## THE AUGUST BATTLE FOR CHUNUK BAIR AS SEEN BY A SUBALTERN.

My first experience of war was at Helles Carly in May, a bloody affair but not to be compared with the battle for Chunuk Bair - a night attack over impossible terrain and made by troops weakened by weeks of poor rations, lack of water and riddled with dysentry and fever.

After darkness on the 6th. August the Otago Battalion moved up to Chatlak Dere. Immediately my company commander was killed and I assumed command of the 8th. company. I was then ordered to attack Table Top from the rear, a most hazardous operation in the dark as it entailed a final assault up an almost vertical cliff. When we reached the top the Turks actually helped us up and some of my men were even kissed by them. We did not know at the time that we had cut off their retreat, as they had been driven back by the New Zealand Mounted Infantry, We took about 50 prisoners. Then Major Statham, our second in command, a most gallant and able soldier, ordered me to push on up Rhododendron Spur. It was now getting light, and collecting what men I could, we charged up the Spur and fought our way to the slopes of Chunuk Bair. The enemy was absolutely demoralised and fleeing in all directions. We did not have a shot fired at us. Unfortunately only about 15 men were with me. Major Statham again appeared and ordered me to dig in while he went back to bring up the Battalion. I never saw him again as he was killed. Later we learned that the Battalion was unable to join us as by this time the Turks had rallied and covered the Rhododendron Ridge with intense machine gun fire. This was a fatal blow as with reinforcements. and before they had become reorganised, we might have gone right through to the Straits.

About mid day we were joined by an officer and a section of the 10th.Gurkhas, who got the credit for capturing the forward position - an honour which should have gone to the Otago Battalion?

We had a wonderful view of the battle below and could see the 4th. Australian Brigade struggling up the Asmak Dere and we actually saw the Turks withdrawing from Suvla Bay. Later on they returned when they found that the raw British

THE AUGUST DAYTH FOR CHURCH BAIR
AS SERVE WY A STRAIGHRESS.

by first experience of our was at helics Carly in May, a bloody affair not not to be compared with the belief for Channic heir - a night attack over ingualitie terrain and made by troops weakened by wades of poor rations, lack of water and riddled with dysominy and lever.

After derinate on the oth August the Chaptellon covered up to Chaptellon throw the Chaptellon of the North Company, I was then ordered to attack Table Toy from the rear, a most narardous operation in the dark as it entailed a linel assemit up an albost vertical aliff. When we reached the top the Turks actually helped us up and nows of my daily aliff, when we reached the top the Turks actually helped us up and nows of my new were even kineed by them, we did not know at the the that we had out of the interior of an actually helped us up and now of the feet retreat, as they had been driven bear by the ise leading nounced out of the feet and adding nounced as acet grallant and light, and solidar, ordered as to post on up phetoderion again it was now detting light, and solidaring what and I could, we charged up the deverant leads of leading in all directions. We did not have a most intelled and electricity only about 15 men were with me. Major Chathen again appeared and anteriored as to dig in while he went back to wring up the Distallan mas mable to be a special as a mather than again as he was time that the interior one mable to addence of the star we alled and covered the independent of the form they had before they had become recognized on a sight that the independent and before they had become recognized, we alged have gone right through to the starles.

About ald day we were joined by an efficer and a section of the 105h. Combines, who got the cradit for capturing the forward position - an bonodr which chart have gone to the Otago Mattalian ?

We had a wonderful view of the buttle below and could see the 4th. Ametralian brightness of the American seturned when they found that the rest brittless from buyla key, later on they returned when they found that the rest brittless

troops made no attempt to push on from the Beaches. Later on we were ordered to rejoin the Battalion.

On the 8th. August we took part in the struggle to hold our position on Chunuk Bair. My Battalion advanced from the Apex after dark on the 8th.. We found conditions just below the crest impossible. All we could do was to dig in. We could hear the Turks collecting on the other side and realized they would be attacking at dawn. It was unfortunate that our trench line was sited below the crest, and in my opinion a great mistake. The Navy started shelling and several H.E.'s dropped short, which was very demoralising.

However, we were relieved about 2 a.m. on the 10th. by the 9th. North Lancs.. Very few of us had survived, and as a subaltern I found myself in command of the Battalion.

After reporting to Brigade H.Q. I collapsed, physically and mentally exhausted. When I came to, many hours later, I found I was lying in an old Turkish latrine with dead bodies lying around me. The Turks had attacked at dawn, captured the position we had just left and swamped the Apex before being pushed back. The fighting had taken place over my body but I was "Down & out" - perhaps this was fortunate for me.

Two days later I was evacuated with acute dysentry and a small wound in my leg, about 30 lbs. lighter than when I landed.

Looking back, I think "Security" was carried too far. Although I was 2nd. in command my company all I knew about the August attack was that we had to make a night attack up the Chailak Dere. The advance was to be made in total silence, with bayonets fixed but no bullet in the breech. When my company commander was killed I knew nothing and wasted time finding Battalion H.Q. in the dark and getting orders.

No details of the attack were given to anyone below the rank of company commander.

The Otago Battalion was fortunate in not going astray. Our sister battalion, Canterbury Regiment was absolutely lost and at daybreak found themselves back on the Beach.

LT.COL. GIBSON BISHOP.

troops made no attempt to push on from the Boschou. Later on we were eldered to feliciantities.

On the Oth, August we took park in the straight to held our position on Churck Cair.

By hattalion advanced from the Apex after dark on the Oth. We found conditions just below the orest impossible, all we could do was to dig in. We could hear the ferms collecting on the other side and realized they would be attacking at dawn. It was unfortunate that our trench line was sited below the creat, and in my opinion a great sistem, the many started about in decreas, and in my opinion a great sistem. The many started about the covers H.E. to dropped siort, which was very demoralising.

Course, we were relieved about 2 a.m. on the 10th, by the 9th, North Lanca., Very few of us had survived, and as a subsitern I found appeal in command of the initalics.

After reporting to inigade H.Q. I collapsed, physically and sentally exhausted. When I camp to, many hours later, I found I was lying in an old Torkish latrius with dead bodies lying around no. The Turks had attacked at days, captured the position we had just left and sweeped the Apex before being pushed back. The fighting had taken place over my body but I was "Down & out" - perhaps this was fortunate for me.

Two days later I was evacuated with soute dysentry and a small wound in my leg, about 50 lbs. Highter than when I landed.

Looking back, I think "Security" was carried too far. Although I was End, in secured
by company all I knew about the August attack was that we had to make a night
attack up the Challak Dore. The advance was to be made in total alience, with beyone's
fixed but no bullet in the breech. When my company commander was killed I knew nothing and
wanted time finding Entialion H.Q. in the dark and getting orders.

to details of the attack were given to anyone below the rank of company commander.

The Otago Dattallon was fortunate in not going satury. Our sister battallon, Canterbury, Regiment was absolutely lost and at daybreak found themselves back on the

IP. COL. GIROR BISHOP.