

JUNE, 1915

Tuesday 15

Mudros

Lemnos Idsland

H.M.T. El Osmanieh took off about 500 at about 3p.m and anchored in steam waiting for dusk – A mine sweeper “The Chaton” took the remainder of us at 5.30, called at Headquarters ship “The Arajon”, & collected mail and a few officers and left Mudros harbour at dusk – Cheers from all the warships we passed – The French giving us great ~~reception~~ farewells – their cheering sounds so quaint “Heep Heep Heep Hurray”. Cold Northerly wind blowing – Glad to have on thick underclothes, knitted Cholera belt thick Khaki shirt, tunic, Balaclava cap and overcoat – Acted as Adjutant to the boat – read various instructions to the men such as no smoking after dark, no lights to be shown, Gun to be kept clear etc etc of course we travelled with lights out as enemy submarines are prowling round. Our destination is ‘ANZAC’ just N of Kaba Tepe ANZAC is so called because the Australian New Zealand Army Corps took and occupied the place.

JUNE, 1915

WEDNESDAY 16

Arrived outside ANZAC about 1-a.m
Wind blowing cold and strong from the N
Hospital Ship Gascony, all her lights showing
Various shadowy shapes showing up, being ‘Diatrogeos’ (?) – mine sweepers lighters & tugs or trawlers – We were taken off on a lighter towed by a pinnace
A most extraordinary sight. The beach covered with Stores, ammuniton, and the hills and gullies look like rabbit warrens, little dug-outs covered with waterproof sheets, soldiers in all sorts of clothes and uniforms moving about everywhere
Fairly rough getting off in the lighter, about 120 on board each, I came on shore in the first one & had to wait for the last to land and marched round the beach and

was greeted with 6 shrapnel shells from the enemy's guns, some burst quite close, and were extremely nasty – However none of our lot were hurt tho the 1st Brigade men who went off S side of beach, two were hit with rifle bullets – Our Brigade was in 'Rest Gully'- A long winding valley, with high sides and ridges & smaller valleys running down from them The whole is occupied with men in their little dug outs Two were generally in each – roof made of Blankets Or waterproof sheets – each man does his own cooking. Major Edmonds C.O A. Company to which I was appointed (No 4 Platoon) – Hugh Pulling is in A Coy – Lee Pulling in D Coy Brierley in B Coy – Went round the valley inspecting with the Major About 20 shells burst, some of them very close to us, very scaring Went up to Quinn's Post in the afternoon with Jo Marks (?) The Turks trenches are only 7 yards away at this point and Most of the heavy fighting has taken place here. Went thro' a good many trenches in the firing line.

JUNE, 1915

THURSDAY 17

Hot day – very little shelling or firing going onOur Battalion on duty from 8.a.m to 8.a.m tomorrow as Inlying Piquet – that is if any supports are wanted at any parts of the firing lines we would be sent there in double quick time – Alarms given at 10.a.m 5p.m and roused up again at 3a.m Friday had to 'stand to' till 4.30, quite light at that hour – 3 to 4.30 a.m is the dangerous hour. Just before dawn the enemy is most likely to make an attack – of course all Battalion had to be in its lines all day – The flies are terrible, give one no peace in the Daytime . The sapping, trenching etc done by our fellows Is simply marvellous – The whole place is all Gullys and each gully is occupied by troops Saps are dug where it is dangerous to walk in the Open – Our line is about 2 or 3 miles long – Geo Binnie was killed at Quinn's Post – Received a letter yesterday from Auntie Min from England.

JUNE, 1915

FRIDAY 18

Hugh Pulling & self walked round beach and up to the Lt House camp saw Ven Vernon who is a Major, Kater, Jim Traill, Campbell and Others whom I knew, after we went to Pope's Hill, splendid observation post there. Got a good view of the Turk's trenches, some of these trenches only 30 yds away, extraordinary amount of sapping, buildings up there. One dead Turk still lying outside enemy's trenches. Saw General Birdwood - Capt Parry ~~Ogden~~ Okeden - Harry Pockley's Brother in law is in charge of Ammunition on beach - Anniversary of Waterloo - issue Of rum to troops

J. Annoui a Sergeant in A Company Received his promotion to rank Of 2nd Lieut.

JUNE, 1915

SATURDAY 19

Hot day
Swim in afternoon
Cold at night as usual

Issue of Tobacco 5 packets of cigarettes

Imbros island is just opposite us (we face nearly West) Headquarters are stationed there - the island is quite large and is I believe about 9 miles away - Samothrace is about due West of us And is I believe 45 miles away tho it Seems only as far off as Imbros - Samothrace is a large mountain over 5000 ft high and always has a white cloud hanging over it - Beautiful Sunsets each evening.

JUNE, 1915

SUNDAY 20

Hot day – took 100 men on fatigue to form
Pathway down from trenches into 'Rest'
gully and to form shelter for men
on gully facing East, which is enfiladed by
the enemy's shrapnel – worked on this
from 7.a.m to 12 noon – Afternoon wrote
letter to Beryl (No 11) and went for a
swim –
Time is worked here on the naval plan
24 hrs noon is 12.00 1 p.m is
13.00, 11 pm = 23.00, 10.30 pm would be 22.30 – 9.5 a.m = 09.05
Heard from Ven Vernon that Nigel Packburg was killed in Flanders.
Heavy cannonading down South and
about midnight – much bombing somewhere
in our trenches followed by heavy and
continuous rifle fire & machine gun for
over half an hour – terrific noise.
Heard that 300 'Jack Johnston' i.e
8" high explosive shells were fired
into the British at Cape Hellas from
the Asiatic side – many were injured but
only 1 killed.

Hot day – Inlying piquet

JUNE, 1915

MONDAY 21

Mail in received letter No 5
From Beryl and one letter
From Mother. This is the first
Letter I have received from 'Branthwaite'
And No 4 letter of Beryls has not
yet arrived – She wrote from
Leura.
Saw from Sydney paper that
Doug Roberts, Sid Middleton
Jack Scott, Bloomfield etc
had commissions and were in
the 5th Brigade.

trenches of the 16th hopped out, but the Turkish fire was so hot that the men on the left where I was could not move. I told my men to come on (we should have followed at 50 yds interval) and got up out of the trenches going about 10 yds, laid down waiting for the rest of my men (very difficult getting out of these trenches) and whilst there got my wounds
First one was on my leg and I felt.....(cont. Sat 28)
~~Wounded by shell in left calf~~
~~huge hole & 1 bullet in side~~
~~one bullet grazed buttocks, 50 other~~
~~bullets went through either my tunic~~
~~or equipment~~

AUGUST, 1915

SATURDAY 28

... as if someone had knocked my foot off with a hammer, there being a bullet into left side – the first one was very painful the second hardly noticeable – However managed to wiggle back to trench & fall in – The first Turk's trench was about 50 yds ahead of us and they were enfilading us from both sides – All officers were shot Brierly, Annoui (I hear killed) and all the 17th officers
I do not think 20 men of the 13th came out of the show – Received first dressing in trench & waited till 11p.m to be carried down to the Hospital ship eventually got on board 'Maheno' at 2.30.a.m
We must have lost very heavily, but heard from later couriers that with various extra supports that were brought up we got our objective hill 60 –
Whether it pays us to make these attacks at such heavy cost is very doubtful –
Besides these bullets I have mentioned a piece of shell took off a piece of my buttocks – A bullet went into my....

(cont. @ bottom of following page)

...haversack & ended up in Bully Beef tin
another took heel off left boot

and 3 others went into tunic –
showing how heavy the firing
was.

AUGUST, 1915

SUNDAY 29

Transferred to H.M.T. Huntsend
an ex German boat which had been used
by us for some time as a Transport –
we are to make it a Hospital Ship &
to go up to England – came on board (slept
on deck) about 10 o'clock
Dr McCormack looking after me
Matron's name Ainsworth – Miss
Doctors name McCormack
