

FACING THE TURKS.
THE BIG CHARGE
CHEVIOT MAN'S EXPERIENCES.

Mr and Mrs Flaherty, of Cheviot, have received a letter from their son, Trooper J. Flaherty, of the Otago Mounted Battalion. Writing from the Valetta [Valletta] Hospital, he says: —

“I have been at the Dardanelles in the firing line for fifteen weeks, and have seen some terrible sights. I am in the hospital now with a strained back. We were in the trench, when a lyddite shell struck the bank and knocked it in on top of us. I suppose you have seen in the papers that we had a big charge on August 6, in face of a terrific fusillade of rifle and machine gun fire and shrapnel shells, at night. We had about 400yds to go to reach the first trench, and all the New Zealanders and Australians were in the front rank, with Kitchener's army as reinforcements. It was all done with the bayonet, and a large number of our poor fellows went under. You don't seem to notice as they drop beside you. You are fighting for your life, and once a start is made you must get to the place you are making for at all costs. We lost our colonel, captain and lieutenant, and had only one officer left in the morning. Our colonel was a game fellow, and led the Otago boys. It was hard luck, after getting through the terrific fire at night, to be sniped in the morning at daylight. We were all sorry to lose a man like him, but that is one of the misfortunes of war. There cannot be many of the main body fellows left now. I have had some marvellous escapes, and never expected to get through the fire the night of the charge. The Canterbury boys were on the right of us, and B. Sustins came over to see me before we went out. We were the first lot to face the music. I tried to find out if he came through all, but could not find anybody who knew him. They got cut up pretty badly, like we did. Ted Webb, from Temuka, is in here; you would see him in that photo. His brother was killed, and most of the other fellows in the same photo. To tell you the truth, it is hard to say who is dead and who is alive, as we are all scattered about. I have seen quite enough of the real thing to do me for a lifetime. You can't beat the New Zealanders and Australians for fighting. The Turks could never take a trench of ours. They have taken them from us, but could only hold them for a few hours, when we would be back into them again. The Turks have all German officers, and I can tell you those Turks can fight. Some fellows run away with the idea that they can't, but you only want to ask one of the main body fellows who have been up against them for weeks; they will tell you they can. I walk about a little in the daytime, so I am not so bad.”

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OBITUARY

MR J. FLAHERTY

The death occurred at Christchurch last week of Mr John Flaherty, eldest son of Mr Martin Flaherty and Mrs H. Flaherty, of Cheviot. Born at Temuka 56 years ago, he went to Cheviot at the age of 12 years with his father.

At the outbreak of the Great War he joined the Main Body, Otago Mounted Rifles, and saw four years active service.

He was a well-known athlete, and took a keen interest in running. About 18 years ago he drew by ballot a farm at Port Levy, where he lived.

The funeral took place at Cheviot. The service was conducted by the Rev. Father Madden. The esteem in which he was held was shown by the many friends and relatives who attended the funeral.

The pall-bearers were Messrs P. and M. Flaherty (brothers), N.K Wilkinson, L. Auld, D. Milne, and R. Candy (Port Levy).