

Mes chers amis A nous
tralian

Nous avons pris notre
cadots « Conserve » et nous
fumes en plus aise
cet cadots est passont

Nous demendons de vous
un souvenir
en au lieu ^{votre} Souvenir

Nous donnerons un
autre souvenir
maintenant acceptez

si nous plait mes com-
pléments en aulieu
notres cadôts «conservés»
Nous en voyons un mor-
ceau de tabac

1915-18-7 ^a Votre camarades

↓ soldas Turque
octobre

petez si nous plait
un bonn canife

*Note: Kamin over by
1 unit into over.
trench*

PR00130
AUSTRALIAN
WAR MEMORIAL

From

"ARGUS,"

Melbourne, Vic.

Date...

GALLIPOLI EPISODE

"Bully Beef" for the Turks



ANY tales are told of the fraternising of British troops with enemy soldiers on many fronts at different times during the Great War. Some are merely fantastic stories, but others are perfectly true, and there were many witnesses of strange, friendly exchanges in those riotous days of unreason.

One story relates to the weary days on Gallipoli in October, 1915, just 19 years ago, when the Australians were only a short distance from the Turkish trenches. Major L. G. Fussell, of the 17th Battalion, wished to show his men how a hand grenade should be thrown correctly, and, picking up a tin of "bully beef," he hurled it into the Turks' trench.

Not realising the warlike intention behind the arrival of the stray tin, the Turks accepted the food as a gift and a friendly gesture. A few minutes later they threw a parcel of tobacco with the following note written in bad French:—

*Mes chers amis Australiens
Nous avons pris votre
cadots. "Conservet" et nous
fumés en plus aise
cet cadots est passé
Nous demandons de vous
un saouvenir
en au lieu ^{votre} saouvenir
Nous donnerons un
autre saouvenir
maintenant acceptez*

"My dear Australian friends, we have taken your gift of preserved meat, and we are delighted. It is an excellent gift. We ask you for a souvenir, and in the place of your souvenir we shall give you another one. Please accept our compliments now, and in return for your gift of preserved meat we are sending a piece of tobacco.—Your fellow soldiers, Turks." A postscript asked for a good knife. The reply from the Australians was that the knife would be given in Constantinople. Heads appeared above the trenches on both sides, and remarks were interchanged until the "Carry on" was ordered. The illustration shows part of the Turkish soldiers' efforts to be politely friendly in French.