

Wounded three times in thick of Gallipoli battle

By GEOFF LEWIS

Wilfred Minett Grantham (Jim), grandfather of Hamilton man Ken Grantham, was among the first Kiwi troops to go ashore at Gallipoli on April 25 1915. He went on to serve three times in the campaign.

A transcript of Grantham's diary for April, 1915, gives an insight into the conditions of the time.

Sunday April 25:

THE DAY OF ALL DAYS. The Lutzow (one of the ships landing troops on the beaches) steamed off at 1:30 am. We sighted Gallipoli 5:15am and moved up to North of Gaba Tete and saw the shells and whatnot.

Anchored about 7am, alighted into big punts towed into shore about 10am saw sights never seen before, shot and shell flying everywhere, hard climbing and dodging.

Australian wounded coming back in dozens all sorts and sizes. The Turkish fire between 1:30pm and 3pm very, very thick, snipers everywhere, twas a hard



Wilfred Grantham

affair. Received my shrapnel about 3:30pm after numerous escapes on the way back met Lieutenant Peake and Tommy Sanders both injured, Mr Peake badly wounded. All got dressed at dressing station near water course. Shrapnel was pouring into the gully and

snipers everywhere, landed back on beach about 5pm. Got into lighter about 6:30pm arrived back on the Lutzow 11:30pm very, very pleased and thankful.

Well treated by all on board. In May, Grantham was under treatment for his

► IN MEMORY

The *Hamilton Press* is running a series of articles on those involved in the Gallipoli campaign in World War I ahead of the centenary on Anzac Day. Contributions of up to 500 words and, if possible, high resolution jpeg photos, can be sent to: geoff.lewis@fairfaxmedia.co.nz

wounds and had shrapnel removed at Alexandria. On June 12 he arrived back at Gallipoli. Wounded for the second time in mid-August, he was evacuated to the beach hospital at Gallipoli then taken to a hospital in Malta.

Landed again at Watson's Pier in Gallipoli on November 9, he was again wounded and this time removed by the hospital ship *Devanha* at Gallipoli, taken to Alexandria and then by Red Cross train to Cairo.

Following the war Grantham farmed at Te Poi, near Matamata.

Born March 1889; died June 1968.

Grandson Ken Grantham said the family are exceptionally proud of Jim's effort in the Great War.

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