COPY

OF PORTION OF DIARY OF

Mr. J. J. Chapman, 9th Battalion, A.I.F.

From February 28th, 1915 to April 25th, 1915, and from May 14th, 1915 to June 28th, 1915.

No description of the Landing at Anzac is given, except what could be seen from the deck of one of the ships.

I certify that this copy has been checked by me with the original diary and corrected. Errors of spelling in the original have not been corrected.

Norman K Harvey.

Gordon Parade

Manly, Q.

19.1.36

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG0000156

28/2/15 Left Mena Camp spent two days in transit. Embarked on S.S. Nizam 8.30 p.m.

1/3/15 350 men, 400 horses (Scenery from Cairo to Alexandria canals and cultivated land. Crops looking very healthy and a good prospect of a plentiful harvest.

2/3/15 Sailed from Alexandria for Lemnos Island. Left port 12 O'clock midday. Weather very good and sea smooth.

3/3/15 Sea very rough. Felt sea-sick. Passed Rhodes Islands. Sailing in Adrian Sea surrounded by small islands the islands appeared to have very few people living close to the shore.

4/3/15 Arrived at Lemnos Island.

10/3/15 Arrived ashore with remainder of horses.

13/3/15 Exercising horses, travelled about 10 miles and went through three villages.

14/3/15 Beautiful fine day, took three snapshots of the bay, had a swim and went for a ride on horses.

15/3/15 Fine day shifting horse lines. Could hear the guns at the Dardenells during the night, also search lights could be seen working over the hills.

16/3/15 Very cold, began to rain heavily ~~during~~ through the night, made the horse lines very wet and dirty.

17/3/15 Took horses to island, grazing, went for a ride. Nice fine day, paid 2/6 to Linden for rations.

18/3/15 Wrote post-card home. Exercising horses in the afternoon, had a look through the mill grinding corn. Mail closed, a few ships went out of bay.

19/3/15 Went for a ride over the hills, had a laugh at naval officer on a horse. Saw a fine view of bay and village from top of hills, a very strong wind at night.

20/3/15 Very rough day, many small boats blown ashore, no parade in afternoon.

21/3/15 Weather moderated a little, news ~~known~~ of a small torpedo boat wrecked a few miles from camp, raining at night.

22/3/15 Very wet and cold, exercising horses all day. Imperial ration system came into force.

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23/3/15 Very cold wind from N.E. Went to see torpedo boat No. 046 wrecked on the coast about 5 miles from camp, took two snapshots, had a very nice ride on the horses and saw a very fine view.

24/3/15 Still very cold, exercising horses in the morning, half holiday in afternoon.

26/3/15 Cold and wet, exercising horses morning and afternoon.

27/3/15 A nice fine day took horses for a long walk and gave them a drink along the track, got some papers and had a good read about the war.

28/3/15 Nice warm day, had a swim, got some photos developed, had a half holiday in afternoon and had a walk around the camp after tea.

29/3/15 Wet in the morning, cleared up in afternoon. Took horses for exercise, a very blowy day, a party went to the wreck.

30/3/15 Air craft scare in evening. Raining during night. Battleships arriving all day, rather cold and cloudy, went for a swim in the evening, a very rough sea, guard on pier.

31/3/15 A nice fine day, nine bags of mail matter came ashore, got two letters (Claire and Uncle). On guard, a beautiful moonlight night, no wind, had a swim in evening.

1/4/15 A fine day. Bolt through lines before breakfast exercising horses. Corporal in charge.

2/4/15 Good Friday, a very windy day, rode about 6 miles in the morning, received another letter from Claire, had a few hours off duty in the afternoon, stayed in the tent and had a good read from the home papers.

3/4/15 A nice warm day, out exercising morning and afternoon. War ships departing for the Dardenells all day. French funeral.

4/4/15 Easter Sunday, a very cold bleak day, kept rugs on horses all day. Captain informed us that we would be off to the front in a few days' time, half holiday.

5/4/15 A very cold and wet day. Raining all the time. We had to cook our meals as best we could in the tents. Horses feel the cold very much, we took them for a little exercise but were only away from camp a half an hour on account of the heavy rain and we returned to the lines wet through and very cold.

6/4/15 Wet day, lines very dirty, too wet for exercising. Sitting around tent all day.

7/4/15 Weather cleared, a bright fine day, exercising horses morning and afternoon, started to strike camp, transports all preparing to move.

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8/4/15 A beautiful fine day, out of bed at 4.45 a.m. all ready to move off at 7.o'clock. Sleeping in the open, a nice dry night. News of more Australian troops landed.

9/4/15 A nice fine day. Breakfast 6 o'clock a.m. Embarked all the horses by 12 o'clock, infantry came aboard at 6 p.m. accommodation very bad for troops also food very poor.

10/4/15 Waiting for orders to move, everybody discontented with state of affairs. Cleaning stables and attending to horses.

11/4/15 Working on the ship sorting picks and shovels and attending to horses. Received letters from Father and Eric. Air craft flying over bay at sunset - a fine sight. 10th Infantry horses transferred to Ionian. Bright day.

12/4/15 A dull day. Life on the ship very monotonous, very little room for the troops to move about. Food very scarce, troops went ashore.

13/4/15 Very wet day, cleaning harness in the hold all day. All the troops being issued with their full kit required for the field.

14/4/15 A nice fine day, working in the hold sewing on colours for identification. Troops practising disembarking in small boats. Very little news about the war. A great number of the men had a swim over the side of the vessel.

15/4/15 A nice warm day. Troops went ashore. Issued a new pair of puttees. Not feeling too well a very severe cold in head, paraded sick. A rumour got about that Turks were asking for peace great excitment amongst the troops. I got an introduction to Brooks of Nambour (Q'ld), got issued with ½lb. of tobacco. I sold mine for 6d. per tin.

16/4/15 Not feeling too good, troops getting a lecture by the C.O. on Infantry work in the field. Kit bags still alongside ready to go to the base. In the evening a rumour got around that we were off at midnight, but it did not come off. I had a swim over the side of the vessel during the afternoon and it was very enjoyable.

17/4/15 A nice warm day, training with the company all day. Went on board a battleship at night practising disembarkation at night. Had to report to Maj Brand for duty at 6 o'clock. Counted £2,000 cash which had to be checked. Cold much better. Had a swim in afternoon.

18/4/15 Warm day, some troops went ashore. Exercising horses on deck. A company of 12th Infantry came aboard, also a number of sailors.

19/4/15 Raining all day, unable to exercise horses, had a holiday. Mail from Australia came aboard.

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20/4/15 Wet day, exercising horses morning and afternoon. Sailors off battleship came aboard to attend to small boats of "Malda".

21/4/15 Wet day, had a swim in afternoon. All hands expecting to move at ~~a~~ any time, some very funny tales floating round about the Turks.

22/4/15 A nice fine day, troops practising with the boat crew. Had a swim in the evening. Received a letter from Claire also Paper from home.

23/4/15 Exercising horses all day. Troops getting ready for the fight. Everybody excited, extra rations issued. A nice fine day.

24/4/15 Cloudy in the morning. Torpedo boat took off A. and B. Companies from "Malda" at 11 a.m. C and D Companies went off at 2 o'clock, remainder at midnight. Exercising horses in the morning, all the ships preparing to move.

25/4/15 Awoke at 5 a.m., could hear a roar like thunder from the firing of heavy guns. Got up at once and could see the shells bursting on the mainland ~~but~~ we were too far off to see any destruction wrought by the navy. A lull in the firing at about 6.30 a.m. Moved to the same anchorage as on the previous evening, at 7.30 a.m. 7 fathoms of water. Message from "Derflinger" at 10 a.m. Successful landing of troops.

14/5/15 During the afternoon ~~our chaplain~~ one chap was hit by a piece of shrapnel and ~~it~~ it passed right through his head. I saw him and he appeared to be in his last struggles for life, breathing heavily with his brains protruding over his forehead. We had a lively night in the trenches and two patrols went out in the danger zone for information. They were attacked and only escaped in time, all hands stood to arms.

15/5/15 Resting in our "dug-outs". A rather hot day. Had a swim in the sea with shells bursting all about us, fortunately no one was hit. Received three letters, two from home, one from Claire. Had three good meals. Got to sleep early feeling very tired. (Concert)

16/5/15 Doing fatigue duty, a bright day. Enemy's guns still sending shells all around us. Wrote an issue postcard home. Acting as supports at night. Enemy kept up a brisk rifle fire all night. Heard Brd. General Bridges was wounded.

17/5/15 A nice bright day. In the firing line. Enemy making attacks on right flank but were easily repulsed. Heavy arillery fire at intervals. Lieut. Fortescue and Morse wounded also two men shot on beach while bathing. Had an easy night in the trenches. Wounded men returned from hospital.

18/5/15 Beautiful summer weather. In the trenches brisk rifle fire all night on right flank. Resting in dug-out after being in firing line Rather hot day, had a swim.

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19/5/15 All hands turned out at 3 o'clock. Enemy attacked all along the line in large numbers and fought very fiercely until long after day-break. About 6.30 a.m. enemy's artillery began to shell our position and we had a very hot time all day. The navy replied but could not locate some of the enemy guns and we were at the mercy of cruel shrapnell pouring down upon us from every quarter. I had several narrow escapes (Kelly hit) Casualities; 16 killed, 23 wounded.

20/5/15 Had another night in trenches. Enemy on the retreat. Sick Turk carried into our lines and treated, sent to the hospital, appeared to have had a very bad time. Aircraft about all day. Enemy advanced under protection of Red Cross just before sunset. Navy opened fire and drove them back with heavy losses. Everyone available on duty all night in the event of a counter attack. Two slightly wounded, 7,000 or 8,000 Turks.

21/5/15 Resting in "dug-out". A general and officers advanced along beach under protection of White Flag. Our party went out and escorted them to our headquarters where they held a conference. On ration fatigue at night, had a narrow escape from bursting shell. Got to sleep at 11 o'clock and had a good rest.

22/5/15 In support all transports and battle-ships moving about in a restless manner. Raining in the morning. Digging a new trench for supports. Met Pte. Gore and found that he was related to W.H. Gore of Kingston, Victoria and Ballarat.

23/5/15 In firing line. Battleship "Albion" close into fort and appeared as if she was stranded and had other ships standing by. At 9 o'clock. They all opened fire and poured in a brisk fire on the enemy. In the afternoon enemy let go at our trenches and three shells got very close to our position and I thought mytime had come. Spent a very quiet night in the firing line. Heard that ~~Cpl. Jac~~ Curlie Turton had died from wounds. Moonlight.

24/5/15 Armitice granted from 7.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. All hostilities ceased . Parties from both sides met on the battlefield to bring dead accumulated for a month, terrible stench, a number of missing found. A beautiful peaceful day, a great relief to all. Hundreds of our troops in bathing and sitting about in the open. Two Turks broke away from a party and rushed into our trenches very eager to be taken prisoners.

25/5/15 On fatigue work. At midday "Triumph" was struck by torpedo and sunk in a few seconds about (12 min~~utes~~)(1) about 50 men sank with her. ~~"Triumph"~~ A very unsettled day, raining. Immediately after "Triumph" sunk one submarine sunk. In the trenches at night ground very wet and cold, a very quiet night, no attack.

26/5/15 A nice bright day. On fatigue work. Battleships keeping well out to sea. In the evening our air plane flew over enemy's trenches and dropped two bombs. A few of the slightly wounded returned from hospital together with 4th Reinforcements.

(1) may be "12 men". Original indistinct

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27/5/15 In the trenches all day. "Majestic" sunk at the point. A gang of sappers (unofficial) working in our trench. Things very quiet all day. Only torpedo boats assisting the infantry, a rather hot day all the battleships cleared out.

28/5/15 Resting in "dug-out" too hot to sleep. Sappers at work; a party from "A" company went out and captured a trench. Heard Italy had declared war.

29/5/15 A hot day, put on carrying water, water very scarce, had to wait a long time at well. Enemy started off well in morning by shelling our position, three men killed and several wounded. Strange air craft flew over our lines in the evening.

30/5/15 Rather hot day, had a swim in the evening. Things quiet on our flank. A Company [redacted] 1st. battalion captured a trench on left flank. after dinner, artillery had a great duel soon after. Posted card home.

31/5/15 Carried the water before day-break. Had a spell in the morning, a very quiet night in [redacted] trenches. Torpedo destroyers doing good work.

1/6/15 Beautiful summer weather. Enemy very quiet. A few shells on the beach. Carrying water all day. Gore and I went down to the beach and had a swim, had a narrow escape from a bursting shell.

2/6/15 Fine weather. Firing brisk in the middle of night on left flank A few shells flew over in the morning as I was carrying water. Had a good sleep in the morning and had a read.

3/6/15 Hot day. Water scarce still. Things very quiet, "Doris" hanging about the coast and firing at intervals.

4/6/15 Hot day. Sapping in the trenches. "Doris" swept in and bombarded position on left flank. (amunition column). No official news, had a swim. About 8 o'clock one of our shells burst short, killed 4 men [redacted] 13 wounded. Had a very narrow escape and was stuned with the explosion for a few seconds, I happened to take cover a few seconds before. Attack at night.

5/6/15 Terrific bombardment at C. Helles. A very quiet day on our flank, no shells. Our right flank attacked enemy and took two trenches at night

6/6/15 Hot day. Church parade at 11 a.m. text "Remember Son" a good muster. Things very quiet. News about Turks being dissatisfied with the war. Water very scarce. Things quiet

7/6/15 A hot day, water very scarce. Had to go to Shrapnell gully for a sup. Allies busy at Cape Helles. A very quiet day.

8/6/15 A hot day carrying water. Things very quiet, had an extra trip for water. Met Graham signaller light horse.

9/6/15 The water supply almost run out. Enemy got a gun in position and started to shell our trenches, No damage done.

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10/6/15 Hot day, flies very bad. Shrapnell pouring on our trenches, safe in gully. Heavy bombardment at Cape Helles. Water scarce.

11/6/15 Hot, strong wind blowing. Enemy attacked on left flank. Star shells in the morning. Heavy firing at Cape Helles.

12/6/15 Things rather quiet generally. A few shells landed in our lines at sunset, no damage done. A number of our men sick - water.

13/6/15 A rather cloudy morning. Two battleships came in and bombarded enemy's position only stayed for about two hours and cleared out again. Big guns busy at the cape all day. "Garbatepe" got a few shots into observation station. Quiet in trenches.
(got a 6" gun at fort.)

14/6/15 Nice cool day. Torpedo boat busy on patrole. Received letters from home. Some more of water party cut up
A rough sea, had a swim in afternoon.

15/6/15 A very quiet day with us, "Tommies" appeared to be having a good go. Had a swim in afternoon, a good swell on. Several casks of rum and wine washed ashore. Many men intoxicated, a guard placed along the beach. Mule and one man killed on quartermasters fatigue, bread smashed to pieces.

16/6/15 Commenced to rain in morning. Heavy firing all night to Cape Helles. In the afternoon enemy sent a number of shells over in our lines, no damage to 9th troops, one gun put out of action, about 40 killed and wounded. on beach; torpedo boat bombarded a small trench on right flank.

17/6/15 A bright day. Jones Matthews Houston arrived back again to camp. A very quite day in trenches. Plenty of water an extra well sunk. Airplane dropped three bombs on "Garpetepe".

18/6/15 A bright day. Carried the water early, had a read in the morning. Monitor shelled Garpetepe in afternoon. Premature burst of shell in 9th lines, sniper busy on the beach.

19/6/15 Shifting camp to have a rest in gully at rear of 10th lines. Hot day, Light horse came into our lines in morning. Mitchell wounded in afternoon.

20/6/15 A hot, day water very scarce, digging a "posie". Things very quiet, a few shells on the beach. Great fun over catching a hare in the scrub. Church parade in evening. Met White from Wombye at well. No official news. Things very quiet.

21/6/15 A hot sultry day. Water very scarce, a few shells flying in our lines. Received a paper from home, had a good read.* A very quiet night, slept well.

22/6/15 A hot day. Received letter from home dated 15/5/15. 150 reinforcements arrd. first thing. A very quiet day in trenches.

23/6/15 Hot day, carried water early and had a good rest during day. Had a swim in the evening.

* One chap hit in the evening.

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24/6/15 A very hot day. Wrote a post card home . Shelling in the morning 1 killed 4 wounded. Camping in a dangerous place. Very little news about the war.

25/6/15 A quiet day. Bluff attack at night. Recd letter from Claire. Hot weather.

26/6/15 Hot day. Water scarce. Scotch Artillery arresting howitzer guns. Our men making roads Things very quiet.

27/6/15 A hot day,attack on "Quinn's Post" early in the morning,heavy artillery fire. Went a trip to Shrapnell gully for water at night. Brendon transferred to Indian Mountain battery.

28/6/15 A very hot day,got all the water in the morning. Went for a walk with Simpkins to Light Horse Lines,got back at dinner time and got orders to fall in in fighting order. Attack commenced at 12.30 and we had a very hot time,I did not stay long in the firing line and I stayed behind with five wounded men and dressed their wounds. Simpkins, Paphile, Brett, Johnson and I carried Cop Jefferson up the hill to First Aid station very seriously hit. I did not feel fit to go back and was advised to go and have a lie down.

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