

NOTES AND MEMORIES ON THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN  
25th APRIL, 1915 to 20th DECEMBER, 1915.

PREPARED BY: COLONEL, W. MURPHY, C.B.E., M.C., J.P.  
 (then Private to Sergeant)

On the occasion of the Research visit of Mr. P. H. Liddle, Senior Lecturer in History at Sunderland Polytechnic, County Durham, England who visited Auckland in June, 1974. His object being to publish a book of collected material to tell the story from beginning to end through the eyes of the Ranker & younger Officer.

PREFACE:

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While there Lord Kitcheners message delivered through Sir Ian Hamilton was :- "Remember when you set foot on Gallipoli Peninsula you will fight the thing through to the finish the whole World will be watching your progress. Let us prove ourselves worthy of the great feat of arms entrusted to us".

24th APRIL:

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As each Company of the Otagos waded ashore they dumped their packs (never to be seen again) and the Battalion was ordered to prolong the line on the left but was subsequently withdrawn and directed to Plugges Plateau. The precipitous and broken nature of the country contributed to confusion. The fire of Turks guns and snipers high above to the front and the direction of the Spinx caused considerable casualties to the Otagos. One of the earliest being Alf Lowry, the smallest and youngest man to enlist.

As the conflict waged into the night the wounded dragged themselves to the beach or were carried by tireless stretcher bearers. The arrangements for clearing casualties were quite inadequate.

ON 27th APRIL: Otagos were ordered to move up the nullah North of the Plateau with 4th Coy. forming the screen moving up Monash Gully to a position in defence of Plugges Plateau. 4th Coy. finally established in shallow trenches suffered on onslaught attack in the dark from the Turks calling Allah-Allah and much blowing of bugles to muster their courage. They were repelled and disappeared back into the scrub with painful cries.

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From the middle of May until early August Otagos held the line at Quinns and Courtneys Posts where the enemy posts were very close and most of the observation was by periscope. It was generally four days front line and four days reserve in Shrapnel Gully. The food bully beef, hard biscuits and watery marmalade was poor and monotonous fare. The flies and lice unbearable. Water mostly brought from Egypt, a bottle a day for all purposes.

We became experts at making jam tin bombs with short fuses as if they were too long the wily Turk would pick them up and hurl them back at us.

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CHUNUK/ BAIR : August 8th at 4.15 am the attack on Chunuk Bair was renewed with Otagos in reserve at the Apex. The Wellington Battalion gained the South Western slopes and crest of the main knoll of Chunuk Bair. On the evening of 8th August Otago Bn. relieved Wellington Bn. For two long nights and a day withstood withering fire and onslaughts from the Turks but held on tenaciously. On the second night Lt. J.E. Cuthill took forward a small patrol and confirmed that the Turks were massing for attack. On the early morning of 10th August Otagos were relieved by 6th Loyal North Lancashire Regt. and 5th Wiltshire Regt. Young and barely trained Territorial Force units. Otago remnants drew out to reserve just in rear of the Apex. Thoroughly exhausted after four days without rest or sleep and no replacement of rations or water. The going had really been tough. The fifth reinforcements joined us here.

At dawn there was a shout for all New Zealanders to man the Apex. The English troops had been driven back off Chunuk Bair. Capt. J.A. Wallingford of the machine gunners was the hero in a quick organisation of the Apex defence with his machine gunners and all troops he could speedily muster they stemmed the attack and stopped the enemy penetration. His personal action and heroism saved the day and those of us who were at the Apex witnessed the heavy slaughter of the Turks as they retreated back to Chunuk Bair.

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ON SEPTEMBER 16th the welcome news came that New Zealand Troops were to proceed to Lemnos for rest. Almost the whole Force was stricken with dysentery and sickness. It was pitiful to see the wasted bodies sitting night and day on crude latrines in line. Our wonderful Medical Officers did all they could but apparently the order was that men were not to be sent away.

ON NOVEMBER 9th this period of rest came to an end and Otagos returned to the Apex with Lt. Col. Herbert in command. The strength was built up at Lemnos by the arrival of 6th reinforcements.

THE BLIZZARD: During the closing days of November a blizzard of exceptional severity swept over the Peninsula. Days and nights of intense cold followed and terrible conditions existed. There were more than 200 deaths from exposure. Some of the Weak were drowned while over 10,000 were evacuated sick. The Ghurkers and English troops fared the worst. I recall many of us New Zealanders pulling them out of the flood waters that came down Chailak Dere.

THE CLOSING DAYS AND THE END. On December the 8th the Commander of the Dardenelles Forces was ordered to proceed with the evacuation of Suvla and Anzac.

At 2.25 am on December 20th the last file left the beach.

From the ship we were on we witnessed the piles of stores burst into flames and ANZAC was of the past.

From beginning to end there were so many deeds of collective and individual bravery and heroism but relatively few awards as the Officers who could have written the citations had become casualties.

When one looks back one marvels at his fortune to escape death and severe injuries that so many suffered. My service at Anzac could possibly be rated amongst the longest of any of the front line troops. From a sturdy, 21 years of age, ten stone seven I came off in December a mere seven stone.

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THE GALLIPOLI STAR.

APPROVAL OF DESIGN.

Australian and N.Z. Cable Association.  
Reed. 10 pm London August 20th.

The King has approved of a design for the Gallipoli Star.

Murphy / 3a

COPY

CITATION FOR AWARD OF MILITARY CROSS

LIEUTENANT, WILLIAM, MURPHY. (2nd Battalion Otago Regiment)

For great gallantry and leadership. During the Operations on the 23rd October, 1918 near Salesche, France, when his Company came under very heavy machine gun fire, he rushed his support platoon into the front line of attacking troops. Later when machine gun fire again checked the advance he swung his troops to the right and attacked the strong position in infilade. By this movement he secured a large number of machine-guns and prisoners, killing many of the enemy and drove the remainder from their positions.

( Extract from New Zealand Army Order 200 of 1920)

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Crest  
(Government House Dominion of New Zealand)

APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL, WILLIAM, MURPHY, M.C. SECOND NEW ZEALAND  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO BE A COMMANDER OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER  
OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE - 1944.

COPY OF OFFICIAL CITATION.

For long and valuable service on the Staff of the 3rd New Zealand Division in Fiji, New Caledonia and Guadalcanal. This Officer was responsible for supply and administration services, which, due to the special circumstances under which the Division operated, were of a complicated nature. Despite this, he achieved admirable results, and the Division benefited enormously from his skill, foresight and untiring energy which he always displayed.

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COLONEL, W. MURPHY, C.B.E., M.C., J.P.

Bill Murphy was born in Dunedin 26th Jan., 1894 and was educated at public schools. At twenty years of age he enlisted on 12th. August, 1914 with the Otago Regiment and sailed with the Main Body, 1st N.Z.E.F. as a private, pay then being 4/- per day and later raised to 5/-. Such were the times. He in 1915 took part in the defence of the Suez Canal and landed on Gallipoli on 25th April. By December that year by the evacuation he had attained the rank of sergeant. By 1917, as a Warrant Officer, after campaigns in France he was selected to attend a course for a commission at New College, Oxford, later serving in campaigns in France and then on to the Army of Occupation in Germany with the rank of Captain and Adjutant of the Unit he went away with.

He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and leadership for operations at Salesche, France on 23rd Oct., 1919. 1918. On returning to New Zealand in Oct., 1919 he was selected for the N.Z. Regular Army, Staff Corps, and held various appointments at Invercargill, Christchurch and Nelson being transferred to Auckland in 1935.

In 1929 he married Flora Clark of Nelson. They have one daughter, Mrs. John Helliier of Remuera and eight sturdy grandchildren.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, 1939 he was A.A. & Q.M.G. Northern Military District, later Staff Officer Training Papakura Camp. 1941 saw him transferred to Army H.Q. Wellington as Director of Training and Staff Duties.

When Japan entered the War in 1941 he was appointed to command the 35th Battalion which was assigned the task of the immediate defence of Nandi Aerodrome. Within a week he was appointed G.1 (Chief of Staff) 3rd N.Z. Division which had for its Commanders, firstly, Major-Gen. W. Cunningham and later Major-Gen. Owen Mead. On the arrival of the U.S. Forces 3rd Division returned to New Zealand was reformed under Maj-Gen. H. E. Barrowclough. At the end of 1942 the Division returned to the Pacific and Solomons Islands campaigns with Bill Murphy as A.A. & Q.M.G. In 1943 the need arose for a closer liaison with the United States Forces and with the rank of Colonel Bill was assigned to this.

In 1944 he was awarded the (C.B.E.) Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for long and distinguished services with the 3rd N.Z. Division.

Towards the end of the Second World War on return from Overseas he was Appointed Commandant Papakura Camp and in 1946 was appointed Area Commander Auckland. He retired in March, 1948.

In 1958 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

While in Christchurch in the 1930 s, with others, he was active in raising funds for projects of St. Bedes College and the Lewisham Hospital. He was on The Committee for the First Catholic Charity Ball held in Christchurch in 1932 and was Master of Ceremonies for that function each year until coming to Auckland.

During that terrible depression 1929-35 Bill was assigned to represent the Army on the Christchurch Relief of Distress Committee chaired by the Late Hon. Dan, Sullivan, Mayor of ChCH. also prominent was the late Bishop Brodie. At the end of the depression the Hon. Dan paid a tribute in the House of Representatives to the then, Captain Murphy for his outstanding work with the Committee.

Retirement in 1948 and by persuasion of the late Tom, Ashby then Town Clerk Bill was drawn in as Hon Secretary Auckland Provincial War Memorial Committee which raised over the years \$ 800,000. 1951 saw him involved as Hon. Dominion Treasurer and Auckland District organiser for that wonderful appeal for our N.Z. Blind which raised just in excess of \$700,000. 1950-52 at the request of the then Mayor of Auckland he again voluntarily assisted in raising funds for U.N.I.C.E.F. result around \$180,000. 1950 he and George Hartshorne raised a fund of \$ 6,000 for the Auckland Festival Socy. The Mater Hospital Charitable Services benefited in 1961 to the tune of some \$160,000 from his fund raising talents. Each year since he keeps in touch with Trusts with success on behalf of the Mater.

Bill Murphy was born in Dunedin 26th Jan., 1894 and was educated at public schools. At twenty years of age he enlisted in 1914. He served for approximately ten years on the Dominion Council Hard of Hearing League and was instrumental in finding their present Headquarters in St. Vincent, Av., Remuera and raising the initial fund to enable purchase.

He was twelve years on the Executive of Auckland Citizens and Ratepayers Assn. and elected a Life Member in 1959. In 1966-67 conceived and planned the setting up of the Oakley Hospital Mental Health Foundation and raised the initial fund of some \$ 40,000.

While these outline principal activities services have been freely and gratuitously given to many other Committees and Welfare Organisations.

For many years his finest hour and honour has been the leading of the Gallipoli Veterans, who have pride of place, at the head of the Anzac Day Parade.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he stands firmly behind the view that every ex-serviceman and woman should turn out on Anzac Day with their former units and unite with their comrades in paying homage to their comrades who died in the defense of freedom and those who have since died as result of wounds, being Prisoners of War, and sickness.

He reflects that within thirty years spanning Two World Wars a terrible toll of 27,942 ~~died~~ *were killed* and 57,012 were wounded.

Rewards of a full and active life are assessed in the hopes that many should have benefited by his participation in charitable and community causes.

A tapering off finds him enjoying home and garden and most afternoons amongst friends on the Remuera Bowling Green.

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