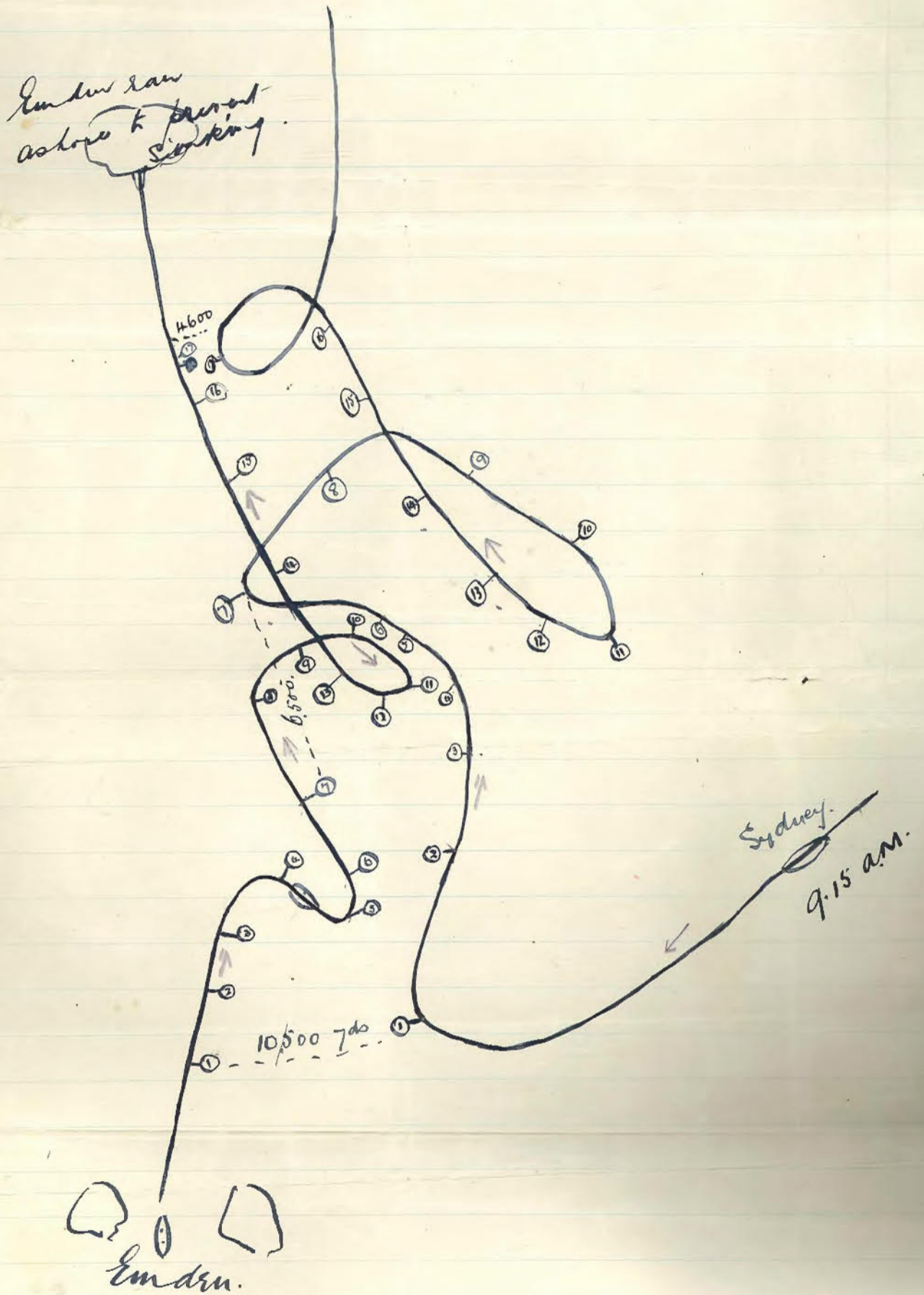


Encounter between H. M. A. S. Sydney and
German Town class cruiser Emden on the
Nov 9th 1914 at the Torres Island.



ARD 101 V3

I.

BATTLESHIPS.

ALLIES. U.S.A.

1.

<u>GREAT BRITAIN.</u>	Displ.	Lgt.	I.H.P.	Cost.	Speed.	Guins.	Belt Arm.
5 Queen Elizabeth. '15.	27,500	600	60,000		25.	8-15", 12-6"	13"
1. Canada. '15.	28,000	625	37,000		23.	10-14", 16-6"	9"-6"
4. Iron Duke. '14.	25,000	580	30,000	2,080,918	22.	10-13.5", 12-6"	12"
5. Ramillies. '16.	25,700	580	-		21	8-15", 12-6"	13"
1. Agincourt. '14	27,500.	637.	32,000.		22.	14-12", 20-6"	9"-4"

FRANCE.

4. Lille. '16-'17.						16-13.4"	
5. Flandre. '16.	24,802	574.	34,800.	2,589,439	21.	12-13.4", 24-5.5"	11"-7"
4. France. '15.	23,100	546	28,000	2,603,920	20.	12-12", 22-5.5"	do.
3. Lorraine. '15.	23,177	546	29,000	2,642,439	20.	10-13.4" 22-5.5"	do.

RUSSIA.

3. Alexander III. '15.	22,500	551	26,500		21.	12-12", 20-5"	12"
4. Gangut. '15.	23,000	591.	42,000.		23.	12-12", 16-4.7"	11"-4"

ITALY.

4. Caracciolo. '16.	28,000	670.	48,000		25.	8-15", 20-6"	13"-7"
2. Doria. '15.	23,025.	570.	35,000.		23.	13-12", 16-6"	10 1/2"-6"
3. Giulio Cesare. '14.	22,340.	557	34,000		23.	13-12", 18-4.7"	9 1/2"-4 1/2"
1. Dante Alighieri. '12	19,400.	505.	35,000		23.8	12-do. 20-do.	do.

JAPAN.

4. Fuso. '15.	31,000.	658.	45,000		22.5.	12-14", 16-6"	12"
2. Kawachi. '12.	20,800.	500.	26,500		20.5	12-12", 10-6"	12"-8 1/2"

U. S. A.

2. Wyandott ^{no. 43} '17.	36,000.			1,383,285*		?-16"	{ Probably changed to 14" guins.
5. Idaho. '16.	32,000	600	31,500	1,485,000*	21.	12-14", 22-5"	14"
4. Nevada. '15.	27,500	575.	35,000	2,200,000*	20.5.	10-14", 21-5"	13 1/2"-8"
2. Arkansas. '12	26,000	554.	28,533	964,000*	21.	12-12", 21-5"	11"-5"
4. Utah. '11	21,825	510.	28,477	813,500*	21.6	10-12", 16-5"	11"

* Cost of hull and machinery alone, and does not include cost of armor and armament.

ARD 101 V3

II.

BATTLE CRUISERS.

ALLIES. U.S.A. ^{2.}

<u>GREAT BRITAIN.</u>	Diapl.	Lgt.	I.H.P.	Cost.	Speed.	Guns.	Belt Arm.
Tiger.	'16	28,000	660.	100,000	28.	8-15" 16-4"	
3. Lion.	'12	26,350	660	75,685	20,864,58*	28.5. 8-13.5" do.	9"
2. ^{New Zealand *} Indefatigable	'11	18,750	555.	43,000	1,536,789*	25. 8-12" 16-4"	7"-4"
3. Infleccible.	'08	17,250	530	41,000	1,728,229*	26. do.	do.

FRANCE.

RUSSIA.

4. Borodino.	'16	32,000	749½.	66,000	27.	12-14" 21-5.1"	12"
--------------	-----	--------	-------	--------	-----	----------------	-----

ITALY.

JAPAN.

4. Kongo.	'13.	27,500	704	64,000	2,500,000.	25. 8-14" 16-6"	10"-4"
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U.S.A.

'19 ?

150,000
6
200,000

35

III.

CRUISERS.

ALLIES.

3

<u>GREAT BRITAIN.</u>	<u>Displ.</u>	<u>Lgt.</u>	<u>I.H.P.</u>	<u>Cost.</u>	<u>Speed.</u>	<u>Guns.</u>	<u>Belt Arm.</u>
A. Achilles	'07 13,500	480.	23,275.	£1,191,103.*	23.3	6-9.2" 4-7.5" 24-3pr.	6"-3"
1. Argonaut	'00 11,000	435.	18,000	545,756	20.75	16-6" 12-12pr. 3-3pr.	4"
2. Birmingham	'14 5,440	430.	26,500	353,437.*	25.5	9-6" 4-3pr.	2 3/4"
3. Active	'11 3,440	385. 410.	18,000	272,977.*	26	10-4" do.	
L. Aurora	'14 3,750	410.	30,000		29.	2-6" 8-4"	3"
S. Attentive	'06 2,670	374.	16,210	270,263	25.9	9-4"	2"

FRANCE

A. ^{Waldick} Rousseau	'11 13,780	515.	36,110.	1,901,380.	23.1	14-7.6" 20-2.4" 2-1pr.	6 1/2" - 3 1/2"
2. Chataignault	'02 7,898.	443.	24,300	606,656	24.2	2-6.4" 6-5.5" 10-1.8"	
3. D'Estrees	'00 2,421.	312.	9,500	208,200	20.5	2-5.5" 4-3.9" 8-1.8"	
L. I. II. III.	'16 4,300.	454.	45,000		30	8-5.5"	

RUSSIA

A. Purik	'07 15,170	490.	19,700		28.	4-10" 8-8" 20-4.7"	6"-3"
2. ^{admiral} Grieg	'16 7,600	520	55,000		32	16-5.1" 5-9pr.	
3. Kagul.	'05 6,675	439.	19,500		23.	12-6" 12-3"	

ITALY

A. Pisa	'09 9,956	430.	18,000		23.	4-10" 8-7.5" 16-3" 8"-3 1/2"	
3. Liria	'13 3,690	342.	12,500		22.	2-6" 8-4.7"	
3. Basilicata	'15 2,460	251.	4,000		16.5.	6-6" 6-12pr. 2-6pr.	
S. Quarto.	'12 3,220.	432.	29,000		28.6	6-4.7" 6-12pr. Mine-apparatus	

JAPAN.

A. Karuma	'11 14,620	451.	27,000		22.	4-12" 8-8" 14-4.7" 3-1.8" 7"-4"	
L. Shikuma	'12 4,590	440.	22,500		26.	8-6" 4-3" 4 MG.	
L. Nitatake	'05 3,420	236.	10,000		20.	6-6" 10-3" 4-2 1/2 pr.	
S. Mogami	'08 1,329	300	8,000		23	2-4.7" 4-12pr.	
S. Tsugareu.	'01 6,630	414.	11,610		20	8-6" 20-12pr. 8-1pr.	

IV.

DESTROYERS, T.B.D's.ALLIES.

4.

<u>GREAT BRITAIN.</u>	Displ.	Length.	I.H.P.	Speed.	Guns.	Torpedo Tubes.
F.L. <i>Swift.</i> '09.	1800.	345.	35000	35.25.	4-4"	cost £241,595 complete.
F.L. <i>Faulknor.</i> '14.	1850.	320.	27,000	31	6-4"	3 - 21" T.
O. <i>Owl.</i> '13.	935.	260.	24,500.	32.9.	3-4"	2 - do.
O. "T. Class." '13.	1430			31	6-4"	4 - do.
O. <i>Landrail.</i> '14.	965	260	24,500	29	3-4"	4 - do.
T.B.' <i>Boyna.</i> '04.	600	222	7,500	26	4-12 pr.	2 - 18" T.

FRANCE.

F.L. " '16	1200					
O. <i>Roux.</i> '15	880	266	17,000	32	2-3.9"	4-9 pr. 2 dbl. - 21" T.
O. <i>Bisson</i> '12	750	243	15,000	31	do.	do.
T.B.' <i>369.</i> '06	97	124	2000	26	2-1 pr.	3-15" T

RUSSIA.

O. <i>Novik</i> '11.	1200	337	36,000	37.3	4-4"	2 MG. 4 dbl. - 21" T.
O. <i>36 boats.</i> '14-'16	1300		30,000	36	3-4"	3 do 5 do.
O. <i>9 "</i> '14.	1050		25,000	34	do.	2 do. do.

ITALY.

O. <i>Francesco</i> } <i>Nullo.</i> } '12.	669	246	18,000	35	1-4.7"	4-14 pr. 2-21" T.
O. <i>Ardente.</i> '14	650.	246.	15,000	35.5	do.	do.
T.B.' <i>40 R.M.</i> '14.	130.	139.	2,500	27	1-6 pr.	do.

JAPAN.

O. <i>3 boats.</i> '11.	1200		20,500	35.	2-4.7"	5-3" 3-21" T.
O. <i>2 boats.</i> '12	600		18,000	33	1-do.	1-12 pr. 4-do.
O. <i>10 boats.</i> '06-'09.	374	220	6,000	29	6-12 pr.	2-18" T.

PORTUGAL.

O. <i>4 boats.</i> '13-'15.	700	240	11,000	29.	1-4"	2-12 pr. 2-21" T.
O. <i>1 "</i> '01	520		7,000	25.5	do.	5 MG. 2-15" T.

ARD 101 V3

I.	<u>BATTLESHIPS.</u>						<u>ENEMY.</u>		5.
							<u>NEUTRAL.</u>		
	<u>GERMANY.</u>	<u>Displ.</u>	<u>lgth.</u>	<u>I.H.P.</u>	<u>Cost.</u>	<u>Speed.</u>	<u>Guns.</u>	<u>Belt arm.</u>	
3.	<u>Friedrich III.</u>	'15	29,000	40,000		22.	8-15" 16-5.9"		
4.	<u>Gotfriesland.</u>	'11	22,500	500	34,000	22.2	12-12" 14-do.	11 ³ / ₄ " - 4"	
5.	<u>Kaiser</u>	'12	24,310	564.	29,000.	21.	10-do. do.	13 ³ / ₄ " - 5"	
4.	<u>Graessau</u>	'09	18,600	452.	25,800 1,925,000	20.7.	12-11" 12-do.	11 ³ / ₄ " - 4"	
1.	<u>N. (Salemis)</u>	'15	19,200.	571.	40,000	23.	8-14" 12-6"	10"	
<u>AUSTRIA.</u>									
4.	<u>4 ships</u>	'16-'17	24,500				10-14"		
4.	<u>Viribus Unitis.</u>	'13	20,000.	495.	25,000 2,500,000	20.7	12-12" 12-5.9"	11" - 4 ³ / ₄ "	
<u>TURKEY.</u>									
'	<u>Turgut Reis.</u>	'93	9,901	352.	9,000 450,000	17.	6-11" 8-4.1"	15 ³ / ₄ "	
<u>GREECE.</u>									
2.	<u>Lemnos</u>	'08	13,000	375	13,609 616,360	17.1.	4-12" 8-8" 8-7"	9" - 4"	
<u>SPAIN.</u>									
3.	<u>Alfonso XIII</u>	'15	15,460.	435	15,300.	19.5.	8-12" 20-4"	9" - 4"	
<u>ARGENTINE.</u>									
2.	<u>Moreno.</u>	'14	27,600	585.	39,500 2,200,000	22.5.	12-12" 12-6" 16-4" 12"-10"		
<u>BRAZIL.</u>									
1.	<u>Piachuella.</u>	'16?	27,500.				8-15" 14-6" 16-4"		
2.	<u>Minas Geraes.</u>	'09	19,291.	500.	27,210. 1,821,400	21.4.	12-12" 22-4.7"	9" - 4"	
<u>CHILE.</u>									
1.	<u>Almirante Cochrane</u>	'15	28,000.	625.	37,000.	23.	10-14" 16-6"	9" - 6"	

<u>II.</u>	<u>BATTLE CRUISERS.</u>						<u>ENEMY:</u>	<u>6.</u>		
<u>GERMANY.</u>	<u>Displ.</u>	<u>Lgt.</u>	<u>I.H.P.</u>	<u>Cost.</u>	<u>Speed.</u>	<u>Guns.</u>		<u>Belt Arm.</u>		
<i>Hindenburg.</i>	'16	28,000.	700	100,000	27.	8-15"	14-5.9"	12-3.4"	7"	
<i>Derfflinger.</i>	'15	ditto.			27.	8-12"	12-5.9"	do.	7"	
<i>Seydlitz</i>	'18	24,640.	656	100,000	29.2	10-11"	do.		11" - 4"	
2. <i>Moltke</i>	'11	22,640	610	71,500 86,900	27.6 28.4	do.	do.		7½" - 4"	
1. <i>Von der Tann.</i>	'11	19,700	561	71,500.	1,833,000	27.6.	8-11"	10-5.9"	16-3.4"	6"

AUSTRIATURKEY.

1. <i>Tarvis Selim</i> <i>ex "Goeben."</i>	'11	22,640.	610	70,000	28.6	10-11"	12-5.9"	12-3.9"	7½" - 4"
Sister ship to "Moltke."									

III.

CRUISERS.

ENEMY. & NEUTRAL.

7.

<u>GERMANY.</u>	Displ.	Lgt.	I.H.P.	Cost.	Speed.	Guns.	Relt. Arm.
A. <i>Roon.</i>	'05 9,350.	403.	20,625.	975,000	21.2.	4-8.2", 10-5.9", 14-3.4", 3-1.4", 4-3."	
2. <i>Eisatz Gefion</i> }	'15 5,500	456	45,000		27.5.	10-5.9"	
3. <i>Graudenz.</i>	'14 5,000	456	30,000		27.	12-4.1" 2 M.G.	
3. <i>A. B.</i>	'15 4,300	402.	27,400		27.5	8-5.1" 4-9 pr.	
<i>Impf. Yacht Hohenyoller</i> }	- 4,187	-	9,460		22.	3-4.1", 12-1.9" 4 M.G.	

AUSTRIA.

A. <i>St. Georg.</i>	'06 7,185	384	15,270	581,583	22.	2-9.4", 5-7.5", 4-5.9", 9-2.8" 8"-6 1/2."	
t. cr. <i>Helgoland.</i>	'14 3,500	417	25,000		27	9-3.9" 4 small.	
t. cr. <i>Admiral Spain.</i> }	'10 3,500	417	21,000		26	7-3.9" 2 M.G.	
t. g. b. <i>I. II. III.</i>	'15 1,800	350	3,000		32	10-4" do.	

TURKEY.

A. 2. <i>Mudilliéh.</i>	'12 4,500	447.	33,482		27.5	12-4.1" 2 M.G.	
L. <i>Hamidieh</i>	'04 3,800	340	12,500		22.2	2-6", 8-4.7", 6-1.9" 6 M.G.	
g. b. <i>Aidin Reis.</i>	'15 530	179.	1,025.		14.	2-3.9" 2-3 pr.	

U. S. A.

A. <i>Montana.</i>	'08 14,500	502	27,938	970,630 *	22.2	4-10", 16-6", 22-3", 12-3 pr. 5"-3."	
3. <i>Jacoma.</i>	'04 3,200	292.	5,298	212,325 *	16.6	10-5", 8-6 pr. 2-1 pr. 4 M.G.	
S. <i>Chester.</i>	'08 3,750.	420	16,000	337,000 *	26.5.	2-5", 6-3"	

SPAIN.

N.B. * See page 1.

A. <i>Catalunia</i>	'03 6,989	348.	15,000	600,000	19.5.	2-9.4", 8-5.5", 8-6 pr. 12"-10"	
L. <i>N.</i>	'16 5,600		25,500		25.5	9-6" 4-3 pr. 4 M.G.	
L. <i>Reina Regente.</i>	'08 5,297.	337.	6,500		20	10-5.5", 12-2.2", 8 do.	
t. g. b. <i>Bonifaz.</i>	'13 800	200	1100		13	4-3" 2 M.G.	

GREECE.

A. <i>Georgios Amoff.</i>	'11 9,956	430.	20,000	1,100,000	24.	4-9.2", 8-7.5", 16-3", 8-1.8" 8"-3 1/2"	
S. <i>Condouriotis.</i>	'16 5,500	-	25,000		25.5	8-6" 4-3 pr. 8"	
L. <i>Helli.</i>	'14 2,600	330	6,500	240,000	22.5	2-6", 4-4", 2-12 pr. 6-3 pr.	

IV. DESTROYERS & T.B.D.s.ENEMY. &
NEUTRAL.

8

<u>GERMANY.</u>		<u>Displ.</u>	<u>Length.</u>	<u>I.H.P.</u>	<u>Speed.</u>	<u>Guns.</u>	<u>Torpedo Tubes.</u>
O.	4 boats '15	1250.	313.	30,000	32.	3-4"	4 dbl-21" T.
O.	6 " '15	1000	269.	24,500.	32.	2-do. 4-12 pr.	2 do.
O.	21 " '09-'11	640	233	15,000	32.5	2-23 pr. 2 M.G.	3-21" T.
O.	12 " '12	561.	232	15,000.	32.5	do.	do.
O.	12 " '13	595.	233.	15,000.	32.5.	do.	4 do.
O.	24 " '14-'15	similar to 1913 boats.					
<u>AUSTRIA.</u>							
O.	4 boats '13	787.	266	17,000	33	2-4" 4-12 pr.	2-21" T.
O.	24 " '05-'15	394	220	6,000	30	1-12 pr. 7-3 pr.	do. (Early ones 18")
T.B.	17 " '14	246	188	5,000	28.5	2-3 pr.	2-18" T.?
<u>TURKEY</u>							
O.	4 boats '09	610	237	14,000	35	2-3.4" 2 M.G.	3-21" T.
O.	3 " '08	280	185	1,200	28.	1-9 pr. 6-3 pr.	2-18" T.?
<u>U. S. A.</u>							
O.	6 boats '17?	1125	310		30	4-4" 2-1 pr. A.A.	4 triple-21" T.
O.	12 boats '14-'16	1050	310	17,000	30	4-4" 2 M.G.	4 dbl-21" T.
O.	8 " '12-'14	1010	300	16,000	30.	do.	3-21" T.
O.	5 " '11	900	289	12,000	30	5-3" do.	3-18" T.
<u>SPAIN.</u>							
O.	3 boats '15	370.	220	6,250	28	5-6 pr.	2-18" T.
O.	2 " '97	400	225	7,500	30	2-14 pr. 2-6 pr. 2-1 pr.	2-15" T.
T.B.	24 " '15-'16	183.	164.	3,750.	26.	3-3 pr.	3-18" T.
<u>GREECE.</u>							
O.	2 boats '11	750.	-	-	32.5	4-3.4"	2-21" T.
O.	4 " '11	980	285.	19,750.	32	4-4"	4 do.
O.	4 " '06	350	220	-	32	2-12 pr. 4-6 pr.	2-18" T.
O.	4 " '06	350.	220.	-	30	do.	do.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS.

Diapl.	Displacement in tons.	A.M.C.	Armed Merchant Cruiser.
Lgth.	Length in feet.	B.V.	Boarding Vessel.
I.H.P.	Indicated Horse Power.	D.	Drifter.
Speed.	Speed in knots.	I.	Reported sold by auction.
Belt Arm.	Belt (side) armour	II.	Captured by Japanese.
8-15" etc.	eight 15 inch. guns.	III.	" " British
9"-6" etc.	Thickness: 9 inches to 6 in.	IV.	" at Rabaul
2 dbl-21" T.	2 double 21 inch Torpedo Tubes.	*	Estimated cost including guns.
A.)	Armoured	x	Sunk before the war - 4.3.13.
1.	First class	-----	Interned.
2.	Second "	-----	Scuttled to avoid capture.
3.	Third "	*	Indefatigable - sunk in Jutland Battle.
L.	Light.	2-1pr. A.A.	Two 1 pounder anti-aircraft.
S.)	Scout		
FL.)	Flotilla Leader		
O.)	Ocean-going		
T.B.')	Torpedo boat, 1st. class.		
T.B.D.	Torpedo Boat Destroyer		
T.G.B. or t.g.t.	Torpedo Gunboat.		
t. cr.	Torpedo Cruiser		
M.L.	Mine-layer		
M.S.	Mine-sweeper.		
P.B.	Patrol Boat.		

Cruisers.

Destroyers

T.B. Dis.

N.B. Numbers in left margin of Battleships and Battlecruisers give the number of ships in the class.

Brownhill.

Performances between flags: - never finished without being 1st 2nd or 3rd.

3 firsts, 4 seconds, 1 third, unplaced twice.

Besides above finished 3rd with C. H. Orbell in Tally Ho, Ch. Ch. . .

Point to Points two 3rds, three times unplaced on one of which occasions did not finish.

Puzzler

Performances between flags: never finished without being 2nd or 3rd.

2 seconds, 4 thirds. Unplaced 4 times and once in Christchurch, Carr up.

Point to Points: 1 second, 1 third. Unplaced once, (did not finish.)

Total Starts

Between flags with a finish, three firsts, six seconds, five thirds. (Placed 14 times)

Point to Points one second, three thirds unplaced twice.

Unplaced between flags without finishing 6 times
Unplaced Point to Point without finishing once.
(Turn over)

Total 28 starts over country.

20 between flags.

8 Point to Points.

once 2nd Hunt Club Cup

twice 3rd

three times 2nd Waimate Hunt Club Cup.

Total 3 firsts, 6 seconds, 5 thirds
6 times fell off or ran off.

P to P 1 second 3 thirds.

v3

I finished up as above because I am sending an exact copy of this letter to Dr. Cox. I wonder whether you will ever get this letter, and how you all are at home. I am

H.M.V.Z.T. Maungamin
Nov: 12th. 1914.

This letter will not be censored by our people. It will be delayed at Colombo for about a fortnight and is liable to be censored by the Postal authorities there but I doubt whether they will take the trouble.

I wrote you a few extracts from my diary ~~via~~ this morning which will be censored and if passed will reach you about a fortnight ~~later~~ ^{before} this. I will add a few extracts that I could not give you before.

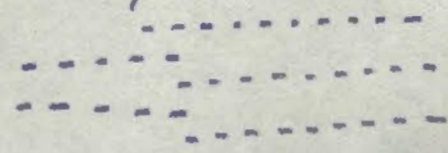
Nov: 1st

Left Albany, having remained there 4 days. Twenty eight Australian troopships went in front in 3 divisions. We dovetailed in behind on each side of middle Division. ^{none of Australian ships are painted grey.} Escort ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~shown~~ ^{shown} leading. The whole covers 12 miles. Escort as shown below with Minatou leading.

H.M.A.S. Sydney.

H.M.S. Minatou

H.M.S. Psyche



Japanese Ibutki

(2)

The escort keep a good many miles from us. We were joined two days later by two more Australian Troopships from Fremantle escorted by the Australian Man of war Melbourne, which replaced the Psyche. We crossed the line last night ^{Nov: 12th} ~~Nov: 11th~~ two sails full of sea water were arranged and the usual ceremony took place. Every man and practically every officer was ducked, General Godley of course being excepted. Having been over the line before was no protection. Realising that my turn would come soon I took my keys out of my pocket but quite forgot to take off my wrist watch. I have just returned from my plunge. I don't suppose my uniform trousers can be pressed out again and my watch has water inside the glass although it is still going. This is the 10th time I have crossed the line.

Nov: 3rd.

Getting pretty warm. Men may wear trousers waist belts and shirts during the hot weather and may go bare footed, except men

(3)

attending stables.

Nov: 5th.

We hear that for 24 hours after leaving Albany an African Port was our destination, probably not with a view to landing but en route to England. Our course was changed for Colombo when we got the news that war had been declared with Turkey.

Men are allowed to sleep on deck now. Fresh water issued to some of the troops every Saturday for washing clothes.

Nov: 6th

Got into the tropics at midnight. Officers allowed to wear flannels between 4 p.m. and dinner. Nobody has any except a few of the Staff. Our journey does not seem a very safe one. Only 38 horses lost up to date out of 3820.

Most of them on Arthur's boat, seven. We have lost 3, two of them being mine.

Nov: 8th

Minatour left us today we are told for the Cape to meet the German boats from Valparaiso, or else to look after the passenger route.

(4)

We keep clear of the passenger route by about 150 miles. Had my second injection for typhoid. Mine didn't bother me at all but some men were knocked out for a day or two. We have always had to block the light from our port holes by closing the port hole with a "dead light". This did not matter at all until we got into warmer and weather and smooth seas because we had to keep the ports closed in any case. But lately it has been very hot in the cabins in the evening which is the time I do most of my writing, making up returns etc. As soon as you turn out your light and go to bed of course you can open your port hole again. My cabin is especially hot because my electric fan won't work. The Australians seem to ignore the order about lights altogether. It will be interesting to see what they do tonight because there is an Order out to take special precautions tonight. Several

(5)

lights that are always lighted are not to be lighted tonight. We are to pass Cook Islands tonight where there is a British Cable Station. No work to be done between 11 a. m. and 3 p. m. Having very hot weather. Officers however have to attend a lecture every morning for an hour from 11-30. a. m. Having only thick flannel shirts and no thin uniforms makes it pretty hot work in the tropics.

Nov: 9th.

Cook Island got something on the wires they couldn't understand so wired "what code are you using", and got a reply they couldn't understand. So at once they sent out the most urgent distress signal which can be sent which is S. O. S with some prefix. I don't know what the prefix is. This they followed immediately by "Foreign Warship entering harbour" S O S, S. O. S, SOS. These three last signals of course mean practically hopeless distress, and were sent out as a forlorn hope, never for a

(6)

moment" expecting to be heard by any British Ship. We of course kept out of sight of Cook Island when we passed and never spoke to them. The Australian ~~to~~ Cruiser Sydney ~~as~~ was nearest to the Island, about 60 miles from it, so caught the message and left us at a great pace at 7-30 a. m. She seemed to be out of sight in no time. Immediately after this we got bits of a German message which we could make nothing of. It seemed a very short time after the Sydney left when we got "Sydney in action". Off went the Sturki simply tearing through the water. This left us with only the Melbourne with us to look after us. However about 9 o'clock we got "Enemy beached herself to save sinking". So the Sturki returned to us. About 11 o'clock we heard it was the Smden and that we had lost 2 killed and 13 wounded. We have never seen the Sydney since.

(7)

Afterwards she went to try and catch the Dutch collier that was going to coal the Smden after she had broken our cable and smashed up our ~~own~~ cable station. There is no doubt that she never gave us credit for going to Colombo and through the Canal with all these ships. She thought we suppose, that of course we were on our way to Africa. The Australian ships took notice of the order about lights when we passed Cook Island, but they were not so pitch dark as we were. Officers allowed to discontinue tunics as long as they wear belts and not braces.

Nov: 10th

Hear that a mast and three funnels were ~~blown~~ shot away from Smden.

Nov: 11th

Melbourne left us early this morning. Only Stuki looking after us now.

Nov: 12th

Crossed "the line" last night.

(8)

Lieut Webb, Medical officer on the Arawa, broke his neck this afternoon diving into shallow water, probably during the Neptune celebrations.

A very nice fellow indeed standing over six feet. I saw a good deal of him in camp at Awapuni. He is not expected to live. Joined today by ~~the~~ H. M. S. Hampshire.

Our boats do about one knot an hour faster than the Australian boats so we have gone ahead and will reach Colombo about 9 a. m. on Sunday 15th, about 5 hours ahead of the Australian boats.

Nov: 13th

Webb about the same.

Nov: 14th

Webb practically dying. Total loss of horses up to date 50 and 159 cases of measles. I have seven. Nearly all the horses on board can be exercised round and round the ship. Head Quarters Staff horses exercised every day, the others take it in turns each afternoon.

(9)

Arrive at Colombo tomorrow morning. Will be interesting to hear how many horses the Australians have lost! About 24 objections on our ship to inoculation.

November 15th

Arrived at Colombo Russian Cruiser in harbour with about 200 German prisoners off the Emden. Sidney steamed into harbour with German and English wounded. Orders given to all ships not to cheer Sidney, which were strictly adhered to. Could see hole in side of Sidney blocked up. Wounded all taken on shore. I had to go to Troopship Mawna to see Webb and help take him to Hospital on shore. He dived from about 9 feet into two feet of water in the sail and hit the deck on which the sail rested. They tried to stop him but were too late. He was only stunned for a very short time because he was brought to the surface very quickly by those in the sail, when he said "I have

(10)

lost all sensation, I have broken my neck: Of course he knew exactly what had happened poor chap. He has been kept under morphia ever since in order to prevent him moving his neck. I spoke to him when I saw him this morning and he said "yes it was a silly thing to do wasn't it." They operated at the Hospital and removed a piece of broken bone but I doubt whether his chance has improved much. Everything was absolutely up to date at the Hospital. The men were allowed on shore for a march under their officers. I came back from the Hospital, which is about 2 miles out, in a "rickshaw" for which I paid about 8 pence. I have never ridden in one before and never will again if I can help it. It's too much like cruelty to animals. I would have much preferred to pull the thing myself and give the nigger a ride.

(11)

There are 65 German wounded in Hospital here off the Embden and thirteen Australians. The Embden got 3 shots into the Sydney before she opened fire, and ten shots altogether. The Embden sank the coal ship as soon as she found she was in trouble. It was a very good English collier that she had just captured. We all sail tomorrow morning early, leaving the Australians behind to follow on.

Nov: 16th.

We hear that the Sydney sank the Collier, not the Embden. This is correct. The prisoners on the Russian War Ship were ~~parade~~ offered parole but they would not accept it. Consequently they have an armed guard over them day and night instead of being allowed the run of the ship. They have been playing up badly, smashing plates etc and furniture. Each of our ships are taking some of them. We have an officer on parole

(12)

and nine prisoners under a guard.
Went on shore today with a party
of 60 men. Whilst having a cup
of tea by myself in an Hotel,
who should come in too but
sergt. Rhodes, (Arthur). We said
by tomorrow morning by ourselves.
The Australians follow as soon as
they have finished coaling, which
means we will get home about
a week before them I should think.
I suppose we will have some sort
of escort. No more news.

Yours Sincerely
Ernest Thomas.

Feb: 27th Extracts from rough notes in Diary.

It is some time since I attempted to give anybody any news because the censorship has prevented me from alluding to anything but our everyday life which is only of local interest, and not very interesting at that, chiefly a constant source of anxiety and worry. News that may be of interest to the outside world I have avoided because I have wasted time in writing letters that were blotted out by the Censor. The only local news of interest is ancient history now. So if I give you stale news and repeat items of news that I have already given you I hope you will be lenient with me. It is so long since I wrote from my diary that I forget exactly where I left off.

I was glad to see that there is not much depression in Timaru, the last A. & P. Show and the last races both putting up records.

Had some very bad winds lately. Sand in food and in everything. lovely climate bar the winds which will be fairly constant for about a month.

Weather getting much warmer. Much hotter than N.Z. during day time. Several

(2)

snakes and scorpions found lately. Hornets will appear soon. Ninety per cent of African snakes are very poisonous.

Tram service best I have seen anywhere. Better than Capetown or Rio I think. Trains very much better than N.Z. Nearly all roads are asphalt. Perfect for motoring. Rule of the road the reverse of that in N.Z.

A good deal of measles in camp still. Only one small pox and practically no enteric. Inoculation of everybody on boardship for enteric undoubtedly very beneficial. About six or seven deaths from Pneumonia. Percentage of sick fairly high, chiefly minor ailments.

Went to a picture show of early mobilization scenes in connection with the war. The crowd were not enthusiastic but inclined to be British although mixed cheers and hisses when any of the allies troops were shown. Same when German troops came on. There were none of our troops there because the pictures do not begin until about 9-30 p.m. and men have to be in camp by 10 p.m.

Every body dines at 8 o'clock here. Many

(3)

do not dine until about 9-30 p.m.
Nobody seems to really wake up until
about midnight. Then Cairo is alive,
very much so, something shocking.
Have been to a government Stud farm
about 6 miles away. Kitchener has a
mare and foal there. There are two
beautiful Arab stallions there. Supposed
to be probably the purest and best
in the world. There are very few pure
Arab stallions ~~in~~ in existence. Probably
not more than about six which
are beyond doubt. They are very small
but very beautiful. The high carriage
of the tail which hangs clear of the
body is a very characteristic feature.
They are all straight in the shoulder
and are preferred so. They prefer the
car on the large size. Otherwise, with
minor differences, they can be judged
much on the lines of our own
thoroughbreds. As hacks they are elegant,
peacocky and pretty to look at,
but with no ambition to go out of a
walk. During the winter they race here

(4)

nearly every Saturday. As race horses, compared with the English or Colonial galloper, they are painfully slow but good stayers. For their size I don't think they are slow.

Had a good letter from De Vries. He has also sent me some English papers. Very thoughtful of him. His son is at the front.

I think I told you that the natives who sell newspapers call out "good news, Lord Roberts is dead" or something equally distorted by their lack of knowledge of the language. The men are quick to imitate these little peculiarities of the native and I heard them the other morning chipping at their Colonel. I don't think this Colonel, whose name shall be "Maple", is respected very much by his men.

They, within easy hearing of his tent they call out "Egyptian Mail, good news, Daddy Maple is dead!"

One of my Officers died. Such a good fellow, Capt. Bell. It was my business

(5)

to sell his personal effects. My orderly had stacked the clothes for me and I was letting men have anything they wanted at very low prices in some instances. One man held up a pair of pyjamas and asked the price. I looked at them and gave them to him as they were not worth selling. My orderly received them later because they were mine which he had taken away to mend and had placed them temporarily on Bell's heap of clothes.

Although it is so hot in the day time, the nights are so cold that our horses, though covered, have grown a second winter coat and are all to be clipped. Went last Sunday to Barrage by train. At Barrage is a beautifully kept public garden. After nearly three months on the desert it was a quaint and refreshing sight to see grass being cut with a lawn mower.

You know probably when card playing was first mentioned in the Bible. It was when Neb captured Nezzer.
Ernest Thomas.

March 1st 1915.

extracts from diary.

at mess, with a view to creating discussion and because I do not care to buoy myself up with false hopes, I take a pessimistic view of things and argue in favour of the war being a long one of two years at least. The majority seem to think we will spend our next Xmas in New Zealand. I doubt it and dare not give it a thought. In Africa we only signed on for a year so, although we were away for 16 months we knew there was some finality to the. But it seems to be an endless hopeless mess we are in now. In another week or so I expect it will be only postcards that we can write. We expect to leave here in about a week but nobody knows where we are going. There is not the slightest doubt I think that we are not going on the Continent yet. We shall be up against the Turks somewhere. Probably going to cut them off as they return from their fruitless attempt at the Canal. Flies are very trying during the day and mosquitos equally so at night. However nothing worries me very much. I do my job to the best of my ability and can't do more. Had afternoon tea yesterday with General and Lady Godley with four other O.C. units. Arrived

~~and did not get to bed until 11.30~~

(2)

I don't know how much you have seen in the papers about the attack on the Canal. Anything I tell you is of course only meant for yourself. I was fortunate in being one of 20 Australian and New Zealand Officers who were given an official trip to the Canal after it was attacked. We left Cairo by 7 a.m. train. Had breakfast in the train and got out at Kantara and crossed the Canal where a young English Officer of the Goorkhas met us and showed us all the fortifications and trenches. He took us at top over 6 miles of heavy sand. We thought we were out for a holiday but were disappointed. This young Officer was as fit as a fiddle and never turned a hair. Some Australian Officers, who think it beneath the pride of mounted men to walk, gave up the chase. There is no love lost between the Australians and New Zealanders. We find most of their Officers very difficult to get on with. The Australians have a very bad name here. Their discipline is shocking. Little wonder if you could see Officers and men going on the spree together. Amongst the defences we saw about two miles of "pits". They are about 6 ft deep, 3 feet apart and 3 feet in diameter with a sharp iron standard sticking up from the bottom of the pit.



In front of the pit is a wire and loops of hoop iron to trip you up and tip you on to the spike. These appear prehistoric but they are a recognised means of defence in modern warfare.

(3)

He also showed us a fire trench where 2 were hit and 2 killed by a force of about 200 that came up at night to the wire entanglements 50 yards in front of the trench. The Goorkhas in the trench accounted for 20 of the enemy apart from many prisoners and wounded. Back to the train. Lunch in the train and down the Canal from Somalia to Tusum. Here we were met by a major in charge of the Indian troops down there. A young officer at that moment came in and reported the enemy three miles away and the Airship fired on. So the Major asked us not to go for our walk down the Canal. So we waited and saw all the Indian troops doubling out into their trenches like black rabbits into their holes. Soon the report came in that the supposed enemy were some of our own men so we proceeded on our journey and were shown where the Turks simultaneously put down their pontoons in three different places. The report was true that the Airship had been fired at. Where the pontoons were put down is one of the only 3 miles on the Canal where

(4)

there are no trenches on the Turks side. This part is well covered by artillery on the opposite side. It was known that the enemy was about 6 miles away over night. It was a very good performance getting several pontoons on to the water before dawn without our knowing anything about it until a sentry fired a shot. Then of course they were slaughtered. About 500 were killed and buried by us and the long range guns from H. M. S. Swiftshere killed a lot more as they retired. We think they lost about 1000. Our total losses for the 3 days attack was 111 killed and wounded, all Indian except 3 New Zealanders, one of whom died of his wounds. Our New Zealand Infantry only were at the Canal and showed very good fire discipline. We took I don't know how many prisoners. They all had water in their water bottles and the remainder of 2 days rations and they were fairly well nourished. The orders they received were very clear. They were told that there was no enemy on their own bank and

(57)

only a thin line of sentries on the opposite bank, and that the enemy was of the same religion and would not fire on them. They were told to be silent, and not to load their rifles. This is always a wise precaution in a night attack because there is always the chance of a man getting in a funk and shooting at a shadow and giving the whole show away. They also wore a distinguishing badge on the arm so that they could distinguish and recognize each other in the dark. When they got close to the Canal they all took off their boots. The pontoons were carried for the last 6 miles, 50 to a pontoon relieved every $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. I saw a great many of the wounded operated on at Cairo. There were two tables (operating) going hard all the afternoon I was there. Most of the wounded I saw operated on were shot through the head from side to side. This looked rather as if our Maxim which ranged up and down the Canal had infiladed them. I was particularly sorry for one chap

(6)

who was shot from side to side through the bridge of the nose. If the wound had been $\frac{1}{8}$ in of an inch more forward it would have been a trivial wound but as it was it was just far enough back to graze both his eyes and blind him.

The white flag incident happened the day after the main attack. The man in the crows nest of H. M. S. Swiftshore spotted some Turks in a trench and fired a shot. The Turks put up a white flag and a few came out of the trench and were approached by an officer and a few of our men. We signalled to them to put up their hands and throw down their rifles. They did not seem to understand and only turned their rifles upside down. So our men went forward thinking everything was safe but were immediately fired on and an officer and some men killed. A hot fire soon opened on the trench and a bayonet charge was just going to be ordered when they put up the white flag and threw their rifles out of

(7)

trench. We killed and wounded
a good many including a German
officer in the trench. The remainder
were taken prisoners. There were
nearly 300 in the trench. This
little episode cost us 25
casualties. Their artillery fire
was very bad.

In haste

Ernest Thomas.

Ernest Thomas

TURF CLUB,
CAIRO.

March 12th/15

Dear Bernard

Many thanks for the scarf you have knitted for me. I haven't got it yet because the parcels always reach us a few days later than letters posted by the same mail. It is sure to arrive safely and before we leave this country which is getting very hot. The scarf is sure to be very useful to me where we are going in about a week. It is still very cold at this time of year where we are going.

The snow on the hills will be melting and I am told it will be very cold and wet for a time. Mud and slush and rain will be very strange at first because it never rains here and everything is very dry. I bought a thing to take photographs with. Arthur went with me and chose it for me. The first photograph I took was my bugler on horseback. He was acting as galloper for me one day when we were having a big field day. The next one I took was my horse

2)

TURF CLUB,
CAIRO.

pulled back the tighter the chain got round his neck. I suppose he thought the thing was bound to break and gave an extra strong pull which settled him before me a sergeant cut his headstall and let him free. The officer that the horse belonged to has had bad luck with his horses. The one he had before this one was one of the best on the lines. He got ill very suddenly and died in a few hours. I hear you are getting very fat. I hope you can

eat different kinds of fruit now. Either fresh fruit or preserved fruit such as dates and prunes.

You ought to eat exactly what your doctor orders you. Vegetables of course are excellent things for you but they are not very nice by themselves. You could have gravy with them or else hot vegetable sandwiches made with hot toast I should think would be lovely. I can't tell at this distance whether meat would be good for you or not.

I should think probably you are better without it.

But you must be guided entirely by your doctor. If he thinks you have got to that stage when eggs or meat would not hurt you you must take them because you are losing a lot of ground through your illness and you must try and make headway as soon as you are able, because you will be a man before many more years and will have to be making a living for yourself. When we go

out for a field day, at the place of meeting every commanding officer has to hand in what is called a "parade state". That is a piece of paper showing how many officers and men and horses and wagons etc you have out with you on parade. Somebody is told off to collect these and take them to the Senior Officer on parade. Last time I was out a smart Sergeant gallops up and with a smart salute asked "Parade state sir please". This smart Sergeant was Sergeant Rhodes. Goodbye old chap. Stick to it and get well soon. Your affec^{ate} Dad. Ernest Thomas.

lying down. It was a long and tiring day and we were halted for some time on the desert. My horse very sensibly lay down and had a rest. I wanted to see how these two had turned out but before doing so I had to take five more photographs before I could take the roll out of the machine for printing. So I sent my orderly out in charge of a corporal and told him to photograph anything he could see that might be interesting. This he did and I had the seven printed. The orderly's photographs were splendid, but mine were no good. The one of the

horse lying down they
couldn't print. They tell
me I must have shaken
the camera. Arthur never
told me I had to keep it
still. Photographing is
much more difficult
than I thought it was.

I lost a very good horse
today, one of my officer's
chargers. He was a bad
horse to pull back on the
lines and had broken two
ropes so I fixed him
up with a chain which
we use for a good many
of our horses. He got the
chain twisted round his
neck in some way and
pulled back. The more he

Beitoun Camp

April 19th 1915.

Dear Bernard

Many thanks for your letter which was the only one that told me about the Fire Brigade winning the shield again. However there were papers by the same mail that told us about it. It was a wonderfully good performance and I was very proud of them. I took your postcard round to Grooper Bartrup and he was very pleased to get it. Yesterday the scarf you knitted and sent me reached me safely. It is very nice and will be most useful, and thank you very much for it. It must have taken you a good long time to make it. I am glad you like your new school. I hope you will soon be at Christie College, perhaps before I come back. What times we will have when I come back! You must learn all you can at school so that when I come back you will be able to have a bit of a holiday without doing any harm by leaving school for a week or two! Ofcourse if

(2)

you are at Christ's College you would not be able to leave during the term. You and mother must map out a holiday trip and make up your mind where you want to go. Moana will probably be away travelling by then. Where you arrange to go will depend so much on the time of the year. If it is the fishing season we might like to spend part of the time camping on the river. Where ever we go I think we will have to take our guns with us, and of course it would be no use taking our guns with us unless we had that lunatic Gillie with us. You never know, in running the wrong way he might accidentally put up a rabbit for us. Perhaps mother, now that she is a good sailor, might like to go to the North Island. Quite a good idea. There are any amount of curious sights to see there that every body ought to see if they can. There are any number of rabbits in the south of the South Island, so there is no reason why we should not start at one end of New Zealand and finish up at the other.

(3)

and then sneak home. When we were having lunch on the deck the other day during a march a snake charmer turned up with a bag of snakes and let them curl round his neck and did anything he liked with them. One of my men called Reid, mother knows him, he is Major Newton's orderly, is a man who is not a bit afraid of a bee or anything that stings. He took the bag of snakes from the nigger and coiled the snakes round his neck and did anything he liked with them, much to our amusement, just the same as the nigger did. Reid had the sense to know that the man would not be allowed to travel amongst the public with poisonous snakes earning six pence every now and again, and he also had the sense to see that the man would never have handled the snakes in the careless way he did if their bite was poisonous. Of course he was quite right. But none of us had the sense to see through the swindle. We were all charmed like the snakes were supposed to be. Goodnight my boy, I am jolly tired, more tired than jolly.

those to you all. I have dropped mother a little game about - Angler Hartigan when she knows I don't think I can write any more by this mail. Many thanks for all letters.
Bromley

v3

March 22nd 1915.

Dear Milly

Got a letter from you and
Bernard today from Durand. I
am glad you are feeling better.
The change will have done you
good. ~~Good~~ It was a pity you
had to clear out of the Hotel and
go into lodgings. You are getting
too old to be pigging it in cheap
lodgings now. Bugle sounds "Officers
Mess" so I will go and fill
my tummy and then come back
and write a few more lines.

Beef, tough tonight but not
always tough, potatoes, cauli-
flower, custard and plenty
of sugar and any amount
of tea. I don't think any body
could complain very much of
that for a meal. We are very

(2)

well fed here. The men complain very quickly if things don't suit them. It would do some of them good to be on bully "beef and biscuits for ~~some~~ nine months at a stretch as I was in Africa. They would then know how lucky they are now. My men I must say complain very little. The milk ration has run out during the last three days. I believe they will have some more soon. We have tinned milk. The Cairo milk is not safe without boiling. Besides I don't think Cairo could supply the demand for troops or anything like it. They drink chiefly goats milk here.

(3)

Herd of goats are driven about the streets and are collected on empty sandy sections here and there.

What they live on I don't know because there is not even a green weed on the empty sections. Have just had to hold a Medical Board on a man called Bardley. He is brother to Bardley who used to be Secretary of the Harbour Board. He will be returning to N. I. in a few days poor chap with about 50 or 60 sick. He is off his head. He made a very good attempt at cutting his throat but didn't quite manage it. The wound has healed now and he is under

(4)

a guard day and night.
I heard from Miss Francis
about travelling with Moana.
I should think she would
do very well for Moana,
more especially as she and
Moana are very good pals.
I am writing to Arthur Rhodes
about her. She never got my
telegram which I sent to
save time. I wonder whether
you saw Corporal Allardye's
letter in the weekly Press
about our Xmas day. If
The General sees it I expect
he will lose his stripes. I
think the Press is Feb: 10th or
17th. I saw Arthur just now.
He paid 25/- deposit on a
box of goods he is sending
to h. 2. by Cooks people.

(5-)

This was about a month ago. He has just heard that the box has not gone and that they want 2£ more before they will send it. Cairo is 7 miles from us so it is not always easy for Arthur to get in. I am going to send in one of my wagons tomorrow and get the box out to camp and may be able to get it sent to A. Z. for nothing in charge of private Helming who is returning to A. Z. in a few days with the sick. All the men who are suffering from infectious diseases caught in Cairo, about 300 of them, have been sent to Matla. These infectious diseases do not

(6)

of course include Measles or
Scarlatina or diphtheria or
smallpox or typhoid. There is
a good deal of typhus fever
round about Cairo but
we have not got it amongst
the troops yet. I had a nice
letter from Mrs Bell.

Photograph 1. is Thomson trying
to teach me how to use my
photographing camera. I hope
to get the plate of this so that
you can get one enlarged to
about cabinet size and give
it to Mrs Thomson. She would
be delighted with it. (2) is my
mens kits laid out for inspection.
3. B. section football team. My section
is A. section. We got badly
beaten by B.. The ambulance
men played my d. S. Corpsmen

(7)

and beat them badly. Then
my men and A.S.C. played
the field ambulance and their
A.S.C. and beat them very
easily. H. Doakley who was an
ambulance man has joined my
A.S.C. so they photo'd him with
a mule they found on the desert.

(5.) Barrage dam on Nile. (6)
Group, Sgt: Beauchamp in middle.

7. Virgin's tree, C: Freeman cutting
off a bit of bark. We rather
think we are going to France
now not to Turkey but we
really don't know. There has
been some more fighting on
the Canal a few days ago.

Has I dined with ~~the~~ Col: Bachelor
and his daughter and step daughter
last night. I have a game of
billiards sometimes at the Club
with ~~the~~ Col: Lenwick.

lots of love. Yr affec: husband Ernest Thomas.

D 101 v3

Beitoun Camp

April 15th 1915.

Dear Milly

Just a few lines, rather than no line at all. I can't tell you when we will move from here. Nobody seems to know. It might be, and probably will be I think, 3 weeks at least before we move. It can't be much longer because the horses won't stand it. Animals not in use in this country are kept under cover in the hot weather, not exposed on lines in the desert. It is terribly hot in bell tents. The Egyptian Army tents are much bigger and cooler with flaps. But even with these cool tents in peace time men are not allowed to live in tents after the middle of March. So you can quite understand it is pretty hot here just now. In a motor ambulance car I was driving in today has a thermometer hanging up inside. It registered 91. That is of course in the shade. But today has been a little hotter than most days I think. Arthur was in to see me tonight. He has had an excellent day's quail shooting. I have been terribly busy for about 10 days because I have been S. M. O. of the Camp. S. M. O. means Senior Medical officers. This has given me a great deal of work as well as my own work. However Col. Will returned today so now I am doing my own work only. Col. Lemwick had to go to the Dardanelles. That is why I was left S. M. O. Lots of love to all.
Yr. affec^t husband Ernest Thomas.

(2)

Continued.

Just a few more lines. Mrs. Goodchild, who drives the motor ambulance of her own, has measles. I understand she has been transporting measles to the measles camp. against my instructions. If so she has only herself to blame. Twelve thousand mounted troops have ~~now~~ landed at Alexandria from England. This is good news because it means our mounted troops will be wanted somewhere. We rather feared that the horses would be of no use and the mounted troops turned into Infantry. I should think this means because the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles must be taken as well as the European side, which our infantry troops have gone to tackle with some of the cream of the army. In New Zealand we look upon our mounted troops as the pride of the troops we send away. So they are because we have never ~~yet~~ before sent anything but mounted troops. But this time we have sent infantry as well. I think our Infantry are particularly good. I have often times felt very proud of them. Of course one can't help being very proud of the mounted troops because horse and rider are as one machine, but I doubt whether they will get the same chance of showing to advantage as they did in South Africa where scouting in a very wide open field was of such great value.

I think the few British performances were simply splendid. I sent Capper's Campbell
a nice letter I was told it will very likely replace by the General because I
signed myself with my name. If they land and it they will not be
one know and protect the money.

V3

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE.

AN INTERESTING DESCRIPTION.

SPLENDID ST. JOHN WORK AT SOUTHAMPTON.

An article in the English Ladies' Journal the "Queen," states:—

Never has the writer had two more interesting days than those spent at Southampton recently, when she made a round of visits to the chain of good works that are being carried on in that neighbourhood.

Lady Dane has done an extraordinary amount of work for soldiers, both in feeding those going to the front, and in providing hospital accommodation for the wounded. At the commencement of the war there was formed in Southampton the Emergency War Committee of the St. John Ambulance Association with Sir Louis Dane, who is late Lieut-Governor of the Punjab, as president and Lady Dane as vice-president.

A spacious house in Southampton West, standing well back from the road, was fitted out as a hospital, the entire work of cleaning and equipping being carried out by members of St. John Ambulance Brigade Voluntary Aid Detachments. On October 25, at eight hours' notice, Clifton House was prepared for the reception of Belgian wounded, many of the cases being very serious ones. Miss Love, a fully-trained nurse, was installed as matron with four fully-trained sisters under her, and seventy-six V.A. members. At first it was understood that only thirty patients were coming, but when that number rose to fifty, beds were hurriedly put into a second house close by, and that same night thirteen serious operations were successfully performed. By October 31, eighty-six patients were accommodated in the two houses, and it says much for the organisation of Sir Louis and Lady Dane, and the work of their staff of helpers, that this number could possibly be taken in so quickly and be provided for in such an absolutely efficient manner.

It is delightful to hear Miss Love speak of the work of the V.A.D.'s, for she takes up a very different attitude to that of many qualified nurses who seem to think that no untrained women should be allowed to work in any war hospital. She says that the V.A.D.'s have worked splendidly and that their discipline is remarkable, whilst the operating surgeon of the hospital says he could not have believed that amateurs could be so professional in their behaviour. Some of the voluntary workers are in the kitchen and pantry whilst others are in the wards. The large conservatory of the house has been cleverly turned into the theatre, but up to the present there has been no large steriliser, so that the matron herself had to see to every bit of sterilisation that was necessary. The efficacy of her methods is shown by the fact that all the operation cases have done extremely well.

When the patients become convalescent they are sent on to Kelston, which is a charming house standing in a large garden. The matron here is Miss Fryer, and for her forty-three beds has one trained nurse under her and forty St. John V.A. members.

Within a few weeks Lady Dane, who acts as quarter-master and general manager of the hospitals hopes to have a third house, "Beechfield," in full work. The way in which Lady Dane has managed the finances is wonderful, as she only received £200 from St. John's Gate for equipment and the Government grant of 3s a day for each man. Otherwise both hospitals have been entirely furnished and maintained by contributions gathered in Southampton. Local friends had been extremely

good in sending gifts "in kind," and until Christmas scarcely any vegetables or groceries had been bought, but since the New Year these gifts have fallen off, and the money that was carefully husbanded in the late autumn has come in most usefully now.

These hospitals might well be taken as models, for they are efficiently and economically managed and, best of all, the staffs work happily together, the trained nurses showing tact and wide-mindedness whilst the voluntary workers are willing to do anything, from laying out cloth to the minor duties of nursing.

SOLDIERS' REFRESHMENT HUT ON SOUTHAMPTON COMMON.

A huge camp for soldiers was made on Southampton Common directly the war began, and during these first weeks of August thousands of troops there and from long distances, arriving hungry and tired to find no canteen and no place where food was obtainable. This state of affairs reached the ears of Lady Dane who at once set about putting up a refreshment tent, and from that day to this no man or officer has been turned away unfed. The finances were started by the gift of a five pound note, and two packets of tea and sugar were brought in on the first day by the wife of a dockyard labourer. Then gifts of all kinds poured in, a tent was lent, men were fed at all hours of the day and night. Lady Dane invited St. John nursing sisters and orderlies to help and they gladly accepted, and with the aid of Miss Dane and one or two friends the refreshment tent has run on merrily during all these months, doing truly magnificent work. The value of this as national work can scarcely be estimated, as a man who has not had food for many hours and has done a long journey is not in a fit condition to leave for the front.

Altogether over 85,000 emergency rations have been supplied. The tent became very dilapidated through the bad weather, and recently a fine new wooden hut has been built at a cost of nearly £200. The size of the hut is 20ft by 40ft, and it is charmingly decorated, having a stencilled frieze above its pretty green walls. Close to it is a small kitchen shed where big boilers are heated, and near-by again is a pretty little hut which is devoted to officers who are unable to leave the camp, and often stand quite as much in need of a meal as their men. Another tent is used for ambulance work in case of accident, and there are two caravans which make useful places of rest for the workers and also serve as store-rooms. It is, in fact, quite a little St. John encampment on the Common, over which floats the well-known and distinctive black and white flag.

Southampton may well be proud of the fact that about 200 St. John nursing sisters are at work in various hospitals and practically all the St. John men, except those who are on Government work and cannot get leave of absence.

WORK AT THE DOCKS.

The great success of the St. John tent on the common had been noised abroad, so that Sir Louis and Lady Dane were appealed to by the authorities of the docks when they found it was impossible to cope with the needs of the influx of 2000 Belgian refugees who were expected to arrive on a certain day in October. Provisions and equipment for 2000 people were taken to the docks by fourteen St. John nursing sisters and four St. John orderlies, tables were set out in a shed in the docks, soup and coffee were made, and eventually every one of the poor people, who arrived in a state of semi-starvation and many of them seriously wounded or ill, was fed. The St. John workers arrived at the docks at one o'clock on Thursday, October 15, and did not leave until 5 p.m. on Friday,

both, and it may well be remembered to their credit that the Assistant embarkation commandant, Col. Balfour, said "their work was beyond all praise." In this way the Southampton St. John workers created a name for themselves for promptitude which has been well preserved ever since, and bids fair to stand the wear and tear of the whole duration of the war. Later on the authorities got things into regular working order, but it is at the commencement

of every new development occasioned by the war that voluntary help, rendered such services that cannot be given by Government, simply because there has been no precedent for this particular kind of work, and no provision for it has been made. Col. Twiss who really kept alive the interest in St. John work during peace time, may well be proud of the way in which the Southampton divisions, both men and nursing sisters, have risen to the great and awful occasion of war.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE.

COUNTRY COLLECTIONS.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade desire to acknowledge with sincere thanks the following amounts collected by children of the schools in South Canterbury:—Allandale £1 1s 3d, Arundel £2 5s, Rangitira Valley 4s, Rangitira Island 11s, Four Peaks £1 15s 3d, Adair £1 10s, Ashwick Flat £2 12s 6d, Cannington £3 12s 6d, Cricklewood 5s, Esk Valley £2 7s 1d, Hazelburn £1 1s, Monovale £1 7s 10d, Otaio £2 17s 6d, Orton £1 18s, Rangitira Station £2 2s, Redcliff £4 17s 6d, Scotsburn £2 10s 9d, Tengawai £1 9s 3d, Tycho Flat £1 16s 3d, Cave £3 8s 6d, Chamberlain £1 1s, Gapes Valley £2 6s 7d, Orari Bridge 10s 3d, Southburn £2 4s 3d, Springbrook £2 8s 9d, Sutherlands £3 8s 9d, Claremont £3 5s 4d, Fairview £2, Kingsdown 5s, Pareora East £4 11s 3d, Pareora West £2 6s 9d, Fairlie £2 1s, Pleasant Point 3s 9d, Totara Valley £1 18s, Woodbury 14s 3d; total, £68 17s 1d.

The secretaries would be glad if those schools which have not yet returned the cards sent them, would do so, as soon as possible, so that the returns can be completed.

TIMARU OFFICER.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Thomas, Timaru, who has been kept very busy engaged attending to the wounded in Egypt for some time, is now at the Dardanelles, doing duty in the trenches. By reason of the fact that the Turks have no respect for the Red Cross, the medical men wear no Red Cross badge, and they are all armed the same as the rank and file. Lieut. Colonel Thomas wears a uniform the same as that of his orderly. So from the Red Cross badge being a protection for medical men, it is, in the eyes of the Turks, like a red rag to a bull.

Sergeant Arthur E. T. Rhodes, Hadlow, is also in the thick of fighting at the Dardanelles now.

AMBULANCE BRIGADE

SUCCESS OF TIMARU BRANCH.

A Sunday afternoon in the course of address given by Dr. Gabites at the giving of the tablet to the memory of the late Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Thomas, N.Z.M.C., the speaker detailed the achievements of the Timaru branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. He pointed out that the success which the Brigade had attained in the various competitions in which it had engaged since its inception in 1908, was due in great measure to the assistance and co-operation of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas.

In 1911 a squad from Timaru competed in Christchurch in first aid work and secured first place, while a squad in the nursing division secured second place in first aid and home nursing. In 1912 the Timaru nursing division took third place in the first aid competition held at Christchurch and a Timaru nursing sister secured first place for individual work in the competition. In 1913 the Wells Challenge Shield competition was held at Timaru and was won by a squad from the Timaru nursing division, and in 1916 the rose bowl was again won by a squad from the Timaru division, special praise being given to the No. 1 squad for its excellence in first aid work. In the nursing competition a squad from the Timaru nursing division won the cup, gaining 79 marks out of a possible 80, and a sister of this division beat 57 others, winning the individual championship and a gold medal, while the individual championship for men was carried off by a member of the Timaru division, who also received a gold medal.

All these competitions were open to competitors from Canterbury, Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast districts.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE.

DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATES.

The distribution of certificates to members of the St. John Ambulance Association, took place in the Hall, Latter Street, last evening. There was a very large attendance, Mr W. Hindmarsh presided, and with him were the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr and Mrs M. K. Guinness), and Mr W. Smith (superintendent Men's Division).

Mr Hindmarsh said the record for the year was an excellent one, and the meeting was at liberty to applaud any figures they thought called for it.

Nine classes of instruction in first aid were formed in Timaru, Fairlie, Teunika and Lyaldale, and 133 persons gained certificates—68 ladies and 39 men—in first aid, and 26 ladies in home nursing certificates. Thanks were due to the doctors who had lectured and examined, and to the members who acted as demonstrators.

The strength of all ranks in the men's division was 23; 22 drills were held during the year with an average attendance of 14. First aid cases treated numbered 247, 57 on public occasions, and 190 otherwise. Twenty-eight sports and race meetings were attended. The new depots established numbered five, making the total 27. For use in hospitals at the Front, 2618 bandages had been rolled. The strength of all ranks in the nursing division was 36, and 50 drills had been held. A large amount of Red Cross work had been done by different members of the Nursing Division. Ambulance Day was held on March 25, and the amount received from sale of badges, etc., was £202, a very satisfactory result, and thanks were due to the ladies, gentlemen and Boy Scouts who assisted.

The receipts from class fees and hon. members' subscriptions amounted to £154 3s, and the expenditure in connection with all classes totalled £139 0s 6d, leaving a credit balance on the year's operations of £15 2s 6d. The amounts received for Transports totalled £39, and the amount expended £63 16s.

The assets were approximately as follows:—Central Hall, Latter Street, £1000 (mortgaged for £300); first aid material at depots £120; interest in motor ambulance wagon £180; cash in hand and P.O. Savings Bank, £120. Excess of assets over liabilities £1120.

Mr Hindmarsh stated that the chief assets were the two Superintendents, Mrs F. A. Raymond and W. Smith, and the willing workers in both divisions, whose value could not be expressed in monetary terms.

The Association and Brigade had placed on record their profound grief at the death of Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Thomas, who was for many years chairman of the Association, and who lost his life on Gallipoli; and a memorial tablet had been unveiled in the hall on Sunday last. The chairman also mentioned the following members who are on active service.—Drs. Little and Ulrich, Messrs F. C. de Lambert, D. T. Edmonds, J. Toneycliffe, F. Craven, and F. Wallace, and all wished them good luck and a safe return home.

Many thanks were due to Mrs F. A. Raymond, Divisional Superintendent, Nursing Division, Mr J. P. Hughson, District Superintendent, Major Gabites Corps Superintendent, Mr W. Smith, Superintendent of Men's Division, Mr E. W. Wade, Corps Secretary and Transport Officer, for their competent and devoted services to the Association and Brigade. Mrs Wade who does most

valuable work in arranging for transports was also entitled to a hearty vote of thanks.

Mr Hindmarsh said it would be gathered from the particulars which have been given that the year had been a most eventful one, and that work of a very useful and substantial nature had been accomplished during the period. Recruits were wanted in both divisions, more particularly in the men's division, and it was hoped that a large proportion of those who had gained certificates would decide to join one of the divisions, and assist those who were doing so much towards lessening the aggregate of human misery and suffering. The needs of the district were growing and generous financial support would soon be wanted to enable the Association to repay the mortgage, enlarge the hall, and continue the work in a satisfactory and efficient manner. Hitherto the Association's doings had been kept too secret, and he felt confident that if proper steps were taken after the war to make the magnitude, the scope, and the usefulness of the work done voluntarily by the Association and Brigade generally known, that there would be a liberal response from the public in the way of subscriptions and donations, and that many earnest, capable, and unselfish men and women would join their ranks and enable them to keep the Association brigades up to the necessary strength. (Applause.)

Mr Hindmarsh then called on the Mayoress to present the principal certificates and medals, and the Mayor presented the remainder. The following gained certificates or medals:—

Men's Division.—(Labels). J. P. Hughson, E. W. Wade, W. Smith, Wm. Scott, R. Graham, E. F. Taylor, (medallion), H. G. Segar (medallion).

First Aid.—D. Hodgson, W. Taylor, T. Quinn, Brother Bonaventure, Brother Martin, M. J. Dunn, J. A. Smith, T. A. Claugton, C. B. Gatchell, Bro. Ebert, J. Rasmussen, S. Sinclair, E. Jones, L. Campbell, W. Jennings, W. J. Parfoot, E. Bates, S. Schofield, J. Mathews, E. Heath, H. J. Stare, D. Mills, W. Watson, C. P. Don, C. H. Howe, F. R. Craven, W. R. Hindmarsh.

Champion First Aid Medals, Canterbury First Aid District.—Nursing Sister Goldsman and Mr D. Hodson.

Rosebowl for champion squad, first aid and stretcher drill.—Sergeant Hooper (in charge), and Privates Jennings, Parfoot and Heath.

The nursing division won the Home Nursing Competition.—Misses E. Goldsman, G. Fussell, L. Fussell and N. Kaubley.

Labels for five years' service, ladies.—First officer, M. A. Hughson; second officer, G. E. Lewis; nursing sister, K. Seyb; N.S., F. Lewis; N.S., E. Goldsman.

Home nursing certificates.—Misses E. B. Revell, D. M. Dobson, A. E. H. Howell, F. M. Cox, G. E. White, E. M. Hume, J. K. Evans, K. Seal, M. King, I. Rhodes, A. H. Hay, E. M. Cargill, D. M. Sharp, M. P. Walton, A. R. Grant, M. S. Watt, A. M. Hibbard, M. Westoby, D. Coe, E. M. Charters, M. Thomson, E. B. Ellis, M. Hawkes, E. Rushbridge, F. Chivers, M. Stericker.

First aid.—Misses D. Strachan, W. Holdgate, M. Radcliffe, M. E. Priest, B. Allen, E. Moore, M. Moore, A. Shires, A. Fraser, D. Goldstone, D. Pringle, F. Pringle, M. Fisher, E. K. Evans, F. M. Clissold, T. Norvic, K. Gould, E. Edyvean, J. C. Grieve, C. Stevens, E. Vogeler, Mrs K. Green, Misses M. G. Morrish, E. Shugrue, M. Ray, L. Sheed, M. McLeod, M. Hawkes, A. Knight, C. J. Cameron, E. Jones, R. Jones, M. Shalund, D. Irwin, F. Chivers, J. Bennet.

Vocal and instrumental items were given by the following. Pianoforte solo, Miss Jessie Wade. Songs by Messrs N. Radcliffe, A. Stewart, A. Williams, and E. Kirkin.

Supper was afterwards handed round by the ladies and a pleasant evening came to a close.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION TELEGRAM.)

WELLINGTON, September 3.

The following casualties were announced to-day:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

MEDICAL CORPS.

(August 23th.)

Thomas, Charles Ernest, Lieutenant-Colonel (Mrs C. E. Thomas, Sophia street, Timaru, wife).

TIMARU HERALD

A. AND P. ASSOCIATIONS

TIMARU.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the committee of the Timaru A. and P. Association was held on Saturday. Present: Messrs T. Teschemaker, president (in the chair), G. A. M. Macdonald, vice-president, R. J. McKeown, W. J. Bassett, J. Maze, R. Irving, R. Parry, E. Kelland, D. Grant (Timaru), G. Lyall, A. G. Hart, W. Harper, D. Grant (Winchester), A. S. Elworthy, R. H. Rhodes, R. Davie, W. W. Cartwright, C. N. Orbell, J. Scott, and H. Elworthy.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL THOMAS.

Mr Teschemaker, referring to the death at the Dardanelles of Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas, said: "All of us, I am sure, are feeling deeply sorry at the loss of so good and true a man as the late Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas. I have known him ever since he came out to New Zealand, and I can say that a better, a truer, or a kinder man we never had amongst us. He was always serving in the public in some way, and whether at work or sport was as game as a pebble under all circumstances. After the close of the Boer war a friend of mine who was out there came to me and told me of Dr Thomas and what he had done there. He said it was simply a marvel that the doctor had not been killed there over and over again, for he never shielded himself and wherever there was a man in need of aid the doctor was there to give it, irrespective of risk to his own life. As a man at home he was always looking after the requirements of his fellow citizens. We knew him also as a good sport, to say nothing of his position as a doctor in the town. He was always to the fore in anything for the benefit of his fellows, and I cannot say how sorry I am to think that he should have been taken from us. I am sorry as a personal friend and sorry also because of the great loss it is to the community at large. He was a good and true man and it will be a long time before we see his like again."

Mr Teschemaker then moved that the Association place on record an expression of their appreciation of the late Lieut-Col. Thomas, and of their heartfelt sympathy with his widow and relatives.

All standing, the motion was carried in silence.

LIEUT.-COLONEL THOMAS.

Sept 2nd 1915

KILLED IN ACTION.

Timaru has not received a more profound shock that it received last night when news came through that Lieut.-Colonel Thomas had been killed at the Dardanelles. No more popular soldier-doctor ever left these shores, and sympathy for his wife and family will be general.

Dr Charles Ernest Thomas, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.S.A. (London), physician and surgeon, was born at Bangalore, India, in 1864, and was therefore 51 years of age. He was educated at Cheltenham College, England, entered Middlesex Hospital (London) in 1881, and became house surgeon and house physician of that institution. He came to New Zealand in 1890, and shortly afterwards received the appointment of resident surgeon at Timaru Hospital. In the following year he commenced private practice, and his ability soon earned for him a big practice.

A keen military man, Dr Thomas joined the old Timaru Navals as lieutenant soon after his arrival in Timaru, and since that time his interest in military work never abated in the slightest degree. He was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant-Commanding, then to Captain, and later to Lieut.-Colonel. The Navals were afterwards known as the Port Guards, and no officer was ever more popular with his men than "Captain Thomas of the Guards." Nothing was ever too much trouble for him, and no corps was ever better looked after than his. As plucky as he was enthusiastic, "the little doctor," as he was familiarly known, volunteered for service when the South African war broke out, and he went as medical officer with the Fifth New Zealand Contingent. In South Africa he was appointed senior medical officer of the Second Brigade, Rhodesian Field Force, and senior medical officer at Klerksdorp.

On his return from South Africa he was given a great reception, and was carried shoulder high from the railway station to his home by members of the Port Guards, the band playing en route and the public following. Since that time he continued to take a close interest in military matters. It was not thought that he would want to face another campaign after his arduous time in South Africa, but as soon as the present war broke out he was all anxiety to get away. And he very soon went, though if any man had a good excuse for not going, he had. His friends admired him for the fine spirit which he showed, and they have never ceased to admire as from time to time they have read the bright and informative letters which he has written home. He went as a member of the R.A.M.C., and has been engaged on various troopships between Egypt and the Dardanelles, as well as on the Peninsula itself. Particulars as to just how he met his death were not available last night, but it is certain he would not shield himself if there was a chance to do a service for another.

Lieut.-Colonel Thomas was never happier than when he was doing some public service. He was a very live member of the St. John Ambulance, and for twenty-five years had been hon. surgeon to the Timaru Fire Brigade, a duty in which he also took a very real pleasure. He was port health officer up to the time of his departure for the war. A great lover of all outdoor sport, he took a specially keen interest in hunting. It may be said that for many years he was the life and soul of the South Canterbury

Hunt, a body to which he was hon. secretary for many years. He owned a number of well-known hunters, and gained some very popular victories on his favourite Brownmill. In the South Canterbury Jockey Club he also took a very prominent part. For many years he was a steward of this body, and was for two years its president. He also served as a delegate to the Racing Conference and the Hunts Association, and in his younger days was a playing member of the Timaru Football and Cricket Clubs. The doctor had a facile pen, and the many reports of hunts which he supplied to the papers were always read with interest. He loved a cross-country gallop, with the pack in full cry, as he loved no other sport, and of this he never tired. Possessed of a true sporting spirit he died as he would have wished—playing the game to the last and serving his country faithfully and well.

The deceased married the widow of the late Mr Timaru Rhodes, and is survived by her and one son, Master Bernard Thomas. Mrs Thomas has been an enthusiastic co-worker with her late husband, and to her will go out the deep sympathy of innumerable friends.

IN MEMORIAM.

THE LATE DR THOMAS.

Colonel Stuart Newall, C.B., who commanded the Fifth New Zealand Contingent to South Africa, writes to us from Waihi:

The Press Association telegram of Wednesday, 1st inst., from Timaru, greatly saddened me, and will have had a similar effect on all the officers and men of the Fifth New Zealand Contingent who served in South Africa, fifteen years ago. During the voyage, at fevered Beira, and in the strenuous days which followed, the skillful and kindly ministrations of Dr Thomas are a grateful memory to us all. And now we read "Killed in action at the Dardanelles," words that are whispered to-day in many a home in this and kindred lands. I cannot better close this small tribute to his memory and his worth, than by quoting words of his own in a letter to me from Albany of 31st October last, words which he who wrote, though dead, yet speaketh.

"When the call to arms came again, I hesitated as to whether my first duty was at home or at the Front. The gravity of the situation convinced me that if I could be of any use I should go, so here I am to do my duty to the best of my ability."

It is of such men as our late friend that England expects, and in her expectations is not disappointed.

RED CROSS WORK

FOR HOSPITAL SHIP.

AND BASE HOSPITALS.

It is but a fortnight ago since His Excellency the Governor issued an appeal for goods to equip the Hospital Ship to be sent from New Zealand for conveyance of the country's wounded from the Dardanelles, yet in that comparatively short period the amount of work done is little short of amazing. The local branch of the Red Cross Society who received the appeal immediately set to work in a highly methodical way, and guilds were established all over the district, as well as being set on foot with astonishing rapidity in the city. Work was prosecuted with the most energy by every organisation, even the school children did their share of work in the most commendable manner. About a week ago the supplies ordered to this district to provide were known, and these were very quickly filled. The Ambulance Hall, in R. Street, has been the centre of activities, and the rendezvous for the collected work, as well as the source of supplies of material to be made up of the respective articles of comfort. The indefatigable officials of the Red Cross Society have laboured day in and day out from morning till night, with increasing earnestness, regarding only as a reward to be able to do something to alleviate the suffering and make more pleasurable the lot of our kith and kin stricken in the field of battle.

The Society through a street collection, and many donations amassed a considerable sum of money, and this has been partly drawn upon to procure material. A staff of talented cutters rendered their assistance willingly and gratuitously, and the material was prepared and made ready for making up by the various Guilds. Other Guilds held in private residences, have met weekly, in some cases each member has paid a weekly contribution to provide funds, and the return of articles in this way has been mostly gratifying. Many sacrifices of time and expense have been made, and some of the methods of raising money have been really novel and surprisingly effective. On Monday afternoon a scarf was handed in at the Ambulance Hall, with an attached note that it had been knitted by a little girl six years of age, who had bought the wool, knitted the scarf herself, and wished to donate it to the Red Cross for "the soldier boys." This little patriot was Eveline Wood. Arthur Street, and there are many other such examples of the spirit that has been manifested throughout the district in this great work. Some children have even sold their pet fowls in order to get money to help on the great scheme. The time for the return of articles and the reception of contributions closed yesterday, and the Ambulance Hall presented a scene not far removed from that in the largest drapery establishment in town. The result is that yesterday there were despatched to the Governor at Wellington by the s.s. Korinna for the Hospital Ship equipment, 4 cases of goods, and 3 bales of blankets and rugs. In addition to these were sent to the Red Cross depot at Christchurch for use in the base hospitals, eleven cases of goods of a wide variety. The accompanying list of articles sent will give an idea of the amount of work that has been done, and it will reflect the greatest credit on every one who helped. Little surprise packets in the shape of cigarettes, which were purchased by Miss Clark from a collection she made, have been liberally intermixed with the other articles.

To all who so ably and willingly assisted in compiling such a highly creditable return of work, the President of the Society, Mrs. Raymond, wishes to express the most cordial thanks of all the office bearers. Too much cannot be said of the latter's painstaking and sacrificing efforts, but the reply from the public generally will no doubt be considered by them as ample payment for their labours.

LORD LIVERPOOL'S APPEAL.

SOUTH CANTERBURY'S RESPONSE

The following is a summary of gifts for the Hospital Ship received by the Red Cross Branch, and forwarded yesterday:—

	Required	Sent.
Blankets	100 prs.	103 prs.
Shirts	100 prs.	116 prs.
Pillow Cases	100 prs.	200 prs.
Rugs	25	26
Towels—Bath	100	100
Hand	100	100
Face	100	100
Pyjamas	50 prs.	50 prs.
Bed Jackets	50	50
Dressing Gowns—		
(Woollen)	25	9
(Crepe)	25	14
Air Cushion	—	1
Hot water Bottles	—	27
Box Chocolate	—	1

INTERESTING INFORMATION.

The following letter has been received by Mr. A. E. G. Rhodes, of Christchurch, from the under-secretary for Internal Affairs:—

"I have the honour to refer to the communication forwarded by you to the Minister of Defence relative to the information which the delegates from the various committees, interested in Red Cross Work in South Canterbury, desire to obtain as to whether there is any distributing centre in Egypt or the Mediterranean for the Red Cross or St. John Ambulance Association, or the Government, through which things could be sent and distributed amongst the various hospitals. In reply I have to inform you that arrangements can be made by this Department to forward any clothing, etc. from your committee, to Egypt for distribution to the several New Zealand hospitals. The procedure necessary to ensure that such goods will reach their destination and be properly distributed is as follows:—

"The cases to be addressed to the Officer Commanding New Zealand Expeditionary Forces, Base Hospital, Alexandria," and to be consigned to the Under-secretary for Internal Affairs, No. 3 Shed, Glasgow Wharf, Wellington. The contents of the cases should be notified me, and at the same time it is to be specifically stated whether the goods forwarded are for the New Zealand Hospitals in Alexandria, Cairo or Malta. All such goods will be despatched from here by the first available transports, and full advice will be sent forward to the Officer Commanding New Zealand Expeditionary Forces, Base Hospital, Alexandria, of the consignment, with a list of the contents, containing direct instructions as to their distribution. A request will also be made for due acknowledgment of the articles, and the information when furnished will be sent on to you. If there is any other matter upon which your or your committee desire further information and you so advise me, I will be glad if possible to furnish it."

7-7-15

FINANCIAL SHIRKERS.

To the Editor of the "Timaru Herald."

Sir,—We have heard a good deal about the fighting shirker, but what about the financial shirker? One can feel a little pity mixed with the disgust for the former, but not one iota for the latter. A man in this district who made £10,000 profit over his last year's work was approached by a local member of the Red Cross Society (an association organised by voluntary work and contributions) and asked for a subscription. His words were: "Not me—the Government will take its whack out of me in the war tax." The antithesis of this is the action of an old age pensioner of my acquaintance who gives 10s every month out of his £2 to the Belgian Fund. Another man who at a low estimate is worth £60,000 has refused—so far as is known publicly—to give a single sixpence to any fund, whilst his neighbours are presenting to the nation the lives of some of their sons.

To my mind a man who, in times of war after carefully providing for the present and future wants of his family, refuses to give freely of his surplus wealth is nothing more nor less than an exploiter of the worst character. He is keeping up the value of his surplus property, produce, investments, etc., by utilising the blood that is be-

ing shed by his fellow men. These are strong words, but the occasion warrants if not demands them, and it is quite time that the gloves were taken off to these creatures. We have, occasionally, in New Zealand, a way of moving after events instead of anticipating them. To avoid this, these financial shirkers should be plainly given to understand that such behaviour will not be tolerated, and that governmental and social measures will be taken to severely penalise them. If some such expressions of feelings were publicly given utterance to over the whole of the Dominion, some of them might be induced to change their line of action. —I am, etc., N. K. COX.

TIMARU HERALD.

RED CROSS WORK.

A FINE EXHIBIT.

The South Canterbury Branch of the Red Cross Society, through the courtesy of Messrs Adams and Coy., drapers, have in one of the firms large windows an interesting display of the various articles being made by the branch and its friends for our wounded soldiers at the Front. The window is arranged as an hospital ward, the bed with the wounded soldier, the attending nurse and all the usual hospital adjuncts being displayed with taste, order and symmetry. The wax figures representing the wounded man and the nurse are true to life and the white background with its red cross display throws the different items in the window into bold relief. Among the articles displayed in the window are bed sheet, day sheet, draw sheet, undersheet, flannel, dressing gown, air cushion, hot water bag, roller bandages, pyjamas, socks, pneumonia jacket, towels, triangular bandages, etc. A handy little box will be displayed in a conspicuous place for contributions to the Red Cross Fund. The well arranged display is well worth seeing, and the windows will be brilliantly lit this evening.

"BORROWED PLUMES."

To the Editor of the "Timaru Herald."

Sir,—For many years now we have realised what a blessing to humanity is the modern hospital-trained nurse. More especially is this the case since this award was started, for though criticism has not been spared in other directions, I have heard nothing but gratitude for the services of our war nurses, whose heroic unselfishness and skilful devotion to duty have been beyond all praise. Why then have they no protection—no copyright for the uniform which they have earned the right to wear? It has been justly earned by three years of hard slogging for a paltry remuneration, combined with examinations which take some passing. On the contrary we see their uniform paraded in public by the members—the so-called nursing sisters—of St. John Ambulance. These sisters wear it because they have attended a course of less than a dozen lectures on home nursing, the subject matter of these lectures being not always of any practical value, and occasionally most unsuitable for young women. It is not necessary for any of them ever to have seen a sick person, but they have passed an examination as utterly impracticable as their lectures. No wonder that the genuine nurse prefers to wear mufti in public, rather than take the chance of being mistaken for the counterfeit article. At the solemn service last Wednesday in St. Mary's Church, the nursing sisters appeared in force, and I felt sorry for any genuine nurse in ordinary attire who may have been asked to give up her accustomed seat to make room for those whose assumption of her uniform she must have already resented.

Do not think that I wish to disparage the St. John Ambulance Association, whose world-wide good work is so well known, and who locally have endeared themselves to the public by the excellent work of their transport division. But I do think that their nursing sisters should not have appropriated the uniform which is undeniably the property of the hospital-trained nurse. The latter I have good grounds for appreciating, for I am an

EX-PATENT.

Timaru, September 18.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NURSES AND THEIR UNIFORMS.

To the Editor of the "Timaru Herald."

Sir,—In your issue of Tuesday last I was very much disgusted in reading a letter of "Ex-Patient," headed, "Borrowed Plumes," making aspersions on the noble body of St. John Ambulance Association. For downright drivel it would be hard to beat. In these days of national crisis and unrest, when it behoves every one of us to stand loyally together for the welfare of our nation, the letter in question is both unpatriotic and repulsive to a Society that has done so much in alleviating the sufferings of our poor wounded soldiers. In one hit the writer would do away with the distinctive dress of this world-wide Society. By their uniform they have been recognised in the good work done, in collecting for our wounded at street corners, and in every available public place. By their uniform they have been recognised on the battlefield, attending to the wants of our brave wounded soldiers, and in many other ways their distinctive garb has brought their work prominently before the public eye. If "Ex-Patient" in attending a solemn memorial service could find nothing better to do than criticise such a noble Society, then it is a great pity he ever went there.—I am, etc.

ANTI-FRICTION.

At a meeting of the St. John Ambulance Finance Control Board, presided over by Mr J. P. Hugson, feeling reference was made to the death of the late Lieut-Colonel Thomas, who had been a very valued member of the Board ever since its inception. A motion of deep sympathy with Mrs Thomas was passed. It was also decided to commemorate the memory of the deceased, by erecting a brass tablet suitably inscribed, in the Ambulance Hall, and to hang over it an enlarged photograph of him.

MEMORIAL TABLET.

LATE LIEUT. COL. THOMAS.

The parade held last evening for the dedication of the tablet in Mary's Church, Timaru, to the Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Thomas, N.Z.M.C., was largely attended. The parade moved off from the Drill Hall at 7.25 p.m., and was in the following order:—The Band of the 2nd (South Canterbury) Regiment, under Conductor Seltnack; Mounted Field Ambulance, under Major Loughnan; Ex-Contingenters' Association, under Major Gabites; ex-members of the Port Guards, under Captain F. A. Raymond; Honorary Territorials, under Captain Jackson; St. John Ambulance Brigade, under Dr Ulrich and Superintendent Smith; Boy Scouts, under District Commissioner Innes-Jones and District Commander Morgan; Fire Brigade, under Superintendent P. Campbell; and the Nursing Division marshalled by Dr Little. The parade was under the command of Major Foden, and Captain Marriott acted as adjutant. Lieutenant Weir, Area Officer, represented the Defence Department.

Archdeacon Jacob, in the presence of a large congregation, dedicated the tablet and gave a brief address, taking as his text, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend." Dr Thomas, said the preacher, had been well loved by those who knew him, and he had always been ready to assist others. When the great call came he was ready to fulfil his duty and responded gladly. Those who knew him in the various walks of life, in his profession, in sport, in war, all revered him and looked upon him as a sport in every sense of the word. He gave up his life for his country, friends and righteousness. The Archdeacon exhorted all to follow the example set by their fallen comrade, and to assist the Empire in men, money and work, and to see that his life had not been given in vain.

The tablet is situated at the south-side of the church.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

Sept. 1915.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS.

The following have passed the several examinations indicated:—

Dr. Ulrich's ladies' first aid class, examined by Dr. Gibson.—Miss Beatrice Allan, Constance Stevens, Jessie C. Grieve, Doris Vogler, May Radcliffe, Nita Holdgate, Mrs Eleanor Edyvean, Kathleen Gould, Theodora Novice, Florence M. Clissold, Elizabeth K. Evans, Mrs May Fisher, Fanny Pringle, Dolly Pringle, Dora Goldstone, Annie Frazer, Alice Shires, Mary Moore, Mrs Edith Moore, Margaret E. Priest.

Dr. Ulrich's Home Nursing Class, examined by Dr. Ussher.—Doris M. Dobson, Annie E. H. Howell, Mrs Florence M. Cox, Gladys E. White, Ethel M. Hume, Elizabeth K. Evans, Kathleen Sealey, Margaret King, Ada H. Hay, Ethel M. Cargill, Annie E. Rhodes, Daisy W. Sharp, Mrs Muriel P. Walton, Agnes R. Grant, Elizabeth S. Revell.

Dr. Gabites' Men's First Aid Class, examined by Dr. Little.—W. M. Hindmarsh, Frank R. Craven, Cecil H. Howe, William Watson, Charles Don, David Mills, Henry J. Stare, Eric Heath, James Mathews, Seth Schofield, Edwin Bates, Cecil Bertram Gatchell, Walter J. Parfoot, William Jennings, Leonard Campbell, Stanley Sinclair, Ernest Frank Taylor, John Rasmusson, Henry Spence, Brother Egbert, Edwin William Jones.

Dr. Unwin's Home Nursing Class, examined by Dr. Gibson.—Florence Chivers, Ellen Rusbridge, Margory Hawkes, Eleanor B. Ellis, Margaret Thomson, Mrs Elizabeth Charters, Daisy Coe, Alice M. Hibbard, May Westoby, Mary Shand Watt, Margaret Stericker.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NURSES AND THEIR UNIFORMS.

To the Editor of the "Timaru Herald."

Sir,—I would like to explain to "ex-Patient," who wrote on the subject yesterday, or to anyone else interested, that the Nursing Division of St. John Ambulance Brigade are a body of women who are able to render first aid, attend transport cases, or cases of emergency until such time as a trained nurse is obtainable. They do not attempt to compare with trained nurses, but are ready and willing at all times to attend cases gratis, that cannot afford a nurse's fee. And they not only do what they can for the patient, but also the necessary duties about the house, for the comfort of the patient.

The uniform they wear is the regulation uniform worn by all units of the Brigade, and is not identical with the uniform worn by hospital nurses.

It might be further stated that in view of a possible shortage of nurses the St. John Nursing Division are informed that they would receive preference if called up, on volunteering, and with a view to their fuller equipment advanced instruction for all divisions is being, or is already provided for.—I am, etc.

M. RAYMOND,
For the Nursing Division.

lies under a great olive tree (next to one of our privates) with a great expanse of sea in front and wooded hills behind. I have taken a photograph of the grave and will send it to you if the negative proves successful.

For myself I have lost a true friend, and I shall never forget the kindness which the Colonel showed me. To work with him was an inspiration; duty was more to him than a hackneyed word; it was a very real faith."

Dr W. A. Gunn is in receipt of a letter from Mr George Thomson, of the R.A.M.C., who was orderly to the late Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas:—

"Our dear old Colonel," the writer says, "was killed at 5.15 p.m. yesterday (August 27). He went out with two stretcher parties to attend to the wounded, and only one came back without a scratch: all the others (5) were wounded. We are burying the Colonel under an olive tree in front of our hospital. I was helping to dig the grave but had to give up; it nearly broke my heart."

S. C. HUNT.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the committee of the South Canterbury Hunt was held in Timaru on Saturday afternoon. Mr Herbert Elworthy presiding over a fair attendance.

Mr Elworthy made feeling and appropriate reference to the great loss the Hunt had sustained through the death of Lieut-Colonel C. E. Thomas, at the Dardanelles. They all knew that the late Dr. Thomas had been the life and soul of hunting in South Canterbury for many years past; that no man had done more for the Hunt than he; that he was a true sport in the highest and best sense of the word and that his place would be extremely hard to fill—if indeed they ever succeeded in filling it again as he had filled it. Mr. Elworthy then moved that they place on record their sincere appreciation of the long and valuable services rendered the Hunt by the late Dr. Thomas, and their deep sympathy with his widow and family.

In silence the motion was carried all standing.

MEMORIAL TABLET.

TO LATE LIEUT-COLONEL THOMAS.

UNVEILED IN TIMARU
YESTERDAY.

The prettily-designed and artistically made brass tablet which has been erected in St. John Ambulance Hall, Timaru, in memory of the late Lieut.-Colonel Thomas, was unveiled yesterday afternoon by the Mayoress (Mrs Guinness) in the presence of a large number of people. His Worship the Mayor (Mr E. R. Guinness) presided, and as the Ambulance Hall was not nearly large enough to accommodate all those in attendance, the addresses were delivered from the front steps of the Hall, the people being grouped in semi-circular fashion on the roadside. Among those present besides the speakers were Major W. H. Foden, U.D., Captain Oakey, Mrs Foden (who designed the tablet), Mrs F. A. Raymond, who was in charge of the Nursing Division, Superintendent Smith in charge of the Mer's Division, ex-members under Mr Foster, ex-contingents, Rev. W. M. McWatters, and the secretary (Mr E. W. Wade).

The Mayor, in opening the proceedings, read an apology for absence from Mr J. Craigie, M.P. (who is on the West Coast). Proceeding, he said he considered it a great privilege to be present at the function, and he was glad to have the opportunity to pay a tribute to the memory of one who so well deserved to be honoured as the late Lieut.-Colonel Thomas. Mr Guinness referred to the affectionate way in which returned soldiers who had come in contact with Lieut.-Colonel Thomas on the battlefield, spoke of him; they said that he had been brother, father, and friend to them; that he never missed an opportunity of doing a kindness. When this was said of any man, nothing further remained to be said; it was the best and it was sufficient. (Hear, hear.) Mr Guinness also referred to the long association of the deceased doctor with sport in South Canterbury; to the yeoman service he had rendered to the sport of racing and hunting in this district, and to his enthusiasm on the cricket and football fields. He had been a true gentleman, a thorough sportsman, and had closed a useful career doing his duty, serving King and Country. (Applause.)

Major G. E. Gabites spoke particularly of Lieut.-Colonel Thomas's connection with ambulance work, and in so doing paid a warm tribute to his work on behalf of St. John Ambulance Brigade, and St. John Association. Colonel Thomas had taken a very keen interest in both these branches of St. John work, and at the time he left New Zealand he was chairman of the Association as well as surgeon to the Nursing Division. In addition to this he was always available to give advice on any point on which it might be sought. Dr Thomas had always taken an enthusiastic interest in ambulance work from the time he was a medical student, and he had not been long in New Zealand before he started lecturing on it. He had trained the old Garrison Band, and also the Fire Brigade, and had always kept himself up-to-date by reading the latest works published. That he was recognised by the authorities as an exceptionally well qualified man, was shown by the fact that when he went to the war he was given charge of the Mounted Field Ambulance. Major Gabites here read the honours which had been won by the Men's Division, and the Nursing Division, of St. John Ambulance at Timaru, in competition with Canterbury, Marlborough, Nelson, and the West Coast, to show that they had attained the maximum efficiency, and he said that this was owing to the very excellent training given them by the late Lieut.-Colonel Thomas. As a mat-

ter of fact, said Major Gabites, the Timaru Divisions to which he had just referred, were the most efficient of any in the over-sea Dominions, and for this they had to thank the late Lieut.-Colonel Thomas. (Applause.) Some of the honours had been won under Superintendents Smith and Foster; but they had been trained by Lieut.-Colonel Thomas. When the sad news of his death had come through the people of South Canterbury received a great shock. He (the speaker) at first thought it a mistake as an officer commanding a Field Ambulance was usually pretty safe. When it was unfortunately proved true, he concluded that there was only one explanation of it, namely, that the gallant Colonel had courted death by personally going out to get the wounded in more quickly, when he could have sent others on the mission. He had since ascertained from Captain Oakey, who was on the spot, that this was precisely what had happened, and he had been killed by a high explosive shell. Through his death the New Zealand Medical Corps had lost one of the ablest men in the field—possibly the ablest—and St. John Ambulance in Timaru had lost one whom they could never replace.

Mr F. J. Rolleston said that to pay an adequate tribute to the life work of a deceased public man was a difficult task at any time, but the task was infinitely difficult when the eulogium had

Thomas. Most if not all of them knew of his work in the town of Timaru for the benefit of his fellow men; but he had done another work above and beyond all this. Realising that he was "a citizen of no mean city," and that he belonged to the British Empire, he was among the first to respond to the call to arms when the Boer war demanded the services of skilled medical men; and the joy of his home-coming when the war was over, as well as the reception which was accorded him, would not readily be effaced from the memories of those who were privileged to be present on that occasion. Having thus served his country honourably and well, he might not have been expected to fare forth to the battlefield again. But the beloved doctor was made of sterner stuff than to wish to stay at home when the call of Empire was ringing in his ears. And so on that fateful August of 1914 when the present war broke out he went out again, though with no light heart, and with a serious appreciation of the task he had undertaken. From time to time they had heard of the good work he was doing under difficult and dangerous conditions, and they would not soon forget the shock they had received when news of his death flashed over the wires just twelve months ago. Doubtless had he been given his choice this was precisely the kind of death he would have chosen—serving his fellow men to the last, as well as the Empire and his King. To die thus would be accounted by him an honour. The immortal words which Tennyson had put upon the lips of a great English sailor when he was dying, could well have been uttered by the late Lieut.-Colonel Thomas:

"I have fought for King and Faith,
like a valiant man and true;
I have only done my duty as a man
is bound to do."

These words, Mr Rolleston said, would form a fitting epitaph to the late Lieut.-Colonel Thomas, who had so nobly done his duty to his fellow citizens, to the country to which he belonged, and to the King whom he served. He had earned the trust, confidence, and genuine affection of those who had served under him; and in their hearts no tablet would be required to keep green his memory; and his gallantry, his devotion to duty, and his good citizenship should be to the citizens of this town a cause of pride and an inspiration for many years to come. (Applause.)

Chaplain-Captain King (Pleasant Point) gave a graphic account of the work of medical men on Gallipoli, and said they had performed their kindly offices under conditions which rendered their death likely at any moment. No tribute they could pay to the late Lieut.-Colonel Thomas for the way he had looked after our soldiers could be adequate, and every mother, sister, father and brother of a man at the Front had reason to regret that the gallant Colonel Thomas was no longer alive to minister to them. Truly he had proved himself a man, a friend, and a hero. When the complete history of the great war came to be written there would be recorded such a monument to the adaptability and endurance of the men of the British race as would stand throughout the ages. That history would make the hearts of their children throb with joy and pride, and the work of such men as Lieut.-Colonel Thomas would stand out prominently. No nobler set of men had gone to the battlefield—men who had forgotten self and their own financial interests in order that they might serve others. Those who had been with Lieut.-Colonel Thomas on the battlefield knew how efficiently he had trained his unit and how skilfully and kindly he looked after them. He (the speaker) knew how disappointed Colonel Thomas was when his unit was not permitted to go ashore at Gallipoli because of lack of room, and how joyful he was when finally he did get there in the thick of the Turkish shells. His unit had done most excellent work as a stationary hospital when it had only the equipment of a field ambulance, and Colonel Thomas had displayed a remarkable ability to adapt himself to any circumstances and to attain the highest proficiency in his work. Everyone with whom he had to deal had learned to esteem him as a medical man and a kindly and sympathetic friend. When an officer became a hero in the sight of his men, as Colonel Thomas did, no further eulogy was required. He infused into his men his own spirit of devotion to duty, and a desire to do the best under all circumstances. In conclusion Chaplain King said: "The late Lieut.-Colonel Thomas was killed by a shell which was not intended for him, when he was out seeking the wounded, and his remains now rest in a grave on far-off Gallipoli, facing the blue waters of the Aegean Sea. He sleeps well, but his spirit, that spirit of sympathy and kindness, of healing and help, lives on, and shall live for evermore."

The Mayoress then unveiled the tablet, after which the hymn "Now the Labourer's Task is o'er," was sung. Prior to Chaplain-Captain King's remarks the hymn "A Few More Years shall Roll" was sung. The Regimental Band, under Conductor Schnack, played the accompaniment for each hymn, and after the Benediction had been pronounced by the Rev. M. W. McWatters (in the unavoidable absence of the Rev. J. H. Rogers) the Band played "The Garland of Flowers." The proceedings closed with the National Anthem.

From Lt: Col: C. E. Thomas. 9.5.15.

Not having any badge of rank on leads to some funny situations.

The ordinary first class fare from the local railway station to the main station is 2 piastres. I went to get a ticket and put down 2 piastres and was given two second class tickets as being more in keeping with the uniform.

I got into a cab and told the man where to drive to. He wouldn't move unless he got the money first.

I was standing by whilst horses were being taken on board. One man in charge of two draught horses handed one over to me with "here old man you can take this one for me". So I had to lead this faithful animal on to the ship and along slippery alley ways and sharp turnings until I eventually got him in his right place. I was moving things in my cabin when the steward came along and asked me if I was Col: Thomas' servant.

Bernest Thomas.

This might interest some of them at the Club.

from P. S. Thomas,

with apologies for delay in
returning

PK

May 18th. Left Cairo railway Station 11-30 p.m. arrived Alexandria 5-30 a.m. opposite our Troopship B 15. Troopship built originally for cattle and horses on the American Coast. Consequently very suitable for horses but not much accommodation for Officers and men. Officers cabins overcrowded, nevertheless plenty of room. Men supposed to sleep in hammocks hung at night over the tables in their quarters. Troopship been doing service for many months. Consequently hammocks very lousy so men advised to sleep on deck or on the floors which they did. Officers mess simple but quite good. Men on biscuits and bully beef served out for the voyage. Tea obtainable on board and a few extras can be bought at the Canteen. But men came away at short notice and could not be paid before leaving. Consequently very little money on board. Sea like glass the whole way. Arrived at mouth of Dardanelles just after dark on May 12th. Bombardment going on. Could see the shells bursting and the flash of the guns, which of course could be heard very easily as they were only about two miles away. On the voyage passed many empty Troopships returning to Alexandria and some with sick and wounded. When anchored were surrounded by numbers of warships of all sizes and shapes, many of them French. Also Troopships all over the place and three big Hospital ships. When at anchor towards mid-night there was very much increased cannonading and a very hot rifle fire going on, on

(2)

Land. H. M. S. Galliath was sunk in the Dardanelles during the night. Received orders at about 10 a.m. to go further up the coast where Australians and New Zealanders landed. Have just arrived and lowered anchor. Place where they landed almost like the side of a steep cliff covered with scrub going straight down to the beach which is hardly perceptible. Their landing and driving the Turks up the cliff under a very hot shell and rifle fire was a most creditable performance. It seems an almost impossible task. They had to jump into the water up to their shoulders to do it and of course suffered heavy casualties. Some of the boats scarcely landed a single man. We steamed up parallel with the coast about two miles from it and saw the Turks' shrapnel bursting close to some of our troops that were evidently retiring. Then as we went to lunch they were at it hammer and tongues with rifle fire. We could not see the trenches our men were firing from. They would be Imperial troops that lost very heavily in landing at the point of the Peninsula. We landed higher up opposite the Narrows. There is quite a big camp at the point of the peninsula but they have not made much headway because the Turkish shells we saw bursting this morning landed not more than

(3)

three miles from the camp. The cannonade at the Dardanelles we can hear going on all day. There was an airship flying at the Dardanelles at which the Turks had several shots. Their shells seem to burst fairly close to the flying ship, but did no harm. We saw a balloon go up from a ship close alongside of us. Our men on shore opposite us have gained no ground for 18 days and are just holding on until the force below joins them. We can see shells bursting every now and then amongst their trenches. They are getting from 20 to 40 casualties a day, i.e. Australians and New Zealanders. We do not go ashore tonight. We have to put out all lights as ~~they~~ the naval authorities have warned us that they are expecting a submarine in the night to be amongst the ships. This letter I may get through privately but I doubt being able to write more than postcards in future.

Bornet Thomas.

They are still sniping the beach we land on. The country is all scrub and we cannot find them. Neither can we locate their guns. The Navy all the afternoon has been pummeling with shots in different places.

(4) Troopship Kingstonia. B. 157.

May 14th ... At sea

I got away a few lines last night when we were lying at anchor off the place where the Australians and New Zealanders landed. We landed some engineers and signallers but my Field Ambulance and an Australian Field Ambulance remained on board as they had plenty on shore. We had orders to go on a Hospital Ship next morning with our medical equipment but to leave behind on board our 78 horses and wagons and a S. C. in charge; ~~as~~ they would have to go straight back to Alexandria as they could not possibly be used on land. This of course applied also to the Australian Field Ambulance and about 500 other horses. ~~that~~ should never have been sent. Why we were allowed to bring horses and wagons I do not know. Of course as a Field Ambulance we are useless without them as a Unit, though of course both medical Officers and men trained in ambulance work will be useful anywhere. It is 9 months today since I left Timaru and rather hard back to think that 9 months' training at our own particular Field work is thrown away, because I don't suppose we shall ever get in touch with our wagons and tent equipment again and certainly won't be able to use any body else's. The idea is to push us on shore with mule transport as soon as there is a chance, but most of our most useful

(3)

(2)

Field equipment cannot be carried on mules. Of course we only came to help in the whole undertaking and do our best, and, as I have said we must be of some use wherever we go, but what I do regret is that we shall never be so useful as we would have been as a unit specially trained for a particular job. We have waited patiently under trying circumstances for our chance and then when within two miles of the firing line to be split up and put on a Hospital ship to wait, and never to be a unit again rather knocks the stuffing out of you. I know what it means. It will not be long before we are further split up. One Medical Officer and so many men will be sent to another ship, more to another ship or landing place until we become merely useful wanderers, never to get in touch again. It can't be helped, but I am very sorry because I felt sure that all my men, A. S. C. included would have done very good work. All our trouble and care of our horses has been wasted. They are as fit as fiddles but not wanted. Our bad luck is because this is a war for Artillery and Infantry. Our splendid mounted troops landed the day before we

(6)

arrived and are in the trenches now as
infantry, their horses as I told you being
left in Egypt. Arthur ^(Serge Rhodes) is amongst them,
as we ^{and Bruce and Hayter I suppose} watched schrapnel after schrapnel
bursting over their trenches I wondered
how he was getting on. As a matter of
fact, as they have made no advance for
18 days, I think that they are so well
dig in on the side of the very steep hill
that no schrapnel will hurt them. The
men on top of the hill are more likely
to get hit. They had some heavy rifle
shooting shortly before dark and again
this morning. This morning we were told
overnight, I think I told you, that they were
expecting an attack from a submarine during
the night. However nothing happened although
I took the trouble to get my life belt handy.
All orders were cancelled this morning and
all troopships with a strong naval escort were
sent away as quickly as possible to the Island of
Lemnos because it was not safe for us to be
^{where we were} there any longer. We are arriving in Lemnos
harbour now, the mouth of which is protected
by torpedo nets. We shall probably go on a
hospital ship at once and the horses go straight
back to Alexandria because there is little or
no water on Lemnos. Ernest Thomas.

(7)

Still [May 14th 9 p.m. - We have received no orders since we arrived here about 2 p.m.

The harbour is a very big natural harbour but no wharfs. A good many empty troop-ships lying here, several of which have left today. The Queen Elizabeth steamed out of the harbour. There is room here they say for 150 ships. The harbour is quite a picturesque one surrounded by hills with green undulating grazing country right down to the water's edge. Tonight is a great contrast from last night, which was far from a safe one, with canonading going on near and far, apart from maxims and rifle fire. Here we are absolutely safe and a peaceful silence reigns, although we are only about 50 miles from where we were last night. No bird life to be seen anywhere we have been yet. I suppose the guns have scared them away long ago. Just received news from the Admiral in Port here that the Galliath was sunk by a Turkish Torpedo boat which came down the Dardanelles. Then cleared and was seen yesterday not far from where we left this morning. There are also (2) German and one Austrian submarines about.

[May 15th - We go on Hospital Ship Galeka, as previously arranged, this morning.

Honest Thomas.

(5)

Troopship Galeka No. A. 14.

May 16th - This is a most beautiful boat. The accommodation is as good as any passenger boat afloat. I have a cabin for three to myself and the food is excellent. I thought there were a lot of wounded on board but they have all been taken off except a medical Officer who was wounded in the eye and lost it. Nobody has yet been able to get at the number of N.Z. and Australian casualties, yet. Over 4000 wounded have been collected but there are many more besides. It is very difficult to get at the number killed, because it is so difficult to find them because most of the country is dense scrub. The nature of the country too necessitated men losing their way they originally started with and getting mixed up with other units. There is a hopeless mix-up of troops. Men from different Regiments and different parts of the globe are fighting together under officers they have never seen before. Consequently there are about 1500 reported missing apart from those reported killed. One of the Australian Field Ambulances had 5 stretcher bearers killed and 18 wounded. On the tug that transhipped us from Troopship B. 15 were two bluejackets with H.M.S. Nelson on their caps, both very unshaven, which rather surprised me. However on inquiry I found they were two out of the 120 that were saved off the Galliath about

(9)

two days previously. They told us that they got 3 torpedoes into her one after the other as quick as you could count three and the Galliath rolled over and went down in about 5 minutes. We get all sorts of orders. We have only been on this ship less than 24 hours. The first order was to take 250 wounded that were coming to us. This was yesterday but they haven't come yet. This morning we got an order to send 9 medical officers and all the men on shore. As there are all sorts of men on board under different commands we sent to know what men they referred to. No reply. The last order we have received is to leave in half an hour for Gaba-tepe. Gaba-tepe is where we last came from & the beach at which our men landed.

Honest Thomas.

(10)

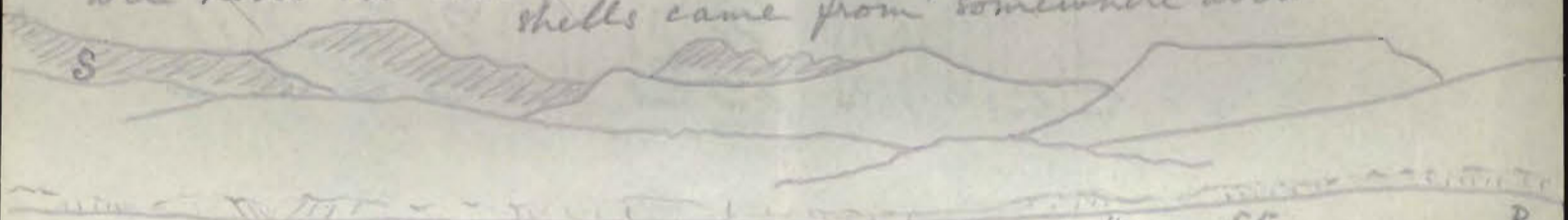
Troopship *Gyaleka* A14.

May 17th left Mudos harbour, Lemnos Island, at daylight, arriving off Gaba-tipez beach soon after breakfast. Fairly strong wind blowing so could hear no cannonading at Dardanelles. Schrapnel still bursting freely on the position we occupy on steep facing rising from the beach. There is hardly any beach at all but the engineers we landed before we left last time have built a sort of jetty which makes landing easier. Warships occasionally put in a few shots but it does not check the schrapnel fire, the enemy's guns being so well hidden. Balloon sent up. Schrapnel fire ceases. It always does as soon as the balloon goes up because if they went on firing they would give their position away. All firing stopped during luncheon interval. Our present active service conditions are unique. We are living the life of luxury of a well appointed passenger ship. Electric light of course in your cabin and electric fans, your own bedroom, steward to bring you tea and shaving water in the morning, and the bathroom steward has your bath ready for you at any time you name and at any temperature you wish. Usual boardship meals, five or six things to choose from at breakfast and lunch and nine courses for dinner, including one of English game of different kinds. Our Field allowance of 5/- a day will be stopped while we are at sea to pay for these luxuries and something extra docked from our pay, which is rather a nuisance. I would much prefer ordinary camp rations with a few little extras covered by Field allowance easily and a bit to spare. More especially would I prefer the latter conditions because on the deck outside are the men eating

(11)
bully beef and biscuits. They can see our well
provisioned table through the portholes. The only
thing the men get on boardship is facility to boil
their tea in the kitchen. We have arranged today
for them to get potatoes and onions which our cooks
will cook for them and make a stew of their
bully beef for a change. The whole ship is made
up of medical officers and Field ambulances
that are not wanted on shore until some advance
is made. We have a few wounded on board, and
are expecting 500 to be transferred to us from
another ship in a few days. We have also about
170 infantry details who will land today. They
are nearly all men who were slightly wounded
in the original landing 3 weeks ago, now returning
to duty. We are anchored about a mile from the
shore so, as we lounge about the boat deck in
warm beautiful weather, we can watch with our
glasses everything that goes on. There was no
rifle fire from our men this morning. They were
probably quite snug in their trenches during the
snaphnel fire this morning, although of course one
wonders sometimes whether they feel it occasionally.
We get absolutely no news from the shore. If they
have any casualties they are taken to a Hospital
ship at anchor here. Ours is not a Hospital ship.
We are not painted white nor have we any red cross
painted on us. So if we are blown up by the Austrian
or German submarines that are about we would have no
right to complain, no matter how many wounded we
might have on board. We are just an ordinary troopship.

(2)


Have just been told at lunch that we will have to clear out of this anchorage as a submarine was seen this morning somewhere about here but we don't know where. Don't know where we are to go but will leave before night time. Had a most interesting afternoon. ~~They~~ We have never seen shells pitch in the sea before this afternoon. First a single shell then another pitched much shorter. This gave them the range they wanted. Then the shells came in pairs. They came 7 or 8 miles from the Marmora Sea or upper end of Dardanelles across the peninsular, fired at a man of war which of course they could not possibly see. I think the man of war was the Queen but we get very little information here. About half a mile behind her lay another warship, both hugging the coast. I think I can best describe what happened by a rough sketch & numbering the fall of the shells in order of rotation as they fell. The hills darkened at the back are hills on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles. The shells came from somewhere about S.



Our landing place is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile to left of this sketch

T 0 2
T 0

S.S. R
4.4.
3.3.


Galata

T 0 T 0 T 0 are troopships.

(13)

As soon as shells fell the two war ships went astern ~~to the~~ so slowly that you could hardly tell they were moving. Shells 5-5 pitched exactly where the front warship would have been if she had not retired. It was about as majestic and dignified a retirement as you could wish to see. They retired about a mile and the enemy did not fire any more. They had no airship to help them but of course some observation post on top of one of the hills signalling to them. The first shell was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to our right. We were nose on to the beach, but I have drawn the galaka wrong. No sooner had this little episode ended than a fierce cannonade began from two warships about 2 miles to the left of our landing place. They were bombarding two villages in full view of us about a mile to the left of our landing place, the reason being that they had seen the enemy getting some guns into position. They demolished the place in less than no time; one village we could not see very well. We could only see the dust rising in huge clouds. ~~Yannarover~~ It was a wonderful sight to see. After they had to cease fire because you couldn't see the village for dust. All that was left standing was the mosque, a very small one. During the bombardment of this village we broke off for afternoon tea! Afternoon tea on active service! why of course yes. Just before sunset two impudent looking little torpedo destroyers of ours drew up alongside each other and anchored about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile ^{and facing} from the shore opposite where the village had stood. They had no sooner taken up their position than

(14)

a shrapnel burst over them from a gun in a new position. They spat away with their tiny little guns; at least they seemed ^{to} after the roar of the big guns, ~~previously~~, but never shifted their anchorage. The two big battle ships on their left also joined in but as it was getting dusk we could not see much. Whether they located the enemy's gun or not I do not know. At any rate she only fired the one shot. As no tug came to take our infantry until late in the afternoon we could not leave our anchorage as it was getting too dark for us to move about. So we stopped the night and were not disturbed by a submarine. We left at 4 a.m. for the Island of Sombros, where we are at anchor now, 14 miles from Gaba-tepet. More shrapnel came over our men in the evening and there was a good deal of rifle fire going on. I don't think the men we landed were sniped on landing quite so much as usual. On arriving here we found the Kingstonian, B. 15, in harbour. Why she was moved here from Lemnos instead of being sent straight back to Alexandria with her 700 valuable horses I do not know. They have now been on board 8 days. They cannot be used here and this should have been only too obvious before ever they were sent.

[May 18th 1915. Ernest Thomas.

can hear the guns at Gaba-tepet occasionally.

16

May 19th. Sent back to Gaba - Tepe again arriving at about 9 a. m. Found our trenches ~~long~~ with rifle fire and shells bursting over ~~our~~ ^{them} trenches very frequently. Counted six little puffs of smoke at once showing six bursts. Heavy shells bursting in our anchorage at intervals from the Goben in the Dardanelles. It was the ~~Goben~~ Goben that fired at our man of war the other day. They say she is the only ^{ship} they have got that can throw such big shells the distance. ^{They are 11 inch guns.} Only 4 or 5 were thrown over in the morning, each one about 50 to 100 yards farther out to sea each shot. The last two had our ship very much in her line of fire. The last one burst about 200 yards from us. Of course it did us no harm because and was really quite a long way off but these big shells from the war ships are such huge things that when they burst they make such a terrific row that the clap seems as if it were within a few yards of you. These Goben shells come over at intervals of about 8 minutes between each. I waited patiently for the next burst (only because I had no option in the matter) fully anticipating the spread of the burst would reach us. However she didn't fire another shot. The shelling of our trenches went on practically all day. We started to take in wounded about 9-30 a. m. Took them in all day, 14 medical officers hard at it all day until 10 p. m. Four operating tables filled all the time. Meanwhile our naval guns cannonading close around us at intervals. From 4-30 p. m. to 4-30 a. m. terrible rifle fire going on on shore without any cessation. Our

(10)

trenches were shelled pretty constantly all day. Felt that the prolonged rifle fire must mean that the Australians and New Zealanders cannot hold their trenches any longer. This would mean terrible slaughter as there is no possible means of escape if they were driven off the cliffs on to the beach. We knew Turkes were reinforced, and meant to make attack at night. Our wounded were nearly all Australians. Naturally as each wounded in turn was brought in one had visions of poor old Arthur ^{being the next} or some of the very fine fellows we know so well. [To see the wounded lying all over the decks, some already dead, some dying, others with the stump of a limb just amputated and others slightly wounded helping their more severely stricken mates is a very trying ordeal, and to the tune of a fierce battle still raging where they came from a mile away. Added to this, the uncertainty of who may be the next man you may have to render aid to, makes long hours of responsible work drag and ~~more~~ ^{weigh} ^{heavily} more ^{than} they otherwise would. We were up again in the night for 3 hours, more boat loads of wounded coming alongside. We have been busy with ^{them} all today ^(May 20) and can take no more as we have now about 500 on board lying all over the decks. We transfer all our wounded to another ship tomorrow morning

(B)

early and start afresh. There are many incidents of interest in connection with the wounded but they are too numerous to put on paper. We have had no instance ourselves of wounds inflicted by foul play. Hand grenades do a good deal of damage. They were the means of four eyes being lost yesterday. We have a few wounded Turks. Our men who have been in the trenches for over 3 weeks are of course getting lousy, but they are not nearly so lousy as the Turks. [This sardanelles undertaking is a ghastly business. We get no outside news here and I don't suppose any of you have any idea of the fighting that is going on here. You probably only hear of our successes. What our casualties have amounted to even we have not been able to estimate. They are very heavy indeed.]

[I suppose the people at home know what they are doing but unless we are very strongly reinforced, and very soon, I don't see how our colonials can hang on to Gaba-tepe, or the imperial troops ^{where some 2000 troops are also engaged} to Cape Bellis.]

[May 21st. A very busy afternoon all day. Four died last night. More must die soon.]

Sailed late in the evening for Imbros Island again. Harbour ^{from Sultans} not safe. Sail at daybreak for Lemnos Island. What I call the harbour is only a bay of shelter. It would make a very good natural harbour but practically nobody lives on the island. About 30000 live on Lemnos.

I see that I have said "hand grenades do a good deal of damage". This is quite true but apt to be misleading. They wound a good many but

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(A) 18

the wounds are seldom serious. I fancy they tend to increase the average of wounded to those killed. The recognised proportion is 1 killed to 4 wounded. It has been anticipated that the new bullet, which makes a worse wound than the old one, will in this war increase the average of killed in proportion to those wounded. The increase in the mortality from the new bullet will I think be counterbalanced by wounds from hand grenades and ~~more~~ shrapnel. Shrapnel has been used more vigorously than usual during this war and I think it undoubtedly wounds a great many more than it kills. It is surprising what large pieces of shrapnel shell we take from wounds that have done no serious damage.

[May 22nd H arrived at Lemnos at breakfast time. Not quite such a heavy rush of work today although some operations still necessary. Soon only dressing wounds will be necessary. These will be taken from us when they get to that stage and we will return with an empty ship for the next batch of wounded, which will probably be in a few days. But we never know our movements. We may be wanted on shore at any time, soon I hope. Personally I would much sooner take pot luck on shore than be dodging about from one anchorage to another to avoid submarines.

Casualties at this end of the Continent up to date estimated at 14000.

May 23rd Transferred 340 of the least severe of our 547 cases to another ship. Will fill up today with more serious cases. I am as well as I can be. In fact in excellent health and can "stick it" for a long time yet. I find that my very young officers get tired long before I do. When it comes to the pinch the medical establishment only, I think, are in a position to realise the suffering which war carries with it, brightened only by tales, simply told, of heroic pluck and gallantry.

Bernest Thomas.

2 Capt: Gresson is badly wounded. One of his men, wounded, told me how Gresson had saved their company twice. He could only speak very highly of Capt: Gresson. This was apropos of nothing. He did not know that I knew Gresson. The Pte came from Imanu, wounded, was close to Major Grant when he was killed. He was very highly spoken of by his men and all who knew him. Hill, of Imanu, an officer, I don't know him, was full of pluck when badly wounded in the jaw, ~~and~~ ~~insisted~~ ~~to~~ ~~his~~ ~~cheerful~~ ~~pluck~~ ~~in~~ ~~insisted~~ ~~on~~ ~~others~~ ~~being~~ ~~attended~~ ~~to~~ ~~before~~ ~~him~~. Capt: Logan, son of Col. Logan at Samoa died soon after coming on board. Hole through skull, probably blowing his brains out.

nearly all our wounded are American.



May 29th 1915.

My unit is waiting on this island, which has the safe harbour I have previously alluded to. I have to censor my own letters as well as all the men's. Consequently I have no news for you. We are only waiting here a short time until there is room for us on shore. Our camp is close to a beach where we get plenty of bathing. Climate beautiful. Wild flowers all over the place. Without moving from his seat on the ground one of our Officers picked nine different varieties of wild flowers. I have 30 men employed all day and nearly every day digging graves for New Zealanders. Harbour full of ships. Nearly all men of war in here. Some people say they know the reason why. Both those men of war that I showed you on a sketch as going astern have been gone to the bottom of the sea. Gaba Tepe is now officially called Anzac Cove. "Anzac" is the official code word for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Bruce Thomas.

Covered by
Armed Thomas
K.C. 29.5-14.5
V.D.

O. H. M. S.

No censorship
stamp available.

~~Hydro~~

Mrs C. E. Thomas
Sophia Street
Tamaru
New Zealand



RD 101 v3

(51) H.M. Transport Sverige.

June 8th 1915

Had an easy time on Lemnos Island for 5 days. Beautiful sea bathing. Played cricket for my unit against Australians. Australians won easily. I made 27, second highest score on our side.

[May 29th] Left Lemnos for Gaba Tepe arriving off beach 2-30 a.m. Took all equipment of unit and unit to beach. Reported my arrival at 6-30 a.m. Told we were not expected and must go straight back. Had not time to go and see Arthur ^(Sergeant Rhodes) his trench although he was only about half a mile away. Re-embarked on F.S.1 which was to return to Lemnos at 3 a.m. with wounded. Took on about 300 wounded. When at anchor, Admiralty signalled "Submarine sighted in our waters". Four transports including ourselves weighed anchor and steamed round and round in a circle until dark from 10-30 a.m. Submarines can only see at night when there is a moon. Grand sight to see @ torpedo destroyers flying through the water all round us.

[May 31st] Arrived Lemnos camp 7.00 a.m. man handling all our equipment to our camp again.

(22) (2) 24
Next morning at 7-30 a.m. June 1st told to
have unit and equipment on wharf by
12 o'clock and go on board *Spernia*.
Manhandled all our several tons of stores
etc down to wharf again and went on
board *Gunard* liner Transport *Svernia*.
Found myself in ~~sole~~ charge of a ship
being converted into a temporary hospital
ship to meet the requirements of
a meditated attack at the Dardanelles.
Found the ship's company, from Capt
downwards, most courteous and untiring
in helping in every way to see that
my instructions were promptly carried
out. Very soon, that is roughly 24 hours,
had everything ready to receive wounded,
every man knowing his special duty
and position on the ship on arrival
of wounded. My cabin is a big room
with a double bed in it and I
have a private room for my office
work. Men are very comfortable
and food good. They deserve it all
because they are an excellent lot
of chaps. I have attached to me for duty
June 5th between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.
took on board 1266 wounded brought
from Dardanelles, including 20 officers.
This meant constant work all day
and with a short night's rest until

(3)

23

25

today the 8th. We are just now beginning to feel that we have got ahead of things although of course still very busy. There have been some shocking wounds, some limbs practically blown off. However we have only had three deaths, two of them Indians. We arrive at Malta tomorrow morning, ~~and~~ all the worst operation cases are improving. We left for Malta on the night of the 6th and had not been at sea long before we got a wireless to say there was a submarine on the north of an island + we were then at the south of it. Although we have no troops on board except my ambulance and the wounded we are a transport and not a hospital ship and are not allowed to fly a red cross flag. This is because the ship has never been registered as a hospital ship, consequently we may be blown up at any moment. Rather rough on the wounded who are mostly helpless. This life at sea is not a cheerful one. This boat goes to England from Malta. We go back to Gaba Lefe.
Tommy Thomas.

sent off in the same way
on the grounds of no
more being wanted.

~~Now~~ Perhaps he has come
away since because so
many more have been
sent. I hear H.Z. has
sent a Stationary Hospital
and a Hospital ship.

I suppose plenty of Medical
Officers will volunteer for
these because they know
they will be perfectly
safe with good food
far from the firing line.
Hospital ships are painted
white with a green line
~~and~~ and 3 red crosses,
and of course are never

UNION CLUB,

MALTA.

June 12th/15

Dear Milly

I wrote you a few
notes for yourself and the
Club the day before we
got here. We were lucky
to come here because there
is a good deal to be seen
here. My men have been
particularly fortunate in
seeing this place. We have
been here 3 days having
an easy time but expect
to be sent away every
day. Unfortunately the
men have no money
but I hope to get some
pay for them tomorrow.

At Lemnos 2 ships are often tied together when anchored so as to save room in the harbour. Just before we came away the ship tied to us had some of the last lot of reinforcements. The only two that I knew from Timaru where one of Budd's sons and Bond. They were both very well and would be going to the Dardanelles in a day or two probably. Please tell their people I saw them. Yesterday Dr. Barnett, a lieutenant, and Dr. Ackland, Captain, and 50 New Zealand nurses arrived from England.

When talking to Barnett, who should I find alongside me but Walter Perry. I didn't notice whether he was a Captain or a lieutenant. Sure to be the latter. I think because he joined the R.A.M.C. in England and was sent out here. He is looking very well and is quite pleased with himself as he is getting 24 shillings a day he says. You must not repeat this but they kept putting him off in New Zealand because he was so well known. Keep this also absolutely to yourself. Gabites' behaviour in South Africa was also very well known and he was

you that when we were
away from Lemnos at
Gaba Tepe for a couple
of days the Turks sent
over an aeroplane and
dropped a bomb on Lemnos
island. It did no harm.
The only man injured
was a Turkish prisoner.
I wonder whether Moana
is going to travel in July.
I think she will be very
foolish if she does as she
will see very little and
would be very unsafe
in many places at sea.
Love to you all, with
very little hope of seeing you
for a very long time I remain
your affectionate husband
Brent Thomas.

(2)

UNION CLUB,
MALTA.

touched by submarines.
They also only take about
800 cases which makes
the work very easy. All
the work we have done with
wounded on ships has
been on ordinary transports
which are liable to be
sunk at any moment.
I went on board this
morning to see if there
were any Turkish nurses
amongst the R.N. nurses,
but they had all gone
ashore so I did not
see them. I have had

no letters for over a month. The last I got where on ~~the~~ May 7th. The war news is just about as bad as it can be. It looks like a two or three years job. The worst of it is nobody will be able to leave unless sick or wounded, because we are so short of men on account of the very heavy casualties. We are in the permanent Garrison Artillery Barracks. Quite comfortable, but

of course no luxuries. There is no bath and of course no hot water to shave with that you get on board ship, or cup of tea in the morning. Everybody seems to be getting very sick of the war. I sent Bernard ~~£~~ ⁸ 8-10 worth of stamps from Lemnos the day I left and had to trust to an Officer I didn't know posting the letter. I hope he got them. They will be worth a great deal more in 10 years time. We have to be very particular about lights here after dark. Did I tell

Troopship Masillia
June 25th 1915

My dear Mithy

We left Malta on 22nd with the Maori Contingent and a few Imperial details and about 400 wounded returning to duty, just over 1000 altogether. We shall arrive at Alexandria in a few hours. Absolutely smooth; the Mediterranean always is as far as I can see. No submarines about apparently, although we take ordinary precautions of no lights after dark, of course. Not that it made much difference this trip because we had a bright moon every night in which submarines can work just as well as in daylight. Everybody is charmed with the Maoris, especially Imperial Officers who don't know them. They are a very fine set of men and very well behaved. Their Officers speak perfect English and all ^{are} accomplished musicians. They have a Maori prayer and hymn every evening and their singing is one of the chief features of the voyage. Everybody listens in silence while they sing. I can't tell what will become of us when we get back to Alexandria. You may have heard a rumour that Major Grant of Ismarn, had his throat cut by the Turks when he was wounded. This was not true. At the armistice for burying the dead about 6 weeks after the landing, Major Grant's body was found and he was buried. No news of any interest. Lots of love to you all.

Yr affec^l husband
Herbert Thomas

We shall probably get 7 weeks more at Alexandria.

V3

Dear Milly

The enclosed card came with the parcels aluded to in my letter to Mrs Williams. Will you please make certain that my letter goes to the right Mrs Williams. There are so many of them at St. Andrews. I think it must be Mrs Williams, the wife of Mr. Williams who is a member of the Club. Armstrong would probably be able to tell you whether he lives at Charlecombe. Arrived safely Dundee today July 1st. Waiting for orders. Lots of love. Yr affecⁿ husband
Wm. Thomas.

Dundee is the harbour of Lewis Island.

I have pulled through
bright & tomorrow I
am going home to
England. I am still
in a very weak state
& as yet cannot walk
but I suppose by degrees
I shall get back my
strength when I get
to England's shores
I shall have a thorough
examination & I will let
you know all about it.
Thank you for
all you did for me
Yours sincerely
W E Blackwell

St Andrew's Hospital
Malta

July 5/15

Dear Sir,
At last I
am able to write
a few lines to
thank you for all
the kindness & care
you extended to me
while on board the
Hospital Ship Ivarnia.
For some time after
I arrived here I can
hardly remember
anything & people tell me
that all the doctors gave
me up as lost. Sincerely

on Active Service

Dr C. E. Thomas

Timaru

New Zealand



No stamps valid

Mrs C. E. Thomas.

Sophia Street

Timaru

New Zealand

censored.
Ernest Thomas.



Lemnos, July 26th

Dear Milly

Today is your birthday. Strange to say I haven't forgotten it. I hope you had a happy day, as happy days go now, and that we will spend your next birthday together. Very little chance of it as far as I can see.

I wrote you a fairly long letter a few days ago, chiefly about my limit. I have wondered since whether you would like to put the part referring to the men in the Weekly Press as an extract from a letter from a letter from

(2)

lient: Col: Thomas, commanding
the Mounted Rifle Field
Ambulance, ^{or in any way goes like.} It is rather a
difficult point because I
don't like my name appearing
in print. But it occurred
to me it might be some
sort of answer to the
very nice letter they wrote
you about me, which
of course I cannot in any
way allude to in con-
-versation with the men.
They will probably guess
you have told me about
it but I must leave it
at that. I forget exactly
the contents of the letter
^{I wrote} but as far as I remember
there was nothing in it
that could not go in

(3)

to print. Please yourself
about it. It is just an
idea that has occurred
to me since I posted the
letter. The only object in
putting it in is that it
might be of interest to
the relations and friends
of the men. Had I written
it for the Press I would
probably have alluded
casually to the fact that
all the two months they
were on Temporary Hospital
Ships they were exposed to
submarines. About 4 deaths
a day were from Typhoid. But that
is very little indeed as compared
with previous wars. The inoculation
of the troops against typhoid has
been a great success. All of us
have been inoculated against
cholera. Lots of love. ^{W. J. J. J.} ^{W. J. J. J.}
Robert Thomas.

At sea July 5th 1915

July 1st arrived at Mudros, Lemnos Island harbour, in transport Massilia with Maoris on board.

July 3rd Maoris went to Cape Helles. Big advance being attempted there. Three thousand wounded reported.

Every available transport being used as temporary Hospital ships.

My whole unit transferred to transport Alnwick Castle. No troops except ourselves on board. Made preparations to receive wounded.

Alnwick Castle only small ship.

Could be worked by less than my unit. Twenty of my men were to have been put on another ship. If this had happened I would never have seen them again. Asked to be allowed to keep all my unit as we had been together for nearly a year. Leave to do so granted. This concession I think was given because they were very pleased with our work on the Ivernia.

We landed at Malta from the Ivernia.

1267 wounded, less three who died from wounds. This I believe is easily a record among temporary hospital ships. Other ships carry more but they are convalescent and slightly wounded, but on in dribbles of a few hundreds at a time, spread over a fortnight. Ours were taken on in a few hours. The second R. A. M. C. in command here in the Mediterranean told my Major that General Baptie, who is the Senior R. A. M. C. man, thinks well of me and has me on his list. I am very pleased that we have been able to do good work. No body could have worked better than my Officers and men and I am glad that their good work has been appreciated. I have never met General Baptie. He was not at Malta when we were there, or has he ever been at Sennos when we were there. I expect the R. A. M. C. Chap was only pulling my Major's leg with a view to securing some more good work out

of us on this boat. We have been away from our own h. 2. people for two months. With them, for all I know, I may have a very bad name.

July 4th. Sailed for Alexandria with only 347 wounded, quite an easy job. Some of them are pretty bad but I hope to land them all safely at Alexandria on July 7th. We just missed our express mail at Lemnos and shall probably just miss it again at Alexandria. It has been chasing us for eight weeks. The Postmaster at Alexandria knows we left Alexandria for Lemnos on June 28th. He will probably have sent our mail to try and catch us at Lemnos because he must have got it from Gaba Tepe the day after we left Alexandria. He did not know, neither did we, that we would be back in Alexandria in 10 days. We are sure to go straight back to Lemnos from Alexandria and probably go on shore at Gaba Tepe from Lemnos. ~~At~~ I think it is quite possible there is a room there for us now. Not that

we have advanced there, at all because we haven't. But our Infantry Field ambulance, which is on shore, is getting reduced in numbers. Two Medical Officers wounded, 5 men killed and six wounded. I must say I would sooner be on land than constantly running the gamut of submarines. They got a French Supply ship off the coast two days ago. We saw the periscope of a submarine on our way to Sennos from Alexandria, but nothing happened. We were on a small transport so perhaps we were not worth bothering about. Two shots at a transport last week missed. I don't think they want transports so much as ~~more~~ War ships. There are not about so much now. They are in harbours of safety on account of the submarines. The result is that the Turks have brought their guns ~~and~~ nearer the coast and can shell the beaches now. All the ambulance work at Gaba Tepe is done on the beach under cover of the hill. This hitherto was safe for all intents and purposes. But now

it is not unless they have altered
the position. Last week a shell
smashed the end of the operating
table. No harm was done because
no one was operating at the time.
^{On another occasion}
One of the ambulance men standing
outside the operating shelter was
shot through the neck. He realised
that both his carotid arteries were
cut and at once got on to the
operating table before he was too
weak to do so from loss of blood.
Although he cleverly gave himself
the best chance they were not able
to get him off the table alive.

Ernest Thomas.

at sea July 10th 1915.

Dear Milly

arrived at Alexandria on July 7th and landed our small lot of wounded, 35-3 only. Left there again on a different ship on July 9th for Indros. Whilst in Alex^a we got a good deal of our 8 weeks mail. Found letters from you dated April 14th, May 2nd, May 26th and June 1st. I will run through them again and answer them. Mrs Park has married a very nice man. I think your arrangement with the old woman, who is paying 1st a week for the house is a good one. Very cheap for her but it is better than having a family in the house. Faney Marchant going to the war. His partner, Mr Kendall, went to Samoa as a specialist on the eye. I suppose he is back again. Gwynous Aunt Ada saying doctors are wanted badly at the front. They were tumbling over each other at Malta with nothing to do. Walter Perry tells me Godby is a terrible cripple with Rheumatism. Miss Wigley's engagement very interesting. Faney Radcliffe's son killed and Harold Ray. Thomson tells me Bond is on this ship, returning to the front having recovered from a wound in the arm. I must look him up. I couldn't possibly try and find out who wrote to you about me signing himself one of No. 3 Christchurch. I wish I had never seen the letter, it makes me shy of doing anything for them now. Reid is no longer Major Newton's orderly. He is a mischief maker. Faney Arthur saying I look younger.

Sometimes I feel pretty old. I would feel as young as a kitten if I saw any chance of the war ending but it must drag on for another couple of years at least as far as I can see. Things at our end are just about as bad as they can be. Terrible fighting and terrible loss of life. In Africa we only signed on for a year. We have only got a month and 4 days to complete our year. But that doesn't help matters. We shall have to stick on as long as we keep our health and are sound in body and limb. No man can be spared. The more men you send the quicker the war will be over. Tell me next time you write if Burns has left Simons for good. Your letter seems to say so. You say my old man has four Colonels at the war. D'Arcy is a General and I can't help thinking Arthur must be too. He is holding a very high position at the War Office now. If England is invaded he is the Senior man responsible for the feeding of the people and troops in England. I have often hoped your asthma doesn't trouble you as it used to. Very sorry indeed about young Shaw. I must try and write to his father. When you won that cake people will be sure to think you were in

(3)

the know". I had a letter from Dr. Barclay about his son Clifford reported "wounded", then "wounded and missing". I was able to make enquiries and find that he must have been killed. His body was not found at the Armistice and his name is not amongst those taken prisoner. He went into action on his 21st birthday. Some fortune teller had told him many things that were quite true and he was anxious about the result of his first fight because this fortune teller told him he would never get over his 21st birthday. Bond has just been into my cabin to see me. He is playing the game well, and quite anxious to get back to the trenches.

Please tell Pearson or some of the old hands. I saw young Westmacott in hospital yesterday. I am writing to his father. He looks terribly ill poor chap and has lost his right arm near the shoulder. Blood poisoning followed and he has been at death's door, but is picking up fast now. He behaved very pluckily in a death trap. I also saw Gerson's brother. He very nearly died. The bullet went through his thigh, then through his middle leg and then nearly through the other thigh. Thanks for the photographs of yourself and what I suppose is Grata. I am returning one in case any body might see it

(4)
by accident. I got a letter from Moana
May 25th, and one from Bernard, 23rd May.
Many thanks for them. I am glad Moana
is going to try nursing. Better than doing
nothing, although not of much real use
unless you do about 3 years of it. Bernard
seems to be having some good fishing.
Lots of love to you all. Curiously
enough I did well at Berton when
I was left in charge of the Camp &
S. M. O. (Senior Medical Officer) I only
heard this a day or two ago.

General Ford, the boss Medical Officer
in Egypt with whom I had to deal,
would like to get me back I believe,
but of course I can't go. This is all
absolutely for yourself. Fenwick, who
is laying himself out for a permanent
appointment in A. 2, after the war,
does not bear a very good name. If there
is a decent appointment after the
war I believe I stand a chance,
although I am junior in New Zealand
to those who were Territorials. I
never was a Territorial. It will be
hopeless trying to make a practice again
at my time of life. I hope you have
made it quite clear to my brother
medicos that I will not accept
anything from them after the first six
months. Yr aff^{te} husband
Wm Thomas.

but at the same time
particularly grateful to them

Lemnos, July 24th 1918.

We have been on this island since July 14th. Very hot of course. Very windy and very dusty, in fact a miserable existence, the flies alone make writing a very slow process. One has to be constantly flicking them away from one's face and hands. However we ought really to be very thankful for every day we are here because at Anzaco and the Peninsula there is a great deal of sickness on account of the damp dug outs and the flies are even worse than here on account of the unburied and partially buried. Moreover we are safe here, but, on account of the Navy being paralyzed and shut up in the Mudros Harbour with the exception of torpedo boats and destroyers, by submarines, the Turks can now shell many places with ease. The safest place on land is in the fire trenches. Landing is very unsafe. Some are still killed and wounded before ever they put a

(2)
foot on shore. My men are naturally
very anxious to get on shore, this
seems to be the one wish of men
who have not yet been under
fire. Personally I am quite prepared
to take things as they come but
have no anxiety to look for trouble.
If they would cultivate a more
contented frame of mind it would
be much better for them, because
they will all get their belly full
of exposure to fire before they
have done. Such a fine lot of
fellows too. Their desire to get
ashore is naturally stimulated
by the fact that the ambulance
attached to the infantry has been
on shore since the landing on
April 25th and has done excellent
work, 5 of them have unfortunately
been killed and 14 wounded.

But the experience that my men
have had with ^{over 2000} ~~hundreds of~~ wounded
dumped on to temporary hospital
ships in hundreds at a time, is
practically a unique experience.

and except for the novelty of the thing, the collecting of wounded on land will be a very tame experience. Moreover they have had their share of baptism of fire on board ship. On more than one occasion when lying off Anzac many bullets landed on our ship, the men having no cover at all. However nobody was hit so I suppose they aren't satisfied. But I hope I haven't given you the impression that my men have shown any sign of discontent. Far from it. I know they have been disappointed but they have never uttered a murmur, always a cheerful willing lot of hard workers, fine soldiers every one of them. And they well deserve the very high praise they have been given from time to time for their good work in connection with wounded on ships. I am very proud of them, and such a charming lot of fellows too.

(4)

I had orders to send B section (half my unit) yesterday to Anzac. It was a pleasure to see their keenness and I hope they all landed safely before daylight this morning. I am expecting to get orders to follow with A section any day now. A section is of course on the skirts of excitement now, waiting their turn. It is only natural I suppose because, no matter what the danger may be, there is always a suspicion of attractiveness about the game. There has been nothing doing here for some time and there is no news except that they propose to make a big move soon, the round few hundred yards I suppose. Our men at Anzac have stuck it out wonderfully well. They tell me that they are most of them getting very weak and nervous. They are constantly under shell fire now since the navy, we are so proud of, bottled itself up in Mudros. I hardly know what to think of the situation. Nobody seems confident. If we had high explosive ammunition sufficient to use systematically instead of spasmodically I think every body would be full of confidence.

(5)

We rather hope to get back Barbados before the bad weather in September. Then wintering on the Peninsular will be tolerable. Preparations are being made on this island for winter. At present it is used chiefly for Hospitals and a rest-camp.

A few days ago a Quarter Master came to me to know if I could lend him one or more bangles. As he came from the Worcestershire Regiment, which my brother used to command, I lent him two which I had in reserve. Naturally I wrote at once to my brother and rubbed into him the fact that his crack Regiment had to come and borrow bangles from my little show. In course of conversation with this Quartermaster I found that a cousin of mine, Cayley, had been commanding the Worcestershires since the landing at the Peninsular and that he had been wounded in the head, and after returning to the front was appointed Brigadier General and was in his tent 100 yards away.

I looked him up but as it was 30 years since I had seen him I would not have known him if I had met him, and he did not know me from a bar of soap. However it was a very interesting little meeting. He was fighting alongside the Canterbury infantry at Cape Helles and was full of admiration for them. Practically the whole of his Regiment has been wiped out. They have been resting here for a week but expect to go back any day now. There are others of the 2nd Division resting here for a few days too.

I am enclosing an extract from the "Times" of July 2nd. You have probably all seen it, but and there may have been other criticisms to follow that I have not seen. I am only forwarding it because it confirms what I told you not long ago that you would be justified in believing probably everything you might hear in connection with the treatment of the wounded during the early part of the Dardanelles Campaign.

The less said about it the better.
There is a marked tendency among
Colonial Officers to criticize the
Imperial Officer and his methods.
I always think this is a pity because
the Imperial Officer is a professional
soldier and the chances are he knows
more about his job than the amateur.
I don't think I have been guilty of
much abuse in writing. At any rate
I know that you treat my letters as
confidential and don't drag me
into print. If by chance I happen
to write anything of general interest
that doesn't involve myself or any-
body else in a Court-martial you
are quite at liberty of course to make
any use of the information you like.
I left Timaru on August 12th. By the
time this reaches you I shall have been
serving for more than a year. In Africa
we only signed on for a year. There is
no chance of being relieved here at the
end of a year. Every man is wanted
and every man should "stick it" as long
as he is able. I am as fit as a fiddle.
Wm. Thomas.

(2)
8 SUNDAY - 10 aft Trin [220-145]

great deal more than I can tell you, because this place is sure to be full of spies. My orders to go on shore with the rest of my men yesterday was cancelled. I expect to go any day now. I was not surprised at having to wait a day or two because I think there is no room for us yet because a lot of fresh troops have landed to reinforce Anzac. This is no secret because the Turks of course know they have landed. I am very glad because our men at Anzac are getting very weak. There is a lot of sickness amongst them and they get no relief. When they are not in the trenches they are making roads. Most of the place is more or less always under shell fire too, which is very trying for the nerves week after week. General Birdwood's Aide de Camp, Onslow by name, was killed in his dug out the ^{9 MONDAY [221-144]} other day. I believe he was a son of Lord Onslow who used to be in New Zealand. I told you that since the submarines bottled up the navy the Turks have brought guns up which command the beach at Anzac and that they knocked the Hospital about. This of course they had a perfect right to do because the shelter which constituted the Hospital or dressing station is right in amongst the stores. They can't tell from where they are which is stores and which is dressing station. We have no right to put a Hospital anywhere near anything that the enemy has a right to shell. But originally there was no room to put it any where else and there was no harm in putting it alongside the stores because they could not shell the stores. But since the submarines have taken charge there has been a different tale to tell. The dressing stations are now in a

10 TUESDAY [222-143]

● 10^h 52^m p. m. (Greenwich)

safer place. There is no hospital on shore at Anzai. There is no room for one. Sick or wounded are sent away immediately. Many of them come here to Lemnos. Young Hayter came to my tent about a week ago looking very thin and ill, but he is much better now. They all get dysentery at Anzai. So do many here too as far as that goes. Arthur was off colour for a bit but is quite alright now. I have told you some harrowing tales about men being killed on landing and on the beach lately but they need not worry you because if I land safely I will have done so long before you get any of my letters about the shelling of the beach.

A proper registered hospital ship ties off the beach all day and every day until she has to go and unload her wounded. The Turks never touch her of course.

11 WEDNESDAY [223-142]

Half Quarter Day

But they gave the Admiralty a nasty snub the other day. A torpedo boat took some wounded to the Hospital Ship. The Turks immediately put shells all round the Hospital Ship as much as to say "if you do that sort of thing we shall shell your Hospital Ship" because of course the torpedo boat had no right to shelter herself under a Hospital ship. The torpedo boat took the hint and transferred her wounded to another boat. No mail, still no mail. We have had a few scraps since our last genuine mail on May 7th, the day before we left Egypt. Yesterday, curiously enough I got a Weekly Press from you of June 16th. How it got here all by itself I don't know. Nobody else had any papers or letters. It was a very interesting Press and addressed because it had an account of the Point to Point and an Arowentma meet.

12 THURSDAY [224-141]
Grouse Shooting beginsR London ^{Dalgety} ^{Place} ^{Bermont}

I was very sorry to hear about young Mast and being killed. There were some thrilling letters from men who have returned from the front. I believe all that has been said about the treachery of the German Officer on the Peninsula during the very early part of the campaign is quite true. But the Turk has been a tip top chap all through. German Officers are at ^{the front} but I don't think he has taken part in the trench fighting for some time. It is a pity there can't be some censorship on the letters from returned soldiers. For instance in the Press I got the other day there is a Sgt: Gabriel, who gives a vivid account of the landing at Gaba Tepe, and says the English troops landed at Cape Hellis practically unopposed. Nobody could help being proud of the landing of the Colonials at Gaba Tepe, but

13 FRIDAY [225-140] the landing of the 29th Division at Cape Hellis was one of the finest performances in Military History. Please excuse this paper but don't send me any writing paper, thinking I am short of paper. I have not written any diary for months. I just make a note every now and then to remind me of things and am using up this diary so as to save bulk and weight in my kit. We are much better fed than in Africa. We get a good deal of bully at times but nearly always bread, and we can nearly always buy milk in tins and jam. Also tinned fish or fruit at times. Butter and other minor luxuries of course we don't expect. Grand National run in 3 days time. A year, all but a week, since I left Timaru.

Ernest Thomas.

1915 [31 Days]

Private.

1.

130
14 August

14 SATURDAY [226-139]

August 7th 1915

Dear Milly

You poor soul you must be getting very sick of it. Nearly a year gone now and at least another one to follow I should think, if not more. I have written another letter today, which I intended for you, but I thought perhaps I had better leave it an open letter so that you could pass it on to the Club if you think it will be of any interest to them. Never getting a mail leaves me entirely in the dark as to whether you are getting letters from me. I don't think I have written any that a censor would object to. Some doubtful ones I was able to get through by men going to Alexandria, who could hand them to our Post Master, who would put them through for me. There are lots of things I want to hear about. I want to be quite certain the doctors are not doing my work for me. Gabites has evidently not left. I think I told you that I have good reason to believe that his South African reputation blocked him. But this you must not breathe. How I am going to make a living when I come back I don't know. This life entirely suits you for general practice. Besides I am getting too old to start and build up a practice again. Mine will have practically speaking have left me. I don't think there is much chance of my getting a military appointment in the Medical Branch of the Service because I was never a Territorial. Besides there are others after the job

15 SUNDAY - 11 aft. Trin [227-138]

who are senior to me because they were Territorials. None of them have anything like the Service that I have got. In any case I don't suppose the appointment would be worth very much. However I may get a better idea how I stand in course of time when I get in touch with our own Headquarter Staff people at Anzore. I shall be sorry to get amongst them for some reasons because there are so many big bugs always about. For about 5 months I have been paddling my own canoe without any body to interfere with me, so I am getting rather spoilt. However I think the boss man of our the Medical side of our show rather likes me. He is an Imperial R.A.M.C. (Royal Army Medical Corps) ^{and a very nice fellow.} man, Col: Will as P.M.O. (Principal ^{before the war} Medical Officer) of New Zealand, ^{16 MONDAY [228-187]} was getting 150 £ a year for the job. That is no good to me of course unless it could be worked in with private practice. This could not be done. It would mean travelling a good deal which would never work in with private practice. The billet to be worth having should carry a salary good enough to leave you independent of private practice. I think the new billet will carry a very much bigger salary than the present one. This is the billet that Col: Fenwick is after and he looked upon it, when we were in Egypt, as practically in his pocket, because they had lost all faith in Col: Will his senior. Fenwick, who was second in Command to Will, is senior to Col: Begg who commands the Field Ambulance here. But ^{Col:} Begg is senior to Fenwick in New Zealand. This is the man Fenwick is afraid of and in order to be senior to Begg he has

17 TUESDAY [229-136]

tried hard to be made Colonel out here now
 • that Col. Will has gone. He would then be
 senior to Begg in New Zealand. ~~He~~ He has not
 succeeded yet. I don't think Begg wants the
 job in N.Z. because he is not old and is
 doing a good practice I believe. ~~His name~~
~~his name~~ Fenwick does not hit it off with
 Col. Maunders, our R.A.M.C. boss. Maunders has
 no time for him at all. I think most people
 are beginning to find him out. He is a clever
 man with his tongue and never fails to
 advertise himself. He is well known for this
 in New Zealand and in consequence very
 much disliked by the profession. But he
 is absolutely untruthful and is not to be
 trusted, but at the same time he is a clever
 chap in many ways and has the gift of
 pulling the strings and getting what

18 WEDNESDAY [230-135]

2h 17m A.M. (Greenwich)

he wants. I am afraid when he gets back to
 New Zealand he will convince them all
 of what a good man he was out here and
 will be right on top. But he is not what
 I call a good man out here by any means,
 because he has "cold feet" but for other reasons. "Cold feet" wouldn't matter in N.Z.
 If a man has "cold feet" I never say anything
 about it when I return, because I think it
 is such a terrible thing to say about a man
 after he has gone voluntarily to the front.
 But when Fenwick gets back I think there
 will be a good many who won't hesitate
 to give him away. Absolutely private mind
you. Of course he fell in badly at Anzac.
 In any ordinary war a Medical Officer in
 his position would never be exposed to fire.
 But in this war of artillery fire it is
 different. And at Anzac of course he found
 himself in a position which he never antici-
 -pated for a moment when he left New Z.
 If he had known what he was going to be let in for I don't think he
 would ever have left New Zealand.

When I was on shore with him for a short time it was pitiful to watch him. I was surprised ^{19 THURSDAY [231-134]} to see any man in such a funk.

I believe he was the laughing stock of every body. Maunders was thoroughly disgusted with him. It must be known in R. Z. when he returns, but it won't prevent him beating every body in R. Z. for the appointment. He will coolly admit it all probably, and laugh it off as a joke against himself. ~~Maunders was~~ We saw a good deal of each other in Cairo and had a great deal in common to talk about in connection with Simarn people, and we played billiards together at the Club. So socially we are the very best of pals and he looks upon me as his best friend: ~~Maunders~~ and we are excellent pals too, but I thoroughly mistrust him. We all knew he had

20 FRIDAY [232-133]
Black Game Shooting begins

"cold feet" in Africa. He advertised himself tremendously in connection with the plague there, and he came back with a bigger name than any other Medical Officer. But as a matter of fact he chucked the military job as soon as he could and was doing Civil Surgeons work at the Base all the time, nothing whatever to do with the Contingent he left with.

He is a great pal of Dr. Gibson's and thinks a lot of Dr. Houghman as an Officer. Gabites he has no time for.

He knows all about him. He left Amuzas with the dysentery and has for some time been boss man at Zeitoun, where he is quite safe and happy. He will have ample opportunity of seeing the wounded there and advertising himself in R. Z. as having done such

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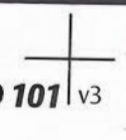
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24 TUESDAY [236-129]
O 9h 41m p.m. (Greenwich).
St. Bartholomew, Ant.

He could get plenty of whiskey if we wanted it. But I never think my feet better as a rule without it. At least not when I'm engaged in a company at the club, but as long as we are doing anything I would never be without it. M.M.

sick. We came away with 397 Officers, 62 of whom had seen Active Service. I wonder how many there are left. I seem to pling along alright and never get sick. Bound to get my turn soon I suppose. However I shall of course stick it as long as I can be of any use. Do you know I don't know what it is, I suppose its "cold feet", but I kneel down and say a prayer every night. I don't feel happy without it now. I generally say a word for you too. As a matter of fact I am terribly anxious to get through this job alright and get back to New Zealand again. I don't think I shall have much to tell you ^{when I come back} because I have always written all I know. I wish I could get some news or some Weekly Pioneer or something. It would be very interesting to know whether they eventually built a new grandstand or whether they included a steepchase in our last programme, and if so, whether it was a success or not. I really haven't time to write to Jimmie, but if I would be indebted to him if this next season he could find time to teach Bernard to throw a fly. If Bernard is well enough to walk to Hunter Watson's with Moana, he is well enough to fish. He must wear waders of course at first. ~~ambrosia~~ I hope you have kept all the photographs I have sent you. They may not be of much interest to you but some of them may be interesting to me. How are the Ulrichs getting on? I have to be careful because perhaps Moana is going to marry one of them. They are all the same. They want Germany to win only they daren't say so. Lots of love old girl from your affec^{ed} husband.
Archie Thomas.

25 WEDNESDAY [237-128]



Angas
28th August 18

Dear Mrs Thomas

It is with the deepest
regret that I have to write and express
my sympathy with you in your
bereavement. I only got the news
this morning, as I have been
temporarily attached to one of the
Expanding Battalions, and it came
as a great shock to me; as after
a year's close association with him
I had come to love & respect the
Colonel very highly. I shall always
consider it an honour to have been
one of his Officers.

Yours Sincerely
Alex^r M. Trotter.

COPY. Gallipoly Peninsular, N.Z. Mtd R. Field Ambce. 29 Aug 1915.

Dear Sir

It is with much regret that I write to give you the details of Col Thomas death. He was killed by a shell while collecting wounded with several stretcher parties. The shell burst right over ~~the~~ them & death was instantaneous.

On behalf of my brother officers & the men of the unit I desire to express to you our sorrow & sympathy. We had worked together for over a year & everyone loved him.

I am Sir, Yours very truly C.T. Hand Newton. Major N.Z.M.C.

Gallipoli Penin.²
29-8-15

Dear Mrs. Thomas,

I feel it my duty to write you a few lines, giving you some details concerning our dear Colonel's death. On Friday 26th we heard that there was to be a big attack on our left flank. The bombardment commenced at 3 P.M. & the Colonel left an hour later in charge of 2 stretcher squads to bring in wounded. About 5 o'clock the Turks started to shell our trenches & a few minutes later a high explosive shell fell right in among our men, who were lying down in the trench, to avoid the hail of bullets, which, at that time, were absolutely everywhere. The result was that the concussion of the exploding shell killed the Colonel instantly & the bursting fragments wounded 4 others including Sgt. Galt. Only 1 of the party (Pat. Webb) returned without being wounded. 2 of our stretcher bearers, went out later on in the evening & brought the Colonel back. He was buried next afternoon Sat. 27th at 3.30 Under a beautiful olive tree in

front of our hospital. Capt. Taylor conducted the
service. All the remaining members of our unit
were present. & we all felt it, more than I can
tell. We always looked on the Colonel more as
a father. Major Hewton is having an cross made
at headquarters & I will see that everything
is fixed up satisfactorily. It all came as a
great shock to me even yet. I find it hard
to realize it is true. By the same mail I
am returning a few things. The Colonel's
left most of his kit at the base & they will
all be returned by the authorities in due
course. You will notice the little black watch
is not there. It was lost on one of the boats; but
the Colonel wrote to England for another one
a few weeks ago & that should be here at
any time. I will post it on to you as soon as it
arrives. Major Hewton will give you all
information about financial matters. If I get
back safely I will be able to give you lots of in-
formation about things in general. I will take a
photo of the quine after it has been properly
fixed up & will send you a copy. Trusting that
this will find you & yours well, & that God
will give you all strength to tide over this
most trying time. I remain

Yours very sincerely
George W. Thomson.

will be revered by all, surely
this is better, - as we all must die,
than die by gradual decay with
out one really noble action in life
to leave behind.

Poor doctor we shall never replace
him in South Canterbury & his
splendid noble deeds will be
spoken by all of us for years to
come.

I know these letters of sympathy
are horrid things - but I feel I
must say what I truly feel about
my old friend.

Believe me to remain

Very truly Yours

The Surgeon Major

Middleton
Christ Church
Sept. 3rd 1915

Dear Mrs. Thomas,

I cannot tell you how sorry
I felt when I read the sad news
of your poor husband's death,
your fellow, he used to speak to
me constantly upon matters in
connection with sport; no man
was fonder of it, no man worked
harder or more disinterestedly
than the poor doctor - there is only
one comfort in this sad affair -
he died like a good brave man
in defence of his country, beloved
by all, during his utmost exertions
the pain & agonies of his fellow
men on the field of battle, he has
left a name behind him which

His men are awfully distressed at their loss, and I know feel keenly for you.

One of our chaplains is putting up a tiny wooden church in this camp and I have asked to be allowed to pay half the cost as a little memorial to my friend.

I hope you will not think this a presumption of my part, but I want to do something to show our admiration for this splendid fellow officer and friend.

With very sincere sympathy

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Edmund Fenwick
Lt Col.

HEADQUARTERS,
NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Cairo

Sept. 10. 1915

Dear Mr Thomas

I know you will believe how deeply I sympathise with you in the loss of Colonel Thomas

He was my greatest friend and I feel his loss very much.

All his men loved him, and would do anything for their Colonel, and it is due to this personal influence of his that he had not one case of bad discipline or laxity in his corps, a record held by no other officer, I believe.

Private Bates who was beside the Colonel when he fell tells me that death was instantaneous so at least I have the pleasure of knowing that my friend did not suffer.

Bates was wounded in two places by the same shell and told me he carried his "dear Colonel" into the Sap. out of fire.

My friend died as every Englishman would like to die, and he has left behind a splendid record of most unselfish devotion to his men and to the hundreds of wounded to whom he gave his professional skill so gladly

of Lady Godley's Home for Wounded
Soldiers. Jertons, Cairo
5th Sept 1915.

To Mr Col Thomas.

of Postmaster's Terrace

Dear Madam; It is with sympathy I write, & in sadness I thought it
may be of interest to learn of just how your late esteemed husband
met his death while serving his King & Country. From Private
Leslie Bates of the 47th M.C. Field Ambulance who was along side of
him I gathered these facts, & so I ventured amidst your sorrow
to offer this information, & may be solace. The day is hot, &
thought tired I sit down, & make this effort. Prior to
doing so I may say your photos were always hung in a position

wherever he was that he could see them. His loving kindness
to his men, & his devotion to duty are too well known
to all whom came in contact with him. But as the grass
grows & is cut down so are we amidst the din & crash
of the battle's roar. But still we must ever hope on.
From Bates who by the way is a cousin of that noble soul
who died with the 10th expedition I learned that on
the morning ^{just} prior to going out to where he was fatally
injured I learned that he remarked to Bates that
"he had been as lucky as anyone, & had gone through so
far without a scratch" & he said "I like you very much".
*He was out Friday 23rd August & the time was evening about 7
& O'clock & his position was on the left flank with the

Australians, New Zealanders, & the Shorkees to the left from
 Salt Lake being Hill "60" & "W." Hill. Two stretcher
 parties were with him consisting of Oates (Sergt W. Tate),
 Mc Nelson, Horrop, Heland, & Webb, & a heavy fight was
 raging all day. The shrapnel shell burst & killed the
 Col instantly, & he merely exclaimed "Oates" & passed
 away. Only one man is injured, & that was Sgt Webb.
 (Sgt & Tate I understand would recover as he was shot just
 about the left kidney & was very weak.) The Col was not
 maimed, he believed & only the fact was he got the full
 force of it burst, & the shock was no doubt the cause
 of his not rallying at all after. Everyone other than

the effects of shrapnel. Good
 you will hear more full
 have no doubt that
 will write you fully. Do
 trust you may be comforted
 P. E. W. Arnold No 3/308.
 N. Z. M. C
 Lady Godley's Home Staff
 District
 Cairn

5th Sep 1915.

101 v3

Should you want any information
Income Tax or anything
his will, or any business
to Mr. Wilkie Watson
I am in what is H.
Buildings Wellington
he will do anything
charges whatsoever &

information regarding Land Tax or his late
in reference to stamp duty in regard
no instructions whatever. Write
Chief Clerk of the Dept.
(Land & Income Tax) Govt
& mention my name &
to help you without any
give you the best advice (free)
Sympathetically
P. E. W. Arnold

July 15. 1916.

My dear Mr. Thomas

How very good & kind of you to think of me, & send me such a thoughtful & beautiful present. Thank you ever so much -

I am so proud to be allowed to & take some little part in the great cause; though I hate leaving here, where there are so many whom I love, & who have been so good to me - but I hope I may be back here again in twelve months, able to take up my work here again & renewed & strengthened to do it better. I only hope I may be as faithful & true as the dear friend whose loss you so deeply deplore - may God bless & keep you.

Yrs ever sincerely
 J. A. Cook.

40 Kinloch St.
St. Albans
Ch Ch 1
Feb 23rd.

Ms. Bernard Thomas.

Dear Ms. Thomas,

Some time ago there was a death notice in the paper that I thought must relate to the late Dr. Thomas or to some relative of his family.

Recently I was speaking to Mrs. Sinclair Thomson & she thought that 'Sealey St' would be sufficient address to send a letter to you.

Just recently I have been going through papers & photos & I found again this photo I have of Dr. Thomas's grave on Gallipoli. My husband was one of the soldiers who went to Gallipoli - after the war ended - & before

They were sent back to N.Z. to tidy up
the graves of N.Z. soldiers there.

I have lost track of this photo for
some time. However I hope you
or some of the family may still
be interested in having it.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs) N. Bell.

Headquarters,

New Zealand Military Forces,

Brandon Street,

Wellington,

25 JUN 1920

Any further communication on this
subject should be addressed to—
"Headquarters,
N.Z. Military Forces,
Brandon Street, Wellington,"
and the following numbers quoted:—

ACB/MC .

E.F. 3/118A. Q.M.G. (4).

3/118A. - C.E. Thomas - Deceased.

Dear Sir,

There is due to the estate of this deceased soldier the sum of £8: 0: 0, being the difference between Territorial and Expeditionary Force rates of pay for the period 16th to the 31st August, 1914, at 10/- per day, and also the sum of £8: 0: 0, at the same rate for the same period, being for Professional Allowance, as well as £20/-/-, being for Additional Outfit Grant.

A voucher for the total amount £36: 0: 0, has been prepared in favour of Mrs Mildred J. Thomas and Mr T.H. Rhodes, the Executors, and they will receive payment through the Postmaster at Timaru, on production to him of Probate.

Will you please advise the payees accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

E. Chappell

for Officer-in-Charge War Expenses.

Miles J. Knuble, Esq.,
Solicitor,
TIMARU.

In replying please quote the under-
mentioned number:—

E.F. 3/ 118a

Base Records Branch,
New Zealand Military Forces,

MRS. C.E. THOMAS,
SOPHIA STREET,
TIMARU.

Wellington, 22nd March, 19 20.

Dear MADAM,

Re: 3/118a. - LT.COL. CHARLES E. THOMAS.

I am directed by the Hon. the Minister of Defence to forward you a photograph and negative of the grave of the above-named soldier, of whom you are the nominated next-of-kin. The position of the grave is DETACHED GRAVE AT FOOT OF CHALK HILL, GALLIPOLI. At a later date you will also receive a Memorial Plaque and Scroll which is now being prepared in England by the Imperial Authorities. It will, therefore, be necessary for you to notify me of any change of address.

Yours faithfully,

J.G. MCACNE,

Secretary,
N.Z.M.F. WAR GRAVES COMMITTEE.
Per. *[Signature]*

MT