

Hawick to Gallipoli

Gallipoli Textile Project- Commemorating 100 years since the Gallipoli campaign

- To make some form of textile art work to be displayed in the High School
- Background/information on Gallipoli presented by third year History students in the form of poster presentations
- Home Economic students will make the textile art work from the inspiration provided by the posters

1/4th King's Own Scottish Borderers

- 4th August 1914 war declared, just after this over 200 local Territorials from the 1/4th KOSB were mobilised
- Sent to Cambusbarron, near Stirling, for training
- Became part of the 52nd (Lowland) Division
- May 1915, after months of training they sailed for Gallipoli
- Over 120 Hawick men never returned...

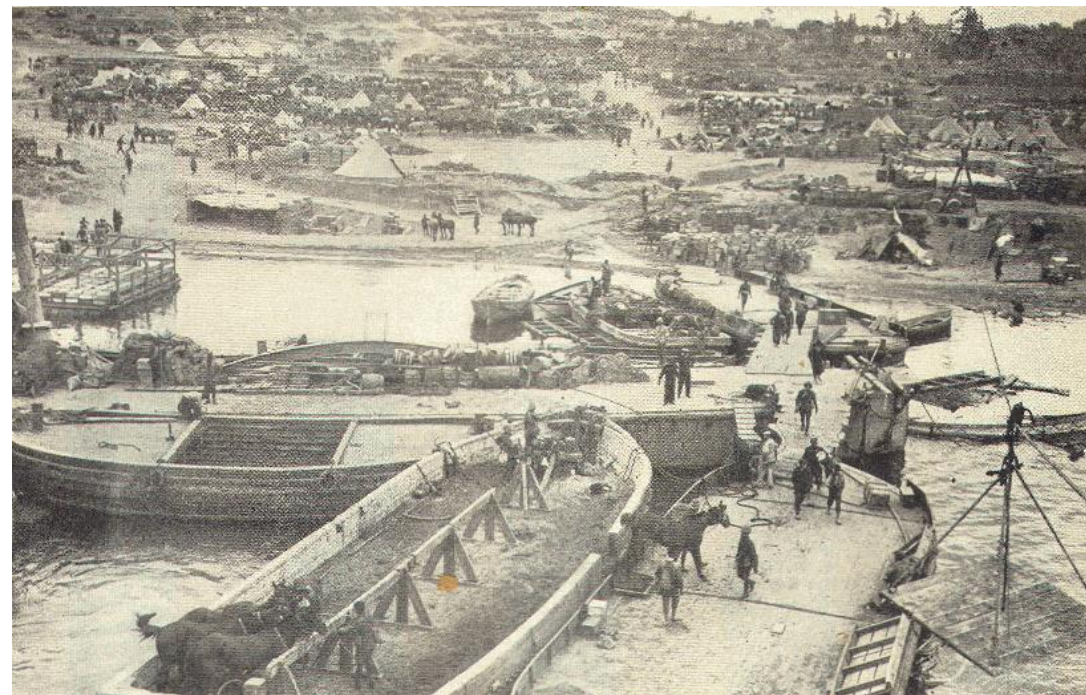


Leaving for Gallipoli

- The soldiers finally leave Stirling for Liverpool, then on to the Eastern Mediterranean on Friday 21st May
- Set sail from Liverpool on the Empress of Britain on Sunday 23rd May
- Many booked on single tickets
- Less than three weeks to get there with a few days stop in Egypt at camp
- Passing other ships already coming back with wounded soldiers.
- Early hours of the 14th June 2 boats carrying the 1/4th KOSB arrived off Cape Helles



Arriving in Gallipoli



Monday 12th July 1915

- 4.30am bombardment opened up on the Turkish lines
- Equipment checked, water bottles filled
- 6.55am main bombardment started, joined by the Navy
- Turkish forces reply shelling the trenches where the men had huddled together, tightly holding their bayonets. There was to be no firing of bullets...only cold steel!

7.35am precisely the bombardment lifted, there was a pause, a loud cheer and the men scrambled over the top





- First wave followed by the second wave of soldiers quickly covered no-mans land and reached the forward Turkish trench.
- Most KOSB jumped the first trench to get to the second trench
- Men started to fall in great numbers as the Turkish machine guns opened fire
- Second trench located and taken by the Allies
- Final objective was to get to the third trench...

- Confusion over the third trench
- Located a dummy trench
- Others went on, looking for the third trench-gone too far
- Command to return to second trench
- Metal discs hanging on the soldiers attracted the sun, glinting-friendly fire as well as Turkish fire
- On retuning went to far to the left and met with the French artillery
- Soldiers defended the trenches heroically until 4.50pm that afternoon, when the second attack too place with the 157th Brigade the 156th Brigade



LIEUT. L. P. CATHEL'S,

1/4th K.O.S.B. (son of the Rev. D. Cathels, M.A., minister of Hawick parish), who took an active part in the operations at Gallipoli. His graphic narratives of his experiences there were widely read and appreciated throughout the Border district.



PRIVATE NICHOL ROBERTSON,

son of Mr Robert Robertson, carter, 4 Allars Crescent, who was wounded at the Dardanelles on 12th July, 1915. He is 19 years of age.



CORPORAL ADAM GRAY,

wounded. He is a son of Mrs Gray, 3 Minto Place, who has other two sons serving, as follows: Private Peter Gray, also with the 4th K.O.S.B. at the Dardanelles; and Lce.-Cpl. John Gray, of the 2nd Highland Light Infantry.



CAPTAIN C. E. MACDONALD,
OF THE 1/4TH K.O.S.B.,

who was wounded on the 12th July, 1915. He is a partner of the firm of Messrs Macdonald & Gibb, tweed manufacturers.



LIEUT. J. B. INNES,

second son of Mr A. K. Innes, Lindisfarne, Hawick, who was killed in action on 12th July, 1915. He was 24 years of age.



LIEUT. J. B. PATRICK,

son of Mr Alex. Patrick, Alton Bank, Hawick, reported missing since 12th July, 1915.

THE FAMOUS CHARGE OF THE 4th K.O.S.B.

Sir Ian Hamilton's dispatch of 11th Decr., 1915, relating to operations at the Dardanelles, gives the following information regarding the famous action of 12th July:—

“The action of July 12 and 13 was meant to be a sequel to the action of June 28. That advance had driven back the Turkish right on to their second main system of defence just south of Krithia. But, on my centre and right, the enemy still held their forward system of trenches, and it was my intention on July 12 to seize the remaining trenches of this foremost system from the sea at the mouth of the Kereves Dere to the main Sedd-ul-Bahr—Krithia road, along a front of some 2000 yards. On our right the attack was to be entrusted to the French Corps; on the right centre to the 52nd (Lowland) Division. On the 52nd Division's front the operation was

planned to take place in two phases: our right was to attack in the morning, our left in the afternoon. Diversions by the 29th Division on the left of the southern section and at Anzac were to take place on the same day, so as to prevent the enemy's reserves from reinforcing the real point of attack. At 7.35 a m., after a heavy bombardment, the troops, French and Scottish, dashed out of their trenches and at once captured two lines of enemy trenches. Pushing forward with fine elan the 1st Division of the French Corps completed the task assigned to it by carrying the whole of the Turkish forward system of works, namely, the line of trenches skirting the lower part of the Kereves Dere. Further to the left the 2nd French Division and our 155th Brigade maintained the two lines of trenches they had gained. But on the left of the 155th Brigade

the 4th Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers pressed on too eagerly. They not only carried the 3rd line of trenches, but charged on up the hill and beyond the third line, and then advanced indeed until they came under the 'feu de barrage' of the French artillery. Nothing could live under so cruel a cross fire from friend and foe, so the King's Own Scottish Borderers were forced to fall back with heavy losses to the second line of enemy trenches which they had captured in their first rush. . . . The Portsmouth Battalion, pressing on too far, fell into precisely the same error at precisely the same spot as did the 4th King's Own Scottish Borderers on the 12th, an over-impetuosity which cost them heavy losses.”

Commemoration



Hawick to Gallipoli

The Dardanelles Campaign

To early 1915, as history after the Great War had begun, there was doubt as to whether the Allies would be able to force their way through the Dardanelles. The plan was to force the Dardanelles to the East, towards Gallipoli, to the Ottoman Empire.

Against the Turkish empire out of the war by capturing the Ottoman capital, Istanbul, in 1915. This was to be done by attacking the Gallipoli Peninsula on the European side, where the sea was much more shallow than the Dardanelles. It was hoped also to pressure neighbouring Bulgaria to join the Allies.

The plan did not work and the Allies withdrew from Gallipoli at the end of 1915 after eight months of heavy fighting, suffering around 250,000 casualties, with even greater losses on the Turkish side. Bad planning, shortages, weather and inexperienced soldiers, and underestimating the opposition, are blamed for the failure.

The forces of Australia and New Zealand, the ANZACs, were heavily involved in the campaign, as were troops from India and Sri Lanka, along with French forces which included many from French Africa.

The Turkish commander at Gallipoli, Mustafa Kemal, went on to found and lead the new Turkish Republic that arose from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire after the war.

The Border Battalion

After war was declared on 4th August, 1914 there was much movement in Hawick as over 200 local volunteers of the 14th (The Border Battalion of the King's Own Scottish Borderers) marched to the railway station during mobilisation.

They went to Cambusnash near Stirling, becoming part of the 12th (Lancashire Division). In May 1915, after months of training, they sailed for Gallipoli. One hundred Hawick soldiers went to the front line - one of the greatest losses to the town in any single battle of the war - with 362 less left to the Battalion as a whole. Hardly a neighbourhood or family in Hawick were left untouched by the tragedy.

Hawick district lost over 80 of its young men on a single day, the 12th July, in an attack on Turkish positions at Arma, east of the attempt to capture the heights of Anzac Bays. The 14th K.O.S.B. including Hawick volunteers, in the front line, charged against machine gun fire to seize Turkish trenches but then found themselves exposed and vulnerable.

Hawick soldier Nichol Robertson, wounded on the day, said *"...when we turned to come back we came into our own artillery fire as well as the Turks'...we seemed to be getting hit from every direction."* The battalion held the trenches for two days until relieved, but with heavy casualties. In January 1916, the original Border Battalion moved to Egypt and saw action in Sinai and Palestine, and then the Western Front, serving with distinction throughout.

Commemoration, the Gallipoli Comrades Association

Commemoration of Gallipoli in Hawick began in 1919. That year, James Caldwell, Gallipoli's war memorial secretary, visited the town to see if there was any interest in the 1914 Memorial in the town. He was interested in the memory of those who had fallen the year before. The Club has kept up the tradition, uninterrupted since 1929.

A Hawick plaque from Hawick Town Council was laid at the Anzac Memorial on the Gallipoli peninsula in 1929. This was a nationally organised trip where James Brown Smith made a speech at Anzac Bays and on his return wrote an article for the Hawick Express.

In September 1933, local Gallipoli veterans formally set up an association in the town, having met privately since 1929. This was to be called the 14th K.O.S.B. Gallipoli Comrades Association. The Association was based in Hawick but its membership was from across the Borders.

The 50th anniversary of the Campaign came in 1963. In collaboration with the British War Veterans Association, there was a national reunion trip to the war cemeteries in Gallipoli. In Hawick, the Gallipoli Club and the Town Council led a fundraising campaign to allow local veterans to take part.

As membership of the Comrades Association declined, the Gallipoli Club took charge of Gallipoli commemoration. "Weeks are laid each year at the 1914 Memorial and the War Memorial by the Club President.

The last Comrade, Mr John Murray, passed away in 1992.

The display board is titled "Hawick to Gallipoli" and is divided into three main sections: "The Dardanelles Campaign", "The Border Battalion", and "Commemoration, the Gallipoli Comrades Association". Each section contains detailed text, photographs, and historical documents. A red rose is placed on the right side of the board. Below the board, there are several artifacts including a military cap, a shield, a sword, a framed set of medals, and a framed photograph of a soldier. A small red rose is also placed on the table in front of the board.







Scotland Forever

Gallipoli

12.07.1915