



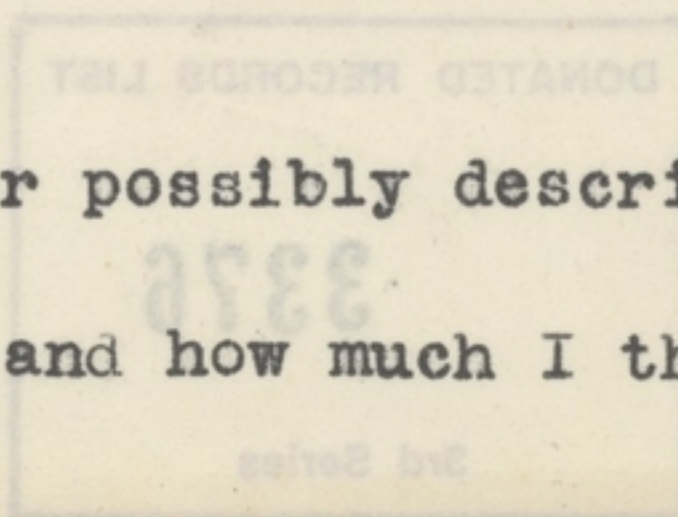


..... Brigade.

I am always very glad when Sunday comes round and I am able to attend Church parade with one or other of our brigades in turn, and I am only <sup>regret</sup> sorry that with so many different formations there must often be a considerable interval between the times when I see brigades with the men all assembled, as in our daily work we are generally so much scattered.

I am particularly glad to have been able to present medals today to some of the brave men who so thoroughly earned decorations in all the fighting we had round Pozières. I am sorry that a considerable number of those whose names have been read out as recipients of these medals are absent, owing I fear to the fact that they are at present in hospital wounded. You will I am sure though all be delighted to hear that we have the best reports regarding our wounded, a very large proportion of whose wounds proved to be quite slight, and already some 2,000 of those who left us wounded at Pozières have since rejoined, and many more will I hope do so very shortly. Not only am I glad to have this chance of presenting you with these medals, but I feel it a real privilege to be able to shake hands with the ~~really~~ brave men who have fought so gallantly for us. I only wish that there were many more medals to be given, for I know what really gallant and noble work was done by so many, but in many cases perhaps went unrecognised, while we must all realise that probably some of the bravest have given their lives in all that hot fighting, and for them the only reward can be their consciousness of the fact that they were making the greatest sacrifice that any man can be called on to make for the sake of their King and Country, while the remembrance of them will I hope be with us for all time.

No words of mine can ever possibly describe all I feel for every member of our Force, and how much I think of  
your/





your gallantry and devotion. I well know ~~that~~ the amount of self-sacrifice which is entailed day and night, sticking it out through heavy bombardments and often in appalling weather, but <sup>when</sup> not a man flinched, and every call has been responded to without a moment's hesitation.

*(Every soldier of the King fighting here has)*  
Where ~~all~~ have done so well, it is very hard to distinguish between individuals, but I am sure that everyone of you will agree with me in saying that if there are any classes no praise for whom can be too high, they are the stretcher-bearers and the runners. Time after time these men have unhesitatingly faced what looked like certain death in carrying out their duties - ~~and~~ facing it, too, willingly and cheerfully, with the one thought that they were going to do their best for their comrades. Boys! I do wish I could express one half of what I feel about you all!

I am sorry to say that the King was not able to see this brigade when he recently visited France. He then saw the 2nd, 6th and 7th Brigades. He told me how much he had looked forward to his visit to this country so as to be able to see something of his Australian troops, and only regretted that time did not enable him to see all. In talking of the fighting around Pozieres, I told him exactly how all had done, and said:- "If, "Sir, it had been possible to award any number of Victoria "Crosses, every single one of them would have been thoroughly "deserved!" The King was delighted to hear every detail I could give him regarding our force, and I am glad to say we have been awarded some Victoria Crosses, as well as <sup>several</sup> a considerable number of other decorations, <sup>and</sup> including a large number of <sup>D.C.M.s and</sup> Military Medals. Among those to whom I have just given medals are, I see, a boy of 19 and an old soldier of 55 years. The former is a real bright, cheery lad - a real chip of the old Australian block, and on for anything! I want you all to look after the quite young boys. They cannot be expected to stand the strain of the older men, so



I hope that commanding officers will see that they are spared whenever possible. The old man too. When the old soldier of 55 was getting his medal, I told the commanding officer that he <sup>must</sup> ~~would~~ see he was given a comfortable job, when the old man said he was all right, and was now in the canteen! That is quite right boys, for I ~~de~~ lay the greatest stress upon our canteens being well run. I well know what an enormous difference it makes, if this is the case, and if men can get comforts right up in the trenches. Our rations are extremely good, and I hear no complaints about them, but I know what it means if, in addition to them, we can get tinned fruit, cakes, sardines, etc. daily, as can be done when proper arrangements are made, and as I hope and think they now are made in every brigade. That most excellent <sup>and generous</sup> institution, the Australian Comforts' Fund, under the devoted management of Mr Budden, is, too, proving a real godsend to us, and I know how all appreciate getting the cup of hot coffee or cocoa which I hope will always be available between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. to all reliefs going in and out of the trenches. As you know, the provision of this is already in full ~~being~~ in most places, and the next day or so I hope arrangements will have been completed everywhere.

I always like to be able to give you all the news we have, and am glad to say that things are going well, and the Germans are <sup>now</sup> really feeling the squeeze. As you know, in this last few days' fighting we have taken Combles, Thiepval and many places between them, gradually pushing the Germans back with heavy loss to them in men and guns. The Russians and Italians, too, have been making real good progress, and, as I say, ~~the~~ Germany is undoubtedly beginning to feel <sup>very anxious</sup> the squeeze. We cannot, however, any of us think from this that the game is over, because it is not by any means so.

After/



After all the hard fighting we have been through, I wish I could tell you, boys, that ~~you~~<sup>we</sup> were going to have a complete rest, <sup>but</sup> We are not. None of us are going to have that. We are certainly having a quiet time of it here compared with what we have recently been through, and during this we have been able to refit ourselves comfortably, and we are now all fresh and keen. Going round the trenches yesterday, one of the boys said to me: "These are quite a good lot of Germans opposite us, "Sir; they are very quiet!" Well, don't you believe that, because there is only one good German, and that is a dead one, and don't you make any mistake about it! He has forfeited all claims to be trusted in any way. We have got him down now, and he is like ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> snake with his head in the grass, but we have to be up and at him, all day and every day <sup>and all night and every night</sup> or he will get his head up again, and that we are not going to allow. So boys, remember, we have to make up our minds to stick to it, <sup>hard</sup> and to continue with all the self-sacrifice and determination which you all have shewn during these long months.

The last time I was talking to you, I think I said there were three ~~special~~ things, to which I wanted officers and n.c.o.'s to give their special attention - the three things most necessary for the tackling of these Germans:

A clean rifle <sup>with</sup> and a sharp bayonet.

A good pair of boots, and

A full stomach.

Well, at the present moment there are two more things which I cannot impress too strongly on you all, and they are:

Precautions against gas, and

Care of the men's feet.

In the part of the line which we are now holding, the Germans have more than once made gas attacks, so we may expect to be subjected to the same at any time. Our gas helmets are, however, quite excellent, and with them we have nothing whatever

to/



to fear. All that is required is alertness and care. If you are on the lookout and careful, and have been fully practised in getting the helmets on within a few seconds, there can be no ill-effects, but if men become careless, and leave their gas helmets about and do not know how to get them on quickly, casualties will follow as sure as night follows day.

Then, as regards trench feet. Two winters ago troops suffered a ~~tremendous~~<sup>many</sup> number of casualties daily owing to what is known as "trench feet," often including cases which took months to cure. It was more or less a new experience, and no one knew how to meet it. By last winter, however, experience had been bought, and as a result the men, who were properly looked after, were quite immune. Now it is up to us to shew that we realise this as important a duty as any other, to see that we do not suffer in any way in this respect. ~~I~~<sup>we</sup> have arranged that every man shall have three pairs of socks, and that every morning a dry pair of socks shall be sent up to the trenches, the wet pair being sent back to be washed and dried. India-rubber trench boots have been issued, while whale oil is available and must be thoroughly rubbed into the feet before men go into the trenches. The taking of all these precautions is only a matter of internal regimental discipline. I shall scan the daily returns of the sick very carefully, and if ever I find a battalion shewing men with trench feet, I shall want no other proof that the discipline of ~~the~~<sup>that</sup> battalion is bad, and that the men are not looked after as they should be by their officers and n.c.o.'s. We know that it is a point of honour with all officers to see to the comfort and well-being of their men before they attempt to do anything for themselves - a tradition, which I am glad to know is so well recognised throughout the A.I.F., and which I am sure will result in all ranks keeping fit throughout the war.

There is ~~only~~<sup>wanted</sup> one thing more, boys, and in that no officer/

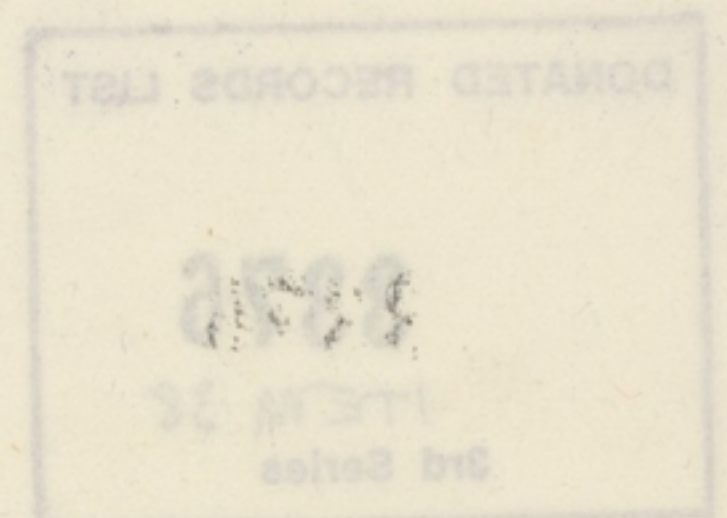


officer or n.c.o. can help you, and I am thankful that it is not necessary that he should do so, and that is a fixed determination to see this thing through; and the possession of what I believe everyone of you to possess, and which I thank God you do, and that is a heart of gold.

~~There~~ is just one more <sup>word</sup> point. Now that we are in billets and have some spare time, do all of you use it to write to your homes. I have two or three letters in my pocket now from mothers of our boys who are asking me for news, and these I will answer telling them what I can; but that is not the same as getting letters from you, from whom they would so much rather hear. I always think it is the very least we can do for <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ womenfolk, who have sacrificed so much for us, and who are having such a <sup>far</sup> ~~very~~ much worse time than we are. They can only sit at home and watch and wait for news, while we always have the excitement of fighting to look forward to, so write to them all boys,- your mothers, wives, sisters, for I well know how they welcome your letters.

Thank you again, boys, for all you have done and are doing daily. As I have said, no words of mine can express all I feel about it, and I so well know that <sup>the same</sup> ~~that~~ courage and steadfastness will be shewn until we have finished this war, and that this brigade will prove itself to be second to none throughout the Army.

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LORD KITCHENER'S VISIT TO GALLIPOLI IN NOVEMBER, 1915.

In November, 1915, when a decision was necessary as to the future course of the Allied operations in the Gallipoli Peninsula, Lord Kitchener journeyed east to see the situation for himself and to obtain the firsthand knowledge for judgment. A little before the middle of the month he arrived in a cruiser at MUDROS, the headquarters of the Dardanelles Army. From there he proceeded to visit the positions held by the British and French troops.

This is not the place to discuss the military aspect of his visit.

Needless to say it was very necessary to preserve the secrecy of the Field Marshal's presence and it is equally needless to say that we were all deeply concerned for his personal safety.

The first position to be visited by Lord Kitchener was that at CAPE HELLES, where he was met by General Davies, who pointed out the situation. At CAPE HELLES the beaches and piers were a considerable distance from Turkish observation, but this fact did not completely relieve us of all anxiety for Lord Kitchener's safety, as heavy shells from "Asia" were always liable to be directed on incoming boats, and the beaches were fired on at irregular intervals. It was, however, most unlikely that the Turks would be able to identify the steam-boat which took him ashore. A high wind was blowing too, and it was probable that the guns would not be very active. A landing was effected on the beach which the Lancashire Fusiliers have made so famous. From the top of the cliffs near the aerodrome General Davies was able to give Lord Kitchener a complete general view of the whole of the battle-field, reaching away to ACHI BABA in the distance, with the village of KRITHIA and the lines of opposing trenches in front of it, marked out with shell bursts as clearly as by flags on a map. From there we went over to the right, to the position so long and bravely held by our staunch Allies. Near a large dismounted Turkish gun, which had been "knocked out" by the big guns of the "Queen Elizabeth" eleven months earlier, Lord Kitchener met the

gallant /



gallant General Brulard, who was in command of the French troops on the Peninsula. General Brulard showed him over the old castle of SEDD-EL-BAHR with its enormous stone walls pierced through and through by the shells of our Fleet, and pointed out to him the Turkish positions across the Straits from which were sent daily greetings to us in the way of large shells from "Asia".

Excepting the officers who actually met Lord Kitchener there, his visit to CAPE HELLES was practically unknown, and it was not until he re-embarked that the news of his arrival had spread. Little opportunity was afforded the troops, therefore, of giving him a welcome.

The following day Lord Kitchener visited the area held by the Australian and New Zealand Troops to the north of GABA TEPE. Landing here was a much more anxious matter, as boats leaving the destroyer must be within sight of the enemy almost up to the shore, and the Turkish batteries, which were constantly firing on the Anzac beaches, could and frequently used to shell any destroyer that came within range of the shore. News which leaks out in neutral countries travels fast and far, and it was of course possible that the Turks may have heard of the Field Marshal's visit and would be on the look-out. A landing was effected peacefully, however.

There were few at ANZAC who knew of Lord Kitchener's impending visit, but somehow, as his tall figure strode up the jetty, the knowledge spread like fire in dry grass. From every dugout on the hillside tumbled Australians and New Zealanders, stumbling over scrub and sandbank, and a crowd quickly grew upon the beach and the sandy slope above it.

The Australian and New Zealander are too true to British type to be demonstrative normally, but Lord Kitchener was a Great Master to each one of them and they were

determined /



determined to pay him homage. It was a quite spontaneous demonstration, and pleased Lord Kitchener more, I dare say, than he would have cared to show. Wherever he went, the ovation which broke out from the men was such as to make one anxious lest the Turks should notice it and guess the cause. At some points, where the enemy were only a few yards away, it was with difficulty that they were prevented from cheering. The men were dressed in their ordinary working garb, and Lord Kitchener seemed unusually at home amongst this crowd of toilers. The strong, interested face of the one gazing on the intent weather-tanned countenances of the others, as he questioned them and told them the King's message, made a picture not readily forgotten.

The best place from which to see the greater part of ANZAC and to understand it was from RUSSELL'S TOP, up the steep climb of WALKER'S RIDGE, and at no distance from the Turkish lines themselves. Lord Kitchener went straight to the top - a climb which used to try many of those at ANZAC during the hot summer, and spoke to the brigadiers and other officers when he reached the summit. He insisted on visiting several awkward corners, where his tall form was only too likely to be noticed by the Turkish snipers, who were usually very alert.

On his way down, in one of the gullies, a long queue was noticed. Lord Kitchener asked them what they were doing there, and when told that they were trying to buy at the canteen, he said he hoped they were getting all they wanted. An elderly Australian then came forward and replied that the only thing they could get there was a few nuts, and that he personally had no teeth with which to crack them! - a reply which amused Lord Kitchener immensely and extorted from him the promise that he would see that canteen stores and vegetables were sent over as soon as possible.



A few days later SUVLIA was visited, but here the landing was not under quite the same close observation, although it was very open to the Turkish batteries. The day was a very rough one, blowing up for the storm which later cast nearly all the piers on the Peninsula up on the beaches, and strewed the foreshore with the wreckage of the small craft. Alas! as after events have shown, the rough sea had no terrors for Lord Kitchener, who was perfectly happy on the deck of a destroyer when the majority of his staff was very much the opposite. The journey in the picket boat from the destroyer to the shore was, however, very difficult and slow, and left Lord Kitchener only a short time to go inland with General Byng, who met him and explained the situation in that area from the heights near the beach, from which an excellent view of the country was obtainable.

At all three places Lord Kitchener seemed to appraise the situation at a glance. The complex and laborious defences - especially at ANZAC - were certainly a surprise to him, and he repeatedly expressed admiration for the amount of good work which he saw had been put in everywhere. He remarked also that until he had actually seen the positions, it was not possible for him fully to appreciate the great difficulties which had to be overcome in effecting the landing and holding on afterwards as the troops had done everywhere. To several small groups of men he remarked: "You have done wonderfully good work here. Don't think for a moment that you have failed; you have fully done your part in upholding the British Flag and British Honour here, where you have fought so well."

To many soldiers of the Old Army and of the New, - to Territorials, Yeomanry and the men of Australia and New Zealand, the recollection of their glimpse of the great Field Marshal will ever be a proud and cherished memory. He came to see for himself

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the position of the troops whose future was under discussion. The future was fraught with many possibilities, but Lord Kitchener's visit gave to us all, as it did to the whole British Empire, a feeling of complete confidence in his judgment and decision.

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Lord Kitchener's visit to Gallipoli.

Dartmouth 10th  
Lafrey 12th  
13th  
14th

Gilly  
de Pöbeck - Lieut. N. S.

In November, 1915, when it was necessary to decide whether the army, which was hanging on to three small areas on the shore of the Gallipoli Peninsula, should stay there or risk a re-embarkation, Lord Kitchener came out to view the situation for himself. A little before the middle of the month he arrived in a cruiser at Imbros - the Headquarters of the Dardanelles Army, and shortly after proceeded to visit the positions which we, with the French, held on the mainland.

The military aspect of his visit can scarcely be dwelt upon here. But one consideration which concerned us all very much was his personal safety.

The first position to be visited by Lord Kitchener was that at Cape Helles, where he was met by General Davies who pointed out the situation. At Cape Helles the beaches and piers were a considerable distance from Turkish observation, but this fact did not relieve us of all anxiety for Lord Kitchener's safety, as heavy shells from "Asia" were always liable to drop around incoming boats, and to "straaffe" the beaches at irregular intervals. It was, however, most unlikely that the Turks would be able to identify the steam-boat which took him ashore, and as there was a high wind blowing, it was <sup>b</sup> probable that they would not be very active. A landing was effected on the beach which the Lancashire Fusiliers had made so famous. From the top of the cliffs near the aerodrome General Davies was able to give Lord Kitchener a complete general view of the whole of the battle-field, reaching away to Achi Baba in the distance, with the village of Krithia and the lines of opposing trenches in front of it, ~~xxx xxxxxx~~ marked out with shell burst as clearly as by flags on a map. From there we went over to the right, to the position so long and bravely held by our

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It was of course necessary to keep Lord Kitchener's visit to the Peninsula very secret, as had the Turks had the least suspicion that he was visiting any particular area any day, we may be sure that they would have maintained such a heavy fire on the beaches that a landing would have been not only most dangerous, but probably out of the question.

Except the officers who actually met Lord Kitchener there, his visit to Cape Helles was therefore practically ~~unknowr~~ and it was not until he re-embarked that the news of his arrival had spread, so little opportunity was afforded the troops of giving him a welcome.

The following day Lord Kitchener visited the area held by the Australian and New Zealand troops to the North of Gaba Tepe. Landing here was a matter of considerably more anxiety for his safety, as boats leaving the destroyer must be within sight of the enemy almost up to the shore, and the Turkish batteries, which were constantly firing on the Anzac beaches, could and frequently used to shell any destroyer that came within range of the shore. I do not think that the Turks had any means of getting information across our lines, but of course any news that leaked out into neutral countries was sure to travel fast and far. On this occasion, at all events, a landing was effected peacefully.

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It was<sup>a</sup> quite spontaneous demonstration. The men had a deep admiration for Lord Kitchener, and this reception pleased him more, I dare say, than he would have cared to show. Wherever he went, the ovation which broke out from the men was such as to make one anxious lest the Turks should notice it and guess the cause. At some points, where the enemy were only a few yards away, it was with difficulty that they were prevented from cheering. The men were dressed in their ordinary working garb, and Lord Kitchener seemed unusually at home amongst this crowd of toilers. The strong, interested face of the one gazing on the intent weather-tanned countenances of the others, as he questioned them and told them the King's message, made a picture not readily forgotten.

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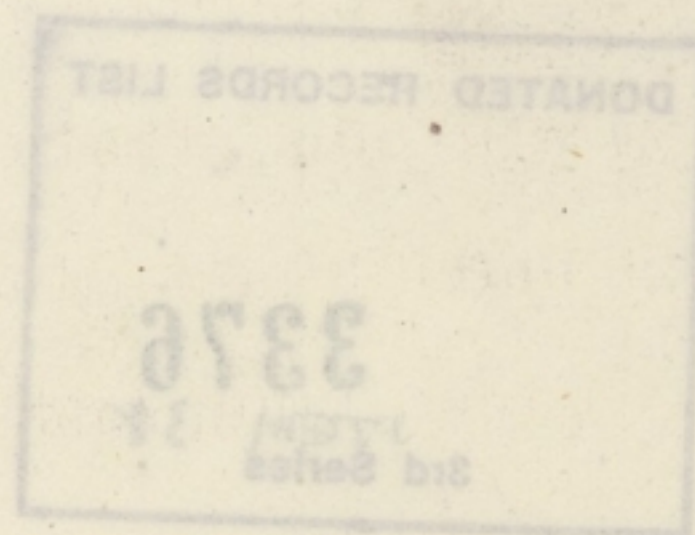
The discussions then going on in England made it fairly clear to everyone the reason of his visit, and his presence left everywhere a feeling of complete confidence behind

him/



him. There will be many soldiers of the Old Army and the New - Territorials - Yeomanry - and the soldiers of Australia and New Zealand, who will remember to the end of their days the last glimpse they were destined to have of the great Field-Marshal, who had come to see for himself the position of our troops on the Peninsula - and, having come, the British Empire was prepared to place complete confidence in his decision.

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I am very glad to have the opportunity of meeting you all here to day, and welcoming you to this building which, as you know, has been erected by the generosity of our friends and the kindness of Lady Hamilton, who has raised the funds for us. I am sure that I shall only be expressing your wishes in writing to thank Lady Hamilton in your name for her kindness, and I shall have no hesitation in telling her that this is not thrown away, for the troops are well worthy of what our friends at Home have collected for them. In ~~lx~~ this connection I do not mean the Australian troops only, but the troops of the whole Empire, who have shewn up so magnificently from the day the war started, and for whom I think the Civil population can never do enough to shew their gratitude and appreciation. I am glad, too, to have this opportunity of expressing to all of you my thanks for all your good work, and having ~~been~~ together as we now have been for the last fifteen months, I think we know a good deal about each other.

All the world now knows of the ~~fighting~~ of particular phases we have been through - such as the first landing on the 25th April, the attack on Lone Pine, and the attack on Chunuk Bair. These have established the reputation of Australian and New Zealand soldiers throughout the world; but all do not know the dogged determination, hard work and real



grit put in by all the boys during those trying months on Gallipoli. I know it though, for did I not see you day after day in the trenches, working away through all that heat, and even when sick refusing to give in, with the one determination to see things through?

I remember one day, when the sun was at its hottest, meeting a man carrying two heavy jars of water up one of those steep hills. As I passed, I told him: "I am afraid those are beastly heavy on a day like this?" He said: "Not so bad, Sir." and then a bright idea struck him, for he turned round and said: "They would not be half so heavy if they were rum!" Well, on that we sat down, and sized it out. We agreed that on starting they would be just the same weight, and that as he got further up the hill the chances were the rum would get lighter, and that he would certainly get heavier, and that it was quite likely he would never get to the top at all, in which ~~the~~ case the boys ~~w~~ in the trenches would be left without anything! After thinking this out, he quite agreed that the one thing he wanted was to help the boys in the trenches; and he never got that rum! That was the spirit though there, and I <sup>know</sup> ~~think~~ all wanted to do their best to help their <sup>comrades</sup> pals without thinking of themselves. It was the same spirit that was so very marked when the 1st Brigade made their attack on Lone Pine. Those who were not detailed for the first



charge were arguing about it and complaining why they should not have their share, and wanted to know why they should not be able all to go with their pals. Exactly the same thing occurred in the final withdrawal, when men were fighting to be in the final rearguard party, which might have been expected to have come in for perhaps some real hard fighting.

I was writing to the Private Secretary to the King giving him an account of our withdrawal. In his reply to me he said: <sup>What</sup> "His Majesty appreciates more than anything else in your account was the way your men fought for the final position on the beach. When you have men with such hearts and spirits, you have indeed reason to be proud of your Corps." And so I am, boys! Seeing such work, and knowing the Australian and New Zealand troops as I do, would it be possible for me to ~~think~~ have any feelings other than those of comradeship, esteem, and affection.

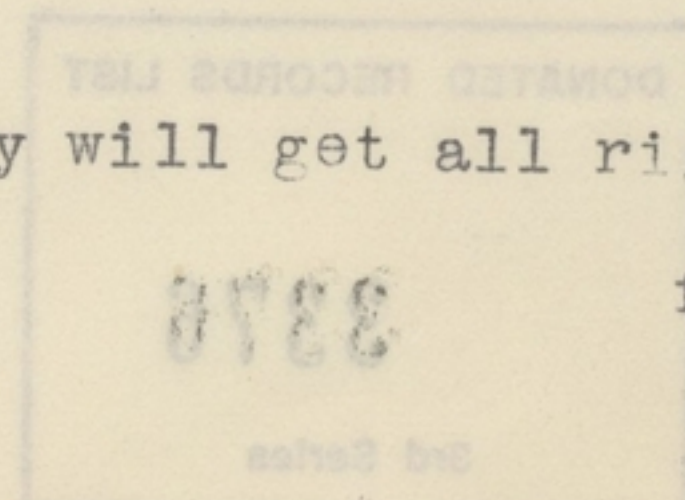
I have not myself the privilege of being Australian born, but I have that which is as great - of having fought alongside of you all these months; and for the war, at all events, I am an Australian soldier, and proud to be one, and I have no other wish but to end the war with and alongside all my Australian and New Zealand troops. If I can do that, and after we have completely crushed these German enemies to freedom, I shall feel that I can die happy.

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I and some of us here are professional soldiers. So to us coming out to fight means nothing. It is a part of our day's duty, and is what we are paid for, so that it is no credit whatever to us to be where we are in the fighting line. I often think a soldier is rather like a fireplace, which is but an empty and poor thing with no fire burning; and the fire for us is burning only when we are on active service. With the majority of you I know it is a very different matter. A great many of you have given up everything, and all of you have given up a great deal, to come out here and fight for the Empire; and this you have done because you have heard your brothers in the Old Country calling you, and because you are determined to do your bit to help to put an end to the intolerable arrogance and coveted domination of the world by a Power who would have wished to reduce us to well nigh slavery - that she will not do while any of us are alive.

But, ~~ky~~ boys, these are all nice things which I have been saying, and if we never hear anything but nice things about ourselves, we will be getting wind in our head, and that is bad for any of us! Going round <sup>the</sup> hospitals recently I came across several men suffering from swollen feet - and very painful they are too! I have always told them though they have only got to sit tight for a bit, and they will get all right,



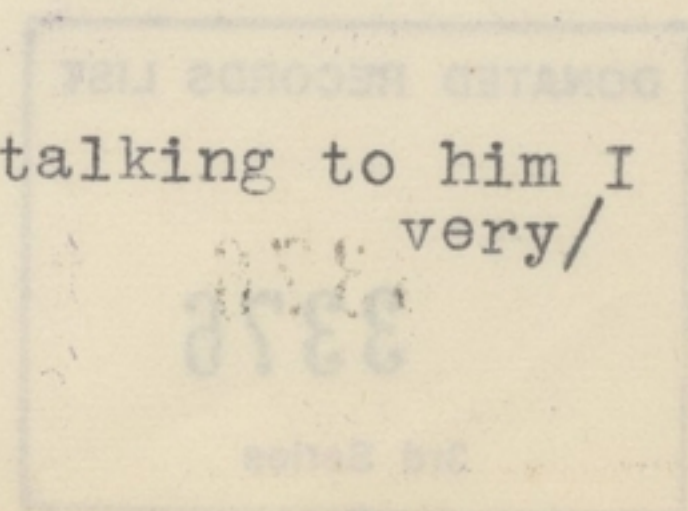


for it is not nearly such a bad disease as suffering from a swollen head, which may be incurable, so just to prevent us all doing that, I shall mention one or two other things at which we are not quite so perfect, for none of us are I imagine already what Kipling calls "plastered saints." [As I told some of you here the other day, in addition to fighting there are two qualities which are essential to success - training and discipline. I well remember last year, after we had ~~done~~ been training for a month or two, how irksome some of the boys found it, and I was constantly asked when we were going to get on the move, as they thought they were quite fit to take on anybody, and were afraid they would be too late to see any fighting, I kept reassuring them on this subject, and telling them there was lots of time for fighting, (as there still is,) but the more training they got the better they would be for it. Later on, when we got to business, I think they all realised how much the training in Egypt had done for them. Training nowadays is no longer of the red tape type which it used to be years ago. Then a soldier was looked upon as part of a machine with no thinking powers. I dare say some of you have heard the story of the <sup>live</sup> ~~light~~ guardsman at Waterloo, who was asked how he came to be badly wounded? He said: "I saw a great Frenchman coming at me, and o'course I gave him "Guard One!" Blow me, if he "didn't start straight away with 'Cut two,' and damn near had ~~me~~ ~~he~~ me/

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"me head off!" Well, nowadays it is all very different, and in an army composed like this one is, of men of great intelligence <sup>the whole idea of</sup> ~~to hold?~~ training ..... <sup>initiative</sup> to develop and make men think for themselves. I happened to come across a young <sup>officer</sup> fellow the other day, and was explaining to him that he had done something in his training wrong ~~ly~~, when he told me he was not a soldier but a fighter! I had to tell him that <sup>if that was all</sup> ~~before~~ he was, he would not be of the best value <sup>possible</sup> /to us. A man who is only a fighter is one who is on for fighting for himself only, while a soldier is a trained fighter, who is prepared to do his best for his comrades and the general cause as well as for himself. If we had had fighters only, we should never have been able to get away from the peninsula without loss - in fact, the withdrawal from there would simply have been a retreat in hopeless confusion, for if we are not well trained, no bravery will save us from terribly heavy losses or even defeat. Another boy I came across in hospital lately, who was not very bad, I asked if he did not want to get back to his regiment quickly. He said, No! he was quite happy where he was, and when I asked him if he did not come here to fight alongside all his pals, he said, Yes, and that when they were starting fighting, he was quite ready to come and join them. Well! he ~~was~~ <sup>he ought himself a real</sup> evidently ~~one of the~~ <sup>and</sup> "Dinkums" /thought he knew all about it, while talking to him I very/





very soon found out that he knew "damm-all" about his work, and was not going to be much good unless he put his back into it, and learned all that he could. Now, ~~that~~ we have got a few spare weeks to learn all we can before we shall probably be at it again fighting hard. Where this will be I cannot not yet tell you, but it is quite possible we shall find ourselves up against the Germans, and we know well that unless we are well-trained, we cannot expect to do <sup>our share in knocking them out</sup> ~~all we should~~ against them, so, boys, stick to it, and shew that you can make these two new divisions that we have raised just as good as the old ones - not only in training, but in discipline. Shew that you are disciplined soldiers by saluting your officers whenever you meet them, and do not let anyone, when we get to France, say that our discipline is worse than that of other troops. <sup>No one is more</sup> Jealous that I am of the <sup>good</sup> name ~~of~~ and ~~the~~ reputation of the Australian soldiers, I urge you to do this, so that we may make sure of coming out on top when this war is over.

