

The Gallipolian

*The Journal of the
Gallipoli Association*

No. 113 - SPRING 2007



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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The painting on the cover of the landing from the *River Clyde* by Charles Dixon, is reproduced by kind permission of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) to whom we are most grateful.

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29 DIVISION MEMORIAL 11 MARCH 2007

The ceremony will take place at 1130 for 1200 on Sunday 11 March when a wreath will be laid on behalf of the Gallipoli Association. Wreaths will also be laid on behalf of other organisations and of individuals who served with the 29th Division. See *The Gallipolitan* 111: pages 10 and 31 for a report and photographs from 2006.

The memorial is situated in the centre of a large roundabout on the A45 about 5 miles east of Coventry, grid reference SP415733. Members and friends might like to gather afterwards at a nearby hostelry for lunch or other appropriate refreshments. Please contact the Secretary, James Watson Smith, address inside front cover, for more information.

GALLIPOLI DAY CEREMONIES WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE

Each year an increasing number of those attending wear a sprig of Rosemary.

“There’s rosemary, that’s for remembrance; pray, love, remember.”

Thus the words of Ophelia to the King and Queen of Denmark and Laertes, son of the Lord Chamberlain, in Hamlet, Act 4, Scene 5.

**Medals should be worn St Paul’s Cathedral, also at the Cenotaph
and in Westminster Abbey**

ST PAUL’S CATHEDRAL

A Service and Wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Gallipoli Memorial in the crypt of St Paul’s Cathedral at 0915 for 0930. Wreaths will be laid by a representative of Her Majesty’s Britannic Government, by senior representatives of the Royal Navy, the Army and by the High Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand and other high ranking officials from France and Turkey.

**Members and friends are particularly asked and encouraged
to attend this Service arranged by the Association.
It concludes in time to travel to Whitehall and the Cenotaph.**

THE CENOTAPH

A wreath will be laid at the Cenotaph on behalf of the Association.

Security measures in and around Westminster are most stringent and only members and guests with named tickets (please complete enclosed booking form – note closing date) will be allowed access to the west side of Whitehall. Early arrival is strongly advised. Access is by Clive Steps which front on to Horse Guards Road at the Cabinet War Rooms and which lead into King Charles Street and thus Whitehall just to the south of the Cenotaph. We will assemble close to the exit from King Charles Street by 1025. Members are encouraged to join with us to march to the Cenotaph where Major Hugh Jenner will act as our Marshal.

THE ABBEY

We have as in previous years been invited to join the Anzacs at Westminster Abbey. See enclosed booking form. Tickets will be handed out by the Secretary at the entrance to King Charles Street before the Cenotaph service and subsequently at the Abbey door. Members should be seated by 1140 for the Service which commences at 1200. Please ensure that on arrival you are directed by the usher to the seats reserved for the Association normally in the North or the South Transept.

GALLIPOLI DAY LUNCH

The Gallipoli Day Lunch, commencing at 1315 for 1345, will, as since 2004, be held in an upstairs room at The Albert, Victoria Street, SW1. This public house is located on the north side of Victoria Street at the junction with Buckingham Gate and is approximately 500 yards from Westminster Abbey. A separate booking form with cost is included in *The Gallipolitan*.

MAJOR GENERAL'S PARADE

Members are invited to attend the Parade on Horse Guard's on Saturday 2 June, see enclosed Booking Form enclosed with this *Gallipolitan* for details.

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL LUNCH

There has been a good response to the flyer with the Winter *Gallipolitan* suggesting a Regional Lunch in East Anglia. As a result a Regional Lunch for members, families and friends will take place on Friday 8 June in the historic Guildhall, King's Lynn. A booking form is enclosed with *The Gallipolitan*. The cost £25.00 per person, please make cheques payable to The Gallipoli Association and send to the organiser, John Crowe, 145 Bellingham Road, Catford, London, SE6 2PP. Tel: 0208 697 2787 or e-mail johncrowe@uwclub.net

SANDRINGHAM

The third Memorial Service will be held in St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, West Newton at 1430 on Sunday 9 September. Standard bearers will attend from various local ex-service organisations, on behalf of which wreaths will also be laid. Afterwards; tea and Anzac biscuits will be served in the Village Hall. Further information from John Crowe, who will be pleased to hear from anyone intending to be there so that

appropriate seating may be arranged in this small Church. Tel: 0208 697 2787, mob: 07956 188826 email: johncrowe@uwclub.net

OTHER GALLIPOLI CEREMONIES

See the separate programme enclosed with the *Gallipolian* for details of Gallipoli Day and other ceremonies including the Collingwood Memorial (see below), Combined Irish Regiments, and Hawick Callants commemorations. Additional copies of the Programme are available on request from the Editor.

We do ask that members unable to join with the Association in London make every effort to attend their nearest ceremony. The Editor is always pleased to receive reports and photographs of other ceremonies.

COLLINGWOOD MEMORIAL

The Service at the Collingwood Memorial on the Downs east of Pimperne, Dorset, will take place on Friday 1 June at 1500. Colonel Michael Hickey will give the address. The Chairman of the North Dorset District Council and the Commander Blandford Garrison, Brigadier Ted Flint have kindly invited all attendees to tea in the Headquarters Mess Royal Signals, after the Service. Those wishing to attend should notify, including car registration, Roy Adam MBE, Camveere House, Portman Road, Pimperne, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 8UJ. Tel: 01258 453797. As is the popular and much appreciated tradition, those attending should meet from noon onwards at the Anvil Hotel, Pimperne for introductions and lunch as required.

In the words spoken by Sir Winston Churchill at the Royal Naval Division Re-union at Chatham in November 1930:

“Keep together. Do not let the hands which are joined fall apart. Do not let these sacrifices and associations which grew up in the white flame of the furnaces of war, burn out into the cold embers of the years of peace.”

AUTUMN LUNCH 2006

The Annual General Meeting and Autumn Lunch will take place at the Naval Club on Wednesday 24 October. More information in the next *Gallipolian*. Meanwhile please make a note in your diary.

LEST WE FORGET

LIN WOODWARD

My Grandfather, William Rowntree Horend was there, that terrible day of the first landings at Gallipoli. He was the Engineer Officer left in charge of *the River Clyde* from where he watched brave men die. Alas I never knew him but I found out so much about him on my research. I owe him so much for my freedom and life, as it comes from his pain and suffering! I hope one day to travel to Turkey to pay my respect to all those who didn't make it.

I dedicate my poem to everyone who reads the *Gallipolitan* – Lest we forget!

Lest we forget

The heat, the stagnant smell, and a sense of fear.
Troops packed into the hold of the old collier,
She – hastily converted, destined for the Gallipoli shores;
They – hopefully, destined for triumph.
In the darkness, the steady beat of engines echoing,
Eased their troubled minds, from thoughts of things to come.

Early morning, and with it, the sound of shells passing overhead
Fear and heat escalating to unbearable levels,
Soon, they knew, they would be out of her full belly.
Her newly cut Sally Ports would, on command, allow them out
But for now they waited, listened, and braced themselves,
For the unmistakable noise of groaning, grinding and grounding.

And the time had come! “The River Clyde” scraping the sand and rocks
Iron touching seabed like a knife cutting butter.
And then the quiet, only hearts heard beating, in the still of the “Steamer”
No engines, just an eerie, eddy of silence enveloping them.
Then more scraping, this time scoring and scratching the side of the ship:
This being the lighters for their landing logistically lugged into place.

The view from the openings, breathtakingly beautiful, seemed bizarre:
Nature blissfully unaware and unprepared for what was to come
Command given, the first troops spew out like lemmings over a cliff
The lighters failing to reach their stations – men failing to reach their destination.
An impossible gap in their bridge to shore, making easy prey for the Turks
Servicemen fall in scores: savagely shot down into surf and shale.

Continued on page 6

The noise of the rat-tat of machine guns, the cracks of rifle fire: tremendous
 Bullets sounding on metal of the ships hull and the thudding on the wooden lighters
 Then the unmistakable, indescribable noise of bullets hitting bodies
 Blood flowing thickly and as sticky as treacle on the decks of the lighters
 The sea still glistening brightly but it's colour turning ruby red
 This is a hell on earth for the wounded men left screaming, shouting and scrambling.

In all this turmoil, brave men fought fiercely under fire to fix a line to shore.
 Victoria Crosses won for the greatness of their courage in saving lives
 A few men made it to shore and then more: in the darkness of the night.
 The day was long for the survivors, the groans of the dying heard all around.
 The date 25 April 1915 and today there is no one left living who survived it.
 How sad that few people know today of the great gallant guys of Gallipoli!

BURMA MILITARY POLICE

In *The Gallipolian* No 96 page 57 Autumn 2001 we published a request for information concerning Subedar Basgbir Yakha of the Burma Military Police who served at Gallipoli and was awarded the Order of British India. Recently Gavin Edgerley-Harris, Archivist at the Gurkha Museum has written to say that the Subedar was attached to the 2nd Battalion 10th Gurkha Rifles. His Order of British India 2nd Class with the title "Bahadur" was published in the *Gazette of India* 3 June 1916 for Gallipoli and records "For distinguished conduct in the field."

SOME NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Malcolm Orchard has sent *Wartime* 36 Autumn 2006 the official magazine of the Australian War Memorial which reports that Alfred Shout's Victoria Cross (see *The Gallipolian* No 112 page 26 Winter 2006) has been donated to the Memorial by the purchaser businessman Kerry Stokes. It will be displayed next to the Lone Pine diorama in the First World War galleries.

In the same issue one learns that the C E W Bean Prize for Military History has been awarded to Dr Garth Pratten for his thesis *The "old man": Australian battalion commanders in the Second World War*.

Also that it is planned to place the entire series of First World War AIF war diaries on line. Already many diaries from the Second World War are available and can be viewed at <http://www.awm.gov.au/diaries>

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2007

Many thanks to all those members who have already paid their subscription.

May I take this opportunity to request those members who have yet to pay their subscription for 2007 to please do so as soon as possible, I look forward to hearing from you all.

The 2007 subscription rates are:

Member £15.00; Couple £20.00
Overseas Member £20.00; Overseas Couple £25.00

Payment is possible by Credit Card by visiting the web address dedicated to subscriptions, please note this is not the same as the Association web-site address. For subscription payments by Credit Card visit:

<http://www.gallipoli-association.co.uk>

LEGACIES TO THE ASSOCIATION

From time to time the Association benefits from legacies. These range from any amount both large and small. In recent months we have received two particularly generous legacies. One was from the estate of the late Alan Cowley whose interest in Gallipoli arose from the fact that his Uncle was severely wounded when landing on the beaches at Gallipoli. Although he was evacuated to a Hospital ship, he sadly subsequently died of his wounds.

The other legacy came from the estate of the late Richard Pitt. As far as I am able to tell, Mr. Pitt was not a member of the Association. However it seems likely that his father had fought in the campaign. I believe that Mr. Pitt having become aware of the good work that the Association has done in keeping alive the memory of the Campaign and the gallantry and self-sacrifice of the men who fought out there, he decided to remember us in his will.

If members generally would like to consider the Association in their Will, the money will be put to good use and help to perpetuate the memory of the Campaign and all who fought at Gallipoli and, so often fell during there.

W J Marsh Hon Treasurer

QUARTERMASTER'S STORES

Silk Ties – silk, non-crease ties in the Gallipoli Association colours – green bands for the land of Gallipoli and blue-grey for the waters of the Dardanelles, with narrow stripes of navy-blue and scarlet for the services – are now available at £16.75 including postage.

Standard Tie – in Association colours is available price £5.00 including post.

Blazer Badge – hand embroidered wire and silk blazer badges are now available (see illustration in Spring 2002 *Gallipolian*) at £5.50 including postage.

Lapel Badge in the Association colours is available price £5.50 including post.

Binders, which hold 6 copies of *The Gallipolian* are available finished in an attractive simulated leather, coloured maroon, with the title blocked in gold on the spine. Price per Binder is £5.25 including post in the United Kingdom and £6.25 including post for overseas.

Orders with payment, cheques and postal orders made out to The Gallipoli Association, to the Secretary, James Watson-Smith, Earleydene Orchard, Earleydene, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 9JY.

SIMPSON BADGES

The Gallipoli Association holds a small stock of these most attractive badges produced by the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland. The Badge is an oval design (three-quarters of an inch) showing Simpson in classic pose with his donkey. Each badge costs £2.50 plus an sac, orders please to The Treasurer, Gallipoli Association, Frinton Cottage, 3 Cambridge Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, CO13 9HN.

RESEARCH GROUP

Anybody willing to have an interesting time researching the Gallipoli campaign is most welcome to join me on the second Tuesday of each month at 1100 at the National Archives, formerly the Public Record Office at Kew. The meeting place is outside the bookshop near the entrance

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

Clare Church, Co-ordinator

MY WASHING MACHINE NEEDS ATTENTION!

Arthur Muffett, our member in his own words "now well into my 100th year" has written to report how a problem with his washing machine resulted in meeting a fellow Gallipoli enthusiast.

"I recently had occasion to seek help with the operation of my washing machine and ascertained a local expert who would help. In the course of our conversation as he effected the repairs by pure chance the subject of Gallipoli turned up and to my complete amazement he proved an absolute authority on the subject. It appears his grandfather was in the Herefordshire Regiment which landed at Suvla which accounted for the interest.

I discovered he had carried out extensive research into the Regiment – its fortunes in Gallipoli and afterwards, and was continuing to do so. As you may imagine I enjoyed a fascinating discussion on all aspects in which we had a common interest (the washing machine needless to say was forgotten).

INFORMATION PLEASE

Do you have a question about some aspect of the Gallipoli campaign? Something perhaps you need to know about a regiment, a ship perhaps, an individual, but have so far failed to find the answer. Surely there is someone amongst the nearly 1,300 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.

Royal Warwickshire Regiment: Kevan Darby is anxious to hear of photographs, documents or other material relating to the 9th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. His address 37 Greenlands Road, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham, B37 5AA. E mail kevanderby@riscali.co.uk

Postcards Required: Mike Mortlock whose father fought at Suvla Bay and was invalided off requires a picture postcard of Wilhelma 1917 near Jaffa during the First World War where injured British soldiers were billeted and postcards that may be in collections regarding Gallipoli. Please suggest other sites or links to postcard collections. This will help his research and further work on a forthcoming history of the Gallipoli Campaign. Thank you for any assistance you may provide. Email: drnmjm_11@juno.com

GALLIPOLI WAR MEMORIALS

A L STUBBS

The only tangible thing we can do to remember the sacrifice made by the men and women in two World Wars together with many other conflicts is ensure that the many memorials to their efforts are maintained in their memory.

Gallipoli is no exception – a campaign ill conceived badly executed resulting in so many casualties with the only redeeming feature being that the lessons learnt helped towards the success of “D-Day” on 6 June 1944.

Since my first visit to the Peninsula over fifteen years ago the Turkish Memorials were few and far between but in recent years the authorities seem to have altered this situation by creating more in various locations together with several symbolic cemeteries. The idea, no doubt, is that more people will visit the area and appreciate and understand the Turkish military achievements but to do so there must be something to see, is it a battlefield site or does it become a theme park?

Perhaps all that will happen is that coaches will just go from one statue or symbolic cemetery to the next read the inscriptions and move on not really understanding what actually happened in 1915. Sadly that seems to be happening on the Western Front – several years ago at Tyne Cott CWGC cemetery in a two hour period my wife and I counted ten school coaches which disgorged bored teenagers who just aimlessly walked around then got back on and drove away. On the last coach a teacher actually came up to my wife and asked is there anything of interest in this place!

In the main the new Turkish memorials are rather large similar to the Russian idea that the bigger the memorial the more we will remember the sacrifices made. Overlooking Sevastopol harbour there is an enormous effigy of a charging soldier and sailor, similar in design to the group overlooking “V” Beach. Near Quinn’s Post, there appears a large statue of an advancing Turkish soldier, the intentions are no doubt honourable but the effect never seems to quite achieve the quiet dignity of our memorials.

The memorial at Helles, between “W” and “V” beaches reminds us, on the outer wall, of the individual men their regimental units or ships with which they served and at the base of the centre column the divisions and the areas where they fought and facing the steps as one enters are the names of all the Royal Navy ships that took part. Facing the memorial at the left hand corner under the Lincolnshire Regiment is the name of Private H P Cleary, the ticket collector at Bourne Station who died on Scimitar Hill who has been remembered on eight memorials. (See *The Gallipolian* 107: 63-65.)

The Lone Pine Australian Cemetery and Memorial to the missing on the southern part

of the Sari Bair Ridge looks very different today after the results of the fire several years ago whereas before it was shielded by so many trees now it is exposed and on one side can be seen the coastal point of Gapa Tepe where the ANZAC forces should have originally landed and from the other side the road disappears in the distance but follows roughly the old front line and is marked by Johnston's Jolly CWGC Cemetery so named after Colonel G J Johnston who positioned his guns "to jolly up the Turks" but only held the position for one day. Beyond this area can be seen Courtney's and Steel's Post and in the distance Quinn's Post now small CWGC cemeteries showing the resolve and struggle of the ANZAC forces to hold onto virtually impossible positions.

Near Quinns Post is the 57th Turkish Regiment's Symbolic Cemetery – although I am not too sure about the plaque stating how two soldiers were found buried locked together in a deadly embrace!

At Chunuk Bair is the New Zealand memorial which prior to the fires during 1994 was surrounded by trees and bushes and commemorates how far the New Zealanders managed to get despite the horrendous terrain and opposition. The area now is quite exposed and very popular since the large statue of Ataturk has been erected. From this vantage point can be seen the Suvla Plain with the Salt Lake, landing beaches and its many cemeteries.

I never tire from visiting the cemeteries in the Suvla or Helles areas which are difficult to maintain due to their location and lack of water which has to be brought in by tanker. There is no particular favourite but they all serve as memorials to men who deserved better from both politicians and some senior commanders of the time.

RND – ANOTHER LOCATION

In previous *Gallipolitan* page 13 we provided information regarding no fewer than eleven locations – libraries and archives – where *RND* the splendid journal compiled by Len Sellers and which ceased publication in 2003 can be consulted.

One of our members, D Finnigan has now written to say, that in late November he presented a set donated by Sidney Johnson (ex RN) to the Aldershot Library Military Collection, where it is available for research.

HIGHLAND MOUNTAIN GUNNERS AT GALLIPOLI

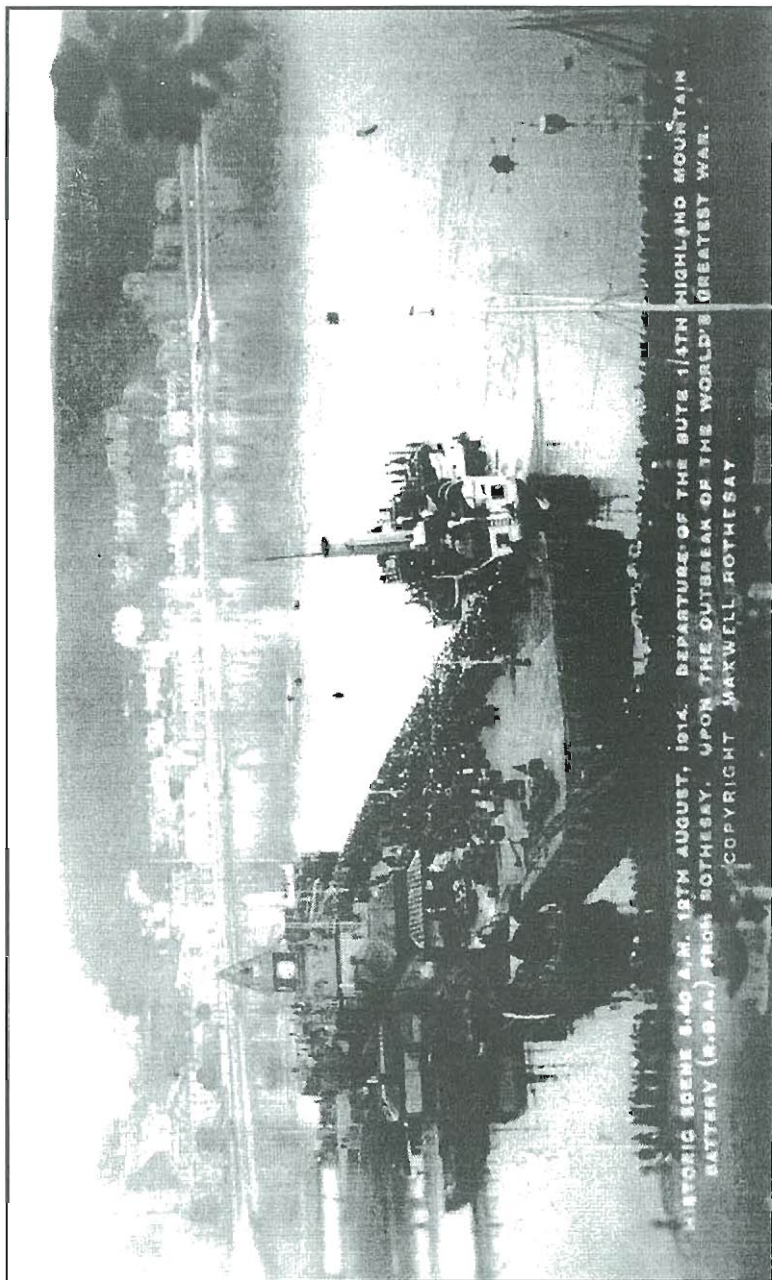
MICHAEL M MORRISON & IAN HAMILTON

A small but successful and effective British artillery unit which fought at Gallipoli is often only mentioned briefly and sometimes altogether missed in the many histories of that endeavour. That unit is the 4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery (TF) and its component Batteries. Why should that be?

Existing literature about the Brigade and its batteries consists of a small pamphlet written by RSM James McKenzie, originally of the Argyll Mountain Battery, which was printed by "The Campbeltown Courier" in Argyll, Scotland in 1936, and a much larger and more recent, privately published three volume history of the Ross & Cromarty Mountain Battery, one of the other two batteries of the Brigade. Existing War Diaries for the Gallipoli period are incomplete and to add insult to injury, those that are traceable have been periodically mislaid in the National Archives. Diaries of the Headquarters and the Ross & Cromarty Mountain Batteries were mistakenly labelled "4th Highland Mounted Brigade" and filed within the 29th Divisional Artillery War Diaries. Where the Argyll Mountain Battery's diaries are for this period is not knownⁱⁱ.

The 4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade, albeit at two-thirds strength, was the only mountain artillery assigned to the 29th Division (which was formed in January 1915 of the last 'regular' infantry battalions left in the British Army still unassigned to a division). It was also the only Territorial Force Artillery assigned to 29 Division. The Brigade's assignment to the "Incomparable 29th" was only for five months, albeit five very important months in that famous Division's history, before being re-assigned to other Divisions and other arenas of combat. As I have learned of their exploits it has become clear to me that it is indeed regrettable that there is so little written on this very effective artillery Brigade or its component Batteries and their Gallipoli connection.

The Mountain Batteries were effective at Gallipoli largely because of their weaponry and tactics. Unlike conventional artillery of the time – the Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) and Royal Field Artillery (RFA), which mounted their usually much larger cannons on fixed wheeled caissons pulled by teams of horses – our mountain gunners disassembled their "screw guns" (as Kipling called them in his famous poem, *Screw Guns*) and loaded them onto the backs of stout Highland Ponies, taking them into areas simply not attainable by the RHA & RFA. The small, rugged Highland Pony, bred for service on the crofts of the Scottish mountains and moorlands, was just right for carrying the mountain guns, their ammunition and equipment into the hills to provide fire support to the infantry. (It would seem however that the Ammunition Columns preferred mules and that is the animal they took with them.)



Historic Scene 5.40 A.M. 19th August 1914. Departure of the Bute 1/4th Highland Mountain Battery (R.G.A.) from Rothesay upon the out break of the world's greatest war.
Photo Maxwell Rothesay. Mike Morrison Collection.

This was the preferred method for the employment of mountain guns. If need be, and as was the case at times at Gallipoli, the gun teams had to be able to man-handle their guns and ammunition up to areas inaccessible even to their ponies and assemble them there to provide very effective fire. What was also discovered quickly in Gallipoli was that these guns, being positioned right up with the front line of infantry, could provide most effective anti-machine gun fire as well as shrapnel fired point blank into the ranks of charging enemy infantry. Their proximity to the target virtually eliminated them as the source of friendly fire incidents as well. They were very mobile and versatile in this hilly country and thus, provided very close support for the infantry.

The problem was that there just weren't enough of them. The 4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade was active across the southern front, while the 7th Indian Army Mountain Brigade provided their fire in the hills of ANZAC country to the north. The French had eight mountain guns in their sector to the east.

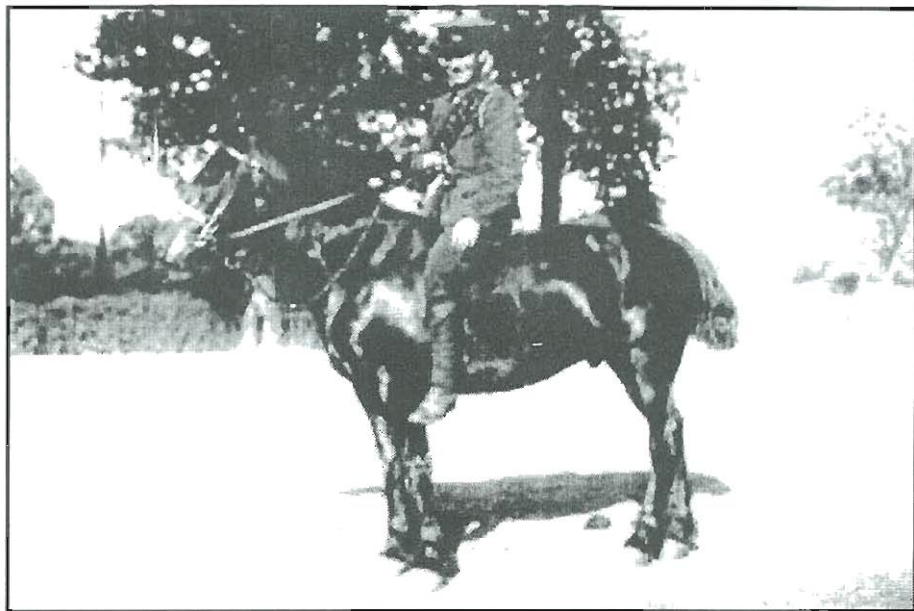
The normal complement of an artillery brigade was four batteries but the 4th Highland Mountain Brigade only had three – the **Ross and Cromarty Mountain Battery** (from Lochcarron and Stornoway and usually just called the Ross Battery), the **Argyll Mountain Battery** (from Campbeltown and Oban) and the **Bute Mountain Battery** (from Rothesay and Largs). A part of the Territorial Force, these batteries were the only Mountain Batteries in the British Army based in the UK. Each Battery had two sections of two guns each which sections tended to be recruited in sometimes widely separated localities. The Brigade was headquartered at Rothesay on the Isle of Bute.

Upon mobilization in August 1914, these three batteries with the Brigade HQ and the Brigade Ammunition Column (recruited in Tarbert Loch Fyne, Millport and Dingwall), concentrated in Inverness, then travelled to and trained at Bedford with the 51st (Highland) Division until March 1915.

On 10 March 1915, 2/3 of the 4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade (the Ross and the Argyll batteries, Brigade HQ and BAC Sections) with its newly assigned Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Francis Wynter, DSO, a Regular Army officer with Indian Army mountain gun experience, bade farewell to the Bute Mountain Batteryⁱⁱⁱ, those too old and too young for deployment and the good townspeople of Bedford with whom a fond attachment had grown, and made for Avonmouth. There they joined 29th Division and the great armada of ships heading for the eastern Mediterranean.

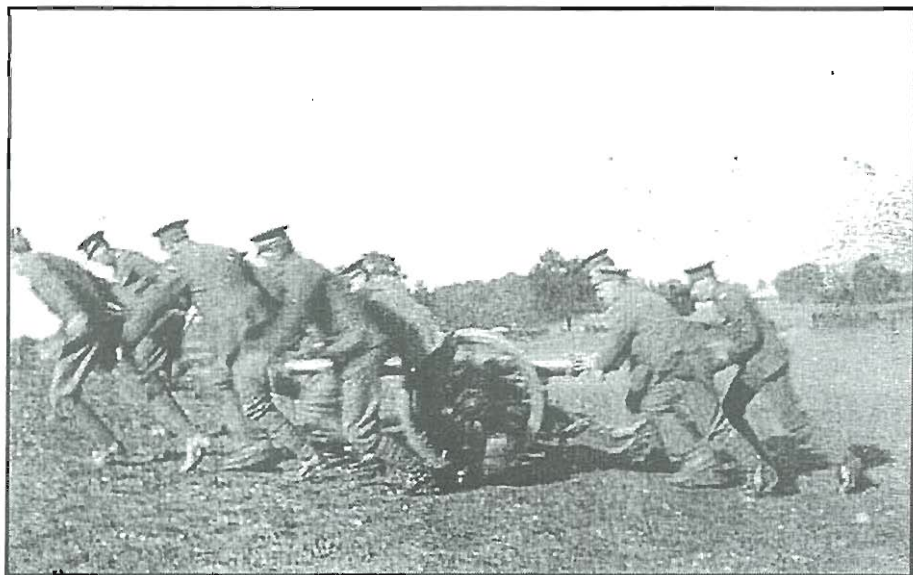
Upon embarkation, the 29th Divisional Artillery, in addition to the Headquarters and Ammunition Columns, consisted of the following units:

15th Bde, RHA (18 pr. QF) (B, L & Y Batteries)
 17th Bde, RFA (18 pr. QF), (13th, 26th & 92nd Batteries)
 147th Bde, RFA (18 pr. QF), (10th, 97th & 368th Batteries)
 460th Howitzer Battery, RFA

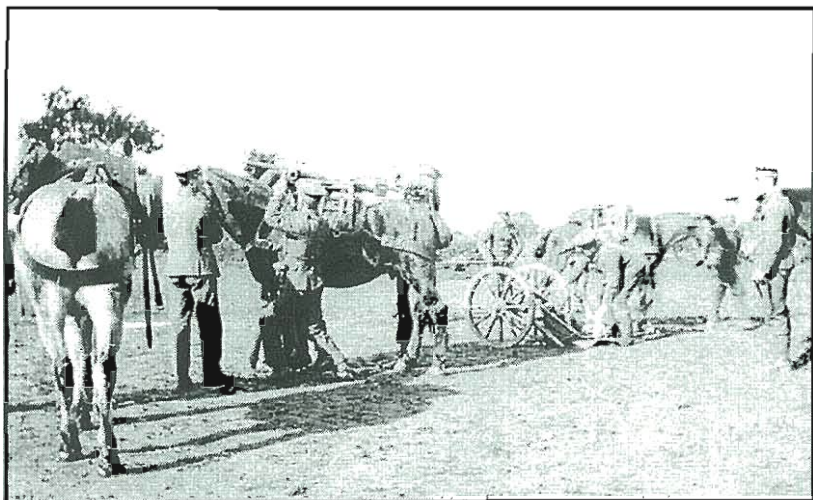


*Gunner Hugh Cameron of the Argyll Mountain Battery riding Baron at Bedford, 1914.
Baron was killed by shellfire while Gunner Cameron was in hospital in Malta for his
own wounds.*

Private collection of Cameron and Alexander McMillan, Gunner Cameron's grandsons.



*In training at Bedford, a gun team practices moving a mountain gun uphill into position using
drag ropes. Mike Morrison Collection.*



At Bedford mountain gunners practice loading a disassembled gun on to their beloved Highland Ponies. A section of the barrel is being loaded.

Mike Morrison Collection.

90th Heavy Battery, RGA (60 pr. Guns)

14th Siege Battery, RGA (6" Howitzers),

1/4th Highland Mountain Brigade, RGA (TF) (10 pr. Mountain Guns), (Argyll Mountain Battery, Ross & Cromarty Mountain Battery).^{iv}

(All the above were Regular Army except 1/4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade.)

After a sometimes eventful voyage during which the two Batteries, their Ammunition Columns and their animals travelled in different ships at slightly different times, the Brigade arrived in Alexandria. The voyage was a hard one for the animals, being packed into the holds of the ships. They required constant care throughout the voyage. Once in Alexandria, they paraded with the 29th Division for the first time and, after about a week of a serendipitous unplanned period of acclimatization, they packed their equipment and animals on different vessels bound for Gallipoli, sailing first on 9 April for Lemnos and the great harbour of Mudros. While in the harbour, the mountain gunners trained on disembarking themselves, their animals and equipment over the side of their ships on nets and at least one opportunity arose to practice occupying the surrounding hilltops. The gunners felt that far too much of the time was spent sweltering in their troop ships awaiting sailing orders. They also had one practice disembarking their ponies. That helped their animals get over the terrifying fear of being pulled out of the hold of one ship and slung over water to another before being placed on landing barges. Although they didn't know it at the time, the inclusion of the animals of the 4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade would prove critical to the landing forces on 25 April and for several days thereafter, another rarely told story of the 4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade and its Batteries.

The Landing

On the morning of the 25 April, one two-gun section from each of the two batteries with their guns, ammunition and animals were detailed to embark behind the men of the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers on HMS *Euryalus* for Cape Helles – “W” Beach, their inclusion as first guns to be landed a recent change to the 29th Division plans. These sections prepared to follow the Fusiliers onto “W” Beach at Cape Helles. The plan called for them to land their guns around 8:00 am, but the plan hadn’t counted on severe obstacles amidst immediate steep terrain, mines, barbed wire and ferocious machine gun and rifle fire. Many of the Lancashire Fusiliers were killed before they even reached the beach; in their boats, in the water and, for many of those who made it, on the beach itself. The extraordinarily professional and heroic actions of the Lancashire Fusiliers in securing that beachhead earned them six Victoria Crosses (before breakfast, it was said) and eventually secured this narrow beach on the peninsula for follow-on troops, including the first artillery to land, our 4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade gunners. The 1st Battalion of Lancashire Fusiliers suffered 55% casualties in the landing.

The official records are, understandably, more concerned with the Infantry and state very little about our mountain gunners (and what’s there is none too accurate) but personal diaries, letters and War Diaries show that the first battery sections may have landed around noon on that first day (though some eye-witness accounts give a rather earlier landing) and that they were in continuous action from that afternoon or evening until they were withdrawn just days before the August Suvla Bay landings. The action on the Gallipoli peninsula was arduous and losses were severe. The first section ashore was the right section of the Ross Battery and it was sent as soon as possible to take up a position to the right of the beach-head beyond the cliffs. The Argyll section did not land for some hours later and when it did it was first of all retained on the beach-head to assist in sorting out the general chaos.

As the two battery sections were carrying out their duties ashore, Lieutenant Colonel Wynter was informed by a 29th Divisional Staff Officer that the Artillery officer assigned to command Artillery Group III of the 29th Divisional Artillery had been killed, and that he was to assume that command in addition to his own. Artillery Group III at that time consisted of seven batteries of artillery in the southern sector, only two of which had yet landed. The situation on the beach was so desperate and confused that the first officers to land, Major Bryce Allan (later injured and evacuated) and Lieutenant Alexander D. Morrison (later killed in action) of the Ross Battery, had difficulty finding the troops they were to support and where to go. That was remedied soon and the guns were loaded up onto the Highland Ponies and moved to positions just up the very cliffs and hills so recently and dearly gained. The Argyll and the Ross sections already landed were ordered off to the right (or east) of the newly acquired front to a position 100 yards northeast of the Cape Helles Lighthouse, with the Ross Battery men supporting the 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment. The batteries fired in support of operations in this sector until 28 April, when the Ross Battery was ordered to assist the French on the extreme right of the line as they arrived. The other sections of

the Batteries were, along with the Ammunition Columns landed in dribs and drabs over the next few days but were immediately employed in bringing order to the beaches before being deployed in action.

In the meantime, back on W beach, the pace of the landings had slowed considerably from what was planned. Initially, there was no reserve infantry nor were there support troops or horses to move the supplies of ammunition and water just landed to the beleaguered infantry fighting at that time nearby. The already landed Argyll and Ross sections had taken their reliable Highland Ponies with them and these now assumed two critical missions. The Argyll gunners moved their guns to the vicinity of the Old Lighthouse to get in action as quickly as possible. The Ross gunners were already there. While the gun teams went into action, the Drivers, organized by Major Allan, used the ponies already landed to haul critical small arms ammunition and water to the infantrymen desperately struggling to hold onto and expand their precarious positions and push inland. Initially, they were the only transport available for this critical task. The Brigade members ashore performed both missions well until sufficient support troops and animals were landed to take over their hastily (and unhesitatingly) assumed duties. By 29 April, they had all rejoined their batteries.

The only record, other than the knowledge passed down through the generations from the gunners themselves, of the first artillery round to be fired by British or French Artillery was in a letter to Sergeant Mathieson of the Bute Battery and printed in *The Buteman and West Coast Chronicle* of 16 July. It is from Sergeant Ernie West of the Ross & Cromarty Mountain Battery who had been the Instructor of the Bute Mountain Battery before the war and attributes "first round down range" to Gun 2 of the Ross Battery sometime in the afternoon of 25 April from their position near the ruined lighthouse. Bombardier Nelson, slated to win the DCM on 9 August and wounded on 15 August in the hills surrounding Suvla Bay, was the man who pulled the lanyard. Gunner D.J. Macdonald said that he had kept the shell case, but its whereabouts now are unknown.

The British forces on the point showed remarkable professionalism and courage as they rallied behind each succession of leaders. When the officers commanding a particular unit were killed, the resulting successions of command proceeded smoothly and quickly. In spite of the shock and losses of the landings, the damaged and depleted forces unified a solid front after capturing the strong points of Hills 114, 138, Guezji Baba, a hill that was not on the maps available before the landing but which had to be taken, and Hill 141. By nightfall on 25 April, the only artillery ashore was the two half-batteries of the 4th Highland Mountain Brigade and 26 Battery, 17th Brigade RFA, an 18 pounder QF Battery. Contemporary 1st Essex maps of the situation show "two mountain guns" just behind their lines on Hill 138, which corresponds with other accounts and would make them Ross Battery guns.

After a cold and restless night, the mountain gunners awoke at daybreak on 26 April to

observe that two feet of ground fog had appeared overnight. BSM James H. McKenzie of the Argyll Mountain Battery described the eerie sight:

"The sight was weird; the top half of a regiment of men walked in front, their lower limbs buried in the fog. Gradually this disappeared and we could see the earth again."

They also saw the evidence of a fierce battle as the dead and wounded lay scattered about them from the action of the previous 24 hours.

The Argyll Battery section moved to and occupied "Hill 141", just above the village of Sedd-al-Bahr, and fired 1,264 rounds until the enemy had retreated out of range. They then moved to their right (east) where they had an opportunity to explore the old Turkish Fort at Sedd-al-Bahr before receiving orders to move again to their left about two miles (this done at night by moonlight). The Ross Battery Section had established a position above "X" Beach. They arrived before midnight and found places to sleep in the brush after digging in their guns.

The remainder of the batteries arrived on 28 April, disembarking at 'W' Beach at 1800 hours. They located and rejoined their batteries and by 2200 hours they were already heavily engaged.

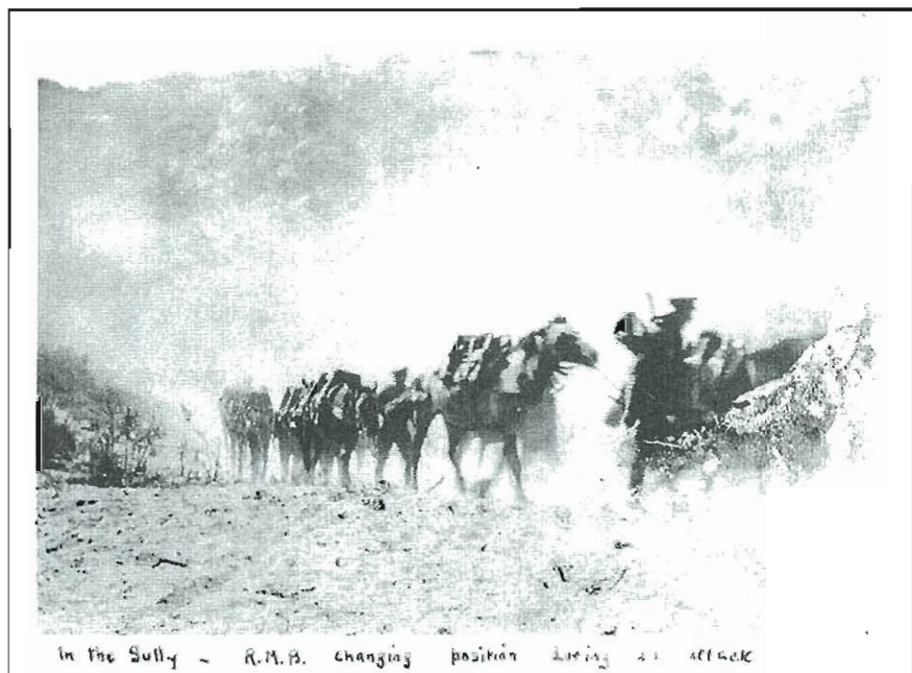
Subsequently, the battlefield moved northwards and began to stabilize as reinforcements arrived in greater numbers. Attempts to take the key village of Krithia had fizzled out after promising starts and missed opportunities and the prize of Achi Baba was no closer to being in Allied hands. The lines had been drawn and trench warfare had begun. What had turned the Western Front into the deadly, stalemated battleground it had become was happening here. The Allies tried to exploit their gains in the first weeks after the initial invasion. They first forced the Turks back from the beaches, then through a succession of defensive lines toward that elusive goal, Achi Baba. The First Battle of Krithia occurred right away, commencing on 28 April.

Elements of the 86th Infantry Brigade had reached towards the village early that morning. Unsupported, they were cut to pieces and forced to retire. Both the Argyll and the Ross Batteries were alerted at breakfast and commenced a twelve hour mission primarily fighting off the Turks' inevitable counterattack. The gunners were forced to move their guns and supplies many times in the next twelve hours in order to put their bite into the battle. Ammunition had always been somewhat scarce and efficient use of what they had was the order of the day again. Some infantry units simply ran out.

Those manning the guns had a bad time with snipers, some of whom slipped up very close for their shots, and some of whom stayed behind and hid when the Turks retreated. They were also always sought out by Turkish artillery as targets whenever they could be located (which meant whenever they fired or moved, which was

constantly). The men of the Ammunition Column faced these hazards when with the guns and when travelling back and forth from the supply depots at the beaches to the distant gun lines. Indeed, the first Brigade casualties were from this group.

After moving back and forth along the line and the Ross Battery's brief stint supporting the French, our gunners settled into "Gully Ravine", their home and base of operations for the next three months. One account puts one battery 300 yards from the beach on the "left" side of the gully. The Ross Battery was on one side of the ravine and the Argyll Battery was on the other. The Brigade HQ set up shop at 'Pink Farm' and would remain there until the evacuation, even after the batteries were transferred out of the 29th Division and sent to Suvla Bay for operations there.



*The Ross & Cromarty Mountain Battery changing positions at Gallipoli while under attack. Colin Scott Mackenzie Collection.
(Son of Colin Scott Mackenzie, Ross Mountain Battery).*

Gully Ravine zigzagged its way northeast up country from Gully Beach on the west toward the prize of the expedition, Achi Baba. The ravine was primarily sandstone with almost perpendicular cliffs, some even undercut, into which roads were made (and named) on which to navigate, and holes were cut by the men to live in. The heights are listed on maps as from 150 to 200 feet above sea level. The front line cut the ravine in two – the southernmost part being in the hands of the Allies and the Turks controlling the northernmost. BSM Mackenzie described the layout:

“So we solved our housing problems, cut winding paths to the top rows, where senior N.C.O.’s lived on ‘High Askomil’ or ‘Drumore’... a little path leading to a Cemetery was appropriately named ‘Kilkerran Road.’ At the Horse Lines, a mile behind, our drivers lived in the same pre-historic manner.”^{vi}

They named these areas after places from home, just as the rest of the forces were to do with their trenches.

The necessity to provide enfilading fire – the only Army or Navy artillery that was able to do so, occasionally required the gunners to hand carry their guns up onto precipitous cliffs to fire down on the enemy who were making good use of the folds in the terrain for cover. The Mountain Gunners began to lose men, ponies and guns.

The gun crews were rotated through this duty. Each time the Turks realized that our Highland Gunners were present (by their proximity, the distinctive sound of the mountain guns and the effective fires of these close range cannons) they called in all the artillery salvos (called counter-battery fires) they could to attempt to silence them. This was a deadly tribute to the effectiveness of the mountain gunners, but it also sped up the process of attenuation of the crews whose numbers were decreased by wounds, sickness and death. The crewmen nevertheless continued with their missions, enduring losses of cannons and animals as well. Many of the men who walked away from these counter-battery fires wondered how they did so. Many did not walk away.

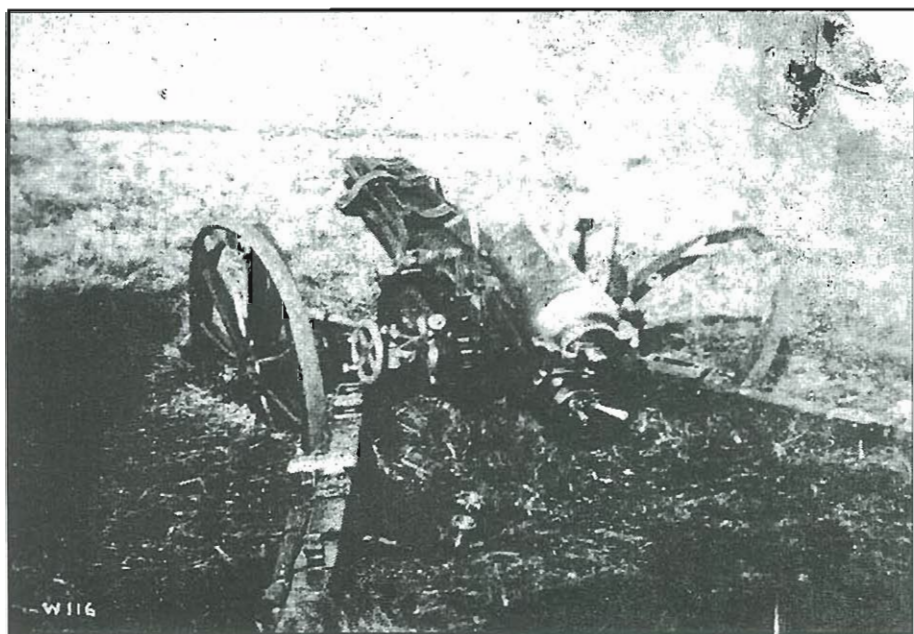
In a letter home, Lieutenant William Hogarth, MC, described it like this,

“Our guns were playing such havoc yesterday that we were shelled with 60 pounders and high explosive 18 pounders!! The place was perfect hell for about a quarter of an hour. They scored a direct hit on a shield above one of the guns and I suppose counted us out, but we lost neither men, guns nor ammunition.”^{vii}

In a good description of what firing missions were like for our gunners at Gallipoli, Gunner David M. Cunningham, Argyll Mountain Battery wrote a letter to his mother of the battle on 12th July,

“There are five gunners on at a time while in action, and we had fired off about

100 shells, and stopped for a 'breather'. All this time we were getting by the enemy's percussion and shrapnel. We started firing again, but all at once our gun-pit parapet was blown up and all of us buried in amongst the sand bags and earth. When we had extricated ourselves, it was found that the only serious damage was one man wounded. Three times our gun pit parapet was blown away in this manner, the Turks having evidently got our range. Altogether that day (the 12th {July}) we had four men killed (Cpl. Johnson, Bdr. McLean, Gunner McGowan and Gunner Robertson) and six wounded. On the 13th we had this state of recurrent upheaval even worse, but I am glad to state that there were no casualties. One of officers, who was along with some of the General Staff officers, told me today that they had been watching us through field-glasses, and every time they saw our gun getting smothered in smoke and earth when a shell landed they thought it was a final. After all had quietened down our field telephone was rung up, and the general commanding the artillery enquired from our observing officer the names of the gunners. However, it is my opinion that nothing will come of it, as there are too many of us. It is quite satisfactory to know that a fellow has done his duty, and I am certain every man of the 29th Division has done his."



Wrecked gun in the field at Gallipoli. Difficult to tell what type of gun but likely to be one which experienced an exploded breech during a particularly intense fire mission, 1 May killing one and wounding another.

Colin Scott Mackenzie Collection.

The batteries, sometimes in two gun sections and sometimes as lone guns, were rushed back and forth across the front for mission after mission. There was no day when the guns were not in action until they were withdrawn from the Helles front to prepare for the landings at Suvla Bay on the night of 3-4 August. Although there was no place on the peninsula where anyone was safe to rest peacefully, other units were allowed "down time" at the "rear" (even though the "rear" was not too far rear and was always within range of enemy shells and snipers). This at least allowed them to remove to the beaches for a swim (the only bathing available) and gave them time to repair clothing and equipment, relax with their comrades-in-arms away from the persistent snipers and the threat of charging attacks. Although small groups went down to the beach and the losses alone caused gun crews to be reformed repeatedly, the effect of the little mountain guns was so vital that they were in constant demand.

In the beginning, the Brigade consisted of eight mountain guns and crews. This was not nearly enough to provide the support needed by the infantry along the Helles line. While naval gunfire and the fire of the guns and howitzers of the RFA/RHA was impressive and effective when enemy troops were caught in the open, the Turks continued their tactic of evacuating their trenches when bombarded, until the shelling stopped, after which they re-occupied their trenches to defend against the inevitable attack. They also learned that these impressive pieces of artillery could not enfilade, or fire down into their forward positions, so they could use the terrain as a shield. The mountain guns, when properly positioned, could and did enfilade even these safe havens.

As artillery, even our mountain gunners, often shoot at targets beyond visual range, they require a small crew to be forward of their positions with the supported infantry to tell them where and what their targets are as well as to advise on adjustment of fire. These "eyes of the artillery" were provided by the Forward Observing Officer (the F.O.O.), a battery officer, and his party of signalers. These parties went forward with the infantry and established communications with the battery through telephones upon wires laid as they moved forward. When the telephone lines were cut or unavailable, the signalers resorted to semaphore and visual signals.

This was a particularly hazardous duty. The Infantry was usually too involved with its own mission to look out for the FOO party so they acted fairly independently. Their mission was to stay with the Infantry and provide fire support as and when needed, by relaying data to the gun lines. Lieutenant Hogarth described this duty:

"My job was to keep in touch with the infantry to let the battery know when the infantry needed support and where. So my two telephonists and I got the wire shifted forward about 600-700 yards and established a fresh point."^{viii}

Death, sickness, injury, wounds and the loss of cannons through wear and tear and enemy action exacted their toll on our mountain gunners and by June 1915, the Argyll and the Ross Batteries had dwindled to one amalgamated battery, known in some

histories as The Highland Mountain Battery. That Highland Battery had, however, but a temporary existence. All the internal battery appointments for both the Argyll and the Ross Batteries continued as before so there were in the Highland battery two BSMs and indeed two of every other rank – so that when numbers built up again through reinforcement it was possible to split the two component parts into their individual identities at a stroke and without a single hiccup. The guns themselves, however, were so worn out that when they were sent to the Royal Navy ordnance shop that was assigned the task of repair they were deemed un-repairable and relegated to the scrap pile.

A snapshot of the effect of the Gallipoli operations on the 4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade, even *before* the Suvla Bay landings, is contained in the Military Cross citation to Captain A.E.C. Burney, a man who was the Ross Mountain Battery Adjutant until the amalgamation and creation of the Highland Mountain Battery, when he was pressed into action as the Commander of the “Highland Mountain Battery”.

“Burney, A. E. C., Adj. 1/4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade, RGA, (T.F). Gallipoli, 1915. This officer was in command of the Highland Mountain Battery (organized from the Ross and Argyll Mountain Batteries) in the Gallipoli Operations. He was indefatigable in reconnoitring {sic} forward positions for his guns, close to the front line trenches, placing his guns in them and superintending their fire. It is due to his initiative, resource and personal example that this Territorial battery has done such excellent work. During the first two months this battery had 3 officers killed and 5 wounded, and 54 N.C.O.’s and men killed and wounded. It never had a day’s rest and yet its morale remained as good as ever, greatly due to Captain Burney’s example. (M.C. 8/11/15, Mentioned in Despatches 5/11/15)”^{ix}

Combat losses were high. In May 1915 there were at least six deaths recorded in the 4th Highland Mountain Brigade. Bombardier Alexander A. Mackenzie of the Ross Battery died on the 2nd during a massive Turkish attack. Gunner Alan McKeith of the Argyll Mountain Battery was wounded on 8th May, during the Second Battle of Krithia, “struck by a stray bullet from the Turkish Trenches and died soon afterwards” on 9 of May. Also on the 8 of May, Gunner MacLean of the Ross Battery was found to be missing and presumed dead. On the 11th, Driver Donald Mackenzie of the Ross Battery perished, and on the 26th, Driver John Macrae of the Ross Battery died.^x Gunner as Driver Kenneth Macdonald died of wounds while on a hospital ship 15 May 1915.

Referring to the Second Battle of Krithia, the history of the Royal Regiment of Artillery says, “There can be few battles in history which began with such an impossible task, with so little artillery and men so worn out by continuous fighting.”^{xi} At the end of this battle, there was no artillery ammunition left in reserve on the beaches for the Batteries and only 1400 rounds afloat nearby on board supporting ships. Although ammunition

supply was always a problem, this shows how much firing was done in this battle, which gained Allied forces 400 yards, but not the objective, the town of Krithia.

In addition to the six deaths, there were at least nineteen wounded in May. June was costly as well. In the course of The Third Battle of Krithia, 4 June 1915, and the Battle of Gully Ravine, which commenced 28 June 1915, there were at least 19 wounded and 9 deaths. On 2 June Gunner and Piper John MacDonald, who had been wounded on either the 15th or the 25 May, succumbed to his wounds on a hospital ship and was buried at sea, the 4th Ross Battery man to die. On 4 June Major Thomas MacKelvie, Commander of Argyll Battery, was wounded for the first time, but would rejoin his unit on the 28th. On 5 June Gunner Murdo Mackenzie, 19, died of wounds received earlier. On the 9th, Acting Bombardier John Brown of the Ammunition Column died of disease. On 12th Corporal Charles Sheddan's gun was in a firing position being screened with sandbags when he was shot through the heart by a sniper and died. On 14th Gunner John Brown died of disease after having been shipped to Alexandria for treatment. Both John Browns (see 9th June) were assigned to the Ammunition Section.

The Battle of Gully Ravine, commencing 28 June, was an effort to deprive the Turks of their coastline trenches and consolidate earlier gains prior to pushing on to the elusive Achi Baba. This would be another battle that relied on inadequate supplies of artillery ammunition and inaccurate maps. It was costly to many units, including our Highland Mountain Brigade, now reduced operationally to The Highland Mountain Battery. The trenches were taken and the Turks, in spite of heavy attacks to retake them, were not to see this ground again until the Allies gave it up in January 1916. On the 28th Gunner George Andrew Cuthbertson was killed while Second Lieutenant Murdo John Mackenzie, commissioned from Sergeant in the Ross Mountain Battery just eight months earlier, was killed when he received shrapnel wounds to the head while setting up a gun position.

On 29 June – Gunner John Hamilton of Campbeltown was “killed by a bullet while doing his duty at the gun.” (as described by Sergeant A Johnston in a letter to the *Campbeltown Courier*.) In a sad bit of irony, he had written a letter home to his father, John Hamilton of Campbeltown that day, but his father received the letter only after he had received word, by a letter from Gunner Hamilton's brother soldiers, that his son was killed in action.

Captain William Todd, a Battery Officer of the Argyll Battery, was also killed that day. Captain Todd was reconnoitering a position for the left gun when his foot was blown off by a shell burst. Two Sappers of the 1st West Riding Field Company of the Royal Engineers, Sappers A. Jennett and G. Packard, received the Distinguished Conduct Medal on that occasion for rescuing Captain Todd from the battlefield from an exposed position under heavy fire, crossing over a wire entanglement to do so. Although he was rescued from the battlefield, he failed to survive his wound, succumbing the next day. In a letter to *The Buteman and West Coast Chronicle*, Gunner A. Tweedly quoted a letter from

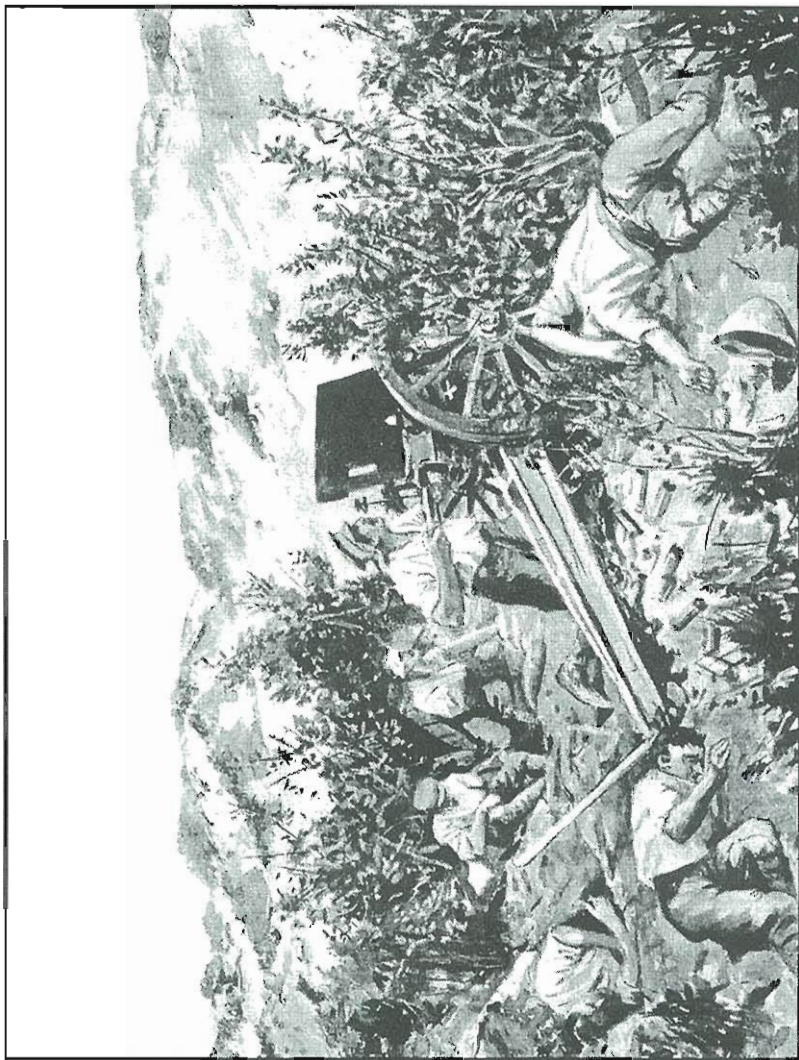
General Simpson-Baikie, CRA, 29th Division, to Captain Burney dated 30 June 1915,

"I am just sending these few lines to tell you how sorry I was to hear of the losses sustained by your battery in yesterday's action. I am particularly sorry to hear of the death of Lieutenant Mackenzie and of Captain Todd's very bad wound. We all realize that your battery is always up in the front trenches and in the very thick of the fighting and I assure you that the very hard work of your officers and men is much appreciated and we regulars are proud to have such gallant fellows as yours fighting alongside with us." Gunner Tweedly added that Captain Todd had since died of his wounds. "We all felt sorry at losing such fine officers. They were both heroes and were good to their men." ^{xii}

The Ammunition Column was made up of both Royal Artillery "Gunnery Drivers" and Army Service Corps (ASC) Drivers. Their primary duty was to constantly and consistently supply the guns with ammunition from the ammunition dumps down by the beaches in addition to "lumping" food and water from the quartermaster stores, also at the beaches. But they were also trained as gunners and were expected to fill in as such when the need arose. And that need did arise. When the gunners took casualties and the crew numbers dropped down to one gunner left manning a gun more than once, a deed that earned the Distinguished Conduct Medal for Bombardier J. L. Nelson on 9 August 1915 at Suvla Bay (see opposite). The drivers were the only soldiers capable of assisting in the arduous and exact, deadly science of artillery.

These men, although seasoned veterans in the thick of the fighting now, were still citizen soldiers – Territorials. Less than a year earlier they had been at their civilian occupations and many were still at school. There was a telling moment in the spring which reminds us of ability of humanity to rise to the surface in the midst of the inhumanity of war.

Unbeknownst to anyone, one of the mares belonging to the Argyll Mountain Battery had been shipped in foal. That mare gave birth to a beautiful little foal on the peninsula which the men named "Lady Gallipoli". Andrew Boyle, a Gunner transferred from the Bute Mountain Battery to the Argyll Mountain Battery for the Gallipoli operation, had worked at Acholter Farm on the Isle of Bute before the war and was dubbed the 'godfather' of "Lady Gallipoli". Lady Gallipoli was a spring gift to our gunners; however she was a thorn in the side of the Brigade veterinarian (assigned to the Brigade from the Army Veterinary Corps), Lieutenant John W. Brownlee. While gunners were being relieved on the gun lines so they could go to the horse lines to see their new mascot, the order came to "dispose" of the foal. Forage and water were hard to find for the animals that were already there and those animals, all with a purpose and a duty were being "short rationed" to feed Lady Gallipoli and her mother. The men were in a quandary and the Sergeant in charge (Sergeant Donald Mackenzie of Campbeltown) was on the spot. Men were being imprisoned, even shot for refusing to obey a direct



Bombardier Nelson working a field-gun single-handed.

An attack at Cape Helles, on the shores of the Dardanelles, was begun on August 6th, 1915, in support of movements elsewhere on the Gallipoli Peninsula. When every other man attached to one of the field-guns had been killed or wounded during the fighting on May 9th, Bombardier J.L.Nelson, of the 4th Highland (Mountain Brigade), Royal Artillery, continued with the greatest courage to work the gun although the enemy were directing a deadly fire on to the British at close range. The services of Bombardier

Nelson were of the utmost value at a critical period, and he was most deservedly

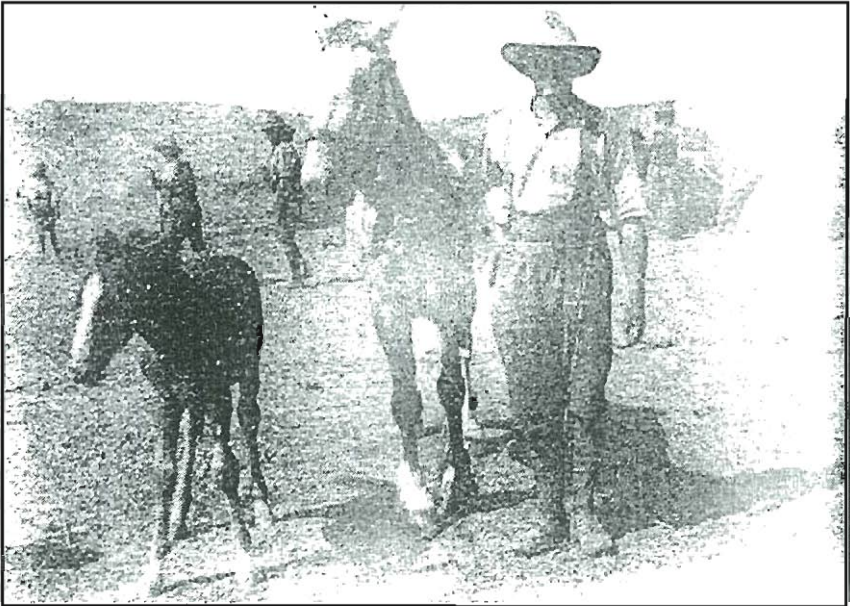
rewarded with the D.C.M

Painting by A Stewart.

order. Sgt. Mackenzie was being threatened with court martial if he didn't kill Lady Gallipoli from one side and with quite specific and frightening threats from the men if he did! Now what to do? Lady Gallipoli was to be spared, but in a tragic way. Lieutenant Brownlees, on his way to the horse lines to see if his order had been carried out, was killed (at age 40) by shell-fire on 16 June 1915 and Lady Gallipoli was spared and survived the campaign.

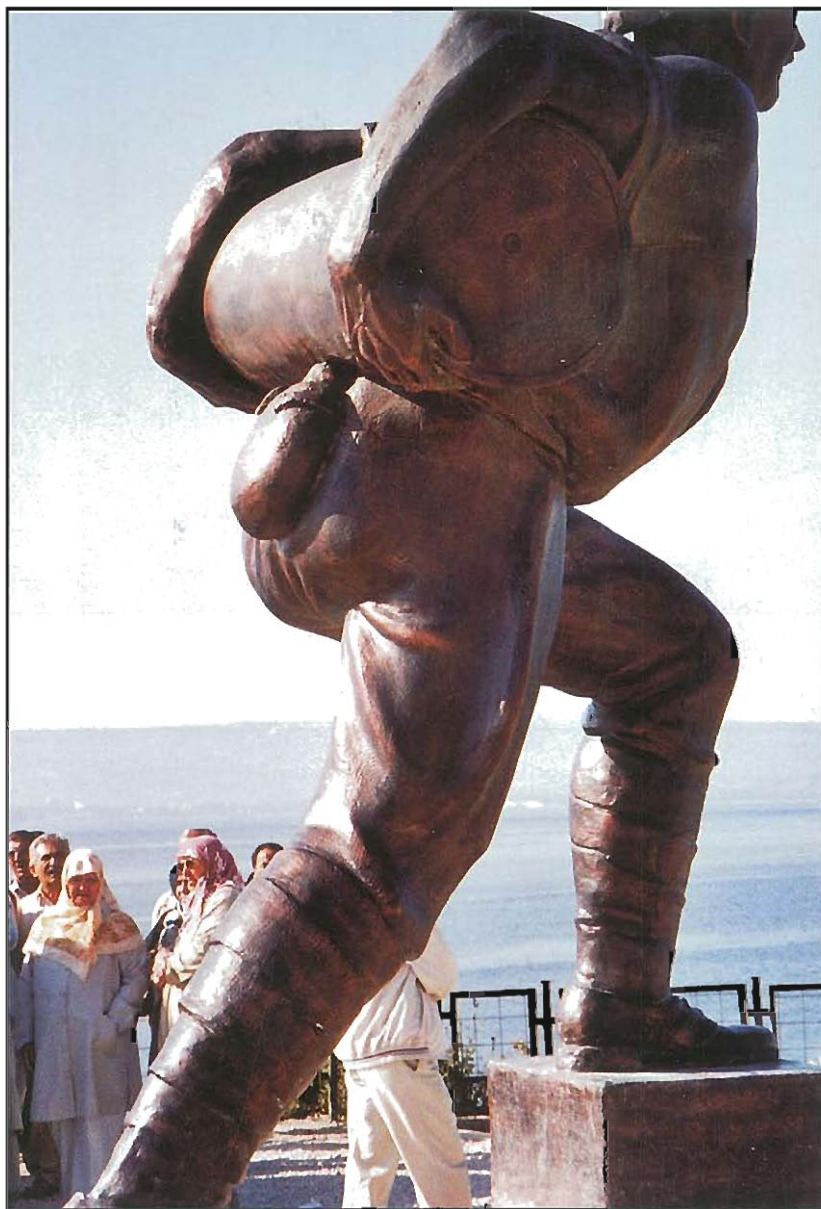
Gunner Robert Y. Johnston wrote a letter to the hometown newspaper in which he describes Gunner Boyle and Lady Gallipoli:

"He (Gunner Boyle) lavishes the utmost kindness and care upon the mare and her foal and his attention is reciprocated by both. The youthful one will follow him anywhere. This foal was christened "Lady Gallipoli" by the boys and she will answer to "Lady" or "Polly" at any time. She has brought a ray of sunshine amongst us, and a child could not be better treated and nursed. But she is growing every day and the bigger she gets the greater will be the void between us."^{xiii}



Lady Gallipoli (left), her mother (right) and Gunner Boyle, her protector (centre).

Continued on Page 37



Just some of the thousands of visitors who visit the Peninsula each day, here admiring Corporal Seyit who now carries the shell in an approved manner:

More photographs all taken by Hugh Jenner on next four pages.

Note: Photographs on pages 29-31 have previously been published in the *Winter Gallipolitan* where due to an Editors error they were reproduced in black & white.



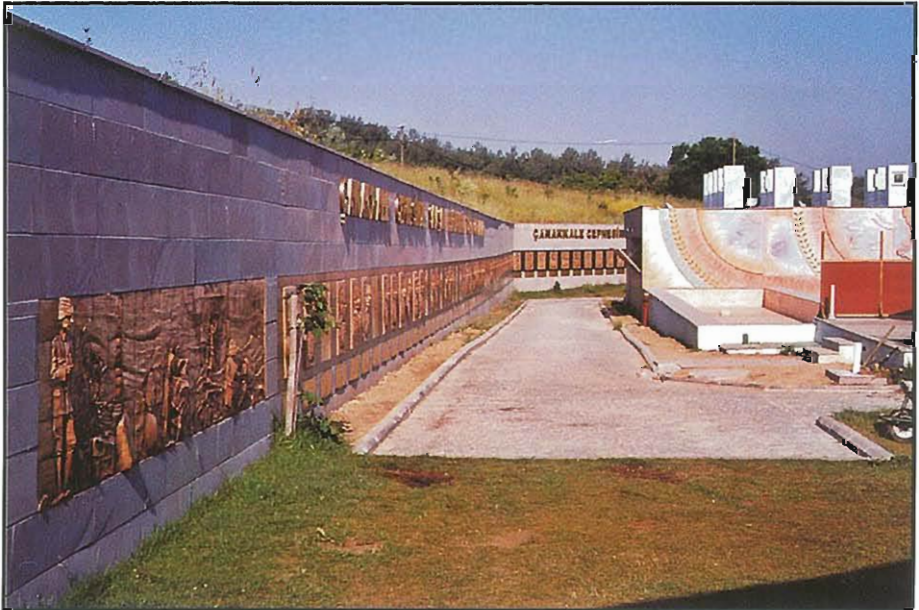
A shepherd draws water for his flock at Suvla



Lala Baba: the Creek near The Cut May 2006



A new museum near the grave of Colonel Doughty-Wylie, Sedd ul Bahir



Outside the new information centre at Ecebat



The new museum in the Square at Bigale



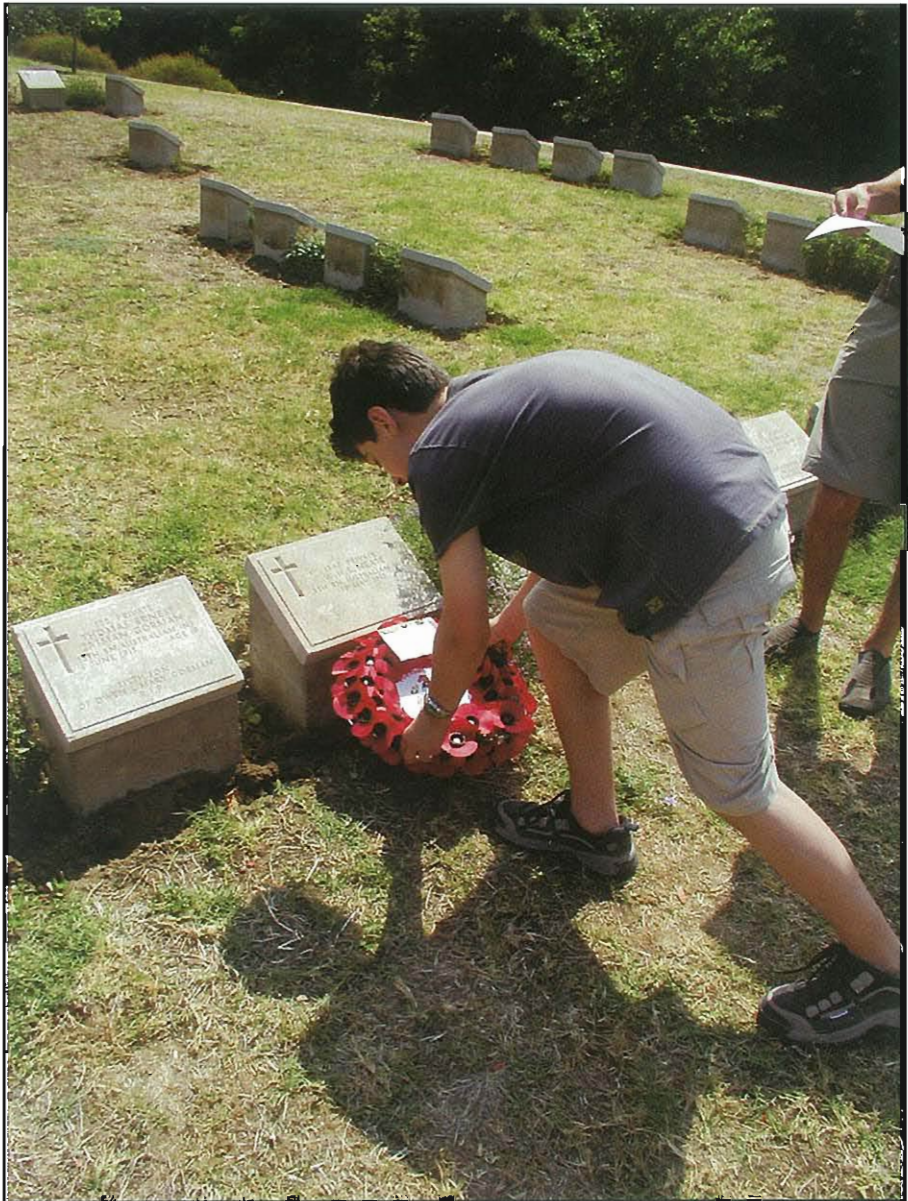
The village of Bigale, recently renovated seen from the new museum in the Square



Fort Sultan – The Lines of Bulair, October 2006



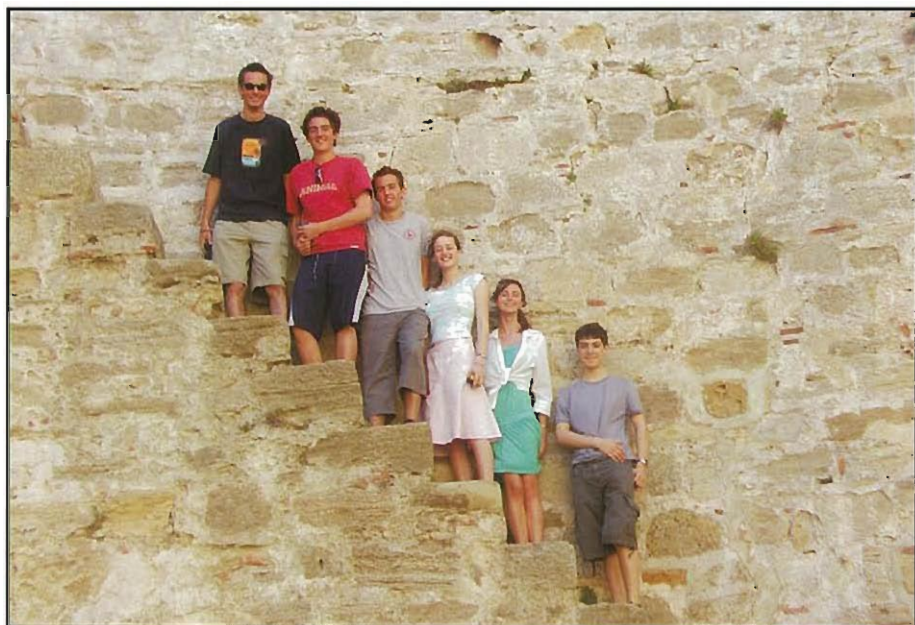
John Crowe, Committee member and organiser of the Sandringham Memorial Service, at V Beach Cemetery. Photograph John Crowe. See page 3.



*Laying a wreath at the grave in Shrapnel Valley Cemetery of Old Portmuthian Private William Neate who served and fell with the 5th Battalion AIF 19 May Portsmouth Grammar School visit.
See The Gallipolian No 112 Winter 2006 pages 43-45.*



Portsmouth Grammar School at Anzac Cove Cemetery



*Portsmouth Grammar School at Kilit Bahr Fort
See The Gallipolian No 112 Winter 2006 pages 43-45.*



Macclesfield Cemetery. Remembering Charles W Cantrell killed in action at Suvla Bay 9 December 1915 while serving with the 1/7th Cheshire Regiment. Also remembered on the stone is his son who had died in 1913 aged four years ten months. The family home was 43 Grange Avenue, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire.

Photograph Robert Horley.

Photographs of graves and memorials with a Gallipoli connection are much welcomed by the Editor

Continued from Page 28

A Touch of Home, A Brief Rest and Back to Battle.

On 20 July Lieutenant Hogarth writes that he had received a set of bagpipes sent by his father. The many pipers of the Ross and the Argyll Batteries were forced to leave their pipes at home and they had missed them dearly.

“Mothers and Father’s letters haven’t arrived yet, but Do’ (his sister) and the Ben Dhu one and the pipes did. Thank you ever so much for them. We had them going for a bit this morning. They were splendid and the men enjoyed it fine. Even some of Kitchie’s Englishmen^{xiv} stopped for a bit and watched and listened! ...Pipe Major McNeil has just finished another spell at the pipes and I went down and had a look at him, and he had quite a large and appreciative audience about him.”^{xv}

Imagine what the Turks thought when they heard the pipes!

Letters and parcels from home were a great source of strength to a soldier. There is frequent reference to these being received and our lads, being literate men and well brought up, acknowledged as many as they could. There are letters in *The Campbelltown Courier* from soldiers (at least one of whom was killed shortly thereafter) thanking the folks back home for gifts of socks, scarves, tobacco and sweets as well as news from home and kind thoughts. Family members came through with requested items (the bagpipes being a rather large request and magnanimous gift with far reaching effects) so that, even if Gallipoli and Salonika are referred to by some historians as “The Forgotten Front”, it and their soldiers were not forgotten in the minds of those back home, both family members and community members.

Finally, on the night of 3-4 August, the exhausted Highland Mountain Battery, minus the Brigade HQ, was evacuated from the Gallipoli peninsula to Imbros for they knew not what. There was some thought and many wishes (not to mention a few rampant rumors) that they were to be sent home. They were just glad to be able to sleep a night’s undisturbed sleep, eat a meal in peace and, occasionally, when fatigue duties were done and the animals, equipment and guns were cared for, take a peaceful walk on this beautiful Greek island. It seemed like a paradise to many and was, indeed, too good to last.

While resting and refitting on this island, the Navy “found” another set of 10 pounder mountain guns on board a ship which had been sent from India, ostensibly for the 7th Mountain Brigade at ANZAC, and issued them to the two reconstituted batteries, which also received another draft of men from the 2/4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade training program in the UK to replace their manpower losses.

A complaint expressed by General Sir Ian Hamilton prior to the initial landings (and ignored by his superiors in England), was that the Egyptian newspapers carried full coverage of troop movements and openly “speculated” on the intention of landing these

troops at Gallipoli. He tried unsuccessfully to have this silenced, and felt strongly, with good cause, that this openness about the Gallipoli mission is one reason the peninsula was so strongly fortified. Therefore, the upcoming operation, a landing at Suvla Bay supporting an ANZAC breakout, was kept excessively secret. Troops on the ground were not to know where they were going or what the battle plan was until the landing was taking place. This added to the innate problems of a night amphibious landing as, after a successful landing, the exploitation phase presented itself and faded, allowing the surprised Turks to rush reinforcements from other areas to occupy the heights that were the initial objectives of the Allies and should have been captured and fortified quickly. That failure to promptly move onto high ground set the stage for some heart breaking attempts to take the now fortified and defended heights.

On 6 August, late at night, two skeleton Batteries chosen from the replenished but still worn out mountain gunners set out once again for the peninsula. The mission was, in conjunction with a north-eastward attack from the ANZAC troops at Gaba Tepe, to invade the new sector at Suvla and open up a front to cut off reinforcements and resupply to the enemy established on the peninsula. To quote from the *History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery*,

“Sir Ian Hamilton aimed to land 13,700 men of 11th Division and the 12 guns of 4th (Highland) Mountain Brigade (8 x 10 pounders) and “A” Battery (4 x 18 pounders) of 59th Brigade RFA starting at 2200 hours on 6th August and ending at 1000 hours on the 7th... Part of the role of the initial infantry landings was to secure enough ground for the buildup of artillery. Brigadier S.C.U. Smith, BGRA 9th Corps (Brigadier General of Royal Artillery, the Artillery Commander for the 9th Corps) planned to support the landings by naval gunfire, to land 12 guns with the initial landings (*4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade and A Btry 59th Bde*) and to build these up to 56 by nightfall 7th August.”^{xxi}

In reality, only one section from each battery landed at Suvla Bay (4 guns), the remainder being left behind on Imbros as a reserve. In any event, they landed and went straight to work.

The men, still wearing the uniforms, boots and kit they were wearing when they landed back in April, were the first guns ashore again. This August landing was different from the April landings in that complete surprise was achieved and they were able to land relatively unmolested. Unfortunately, it wasn't just the enemy who were surprised. The effort to maintain secrecy about these landings was so successful that most of the troops, including officers and non-commissioned officers, did not know their missions upon landing. The resulting confusion, lethargy and loss of the initiative are well documented. To add to the confusion, the Navy was landing in uncharted and unscouted waters with new vessels (the “Beetles” or armored landing craft with ramps in the front to land the troops). Consequently, many of these green troops were landed

on beaches they were unprepared for and had to effect long road marches to get to their assigned sectors.

There were many new troops in this landing and to these untried men of "Kitchener's Army", the mountain gunners were "old sweats." The Mountain Gunners knew what to do and did it, initially taking up their positions according to plan; unaware that the infantry they were supposed to be supporting and that was supposed to be directly in front of them hadn't made it to their starting positions. This was a moment when the mountain gunners were not *at* the front line, they were the front line. Unaware of the situation on the beaches, they had occupied their assigned positions and dug in their guns, ready to fire, until an agitated infantry officer charged up on his horse and informed them that they were a mile ahead of the front line. Once again, their skill and speed served them well as they loaded up their guns and led their ponies, quickly, back to the "real" lines. Fortunately they had, as usual, prepared good positions, because the battle plan was back on track. shortly and the next day, they moved their guns and equipment right back into the same positions.^{xvii}

This endeavour at Suvla, too, was doomed, although the sections from the Ross Battery and the Argyll Battery fought in what had become a typically efficient and effective manner. Here, as in the south, they suffered indescribable deprivation, were constantly in jeopardy of snipers bullets, artillery shells, or the new menace, aerial bombs, and suffered from extremes of heat and cold, rain and frost, shortages of food and water, and disease. In spite of all this from all reports they carried on well and didn't let the situation ruin their morale or efficiency. One observation of their effectiveness was written in the diary of the 34th Brigade Commander, Brigadier- General Sitwell, describing one of those actions on 9 August in which the gunners moved to the south of the battle area (the area of Chocolate Hill) from the north to provide fires.

"The Mountain Gun Battery had two guns put out of action very soon, but the other two supported me well particularly shelling Hill 70 with the greatest accuracy whenever the Turks got on it, and assisted us splendidly when the scrub fire drove us back."

And the next day, describing an action where the Turks were counter attacking.

"I directed the fire of my mountain guns right across their front as I could see the enemy about two to three hundred yards in front of their trench. I saw many Turks running away as the result of this fire and hoped it would materially assist an advance, but things seemed to be at a deadlock."^{xviii}

In response to calls for their services, our Mountain Gunners moved all over the area as the combat veterans they had become. Toward the end of this campaign, when the decision had been made to evacuate the peninsula starting with the troops at Suvla Bay, the guns were required to move to a new location, fire a few rounds, pack up, move to

another position, fire a few rounds, etc., in an effort to fool the enemy into believing that there was more artillery on the ground than there actually was and that operations were continuing, not terminating.

There are several comments regarding the good morale of our Highland gunners. Because of their pre-war associations, they kept each other's equilibrium in the face of the losses and hardships they faced. In one example from RSM Mackenzie's work, a gunner, identified only as "Gunner E_____" (whom I feel was probably Gunner A. Emery, 2466, wounded 10 May, 1915)

"came in from one of the forward guns with blood running down his sleeve. He reported himself unfit for duty, but when his tunic was removed it was found that a bullet had just nipped the tip off his shoulder. A daub of iodine, a piece of lint held on with sticking plaster, and an order to go back to his gun was all the comfort he got from the S.M. (Sergeant Major). So we offered him a share of our bully beef stew and had just got seated round the Dixie when a Turkish shell burst above us and sprayed the ground with shrapnel bullets. Gunner E_____ rolled over in agony, a bullet through his thigh. We had all, a dozen of us, escaped death by inches, but we roared with laughter when E_____ groaned out—'Will I get to the Hospital noo' Sergeant Major?'^{sis}

One reads throughout the letters and diary entries that still exist, the exhortation that there was "no need to be downhearted."

The difficult decision was eventually made by the Allied Command to withdraw all Allied troops from Gallipoli. This evacuation was, by all accounts, the most successful part of the whole Gallipoli campaign. The Turks were, apparently, completely surprised when they discovered that the Allies had left. Or, just so fed up with their own losses, which were worse than the Allies, that they just wanted the Allies to leave. There is also some conjecture among historians that this was a gesture of respect for the fighting spirit and abilities of the British and French Soldiers, but officially – it was a surprise. As usual, the mountain gunners were tasked with providing fires for the last line of defence and were the last guns to leave Suvla Bay.

There is no shortage of irony in the fate of the two guns belonging to the Argyll (skeleton) Battery left with their crews to provide final protective fires for the evacuating party. When allowed to evacuate the position early in the morning, they were placed on a barge to be towed out to a waiting naval vessel. En route, the towing vessel executed a rather sharp turn and the guns slid off into the sea where they lie to this day. The Ross Battery boys claimed that they had been able to get their guns off the peninsula (old and expendable though these guns were) and accordingly had 'stuck to their guns!'

When one sees infantry casualties that are so high, the casualty figures of the 4th

Highland (Mountain) Brigade might seem small. While no casualties are to be slighted, the impact of their casualties has to be seen in light of their much smaller numbers and the fact that their casualties all came without once 'going over the top'. As stated earlier, their casualties were so high that they had to amalgamate what was left into one composite battery, something no other artillery had to do, yet was an accommodation made by some infantry units due to their losses in this campaign.

For many decades surviving gunners, NCO's and officers gathered together every 25 April in Stornoway, home of the Left Section, Ross Mountain Battery, to remember their fallen comrades and the Gallipoli Campaign. Their Commanding General, General Sir Ian Hamilton, came to dedicate the War Memorial in Stornoway and paid tribute to them in this way,

"The first time I set eyes on the splendid lads of the Ross Mountain Battery was at Bedford. The next time I met them was at Alexandria in April. After that I used to hear their guns by night and by day for as long as they had shell to fire, and like every other officer and man of the Helles Force, I drew courage and strength from the sound. A volume of praise could not say more for a battery than that they, so vulnerable to the sniper, carried their screw guns and ammunition on their own backs right into the front rank of the 29th Division – sometimes spoken of as the Incomparable Division and sometimes as the Immortal Division. The gunners fought their little screw-guns from the front-line trenches, and the drivers took up work just as dangerous, bringing their ponies, laden with ammunition and water; time after time right into the infantry firing line. These lads were mostly students from your Nicholson Institute, the great educational centre of the Island of Lewis.

Their guns were the first artillery ashore, both at Helles and at Suvla. That is a remarkable, a wonderful record, and that is one reason why I came here today to unveil this memorial. They were badly cut up, alas! At Suvla, no.2 gun's crew was reduced to one man, who went on serving it until a couple of signalers ran up to lend him a hand. But once I begin to give instances there will be no end, and I have come to an end now.

The story of the Ross Mountain Battery in the Great War is beautiful, so beautiful that you must be careful when you hand it down, lest you inspire the youth of the island with a cult for war. Tell them, then, from me that these lads who have fallen would be far more honoured were they permitted to be the last of their clan than if future generations were to endeavour to imitate them. Let them strive to bring it to pass that this memorial which I now unveil, may stand forever alone in its glory."^{xx}

Author's Note: We would like to thank Sheriff Colin Scott Mackenzie, author of *The Last Warrior Band*, for his comments and suggestions.



Return to Rothesay in 1919.

This group of gunners were transferred from the Mountain Brigade before Gallipoli and formed the 51st (Highland) Divisional Ammunition Column which fought in France. The cornet player is the author's great-granduncle RSM James Morrison, playing *Sweet Rothesay Bay*. Mike Morrison Collection.

**The Highland Gunners of the 4th Highland Mountain
Brigade, RGA (TF) who died during the Gallipoli
campaign (in date order)**

Alexander Angus Mackenzie, Bombardier 4319 Ross Mountain Battery

Died 2 May. The son of John Mackenzie, Stornoway. Bombardier Mackenzie was the first Lewis man killed from the Ross Battery. Remembered on Helles Memorial, he was known to his fellow gunners as "Sir Henry".

Norman Maclean, Gunner 4335 Ross Mountain Battery

Died 8 May. He was a student and lived at 5 Vatisker, Lewis, before the war. He was noticed missing 8 May 1915 and was presumed dead. "Born in Back, Stornoway and enlisted in Stornoway, the son of Donald Maclean of Stornoway. He died in Alexandria, Egypt, on May 18, age 22 and is buried at the Chatby War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria." RMB

Alexander McKeith, Gunner as Driver 1304 or 2309 Argyll Mountain Battery

Died 8 or 9 May 1915 at Gallipoli, he transferred to the Argyll Mountain Battery from the Bute Battery in March 1915, Gunner McKeith was the 1st Bute Territorial killed, "taking a meal at an interval in the fighting, when he was struck by a stray bullet from the Turkish Trenches and died soon afterwards". He was an apprentice plumber in Rothesay with Morrison Brothers Plumbing. The son of James McKeith of Rothesay, he is buried at Pink Farm Cemetery.

Donald Mackenzie, Gunner 4185 Ross Mountain Battery

Died of wounds 11 May (14 May per 29th Division Artillery War Record Book). He was born in Kintail, Ross-shire and enlisted in Carndhu, Dornie, Kyle of Lochalsh, and was the son of John and Margaret Mackenzie of Carriedubh, Dornie, Kyle of Lochalsh, Ross-shire. Another account said he was wounded on 25 May and died 28 May, but the Commonwealth War Graves Commission reports that he died on 14 May. To his fellow gunners, he was known as "Ghillie".

Kenneth Macdonald, Gunner as Driver 4318 Ross Mountain Battery

Died 15 May of wounds while on a hospital ship aged 22. An engineer of 1 Mackenzie St., Stornoway, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Macdonald, of 17, Lower Sandwick, Stornoway. He is remembered on the Helles Memorial and was known as "Kenny Ulaidh". (He was called Keith Macdonald in *The Scotsman*.)

John Macrae, Driver 4053 Ross Mountain Battery

Wounded 25 May (16 May according to CWGC & 29 DAWR) and died of wounds the following day aboard a hospital ship. A gardener from Kishorn, Lochcarron, he was born at and enlisted in Lochcarron, the son of Isabella MacRae, of Kilburn, Kishorn, Lochcarron, Ross-shire, and the late John MacRae. Remembered on Helles Memorial 16 May aged 22 years" (PGRGA) Helles Memorial, RMB.

John Macdonald, Gunner and Piper 4403 Ross Mountain Battery

Wounded 15 or 25 May, he subsequently died of his wounds on 2 June 1915 on a hospital ship aged 39. He was a clothier of 4 Plantation Rd., Stornoway and an original member of the Lewis Pipe Band. Born and enlisted in Stornoway and was buried at sea (although *The Scotsman* listed his death as occurring at Alexandria in a hospital.) Remembered on Helles Memorial.

Murdo Mackenzie John, Gunner 4379 Ross Mountain Battery

Died wounds 5 June, age 19, he came from 51 Lower Garrabost, Stornoway the son of Kenneth and Annie Mackenzie. "Gunner Murdo Mackenzie, Ross Mountain Battery, has been killed at the Dardanelles. He was a son of Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie, 51 Lower Garrabost, Stornoway and was 19 years old. At the outbreak of hostilities he was a student in Nicholson Institute, Stornoway." *The Scotsman* 26 June 1915).

George Strachan, Gunner 4899 Ross Mountain Battery

The son of James Strachan of Norwich, Norfolk, Driver Strachan was born in Pangbourne, Berkshire, and attested in London. He died of wounds received on 6 June, age 27 years while at Gallipoli and buried Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles.

John Brown, Acting Bombardier 4166 Brigade Ammunition Column

Died from illness on 9 June 1915 at Gallipoli and buried at Lancashire Landing Cemetery. He was born in Wick, Caithness, and enlisted in Dingwall, Ross and Cromarty, he lived at Burnside Place, Dingwall.

Charles Sheddan, Corporal 145 Argyll Mountain Battery

Landed on 25 April, a member of Gun 2 of the Argyll Mountain Battery. Killed in action 5 June (12 Jun per CWGC, 29 DAWR and KIAG List) Corporal Sheddan was in charge of a gun which had been advanced into a firing position, and was being screened with sandbags when he was shot through the heart by a sniper. Corporal Sheddan, aged 27 was the son of Mr. James Sheddan, cabinetmaker, Campbeltown. and leaves a widow and two children. Buried 12 Tree Copse Cemetery.

John Brown, Gunner 4856 Brigade Ammunition Column

Died of disease 14 June in Alexandria after evacuation from the peninsula. Buried at Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery. On mobilization, he lived at 13 George St, Dingwall, and was a member of the Brigade Ammunition Column.

George Andrew Cuthbertson, Gunner 2223 4th Highland Mountain Brigade Staff

Died 28 June. One of the men transferred from the Bute Battery to the Brigade HQ Staff in March 1915. The son of Andrew and Margaret Cuthbertson, 3 John Clark St. Largs. Born in Glasgow, he enlisted in Largs and was killed in action on 28 June age 22 years. Commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

Murdo John Mackenzie, Second Lieutenant Ross Mountain Battery

Died 28 June. Second Lieutenant Mackenzie was commissioned from Sergeant in the Ross Mountain Battery on 8 October 1914. The son of Kate MacKenzie of Achintee, Strathcarron, Ross-shire, a very popular and active man in his community. Killed, shrapnel wounds to the head while directing his guns at the Battle of Gully Ravine on 28 June aged 30. Initially buried in Geoghehan's Bluff Cemetery, after the war moved to Geoghehan's Bluff Plot in Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery.

John Hamilton, Gunner 326 Argyll Mountain Battery

A joiner, he was the son of Thomas Hamilton, of Campbeltown, Argyll and was at the initial landing. Gunner Hamilton was killed in action on the night of 28-29 June aged 20. Originally buried in Geoghehan's Bluff Cemetery, Gunner Hamilton's remains were reburied in the Geoghehan's Bluff Plot in 12 Tree Copse Cemetery after the war. His father received a letter written by his son on the morning of the day he was killed but he had earlier received a letter from two of his son's fellow gunners informing him of his death.

William Todd, Captain Argyll Mountain Battery

Died 29 June. Born 26 June 1876, in Glasgow, the son of George and Clare Todd. Husband of Allyce Todd of Duncraoibhan, Lochgilphead, Argyll, father of George (born 1908) and Elizabeth (born 1910). Educated at Kelvinside Academy and St. Andrew's, and was an architect in civil life. In 1905 he was promoted to Lieutenant in the Volunteers, and 9 August 1914 to Captain. On 28 June he was wounded by a Turkish shell while selecting a new position for his guns during the Battle of Gully Ravine and died the following day, age 39. Remembered on Helles Memorial.

Archibald Johnston, Corporal 332 Argyll Mountain Battery

Killed in action 12 July. Corporal Johnston and Corporal James McLean were in a detachment working a gun in an advanced position enfilading Turkish trenches when they were struck by shell and killed almost instantaneously. The son of Alexander Johnston, maltman, Benmore Distillery of Gayfield Place, Campbeltown, Argyll, he was 22. Originally buried in Geoghehan's Bluff Cemetery, after the war his remains were moved to the Geoghehan's Bluff Plot in Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery.

George McGowan, Gunner 2255 Argyll Mountain Battery

Gunner McGowan came as one of the first replacements, joining the Argyll Mountain Battery on 27 May 1915. Born in Canning Town, London, he enlisted in Largs. Killed in action 12 July 1915 when his gun was targeted by Turkish artillery. Originally buried in Geoghehan's Bluff Cemetery, after the war his remains were moved to the Geoghehan's Bluff Plot in Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery.

James McLean, Bombardier 317 Argyll Mountain Battery

The son of Mr. James Sheddan, cabinetmaker, Campbeltown. He was 27 years of age, and left a widow and two children. Bombardier McLean was killed in action, along with

Corporal Sheddan (see page 44) on 12 July and buried in 12 Tree Copse Cemetery.

Robert Robertson, Gunner 1214 Argyll Mountain Battery

Died 12 July. The son of Mr. James S. Robertson, clerk of works, 119 Nethergate, Gunner Robertson was born in Lochee, Forfarshire, and was an architect by profession, having been employed in London for twelve years before his enlistment in November 1914 in London. He was with the Argyll Mountain Battery from the landing on and was killed 12 July. Originally buried in Geoghehan's Bluff Cemetery, later the Geoghehan's Bluff Plot in Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Helles.

Murdo Macaulay, Bombardier 4441 Ross Mountain Battery

Died 15 July aged 22. Gunner Macaulay was born and enlisted in Stornoway, Ross-shire and lived at 3 Keith St., Stornoway at the commencement of hostilities, he was known to his friends as "Dorn". On June 11 he was wounded in the left leg and evacuated to Malta. After two operations to save the limb it had to be amputated. On 15 July he died, age 22 and is buried in the Pieta Military Cemetery, Malta. He was employed as a postman in Stornoway.

Walter Emerton, Gunner 4955 Argyll Mountain Battery

Died of wounds 19 July aged 23. Son of Walter & Sarah Emerton of Belton, Lincolnshire he enlisted in London. Originally buried in Geoghehan's Bluff Cemetery later Geoghehan's Bluff Plot in Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery.

Alexander D. Morrison, Lieutenant Ross Mountain Battery

Died 22 July. A hotel keeper from Lochcarron, before the war, he served with the 1st Lanarkshire RGA, Imperial Yeomanry Glasgow and the Lovat Scouts prior to joining the 4th Highland Mountain Brigade. He was promoted to Lieutenant 9 August 1914, and had a younger brother Stewart in the Ross Battery. An article in *The Scotsman* described him as the "1st man of his brigade to set foot on Gallipoli". Wounded 22 July when a shell burst at the guns which also wounded Major McKelvie and Gunner J. G. Macleod. He died 25 July, away from the battery whose members, including his newly arrived brother, apparently didn't learn about it until the middle of August. Remembered on the Helles Memorial.

Norman Campbell, Gunner as Driver 4288 Ross Mountain Battery

Died of wounds at Suvla Bay, 9 August aged 20 buried at sea and remembered on the Helles Memorial. Born 26 August 1895 Aird Point, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, the eldest son of Donald Campbell, fisherman, and Jessie (née Smith) Campbell of 12 Aird, Stornoway. Educated at Aird School and Stornoway Nicolson Institute. Driver Campbell was unmarried. In March 1911 he enlisted in the R.G.A. (T.F.) in Stornoway. His intention was to study medicine at Aberdeen University, but war was declared and he was mobilized. On 25 April he landed with his battery at "W" Beach, and on 9 August was mortally wounded in the hip and side when a shell struck him and afterwards exploded, wounding several others including Gunner John Macleod, who

later died of wounds (see page 48). He was evacuated to H.M. Hospital Ship *Soudan*. Later that day he died and was buried at sea. Commemorated on the Helles Memorial. In de Ruigny's Roll of Honour, Volume I, Part II page 56, a portion of a letter from one of Driver Campbell's friends is quoted: "We were lying side by side, as was our wont, having a little respite about five minutes before he was struck; he was then summoned to the gun, and the next I heard was that he was carried away, mortally wounded. I was grieved that I was not able to say goodbye."^{xxi}

James Edward Yeoman, Gunner as Driver 1171 Argyll Mountain Battery

Wounded at Suvla Bay, he was evacuated to Alexandria where he died on 12 August at age 23. Assigned to Gun 3 Argyll Battery at the landing, he participated in the 'W' Beach Landings and the Suvla Bay landings. He is buried in Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.

Donald McMillan, Gunner 1078 Argyll Mountain Battery

Assigned to Gun 4 at the initial landings, he was the eldest son of the late Roderick McMillan, Inspector of the Poor, of Portree, Isle of Skye. In civil life he lived in the Oban Times Buildings in Oban. Gunner McMillan was killed in action on 18 August (Possibly 8 September), age 33 and is remembered at the Helles Memorial. He was born in Portree, Inverness-shire, and attested in Oban.

William McNeill, Corporal and Pipe Major 1006 Argyll Mountain Battery

Also assigned to Gun 4 at the initial landings, Corporal McNeill died on Imbros 18 or 20 August 1915 and is buried at the East Mudros Military Cemetery. Pipe Major William McNeill of Stonefield Cottage, Oban was born in Kilmore, Argyllshire, and attested in Oban. He is remembered on the French Pipers Memorial Website.

Hector Graham Urquhart, Gunner 4805 Brigade Ammunition Column

Born 7 April 1895, at Tain, Ross-shire, the only son of Donald Urquhart, boot merchant, and Christina Urquhart of Rose Street, Tain. Educated at Tain Public School and Tain Royal Academy and was unmarried. In civil life he was apprenticed as an iron monger to his uncle, John Urquhart. Attested into the Brigade Ammunition Column in August 1914 in Dingwall. He died of pneumonia on 26 August 1915, at the Bombay Presidency General Hospital, San Stefano, Alexandria, Egypt, age 20 years and buried at the Chatby War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria.

Peter Ferguson, Gunner 2448 4th Highland Mountain Brigade

Born in Cumbræ, Bute, enlisted Rothesay, the son of Colin and Janet Ferguson of Millport, Bute. Gunner Ferguson died of dysentery on board a hospital ship 31 August age 27 years and buried at sea. Commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

James Corrigan, Gunner 2566 Argyll Mountain Battery

Born and attested in Rothesay, he was one of the replacements trained by the Bute Battery arriving at Suvla Bay on 3 August assigned to the Argyll Mountain Battery.

Subsequently died 2 September in Alexandria, Egypt and buried at Alexandria (Chatby) War Memorial and Military Cemetery.

William McCully, Battery Sergeant Major (WO-II) 4866 Ross Mountain Battery
Battery Sergeant Major McCully died of shrapnel wounds to the stomach 5 September after being evacuated along with the Adjutant, Captain Burney (dysentery) to H.M. Hospital Ship *Valdivia* and was buried at sea, age 29 years. He is remembered on the Helles Memorial. Born 25 December 1875, in Gosport, Hampshire, the eldest son of William John McCully, army pensioner. He accomplished a good deal in his 29 years. William McCully married Alexina 27 January 1904, at Fulham. She passed away 13 July 1913. He left two children, nine year old Margaret Emily McCully and Alfred William Tipper McCully. A career soldier, he was educated in army schools in India, on Guernsey (Channel Islands), and at Portsmouth, Hants. On 19 December 1890, he joined the Army as a Trumpeter, and in 1893 attested as a Gunner. His final posting was as an instructor to the Argyll Mountain Battery for six years. In 1913 he took his discharge (he was awarded the Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal), but in August 1914 he rejoined the 4th Highland Mountain Brigade in Bedford. On 25 April he landed with his battery at Helles and on 6 August landed at Suvla Bay. He was well thought of and respected by his troops. His brother, Sergeant Frederick McCully, of "E" Battery, RHA died of wounds at Peronne, France, on 7 June 1917.

John Macleod, Gunner 4316 Ross Mountain Battery

Died 9 September of wounds received 9 August, age 22. Born in Point, Stornoway, Ross-shire, and attested in Stornoway, the son of Murdo and Mary Macleod of 18, Aignish, Stornoway. He was unmarried and in civil life was employed as a tailor by Malcolm Macarthur of Kenneth Street, Stornoway. During the landing at Suvla Bay on 9 August he was mortally wounded by a shell that blew off one of his legs below the knee (it also wounded several others, including Driver Norman Campbell who also died – see page 46). Later that day he died on H.M. Hospital Ship *Soudan*. He was buried at sea and remembered on the Helles Memorial.

Duncan Black, Bombardier 1085 Argyll Mountain Battery

One of the Argyll Mountain Battery men who landed in April, he was assigned to Gun 4 died 11 October in hospital at Malta after evacuation from the peninsula due to his wounds. Buried in Pieta Military Cemetery in Malta. Born near Lismore and Appin, Argyllshire he attested in Oban and is remembered on the Duror & Kentallen War Memorial.

Donald Stewart, Sergeant 1003 Argyll Mountain Battery

Of 1 Buchanan Terrace, Oban, and the son of Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart of 32 Argyll Square, Oban, Sergeant Stewart was the Gun 4 Sergeant of the Argyll Mountain Battery in April 1915. Born in Stornoway, Lewis and joined in Oban he was killed in action on 7 November age 25 years and is buried in Hill 10 Cemetery.

Thomas Fraser, Gunner 4189 Ross Mountain Battery

Wounded at Suvla Bay and died in Malta on 25 November, he is buried at Pieta Military Cemetery. Gunner Fraser left a widow and four children aged two to six. A ploughman on Tullich Farm, Lochcarron he was born in Kiltarlity, Inverness-shire, and enlisted in Lochcarron.

Rewards and Honours

Although their history has been shrouded by time, they received Rewards and Honours of which this is probably an incomplete list.

Military Cross: Captain Burney & Lieutenant Macdonald.

Companion of St. Michael and St. George: Major McKelvie

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel: Major Wynter, DSO

Distinguished Conduct Medal: Sergeant Bell, Sergeant Matheson, Bombardier Nelson, Corporal Rodger

Military Medal: Sergeant Holmes, Gunner McLachlan

Mentioned in Despatches: Major Allen, Major McKelvie, Captain Burney,

Lieutenant Duncan-Wallace, Lieutenant A.H. Macdonald,

Bombardier Sergeant Major McCully, Sergeant Bell, Sergeant Matheson,

Corporal Fraser, Gunner McLachlan, Gunner McPherson, Gunner Toomer.

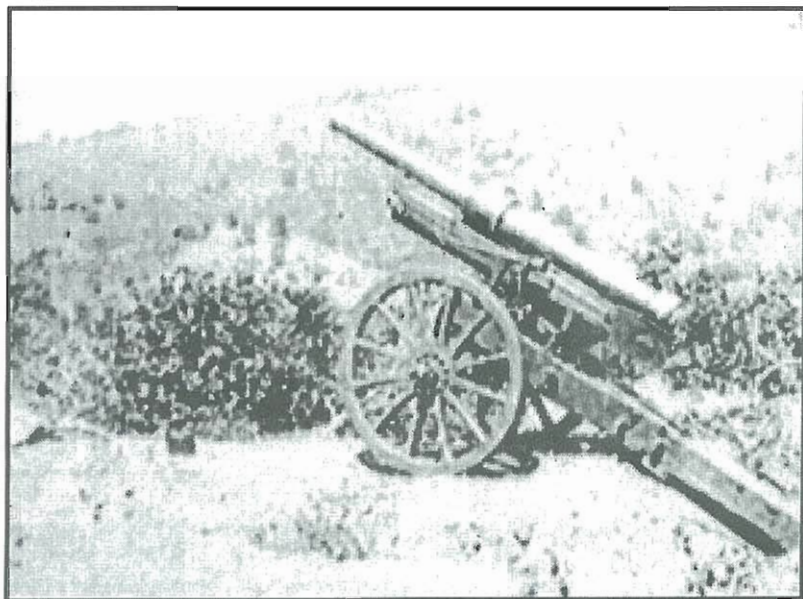
Received a Regular Army Commission: RSM E C Hyde

Reference Notes

- i *The Last Warrior Band* by Sheriff Colin Scott Mackenzie 2004, (with special emphasis and focus on the Lewis contribution to the Ross Battery).
- ii My thanks to Stuart Davies for finding that.
- iii There were no Mountain Artillery experts in the UK except the 4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade, so the Bute Mountain Battery, minus 80 of its personnel who were disbursed among the units going overseas, was chosen to stay in the UK. It was considered junior as it had one less annual training period under its belt upon mobilization.
- iv 1/4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade became the designation of the unit once in Gallipoli and 2/4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade the 2nd line Mountain Brigade, retained in the UK to train replacement Mountain Gunners.
- v *Crowned Hours of Argyll and Ross Batteries R.G.A., (T.F.)*, by RSM J. H. Mackenzie, 1936, Campbelltown Courier.
- vi *ibid*
- vii Letter, Lt. William Hogarth, 18th June 1915
- viii Letter, Lt. William Hogarth, 3rd July 1915.
- ix *29th Divisional Artillery War Record and Honours Book, 1915-1918*, Lieut. Colonel R.M. Johnson, The Naval & Military Press in association with the Royal Artillery Museum.
- x Casualty figures are *not* complete. In the very difficult task of pulling together the names and personal data of as many men of the 4th Highland (Mountain) Brigade as possible from many and widespread resources, (none complete but all valuable) I feel that most of the

casualties have been located. I fear, and regret, that some of these fine men must have been missed, although compilation of a true "Roll of Honour" is an ongoing task.

- xi *History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, The Forgotten Fronts and the Home Base, 1914-1918* by General Sir Martin Farndale. "1988 The Royal Artillery Institution, used with permission.
- xii *The Buteman and West Coast Chronicle*, 30 July 1915, as copied from microfilm in the Rothesay Library (Argyll and Bute Library Service).
The Buteman and West Coast Chronicle 13 August 1915, from microfilm in the Rothesay Library (Argyll and Bute Library Service).
- xiii A reference to the conscripts of what was called "Kitchener's Army" after Lord Kitchener who designed it. They were new men to the peninsula and to war.
- xiv Letter, Lt. William Hogarth 20th July 1915.
- xv *History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, The Forgotten Fronts and the Home Base, 1914-1918* by General Sir Martin Farndale. "1988 The Royal Artillery Institution, used with kind permission of The Royal Artillery Institution
- xvi *Crowded Hours of Argyll and Ross Batteries*, R.G.A., (TF) by R.S. Maj. J.H. Mackenzie, reprinted from *The Campbeltown Courier*, Campbeltown, 1936, copy provided by the Argyll & Bute Archives.
- xvii Both quotes from typed diary of the 34th Brigade, 11th Division, August 1915, National Archives of Great Britain at Kew. (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)
- xviii *ibid*
- xix *The Scotsman* of Thursday 29th September 1927, from their Digital Archives reprinted with kind permission, www.archive.scotsman.com
- xx My thanks to Patrick Gariepy for that and many other facts concerning Gallipoli casualties.



A lone Mountain Gun at Gallipoli (Suvla Bay?) during a respite.

Colin Scott Mackenzie Collection.

9TH ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT AT GALLIPOLI

KEVAN DERBY

My Grandfather Sergeant Frederick Albert Darby served in the 9th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment at Gallipoli. After several visits to the Peninsula I decided to try and find out as much as possible about the service of the Battalion during their time at Gallipoli, here are some of the personal accounts I have discovered.

Lance Corporal Megainey – The Kenilworth Advertiser

Lance Corporal Megainey (lately a gas fitter, of Kenilworth now of the 9th Warwick's) has been in Kenilworth on leave after a long illness from enteric fever contracted at Cape Helles. He enlisted in the autumn of 1914, and arrived at the Dardanelles at the end of June. He had two months experiences in the trenches at Cape Helles doing turns with the 7th Staffordshires.

The Turks held overlooking heights, a big advantage for sniping purposes, and were deadly shots. It was extraordinary, too how they obtained information as to the movements of troops. Whenever a battalion was relieved the communication trenches were shelled. Meal times, too, when men got clustered, were invariably chosen as fitting opportunities for shell dropping even when times for meals were changed. The Corporal marvelled at the extraordinary feat of the 29th Division in landing and driving back the forces of the Turks. He was amazed, too at the skill of our artillery. He did not himself know where the British batteries were, but when occasion called for them shells rained on the Turkish trenches in hurricanes. Big shells from the warships came along very frequently and disturbed both trenches and unfortunate occupants. They had several batches of Turkish prisoners come in big men miserably clad, and who reminded him of a typical Englishman tramp. In broken English would say "Turkey no good Turkey finished."

After two months his battalion took part in the forming of a landing at Suvla Bay, but Lance Corporal Megainey was down with fever by the time the ship reached there, and was not landed. It was in the landings and subsequent sharp attacks by the British that Corporal Frank Overton (also of Kenilworth Gas Works), got put out of action, and Second Lieutenant A. G. Kemp of Warwick, got killed. Lieutenant Kemp he described as "one of the most dashing and popular officers of the battalion." Corporal Overton is still in Torquay in very bad way, with a head wound. After two months in hospital in England, Corporal Megainey has a months leave before he will rejoin his regiment.

Private H Jones The Smethwick Telephone 22 January 1916

Private H. Jones (2036), 9th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, whose home is at 12, Pool Road, has written a very interesting account of his experiences of active service on the Gallipoli Peninsula. This was not his first experience for he saw service at the beginning of the war in France. He came home wounded in January, 1915. He has formed the opinion that the peninsula was by far the worst of the two.

Private Jones was regimental stretcher bearer and his hazardous duties were to carry the wounded out of the firing line down to the first dressing station. They were continually under rifle and shell fire. But it is this soldiers view that the Turks are not so bad for they do not intentionally fire on the stretcher bearers. But Private Jones says "I have had shells drop all round me while I have been carrying men on the stretcher in one case the shells seemed to follow us down the road, but I am pleased to say we got the poor wounded fellow to the station all right".

Private Jones was on the Peninsula from August 5th until he had a bit of bad luck. On November 26th it rained all day and then froze. There were a lot of cases to take down to the dressing station and one was the case of a man shot through the head. The chum who was carrying him had his head blown off with a shell and Private Jones was stunned. The next thing he recalled was lying on a stretcher in hospital himself suffering from frost bitten feet and rheumatism. The man who was wounded and was being carried to hospital is recovering.

Private Jones came to England on the *Aquatania* and he has something to say of the experiences in the Bay of Biscay. He is now in hospital at Sommerville, Oxford, and appendicitis is added to his other troubles. Still he is apparently cheerful and hopes to get about in a few weeks time. His many friends in Smethwick will re-echo this wish.

Lance Corporal Allen Bolton*Royal Leamington Spa Courier and Warwickshire Standard 29 October 1915*

Writing from the Dardanelles to his parents at 48 King Street, he says: "No doubt you have read in the papers of the many casualties we have had in our Battalion since the fighting of August 10th, when we were attacked by the Turks on Hill 971, but we did give them a doing I can assure you. We drove them back off the hill, which has been named "Warwick Hill" after us. We are expecting to go to a rest camp shortly for a rest, which I think all of the old Battalion are entitled to. Lance Corporal Bolton enlisted on August 29th last year when only 16 years of age.

Lance Corporal Thornes*The Birmingham Evening Despatch 22 September 1915*

Photo found on Gallipoli Battlefield – Small Heath Soldiers Message

The photograph found on the Gallipoli Peninsula which was published in Wednesdays Evening Despatch has been claimed by Mr J. Bennett of 61 Kingston Road Small Heath who says that it is a photograph of himself and his family. The photograph was handed to Mrs Bennett by an *Evening Despatch* reporter today. It was found on the battlefield by an Australian soldier and was posted to the office in consequence of the message written on the back of the print reading as follows.

Lance Corporal T- - - 9th R. W. R (The surname had faded and was indecipherable) if found please send to Evening Despatch, Corporation Street, Birmingham, England. "For though in danger we never do fear. We said we could do it and we are doing our best. Just open your eyes those which have stayed at home. Come and give us help while we rest. Don't be downhearted."

Mrs Bennett told the Despatch man how the picture came to be in Gallipoli. I gave it to Tom Thorne about four months ago the last time but one that he was home on a Furlough she said.

Mr Thorne was reading the Despatch on Wednesday night our reporter was told but he didn't notice the photo later however Toms sister came home and took up the paper for a few minutes , she immediately recognised Mrs Bennett and herself and went straight down there to see if they knew anything about it.

He is a great friend of my son. At Lance Corporal Thornes home in Arthur Street Small Heath the Despatch reporter learned that he is 25 years of age, and was formerly employed at Messres Evans Liverpool Street. He joined the 9th Royal Warwickshire Regiment immediately on the outbreak of war. Two months ago he went off to the Dardanelles, and from there he has sent a number of cheerful letters home. He has been slightly wounded in the leg but according to a letter which he sent home about a week ago he has recovered. His parents know nothing of how the photograph came to be lost and wait further news of it from their son.

Private E Bowen *The Smethwick Telephone* 24 September 1915

Private E. Bowen, of the 9th Battalion Royal Warwicks, who has been wounded at the Dardanelles, writing to his wife, who lives at 7 Oldbury Road, Whiteheath,

"I was very glad to hear that my brother (Jim) has gone to France, and not come out here, for it is a very poor chance of coming back from here if wounded. I don't think there are many men at home, now for they keep sending them out here every day. There are all sorts of regiments up here, and I am expecting to go back to the front any day for I have been marked fit this last fortnight. But I can go back with a much

lighter heart now I have had a letter from you and know that you are going on all right, for I am quite sure no Turk can frighten me for I have been in too many tight corners

for that. You never want to give up hope for you know the old saying, as long as there is life there is hope. I am worth a thousand dead ones yet for I can stand the chance again."

**Captain the Reverend W Leighton *The Birmingham Mail* 21 January 1916
Gallant 9th Warwick's**

How they fought and died on Chunuk Bair – Thrilling Story of Heroism

A tribute to heroism of the 9th Royal Warwick's, who covered themselves with glory in the combined attack on the Turkish positions in August, when as Sir Ian Hamilton relates in his despatch, some of our men reached the summit of Chunuk Bair and viewed beneath them the waters of Hellespont and the promised land has already been paid by members of the Colonial regiments who fought alongside them, but it has been left to Captain the Rev W. Leighton, chaplain to the forces, who was attached to the regiment, to tell the full story of their gallantry.

Captain Leighton, who is the son of Councillor W. B. Leighton, of Blackburn, and had the honour of being mentioned in despatches, lectured recently on his experiences in the Dardanelles in St Albans Hall Blackburn, and the following extracts taken from the report given in the *Blackburn Times* of last Saturday tell the real story of the part the 9th Royal Warwick's played in the great adventure. In Sir Ian Hamilton's despatch the 6th Gurkhas and the 6th South Lancashire Regiment are mentioned as the only two who gained the crest, but Captain Leighton announced that the 9th Royal Warwick's also charged to the summit and fought magnificently until, for lack of support, they were compelled to retire. The Warwick's lost the whole of their officers with the exception of Captain Leighton who under heavy fire reached rescued and dressed the wounded. The fact that only the Chaplain survived of the Warwick's officers is not bracketed with the Gurkhas and the Lancashire as having the hilltop, which as the lecture stated, they were the last to leave. The matter is to be brought to the notice of the proper authorities.

Telling the story of the heroism of the 9th Warwick's, Captain Leighton said they held on in spite of the gaps in their ranks, and asked for reinforcements only to find none available. A company stormed and captured a farm on top of the hill where they were surrounded by Turks, and as Captain Leighton suggested, it is supposed they all perished in a last great stand. Meanwhile other companies of the Warwick's held on to the ground they had won. For three or four hours they were there by themselves, after which they were directed to retire. A corporal in charge of a machine gun refused to leave the crest. He remained there by himself from eleven in the morning until nine in evening, firing four thousand rounds into the Turks as a result of which the enemy dead were piled in heaps.

Roll Call

Captain Leighton dressed the wounds of one Lieutenant of the Warwick's on four different occasions, and the gallant officer insisted on going back to the firing line, when he fell in action. When the roll was called it was found that there were about 130 Warwick's left out of 1,000. "You can understand from that" he commented, "that we suffered severely, but the losses of the enemy were greater than ours. I can bear generous testimony to the way these gallant men went to their death. On the transport going out an officer told me he had an idea I should be the only officer left in the Warwick's. That prophecy has come true.

You have heard of the thin red line well, there was a thin khaki line at Chunuk Bair a line of dead heroes leading up to the crest of the hill, men sitting dead, men lying dead, men standing against each other dead. If we had had adequate reinforcements we could have held this great height."

The lecturer told several interesting stories of the Tommies. When word came that the Warwick's were going on active service the men were elated. "Now," they said "there is really going to be something doing." They went about whistling and cheering. On arriving at a Mediterranean port they were welcomed by a French warship, whose band played *God Save the King* and then *Tipperary*. The Warwickshires did not know the words of *The Marseilles*, but they whistled the tune, whereupon every Frenchman stood at attention. As they were approaching Gallipoli he heard two Tommies discussing the situation. "We are getting near" said one, and the other replied, "Yes its going to be a tin medal or a lead bullet." That was the dauntless spirit of our troops. They meant to do or die.

After paying tribute to the splendid courage of the other troops engaged in the Gallipoli fighting, the lecturer concluded; "some might say all this fighting and sacrifice had been in vain. It had been in vain in a way, yet it had not been in vain. Henceforth the land was sacred to us. Henceforth the land was one great shrine. French, English, Irish, Scotch, Welsh, Australians, New Zealanders, Gurkhas, Sikhs, Punjab's, Sudanese all had answered the call, and there they lay in thousands. Theirs was one great tomb, and their blended blood cemented the friendship of the nations they represented. They died for a cause that stood for justice against tyranny, and that stood for straight fighting against frightfulness, and that ever must stand for victory."

Request: If anyone has any additional information regarding the 9th Royal Warwickshire Regiment please contact Kevan Darby, 37 Greenlands Road, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham, B37 5AA. E mail Kevanderby@tiscali.co.uk

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WAR MOVIES

Our member Tom Brooks, resident in Ontario has kindly drawn attention to the *Encyclopedia of War Movies* by Richard Davenport published by Checkmark Books in 2003, ISBN 081 6044 791. This lists the following Gallipoli films, the descriptions reproduced below from the book are supplemented in the book by lists of actors, producers, directors etc.

Chunuk Bair

This is a World War I drama about faith, courage and heroism amidst folly and betrayal at Gallipoli in 1915. New Zealand troops discover that British promises of support in the Gallipoli campaign are meaningless. 106 minutes. 1992.

Gallipoli

A promising' track star (Mel Gibson) interrupts his career when Australia enters World War I. Although he is an excellent candidate for the Olympics, he nonetheless abandons his track pursuits to do the patriotic thing and join the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). The young Australians are sent to Gallipoli, where they are slaughtered in the ill-conceived British invasion. The ANZACs are ordered to charge the Turkish trenches, but their officers don't synchronize their watches. As a result, the artillery barrage ends, allowing precious minutes to go by before the soldiers charge out of the trenches. During this delay, the Turks come out of their bunkers and set up their machine guns for the slaughter. After the first wave fails, another mistake occurs when the British commander receives erroneous information that marker flags have been seen in the enemy trenches. Based on this bad information, he sends another wave of soldiers to their deaths.

The Gallipoli campaign, advocated by Winston Churchill, was one of the great disasters of World War I. Once Turkey had allied with the Central Powers, an Anglo-French fleet tried to push through the Dardanelles to help the Russians, who needed access to the Mediterranean from the Black Sea. When the naval attack failed, it was decided to send an Allied expeditionary force to seize the forts guarding the Dardanelles: it landed on April 25, 1915.

The ANZACs gained immortal fame storming the heights above the beach on which they had been mistakenly landed, and the British 29th Division suffered terrible losses while landing in broad daylight at the tip of the peninsula. The campaign that followed was characterized by deeds of heroism and endurance appalling generalship, and a Turkish defence under the inspired leadership of Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk), who later founded modern Turkey. The cost in human terms was horrific: 252,000 Allied troops were killed, wounded, missing, prisoners, or victims of disease. 110 minutes 1981.

Stamboul Quest

During World War I German counterintelligence learns that someone is providing the British with critical strategic planning for the Turkish theatre. They suspect the Turkish commander for the Dardanelles and despatch spy Myrna Loy to Constantinople to secure proof. The movie is based on the true story of Maria Lesser, known as "Fraulein Doktor", Germany's top female spy during World War I. 90 minutes. 1934.

REMEMBERING DRUMMER POWELL

JOHN CROWE

See lower photograph on Page 33

Gallipoli Association member Michael Orahilly from the Republic of Ireland on hearing that I was travelling in Turkey last autumn and hoped to visit Gallipoli, requested that I endeavour to locate the grave of Drummer C Powell 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, who died on 25 April 1915. He and Michael's father, who served with the 2nd Battalion, had been neighbours at Thomongate, Limerick City. Michael's father had served in France and survived the war. I was able to visit V Beach Cemetery, pinpoint the grave on the photograph shown on the War Graves web site and take photographs of it from all angles. Michael will now be able to contact the family and provide them with a record of Drummer Powell's last resting-place.

POPPIES AT WAR

Cairo Cemetery Gallipoli Day 1918

In these hushed glades the holy cross keeps guard
Above the graves where heroes sleeping lie.
Dear sons of far off homes are resting here,
Beneath the radiant blue of Egypt's sky.
Verdure swift growing casts a tender veil
Over the warm brown earth that folds them deep
Down the long lines between each simple cross
In splendour bloom the poppy flowers of sleep
Scarlet and glowing emblems of youths' blood
Shed for the Empire, careless of the price
"Flowers of Oblivion" once – now evermore
Flowers of Remembrance of their Sacrifice.

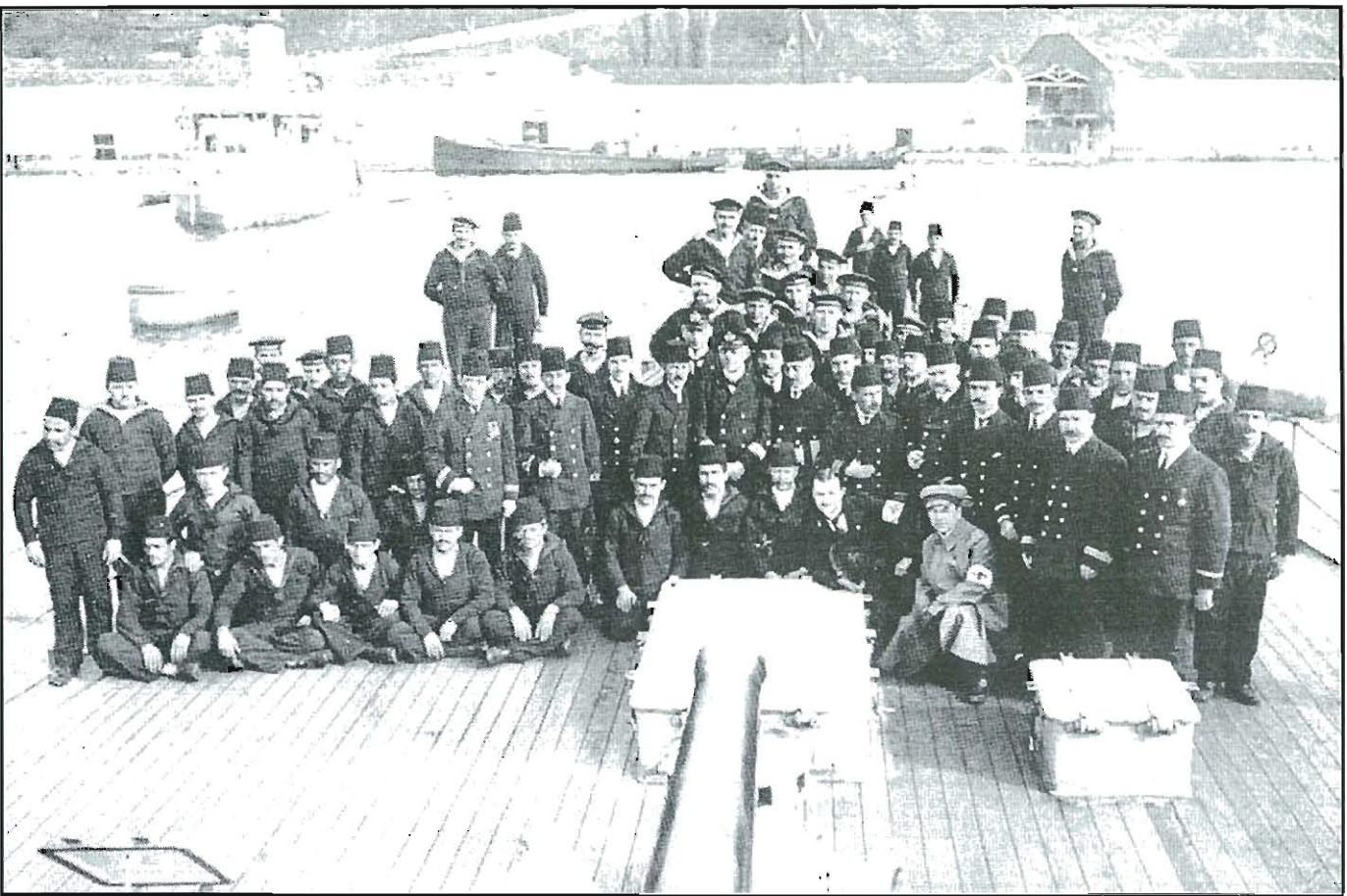
E. M. Wamock

NEW-YORKER STAATS-BEITUNG KRIEGS-ALBUM

A member, Carl Makahian, writing from the United States has very kindly provided a number of copies of a First World War photographic magazine with the above title published every week by *The New Yorker*. The subscription rate being 70c for three months or \$2.50 per year. The photographs on this and the following page were published on 7 August 1915, that on page 60 on 23 October 1915.



A Turkish gun-boat in the harbour of Constantinople.



Sailors and officers aboard the Turkish cruiser Hamidieh (Breslau).



Turkish infantry resting behind a hill at the Dardanelles.

BOOK REVIEWS

CONTACT

SHAUNE LAKIN

Australian War Memorial 2006. 283 pages over 200 photographs. ISBN 0 975 1904 6 6.
AUS\$49.95.

War and photography have had a close association in Australia's history and in consequence, the Australian War Memorial holds a magnificent collection, some 900,000 images in fact. The author, curator of photography at the Memorial, presents an authoritative survey of the collection. Over 200 photographs, drawn from the work of the many official, commercial, and amateur photographers who have recorded the Australian experience of war. Here, too, is the work of many soldiers and nurses who photographed their own experiences of war.

As the book narrates many of the Gallipoli images were taken by soldiers. Their photographic activities were restricted when the Australian Imperial Force went on to the Western Front. Not until the Vietnam War, when the futility of such restrictions was recognised, that the soldier photographer again produced a significant body of work.

When the Australian War Records Section was established in 1917, a coordinated approach to photography became possible, and a small but outstanding group of photographers was appointed. These included Frank Hurley and Hubert Wilkins MC and Bar whose glass-plate negatives give extraordinarily clear images of the Western Front and of the Middle East. Charles Bean's and Philip Schuler's pictorial records of Gallipoli are of great importance in comprehending the conditions endured by our men in that campaign. There is much to admire in this large format book, the photographs themselves, the stories they tell and the dedication of those who provided them. A particularly incisive addition to any library.

Malcolm Orchard

CONSTANTINOPLE

PHILIP MANSEL

John Murray Paperback Edition 2006. 528 pages, 33 illustrations, 2 maps.
ISBN 10 0-7195-6880-3. £10.99.

Originally published in 1995 and now available in paperback. The history of that wonderful city is brought to life as the author explores the Ottoman love affair which began when Mehmed the Conqueror rode a white horse into Constantinople in 1453. Mustafa Kemal writing in 1927 said:

“Istanbul located at the junction of two great worlds, the ornament of the Turkish nation, the treasure of Turkish history, the dearest object of the Turkish nation, has a place in the heart of every Turk. The suffering of the city under unfortunate events caused bleeding wounds in the heart of all Turks.”

This book should be in every traveller to Gallipoli's rucksack for most of us go to the Peninsula by way of Istanbul.

THE LAST EXPLORER

SIMON NASHT

Hodder Australia 2005. 346 pages, illustrations. ISBN 0 7336 1831 6. AUS\$35.00

His biographer, has dubbed Sir Hubert Wilkins “Australia's unknown hero”, and most certainly his achievements in so many, and varied, fields will never be equalled. War hero, photographer, reporter, prolific writer, spy, scientist, naturalist, ornithologist and gifted writer, Hubert Wilkins was undoubtedly the most remarkable explorer of the 20th century – indeed, no one, before or since, has discovered more previously unknown land and sea.

A pioneer of photography during the First World War, he was described by General John Monash as “the bravest man I have ever seen”. He was awarded the Military Cross twice for conspicuous acts of courage, the only Australian photographer of any war to be decorated, yet, as Nasht notes, he never carried a gun. Post war he was the first man to fly in the Antarctic (1928) and the first to navigate a submarine under polar ice (1931).

Also postwar, between January and March 1919 Wilkins accompanied Charles Bean in his “mission of photographers, artists and historians to Gallipoli to gather evidence of the disastrous campaign in the Dardanelles”. He set up a darkroom in an abandoned water tank and worked long hours into the night developing his photographs. The party examined Turkish defences, the places where Australians fought and died, reported on grave sites, collected relics for a planned Australian national war museum (subsequently the Australian War Memorial) and gathered material, in Bean's case, for the writing of Australia's participation in the war.

Wilkins was deep within the Arctic Circle with the Canadian Arctic Expedition when war broke out though it was some two years later, while still in the Arctic, before he learned of it. And then it took him almost another year to leave the Arctic, sever ties in Canada and return to Australia via London in order to enlist.

He promptly applied for a commission in the newly formed Australian Flying Corps (he had flown in the Balkan War in 1912) at Laverton, Victoria. He applied on a Thursday in April 1917 received his commission on the following Monday, and within a week was

on his way back to England. Immediately after his arrival he was told that he had been recommended for service with the newly established Australian War Records Section as an official photographer and would work with fellow Australian, Frank Hurley, who had just returned from Shackleton's Endurance Expedition. Wilkins himself was to join Shackleton's expedition on board the *Quest* after the war.

Wilkins earned his first Military Cross at Hamel on the 4 July 1918. Although wounded twice, he was able to guide a number of other wounded men to safety while under intense machine gun fire. In September he earned a Bar to his MC when he came across, again while photographing in the heat of battle, a group of inexperienced American soldiers who had lost their officers, and their way, and led them through a very heavy artillery barrage to safety.

The Last Explorer describes the astonishing exploits, the intelligence and tenacity of a truly extraordinary man whose ashes, following his death in 1958, were scattered at the North Pole from a submarine.

Malcolm Orchard

THE DEATH OF GLORY

ROBIN NEILLANDS

John Murray 2006. 298 pages, 34 illustrations, 7 maps. ISBN 10 0-7195-6244-9. £20.00.

Sadly this distinguished military and travel author died last year and alas he never turned his attention to Gallipoli. Although the present very readable volume concerns the Western Front in 1915 the Gallipoli campaign is mentioned on some 18 pages. Reading of the disastrous and inconclusive battles the bloody senseless slaughter in France it is not surprising that some were drawn to hopes of success at the Gallipoli as a means of bringing the war to a conclusion.

GALLIPOLI: THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STORY

WES OLSON

University of Western Australia Press 2006. 396 pages, numerous illustrations & maps.
ISBN 1 920694 82 X. \$AUS59.95

The author, currently a locomotive driver with Pacific National, has drawn on a wealth of personal accounts and official records to reconstruct Western Australian soldiers' journeys from enlistment through to Gallipoli and beyond. Alongside a detailed examination of many of the arduous, vacillating encounters during the conflict, the story of their deployment is recounted largely in the words of the soldiers themselves. For instance Walter Goodlet, twice wounded at Gallipoli and on the Western Front survived the war and died aged 78 in 1973 later recalled in his account of the landings how:

"About 150 yards in front of us the ridge dipped down into a valley, the further slope of the valley was visible about five to six hundred yards away. Down this the Turks were coming in swarms like ants to disappear from our sight in the valley. Presently the word was passed along to get ready to receive a charge ... We were not kept waiting long ... a line of bayonets appeared over the ridge in front of us. This line was followed by another and another until it seemed impossible that the few men on the ridge would ever stop that hoard (sic) ... But stop them we did; the rapid fire which we poured into them was too much for the Turks. Just when victory should have been theirs they turned and fled ..."

Gallipoli: The Western Australian Story should be on everyones bookshelves, not just as a work of reference but as a fine model for anyone contemplating their own book about the campaign. Hearty congratulations to the author and his publishers who have done him proud.

CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES

ALAN WAKEFIELD

Sutton Publishing 2006. 211 pages; numerous illustrations. ISBN 0 7509 4168 5. £14.99.

The author, a member of the Gallipoli Association, is curator of the Photograph Archive of the Imperial War Museum. Although the Christmas truce of 1914 has been well chronicled, events at Christmas in subsequent years have received scant attention so his book is a welcome addition to the literature. Some were fortunate to find themselves away from the front lines. Private Frank Scholes, 14th Battalion, AIF was recovering from injuries in London and describes Christmas dinner at the Hotel Cecil in the Strand, subsequently "several of us were accosted by a lady we did not know. She asked us if we would be good enough to go and spend the afternoon and tea with her." The lady was Lady Wolsley and the men "had a right royal time." Such personal accounts, and many are provided, bring a Christmas sparkle to a much enjoyed book.

FORTY YEARS ON TURKISH VETERANS UNION

34/5 ScUnik Caddesi, YeniSehir – Ankara Tel : 120985

Istanbul, 16th May 1967

Dear Fellow Veterans , Ladies and Gentlemen ,

I have great pleasure and privelege in welcoming you to Turkey, as President of the Turkish Veterans Union.

You British fellow Veterans your present visit to Turkey is extremly different than the one you made about 52 years ago! At that time we called each other great enemies.

Our great ATATURK was saying the following to his unit commanders as the Turkish commander of Ariburnu:

“ I am not ordering you to attack! I am ordering you to die! In the time it takes us to die, other forces can come and take our place.”

You will remember, we were never real enemies during this battle, while we were fighting each other, but we were obedient soldiers. Let us come back to nowdays. One of the aims of our association is: “So preserve sacred memories of the war dead.”

Every year, on this occasion of the World Veterans Day, we Turkish veterans are paying our most respectful visits for wreath laying ceremonies at the Dardanelles war cemeteries, to perform our humanitarian duties without distinction of nationalities, race and color to those who have suffered, to those who have died, so that man may be free.

We pledge an everlasting battle for World Peace, Freedom and Justice and protecting of Human Rights. We are not in arms against each other today, but strive together to achieve Peace with hands and hearts united. I wish all of you a most successful visit and very happy return, to your homes with unforgettable memories.

I am inviting you to toast; Her Majesty the Queen, His Excellency President of Turkey and British and Turkish Immortal Friendship!



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.