

The Gallipolian

The Journal of the Gallipoli Association

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Alec Campbell 1899 ~ 2002
The Last Gallipoli Veteran

THE GALLIPOLIAN

THE JOURNAL OF THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED BY MAJOR E. H. W. BANNER IN 1969
ON THE CAMPAIGN OF 1915

The Gallipoli Association
PO Box 26907, London, SE21 8WB
WEB SITE <http://www.gallipoli-association.org>

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SECRETARY J. C. Watson-Smith
Earleydene Orchard, Earleydene, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 9JY
[01344 626523]

TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP W. J. Marsh
Nowhelan, The Common, Wonerish, Guildford, Surrey
GU5 0PH [01483 892749]

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER Major Hugh Jenner
73 Pymers Mead, London SE21 8NJ
[0208 670 7691]

COMMITTEE Sir Arthur Hockaday KCB CMG A. Mullen
Colonel Michael Hickey Major J.R.H. Stopford

EDITOR David Saunders
Woosung, Pointfields, Hakin, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire
SA73 3EB [01646 692316] e-mail DavidGallip15@tesco.net

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OBITUARY

ALEC WILLIAM CAMPBELL

THE LAST SENTINEL OF GALLIPOLI

The last entry in the roll of honour for Gallipoli was finally made on Thursday, 16 May 2002, when Alec Campbell, the last Anzac and last surviving participant of the Gallipoli campaign, died of pneumonia, aged 103. With his loss Gallipoli ceases to be a part of living memory and has truly become, as John North referred to it, 'a country of the mind'. The flags of a nation flew at half-mast, the front pages of the major newspapers were devoted to the event, and the Prime Minister cut short a visit to China in order to attend Mr. Campbell's state funeral at St. David's Anglican Cathedral in Hobart, Tasmania.

The story of the last Anzac begins in Launceston, Tasmania, on 26 February 1899, and thus spans three centuries. Alec was the son of Marian Thrower and Samuel Campbell and grandson of Donald Campbell, an immigrant from Argyllshire, Scotland. On 2 July 1915, two months after the landing at Gallipoli was reported in the Australian newspapers, he presented himself at the recruiting office where he gave his age as 18 years 4 months. He was, he stated, a clerk in an insurance company, and had served three years in the Senior Cadets at Launceston's Scotch College. He was 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighed 135 pounds. Parental consent was necessary for anyone between the ages of 18 and 21 to enlist in the A.I.F., which should have presented an obstacle to enlistment because Alec had in fact lied about his age, raising it a full two years above his actual 16 years and 4 months. He met the problem of how to show the authorities he had his parents' permission head-on; he simply got it from them. On 30 June 1915 his mother and father signed a letter in which they give their consent to his 'enlistment for the front', unwittingly reserving a special place in history for their son, No. 2731 Private A. W. Campbell, 15th (Queensland & Tasmania) Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade, Australian Imperial Force. He would be nicknamed and known by his comrades as 'The Kid'.

The 8th Reinforcements, to which Alec was allotted, sailed from Adelaide on 16 August 1915 aboard the S.S. *Kyarra*, bound for Alexandria. On 18 October they and the 7th Reinforcements departed Egypt for Sarpi Camp on the island of Lemnos. A few days later they were taken on the strength of the battalion, or what was left of it. The 15th Battalion was at that time resting on the island, having suffered severe losses during the savage fighting for Hill 971 and Hill 60 in August 1915. The battalion holds the dubious honour of having the highest casualty rate of any unit of the A.I.F. that landed at Gallipoli, and the addition of the 7th and 8th Reinforcements could only bring its strength up to 13 officers and 453 other ranks. Mumps broke out amongst the new troops on 25 October and all reinforcements



Alec Campbell at 16

were quarantined until the 31st, when the battalion sailed back to Gallipoli aboard the *Osmanieh*. Due to exceptionally rough seas the 15th was unable to land at Anzac until the night of 2 November, at which time it marched out to Hay Valley, the southern, inland arm of the Aghyl Dere. In this valley just below Bauchop's Hill was also sheltered the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade's Headquarters and the Brigadier, Colonel John Monash. This was a relatively quiet area in the far north of the Anzac sector. The 15th Battalion lost only one man killed in action here during the six weeks until the evacuation.

Nevertheless wounds were common and sickness was rampant; dysentery and yellow jaundice were still prevalent in the battalion, and on 28 November the troops awoke to freezing winds and a blanket of snow dumped by an overnight blizzard. By unlucky coincidence the 28th was also marked down as the battalion's bathing day, and no blizzard was going to be allowed to interfere with that occasion. The men stripped naked, though the temperature remained below zero all day, and received from the cooks a quart of thawed ice and a strip of flannel per man, with which they proceeded to wash themselves. Private Alec Campbell was admitted to the 4th Field Ambulance on 8 December suffering from influenza. Discharged to duty three days later, he could hardly have suspected that this bout of illness was to be only the first of many in the months ahead. Alec's admittance to the small Field Ambulance in Hotchkiss Gully, Anzac, would stand as a punctuation mark in the story of his life, for although unsuspected as such at the time, it marked the beginning of the end of his service as a soldier of the Great War.

Two days after his discharge from the Field Ambulance, on the night of 13 December, the 15th Battalion filed out of Hay Valley and made its way to the pier on North Beach, from which it was evacuated from Gallipoli aboard S.S. *Carron*. There appears to have been a great deal of bitterness within the battalion that the honour of forming the Anzac rearguard fell to other units, with the 15th feeling it had been ordered to 'fade away in the night' almost a week before the final evacuation. With the Gallipoli Peninsula slipping behind him in the dark, Alec Campbell's war service was over.

The 15th Battalion was disembarked once more on Lemnos and spent the next ten days in the cold and exposed Sarpi Camp. A simple Christmas dinner was organised, and the unit departed Mudros Harbour on Boxing Day 1915, aboard HMT *Ascanius*. The battalion disembarked at Moascar, Egypt, on 30 December, and marched out to its new camp at Ismailia. The weather and strain had taken their toll, though, and on 3 January 1916, Private Campbell was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital in Heliopolis, Cairo, suffering from acute laryngitis. It seems his health had completely broken down. Over the next few months he was afflicted at different times with jaundice, scabies, head lice, mumps, palsy and paralysis of the right side of the face. His 'War Gratuity Schedule' form records that he was admitted to this or that hospital with the simple description 'sick', possibly because there was so

much going wrong. Alec spent the time around his seventeenth birthday in and out of hospitals and convalescent depots, always rejoining his unit on discharge, but seemingly never able to remain with the battalion long before once again falling ill.

In the early evening of 27 April he was charged with being absent without leave and drunk, no punishment having been recorded. On 5 June, he was handed over for trial by his Commanding Officer, having been charged with being absent without leave, and with 'breaking out of hospital'. Maybe it should have been foreseen that young Private Campbell would prove a handful for the authorities; he had after all stated on his attestation form that he had previously been in trouble with the police in Launceston for 'riding without a light'. Soon after this incident he was diagnosed with palsy and right facial paralysis, and was recommended for discharge. He would eventually lose his right eye. On 24 June, he boarded the *Port Sydney* at Suez for the long journey home. His service with the A.I.F. officially ended on 22 August 1916, just over a year after his enlistment, when he was discharged as medically unfit in Tasmania. He had joined the army, travelled half-way round the world, served at Gallipoli, been discharged, and was once again living with his parents, all long before he turned eighteen.

After his service with the A.I.F. ended, Alec's life can best be described as 'full'. He went bush and got work as a jackeroo in Tasmania, before undertaking carpentry training, building motor bodies, houses, and boats. He took up boxing and won the Tasmanian flyweight championship. In 1924 he married his first wife, Kathleen Connolly, and started a family. He gave up boxing and eventually had seven children. In 1927 he began working for the Launceston Railway Workshop and was a staunch unionist, becoming, in 1942, president of the Tasmanian branch of the Australian Workers' Union. During the Second World War he studied for an economics degree and met the woman who would become his second wife, Kathleen Corvan, with whom he had another two children – the second when he was 69 years old. He worked in the public service as a disabled persons' employment officer, in which capacity he later assisted incapacitated Second World War veterans. He learned to sail, and took part in at least six of the gruelling annual Sydney-to-Hobart yacht races. He worked for the Heart Foundation until his retirement at age 80, and continued to drive until he was 95.

Despite all this, it is for his connection with Gallipoli that Alec Campbell will be most remembered, and while it is sometimes stated that he blazed away at the Turks through loop-holes in the fire trenches, all evidence is against this. The 15th Battalion was not in the front line trenches after its return from Lemnos, and Alec maintained, later in life, that at Gallipoli he was mainly engaged in water-carrying duties between the beach and the front lines, and believed he had never actually shot a Turkish soldier. In this he is supported by the 15th Battalion's history:

"It is doubtful if one member of the 7th or 8th Reinforcements fired a shot in the

direction of the enemy. They had learnt the art of fatigue work; had seen and heard the whine and explosions of shells; the crack of the passing bullet. They had become in the short space of time Anzacs.... They were veterans of the unit. ... They had imbibed the glory of Anzac and they never lost it."

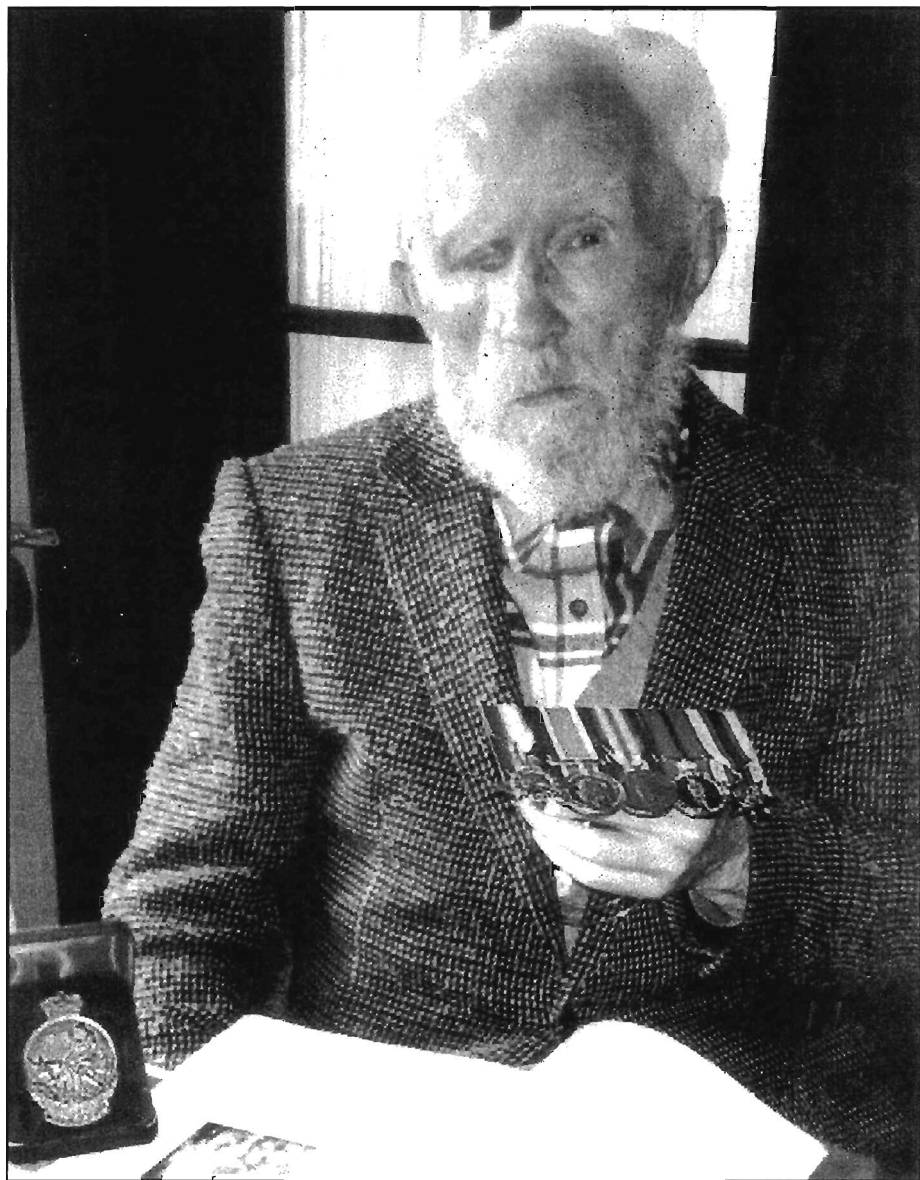
When discussing his status as one of the very few remaining veterans of Gallipoli, he would sometimes say, "It's hard to believe – all those young men – gone." For his services on the Gallipoli Peninsula 87 years ago, Private Alec Campbell, 15th Battalion of Infantry, was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. In 1967 he claimed his Anzac Commemorative Medallion, and in 1990 he returned once again to Gallipoli, to Anzac, as part of a trip organised for veterans to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the campaign, and was presented with the unofficial Gallipoli Star, which he proudly wore. In 1999 he received the 80th Anniversary Armistice Remembrance Medal and in 2002 the Centenary Medal. He was featured on a set of stamps, *The Last Anzacs*, along with Walter Parker (see Obituary in *The Gallipolian* No 92 Spring 2000), and Roy Longmore (see Obituary in *The Gallipolian* No 96 Autumn 2001), which Australia Post issued to mark Australia Day 2000.

He died with Kate, his wife of 44 years, by his side. His funeral was attended by the Governor-General and the governors, by the Prime Minister and his ministers and by politicians of every kind, by the chiefs of the Defence forces, and by his family. He was carried on the same gun carriage that bore Weary Dunlop, Australia's greatest hero of the Second World War, to his last rest. In a break with tradition, ten of the Campbell women; great-granddaughters, granddaughters, and a daughter, five on either side of the flag-draped coffin, flanked the guard of honour on Private Campbell's final journey. Jo Hardy, the granddaughter who runs the nursing home where Alec lived for the last part of his life, explained that, 'Alec was not a man of tradition. After all, he was a republican. We thought this was a way of showing that, and the family readily agreed.' On Friday, 24 May, 2002, the day of the funeral, Australian flags everywhere – all around the world – flew again at half-mast and throughout the nation a minute's silence was observed in honour of Alec Campbell and of all the soldiers who served at Gallipoli – "all those young men" – who had entered into the silence before him.

He was a boy soldier. A water carrier, rather than a fighter, a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather; a champion of the worker and of the disabled; he was our last human link to Gallipoli and all that place symbolises. He was the last Anzac. Australia mourns the loss of a national treasure. He imbibed the spirit of Anzac – *the place* – and he never lost it.

John Meyers & Bryn Dolan

Leaders of Anzacs: Officers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps died at Gallipoli www.anzacs.org



Alec Campbell, March 2002. Photograph John Meyers

FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

"I was saddened to hear of the death of Mr Campbell, the longest surviving member of the Anzacs who fought so courageously through the dreadful months of the Gallipoli campaign in 1915. His death marks the passing of the generation which contributed so much to the character, identity and independent standing of the Australian nation.

I extend my sympathy to all the members of Mr Campbell's family.



STATE FUNERAL

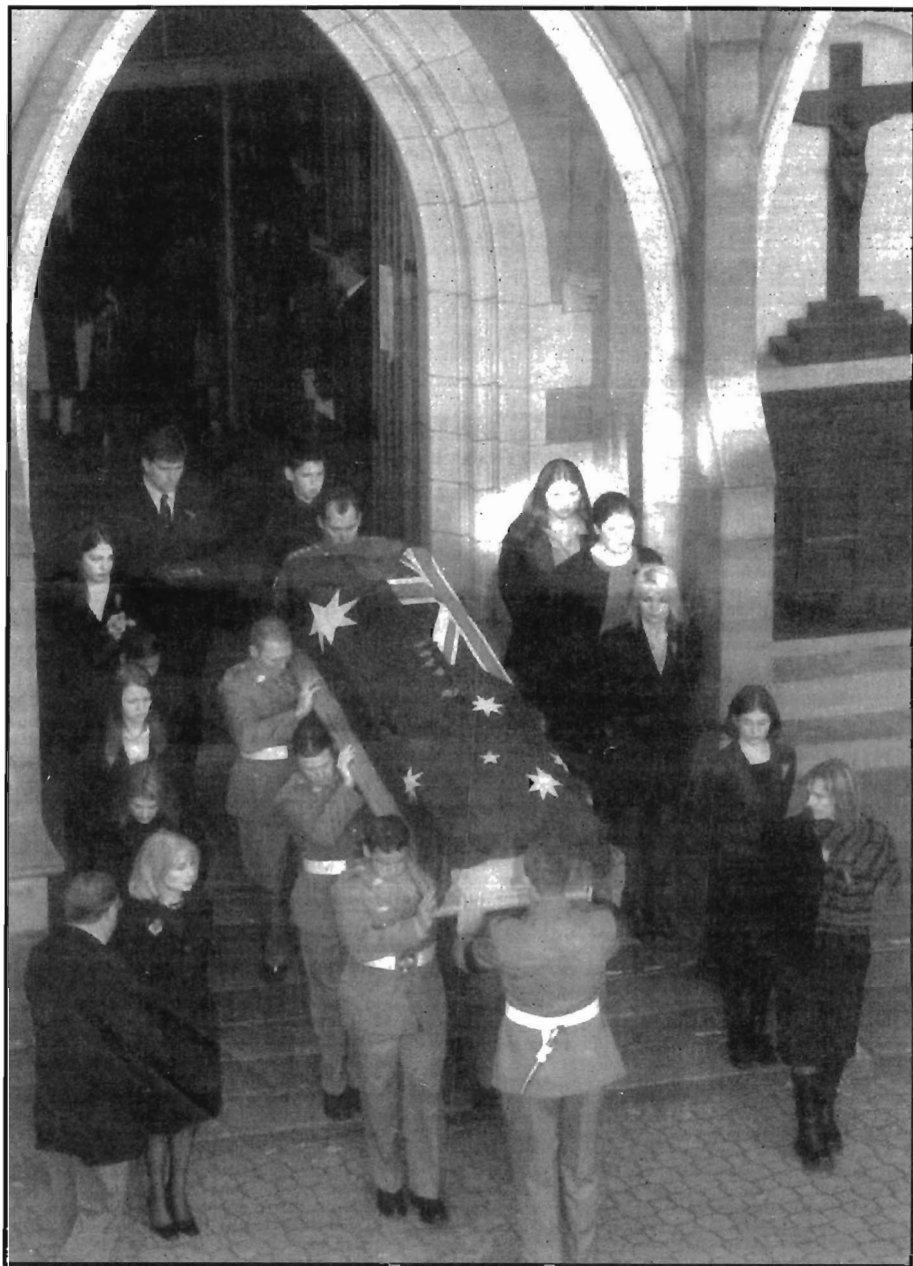
MR ALEC WILLIAM CAMPBELL

A State Funeral for Mr Alec Campbell, Anzac, the last survivor of the Gallipoli campaign, will be held in the Cathedral Church of St David, corner of Macquarie and Murray Streets, Hobart, Tasmania at 10.30am, Friday 24 May 2002 to be followed by a private burial.

Friends, representatives of organisations and members of the public are welcome to attend. It would be appreciated if those attending could inform the Ceremonial Officer on telephone (03) 6233 3294, facsimile (03) 6233 3345 or email Protocol@dpac.tas.gov.au to assist with seating arrangements.

If attending, please arrive at the Cathedral no later than 10.00am.

**Millingtons Pty Ltd
(Fuglsang Funeral Services)
Ph 03 6245 1100**



A daughter, Felicity Campbell (right) wearing her father's scarf of Campbell tartan and a grand-daughter Jo Hardy who runs the nursing home where Alec Campbell died head a line of grand-daughters and great grand-daughters on the steps of St David's Cathedral, Hobart. Photograph Tim Dub.



Alec Campbell and his wife Kathleen before the Anzac Day march down Hobart's Macquarie Street, 25 April 2002. Photograph Simon Schluter.



Alec Campbell at a family reunion with great-grandaughter Rin and her daughter Ahli, Anzac Day 2002.



Alec Campbell with his son Neil shortly after receiving his Centenary Medal.

Acknowledgements: The Gallipoli Association is most grateful to John Meyers and Bryn Dolan for providing the Obituary of Alec Campbell and those members in Australia and New Zealand, Canada, Israel and Great Britain who so kindly provided copies of the numerous press reports of his death and subsequent funeral. Also to Jenny Nairn for providing a video copy of the funeral service. No other veteran of the Gallipoli campaign can have received so much publicity both in the last years of his life, or on his death. See also page 66.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Gallipoli Association will be held on Wednesday 16 October commencing at 1130 at the Naval Club, 38 Hill Street, London, W1. Directions for the Naval Club are included on the enclosed booking form.

AGENDA

Apologies for absence
 Minutes of the AGM held on 17 October 2001 and printed herewith
 Chairman's Report
 Treasurer's Report & Adoption of 2001 Accounts
 Election of Officers
 Election of Committee
 Any other business

Members wishing to raise any item under Any Other Business should do so in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the AGM.

AUTUMN LUNCH

The Autumn Lunch on 16 October at 1230 for 1300, will follow the Annual General Meeting, see enclosed booking form for details.

Following Lunch the speaker will be Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach GCB, DL. The Admiral first attended the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth in 1937 and then went to sea in the cruiser *Mauritius* mostly in the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean. Later he was on board the *Duke of York* during the action off the North Cape, Boxing Day 1943 when the *Scharnhorst* was sunk. Following several gunnery appointments he served as gunnery officer on the cruiser *Newcastle* before taking command of the destroyer *Dunkirk* in 1959. Then a succession of staff appointments rising to become Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord from 1979-1982. He has written two books, an autobiography *Endure no Makeshifts* (1993) and *Anecdotalage* (1996).

MEMORIAL BURSARY 2002

As *The Gallipolian* was under preparation in late July the two boys from Winchester College selected to receive Gallipoli Bursaries in 2002 were in Gallipoli. Reports from Rurik Jutting and Chris Geering will be published in a subsequent *Gallipolian* and details of how to attend the presentation which they will make will be circulated to members.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE NAVAL CLUB, HILL STREET, LONDON, 17 OCTOBER 2001

The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Public Relations Officer, Editor, Committee members Sir Arthur Hockaday and Colonel Michael Hickey together with 17 members were present.

Apologies for absence were received from Vice President Jim Fallon, Roy Adam, James Brazier, Dennis Greenslade, Andy Mullen and Norman Welch.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2000 and published in *The Gallipolian* No 96 were approved and signed as a correct record.

The Chairman presented his report, subsequently published in *The Gallipolian* No 97.

The Treasurers Report and the Annual Accounts were adopted by the meeting.

The following were elected Officers for the year:

Chairman	Captain C.T.F.Fagan DL
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	W.J.Marsh
Secretary	James Watson-Smith
Public Relations Officer	Major Hugh Jenner
Editor	David Saunders

The following having agreed to serve on the Committee in addition to the Officers were then elected:

Colonel Michael Hickey	Sir Arthur Hockaday
A.Mullen	Major J.R.H.Stopford

Concern was expressed that numbers had fallen for lunches. We are not sure of the reasons, although numbers are up for the lunch today. Reference was made to a possible change of venue for the Gallipoli Day Lunch.

Ian Adams reported that there was a Tour to the Peninsula by the Royal British Legion.

The possibility of arranging a Black Tie Dinner was mentioned and met with approval. Sir Harold Walker suggested that it should be held perhaps every five years on an important anniversary year with a guest speaker.

GALLIPOLI DAY IN GREAT BRITAIN



Sergeant Justin Pickin, Grenadier Guards who played the Last Post at the Gallipoli Memorial, St Paul's Cathedral. Sergeant Pickin's grandfather Private T Pickin, 6th Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment was killed at Gallipoli on 25 November 1915, aged 25 and is buried in Hill 10 Cemetery. Photograph David Saunders

Note: We are most grateful to all those who have contributed reports and photographs of their local services and commemorations, and regret not being able to publish them.



Mustering in readiness to march to the Cenotaph, Gallipoli Day 2002.



The return march from the Cenotaph. Both photographs Phil Mills.



Cadets from Merchant Taylors' School muster in King Charles Street before marching to the Cenotaph.



*Chelsea Pensioners and a Merchant Navy standard approaching the Cenotaph.
Both photographs Phil Mills.*

ANZAC DAY IN DUBLIN

ANTHONY P. QUINN

On ANZAC day, 2002, the annual inter-denominational service of commemoration and thanksgiving was held in St. Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin. The congregation included : His Excellency Mr. Bob Halverson, OBE, Australian Ambassador; His Excellency Mr. Gunaltay Sibay, Turkish Ambassador; Alan McCarthy, New Zealand Consul-General; representatives of the Ireland-Australia and Ireland-New Zealand Associations, the Royal British Legion, and the (Irish) Organisation of National Ex-Service Men & Women.

Canon Adrian Empey of St. Ann's Church referred to the local relevance of Gallipoli, as two young Irish casualties are remembered on a memorial window in the church. He set the inclusive tone for the evening and hoped that the historic cycle would be completed when Turkey achieved EU membership.

The Reverend Glenn Barclay, a Presbyterian minister from Wellington, New Zealand, in her inspiring reflection, referred to the high drama of Gallipoli where exceptional courage was evident. The enemy is our neighbour now and solidarity is needed to solve current problems and achieve peace. Reverend Brother Daryl Barclay, from Melbourne, led the intercessional prayers.

After the Last Post was sounded, the Turkish Ambassador read Kemal Atatürk's inclusive words about " the heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives.. the Johnnies and the Mehments ...lie side by side...your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace... they have become our sons as well."

Following the formal wreath-laying by the ambassadors and also by the representatives of Canada, UK and USA, candles were placed by the Australian and New Zealand communities in Ireland, veterans groups and military attaches. Responding to an invitation to the congregation, I, as a member of the Gallipoli Association, placed a sprig of rosemary on the altar alongside the wreaths, poppies and candles. " We will remember them", the refrain of the exhortation echoed aptly in the historic church.

Another Gallipoli Association member, Tom Burke, chairman of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, also wore a sprig of rosemary. Those attending included Nick Broughal, a member of both the Gallipoli Association and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association; and Bob Stanton whose uncle Robert Stanton, a solicitor from Cork, was killed in Gallipoli.

Declan Hughes represented the Irish Veterans Memorial Project, which proposes an

inclusive memorial in Athlone to remember all the Irish who served, and especially those who died, in wars and conflict (including Vietnam) during the 20th century. After the service, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Micheal Mulcahy, hosted a reception at the nearby Mansion House.

Note: Anthony P. Quinn, Law Library, Four Courts, Dublin 7 is completing a book on the twenty-five Irish barristers killed in the Great War. Six of them died in Gallipoli during 1915, and are commemorated at Helles including Captain. Robert H. Cullinan, 7th Royal Munster Fusiliers, and Lieutenant. Ernest Julian, D Company (Pals), 7th Royal Dublin Fusiliers. They are both remembered on a stained glass window in St. Ann's (Church of Ireland Anglican Communion), Dublin, the venue for the annual ANZAC service.

SMALL BUT MEMORABLE ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE AT JERUSALEM

KEN SYMONDS

The Official Anzac Day Remembrance Service usually hosted and organised by our Australian Embassy sadly this year was cancelled. This was basically because Canberra felt there was a security problem in Jerusalem. Living in Jerusalem, I couldn't agree less. But that's how it was. So it was left to the Ambassador, Mr Ross Burns, accompanied by Consul Judith Hurditch and Second Secretary Ben Scott, to lay a Wreath, and to Frank Stein, of the Israel Office of the Zionist Federation of Australia, to organize anything he could at extremely short notice.

In the event, four other wreaths were also laid. One by Paul Israel of the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Tel Aviv and one by the Israeli Defence Forces. Frank Stein gave a beautiful reading from a Queensland digger in 1916, and laid his floral tribute. I myself gave a short tribute, & laid my own wreath, & additionally on request for both Harold Greene of Tel-Aviv, President of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women – Israel Branch, and for Michael Robson of the Gallipoli Association, Tel Aviv who, because of the short notice were both unable to attend personally in Jerusalem.

The Australian floral tribute I provided, portrayed a special meaning and message. This was composed wholly of Australian Flora – in three parts.

Gum Trees – *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* – River Red Gum leaves representing the clean young vibrant lads who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Bottlebrush – *Callistemon macropunctatus* – Scarlet Bottlebrush representing the nobility of their sacrifice.

Wattle – *Acacia pycnantha* — Golden Wattle – Australia's National Emblem, now just at the finish of its bloom ~ representing those of us who are left to grow old ...

Then the Jews remaining, assembled as usual at the Jewish gravesides where Avraham Kaufman of Jerusalem read Tehillim, (Psalms), recited El Maleh Rachamim, (Prayer for the Departed), & led Kaddish (the ever present Sanctification of the Holy One, Blessed be He).

Thus despite local problems, a small, but fully meaningful Jewish Anzac Day Remembrance was properly kept in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Note: We are most grateful to Michael Robson for providing Ken Symonds' report.



Ken Symonds (right) with the floral tribute of Australian flora.

THE 2002 ASSOCIATION TOUR TO GALLIPOLI

HUGH JENNER

I confess to a degree of trepidation before the RV of the tour party at Heathrow on 11 May. The previous, and first tour had been so enjoyable and the tour party such good company, that I wondered if a second tour could match it. Like most of the group, I did not know more than a few people before we met at Terminal One. One had come from Australia; two from Scotland and most from a good distance from the airport. Not one was late, and by the end of the day, it felt as if we had been together for a week.

Last year Lyn Macdonald was in the party. She kindly agreed to write an account of the tour. Like all her work, it is a classic. In fact readers who have journal No.96: 30-39 can read it again to get the gist of this year's tour. This is because we kept the basics of the itinerary the same. The main changes being that this year we all went to Troy, the Dardanos battery, and Cimenlik Fort on the first day, and this was generally a popular change. We also had an extra day, the options for which are explained further on.

Our party numbered twenty, the same as last year, and included three whose fathers served in the campaign, and two whose grandfathers held important appointments/command. One feature has been the requests we are given to locate particular graves and lay a cross, or say a prayer for the fallen. It makes our visit to a cemetery special. As before the cemeteries were in beautiful condition; the flowers and the birdsong could be described as heavenly. Michael Hickey was once more our guide his magnificent explanations, histories, and background anecdotes never fail to enthral his audience. This year he was accompanied by his wife, Brigitte, who was a real star. Always seemingly cheerful, and ever-ready to help any of us locating flowers, or birds, or gravestones, or just jolly things along. Between them, Michael and Brigitte made the tour.

Potentours, and Tolghar in particular, were marvellous. We stayed in the same hotel as last year and it was good to see old friends, including Gavin Pinar a member of the Association and our guide last year. Once again we had a large coach which was very comfortable. Rather than try to describe it all, I asked members of the party to write their impressions. The first is given by Isobel Durack:

I write this from our house overlooking Albany's magnificent King George's Sound on Australia's South coast. From here the first convoy of 36 troopships, carrying the 1st Australian Division and the New Zealand Division sailed for war in November 1914. Several others followed and for many of those on board this was their last sight

of home. High on a hill to the left, and illuminated at night, the memorial salvaged from Suez but now restored, looks over the Sound and out to sea, and below it the deep narrow entrance to Albany's port has been named Ataturk channel in acknowledgement of the close bond between the two countries contrarily forged in the trenches . Gallipoli cannot be forgotten here. Nor should it be.

For me the Association Tour brought these two ends of the Earth together and was a wonderful and rewarding experience. There were immensely sobering and poignant moments. At V Beach the rain clouds dispersed and Michael Hickey eloquently and movingly relived the landing, Dorothy Goate, whose father landed with the 5th Royal Scots, read his letters, and Rupert Dawnay shared with us his grandfather's account, he being offshore on General Hamilton's staff.. At Walker's Ridge high on the awesomely spectacular ANZAC cliffs a commemoration ceremony was held at which Sir Harold Walker laid a wreath in honour of those who fought under the command of his grandfather; arguably the finest of the allied generals in the opinion of the most recent historian of the campaign, Les Carlyon. The views: of the Suvla Plain from Hill 60 with the ANZAC ridge and Sari Bair towering over above; the Krithia battlefields from Cape Helles...all were unforgettable.

There were shared interests and enthusiasms: an East Anglian homage to Colonel Doughty-Wylie; the search for 5th Norfolk headstones; the beauty and variety of the wildflowers and the search for orchids; the unexpected garden of rock roses on the walk up to Lone Pine; the goatherd's dogs at Suvla, which prompted Michael Hickey to read us the touching poem of the Turkish trench dog, which I would so like to see re-printed in the journal.

The cheerful camaradie of the group made the whole expedition thoroughly enjoyable and quite notable was the increasing sophistication of the picnic lunches as members explored the gourmet resources of the Eceabar shops. In Istanbul, the wild enthusiasm of Turkish children for the music of the Janissary Band was an uncomfortable but fascinating experience. The final dinner in the vibrant atmosphere of the fish restaurants of Kumkapi made a lively conclusion.

Many thanks to Michael Hickey for his witty commentary, his energy and enthusiasm, and to all those whose planning skills made this tour such a success. It could be repeated again and again.

Isobel's friend Dorothy Goate wrote:

This tour fulfilled a long-standing ambition to visit Gallipoli. In the first place I was struck by the beauty of the country; the wild flowers and the colour of the sea. It was really thrilling to walk on V Beach and climb the cliff path in the footsteps of my father and his comrades, and to see the ruins of the mighty fortress of Sedd-el Bahr. The visit to Gully Ravine was really moving. So peaceful now, compared to then!



Tour party at Helles Memorial, 17 May 2002.



*Dorothy Goate reads from her Father's letters (see *The Gallipolian* 91: 16-27) at V Beach where he landed on 25 April. Photographs Rupert Dawnay.*

The visit to Troy was most enjoyable, as I was always keen on classical history. Other highlights included the wonderful views across the Dardanelles from our balcony at the Eceabat hotel, and seeing the sun rise from behind the hills on the Asiatic side. The War Graves Commission cemeteries are so well-kept, and I think the Turkish attitude that our boys are now their sons, all sleeping together, is rather beautiful. They are so forgiving!

Rupert Dawnay, whose readings from his grandfather's letters were much appreciated by us all, wrote:

In February this year I started to find out what my grandfather, as a Captain on Sir Ian Hamilton's staff, had written in his letters home, and became completely fascinated. Michael Hickey persuaded me to visit the battlefields, and it seemed a good excuse to visit Turkey where I had never been before.

The coach was superb; the hotel basic but adequate and our picnic lunches involved fossicking about in the nearby shops where people always seemed friendly and helpful. The fresh bread, local olives, yoghurt and honey were all delicious. The days began on the bus to the different areas of the campaign, and Michael was very impressive with his background history and encyclopaedic knowledge of the incidents, people, and the extraordinary events.

Almost at once I was struck by the large amount of flowers and particularly the poppies which we saw everywhere and had been remarked on by my grandfather. I appreciated being able to walk some of the important features, such as Gully Ravine and Chocolate Hill, where we found buttons, bullets and, just once, bones. Of the memorable events, the lunch on W Beach where my grandfather was, for a short time based in a tent, swam every morning and evening and observed the torpedoing of the battleship, *Majestic*.

Dale Hjort, who already had a sound knowledge of the battlefields, was "especially moved" to hear the readings from Dorothy and Rupert, and found the visit to Kemal Ataturk's HQ at Bigali gave an opportunity to see inside a Turkish house of the period. It also has a beautiful rose garden. The commentaries by Michael and Tolghar introduced wider historical, economic and cultural insights.

Leslie Larnder wrote:

..that the tour was a complete success was due to a number of factors. Firstly, the pre-planning and organisation was crucial no doubt based on the experience gained from the 2001 tour. Secondly, we were fortunate indeed to have Colonel Michael Hickey as the principal guide; he not only has an incredible knowledge of the campaign, but he has the special ability to impart the knowledge with clarity and to describe events graphically. Tolghar, our Turkish guide, also played a valuable role

in assisting with the organisational matters and smoothing the way where necessary; more importantly he enabled us to appreciate the campaign from the Turkish perspective and his knowledge of archaeology, Turkish history and society gave another dimension to the tour.

For me the highlight occurred when I was given the privilege to read the citation for the posthumous award of the VC to Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Doughty-Wylie for his actions on 26 April 1915 at Sedd-el-Bahr and Hill 141 and then place a cross of remembrance on his grave. A period of silence was observed by the tour party for a brave soldier who died for his country. His family home was in the village of Theberton, where he is commemorated in his parish church, which is a few miles from where I live in East Suffolk.

Ashley Atkinson , who'.. had a great time and met some terrific people" went on to say: "For me , the walk along Kiretch Tepe was the highlight. I especially wanted to go where the 5th Bedfords were during the Suvla attack. I have no relative involved but it is my 'local' battalion so I wanted to walk in their footsteps. Thank you for the opportunity." Ashley was in the excellent company of two veteran tourists: Doug Sims, and Dennis Isles

The extra day allowed us the flexibility to see places which are otherwise difficult to get to; or for which there is insufficient time. Michael Hickey took a group in a smaller bus to Lala Baba , while the larger coach took people to Gully Ravine again. After a RV in Krithia, places were changed, and some went with Dale Hjort to Fusilier Bluff while others had a tranquil afternoon in Sedd-el-Bahr. Dolphins swam off V Beach as Richard Smith read a moving passage from John Masefield's Gallipoli. I explored the fort bedecked by wild figs, and the crimson, yellow and purple of the wild flowers. A Little Owl, disturbed from its hide in one of four old guns lying in the grass, kept me company for a bit otherwise it was very quiet, still and warm; hard to imagine the hell of bombardment.

On our final morning we visited Redoubt cemetery, where the mass of poppies beneath the olive trees was breathtakingly beautiful and a Hoopoe called hauntingly from the surrounding pines. Then to the RND Headquarters, and finally the Helles Memorial. Here we made the remaining tribute to individuals, and held our, now traditional service. Rupert Dawnay laid a wreath, after which, by perfect timing a Turkish F-16 flew low overhead. Sir Harold Walker said the Exhortation, and after a minute's silence, Michael Hickey gave a reading from Byron.

In closing this account, I would like to thank all the tourists for their participation and contribution to making it so enjoyable. I think we look forward to our next meeting, and hope that it will be soon. Once again we would all wish to acknowledge the contribution of the planning members who were not there: Bill Marsh, Andy Mullen and James Watson-Smith,. and Petentours, notably Dr Iffut Ozgunul and

Tolghar for all the planning in Turkey.

So a wonderful tour came to an end. It was so good to meet members who all came together to share this experience. We may not meet again, but will hopefully keep in touch. In the words of a famous song: "Thanks for the memory".

GALLIPOLI TOUR 2003

The 2003 Gallipoli Association Tour will take place from 17 to 25 May with the possibility of a second tour commencing on 24 May returning on 1 June. Further information regarding these tours is provided on the information sheet accompanying this *Gallipolitan*. Applications to W.J.Marsh, Hon. Treasurer, Nowhelan, The Common, Womersley, Guildford, GU5 0PH.

MAJOR J M GIBSON-HORROCKS MBE

Our congratulations to Major J M Gibson-Horrocks, a member of the Gallipoli Association whose award of an MBE for services to the Fusiliers Association was announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Commissioned into the Royal Fusiliers at Sandhurst in January 1940 he served in North Africa where he was briefly captured, but managed to escape by driving a German ambulance through the enemy lines. Injured at Cassino and later north of Forlì during the Italian campaign he was invalided back to England and out of the Army. He softened this blow by maintaining close contact with the Regiment serving in various capacities including being Chairman of the 2nd Battalion Branch of the Regimental Association for 30 years. Additionally Major Gibson-Horrocks has led many pilgrimages abroad, especially to Italy and to the Western

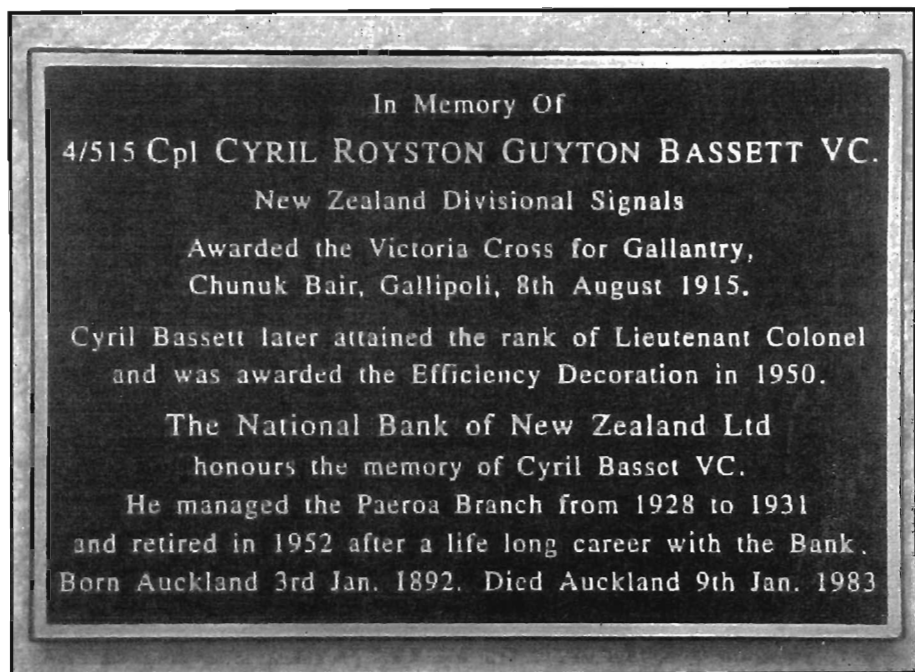
CYRIL BASSETT VC REMEMBERED

Colin Townsend, author of *Gallipoli 1915* (see review in *The Gallipolian* 91:58-59) has been instrumental in having a plaque to the memory of Cyril Bassett VC unveiled in the Paeroa branch of the National Bank. Bassett himself was manager here from 1928 to 1931, and his daughter Cherry Bramwell was present to see the plaque unveiled.

Cyril Bassett was the first New Zealander to win the Victoria Cross in the First World War and the only one to win the award at Gallipoli. Indeed he once said "I was disappointed to find I was the only New Zealander to get one at Gallipoli, because hundreds of Victoria Crosses should have been awarded there. All my mates ever got were wooden crosses." At the time of his death in 1983 aged 91, he was the last surviving holder of the Victoria Cross to have gained the award at Gallipoli.



Cherry Bramwell, daughter of Cyril Bassett VC and Colin Townsend.



THINKING CAPS ON

Our member resident in Israel, Michael Robson has kindly sent three questions which members might like to consider, answers in the Winter *Gallipolitan*, so thinking caps on!

Who or what is the connection between Lancashire Landing, Gallipoli, June 1915 and El Alamein, North Africa, October 1942?

What is the coincidence which connects the answer to Question 1 and an isolated grave in an olive grove, half a mile from Trebuki Bay?

General Sir John Monash was an Australian Jew who died in 1931, two years before the Adolf Hitler came to power, and yet, these two men had something significant in common; what?

ALFRED ERNEST WILES

GUVEN PINAR

During the days of the fiercest fighting at Gallipoli, Sapper Alfred Ernest Wiles, aged 29 of G.H.Q. Signal Coy, was shot and immediately died on 18 August 1915, while working on telephone cables around Suvla Bay. Six of his friends had buried him in a small valley around Buyuk Kemikli, placed a cross on the solitary grave, taken a photograph of it and mailed to his wife Mrs Mabel Wiles of East South Bank, Yorkshire, enclosed with a letter (see page 30) signed by all, describing the death of their gallant friend, the ceremony organised and his burial place.



A couple of days before this sad message was delivered to its recipient, a photo of baby Alfred and his mother, taken on 18 August 1915, his first birthday, was mailed to Gallipoli but unfortunately the father would never see it. A few weeks later, the wedding ring and other personal possessions of her late husband were officially dispatched to Mrs Wiles. All, with the letter and the photograph, were gently put in a chest, locked and stored in the attic, by the mourning widow.

Life went on and Mrs Wiles married again. She died when young Alfred was 12 years old and her second husband, Alfred's stepfather, married again. Subsequently Alfred had to leave the house to be brought up by his uncles while the chest, locked with the memories, lay forgotten in the attic.

Sapper Alfred Ernest Wiles



*Baby Alfred taken on 18 August 1915
The day his father was killed*

When Alfred was in his thirties, both the stepfather and his wife had died in quick succession. It was time for their heirs to clean up the house, the chest came to light and the contents were passed to Alfred. Until the death of his mother, all he knew about his father was his death in the First World War. He hadn't any slightest idea about the letter and the photograph of the grave, so the contents came as a shocking surprise. He enquired with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as the location of his father's grave. The official reply was tragic.

"During the four years between the evacuation and start of graves establishment works, the grave and the cross of your late father, was unfortunately lost. He is commemorated on the walls of Cape Helles Memorial with the names of 20,770 others who died during the Gallipoli Campaign and have no known graves. Great Britain will eternally remember them with respect."

This news left Alfred with little to do. He buried his new sorrow in his heart and went about his life. Eventually married, had children, then grand-children. One of them, Lewis, developed a passion for the history of the First World War when he was in his twenties and when he learned that his great-grand-father had had died in this bloody struggle, he decided to visit Gallipoli in order to see where he had fought and died, and his name on the walls of Cape Helles Memorial.

He came to Gallipoli with his 85 year-old grand-father and the 84 year-old letter and photo. It was a very clear shot, with some rock layers in the background, very characteristic of a particular area of Buyuk Kemikli, surrounding a small valley. I was asked if it would be possible to determine the location of the grave. In consequence, we found a shepherd, the oldest man of Kucuk Anafarta Village who knew the area very well. Following his directions, the son and the great-grandson of Sapper Alfred Ernest Wiles arrived in a tranquil valley covered with crimson poppies and white daisies. Two men, hand-in-hand, viewed the small valley with tears and gently placed a bouquet of white roses on the ground.

Letter dated Thursday 19th August sent to Mrs Wiles:

Dear Mrs Wiles,

Perhaps before you receive this you will have heard from the War Office that Alfred was killed yesterday by a shell. I am writing for myself and his other comrades to tell you that we did all we could for him. It will be a comfort to you to know that he died instantaneously and painlessly. He had not a moments suffering.

We dug a deep grave in the valley behind our camp and laid him gently there. A Chaplain read the burial service. A simple wooden cross was put at the head of the grave. We thought you would like to know that your husband died as a soldier should, doing his duty and that he had a proper Christian burial. The Chaplain said

it was the teaching of the Church that a man who laid down his life for his Country was undoubtedly saved.

We shall all miss Alfred very much because we liked him so. He was always patient and cheerful, and never grumbled at anything.

You have all our sympathy and we pray that God in his Great mercy will comfort you and heal your sorrow. We returned all his effects to General Headquarters they will be sent on to you. Those who have signed below are Alfred's Chums who are here. There are many more who will be thinking of you and wishing they could do something to lighten your burden.

Yours sincerely L Corpl C Gill, Sapper G Galloway, Sapper H Stead, Sapper H J Johnson, Sapper T J Cooper, Cpl A Mayhew.

Acknowledgement: I was pleased to help Alfred Wiles and his grand-son Lewis Onions during their visit to Gallipoli and am most grateful to them for providing all the information for this article and for so kindly making available the photographs and letter.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The Gallipoli Association will again have a Memorial Plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.

The Field of Remembrance was the inspiration of Major George Howson MC founder and chairman of the Poppy Factory until his death in 1936. In 1928 just two crosses were planted by the organisers – one in memory of Private Tommy Atkins the other in memory of Field Marshal Lord Haig. Others were offered to passers by to plant for those they remembered.

This year just over 300 Memorial Plots will be available. Details of the Gallipoli Association Plot and how to arrange for a Cross to be placed in this is provided in an information flyer accompanying this issue of *The Gallipolian*.

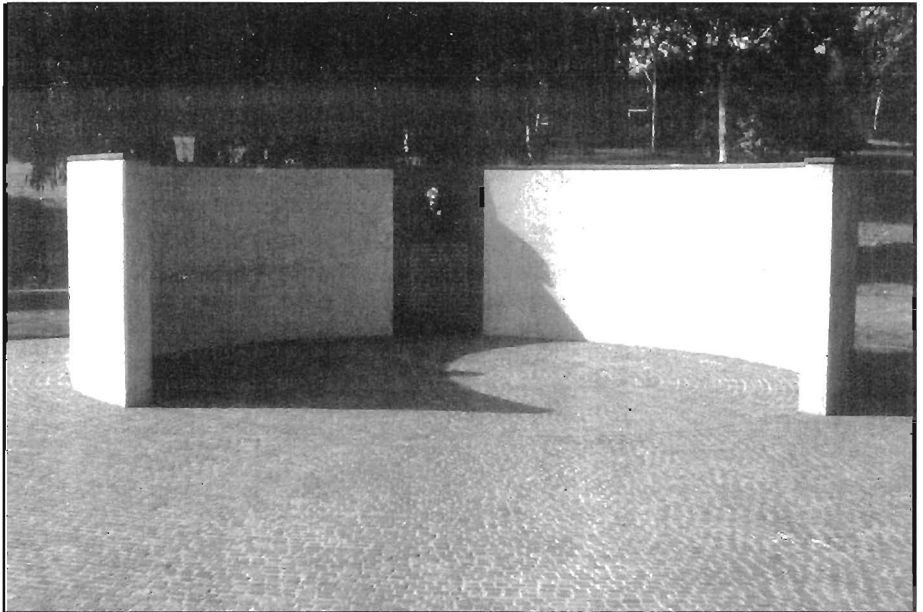
THE ATATURK MEMORIAL CANBERRA

PAUL COBB

Along both sides of Anzac Parade in Canberra are a number of memorials to various theatres of war and groups of servicemen and women who fought in the many campaigns in which the Australians have been involved. They comprise a range of styles and materials from the blasted sandstone of the Vietnam memorial to a spectacular glass memorial to nurses.

At the top end of Anzac Parade on the right hand side as you face the Australian War Memorial is the Ataturk Memorial, the only one erected in respect of a former enemy. Ataturk was President of Turkey from 1923 to 1938 and did much to modernise the country. As Mustafa Kemal he did, of course, serve his country with distinction in the First World War, coming to particular prominence at Gallipoli.

This memorial comprises a crescent shaped wall some six feet high with a bust of Ataturk, donated by the Turkish government, set on a marble panel in the middle of the wall. The memorial is surrounded by a paved area with a path leading to the road as well as lawns and trees including pines *Pinus halepensis* grown from seeds brought from the Gallipoli Peninsula. Within this area is a container of soil brought from Anzac Cove and placed here on 20 April 1985. The memorial was designed by Turkish sculptor Huseyin Gezer.



Below the bust is the following inscription:-

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and Mehmeds to us. Where they lie side by side here in this country of ours...You the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well.

Nearby is an information board that reads:-

Ataturk Memorial Garden

In 1985, seventy years after the Gallipoli campaign of World War I, the Turkish Government agreed to recognise the name 'Anzac Cove' for the place on the Gallipoli peninsula where the first Australian and New Zealand troops landed on 25 April 1915.

In return for this gesture, the Australian Government established this memorial garden, which honours the heroism and self-sacrifice that distinguished both the Anzac and Turkish troops who took part in that bitterly fought campaign.

Kemal Ataturk (1881-1938) was the founder and first president of modern Turkey, and leader of Turkish forces in the Gallipoli campaign. The words inscribed on the memorial are Ataturk's tribute to those Anzacs who did not return from Gallipoli.

Another memorial with Gallipoli connections is on the same side of the road but at the other end towards Lake Burley-Griffen. It is the handle of a flax basket, the other handle being on the opposite side of the road; these handles are some 30' high. The memorial was a gift from the people of New Zealand and was unveiled on 24 April 2001 by Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister. On the paved area below are the names of theatres of war in which the New Zealand forces fought. One of those listed is 'Gallipoli'. Beneath a boulder below the memorial is soil brought from Chunuk Bair.

If visitors still have time to spare, a walk or drive around nearby roads will find that some of the streets are named after those awarded the Victoria Cross and an image of the medal is displayed on the street sign. Of course you may prefer to spend the maximum amount of time in the splendid Australia War Memorial or the Research Centre adjacent.

MONITOR M33 PROJECT WILL IT BE THE END?

PETER LAWTON

M33 PROJECT MANAGER

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MUSEUMS SERVICE

Externally, His Majesty's Monitor M33 nears completion to its 1915-1919 configuration. This summer will see the masts, stepped since 1997, lowered for a much needed overhaul and at the same time the crow's nest, voice pipes and rope ladder will be fitted. We are literally at the stage of fitting the "bells and whistles" and she has never looked better. Any fine day finds a good crowd at the dockside intent on discovering more about this unique ship.

Sadly, our continuing attempts to get the Royal Naval Museum to take the completed ship as part of their new development of the 20th century navy galleries, whilst more advanced than they were six years ago, are still far from fruition. In M33 we have one of only two surviving ships in the United Kingdom from the First World War; a ship which saw action through one of the most terrible conflicts of that war, Gallipoli, and in the 1919 Russian intervention where she was hit several times.

To have this ship displayed in No.1 dry dock, next to one of the most famous ships in the world, and to be able to use this ship to tell the story of those conflicts and of the 20th century (Jackie Fisher's) navy, is such a wonderful opportunity that one would hope its value was obvious to all. Further we have security in the dock as the construction of the jetties for the new carriers across the entrance to No.1 dry dock means that M33 has become landlocked so is no longer required to remain seaworthy in order to vacate the dock due to operational need.

Now is the time to secure lottery funding. An estimated £600,000 is required from the Heritage Lottery Fund with Hampshire County Council putting up a matching sum but this, for a variety of reasons, must be done through the Royal Naval Museum and with them accepting final stewardship of the vessel.

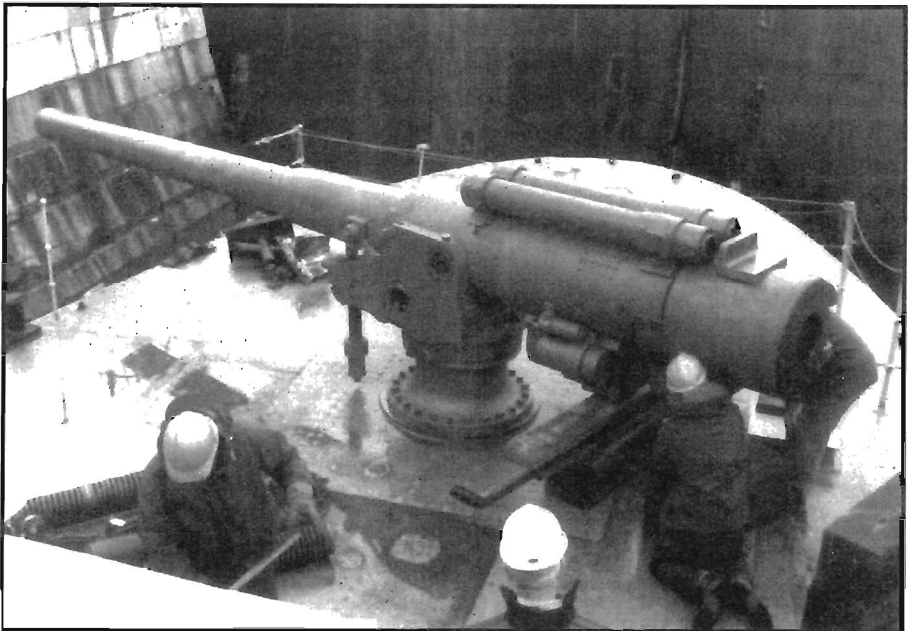
By the end of this financial year all external works to M33, with the exception of painting, will be complete. We are then faced with some hard decisions if, by that time, we are no further forward in our negotiations with the Royal Naval Museum. Whilst all major internal structural alterations for visitor access to the hull are complete, it would not be appropriate to spend public money on beginning a fit out for public access without definite knowledge of an end user. Hampshire County Council has thus far supported this project unstintingly. However, I now believe that it may be time to face up to the inevitable and begin the process of mothballing the ship. This would be only in the hope that a future and more enlightened

management in the heritage dockyard will see the importance of the vessel and complete the work. Hopefully in time for the remembrance events which will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the start of the First World War.

It was always my hope to retire from the Museums Service with M33 'under my belt'. With my retirement only four and a half years away, and with the present climate of uncertainty surrounding the vessel, such hope must now be in doubt.

Peter Lawton, Monitor M33 Project Manager, Hampshire County Museums Service

See also Book Reviews pages 52-53 for a review by Colonel Michael Hickey of *His Majesty's Monitor M33 1915-2001* by Ian Buxton.



Placement of after 6-inch gun originally on HMS Canada at Julland.

THE THIRD TRENCH

THE STORY OF CSM DAVID WATSON DCM 1/4 KOSB KILLED IN ACTION 12 JULY 1915

JACK HOUSE

David Watson, my maternal grandfather, was born at Fettercairn, Kincardineshire, Scotland in 1869. Coming as he did from the north east of Scotland it has always been something of a mystery as to why he enlisted as a regular soldier at the age of twenty in the King's Own Scottish Borderers, rather than one of the Highland regiments, especially as a brother served in The Black Watch.

Whilst serving as a regular with Second Battalion KOSB in India he took part in the Chin-Lushi, Chitral and Tirah campaigns in the latter years of the nineteenth century. Arising from his service with 2nd KOSB in India he was awarded the Chin Lushai Campaign Medal (1889-90) and General Service Medal with three bars. Relief of Chitral 1895, Tirah 1897-8 and Punjab Frontier 1895-97. For his part in the operation that culminated in the taking of the Dargai Heights in 1897 during the Tirah Campaign he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The regimental history records that in this campaign "one day Second Lieutenant Broadbent has his head grazed whilst looking through his field glasses and Sergeant D. Watson had a bullet through his helmet at the same time". Fortunately to no ill effect, or else this contribution to *The Gallipolian* would have neither had subject or author! It is a matter of some regret to me that the DCM is omitted from my grandfather's details set out on the Cape Helles memorial in Gallipoli.

Having been the recipient of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, David Watson retired from regular service in 1910. Henceforth he served in a civilian capacity on the headquarters staff of the 4th KOSB Territorial Unit at Galashiels in the Scottish Borders where my mother was born in that same year. In the Territorial Unit he also held the appointment of Company Sergeant Major

With the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914, a general mobilisation order was issued requiring all members of Territorial units to report for active service. Thus it was that David Watson, at the age of 45 reported for war service with so many others from the Borders towns of Galashiels, Hawick, Melrose, Kelso, Jedburgh, Earlston and Duns forming a battalion designated 1/4 KOSB a thousand strong. Lest it be thought that at 45 he was somewhat advanced in years for such service, it is worth noting that the Commanding Officer, Colonel John McNeil was almost 52 years old! In fact members of the Battalion considered over age, such as my grandfather, were given opportunity to return home, although very few did.

After a period of intensive training at Stirling and employment on anti-invasion



guard duties in the upper part of the Forth Valley, 1/4 KOSB became part of 155 Brigade. This in turn formed a constituent of the newly designated 52 (Lowland) Division and, with the Division, set sail for Gallipoli from Liverpool on 23 May 1915 on board the *Empress of Britain*. Arriving at Mudros on 13 June the Battalion proceeded directly to Cape Helles in small boats, disembarking, as had so many on V beach, via the *River Clyde*; as a foretaste of things to come, immediately coming under bombardment from Turkish artillery situated on Achi Baba.

On 22 June 1/4 KOSB for the first time moved into the trenches in the front line. Between the front line and Cape Helles lay about three miles of captured enemy territory, this being the total extent of the Allied advance since the initial landings at the Cape on 25 April. A series of offensives aimed at capturing the high point of Achi Baba which dominated the Helles sector of the peninsula. The First Battle for Krithia (28 April), the Second (6-8 May) and Third (4 June) had failed to penetrate the Turkish lines to any great extent. Then a period of trench warfare punctuated by small scale attacks and sapping until the offensive of 12/13 July mounted by 52 Division which included 1/4 KOSB, The Royal Naval Division and the French – an operation in which my grandfather was killed.

The primary concept of the attack was to distract the Turks, and thus maintain pressure at Cape Helles, while the August Anzac/Suvla offensive was being organised. The objective for the assault was the capture of the third line of Turkish trenches. The 1/4 KOSB was to lead in two waves from the front line from a point known as Parson's Road. The terrain the troops were to cross was rough as a result

of the continual shelling, was covered with gorse and strewn with barbed wire, with the first Turkish trench being visible about 50 yards away.

At 0430 on 12 July, which had dawned bright, with another very warm day in prospect, a preparatory bombardment of the Turkish lines commenced, to be followed at 0655 with the main bombardment, with additional fire directed at Achi Baba. At 0730 the bombardment lifted, there was a pause, a loud cheer and men scrambled over the top, charging relentlessly towards the waiting Turkish lines. The first wave of Borderers quickly covered the 50 yards of no-man's-land and reached the forward Turkish trench, only to find most of the erstwhile occupants already dead as a result of the bombardment, the few survivors being bayoneted on the spot. Many of the Borderers leapt right over the first trench and charged on eagerly to the second. The second trench was located, but in the midst of relentless Turkish fire and exploding shells, casualties began to mount.

Things took a turn for the worse as the Borderers approached the supposed third Turkish trench. In fact this trench was not a trench in the real sense of the word at all. Rather it was nothing more than a shallow indentation and was probably either the beginnings of a new line or even a 'dummy' trench set out to confuse the British. There is some evidence that the Corps staff knew beforehand that the third line of Turkish trenches did not exist but did not tell 52 Division H.Q. Whether or not this was so the advance was halted. Groups of Borderers tried to take cover, where there was little or no cover to be had. Some Borderers started to build a parapet as others, in the confusion, sought to press forward in search of a proper third Turkish trench. It was soon realised that in so doing they had, in fact, gone too far forward, coming into the zone of fire of their own comrades.

The Commanding Officer of the 1/4 KOSB, Lieutenant-Colonel J McNeile was amongst this forward party and, eventually interpreting the situation now ordered his men to return to the second trench. Some never heard the command and were last seen heading up the lower slopes of Achi Baba. Those who had and were attempting to retreat were being shot at remorselessly from both the front and the rear, as well as being caught in a deadly cross fire from concealed Turkish machine guns in isolated trenches. To make matters even worse, the remnants had wheeled to the right in the general confusion and found themselves in the zone of fire from French artillery, the French assuming them to be Turks engaging in a counter attack.

In this situation of total confusion, very few made it back to the second trench and the Battalion was all but decimated. At the post action roll call only some 70 members of 1/4 KOSB out of approximately 700 members of the Battalion who had been involved in the action answered. Among the hundreds who did not were the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant Captain J C Lang and my grandfather, C.S.M. David Watson. In all 1/4 KOSB lost 18 officers and 535 other ranks, the great majority like my grandfather having no known grave.

I well remember my late mother, often telling me of her final memory of her father before his departure for Gallipoli was of him lifting her up as a little girl, to enable her to see the moon through the stair window of their house in Galashiels. And then of how my grandmother on receiving news of his death stood and shrieked "My God, what shall we do? What shall we do?"

One thing my grandmother never did do was to forgive Winston Churchill whom she saw as the ultimate cause of my grandfather's death, by reason of his grandiose championing of the Gallipoli campaign! Certainly, as with so many other families whose breadwinner had been killed the Great War, life was not easy for the Watson family with six children to fend for. Their straightened circumstances were, at least in part, mitigated by the fact that David's two sons, my uncles were given places at Queen Victoria's School Dunblane and subsequently themselves became career soldiers. My grandmother brought the rest of the family to Bristol where she had a sister, where my mother married my father and where I was born.

My researches into my grandfather's story have been assisted greatly by contact with the KOSB Regimental Museum at Berwick-on-Tweed, where his medals have been on display since my grandmother's death many years ago. In particular, through the good offices of the Regimental Secretary I was able to obtain the photograph of my grandfather appearing with this article.

And as a climax to my attempts both to piece together his story and to honour his memory, my wife and myself had the great privilege of taking part in a battlefield tour of Gallipoli in 2000. There at the Cape Helles memorial we were able to plant a poppy cross at the foot of the tablet in the memorial containing his name and those of so many other of his Borderer comrades in arms. And then, perhaps even more poignantly, to stand and ponder round and about the present site of Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, where it seems the non-existent third Turkish trench was presumed to have been situated.

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ELYNE MITCHELL – A GALLIPOLI DAUGHTER

Elyne Mitchell may at first glance not be a name to mean much, but mention the Silver Brumby stories of our youth, and it then rings a bell. As to the Gallipoli connection, Elyne Mitchell, author of these and other books, 33 in all, who died aged 88 in March, was the daughter of General Sir Harry Chauvel commander of the Light Horse at Gallipoli where they fought as infantry. Subsequently, he commanded the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division, and then the Desert Mounted Corps, being promoted to Lieutenant-General, the first Australian to attain this rank, in August 1917.

As is well known, the daring thrust to capture of the wells at Beersheba (Beersheba – Arabic Bir es Sabe – meaning Seven Wells) on 31 October 1917 and the turning of the Gaza line was one of the great feats of arms in the conquest of Palestine and Syria. Chauvel chose the Light Horse Brigade for their capture. Cantering and then breaking into a gallop the 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments charged into the setting sun and the town of Beersheba and into history. The force and pace of the charge carried the Light Horsemen, carrying their bayonets in their hands as swords, through shrapnel, rifle and machine-gun fire with few casualties. They literally leaped their horses over two lines of Turkish trenches, jumped off them on the farther side, and engaged the enemy in hand to hand fighting. With the loss of 31 killed and 32 wounded, the Brigade took over 1,000 prisoners, nine guns and much other material, but more importantly, captured the wells before the Turks had time to destroy them.

Henry (known as Harry) Chauvel had married Sybil Campbell Keith Jopp in 1906, they had two sons and two daughters, one of whom, Elyne, married Thomas Mitchell who later became Victorian attorney-general. Her marriage took her to the foothills of the Victorian Alps the setting for many of the stories. While her husband was a prisoner-of-war in Japan she began to write and indeed wrote the first Silver Brumby story to teach her youngest daughter, Honor Auchinleck, who incidentally is a member of the Gallipoli Association to read, as she says “in the most magical and fantastic ways.”

Elyne Mitchell was the author of *Light Horse: The Story of Australia's Mounted Troops* published by Macmillan (Australia) in 1978. Described by Roger Perkins in *Regiments and Corps of the British Empire and Commonwealth 1758-1993* as being a well produced book with outstanding illustrations, many not seen elsewhere. She was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Tank Museum at Puckapunyal in Victoria.

Acknowledgements: We are most grateful to Malcolm Orchard for providing a copy of the Obituary published in *The Age*, Melbourne, and for much of the above report. Also to Honor Auchinleck for kindly providing additional information.

VISIT OF THE FRENCH GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION TO SENEGAL

JEAN-CLAUDE LIS

The French Gallipoli Association (Association Nationale pour le Souvenir des Dardanelles et Fronts d'Orient) organised in February 2002 a visit to Senegal, the West African Republic, to commemorate the participation of Senegalese soldiers to the French Expeditionary Corps in the Gallipoli operation in 1915. Led by Mrs Madeleine Stocanne, President of the Association, a group of 21 persons participated in several official ceremonies organised by the local authorities with the assistance of the French embassy and consulates, in Dakar and Saint Louis, the two main cities.

It should be remembered that many "tirailleurs sénégalais" (native African soldiers) participated in both world wars in the French Army. There is still a large group of veterans, and that, due to the fact that Senegal has been associated with France for several centuries, a part of these Senegalese soldiers enjoyed the French citizenship. Relations since the independence in 1960 remain both close and warm. It was however the first time that such an initiative had been taken by the Association des Dardanelles, and it has been greatly appreciated by the Senegalese authorities and by the local veteran associations.



Senegalese official personalities together with some of the French group at the Monuments aux Morts of Dakar. Mme Madeleine Stocanne on right.

GALLIPOLI & THORLEY

NORMAN SMITH

St. James the Great, Thorley, is a small church with a 13th century nave, 14th century chapel, and a 15th century tower, standing at the edge of a rapidly expanding Bishop's Stortford. This is in direct contrast to 1914, when it was a rural parish church well outside the town, serving a scattered farming community. Situated inside the church on the north nave wall is an interesting and somewhat unusual war memorial. It not only commemorates the names of the 20 men from Thorley who lost their lives in the First World War, but lists the other 79 men who also served but returned home safely.



The memorial was the idea of the then Rector, Canon J. E. I. Proctor, who was also responsible for keeping a war diary, in which he kept the service details of all the men from his village who are listed on the war memorial. The diaries remained largely forgotten until 2000 when the church historian, Bill Hardy, began to research their contents. With encouragement from the Rector's wife, Marcia Slaughter he described in the parish magazine [November 2000] some of the detailed notes that Canon J.E.I. Proctor recorded about the men of his parish who served in the First World War. A further article appeared in the November 2001 parish magazine. As the diary contains details about two men who served at Gallipoli I am most grateful to Bill Hardy for giving me permission to expand upon his original articles, and for giving me access to the parish copies of Canon Proctors war diary.

CHARLES CLARK M.C.

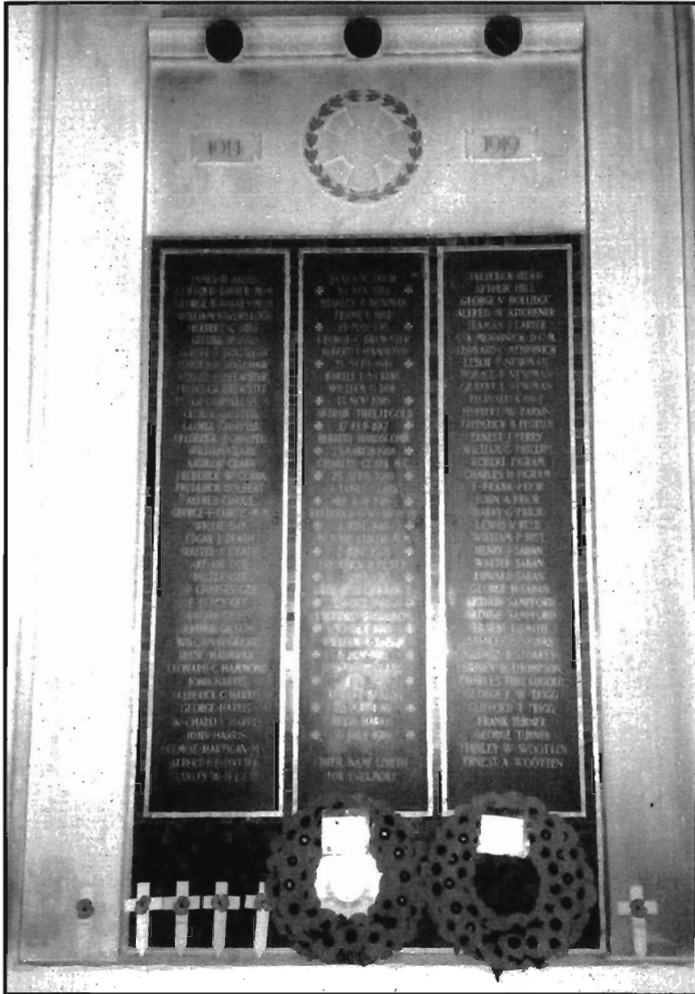
Charles Clark was born in Thorley in 1886, his parents James and Jane Clark of Moor Hall cottages. After leaving the village school he worked for a while for Mr. F. Newman, his father's employer of Moor Hall Farm. However in 1902 Charles Clark enlisted, aged sixteen and two years under age, in the Royal Horse Artillery, where he served in South Africa and India. Whilst in India he married Emily Philpot. At the outbreak of the First World War Sergeant Charles Clark had not been home for eight years, and was still in India with the Royal Horse Artillery. He returned to England in January 1915 and was immediately offered, and accepted, a commission. His unit, 15 Battery Royal Horse Artillery, became part of the 29th Division that was detailed to land at 'W' beach Cape Helles, Gallipoli on the 25 April 1915.

'W' beach, later renamed Lancashire Landing as a tribute to heroic efforts and bravery of the Lancashire Fusiliers, was a small sandy beach about 350 yards long and at its widest point, 40 yards wide. It was protected by electrically detonated mines and barbed wire below water level, with more barbed wire on the beaches and their exits, while beyond these obstacles the defending Turkish troops were well dug in and well armed. The fact that the Lancashire Fusiliers sustained a total of 533 casualties killed, wounded, or missing during the first days fighting, gives some indication of the conditions that faced Second Lieutenant Clark and his men as they came ashore.



Charles Clark was, according to Canon Proctors diary, "one of the first to land and almost the last to leave at the evacuation of the Peninsula." Once ashore Second Lieutenant Clark performed an act that was to lead to him receiving the Military Cross, "for fixing wires and getting a message back to the Battery and Headquarters some hours before the next quickest message got through." The "wires" were shell damaged telephone cables that were run out along the ground, and anyone attempting to carry out these repairs would have immediately come under heavy fire from the defending Turkish troops.

He left the Peninsula in January 1916, and following his return to England was subsequently sent to France where he was promoted to Lieutenant, and later Captain in the Royal Field Artillery and a few weeks before his death to the rank of Major. Because of the threat posed to the Allies by Ludendorff's Western Front offensives in March 1918, Major Clark's home leave with his family at Thorley was cut short when he received orders to return immediately to his unit 'B' Battery 295th Brigade



*War Memorial at St James the Great, Thorley, Hertfordshire.
Photograph Norman Smith.*

in France. Major Clark was killed, aged 33 years at Bienvilliers-au-Bois, 17 km. south-west of Arras, on 25 April 1918, exactly one month after leaving home, and exactly three years after landing unscathed at 'W' Beach Gallipoli. He was hit in the stomach by a fragment of a bursting shell whilst standing by his guns, and died almost immediately.

Apart from the official telegram from the War Office, Charles Clark's family also received a letter of condolence from his commanding officer who said that. Major

Clark "was a gallant soldier, kind and gentle with his men and beloved by his fellow officers". He had served sixteen years, the age at which he had enlisted in the army. Apart from his Military Cross he was also Mentioned in Despatches. Charles Clark is buried in Bienvilliers Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, grave reference XVII. B. 18.

GEORGE CORNELIUS BREWSTER

George Brewster, born in 1890, was the son of Charles and Eliza Brewster of Thorley Street, Thorley. Before joining the 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment in September 1914, he was employed as a chauffeur and gardener to Doctor Revill of Woodford, Essex.

The 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment landed at Helles in July 1915, and were transferred to Anzac Bay on the 4 August in order to take part in the offensive designed to break the stalemate at Gallipoli. The plan was for a new landing at Suvla Bay, demonstrations at Helles & Lone Pine Anzac, all coinciding with a break out from the Anzac positions to seize the hills and high ground so controlling the Dardanelles.

According to Canon Proctor, Private Brewster (see page 46) "went out to Gallipoli August 1st 1915". This would seem to indicate that his unit was part of the reinforcements that arrived after the offensive had begun. Private Brewster was wounded on 29 August, his Battalion suffered very heavy losses whilst occupying defensive positions around The Apex and Rhododendron Spur. After treatment he was evacuated to a military hospital in Cairo where he died of his wounds aged 25 on 25 September. 11737 Private George Brewster is buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt, Grave Reference D.I 14.

Just over a month later the local newspaper, the Herts & Essex Observer reported that "on Wednesday afternoon, 27th Oct. 1915, a memorial service was held in Thorley church for Private George Cornelius Brewster, of the Wiltshire Regiment, second son of Mr C Brewster of Thorley-Street, who was wounded at the Dardanelles and died in hospital at Cairo on September 25th. The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. J.E.I. Proctor)." In his sermon on the previous Sunday morning "the Rector referred to the manly Christian character of the deceased and to the esteem that in which he was held by all who knew him."

References :-

The War Diaries of Canon J.E.I. Proctor.
Herts & Essex Observer Archives.
Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
In Touch the magazine of St. James, Thorley.



George Cornelius Brewster - see previous page

INFORMATION PLEASE

Do you have a question about some aspect of the Gallipoli campaign? Something perhaps you need to know about a regiment, a ship perhaps, an individual, but have so far failed to find the answer. Surely there is someone amongst the nearly 800 members who would be pleased to help? So please do not hesitate to send in your questions, long or short, share your enquiry with the membership, and hopefully someone will provide the answer, or if not the answer another avenue or two to be explored.

Vehicles & Motor Cycles at Gallipoli: Lynn Isaac seeks information on the makes and models of the mechanised transport used at Gallipoli. He is at 20 The Glebe, Bishopston, Swansea, SA3 3JP. Lynn.isaac@tinyworld.co.uk

Transport to Suvla: Lynn Isaac (address above) enquires as to how and by which vessels the 4th Welch Regiment in which his grandfather Private David Luther Isaac served were transported to Suvla Bay .

41st Field Ambulance: My grandfather, Private S Walker served at Gallipoli followed by Mesopotamia where he maintained two diaries. Sadly he kept no record of his time in Gallipoli so I am anxious to obtain information on the 41st Field Ambulance and especially A Section. Roger Cucknow, roger.cucknow@cuckoos-nest.freemove.co.uk

Welsh Infantry: Jeff Cleverly, 1 Pendrel Close, Buntingsdale Park, Tern Hill, Shropshire, TF9 2ET, 01630 639690 or by e mail jeff.gailcleverly@ukonline.co.uk

is a serving member of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and is researching the experiences of the Welsh infantry at Gallipoli. He is especially interested in primary source material like diaries, letters and personal accounts of the campaign and will be delighted to hear from correspondents able to assist and advise.

South Staffordshire Regiment: John Silvester, 12 Green Road, Dudley, DY2 8LD is researching the life of a dear friend who served at Gallipoli, Lance-Corporal Thomas Garratt who died in 1976. He is anxious to hear of any photographs of the Regiment, part of the 11th (Northern) Division.

A Missing Photograph: John Hall served with the Northumberland Fusiliers at Gallipoli where he helped transport supplies to the front line using mules, indeed was referred to as a British version of John Simpson. A photograph of John Hall and his mule hung for many years in his house but has subsequently been lost. "I would love to obtain a copy to hand on to his grandsons" writes Patsy Patterson, 3 Pool Road, Hadnall, Shrewsbury, SY4 4BG. Can anyone help?

Our Graves in Gallipoli: "*Scene: the summit of Achi Baba, an exposed spot, looking out across the Dardanelles towards Asia and the East. In a crevice between the rocks lie two graves covered by a single heap of stones. No monument marks them, for they escaped notice during the official survey, and the heap of stones has blended into the desolate and austere outline of the hill. The peninsula is turning towards the sun, and as the rays strike Achi Baba the graves begin to speak.*"

The opening words of a short piece in *Abinger Harvest* by E M Forster written in 1922, my copy the Penguin Edition 1967 of the original work published in 1936.

Is there an expert on E M Forster and his works who might throw some light on his *Our Graves at Gallipoli*. Did he have connections with the conflict? Replies will be welcomed by the Editor.

A BARDFIELD TERRIER WRITES OF THE DARDANELLES

From Devonport we waved goodbye
 As terriers in arms
 To a distant shore
 Not thinking how or when
 We may return once more
 'Twas over the ridge from Suvla Bay
 With outstretched arms I saw them lay
 From withering fire that told the tale
 The loss of life of no avail
 From my dugout I could see
 A gunboat coming close inshore
 It wasn't long before I knew
 I saw the flash and heard the distant roar
 I counted sixty to my watch
 Our Navy setting to it
 A fine display of broadside fire
 And all within the minute
 It was on the 21st of August 1915
 I recall the scene of the 29th Division
 Moving up through fire and shrubs of green
 That caught alight while on their way
 Moving steadily forward on that dreadful day
 I do not wonder that Hamilton was known to say
 The discipline, the blood of the Yeomen of England.

Sergeant Clifford Mumford C Company 5th Battalion Essex Regiment 29th.
 Division. Contributed by Robert Pike.

GALLIPOLI ON WEATHER MAP

Malcolm Orchard has sent a copy of the weather map of Australia published daily in *The Australian*. Amidst a lengthy list of weather reports from capitals and major cities around the world is Gallipoli where on 20 May the low and high temperatures were 13 and 23 and the weather was clear. By contrast Mawson base in the Antarctic was experiencing fine weather and temperatures of -13 and -11. Incidentally one member of Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-1914 was Edward Bage, who as a Captain with the 3rd Field Company Australian Engineers was killed at Gallipoli on 7 May 1915 and is buried in Beach Cemetery.

ANZAC DAY GALLIPOLI 1923

The short report below was published in *The Daily Mail* Friday 27 April 1923 and contributed to *The Gallipolian* by C Outhwaite.

GALLIPOLI ANZAC DAY – CAPE HELLES, WEDNESDAY

Anzac Day celebrations on the Gallipoli Peninsula were simple, solemn and impressive. Of the British forces now in Turkey only two battalions, the K.O.S.B. and the Royal Fusiliers, took part in the landing. Of these only 30 of the former and 20 of the latter battalion took part in the fighting.

The transport *Victoria* berthed within pistol shot of the spot where the *River Clyde* went ashore. There were three commemorative services, one at Suvla Bay, one at "Y" Beach and the main service on the small plateau above Cape Helles.

RUSSIAN CHARTS OF THE STRAITS

While searching for information in the British Library Maps Room on maritime charts of the Pembrokeshire islands, the Editor as an aside "discovered" an interesting article *Eighteenth-Century Russian Charts of the Straits (Bosporous and Dardanelles)* in the journal *Imago Mundi* – 52: 96–111 published in 2000. The importance of the Straits to Russia is well known, some of the early efforts at charting the Straits was undertaken by warships disguised as merchant vessels.

“THEY HAD NO CHOICE”

Inspired by Jilly Cooper's book, *Animals in War* commissioned by the Imperial War Museum a group of individuals came together in 1998 to set about erecting a monument to be dedicated to the millions of animals that served alongside British and Commonwealth Forces in the conflicts of the 20th century. Inscriptions on the memorial will include the numbers of animals lost in each theatre of war.

From over 40 artists who submitted ideas and after a lengthy selection process the sculptor David Backhouse has been chosen. The memorial will be situated at Brook Gate on Park Lane and constructed of Portland stone and cast bronze. Measuring 58 feet wide and 55 feet deep the memorial will have a strong visual impact. On the lower level, two heavily laden bronze mules struggle through an arena enclosed by a dominant wall symbolising the war experience on which the many different animals enlisted into 20th century conflicts are depicted in bas-relief. Beyond the wall in the upper garden, a bronze horse and dog face north into the gardens bearing witness to the loss of their comrades and representing hope for the future.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal KG, KT is Patron of the Fund further information about which and donations to The Animals in War Memorial Fund, 72 Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1DE.



SOLDIERS DIED IN THE GREAT WAR

In 1921, in what was clearly a mammoth undertaking, 81 volumes embracing every regiment and corps in the British Army were published listing approximately 635,000 soldiers and 37,000 officers who had died during the war. Not surprisingly these registers have generally only been available in main and specialised libraries.

Now all has changed, using digital technology they have been published on one fully-relational database CD-Rom. This provides not only the complete record from the published volumes but also a variety of search options. The details can be searched by regiment, battalion, surname, Christian name, initials, rank, number, place of birth, enlistment and residence, date and nature of death, and theatre of war.

For Gallipoli casualties one needs to search under both Gallipoli and Dardanelles. For instance a search for soldiers with the surname Simpson reveals 24 listed at Gallipoli with a further two at the Dardanelles. Likewise a list of those killed in January 1916 gives 177 and seven respectively. Look up a unit at Gallipoli and within a second the information is on the screen, 1,701 from the Lancashire Fusiliers, 15 from the Royal Gloucestershire Yeomanry and two from the Corps of Military Police are typical examples. The search possibilities are endless.

The CD-Rom is expensive, though not when one considers the wealth of information contained. At the very least every reference library should have a copy, so Gallipolians, if you are not going to purchase yourselves make sure a request is made in your library.

Soldiers Died in the Great War is available at £220.00 plus VAT £38.50 on UK & EC orders, 12 months interest free credit terms are available. Further information from and orders to The Naval & Military Press, PO Box 61, Dallington, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 9ZS. 01435 830111. E-mail order.dept@naval-military-press.co.uk or consult the web site www.great-war-casualties.com. The main web site being www.naval-military-press.co.uk

THE CAMERA ON THE FIRING LINE

Colonel Carl Mahakian writing from the United States has kindly drawn attention to an article *En Uzun Yil 1915* in the special issue of the Turkish magazine *Atlas* in June 2001. The title *Ates Hallindaki Kamera – The Camera on the Firing Line* draws attention to a wonderful collection of photographs taken by a German officer in 1915 and now brought to light for the first time. These have been donated to the Foundation of Turkish History by Mrs Behiye Kocagoz. The editorial address of *Atlas* is 34850 Esenyurt, Istanbul, 0212 6221565, e-mail – atlas@dbr.com.tr while the web-site is www.atlasturkey.com

BOOK REVIEWS

THE LAST CRUSADE

ANTHONY BRUCE

John Murray 2002. 299 pages, 31 illustrations, 8 maps. ISBN 0 7195 5432 2. £22.50.

Not Gallipoli, but the Palestinian Campaign of the First World War to which many of those who left the Peninsula at the end of 1915 early 1916 were quickly sent. Claimed as the first full account of the Campaign since the Official History was published in the 1920's this is a comprehensive history. When will someone turn similar detailed attention to Mesopotamia and Salonika, other theatres to which Gallipoli veterans were despatched?

HIS MAJESTY'S MONITOR M33, 1915-2001

IAN BUXTON

Hampshire County Council 2001. 24 pages, 16 illustrations. ISBN 1-85975-513-5. £2.00.

As *Gallipolian* readers are aware, M33, restored to her 1915 state, lies in dry dock at Portsmouth alongside HMS *Victory* as part of the nation's core collection of historic warships. Built in 1915 as part of Jackie Fisher's plan to create a shallow-draught fleet of close bombardment ships for operation in the North Sea and Baltic, she was on her way to the eastern Mediterranean by the middle of the year. Although deperately slow and a poor seaboat she served admirably off Gallipoli, especially as the battleships had been put to flight by the U-boat threat. The author uses the diaries of crew members to portray life on board; although undeniably an ugly duckling the resilience and humour of her officers and ratings clearly made her a happy ship. After the evacuation of January 1916 she remained on station, helping to enforce the continuing blockade of the Dardanelles and taking part in frequent bombardments of the Turkish coast. She then served at Salonika where she was bombed by Zeppelins and aircraft, sustaining numerous near misses.

After the war M33 returned to the UK for refit and then sailed to North Russia where she took part in the ultimately ill-fated campaign against the Bolsheviks. Her voyage to Murmansk was evidently an epic. Working up the River Dvina she was continually in action. Hit several times by shore-based artillery she fortunately sustained no casualties. On return to England she was converted as a coastal minelayer in 1924, renamed HMS *Minerva*, laid up again, and back in service in 1936 as tender to the cruiser *Effingham*. In 1939 she was a floating office at Portsmouth, apparently crewed by Wrens, then from 1943 as a refuelling hulk, followed by a spell as part of the Clyde boom defences. After the war she served until 1984 as a floating workshop at Portsmouth before finally being laid up prior to

disposal. She certainly gave the taxpayer good value for money and it is heartening to read that she was initially saved from the scrapyard by the Hartlepool Ship Preservation Trust, then by Hampshire County Council who had her moved to her present home at the very heart of our naval heritage.

The author is reader in Marine History at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and the acknowledged expert on the curious history of that odd class of warship, the monitor. He has done M33 proud. The narrative is fascinating, the maps excellent and the photographs superb. See pages 34–35 of this *Gallipolian*.

Michael Hickey

MORSHEAD

DAVID COOMBES

Oxford University Press 2001. 308 pages, 33 illustrations, 13 maps. ISBN 0 19 551398 3.
AUS\$ 50.00.

Published in the Australian Army History Series this, the authors first book is based on his PhD thesis awarded at the University of Sydney in 1998. His subject, the martinet and Australia's greatest ever field commander, Leslie Morshead who took part in the first days landings at Gallipoli and was the only officer from his battalion not to become a casualty in the fighting for Lone Pine. Naturally Gallipoli only takes a fraction of the book, 23 pages in all. Then follows the Western Front and of course the Second World War where his finest achievements were the battles at Tobruk and El Alamein.

A QUIET LIFE

PAT FRANCIS

Manuscript Press 2001. 303 pages, 107 photographs, 6 maps. ISBN 1 903702 02 X. £15.00*

Pat Francis is to be congratulated in adding, a fine book, to the growing written history of the Royal Naval Division. It highlights the service of her father John Edward Watson, described as an ordinary man. Of course, for her he was not ordinary but her Dad, who never spoke about his war experiences or the reason he was missing an eye. The story that Pat Francis has unearthed, has acted as a therapy, bringing an understanding, as to why he was the man she remembered as an eleven year old girl.

Not only, do we have an excellent book of a man's war experience in the Royal Naval Division but descriptions of the social history of the time. One learns of life in Bethnal Green and Forest Gate, from 1895 to 1914 and from 1918 onwards in East London, of his marriage, home life and early death.

The book gives a very useful account of the Royal Naval Division's operations at Anzac, an area of study and appreciation often overlooked. On to Cape Helles, Salonica, Blighty and the Western Front, including the mud of Passchendaele. Additionally there are 95 pages of Appendices covering such items as observations and reports by Major-General Paris, Brigadier-General Charles Trotman and Lieutenant-Colonel F Luard. Therefore it is almost two books in one with many new and interesting photographs.

I recommend it all readers of *The Gallipolian*.

Len Sellers

By post at £17.00 from Manuscript Press, 44 Lindley Avenue, Southsea, P04 9NU.
E mail ann@manuscriptpress.com

MYTHS & LEGENDS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

JAMES HAYWARD

Sutton Publishing 2002. 202 pages, 30 illustrations. ISBN 0 7509 2865 4. £18.99.

Many myths from the First World War persist, and Gallipoli is no exception with the mystery of the 5th Norfolks at Suvla. This, perhaps fortunately is the only Gallipoli myth and here takes just four pages of a very readable book. Incidentally the author has compiled two volumes of 1914-1918 recordings now released on CD as *Oh! It's a Lovely War*.

THE MEDITERRANEAN FRONT 1914-1923

MICHAEL HICKEY

Osprey Publishing 2002. 95 pages, numerous illustrations, maps. ISBN 1 84176 373 X. £9.99*

One of four volumes on the First World War and part of a series encompassing wars from the earliest times including some that brushed Gallipoli down the ages. The author, Michael Hickey, a member of the Gallipoli Association Committee will be well known for his award winning volume *Gallipoli* published by John Murray in 1996 and subsequently in paperback. Not forgetting his vivid descriptions of events on the battlefield itself when leading tours, most notably those arranged by the Association.

That his book encompasses so much in such limited space does not detract from its value as one is swept along, aided by quite excellent maps, through several theatres of war. The key references provided will soon take the reader further should one be minded to seek more information.

Further information on this and other books in the series is available from Osprey Direct, PO Box 140, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 2FA, or e mail info@ospreydirect.co.uk or web site www.ospreypublishing.com

POMPEY ELLIOTT

ROSS MCMULLIN

Scribe Publications 2002. 718 pages, 36 illustrations, 7 maps. ISBN 0 908011 70 9.
AUS\$45.00.

As the introduction rightly says Pompey, his real name was Harold Elliott, is a superb subject for a biographer. A vibrant character, who lived an extraordinary life, only to be so haunted by memories of having ordered soldiers he loved like sons to their deaths that he committed suicide in March 1931. The author began his research many years ago, when a knee injury having prevented him sitting at a desk, enabled him to spend a month on a couch ringing up veterans who had served under Pompey and others who had known him. Described as "the last great untold Australian story of the First World War" one hundred pages of this engrossing biography are devoted to Gallipoli where Elliott landed early on 25 April. Wounded in the foot and evacuated that evening he was not able to return until 4 June only to leave again at the end of August suffering from pleurisy. Nevertheless he managed a few days in December on the Peninsula prior to the evacuation. An Australian as famous, inspirational, and historically significant as Pompey Elliott deserves to be better remembered. Ross McMullins book does just that.

THE WARRIOR POETS

ROBERT MORRISON

Army History Unit 2001. 435 pages, 108 colour illustrations. ISBN 1 876439 14 9.
AUS\$49.00*

Dedicated to the Australian Soldiers who have risked their lives for their country in war and peace during the past 100 years is this anthology of, Poetry of the Australian Army 1901-2001. Thirty pages and 31 poems comprise the Gallipoli section, where titles include Anzac Limericks, Before Action, Arcadia, The Aegean Wind, The Nurses, Shrapnel Green and A Goodbye Letter to the Turks. A quite massive volume of poetry while the accompanying colour paintings add a wonderful touch in addition to which a CD of some of the poems together with music by the Australian Army Band is most welcome.

*Add AUS\$30.00 postage by Air from Warbookshop – Australia Military History Publishing, 13 Veronica Place, Loftus 2232, NSW, Australia. E mail Warbookshop@bigpond.com web site www.warbooks.com.au

NORTH BEACH GALLIPOLI 1915

RICHARD REID

Office of Australian War Graves 2001. 42 pages, 25 illustrations. AUS\$15.00 includes postage*

What a delightful book, the colour illustrations by Major Leslie Fraser Standish Hore MC (1870-1935) are simply wonderful. He served with the 8th Light Horse at Gallipoli from 26 May until wounded at The Nek on 7 August then rejoined his unit on 28 September and remained on the Peninsula until 18 December. His sketches, many feature the Indian Mule Corps Transport – men and animals – convey the sights and scenes of life on the Peninsula. For years they had lain unseen in the Mitchell Library until this selection published by the Office of Australian War Graves to promote Australia's Centenary of Federation. A gallery of Major Hore's drawings can be seen at www.anzacsite.gov.au See also page 65.

* By post from Office of Australian War Graves, PO Box 21, Woden, ACT 2606, Australia.

SOLDIER-TEACHER WAR MEMORIALS

TOM SPENCER

New South Wales Department of Education 2001. 89 pages, numerous illustrations.
ISBN 0 7313 7073 2*

Some 755 teachers and 109 officers of the New South Wales Department of Education enlisted for service overseas in the First World War, of these 171 died. At the end of the war steps were made to ensure these were properly remembered on memorials, similarly at the end of the Second World War. The book is largely concerned with the establishment of such memorials rather than those whose names are remembered. These are listed in the Appendices, but sadly with no record of the place of death, or indeed any biographical information.

* Available free of charge from Gary Crawford, Office of the Deputy Director-General (Schools), NSW Department of Education and Training, Level 2, 35 Bridge Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000, Australia. E-mail: gary.crawford@det.nsw.edu.au

GONE TO GALLIPOLI

CHRISTOPHER TOBIN

Bosco Press (NZ) 2001. 156 pages, numerous illustrations. ISBN 0 473 07515 6. £25.00 including postage*

Dedicated to the memory of the author's great uncle, Patrick Fitzgerald, South Canterbury Company, Canterbury Infantry Battalion killed in action on 7 August 1915 aged 20. The search for information about young Fitzgerald expanded into this

book embracing all the men from Timaru, South Island, New Zealand who fought at Gallipoli, most in the infantry battalion or in the South Canterbury Mounted Rifles. Well researched, a Roll of Honour and with good references provided but why no index? How frustrating, but do not let this prevent you purchasing this otherwise excellent volume by a member of the Gallipoli Association

* Available November/December from the author at 25A Guinness Street, Timaru, New Zealand.

SO FAR FROM HOME

PATRICK WILSON (EDITOR)

Kangaroo Press 2002. 266 pages, 12 illustrations, map. ISBN 0 7318 1068 6. AUS \$26.95.

In 1996, while cleaning up his grandmother's home after her death in South Africa, Fraser Gregg came across a small military kitbag that had belonged to his grandfather, who had died some eleven years earlier. In it were various papers, certificates, medals, and fourteen small notebooks – notebooks that turned out to be his diaries from the First World War. "Little did I know they would turn out to be one of the most significant records to survive the Great War of 1914-18", Fraser Gregg remarks in his forward to *So Far From Home*, the book of those diaries. A large claim, but one made with much justification for they are certainly most remarkable and comprehensive.

Their author, Sergeant Eric Evans of the 13 Battalion AIF from New South Wales, commenced his diaries on Wednesday, 7 February 1917 as his troopship, *Wilshire*, left Sydney Harbour. Aged 19, he was on his way back to his Battalion after a landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, only to be badly wounded, twice, on the next day. After evacuation first to Alexandria then to the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Middlesex, where, in November 1915, it was decided that he was "unfit for service", and sent back to Australia. Here, in Sydney, while recovering in hospital for over a year, he met a young hospital visitor, Dorothy, with whom he fell in love. The subsequent diaries he kept for over two years are really one long letter to her for as he filled one notebook, it was carefully wrapped in cloth, and posted to her. Fortunately she retained the diaries, and indeed returned them in the early 1920's because they never married.

Throughout, he writes with surprising candour and thoughtfulness, as this vivid example from 5 March 1917 shows. In those two years, this the only time he mentions Gallipoli.

"A most disturbing thing happened to me last night as we were approaching the Cape. It was a calm evening. A concert was going on, but it was too crowded and I decided to make my way to the upper deck. The one thing about being on a boat

with nearly 2000 other troops is that one doesn't get any time to be on your own. It was a beautiful night. Only the stars and the distant lights of the Cape illuminated the pitch-darkness. Dulcet tones and sporadic applause could be faintly heard in the distance, but my eyes kept transfixed on the shimmering glow of the port in front of me.

And then it happened. Without consciously realizing my action, I began to grip the rail tighter and tighter. My thoughts turned to Gallipoli and I found myself sweating as I remembered those terrible minutes we spent being rowed toward the mainland. It all came back to me – the flames, the rattle of gunfire, the random screams of shells and the splashes of water as they crashed around us. I could almost taste the spray of the salt water. All those details that I'd hoped I had lost forever came back. Even the faces of those men with me -- some whimpering, others feigning smiles, some just with their eyes closed. All gripping their rifles tighter and tighter.

Thankfully my thoughts were disturbed by Major Harris. "What the hell are you doing, Evans? Didn't you hear me calling you? This is a restricted zone for officers only. What the hell's wrong with you? You look in a right state. Go back to your men in the middle deck. The concert's over." I apologised, but any remorse could not disguise an obvious relief at being interrupted. "News is that we are stopping off at Cape Town tomorrow" Major Harris said. "Oh, that's good news, sir. The boys will be happy about that", I uttered. "You look tired, Sergeant". "I'm all right, sir", I replied. The truth is that the whole experience has given me quite a jolt. I had tried to blank out any thoughts of Gallipoli for thirteen months. Just never even talked about it. I'd even found myself joining in the bonhomie of the lads as we set off, but this brief lapse has had quite an impact. I can't help thinking about it. It was as if the Lord was just helping to prepare me for feelings that I had blocked off for over a year. I think it has done me good, really."

Indeed, when reading *So Far From Home* it is easy to forget how very young Sergeant Evans was. His very vivid and honest descriptions of life in an Australian infantry battalion reveal maturity beyond his years. He was wounded twice more, and very badly gassed. Although recommended for a commission injuries prevented him taking this up and he finished as a WO1:

Saturday 4 January 1919 On the face of the fact I have been asked to take the job as ship's sergeant major as a WO class I, carrying extra duty pay over the heads of a dinkum RSM and a CSM, is a sign, I think, that I am satisfactory.

Eric, mate, you certainly were!

Malcolm Orchard

RECENT SALES

Did any member spot Lot 924 in the Dix, Noonan & Webb sale of 27 June? Herewith the description:

“Photograph Album containing approximately 80 snapshot photographs of Egypt and Gallipoli, including the *S.S. River Clyde*, good condition. The pictures thought to have been taken by an officer serving aboard a transport in the Dardanelles.”

The pre-sale estimate was £100- £150 but on the day the album sold for £380. Was a member the purchaser we ask?

A 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals to Captain (Adjutant) Royal Marines Light Infantry who died of wounds on 17 November 1916, received at the Battle of the Ancre the previous day fetched £360 the estimate £350-450. Captain Muntz had served at Gallipoli.

The sale on 28 March, included a Dardanelles submariners Distinguished Service Medal, that awarded to Acting Chief Engineer Artificer Robert Mills of E-12. Under the command of Lieutenant-Commander K.M. Bruce E-12 entered the Sea of Marmara in mid-June. She returned for a second cruise in September, this time complete with a 4-inch gun, the largest then fitted in a submarine. This was used to bombard the powder magazine at Mudania and several of the gun-batteries. To E-12 is credited the first experiment in underwater signalling by tapping the pressure hull with a hammer. Estimated at £800-£1,000 the DCM sold for £3,800.

How many of those who served in the Tibet campaign 1903-1904 went on to Gallipoli? Major R W Fuller commanded the 7th Mountain Battery during the action at Niani, the assault on Gyanste and the march to Lhasa. His subsequent service included Gallipoli where he was Mentioned in Despatches. His Tibet medal was sold for £1,150 previously estimated £600-£800.

A British War Medal to Private Walter Bone of the Lancashire Fusiliers who landed on 25 April sold for £45 estimated £20-£30. The Military Medal awarded to Private T Urquhart RMLI for gallantry at Welch Ridge on 30/31 December 1917 sold for £480 estimate £250-£300. Private Urquhart had served at Gallipoli from 29 April to 9 January 1916. A Western Front Military Medal group of four to Petty Officer J Pyrah of the Hood Battalion sold for £1,100, estimate £300-£350. He had been severely wounded in action on 2 May 1915 and was evacuated first to Malta then to England.

Described as an “exceptional Great War DSO and East Africa campaign group of eight” were the medals of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Barlow whose DSO was

awarded while he was attached to the Essex Regiment “for distinguished service in the field during operations at the Dardanelles.” He had previously served during the Boer War, in East Africa (1902) and later was attached to the Egyptian Army. While commanding the 1/5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on 11 September 1917 he was killed at Hill 158, near Beugneux on 1 August 1918. Estimated at £2,500-£3,000 his medals sold for £5,800.

Another fine group was the Gallipoli DSM group of ten including a Second World War OBE to Lieutenant-Commander John Corby who had joined the Royal Navy as a boy on the training ship *Wellesley*. At Gallipoli he was a Petty Officer on HMS *Bacchante* where “He showed an excellent example and was always at the forefront when it was necessary to work under fire.” A purchaser paid £1,700 estimate £800-£1,000.

A Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Leading Seaman George R Cracknell who “performed meritorious service and displayed coolness under fire during the landing at W beach.” Later he served on the Q-ship Q-12 as a gunlayer and was awarded a Bar to his DSM. Q-12 was later torpedoed though the crew was rescued. Estimated at £2,800-£3,200 the price realised was £4,000.

THE GALLIPOLI ROSE

The Australian War Memorial and Canberra's Yarralumla Nursery have released the Memorial's first commemorative plant – the Gallipoli Rose *Cistus salvifolius* which has a strong link with Australia's military heritage. The rose grows wild on the Peninsula and it is believed that soldiers were so taken with the plant's beauty that they brought back seeds and scattered them around fields and gardens as a symbol of peace and remembrance. This information from *Vet Affairs* June 2002 kindly provided by Malcolm Orchard.

GALLIPOLI AT THE ARMY MUSEUM

The National Army Museum is holding a Gallipoli Study Day – cost £18.00 – on Saturday 9 November. Further information on this and all other events at the Museum at 020 7730 0717 or visit www.national-army-museum.ac.uk

THEY WERE THERE!

They Were There! There!! There!!! is the title of a Gallipoli song the words by Private Harley Cohen of "the Fighting" 4th Battalion, music by Bert Rache. Dedicated to "Our Anzac Boys" the cover reproduced on page 63 refers to it being sung "by Peter Dawson, world famed baritone, with enormous success throughout Australia." Herewith the words:

- 1 There's a land away across the rolling sea,
We all know 'cos it's called Gallipoli.
April twenty-fifth the day
That they landed from the bay.
We will keep that date fresh in our memory,
Our Australian troops were landed on the beach,
And within an hour those Turks were out of reach.
They charged 'oer dales and hills,
And dosed those Turks with pills,
Whilst to Allah everyone of them did plead.

Chorus: They were there! there!!, there!!!
Our Australian boys were there.
They never hesitated,
Nor for an order waited.
Never once looked to the rear.
They were there! there!! there!!!
Loyally they did their share;
And when again they're wanted.
They'll be there! there!! there!!!

- 2 It was at the early hour of half-past four
That our boys were well established on the shore.
Over the hills the Turks had fled,
But they left a heap of dead.
Our brave troops were simply covered in their gore
Many gallant heroes died upon that day,
But their bravery will in our memory stay,
They did their duty well,
They charged into a hell,
And for the other troops they paved the way.

Chorus

- 3 Now the Tommies who were sent up to relieve,
 Marvelled at the gains that our boys did achieve,
 Then our troops went to the sea,
 Mustered up each Company,
 But the few that answered roll-call made them grieve.
 They had only been an hour upon the sand
 When the news came flashing through "We want a
 hand"
 "Australia we need you!"
 "The Turks are piercing through"
 So once again those trenches were all re-manned.

Chorus

- 4 Now, the news we did receive was none too bright
 When we heard our Anzac boys had ceased to fight
 Nine months' solid work they'd done
 In the broiling heat and sun;
 We had thought the end of all was well in sight
 It grieves us much to know it was all in vain.
 After thousands of our best have now been slain;
 But Australia's name they've made,
 That will never, never fade,
 And we'll sing with all our might this true refrain:

Chorus

They were there! there!!, there!!!
 Our Australian boys were there,
 They never hesitated,
 Nor for an order waited,
 Never once looked to the rear.
 They were there! there!! there!!!
 Loyally they did their share;
 And for **Our Anzac Heroes**
 Let us cheer! cheer!! cheer!!!

We are indebted to Colonel Carl Mahakian for providing a copy of *They Were There!*

song by PETER DAWSON, world famed baritone, with enormous success throughout AUSTRALIA.

DEDICATED TO
OUR ANZAC BOYS

*Who, by their GLORIOUS DEEDS of
BRAVERY and Untiring Efforts towards
Success have created a world famed
and Undying Name for AUSTRALASIA.*

THEY WERE THERE! THERE!! THERE!!!



by
Pte. Harley Cohen
OF THE
Fighting 4th Batt.

MUSIC
by
Bert Rache

THE FAMOUS GALLIPOLI SONG

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GIVE US MORE ON THE ANIMALS

Historians who have books published on Gallipoli may have under estimated the interest in what happened to the animals. My appeal for information in *The Gallipolian* No 98 page 62 has brought replies from Tom Brooks in Canada, Michael Robson in Israel, Audrey Bennett in Cheshire, Pat Francis in Twickenham and Commander Ian Hamilton in Scotland.

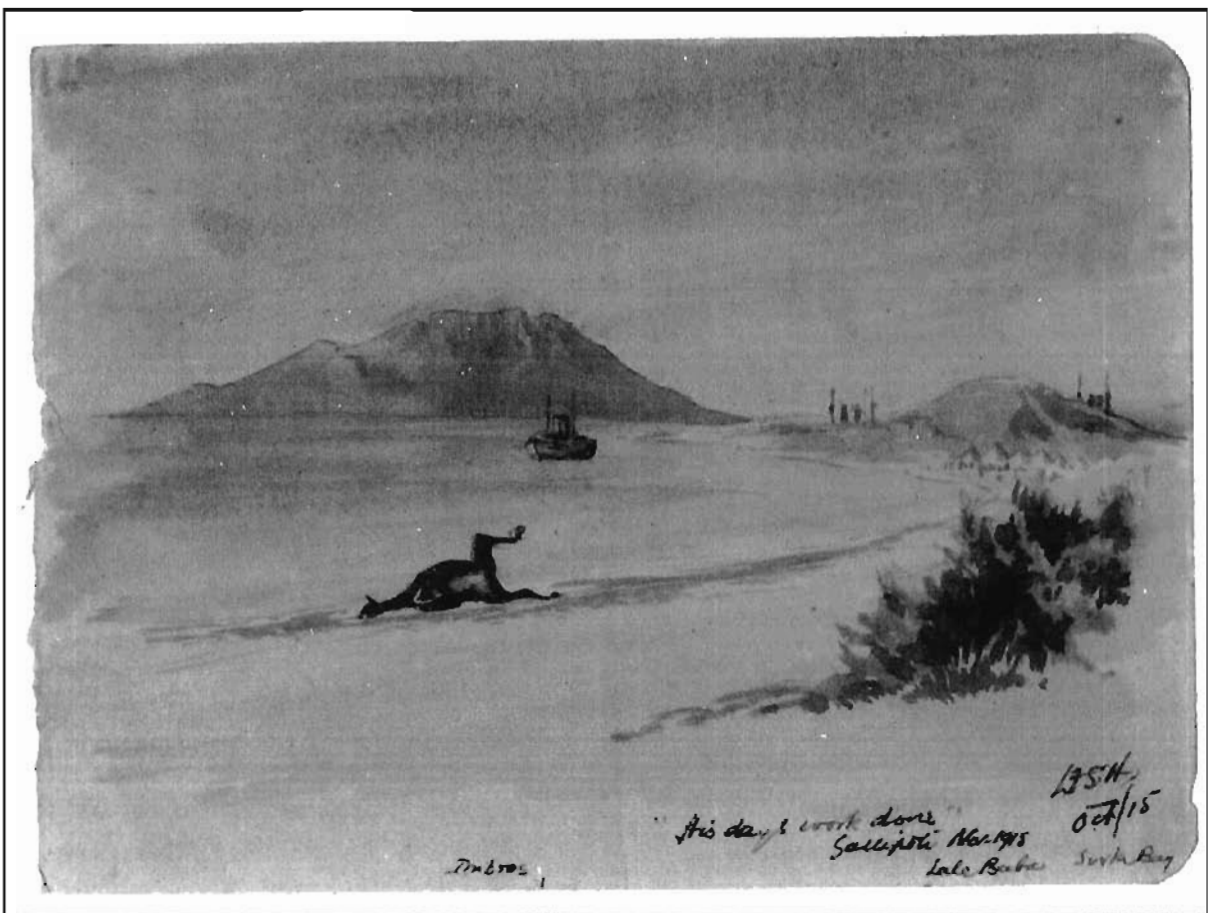
It's difficult to know whether historians are oblivious of the interest in animals or embarrassed about the cruel fate of many of them. I urge historians to give us more on the animals. Their presence at Gallipoli has all the ingredients of tragedy and triumph.

I suspect in publishing there's a belief that stories about animals only sell to children. That may be so, but perhaps animals and men at war together and the heart-breaking or callous actions when humans had to abandon and betray the animals make epic reading.

Thank you again to the members who responded to my interest so generously, promptly and skilfully. Any further contributions on this subject will be appreciated. Ken Ellis, 5 Steele's Mews, off Steele's Road, London, NW3 4SJ.

RND

Issue 21 June 2002 of *RND* the journal edited by our member Len Sellers is a delight for anyone following the fortunes of the Division. Gallipoli is again well represented with one of A P Herbert's poem's *The Bathe* – which comences with the words "Come friend and swim. We may be better then" originally published in *Half Hours at Helles* in 1916. Then follows Eric Wettern's diary of his service with the Royal Naval Divisional Engineers at Gallipoli illustrated with fine photographs including one of the RND dummies used at the January evacuation. Information on subscribing to *RND* from Len Sellers, Honeysuckle House, 17A Bellhouse Road, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 5NL. 01702 521550. E mail leonard405@aol.com



His days work done, November 1915

One of the illustrations by Major Leslie Fraser Standish Hore, 8th Light Horse from
North Beach Gallipoli 1915, see review on page 56

WARREN
ALEC!
WE'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR YOU...

