

Central Registry No. and Date.

**SUBJECT, AND OFFICE OF ORIGIN.**

TURKISH ATTACK OF 31st MAY - AT INSTIGATION OF ENVER PASHA.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
				P. A.	Date

### Schedule of Correspondence.



1st July, 1915.

Sir Ian Hamilton.  
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You will have received my report and telegram telling you that the Turks started another attack against us on the night of the 31st, and we are only all so sorry that it was not on a more general scale, though even if it was not so regarding the loss of men, yet they must have got through an enormous amount of ammunition, which, in its way, is useful.

For about two hours there was a continuous roar all round our right and centre, machine guns and rifles going hard, to which my boys replied with series of cheers, but nothing else happened.

Then they launched their attack up on the high ground on my left, where Russel is in command, having in the trenches there the 3rd Australian Light Horse. From a most intelligent Armenian prisoner, who talks excellent English, and who was acting as an officer in the Turkish Army, we have obtained a good deal of interesting information. He declares that Enver Pacha, himself, was in the trenches that night, and insisted on this attack, telling them that they could, and must, drive us into the sea. I wonder if it really were Enver, because I am half inclined to think it may have been Essad, but the prisoner declared that it was Enver himself.

Apparently three new battalions were put into the line, and I must say they came along most gallantly, for they got right up to -- into, and in some places over, our trenches, and numbers were killed absolutely on the parapet. Where we really seem to have scored off them was, in their ignorance of a secret sap we had made since the big attack here on the 18th May. A lot of



Turks then tried to work round our extreme left, and were not stopped until they got right into, and almost beyond the supporting trenches. The country here is covered with very thick brushwood and scrub, which has not been cut away. Through all this we had cut a secret sap running right down to the edge of the cliffs, on which our left rests, so as to make that flank entirely secure. No earth had been thrown up anywhere, all being carried away in bags, as you saw it had been done when you recently went round to the right. The enemy were, consequently, in absolute ignorance of the sap, which is used as a trench by night, and in addition is completely enfiladed by machine-guns. They made their attack right across this and consequently suffered very heavily there. Prisoners say there were a great many wounded, who crawled back to their lines, and our posts down by the shore now report that they can count 45 corpses lying in an open space just in front of their trenches, which cannot be seen from the top where they assaulted, and these must either have crawled back, or been shot as they were marching from their trenches by more or less unaimed shots.

Having failed on the extreme left, they then tried an attack on Pope's Hill, but were beaten off there, leaving 25 corpses near our trenches. It is, of course, impossible on these occasions to say exactly what their losses are, but I think we may take it that their killed must have been, at least 500.

If only Enver would continue to get impatient like this, and urge attacks, we should very soon be through here, for I do not think they would stand very many more of them, though they undoubtedly are prepared to fight like tigers if you come up against their trenches. That, at least, was our experience, when we made that little demonstration the previous day to prevent the Turks reinforcing the Achi Baba position from these parts. It is perfectly extraordinary how quickly they get their



guns on to our infantry advancing, and once the men <sup>had</sup> de get out on to an open ridge, they were very badly peppered by shrapnel, which caused most of the casualties there. By the bye, a few days before they attacked, the New Zealanders, Russel calculated they gave him the benefit of 400 9.2 and 6" howitzers on that ridge, which you can imagine was very uncomfortable. They destroyed a great deal of the parapet and caused considerable casualties.

I hope you have seen the report I mentioned to you some little time ago about the Turks having to promote their men who occupied the trenches opposite Quinn's Post, as otherwise they could not get them to enter them! ~~ixxxxxxxxixxxxxxxx~~  
~~from~~

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