

A CHARGE AT GALLIPOLI IN DAYLIGHT OVER 800 YARDS.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Sergeant W. M. Gray, N.Z.M.R., Expeditionary Force, date December 22: —"We had a general advance on August 6, and the N.Z.M.R. were mentioned in dispatches for the work they did. We advanced with empty rifles, and relied on the bayonet alone. The utter silence of the advance scared the Turks more than any amount of rifle fire would have done. They had no idea of our numbers, so in most cases they bolted when we reached their trenches. Of course, our casualties were heavy, as we had to advance under machine-gun and rifle fire. By the end of the week we had lost over fifty per cent. Right through August we slept practically every night under arms. It's jolly uncomfortable in the web-equipment with a hundred and fifty rounds in the pouches, so that unless we were very tired we got no sleep. It was impossible to sleep in the daytime owing to the flies and heat. On the 21st we had a daylight charge at 3.30 p.m., and it was regular murder. When I was hit, every man round me was also knocked down. Fancy charging over about 800 yards of rough, scrub country in daylight. The machine-guns made meat of us but we got to the trench, and the Turks did not wait for the bayonet. My wound did not stop me from going on, but it was very painful, and took a month to heal. We stayed in the trenches for about sixty hours after we charged, and when we were relieved I was sent away to a hospital on Lemnos. Bullybeef stew was my special diet for the first three days, and during the whole time they never gave me any medicine, though my blood was thoroughly out of order. One Australian described the Lemnos hospitals (East Mudros particularly) as 'flies, fleas, famine, and fatigues.' The description, though good, is inadequate—he omitted lice, which swarm there. After three weeks in hospital they sent me to a convalescent camp, which was deadly. One had to close one's eyes while eating—the food was so unappetising. The day after I arrived the doctor came round, and I reported 'fit,' and was sent to join up with the remains of the regiment, which was resting on the other side of the island. We had rather a good time until the reinforcements arrived, when they set to work on more strenuous training.

"After a few weeks there we sailed for Anzac, where we have been until a few days ago, when we evacuated the position, and came back here. I was one of the rearguard of our regiment, and we were the last to leave the left flank, and among the last to leave Anzac. We don't know where we are going to next, but we all, especially the few remaining men of the Main Body, felt having to evacuate the Peninsula, and leave so many of our comrades. Their lives surely cannot have been sacrificed for nothing. Many of our fellows have had a trip

back to New Zealand, and fully deserve the trip, but it hurts to think of a few getting equal praise, and being considered the equals of the real heroes – the men left dead on the Peninsula."

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THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED

PERSONAL NOTES.

Sergeant W. M. Gray, formerly of Napier, was killed in action during the recent battle on the Suez Canal. He was a young, promising surveyor on the Government staff, attached to the Hawke's Bay district. He was among the first to enlist, and left with the Main Body as a trooper in the South Canterbury Rifles. He served all through the Gallipoli campaign, where he was wounded. Upon recovering he returned to the Peninsula, and, it is stated, was among the last twenty-seven of officers and men. who remained as rearguard in the evacuation. Sergeant Gray was a son of Mrs L. Gray, of 29 Hawkesbury avenue, St. Albans, and was 29 years of age.