

Signalman at Gallipoli



Sunday 10th Left for Pyramids
Spent the day there
Took good look round Pyramids
and Sphinx. Went to St Andrew
Pres Church of Scotland in Cairo
Preacher, McGillen good sermon
Sat 17th With Hatterby went
to Mr Rowland's Residence, owing to ill
health did not come on, took tramcar to
Lidell did not enter, but went through
tunnel at gate of L. afterwards
took carriage drove through Egyptian
and Italian Bazaars very interesting
and the on town spent rest of night in
the shops of Helioptolis.
Sunday 18th Jan Morning Medical Dept
Church Parade Afternoon - then to Leno
with some folks walked over bridge, came
back to station to meet Bill, would didn't come
Tramcar to Lidell went through the
tunnel gate into Egyptian Army stores

The Wartime Diary of David Kerr Haig

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David Kerr Haig**

Published December 2015



David Kerr Haig in 1913 with the
Mornington Presbyterian Young
Men's Bible Class



David Kerr Haig (seated at centre) in a 1911 team photo of the Mornington Association
Football Club. His brother Andrew is seated far left

On August 17th, 1914, David Kerr Haig, the sixth son of James and Jane ('Jeannie') Haig of 2 Lawrence Street, Mornington, Dunedin, enlisted in the 1st New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He had just turned 21.

A corporal in the Signalling Company of the NZ Engineers, he spent two weeks in camp at Tahuna Park, South Dunedin. He then travelled by rail and sea to Palmerston North and Auckland for further training.

On October 12th, 1914, he sailed from Wellington on the troopship Maunganui, bound for Egypt.

On board ship he started a diary, which he continued to keep while on active service, including during the 1915 Gallipoli campaign.

This book reproduces the contents of that diary. It is dedicated to the memory of David Kerr Haig and his brothers James, William, John ('Jock'), Andrew, Fred and Walter, all of whom served in either Gallipoli, France or New Zealand during World War 1.



Otago recruits to the 1st NZ Expeditionary Force being farewelled at Tahuna Park, Dunedin, 17 September 1914

Photo credit: John Dickie



Troopship Maunganui, HMNZT 49, in Wellington Harbour. DK Haig's voyage included 528 men, 38 officers and 204 horses. Nine other troopships left Wellington at the same time

MEDICAL HISTORY

Surname: Haig

OF

Christian Name: David KerrExamined: On 14th day of August, 1914.
At DunedinBirthplace: Town, Wanganui
Country, New ZealandDeclared age: 21 yearsTrade or occupation: ProcerHeight: 5 ft., 7 in.Weight: 140 lb.Chest-measurement: Minimum, 34 in.
Maximum expansion, 37½ in.

Physical development: _____

Small-pox marks: _____

Vaccination marks: Right Left
Arm, _____
Number, _____

When vaccinated: _____

Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease: _____

Approved by _____

Medical Officer, _____

Examined for re-engagement:

14th day of August, 1914* Considered: Fit

Medical Officer, _____

* If unfit, state disability.

Inoculated 3/10/15 & 15/10/15
Re-vaccinated on 6th day of January, 1915Arm: Left Number: 2Result: Good

Medical Officer, _____

Enlisted on 17th day of August, 1914, at Dunedin

	Corps.	Regimental No.	Date.
Joined on enlistment	<u>2nd Div. Sig. Coy. N.Z.E.</u>	<u>44524</u>	<u>17. 8. 1914.</u>
Transferred to			

PROPOSED FOR DISCHARGE BY A MEDICAL BOARD.

Station.	Date.	Disease.	Result.

N.B.—This sheet to be disposed of in accordance with instructions in the Regulations for Army Medical Services on the man becoming non-effective, the date and cause being stated at the foot of next page.

The Diary

11 30 PM ...

November 1914

Sunday 1st Nov Left Albany [Western Australia] at 6.30am. Crossed the tropic of Capricorn Thurs the 5th.

On Nov 6th Minataur left early, destination unknown.

Weather much warmer.

Monday Nov 9th, the Sydney left 5am. Got word 11am Sydney engaged the Emden and sank her at Cocos Island. Great excitement on board. On Friday 13th picked up HMS Hampshire (China Squadron). Crossed the Equator.

Sat 14th Father Neptune ceremony for all hands, very funny. Sunday 15th arrived at Colombo. 11.30am went ashore at Colombo. Had good look round.

Left Colombo 12.30pm Friday the 19th inst heading N.N.W.

Thurs 19th Burial Service for Lieut Webb who broke his neck during Neptune Ceremony on the Arawa. He was put ashore at Colombo where he died.

Friday 20th Engineers Concert good success. Sang Mary of Argyle + a Perfect Day.

Sunday 22nd, Church Parade.

Mon 23rd Transferred Capt Hawkins to Den of Ruthven (very ill).

Wed 25th arrived at Aden at 4.30pm. Anchored well out in harbour. No leave granted + no mail ashore.

Thurs 26th. Left Aden 7am. Passed Perim [Island] at 3.30pm. Very barren Country.

Photo credit: Alexander Turnbull Library



NZ soldiers on board the troopship Maunganui

Weather getting much cooler.

Arrived at Suez on Tuesday 31st at 9.15am.

Tuesday afternoon 2.30pm entered Suez Canal.

Banks of Canal guarded by Indian soldiers under English officers. Small camps all along at different intervals on both sides.

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum



Troopships in the Suez Canal, March 1915. This photo was taken by Gordon Catto, a friend of DK Haig who also served as a Signaller at Gallipoli

December 1914

Arrived at Port Said at 3am Thursday 1st Dec 1914.

Rather pretty town. Harbour very busy.

About four French Warships coaling.

Thurs afternoon 4pm left Port Said.

Dec 2nd. Arrived at Alexandria early morning.
Anchored in Harbour.

Disembarked Sunday 4th Dec 1914.

Sat night Leave granted to Alexandria.

Arrived at Zeitoun Camp Sunday.

Night at 8pm feed Horses after letting them have good roll in the sand. Then made for our camp. Zeitoun camp six miles from Cairo.

Tents pitched on desert close to Heliopolis.

Work:- Exercising horses, Fatigues.

Dec 20th. Orderly Corp for week.

The Sultan's accession ceremony held at Abdin.

Egypt now under British Protection.

Dec 23rd. Route march to Cairo and back.

Inspection by Lieut General Sir John Maywell of all Australian + New Zealand troops.

Natives very enthusiastic, good reception.

Dec 25th Christmas Day. Friday morning, Church Parade 10am.

1pm Great Christmas Dinner speech by Skipper Edwards. Got 2 piastre piece in plum pudding. Afternoon drove round to the Virgin Mary Tree. Had drink at Virgin's Well. Photo taken by Corp Jeffs. Cut few chips off Tree.

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum



Virgin Mary Tree and Well, Helmich, Cairo. Photo by Gordon Catto, friend of DK Haig

26/12/14 Boxing Day. Work as usual at cable drill. Mail arrived from New Zealand.

8 Letters.

26th to 31st Practice Laying Cable at slow pace.

31/12/14 General Review + March Past by Sir Gen Birdwood Com-in-chief Australian + N.Z. Troops.

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum



NZ signallers laying cable using horses and wagon

January 1915

1/1/15 Parades as usual fast cable drill round about Matarieh doing good work.

4/1/15 Went into Cairo. Had great night. Bought Camera.

Jan 9th. General Review and march past of New Zealand troops by Hon Thomas MacKenzie. Afternoon visited Virgin Mary Tree also the Virgin Chapel.

Jan 7th. Vaccinated.

Sunday 10th. Left for Pyramids.

9am. Spent the day there, had good look round Pyramids and Sphinx. Went to St Andrews Pres Church of Scotland in Cairo. Preacher Rev Gillen good sermon.

Sat 17th 1915. With Hatherley went to Mr Rowntree's Residence Cairo. Owing to illness could not come out. Took tramcar to Citadel. Did not enter but went through mosque at gate of Citadel. Afterwards took carriage [and] drove through Egyptian and Italian Bazaars. Very interesting. Had tea in town. Spent rest night in the shops of Heliopolis.

Sunday 18th Jan. Morning Medical Inspect, Church Parade Afternoon:- Train to Cairo with Ernie Jeffs. Walked over bridge. Came back to station to meet Bill Arcus (didn't come). Tramcar to Citadel. Went through the Front gate into Egyptian Army stores. Turned back, told to go round other gate. Front gate riddled with cannon balls fired by Napoleon's Army. Supposed.

Visited Josephs Well. Through Indian hospital, took photo. Had talk with some Indians, very interesting. Speak good English, Through mosque, this is finest mosque in Cairo.

Had tea Cairo, then spent evening in Soldier's Home. Heard fine address by Mr Adam Tervit of the Scottish Missionary Society. Met him, also Mr Macintyre, both fine men doing good work.

Tuesday 20th. Sang at concert in Salvation Army tent. Fine big marque, place was packed.

Thursday 22th. Spent nice Evening at Mrs Taylor's house, Zeitoun. Met a few nice girls from England. Plenty of music.

Saturday 24th. Spent afternoon with a few Italian Singers. Had good sing-song. All Professional Singers. Some hot stuff.

Sunday 25th. Morning to Catholic Church at Heliopolis. First service of this kind.

Afternoon:- strolled round Helmhah taking a few photos.

Monday Morning 26th. Set out at 9am on a two days scheme. Worked all day Monday up till 11.40 pm.

At 12.30 pm set up Signal Station at Quba Garden City [part of Cairo] on top of palace.

Got in Communication with party on Signal Hill with Helio [graphs]. Moved from there with H.Q. at 4pm to the Ostrich Farm. Had Tea. At 6.30pm moved off to Aerodrome, set up station, got in Commune with H.Q. Stayed there ready to bivouac for night.

Special despatch by Motor at 11.40 pm. Come in at once. Scheme abandoned.

On arriving at DHQ we learned that the Infantry had received orders to move off to Suez first thing Tues Morning and that we were to be in readiness to move at any moment.

Tuesday 26th, arrived in camp 8am.

Found that most of infantry were off. The rest left during the morning. Great cheering going on all morning. Our Coy stayed in camp all day, over-hauling stores etc.



**Camera of DK Haig,
purchased in Cairo,
January 1915**

January 1915 (cont)

Wed:- instructional musketry = skirmishing etc.

All leave stopped Wed + Thursday.

Thurs 28th. Special skirmishing + scouting out at ostrich farm, distance judging etc.

Afternoon - instructions in riding Motor Cycle. Great sport night.

Awaiting arrival of Reinforcements expected at 11.15pm.

On c/l guard + Piquet [a card game].
Pay Day.

Friday Jan 29th. Reinforcements arrived at 5am. Much excitement.

Had first ride on Motor along Abbesiah Road.

Saturday:- Morning Motors.

Afternoon went to Citadel with Sgt Miller. Spent night in town on return to camp was i/c Piquet + Guard, great fun in the camp.

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum



Signalmen in Cairo on motorbikes, horses and bicycles

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum



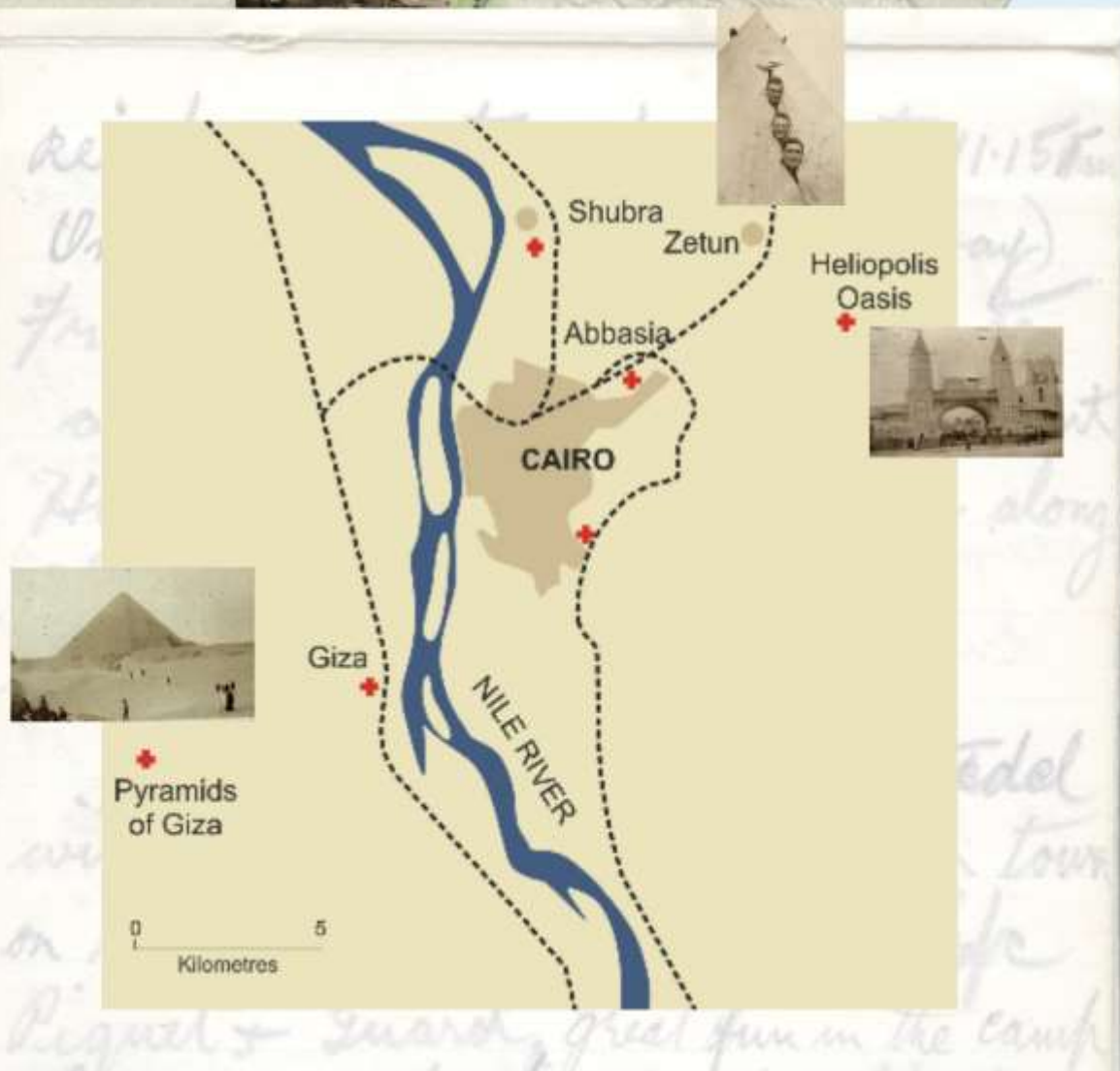
Luna Park, Héliopolis. Photo by Gordon Catto

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum



Pyramid at Giza. Photo by Gordon Catto, friend of DK Haig

going on all morning. As the



February 1915

Monday 1st Feb. Left Camp 8am on two day scheme on other side of Nile with the Australians. Returned home Tuesday night.

Wednesday 10th. Concentration Parade with whole of N.Z. and Aus Forces.

Friday 12th. Divisional training at Helipolis.

Sunday 14th. Went with Will to Pyramids. Had good look round. On way home called in at Zoological Gardens. Had Tea in Cairo. Spent very nice evening together.

Monday 15th. Signalling from top of Logan's House. Evening concentration night march.

Wed 17th. Musical Evening at Fletcher's House at Helmhah near Ostrich Farm. Very nice people.

Sunday 21st. Took car to Citadel then went through tombs right of Citadel. Church in Cairo at night.

Thurs 25th. Left Camp 4 pm. Laid cable from H.Q. to Canal El-Marge. Bivouac for night. Next morning followed Australian Light Horse Bde. Big Div scheme between N.Z. Mounted + Australian Infantry + Light Horse.

Saturday 27th Feb. Full marching parade ready for moving off.

Sunday 28th. In camp all day writing etc. Posted Photos home.



DK Haig (left) with brother William in Egypt. A photograph kept in DK Haig's diary

March 1915

Monday 1st March. Divisional Scheme.

Weds 3rd. Divisional Scheme at Signal Hill dispatch riding. At Head Quarters all day.

Friday 5th. Coy left camp 8pm. Worked all night on divisional work. Returned to camp 9am Sat. Left in charge of Camp. Paid all back pay ups to date.

Sat 6th Mar. Kit inspection. Expected to leave Egypt very shortly for colder climate.

Sunday 7th. Morning Church Parade. Chaplain Rev Bush-King.

Wrote letter to Mother enclosing photos + £5. Weather very hot.

Weds 10th Mar. Left Camp 5pm. Bivouac for night at Obelisk. Mail in reply to our first letters from Egypt.

Sat 13th. Went for spin round Cairo and up the Nile with Ernie Jeffs on Motor. Had lovely time. Puncture coming home.

Sunday 14th. Morning Church Parade. Afternoon up at the citadel again.

Wednesday 17th. In camp all day. At night lay line from Australian Camp close to No 2 Tower. After finding the Brig. Gen we laid another line back to H.Q. Sgt Richardson being ill, I had to take charge of Detachments Bivouac on desert for night. Lovely night.

Friday 19th. Night scheme Coy only. Returned Sat Morning 10.30. Being off remainder of day had good sleep.

Sunday:- Stayed in Camp all day.

Monday 22nd March:- General Review and March Past of the whole of NZ + A Div.

Inspection by the High Commissioner of Egypt Mr McMann. The parade was out on the desert midst a swarm of locusts that happened to be passing over.



From top: David Kerr Haig, William Haig, Ernie Jeffs & Gordon Catto at Zeitoun Camp, 1915

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum

Wednesday 24th March:- permission was granted to all those who wished may go to Luxor. About 14 of us took the opportunity. Excursion fare was arranged by our Captain costing us 107½ Pts each.

Leaving Cairo 8pm. Had good seat in Ladies Dept. Slept all night. Awoke in morning about 5.30, the Sun just rising. Travelling rather fast up the Valley of the Nile, scenery Lovely.

Arrived at Luxor after a journey of 418 miles at 9.30am. Hired guide + donkeys on Station.

Set off along main street of Luxor to the famous Luxor Temples situated on bank of Nile. From there we rode along to Karnack Temple. This was very interesting place. After having good look round here we then made for Thebes. To get to this place we had to cross the Nile in an old tub, the donkeys with us, and then travelled for about six miles. We arrived there about 1.30pm, had dinner went through a few of the tombs. This hill, there's nothing else but Tombs cut into the hill over the place. These Tombs + chambers are marvellously made. We got back to the Nile about 3.30pm. Had a good look through Luxor Town. Just after same style as other Arabian towns. Plenty of [natives] to worry you. Had Tea on station at about 5.30. Train left at 6.10pm. Had same carriage as coming up. Slept well in Train.

Woke up about 6am Friday. Scenery was most beautifully well cultivated land on both sides. Arrived back in Cairo at 7.15am. Got home shortly after 8am. Had good holiday. Took many photos, total cost about 35/-.

Friday Evening 26th. Arrival of Reinforcements and Maoris. Great excitement in Camp.

Sunday 28th. Gordon Catto came to see me. Spent afternoon together at Heliopolis. Met Tom Harvey at tea time.

Monday 29th. General Inspection by Sir Ian Hamilton. Good day.



From top: Ernie Jeffs, Gordon Catto & David Kerr Haig, at Zeitoun Camp, 1915

April 1915

Thurs 1st April. Musical Evening at Fletcher's, Helmhah.

Friday 2nd. Easter Friday.

Invited for dinner at Fletcher's.

Musical Evening. Only 3 Majors + Colonel there.

Sunday 4th. At Heliopolis with Gordon Catto. Took few Photos.

Monday 5th April:- Practice parade for entraining etc.

Friday April 9th. Left Zeitoun Camp. Rode into Cairo. Arrived there 9.45. Trucked horses and wagons loaded on train all ready to move off. Had supper on station. Train left Cairo station at 12.30am Saturday. Willie was at the station to see me off. Had good sleep on the train, arriving at Alexandria right opposite Lutzow at 5.45am.

We at once commenced to embark. Had no trouble with horse, good stalls. Very lucky.

Men's quarters were decent for once.

At 6.45pm the boat was all ready to sail. We pulled out into stream and there awaited the arrival of General Godley. Took two photos of transport.

Monday 12th April. The General arrived at 5.30pm. The engines were immediately set going and at 6.20pm we steamed out through the Alexandria freshwater, away from Dear old Egypt at last.

Sea being rather calm, we spent a very enjoyable night.

Tuesday + Weds weather rather good. Little windy. Not seasick.

Thursday 15th. At day-break we sailed into the Bay of Lemnos where concentration of Transports + Warships took place.

The bay is packed with Warships, Troopships, Submarines, Torpedo destroyers etc. It is a great sight.

The Queen Elizabeth is anchored quite close to us.

Troops are landing from some of the transports.

There are two or three small villages to be seen on this side of the Island.

The General has gone off in a launch.

Quite a change to see the nice green hills once more.

A camp of Tommies can be seen close along the shore. These men have already been to the Dardanelles but had to retire.

Thursday afternoon. Coy's life boat was lowered. A party of us were allowed to go ashore. We took rations with us, and made a nice little picnic of it. Had a good cruise round. There are supposed to be about 26,000 to 30,000 Greeks on this Island. They have sent 2,000 soldiers over to their concentration camp at Athens. They are a much cleaner class of people than the ones we left behind in Egypt.

Friday 16th. The Infantry have gone ashore in the small boats. They have been practicing landing under supposed fire etc. A small section of the Sig coy has gone ashore and with two sets of instruments two air-barrows and 4 miles of Wire. All the Officers are ashore, so things have been rather quiet today. Practicing establishing stations on shore under supposed fire.

Saturday 17th. Preparing Stores for landing. Horses + Cable-carts to be left on board. Three complete sections now ready to disembark. There was a small quantity of light wire put aboard for us, to take the place of our heavy wire, which will be an improvement.

Sunday 18th. Part of the Coy went ashore for exercise. While there we had good view of a monoplane flying, which came off the monoplane ship.

April 1915 (cont)

All the week we have been anxiously awaiting our next move. It came at last on Friday, but we only sailed out onto the outer harbour.

Today Saturday 23rd April we have been sitting on deck in the sun watching the great line of Warships + Transports steaming past us. It has been a great sight. There are still a good number to move off. We expect to sail during the night or first thing tomorrow morning. The Queen Elizabeth and Queen with six or eight other British cruisers sailed past at two o'clock. I managed to get a snap of the Elizabeth.

It is only three or four hours sail to the Dardanelles from here.

It is rumoured aboard that the first splash will commence at 4am tomorrow morning, but have heard nothing further. This may be true as Warships + Transports were leaving at all times during night. We have now been issued with another Iron ration [emergency food], then we are to be given another as we leave the boat, so that will be three rations we will carry. These are to last us for three days, as there may be no means of transport until we have been ashore at least three days. Everyone now quite happy.

Sunday April 25th. At 1.30am we sailed out from the Isle of Lemnos and at about 5am we could hear the terrific boom of the warships bombarding the shores of Gallipoli. The Australians landed about 4.30am. The first lot of landing boats met with a very hot time, lost men before they could get ashore. They made a most daring bayonet charge not firing shot until they had the Turks on the run. The Turks would not face the bayonet but soon got over the hill, thus allowing the rest of the troops to land in better safety.

Landing 2 mile North Gaba Tepe by supposed mistake.



Turkish troops on the high ridges of the Gallipoli Peninsula

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum

The Lützow commenced to disembark into the lighters at about 9.30am [the] first lot of New Zealanders to land. While coming close to the shore, we were peppered a good deal with the Turks Shrapnel, which was coming from all directions from behind the hills. The Warships have done great work. They have given the Turkish batteries a very hot time of it, besides silencing the forts all along the coast. In getting ashore, we at once commenced work. Set up our Base Office at Div Headquarters. And ran out wire round beach to gully underneath great sand cliff. Under fire most of time, what with rifle fire, shell fire, and the Navy having their say, things were very lively indeed.

The casualties were rather thick on the beach, the Stretcher Bearers doing great work. We soon picked up Gen Walker at Bde Hqrs and at once had communication through to Div Hqrs. Brigade Headquarters advanced Three times this day, thus giving us any amount of work to do for the first day.



Troops ashore at Anzac Cove, 1915

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum

It was great experience for us. As soon as we had finished our work we would dig ourselves in like rabbits and sit and listen to the most enjoyable music, watching shrapnel bursting all around us. At one time while pulling our barrow along a cutting under open fire, a shot struck the barrow. Another went between me and the barrow, hitting an Indian of the mountain Gun section right through the chest. Needless to say how fast we got that drum of wire up that track.

I slept well in my little nest at night, although the intense noise still continued. Sunday morning at daybreak the Warships gave the Turkish trenches a terrible time of it. The Queen Elizabeth and Queen, Majestic, Triumph, Sealark, Cornwallis, Implacable, Pembroke, London are among the many Warships that are playing there great part to carry this job through.

April 1915 (cont)

All day Sunday the Infantry were hard at it. At some places they were chasing the Turks at the point of the bayonet from one trench to another in quick succession, while in other places the Turks were putting up a great fight, being well entrenched. The two first days they had been allowed too much freedom with their artillery. But now our Howitzers are settling them right and left. The first shot they fired silenced one concealed gun that was giving the infantry trouble. On Sunday night the Otago boys passed us on their way to firing lines. I was sorry to see a few of them come back in a few minutes on stretchers.

Tuesday opened out with a rather good advance. Bde Hqrs now moving to the top of the cliffs. The casualties are becoming fewer on our side. The Turks are up to all kinds of tricks. It is reported that large numbers of them are dressed up in our clothes. Even Germans are said to have been caught in our trenches dressed as Officers giving orders to the men to retire etc. We had one of these beggars under arrest at Hqrs last night. Our Officers and Men are working like [natives] the whole time.

The Amb Boys have done marvellous work, going since Sunday as hard as they could go. They are now enjoying a well earned spell. The Otago's are well entrenched on the left flank and are holding their position well.

The Field Coy N.Z.E. have done great work on the left, having dug first-class trenches and put up barb-wire entanglements under hot fire, thus saving the lives of many an Otago boy.

Tuesday night was a little quiet compared with the previous two, with the exception of a few doses of shrapnel to put us off to sleep.



Troops at Anzac Cove, 1915

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum

Weds 28th was a day for the Warships. They seemed to be rocking it in wholesale. The Queen Elizabeth we hear got the old fifteen pounder on to one of those armoured trains in the afternoon. Also a powder hulk and a fort had a sample of her shell in the Dardanelles. She seems to be quite busy just now. She is up and down the coast all day long. The Majestic managed to smash up one of those beautiful eleven inch Howitzers the Turks were supposed to be getting into a lovely position on a point round the beach. She also picked up a two mile ammunition column which was peacefully moving along in that direction. Wed night a party of us went down to Div HQ's for our rations. While returning we were caught in a nice little shower of rain, the first we have had since landing. My trench was well covered in, so I did not lose any sleep about it.

Thurs [29th April] morning at 2am we were roused with the pleasant news that the Turks were advancing in large numbers along the beach. But somehow or other they did not come. I do not know why, perhaps they saw the artillery guns pointing that way.

All day Thursday was very quiet. In the afternoon we received permission to go for a swim down at the beach. It was just lovely. A few stray shots from those wretched snipers, as we call them, were knocking about, but that did not hinder us at all.

Thurs night late. Little more shrapnel to make us keep in mind that they were still alive.

Friday [30th April] has opened out very quiet indeed. As far as I can gather, the positions are much the same. Our boys are now enjoying a well deserved spell. There is a little exchanging shots with the artillery, but I have not heard of any particular damage being done as yet.



Swimming at Anzac Cove

April 1915 (cont)

The Infantry have been taking turns at leaving the trenches and going down for a bathe. It is quite a treat to see them all enjoying themselves on the beach. You would really think it was a big picnic here instead of such a deadly fight.

I am at present watching the Turkish artillery sending along a great volley of shrapnel, which is nicely landing in a big clay bank. That's when we enjoy this game.

The food supply has been very good so far. Also the water. They have the Mule Corps going all day. It is doing very good work.



Williams Pier, North Cove, Anzac Cove

May 1915

Saturday 1st May. Position much the same. Things being very quiet all day.

Several snipers caught during night + Early Sunday Morning.

Sunday [2nd May] Morning. Quiet opening.

Mid-day. Otago Boys have been withdrawn from the Left Flank and are now sent round to the Right Flank. They are going to make one big swooping attack from the right. At 7pm the Attack began, opening by a terrific bombarding on the Turkish trenches from both the Warships + artillery which from all accounts gave them a good shake up. The Otago's advanced at 7.15 pm with a bayonet charge they were intended to take the trenches on the high ridge but the Turks defence was a little better than they thought and so had to be contented by taking their advanced trenches.

The night was not so successful as was expected. I hear that Otago had a fair number of casualties during the night, but have not seen any of the boys since.

Monday 3rd [May]. Early morning a bit lively. During day we had a visit from the Turks in the form of those lovely big lyddite shells, which probably come across from their forts. We had the pleasure of seeing about a dozen go bang into the sea, but the second last unfortunately got a coaling hulk just on the stern. I hear that it killed one man. Another was wounded. The boat escaped very slight.

I have heard that Captain Waite has been wounded in the shoulder. The Sig Coy so far have only had four casualties being Tom Bradley (hand) Sgt Rush (shoulder) Jim Logan (Leg) L Moritzson (foot) Fry Easter (head).

May 1915 (cont)

Tuesday 4th [May]. Things very quiet all day. Little firing by Turks at night. Several rounds of shrapnel bursting about fifty yds from us but doing no damage except to the ground.

Met Jack Murray from Mgt. Now in 2nd Canterbury. Now that things are going well, I am on duty four-on, eight-off starting from 2pm today.

Weds [5 May] Morning on duty. 2am could hear heavy bombarding well down the Right Flank, but nothing doing here. I will still be able to have my slice of bacon + biscuit as usual for breakfast.

During the day all N.Z. Brigade called in, reason unknown. They re-embarked in the evening. It is rumoured that they are being sent further down the coast to help the Tommies, but nothing definite is known.

The Royal Naval Division have been sent to the Left Flank.

The Nelson Battn are in the trenches and the Deal Battn in reserve.

Our section have not shifted from this position. We are now working for the Royal Naval Division under General Mercer + Major Wilson.

We have had great fun. These officers are out on their own, the biggest bunch of tricks you could wish for.

Thursday [6th May]. Morning opened out with a great volley from both Turks and these brave Royal Navals. A report came through from Captain Wallingford that these lads were trying to shoot the stars as they felt a little bit frightened. I think if the Turks advance on this Left Wing you will see our Section making themselves rather scarce.

In my opinion I wouldn't trust these beggars very far. They seem to be a very poor lot compared to the boys that have just left the trenches.

Thurs afternoon makes our position a little safer. About 3,000 Aus and New Zealand troops arrived from Egypt, our first reinforcements.

About 300 Australians are at the bottom of the hill to reinforce the Left Flank. I would rather have this 300 than all the Navals put together. Captain Wallingford and Captain Cumming have been left with us to give the staff a hand up here. I think if it wasn't for these two men, we may be back on the beach again. Captain Wallingford is doing great work. He has been in charge of the machine Gun section. Also the snipers. He has accounted for a large number of Turks so far. He is on the go night and day.

Friday 7th May:- Very quiet all day. No word of our boys. Word was received that Corp Clarkson was missing. First thing in the morning a search party was to be sent out.

Saturday [8th May]. Quiet all day with exception of few exchange of shell, but no damage reported as yet. Last night the Turkish Shrapnel got on to the mule lines, killing about a hundred of them. Great news came through by wireless regarding Russians, but it seems to be too good to be true. The English seem to be pushing up closer to us every day. Now we can see their transports together with the warships, I should say are about seven or eight mile down. They had seventeen miles to come before they would be alongside our Right Flank.

Sunday [9th May]. Morning turned out rather quiet. I managed to slip down to the beach for a bathe. In the afternoon I took a walk round the trenches. You would soon lose yourself in these trenches, the hill is one mass of trenches.

I had a good look round.

May 1915 (cont)

The Turkish trenches are on the hill right opposite them. The Australians are entrenched about 200yds in advance to the right of our position. The Turks seem to be very well entrenched. I watched a few shells from our artillery lobbed into them while I was there, but it did not seem to make much impression. I believe the Indian Mountain Battery got well on to their trenches early this morning, killing a few of them while others were caught while jumping out of the trenches attempting to escape, by Capt Wallingford's Machine Guns. I could see these bodies lying all along the back of the trench. Just outside our trenches there are a few dead. They have been lying there since last Sunday week. Our boys have been successful in burying a few, but this is rather a dangerous game at present. The smell from them is becoming most unpleasant.



Bodies of dead Turks

Monday [10th May]:- positions much the same. Could hear heavy bombarding down the coast. Had another swim.

Monday night the Australians advanced a little on the Right Flank having another bayonet charge, but no advantage was gained although taking four of the Turks trenches they had to give them up owing to heavy shell fire first thing in the morning.

Tuesday [11th May]. Morning spent up in the trenches nothing much doing.

Afternoon went down to the D.H.Q. to get mail. On way along met Will Brown, Jack Bennett. Had long yarn. Told me that Willie was ashore.

Got letters at office, then found Will Finlayson who took me up to their little dug-out. They are both living together. Will quite at home cooking his tea. He had been ashore four days. Very pleased I saw him.

Got word that Bill Morgan was shot while going along Rishworths line last night. Shot through the heart.

Slight Rain falling at night. Second shower since arrival.

Official Reports state that our Infantry have again been cut up. We hear that they landed further down the coast at a place near Cape Helles.

The casualties including officers + men are 350 wounded, 65 killed, 300 missing. Col Plugge, Maj Dawson, Maj Harrowell + Capt Craig among the wounded, while Lt Carpenter, Monteith, Screaton killed.

Weds May 12th. News came through that the Australian + New Zealand Mounteds had arrived to reinforce us. All day the torpedo destroyers have been running backwards and forwards from the Transports with troops.

We now feel a little more confident when we see the Mounted Men taking the trenches in place of these far-famed R.N.D's. As far as I can hear, they are sending these lads down the coast to take up the position that our Infantry are now holding at Cape Helles and lots of them come back here again.

Thursday May 13th. It was a great sight this morning to see the Mounted Men climbing up this hill with their packs on their backs. This is when they miss their horses. The Auckland Wellington and Canterbury Regts have arrived. I believe the Otago's have been left at Zeitoun. The Australians Infantry have had a rather hard time of it, being kept at it ever since they landed. I dare say they will be very pleased at being relieved by their Light Horse. They will now probably have a few days spell on the beach.

Friday [14 May]: No change in position. The Auckland and Canterbury Mounteds have taken the Left Flank trenches. Gen Russell and Maj Powles being in Com.



Turkish snipers shooting at soldiers about to swim. Photo by Gordon Catto, friend of DK Haig

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum

May 1915 (cont)

Saturday 15th. We still seem to get a fair share of shrapnel from the Turks. They have their guns well concealed, making it hard for our artillery to get on to them. The weather has been great up till now, making it much better for us boys. This place would be in a nice mess if it happened to rain very hard.

Word received that Masters was shot in the leg, but not serious.

Sunday 16th May. Quiet morn. Had visit from Lieut Cooke and SM Vickery. They have gone up to the trenches. The Field Coy Engineers are widening the road at the top of this hill, so that they can get a few field guns (18 pounders) up on the Left Flank. This will make a big difference to our position.

Monday 17th. Things were rather lively all day, with the snipers at the extreme left of our position. I had the glasses on them from Headquarters. We were firing from here but could not make much impression on them. We heard later they have well entrenched about sixty of them. All afternoon we have been watching the warships blowing up a little village on our left named Kuchuk Anafarta, about sixty houses. It was soon set ablaze and was burning all night.

They also bombarded the other village called Biyuk Anafarta. But we could not see this place from our position. But could see the smoke rising behind the hills, so probably this village was also set ablaze.

Tuesday 18th. Rather quiet all day. Expected attack from Turks at night but did not come off.

Wed 19th. At daybreak the famous German aeroplane came over to see how we were doing. She came over again a good bit higher up and dropped a couple of bombs neatly into the sea. She takes mighty good care that our machines are down below at Cape Helles before she ventures over here.

At night it was reported that the Turks were very active all along the line. So this meant stand to arms for our boys. They began the attack at midnight but were very unsuccessful, being repulsed with rather heavy losses.

Thurs morning 20th. Another attack took place at about 2.30am, but seem to be worse for the Turks than their first attempt. They again had another go at us about 4 o'clock. But it was of no use, we could check them quite easily.

In the morning all along the Turkish trenches were piles of dead. It is estimated the Turkish casualties was over two thousand, while our list only showed about one hundred odd. On Thurs afternoon about 3pm we worked on a dummy attack on the Turks from our Left Flank. The object of it I have heard, but I should say that the idea was to bring the Turks over from their left so as to take the strain off the Australians, as we are in a better position to handle them from our Flank.

Thurs Night about 6.30 a very strange thing happened up at the firing line. Everything was very quiet. I was down having a swim at the time. The report came round that the Turks are flying the white flag. I thought here's some more of their funny business.

I got dressed and was very soon off up the hill. On my way up I passed a Turkish red cross man going down the hill with a large white flag with their ambulance crescent in the centre. He was under an escort being taken to Div Head quarters.

May 1915 (cont)

On arriving at the top of the hill where my home is, I learned that the Turks wanted a few hours to bury their dead. Our Interpreters were soon in conversation with them.

They were given instructions to tell the Turks that we would grant them a few hours tomorrow. In the meanwhile, some of the beggars were collecting ammunition and rifles from outside their trenches and officers were seen to have their glasses up taking observations etc. You could see this was only one of their many tricks.

The best part of it was they didn't even attempt to shift any of the dead at all. But they soon carried a few of the wounded into their trenches.

As soon as this was noticed, an order was given to give the red cross two minutes to get back to the trenches. It was a great sight, I believe, to see them all scale back to their trenches. We have estimated the strength of the Turks in the trenches opposite us at over five thousand. As soon as the two minutes was up, what a volley it was. Goodbye to anyone who was not in a hurry to get back to his trench.

This terrific fire lasted for over a couple of hours by the Turks. But our men sat very tight enjoying the sound of the Turkish bullets being wastefully spent over their heads.

Friday Morning at dawn the Enemy advance, but did not get very far from their trenches before they were welcomed by our navy and artillery fire, which soon sent them back faster than they had come. This move seems to have disheartened the Turks a great deal. They have been very quiet all day.

Sat May 22nd. Early Morn quiet, nothing doing. Came onto rain rather heavily about 6.30am. I see our Infantry have now returned. There are not very many of them left by now. 2400 The 3rd Australian Light Horse and 12th Otago Mtds arrived yesterday afternoon. Stopped raining, lovely fine afternoon.

Sunday [23 May]:- quiet all day. Today exactly 4 weeks since our memorable landing.

Arrangements made with enemy to bury dead.

Monday Morning 24th May. Little lively at day break. The Armistice for today was arranged from 7.30am till 4.30pm. I have been up to the trenches this morning. It is a very touching sight to see the way things are being carried out. Both parties are mixed up together burying men as hard as they can go. Each party have white flags while the men have white bands on their arms.

Our men found Corp Clarkson out in front of our extreme right trenches. He is reported to be in a horrible state, being cut to pieces with shrapnel. The Armistice came to a close very quietly, hardly a shot being fired for a couple of hours afterwards.

Tuesday [25 May]. Quiet all the morning. It was rumoured that submarines were knocking round the bay.

While having dinner we noticed a stir among the Warships, submarines and transports but did not take much notice of it as this has been a usual occurrence about here for some days since hearing of the submarine scare. In a few minutes we noticed a great cloud of smoke rising from one of the warships. We soon learned that it was the good old Triumph struck mid-ships by one of those deadly torpedoes.

May 1915 (cont)

It was not long before she was surrounded by those fast Torpedo destroyers and the crew were soon taken off, although many a poor fellow would not have had much of a chance of getting up on deck as we hear the torpedo struck the engine room. The Official report states that out of 750 men, 700 were saved. Quinns post blown up.

Weds May 26th. Quiet all day. N.Z + A reinforcements landed in the afternoon.

Thurs May 27th am received report that the Majestic was torpedoed and sunk in 45 minutes. She was lying further down the coast from us at the time, although she has done a good deal of work for us up here. It is stated that the Rear-Admiral, three captains and practically the whole crew were saved.

It is rumoured that these submarines, numbering nine, escaped out through the Dardenelles at the time those boats were sunk by floating mines at the first stages of the bombardment. We have heard unofficially that they have sunk several of them lately, but it has not been confirmed.

Friday May 28th. Very quiet all day. The 5th + 7th Otago Mtds have arrived. At about 8pm the Canterbury Mtds C.Y.c. were sent up through the Gully between the outposts to root out some snipers in a trench on the hill to the left of our position. This they carried out successfully, with the small number of 7 casualties 1 killed. The Turks did not wait long, as soon as they saw the Bayonets coming they were off.

Saturday 29th May. The Turks were very quiet up till night time, when they were giving Quinns post a bit of trouble. During the night and early Sun morning, they brought up large numbers of reinforcements. They had blown up parts of Quinns post and advanced in the form of a bomb charge.

The Australians found it that hot that they had to retire the communication trench, being covered in by the explosion. It was not long, however, before they opened up this trench and charged back to their old position which they recaptured, only one turk getting out alive and he was taken prisoner. On the left a large number of Turks managed to surround the new outpost No 3, cutting them off. Assistance was soon sent and quite a little battle was raging.

All day Sunday [we] were firing at them from our position. We had a full view of the whole thing. Two Segts, one of HQ and the other Sig Troop, were wounded close by us.

Sunday 30th May. The morn opened up very lively indeed. What with the outpost battle and Quinns post, things were very exciting the whole day. The Rev Bush-King held a very nice little Church Service down the hill from Bde H.Q's. I managed to get down to it. This was my first since arrival. Instead of having the usual band to accompany the hymns, we had the most pleasant shot + shell for a change. It sounded alright.

Sunday night, arrangements were made to quit No 3 outpost as it took too much holding. Our Fellows retired at midnight. They had several casualties, which they managed to get away with them, bar one man who was badly wounded and they did not have time to bring him out.

Monday May 31st. The Turks have re-occupied No 3 Post. To our disgust we could see our poor wounded man thrown over the bank. He still lies there stripped with not a stitch of clothing left on him. This is probably one of the many awful ways of the Turks' kindly treatment to our poor unfortunate comrades we have been unable to get back to our lines, but have had to leave them to the mercy of the Turks.

May 1915 (cont)

There has been hardly a shot fired all Day. Just before sundown the Destroyers named Pincher + Rattlesnake gave us an exhibition of the fine gunnery by lobbing a few shells into the old No 3 outpost.



Supply dump, Ocean Beach, below Walkers Ridge. Photo by Gordon Catto, friend of DK Haig

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum

June 1915

Tuesday 1st June. Received word of Turks getting Reinforcements. Supposed to be ten thousand of them. Expected to be attacked tonight.

We have noticed that the only time an attack is made is when they can never get them to do a second charge, once is enough for them.

Weds 2nd June. Things very quiet all day.

Dick Hopkins badly wounded in the head.

Jack Ross hit by shrapnel, foot + back.

Melville + Baxter both hit with shrapnel.

Result of a few shells from W. Hills.

Allan arrived back from Malta.

Lieuts Ferguson + Lamb came up to see us.

Mail expected.

Thurs 3rd June. Union Jacks flying Kings Birthday.

Weather has been beautiful, plenty of swimming. Three men shot on beach yesterday.

Andy's Wedding day. On quiet days like this it is a fine sight to see the beach crowded with troops enjoying their lovely swim.

Rev Bush-King held short service at night.

Friday 4th June. Terrific bombarding going on down at the point all day.

Another attempt was made to capture the Turkish trench in front of Quinns. The attack was successful. We held the trench all night but the position was too open for them. We retired first thing in the morning.

Saturday 5th June. Very quiet with exception of early morn at Quinns Post. A few Turks were captured and taken as prisoners. Our casualties are reported as close on one hundred.



Anzac Beach, looking towards Ari Burnu. Photo by Gordon Catto, friend of DK Haig

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum

June 1915 (cont)

At night word was received by wireless that the fleet had forced its way into the sea of Marmara. The Turkish army are almost all on the retreat. Also that there are supposed to be eighteen to twenty thousand casualties. This news, if it is true, should make a big difference to us here.

Sunday:- 6th June. Very quiet all day. Church Parade held down the hill. Could not get down. Had lovely swim later on. Tried to see Gordon Catto + Jim Wallace but both on the outpost duty. Sent cigarettes to Jim.

Monday 7th. Quiet, nothing doing all day, Big Mail arrived dated up to 28th April. The Pincher had another few Rounds at the old Outpost, which seemed to be very effective. No 3 now occupied by the Turks.

Tuesday June 8th. Early morning showed a little funny business at Quinns, but I don't think anything serious happened, although we could hear a lot of firing going on. Quiet all day. Went down for a swim at night after tea. Weather becoming much warmer, thus bringing the flies round, which are becoming rather a bigger pest than the enemies bullets + shells.

Weds 9th. Very quiet all day. At night spent evening off at Battery Guns with Jack Dunnett, Bill Brown and Logan Robertson. Did not get back till after nine.

Thurs 10th June. Things still very quiet. Nothing doing.

Friday 11th. About 2am, gave dummy attack all along our line to try and make the Turks waste the ammunition. This took with good effect but did not last long. They seem to be up to our little game by now. During morning with Logan Robertson journeyed through sap to Monash's Gully to see Ernie Jeffs. On way back watched guns open fire on old Annie from Asia [a big Turkish gun] on W. Hills.

Saturday [12 June]:- Few shells early morning to wake us up but is still quiet throughout day, although signs of a movement at Quinns Post, but I fancy our 18 Pounders have settled that for a little while.

Had swim after tea.

Jack Dunnett now observing here in place of Mr Newman who has gone back to the Guns.

Received word Ernie Rosveare died at Zeitoun hospital.

Clive Cargill was badly wounded in stomach + leg today while going along the line.

Sunday 13th June. Quite a heavy artillery duel first thing this morning. A few shells landing not far off us at Bde Hqrs. This was repeated in the afternoon causing a good deal of fun. Our old friend Annie from Asia was putting in some splendid rounds close to the mule lines. We would cheer her every time she fired. She was just missing them by inches. She only got one hit, killing one mule, another wounded. Annie is a great favourite of ours. Despite our many attempts to knock her out, she still lives through it all. She is a marvel.

Soon after tea our favourite mono-plane took a fly over our heads to see how things were going with the Turks. While watching her being fired at by the Turkish artillery we saw a small round thing drop nice and quietly. It was a bomb and oh what an explosion, right into the Turks' trenches. It was nothing but dust + smoke for quite fifteen minutes afterward. We gave her a great cheer which seemed to annoy the Turks very much.

Monday 14th June. Opened with a few rounds from Annie from Asia and another gun at the back of the Turkish trenches. This only lasted for about an hour but everything has been quiet since.

June 1915 (cont)

During afternoon two Warships ventured across from Embros under an escort of a few submarine -destroyers and opened fire on a target well over on the left. We could not see what they were firing at but fancy, judging from the sound, that the shells were landing over the other side of the Peninsula. In the evening Old Annie from Asia gave us a good shake up again.

Plenty of firing from Turks.

We hear there are reinforcements in trenches tonight. That accounts for it, they usually doing a lot of firing first night.

Tuesday 15th. Very quiet all day. Mid-day the Monitor put a few shots into Annie's position. The airship was spotting for her. But she opened fire as large as life again tonight, causing I hear seven casualties on our ridge.

Wed 16th [June]. Quiet all day with exception few shells towards evening.

Thurs 17th. Quiet excepting few exchange of shells with Annie from Asia.

Friday 18th. Quiet here. Heavy bombarding heard in direction of Achi Baba but no news through as to what's going on. Centenary of the Battle of Waterloo. Special issue of Rum to all units.

Saturday 19th. Very quiet all day. Ernie Jeffs called early Morn. Took walk out to Otago at No 2+3 Outposts. Saw all the boys had swim on beach before returning home. Mail day.

Sunday 20th. Quiet with exception short artillery duels at intervals. Taken on cook in exchange with Alf Hall. Boiled rice morning. Stew at night.

Men all still alive had SM for Din Tea.

Monday 21 June:- Few more stray shells about. Had visit from Keith Cameron + Jim Wallace. Went for walk through Sap to Monash's Gully. Left them there while I came back to cook tea. They called in on way back and had tea with us. After tea went down with them for swim.

Heavy bombarding down at the point, an advance taking place.

Tuesday 22nd June:- Very quiet all day with exception few more shells as yesterday.

Tonight very funny. A little higher up from us the shells were landing rather freely. A party of men were digging away as hard as they could go. In a few minutes a man came to light. He was buried by the last shell. It landed right on top of his possie.

Jim Farmer received word his brother had died from a wound he got a couple of days ago. Peter Holmes and Soldier Bradley were here for tea.

Wed 23rd June. Few shells otherwise very quiet. Report of another advance at Cape Helles.

Thurs 24th June. Quiet all day with exception of the usual few shells.

There were close on fifty casualties, the result of the Turks shelling of the beach in front of Div Headquarters.

Friday 25th June. Very quiet, still a few shells at dusk.

Saturday:- 26th quiet all day. Finished up as cook. Frank Bath started Sunday Morning.

Sunday June 27th at about 5.30am the Turks opened up with tremendous rifle and shell fire. We anxiously awaited an attack from them but we [were] disappointed.

Their shells got well on to our trenches killing a Major, Capt and several men besides about thirty wounded of the Aus L. Horse.

June 1915 (cont)

Monday 28th June. A few of the usual morning shells came over. One caught Capt Henderson + broke his leg. He was just round the corner from our Sig office at the time.

A Fleet of Transports with Warships + Torpedo-destroyers have just gone across from Imbross to Gaba-Tepe.

We can now hear a rather heavy bombardment going on. In the Evening word came through that a very successful advance was made covering about 100 yds, including seven Turkish trenches.

The Australians on our right attacked at the same time so as to keep the Turks fully occupied here, thus stop them re-inforcing their Troops at Achi-Baba.

Tuesday 29th June A little lively in the morning but very quiet afternoon. During afternoon I took stroll off to Monash Gully.

Ernie Jeffs + I then went round to Otago Inf lines. Saw a good number of the chaps we knew. Met Dougal Bailey, Jim MacCarthy, Molly Napier and several others. All keeping well.

Had tea with Ernie. Got home shortly afterwards. Terrific bombardment going on down below. Things getting busy again. At about 9.30 the Turks opened up a very hot fire which continued about an hour. At about midnight they advanced along the whole line. Our Boys did not take long to get to work and what a slathering up the poor old Turk got, the place is just covered with dead.

Early Weds morning June 30th. Dead Turks everywhere. In one place on our left we can count no less than two hundred just in one spot. How they got on in other parts I have not heard, but we hear that these Turks were not to return until they pushed us into the sea. As far as I can see a good few did not return or never will.

We took a few prisoners and several of them walked in to give themselves up during the early morning of Wed.

Wednesday:- All Day. Turks very quiet after their very unsuccessful attempt to push us into the sea.

We are wishing they will have another attempt tonight. Our casualties on the left are about twenty odd. A few killed with bombs.

I was up at the trenches in afternoon. One trench was packed full of dead Turks, Some in a very bad state. We had to walk over these to get to the extreme left Sap where we could see the ground simply covered with dead Turks. Some of them were right up on our parapets. In this place the trenches are only about fifteen yds away from each other. Our men busy getting these dead Turks out of the way as soon as possible.



Underground signalling office, No.2 Outpost, Gallipoli 1915. Photo by Herbert Holmes Ashworth

Photo credit: NZ National Army Museum

July 1915

Thursday:-1st July. Very quiet all day. No sign of a renewed attack from the Turks. It is reported that the advance down south was very successful. Our casualties were two thousand while the Turks have left over fifteen Thousand dead on the field, so I fancy they will have had enough for a day or two.

Friday July 2nd. Very quiet. Had call from Annie early morning but did not seem to do much harm.

Afternoon went over to outposts to see Gordon Catto, Jim Wallace, Keith Cameron. Also saw SM. Don, Ally Tite + few others had tea out there. Heavy work still heard from down the point way.

Saturday:- Very quiet all day. Raining slightly morning. Lovely afternoon. Little stationery sent up by Mr Cooke. Also received a parcel of films which he brought back from Alexandria for me.

Had note from Willie with letter from Jim enclosed dated April 26th. Willie's address now is No 1 Coy Div Team, NZ+A Div.

Sunday 4th July:- Very quiet all day. Saw boat sunk down at the point while looking through glasses. Heard afterwards French transport sunk by mine.

Monday 5th [July]. Nothing fresh except that Turks have brought a few new guns up into position, but no serious damage done. One of them is an eleven inch gun.

A messenger came in from Turks under white flag to tell us to clear the sick and wounded off the beach on to hospital ships and get out of the way, as they are going to commence a heavy bombardment first thing tomorrow morning.

Tuesday 6th [July] quiet all day.

The Maori Boys landed early yesterday morning. They have bivouacked at No 1 Outpost. They are about 500 strong. All looking very fit + well.

Weds July 7th. Quiet all day.

Sgt Major Vickory up for dinner + tea.

Visit from Sgt Tite + Stillwell.

Thurs:- July 8th:- quiet, artillery duels at intervals during day but no damage done on our side. In morning Ernie Jeffs + Clive Millar came over.

Went for walk around trenches. Had dinner at Monash then went round the beach way home. Met Jack Simpson + Tom Fraser also Vic Holderness who had just arrived.

Mail arrived. Besides letters received piece of Wedding cake from Mr + Mrs Smith, once Mabel Morrison.

Friday 9th [July]. Very quiet exception of few shells from Annie which peppered all round us while having tea. We had to take better cover.

Saturday 10th. Quiet, few shells.

Gordon Catto up for dinner. Afterward went round trenches, watched Battleship bombarding position a few miles down South, then went down for swim.

Sunday:- 11th July. Nothing doing all day. At about 6.30pm the H.M.S. Talbot came across from Imbros and bombarded Snipers ridge, giving a fine exhibition of her decent broadsiders.

Monday:- 12th [July]. Nothing doing. Innoculation against Cholera at Div Hqrs time 6.30pm. Had tea with Gordon Catto at Outpost.

Tuesday:- 13th. Quiet Day. Received word of slight advance down at the Cape, results of last night's heavy bombardment. Hear that the Germans have surrendered at East Africa.

Weds 14th [July]. Quiet all day. Attack expected from enemy at night but did not eventuate. Mail Thursday 15th. Little shelling but no damage done, plenty swimming.

July 1915 (cont)

Friday 16th [July]. Short artillery duels. Gentle Annie spread a little sample of her shrapnel over our way, putting a hole in top of my house as well as tearing about our blankets, boots, etc that happened to be knocking about.

Luckily nobody was hit. Repoled the line with much stronger poles.

Saturday 17th [July]. Very quiet. Turks seen round about Kuchuk Anafarta in rather large numbers. Spent whole morning and part of afternoon working on the line, practically finished the job. Very warm these days. Had swim before climbing up the hill. Snipers got on to us. Only hit one man in head. Very nearly had me too.

Ernie Jeffs and Clive Miller came to see me late in afternoon. Had tea with us. Ernie brought me nice piece of cake he received by last mail.

Sunday 18th [July]. Very quiet. Few shells at night. Took Frank Bath down to the hospital. Sent away for a few days spell. Stayed few minutes at D.Hq. Had swim on way home, lovely evening.

Monday 19th [July]. Quiet all day with exception of little shelling. Four new batteries of 5 inch Howitzers now landing. Eight guns are to go to Right Flank and Eight to the Left. These are some of Kitchener's new army R.F.A.

They seem to be a much better stamp of men than we have previously seen of Tommies.

Tuesday 20th July:- Nothing much doing. Bit of noise at night but nothing happened.

We are expecting large numbers of new troops to land here at any time now. Most probably will be some of Kitchener's new army. A portion of a new Div Sig Coy R.E's have already landed.

Ordered to return our barrow + cable to D.H.Q.

Weds July 21st:- Morning very quiet. Plenty of new officers knocking about being shown the lay of the Country, also different positions etc.

[Different hand writing]

Corporal David Kerr Haig taken off Gallipoli with Enteric Fever

died 27 July 1915

Buried At Sea

Aged 22



Photo dated 9th January 1915 showing the MacCallum family of Mornington visiting the Dunedin reservoir at Ross Creek. DK Haig kept this photo in his diary



David Kerr Haig (left) and Gordon Catto at No.2 Outpost, Gallipoli, 1915. This is the last known photograph of David

Little is known about the circumstances of David Kerr Haig's illness and death. What is clear is that by July 1915, increasing numbers of ANZAC troops were being afflicted by serious 'enteric' diseases such as dysentery and typhoid fever. Unsanitary conditions at the battlefield, plus the troops' lowered immunity due to exhaustion and poor diet, were major contributors to this situation.

After falling ill, David Kerr Haig was evacuated to the British hospital ship Somali, where he died.

Despite the Allies capturing part of the high ground at Chunuk Bair in August 1915, the military stalemate at Gallipoli continued. By early January 1916, all Allied troops had been taken off the peninsula.

More than two-thirds of the 2,779 New Zealanders who perished during the Gallipoli campaign were classified as 'missing' - meaning their body's final resting place was unknown or unmarked.

Today the sacrifice of these New Zealanders is commemorated by a series of memorials erected on vantage points across the Gallipoli Peninsula. At Lone Pine Cemetery, David Kerr Haig's name is listed on the southern side of the Memorial to the Missing.



Memorial to the Missing, Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli



The Lone Pine Memorial. Corporal DK Haig's name is at centre left

