

the brave efforts of Australian soldiers are directly contributing towards the extermination of old-world barbarisms and the inauguration in Europe of an era of peace and moral advancement.

## AUSTRALIAN FIGHTERS.

### Clearing the Trenches.

(From C. E. W. Bean, Australian Press Representative with the Australian Imperial Force.)

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GALLIPOLI, May 23.

The Turks, although reinforced since the attack on May 15, have not made any further attack, but have been tunnelling for days against a portion of our line where the trenches approach within 10 yards of each other. Indeed, at one point they are actually connected by a communication trench. Our engineers twice during the week countermined and blew in the enemy's tunnel.

Last night the enemy's third tunnel was known to be only a few feet away, and early in the morning he blew up a mine beneath our trench. Some of our men were thrown to the ground, half-stunned by the explosion, but none apparently was killed. The first thing noticed was that strange, gruff voices were speaking just outside our trench. The Turks then threw a shower of hand grenades into this short length of trench, and got into a small portion, from which our men had drawn aside. Probably 50 Turks dropped into the trench without much difficulty under cover of the confusion and dust of the explosion. Once there they found themselves in a short length of trench divided from our men in the same excavation on one side by the mound of earth thrown up by the explosion, and on the other by a traverse. From that time the position of the Turkish invaders was worse than if they had never arrived in the trench. They were unable to do anything except to throw a few bombs among our men who were hemming them in, and their fate became every minute more certain.

This position of the line happened to be held by Australians of the 2nd Contingent, who, except during the first few days after the landing, have been subject probably to the severest strain of any portion of the force. Shortly after sunrise the enemy attempted a charge to reinforce their men isolated in our trench. Our infantry, who were waiting, charged over to meet them, but the Turks did not wait. Our men next attacked the Turks in the trench with hand grenades, and at about 7.30 charged with fixed bayonets over the parapet. It happened at this moment that the Turks were making a second attempt to reinforce. The Australians, some even coolly standing at their full height in the open, shot them down; and few, if any, regained their lines. Our men then retook the trench.

Presently it was discovered that a portion of the connecting trench in this dark warren was occupied by some person who was barricading himself, and would not allow any one to pass. Some thought he was a Turk, others that he might be an Australian who imagined the Turks to be still in the trench around him. A partition was quickly built against him, and when he was found to be a Turk he was immediately attacked. Being bombed by us from the sides and by his fellow-Turks from the rear, he surrendered. There turned out to be 17 Turks, who walked down through our men, and the latter slapped them on the back and gave them cigarettes.

Some of the 3rd Contingent also took part in this fighting. The attack was purely against one small section of the trench, and there was never the least fear of the enemy succeeding. Our troops had determined at whatever cost to retain the trenches intact. Only on one previous occasion have any Turks ever entered an Australian trench. That was during the attack on May 19, when seven Turks dropped into the same portion of the trench during the confusion following the explosion of bombs. Our troops in the same trench held them from one side while they shot them down from the other. Only one man managed to jump out of the trench, and he ran down our side of the slope, and fell exhausted from wounds inside our lines.

The enemy is now estimated to have lost 3,000 killed and at least 6,000 wounded. That day's loss, at any rate, was very heavy. The enemy's loss last night was probably 300.

Every day a sprinkling of Turkish soldiers give themselves up, racing along the beach or dropping hurriedly into our trenches. They often attempt to kiss our officers' hands.

The conditions of the burial armistice the other day were on the whole honourably observed. Our wounded in the enemy's hands are said to be well cared for. A few stories of atrocities are



current, and may reach Australia. I can only say that the principal one which I have tested, proved wholly untrue. Some can-dum bullets have been picked up, but the stories of the use of explosive bullets by the Turks are quite foundationless, and are due to the men misunderstanding the curious double crack of a Mauser rifle. Some of the wounds are terrible, and I would put them down to expanding bullets had I not seen wounds quite as terrible in the heads of Turks lying just outside our trenches.

The New Zealanders captured trenches on our left last night.

A party of the Australian 9th Battalion also made a sortie, and bayoneted snipers in a trench far beyond our right. They returned without a casualty, largely owing to a covering bombardment by a destroyer.

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# The Register.

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ADELAIDE: MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1915.

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## AUSTRALIANS AT WORK.

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### Brisk Battles Fought.

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### Heavy Losses Reported.

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MELBOURNE, June 6.

The following cable message was received to-day by the Minister for Defence (Mr. Pearce) from Major-Gen Sir Ian Hamilton:—"The Turks, having heavily bombarded a small fort which the French had captured in front of their extreme right, and breached it in the north-eastern angle, launched an infantry attack against it. This was repulsed. About the same time they set fire to the scrub in the front and the left centre of the 29th Division and made an attack, but without success. On the morning of the 4th inst. I made a general attack on the Turkish trenches in the southern area of the Gallipoli Peninsula commencing with a heavy bombardment by all the guns, including those of two battleships, two cruisers, and several destroyers with 4-in. guns. On the cessation of the bombardment the troops rushed forward with the bayonet and were immediately successful all along the line, except in one spot near the left, where a heavy entanglement had not been destroyed by gun fire. The 6th Gurkhas on the extreme left made a fine advance, and took two lines of trenches; but owing to the regiment on their right having been held up by the wire, they were eventually obliged to retire again to their original trenches. The 29th Division made good progress in the left centre, capturing a strong redoubt and two lines of trenches beyond it, about 500 yards in advance of their original line.

"The Territorials in the centre did brilliantly. Advancing 600 yards, they captured three lines of trenches; but though the most advanced captured trench was held all day and half the night, the troops had to be ordered back in the morning to the second captured line, as both flanks were exposed. The naval division of the right centre captured a redoubt and a formidable line of trenches, constructed in three tiers, some 300 yards from their front, but were so heavily enfiladed when the French retired that they had also to come back to their original line.

"The French 2nd Division advanced with gallantry and élan, and retook for the fourth time that deadly redoubt they call 'The Haricot.' Unfortunately, the Turks developed heavy counter-attacks through prepared communication trenches. Under cover of accurate shellfire they were able to recapture it. On the extreme right of the French line the French Division captured a line of trenches, which, though counter-attacked by the Turks twice during the night, they still hold. I have not yet heard details of the casualties; but I am afraid they are considerable. We captured 400 prisoners, including 10 officers. Among the prisoners were five Germans, the remains of a volunteer machine gun detachment from the Turco-German battleship Goeben, whose officer had been killed, and whose machine gun was destroyed during progress of the fight. I received information from Anzac that enemy reinforcements had been seen advancing from Maidos towards Krithia. Consequently Gen. Birdwood arranged to attack the trenches in front of the Ginn's post at 10 p.m. This attack was successfully carried out, and the trenches were held during the night. The Turkish casualties were heavy. At 6.30 a.m. however, the enemy heavily counter-attacked