

# The Gallipolian

*The Journal of the Gallipoli Association*

No. 163 - Winter 2023



# THE GALLIPOLIAN

No 163 Winter (December) 2023

The Journal of the Gallipoli Association

founded by Major E H W Banner in 1969 on the Campaign of 1915

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Members occasionally change their email address without notifying the membership secretary. As a result notices and information do not reach the intended member. If you do change your email address please confirm the details to the membership secretary (contact details opposite), who will change the information on our database.

This edition's cover:

'Lieutenant Holbrook takes Submarine *B11* under the mines  
in the Dardanelles and sinks a Turkish battleship' [TGC *Messudieh*].

Mackenzie, D A. *Brave Deeds Of The War* (London, Blackie and Son c.1916)

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## NEWS ITEMS

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See <https://www.gallipoli-association.org/news/>

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### WELCOME OUR NEW COMMS OFFICER

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After a sterling three years in the post Robert Rathbone, the GA's communications officer, has handed over the reins. Robert has been hugely successful in growing the Association's social media portfolio to include Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), YouTube and LinkedIn. During the three years Robert has been the GA's communications officer, both Facebook and 'X' have reached some 5,000 followers, a good proportion of them becoming Association members.

Taking over from Robert is the talented Mr Warren Smith, a frequent visitor to the battlefields. A volunteer at the Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum, he is also a sub-editor of the Great War Group's *Salient Points*, a committee member of Heart of England WFA branch, and a member of the Association's *Helles Battlefield Study Project*.

Warren's goal is to encourage a greater proportion of younger people to join, and he he will work closely with the other trustees and officers. A huge thanks to Warren for volunteering; we are all looking forward to working with you.

To contact Warren please email: [communications@gallipoli-association.org](mailto:communications@gallipoli-association.org)

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### COMPASS SAVES OFFICER

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#### Major Gardiner's narrow escape

On 24th November, Ian Binnie (education co-ordinator and trustee) gave a talk on Gallipoli to a group from the Friends of Shrewsbury Castle.

The talk went well. When it was over one of the audience produced a diary that had been kept by a relative who served at Gallipoli.

It had belonged to Major N G Gardiner of the 2nd Royal Fusiliers, who kept it in his jacket pocket, and it had a hole through it caused by a Turkish bullet.

The bullet would have killed Major Gardiner had he not had his compass behind his diary. The compass was, of course, wrecked.



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## MANCHESTER CEMETERY TOUR A SUCCESS

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The Gallipoli Association and the Manchester Military History Society presented a Gallipoli-themed tour of Southern Cemetery, Manchester, on 23 November 2023. An online Zoom talk followed in the evening.

The tours were very successful. Fifty people joined the tour in the morning or afternoon with another eighteen joining the Zoom talk in the evening. A number of those attending had a personal connection with Gallipoli.

As well as the Australians we found that most of the British graves were soldiers who served with the 1/6th Manchesters and were killed or wounded at Third Krithia on 4th June. We hope to hold a commemorative service to mark this event next year.

The south Manchester community responded to this project magnificently.

My thanks go to Tim Cockitt of the Manchester Military History Society, Peter McKessy and his team at the cemetery and Terry Boynes and the CWGC volunteers. Thursday 23rd was a brilliant day.

– Ian Binnie, education co-ordinator and trustee of the Gallipoli Association.

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## FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE, WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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Her Majesty The Queen opened the 95th Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on 9 November 2023, marking the start of remembrance commemorations.

The annual event began in 1928 when the Poppy Factory placed a tray of poppies and a collection tin in the grounds of St Margaret's church. Though initially comprising only a few poppies surrounding a solitary cross, this small gesture laid the foundation for a tradition that has flourished over the years. Today, the grounds of St Margaret's, nestled within Westminster Abbey, transform into a sea of scarlet poppies every November, honouring the memory of those who have served.

The Gallipoli Association maintains a plot in the Field of Remembrance each year. It will place a Remembrance Cross, Star of David, Crescent Moon or Sikh Khanda on behalf of members.



Clive Summerson, who every year writes and places the memorials for the Association.



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## THE TALE OF A GALLIPOLI PILL BOX

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**Margaret Carter and Steve Moore**

In 2014 while anxiously searching for a birthday present for me, his Gallipoli-obsessed partner, Steve came across a small silver pill box on eBay with Gallipoli provenance which he duly purchased. The box was inscribed with the name N Scott, AIF, 1418 and the word 'Mother'. Inside the box were the initials A. S. This was where the wonderful resource of the National Archives of Australia provided us with copies of Neil's AIF attestation papers, AIF nominal and embarkation rolls, and his Will. The will stated –

*In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to Mrs Annie Scott, Sandstone W.A.*

So now we know for whom Neil had purchased the pill box, most probably while he was in Egypt, a young man out with his mates in a crowded bazaar buying a keepsake for his mum.



Neil Scott. Western Mail (Perth)  
22 Oct 1915 p23

This silver pill box and its inscription intrigued us, especially as Neil's battalion (the 11th) had taken part in the ferocious fighting to capture the Turkish position known as 'Turkish Despair,' which became known as Leane's Trench. We had previously made a couple of unsuccessful attempts in locating this trench when in Gallipoli.

We decided to research Neil's background and made contact with the town of Sandstone where he had lived. The Shire of Sandstone unfortunately was unable to provide us with any information about Neil and his family. However the purchase of a book on the history of the Sandstone district proved very valuable, as did information from the State Library of Western Australia's Outback Family History Department.

Sandstone is now a very small town situated in the East Murchison Goldfield of Western Australia on the very edge of the dry desert interior. Once a bustling centre for industry and trade, it had a population of only about thirty in March 2023.

Neil Scott was born a British subject in April 1895 in Ballarat, Victoria, but the family moved west to Sandstone, WA, where his father John worked as a miner.

When war was declared in 1914, 26 men from Sandstone and neighbouring Youanmi volunteered and left in late September 1914 for Black Boy Hill Camp. Among them

was Neil, a labourer, giving his age as 20 years. He had added two years to his age because he needed to be at least 19 years old to enlist. He shipped to Egypt from Fremantle on 22 February 1915 aboard A50, HMAT *Itonus*. After training in Egypt he shipped to Lemnos on SS *Suffolk* and finally landed with C Company, 11th Battalion, 3rd Brigade AIF on 25 April 1915 at Ari Burnu from HMS *London*, towed ashore in the ship's boats by steam pinnaces.

After the initial confused fighting as the boats landed under Turkish fire, the men of the 11th forced their way up the cliffs and gullies, eventually establishing a firing line on the second ridge from the beach, later known as Bolton's Ridge. The 11th were on the right of the Anzac front line, facing the Turkish line across what was to become Allah Gully and Snipers Ridge.

On 4 May, C Company, commanded by Captain Raymond Leane, took part in the raid "to land at Gaba Tepe, from boats, attack the fort, capture or kill the garrison, destroy guns and material and obtain papers, records and information of value."

Gaba Tepe was too strongly fortified and the raid did not succeed, with five men killed, eighteen wounded and two missing. Gaba Tepe remained a thorn in the Anzacs' side until the end of the campaign.

The 11th settled into what had now become static trench warfare and despite their trench systems being improved, Turkish snipers inflicted a daily toll on the unwary or unlucky.

On 18 May Turkish shell fire increased to a level not experienced before and it became apparent that "something unusual was about to happen".

The men stood to and during the early morning hours of the 19th the Turks launched a massive general assault on the Anzac front line. Each time the Turks attacked the waves of men were cut down by the intense Australian fire. As it grew lighter, despite their huge losses, the attacks continued. This was a time for savage revenge for the weeks of misery the Anzacs had experienced since the landing and by the time the attacks faded away at around 10:00 hrs, some 3000 dead and 7000 wounded were lying in front of the Australian line. The 11th lost nine men killed and eight wounded, most by Turkish shrapnel fire.

On 24 May a truce was held so the Turks could bury their dead, as by now conditions for both sides had become unbearable as bodies decomposed in the increasingly hot weather. For both sides it was an appalling job, unimaginable to us today. There was some fraternisation between the soldiers as the work progressed, with exchanges of buttons, cigarettes, bully beef and so on taking place. By 16:45 hrs, with Australians and Turks back in their respective trenches, the fighting started again.

On 25 May, the men of the 11th on Bolton's Ridge had an unwanted grandstand view as HMS *Triumph* was torpedoed by German submarine *U21*.

During June as the temperature increased on the Peninsula, more and more of the 11th Battalion were succumbing to sickness and disease. There were regular artillery exchanges, small scale 'demonstrations' and sniping, but no major assaults from

either side took place. Major work was undertaken by the Australians under the cover of darkness to dig a new large 'secret' trench system on Silt Spur, to counter the Turkish trench works known as 'Turkish Despair' that threatened the Anzac line at Tasmania Post.

This relatively 'quiet' period changed on 28 June with the large scale Australian 'demonstration' assault on Silt Spur and Turkey Knoll by the 11th Battalion. During this action the men of C Company, including Neil, were exposed to withering Turkish fire with minimal protection on open ground. Captain Leane was wounded along with 41 others and 21 men were killed.

The 'secret' tunnel system on Silt Spur was completed by 10th Battalion on 18 July, while the 11th, who had suffered so much during the construction and 'demonstration' were out of the front line taking as much 'rest' as they could find.

On 27 July the 11th moved back into the line on Bolton's Ridge at Tasmania Post, facing Turkish Despair [Works].

At about 22:20 hrs on 31 July, the assault on Turkish Despair began from the 'secret' trench works with the initial detonation of two out of four mines. C Company under Captain Jackson was on the left of the assault line, with D, B & A Companies to their right. Captain Leane gave the order to attack and he followed the first wave of Australians towards the Turkish trenches; as he did so the third mine exploded and Leane suffered an injury to his arm. Furious brutal close quarter fighting with bomb, rifle, and bayonet took place as the Turkish trenches were slowly cleared of the enemy. By about 23:45 hrs Leane reported the Australians were in control of Turkish Despair. Despite heavy accurate Turkish artillery fire the next day, the Australians held the trench later re-named Leane's Trench.

The action is described in the book 'Game to The Last' by James Hurst and also by Albert Facey in his autobiography 'A Fortunate Life.' Bert Facey sailed on the same ships as Neil Scott and fought in the action to take Leane's Trench.

Neil was killed in the bitter fighting, along with thirty-six other men and one officer. He is buried in Shell Green Cemetery, as are two other Sandstone men – Lance-Sergeant Herbert Longmore and Private Robert Glencairn Miller. There is a very poignant photograph annotated with the heading – 'Dead Australians after Leane's Trench Fight' (AWM P02023.002) – showing the bodies of some of the 36 men of the 11th Battalion laid out in a row ready for burial, one of whom was probably Neil.

In 2015 during our annual trip to Gallipoli we visited Neil Scott's grave, taking the silver pill box with us. We paid our respects to Neil and to the other men who died in the Leane's Trench action.

It was not however until September 2018 that we finally found the location of Leane's Trench, and we still have the scars to prove it!

When we returned to Gallipoli in September 2016 we met a group of Australians who were staying at our hotel. This group included William Arthur Upfield, grandson of the famous Australian crime writer Arthur Upfield, whose books featured Boney





Above: 'Dead Australians after Leane's Trench Fight' [on Shell Green] (AWM Po2023.002)



Plot 2, Row G, Shell Green Cemetery, Anzac, in which Neil and 34 other members of the 11th Battalion, all killed in action on 1 August 1915, are buried in consecutively-numbered plots.

the detective. We spent many convivial evenings together on the terrace of ‘The Gallipoli Houses’ watching the sun set over Third Ridge, imbibing local wine, sharing Gallipoli stories and eating lovely food. We have remained friends ever since, courtesy of social media.

Fast forward to 2023 when William started sharing posts from an epic 12,500 kilometre road trip he was making west from Melbourne. This trip fortuitously included a stopover at Sandstone where he very kindly made enquiries for us about memorials to the Sandstone men who died in Gallipoli. We already knew that in spite of a relatively large number of young men lost from this district, Sandstone is one of the few small country towns in Australia that does not have a war memorial, but we hoped there might be a memorial board or plaque somewhere. William met with the Sandstone Shire president who took him to the shire offices where he photographed the memorial board. There sure enough was the name of Neil Scott together with thirty other men who lost their lives in the Great War.

We have been unable to establish what became of his father John and mother Annie after Neil’s death. Their last known address was in Maylands, Perth, in 1922.

While it was initially sad that the pill box ended up on eBay, as do so many once-treasured family mementos, its purchase helped give us a personal insight into one young soldier’s service on the Peninsula and it is now a much treasured part of our Gallipoli collection. *See photographs page 30.*

### Sources

*Sandstone From Gold to Wool and Back Again - A District History* by Sally L Senior. Published by the Shire of Sandstone, Western Australia ISBN 0646 23298 3

*A Fortunate Life* by A B Facey. Published by Penguin Books ISBN 0 1400 8167 4

*Game to the Last – The 11th Australian Infantry Battalion at Gallipoli* by James Hurst. Published by Big Sky Publishing ISBN 978-1-921941-13-9

State Library of Western Australia - Outback Family History Department

National Archives of Australia

*Official History of Australia in the war of 1914-1918 Volumes 1 & 2. The Story of Anzac* by Charles Bean  
Published by The Naval and Military Press ISBN 978-1-78331-328-0 and 329-7

## A PRISONER’S LETTER

Angora, Turkey 5 May 1917

Dear Sir,

I received your letter re money sent to New Zealand prisoners, and notification of suspension of despatch of parcels. Am pleased to inform you that we are getting plenty of money now, although we are never told by the authorities here how much we are entitled to, or when we are to get it.

Have never received any money from the American Embassy, except payments which all British prisoners have received in the different camps I have been in. From

December, 1915, to October, 1916, I received about 1,100 piastres. Since coming to Angora in October, 1916, up till to-day, I have drawn 1,280 piastres. Of the money sent by you through International Red Cross, I have had four sums amounting to 1284 piastres. All payments are made in Turkish notes.

The boots, clothing, and I think all the food parcels sent by you up to Christmas having arrived, I am now fairly well off. The medicines sent in October have now arrived in a parcel marked 44. The people of Napier's two parcels have also arrived.

I am in the best health, but regret to say am the only New Zealander left in the camp, Private J. Bussell, 10/1964, of Wellington Battn., and Trooper C. Bowen, of Auckland Mounted Regiment, having died. Troopers Saunders and McLeod, Auckland Mounted Regiment, of a neighbouring camp, have also died.

I wish to thank you, and hope to have an early opportunity of thanking all the others for their interest and kindness shown towards me whilst a prisoner of war.

- Yours very faithfully, J. P. HAVARD, 10/564.

Private 10/564 Jonas Palfrey Havard, 7th (Wellington West Coast) Company, Wellington Battalion, NZEF, was born 11 May 1887 in Bridge Sollers, Herefordshire. He was reported 'missing, believed killed' at Gallipoli on 8th August 1915. On that day Wellington West Coast Company placed two covering parties in old Turkish gun pits well down the inland slope of Chunuk Bair. Most of the men in the outposts were killed or wounded when the posts were driven in during the great Turkish attack that developed there, and those wounded were captured.

The American Embassy in Constantinople reported on 24 August that Private Havard was a prisoner of war in Maltepe Hospital, wounded in both hands, and with a gunshot wound to the face that had resulted in the loss of his right eye.

When the armistice with Turkey was signed he was repatriated, arriving in Alexandria on 5 November 1918, and from there to the UK for eye treatment. He married Violet Winifred Pritchard in Cannock, Hertfordshire, early in 1919, and on 13 September embarked for New Zealand.

Private Havard was discharged from the NZEF on 5 December 1919. He died of heart failure on 16 July 1935, aged 48.



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## SEDBERGH SCHOOL VISIT TO TURKEY 2023

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### **Rupert Follett, Head of History, Sedbergh School**

Sedbergh History and Classics Departments took 16 Year 10 pupils to Turkey at the start of the Easter holidays in 2023. The trip was a great success and was a memorable week. After arriving in Istanbul and setting into the hotel, we walked out to the 600-year-old Galata Tower. Here we were able to gaze upon Istanbul by night. The next day was a full day in Istanbul, with highlights including the Golden Gate castle, visiting the enormous Hagia Sophia mosque, the Hippodrome and Roman cisterns. Pupils also started to hone their haggling technique in the street food markets and the bazaars. From Istanbul the tour moved south to the port city of Çanakkale. Watching a pod of dolphins in the Marmaris Sea from the coach was an awesome sight. Çanakkale in Asian Turkey was to be our base for the next three nights. Beautiful sunny weather encouraged the pupils to swim in the sea, much to the amusement of the locals who said it was far too cold for swimming.

Early the following morning, we boarded the ferry for the short trip from Asia back to Europe for a full day at the Gallipoli battlefield sites. Starting at Anzac Cove where the Australians and New Zealanders landed on 25 April 1915, we worked our way up the hillside visiting trenches and cemeteries. We were able to visit the grave of Old Sedberghian Thomas Evans in Shrapnel Valley Cemetery and pay our respects.



There exists a story in the school archives that Thomas Evans, whilst exploring the fells around Sedbergh, rescued a fellow pupil that had fallen into a fast-flowing ghyll and had suffered a broken arm. Evans carried the boy some three miles back to school. In tribute, before we left for Gallipoli, a handful of pebbles from the same ghyll was collected and placed by Evans' grave.



For many pupils the proximity of trenches at Johnson's Jolly and the tiny flat area of The Nek were real highlights. There was a sobering moment as we stood at Lone Pine cemetery and looked at 14-year-old Australian soldier Jim Martin's headstone. Eventually we reached the heights of Chunuk Bair and stared down at the Dardanelles.

On a beautiful evening we crossed back to Asia. A short sea swim, more amused locals and then dinner in a local restaurant rounded off an outstanding day.

The following morning, we drove to Troy. Our guide was excellent in helping us to make sense of the site. Time was the most impressive factor. Thousands of years of history were on show, some of it beautifully preserved. Most of the site is still unexcavated. The museum contained priceless pieces such as 4,000 year old vases, intact statues and gold. Returning to Istanbul next day, we cruised on the Bosphorus, visited the Grand Bazaar and had a final supper of fresh sea bream in an Istanbul fish restaurant.

The weather had been perfect for most of the week. Snow on the final morning as we headed to the airport reminded us how fortunate we had been and what a different trip it would have been if we had not enjoyed clear blue skies.

## 2nd Lieutenant Thomas Hatfield Evans

3rd Battalion Australian Imperial Force

Served in the Anglo-Boer War with 1st Leicester Mounted Infantry (Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry), and with the 5th Irish Volunteers.

"The Battalion was perhaps unfortunately placed in the landing, in so far that it was among those troops who stepped ashore in broad daylight. The Turkish surprise had more or less petered out after the initial shock of the 3rd Brigade's heroic storming of the heights, so that our men fell soon and swiftly. The early casualties included that fine master of detail, Capt. Ron Burns, Battalion Adjutant; Major C.E. Leer, Capt. J.C. Wilson, and Lieut. Evans. The latter prior to the landing had received his commission and had been put in charge of the Machine Guns. It was said in respect of Evans' performance that he was recommended for the V.C."<sup>1</sup>

Queen's South Africa Medal & 4 Clasps.

Mentioned in despatches

Corps Complimentary for conspicuous gallantry or valuable service.



1. Moore, Lt. Col. D T 'Heavy Losses: 3rd Battalion's Baptism' *Reveille* 31 March 1931 p48.



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## FRENCH COMMEMORATION AT GALLIPOLI

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**Bernard de Broglio**

Like Britain and her dominions, France honoured her fallen when she returned to the Gallipoli Peninsula as an occupying force in 1918. About 10,000 of the *corps expéditionnaire d'Orient* (CEO) had been killed in action during the campaign.

On 27 November 1918, the French general Louis Franchet d'Espèrey entered Seddul-Bahr (Seddülbahir). He was the commander-in-chief of the Allied Salonika army that had broken through the Macedonian front and forced the Ottoman Empire to seek an armistice. As French and British troops occupied the Gallipoli Peninsula, Franchet d'Espèrey ordered his men to locate and put in order the battlefield graves of their comrades. Companies of the 45th Regiment of Infantry began work the following month.

A large number of French cemeteries, ossuaries and monuments – ‘planned, in progress and proposed’ – are shown in a sketch map dated 9 November 1919. The cemeteries and memorials stretch right across the French sector at the southern tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The plan was drawn up in Constantinople by the director of works for French cemeteries at the Dardanelles, Lieutenant Colonel Lardant.

No fewer than 13 cemeteries are shown on Lardant's sketch map. By comparison, the Imperial War Graves Commission consolidated British and dominion burials at Helles into six. However, some of the French cemeteries were modest; the smallest contained only five graves. Most appear to have been wartime burial grounds, extended perhaps with remains taken from isolated graves nearby, and formally established with a boundary fence, entrance portico and memorial.

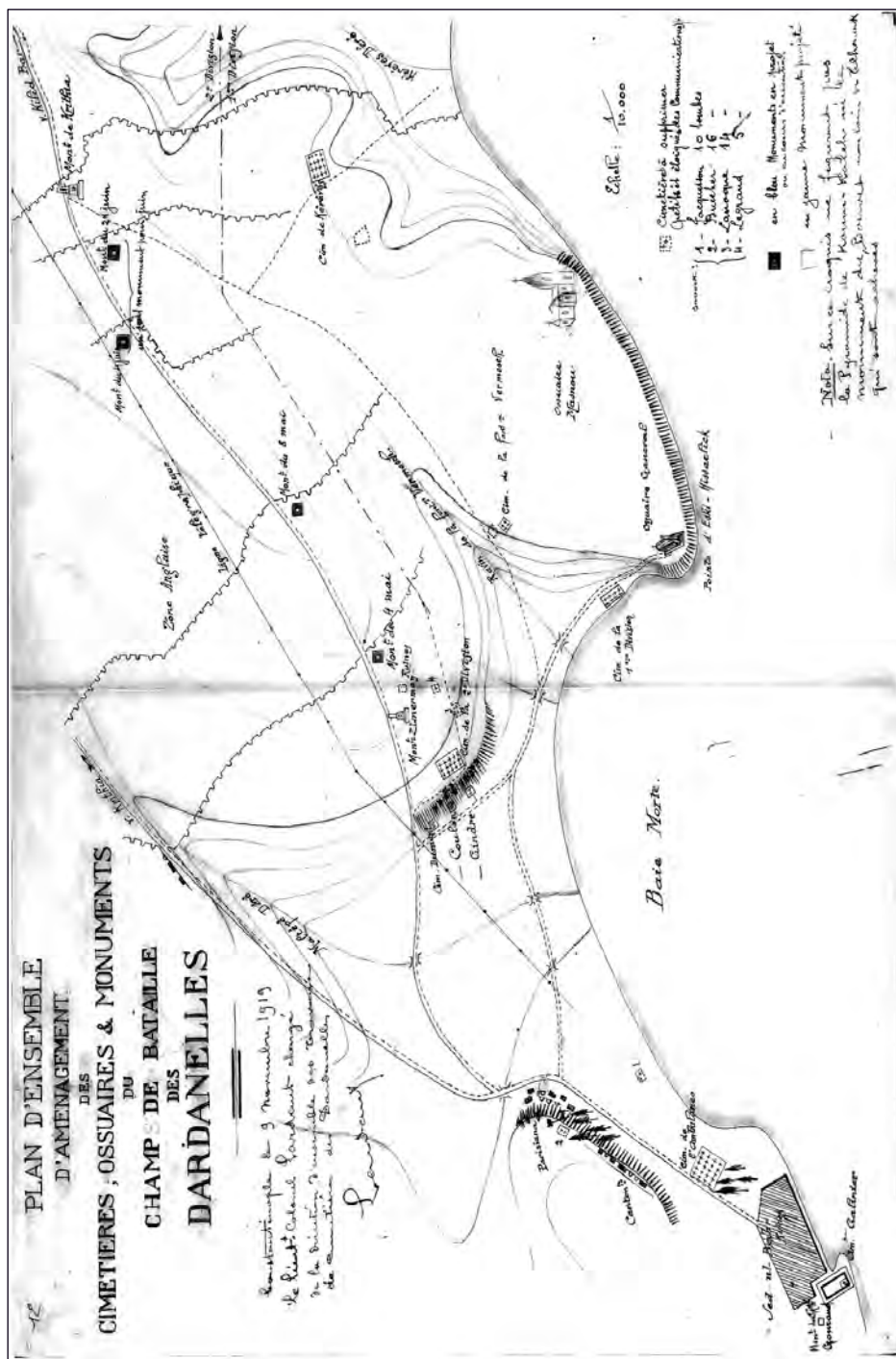
One of those wartime burial grounds was the field ambulance cemetery, located just outside the village of Seddul-Bahr. We have a description from an Ottoman soldier who saw it in April 1916.

The graves of the French and the Muslims from Algeria and Senegal are separate.

Each Muslim grave has a marker with the name, hometown and phrase ‘Mort au champ d'honneur.’ There are also crosses on French graves with the phrase ‘Mort pour la France.’ The graves are arranged in an orderly manner. The words ‘major’ and ‘general’ appear on some of them.

It is helpful to cross-reference Lardant's 1919 map with the so-called Şevki Paşa maps, named for the Ottoman general who directed a topographic survey of the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1916 after the evacuation of the Allied expeditionary force. The Şevki Paşa maps record man-made features, like trenches and wells, but also cemeteries. They show 12 burial grounds in the French sector. In most cases, these correlate with cemeteries shown on Lardant's 1919 map.

As well as cemeteries, the French army built two large ossuaries to house bones collected from the battlefield. *Ossuaire Ganeval* and *Ossuaire Masnou* were named



Lardant's sketch map, dated 1919, showing works planned, in progress and proposed. Image: Henri Gouraud papers, 399PAAP/88, *Archives diplomatiques du ministère des Affaires étrangères* (La Courneuve, Paris).

for two French generals killed at Helles during the campaign. Both ossuaries were sited atop Eski Hissarlik, the imposing headland at the entrance to the Dardanelles. Undoubtedly, many of the bones housed in the ossuaries were French, but the grim harvest must have contained many Ottoman and perhaps some British dead too, for they also fought over this ground.



Masnou ossuary on Eski Hissarlik. Above the entrance is a quotation from Victor Hugo that is now enshrined in the wall of remembrance in the French military cemetery.

Image: Serpil and Bill Sellars collection.

Interestingly, on Lardant's 1919 plan, the Masnou ossuary appears to be a great church-like structure. From its dominant position on the cliff-top, just north of today's Turkish *Abide* memorial, the cross would have been visible to every ship passing through the Dardanelles and, more confrontationally, to locals of Muslim faith. Its final form was less overtly Christian.

Lardant's plan also shows monuments to mark important locations and events. Among these are three monuments sited at points on the French front lines of May and June 1915, culminating in the *Monument de Krithia*, an obelisk some four metres tall, placed at the point of furthest advance (see photo page 18).

Not shown on Lardant's map are two monuments on the Asia Minor shore. One was planned for Kumkale, where the French landed on 25 April 1915 in a diversionary attack (little is known about this monument). The other was erected on Erenköy Bay where the pre-dreadnought battleship *Bouvet* was sunk.

In August 1919, a French army photographer, Pierre Roger Le Baron (1887–1934),



'Sedd-Ui-Bahr. Cimetière de l'ambulance numéro 2.' This cemetery was located at the northern entrance to Seddul-Bahr village.

Image: Pierre Roger Le Baron, ECPAD/Défense SPA 7 AO 2215.

produced an invaluable pictorial record of the work being done to commemorate the fallen. His photographs depict 12 cemeteries. Of these, two are the plots that make up the *Cimetière ambulance*, and one a cemetery outside the French sector, the Anglo-French cemetery at Kilid Bahr.

Le Baron also photographed the monument to General Henri Gouraud, commander of the CEO from 15 May until the end of June. A small obelisk was erected beside Seddul-Bahr castle where shell-fire wounded Gouraud on 30 June 1915, who subsequently lost his right arm (the base is still extant but perhaps not for much longer).

General Gouraud visited the Gallipoli Peninsula in April 1921 and toured each cemetery and ossuary in turn (*see photo page 16*). His visit was recorded by the French weekly magazine *L'Illustration*, whose report included photographs of the two ossuaries, the 1st Division cemetery, the Gouraud memorial, and the naval memorial (*Monument de la Marine*) at V Beach, inaugurated by Gouraud during this visit.

A map accompanies the article in *L'Illustration*. It shows just six cemeteries in 1921, whereas Lardant's 1919 map has 13. The map may be more indicative than comprehensive, but it is possible that some of the smaller cemeteries were by then concentrated into the larger burial grounds. Also shown on the map are the two ossuaries, and three of the monuments (Gouraud, naval and furthest advance).

The author of the article, Jean Norill, was impressed by the ingenuity shown in constructing the cemeteries and ossuaries, using just the detritus of the battlefield.





General Gouraud lays a palm during the ceremony in 1930 to inaugurate the memorial.

Image: *Association nationale des groupements d'anciens combattants des Dardanelles.*

Crosses were forged from barbed wire stakes, and each man's name and rank was inscribed on a copper plaque made from shell casings. Officers' graves were bounded by barbed wire and pickets, other ranks with brick sawtooth edging. Sandy paths had been laid, and irises and pines planted. Stone pillars, linked by black-painted Decauville railway track and surmounted by whitewashed cannon-balls, enclosed the burial grounds (the stone missiles had been found in great numbers in the castle of Seddul-Bahr). Doors were improvised from corrugated iron sheets.

The walls and porticos of the cemeteries shone bright against the blue of the Aegean sky; likewise the two great ossuaries that were said to contain the bones of 12,000 men. These, wrote Norill, were the work of two lieutenants, Lebrun and Colin, aided by two civilian workmen, a company of Senegalese and a few soldiers of the occupying force who wanted to pay tribute to their fallen comrades.

Meanwhile, a monumental staircase, lined by heavy calibre shells connected by chains, ascended from Morto Bay to the Zimmermann Cemetery, in a dominating position above the *Falaise des oliviers* (olive tree bluff) and clearly visible from the sea. The Zimmerman Cemetery seems to date after 1919, for it is not shown on Lardant's map. It is probably the genesis of the modern French cemetery, whose stairs down to Morto Bay may date to this period.

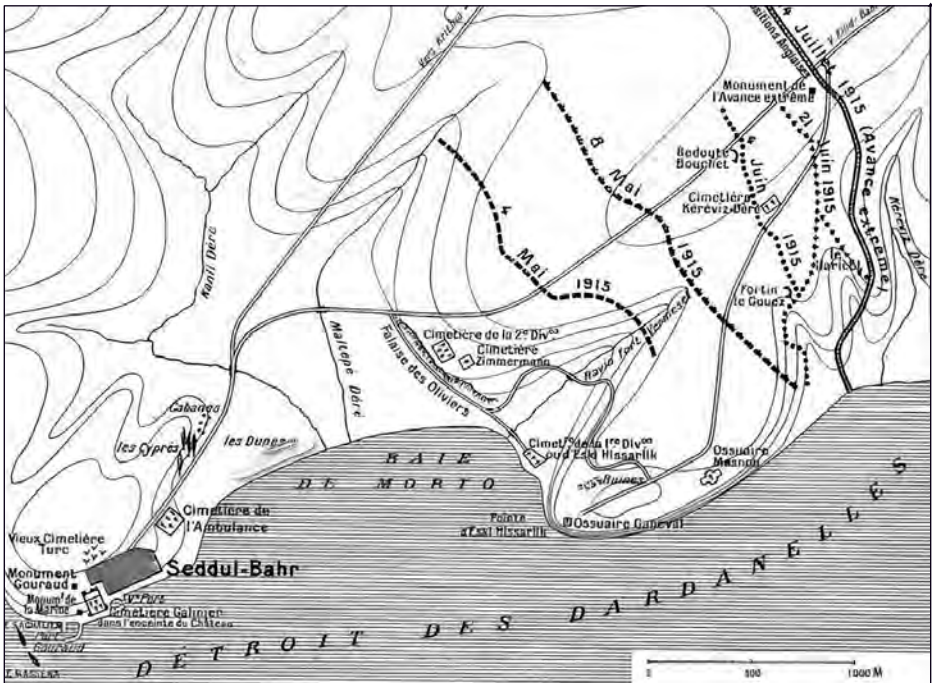
In 1922, some named burials were repatriated to France. The war ministry enabled families to claim the remains of their men, and expedited their transfer home.



Later that year, in September 1922, the French occupation force quit the Gallipoli Peninsula. Mustafa Kemal's nationalist army had defeated the Greeks in Anatolia, entered Smyrna (İzmir) and were now threatening the Dardanelles. Britain retained Chanak (Çanakkale) as an outpost and garrisoned the peninsula, but the French had no quarrel with Kemal; in fact, they wanted to do business with him.

In 1923, the Treaty of Lausanne formally concluded the conflict that existed between the Allied Powers and the Ottoman Empire, which was now succeeded by the Republic of Turkey (Türkiye). The Allied Powers withdrew from Constantinople and the Gallipoli Peninsula. But as part of the treaty, the British empire and France were granted in perpetuity the land upon which their cemeteries, ossuaries and memorials were found. Nevertheless, France chose to consolidate their expansive commemoration within a single site. The reason is not known to the author. An economy, to save money on upkeep, or a card played in negotiation with the new Turkish government?

In 1923, under the direction of Mr André George, work began on the single necropolis that is familiar to visitors to Helles today. The Cimetière militaire français brought together all graves on the Gallipoli Peninsula, as well as those on the island bases of Lemnos and Tenedos (Bozcaada). The sole French burial in the Christian cemetery



‘The battlefield, cemeteries and monuments at the Dardanelles.’

Image: *L'Illustration*, 16 April 1921, no. 4076, p338.

at Chanak was probably moved here at this time too. The new, single cemetery comprised 2,234 named graves and four ossuaries.

As the burials and ossuaries were consolidated, so too were the plaques from the various memorials across the French sector. Twenty slabs were removed from the old memorials and set within a *Mur de souvenir* (wall of remembrance), completed in 1926. The altar and holy water fonts from the Masnou ossuary were placed in front of the wall of remembrance.

The final piece to be added was at the request of French Gallipoli veterans. Too often French ships entering the Dardanelles had mistakenly saluted the British memorial at Cape Helles or the dazzlingly-white but now-empty French ossuaries above Eski Hissarlik. The veterans' national society, the *Association nationale des*



*Monument de Krithia*, marking the furthest point of French advance. It was located just off the modern-day road between Alçıtepe (Krithia) and the Turkish *Abide* monument, 400 metres south of bridge crossing Achi Baba Nullah.

The inscription seen in this photo reads

‘A NOUS LE SOUVENIR, A EUX L’IMMORTALITE’

Image: Pierre Roger Le Baron, ECPAD/Défense SPA 7 AO 2234.

*Groupements d'anciens combattants des Dardanelles*, successfully lobbied the government and the director of military graves to build a 22.5 metre column that would be visible from two kilometres out to sea, no matter the time of day or position of the sun.

Mr André George, under whose direction the cemetery had been built, was charged with the tower's design. He hit upon an elegant solution. What appears from afar to be a tall column is in fact made up of four superimposed shafts with square, octagonal and cruciform cross-sections. These edge the whitewashed tower with shadows no matter the time of day. A series of dark niches cut from the tower further aid visibility. At its summit, four lenticular cabochons, seen as a cross from above, reflecting the sun and moon, act as a beacon for the dead. The tower was built by Turkish and Italian workers using reinforced concrete.

To inaugurate the tower and wall of remembrance, a great pilgrimage was organised by the French veterans. On 9 June 1930, four ships anchored off Morto Bay and disembarked some 800 travellers. Among them were General Gouraud, General Albert d'Amade (first commander of the Gallipoli expeditionary corps) and Admiral Émile Guépratte (who had led the French naval squadron at the Dardanelles in the first months of the campaign). Representing the Turkish army were Colonel Zeki Bey and commandant Fassih Bey. The mass was celebrated by Father Eusebius, himself a veteran of the Dardanelles expedition. Later, wreaths were laid in the sea where the battleship *Bouvet* had been sunk and 643 lives lost. Among that party was Mme Rageot de La Touche, the widow of the *Bouvet's* captain.

Today, the French military cemetery contains 2,257 graves (2,241 named) and five ossuaries (at some point, an ossuary at Kilid Bahir was moved here). The wall of remembrance enshrines 22 plaques, one in bronze remembering the 1930 pilgrimage, the rest from earlier cemeteries, ossuaries and memorials. The black metal crosses hark back to those improvised from barbed wire stakes, while many of the whitewashed cannon-balls must be original. Also representing that early period of commemoration are 42 stone steles that once marked individual graves on the battlefield. *See photograph page 29.*

Meanwhile, you can still find fragments of the old French monuments in the landscape. There are clearly-identifiable structures in the fields west of today's cemetery, and north around Zimmerman Farm. Particularly poignant is a small column, mostly intact and bounded by four posts, standing lonely in the woods (see photo page 31). One face of the column bears four holes to which the plaque, now presumably in the modern cemetery, was fixed.

The author, working with Bill Sellars and Emre Özmen, has established a website to document sites of French commemoration, and connect these with traces that are still visible in the landscape. The website also lists burials in the present-day French cemetery.

Please visit:

<https://sites.google.com/norestforthewicked.net/french-commemoration-gallipoli>

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- 'Cimetière militaire français de Seddülbahir', booklet produced by the French embassy in Ankara for the centenary of the campaign, 2015

## Endnotes

1. The corps expéditionnaire d'Orient (CEO) became the corps expéditionnaire des Dardanelles (CED) on 4 October 1915. The French completed their evacuation on 9 January 1916.
2. 'Plan d'ensemble d'aménagement des Cimetieres, Ossuaires & Monuments du Champ de Bataille des Dardanelles', Papiers Henri Gouraud 399PAAP/88 Dossier 1, Archives diplomatiques (La Courneuve, Paris).
3. Perhaps Paul Auguste Lardant (1872–1933).
4. Eyüp Durukan, edited by Murat Uluğtekin, *Günlüklerde Bir Ömür* vol. III: Çanakkale'den Mondros'a, 1915-1918.
5. The French association for Gallipoli veterans was established in 1920. Soon after, the defence ministry authorised serving personnel to join. By 1931, the association had 3,000 members and eight branches in mainland France and North Africa. In 1926, the association successfully lobbied the government to issue a Dardanelles medal to veterans of the campaign.
6. Both officers were certainly veterans of WWI and maybe even Gallipoli. 'Zeki Bey' is probably not Ahmet Zeki Soydemir (1883–1954), battalion commander at Gallipoli who accompanied Charles Bean on the peninsula in 1919. 'Fasih Bey' may be Mehmet Fasih Kayabalı, who fought at Gallipoli with the 47th Regiment and wrote the excellent 'Lone Pine diary'.
7. In 2015, according to a memorial booklet produced for the centenary by the French embassy in Turkey, there were 2,240 named graves in the cemetery. In 2022, a further 17 men (one named) were transferred to the cemetery after their remains were found during archaeological work at Seddülbahir castle. The original typewritten lists of burials kept at the cemetery were said to be found in poor condition and are now kept at the French embassy in Ankara. Apparently the lists contain numerous typing and transcribing errors and may not be complete.
8. Another stele can be seen in the garden of the informal Ahmet Uslu museum in Seddülbahir village. Two further stele were seen by the authors at the bottom of Eski Hissarlık in 2022 and reported to the local authorities.

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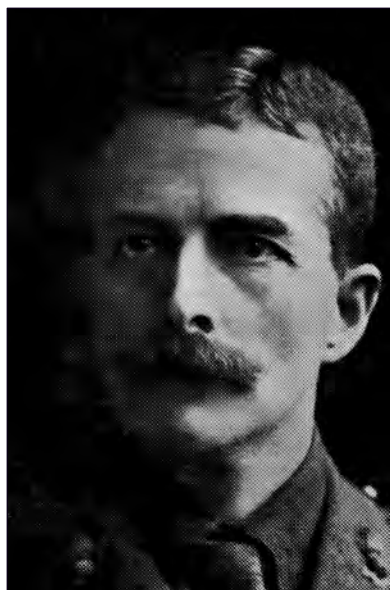
## LIEUTENANT COLONEL G B HINGSTON, RE

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### John Dixon

Lieutenant Colonel Hingston was the CRE of the 29th Division when it landed at Helles on 25 April 1915. As the senior engineer for the division he was responsible for the work of three territorial force field companies RE, providing engineering support for the regular division. Shortly after the landing Hingston set out some general instructions to clarify his expectations of his officers and men:

1. When any portion of a company is detached for any particular duty the OC will satisfy himself before the party moved off that it is in possession of all tools and stores required for the performance of that duty.
2. An RE store will be formed at the advance base. Lists of stores available therein have already been given to O's C companies.
3. OC units must anticipate their requirements early; all indents for such stores must be sent to the CRE.
4. It is essential that all RE work should be carried out as quickly as possible. The only method of ensuring speed with the greatest efficiency is by careful consideration beforehand by the officer in charge and the organisation of his working parties so that each man is fully employed all the time. If necessary the officer should go ahead and prepare his scheme sufficiently to enable him to employ the men fully on arrival, the details of the scheme, the order can then be worked out. From the above it will be evident that the supervision of the men will frequently fall entirely on the NCO's
5. It is the duty of the OC unit to see that no (men) are detailed for any work than (are) absolutely necessary for it.
6. It cannot be too forcibly impressed on all ranks that the duty for the RE at all times is to help other arms in every way. It is a maxim of the Corps never to avoid doing anything that may be asked of it on service.
7. Part II RE training lays down the principles of the Engineers in war.
8. Reports on the progress of works will be frequently rendered to the CRE invariably giving him the probable time of completion. All returns and states will be sent to the CRE unless specifically asked to be sent direct.<sup>1</sup>





Whilst this made things clear for the men under his command things did not always go the way he wanted in the firing line and he was to record in the War Diary:

OC Lowland Field Co reported that he was ordered by GOC of Lancashire Fusiliers Brigade to dig in the firing line, in doing this most of the night they lost 1 officer and several men. This is not RE work, infantry have to dig themselves in assisted in the lay out etc. by RE. Reported this to CSO who said he would issue an order to prevent this in future. Ordered OC Lowland Field Co to inform me of any such orders in the future and to refer the officer giving the order to me.<sup>2</sup>

It is clear from these two extracts from the War Diary that Lieutenant Colonel Hingston was a thorough professional soldier and engineer.

George Bennett Hingston was born at Liskeard, Cornwall, on 1st November 1867, the son of Richard and Elizabeth Mary Hingston. He was educated at Bedford Grammar School before entering the Royal Military Academy and from there he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1887. Shortly after he was posted to India and promotions arrived at regular intervals during the posting. He was wounded in action during the Tirah Campaign on the Northwest Frontier in 1897 when his horse was shot from under him. Hingston remained in India and in 1910, then a major, was appointed Assistant Director of Military Works, Simla (Shimla). In this senior capacity, and as personal assistant to the director of military works, he attended the Delhi Durbar of 1911. In October 1914 he was ordered to return to Britain, with promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, and to prepare for active service overseas. After a few months at the depot at Chatham he was appointed CRE of the newly formed 29th Division and departed with that division when it left for the Dardanelles.

In the immediate aftermath of the landings at Helles, Hingston used his experience and engineering ability to organise and direct the engineers falling under his command. He was frequently in forward positions ensuring that the engineers' work was carried out to his satisfaction and to the best of their ability.

Lieutenant Colonel Hingston landed on W Beach, together with the 1/2nd London Field Company RE, at approximately 6:30 am on 25th April and immediately began organising the RE work for this beach and for V and S Beaches where other RE units of the division had landed and were reporting to him. Early work comprised clearing barbed wire and constructing causeways and barrel piers to allow stores to be landed. Much of this work was underway by 7:30 am. Two days later, in the afternoon, he was to record in the War Diary:

When I was supervising work on the main road to KRITHIA, men came back from the firing line saying the line was broken and wounded men were each accompanied by several unwounded, these I ordered back again. About 3.40 a wounded officer came and said that reinforcements and ammunition were

<sup>1</sup> TNA, WO95/4307, War Diary CRE, 29th Division, Appendix for May 1915. See also: Dixon, J A *Vital Endeavour* (Warwick, Helion & Co, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> TNA, WO95/4307, War Diary CRE, 29th Division, 6th May.

very urgently needed or the enemy would be through, I then collected all the RE working near, about 2 sections each of Lowland and West Riding companies, roughly 130 men, and marched them up to the trench near point 200 on the main road to KRITHIA, extended them there, collected men returning to the line and assisted Colonels SMITH and GODFRAY FAUSSETT Essex Regiment to stop, extend and get dug in the groups coming back all along the front and to extend the line to the left flank. Colonel SMITH brought two guns up to this line which caused it to receive considerable attention from enemy's shrapnel. These RE were out in the trenches all night, which was very wet, until 5.30 am on 29th; they went up from their work on the road with only their arms and ammunition. This delayed work on the road and bridge.<sup>3</sup>

This entry shows the willingness of Hingston to lead from the front not only to keep the engineers working but also to assist the infantry when he could. After just a few days on the peninsula he also made a brief comment in the War Diary to show he was happy with the way the men had performed under fire:

The Field Companies RE (T) worked practically continuously day and night on the 25th and 26th and long hours on the other days. I was pleased with their keenness and willingness to undertake any work while their conduct under fire was all that could be desired.<sup>4</sup>

During the following weeks Hingston was busy with his command, visiting various Brigade HQ's to ensure that their needs were met and frequently going forward to inspect works in progress and setting a standard for all his officers and men to follow. Hingston also began to examine the possibility for mining, setting up listening galleries and searching for the best men to begin mining, although at this stage it was in its infancy on the peninsula because of the "paucity of skilled miners". To assist the work he arranged for 20 former miners from the 2nd South Wales Borderers to be attached to his sappers. Besides the effort expended in mining listening galleries he lists six specific areas of engineering work requiring immediate daily attention:

- Construction and maintenance of miles of road.
- Construction and maintenance of jetties.
- Night wiring and improving trenches.
- Making and teaching use of hand grenades.
- Making observation posts
- Making sign boards, periscopes and dugouts.

In addition to these he also points out that:

The supply of water for men and animals had been a difficult one both around HQ and at the front but arrangements have up to date always been made to give a reasonable amount to all. Existing wells, which are dotted about the

<sup>3</sup> TNA, WO95/4307, War Diary CRE, 29th Division, 28th April.

<sup>4</sup> TNA, WO95/4307, War Diary CRE, 29th Division, 30th April.

country have facilitated the supply though at first our front was not far enough advanced for these to be used. Water for men near the beach has been obtained from a spring in the cliff being collected and pumped up into tanks; the fighting troops could after the first few days get plenty from wells near their lines.<sup>5</sup>

The supply of water was to become an increasingly difficult job for the engineers as the campaign progressed and was never solved adequately at any of the beachheads in spite of considerable effort expended in providing tanks, water ships and later the boring of deep wells.

During the Third Battle of Krithia, Lieutenant Colonel Hingston went forward to both inspect and understand the works being carried out by the engineers. According to the War Diary at 4:00 pm on 5th June he left his headquarters stating that he would not return that night, expecting to spend it visiting his now dispersed units in and around the front line. A major of one of the field companies wrote:

I had been with him for six nights running, supervising and arranging work which could only be done at night. He left me with some sappers to do some other Royal Engineer work. Soon after this work was commenced, a large body of Turks, estimated to be about 2,000, came out of their trenches without arms, conveying the idea that they wanted to surrender. They have played this trick on us before, suddenly producing hand bombs when they get near our trenches. Our troops, the 29th Division, who by this time were very much reduced in strength and were taking no risks, opened fire. A large body of Turks then attacked under cover of these people without arms, and our line was broken. Several regiments fell back. It should be noted that there were very few officers in all those regiments. Colonel Hingston, knowing that it is never policy to retreat, as more men are lost that by standing fast, and hoping to recapture the lost trenches, called for a bayonet charge and himself took command. A conspicuous figure with the red staff band of the 29th Division, he was an early target, and he fell shot through the neck. The trenches lost were retaken. I never met a braver man.<sup>6</sup>

Lieutenant Colonel Hingston was removed from the battlefield and transferred to Alexandria where he died of his wounds on 16th June 1915. He was buried in Chatby Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria.

Hingston had married Kathleen Gertrude Jones in 1906 and they had three young children at the time of his death.<sup>7</sup> His service in India was not forgotten and a memorial plaque was placed in Christchurch, Shimla by "his friends and brother officers." Hingston's younger brother by three years, Major Edward Hingston, served with the 54th Field Company RE in France and was killed by a sniper's bullet while on duty in a forward area, on 28th March 1915.

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<sup>5</sup> TNA, WO95/4307, War Diary CRE, 29th Division, during the Third Battle of Krithia 1st May.

<sup>6</sup> *Bond of Sacrifice*. Vol II, p225.

<sup>7</sup> De Ruvigny, *Roll of Honour*, Vol II.

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## NEW ZEALAND SOLDIER'S ANZAC CHRONICLE

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(By Sergeant 'X')

### Part 2 (continued from *The Gallipolian* No 161)

The original account that follows, by an unidentified soldier of the NZEF, appeared in serialised form across five issues of the *Auckland Star* in April and May 1916. Though the writer is not identified, clues in the text suggest that he was a member of the 15th (North Auckland) Company, Auckland Infantry Battalion. — Editor.

[The value of this record lies in the fact that it is the actual story of memorable events on the Gallipoli Peninsula as written on the spot by one who participated in, or was an eye-witness of the most stirring occurrences. Nothing at all approaching this in stern realism and vividness of impression, nor any story so detailed and consecutive, has yet been published. — Editor 'Star']

**Wednesday, May 5, 1915.** To-day was rather an eventful one, the opening incident being the shelling of our support trenches by our own guns, the elevation of a 5in howitzer having dropped, thus causing seven or eight big shells to tear into our trenches, wounding six men before the error was rectified. Then it became dangerous to venture on to the road that ran along behind our trenches and down into the valley, as the Turks had contrived to get a machine gun trained on it, and just sniped anyone who ventured to stand on or walk along it. This fire (enfilading) was deadly, but was so cautiously worked that we couldn't locate it exactly, and didn't suspect it of being produced by a machine gun. Several got wounded, among them being Barney Billings. A number of officers were also picked off.

About midday we were ordered to move out of the trenches, being replaced by the Royal Marine Light Infantry. Both they and we had to cross the 'sniped' road, and, when the move had been well begun, and the troops were pouring in at one end and out at the other end of the trenches, the Turkish machine gun opened at full speed. What a harvest it got! The road was littered with dead (including the major of the Marines), and the hillside hid dozens of wounded as they scrambled painfully into cover. Alex. Eagleton, Alf. Gault and Lieutenant Bodley were hit close beside me. We eventually reassembled on the beach, all being ready at 8 p.m., when we marched on board barges, which were towed out to destroyers, to which were transhipped.

The name of ours was H.M.S. *Beagle*, and about 1 a.m. the boat's nose was turned towards Cape Helles, and off it raced at express speed. The night air, usually cold and chilling, now bit into the marrow as we rushed over the sea, so we crowded into the crew's quarters, the galley, anywhere, for shelter. The Jack Tars (the best of fellows) made hot cocoa for everyone, and gave us of their best eatables, warming and cheering us inexpressibly. When we arrived at Cape Helles we anchored, going ashore just before dawn. Then we saw the huge forts and the immense guns in them, or rather

the ruins which the British battleships had made of them and the village alongside. We marched about four miles through lovely cultivated fields, with evidences of recent splendid crops, or areas green with young oats, and with beautiful [unreadable] of large tree, mulberry, polar, 'cherry', plum, etc. grape vines twining amongst their foliage - really lovely rural scenery. We took position in several lovely fields, the wild, bright red poppy and other luxuriant flowers flourishing gaily everywhere and hanging over our little dug-outs.

**Cape Helles, Friday, May 7.** Yesterday we witnessed a bombardment of the Turkish positions on Achi Baba. The 150 British and French guns, cleverly hidden, began slowly to fire, then increased the rate rapidly till the ground began to tremble and the air quivered with deafening thunder with the fearful crescendos of gun reports; all the landscape seemed to pour forth shells and flame, and everywhere was movement and vivid life, teams galloping with guns, limbers, or wagons. As we ate our lunch we could see the Tommies and French advancing to the top of a ridge under a shower of Turkish shells.

The mountains of Asia Minor and of Turkey, which we can see from here, are heavily covered with snow, and the night air is bitter and piercing cold, getting so miserably numbing towards daylight that at 4 a.m. many of us get up and boil the dixie.

To-day at four o'clock received orders to move off, so marched away out to the coast on the British left flank and up the coast in the direction of Anzac. We did not get far before the Turks poured in the shrapnel, so then we were taken back again till 9 p.m. when we began a two-mile march to some trenches near the famous 'Daisy Patch.' It was seriously impressive - not a sound, as the dark column of figures grimly stepped along in the blackness of the night, treading through fields of poppies, lavenders, or other sweet smelling plants, to be halted whisperingly now and then by British sentry groups.

**'Daisy Patch,' Saturday, May 8.** Our advance was to begin early in the morning, and we were to cover 800 yards of more or less exposed ground before reaching the British fire trenches, over which we were to advance across the 'Daisy Patch' about 300 yards to the Turkish trenches - our objective. At 10.30 a.m. the order to advance was given, and off we started. The scouts, or connecting links, amongst which I was temporarily numbered, dashed Across a 100-yard-long open field under machine-gun fire, with the bullets buzzing spitefully in the air, or biting the dust all about us. We got over this patch safely, in wonderment at not being hit, and then crept up a ditch for a quarter of mile towards the enemy. Leaving this welcome cover we darted across fire-swept open patches, with scanty chance of reaching the other side in safety, eventually passing over the British trenches in an inferno of bullets and dashing for shelter into a shallow drain on our side of the 'Daisy Patch.'

Here we now saw the shattered 3rd Auckland Company, with the piles of dead it had left on that fatal 'Patch,' as all unknowingly it had gone to its doom on that daisy-carpeted field. Two of our boys helped Jimmy Simpson into safety, and then pulled Lieutenant West out of danger, bandaging their injuries, both badly wounded.



Part of the 15th North Auckland Company then appeared to our right, advancing to a clump of pines across a continuation of the 'Daisy Patch,' and as the enemy's numerous machine-guns raked and enfiladed them, we saw them fall in dozens. It was there that Sergeants McGeehan and W. Brydon got hit, with scores more. The other part of the company reached where we were, and, being warned of the 3rd Company's fate, dug temporary defences along the edge of the 'Daisy Patch.'

Here we were ordered to remain till 5.15 p.m., when, after a severe quarter hour's bombardment of the enemy's trenches, a general advance was to be made. At 5 o'clock our ships and batteries opened fire on the Turkish trenches, and a fearful din began, the whole landscape seeming to be studded with roaring guns! The shooting of the artillery was wonderful, the shells bursting, to our great delight, right above, or in the enemy's positions. At 5.15 the charge was ordered, and, with bayonets fixed and gleaming in the sun, we jumped up and, giving ringing cheers, dashed out on to the 'Daisy Patch,' which stretched clean and level 200 yards in front of us, knee deep in glory of daisies.

We got well out on the 'Daisy Patch' unhindered, and began to wonder where the Turks were, when a perfect inferno was let loose in front of us and upon our flanks. Their machine guns and rifles poured a continuous storm of death-hail on us, and down our boys were cut in swathes, littering the pretty field of white daisies like leaves on a lawn in autumn. The insistent, deafening clatter of the enemy's fire beat the lightning time which our seemingly slow footsteps frantically tried to take as our fellow soldiers dropped beside us, and the line thinned down pitifully. It was race with death, for the bullets hissed and buzzed about us like myriads of bees, whilst the ground was beaten to dust. There was no cheering now, only few still ran, and these continued to melt away till but a scattered remnant reached some poor cover near the Turkish trenches. We had lost all our officers – Captain Bartlett and Lieutenants Weir and Fletcher being wounded, and Lieutenants Scream and Steadman being killed, whilst just before reaching cover Colonel Plugge got hit twice, being helped into safety by W. de Andrad, E. Battensby and W. McCraith, who all turned back for that purpose, the two first-named thereupon being hit. Those who did get across gathered into two groups, one at the end of the pine clump on the left, and one further left, close up against the Turkish trenches, the latter one engaging the enemy trench a few yards in front and doing great execution, but losing heavily itself. Here Sergeant J. Gasparich and Corporal Howlett got wounded, besides a dozen others.

Meanwhile reinforcements were trying by sections (about ten or twelve men) to get across the 'Daisy Patch,' but with tragic results. One after another the men would seem to stumble and pitch forward in crumpled heaps, till the last was laid low, when the showers of lead would cease and silence reign till the next section raced to its death, the inferno then again commencing. Ten or eleven times was this heartrending tragedy enacted before our eyes, and now there was very little to be seen of the fair, white daisies, for hundreds of dark, khaki-clad bodies cumbered that sad field.

The isolated groups of New Zealanders were eventually recalled during the night and sent back to a reserve trench. We found that the Auckland Battalion had been almost wiped out, the 3rd and 15th Companies suffering most heavily.

**Cape Helles, Tuesday, May 11, 1915.** Sunday and Monday were spent in gathering and reorganising our forces, the Third Reinforcement arriving on Sunday night. At 8 o'clock this evening we began to move back to the bivouac we had occupied the day we had arrived at Cape Helles. It should have taken us three quarters of an hour, but we were led astray, marching till one o'clock next morning, when we lay down to sleep till dawn, all getting wet through as we lay hour after hour in the heavy rain; then, at daylight, marching for another hour before reaching our destination.

**Sunday, 16th May.** Tuesday till Saturday was devoted to reorganisation and drill, the 15th company consisting of three small platoons. On Thursday a French 75 gun blew to bits about 100 yards from us, fortunately only two men being injured. This morning, at 3 a.m., we marched to the 'W' beach, and were put to road-making till 9 a.m., when we returned, seeing, as we marched back, several warships and numerous smaller vessels steaming up the mouth of the Dardanelles, the former shelling the forts and the latter sweeping for mines, the sea about them being thrown into dozens of geysers as the enemy's shells struck the water.

**'Anzac', Friday, 21st May.** Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were devoted to road-making at 'W' beach, shells constantly falling about us, especially as we marched homewards or rested in our bivouacs. The 15th company had only just been relieved by the 6th when a 6-inch shell from the Asia Minor mobile howitzer batteries hit the rocks on which they were working, and blew five men to pieces. On Tuesday, whilst returning from the beach, a shrapnel shell got us, hitting Corporals Lawson and Berry. Dozens of our boys and Tommies were wounded in or about our dugouts, horses being killed everywhere.

On Wednesday night we marched to the 'Y' beach, where we boarded several mine-sweepers and were taken back to Anzac, disembarking there at 10 a.m. on Thursday morning. Major Bailey [OC 15th (North Auckland) Coy. - ed.] was shot as we neared shore by a bullet from the Turkish trenches.




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Major Robert Horatio Roy Bayly, KIA 20 May 1915.

**"Major Bailey [sic] was killed by a shot from a stray bullet, fired from the shore which struck him in the head as we came back on a trawler from Cape Helles. He had been a sick man for a long time before he was killed. A shot from the Queen Elizabeth landed in one of our trenches and killed a couple of men, and Major Bailey received a shock which would have thoroughly justified him in going into hospital."**



The French military cemetery, Seddul-Bahr. Image: Serpil and Bill Sellars. See pages 12 - 20.





Shell Green Cemetery, Anzac.  
Photos this page see pages 4 - 8.



Sandstone, Western Australia  
Honour Roll, including Neil Scott.



The Pill Box.



Remains of a French memorial in the woods near Zimmerman Farm. Image: Bernard de Broglio.  
See pages 12 - 20.



Memorial plaque, Lieutenant Colonel G B Hingston, in Christchurch, Shimla, India.  
See pages 21 - 24.





History students from the Charter School, North Dulwich, who spoke at the Gallipoli Association annual conference about their bursary trip to the peninsula. See pages 49-50 and the article on the trip in *The Gallipolian* No 162 pp 25-28.



Thomas Iredale recounting the exploits of Lt Cdr Otto Hersing and his *U21* known as the 'Saviour of the Dardanelles.'



Playwright Arthur Meek speaking the words of George Skerret of the Otago Battalion.



Director Ismail Kaşdemir of the Gallipoli Historic Site.

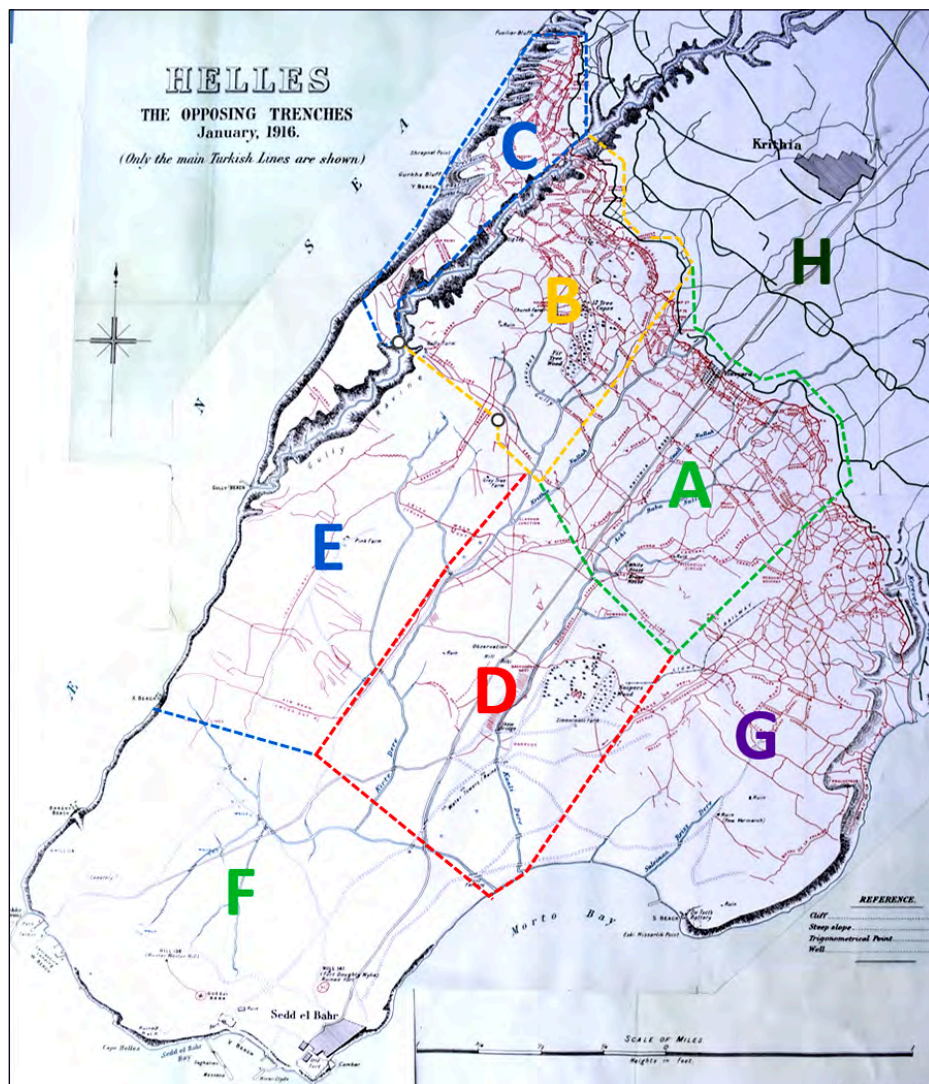


Dr Viv Newman on the anguish of mothers whose sons never returned from the war.



Lt Gen Ben Hodges (US Army Retd): 'Timeless lessons in war-fighting.'





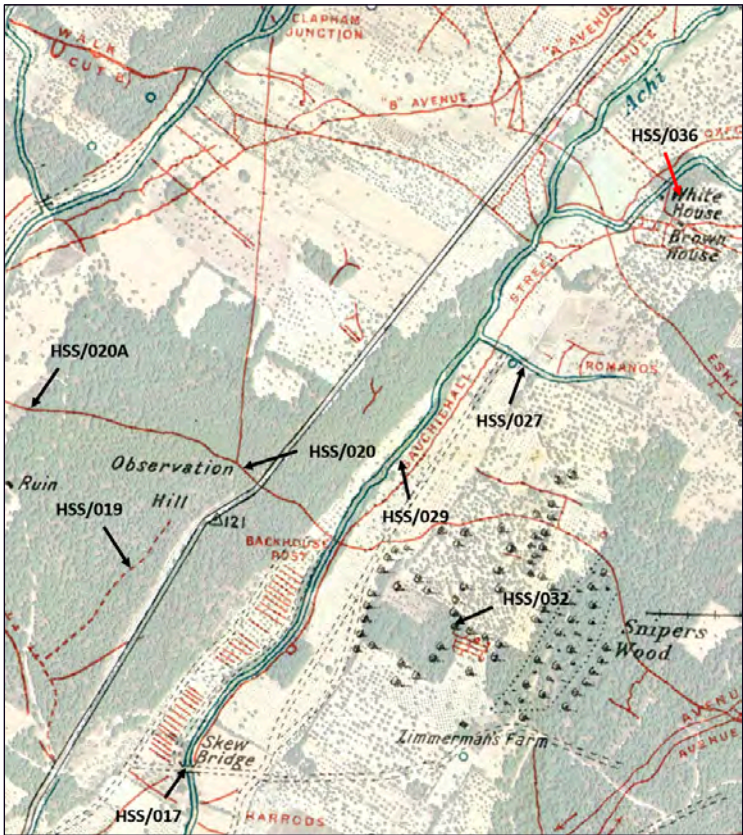
### Helles Battlefield Project Study Area Plan.

During 2023 areas A and D were systematically examined.

The 'Mission Statement' – a detailed document, and Mike Crane's comprehensive report to the Gallipoli Association's trustees on the 2022 field trip, are available on the Gallipoli Association web site.

The full report on the 2023 field trip is expected to be available, also through the web site, by the time this edition of *The Gallipolian* is delivered.

See the following two pages of photographs and pages 37 - 44.

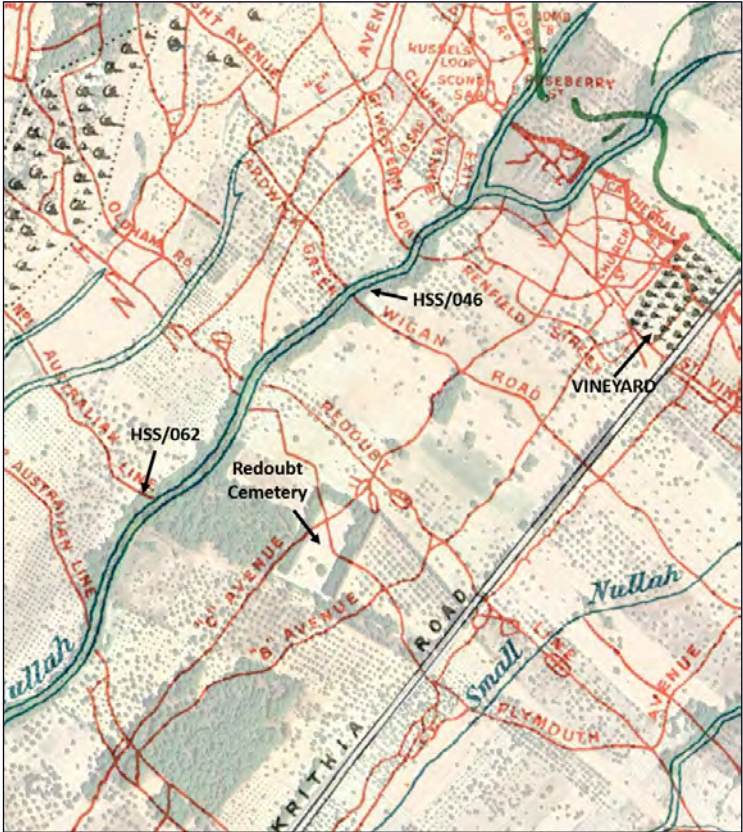


Helles Battlefield Study Project Map 1.



HSS/036 White House ruins. See Map 1 above.





Helles Battlefield Study Project Map 2.



HSS/046 Pte. Arthur Poole’s battlefield burial site. See Map 2 above.

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## HELLES BATTLEFIELD STUDY PROJECT

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### October 2023 field trip

#### Michael Crane

Our inaugural field trip as the HBSP Team was conducted during October 2022 and we published our findings in issues 161 and 162 of *The Gallipolian*. In December the team made its preliminary report to the board of trustees which can be seen on the HBSP page in the members section of the Association's website.

In October 2022, we focused on sites at particular risk. During 2023 we systematically swept study areas A and D (see map on page 34) bringing the project back on track with our multi-year project plan.

To deliver this outcome, we brought Warren Smith, the Association's communications officer, onto the team. With Warren's contribution we accelerated the pace and volume of our work both at home and on the ground. For example, in 2022 we were able to cover 28 sites, whereas in October 2023 we visited and recorded 78 sites and, in the process, made a series of new and exciting discoveries.

We also enhanced our technical capability in 2023. Now, in addition to marking a site's location on our GPS devices (and with Google Earth co-ordinates) we have begun to use the 'what3words' app to mark each site. Moreover, a complete table of 'what3words' HBSP locations is available on the HBSP page on the Association website which will allow Association members to locate and visit any HBSP site whilst on the peninsula.<sup>1</sup>

Given the impracticality of trying to describe all 78 sites covered by the team this year, this article will instead concentrate on nine examples. However, further information on every site visited by the team can be found in the '2023 Report to the Trustees' on the HBSP page of the Association's website.

A key project aim is to locate battlefield burial places. The 2023 research visit yielded several.

The first of these (HSS/019) was a combined burial site for three men killed during the Turkish counterattack on the night of 1/2 May 1915. These were: Colonel Edmund Percival Smith, commander of 17th Brigade RFA, his adjutant, Captain Frederick Harold Lewis Morgan, and his orderly, Gunner 67106 William George Payne.<sup>2</sup>

On the night of 1/2 May, the 17th Brigade RFA's guns were in positions on the rear slope of Observation Ridge (sites HSS/009 & HSS/010 – 2022 field trip). Colonel Smith, his adjutant and his orderly were some distance forward of the guns in an 'observation station' when the Turks attacked. The brigade diary entry for 1 May

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<sup>1</sup> For those unaware of the benefits of this technology, anyone with the 'what3words' app on their smart phone can, by entering a site's unique three-word designation, be led to that site's exact location.

<sup>2</sup> All three men are now commemorated by special memorials in the Redoubt Cemetery, indicating that when their remains were recovered it was not possible to make individual identifications.

details the circumstances surrounding the men's deaths:

A resolute night attack was made by the Turkish forces from 10.30 pm until daylight 2nd May. Batteries did not fire during the hours of darkness but engaged retreating enemy at dawn. At about 11.30 pm, Colonel E.P. Smith and Captain & Adjutant F.H.L. Morgan left their observation station to see how matters were faring at the Infantry trenches and both were then shot and killed.

According to the war diary of the 2nd Hampshires, Colonel Smith and his party: 'arrived in a group and were shot down by Turks who had almost reached our parapet. None of the enemy got away.' Sometime later the bodies of all three men were carried back (over 500 metres) from the firing-line and buried together in one plot. Compass bearings, triangulating the site's location, were taken from the site to 'Hill 138' and 'Pink Farm Buildings,' and recorded in the brigade diary.

The whole of Observation Ridge is now covered by trees so I knew it would be impossible to recreate these bearings on the spot. Nor would the contemporary photograph of the graves, provided by Colonel Smith's great nephew, Association member and former trustee, James Watson-Smith, give a clue to their setting. However, by plotting a back-bearing on the scale map from the Official History (OH) 'Helles Opposing Trenches, January, 1916,' I was able to identify a possible location for the site. This calculation placed the burial plot about 440 metres in advance of 17th Brigade RFA's guns and around 50 metres west of the road.



A contemporary photograph of the grave site. The inscription on the rear reads;  
'My Ned's grave. Dardanelles May 1st 1915.

Also Capt. F.H.L. Morgan, his Adj., and Gunner Payne. 17th Brigade R.F.A, Brigade Staff.'



The contemporary photograph of the grave site shows a raised plot with two crosses, surrounded by a band of small to medium-sized stones. These stones would have been put to one side when the men's bodies were recovered. My hope was that the stones and some signs of where the soil had been disturbed would remain.

After following the line of an unfinished communication trench, shown on the OH map, we arrived at the estimated site to find an accumulation of stones of various sizes in a roughly linear pattern. We continued to search the area and found, in a small clearing about 25 yards to the west, two clearly man-made, deep hollows in the ground, with a pattern of small stones, of the size shown in the contemporary photograph of the grave, lying next to them.

This site's location fell within my margin for error and its characteristics were consistent with an exhumation. These factors led us to conclude this was the battlefield burial site of Colonel Smith, Captain Morgan, and Gunner Payne.

We carefully cleared twigs and pine needles from a number of the stones and fixed the memorial cross at the head of one hollow before taking the photograph above.

The second battlefield burial site discovery of this year (site HSS/046) was for Pte. 1112 Arthur Poole, a signaller in No.4 Section (Manchester Brigade) 42nd Division Signal Company. Poole, one of Alec Riley's closest friends, was killed by shrapnel fire on 5 July 1915. Riley's description of Poole's death in his book *Gallipoli Diary 1915*, is one of its most moving and poignant passages.<sup>3</sup> Later in the same passage Riley describes his burial place: 'We took Poole down to Krithia Nullah and buried him in a small level bank against the nullah-side, about twenty yards further up.'<sup>4</sup>

In the process of editing Riley's text, I had established that Poole had been killed in 'Wigan Road,' at a point close to Krithia Nullah. Fortunately for us, a 30-metre-long section of the trench (site HSS/044) can still be seen on the wooded east bank of



HSS/019 – Battlefield burial site of Col. E P Smith, Capt. F H L Morgan and Gunner 67106 W G Payne.

<sup>3</sup> Alec Riley, *Gallipoli Diary 1915*, (Little Gully Publications, 2021 – edited by Michael Crane and Bernard de Broglio) pp 104 – 106.



the nullah (see colour section). Using the trench as our datum we walked 20 yards (18 metres) north along the field edge that runs beside the nullah. There we pushed through the thick tangle of vegetation and scrambled down the nullah side to discover: 'a small level bank against the nullah side.' The site is roughly 10 metres long by 7 metres deep and sits about 2.5 metres below the adjoining field level. The location of this site, and the cover afforded by the change in levels, made it probable that we had found Poole's place of burial, and located one of many small cemeteries dotted along Krithia Nullah during the campaign. Again, we cleared away leaf litter and fallen branches and placed a memorial cross before photographing the site (see colour section).

After discovering and recording sites HSS/019 and HSS/046 we revisited two other battlefield burial sites to mark their locations using the what3words app.

The first (site HSS/027) was that of Captain H Hargreaves Bolton, 1/5th East Lancs Regiment. I discovered the site of Captain Bolton's grave in 2017.<sup>5</sup> Then, two mature oak trees stood over Captain Bolton's grave. Tragically, these ancient witnesses of the campaign were felled in 2020. The surrounding ground was levelled, and the site is now unrecognisable. However, members can now find and visit the site using its unique 'what3words' designation.

Important too, that Captain Bolton's extended family, including Association members David Bolton and the Lord David Hacking (both great-nephews of Captain Bolton) will be able to locate the site and pay their respects.

Another burial site we were able to identify (HSS/029) was for Acting Petty Officer 2096C Peter Iredale, Anson Bn., Royal Naval Division, the grandfather of the Association's overseas liaison officer and trustee, Tom Iredale. Peter was killed by a sniper's bullet on 28 May 1915 and his place of burial is recorded in his service papers as: 'Buried about 300 yards N.E. of Backhouse Post, behind the Gully.' In 2017, I had identified a probable site for Peter's grave using that information. But, after taking local topography into account, and reviewing the data, we arrived at a more likely location: 20 metres closer to the nullah and on lower ground.

We were also successful in locating several landmarks of the campaign, amongst them the sites of Skew Bridge and White House. The location of the former (site HSS/017) was indicated on the ground by a 3-metre-wide levelled gap in the bank on the west side of the Kanli Dere. The site's position, just south of a pronounced bend in the dere, also corresponded perfectly with that shown on the OH map.

The White House was captured by the Hood Battalion on 6 May 1915. The photograph on the following page, held in the IWM collection, was taken by Lieut-Commander Hedderick shortly afterwards.

The true location of White House (site HSS/036) has long been subject to speculation. There is a dense thicket close to the small square shown on the OH map indicating

<sup>4</sup> Arthur Poole's remains were recovered from the bank after the war. He is commemorated by a special memorial in Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery.

<sup>5</sup> See *The Four Bolton Brothers*, in *The Gallipolian* No.146 – Spring 2018



Image of White House taken in early May 1915.

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205021945>

the house's position. Until our latest visit this thicket had proved impenetrable. However, fruit bearing trees and bushes, vines and other garden plants grow in and around the site and suggest a dwelling stood near the spot.

This year a lack of rain caused real difficulties to the region's farmers – but the drier conditions were helpful to our team. When we arrived at the western side of the thicket, we noticed gaps in the vegetation.



These allowed us to force our way in and within a few metres we found a large concentration of stones, buried deep in tangled undergrowth.

We cleared layers of dead foliage and revealed several large, 'worked' stones, comparable to those in the walls of the building in Lieutenant Hedderick's photograph.

HSS/036 - Northwest corner of ruins found inside the thicket.

See Map 1 page 35.

Our search of the White House site was not exhaustive because of tangled branches, bushes, small trees and dense undergrowth. Nonetheless, the area of ruins we uncovered was substantial, measuring over 3 metres east to west and 4 metres north to south (see photograph in the colour section).

Although an estimated 25 metre discrepancy exists between the ruins and the small square that indicates the position of White House on the OH map, we have presented a feasible explanation for the difference in our report to the trustees.

We also found further previously undiscovered treasures. One was a stone-lined drinking water well (site HSS/o32) which we located while searching for signs of a Royal Naval Division Engineer's camp. A contemporary sketch exists which shows the camp as a complex grid of trenches and on checking the OH map I noticed a similar pattern of trenches (not unlike a farmer's gate) to the west of Snipers Wood. The western half of this feature is now covered by trees and it was while searching in amongst them that we came across the well.



HSS/o32- The author (tentatively) measures the depth of the well. See Map 1 page 35.



The stone-lined well is just under 1 metre in diameter and 4.7 metres deep. It differs from other local wells, which are smaller in diameter and low, circular raised walls to prevent livestock and detritus from falling into them. Together these differences in construction and the well's proximity to the camp suggest it was dug during the campaign by No.1 Field Company RNDE.

We made a further discovery when searching the wooded west bank of Krithia Nullah for signs of No.1 Australian Line (site HSS/o62). Here we found a collapsed dug-out measuring 1.8 x 1.5 x 1.2 metre deep with a half-buried entrance tunnel at one end.

The tunnel entrance was 0.6m wide x 0.5m high and 0.7m below ground level. The tunnel sloped downwards for 1.1m, turned sharp left towards the nullah then continued downwards. We searched the nullah bank but were unable to find the tunnel entrance which must have collapsed years ago.



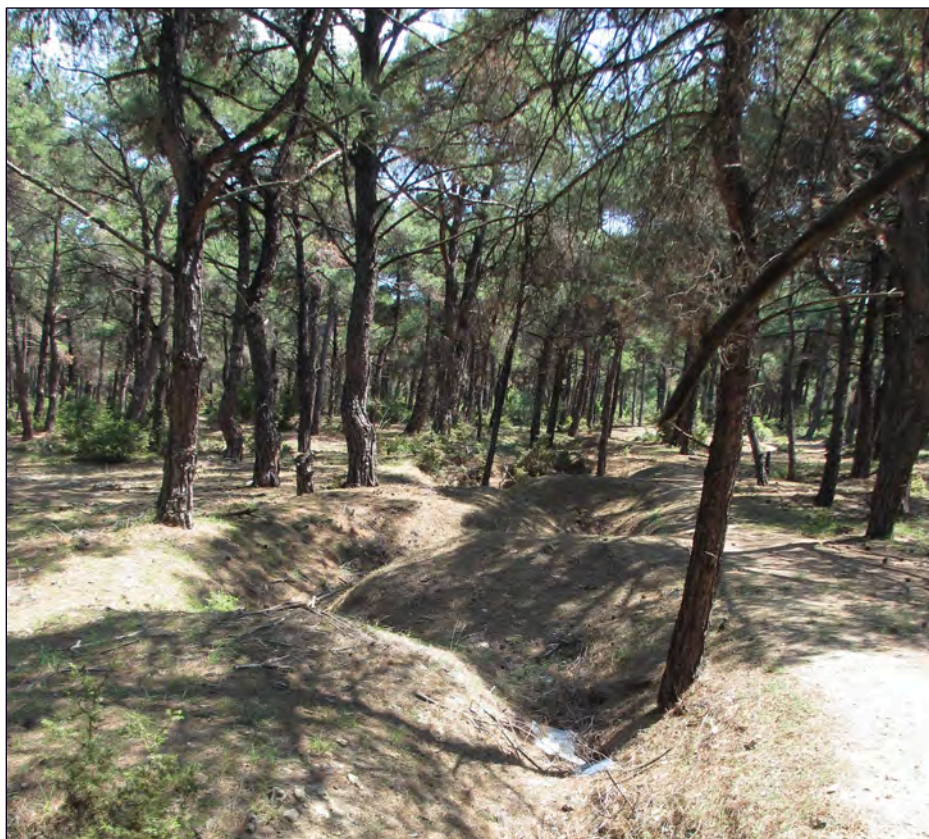
HSS/o62 – Collapsed dug-out in No.1 Australian Line. See Map 2 page 36.



Much of our time was spent searching for the remnants of trenches, and during the week we recorded and marked fifteen significant sections. Many of these were previously unknown to the team, and most were deep and well-preserved. Several were of substantial length. The most impressive was a 480-metre-long section of a traversed fighting trench, running across Observation Ridge. Further research may confirm whether this was the firing-line attacked by the Turks on the night of 1/2 May 1915 where Colonel Smith and his party fell.

For details of the numerous other discoveries made by the team visit the HBSP page on the GA website and read the team's 2023 field trip report to the trustees.

**See page 63 for information on how you could be involved in the Project.**



HSS/020 / HSS/020A – Firing-line across Observation Ridge. See Map 1 page 35.

### ***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 the views of either the editor, or of the Association

# GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

7 October 2023

Peter Biles

NATO members should formally invite Ukraine to join the alliance when NATO marks its 75th anniversary in Washington in July 2024. The call was made at the annual conference of the Gallipoli Association by keynotespeaker, Lieutenant- General (US Army, Retired) Ben Hodges when he delivered an address entitled From Gallipoli to Ukraine: Timeless Lessons in War-fighting. General Hodges reminded the audience that the Gallipoli campaign provided lessons that still have relevance today. "Leadership makes a gigantic difference," he said, pointing out that in 1936 George Patton had argued that if Mustafa Kemal had been in command of Allied forces at Gallipoli, they would have won. Answering questions about how the current conflict in Ukraine would end, Hodges, a former commanding general of US Army Europe, said: "Vladimir Putin owns the narrative. This war will end when Putin decides he's lost."

This year's Gallipoli Conference, held at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, began with a double-headed presentation by conference organiser, Thomas Iredale, who is also the Association's overseas liaison officer, and Dr Jochen Schrader, a geophysicist and IT specialist. Both had grandfathers who had served in the navy, but who fought on land during the Gallipoli conflict. Tom and Jochen's joint subject was *Supplying the Dardanelles U-boat Scourge and The Secret Base in the Gulf of Saros*. Thomas covered the exploits of the ocean-going submarine SM U-21 and the



Dr Jochen Schrader talking about his grandfather's role at the secret U-boat base in the Gulf of Saros.

German war hero, Lieutenant Commander Otto Hersing, the first submariner ever to sink a warship with a self-propelled torpedo. The arrival of the U-boats and the sinking of HMS *Triumph* and HMS *Majestic* in May 1915 “recast the equation of forces at Helles” in the opinion of the British journalist, Ashmead Bartlett. “The great ships of war could no longer prowl night and day off the beaches.” Jochen, whose grandfather was Wolfgang Schrader, described the secret base known as Hersingstand, where a seven-man German Navy crew set up an observation post and provided services and provisions to many a submarine during its operational life from July 1915 until the British withdrawal.

Dr Vivien Newman has written seven books on the social history of the First World War years and she is known for disturbing myths and challenging received wisdom about women and children in the war. Her conference talk was called *Two Funeral Wreaths of Broken Song: Mothers' Poetry of Gallipoli*. This provided an alternative view of the campaign through the writings of two amongst the multitude of parents who had to accept they would never even glimpse where their sons had fought and died. Over a 72-hour period, long-dreaded news from Gallipoli reached mothers Alexandra Grantham and Sarah Toye who, in Alexandra's words,

*With old and trembling hands,  
Groped in the darkness waiting  
For sons who will never return.*

The presentation highlighted that those killed in action were often from social backgrounds that were worlds apart, but that the mourning was identical. “Mothers became the keepers of the nation's grief,” said Dr Newman.

The New Zealand playwright and screenwriter, Arthur Meek, offered a sequel to last year's moving performance *Voices of Gallipoli: Spreading the Words*. Using his presidential-style teleprompter, Arthur delivered another dramatic oral history from a New Zealand soldier. This year the words spoken, were those of George Skerrett of the Otago Battalion. The performance is part of an international project to remember and honour the experiences of combat veterans by speaking their words out loud.

John Horne, former professor of Modern European History at Trinity College, Dublin, posed this question relating to the 1915 campaign. *A Colonial Expedition? French Soldiers' Experience at Gallipoli*. He said as many French soldiers as Anzacs fought at Gallipoli. Their preconceptions had more to do with colonial campaigning than with the dominant French experience of the Great War - mass mobilisation to defend the nation at home. At the Dardanelles, the French found the opposite of what they expected. The French joined in the British expedition largely because they did not wish to leave their ally a free hand in Syria and Palestine should it succeed. Prof Horne concluded: Being not only an expedition but also one that in many respects was colonial, ensured that the French soldiers' experience at the Dardanelles would be relegated to the margins of national memory despite



the fact that by its very nature, as a front, it spoke to the central military experience of the Great War.

Approximately 60 guests attended this year's Gallipoli Conference, including Turkish officials from the Directorate of Gallipoli Historic Site, founded in 2014 to protect the area where the campaign took place.

Also present at the conference were six 15-year-old history students from the Charter School, North Dulwich who spoke eloquently about their bursary trip to the peninsula earlier in the year. In his closing address, Education Co-ordinator Ian Binnie, said the memory of the Gallipoli campaign was being kept alive by these young students.

See photographs pages 32 and 33.



Professor John Horne.



Ian Binnie, Education Officer,  
closes the conference.



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## LIFEBOAT NUMBER FIVE

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**Ken Wright**

Unseen in the early morning darkness on 25 April 1915, an invasion force of three battleships, HMS *London*, *Queen* and *Prince of Wales*, troop transports and destroyers arrived off the Turkish coast. On board one of the troop transports – HMT *Devanha*, officially troop transport A3 – were troops of the 12th Battalion, 3rd Field Ambulance and 3rd Infantry Brigade headquarters, Australian Imperial Force.

The lifeboats used by the Australians in the initial landing were of clinker construction with single bowel and stem posts connected to a heavy exposed keel. The posts were made up of several fitted sections. Each side had twenty planks. There was also an external lead patch fitted to the port bow. Internally the structure consisted of single ribs running down the gunwale to the keel. This was reinforced by a heavy keelson that provided a socket mounting for the mast and several other socket fittings for unknown elements.

The boats could be towed or propelled using oars via rowlocks mounted in the gunwale, or by sail. At the Landing each carried over thirty soldiers with their equipment. Within the hull was a narrow deck with boxed-in sides which ran at the same level around the interior approximately twenty centimetres below the level of the gunwale. This decking was boxed in with tongue and groove boards which ran down to the internal frames in the bilge, and inside the structure were a series of copper sheet flotation tanks lining the top and used as seating for use while rowing. The second board from the bow also had fittings to allow a mast to be erected. The bilge was protected by raised decking sections in the extreme fore and aft, each approximately two metres long. The central part of the bilge was protected by loose gratings, one to port and the other to starboard. The planks were attached to the frame using clenched copper alloy fasteners. Major structural elements were bolted together with ferrous metal fasteners, some of which were galvanised. The replacement sections of the deck, vertical timbers and the gratings had all been secured with non-galvanised ferrous metal nails. These boats could absorb considerable punishment from rifle fire. One of the lifeboats from *Devanha* was number 5.

At 3:30 am, the first wave of troops from the 3rd Brigade, seated in boats towed by Royal Navy steam-powered pinnaces, began chugging towards the shore. There was no moon, and the sea was like glass. As they made for land, a naval officer in the north noticed that those to the south of him [starboard] were making a northerly course, one that would bring them to land too far north of Gaba Tepe, their original planned landing point. It's possible that several pinnaces mistook the small headland of Ari Burnu for Gaba Tepe and began steering towards it. When the station keeper in the south tried to head them off, they possibly mistook his intent and headed even further north. Whatever the real cause the pinnaces went in the wrong direction, and it was to be a disastrous mistake.

Private Facey, 12th Battalion, wrote:

All went well until we were making the change into the rowboats. Suddenly, all hell broke loose; heavy shelling and shrapnel fire commenced. Bullets were thumping into us in the rowboat. Men were being hit and killed all around me. When we were cut loose to make our way to shore was the worst period. I was terribly frightened. The rowboat touched bottom some thirty yards from the shore, so we had to jump out and wade onto the beach. The water in some places was up to my shoulders. The Turks had machine guns sweeping the strip of beach where we landed - there were many already dead when we got there. Bodies of men who had reached the beach ahead of us were lying along the beach and wounded men were screaming for help. We couldn't stop for them. The Turkish fire was terrible and mowing into us. The order to line up on the beach was forgotten. We ran for our lives over the strip of beach and got into the scrub and bush. We used our entrenching tools to dig mounds of earth and sheltered from the firing until daylight.'

Lifboat number 5, one of only two that was used by Australian troops to survive the war and be restored, can be viewed in the Shrine of Remembrance as the central highlight in the 'Galleries of Remembrance' in Melbourne, the capital city of the Australian state of Victoria. The other surviving lifboat is from HMT A33 *Ascot*, is of steel construction and is located in the Australian War Memorial in the nation's capital, Canberra. Visitors need little imagination to visualise men being killed or wounded as they slowly rowed towards the beach, as the lifboat has quite a few bullet holes in its side.

These two exhibits display two of Australia's most treasured relics.



*The first boats back to the ship (unnamed ship) 25 April 1915*  
State Library of NSW ABxGzALLLG8Pj

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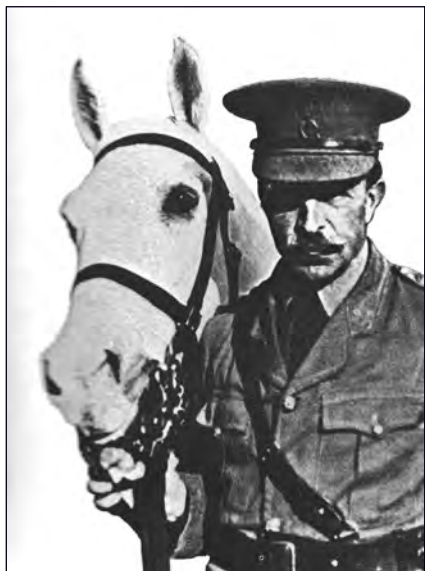
## CAPTAIN AUDEN AND FLAVIA'S WELL

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**Michael D. Robson**

A vitally important feature of the Gallipoli battlefields were the wells. The supply of fresh water was a critical problem faced by the allied forces throughout the campaign, with wells being carefully marked on maps and being generally known to all men who fought there. For today's visitor to the battlefield, they represent a fixed point of reference in a physical geography which has inevitably changed over time. After a century of farming and forestry, trench lines disappear under crops and brush, roads are relaid and straightened, and field boundaries may have changed. A well however, is generally a fixed point throughout the generations. Nonetheless, in 1915 there was also a negative aspect to a well being a known fixed position; the Ottoman artillery could easily range onto it and knew that the vital supply of water would always attract targets. Captain G A Auden RAMC found the Turkish shelling of two Suvla wells particularly tiresome, as the enemy's fire restricted his access to them to either only in the very early morning or after sunset.

George Augustus Auden was born in 1872 at Burton-on-Trent, and educated at Repton School and Christ's College Cambridge, completing his medical studies at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London.<sup>1</sup> In 1906 he was working at York County Hospital and successful enough to indulge his passion for history and archaeology. In May that year he edited the 'Historical & Scientific Survey of York and District' for the 75th meeting of the British Association and contributed the preface, as well as a chapter on 'Pre-Historic Archaeology'. Two years later he moved with his family to Birmingham where he took up the post of school medical officer.



In September 1914 Auden joined the 2nd South Midland Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance and sailed with them from Avonmouth in April 1915, reaching Alexandria on the 20th. Most of that summer was spent stationed at Ismailia on the Suez Canal, until they (less 2 officers and 15 other ranks on detached duties in Aden) embarked at Alexandria on 14th August, sailing from there to Mudros and then on to Suvla. They arrived on the battlefield just three short days before the big attack of 21st August 1915. After a spell on Chocolate Hill, the 2nd SMMBFA moved a little to the south on 4th September, placing its main dressing station on the beach near to a number of other field ambulances and casualty clearing stations. It was from this latter position that Captain Auden found



Lala Baba to the left and the Salt Lake behind it. Chocolate Hill in the middle distance. Immediately to its right, the "W" hills. In the foreground a Dressing Station on 'C' Beach.

*Looking Towards the Village of Anafarta*, by Norman Wilkinson, RI  
from 'The Dardanelles, colour sketches from Gallipoli'

a welcome, if slight, distraction from his constant medical work, by examining two nearby wells, and at one of these, a trough formed from an ancient sarcophagus. The 2nd South Midland Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance were withdrawn from Suvla on 13th December 1915. Their stay on the peninsula had, however, not been without its cost in sick and wounded; only 3 officers and 60 men landed at Mudros at this time. Their stay on the island of Lemnos was brief and they were in Egypt by Christmas. While in Cairo, Captain Auden met Commander D G Hogarth<sup>2</sup> and passed onto him his notes on the inscriptions he had found at Suvla. David George Hogarth was a scholar and an archaeologist who had previously worked at sites all round the eastern Mediterranean. He had been Director of the British School at Athens (1897-1900) and immediately pre-war was the Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum. In October 1915 his considerable talents were taken up by the Royal Navy's Director, Intelligence Division. He was appointed a Lieutenant Commander in the RNVR and sent out to the middle east. In Cairo he worked with Leonard Woolley, T E Lawrence and Gertrude Bell.

Hogarth's connection with the British School in Athens is how Captain Auden's Suvla research has come down to us today. Hogarth gave the research to Miss Caroline Amy Hutton,<sup>3</sup> honorary secretary of the school and editor of their annual, for her to publish as a brief two-and-a-half page article titled 'Two Sepulchral Inscriptions from Suvla Bay.' There Miss Hutton quotes from Auden's notes -



Commander D G Hogarth RNVR  
by Lowell Thomas (c.1918)

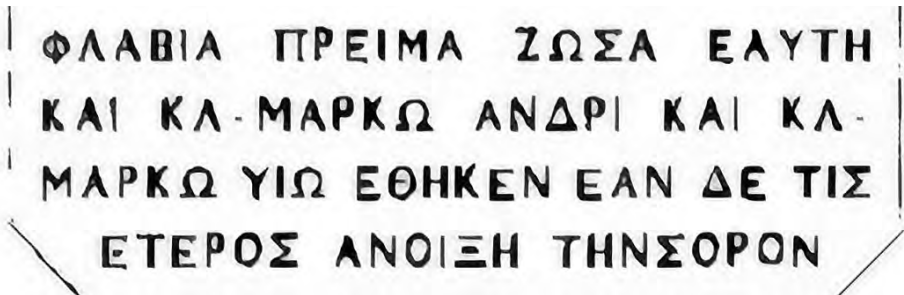


They (the inscriptions) have a good deal of personal interest for me, for the wells, by which they were placed, came in for a good deal of daily shelling, and it was only safe to linger there in the early morning or after sunset.

Alas, only one inscription is left to be seen by us today, "On a sarcophagus used as a trough near the Salt Lake. The inscription is a good deal weathered.

This inscription translates as:

"The living Flavia Prima herself and Cl. Marcus her husband and Cl. Marcus her son ordain: whosoever, other than them, opens the tomb shall pay to the fiscus 1,500 denarii." <sup>4</sup>



The article goes on to explain that the two inscriptions both belong to a class common in Asia Minor from the end of the first century AD, in which grave robbery is treated as a civil offence, punishable by a fine. In these two examples the owners each stipulated fines amounting to 1,500 denarii, payable to the Roman government in this case and to the municipality in the other.

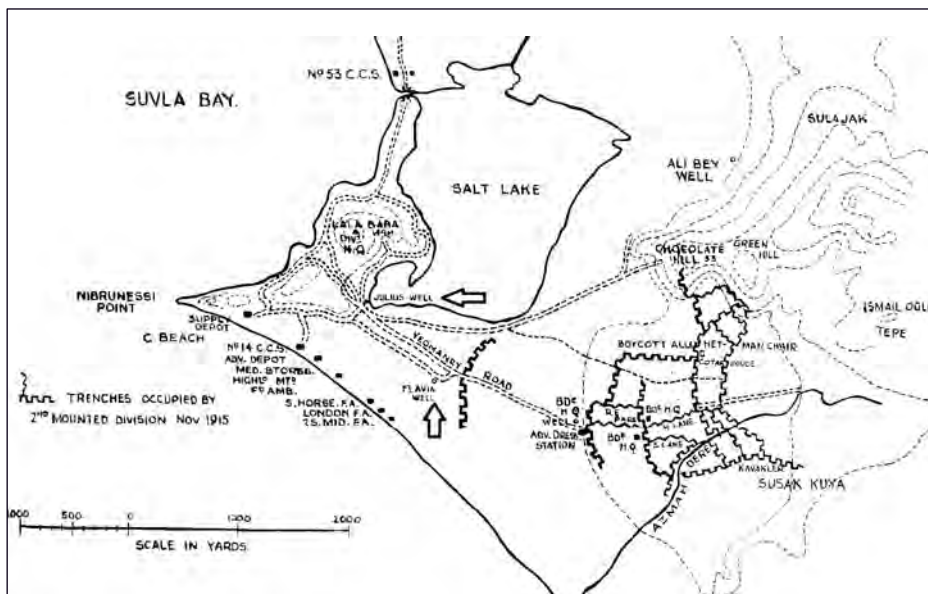
It is regrettable that the second inscription seen and recorded by Captain Auden in 1915 has, so far, not been traced today: Miss Hutton describes it as the more interesting of the two. Most such inscriptions reserve the right of burial to the deceased's wife and children, but here the owner, one Julius Italus, explicitly excludes his children and relations.<sup>5</sup>

During the great November storm, Captain Auden suffered a frozen foot; an injury which would trouble him throughout his later life. After the 2nd SMMBFA's evacuation from the peninsula, Captain Auden was hospitalised in Egypt, before being sent back to the UK for further treatment. He was later promoted major and posted to the Western Front as a Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services; a divisional appointment. After the war he returned to Birmingham, becoming Professor of Public Health there in 1941. He continued to follow his interest in history and was elected as a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He died in 1957.

His son Wystan became the renowned poet W H Auden, who during the closing stages of WWII served in the US Army's Morale Division of the US Strategic Bombing Survey. Post-war he went on to become Professor of Poetry at Oxford.

David G Hogarth continued working in Cairo with the intelligence services and was promoted, awarded the CMG and gained further honours from the sultan of Egypt and the king of the Hedjaz. After the armistice he was consulted in London

and Paris on the near east. When the dust of war had at last settled he returned to the Ashmolean and in 1925 became president of the RGS. He died 6th November 1927.



Sketch map from Medical Services General History, Vol. IV

Today's battlefield visitor can follow in Captain Auden's footsteps and see Flavia's well at point 40°16'59.9"N 26°15'14.3"E, which lies by the track to Lala Baba CWGC Cemetery. There you can examine the inscription on the side of the sarcophagus which is c.1900 years old, but which currently, as in 1915, is used as a perfectly serviceable drinking trough for sheep and goats.

### Postscript:

#### An appeal for a researcher visiting New York, USA

"Last year, when I was doing some research on the poet W H Auden at the magnificent Berg Collection of the New York Public Library, I was given the chance to look through some uncatalogued materials. There I found a series of letters Auden's father, George Augustus Auden, had written when he was serving as an British Army doctor at Gallipoli. It was fascinating to see how this middle-aged doctor was transformed into a fighting man, came to identify over time more and more with the soldiers. I found myself wanting to put aside what I was working on and write something about the remarkable Dr Auden. I forced myself to overcome the temptation, but those letters are still there at the Berg Collection, waiting for me or some other researcher to show up, study them, make sense of them, tell the world about them.

The above was written by Alan Jacobs, Professor of Humanities at Baylor University, Texas, USA, and appeared in his article in the *The Atlantic*, 24 May 2012.

Having been in touch with Prof Jacobs, the Auden estate and the NYPL, I regret that the latter have been unable to trace the letters which Prof Jacobs previously saw amongst the Berg Collection. One possibility is that they have subsequently been mis-catalogued, maybe as a result of their not being originals, but rather, later (1950s?) copies in the hands of Capt. Auden's son John. Whatever the reason, this problem has proved insoluble by e-mail correspondence alone, and it appears to require personal research be carried out at the NYPL.

If any member is visiting New York and has time to spare, then it would be most useful for the Gallipoli Association to have copies of these letters and insights into "how this middle-aged doctor was transformed into a fighting man, came to identify over time more and more with the soldiers."

Any volunteer should contact our historian by e-mail: [historian@gallipoli-association.org](mailto:historian@gallipoli-association.org)

### Endnotes

- 1 - George Augustus Auden became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1896, of the Royal College of Physicians in 1909, and in 1910 he became a Doctor of Public Health.
- 2 - In his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* T E Lawrence described David Hogarth thusly:  
 "Mentor to us all was Hogarth, our father confessor and adviser, who brought us the parallels and lessons of history, and moderation, and courage. To the outsider he was peacemaker (I was all claws and teeth, and had a devil), and made us favoured and listened to, for his weighty judgement. He had a delicate sense of value, and would present clearly to us the forces hidden behind the lousy rags and festering skins which he knew as Arabs. Hogarth was our referee, and our untiring historian, who gave us his great knowledge and careful wisdom even in the smallest things, because we believed in what we were making."
- 3 - Caroline Amy Hutton was born in New Zealand, attended Girton College, Cambridge, and studied Classics in the early 1880s. She was admitted as a student to the British School at Athens in the mid 1890s. Later, she served on the Committee of the BSA and became joint-editor of the school's annual. She was also a member the Hellenic Society's council, where her work embraced maintaining the society's administration and library during the First World War. Her war work also involved 'Sweaters', an organisation for collecting knitted goods to send to serving soldiers.
- 4 - The 'fiscus' refers to the fiscal procurator, or chief financial officer of the Roman province.
- 5 - A photograph titled 'Julius' Well' appears in the article 'War Experiences of a Territorial Medical Officer' by Maj-Gen. Sir Richard Luce, KCMG, MB, FRCS, in the *Journal of the RAMC*, June 1936 (p.404). However, General Luce was mistaken and the photograph shows Flavia's well, not Julius'. The photographer was Sir Victor Horsely and the picture taken during his visit to the battlefield in mid-October 1915. At the time Horsley was a colonel and the director of surgery of the British Army Medical Service in Egypt, supporting the Gallipoli campaign.

### References & Acknowledgements

- A Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance in Peace and War* RAMC Archives, ref RAMC/791/5, accessed on-line Jan. 2018, via The Wellcome Library.
- The Dardanelles; Colour Sketches from Gallipoli*, written and drawn by Norman Wilkinson RI, accessed on-line Jan. 2018, via The Project Gutenberg
- The Annual of the British School at Athens, No.XXI*, sessions 1914-1915, 1915-1916, accessed on-line Jan. 2018, via The Internet Archive ([archive.org](http://archive.org))
- The Royal College of Physicians, Munk's Roll, vol. V*, p.16, biographical details of Dr G A Auden, accessed on-line Jan. 2018

*Commander D G Hogarth, CMG, RNVR; his record* (ADM 337/120/308, page 156) is at The National Archives, Kew, and can be accessed on-line. A memoir on his life can be read in *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 71, No. 4 (Apr., 1928), pp. 321-344.

**Further advice and encouragement has been generously provided by:**

Dr. Julian Bennett FSA, Asst. Prof, Dept. of Archaeology, Bilkent University, Ankara, as well as Bernard de Broglie, Stephen Chambers, Michael Crane, Thomas Iredale, William Sellars and Adrian Wright.

Captain Auden and Flavia's well were briefly mentioned in my report on the association's 'Hidden Gallipoli Tour'; see *The Gallipolitan*, No 136, Autumn 2014, pp 54-55

See also the chapter 'Boundary and divide – The antiquity of the Dardanelles' by C J Mackie, Mithat Atabay, Reyhan Körpe & Antonio Sagona, in *Anzac Battlefield – A Gallipoli Landscape of War and Memory* edited by Antonio Sagona, Mithat Atabay, C J Mackie, Ian McGibbon & Richard Reid, Cambridge University Press, 2016 (p17).



George Auden with his sons; l-r, Wystan Hugh, John Bicknell and George Bernard.

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## SEE YOUR ARTICLE IN PRINT!

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### *Articles for the Gallipolitan*

Articles and smaller items of interest about any aspect of the Gallipoli campaign are always welcome. These should be submitted direct to the editor, preferably by email, at [editor@gallipoli-association.org](mailto:editor@gallipoli-association.org). It is not always possible to feature articles in the issue following submission although where there is an element of topicality the editor will try to accommodate them, or refer them to colleagues responsible for the Association website. For those considering the submission of articles the editor can provide notes for the guidance of contributors on request.



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## UP THE DARDANELLES AND BACK

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**Ken Wright**

The sixty-six-kilometre-long Dardanelles Strait is a narrow strait that links the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara. Known in ancient times as the Hellespont, the strait is only six kilometres across at its widest point with depths varying to a maximum of eighty metres with the water flowing in both directions. From its mouth at Cape Helles to the Sea of Marmara, the waterway is bounded by the Gallipoli heights and by many lesser hills. The entrance to the straits was guarded by four forts, two on either side. Seventeen kilometres up the straits was another series of forts and a single line of sea mines strung from shore to shore. At the Narrows, just twenty-two kilometres from the entrance, the channel has a width of less than 1,463 metres and is protected by more forts.

Three days after Britain declared war on Turkey, British and French ships shelled the Dardanelles' outer-most forts and after a twenty-minute bombardment and two lucky hits, Kum Kale and Seddülbahir forts were put out of action. This gave the Allies a false sense of their ability to destroy all the forts and advertised that they might be planning to sail up the strait and perhaps attack Constantinople. Turkey naturally began strengthening its defences which included shore-fixed torpedo tubes, increasing the size of its sea mine field and placement of an assortment of artillery pieces of varying calibre.

In 1914, sea mines were usually either spherical or egg-shaped with the detonators, or horns, mounted on or near the top. They were relatively cheap and simple to produce, and very effective. A typical sea mine consisted of a concrete or stone weight and a length of cable with a percentage of the weight and size of the mine devoted to maintaining its buoyancy. Moored mines contained smaller explosive charges than land mines and could be tethered at various water depths. A ship or a submarine only had to touch one of the horns to cause detonation. In the case of a submarine, the diving planes or any other protrusion might simply snag the cable and the submarine's movement would drag the mine down, causing one of the horns to make contact with the hull.

One submarine in the Allied fleet was HMS *B11*. B class submarines were old, obsolete, and primitive, and were difficult to handle submerged. Fumes from their petrol motors often caused symptoms similar to drunkenness in the small crew, all of whom had to sleep among the pumps and motors of the cramped interior. Battery power was limited and required constant resurfacing to recharge, which in theory, precluded B class submarines making it under the minefields and into the Sea of Marmara. These considerations aside, both the French and British submariners longed to get into the strait and do something positive rather than spending their time on tedious patrols of the entrance.

In December 1914, twenty-six-year-old Lieutenant [later Commander] Norman

Douglas Holbrook in HMS *B11* was ordered to attack Turkish shipping at Çanakkale. Lt Holbrook may have thought it was action at last, but it could also be viewed as a suicide mission considering the strength of the Turkish defences – particularly the formidable obstacle of the sea mine field – plus the fact that *B11* was already well past its prime by 1914.

To achieve his objective, he would have to take *B11* under the minefield from Kephez Point and surface at Çanakkale. Equipped with improvised mine guards on the fore and aft hydroplanes and a jumping wire – lessons learned from British submarine actions in the North Sea, *B11* set off at 3am on 13 December. At 4:15 am the Turkish searchlights switched off as they did each morning just before dawn. Holbrook crept along the coast at the mouth of the strait on the surface.



Norman Douglas Holbrook VC

When he began to submerge, vibrations coming from outside the submarine forced him to resurface. On inspection it was found that part of the improvised mine guard around the forward hydroplanes had come loose and had to be jettisoned. Crew members jumped into the water and struggled to unscrew the guard as dawn was breaking. Holbrook watched from the tiny conning tower and worried. Would they be spotted in the growing light and fired upon? Without the guard, there was the risk the hydroplanes could hook a mine cable and drag a mine down to contact the hull. Nevertheless, he decided to take the risk. Moving up the strait, Holbrook had to surface every forty-five minutes to fix his position. At 8:30 am, nearing Kephez Point, he took *B11* down to twenty-four metres and spent the next four hours feeling his way under the minefield. The submarine was, unknown to the crew, swept along by the deeper inward flowing current, and when Holbrook surfaced to take his next periscope sighting, he was surprised to find himself off Çanakkale and about 1.5 km away from the old Turkish warship *Messudieh* under the command of Lieutenant-Commander Fazıl Bey, which had been left at anchor in Sari Siglar Bay to guard the mine field.

From a letter to his parents dated 14 December, Holbrook wrote in part:

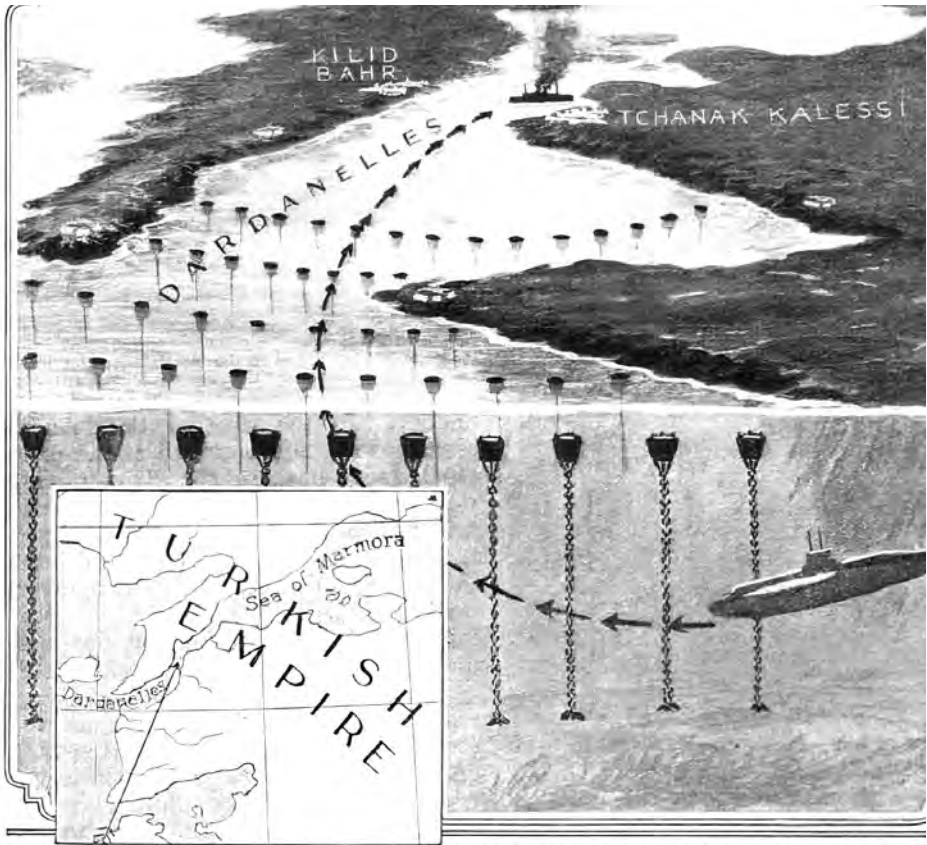
After five hours, I sighted a large warship on my starboard beam so altered course straight through the mine field for her and fired one torpedo at her when 1000 yards off. I heard an explosion and came up and she opened fire on me with every available gun, so I went down again and at the same time, my compass chucked its hand so all I knew I was in the middle of the mine field. Hadn't the faintest notion of what direction I was pointing.

At the same time the torpedo was heading toward its target, the American vice-consul at Çanakkale, Mr Cornelius Van Hemert Engert, was enjoying the winter sunshine in a rowboat in a peaceful spot just up from the great fortress of Killitbahir, the guns of which guarded the Narrows on the Gallipoli side of the strait. Suddenly a huge

explosion occurred. He looked down the straits and witnessed the last moments of the *Messudieh*. The ship was enveloped in a great cloud of smoke and shells from its guns were landing in calm water between it and Kephez Point, as if the gunners were trying to hit some object. The battleship began to sink by the stern then keeled completely upside down in the shallow water. Members of the crew were seen scrambling all over the upturned hull. Fortunately, rescue efforts began very soon after, but Turkish casualties amounted to ten officers and twenty-five crew. Meanwhile *B-11*, swept by the currents, ran aground.

Holbrook:

Suddenly I hit bottom some [or something] hard at forty feet which brought me up ten feet so I came up to have a look around and saw the cruiser apparently settling by the stern, judged as best I could the way out, all I could see was land all round me and went down again and continued to hit the bottom for ten minutes when luckily I got into deep water. I had to come up twice more



Arrangement of Mines in the Dardanelles and Location of the Turkish Battleship "Messudieh" When Sunk at Anchor by the British Submarine "B-11": In Performing This Remarkable Feat the Submarine Was Under Water Continuously for About Nine Hours.

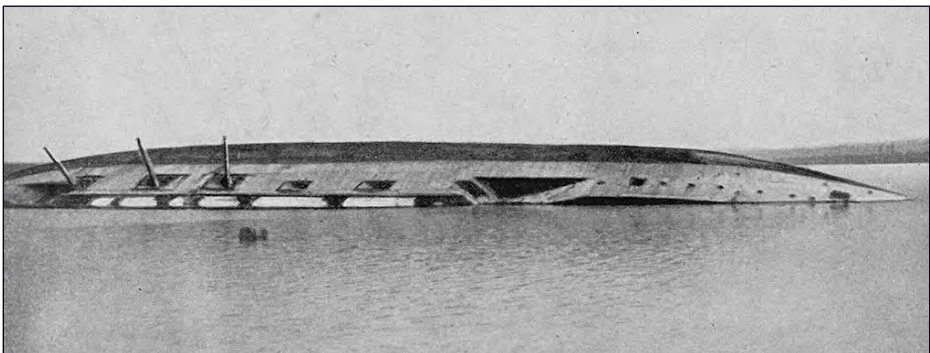
in the mine field to find out where I was and each time I was practically running ashore, but finally managed to get the boat more or less pointing for the open [entrance], the man at the wheel steering by a dirty mark on the compass which was all he could see.

Holbrook now desperately needed to fix his position, plot a course for the open mouth of the strait, and make his escape, but without a working compass, he was forced to surface and take sightings. Fortunately he saw the entrance but had to continue diving and resurfacing to check his position as the submarine moved down through the minefield.

They sent a TB [torpedo boat] to chase me, luckily, I never saw her as I only came up twice more during the last ten miles. I put in nine hours under water all told which I think is a record for a B class boat.



TGC *Messudieh*



After two hours of bobbing through the minefield and sneaking under the Turkish guns, *BII* surfaced at 2:10 pm, just off Cape Helles and near a British destroyer. They were home free. When the hatch was opened, a poisonous cloud of greenish-yellow gas issued from the submarine's interior and it was thirty minutes till sufficient clean air had entered before the 600 horsepower petrol engine would start.



Holbrook instantly became one of the early heroes of the war and in late December 1914 was the first submariner to be gazetted for the Victoria Cross. *B11*'s First Lieutenant, Sydney Winn, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and all other members of the crew received the Distinguished Service Medal. In addition to Holbrook's VC, he was awarded the French Insignia of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. Even the enemy praised him. In his report on the sinking to his government, the American Vice-Consul Engert quoted the German Vice-Admiral Johannes Merten, who oversaw the Dardanelles defences saying, in effect, that the sinking of *Messudieh* had been 'brilliant,' 'daring' and a 'mighty clever piece of work.'

[One of our former editors, the late David Saunders, who appears in this edition's *Last Post* section, wrote an article concerning *B11* entitled 'A Mighty Clever Piece of Work' which appeared in *The Gallipolian* 136 (Winter 2014) - Editor]



The crew aboard *B11*. From *We Dive At Dawn* (1939) by Lt.-Commander Kenneth Edwards

During the time of the Dardanelles campaign, thirteen Allied submarines completed twenty-seven successful passages through the strait. Seven were sunk, but Turkish losses were much larger. Two battleships, a destroyer, five gunboats, eleven transports, forty-four steamers and one hundred and forty eight sailing boats. Norman Holbrook and all the submariners who followed into the Dardanelles were trailblazers of extraordinary skill and courage diving their early and primitive boats into perilous situations while devoid of any technical aids. Of the thirty-nine Victoria Crosses

that were awarded for deeds of gallantry performed during operations designed to wrest control of the Dardanelles from Turkey, three were awarded to submariners. Lieutenant Norman Holbrook was followed in April 1915 by Lieutenant-Commanders Edward Courtney Boyle in HMS *Et4* and in May by Martin Nasmith in HMS *Err*.

Holbrook's exploits made world news at the time, but a small farming town of Germanton in Australia was taking a more than normal interest in the VC winner. When Britain declared war on Germany, Australia followed suite with the Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher, declaring Australians were with England 'to the last man and the last shilling.' During the first months of the war, Australia began to undergo a fierce anti-German phase which escalated into repressive conditions for Germans living in Australia. They had to register at local police stations and report weekly, were forbidden to buy or sell property and were not permitted to speak German either in public or on the telephone. They were often fired from jobs, and many were placed in internment camps as well as being subject to other restrictions.

In New South Wales, approximately 400 kilometres inland, the town of Germanton was suffering a major identity crisis. The town's name now seemed unpatriotic, and the councillors and citizens decided to change it to something more appropriate; but to what? When news of Lieutenant Holbrook's exploits and that of his crew fired the imagination of British subjects around the world, the problem was solved, and Germanton was officially gazetted as 'Holbrook' in 1915. The first official Holbrook town council meeting was held on 24 August.

Lieutenant Holbrook was officially notified of the re-naming of the town, '*In memory of the valiant deeds done by you in the Dardanelles.*' He wrote in reply:

I feel that no higher tribute could be paid to any man, and I wish to assure the Council and inhabitants of your town that I shall ever regard their adoption of my name with feelings of pride and pleasure, that humble effort of mine to serve my country in this critical period of its history should have deemed worthy of such distinguished recognition. I trust that some future time, it may be my good fortune to visit Holbrook and make the acquaintance of its loyal inhabitants.

Following the world wars, the bond between the Holbrook family and the Australian town named in his honour grew strong. Holbrook visited three times before his death on 3 July 1976 and in 1982, his widow, Mrs Gundula Holbrook, donated her husband's medals to the town. Holbrook the town, however, was not content just to have a connection with the World War One hero. They wanted a more fitting tribute that would encompass not only Norman Holbrook but all the brave submariners who served in time of war and peace. After a lot of planning, official red tape, generous donations from the public and a most amazing gift of \$100,000 from Mrs Holbrook, the town purchased the de-commissioned ninety-metre-long submarine HMAS *Otway*. The Australian navy was astonished! A submarine inland? *Otway* was transported in sections on low loaders and reassembled by volunteers and trainees from a government employment program. The submarine was permanently sited in one of the town's parklands and an excellent submarine museum

was built nearby. In addition to *Otway*, there is a large-scale model of the *B11*. The Submarine Memorial was staged during the Queen's Birthday weekend on 7-8 June 1997 with Mrs Gundula Holbrook as the official guest. In 2009, the Australian War Memorial in Canberra acquired Commander Holbrook's Victoria Cross which is now on public display.

Although Commander Holbrook now rests in St James Old Church yard in Stedham, West Sussex, his trip up the Dardanelles and back in 1914 will always be remembered in the Australian 'submarine town' of Holbrook.

### Endnotes.

- 1- The Allied fleet tried three times to sail up the straits but the third attempt ended in complete disaster and the fleet was forced to withdraw beaten and humiliated by in large by a few cheap sea mines.
- 2- What the submariners of the time underwent due to the petrol fumes, thrill seekers today would call 'petrol sniffing.'
- 3- A jumping wire is strung from the bow to the stern via the conning tower to deflect a mine cable.
- 4- Holbrook, in the letter he wrote to his parents modestly called his exploit the 'stunt.'
- 5- This is the only Australian town to be named after a VC winner.
- 6- His first visit was on 9 March 1956. In 1965 Commander and Mrs Holbrook donated funds to establish a scholarship aimed at assisting local students enter high school. That scholarship continues today.

The author is indebted to Elizabeth Brenchley, co-author of *Stoker's Submarine* (Harper Collins, 2001) for permission to quote excerpts from the book and to Lauren Ryan (Holbrook Submarine Museum), [www.holbrooksubmarinemuseum.com.au](http://www.holbrooksubmarinemuseum.com.au) for her invaluable assistance. Thanks also to the Greater Hume Shire Council for permission to quote from Lawrance Ryan's excellent booklet *Holbrook - The Submarine Town* and for use of their photographs.



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## HELLES BATTLEFIELD STUDY PROJECT

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### **The Gallipoli Association**

#### **What are we doing?**

The GA's innovative scheme aims to record what remains of the Campaign's battlefield archeology before it is lost forever. The project will initially focus at Helles and will be conducted using non-intrusive methods. These will take the form of site surveys using modern technology such as digital photography, 4K video and LiDAR.

#### **Why?**

The battlefield at Helles is rich in the archeology and artifacts of the campaign. Traces of trench systems, collapsed tunnels, store dumps, bivouac areas, dug-outs and craters abound the landscape. But as years pass, the archaeological record fades; as vegetation grows denser, trenches collapse or are filled in, and the plough takes its toll. Most concerningly, civil projects threaten to obliterate entire sites of historical importance. It is vital therefore, for the Association's objectives to be fully realised, that comprehensive records be made of these historic sites before they are lost.

#### **How you can get involved?**

The Team wants to involve members, wherever possible, in the project.

We hope to tap into the diverse expertise and specialist knowledge held within the membership and we appeal for help in the following areas:

- Providing additional historical data on sites already surveyed
- Proposing future target sites for the team to investigate

#### **We are also looking to recruit individuals with specific skills:**

- A draftsman (or archaeological artist) who could draw up (to scale) the team's site surveys – and to create 3D sketches of certain details
- A video editor to add graphics etc., to study videos made during the survey

One of the project's objectives is to locate and record the location of the individual burial sites (temporary battlefield burials) of members' relatives.

As such the team would like to invite members who have any information on the burial places of their relatives (or that of any other serviceman they may know of) to contact the team.

If you have any of the information outlined above or wish to volunteer, then please contact us using the email address below:

[HBSP@gallipoli-association.org](mailto:HBSP@gallipoli-association.org)

#### **We look forward to hearing from you.**

For more information on the Helles Battlefield Study Project please visit the projects dedicated page in the members area of the Association's website.



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## LAST POST

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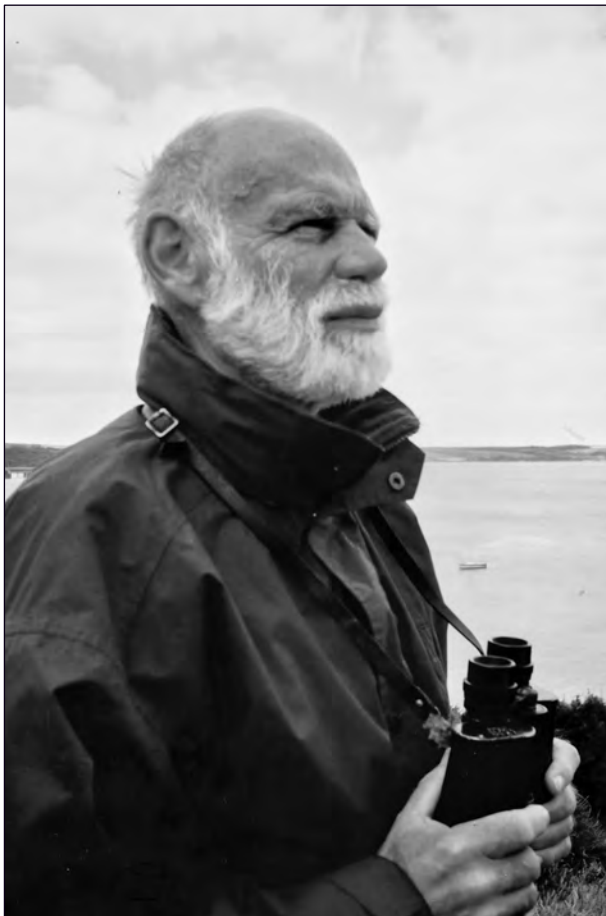
David Saunders MBE, Association member and former editor of *The Gallipolian*, died at Withybush Hospital, Wales, on 10th October 2023.

David was born in Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, and by his teens was already a keen bird-watcher, accompanied on his spotting trips by Shirley, who shared that passion and who would become his life-long companion. The pair moved to Pembrokeshire in 1960, when David secured the appointment as the first warden of the newly-declared Skomer Island nature reserve. He and Shirley, and soon after Robert and Rachel, two of their three children, lived and worked hard on the island in the days before crowds of people visited, and before the luxury of 'optional extras' such as telephones, TV, refrigerators, or electricity. The looming need for children to attend school compelled a return to the mainland in October 1966, ending seven years of isolated and eventful island life, and Catherine, third child, was born soon after.

David's enthusiasm for the welfare of seabirds saw him organise and lead *Operation Seafarer*, the first national seabird census, which covered the British and Irish coasts, and led to his appointment to the directorship of the West Wales Naturalists Trust (now The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales) from 1976 to 1994. He wrote regularly for 'Bird Watching' magazine and 'Natur Cymru', and in 1974 his *A Guide to the Birds Of Wales* and *Seabirds of Britain and Ireland* were published, followed by the *RSPB Book of British Birds* in 1975 and *A Brief Guide to the Birds of Pembrokeshire* the following year. In 1987, *Where to Watch Birds in Wales* appeared, which is now, I believe, in its fifth edition. There were other books, not mentioned here, but it's hard to keep up! He was honorary warden of the island of Grassholm and the first president of the Welsh Ornithological Society, from which organisation he received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014, having already been awarded the MBE in 2003 for services to nature conservation in Wales. David became known for the quality of his talks, and for years lectured across Wales and on cruise ships.

Somehow in between all that, and in an obviously busy life, David assumed the role, from the Spring 1988 edition, of editor of *The Gallipolian*, and to continue in that position for a full twenty years! Even after putting together his last edition (Spring 2008), David remained a regular contributor to our journal, and his article 'A Mighty Clever Piece of Work' (Winter 2014 edition), with its subject the submarine *B11*, is particularly relevant to *this* edition. A prolific reader, book reviews came regularly, and he always had an interesting article - or an idea for one, often from his beloved *Daily Telegraph* - for me to 'look into.'

I never met David, but I'm grateful for the help, stories and advice he was always willing to share. I'm sure I speak for everyone connected to the Gallipoli Association, from the president, who knew him well, to the chairman and all other office-holders, members, and those who just happen across any of 'his' editions, when I say that his mighty contributions are greatly appreciated. – Editor.



**David Saunders MBE**



## OBJECTIVES

To advance education for the public benefit by raising public awareness of the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915 and by encouraging and facilitating the study in the legacy and lessons of that campaign. To keep alive the memory of the campaign and to ensure that all who fought or served in it, and those who gave their lives, are not forgotten by applying such means as the Trustees deem fit.



*The River Clyde at V Beach, 25 April 1915, William Lionel Wyllie.  
National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, Caird Collection*

The Gallipoli campaign is characterised by countless deeds of heroism and endurance. It took place in an area smaller than Southampton amid appalling conditions - 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, including 50,000 Australians and 9,000 New Zealanders, and 80,000 French. The cost in human terms was terrible. The Allies had 250,000 casualties, of whom approximately 58,000 were killed, with only 11,000 having known graves. Ottoman forces, with some Germans, numbered between 300,000 and 400,000 and of these some 87,000 were killed. The evacuations in December 1915 and early January 1916 were masterly operations – one of the great feats of military history.