

Dear Mrs. Grant,

It shames me to think that I have allowed 5 months to pass without writing you a few lines to express my sympathy with you in your great loss, and also my own sense of having lost a true friend and brave leader.

On the eventful morning of 26th. April, I accompanied the Major as far as the crest of the second line of hills, and then in accordance with his orders took my platoon on ahead to reinforce the left flank of the Australian line where the Turks were attacking very strongly. I was there all that day and did not see the Major again until that unforgettable day - May 24th. - Armistice Day when I found his body during the burial operations between the two lines of trenches alongside was Sergt. T.A. Hamilton whose waterproof sheet was thrown over the Major's face. I judged that both had been severely wounded and unable to get back, and had later been killed by subsequent fire - probably the same day.

The two heroes were buried in the same grave, and more time than usual was given to the burial service conducted by Rev. J. L. Luxford of the N.Z. Chaplains' Dept. (Methodist) Capt. Brown, Lieut. Lead and I, the only remaining officers of the old company, were present, while a number of men of the company, ^{of days ago, most} thinking ~~of days ago, most~~ ceased their digging operations and, drawing near to the grave, stood in reverent attitude while the solemn words of commitment and hope were recited.

A number of us built up a mound of earth over the double grave on which was placed a large white cross, made up of pieces of white rock firmly pressed into the soil. At the head of the grave

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was placed a very rough wooden cross (temporary) on which were printed the words:-

H E R E L I E

MAJOR D. GRANT AND SERGEANT W.A. HAMILTON 2nd. (S.C.) REGIMENT N.Z.
KILLED IN ACTION 25th. APRIL 1915.

At the foot of the grave was placed a large smooth stone on which Lieut. Wilson (who was also present) carefully carved the names of the two who slept in that far away grave.

You will be glad to know that the rumours of Turkish mutilation of the dead (with which Major Grant's name was so often coupled) were that day found to be false. No indication of anything of the sort was noticed.

In my base box at Alexandria I have a photographic film showing the site of Major Grant's grave on the top of Walker's Ridge, now known as Russell's Top. It shows Cape Nibrunazi and Suvla Bay etc. in the distance, and the curving beach below. If the fortunes of war ever allow, I will have a print run off and sent to you.

I would like to say how greatly I admired Major Grant not only as a military leader, but as a man, a man clean in thought and action, and one who exercised a splendid influence over all with whom he associated. And though very few remain now of those who trained under him on the sands of Egypt, yet those who survive will ever hold him in fond remembrance.

Yours very sincerely,

R. A. R. LARRY.