

The Advertiser

ADELAIDE: TUESDAY,
JUNE 8, 1915.

THE AUSTRALIANS

ON GALLIPOLI.

SOME FIERCE FIGHTING.

A GENERAL ADVANCE.

LONDON, June 6, 9.55 p.m.

The Official Press Bureau at Cairo has published the following report concerning recent fighting in the Gallipoli Peninsula:—

"On the nights of June 3 and June 4 the Turks heavily bombarded the small fort in front and on the extreme right of the French position which the French had previously captured. The Turks then launched an infantry attack on the fort but were repulsed with heavy loss. The Turks simultaneously set fire to the scrub on the southern area of the Gallipoli Peninsula before the left and centre of the British position, following this up by an attack, which was unsuccessful.

A Combined Attack.

"General Sir Ian Hamilton, on the morning of June 4, ordered a general attack on the Turkish trenches in the southern area. This was preceded by a heavy bombardment, in which all the guns were employed, assisted by the warships. The troops, at a given signal, rushed forward with the bayonet and were immediately successful all along the line, except in one spot where the bombardment failed to destroy the heavy wire entanglements. The Indians on the extreme left made a magnificent advance and captured two lines of the Turkish trenches, but owing to the troops on their right being hung up by the wire the Indians were obliged to retire to the original line.

Splendid Bravery.

"The division of regular troops made good progress on the left and in the centre, where they captured a strong redoubt with two lines of trenches beyond it and about 500 yards in advance of the original line. The Territorial division in the centre did brilliant work. They advanced 600 yards and captured three lines of trenches, but though the advanced trench was held all the day and half the night they had to be ordered back in the morning to the second captured line, as both their flanks were exposed.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

"HELL WITH THE LID OFF."

Bugler T. S. Gordon, who was wounded at the Dardanelles, writing from the hospital at Heliopolis to an Adelaide friend states:—"I got wounded the first engagement we were in (shot through a foot). Just fancy after waiting for eight months and then to get put out of action in the first engagement; rotten luck I call it. The worst part is, I am afraid I will not be able to go back for some time, as at present I cannot bear to put my foot on the ground. However, I am hoping to get some of my own back before very long. We had the most awful time landing. We left the battleships in rowing boats, pulled by a little steam pinnace, and when we got within about 40 yards of the shore they opened fire on us. There were about 2,000 of the Turks on a hill about 250 ft. high, and about 100 yards from the shore, and I can tell you they did pepper us. Rifles, machine guns, field batteries, forts, and high-

angled howitzers were firing, and they did it all their own way until we landed. We had to jump out of the boats nearly up to our necks in water then our naval guns started to talk, and you can take it from me, they had a good deal to say—too much for the Turks, I think. The warships started to bombard the forts and batteries with shrapnel and lyddite, and it was just like 'hell with the lid off.' Then two of our aeroplanes started banging at the Turks with machine guns, and they must have done an awful lot of damage. I didn't last too long. I landed at 4.30 a.m. on Sunday, April 25, and was wounded at about 8 o'clock. We went on board the hospital ships, and watched the battle from there. I shall never forget it as long as I live. We have numbers of people to see us, and are entertained quite a good deal."

"THEY FOUGHT LIKE HEROES."

Mr. A. E. Nash, of Sydney, has received a letter from his son dated May 1, in which the writer mentions that he is on board the hospital ship in Alexandria. He says:—"I hope to get off to-day. I was shot in the left arm. The wound occurred five days ago. It missed my elbow. I shall be back in the fighting line before you receive this letter." Referring to the landing at Gallipoli Peninsula, he says:—"Before and on landing we received heavy shrapnel and rifle fire. When about 50 yards from shore we got into boats. We jumped into the water and waded, a number being killed in doing so. One boat was sunk by the fire from the Turkish battery. On reaching shore we fixed bayonets, and like true Englishmen we got to work. We drove the enemy back more than three miles. We took up a good position on the ridge. The country is terribly rough. The enemy's snipers did us much harm. We made our first mistake in advancing from the ridge, and poor old Major — was shot through the neck and died immediately. Before nightfall only six of our officers were left. It was hell. The fire never ceased for a second. The wounded we had to leave behind on our retreat to the ridge. On the following morning when looking for our wounded comrades we found them disembowelled. You can understand the type we are fighting against. My knowledge of first aid came in handy, and I dealt with about seven of my comrades. I am indeed proud to be an Australian. My pals were dying and wounded all around me, but not one was afraid to die. They fought like heroes."

COURAGE AND FORTITUDE.

A letter has been received in Adelaide from the Rev. G. W. Kendrew, in which the writer says:—

"Here I am chaplain to the First Australian General Hospital, what Colonel Holden (our chaplain-general) at the dinner at Queen's College, Melbourne, called 'The Blue Ribbon Appointment of the Chaplain's Departments.' Fancy so great an honor coming to me. Only a few weeks ago our noble fellows complained at not being at the front, and now train load after train load is coming in with wounded men. The worst cases—not able to travel—are left at Alexandria. The others are brought on here. There is a railway line that runs at the back of the hospital and a siding. The trains pull up there, and the men able to walk come by twos into the hospital grounds, and the others are carefully placed in the motor ambulance and brought in. Every possible preparation is made for them under the supervision of Surgeon-Colonel Ramsay Smith and his able adjutant, Surgeon-Major Barrett, of Melbourne. Oh, the sufferings of the poor fellows! And yet, how brave and patient they are. I have not heard one single murmur. One doctor said, 'I am proud to be an Australian after dealing with so many men.' It matters not what the wound or what the pain there is never a murmur, but a fortitude to go through with it which is a great help to both doctors and nurses. How their parents and friends would admire them if they could only see the dear boys. How diligent in their labors are the doctors, the nurses, and the various men whose duty it is to help in different ways. From 1,500 to, say, 1,800 men, have come in since April 29. I am not going in this letter to harrow your feelings with telling you of many cases. May I give one? This morning I spoke to a young man. He came on the Themistocles, and he recognised me. He is from Richmond River, New South Wales. The first fight in which the Australians were engaged began at daybreak last Sunday morning (April 25). What a memorable day it will be in the history of Australia. He was wounded in the left shoulder, which for the time has rendered the left hand helpless. The first finger of the right hand was shot so that for the present he cannot use his hands. At 3 p.m. only one officer of the company to which he belonged was