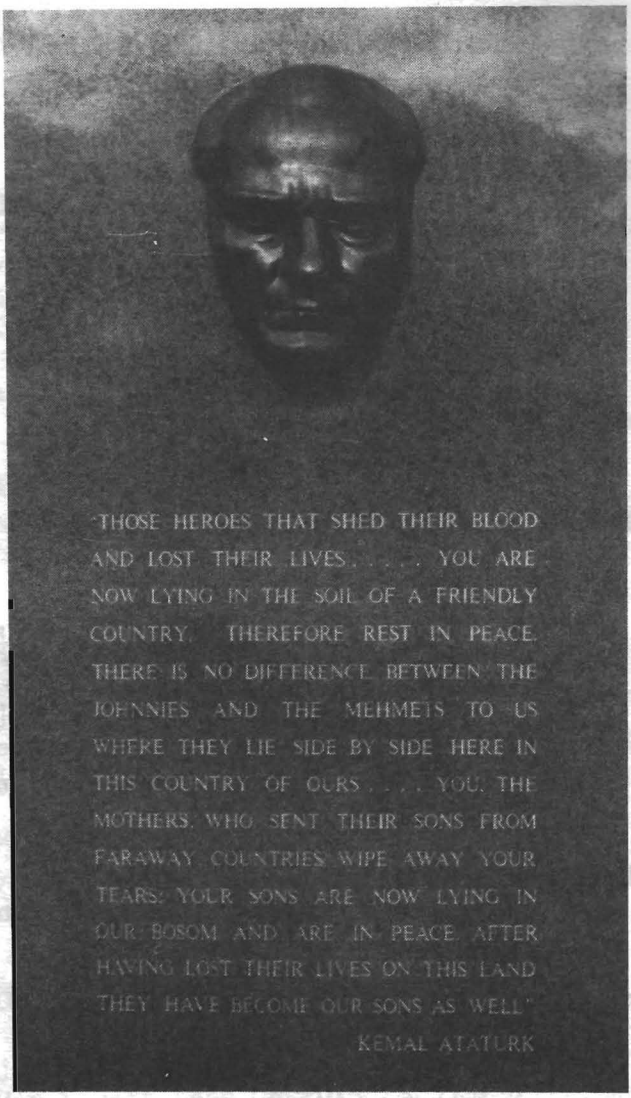
THE GALLIPOLIAN

THE JOURNAL OF THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION



KEMAL ATATURK'S WORDS ON THE MEMORIAL
OUTSIDE THE WAR MUSEUM IN CANBERRA

PRICE TO NON MEMBERS
55p

No 51
SUMMER 1986

THE GALLIPOLIAN
The Journal of the Gallipoli Association
(Founded by Major E H W Banner in 1969
on the campaign of 1915)

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NEW MEMBERS

In the original printed journal, this page and a small section of the following page contain names and full addresses of new members.

For reasons of data protection and personal privacy, this content has been omitted.

OBITUARY (27th June 1986)

With deep regret the following names are recorded.

390	V Adm. Sir Peverill B R W William Powlett, KCB KCMG CBE DSO (Vice President).
418	Captain E D Wolton, 1/5th Suffolk Regt. 54 Div.
420	R Mitchell, Sgt. Fife & Forfar Yeomanry.
525	F/Lt W Wilkins MM Cpl. 2 London Regt. R Fus.
AM766	F/Lt N E Litchfield DFC*.

EDITORIAL

In the Chairman's report members will read that this year's Annual General Meeting was informed that there may be only sufficient funds to produce two editions of The Gallipolian from 1987, instead of the three we are used to. The Treasurer's report has led the Committee to take this sad but necessary step in view of the financial situation, a situation which is going to be made worse by the forthcoming increase in postal charges next October. The Gallipolian is the Association's largest single item of expenditure, with three editions costing us over one thousand pounds per annum. Although the crucial importance of The Gallipolian in keeping our far-flung membership both informed and in touch is recognized, it must also be recognized that we have to make some judicious retrenchment. Consequently the Christmas edition of the Journal is to be axed next year. The Christmas edition has perforce been selected on the grounds that the Spring and Summer editions have to be retained to inform members of the details of arrangements for ANZAC Day and the new autumn lunch and AGM.

There will be some compensation for this loss in that the size of the Journal will be expanded from Spring 1987 (No.53) and it is to be hoped that this will, in some measure, make up for the demise of the third edition. An added bonus will be the appearance of the best entries submitted for the Edgar Banner Memorial Essay Competition, which has excited considerable interest with enquiries having been received from places as diverse as Iceland and Malta and some very interesting subjects having been suggested. The winner of the competition will be announced at the autumn lunch.

I have mentioned the autumn lunch deliberately. Members will know that we normally hold a formal dinner in the autumn, but it was decided at the AGM to replace the dinner with a lunch in the hope that more veterans will be able to attend. For some time now the Committee has been perturbed by the decline in the numbers of veterans attending the dinner and it is hoped that changing the timing of the function will enable more veterans to attend by removing the need to stay overnight in London. In 1987 the AGM will follow the autumn lunch, leaving the 25th April more relaxed and more in keeping with the spirit of a reunion. This year the lunch will be held on Tuesday 30th September at the R.A.F.Club in Piccadilly and members should consult the enclosed slip for further details.

It has finally been decided to admit ladies to membership of the Association. As you will read in the enclosed minutes of the AGM, the question of lady members was remitted to the Committee for decision. The Committee unanimously agreed that ladies should henceforth be admitted and I am pleased to note that this edition of The Gallipolian contains the name of our first female associate member. Provided this step does not result in the Association degenerating into a mere social club then nothing but good can come from it.

Finally, the very attractive card which members will find accompanying this edition of The Gallipolian is the gift of Mr.J.W.GEARING (507). I am sure that both members and associate members will join the editor in expressing warm thanks for this delightful and very generous gift. Members who would like more of these cards are invited to contact Mr.Gearing at: 133, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent.

MEO.

The resignation of Keith Tranmer from the Gallipoli Association which he has served for the past 14 years is a matter of some regret. In 1975 his organising ability was put to the test when he organised and led the very successful 60th Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Peninsula with a party of 45 taking part. His intimate knowledge of the Gallipoli battlefields make him an invaluable companion as many have discovered. His genuine interest and industry is well known and will be missed by all members but his originality may well shape the future of the Gallipoli Association which he served so well.

C.T.F.Fagan (Chairman)
& Committee.

NAVAL GUNNERY AT GALLIPOLI

On page 24 of Gallipolian No.50 is a reference to the gunnery of H M S Implacable at the X Beach landing on the 25th April. It may be of interest to readers to learn of one example of the support given by this ship in sharp contrast to the other comments provided on the subject of naval support.

On the morning of the landing at X Beach, a Lance-Corporal of the 1st Bn Royal Irish Fusiliers was sent to the cliff top to take ranges and seek a suitable position for the machine gun section. The first thing he saw over the cliff top was a camouflaged battery of Turkish guns firing onto the Border Regiment on his left. The man returned and reported to the M.G.officer who had the range signalled out to the Implacable. The man returned to his cliff top position to see the Turkish battery completely destroyed by the ship's gun fire. In 1975 I had the pleasure of accompanying ex-L.Cpl B A McConnell to his observation position of 1915. The M G Officer was Lt Mansfield. Source,Letters from veterans to K.Tranmer.

THE GALLIPOLI LUNCH 25TH APRIL 1986

Members of the Association assembled on the kerbside opposite the Cenotaph at the Annual Anzac Day wreath laying ceremony on the 25th April. Shortly before 11 a.m. veteran members and ex-servicemen paraded in the centre of Whitehall as wreaths were laid by representatives of all countries involved in the Gallipoli campaign.

The President Col. M.E.Hancock M.C. laid a wreath on behalf of the Association. The ceremony ending those present made their way the short distance to Westminster Abbey. As in the past seats had been reserved for the Association close to the choir. The Anzac Day Commemorative service began at noon. The flags of Australia and New Zealand were borne to the alter. Lessons were read by the High Commissioner of Australia and New Zealand Mr. A.R. Parsons and Mr. Bryce Harland respectively. The Address was given by the Reverend Gordon Watkins, Priest Vicar of Westminster Abbey. The service was well attended as thoughts were turned to the events of 71 years ago. The final hymn sung the congregation filed out of the west door.

Capt. Fagan had been able to arrange a coach to transport the Association members to Victoria Barracks. We were ably ushered aboard by an N.C.O. of the Coldstream Guards and travelled to the Barracks for luncheon.

After a drink in the Officer's Mess of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards we were piped into lunch by a Regimental Piper. Places were taken and an extremely good and enjoyable lunch was had by all. Liquers were ordered and we then enjoyed a display by two pipers and members of the Corps of Drums. As on previous occasions tunes of favourite and popular Great War songs were played. Thanks must obviously go to Lt. Col O'Dwyer for kindly granting us the use of the Mess of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards. Capt. Fagan for arranging the coach and the venue of our luncheon had the appreciation of all present. We were certainly looked after extremely well by the Mess waiters.

The A.G.M. subsequently followed in a nearby room.



Veterans (front rank) at the Cenotaph 25th April.



The Band of the Irish Guards playing to members at Chelsea Barracks.

GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
25th April,1986

Since the last AGM your Committee have met on two occasions during which a number of things were discussed, and decisions and action taken.

Subscriptions

Having been given authority to do so at the last AGM, the Committee decided, with one vote against, that subscriptions for Associate Members should be increased to £6 with no increase for Veterans. Extra payments are, of course, always welcome and many members do this. You will shortly hear from the Treasurer about the state of our finances, but you will note that they have now been considerably improved. I would like personally, and on your behalf, to thank Donald Bland warmly for all the time, trouble, and personal hard work he has been kind enough to take for us.

The Gallipolian

There are three factors which govern the production of the Gallipolian. These are:-

1. The amount of material available.
2. The editor having sufficient time to spare to carry out all the work involved.
3. There being sufficient funds available to pay the costs.

For 1986 the Committee were satisfied that these three criteria could be satisfied and accordingly decided that there would be three issues as usual.

For 1987 the editor assures us that he has ample material and that he will be able to cope, but it looks as though there will only be sufficient funds to produce two issues. These, however, will probably be bigger than before.

The Essay Competition

The Editor, Mike Occleshaw, has really pulled all the stops out on this. He has written to 43 Universities, 3 Polytechnics, The Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and the U.S.Marine Corps. He tells me that the U.S.Marine Corps is putting two insertions in their Gazette and already he has had four replies, two of whom are officers and one an Armenian who may well write an interesting essay with a Turkish viewpoint. Other replies have of course been received from nearer home. At this point I must pay tribute to the boundless energy and enthusiasm that Mike Occleshaw has displayed throughout and thank him sincerely from all of us for the invaluable work which he carries out on our behalf. The essay idea looks like being a great success and will provide interesting material for future issues of the Gallipolian.

The Committee discussed and explored possible ways of raising a sum of capital so that the prize money for the essay could be found from the investment income of such capital. I wrote to two MP's to see if they knew of any organisation that might help, and the Editor tried some educational trusts. None of these were able to help, and the Committee decided there were sufficient funds available to meet the prize money this year from our general fund. Next year the Committee will, of course, appraise the situation again, but I see no reason why there should not be enough money in our general funds to finance the prize money again. In my opinion this is a very suitable use for such funds.

The Gallipoli Memorial Lecture Trust

At our Committee meeting in October last year I suggested that I should make contact with the organisers of the Gallipoli Lectures to explore the possibility of enhancing the relationship between the two organisations. The Committee agreed, with one vote against. Accordingly I arranged to meet Judge Paul Batterbury and as you have heard from his excellent explanation to us today, I found

their aims and objects to be wholly compatible with our own and altogether very worthy and well organised. They are an educational charitable trust and therefore do not have members. Paul Batterbury very kindly arranged for a leaflet about our Association to be inserted in the Service Sheet for the lecture by Mr.Edward Heath and Service at Eltham last night. Also Paul has become a member of our Association, and there is the possibility of one of our officers being made a trustee of the Gallipoli Memorial Lecture Trust. In my opinion this new relationship between the two organisations, which are different in nature but nevertheless complementary to each other, can only be fruitful and mutually beneficial.

The Annual Dinner

It had been hoped that our Patron the Duke of Edinburgh might attend our dinner last year, and the date was made much later than usual because this was the only time there was even a chance of him being able to come. In the event he could not come and we were very pleased to have the High Commissioner for New Zealand and the deputy High Commissioner for Australia as our guests. Both made excellent speeches and the evening was much enjoyed by those present. Our thanks are due to Keith Tranmer for making the arrangements at the RAF Club.

Because it has been felt that it is difficult for Veteran members to attend a dinner with the inevitable need to stay the night in London, the Committee has felt that it would be better to have a lunch instead. Hence the recommendation which you will be asked to endorse shortly.

The A.G.M.

Because of the lack of time available on 25th April, and the impossibility of holding the AGM in the morning because of the ceremony at the Cenotaph and the Service at the Abbey, and also because we feel we should not burden our guests with our business rather than our pleasure, the Committee are recommending that the AGM should, starting in 1987, be held on the same day as the autumn lunch. It could be held in the morning before the lunch, which would leave time after lunch for anything which is deemed suitable such as a short talk or a lecture.

You will be asked to adopt this recommendation shortly, and you should of course bear in mind that it will mean that the officers and committee elected today will serve for eighteen months rather than the normal twelve.

Lady Members

This is on the agenda for discussion so I will not dwell on it now except to say that your Committee discussed the idea in principle but not in detail, and voted in favour by four votes to two, with one abstention.

Commonwealth Wargraves Commission

I have established contact with the Director of Secretariat. The policy of the Commission, who are of course well aware of our existence, is not to get involved in membership of associations such as ours, but they are delighted to give any assistance they possibly can to people who wish to have access to their records or to visit the Battlefield.

Conclusion

I believe that some important steps have been taken this year, some good progress made, and I believe the objects of our Association are as relevant today as ever.

ANZAC DAY IN AUSTRALIA

A great deal of information about the celebrations down under has been received from Mike Irwin (871AM) and J.G. Orton (847AM). Apart from heavy rain in Melbourne and the activities of a few cranks the day appears to have been carried in style. A selection from the press cuttings sent appears below.

From The West Australian:

SAD LOSS FOR ANZAC DAY.

Alf Brooks, a spry 90, will march alone, proudly but

sadly, on Anzac Day.

The sole surviving Gallipoli veteran from the 28th Battalion fit enough to march, the craggy-faced former infantryman badly wants to carry his battalion's banner, behind which he has marched in 27 Anzac parades.

But Mr.Brooks cannot find the banner and he is bitterly disappointed.

"I've tried the RSL, the 2/28th Battalion Association and some of my old digger mates, but nobody seems to know where it is," he said.

Born in Coolgardie in 1896, only three years after gold was discovered at Kalgoorlie, Alf Brooks joined the AIF at Moora, near where he was working as a farm labourer.

"My younger brother Bill, who joined the 16th Battalion at the age of 17, beat me to Gallipoli," he recalled at his Bayswater home yesterday.

"He was in the original landing; I was a reinforcement. He got a piece of shrapnel through his neck and I got blown up on Walker's Ridge.

"But we both got off the peninsula safely."

When only 19, Alf Brooks joined the original Anzacs on Cheshire Ridge in late September 1915, about 2½ months before the evacuation.

"The first sight that shocked me was a dead soldier lying in the trench waiting to be buried," he remembered.

"It was a mate I used to work with in Goomalling...."

Though he missed the bloody bayonet charges of the early days on the peninsula, the wiry veteran remembers exchanging shots across shell-pocked valleys with "Jacko."

"My initiation was to crawl out of the trenches under cover of darkness and crawl through scrub towards the Turkish lines," he said.

"A mate and I lay there for two hours, waiting, listening for Jacko to attack. When our watch was over, we crawled back to the trench along a cord we had trailed behind us on the way out so that we didn't get lost."

The young Digger was blown up by a Turkish shell and he did not regain consciousness till he was on a hospital ship bound for Egypt.

"That was four days before the evacuation," he said.

After three years and 333 days in the AIF, Alf Brooks

arrived back in Freemantle on April Fool's Day in 1919.

Mr.Brooks, who still mows his lawns and keeps a big garden, has no doubts about his ability to carry the 28th Battalion banner on Friday.

"I just hope we can find the flag by Anzac Day," he said.

In Melbourne a torrential downpour marred proceedings, but crowd figures were only slightly down on 1985 and the March was not abandoned. Blind and disabled servicemen and light horsemen led the parade, leading men and women from 346 units. The heroes, inevitably, were those from the first war, 71 from Australian battalions and all but 12 of them were able to march. During the commemoration two women were arrested, one from the "Anti-Anzac Day Collective" and the other from a group called "Women Against Rape In War". Some of the spectators hurled comments such as "Who'd want to rape you anyway?" as the two were led away. It is a great pity that such an important national day should be used as a bandwagon for the publicity of crank groups; we can be thankful that this has not happened to our own commemoration in London.

In Athens the Australian Prime Minister, Mr.Hawke, along with dignitaries from several countries, laid his wreath at the War Memorial. Mr.Hawke then spoke of how the military defeat at Gallipoli recalled another battle, where the Australians stood side by side with the Greeks and other allies to defend Greece against the Axis invaders in the Second World War. This had been responsible for the staunch friendship between Greece and Australia since then, and this friendship had endured to be passed down to the men and women of succeeding generations.

Meanwhile in Perth more than 3,000 schoolchildren paid tribute in song to the men of Gallipoli and other campaigns. Fittingly a number of schoolchildren played leading roles in the ceremonies which were broadcast on ABC Radio throughout West Australia.

In Sidney thousands of Australians marched in memory of the nation's war dead in one of the largest Anzac Day turnouts for years. Nevertheless, the city's Turkish

community was excluded from the commemoration. This drew a sharp protest from 90-year old Gallipoli veteran Noel Thomas. The former sapper commented "They should be allowed to march. I would be very proud to march beside them." He said that Anzac Day should be a day where all those killed - no matter from which side - were mourned.

The West Australian briefly mentioned the ceremonies at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, noting that the Australian and New Zealand High Commissioners laid wreaths at the Cenotaph. However, no mention was made of the British veterans present.

Down in Mildura the march was led by ex-Navy servicemen to help commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Royal Australian Navy. The Anzac Day address was given by Mr. Colin Barry of Hattah, a former infantryman and now a distinguished academic. Mr.Barry said that Anzac Day was of great significance, particularly to the younger generation. The Anzac spirit should, he believed, be used to create a climate where national freedom could be encouraged and the challenges of peace could be met by the spirit exercised in war. Earlier in the day, veterans of several campaigns attended a dawn ceremony at the Cenotaph in Henderson Park where wreaths were laid.

LETTERS

From M.Irwin (871AM)

This week on T.V., the 3 part mini-series "A Fortunate Life" commenced. Based on the book of the same name, by A.B. (Bert) Facey will be of special interest to Gallipoli enthusiasts.

Bert Facey was born in Melbourne in 1894 but was taken to the Western Australian Goldfields area at a young age. His father died when he was two and his mother deserted him and his other brothers and sisters. He was looked after by his grandmother until eight years old when he was sent out to work on an isolated farm. He was worked hard and treated cruelly by his guardians. He learned the rugged pioneering skills of clearing land, fencing, sinking dams, droving and ploughing. Later he joined a boxing troup and worked as a railway fettler. He joined the 11th Battalion and was in the landing at Gallipoli.

His unique diary style of recounting the horrors of Gallipoli are I feel, very down to earth and rank with The Desert Column and The Diary of Sgt.Lawrence as definitive accounts of the front line soldier.

On being wounded, he writes "A piece of shrapnel struck me on the left side of my face knocking four of my teeth out and loosening several others. It made a cut three inches long level with my teeth and imbedded itself in the roof of my mouth.....at the frontline dressing station, after a lot of pulling, the doctor worked the piece out. My mouth was in a mess. They wanted to send me to a hospital ship to have the broken pieces of teeth pulled out. I asked the doctor not to send me away as my mates were short handed.....three burly attendants held me down while without any anaesthetic, the doctor pulled the teeth."

In July, his battalion moved to Tasmania post and commenced digging tunnels into what later became Leanes Trench. His description of the vicious hand-to-hand struggle to capture and later retain the trench is strong stuff. I thought I had read every contemporary account and would learn nothing new. However the book is the most popular paperback in Australia these days and now I can see why.

Later in the campaign he had to go to the beach to bury his brother Roy who had been killed by a shell

"we put him together as best we could, I carried a leg - it was terrible."

Later in life, he took up a farm but was starved out in the depression. He joined the tramways and became active in local government. He died in 1982 nine months after his book was published to wide acclaim. He had no formal education and taught himself to read and write.

I highly recommend this book to our members.

(Mr.Irwin kindly sent me a copy of this book and I can thoroughly endorse his opinion - ed.)

.....

You may be suprised and perhaps dismayed to learn that

all is not well between Australia and New Zealand. In a recent poll, 1,000 Aussies and N.Zeds were asked what they thought of each other? 70% of N.Zeders said they didn't like Aussies, while "only" 45% of Aussies didn't like the Kiwis. Not suprising to us really and not new either. The recent talk of N.Z. withdrawing from the ANZUS treaty plus long standing rivalry combined to reach these figures. This ill-feeling goes back to WW1 where I read one account of similar feelings apparent in Cairo before Gallipoli and even at ANZAC. Anyone who has read "Gallipoli in retrospect" by A.Malthus, a KIWI, may be excused for thinking we were on opposite sides and that the Aussies at ANZAC were a hindrance in this man's opinion.

.....

If any readers know of anyone still around who was in the North Russian Relief Force, 1919, I would be very much obliged for any contacts or info. I am presently working on a book about Sgt. Sam Pearce, V.C., M.M. who was killed there in the campaign. He originally came from Penarth, Wales, but enlisted in Mildura. I am informed that he and the other Aussies were enlisted in the 45th Battalion Royal Fusiliers and the 201 Special Maching Gun Coy.

All of his immediate family live in this district except his only daughter. Now, Mrs. Victoria (Vicky) Christen, is presently planning a trip to U.K. and Europe in April to June and is trying to obtain a special visa to visit her father's grave at the Allied Cemetry in **Archangelsk.** It's going to be very tricky from what I hear. Apparently tourists are not generally permitted in that area.

Sam Pearce was originally in the 7th Battalion and served at Gallipoli. He later won the M.M. at Ypres.

I would be very grateful of any material whatsoever regarding this subject.

.....

I am currently working on a contract rebuilding one of the old roads out in what we call the Sunset Country. It's sort of

semi desert and very hot. 35-40 degrees celcius at this time of the year. Dusty and rough. God help anyone who forgets to take a water bag out there. There is a railway line alongside but is in bad repair and the wheat trains go at only 15 km per hour. We had to knock off at 3pm last Thursday as it was too dusty to see the road.

On the other hand, we have a very good view of Halleys Comet thanks to the clear sky most mornings.

Well that's about all for now. Best wishes to all.

Mike Irwin (AM871).

From K.Tranmer (381AM)

In Gallipolian No.50 page 16-17 there is an extract from the excellent book "Guests of the Unspeakable" published by John Hamilton 1928. My own copy of this book by Group Captain the Hon.T.W.White DFC VD of Melbourne, former High Commissioner for Australia in the U.K. (1951) came to me via his old friend Basil Kelly. This book gives a very good account of life in Turkish P.O.W.Camps 1914-1918. There is mention of the submarine crew of AE2 and escape plans and this is interesting because last year a serving Australian Navy Petty Officer in the U.K. sought my help for information about the AE2 and as a point of additional interest this man has acquired the diary of a crew member from his daughter in the U.K. The late Arthur Watts whose name appeared in the Obituary list in No.49 was a "Collingwood" survivor and lost a leg at Krithia. He subsequently served in Naval Intelligence under Admiral Hall, where he claims postcards from Turkey were directed for examination before sending them on to the address, and from which coded messages from POW's including Cmdr.Stoker of the AE2 were detected advising suitable pick up points for boats on the Turkish coast. The Australian did not keep up his correspondence with me neither did I get a photocopy of

the diary and I was unable to link the connection and discover the truth about the coded messages.

I recommend this book for its account of the treatment of 'Other Ranks' as POW's in the hands of the Turks. The cruelty should not be swept under the mat, for it was only exceeded when directed against the Armenian's. In 1928 it was not the done thing to name the senior officer (British) who declined representation from others to intervene with the Turkish Authorities on behalf of beaten, starving and half dead men who had survived the march from Kut and most of whom died in captivity before 1918.

This year I shall be taking tourists into the remote parts of eastern & south eastern Turkey along a route explored last year and among the sites to be visited is the ancient Armenian city of Arni now in No Mans Land between Turkey and Russia.

Tourists are still a novelty in a region where the 20th Century has yet to arrive and everywhere one is met with kindness and hospitality by people who for the most part have little to offer. Tourists will unfortunately spoil these people which is a sad prospect for the real traveller and perhaps when they too become greedy and indifferent to others, the side of their character which remains hidden will emerge for it is very difficult to associate these people with the events of 1914-1918.

Keith Tranmer.

From S.W.Blythman (657), 5 Wilts.Regt.13 Div.

I had quite a busy week during ANZAC week here, I attended 3 dinners: The Rats of Tobruk, The Gallipoli Legion of ANZACs at the Gallipoli Legion Club here of which they made me a life member. Mr.Jack Griffiths the President is also an AM of our Association. Then my local RSL Club at Adamstown. On ANZAC Day I attended the service at the Memorial outside the Club and I layed a wreath on behalf of the Boer War Veterans Association. I did not march (I am 93) but we had a great turn out. Two bands (Brass and Pipers) and then into the Club for lunch and

a variety show. There were 5 1914-18 veterans there, but only 3 Gallipoli veterans - myself and 2 Aussies. We had one of the largest turn-outs to date.

I received a letter from the Secretary of the New Zealand Gallipoli Association telling me the Association is now defunct as there are only about 5 mobile members left over there. I was a member of this Association, going over to Auckland in 1975 for the 60th anniversary and met two pals of my old Battalion (5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment) whom I had not seen since 1915. One has since passed on but the other, Percy Messon is still o.k. in Rotorara. He came out to NZ from Bristol just after the last war. I have a photo of us taken in Auckland where we had a great reunion and I met some great people.

In reply to R.C.Chadwick's account of the evacuation in our last Journal, No.50, I would like to add my experiences. We evacuated Suvla Bay the same night as the ANZACs evacuated, on December 19th. I led my Battalion off on this night as I had been learning the route to the Beach a week previously, myself and a chap named Cheshire of my Battalion. We spent Christmas on Lemnos and then my Brigade was ordered back to Cape Helles to reinforce the troops that were still holding on to that part of the Peninsular. We took up position in the trenches at Pink Farm and the Eski Lines. The Turks made a heavy attack on our position on the morning of January 7th but this was repulsed with heavy losses. Myself and my pal Cheshire and an officer had a post and the barbed wire gap across Y Gully which all the troops in that sector had to pass through. Our officers checked them all, then two Royal Engineers closed the barbed wire gap and we made our way down the gully to the beach, only to be told the boat that was to take us off had run aground and we were to proceed along the coast to W Beach. I think there were about 60 of us who had all been on different jobs and we had two miles to go. With no-one in the trenches it was a bit of a nervy experience - thank goodness the Navy kept up a bombardment. Anyhow, we made it to W Beach and got away on the last lighter and were taken to Imbros (Mr.Chadwick might remember this). I guess I am probably

the only survivor of that little lot, certainly in Australia.

You will read an account of this in Alan Moorhead's Gallipoli and I also have it in my Diary of which I now have only a copy, the original being held by the Imperial War Museum in London. The Canberra War Memorial also holds a copy. I have kept the diary since September 1st 1914 up to the present time and it makes interesting reading and settles a lot of arguments in our family.

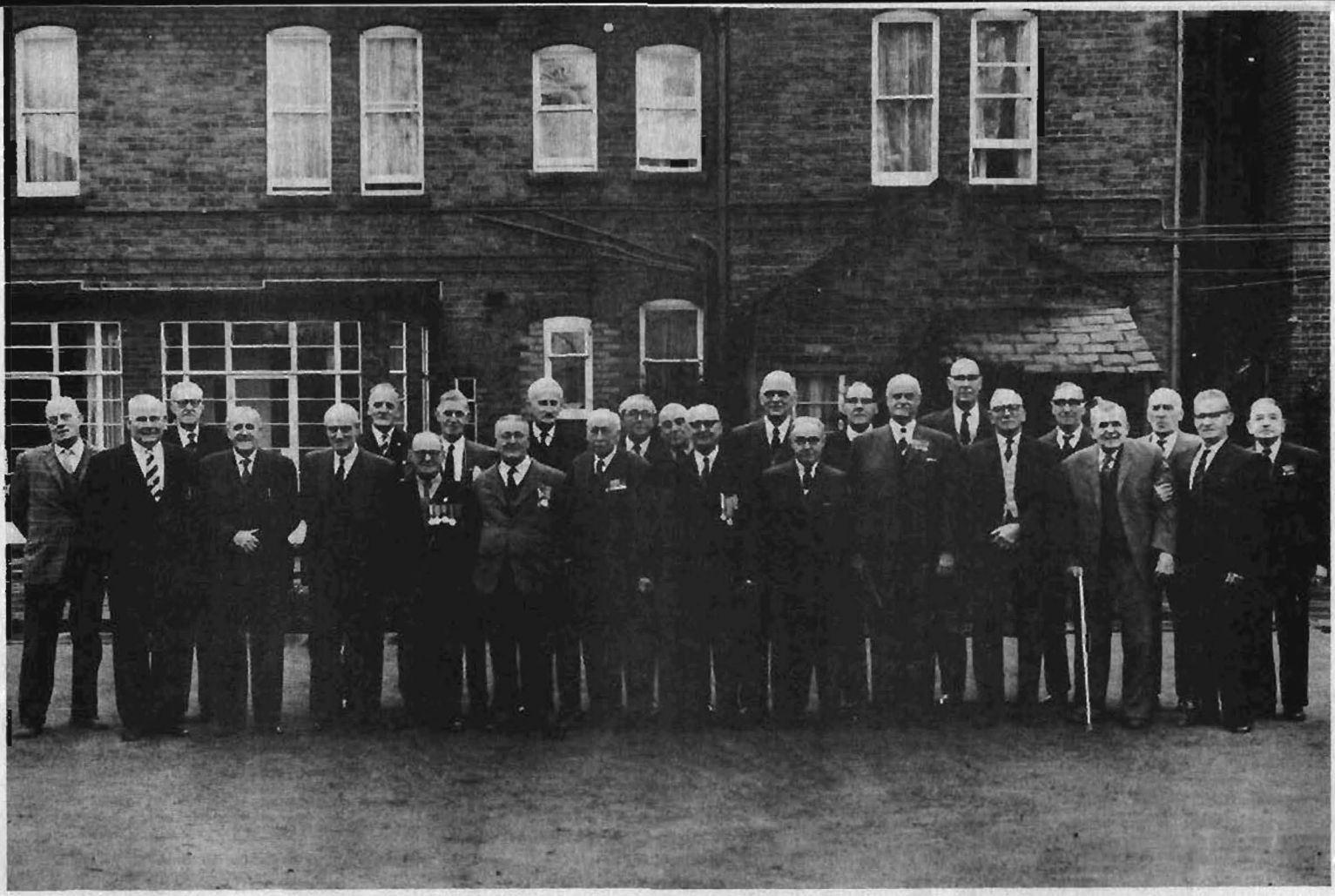
My pal rang me up from England on April 29th last. It was 11.30 p.m. over there, 8.30 a.m. here. We are nine hours in front of you. I watched the F.A. Cup Final live on our television (started at midnight here), it's a small world today.

I spoke on the air on the local radio station during ANZAC week and, of course, lots of my friends rang the next day to say they heard it, quite a thrill. Of course I mentioned our Association and the old Wiltshire Regiment. As a result of this I am going to visit a British 1914-18 veteran who served at Salonika, a friend of his rang me up and said he would like to meet me. He lives alone but they take him out quite a bit. He is 90.

Yours sincerely,

Sid Blythman (657).

The photograph overleaf has been very kindly sent in by H.A.Hibberd (270) and shows the very first reunion organised by the late Major Banner, before the Association was founded. The reunion was held at the Norfolk Hotel, Birmingham in 1968. Mr.Hibberd is fourth from the left in the front row and EHWB fourth from the right in the front row. How many of those appearing in the photograph are still with us?



A VERY UNUSUAL SURVIVOR.

Ali Pasha must, without doubt, be rated as the most unusual veteran of Gallipoli. Ali is a tortoise picked up from the battered beaches of Gallipoli in 1915 by Henry Friston RN, from HMS Implacable. Henry Friston was ashore helping wounded soldiers from the trenches to the boats for evacuation when he saw Ali and another tortoise moving. He picked both up, tucked them under his arm and looked after them for the next two years he spent aboard Implacable.

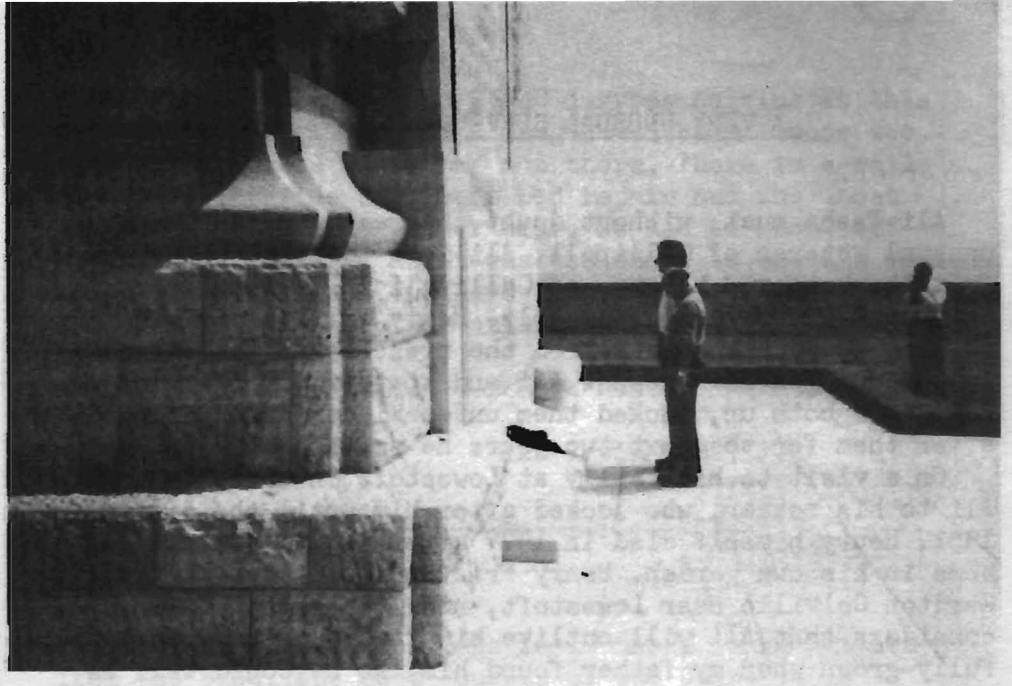
On a visit to his family at Lowestoft in Suffolk he gave Ali to his mother, who looked after him until she died in 1951. Henry himself died in 1977 after he had given Ali a home in his own garden. Henry Friston's son, Don, living in Carlton Colville near Lowestoft, now looks after Ali but considers that Ali will outlive him, too. Don said "He was fully-grown when my father found him, so he could well be over 100. They say you can count the rings on top of the shell, but his is so worn we can't really tell."

There is every chance Ali will live on for many years as tortoises are well-known for their remarkable longevity. Archbishop Land's pet tortoise lived well after his master's execution in 1643, leaving this world only after being accidentally killed by a gardener at Lambeth Palace in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Ali's recipe for a long life is plenty of juicy dandelion, lettuce and cucumber. Yet age has not brought with it any desire for peace and tranquillity, for he still manages to aggressively chase off other tortoises who invade his territory.

One wonders about the possibilities of life membership of the Association for this veteran.

MEO.



Committee Members N.Anthony (AM796) and A Standley (AM776) after laying a wreath at the Helles Memorial,25th April, 1986.

BOOK NEWS

Members should note the publication of The Official History Of Military Operations France & Belgium, 1916 Volume 1. This reprint contains more than 20 maps, coloured endpapers and eight plates. Cost (inc.U.K.postage): Casebound £16.95, Paperback £12.95, overseas customers please add £1.00.

Available from:

International Military Books,
76 Priestfield Road,
Gillingham,
Kent, ME7 4RF.

The attention of members deserves to be drawn to the

publication of Home Fires And Foreign Fields (Brassey's Defence Publishers,London, £16.00, 233 pp.). Edited by Peter Liddle (AM426) this book covers diverse aspects of the British experience in the First World War and includes a chapter on Gallipoli; it looks to be good reading which should inspire serious thought on some of the matters raised.

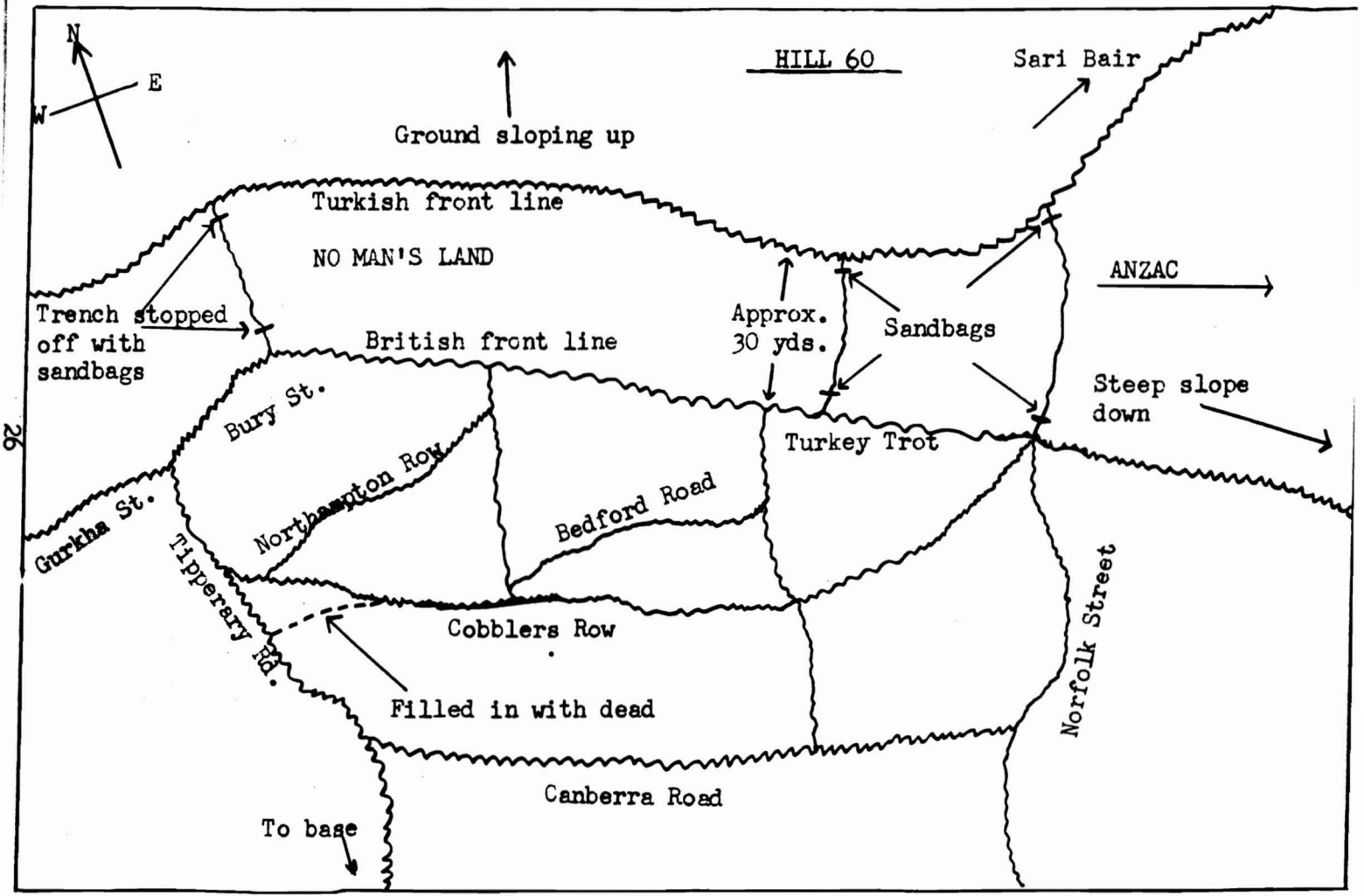
Notes On The Use Of Bombs In The Suvla-Anzac Area Aug-Oct. 1915.

by Lt-Col.M.E.Hancock M.C.(731) 1/4th Northampton Regt.

My experience of bombs being used, when hostilities became confined to trench warfare, from the latter half of August onwards, was that their use was comparatively small. This was due partly to a grave shortage of bombs of any kind and partly to the fact that a virtual stalemate had been reached in most of the battle areas.

My own battalion, the 1/4th Northamptons, part of the 54th East Anglian Division, after landing at Suvla, had taken part in open fighting mainly on the Kiretch Tepe ridge. From there, looking towards Anzac sometime about the end of August, we witnessed a fierce battle taking place, the object of which we subsequently learned was intended for the British forces to capture the extensive trench system of Hill 60. Within the next few days we moved, mainly by exhausting night marches, first to Lala Baba, then to the Salt Lake and finally to the lower slopes of Hill 60. Only part of this trench system, strongly defended by the Turks, had been captured and a matter of perhaps no more than 200 yards was occupied by British troops. These were some of the remainder of the 86th Brigade and some Australians and New Zealanders, the latter being moved to the Anzac area leaving us, the 162nd Territorial Brigade, to hold the line.

As can be seen from the sketch of the front line trenches and the surrounding terrain, our position on Hill 60 was somewhat tenuous and under constant fire from an enfilading gun situated somewhere in the Sari Bair Hill area.

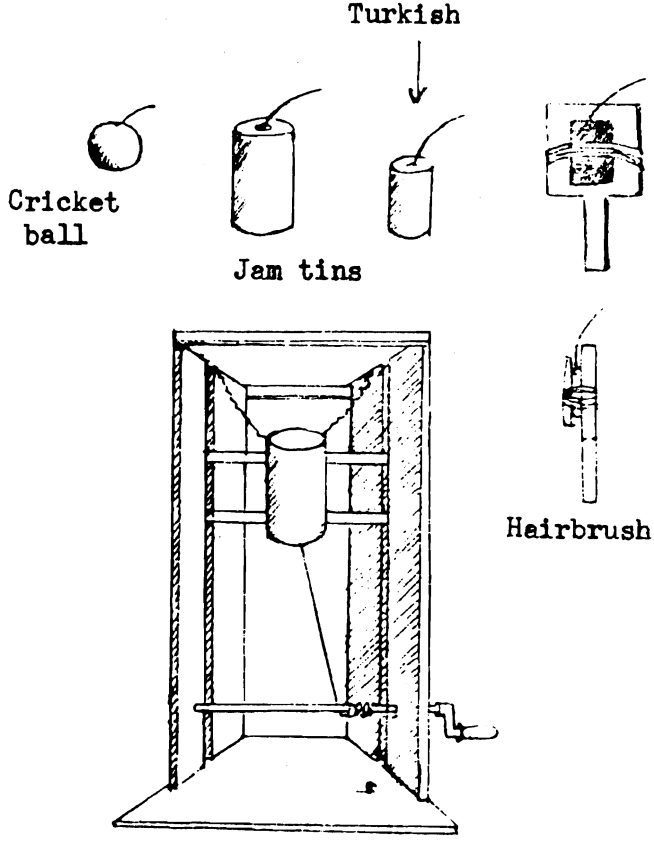

N
E
W
HILL 60
Sari Bair
Ground sloping up
Turkish front line
NO MAN'S LAND
ANZAC
Trench stopped off with sandbags
British front line
Approx. 30 yds.
Sandbags
Steep slope down
Bury St.
Turkey Trot
Northampton Row
Bedford Road
Gurkha St.
Tipperary Rd.
Cobblers Row
Filled in with dead
Norfolk Street
Canberra Road
To base

I was detailed by my company commander to be responsible for the small quantity of bombs we had and to instruct the NCOs and men in their use. Soon afterwards, I took over the whole of the battalion supply and these I distributed in caches in strategic parts of the line so that they were always readily available. I worked very closely with the Brigade bomb officer who taught me a great deal and gave me confidence. Not long after this, when he became a casualty early in October, I was appointed in his place. This meant long hours every day and on many nights but I found it most interesting work and often quite exciting. Although the men were well versed in the use of bombs and how they were constructed, I did the actual throwing of them myself as it could be a tricky operation in the confined space of the front line trench, particularly at night. I kept a careful account of all stores used and sent a record of this to Brigade HQ each day.

All varieties of bombs we used, as will be seen in the sketch, had a protruding fuse wire a few inches long and which would burn for approximately 8 to 10 seconds before setting off the detonator. Holding the bomb in one's left hand and lighting the fuse with a match (or, in many cases with one's lighted cigarette), it was necessary to throw it without much delay and taking care not to hit the back of the trench with one's hand - as once did happen. Throwing the things required the same action as that of a cricket bowler overarm and with practice one could usually get them in or near the Turks' front line which, on my battalion's frontage was not more than 30 yards away. Most of this activity took place at night and we were similarly attacked by the enemy. Their jam tin bombs (the only kind I ever identified as used by them) were none too reliable however, and when we heard one drop in no man's land without exploding, one or two of us, the next night, would very quietly crawl over the parapet and retrieve as many as we dared. Subsequently, I would re-fuse them and have the great satisfaction of hearing them go off, as they invariably did, on being returned.

In regard to the bombs, I would suggest that the cricket ball (cast iron) would probably be about 1¾lb, our jam tin 1¼ - 1½lb and the hairbrush up to 2lb possibly because it

had a handle by which it could be thrown. The Turkish jam tin had a very thin casing and was not more than about 1 lb I should think. Personally, I had no trouble at all with the catapult gun and found it quite reliable during the short time I used it. I sent up a good number (with increasing accuracy I like to think) without mishap. It would take the cricket ball or jam tin but not the hairbrush as this would not fit into the container. I do not know what kind of explosive was used in the cricket ball or jam tin, but there was a slab of dynamite wired on to the hairbrush and this gave it a very local range of damage. This continued to be my job for the whole of October.



Catapult gun

On 31st of that month - a Sunday - I was told by Brigade to go to the adjoining trenches on our right where the Norfolk Yeomanry had arrived from Egypt and needed instruction in bombs; they had had no training whatever in this kind of warfare. Amongst their equipment I was delighted to meet for the first time a contraption rather like a glorified catapult. The sketch may give some idea of how it worked. The container in the centre was wound down by a crank at the side against the tension of strong rubber bands and then held by a catch. A bomb was then lighted, put in the container and the catch released. It required a good deal of practice (and a bit of luck) to land it in the opposition's trench and this was done partly by how much tension was put on the rubber bands and partly by the angle at which the base of the catapult was tilted to get the right trajectory. It seems that we may have had some success as, after about an hour of this, the enfilading gun which the Turks had somewhere in the Sari Bair Hill area, opened up. The rest of this story is soon told. After a few shrapnel shells had fallen harmlessly, but not far away, one, with my name no doubt written on it, smashed my leg and that was that so far as my stay on Gallipoli was concerned.

MY GALLIPOLI STORY (Contd.) - Major G.B.Herridge

1/5 Lancashire Fusiliers (129).

I must tell the tale of how I was in danger of being Court Martialled. When we were on Gallipoli Mills Bombs had not been invented. We made our bombs or hand grenades out of used jam tins. This contained stones, a piece of gun cotton to explode it, various wads and a circular wooden piece wired to the top of the jam tin as a lid. Through this lid a detonator was inserted. To prime this grenade a piece of fuse about 2 inches long was cut and inserted into the detonator. Theoretically this was fired by laying a match head against the top of the fuse and rubbing a matchbox against

it. In fact it was invariably fired by a lighted cigarette. Once the fuse was lit the grenade exploded in 7 seconds. So in action one held it for 3 seconds then threw it. If it was thrown too soon it could be picked up by the enemy and thrown back as sometimes happened. I was the officer sent to the bomb making place to be taught its secrets. So I was the first bombing officer of the 5th Lan.Fus. Now, later, another bombing school was started and a Major of the 7th Manchesters put in charge. As trenches had to be dug and work done on the school, working parties were sent to do this work. One day; it happened to be the day in the evening of which our battalion were going up into the line, I was sent in charge of a working party there. It was in the morning and I had got the men started digging when after about ¾ hour the Major in charge sent for me to go to his dug out and said in a haughty voice that as my men were not working well they would have to stop on an hour later. As they were working well and as he had never been outside the dugout to see, I knew this was just a nasty bit of work on his part. So I decided to slip away and inform the adjutant who was a regular soldier and would know what to do. To keep the men another hour would mean there would be little time between stopping work and going up the line. The adjutant told me to go and tell the Brigadier (Brig.Gen. Frith). So I went and told him. He said "I am not going to take orders from Major Fawcus you can bring them away at the proper time." So, armed with this I went back and at the proper hour I stopped the men working and told them to fall in. Out popped Major Fawcus "I told you these men would have to work another hour." I replied "We are going up into the line tonight and I am taking them now." Fawcus said "There is a lorry load of wood on the road. When they have unloaded that they can go." "I am going to take them away now." "Do you disobey my orders." "I am going to obey the Brigadier's orders." "I will make it all right with the Brigadier." "I am going now, good night. Squad right turn, quick march." "You insolent young pup, I will have you Court Martialled." He

tried to and I had to write out my account of the incident at the Brigadier's orders. I never heard any more of it. I think Major Fawcus was a nasty bit of work.

On my return about August 15th I found that the Battalion which had landed on May 7th with 30 officers and 1000 men had shrunk to 6 officers and 150 men. There were two companies of 60 men and 2 officers each and a battalion H.Q. of Col.G.B.G.Wood (our Regular Adjutant at the outbreak of the war) Commanding and Capt.Horace M.Bentley Adjutant. I had Cecil Clarke as my other officer and the other Company had two officers, Lt.Swallow (joined from Egypt) and I think Lt.Hunt. My own platoon which landed with 8 N.C.O.s and 53 O.R. had lost 6 N.C.O.s killed and 20 O.R. killed. Myself, 1 N.C.O. and many men had been wounded. To lose 42% killed was exceedingly high losses. After this the battalion alternated between the extreme left front lines and rest dugouts around Gully Beach. My own bit of line was the bit that ran down the cliffs to the sea at Fusilier Bluff. The line never advanced further. Continual tummy troubles had caused me to develop a fistula and on September 15th I was evacuated as a walking case to undergo an operation.

I had no more adventure. A small vessel took me to Mudros Harbour where I was landed on a very large ship. Of course the first question was "What is this ship and where is it going?" The answer was the Aquitania (the biggest ship in the world then) and she sails for England at 5 o'clock this afternoon. What joy! At noon a notice was posted up detailing certain Officers and O.R. to transfer to the "Gloucester Castle" at some hour in the afternoon. I was one of them!!! This was a staggering blow and as such recquired desperate measures. I must stop on board until 5 o'clock. So I wandered about this huge boat going further and further downwards until I thought I was sufficiently lost. I had only to be lost until 5 o'clock. About 4.30 somebody found me! As I went over the side the Captain said "We have been looking for you for half an hour." I went to Malta, was a walking case in the Blue Sisters' Hospital for two weeks and eventually sailed for England on

an Italian Hospital ship called "Re D'Italia. It took a fortnight to get home.

The end.

Britain, Gallipoli and the Armenian Question, by Colonel C.K.Mahakian,USMC.

In 1915, Lord Robert Cecil repeated in the House of Commons over and over again that the crimes against the Armenians were premeditated and there was no provocation whatever. There was no insurrection and no riot. It had been suggested in the United States that British agents had instigated Armenians to rebellion. He assured the House that this was not so. Even if there had been instigation, it could not excuse, or even palliate the crimes committed. They were a deliberate act 'not to punish insurrection but to destroy the Armenian race.'[1]

In fact the military authorities in Britain consistently and persistently refused in 1915 to provide arms and training to the Armenian volunteers in the diaspora, and especially in the United States. Both Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, and the Army Council did not consider the use of 'untrained and unarmed' irregulars a 'feasible' project.[2] When the Armenian community in Egypt learnt, through the personal descriptions of the Italian Consul at Aleppo and the American missionaries from Cilicia, about the mass deportations in Turkey, they wrote to Lieutenant General Sir John Maxwell, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Egypt, about their strong feelings that the time had come to rush to the help of their brothers in danger and that it would be simply criminal on their part to wait any longer and to pro-

crastinate. Volunteers in Egypt would be joined by volunteers from the Armenian communities in America, Bulgaria, Romania and Greece. But they asked for the active support of the British government. A landing in Cilicia, they stressed, could also help the Allied war effort. It could completely isolate Syria, Mesopotamia and Arabia and could deprive the Turkish government of its important reservoirs of military forces.3 A little later, a delegation of the Armenian National Defence Committee, calling on General Maxwell in Cairo, personally appealed for help. They were daily receiving the most alarming news on the massacres and deportations in Cilicia. They could not be 'indifferent and inactive.' They would have no difficulty in holding the Taurus, Anti-Taurus and Amanus Mountains especially now that the Turks were fully occupied with the Russians on the Caucasus and the Anglo-French in Gallipoli. But they needed the authorisation of the British government, arms that could be spared, permission to congregate in Cyprus, assistance in transport and a small Allied contingent. The movement should be under the direction of British military authorities. In Buenos Aires, 300 Armenian volunteers asked the British Consul-General for acceptance as fighting units with the British and French forces operating in Turkey.4

Grey and the Foreign Office, however, out of consideration for Moslem feeling, were against the use of Egypt as a base for Armenian volunteers. Moreover, whenever proposals by Armenian volunteers in the diaspora to help their compatriots in Turkey were referred to the War Office, the reply of the Army Council was invariably a short refusal. They were against the use of Armenian irregulars for a landing and a rising in Cilicia.5 Geographical, strategic and other reasons would render it impossible for the Allied troops to give assistance, they claimed.6 It was felt that an Armenian volunteer force would not be helpful to the British war effort.

Throughout the war and especially during the first years, the War Office was, it seems, obsessed with the Western front. It always deprecated the opening up of new fronts on the East. Both the General Staff at home and the British High Command in France supported the view that the war could only be won on the Western front, and that all the military resources of the Empire should be concentrated there except when it was essential to defend such imperial interests as the Suez Canal.[7] It seems that trusting a proposed new front to an untrained irregular force was out of the question. However, General Sir John Maxwell, in contact with the Armenian community in Egypt, apparently did not share the rigid outlook of the War Office in London. He cabled Kitchener in no uncertain terms: 'everything should be done, I think, to help the (Armenian) movement.'[8] But his was a lone voice. Both the War Office and the Foreign Office believed that an Armenian movement in Cilicia might result in complications and become an additional liability. Thus the zeal and the enthusiasm of the Armenian communities in the diaspora, to take part in the great war effort and rescue their compatriots in Turkey, were wasted. A landing in Cilicia, were it successful, might have also provided the Allies, bogged down in Gallipoli, with some relief from Turkish pressure.

On 7 September 1915, the French Admiral on the Syrian coast cabled the High Commissioner in Cyprus that 6,000 Armenians were 'bravely' fighting against the Turks at Jebel Musa near the bay of Antioch. On request the Admiral had supplied them with munitions and provisions, but they had asked for the removal of their 5,000 old men, women and children to Cyprus. The Admiral asked the High Commissioner of Cyprus what he should reply. The latter thought that it was 'quite impossible' to receive them. There was very limited accommodation on the island and politically it was inadvisable. General Maxwell, however, asked the Minister of War to do everything to help the movement; if either Cyprus or Rhodes took their women and children, the Armenians could make 'an important diversion from the Dardanelles.' Maxwell advised

pressure on Cyprus. Grey, however, did not favour the acceptance of these refugees either in Egypt or Cyprus which had Moslem communities. The government 'cannot agree to receive the refugees in either country' Grey said in his 'urgent' cable to Ambassador Bertie in Paris. It was the French Admiral who had undertaken to embark these refugees, and it was therefore

> .....for the French Government to arrange either for their temporary accommodation at Rhodes or their transport to Algeria.9

However, Grey's cable was delayed and the French Admiral landed the 5,000 Armenian refugees in Egypt. The Egyptian authorities had to make temporary arrangements for their accommodation at Port Said. 'They are a severe strain,' Sir Henry McMahon, the High Commissioner reported from Alexandria. Grey did not despair. He instructed Bertie to urge the French government to transport the refugees 'elsewhere as soon as possible.' A few weeks later they were recruited by the French military agent in Egypt 'for service at Gallipoli.'10

Thus in 1915 all proposals to form Armenian volunteer groups under British direction were rejected. Even refuge to the families of those 'bravely' fighting at Jebel Musa was grudgingly given. One tends to ponder whether a landing in Cilicia would have ended in failure, or whether the fate of the bulk of Armenians in Turkey and of the British in Gallipoli might have been different had the proposals for volunteer groups from the Armenian diaspora not been rejected in 1915.

1. Hansard, 5th Ser.1915, LXXV, col.1774
2. Bryce Papers, UB 55, Kitchener to Bryce, 10 Apr.1915; FO 371/2485/30439, min. by A.Nicolson to Grey, 9 Mar. 1915; see also ibid., no.51438, WO to FO, 28 Apr.1915.

3. Ibid., nos.30439/106762, Moutafoff and A.Gamsaragan, Arm. Commit. of Nat. Defence, Alexandria, to Maxwell, 3 July 1915, in McMahon to Grey,15 July 1915.
4. Ibid., no.106769, Commit. Arm. Nat. Def., 20 July, 24 July 1915, Notes to Maxwell, encl.in McMahon to Grey, 27 July 1915; ibid., no.196024, Br.Consul-Gen. Buenos Aires, to Grey, 23 Nov.1915.
5. Ibid., no.30439/106769, FO to Army Council, copy, 11 Aug.1915; ibid., no.106762, minute by H.Nicolson, 4 Aug.1915; ibid., nos.113148, 136059, WO to FO, 15 Aug.,21 Sept.1915; ibid., no.196024, FO to Consul-Gen. Buenos Aires, 23 Dec.1915.
6. FO 371/2488/51009/172811, Nicolson, Note,15 Nov.1915.
7. Rothwell, British War Aims, p.7.
8. FO 371/2490/130257, Maxwell to Kitchener, copy, 10 Sept. 1915.
9. Ibid., nos.129419, 130257, McMahon to Grey, Maxwell to Kitchener, both 10 Sept.1915; ibid., no.131046, Grey to Bertie, 14 Sept.1915.
10. Ibid., no.131502, McMahon to Grey, 14 Sept.1915; Grey to Bertie, 15 Sept.1915; ibid., no.148384, Bertie to Grey, 11 Oct. 1915.

Both Colonel Mahakian and the Editor wish to thank Croom Helm Publishers and Akaby Nassibian for permission to use material from Britain And The Armenian Question 1915-1923 by Akaby Nassibian in this article.

The small flyer on the following page was enclosed with edition 51 to provide further details of the Autumn Luncheon and is thus included here for completeness.

AUTUMN LUNCHEON

RAF CLUB 128 PICCADILLY W.1

12.30 for 1.00 pm
30th September 1986

Referring to the announcement on page 5, the price of the tickets for the lunch (excluding wine) is :-

Veteran Members	£10
Associate Members & Guests	£14.50

Applications for tickets, accompanied by payment, should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. James Watson Smith, (see page 2) by 15th September. Ladies will be welcome.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Michael Heseltine, M.P., P.C., and our member Mr. F.G. Dixon (No.737) will also speak on mine-laying in the Dardanelles.