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DIARY OF 3/84 R CHADWICK

NO: 1 NZ Field Ambulance, of the Gallipoli Campaign 1915.

April 1915

- Friday 9th      Emergency rations given out. Spent farewell evening with my friends in Heliopolis, Mr & Mrs Clethers, staying until midnight, and two hours overtime. Looked over balcony to see if all was clear, so that I could get back to camp, and found about two dozen Australian Police. I got past them by borrowing a civilian overcoat and hat from my friend.
- Saturday 10th    Struck camp and finally packed ready to move off. Handed our base kits in to store, and went into Albassia with Halse and G. McGurk to bring one of our prisoners back to camp. Great excitement amongst us all, as we expect to reach the Front now. Had supper with Eric Buss and Alan Ford. Had a little sleep on cold dessert ready to move at a moment's notice.
- Sunday 11th      Left camp about 2am and marched to Grertoun Station, leaving there by train at 3.30am for Cairo. Changed trains at Cairo and left 4.30am, reaching Alexandria at 9.30am after a tiresome trip and found ourselves on wharf alongside our troopship, a captured German boat SS Goslar. Hung about wharves all day and tried to sleep there at night, but after three attempts in different places gave up the idea and had to go down ships hold to help to put our transport and baggage aboard, working from 10pm until 2am the next morning. This German prize boat had been lying idle in harbour for about 6 months and was simply alive with vermin.
- Monday 12th      Several types of French troops about wharves whom we chatted with. Some of them were Zouves who looked quaint in their bright red baggy trousers and embroidered coats. About six of we boys hired a boat and sailed round the harbour to see the American warship 'Tenessee', French hospital ships and other sights, and on returning got a surprise to find that all our men had embarked, so we lost no time in joining them as we didn't wish to be left behind at this period. Left wharf and anchored in stream at 8pm. Our sleeping quarters were down below on matting over the iron decks, but we didn't mind this so much as the vermin that seemed to be everywhere.

- Tuesday 13th Fire drill on deck, having to don our life-belts and go to our allotted stations. Sewing pockets in my trousers. Inspection for measles, and George Masters was sent ashore as a suspect. We all had a swim in the harbour, diving from boat deck and some from top of horse boxes about 40ft above water. The American battleship 'Tennessee' gave a searchlight display at night quite near to us and very pretty. We had plenty of fun and played jokes with cockroaches and other insects in putting them down different boys' backs.
- Wednesday 14th After a medical inspection of our troop ship it was condemned as unsanitary, which accounted for us coming alongside wharf and bringing all our personal belongings with us. Marched from wharf to camp at Mex about three miles away, where we will stay until boat is improved. We found several refugees from Jerusalem and other places. Housed in sheds and a big building alongside our camp. Men, woman and children of Russian, Jewish and other nationalities. For the first time I saw a Tommy doing field punishment, by being chained to a cart wheel. The Colonials, I thought, wouldn't stand that.
- Thursday 15th Went for route march and swim in sea about 2 miles away. Refugee men of military age left camp for service and there were some sympathetic scenes caused in parting from their people. We are sleeping out in the open in this camp, no tents. Spent evening in Alexandria and had a good time.
- Friday 16th March and swim again. Drill. Some of the boys are getting hard-up with having no pay lately. Sold Hasle's shirt for 3 piastres, and several of the boys sold tins of bully to natives.
- Saturday 17th March again and swim. Hunting lizards with a fox-terrier amongst sand-hills, and caught several 12 inches long. Packed up after lunch and left boat again at 2pm, embarked and left wharf at 6pm, singing 'Tipperary'. Several refugees and others saw us off on wharf, and a great lot of cheering took place as we passed different boats and made for the open.
- Sunday 18th Reveille at 5.30am, and after coming on deck found we were out of sight of land, and ploughing our way across the calm Mediterranean, accompanied by perfect weather.
- Monday 19th Passed several islands. Picked up two more transports and was met by H.M.S. Dartmouth as an escort, which after accompanying us for some

miles, handed us over to torpedo boat destroyers. Got news by signal of a Turkish boat firing 3 torpedoes at a British transport, which fortunately all missed. We got issued with two bags of iron rations (bully beef and biscuits) for landing with and paraded in full marching orders for practice.

- Tuesday 20th Arrived in harbour at Lemnos about midday, which place presented a most business and warlike appearance. Transports, destroyers, battleships, - French, English and a Russian cruiser, while out from the entrance to the harbour, submarines and destroyers were busy on patrol duty. This Greek island is only about 60 or 70 miles from our destination - Gallipoli Peninsula. Sea choppy and chilly at night.
- Wednesday 21st Stayed in Harbour all day. Sea very choppy, weather cold and rainy. Bulgaria reported to have declared war on us. Wrote letters while I had a chance, as I can see we have a busy time ahead of us.
- Thursday 22nd Paraded in full marching order and practised climbing down rope ladders over side of ship into small boats below. Messages from Earl Kitchener and others read out to us, wishing us success, etc in our near future task. Declaration read out about the war. Lecture in evening by Capt. Boxer about going into field. Each of we ambulance men were issued with a bottle of iodine, cigarettes and tobacco. Busy sewing ready for landing, made sleeping bag out of blankets, made extra haversack out of sacking. Everybody busy and excited more or less. More French transport came into harbour. Now about 200 transports here.
- Friday 23rd Another echelon parade (practising disembarking). Finished sewing my requirements. Transports started to move out of harbour with pontoons and pinnaces, and small boats trailing at stern and sides. Hydroplane flying about us round harbour.
- Saturday 24th Another echelon parade. More cigarettes and tobacco issued. More transports, battleships and torpedo boats and other craft moved out, presenting a great spectacle, especially in knowing their object. H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, Swiftsure, Russian and French warships steamed out. Received wireless message from our King wishing us good luck and success.
- Sunday 25th Our transport and others now left Lemnos at 9am and before we had gone very far we could hear the faint boom of our warships' guns which increased

as we got nearer and nearer. They are bombarding the Turkish positions to cover our landing parties. We could soon see a big fleet of transports and warships and the outline of our goal. As we came nearer and nearer to the 'vision' it seemed like one) got clearer and din of battle got louder, every nerve was strained while we kept the glasses trained on to those scrubby cliffs! A sight never to be forgotten. We were not anchored a little way out from shore with the Majestic only a few yards alongside us, firing broadsides, while we watched them burst on the hills, at the same time following the movement of our troops ashore who had been landing since day break. The incessant crackle of rifle and machine gun fire, our warships' guns and shells from the Turkish batteries bursting around us, was enough for us to realise that after all these months of training and 'holiday making' we were actually in a 'real war'. We have now been ready to go ashore for some time, (with the exception of the tent division who remained on board) all fully dressed and waiting for the destroyer to come along. The destroyer 'Foxhound' was soon alongside, and we speedily transferred to her. Some of her crew had already been killed and their bodies were still aboard. We lost no time in saying goodbye to our friends who remained behind, and in getting as close to shore as was safe for the destroyer, we then transferred into lifeboats and the sailors pulled for the shore under a shower of lead. I have often been through hail and snow storms but these lead storms were the limit, I thought. However, our bow grated on the singly shore and now! Jump, boys! Some fell right in the water, while others, myself including only got wet up to the knees. We are on Turkish soil! Wounded and dead are thick on the beach, what shall we do? This way boys, our officer shouts and we moved along the beach to our left. Most of us, including the officers, not knowing which lot of wounded to start on. One or two of our men at this point got hit, but nothing serious. How did any of us land on such a position? With Turks concealed on the hills with machine guns waiting for us. We had no time to think about this now, we were busy patching up the wounded. Major Alderman, an Imperial officer was our patient, his wound being a bad one dum-dum bullet wound in forearm.

It would take pages to describe what we saw at this period, and personally I would rather not - but to see men wounded and helping another wounded comrade along, who had lost his eyesight and other wounds, were touching but brave incidents not

easily forgotten. Went out to firing line at night over scrubby hills and down gullies to bring in wounded. Had to be very careful and on the alert as several mines had been set and left by enemy and Turkish snipers seemed to be concealed everywhere. Passed scores of dead men as we crept quietly along (turks and our own men) and after going about three miles from Anzac Beach we reached our further-most advanced position. This position was grave. Our men were mixed up Australians and New Zealanders, two or three men from one regiment and a few from another. A strange country, and most of the officers killed or wounded, seemed to be bad for us, but our boys fought well, and hadn't even had time for a drink or a bite to eat since the previous night. Reinforcements were wanted badly everywhere and if we had them we should still have been advancing. I heard officers telling the men that so many thousand reinforcements would be up anytime, just to cheer them up, while there were no men available at the time. Here our stretcher squad came across an Australian with a fractured thigh, who had been laying there some hours with a dead comrade partly on top of him. We had to move this dead man to get the stretcher along side the wounded man, which seemed a peculiar sensation, being the first corpse I had handled.

Monday 26th

It was now about 2 o'clock in the early morning when we got this painful case on our stretcher and started back for the beach. Twelve stone weight on the stretcher, a dark night, drizzling rain, groping our way down a steep incline through prickly scrub, our wounded man crying with pain and begging for a drink every few yards. Incessant rifle fire and bullets whizzing all around us was what we were going through. Some of our men were retreating to take up new positions in front of us, and daylight would soon be showing itself, I knew. The ground was very slippery now and we couldn't help slipping now and again - unfortunately for the patient. Twice we had to overcome vertical drops of about five or six feet which necessitated most careful manipulation. We were just about done but knew that if we didn't get clear of that position before day break, we would almost certainly be shot.

After tramping through about a mile of water along the gully bed we felt greatly relieved on reaching the beach about 5am, just on day break. Our clothes were wet with the rain, but we were so tired that we simply threw ourselves down on the shingly beach and fell asleep for about an hour.

No time for any more sleep, we thought so we boiled our dixies and had a hot drink with bully beef and biscuits. Several of our dead were laying a few yards from us as we partook of this refreshment, and wounded were still coming in. The Turks started to shell the beach, so for safety we dug into the side of the hill, but got orders to move up gully into safer caves as the shell fire got worse. Our artillery and Howitzer battery landed and soon got into action, making us feel more confident now. More troops landed after an existing shelling by enemy whilst in boats. We had a good view of sea from our position on hill top, watching our warship bombarding. The shells including Lizzies 15" were passing just over our heads, which seemed to make them split, to say nothing of the headaches we got. Got orders to take no notice of Turks showing the white flag as they have been trying to bluff us with it. Our aeroplane busy all day directing our gun fire. Heard that our N.Z. boys had captured nine machine guns and three Krupps and together with Australians have captured a number of prisoners. Indian mounted battery got their guns in action last night with mules and are doing good work. A few Turkish prisoners, including an ambulance man are just near us and creating quite a novelty. Our position strengthened a good deal today making us feel quite easy.

Tuesday 27th

Moved round to left flank where our boys had just captured Walkers Ridge and were just digging in. The Hastings boys were in this fight along with the 9th Battalion and others and got a pretty rough time by the Turks. We established our dressing station at the bottom of the gully, close to the beach, and our wounded were simply pouring in more so than we could cope with, until we got volunteer stretcher bearers from the infantry. All other time was taken up with dressings alone. Several Hastings boys got wounded and we dressed them and did all we could for them. Snowy Markrell was amongst them. To look at those almost perpendicular cliffs, four hundred feet high and which we have just taken and now trying to hold them, one can hardly realise that such a feat was possible. Several of the badly wounded men died being too badly wounded for us to do anything for them, and one couldn't help being touched as their mates knelt down beside them until the last. Some very ghastly wounds we came across, evidently caused by explosives and dum-dum bullets.

Wednesday 28th Most of day evacuating wounded about a mile and

a half way along beach to boats where we first landed and from there they were taken out to hospital ships. Turks continually shelling beach where we had to pass with wounded. C.H. Alse got hit here with shrapnel bullet which only bruised his ankle and only a few yards behind the patient we were carrying. Much quieter today, presumably to strengthen our present position, but occasional wounded still being brought into us.

Turks getting guns into position and troops close to beach on our left ready to advance, but other warships have been watching their movements and soon scattered them. A party of our men went about two hundred yards along the beach, from our position to bury a few dead, Turkish snipers got on to them, killing three before they retired with difficulty. We spotted a Turkish sniper near top of high cliff (Walkers Ridge) with carrier pigeons. A few good shots were soon got and we watched the puffs of dust as the bullets got near their target. Only fifteen bullet wounds were found in this Turk when they got to him from the top with difficulty. This Turk absolutely sacrificed his life in going into that cunning position, and had we not got him, he would have died of starvation, as there was no way possible for him to get out again unless a rope had been lowered. This same man must have had a few dozen of our boys to this credit as where he was, he commanded the beach and scrubby flat at the foot of Walkers Ridge. Went up to trenches to look for wounded and got fired on several times. Our Tent Subdivision came ashore. Hear that three thousand Blue Marines have just landed with 9 2" Howitzers. Two thousand Ghurkas and an English ambulance arrived. Several big shells from Turkish warships in Dardenelles we watched fall in water close to our warships which they were trying to hit. Moved our dressing station up gully a little way to take cover from enemy shell fire. Rained at night, so we had to find a drier spot as we were sleeping just under the scrub. One of our stretcher bearers got shot in the thigh.

Thursday 29th One of our sergeants highly excited rushed in scrub where we were sleeping soundly at 4am, before daybreak, and ordered us all to rush up the gully as quickly as possible. The Turks were expected to be making an attack along the beach below us and we thought we were going to be cut off. However we were held in suspense for about an hour, when one of our destroyers crept close into shore to see if anything was doing. Had a wash and shave for the first time since landing

and after breakfast at daybreak felt a different man altogether. The Turks again shelled our warships from their forts in Dardenelles. We keep hearing rumours of Turkish ruses such as wearing our uniforms, advancing to our trenches and giving orders such as 'Cease fire, you are firing on the Indians' - the blowing of retreat on their bugles, carrying machine guns on their stretchers to make us believe they are carrying wounded and then placing the machine gun close to our front trenches and many other ruses. We caught a Turkish sniper concealed in our lines with 2000 rounds of ammunition and enough food in store for a week. Shrapnel flying about freely at night. Today has been much quieter on the Turks side, but our warships and land guns have been busy bombarding all day. Few wounded coming in which is a good sign. Went down to base at night when a sniper shot a man through the arm just in front of us. Turks sent over a fair amount of shrapnel about 9pm. Beach strewn with Australian valises, left by the men gone forward. Many undoubtedly have fallen, and it seemed a shame to see men helping themselves to the contents.

Friday 30th

On duty evacuating to beach from 7-9am, one of our patients had a protruding brain and died soon after we arrived there. Fairly quiet again, but a little shrapnel came over without doing much damage. We saw a large shell fall only a few feet from one of our mine sweepers, surmised having been fired by the German ship 'Goben'. Few slightly wounded cases came in. George Loach came to see me and stayed for tea in our dug-out. Slept in the dressing station on night duty.

May 1915

Saturday 1st

On duty at dressing station just behind trenches. Indian mountain battery in position on top of cliffs. More shells we saw land in the sea after our ships. Helped our engineers in making roads to get our guns up the steep hills, whilst waiting for patients. About a hundred shrapnel shells fell quite close to us, luckily just where we had no troops. Had a refreshing bathe in the sea before going on duty in our dressing station from 6-8pm.

Sunday 2nd

On duty from 6-8am in dressing room station. Saw some Turkish prisoners our naval men caught at a telephone station at Suvla Point. Dug a new bivouac and lit a fire inside to dry the clay. We made an attack at night and all we stretcher bearers went up Walkers Ridge to our A.D.S. but

nothing eventuated.

- Monday 3rd      Returned to our ambulance from our trenches at 7.30am. Saw a shell fall on our of our colliers, but did little damage. A wounded Turk sniper was brought into our station, and another Turk whom I had to give a hand in carrying to the boat. W. Eva got killed and Napier wounded, both belonging to our ambulance.
- Tuesday 4th     Stanley Natusch came to see me. Made marmalade pudding for dinner with hard biscuits and marmalade. Fried hash for breakfast. On duty at A.D.S. from 6.30pm. Bert Dowling got hit on the chest with a spent bullet whilst I was speaking to him, which only made a slight bruise.
- Wednesday 5th   Returned from A.D.S. after a quiet night to our unit. Did a little washing in the sea. Relieved by R.M.L.I. a naval brigade and part of our unit came down to the beach. We marched down the beach to the jetty not having the least idea where we were going, until they took us out to sea in barges, then transferred us onto H.M.S. Torpedo destroyer 'Bulldog'. We were going down to Cape Helles.
- Thursday 6th    Very cold and bitter trip on the deck of the destroyer down to Cape Helles where we disembarked at 5am. After an apology for a breakfast, we marched to Sadd-el Bahr Forts, a distance of about 3 miles and close to our fighting line. Fighting in progress trying to take Achr Baba, a big hill some 500ft high. Passed ruins of Turkish forts and other buildings, the result of our navy's bombardment. Saw old Turkish trenches and defences from which we had driven them out, old Turkish clothing and war material. We met many French troops here, Singalese - (French colonials from N. Africa) Indian troops, Australians, and our own boys, all working together. We could follow our troops attacking on the slopes of Achr Baba quite plainly as our shells were falling heavily on the enemy position.
- Friday 7th      Digging timber of out old French dug-outs to build a dressing station. Moved away after dinner with our infantry and before we had gone far shrapnel was raining upon us, so we had to seek cover in trenches. After it had quietened down a little, we moved on to V. beach where we stayed the night. Several wounded Tommies were brought in.
- Sunday 8th      Moved from V. beach after dinner to a position on old Turkish trenches, a much more advanced position. Our guns bombarded heavily at night,

enabling us to make a slight advance. We bearers were sent up to our advanced dressing station to evacuate the wounded, where quite a number were waiting. I got hit in the chest with a spent piece of shrapnel, which unfortunately only left a bruise mark.

Sunday 9th

It was 2am this morning when we finally evacuated all the wounded from the A.S.S. After a little sleep we went out again at 7am and as there were no casualties, we went away over to the left, where help was needed. We had rather an exciting time covering this mile and a half stretch of exposed country which the Turkish position commanded a full view.

We were being sniped at, evidently as bullets were pining all round us. After running for our lives, for about 50 yards we laid down flat to get our breath before another sprint. We felt relieved when we got in a bit of a hollow, but here found about twenty of our own men, including English troops lying wounded where they had been brought for shelter. Some English stretcher bearers were waiting in an old stone hut, and an officer told us that they (the wounded) were not to be taken away until dark as they had already lost two bearers in trying to get them away. We redressed and dressed the wounds and made them as comfortable as possible. Water we got for the men who craved for it, and who we dared give it to, whilst a sniper pinged away at us every time we went near the well. We decided to try to evacuate these lot of wounded (our squad of 6 men), and very fortunately we did so, with the exception of three of the men who died before we could get them away. Our route to the dressing station in the gully was very rough - over exposed ground covered with dead, over trenches and other obstacles and getting sniped at most of the way. Saw C. Horton and George Loach.

Monday 10th

Much quieter day. Evacuated a few casualties from A.D.S. Had a swim in the Dardenelles near Seddel-Bahr which considerably refreshed us. More shrapnel around us and shrapnel above after our aeroplanes.

Tuesday 11th

Again quiet. Raining. All the N.Z. troops were marched back from the trenches, some 3 miles for a rest, and it was warm work with our full packs. Slept out in the open in light rain.

Wednesday 12th

It was none too pleasant sleeping in the rain in the open, so I was up at 4am listening to the song

of the nightingale. We heard a close shot and saw a crowd quickly gather about a hundred yards away. A Tommy accidentally shot himself in the abdomen. Very muddy and still raining. Made a bivouac for four with our ground sheets. Rum and cigarette papers issued.

- Thursday 13th Took a walk over to Seddel-Bahr village and forts - a mass of ruins from our navy's guns. Saw shells drop in the Dardenelles very close to one of our cruisers, from forts on the Asiatic side. Amused ourselves trying to talk to the French soldiers and got some souvenirs from them. Heard news of H.M.S. Goliath being sunk in the Dardenelles not far from where we are. Brought firewood back from the ruined buildings to cook our food with.
- Friday 14th Much shelling around us all morning and had to keep in our dug-outs for cover. Walked over to aerodrome in afternoon to see the different aircraft.
- Sunday 15th More shelling close by at breakfast for about an hour. Taking advantage of the lull in the fighting, we took a walk over to the ruined village of Seddel Bahr again for firewood and had another swim in Dardenelles. Visited some of the French camps and exchanged rations with the 'Froggies' as we call them. Turks again bombarded at night.
- Sunday 16th Issue of cigarettes and tobacco. Johnnie Turk seems to know our meal times, and again he gave us shrapnel for breakfast. Church service 5.30pm afterwards we visited the French Artillery camp and our good friends there gave us coffee, sugar and bread - rations which we were not getting ourselves. Australians reported to be moving away from Cape Helles
- Monday 17th Swim in Dardenelles with French soldiers. Visited French engineers camp. Turkish artillery very active whilst our own are very quiet and preparing for an attack.
- Tuesday 18th We are attacking the village of Krithia on our left and on the crest leading up to Achi-Baba. At aerodrome in afternoon and beach. Very close 'shave' with shrapnel in evening which caused the earth to sprinkle up all around us.
- Wednesday 19th Exchanged our rations of tea, bacon and jam with the French engineers for their ration of bread and potatoes. Our ambulance packed up and left at 8pm for embarkation at Cape Helles. Boarded a mine-

sweeper (No 696) and sailed at midnight for Anzac Cove, our previous position.

- Thursday 20th Arrived at Anzac Cove early morning to the sound of heavy rifle fire. Received a N.Z. mail which was more than welcomed. Found a dug-out where we spent the night.
- Friday 21st Evacuating the wounded to boats. One of our pinnaces got beached but was towed back after a little trouble. A party of Turkish prisoners brought in including a Staff Colonel. Improved our dug-out and had a swim.
- Saturday 22nd Raining. Improved our covering to keep the rain out of our posse. A German officer prisoner brought in, rumoured to have come to arrange peace terms (pent-etre). Ted Perry one of our men got killed by shrapnel a few yards down from our dug-out. Poor fellow, he was simply perforated with shrapnel. Carrying stores. Cigarette and rum issue. Refreshing swim in the sea. Our warships and destroyers are most unusually active on account of an enemy submarine having been seen. Transferred boats that had been laying at anchor left.
- Sunday 23rd Our section moved from Anzac Cove round to Walkers Ridge on our left to relieve the Australian ambulance. Secured our old dug-out.
- Monday 24th An armistice of seven hours from 9am to 4pm to bury the dead. We took advantage of this to have a good look round as it was now quite safe. Walked about in no-mans-land, and could see the Turks collecting and burying their dead. Some of our men were mixed up with them. Turkish dead estimated at 1200. A wounded Turk with the side of his face shot away was brought into our station, after laying out for three days. One of our submarines sank a Turkish gunboat in the Dardenelles. On duty in the trenches at R.A.P. from 6pm till 8am tomorrow. Saw Orton's friend Stan Williams and other 9th Mounted men whom I knew. Rained during night and got shelter in a Mounted dug-out.
- Tuesday 25th Had a walk around the trenches about 6am and watched our snipers at work. Saw Major Selwyn Chambers for a few minutes. Indian soldiers gave us some of their oatmeal cakes (chapatties). Witnessed the sad spectacle of H.M.S. Triumph sinking after being torpedoed shortly after midday. Our destroyers and other vessels were soon on the spot rescuing the survivors. Showery most part of the day.

- Wednesday 26th Went for medical stores from H.Q.S. stayed for dinner and brought back the cross for Ted Perry's grave to do the sign-writing on.
- Thursday 27th Sign-writing on the cross. Writing letters. Made camp.
- Friday 28th Evacuated two stretcher cases to beach. Stayed for dinner there and saw Allan Jones in the hospital. We attacked at night but unsuccessfully. Turks blew up one of our sap. trenches, but we retook it together with two more trenches. Many wounded came in during the night and four dead men. Today the weather has been unbearably hot.
- Saturday 29th Evacuated patients to the ferry and got sniped at on the beach. One packet of cigarettes and two boxes of matches issued. Quite a treat, even to see them in this part.
- Sunday 30th Duty in trenches from 8 to 10.30am. Brought down two wounded cases. Eric Burr had dinner with us. Washed my clothes in the sea. Several men were swimming here when snipers got on to them, resulting in one of the men getting shot in the head and another in the hand. Jack Braithwaite was brought into our dressing station, shot through both legs. All our bearers went out to No 2 outpost, along the beach to our left to being in some fifty cases of wounded where the Turks were attacking. Our 9th Mounted Rifles (my old Territorial Unit) were defending the position against great odds, and had hand to hand fighting. We had to abandon this outpost, otherwise we would have been cut off and made prisoners. A party of mounteds buried the remains of 40 men from one of the first landing boats near No 2 outpost.
- Monday 31st Finished evacuating the wounded at 1am to C.C.S. where a number of serious cases were already waiting for operations. After making the wounded as comfortable as possible I got to bed at 2am. Allan Ford who was also stretcher-bearing in front of us, got shot through his four fingers by a stray bullet. We helped him back to our dug-out as he was sleeping with us, after getting the wounds dressed. The wound partly put him out of action so we had to put him to bed to assist him in dressing. Swim after tea. Night duty and took a patient to C.C.S. about 11pm.

#### June 1915

- June 1st Made a sleeping bag out of blankets. Allan Ford

evacuated to Lemnos by mine-sweeper. Swim after tea, then took a walk to see the 9th Wgton Mounted Rifles.

- Wednesday 2nd Whilst swimming in the sea, one of the party was fatally shot through the head by a Turkish sniper. In trenches in afternoon by 3.30 to 6pm. Helped pull in "Howitzer" to the top of Walkers Ridge in evening which took about a hundred men.
- Thursday 3rd Celebrated the King's birthday with our issue of rum, singing to the music played by an Indian doctor on his mandolin and ukele. An order came out prohibiting us from bathing on the beach on account of the casualties inflicted by the Turkish snipers. Bombardment by our artillery at night.
- Friday 4th Improved our dug-out. Heavy bombardment in progress down towards Cape Helles. Heavy rifle fire at night, which proves to be our troops attacking and which resulted in us capturing two Turks at Quinns Post.
- Saturday 5th On duty at A.D.S. L. Tatton had dinner with us and took photos of our dug-out.
- Sunday 6th Carried patient round to C.C.S. who got wounded on the beach. It is rumoured that two Turkish divisions attacked each other by mistake two days ago at Cape Helles. Also rumoured that all the Germans are leaving here and returning to Constantinople owing to some friction with the Turks. We are always getting such rumours and it would be interesting to know where they originate. A party of Australian Light Horse held church service next to our dug-out so we joined the party. Stroll after tea to our base round the beach.
- Monday 7th All our section bearers sent round to base to build a shell-proof shelter for the wounded. Very hot work filling sand bags in the heat of the day. Shrapnel burst around us and men bathing in the sea.
- Tuesday 8th Very hot day, the majority of men going about nearly naked. Some other rumour of peace talks being arranged with Turkey in London. On duty in trenches all night, but only got one casualty by a bonb.
- Thursday 10th We watched from the hill our destroyers and land guns, shelling the Turks along the beach on our left who we could plainly see.
- Friday 11th Two of our 'C' section men get hit by shrapnel

just in front of the hospital - T. Sloan and Burnett. The former was seriously wounded in the spine and the latter died within a few minutes of being hit. We buried the casualty after dark. In the trenches at a position where our trench was only forty yards away from the enemies' position. Saw one or two dead Turks over the parapet.

- Saturday 12th Alf East sick so I had to take his place in charge of our squad. One patient whom we took around was badly hit in the foot and we had to have it amputated. Many shells burst around our dressing station, killing a Mounted man and wounding ten other men, including Indians.
- Sunday 13th Awakened early by one of our cruisers firing broadsides, which makes a deafening roar in the gully where we were. Bombs dropped by aeroplanes on enemy lines quite close to us.
- Monday 14th Shell fire around our position, before we got out of bed and soon had our dug-out full of men seeking safer places than they had themselves. One of our dug-outs got scattered, but luckily no-one was in it at the time. Carried seven wounded down the hill of the 3rd Auckland Mounted Rifles.
- Tuesday 15th Fifty from our ambulance unit sent to base to build shell proof shelters for wounded. Had a refreshing swim in choppy sea, which reminded me very much of Napier. Three Turkish prisoners were bathing at the same time, under an armed guard. By the appearance of such large numbers bathing, it looked more like a seaside resort than part of a battle field. A man from our ambulance got wounded in the shoulder.
- Wednesday 16th A touch of gastritis, and was put on an arrowroot diet. Our outward mail reported to have been sunk. A much cooler day and little rain.
- Thursday 17th On duty 10.30am to 1pm at A.D.S. Brought 4 Australian Light Horse wounded cases down. More shrapnel falling around, one piece falling only a yard away from me, and another piece came through the roof of our bivvy.
- Sunday 20th Received N.Z. mail and papers giving accounts of our landing here. Brought down an Australian who accidentally shot himself, and died soon after we got him in our shelter.
- Monday 21st Mid summer day and an ideal day concerning the weather, which ended in a very fine sunset across the water. Watched the French shelling Achi-Baba, which bombardment had been going all day.

Reported that the French have captured a first line trench and part of the second, and repulsed two counter-attacks. Shells fell in the sea, close to where we were swimming - we noticed men diving for them for souvenirs. One of our warships shelling Gaba Tepe with high explosives. Our chief enemy at the moment and even more dreaded than the Turk is the house fly (*Musca Domestica*). It is easily accounting for more casualties than the Turks by spreading mainly, the dysentery germs about, whilst enteric claims a good many cases. Body lice are another loathed enemy, and a man is considered lucky if has not got any grazing on this area. It is quite a common sight to see scores all along the beach, on the hill sides and in the trenches making raids amongst their garments on these 'white infantry'.

June 22nd

My squad went out to No 2 outpost to bring in patient who had rheumatic fever. Had a great contracy on our way back through a very narrow gap. Barely wide enough the whole way - about a mile.

I can see this is getting monotonous for me, so goodness knows whether it will interest anyone else, so I must try to condense it as much as possible and pick out the main events.

The activity is very quiet now and our daily routine is much the same, fatigues, carrying an odd patient now and again, visiting the Indians, and spending most of our time bathing in the sea to try to keep ourselves cool. I did a little sketching and when off duty often took a stroll up to the trenches to see friends.

Sunday 27th

Heavy rifle and gun fire last night and this morning resulting in many casualties coming and us having to get to work evacuating. Many bomb wounds.

Monday 28th

Heavy bombardment down the coast past Gaba Tepe. Scottish troops said to have affected another landing, between Baba Tepe and C Helles.

Tuesday 29th

Heavy shelling around our A.D.S. on Walkers Ridge where we were on duty. A man only a few yards from us got blown to pieces and hurled down the gully. A shell cap fell two yards away. Still bombarding down the coast. Turks attacked our position during the night, but were repulsed after losing about three hundred men. We got several wounded Turks in our dressing station. Our casualties amounted to 5 killed and 18 wounded.

Wednesday 30th Carried some Turks to base at which the Indians didn't approve of according to their gesticulations. One Turk died in our hospital. A party of us had been in for a swim, and were having a sun-bathe on the beach, when shrapnel burst around us. The very man I was speaking to fairly badly wounded, whilst I didn't even get a scratch. W. Graham, one of our cooks, was the man and he got shot through both thighs and two of his fingers blown off. An Australian close by got an arm mangled simply into pulp with the shell case/C.Money, and L.Tatton went away sick.

### July 1915

July 2nd On duty at Walkers Ridge at A.D.S. where we saw several dead Turks, and over a 100 rifles, equipment and other stuff, the result of the attack a few nights ago. We got an issue of 2 eggs each two days ago, and I decided to give the boys in our bivvy a real treat by making some pancakes. The Colonels batman said I could help myself to flour in the Officer's mess, which to my sorrow I did, as evidently it turned out to be plaster of Paris, and the good eggs and milk were wasted, in spite of them being the first we had seen for months.

Tuesday 6th Went to see C. Horton in Rest Gully, stayed for lunch, then Charlie came back with me and stayed for tea. On guard at night from 8pm to 10pm.

Wednesday 7th The Australian Light Horse, bivouacked next to us, gave an open air concert in the evening which was good.

Saturday 10th Our planes busy observing and being shot at with shrapnel. Shells from battleships passing overhead. Inoculated with cholera serum.

Sunday 11th Washing clothes in the sea. One of our cruisers firing broadsides, quite a familiar noise, after being so quiet for the past few days. A Turkish gun from Anafarta replied and the shooting was good. Swim at Anzac Beach, where we first landed and brought back almost a whole side of a wrecked lifeboat for firewood.

Monday 12th Heavy rifle fire during the night and the Turks shelled our trenches. A few seriously wounded brought down.

Tuesday 13th Went to Quinn's Post in afternoon where most of the Hastings boys are in the trenches and a very hot place it is too, as the opposing trenches are

almost touching each other. Our trenches were all covered over with wire netting to protect them from bombs, and the Turkish which we got a peep at were covered in with heavy timber. Whilst here and talking to Geo Loach, I heard and saw one of our mines explode under an enemy position.

- Wednesday 14th Three more men got sniped at whilst bathing in the sea just below our station. Paid 10/- in paper money, our first pay since April 2nd. What is the good of it here, as there is absolutely no place to spend it. Inoculated some of the Indians for cholera in our hospital.
- Thursday 15th Posted home four copper bands of Turkish 12 pounders shells. Bomb from German aeroplane fell in sea near us.
- Sunday 18th In charge of reinforcement squad to evacuate nine walking cases to base.
- Monday 19th On guard from 8pm to midnight. Gas helmets issued as Turks are supposed to be using asphyxiating gas. Second dose of anti-cholera serum given. Alf East evacuated with measles.
- Tuesday 20th Took over the charge of our stretcher squad and got issued with new surgical haversack. Applied for position as photographer at H.Q. Out most of the night carrying wounded.
- Thursday 22nd Turks were expected to make an attack last night but nothing eventuated. Had tea with C. Horton in Rest gully.
- Friday 23rd Learnt from H.Q. that I was chosen for the position of photographer which I applied for a few days ago, and that was accepted, out of over a hundred applicants, but our Colonel (Colonel Begg) would not approve of my transfer.
- Tuesday 27th Working on hill side, excavating a position for our new hospital, when Chas Heald got a bad leg injury - hit on the knee by a pick and resulting in him being sent out to hospital ship.
- Wednesday 28th All the medical students with our ambulance left to return to N.Z. to continue with their studies owing to the shortage of medical.
- Thursday 29th Saw enemy aeroplane which caught fire after it was brought down. Went to No 2 outpost for water from a new well which has just been completed. Water, I may say is very scarce here and most of it is still brought in barges, then carried up to the trenches on pack mules. Swim in sea at 10pm.

August 1915

- Sunday 1st Church service in Gully by Rev. Luxford. German planes and our own hovering about.
- Monday 2nd Alf East came back from Hospital. Brought in two wounded cases from No 2 outpost. Turks shelling our position.
- Tuesday 3rd More shelling around us and a gunner close by us got wounded in the head.
- Wednesday 4th Four battalions of English troops arrived, and by other preparations, everything points towards an offensive by us at an early date. Watched our 58 inch Howitzers in action, and could follow the shells quite plainly.
- Friday 6th We lost two trenches on our right flank, but immediately drove the enemy out by a counter attack. Heavy gunfire from Turks in evening. One shell landed in our gun pit, and set the cordite on fire, resulting in 3 of our men getting severely burnt. We got those wounded in our station with every bit of clothing burnt off them - an awful sight. The men would be lucky to recover. Messages read to us from Gen. Hamilton and Gen. Birdwood to stimulate us in the attack which cannot be long now. George Loach round to see me and had a drink of tea. He was moving round to the left flank with the 9th Wgton Battalion preparatory to the attack. Our warships heavily bombarding and heavy rifle fire. We have started the attack already.
- Saturday 7th Awoke at 4am by the terrific noise from our ship's guns. It was not yet daylight and we could just see the numbers of troopships and cruisers anchored off Suvla Point, which was easily seen a new landing had been made. It was the 29th Division. At 4.38am the deafening noise of rifle fire on Walkers Ridge just above us, proved that we were attacking there also. The 8th, 9th and 10th Australian Light Horse (dismounted) attacked in the fact of, I should say, hundreds of machine guns and which resulted in them simply getting mown down. Very few of the Australians even got over their parapet two men - the Major and a private got any where near the enemy's trenches. "Shall I charge, Sir?" asked the private, but the Major told him to get back if he could.
- At 6am all we bearers went up to the trenches to bring the wounded back, and the sights we saw, I will never forget. I couldn't describe them and

again, if I could, I wouldn't dare to. Up and down the steep cliff we went all morning, bringing the wounded on stretchers, soaked in blood, and our clothes were much the same.

After lunch we evacuated about 300 wounded from our dressing station to the barges on the beach where piers had been specially built. Five hospital ships stood out prominently in their green and white paint amongst the numerous other shipping waiting to receive wounded. I saw between 300 and 400 prisoners brought in, mostly guarded by the big Indians, who seemed quite proud of their post. The attack has been along the whole front, and our flanks were more successful than our positions.

Sunday 8th

We were stretcher bearing most of last night, and now we have got over the rush, we are carrying the Turkish wounded. Turkish prisoners working on the wharf for us. Another batch of 30 prisoners brought in. Went out to No 2 outpost in the afternoon to assist "C" section with their wounded, and after finishing here we went over some of the captured Turkish positions, which we found most interesting, especially in all the things they had left behind. By the appearance of things they had left hurriedly, and we saw many Turks lying dead in their bivvys. Scores of our wounded lying out in the open at No 2 outpost waiting to be sent out to the hospital ships. Saw our 5th Reinforcements who only arrived at night, stretcher-bearing till after midnight, to the barges. One of the barges came full of mules which we had to unload before loading the patients. For this contract we had to wade out into the water over our knees. A party of R.A.M.C. came ashore to assist us. Wounded still coming by the score.

Monday 9th

Again carrying wounded to barges, and wounded still being brought in, including Indians, Gurkhas, Welsh, Irish, Scots, English, Maoris, Australians and our own men. Our Colonel told us we were to have 24 hours rest and after picking up, all marched round to Hill 971 where we immediately started bearing again. It was most difficult carrying the patients down from this steep hill, and wounded seemed to be living everywhere. After taking this hill, which was the only position commanding a view of the Dardenelles, the Turks, by a fierce counter-attack, drove us out, leaving many of our dead and dying on the steep slopes where we could not get at amongst whom were Geo. Loach, and other Hastings boys. I helped to carry Jim McGurk

from this position, who had a broken leg and a foot badly smashed.

- Tuesday 10th Bearing from our hospital to No 2 outpost on the beach. Whilst coming down the gully (Chailak Dere) Two R.A.M.C. men also stretcher bearing just in front of us got shot dead with shrapnel. After practically no sleep for the last few nights and the strenuous work of bearing, we are just about all feeling done, but things seem to be quietening down now.
- Turks attacked again and we could see them coming over the crest of opposite ridge quite plainly. I found a spare rifle and joined in the defensive which was repelled. Two Sikhs (Indians) sniped and killed a few yards away from us. My friend Alf East got wounded in the head by shrapnel not far from me, which was a shock to me, as we had lived and worked together from the time we landed. I took his personal belongings around to him in hospital in the evening. Carrying dispatches up till about midnight. Wounded still coming in, faster than we can cope with them.
- Thursday 12th Wounded nearly all evacuated. Had the first sleep last night for three days, after having a cup of hot rum and milk. Wrote three letters which the censor wouldn't pass, I suppose because I gave a time and account of our position and results of the fight. Snipers caught with a machine gun trained on the wharf, from where we were evacuating the wounded. Attended the funeral service of a man who had been lying dead beside us for four days.
- Friday 13th Quiet day. Owing to the intense heat we got a few men in with sunstroke. Saw the spot where Major Selwyn Chambers and Eric Burr fell. Had a look round at old Turkish positions and bivvys.
- Saturday 14th Took a photo of Major Chambers grave for Captain Boxer, for which I ran risk as the Turks played their machine guns over as soon as I opened the camera. The only thing I could do was lay down flat amongst the scrub, and I can assure you I lost no time in doing this. The Turks on the crest of Chanuk Bair (hill 971) overlooked all this position down Chanlak dere.
- Wednesday 18th The last few days the Turks have been sniping at all troops moving up and down the gully, consequently we have had to wait for darkness before carrying our wounded away.

We are now getting huge sickness parades - mostly dysentery and denteric cases, which is a big drain on our strength, as hundreds are being sent away daily. Got orders to choose good places for bivvys in case wet weather comes in, which looks as though we are set for the winter. Still having a dip in the sea every day, and often two or three times. Our Canterbury boys made an attack at night and destroyed a Turkish strong post.

Sunday 29th The past week has been fairly quiet with the average activity. We have been busy on fatigue work, making new bivvys and excavating for better and dryer places for our hospital marquees. A German plane dropped two bombs about 100 yds from us, and just over the ridge, luckily. Last Friday Col. Thomas in charge of the mounted Field Ambulance was killed, and Saturday Major Grant was killed, and Major Luxford wounded, both chaplains. I have been taken off stretcher-bearing and put on hospital work, which is a welcome change, after the heavy work of bearing. A slight touch of dysentery has compelled me to diet myself for the next few days. Gordon Roach was admitted into our hospital, as a patient suffering from the same complaint.

Tuesday 31st Two of our patients discovered to have Scarlet Fever so we had to evacuate them together with the 6 contacts and disinfect the tent. Seven Hastings boys gathered together at my bivvy, so we had our photo taken. Heavy shrapnel on our left, the result of which, we got a number of Nelson men wounded. Duty in dressing marquee from 6pm to 12pm.

#### September 19915

Sunday 12th Since the beginning of the month, little has happened. We have been busy in our dressing station mostly with sick and men troubled with septic sores, with a few wounded caught by snipers. A very large number of men were suffering from septic sores, raised by slight scratches from prickly scrub. Still getting large sick parades, mostly complaining of dysentery, with the result of so many being evacuated, our strength is now down to about 66%. Bert Dowling got wounded in the abdomen with a stray bullet on the 2nd inst.

We are living much better now as we get a share of the medical comforts provided for the wounded, including eggs, custard, tinned fruit and such like, part of which we brought from, canteen stores, sent over from one of the Greek Islands.

Dick Davies of Hastings was killed last Sunday. One day we got our first Egyptian casualty in - a donkey driver with a bullet in this thigh, which we managed to extract with forceps. 27th Brigade of Australians for relief duty, so we anticipate a rest soon.

Tuesday 14th Got orders to pack up to move away, and whilst so doing two of our men, L Brown and Cpl. Dick got sniped. Moved away at 3.30pm. Tea on beach near Walkers Ridge and moved round to the pier at Anzac Beach where we landed, and where we stayed until after midnight.

Wednesday 15th Moved on to a barge at 1am, and then towed out by a pinnace to the troopship Osmanieh as the rain commenced to fall. What a relief it was to be away from the Peninsula where one was almost sniped at wherever one went. Our quarters aboard this fine Khednic mail liner were the first class smoking saloon, which to get to we had to pass along many corridors, all full of men sleeping. The lights were out to screen us from the enemy, so we had a job to reach our destination, and could not help treading on some of the sleeping men.

This place was a palace compared to the conditions we had been living under the last few months, although we had to sleep on the floor between the chairs and the tables. After a little sleep, I had a good salt-water bath which considerably refreshed me. Sick parade in the afternoon, which I attended as I had a touch of Gastritis. To my surprise the doctor said that 8 of us would have to go into hospital when we landed, much against my will. However we are weary for a rest, I thought, so why not take advantage of it. The sail to Mudros was enjoyed, it was a beautiful and calm day. Arriving and disembarking at Mudros, on the Greek Island of Lemnos, we were met by an ambulance car and driven to No. 3 Australian Stationary hospital, a huge canvas hospital and quite close to where our ambulance took up their position. Soon we were admitted, washed and changed into a suit of pajamas and comfortably settled down in nice clean beds - whole 8 of us from our unit. At 8pm the orderly brought us bread and jam and a nice basin of hot milk, which only satisfied our hunger a mere trifle. Soon after, Australian nurses were round to take our temperatures and so forth. This was the first time I had seen a member of the fairer sex for about 6 months.

Thursday 30th We have now been patients for about a fortnight

and I must say have had a good time, and doing nothing unless we wished to. We had been dieted on milk and eggs, beef, tea, chicken, jelly and such like. Besides this diet we often took a walk down to the canteen or got one of the sailors from a warship to bring us something ashore. Generally sausages which we got some friends to cook or fry, with eggs or sometimes make us a fruit pie out of the tinned fruit we bought. We used to stroll away in our pajamas, looking up friends in other parts of the hospital, amusing ourselves in the recreation room, attending concerts, or visiting the nearest Greek villages. It really surprised me the freedom we were given. Friends brought us over our mail from our Ambulance, so you see on the whole, we had a very good time.

### October 1915

- Friday 1st Found Chas Horton in a convalescent hospital close by, and had a good old yarn. Concert in the evening by Australian Hospital staff personnel, which was very good.
- Monday 4th Walked over to a quaint and old Greek village about 3 miles away, which to get to, we had to cross about half a mile stretch of water, 3 feet deep in places. We found this place very interesting because it was the first village we had been into in about 6 months. A few old stores where you could purchase fruit, coffee, melons, eggs and such like. Saw several Greek woman spinning cotton.
- Tuesday 5th Walked into another village - slightly bigger and further away. Took a few photos here - very tired when we returned home and fatigued. Sketched a P.C. of the harbour for one of our nurses.
- Thursday 7th Transferred from this Australian hospital to a convalescent camp. Went over to our Ambulance re pay, unfortunately could not get any.
- Saturday 9th L Bell, J Broad and myself set out first thing after breakfast to walk to Castio, the capital of Lemnos and some 10 miles away across the hills. About half way we stopped at Thermo, had a refreshing bath, refreshments, then moved again on our journey. After leaving the natural mineral water baths, we had to climb up over the rocky hills to dodge the guard, as we had no passes. It was 2pm when we reached our destination and after having a fair dinner for 2/6 we strolled around the quaint and interest town,

looking at the different shops and the forts on the huge rocks round the harbour. Saw the shipping, large numbers of officers and soldiers besides many other sights of interest.

The three of us decided to stay the night and managed to find a suitable place for the night, although it could have been better.

Sunday 10th      Strolled round the harbour, church, took one or two photos, and after making a few purchases, and made our way back first thing after dinner. We were tired when we got back to Thermo again, so had some refreshments and decided to stay here the night. Here I saw Stan Natusch and we had a drink of champagne together.

Monday 11th      Spent a fair night in our shakedown, then bathed first thing then breakfasted and spent the rest of the morning writing letters. Lunch 11.30am then made our way homeward. L Bell was too tired to walk so he hired a donkey and we lost each other. Reached the village of Partinus at 3pm and had coffee and biscuits and about half an hours walk found us back in our convalescent hospital.

We had almost been given up for lost, and by what a man in the same tent told us, we thought we were in for a court-martial or something of the kind. I believe a sergeant had been round to see if we were back no less than the O.C. and face the music, and much to our surprise he let us off with a caution.

Tuesday 12th      Expecting our discharge tomorrow so took part of our kits over to our own unit.

Sunday 13th      Got our discharge and left for our own unit at 9am after looking up a few friends in the enteric wards.

Sunday 31st      Now we are nicely settled down with our own unit again, and I have been detailed for duty in the dispensary. We have been back about a fortnight with our unit now and still resting.

One day I nearly got into trouble taking a photo of a group of Turkish prisoners, but I got it just in time before the guard called out. We had several camp concerts in the evenings and games during the day to keep ourselves fit. Our NZ beat an Australian team by 42 to 3. A fair amount of our spare time spent in strolling to surrounding Greek villages where we had any amount of fun with the people. Many of the people took

us for doctors with us wearing the red crosses, and often asked us to give them medicine. Occasionally we gave them a pill or medicine, in return for which they would offer us a melon or eggs.

One day we operated on an old Greek for cancer on the lip. For some time after, this man came to the hospital about every second day to let the doctor see it, and each time he would bring something for them sometimes a fowl, eggs, tomatoes, melons and such like, in payment for the operation. Once we tried to hire a Greek boatman to take us out to one of the destroyers to buy canteen stores, but I think half these boatmen were Turks, as they asked exorbitant prices, and didn't seem to mind whether they got hired or not. I got so wild with one of them, I nearly knocked the "blighter" into the water.

We have just been inoculated a second time since we came to this island for typhoid.

#### November 1915

Monday 8th

Since the beginning of the month nothing much has happened. A few cases of diphtheria have developed in the camp, resulting in many units being isolated. A party of about 300 Egyptians arrived a few days ago for labouring purposes. A fair number of Calvary have also arrived. Often of an evening we would take a walk down to the old Greek wells for a cold sponge down to keep ourselves fit. I believe the reason why very few girls are to be seen about these villages, is because the Turks used to come over and take all away under fourteen years of age.

Made a P.C. sketch of the church at Portiano.

Tuesday 9th

Reveille at 3.30am. Breakfast 4am whilst quite dark. Finished packing up and cleaned camp, ready to move away to boat by 8am. We are off back to the beastly Peninsula.

My swag was very heavy and we only had two short spells in three miles, consequently, many of our men fell out. Reaching the wharf, we were then taken to the troop ship Osmanieh. The same boat which brought us away from Gallipoli. Very soon afterwards I was enjoying a hot salt-water bath whilst I had the chance.

At 1.30pm we sailed for out of Murdros harbour to the music of our band aboard, and cheered as we passed Italian, French, and our own warships.

The sea was very calm the whole way and just getting dusk when we anchored at Anzac Cove about 6pm. Once more we saw the old familiar sights of shells bursting and flare lighting up the skies - reminding us that the war was still on. We landed by barges at Walkers Ridge and put in tents to spend the night.

Wednesday 10th Did not have a very peaceful night last night, as I had to get up at 2am to help unload the barges of our stuff. However, I got to bed again at 3am and slept until 7.30am, when I got up to prepare breakfast. A piece of shrapnel came through out tent, only about two feet from my place.

Thursday 11th Moved round to our position up Charliak Dere with the Indian mule corps transporting our stores. I was detailed as a guide for this mule convoy, and we had a bit of trouble with two of the carts falling over the bank and into the gully, and to make matters worse it was very dark.

Saturday 13th Saw Lord Kitchener land and we gave him a great cheering whilst the Indians simply went down on their knees to him. From a few remarks which I heard him pass, he was very surprised at the roughness of the country.

Monday 15th Moved round to our new position in Chailakdere at 8pm under cover of darkness when a thunder storm came on. Spent the night in a temporary shelter, which we built with old material lying around.

Tuesday 16th We are running a hospital here, and I have been detailed for duty looking after the patients. We have about 30 patients in so far. Mostly diarrhoea and dysentery. Geo Masters is one of our patients.

Saturday 27th Since we arrived back from our spell on Lemnos, fighting on both sides has practically been at a stand still with occasionally a little shell fire and the usual sniping activity. We have finished our bivvy and make ourselves prepared for wintry weather and as comfortable as possible. Signs of winter have already set in and down the gully water and mud is always over our boot tops. Last Thursday we tried a ruse on the Turks in not firing a single shot along the line for 24 hours. The Turks for curiosity sent a patrol over to our line, but event~~y~~ then we didn't fire a shot.

Received word that two of our mails had been sunk, which is very bad news as they are the one thing we do look forward to.

A fair number of our patients are now suffering from jaundice and others from rheumatism. Our food is improving considerably and we are getting bread three times a week.

7.20pm all our tent subdivision called out on duty to prepare everything for receiving a number of wounded. Everything we soon had ready and about 10pm were told to go to bed again, so we thought it must have been meant for a trial.

Sunday 28th Received quite a surprise when I first popped my head outside our bivvy door as the ground was covered with several inches of snow, and the big flakes were still falling.

Our guns bombarded hill 971, as our observer reported the enemy to be massing there. Started to freeze in evening and the ground got very hard. Took a photo of our little home.

Monday 29th Changed from duty on hospital in day time to night duty in operating tent. Walked up to apex and saw several Hastings boys in the trenches there. Three of our own men wounded at headquarters with one of our 6" howitzer shells.

Very cold and frosty and hear that two Colonials have died in the trenches from exposure to the cold. Rum issued. Sea too rough to land stores and evacuate our sick and wounded.

#### December 1915

Sunday 5th Activity has practically ceased during the past few weeks, which slackness I have taken advantage of and done a few sketches. Several young Gurkhas of about 17 or 18 years of age brought in suffering from frostbite.

The enemy has considerably revived again today by sending over a number of high explosives shells around our position, and which caused us to seek cover in our funk holes, which we have recently been working on. The Turks also shelled our hospital at No 2 outpost which consisted of a number of marquees. I saw the effects soon after the unfortunate incident happened and not one I will easily forget. The canvas marquees were torn and burnt and many of the sick and wounded patients were blown to pieces. Whether it was done intentionally or not, I cannot say, but I do know we had a quantity of ammunition around the hospital, which was by no means a fair thing. Again I hear that the Turks warned us to move the

hospital away from the ammunition dumps.

Saturday 11th During the past week nothing unusual has happened. We have been busy working night and day, tunnelling into the hill, and what we call 'funk holes". Wherever we go we see units burrowing down into the earth, the reason being, I believe that the Turks are bringing a number of new guns up, and these subterranean passages are to take cover in when the shelling starts.

Two ozs of butter issued per man for the first time since we landed, (about 8 months ago). Got notice to clear all patients away from the Peninsular, not fit for immediate duty. We couldn't make out the strength of this sudden order, and surmised all sorts of things. Some said we are going away to Salonika, others that we are prepared for a big attack.

Sunday 12th Went round to Walkers Ridge for medical supplies and whilst there the Sgt Major got orders to pack up everything ready to move away tomorrow morning. Heard that 11,000 troops left here yesterday. More troops moving away today and engineers busy building new piers along the beach, which all points towards something big taking place soon. We received orders this afternoon to pack everything up ready to move away at a minutes notice. We had just recently received a quantity of canteen stores from one of the islands, which we intended saving for Christmas, but we had to get rid of somehow, as we couldn't find room in our kits for them. So we made beasts of ourselves and crammed them into us - salmon, fruit salad, oranges, gooseberries, raisins, sardines and Ideal milk. Packing up medical stores in the afternoon.

Monday 13th Our 'C' station moved away at night. Excavating a new site for officers mess. One or two wounded still coming in. Was told that all the stores at ordinance on the beach were being given away, and that anyone could go and help themselves to coats, hats, leggings and such. Many hundreds of jars of rum have also been broken on the beach rather than give it to the men. C Mainey and I went down to the beach and got a couple of pairs of leggings each from the stores.

More troops, including Indians, leaving, and we are all feeling down-hearted as it looks as though we are going to give up the Peninsula.

Tuesday 14th Working most of last night, carting our stores away with the Indian mule transport. We had a

bit of trouble with the Indians in getting them to return for a second trip.

It was 4am when I returned into my bivouac for some rest, but the Sgt Major had us up again at 7am to go down to the beach and keep guard over our stores. Loading our stores on barges and returned to Chailakdere at 3.30pm dead tired. Slept in our clothes and everything packed up ready to move off at a minutes notice.

Wednesday 15th Very quiet day and just an odd shot being fired now and then. Scores of men coming up the gully, loaded with ordnance supplies, to which they had been helping themselves. In spite of all the hundreds of cases of rum being smashed, I noticed many of our men drunk. Slept in our clothes again ready to move at a minutes notice.

Thursday 16th It is now generally known that we are all to finally evacuate the peninsula, or at any rate try to do so, without letting the enemy know. Nine men from our ambulance (including myself) were detailed off to remain behind until the last, to look after our wounded if the Turks found out and came over in the midst of this risky operation. Our Colonel said a few words to we nine men before we left for the different positions we had been allotted to and promised to give us all a holiday if we rejoined our ambulance again safely. We all felt sure we would see Constantinople as we split up into three parties and moved away at 11am each with a surgical haversack, containing field dressings and morphia.

A McLeod, Jack Broad, and myself went to the regimental aid post on Cheshire ridge attached to the Canterbury Infantry and spent the night.

Friday 17th Many shrapnel shells fell in front of our station in the morning resulting in two men getting wounded, which I call bad luck, just at this tail-end of the campaign.

Saturday 18th We have now only a mere handful of men left here, and if the Turks only knew, they could simply walk over and take possession of all the ground we have taken from them, since we first landed, and make us prisoners besides. However let us hope they don't, as I do not fancy getting into their hands, from accounts I have heard about their treatment of prisoners. Most of today the Turks shelled the ridge on the other side of the gully to where our dressing station was, with high explosive shells. An Indian mountain battery moved out of this position last night, but now not a living

soul remained there so all the shelling was in vain.

Sunday 19th

Our last day and if all goes well we are to leave some time tonight. How the time seems to be dragging. Each hour seems like half a day, and we are spending most of our time in eating up all the medical comforts, rather than leave them for Johnny Turk. Our men have been gradually getting thinner and thinner, until now only a single man is left to hold several yards of the front line only. Many rifles have been fixed at intervals to go off automatically, so as to bluff the enemy into believing that there are more men in our trenches. Our men have set besides all sorts of ruses and traps, so that when the Turks do eventually come over and start parking around for souvenirs, they will get more than they bargained for. Everything in the way of surgical instruments were left intact in our dressing station, in case our plans were spoiled, so that we could have attended to our wounded efficiently. And had the Turks found out and made us fight a rear guard action, it was arranged to send life boats ashore from the hospital ships for our wounded. It was our place to attend to this part, dress the wounded and sent them out by the boats, but the Turks would keep us prisoners. However, all went well as darkness came on and we knew we had not many more hours left. The suspense toward the last got a little of a strain, and we absolutely could not settle our minds on anything. I spent some of the time making sketches and pinning notes on the wall for Johnnie Turk when he came over such as - "Goodbye, Johnnie, we will see you again soon, probably on the Suez Canal - 'Remember, you didn't push us off, we simply went' and such like. I took a walk to the front-line trenches about 8pm to see Sgt Natusch and whilst talking to, one of the men said there was a Turk in the scrub just in front 'Fix bayonets' was the order given, but after waiting a few minutes nothing more happened, so they came to the conclusion it was only a rat. Coming down to the dressing station again, we made supper, and soon afterwards a party of infantry got to work around us slashing all the tarpaulins, groundsheets and everything else that was likely to benefit the enemy after we had gone.

About 9pm we were told to get ready to move away, and we were not sorry, I can assure you. We left everything just as we had finished supper and took our positions at the head of the party with Captain ready to move away down the gully. We started and the captain said we were two minutes

too early, so we had to slacken our pace. As we passed down the gully (Chailak Dere) and passed the barbed wire entanglements, with long ropes leading down to the sap to draw the barricades across the path, should the Turks follow us up. We passed Gen. Braithwaite who counted us for some reason or other and as we got to different positions down the gully we joined on to tail ends of other columns as if by clockwork. After we reached the beach we were held up in the sap for some time, but reached the pier about midnight, which was thickly sandbagged, so as to deaden any sound. We were marched on to the steel barges and packed below and on deck like a lot of sheep, but all the same we felt greatly relieved. Soon we were sailing out for our troop ship, to which we transhipped, and soon afterwards were sailing for Lemnos again.

We stayed in camp on Lemnos for a few days and when we rejoined our ambulance here after staying, behind on the peninsula for some days after they left, they all gave us a good reception. We left Lemnos for Alexandria in Egypt again by the German prize boat 'Derrflinger', where I was on duty in the isolation hospital.

Christmas Day we spent on this fine big boat with bully beef and biscuits for our Christmas dinner.

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A few figures of the Gallipoli campaign may be of interest and will enable you to see what the great adventure cost.

The fighting was of the fiercest and the casualties up to December 11th 1915 a few days before the evacuation were -

Killed	25,270
Wounded	75,191
Missing	12,451
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	112,912
Sick	96,684
	-----
	209,596

This does not include the French, but which was perhaps one-third or one-fourth that of the British, in which the loss of the Expedition was nearly 150,000.

In the Franco-German war of 1870 the total loss in battle in the whole campaign was only 129,700 men. Many ships and men were

lost. In addition seven submarines and an indefinite number of lighters, barges and boats.

About a million tons of merchant shipping were latterly required for the service of the expedition at an immense cost on account of the dearness of freights. All this shipping had to be carefully protected against enemy submarines. The actual loss in ships was not heavy, owing to the energy of the Navy, but among them was the 'Royal Edward' sunk with 1000 troops aboard.

No figures of the cost in money has been published, but from first to last, 300,000 men were engaged in the expedition, with a large fleet of warships and merchant men, and as the wastage of supplies was great owing to difficulties in landing and storing, it seems probable that ~~£~~300,000,000, or one and a half times the total indemnity paid by France to Germany in 1871 was expended.

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The diary ends here. As it is in a clean and well-kept state it would appear it was not compiled at the actual time spent in Gallipoli but probably re-written from notes taken then. Maybe the diary in this form was written whilst Roland was in convalescent hospital.

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Copy of newspaper cutting, Hawkes Bay, May 1914

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Mr & Mrs G W Chadwick, of Gordon Road, Hastings, have received news yesterday, that their son, Sergeant Roland Chadwick, has died suddenly at Discharge Depot, Torquay, England. No particulars as to the cause of death are given.

The late Sgt. Chadwick left Hastings with the Ambulance Corps under Capt. Boxer, on August 9th, 1914, and sailed with the Main Body to Egypt. He was at first landing at Gallipoli, and remained there until the final evacuation. He was one of the Medical Corps which went up to the Front trenches, and left with the last men.

When in Egypt he was promoted to Sergeant.

He sailed with the Main Body to France, afterwards being promoted to Staff Sergeant. It appears from letters received from him in January he was not feeling well, and trying to get a discharge. He was 27 years of age. The late Sgt. Chadwick was a member of the Institute of Architects, and before enlisting he was in charge of the Hastings branch of Messrs Natusch and Sons. He was a clever sketch artist, some of his work of incidents at the Front being particularly good.

He was also a prominent member of the Hastings Orchestral Society and took a keen interest in musical affairs.

Very keen sympathy is expressed for the parents and family in their sad bereavement.

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#### War Service

Date commenced duty - 11.8.1914. Date embarked - 16.10.1914.  
Death - 3.5.1918. Theatres of war served. Egyptian - 1914-15-16. Balkans - 1915. Gallipoli Egyptian E.T. 1916 W. European - 1916-17-18  
Awarded - 1914-15 Star. British War Medal. Victory Medal



<sup>17</sup>  
Roland Schostrom  
Born. 1. 11. 1891, Aghata, Lygon  
Forest, George Schostrom.  
Born Schostrom, near Haverly,  
California 1. 1. 1900.  
Died Longview Aug 25. 1915.

ON REVERSE OF  
PHOTOGRAPH

