

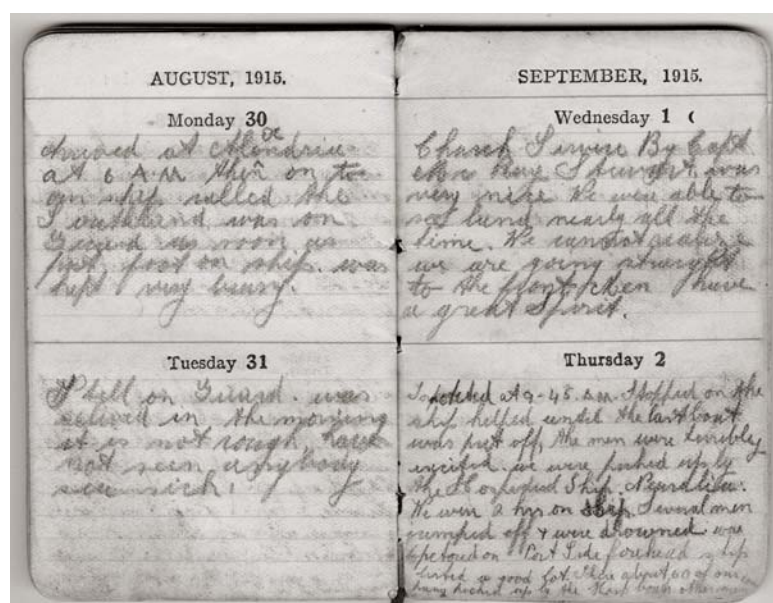


DIARY 1915

Corporal Leonard Gordon Hazard

"D" Company
21st Battalion
6th Infantry Brigade
1st A.I.F.

8 May 1915 to 31 December 1915



FOREWORD

A personal diary that takes us from the shores of Australia to Gallipoli by way of training in the Middle East, a torpedoed troopship and on to a convalescent hospital in England.

Pages of a small pocket diary that hold so much information, recorded each day, regardless of being torpedoed at sea or shelled in the front line and surviving to tell the tale.

Also survivors were the four Hazard brothers from Brighton, Victoria, serving their country during World War 1, putting their lives on the line. All returned.

Graphic newspaper reports by war correspondent Keith Murdoch, Officers and men support the little diary.

With Compliments:

Joyce M. Hazard

A donation to Legacy would be appreciated

8 May 1915

Marched to Port Melbourne. Embarked at 4pm, 2000 men on board the ‘Ulyssis’, 15,000 tons, funnel largest in the world, 20’ through, 60’ circumference. Leaving wharf at 7pm, anchored in the bay. My wife came to say goodbye. Sleep in hammocks very close together, then got paid while in bed.

9 May 1915

Moved out the heads at 11 o’clock, was very rough, enjoyed it very much. Most of the men were sick, I was not.

10 May 1915

Drill on board still able to see land, men still sick. Have little boxes 12” square, 3” deep, men use for being sick it seemed very amusing to me.

11 May 1915

Past Adelaide, drill as usual, lost sight of land also our other boat.
(A soldier aboard the “Ulyssis” left home amid cheers and kisses, he got out to sea, now he wishes he’d stayed home with the missus.)

12 May 1915

Somewhere in the Australian Bight not able to see land. Passed a ship about 4.30am.

13 May 1915

Still in Australian bite. Passed Albany about midnight. Moderate weather.

14 May 1915

Passed Cape Leewin about noon today, it is the last we will see of Australia until we come back, the next land we will see is the Colombo Harbour. Has been fairly rough.
Drill as usual.

15 May 1915

Nearly out of Australian waters. Burial Service at 11.15. Weather fairly calm.

16 May 1915

Church Service in Indian Ocean. Sea calm nothing to do. Saw a few flying fish.

17 May 1915

Drill as usual, hardly any room to move. Nearing the tropics Bath Parade. Some men were washed with the hose.

18 May 1915

Drill as usual, in the tropical zone getting very hot. Ocean very calm.

19 May 1915

Drill as usual. At 8pm we were about 80 miles from where the “Emden” was sunk by the “Sydney”. Burial at sea 8.15am.

20 May 1915

Much hotter, nearly travelling north. Sea very calm.

21 May 1915

Drill as usual. Very hot. Getting very near the line.

22 May 1915

Passed the line at 2pm. I won my heat in the sack race. Burial at 3.30pm. Ocean a little choppy. Initiation, while crossing the line.

23 May 1915

Still choppy. Service at 10.30am. Rest of the day lolling about.

24 May 1915

Much cooler. On stewards duties also on guard from 12 to 4am. Able to see the lighthouses on Ceylon coast.

25 May 1915

Came into Bay at 7.30am. Ceylon Bay formed a breakwater which cost 3 ¼ million, was exceedingly pretty. Had a route march through the town, was very quaint and pretty especially the foliage and the streets. Did not see hardly any women, they have to stay in their native town. Saw lots of rickshaws drawn by natives.

26 May 1915

Colombo all day. Niggers crawling over the ships. They are a very poor type of nigger. They only have just a piece of rag round their loins. Left Colombo at 9.15pm. Is a very busy harbour with some very lovely buildings.

27 May 1915

Out at sea in Indian Ocean. Burial at sea 10.30am. Very hot, sea still calm. An uproar during the evening took place, on account fellow breaking away and getting drunk. Cooks kitchen caught fire.

28 May 1915

Settling the grievances of the men, food much better. Between Colombo and Cormorin Cape on the extreme of India we saw dark brown marks, the spawn of fish.

29 May 1915

Sea very calm. Attended sports meeting also spent the time playing cards and eating.

30 May 1915

Sea very calm. On guard. Two burial services 4.15 and 6pm. In Arabian Sea.

31 May 1915

Sea fairly rough. A terribly hot day. Concert.

1 June 1915

Drill as usual. Very hot. Funny at tea table a chap put four matches in a sausage and called it a dog. Concert.

2 June 1915

Drill as usual. Still able to see land belonging to Arabia. Sea very calm. Concert.

3 June 1915

Burial service 7.30. Passing islands all day. They looked very rugged and surely belonging to Africa. In Red Sea, very calm, still very hot, unbearable. Concert.

4 June 1915

Drill as usual. Very hot have little pools of water where we have been standing with perspiration dripping from us. Passed several ships. Sea very dirty with slime of some description.

5 June 1915

Guard. Sport in afternoon. Was in pillow fight, won three heats. Passed several ships. The ship travels about 300 miles per day.

6 June 1915

In Red Sea. Church parade. Much cooler. Able to see light houses (2). Passed Mount Sinai.

7 June 1915

On guard. Able to see land both sides, very pretty. Entered Suez about 3pm, anchored. Saw Arabs for the first time, they are much bigger men than at Ceylon and dress better. Beautiful colours looking at the hills but very barren.

8 June 1915

Started to go up the Suez Canal at 4am. It is 89 miles long, 3 chains wide, cost 3 million. Both sides are guarded with Indian troops and also well trenched. French aeroplane passed over our ship was very exciting, made us hold our breaths. Got to Port Said 8.30pm. Not able to see much seemed to be pretty.

9 June 1915

Left Port Said at 1am. Arrived at Alexandria Port at 3pm. Leave was only to the NCO. Men broke leave I was one of about 100 left on the ship. Went had look round the town place is very historical. Dirty place in the slums, absolutely demoralizing especially women.

10 June 1915

Disembark at 10am travelling by train to Heliopolis up at 4am had a good feed of oranges. Arrived at camp had for first time soldier's rations, 2 biscuits and tin of bully beef last 24 hours. Five hours in train, buildings all seem to be falling down, very old and quaint.

11 June 1915

Drill from 6 to 9am then 4 to 7pm. Very hot and tiring also dirty and sandy. Heat is as much as 127 in the shade. Most traffic is done with asses in the carts. The niggers seem to do all the work they wear foot gear.

12 June 1915

Drill as usual, I was transferred to No 13 Platoon No 3 Section as a Corporal, my first move up the ladder. Visited Heliopolis tis a very beautiful sight, as far as the buildings are concerned.

13 June 1915

Church Parade. Then back to Heliopolis and had a good look round. All buildings are made with concrete, they are all coloured, only have rain once a year then only for 5 mins. Went to the pictures, they were wonderful.

14 June 1915

Drill as usual. Very hot. The buildings all have flat roofs. The place was not built on here 7 years ago, tis only 5 years old. The buildings are most attractive and pretty.

15 June 1915

Drill as usual. All vehicles are drawn by donkeys. Go out to drill in short trousers and singlet. Can't see a palm or shrub for miles, as far as the eye can see all sand desert.

16 June 1915

Drill as usual. There is not many single buildings, all two or three stories. Can get 400 millimes in one pound worth of money.

17 June 1915

Drill as usual. A terrible lot of niggers hang round our camps. They work for 2 Piastre per day. Heliopolis has only been built since 1907. There are electric trams.

18 June 1915

Drill as usual. Get a uniform made here for 24/-.

19 June 1915

Drill in morning. Went to Heliopolis for good look round. The Mohammedans the poorer women whom are married wear a piece of brass looking stuff right down their nose.

20 June 1915

Church to parade. Went to the pyramids had a look round went inside, saw the Sphinx. Had a look round Cairo in the evening, saw a lot of the slums, the absolutely demoralizing women are terrible the way they go on.

21 June 1915

Mrs Eldred's Birthday

Drill as usual. The soldiers run everything here, wanted the men to pay 2 piastres for tram ride, so 2 or 3 of us were standing up, so the conductor decided to charge 1 piastre for those standing, so all stood up.

22 June 1915

Drill as usual. Rode to Heliopolis in the evening, the charge is only 1 piastre. Tis a four wheel vehicle with rubber tyres.

23 June 1915

Drill as usual. Very hot digging trenches very dirty. Went to Heliopolis had look around.

24 June 1915

Drill as usual. Very hot digging trenches. When we come home we are pretty dirty also tired.

25 June 1915

Drill, digging trenches. We have been issued with short nicks. There are plenty melons to be got and fairly cheap, eggs, are very cheap 1 ½ doz. We are allowed 8 ½ from the Egyptian Government per man.

26 June 1915

Drill in morning. Went to see two Mosques most beautiful, saw where Napoleon had a few shots at the mosque, there is in the wall a cannon ball at present. Doors are lined with gold and silver – most glorious.

27 June 1915

Church Parade. Rev. MacCrae Stewart took the service. One door in the Mosque cost 14,000 pound took 45 years to build. Lot of the work was done by slavery. Mount guard with 12 men.

28 June 1915

On guard. Had to put slippers on before going into the Mosque the ceilings are lined in ebony, ivory and blue enamel tis glorious, tis 700 years old. The stones were dovetailed together. No one knows how they were done, tis a long days wonder.

29 June 1915

Drill in morning. Went down to Abbenish Butts 4 miles march. Kept in huts as usual.

30 June 1915

My birthday.

Woke at 3 o'clock and opened my little box, found my ring and put it on my finger. Then we had to get up at 4am. Went to Butts spent the morning shooting then back to breakfast. Then went out in the evening and continued our musketry course.

1 July 1915

Continued our Musketry course, up at 4 in the morning as usual. Admired my ring all day.

2 July 1915

Continued our Musketry course, pretty hot. Was scoring and looking after some of the men through out the course.

3 July 1915

Done our final shooting then marched back to our camp at Heliopolis. Toured round Heliopolis and saw some pictures in the evening.

4 July 1915

Church Parade. Went Cairo first to the Citadel, tis a most glorious Mosque tis nearly 100 years old, tower is 280' high took 35 years to build. Then to the blue Mosque it is 750 years old. Then through some of the slums, saw place where the slave market was where they sold the slaves.

5 July 1915

Regiment Orderly Corporal 6 o'clock Sunday to 6pm Monday. The Blue Mosque gets its name because nearly all the walls are blue china, which came from China, there were two looking glasses which were once in the walls were polished stone. Napoleon took them to his

6 July 1915

Did not go to drill over bay were on guard. The floor in the Citadel is all marble it came from France. There are 1166 lights in side. All the walls are alabaster stone. Also a clock was given by Napoleon.

7 July 1915

Orderly Corporal. Slack day. Most of the men who come to consult the doctor are not sick, the men that are really sick do not very often visit the doctor.

8 July 1915

Drill bayonet charges very hard work in the sand. The Mohammedan man is allowed to have 4 wives. There are also Christians they have a cross on their left arm. The wives do not all live together.

9 July 1915

Drill as usual. In the evening route march then entrenched ourselves in from 7pm to 12pm was very tired when we came back. The women carry their children across their shoulders.

10 July 1915

Drill as usual, fairly hot. Went to the hospital as an escort for a prisoner, then had a look round the butter place in the evening.

11 July 1915

Church Parade. Went to Cairo then to the Museum. Saw Mummies 1000 years old, also the statues carved out of stone of different Kings and Queens also the jewellery worn by them.

12 July 1915

Drill as usual. On Sunday also went to the Zoo. It is much prettier and better laid out then ours, but there are nearly as many animals as in our own zoo. The paths are designed with 3 different colour pebbles. There is also a very pretty cave. But the white waters were lovely.

13 July 1915

Drill as usual. Seemed very funny to me, saw a nigger lying asleep with his feet in a bucket of water. Also saw several kids following a water cart. They were having a shower of course no clothes on.

14 July 1915

Drill as usual. The buildings here do not have any spouting it rains once a year for five minutes. The second biggest building is in Heliopolis the Grand Hotel has 1200 rooms in it.

15 July 1915

Drill in the morning. Then we started out for a sham fight at 7pm then marched through the sand for 3 ½ hrs on to the Suez Road, was very hard job. Then we camped on the side of the road, was not there two minutes than we were asleep.

16 July 1915

Up at 5 the 24th were the enemy, 21, 22, 23 were the prisoners. D Coy had to double nearly all the way back to overtake the enemy on the left flank. We overtook the enemy and cut them off from the main body. D Coy won the fight. Was the hardest work ever done in my life was very tired.

17 July 1915

Drill in the morning. Then a short A inspection. Went into Cairo, Bill and I went down to the Bazaar. We bought a brooch for Lil and one for Bill's girl. Saw some lovely silks.

18 July 1915

Church Parade. Then Herb and I started to go to the Virgin Mary's Well but was stopped half way was not allowed to do on account of the feasting among the Arabs. So we came to Heliopolis and had tea.

19 July 1915

Drill as usual. Corpl of 2M Fatigue. Weighed myself 10 stone. Desert on which we drill was once a seabed, there are any amounts of sea shells to be found.

20 July 1915

Had escort of 10 men and took 11 prisoners to Addisiah. Population of Pt Said 50,000 of which 12,000 are Europeans. The Citadel was constructed A.D. 1106 order of Saladin taken from the small pyramid Giza, and formed the key of a system of fortifications erected by the great Sultan for protection of Cairo.

21 July 1915

Drill as usual. The building of the famous Mosque Mohammed Aly rebuilt in the centre of the Citadel was started in 1824 and completed in 1857. Was designed by a clever Greek Architect took his model from church of St Sophia at Constantinople.

22 July 1915

The columns and facing are pure Alabaster. The well near the Citadel which was called Joseph's well is 290' deep. Remember all about him, Lil and myself saw film in Melbourne theatre.

23 July 1915

Drill as usual. The man that designed the Sultan Hasan Mosque had his hands cut off so that he could not design any more. It is a most beautiful Mosque. The Sultan had his hands cut off, the Architect's hands were cut off.

24 July 1915

In the Mosques there are no seats the niggers sit on the floor. The Sphinx is 6,000yrs, the pyramids are 5000yrs. Drill as usual.

25 July 1915

Church in morning.

26 July 1915

Orderly Corporal.

27 July 1915

Drill as usual.

28 July 1915

Drill as usual. Went out for sham fight, slept out all night, had for our tea a piece of bread, potted meat, bottle of water quite enjoyed the meal. Tis quite surprising how one knuckles down to it.

29 July 1915

Up at 4am, 21st Batl were in the sham fight, D Coy were the enemy. Were congratulated on our movements especially by the N.C.O. Had for breakfast 3 ladies fingers biscuits and drink of tea. Then arrived home about 9pm.

30 July 1915

Drill as usual.

31 July 1915

Drill as usual. Bill and I went to Merbrieth. Saw the well where the Virgin Mary rested, also had a drink from it, saw the sycamore tree also got a couple of leaves, sent them to my wife. The well is a quaint looking place, water drawn by a cow pulling a well around and around by a stone.

1 August 1915

Orderly Cpl Sunday. Easiest way can describe the way the water comes out of the well, the same way a dredge brings the mud up out of the sea. The tree looks its age, is protected and has a fence round it, got my leaves, by a nigger knocking them down.

2 August 1915

Drill as usual. Saturday we also saw the Ob shaped thus a large piece of granite, tis a wonderful piece of the way it was ever put there. Tis the only thing left after the destruction. Digging trenches out at night.

3 August 1915

Drill as usual. On the wall of the church are paintings, one is the flight of Egypt. The angels warning the Virgin Mary, Jesus and Joseph to flight, Mary resting at the well, Mary resting beside the Nile, the ruins of Heliopolis, in the far end is the statue, continued.

4 August 1915

Drill as usual. The sacred family, there is Mary sitting down with Jesus in her arms and Joseph standing beside her, this statue is standing back in a recess, tis a most glorious sight, the light shines on it, the glass is coloured, the church is as big as St Leonards.

5 August 1915

Drill in the morning. Went out in the evening over the hills in the desert. Came back Friday morning, had sham fight over the hill. Slept out all night, of course. Bread paste and water for our tea, was rather cold during the night, heavy dew.

6 August 1915

Started our fight at 6, tis not an easy job, running through the sand and lying down and jumping up, then rushing for all we were worth. Reached camp very tired. Then at 6pm had to go on guard.

7 August 1915

On guard. 36 men, 2 Corpls, 2 Sergs, 1 Officer, had to take sentries around to their post every two hours, just round 1 mile, 12 shifts. Have not had boots off for 48 hours, feel pretty tired. Finished our guard, have good shower and then to bed.

8 August 1915

Church Parade in the morning. Then with party of 12 went to Hilouan 20 miles from Cairo. We had swim in the sulphur water it was not very encouraging, smell was not nice. Then back to Cairo in the evening, then home, spent an interesting day.

9 August 1915

Orderly Corpl. Drill as usual. Last Sunday 1st a few soldiers caused a row in Cairo. Started in a prostitutes house. A soldier was under the influence of drink he was locked in the room and had 100 piastres stolen from him. So his pals got mad and started to take out some of the furniture. Continued

10 August 1915

Drill as usual. And set fire to it, then caught the buildings then a tremendous amount damage was done, the fire brigade came and the men cut the hoses. It estimated to be 80,000 pound damage done and stolen.

11 August 1915

Drill as usual. It is the end of the natives feast 12, 13, 14. So soldiers were not allowed leave on account of them being very easily upset and an uprising might come. Tis like their Xmas most of them have new boots and hats.

12 August 1915

Up at 4.30 then breakfast and marched to Cairo with full packs. In the barracks I am sent with three men to take over the guard at Army Headquarters. Have to take down flag and hoist it at 6.30am, do not get any sleep on the job have to put new man on every two hours.

13 August 1915

Relieved at 5pm was 35 hours. Two small loaves of bread, 1 tin treacle, two small tins fruit to last four men, were very hungry. Then marched back to the Barracks. Slept out in the Barracks Square. The Tommies left for the front in the middle of the night.

14 August 1915

Drill in Barracks Square. On Quarter guard around the Barracks rooms, then we moved into the barracks rooms. In my room have 21 men of which I am in charge, then duty of a guard down at Kash-Li- Army Hospital. It is a natives hospital but a lot of English wounded are here.

15 August 1915

Up all night posting sentries etc. Also there were 150 wounded came in from the Dardanelles, came by train from Alexandria to Cairo then in motors to this hospital. Had busy Saturday night helping them in. There were 4 native funerals here today.

16 August 1915

Drill in the morning in Barracks Square. On Quarter guard around the barracks have about 1 mile to walk to sentry huts. The Nile is running a great deal, this month and next are the most dangerous for catching a fever. Also received a blue green pair of socks, the paper was nearly off them, they were from my wife.

17 August 1915

Drill in the morning. Had a rest on Reg. Orderly Corpl had pretty busy day. The barracks that we are in are 100yrs old, the British have possession of them for about 2 years Kasa-el-Nil Barracks. When river floods it covers the Barracks Square.

18 August 1915

Drill as usual in morning. The bridge going across the river, same that Lil has postcard of near the Barracks. That bridge can be open to allow large ships to pass through. We are being supplied with sortages, preparing to go to the front.

19 August 1915

Drill as usual in the morning. Went over the other side of river and watched the people skating, twas most interesting. Wish I could skate. No wonder people getting interested in it.

20 August 1915

Drill in the morning. Mounted on guard at 4.30. On Quarter guard had a pretty busy time with our drunken prisoners, I had to arrest 8 of them. Pay night, cause of trouble.

21 August 1915

On guard demounted at 4.30. We went to have a good dinner 5 courses twas just the thing cost us 9 dianters. We went to a kind of a theatre was lovely, Bill was also with me. The people performing were English. Twas quite enjoyable.

22 August 1915

On guard, expect to go to front. Church Parade in the morning. Everybody is very anxious to get away.

23 August 1915

On Guard, was relieved about 11 o'clock. Had to pack prepare to march back at 5 o'clock to Heliopolis, took our old position. Was a very tiresome march with our full packs, nobody fell out, all managed the job.

24 August 1915

Drill, I was off colour, attended the sick parade. Several of the men fell ill, on account of not being able to change wet clothes after the march. Wallie came to see me and told his experiences, wounded in neck. Fred Eldred also came to see me.

25 August 1915

Drill, I still feel off colour. Wallie was at the Dardenelles for 3 ½ months. He was beginning to think he would never see civilisation again. The bullet is still in Wal's chest.

26 August 1915

Drill, struck camp at 6am busy all day. Sleeping in mess huts.

27 August 1915

Getting our shortages.

28 August 1915

Preparing to march away. We were inoculated against cholera, we did not feel any effects from same.

29 August 1915

Church Parade. Left Heliopolis at 10.30pm then rode all night to Alexandria. Slept in train on floor.

30 August 1915

Arrived at Alexandria at 6am then in to our ship called the 'Southland', was on guard as soon as put foot on ship, was kept very busy.

31 August 1915

Still on guard, was relieved in the morning. It is not rough, have not seen anybody seasick.

1 September 1915

Church Service by Captain MacCrae Stewart was very nice. We were able to see land nearly all the time. We cannot realise we are going straight to the front. Men have a great spirit.

2 September 1915

Torpedoed at 9.45am. Stopped on the ship helped until the last boat was put off, the men were terribly excited, we were picked up by the Hospital Ship 'Neuralia'. We were 2hrs on ship, several men jumped off and were drowned. Was torpedoed on port side forehead, ship listed a good lot. Then about 60 of our men were picked up by the hospital boats. Others were picked up by four different ships. Our Colonel was drowned and taken ashore.

3 September 1915

Next morning another transport pulled up along side us, was the 'Pennsylvania' as soon as we could see some of our chaps, the cry was, is so and so on there etc. I had 5 in my section stick with me, I went back in a Lighter to get the remainder of our belongings with about 30 men to the Southland.

4 September 1915

She did not sink was able to put under steam and get her into port. We are still on the 'Pennsylvania'. The talk is all day about our experiences, we do not know yet how many are missing. We had two torpedoes fired at us, the 2nd missed, we had a 4" gun on the Southland, our gunner says, he hit the submarine supposed to be Austrian.

5 September 1915

Still in port. Church service in Mudus Port on the 'Transylvania'. Memorial Service was held on Mudus Island for Colonel Linton. They are still looking for men who drowned and suffocated when the torpedo struck, the hole made was 8' x 15', ship had water tight compartments.

6 September 1915

On guard. Some of the men were picked up with only their pants and singlets, some had none. We are busy equipping the men out again. It is said the Captain reversed the screw that is what saved us from being struck in the engine room.

7 September 1915

On guard, relieved at 7. The fellows are rigged out, we are a rag time battalion. Transhiped to another small ship to "Anzac". Left 3 o'clock landed about midnight. Plenty of firing all night long, could hear the boom of the big guns, we slept in dugouts could not sleep. Did not know where we were situated.

8 September 1915

Woke up very early and we cooked our breakfast. Went into the firing line. Got relieved at 7pm. Felt, one does not know what to make out of the bullets buzzing overhead and shells going off etc. But it is not too bad.

9 September 1915

In support doing fatigue work. The work done by the Australians is most wonderful, could not credit it. Cannot seem to get used to the noise, but suppose will in time. Do not take our clothes off.

10 September 1915

Mother's birthday.

In the firing line all night, do not get any sleep, buzz and wiz of the bullets overhead. 7 in the trench continually. There is no firing done at night.

11 September 1915

In the firing line, not much doing so far, trenches have to be kept very clean, sanitary arrangements are excellent. The Turks are very cheeky they put barb wire up under fire all the time.

12 September 1915

Done 48hrs in the firing line, pretty sleepy things are pretty quiet. No Church Parade. Saw rain for the first time since leaving Australia. Getting quite used to the continual firing.

13 September 1915

In the firing line nothing very exciting, quite used to the noise now. We are fed very well, get supplied with 1 ½ pkts cigarettes and 2oz tobacco. Trenches are only 25 yds away, can hear the Turks talking.

14 September 1915

In the firing line. We also get supplied with 2 teaspoonsful of rum every 2nd day. The trenches we hold were started the very first day the Australians landed. The first trench we were in was where Jacko won the V.C.

15 September 1915

In the supports, my group of men on fatigue have to go about 1 ½ miles to carry water terribly hard work. The men would rather be in the firing line than on fatigue. Bill has arrived with the engineers. Night in the firing line.

16 September 1915

In the supports, go in firing line 6pm. Air-o-planes fly over our heads, but one does not take much notice of them. Received letters from Lil, Dad, Cleve and Mr Robinson.

17 September 1915

In the firing line not very much doing. Jack Cowen came to see me. Busy writing letters, we do 60hrs on at a time. Tis fairly strenuous job. The flies are fairly troublesome at meal times. The Turks are continually working in their trenches have not seen any yet.

18 September 1915

In the firing line nothing doing during the day. The Turks gave us rather exciting time in evening with their 4 rapid rounds fire and shelled us, no damage was done. Corpl Burns next post to me was shot dead. Fine young fellow about 20. Had his brains blown out. We were both working together.

19 September 1915

On fatigue. Received parcel from Lil with two pair bonzer socks, hankerchiefs, cigars and chewing gum, I appreciated it immensely. We had church service at 4pm took communion for the first time. In firing line till 6 in morning, evenings are pretty cold.

20 September 1915

In firing line. Had wash all over in cup full of water. Wore my green socks for the first time. They attracted everybody, officers that had never spoken to me, several remarks were passed about them. We were called to stand to twice. My group of men do not even throw matches on the ground in the trenches.

21 September 1915

In supports. Had not very busy day. The sanitary arrangements are excellent. It is supposed to snow here in winter. Received two letters from Lil. New postcards and newspaper. Tis fine to get letter to read in trenches. We blew up Turks trench.

22 September 1915

Lil's birthday, wish many happy returns of the day.

We had fairly quiet day had a good sleep. Was relieved at 6pm. Had a sleep in supports for 8hrs. There is a lot of lime in the earth makes it crack. We grind biscuits and make porridge, makes a good meal.

23 September 1915

In supports on fatigues. We are just like rabbits living in dugouts. I have not seen any Turks. In firing line saw moon shining on the Sea of Gullies, twas most beautiful sight.

24 September 1915

Liveliest night we have had. Relieved at 6pm at 8 o'clock our ships, guns and artillery in the firing line very exciting time was a terrible noise, shells flying everywhere nobody in our company was hurt. Mat Edwards nearly blew his left arm off cleaning his rifle.

25 September 1915

In supports in firing line at 6pm do 24hrs in firing line. Received a parcel from Lil containing chocolate, P.C. and cigars. I appreciated same very much. Very thoughtful if everybody was the same, there would be nobody short of writing paper etc. Things very quiet.

26 September 1915

In firing line. Gone through orders I am full Corporal paid 10/- day. Pay starts 18.9.15. In supports had a very decent sleep very quiet night able to sleep through the noise.

27 September 1915

On fatigue had fairly easy day, enjoyed the cigars had a decent read and rest. The ships guns giving the Turks a pretty lively time with her bombarding. In firing line 6pm things were pretty lively.

28 September 1915

In firing line, had two eggs and bacon for breakfast and bread had bonzer meal.

Relieved at 6pm. During the night I had to get up with two men to look for a supposed Turk in our trenches a fellow reported seeing a Turk, some fellows imagine a lot. Well after ½ hour look around we did not find him.

29 September 1915

In support had a good sponge bath in pint water. The sponge is one of my best friends. Went in to firing line at 6pm. We made some very dainty stews with onions, B.beef, biscuits and water.

30 September 1915

In firing line one corpl looks after 3 posts. We have 2 hrs on 4 hrs off one does not get much sleep. Things fairly quiet. Fog was very severe hung in the gullies all morning.

1 October 1915

Looking forward for next mail. One of the best things we get. In support, in fatigue we have made new arrangements, I have charge of water, 1 qrt per man per day. In firing line 6 to 12. Men are suffering with pains in stomach.

2 October 1915

In support had fairly good rest. In firing line at 6pm till 6am getting pretty tired. Get broken sleep fairly quiet in firing line. Turks blew up sap, did no damage shook all the hill. 4hrs sleep in 24.

3 October 1915

In firing line. The General spoke to me, asked how I was getting on wanted to know if our trench had been shelled, told him no up to present time. I received 2 very lovely long letters. Had 4 hrs sleep in 24.

4 October 1915

In firing line, 4hrs sleep hard to keep awake. We read and smoke, one would not think there was any war on at all. Do not get any war news here. Bombardment happened on the 4th.

5 October 1915

Relieved at 6am in support to my group of men on fatigue. About 9 the Turks gave us a very lively time with their shells, two were slightly wounded, after all their trouble. Expecting some Turks to surrender.

6 October 1915

In firing line, Turks are very quiet. 4hrs sleep in 24. The General spoke to me and said well Corpl, have you had any shells in the trenches, no Sir. Then my green socks took his eyes and said they would be faded by the 17.

7 October 1915

In support. Orderly Corpl had to take sick to Doctor 20 sick men. The second division gave demonstration the Turks did not reply. The chaps reckon I would make a good old woman, because I will not let them throw matches on the floor.

8 October 1915

In the trenches made bonzer tea, rissoles. The officers had some they appreciated same very much. Five months since I left Australia. The Turks get frightened, was very dark wind blew the tins between the trenches.

9 October 1915

In support on fatigue, in trenches at 6pm. Things are quiet. The Turks are good shots, they rip the top of the sandbags every night and of course the sand runs out. The bullets seem to explode when they hit anything.

10 October 1915

In the trenches, not able to attend church service on duty in the trenches. One forgets the days. We are warned to look for two men dressed as officers, they are supposed to be suspicious persons wandering about our lines.

11 October 1915

Relieved at 6am in supports. We have been paid 10/- in paper money, I am going to use my money to buy a watch, have lost mine. Mounted at 6pm on No3 post, S. Haylock was shot dead right through the head, 13 platoon.

12 October 1915

On duty, Turks bombarded our trenches just at breakfast time. But fortunately did not do any harm. I received a letter from Miss Walsh an old school teacher of mine, she informed me she had sent parcel to me.

13 October 1915

Received paper from Lil. In supports had decent night's sleep. Received 3 letters from Lil, also parcel containing tooth powder, 1pr pretty pink socks, cigars and cigarettes, throat drops and chewing gum was very thankful for same. Also received parcel from Miss Walsh 6 handkerchiefs, 1 soap, 1 pencil, 1 fly cover, very nice.

14 October 1915

In firing line on duty, Turks very quiet. Relieved at 6am in support – Instructing reinforcements – 2 new in my section. Bill say only have to put periscope through hole in wall and can see dozs of our chaps lying dead, my is a horrible sight.

15 October 1915

In supports looking after fatigue. Struck Bill.W. had decent talk he has grand little dugout. Was telling about his job said talk about a hole of horrors, he has to listen in the saps under our trench, if the Turks are working.

16 October 1915

In the trenches had to stand too at 4am. We gave 3 rapid rounds and pretended we were going to jump over the parapet, had good blow of my whistle. The Turks took no notice. On duty in trenches at 6am. Received paper from Dad.

17 October 1915

In supports. Rainy day had rice for dinner. 2 Letters from Lil. Helping Gary Hardwick make 3 crosses. Corpl Burns, Privates Herylock and Murray. Quite at home in my old trade. On duty in the trenches.

18 October 1915

On duty in the trenches. Had letter from Cleve. Finished making crosses. Fraser cut my hair for me, tis as short as possible. Rev. Mac Stewart gave pipe to me. On duty in trenches.

19 October 1915

In supports. The Turks are showing themselves out of their trenches, they exchanged things with our fellow, one of our chaps got out and met a Turk half way and waving to one another. Seen with my own eyes. At 9.30 a Turkish 6in shell, exploded in front of me and knocked me out, but still had my senses, was covered with earth etc.

20 October 1915

Was dressed and taken on stretcher to beach and waited to be taken on hospital ship which was about midnight, was in pain. Gery brought my pack down to me also the parcel Lil sent me. Was taken on H.S. Nevasa by small lighter was hoisted up by winch. Next the doctor was seeing me. Shrapnel wounds on my left arm and right hip sides very much bruised. Very sore.

21 October 1915

Of course was washed and undressed immediately arrived on ship and put to bed in lovely little bed between sheets for the first time, since left Australia. The attention is very good. There are about 80 patients in our ward, 2 nurses, 1 doctor, 2 orderlies. 700 on ship, 400 stretcher cases, 300 walking some of them are painfully thin.

22 October 1915

Breakfast – bread and butter, porridge and cup of tea. Dinner, stew and pudding. Tea – bread and butter and cup of tea, very decent same each day. Then we moved off sometime in the night to Lemnos. Stopped there and put off some Indians and Ghurkhas on the island. My arm is in splints and side is still very sore.

23 October 1915

I am just getting that way enjoying the food, have not eaten hardly anything up till now. Tobacco and cigarettes we get plenty. The ship is lovely and clean and everything looks nice and fresh. A chap lying next to me was shot in the chest, he was very bad but is getting alright. He was a sailor off the lighter.

24 October 1915

We left for Malta, the whole lot of us are getting much better now. I am feeling fine except for my side. The minister says prayers every night. Had my arm put under the x-ray to see if the shrapnel bullet was still in. Says it is a greenstick fracture.

25 October 1915

Was able to get up and walk over to the latrine, my hips and side still very sore. Tis a hard job to move in bed. Cannot sit up without having assistance, was able to have a shave after one weeks growth. Thank God for getting me better. The small box Lil sent me I enjoyed very much twas fine.

26 October 1915

We are wondering where we are going, some say England. Our nurses are called sisters, they are very kind to every body that is very ill especially. Have tried to find out when Lil will get to know that I have been wounded.

27 October 1915

Arrived at Malta Grand Harbour. Left ship at 4pm, no sooner was I halfway down the plank and a drink of milk and a packet of cigarettes then another drink of milk and cigs and matches, then into M.A. and off to Hos. Tigne B 13 ward then into nice clean bed, washed, another lady came with cigarettes and matches.

28 October 1915

Visited by doctor wants to know what is wrong, tell him this is the 100th person I have told. A diet sheet is made out for each one, I am ordinary diet. There are twelve in our ward, this place is on ordinary time. It is used as barracks. Seems to be a fine place. Was awakened to be washed.

29 October 1915

We are awakened very early to get a wash and our beds made, we also receive a parcel containing pkt cigarettes, pack of cards and writing paper, a tin of tobacco and handkerchiefs. We were each given a hospital suit consisting of a bluecoat, trousers, white shirt and red tie, a pair of slippers and a pair of socks.

30 October 1915

A patient must be in by 6pm, not allowed to smoke 8am to 12am. Woken at 6am to be washed, bed made, breakfast at 8am, dinner at 1pm, tea at 4.30pm, biscuits and cocoa at 6pm, lemon drink at 8pm then lights out.

31 October 1915

Still in bed, my side is still sore we have games to amuse ourselves. Wrote a letter to Lil and Dad.

1 November 1915

Tis a holiday here, most of the people are Catholics in Malta. The fellows call one another when they want to speak to each other, for instance I say Canada, Australia in the corner, English over there. One chap put his foot in a sling to go to the lavatory, made my side ache laughing at him. Wrote a letter to Miss Walsh and Bill.

2 November 1915

Still in bed, the doctor informs me that it will take a good time for my side to get well. So he is going to send to England to a convalescent hospital. We have got an addition, 1 orange per day. There are nearly ¼ million people in this island.

3 November 1915

Still in bed my side aches when I move about, seems like a weight on my side. There are 300 guns on this island, tis 10 miles across.

4 November 1915

Still in bed. The uniform the fellows wear is blue. All the buildings in Malta are built of yellowish colour something like limestone. All woodwork painted green seems to be a favourite colour.

5 November 1915

Still in bed. We get a new rigout, have now a pair of slacks and Tommies coat. Sewed my colours and stripes on my sleeves. Leave at 4 in M. ambulance, arrived on H. ship about eight. Had to wait on stretchers for ship to pull into wharf. Then to bed. Wrote letter to Lil.

6 November 1915

In bed, still in port. Left about 9am for England from Grand Harbour Malta. The ship's name 'Salto' a French ship, there are about 600 patients. The meals are very decent, any amount to eat. There is a dense fog. The ship's whistle blowing every 5 mins.

7 November 1915

Got out of fog. A chap next to me is very nice also has photo of his girlfriend (coloured). I show him my wife's photo. About 5pm whistle went for boat practise. Heard some of the church service from eating department.

8 November 1915

Up on deck for one hour. Side is still sore, arm nearly better. There is one chap in ward with leg off, makes a terrible noise when he is dressed.

9 November 1915

Up out of bed 5hrs, passed rocky point Spain. Reached Gibralta at 5.30pm. Stopped to see if any cases bad enough to put off. Tis a most glorious sight and tremendous rock, there is a gun for every day of the year on it. Bandage off arm almost well.

10 November 1915

Get up after dinner. The sister gave me a pretty pair of blue pyjamas. There are a good many ships. There is a Lancashire chap, he is very funny, can't understand his talk.

11 November 1915

Up all day, arrived in Bay of Biscay at 1pm. Our ship is rolling very much, terrible big sea on, everything is going sliding. We have bread and butter for supper.

12 November 1915

Very rough, terrible big gale on, something horrible. The ship is just out of the water, rolls terribly. Everything is in the way of China is broken, beds have come down on the floor and water is washing about on the floor. Big new steam pipes burst.

13 November 1915

Getting a little quieter. Got out of the Bay of Biscay about 6pm. The chart was read at noon and they found we were two miles from where we were the day before. Had a terrible gale, the sea came over the ship and went down the funnel and put the fires out. Funny nobody was sick.

14 November 1915

Sea Calm, in bed all day. Could see land 9am. Arrived Portland at the beginning of the entrance to South Hampton Docks. At 8pm anchored for the night. Went to church service in dining hall.

15 November 1915

Into the docks at 8.30am, very cold frost. Disembarked at 1.30pm, boarded the H. train at 2pm, arrived at 1st Southern General Hospital, Section Birmingham. Everything is done secretly at South Hampton Docks. Had hot bath on arriving, very pretty ride in train. Tis very cold. Wrote a letter to Lil.

16 November 1915

In bed, the sister says better stop in bed. Had to have my arm X-rayed, cannot seem to find how the shrapnel bullet came out. There is an entrance but not an exit. I fainted in the X-ray room, I am terribly frightened. I thought when trains were passing ours, we were going to run into it.

17 November 1915

Received an answer to a P.C. sent to Olive Pendred, she happened to be away from home taking salt baths for muscular rheumatism. So her sister Violet came to see me. I did not know her and she did not know me. Rather funny but was soon shown me, then we had a good talk. Gave me 2/- because I had no money. She is a nice girl. They are coming to see me on Sunday.

18 November 1915

The visitors that came yesterday were very kind, gave us chocolate and fruit etc. Next bed to me is an Aust Ser Farr. If one does not happen to have any friends here, the visitor will send some, wish you were here and able to come and see me Lil. The food here is nearly as good as home, only not the right person to give it to me.

19 November 1915

Still in bed getting more used to the cold, do not seem to feel it so severe. It gets dark at 4pm. Breakfast at 7.30, dinner at 12.30, tea at 4, supper at 9. Will give some of the cases - 3 without one eye, 1 with one hand, 1 with one leg, 2 with their leg about 4" shorter than their own length, 3 that cannot use their arm or hand, 3 have lost the use of their hand.

20 November 1915

Still in bed. Doctor is going to send me to Australian Convalescent Hospital as soon as there is a vacancy. There are only two Australians in this ward, the other chap is a Sydney man, his number 854 Garry Farr, 5th Brigade. There are boy scouts come every evening to see if the chaps want anything getting for them. They do the job very well, get the orders then away for 2 hours before bringing them back.

21 November 1915

Get out of bed, walk lame, the weight seems to press on my side. In the afternoon Win came to see me, Olive Penderel's sister is 19 nice girl. She was a bit shy rather a nice looking girl. She had rather a low cut blouse at the neck, it was a pretty pink. Same colour as Lil's blouse, she used to wear. Was very pleased to see me, also bought me some fruit.

22 November 1915

Had walk around the building tis one ¼ mile long, along the corridors from one end to another. Tis a wider building, there are three flats and big high stone walls around the place, to keep us in, is just like gaol. Nothing for us to do except sit near the fire, read and walk about, Gets on ones nerves being shut up. Wrote letter to Lil.

23 November 1915

Had another walk around to find anything interesting. Seems to be a very smoky place. Have not got any gardens about the place. Where there is a little garden tis out of bounds for the patients. So is no benefit to us. Have to get up early 6am then nothing to do when up. Wrote letter to Lil.

24 November 1915

Still wandering about. Have yellow jaundice, am going yellow. Olive Penderel, Lily P. and Nellie West all want to talk at once, so in the long run there is not much done. Lily P. is about 40, Nellie West is very much like Bill. They brought some fruit, pot of jam and a few flowers.

25 November 1915

Still wandering about, very severe frost. There is no outside wherever there is water about. Went to a concert held in Hospital, was very nice. One joke was – photography is like love, the best results are developed in the dark. The concert hall has a proper stage, footlights etc.

26 November 1915

Still shut up wondering when going to be sent to Hanfield Convalescent Hospital. The sister wants to see the photo of my wife, show it to them and they admire it very much, then all the sisters want to have a look, feel very proud showing to them.

27 November 1915

Looking forward to seeing Bill's sister and her boy on Sunday. Tis very cold and a very thick fog, it even comes in the ward. Never run into any in Australia so thick, lasted up to noon. Got down my throat.

28 November 1915

Went to church in the morning. Have nice little chapel fixed up into the building. Then into the afternoon Floss West and her boy, he is a tiny little chap only weighs seven stone, tried to join army but is under standard weight. Floss very much like Bill. They brought fruit and lollies.

29 November 1915

Wandering about trying to see something fresh. Sister gave me a job to clean the ashtrays, broke the monotony. She made me some lemon cheese, was very nice, she did not have any peel chopped up in it, was exactly the same as my wife makes for me.

30 November 1915

Helping generally around the ward, seem to be getting much more used to the cold. I have sent to the pay office to try and get a pound note. My hair is just long enough for parting. Wrote a letter to Lil. Wondering when I am going to get a letter.

1 December 1915

My name was published in paper also Rundell out of my section being wounded. Visited in afternoon by Nellie West and Mrs Bullock, Nellie's intended mother in law, her son is in France fighting. They brought fruit, jam, writing pad and stamps. They are exceedingly good, also some flowers. Talked about the blooming war.

2 December 1915

Felt a little more brighter after visiting day. The chap next to me, divides what we have given to us. So between the two of us, our tea is perhaps flavoured with half an apple or half a banana. The apples here are all green, do not seem to see any rosy apples but they are all ripe just the same.

3 December 1915

Still wandering about. The sister gives me a job to help dry the dishes etc. Being in the kitchen, drink no end of milk. The nurses are very good to me and often get little dainties. The sister tells me I worry about my wife and tries to give me work to stop me thinking of home.

4 December 1915

The sister keeps me busy working for her. She is a very nice young woman about 27. She is a real sensible woman, got plenty sense, not a flirty girl, like some of the sisters are. She often has a talk to me because she says, she can talk to a married man and nothing is said. She is always saying to me hope I am sent back to my wife.

5 December 1915

Looking forward to visit from Olive, tells me in P.C. has received 2 letters from Bill. Then received cable from my wife enquiring how I am progressing. Did feel very pleased getting cable, also paid for me to answer, which I did immediately. Arrived at Malta on the 7th Nov.

6 December 1915

Olive had a good talk to me about Bill and Lil and myself what we tried to do in Aus. Violet sent me 2/- to buy stamps. Did not like taking it but insisted on it. At 1pm got orders to get kit and be ready by 2pm. Caught train, 10 of us with a Medical Serg to London, also had a ride in tube train go down in lift, it runs all under buildings etc. Tis a wonder affair, travels at a terrible speed, tis electric. The tube is steel 1 ½ inch thick then concrete is pumped into them between the earth and the steel tubes. They are put together in sections, goes right under the Thames River.

7 December 1915

On duty Cpl of the guard room. My side pretty sore after carrying my kit about, am on for 24hrs. Have nice little office with fire in it. Tis quite a decent job. Has been raining all day. Wrote letter to Lil.

8 December 1915

Get paid 5/- per week. Raining. Finished my job in the Guard room 9am. Slept in G. room had lovely little bed, best sleep since Gallipoli, went back to my hut. Saw Doc at 10.30, has look at my side, said would have to have massage treatment. So made appointment for 10.30am. Went to concert in evening.

9 December 1915

Had my first massage. A sister about 23 an English girl. Have to take my pants off, only have my shirt on. Do not like being massaged at all. Met V. Wood and Jefferies they are from Brighton. Carl Wanson is here but have not met him yet. Went to concert tis only 1 penny.

10 December 1915

Get up about 7.30. Have very good food, tis rather rough but a good variety, quite good enough for any soldier. Have just come from massage. Do not like the blooming thing at all, do not like this sister messing about with me. Went to concert.

11 December 1915

Had game of billiards for the first time. There are about 300 Australians here in Woodgate Con. Hospital. Carl Wanston, Vern Wood and Gary Jefferson are also in this camp. In the Y.M.C.A. there are two billiard tables also chairs etc. One can buy cup cake etc. Went to concert in evening, hall holds 1000. Received a letter from Olive telling me she had received a Xmas card from Lil and myself, was very pleased about it.

12 December 1915

Went to church in Y.M.C.A. A chap gave me an invitation out with him to a friends place of his for tea. The people were very nice. They have a little girl thirteen also a little boy two, had tea in the kitchen everything was lovely and clean looking and natty, enjoyed myself very much. Put me in mind of being home with Lil.

13 December 1915

Alan's birthday. Write letter to Lil. Went to massage in morning. Saw snow for the first time on Sunday, came down quite in heavy flakes, looked very pretty this morning, there was ice lying about ¾" thick, tis very cold here. Our camp is where the great Derby is run. Went to concert in evening.

14 December 1915

Massage, it lasts for about ¾ hour. Two wires are attached to me and electricity is driven into me, feels like pins and needles, then also have heat bath on my side. Our huts hold about 40, they also have three stoves in each, are rough but comfortable. Went to concert in evening.

15 December 1915

Canteen Cpl where the beer is sold, have to see everything goes alright, there is also an Australian recreation room attached, but is filled just because there is beer sold here, first time been in the place, will not go in again until I am on duty there. Different class of fellows. Everything seems so dirty, the other recreation canteens are so clean, natty looking.

16 December 1915

Massage. Tis trying to be a fine day. Went to concert in the evening. Cannot make the sun out, seems to set quite near where it rises, never is it overhead. We are allowed out from 2pm till 9.35pm. London is out of bounds.

17 December 1915

Massage. Tis very muddy here but soon dried up, the huts are covered on the outside with c. Iron, roof covered with malthoid lined throughout with lining boards, there are three open fire stoves. They are rough but very comfortable.

18 December 1915

Massage. Wandered about the camp, went to concert in evening. My side does not seem to get any better. Tis nothing to see women walking about smoking cigarettes and the kids wait outside the hotel while their mother and father go and have a drink.

19 December 1915

Had a hot shower met a man, looked at him 10 times before I spoke to him, he used to play for Brighton, told him I was married, said well you ought not to be at the war. Told him well the single chaps do not seem to come.

20 December 1915

Massage. We got supplied with shaving soap, toothpaste, tobacco, writing pads and cigarettes etc, also get clean sheets, slips and clean underclothes. Wrote letter to Lil, went to concert in the evening. Was astonished to see in paper that the troops had been withdrawn from the Dardanelles.

21 December 1915

On Cpl of the Guard (24 hrs) then to massage, was examined by a lady doctor. Said poor chappie you must have got a hard knock, could have told her that. Her coat amused me very much, also wore leather belt with Khaki dress and hat. She weighed about 14 stone.

22 December 1915

Massage. Called in at the Y.M.C.A., had afternoon tea then 4 ladies and a man entertained us for a couple of hours, twas very nice. The class of fellows noticed, that attended the affair, were very well behaved, quite different to the chaps on the big recreation hall.

23 December 1915

Massage, have a new treatment. Sent Xmas card to Olive and Nellie West. Fairly fine day. The ladies are decorating the recreation huts with holly.

24 December 1915

Massage. The ladies are very busy decorating the mess hut. I am knitting a scarf. Tis a terrible rainy day. The Tommies have not get any business tact about them, most of them were born in the place where they live, take their fathers Job, get married and die in the same place.

25 December 1915

Received an invitation from Clark to go to Mrs. Dyers for dinner. We had Turkey, baked potatoes, ham and brussell sprouts, plum pudding and mince pies. Was eating until we left at 11 o'clock, rode home in a taxi. There were five altogether. Had very enjoyable time, but wished Lil had been there.

26 December 1915

Went to Mrs. Devits for dinner, also had very enjoyable time, plenty to eat. There were also Mr and Mrs. Dyer and of course the two little kiddies. Also had Xmas tree, there was a present for everyone. I received 2 pkts cigarettes and frog. We got home at 11.15. Rained all the way home. My side ached.

27 December 1915

Most miserable day raining all day and very windy. Do not feel very hungry have not got over my Xmas dinner yet. Received a letter from Olive also a box of eatables, she told me she had a lovely long letter from my wife also that Bill was being sent back to Australia. Went to concert. Wrote letter to Lil.

28 December 1915

Massage. Have come across several chaps out of our battalion 21st. Most of the chaps see our colours red and black and they say Oh you are the crowd that were torpedoed, yes, bit lively they say. Oh yes, had pretty rough time.

29 December 1915

Massage. Mrs Dyer sent me a very nice cake. Learning to play billiards, tis a very fascinating game. Wrote a letter to Dad. Went to concert in evening. Have got a bad cold, through the blooming massage, being half undressed.

30 December 1915

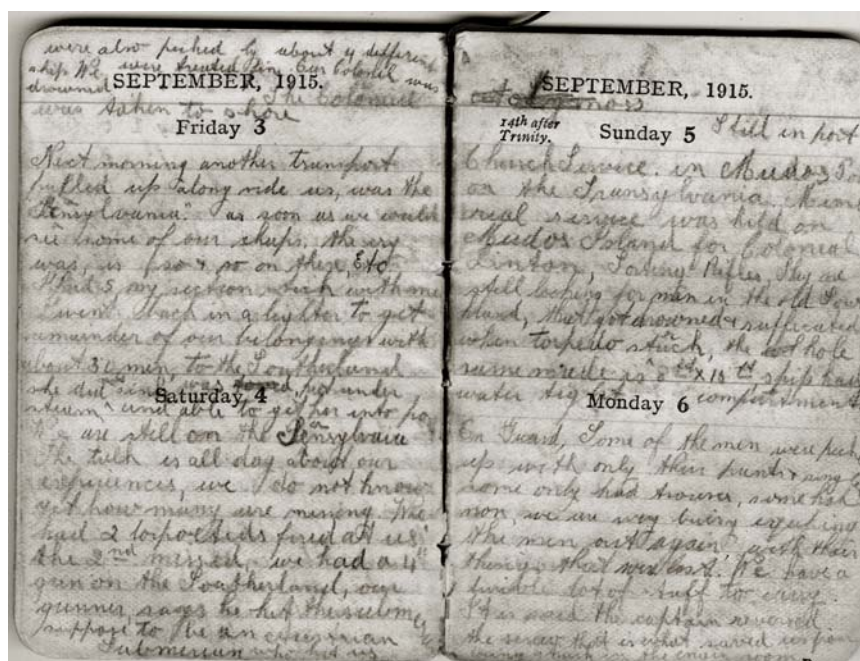
Massage. Understand there will not be many Australians coming to England, they have found out that tis too cold. Concert.

31 December 1915

Massage, never went. Too rainy and wet, most horrible day. Went to pictures. We go to bed about 9 o'clock. Wondered what Lil was doing.

Tonight 1915 dies.

To herald the New Year – that must still for a while at least be a year of tragedy, yet every hour of which will bring us nearer the end of the Greatest war.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure of concentration with the aid of a magnifying glass, to copy out the small pocket diary kept so carefully, with indelible pencil, by my father-in-law Len Hazard, during 1915.

Marrying Lily Evelyn Eldred on January 1915, she remained constantly in his thoughts, throughout the diary. It is not surprising to learn that he wore her hand knitted green socks and smoked a cigar she had sent, in the front line at Gallipoli.

Having heard first hand accounts of some of the events from him over the years, it was typical of him to have stayed to help on the torpedoed troopship "Southland" until the last lifeboat was lowered, but he declined to make any more wooden crosses for his fallen comrades at Gallipoli, thinking the next one could be his own.

On returning home to Australia and his dear wife Lil, with a piece of shrapnel in his side for the rest of his life, he entered into a rehabilitation course of Architecture to supplement his building ability and built a modest home in Caulfield with the aid of a walking stick. For many years Lil continued to knit socks, not only for her husband Len but for her son Bill.

Unable to understand the futility of war, when the family moved to Ferntree Gully, during the depression years, he built a beautiful garden named "Southland" over a diamond shaped red and black colour patch of the 21st Battalion and created his own little bit of 'peace'. I knew that beautiful garden and walked in it whenever I could.

*Joyce M. Hazard
Emerald
Victoria*



MELBOURNE, TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 23, 1915.

(10 PAGES)

"IN LINE WAITING FOR THE END"

UNSHAKEN DISCIPLINE OF AUSTRALIANS DESCRIBED BY WAR CORRESPONDENT

HEROES OF STOKE HOLD

TROOPS CONGRATULATED

WANNON AND WIMMERA MEN

BY KEITH MURDOCH

There will be few finer pages in the story of Australia's part in the war than that telling of the coolness, courage, and discipline of the troops on the stricken steamer Southland.

We have had the 8th and 10th Light Horse charging to almost certain death from our centre at Anzac—so certain that they shook hands before they left the trenches; we have had the raw 18th Battalion throwing themselves against apparently impregnable trenches at Hill 60—and taking them; we have had Australians showing devotion to duty and country in every corner of Anzac.

SEVEREST TEST OF ALL

But there is no test more severe than that of facing death of the "drown-in-five-minutes" type in mid-ocean. Every man who has had both experiences will tell you that he would infinitely rather face heavy shell fire—he would even rather charge machine guns—than have his ships a mark for torpedoes at sea.

The Southland carried the 21st Battalion, recruited mainly from the Wannon and the Wimmera—farmers' sons; a company of another Sixth Brigade battalion; some members of the Army Service Corps, and other details; the General Officer Commanding the Second Australian Division (Major-General J. G. Legge) and his staff, and the Brigadier of the Sixth Brigade (Colonel R. Linton) and his brigade staff. Colonel J. F. Hutchinson, commanding officer of the 21st—a well-known Wimmera district man, and brother of the Victorian Minister for Agriculture—was officer commanding the troops on board. His duty it was to have precautions taken against accident. On the first morning out from Alexandria he had all troops called to the stations detailed to them, and they were practised in the handling of lifebelts and boats.

Few people saw the torpedo which struck the Southland between bridge and bow—between third and fourth holds. It was 9.46 a.m., early exercises were over, and the troops were exchanging stories, willing away the

"Australia should thrill with pride," says Mr. Keith Murdoch, describing the gallantry of the Australians on the torpedoed transport Southland. Mr. Murdoch was special war correspondent, and is now in charge of the cable services in London of "The Herald" (Melbourne) and "The Sun" (Sydney).

time, and packing their kits for shore. Suddenly the ship shook. As an explosion the torpedo was disappointing. It had not the noise of a 75 shell. As a waterspout also it disappointed. But it blew up the hatch of No. 4 hold, destroyed two holds, started plates in a third, and killed and wounded about 20 men. The siren blew at once, and the soldiers gathered on deck.

SHIP SAVED TWICE

Two men at this stage did great heroic work. One was the captain. He dodged a second torpedo, which passed astern. The other was the chief engineer. He closed the bulkheads, made No. 2 hold watertight, and closed many open portholes. Each man saved the ship. Nothing could have saved her if the captain had slackened speed, and the second torpedo had got home. Nor could the ship have remained afloat if one other hold had been flooded.

Stewards and firemen rushed to boats as soon as the siren blew the order "Abandon ship." Our men were free to move for themselves. But their inclination was to let the crew have its turn at the boats first.

Most of the crew had left before a single Australian soldier boarded a boat. And this despite the general conviction that the ship was doomed. The sea was choppy, and she moved uneasily. She listed heavily to port. Then she listed to starboard. Every moment seemed to be her last. But the gallant young soldiers played the game.

Young men stood—some with lifebelts, some without even a knowledge of swimming—and waited for the end. There was real excuse for panic. The ship's officers thought the situation

serious. But not an Australian soldier failed in his duty.

NEARLY ALL AFLOAT

At last nearly every boat, raft, and collapsible punt was overboard. Most of the men were off the ship—some had been taken off by destroyers, a hospital ship, and another transport. But the bravest of all were left—Australian lads, who had volunteered to go down and stoke the apparently sinking vessel in the effort to take her to port under her own steam. These were heroes indeed. They included officers and privates, who were joined by a number of men from a destroyer, and they got the ship to harbor.

BRAVERY OF INDIVIDUALS

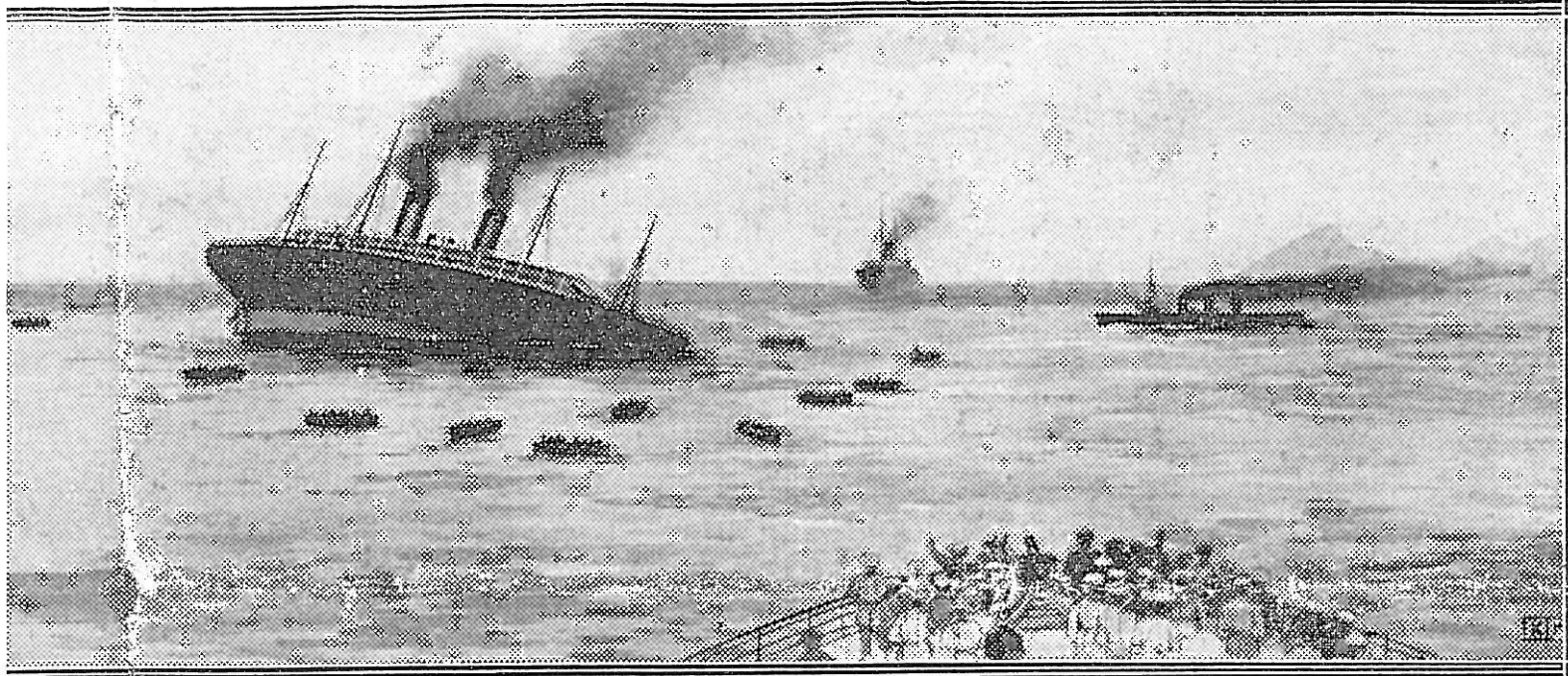
Of cases of individual courage I can vouch for three. One was that of General Legge. When the blow was struck he sent for his cane and spurs. He was on the boat deck, where all could see him. Coolly he put on his spurs, lit a cigarette, and leaned over the rail. It was to give his men confidence. His chief of staff, Colonel Gwynn, beloved by all Duntroon College boys, joined him there, and they remained calmly watching the proceedings till the end.

Another case was that of a fine swimmer—a lieutenant—who saved many lives by swimming about and giving lifebelts to those who had none. Again, a boat was overturned by the waves four times. But each time they managed to get two wounded men back into it. Only one man of this boatload was lost. Altogether, four boats were overturned by waves and other causes.

HOW COL. LINTON DIED

One of these was that in which Colonel Linton, who was in great spirits when I dined with him in Egypt three weeks ago, had left the ship with his staff. It was rushed in the water by firemen, whose boat had been smashed and sunk. Colonel Linton died in the water from heart failure. When the units were gathered together again General Legge issued an order congratulating them on their courage and discipline. Australia should thrill with pride.

TLOOPSHIP SOUTHLAND, WITH LIST TO PORT AND DOWN AT BOWS



HOSPITAL SHIP NEURALIA AND FRENCH DESTROYER RUSHING TO RESCUE

Drawn by an eye-witness and referred to in letter from Captain F. M. Johnson.

"A STREAK OF FOAM"

SWIFT TORPEDO WATCHED

Graphically describing the scenes which followed the damaging of the Southland, Signaller Keith Allard writes as follows to his mother:—

September 3, 1915.

"It was just before 'fall in' and a beautiful morning, and I was walking round the deck under the bridge, and was debating whether I'd take a snap of a lot of chaps cleaning their rifles in the well deck when I just happened to glance to my left and saw a thing that, although I had never seen one before, I knew what it was; at the same time I heard someone shout, 'God, is that a torpedo?' and then someone said, 'By Christ it is.' I've given you the exact words used, as I'll never forget them.

"GOING LIKE HELL"

"As I was on the side it was coming for, I thought if any bit of debris were flying, I wouldn't be hit, and waited till it was about 50 yards off. It was going like hell, and then I ducked. Very few saw it. It was just a streak of foam and then a clanging, rumbling roar, and the whole ship trembled. Immediately the siren blew five blasts, which meant abandon ship, and everything was done as if on parade.

"I went down to my cabin and got my lifebelt, and went back and fell in opposite my boat, and waited. There was very little confusion.

"Our boat was overcrowded terribly, so before we reached the water all those who had lifebelts on and could swim got over the side to give the boat a chance. Luckily I had my knife, and slashed my leggings and boots off, and Rex and I were first over.

"As soon as we struck the water we got separated somehow, and the last I saw of Rex he was swimming towards the boat a bit ahead of me; then a chair or something hit me from above, and when I had sufficiently recovered my nut I was a long way from it, so re-signed myself to a swim, and promptly emptied my pockets (I only had on my riding pants and singlet).

"I MADE FOR A BOAT"

"Some of the sights I saw I'll never forget. A boat full was being let down and one of the ropes either broke or slipped, and one end dropped, and there it was hanging end on. Naturally its occupants all fell out all ways, and then the other end broke, and the whole boat dropped on them. There were yells, etc., but I didn't wait to see any more, and espied a boat some distance away and made for it.

"Eventually I reached it, about a mile or so from the ship, and got hauled in, although I don't remember that; I was feeling a bit goosed. However, after five minutes' spell, I got on to an oar

and started to row. Not that we wanted to row anywhere, but just to keep head on to the waves and keep the water down. It was a collapsible boat, and lived up to its name admirably and collapsed frequently. After about an hour or so smoke appeared on the horizon, and it turned out to be a hospital ship, coming up fast. Then another appeared, and then another, and then a destroyer came in sight, and soon quite a collection had arrived, but all made for the ship herself, which was still hanging on to life.

"Then our boat went to the pack and started to sink. Oh! it was a lovely sensation—I don't think. Eventually after 4½ hours up to our knees in water, baling and rowing like fiends,

we reached the hospital ship, and—talk about a relief to feel something solid again! As soon as we came up the ladder each man was handed a packet of cigarettes, and we were then bundled below, and had beef tea and dry clothes given us.

"I forgot to say that soon after we were hit our little 4.7 let fly. I don't know if she hit the submarine; at all events she scared it, or we'd have stopped another for a cert. And God only knows what would have happened if we hadn't had wireless to let everyone know. However, it's all over now, and I'm safe and sound, bar a bang on the head and the ankle, but have only a pair of pants and singlet and my knife; no hat, or boots and socks.



LANCE-CORPORAL R. W. AHEARN.

DOWN IN THE STOKEHOLD.

A modest account of a very heroic deed is given by Lance-Corporal R. W. Ahearn, of A Company, 21st Battalion, who was one of the men who volunteered to go down into the stokehold and get steam up in the transport, which was then thought to be sinking. In an interesting letter, Lance-Corporal Ahearn states that some time after the ex-

plosion, and when the last boats were leaving, the captain of the Southland called for 15 men to remain behind to man the stokehold, and that he and another Mortlake recruit, Private Williamson, 13 men, and five officers answered the call. Some of the volunteers felt a "bit off" as they went down the long succession of ladders and passed the gratings, but it was only for a few seconds, and then they set to. "The fires," Lance-Corporal Ahearn states, "were down, and there was no water in the glasses; but we followed the engineer's orders, and nine of us took on 32 fires. Steam had been down—only showing 70lb.—hardly enough to keep one pump going. It was awfully hot down there, but our only hope was to keep moving. We kept the pumps going, and got steam up to 200lb., which enabled the engineer to get the ship under way. We had the engines going when a relief party of stokers from H.M.S. — came aboard. I was never so glad to see a sailor in all my life. We got out on deck after doing two hours below, and our appearance was enough to have brought tears of laughter to your eyes. A nigger glee-party was not in it with us. We had a great laugh, and the relief of getting on deck again made us laugh the more. You see, we did not exactly know how much the ship was damaged, and all the time we were expecting another "tin-fish" to blow in. We took the chance, and, with God's help, got out of it safe and sound. After that we were treated splendidly—allowed anything we fancied. I had a small bottle of "the best." We dined in the saloon, and the lads polished off eight chickens and heaps of good stuff—a real picnic.

MAGNIFICENT AUSTRALIANS.

Writing from the front, an officer in the Army Medical Corps says:—

"I have just met an English officer, who was on the Southland when she was struck by a German torpedo. I will give you the officers own words—"Your Australian boys were splendid. They treated the whole thing as a magnificent joke, and just walked to their places as coolly as though they were falling in for an inspection. There were no scenes of confusion or disorder on the part of the soldiers. One Australian officer was sitting on the forward hatch when the torpedo exploded. He was thrown in the air, and fell into the hold.

The influx of water through the hole made by the torpedo swirled him round and round in the well. He received a bad bumping before he could seize the hold ladder and climb up. But he just sauntered round, found his men, and took charge of them. Neither he nor they seemed to concern themselves about his narrow escape. One would have thought they were used to being torpedoed daily. There were no rushing of boats by soldiers. The boat to which I had been allotted was lowered—three men in it—just sufficient to push her clear of the sides. The other Australians belonging to it stayed aboard and helped to lower other boats until they were ordered to disembark, 10 or 20 minutes later. Somebody had cut some of the davits, and the Australians set to and mended them, and lowered rafts as leisurely as though they had a week for the job. They were magnificent. I am an English officer, and I can say these things where if an Australian officer said it they might be considered self-praise. The captain of the ship set a fine example. He was smoking a cigarette when the torpedo hit us. He just walked sedately up and down his beat on the bridge until we were all off the ship, and he never stopped smoking. The chief engineer, too, displayed the greatest bravery, and after we had all got into boats or on to rafts the vessel steamed into port under her own steam. We were rescued by other craft. A few lives were, unfortunately, lost through boats being capsized, but the troops behaved like soldiers all the way through—cool, brave, and obedient. One corporal came to me and said, 'Our boat is ready to lower, sir, but our officer cannot be found. He is busy elsewhere. What am I to do. My men say if the ship is a good enough place for Mr. — it is good enough for them, and they don't want to get into the boat.' Finally, they did embark, after they knew their officer had taken charge of another boat."



THE LATE COLONEL R. LINTON,

Who died of exhaustion after a long exposure in the water.



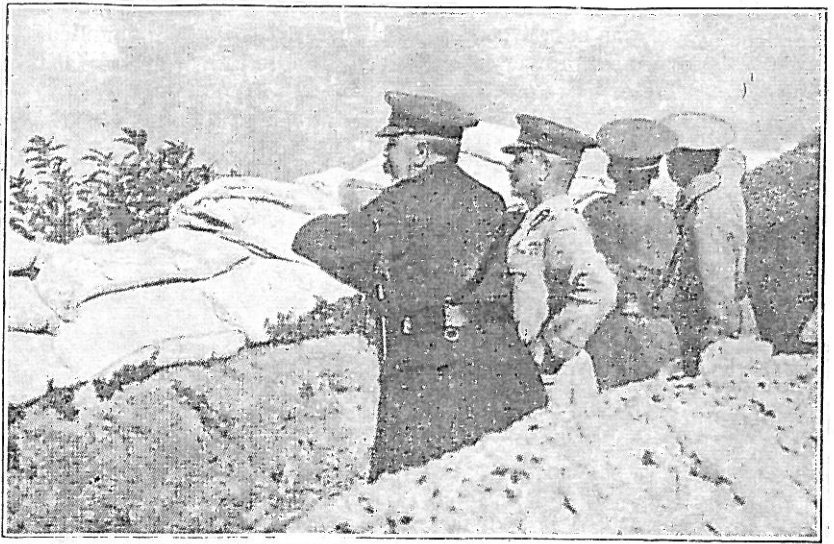
LIEUTENANT H. A. CROWTHER.

AN OFFICER STOKER

Lieutenant H. A. Crowther writes:—Our transport Southland was torpedoed four days ago at 9.47 a.m. There was just a white streak on the water, and an awful crash, and it was done without our seeing the submarine at all. It hit us just about 10ft. below the water-line, in the centre of the forward well deck, and if it had been amidships there would not have been 100 saved. The men were beyond description as far as steadiness, and the Birkenhead wasn't in it. The boats were lowered from the davits full of men. This left us without tackle to lower the canvas collapsibles from the boat deck on top. However, the ship's officers were regular Trojans, and we rigged bridles and got them down somehow, chiefly by brute force. All the while she was sinking gradually, and taking a nasty list. My allotted boat only held 48, and after filling it, I had men left, so I took them up on top to find room when I had sent away the full one.

By an hour and a half's labour we got all off except one, and then the captain said there was just a chance she would float, and asked for volunteers to stoke to get steam for the pumps. Six officers and 13 men were left, and we all agreed to stay and chance it. I took nine men and went down the stokehold. I must confess my knees were very wobbly, but someone had to give the men a lead. We worked for dear life, and after an hour and twenty minutes' work and several awful moments, when she changed her list, we got 200lb. pressure, and the crank-shaft went round. Then down came a volunteer relief from a destroyer, and we staggered up on deck, dead to the world, to find ourselves surrounded by ships and the skipper smiling all over his face, and saying, "She is going to last, boys." We brought her into harbour in triumph at 9 o'clock that night, and ran her straight on to the beach. The boats were picked up by destroyers and hospital ships, and very few, wonderfully few, are missing. I am sending little mementoes, among them a piece of the torpedo taken from the hold of

GALLIPOLI



From *The Anzac Book* (Cassell and Co.).]

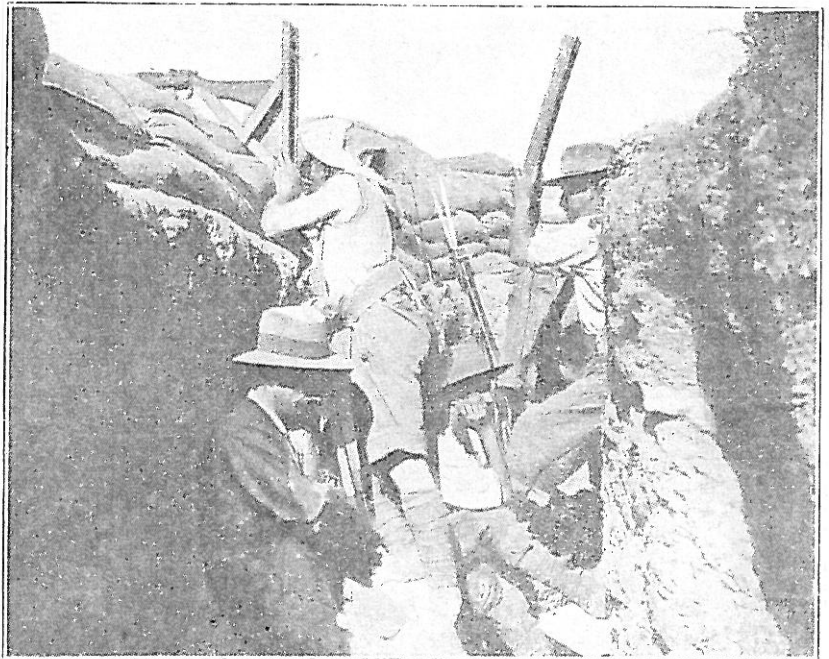
THE LATE EARL KITCHENER AND GENERAL BIRDWOOD VIEWING
THE TURKISH POSITION FROM RUSSELL'S TOP.



GENERAL LEGGE,

Who, with his staff, was on board the Southland en route for the firing line.

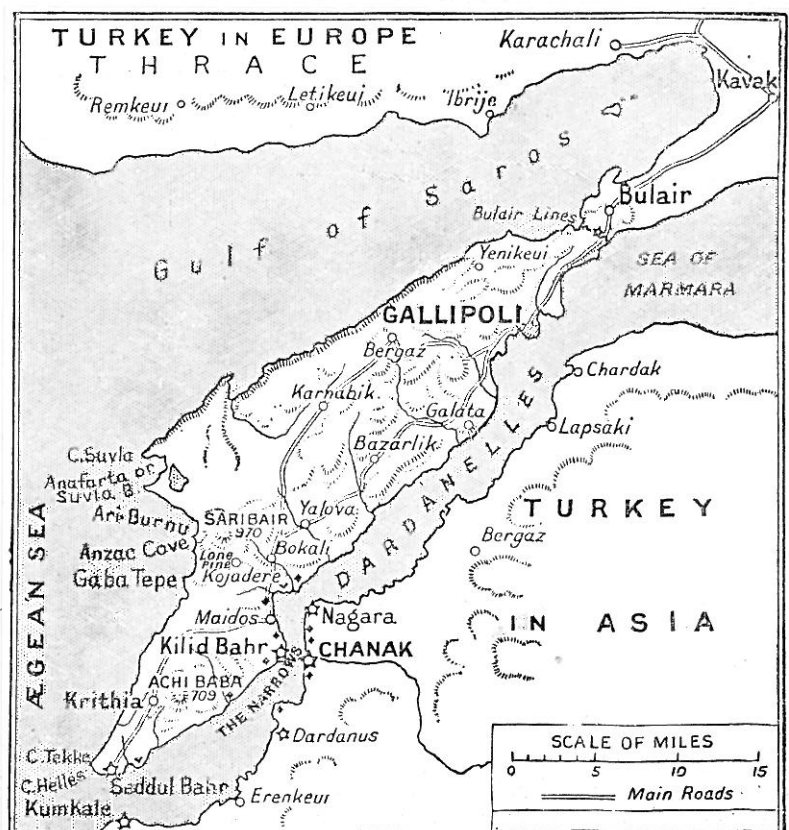
General Legge put out an historic order next day, congratulating the 21st and other units on their discipline and gallantry. The gameness of these boys in the face of what looked like certain death was, to my mind, the most glorious Australian act of the seas. The men were horribly seasick in the small boats and were drenched, and many swam alongside for two hours, but they sang "Tipperary" and "Are We Downhearted?"



From *The Anzac Book*.]

ANZACS IN A TRENCH.

A sniper with a periscope rifle, and an observer with a periscope.



MAP TO ILLUSTRATE THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN.

GALLIPOLI

In Australia and New Zealand, the call for volunteer soldiers was freely answered, and camps were very soon established near every capital city and at various country centers. As fast as the men could complete a hasty course of training, they were sent off in transports, under convoy of battle-ships, to finish their military education in Egypt.

The many books dealing with the doings of the Anzacs at Gallipoli, the accounts received from war correspondents, the official dispatches of commanding officers, the testimony of doctors and nurses, unite in ascribing to our men the highest courage in battle, readiness of resource, cheerfulness under privation, and patience in suffering. The bravery displayed at the landing of the Anzacs, and in their subsequent engagements at Sari Bair, Quinn's Post, Krithia, and Lone Pine, was equalled only by their fortitude when wounded and ill, and the readiness of every man to help a mate in a worse plight than his own.

An end came at last to the great adventure at Gallipoli. Had the expedition been largely reinforced, it might have won through; but all available men were needed elsewhere, and it was the Turk who was reinforced. When the fall of Serbia opened up direct communication



From John Masefield's *Gallipoli* (William Heinemann, London), price, 3s. 6d.]

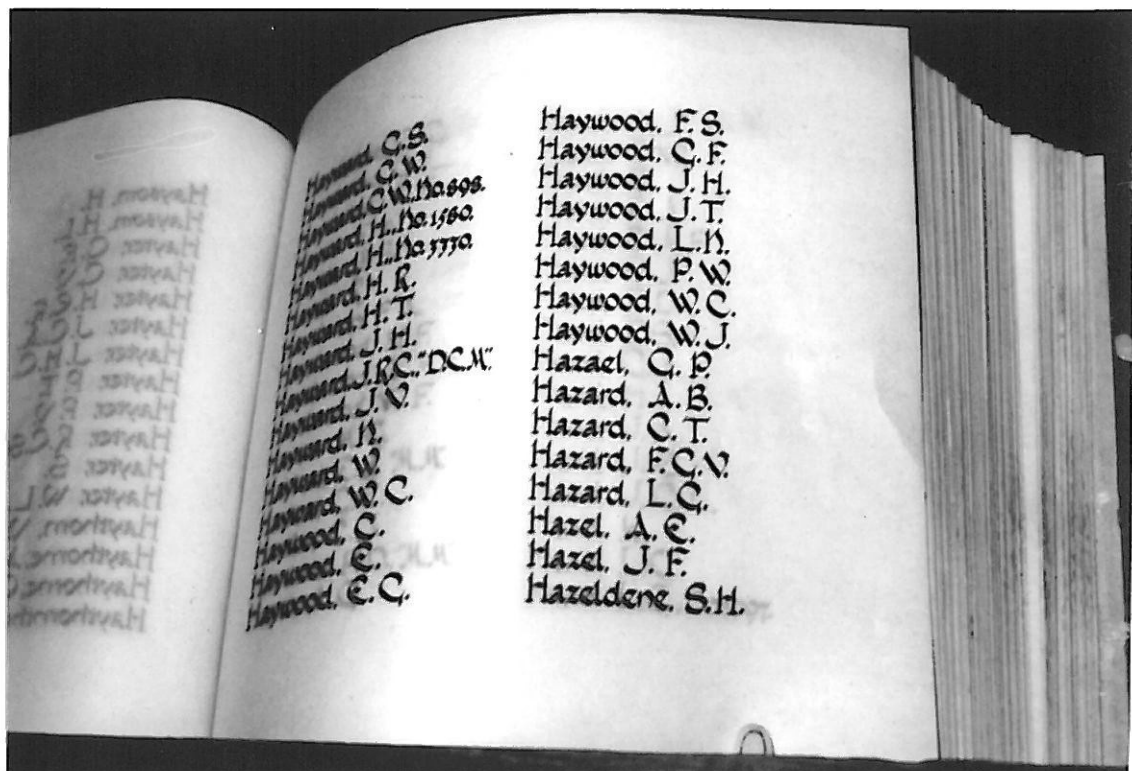
**A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW, SHOWING THE WAY THROUGH THE GULLY
TO THE HOSPITAL AT ANZAC.**

between Berlin and Constantinople, heavier guns and abundant ammunition were supplied to the enemy at Gallipoli. After a visit paid by Earl Kitchener to the peninsula, it was resolved that a withdrawal should take place.

Under the direction of General Birdwood (directly in command of our men) and of Sir Ian Hamilton's successor, General Sir Charles Monro, the complete evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula was successfully carried out. Everybody was off by the morning of the 20th of December. During the withdrawal, the only Anzac casualties were two men wounded; the British had one man wounded; the French had no casualties. Hardly anything of value to the enemy had been left behind.

To the attacking force, the expedition had been a costly one. Australia lost about 6,000 men by death, and New Zealand 2,000

Book of records – Shrine of Remembrance
1914 – 1918 Melbourne, Victoria.



Four sons of Mr. & Mrs. F. Hazard.
Brighton, Victoria.
Len, Vern, Cleve & Alan.



Corporal L.G. Hazard. Eldest son.
 "D Coy", 21st Battalion.
 6th Infantry Briga.de.
 Enlisted 1915, wounded Gallipoli.



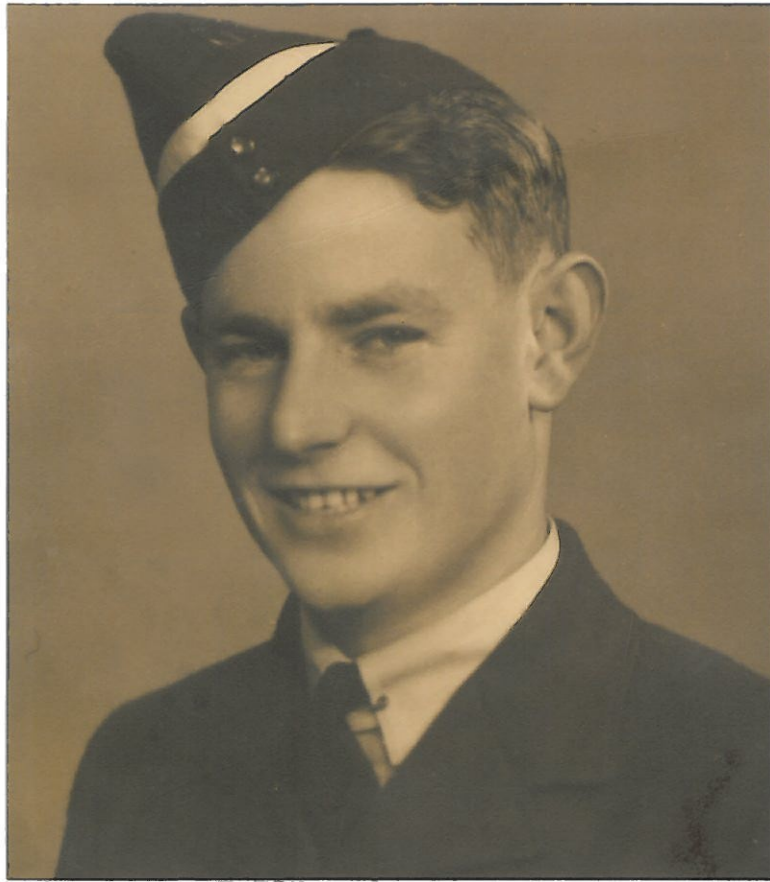
Private F.G.V. Hazard. 2nd son.
 10th Field Ambulance.
 Enlisted 1916. Served in France
 before contracting Meningitis.



Gunner C.T. Hazard. 3rd son.
 11th Reinforcements.
 4th Field Artillery Brigade.
 Enlisted 1916, wounded Middle East.



A.B. Hazard. 4th son.
 2nd Air Mechanic.
 Enlisted 1918. Arrived in England
 near to Armistice Day 1918.



Son, William G. Hazard.

Leonard G. Hazard.



Lily E. Hazard & daughter Marjorie.



A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN



Two Miranda readers, Mr and Mrs L. G. Hazard, who are both in their seventies, in the garden of their home at Lower Ferntree Gully. Mr Hazard landscaped the garden and did all its stonework, including the Gothic arch shown here.

Miranda is enchanted by a beautiful garden at Lower Ferntree Gully

Dear Readers. — Knowing how many of you are keen gardeners, I thought you might like to hear about a beautiful garden I visited at Ferntree Gully last week.

A reader of our pages, Mrs Lily Hazard, invited me to come and see the garden, which is set around her home in Edina Rd., off the Burwood Highway.

The house, surrounded by tall trees, can hardly be seen from the road. Stepping out of the car, it was like moving into a bit of bushland, as we went through the gate.

Walking up the winding path, you can see bellbirds flying from tree to tree, and hear their clear, ringing call.

Mrs Hazard and her husband, both in their seventies, have spent 34 years developing the area around their home. Originally there were five acres, but gradually they have sold off the land, and now have only one and a half acres to tend.

The garden has been artistically laid out by Mr Hazard, and paths wind over small bridges and around picturesque lily ponds and waterfalls, leading you to ferneries and bush houses filled with rare plants and shrubs. They have at least 90 large stag-horn ferns as well as Crow's Nest, tree and other varieties of fern.

Blend of gums and pines

The trees are a pleasant blend of gums and ornamental pines, with oaks and other English varieties. The deciduous trees were wearing their autumn dress and looked quite spectacular against the darker evergreens.

There was so much to see, we hardly knew where to begin. Mrs Hazard first guided us down one of the paths to see a large aviary.

Built under the trees, it was filled with multi-colored budgerigars — a beautiful sight.

Nearby, her husband had

made a stone fountain, what Mr Hazard called his prehistoric wall. Under a lovely old ornamental pine. A wheel had been placed on supports over the fountain to hold the lower branches of the tree back, and the pine hung down all around the edges of the wheel over the fountain in the most graceful way.

We walked back along another path that led to a pretty bridge over a large sunken fish pond. Mr Hazard touched a hidden tap and fountains sprayed from the stones around the sides of the pond into the water.

At the side there was an ornamental light in the shape of a lighthouse — also stone, and also made by Mr Hazard, who had made the bridge too. I could just imagine how lovely the fountain must look at night, with the light shining on the water.

Another lily pond

Another lily pond was set at the base of a high rock wall which had rock plants tumbling down over its stones. At a turn of the tap, 62 jets of water came out of the wall and cascaded down over the stones into the pond below.

Walking over another pretty bridge, named Bobby's Bridge after a grandson, we came to another large fernery. On one wall of this Mr Hazard has modelled in stone a replica of Mey Castle, the Queen Mother's castle in the north of Scotland.

Photographs of the model had been sent to the Queen Mother at her request, and I was shown letters the Hazards received from her lady-in-waiting expressing the Queen Mother's interest in the photographs.

At the other end of the fernery we were shown

I was not sure what this would be, but found it to be a whole wall of specially selected stones, mostly chosen because they resembled something.

It was easy to pick out stones that resembled an elephant with outstretched trunk, a sheep's head, a dog and others.

But the more you looked at the wall, the more shapes and resemblances you could see — lizards, dinosaurs, witches, owls, dogs and even fairies. It was fascinating.

Walking back to the house for a welcome cup of coffee, we passed a pretty rustic seat in the garden. Mr Hazard told us it was a small plum tree which had been chopped down and which started to grow again.

Instead of lopping it again he allowed the suckers to grow and form the back for a seat which he placed on top of the chopped off trunk of the tree. A goldfinch had built a neat nest in the branches above it.

Fastened on to the trunk of another tree I noticed a large mother of pearl shell, with a poem carefully lettered on it, reading:

"God gave me a garden to tend on my knees, A border of flowers and a wall of fruit trees, A path to be weeded, a lawn to be mowed, Hard stiffening job, but not tackled alone. For God is a garden and well I'm aware, He not only walks, but He works with me there."

Perhaps this is the secret of the success of Mr Hazard's lovely garden, which indeed seems divinely inspired. Good-bye now,

Miranda

SOUTHLAND



Len Hazard and grandson Bob.

FOUNTAIN SHAPED LIKE CROWN



Mr and Mrs L. G. Hazard, beside a stone fountain in the shape of a crown, made by Mr Hazard.

