

**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/29/2

**Title:** 12th Infantry Battalion

April 1915



AWM4-23/29/2

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12th Inf. 3rd Bde. A.I.F.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
	PORT MUDROS.		
6.4.15.	10PM	Orders for embarkation & distribution of Bde. on Transports received.	
7.4.15.	" 8AM	Commenced embarking horses & Transport details.	
10.4.15.	"	60 Reinforcements arrived & taken on Strength.	
		(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for end of previous month & filed with volume for that month).	

C.11066.

12<sup>th</sup> Inf. 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. A.I.F. 2/4 - 2/5 21

Date.	Place and Time.	Page 5. Vol. 1.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
21-4-15	MUDROS	ORDERS for covering landing. GALLIPOLI PEN. received from 3 <sup>rd</sup> INF. Bde.	See app. 1 Jat. left.
23-4-15	"	2 <sup>pm</sup> Battalion order for landing operations, issued	see app 2.
24-4-15	"	4 <sup>pm</sup> Left Mudros Harbour on H.M.T. DEVAHHA. for rendezvous off. GALLIPOLI PEN. arrived at 10 <sup>pm</sup> .	Jat.
25-4-15	Gallipoli Pen	12 <sup>30</sup> AM <del>Land</del> Transferred to destroyers 4 AM Landed at ANZAC Cove. Detailed report -	see appendix 3. Jat. " 4
26-4-15	"	Organising on beach - Major E.H. Smith took command of Bn. 2 <sup>pm</sup> Reinforced Right Centre - Heavy fighting	Ref. Map IV of Gallipoli Pen. Jat.
27-4-15	"	- Remained in same position.	Jat.
28-4-15	"	7 AM Retired to beach to reorganise. 6 PM Bivouaced - Ridge - Sq 224 L5+6. with Bg de.	Jat.

C.11056.

12<sup>th</sup> B<sup>n</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Infly Bgde.

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Page 6 Vol 1

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
29.4.1915	Gallipoli Pen Bivouac 6pm	Remained in bivouac - first Roll call - 8 officers No equipment lost on 25 <sup>th</sup> 472 others present. Reorganised Coy. Weather fine casualties - see appendix 5
30.4.1915	— 8:30 AM	Left Bivouac - Relieved 4 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> in Trench line. remained in Trenches 48 hrs. -
2.5.1915	Right bank 7. Line. 10 AM	Relieved by 8 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> Ret'd to beach Sq 224-25. to 7th line
3.5.15	Beach 6 PM	Moved back as supports. Sq 224 R. S. Bivouaced weather warm
4.5.15	Sq 224 R. S. 9.30 AM	Relieved 11 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> in Trenches - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bgde occupy Right of Line 1000 yds to 12 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> from Right. Improving trenches.
6.5.15	Trenches 5 PM	12 Reinforcements arrived - strength now 14 officers 520 PR.
7.5.15	" 6 PM	10 officers 1590 PR. Reinforcements Improving trenches
8.5.15	" 9 PM	Barbed dead in front of trenches. Enemies artillery active
10.5.15	" 6 PM	Enemy entrenching 650 yds in front. No attack made
12.5.15	" 11 AM	2 M Lane. Lost weavers 53 PR. reinforcements arrived

C.11054.

OPERATION ORDER No. 1

by

Colonel E.G. Sinclair-MacLagan, D.S.O.  
Commanding Covering Force.

H.M.T., A 2 "MALDA"  
21st April, 1915.

Reference Map: GALLIPOLI PENINSULA 1/40,000.

Information. 1. Information of the disposition of the Turkish Forces in the GALLIPOLI PENINSULA has been issued separately to Commanders of Units concerned.

Intention. 2. The Force will cover the landing of the Army Corps by seizing the ridge extending from Sq. 212 I to Sq. 236 V.

Distribution. 3.(a) Ninth Battalion plus Engineer Demolition Party will attack as follows:-

i. Two Coys. and Engineer Party (i.e. battleship tow).

First Objective.

Shelf and trenches Sq. 212 A 6 - Sq. 224 W 7.

Second Objective.

Assault and destroy guns Sq. <sup>212</sup> 222 L & M.

ii. Two Coys. (i.e. destroyer tows).

Objective.

The line extending from the Knoll Sq. 212 C 5 to Sq. 212 D 1.

(b) Tenth Battalion plus Engineer Demolition Party:-

First Objective.

Trenches and gun at Sq. 224 W 1 and Sq. 224 R 4.

Second Objective.

Knoll at Sq. 224 T 6 - redoubt Sq. 224 O 8 both inclusive.

(c) Eleventh Battalion plus Engineer Demolition Party:-

First Objective.

South Western edge of Spur 400 in Squares 224 M & N.

Wardinary  
Appendices

Job

Second Objective.

Feature extending from Sq. 224 F 9 - to Sq. 225 A 1 -<sup>5</sup>  
thence to Sq. 237 Z 8.

(d) 12th Battalion (less 1 platoon) will establish company forming up places clear of the beach and thence assemble at the Battalion rendezvous in Brigade Local Reserve at Sq. 224 Q 6.

(e) Machine Guns are at the disposal of Battalion Commanders.

(f) No. 7 Indian Mountain Arty. Bde. will take up a covered position on Spur 400 Sq. 224 M, and support the attacks of the 10th and 11th Battalions on their second objectives.

Escort - 1 platoon, 12th Battalion.

(g) No. 1 Field Coy., Engineers, (less three Demolition Parties) will rendezvous at Sq. 224 Q 6

Bearer  
Division.

4. C.C., Bearer Division, ex Devanha, will distribute bearers to follow up 9th, 10th, and 11th Battalions, and will also form a collecting station in a central position clear of the beach.

Communica-  
tion.

5. Indicating Flags for Artillery, coloured red and yellow, will be carried by advanced lines. These flags will be waved slowly to and fro as a signal for ships to cease fire in that locality. At other times, the flags will be carried or planted conspicuously to indicate positions of troops.

The ordinary red and yellow semaphore flags are not to be used.

Special  
Instruction.

6. Special instructions are attached to this order under heading Appendix A.

These are to be read and enforced in addition to instructions contained in Divisional Operation orders and Tables Disembarkation Orders and Tables attached thereto.

Reports.

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7. Reports to Sq. 224 Q 6 until the whole covering Force is landed. Afterwards to Sq. 224 S 1.



A.M. Ross, Captain.  
Staff Captain.  
for Brigade Major, 3rd Infantry Brigade.

Copies. All issued by hand 21/4/15

To whom.

- |     |     |   |
|-----|-----|---|
| No. | 1.  | O.O., for Brigadier, Commanding Covering Force. |
|     | 2.  | Aust. Div.                                      |
|     | 3.  | 3rd Inf. Bde. Hdqrs.                            |
|     | 4.  |   |
|     | 5.  | O.C., 9th Bn.                                   |
|     | 6.  | " 10th Bn.                                      |
|     | 7.  | " 11th Bn.                                      |
|     | 8.  | " 12th Bn.                                      |
|     | 9.  | " 7th Indian Mtn. Arty. Bde.                    |
|     | 10. | " 1st F. Coy.                                   |
|     | 11. | " 3rd F. Amb.                                   |
|     | 12. | " Bearer Division, 3rd F. Amb.                  |
|     | 13. | H.M.S. Queen.                                   |
|     | 14. | " Prince of Wales.                              |
|     | 15. | " London.                                       |
|     | 16. | O.C., 2nd Inf. Bde.                             |
|     | 17. | War Diary.                                      |

Appendices 2  
War Diary

W.D.

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Operation Order No. 1.  
by

Copy No. 2  
Appendix No. 2

Colonel L.F. Clarke D.S.O., V.D. Commanding,  
12th. Battalion, 3rd. Inf. Bde.

H.M.T., A 3 Devanha.  
April 23rd. 1915.

Ref. Map. GALLIPOLI PENINSULA 1/40,000

- Information. L. Information of the disposition of Turkish Forces in GALLIPOLI PENINSULA and of our own troops has been issued separately to Coy. Cdrs.
- Intention 2. The 12th. Battalion (less 1 platoon) will establish company forming up places clear of the beach, and thence assemble at the Battalion rendezvous in Brigade Reserve at Sq. 224 Q 6.
- Artillery Escort 3. The troops detailed in the margin will form an escort to No. 7 Indian Mountain Artillery Bde. Instructions for O.C. Artillery escort have been issued personally by the Commanding Officer.  
*O.C. Lieut. Rofferty. 4. Coy.  
1 Platoon A. Coy.*
- Communication. 4. Indicating flags for Artillery, coloured red and yellow will be carried by advanced lines of the Bde. These flags will be waved slowly to and fro as a signal for ships to cease fire in that locality. At other times the flags will be carried or planted conspicuously to indicate position of our troops. The ordinary red and yellow flags (semaphore) are not to be used for signalling.
- Special instructions. 5. Special instructions from Brigade and Divisional Orders have been issued separately and are to be read and enforced.
- Reports. 6. Reports to Sq. 224 Q 6 until the "A" Eschelon of the Battalion is complete in rendezvous.

2pm.

*J. Northcott* Captain.  
Adjutant, 12th Bn.

Copies all issued by hand 23/4/15

NO. 1,	Filed.
2,	War Diary.
3,	O.C. "A" Coy.
4.	" B "
5.	" C "
6.	" D "



War diary  
Appendix III

War Diary night 24<sup>a</sup>/25<sup>a</sup> April 1915

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Transport

Distribution of 12 "B" on Destroyers.

Destroyer

"Devahna"	Hd 2 <sup>nd</sup> Co. M. G. section A. Coy. }	"RIBBLE"
"IONIAN"	B. Coy. 5+8 Platoons 6+7 "	"SCOURGE" <del>"FISHMERE"</del> "FOXHOUND"
"MALDA"	C. Coy. 9+10 " 11+12 "	"COLNE" "BEAGLE"
"SUFFOLK"	D. Coy. 13+14 " 15+16 "	"CHELMER" "USK"

Appendix No. 3  
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Account of Action 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915. Anzac Cove -

Gallipoli Peninsula

Reference  
Map.  
No. 1.  
Gallipoli Pen.

Owing to the 12<sup>th</sup> Bde being distributed amongst the three other Battalions of the Brigade, no organisation on landing was possible. The following account has been compiled from information received from the various Coys:-

The Battalion as shown in Appendix 3 landed about 4.10 AM. on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915 at ANZAC COVE - Gallipoli Peninsula. While loading from destroyers to boats we were heavily shelled from KABATEPE and on landing met heavy machine gun <sup>+ Rifle</sup> fire, from the direction of FISHERMAN'S HUT. - Large number of casualties on <sup>+ before</sup> landing. The order of landing from left to right was H<sup>q</sup> 2 Bde + A Coy.

D. B. C.

A Coy. <sup>with 2 Platoons D Coy.</sup> pushed forward to 1<sup>st</sup> Ridge Sq 224 H 1. - Enemy encountered - Bayonet charge made - enemy retired from their trenches, to ridge 1000 yds away - ~~We~~ pursued and opened fire 350 yds from Ridge. Here Col. L. F. Clarke C/o. was killed while writing message. Major CH Elliott also wounded. Capt Labor D Coy. took command - pushed forward over Ridge - Enemy discovered in strong force attempting to get round our flank. We retired but meeting reinforcements from 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde advanced again. Eventually forced to fall back on to defensive line which was being built up. Capt Labor + Lieut Fatterson were killed during the advance with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

Remaining 2 Platoons of D. Coy. sent to right flank by Capt Ross. to assist in repelling counter attack. Reinforced by 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion and moved further to the Right and joined 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The extreme Right at 2 PM. was enfiladed by enemies artillery but no ground was lost. Remnant retired to beach during night.

B Coy Two platoons under Major Smith went forward to centre of position. Nos 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> were sent out to left. Reached Sq R. 5 at about 9 AM. and reinforced 10<sup>th</sup> Bde who were occupying enemies trench. Opened fire on enemy advancing up gully and held position till 5 PM. relieved by 4<sup>th</sup> Bde & retired to beach. Losses heavy owing to being enfiladed by enemies artillery from the left.

C Coy Under Capt Whitham were sent out to extreme Right Flank to reinforce 9<sup>th</sup> Bde pushed forward and met enemy about Sq 224. P. 5 retired to ridge Sq 224. R. 4. during this action Lieut Adams killed. Capt Whitham wounded. remained in position all night; retired to beach 9 AM on 26<sup>th</sup>.

E. H. M. Smith  
M Col  
of 12<sup>th</sup> Bde

2<sup>nd</sup>

Officers - 25/4/15  
Killed - Col. L. F. Clarke, Capt J. P. Lalor, Lieut G. A. Munro,  
Lieut F. J. Patterson

Died of Wounds 28/4/15 - Lieut J. L. Booth

Wounded - 25/4/15 Col. S. Hawley, Capt J. Northcote  
Lieut W. H. Room, Major W. J. Stewart  
Major C. H. Elliott, Lieut W. L. Jorgensen, Lieut A. Green  
Lieut H. A. McPherson, Lieut J. A. Porter, Lieut H. A. Massey  
Capt J. L. Whitman, Lieut J. Holland, Lieut A. H. Hayes  
Lieut W. D. Feathers, Lieut E. Y. Butler, Lieut J. E. Evans.

19/6/15. Lieut H. C. Orbell.

Other Ranks. Killed 25, Wounded 286  
Missing 90.

	Officers	Other Ranks.
Total strength of 12 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> <sup>24</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	31	990
HMS "Derbhna" <sup>15</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	3	117
Left on Board	28	873
Brought on Shore		
Roll Call - Officers	8	472
absent	21	401
	<u>29</u>	<u>873</u>
Less Lt Taylor of 4 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> who joined 12 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> with reinforcements	1	873
	<u>28</u>	

Walter Smith  
of 12<sup>th</sup> B<sup>n</sup>