture. I just longed to get on with it and be done with it. I felt I was no hero and that I had not the pluck of a louse. My nerves were tense and strung up, and yet, I never doubted that we would not win through, because I knew the splendid fellows at my back, highly trained, strictly disciplined, and they would follow me anywhere.

Once started, everything went, one forgot and during that long day one had no fear or doubt, and it all seemed quite ordinary. Curiously one never felt the want of food or drink. Except for a cup of chocolate I had had nothing to eat or drink since lunchtime the 24th, till I got a cup of tea in the trawler the night of the 25th.

[Then follows a manuscript note – perhaps to stress again that the Turks had machine guns – ‘CSM J O’Shea DCM now serving in the 15th Foot [East Yorkshire Regiment] picked up Turkish Machine Gun Belt Boxes’]

HOLBROOK, NEW SOUTH WALES

Tom Brooks from Canada kindly sent me an article, published in the June 2010 issue of *Navy News*, entitled 'Hero Township'. I tend to shy away from anything that is headlined 'hero', which your Editor considers a much over used word in today's media. However, putting personal opinions aside, I read the article and found that it related to the town of Holbrook, New South Wales [See Note 1].

The author of the article, **Stuart Gardiner**, originally from Portsmouth, England found himself in Holbrook and did not immediately make the connection with Lt. Norman Holbrook VC who came from his home town. However, Gardiner was aware from history lessons at the Portsmouth Grammar School that in December 1914 Norman Holbrook had taken his the small submarine B11 half-way up The Narrows to sink the Turkish battleship, *Mesudiye* below Chanak.

On making enquiries of the Woolsack Museum in the town, Gardiner was told that the town was founded in the early 1830s by an Irishman, John Purtell, who called it 'Ten Mile Creek' but from around the 1860s it became known as 'Germanton', on account of the many German farmers in the area. But after the outbreak of war in 1914 pressure mounted for a change in the name with an editorial in a local paper commenting '*... This name is especially distasteful owing to the hideous atrocities perpetuated by German soldiers in Belgium*'. Various names were considered including Livingstone, Briton and Freedom but in April 1915 the town became Holbrook. Two (unnamed) local poets celebrated the occasion in verse, one of which is reproduced below:

*Oh name of warrior bold,
We hail thee with joy
For Germanton is cold
And Holbrook is the boy.*

*Goodbye to a name that smells
Through deed doubly ignoble
And ring in with bells
The name of one so noble.*

*Flash the good news out
Send it to the Dardanelles:
For there our boys will shout
"Germanton has gone to hell"*

The article in *Navy News* notes that the Town Council's records are silent on whether Norman Holbrook was consulted about his name being used but when he visited a friend in Australia in 1956 the two decided to visit Holbrook. According to a local

historian who was present at the time, ‘... *the commander didn’t say a word. It was his mate who said “by the way, this is the fellow who you’ve named your town after”*. The historian added that ‘*Holbrook impressed everyone with his modesty and the town made him a celebrity*’.

Holbrook visited the town again in 1969 and 1975. On his death in 1976 [Note 2] his widow (Mrs Gundula Holbrook) presented his sword and medals and other mementos to the town, which are displayed on special occasions. His picture also hangs in the Council Chamber alongside those of the mayors and opposite that of HM The Queen. There is also a Holbrook Memorial Park in which a sculpture of Holbrook stands close to a memorial to the town’s pioneers and nearby is a 1:7 scale model on the B11.

The article also notes that in 1986, notwithstanding that the town is 400 kms away from the coast, Holbrook declared itself ‘Submarine Capital of Australia’ and presented ‘Freedom of Entry’ to the Sydney based Royal Australian Navy Submarine Squadron. The link came to an end in 1992 when the squadron was relocated to Perth but as a parting gift the Navy sent the town the fin of HMAS *Otway*, an Oberon-class submarine. When the council heard that the *Otway* was to be scrapped, they asked for the rest of the boat and set about fund-raising! This did not go well but out of the blue came a substantial donation from Mrs Gundula Holbrook and the vessel was transported by low-loader to Holbrook. Today all 90 metres of HMS *Otway* is situated in a park opposite the Holbrook Memorial Park. There is also a Holbrook Submarine Museum.

Notes:

1. The link between the town of Holbrook and Commander Holbrook VC has featured before in *The Gallipolian* – No. 83 (Spring 1997) and No. 87 (Autumn 1998). However, I thought this further account, which contains additional information, might be of continued interest to readers.
2. Commander Holbrook was a member of the Gallipoli Association (No. 294).

LETTERS FROM GALLIPOLI

Readers will recall that in the Spring and Autumn issues of *The Gallipolian* (Nos. 122 and 123) I published a series of letters from L/Cpl. Colin Wilson who served with the 1/6th Manchesters which landed on 6/7 May as reinforcements during the Second Battle of Krithia.

The letters told his parents of his arrival in Gallipoli and the battalion’s move first into the reserve trenches, then into the firing line and his experiences there. L/Cpl. Wilson and his comrades had been fortunate to experience a fairly quiet time in the trenches.

The next letter notes that not much had happened but things were to change dramatically the following day.

Lance-Corporal C Wilson No. 1035
 'C' Coy' 1/6th Manchesters
 East Lancs. Division
 Mediterranean Expeditionary Force
 June 5th [3rd?] 1915

Dear Mother,

Got the parcel thanks very much also the letters dated May 7th. 9th, 13th, 17th and 18th. We are still in the front line and doing alright and I am still feeling OK.

Sorry Alec [Colin's brother] has been rejected by the RAMC, can understand him feeling it and wanting to be out here or in France but tell him to stick to Red Cross work and tell him to take my tip. If he came on active service he might find he preferred doing the useful work he is doing now at home than trying to do something he is not physically fitted for.

Am enclosing a post card I received from Mr G. Notepaper and envelopes are very short. Every letter I have written home since landing I have had to buy paper and envelopes so if my letters stop you know the reason.

Annie tells me she is having here teeth drawn. I wish I was at home. I'd kid her, and talking about teeth, I broke one of mine in the front at the top through being too eager with the hard biscuits. Harry [Teare – a friend of Colin's – see letter below] wishes to be remembered, he is alright but I am sorry to say Teddie Ogden was wounded this morning. Last night we slept in a gully and unfortunately there was not much protection.

Saw young Jack [a friend of Colin's in another company of the Manchesters] the other day, he was OK. Not much has happened since I wrote last, we are all cheerful as B4 [before] and are "keeping the men out of the damp" etc. etc.

Excuse short letter, writing is an awkward job now I have lost my roll top desk!

My love to all. I am always thinking of you particularly, the old 'Moth'.

Colin

Sadly, the above letter – which appears to be wrongly dated – was the last written by Colin

Wilson who is recorded as being killed in action on 5 June 1915. It would appear, however, from papers in the family's possession that Colin's parents were not told immediately that he had been killed. They were probably notified that he was 'missing' since Mr or Mrs Wilson sent a telegram to the Territorial Records Office at Preston seeking more information. They received a reply by telegram on 27 June stating that he had been killed in action on 5 June. This was followed by confirmation on Army Form B 104-82.

The following brief account of the action in which Colin Wilson was killed – the Third Battle of Krithia – is taken from *Notes and Comments on the Dardanelles Campaign* by Lt. Col. A Kearsy DSO OBE.

'Preparations were being made for another general attack to be delivered on 4 June at Helles ... The advance began at midday on June 4th, after a 2¹/₂ hour bombardment which continued until the moment of the assault.

On the right of the [British] line, the 1st French Division was successful in capturing the trenches on their front. The 2nd French Division, on the left of the 1st Division, stormed and captured a strong redoubt at the head of Kereves Dere. At this point of contact between the French and British forces, the Turks were able to check the general advance. The Royal Naval Division (RND) obtained possession of the line of trenches immediately on their front. On the left of this division, the Manchester Brigade of the 42nd Division within half an hour had advanced 500 yards into the Turkish second line. Further west the 29th Division captured the Turk's front line trenches.

The Turks in force now counter-attacked against the redoubt at the head of Kereves Dere. They were well supported by artillery and managed to retake it. From this position they were able to enfilade the RND, who had to relinquish the redoubt they had captured and lost heavily in crossing open ground under machine gun fire. In supporting this withdrawal 'the Collingwood Battalion of the RND was practically destroyed' (Despatches).

The Manchester Brigade, in an advanced position which they had gained, were in turn enfiladed when the RND were back in their old trenches. This brigade suffered heavy losses during the five hours in which they maintained their position in the hope that the rest of the line would come up to them again. The advance, however, was not possible and the Manchester Brigade had finally to withdraw to the first line of the captured trenches ...

During the next 10 days there were frequent Turkish counter attacks directed to regain the ground lost on June 4th...'

Colin's parents received at least two letters from his friends about his death. The information does not correspond in every respect, but there is some similarity between

the two accounts. The first letter – from Colin’s friend, Jack – is dated 20 July and appears to have been written in reply to an earlier one from Colin’s father:

‘I am awfully sorry you had to break the news to Mrs Wilson but isn’t it better she should know as soon as possible.

I gather from his Sergeant that he did excellent work. The Sergeant was in the first Turkish trench with only a few men, so he signalled to the third trench for reinforcements, so a Sergeant, Colin and about 30 men ran out over open ground. The Sergeant was hit and Colin was left to get the men across as best he could, but only about 6 of them landed, as he was getting over the parapet he was killed.’

The next letter sent on 14 August, was from Colin’s friend 2/Lt. Harry Teare:

‘D’ Coy’
1/8th Manchester Regt.
M. E.F.
August 14th 1915

Dear Mrs Wilson,

I have tonight received Mother’s letter dated 21 July saying you had written a nice letter to her enquiring about my address. If I had known where to write to you before I should certainly have written but although Colin and I so often spoke about you and Annie and also about my people, we never had each other’s home address, all I knew was that it was Moss Side. I wrote home immediately after the 4th telling them about Colin and also my own brother Tom and I think I mentioned something about them finding out your address in one of my more recent letters.

Colin was in Company ‘C’, but in my brother’s platoon and not in mine, and the first I saw of him after we had charged was when he came back under great risk with a message for urgent need of reinforcements for Capt. Pilkington who was killed before they could reach him. We were more to the left of where Colin’s platoon were but he guided us to the place only to be too late to be any good as our men had to retire and the Capt. lost his life there. Then we lay under the worst shrapnel fire in the open without the slightest bit of cover all the afternoon when I was sent back with a message to the headquarters. On my way back I met Colin who had also been sent with a reply to the message so we both went to Battalion Headquarters together and explained the position of affairs – all the officers in the quarter we had come from had been killed and things were in a bad state for us. After being told to stay for a few minutes and have something to eat, Colin was asked to lead our Colonel and Major to the nearest place to them. It was then nearly dark. In the meantime our men in front at the part we had both come from had retired, and the Turks were advancing in large numbers. That was the last I saw of Colin – I was detailed to take a party carrying ammunition to them immediately

afterwards but I got a little more to the left than where Colin was. Both Colin and myself were in great danger both in taking the messages and going back but we got to our destinations safely.

During the night the Turks attacked strongly and it was I believe about 1.00am that Colin lost his life. He was looking over the parapet when a bullet hit him in the head. One thing I am certain of from all the information I could gather is that he did not suffer, he was killed instantly. I did not hear till the next morning and the Turks were then in the trench he lost his life in and are still in it. Also we had to evacuate the trench we were in and go further back. We went too far [in the attack?], if we had only been satisfied in taking 3 trenches instead of 5 and having to leave 2 there would not have been anywhere near the loss of life there was, but those things cannot be helped. The chief cause of us having to retire was that the French on our right and the Regulars on our left did not meet with the same success as we did in the centre and our flanks were exposed. I am sorry to say that Colin could not be buried but was left in the trench when our men retired a quarter of an hour later, so I cannot say he was buried. The Turks would bury him I feel certain.

It was an awful time for all of us. My brother lost his life or is a prisoner on the 6th June. It is terrible, all my friends have gone now and a number have been killed since, how I have come through without a scratch I don't know but with God's help I hope to come home when this terrible business is over and then I will come and tell you all I know, it is very hard to explain in a letter.

After June 4th I was recommended for a Commission and am now a 2nd Lieut. in the 8th Manchesters. Had Colin lived I feel certain he would have received promotion for the excellent work he did under heavy fire. I took Colin's photo 3 days before, and have sent the films home to be developed by a Sergt. invalided home. I would like you to go and see my mother and she will let you have a print. It is a group. All the poor chaps are gone now I think. I hope it is a good photo.

Needless to say, Colin's death upset me very much as we were the best of friends and never had the slightest disagreement on any subject.

There is one consolation for you – your son was as brave a man as ever stepped on this Peninsular. I shall be glad if you would convey my sympathy to Mr Wilson, also to Annie. I forget her other name. Colin often talked about you all. I shall be very pleased to hear from you if there is anything else I can tell you.

Yours sincerely

Harry J Teare
2nd Lieut.



The photograph referred to by Harry Teare in his letter. Colin Wilson is believed to be the soldier lying down – second from the right.

On 21 December 1915 the War Office wrote to Mrs Wilson enclosing a certified document setting out the terms of the Will made by Colin on 4 May 1915 (see his letter of 29 May in issue No. 123). This included a statement made by Lt. Col. C R Pilkington (the brother of Capt. Pilkington) on 27 July 1915 and witnessed by Lt. W Wynne (both of the 1/6th Manchester Regiment) certifying that the Pay Book (which contained the original Will) ‘was destroyed for hygienic reasons’.

The family placed the following notice in the local paper – one of many listing casualties in the Manchester Regiment, which appeared in that fateful month.

WILSON – Killed in action at Dardanelles on June 5th. Lance-corporal COLIN O WILSON, O Company [this should have read ‘C’ Coy.] No. 1035, 6th Bn. Manchester Regiment, age 25, dearly loved and eldest son of W F and Eleanor Wilson, 55 Barton-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

Long after his death, Colin’s father made a claim for a pension in respect of his late son and was awarded 12/- a week with effect from 22 September 1933.

Colin Wilson is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. Also commemorated there is Sgt. Thomas Arthur Teare (the brother of 2/Lt. Harry Teare), 6th Manchesters, age 26, who was killed in action on 6 June 1915. Harry Teare survived the war.

MAJOR GODFREY BARKER, RMLI DRAKE BN, ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

Patrick Harland

Nick Fear's excellent account of his interview in 1979 with Petty Officer William Flook of Drake Battalion, which was published in the Autumn 2010 issue of *The Gallipolian* (No. 123), helped to illuminate what little I know about my uncle, Godfrey Barker, who was my mother's dearest and favourite brother, in a family of ten children. Like William Flook, Uncle Godfrey took part in and survived the disastrous campaign around the forts near Antwerp at the beginning of the Great War and later sailed for Gallipoli on the SS *Franconia*. Godfrey Barker was Adjutant of Drake Battalion. [Note 1]

Drake Battalion had been held in reserve after the initial landings, but were ordered to reinforce Cape Helles on 26 April 1915 at 8.30pm, landing on W Beach. Flook's memory of '*... fifty or sixty men apparently sleeping on the shore ... until he realised that they were all dead*' must have been harrowing. And then having to dig in with the surviving Lancashire Fusiliers on top of the cliffs above W Beach as they came under direct Turkish fire must have concentrated the mind. The battalion was attached to the 87th Brigade and on 27 April orders came for Commander Campbell to take the Drake Battalion through the 87th Brigade with the South Wales Borderers, but their advance soon came to a standstill under heavy enemy opposition. Once they were dug in on the night of the 28-29th, the Turks drove back the French on the right almost to Sedd-el-Bahr, and two Drake companies had to be withdrawn from the firing line to assist. '*With them went Commander Campbell. Major Barker RMLI (the adjutant) was left in command of the front line. This fine officer was unfortunately killed by a shell during the night*'. [Note 2]

My mother received the news of her brother's death on 4 May, her 21st birthday. Throughout her life she often referred to him with affection, pride and tears. He died at the age of 32. I was able to visit his grave at Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery with the Gallipoli Association Tour in 2004. My mother died in 1976 but I know she would have been so pleased that I had visited Uncle Godfrey's grave.

What intrigues me about Nick Fear's account is that Flook seemed to be quite adept at 'acquiring useful items', for example a pair of binoculars. He was wearing these around his neck when the binoculars were smashed by a Turkish sniper's bullet, but the binoculars stopped the bullet going into his chest. It goes on to say that it 'took him some days to obtain a replacement'. Again when referring to Flook's photograph it 'shows him carrying an officers' revolver, bequeathed to him by someone who sadly no longer needed it.' And later in the campaign, when he was sent on overseas leave from Lemnos he was so pleased to view 'through his latest set of binoculars' the steamer *The Barry* which was to be his transport home and was manned by sailors from his home town Bristol. He dashed on board to be given a warm welcome. 'As he left the dockside

however, he suddenly realised that he had left his prized officers' binoculars on the quayside.'

It is a sad fact that the only possession of Uncle Godfrey's that was returned to his family was a pair of officers' binoculars. Maybe this was because they could be easily identified from the top of their leather case, which showed in neat embossed black letters his name 'G. BARKER'. My mother had these until she gave them to me when I first went to sea and I used them whenever I was on the bridge throughout my service in the Royal Navy. I have them to this day.

If only, if only, I had been able to meet 'Flookie'. He must have known my uncle well and could have told me so much about him.

Notes:

1. The Naval Battalions of the Royal Naval Division tended to have RMLI Officers and senior NCO's attached, whereas the Royal Marines Battalions forming the 3rd (Royal Marines) Brigade of the RND at Gallipoli were manned solely by Royal Marines Light Infantry personnel according to their naval base ports: Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth. The styling Royal Marines (1802-1855) did not reappear until after the amalgamation of the Royal Marines Light Infantry (Red Marines) and the Royal Marine Artillery (Blue Marines) in 1923.

2. Douglas Jerrold's 'Royal Naval Division' – The May Battles – pages 98 & 99.

INFORMATION PLEASE

Do you have a question about some aspect of the Gallipoli campaign? Something you need to know about a regiment, a ship perhaps, or an individual, but have so far failed to find the answer. If so, there may be someone among the membership who could help? So please do not hesitate to send in your questions, long or short, and share your enquiry with the membership. Hopefully, someone will provide the answer or, if not the answer, another avenue or two to be explored.

There are no requests for information in this issue but there is an interesting follow-up to the enquiry in the last issue by **David Parsons** in Newfoundland who wrote enquiring about the **29th Division Battle Badge**.

A friend, **Andrew Black**, referred me to *Battle Insignia (1) : 1914 -1918* in the OSPREY – Men-at-Arms Series [ISBN 0-85045-727-0]. This has a photograph of the 29th Division Badge with a note which states:

'29th Div. battle badge, a very small metal badge worn pinned to the divisional sign on the right sleeve.'



29th Division Battle Badge (IWM Collection) [Note: The laurel leaves are in green with gold edging and the divisional sign in red with gold edging]

The book also has a section on ‘Battle Badges’:

‘Honours and awards have always been a source of discontent to the fighting soldiers of the British Army... The French Army has a different attitude, allowing divisional commanders to issue awards such as the Croix de Guerre virtually direct. Contact with the French led some British divisional commanders of the Great War to institute awards which came to be known as ‘battle badges’ – NB not to be confused with ‘battle patches’. Like the Croix de Guerre they were awarded to individuals or collectively to units at the discretion of a commander, not a committee. The awards usually took the form of a certificate recording the act of gallantry, and a badge, usually worn on the sleeve of the service dress jacket.

The battle badges of the 29th and 31st Divisions were miniatures of the divisional sign in metal and enamels; that of the 8th Division was a miniature of the sign in cloth. The battle badge of the 16th (Irish) Division was a simple diamond of green cloth.

Official attitudes towards battle badges have not been recorded, but can be guessed when it is noted that no scheme survived beyond the War’s end, when the ‘mentioned in despatches’ system was introduced. Several units of the British Army received collective awards of the French Croix de Guerre in the Great War. The British authorities, anxious not to slight their allies, allowed these distinctions to be marked on uniform; yet the only example seen of a British battle badge being worn post-war is that of General Hunter Weston, photographed on parade proudly wearing the badge he had instituted while commanding the 29th Division.’

We still have to track down the whereabouts of the 29th Division Record Book!

PTE. 1548 STEPHEN DOYLE, LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS – A STEADY SOLDIER

Stephen Doyle

My grandfather, Stephen Doyle, was born on 17 October 1884 at Back Crookell Street, off Regent Road, Salford in Lancashire where his father and mother lived along with his sisters Honorah, Florence and Mary. When the time came for Stephen to start school, he attended Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic School, Sussex Street, Salford. On leaving school, he worked for a railway company, first as a carter, then as a fireman on the trains between Liverpool and Manchester. He remained with the railway until 1908 when he decided to join the army.

Making his way to Bury, he enlisted in the Lancashire Fusiliers who were based at Wellington Barracks in Bolton Street, his enlistment date being given as 24 June 1908. His four weeks basic training comprised marching drill, cross country running and gym work to get the recruits up to the required fitness level, musketry training and target practice on the firing ranges. A schoolroom was also provided where recruits could go in the afternoons to improve their education. Eventually, Stephen Doyle was posted to the 2nd Battalion, then serving as garrison troops in Dublin. He remained in Ireland until 24 September 1909 when the battalion was posted to Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, Hampshire. In January 1910 Stephen was sent as part of a reinforcement draft to the 1st Battalion, then stationed in Multan in the north-west province of the Punjab in India.

Again they were mainly engaged on garrison duties occasionally doing guard duty in the mountainous regions surrounding the Khyber Pass. Whilst in India, Stephen Doyle, along with his comrades in the 1st Battalion, were brought up to the high standards required of a British soldier of the time.

Following the declaration of war, the 1st Battalion left India in October 1914 aboard SS *Dilwara* with a number of other transports and ships of the Indian Marine conveying troops from India to Great Britain. They were among the last of the Regular Army not already in France. The 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, together with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers and 1st Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers would form the 86th Brigade of the 29th Division. This division was formed mainly from overseas garrisons, which were kept up to full strength in peacetime and had few recruits or reservists in their ranks.

On their way home from India, they stopped briefly at Aden, passed through the Suez Canal on Christmas Day 1914 and landed at Avonmouth on 2 January. To the surprise of the local population the Fusiliers disembarked in their red tunics, Khaki now being the usual dress. With the rest of the 86th Brigade they went into billets at Nuneaton in



Stephen Doyle, at Multan in the period 1910 – 1913

Warwickshire. After a welcome period of leave, they were completely refitted, and training in their new heavier kit was the order of the day. Finally, on 12 March 1915, there was the famous inspection by HM King George V on Dunsmore Heath, near Rugby. Four days later they embarked on SS *Alaunia*, along with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. After a voyage of a little under two weeks, they arrived at Alexandria on 29 March and were billeted at Mex Camp.

On 7 April, the battalion sailed from Alexandria on HMT *Caledonia* arriving at Mudros three days later, moving to Tenedos on the 23rd. For the landings at W Beach, Cape Helles on 25 April, the Lancashire Fusiliers, were carried in two ships, Private Doyle being on HMS *Eurylus*. As they approached the coast they were transhipped into smaller naval cutters, which were towed closer to the shore before being finally rowed to the designated beach. Each man carried three days rations, 200 rounds of ammunition, backpack and rifle. The great bravery displayed that April morning gained the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers a place in history with six Victoria Crosses ‘before breakfast’ as they gained a foothold on the peninsula, but at such great cost. The following morning, only 16 officers and 304 men, out of a total of 1,002 who took part in the landing answered the roll call. Thereafter, W Beach was officially named as ‘Lancashire Landing’ as a tribute to the men who fought and died there.

During his service at Gallipoli, Stephen Doyle was involved in most of the principal

actions in the Helles sector. On 28 April he took part in the First Battle of Krithia, the battalion reaching Fir Tree Wood with relatively few casualties. After a short period in reserve, the Fusiliers returned to the front line, and on 6 May were involved in the Second Battle of Krithia where the Lancashire Fusiliers reached positions known as Fir Tree Spur (east of Fir Tree Wood) before retiring to the support line. Stephen was also with the battalion at the Third Battle of Krithia on 4 June, where the Lancashire Fusiliers attacked in the centre of position known as Gully Spur and suffered heavy losses during the fierce fighting there, the casualties sustained being 14 officers and 500 other ranks. July saw the battalion moved forward to Krithia Nullah until they were relieved on the 12th and sent to Lemnos, returning to Gully Beach ten days later, and from there to front line trenches at Krithia Nullah at the end of the month.

On 19 August the battalion was transferred to the Suvla sector where they occupied positions to the rear of Chocolate Hill and two days later took part in the attack of Hill 112 where they suffered heavy casualties from rifle and machine gun fire and from burning scrub. On 9 September they were given another period of rest on Imbros returning on the 21st to support and front line duties, which continued throughout October. In November, they were in the line near Dublin Castle when, on the 26th, the 'great storm' occurred sending a 'tidal wave' of water swept through the trenches drowning some 20 men. December saw the battalion's return to the Helles sector where they spent the final few weeks before being evacuated on 2 January 1916, boarding SS *Caledonia* for Egypt. Total casualties for the Gallipoli campaign being 33 officers and 584 other ranks.

The photograph on page 55 – taken in Egypt – shows six Lancashire Fusiliers (with Pte. Stephen Doyle standing first right on the back row) who fought throughout the Gallipoli campaign. The story in the Doyle family being that these six were never wounded or went sick throughout the campaign, no mean achievement considering what they had all been through!

On 12 March 1916, the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers sailed in SS *Militades* from Port Tewfik to Marseilles, for service on the Western Front. Home leave was now due to many of the battalion, and Pte. Doyle being among this number headed back to his home town of Salford, and was soon engaged in organising his forthcoming wedding. Mary Elizabeth Keogh and Stephen Doyle were married on 8 April 1916 at Mount Carmel Church, Oldfield Road, Salford.

Stephen Doyle rejoined the battalion in late April when they were serving in the line at the 'White City' trenches near Beaumont Hamel. The Lancashire Fusiliers went 'over the top' on 1 July where they suffered horrendous casualties with 7 officers and 156 men killed and 14 officers and 298 other ranks wounded, with 11 posted missing out of 700 who started the attack. August saw the battalion in the Ypres sector, with spells in the front line and in support. They remained in the 'Salient' until October when they returned to the Somme region where they spent the winter, at one time experiencing 28 degrees of frost.



Stephen Doyle and his pals in Egypt (1916)



Stephen and Mary Elizabeth Doyle

In April 1917, the battalion was moved to the Arras area in preparation for the oncoming 'Battle of Arras'. On 14 April they took part in the attack on Monchy-le-Preux, which was followed by a period in reserve. They had a further spell in the front line in this sector later in the month and were due to be relieved on the night of 24/25 April but their relief did not arrive. German artillery began shelling the trenches occupied by Stephen Doyle's company, a direct hit killing a number of officers and men and wounding others including Stephen Doyle. He suffered a serious shrapnel wound that ripped his left forearm open. He was evacuated to a casualty clearing station and was then shipped home for prolonged hospital treatment.

Although he recovered from his wounds, Stephen was somewhat disabled and no longer fit for overseas service. On 17 September 1917, he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, then stationed in Hull where he was involved in the training of recruits for the next three months, until 18 December, when he was discharged on medical grounds. He received the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

After the war, Stephen Doyle was employed as a goods checker at Salford Docks. He and his wife, Mary, had four sons, the first born in 1918. Stephen became an enthusiastic gardener and enjoyed supporting his local Rugby League team, Salford RLFC. He was a regular church goer, a quiet man who could be quite stubborn when required. He suffered poor health for a couple of years before he died on 11 February 1956 at the age of 71.

His Army Discharge papers document stated: **'A steady soldier and well balanced man'**.

RESEARCH GROUP

Clare Church, Research Group Co-ordinator

Members are most welcome to join the Association's Research Group, which meets from time to time by mutual arrangement at the National Archives, Kew. Please contact Clare Church for further information. Telephone 01590.673145 or by e-mail at clarechurch@tiscali.co.uk

LESSONS FROM THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

Reference to the Gallipoli campaign is sometimes found when you least expect it, as evidenced by the extract reproduced below and the next article submitted by David Saunders.

Semper Fidelis : The History of the United States Marine Corps by Allan R Millett contains a chapter entitled 'Amphibious Warfare and the Fleet Marine Force' which includes the following:

'... Even if the seizure of defended advanced naval bases seemed essential to War Plan ORANGE [See end note], the British experience at Gallipoli in 1915 suggested that such an operation would be a tactical nightmare, if not impossible. The Marine Corps thought otherwise. Fortunately, the British attempt to open a supply route to Russia through Turkey was exhaustively studied.

The studies of Gallipoli emphasized the inherent strength of the defenders, based on the presumed advantage of prepared fortifications and firepower. But at least one Marine Corps analyst thought as early as 1921 that the flaws in the Gallipoli operations were correctable by proper planning and appropriate doctrine on the use of naval gunfire and the deployment of the landing force. The Marine Corps were also aware that the Germans had made successful opposed landings against the Russians in the Gulf of Riga in 1917. Even if other military forces doubted that an amphibious assault could succeed, American plans for a Pacific war made such operations essential, and the Marine Corps thought it could make an amphibious assault a tactical reality'. [Interestingly, on my copy, someone – I like to think an ex Marine – has added in pencil after the final words 'WHICH THEY DID!']

Note: War Plan ORANGE was one of a series of United States Joint Army and Navy Board plans years drawn up between the First and Second World Wars for dealing with a possible war with Japan.

ARNHEM 1944 AND GALLIPOLI 1915

David Saunders

The excellent book *Arnhem: Jumping the Rhine 1944 and 1945* by Lloyd Clark published by Headline Review 2008, my copy the paperback edition of 2009, contains on page 231 the following concerning the withdrawal across the Rhine – Operation Berlin – during the hours of darkness 25/26 September 1944.

'As the battle in the perimeter wore on, the finishing touches were put to preparations for the evacuation. Sixteen paddle assault craft and 21 Storm Boats with motors were made ready to be divided between two crossing points, while Thomas arranged for all the firepower he could muster to cover the operation. The British hoped that the Germans would think that another reinforcement bid was being launched, and the 1st Airborne team carefully choreographed the withdrawal. The scheme was based on the knowledge that Urquhart had gained at Staff College about the successful evacuation of troops from Gallipoli during the First World War.'

Checking Major-General Urquhart's own book *Arnhem*, first published in 1958, I find he writes (in chapter 7):

'At the back of my mind was Gallipoli. As a young officer I had studied this classic withdrawal very thoroughly for a promotion examination. It all came back to me now: the extreme pains that were taken to thin out the forward positions held at Anzac and in front of the other beaches; the way that the British had contrived to keep up an appearance of opposition until the very last, and the elaborate care with which parties were organized for their move to the beaches. I called Charles Mackenzie over to help me with the evacuation plan. "You know how they did it at Gallipoli, Charles? Well, we've got to do something like that."

I conclude by asking if any member knows more about the teachings at Staff College concerning the evacuations from Gallipoli, or indeed any other aspect of the campaign on the Peninsula.

Notes:

Mackenzie was Colonel Charles Mackenzie – Urquhart's Chief of Staff. Thomas was Major-General Ivor Thomas – Commander 43 (Wessex) Division.

Urquhart was Major-General Roy Urquhart – Commander 1 British Airborne Division during Operation Market Garden – the Arnhem operation.

KEITH PARK MEMORIAL

David Saunders

Mention was made in the Spring 2010 issue of *The Gallipolian* (No 122) to a temporary statue of Keith Park, the New Zealander who commanded 11 Group RAF during the Battle of Britain, being placed on the 'fourth plinth' in Trafalgar Square.

On 15 September a permanent bronze statue of Sir Keith, who served at Gallipoli with an artillery regiment, was unveiled in Waterloo Place. The ceremony included a flypast by a Spitfire and a Hurricane.

KEMAL ATATURK'S WORDS

It has been a tradition on Anzac/Gallipoli Day and at other Gallipoli related commemorations for the words used by Kemal Ataturk in a speech to widows and relatives on the 1934 Pilgrimage to Gallipoli to be read out. Readers will be familiar with the words but for the purposes of this article they are set out below:

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives,
you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country;
therefore, rest in peace.

There is no difference between the Johnnies
and the Mehmeds to us here; they lie side by side
here in this country of ours.

You, the mothers
who sent their sons from faraway countries,
wipe away your tears;
your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace,
after having lost their lives on this land they have
become our sons as well.

But is this the correct wording? Within the Editor's Archive I came across a letter from an Australian correspondent questioning the above translation, and enclosing a photograph of a plaque in what he calls 'The main Turkish War Dead Cemetery' on the Gallipoli Peninsula – presumably the Canakkale Martyrs' Memorial. On the plaque are inscribed (side by side) Ataturk's words in Turkish and in English. The English translation, as recorded on the plaque, states:

Those **English, French, Australian,**
New Zealand and Indian heroes who
shed blood on the soil of this country.
Here you are in the soil of a friendly country
Rest in Peace.

You are side by side and lying together with
the Mehmetcik's.

You the mothers, who sent their
sons **to war** from far away countries!
Wipe away your tears. Your sons are lying on
our bosom.

They are at peace and they will rest in peace.
After having lost their lives on this land.
They have become our sons as well!

Apart from the words highlighted above, the differences are fairly marginal but why and who made the changes? Perhaps our friends at the Turkish Embassy, or our Turkish readers may have an explanation?

QUARTERMASTER'S STORES

The Gallipolian Archive CD contains issues 1 – 115 of *The Gallipolian*. The files are fully searchable and a hyperlinked index is supplied allowing the journal edition in question to be opened directly from the index reference. Price £16.50 each.

Payment using Paypal is also possible via the Association website. Members can send an email to webmaster@gallipoli-association.org if they have questions about the CD or online payment.

Silk Ties – silk, non-crease ties in the Gallipoli Association colours – green bands for the land of Gallipoli and blue-grey for the waters of the Dardanelles, with narrow stripes of navy-blue and scarlet for the services – are available at £16.75 including UK postage. [Europe £17.00, Rest of the World £17.35]

Standard Ties – in Association colours are available price £6.50 including UK postage. [Europe £6.75, Rest of the World £7.10]

Blazer Badges – hand embroidered wire and silk blazer badges are available at £7.50 including UK postage. [Europe £8.25, Rest of the World, £8.75]

Lapel Badges – in the Association colours are available, price £5.50 including UK post. [Europe £6.25, Rest of the World £6.75]

Simpson Badges – produced by the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland. The badge is oval in design (three-quarters of an inch) showing Simpson in classic pose with his donkey. Each badge costs £3.20 including UK post. [Europe £3.90, Rest of the World £4.40]

Binders, which hold 6 copies of *The Gallipolian* are available finished in attractive simulated leather, coloured maroon, with the title blocked in gold on the spine. Price per Binder is £6.75 including post in the United Kingdom [Europe £7.25, Rest of the World £8.25]

Orders with payment, cheques and postal orders made out to 'The Gallipoli Association', to the Secretary, James Watson Smith, Earleydene Orchard, Earleydene, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 9JY.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Association Christmas cards – the design this year is *Thinking of Home* by the Australian artist Janette Newman are still available at £3.70 per pack (plus £1.30 postage in the UK).

GALLIPOLI – STILL REMEMBERED

Carole Sach

This year I went on a Thompson cruise as one of the stops was Canakkale for Gallipoli. I had a wonderful day, albeit one with a sad purpose, visiting ANZAC Cove where my Grandfather was killed – 1422 Pte. William Pritchard, 4th Bn. Australian Infantry. We also saw his commemoration on the memorial at Lone Pine.

On the way out of the Port of Canakkale, the ship sailed past the Memorials and held a short service of remembrance during which a minute's silence was observed. When I spoke to the Cruise Director afterwards and explained what we had done that day, he asked me to tell the Gallipoli Association that when they do that particular cruise itinerary they always hold a service and observe a minute's silence for the Fallen.

SPECIAL DARDANELLES ARMY ORDER OF THE DAY

*Dardanelles Army Headquarters
11th January, 1916*

The Army Commander has much pleasure in publishing for the information of all ranks the following gracious message which has been received by the Commander-in-Chief from His Majesty The King:-

It is with feelings of intense satisfaction that I have just heard of the successful evacuation of Helles. Please accept for yourself and convey to General Birdwood, General Davies and troops under their command my hearty congratulations on this fine performance. I am confident all these splendid units from Anzac, Suvla and Helles will renew in fresh fields of action the hard won and glorious traditions gained in Gallipoli.

GEORGE R.I.

Five other telegrams were also published, conveying thanks and/or congratulations, from:

Lord Kitchener to the Commander-in-Chief,
The Commander-in-Chief, Sir Charles Monro, to General Birdwood
General Birdwood to the Commander in Chief
Vice Admiral Sir John de Robeck to General Birdwood
General Birdwood to Vice Admiral Sir John de Robeck

Editor's Note: I am grateful to member **Ian Hamilton** for sending copies of these documents.

NEW BOOKS

NOT ALL CAME BACK: A Somerset Farmers son at Gallipoli

Author: Anton Bantock Publisher: The Malago Society, 14 Queens Road,
Bishopsworth, Bristol BS 13 8LB. Contents: 100 pages. Price £9.99 (inc. p&p)

This recently published book is based on the letters, diary, and military pocket book of Sergeant Major Sydney Hall, Royal Marine Divisional Engineers, Royal Naval Division who was killed in action on 21 July 1915.

Sydney Hall came from the village of Bishopsworth, not far from Bristol, in rural Somerset, and had a promising engineering career ahead of him when he joined up. The book is the story of two worlds – his life at the front and that of his friends and family in the village. The latter told through contemporary photographs of the family, their farm and their friends. The wider historical context is illustrated with images from the *Illustrated London News* and other period newspapers. Further information and details about ordering can be found on www.malago.org.uk/pubs.htm.

VC's OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR : GALLIPOLI

Author: Stephen Snelling Publisher: The History Press. Price: £9.99.
Contents 274 pages with maps and photographs. ISBN 978-0-7524-5653-9

This useful book – first published in 1995 – has been updated and republished in softback form. It contains much fresh material, making use of recently released papers by the various national archives, adding details of new memorials where known, VC sales and information from families of the recipients. The most notable additions are:

- A greatly expanded biographical sketch of Percy Hansen, based largely on original material from his family
- More on the V Beach landing, taken from Edward Unwin's own account of the operation.
- New biographical material on Dallas Moor, Herbert James, Fred Potts, and all of the Australian VC recipients, most notably Albert Jacka, Fred Tubb, Hugo 'Jim' Throssell, Alfred Shout, Leonard Keyzor and John Hamilton.
- New material which sheds fresh light on Boyle's VC patrol in command of E14 and expanded biographical sketches of Bromley, Willis and Grimshaw of the Lancashire Fusiliers. The Grimshaw section, in particular, is greatly enhanced by his recollections of the campaign and the landing.

Where possible other recipients' information has also been updated, including O'Sullivan, Williams, Malleeson, Cosgrove, Lauder and Bassett. It is also interesting to

learn of the health issues faced by Jacka, Tubb and Throssell – brave men all who battled on against wounds and failing health.

Editor's Note: These books have been drawn to my attention by the author or publishers and the information is based on material supplied by them.

BOOK REVIEWS

David Saunders

GALLIPOLI – THE OTTOMAN CAMPAIGN

Author: Edward J Erickson. Publisher: Pen & Sword Military 2010. Contents 271 pages, 17 photographs, 24 maps. ISBN 978-1-84415-967-3. Price £25.00.

The Autumn 2007 edition of *The Gallipolitan* (No 114) carried a review of the author's book *Ottoman Army Effectiveness in World War I* grumbling as we did so the price at £70. Fortunately this new work has a much more acceptable price and concentrates solely on the Gallipoli campaign. He reminds us of the claim there are more books about Gallipoli in the English-speaking world than on any other campaign in the First World War. However, it is only recently that western historians have begun to assess the campaign from the Ottoman perspective, one to whom he refers in this respect being our member Prof. Tim Travers and his book *Gallipoli 1915*, published in 2001.

Dr Erickson, one of the foremost authorities on the Ottoman Army during the First World War is a lieutenant-colonel, US Army, retired and currently an Associate Professor of Military History at the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia. His book, with a splendid selection of maps, presents the events from the Turkish 'side of the hill' is based largely on original source documents of the Ottoman Fifth Army and the three volume Turkish official history of the campaign. The book is a must for every reader about Gallipoli who at the same time should have alongside one of the key recent western histories. This in order to see how the Ottoman Fifth Army fought a successful and prolonged campaign against an enemy with far greater resources and command of sea and air.

THE BERLIN-BAGHDAD EXPRESS

Author: Sean McMeekin. Publisher: Allen Lane (an imprint of Penguin Books 2010). Contents 461 pages, 29 photographs, 6 maps. ISBN 978-1-846-14323-6. Price £25.00.

Sub-titled *The Ottoman Empire and Germany's Bid for World Power 1898-1915* the chapter on the Gallipoli campaign is just ten pages long, but nevertheless this is a book which merits our attention. How and why the German military authorities had for so

long enjoyed a special relationship with the Turks and especially the Turkish army. How the Berlin to Baghdad railway on completion would have enabled Germany to transport troops and materials to Asia and ultimately threaten British India.

As the Kaiser himself said in July 1914 of the English nation ‘Our Consuls in Turkey and India, agents, etc. must inflame the whole Mohammedan world to wild revolt against this hateful, lying, conscienceless people of shopkeepers.’ Or as Walter Bullivant head of British intelligence in John Buchan’s *Greenmantle* put it ‘The East is waiting for a revelation. It has been promised one The Germans know, and that is the card with which they are going to astonish the world.’

THE COMPLETE VICTORIA CROSS

Author: Kevin Brazier. Publisher: Pen & Sword Military. Contents 406 pages, 37 photographs.
ISBN 978 1 84884 1 50 5. Price £25.00.

The author informs us in his Preface that his passing interest across the years in the Victoria Cross was rekindled in 2006 when he went to a talk by Johnson Beharry VC, then the most recent recipient. So inspired he began to gather books on the Victoria Cross and then decided to write his own book, listing each recipient in chronological order as it seemed no one had done this before. Actually incorrect, for instance our late member, David Harvey in his vast work *Monuments to Courage* does just this, as does the series *VCs of the First World War* – the volume on *Gallipoli* by member Stephen Snelling, having recently been updated and republished (see page 63). Kevin Brazier has brought together in a concise way, all be it briefly, the basic information about the 1,358 Victoria Cross holders right up to Trooper Mark Donaldson serving with the Australian Special Air Service Squadron in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan on 2 September 2008. The first VC for Australia since that country introduced its own award in 1991.

Naturally one turns to the Gallipoli Victoria Cross details, these vary from some nine lines of text in the case of Alfred Smith killed on 23 December 1915 when he threw himself on top of a grenade, to half a page each for both Albert Jacka and Hugo Throssell. One disappointment is that instead of including the location of the final resting place or memorial of the recipient and location of the medal with details of the action for which it was awarded one has to turn to another section of the book to garner such information. Why was it not all included at the same place? Despite such misgivings I am pleased to add it to my small collection of Victoria Cross titles and feel sure it will be regularly consulted.

ARTICLES FOR THE GALLIPOLIAN

Articles and items of interest about the Gallipoli Campaign are always welcome. However, those considering the submission of articles, particularly new contributors, should request a copy of the ‘Notes for Guidance of Contributors’ from the Editor.



OBJECTIVES

*To keep alive the memory of the
Gallipoli campaign of 1915.*

*To ensure that the men who fought and died
in the campaign are not forgotten.*

*To encourage and facilitate the study of the
campaign so that lasting benefit can be
gained from its valuable lessons.*

The Gallipoli Campaign is characterised by countless deeds of heroism and endurance. It took place in an area smaller than Southampton amid appalling conditions, such as 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, 80,000 French, 50,000 Australians and 9,000 New Zealanders. The cost in human terms was terrible. The Allies had 250,000 casualties, of whom 50,000 were killed with only 10,000 having known graves. Turkish forces with some Germans, numbered between 300,000 and 400,000 and of these some 87,000 were killed. The evacuation in December and early January 1916 was a masterly operation – one of the great feats of military history.