

The Gallipollian

*The Journal of the
Gallipoli Association*

No. 108 - AUTUMN 2005



The River Clyde at V Beach, 25 April, 1915
by Charles Dixon

THE GALLIPOLIAN

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

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"ALL THE KING'S MEN"

Service of Remembrance Sunday 11 September

See Page 4 for full details

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Gallipoli Association will be held on Wednesday 12 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

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the AGM held on 13 October 2004 and printed opposite
- 3 Chairman's Report
- 4 Treasurer's Report & Adoption of 2004 Accounts
- 5 Election of Officers
- 6 Election of Committee
- 7 The Committee propose that subscriptions (last increased in 1996) be increased by £5.00 in each category, the new rates to come into effect from 1 January 2006 to be:
Member £15.00; Couple £20.00;
Overseas Member £20.00; Overseas Couple £25.00
- 8 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 at the Naval Club on Wednesday 12 October at 1230 for 1300, will follow the Annual General Meeting, see enclosed booking form for details.

Following Lunch the speaker will be Lieutenant General Sir Robert Ross KCB OBE Commandant General Royal Marines 1993-1996 who had entered the Royal Marines in 1957 after education at Wellington College and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He has been Chairman, SSAFA Forces Help since 2000. He was Chairman of the Committee to Reinstall the Royal Naval Division Memorial on Horse Guards Parade where it was rededicated in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO on 13 November 2003.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NAVAL CLUB, HILL STREET, LONDON, 13 OCTOBER 2004

The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer/Membership Secretary, Public Relations Officer, Committee Members Colonel S M W Hickey, Lieutenant Colonel J R H Stopford and A Mullen together with eighteen members were present. Apologies for absence were received from James Brazier, Mr and Mrs J Burridge, D.A. Pollard, Norman Welch, and David Saunders (Editor).

- 1 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 October 2003 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 2 The Chairman presented his report which was circulated to those present and subsequently published in *The Gallipolian* 106 Winter 2004.
- 3 The Treasurers report and annual accounts were adopted by the meeting.
Members were advised that a subscription increase from January 2006 of £5 for each category (First increase for some 10 years) would be proposed. Members present were happy with the proposed increase a question being asked as to whether with the extra revenue would colour photographs be a possibility in future journals? A Direct Debit payment would be operating from January 2005 and a Credit Card facility was now in place.
- 4 Election of officers
Major Hugh Jenner prior to election thanked the Chairman for his humour, leadership and conduct of the Association's affairs over the last year.

The following were elected for the year:

Chairman Capt C.T.F. Fagan DL

Secretary J.C. Watson Smith

Treasurer/Membership Secretary W.J. Marsh

Public Relations Officer Major H.D. Jenner

Editor D.R. Saunders MBE

The following have agreed to continue to serve on the Committee:

Colonel S.M.W. Hickey, A.Mullen, Lieutenant Colonel J.R.H. Stopford.

The meeting concluded with a member suggesting that the Association could be promoted in the Royal British Legion Magazine or *Navy News*. The Association brochure should be displayed wherever possible including the National Archive.

RECEPTION AT ST. JAMES'S PALACE TUESDAY 7TH JUNE 2005

We were very honoured that His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, kindly agreed to host a Reception at St. James's Palace to mark the 90th Anniversary year of the Gallipoli Campaign. As our Patron, His Royal Highness has always given us great encouragement in fulfilling our aims and objectives. We are particularly grateful to him for this and for allowing us to hold this important function where he met many of the 190 members and guests who attended.

It is intended to produce an article with photographs in the Winter issue of *The Gallipolian*.

We would like to record our thanks to the Australian High Commissioner for sponsoring the delicious Australian sparkling wine, and to another generous sponsor in providing funds towards the cost of the function. In addition, we are greatly indebted to Mr. Brian Andrews, ex Irish Guards Warrant Officer and now Superintendent of The State Apartments, for getting us on parade and for his kind help with all the complex arrangements.

Anybody who would like to see the photographs taken by the official photographer can do so by going into his website at: <http://gbodnar.thirdlight.com> and then enter the password which is 070605. Orders can then be made downline if you wish.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE "ALL THE KING'S MEN"

At the request of the local community a special service of remembrance will be held on Sunday 11 September at 1430 at West Newton Church on the Sandringham Estate near King's Lynn, Norfolk followed by tea and Anzac biscuits in the Village Hall next to the Church. Ninety years ago on 12 August 1915 the "Sandringham Company" under Captain Beck the Estate Agent for the Sandringham Estate went into action at Suvla. A window in the Church commemorates their bravery and gallantry and the names of those from the Estate that died are carved on the Church gate. It is anticipated that a tour of Sandringham House and Grounds will take place afterwards. Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact John Crowe on 0208 697 2787 or 07956 188826 or by e mail johncrowe@uwclub.net

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The Gallipoli Association will again have a Memorial Plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey (see *The Gallipolian* No 106 Winter 2004 pages 64-65).

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.

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*.

GALLIPOLI DINNER

In February, the Joint Services Command and Staff College held the Gallipoli Dinner at Shrivenham. The Chairman and sixteen members of the Association attended. The guest speaker was Professor Richard Holmes, who gave a concise account of the campaign with special relevance to the young staff officers whom he urged to remember the lessons of the campaign when confronting modern and comparable situations. At the conclusion of the evening, a section of the Pipes and Drums of 1st battalion the Black Watch were given generous applause for what may have been one of their very last performances before amalgamation.

Hugh Jenner

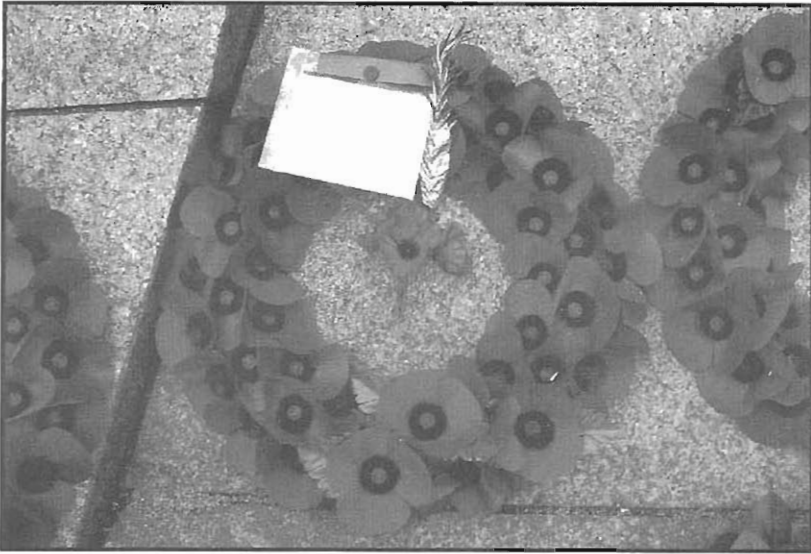
YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!

The Management and Marketing Sub-Committee hopes to recruit members to assist with the following aspects of the management and marketing of the Association:

- 1 Advertising and general marketing.
- 2 Administration of the Bursaries.
- 3 The Website.
- 4 Public Relations.

Would any member who has experience in any of these roles and/or would like to give general assistance please contact Hugh Jenner, whose address appears inside the front cover of this journal.

GALLIPOLI DAY LONDON



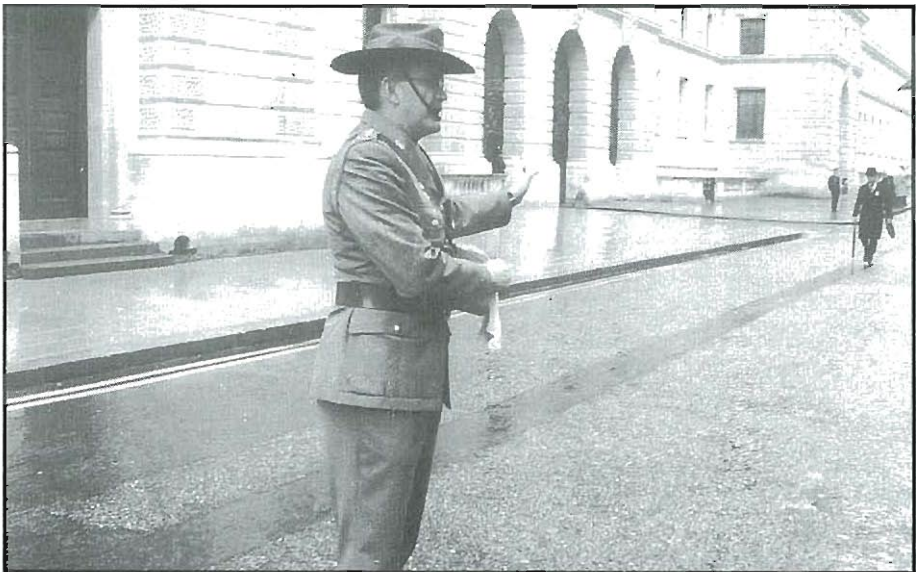
Gallipoli Association Wreath at Australian Memorial, Hyde Park Corner.



The Reverend Canon Lucy Winkett, Precentor, Canon in Residence, St Paul's Cathedral at the conclusion of the wreath laying ceremony at the Gallipoli Memorial. Photographs by Phil Mills.



Members of the Gallipoli Association forming up in King Charles Street.



Members being briefed prior to marching to the Cenotaph. The lone figure in the distance being the Chairman, Captain Christopher Fagan DL.

Photographs by Mark L Perkins TD.

SEAMAN WILLIAMS VC HONOURED ON GALLIPOLI DAY

On the morning of 25 April family members of AB William Williams VC of the *River Clyde* landings fame joined with the Royal Naval Association, Royal British Legion, Forest of Dean Sea Cadets, Chepstow Town Council, Gwent History Society, prospective Members of Parliament and many friends to pay tribute to Seaman Williams at the memorial gun in the centre of Chepstow. This, freshly painted by H. Benjamin and E Green of the Royal Naval Association, was taken from a German U-boat and gifted to the town by King George V to perpetuate the memory of Seaman Williams.

This year not only marked the 90th anniversary of the landings from the *River Clyde* but also provided an opportunity to unveil a commemorative plaque in memory of the local hero. The area surrounding the memorial in Beaufort Square has been completely refurbished and the new plaque takes pride of place alongside the memorial gun. The plaque was designed by Ned Heywood, artist and potter of Chepstow and funded by the Welsh Assembly with European funding together with Chepstow Town Council as part of a scheme by the Chepstow Society.

Ted Green, Chairman of the local branch of the Royal Naval Association gave a moving address, the Mayor of Chepstow, Councillor Phil Hobson unveiled the plaque and wreaths were laid around the memorial gun. On this wet and windy April day the reception laid on by the Council at the Town Hall was most welcome and gave everyone a chance to chat to the Williams family and ensured everyone was reminded of 25 April 1915.

The upper photograph opposite shows the family descendants of Seaman Williams together with the commemorative plaque and in the foreground part of the memorial gun. The lower shows the gun itself and some of those present.

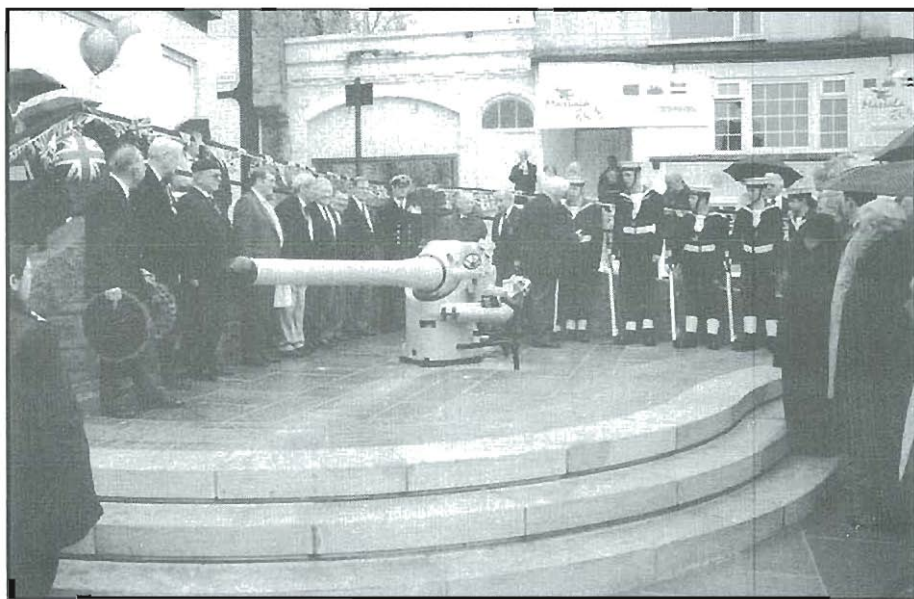
We are greatly indebted to H Benjamin for providing both photographs and information and for additional reporting by Patricia Evans.

OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Treasurer & Membership Secretary is about to issue a "yellow card" to those members who have yet to pay their subscription for 2005. So, if you do not wish to "be sent off" following a "red card" he will be delighted to hear from you. His address is on the inside cover of *The Gallipolian* while a quick reminder of the rates: £10.00 Member; £15.00 Husband & Wife; £15.00 Overseas Member; £20.00 Overseas Husband & Wife



*Members of Seaman Williams VC family at the Chepstow Memorial,
the new plaque depicting the landing being visible centre.*



*The Seaman Williams VC Memorial Gun, Chepstow.
Photographs by H Benjamin.*

GALLIPOLI DAY ELSEWHERE IN GREAT BRITAIN

Editorial Note: The Association is indebted to all the members and other friends who have so very kindly provided reports, service sheets and photographs for the Services across the country. It is with regret that not everything provided can be used in the current *Gallipolian*.

HAREFIELD

The Parish Church of St Mary's was packed for the Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving. Those present included the Mayor of the London Borough of Hillingdon and local politicians, officers of the Australian State Governments and armed services, ex-servicemen, many members of the Harefield community, and visiting Australians and New Zealanders.

Colin Hague of the Gallipoli Association read the Lesson from Hebrews "Remember those earlier days.... when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering.....". The sermon was given by Reverend Charles Dodd who served over thirty years in the Church in Australia where he had strong connections with the Melbourne Shrine. At the end of the Service the congregation moved to the Australian cemetery for the Act of Thanksgiving where there are 114 graves of Australian servicemen and one nurse who died at the Australian Auxiliary Hospital which was set up in the village in 1915.

During the morning all the pupils of the Infants School walked the half mile to the cemetery (in a persistent drizzle) to put flowers on each of the graves. Pupils from the Junior School added their flowers during the afternoon continuing the tradition of the link between the Harefield schools and South Australia which started in 1921.

Members of the congregation then moved to the Church Hall for refreshments. The Harefield ANZAC Gallipoli memorabilia were again on display and attracted much interest.

The Service Sheet contains a brief note on the history of the Harefield Servic. Also a report from Commander David Carpenter RN who had to decline attending as he is in Iraq with the Australian Al Muthanna Battle Group which held an Anzac Day Service at the Commonwealth War Graves Memorial near Basrah.

Finally tribute must be paid to the Reverend Andrew Gandon and the officers of the Church for designating that half the collection taken during the service would be donated to the Gallipoli Association.

Michael Dent

ISLE OF WIGHT

On 24 April Standard Bearers of the British Legion, Royal Hampshire Regiment Comrades, the Royal Army Medical Corps Association, Gallipoli Association, and the Isle of Wight Rifles Living History Group attended a short wreath laying service to commemorate the fallen, to those islanders who participated in the Gallipoli Campaign, and to mark the 90th anniversary of the original landings on 25 April at Hero's Corner, Mountjoy Cemetery Newport. Jim Sanson BEM laid the wreath for the Hampshire Comrades, Kevin Gallagher laid a wreath on behalf of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Miss Karen Draper led the Standard Bearers of the Royal British Legion. The service was conducted by the Reverend Roger Whatly.

Gareth L Sprack
Hon Sec Royal Hampshire Regiment Comrades



Jim Sanson BEM laying the wreath for the Royal Hampshire Regiment and the Isle of Wight Rifles. Photograph Gareth L Sprack.



*A fine morning at the Dallachy Strike Wing Memorial, Morayshire.
Photograph Banffshire Advertiser*



Gallipoli Association member John Freeman (left) laying a wreath at the Shaftesbury Memorial. Photograph Pat Timmons.

THE LONELY ANZAC OF PETERBOROUGH

Note: Among those present at the Peterborough Anzac Day Service was Duraid Jalili a cadet from Stamford College whose great, great, great grandfather served in the Turkish Navy during the Gallipoli campaign. The address which follows was given by our Gallipoli Association member, John W Harvey We are indebted to Tom Rodulson, Hon Secretary of the Peterborough Branch of The Royal British Legion and to John Harvey himself for making this available.

* * *

Today is the 90th Anniversary of the landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Australians were the first to land at 0418hrs, just before dawn.

Sergeant Hunter of the 10th Battalion Australian Imperial Force was amongst the very first to land, his Company being at the spearpoint of the landings as the advance guard. Sadly they were landed in the wrong place and were confronted by towering cliffs with only a very narrow strip of beach to land on. Many of his Company were killed before they reached the beach including his Company Commander, Lieutenant Albert Byrne. The survivors immediately fixed bayonets and charged for the top of the cliffs, pulling themselves up by means of bushes. All the time they were under heavy machine gun and rifle fire from the Turks.

The then. Private Hunter was miraculously not injured and did reach the top of the cliffs. He was injured about a month later, but survived, to then become fatally wounded during the Australian's attack on Pozieres in France in late July 1916. He was brought to England and died within a few days in the then Peterborough Infirmary, now the City Museum. He was given a full military funeral that was attended by large crowds when he was buried here in the Broadway Cemetery.

He has been remembered every year at his graveside since 1916 when honour has been paid to him and the other Australians and New Zealanders who made up the ANZAC Corps and gave their lives during the Great War. This cross on his grave and a bronze memorial in Peterborough Cathedral were paid for by the people of Peterborough, with over 2000 people subscribing within a few days of his death..

When dawn broke in Gallipoli today, it is estimated that at least 12,000 young Australians would have been there at Anzac Cove, as it is now known, to attend the annual Service of Remembrance.

ANZAC CEREMONIES IN DUBLIN

ANTHONY P QUINN

We remembered them

In the morning

A daylight service was held on Sunday morning, 24 April 2005 at Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Blackhorse Avenue, near the Phoenix Park, Dublin. That graveyard, dating back to 1876, now includes a screen wall memorial of Irish limestone to commemorate names of war casualties whose graves lie elsewhere in Ireland and cannot be maintained. Headstones include those of Ptes J Gratton of Australia and J Quinn of New Zealand.

The service included: greeting and prayers from Very Rev. Susan Patterson, Dean of Killala, a native of New Zealand ; reflections, readings, wreath laying, tree planting and blessing. Among the attendance were Michael and Claire Bogan, a grand-niece of Edward Darcy, Royal Irish Fusiliers, killed in Gallipoli on 31 August 1915 who sleeps near Suvla Bay.

At the going down of the sun

St Ann's Church, Dawson St, Dublin was the venue for an inclusive Commemoration and Thanksgiving Service on 25 April 2005. With Canon Haskins on the altar, Dean Patterson recalled those who gave their lives for eternal justice. Readers were: Alan McCarthy, New Zealand Honorary Consul-General, and Sean Singh, Australian Embassy. Dean Patterson's reflection focused on hope as the witness of Gallipoli and the message from the casualties who sleep in hilltop graves.

Individuals representing the New Zealand Ireland and Ireland Australia Associations, national ex-servicemen and the Royal British Legion recited the intercessional prayers. After the last post, HE Berki Dibek, Turkish Ambassador spoke Kemal Ataturk's inclusive words about the heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives, and are now lying in a friendly country's soil. The ambassador's young daughter carried the Turkish flag. Wreaths were placed by ambassadors, consuls, military attaches, veterans' groups and the Australian & NZ communities in Ireland. Individuals placed candles and poppies on the altar. Anthems were sung and the Last Post was sounded.

Thanks to all those mentioned above and also: St Ann's staff; HE Dr John Herron, Australian Ambassador; HE Jonathan Hunt, NZ Ambassador; Sally Clarke, Australian Embassy; Andrew Mackriel, organist and music director; St Patrick's Cathedral Chamber Choir and Carroll Heinemann.

Deputy Lord Mayor, Catherine Byrne, welcomed guests to the Irish/Australian/NZ reception at the Mansion House, where Charles Kinder, NZ Ireland Association spoke about the significance of Gallipoli's 90th anniversary. World peace was toasted in ample wine. Guests included Mrs Gill McIvor, CBE, honorary NZ consul, Northern Ireland and Tom Burke, MBE (hon), chairman, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.



Flag Bearers at St Ann's Church, Dublin. Photograph A Quinn Collection.

ANZAC DAY AT BAMIAN

This year the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Bamian, Afghanistan invited a US contingent from Kabul to attend their Dawn Service. Celebrating ANZAC Day while deployed on operations always holds special meaning for New Zealand Service personnel, and the opportunity to share the experience with friends and allies further enhances the meaning.

Rum and coffee (an ANZAC tradition) was served at 0400 followed by a Dawn Service around the Kiwi Base flag station. The Kiwi (New Zealand) troops marched on followed by the Kiwi Padre dedicating the service. Group Captain (Air Force Colonel equivalent) John Duxfield, the PRT Commander spoke of cooperation on operations, the Australian head of the UN in Bamian spoke of ANZAC tradition and the Turkish Defence Attaché to Afghanistan, Colonel Sener Tekbas, spoke of the now warm relations and respect between Australian and New Zealand and Turkey.

Following this, letters written by children of the soldiers present were read. The children spoke of missing their parents and of how proud they were of their contribution to the Global War on Terror.

Memorials were then laid, in memory of fallen ANZACs from Gallipoli to now, and in recognition of all militaries committed to peace. Colonel Loy, US Army, presented a simple wooden cross with a wreath and US flag on behalf of the American people.

Following ANZAC tradition, the service was followed by a good Kiwi breakfast of bacon and eggs, meeting of old friends to tell war stories and the making of new friends in the common bond of military service.

HMS CHATHAM AT GALLIPOLI

The May edition of *Navy News* contains an article together with two photographs regarding the participation of sailors from HMS *Chatham* taking part in the 90th anniversary ceremonies at Gallipoli. This Type 22 frigate on her way home after a lengthy deployment east of Suez was an appropriate representative as her predecessor, the First World War cruiser took part in the landings of 1915. A platoon of 30 members of the ship's company marched with fellow servicemen from other participating countries.



Wreaths laid at Bamian, Afghanistan. Photograph and text by James Eanes.

WHAT GALLIPOLI MEANS TO ME

JOHN SCOTSON BEM

I was born in Elton Bury a short distance from Wellington Barracks. From my early years I can often remember my Mother, aunties and uncles chatting about other families and it always seemed to get into the conversation about some family who had lost an husband, brother or son in the First World War. It always seemed to be at the Dardanelles or Gallipoli, as it is known to the XXth. Indeed, my own Grandfather was there as a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery.

Being a young sprog with not a lot to occupy his mind during the school holidays I often used go and stand at the fence at the rear of the Barracks and watch the soldiers training. Even then I was for some reason very proud of our regiment the Lancashire Fusiliers. Maybe it was because we always used to attend the Armistice Day parade in Bury in November and the Gallipoli parade in April. I always tried to stand to the right of the Robert Peel statue on Gallipoli Day as you obtained a good view of the men of the 5th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers marching past with Drums Beating, Colours Flying and Bayonets Fixed. I must say it stirred the blood of this young Lancashire lad.

One thing that intrigued me was the old men who always marched at the front of the parade; I could not understand how these old men were the same people who had stormed ashore at W Beach. At that young age I couldn't understand that they were once fit young men. Even then I knew the story of the six VCs before breakfast, but I must admit I did not fully understand it. When I was thirteen I joined the Army Cadet Force in Bury and so wore the Primrose Hackle. One night we had a sergeant from the barracks, he was called Paddy Rice, and he took us into the Officers Mess and showed us the Gallipoli picture and told us the story of the Gallipoli Landings. From that moment on all I ever wanted to be was a Lancashire Fusilier. The image of Captain RR Willis standing in the surf waving his walking stick with hell breaking loose around him has stuck with me forever.

Many years later when I was also a member of 5th Lancashire Fusiliers I got to read the Roll of Honour for Gallipoli and that is when it really struck home just how much the towns of Bury, Rochdale, Oldham, Salford, Wigan and others had to suffer. No street, working men's club, sports club and church was left unscathed after that day in April 1915. The cost of gaining undying fame had been horrendous.

The bravery, courage and self sacrifice of our Regiment on that day made it certainty that they will be remembered forever, not only remembered, but their deeds will be celebrated as a most noble feat of arms.

When I was nineteen I joined the 1st Battalion in Osnabruck, and a Captain McCready

gave us a lesson on Regimental history, and covered the Gallipoli Campaign, but I knew about it from start to finish. However I did come to realise that along with Minden and other battles it is at the very heart of our Regiment, it is what we are. Through the following years I rose through the ranks to be a Warrant Officer and when the going got tough and I was feeling a bit down, I would think what would the lads at Gallipoli have done, answer: they would have carried on, and that is what I did. The spirit of Gallipoli was there, bred into me. During the past fifty or sixty years reorganisations and disbandments have changed the face of the army, and the Lancashire Fusiliers no longer exist as a separate regiment. They are part of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers who honour and respect the deeds and achievements of the former regiments and hopefully as long as Fusiliers serve in the British Army the story and the spirit of Gallipoli will live on.

Note: The above address by John Scotson BEM who served in the Lancashire Fusiliers and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for forty years was given at the Annual Parade and Service of the Lancashire Fusiliers on 24 April during which he commanded the Colour Party on Parade. We are indebted to Bernard Dennis for obtaining a copy of the address and Mr Scotson's permission to reproduce it.

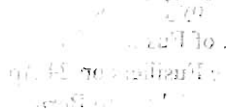


*John Scotson leading the Lancashire Fusiliers contingent, Bury, 24 April 2005.
Photograph by Bernard Dennis*

PARIS MARCH 2005

JEAN-CLAUDE LIS

Introductory Note: Four members of the Association accepted the invitation of our friends in the *Association Nationale pour le Souvenir des Dardanelles et Fronts d'Orient* to attend the *Reanimation de la Flamme* at the Arc de Triomphe on 18 March. Monsieur Jean- Claude Lis went to enormous trouble to ensure that we knew exactly what to do at the right moment, and who looked after us superbly throughout, has kindly written this account. At the occasion of their Association Lunch, held in the General Assembly their President, Madame Madeleine Stocanne, presented Colonel Michael Hickey with a medallion to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the campaign. We hope that we will very soon be able to reciprocate the generous and friendly spirit in which these events were conducted.



Hugh Jenner

The 18 March evening ceremony was even more solemn than usual with a full military band and the participation of the Australian Minister The Honourable Anne Kelly. We marched in ranks up the Camps-Elysees, and crossed the Place behind some twenty flags. Of course the traffic was stopped by police, I remarked to Hugh Jenner it was like Moses crossing the Red Sea.

Colonel Michael Hickey laid a wreath on behalf of the Gallipoli Association. Our wreath was laid by our President, Mrs Stocanne, with assistance from my wife and of my two grandchildren, Marie-Sixte and Pierre Imbert whose grandfather General Georges Masnou commanded the French First Division at Gallipoli where he mortally wounded on 12 July. General Combette, Head of the Flame organisation is very much in favour of associating children with the "Souvenir" ceremonies. Afterwards the Australian Minister together with the Ambassador met all the participants, more than 60, including the flagbearers, and exchanged a few words with each of them. She marked a genuine interest when I told her that my eldest daughter lives in Sydney together with three more of our grandchildren.

The luncheon, the day after, was attended by some 70 persons, including four representatives from the Gallipoli Association. Mrs Stocanne presented Colonel Michael Hickey with a commemorative medal and delivered a speech. On her behalf I said a few words in English, and Colonel Hickey answered in French, a gesture which was much appreciated. We were all very pleased with the new opportunity of warm contacts between people sharing our common memory of the "Dardanelles Campaign."



Mrs Stocame with Mrs Lis (left) and Marie-Sixte and Pierre Imbert.



Colonel Michael Hickey laying the Gallpoli Association wreath.

Photographs Jean-Clude Lis

FIELD OF BURIED DREAMS

HARRY MOUNT

When I was a child I thought, “God, what a lucky man,” when I heard that my great-grandfather, the fifth Earl of Longford, had died at Chocolate Hill. What a way to go: I imagined him smothered in Toblerone, an ecstatic grin on his face as he breathed his last chocolate-wrenched breath.

Climbing Chocolate Hill 90 years later, the closest I got to any chocolate was the cocoa-coloured mud that stuck to my shoes. Still, I could think of worse places to die.

The five-hour journey from Istanbul isn’t pretty: long after you escape the concrete of the city’s suburbs, the roadside fields are dotted with half-built tower blocks, their quivers of steel rods thrusting into the air.

And then the ugliness stops when you hit the Gallipoli National Park, a 50-mile finger of land pointing south towards Athens. The park is covered with saltbush, myrtle, thyme and camel thorn, thick with nightingale nests.

On one side of the peninsula, the black-blue Aegean, patched with milky shallows, lightens to an eye-scrunchingly bright horizon, hump-backed with the eastern fringe of the Greek islands. Beyond lies Skyros, the island where Rupert Brooke died from a mosquito bite on his way to Gallipoli.

On the other side lies the Dardanelles, the mile-wide channel of water that separates Europe from Asia; a channel that runs deep through Greek and Turkish mythology and history. It was across the Dardanelles that the most athletic lover in history, Leander, swam every night to meet his epically gorgeous girlfriend, Hero. In 1810, Byron emulated Leander; as the poet wrote, “Leander swam for Love, as I for Glory”. It was across the Dardanelles in 481 BC that the Persian king Xerxes strung a bridge of ships in the war against the Athenians.

And it was up the Dardanelles, on April 25 1915, that Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, put into action his plan to spring the deadlock of the Western Front and open up another eastern front by pushing troops through the Sea of Marmara, taking Istanbul, and heading via the Bosphorus on to the Black Sea. The Allies suffered 250,000 casualties, 50,000 of them dead, and the Turks had 350,000 casualties, 87,000 dead.

One of those Allied dead, my great-grandfather, lies in the middle of Green Hill cemetery, alongside 3,000 of his comrades. It is a quiet place. There is little sign of human habitation, apart from a few farmers driving along the empty roads from

vineyard to vineyard. The living are far outnumbered by the dead: the green carpet of Gallipoli is everywhere studded with trim white squares – ranks of tombstones, surrounded by ramrod-straight pines and squared-off banks of arbutus, junipers, cypresses, Judas trees and rosemary. The only noise is the clip-clip of secateurs in the hands of the gardeners employed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to keep the cemeteries neat.

Carved into my great-grandfather's tombstone are the words: "Believed to be buried in this cemetery". As with 80 per cent of his comrades, his body was never recovered. The crossfire was so thick that bullet met bullet in mid-air, forming the squashy little lead crosses that can be seen in the Gallipoli museum: it was too dangerous to collect Thomas Longford's body until the Armistice three years later.

By then, it had deteriorated beyond recognition, even though he had taken the precaution of tattooing his chest in blue with the family coat of arms – an eagle displayed gules coming out of a mural crown with the accompanying motto, "Gloria Virtutis Umbra" ("Glory is the shadow of Virtue").

For all its wildness, the Gallipoli peninsula is easily explored in a day or two, along the deserted but immaculate roads. A 10minute drive took me from my great-grandfather's tomb on the western coast to the place that the Allies never reached in nine months of fighting – the peninsula's jagged spine, held fast by Kemal Ataturk, the leader of the Turkish troops.

Standing on tiptoe on the stakes that secure the old Turkish trenches at the top of the ridge, you can see how doomed the Gallipoli campaign was. By the time the Allies had disembarked their armies Ataturk had raced down from Istanbul and stockaded this highground. All the Allies could do was crudely imitate the sea by lapping forwards and backwards against the yellow cliffs, destined to be held back for ever by the loops of barbed wire and the near constant rifle fire from above.

When you tumble down the hill, you hit Anzac Cove, Gallipoli's iconic spot. It is where the first 1,500 Allies landed, on April 25 1915, and it is named for the greatest sacrifice of the campaign, by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

The strand of Anzac Cove is so slim that, not long after noon, it is eclipsed by the shadow of the cliffs above. For all the pilgrims who make their way here on Anzac Day, it is empty for the rest of the year.

I then crossed to the other side of the peninsula for a swim. It would be sanctimonious to say that I felt anything other than joyful as I enjoyed the sea alone. It's perfectly easy to separate the tragedy of 140,000 people (even if your great-grandfather is among them) who died almost a century ago from the sensual pleasure of a dip in the Dardanelles, and the smug pleasure that comes from being the only person in view for a

mile in either direction. My only companion was a 1915 pillbox crumbling away in the surf, its rusting iron bones exposed to the sun,

I mumbled a few lines of Byron – self-conscious even though I was by myself – as I emulated his swim. I soon stopped mumbling when I gazed across the sea to Asia. Pancake-flat in all directions, the plains were dominated by one bell-jar-shaped mound – the ancient site of Troy.

My great-grandfather, who had read Classics at Oxford, wrote from Gallipoli to his children in his ancestral castle, Pakenham Hall, in County Westmeath, Ireland, how he longed to visit Troy; it had only been excavated 40 years before by Heinrich Schliemann, the German archaeologist. He would have been ill-advised to make the trip (now easily done in a day by the car-ferry from Canakkale). The Turks had dug a trench around what Schliemann believed to be Priam's city and they had mounted a machine gun on top of the citadel.

Back at Anzac Cove, I took my ease with a sandwich (there are no shops in the park beyond a rudimentary cafe at the museum, so best to take a packed lunch) in the shade of the principal Gallipoli memorial, inscribed with Ataturk's words of 1934:

"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 Jonnies and the Mehments to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers who sent their sons from far away 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."

Acknowledgement: This article first appeared in *The Daily Telegraph* on 23 April 2005.

GALLIPOLI TOURS 2006

Enthused by the report (see following pages) of one of the Association 2005 Tours you may like to reserve a place for 2006. A similar programme of Tours is planned with a form enclosed with this *Gallipolian*. Colonel Michael Hickey will once more be the guide, his knowledge, enthusiasm, wit and fund of stories all add to the special nature of the Association Tours and should not be missed. Please apply to Hugh Jenner, address on inside of front cover for details by completing the enclosed form.

GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION TOUR MAY 2005

CHRISTOPHER MOSS

(With an Introductory Note by Hugh Jenner)

Note: For readers who have toured with the Association before, it should suffice to say that the programme ran pretty much as usual with Colonel Michael Hickey providing his customary superlative explanation of the campaign and Ottoman history. Otherwise, Christopher Moss has written a fine summary of the tour for which I am personally very grateful. He would be justified in feeling somewhat aggrieved that I have cut over half his submission, but my bid to the Editor did not allow for the whole account.

To summarise changes since last year: we returned to the Eceabat Hotel which has been refurbished and now boasts a splendid Rooftop Bar; the new roads at ANZAC shock initially but will soon merge into the background, and are very necessary. Turkish visitors are coming in greater numbers and there are some new Turkish cemeteries, memorials and changes to existing ones.

I would like to thank Christopher for writing the account which follows, and Peter Crisp and John Crowe for their painstaking efforts in providing a photographic record. Above all, I thank all members of the party for their company and for helping to make the trip so memorable.

How many of those with an interest in the tragic events of April 1915 to January 1916 have, I wonder, like me repeatedly promised themselves a visit to the Peninsula without ever being prepared to commit themselves to a date. For me, a stroke of good fortune enabled me to attend the Association's lunch which followed the extraordinarily moving and memorable service of commemoration in Westminster Abbey on 25 April, so fittingly and generously honoured by the presence of both Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip, the Association's Patron.

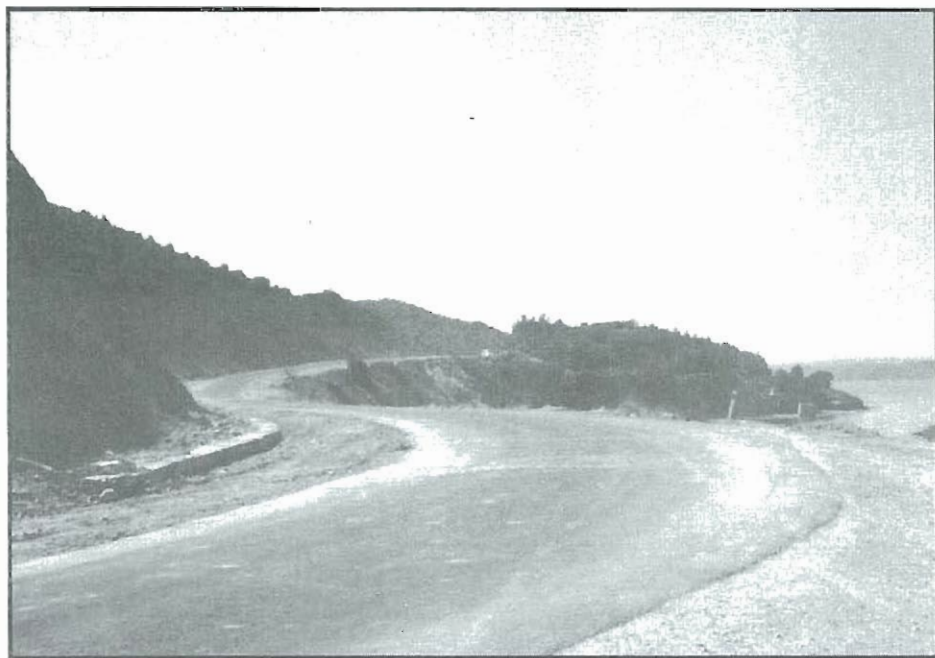
Talk at table turned to the tour in May and I cautiously asked if it was fully subscribed. On hearing that it was not, it struck me that there could not be a better time at which to commit oneself to a visit in the company of the incomparable Michael Hickey ("MH") whose account of the campaign is so informative and yet readable.

Our arrival on the Peninsula on 21 May was unpropitious, although the driving rain which had accompanied us for a good deal of the way from Istanbul relented on our arrival at the hotel in Eceabat. Mercifully, though the rain clouds rolled up the Dardanelles on several occasions, they had little impact on our activities.

Beside Michael Hickey and Hugh Jenner our group comprised the sons of no less than



Car park near Quinn's Post



New road at Anzac Cove

five survivors of the campaign, one of whom had also lost an uncle at Krithia. Not only did we have the official historian of the Border Regiment but also a distinguished former submariner, himself the son of a holder of the Victoria Cross. Several of the group were making their second tour of the Peninsula and their collective knowledge of the events of 1915/1916 gave insights into the campaign to complement the masterful summaries frequently interspersed with amusing anecdotes – and even jokes completely unconnected with the campaign which flowed forth from MH.

As one accustomed to wander around battlefields in solitary fashion struggling to contain the emotions, I feared that the task might be beyond me when faced with the uniquely poignant examples which the Peninsula provides of what has been described “the long catalogue of futile valour in the Great War”. As it was, the excellent companionship and collective sense of humour, always coupled with the utmost respect, of our group meant that it was only at the short but moving ceremony when we laid the Association’s wreath at the Helles Memorial immediately before boarding the bus and proceeding directly off the Peninsula threatened a real loss of composure on my part.

The enormously moving reading of the exhortation by Bill Crisp, whose father had survived the horrors of Gallipoli with the South Wales Borderers to win a Military Medal on the Western Front and whose grandfather had fought in the Crimea and been nursed by Florence Nightingale at Scutari, might have done for me but for the distraction of the strong wind which apparently blows unremittingly over Helles. The sight of the Memorial was chosen to ensure that it is clearly visible from the sea but its situation puts it at the mercy of the storms which are such a regular feature of weather on the Peninsula. It is a tribute to the extraordinary dedication of the local staff of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) that it remains in such pristine condition.

The scale of the achievement of those who established the war graves on the Peninsula in the years from 1919-1926 is wondrous to behold. The horrors and dangers which must have confronted them on a daily basis as they attempted to recover the remains of the thousands who were left behind can only be imagined. Many of the cemeteries, such as The Farm, are pretty inaccessible even today. One reads that what now appears to be a substantial metalled road which follows the line of No Man’s Land at Lone Pine was, until relatively recently, little more than a track which could only be traversed with some difficulty by the CWGC’s land rovers.

An unquestionable achievement is the way in which those responsible for planning the cemeteries coped with the appalling problem of the sandy and unstable areas in which they were established. Each one is protected by stoned lined ditches to provide drainage and carefully sited trees to stabilise the ground with their roots. Within the walled areas it is a constantly sobering thought that what appears to be no more than area of carefully tended grass is in fact underlain by row upon row of bodies or remains of bodies which could not be identified. In the harsh environment, the state of the grass and the shrubs

of wide variety which punctuate the individual graves is a source of wonder. Extraordinarily poignant is the one English oak on the Peninsula which was planted in 1926 by a former mayor of Salford in memory of his only son (see *The Gallipolian* 56:15 (1988) and 80:17-20 (1996) for information on Lieutenant Duckworth and his oak).

It is a truism that however many photographs one has seen of a locality one learns that one cannot really understand what it was like until one has seen it for oneself. The photographs of V Beach with the *River Clyde* and the old fortress of Sedd ul Bahir in the background suggested to me a broad expanse of sand. Looking up at the machine gun positions which commanded the beach, one can only imagine that the terrified young men of the Dublin and Munsters who struggled to get out of the water must have been able, had they had the opportunity, to see the very bullets in the belts of the machine gunners who were about to despatch them to their maker. How anyone with even a superficial knowledge of the locality can have imagined that any form of opposed landing in such a confined area could be anything but a catastrophe must remain a mystery.

The three areas of the campaign, Helles, Anzac and Suvla could not be more different. Of the three, only Suvla looks likely to remain relatively immune from development. Having been unaware of the scale of the enlargement of what was the Beach Road at Anzac, it came as something of a shock to see its effect on that scene of immortal sacrifice. The cemetery at Anzac is still a spot of extraordinary tranquillity, with the waters of the Aegean providing a constant and soothing melody as one reflects on the heroism of such as Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick – the “Man with the Donkey” – whose grave lies here. Now one looks up to the sheer slopes which confronted the Anzacs on landing across the newly widened, metalled road capable of accommodating the many coaches which now traverse the battlegrounds. The demands of an ever-increasing number of visitors have necessitated a major improvement in this stretch of road. However one is bound to regret that a solution involving some form of tunnel which would have preserved the historic appearance of the steep hill leading up from Anzac cove was either not considered or found to be impracticable.

Having ascended the heights of Plugge’s Plateau one is struck by the extent to which the vegetation has now obliterated the honeycomb of caves and trenches which once provided the many poor souls who struggled to survive with their only hope of some sort of repose. For my part I could not help imagining the redoubtable ‘K of K’ who apparently stood atop Plugge’s Plateau and surveyed the scene during the course of his visit in November. It is said that by the time he reached Mudros Kitchener had already reconciled himself to evacuation of the Peninsula, but it is not difficult to imagine – even in the circumstances of today – why the mighty warrior apparently concluded on seeing the Turkish defences at Anzac that they were impregnable.

The atmosphere of the third area of the battlefield at Suvla is altogether different. The Salt Lake apparently no longer dries out even in the heat of summer and its waters against the backdrop of the Kiretch Tepe Ridge are reminiscent (in May at least) of



*Five sons of those who served at Gallipoli. (left to right)
Ralph May, John Crowe, Bill Crisp, Ken Forbes-Robinson, Kenneth Johnson.*



*Taking tea with the groundsman at the Consular graveyard, Istanbul. (left to right)
Hugh Jenner, Michael Hickey, Chris Moss, Peter Crisp, Bill Crisp, Kenneth Johnson, Bulent
Yilmaz Korkmaz our Turkish Guide.*

many parts of Britain. We explored in detail the depot which once surrounded the small inlets to the north west of 'A' Beach at Suvla and MH was able to point out the line of the light railway which was built to transport material from the quay.

We lingered at length at Scimitar, Chocolate and Green Hills respectively reflecting on the appalling fate of the British Yeomanry. The lack of development on the Suvla Plain has meant that the views today are essentially those seen in 1915. Whilst the vegetation has clearly increased in its scope and intensity since then, the features of key military importance are as obvious now as they should have been to the allied commanders. General Hamilton confessed that though his *"heart had grown tough amidst the struggles of the Peninsula"* the misery of Suvla *"well-nigh broke it"*. Tranquil though the scene is today, the memory of the horrors which led him to make that confession are easy to conjure up.

Finally there are the delights of Istanbul. For those of us who were brought up on prints of the "Lady of the Lamp" administering to the wounded and dying in the corridors which she turned into wards at Scutari to see those corridors for ourselves together with her own quarters was a privilege indeed. Though security is tight, the Turkish First Army whose headquarters are now sited in the imposing building with 2.7 kms of corridors in which the founder of the nursing profession once gave succour to her countrymen in dire need could not have made us more welcome. For those who have not visited Istanbul previously, the delights of Agia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and the Roman Cisterns are unmissable. Having been tempted by the prospect of wandering the bazaars in search of a carpet, and the place abounds with glorious examples, I was grateful that I had followed MH's recommendation and visited the military museum to see the performance of the Janissary Band. Their music is as outstanding as their uniforms and they provided us with a spectacular and truly memorable hour of entertainment.

All in all, my advice to those of you who have not yet made the pilgrimage is "do so as soon as possible". In this restless world no spot however sacred can be guaranteed its survival in the form in which it has existed for the last ninety years. The Peninsula is no exception. This will never be anything other than a part of the world redolent with history and emotion but it is changing and not necessarily for the better. If you can find time in your diary to join the Association Tours in 2006, the only advice which I can give is "go for it". Book now! If you do, I hope you will find yourself part of a group of individuals who are as knowledgeable, amusing and generally companionable as I did.

Note: Finally a brief list of birds seen on the Gallipoli Peninsula during the Tour recorded by Martyn Probyn: Black headed Bunting, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Turtle Dove, Hooded Crow, Sardinian Warbler, Woodchat Shrike, Masked Shrike, Red-rumped Swallow, Chukar, hundreds of White Stork feeding near the Salt Lake, Pied Wheatear, probably White-tailed Eagle [3 at Suvla,] Common Buzzards; not forgetting the flights of Yelkouan Shearwaters seen from the ferries and off Istanbul.

GALLIPOLI AERODROMES

COLONEL M A NOLAN

In *The Gallipolitan* No. 70, Christmas 1992, information was sought by J M Cameron on airfields in use during the Gallipoli campaign. An answer to this may be found in the *Mitchell Report*. In 1919 a committee was appointed to investigate the attacks delivered on and the enemy defences of the Dardanelles Straits. The committee was composed of Cdre F.H. Mitchell D.S.O., President, and Brigadier General C.J. Perceval C.B. C.M.G. D.S.O., Brigadier General E.H. Bland C.B., Group Captain C.R. Samson C.M.G. D.S.O. A.F.C. R.A.F., Major S.M. Cleverley, Captain (G) C.W. Round-Turner R.N., Commander (G) T.H. Binney R.N., Captain E.A. Lee, Captain F. Bates and Commander (T) F.N. Sandford R.N. The committee produced an extremely detailed 530 page report, often referred to as *The Mitchell Report*, and this was published as a classified Admiralty Staff Gunnery Division Confidential book, CB 1550 in April 1921. The report, a key reference document for anyone interested in the history of the campaign, is supplemented by a volume of Plates and a volume of Maps.

The report contains the following notes on aerodromes in use during the campaign.

Allied Aerodromes

Tenedos Island

This was the first aerodrome used by No. 3 Squadron. It was situated on the north-west side of Tenedos Island, about 3.5 miles from Tenedos town, to which communication was obtained by a rough unmetalled road. The aerodrome was constructed by hired Greek labour under the direction of the Commanding Officer of HMS *Ark Royal*. The site selected was occupied by vineyards; a rental was paid for the site and compensation was awarded for digging up the vines. When the work of clearance was finished, an aerodrome of excellent surface was obtained, well drained and level, with no dangerous obstacles in its vicinity. The area was roughly an oblong 600 yards by 300 yards, with an additional extension on the narrow wide of 200 yards by 150 yards, thus giving plenty of room for the types of aeroplane in use. The aerodrome was close to the sea and a rough road was constructed to the water's edge for landing stores and aeroplanes.

Tenedos aerodrome

Situated 17.5 miles from Helles and 31 miles from Anzac. These distances with the slow aeroplanes of the period was a serious matter, and, in addition, close "liaison" with the Military and the Navy was difficult to maintain; therefore it was decided to shift the aerodrome to Imbros Island. (*Mitchell Report* page 511)

Navro (Rabbit Island)

It was possible to effect a landing on part of this island. The surface was very rough and

preliminary



AEGEAN SEA
ISLAND OF IMBROS

PE ALIKI ANCHORAGE

Surveyed by

Commander H. P. Douglas, R.N.

and by Lieut. G. K. Rylands, R.N. and Lieut. G. R. P. Gilpin, R.N.V.R.

September 1915

Topography chiefly from information supplied by the Map and Survey Department, M.E.F.

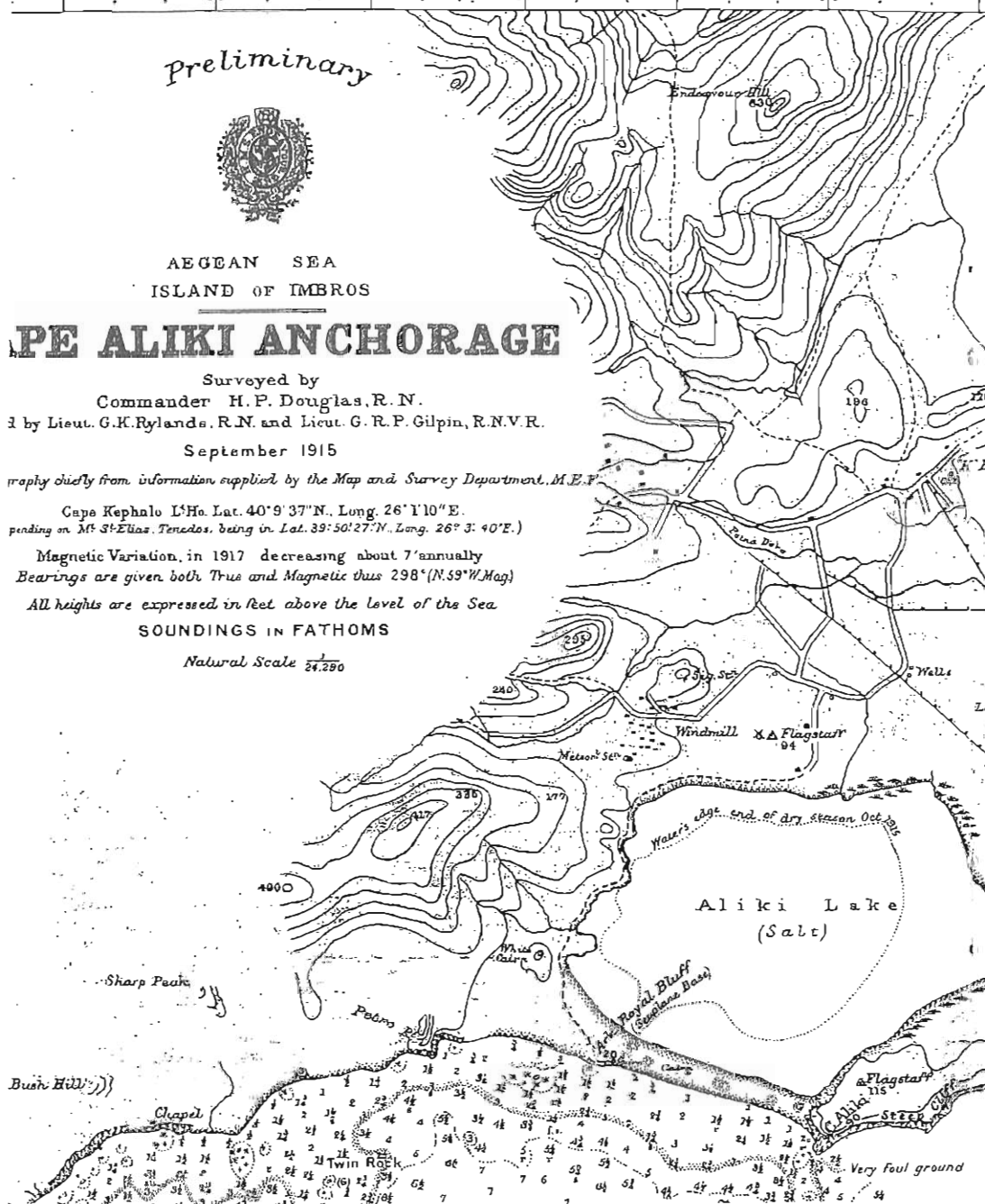
Cape Kephale L'Ho. Lat. $40^{\circ}9'37''$ N. Long. $26^{\circ}1'10''$ E.
depending on Mt St. Elias, Tenedos, being in Lat. $39^{\circ}50'27''$ N. Long. $26^{\circ}3'40''$ E.)

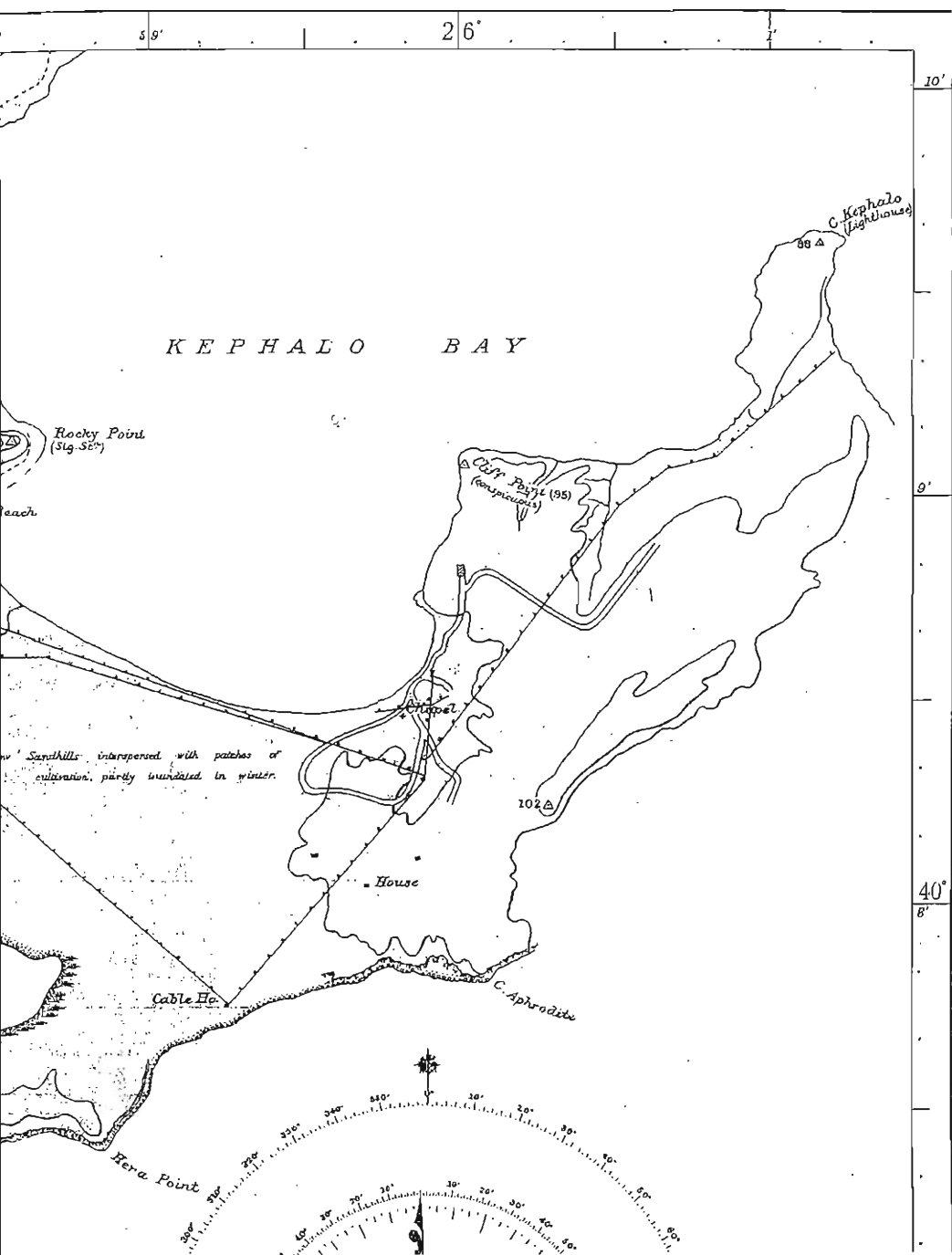
Magnetic Variation, in 1917 decreasing about 7' annually
Bearings are given both True and Magnetic thus 298° (N. 59° W. Mag.)

All heights are expressed in feet above the level of the Sea

SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS

Natural Scale $\frac{1}{24,250}$





covered with loose stones. At least, aeroplanes were saved from alighting on the sea by being enabled to glide to Rabbit Island. (*Mitchell Report* page 512)

Advanced Aerodrome Helles

"Early in May an advanced aerodrome was established at Cape Helles. In cases where any urgent information was obtained which it was not practicable or advisable to communicate by signal, it was customary for aeroplanes to land at Cape Helles and deliver their reports to Headquarters, or, in some cases, to drop messages in that locality on the completion of the flight. The aerodrome had, however, eventually to be abandoned owing to enemy gunfire, which meanwhile had caused the loss of three aeroplanes, one British and two French." (*Mitchell Report* page 241)

"A landing ground was easily and quickly prepared at Helles, situated to the west of Hunter Weston Redoubt. The surface was only moderate and the ground was cramped, being only about 300 yards square. The approaches were bad, but the usefulness of this aerodrome outweighed its disadvantages. Unfortunately the aerodrome, being in full view of the Turks from Achi Baba, was always heavily shelled when aeroplanes were in it for any appreciable time. Four aeroplanes were wrecked there by shellfire.

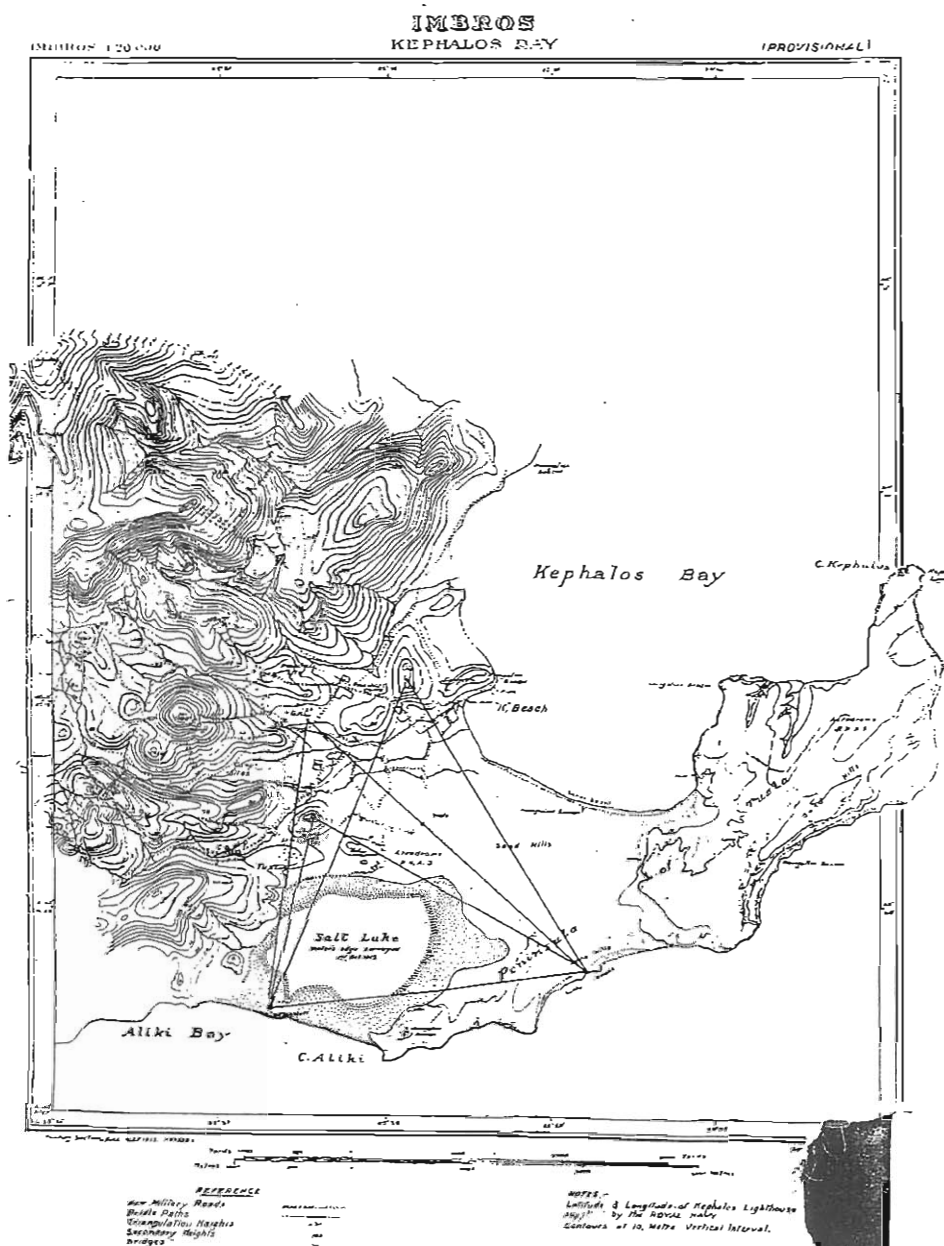
Notwithstanding, the aerodrome was in constant use until June 29th, when orders were given for aeroplanes to cease using it except on emergencies, or when specially required to do so. Another disadvantage was contained in the fact that as the aerodrome surface was of a sandy nature, dust storms or the dust raised by the machine taxiing had a highly detrimental effect upon the engines, which required more frequent overhauling in consequence. In October a dummy aeroplane, erected, and placed in the aerodrome by night, attracted during the next three days 650 shells. The Turks did not discover the hoax. Hunter Weston Hill provided a limited amount of shelter for storage of aeroplanes out of the range of vision of Achi Baba. (*Mitchell Report* page 512)

Imbros

The first aerodrome in this island was on the east side of Kephalo Harbour, directly inland from the edge of the cliffs on the same site as the airship shed was erected. The aerodrome was 450 yards long by 200 yards wide. The ground was extremely rough and slopes downwards from the cliff's edge. The remous caused by the cliffs proved a source of danger to low-powered aeroplanes, as practically as soon as they left the ground they encountered eddies set up by the wind blowing on the sheer face of the cliffs. A very experienced pilot was killed in attempting to regain the aerodrome, after an engine failure, through being caught by a bad remous. For this reason and also owing to the bad surface and cramped nature of the landing ground, a move was made as soon as possible to a new aerodrome called the Kephalo Point Aerodrome. (*Mitchell Report* page 511)

Kephalo Point Aerodrome

This was about 800 yards from the cliff aerodrome and its northern extremity was one



mile from the lighthouse. The aerodrome was constructed by Turkish prisoners and was oblong in shape, with its longest side 500 yards in a north and south line; the breadth was 200 to 250 yards. As the prevailing winds were northerly or southerly the aerodrome was found quite convenient and was used continually from August 1915, until the evacuation. (*Mitchell Report* pages 511-512)

Imbros Marsh Aerodrome

This aerodrome was ready for use at the middle of August 1915. It was situated 900 yards from Kephalo beach to the north of the Salt Lake. It was level ground with an even surface, but was liable to be too soft for use in wet weather. The aerodrome was 600 yards by 450 yards. The close proximity of high ground caused bad remous in certain directions of winds. The aerodrome was used by No 2 Wing. (*Mitchell Report* pages 511-512)

Ark Royal Bluff Seaplane Base

Although RNAS seaplanes were initially operated from HMS *Ark Royal*, a seaplane base is shown on an Admiralty chart of Imbros. The book *The Dardanelles* by Norman Wilkinson published by Longmans Green & Company in 1915 includes a nice watercolour illustration of two Short Seaplanes at Kephalo (reproduced opposite).

Mitylene Island

An aerodrome was used in June and July, 1915 two miles to the south of Mitylene town. It was very restricted in area and only the slowest type of aeroplane could use it (*Mitchell Report* page 512).

Distances from Aerodromes

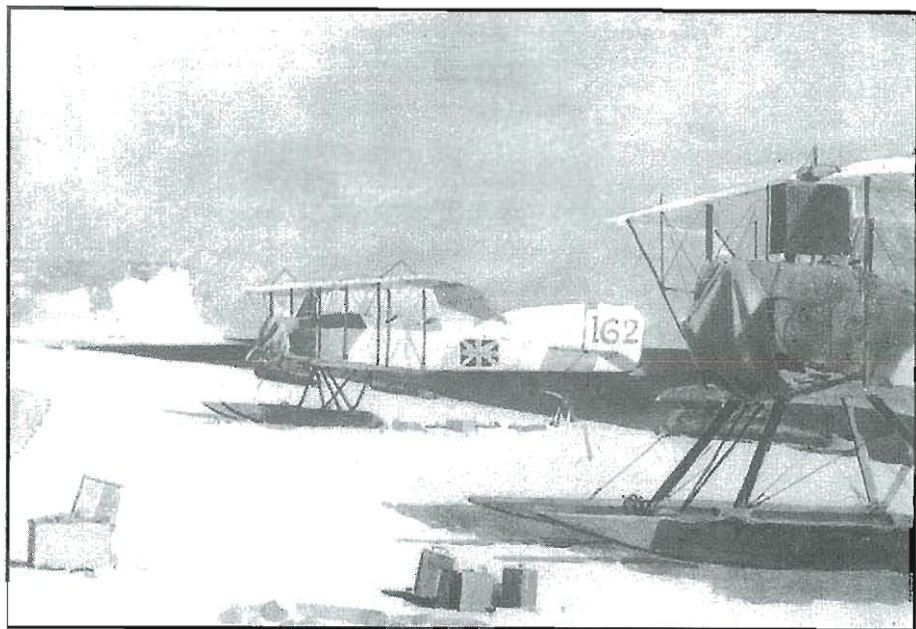
Tenedos to Cape Helles	17.5 miles.
Tenedos to Anzac	31
Cape Kephalo to Cape Helles	11.25
Cape Kephalo to Anzac	15.5
Cape Kephalo to Suvla	16

This shows the great advantage of the move from Tenedos to Imbros. In addition at Imbros the aerodrome was in close proximity to General Headquarters, to the Vice-Admiral and to the Senior Naval Officer at Kephalo. (*Mitchell Report* pages 512).

Turkish Aerodromes

E.N.E. Chanak

The first aerodrome used by the enemy was close to Chanak, being one and a half miles to the E.N.E. of the town, lying on the west side of the road from Chanak to Karajeuren, with the hangars within 30 yds of the road. This aerodrome is of ample size, with good surface, and is well drained. One stone hangar, with a wooden roof 60 feet wide and 40 feet deep, and a canvas hangar, 45 feet wide and 35 feet deep, was



erected early in 1915. In addition, there was a small-sized stone building. The Turks were bombed out of this aerodrome early in 1915. One 100 lb bomb hit the stone hangar and totally destroyed one aeroplane inside it. The enemy then moved to two new aerodromes, one to the south-east of Chanak, which they did not make much use of in 1915, and the other close to Galata on the Peninsula. (*Mitchell Report* page 514)

S.E. Chanak Aerodrome

This lies 1100 yds south of the Koca Chai and about 300 yards to the east of the road from Chanak to Eren Keui. The buildings which were well hidden in an orchard, consisted of one canvas hangar, two stone houses, one stone workshop, one stone-walled bomb store, with a timber roof and a petrol store in a dug-out (*Mitchell Report* page 514)

Galata Aerodrome

This lies two miles to the south-west of Galata town, and is within 200 yds. Of the water's edge. The aerodrome is of a large size, being 800 yards by 600 yards and of excellent surface. Communication is effected either by roads to Ak Bashi Liman or by sea, there being a pier close to the aerodrome. In 1915 there were four canvas hangars with an additional one erected towards the end of the year. In addition to the hangars, open shelters for aeroplanes were provided by constructing banks of earth about 12 feet high, thus providing storage for 15 to 20 aeroplanes.

A workshop of ample size constructed of stones and mud, and a carpenter's shop of similar construction were provided. Dug-outs in the hillside supplied adequate and safe storage for bombs and petrol. The officers were lodged in small stone houses on both sides of a gully in the hill to the west of the aerodrome. A meteorological station was erected on the hill-top. At first two anti-aircraft guns were stationed at the aerodrome, but later in the year they were moved to the top of Bairak Tepe, about a mile to the west of the aerodrome. (*Mitchell Report* page 515)

Seaplane Station

The only seaplane station used in 1915 was at Kusa Burnu, close to Chanak between Chanak and Nagara Point. A wooden hangar 60 feet square was used for the storage of seaplanes. This station was hit by bombs in 1915. (*Mitchell Report* page 515)

Acknowledgements: The Mitchell Report, which is a key document for anyone interested in the history of the campaign is supplemented by a volume of Plates and a Volume of Maps. Copies of the Report may be found at The National Archives (TNA), Public Record Office (PRO) Adm 186/600 and Air 1/2323/223/41/1550.

The map pages 32-33 is reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and the UK Hydrographic Office. www.ukho.gov.uk

The map, page 35 is reproduced with the permission of the R M Museum Collection.

THE WICKED MATE

In *The Gallipolian* No 75 1994 we published an article *Victor Campbell – Antarctic & Gallipoli* by W D Parsons. This largely the message book used during June 1915 by Campbell who commanded the Drake Battalion of the Royal Naval Division.

The Editor was please to receive as a Christmas present from one of his children a book *The Wicked Mate*, published by Bluntisham Books & The Erksine Press, 2001. This the Antarctic Diary of Victor Campbell who commanded the Northern Party on Scott's Terra Nova Expedition. The introduction includes a short paragraph on Campbell's war record which included the Dover Patrol, the Zeebrugge Raid and later special service in Archangel in addition to Gallipoli.

SLIM, MASTER OF WAR

The Gallipolitan No 105 Autumn 2004 page 52 contains a short review of the book by Robert Lyman *Slim, Master of War*. This has now been republished in paperback by Robinson price £8.99.

Members may also like to know that the June edition of the magazine *BBC History* contains a major article about Slim headed *The Forgotten General*, this by Eugene Byrne who lived in Bristol next to the house in which Slim was born. Slim's service at Gallipoli where he fought alongside the Gurkhas was one of the influences on his later career and resulted in his eventual transfer to the Indian Army and for some years with the 6th Gurkhas.

BOATS V HORSES

The Times 24 June 2005 contained an interesting letter from Jeremy Burrows of Elstow, Bedfordshire under the heading "Boats v horses". This was prompted by a statement in the Obituary published by the paper on 21 June for the New Zealander Admiral Sir Gordon Tate who had died on 29 May. Reference was made to his service as second-in-command of the submarine *Taurus* which on one occasion entered the port of Neo Playa near the Bulgarian border to attack shipping by gunfire. She was in turn attacked by a Bulgarian cavalry regiment using machine guns, the paragraph concluding with the statement "probably the only instance in history of an encounter between such disparate opponents."

Jeremy Burrows letter rightly pointed out that the claim was incorrect, drawing attention to the encounter between Martin Nasmith in E11 in the Sea of Marmora and cavalry. Here on one occasion she was very close inshore attempting to land a boarding party with demolition charges on a steamer which deliberately ran aground. Suddenly she was interrupted by a Turkish cavalry squadron charging down to the foreshore, with fire from their carbines they quickly caused Nasmith to abandon his plans and withdraw into deeper water and submerge.

Acknowledgment: We are most grateful to Colin Hague, Derek Hunt and Paul Ridgeway for drawing attention to the letter by Jeremy Burrows.

CAPTAIN MERVYN WINGFIELD

An Obituary in *The Daily Telegraph*, 28 May, for Captain Mervyn Wingfield the first British submariner to sink a Japanese submarine, mentions that his father won the DSO at Gallipoli. Perhaps there is a member who can tell us more of this officer?

OBITUARY NORMAN POLLITT (1927- 2005)

Norman was born on 5 August 1927 in Higher Crumpsall, Manchester. He stayed in Manchester throughout the Second World War, even when many of the children of the city were evacuated. With the majority of the children gone he spent several glorious months with no school. He filled his days with his friends roaming the surrounding hills and generally having fun. Later they would collect shrapnel from various bombs that had fallen and from crashed aircraft. Despite this intermission in his education Norman went on to become a Nuclear Physicist, so obviously this interruption had no lasting effect! His career included employment with ICI, the Atomic Energy Authority and Amersham International. He was also involved in the Fast Breeder Nuclear Reactor Project 'Dragon' spending some time in Denmark in the 1960s. He retired in 1986.

Norman was a man who understood and enjoyed computers, engineering, mathematics and chemistry. He was also an extremely enthusiastic and skilled genealogist and his work on the Pollitt Family Tree and the origins of the Pollitt family name is simply excellent. A keen military historian, particularly the First World War he regularly participated in meetings, commemorations and services, and visited numerous battlefields along the Western Front. Also to Gallipoli where his Father had won the DCM while serving in the Royal Engineers. The citation refers to his "conspicuous gallantry near Krithia" where he "showed the highest courage under very difficult circumstances." An incident subsequently illustrated in the magazine *Deeds That Thrill The Empire* and described by Norman himself in *The Gallipolian* 69: 23-26.

He first came into contact with the Gallipoli Association on joining a tour to the Peninsula in 1985 becoming in his own words "a willing recruit." It was not long before he was actively involved and by January 1988 had been appointed Membership Secretary. An early task was to place the membership list and addresses on computer, indeed it can be said he transformed the system. An immense step forward being the ability to run off as required address labels for the three mailings each year of *The Gallipolian*.

Norman was a generous, caring, compassionate man, a solid friend and neighbour, but above all a family man; a devoted husband, a proud Dad and an even prouder Grandpa. He loved life itself, he loved his holidays, the sea-side, drinking wine and above all he loved his food. He certainly wouldn't let the prospect of a little indigestion prevent him eating that extra portion of chocolate mouse with cream!

Norman leaves behind Gene, three children and six grandchildren. He was a true gentleman and touched the lives of all who knew him; he will be missed.

Note: We are most grateful to Norman's son Wing Commander Ian Pollitt for much assistance with this Obituary.

29TH DIVISION MEMORIAL

A vast improvement on last years' weather and an impressive turn out of between 70 and 80 persons marked our 90th anniversary remembrance on 13 March at what is a very important and worthwhile event.

We were very pleased to see and meet again members of the Great War and Living History Unit and as an addition, all the way from Preston members of the Great War Society. Geoff Wells did a marvellous job with a larger than normal contingent of Standard Bearers and Bugler while Piper Brian Ferris played a lament at the end of the Service. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Borough of Rugby, by the Mayor, Councillor Lionel Franklin, the Gallipoli Association by James Watson Smith, Western Front Association by Elizabeth Higgins, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association by Tom Brown, Coventry Standard Bearers by Harry Hobble, City Battalions, Great War Living History Unit by Scott Aston. The *Rugby Advertiser* published a full report on the ceremony on 17 March with four photographs in colour.

We were in fact twenty-four hours late as King George V reviewed the Division on 12 March 1915. Nevertheless I like to think the men of the Immortal 29th Division would have been pleased that their memory and endeavours had been remembered 90 years later at this spot prior to their departure for the Dardanelles.

Thanks as ever must go to David Ray who was responsible for making all the arrangements for the ceremony and who gave such a splendid address to those present.

WARTIME

The recent issue, No 30 of *Wartime* the official magazine of the Australian War Memorial is a special 90th Anniversary edition largely devoted to Gallipoli. The articles include Dawn of a legend, Eyewitness – Bean's first despatch, Air war over Gallipoli, A mother's pain, and The virtual Anzac Walk. While four eminent international military historians offer their reflections on Australia and the Gallipoli campaign. Three are members of the Gallipoli Association – Christopher Pugsley, Tim Travers and Kenan Celik, the "missing" one being Tom Frame author of *The Shores of Gallipoli*.

Acknowledgement: The Editor is most grateful to Malcolm Orchard for providing a copy of *Wartime*.

GALLIPOLI NEWS STORIES

As expected the Australian newspapers and magazines gave full and prominent coverage to the 90th Anniversary commemorations both at Gallipoli and in Australia itself. In addition to news of the day there was an impressive number of supporting supplements, articles and features.

In Great Britain the reporting was sparse, for instance *The Daily Telegraph* published a photograph of the Prince of Wales visiting British War Graves at Gallipoli alongside several lines reporting on the attendance of The Queen and Prince Philip at the Westminster Abbey Service. Interestingly the same paper on 23 April published two Gallipoli articles, the first, that by Harry Mount, is republished here on pages 22–24. The other by Sports Reporter Mihir Bose concerned the service of the Gurkhas at Gallipoli under the heading *Why were the heroic Gurkhas forgotten?* This resulted in several follow-up letters in the paper. *The Independent* published an article *Homage to heroism* by Adrian Hamilton, largely concerning his wife's grandfather who as a 19 year old had served at Gallipoli.

Family History Monthly for May included an article *Gallipoli 1915* by Phil Tomaselli. The two “case histories” were of Edmund Percival Smith great uncle of our Secretary, James Watson Smith and of Arthur Coxon of the 5th Norfolks, father of Arthur Coxon (see *The Gallipolian* 107: 16-17).

FIRST ESSEX AMBUSHED

Such was the heading that caught the eye on the arrival of the July edition of *If You Want The Old Battalion*, the monthly feast of the Essex Branch of the Western Front Association. The paragraph in question reporting on the deaths of Major H J Staunton and Lance-Corporal B Ellingham of the 1st Essex Regiment on 2 May. In the same issue an extract covering the period 25 April to 1 June from the 132 page diary of John Gibson Pitt 8th Battalion AIF.

GALLIPOLI VICTORIA CROSS

The Times, 9 July, just as this issue of *The Gallipolian* was in proof stage, reported that the Victoria Cross awarded to Sergeant Alfred Richards, is being sold by Spink on 21 July. Previously it was sold in 1980 for £10,000. We will report on the price realised on this occasion in the Winter *Gallipolian*.

Acknowledgement: Grateful thanks are due to Colin Hague, and Paul Ridgeway, for alerting the Editor to *The Times* report.

SHOT AT DAWN MEMORIAL – THE GALLIPOLI THREE

ROSEMARY CLARKE

Those visiting the Gallipoli Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum might take a few minutes to visit another memorial which includes three of those who served on the Gallipoli peninsula: The Shot at Dawn Memorial. Sited at the eastern end of the Arboretum, the Memorial is dedicated to the 306 British, Irish and Empire servicemen who were executed by the British Army during the First World War. Each having been charged, under the British Army Act, with offences which included cowardice, desertion, disobedience and casting away of arms.

The Memorial comprises Andrew Decomyn's statue of a blindfold Private Herbert Burden (see photographs on page 45) who was one of at least three under-aged boy soldiers executed and is flanked by 306 wooden posts, each bearing the name of one of those victims; volunteers, regular soldiers and conscripts. Although most of the executions took place on the Western Front, a number took place in other theatres, including the three in Gallipoli. The environmental and physical conditions endured by those serving in this area will be well-known to readers of *The Gallipolian* and illness played a part in the fate of two of those executed.

Private Thomas Davis, of 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, went missing for three hours whilst on sentry duty at his unit headquarters on 21 June. At a time when illness was rife amongst the troops, Davis told his court martial that a stomach complaint had forced him to the latrine. Unconvinced, his superiors found him guilty of leaving his post and he was executed on Gully Beach at 0500 on 2 July, aged 21.

Twenty-four year old Private Harry Salter, serving with 6th Battalion East Lancashire Regiment met a similar fate on 11 December. A volunteer from Bridgewater, Somerset, Salter had been court-martialled and found guilty of desertion, his execution taking place a week before the battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli.

The third case bore similarities to the other two. Sergeant John Robins of 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment was a Regular with a virtually clean record and had served in India. He was charged with disobedience; having twice refused to go on reconnaissance when ordered. Like Private Davis, Robins claimed illness prevented his following orders:

'On the night in question I was not well enough to go out. I was eight and a half years in India where I suffered a good deal from fever and ague, and I still get fits of this. I had been suffering from this for several days off and on, and the wet weather had greatly affected me. I have been out here for nearly five months and this is the first trouble I have ever been in. I have always done my duty. This would

not have happened if I had been quite well. At the time I did not realise the seriousness of what I did'

A brief medical statement was used against him at court martial and comments from senior officers did little to assist his case. Robins was condemned to death – and reduced to the rank of private. Unusually precise details were given for the location of the execution, to be carried out:

“at a point on the beach 400 yards North of the mouth of the Gully Ravine.”

Robins was told of his fate on New Year's Day 1916 and shot at 0800 on 2 January. The battalion left the peninsula a week after the execution.

A further Gallipoli connection with those executed is that of Private Albert Rickman from Hampshire who served with 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers in Gallipoli. Wounded, he was returned home and following recovery, was sent to the Western Front. Badly affected by an exploding shell during the early days of the Somme, he was taken to hospital from where he was discharged without supervision. Still a sick and confused man, Rickman was discovered hiding under a dormitory hut and arrested. Records show he had proven himself to be a worthy soldier but he was found guilty of desertion and faced a firing-squad on 15 September 1916.

Although remembered in the country in which they fell, few of those executed were included on war memorials and rolls of honour in their own country. The Shot at Dawn Memorial has addressed that exclusion and it has become a place of comfort to the relatives of these men and a focal point of public remembrance. The memorial is one of the most-visited at the Arboretum – a moving tribute to those who fell at the hands of their own side.

Sources:

Julian Putkowski and Julian Sykes – *Shot at Dawn*,

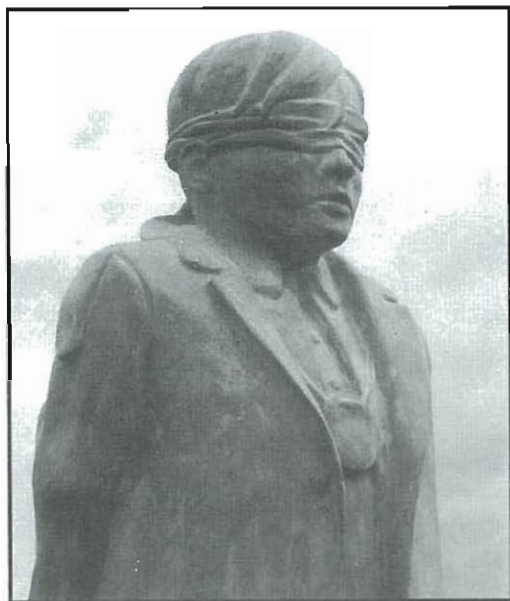
Paula Perry, volunteer, at the Museum of Berkshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Regiments Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Public Record Office WO 71/442 – Court martial file of Sergeant John Robins

Further information, including details of the pardons campaign, can be found online www.shotatdawn.org.uk

www.clarkehome58.freereserve.co.uk or by telephoning: 0191 262 4753

Note: SAD lapel pins and brooches featuring a white-centred poppy (representing the white fabric or paper attached to the serviceman as a target prior to execution) are now available, for £3.50 each including postage, for those wishing to show support for the campaign. For further details, please e-mail efe@clarkehome58.freereserve.co.uk or call 023 9259 8227.



Boy Soldier Private Herbert Burden



A general view of the Shot at Dawn Memorial with statue of Herbert Burden

NEW MEMORIAL TO LEDWIDGE IN DUBLIN

ANTHONY P QUINN

A plaque to Francis Ledwidge, the Irish poet killed on the Western Front in 1917, was unveiled on 3 February 2005, at the Irish National Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, Dublin. Tom Parlon, TD, Minister of State at the Office of Public Works officiated.

The event was held in conjunction with the Inchicore Ledwidge Society. Great credit and thanks are due to the Society's chairman, local poet Liam O'Meara. His determined efforts in the Society's campaign for a Ledwidge memorial were successful. There were objections to erecting a specific memorial to an individual in the Lutyens-designed gardens although Rupert Brooke's poetry is quoted. As a compromise, the Ledwidge memorial was placed inside a pagoda in the memorial gardens.

There is local connection because Ledwidge joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at the nearby Richmond Barracks. He survived the Dardanelles and wrote about the campaign in *The Irish in Gallipoli*, a mystical poem with classical allusions:

Where Aegean cliffs with bristling menace front
The Threatening splendour of that isley sea
Lighted by Troy's last shadow...
Our Cross with England's mingle...
Let Ireland weep but not for sorrow.

That poem, arguably not a good example of Ledwidge's lyrical style, is quoted beside his picture on the new memorial.

During the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association's remembrance journey to Gallipoli in 2001, I was privileged to recite that poem in the presence of the local Turkish governor at V Beach. Ledwidge from rural county Meath is now recognised as a major poet from WWI. He is also commemorated near his hometown, Slane. The poet's fans rejoice that Ledwidge's lines now sing at Islandbridge.

The Best of Francis Ledwidge, introduction by Ulick O'Connor, edited with notes by Liam O'Meara, is available from ripostebooks@yahoo.co.uk



Tom Purlon, TD, Minister of State at the Office of Public Affairs together with Anthony Quinn, at the Ledwidge Plaque. Photograph A Quinn Collection.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION?

Members attending the first session of the Anzac Weekend at the Imperial War Museum 23/24 April would have been surprised to hear the first person from the audience in discussion time to ask the question "What happened to the Gallipoli Association."

He was Roger Boissier CBE who, together with his brother Martin, had been among the very first Associate Members of the Association in 1973 when the Members category was wholly veterans of the campaign. Their father, who was a member being Lieutenant-Commander Ernest Boissier DSC who had served with Howe Battalion, Royal Naval Division at Gallipoli. Following the death of their father in 1976 they had allowed their memberships to elapse, though Roger Boissier has since re-joined.

The In Memoriam in *The Daily Telegraph*, 13 May, includes another brother, John Boissier, Sub-Lieutenant, RNVR who was killed when MGB 2002 was destroyed by a mine in the Skagarak on 13 May 1945.

GALLIPOLI CASUALTIES – A CONTINUING MYTH

MAJOR & MRS TONIE HOLT

Many members, like us, will have followed the commemorations of the Gallipoli Landings and have noticed how the ANZACs are still presented as the major participants and sufferers of the campaign. It is not true of course and we tried to correct the items broadcast by the BBC and published in *The Evening Standard* but did not even elicit a reply. Here our letter.

Dear Editor

We refer to the piece by Patrick Sawyer in *The Standard* today (25 April) in which Prince Charles is shown at Anzac Cove and the copy includes, "among those who suffered the greatest losses were the Anzacs ..." This is not true and the fallacy was repeated by Radio 4 on its news bulletin.

Here are the actual figures for the total casualties:

Turkish - 251,309
British Empire other than Anzac - 171,335
French - 47,000
Australian - 26,094
New Zealand - 7,571

You will see that the French had more casualties than all of the Anzacs in fact they had more killed than the Australians had casualties.

You will also see that the Empire less the Anzacs had five times as many casualties as the Anzacs yet in the bulletins commentating upon the 90th Anniversary one almost had the impression that the British were not there. Prince Charles is shown at the Anzac/Turkish memorial area and as far as one can tell he did not attend the British ceremony at the Helles Memorial which is at the tip of the Peninsula.

While one admires the dedication of the young Anzacs who travel each year to the Dawn Service and also acknowledges the bravery and drive of those who landed at Anzac Cove we should not forget the thousands of our own Tommies who died or were wounded - and up to now they are frequently forgotten. Please find room to correct that situation.

Incidentally we have often been criticised by Australians for quoting the above figures since they are contrary to the accepted, 'most of the casualties were

Anzacs', story but they are the official figures given in Bean's Official Australian History of Gallipoli - albeit in a small footnote.

Editors Note: In *The Gallipolitan* 96 Autumn 2001 we published a note in answer to the frequently asked question "how many men were killed at Gallipoli?" Our member Patrick Gariepy, who has been researching Gallipoli casualties for many years and is a continual source of information for those following their own quests, provided us with totals. He has now with the benefit of his exhaustive studies provided us with up-dated figures for the Allied side excluding the French of those killed at Gallipoli, died at sea or of their wounds in Egypt, Malta and elsewhere.

British	29,134
Australian	8,520
New Zealand	2,806
Indian	1,891
Newfoundland	45
Ceylon	4
Others	29
TOTAL FATALITIES	42,429

As for our gallant French allies Jean-Claude Lis of the Association Nationale Pour le Souvenir des Dardanelles et Fronts D'Orient is currently working on the French casualties. It is difficult to gather accurate information, he says "it can be safely said however that French Army losses including Sengalese troops largely exceed the combined Australia and New Zealand total."

COUNCIL "PUTS A PRICE" ON VC'S BRAVERY

Such reads a heading in the *Maidenhead Advertiser* regarding hopes that a "Blue Plaque" could be funded for Lieutenant William Forshaw VC of the Manchester Regiment and Gallipoli fame. Alas Bray Parish Council voted against providing any funds, it was said "because it was not a parish issue." An earlier report in the same paper (both kindly provided by Derek Hunt) described how Terry Nicolson a volunteer for the Berkshire War Memorials Trust had received permission from the owners of Forshaw's house in Holyport for a plaque to be mounted. He is now to seek funds elsewhere, and meanwhile is anxious to hear from anyone with information about William Forshaw VC and can be contacted by e-mail at terry.nicolson@ntlworld.com

REFERENCES TO THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN BY COLONEL C REPINGTON

RICHARD SMITH MVO

Note: Interesting references to the Gallipoli (Dardanelles) Campaign in *The First World War* Volume 1 (of 2) by Colonel C(harles) a C(ourt) Repington published by Constable in 1920

Colonel Repington CMG (1858-1925) was in a uniquely privileged position as Military Correspondent of *The Times*. 1904-18 and of *The Daily Telegraph*, 1918-25. These volumes demonstrate his exceptional range of influential political, military and social contacts, and give a valuable contemporary view of some aspects of the Gallipoli Campaign and of those involved at the highest level. He had served as a Lieutenant-Colonel on Kitchener's staff at Orndurman in 1898, but had later been forced to resign his commission because of a personal indiscretion involving another officer's wife.

Page 42. The Dardanelles expedition was not a subject that I was able to write about freely, for although I admired greatly the bold landing of Ian Hamilton and the superb gallantry of his men, I recognised that we could not, for a long time, have sufficient military resources to win in France and at Constantinople at the same time, and for this reason, – though I thought Constantinople a right objective, and had so informed Hankey, the Secretary of the Defence Committee, at the opening of the war with Turkey – I disapproved of the Dardanelles adventure. I believed that there were three times as many Turks at the Dardanelles, or within short call of it, as there were British in Sir Ian's little force, and I never perceived any sound basis or plan for the glorious but hapless proceedings which followed. Sooner or later, I thought, we should have to meet army by army, and our strength was never sufficient to offer Sir Ian a fair chance of winning. By dividing our armies between France and the Dardanelles it seemed probable that we should be too weak for victory in either theatre, as indeed we proved to be, and as I could say nothing good for the expedition to the Dardanelles ... I relapsed into silence.

Pages 46, 47 & 48. [Wednesday Sept. 29, 1915] Dined with Winston. Soon after dinner W and I adjourned to his study upstairs, and went through all his alleged failures at the Admiralty ... As regards the Dardanelles, his position is that he cabled to Carden to ask him if he could force the Dardanelles. The latter replied that he could not rush them, but thought that he could take them by deliberate attack. His plans were sent home and approved by the Admiralty. Two days before the attack Carden went sick; Winston then cabled De Robeck, who had succeeded Carden, to ask whether he approved of Carden's plans, and was prepared to carry them out. Robeck answered 'Yes', and the attack went on. After the loss of three ships, Winston said that the

Admiralty declared that they were prepared to lose twelve ships, and wished to go on, though Jack Fisher was already hesitating. Winston cabled privately to De Robeck to urge him to go on, but the latter now said that he preferred that the soldiers should take on the job, and although Winston disliked this course he consented to it. The military plans were approved by Lord K., who practically ran all the military part of the expedition. In short, Winston's position is that he was only directly responsible for the naval attack; that he only used old ships which were useless for any other purpose; and that the attack by the ships was not pressed home. He read to me the statement that he was to have made in Parliament but refrained from reading. He admitted that these failures had greatly impaired his usefulness, and he was rather despondent about himself.

Page 67. [Wednesday, Nov. 17] Went to see Northcliffe at 22 St James's Place, and found Winston with him. Winston was in great form and tearing spirits. He leaves for France to-morrow to rejoin his regiment, abandoning what he calls his "well-paid inactivity". It is rather splendid of him. To give up £4000 a year and go off soldiering is certainly noble, except from the point of view of his family. He had come to ask us to treat him in a gentlemanly way when he is away, which I hope we shall. He urged the continuance of the Dardanelles operations once more, but, I thought, with less conviction in his voice than formerly ... He was critical of Kitchener, and evidently disposed to put down most of the misfortunes of the war to him.

Page 69. [Friday, Nov. 19] He [Bonar Law] was evidently in favour of a withdrawal from the Dardanelles, and questioned me closely about it to see what I thought. I told him that I approved, and he said he saw no use in leaving 50,000 men at the tail of the peninsula to be held up by the same number of Turks or less ... When I said I could not understand why the government sent out Charles Monro to report about the Dardanelles, and then did not take his advice, they both (Bonar Law and Carson) said that they had said the same thing to the Cabinet themselves.

Pages 81 & 82. [Thursday, Dec. 9] Saw Sir Ian Hamilton in the afternoon. He was just finishing his Dardanelles despatch. He was not able to do so before, because all the reports from the Suvla Bay troops had been sent home to Sir F. Stopford, who had sent his report direct home to the War Office, and Sir Ian had to send for them all before he could complete his own draft. He was very interesting on all the story of the Dardanelles. He was grieved to think that we were coming away. He had been asked about it before leaving the Dardanelles, and reported against it, mentioning large figures as the probable price of evacuation. He had been able to obtain the opinion of Corps and Divisional Commanders, who had changed their views after he had come home. Monro had advocated withdrawal. Generals Davies, Birdwood, and Byng, had now all recommended evacuation. Lord K. had told the Cabinet that they would have to give in. Lord K. thinks evacuation possible, and places the loss at a lower figure than that anticipated by Hamilton. The latter declares that troops sent out to him had always been sent out too late, but he admits that for the Suvla Bay affair he got all he wanted.

Lord K. told Sir Ian that there was no fault to be found in his conduct of operations, and that he could always hold his head high. Sir Ian naturally replied that in that case he did not know why he was at home. The men he asked for were Rawlinson and Byng, but K. had said that the man selected must be senior to Mahon. Sir Ian had then asked for Bruce Hamilton, and had received a reply that the P.M. thought Bruce too old. Lord K. then offered him Spencer Ewart, but Sir Ian replied that Ewart was not physically up to the work.

... Sir Ian thinks that he has been holding up 240,000 Turks at the Dardanelles.

Pages 92 & 93. [Tuesday, Dec. 21] We heard this morning that our troops had evacuated Gallipoli and Anzac successfully; a great relief to us all, and especially to the Government, which would probably have been turned out had the operation cost as much as was feared by Ian Hamilton and others. Spoke to Caldwell at the W.O. about the share of the General Staff in the initial military attack on the peninsula of Gallipoli. He assured me that the General Staff, as such, were never consulted, nor had been asked to express an opinion. Lord K. alone was responsible.

Pages 102 & 103. [Monday, Jan. 10, 1916] ... Jack [Sir John] Cowans* told us on Sunday night that the last part of Gallipoli had been successfully evacuated without loss. This was good news. Official estimates led people to fear the loss of between 30,000 and 50,000 men. He told us that we now had 1000 ships in the Mediterranean and that the cost was something frightful. He mentioned one that had been at Mudros since the spring and was costing £90,000 a month, and another that was travelling about with a heavy gun which could not be landed anywhere, and had already cost the country £11,000. He had telegraphed to tell them to throw the gun into the sea and come home.

Page 105. [Tuesday, Jan. 11] ... We are told some amusing stories about the evacuation. Ingenious contrivances were made to fire off guns and rifles mechanically when the troops had left, and then went on firing for half an hour after the troops had embarked. There does not appear to be the slightest truth in the rumour which naturally goes round that the Turks were bribed.

* Lieutenant-General Sir John Cowans, GCMG, GCB together with numerous foreign orders, was Quartermaster General on the General Staff. Born 1862 died 1921.

NAVY'S HISTORICAL BRANCH OPENS IN PORTSMOUTH

A treasure trove of Royal Navy documents dating back to the 16th century was officially opened by First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Alan West, in Portsmouth on 6 May. The Naval Historical Branch, which comprises 120,000 records, outgrew premises in Great Scotland Yard, London and has moved to a converted 18th century store house in Portsmouth Naval Base. The Branch's new home includes climate-controlled storage to help preserve important archived material and a reading room open by appointment. The £1.4m conversion was carried out by Havant firm Henry Jones.

Among documents in the collection are Captain Cook's original chart of Newfoundland and ancient atlases by Ortelius, Ptolemy, Steele and Mercator. More bizarre items include references to the Navy's attempt to train seagulls to defecate on enemy periscopes and the amount of nitro-glycerine capable of being extracted from lard. The archive also includes the Admiralty Library – a collection of more than 160,000 Naval books gathered over the last 200 years.

The material allows the branch to provide historical advice to the RN, MoD and other government departments, academics and Parliament. It often provides information to assist in the making of naval and defence policy. Advising the media, in particular documentary makers, has also become a feature of the branch's varied work. Recent BBC series on the Battle of the Atlantic and Dunkirk had an important helping hand from the branch's eleven full-time staff. The head of the Historical Branch is Captain Christopher Page RN, a member of the Gallipoli Association and author of *Command in the Royal Naval Division* Spellmount 1999.

The Historical Branch welcomes visitors, however because the Branch is in a secure area of the Dockyard arrangements need to be made for visitors to be escorted. Such arrangements can be made through contact with Christine Harper on 02392 724327.

A TRIBUTE TO THREE BROTHERS

The May 2005 issue of *The Great War*, the "Little Magazine dedicated to the Great War" contains an interesting Gallipoli connection, a short article by Terry Walker *A Tribute to Three Brothers*. This concerns the story of the Nevinson brothers of Londonderry as reported in a local newspaper in 1917 who lost their lives in the War, one, Private James Nevinson dying of wounds on 28 December 1915 at Gallipoli. *The Great War* is available from Great War Publishing, PO Box 202, Scarborough, YO11 3GE. www.greatnorthernpublishing.co.uk The publishers also announce a sister publication commencing in the autumn *The Second World War Magazine*.

COMMANDER UNWIN'S VICTORIA CROSS

The April meeting of the Gallipoli Committee took place on 14 April at the Imperial War Museum following which at a small informal luncheon party members of the Committee were privileged to be present on the occasion that the Victoria Cross and other decorations belonging to Commander Edward Unwin, commander of the *River Clyde* during the landings of 25 April, were loaned to the Museum by the Unwin family.

This was a purely private Museum event, a way of saying thank you to the donors of these special awards so when given or lent a Victoria Cross or a George Cross a small informal luncheon party is arranged for the family to mark the occasion. The guest list is first and foremost the family and their guests, followed by representatives of the Victoria Cross & George Cross Association and a selection of other VC/GC donors. Other guests normally include representatives of the service or regiment and anyone else to whom the Museum owes special thanks for anything Victoria Cross or George Cross related.

The Unwin Victoria Cross is on loan from his three grandchildren although it is actually owned by the eldest Mr Christopher Elliott. Mr Elliott lives abroad so his brother Nick Elliott spoke on behalf of the Unwin family of which there were some eight members present. Other guests present included The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Caroline Longworth and her consort Mr John Longworth. The Dean of Westminster, The Very Reverend Dr Wesley Carr. Colonel Stuart Archer GC OBE ERD Chairman of the VC and GC Association. Commander Margaret Robbins RN, Commanding Officer of HMS Excellent. Mr David Callaghan formerly of Hancocks (London) Ltd who make the Victoria Cross; General Sir Peter De La Billiere; Brigadier Clendon Daukes Bursar of St. Peter's College, Oxford (Chavasse VC); Major General Jack Dye Vice President of Framlingham College (Flowerdew and Hewitt VCs); Mr Stephen Wright, Head Master of Merchant 'Taylors' Northwood (Drewry VC). Mr & Mrs Robert Binham (grandson of Trooper Potts VC, Berkshire Yeomanry); Major General Julian Thompson; Lt General Sir Christopher Wallace (IWM Trustee). Other VC/GC family representatives were Dr & Mrs Peter Babington (Babington GC.; Hon Peter and Mrs Baillie (Mrs Baillie is the daughter of Newgass GC) Miss Rosemary Fitch (granddaughter of Admiral Carpenter VC-Zeebrugge); Mr William and Mr Jonathan Fisher (great grandsons of Evans VC).

Note: We are most grateful to Diana Condell, Senior Curator, Medals Curator, VC/GC Exhibition for providing the details above.



Grandchildren and great grandchildren of Captain Unwin VC. Left to right, Nick Elliott, Lucy Ansley, Josh Elliott, Johanna Dix-Perkin, Edward Dix-Perkin. Photograph Imperial War Museum.

G S PATTON – A GENERAL STAFF STUDY

Bob Pike has recently provided a copy of a publication which has probably escaped most Gallipoli researchers and enthusiasts attention. The title *The Defense of Gallipoli* was written as "A General Staff Study" by G S Patton, Jr, Lieutenant Colonel General Staff at Headquarters Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, USA in August 1936. Yes, the Patton of Second World War fame writing during his second tour in Hawaii, a tour which according to one biographer "failed to gain the palm of official approval." One of his other reports at the time, sadly allowed to gather dust, was his forecast of a Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. Perhaps because of a full dress row with his commanding general in the full glare of a polo match arising from his lurid language in the excitement of the game. Some 69 pages, the main part of the Study concludes:

"Finally, too much stress cannot be placed on the necessity of using selected officers for the critical positions both on offense and defense. At Suvla Bay it was not the Turkish Army which defeated the British – it was von Sanders, Kemal Pasha and Major Willmer who defeated Hamilton, Stopford, Hammersley, and Sitwell. Had the two sets of commanders changed sides it is believed that the landing would have been as great a success as it was a dismal failure."

SEARCHING FOR MOZART

Not a programme title in the *Radio Times* to suggest a connection with Gallipoli but fortunately there was an illustration together with a supporting text by Alan Titchmarsh, for the "Mozart" in question is one of the lost Brodie daffodils. His second paragraph commences "But there were stars in the laird's selections – daffs such as "Gallipoli" (bred by Brodie in 1916 after he was wounded in the First World War) —

The programme broadcast on Radio 4 on the morning of 26 April described the search for such lost daffodils by David Wheeler the head gardener at Brodie Castle and his National Trust colleague Duncan Donald who spends every Easter holiday looking for lost daffodils. Due mention was made of "Gallipoli" one of the finest of the Brodie cultivars but still classed as "missing". One with a Gallipoli connection which has been found and is now in the collection is "Marmora" so there is still hope, but time is running out, perhaps ten years at the most before the missing daffodils are lost for good.

An article in *The Gallipolian* 68: 40-41 described the "Gallipoli" daffodil and the search by members both at home and abroad. Clearly we must renew our efforts over each coming spring.

In the absence of "Gallipoli" one can mention that two recently developed daffodils bear 1915 campaign names. These are "Cape Helles" and "Dardanelles" both available from Ringhaddy Daffodils, 60 Ringhaddy Road, Killinchy, Co Down, BT23 6TU who produce a detailed catalogue, price £2.00. .

Acknowledgement: We are grateful to Patricia & John Barber for providing the pages from the *Radio Times* detailing the programme.

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 our 1,200 or so 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.

Photograph Wanted: One photo in particular I am looking for is Second Lieutenant Valentine Blake he is the only commissioned officer (New Zealand) that died at Gallipoli that I do not have a photograph of. Leigh Willoughby in Hokitika, the Best

Place in New Zealand kiwi_anzac35@yahoo.co.nz See also the third web site reported on page 60.

Author's Request: Bud Feuer, PO Box 1145, Roanoke, VA 24006, USA writes to say he is seeking copies of diaries, letters and personal photographs for use in a book he is preparing about the Gallipoli campaign.

Private Henry Creal: New member Chris Bartlett, Gilmour Section House, 42 Kennington Lane, London, SE11 4LS who is compiling a history of the Creal family seeks information on his great uncle, Private 8298 Hedley George Creal, 2nd Hampshire Regiment who was killed on 25 April. The family have only the most limited of information about Great Uncle Henry who was never spoken about by the family after his death.

NEWS FROM THE MIDLANDS

Alan Hurst-Tomlinson has very kindly provided copies of two Gallipoli articles from local newspapers in the West Midlands. First in the *Express & Star* a feature concerning the researches of Penny Wright-Thompson whose grandfather was wounded at Gallipoli while serving with the 4th Worcesters. She has recently joined the Association and is in contact with a number of families, including some from Australia and New Zealand whose relatives served at Gallipoli. So enthralled with the stories she has discovered she is now writing a book.

The Bugle 12 May includes a long article highlighting a letter home from Gallipoli by Lance Corporal B R Grice, 9th Royal Warwicks describing his experiences and the death of his best pal, Jeremiah Hadley. This had been provided to the newspaper by our member Kevan Darby who is anxious to hear from anyone who had relatives serving with the 9th Royal Warwicks during the First World War.

Note: If you have the opportunity to place or prompt an article about Gallipoli in your local newspaper/s please try and include a mention of the Gallipoli Association with our short address – PO Box 26907, London, SE21 8WB.

DRUMMER JOSEPH HICKEY

TADGH MOLONEY MA

Hon Secretary, Royal Munster Fusiliers Association

It may interest your members to know that at a recent auction held in County Clare, Ireland, items relating to a soldier of the 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers were sold. These items belonged to Drummer Sergeant Joseph Hickey 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers and apparently to a relation of his, who also served in the regiment by the name of J. Lyons. Nothing much is known about Lyons only that the medals that were auctioned belonged to him and included the 1914 Star (Mons Star). Drummer Sergeant J. Hickey on the other hand had enlisted as a boy drummer in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and transferred to the Royal Munster Fusiliers, where he attained the rank described above. He was one of the men of the 29th Division who landed on V Beach on 25 April. Bandsmen, in time of war became stretcher-bearers and tended the wounded. Drummer Sergeant J. Hickey was attending a wounded comrade on the 1 May when he was shot through the head by a sniper. He came from the Pennywell district of Limerick City, and has no known grave, and is therefore commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey, and is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission register Roll of Honour website.

The items sold were: A framed needlework picture depicting the colours of the 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers with the Battle Honours around them, 'This sold for €590 (Five hundred & ninety Euros). Three First World War medals belonging to J. Lyons and a large portrait of Drummer Sergeant Hickey, this lot sold for €620 (Six hundred & twenty Euros). Military bronze Memorial Medallion (Death Plaque or Widow's Penny) for Drummer Sergeant J. Hickey, €230 (Two hundred and thirty Euros). Photograph Album containing photographs of J. Lyons and J. Hickey of the Royal Munster Fusiliers sold for €560 (Five hundred & sixty Euros). The total therefore amounted to €2,000 (Two thousand Euros). This shows that items relating to the disbanded Southern Irish regiments continue to attract much interest.

Note: Patrick Gariepy has kindly provided some biographical information:

Hickey, Sergeant Drummer Joseph No.5680 1st Battalion. Born February 5, 1884, in St. Michael's, Limerick, Co. Limerick, the son of Bandmaster John Hickey, The Royal Scots Fusiliers, and Catherine Lyons. He enlisted before the war in Limerick and served with The Royal Scots Fusiliers in the Boer War. On 1 May 1915, he was killed while helping to bury one of his buglers, aged 31 years. Name commemorated on the Helles Memorial. Photo in *The Coventry Graphic* of 4 June 1915.

I suspect this is the Lyons referred to: .

Lyons, Private James No.8402 1st Battalion. Born in Newtown, Clarina, Co. Limerick, and enlisted in Limerick, the son of William and Ellen Lyons of Cloughakeatinge, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick. Killed in action at "V" Beach, Helles, on 25 April aged 34 years. Buried "V" Beach Cemetery.

RIVER CLYDE – WORLD SHIP REVIEW

The June edition of *World Ship Review*, journal of The World Ship Trust contains a fine article by the maritime historical writer Denis Stonham concerning the *River Clyde*. Five pages (A4 format) including a photograph of her at V Beach which most members will not not have seen previously, one of her sometime after the war lying in Malta and one under the Spanish flag as *Maruja y Aurora*.

Most fascinating is the revelation of how as early as 1919 the possibility of the ship being preserved was being considered, while in 1920 the matter was raised in Parliament though shortly afterwards she was named the *Angela* by her new owners in Santander. In 1936 approaching Gibraltar during the homeward leg of the famous pilgrimage to Gallipoli the *Lancastria* actually passed the *Maruja y Aurora* as the *River Clyde* was now called.

Sadly and despite further efforts in 1965 when she was available for sale at £42,500 the *River Clyde* was broken up the following year. It is interesting to wonder if the Gallipoli Association had been in existence then would the story have been any different?

MORE WEB SITES TO EXPLORE

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/index.htm>

This is a website for browsing, and you can soon find yourself moving from one subject to another without much difficulty, and it can be time consuming! There is a good menu to select from, including Vintage Photographs, Prose and Poetry, Memoirs and Diaries and Feature Articles. This website contains much material based in and around the events of World War One and continues to expand.

I suggest you begin with "How It All Began" from the menu. The left hand menu is The General Contents, the right hand Timeline is divided into two sections. The upper

one is the years 1914-1919; the lower one is entitled "On This Day" with the months January to December. Choose a month, and the calendar will link you to daily summaries for each day of the war, with just a click of the mouse. Some months cover 1914-1919, others 1915-1919.

www.rmfa92.org

The Royal Munster Fusiliers Association web site is divided as follows: History, The Etreux Action of 27 August 1914, Association News, Links to various websites), QM Stores Blazer Badges, Ties and Lapel Pins, Membership Form and Contact address. The Association was formed in 1992, and membership is open to all interested persons at an annual subscription of 10 Euros.

The history of the Fusiliers began in 1652 as a small force guarding the East Indian Company's factory at Calcutta. The 1st Battalion formed part of The Immortal 29th Division, landing at Gallipoli from the *River Clyde* William Cosgrove being awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on 26 April (see *The Gallipolian* 107:50-54). The Royal Munster Fusiliers were disbanded on 31 July 1922, on the establishment of The Irish Free State, the Colours having been handed over to King George V on 12 June 1922.

Jennie Stringer

<http://www.nzmrangloboerwar.org.nz>

My name is Leigh Willoughby, I live in Hokitika, South Island, New Zealand and have created a website concerning the campaigns, including the nominal rolls of New Zealanders who served in the Boer War, First & Second World Wars. There is still much work to be done however all those who died at Gallipoli are listed.

BOOK REVIEWS

SYMBOL OF COURAGE

MAX ARTHUR

Pan Books 2005. Paperback Edition 2005. 690 pages, 68 illustrations, 8 maps.

ISBN 0 330 49133 4. £9.99.

A re-issue of the author and Gallipoli Association members book first published in 2004 (see Review in *The Gallipolian* 106 page 50 (2004)). A book which deserves a place on every shelf was how we described it at the time. This new edition in paperback format is fully up-dated to include three pages devoted to Private Beharry whose bravery in Iraq on 1 May and 11 June resulted in the award of the Victoria Cross.

HEROIC OPTION: THE IRISH IN THE BRITISH ARMY

DESMOND & JEAN BOWEN

Pen & Sword Books 2005. 332 pages, numerous illustrations. ISBN 1 84415 152 2. £25.00.

This has to be the best coverage ever of the Irish in the British Army. *Heroic Option* is a superbly written and researched book, from the Preface, with its scathing indictment of Ireland's neglect of her First World War veterans, right through to the detailed index. An important book and a must for any library. Desmond & Jean Bowen cover almost all of the war zones from the Irish rebellion in 1641 through to the final battles of 1918, and the actions are easy and exciting to read, without the usual military minutiae to be found in many "war books". In such a wide ranging work one cannot really complain to find Gallipoli is covered in some 17 pages, but the actions here will forever be remembered.

Details of individual soldiers, regiments, and battles are given in an interesting and general way, and make *Heroic Option* intelligible to all who may be interested in the Irish in the British Army but who does not wish to wade through military histories. This is a "warts and all" publication, and no punches are pulled where the soldiery deserves criticism as at Badajoz City in April 1812. After an epic attack by Wellington's army "where many of his finest men were destroyed" and losses were high, the men went on a drunken orgy of revenge against the local citizenry, which "rivalled the worst atrocities of the Thirty Years' War."

However, over all the Irish soldier in the British Army has proved to be one of its greatest assets. As the book rightly says, "A national proclivity to quarrel may have prevented this martial people from uniting amongst themselves but when properly trained and equipped they have been accepted as among the best soldiers in the world."

Sadly, Desmond Bowen died whilst he and his wife were working on the book and Jean continued the task of finishing it on her own, but there is certainly no evidence of any change of authorship; the book proceeds with great style and vigour. *Heroic Option* deserves a wide readership and to be available in the best of war libraries.

Ann S. Allridge

WHITE'S FLIGHT

FRED & ELIZABETH BRENCHLEY

John Wiley Sons 2004. 252 pages, 63 illustrations, map. ISBN 1 74031 100 0. AUS\$ 27.23.

The story of Thomas Walter White (1888-1957) one of the first to serve in the Australian Flying Corps whose own account of his time, following capture in Mesopotamia, in Turkish PoW camps – *Guests of the Unspeakable* 1928 republished

1990 is a minor classic. Although *White's Flight*, an excellent biography of the aviator, later Sir Thomas White, has no direct connection with Gallipoli it does provide a valuable insight into life as a PoW in Turkish hands, a fate that befell some of those who served on the Peninsula. The author's previous book *Stoker's Submarine*, the story of AE 2 sunk in April 1915 was published in 2001.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN WORLD WAR I

STEPHEN J CHAMBERS

Schiffer Military History 2005. 318 pages, over 600 photographs. ISBN 0 7643 2154 4. £55.00.

This is the author's second book, the first, *Gully Ravine*, was published in 2003 (see *The Gallipolian* 101: 58), naturally he is a member of the Gallipoli Association. The present book is a superb photographic record, indeed the sub-title is *A Study in Period Photographs*. What photographs as well, over 600 in this large format and handsomely produced volume which even someone like this reviewer who is "not into uniforms" found to be of interest on every page. The fifteen chapters range from the period 1900-1914 through Staff Officers and Others, Field Infantry, Dominion Troops, Royal Artillery Royal Army Medical Corps, Wheels and Transport to mention just a few. Naturally the Gallipoli connections are limited but include a grand group of the 1/1st Lanarkshire Yeomanry setting off for Gallipoli in July 1915. Others which caught the reviewer's eye were an RND man in 1915 at Blandford Camp. A Gallipoli DCM veteran with his "A" for Anzac on his cloth unit patches in honour of having served at Gallipoli, and a Trooper of the 3rd Australian Light Horse, with horse shortly before leaving Egypt for Gallipoli. Not Gallipoli but two wonderful full-page photographs of troopers of the Imperial Camel Corps on their camels deserve a mention. This is a book that deserves to be on everyone's book shelves, a masterpiece photographic collection.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHURCHILL

RICHARD HOLMES

BBC Books 2005. 350 pages, numerous illustrations. ISBN 0 563 52176 7. £20.

Any true student of the Great War must be familiar with the work of Richard Holmes CBE TD, Professor of Military and Security Studies at Cranfield and the Royal Military College of Science. No mere academic, he also holds the rank of Brigadier in the TA, and is Colonel of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Even a casual viewer of television will have come across his programmes on the First World War and other conflicts (don't miss any opportunity to hear him speak in person). His score or so of books also includes biographies of Wellington and Sir John French.

In the television series (to be repeated in the autumn) which this latest book accompanies, Professor Holmes is found, characteristically, 'walking the ground' at

places associated with Churchill. But the book is no mere rehash of the TV production. Neither, in fact, has Holmes written a straightforward story of an eventful life. In this he was undoubtedly wise, as there are already several biographies (most recently the hard-pounding work by Roy Jenkins) and numerous other works. Rather, he has concentrated on using biographical detail to enlighten us about the man himself, warts and all. He admits to a fascination with Churchill's character, which he analyses in depth.

Naturally the period of the First World War, and particularly Churchill's involvement with the Dardanelles campaign, will be of great interest to members. Professor Holmes takes the view that Churchill had no responsibility for the disastrous land campaign on the peninsula. One could argue, however, that as one of the strongest proponents of an alternative theatre to the Western Front he must be afforded some of the blame. It is far too easy to limit culpability for this ill-prepared operation to the military.

Churchill, as First Lord of the Admiralty, certainly railroaded the Cabinet into the preliminary naval operation, and was rightly held to account for the debacle in the straits. One might take issue with Holmes' assertion that 'a relatively minor episode [Gallipoli] in a cataclysmic war has received disproportionate attention from historians'. He opines that the more significant aspect was the impact it had on Churchill's actions in later years, and it does appear that the failure of the whole misguided operation haunted him for the rest of his life.

After being defenestrated by Asquith, Churchill served successfully as a Major on the Western Front for a few months. One can regard this as highly creditable, except that he returned to Westminster as soon as it suited him. As Professor Holmes points out, this was a comfortable decision not available to many other serving men.

This recommended book is certainly not hagiographical. It is a readily accessible read.

Colin Hague

GALLIPOLI: UNTOLD STORIES

JONATHAN KING AND MICHAEL BOWERS

Doubleday 2005. Over 320 illustrations. ISBN 1 86325 471 4. AUS\$49.95.

By drawing on the writings of Charles Bean and the photographic work of Phillip Schuler, the publishers have produced a particularly handsome book, in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign. Both men sailed together for Egypt in October 1914 and worked together at Gallipoli; Charles Bean, a senior journalist and writer leader/for the *The Sydney Morning Herald*, was Australia's official war correspondent; Phillip Schuler, a photo-journalist with *The Age* was Australia's official photographer. Just as Bean took photographs to complement his writing, Schuler also wrote stories to complement his photographs.

Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial where they are deposited, Fairfax Publications were able to access and to publish extracts from Bean's private diaries – diaries that were often highly critical of things that went wrong, but about which he was not allowed to report on at the time. Indeed, the book is subtitled *Untold Stories* because it is based on these diaries, which are little known to the general public, and also very generously on many previously unpublished accounts by ordinary soldiers. Accounts that have come from private family collections of letters and diaries, collections that have been carefully held and kept for some ninety years.

However, it is Schuler's photographic work that dominates. He was at the landing, and over the next eight months he, as the books editors quietly note, "took thousands of photographs, compiling an astonishing photographic record that covered every possible aspect of the Anzacs on Gallipoli". This marvellous collection is held by the Australian War Memorial.

Phillip Schuler, who voluntarily joined the army in April 1915 also wrote *Australia in Arms* in 1916, the first full-scale account of the Anzac campaign. As Professor John Robertson noted in *Anzac and Empire* (1990) he "gave Australians a clear impression of what the fighting entailed" and "several times stressed the great bravery, good physique and soldierly qualities of the Turkish enemy." Phillip Schuler was killed in action in France on 23 June 1917, aged 28.

Gallipoli: Untold Stories features over 370 photographs and illustrations ranging from early training camps in Australia to one from the annual ANZAC Day commemorative March in Sydney in 2004. They include, of course, the evocative one of the last Gallipoli veteran – Alec Campbell from Tasmania in army uniform. In the words of Steve Gower, AO, Director of the Australian War Memorial who wrote its Foreword, *Gallipoli: Untold Stories* is a "book that gives us fresh insights into this familiar story." It is also a quiet reminder that in those eight dramatic months more than 11,000 Australians and New Zealanders lost their lives.

Malcolm Orchard

COLLINGWOOD ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Despite drizzle and then fairly heavy rain during the wreath laying the annual ceremony was very well attended and as ever a most worthwhile occasion. The Gallipoli Association tie was very much in evidence and due mainly I imagine to Roy Adam's tireless efforts this was a most event. No fewer than 23 wreaths were laid, that on behalf of the Gallipoli Association by myself.

James Watson Smith



Collingwood Memorial with wreaths, 3 June 2005. Photograph by Frances Stanley.



OBJECTIVES

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

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

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

The Gallipoli Campaign is characterised by countless deeds of heroism and endurance. It took place in an area smaller than Southampton amid appalling conditions, such as heat, flies, lack of water, equipment and proper sanitation. Later on, rain and a freak spell of sub-zero temperatures had to be endured, to say nothing of the desperate close quarter fighting throughout the campaign. Some 559,000 Allied personnel were committed, of whom 420,000 were British and Empire troops, 80,000 French, 50,000 Australians and 9,000 New Zealanders. The cost in human terms was terrible. The Allies had 250,000 casualties, of whom 50,000 were killed with only 10,000 having known graves. Turkish forces with some Germans, numbered between 300,000 and 400,000 and of these some 87,000 were killed. The evacuation in December and early January 1916 was a masterly operation - one of the great feats of military history.