The Landenz

Officers, cadets, and old comrades of the A.I.F. eight years ago at this hour on this day the dawn which was hurrying across the world has not yet reached the Aegean sea, Night still lies, and would lie for two hours yet, on the coast of Turkey and on these the wild coast-line of the Gallbpeli Peninsula? About eight miles from the shore there lay six battlemakte warships, idle on the water; wattingxingxa One of them had come thether overnight, and had anchored in order to serve as a mark, and the others had just come up to her and were waiting for a signal. Three of them carried Australian troops-three half battalions of the 3rd Brigade. The 3rd Brigade was the covering force of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, which manxis, like its then also on the se magnificent compeer, the 29th Division/some 20 miles away to the south, was to fling itself upon that coast at the dawn.

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps consisted of a number of citizen units, not so many different from those among which you cadets will be working when you graduate a commence your work in the citizen army of Australia; they were adventurous in many respect they were older, they were intensely virile, but they were/civilin spirit and by ians byxnaturexand upbringing from the first day of their service to the last. Among them were all those Duntroon boys who at the time when they sailed were available to serve. They were serving both in the New Zealand and Australian forces /not faxamments of the sifferent battalions and batteries and field companies, with the same cares with and difficulties, and the same pride in their regiments, as the other members of their units. One of them, Lieutenant Talbot Smit of the 10th Battalion, in the Frince of Walco, had been lecturing his platoon - the scouts - late the night before in one of the 6 inch gun-casemates of the Battleship Prince of Wales- grawing for them on a gun barrel the a sketch of the site of a Turkish battery which they were to capture and destroy. He had got one demonstrate to of the ships gunners to many/them how to damage the breach of a gun by burring the screw. The men had turned in for a sleep. At midnight they had been called by the seamen, who had insisted in giving them a cup of hot cocoa all round out of their very slende funds. When the ships stopped the men were assembled on deck and

were then sent down over the diden sides on rope ladders into strings of whime rowing boats which had been brought to althous side of the ships almoside. About this very hour - that would be half past two over there, the strings of boats were allowed to trail behind the battleships, manbrit every three boats being in tow of a small steamboat. Shortly before three colock, when sinking the moon was/very low, the battleships began to move ahead towing these boats behind them. Unseen, but not far behind them were seven destboyers, which had just taken aboard the rest of the 5rd Brigade; and behind them again there were slowly coming up transport after transport carrying the rest of the Army Corps! All moved steadily in toward the land. The moon went down - the darkness became intense. An hour before dawn the order was given only the battleships for the small tows to go ahead and land.

For exactly an hour the small steamboats with their strings of rowing boats behind them were puffing and panting towards the abore. The naval officers in the/steamboats may have been able to see each others tows but the soldiers could not for a long time -/they were simply handingxamax forging slowly ahead into complet darkness. After about half an hour the outline of a dark land could be seen faintly ahead. It came closer and closer graduallooming ly abstance higher above their heads; but it gave no sign of life or movement. They were almost at its foot - the leading steamboat had cast off its rowingboats, and the plug of their muffled oars could be heard as they pulled for the shore, when from the funnel of one steamboat there suddenly trailed a Inii yard of flame and sparks, which flared away for a full half-minute. Almost instant: high on the horizon about a thousand yards south of the tows the broke out a bright yellow light which burned for a minuteer so. On the summit immediately above the boats the appeared for an instant the figure of a man. A voice called from the shore. A shot rang out and the bullet whizzed overhead into the sea. A swiftly into a continuo few rifle shots broke the silence, increasing/texaxtuevisas fusilade. At that moment the landing boats were touching the beach, the men tumbling into the water and xxxxixxxxashore.

at this moment

And It was/then that the manhood of Australians was- for the first

time in history - before the eyes of the world put to one of the crude, simple, terrible tests by which the world judges its nations.

The landing was been carefully planned. At high water mark on a beach there is almost always a bank. The troops were to rush across the beach, assemble under cover of this bank, andxthen fix bayonets, charge magazines, close cut-offs, drop their packs, and then advance across a hundred yards or so of level against a low ridge of hills which would probably be held by the enemy. They were to ERREGERANT capture this ridge. There they would be joined by the second instalment of the 3rd Brigade, which would now have landed from the destroyers and after xeexganizing again main ridges and heights forming up were to proceed to certain Taxtasxxxxxxxx inland, where the rest of the Army corps would gradually come up and extend the position. That was to be the first stage. But the whole plab was blown to the from/the moment of landing exexyxxentigexmixpat winds. There was no open stretch with a low ridge bounding it. Instead there towered above the landing force a steep rugged halfprecipitous hill/three hundred feet almost sheer from the shore, along and from the crest of which thex Texteexeese a continuous fringe 6 But The plan was rifle flashes. Therefreezezeze gone. But there were men present, in the ranks and among the company leaders, who determined in the first instant what was to be done. Captain Ray Leane, for instance, whose company of the bith landed at the end of Ari Burna point, did not even wait to charge magazines. He led his men acros the Beach , fixing their bayonets as they ran, and scrambled axxx straight up the steepening slope towards the enemy. That same Duntroon boy whom I have mentioned before - Talbot Smith - hurried his men from the boat""Come on boys" he chied, "they cant hit you." He climbed the bank beyond the Beach and without waiting for others called: "Scouts of the 10th Battalion - are you ready?" and led them up the hill? Platoons were scattered - different boattaking the work from various offisers loads could not even see each other; but as they saw the figures of their own men moving up the hillside against the sky, minut the bulk of thesix companies which had been fixing their bayonets and dropping their packs beneath the bank scrambled up the hill and rushed the

enemy out of his trenches on the summit; within twenty minutes or half an hour they had gained about a mile of rugged hill immediate ly above the coast?

I cannot follow the details of the battle. About all of the plan of operations that remained was a general understanding among officers and men that theywere to reach the third ridge inland and the main hil in the north from which it led down. It was an enormous objective. They chased the fleeing enemy through the scrub, and as the fday brightened and they advanced through the sunlight over the ridges, knee deep in wild thome and other herbs, with the few scattered bullets humming here and there like been, everything seemed to be going well. Presently a column began to appear manching maximu from the south up the Third Ridge, infantry and guns on the skyline, about a mile away. It was the enemy's local reserves. Them more men began to appear pouring over the Third Ridge further north. This was the head of the mearest of the enemy's reserve divisions, which had been camped only four miles from the landing place, under one of the heading most famous leaders of the war - Mustafa Kemal Pasha Bey Maxx to cut us off, as he did, from the high hill - 971. Very little was seem of either of these columns after it first appeared But Colonel MacLagan, commanding the 3rd Brigade, saw that it was impossible to reach the 3rd Ridge, and he stopped the line one the second. A few advanced troops who had managed to reach the third ridge" some of them looking down in the distance on the waters of the marrows - were soon outflanked and forced back, And from then on the fight resolved itself into a struggle for two positions - the highest point of the second ridge wherexit gnimes Baby 700, in the morth; and a prominent plateau in the same ridge further south - known as the 400 Plateau, All day long over those two heights the battle swayed backwards and forwards. At an early hour General Bridges had come ashore, and strode straight to the firing line, and having gained an idea how it las came back to the Beach. From that time on it was his fight - his and that of the firing line lying out on the second ridge. As the bright cheerfulness of the morning gradually turned to a strain that resembled a delirium; as the bullet's which had summy so

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Well - it is eight years today since the Landing.

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