

The Gallipollian

*The Journal of the
Gallipoli Association*

No. 134 - SPRING 2014



The River Clyde at V Beach, 25 April, 1915

*by Charles Dixon - reproduced by kind permission
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THE GALLIPOLIAN

The Journal of the Gallipoli Association
founded by Major E H W Banner in 1969
on the Campaign of 1915

The Gallipoli Association

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CONTENTS

Pages 2–3	Obituary: Colonel Michael Hickey
Pages 3–4	Michael Hickey – Remembered
Pages 4–5	Minutes of a Special General Meeting of The Gallipoli Association held at the Wellington Barracks, London SW1 on 27 September 2013
Page 6	Autumn Lunch 2013; ‘Field of Remembrance’ – Westminster Abbey
Page 7	Remembrance Day – Cenotaph Ceremony
Pages 7–8	Anzac/Gallipoli Day Ceremonies in London – 25 April 2014
Page 8	Gallipoli Day Lunch; Other Anzac/Gallipoli Day Ceremonies and Events; Major General’s Review
Page 9	Collingwood Memorial Parade; Tours 2014
Page 10	The Gallipoli Association Conference – 2014; Autumn Lunch 2014
Pages 10–11	An Update on Our Centenary Plans from Gallipoli 100
Pages 12–17	Raymond Mason – From The Stock Exchange to Gallipoli
Pages 17–25	Letters from Gallipoli
Pages 25–26	Further Temporary Closure of The Imperial War Museum (London)
Page 26	Subscriptions – 2014: A Reminder
Pages 27–28	A Gallipoli Poem
Pages 29–36	Coloured Photographic Section [Photographs are submitted by contributors of the article unless otherwise stated]
Pages 37–44	The First British Military Survey of the Gallipoli Peninsula
Pages 45–48	Photographs from Gallipoli
Pages 49–58	Of Soldiering They Learned Little
Page 59	The Dardanelles Riband
Pages 60–61	The Royal Munster Fusiliers at Coventry – A Follow-Up
Pages 61–62	Captured at Suvla Bay
Pages 62–63	Quartermaster’s Stores
Page 63	A New Play with a Gallipoli Link
Pages 63–65	Books/Book Reviews
Page 65	Last Post; Articles for <i>The Gallipolitan</i>

OBITUARY : COLONEL MICHAEL HICKEY



Colonel Michael Hickey

Colonel Michael Hickey served in the British Army from 1949 until his retirement in 1981, first with the RASC and then on secondment to the Glider Pilot Regiment. He transferred to the Army Air Corps in 1960. He saw active service in Korea (1950–52) and at Suez (1956). He held a series of command and staff appointments in Britain and abroad before ending his career as a Colonel on the General Staff at the Ministry of Defence. Retirement gave him the opportunity to pursue a new career as a historian. He will be best known to readers of this journal for *Gallipoli* (1995), but he also authored *Out of the Sky: A History of Airborne Warfare* (1979), *The Unforgettable Army: Slim and the 14th Army in Burma* (1992), *The Korean War 1950–53: The West Confronts Communism* (1999) and most recently *The First World War – The Mediterranean Front, 1914–1923* (2001). Michael had many other interests; he had a particular love of music and singing, performing both solo and duo roles, which he much enjoyed. Other pursuits included walking and travelling. He was also a keen rower for many years until, as he used to say, “my knees gave up the struggle”.

Michael became a member of the Association in 1992 and joined the Management Committee in 1995 as Fund-Raising Co-ordinator (later Appeal Director) for the Gallipoli 80th Anniversary Memorial Appeal, the aim being to raise some £25,000 to meet the expected cost of the memorial to be placed in the Crypt of St Paul’s Cathedral, which was unveiled by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on 28 November 1995. Raising

the necessary funds was a major undertaking and Michael played a brilliant role in this. The campaign raised a staggering £44,606 in a little over a year, almost double the total cost of the memorial, enabling a Bursary Fund to be established to encourage and facilitate the study of the Campaign.

Michael continued to be an active member of the committee for many years becoming the Association's Historian in which role he assisted many members with their research, and offering advice and guidance to those planning articles for *The Gallipolian*, or for commercial publication. He was of invaluable help to both the previous and current Editor, always ready to provide advice and to assist as a Book Reviewer. Michael was in great demand as a speaker at Association events both in London and elsewhere and could be counted on to give an interesting and well-researched presentation.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Michael was in great demand as a battlefield guide and he took the first Association Tour to the Peninsula in May 2001 which was much enjoyed by the 20 members who took part. There were to be further Association tours under his leadership and it is estimated that at least 100 members toured with him. He will be much missed by all.

Foster Summerson

MICHAEL HICKEY – REMEMBERED

I first met Michael many years ago at the Army Air Corps Museum at Middle Wallop, and our mutual interest in Gallipoli developed from there. I was struck by his enthusiasm and knowledge of the campaign and was delighted when he agreed to join the committee. At our meetings he contributed greatly, especially when it came to historical matters and, as mentioned above, his help with the appeal to raise funds to erect the Gallipoli Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral was invaluable.

Michael will probably be best remembered by members of the Association in connection with tours to Gallipoli and his lectures. His outstanding historical knowledge of the campaign and every small detail of personalities, units and events, held listeners enthralled. He was blessed with the ability to mix in very interesting, and often humorous, anecdotes at every turn which made for a unique and fascinating way of guiding people in every corner of the battlefields. In addition to this he was able to expound in his inimitable way on the history of Troy, Constantinople, and Scutari which enlivened our coach journeys to and from Cannakale. He made it all such fun.

In his capacity as our historian, he endlessly and tirelessly answered people's numerous emails, letters and questions, in which he invariably mixed amusing comments, and I am sure his answers were all much enjoyed by the recipients.

In later years, when his health was not too good and he had to obey his wife Bridget's instructions, he would refer to her as "Sister Whiplash". He had endless amusing turns of phrase and we will all miss him enormously for his friendship, practical help, knowledge, infectious laugh and unique sense of humour. Our thoughts are very much with Bridget and his family at this sad time.

Christopher Fagan

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE WELLINGTON BARRACKS, LONDON SW1 ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2013

Present: Captain C T F Fagan (Chairman), Mr J C Watson Smith (Secretary), Mr K Edmonds (Acting Membership Secretary), Mr Stephen Chambers (Webmaster), Major H D Jenner, Col. J Stopford (Committee Members) and 7 members.

Apologies were received from Mrs V Genrich (Treasurer), Colonel S M W Hickey, Mr F Summerson (Editor, *The Gallipolian*), Mr F Grover, Mr K Harries and Mr N Welch.

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed those attending the meeting which had been called to consider the items and resolutions set out in the agenda together with the papers circulated to all members on 1 September 2013. Copies of the Chairman's Report were circulated to those present and would be sent to all members with the Winter issue of *The Gallipolian*.

The Chairman noted that membership now stood at 820. He drew attention to the establishment of *Gallipoli 100*, the centenary sub-committee and the success of the Association Website, which carried a *Gallipoli 100* page. The Association Conference in Birmingham in June had also been a great success.

FINANCE

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman drew attention to the Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31 December 2012, which were circulated with Autumn (August) issue of *The Gallipolian* and subsequently approved by the Management Committee; and the (unexamined) Financial Statements for the period to 31 July 2013, which had been circulated to members on 1 September 2013. The Chairman said that the Association's finances remained satisfactory although a subscription increase was inevitable in the future.

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions together with ballot papers had been sent to members on 1 September and postal votes thereon had been received by the Acting Membership Secretary by the closing date of 23 September 2013.

- (1) To agree and adopt The Gallipoli Association Accounts for 2012, to accept the Treasurer's Report, and to agree the unexamined accounts for the period 1 January – 31 July 2013.

Total number of votes cast – 289. Votes in favour of the resolution – 289.

- (2) To agree and adopt a new constitution namely, 'The Constitution of the Gallipoli Association'

Total number of votes cast – 289. Votes in favour of the resolution – 287. Votes against Nil, Votes withheld 2.

- (3) To agree to apply to the Charity Commission to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the constitution referred to in Resolution 2 above; namely 'The Constitution of The Gallipoli Association.'

Total number of votes cast – 289. Votes in favour of the resolution – 287. Votes against Nil, Votes withheld 2.

- (4) To agree that upon acceptance by the Charity Commission of an application to become a CIO with effect from the date of acceptance, The Gallipoli Association as an unincorporated association be wound up and all income, benefits, property, assets if any, be transferred to The Gallipoli Association as a CIO.

Total number of votes cast – 289. Votes in favour of the resolution – 287. Votes against Nil, Votes withheld 2.

The Chairman declared the resolutions carried. The total number of votes cast in favour of the resolutions being 36% of the membership.

Those named in the new constitution as Trustees would henceforth serve in that capacity.

The Chairman explained that following acceptance of Resolutions (3) & (4) there would be no Annual General Meeting this year. This was because upon acceptance by Charity Commission of the application to become a CIO, the Association, in its present form, will have ceased to exist and the brand new CIO will have only just been formed. It was planned to have the AGM of the CIO in the Autumn of 2014.

James Watson Smith, Secretary

AUTUMN LUNCH 2013

Fifty nine members and guests attended the Association's Autumn Lunch at The Naval Club, Hill Street on 16 October. The Club and its staff looked after us extremely well and we enjoyed a relaxed lunch in delightful surroundings with a most informative talk by our guest of honour, **Admiral Sir George Zambellas** KCB, DSC, ADC, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff who was kind enough to take questions afterwards.

We were delighted and indeed fortunate that Sir George was able to attend given his service commitments. As a small gesture of our appreciation we presented him with an Association tie and a copy of Captain Bush's acclaimed book '*Gallipoli*'. A selection of photographs can be found on pages 29 -30.

‘FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE’– WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Each year, the Gallipoli Association has a Memorial Plot at the 'Field of Remembrance' in the grounds of Westminster Abbey, which is open in the period around Remembrance Day. Anyone can place a remembrance cross or symbol in the plot and 40 members availed themselves of the offer made in the Autumn 2013 issue of *The Gallipolian* for the Association to arrange for crosses to be placed on their behalf.

The plots are set out by staff and volunteers from the Royal British Legion – a substantial undertaking given that there are well over 200 plots. The task of laying the crosses in the Association plot fell to the Editor's brother and fellow Association member, Clive Summerson, who placed some 50 crosses and other emblems on the morning of 6 November on behalf of Association members.

The Opening Service on 7 November was again attended by our Patron, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, who was accompanied by HRH The Prince Harry. After a brief service, the *Last Post* was sounded from the parapet of St Margaret's Church and the Silence kept. Afterwards, Their Royal Highnesses toured the plots and spoke to veterans, service personnel and members of the organisations present. Our Patron spoke to our Chairman and to representatives of the Australian, Canadian and New Zealand High Commissions, whose plots were close to ours.

A selection of photographs can be found on pages 31, 34 and 35.

REMEMBRANCE DAY – CENOTAPH CEREMONY

For the third year running, members of the Gallipoli Association took part in the Remembrance Day Parade and March Past at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

The Association contingent marched as part of the ‘Civilian Column’ whose individual contingents formed up on Whitehall outside the Old War Office Building prior to the Parade. Our contingent co-ordinator was David Mason, assisted by Marc Stewart who formed the left and right markers; the left marker handing the Association wreath to the British Legion ‘wreath taker’ on passing the Cenotaph. As one might expect, the Royal British Legion’s organisation was faultless and everything went smoothly. Even the weather was kind and those taking part all agreed that it had been a rewarding and moving experience. Photographs taken during the day can be found on page 36.

ANZAC/GALLIPOLI DAY CEREMONIES IN LONDON – 25 APRIL 2014

HYDE PARK CORNER

The Dawn Service will be held this year at the Wellington Arch, Hyde Park Corner commencing at 5.00am.

ST PAUL’S CATHEDRAL

A short service and wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Gallipoli Memorial in the crypt of St Paul’s Cathedral at 9.15 for 9.30am. Wreaths will be laid by a representative of Her Britannic Majesty’s 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 encouraged to attend this service which is arranged by the Association. It concludes in time to travel to The Cenotaph.

THE CENOTAPH

Two minutes silence will be observed at 11.00am during a service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. A wreath will be laid on behalf of the Association. Security measures will be in place in and around Westminster and only members and guests with named tickets (see enclosed booking form) will be allowed access to the west side of Whitehall. Access is by Clive Steps, which front onto Horse Guards Road. These lead into King Charles Street and thence into Whitehall. We will assemble close to the exit from King Charles Street at 10.25am.

Members are encouraged to join with us to march to the Cenotaph and should find and link up with the member of the Association appointed as our Marshall for the day, who will give the necessary instructions.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

As in previous years, we have been invited to join the 'Anzacs' at Westminster Abbey for a Service of Commemoration, which will commence at 12.00 noon. Members should be seated by 11.40am.

Those wishing to attend the service should apply for tickets on the booking form referred to above. Tickets for the Abbey and Cenotaph will be posted, so please remember to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope.

Medals should be worn at St Paul's, The Cenotaph, and at Westminster Abbey.

GALLIPOLI DAY LUNCH

The Gallipoli Day Lunch will be held at 'The Albert', 52 Victoria Street, Westminster, SW1H 0NP. The cost is £27 for three courses, including wine. A booking form is enclosed.

OTHER ANZAC/GALLIPOLI DAY CEREMONIES AND EVENTS

The enclosed booklet gives details of other Anzac/Gallipoli Day ceremonies and events. Additional copies are available from the Editor by post or e-mail (address inside the front cover of the journal). If requesting copies by post, please enclose a stamped and addressed envelope (A5 size). Details can also be found on the Association website.

We 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.

MAJOR GENERAL'S REVIEW

The Association hopes to receive a small allocation of tickets for the Major General's Review on Horse Guards Parade on Saturday 31 May; if so, members will have the opportunity to apply for tickets. See enclosed booking form for details.

COLLINGWOOD MEMORIAL PARADE

The parade and service at the Collingwood Memorial on the Downs, east of Pimperne, Dorset will take place at **3.00pm on Friday, 6 June**. It is a popular and much appreciated tradition that those attending should, if possible, meet from noon onwards at the Anvil Hotel, Pimperne for introductions and lunch if required.

TOURS 2014

This year marks the 99th Anniversary year of the Gallipoli landings, and the tragic campaign that followed. The story behind its eventual failure, of heart breaking missed opportunities and the remarkable heroism of the troops involved is the basis of the tours.

As noted in the Winter issue of the journal, following the successful visits in 2013, we are offering identical trips for members to visit the Peninsula in the company of fellow enthusiasts and authorities.

We will again be running a **Coach Tour** which will visit all the most important spots of Gallipoli, with options to also see the amazing city of Istanbul. We shall also be continuing the hugely popular **Walking Tour**. The latter will offer a number of walks that cover the highlights of the campaign, whilst at a relaxed pace and with scope to visit some spots not offered on other tour itineraries. The walking tour offers the most comprehensive tour available to the Peninsula, as part of a like-minded intimate group to reach seldom visited spots via mule tracks, dried up gullies and quiet beaches.

Our tours are led by Gallipoli Association and Guild of Battlefield Guide members. Tour dates are:

Walking Tour – 4-9 May 2014 [Sold out]

Coach Tour – 15-20 May 2014

Walking Tour – 21-26 Sept 2014 [Only a few places remaining]

Coach Tour – 25 – 2 Oct 2014

For the itinerary, or for enquiries, please contact Stephen Chambers by email at tours@gallipoli-association.org or via the Association Mailbox address shown inside the front cover.

THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE – 2014

The Third Gallipoli Association Conference will be held on **Saturday 21 June 2014** at the Lords Knights Suite, Tally Ho Conference & Banqueting Centre in Birmingham. Focusing entirely on the Gallipoli campaign, the conference will again feature an impressive programme of guest speakers and historians, displays, books for sale and merchandise.

The conference, which begins at 10.00am on Saturday and finishes at 5.30pm that evening, will provide an excellent opportunity to meet fellow members and to increase your knowledge of the Gallipoli campaign. The conference registration fee of **£29** includes all events, together with lunch and morning and afternoon tea. An optional three-course evening meal is also available for an extra **£29**.

Demand is likely to be high again, so early booking is advised. For further information contact [**conference@gallipoli-association.org**](mailto:conference@gallipoli-association.org).

There will be ample opportunity to chat with your friends and to browse around the numerous stands and displays that are being put on by the Western Front Association, the Salonika Campaign Society, World War Books, Battle Honours and Spirit of Remembrance. The Gallipoli Association will, of course, have its own stand. There will be several authors also there signing their books, WW1 kit displays and much more.

To register, please see the enclosed leaflet or visit the Association website to download and complete the registration form, enclosing a cheque payable to 'The Gallipoli Association' and post to: Keith Edmonds, The Gallipoli Association, 4 Duck End, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, PE29 2LW. Please note that you can also pay by Paypal this year, via the PayPal 'Donate' button on the home page of the website.

AUTUMN LUNCH 2014

The 2014 Autumn Lunch will take place at The Naval Club on **Wednesday 1 October**. Information about booking arrangements will be included in the next issue of *The Gallipolian*. Meanwhile, please make a note in your diary.

AN UPDATE ON OUR CENTENARY PLANS FROM GALLIPOLI 100

The G100 Committee met four times during 2013. At present we are finalising the details of the Association's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for support with the very

exciting Gallipoli Centenary Educational Project. If all goes well we should hear whether we have been successful in April 2014. The project will help schools to uncover local stories from the Gallipoli campaign. This will be done working in partnership with museums and serving regiments. Also, we are setting up links with similar partnerships in the other countries involved in the campaign to explore their own very different national perspectives.

As part of the introductory work with the schools, the committee is looking for short personal statements on the question: "What does Gallipoli mean to you/or your country?" If you would like to submit a paragraph of approximately 200-250 words and send it to us we would be most grateful. We are looking for personal statements suitable for an audience of secondary age school children. If you cannot send this to our email address below, please post to Lyn Edmonds, whose address is on the inside cover.

Our second major objective is to support local communities and local commemorations. This initiative is now at the stage of collating the many local events and initiatives. We will be posting all this information on our Gallipoli 100 section of the website and would appreciate any further contributions. We are able to offer support and guidance to any Gallipoli Association member who is seeking to obtain a grant for a Gallipoli Memorial renovation project.

We are continuing to have positive and productive meetings with Government officials about the national services of Commemoration in 2015, and will notify you as soon as we have further information.

Finally, we are delighted to announce a **photography competition for the Centenary**. The subject is 'Images of Gallipoli', the theme is open to individual interpretation but entries must respect the events that took place on the peninsula in 1915 and have the battlefields at their heart. The competition is not restricted to Association members – anyone may enter, no matter where they live.

Entries must have been taken on the peninsula by the entrant and the closing date is 31st December 2014. The winning entry will be chosen by a panel of distinguished judges and will be announced in spring 2015. It is hoped to display as many entries as possible at a subsequent Annual Conference. Entries must be presented in digital format only. For more information please see www.gallipoli100.co.uk and entries must be sent to: photocomp@gallipoli100.co.uk

Our contact details are inside the front cover or we can be emailed at contactus@gallipoli100.co.uk

Gordon Birdwood, Lyn Edmonds
January 2014

RAYMOND MASON – FROM THE STOCK EXCHANGE TO GALLIPOLI

David Mason

Introduction

The world that my Uncle, Raymond Mason, and my father's brother-in-law, Derrick Day, were born into in the last decade of the 19th century has to be seen from an entirely different viewpoint from life today. Britain was the administrator of a worldwide Empire, it had a Queen who had ruled for over 60 years, and the values of the day, and being involved in military activities were seen as part and parcel of life in that era. Moreover, the enthusiasm with which young men went into the forces to do their 'bit' was expected for all. However, the subsequent carnage of the First World War and the injuries suffered by many of those who survived, caused soldiers in most families to be reluctant to talk about what had occurred.



Raymond Mason in 1943

I spent quite some time with both Raymond and Derrick when I was young and although we discussed many interesting things and I was aware of their leg injuries, neither of them told me their war stories, or what caused those injuries. However when the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme occurred in 2006, I found myself getting involved with what my family members did in this conflict which proved to be a fascinating and revealing story. Learning what Derrick and Raymond did in other war theatres was a very recent extension of this study. If they were both still alive they would probably have said it is not worth bothering about and should be forgotten! However, I thought that

future generations of the family should be told their story, and that one of them – *Raymond Mason* – might be of interest to readers of *The Gallipolian*. I was therefore delighted when the Editor endorsed this view adding that although some of Raymond's service and all of that relating to Derrick Day was outside the remit of the journal, I could also include a little about those aspects of their war service in this article.

My greatest regret has been that no letters of other family papers from the two men survive and that my acquisition of the facts has come about only very recently. Raymond Mason's daughters, Pauline and Daphne, both died in the last 4 years and I would love to have had the knowledge I now possess and to have prepared this story for them.

Raymond Arthur Mason was born in Hornsey, London on 20 September 1893. He was the eldest son of George and Grace Mason and one of 5 children. His grandfather, George Mason, had been Superintendent of the London Stock Exchange. His father, George, worked for a firm of Stock Jobbers called Wedd Jefferson and he eventually became their Manager. It was not surprising, therefore, that Raymond entered into a Stock Exchange career and joined a company called Giles and Cresswell. Raymond was also a keen sportsman as were his younger brothers Gordon and Bernard. This probably came from their father George who had been a keen cricketer and footballer. He was a member of the Tottenham Cricket Club who helped found Tottenham Hotspur Football Club in 1882.

Another significant influence on Raymond was his Uncle, Charles Mason. He was his father's youngest brother and 15 years younger than him. He also worked on the Stock Exchange and was in addition an enthusiastic member of the Stock Exchange Rifle Club as well as the London Rifle Brigade. Indeed, Charles was a member of the armed services who lined the route for Queen Victoria's funeral. Charles and Raymond used to go for long walks in London around the turn of the century which is obviously where Charles inspired Raymond about his military activities. The City of London Yeomanry formed a Territorial unit in 1908 and it was this unit that Raymond joined when he was about 18, around 1911. His sporting prowess continued and he participated in the Territorial Athletic Sports Championships in Cardiff in 1913 where he won a medal.

With his military training, Raymond was ideally placed to join-up on the outbreak of the First World War. He enlisted in the 1/1st County of London Yeomanry (Middlesex, Duke of Cambridge's Hussars) which were mustered at the Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea on 4 August, and became part of the 4th (London) Mounted Brigade. They moved to Hounslow for training and in September to Streatley, Berkshire where the Brigade became part of the 2nd Mounted Division. In November, they were on the move again, this time to North Walsham in Norfolk where they spent the next four months preparing for overseas service. On 11 April 1915, the brigade entrained for Avonmouth, where the regiment embarked on the transport *Nile* for Egypt arriving in Alexandria on 27 November, and into camp at Sidi Bishr .

After a fortnight they moved to Moascar – a desert camp on the outskirts of Ismailia – and part of the Suez Canal defences. Only single fly tents were available, the thermometer sometimes touching 120 degrees in the shade. Here strenuous brigade training took place with the Sharpshooters practising between 4.30am and 8.30am with others engaged in mounted or dismounted exercises in troop formation. The chief pastime was swimming. The decision having been taken that the regiment should be used as dismounted infantry, they left Alexandria on 14 August on the SS *Caledonia* bound for Gallipoli. On Monday 16th they arrived at Mudros, the windy hills of Lemnos forming a formidable backdrop to the hectic activity and preparations that took place that day. The next afternoon the regiment, with a strength of 16 officers and 320 other ranks, embarked on HMS *Doris* which left that night, arriving at Suvla Bay just before dawn on 18 August. Disembarkation took place about 9.00am, the short journey from ship to shore being in an iron lighter with no ventilation, and the constant expectation of a shell was unforgettable. The Turks greeted the landing with a salvo of six rounds from ‘Whistling Rufus’, a 5.9 inch gun that went over their heads.

On arrival, the regiment moved to positions on high ground around Karakol Dag before returning to ‘C’ beach, near Lala Baba, on the evening of 20 August where the men were given permission to bathe in the sea on arrival. The next day they began an advance eastwards towards Chocolate Hill. Behind them the guns on ship and shore began to bombard the Anafarta Hills. The two-mile march by the Yeomanry Brigades across open country to Chocolate Hill was described by Major Aubrey Herbert who watched the advance from Outpost positions in the ANZAC lines:

‘The Yeomanry never faltered. On they came through the haze of smoke in two formations, columns and extended. Sometimes they broke into a run, but they always came on. It is difficult to describe the feelings of pride and sorrow with which we watched this advance in which so many of our friends and relations were playing their part.’

One of those taking part, Trooper S F Hatton, recalled ‘... the march was carried out in perfect order, mouth organs were played and officers led their men carrying walking sticks’. They were also told not to take any notice of the shells as ‘most of them were duds’! The 1/1st’s Regimental History notes that after the war the authors met a Turkish artillery officer in Istanbul who said “... the Division presented a target such as the artilleryman thought impossible outside the world of dreams”.

By the early evening the regiment had reached Chocolate Hill. After a short pause, when officers were hastily given further orders, the advance continued on the right flank of Chocolate Hill. The Regiment, along with others in the 4th (London) Mounted Brigade, were to take over the 86th Brigade’s line at Green Hill and with the 86 Brigade reserve to assault Hill 112 which was seen as key to the capture of Scimitar Hill. However, the regiment was delayed and reached Green Hill late and with little knowledge of what was required of them. In the confusion, some units began the attack on the Turkish trenches on the western slopes Hill 112, others became lost in the smoke

and darkness, or pinned down by heavy Turkish fire. The situation facing the troops new to battle conditions was dreadful; an edition of *The Middlesex Yeomanry Magazine*, published in 1919, refers to '*many wounded being contained in the trenches and much time was spent running along the trenches to avoid the fires and trying to get through the scrub*'.

During the night, Chocolate Hill was lit-up with the bush fires which had frustrated the earlier attack. At 1.30am on the 22nd the order came to retire and somehow the regiment was collected. They started back at 2.00am jumping over trenches full of wounded men. Whilst crossing the Salt Lake in darkness more casualties were suffered from snipers and on getting back to Lala Baba they just lay down and slept. Thus ended the Regiment's first experience of war and the last major action at Gallipoli. The Regiment lost 10 men killed and 46 wounded out of 250 engaged, and the Division sustained more than 1,200 casualties out of 5,000. The total British casualties that day were more than 12,000. Nothing was accomplished – the Gallipoli venture had failed, but not by the fault of the troops.

In the following months, life around Suvla for Raymond and his comrades became a monotonous round of periods in the forward area and in reserve trenches with little rest and not without danger. There was digging and guard duty at the same time being harassed by snipers. Sometimes a listening patrol or a ration fatigue was thrown in. Sickness soon became widespread, reducing troop numbers and their effectiveness. Raymond was no exception and he succumbed to severe dysentery in September, and on 22nd was evacuated to hospital in Malta. The regiment left the Peninsula on 2 November.

Postscript

Raymond re-joined the regiment in December. The majority of 1916 was employed on the Suez Canal defences. The Division was broken up in January and became the 8th Mounted Brigade. Work was carried out for days on bully beef and biscuit with only one bottle of water a day. Sometimes the heat went up to 125 degrees in the shade. Occasionally there were a few sniper shots at night, but usually the work was without excitement.

In November the regiment were sent to Salonika where an international force had been assembled and were in action against the Bulgarians. In June 1917 the brigade returned to Egypt, where further re-organisation took place, including the formation of the 21st Machine Gun Squadron. Raymond was one of the men from the 1/1st transferred to this unit which saw action during the advance into Palestine.

It was in early 1918, that Raymond began another change in his military career when, on 14 February, he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. He was able to do this without returning to the UK since there were training facilities in the Middle East. Raymond qualified as a Flight Cadet on 13 April, soon after the RAF was formed. He

remained in Egypt and some months later his worst experience of the war occurred when he crashed his Avro 504 plane in Alexandria on 23 July. He severely injured his leg, knee joint and suffered concussion and was admitted to hospital in Alexandria. Four days later he was still seriously ill and it was not until 3 August that he was pronounced out of danger. After a further spell in hospital in Alexandria he was sent home in late November 1918 where he received more treatment at the War Hospital in Reading.



Uncle Raymond's crashed Avro 504 plane (1918)

Although he always had discomfort from his leg injury, Raymond was lucky to finish the war with his health as good as it was and he returned to his career in the Stock Exchange for the rest of his life, eventually retiring to Kent. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He also served in the Home Guard in the Second World War and was awarded a Home Guard Medal. He died at Sevenoaks, Kent on 20 August 1973.

Now a brief word about **Frederick Walter Day** (known to his family as **Derrick**) who was born in Ealing Middlesex on 27 June 1895. Derrick's war was different in many ways to that of his brother-in-law, Raymond Mason, but there were some parallels. Derrick undertook military training with the 2nd Middlesex Signallers while studying dentistry at Guy's Hospital, qualifying in 1914.

When war intervened, he enlisted in the 19th (2nd Public Schools) Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) and served on the Western Front from November 1915 until the battalion was disbanded in 24th April 1916.



Cpl. Derrick Day (seated left, middle row) with the 2nd Middlesex Cadet Signallers (1914)

Derrick then applied to join the Royal Flying Corps and was accepted. On 23 July 1916 he qualified as an observer being posted to No. 2 Squadron. He made his first combat flight as a trainee observer a week later and after a number of artillery registration and reconnaissance patrols his role as an observer was confirmed. He was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant (Flying Cadet) on 5 September 1916 and after further artillery patrols was posted to Netheravon in Wiltshire where he was engaged on various training duties being promoted to Flying Officer (Assistant Instructor) on 29 April 1917. However, a crash in June brought a premature end to his flying career. He was badly injured and spent 18 months in hospital before being discharged from the RAF in April 1919. He resumed his career as a dentist and built-up successful practices in Thorpe Bay, Essex and in Hampstead London. He died in Maidstone on 19 October 1974, aged 79.

Sources: *The Middlesex Yeomanry Journal*
British Regiments at Gallipoli by Ray Westlake
Suvla – August Offensive by Stephen Chambers. Battleground Europe Series.

LETTERS FROM GALLIPOLI

The following are extracts from letters written during the First World War by my Grandfather, 71915 Sapper John Arthur Harwood. They were published in '*THE BLACKBURN TIMES*' when he was in the Dardanelles and involved in the evacuation of Suvla.

John Arthur Harwood was born on 19 January 1895, the second son of Mr & Mrs John Harwood, of 27 Revidge Road, Blackburn. He had three brothers – Frank, Stanley and

Herbert. Grandpa had been awarded a scholarship to Blackburn Grammar School as a boy and worked as a Telegraphist for the Post Office. He joined the Royal Engineers on 7 September 1915, and was posted to the 11th Signal Company. A little over a month later, on 10 October, was in Dardanelles and spent just over two months in the Suvla sector before evacuation to Imbros. At the end of January, his company were shipped to Egypt where they spent the next by 6 months on the banks of the Suez Canal. Grandpa left for France at the end of July and served on the Western Front for the rest of the war.



John Arthur Harwood (in uniform), standing beside his brothers Frank (centre) and Stanley (left). Seated is their father John Harwood, mother Hannah and brother, Herbert.

Arthur married Ada Shuttelworth on 1 March 1919 and joined the family firm as the secretary and a director of the Revidge Motor Transport Company. He died of cancer on 28 August 1961 at the age of 66. As far as I know, the letters were published anonymously and in sequence, as they arrived home, in the *Blackburn Times*. Arthur's Uncle, Tom Shaw, was a journalist with the paper for over 50 years, starting in 1887 and he ended his career as editor.

Where known, I have inserted the names of places etc. that were left blank in the original newspaper articles – for to give away such information was forbidden at the time.

Anne Pennington

BLACKBURN SOLDIER & THE EVACUATION OF SUVLA GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF A TERRIBLE STORM

28th November 1915

Been unable to post this letter on account of the very severe weather here. Commenced on Friday about 4 o'clock with heavy rain, thunder and lightning. Never seen the likes of it in England. We were relieved at 6.30 p.m. and then the fun began. Coming from the signal office to our dug-outs, a distance of about half a mile, it was absolutely inky blackness. We could not see our hands in front of us except when a vivid flash of lightning lit up everything around, and this was only for a second. Well, we started off one behind the other, each one holding onto the man in front. At the start we lost the path and went wandering all over the place in holes, old dug-outs and bushes. We did not find the right path again till near the end of the journey. At times we came to within a few yards of the edge of the cliff with a drop of about 50 feet into a roaring sea below, only to see our position just in time by a vivid streak of lightening. Things went on like this for about half an hour, in the gullies, holes and amongst the gorse until at last, by the aid of the lightening, we sighted a well known post yards from where we ought to have been.

In the meantime it had begun to rain, not as in England, but simply as if the heavens had opened, sending it down in bucketsful. We were wet to the skin in no time and could hardly make headway against it. In places we were walking with our ankles in water. We did not bother about tea that night. In fact, we considered ourselves lucky to get back as well, although it took us about four times as long as usual.

Still worse was to come. Already in my dug-out water had commenced to lodge, and then the rain, if such it ought to be called, came down for about two hours. We didn't know what had happened. Never in all my life have I seen so much rain come down with such force in so short a time. Nothing could withstand it. It was useless baling out and the walls of the dug-out gradually gave way and fell in. We decided that the best thing to do was to quit. We left it with a foot of water in it and adjourned to a better dug-out nearby, of one of our pals who happened to be on duty at the time. Towards midnight the rain ceased somewhat, but the wind still raged. Next morning (not much sleep that night, being soaked through and all our things under water in the dug-out), what a sight met our gaze! Dug-outs and offices everywhere swamped and tumbled in, and gullies from one to two feet deep washed up by the cataract of water. For breakfast and dinner that day we had a pot of tea and biscuits. It was impossible to get rations. We went on duty at 8 a.m. in our wet clothes and saw on our way damage we could hardly credit. Being fine for a short time after dinner, I commenced baling out our dug-out, and when it was almost empty it started raining again, and I had to abandon the attempt to rescue any of our equipment.

The rain continued for the rest of the night but not as heavy as on the previous evening. At 6.15 p.m. it came our turn to go on duty, and we decided to take the top road and then turn towards the signal office. At the start several of us measured our length in the slime

and wet up a steep bit of the road. We were carrying our blankets, etc., with us. That night we had no lightening to show us the way, and no street lamps or lights from the houses like there is at home. Picture yourselves on Waddington Fells [Between the Forest of Bowland and the Ribble Valley] amongst the gorse on a pitch dark night with rain and hail pelting in your faces. You will then have a slight idea of the position we were in. We made very slow progress, holding on one behind the other till our fingers were as if dead. We lost the path after a while and, undecided as to whether we had gone too far or not, we determined to strike inland, amongst the rocks and bushes. We lost each other here, and while some were vainly endeavouring to find the path in one direction, others went the opposite way. After many slides and falls we arrived at a signal office about half an hour late. We didn't half look pretty, bespattered all over with mud and water running off our coats. We were glad to get under cover, and we were sorry for those we had relieved who had to go back.

The following morning we found it was snowing and the hillside above us was covered. All morning it came down and made things very uncomfortable. No opportunities here of getting indoors around a nice warm fire and being able to change into dry clothes. Next day the wind lessened and the sun actually showed itself. That night a very sharp frost set in and in the morning everything was bone hard – much better than the sloppy ground. Since then up to to-day (Saturday Dec 4th) the weather has improved somewhat. My health is very good at present. A few shells come over occasionally. They brighten things up and remind us that there is a war on somewhere about here.

December 24th 1915

We are now encamped under canvas. The actual evacuation took place on Sunday night, December 19th-20th, and was carried out magnificently all along from Suvla Bay to the Anzac front. Of course, the whole affair had been going on for weeks, stores and superfluities being removed nightly, besides men, until only necessary men and food remained to carry out the last act in the evacuation. I was one of the last to leave being engaged in keeping up communication between the beach and the firing line.

At 1-30 in the morning the first-line men retired, leaving candles burning and crackers going off to hoodwink the Turks. Our third line of trenches was held until all men, road blockers and field engineers had passed them. At 4 a.m. we tramped down to the landing stage. I had all my own full equipment and two instruments slung round me, besides having a Douglas motorcycle belonging to our Brigade-Major given into my charge till we landed at IMBROS. At this time I was attached to the 33rd Infantry Brigade, and it was this brigade which was responsible for the success of the whole affair. On the motorcycle were strapped various parts of an officer's equipment, including four belts, lamp, water bucket, and a drum with a mile of cable. Well, I mounted the motor somehow, and with my rifle slung across my shoulders, I set off. Pretty dark, of course, no lamps, and rough cart roads. Think of me, not having ridden a motorcycle for months, on such a night. First of all my rifle got in the way, and I swerved into a ditch. By the time I had rescued motor and baggage from the ditch the others were well ahead, so I had to

make a spurt. If the Turks had been following, I should have been in a fix.

All went well until just as I came up with the section – the cable drum came off, so I got one of the other men to carry it. I reached the landing stage without further mishap, then it was a tough job getting the machine on board the lighter. We were taken out to sea to H.M.S. MAGNIFICENT. It was impossible to tranship the motor, the gangway being so steep, so had to leave it, with all equipment, on the lighter.

At 5 a.m. we landed at IMBROS Island. It was quite light. There were thousands of tired and weary-looking troops knocking about. We had about two miles to march.

Inland, and we passed camps galore. Arriving about 9 a.m., we found the rest of our lot who had preceded us by a day or two. After having some tea and bread, and a short rest, I had to trudge all the way back to the beach, to see if there were any signs of the motor, this time, of course, without my own equipment. On the way down I bought Tangerine oranges, biscuits and figs, and very good they tasted after being so long without fruit. I found the cycle had been landed and taken away by motorcyclists attached to headquarters, so thither I went after it. That night we slept 15 in a tent. You can guess how much space we each had. We had barely room to lie on our sides, with feet resting on the top of each other. However, not having had any sleep the previous night, and being tired out, I slept well.

Next morning we had orders to rejoin headquarters. After dinner we went there, stayed two nights, sleeping fourteen in a tent. Then I was sent to the 34th Brigade. Whilst at headquarters we had physical drill both mornings, without putties, coats or caps. It was very cold whilst standing still, but we soon got warm with doubling and leapfrog.

It is now Christmas Eve. We have had no letters or parcels for about a fortnight. I am in the 'pink' and was glad to get off the Peninsula for a bit. An English halfpenny newspaper ten days old is 3d. [just over 1p.] eggs are 6d. each and Tangerines 10 for 6d.

I brought some souvenirs with me from Suvla in the shape of Turkish bullets and a shell-band, besides several shrapnel bullets which came near me, including one which grazed the first finger of my left hand. Have mark on it yet. The first day we landed, a shrapnel shell killed two of our party on fatigue duty at the cookhouse. I happened to have been put on another fatigue, so luckily escaped. Another time we had 95 shells over our gully one dinner time. I had kept several empty shell-cases and caps, but they were too heavy to carry away.

MARKING TIME BETWEEN GALLIPOLI AND FRANCE CAMP LIFE UNDER EASTERN SKIES

December 28th 1915

At last the mails have started operations again and in one batch yesterday I received nine letters, one paper, two packets, one registered letter and a parcel – the result of not having

received any for more than a fortnight. More mails expected daily and the worst of it is the parcels are coming when we are not in actual want of them.

Getting plenty of good food now while under canvas. At present I am in splendid health, could not be better, and living like a lord off the parcels. In fact I don't know what to do with all the stuff I receive. Sorry to hear about you not receiving any news from me for so long. I usually wrote twice a week before correspondence was stopped and I expect you will get them all in a batch at once. Up to date I have received everything from home. You see we are not in our dug-outs over Suvla now; am much better off and do not require everything you send. Everything in parcels was just what we wanted when over Suvla but here, well, as I said before, they are not necessary. Have received my gift from Sunday school, a good woollen muffler. Glad to hear about roll of honour at the Post Office. Tell Herbert I have got some Turkish bullets and shrapnel balls, some of which came quite close to me when we were at Suvla. In fact I have got the bullet which grazed the first finger of my left hand, the mark of which remains. Could get plenty of empty shells and caps but too heavy to carry, so have taken the copper band off one shell and make it into a wrist band; quite a novel affair.

Last night three of us received orders to join the 2nd Infantry Brigade attached to this division to act as divisional operators. I am writing this in the brigade signal office by the aid of a candle, which came in one of the parcels. Edwin [Sapper Edwin M. Harrison, also on the staff of Blackburn Post Office, and only son of the Postmaster of Rishton] is still here only attached to 2nd Brigade. All my comrades are decent chaps, post office operators from all over Britain – two from Edinburgh, two from London, one from Horwich, two from Llandudno, etc. Yes we are quite cheerful and happy. Are we downhearted? No, certainly not. Having some lively times at present under canvas away from the whizz, whizz of bullets and shells. But we still get the rain and, my! is it rain out here; twice as heavy as your heaviest showers in England. Shall never forget that one over at Suvla about a month ago.

The weather here is pretty good. Christmas day was just like mid-summer at home, brilliant sunshine and very hot. Had a church service, also one the next day (Sunday) when thousands of soldiers were present. All the time our aeroplanes were flying overhead as they do every day. Had a Tanbe [Taubе] over twice.

Eggs out here are 6d. each, Tangerines ten for 6d. On Christmas Day we had sausage and bacon for breakfast, a slice of plum pudding, figs and beef for dinner and salmon for tea. So we did not do so bad considering we had not our Christmas parcels from home in time.

December 30th 1915

We are getting mails practically every day now: making up for lost time I suppose and delayed mails. The one thing I am not getting is "The Blackburn Times." Only received one this Christmastide. Nothing else fresh. Glad to hear all is well at home. Another big mail in to-night, perhaps something for me to-morrow. Goodnight.

LUXURIES AFTER PRIVATIONS

January 4th 1916

Yesterday we had our record mail in whilst being here and my allotment consisted of four letters, two papers, and one packet. So far only received two parcels but quite sufficient for where we are at present, in a land of plenty flowing with milk and honey. You talk about removing, I guess I have done a bit whilst on Imbros. Been here a fortnight and in that time have been at no fewer than five different places. I arrived attached to 2nd brigade headquarters. With them three days, then sent back to divisional headquarters. There three days and then sent to 2nd brigade headquarters for two days and back again to divisional headquarters. A couple of days there and then I was transferred to D.A.H., otherwise Dardanelles Army Headquarters or, 2nd Army Corps. Quite a treat here. Just as if you at home were given a big mansion to live in. Almost a palace to the 2nd division headquarters. Only three of us (Royal Engineers) been sent from the division to assist here. Our "home" consists of a big, square marquee for eight men only. Each has a separate bed raised off the floor, made of wooden stumps with ground sheet stretched over tight. Like sleeping in a feather bed compared with the hard floor and fifteen men in an ordinary bell tent. Don't know how long we are here for, I expect just because it is quite comfortable it won't be for long. Anyway I'm making the best of it while I have got the chance.

Have noted your remarks re numbering of letters and parcels, and will keep a careful check on them. Having a grand time at D.A.H. Quite a large office with sounders, wheatstone sets, and telephone exchange in. Reminds me of the olden days in the Blackburn Post Office. Working eight hours per day on an average. I have come across several old pals off the Mars [HMS Mars was the ship on which he had travelled from England to the Dardanelles] who came direct here. They seem to have been having a glorious time, getting bread all along whilst we on the Peninsula were unable to land provisions on account of the rough weather. Never mind, everything comes to him who waits, and it is our turn now. No fresh photos at home of anybody or anything?

A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

January 15th 1916

Yesterday I received the biggest surprise of my life – my 21st birthday cake and note. It came splendidly, not damaged the least bit, and quite a lot to read on the wrapper too! [His colleagues at the Blackburn Post Office knew of this parcel, and had covered it with good wishes and messages – he kept the wrapper and sent it home as a precious souvenir].

Of course I will have to save some for Edwin, who is about two miles away from me out at a brigade of the 2nd Division, whilst I am still attached to Army Headquarters. Nothing at all for us to do just now, the majority of troops having left for Egypt.

The ornamentation on the cake was splendid, and evidently the Post Office staff knew

what was in the parcel. Many thanks back to all who wish me many happy returns of the day. But I rather think that one birthday out here is quite sufficient and I hope that by next January I shall be in England. Life is not so bad here, in fact it is quite pleasant away from shells and bullets, and being able to buy oranges etc., at the canteen. Still enjoying the luxury of a proper bed at headquarters but the lice are very troublesome. Impossible to rid yourself of them. They seem to be in the ground and our blankets and the worst of it is they become active just as you want to go to sleep. At present am in excellent health and nothing at all to grumble about, except perhaps the food, which has deteriorated somewhat lately. At one time we had roast beef and potatoes, but now its common old Suvla stew. Ah well, I'll make up for it at Cairo and have at least one jolly good feed.

A SAD MEMORY

January 18th 1916

Received your last letter of the old year, written 31st December, yesterday. As nothing is happening at present, just the same monotonous work day after day, I can hardly find anything to write about. That is why I send field postcards, just to let you know I am living. Yes, I remember writing you a long letter about the storm, but words could not describe it properly. It is only a couple of days ago since we had another, minor one, over here, when it swept down continuously for 48 hours or more. Luckily our tent was properly trenched round, but as it was some of the rain managed to wash under the canvas and wet the floor. It did not matter much seeing our beds are raised from the ground. Birthday cake was jolly fine. Just a little left for the actual birthday to-morrow.

Will now tell you of a little incident that occurred when seven of the Royal Engineers landed at Suvla. We went ashore at 1-30 on the morning of October 13th. During that day occasional shells came over the ridge of the hill, passing over our signal camp, and dropping in the sea below. Evidently they were intended for our battery at the top of the ridge.

The next morning Edwin, another pal, and I, were being tested as to our capabilities in the signal office, while Cecil Picton, from Bristol, and T. Lawrence, from Hereford, were sent down to our cookhouse on fatigue, and the other two to another place on fatigue. Not five minutes later a big high explosive shell came whizzing over, intended for the battery, but again too high. This time it fell much too short and burst right over the cookhouse, unfortunately killing four men, including our two pals. I tell you it made us feel a bit queer when, on practically our first day, we should lose two of our best comrades. What made it worse, having only just arrived nobody knew them, so we had to go down to identify the bodies. That night we dug a grave away up on the hillside and buried them.

[Editor's Note: 71958 Sapper Cecil Wallace Picton 11th Signal Coy. RE was 34, and the son of the late Lewis and Mary Ann Picton of Portishead, Somerset and the husband of Ethel Picton of 17 Burlington Road Redland, Bristol. There are no family details for 71960 Sapper Thomas Harold Lawrence, 11th Signal Coy. RE, who according to the

letter came from Hereford. Both deaths are recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as 14 October 1915. Both men have no known grave and are commemorated on the Helles Memorial.]

“TO-DAY’S THE DAY”

January 19th 1916

To-days the day, the day when I reach man’s estate: when I cast aside – or should do – all youthful habits and become a man. In other words I am 21 to-day. Have had quite an enjoyable day considering everything. Lunched (!) out with Edwin and spent the rest of the day reading your letters and two “Blackburn Times” which I received yesterday. Yes, it will be quite all right sending me a 7 lb. parcel each fortnight, only, for goodness sake, don’t send any more OXO cubes. Have about 50 on hand and we got full boxes with 100 in each thrown at us during the evacuation. So I am well supplied; same with other chaps. So far received three parcels and birthday cake. Edwin got two parcels and we had a feast together. My birthday cake has all gone. It seemed such a pity to spoil its face, but it had to be done and it tasted A1.

Would not mind a game of billiards myself now. I guess I could beat any of them [his brothers] yet, even though I have been out of practice so long. Will try when I get back. Not much fresh to report except that we had a sharp frost during last night and the ground was white over this morning, so can expect snow anytime now. We are well prepared, for waterproof capes and leather jerkins, also gloves, have been issued to us; so we should not take too much harm.

January 26th 1916

Herewith my last letter for some time. Expect leaving any moment now for Port Said, where a large advance party has already gone. Food diminishing in kind. No potatoes now. Been able to-day for the first time for some weeks to buy some good oranges at 18 for a shilling. (5 pence)

FURTHER TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM (LONDON)

It was announced in early December (just after *The Gallipolian* went to press) that IWM (London) was to close for second time – from 6 January until July this year.

The project to transform the museum, which will include a new central Atrium and what are described as ‘ground-breaking First World War Galleries’ together with new shops and cafes, began in September 2012 when the large objects were removed for conservation while building works took place.

There was an initial period of closure from January– July 2013 while the demolition works were completed. The museum was then partially reopened and building works

have continued behind the scenes. During these works a number of discoveries about the fabric and the infrastructure of the building were made which could not have been anticipated in advance. These widened the scope of the project, and the need to address them placed the scheme under significant time pressure as there is still a lot to do before July 2014 deadline. The decision was approved by the IWM's Board of Trustees and the Department for Culture, Media & Sport.

It is understood that the Research Room will remain open although those seeking to use the facilities should contact the museum first.

SUBSCRIPTIONS – 2014: A REMINDER

Members who have a current Direct Debit, Standing Order or repeating PayPal arrangement may ignore this reminder

With the increased use of Direct Debit and PayPal for subscription payments, we are gradually moving away from one fixed annual renewal date for all members. However, if you pay by cheque and your subscription was due in January 2014 and if you have not yet renewed, please do so at the earliest opportunity.

Members with a subscription not paid within three months of their due date will be treated as lapsed and will no longer receive the benefits of membership, which include regular issues of *The Gallipolian* and access to the members' area of our web site.

Membership fees remain unchanged at this time:

Method	UK	Overseas
Cheque ^[1]	£20.00	£25.00 ^[2]
PayPal	£20.50	£25.50
Direct Debit	£18.00	£22.50 ^[3]

1. Made payable to The Gallipoli Association.
2. All overseas transaction costs payable by payer.
3. Only with a current UK bank account

We will endeavour to send out reminders to anyone who does not renew when due, but for cost reasons, this will only apply for members where we have a current email address.

If you wish to move to an automatically recurring annual renewal arrangement, please visit the membership section of our website www.gallipoli-association.org site or contact the Membership Secretary (postal and e-mail address inside the front cover) for further details.

A GALLIPOLI POEM

Christopher Fagan

The poem below was written in an autograph booklet owned and carried by Private Frank T M Watts, RMLI on the Western Front in 1917 and 1918.

The booklet contained many signed entries by colleagues of Frank Watts, all dated 1917 or 1918 with the exception of this poem which is simply signed 'R.M.L.I. By one who was there. Gallipoli'. Since the writing is very like that of Frank Watts elsewhere in the booklet, it is quite likely that it was composed by Watts himself. The spelling is that used in the original.

"Y Beach"

A few verses on how the Royal Marines and the K.O.S.B. landed on "Gallipoli Peninsula".

The time was fixed on Sunday morn,
We landed here just after dawn,
Like little ants we scaled the cliff,
We reached the top all tired and stiff.

Here we started digging in,
That khaki line so very thin,
With bold determined faces all,
We pledged and vowed to stand or fall.

All at once with craft and cunning,
The wily Turk had caught us napping,
And without the warning they attacked,
A hail of lead their rifles cracked.

All through the day with British grit,
We forged them back bit by bit,
Every man did do his best,
So nobly did he stand the test.

Till darkness came we held our ground,
Both dead and dying lay around,
"Stretcher, stretcher" was their cry,
God don't leave us here to die.

Now the Turk got reinforcements,
They slowly neared our weak entrenchments,
Canons [sic] thundered, rifles cracked,
The order came, "No turning back".

As time wore on our line was thinning,
A fierce attack , the line was shaking,
Try they might they could not get through
Those trenches manned by brave and true.

If there is hell, that night was one,
Many a VC those Scotties won,
And Royal Marines of world wide fame
Added honours and glory to their good name.

When morning broke the welcome light
Revealed to us an awful sight,
Wounded groaning, piles of dead,
With British Blood the ground dyed red.

With attacks the Turks were pressing,
We did our best our lines were thinning.
Slowly, slowly driven back,
No strength left in us to attack.

Down the gully through pools of Blood,
Helping the wounded as best we could,
Twice we charged like maddened beasts.
With half our men we reached the beach.

Wading deep in boats we fell,
Only half were saved from infernal hell,
Neath *The Golliath's* [sic] strong protection,
Rough British kindness our reception.

We thought of chums who had met their death,
Fought for England with their last breath.
Tis men like these who have won her fame,
And will keep for her a stainless name.
R.M.L.I. By one who was there. Gallipoli.



*The Gallipoli Association's Autumn Lunch
at the Naval Club [Page 6] Photographs by Keith Edmonds*



The Autumn Lunch – the Chairman introduces Admiral Sir George Zambellas
[Page 6] Photograph by Keith Edmonds



Admiral Sir George Zambellas speaking at the Autumn Lunch [Page 6]
Photograph by Keith Edmonds



The Gallipoli Association Plot at the Field of Remembrance
[Page 6] Photograph by Clive Summerson



Extract from 1:10,000 sheet Kilia Liman showing the dispositions of the various allied



Close-up of part of The Gallipoli Association Plot at Field of Remembrance
[Page 6] Photograph by Clive Summerson



The Chairman at the Association Plot at the Field of Remembrance [Page 6]
Photograph by Frances Speakman



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visits The Gallipoli Association Plot where he is met by the Chairman [Page 6] Photograph by Frances Speakman



The Cenotaph Ceremony – Part of the Gallipoli Association Contingent in Whitehall prior to the March Past [Page 7] Photograph by Marc Stewart



*The Cenotaph Ceremony – David Mason and Marc Stewart on Horse Guards Parade after the march past and dispersal. The RND Memorial is behind them.
[Page 7] Photograph courtesy of Marc Stewart*

THE FIRST BRITISH MILITARY SURVEY OF THE GALLIPOLI PENINSULA

Mike Nolan

The 1915 Campaign

The story of the British Survey during the Dardanelles Campaign is reasonably well known and documented^[1]. Probably less well known is the work done after the war, particularly that undertaken during the Chanak Crisis of 1922-1923.

In summary, the only British map in existence before the 1915 Campaign was the north west-oriented one-inch map GSGS [Geographical Section General Staff] 2285 produced in 1908. This had been derived from a hasty plane-table survey^[2] executed in 1855 by the French Topographic Brigade while encamped at Gallipoli during its short stay en-route from France to Varna in Bulgaria and thence to Sebastopol in the Crimea. Immediately prior to the campaign the Survey of Egypt, on behalf of the War Office, enlarged this map to 1:40,000 scale and produced it on three north-oriented sheets. It was this map which was found to be so inadequate when used during the landings at Cape Helles and ANZAC Cove on 25 April 1915 and during the three Battles of Krithia.

Fortunately, copies of the excellent Turkish 1:25,000 series, which had been produced immediately before the war, were found on dead or captured Turkish soldiers. These maps were rushed to Egypt where the Survey of Egypt enlarged seven sheets to 1:20,000 scale and re-compiled them as Series GSGS 4000 Gallipoli 1:20,000. It was this series which was issued in early August immediately before the second landings at Suvla and the attempted breakout from the ANZAC sector. Later, the series was extended to 15 sheets and renamed as Series GSGS 4000 Dardanelles 1:20,000. Until the end of the campaign the Maps and Survey Section R.E. attempted to fulfil the aim of providing a 1:10,000 scale topographic map of all three sectors using the Turkish material, aerial photos and trench surveys but this aim was only partly realized, mainly in the Suvla sector.

After the Gallipoli Campaign

The allies finally evacuated the peninsula in early 1916, and the Maps & Survey and Printing Sections moved to Salonika where they became the nucleus of what was to become 8 Field Survey Company R.E. commanded by a Major H Wood R.E. This Company worked closely with the French Topographic Service in support of the operations in that theatre and produced a considerable amount of mapping of Macedonia based on a new triangulation and original plane-table surveys.

The end of the war had thus left the British with a perfectly adequate 1:20,000 scale

topographic map of the Gallipoli peninsula and surrounding areas, GSGS 4000 Dardanelles 1:20,000. The scale of 1:20,000 was one which had become so familiar to British troops on the Western Front, where it had been adopted for Trench Map series.

At the end of the war, Major Wood and some of the Printing Section spent some time in Constantinople where he wrote reports on the Survey Section of the Turkish War Office and on the Chatalja Defensive Lines west of Constantinople. He also procured copies of all available Turkish maps before returning to Salonica on 15 February 1919.

In January 1919, Major Phillimore DSO of 8 Field Survey Coy. R.E. visited Gallipoli to field-check the Turkish 1:25,000 maps of the peninsula, returning on 22 February. He found that the Turkish sheets could not be improved significantly. On 13 March Lt. Col. Wood and 14 ORs embarked for Constantinople and by the 24th the Company had been reduced to a cadre. Lt. Col. Wood then visited General Danikin's Force in south Russia from 22 – 31 March, when he handed over the cadre to Capt. E C Shone R.E.

No documentation has yet been found for the period from March 1919 to 1921 but The Historical Record of 8th Printing Section R.E. gives some information on the post-war period from 1921:

Historical Record of 8th Printing Section R.E.

The 8th Printing Section R.E. came into being as a unit of the British Forces in Turkey, Constantinople, on June 16th 1921. A provisional establishment for it was laid down and approved in War Office letter 20/Engrs/5556 (A.G.1) dated June 16th 1921. The section was formed from the cadre of the 8th Field Survey Coy. R.E. which had moved to Constantinople from Salonika. On arrival at Constantinople most of the long serving British personnel of the 8th Field Survey Coy. R.E. had been sent home for demobilisation or posting to home units, and at the time the 8th Printing Section R.E. came into being it consisted only of a few British N.C.O's while the remainder of the establishment was made up of locally employed civilians.

The above-quoted War Office letter stated that the necessary reinforcements to bring the unit up to strength with British military personnel would be provided the following Trooping Season. A draft consisting of 2 N.C.O's and 9 soldiers arrived on Dec 23rd 1921 and it was then found possible to dismiss the majority of the civilians but since the unit was still under strength one or two of the best civilians were retained. The Unit was located during the whole of its service at G.H.Q. British Forces in Turkey. The section used a French (Voirin) printing press requisitioned from the Turkish Military School (Harbie) that was taken over as British G.H.Q.

During the period June 1921 – October 1922 the work of the Section comprised the reproduction of maps and plans and the printing of secret papers for G.S. "T". A good deal of photographic work was also done, most of it being reproduction work for G.S. "T". In

September 1922 came the threat of war with Turkey and strong reinforcements were sent to Constantinople. On October 10th 1922 the Corps Survey Directorate and 1st Corps Survey Platoon R.E. arrived and the 8th Printing Section R.E. was immediately absorbed in the 1st Corps Survey Platoon R.E.

G.H. Gilkes Capt. R.A.

F/O.C. 1st Corps Survey Platoon

G.H.Q. British Forces in Turkey, Constantinople.

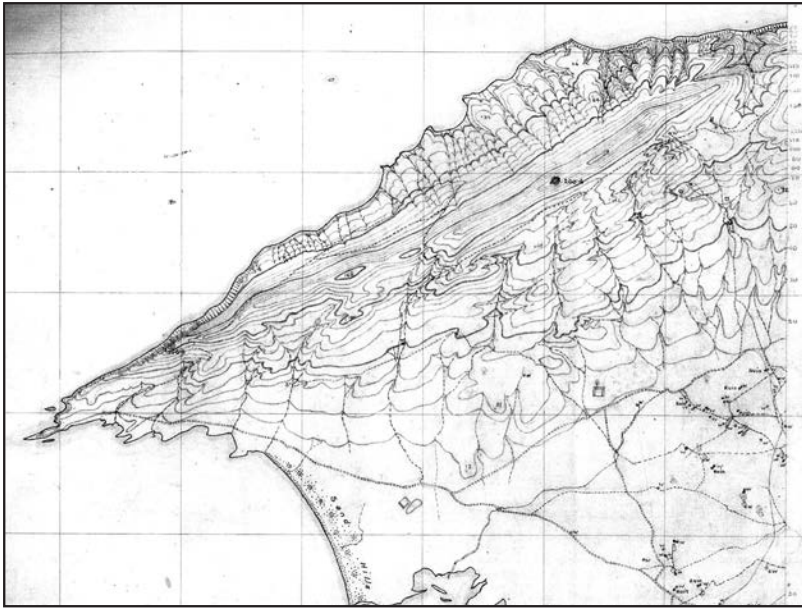
The Deputy Assistant Director Survey Constantinople in 1923 was Major D A Hutchison R.E. His Memoir by Brigadier E M Jack was published in the *R.E. Journal* September 1950.

In 1920, the French Service Topographique des A.A.O. used the Turkish source material to compile a 1:50,000 scale series with black roads, settlements and drainage, brown contours, green vegetation, and blue names and sea tint. The Turkish graticule^[3], lines of latitude and longitude, was retained and one-kilometre map squares were incorporated. In 1922 as the Chanak Crisis developed, this 1:50,000 scale series was updated with a revised grid.

In 1922–23 the French produced an improved 1:50,000 scale series. On this series the Turkish graticule is no longer shown on the map face and the ten-kilometre squares are each sub-divided into one hundred 1-kilometre sub-squares numbered 00–99. The grid on this later series accords with that on the British series GSGS 2993 produced in 1922. In 1922 the British also reproduced the French 1:50,000 scale series of 1920 as Series GSGS 2993. The grid on this series accords with that on the French 1:50,000 series dated 1922. Sheets retain a black graticule but with no graticule values. The allied troops at Chanak were thus provided with 1:50,000 series still based on the original Turkish 1:25,000 source material dating from just before the First World War.

The Survey Battalion historical file in the Institute of Royal Engineers Library at Chatham records the deployment of No. 1 Topographical Section at the time of the Chanak Crisis:

1 Survey Directorate for a Corps Headquarters and 1 Topographical Section, R.E. – according to the War Establishment referred to in para 10, above – were called for at the end of September, 1922, for duty in the Near East. These were mobilized on 25-9-1922 and embarked at Liverpool on 29-9-1922 – Lieutenant B.T. Godfrey-Faussett, M.C., R.E. being in charge of the Topographical Section. On their arrival, No. 8 Printing Section, R.E. already at Constantinople, was amalgamated with the Topographical Section to form a Survey Platoon, under the command of Lieutenant Godfrey-Faussett, R.E.



Suvla. 1:25,000 scale plane table sheet produced during the Chanak Crisis

The departure of the Survey Platoon was recorded less formally in the 19 (Survey) Company notes in the *Sapper Magazine*, November 1922, as follows:

The Topo Section and Corps Directorate, 13 strong, under the charge of Lieut. Godfrey-Faussett, with Sgts. O'Mahoney and Gardner as right-hand men, left for some spot near Messopolonica in the grey mists of morning at 1 a.m., a week or two ago. It was of no use their going to bed the preceding night, so a smoker was put on foot to pass the weary hours of waiting. We hope they will not be gone for long, or else we shall have to send Bill's mandoline out to speed up their return.

Lt. Godfrey-Faussett had an outstanding career. He served throughout the First World War in 33rd (Signal) Company R.E. winning the MC in 1917. After the war he attended a Supplementary Course which consisted of a period at Chatham and a year as an undergraduate at Jesus College, Cambridge.

The next twelve years were spent mostly on survey duties which consisted of work at home with the Ordnance Survey, and overseas in Constantinople in 1923, Nigeria (1927-1930), and on the British Somaliland/Ethiopian Boundary Commission (1932-1934). He then reverted to mainstream "sapping" serving with the B.E.F. and X Corps in the Middle East and ultimately becoming Chief Engineer Eighth Army in 1944 (taken from a Memoir in *R.E. Journal* 1970.)



Lt. Godfrey-Faussett (seated, second from right) with Brig. E M Jack (centre), outside Survey Battalion WOs & Sgts. Mess 1926



*Group photograph of 8th Field Survey Platoon, R.E., General Headquarters, Constantinople [From *The Sapper Magazine* Feb 1923 (page 438)]*

Back Row – Pte. Perrier, Spr. J Kelley, Spr. C Horne, Orderly, Spr. H Burrows, Spr. F Lyne, Spr. A Manning. **Middle Row** – L/Cpl. C A Liveingston, Spr. W E Easden, L/Cpl. L B Cross, L/Cpl. G Crouch, Spr. J H Coady, Spr. R W Jenkins, L/Cpl. W H Oliver, Spr. B O Hammond, Spr. G Cole, Spr. C Ayres. **Front Row** – Lance Sgt. W H T Baker, Sgt. J Maknocy, Capt. G H Gilks, Capt. D A Hutchison, Sgt. T Pearce, Sgt. P Cullen, Lance Sgt. J Banger.

The Work of the Survey Platoon

1:50,000 Series

The 1st Corps Survey Platoon produced further work at 1:50,000 scale extending the cover of Series GSGS 2993 to the neck of the peninsula and eastwards on the Asian shore, the Terziler sheet. The mapping available in the Zone of the Straits at about this time was assessed by the Geographical Section, General Staff as follows:

Gallipoli Area

Unfortunately the large scale maps available do not cover the whole area involved.

Maps in order of preference are as follows:

1. *British 1/50,000 – direct reproductions from Turkish 1/25,000.*
2. *One sheet YENI-KOI, original 1/50,000 survey carried out by 1st Corps Survey Platoon in 1923.*
3. *Turkish 1/25,000 outside area of British 1/50,000. All sheets have been transliterated. This is a good reconnaissance survey, similar to the Ismid 3. . 1/50,000 but not of so high an order as the Constantinople and Chatalja 1/25,000. The 1st Corps Survey Platoon in 1923, however, could find little in it to quarrel with.*
4. *Turkish 1/200,000; sheets C-2 & C-3, D-3.*
5. *Austrian Staff 1/200,000 sheet 45 – 41 Rodosto.*
6. *Russian 1/126,000; sheets X-7, X-8.*

There is little to choose between the last three; all are compilations and are little, if any, better than G.S.G.S. 1/250,000. The fact that 6 is nearly double the scale of the others signifies nothing; it is a very old map. [PRO WO 301/49 (4)]

The Plane Table Survey of the Peninsula.

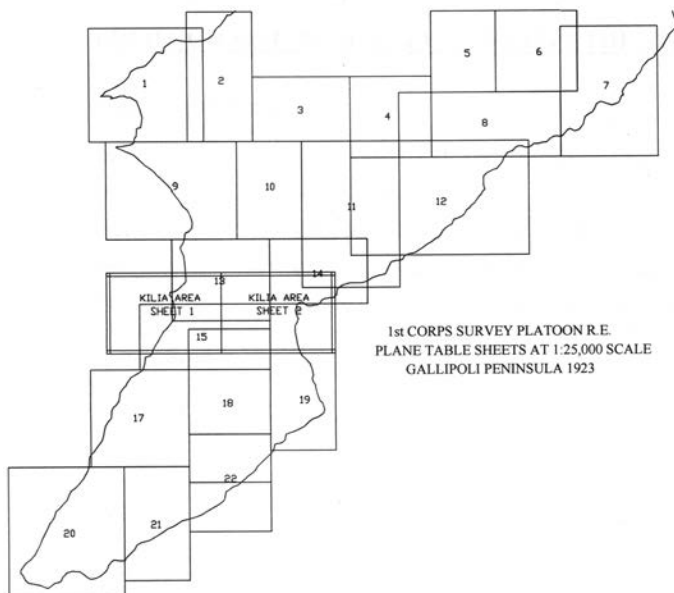
The Survey Platoon also embarked on a completely new field survey of the Gallipoli Peninsula and in this task it was assisted by some Royal Artillery personnel from the Survey Company R.A. (Black Sea) which included Major H P Garwood DSO, Captains W M Cooper DSO, MC, G H Elliot, Lieutenants T W M Johnson, R T Baxter MC, A.V. Stapleton MC, E M Bolt, J M D Wood MC, J A Lynch, J G Ferry, J S Hoole-Lowsley-Williams. [Information taken from *The Distribution List R.G.A. April 1923* provided by Max Mangilli Climson, author of *Larkhill's Wartime Locators*]

The original plane-table sheets bear the signatures of :

Capt. Hawksley Elliot R.A.; Lt J M D Wood R.A.; Lance Sgt. Coxon R.A.; Bdr. O'Haway R.A.; Bdr. Offley R.A.; Gnr. E Dowling R.A.

1:25,000

The Index to the plane-table sheets shows 20 sheets covering the whole of the peninsula and the two sheets of the important area from Gaba Tepe to Maidos plane tabled at 1:10,000 scale.



1:10,000

The 1:10,000 sheets are very detailed and show the disposition of the various allied camps at the time of the Chanak Crisis including Casualty Clearing Station 27366364; KOSB Camp 27486368; Fusilier Camp 27506369; Ordnance Depot 27546370; 86th Field Ambulance 27596376; 21st Stationary Hospital 27636375; 15th Fortress Coy. RE 27656373; 24th Fortress Coy. RE 27686372; Topographical Section 27676373 etc., all in the area just inland from Kilia Liman, and north of Maidos and Old Aerodrome shown in grid square 272636. [See extract on pages 32-33]

1:5,000

The key area of Gaba Tepe was also surveyed at 1:5,000 scale.

The Field Survey

There is no surviving report on the field work carried out on the Gallipoli peninsula but it can be assumed that there was a triangulation extended from a base-line measured by steel tape and that the triangles were probably observed with a 5-inch micrometer theodolite as widely used on the Western Front. In late 1970's there survived at Geodetic Office at the Directorate of Military Survey a small snapshot of a 'Tea-Box

beacon' used at Gallipoli and the materials required to construct it. On re-enquiry recently this and other Geodetic material could not be located. In essence, one bottom corner of the box sat on the top of a survey pole and the opposite upper corner of the box was fixed to the pole, resulting in a solid three dimensional diamond shaped observing target on a guyed pole. Other geodetic material included Trig-Point descriptions, Notes on marking of trig-points, intersected points and resected points, Abstracts of angles, Solution of triangles, Latitudes, Longitudes and Reverse Azimuths, Geographical to Lambert co-ordinate conversions, Resected and Intersected points, Trig. Heights.

For the field work, the control was plotted on gridded plane table sheets of varying size dependent upon the configuration of the terrain, but often about 6-8 kms. square and the topography was then surveyed with Alidade and Indian Clinometer^[4]. As shown on the index, sheets often overlapped so that one surveyor's work could be checked against another's.

Conclusion

Thus, by mid-1923, the Sapper and Gunner surveyors of the Survey Platoon had completed from scratch a survey of the Gallipoli peninsula based on sound field survey techniques and practice. Sadly, possibly as a result of the termination of the Chanak Crisis, this series was never put into production. However it was, to this day, the only complete British field survey of the Gallipoli peninsula ever made. The original plane table sheets survived in the War Office Map Library for many years before eventually being deposited in the British Library's map collection where they may be seen today. Because of handling practices at the library and their condition it is not easy to compare them to the earlier sheets based on the pre-war Turkish survey at the same scale but, if this were done, it might dispel some of the myths about the inadequacy of the British Series GSGS 4000 Gallipoli 1:20,000 series used during the latter part of the campaign which was based upon those 1:25,000 scale Turkish sheets.

Notes:

1. See articles on 'Gallipoli Maps' which appeared in issues 71-78 of *The Gallipolian*.
2. Plane Table Survey. A survey made directly in the field. Points of detail are plotted on a map mounted on a table fitted on a tripod by means of intersecting points of distant detail from two or more known points on the map using an alidade and a clinometer.
3. Graticule. A graticule is the 'mesh' of the meridians and parallels of the geographic reference system as shown on a map.
4. Alidade & Clinometer. An alidade is a simple ruler fitted with two sighting vanes which, when aligned on a distant object, allows the direction to that distant object to be drawn on a map mounted on the plane table top. A Clinometer is a simple sighting device which, when levelled on a plane table, allows the vertical angle to a distant object to be measured and thus the difference in height to be calculated from the vertical angle and the distance between the table and the distant object

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM GALLIPOLI

In the Spring and Winter 2013 issues (Nos. 131 and 133) I published photographs taken on the peninsula by **John Alexander Chisholm Taylor** (known to the family as 'Chick'). As previously noted, Taylor was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant into the 1/10th Battalion (Territorial Force) of the Manchester Regiment. He sailed with his battalion, then part of the East Lancashire Brigade of the East Lancashire Division, on 10 September 1914 bound for Egypt, arriving at Alexandria two weeks later.

On 5 May 1915, the battalion sailed from Port Said for Gallipoli arriving at V Beach on 9 May. After a spell in reserve bivouacs they moved to reserve positions for instruction in the firing line in the Achi Baba Nullah sector. On 7–12 June they took part in operations The Vineyard, and six days later participated in an attack on enemy trenches between The Vineyard and Krithia Nullah where they suffered heavy casualties.

When publishing the last selection of photographs, which included several of Chick's colleagues, I failed to spot that one of those featured – **Lt. Bleakley** – was officer who had picked-up the Turkish propaganda leaflet featured on pages 24–25 of that issue!

The next group of photographs, as captioned by 'Chick', feature a final one taken on the peninsula. The remainder cover the battalion's period of rest on Imbros from 24 June – 10 July where they were kept busy but no doubt enjoyed the break from the peninsula. The final selection will be published in a future issue.



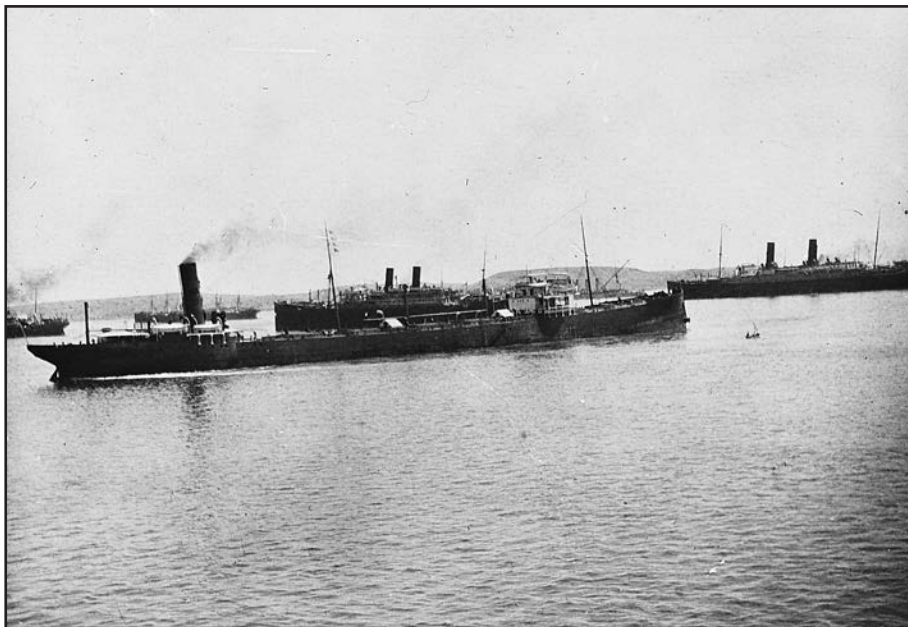
A 'Coy' in Reserve Trenches



On the trawler going to Imbros



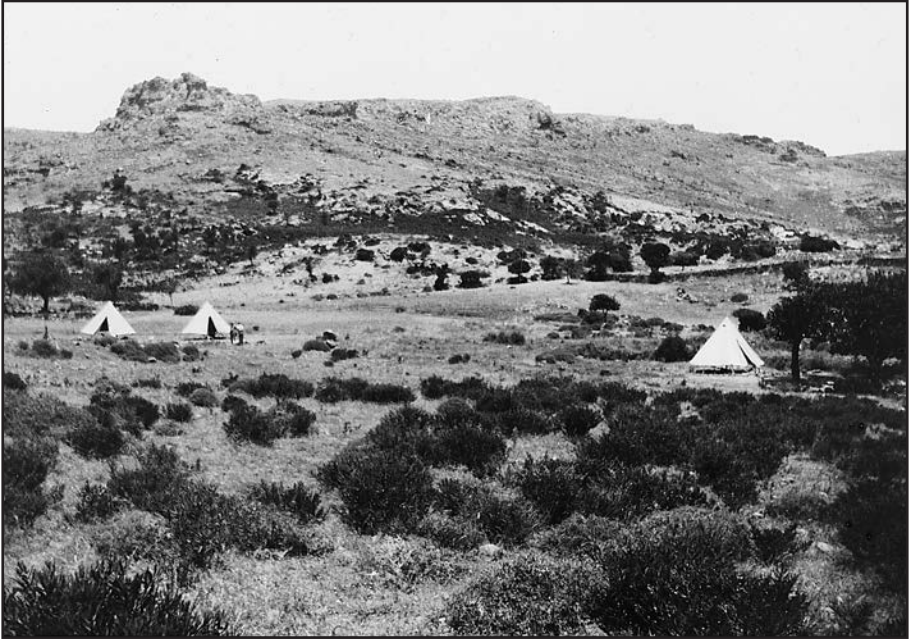
Bathing on the trawler going to Imbros



Balloon Ship. [HMS Manica?] Imbros Harbour



Camp and harbour at Imbros



Outpost – Imbros



Outpost Picket – Imbros

OF SOLDIERING THEY LEARNED LITTLE

Joseph W. Zuggi

In most Gallipoli studies, it is taken as an article of faith that the training of the New Army divisions who fought at Suvla Bay was woefully inadequate^[1]. Descriptions such as ‘ill-trained’, ‘half-trained’, and ‘meagre training’ appear often. One officer wrote in a report to the War Office that ‘From the purely military side, the training was worse than useless.’ By almost any standard, they were perhaps the worst trained batch of soldiers ever to leave the British Isles during the Great War. But how *exactly* had the training failed? Analyses of Suvla traditionally begin by concentrating on the hours immediately before IX Corps landed on the peninsula, the landing itself, or when the battle was joined. Details of their training are rarely given.

This article examines the details and quality of the training they received in England and Ireland to understand what occurred when they later went into action. Since these men were amateurs, not professional soldiers, training would determine how effectively they would fight. I was primarily interested in the training the junior officers received, but I soon realized the training failed nearly all ranks in multiple ways. By investigating the training, one of the principle headwaters of failure at Suvla is revealed. Their tactical field training was based around obsolete and irrelevant parade ground formations and lines of fire, which were useless at Suvla. Training had failed to properly toughen them up for the rigors of combat and campaigning. They were un-acclimatized to the savage heat of desert-like conditions and the lack of water. And their training camps, located in the open, rolling countryside of the British Isles, bore no resemblance to Suvla’s terrain.

Unlike most studies of Suvla Bay, I am not interested in blaming or condemning anyone for what occurred. The actions and conduct of Generals Hamilton, Stopford, Hammersley, McMahon, and others in command have already been thoroughly investigated. Nor do I seek to criticise senior regimental officers, who had been most directly responsible for training. Those Regulars were older, sometimes even elderly officers, dug out of retirement and called back into active service. Their experience was long ago and limited, and they did not understand modern war. These men were out of their depth, and most did the best they could. Moreover, there was no official pressure on the British Army in 1914 and 1915 to train their recruits proficiently, nor was there any overseeing body in place to question whether the training they did receive was even related to the tasks they were expected to perform. At Suvla it was the training itself that had failed, for nothing in it had even come close to preparing them for what was awaiting them.

Tactical Training

The tactical training was obsolete, having been grounded in parade formations, advancing in open order, and line of fire deployments. The men were being trained for 19th century 'set-piece' battles in open country. The terrain of Suvla, however, 'scored with deep fissures, washaways, unexpected ridges' and belts of thick scrub, was no parade ground, making coherent lines of fire impossible to maintain. It is important to bear in mind that the teachers of the New Army were usually older Regulars, men who had known 'another kind of war on the frontiers of the Empire'. Recruits 'entered into the spirit of their training, hardly questioning the wisdom of the old sweats.' Most of their combat experience dated back to the previous century, and so they were 'very much out of date in their knowledge and much of their training was outmoded.'

Indeed, most of what they taught seemed to be derived from the Boer War. One officer testified his tactical training was 'frankly admitted to be Boer War stuff'. Another thought:

Our tactical exercises, which now became increasingly important to our training, seemed to be based on the experiences of the Boer War. To attack an enemy, we were taught to advance over open ground in short rushes, to lie down between the rushes, presumably in full view of the enemy, and then to charge with fixed bayonets the last 50 yards or so shouting 'hurrah'. It was all very exhilarating and good exercise but it must have been little short of suicide had we been facing a real enemy.

There were few shouts of 'hurrah' at Suvla and these tactical manoeuvres were indeed suicidal. If men attempted to form up in ranks to attack, the twisted nature of the terrain forced lines of fire to break apart rapidly. A subaltern who advanced on Kiretch Tepe wrote 'My platoon deployed on either side of me, and we began our advance, stumbling over the rough ground. As we proceeded, it became impossible to keep a perfect line.' The difficulty of keeping any type of formation, especially a line of fire, intact over ground like that, even for the smallest unit, is self-evident, yet it was obviously attempted. The terrain was considered irrelevant. Another officer on Kiretch Tepe remembered:

When the brigade began to advance it was forced to cross very difficult ground... One of the lieutenants was going aside of me. We were in open formation. He got shot while we were going up the hill, I said, "Do you want any help?" He said, "No, Carry on, don't break the line."

These were the tactics learned in training, which could not be adapted for the conditions at Suvla. One British general, J M L Grover, later commented

The conception of infantry tactics in 1914 was very different from that at the beginning of the Second World War. It was really based on the lessons of the Boer War superimposed on the Crimea...The idea was, you built up a firing line...then by the volume of your fire

you attempted to overcome the people who were either advancing against you or were shooting at you.

There are also the many examples of soldiers deploying for battle in formations better suited to the parade ground than combat. These are usually presented as examples of courage under fire, not as products of training. Yet where else would they have learned to conduct themselves on a battlefield? The landing of the 10th Division ‘was their first experience of being under fire. Undismayed, their coolness undisturbed, they formed for attack as if on the parade ground.’ This was precisely how they had been trained, and now they were doing in battle, which was the problem. New Zealanders watching one assault from higher ground said afterwards “it looked more like a drill movement than an attack.” A German officer, who may have been observing the same attack, reported the British were moving ‘bolt upright, as if on parade, bunched together, and made no use of the available cover’. If open country was available at Suvla, tactical formations that had worked splendidly on the training fields failed in battle. It was perhaps the worst thing they could have done, and the results were predictable. One soldier wrote:

...we watched platoons and companies form up and march along in fours, all in step, as if they were on parade. “In fours!” I exclaimed to Hawk... “Sheer murder,” said Hawk. No sooner had he spoken than a high explosive from the Turkish positions...came screaming over the Salt Lake: “Z-z-z-e-e-o-o-o-p—Crash!” They lay there like a little group of dead beetles...A whole platoon was smashed.

An officer observed as ‘a shell burst in the middle of a platoon that was marching in rather close formation. Five men were blown to pieces.’ Another attack saw men ‘deployed in the plain without a particle of cover, brass work glinting in the sun’. They were ‘... simply plastered with shrapnel and long-range rifle and machine-gun fire’. Another officer described an offensive:

Regiments were formed up into columns, and while advancing into firing lines and reserves, not a shot was fired until we had gone some quarter of a mile and were well into the Plain, when suddenly we seemed to walk into an inferno of shrapnel and high explosives...The men dropping like flies...literally blown to pieces.

A journalist wrote how ‘... huge holes seemed to be torn into the squadrons as they advanced, the officers moving their men as if on parade...’

What were needed in training were not large parade formations and lines of fire, but small unit fire-and-movement tactics, close-quarter contact drills, dealing with ambush and snipers, and the use of cover. Of course, only hindsight revealed this. So much of this tactical thinking did not yet exist in the British Army, and would not for years, so no one can be blamed for not teaching it in 1914 and 1915. Soldiers were putting in practice what they had learned during training, and it got so many of them killed.

Training for War

John North reminded his readers it was important to bear in mind that not only was the New Army untrained for the type of warfare they encountered at Gallipoli, but also ‘unhardened to the conditions of life on the Peninsula’. Kitchener would later even admit they were ‘fighting under conditions quite foreign to their training.’ Both were putting it politely. These soldiers had not been properly conditioned for combat.

Training for war, as Plato explained, ought to be very difficult and involve at least modest risk if it is to be effective on the actual battlefield. If this had been understood in ancient Greece, one could be forgiven for assuming that British infantry training in the First World War was designed to prepare inexperienced soldiers for the hardships and rigors of battle. However, the ‘toughening-up’ aspect of training failed to do this. Physical training consisted mostly of long route marches, the misery of which is a theme that often occurs in soldiers’ journals. The marches initially covered five or six miles, extended to twelve or thirteen, and were finally ramped up to twenty or more. An officer with the 10th Division described in what peak shape the men were in because of their ability to march long distances in a ‘great khaki centipede’ down the lanes of Hampshire. Henry Hanna wrote his ‘intensive training’ was ‘long route marches’, then recorded one example of the kind of marching he considered intensive. The Dublin Fusiliers ‘... had a fine day for their march over the mountains,’ he writes, but before they began the march in earnest, they first had to stop off in the town of Glencree, so that the Glencree Reformatory band could give them a concert and entertain them at a luncheon. The regiment ‘then marched on the mountain road, into farm country, then into camp’, all in the coolness of an Irish springtime.

It is evident, reading their letters and journals, that these men believed themselves to be in peak physical shape, and more than prepared to enter battle. No doubt many had been whipped into the best shape of their young lives, but there remains a substantial difference in the physical conditioning one needs for long walks, even carrying full pack, and what is required for the intensity of combat on hostile terrain in a harsh climate. Moreover, many who fought at Suvla seem to have experienced little in the way of real hardship during their training, especially the new officers. Lt. O G E MacWilliam, writing under the pen name Juvenis, wrote fondly of training in Dublin, making clear it was not exactly a hardship post:

Why, we had had a pianola then! We had only to press a button and lo! cigarettes and drinks would appear! We had only had to stretch out our arms and we could get the evening paper!... At the time we had thought those evenings and those days so unbearably dull that we had contemplated the wildest schemes for smuggling ourselves out to France.

Many regiments were billeted not in tents or even barracks, but in private homes in the villages surrounding their training camps. While it could be cramped in ‘rather small terraced houses in back streets’, it could hardly be said to be uncomfortable. Officers lodged in manor houses, village inns, and sometimes in their own homes. These

accommodations could extend to manoeuvres. During field exercises, one officer of the Dublin's was lucky enough to be billeted for two nights in a spacious country house, the owners providing him with 'a good bath, and plenty of hot water and a magnificent dinner with a butler in attendance' And army life was quite good for one brigade before going into action. One officer wrote:

[T]he remaining months after leaving the Isle of Wight were spent in billets in Bury St. Edmunds and Watford. The men were always petted by the people on whom they were billeted, and from the day of their enlistment until arriving at Suvla, they had no experience of the hardships inseparable from a Campaign. At Watford the Battalion enjoyed probably the best billets in the Country—a model town built by a large manufacturer. The unit preceding the Island Battalion in the billets had been one of the London class corps and had made themselves unpopular by complaining...The 163rd Brigade had none of the fastidiousness of the Londoners, and were therefore, extremely popular and pampered.

Not surprisingly, the low priority training placed on truly toughening up the men resulted in many soldiers who could barely be said to be ready for the discomforts associated with camping, much less combat. One subaltern at Suvla was under the impression that the campaign would not interrupt his taking delivery of consignments from Harrods, and wrote to his parents of his keen disappointment, complaining

...we are able to get nothing at all out here. Although we had arranged for Harrods to supply the officers with a certain amount of things, they have failed us badly and, in consequence, we have to live entirely, or almost entirely, on the food issued to us.

Another officer had apparently made it all the way through training without ever really roughing it in the field. His memories of his first morning after arriving marked '...the first time in my life with no shelter—a permanent state at Suvla—and the night had been cool...'. And on 'A' Beach, a lieutenant went so far as to refuse to carry his own kit inland:

This second lieutenant reported my lieutenant for not taking his luggage. Laugh, we nearly all busted at this flop. Colonel told him: "Young man, you are on a battlefield now. Take that window out of your eye"(his eye-glass, he meant) "and do for yourself. No servants now, carry your own luggage where you want it.

The question, which begs to be asked, is What had they been led to believe battle would be like? Was this ever addressed at all? It would appear many were completely ignorant of the realities of combat they would face, and it comes as no surprise one soldier was of the opinion

[W]e were not battle-trained...I will admit we wilted under our first baptism of fire. This was not at all like we had been led to expect in war. The psychological shock was profound... It was like landing a bunch of tough Boy Scouts on a battlefield.

Even the toughest, most resilient of soldiers would have been hard pressed to triumph at Suvla. It took the stress and hardship of actual battle and campaigning before one soldier discovered what he ought to have learned in training: ‘So this really IS war...awfully sickening... very easy to get killed any time here; plenty of men getting killed every minute...not like I thought war was in England...’

Climate

It was not only for the shock of the combat where training had failed to prepare, but the climate itself. It was an environment of blazing sun, unknown to soldiers who were used to a green, temperate climate, and who ‘had never experienced anything more than an English summer.’ John Hargrave wrote:

Long way off, England...green trees and green grass... much better place than I thought it was...This is a d——place...no green anywhere...no water... just yellow sand and grey rocks and sage-coloured bushes, dead grass—even the thistles are all bleached and dead and rustling in the breeze...

High summer at Suvla saw regular temperatures locked in the 90s and higher, and training left them utterly unprepared. If anything, the heat was to be avoided. Henry Hanna wrote of his training in Hampshire, when a fifteen-mile route march had been planned. Hanna was of the opinion ‘the weather at this time was tropical and the heat intense,’ so the division got to move out at an early hour so as ‘to march in the cool of the morning.’ Hanna did not record the temperature that day, but it would be curious to know what he considered to be tropical and intense.

Obviously, the need for acclimatization was paramount if soldiers were to be effective, but it was ignored. One subaltern remembered:

No thought was given to acclimatise the troops to the extreme heat that G.H.Q. knew prevailed on the Peninsula during the day...With some forethought surely we could have been put ashore at Mitylene or Lemnos and given the men some chance of keeping fit.

There was also the issue of water, as the August heat had soldiers were going out of their minds with thirst, in. One officer witnessed ‘many hundreds of men, half-dead from thirst, had already dropped out of the ranks...’ ‘All were un-used to the hardships of an atrociously exhausting campaign. The daily water ration at Suvla was barely a pint or two, but the average human being remaining at rest will exhale over one quart of water a day. If one is also marching and fighting, thirst becomes a physical agony. Severe dehydration will set in quickly, causing impaired judgment, nausea, and delirium.

John Masfield thought victory at Suvla might have come off had the British logistically been able to provide ‘a ton of water’ for the troops. Obviously, the logistical failure to supply IX Corps with adequate water contributed to the defeat, and another way

training failed. Since they were originally bound for France, they were not trained in ‘water discipline’, a very practical skill of desert fighting. This can be learned, but only by being practiced over time. A veteran of Allenby’s Palestinian campaign wrote when he trained in Egypt ‘We had to discipline ourselves to two pints of water a day...the troops had to learn to do without it and could learn to do without it.’ Learning how to do without water was something that should have been accomplished during training. It should not have been attempted at Suvla where ‘a great brass sun beats relentlessly down...and we learn the what the word thirst really means.’

Since there was no water rationing in training or prior to the landings, no one had any idea of how dreadful it could be when the tap was turned off. Going into battle was compounded by having to function with a raging thirst that had not been counted on. An officer recorded on the voyage out:

Unfortunately there was an abundance of drinking water aboard, and the troops to whom water discipline was unknown, were literally allowed to swill themselves with it. This excessive drinking caused afterwards great misery to the men, when they landed and unable to get more than one bottle of water per day, and to a great extent, affected their fighting efficiency.

Once the troops were in the eastern Mediterranean in July, in weather similar to Gallipoli, water was never denied them. There was actually so much potable water available that it was abused. At Mitylene, Lt. Hanna recorded that a subaltern’s ‘routine of life’ was ‘a bathe before breakfast, after breakfast drill and another bathe; then dinner and a short parade, then tea and the real “star” bathe of the day’. The officers were quite clean and fresh, for the sleeping, reading, and letter writing, which Hanna noted occupied the time in between ablutions. Taking full advantage of all the shipboard amenities, everyone used and consumed as much water as the ship’s evaporators would produce.

Once at Suvla, water immediately became ‘the forgotten ration’. One lieutenant recalled:

Our battalion however has had rather bad luck because directly we landed here we were sent off to the frontline or, at least, just behind it so that we have not really had a fair chance to get used to the climate and find the amount of water with which each man is issued daily, is rather small as the heat is so great.

Learning to fight in the desert and manage water consumption during battle is possible, along with gradually acclimatizing to the heat, but both have to be addressed in training, not on the day of battle itself. An Australian soldier, who did not fight at Suvla, described his training in the desert outside of Cairo, which conditioned him for service on the peninsula. He credited his seven months of training in Egypt with surviving the Gallipoli campaign. For the men who fought at Suvla, though, asking them to function

in burning sunlight, with little water, in rough country, and no training toward that end, was asking too much.

Topography and Training

John North described Gallipoli as ‘a country of the mind’, but there was no way during training anyone could have imagined the terrain on which he would be fighting. Especially since the ground on which soldiers trained had been the open, rolling countryside of the British Isles, and did not bear any resemblance to Suvla. As C E W Bean described it, Gallipoli was ‘a sand-pit on a huge scale—raw sand slopes and precipices alternating with steep slopes covered with low scrub—the scrub where it exists is pretty dense’, terrain ‘which would have been well-nigh impassable even in peacetime manoeuvres.’ This was no country for inexperienced infantry, who needed to practice on terrain similar to where they would be fighting.

Contrasted with Suvla’s topography of ‘inextricable jumble of hills and gullies, strewn with boulders, overgrown with a thick prickly scrub, and wholly trackless’, the great training centres were all located in English and Irish pastoral landscapes, convenient for the quartering and instruction of great numbers of recruits. One soldier celebrated the countryside where he trained, describing the ‘springy turf...dewponds...and bosses of beech trees’ of ‘our breezy, rolling, South Downs’. Divisions trained on the rolling meadows of Belton Park, or on the Salisbury Plain. In Ireland, the 10th trained on the broad, grassy expanses of Dublin’s Phoenix Park. Later in England, the 10th was stationed in the ‘green Hampshire town of Basingstoke’ where they trained at Lord Curzon’s spacious park at Hackwood, in meadows ‘dotted with little copses of trees.’ Lt. Hanna wrote how an observer would see companies ‘dotted across the plain...scouting toward the horizon...’ Another officer describing the training grounds wrote:

The scene was typically English; here and there a line of white chalk showed where a trench had broken the smooth green turf, and all around, copses and clumps of ancient trees, in the full beauty of their fresh foliage, spoke of a land untouched for centuries by the stern hand of war. Soon very different sights were to meet the eyes of the men of the 10th Division, and at Mudros, and on the sun-baked Peninsula, many thought longingly of soft Hampshire grass and the shade of mighty beeches.

The only complaint heard against Witley Camp in Surrey concerned the hedges that ran through fields and along the roads. Famous for its expansive heathlands, Witley was by all accounts very gentle terrain, described by one recruit as ‘lovely English country’.

While England’s nature did not betray the heart that loved her, Suvla’s certainly would. After being spoiled by the easy openness of the English and Irish countryside, soldiers had a rude awakening when actual combat operations at Suvla commenced, as they were abjectly unprepared for the rough-and-tumble toughness of the terrain. Eric Liddle wrote generously that despite the months of training, ‘it cannot be maintained that their

military knowledge was sufficiently deep to cope instinctively with terrain vastly different from what they had experienced in training' and he was correct. One officer was 'horrified by the stunted scrub my men had to move through', while another marvelled at the time it required to go short distances: 'It took me an hour and a half to find MacLean, who was only about half a mile away, through thick scrub and dried-up river beds.'

Since their field training was conducted in open country, it was a relatively straightforward task to keep formations together during manoeuvres. Combat, however, was a different story. A passage that best underscored the differences of the battleground from the training ground could be found in a history of the 10th Division:

[T]he men pressed on, driving the Turks through the scrub before them. It was unpleasant work, particularly for officers, since little or nothing was known, either of the country or of the strength of dispositions of the enemy, and at any moment a platoon might have found itself confronted by a heavy counter-attack launched from the depths of the scrub, or enfiladed by hidden machine guns. Also, it proved a good deal harder to keep in touch with other units than it had in training days at the Curragh or in the Phoenix Park. The danger of pushing on too fast and finding oneself isolated was no imaginary one...

Conclusion

It is often contended that with better, more inspired generalship, the Suvla campaign might have been successful. Despite being 'saddled with the most abject collection of generals ever congregated in one spot', at the immediate tactical level, the battles were fought by officers and men who were 'distinguished by enthusiasm, high morale, and a sense of purposeful optimism'. Yet even with better generals, it is still very unlikely the operation stood much of a chance, for so much of the failure at Suvla came down to training. The men were not equal to the challenge because their training had not prepared them for it.

One stumbling block is the emphasis that tends to be placed on the general inexperience of the New Army, not their training. While it is always preferable to send seasoned troops into battle, it is not always possible. Realistic, serious, and practical training must attempt to make up for the inexperience as best it can. When Kitchener sent a description of the New Army divisions bound for Suvla to Hamilton, he wrote they were 'well trained', and the infantry 'excellent'. He did feel compelled to point out 'the new officers' knowledge is not yet instinctive, and allowance should be made for this' but 'in a short time there will be no finer troops in Europe.' These are the words of a commander who considered his soldiers more than ready, and only the experience of battle itself was required for the finishing touches.

It is difficult to see what Kitchener's assessment was based upon, save for a blind and romantic belief a British soldier could rise to any challenge and overcome any obstacle,

even if he was abjectly untrained and unprepared for such an enterprise. To a realistic and practical observer, though, like Alexander Hore-Ruthven, a Victoria Cross winner with over twenty years of service by the time he fought at Gallipoli, the men of ‘the new Divisions that were asked to carry out the...task of the landing at Suvla were composed of individuals who, although they had been trained as a Division for a year, were neither by training nor habits of life as yet particularly adapted to war.’

To the high command, IX Corps deceptively appeared to be a force ready for immediate service. The men were fresh, had months of training, high morale, and their inexperience would surely be offset by the element of surprise and light Turkish opposition. Had their training been better and thorough, much might have been achieved. The actual quality of this training can best be described by a section of Brig. Gen. Aspinall-Oglander’s official history of the campaign which was edited out because its tone was judged to be too glib for so serious a subject. It was, in fact, was spot-on accurate.

On the 6/7 August indeed, the 9th Corps can be compared to nothing so well as to a motorcar whose hurried assembly had only been completed by the inclusion of spare parts of various different makes. Some of them were new, other old, a few of them were already quite worn out and none of them were made to fit. The car had arrived from Ireland and England with a high reputation; it had a fresh coat of paint, it bore a reputed maker’s guarantee, and every confidence was reposed in it. Doubtless, before using it for important work, Sir Ian Hamilton ought to have tested it. But he had no space to test it before it reached the peninsula...

The motorcar’s initial journey, its training, Hamilton would soon realize, had been ‘along an easy road, with no gradients to speak of, and no serious obstacles.’

Notes:

1. My research concentrated on the regiments of the New Army. The Territorial Force fell outside the scope of my study.
2. The emphasis the British Army placed on route marching was not entirely misplaced. During the BEF’s retreat after Mons, it was discovered that many soldiers became footsore in a short time when marching with full pack. To make certain this would not repeat itself, route marching was made a high priority.

Editor’s Note: After consulting the author, I decided to exclude the lengthy ‘notes on sources’ and bibliography from the article. This was necessary because of space constraints and to avoid publication in two parts. Should any reader wish to have a copy of the original article including these notes etc. I would be happy to supply this as an e-mail attachment, or by post (if the latter, please enclose s.a.e – large letter).

THE DARDANELLES RIBAND

I am most grateful to member **Barry Boots** who sent me a copy of the Army Council Instruction reproduced below.

Are members aware of photographs or illustrations of these ribands?

ARMY COUNCIL INSTRUCTION No. 1523 of 1916

WAR OFFICE
5th August 1916.

1523. Wearing of coloured cloth patches and coloured ribands.

1. With reference to A.C.I. 1088 of 1916, it has been brought to Notice that in some instances a coloured riband, purporting to be a “Dardanelles” riband is being worn on the shoulder straps.

No coloured ribands, other than sanctioned medal ribands, or coloured patches of cloth are authorised to be worn on service dress jackets, and wherever this practice is now current in this country it must cease.

2. The above does not apply to overseas troops who wear coloured cloth distinctions as part of their uniform.

68/121/36 (Q.M.G. 7).

By Command of the Army Council

[Signed]

[Copies for all G.Os.C.-in-C. and G.Os.C. at Home and Abroad (and for distribution to formations and units); Inspectors; G.Os.C.-in-C. Expeditionary Forces; Officers i/c Regular Records (and for distribution to (a) Regular Depots other than Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry, (b) Regular Reserve units other than Infantry); Officers i/c T.F. Records (and for Administrative Centres); Regimental Paymasters; T.F. Associations.]

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THE ROYAL MUNSTER FUSILIERS AT COVENTRY – A FOLLOW-UP

Readers will recall the two photographs published in the last issue of *The Gallipolian* showing the 1st Bn. The Royal Munster Fusiliers on parade in Coventry between 10 January and 16 March 1915. The location in the town was not specified and I asked readers if anyone knew where the photographs were taken.

I am delighted to report that the mystery has been solved by **Chris Holland** and his friend **David Fry**. Chris says the two photographs appear to have been taken in Hill Street, Coventry, though that section of Hill Street is now known as Upper Hill Street as it comes outside the modern inner ring road, which bisects Hill Street. Chris is indebted to David Fry, who collects postcards and photographs of the Coventry and Warwickshire areas from that period, and kindly sent him the photograph reproduced below looking down Hill Street towards the centre of the city.



Chris points out that the two photographs published in the last issue are looking-up Hill Street; the houses on the left of the above photograph appear to match those on the right of the published ones. On the right, is part of St Osburg's R.C. Church – the main Catholic church in Coventry. So the 1st Bn. would appear to be off to church! That would seem consistent with their appearance – spruced-up but not carrying rifles or packs. It is also consistent with the billeting area for the RMF – which was on the west and south west of the city centre. Hill Street is also on the western side.

Chris adds that 2nd Lieutenant Timothy Sullivan, RMF, was married at St Osburg's on

11 March 1915. He was to die of wounds on 4 May, 1915 at the age of 31. The CWGC records indicate that he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial and was the son of Michael Sullivan of Bantry, Co. Cork , and the husband of Maud Sullivan. He had previously served in the South African War.

CAPTURED AT SUVLA BAY

I am sure readers will find the letter reproduced below, from **Lt. Cdr. Arthur J D Coxon**, an interesting follow-up to the article 'Captured at Suvla Bay – Three Personal Accounts' which appeared in the last issue of *The Gallipolian*.

'Dr Harvey's article was of considerable interest to me as my Father **Captain A C M Coxon** of the 5th Norfolks was captured at Suvla Bay on 12 August 1915, having been wounded and was a POW for the rest of the war. His mother kept a most interesting scrap book which I still have. In it is a lot of material including newspaper cuttings from local papers at the time. There are numerous descriptions as given to the press by NCO's and Private soldiers in their own words of the action of 12 August.

Lt. W G S Fawkes, who wrote the third statement referred to in the article, was in the same battalion as my Father, and was mentioned in an article I wrote for *The Gallipolian*, which was published in the Spring 2000 issue (No. 92). The article also contained a photograph of Lt. Fawkes taken with my father and other POWs. [Editor's Note: This is reproduced at the end of Lt. Cdr. Coxon's letter (on page 62)] The photograph is also in my scrap book. Having read as much as I can about the action on 12 August, I think the account by Fawkes is as accurate as one can get.

I never knew that **Lt. Col. Beauchamp** (also mentioned in the article) became an ordained Minister and a Missionary between his spells in the Army. One learns more about the Gallipoli campaign in every issue!

On a different theme, my Father chose as my Godparents from the POWs he had been a prisoner with, **Capt. Douglas Pass** of the Dorsets and **2/Lt I Twyman** DSC RNR, both of whom I met from time to time. Twyman was a Merchant Navy Officer, mobilised in 1915 to RN Service and posted to the early Submarine *E7*. I was referred by Submarine Museum at Gosport to a book, *Destination Dardanelles*, by A A Wilson which was the complete story of this vessel from service in the North Sea to its loss on its second trip to the Sea of Marmora where it got caught in the nets and had to be scuttled. His Captain was **Lt. Cdr. Cochrane** RN who I believe was decorated.'



Prisoners of War. Capt. Coxon (front left) and Lt. Fawkes (front right) both smoking pipes

QUARTERMASTER'S STORES

The following items are available from the '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 available at **£17.50** including UK postage. [Europe £19.30, Rest of the World £19.90]

Standard Ties – in Association colours are available price **£8.50** including UK postage. [Europe £10.30. Rest of the World £10.90]

Blazer Badges – hand embroidered wire and silk blazer badges are available at **£8.00** including UK postage. [Europe £9.80, Rest of the World, £10.40]

Lapel Badges in the Association colours are available, price **£6.50** including UK postage. [Europe £8.30, Rest of the World £8.90]

Simpson Badges – produced by the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland. The badge is oval in design and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in size showing Simpson in classic pose with his donkey. Each badge costs **£4.20** including UK post. [Europe £6.00, Rest of the World £6.60]

Binders, which hold 6 copies of *The Gallipolian* are available, finished in attractive

simulated leather, coloured maroon, with the title blocked in gold on the spine. Price per Binder is **£7.25** including post in the United Kingdom [Europe £9.20, Rest of the World £10.00]

Polo Shirts in 'Green' or 'Maroon' with Association badge. Sized: 'Small', 'Medium', 'Large' and 'X Large'. Please state colour and size required with order. Price: **£14.50** [Europe £16.50, Rest of the World £19.00]

'Gallipoli Trench Map CDs' – includes over 400 maps and 10 Watercolours, the latter by Sapper Moore-Jones, the New Zealand Official War Artist. **Price £17.00** including UK postage & packing. [Europe £18.80, Rest of the World £19.40]

[**Note:** *The Gallipolian Archive CD* is currently out of print but it is hoped to issue an updated version this year.]

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.

A NEW PLAY WITH A GALLIPOLI LINK

Northern BroadSides and the New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme have announced a production of Deborah McAndrew's new play, *An August Bank Holiday Lark*. The play takes its title from a line in Philip Larkin's poem *MCMXIV* and explores the impact of the First World War on a rural community in East Lancashire when a group of lads from the community join the North Lancashire regiment and are shipped off to fight at Gallipoli.

The play opened at the New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme on 7 February and will tour the UK from 4 March until 14 June. Venues include the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Liverpool Playhouse, The Everyman, Cheltenham, Watford Palace Theatre and the Rose Theatre, Kingston-upon-Thames. For details of other venues and dates visit www.northern-broadsides.co.uk or contact Duncan Clarke Tel: 01904 345247.

BOOKS/BOOK REVIEWS

MAPPING THE FIRST WORLD WAR – The Great War Through Maps from 1914 to 1918

Author: Peter Chasseaud. Publisher: Collins (in association with the Imperial War Museums). ISBN978-0-00-752220-0. Hardback (265 x 221mm format). Price £30

Mapping the First World War is an account of the conflict through maps and

photographs from the extensive collections held by the Imperial War Museums (IWM). The book features some 150 maps which range from those of a small-scale showing national boundaries and overseas territories to large-scale maps of significant battles and offensives, trench maps, barrage maps for use by artillery, and those produced to accompany intelligence reports. There are also examples of Admiralty charts, and maps produced for newspapers. The latter include '*Bird's Eye – Maps of the British Front*' (published by *The Daily Mail*) and '*The Graphic Map of the Dardanelles Operations*'. Aerial photography played an important part in mapping and examples of how these were used are also featured.

There is a useful and comprehensive introduction which explains mapping terms and sets the scene, tracing the growing public interest in and use of maps in Britain and Europe in the 19th century which led to the development of new map printing technology both commercially and by military forces.

The book's ten chapters take the reader from the 'Causes of the War', through the 1914 campaigns in the East and West, and then geographically to those in Italy, Gallipoli, Macedonia, the Caucasus, Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia and Africa. The remaining chapters deal with the 1915-1918 campaigns in the East and West, with a separate chapter on the 'War at Sea and in the Air'. The concluding chapter deals with the Peace Treaties and their aftermath. On every page the commentary is illustrated with extracts from maps (some never published since they were first issued), plans, charts and photographs.

Inevitably, with a book covering the First World War as a whole, coverage of the Gallipoli is brief, comprising about 15 pages, and for readers whose interest focuses predominantly on that campaign, the cost would probably not be worthwhile but for those interested in the wider conflict and the subject of mapping it is certainly recommended.

Foster Summerson

CHARLES LISTER, LETTERS AND RECOLLECTIONS

Author: Lord Ribblesdale. Republished by Paul Foster. Contents: 392 pages including illustrations Price: £12.49. Further information regarding purchase can be found at: www.remembering1418.com or via email at: remembering@btinternet.com

Charles Lister was the second son of Thomas, Baron Ribblesdale and Lady Charlotte. He had a typical upbringing for a member of the aristocracy and was educated at Eton College before going up to Balliol College, Oxford.

A highly intelligent young man Charles decided to make his life as a diplomat. He passed the Civil Service examinations then served in Rome and Constantinople. Through his family and friends he was also able to spend considerable time in India and Europe. His knowledge of the diplomatic situation and personal insight during the build up to and outbreak of the First World War is fascinating.

As soon as it was possible Charles volunteered and joined the army. He first worked as an interpreter before joining the Royal Naval Division and being sent to serve at Gallipoli. During the voyage he was with his great friend, Rupert Brooke, who died en route and Charles was one of those responsible for the burial party. He was wounded shortly after arriving on the beaches but refused the offer to return to a desk job in the Foreign Office. Charles re-joined his men at the front where he was slightly wounded however he made light of it in his letters. Charles was wounded for the third time and he died on board the hospital ship, the SS *Gascon*. He now lies in East Mudros Military Cemetery.

Lord Ribblesdale published 'Letters and Recollections' a year after Charles' death. Paul Foster has recently re-set the original book and, where appropriate, added contemporary illustrations to compliment the text. Parts I and II replicate the original, with Part III containing notes on the events and personalities mentioned in the first two parts. There are over eighty cameos on those who were mentioned in the original publication. [Information provided by the publisher, Paul Foster.]

LAST POST

It is with regret that the Association learnt of the death of following member:

Mr Roy Haley (Membership No. 0587) who passed away on 28 December 2013

ARTICLES FOR THE GALLIPOLIAN

Articles and items of interest about any aspect of the Gallipoli campaign are always welcome. These should be submitted direct to the Editor at the address inside the front cover. Because there is sometimes a significant amount of material awaiting publication, it is not always possible to feature articles in the issue following submission although where there is an element of topicality I always try to accommodate them, or refer them to colleagues responsible for the Association website.

For those considering the submission of articles I can provide a copy of 'Notes for the Guidance of Contributors' on request.

DISCLAIMER

Readers are reminded that the observations and opinions expressed in articles and letters published in *The Gallipolian* are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of either the Editor, or of the Association.



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.