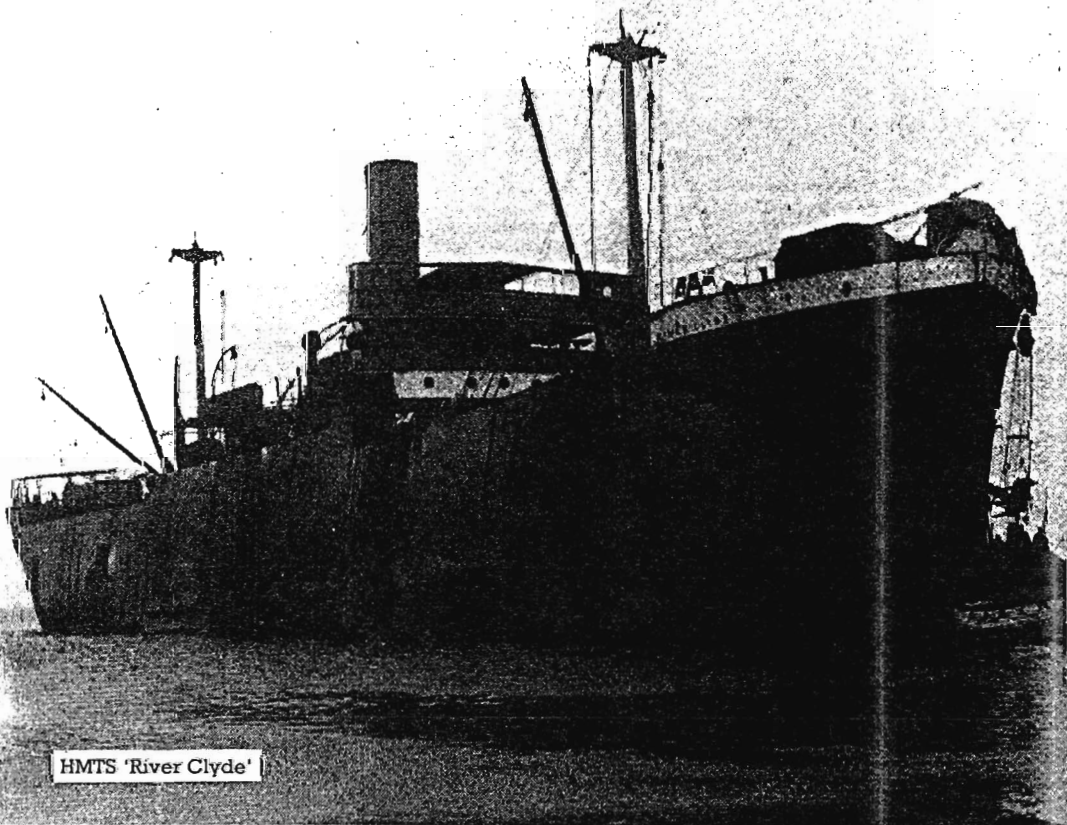


The Gallipollian

*The Journal of the
Gallipoli Association*

No. 71
SPRING 1993



HMTS 'River Clyde'

SPRING 1993

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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ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES

1915

78th ANIVERSARY

1992

We have been kindly invited to join the Anzacs at the Cenotaph and at Westminster Abbey on Sunday 25 April. A wreath will be laid at the Cenotaph on behalf of the Association.

THE CENOTAPH

Members should assemble under the arch at the entrance to King Charles Street, which is just to the south of the Cenotaph, by 1030. Wheelchairs will be available for those Veterans who require them.

THE ABBEY

Please complete the enclosed booking form if you intend to be present at the Abbey Service which will commence at 1200. A minibus will be available to transport Veterans from the Cenotaph to the Abbey.

On arrival at the Abbey door please ensure that you are directed by the usher to the block of seats beyond the choir stalls which have been reserved for the Association.

THE LUNCH

The Lunch commencing at 1400, will be held at Chelsea Barracks by kind permission of Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Biggs OBE, Officer Commanding 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards.

A separate Booking Form with costs, VETERANS ARE FREE, is included with this copy of the Journal.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PAYMENT FOR TICKETS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE TO THE SECRETARY BY 19 APRIL

It is hoped that a minibus will take Veterans from the Abbey to the Barracks. Cars may be parked at the Barracks, but drivers and occupants must be booked for lunch.

Veterans are asked to wear medals. Other members may wear medals at the Cenotaph and at the Abbey.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR VETERANS

Veterans are reminded that the Association has a small fund to assist with travel costs in connection with attending on the 25th and should contact the Secretary concerning this when booking.

OTHER ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICES

In addition to the ceremony in Whitehall and the service at Westminster Abbey, Anzac Day Memorial Services will be held at several other locations as follows.

The British War Cemetery, Brocton, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire commencing at 1030.

In Edinburgh there will as in previous years be a ceremony at the Castle commencing at 1030.

At Bury in Lancashire the annual parade will commence at 1030 at the Drill Hall. Here it will be inspected by the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment before marching to Church at 1110. The Service at 1130 will be followed by the March Past at approximately 1250 hopefully led by three Veterans of the Gallipoli campaign. Lunch in the Drill Hall will be from 1300 and the Fusiliers' Association would be pleased to welcome members of the Gallipoli Association. Lunch costs £2.00 but must be booked by 12 April to Major J.McQ Hallam, The Lancashire Headquarters, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Wellington Barracks, Bury, BL8 2PL.

The Nottinghamshire Branch of The Royal Marines Association cordially invite anyone interested to join them when they perform their annual wreath laying ceremony at the grave of Lance Corporal Walter Parker VC at 1130 on 25 April at Stapleford Parish Church, Nottingham.

Lance Corporal Parker served in the Royal Marines Light Infantry and won his Victoria Cross at Gaba Tepe on the night of 30 April/1 May when acting as a volunteer stretcher bearer. He displayed great courage to rescue wounded men in the face of severe enemy fire and suffered wounds himself during the action. He died at Stapleford in 1936 and is buried in the local churchyard. His Victoria Cross is on display at the Royal Marines Museum, Eastney, Portsmouth.

At Brockenhurst Hampshire, at the Church of St Nicholas where New Zealand soldiers who died of wounds are buried, a ceremony organised by the Royal British Legion, Brockenhurst Branch will commence at 1500. Major T.Le M. Spring Smythe will lay a wreath on behalf of the Association. This is a well attended ceremony at which a representative from the New Zealand High Commission will be present. Tea is available afterwards in St Saviours' Church Hall.

It is hoped that Veterans and Members unable to be present at the Cenotaph will be able to attend one of these regional memorial services.

OBITUARIES

MAJOR T.T.H. VERSCHOYLE MC

Our Vice President and one of the founders of the Gallipoli Association, Major Terence Verschoyle [0021] died on Christmas Day 1992 at the nursing home at Amesbury where he had been resident for some years.

Terence Verschoyle was born in Quetta on 9 September 1894 the son of Stuart Joseph Verschoyle of Tullycleagh, Ballinamallard, Co Fermanagh, the family having come from the Low Countries in the 16th century. His grandfather, as a rector acquired Tullycleagh and later the family added the adjoining farms.

After education at Rugby School Terence Verschoyle joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers on 30 September 1914. He landed at Suvla on 7 August being wounded after eight days, and later wrote an account of his service there for *The Gallipolian* which is reproduced on the following page. His interest in the Gallipoli campaign never lessened and he retained vivid memories of old friends and comrades many of whom never returned.

Later he served in Salonika where he was Mentioned in Despatches 1916 and 1917, in Italy and in France being awarded the Military Cross, for his action in the final month of the war. The citation [*London Gazette* 8 March 1919] reads:

“Early on the morning of 8th October 1918, when his Company met with enemy barrage near Villiers Outreaux, he displayed the utmost coolness and contempt for danger in getting his men under cover and evacuating the casualties. He then went forward and led companies to their places on the tapes with great skill. It was greatly due to him that the Battalion was able to form up without confusion and launch the attack punctually.”

He had been awarded the Order of the Crown of Italy in 1918 though there is a little mystery about this, for in later years Major Verschoyle disclaimed all knowledge, though it seems likely it was awarded for horsemanship. He thought little of the medal, and following the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1937, his son, as a child, clearly recalls his father making a little bonfire in front of the hearth and burning the ribbon.

He returned to his chemistry studies after the war and received a PhD in 1926 and a DSc in 1931 both as an external student at the University of London after working as a research chemist for Brunner Mond, now ICI 1920-26. For eleven years he ran the farm at Tullycleagh, owned several steeple-chasers and rode with the Fermanagh Harriers of which his wife was the Master. During the Second World War following

a serious injury in a fall in 1941 he worked for the Army Operations Research Group, a post which involved much travel and included a period in Canada. Later he worked for the British Council as their chief agricultural officer in Turkey and on retirement settled in England.

Terence Verschoyle married Eleanor Rosamund Holmes in 1921, she predeceased him in 1980. They had one son, Michael, who with his family live in Australia.

His interest in Gallipoli had always been a strong one and he made visits in 1928 with among others Henry Nevinson and John North, in 1936 when some 600 passengers disembarked from the Cunard liner *Lancastria*, in 1957 in an expedition led by the late Major Banner, in 1965 from another cruise ship and finally in 1971 again in a party guided by Major Banner. Each being described in his *Gallipolian* article.

We are most grateful to Major Verschoyle's son Michael, to Patrick Verschoyle, a distant relative, to Lieutenant-Colonel C.T. Holmes brother-in-law, and to Major G.E.M. Stephens, MBE of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Regimental Association for assistance with the preparation of this Obituary.

Extract from *Glimpses of Gallipoli* by Major T.Verschoyle first published in *The Gallipolian* 29: 6-10.

"Although I have had the good fortune to visit the Peninsula on six occasions, my longest - and first - visit lasted for only eight days; and "glimpses" therefore seems an appropriate word for the title.

A suitable starting point, perhaps, is formed by the departure of my battalion from Basingstoke, where we had encamped for three months with the rest of the 10th Division: Basingstoke was then a very pleasant small country town - but now, what a change! We marched to the station on a beautiful early summer's morning, with, as noted in my diary, the Moon, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn all being visible in the dawning sky [I must have regarded this as some sort of omen]. On arrival at Devonport, the battalion was embarked on the *Novian* [a former cattle-boat] with only twelve of the officers, the remainder including my fortunate self, being allocated to the *Alaunia*, of the Cunard Line. We only just caught our ship, for it had already left the dock, and was passing through the lock when we arrived alongside.

Life on the *Alaunia* was luxurious in the extreme, with marvellous food and the only duty involved being a turn as officer of the watch. We called at Malta to coal, and then spent three days at Alexandria; there I was much surprised to be visited on board by a great friend who, in camp outside, had heard of our imminent arrival [so much for security of movement!]. From Alexandria we proceeded via Lemnos to Mytilene, where we spent twelve days anchored at Port Iera. Mytilene is one of the

most beautiful of Aegean islands; and we were able to enjoy bathing, sailing, and strolls on shore, with drives to Mytilene town for dinner: on one occasion Compton Mackenzie appeared, engaged in one of his complicated intelligence ventures.

This idyllic existence was roughly broken, after a week, by the arrival of the *Novian* with the battalion which - reluctantly we joined. Following an inspection by Sir Ian Hamilton on 2 August, we transhipped to the *Heroic* on 6 August, and arrived early next morning off Suvla Bay, to be involved at once in the chaos that beset that most ill-managed landing. The "beetle" that was due to take us ashore was delayed for many hours by the misguided attempt to land at old Beach A; and we spent much of the day watching the hesitating advances to only a short distance inland. At last we were taken off at 1600 and put ashore at Gazi Baba to be attached to a brigade other than our own, and short of one company [typical Suvla]. A short, but sharp, thunderstorm soaked us soon after landing - very refreshing in the heat of the day. Within a few yards of stepping ashore, I saw my first dead Turk an elderly bearded man in the uniform of the gendarmerie.

For the next week we wandered aimlessly to and fro along the ridge of the Kiretch Tepe, first on the sea slope and then on the land side, wondering what on earth we were supposed to be doing. The heat and chronic shortage of water [alleviated by HMS *Grampus*] were offset by occasional bathes when one had to watch out not only for bullets, but for sea-urchins, and, most memorably, by the arrival on 14 August of a mess-box from Fortnum and Mason [I can still taste the delicious juice from the tinned asparagus]. The following day, we were at long last launched into an attack on the Turkish position astride the ridge; but what, until a few days before, would have been a comparatively easy task, now proved impossibly difficult. Within an hour, the battalion suffered 350 casualties, including 21 out of the 24 officers. I was lucky enough to escape with a light wound, and the next day found myself on a hospital ship bound for Mudros, alongside a fellow subaltern, Ivone Kirkpatrick, shot through the stomach with small apparent chance of survival, but destined for a most distinguished career, which culminated in the Permanent Under-Secretaryship at the Foreign Office. So ended my first visit to Gallipoli."

GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Ninth Gallipoli Memorial Lecture will be given at Holy Trinity Church, Southend Crescent, Eltham, London, SE9 at 8.0pm on Wednesday 28 April 1993.

The lecturer will be the Rt Hon. J.Enoch Powell MBE and the title will be "Turkey and Britain: a Paradox."

Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Colonel [Retd] C.S.Kirby, Secretary, Royal Army Educational Corps Association, Block 3/18, The Old Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London, SE18 4BB. Telephone 081 781 5921.

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT 1992

As is usual a copy of the Audited Accounts for the previous year is submitted with this issue of *The Gallipolian*. I am pleased to report a surplus of £491. Explanations for the main changes compared to 1991 are:

Income: Subscriptions up £689 at £2,378. This results very largely from the efforts of Jim Fallon our Press Officer in publicising the existence of the Association. Sale of Badges down £230 but these remain a popular item and the initial supply purchased in 1990 has been sold and new stocks purchased. Building Society Interest despite higher balances has a slight fall of £9 due to lower interest rates.

Surplus from lunches up £193. The smaller surplus than expected from the 25 April lunch at Wellington Barracks due to changes in the Army catering policy was offset by a larger than budgeted surplus from the October lunch.

Expenditure: The cost of *The Gallipolian* rose by £452 resulting from improvements in the production and the increase in members. Stationery etc rose by £466 represents the need to increase stocks mainly to keep pace with the recruitment drive for members. Postage on *The Gallipolian* up by £103 due to increased postal rates and increased circulation. Other postages also rose and were largely due to the publicity drive. Badges up £312, the cost of the second batch [see Income].

Sundry expenses by contrast decreased by £300, the 1991 figure being swollen by a "one off" contribution of £200 to defray the travelling of the Turkish veteran to the April lunch. The current figure is mainly the cost of wreaths.

Sadly this is the last occasion on which I shall be reporting to you. After 16 years as Honorary Treasurer to the Association I feel forced to vacate the Office for health reasons. I am indebted to Denis Pollard for consenting to act as my successor until the AGM in October when his name will be put forward for election. I would like to thank the many members who have written to me from time to time in such kindly terms and I am happy to say that I hope to remain a member of the Committee.

Finally it would, indeed be remiss of me if I did not take this opportunity to tender my very sincere thanks to Walter Chapman for acting as Honorary Auditor during the whole of this period.

D.F.Bland

A CENTENARIAN

We send our warmest congratulations to Geoffrey Dearmer who served at Gallipoli with the 2/2nd Battalion [Royal Fusiliers] London Regiment and later in Egypt and France and who was a 100 in March. For many years he was producer of Childrens Hour for the BBC and in addition wrote plays, novels and poetry. We published one of his poems *The Turkish Trench Dog* in *The Gallipolian* No 55 Winter 1987 and are now pleased to include another in celebration of his 100th birthday, this having been first published in 1918 in a slim volume called *Poems*. A collection of Geoffrey Dearmers poems - *A Pilgrim's Song* has been published by Murray at £12.99.

From "W" Beach

The Isle of Imbros set in turquoise blue,
Lies to the westward; on the eastern side
The purple hills of Asia fade from view,
And rolling battleships at anchor ride.

White flocks of cloud float by, the sunset glows,
And drifting gulls stir a slow-waking sea
Where dim steel-shadowy forms with foaming bows
Wind up the Narrows towards Gallipoli.

No colour breaks this tongue of barren land
Save where a group of huddled tents gleam white,
Before me ugly shapes like spectres stand,
And wooden crosses cleave the warming light.

Celestial gardeners speed the hurrying day
And sow the plains of night with silver grain;
So shall this transient havoc fade away
And proud Cape Helles be herself again.

Laden with figs & olives and a freight
Of purple grapes, tanned singing men shall vow
Singing wild songs of how eternal fate
Withstood that bold invasion long ago.

Geoffrey Dearmer

MEMORIES OF A GALLANT ADVENTURE*

BY ORLO WILLIAMS

Towards April 25 none who were in 'they Dardanelles'- as our Oxfordshire gardener described them in writing to his mistress - will fail to be as reminiscent as the survivors of Agincourt on St. Crispin's Day. Not all, of course, of those who fought heroically and suffered on those inhospitable shores were in at the landing; and though in ascribing honour or in measuring endurance one would make no distinction of date, there is bound to be a difference in men's recollections according as they were, or were not, part of the force - no matter how humble their part - which prepared to launch, and launched, the ever-to-be-famous attack on the beaches. It is purely a distinction of feeling. Those who formed part of the original Expeditionary Force were united by an extraordinary sense of exhilaration and adventure, by a thrilling prospect of almost inconceivable possibilities, by a consciousness of being engaged in an affair incredibly more adventurous and romantic than the majority ever dreamed of. From the Commander-in-Chief down, this romantic sense of adventure spread through the whole force; and I can see, in retrospect, that though it was bound to disappear as achievement fell short of hope, it constituted the one bond of unity in that inevitable disunited force. I mean disunited in a physical sense. After the landing, the Anzacs were pinned to one part of the peninsula, and the rest of the fighting troops to another; there was no available rest area where men of various units could fraternize, as in France; G.H.Q., after being penned for weeks on board a transport, was forced to land upon an island farther from the toe of the peninsula than Cowes from Portsmouth; the advanced base, Mudros, was hard to get at, and when you got there you prayed Heaven to take you away from its inhospitality and boredom as quickly as possible; and the Base proper was in Egypt, where sick and wounded were widely separated, and where all members of the Dardanelles army were passers-through, though not particularly welcome.

It was almost as bad before the landing, for how can a force that concentrates in ships forgather? Nobody who remembers the fortnight spent in Mudros Bay in making the final preparations will forget the irksome confinement and nightmare

*First published in the *Radio Times* 24 April 1931, and reproduced here by kind permission of the Editor. On the following day the BBC broadcast a discussion between Sir Ian Hamilton and Captain Mackenzie concerning the Gallipoli campaign.

Orlo Williams, author of this article, was Chief Cypher Officer on Sir Ian Hamilton's staff at Gallipoli and was Clerk to the House of Commons before his military service at Gallipoli, in Egypt and Palestine.

difficulty of intercommunication. I will quote a passage out of my own diary to show how this struck me at the time:-

'A fortnight on board ship in Mudros Bay. I only left the ship twice to go on shore. Cutters, launches and ship's boats are all too few for the demands made on them. One cannot demand them as a right, either, since they belong to the senior service. In a normal land campaign there would have been motor-cars, horses, roads to walk on, but one cannot drive, ride or walk a yard over the sea. One is separated absolutely even from a transport to which a loud shout would almost carry There is no telephone communication with other staffs, and we have to rely a good deal on Naval signallers.... With preparations for this historic enterprise proceeding at fever heat, with the force that is to carry it out, the commanders and their staffs lying close by, yet so far away, with the fleet of fifteen British battleships, five cruisers, twenty destroyers within our view, it is a strange, isolated life, in an isolated ship, inevitable but curious - little coming and going, no give and take, no opportunity of fraternizing. It is the same for us all, whether our ship holds a staff, or a regiment, or a collection of stores.'

Therefore, how fortunate are those who can remember that unifying thrill which made up for our physical separation and has never faded from the memory! Indeed, there was something dashing and high-spirited about that Dardanelles army which, except perhaps for the first four divisions that went to France in August, 1914, was unique in the war history of the British forces. Every man must have different recollections - this one of the immense untried vigour of the Australians and New Zealanders, that one of the gay determination of the 29th Division, that flower of soldierly valour - but, I remember, among so many other things, the good humour and fun shown by the two battalions of the Royal Naval Division who were on board the transport *Franconia*, where Sir Ian set up his G.H.Q. on March 19, the day after the failure of the naval attack on the Narrows. We of G.H.Q. were with them for a week, and even now, I can hear the catchword of the day repeated ad nauseum by the young fellow-my-lads with one pip. 'How's yer Fah-ther?' It was a wheeze, I think, of Harry Tate's, and in excellent imitations of Harry Tate's voice it echoed up and down the alleyways and decks of that still very comfortable ship. Then again, since men from the professional classes largely officered that splendid division, the old Universities were well represented. I remember a very jovial Balliol dinner in which six of us took part - you could buy champagne at six shillings a bottle on board - and the immense joy that the gallant Colonel Doughty-Wylie, destined to be killed as he won the V.C. at Helles on April 26, took in a certain ribald song about a hedgehog that Charles Lister, also killed that year, made us sing to the tune of the 'Old Tarpaulin Jacket'. Doughty-Wylie I note in my diary, stood drinks all round two evenings later, and made me sit down to the saloon piano that we might have the hedgehog song again.

It was on board the *Franconia*, too, that took place the conversation which led to Compton Mackenzie's subsequent arrival in the Dardanelles, as he and I have told elsewhere. But my first memories begin with other ships, with the *Foresight* steaming with lights out through the Channel fog of March 13, to land Sir Ian Hamilton and his small hastily improvised General Staff upon the coast of France, and with the *Phaeton*, now scrapped, but then an untried light cruiser, which bore us throbbing fiercely through an oily Mediterranean, till we turned the corner of Tenedos and saw suddenly the whole majesty of a British fighting fleet spread out before us, led by the *Queen Elizabeth*. Less than four days since, seen off by Mr. Winston Churchill and a few dazed wives, we had steamed out of a side platform of Charing Cross station. What a rhythm life had then, and later, when, after reorganising in Egypt - curious interlude - we steamed back, more serious at heart, to Mudros! I say more serious, though no less adventurous. My diary of April 7, the day I sailed from Alexandria in the *Arcadian*, notes: 'In the docks reality touched one strongly - large transports packed side by side, busy cranes loading incessantly, troops with their baggage drawn up on the quays and embarking - fine men, regular soldiers of the 29th Division, not long back from duty in India. Few of those men know where they are going, even now. How many of them will come back?' Yes, and on board the *Arcadian*, which, on arrival at Mudros, hummed with activity and preparation by sailors and soldiers alike, was composed the parody of the 'Walrus and the Carpenter', which ran, as squibs will, rapidly through the entire force; so much so that when, the day before the landing, I first entered the wardroom of the *Queen Elizabeth* with other members of Sir Ian's staff, I was presented to the N.O.'s as the man who wrote 'The PNT0 and the PMLO'. The Principal Naval Transport Officer (pronounced 'Pinto') and the Principal Military Landing Officer (pronounced 'Pummelo') were important officers in the operation of landing on a beach, and the inspiration of the poem was the common talk of giving the show away beforehand that followed the shelling of the enemy's wire by the *Triumph* ten days before the landing. It may amuse the readers of *The Radio Times* if I quote a stanza or two:-

The PNT0 and the PMLO
 Were gazing at the strand:
 'Do you suppose,' the PNT0 said,
 'That we shall ever land?'
 The PMLO said nothing, but
 He coughed behind his hand.

'If seven tugs with seven tows
 Started at dead of night,'
 Said PMLO, 'I wonder if
 They'd land enough to fight.'
 The PNT0 thought abstractedly
 And simply said: 'They might.'

'And will they,' said the PMLO,
 'Land on the proper beach;
 This one on X, that one on Z,
 And so on, each to each?'
 The PNT0 held his finger up,
 Like one about to preach.

'We've thrashed it out with wrinkled brows
 And tears,' the PNT0 said;
 'And NONE will land on W
 That ought to land on Z.'
 The PMLO politely smiled,
 The smile of the well-bred.

'At break of dawn,' the PNT0 said,
 'Our ships will open fire,
 The gallant troops will then advance
 As far as they desire.'
 The PMLO was indistinct:
 I think he muttered 'Wire.'

'And what is wire, the PNT0 cried,
 'Against a naval shell?
 One of us goes there every day
 And shoots away like H —'
 And do you,' said the PMLO,
 'Not leave your card as well?'

And this brings me to the most unforgettable of all those vivid memories - to the noon of April 23, when Sir Ian having decided that all was to go forward,

The *River Clyde* (so runs my diary) with her extra gangways tacked on to her side and her sandbagged upper structure, left Mudros for Tenedos, carrying her gallant company and Doughty-Wylie away, a great many of them forever. An atmosphere of intense excitement begins to be felt, and the emotion as the three transports, B1, B2 and B3, crammed with troops all cheering, moved down the roadstead in procession, as if proudly parading before action in front of the assembled shipping, was overwhelming. Tears rolled down my cheeks as those men went out so gaily to their desperate enterprise.

Others more worthy than I may commemorate the titanic battle which opened before dawn on the 25th. I shall not forget those six weird days on board the *Queen Elizabeth*, the glimpses of the battle, the colossal blast of the Q.E's 15-inch guns, the pathetic boat of wounded soldiers that drifted alongside one morning, and the sight

of those all but impregnable defences on April 30, when most of the enemy wire was still standing, there were still dead Turks in the trenches, and the concealed pom-poms which had made such a sinister noise on V beach were still in position, two dummies inviting our fire between them. But some roads had already been made and a few tents pitched, and the beaches were stacked with cases of rations and crowded with mules, Indian and Zionist mule-drivers, working parties and all kinds of odd details. At a bare camp table on the bare top of Hill 138 sat General Hunter-Weston, voluble and determined, consulting with Sir Ian and his Chief of Staff. Of the end of that day I note 'So back to the *Arcadian*, glad to rest. A perfect summer's day with a cool breeze. We are anchored a few hundred yards from that busy shore. The sun sinks magnificently behind the jagged sierra of Imbros, turning the hills dark purple. A great moon rises behind Eren Keui lighting up the beaches, battleships and transports as darkness falls. The lights of the ships, the incessant winking of signal lamps and the revolving glare of the Chanak searchlight make the night a wonder.'

A wonder... yes. That is the word for those days. The scenes, the men, the actions, the great ships, the smell of thyme mixed with the reek of cordite, the knowledge that immortal history has been made before one's eyes.... I do not praise war, but there I saw deeds rise fully to the height of a great issue, in a noble setting, giving a quality to those days, with all their suffering, that aeons of grey evolution can hardly attain.

WHO SAID THIS

In the Christmas *Gallipolian* we asked who said:

"The long and varied annals of the British Army contain no more heart-breaking episode than the Battle of Suvla Bay. The greatness of the prize in view, the narrowness by which it was missed, the extremes of valiant skill and of incompetence, are features not easily to be matched in our history"

The answer was Winston S. Churchill in Volume 2 of *World Crisis* page 432 .

Now another WHO SAID THIS?

"These Australian trenches are the most wonderful thing in the world and far better than anything I have seen in France. The men are also wonderful - huge, strong, intelligent soldiers, devoid of nerves, full of wonderful cunning, every man thinking of nothing but how to beat the enemy. I don't believe we have anything to touch them... In the trenches one is absolutely safe, but the beaches are dangerous to the last degree, for sudden death stalks abroad there....."

The answer in the next issue.

INFORMATION PLEASE

Peter Heffernan: Sergeant Peter Heffernan, 7th Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment died of wounds on board ship on 27 August 1915 and is buried in Chatby Cemetery, Alexandria. Born in 1876 at Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent he had served as a regular soldier and then re-enlisted in 1914 because his son was serving in France. Unfortunately his records were lost in 1940 due to enemy action and his grandson, B.Harper, [1313] Bron-y-Wendon, Wern Road, Llandulas, Clwyd, is anxious to learn more regarding the actions of the North Staffordshire Regiment at Gallipoli.

George Frederick Lamb: George Lamb was a Regimental Sergeant Major with the Royal Engineers who served at Gallipoli and died in 1927 after being invalided from the Army. His son F. Lamb, 26 Durham Court, Hendon, Sunderland, would be pleased to receive any suggestions about his fathers service at Gallipoli.

George Pollard: George Pollard served as a Leading Seamen on board the battleship Prince of Wales from 15 December 1910 until 7 September 1915 and was one of a detachment from the ship which landed with the New Zealanders at Anzac on 25 April, incidentally this was his birthday. George died aged 92 in 1980 and his son recalls that he used to say how they had coloured their naval whites with coffee to make them less conspicuous when ashore. Information please on the Prince of Wales at Gallipoli to J. Pollard [1245] 58 Church Lane, Fawley, Southampton, SO4 1DH.

Shrapnel Terrace and Chaplain E.Makeham: J.W. Penny [1229], 63 Padacre Road, Watcombe Park, Torquay, Devon, TQ2 8PX seeks information concerning Shrapnel Terrace, and Chaplain E. Makeham who served on Walker's Ridge.

FORCES SWEETHEARTS

On 11 February Joanna Lumley opened the Forces Sweethearts exhibition at the Imperial War Museum where it will remain until 15 October. The guests of honour were Gallipoli veteran Jack Gearing [0507] and his charming wife May who last autumn celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary [see *Gallipolian* 70 page 31]. They took with them the silk wedding dress which she wore in when they were married in 1917 while Jack was in the Royal Navy and May a munitions worker. Jack and May, 98 and 99 years respectively are believed to be the oldest "Forces Sweethearts" and at the reception mixed with many far younger sweethearts as well as guests from politics and the theatre.

The exhibition tells the story of wartime romance from 1914 until the Gulf War through letters, posters, photographs, poems and other mementoes. There are occasional lectures and filmshows, a wedding dress fashion show and a commemorative book Forces Sweethearts.

GALLIPOLI - THE MAPS

M.A.NOLAN [1147]

The inaccuracy, inadequacy and unavailability of maps have received passing reference in many of the popular accounts of the campaign but, so far as is known, there has been no detailed documentation of the Military Survey support and the maps produced for and during the campaign. Survey at Gallipoli was covered in but one paragraph in the *History of the Corps of Royal Engineers* see page 15 Volume VI.

The author is in the process of researching and documenting this subject and these brief notes, the first of a series, report on one such product which was to have a bearing on the campaign.

Several accounts including the Official History refer to the fact that General Sir Ian Hamilton was issued with but one copy of a one inch to the mile map prior to embarking for the journey to the Dardanelles on Friday 13 March 1915. One or two suggest that this map was based on an earlier French survey made at the time of the Crimean War. Few will have seen the French map which was the source of the British one inch map issued to Hamilton, and later the derived 1:40,000 scale maps which were to attract so much criticism in the early stages of the campaign.

It is not surprising that the Middle East Force [MEF] was so badly provided for in respect of mapping. The Gallipoli peninsula was no more readily accessible by foreign surveyors prior to 1914 than it is today. However French and British military surveyors did have brief access on two occasions. Firstly during the Crimean War 1854-56 and secondly during the Russo-Turkish war of 1877.

CARTE DE LA PRESQU'ILE DE GALLIPOLI 1854

This 1:50,000 scale map was produced by the Officiers d'Etatmajor de l'Armee d'Orient, engraved by Erhard 42 Rue Bonaparte Paris, printed by Chez Kaepelin Quai Voltaire Paris and published in the Depot de la Guerre under the direction of Colonel Blondel in 1854.

Produced in two sheets each 90 x 65cms [35 x 25 inches] this monochrome map was the first large scale modern topographic map of the peninsula and it depicted the topography by approximate ten metre contours, Atchi Baba, as it was named, being shown as 216 metres [708 feet] high. Nothing is known of the methods of survey employed in its construction.

Note: 1:50,000 scale is 1 inches to 1 mile.

CARTE DE LA PRESQU'ILE DE GALLIPOLI 1876

In 1876 the French 1:50,000 scale map was photozincographed at the Ordnance Survey Office under the superintendence of Lieutenant Colonel R.M.Parsons RE FRS under the Director General, Major General J.Cameron RE CB FRS. The only changes made were the addition of a scale line in English miles and a production note on each sheet. Names were unchanged from the French edition

One example of this map is particularly interesting because each "rectangle" of the geographic graticule is lettered in red and the map is accompanied by instructions for precise position reporting. These instructions are based on the use of 33 numbered north-south divisions and 26 lettered west-east divisions of a separate grid which could be fitted to each "rectangle" of the graticule on the map face. Each small "rectangle" on the separate grid represents about 300 metres square on the ground. This map and its separate grid thus represents a very early example of point referencing. The system was to be superseded by the incorporation of "map squares" on the face of the map of which more will be mentioned later.

1880 EDITION

On 26 October 1876 the Inspector General of Fortifications General Sir J.L.A. Simmons signed a directive to Major and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Home RE ordering him to proceed to Constantinople, accompanied by Captain Fraser RE. His task was to report on the defences of the peninsula west of Constantinople against any attack from the west, and additionally make plans for its retention, to thus ensure a protected passage of the Dardanelles. Major H. Ardagh RE, Captain Grover RE, and Lieutenants Chermiside and Cockburn RE were also involved in this task and many maps were submitted with the final report. One of these was an 1880 edition prepared at the Intelligence Branch Quarter Master General's Department, Horse Guards, in September 1880 and used to illustrate a report on the *Passage of the Dardanelles* by Major H. Ardagh RE dated 2 September 1880. This map includes a red overprint showing a Fleet anchorage off Suvla Bay, two diversionary landings one off the east coast, the other just south of Gaba Tepe, and defensive positions on the Kilid Bahr plateau and around Chanak Kale.

MAP EXTRACT

Another example of the 1:50,000 scale map is of interest because in addition to the original French graticule which has values in grads, an additional graticule has been overdrawn in ink with values in degrees. Some calculations are also shown. This may have been done for a single user's convenience but it is possible that this sheet may be one actually used during the process of compiling the later British 1:63,360 scale map, which has a graticule in degrees.

The extract of the Helles sector reproduced on pages 18 and 19 with permission of the British Library shows both graticules, what appears to be a handwritten additional name of Morto Bay, and is of interest in that the contouring, for all its lack of absolute planimetric accuracy, does indicate the depth and steepness of what we now know as Gully Ravine.

This map also depicts the hill features behind V and W beaches in a little detail whereas the later British maps used at the beginning of the campaign with simplified contours depicted these features even less adequately. This resulted in much confusion on the ground during the landings and warranted specific mention and criticism in the Official History.

To be continued.

HMS MINERVA ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY

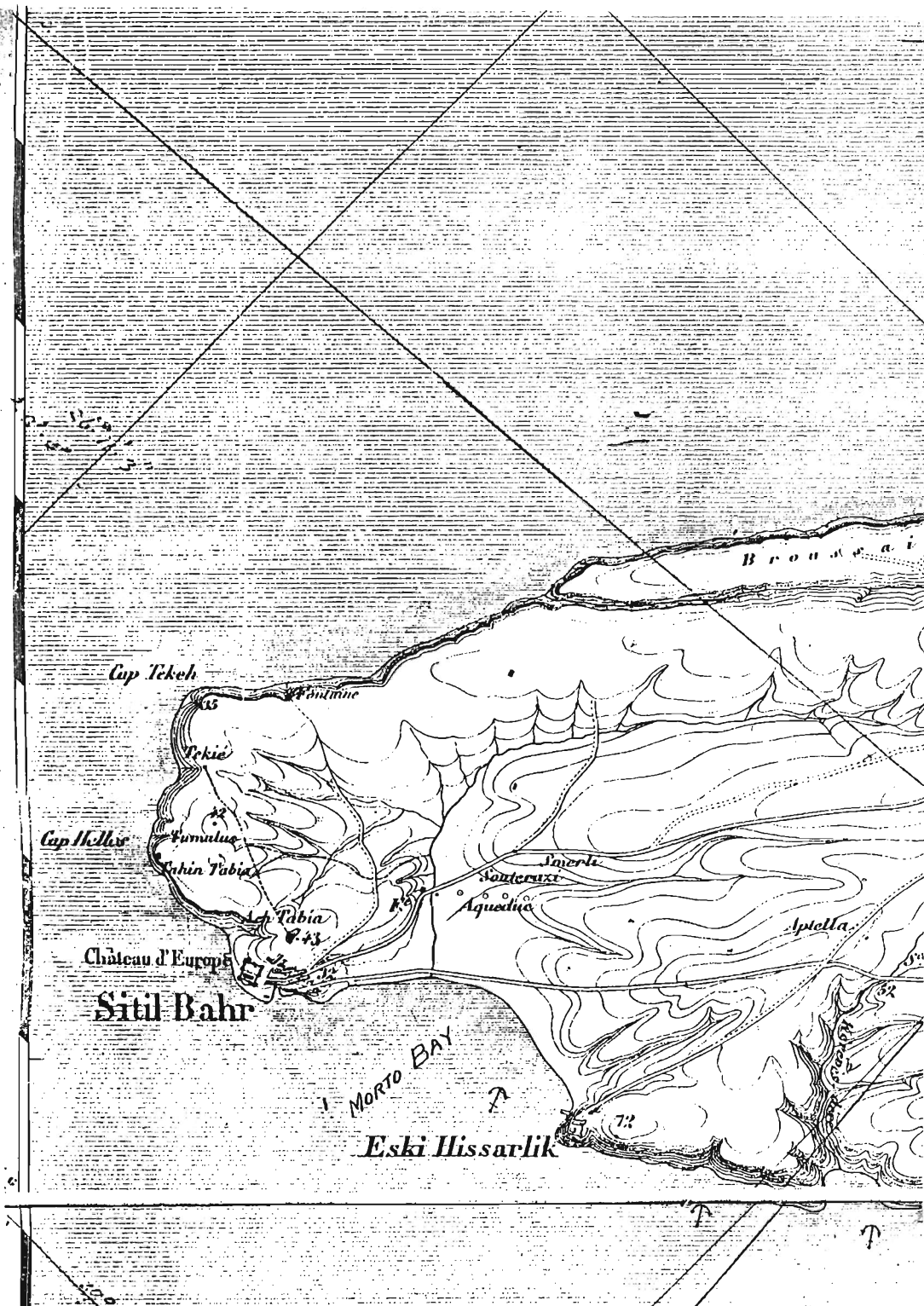
Lieutenant David Pay RN [Rtd] has kindly arranged for Members to view the Monitor M33, now HMS *Minerva* on Saturday 26 June at 1100. The ship lies within a two minute walk of the Heritage Area which includes HMS *Victory*, HMS *Warrior*, the *Mary Rose* and the Royal Naval Museum.

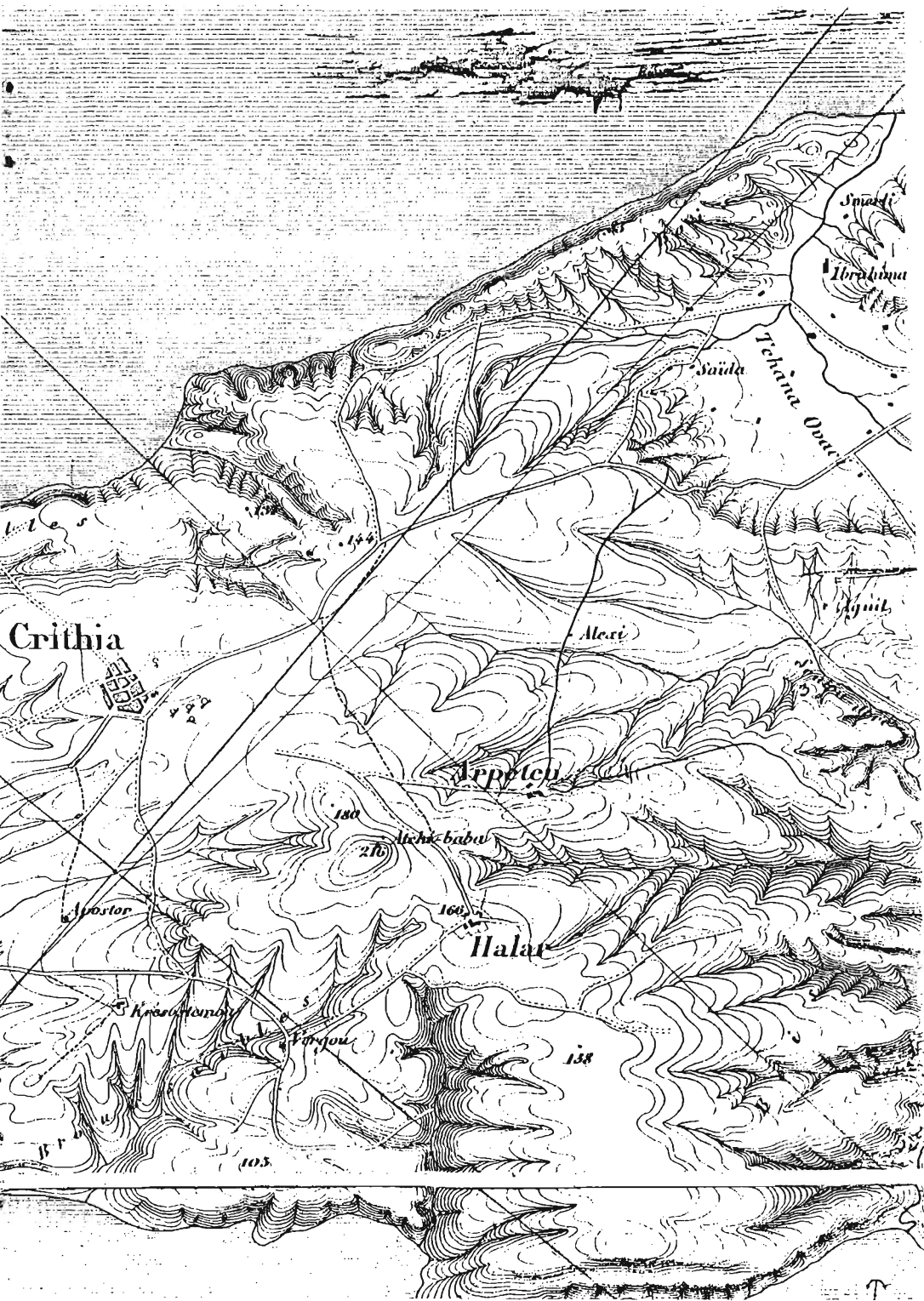
Members wishing to take advantage of this opportunity should contact the Secretary with names of those attending plus car registration number and an sae. A pass to gain entry to the Dockyard will be forwarded shortly before the visit.

Members unable to attend on the 26th but who wish to make a visit should contact Lieutenant Pay on 0705 876253.

THE ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

Commencing at 1830 on 21 April at the Imperial War Museum there will be an evening devoted to the Royal Naval Division at Gallipoli presented by Peter Hart and Nigel Steel. This will include the film *Heroes of Gallipoli* made during the campaign by the war correspondent Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett. Admission £3.70 including wine.





ARTHUR WALDERNE ST CLAIR TISDALL

VC 1890-1915

DAVID HEALD

My fascination with the Great War, which has grown with the passing years, was kindled as quite a small boy at Bedford School in the 1950s. I used to pore for hours over the old Punch Illustrated History of the War, and gaze, mesmerized, at the names of the campaigns and the many Old Bedfordians, some barely out of school, engraved on the wooden panels of the School Memorial Hall. Cambrai, Kut, Mesopotamia, Arras, Gallipoli, Ypres, Salonica - those haunting names seemed to symbolize the carnage and heroism of that terrible war.

In the School Chapel too, along with the Rolls of Honour for both world wars, the names of all Old Bedfordians killed in action, with the badges of their regiments, are beautifully inscribed on the wall panels. One of those names, on the south side, is that of Arthur Walderne St. Clair Tisdall, V.C. Two other Old Bedfordians won the Victoria Cross during the Great War, but both survived. It is the circumstances of Tisdall's life, the thought of what he might have achieved had he lived, that gives his short life and heroic death an added poignancy.

Arthur Tisdall was born in Bombay on July 21st, 1890, the son of a missionary. When he was two the family moved to Persia, and as a very small boy, the young Arthur, a precocious scholar already, was having conversations in Latin with his father. He was later to master Persian fluently. When he entered Bedford School in 1900, the then Head Master J.S. Phillpotts, 'the Chief', was astonished when the Latin question he threw at the small boy before him was innocently answered in Latin. At Bedford, Arthur was quickly nicknamed 'Pussy' because he admitted having just come from Persia.

In 1900 the Tisdall family returned to England via the Caspian and Black Seas, then passing through the Dardanelles where 15 years later, Tisdall was to meet his death. Bedford was then a small country town with a large proportion of retired colonial and services families. Bedford Grammar School as it was then was, accordingly, a school where such families traditionally sent their sons, and with its old grammar school traditions in the teaching of Classics would have appealed to Tisdall senior. Young Arthur's facility in Latin astounded masters and fellow pupils alike: "Tisdall stands up and just reels it off", said one awed schoolmate. By the age of 15, he was in the Classical Sixth, of which he was Head when he left school in 1909. At Bedford, Tisdall effortlessly carried off all the major Latin and Greek prizes, as well as prizes in Divinity and English Literature. He was, however, no mere bookworm, and was a vigorous rugby footballer and oarsman, as well as an enthusiastic member of the O.T.C. 'The Ousel', the school magazine, frequently mentions Tisdall as a

fiery debater, then very much an old-fashioned Tory imperialist, but later at Cambridge moving, by the standards of those days anyway, leftwards. A contemporary recalls that even then Tisdall was convinced that Turkish rule was a "blot on the Near East". Nor was he a prig, enjoying boyish pranks as much as the next man. Contemporaries often remarked on his open, fun loving disposition.

At Cambridge, which he entered in September 1909 as a Scholar of Trinity College Tisdall's brilliant academic career continued, culminating in his being awarded the ultimate Classical distinction, the first Chancellor's Gold Medal. He rowed for 1st Trinity, wrote light verse and in his final year, took up the study of economics and immersed himself in Colonial History and the politics of the Balkans and the Near East. His keen interest in the university Officer's Training Corps suggests a patriotic preparedness for a general war which Tisdall believed to be unfortunately inevitable. On top of all this, he pulled off a Double First.

In 1913 Tisdall passed the combined Indian and Home Civil Service examination. In May 1914, he joined the R.N.V.R. and was called up as soon as the war started. The young Tisdall, always a profoundly religious person, was gripped by the same patriotic fervour which afflicted all the combatant nations. He relates in a letter how strangers in London, seeing him in uniform, kept shaking hands with him. On the 14 August he was posted to Walmer Camp, and from there went to Antwerp with the Royal Naval Division, receiving his commission to the Anson Battalion in October. After several weeks at Crystal Palace, Sheerness and Chatham, he went to Blandford camp in Dorset. From there, on 22 February 1915, he wrote a letter whose tone of naive, schoolboyish excitement can still profoundly move us, knowing as we do what was to happen to Tisdall and so many like him:

"We are off at last. Tuesday we draw equipment, Wednesday parade before Winston Churchill, and on Thursday march off to some seaport and ship for the Mediterranean. We have been promised a six-week or two-month campaign, probably fairly exciting, and then will come back, refit, and go to the continent with the whole division... We are all getting pith helmets. The men are wild with joy.

Since my last letter we have been living the same dull life in camp and it has been getting worse and worse. The mud gets deeper and softer, and the work less and less interesting. The officers get into quarrels with each other..."

The excellent Naval & Military Press reprint of the Verses, Letters & Remembrances of Tisdall, first published after his death, contains many such letters, and some of his poetry. At Chatham he was seen in the company of his friend Rupert Brooke with whom he was later to explore the countryside of Lemnos. It is fascinating to speculate whether, had he lived, Tisdall would have become as celebrated a poet as his friend.

From Blandford, on 27 February Tisdall left for the Dardanelles, sailing from Avonmouth in the H.M. Troopship *Grantully Castle*, and arriving in Lemnos in early March. He writes: "The voyage has been wonderfully calm: the Channel was a bit choppy, but the Atlantic is like a duck-pond". From Lemnos he writes with boyish idealism; "Life is pleasant here and there's something to look forward to; to turn the Turks out of Constantinople, etc, would be a thing well worth doing, and give me a feeling that I had really done one satisfactory piece of work. Here one really feels that we are fighting on the side of civilisation... They (Turkish women) are dirty, and the Greeks are clean". Tisdall's letters from Lemnos bubble with excitement as the young classical scholar compares ancient with modern Greek and savours the local wine which he pronounces 'excellent'.

After a period in Port Said and Alexandria, Tisdall made his way to the Dardanelles on board the Cunard S.S. *Alaunia*. On the 24 April 1915, he transferred to the old collier the *River Clyde* which was to play such a heroic role on the beaches of Gallipoli. After the relative idleness and boredom of the preceding weeks, the hell of the Gallipoli campaign into which the young Sub-Lieutenant Tisdall was pitched on 25 April, 1915 must have seemed all the more infernal. On board the *River Clyde*, beached off shore at "V" beach, he could only look on in helpless horror as the Munster and Dublin Fusiliers were cut down in hundreds by Turkish machine-gun fire, the sea and shore red with blood.

A laconic postcard of 27 April, signed with his childhood nickname of 'Pog', understates the horror with a forced cheerfulness: "Have been under fire and are now ashore; all day spent in burying soldiers. Some of my men are killed. We are all happy and fit. Plenty of hard work and enemy shells, and a smell of dead men". In another undated postcard, posted, ironically, on 7 May the day after Tisdall's death, 'Pog' writes: "We are in the firing-line now, and spend the night being sniped at and missed. For nearly a week we had to unload barges for other people under heavy fire, which made a lot of dirt, and frightened our Allies (sic) and mules".

There is no mention in these postcards of the heroic events of Sunday, 25 April, nor of the exploit for which, nearly a year afterwards, the Victoria Cross was, on the recommendation of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to King George V, posthumously awarded to him. This was gazetted at the Admiralty on 31 March, 1916. "Only now", the citation reads, "has it been possible to obtain complete information as to the individuals who took part in his gallant act".

Tisdall's gallantry was, indeed, almost superhuman. Watching the carnage on V Beach from the old *River Clyde*, he decided to act. Major Josiah Wedgewood, commanding the Maxim guns on the old hulk, wrote that Tisdall turned to him and shouted: "I can't stand it. I am going over". Jumping into the water, and accompanied by Leading Seaman Malia, Chief Petty Officer Perring and Leading Seamen Curtiss and Parkinson, he several times pushed a boat out to rescue

wounded men under lethally accurate fire. The men in the boat could only marvel at this foolhardy heroism, but in the general chaos, Tisdall's identity was not established. The anonymous 'R.N. (D.S.O.)' wrote in the *Times* on 6 December 1915: "All the petty officer and blue jackets could say was: 'He's one of those Naval Division gents'. Days and weeks passed away, and I and others never ceased trying to find out if we could, who and where the unknown hero was."

It was only this letter and one on December 8th from 'Surgeon, R.N.' in the *Times* which first drew attention to Tisdall's bravery. 'Surgeon, R.N.' wrote: "To my mind, there is only one decoration that he should receive, namely, the V.C. His work of magnificent self-devotion was performed under a perfect hail of pom-pom, machine-gun, and rifle fire at almost point-blank range". Nor did his exploits end there. For over a week after the horror of V Beach, Tisdall was under constant heavy Turkish fire, taking supplies up to the front line, and even going to the rescue of a wounded gun horse. A brother officer wrote: "When he came back the doctor said to him: 'We can get more horses, but we can't get another Tisdall'. But he never would take cover, and always worked with his men".

On 6 May, Tisdall's luck ran out at the Second Battle of Krithia. At 8.30 a.m. he marched off with his men and took up position with the 2nd R.N. Brigade for the first attack on the position of Achi Baba. By 3 p.m. they had managed to cover quite a distance when he made his men take temporary cover in an enemy trench. There he was shot in the chest, killed instantly as he stood on the parapet, heedless as ever to his own safety. 'T.M.', an Able Seaman from the Anson Battalion, who was present, wrote to Tisdall's parents: "When we got nicely settled in the enemy trench, your son stood up on the parapet of the trench looking for the enemy, but was not there long before he was shot through the chest, and he never said one word. We put him away as well as possible".

News of his death reached Deal on 10 May where his father was then Vicar of St. George's, and a memorial service was held on Ascension Day, 13 May, where the band of the Royal Marines took part. Tributes poured in to the Tisdall family. In a personal letter dated 7 April 1916, King George V wrote: "It is a matter of supreme regret to me that the death of Sub-Lieutenant Arthur Walderne St. Clair Tisdall, R.N.V.R., deprived me of the pride of personally conferring on him the Victoria Cross" 'Major Wedgewood told Tisdall's father: "He was a very gallant man and you have every right to be proud of him, alive or dead".

Mr Foster, Tisdall's chaplain, a close friend, wrote to Dr. Tisdall senior: "He was brave to the last, and fell fighting gallantly... He was a charming companion, a great scholar, and an excellent officer, loved by his men". He goes on to quote a moving tribute from one of those men, taken from a censored letter: "You would see it in the papers about our dear officer 'going down', Mr. Tisdall. He was one of England's bravest men. All his men about cried when he went because all the boys

thought the world of him". 'Lieutenant-Commander G.G.G.', like so many praising Tisdall's scholarship, mourned the waste of so much promise: "He would, I am sure, have had a most brilliant career had he been spared".

On 28 April 1970, Mr. F.R. St. Clair Tisdall and Mrs A. Alcock, Tisdall's brother and sister, presented his V.C. and other medals to the headquarters of the London Division, R.N.V.R., at a ceremony aboard H.M.S. *President*.

Tisdall was buried where he fell and has no known grave. His name is on the Helles Memorial, and a memorial tablet was later erected in St. George's Church, Deal. One of the most touching tributes to Arthur Tisdall, by 'Surgeon, R.N.' will serve as a fitting epitaph: "Tisdall was a man who had absolutely conquered fear... I do not believe in the man who has never experienced fear. The courageous man is he who can best control his fear. The first thing that Tisdall said laughing to me was, "I was never in such a funk in my life", and I believed him, for all honest men possess this sense of fear". Arthur Tisdall was indeed 'one of England's bravest men'.

Note: A shorter account of the life and service of Arthur Tisdall was published in *The Gallipolian* No 61 Christmas 1989 pages 35-38.

BOOK REVIEW

VERSES, LETTERS, & REMEMBRANCES OF SUB-LIEUTENANT ARTHUR WALDERNE ST. CLAIR TISDALL, V.C.

The Naval & Military Press 1992, 158 pages, 12 illustrations. £12.95

First published in 1916 this excellent memoir is now been reprinted exactly as the original volume, complete and unabridged. It is good that even in these times there are publishers willing to reprint works like this which otherwise be overlooked by most of us. The dedication "these remembrances of a life as beautiful as it was short and bright" is to his brothers and sisters.

The first half of the book concerns Arthur Tisdall's early life overseas followed by school at Bedford and then as a student at Cambridge. His service with the RNVR is described largely through his own letters, and those who served with him or witnessed his work during the landings and the few short days which followed.

The book concludes with Arthur Tisdall's verses written in the years up to 1912 with no apparent thought of publication. Alas all those written since August of that year, together with his diary were lost at Gallipoli.

THE 6TH AND 7TH BATTALIONS ROYAL MUNSTER FUSILIERS

MARTIN STAUNTON [1223]

THIS ACCOUNT FORMED PART OF THE AUTHOR'S
MA THESIS OF 1987.

The necessity for expansion of the relatively small peacetime British Army following the declaration of war in August 1914 resulted in the formation of the 'New Army'. Lord Kitchener, as Secretary of State for War from 6 August, planned for a war of at least three years' duration for which an army of 70 divisions would be required. To achieve such a target, he decided that such an expansion required the creation of a new army separate from the Regulars and Territorials, 'Kitchener's Army' as it was popularly known, was raised in groups of six divisions for a final total of thirty.

On 7 August 1914, posters and notices in newspapers called for 100,000 volunteers aged 19–30 to serve for three years or the duration of the war. Army Order 324 issued on 21 August authorised the formation of the first six divisions of the New Army and also decided upon the manner in which their constituent battalions would be numbered. Paragraph 3 of A.O. 324 thus read 'the new battalions will be raised as additional battalions of regiments of Infantry of the Line and will be given numbers following consecutively on the existing battalions of their regiments. They will be further distinguished by the word 'Service' after their number...'¹

This order led to the formation of the 6th and 7th (Service) battalions of the Royal Munster Fusiliers as part of the 10th (Irish) Division of Kitchener's New Army. Both battalions were formed at the Tralee depot in August and sent to the Curragh Camp as part of their division's 30th Brigade to train and receive their recruits.² The first problem to be overcome was the finding of officers as a typical New Army battalion had an establishment of 29 officers. Retired officers were recalled to their regiments and many young men were given temporary commissions for the war.³ By the time the two battalions completed their initial training and left for England in 1915, the 6th RMF had among its officers, four RMF regulars, one each from the Reserve of Officers and the Retired List, two from the Australian and one from the Canadian military forces and another three with previous military experience. The more junior 7th battalion included two regulars from other regiments, three from the Reserve of Officers and one each from the Indian Army, Retired List, Territorials and Special Reserve. All these officers generally held the higher ranks within the two battalions with the more junior positions being filled by newly commissioned 2Lts.⁴ Most of these younger men had experience of the Officers Training Corps set up in 1908 as part of Lord Haldane's reforms. Both its Senior and Junior divisions were represented in Ireland and these sources provided 8 officers in the 6th RMF and 13

in the 7th battalion respectively, with Trinity College Dublin's O.T.C. providing over half of these alone.⁵

While the two battalions were soon up to strength in officers, obtaining recruits for the other ranks was more difficult. Outside of the major cities and industrialised eastern Ulster, there was no great rush to enlist in 1914 as occurred in Great Britain.⁶ Recruiting levels were however sufficient to have filled the 6th and 7th RMF with men from their recruiting district⁷ but it appears that priority was given to filling the Special Reserve battalions whose role was to reinforce those battalions already in action, as well as provide for home defence.⁸ The subsequent raising of the 16th (Irish) Division could also have had an effect as its two RMI¹ battalions were formed and trained in Munster whereas the 6th and 7th were quite distant from their recruiting district, stationed as they were at the Curragh. Those Irishmen who enlisted in the RMF and ended up with the 6th and 7th battalions before they went overseas, mostly seem to have had very early dates of enlistment, usually August 1914. Many were former soldiers who had no hesitation at rejoining. One such was Pte. Michael Bane of Chapel St., Fermoy who enlisted on 12 August at the age of 40 having previously seen service with the 1st RMF in the South Africa war.⁹

The men of the two battalions can be divided into those who enlisted directly into the regiment and those who were transferred into it from elsewhere. Direct enlistments amounted to two-thirds of the 6th battalion's strength but only two-fifths for the 7th. In both cases men enlisting in Britain outnumbered those enlisting in Ireland and these included many Irish emigrants and men of Irish descent. This confirms contemporary sources which stated that many of the surplus recruits in England allocated to the 10th (Irish) Division by the War Office had Irish connections, but these were very much in the minority.¹⁰ This applies particularly to the 6th RMF which had significant amounts of such recruits from Scotland, South Wales and Lancashire. Recruits enlisting in Ireland generally did so at the county town when within the RMF district or at the Curragh where the battalions were stationed. A majority of these latter were men resident in Britain who were probably given passage across to Ireland before formally enlisting.¹¹

Many battalions of the 10th (Irish) Division appear to have had men transferred from English regiments to fill up their ranks to varying degrees, with the RMI¹ battalions receiving an above average amount.¹² By the end of 1914 both battalions had received large drafts from such sources. The 6th RMF received men from the Wiltshire regiment, like Pte. A.E. Brooks who enlisted in his county regiment on 10 September 1914 and was transferred to the Munsters a week later.¹³ The 7th battalion received an influx of Yorkshiremen from two regiments, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, and the York and Lancaster Regiment. Capt. Godfrey Drage of the 7th RMF brought back a large draft from the latter's depot at Pontefract, Yorks., to the Curragh where upon their arrival, 'the barracks were crowded out by my draft and there were no arms or equipment, not even uniforms,' conditions which were typical

of the early days of Kitchener's Army.¹⁴ Among men transferred from that regiment was Pte. Horace Burton of Swinton, Yorks., who enlisted on 1st September 1914 and was transferred to the RMF the following day.¹⁵ These drafts brought the strength of the battalions to a level where worthwhile training could begin,

Most of the men had enlisted thinking they were going to be given a rifle, a bag of cartridges and sent off to Belgium to take pot-shots at the Kaiser. Instead they found themselves doing close order drill on the parade ground, varied by route marches to harden their feet, and they didn't like it. Equipment was a long time arriving and when it did, I didn't go much for the sloppy new style uniform. Even the officers with their semi-civilian 'collar and tie' tunics didn't look too smart.

¹⁶Capt. Drage, a former Indian Army officer with extensive knowledge of Burma, was soon promoted to Major and given command of 'C' company in the 7th RMF.¹⁷

Presently we were doing field-days and a pretty mess was made of them. The men in the ranks weren't so bad but the N.C.O.'s were useless and we couldn't start to train them until the subalterns had learnt a little of their job, and there weren't enough experienced officers to train the subalterns. However the Brigade Major knew his stuff alright and knew also how to stick to essentials in his instructions and bit by bit things began to improve.

¹⁸Before leaving for Basingstoke in April 1915, the 10th (Irish) Division had transferred out of its ranks all men unfit for combat, leaving it with a deficit of 1,200 infantry, averaging 100 for each battalion. To make this up, volunteers were asked to transfer from the 49th Brigade of 16th (Irish) Division at Tipperary and this led to fears that the division would be used only as a source of replacements rather than seeing action as a unit.¹⁹ For the 6th and 7th RMF, this resulted in the transfer of men from the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers to the two battalions, further diversifying their ranks.²⁰

At full strength, before moving to England, both battalions each numbered over 1,000 all ranks and had their own characteristics regarding their composition. A majority of officers in both battalions were Irish, the 6th having the higher proportion but the 7th with more from the regimental district.²¹ The other ranks were more varied as a result of the many transfers. The 6th battalion had as many Ulstermen as recruits from the RMF district as a result of the transfers from the Inniskillings, and Irish residents overall only formed about two-fifths of the total. The Irish character of the battalion is increased to nearly half when one adds on emigrants who formed a significant group in themselves. The cities of South Wales and Scotland each contributed slightly more recruits than those from the regimental district. About half of the Scottish and a third of the Welsh residents appear to have

had Irish connections. Most English residents in the 6th RMF were from Wiltshire as a result of the transfers from that county's regiment. The remainder came mainly from Lancashire and London, with about half having an Irish connection. Thus the 6th battalion had quite a varied composition with no dominant regional character, the largest five groupings all providing about 150 men each in a unit of 1,000.²² With nearly half of its strength from Yorkshire alone, as a result of the transfers from two of that county's regiments, the 7th battalion by contrast, had a strong regional character. Only a quarter of its strength could claim Irish residence, with the RMF district and Ulster each providing about a tenth of the battalion's strength, and other Irish being mainly from Leinster. Unlike the 6th battalion, there was no significant numbers of emigrants to increase the Irish character of the 7th RMF and Welsh residents contained any it had. The very few men from Scotland provided another contrast and apart from Yorkshire and some from Lancashire, other English residents were from scattered locations.²³

With the move to England, training took place at brigade and divisional level,

Training at Basingstoke became harder and harder and the route marches longer and longer. We put in plenty of time on the range and heaven knows, we needed it. We even threw hand grenades. They'd no proper hand grenades to spare for the New Army and this was just a condensed milk tin filled with nails . . . Signs were multiplying that we would soon be off and the usual wild and contradictory rumours flew around as to where we were going. At last, early on July 8th, our movement orders came.

²⁴Since 27 June the division had been held in readiness for service at the Dardanelles and on 9th July, having travelled by train to Liverpool, the two RMLI battalions were embarked upon the Cunard Line's 'Mauritania' as part of the 10,000 troops of their division it would transport to the Mediterranean.²⁵ A rough sea passage was experienced through the Atlantic before reaching Gibraltar. After a stop at Malta, the main Aegean island base of Mudros was reached on 19 July and there the battalions disembarked, experiencing the local conditions of heat, dust and flies,

To say that they covered your food was nothing. They sat on your fork on its way into your mouth and unless you shook them off and closed your lips quick, you found yourself chewing and swallowing flies. The ground was so rocky that we couldn't dig proper latrines, our night soil wasn't properly covered and the flies were infected. Diarrhoea which soon became dysentery, began the day after disembarkation and by the time we (7th RMF) landed at Suvla, less than three weeks later, we were under 800 strong.

²⁶The 10th (Irish) Division was to participate in the August landings at Suvla Bay on

the Gallipoli peninsula where fighting had been continuing with varying intensity since the initial landings of April in which the 1st RMF had taken part. The aim of these new landings was to cut the peninsula North of the main Turkish positions, thus outflanking and cutting off their forces there and opening the way up to Constantinople. The landings at Suvla occurred on 6 August 1915 in conjunction with attacks from the original lodgements at ANZAC and Cape Helles. The 10th Division was landed at Suvla the following day without one of its brigades, diverted to the Australian sector.²⁷ General Sir Bryan Mahon's Division was further weakened through the landing of some of his battalions at the wrong beaches where they were taken under the command of the previously landed 11th (Northern) Division. The 5 out of 13 battalions thus left to him included the two of the Munster Fusiliers and their objective was to capture the Kiretch Tepe Sirt ridge along the North side of the bay.²⁸

The 6th battalion was the first of its division ashore, landing at Ghazi Baba peak early on 7 August with 25 officers and 749 men, and experiencing shellfire on the mined beaches.²⁹ To avoid these, the 7th RMF was landed more to the West later in the day at 2.30pm with 28 officers and 750 other ranks.³⁰

There was flat scrub covered country beyond and we advanced in artillery formation for about a mile and a half, suffering a few casualties from snipers who had the range marked out with little flags. As we got onto the Kiretch Tepe Sirt ridge, the fire became heavier and we extended into open order. I pushed on as fast as the heavily laden men could move, because I'd heard that our 6th battalion, just ahead and on our left, was held up and having a nasty time.

³¹The 6th RMF had attacked at 2.30pm, advancing over difficult ground which included numerous gullies covered with dense oak and holly scrub, and had managed to advance within 100 yards of a Turkish position on a rocky mound by nightfall, having also had to contend with a late afternoon thunderstorm.³² The 7th battalion to the right had similar experiences,

Our 6th battalion had been stopped by some well sighted and perfectly concealed Turkish trenches and at about 400 yards range, we were held up too. You must remember ours were absolutely raw troops in action for the first time and by now they were dog tired. We'd been overloaded with ammunition, food and a lot of useless equipment like wire cutters, most of which the men had thrown away. It was frying hot, they'd drunk up their water bottles early in the day as raw troops will and now there was nowhere to refill them. My men were full of fight but physically exhausted. We tried to get forward by rushes and now our serious casualties began. My second in command, Captain Cullinan³³ was killed and so was a subaltern called Bennett³⁴ who went out to rescue him. He

was a good boy but he just threw his life away.

This company found itself at the foot of Karakol Dagħ hill by dusk, but had to withdraw from its isolated position,³⁵ with its battalion overall having lost over 70 casualties for the day.³⁶ The 6th RMF had killed 13 other ranks and an officer who was one of two brothers in the battalion.³⁷

No major actions occurred the following day, 8 August, in the Suvla sector despite the balance of forces against the Turks. Lack of leadership at Corps level was the main reason for a day of inactivity which saw the two RMF battalions lose only 5 killed between them,³⁸ the 7th RMF doing 'nothing but reorganise after the 7 August.'³⁹ This lack of action was justified by the Corps commander on the grounds of his troops' fatigued state and lack of water but was to result in heavy casualties when attacks were made subsequently against the by then reinforced Turkish positions. The failure to exploit the previous day's landing against weak opposition, lead to the failure of achieving any success the operation might have had.⁴⁰

On 9 August, both battalions took part in an attack at 9.30am, the 6th against the eastern slopes and the 7th against the southern part of the Kiretch Tepe Sirt ridge. Against heavy opposition, the 6th RMF's attack was halted by midday. When resumed in the afternoon it achieved some success with the capture of a Turkish position on a prominent hill which was renamed 'Jephson's Post' after the commander of the company which took it.⁴¹ The battalion then entrenched with the 5th Inniskillings continuing the line to the left, down to the sea shore, thus forming a new line 800 yards forward along the crest.⁴² In achieving this the 6th RMF lost Capt. E.P. Conway⁴³ and 24 other ranks killed, amongst whom was Pte. Patrick Cullinane of Grattan St., Cork.⁴⁴

The attack by the 7th battalion was less fortunate. New orders were received after their advance had started, and overlapping with a neighbouring unit resulted in some disorganisation. A further attempt followed a naval bombardment of their objectives but failed, and a withdrawal was ordered at 4pm, one company remaining on until the following day. Losses included Lt. S.R.V. Travers,⁴⁵ Lt. E.M. Harper⁴⁶ and 22 other ranks killed, including Sgt. Andrew Joyce of Frances St., Limerick.⁴⁷ Other losses for both battalions were also significant.⁴⁸

The next night was a nasty one. Although the days were so hot, it became bitterly cold soon after sunset. We were in tropical and of course our clothes were drenched with sweat. We just sat and shivered. By now the dead bodies were beginning to decay and there were corpses close in front of me the smell from which was revolting. I tried to bury them but the ground was too hard. I collected the service pay books and they smelt too, so that I was actually sick before I could hand them in to battalion H.Q. Few pay books were recovered at that time because the scrub on our right

caught fire and blazed all day burning the corpse\$ and, its a beastly thought, an awful lot of wounded as well. One good thing it did was to clear out the Turkish snipers who'd been one of our worst headaches...

⁴⁹Many of these latter were suspected to have been dressed in British uniforms and to have operated from behind the British lines, accounting for the high officer casualties suffered by the RMF battalions.⁵⁰ There then followed a relatively quiet few days, apart from the 12 August when the 6th battalion took an advanced Turkish post,⁵¹ losing Lt. L.A. Gaffney⁵² and 9 other ranks killed.⁵³ The 7th RMF had been withdrawn earlier, to the beaches where their first mail from home was received. On 13 August, 5 officers and 350 men arrived from Mudros and were distributed among the two RMF battalions as their 'First Reinforcements' original members of the battalions left behind for this purpose.⁵⁴

Sunday 15 August saw an attack by the now concentrated battalions of the 10th Division's 31st and 30th Brigades along the Kiretch Tepe Sirt ridge. The latter with the two RMF battalions was given the left sector of the attack. The 6th RMF was in the initial attack which was held up for two hours. Another attempt ordered at 6pm resulted in a gain of 250 yards with the help of the 6th Dublin Fusiliers. After a brief rest, a charge of the Turkish positions cleared the whole of the northern slope, gaining a mile by nightfall and holding off a Turkish counter attack at 10pm. This success cost the 6th battalion Lt. Burrowes⁵⁵ and 42 other ranks killed⁵⁶ including former Young Munsters rugby player 'Gus' Neilon of Prospect Hill, Limerick.⁵⁷

The 7th RMF played more of a supporting role in the attack.

We didn't begin our advance till mid afternoon and although the country was difficult, dense prickly scrub and deep gullies, our direction was fairly clear as our left flank was by the sea. There was a strong Turkish position at the top of the ridge and the 6th battalion who were on our right charged it and took quite a few prisoners. But in doing so they lost one of the finest officers in the brigade, Major Jephson,⁵⁸ who was mortally wounded in their moment of victory.

⁵⁹This battalion's advance of 400 yards cost it Capt. J.V. Dunn,⁶⁰ Lt. K.E. O'Duffy⁶¹ and 22 other ranks killed⁶² including 21 year old Cpl. Eli Wassell of Goldthorpe, Yorks.⁶³ Among the wounded was an officer previously decorated by the Turks for his part in defending Tripoli with them in 1912 against the Italians.⁶⁴

The 7th RMF was relieved from the line that night but the 6th had to hold on throughout the following day until the former returned to relieve them. During this time the positions of the 6th battalion were bombarded heavily until they were ordered to withdraw to their original starting line at 7.30pm on 16 August. This was done due to high officer casualties and lack of reinforcements and hand grenades

which the Turks used to good effect. For their part 'the 7th Munsters were absolutely exhausted from want of water and had become demoralised.'⁶⁵ Each battalion had an officer killed, Capt. J.B. Grant in the 6th⁶⁶ and 2Lt. W.H. Good of Cork in the 7th.⁶⁷ Among the other ranks killed was Sgt. John Brazil of Ballylanders, who had previously declined the offer of a commission in order to remain with his battalion.⁶⁸

If during their attacks on August 15 and 16 the British had captured and held the Kiretch Tepe, the whole position of the (Turkish) 5th Army would have been outflanked. The British might have achieved a decisive and final victory. The ridge of the Kiretch Tepe and its southern slopes command from the North, the wide plain of Anafarta. From its eastern slope the offensive could have been easily continued with decisive results along and covered by the big depression which leads to Akbash and thence right across the Peninsula... There can be no doubt that in view of the great British superiority, a complete success had been possible for them.

"This account from the commander of the opposing forces shows how near the attack of 15-16 August, in which the RMF battalions were so prominent, came close to achieving decisive success. This represented the battalions' last major actions at Gallipoli, by 19 August the 6th RMF numbered 9 officers and 510 other ranks, the 7th RMF 4 and 509. This represented a loss of half their strength in just over a week's operations since landing on 7 August and these units were not to experience anything as intense for the remainder of the war. The subsequent days also took their toll. The commander of the 7th battalion, Lt.-Col. Gore⁷⁰ was relieved on 17 August, 'a most gallant officer and a large conspicuous object standing up only armed with a cane, but he remained inert smoking a cigarette in the support line after the attack of 9th August.' Another four officers of that battalion were hospitalised, leaving it with just 4 of its original 30 remaining on duty by 22 August when 100 of its men were given to the 6th RMP to make things easier.⁷¹

The 6th and 7th RMF had few losses in their supporting role to the attack of 21 August, which represented the last great British effort of the campaign. They were moved forward at 6pm that day to occupy some captured trenches which were held with little further loss until relief on 4-5 September.⁷² The remainder of September was taken up by static trench warfare with some patrolling in between reliefs. Casualties from sickness exceeded those from enemy action and only at the end of the month did any reinforcements arrive. These did little to raise the strength of the battalions to anything like their original level, the 7th having only 6 officers and 325 men by the end of the month with the 6th probably not exceeding 450.⁷³

Having received orders to prepare to move from Suvla Bay, the 10th (Irish) Division was embarked on 30 September and landed on Mudros the following day.⁷⁴ The

division was then sent in various stages to Salonika in Greek Macedonia, the 6th RMF arriving on 10 October with the 7th battalion following five days later.⁷⁵ This was in response to the Greek and Serbian requests of 22 September for Allied assistance in response to Bulgaria's mobilisation and invasion of Serbia.

¹E.A. James *British Regiments 1914-18*. (London 1978) p. 128, Introduction to Part II. The Territorials were a part time force introduced in 1908 by Lord Haldane but not applied to Ireland and its regiments. Suggestions had been made to number the New Army battalions from one upwards, but Kitchener's military secretary intervened, noting that such units would have no regimental traditions to uphold and that the new battalions should be part of existing regiments.

²J.B.M. Frederick *Lineage book of the British Army*. (New York 1969) p. 343.

³James, p. 119.

⁴The Monthly Army List, May 1915.

⁵Haig-Brown, deductions from the 43 RMF officers listed among the 20,000 names in Appendix B and the Monthly Army List. The Senior O.T.C. was represented by T.C.D., Q.U.B., R.C.S.I., and R.Vet.C. and the Junior by Cork Grammar School, Campbell College, Belfast, St. Andrews College and St. Columba's College, Dublin. The two universities represented had by far the largest contingents.

⁶David Fitzpatrick *Politics and Irish Life 1913-21*. (Dublin 1977) p. 110.

⁷3,812 men enlisted in the Cork and Tralee districts 4 Aug to 31 Dec 1914. Monthly figures by district in Dept. National Service Papers. PRO NATS 1/84. The Cork district was technically separate from the RMF (Tralee) its recruits were most likely to end up in the RMF over any other regiment.

⁸Anonymous letter to John Redmond M.P. 30 April 1915. In Redmond Papers, NLI MS 22187.

⁹Banc, Michael b. 1874, c. 12 Aug 1914, 4196 Ptc., 6RMF. Demobilised 2 Apr 1919. Formerly 1RMF 1892 1904. Letter to the OCA in 1925 from his Fermoy address in RMF OCA files, NAM 6907/29 and membership files, NAM 7910/85.

¹⁰Bryan Cooper *The 10th (Irish) Division at Gallipoli*. (London 1918) p. 7. Such recruits were numerous enough however to confirm that some effort was made to send them to the 10th Division. SDGW.

¹¹SDGW.

¹²For example in the 5th Royal Irish Rgt., 27 of 121 dead were formerly Somerset L.I., in the 6th Leinsters, 30 of 151 dead were former Wiltshires, as were 25 of 214 in the 7th Dublins. These examples are of men killed from Gallipoli onwards, which shows they were original members of the battalions. At the other extreme were the 6th Irish Rifles who had only 11 transfers altogether only 2 of whom died at Gallipoli, of the 185 dead during their existence, this probably reflects the initial rush to enlist within their recruiting district of counties Antrim and Down. SDGW.

¹³Brooks, A.E. c. 10 Sep 1914, 3011 Ptc., 6RMF, of Marlborough, Wilts. Details from RMF OCA membership lists in NAM 7910/85.

¹⁴Charles Drage *Chindwin to Cricketh*. (Caernarvon 1956) p. 101. Capt. Drage claims to have 'aquired' these 1,000 recruits by bluffing the Depot commander that he had been sent from the RMF to recruit for his battalion.

¹⁵Burton, Horace C. c. 1 Sep 1914, 2054 Ptc., 7RMF, of Swinton, Yorks. Awarded M.M. 17 June 1919 as Ptc., 2RMF. Details from RMF OCA membership lists in NAM 7910/85. Despite their title, the York and Lanes. were a Yorkshire regiment, recruited from the South of that county.

¹⁶Drage, P. 101.

¹⁷Drage, Godfrey b. 19 June 1868, Mianmir, India, later T/Lt.-Col 7RMF, s/o Maj. William, K.S.L.I., Educated Christ's Hospital, Blundell's and R.M.C., O.B.L.I. and Indian Army, Asst. Commissioner

Burma Civil Service. Died at Criccieth, 22 Oct 1953. See biography by Charles Drage.

¹⁸Drage, p. 102.

¹⁹Denis Gwynn *The Life of John Redmond*. (London 1932) pp 434–35. This brigade was formed by the 7 R.In.F., 8 R.In.F., 7 R.I.F., 8 R.I.F. The fears proved to be groundless, although the brigade would reach France 2 months later than the rest of its division due to the disruption caused by the transfers. Harris, p. 21.

²⁰The dead of the two battalions include 43 former Inniskillings, 22 in the 6th and 21 in the 7th. SDGW.

²¹Officers from the recruiting district, 6RMF 5, 7RMF 10. From the rest of Ireland, 6RMF 16, 7RMF 10. Non Irish, 6RMF 6, 7RMF 5. The remainder were unknown but if surnames are a guide, then, possibly Irish, 6RMF 5, 7RMF 4. Others 6RMF 9, 7RMF 13. From analysis of officers' biographics from various sources; newspapers, cemetery and memorial registers, etc.

²²From analysis of 154 6RMF dead up to the battalion's departure from Gallipoli after which reinforcements changed its character. SDGW.

²³From analysis of 120 dead the battalion suffered up to leaving Gallipoli, by residence. RMF area 11%, other Irish 16%, Yorkshire 46%, other English 13%, Welsh 11%, Scottish 3%. SDGW.

²⁴Drage, pp 103–04.

²⁵Captain S. McCance Historical Records of the Royal Munster Fusiliers Volume II 1861–1922 [1927].

²⁶Drage, pp 104–05.

²⁷Hammerton, pp 604–05. The 29th Bde. was sent to ANZAC.

²⁸Harris, pp 49–50. Mahon, Sir Bryan T. b. 2 Apr 1862, Belleville, Co. Galway, Lt.-Gen. and o/c 10th (Irish) Division, s/o (late) Sir Henry B. and Matilda, of Belleville. Formerly Col. 8 Hussars, relieved the siege of Mafeking in the Boer War, later commanded Salonika Army and replaced Maxwell as C. in C., Ireland, until 1918. Irish Free State Senator from 1922. Died Sep 1930. Who Was Who 1929–40, iii, p. 891, IT 7 Nov 1915.

²⁹McCance, pp 177–78.

³⁰O.H. Gallipoli, ii, p. 260.

³¹Drage, p. 105.

³²McCance, p. 178.

³³Cullinan, Robert H. T/Capt., 7RMF, KIA 7/7/15, a. 34, s/o John C. of Bindon St., Ennis. T.C.D. B.A. 1903, called to the Irish Bar in 1904, Barrister at Law, commissioned through the T.C.D. O.T.C. Nov 1914. Bronze Memorial Tablet to his memory in Ennis C. of I. church, also appears on war memorial in St. Ann's, Dawson St., Dublin. IT 13 Aug 1915, LL 16 Aug 1915, 24 May 1916, T.C.D. War List.

³⁴Bennett, Francis E. T/2Lt., 7RMF, DOW 8/7/15, a. 19, s/o Frank B. of Cregane Manor, Roscarberry. Appears on diocesan roll of honour in St. Finbarr's cathedral, Cork. CE 2 Sep 1915.

³⁵Drage, p. 106.

³⁶In addition to the two officers KIA, two were WIA. Other ranks lost 9 KIA, 58 WIA and 5 MIA. 7RMF War Diary 7 Aug 1915 in PRO WO 95/4296, SDGW.

³⁷SDGW, 6RMF War Diary 7 Aug 1915 in PRO WO 95/4296. This latter is far less detailed than that of the 7RMF. The officer killed was, Lee, Joseph B. T/Lt., 6RMF, KIA 7/8/15, a. 27, s/o Edward and Annie of Bellvue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. T.C.D. B.A. 1908, L.L.D. 1914, Barrister at Law, commissioned through the T.C.D. O.T.C. Sep 1914. Brother of Lt. A. T. Lee, 6RMF, WIA the same day J.B. Lee was killed. Appears on Bray, Co. Wicklow, war memorial. MR 4 Cape Helles, CC 25 Aug 1915, CE 6 Sep 1915, T.C.D. War List.

³⁸Hammerton, ii, p. 163, SDGW.

³⁹Letter by G. Drage to the official historian, 1 Feb 1931, in 7RMF War Diary in PRO WO 95/4296.

Drage's biography omits any mention of the lost opportunity of 8 Aug.

⁴⁰Hammerton, p. 163.

⁴¹6RMF War Diary 9 Aug 1915 in PRO WO 95/4296.

⁴²30 Bde. War Diary 9 Aug 1915 in PRO WO 95/4290, O.H. Gallipoli, ii, p. 294. x

⁴³Conway, Edgar P. Capt., 6RMF, DOW 10/8/15, a. 36, s/o John and Anna, h/o Geraldine Finlay of Brighton Vale, Monkstown, Co. Dublin. A Regular officer who served in the South Africa war. Known to be buried in Hill 10 Cemetery, Suvla Bay, (GI 27). ODGW, GI 27.

⁴⁴Cullinane, Patrick b. St. Finbarr's, Cork, C. Cork, 284 Ptc., KIA 9/8/15, a. 35, s/o James, h/o Mary of Grattan St., Cork. Her brother was killed in France 2 months later, Lawton, Frank b. SS Peter & Paul, Cork, c. Cork, 9862 Ptc., 2 RMF, KIA 13/10/15. SDGW, CE 24 Sep 1915, MR 4 Cape Helles, letter by his widow in 1934 from her Townsend Pl., Freemount, Cork, address to the OCA, in RMF OCA Files in NAM 6907/29.

⁴⁵Travers, Spencer Robert Valentine, b. 14 Feb 1894, T/Lt., 7RMF KIA 9/8/15, s/o Robert J.P. (a barrister and secretary of Probate Court of Ireland) of Westview, Glandore. Educated Bromsgrove and entered T.C.D. 1913. In O.T.C. at school and commissioned Sep 1914. Appears on diocesan roll of honour in St. Finbarr's cathedral, Cork. His younger brother, Lt. A.S. Travers, was also in the 7RMF. MR 4 Cape Helles, Haig-Brown Appendix B, T.C.D. War List, BLIG p. 958.

⁴⁶Harper, Ernest R. T/Lt., 7RMF, KIA 9/8/15, a. 25, s/o Henry M. of Northland Place, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. Educated Dungannon Royal School and science graduate, Royal University, Chemistry Demonstrator, Q.U.B., b/o E.H. Harper KIA S. Staffs. Rgt. IT 14, 18, 28 Aug 1915, ODGW, Presbyterian Historical Society *Presbyterian Church in Ireland Roll of Honour 1914-19*. (Belfast 1921) p.265.

⁴⁷SDGW. Joyce, Andrew b. St. Michael's, Limerick, c. Tralee, 8106 A/Sgt., KIA 9/8/15, a. 27, s/o Patrick and Catherine of 17 Frances St., Limerick. CE 1 Oct 1915, MR 4 Cape Helles.

⁴⁸An additional 12 officers from the two battalions WIA or evacuated sick with the 7RMF losing at least 77 O.R.s WIA and the 6RMF an unstated but probably similar number in view of the similarity of their fatal losses. 6 and 7 RMF War Diaries 9/8/15 in PRO WO 95/4296.

⁴⁹Drage, p. 108.

⁵⁰Letter by G. Drage to the official historian, 1 Feb 1931, in 30 Bde. War Diary in PRO WO 95/4290. He mentions the 'problem of snipers behind the lines in Khaki. Lt. Harper, one of the best and honest officers in the battalion was shot through the back of the head.'

⁵¹O.H. Gallipoli, ii, p. 316, McCance, p. 178.

⁵²Gaffney, Leon Arthur, T/2Lt., 6RMF, a. 20, s/o William and Violet of King Edward St., Slough, Bucks. Buried in Hill 10 Cemetery, Suvla (GI 27), grave V.G.1. McCance, p. 178, ODGW, GI 27.

⁵³SDGW.

⁵⁴Drage, p. 109, McCance, p. 178.

⁵⁵Burrowes, Guy Walter, T/Lt., 6RMF, DOW 16/8/15, s/o Mrs Burrowes of Carriglea, Sunday's Well, Cork. He appears on the diocesan roll of honour in St. Finbarr's cathedral, Cork. ODGW, CC 25 Aug 1915, IT 25 Aug 1915.

⁵⁶SDGW. This was the 6RMF's highest daily loss of the war.

⁵⁷Neilon, Augustine b. St. Michael's Limerick, c. Limerick, 381 Ptc., KIA 15/8/15, of Prospect Hill, Limerick. Rugby player with Young Munsters and Landsdowne F.C. SDGW, LL 17 Sep 1915.

⁵⁸Jephson, John N. Major 6RMF, DOW 29/8/15. ODGW, IT 7 Sep 1915.

⁵⁹Drage, p. 109.

⁶⁰Dunn, John V. T/Capt., 7RMF, KIA 15/8/15, eldest s/o Valentine of Marlborough Rd., Donnybrook, Dublin. Commissioned through the T.C.D. O.T.C. in Nov 1914 as a non T.C.D. member. Appears on

the war memorial in Haddington Rd. R.C. church, Dublin. ODGW, IT 24 Aug 1915, T.C.D. War List.

⁶⁰O'Duffy, Kevin Emmet, T/Lt., 7RMF, KIA 15/8/15, a. 20, 2nd s/o Kevin L.D.S. and Pauline of Harcourt St., Dublin. Educated Stoneyhurst and entered T.C.D. 1912. Commissioned through its O.T.C. Sep 1914. ODGW, IT 24 Aug 1915, MR 4 Cape Helles, T.C.D. War List.

⁶¹SDGW.

⁶²Wassell, Eli b. Parkgate, Yorks., c. Wath-on-Deerne, Yorks., 2478 Cpl. KIA 15/8/15, formerly 15543 K.O.Y.L.I., a. 21, s/o John and Isabella, 106 Mainstreet, Goldthorpe. SDGW, MR 4 Cape Helles.

⁶³3 officers and up to 40 O.R.s were WIA in the 7RMF. The officer mentioned was Montagu, Herbert Gerald, T/Lt., 7RMF, of Hillingdon, Bucks. As a Special Reserve 2Lt. of the Royal Fusiliers pre war, he had got into trouble with the War Office for his actions in North Africa and the irony of his Gallipoli service is obvious. When not sent overseas after recovery from his wounds, he resigned his commission and enlisted in Slough as a Pte. (no. 20143) in the Ox. and Bucks. L.I. and was later KIA in France on 25 Nov 1916 serving with their 2/4th battalion. McCance, p. 192, SDGW.

⁶⁴Letter by Brigadier Nicol o/c 30 Bde. to official historian, 21 Jan 1931, in PRO WO 95/4296.

⁶⁵Grant, Joseph B.T. Capt. 6RMF, KIA 16/8/15, a. 40, s/o (late) Col. G.F., h/o Helen F. of Manor Rd., Salisbury, Wilts. He was appointed to the 6RMF from the Reserve of Officers at the war's outbreak. IT 30 Aug 1915, MR 4 Cape Helles, McCance, p. 179, ODGW.

⁶⁶Good, William H. T/2Lt., 7RMF, KIA 16/8/15, s/o Mrs R. of George's St., Cork and Hunting Hill, Carrignavar. Entered T.C.D. 1908 and commissioned Sep 1914. Appears on the diocesan roll of honour in St. Finbarr's cathedral, Cork. CE 30 Aug 1915, IT 2 Sep 1915, T.C.D. War List.

⁶⁷Brazil, John b. Cullane, Ballylanders, c. 12 Aug 1914 Limerick, 3 Pte., KIA 16/8/15, a. 26. Educated Mungret College, Limerick. Declined the offer of a commission in the 47th Bde. ("The Irish Brigade") 16th Division. CE 28 Sep 1915, SDGW. He was one of 12 men KIA with the 6RMF that day. The 7th lost 24 KIA and over 60 WIA. SDGW, McCance, p. 192.

⁶⁸A translated quotation of the German commander of the Turkish forces at Gallipoli, Liman von Sanders, taken from his *Fünf Jahre Türkei*. p. 114, in Bean, ii, p. 722.

⁶⁹Gore, Herbert T/Lt.-Col., 7RMF. Commissioned in the Connaught Rangers 1885, retired as a Major in 1907, recalled in 1914 as Major, 3rd C.R. (Reserve of Officers). Jourdain and Fraser, i, Biographical Appendix.

⁷⁰30 Bde. War Diary 22 Aug 1915 and letter by G. Drage to official historian, 1 Feb 1931, in PRO WO 95/4296.

⁷¹7RMF and 30 Bde. War Diaries, 21 Aug 1915, in PRO WO 95/4296. The 6RMF lost 1 KIA and the 7RMF, 4 KIA and 43 WIA on 21 Aug.

⁷²30 Bde. War Diary Sep 1915, 6RMF War Diary 26 Sep 1915 on which day it received an officer and 45 men, 7RMF War Diary 28-30 Sep 1915 on which day it received 15 O.R.s from the 4RMF. PRO WO 95/4296. The strength of the 30 Bde. on 30 Sep was 43 officers and 1706 O.R.s which was used to estimate the strength of the 6RMF. Casualties for Sep 1915 were, 6RMF 9 KIA, 31 WIA 97 sick, and 7RMF 4 KIA 20 WIA 68 sick.

⁷³Becke, iiiia, p. 17.

⁷⁴McCance, pp 179, 193.

Abbreviations:

DOW	Died of Wounds	OCA	Old Comrades Association
IT	<i>Irish Times</i>	ODGW	Officers Died in Great War
KIA	Killed in Action	OH	Official History
MR	Memorial Register	PRO	Public Record Office
MIA	Missing in Action	SDGW	Soldiers Died in Great War
NAM	National Army Museum	TCD	Trinity College Dublin
NLI	National Library of Ireland	WIA	Wounded in Action

COLLINGWOOD CORNER

ROY ADAM

"Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?"

ON leaving the village of Pimperne, going towards Tarrant Hinton, you might notice a small pinnacle pointing to the heavens from a vantage point on a hill; it is visible for miles around. It is a very modest affair, and to many offers a mute appeal, seeming to ask, 'Why do you not come closer and read why I am here?' It is no higher than eight feet, consisting of a square base surmounted by a tapering needle, very similar to Cleopatra's Needle, iron railings on three sides giving access to the front. Nearby is a large notice 'Government Property', and a smaller board bearing the words 'Collingwood Corner'. The inscriptions on the monument read:

"In memory of the Commanding Officer, Officers and Men of the Collingwood Battalion Royal Naval Division who fell in action in Gallipoli on the 4th June, 1915, when the battalion was practically destroyed."

"The Collingwood Battalion completed its training on these downs. This memorial is erected by the survivors."

The memorial is of polished marble, and its simplicity is at once striking and effective. It is indicative of the manner in which the lives of those commemorated were sacrificed. No show, they went quietly and passed into the unknown with only the glory of a soldier's grave as their reward.

As the winds blow keenly across the downland it is difficult to imagine those fine men roaming over the downs learning the art of war. They left the peaceful and beautiful surroundings for the shell-shattered battlefield of Gallipoli where they stood bravely shoulder to shoulder, fought blade by blade till they bled and died. Within a few feet of the memorial traffic on the A354 passes at great speed and I often wonder if those words 'Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?' applies.

Each year on the 4th June and Remembrance Day, homage is paid by the Captain, Officers and Men of HMS Collingwood, the Blandford Garrison, the High Commissions of Australia and New Zealand, the sons and daughters of the members of the Royal Naval Division and many other organisations.

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Members wishing to be present on 4 June when a wreath will be laid on behalf of the Gallipoli Association, may like to meet from noon onwards in the Anvil Hotel, Pimperne before moving to the Memorial for the Service at 1500. Contact Roy Adam, Camveere House, Portman Road, Pimperne, Blandford, DT11 7DG [0258] 453797.



Collingwood Memorial near Pimperne, Dorset, see page 37.

Photo David Saunders