

The Fight roughly outlined

Sunday 25th April 1915 Landing & the fight of that day.

The Australians 3rd Brigade, or at least some of them, landed at 4.30am. When about 15 yards from the Beach the Turks started a point blank machine gun and rifle fire into them with the result that they jumped overboard, fixing their bayonets whilst swimming ashore, and then started right into them with cold steel. The Turks fled panic stricken chased up very steep and high hills covered with thick scrub. About 4 miles they chased them and then had to halt to await reinforcements as in the pursuit and landing they lost an awful lot of men. At 10.30 the Auckland Battalion and ½ Battalion of Canterbury's landed & straight away were sent to the left flank or at least they were supposed to go there anyway. Such a muddle. (Only the 5th platoon, the one I'm in) (only) went to the flank. The rest of the Company and the other 5 Companies scattered and went everywhere. The fault of bad officers. And another thing; a lot of the men never came up at all – stayed frightened on the beach. Well with only one platoon of 54 men going to the flank to help the Australians wasn't sufficient with the result the Turks, being in much larger numbers we were cut up and had to retire and now, after 11 days hard fighting, we are just getting to the hill we had to leave. Simply by bad management on someone's part. That mistake has cost an awful lot of deaths and casualties.

Out of our Company, the 6th, we now have 112 men out of 248 men. So we lost more than half. The 16th Company have 90 men out of 230 left. The 15th Company lost about 60 and the 3rd's only lost 5 killed and 14 wounded. So you can see who had to bear the brunt of the Auckland Battalion. The 6th Company was the first of the New Zealanders in the firing, and the 5th platoon was the first of the 6th Company in, & I was the 4th man in. So I hope to live through it all and come back home safe.

The bayonet charge of the Australians on landing was brilliant and I am willing to bet anyone that such a charge has never been seen in the annals of any war. And I am glad to have been fighting side by side with them. They are great.

The battle still rages furiously. But we will win. We are up against the Main Army, about 100,000.

The Order came through from the extreme left. Down fire on the left front. Indian Battery coming up the slope. We ceased fire and watched what we thought was Indians come up and mount their machine guns. Then it was God help us, they were Turks in Indian Dress, and they poured ton after ton of lead into us. It was the enemy that had passed the word along the lines. What with shrapnel, machine guns, snipers, and rifle fire, it was Hell on Earth.. God forbid that I should ever have to go through the same again. If so, I hope that I am shot very early. It would send me silly. Oh God how we suffered.

I was sent from the flank with a message to Headquarters for reinforcements and had to crawl for about 50 yards and then I up and run for it with about a couple of ton of lead chasing me and scores of snipers having a go at me! But I got through thanks to my luck. How I did it I don't know. At the time I thought nothing of it. But since I know I had a miraculous escape. Thank God I am still safe and hope some day to return home safe and sound and then nothing will entice me to leave it.

E.B. DeLacey

6th Hauraki Regiment