Diary of:

2nd Lieut.
Sgt. WM. CAMERON, 364.

"C" Squadron.

9th Regt.

3rd Light Horse Brigade.
May 16th.

Left Heliopolis for Alexandria at 11 o'clock; left Station at 1 a.m. arrived Alexandria 7 a.m. embarked on "Menominee". Rotten boat and tucker but had good time on Submarine Guard.

" 17th.

Out in the blue Mediterranean, still on guard; nothing exciting doing except a little fire alarm drill.

" 18th.

Still on board "Menominee"; passed several islands.

" 19th.

Opposite Cape Helles at anchor; several warships in action on left; numbers of troops and horses on foreshore; destroyed fort on right front just at mouth of Dardanelles. Feel quite calm. 3.30 warships begin to fire, aeroplanes flying round, considerable shrapnel fire brought to bear on one that manoeuvred very skillfully, was not hit. 4.30 p.m. information received and we left there for Lemnos Island. Just as we moved out, several shells fell in camp on shore and two dropped within 200 yds. of another troopship. Submarines reported as being in search of this transport because she carries so many officers (97).

" 20th.

Still on board, but have travelled to Lemnos during night, splendid harbour and full of shipping of all kinds, warships, transports, hospital ships, etc. Mouth of harbour very narrow, and well protected by mines. Several small camps on shore and though very hilly the country is cultivated and some of the gentle slopes are quite green. The island belonged to Turks but Britain seized it. First Australians were here for some time.

" 21st.

9.30 were transferred from "Menominee" to Destroyed "Scorpion", and set out for the scene of action, Kapa Tepe; had a splendid fast run and the experience of a trip on a fast Torpedo Destroyer is one to be envied. We left at 11.30 and steamed for about 2 hours; saw several warboats in action and now at 3 p.m. we are watching our fellows trying to get ashore under cover of the above named boats. The Turks are in a fairly strong position away to our left but within range of naval guns. We were ourselves then transferred to lighters which rocked & rocked. Then just as we moved off they seemed to get our range for two shells just lobbed astern of us but luckily hit the water before exploding. Got ashore alright and then began a steep ascent to where we settled down for the night. If you could see us in our new home which is a hole burrowed in the ground about 6' x 6' in which reside Sgt. Major Hatton, Sgt. Maude, and myself; slept very well in clothes not with-
standing din, but we were awakened and stood to arms at 3 o'clock a.m. and remained so until 4.30 a.m. It is at this hour that rushes are expected.

May 22nd.
Morning finds it raining heavily and we make haste to cover our "dug-out" with our water proof sheets. Later on when rain ceased we made our place deeper and more comfortable but just as we finished we were ordered out to the trenches, and the climb was indeed difficult as we went up by a circuitous route. Arrived at the top of the ridge we went into other dugouts which had been occupied by New Zealanders whom we relieved both here and in the trenches. Stood to arms from 7 - 8 p.m. and again 3 - 4 a.m., otherwise slept well.

23rd.
We are still in the rest dug-out and very little is happening. An occasional shell bursts overhead but no one yet hurt though two have had their rifles damaged.

24th.
8 a.m. 9 hours armistice granted to bury dead. We are warned to go into fire trenches at midday but cannot move troops or dig trenches while truce lasts. Will have a look over battle field while it lasts. Have done so and the sight is gruesome and peculiar. Its awfulness is appalling. Thousands of bodies lie rotting in the intervening space between enemy's and our trenches about 200 yds. and the stench is sickening. The burial party have indeed a horrible job, yet the whole thing is peculiar in that Turk, Britain or Australian are intermingled in the common task of placing out of sight the bodies of dead comrades, and in a few short hours this will cease and each will be in his own trench, each doing his best to add to the already large list. 4 p.m. In an hour we will be in the fire trench. Kits are all packed, rifles clean and ammunition attended to. Hear today that Roy Hodgson has been killed by shell fire. Fancy today is Empire Day and we are wondering what is being done in the little town today. I can imagine Mr. Stewart being a moving figure in the day's proceeding. Have not had any letters since we left Heliopolis and very little news except that Italy is about to declare war, which she has been about to do for some time.

25th.
Have been in trenches all night and have not fired a shot, although the Turks have poured in an incessant fire which I believe they add to twice during each night by bursts of rapid fire. They are very poor shots except their "snipers". None of our troops were hit. From here we can view the bay and all the ships; there seems to have developed a bad attack of "submarinities" for they are circling and circling round. A German aeroplane comes into view, sails right across our positions and drops a bomb or two on our first camp - result unknown.
12 noon an awful sight. Above I wrote of the submarinitis. Now we see one come to the surface only a few chains from the "Triumph" which has done so much in opening up the Dardanelles. She discharges two torpedoes and the gallant Triumph sets off on her side, then right over and in 1 hour is gone. Torpedo destroyers rush madly through the water range along side the sinking ship and rescue the greater number of the crew. Others dash away in the direction that the submarine dives; hope they get him. This sinking of one of Britain's best right under their eyes will give the Turks a fillip. It was a sight we do not want to see repeated. Trenches are very quiet, we are digging them deeper as also are the Turks. We can see their shovels pitching over the edge and get an occasional shot. They are driving a sap towards us and we are also driving a sap to cross theirs. They are only about 75 yards away now, we will come out for 24 hours this afternoon and return tomorrow night. Have not had much sleep, again it is night and we are standing to arms expecting an attack; have just heard that the Triumph only took down 50 men out of 800. This is a wonderful display of what discipline will do, for she fired to the last.

May 26th.

Have had a very poor night. Three alarms keeping men "at arms" till 12 midnight. Enjoyed a very good breakfast of fried "Bully", carrots, parsnips and onions, with army biscuit & jam; cocoa to drink. Both artillery positions appear to have been altered and strengthened, for the Turks are putting in a few, much better than they have been doing, our fellows replying well. Can hear the distant rumble of heavy guns about Helles Point some 12 miles away. Wonder how the Frenchies are getting on there. Am going to try and get some sleep now, have had a shave and feel a bit cleaner but would like to be able to remove clothes which have been on six days now. It rained like fun yesterday afternoon and the trenches became terribly muddy, likewise men. Our relief would have a cold shift there.

27th.

Went back into fire trenches and whilst we did very little shooting the Turks posted away to some tune but only two were wounded in the squadron, these were merely scratches.

28th.

We were in the support trenches all night and had a very fair rest. The routine order of standing to arms for 2 separate hours nightly appears rather irksome, still its a necessity. We are resting today and I have removed by boots and socks and the feeling is pleasing after having them on for so long. The Trenches are gradually being worked closer and closer until now only 20 to 50 yds. separate. Something must eventuate in the form of a general assault by one side or the other in a day or so now. The reported tales of cruelty are distinctly unfounded only 2 cases.

29th.

In the rest trenches all night, had a jolly good sleep until 4 a.m
this morning when we were awakened & stood to arms as a great fusilade had commenced. Big guns were taking part also, and the sight was really magnificent tho' terrible. The Turks charged right up to our trenches and threw bombs which killed three and wounded thirteen. Just before breakfast their whistling Rufus found the range to our Rest trenches and gave us quite a large dose of pills. The men were busily engaged getting their breakfast ready and as each shell whistled up they would leave the fire and duck for cover. It was in a way humorous to note the attitude assumed to escape shrapnel. Two were killed and seven wounded.

May 30th.

Last night's projected bayonet charge did not come off, the enemy evidently expecting something of the kind concentrated fire on the position. What a strange contrast is this day! Here I am comfortably lying in my dug-out, having had a shave, a wash and mouth cleaning all in one cup of water, and general change, and feel quite Sunday-like, while outside and all around is the thunder of guns, the whistle & scream of bullets and shells. Whistling Rufus gave us his usual pills this morning but did not get anyone, tho' two were wounded by stray rifle shots. The snipers are very accurate and dangerous; even in these rest places one is not safe to unnecessarily expose. Have been spending this couple of hours reading passages from my Bible, and a feeling of calm reassurance and confidence comes over me. Yesterday morning the Turks blew up our trenches held by the 10th Regt. and got them out, but the Australians rallied, charged and recaptured the position, advanced to Turkish trenches, pushed them into the second line of trenches and out of them, and held these. Well done "Tenth!"

This afternoon we lost our brave little officer, Lieut. S. McWilliam, than whom the Regt. boasted no better. He was on the observation post and just turned round to give an order when a bullet struck him in the left side of the head, coming out on the right. Mr. Mac as he was familiarly called, died giving his orders - his last words were "Stand to arms, Twelve hundred, Five Rounds - Oh God! and fell back. It just required the word "Fire" to complete the order. I feel a great loss keenly. The first Officer of the 9th to go. Poor Mac!

31st.

Went into trenches again and I am in charge of the troops since Mr. Mac's death; they buried him quietly last night. The night for us was very quiet, but those on our left had a very heavy attack delivered them, which they repulsed.

June 1st.

How time flies! Here it is 1st June and we are still a long way from the end we started out to accomplish. Quiet day and night in support.
June 2nd.

Nothing of any consequence happened. Men have been in Rest Trenches, which means that they do all the fatigues of water and ration carrying for the Regt. Went into fire trenches again, but owing to some alteration of routine came back to support. There is a sniper shooting away at a loophole only a few feet away; he has broken up quite a number of periscopes and sand bags, so evidently is a crack shot.

June 3rd.

Quiet time all day, but evening finds a new Cruiser in harbour and about 5 o'clock she flies several salvos (69 shots in all) at some Turkish reinforcements appearing through the village a couple of miles away. It is King's Birthday, and several officers have been promoted.

June 4th.

Still very quiet, hardly a shot being fired on either side. At 9 p.m. the Col. sent out some volunteer bomb throwers as was done last night; these were successful in throwing their bombs and returned unhurt. In the afternoon we were relieved from trenches altogether by a New Zealand Regt. We have returned to a safe distance and are having a jolly good spell.

June 5th.

Have had a lovely rest. Slept all day except meal hours and feel much refreshed as a result thereof.

June 6th. (Sunday)

Sitting here in our "dug-out" on this calm Sabbath morn between two rugged hills, gazing out upon a placid harbour, one is given to reflection. What a contrast! Half a mile behind us is the roar of battle; in front the more peaceful view. 9 o'clock sees us assembled for Church Parade - the first since leaving Egypt. No Hymn Books are there, yet in that well-known Hymn - "Rock of Ages" there swells from the throats of men a tunefulness and feeling which is deeply stirring. The text is - "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." I have never seen these men listen as they have done this day; notwithstanding their outward apparent callousness, these rough hewn men have an undercurrent of thought which is only brought to the top on occasions such as this, when more than anywhere else, they are brought face to face with the stern fact that "we know not what a day or an hour may bring forth". We sang "Jesus Lover of my Soul" with even more fervour than we did the first Hymn. The service closed with Benediction and National Hymn. Up here 200 ft. above the sea it is very pleasant just to sit and watch the shipping. Large transports, grey cruisers, sneaking black torpedo destroyers, dashing steam tugs, all lend an air of business to the scene. On each side of the Gully, reaching to the top of the hills, wild tyme grows profusely.

Evening. Men with nothing else to do now that they have had a jolly good swim sit about yarning. Suddenly someone strikes
up a hymn - "Where is my wandering boy tonight". The strain is caught up until nearly all are singing it. Others follow, and "Tell Mother I'll be there seems to put a fitting finish to a very delightful SUNDAY. Truly God has greatly blessed us, and we are truly grateful.

June 7th.
Today finds me instructing a draft of reinforcements, which of course we do not relish, as all this should have been done ere they were sent to us. But our second in command has a partiality for drill, hence this; however, orders are orders.

8th.
Still at the instructing business, and no time for anything else. I had intended writing a letter but am only able to send Field Service Cards, which convey very little indeed. Just an occasional boom and a few cracks from rifles are the only signs that opposing forces are ever on the watch.

9th.
Men are being instructed in bomb throwing and bayonet drill.

10th.
Still on the above, but 90 out tonight on a fatigue, sapping in a place dangerous to work in, in the day time.

11th.
Enemy appear to have altered the position of their guns and to have found the range exactly. They are lobbing shells incessantly on the opposite of this gully from where I am, along the beach and on the next ridge. They have given the Mule Corps a bit of a bang, 6 mule drivers and 25 mules being hit. A possible secret expedition did not come off to disappointment of the men. Learn the good news this evening that a Mail will be distributed to-morrow.

12th. (Saturday).
Morning much the same as yesterday, mail to be delivered at 3 p.m. The first for 5 weeks, so we are looking forward to it eagerly. What a change. - This morning gay - this afternoon, of all men most miserable. It is the saddest day in my life, for it brings to me worst news a man can get - the knowledge of a good Mother's death away back in the dear old Homeland of Australia. I cannot think. Grief overwhelms me. I am afraid for the dear ones left behind there, but away from them, can do nothing but pray God to guard and keep them. I would like to go back there now, but the other duty says stay. I'm very said at heart tonight, and feel as if there is nothing to live for now.

13th. (Sunday)
It was the first letter I opened which gave me the sad news. It was from little Elsie King, dated 4th May. I received 17 others, but only one from home dated prior to that, which said nothing of anything out of ordinary except drought. Smith had one from Chris, I find, in which she says Mother is suffering from dysentery, but expected her to be better. Poor little girl, how our expectations are never realised. I must write and
thank her for her kindness, and yes, as she concludes, "sometime we'll understand". We had Church Service this morning again. I went with a very sad heart; as the Minister preached I did not hear much, but in some strange and wonderful way God spoke to me. After Church Service I attended Communion Service. It was dispensed by Lt. Col. Wray of dear old Rushworth. It is good at a time like this to have a quiet talk with someone one knows.

June 14th.

Quiet day, still a few shells here.

15th.

This day I received Hugh's letter giving particulars of Mother's illness and death. Strange, yesterday I picked up a scrap of paper and noticed in it Mrs. Merryful's sad death. Enemy rather active to-day; considerable rifle fire being heard from over the hill.

16th.

Went out road-making this afternoon with a party of 50 men. Turks still very quiet. On our side, reinforcements are arriving daily, so there should soon be a big advance.

17th.

Soon our spell will be over; we go back to trenches to-morrow afternoon.

18th.

Spent last night and this morning in comparative quiet and went to fire trenches in afternoon.

19th.

One of the quietest days we have had. We could hear the Turks singing in their trenches also Bands playing in the distance. The wailing songs and music give a certain accountable feeling. This waiting and waiting seems strange, yet I suppose there is purpose in it all, and sometime we will get the broader view and know. How like Life is this, we are so prone to judge just from the happenings in our own sphere.

20th.

We have retired to support trenches. This is another spell. "Whistling Rufus" is at his capers again.

21st. (Monday)

The Turks appear to be bringing up artillery reinforcements for they are beginning to pepper us with "Common" and "Shrapnel".

22nd.

We are now doing one day in and one day out of trenches, and this is very wearing. We get little or no rest and water is scarce, hence we wash "sometimes."

23rd.

Again occupied trenches and secret sap which runs out almost to Turkâ position. Men are standing the strain well mentally but there seems to be considerable increase in cases of diarrhoea, and I think this is caused by the continued salt rations which are issued.

24th.

In support now, and those new guns of the enemy have got our range
to a nicety. They are lobbing plenty among us now. Even men in their graves are not allowed to rest, several bodies being hoisted clean up in the air and lobbed down disintegrated - indeed loathsome. Will have to detail a party to rebury same.

June 25th.

A very quiet uneventful day for us, but the destroyers are at it with their guns. 1300 yds. away trenches, machine guns and men are all intermingled. They switched round to those trenches only 50 yds. in front of ours, and these share the same fate and we get a bit of fair shooting before the Turks can get cover.

26th (Saturday).

Last night we saw several shells bursting in Turks' position. There is nothing which rattles the morale of troops like unexpected and accurate shell fire.

27th.

This morning was awakened by a terrific bombardment of our position. It seemed as though they were trying to work off yesterday's debt, for they gave us shell after shell of common, knocking our trenches about terribly; you would hear the distant boom, then the swish, followed by the terrific crash. They only got three ninth (wounded) but the eighth fared badly, having some 25 casualties, including Major Gregory of Murchison and Capt. Crowle their Adjt. Their Colonel (Lt. Col. White) was also wounded, one Q.M. shot, his leg blown clean off in the fire trench. A curious coincidence was the fact that his dug-out, right in rear, was blown to atoms. It seemed it had to be. Poor Gregory had his chest and head blown away, and Capt. Crowle's head was shattered. Have had a wash and swim, the first for 4 days, a fellow feels terribly crumby when he has to go that long without one. Another chap from another troop was accidentally shot.

28th and 29th. Very quiet days.

30th.

This was a very quiet day, but the evening broke with a fierce fusillade for about half an hour. About 2.30 we were awakened by another such, sprang to arms and learnt that the Turks were attacking in force. We were in reserve and I started to lead my troop into firing line but was ordered out to reinforce the outpost at Turks point. The firing at this point was very heavy, and I lost one man before we got to the position. Then we extended along the ridge and in doing so lost two more, as also did the machine gun. It fairly rained hail there and they even succeeded in getting between our main trench and posts, but these were soon accounted for, although in the morning there were three who had established themselves in a bit of a dug-out and seemed as if they meant to see it out; however, two of them went down and the last surrendered. We remained on duty till morning, when we returned to camp. We lost only four men in the engagement, whilst the Turkish losses were 250 killed and not removed. We do not know how many were removed or wounded. I went round the trenches in the morning, and the sight that met one's gaze was
horrible. Dead Turks and some not quite dead were lying about just like rabbits after a night’s poison being laid. We rescued the wounded by throwing out ropes to which they fastened themselves and were then drawn in; the dead near the trenches were dragged in and buried. The Colonel seems as if he wants to have all the glory of the victory and even sends out men at night to collect Turk’s rifles; two men have been sacrificed this way already.

July 1st. (Thursday).
Just fancy how the year is passing, and what are we seeing.
Some of the captured prisoners say that if the first attack was unsuccessful (which it was), they were to repeat the attack tonight, so we are all on the qui vive.

2nd.
Evidently the Turks had enough, for they did not try another dose. They just fired a few rounds, yet down below at the point the incessant cannonade proceeds with great roaring.

3rd.
Today we are inlying picquet. We left the Rest Camp at 7.30 and are out for 24 hours.

4th. (Sunday)
Independence Day! I wonder what the "public opinion" is saying in regard to the attitude. Have to go out myself tonight at eleven with 56 men sapping. Was able to attend Church and Communion Service today.

5th.
A very quiet warm day.

6th.
Men are going out sapping again this afternoon but personally am resting and reading and writing.

7th.
One would hardly think we were at war at all. There is hardly a shot being fired. The Torpedo destroyers last night put in a few pills and evidently made a few targets for the machine guns started to play after each shell.

8th. Nothing to report.

9th. Men as usual are on sapping fatigues.

10th.
At the same thing. The Turkish artillery are giving the beach a picnic.

11th. (Sunday)
We are on inlying picquet since 7.30 this morning. Day very quiet.

12th.
Came off inlying picquet this morning and return to rest; camp for more fatigues.

13th.
Am going out with a party of 12 men on water and ration fatigue. I expect will be out all night. Mail in today, Harrah!

14th.
As we went out yesterday met the A.M.C. bringing along a couple
of wounded, one of our chaps, the other a Maori. They had been
bathing and were 'sniped' off. Got back from the ration party
shunt at 3 a.m. this morning and felt pretty tired today. Out
of the mail I got 8 letters and 2 papers, these are like oases
in the desert. I forgot to mention that at intervals of about
an hour all night long bursts of fire would break forth from the
front trenches; this necessitated a specially keen lookout.

15th.
Had a quiet day generally. Was on Squadron Representative to
Col. to discuss purchase of stores for troops out of Regtl. Funds.
Had a shave etc. and again attended meeting of above board. There
was an issue of pay today.

16th.
Great speculation as to whether we are to go into trenches again
or go on infantry picket. We go to the trenches at 11 a.m.
When we get there we are welcomed with a salvo of shells from
the enemy; no one hit. This shelter has had the top blown clean
off.

17th.
Whilst our men were cooking their breakfast this morning two
shells lobbed right on the parapet flattening out two men and
covering one right over; the breakfast suffered considerably,
but we had to have it or nothing. We were eating sand and gravel
with our curry stew. These are the very first trenches we occupied
when we arrived, but how different the position appears today.
We have advanced considerably on the left front, and Mr. Turk has
not been idle. Right in front is the ridge known as Pope's Hill
upon which the 1st L.H. Brigade were establishing themselves then,
whilst behind that is the great Quinns Port, much renowned among
Australians; it has been taken & lost, retaken and lost time
and again by the Infantry chaps. Our fellows hold it at present
but the trenches are only 10 yds. apart, so one can imagine the
good time each side has with bombs and hand grenades.

18th (Sunday)
Last night was about the most agonising I have spent here.
I had severe toothache and determined to have it drawn; this
morning I held to my determination, and am wondering whether
the cure is not as bad as the ache. It will be better when the
gums heal, I suppose. Towards evening the Turks began shelling,
but the shells went over our trenches to the reserves. We are
holding an "easy" line just now. They threw several bombs last
night also, one of which damaged a water barrel and wounded one
man. The explosion threw two others out of their beds. All
night long there was considerable restlessness, rockets and
searchlights being used continuously, and quite a lot of rifle
firing. We really expected an attack, but nothing of any
consequence occurred. Tonight I have had a real good feed.
"Resolles (can't spell it) well made by our man, sauce, jam,
bread, and a lovely "Dixie" of tea.

19th.
Last night was a repetition of the previous night; shells and
rockets illuminating. There are persistent rumours of a big attack any day now, but somehow I do not think the Light Horse will be right amongst it. A heavy bombardment continues at the point; there must be some real excitement down there, attack and counter attack being the order of the day. We had one man hit this morning. The bullet struck the magazine, glanced off, tearing part with it, and entered his shoulder. Other pieces hit him in forehead, eye, temple and cheek bone, but he bore it bravely, going away quite cheerfully on the stretcher.

July 20th.
Today we are glad because of a mail; I got 6 letters. A continued restlessness is apparent right along the lines. Things appear to be working up to a climax again. Our aeroplanes have been rather active too, scouting continually over enemy's position.

21st.
The night was uneventful except for a demonstration at 11 p.m. A few bombs were thrown and got Corp. Hennaford and five men. About midday our artillery started to fire and was vigorously replied to by Turks using French 75's. Quite a number of good dinners were spoilt and rests disturbed. Smith's section were completely enveloped in earth, likewise their dinner which they were preparing and had placed on foot rest.

22nd.
A very quiet day and night except that we made a bit of a fire demonstration.

23rd.
The approaching climax seems very imminent as word has been received of the approach of several thousand reinforcements for the enemy. Preparations are going ahead apace for their reception here, and everybody is excited at the prospect of a scrap. It should come within 3 days now.

24th.
Last night was a bit of an ordeal as off and on we stood to arms half the night, but nothing eventuated, the' at about 12 midnight the Turks opened with considerable fury, but it was only rifle fire, and was not sustained. Perhaps it will come tonight.

25th.
It did not come though, and still we wait and watch. How wearying is this inactivity. Frank Burrell came round to see us today. Hear during the day that the Turks are not yet within two days march. Also that we are likely to go back to our horses as soon as Kitchener's army arrives. Horses! Oh how we will appreciate them after this rabbit warren. Still I do not disparage infantry but they are specially trained for this and other sustained methods of warfare. L. Horse are not, and find it hard to adapt themselves to it.

26th.
Seems to have been considerable movement on their part during night, quite a number of barricades being put up and a continuous fire directed at our trenches. Bombs were used freely.
July 27th.
Last night their artillery started to shake us up a bit in response to some bomb throwing by us from the secret sap. I really think the bomb is the most to be feared except of course the gas, but as yet they have not started to use it here; if they do all preparations are made to safeguard the men and of course retaliation in like form will be resorted to.
"28th. (Wednesday)
Still the expected is to be expected.
"29th.
Last night everyone was agog with excitement, for at about 4.30 a.m. the rifle and machine gun fire was increased, but though our fellows called to them to come on they did not leave their trenches. We were relieved today by the 8th Regt. I believe Captain Day is not yet back from Hospital. We have taken up a nice bivouac with a lovely sea view.
"30th.
Rested all day but do not feel very fit at all. An aeroplane flew across our lines last evening and things got quite exciting when it became known that it was the enemy, especially when one of ours was up at the same time. We really expected to see an aerial fight but our chap kept well above and away, evidently he was in an unarmed observation plane. Not so the Turk or German - he flew with speed right across and dropped a bomb near the supply depot. No harm was done however.
"31st.
It is our day as duty Regt. and nearly all the men are on some fatigue, tho' personally I am resting, not feeling too good yet.

August 1st. (Sunday)
Our squadron was on inlying picquet but otherwise things were very quiet. Went to Church and Communion.
"2nd.
Considerable numbers of reinforcements are landing and everything is "hustle".
"3rd.
Still the excitement continues and the Turks are very "jumpy", firing thousands of rounds of ammunition.
"4th. (Wednesday)
Again the same thing. Troops landing each night. Went on inlying picquet.
"5th. (Thursday).
One of the worst jobs I have ever been on was that inlying picquet. It was work, work, and detail men for fatigue. I saw a number of Gurkhas and they are splendid looking fellows. We are nearing the day of great things now and ere another entry is made in this book we will have passed through a very trying ordeal. We are leaving almost everything behind; whether we see it again or not will be a matter of luck. And now we go forward in the full consciousness of a "duty" clear before us", and whether it be decreed that we come through or not we can only say "Thy Will be done". God grant comfort to those in anxiety and sorrow and give our leaders wisdom.
August 17th. (Tuesday).

It is twelve days since I saw this book; we had some severe fighting and it turns out that we have gained little in territory or position, yet sacrificed thousands of lives.

On that eventful Friday when the advance was ordered, I was placed in charge of the Regt. Sharp Shooters and took up position on the left at three oclock in the morning and waited the rush forward of our comrades. The eighth Regt. was the first out. We saw them climb out and move forward about ten yards and lie flat. The second line did likewise; meantime the Turkish fire increased in intensity, and as they rose to charge the Turkish Machine Guns just poured out lead and our fellows went down like corn before a scythe.

18th.

I did not have time to finish the tale yesterday, so will continue now. The distance to the enemy trench was less than 50 yds. yet not one of those two lines got anywhere near it. The tenth were called up and ordered out, and went in similar manner facing certain death unflinchingly. They were cut up something terribly. The ninth Regt. were then pushed in to further feed the guns and from our position of covering fire we could see the wholesale sacrifice being made, not a man demurring. When it was seen that the position was unassailable, the advance was stopped, and what for it? four hundred and ninety casualties in less than a quarter of an hour. Yes, it was heroic, it was marvellous, the way those men rose, yet it was murder. It was a grave set back to the prowess of the third Brigade. Very few got back. We in the ninth lost Colonel Miell, Capt. Codz. S.S. Maj. Harvey and men. The eighth lost almost all the officers and Colonel; the tenth suffered nearly as badly. Out of the three Regts. comprising the Bde. I don't think we could now raise nor officer one complete regiment. It was to have been a general advance and fresh divisions comprising thousands of fresh troops were landed on Friday night 6th August and subsequently, and the great move began away round on the left and continued incessantly for 4 whole days. When we could not advance we settled to hanging on. If there are any troops more worthy of mention than others they are the New Zealanders and the Gurkhas. These two bore the brunt of the whole attack and the further point attained and still held is the result of their splendid co-operation. The Territorial Regiment seem to lack that "stick to itiveness" which marks his brother "Tommy" (The Regular), and places that were taken and left behind as the N.Z. went on were occupied by these and when counter attacked in force they fell back, thus exposing the flanks, which perfecy had to fall back accordingly. Yet I must say I watched one regiment trying to build up a firing line, and having built it up, advance to a fresh position. On they went, line after line (4 of them). Backwards they were driven, again they came back, they were forced, still again they
rallied, and with bayonets glittering in the evening sun they stormed and won. Hurrah! How I thrill at the thought of it now. The other infantry were operating on our right, but though they did splendid work I did not have the opportunity of seeing them. The whole operation seems to have resulted in failure, partly from a want of full recognition of the Turks ability to fight, and because we had not enough men at hand to hold on when positions were won, which is the disheartening part. Still we are not defeated; we are beaten to fight better and God grant that men will realize the greatness of this project and whatever the sacrifice, make it, in order that our Grand Old Flag may still wave over a United Empire. We are still holding Russells Top, and the strain is telling terribly on all ranks. Whenever one looks in the direction of the Turkish trenches one sees the bodies of our own chaps in almost the same places as were the bodies of the Turks after the 30th June. Nothing can be done to get them buried or brought in except those which are very close to our own trench. The smell is dreadful. Nothing can compare with decomposed human flesh for horror. The intervening space is continually lit up by flares and bombs and several bodies have been burnt thus. It seems cruel, but from a health point it is better, whoever does the burning.

August 19th.
Still we are here with continual battle going on all around. Poor old Maude got one in the head today. Smith went to hospital with a temperature.

20th.
Not feeling too good today, diarrhoea being the complaint. Dr. put me off duty and am drawing extra ration of maize and eggs.

21st.
I am still off duty with the same complaint, tho' for want of N.C.Os. I'll have to help in moving the squadron. At 3 p.m. a great bombardment from our artillery and naval guns started, the objective being W Hill, which has been the bane of our lives since we landed. Several officers are watching with glasses and say that each successive line of our people as they leave their trenches sweep on magnificently. The roar of artillery is deafening. The crackle and rattle of musketry continuous. The smoke is blinding, but must go on. It has to be won this time of winter here, which will be worse.

22nd. (Sunday)
For here, rather a quiet day. I went to Communion Service this morning, and feel doubly comforted at hearing the words from the old Book and partaking of the Sacred Rite. I wrote a few letters today also.

23rd.

24th.
A bit of an advance by the left wing gains us some territory.

25th.
Rather a quiet day. Received my promotion to 2nd Lieut. today and
was congratulated by the General and Colonel. We "wet" the occasion in the Colonels dugout, and at 7.30 p.m. we were again invited to attend thereat to be introduced to the Regtl. Officer. The reception was most cordial and we sang and toasted until 8 o'clock. The Colonel said that he was pleased to be able to congratulate us on our promotion on the field. He felt that promotion gained thus was indeed a great honour and was equal to a D.S.O. It was a reward for work well and faithfully carried out. He said we had no one to thank but ourselves, no influence. Of course we three all felt flattered at what he said. Mine is the Senior appointment in the combatant ranks. We are told that we are being withdrawn after 3 months hard work, and fighting, and we are overjoyed accordingly.

August 26th. (Thursday)
A number of fresh arrivals are about today and no doubt after they become acquainted with the trenches and methods of trench warfare they will relieve us, and we will go and enjoy our well earned rest 12 mid-day. How our Castles in air fall! We are just informed that we must pack up and move out to a new position on the left at 4 p.m. Of course everyone is disappointed, but if duty calls, men must go.

27th.
Well we had a long trip away out north with full packs up. The distance is about 3 miles, and as we were in weak condition for marching we felt it very much and were dog tired when we halted for the night. We slept very soundly on the open ground and relished the change from trenches to grass.

28th.
We have been resting all day and appreciate this pretty little bivouac amongst the foot hills, lovely little gullies covered with wild thyme and gorse in the foreground, whilst away across the flat rise the high and precipitous heights of Walkers Ridge and Rhododendron and 971. Am expecting another good night's rest.

29th.
Once again our plans go aglee. at 6.30 p.m. the Colonel sent for me and gave me orders to report to Brigade Headquarters as Orderly Officer. I went round and reported to General Russel. Had not been there long when I got orders for our Regt. to supply 1 officer and 50 men for reinforcements on an important position which they had taken during the evening after a prolonged artillery bombardment. These were supplied and sent off. An hour later they called for 100 more and 2 officers and later for 25. These were duly sent along and I reported back to Bde. H.Q. I just got back when Colonel Reynell arrived behind me and asked the General to allow him to accompany his own Regt. This he was permitted to do, and after giving me some instructions for the 2nd in Command started off for the position; just as he left he turned to me and said "Goodnight Cameron". I do not know how it was but I felt a premonition that we would not meet again, and so it proved, for during the night by some instructions received later an attempt was made to take some more trenches. It was a gallant charge led by the Colonel and two Captains. On the command "The ninth Regiment
will charge" they leaped over the parapet and raced for those lines of Turkish trenches on Hill 60. The fire, as always, was very furious, and men fell like flies. Col. Reynell and Capt. Jaffray were killed and Capt. Callary is missing, probably killed also. The hill and slopes are covered with dead and trenches are filled with bodies, friend and foe. We have thus lost two Colonels and 3 Captains in less than a month. We have had reinforcements since we came here which would bring us if there were no casualties up to 800 man, and out of all these I am sure this morning we cannot muster 200. In my own troop I can only muster eight effectives out of forty-two.

August 30th. (Monday)
Last night the Hill was further attacked. the 9th, or what was left of them, on the left, and the tenth on the right. They cleared the intervening space like greyhounds, hoisted out the Turks, and thus we won the whole line and joined up the position with what was taken the previous night. The tenth lost three officers and 24 killed besides wounded. We lost only two or three. It is a horrible experience as one lobs into a trench full of dead and feels the flesh squelch under foot; the feeling is sickening. In the day time we have to make our way over hundreds in going from place to place in the line. We are digging fresh trenches beside the old and filling the dirt into them. During the afternoon the scrub beyond our lines was set on fire, so there are numbers of bodies that will never be identified.

Killed Saturday Morning, Sept. 4th, 1915,
about 9.15 a.m.
Buried same evening.

(sgd) Jno. C. Chanter.

Lieut.