

The Gallipollian

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

No. 121 - WINTER 2009



***The River Clyde* at V Beach, 25 April, 1915**

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

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OBITUARY

JAMES (JIM) JOHN FALLON : 1921 – 2009

A much respected, admired, hardworking member and Vice President of the Association, Jim Fallon, died peacefully on 22 April 2009 after a lifetime of dedicated service on behalf of numerous organisations, including War Service, together with many other interests in which he was involved.

Jim left school at the age of 14 to become an electrical technician. After a few years experience in the industry working with Simplex Electronics, war was declared and Jim responded to the 'Call to Arms'. He joined the Army and following basic infantry training in Scotland he volunteered and was accepted to serve in the Royal Marines. Based initially at the main Depot in Plymouth, he was posted to 45 Commando, attached to the RM Engineers.

Jim soon saw active service. He fought with his unit in the opening phase of the battle of El Alamein in 1942, where he suffered a serious leg wound and was repatriated to 'Blighty'. Having recovered from his wounds and overcoming the debilitating effects of pleurisy, he again saw overseas service in Ceylon and India, during which he began training for the Second Front being planned for 1944. Jim was a member of the brave British vanguard, which landed on the Normandy beaches and attacked the German defences on D Day. Against severe opposition, Jim advanced with his unit and to use his own words "... at that point I suddenly lost all interest in further proceedings" – he was knocked out by a shell burst.

The following year, 1945, whilst on leave, Jim met Clarissa at a Dinner Dance. Clarissa says she liked the look of Jim and asked the band to play a 'Ladies Choice'! They met again some months later, in a less romantic surroundings, when Jim went to collect a service prisoner from Birmingham where Clarissa was a member of the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps! They were married two months later and their happy partnership lasted for 64 years.

After the war and back in 'Civvy Street', Jim returned to Simplex and later to MEM Electrical and in 1964, following a move to Enfield, North London, finally to MK Electrical where he became a Non-Executive Director responsible for product development. He was a fellow of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and a member of the British Electrical Industry Delegation responsible for overseas standards for electrical fittings, many of which are still in existence today.

Jim enjoyed varied interests, many of which were connected with his army service. He was an enthusiastic member of both the Royal British Legion (RBL) and the Royal Marines Association (RMA), being Chairman of the Hatfield Branch of the RBL for

over 25 years and President of the Welwyn Garden City Branch of the RMA. Jim was also a keen member of the Western Front Association and for many years, with Clarissa, he maintained a holiday home on the old line of the Western Front near Albert. Here he was only too pleased to act as a guide to the battlefields and would impress visitors with his considerable knowledge of the area.

In his 'spare time' Jim managed to continue another of his intense interests – Cricket, as a member of the MCC for 35 years, and also of Surrey and Warwickshire Cricket Clubs, along with membership of the Music Society. Retirement did not mean a respite from activities for Jim – indeed it provided an opportunity to achieve a life long ambition – to take a degree. At the age of 71, after studying for five years, he graduated with an Honours Degree in History from the Open University.

Jim joined the Gallipoli Association in 1991 and a few months later was elected onto the Management Committee and became our Public Relations Officer in 1993. He immediately grasped the essential need for the Association to raise its public profile in terms of publicity, promotion and membership – a task which Jim, together with the enthusiastic support of Clarissa, undertook and in which they achieved considerable success. Their combined efforts resulted in an increase in membership from around 300 to over 1,000.

Jim was also part of the Association team that worked towards the establishment of the Gallipoli Memorial in the crypt of St Paul's, which was unveiled by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, our Patron, in November 1995. Sadly, in the autumn of 1997 Jim was forced to give up his Public Relations Officer role because of ill health. He was elected a Vice President of the Gallipoli Association the following year in recognition of his work on behalf of the Association. A photograph of Jim and Clarissa following the presentation made to them at the Gallipoli Day lunch in 1999 is on page 29.

Jim continued to suffer health problems and was not able to attend Association functions during his last few years. His funeral took place on 5 May at Harwood Green Crematorium, Knebworth attended by a Guard of Honour provided by the St Albans, Stevenage and Hatfield Branches of the Royal British Legion and the Royal Marines Association. A bugler from the Marines was granted leave by his CO to play the Last Post at the funeral. A moving ceremony and a fitting tribute to an old soldier and an honourable English Gentleman.

Jim will be missed by his many friends in the Gallipoli Association and the other bodies with which he was associated. Our sympathies go to his wife, Clarissa, and their daughter Jane, their three grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Editor's Note: I am extremely grateful to Denis A Pollard and Sandra D Carter for compiling this obituary, and to Roy Newman of the Royal Marines Association for information about Jim's work for the RMA, RBL, and for other details.

THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT : 15 OCTOBER 2009

The Committee have met five times during the year.

GALLIPOLI DAY : 25 APRIL 2009

At our annual wreath laying ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral, Her Britannic Majesty's Government was represented by Mr. Kevan Jones, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence. Other wreath layers were Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, C-in-C Fleet; Major-General Simon Mayall, Assistant Chief of the General Staff; Mr. Derek Leask, High Commissioner for New Zealand; Mr. John Dauth, High Commissioner for Australia; Colonel Marc Demier, Army Attaché, France; H.E. Mr. Yigit Alpogan, Turkish Ambassador, and myself as Chairman of the Association. The Reverend Canon Martin Warner conducted the ceremony. Last Post was sounded by Musician Owen Duffield, Band of the Irish Guards, and a lament was played by Piper Anthony Wood, 1st Bn. Irish 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 ...'. There was a good attendance in the Crypt consisting of members of the Association and many members of the public including Australian and New Zealand tourists.

Later, at the Cenotaph, 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 provided a good marching contingent. Again at the invitation of the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions, members were kindly given seats at the service in Westminster Abbey where a Warrant Officer from the Grenadier Guards in Guard Order, carried the Union Flag together with a serviceman from each of Australia, New Zealand and Turkey. After the service at Westminster Abbey, we held our lunch at The Civil Service Club.

THE 29TH DIVISION MEMORIAL – 8 MARCH 2009

The service and wreath-laying ceremony at the 29th Division Memorial at Stretton-on-Dunsmore, near Rugby, has become an annual event and was attended by members of the Association, the Mayor of Rugby and local councillors, and a number of other organisations and individuals.

THE COLLINGWOOD MEMORIAL – 5 JUNE 2009

The parade and service of commemoration at the Collingwood Memorial, Pimperne, Dorset, organised for the past 59 years by Roy Adam, has become a major annual event. Sadly, Roy suffered a stroke when arrangements for this year's ceremony were well in hand and his son Stuart took charge of matters, to whom we are most grateful.

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL LUNCH – 26 JUNE 2009

The lunch has become an established as a regular feature with over 30 people attending this year. It is organised by Committee member John Crowe, and held in The Guildhall, King's Lynn in the presence of the Mayor. It was a most successful event with a very interesting talk by our Historian, Colonel Michael Hickey, with an emphasis on Suvla Bay.

SERVICE AT WEST NEWTON – 13 SEPTEMBER 2009

This is another popular annual event. The church at West Newton, near Sandringham, was full to capacity to remember all those who served at Gallipoli, and in particular 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.

OTHER REGIONAL EVENTS

As shown on our website, many other regional events are held each year. Unfortunately, space does not permit mention of all of them here. It is clear 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

The Association's Autumn Lunch was held at the Naval Club on 15 October 2008. Our speaker was Dr. Kevin Fewster, Director of The National Maritime Museum, who gave us an excellent talk with an Australian perspective. 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

Last year I reported that two bursaries had been given to Rugby School. The two pupils went out under the auspices of David Ray, a master at the school and member of the Association. They gave their presentations to an audience consisting of other pupils and members of staff, Mr and Mrs Arthur Coxon and myself. One of the pupils is considering a career in the army. The Campaign is important to the school because of the number of Rugbians who fought there and the proximity of the 29th Division Memorial and all it stands for.

We have now granted a bursary to Hunstanton High School, who have a connection with the High School in Canakkale, and hope to be able to offer another one to a suitable recipient in Eire.

FINANCE

In 2007 our expenditure exceeded our income by £3,350 and in 2008 by £1,304, the latter only being less because of reduced expenditure. These two loss years have been able to be contained by the fact that we have had adequate reserves. Clearly this situation could not be allowed to continue and was the reason for the first increase in subscription for many years with effect from 1 January 2009. At the Committee meeting next February we will have a good idea of how we stand, and whether or not we need to consider a further increase with effect from 1 January 2011. Please rest assured that our expenses are carefully controlled, and perhaps I could remind our members that the Committee work entirely voluntarily with only a minimum of essential reimbursed expenses. If it were not for this, the subscription would have to be far greater.

MEMBERSHIP

We receive a reasonable flow of new members, many coming through the website plus a number of people who have been tracing their family history and discovering a Gallipoli connection. The total number of members is now 1,222. Inevitably we lose some each year because of death or other reasons. Consequently, I would remind members again that we must not become complacent and must all play our part in encouraging new members in order to keep our numbers up and hopefully increase them. I would ask you all to make sure that you have a supply of our brochures to give to anybody who you think might be interested and benefit from membership of the Association. Also tell them about the website. There is endless scope for a wider membership when you consider the number of descendants there must be of people who took part in the campaign.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some members who pay by standing order or through Paypal have yet to alter their subscription to the new rate. Please would they do so as quickly as possible to avoid more work for an over-worked Membership Secretary and Treasurer. **The Association's preferred method of paying subscriptions is by Direct Debit (other than overseas members).** *PLEASE* switch to this method if you have not already done so.

THE GALLIPOLIAN

I have had a number of comments from members applauding the standard of *The Gallipolian*, saying how much they look forward to receiving it. This is very gratifying and we must thank Foster Summerson for his work and for his success in filling the role, especially as David Saunders's reign was going to be a difficult act to follow. Please continue to give him your support and let him have any details or articles that you feel might warrant inclusion in the magazine.

THE WEBSITE

The new website has now been live for two and a half years and has made great strides in that time. A proportion of the past editions of *The Gallipolian* have been made available for download, and others will follow. Andy Crooks has also undertaken the huge task of compiling a compact disc (CD), which now includes editions up to and including No. 115. This has been produced in such a way that it is easier to access any article or edition. The CD is on sale, at present to members only, at the very reasonable price of £16.50. It can be ordered by post or through the website webmaster@gallipoli-association.org.

In January a new Members' Forum is being introduced. This will incorporate the facility for members to discuss topics of interest with each other. If there are any members who have not looked at the website I would earnestly ask them to do so. To get into the members' section they will need their login and password. If they have forgotten it they should contact Andy Crooks at the website address above. Don't forget that you can also contact any member of the committee by using the e-mail addresses shown on the website.

THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Association had its usual allotted plot in the grounds of Westminster Abbey. Members are able to obtain crosses (or other religious emblems) from the Association to be placed in our plot if they wish to commemorate anybody who took part in the Campaign. We were again delighted that at the formal opening on 6 November 2008 our Patron HRH Prince Philip came and spoke to us and admired our plot containing a large number of crosses. This year the formal opening will be on 5 November and there will be a report in the next issue of *The Gallipolian*.

BATTLEFIELD TOURS

A tour went out to Gallipoli in September under Hugh Jenner, and this turned out, as in the past, to have been highly successful. Hugh is organising another tour from 15 – 23 May 2010 details of which can be found in the current issue of the journal. Anybody interested in joining that tour should get in touch with him as soon as possible. It is vital for Hugh to know who wishes to come well in advance, both for booking airline tickets, hotels etc. at beneficial rates and for ensuring that the tour is viable economically.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

John Crowe has again produced an Association Christmas card. The Christmas cards make an important contribution to our income and I would encourage all members to support the Association and order some from John.

POSSIBLE RESIDENTIAL EVENT IN 2011

We are planning a week-end event, probably to take place in Portsmouth, which will incorporate talks/lectures and a dinner, as well as an organised tour of The Historic Naval Dockyard which has fascinating attractions such as the *Mary Rose*, *HMS Victory*, and *HMS Warrior*, together with *HMS Minerva* (M33) which served at Gallipoli. Please let us know if this idea attracts you and you would like to come.

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

As before, I would like to express, on your behalf, our unrestrained thanks to all members of the Committee for all they do in their spare time to ensure the smooth-running and future of the Association. Some even take days out of their holiday entitlement to carry out their tasks. In addition to thanking the Committee on your behalf, I would like to add my own profuse thanks to all of them for their huge support to me and for the help that they all give and contribute to at our meetings.

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

The affairs of the Association are running smoothly, with many functions not only here in London but also all over the Country. Interest in the Campaign remains high and we need to encourage more people to join in order to secure the future of the Association and its objectives. More bursaries will be granted in the foreseeable future and the financial position is, at the moment, satisfactory. I am confident that the Association has a good future as long as the membership wish it.

C.T.F. Fagan
Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

The Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2008, duly certified by the Independent Examiner, are enclosed with this copy of *The Gallipolian*.

Whilst the Association's finances remain generally sound, the downward trend in our income as compared with our expenditure, which I remarked on in my report last year, continues but at a much reduced extent on a like for like basis. By this I mean that our newly appointed Independent Examiner has presented our Income & Expenditure Account on an accruals basis whereas his predecessor did so on a cash basis. The main effect of this change has been to omit subscriptions received in advance from the current year figures but to continue to show them in the Balance Sheet as a liability to be brought to book in the following year. However, we will continue to keep the trend under constant review over the coming year.

Our main item of expenditure are the costs associated with the production and distribution of *The Gallipolian*. As the number produced increases to reflect the increase in our membership numbers, and the scope of the contents also evolves, so the associated costs inevitably increase. However, I very much doubt that they can really be reduced below their present levels. It is pleasing to note that a considerable reduction has been made during the year under review in the area of Web Site Development costs. The Management Committee's efforts to rein in expenditure on Committee Expenses have, however, yet to bear fruit but I am hopeful that the Income and Expenditure Account for 2009 will show more positive evidence of that happening.

These are the first set of Association's Annual Accounts that have been prepared by our newly appointed Independent Examiner, Mr B C Edmonds FCCA, and I commend them to you. Finally, once again, I record my thanks to the Chairman of the Association and to my fellow committee members for the continuing support given to me in my role as Honorary Treasurer of the Gallipoli Association.

W J Marsh, Honorary Treasurer

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Association Christmas cards – this year featuring *Sunset Over Lemnos – HMS Triumph and HMS Swiftsure* by Robert Gibbins are still available at £3.70 per pack (plus £1.20 postage in the UK).

THE GALLIPOLIAN 40 YEARS ON – A LOOK BACK

Members will be aware that 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Gallipoli Association, the first issue of *The Gallipolian* being published at Christmas 1969. The President of the Association was Brigadier B B Rackham CBE MC DL, who had served in the Hawke Bn. RND; the Chairman and Secretary was Major E H W Banner TD who had served as a Private in the RAMC, 15th Stationary Hospital, att'd 29th Division.

Issue No. 1 ran to 16 pages and contained no cover illustration. It listed the officers of the Association and the Committee together with the reunions planned for 1970 – Lunch and the Annual General Meeting at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea on 23 April; the Cenotaph Parade on 25 April, and the Annual Dinner at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly on 1 October. The journal also printed the 'List of Members' as at 17 November 1969, with their names and addresses (no Data Protection Act then!) and details of their 'Gallipoli Service'. The latter comprised the Regiment/Unit or ship in which they served. At this time there were 195 members, almost all of them veterans of the campaign.

There were only two substantive articles in the first issue. One by Major Banner, entitled 'Genesis', described the founding of the Association. It has been reproduced before – on the 20th and 25th Anniversaries – but seems appropriate to do so again:

There has never been an association in the United Kingdom concerned solely with the Dardanelles-Gallipoli campaign of 1915. There have been Divisional Associations, such as the Twenty-ninth Division Association, which while very much concerned with the campaign had members who only served elsewhere; this association closed in 1965, fifty years after the Landings on 25th April. The Royal Naval Division Association is still going strong, but it now has relatively few members who were in the campaign.

Since 1965 I have often thought that an all-Services Association could still be formed, even at this late day, but approaches to some very senior officers led nowhere: all agreed with the idea but said they were, understandably, too old. Then as an attempt at a single reunion I found sufficient Gallipolians, some known to me by name only, who were keen enough to attend either or both a lunch and a dinner which I planned for the 25th April this year (1969). The lunch was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters and the dinner at the Royal Air Force Club in London. I also arranged an additional lunch in Birmingham in the same week. Each time there was a real reunion spirit as old friends of 1915 met, some for the first time since then. There was a general call for some means of making the reunions into annual affairs.

In view of my very minor Gallipoli service I was reluctant to take steps to form such an

Association but I realized that unless I did we should get nowhere. A committee was set up and so the strategic formation of the Gallipoli Association took place on that day (25th April 1969). On 20th July the committee first met; this may be said to be the tactical start of the Association, but the real attack commenced on 12th August with a barrage of 240 letters sent to all the various Gallipolians whose names I had. From this beginning the present membership has grown, and is still growing.

In these days while even some second-war Associations are fading away, history is being made by the foundation of this Association fifty four years after the campaign, a sign that the Dardanelles-Gallipoli saga, that epic campaign with its naval action followed by successful landings but with indeterminate long-term results, is an everlasting nostalgic memory to those who took part in it over half a century ago.

The article by Major Banner was followed by extracts from letters received from members on the formation of the Association. Here is one that caught my eye:

I ended up at Suvla Bay lying on a stretcher beside a major general, waiting to go aboard a hospital ship, but I think his tip was bigger than mine! It was a tough campaign to experience at the tender age of 16½ years, all because a lady stuck a white feather in my lapel in August 1914, saying: “Your King and country need you.”

There were also letters from Captain Ekrem Akomer, Board Member and Chief of Protocol of the War Veterans Association, Istanbul Branch, and from Major General (Retired) H G Aran, Council Member for Turkey, World Veterans Federation, wishing the Association well. General Aran was guide and mentor to a party of British veterans and family members who visited Gallipoli in 1967.

The final article was a sad one – entitled ‘The Anzac’, it told the story of an unnamed Anzac, who had been born in England and served in the Boer War before emigrating to Australia and joining the Australian Army at the beginning of the First World War. The article touched on his war service at Gallipoli and his decision to join a pilgrimage to the peninsula, 50 years later, in 1965, when he was in his eighties. On the second day, while re-visiting Anzac Cove, ‘The Anzac’, whose aim was to find his old gun-pit, collapsed shortly after leaving the coach. He was buried at the Consular Cemetery in Canakkale as night fell. An article describing the tour in issue No. 9 (Autumn 1972) noted that the veteran in question was Basil (Bill) Wood Bourne. A **photograph** of his grave can be found on page 29 of the current issue.

Such was the commitment of Major Banner to the Association that in addition to his role as Chairman and Secretary, he also undertook the task of editing *The Gallipolian*, which soon increased in size to 36 pages. The early editions make fascinating reading with articles and anecdotes submitted by veterans, which recounted their experiences – both grim and humorous – as well as more detailed assessments of the campaign. Accounts of visits to the battlefields – some organised by the Association, or undertaken

by individuals under their own steam also featured, and it is interesting to compare them with visits made today. Space does not allow such accounts to be reproduced here but members who do not have the early copies of *The Gallipolian* may want to consider purchasing *The Gallipolian Archive* CD – see the insert in the last issue of the journal (Issue No. 120) and page 61 of the current issue.

In the Summer of 1983, Major Banner was appointed a Vice President of the Gallipoli Association in recognition of his untiring work. At the same time, Mrs Vicky Banner was appointed the first lady Honorary Member. At this time, membership of the Association was only open to men, and Association functions were male only. Sadly, Major Banner died on 4 July 1984 by which time the membership had increased to over 300 of which 176 were veterans.

Major Banner's place as Chairman was taken, on an interim basis, by Major A Coulson and then by Captain Fagan until the latter's appointment at the 1985 AGM. From the end of 1984 (Issue No. 46), *The Gallipolian*, was edited Dr M E Occleshaw until David Saunders assumed that role in the Spring of 1987 (Issue No. 53).

In 1986 women were admitted as associate members for the first time, the view being taken '... that provided this step does not result in the Association degenerating into a mere social club, then nothing but good can come of it'. Miss N B Fallon became the first lady associate member (No. 963) in the early part of that year. The Associate Membership category ceased some years later although veteran members continued to be separately identified.

Sadly, as the years went on, age and infirmity took their toll of veteran members and the 'roll-call' of obituaries increased. In 1988 there were still 97 veteran members, 62 in 1990, 17 in 1996, 11 in 1997 and 3 in 1998. The final veteran member, Mr Darcy Harold Jones (No. 1288), who had served at Suvla with the Worcestershire Yeomanry, died on 11 January 2000 at the age of 103.

Apart from a short break of five issues in the mid 1980s, HMTS *River Clyde* has featured on the cover of the journal since Spring 1970 (Issue No. 2). Initially, the image appears to have been taken from a contemporary photograph but in Autumn 1995 (Issue No. 78) it was replaced with one from a painting of the *River Clyde* by Royman Browne. This was kindly made available to the Association by Miss Lella Raymond (0999). The painting had been given to her father, Ernest Raymond, in the early 1960s. He had served at Gallipoli as a Padre with the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division and his books *Tell England* and *A Quiet Shore* provide classic accounts of the campaign. Miss Raymond donated the painting to the National Army Museum. Later, with the move to colour format in Spring 2003 (Issue No. 101), the painting of the *River Clyde* by Charles Dixon was used as the cover illustration, by kind permission of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires).

The Association has never had a Branch Structure although in the early years veterans in several parts of the country held local reunions, often over a cup of tea. A 'Gallipoli Association – Preston Branch' Standard was discovered in Bury in 1994 but investigations revealed that it did not belong to our Association but to one that had been established in Preston before the Second World War. The Standard continues to be used at Parades such as those in Bury and events like Beating Retreat in Preston.

There is not space to list all the highlights of the Association's 40 years but several things are worthy of mention. In 1971, following a pilgrimage to Gallipoli by members of the Association, Her Majesty, The Queen, sent a personal radio telegram from HMS *Britannia*. This was a tribute to all veterans of the campaign. It read:

I have spent today among the peaceful beaches, hills and monuments of Gallipoli. My mind turned irresistibly to the very different scene of 1915 when so many brave lives were lost in conflict with an honourable and tenacious opponent. Today with my husband and daughter and representatives of the Turkish Government I have been proud to pay tribute to the courage and self-sacrifice of all who fell here 56 years ago.

ELIZABETH R.

Then in 1975, at our Annual Dinner, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh was the Association's Guest of Honour and proposed the toast to the Gallipoli Association, and in 1982 he honoured us further by graciously accepting an invitation to be our Patron.

Perhaps the Association's most notable achievement in recent years was the Eightieth Anniversary Memorial Project, the aim of which was to establish a National Memorial to the Campaign – something which had not previously existed. This was a major undertaking, which required an immense amount of work by officers and committee members of the Association. The memorial, designed by Richard Kindersley and incorporating a bronze sculpted by Mary Beattie Scott depicting troops landing from the *River Clyde*, was unveiled in St Paul's Cathedral by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on 28 November 1995. The success of the Memorial Appeal also enabled the Association to establish a fund to provide one or two bursaries each year to encourage and facilitate the study of the Campaign, the first two being awarded to RMA Sandhurst.

In June 2005, a reception to mark the 90th Anniversary Year of the Campaign was held by the Association at St. James's Palace by kind permission and in the presence of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. It was a most enjoyable evening and Prince Philip spoke to nearly everyone who attended.

We now look forward to the commemorations to mark the centenary of the campaign in 2015...

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL LUNCH

John Crowe

The Association's third regional lunch took place at King's Lynn Town Hall on Friday 26 June. Thirty four members and guests, including the Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Councillor, Michael Pitcher, attended from various parts of the country. Speakers from the two previous years were also present – members Dick Rayner and Graham Beck.

The event started with a reception in the 'Stone Hall' followed by a group photograph. After the lunch, the Mayor proposed the loyal toast and Lt. Commander Arthur Coxon, who had travelled from the Vale of Glamorgan, proposed the toast to the Association.

This year's speaker was the Association's Historian, Colonel Michael Hickey. He explained the background to the formation of the 'Kitchener' battalions and how they came to be involved at Suvla Bay, with their comrades in the Territorial Battalions. He described how these 'New Army' men with relatively little training and no previous military experience were exposed to the chaos of Suvla Bay. He also complimented Dick Rayner on his excellent research into what happened to the men of the 5th Battalion, The Norfolk Regiment. Many guests commented afterwards that they intended to read more about the campaign.

Photographs taken during the day can be found on page 30.

Another lunch has been booked for the same venue on 25 June 2010. For further information and early bookings contact John Crowe (address inside the front cover) or e mail: 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 commemoration to remember those who gave their lives in a far off land.

At 7.00pm on Sunday 12 July, record crowds watched as Club President Ian Landles, 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, Sir Chay Blyth, recited the famous verse from Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen*.

The Company reassembled at 7.20pm at the town's museum in Wilton Lodge Park. There, Piper Jim Coltman led the Club President Landles, Provost Elliot and one of the largest parades in memory – 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 Coltman then played a Lament and after Bugler Colin Crozier played the Last Post, President Landles laid the Gallipoli Comrades Wreath. A minute's silence followed, ending with Reveille.

A poignant addition to the commemoration was held later that evening at Hawick Town Hall. Following the demise of the King's Own Scottish Borderers in 2006, Hawick Callants Club and the KOSB Associations have been arranging a permanent reminder of the Regiment. At 7.40pm Piper Coltman played outside the Town Hall before President Landles introduced KOSB Regimental Secretary Lt. Col. George Wood who gave a short address. Lt Colonel Wood then invited Honorary Provost Elliot to unveil a Commemorative Plaque on the front of the Town Hall, bearing the words: *In memory of all ranks of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, 1689 – 2006. Our local regiment and freeman of this Burgh. Hawick Callants Club 2009.* Hawick RFC President Donald McLeod then presented Lt. Col. Wood with a framed photograph of the 1928 KOSB rugby team, including Hawick player Paddy Valentine, which will be hung in the Berwick barracks.

An informal get together was held in the Queens Head. During the evening Club President Ian Landles revealed that he had been wearing a sgian dubh which had been worn in the sock of Hawick man Lt. J B Innes when he received fatal wounds on that fateful day at Gallipoli. Landles added "I had it down my sock which certainly provided a very tangible connection to Gallipoli".

NEW HEADSTONE FOR GALLIPOLI CASUALTY

Thanks to the efforts of the Northamptonshire Branch of the Western Front Association (WFA) a new headstone has been erected on the grave of a Gallipoli casualty, Pte. No. 54. Edwin Tompkins, 8th Bn. Australian Infantry who died of wounds on 16 August 1915.

Edwin Tompkins was born in Great Houghton, Northamptonshire in 1894 and like many of his generation emigrated to Australia, where he worked as a farm hand at Meeniyan, Gippsland, Victoria. On 1 September 1914 Edwin enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Broadmeadow, Victoria, his attestation papers describing him as a single man, twenty years of age, 5 feet 11 inches in height and weighing just over 12 stone with three inches of chest expansion from 35 to 38 inches. Unlike many of his

comrades, he was no stranger to army life having served for a year in a Territorial Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry before emigrating.



Pte E Tompkins

Seven weeks after enlisting, on 19 October 1914, Edwin and his comrades in the 8th Bn. Australian Infantry embarked at Melbourne on HMAT A24 *Benalla* for Egypt where the battalion undertook further training. The 8th Bn., comprising 31 officers and 938 other ranks, landed at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915. As part of the 2nd Australian Brigade, it was intended that the battalion, after landing, would extend the left of the covering force from Baby 700 to Hill 971 and protect the left flank. But by the time the battalion landed – the last of the 2nd Bde. to do so – their commander, Colonel Bolton, was ordered to move the 8th Bn. to the right and hold the ridge, which was later to bear his name. Despite Turkish counter-attacks that night, and subsequently, the battalion held its positions on Bolton's Ridge for five days suffering 219 casualties. It was during this period – it is not entirely clear when – that Pte. Tompkins received a gunshot wound to the head.

Edwin was treated at the casualty clearing station at Anzac Cove before being transferred to the 88th Field Ambulance at W Beach on 10 May, and soon after to a hospital ship, which took him to Alexandria. He was admitted to No. 15 General Hospital on 14 May and was identified as 'seriously ill'. He remained there until 4 July when he was evacuated on the Hospital Ship *Letitia* and later transferred to the *Asturias*, which took him to London where he was admitted to the 4th London General Hospital at Denmark Hill. This had a neurological section and acted as a clearing hospital for neurological cases. Sadly, the medical staff were unable to save Edwin who died of his wounds on 16 August.

It seems probable that Edwin's parents, who had moved some years previously to 133 James Road, Northampton, visited him in hospital and following his death decided to bury him in Dallington Cemetery, not far from their home. The funeral – which had been postponed for two days because the death certificate had been sent to Southampton instead of Northampton (!) – took place in St James' Church on 21 August, the coffin being conveyed on a gun carriage, covered with the union flag and accompanied by a military escort. Later, Edwin's parents, Henry and Mary Tompkins, erected a headstone on their son's grave recording his death from '... wounds received at the Dardanelles'. Edwin's mother was to be re-united with her son seven years later in 1922, and another inscription was added to the headstone at that time. A photograph of the original headstone is on page 31.

Sadly, the headstone was vandalised several years ago and the WFA Northamptonshire Branch began a project to have it repaired or replaced. The Gallipoli Association were approached for assistance at this stage and promised a donation. In the event, it proved impossible to repair the original stone and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission agreed to erect and meet the cost of a standard war pattern headstone on the grave and to include the commemoration of Edwin's mother on the stone.

A ceremony to dedicate the new stone was held on Sunday 23 August. The ceremony was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Northampton, Cllr. Michael J Hill and Mrs Margaret Hill, Lt. Col. Andrew Moore, Military Attaché and Army Adviser (London), Australian High Commission, with his eleven-year-old son, and a number of local organisations including Standard Bearers and members of the Royal British Legion, officers and members of the WFA Northamptonshire Branch and the Editor of *The Gallipolitan*.

The service was conducted by Sergeant Major John Stannard of the Salvation Army, who outlined the history and work of the CWGC and the brief life of Edwin Tompkins, concluding with the poem *The Soul of Australia* written by 'JHM', which was first published in *The Brisbane Courier* in April 1916. Following the unveiling of the headstone, which had been draped with the Australian Flag, and a Dedication Prayer, the Last Post was sounded, Standards lowered, and The Silence kept. After the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph, wreaths were laid by Mayor of Northampton and by Lt. Col. Moore. A wreath was also laid on behalf of the Gallipoli Association. After the wreath laying both the Mayor and Lt. Col. Moore gave short addresses on the significance of the day's events. A **photograph** of the ceremony and the new headstone is on page 31.

Editor's Note: Thanks are due to David Parish MBE, Chairman of the WFA Northamptonshire Branch, who took the lead in ensuring that Pte Tompkins was again properly commemorated, and to David and his WFA colleagues for providing the information on which this article is based.

29TH DIVISION MEMORIAL

The ceremony will take place at 1130 for 1200 on **Sunday 14 March 2010** 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 situated 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). Members and friends might like to gather afterwards at a nearby hostelry for lunch or other refreshments. Please contact James Watson-Smith, address inside the front cover, for more information.

RESEARCH GROUP

Clare Church

Members are most welcome to join the Association's Research group, which meets on the **second Wednesday** of each month at 11.00am at the National Archives. The meeting place is outside the bookshop near the entrance.

Please contact me first if you intend to be present, or need further information. (Tel: 01590 673145 or by e-mail at clarechurch@tiscali.co.uk).

THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

Andy Crooks

The association website has received considerable improvements in the last 18 months and if you have not visited it recently or at all, you are warmly invited to do so, to: <http://www.gallipoli-association.org> .

As is the case with any organisation's website today, the association site balances support for occasional visitors with facilities and information for members. Members are reminded that an extensive section exists behind the publicly available material on the site, and this is accessible via a secure login on the home page. Understandably, some members have not yet used this facility, and some may have mislaid or be unaware of their login details. If the latter is the case, please send an enquiry email, giving your name and postcode, for verification purposes, to: webmaster@gallipoli-association.org .

The members' area provides news updates, downloadable booking forms, notice of future plans, feedback forms, access to the *Gallipolian* archive and also to the members' forum. New pages are frequently added.

The forum allows members to lodge comments and enquiries and to enter into discussions.

For example, a question might be submitted about a particular aspect of the campaign, or about a battalion or even an individual who served in it. Other members can view the posting and submit replies and comments. None of this can be seen by the public. This is a useful facility, but the forum as it stands is fairly limited. Plans are therefore in place to enhance and develop it, and a new extended forum is scheduled for launch in the New Year.

A further proposed development, which will link with the new forum, is an occasional email newsletter. We are aware of the irritating nature of 'spam' email, and when the newsletter is operational, it will be of an 'opt in' nature, meaning that even if we possess an email address for you, we will not send the newsletter unless you have assented to this by registering to receive it via the members' area.

Over the next few months, it is intended to run a pilot programme for the newsletter. We are seeking members who would like to participate in this and supply comments and feedback. Those participating would receive no more than three email newsletters during the trial period. If you are prepared to contribute to this trial, please email webmaster@gallipoli-association.org to so indicate.

Do please make use of 'your' association website. Comments and suggestions for developments are always welcome, to the email address above. Contributions of news and photos etc. are also invited.

MAJOR H JAMES VC

The Gallipoli Association are working with the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery to commemorate Major Herbert James who was awarded the Victoria Cross '... for the most conspicuous bravery during operations at Gully Ravine on 28 June and 3 July 1915'.

Herbert W James was born in Ladywood, Birmingham in November 1887, where his father had a jewellery and engraving business. He attended Smethwick Central School, and it was his father's wish that his son should become a teacher. He was employed for a short time as a teacher's assistant and later as a primary teacher at the Bearwood Road and Brasshouse Lane Schools, but he wanted to go abroad and, in April 1909, he enlisted in the 21st Lancers as a Trooper and embarked for Egypt. At the outbreak of war he was in India, serving as a Lance Corporal, but was soon commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment.

2/Lt. James landed with the Worcesters at 'W' Beach and received a serious head wound in the fighting on 25/26 April. He was evacuated to Malta, rejoining the battalion two months later in time for the attack at Gully Ravine. It was here, in the words of the VC citation:

On the 28th June 1915, when a portion of a Regiment had been checked owing to all the Officers being put out of action, Second Lieutenant James, who belonged to a

neighbouring unit, entirely on his own initiative gathered together a body of men and led them forward under heavy shell and rifle fire. He then returned, organised a second party, and again advanced. His gallant example put fresh life into the attack.

On the 3rd July, in the same locality, Second Lieutenant James headed a party of bomb throwers up a Turkish communication trench, and, after nearly all his bomb throwers had been killed or wounded, he remained alone at the head of the trench and kept back the enemy single-handed till a barrier had been built behind him and the trench secured. He was throughout exposed to a murderous fire.

By August 1915 James was acting Adjutant and was wounded again in late September while searching for wounded in No Man's Land. He was evacuated first to Egypt and then to England. He received the VC from the King in January 1916. Captain James went on to serve with the 1st Worcesters on the Western Front and was wounded on the Somme in July 1916. He returned to France in May 1917 and was awarded the Military Cross the following year. He remained in the Army after the war and was chosen for the Honour Guard at the ceremony marking the burial of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey. He later served, as a Major, with the East Lancashire Regiment and then with the York and Lancaster Regiment. He retired in March 1930.

Sadly, Major James' later life does not appear to have been altogether happy or successful. By the 1950s he was separated from his second wife, renting a small flat in Kensington and making a living as an art dealer. Always a shy and modest man, he became something of a recluse never receiving visitors or taking telephone calls (although he appears to have kept in touch with his son who was working overseas). In August 1958, he was found unconscious by his landlord, having remained undiscovered for some days. He died soon after. Until his death, none of his fellow residents had any idea that he was a VC winner! He was cremated at the West London Crematorium, Kensal Green but was not commemorated there or elsewhere.

As noted above, the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery have embarked on a project to commemorate Major James and plan to erect a memorial plaque on the outside wall of the crematorium, close to the rear doors through which mourners and visitors to the Garden of Remembrance pass. The Friends have launched an appeal and the Gallipoli Association have agreed to underwrite a donation of £500 to the project which is also being supported by the Mercian Regiment, the VC/GC Association, the Maryborough Military & Colonial Museum in Australia (the purchasers of James' medals), and the Friends themselves.

Any members wishing to be associated with the project – perhaps because of personal or family connections with the Worcestershire Regiment, or links to the area where James was born and grew up – can send donations to the Editor, at the address shown inside the front cover (cheques made payable to 'The Gallipoli Association'). Donations will be acknowledged and set against the sum mentioned above.

GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION TOUR: 11 – 19 SEPTEMBER 2009

Hugh Jenner, Tour Organiser

Having lived and struggled with the formation of this tour for over a year, then led it for a very enjoyable week, it seems strange now to be writing about it in the past tense. Of a group of twenty we were fortunate to have several able to give readings and anecdotes from relatives who served in the campaign, among them Roger Halls, Norman Dowie and Mike Curtis. David Hooper returned, once again, to walk the ground where his father trod while serving with the Royal Naval Division in the Zimmerman's Farm area. Special mention must also be made of the readings from the letters of Admiral de Robeck by his great-nephews Richard and John de Robeck; the account given by Graham Beck of his relatives in the Sandringham company and the action of 5th Norfolks; and the letters of Anthony Clifton-Brown's father who served in Sussex Yeomanry, whose brother commanded the brigade, whilst another brother commanded an escorting destroyer flotilla.

From our assembly at 0800 at Terminal 5, Heathrow to our farewells 9 days later, the group spirit grows to a point when it is sad to be saying goodbye, though in my own case this is tinged with a feeling of relief that we have all returned safe well and happy. My first concern had been the rains that had devastated western Istanbul of which we saw evidence, thankfully from our coach which got through without difficulty. We arrived to a splendid welcome from our friends TJ, Ramazan and their team who then looked after us with their usual charm. The novelty of a drummer providing a rousing wake-up call at 0430 every morning (it was Ramadan) is an experience which we can treasure. Perhaps a little later we were able to savour the splendour of dawn breaking over the Dardanelles from the roof-top restaurant. Then on to Troy where our guide, Aykut was clearly in his element. Here, and throughout the tour his contributions on Turkish culture, the local economy, agriculture and especially the perspective of the campaign from the Turkish side were terrific and were delivered with good humour.

There had been some fires in 2008, evidence of which can be seen in the photograph of the Turgut battery on page 32, and also observed in front of Scimitar Hill where Turkish trenches can now be seen clearly. Other matters of note included the lighter uncovered on W Beach (see also the article on page 26); the new Turkish Memorial above Border Barricade; and the fact that Gully Ravine was easily negotiated.

Our service at the Helles Memorial was blessed by beautiful weather; not even a breeze. Our wreath was laid by Richard de Robeck and the Exhortation given by Anthony Clifton-Brown. Graham Beck recited the words of Patrick Shaw-Stewart, and Norman Dowie those of A D Hope. A photograph of the group at the memorial is on page 32.

The tour had necessarily combined the itinerary of an ‘Explorer Tour’ with that of the ‘Standard Tour’. We had two vehicles. The Standard tour kept to its normal programme using the coach, while the explorers used the tourer van to allow them to spend more time on the routes of the assault columns at ANZAC; on Kiretch Tepe; in the French and RND sectors and pioneering a new egress from Y Beach up Border Ravine. They also went to the Lines of Bulair. For all this their coordinator and guide was Peter Ramsden.

Those who went to Istanbul had free-time in the city for two days which enabled most to see the sights and take a ferry up the Bosphorus to the entrance to the Black Sea. Here they enjoyed lunch at a waterside restaurant in a small fishing port, before climbing to a Venetian castle. Our hotel overlooked the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the Hippodrome, but also the Law Courts. Unknown to us, a wealthy young suspect for a dramatic murder had just been arrested and throngs of cameramen, and busloads of police barred our way. Only the quick-thinking of our driver Sezgin saved the situation. Given the proximity to the terminus of the Orient Express one half expected to dine with Hercule Poirot.

I cannot complete this report without repeating my thanks to all who took part, but especially to Janey Hawkins who can be seen in the photograph of the Turgut battery between the guns, and who, while not as mobile as her very fit son, Jonathan, participated to the full; was charming company, and an inspiration.

GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION TOURS IN 2010

Two Standard Tours are being planned for 2010. The first from Saturday 15 May – Sunday 23 May. This tour will definitely go ahead. There are still about six places unfilled.

The second tour may take place in September, probably 18th-26th, if there are sufficient numbers. It is proposed to make it a standard tour, but there may be some scope for exploring more than is normal for this type of tour.

Please contact Hugh Jenner, 73 Pymers Mead, London SE21 8NJ for more information and to make provisional bookings.

AUTUMN LUNCH

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association was held at The Naval Club, Hill Street, London on Thursday 15 October during which the officers and committee of the Association were re-elected.

The AGM was followed by the ever-popular Autumn Lunch (see photograph on page 33). This provided a great opportunity for members and their guests meet and talk in relaxed and pleasant surroundings. We were very fortunate that Professor Richard Holmes was able to give his time to talk to us. His presentation focussed on the diversity of the Gallipoli experience in terms of units and individuals involved, its particular significance for Australia, New Zealand and Turkey, and the peninsula's enduring 'sense of place', brought home to those visiting the battlefields in so many ways.

AN INTERESTING SALE

Robert Pike drew my attention to the following item being offered for sale at £2,500 on the UKBookWorld.com website. It will probably have been sold before this issue of *The Gallipolitan* is published but may be of general interest:

'Log book of HM Transport *Clan Macrae* (Captain Alex R. Weir) [Clan Line Association of Steamers, Glasgow] covering the period 5 April 1915 – 14 June 1916. Chief Officer's Rough Log of the 'Government Transport Service' of HM Transport *Clan Macrae* in the Mediterranean as part of the Gallipoli Campaign. Departing from Liverpool and returning to Glasgow, refitted at Alexandria, and taking in Imbros, Kephalo Bay, Port Said, Port Murdro and other destinations.'

A VIEW ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE GALLIPOLI PENINSULA

Guven Pinar (1521), Gallipoli Guide

The casualties suffered by both sides during the Gallipoli campaign continue to be a matter for discussion and estimates vary. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's 'Information Sheet' states that '... more than 36,000 British and Commonwealth servicemen died'. According to the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs, 44,092 men from the British Empire and France perished on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915. The same source gives an estimated number of 86,692 for the losses of the Ottoman Turks [See Note 1].

The British Empire and French dead are either buried, believed to be buried, or commemorated in the 32 neatly maintained cemeteries and various memorials on the peninsula, all constructed in the 1920s. Other casualties from the campaign are buried elsewhere. The 'Turkish Martyrs Memorial', overlooking Morto Bay, Cape Helles – the only memorial to all Turkish Martyrs – was constructed in 1960, and the impressive memorial to the Turkish 57th Regiment in 1983. Until 2002, few Turkish

cemeteries existed on the Peninsula and they were only symbolic. Exact locations of Turkish burials were either unknown, or lost either by weather conditions, or under the heavy vegetation. The total number of Gallipoli visitors in that year was 250,000.

After a neglectfulness of 87 years, the Turkish Government initiated a mammoth project in 2003. Using a set of 43 very detailed maps showing the battlefields at the end of the campaign in 1916 (compiled by The Turkish Mapping Directorate under Brigadier General Mehmet Sevki Pasa), exact locations of 28 original Turkish cemeteries were determined. Restoration projects for four sites were designed and construction was commenced. They were eventually completed for visitors in 2005.

The outcome was a sudden increase in Turkish visitor numbers to 2.5 million, with up to 700 coaches on certain days, particularly in late Spring and early Summer. The number of visitors from Australia and New Zealand also kept increasing, particularly after the 85th anniversary of the campaign in 2000, a large percentage of these visiting on 25 April. The thousands attending the Dawn Service and other services on Anzac Day, had to walk and climb up and down long distances, initially in the dark, in a variety of weather conditions, which could mean that during the course of the day visitors would face burning sun or rain, be chilled by the cold weather, soaked to the skin, or covered with sweat.

Neither the narrow roads constructed many decades ago for the relatively smaller coaches used then, nor the few tiny parking areas lacking any sanitation or catering facilities could cope with this rush. Thus, the next task the Turkish authorities faced in 2005 was to improve such facilities, in order to ease the visiting conditions for Turkish and foreign visitors. It was at this very moment that an outcry was triggered in Australia and New Zealand after an Australian freelance journalist residing at Gallipoli claimed in March 2005 that he had found ‘...what appeared to be (human) leg and hip bones at the ‘Anzac Cove’ road construction site’. [Note 2] This claim was later rejected on 13 October 2005 by a media release (VA-159) issued by then Minister for Veteran Affairs, the Hon. De-Anne Kelly.

Since then, restoration and reconstruction works on the other 24 Turkish cemeteries are being carried out and opened to visitors one after the other. Every new cemetery came with the clear need for large visitor parking areas. But the mentality that stood against the construction of new roads in 2005 is still against these new works. The claim now is that every new Turkish cemetery will increase the amount of Turkish visitors, the outcome of which will be the need for more road improvements and a solution to the problem of ever increasing rubbish left here and there by those millions of visitors, ‘... and there is a danger of putting all the area at risk in catering for more and more tourists.’ [Note 3]

For Turks, Gallipoli and the ‘Canakkale battles’ today is the ground where the ‘undefeatable Royal Navy’ was repulsed in March 1915, and became part of the heroic

story of the nation's revered founder, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. And it is perceived as a defining moment in the history of the Turkish people – a final surge in the defence of the motherland as the centuries-old Ottoman Empire was crumbling. The struggle laid the ground for the Turkish War of Independence and the foundation of the Turkish Republic eight years later under Atatürk. Therefore, Turkish people will keep visiting this sacred soil in ever increasing numbers. They have to, and will be educated not to leave their rubbish on this Sacred Soil.

New cemeteries together with their visitor and parking areas will have to be constructed. Nobody can stand against this. The only alternative is to close the whole peninsula to all visitors, Turks and foreigners. Only then would the 'Gallipoli Battlefields' stay pure clean ever after. But would this please all those against all construction and improvements?

I want to take the liberty of making a suggestion to all those against new cemeteries, road improvements and construction of new parking areas; if you are seriously concerned about Gallipoli, then turn your attention to helping the Gallipoli National Park Administration achieve a forever beautiful place of homage. Whether by making a financial donation or simply putting forward your ideas, this would be the best solution.

Notes:

1. The number of Turkish dead is still unknown. The Turkish Ministry of Defence is still trying to compile a full list. The names that have been gathered as at July 2009 are 48,148. For further information on Turkish dead see:
http://www.geltag.com/sehitler.asp?il_id=0&ilce_id=0&harf_id=0&sayfa_no=1
2. John Kerin, *The Australia*, 14 October 2005
3. Nassim Khadem & Frank Walker, *The Age*, 6 March 2005

[Editor's Note: Subject to the usual proviso about space constraints, I would be happy to feature letters relating to this or any other article (or news item) in *The Gallipolian*.]

INFORMATION PLEASE

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

The first request comes from **Mr T D Blowfield** who is researching the **2/10th Bn. of the Middlesex Regiment**, which served at Suvla from August – December 1915. He would like to hear from anyone with information on the battalion. He can be contacted at blowfieldblowfield@btinternet.com.

The second request is from **Sergei DeSilva-Ranasinghe**, an Australian based Military Historian, who has been engaged in research into a little known unit, the Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps (CPRC), which participated in the Gallipoli Campaign.

The CPRC was exclusively European and composed of members of Ceylon's elite planting community. In the First World War it was initially deployed at Kubhri and Port Tewfik in Egypt against the Turks before the unit of about 220 troops dwindled to about 80 and was then deployed as a bodyguard to General Birdwood at Anzac for the duration of the campaign.

Sergei is interested in obtaining information and photographs about the CPRC and would like to hear from any members who can be of assistance. He can be contacted by email: sergeidesilva@hotmail.com or by post at PO Box 6701, East Perth, WA 6892.

For readers not on email, please send any information to the Editor (address inside front cover) and I will pass it on.

LIGHTER FOUND AT 'W' BEACH

Richard Szwed reports that during a visit to Gallipoli in September this year he noticed a number of changes had occurred at W Beach since his last visit in July. He was surprised to find that the water level in the bay appears to have dropped by some 4 feet and the sea has eroded the centre of the beach to uncover the remains of a lighter. The remains of another small craft can also be seen nearby. The four iron piers on the beach are also much more visible than in the past.

The remains of the lighter off Gully Beach, where the water level appears to have dropped even more than at W Beach, could also be seen clearly.

Richard asked his friend (and fellow Association member), Guven Pinar, who lives in Eceabat, about the fall in sea level. Guven thinks it might be due to seismic activity. There was a small earthquake west of Canakkale earlier this year and Guven remembers that in the 1990s the water level dropped significantly before a much larger earthquake.

Photographs of the lighter found at W Beach, and that off Gully Beach (both provided by **Abdullah Ayer**) can be found on pages 33 and 34.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANZAC COVE

I am grateful to **Robert Pike**, for drawing attention to a project, instigated by the Australian Government, following concern about disturbance to remains in the Anzac Cove region of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The project is being sponsored jointly by Australia, New Zealand and Turkey, with the field investigation being carried out by a team from the University of Melbourne.

The aims of the project are to:

- Locate and record all existing visible remnants of the 1915 battlefield, including trenches, tunnels, and paths etc. This will be carried out by means of an above-ground archaeological survey, enabling the team to test and correlate the existing trench plans with the material remains of the trenches.
- Locate and record accurately the positions of 1915 sites of historical interest of which there is no longer any visible evidence, such as trench lines etc. This aspect will be based on archival research.
- Locate and record other pre-1915 material remains as time permits. This part of the survey will be carried out in a conventional (above-surface) manner.
- Record the position of all existing, or vanished, memorial structures and war cemeteries and map these in relation to the 1915 battlefield.
- Manage all the data collected (1915 and pre-1915) with a Geographic Information System database. This will require a detailed and comprehensive three-dimensional terrain model of the entire Anzac site.
- Locate, record and interpret any subsurface features such as graves, trenches and tunnels that are no longer visible. This will require geophysical explorations such as ground penetrating radar and/or magnetometry. An initial assessment of the site will determine which method, if not both, will be used. It is hoped that in addition to maximising data collection and interpretation, these geophysical techniques will provide as detailed a visual picture as possible of the ANZAC site.

No information is available as to the length of the project or how its findings will be used.

WATTS CEMETERY CHAPEL, COMPTON, SURREY

The unique Watts Cemetery Chapel, just off the A31, a few miles west of Guildford, is a fascinating mixture of Egyptian, Celtic, Romanesque, pre-Raphaelite and Art Nouveau influences designed and built by Mary Seton Watts, the wife of the artist George Frederick Watts OM RA (1817–1904), with the help of the villagers and local craftsmen of Compton.

Although the chapel has no direct Gallipoli connection, there is a cloister (the term used in the leaflet describing the building – although it is not in the form of a quadrangle) adjoining the cemetery, which contains a number of memorial plaques. One of these commemorates the two sons of William and Mary Elizabeth (Jennie) Pretzman of Rock Dene, Dorking, who were killed during the First World War. The memorial records:

MAURICE WILLIAM PRETYMAN

BORN AUG 12TH 1889

FELL AT GALLIPOLI 1916

FRANK REMINGTON PRETYMAN

BORN 17TH FEB 1891

FELL IN FRANCE 1917

ONLY SONS OF JENNIE AND WILLIAM PRETYMAN

LET THOSE WHO COME AFTER

SEE TO IT THAT THEIR NAMES

BE NOT FORGOTTEN

GEORGE R.I.

As will be seen from the photographs on page 35, within the memorial were originally placed the two bronze memorial plaques (often called the ‘Death Penny’) but sadly only the one to Maurice William remains. Whether the other plaque was stolen by metal thieves – sadly a frequent occurrence these days – or simply fell out of the marble surround is difficult to determine, but given the surround appeared undamaged it is possible that it was not theft.

Interestingly, neither memorial inscription is correct! 2/Lt. Maurice W Pretzman 10th Signal Coy. RE was killed on 10 August 1915 although since he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial it is possible that he was posted as ‘missing’ and his death not notified to his parents until early the following year. His younger brother, Lt. Frank R Pretzman, 2nd Bn. Scots Guards was killed in action on 4 July 1917 at Ypres and is buried in Canada Farm Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.



Jim Fallon following the presentation made to him at the Gallipoli Day Lunch, 1999.
[Photograph - David Saunders]



Grave of Basil (Bill) Wood Bourne at the Consular Cemetery, Canakkale
[Photograph - Clive Summerson]



*East Anglian Regional Lunch – Members and guests in the ‘Stone Hall’,
Kings Lynn Town Hall*



Colonel Michael Hickey’s presentation at the East Anglian Regional Lunch



The original headstone marking the grave of Pte. Edwin Tompkins, 8th Bn. Australian Inf. at Dallington Cemetery, Northampton [Photograph David Parish]



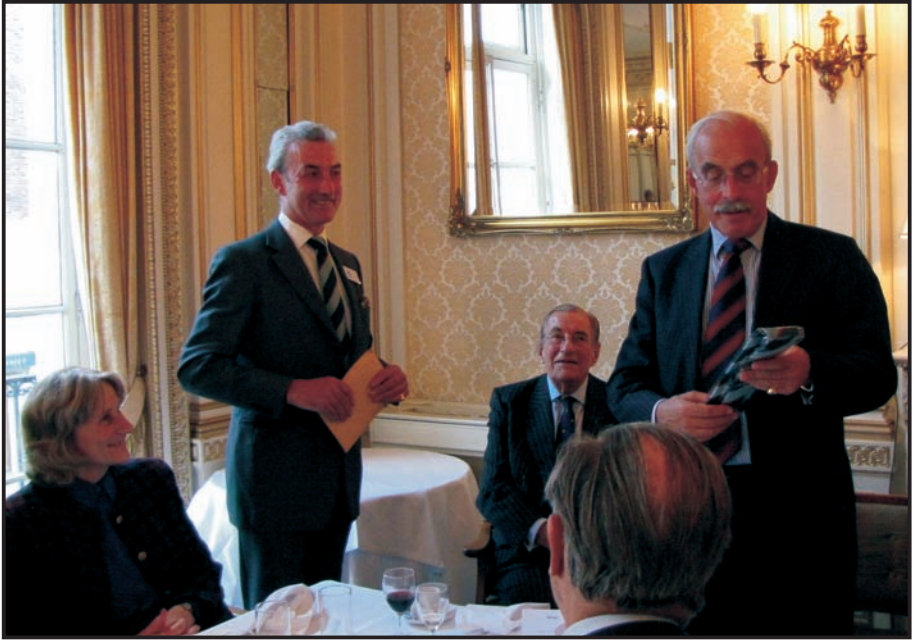
[Left to right] Cllr. Michael Hill, Sgt. Major John Stannard and David Parish MBE at the new headstone commemorating Pte Edwin Tompkins



Members of the Gallipoli Association's 2009 Tour at the Turgut Reis Battery



Members of The Gallipoli Association's 2009 Tour at The Helles Memorial



James Watson-Smith presents Professor Richard Holmes with an Association tie at the Autumn Lunch [Photograph John Crowe]



Abdullah Ayer stands in front of the Lighter discovered at 'W' Beach [Photograph Richard Szwed]



The remains of the lighter discovered at W Beach. The remains of another craft can be seen on the left of the photograph. [Photograph – Abdullah Ayer]



Remains of the lighter off Gully Beach [Photograph – Abdullah Ayer]



Plaque commemorating the Pretyman Brothers in the cloister of Watts Cemetery Chapel, Compton, Surrey



The cloister of Watts Cemetery Chapel, Compton, Surrey



The Seaford War Memorial, East Sussex on which Captain (Acting Major) Cuthbert Bromley VC is commemorated



Model of the SS Royal Edward in the Museu de Barcelona

MY NINE DAYS IN GALLIPOLI

Eric Mavor (1894 – 1956)

The following article is based on a 38-page (undated) manuscript written by Mr Eric Mavor some time after he returned to the UK after service in Gallipoli.

Eric Mavor was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the 1/6th (City of Glasgow) Battalion (TF), The Highland Light Infantry. The battalion contained many of Eric's schoolfellows from the Glasgow Academy. Many did not survive and his son (Mr R F Mavor) stated in a letter to the former Editor '... despite being wounded my father always counted himself lucky'. He also noted that his father in writing the account from memory confined himself strictly to his own recollections.

Lt. Mavor did not always include precise dates in his manuscript and some have been added by the current Editor based on accounts in *The Official History of the 52nd (Lowland) Division*. These should, however, be regarded as approximate. These and additions from other sources are shown in square brackets.

The account commences on 23 May 1915 shortly before the battalion – part of the 157th Brigade, 52nd (Lowland) Division – left Dunfermline, Fifeshire on route for Plymouth, where it embarked on HMT *Transylvania*, which sailed on 26 May calling first at Gibraltar, then Malta, arriving in Egypt on 5 June where some time was spent in camp at Abukir before the battalion was re-embarked on the *Transylvania* at Alexandria for Lemnos on 13 June. However, the vessel was ordered back to Alexandria the following day. The battalion returned again to Abukir before embarking on the *Annaberg* for Lemnos on 28 June, which was reached on 1 July. This part of the account was published in the Christmas 1988 issue of *The Gallipolian* (No. 58) under the title 'At Camp in Egypt'.

Because of space constraints, it is not possible to reproduce the whole of the remaining manuscript so the following extract covers the period from the time the battalion landed at Gallipoli on the night of 2/3 July until Lt. Mavor was wounded and evacuated early on 14 July (a little more than 9 days!). Spellings and punctuation are those of the author. Sections omitted are shown thus ...

[2/3 July 1915]

We were to land at the 'River Clyde' ... but had to stand off an hour or so before the landing officers were able to let us go alongside the stranded transport, and all the time it thundered and rained on us. It appears we were fortunate that water was the only thing that rained on us. Heretofore troops had always been heavily shelled while landing. I think the rain must have kept the Turkish gunners indoors that night. While

we were standing off, we watched Verey lights being put up by the troops in the front lines away to the right. At last we got fixed up alongside the 'River Clyde' and soon we were on the beach; the first kilted battalion to land on the Peninsula.

Privates from another battalion of our division were waiting for us as guides, and we marched off by Companies. After we had walked for what seemed a long way, tripping over stray strands of barbed wire, the O.C. Company asked the guide where we were. He was forced to admit he did not know where he was taking us to ... We plodded on towards the Verey lights and were challenged by a sentry. A sleepy officer emerged from a dugout, asked who we were and happily knew where our rest camp lay. He kindly undertook to accompany us there, but before starting he politely suggested it might be as well to open out to ten paces or so between each section of fours as there was some risk that we might meet with some shelling ...

With the help of our more efficient guide, we got to our rest trenches [in the Torres Lines, just east of 'X' Beach]. They were about three feet deep and at one time had been our front line trenches. I thought of how they had been made. Men, Scotsmen, digging for their lives under machine gun, rifle and artillery fire. Many had not been able to dig fast enough as numerous sad little piles of earth behind the trenches showed ... Before he said goodnight our guide, officer and friend said "You'd better dig in a bit. They always shell this place at 10.30 in the morning". Tools appeared, I cannot remember now where from, but that was the beauty of our Sergeant Major, he always had the right thing in the right place. We dug until we thought the trench would give us sufficient shelter and then we lay down in it. I had got a wee funk hole in the centre of my platoon.

When morning came, lo! the Quartermaster had conjured his stores of food, drink and ammunition to a dump just in the rear of our trenches. True he did not have them dug in quite yet. That is what was behind us. In front there was a long stretch of rough country, covered with a coarse kind of whin bushes, sloping gently to a low, long flat hill, which stretched across our view from right to left. And this paltry mound was Achi Baba! The mountain with the rugged sides and unscaleable precipices that correspondents had been pleased to describe as such in the papers. One man said it was like the [?] at the back of his house in Coatbridge.

The Battalion was in the same line of trench on either side of my little push, and soon the Orderly Sergeant came along the line to tell the Company Quarter-Master Sergeants to come with their orderlies and draw rations. Soon a merry little group of twenty or thirty was collected round the Quarter-Master's dump, when Whee-ee-oo-oo., Bang, Whee-ee-oo-oo., Bang. Bang [shells started to land]. Twenty or thirty men have entirely disappeared with the exception of the C.Q.M.S., who is an old soldier, and who is dashing around with a mess tin collecting stray drops of rum from broken bits of jar, and at the same time deftly stuffing biscuits into his pocket. The thirty men. Are they blown to atoms? They have put into practice one of the great lessons of their training; they have taken cover; and not one of them is so much as scratched.

The Turks had loosed off a battery at us. They spoiled some rum jars irretrievably. And they had broken the ends off some ammunition boxes and that was all. The Q.M. stood up and smiled, but always chose the darkness of night to issue his rations after that. The shelling of the rest camps now started in earnest and lasted for about two hours. There was a well in a little bunch of bushes slightly in advance of our trenches, which came in for more than its share of hate. There were constantly men running out to it and it was wonderful how few people were damaged there. Orders were sent round from Battalion H.Q. that no one must leave his trench while shelling was in progress. I am afraid many men displayed a lack of discipline with regard to this order, but personally I obeyed it to the letter.

By the time the shelling had stopped for the morning we had learned to judge from the sound of them how near the shells were coming to us, and, in some measure, we had got over the habit of ducking which causes so much amusement to hardened veterans. Beyond one beach fatigue of a company nothing was asked of us that day, and we had time to look around us. On rising ground to our left were the ruins of the village of Krithia ... During the afternoon the beach party were introduced to 'Asiatic Annie'. This lady was a large gun on the Asiatic shore, whose duty it was to attend to our stores on the beach. She did much damage to the stores and the cliffs but did no harm to any of our men.

Two of our aeroplanes went up to 'spot' for the artillery, and pretty little white puffs of just like cotton wool began appearing round them. These were the Turkish A.A. guns but they were never known to do any damage, and the smoke from them was rather pretty. We learned from experience that that the appearance of aeroplanes was a signal that 'Johnnie Turk' was going to shell our trenches heavily. This day was no exception to the rule, and a road that ran past our trenches came in for its fair share. We had a fine view of a big sixty-pounder gun coming into action along this road. The gun drawn by a team of eight Clydesdale horses came first and passed at a furious gallop. Shells burst apparently under the horses feet, but they thundered on to a point about 600 yards in front of us where there was some cover from the Turkish view. The limbers with ammunition came up next under a similar hail of shells, and five minutes after the gun passed us it was in action. So passed our first day.

[4 July 1915]

The next day the officers of the Battalion went on a tour of inspection of the front line trenches. We left our rest camp and bore away over to the right among the 18 pounder batteries and the A.S.C. transport lines. At that time paint camouflage was just in its infancy, but for all that we found our batteries were so cunningly concealed with earthworks and brushwood, that often we walked close up to them before spotting them. We saw the famous French 'soixant quinze' in action. To see the rapidity and accuracy with which these batteries can be handled was a source of great comfort to us. At length we came to the mouth of a deep nullah, Achi Baba Nullah, which is one of the

two dried up watercourses, which gave us communication to our front lines. The R.A.M.C. had established dressing stations and Field Ambulances under the excellent shelter that the high banks afforded from the guns of Achi Baba. We went up this nullah, which reminded us of the burn in Rouken Glen, past Romanos Well, where the only decent water on the Peninsula was, up to Backhouse Post. Just before Backhouse Post there was an open space in the nullah, which the Turkish gunners could see from Achi Baba, and they made a point of making this place uncomfortable for troops passing up and down. From Backhouse Post two communication trenches branched out, one to the left, Plymouth Avenue, which led up to the Naval Division trenches, and one to the right, the name of which I have forgotten, which led over towards the French front on the right flank.

We went up Plymouth Avenue and found the Naval Division in charge. One of the Battalions came from Clydeside and there were some of our friends there. We got a most flattering reception; "we're all right now, here's the kilt" We had the lie of the land explained to us generally and some dangerous points in the trenches shown to us particularly. The trenches were poor and the parapets required repair in many places, as the hard crumbly nature of the soil made them easily knocked down by shellfire. By the end of our tour we were exceedingly thirsty, and of the many drinks we have had the long drink at Romanos Well, which followed, is, to my mind, pre-eminently the most satisfactory.

[5 July 1915]

The following afternoon we went up as a battalion for our first spell in the front lines. We had crossed over from the rest trenches to Achi Baba Nullah and up to Backhouse Post. We had scarcely started up the communication trench to Plymouth Avenue when we met a battalion of the Naval Division coming down. A communication trench three feet wide with a baking tropical sun beating into it and myriads of flies buzzing around it is not a pleasant place to promenade in. Imagine then the discomfort of wearing a great pack and rubbing past, in the opposite direction, a man wearing a great pack for about a mile and a half of sweltering trench. The men who were coming out to rest were happy and cracked jokes, because they were coming out to rest. Our men were happy and cracked jokes because they were going to have a new experience.

The battalion was arranged with two companies in the front line, and two companies in reserve. Our company had no sooner settled down in the second line than half of it was sent off down the long weary communication trench to Backhouse Post to fetch up the rations for the Battalion. By the time the ration party had been despatched it was dark and the men betook themselves to slumber. After about half an hour the remainder of the company were ordered off to dig fresh trenches. I was sent with a digging party to join up a communication trench with a sunken road, which would enable rations to be brought by mule, right up to the support lines, about a hundred yards or so behind the firing line. The advantage of this is obvious, as it would have saved the men carrying

60lbs. cases for one and a half miles through the communication trench.

I took my party of thirty men up to the point I was ordered to, and found a Sapper R.E. who was waiting to instruct us as to what was necessary. It seemed to me then, and several times since, that the sappers' job consisted entirely of telling infantry Officers and men where to dig. I am now told, however, on excellent authority, that this is not so. There was only about twenty-five yards of trench to dig and we had five hours to do it in. The time at first seemed ample but our men were tired and it was necessary to lay down flat whenever the Turk put up a flare, and it was found that when the men lay down, even for a few seconds that the flare was up, they had to be wakened up. Added to this delay was the fact that the ground we dug was very much like a Macadam road for hardness, to the depth of about three feet. There were some snipers bullets too, and three of the men were hit, but fortunately not seriously.

[6 – 8 July 1915]

By dawn we had just finished, and wearily staggered back to our support trenches, just in time to cook and eat some ham and biscuit and take over the firing line from the other half Battalion.

One day and night in the firing line were strenuous enough too. There was a lot of repairing to be done to parapets and other digging to do. This digging by the way, had to be done very circumspectly as at this point it was far from uncommon to find by the prod of a shovel or pick the sepulchres of the Faithful. They were not white sepulchres.

In the trenches there were little pools of white clay water that had drained down through the foul earth, and this water the men, parched with thirst, drank, contrary to orders and with the British soldier's customary disregard of hygiene. Sentries were posted over these pools to prevent the others from drinking, and they themselves made use of the unrivalled opportunity of slaking various thirsts. The result was that within twenty-four hours men were leaving the Battalion at the rate of about twenty per day with that scourge of the Peninsula, dysentery. The effect of this disease is to make men who normally weigh 12 to 14 stone, weigh about 7 stone, and too often the results are fatal. The call of "Stretcher bearer" was common too. The Turk was a clever sniper, and if a loophole was left uncovered when not in use, he could snipe men's heads as they passed it. Behind a discreetly hidden loophole plate with someone with a periscope to spot for one, there was plenty of amusement potting at likely places for snipers to be hidden in. The way of doing was for one to put perhaps three shots, one after another into a likely place. This was generally enough to make the sniper think he was spotted, he would then dash out of his hiding for the cover of the Turkish trenches and half a dozen rifles would have shots at him as he ran.

Thus passed the day. At night every second man had half an hour on and half an hour off of leaning on the top of the parapet and keeping a look out for Turk listening parties.

From time to time sort of rockets were put up, partly to relieve the monotony and partly to light up no man's land for the watchers. And so passed the sleepless night without incident, except when some nervous sentry let off a round or two of rapid fire and others equally nervous would join in. Then the platoon commanders scuttled up and down the trench hushing the storm, well knowing that he would be hauled over the coals for the bad fire discipline of his men. In passing it should be said that Johnny Turk o' nights sticks the muzzle of his rifle over a sandbag and blazes away from dusk to dawn into the air, so that it is comparatively safe to walk right up to his trenches. We did not know that then, however.

Another day and night in support and then out for some more rest.

[9 July 1915]

The afternoon we were relieved, something had irritated the Turk. He had blown up the sandbag barricade at Backhouse Post and by the time we got there he was busily shelling the engineers as they repaired the barricade. I admit that the engineers worked there magnificently and, on second thoughts, looking back, I withdraw, absolutely, any disparaging remarks I may have made. Just as my unfortunate platoon got to the open space in the Nullah, aforementioned, there came a block in the passage that stuck us there. We were all huddled together when we heard four shells coming. Two shrapnels burst just in front of us, doing great damage to the leading platoons, and two landed just behind us and covered us with dirt and bits of rock. Both were duds. The platoon was not so unfortunate after all, and we moved on.

It was dark when we got to our rest trenches and we were tired. Our disgust was great when we found them occupied by another battalion, and we had to go to other and inferior trenches a few hundred yards in the rear. An hour later we were told our original trenches were now vacant and that we were to move over by platoons. I paraded my platoon and gave strict injunctions that each man was to keep in close touch with the man in front, as the night was pitch black, and gaily set off across the rough ground to our own trenches. I got there with great skill and despatch, I considered, halted my platoon and turned round to find only the first two files (i.e. four men) had kept in touch. I was very angry. An hour later I found my tail and succeeded in shepherding it to the fold.

[10 – 11 July 1915]

Then came [two] days of digging fatigues, and the usual toil of the rest camp. By the afternoon of the last day we were set to cut up old biscuit tins into squares and we felt that something exciting was really going to happen. This feeling was changed into certainty when we were told that the tins were to be worn on our backs to heliograph to the artillery our whereabouts. We moved up to the front that night and took over the trenches we had been in before. The next day the artillery did some registration of

targets and again the beautiful accuracy of the 'soixant quinze' made us exult. Our battery took a sector of about one hundred yards of Turk trench and plumped its four H.E. shells clean into it. One shell I saw put up three Turks.

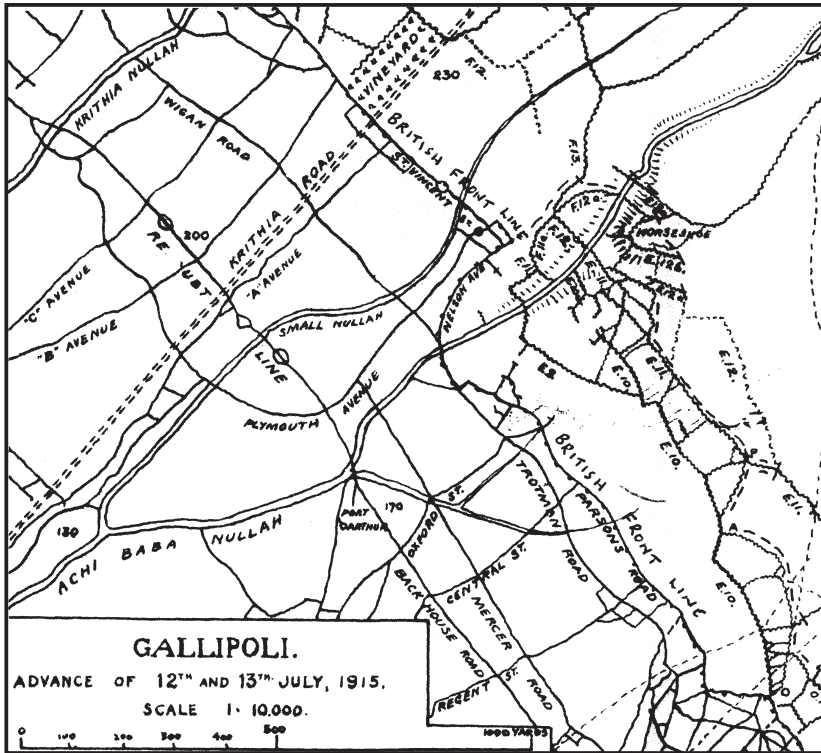
That afternoon the Officers of the Battalion were called to Battalion headquarters to receive orders for the attack on the morrow. Soon after 'stand to' at dawn the Artillery and Monitors were to put up a bombardment of 7,000 H.E. shells of all sizes in half an hour, then there was to be a pause and another bombardment of 7,000 shells, shrapnel and H.E. Immediately after the end of the second bombardment the French, a battalion of the K.O.S.Bs and a battalion of Royal Scots Fusiliers on our right flank were to attack. In the afternoon a similar bombardment was to take place and we were to attack.

We were to attack in two waves. The first wave of 100 men was to get over the bags at 4.29pm, led by a captain. Then followed 20 bombers who were to clean up the trenches taken by dropping bombs into dugouts and over parapets and traverses, led by yours truly. We were to start simultaneously with the first wave, only from the second line about 30 yards further back. Some minutes later a digging party of 100 men, to consolidate the trenches captured, were to start from the same second line also. From the support lines the second wave of 100 men was to start. Our objective was a small Turkish trench called F.12 on our maps, about 500 or 600 yards in advance of our own front line. These were our orders and the rest of the day till dark we spent explaining them to our men.

12 July 1915

At 3am on the morning of 12 July 1915, the day of the attack, word came from Brigade Headquarters that no one was to be allowed to go for water at Romanos Well after 3am so we promptly collected the water bottles of the company and sent some men down to fill them. The men came back with empty bottles. They had been turned back by the Military Police, so it looked like being a dry day for it. Shortly after that we moved out of the front line in case of some shorts from the Artillery. The crush and crowd in the second line was awful and it was next to impossible to move.

The bombardment suddenly burst upon us and in no time the Turkish trenches were invisible for dust and smoke. The noise was terrific. One of my men, an Irishman, was in tremendous form. "I've heard many a rowdy twelfth, Sor but this beats the band. Isn't near time to get at them, Sor?" There was a lull in the din, there was no reply from the Turk, his batteries were surely destroyed. Our bombardment broke out afresh. From where I stood I could dimly see the K.O.S.B. trenches through the dust. Another lull and the K.O.S.Bs. were out as one man. Then the Turkish batteries crashed out, now and again one could distinguish the crackle of machine guns through the tornado. Many fell and then the cloud of battle blotted out the ghastly scene. Our feelings for the fallen gradually turned to the sheer realisation that in less than six hours it would be our turn.



*Area F.12 attacked by the 1/6th (City of Glasgow) Battalion on 12 July 1915 [See Note 1]
[Reproduced from The Official History of the 52nd (Lowland) Division]*

The Turks then turned their batteries on us. For many hours, I don't know how many, they poured shrapnel on us and some shells fell in our trenches and men whom we had learned to love were blown to bloody rags. And through it all our magnificent men were calm and serene, they did not joke as some will tell you, the horror of the thing was too awful for that, but they were eager for 4.29, our jumping off time, that they might have an end to the suspense. One boy near me was badly cut in the thigh with a bit of shell, but he would not go down with it, "it's only half-an-hour and I must go over" he said. Our bombardment must have started about now, for machine gun bullets started kicking lumps of earth off the parapet.

At last! "Come on boys!" I nipped quickly over the parapet just in time to see the leader of the first wave do the same. I stood to see my Corporal and some of my bombers over. Some of them got no further than half way over and lay there. I gathered my impressions in the fraction of a second. All around me the ground was being kicked up in little spurts. Machine guns. Flashes and flashes and a sulphurous smell. Shells. A flash, a blast of heat, a concussion of air. Shell again.

I looked to my front now and ran to the old front line. A few yards from the parapet lay the Captain who was leading the first wave. Ahead again, somewhat scattered and running forward was our wave. I must get ahead of them and I ran on, leaving my bombing party to the Corporal. Lord how I ran. To my right, down in the Nullah about fifty yards away I saw 3 Turks firing apparently at me. Straight ahead I saw two going off with rifles slung. I was carrying two stick grenades and I pulled out the pin of one and threw it at the receding Turks. I hit one on the back but the grenade landed soft and did not go off. I felt as if I had been hit hard on the leg with a padded brick and went head over heels. I found I could not move from the waist downwards and lay there yelling hysterically, like a Bull of Bashan, at some men who were crossing the Nullah which was to form the mark of our right flank. As if they could hear me in that din!

I soon got too weak to yell and took time to look about me. What a shambles! I became convinced that I was going to die, and the thought rather pleased me. I was now going to find out what really followed after this life and I felt more and more anxious to know. A Sergeant passed me and asked if he could do anything and then lifted me into a communication trench and tied up my wound. [Note 2] He too was wounded but he went on to the front line. From time to time messages came from the front for ammunition and occasionally some men passed with boxes of it on their way up. One man went off, just before dark, to fetch some stretcher-bearers for me, but did not return.

[13 – 14 July 1915]

When morning broke I found myself pretty peevish at not having been picked up, and besides I was very thirsty as I had had nothing to drink for twenty-four hours. The bottle containing my little reserve of Romano's water was punctured through the bottom. With hope of getting home again I began to get the wind up in case I should be killed, and when the sun blazed down on me, without any chance of getting any shelter, I am afraid I swore a little.

At last, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 13th some R.N.D. ambulance men came along with a stretcher. A very smart Red Cross Corporal improvised a splint of a Turkish rifle on the outside of my leg and a bayonet on the inside, and then I was shuffled onto a stretcher. They heaved me out of the trench into the open, very much to my dismay, and hopped out after me. After a few yards in the open, they got into some more trenches and then I had about six hours of being tilted and scraped round traverses, or hoisted above parapets and in some places the trenches were so narrow that the stretcher jammed. Too much cannot be said for the stretcher-bearers. They were almost completely exhausted after forty eight hours of the hardest work mankind ever endured. They had no sleep, not even rest, and there was not so much as a grumble from one of them. Their care and gentleness with the wounded was quite pathetic.

In the darkness, I know not when or where, after a jolly journey in a G.S. wagon, I got

to the Casualty Clearing Station. It was a tent dimly lighted by an oil lamp. The floor was littered with stretchers and a tall surly looking surgeon toiled among them. My turn came. He very softly cut off the bandages, puttee stocking and boot and taking a wad of some antiseptic stuff grunted, "This'll hurt you" and stuck it in. I did not move a muscle. He watched the effect for a minute and then said, "By God, that's good! Have a cigarette!" I gratefully took the cigarette, but did not tell him I had felt nothing.

Then to the beach. If I could meet the driver of that motor ambulance, even today, I believe I would kill him. I was not the only inmate that complained. Twice I was thrown from my shelf, banged against the roof of the car and banged onto my shelf again, and I was not the worst wounded member of the convoy. I spent the night on the beach and the following day was transferred to H.M. Hospital Ship *Riva*. After that my life was 'all jam' more or less.

NOTES

1. The Official History of the Gallipoli Campaign records:

'On the extreme left, to the west of the nullah (Kanli Dere), the Turks were fighting stubbornly, and very heavy casualties were suffered by the 1/6th H.L.I. before reaching the Turkish trench F.12. The first troops to enter the line were driven out by a counter-attack, but after reinforcement by a party of the 1/5th H.L.I. the trench was finally taken, and all the objectives on this flank were finally made good. Losses had been so heavy, however, that further help was asked for. Two companies of the Plymouth Battalion R.M.L.I. were sent up during the evening to reinforce the left flank, and as soon as they arrived the Scottish troops withdrew'.

2. The Official History of the 52nd (Lowland) Division records a statement made by Col. (then Major) J Anderson, which mentions Mavor:

'The searching for the wounded in the thick scrub started immediately after the assault, and went on throughout the night. The company of Sgt. G Harper (6th HLI) had lost all its officers and its CSM, but he led them on to their objective. He had seen two officers lying severely wounded in Achi Baba Nullah, and, having handed over his men to an officer, asked and received permission to return to their help. Although severely bruised by earth thrown up by a shell and suffering great pain, he went down Achi Baba Nullah, through a very inferno of artillery and machine gun fire, and helped Lieut. Mavor to the shelter of a trench, killing or scattering a party of Turks who were firing at this officer at close range. Lieut. Laird had meantime been assisted into cover. Sgt. Harper then collected a number of leaderless men and led them up to the company's objective, where he continued to supervise consolidation, remaining on duty for a number of days and declining to receive any personal attention'.

Sgt. Harper was awarded the DCM for his actions and promoted to CSM. The 6th Bn. lost 11 officers and 280 other ranks during the attack of whom 8 officers and 81 other ranks were killed or later died of their wounds.

WAS GAS USED DURING THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN?

David Parsons writes from Newfoundland about the article by Cenk Avci in the Autumn issue of *The Gallipolitan* (No. 120):

‘The Gas Committee in London sent Captain Cluny Macpherson, RAMC, later Director Medical Services, Newfoundland Regiment, to Mudros and Cape Helles. He was there from 16 July to 21 October 1915 although though most of the time was at Mudros. He instructed officers on gas protection, observing that the Allies would be at the greater risk in the use of gas, as they were below the Turks at most places. He was later sent to Salonika and Serbia to instruct regarding gas protection there. He did not think that gas was ever used by the allies at Gallipoli because of the risk to our own troops’.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Stamps with a Gallipoli Connection

A small error crept in on the caption to the photograph showing the one cent Newfoundland stamp that appeared on page 36 of the Autumn issue. This stated that the stamp was issued in 1917. It was actually issued in **1919** as stated in the related article ‘A Gallipoli Stamp from Newfoundland’ by Dr. Philip E Smith.

Col. Carl Mahakian has kindly supplied the Editor with coloured photocopies (and some originals) of most of the stamps issued by the then Dominion of Newfoundland between 1898 – 1923 and also a number of stamps issued by Turkey in 1916/1917, the latter being mentioned in the article by Peter Moon, which appeared in the Spring 2004 issue of *The Gallipolitan* (No. 104). If anyone would like sight of these stamps (on a see and return basis) please contact the Editor.

The Life and Letters of Captain Cuthbert Bromley VC

The second paragraph of this article, on page 45 of the Autumn issue (No. 120), should have read:

‘Cuthbert Bromley was born on 19 September 1878. Nearly all references to him give his place of birth as Seaford, Sussex but his birth certificate states that he was born at 6 Earls Terrace, Shepherd’s Bush, London. The 1881 census gives his place of birth as Hammersmith ...

The date given on the sketch of Bromley on page 47 should have been **1896** not 1898.

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF CAPTAIN (TEMP. MAJOR) CUTHBERT BROMLEY VC [PART 2]

Clive Summerson

The first part of this article, published in the Autumn issue of *The Gallipolian* (No. 120), dealt with Cuthbert Bromley's early life and his military career, which included service in Malta, Africa and India, and his return to England following the outbreak of the First World War. This concluding part traces his time at Gallipoli, woundings and fateful return.



Studio Portrait of Cuthbert Bromley (c.1899)

On Route to Gallipoli

Brig. E A James' book *British Regiments 1914-1918* states that the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers sailed from Avonmouth on 16 March 1915, reached Alexandria on 29 March and Mudros on 10 April. However Cuthbert's letter to his mother is dated 6 April and from its content appears to have been written whilst still in England. It is possible that the HQ staff followed on some time later.

6/4/1915

My dearest Mother

Here we are safe and sound and very fit. Kirkby came and looked me up the other day. I wish he could go with us.*

We hope to be in it very soon now but I can assure you I shall take no risks. Though I have really the strength of a lion I have the heart of a mouse.

I only had 1 hour possible from 12 noon to 1pm at Euston but I think I told you this. I got vaccinated the other day. We expect to move on Thursday.

Fond love to Re and Mary

Ever your loving son

Cuthbert.

[* Harold A Kirkby Adjutant 8th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers (1914). Bromley had known him since he had joined the Regiment in 1900.]

The 'later departure' theory seems to be borne out by Cuthbert's next letter home on 16 April 1915 when he most definitely was on board ship as the letter is written on Anchor Line notepaper showing a picture of the ship.

*Anchor Line
Twin Screw Steamer
CALEDONIA*

16/4/1915

My dearest Mother

Still alive and kicking, but a very short way to go now. I am very fit but shall be very glad to get off the ship.

I hope all goes well now. I got your letter and hope there may be another one very soon.

This boat is not a patch on our former one.*

Give my love to Re and Lance and Mary and fondest love to yourself

xxxxx

Ever your loving son

Cuthbert

[*SS *Arcadian* which was used to transport men of the 29th Division en route to the Dardanelles]

Gallipoli – ‘Six Before Breakfast’

Much has been written about the actions of the Lancashire Fusiliers on 25 April 1915. The exploits of those involved abound with immense courage and great gallantry. On that morning, Cuthbert Bromley had got ashore at the northern end of W Beach where landing parties had found there was more protection from the cliffs – thus avoiding the earlier carnage on the beach itself. Once ashore, Cuthbert assisted his Brigade Major by getting the men through the wire entanglements, then leading small groups of leaderless men forward and encouraging them to the top of the cliffs seemingly quite oblivious to enemy fire. Six Victoria Crosses were eventually awarded to men of 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers during the landings at W Beach – but more of this later.

On 28 April, during the initial advance towards Krithia, Cuthbert was wounded in the thigh, but when examined by the doctors he was found to have also been wounded in the back on the first day of the landings. Cuthbert's letter home on 29 April gave his family the news that he had been in action and brief details that he had been wounded.

SS Southland.

29 April [1915]

My dearest Mother

I'm laid up with a bullet wound, nothing serious at all. Clean through the flesh (thigh) and am as fit as can be. The Regt. suffered rather heavily in the recent fighting.

I quite enjoyed myself and hope to be about again very shortly.

Fondest love and many kisses

I should like to hear from Lance, Re and Mary –

Same address: 86 I.B. Med. Ex. Force

Ever your loving son

Cuthbert

PS: Writing bad is not due to wound but awkward position lying down.

After a spell in hospital, Cuthbert wrote to his mother again on 8 May 1915 informing her that he had recovered from wounds.

ON BOARD THE CUNARD
RMS FRANCONIA
8/5/1915

My dearest Mother

I'm all right again now. You may not hear from me for some little time so don't be anxious.

I think your last letter to me has gone to Alexandria as they thought I'd been sent there. I'm very fit and quite enjoying myself. I shall have some tall stories to tell you when I get back.

My fondest love to Re and Mary. I haven't got a letter from Lance yet.

Fondest love and many kisses.

Ever your loving son

Cuthbert.

Another letter followed on 25 May 1915.

25/5/1915

My dearest Mother

I'm back again and going strong. I got a bullet clean through just above the knee which was kind enough to miss the knee cap. Life is very pleasant here but I shan't be sorry to get back.

I got your letter of 4th May and Mary's postcard for both of which many thanks.

An occasional box of cigarettes or a decent pipe would be acceptable.

Fondest love, many XXX's to you Re and Mary.

Ever your loving son

Cuthbert

Return to Duty

By 3 June 1915, Cuthbert was back on the Peninsula in trenches around the area known as Gully Ravine. The battalion sustained heavy losses in the 3rd Battle of Krithia on 4 June and following this Cuthbert made a gallant attempt to save the wounded lying in No Man's land. The Lancashire Fusiliers' Annual recorded: -

... Colonel Bishop asked for permission for a short truce to be arranged so as to examine

the ground and bring in the wounded. This was not granted; but Colonel Bishop was allowed to send out a party under the Red Cross flag. The attempt was made on the early morning of the 6th June. The flag was hoisted over the Lancashire Fusiliers' trenches. The Turks were watching but not a shot was fired. Before the stretcher parties got out two shots were fired from a British battery. The Turks immediately opened fire. When the firing had died down the flag was again hoisted, and no shots were aimed at it. Captain Bromley bravely mounted the parapet and stood fully exposed in front of it. This action drew a spatter of bullets from the enemy's trenches which struck the parapet on either side of him, so he returned into the trenches. At eighty yards the Turks could hardly have missed him, but Bromley on his own initiative took the risk'.

Two further letters were written to his mother on 3 June and 14 June 1915.

"By the sea"

3rd June 1915

My dearest Mother

I got your letter of 6th May. Very fit.

We're close up to brother Turk now. Only 50 yards away in places. The show has changed from open work to trench warfare but we shall get them out soon. Lovely climate here and sea bathing.

I hope all goes well at home.

Fondest love to Re and Mary. I've had no letter from Lance yet.

Bye Bye and many kisses.

Ever your loving son

Cuthbert

14/6/1915

My dearest Mother

Here we are again. I am in command now until anyone senior returns.

Life is alright. I find the want of change of clothing a distinct drawback. An occasional box of good Egyptian cigarettes or a nice light pipe or one or two Khaki handkerchiefs and a toothbrush would be most acceptable although my toilet is pretty spasmodic.

I hear Bulgaria and Roumania are coming in. This is good.

Best Luck to Lance and Dora on their daughter. I must write when I get a chance

Ever my dearest mother

Your loving son

Cuthbert

Love to Re and Mary. I can't manage any more letters as I've a good deal on.

Wounded Again

Promoted to Temporary Major, Cuthbert was in action again on 28 June 1915, at the battle of Gully Ravine. Before the action he delivered a rousing speech to his men before leading them over the top. Unfortunately he was hit in the foot very early on. Undeterred, he insisted that the men who picked him up carry him forward so he could continue to direct the attack. The wound was found to be serious and he was sent for treatment in Cairo where Cuthbert wrote a further letter to his mother.

*Anglo American Hospital
Cairo*

5/7/1915

My dearest Mother

Here am I safe and comparatively sound. I got a shrapnel bullet in the ankle. It went nearly through and they cut it out.

It's not done much damage. I was X rayed this morning and they said there was very little but would tell me tomorrow when the plate is developed. It might be a 3 week job or possibly 6 or 7 but I think the former as I heal so quickly. My last wound was only 3 weeks – Lance can probably say if it will be likely to do any harm.

Tell Lance to buy me a Godfather's present say £6.

I don't know if I told you but £100 has just gone home to my credit and I already had about £60 to £70 so there should be by now well over £.... [?].

I gave authority for Lance to draw on my account up to any extent. It is intended primarily for you but also for Lance, so don't hesitate to use it because I can't help thinking you may be (?) short at times.

I also want to give Mary a present of £6. Will you tell Re to give her as much of the cash as she thinks advisable and do what she likes with the remainder (Lance is to give cash for the amounts).

Tell Re I was very glad to get her letter and will write soon.

Fondest love to Re and Mary and yourself

Ever your loving son

Cuthbert

PS: I was made a temporary Major whilst commanding the Battn. I don't know if I'm one now or not.

From the hospital in Cairo, Cuthbert was sent to Cyprus for convalescence. He wrote to his mother on 23 July 1915 from Cyprus and then from Cairo again where he was waiting for passage back to the Gallipoli Peninsula. In the letter of 10 August 1915 it would appear that his mother had been notified by the War Office that Cuthbert had received a wound classed as 'severe'. In his reply he plays this down. It is a particularly poignant letter in which he makes the point that he was lucky to get off so lightly when wounded. It was to be the last letter he wrote. Three days later, Cuthbert lost his life when the transport *Royal Edward* was torpedoed en route to Mudros.

Troudos, Cyprus

23/7/1915

My dearest Mother

I'm in a convalescent camp here and hope to be back in the Peninsula at the end of 3 weeks. Possibly less. Boats from here are uncertain but probably one (which I hope to go by) will leave about 2nd August and be in Alexandria by 5th August.

Go before medical board 9th August arrive Peninsula about 11th August. My foot is improving daily and it was a great change to get here from Cairo which was very hot and unpleasant.

A lovely place this, about 25 convalescent officers and comfortable quarters.

I haven't had any letters yet as they take some time to get forwarded on. I shall probably get them by next boat.

I hope all is well at home. My love to Re and Mary

Ever your loving son

Cuthbert

PS: Just possible they may not let me go by next boat but if they don't, I will let you know.

*SAVOY PALACE HOTEL
ALEXANDRIE
EGYPTE*

10th Aug [1915]

My dearest Mother

I have been passed fit now and am waiting for a boat back to the Peninsula.

I got your letter of July 28th. My promotion was only temporary whilst commanding the Regt. on the Peninsula and I now revert back to Captain as Major Pearson has gone back and taken over command. However promotion doesn't matter at all as I'm bound to get it fairly soon. I should have been described in the casualty lists as "Capt. & Temp. Major".

The parcels I may get here or in Gallipoli. I may go any time now probably 14th Aug and it takes about 3 or 4 days to get there. Don't send any more parcels just yet until I get back.

I am very fit and my foot is absolutely cured. I'm very lucky to get off so lightly each time – "Severe" means nothing and is only in distinction to "Slight" meaning that you are out of the firing line for a bit.

Don't put "Adj't" on my letters as when I'm away (they have not done so yet), they might possibly open them thinking them semi official. When I'm on the spot of course it's all right.

I'm very glad to hear you've been enjoying Bath so much.

Well bye bye and fondest love to you all

Ever your loving son

Cuthbert.

The Sinking of the SS *Royal Edward*

The *Royal Edward* was hit by a torpedo fired from German submarine UB14, some six miles west of Kandalusia, at about 9.15am on 13 August 1915. She sank very quickly, in less than 6 minutes. Cuthbert had not been feeling well that morning and had been one of the last to jump overboard. It seems likely that he was hit on the head by some wreckage as he was seen in the sea partially unconscious.

Cuthbert's Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. W B Pearson wrote to Cuthbert's mother sometime after the disaster when some details of the sinking and his death had come to light.

*1st Lancashire Fusiliers
Near Suvla Bay
Gallipoli Peninsula
86th Brigade
29th Division M. E. F.*

9th October 1915

Dear Lady Bromley

Ever since the dreadful fate of the Royal Edward became known – which cost you your son and me my great friend and adjutant, I have been endeavouring to get particulars about the tragedy.

I'm afraid what I have gathered is sad in the extreme, but I send them to you knowing you would rather know what can be told of those last few [?] hours than remain in ignorance.

We had a draft of 46 men on board, some of them, like your son, men who had been wounded and were returning to the Battn. and from the most creditable of the few survivors who returned to the Regt. I have obtained the following particulars.

Your son was the senior military officer on board and as such was “commanding the troops on board”.

The Royal Edward was struck by one or two torpedoes about 9 am and went down in about 4½ minutes. Your son was not well that morning – a touch of fever and had not come down to breakfast as usual. As far as I can gather he was one of the last to jump overboard but must have either jumped on some floating wreckage or some had fallen on him for he was seen swimming in the water in a half unconscious state with his forehead damaged. One of our men who knew him helped him on to a collapsible boat but which kept turning over as people tried to climb on. So the awful hours passed until the hospital ship “Soudan” was seen in the distance and your son and this man started to swim for it – but your son was by this time very feeble and told the man to go on and he turned back after about 20 yards and swam back towards the upturned boat crowded with men.

The next details I have is from a semi official source and says a man – one of ours, who knew him well, who had been rescued in one of the hospital ship boats – was in this boat as it cruised about picking up any survivors. They found your son's body floating in the water and took it on board and tried to revive him, but it was some hours after the original tragedy and he was dead and so his body was consigned once more to the deep, for the boat was nearly filled to the gunwale and there were still some survivors struggling in the water.

So passed one of the bravest officers I have known – my friend for years and the most popular man in the Regiment. I was nearly heartbroken Lady Bromley at it all for he and I were the last of the old Regt. left out here and now I am alone, in command and very lonely. All the rest of our old lot, that gallant band who landed on the 25th April are killed or wounded or away sick. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy in your loss – for our loss I never cease to grieve. Only I may not let my thoughts dwell on those brave souls my dear friends in the old Regiment who have gone. I have to keep my mind clear directing those present who are in my charge.

I know dear Lady Bromley you have had another bereavement to bear only so recently when we were in Nuneaton early in the year and this added loss is very, very hard to bear. I am hoping however we shall get some recognition of your son's gallantry in the past even though he is not alive to hear of it.

Now I must stop this letter, written amid muddy and unpleasant surroundings in the trenches when shells and bullets perpetually crack and hum past and among us. Once more my heartfelt sympathy to you all in your sad loss and Believe me

Yours sincerely

W.B. Pearson

(Lieut. Colonel – Commanding 1st Lancashire Fusiliers)

Delay in the award of the Victoria Crosses

As previously mentioned, six Victoria Crosses were eventually awarded to men of 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers for their gallantry at 'W' Beach on the morning of 25 April 1915.

In his covering report, written on 15 May 1915, General Hunter Weston (GOC 29 Division) recommended the names of two officers (Willis and Bromley), two sergeants (Stubbs and Richards), one corporal (Grimshaw) and one private (Keneally) for the award of the VC. Hunter Weston stated that '... their deeds of heroism took place under my very eyes'. Sir Ian Hamilton (GOC MEF) supported the recommendation.

When the recommendations reached the War Office, it was decided to deal with the case as a collective award under Clause 13 of the Statute. There then followed much confusion and uncertainty regarding the rules governing the award under this clause. The matter remained unresolved until another recommendation allowed under Clause 13 (balloting of those involved for up to four VC's) was dispatched asking for survivors of the battalion who had taken part in the landing on 25 April 1915 to nominate one officer, one NCO and two private soldiers for the award. Willis was nominated by the officers; Richards by the NCO's and Keneally by the private soldiers. No second private could be decided upon and it was the men's wish that Cpl. Grimshaw should take the place of the second private, however this was rejected. On 24 August 1915 the *London*

Gazette therefore announced the award of **three** Victoria Crosses – to Captain Willis, Sgt. Richards and Pte. Keneally.

There the matter rested until in early 1917, when Brigadier General Owen Wolley–Dod (himself a Lancashire Fusilier who had commanded 86th Infantry Brigade and had landed at W Beach around noon on 25 April 1915) insisted on the case being re-opened. When this was done, it was found that the VC warrant had been misinterpreted as restricting the award under Clause 13 to one officer, one NCO and two privates **per battalion** rather than **per company** and three companies and the HQ of the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers had actually been involved in the landing.

The names of Captain Bromley, Sergeant Stubbs and Corporal Grimshaw had therefore been wrongly excluded (although Grimshaw had received a DCM) despite them also being recommended to receive the VC. Finally, in March 1917, after further consideration by the War Office, the *London Gazette* announced the award of the VC to the three remaining men. The citation read as follows:

*War Office
15th March 1917*

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the under mentioned Officer and Non-Commissioned Officers of the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, in recognition of most conspicuous bravery displayed : –

*Capt. (temp. Maj.) Cuthbert Bromley (since drowned).
No. 1506 Sgt. Frank Edward Stubbs (since died of wounds)
No. 2609 Cpl. (now Sgt.) John Grimshaw*

On the 25th April 1915, headquarters and three companies of the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, in effecting a landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula to the West of Cape Helles, were met by very deadly fire from hidden machine guns, which caused a great number of casualties. The survivors, however, rushed up to and cut the wire entanglements, notwithstanding the terrific fire from the enemy, and after overcoming supreme difficulties, the cliffs were gained and the position maintained.

Amongst the many gallant officers and men engaged in this most hazardous undertaking, Captain Bromley, Serjeant Stubbs and Corporal Grimshaw have been selected by their comrades as having performed the most signal acts of bravery and devotion to duty.

The above awards of the Victoria Cross are to be read in conjunction with those conferred on the under mentioned for the most conspicuous bravery on the same occasion : –

*Capt. Richard Raymond Willis, 1st Bn., Lan. Fus.
No 1293 Sgt. Alfred Richards, 1st Bn., Lan. Fus.
No 1809 Pte. William Keneally, 1st Bn., Lan. Fus.*

See London Gazette, dated 24th August, 1915.

Note.- Consequent on the award of the Victoria Cross the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to No. 2609 Sjt. John Grimshaw, 1st Bn., Lan. Fus., which was published in the London Gazette dated 16th November, 1915, is hereby cancelled.

Lady Bromley collected her son's Victoria Cross from the King at an investiture at Buckingham Palace on 31 March 1917.

Cuthbert Bromley's VC is held by the family. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli (Panel 218). In England, he is commemorated on the Seaford War Memorial, Sussex where his parents lived for many years (see photograph on page 36). There is also a memorial brass to him in St Leonard's Church, Seaford:

IN EVER DEAR MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED SON
CUTHBERT BROMLEY VC
MAJOR AND ADJUTANT 1ST BATTALION
LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS (XX REGIMENT)
WHO LOST HIS LIFE IN THE SERVICE
OF HIS COUNTRY WHEN THE TRANSPORT
ROYAL EDWARD WAS TORPEDOED IN THE
AEGEAN SEA ON AUG 14TH 1915 IN HIS 37TH YEAR.
"HAVE THEY NOT HEARD THE MASTERS SWEET "WELL DONE"
ENTER MY REST, YOUR CROWN OF LIFE IS WON"

Acknowledgements:

With many thanks to the following people for their help and advice: Lance and Ann Bromley, William Facey, Neil Burnett.

Sources:

The Roll of Honour – The Marquis De Ruvigny
Army Lists – Various dates from 1897 – 1915
Boer War Casualty Roll – Andy Palmer
British Regiments 1914 – 1918 – Brig. E A James
VC's of The First World War: Gallipoli – Stephen Snelling
Gallipoli: The Landings at Helles – Huw & Jill Rodge
Census Returns – 1881, 1891 & 1901.
National Archives – WO 76/151 Officers Services; WO 32/4994 Recommendations for Awards with regard to Operations in the Dardanelles; WO 32/4995 Decorations and Medals: VC Recommendations for awards to men of the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers for Operations in Gallipoli 1915 – 1917.
Fusiliers Museum, Bury
Lancashire Fusiliers Annual – Various editions
The History of the Lancashire Fusiliers 1914 – 1918 – Major Gen J C Latter

THE ROYAL EDWARD IN BARCELONA

David Saunders

In early May I was fortunate to spend a day in Barcelona and able to achieve a long cherished ambition, to visit the Maritime Museum. Naturally, Christopher Columbus and other navigators are key features in the Museum, and indeed it was these I had come to see. However, imagine the surprise when towards the end of my visit I found myself looking at a magnificent model, fully twelve feet long, of the *Royal Edward*. The troopship which was sunk by UB14 on 13 August 1915 while en route to Gallipoli from Alexandria with the loss of 853 military personnel and 132 crew – see ‘Loss of the Troopship *Royal Edward*’, which appeared in the Winter 2002 issue of the The Gallipolian (No. 100), pages 40-51.

How and why was such a model here were immediate questions, and subsequently in answer to my enquiries I was able to discover that the Museum received the model in 1931 from the engineer Luis Jacoby, though they were unable to say whether he actually made the model. They also advised that there is no connection between Barcelona and the *Royal Edward*. The model is enclosed in a glass case, which made photography difficult because of the reflection but a photograph can be found on page 36 and indicates just what a superb model it is.

I am most grateful to M Dolors Jurado Jimenez of the Museu Maritim de Barcelona for providing information about the model; to the Editor for translating this from the Spanish; and to Neil Burnett, author of the article referred to above, for valuable additional information.

Note: The Barcelona Maritime Museum – Museu Maritim de Barcelona is highly recommended; it is open from Monday to Sunday between 1000 and 1900 for a modest entrance fee. An excellent guide book in English is available for purchase and includes a photograph of the *Royal Edward* model.

QUARTERMASTER’S STORES

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 (see illustration in Spring 2002 *Gallipolian*) 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]

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.

THE GALLIPOLIAN ARCHIVE CD

The Gallipolian Archive CD, contains issues 1 – 115 of *The Gallipolian*. The editions have been scanned and converted to PDF files, making them accessible via supplied free software on almost all modern computers. 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.

Orders should be sent to GACD, 7 The Cleave, Harpenden, Herts AL5 5SJ. Cheques should be made payable to ‘The Gallipoli Association’. Payment using Paypal is also possible via the Association website. [Please send an e.mail to webmaster@gallipoli-association.org if you have any questions about the CD or online payment.]

SIMPSON BADGES

The Gallipoli Association holds a small stock of these badges produced by the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland.

The Badge is an oval design (three-quarters of an inch) showing Simpson in classic pose with his donkey. Each badge costs £2.50 plus a sae, orders please to The Treasurer, Gallipoli Association, Frinton Cottage, 3 Cambridge Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, CO13 9HN.

PUTTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Patrick Burke sent me the clues to a ‘Crossword’ which appeared in the *Daily Express* in September. That for No. 25 across stated:

Peninsula of north-west Turkey between the Dardanelles and the Gulf of Saros;
scene of an unsuccessful Allied campaign in 1915 fought mainly by Australian and
New Zealand forces (9 letters).

Mr Burke wrote to the Editor pointing out that British and French troops outnumbered the Anzac contingent. He notes that nobody doubts the important part played by the Anzac contingent at Gallipoli, but the crossword clue only serves to reinforce the myth in the minds of the public that the campaign was essentially an Anzac operation.

RUPERT BROOKE IN WISDEN

David Saunders

Since 1892, *Wisden's Cricketer's Almanac* has published more than 10,000 obituaries, of cricketers, cricket personalities and those who have been touched by this best loved of games. Gideon Haigh, best-selling author of *Mystery Spinner* and *Ashes 2005* has brought together some 250 of the oddest, most unexpected and most touching of these obituaries in *Peter The Lord's Cat and Other Unexpected Obituaries from Wisden* published by Aurum in 2006. Among their number is Rupert Brooke; herewith his obituary from Wisden.

BROOKE, SUB-LIEUT. RUPERT C. (ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION), born at Rugby on August 3 1887, died at Lemnos of sunstroke on April 23, 1915. In 1906 he was in the Rugby XI, and although he was unsuccessful in the Marlborough match he headed the school's bowling averages with a record of 19 wickets for 14.05 runs each. He had gained considerable reputation as a poet.

The reference to Brooke dying at Lemnos is, of course, incorrect

BOOKS

EVAN'S WAR

Author: Malcolm Stevens.

Publisher: Xlibris [Internet sales – www.xlibris.com/EvansWar.html]

Contents: 280 pages. ISBN: 1-4415-0343-9 (paperback). Price: \$19.99

Malcolm Stevens has lived and worked in the USA, UK, Turkey and Lebanon. A scientist by profession, he has a BSc from San Jose State and a Ph.D. from Cornell. This is his first work of fiction although he has two chemistry and two history books to his credit.

Evan's War is the story of a young coal miner, Evan Morgan, whose life takes a dramatic turn when he joins the army at the outset of the First World War and is sent to fight at Gallipoli.

Leaving the Rhondda Valley and his childhood sweetheart, Evan arrives in Gallipoli unprepared for the horrors of trench warfare. But he finds an inner strength that sustains him during the terror of the landings and ensuing campaign against the solidly entrenched Turkish army. When he is wounded and taken prisoner, Evan finds himself in a prison hospital near Constantinople. A series of events bring him to seek refuge from the war in a seemingly serene farming village on the shores of the Bosphorus populated by Turks and Armenians. Here he falls for a beautiful but mute Armenian girl with a tragic past. And it is here that the course of his life changes in ways he could never have imagined ...

Editor's Note: It is with regret that I learnt just before the journal went to press that the author, Malcolm Stevens, died after a ten year battle with leukaemia. Malcolm had a personal link with the campaign – his Grandfather being killed at Scimitar Hill in August 1915]

TALES AND MORE TALES FROM THE MESS

May I draw the attention of readers to two splendid books by Miles Noonan: *Tales from the Mess* published in 1983 by Hutchinson and *More Tales from the Mess* published in 1985 by Century Publishing.

Both comprise a fine selection of amusing, sometimes poignant, short stories and anecdotes about the life in the British Army since Victorian times. Stories of misunderstandings, mistakes and misdemeanours of commanders, corporals, Gurkhas, sergeant-majors and skrimshankers. I am sure readers will find both books entertaining, as I have. There is a Gallipoli story in each (though not in my view as good as many of the others) and, by way of introduction, here is the one from *More Tales from the Mess* entitled 'More Tales from the Heart'.

Whether the origins of the ritual lay on the terraces of football stadiums, in Edwardian music halls or on the pantomime stage, is open to discussion and research. The most likely of the three is that it came from that part of a pantomime in which the principal boy resorts to consultation with the audience about the baddies.

“They’ve gone away, haven’t they?”

“NO-O-O-OH.”

“Will I kill them?”

“YE-E-ESS.”

The military variant, widely in vogue for most of the First World War less so in some of the Second, involved, as in pantomime, a solo putter of a question with a known answer and a roared chorused reply.

“Are we downhearted?”

“NO-O-O-OH.”

Troops on tedious working parties, marching at ease or simply sitting about and smoking, drew comfort and reassurance from the reiteration of this simple dialogue. Officers and senior NCOs would not risk making themselves ridiculous by instigating it, but were always glad to hear it. It was an earnest of a determination not to bend before adversity, an indication that morale remained sound in the face of hardships, dangers and irritations.

The officers of an infantry battalion on the last stage of their journey to reinforce the expedition to Gallipoli in 1915 were heartened when the familiar shouted chant echoed from the decks of the converted cargo ship in which they were approaching the peninsula. It was clear from all reports that the fighting on the beaches and among the hills and gullies had been savage. Casualties, eventually to total 205,000 killed, deaths from sickness and injury had already been enormous.

On this velvet, still, moonlit, starlit, Mediterranean summer’s night, the decks were crowded with unsleeping soldiers, talking quietly, looking at the spasmodic flashes of gunfire from the land ahead of them. Visibility was good enough to let them see another steamer approaching them a long way away on a nearly reciprocal course. When it came nearer they identified it as a hospital ship. It passed close by, to starboard. When it was level an enthusiastic voice cut across the subdued babble of chatter in the transport.

“Are we downhearted?”

“NO-O-O-OH” bawled several hundred men on the way to the loss of their military virginity.

An unscheduled third line came clearly across the sea from the hospital ship. It was delivered sardonically, in an Australian accent. “Well if your not now” said this realist, “you bloody soon will be.”

David Saunders



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.