

Parramatta
ANZACS
AT GALLIPOLI 1915



PARRAMATTA



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*Front Cover: This photo was taken within a few days of landing at Anzac Beach,
looking south towards Clearing Station. Photographer unknown.
Source: AWM No: PS1488*



Message from The Lord Mayor

When war was declared in August 1914, Australia sent out the call for volunteers to sign up for the Australian Imperial Forces which were to be sent to Europe and the Middle-East. Thousands of men answered the call and the Parramatta District was no exception in providing troops for the first contingent to leave Australia for the war.

These troops were also among the first to be sent to assist the British in their attack on the Gallipoli Peninsula, which they hoped would free access for the navy to invade Constantinople. This action was the first major engagement of the Australians in the Great War and some of the soldiers from Parramatta stood alongside the rest of the forces when they landed at Anzac Cove on 25 April, 1915.

It is now well known that Australians incurred many casualties at Gallipoli and this booklet introduces us to some members of the Parramatta community that were involved. It is hoped that these short snapshots about their lives will give you some indication of their experiences, and possibly inspire further research and interest in this important time in Australia's history.

Paul Garrard
Lord Mayor of Parramatta

Acknowledgements

This booklet was compiled by the Research and Collection Services team at Parramatta City Council. Substantial research was undertaken by staff and valued volunteers who compiled hundreds of stories about the involvement of the Parramatta community in World War One.

Additional resources consulted were the Australian War Memorial (AWM), the National Archives of Australia (NAA), the National Library of Australia (NLA), Trove and Charles Beans' *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914 – 18, Volumes 1 and 2*.

Further information can be found at our website <http://arc.parracity.nsw.gov.au> along with information about the heritage and culture of the Parramatta region.

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Parramatta Anzacs at Gallipoli, 1915 by Parramatta City Council is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Parramatta



On 25 April 1915, the Allied assault on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey began under the guidance of the Commander in Chief, Sir Ian Hamilton. The landing was divided into three assaults: the main one at the tip of the peninsula involved the British troops, a second on the southern side of the entry to the Dardanelles and involved French and French Colonial troops, the last made further up the coast up by men from Australia and New Zealand along with a small force from the Indian Mounted Batteries.

The plan had been hurriedly developed in the wake of the failure of the British Navy to clear Dardenelles on the 18 March 1915 and the task of raising, training, and

supplying the assault force had removed any element of surprise.

The Turks were waiting and prepared, even if they were not sure exactly where the blows would land. Hamilton himself had expressed many concerns over the number of troops, the lack of transport ships, supplies, and reinforcements, the lack of guns and even the lack of administrative officers to plan the offensive.

By the 25 April 1915 there was no turning back and the ANZAC legend began as the first troops leaped from their boats onto the shingled shores of Ari Burnu on the Turkish Peninsula.

Anzac

25 APRIL – 19 DECEMBER 1915



An outline of the Gallipoli campaign



Source: US Library of Congress, George Grantham Collection - ggbain.05135

Sir Ian Hamilton was a British General who was given command of the Anzac campaign. He led the campaign until he was replaced by his successor, General Charles Monro, who recommended the withdrawal of troops from Gallipoli. The following account from his diary entry paints, in very broad brush strokes, the Gallipoli campaign as it was outlined to him by Lord Kitchener.

...I was working at the Horse Guards when, about 10 am, K. sent for me. I wondered! Opening the door I bade him good morning and walked up to his desk where he went on writing like a graven image. After a moment, he looked up and said in a matter-of-fact tone, We are sending a military force to support the Fleet now at the Dardanelles [Gallipoli], and you are to have Command.

Hamilton had successfully worked with Lord Kitchener during the Boer War and led troops in the Western Transvaal.

... In those old Pretoria days I had known the Transvaal by heart; the number, value and disposition of the British forces; the characters of the Boer leaders; the nature of the country. But my knowledge of the Dardanelles was nil; of the Turk nil; of the strength of our own forces next to nil.

We have done this sort of thing before, Lord K. I said; we have run this sort of show before and you know without saying I am most deeply grateful and you know without saying I will do my best and that you can trust my loyalty—but I must say something—I must ask you some questions.”

My troops were to be Australians and New Zealanders under Birdwood (a friend); strength, say, about 30,000. A year ago I inspected them in their own Antipodes and no finer material exists; the 29th Division, strength, say 19,000 ...the Royal Naval Division, 11,000 strong ... a French contingent, strength at present uncertain, say, about a Division... Say then grand total about 80,000, probably panning out at some 50,000 rifles in the firing line.

Excerpt from a diary entry belonging to Ian Hamilton 14 March 1915. Gallipoli Diary, Volume 1, George H Doran, New York, 1920

Anzac Landing

Although Hamilton expressed many concerns over the planning of the landing, it went ahead. Hamilton gives the following account, in his diary entries.

The day was just breaking over the jagged hills; the sea was glass smooth; the landing of the lads from the South was in full swing; the shrapnel was bursting over the water; the patter of musketry came creeping out to sea; we are in for it now; the machine guns muttered as through chattering teeth—up to our necks in it now. But would we be out of it? No; not one of us; not for five hundred years stuffed full of dullness and routine....Wave after wave of the little

ants press up and disappear. We lose sight of them the moment they lie down. Bravo! Every man on our great ship longs to be with them.

We have made good the landing—sure—it is a fact... The thing seems unreal; as though I were in a dream, instead of on a battleship. To see words working themselves out upon the ground; to watch thoughts move over the ground as fighting men....!

Diaries, Commander in Chief, Sir Ian Hamilton, 25 April, 1915

An Australian soldier lies wounded in the foreground, as hundreds of other soldiers move among the dead and wounded on the beach at Anzac Cove on the day of the landing. The soldiers wearing Red Cross arm bands are tending to the wounded. Boxes of equipment are stacked among the men and the beach is also littered with discarded personal equipment. This scene is looking along the beach to the north.

Source: AWM No: PS1659



Account of the Gallipoli Landing

Ernest Edward Herrod married local milliner, Kathleen Elizabeth Regan from Wentworth Street Parramatta. Herrod landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 as the battalion signals officer and was promoted lieutenant that day. In a letter to his wife, he wrote of his experiences, offering a different perspective than that of Sir Ian Hamilton:

On Sunday, April 25th, it will be impossible for any of us to forget that day, just before dawn, the whole fleet crept out from the shelter of the island and moved in towards the mainland. With a suddenness that was awful our war commenced. Boom-crash spoke the big guns from the Turkish forts and land batteries, to be immediately answered by our warships (the Queen Elizabeth Dreadnought) built since the outbreak of the war and carrying eight 15 inch and sixteen 6 inch guns, being amongst them.) The Third Brigade landed first, the First and Second following immediately afterwards. The landing, which should have been impossible, was effected and the whole of third infantry brigade were ashore before 9 a.m. Shrapnel poured on us like rain. I will not attempt to describe the horrors of the landing. We left the transports by rope ladders into torpedo boat destroyers out of range of the guns, came close into shore and then clambered from the destroyers

into ships boats and rowed ashore jumping out waist deep and wading ashore under an appalling shrapnel fire.

Had we hesitated or even wavered for a second on getting a footing, not one of us would have lived, as it would have been impossible to get back to the ships.

All our baggage was left on the transports and as soon as we got ashore we threw off our packs, fixed bayonets and went for them. There was hardly a shot fired from our rifles during the first hour or so, and that in my opinion gave us the position so quickly. The men advanced, clambered up the steep hills carrying everything in front of them by the bayonet. How they did fight! The Australian as a soldier will do me.

Letter dated 10 May 1915, Published in the Cumberland Argus, 7 July 1915

The Landing at Anzac Cove. Source: AWM J03022



Soldiers Biographies



Parramatta Soldier

Lance Bathie (Service No: 559)

Lance Bathie was a blue-eyed, 29 year old iron-moulder with a bird and rose leaf tattoo on his right forearm. He was undertaking an apprenticeship with Bail and Co, Auburn, before he enlisted on 4 January 1915. His father, George Bathie lived in Belmore Street, Parramatta.

He was transferred to the 6 Light Horse on 28 August 1915 and returned to the 12 Light Horse Regiment on 22 February 1916 after their withdrawal from Gallipoli. In the same year Lance appears to have started training as a cook. He survived the war and left for Sydney on 20 April 1919.



Parramatta Soldier

Edmund Silas Bellamy (Service No: 1508)

Edmund was a 30 year old storeman when he enlisted on 15 April 1915. His mother Margaret Edith Bellamy lived in Fleet St Parramatta. He joined the fighting force at Gallipoli on 1 August 1915, was wounded 27 August, and promoted to Corporal the next day.

After recuperating in an English hospital he was sent to join the British Expeditionary Force in France on 24 March 1916. He contracted dysentery on 27 May 1916, and was later sent to hospital from Rouen. In 1919 he was re-assigned to the 3 Australian Light Rail Operational Company.



Parramatta Soldier

Sergeant Howard Bruce Brown (Service No: 169)

Although 21 year old railway clerk Howard Bruce Brown enlisted in Marrickville, Sydney, on 22 September 1914, his parents lived in Prospect Street, Granville. He was single when he enlisted and only a year later was invalided back home after losing his leg at Gallipoli. However, Bruce (his preferred name) appears to have been a resourceful and energetic young man, eventually becoming Secretary of Taronga Zoo in Sydney.

At the time of the incident Sergt. Brown was acting as despatch carrier for General Birdwood. He was in a dug-out with a comrade when the trenches were being heavily shelled. He remarked, "Some fine day a shell will break through this roof," and sure enough it did. The staff-sergeant, writing to Bruce's father, said: — 'I was the first to enter the dug-out after the explosion. The case of the shell hit poor Bruce on the leg and cut the limb nearly off. I never saw a braver lad. He shook hands with us, and was taken away to the beach. He was wonderfully brave. The contents of the shell hit the other poor lad in the back and killed him instantly. Sgt. Brown is in hospital in Alexandria, from whence he writes cheerily. When he gets his artificial leg he does not wish to be sent home. He desires to get some light occupation with his regiment.

The Cumberland Argus, 5 Feb 1916



Parramatta Soldier

Cecil Augustus Roy Burke (Service No: 1363)

Cecil Burke was a Harbour Trust employee who enlisted in May 1915. In September 1915 he received a shrapnel wound to the neck and was admitted to the 19 General Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt. As a result of his injuries, he was discharged in 1916 and returned to Australia. The Cumberland Argus published the following when he arrived back in Australia:

Private Burke left with the 19th Battalion, 5th Brigade, and landed at Gallipoli on August 19. He lasted till September 3, when he was wounded in the neck by shrapnel, or as he says the boys call it "Charley Chaplin." The piece of shrapnel went right through his neck, just grazing the vertebrae, and he has had a headache ever since.



Parramatta Nurse **Dorothy Cawood**

On 1 July 1919, Nurse Dorothy Cawood returned home to Parramatta after four years of continuous service. Dorothy left with the first contingent of Australian nurses. She enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force on 14 November 1915 and was based in the Australian General Hospital (2AGH) in Mena and Ghezireh, on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt. During the Gallipoli campaign, Cawood mainly served at 2AGH although she was seconded to transport ships bringing back the wounded from Gallipoli on several occasions. After Gallipoli she was posted with 2AGH to France.

Just before leaving England to return home in 1919 she was awarded a Military Medal by King George V at Buckingham Palace for her bravery during the action at Messines, France. She was the first Sydney woman to receive this award.



Parramatta Soldier
Charles Frederick Cox

Charles Frederick Cox was 51 when he enlisted on 15 September 1914. He had strong connections with Parramatta having been educated and married here, as well as being a member of the Lancers since 1891.

He appears to have left Australia after the departure of the first contingent of the 1 Light Horse Brigade as part of the reinforcements. He was then assigned to the 6 Regiment in the 2 Lighthorse brigade and left for Egypt in December 1914. Cox then went to Gallipoli with the 6 Light Horse Regiment and after being wounded in the knee with shrapnel on 21 May 1915, he returned to the peninsula. He was raised to the rank of Temporary Colonel while in command of the 2 Light Horse Brigade. On 3 November 1915, he resumed command of the 6 Light Horse Regiment. His stellar career continued and on 28 November 1915, he was appointed temporary command of the entire 1 Light Horse Brigade. Cox returned to Australia on 19 April 1919.



Parramatta Soldier

Leslie Albert Creed (Service No: 2695)

Leslie Albert Creed was 31 years old when he enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland on 24 June 1915. Prior to enlistment, he worked as a labourer and was living at 11 Factory Street, Parramatta, with his family. He had gone to school at the Marist Brothers Catholic College in Parramatta.

He signed up with the 9 Battalion and subsequently embarked aboard the HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) on 16 August 1915. After serving at Gallipoli he was recorded in December 1915 as being dangerously ill with pneumonia at Lemnos Island. After his recovery, he continued to fight in the battles of the Somme and of Pozieres. In May 1917, he was reported as missing in action and it was later discovered that he had been killed in action on 7 May 1917 at Bullecourt, France, aged 33. He was buried nearby but his grave was not found. He is remembered with honour on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France. He was posthumously awarded a British War Medal. His younger brother Alfred Victor (service number 7466) also served but returned home as the war ended.



Parramatta Soldier **Richard Cutter**

On 22 August 1914, Richard (Dick) John Cutter became the first Parramatta man to enlist in the Australian Infantry Services (AIF). His embarkation record states he was 34 years (but given his later exploits he was possibly younger), and that he had been working as a labourer before he joined the 3 Light Horse Regiment.

He embarked from Sydney on 18 October 1914 with the first convoy. After training in Egypt, he served with the ANZACs that stormed the beaches at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. He received a serious ear injury before being wounded in the eye and leg, and covered by a shell-burst while fighting at Lone Pine. This resulted in his being invalided home, although once recovered, he served as a District Guard in Australia.

District Digger reunions always welcomed a 'turn' by Digger Dick as he was a natural comedian as well as a surprisingly good clog dancer. Apparently his act never failed to bring down the house. In 1944, he died at his home in Bogalara Road, Toongabbie, leaving behind a wife and a son.



Parramatta Soldier

Francis James Doherty (Service No: 2359)

Frank (Francis James) Doherty, from Russell St, Granville was a well-known local soccer player, having played for the highly successful HMS *Powerful* team and later the Granville Magpies. A 32 year old labourer, he embarked from Sydney on the 14 July 1915 on the HMAT *Orsova* A67.

In December 1916, he was wounded in action and later wrote a letter to the Cumberland Argus describing his injury: *We were just going over the top when a shell burst alongside of me and I was hit in the face and knocked over, and to my dismay when I recovered I was stone blind and deaf, but otherwise alright... His hearing did not fully return but he kept serving. He was awarded the Military Cross in June 1917, only to be severely wounded in the right thigh by a bomb in October 1917. He wrote, I thought it was a case of losing my leg, but thank God I have got over it all right. He was subsequently awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.*

He died on 18 May 1919 in his Granville home from septicaemia, as a result of complications from his wounds received whilst in service. He had only returned from the war two months earlier.



Parramatta Soldier

Major-General James Murdoch Archer Durrant

When war broke out in 1914 one of Australia's most recognised hero's from the next four years of conflict signed up for service from Parramatta. James Murdoch Archer Durrant served at Gallipoli, Egypt, France, and Flanders.

Rising from the rank of captain to Lieutenant-Colonel and winning the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) and the Order of St Michael and St George - Companion (CMG). He served with conspicuous bravery at Gallipoli with the 13th Battalion. In recognition of this service, 'Durrant's Post' at Gallipoli, was named after him.

He returned to Australia in 1920. His ties to Parramatta remained strong, for while he was stationed at the local barracks, he met and married Miss Birk, whose mother lived in Westmead.



Parramatta Soldier

Cecil George "Curly" Eather (Service No: 1544)

Private Eather embarked from Australia in February 1915. He only lived for a few days after his landing at Gallipoli. Private Jago, son of Mayor Jago, was close to where 'Curly' Eather met his fate. He provided the following account in a letter to the Cumberland Argus, published in October 1915:

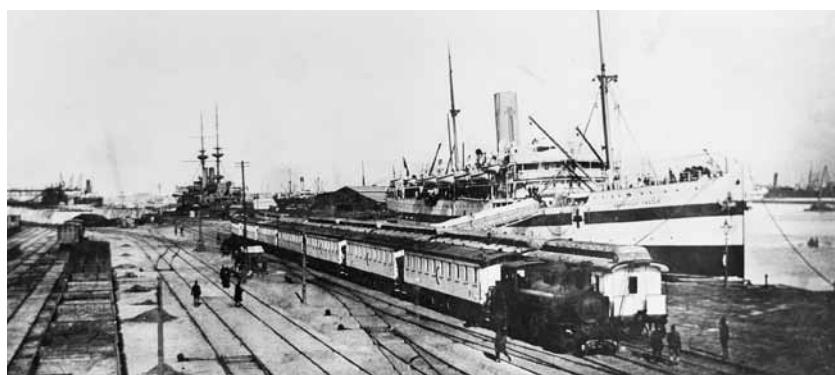
...he had just warned Eather — who had landed only a few days before — to rely upon the periscope, to get a look at the enemy, and not to expose himself. Eather, new to 'the game' (that's what the soldiers call it) said, 'Oh, they'll not get me. I'll chance it!' Jago went on with his work, watching out for any movement in the enemy's trenches. A little later he heard a dull thud; and his friend lay there wounded in the head. Eather died a little later on a hospital ship. He was called 'Curly' because of his hair. 'Had his hair been cropped closer it might have been better for him; he would have had more chance said the doctor.



Parramatta Nurse **Sister Edith Faber**

Edith was a 31 year-old nurse living at Hillier Street, Merrylands, when she was one of the first volunteers to be accepted into the 2 Australian General Hospital Nursing Service on 24 November 1914. She was stationed on one of the hospital ships, the *Grantully Castle*, which was moored off the coast of Gallipoli. Edith was promoted to Nursing Sister in December 1915.

She returned to Australia and worked at Randwick Hospital for a short period before leaving in June 1919 to be married in Hong Kong.



The hospital ship Grantully Castle docked at Alexandria, the hospital train is waiting to receive sick and wounded soldiers from Gallipoli, who were usually sent to Cairo.

Source: AWM No. A01736



Parramatta Soldier
Thomas Gregory (Service No: 2153)

Thomas Gregory from Phillip Street, Parramatta enlisted on 10 July 1915. Lance-Corporal Gregory came from England to Australia and was employed as an iron worker at Clyde Engineering. Shortly before leaving for the front, he was married to Miss Annie Speers of Phillip Street. After a short training in Liverpool Camp, he left Parramatta in September 1915 for the Dardanelles. He was one of the last forty men to leave Gallipoli. With other ANZACs, he was sent to France and while in action was seriously wounded in the left arm and head. He died on 5 May 1916 and was buried at Bailleul Cemetery.



Parramatta Soldier

Clive Stanley Hamilton (Service No: 1090)

Clive Stanley Hamilton was an engineer at Clyde Engineering Works when he decided to enlist like his two brothers. He joined on 7 November 1914 at Liverpool as a Private with the 13 Infantry Battalion. At that time he was single and living at Trongate Street, Granville.

On 22 December 1914, he embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) with his unit for Egypt. He participated in the Gallipoli campaign before being taken to Malta Hospital due to "teeth and tonsillitis" on 17 July 1915. After rejoining his troop at Ismailia, Egypt on 15 January 1916, he was taken on strength and transferred to the newly raised 45 Battalion. Sadly, he was killed in action in Belgium on 6 October 1916, aged 23.



Parramatta Soldier

Alexander Hugh Hamilton (Service No: 236)

Private Alexander Hugh Hamilton was a labourer who enlisted on 27 January 1915 in Liverpool as part of the 5 Infantry Brigade. He was 21 years old and the eldest son of four boys. His parents lived in Lumley Street, Granville and two of his younger brothers also served.

He took part in the Gallipoli campaign and was in the rear-guard of the evacuation. At 23, he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery on the field in France and was promoted to Corporal in May 1917. Released from active service in England after developing chronic bronchitis, he returned to Australia and was officially discharged on 18 May 1919.

In 1920, he married Gladys Rose McBride in Taree, New South Wales. He passed away on 8 July 1953, aged 59.



Parramatta Soldier **John Brier Mills**

Major John Brier Mills was born and raised in Parramatta. The family later moved to Perth where John practised as a lawyer and married Jean Blanche Wills. He enlisted in the 2 Australian Field Artillery Brigade which embarked from Melbourne.

He was reported as missing or wounded and an Australian Red Cross report dated 23 December 1919 listed him as being buried in Pink Farm Cemetery at Gully Beach, Cape Helles, Gallipoli. These Red Cross files were created by the Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau of the Australian Red Cross which was established in October 1915. They investigated missing personnel on official Army lists as well as enquiries from families. The report found that Major Mills had received a gunshot wound to the abdomen and died on 30 May 1915, aged 45 years.



Parramatta Soldier

Abraham Pearce (Service No: 2190)

Abraham Pearce was 22 years old when he signed up with the Australian Imperial Force on 17 April 1915, Liverpool. He was the son of James Rasin and Emily Pearce of Lansdowne Street, Parramatta. At the time, he was single and working as a wool classer at A.W. Davis & Co. in Pyrmont.

He left with the 2 Battalion, 6 Reinforcements aboard the HMAT *Karoola* A63 from Sydney on 16 June 1915. After months of training in Egypt, he joined the 2 Battalion at the Gallipoli Peninsula. At first, he was reported missing but sadly it was later reported that during the Anzac engagement at Lone Pine, he was one of the many fallen casualties killed in action on 6 August 1915. He is buried at the Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli.



Parramatta Soldier

Edward John Veitch (Service No: 1781)

Edward was the fifth son of Mr and Mrs G. Veitch of Barney Street, Parramatta. His wife, Annie was from Marsden Street, Parramatta. He joined 20 Battalion on 27 May 1915 in Liverpool and embarked in June 1915 to serve in Gallipoli and France. In a letter to his mother that was published in the Cumberland Argus, he wrote:

"This Land of Hell" where ... nearly every one of us got wounded. I was the first, so as soon as I got hit I started to try to find my way back to our trenches again, but this was the hardest thing I had to try to find in my life. It took me a good hour. I had to keep dodging in and out of shell holes 10ft deep and shells were falling all around me... I gave up in despair and laid in a shell hole to await morning.

After being wounded in action several times, he returned to Australia in December 1918 and was officially discharged April 1919.



Parramatta Soldier
Herbert Woodward (Service No: 359)

Bomber Herbert Woodward was a labourer and the second in a family of six sons from Wentworthville. His mother, Mrs Hannah S. Woodward was a great patriotic worker. She was associated in every war movement in the district and allowed four of her six sons to go to the war. Herbert enlisted in the 17 Battalion on 2 March 1915 and departed on 12 May 1915 on board the HMAT *Themistocles*. He fought for five months in Gallipoli and was part of the final evacuation. In May 1917, he sustained a gunshot wound to the leg in France. He returned to Australia on 22 December 1918, and died in February 1988.

Evacuation of Gallipoli



Cecil Edwin Anschau
(Service No: 2900) gives his personal account of the evacuation of Gallipoli. Cecil was the son of the Postmaster at Parramatta and was 25 when he joined the forces on 22 February 1915. He served at Gallipoli and was one of nineteen selected from the Australian Medical Corps (AMC) to remain until evacuation was completed. Eventually stationed on Pope's, he described the selection process:

The whole world knows now that we have evacuated Gallipoli. The why and the wherefore I am bound by honor not to say, but I am proud to say that I was picked to be one of the last AMC men to be left behind until the very end.

The retreat took a whole week to accomplish, and our Brigade (the 5th) was picked to hold the last posts. They are: Russel's Top, Pope's Post, Quinn's Post, Courtney's Post, and Walker's Ridge. Our Brigade was split up among them, our section was made fall-in, and the Major told us in a few words what was going to take place, and that the 5th Brigade was to hold on and cover the retreat of the troops. That being the case, the AMC had also to stay to look after the boys. He had picked out his men to fill the posts of honor. He then started to read the names of the men, and mine was among them. I was very proud, but I knew only too well the job that had been left to us.

However, nineteen there were of us, as we stood to attention, listening to all he had to say how proud he was and the responsibility that was laid on us, etc. I have been sad at times at what I have seen, but I can safely say that ten minutes of lecture was the saddest of all my career as a soldier.

Below: The last troops were evacuated from the Gallipoli peninsula on 20 Dec 1915. This photograph portrays a view from North Beach of the prominent feature known as the Sphinx at the time of evacuation of the Australian and New Zealand troops from the Anzac area. In the centre are hospital tents left standing to deceive the enemy's aeroplane observers about Allied intentions.

Source: AWM No. M00333





About this book

Parramatta ANZACS AT GALLIPOLI 1915

This project was initiated by the purchase of a book by Parramatta City Council. The book *Parramatta District Soldiers*, was published by The Cumberland Argus in 1920. Between 1914 and 1918, this local newspaper published hundreds of photos and letters sent to them by the community. This book is a compilation of some of those unique stories and provides a sense of the sheer horror the soldiers and nurses must have experienced. It also provides a sense of the uplifting mateship, hard work and heroism they encountered during their time away. For some, it was their first experience of being away from Australia and this contributed to the increasing sense of nationhood that intensified after the war.

