

# THE NEW ARMY IN GALLIPOLI.

## BRILLIANT CHARGE OF THE IRISHMEN AT SUVLA BAY.

### AUSTRALIANS' RECKLESS COURAGE.

(From our Special Correspondent at the Dardanelles, Mr. H. W. Nevinson.)

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, DARDANELLES,  
AUGUST 19.

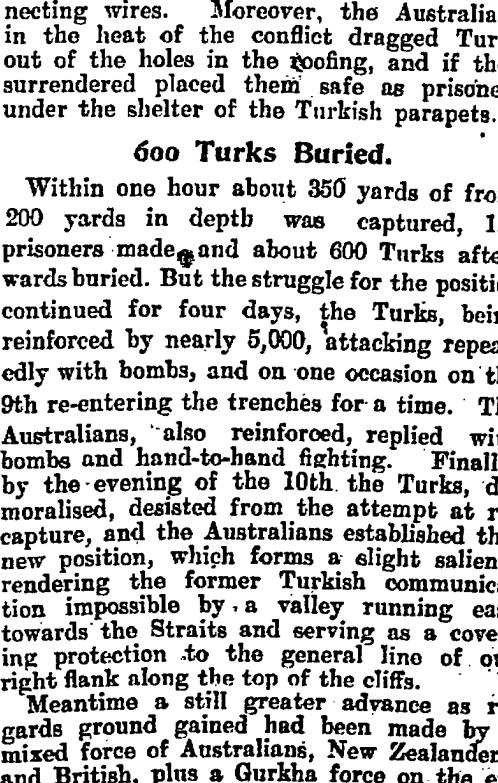
I will describe two gallant scenes in the recent movements upon the peninsula, one from an account of an eye-witness who conducted me over the ground, the other from personal observation, since I was present during the whole action. The first was carried out by the Australians on the summit of the cliffs held by the Australians and New Zealanders, called the Anzac position, on August 6 and the following four days; the second by the Irishmen of the New Army at Suvla Bay on August 15.

As part of the general co-ordinated movement from Cape Helles, Anzac, and Suvla Bay, the Australians were ordered to attack and occupy the open ground and Turkish trenches opposite the highest point of our right or southern section, along the summit of Anzac cliffs, known as "Lone Pine." Turkish trenches of great strength here approached our own within sixty yards, and assaults by mine and bombs were very frequent. The position was held by three Turkish battalions and covered by three Turkish batteries of 75's, large howitzers, and eighteen-pounders from different points. The Australian guns began the bombardment of the Turkish trenches on August 5 and continued the next afternoon, the Turkish answer being very severe, and some of our guns were actually brought up close to the firing line.

#### The Fight at the Parapets.

By 5.30 on the 6th the New South Wales Infantry were ready in the trenches by sections for the advance. There were none of the usual jokes or swearing; only calm, earnest silence awaiting the order. At the word all the first sections rose, climbed the sandbag parapets, and rushed forward across an open space of about sixty yards of rough ground. Our men were at once met by furious rifle fire and several machine guns at short range.

Still the loss was not great till the sandbag parapet of the Turkish line was reached, when our attack seemed to pause. This was



due to the extreme strength of the Turkish trenches, which were thickly roofed with wooden beams and stones and iron, built like galleries of coalmines. The Turks from below fired upwards into our men on the top, and we could get no access till the Australian officers tore away the roof and beams at various points.

Many jumped down the holes thus made into the dark galleries crowded with Turks below. In the history of war I know no deed of more reckless courage. It took twenty minutes to open free access for the men following outside, while the chaos of hand-to-hand fighting in the galleries continued. Of all who charged over the open space none tried to return except two telephonists, who gallantly ran back with connecting wires. Moreover, the Australians in the heat of the conflict dragged Turks out of the holes in the roofing, and if they surrendered placed them safe as prisoners under the shelter of the Turkish parapets.

#### 600 Turks Buried.

Within one hour about 350 yards of front 200 yards in depth was captured, 120 prisoners made, and about 600 Turks afterwards buried. But the struggle for the position continued for four days, the Turks, being reinforced by nearly 5,000, attacking repeatedly with bombs, and on one occasion on the 9th re-entering the trenches for a time. The Australians, also reinforced, replied with bombs and hand-to-hand fighting. Finally, demoralised, desisted from the attempt at re-capture, and the Australians established this new position, which forms a slight salient, rendering the former Turkish communication impossible by a valley running east towards the Straits and serving as a covering protection along the top of the cliff on our right flank along the top of the cliff.

Meantime a still greater advance had been made by a mixed force of Australians, New Zealanders, and British, plus a Gurkha force on the extreme left of the Anzac position. This advanced on the night of August 6 and 7, was equally gallant and successful up to the point of freeing the whole force in Anzac from the constricting situation constantly exposed to shell-fire and bullets, and it also extends our hold northwards towards the flat land and Salt Lake, bringing the Anzac force in touch with the forces at the new Suvla Bay landing.

#### The North Shore Fight.

The other scene, witnessed by myself, was different in place and character. It was on August 15 that I heard through the general commanding the Suvla Bay force of his intention that afternoon to attack a strong Turkish position on our left front. As described in a previous telegram, the northern promontory of Suvla Bay is formed by a razor-back ridge rising to about 400 feet, sloping steeply on the south into Anzac Ground, and gradually on the north into the flat land and Salt Lake, bringing the Anzac force in touch with the forces at the new Suvla Bay landing.

On the 15th the commanding officer ordered infantry composed of Irishmen to assault and occupy the position. They mustered at 1 p.m. on the summit of the ridge about one mile west of the objective, and slowly advanced along the top ridge and both slopes, throwing lines of skirmishers on the north side down into the broken hillside and the thick scrub, the broken hillside and the thick scrub being very difficult. The battalions became

broken into small groups exposed to heavy rifle and shell fire from the ridge and from the Anafarta hills and the tree-covered plain. The advance consequently was slow, but at 4 p.m. the supports began moving forward under the north brow of the ridge, while a destroyer from the Gulf shelled the Turkish point with effect.

#### The Final Charge.

At six all was ready for the final assault. The men on the summit fixed bayonets and charged forward over the last hundred yards under a storm of fire. Half-way was some obstacle, probably an entanglement, but the men hacked their way through it. A company on the high point close behind stood up on the skyline and supported with rifle fire. In ten minutes the extreme point of the ridge, so long troublesome to us, was taken, the Turks being seen running over the edge of the lower neck beyond in large numbers pursued by our machine-gun and rifle fire.

It was a small but important action brilliantly executed and very encouraging to the men of the army so rapidly brought into the actual field. The Turks continued the attempt to recapture the hill all night with great persistence, but had made no progress when I left for Anzac the next day.

## QUICK WORK WITH THE BAYONET.

### CONFIDENCE AMONG TROOPS.

The Press Association's special correspondent at the Dardanelles, telegraphing via Alexandria August 19, says:—

Resting upon Suvla Bay, with its occupying long ridge, which follows the coast inland for several miles, our army holds the plain southward to where the heights of Anzac look down upon it, so that we are in practical possession from the cliffs overlooking the Gulf of Xeros almost to Gaba Tepe. The tenancy is not everywhere undisputed. There are places where one has to double or duck to avoid snipers, and there are one or two points in Greater Anzac still commanded by Turkish machine guns on the hills above. But these slight drawbacks constitute no effective bar to our possession. Anyone who does not mind taking snipers' risks could walk, as many have done, from Anzac pier along the open to Suvla beach. And the shallow waters of the bay now bear the traffic of a considerable harbour. The enemy is able to shell the landing beaches from the W hills, a group of hills on our right so named from the fancied resemblance of their crests to that letter. Here the Turks have an eight-inch gun mounted, but their shell fire no more impedes our landing work at Suvla than does the much heavier fire from Achi Baba the operations at Cape Helles beach.

#### An Exciting Fight.

In his account of the attack of the Irish division on the northern ridge the correspondent says:—

At six o'clock our men on the crest nearest to the Turkish hill charged with the bayonet. The Turks came out to meet them, and most exciting bayonet fighting followed on the saddle between the two crests. Our fellows could be heard cheering as they went forward, and the bayonets were flashing and stabbing for several minutes before the Turks began to give way.

Then I had the closest view I have yet enjoyed of the Turks, in any number, running before our men. They leapt up from the crest and ran down over the ridge, our men standing up and firing down on them from the captured crest, while at intervals our machine guns on the hill behind drowned the sound of the rifles wherever the gunners were able to catch a clear view of the flying Turks.

#### Valley of the Dead.

I have spent the last two days visiting the old and new positions of the Australian and New Zealand army at Anzac. The operations here fell into two phases; an attack on the Lone Pine trenches and the sweeping movement of the Australian infantry, New Zealanders, and British against the towering ridge of Sari Bair on the left front. The night march of these troops is one that will live in the history of the campaign. The troops have a footing on the height known as Rhododendron Ridge, where although overlooked by the Turks on the main ridge above they seem able to maintain themselves.

The slopes of the ridges here bear terrible witness to the intensity of the fighting. The dead lie thick everywhere and the stench is appalling. On August 9 Turks came down in great numbers from their ridge above and tried to sweep our men off the hillside entirely. They were themselves driven back with frightful loss. Being unable to bury their dead the Turks throw the bodies down the bare sandy gully which runs down the ridge from the crest the bodies roll down the gully until they are stopped by the nature of the ground, while the others thrown after them are stopped by the first. Consequently the whole gully is now choked with Turkish dead, lying across the narrow strip of sand, and it is a sight to fill one with horror and dismay.

## GERMAN ACCOUNT OF POSITION ON NEW FRONT.

The Berlin wireless message last night contained the following:—

Gallipoli Headquarters, August 22.—The British troops landed here on August 21 and 22. They have so far done little to improve the situation of the Allied forces on the peninsula. This is the impression of the correspondent of the Associated Press after a ride this morning down nearly the entire new front. The new Allied forces, which are entirely British, have for a few Australian, have penetrated a few hundred yards beyond the shores of the Salt Lake, which is at present dry. That part of the British force which gained the crest of the Kojo Chemen mountain has been in sharp fighting, and is holding a narrow ridge today not far from the south-eastern shore of the Salt Lake, with Turkish trenches only forty yards away. On the 21st (yesterday) at three in the afternoon the British made a bold attack, despite the intense fire of the naval guns.

Meanwhile the ground so far occupied is of little military value if an attack on the Dardanelles is extended significantly along the shore. The Dardanelles extends semi-circularly along the shore, and the British have held the last two elevations on the Salt Lake, which are about 6000 yards apart, and which are joined by the Anzac front. Most of the English trenches lie on an elevation of 6000 feet, and the English are in a position to hold every advantage to the Turks.