

Reg. No. 8/467.

A Short account of Fred Rogers' Service
F. Rogers / 1
of the 8th Southland Co, 1st Otago Inf. Regt. N.Z.K.F.
(Most Southernly Co, in the World)
Gallipoli Campaign

First I am the 3rd Son of 6 Brothers & 2 Sisters born to Alfred & Georgina Rogers. Father was born in Herefordshire England, married Mother in Australia; later came to N.Z. when I was 5 years old. Fred was born in Fitzroy Melbourne Australia on the 18-11-1892. I attended many schools as father being an Inspector of Public Works was often shifted from place to place as new Railways were being put down through the Country. Only passed the 5th Standard & then had to go to work. Worked on several farms as teamster, ploughman etc.

On World War (I) being declared on the 4-8-1914 I enlisted a week later (11-8-14) and was one of the 227 men who left Invercargill on the 17-8-14 for Taharua Dunedin just on 60 years ago. Prior I was a County Banker & the turnips who had, had a little Territorial training. My reason for enlisting was to fight for my King, Country & loved ones; Always being conscientious & willing to obey, which is the first duty of a soldier. Having trained and embarked with the rest of the troops we left Wellington in October 1914, Arrived Alexandria on the evening of the 12-14. (I dare say you have details of the trip) so I'll skip further details, though there are many, you will also have accounts of our training in Egypt & Cairo. You ask re the Battle of the (Kassaba) yes I know a bit re some; but was in the Y.M.C.A. writing letters on that night (Easter Saturday) I was called out to take a Picket up to Cairo to patrol the area. Only one man in our Bn. was up before the Col. C. that was in the thick of it. (One Donald Stewart) A raw Scotch lad of 19 years. Not long out from Scotland. He helped to pick the Piano out of the window two stories up onto the street. I could tell a good story of Donald of that occasion. He later died of wounds. Now I am rambling on and it's the accounts of the Peninulas you want. Well we left Yictoria 11-4-15 at 1. P.M., Arrived Alexandria 7 am 12/4. Embarked on the Annaberg 8 P.M. We were terrible crowded & hot. The boat had Iron Decks & had been transporting Indian Troops & if a ship was ever lousy she was. We left Alexandria 7 P.M. Wednesday arriving Demerara 10 am on 16/4. The Harbour, mudros, was full of every kind of ship one could mention. (just scores of them). There was snow on the peaks of the hills & we were order to wear our Greatcoats. To protect us from getting Rheumatism. While on boardship in Mudros Harbour waiting for the 25 April we were paid in John Bradbury one pound & 10/- notes which has the over

In such a hurry, we were in and over them so as
 for exchange. These lads were called in, though
 I still had one in my possession. He would
 after a skimmish of the night to be in
 Penetration in a fortnight.
 Our ship left Mexico at 7 am, and the Sunday morning
 the 2nd of April arriving at the coast of Guatemala
 at 2 PM. There we transferred to the steamer which
 we left Guatemala beach, just out of range of the
 then embarked into like boats about 3 or 4 o'clock
 with a pack train charges, as we left the steamer
 The deckhands went ashore to give a back which to
 help us on our way. One man was retained on the
 arm before we made shore. When the boat ^{at} shore we had
 to jump out into the water, great high. There was a line
 kind of ladder from the boat to the shore - about a
 dozen of them who helped us one by one & safe.
 Around this high, high as the rocks, then they
 he had our little pack on, also a small bundle of
 need stayed on top. Some had to pass some time
 of fresh water, also had no bundles. There were
 about a dozen. On reaching the shore we quickly
 kind up & dispersed our packs. The night that
 met us was like a slaughter house full of dead
 considered going every where. The 3rd of April of
 America had landed about 4 am & of our day
 & courage was done. The steamer had passed the
 way. The fishes or magnifier can neutralize it.
 brookings were, your words up, then mate, so your day.
 some were working with the wounded, everyone
 away! But we had to hurry, we were about one
 to the left, there 4000 men got scattered over
 flat country on landing. The men then entered
 back to the plateau, when the tanks returned
 give got 10 of our men of our company all within
 a short time of landing. Making 2000 miles for
 with other camp, the beach. We had little
 knowledge of the country, now having been
 shown a map. With the tanks on the heights they
 had a commanding line of fire. That night I
 turned my first man from our station. The
 Steer Black. He wore about 200 lbs of baggage
 of 5 to 6 days. In the night we got out first
 house of 2 am. Moved from our position on the
 2nd day at 4:30 PM. It was found & heavy, down to the
 beach & up a big gully. Know afterwards as distance
 busy. Then things got worse, hanging onto a rope
 that to climb up a cliff face. Hanging onto a rope
 with our rifles with great sagging, once up the

hill we spread out a bit, Colonel Moore was there
 with a wounded arm giving orders, Our platoon
 advanced up a slope, with machine & rifle fire
 playing havoc with us. We were glad to take
 cover behind dead Turks that had been killed
 a week before. I with two of my men were further
 advanced than anyone. It was dark, having
 started our attack about 7 P.M. Something went
 wrong as the Canterbury Bn never came up on our
 left. Later Major Moir came up with some of the Otago
 & dug in about 12 yds behind us. The R. M. L. Inf.
 were supposed to come up & dig in for us.
 Well things were hot, daylight broke & with the
 Canterbury not coming up the Turks had
 advanced beyond the front of our line ^{on our left} giving
 them enfilade fire on us. I & Wildermoth one of the
 two men forward with me got shot through the
 back. (Enfilade fire) I go back for orders to the
 trench; but it's that crowded I had to lay down
 behind it. Det. Fraser my other man followed soon
 after. Through the day machine & Rifle fire & our despatch
 firing over our heads; They thought we were Turks.
 We thumbed off on the morning morning & there
 were 72 of us out of the Bn. We were cut off for
 two days, I came in with 9 Otago men. It was
 a mad, rotten useless advance. The Otago Bn lost
 16 Officers & 500 Other Ranks in the 2nd of May's slant.
 Well after reporting to General Godley & Brigadier
 Braithwaite. They put us under a Provish Sgt on
 the beach & next morning the 1st May we rejoined
 the rest of the Bn round on the left. That evening
 we got issued with a double Iron Ration (Pully
 Beef & Biscuits) & moved off at dusk (after a issue)
 over of men.

Rumour had it, we were going for a rest.
 We trudged to the wee jettie & embarked on lighters &
 then on destroyers. Ours was the *Wolfenine*. The
 Jack Tars gave us cocoa, we were about worn out.
 Well we travelled south & when daybreak came
 we were at Cape Helles, Berthed along side the
 River Clyde, (She was used as a landing wharf)
 Boarded her & disembarked through her side on
 to the wee jettie. From her deck I counted 18 rows of
 Barb wire, with some of the Tommies still
 hanging in the wire. This was about 5 am; for
 awhile we were put on road work, then moved
 on to camp alongside a small stream. From here
 we could see the French Artillery in action & things
 were busy. Our ranks were thinned out, with
 so many lost on the 2nd of May. Sgt Selby's
 Platoon of 50 was reduced to 15, ours to 15.
 There I was put through as a Sgt. never was
 a private. They gave me a Corporal's rank when
 I enlisted. Well we camped under trees in a wet
 hole of a place with the water flapping round
 our ~~water~~ ^{ground} sheets. Just great coats, no blankets.
 We started off from there on the Friday afternoon
 & travelled mostly in extended order all day
 Saturday, going from trench to trench, ridge to
 ridge towards ^{the Hill of the} where the Turks were well
 entrenched. We passed the Scottish Borders on the
 way up, after some of us had crossed the Daisy
 patch, crossing the Daisy patch in Artillery
 formation, the sections were invaded from the
 left & they shot us down like 9 pins. Nearly
 every man in the section being bold over.
 I had a great view of this onslaught and not
 many are left who crossed the Daisy patch.

We eventually got up to the front & there our fellows were ready to go over the top again, just before we advanced I doubled out in front to bring one of my wounded men^{men} who was badly shot through the chest & lungs. Things were hot as they had the advantage being on higher ground & waiting for us. Davie Hammond & I bandaged up Stan Shang. He died next morning as we were putting him on the stretcher. We advanced at 5 PM zero, with Major J. M. Henry in our sector, three of us was ~~farther~~ further advanced than anyone. In front was a deep gully & on the other side the Turks were well entrenched half way up the hill. Officers in Blue uniforms were moving amongst the men many shots were fired; about 7 PM we got word the Poles were to retire; so we came back to where we had started the advance & formed a front line. I was the senior N.C.O. there, no officers, so I kept them on the alert all night till day break. Things were a bit quiet in the morning. In the afternoon we retired still further to the remnants of the Bn. At that time Otago & Wellington lost heavily, about the same troops

On nights were cold & many wounded were moaning, we were all a bit jittery & worn out. About 50 of our men came back out of 100. Between the 10th of May & the 18th we were relieving & road making. On the 19th we re-embarked again through the River Clyde on to Trawlers, packed like sardines, this at 11 PM travelled all night and arrived back at Anzac 1 PM. Back to the old front line. Taking our turn in front line, supports & Reserve, gradually getting into some sort of order. On the 24th May the armistice was declared. It was from 10 AM to 4 PM. A great site with the Turks & our troops burying our dead; starting taken off their personal effects first. Just after 4 PM. A minute silence & then the first shot fired by the Turks, then back to battle again garrison & the old routine. Several raids were made, tunnelling was carried out & at Quinn's Post which was the closest to the Turks line wire netting was erected in front of the front trench. To keep the grenades from dropping into the trench. Poles, Quinns & Courtney's posts were NZ Infantry front line. On the right here Pine^{was} manned by the Aussies. On the 25th May the Battleship Triumph was torpedoed, turned turtle & sank in 12 minutes over

Walker Ridge
17

6
She was reported to be one of Britain's oldest & most
valued ships. We heard she had fired 2,500 shots
this same day we got word the name Kobalotta
was changed to A.N.Z.A.C.; which of course stands for
the Australia, New Zealand Army Corp. It was
estimated after the Armistice the Turks had buried
3000 Turks. At this time they joined the Allies
About the 29th of May the Turks had tunneled up to
the front line. The Russies blew them up & then
attacked losing approx 400 men & had to retire.
June the 4th my brother Clarence got badly wounded
in the head while sniping at the Turks at Courtney's
fence the 14th the 2nd reinforcements joined us in
Rest Gully. On the 14th June the Turk's Bambi dropped 4 bombs
right on Quinn's Post. The first bombs dropped at
Anzac. A lot of activity in June & numerous mentions.
On 24th June Beachy Bill wounded 18 men down at the beach.
About the 27th of June was the anniversary day for the Turks when
they drove the Greeks of the Peninsula into the sea.
The year I do not know. Now this account is getting me
down I've missed a lot of small detail; but suffice
to know we were off to Imbros for a break for 2 days & did
it hard. (20-22 of July) being the days leaving & coming back.
Most of July was tough going. We were always losing
some men. Strapping with artillery, ballistics, stragglers etc
rifle & machine fire. Tucker was a bit better; but
men were getting wearie & grumbling, several times
no tucker, may I mention here; The company had
had no bread for 11 weeks after the landing & no
butter for 16 weeks. First butter came from Romania
in 14 oz brown tins; 1 tin to 8 men per day. This is true.
All my report is true, except many humours which
I have in my diary. (Some may be true)

The 5th Reinforcements joined us on the 7th of ^{Aug} got badly
smacked; being taken straight into action after
landing, many of them never fired a shot, & many
never got to the front line. Quite a few got galled &
their moral was broken, except a few loyal to do
their bit. This was during the August blint, of which
you will have had details. I could mention here our
troops held ~~the~~ ^{the} (known as the Apex) were relieved with
an English Regiment who through lack of officers &
initiative gave the controlling peak away by retreating.
We never recovered that Apex. The Sakkos blasted it
with the 2nd shot of their mountain gun later.
On the 16th A Tommy was carrying a bag of Grenade
dropped the Bag killing one of our men. The Tommy
will have stopped running by now.

On the 18th I was promoted to Sgt Major & held that
rank till I was made a N.C. Coming back to NZ
as such on a tour of duty. Having seen much service
from the start till 10th of Dec 1918. Then 3 1/2 years as Sgt Major.

7

We had many great sights from Raddadum Spur which had been held by the Mounted Rifles of the English advancing from Suva Bay on our left. One had to see it. All imagination would take more than my pen to describe it. Suffer a big failure. At this time I was with Lt Wright running the Company. We had to make new N.C.O's. Ranks were thinning. We took our turn at the Spers & then in support. Men in old faded uniforms, then I weary still carrying on. On the 14-9-15 we struggled down to the Beach & boarded a lighter & then transferred to a transport lying in the bay all night leaving next morning at 7:30 am arriving Lemnos 10:30 am disembarking to march 3 miles to a camping ground wading through water up to our knees for a half a mile. Everybody done in, slept out all night & the next day rain poured down, & we camped out again. At last we got a marquee to sleep in, I had the remnants of the 1st & 9th Co in one Marquee, the 10th & 14th Co had a Marquee each, what was left of the 500 Mares that landed in August, I had in a Bell tent. On the 21st Sep Gen Godly inspected us, a sorry looking lot. Here I was acting R.A.M. against my will, was up before the Adj & Lt Co, over some. 28-9-15 All officers away sick. I had the Bn for 2 day on my own. next day the 29th The 6th R reinforcements joined. I was allotted 23 men to my Co. From the 15th till the 29th we were issued with a pint bottle of stout over

To build us up. It was Guinness & Good. We got no more after the 6th joined us. Here the whole Bn got re-organized again (that is what was left of them) While at Lemnos, now more organized we had quite a few night maneuvers & kept up training. We were also inspected by Gen. Murray. After training in Lemnos for several weeks we were re-shipped back to Anzac. There we took our turn at the Spec Support & reserve lines. Here the 6th reinforcements first got under fire & lost their first man in our Co, a chap named Rowan. I remember H. Jennings who came with the 6th & was posted to our Co, seeing his first dead man. He was very cut up over it. Jennings later Captain got killed in France. Well we garrisoned there till the evacuation leaving our many comrades behind. This epistle is mostly about our 8th Southland Co & as I've stated at the start, The most Southern Co. in the world.

To my mind the Campaign was a Blunder. The Queen Elizabeth in Jan. Feb having knocked out the fort at Cape Helles, fired across the narrows to the Asiatic side, setting the village of Chanak ^{on} fire with her second shot. These 2 fort guns at Cape Helles were 30 feet long with a 10 in diameter bore, one was turned turtle the other still on the rails. The magazine had a shot through it. The Marines had

a route march to the foot of 971, then returned & left the place for the Turks to fortify which they did from the River Clyde all this I have related before.

Then the landing at Gabatappa with few instructions to the troops, no map, no reinforcements or reserves to support. The first day part of the Wellington Bn were nearly a way to the narrow, it being only 8 miles across from Gabatappa. If sufficient reserves were available I do think we would have made the narrow & cut off the lower half of the Peninsula. It would have made a big difference to the Campaign. The Russians may have then got through from the Black Sea.

At the start things were *okay*. Medical supplies sanitation Rations were crude, the wounded lying everywhere, many of their wounds being fly blown. I say things were tough; but we were tough too, with our hard training on the desert, our discipline & initiative; but with the hard water of Bully Beef & Busenits Horse flesh & Decons Spruce gam, etc. the system could only stand so much & dysentery began to take its toll & many were evacuated with this complaint. ^{It was *already stated*} 11 weeks before we got our first issue of bread & 16 weeks before we had an issue of butter. Throughout the 2 wars no one suffered more hardships than ^{over}

the first Angas.

Now the big stunt by the British from
Sivola Bay was watched by many of the
Colonial Troops from Raderdenum Spur.
A great view we had of the Warships, Planes
Balloons & thousands of troops deploying
over a vast space. The Colonials all
reckon the discipline & initiative was
lacking by officers in Command.
However you will have records of this
Campaign from others, so having
scribble a few ~~for~~ pages, which I hope will
be some use for you to get extracts from.
I'll close.

Yours Sincerely

Fred Wagon

P.S.

Sorry I don't feel like sending
my diary or my John Bradbury notes
Fred