

R.N.D.

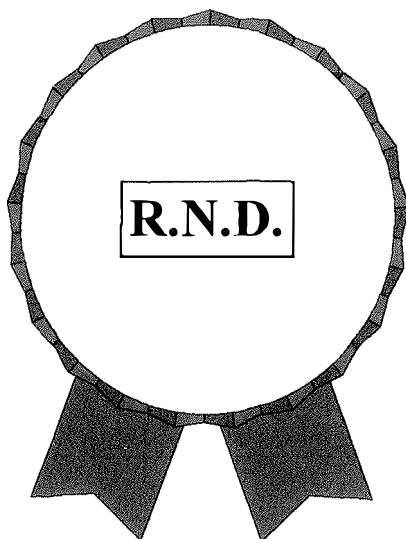
Royal Naval Division.

Antwerp, Gallipoli & France.
1914 - 1918.



Issue Number 1. June 1997.

£4.00.



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Picture on the front cover is a print of the Royal Naval Division's card of 1916. From the papers held at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and permission by the HMSO.

Produced and designed at 17a Bellhouse Road, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 5NL.

R.N.D.

Dear Reader,

The 'R.N.D.' is the result of a small idea which slowly took shape and its blossoming has resulted in issue number 1. When I wrote the 'Hood Battalion' and later 'For God's Sake Shoot Straight' I knew that my main interest was the Royal Naval Division. Another book on a different subject is due to be published in 1997, but the R.N.D. still holds my attention. There is so much to be told! Material that was published so long ago and now forgotten, or papers remaining unseen or unknown in many different forms and locations. I hope the 'R.N.D.' will be readable and informative. It is intended to be of benefit to the enthusiast and historian of today and tomorrow. The story will not just be about senior officers and battle tactics, but also about the experiences of all those who took part from the lowest rank to the General Officer Commanding.

It is hoped that readers will not be slow in submitting requests for help with their research, which can be reproduced on a letters page. Also I will be pleased to receive articles for publication.

I intend to give full references with each item. Page numbers will start at number 1 & follow on through each issue. So that the first page of issue 2 might start at page 60. By this means an index can be provided, which I hope to supply after eight copies. I intend to publish the 'R.N.D.' four times a year, each June, September, December & March. Any new reader who would like to order the R.N.D.' should just telephone or write to the address below. Back numbers will be available.

Len Sellers. June 1997.

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Royal Naval Division

Later 63rd (Royal Naval) Division.

Formed August 1914.

1st Royal Naval Brigade.

1 st	Battalion. -----	Drake.
2 nd	Battalion -----	Hawke.
3 rd	Battalion -----	Benbow.
4 th	Battalion -----	Collingwood

2nd Royal Naval Brigade.

5 th	Battalion. -----	Nelson.
6 th	Battalion. -----	Howe.
7 th	Battalion. -----	Hood.
8 th	Battalion -----	Anson.

3rd Royal Naval Brigade. (Marines.)

9 th	Battalion. -----	Portsmouth.
10 th	Battalion. -----	Plymouth.
11 th	Battalion -----	Chatham.
12 th	Battalion. -----	Deal.

Went into training at Walmer & Bettshanger in Kent. On the 2nd September the Marine Brigade moved to Friedown Camp. In September 1914 training began for new intakes at the Crystal Palace in London.

Ostend.

On the 25th August 1914 the Marine Brigade was ordered to cross the Channel and guard Ostend. It landed on the morning of the 28th but only stayed until the night of the 31st- 1st September 1914.

Divisional Engineers.

Recruiting began on the 16th September 1914. The site of the training ground of the engineers was in a field near Martin Hill Station, along the road from Dover to St Margaret's Bay.

Dunkirk.

On the 21st September the Marine Brigade this time disembarked at Dunkirk. Churchill had ordered them together with the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, Commander Samson's aeroplanes, a number of armoured cars and 20 Royal Engineers to guard the port. They were to give the impression of being a considerably greater force, by being very active in the area.

Lille.

The Portsmouth Battalion was detached from Dunkirk, on the urgent request of the French, to cover the withdrawal of isolated French Detachments.

Antwerp.

On the 3rd October 1914 orders were received to move the Marine Brigade to defend Antwerp. It arrived at 1 am on the 4th October, to a position four miles due south of the city. The two naval Brigades were then called into action arriving on the outskirts of the city in the early hours of the 6th October. In the early evening of the 8th October orders were given for the Royal Naval Division to retire from the city. In the confusion of the withdrawal most of the 1st Brigade, the Hawke, Benbow & Collingwood Battalions crossed the Dutch frontier and were interned at Groningen. Only the Drake Battalion got away, having left the city early.

After Antwerp.

After Antwerp the Marines trained in different Marine Barracks. Later this Brigade moved to Gravesend, Broudown, Tavistock, & Deal awaiting the completion of the new Blandford Camp in Dorset. The 2nd Brigade in early November also moved to barracks for the same reason. Nelson Battalion to Portsmouth, Anson Battalion to Chatham, Hood Battalion to Plymouth & the Howe Battalion to Portland. The 1st Brigade, of which three battalions had been interned was being reformed. The only Battalion from this brigade that got away the Drake Battalion, went to Alnwick for coastal defence duty.

Blandford.

On the 27th November 1914 the first battalion to enter the new training camp was the Nelson which arrived from the port of Portsmouth. The rest of the 2nd Brigade followed shortly after. However the Marine Brigade could not go into occupation of their part of the camp, as it was not ready when they arrived during the last days of January 1915. They went into billets in Pimperne, Iwerne, Minster & Shillingstone. On the 1st January 1915 in order to equalize matters between the Brigades the 1st Brigade was Strengthened by the transfer of the Nelson Battalion from the 2nd Brigade.

Crystal Palace.

In December 1914 the Divisional Train was formed at Crystal Palace. There were plans for a Naval Divisional Cavalry to be called 'Royal Naval Hussars' but plans were dropped and no cavalry was forthcoming. Divisional Artillery was wanted, but the army could not help in view of the needs of the New Army, and Churchill's resources were too small. So the Division was without artillery until it was due to arrive on the Western Front in July 1916. The R.N.D. Medical Unit began training at the Palace on the 3rd December 1914.

Forton Barracks.

On the 1st December 1914 a Divisional Cyclist Company was formed at Forton Barracks

Voyage to the Dardanelles.

On the 1st February 1915 the Plymouth & Chatham Marine Battalions, together with their staff left Blandford for the Mediterranean Sea.

The R.N.D. fleet left Avonmouth on the 28th/29th February 1915.

Put in at Valletta, Malta at about 3.30pm 8th March 1915, leaving the next day at 11.30 am.

In the evening of the 11th March the fleet dropped anchor in Mudros Bay at the island of Lemnos.

17th March orders were given to sail and ships took part in a diversion demonstration to draw the attention of the Turks away from the attempt by British & French ships. to force the Dardanelles by naval power.

24th March left Mudros Bay again, and made for Port Said, Egypt and disembarked on the 28th March.

At 7.am 1st April 1915 two half battalions from each of the 1st & 2nd Brigades (Drake, Nelson, Howe & Anson.) left for Kantara. It was reported that an attack was to be made by the Turks on the canal defences at Kantara. Things came to a head when on the 7th all troops in Alexandria were ordered to stand by. But the attack was just a reconnaissance by a sixty strong mounted patrol. It was beaten off without loss, so at 2pm they were stood down..

5th April Anson Battalion was ordered to Alexandria, to act as beach parties for the 29th Division during the main Gallipoli landings.

10th April fleet put again to sea and by the 14th April fleet arrived once again at the island of Lemnos. However the anchorage was full and it was ordered to the island of Skyros.

On the evening of the 17th April the fleet pulled into Trebuki Bay and stayed there until 6am 24th April when the fleet made for Gallipoli. The demonstration by the Royal Naval Division took place in the Gulf of Saros. Landings were to be made at Helles, Kum Kale & Gaba Tepe. Unfortunately, due to navigational errors, the landings scheduled to take place at Gaba Tepe actually occurred further up the coast in an area which later became known as Anzac Cove.

Landings by the Plymouth Battalion.

On the 4th March 1915 parts of the Plymouth Battalion landed at Sedd ul Bahr on the Gallipoli Peninsular and at Kum Kale on the Asian side of the Dardanelles to cover demolition and survey parties.

Gallipoli.

When the 29th Division, the Australians & New Zealanders were making good their landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and the French at Kum Kale, the R.N.D. was making a diversionary demonstration in the Gulf of Saros. The Division was to fight in the May & June Battles, after heavy losses became a shadow of its former self. It was to stay at Helles until the very end. Its units were among the very last to leave, during the evacuation of the night 8/9th January 1916.

Changes at Gallipoli

The Collingwood Battalion together with the Hawke & Benbow Battalions who were still in training at Crystal Palace, (as they had to be reformed after Antwerp.) did not leave for Gallipoli with the other battalions on the 28th February 1915, but arrived in time for the battles of June.

At Anzac Cove on the 28th April 1915 R.N.D. troops landed in support of the Australians & New Zealanders, these were the Portsmouth & Chatham Battalions. The following day 29th April the Deal Battalion landed and was brought into line. The Nelson Battalion also took part.

In early May 1915 a Composite Brigade consisting of the Drake & Plymouth Battalions together with the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers was formed, under the command of General Paris. This Composite Brigade was part, for a short time only, of a Composite Division including an Australian and a New Zealand Brigade brought to Cape Helles from Anzac.

Also in early May 1915 the 2nd Brigade under Commodore Backhouse was lent to the French under General D'Amade, until reverting to General Paris's command on the 10th May 1915.

Note - In June 1915 officers and men of the Disbanded Benbow & Collingwood Battalions were absorbed into the Hood, Howe & Anson Battalions.

On the 7th July 1915 the 3rd (R. Marine) Brigade was broken up with only two marine battalions remaining. The naval battalions also suffered change as listed below.

1st (R. Naval) Brigade.
Drake Battalion.
Nelson Battalion.
Hawke Battalion.
Hood Battalion.

2nd (R. Naval) Brigade.
1st Marine Battalion. Chatham/Deal.
2nd Marine Batt. Portsmouth/Plymouth
Anson Battalion.
Howe Battalion.

At Gallipoli on the 14/15th October 1915 the 2/2nd and 2/4th Battalions of the London Regiment reinforced the Royal Naval Division, until the evacuation on the 14th/15th January 1916.

Salonica

After the Gallipoli evacuation the 2nd (R. Naval Brigade) went to Salonica in the area of the Gulf of Stavros.

Islands.

The 1st (R. Naval) Brigade policed the islands of Tenedos, Imbros. & Mudros. Tenedos had one company of the Hood Battalion. Imbros. The Hawke & Drake Battalions with the H●.

Mudros. Had the remainder of the 1st Brigade

Voyage to France

The Division left for France in May 1916, landing at Marseilles.

France.

By July 1916, the R.N.D. was under Army Control and the Royal Naval Division became the 63rd (R.N.) Division. Three Brigades were formed with army battalions becoming the 190th Brigade. They were to take part in the Battle of the Ancre in November 1916, the last battle of the Somme Campaign. In which they captured the village of Beaucourt, taking many hundreds of prisoners. After an attack on the Puisieux and River Trenches they later helped chase the Germans back to their Hindenburg Line, in the terrible winter of 16/17. By April 17 they had captured the village of Gavrelle, as being part of the Arras offensive. It was in October 1917 in the mud of the Passchendaele offensive that they were to fight again, having learned new tactics. In December 1917 they had moved to the area of Welsh Ridge, beating off German attacks. But by March 1918 the German attacked in great force. The British & R.N.D. were sent reeling back, so that by the 26th March they had crossed the river Ancre, where they held, returning almost to the same point that they had attacked from in November 1916 ! The Division later took a full part in the attacks on the Germans that were to lead to victory. At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th Month they were still fighting near Givry, near Mons, when the Armistice took effect.

188th Brigade.

Howe Battalion.
Anson Battalion
1st R.M.L.I. Battalion.
2nd R.M.L.I. Battalion.

* Honourable Artillery Company.

189th Brigade.

Hood Battalion
Hawke Battalion
Drake Battalion
Nelson Battalion.

190th Brigade.

1st H.A.C. Battalion.*
4th Bedford Battalion.
7th Royal Fusiliers.
10th Dublin Fusiliers.

Changes in France.

In June 1916 the Hood for a short period had 1st Hood & 2nd Hood Battalions. There were plans for 2nd Anson, 2nd Hawke and 2nd Drake Battalions as well. They were to be filled from the reserves at the depot. However Hood (under Commander Asquith.) was the only 2nd battalion formed. Due to the shortage of officers and men the plan was scraped completely and the 2nd Hood was absorbed into the 1st. As a result the Division was to be brought up to strength by the formation of the army brigade, which became the 190th.

In July 1916 the Divisional Artillery joined the R.N.D. in France from (2/Northumbrian) Div. It consisted of the 223rd, 315th & 317th Field Artillery Brigades.

In July 1916 the 14th (PNR) Battalion. The Worcestershire Regiment joined the R.N.D. as their pioneer battalion.

10th Dublins left the R.N.D. on the 22/6/1917 as reinforcements for 16th (Irish) Division.

1st H.A.C. Battalion left the R.N.D. on the 29/6/1917.

1/28 Battalion (County of London) The London Regiment the Artists Rifles joined the R.N.D. on the 26th June 1917 taking the place of the Honourable Artillery Company. (H.A.C.)

4th (1/4th) Royal Shropshire Light Infantry joined the R.N.D. on the 20th July 1917, until its transfer to the 19th Division on the 4th February 1918.

At the end of January 1918 the infantry brigades were reduced in strength to only three battalions each. This was after heavy losses, and as a result, Nelson & Howe Battalions disbanded between 6th to 23rd February 1918. (Note men from these two battalions were absorbed into the four remaining R.N.V.R. battalions.)

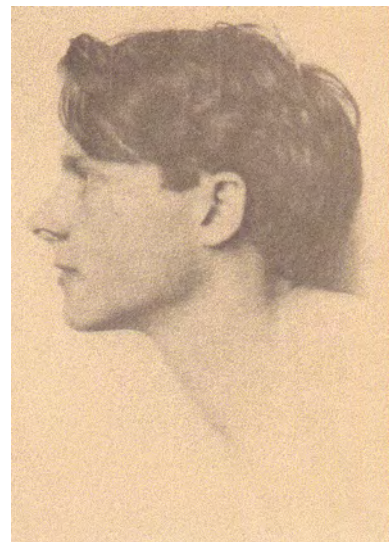
2nd Royal Irish Regt joined on the 23/4/1918.

In 1919 the remains of the R.N.D. were billeted in South Kensington, London. On the 6th June 1919 they attended their final parade on Horse Guards Parade. They were disbanded after inspection and an address by the Prince of Wales.

ANTWERP.

Rupert Brooke writes - (Note – in October 1914 Brooke was with the Anson Battalion before his transfer to the Hood.)

We were pulled out of bed at 5.am. on the Sunday, and told that we started at 9. We marched down to Dover, highly excited, only knowing that we were bound for Dunkirk, and supposing that we'd stay there quietly, training, for a month. Old ladies waved handkerchiefs, young ladies gave us apples



and old men and children cheered, and we cheered back, and I felt very elderly and sombre and full of thoughts of how life was like a flash between darkneses, and that x per cent of those who cheered would be blown into another world within a few months; and they all seemed to me so innocent and patriotic and noble, and my eyes grew round and tear-stained.

But by the quay we halted for hours, whilst the goods were being shipped, in a street composed of public-house: so there was a nice busy time for all of us, keeping the men out of them.

We sailed that night, and lay off Dunkirk next morning, waiting for the tide; spent the afternoon unloading; and then sat in a great empty shed, a quarter of a mile long, waiting for orders. After dark the senior officers rushed round and informed us that we were going to Antwerp, that our train was sure to be attacked, and that if we got through we'd have to sit in trenches till we were wiped out. So we all sat under lights writing last letters: a very tragic and amusing affair. My dear, it did bring home to me how very futile and unfinished life was. I felt so angry. I had to imagine, supposing I was killed. There was nothing but a vague gesture of goodbye to you and my mother and a friend or two. I seemed so remote and barren and stupid. I seemed to have missed everything. Knowing you shone out as the only thing worth having ... Men kept coming up and asking things. One said "Please, Sir, I've a bit o' money on me. It's not much to me : but it'd be a lot to my wife: we've got fourteen children and supposing anything happened to me, I wouldn't like them bloody Germans to get hold of it." What should he do? (1)

Clapham Foster, M.A. (Temporary Chaplain to the Royal Naval Division) Continues the story ----

Our actual destination, so far, had been unknown, but on getting to the quay we were told that we were to entrain for Antwerp immediately, to take part in the defence of the city. The first train did not leave the quay until 10.45pm., (4th October) with the Nelson and Howe battalions. We had but little food, and that consisted of bully beef and biscuits, with nothing to drink.

Each man received 120 rounds of ammunition before getting into the train, and our Commandant Lieut-Colonel George Cornwallis West, addressed us. He said there was a possibility of the train being attacked in the night, that it was uncertain as to whether or not the railway line had been cut by the Germans. "Remember you are British," he said in conclusion, " and I am sure you will give a good account of yourselves." A tremendous cheer greeted this remark, and it echoed and re-echoed through the lofty sheds.

The men, weary with their labours and the long wait, tumbled into the troop train with evident joy, in spite of the fact that the journey might be fraught with danger and uncertainty At about 2 am on Tuesday, October 6th, we crossed the Belgian frontier. At all the smaller stations on the line, in spite of the early hour, crowds had turned out to greet us. At the more important stations, such as Dixmude and Thielt, large numbers of people brought the men presents of fruit and cakes Sometimes the train would stop in the country, where there was no

station near, but from a small cottage an old peasant woman would come tripping out with a monstrous jug of hot coffee, with which she regaled the men. All along the line was received the same royal reception.

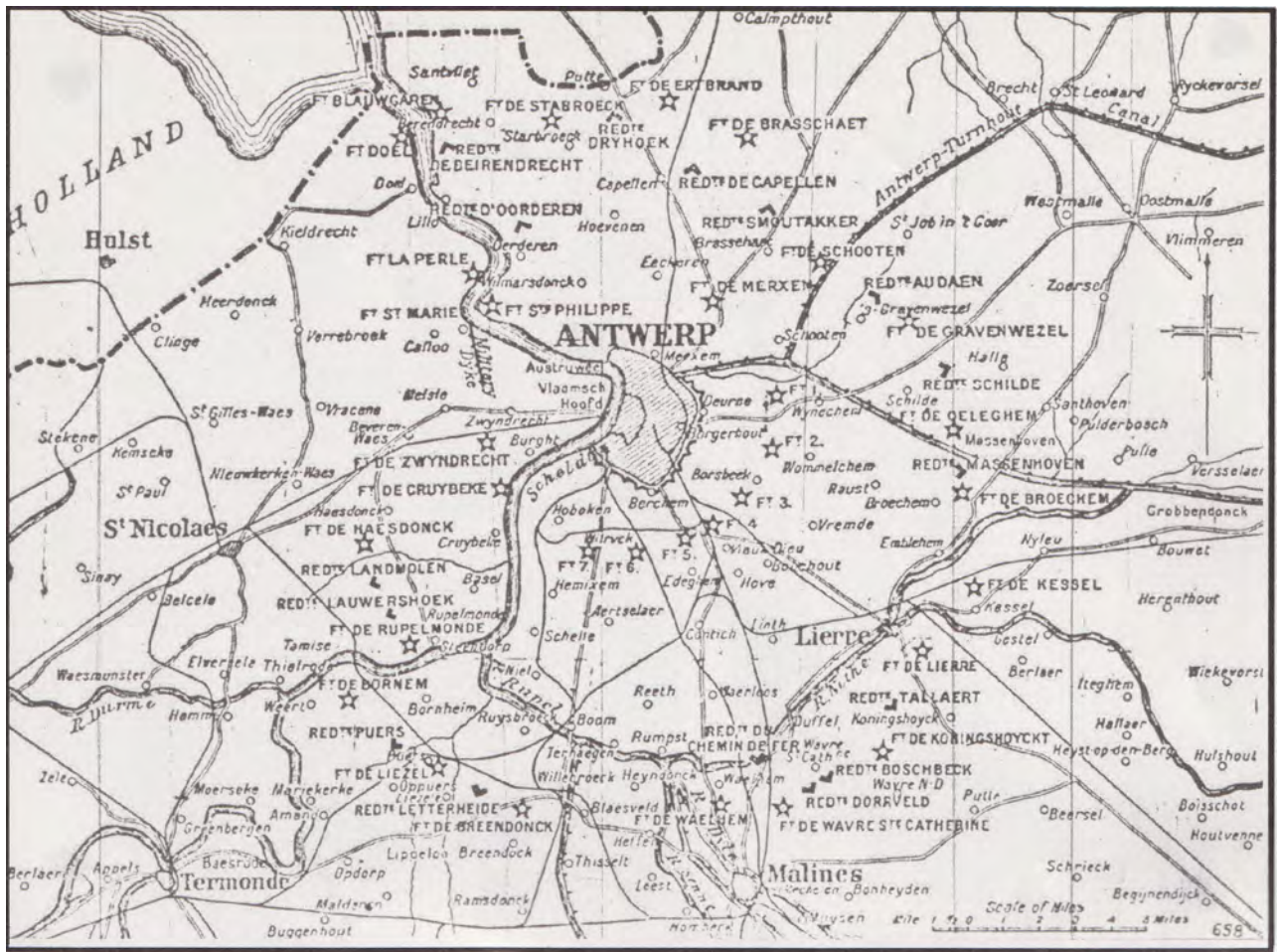
There were signs about 9 am. That we were drawing near to a large and important town. So far our journey had been passed amidst peaceful surroundings, but now, as we looked out of the carriage windows, we saw quite plainly the first signs that a war was really being waged. Shrapnel could be seen bursting quite distinctly in the vicinity of Antwerp, and two captive balloons were up in the sky directing the German fire. Hundreds of Belgians were busily engaged, on both sides of the line, in constructing entrenchment's, and many fields had been flooded to put a check on the German Advance.

The Marine Brigade of the Royal Naval Division, composed almost entirely of regular troops had reached Antwerp on the night of October 3rd. Never have war-worn warriors been more delighted to be relieved than were the Belgians when the Marines took over the trenches facing Lierre, and enabled them to get a much-needed and well deserved rest. Armoured trains, with gun-crews formed of British blue-jackets, got into action on October 4 and did excellent work. We of the 1st and 2nd Naval Brigades were due to enter Antwerp on the evening of October 5, but the unfortunate delay at Dunkerque meant that we arrived some twelve hours late.

October 6, the very day on which we arrived in Antwerp, was a momentous day in the history of "the second strongest fortress in Europe," and what happened then really brought about the fall of the city earlier than the Belgians expected.

During the day, after a fluctuating night engagement, the exhausted Belgians were driven back by the enemy in a furious assault from the direction of Lierre, backed by powerful artillery. The Marine Brigade, which had continued to hold its position most gallantly and against overwhelming odds, was unable to do anything else but follow suit. It will be seen, therefore, that the 1st and 2nd Brigades really arrived too late to attempt to save Antwerp, because the Germans had now bombard the city with their powerful howitzers with the greatest ease, to meet which we had only the few naval guns at our disposal and the small guns on the forts in the inner ring.

We arrived in Antwerp shortly before 10 am. On Tuesday, October 6th. We were met at a suburban station by the civic guard and several important officials - and then came our march through the streets. It is impossible to say whether or not the people looked upon us as the saviours of their city, but we shall never forget the reception they gave us. Charming Belgian maidens pinned little flags of silk on to our tunics and attempted to embrace two of our officers, greatly to their embarrassment and confusion. Large jugs of light beer were brought out of houses, from which the men filled anything that would hold liquid. (2) [Everyone cheered and flung themselves on us and gave us apples and chocolate - and cried "Vivent les Anglais and Heep ! Heep ! Heep ! (3)] The scene was one of indescribable enthusiasm, but all the time the distant boom of guns sounded on our ears, and seemed to strike a warning note, telling us that, though it was fine then, the storm



Above a map from 'The Times' of Monday 5th October 1914.

The photograph is from 'The War of Nations' page 198. Shows a Naval Brigade carrying ammunition into the trenches near Antwerp.

might burst at any moment. We marched about four miles to a place on the outskirts of the city, where we had a most welcome rest. The officers were billeted out for their meals to various houses.

I found myself in a house where the only occupants appeared to be three old ladies, who could not speak a word of English. I made them understand, however, that I was ravenously hungry; the table was quickly set, and I was provided with a delicious omelette and some fried ham, with a bottle of light beer to wash it down. Afterwards, feeling in need of a sleep, I went up-stairs to a bedroom and was soon in peaceful slumber, in spite of the boom of guns, which every hour seemed to be drawing nearer.

After a glorious sleep of about two hours, I was suddenly awakened by a loud knocking at the door and a voice shouting something in Flemish. The voice sounded rather agitated, and I expected at least that the enemy had broken through, and that a German officer was about to walk upstairs and demand my instant surrender ! It transpired, however, that the Brigade had fallen in and was about to move off. Rested and refreshed, we marched away, amidst renewed cheering, to further excitement.

A march of some five miles brought us to the village of Vieux-Dieu, a quaint spot on the confines of the city Here we halted and were told that we were to rest a short time before going up to the firing line - (4)

Rupert Brooke takes up the Story –

We got to a place called Vieux Dieu passing refugees and Belgian soldiers by millions. Every mile the noises got louder, immense explosions and detonations. We stopped in the town square in Vieux Dieu; five or six thousand British troops, a lot of Belgians, guns going through, transport wagons, motor-cyclists, orderlies on horses, staff-officers, and the rest. An extraordinary and thrilling confusion. As it grew dark the thunders increased, and the sky was lit by extraordinary glares. We were all given entrenching tools. Everyone looked worried. Suddenly our battalion was marched round the corner out of the din through an old gate in the immense, wild garden of a recently-deserted villa-chateau. There we had to sleep. The rather dirty and wild looking sailors trudged over lawns, through orchards and across pleasaunces. Little pools glimmered through the trees, and deserted fountains: and round corners one saw, faintly, occasional Cupids and Venuses - a scattered company of rather bad statues – gleaming quietly. The sailors dug their latrines in the various rose-gardens and lay down to sleep - but it was bitter cold - under the shrubs. It seemed infinitely peaceful and remote. I was officer in guard till the middle of the night. Then I lay down on the floor of a bedroom for a decent night's sleep. But by 2 the shells had got unpleasantly near. A big one (I'm told) burst above the garden: but too high to do damage. And

some message came. So up we got - frozen and sleepy - and toiled off through the night. By dawn we got into trenches, very good ones, and relieved Belgians. (5)

J.M.N. Jeffries a new correspondent with the 'Daily Mail' was in Antwerp from the 3rd August. He had been sent there as it was policy to send their young reporters to areas where fighting was not expected to be heavy.

He writes.

This Brigade of Paris's held stubbornly to its rough-made positions. You could scarcely call these trenches; they were only defensive troughs. The British Brigade, too was in continual danger of being outflanked and so of being cut off, owing to the weakening of resistance on its left. Resistance, indeed, was ebbing most definitely. As I crossed the fields again, I was aware of troops dropping back.



Uncertain of my own situation, and obliged to keep away from the roads which were no places to linger near, I skulked about close to the railway-line behind hedges. Suddenly there came the blast of resounding fire from near at hand, and looking for the cause I saw an armoured-train, with gun en Branche, steaming towards me. It halted, fired again. I ran towards it, and was obligingly hauled by a couple of Belgian officers who were standing at its open door into a goods-van or horse-van which formed the wooden tail of the metal train. As I struggled in I saw the forms of some of our sailors at the guns in the armoured trucks ahead. This train was an improvisation of an officer of the Royal Navy, ever at its most royal when ruling over difficulties. It had been assembled with the help of the Cockerill workshops in Antwerp. It was one of a pair, each bearing 4.7 naval guns in steel-plated trucks, with a couple of magazine-trucks attached, drawn by two engines, Lieutenant-Commander Littlejohns was its devisor and presided over one of his trains. The other was in charge of a Belgium, Captain Servais. Naval gunners manned both trains, assisted by Belgian volunteers.

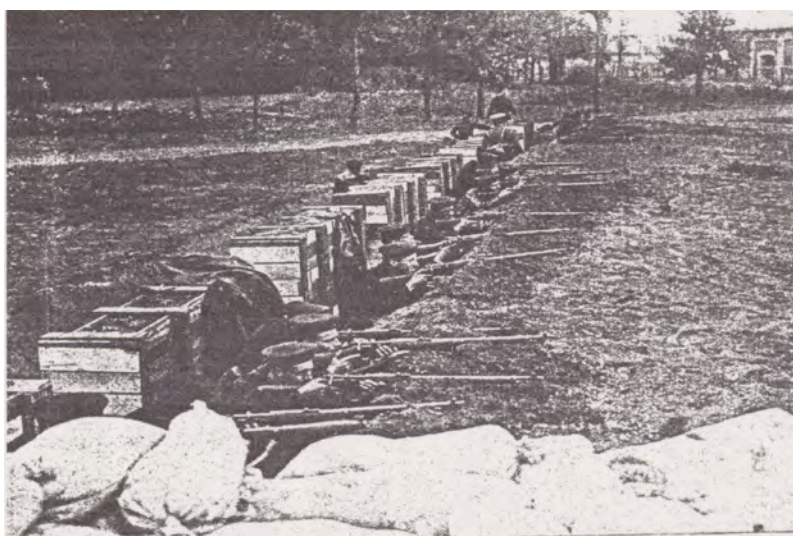
These trains were, to say the least of it, widely known in defence circles, and had all sorts of names from "Le Rapide Leet-le-jaw"(i.e. Littlejohns belgice) to wagon-lit." Somehow they maintained a seafaring character; they cruised all over the threatened Lierre hinterland, firing away indefatigably at the enemy. What is more, they eluded him persistently, despite all his kite-balloons, Zeppelins and aircraft.

As soon as the Germans had got their range Littlejohns or Servais would track up the railway-line and watch interestedly the shells detonating over their recent berth. If any instrument of war can be light-hearted this train was. When I was dragged on board to the grins of the watching seaman I found that its Belgian officers and men had absorbed the communicative naval manner. (6)

To Be Continued. (L.S.)

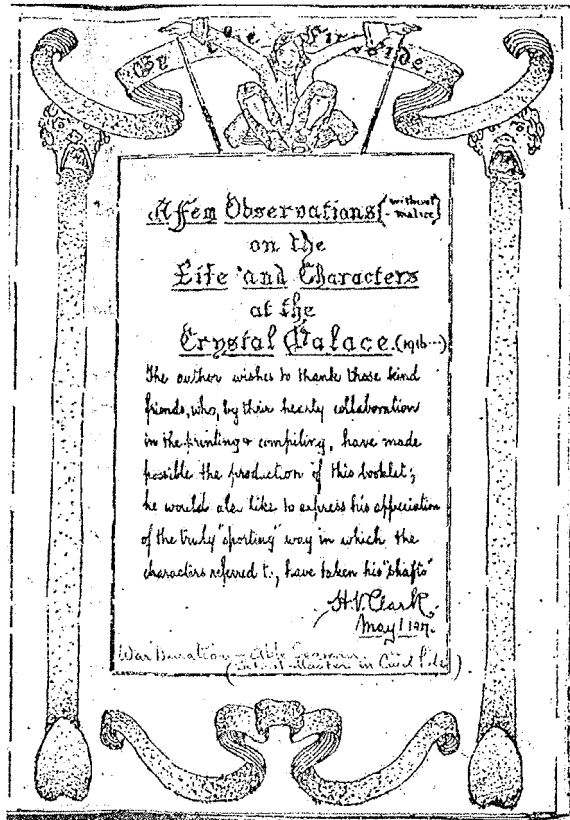
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3. Rupert Brooke's letter continued.
4. Foster 'Antwerp Adventure' continued.
5. Rupert Brooke's letter continued.
6. Jeffries. J.M.H. from his article 'Doom Over Antwerp' from the 'Great War I Was There'



A British Naval Brigade In Trenches Near Antwerp. From 'The War of Nations' page 198.

CRYSTAL PALACE.



Crystal Palace was turned into a training depot for the Royal Naval Division in September 1914. Able Seaman H.V. Clark a former school master produced in 1917 a selection of poems of his time there. This poem was in a small magazine 'By the Fireside,' a number of his poems will be produced in following issues of the 'R.N.D.'

Some Observations of Prominent Palatians.

1. Capt Hancock. Stroke your beard!, stroke your beard!, Captain Han!
 You think, you scheme, you plan.
 No fair request, you err refused
 Tis rare your kindness is abused.

2. Lieut. Com. Snap at' ern!, snap at'ern!, I.C. Bish!
 Bishonden. In the Palace Pond are many fish,
 But you, the pike among the minnows,
 Spread fear among offending P.O's

- 3 Lieut Carter. Toddle up!, toddle up!, Lieuty C!
Pillar of legality!
Tho! Dignified, and grave of mien,
Your saucy winks we're often seen.
-
4. Lieut Palmer. Swing along! Swing along! Lieuty P.
Small of stature tho' you be.
We love your dapper little ways
But whisper!, - "Do you carry stays?"
-
5. Lieut. Carey. Musing!,musing!, Mr Carey!
To escape your drafts; one must be wary,
Your thoughts oft seem so far away,
We merely wait, - and watch, - and pray.
-
6. Lieut Dixon. U.S.A.!, U.S.A.!, Mr Dix!
I guess, you reckon you've come to fix
The British Navy - Gawd-dam-straight.
Alas! Alack!, you've come to late. - (It's fixed!)
-
7. Lieut Cave. Overweight!, overweight!, Lieuty Cave!
Whose voice, reverberating, gave
Oscilations to the birches
Which took the dickies from their perches.
-
8. Sub Lieut. Step it out!, step it out!, Lieuty G!
Greenwood. Disciple of efficiency,
Dirt and sloth, you hate like H---,
But you're proud of us - we know quite well.
-
9. Sub Lieut. Double up!, double up!, Lieuty Aubin,
Aubin. Your "Shun!" necessitates a jaw-bin"
You've ready wit, and facile tongue,
But your songs were better left unsung.

10. Sub Lieut Beloe. Good old sport!, good old sport!, Lieuty ‘Beel’
I often wonder how you feel
If bulging optics are a clue,
There’ something radically wrong with you.
-
11. Lieut Roberts. Compiler of forms! Compiler of forms!, Lieuty R.
You joined our “ship” with much eclat,
Despite the fact you made your bid,
The Foretop stands just where it did.
-
12. C.P.O. Boughen. Sprint along!, sprint along!, stout chief “Bawn.”
Your face enlarges when you yawn,
With kindly ways and heart paternal.
You’ve a rugged shell with a dammed fine Kernel!
-
13. C.P.O. McKenzie. Beatty peak!, Beatty peak!, C.P.O. Mock!,
They say you’re Scotch-is That a foe ?
You will admit - at least you oughter,
That half is Scotch, half “Sorra-worra.”
-
14. C.P.O. Norrie. Hearts are trumps!, Hearts are trumps!, Boy Chief
Norrie.
When you lose at “Bridge, we are so sorry!.
Altho’ you play with subtle skill,
You often end like “Jack and Jill.”
-
15. P.O. Courtney. Roar at ‘em!, Roar at ‘em !, P.O. Court !
Your tempers Irish, therefore short
We like you when your humour’s bubbling,
But we hate like H--- your (Censored) doubling .P.O.
-
16. P.O. Higgins. Beaming!, steaming!, P.O.Hig!
With form rotund - tho’ not too big.

Breezy, wayward, hilarious, hearty,
You're in the 'swim' at every party.

17. P.O.
Nelson. Gunscrew!, gunscrew!, P.O. Knell.”
As Boughen's twin, we ken you well
You know your job from A to Z.
As extra turn you bury the dead.

18. Major.
Crawley. Comme il faut, Comme il faut, Major Crawl,
If you were David, I'd pity Saul,
Your men attest your popularity.
Your tight tunic, your “solidarity.”

19. Lieut
Sanders. Telescope!, telescope!, Lieuty Saun!,
You “mandoline” in the manner born.
We love to hear your yarns nautical
Marvel how you ‘scaped the sickle.’

20. Sub. Lieut.
Witten. Shave me not !, shave me not !, Lieuty Wit !,
Your Spanish beard's a splendid fit.
My Mizen memories were less cruel.
Had you been there to serve the gruel.

21. Chief Smith.
Smith. Stolid, sedate!, Stolid, sedate!, Dear Chief Smith,
used to think you rather stiff,
But the slight unbending I have seen.
Cut short your years by 17 !

22. Chief.
Webber. 17 Stone!, 17 stone!, Chubby Charlie !
You've grown so fat on “malted barley.”
Your appetite it never ceases,
We still observe the fat in “creases.”

23. Chief. Lady killer, Lady killer, Mr Lilley.
Lilley. As auctioneer, you are so wily.
 Altho' your metal's hard alloy
 The ladies call you "Dear Old Boy"!

24. Chief. Pass this way, pass this way, C.P.O. Coop.!
Cooper. "Your chit's not signed ? - you're in the soup!
 For here we have the dodger's terror,
 'Tis rare for him to make an error.

25. Lieut. Niblick!, Niblick!, Lieuty Kit !,
Kitcat. Your epitaph might thus be writ;
 "Here lies a man of stocks and shares,
 of mines and railways, "bulls and bears"
 The truest type of a British "Sport"
 The premier stock!- which cann't be bought.

26. Sub Lieut. Glide along !, glide along !, Lieuty Gar!.
Garnett. A "Parfait," gentil, knight, you are,
 With head awry you look so quizzical
 Debating on the "metaphysical."

27. S.G. Elocute!, elocute!, dear old Vin!.
Vincent. Your "bayonet" face shows will to win.
 A generous heart and glowing soul
 Are factors in a manly whole.

28. L.S. Optimist!, optimist!, C.R. Mort!
Morton. In the wet canteen you're vainly sought.
 You never swear, nor smoke, nor drink.
 You should be quite on heavens brink.

29. E.J.
Mole. Sugar fiend !, sugar fiend !, Jimmie Mole!,
Thou sweet, and saccharinic soul!
When not on leave, he acts as cook,
In any case he takes his hook!

30. L.S.
Heap. Bovril boy!, bovril boy!. L.S. Heap!.
You sometimes look before you leap,
If fate decrees we “toe the line,”
You’ll box us up in best pitch pine.

31. L.S.
Wright. Ipicure!, epicure!, L.S. Wright.
We saw you once in grievous plight,
Your naïve remarks and angularity,
Provoked us to extreme hilarity.

32. L.S.
Sumner. Tink-a-link!, tink-a-link!, L.S. Sumn!
When leave is stopped you look so glum!
Your smiles, altho’ not quite prolific,
May be described as beatific.

33. L.S.
Snape. Optimist!, optimist!, L.S. Snape !.
Your flights in logic make one gape,
Tho’ always hungry - often mad,
“I cannot help but like thee lad.”

34. L.S.
Clapp. Heavy villain!, heavy villain!, L.S. Clapp!.
our name suggests a slight mishap,
Your “Stand at ease” made quite a hit,
You mass of geniality and wit!

35. L.S.
Davis. [A diversion in metre.]
There was a young sailor from Rhyl,
Whose nautical knowledge was nil.

Since he's been at the office,
We've known what a toff is,
[But he's eluded Physical Drill.]

36. L.S.
Towler. Benedict !, Benedict!, L.S.T1.
You left "The Catch" of our navee.
When Special Service seemed to call,
You turned "Elusive Pimpernel."

37. P.O.
Gaydon. Week-end leave! Week-end leave!, P.O.Gay!
Whoever goes we hope you'll stay.
You've done your "whack" the proofs are grim.
The Foretop favourite, Sir?- that's him!

38.P.O.
Gilshennen. Roll your eyes!, roll your eyes! P.O. Gill!
We've here a man of iron will.
He speaks with calm deliberation.
And fills recruits with trepidation.

39. P.O.
Goldwyre. Throw out your chest! Throw out your chest! P.O.Gold
You've often wandered from the fold,
You're sly and wily, cute and cunning,
While - for a Scot! - your yarns are stunning!

40. P.O.
Walker. Canny Scot! canny Scot!, P.O.Walk!
So keen on "Scotch", ye lick the cork,
Your serenading - a la tomato,
Has often gained you many a "tart" O!

41. Captain.
Carey. Service man!, Service man!, Captain Care!
With personality so rare!
Strength and gentleness wisely blended,
Your "staff", like bairns, are by you tended.

42. Lieut. Buck ‘em up! Buck ‘em up! Lieuty K!
Kemp. Muscle tightener, day by day!
 Of your tawny, callisthenic crew.
 Some are “sports”- well - quite a few!

43. P.O. Count the gear! Count the gear! P.O. Add!
Addis. There’s a fine strong healthy lad!
 A “sport” who rules the cricket pitches
 And keeps the peace, preventing hitches.

44. Lieut. Rawson. “Santor Resarlus” Lieuty Raw!
[Note-later Sir You’ve the best cut pants I eversaw.
Cooper Rawson I’d like to know - tho’ weak my nerve is -
M.P. for Brighten] Your inner thoughts on “Special Service”!

P.C. Friend in need ! friend in need P.C. Smith.
45. Persistent, dogged, analytic,
Smith. In compiling this you’ve mustered my kit,
 You’ve proved a valued “Heapean” critic.

46. C.P.O. Where is Royce?, Where is Royce? C.P.O. Rolls!
Rolls. You reprimand unlucky souls.
 Who, appearing after “10” has struck,
 Try hard to hide their waning pluck!

47. C.P.O. Water-wheel, water-wheel .P.O. Mill!
Miller. When you say “hush”! its “Peace be still”.
 You scrutinise the passing throng.
 And give “glad eyes” to damsels young!

48. . Little Tich!, Little Tich! P.O.Nick!
Nickolas. You mite of smartness vim & click!
 A Welshman tho’ indeed you are,
 By dam, to goodness, that’s no bar! P.O

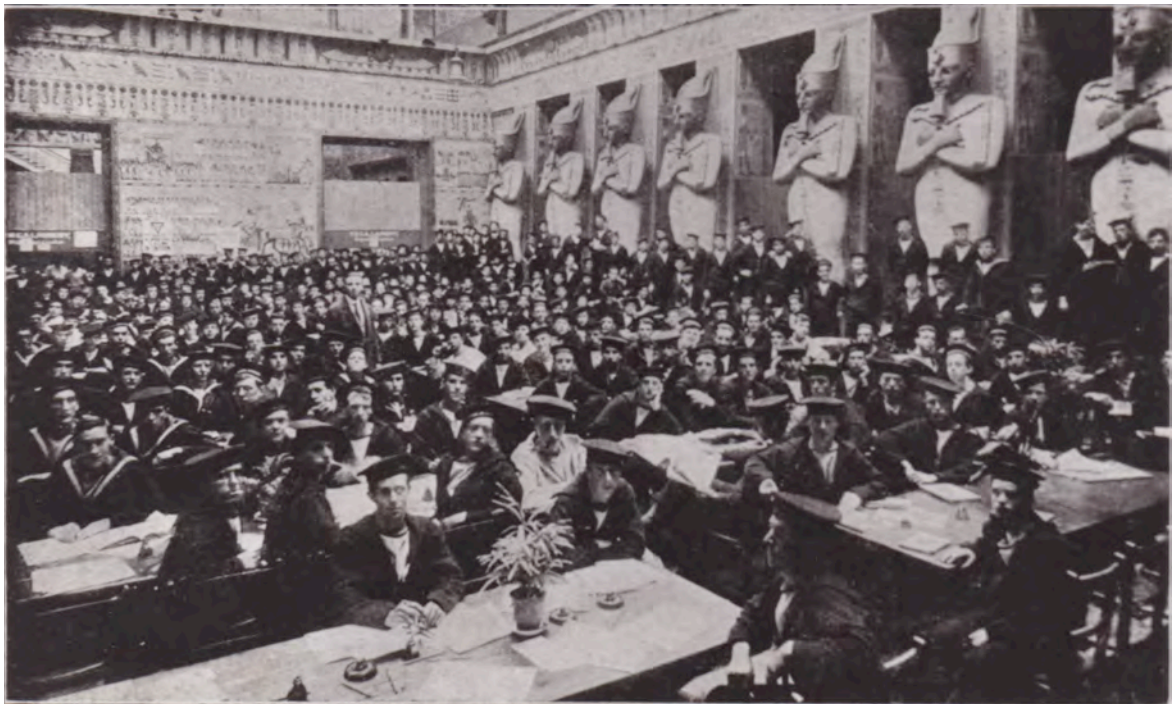
49. L.S.
Holden.

Lonkoshur Lod! Lonkoshur Lod! L.S. Holden!
Your accent's queer, but your heart is golden,
You often wish for an early peace,
And sigh for the hour of your release!

50. A.B.
Hunt.

Piggy Wiggy Chocolate A.B. Hunt!
You're doing well on the Devonport "Stunt."
You'll recollect with joy ---- [&pain!]
Seen comrades true, & some Champagne!





The top photograph shows the Crystal Palace Post Office, the morning rush for mail. The photograph below show the Egyptian Court, the writing room.

Pictures from 'With the Royal Naval Division on Board HMS Crystal Palace & Elsewhere A Souvenir. Published in 1915 by W.H.Smith & Sons of 186 Strand, London.

CRYSTAL PALACE AND THE WAR DAY BY DAY

The local paper The Crystal Palace District Advertiser was to have a section on the daily life of the Royal Naval Division's new training establishment.

12th September 1914.

“The Admiralty have taken over the Crystal Palace for naval training purposes, commencing in a fortnight's time. All concerts are postponed.” Such was the brief intimation the daily papers conveyed to the district, and as might be imagined the news created great interest.

Would the Palace be closed to the public as a consequence? Was the question everybody was asking.

Many conjectures were made, but no official information was forthcoming until late on Thursday afternoon, when the welcome news was given out that the Palace will remain open to the public, but that it had been found necessary to cancel arrangements for holding the National Dahlia Show next week, and the Brass Band Festival on the 26th Inst. The decision to keep the Palace open to the public had only been made after several meetings between the Trustees and the Admiralty and the days have been full of anxiety for the stall-holders and the staff and employees.

Already large numbers of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve are at the Palace, and we understand that some thousands will be assembled there for training. The Canadian pavilion has been fitted up as quarters, and other buildings in the grounds will be utilized.

The men are a fine body. Many of the recruits are as yet in their civilian clothes, and bear evidence to being drawn from good class professions and trades. Their excellent bearing has struck every visitor to the Palace.

Sentries with fixed bayonets are posted outside the main entrance to the Palace, and after the building is closed to the public everyone is “challenged.” One of our local postmen will bear this out !

19th September 1914.

Numbers of recruits for the new naval brigades continue to arrive at the Crystal Palace, and we understand that about five thousand will in the end be stationed and trained

here. They come from all parts, but the majority are men from the North, the Tyne and Mersey sending big companies of most excellent material.

Every man is as keen as possible. With that wonderful efficiency characteristic of the British Navy the men are being equipped with their clothing very rapidly. It makes all the difference in the world. Immediately the recruit has donned his uniform he is a changed man, not only in appearance but in manner. The excellent work of the officers is manifest every hour. What magnetism our Naval officers must have to so quickly transform the Northumberland miner, the dock labourer, the City clerk, and men from almost every calling under the sun into the clean looking, jolly sailorman from the thousands of the raw material of a week or fortnight ago. What a force brigades must presently become !

The officer in command of the men at the Crystal Palace is Captain Sir Richard H. Williams-Bulkeley, with Commander Hunter as Chief Executive Officer.

One has only to enter into conversation of these hearty naval men to see how they appreciate being stationed at the Crystal Palace. Judging by some of their tales they had to rough it pretty extensively since joining until they came here. "I'd sign on for seven or fourteen years if it were all like this," one was heard to remark the other day on leaving the mess-room after dinner.

On all sides one hears nothing but praise for the excellence of the food. Four good meals a day are served, and in their own words, they are "living like fighting cocks." Messrs. Lyons are doing the catering - a sufficient guarantee that the quality is good and there is no grumbling as to cooking. Messrs Lyons have a fine record at the Palace, both in regard to the able way they have always met the demands made on their resources on "big" days, and in the efficient service rendered to the public in the ordinary times of the Palace season. Now they are catering for this big body of jolly sailorman with their usual thoroughness, and in such a way that "grouzers" are unknown.

Early in the week the boy's band from the *Arethusa* training ship was brought to the Palace. The boys are, in addition to supplying good music for the Brigade, acting as buglers for it. And not only so, for when off duty these happy boys, with the real spirit of the "Powder Monkeys" of Nelson's day, delight everyone with their antics and good fun. See them with bared feet dance a hornpipe to Mr Herbert Godfrey's Band on the Palace asphalt floor; see the spirit they put into it, and you may know it is our navy is what it is; for after all these *Arethusa* lads are only representative of a crowd of such material.

On Wednesday evening their performance of the sailors hornpipe was gleefully watched by two wounded Belgian soldiers, in uniform, who were brought to the Palace by a lady and gentleman from Sydenham with whom they are staying. The representative of Gallant Little Belgium were very loudly cheered by the crowd of sailors and visitors.

On Sunday, Mr Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, visited the Brigade at the Palace and inspected the men.

The Brigade has attracted quite a remarkable class of recruit for the London companies. There is a large proportion of professional men, doctors, solicitors, clerks from big City businesses, and journalists.

So numerous have been the applications for commissions in the force that no further letters will be considered by the Admiralty.

The South, Anerley, Penge, Sydenham and Rockhills entrances to the Crystal Palace are now closed to the public, and the park and grounds are cleared of the public at nightfall and the exit gates therefore closed. We understand that the Penge entrance will be open to the public on football days only.

Ever to the fore in looking after the young men of the nation, the Young Men's Christian Association has promptly taken up the case of the naval men at the Crystal Palace. A portion of the building near the steps leading to the High Level Station has been set out with reading and writing tables and on several evenings very enjoyable concerts have been held. The Association's work is very keenly appreciated indeed by the men.

With regard to this work, Colonel Mackinlay, of Coverly, Thornlaw Road, West Norwood sends us the following letter.

Sir, --- Knowing that some 1,500 young men are now assembled for training in the Naval Brigades in the Crystal Palace, and that more will soon come, I paid them a visit on Sunday evening last. Although the men had only been there a few days, I was glad to find that the Y.M.C.A. had started a good work amongst them, which is highly appreciated. Many tables with writing materials are provided, and prodigious number of letters and post cards have been sent off.

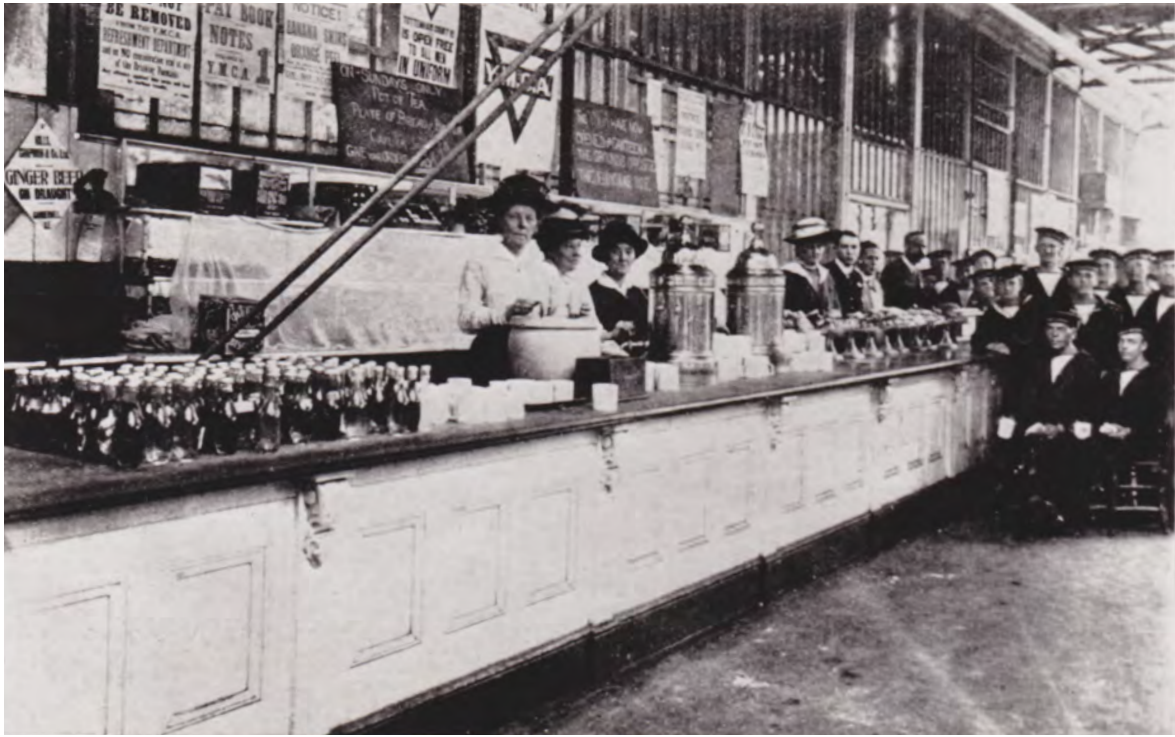
Several hundred men were present and at about 7 p.m. many sweet Gospel hymns were sung most heartily, and Mr Robert McCann, the secretary, Territorial Dept., Y.M.C.A. told them in cheery words of the projected arrangements. Amongst other things he said a Bible class would be held, and he asked any person who wished to join in to give in their names. Recreation will also be provided.

The efforts of the Y.M.C.A. in Territorial Camps are well known and highly appreciated both by the Authorities and also by the men themselves. Their work at the Crystal Palace gives promise of much blessing and success, and I feel sure it only needs to be known to be heartily supported by residents in the neighborhood. Contributions towards the expenses may be sent to the Secretary, National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations, Headquarters, 13, Russell Square, London W.C.

The recruits are a fine, bright, manly set of young men, chiefly from Durham, Liverpool and Yorkshire.

Yours faithfully

George Mackinlay Lt,-Col, late R.A.



**The top photograph is the refreshment counter of the Y.M.C.A.
The bottom photograph shows the R.N.D's sleeping arrangements.
This photo was headed "E sleeps in an ammick instead of a cot".**

**Picture from 'With the Royal Naval Division on Board HMS Crystal
Palace & Elsewhere A Souvenir. Published in 1915 by W.H.Smith
& Sons of 186 Strand, London. 28**

The Y.M.C.A. will very shortly be moved to the Greek, Roman and Egyptian Courts, where when matters are settled down comfortably, educational classes, and numerous efforts to help the men in their work will be made. Helpers are urgently needed. Mr Smart would kindly welcome a number of gentlemen who could give a few hours regularly each day. Gifts of magazines, periodicals, cut flowers to brighten the tables would also be very welcome. The Association is acting quite as a good mother to the "lads in navy blue." It is managing a post office for them, a savings bank, and even undertakes laundry work for them.

Mr H.E. Keightley, schoolmaster on the *Arethus* training ship, has been appointed L.Q.M. to the new Naval Brigade quartered at the Crystal Palace.

26th September 1914.

A fine mast has been erected on the "quarter-deck" of H.M.S. Crystal Palace (the centre terrace), and the flag is run up at 8 o'clock each morning and lowered at night fall. When the bugles sound one long note at both the hoisting and lowering of the colours every man, whatever he is doing, comes instantly to attention, and turns facing the flag for a few moments.

A third of the large Overseas buildings erected for the Festival of Empire has this week been tenanted by the Naval Division. - the South African Pavilion. It seemed news to several Northern recruits one of our staff was speaking to the other day in the grounds to learn that the buildings which now serve as their quarters are replicas of the Government buildings of our Overseas Dominions. Neither of the of them had ever seen the Crystal Palace before, but one remembers reading something about the "All Red Route," and he agreed that it must have been a "bit good show," we had at the Palace that memorable year.

Heard in the grounds:- "Do you know where we're to be quartered, Harry?" - "No mate." "Why in South Africa, - and I've sent a post-card home saying that when we got to Crystal Palace we were sent to Africa."

The Palace with its "roomyness" and fine grounds is proving the excellent place for training the R.N.D. most people felt it would. The grounds present a busy scene in the morning with companies of sailormen everywhere being drilled and instructed, and every day seems to mark a striking advance towards that complete efficiency which we feel sure will soon render this force "fit to do anything or go anywhere."

Mr J, Bannister Howard regrets, because the Admiralty had taken over the Crystal Palace that he is obliged to close the theatre. He hopes, however, to make some arrangements at Christmas whereby the children shall not be deprived of their annual pantomime.

Since our last issue the Y.M.C.A. has equipped the Greek, Roman and Egyptian Courts in the Crystal Palace, where they are carrying on the splendid work for the men of the Royal Naval Division. From 5 o'clock in the morning until 9.15 at night, for seven days a week, the Association is catering for the religious, educational, social

and physical welfare of the men. It is a big work and one that is very greatly appreciated, and it is good to know that helpers are coming along well. We understand that 1,200 gentlemen and ladies have promised their assistance - some over a period of six months. Just now there is an urgent need of six gentlemen prepared to give up their time to the work and come to the Palace and live amongst the men, and help from local ladies and gentlemen for a few hours daily would be welcomed. The periods of help have been divided into three daily shifts - 8 a.m. to 12.30, 12.30 to 5, and 5 to 9.15 p.m.

Bible classes, ambulance classes, and darning and needlework classes, are being held, and concerts arranged every night. The religious services are conducted in co-operation with the Chaplain of the Forces. A number of well-known religious leaders are coming to take services. Mr W.R. Lane has already paid three visits and Mr C.M. Alexander is amongst others who have promised to come.

Some idea of the amount of work done by the Y.M.C.A. post office in the Palace will be gathered when we give the figures for three days this week. On Sunday 1,763 letters were written in the Courts and posted, on Monday the total was 1,523 and on Tuesday the volume had grown to 2,226. The Association is also conducting a savings bank for the forces, which is proving of great usefulness.

Kindly friends in the district will note that gifts of any of the articles in the following list would be warmly welcomed any day; they should be addressed to the Secretary, Y.M.C.A., Crystal Palace:- Books for the Library, flowers for tables, indoor games, chess, draughts, pianoforte, music copies, four footballs, four pairs of boxing gloves, needles and thread, six dozen tea-cloths, two dozen bath towels (to use as head towels), two dozen dusters, two dozen dish cloths, six large knives for cutting cake, enamel pans and jugs; and tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, cakes, sausage rolls, bread, butter, biscuits, and cigarettes. The loan of a single-keyed melodion, other musical instruments and a gramophone and records would be gladly accepted.

The Association is issuing a quantity of excellent literature amongst the men. The booklet of "Camp Songs," sold for one penny, is surprising value, and many helpful religious booklets are distributed free.

Owing to the war, and the Admiralty having taken over the Palace, the Crystal Palace Badminton Club has been suspended. As a number of other clubs play in drill halls and other buildings now being used for the training of troops, it is unlikely that there will be much, if any, first class badminton played this year. The South of England Championship will in all probability not be held.

3rd October 1914.

On Sunday, Mr W.R. Lane, an ex-Guardsman, and a well-known speaker of the Association, gave the address at three services to men of the Division. At the close of the evening service 43 publicly declared for the Christian life, and 100 joined the

Pocket Testament League, in which each member promises to read a chapter of the Bible every day.

Doctor Steddart, the Staff Surgeon, is giving instruction in ambulance work and one of the Association's workers pays three visits daily to the sick bay - the Garden Hall. Physical culture classes are also held, and there are going to be 16 football teams - one for each Company. The concerts, which are given every week-end in the Egyptian Court, continue to be greatly appreciated.

Dr E. Gandy, of Upper Norwood, who left home at the outbreak of the war to take up his duties as an officer of the R.N.V.R. is back in the neighbourhood, looking exceedingly fit, and is doing duty at the Crystal Palace with the Royal Naval Division.

17th October 1914.

From every source there continues to be welcome reports of the recruiting for the new Royal Naval Division. As was announced in *The Times* on Tuesday, Lord Graham is undertaking the formation of some new Scottish companies, each consisting of 250 men. That he will be able to raise these companies in a short time is quite certain, since there can be no lack of suitable young men who will desire to become identified with the Sea Service in this manner. Probably a similar movement in Ireland would be equally successful, for there have always been plenty of Irish boys of spirit and quality anxious to enter the Navy. There is already a large force in training at the Crystal Palace under the Command of Captain the Hon. Rupert Guinness, and all the information available points to the brigades shaping very well.

We regret to hear from Mr Bannister Howard that he is unable to run the Crystal Palace Theatre this Autumn, as the Admiralty have taken possession, and it is now practically certain that the Annual Christmas Pantomime must be cancelled.

Four Grand Patriotic Concerts are being arranged by the Crystal Palace Musical Director, Mr Walter W. Hedgcock, to take place on Saturday evenings, October 17th and 24th, and November 7th and 14th. The series will be extended if the concerts are enthusiastically supported by the public. The Band of His Majesty's Coldstream Guards has been engaged and will be conducted by Director of Music, Capt. J. Mackenzie Rogan. There will be two well-known vocalists each night, those for tomorrow, the 17th being Miss Florence Barrow and Mr Joseph Farrington. The Programmes will consist of British and patriotic selections, and should prove inspiring and inspiriting. It is hoped to arrange for the Crystal Palace Choir to appear at one or more of these concerts. Popular prices are to be charged, 2/- and 1/- admitting to Palace and Concert. Sixpenny seats will be on sale inside the Palace. The concerts will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. so as to give the men of the Royal Naval Division now quartered at the Palace a chance of attending. They have been invited and seats will be reserved for them on the great orchestra. The concerts will be under the patronage of

Sir Richard Williams Bulkeley, Officer Commanding, and the Officers of the Royal Naval Division, Crystal Palace. Friends connected with various parishes in the neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace have taken up the good work being done by the Young Men's Christian Association for the men of the Royal Naval Division with spirit, and several of the parishes have made themselves largely responsible for the helpers on certain days in the week. Friends from Christ Church, Gipsy-hill, are working in this way on Mondays, and on those evenings Mr. E. Victor Williams and Mr C.E.M. Dillon are arranging the programmes for the enjoyable little concerts given.

At the Guildhall on Monday, Sir David Burnett presided over a meeting of the Crystal Palace Trustees. A report was received to the effect that the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves, who to the number of about five thousand were being billeted at the Palace were all in excellent state of health and making good progress. They had plenty of room and excellent opportunities for drilling. The Government had taken over the entire charge of the Palace, but the Trustees still retained the management, and were proceeding with the ordinary work in connection with the maintenance of the institution. Progress had been made in the matter of appointing a manager, and the number of candidates would subsequently be reduced to three, from which the final selection would be made.

Sir David Burnett, seen subsequently by a representative of the Press, said the Crystal Palace was now a very interesting place to visit, as the presence of the troops afforded much attraction. The attendance at the Palace of the friends and relations of the men was very great, and the place was now a popular resort.

During the week, the Y.M.C.A. have had a very busy time at the Palace. Over 15,000 letters and 700 parcels have been dealt with and 700 laundry parcels collected from the men. The number of depositors in the savings bank is now 318, and stamps, postal orders, etc., to the value of £200 were dealt with. A number of excellent entertainments and meetings have been held during the week. On Tuesday the Fisk Jubilee Singers gave a very enjoyable programme, and a helpful address was given by Lt. Colonel Noble, who made a strong plea for temperance. Fifty-Three of the sailors responded by signing the pledge for the war. Lady St. Helier was also present.

Alleged Germans At Crystal Palace.

Addressing a good Crowd at a recruiting meeting near the tram terminus, Anerley-Hill, Upper Norwood, on Tuesday night, Mr Pitman, a speaker who has been very frequently heard here lately, again referred to the alleged employment of Germans by Messrs. Lyons at the Crystal Palace. He said a petition had been signed and sent to Mr. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, and they were awaiting his answer. He said he had also written to Mr. Lyons and he sent a man to see him, but he would not receive him. Mr. Pitman added "If they (the Germans) don't come out, we will fetch them out." (Cheers). "Do you think it right that our sailors should be catered for by German alien enemies of this country?"

It had been arranged that a party of Belgian refugees now being supported at Forest-Hill should attend the meeting, but owing to the wet night it was felt that it would be asking too much of them, after all they had suffered. Should the weather be favourable next Tuesday, Mr. Pitman said they would then come to Upper Norwood. He appealed to Norwood people to bring along articles of clothing or anything that might be useful to the Belgian refugees.

31st October 1914.

An inquest was held at Brixton Prison on the body of Samuel Morris of the R.N.D. stationed at Crystal Palace. The deceased was found in the bathroom, and was taken into custody and remanded to Brixton. He was taken seriously ill. He developed typhoid fever and died on Tuesday, from syncope due to blood poisoning set up by fever.

7th November 1914.

In an interview Capt Sir Richard Williams Bulkeley, the C.O. of the R.N.D. at the Crystal Palace, expressed his complete satisfaction with the behavior of the men. "Some of the men" he remarked "In their spare time may not be so careful of their behavior as one might wish, but any harm which might result from their companionship with the opposite sex could be adequately guarded against by mothers and guardians" "The whole Brigade" he adds "are put upon their honour to behave in a manner which bring credit to His Majesty's forces, and I am perfectly satisfied that, outside a few cases they have amply justified the high opinion I have of them."

14th November 1914.

A detachment of the R.N.D. from the Crystal Palace took part in the Lord Mayor's procession through the city on Monday. (9th November 1914.)

21st November 1914.

The chief feature at the Young Men's Christian Association's centre at the Crystal Palace was the visit of the King on Monday. His Majesty expressed his great pleasure at the work carried on. We are glad to know that local residents are responding to the

appeal for financial help for the Association's splendid work, and already the gifts from local people include one of £25 and another of £10.

A large circulating library has just been opened for the men. The numbers of letters sent through the Y.M.C.A. post office last week reached a total of 27,000 and postal orders were issued to the value of £200.

Brigade Bible classes are being held three times each week. The gift (or loan) of a piano for use in the Sick Bay would be very gratefully received. Three billiard tables have been given for the recreation courts, but good use could be found for quite five more. The reading and writing rooms are crowded every night. Concerts have been given by Mrs Eastwood and Mr A.J.Beck.

On Monday evening, the Crystal Palace Band, under Mr. Herbert Godfrey rendered special music in memory of the late Earl Roberts. The National Anthem of each of the Allies was played whilst the National flag of each was run up to half-mast, after which a portrait of the honoured deceased Field-Marshal was thrown on the screen by the aid of a lantern, whilst the band gave an impressive rendering of the Dead March in "Saul." The grand old hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers," was then sung, hundreds of the men of the Royal Naval Division joining in the singing. All who were present will not soon forget the reverent way the fine hymn was sung. The volume of the men's voices surging through the Palace nave was most impressive.

Great excitement prevailed in the Palace on Wednesday evening. Shortly after the men had been piped to bed the "Assembly" rang out, and all the "Drake" Battalion paraded in full marching order. A rumour ran round like wildfire that German vessels transporting thousands of troops were approaching our shores and that the battalion were off to the East Coast to repel the invasion. However, when the men were all drawn up the officer in command announced that it had been a test assembly - carried out in 13 minutes - and he hoped it would be as smartly done when the real call sounded. The announcement took the men apparently by surprise and the greatest good humour prevailed as they dismissed to bed a second time.



Billie at the Crystal Palace, 1915
Billie P.O. - "I'll try to find room for you in China or South Africa, but if they're full you'll have to go to New Zealand."
New Records - "Oh, really? - and you mean to 'phone east all this thinking for 'arf way round the world?!"



GALLIPOLI.

In March 1915 before the Gallipoli landing on the 25th April two Companies of the Plymouth Marines of the Royal Naval Division landed at Sedd-el-Bahr on the Gallipoli peninsula and Kum Kale situated on the other side of the Dardanelles on the Asian shore. The following reports written at the time give the official account of these actions by the commanders involved. (Public Record Office Kew.WO95/4290.) The spelling of place names are as shown in the reports.

R.M. Special Service Force Orders by Brigadier General Charles Trotman.

“Braemar Castle”

1/3/1915

Reference N.I.D. Report 838 (Charts 3

May 1908. (“ 3a.

1. The Forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles have been bombarded by H.M. Fleet & silenced.

Their demolition is now to be completed, and a Reconnaissance made to select suitable ground for use as a Base for aircraft.

2. Detachments landed from H.M. Ships p.m. on Friday 26th ult after bombardment, met with slight opposition from hostile Infantry, principally snipers. Opposition of this nature is again to be expected.
3. O.C. Plymouth Bn will detail 2 detachments of 1 Company each to cover demolition parties provided by H.M. Ships, and also the Air Base Reconnaissance party. These covering forces will land simultaneously at SEDDUL-BAHR and KUM KALE, and make good the ground as follows.

- a. N. Entrance. (SEDDUL-BAHR).

from MORTO BAY to “FOUNTAIN”.

S. Entrance. (KUM KALE)

From Fort KUMKALESSI to S. end of YENI CHEHR VILLAGE>

Preparations are to be made to hold these positions for 3 hours.

4. Instructions for disembarkation and subsequent re-embarkation will be given verbally.
5. P.M.O. to provide for Collecting Stations at points of disembarkation, and for bearers between it and Regimental Aid Posts.

6. Naval Signals parties will be provided at points of disembarkation to communicate between covering forces and ships. Communications through covering forces to Naval Signal Parties are to be maintained with great care.

M.C. Festing.
Brigade Major.
1.3.15.

From Brigadier General Charles Trotman R.M.L.I.

Commanding R.M. Special Service Force.

To Vice-Admiral, Commanding Eastern Mediterranean Squadron.

S.S. "Braemar Castle"
c/o G.P.O.,
6th March 1915.

No 34/15.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that in accordance with your instructions, a portion of the Force under my Command landed at SEDDUL-BAHR and KUM KALE on 4th March 1915.

2. This force, comprised of 2 Companies of the Plymouth Bn., R.M.L.I. embarked with my Headquarters in 4 Destroyers at IMBROS at 7.30 a.m., 4.3.15.

Lt-Col G.E. Matthews, C.B. was in Command, and proceeded to KUM KALE with 1 Company of 250 men under Major A.E. Bewes, R.M.L.I. Major H.D. Palmer (Reserve of Officers, R.M.L.I. was in charge of the operations at SEDDUL-BAHR, proceeding thither with 1 Company of 250 men under Captain C.B. Andrews (Reserve of Officers, R.M.L.I.)

3. The events which followed, I have shown in the following chronological order :-

8.50 a.m. Southern Force transferred to Ships Boats from Destroyers at the entrance to the DARDANELLES.

9. 10 a.m. Northern Force Ditto.

9. 10 a.m. Southern Force effected a landing in face of considerable Infantry opposition.

9. 40 a.m. Northern Force effected a landing without opposition.

These disembarkations were covered by heavy shell fire from H.M. Ships. My Hd. Qrs remained in H.M.S. "Wolverine". The detailed proceedings of each of these Forces are shown on the attached reports from Lt-Col G.E. Matthews, C.B. and Major H.D.

Palmer. In neither instance could any material progress be made until patrols were able to get forward.

12. 15 p.m. I transferred my Hd. Qrs to H.M.S. "Irresistible", Flag Ship of the Rear Admiral.

At Noon. Major H.B. Palmer from the Northern side reported that he could probably clear village and Fort with a reinforcement of 200 men, but in view of the conditions appertaining, I did not consider this advisable and at 2.10 p.m. ordered his withdrawal to the Destroyers. At 2.30 p.m. I sent the Brigade Major to ensure that Major Palmer had received these orders. His force was re-embarked in Destroyers at 3.30 p.m.

2. 45 p.m. I sent the Staff Captain to order the Southern Force to withdraw. By this time however, it had become further involved by an attempted advance on Fort 4, and the withdrawal was consequently more complicated. This however was effected by 7 p.m. and the Southern Force were taken on board H.M.S. "Irresistible" transferring with my Hd Qrs to "Braemar Castle" at 8.15 a.m. on the 5th. Inst.

4. I attach a copy of my operation orders and a list of casualties, copies of which I am also forwarding to Adjutant General, Royal Marines, General Officer Commanding, Royal Naval Division, and the Commandant Plymouth Division, R.M.L.I.

Had it not been for the skilful manner in which Lt-Col G.E. Matthews, C.B. handled the Southern Force, against quite unexpected opposition, I consider that the casualties would have been heavier.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Signed C Trotman. Brigadier General.

Report of operations carried out on the North side of the Dardanelles at SEDD El BAHK on 4th March 1915.

From Major H.D. Palmer, R.M.L.I. O.C. Northern Covering Party.

To Lieut Colonel Matthews, C.B. R.M.L.I.

Commanding Plymouth Battalion, R.M. Bde.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the operations carried out by the Force landed on the North Side of the Dardanelles at SEDD EL BAHR on 4th March.

OBJECTIVE. - My instructions were to cover the line from MORTO BAY to FOUNTAIN, with a view to covering demolition and survey parties during an estimated period of 3 hours.

COMPOSITION OF FORCE. - The force consisted of one Company and 4 Machine Guns, accompanied by 3 demolition parties; 1 survey party, 1 beach party and signallers under Naval Officers.

The Force embarked on 2 T.B. Destroyers at 7.30 a.m. from "Braemer Castle" and after transferring to ship's boats at 9 a.m. landed without opposition on SOUTH side at SEDD EL BAHR FORT and VILLAGE, covered by guns of warships. Patrols were at once sent out to reconnoitre FORT and VILLAGE. The approach to both FORT and VILLAGE was by one narrow and steep path. The first opposition met with was from a large house on the WEST side of the VILLAGE adjoining the FORT and commanding the only approach from the landing place. An attempt was made to advance and also to turn the RIGHT FLANK through the FORT. Owing to the very narrow approach, this was found to be impossible with the risk of incurring serious losses. About this time fire was opened by the enemy from both flanks. A platoon was sent into the FORT by the lower gate and another up a steep cliff into the village. When it was found that no advance could be made, I signalled to the covering warships to shell certain localities and with-drew until this was completed. The VILLAGE and FORT were then made good and dispositions made to hold the NORTHERN edge of both. A signal was received by me to say that the enemy were holding an entrenched position to the NORTH of the ANCIENT FORT and we were also under fire from field guns on our RIGHT FLANK. In reply to a signal from H.M.S. "Ocean" as to whether I could effect my object that day, I replied that this would not be possible, and I concurred in the suggestion that the Force should be withdrawn.

The withdrawal and re-embarkation were carried out satisfactorily at 3.30 p.m. During the earlier stages of the operation I considered that the VILLAGE and FORT could be cleared if I received a reinforcement of 200 men, and I sent a signal to that effect in reply to a request to report progress. I do not consider from personal observations and reports received that any advance from the NORTHERN line of FORT and VILLAGE could have been made except with a much stronger force supported by field guns.

My total casualties were 3 killed and 1 wounded. A wounded Turk was brought on board but died subsequently.

Two 1” Nordenfeldt machine guns, found intact with ammunition, were destroyed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

H.D. Palmer.

O.C. Northern Covering Party.

H.M. Transport

S.S. “Braemar Castle”

5 March. 1915.

NOTE -- The attached is as far as possible a duplicate of the Report, written at short notice on the 5th inst. I was not able for want of time allowed, to take a copy of the original report, which was compiled from the same notes from which I have now produced the attached.

Sd G.E. Matthews

At Sea, 6th March 1915.
Bn

Lt. Col O/C Plymouth

-:COPY:-

From Lieut. Colonel G.E. Matthews, C.B.

O/C Plymouth Battalion, R.M. Bde.

To Brigadier General Charles N. Trotman,

Commanding R.M. Bde, R.N. Division.

5th March 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that, in pursuance of your Operation Orders of the 23rd ult. and subsequent dates, the Plymouth Battalion less two companies, was landed for operations yesterday, under the following arrangements, to carry out a scheme of demolition of what remained intact of the armament of FORTS at SEDDUL-BAHR and KUM KALESSI after their bombardment by the Allied Fleets.

Two companies embarked at IMBROS on board 4 of H.M.’s Destroyers from the Transport “Braemar Castle” at 7.0 a.m. and proceeded to the mouth of the DARDANELLES where the force was re-inforced by demolition parties and beach parties from H.M. Ships already in action. At 9.10 a.m. the force for the Southern Forts was landed in boats.

The Northern force was under the command of Major H. D. Palmer, R.M.L.I. whose report is herewith attached.

The scouts and advanced party of the Southern force, accompanied by Major A.E. Bewes, proceeded to the Jetty North of Fort 6. This landing was the signal for sharp and well directed rifle fire to be opened by the enemy upon the jetty and approaches from it to the village. It soon became apparent that the buildings in the vicinity of the FORT entrance, afforded well-concealed shelter for the enemy's riflemen. The first attempt to make good the entrance to FORT 6 failed, but the enemy subsequently gave way at that point. Throughout the day, however, no success was achieved in pushing through the northern end of KUM KALE village, and as I had already lost some men in an attempt to gain a minor objective, I considered it expedient to hold on to as much of the road gained, although it gave me no further advantage, than to deny to the enemy the power of interfering with my line of retreat. I then, at 11 a.m. determined to manoeuvre the enemy out of the village. To do this, the Supports, and Local Reserve to the advanced party were required. It appeared however, that for some reason which has so far remained unexplained, this party had not reached the shore, and I was obliged to signal for it to be sent in order to carry out the plan for which I had issued orders, the 2nd half of the force should have landed close upon the heels of the first half.

At 11.30 a.m. the Supports and Reserve arrived, and disembarked at the light house landing. An attempt was immediately made to gain ground round the SOUTH WEST side of FORT 6. By 1 p.m., two platoons of the Company, had advanced under considerable Infantry fire, which it was difficult to locate, but the enemy still remained concealed in the houses, and never broke cover at the point. By 2. P.m. the Platoons had made good the ground abreast of the S.W. limit of the village. When this point was gained, fire from the village appeared to slacken, which gave grounds for the assumption that the enemy had re-crossed the river. At the same time Lieut May, in command of the party securing our line of retreat at the NORTH end of the village, reported that hostile fire against him had increased, and the enemy showed signs of working round to the NORTH with the obvious intention of enfilading our dispositions. This attempt on the part of the enemy was stopped by fire from the battleships.

At 2.45 p.m. I thought the situation warranted my pushing on to FORT 4, and the Reserve of one Platoon was ordered to support this movement. An advanced Guard was moved forward in charge of Major A.E. Bewes, followed by the demolition party under Lieut W.L. Dodgson R.N. This advance progressed as far as the LAGOON which is connected with the sea by a narrow neck. At this point we were dominated by the heights of YENI SHEHR village, and our scouts were very soon held up by well directed rifle fire from FORT 4, and fire trenches which we now saw on the NORTHERN slope of YENI SHEHR hill. This fire increased in intensity at 3.45 p.m. and it became abundantly clear that the ground was too strongly held to be captured by the small force at my disposal, I returned with the object of bringing up a reserve under which I hoped to withdraw the demolition party, and at the same time I signalled a request that the Destroyers might stand in close to the shore, and shell the slopes of YENI SHEHR. I hoped that this might divert the rifle fire of the enemy from FORT 4, which actually happened. At 4.15 p.m. a heavy rifle fire was opened from the direction

of the CEMETERY, and there appeared some danger of our being cut off. The Reserve advanced and took up a position to cover the advanced parties, and the retirement of the demolition party was effected. At this juncture, rifle fire from KUM KALE village increased in volume, and many casualties occurred before the shelter of FORT 6 was reached, in spite of a well sustained covering fire on the village from the heights of the FORT from my machine guns.

The withdrawal was practically completed by 6.45 p.m. when we re-embarked in boats, and returned to the Fleet. Our casualties were 20 N.C.O.'s and men killed, 24 N.C.O.'s and men wounded, and 3 missing.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G.E. Matthews,

Lt. Col,

O/C Plymouth Bn.

CASUALTY LIST PLYMOUTH BATTALION.

KILLED.

11711	Sgt	A.W.	Minns.	R.F.R.	1045	Sgt	T.S.	Freeman.
14982	L. Cpl	S.	Gates.	S.	387	L. Cpl	W.S.	Allkins.
S. 178	Pte.	A.	Gasken.	S.	150	Pte.	P.	McGuire.
17618	"	B.	Whitwam.	16765		"	J.	Bean.
S. 398	"	N.	Jones.	S.	240	"	J.	Power.
11957	"	W.	Goodenough.	16404		"	F.	Rounds.
16343	"	C.	Phill.	16373		"	S.E.	Gibson.
S. 9	"	B.	Rawlinson.	S.	474	"	H.	Rowton.
R.F.R. 880	C.Sgt	A.B.	Baldwin.	17661		"	W.	Dyter.
S. 305	"	J.	Jones.	16410		"	J.	Scott.

WOUNDED SERIOUS.

7685	Cpl.	W.J.	Cook. *	S.	132	Pte.	M.	Ward. *
------	------	------	---------	----	-----	------	----	---------

9819	Sgt	T.	Hilson *	S.	421	“	J.	Gettings. *
173260	Pte.	R.	Brooks *	S.	125	“	H.H.	Pursord. *
S. 664	“	H.	Liversidge. *	16198		“	J.	Butterworth.
R.F.R. 924	L. Sgt.	W.J.	Casling *	(Butterworth Died in “Soudan” night 5/6 March.)				

WOUNDED SLIGHTLY.

14217	L. Cpl.	W.	Dickenson.	14579		L. Cpl.	E.	Moyse.
S. 105	Pte.	F.	Orledge.	S.	596.	Pte.	T.	Cleeve.
S. 156	“	L.	Grinstead. *	16347		“	W.J.	Beggs. *
S. 115	“	L.	Laynes.	16460		“	C.	Hooper.
R.F.R. 1034	C.Sgt.	H.	Antrobus.	S.	408	“	G.E.	Harvey. *
13034	Sgt	N.W.	Meatyrd. *	R.F.R.	619	Sgt	W.	Hagan.
16402	Pte	W.	Lintern. **	S.	104	Pte.	S.	Scott. **
S. 162	L. Cpl	A.	Doubtfire. *					

MISSING.

S. 121.	Pte.	W.	Taylor.	16717	Pte.	A.	Warnock.
T. 119	“	J.W.	Snowden.	3258	“	G.	Morton. (Med. Unit.)

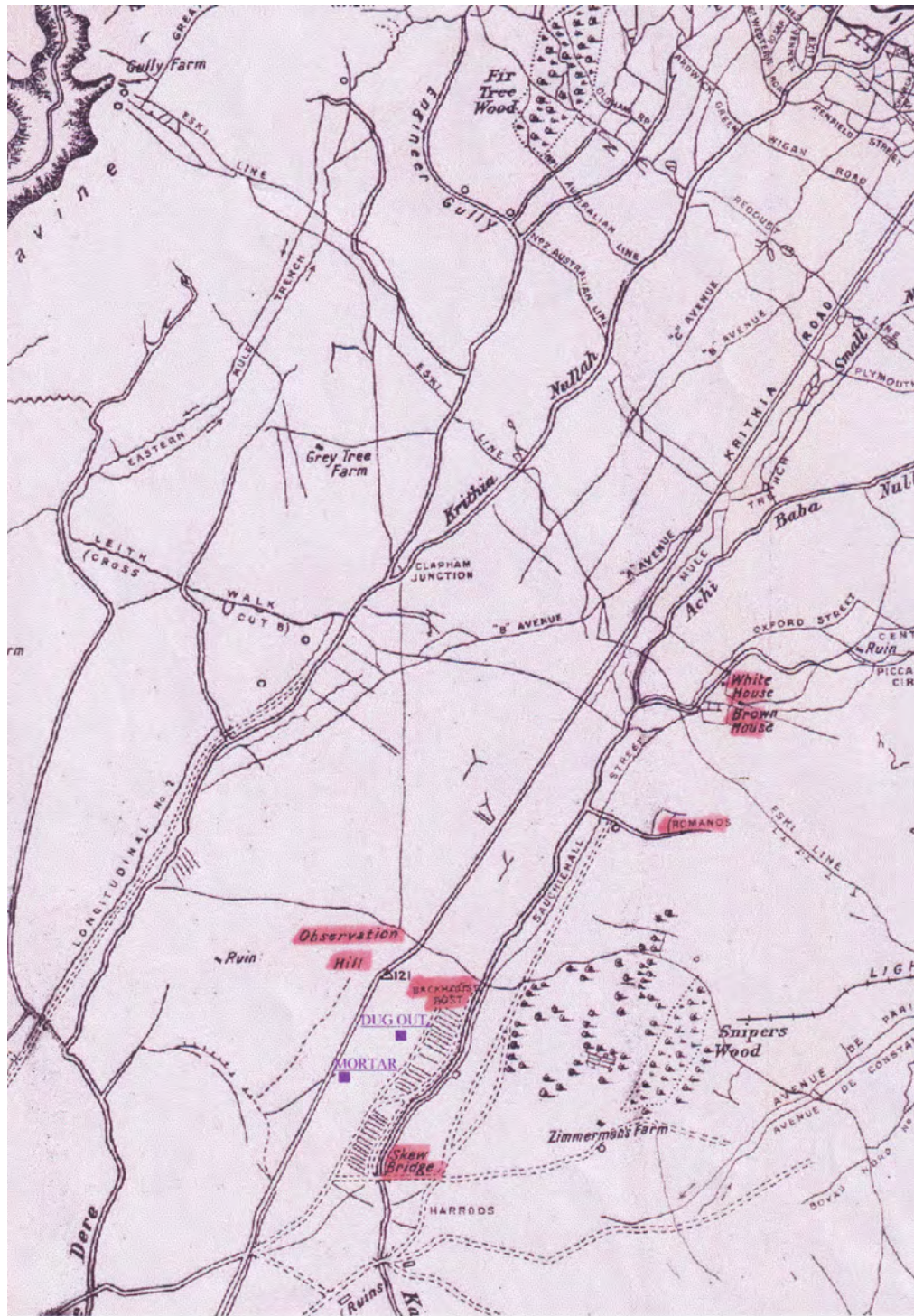
* These N.C.O.'s & men are, at present in the Naval Hospital Ship “Soudan.”

** It is not known whether these two mens wounds are serious or otherwise.

G.E. Matthews. Lt Colonel R.M.L.I.

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In Search of Skew Bridge Cemetery, the Krithia Road, Observation Hill, Achi Baba Nullah, Romanos Well, White House, Brown House &



When researching my book the 'Hood Battalion' of the Royal Naval Division (Published 1995 by Leo Cooper of Pen & Sword Books Ltd) In the August/September 1992 my family stayed at the Abide Motel situated at Morto Bay,

Helles. During the two week holiday I explored the area of operations in which the Royal Naval Division mainly fought, died & lived.

As the Abide Motel was situated only about 40 yards from the sandy beach at Morto Bay it was ideal for my purpose. It also had the benefit of warm, safe and wonderful swimming in the same area where the troops rested and swum, but as The Hon Charles Lister of the Hood Battalion wrote, one had to miss the dead horses at the water's edge ! Whilst swimming one can see the Plain of Troy with the Dardanelles and the Turkish Gallipoli Memorial so large and brooding above. It is as if history is there to be touched.

I left my wife Elaine and younger son Neil to soak up the sun and together with Mark, backpacks and refreshment set out on foot. We had to make for the Krithia Road, passing fields of long dead sunflowers, their nodding heads still with occasional yellow showing between the brown. The slight wind did not effect the heat of the sun, making me pleased that I was wearing my large Essex County Cricket Club hat. We arrived at the junction and turned right onto the Krithia Road. The surface was not bad and walking on we did not see a soul. We reached the Skew Bridge Cemetery alongside the road, where a line of high dark fir trees guard the entrance. Fir cones littered the ground and it was here on other days that we had parked the hire car and taken a rest. The place has a sense of peace and stillness. Many of the Royal Naval Division are buried here, known and unknown. Colonel Quilter the Commanding officer of the Hood rests. He died carrying a large walking stick into battle. Continuing on for a short distance the road rises to wooded Observation Hill. One sees a metal mast about 25 feet high to the right. Going into the undergrowth one can find an old mortar set in concrete. Overgrown trenches full of brush wood radiate from it.

Walking further into the wood at an angle towards Achi Baba one finds the slope starting to descend towards the Achi Baba Nullah, a water course around which the R.N.D. fought. Take great care here as danger lurks for the unwary. Two very large ventilation holes open up without any guard or warning. One slip and you would be lost as there is a drop of some twenty feet below, and there would be nobody to come to your aid or hear your cry !

Walking with care down the white chalky slope one sees the rectangular opening to a dug out, set in a hollow. I peered in when suddenly a black object flew towards my face ! I shouted and ran out. But Mark confirmed that it was only a bat which I had disturbed ! Gaining courage I entered. The ventilation holes give a good light and I was very surprised to find storage places cut into the wall. Against the wall stood a table in brick and stone which could have been used for treating the injured. Leading from this room is another down a corridor. Outside this dug out and all along the hill can be found bits of rusting tin and parts of rum jars.

The view from Observation Hill is fine and one can look left to see Achi Baba, brooding in its unreachable distance. Looking straight ahead in the distance are fields of dotted olive trees. On occasions, one can see women working in the fields or sitting in the olive groves, out of the midday sun, taking refreshment and catching up with the news. There is nothing to hurry for, tomorrow will do. One could have viewed the same scene for many a century, before the invaders made their mark during the short nine months of 1915.

We left Observation Hill, walking across the field to the Achi Baba Nullah. Here it is small and insignificant, but nearer the front line it will be deeper and more dramatic. At this time of the year it is dry and barren. Undergrowth hides it, until a gap allows access. We crossed the Nullah and nearby fields until we came to an earth path/roadway. Armed with a map from the P.R.O. at Kew we wanted to find Romanos Well. (Named after the well known Restaurant.) We were in luck, alongside the path there it was, capped now and in concrete with a metal pipe extending upwards. It was here that the Turks had a machine gun that caused such casualties to the R.N.D.

Walking on, with Observation Hill to my left, still with an eye to my maps, we attempted to find the White House captured by the Hood Battalion on the 6th May during the Second Battle of Krithia. Once again we were lucky, it could have been easily missed. It was approximately the right place. We came across piles of broken stones, which must have been some form of habitation. Looking closely we saw bones mixed up with stones. I kicked one slightly with my foot. It broke and was surely old. Nearby was the sole of a shoe and a small glass bottle with a black top, similar to one that is used in medicine. But was this the White House ? I needed confirmation. A search was then made near undergrowth and bushes for the two banks that were set at right angles. These were the ones that Joseph Murray and others had sheltered behind. With growing excitement we found them, proof positive that I was on the right track. This banking is also shown in a photograph taken that day by Lieut - Commander Hedderwick of the Hood Battalion in which Lieut Furguson has his hand to his mouth. Next to him I think is Bernard Freyberg. (My opinion is sheared by his Grandson the Present Lord Freyberg.)

However there was one other fact that would help me to prove that we had found the White House. According to maps and reports the Brown House was situated only a short distance away. If we could find it, there would be no doubt. We did not have to search for long, for low and behold there were other piles of stones in the correct position. I was sure ! The Brown House was used from the 6th May as a field-dressing station. Lieut Commander Hedderwick took a photograph of it on this day. The caption to this photograph states that -- The dressing station was moved forward from its position which had been a small hill close by Backhouse Post. -- This must have been Observation Hill. (could the dug-out I had found have been the original field dressing station ? It appears likely.

As we searched this area we could hear the sound of female voices, but we could not see anyone as they appeared to be some distance away. We did not want to disturb them in case we were in a private area. Retracing our steps and recrossing the Achi Baba Nullah we went in search of the Backhouse Post, the advanced supply dump of the 2nd Royal Naval Brigade, named after Commodore Oliver Backhouse its Commanding Officer. We could find nothing, no hole or excavation.

The visitor to the peninsula is taken by the strange atmosphere of the place. There is a mellow lost wishfulness, as if lost and left souls mourn for their youth. So many young men died before they knew life, with all its ups and downs and before they could fulfil their destiny. These souls, from upwards of 16 years hardly knew the reasons why, they were there. It was an adventure, but an adventure with a terrible cost. The air seems also to ask the question, never to be answered ! Why me ? (Len Sellers) 46.



Dug Out on Observation Hill.



One of the two large ventilation holes.



Shelves found inside.

**Photographs taken
by Len Sellers
Aug/Sept 1992.**

RECORDS & MUSTER ROLLS.

On the 3rd May 1916 lists of officers serving the Royal Naval Division were submitted to Headquarters. (Each issue will cover a different Battalion Etc.)



Drake Battalion.

Substantive Rank.	Temp Rank.	Name.	Regiment. Appointment.
Lieut Commander.	Commander.	H.D.King.	R.N.V.R. O/C.
	Lieut Cmmdr.	P.S. Campbell.	“ 2 nd in Command.
	“	H.B.Pollock.	“
Lieut.		H.P. Dix.	“
	“	W. Sterndale-Bennett.	“

	“	E.E. Carstable.	“
	“	W.E. Hope.	“
	“	J.H.G. Lillywhite.	“
	“	A.A. Johnson.	“
Act. Lieut.		J.W. Turrell.	“
Sub-Lieut.		J.F.C. Kruse.	“
	“	H.F. Stackard.	“
	“	N.S. Sennett.	“
	“	D.M.W. Beak.	“
	“	A.J.Palmer.	“
	“	H.E.A. Sparkes.	“
	“	R.E. Holroyde.	“
	“	J.H.M. Newall.	“
	“	R.W. Bennell.	“
	“	E.E. Ede.	“
	“	J.K. Maclean.	“
	“	J.G.I. Hopkins.	“
	“	G.W. Whittaker.	“
	“	P.R.H. Fox.	“
	“	W.K. Harris.	“
	“	J. Macky.	“
	“	W.R. Davidson.	“
	“	J. Wilson.	“
Surgeon.		F.P.Pocock.	“
Hon Lieut &			
Q.M.		E.D. Burrin.	“

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Note - The Drake was known as the 1st Drake Battalion, as for a short time only the Hood Battalion had First & Second Battalions.

OFFICERS COMMANDING.

G.O.C.

21 September 1914	...	Br-Gen. Sir G.G. Aston. (sick 29/9/14)
29 September 1914	...	Br-Gen A. Paris.
12 October 1916	...	Major-General. A. Paris, wounded.
12 October 1916	...	Br - Gen C.H. De Rougemont. (Acting.)
16 October 1916	...	Br - Gen C.H. Trotman. (Acting.)
17 October 1916	...	Major-General C.D. Shute.
19 February 1917	...	Major-General C.E. Lawrie.
30 August 1918.	...	Major-General C.A. Blacklock.

G.S.O.1.

04 September 1914	...	Lt. Col. A.H. Ollivant.
29 February 1916.	...	Major. E.F.P. Sketchley. (Acting.)
25 May 1916.	...	Lt. Col. C.A. Ker.
28 July 1916.	...	Lt. Col. N.R Davidson.
07 August 1916.	...	Lt. Col. C.F. Aspinall.
15 November 1917.	...	Lt. Col. W.G. Neilson.
08 July 1918.	...	Lt. Col. T.L.B. Soutry. (sick 25/08/18.)
25 August 1918.	...	Major. W.R. Meredith. (Acting.)
26 August 1918.	...	Lt. Col. J.H. Mackenzie.

A.A. & Q.M.G.

07 August 1914.	...	Lt. Col. H.D. Farquharson. (Acting.)
23 September 1914.	...	Lt. Col. H.D. Farquharson.
29 September 1914.	...	Major. G.S. Richardson.
30 October 1914.	...	Lt. Col. G.S. Richardson.
21 December 1914.	...	Lt. Col. J. D. Buller.
12 April 1916.	...	Major. R.F.C. Foster. (Acting.)
27 May 1916.	...	Lt. Col. R.F.C. Foster.
02 August 1918.	...	Lt. Col. R. R. Smyth.

B.G., R.A.

20 June 1916. ... Br. Gen. De Rougemont.

C.R.E.

21 August 1914. ... Lt. Col. A.B. Carey.
27 May 1916. ... Lt. Col. G.H. Harrison.
21 December 1916. ... Major. A. R. Davis. (Acting.)
28 December 1916. ... Lt. Col. S.H. Cowan.
19 April 1918. ... Major J.W. Revell. (Acting.)
12 May 1918. ... Lt. Col. J. A. Graeme.

1st R. Naval Brigade.

01 September 1914. ... Commodore. W. Henderson.
(Interned in Holland 09/10/14.)
11 November 1914. ... Br. Gen. D. Mercer.
(Note on the 2/8/1915 the Brigade became 1st Brigade.)

1st Brigade.

11 November 1915. ... Br. Gen. D. Mercer.
28 May 1916. ... Br. Gen. C.L. McNab. (Sick 21/06/16.)
25 June 1916. ... Lt. Col. E.J. Stroud. (Acting.)
(Note on the 2nd July 1916 the Brigade, less staff, was broken up.)

2nd R. Naval Brigade.

01 September 1914. ... Commodore. O. Backhouse.
(Note on the 2nd August 1915 the Brigade became 2nd Brigade.)

2nd Brigade.

02 August 1915. ...	Br. Gen. C.N. Trotman. (Sick 20/09/15.)
29 September 1915. ...	Lt. Col. E.J. Stroud. (Acting.)
01 October 1915. ...	Br. Gen. C.N. Trotman. (Sick 18/11/15.)
19 November 1915. ...	Lt. Col. E.J. Stroud. (Acting.)
26 January 1916. ...	Br. Gen. C.N. Trotman.
21 May 1916. ...	Lt Col. L. Wilson. (Acting.)
27 th May 1916. ...	Br Gen. L.F. Philips.

Royal Marine Brigade.

06 August 1914. ...	Maj. Gen. E.L. McCausland.
25 August 1914. ...	Br. Gen. Sir, G.G. Aston. (Sick.)
24 September 1914. ...	Br. Gen. A. Paris.
29 September 1914. ...	Lt. Col. McN. Parsons. (Acting.)
05 October 1914. ...	Colonel. A. E. Marchant. (Acting.)
27 October 1914. ...	Br. Gen. C.N. Trotman.

(Note on 2nd August 1915 the Royal Marine Brigade ceased to exist, the marines being transferred to the reformed two brigades.)

3rd (Royal Marine) Brigade.

On the 22nd May 1916, on arrival in France, the Brigade was reformed.

22 May 1916. ...	Lt. Col. E.J. Stroud. (Acting.)
25 May 1916. ...	Br. Gen. C.N. Trotman.

(Note.- On the 7th July 1916 3rd (Royal Marine) Brigade. - with staff of the 1st Brigade became 1st (R. Naval) Brigade.

1st (Royal Naval) Brigade.

07 July 1916. ...	Lt. Col. E.J. Stroud. (Acting.)
16 July 1916. ...	Br. Gen. R.E.S. Prentice.

2nd (Royal Naval) Brigade.

Note on the 7th July 1916 the 2nd Brigade became the 2nd (Royal Naval) Brigade.
07 July 1916. ... Br. Gen. L.F. Phillips.

188th Brigade.

Note - On the 19th July 1916 the 1st (Royal Naval) Brigade was numbered 188th Brigade.

16 July 1916. ... Br. Gen R.E.S. Prentice.
16 December 1917 ... Br. Gen J.F.S.D. Coleridge.
29 December 1918. ... Br. Gen. H. Nelson.

189th Brigade.

Note - On the 19th July 1916 the 2nd (Royal Naval) Brigade was numbered 189th Brigade.

16 July 1916. ... Br. Gen. L.F. Philips.
30 October 1917. ... Br. Gen. J.F.S.D. Coleridge.
16 December 1917. ... Br. Gen. A.M. Asquith. (Sick 28/02/18.)
28 February 1918. ... Commander B.H. Ellis. (Acting.)
01 March 1918. ... Lt. Col. H.F. Kirkpatrick. (Acting.)
06 March 1918 ... Br. Gen. H.N. Bray. (Wounded 12/03/18)
13 March 1918 ... Lt. Col. H.F. Kirkpatrick. (Acting.)
19 March 1918. ... Commander W. M. Egerton. (Acting.)
03 September 1918. ... Br. Gen. B.J. Curling.

190th Brigade.

Note - The 4 Battalions to form this Brigade - 3 from the U.K.. and one already in France collected in France between the 9th July and 21st August 1916. The Brigade then replaced the 3rd (Royal Marine) Brigade.

09 July 1916. ... Br. Gen C.N. Trotman. (Sick 13/09/16)
13 September 1916. ... Lt. Col. R.J.I. Hesketh. (Acting.)
15 September 1916. ... Lt. Col. A. R. H. Hutchison. (Acting.)
02 October 1916. ... Br. Gen C.N. Trotman. (Sick 05/10/16.)

05 October 1916. ...		Lt. Col. R.J.I. Hesketh. (Acting.)
06 October 1916. ...		Lt. Col. A.R.H. Hutchison. (Acting.)
17 October 1916. ...		Br. Gen. C.N. Trotman.
24 October 1916. ...		Br. Gen. Hon. C. J. Sackville-West. (Wound 29/10/16.)
29 October 1916. ...		Br. Gen. W.C.G. Heneker.
08 December 1916. ...	...	Lt. Col. E.P.C. Boyle. (Acting.)
12 December 1916. ...	...	Lt Col. R.J.I. Hesketh. (Acting.)
18 December 1916. ...	...	Br. Gen. H.W.E. Finch.
04 June 1917. ...	...	Lt. Col. J.S. Collings-Wells. (Acting.)
10 June 1917. ...	...	Lt. Col. E.F.E. Seymour. (Acting.)
18 June 1917. ...	...	Lt. Col. J.S. Collings-Wells. (Acting.)
20 June 1917. ...	...	Br. Gen. A.R.H. Hutchison.
06 June 1918. ...	...	Br. Gen. W.B. Lesslie.

Note --- I would like to thank Tony Froom in his help with the above listings.

Br-Gen A. Paris.



THE WESTERN FRONT.

The Execution of Four Members of the Hood !

This story can be told from the file WO141/41. At the Public Record Office at Kew. Note - It was originally to be kept closed from public view until the year 2020 but was opened under Inspection S5 (4)

On the 11th December 1918, A.B. C/24288 Andrew Lindsey a returned prisoner of war wrote a letter from Motherwell, Scotland concerning four of his comrades of the Hood Battalion, Royal Naval Division . He was concerned as he had heard reports that these men were supposed to have been executed on the 24th June 1918, for the murder of a German the previous 4th April. He wrote ---- “The reason I send this report is that you might try and get it confirmed as their mothers would like very much to hear if it is the case. I hope you will do your best for the welfare of their mothers” ----

The men that he was concerned about were :----

CZ/5328.	L.S.	William Hamilton.	
CZ/5798.	A.B.	Bernard Hepburn.	
TZ/2293.	A.B. (H.G.)	William Bunting..	
CZ/5366.	A.B.	William Lochhead.	(1) & (2)

As a result on the 27th December 1918 the Government Committee on Prisoners based in Committee Room 1a at the Houses of Parliament sent a letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty, asking if they had any information. (3) After inquiries he replied by the 12th January 1919 that he had no additional information since the four soldiers were reported as Prisoners of War at Stammlager, Limburg A/Lahn. But the Admiralty, in turn, asked the Committee to make inquiries, as soon as possible, into the mens' fate. (4)

The Committee on Prisoners then decided that it should Contact Andrew Lindsey again by letter. This was sent inquiring if he could amplify his report, giving details of his informants -- The letter ended --- “The matter is urgent so we would be obliged if you could reply at once”. (5)

Lindsay wrote back --- “I’m sorry I can’t give you any further information than I have given you. -- I can’t give you the name of the chap that told me. The chap couldn’t give you any more news”. --- (6)

The Committee on the Treatment By the Enemy of British Prisoner's of War were to write in a report ---- It is extraordinary that from this private source should come the first intimation of a thing so serious as the execution of four British prisoners of war. --
- (7) Now the Foreign Office were asked to contact the Netherland Legation (British Section) in Berlin with a request that a full investigation should be implemented. (8)
But matters moved on when additional confirmation of Lindsey's story was produced.. On the 12th February 1919 a Postcard was sent to Mr & Mrs D Bunting at their home in Carlisle.

Sir,

I have the honour to identify me as the German Chaplain who helped your son in his last hours, before his death on 23 June last year. He died in a devote condition and we can hope that our Saviour is merciful to him. But excuse me, here is a German family having his son as a Prisoner of War. Named :- Paul, Buchheister. No 20918, at Camp Handforth near Manchester, England and Beg you to send his son instantly, 10 shillings in cash and ten shillings in food monthly till he is released. He will give you every time a receipt and you will have all your expenses back in peace time, by his parents; with many thanks and prayers.

Yours truly,

Rev father Mohlis

Frankfurt A/Oder.,

Park 8, Germany.

P.S. The parents tried several times to send him parcels and money, also by Red Cross, but they reached him not, as their son had written. Next I will write you more about your son's end. (9)

By the 19th March 1919 the Foreign Office were becoming impatient for a reply and sent a telegram to Sir W. Townley in The Hague stating that His Majesty's Government would be glad to receive an early reply. (10) It was not until the 5th May 1919 that they were to receive it. – I am informed by German Authorities that investigations are not yet completed. (11) But on the 4th June 1919 a letter eventually came from the British Military Mission in Berlin addressed to the Secretary of the War Office, London, from a Lieutenant J.C. Miners.

The German Government was requested in February to give information IRO deaths.

Up to 24/May no inf whatever has been received and on that day the Imperial Minister for War was notified that his Majesty's Government

intended to have this case fully investigated, despite the dilatory methods employed by the German War Office.

The German War Office stated nothing whatever was known of these prisoners of war in any department, nor had they received any notification of death and that they had never been reported from any prisoner of war camp in Germany. They produced copy of the correspondence between themselves and the 8th and 18th Army Corps to which they believed these men belonged. This correspondence merely went to show that no serious attempt had ever been made to discover the truth in this case, although the War Office was well aware that it could easily have obtained from Pater Mohlis full particulars of this case, it has most carefully avoided communicating with him in any way and in my opinion it was and still is the intention to withhold any information in this case.

On the 3rd June an officer of this mission went to Frankfurt-on-Oder and interviewed father Mohlis (Details) statement taken. I am now pressing the German authorities to produce the records of the trial in order to ascertain whether the trial was a fair one or not. I think the German Authorities intend to withhold all information in this case. (12)

On the 10th June 1919 a letter was received from The Netherlands Legation (British Section.) written by von Fransecky, Ministry of War, Housing Dept, Berlin, on the 20th May.

(In reply to a complaint by the British Delegates dated 24/5/19.) J.C. Miners and William D Zerfft.

Complaint (1) No reply had been received.

(2) It appeared that the matter was being intentionally protracted.

--- In reply to this it may be stated that enquiries into the real facts of the circumstances in question were instituted immediately after receipt of the note referred to, but that up to the present these have not been established.

In the first instance the parties named. could not be identified as they were not reported as attached to any Prisoner of War Camp in Germany, so that the occurrences would appear to have taken place behind the former German lines in occupied territory.

In consequence of the conditions prevailing since the conclusion of the Armistice, enquiries in such circumstances have naturally been most difficult to carry through. Further enquiries have established the fact that the effects of the persons in question were sent to the Bureau for Effects in Berlin by the Court of the XV111 Army Corps. This led to a search being made for the documents connected with the legal proceedings of the case, but these have not yet been found.

The assumption that an attempt is being made to draw this matter out is entirely unfounded as was shown by verbal enquiry of the competent Department of the War Office - Uebungsplatz Division. -

von Fransecky. (13)

So what was the story behind this investigation ? The Germans were to supply the following report outlining the circumstances ----

The men were captured with two British Companies near Ytrees, south east of Bapaume, in March 1918. They were interned in various camps on the German lines of communication and were eventually taken to a prisoner of war camp situated in a dried up Canal. As to the position of this Camp it can only be ascertained that it was in the former zone of operations and two days march from the spot where the occurrences in question took place. The prisoners were at this camp occupied in road-making.

After being there for about a week they made their escape together during the night, proposing to rejoin the British Forces whose position they could gauge from the flashes and reports of the guns. At the end of the second night, i.e, on the morning of 23rd April, 1918, they got into a deserted dug out situated about 100 meters west of the St. Leger-Henni road, and here they lay down to sleep.

Early in the forenoon the accused Hamilton who had risen, noticed a German soldier coming towards the dug out. On quietly awaking his companions, Hepburn sprung up and placed himself on the left side of the entrance while Hamilton took up his position on the right. Soon after, Gunner Fritz Wossner of the 9th Battalion, Field Artillery Regiment No. 273, looked into the dug out and, according to the credible statement of Lockheed, made a grab at his right hand pocket. Hepburn at once closed his mouth with one hand whilst passing his other arm round his neck. Hamilton seized him from behind and they both dragged Wossner in. In the struggle which ensued Hepburn, whose thumb had been bitten by the Gunner, struck the latter several blows on the mouth. Lockheed also took part in the struggle. Whether Bunting also participated could not be ascertained. The accused endeavoured to throw the Gunner but were unable to do so owing to his energetic resistance. Bunting now seized the barrel of a machine gun which the accused declare - uncontradicted - not to have noticed until that moment. With this Bunting struck the Gunner several blows to the head, causing a bleeding wound. The Gunner staggered but continued the struggle. When the blow or blows were administered he was bending down. Bunting could not strike with great force as the dug out was at most 2 metres high. The force of the blows, however, was sufficient to sap the strength of the Gunner so that the accused were able to throw him. He still continued to move, and groaned.

As credibly stated by Hepburn, the accused had agreed during the first night, that should a German soldier find them, they would bind and prevent him from making any

sound. They laid out the Gunner on his stomach. Lockheed held his hands whilst Hepburn bound them tightly together with rope. It could not be ascertained what sort of rope was used. Lockheed tied the Gunner's feet together with a gaiter lace, and the Gunner then lay still.

Lockheed stated that it is possible he kept still in order to pretend that he was incapable of movement. At least that is the sense of his statement. Hepburn, Hamilton and Lockheed now searched the Gunner. Hepburn took his note-book containing 8 Marks in German paper money. Hamilton lifted the Gunner's pipe and tobacco pouch which, according to Hepburn's statement, lay on the ground. Lockheed took from him a small pistol which was in his right hand pocket. Hamilton admits that he was subsequently in possession of the Gunner's watch, but it could not be ascertained who actually took it. Lockheed rolled cigarettes with the tobacco obtained. Hamilton credibly stated that he immediately thereupon consumed two of these cigarettes during which time he again left the dug out and noticed that there was much traffic on the adjacent road.

After Hamilton had smoked the second cigarette the Gunner moved again and groaned. Hepburn then, as he himself stated, said "We had better make him quiet." He declared that what he wished to convey was, that they should beat him until he could make no further sound. Bunting says he understood Hepburn to mean that they should "finish him." All the accused stated there was no general discussion as to the meaning of the words. Hamilton now again left the dug out, whilst Hepburn put on his gaiters.

During this time the other two put a cord round the Gunner's neck. As to what followed, Bunting made the following credible statement: "Lockheed knelt beside the Gunner holding one end of the cord while he, Bunting, held the other end. They pulled the cord taut in order to prevent the Gunner from groaning. In about a minute he was quiet. They laid him in a corner of the Dug out and covered him over with straw. After some time he again moved. They removed the straw and, as stated by Hamilton, Hepburn raised the Gunner's body somewhat while he - Hamilton - struck him a blow on the head with the machine gun barrel. From that moment on the Gunner was quiet. They again covered him with straw.

After a short time Gefreiter R happened to pass near the dug out and saw Hamilton. He sprang to the opening and shouted "come out" whereupon the other three prisoners left the dug out and he marched them all off. (14)

To be continued in the next issue.

References. -

- 1.) P.R.O., Kew. WO141/41. Letter of 11/12/18 from Andrew Lindsey.
- 2.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Letter of 12/1/19. By J Simpson Lieut Colonel. O.I.C. Records R.N.D. 47, Victoria Street, London SW1. (Listed the men's numbers,)
- 3.) P.R.O., Kew. WO141/41. Letter from Government Committee on Prisoners to Admiralty.
- 4.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Letter of 12/1/19. By J Simpson. to Government Committee on Prisoners continued.
- 5.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Letter from Government Committee on Prisoners from the Hon Sec.of the 16/01/19, to Lindsay.
- 6.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Reply by Lindsey of 21/01/19.
- 7.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Letter from the Government Committee on the Treatment of prisoners of 31st March 1919. To Lieut Gen Sir Herbert Belfield, War Office, London S.W.I. by the Hon Sec Adilaide Livingstone.
- 8.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Memorandum for Communication with the Netherland Legation. Of 5/02/19. Reference No. 1673/1218/P.
- 9.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Copy of a postcard from Rev father Mohlis to Mr & Mrs D Bunting, Carlisle, Cumberland.
- 10.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Telegram No 681. Ref No. 1673/1218/P. of 19/03/19.
From Foreign Office.
- 11.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Decode telegram number 1018, from Sir W Townley in reply to telegram No. 681.
- 12.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Letter from British Military Mission, Berlin of 4/6/19.
- 13.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Letter from von Fransecky of 20th May 1919. Reference No 1118.5.19.U3.
- 14.) P.R.O, Kew. WO141/41. Report received from the Germans as to the circumstances.

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TRENCH LIFE !

Snippets From Brigade Routine Orders.

OIC Brigadier General L.F. Phillips C.M.G. D.S.O.

189th Brigade 1917.

9/8/17. R. W. Barnett Capt Brigade Major.

702. Accidents. (Corps Routine Orders.)

Accidents have recently occurred owing to Officers leaving their revolvers loaded.

No revolver or pistol is to be kept loaded unless the military situation renders this necessary. Officers will be held responsible that they personally unload their weapons as soon as the necessity ceases to exist. They will also give strict instructions to their batman that the latter are under no circumstances to interfere with their revolver or pistol without their permission.

6/8/17

2487 Sanitation. (General Routine Orders.)

The practice of hanging rabbit skins to dry in the sun in camps, etc or their vicinity, is to cease, as it is objectionable on sanitary grounds, and these skins attract flies in considerable numbers, which are a source of danger to the health of the troops.

6/8/17

2491 Unserviceable Rockets. Ground Flares and Smoke Candles. Disposal of. (General Routine Orders.)

Ground Flares, Smoke Candles, Rockets and similar articles that have been wetted are unserviceable, and are not safe to store, especially in hot weather and if exposed to the sun, as they might ignite spontaneously. Such stores should therefore be inspected periodically, and any found to be wet should be disposed of at once. The Rockets should be buried six foot below the surface of the ground - no attempt should be made to burn them, as they may be projected a considerable distance. The other stores mentioned should be disposed of either by burning or burying them.

3/8/1917

612 Wooden Labels (A & Q Branch.)

The wooden labels used for marking cables are rapidly disappearing, and there is strong suspicion that they are being used for firewood, remains having been found amongst embers. 150 labels have disappeared from one line alone. Such reprehensive action not only causes great inconvenience to line men, and exposes them to greater risk of losing their lives, but seriously affects the efficiency of inter-communication. Any unauthorised person found removing labels or being in possession of same or otherwise interfering with the signal service, is to be very severely dealt with The above is to be read to all ranks on parade.

1/8/17

2474 Use of Dummy Detonators. (General Routine Orders.)

Serious accidents have recently occurred owing to the use of live detonators during instructional lectures in Bombing, and it has been found that in some formations dummy detonators are not used.

The precautions laid down have been adopted as the result of experience, and it is not permissible for any individual officer to introduce a practice differing, on the grounds of personal opinion.

30/5/17

463. Dangerous Habits. Corps Routine Orders.

Cases have arisen of men drinking the lachrymatory fluid (which resembles Rum in appearance) issued for testing the fit of Small Box Respirator Masks. The results have proved fatal on two occasions. In issuing this substance to anti-gas schools, fitting stations and units, all personnel charged with its retention and use will be warned that it has a highly poisonous nature.

It will be issued only to responsible officers or N.C.Os who are acquainted with its properties. Bottles in which this substance is kept will invariably be labelled. 'Poison.'

17/7/17.

568. Gifts. A & Q Branch.

A Gift of 40 cases of Acid Drops will shortly arrive from the Marquis of Graham R.N.V.R. for men of the 63rd (R.N.) Division and will be distributed.

25/7/17.

755. Accidental Injuries. X111 Corps Routine Orders.

Many cases occur of soldiers being wounded by tampering with detonators, fuses, grenades, bombs and shells. N.C.Os and men finding such articles are forbidden to touch them. Their position is to be reported to an officer, who will, when they are not required for other purposes, arrange for their destruction, if necessary in consultation with the R.E. Every soldier who injures himself through neglect to comply with this order will be evacuated to the special hospital at BUSNES, and tried by Court Martial.

Serious accidents have occurred in England owing to soldiers taking shells, grenades or other dangerous articles home when proceeding on leave. Taking such articles home is prohibited, and after the date of this order any soldier detected doing so will, in addition to any other punishment, be deprived of leave from the date of the offence.

25/7/17

752. Petrol Tins. (Corps Routine Orders.)

Now that the use of two-gallon petrol tins for general purposes is prohibited excepting as laid down. Four-Gallon petrol, tea and biscuit tins must be carefully preserved for use. Tea tins are needed for the packing of dripping despatched to Railhead. Four-Gallon petrol and biscuit tins can be readily adapted for storing and carrying water, or as fire buckets.

22/7/17.

2639 Cemeteries. (A & Q Branch.)

All burials must be notified to Divisional Burial Officer in accordance with DRO 2378, which is not in all cases being complied with. Cases have also occurred where regimental crosses have been erected and all

other identification removed, and on investigation it has been found the cross has been erected on the wrong grave. Arrangements are being made for the supply of identification pegs to be maintained in each of the forward Cemeteries. The Chaplain conducting the burial will be responsible for filling in the card on the I.D. peg, which should be placed in the ground at an angle, so as to protect the card from the weather. The entry on the card should be made in ordinary pencil.

5/7/17.

684. School of Sanitation. (Corps Routine Orders.)

The attention of Commanding Officers is drawn to Corps Routine Orders. Very great inconvenience is being caused at the School by men arriving late when joining the course. The orders with regard to the provision of note books are being disregarded, and men are arriving without the required certificate that they are free from lice and scabies ! Each class will last 7 days.

9/7/17.

2549. Discipline. (Divisional Routine Orders.)

There have been some cases recently where non-commissioned officers of Units have not only failed to assist the Military Mounted Police in the execution of their duty but have attempted to obstruct the performance of such duty. It is the duty of every N.C.O. and man to assist the Military Police at all times, and there is no question of seniority of rank where N.C.Os. of the Corps of Military Police are performing their lawful duty. Orders and instructions given by these N.C.Os must be implicitly obeyed by all ranks.

18/6/17

621, Dripping. (Corps Routine Orders.)

The amount of dripping handed in during the month of May by Corps Troops, Divisions, attached troops and labour Companies is given in the statement overleaf. The Corps Commander notes with satisfaction the great improvement in the months returns but observes that where as the results obtained by some units are excellent, others have effected little or nothing!

18/6/17

628. Tents Camouflaging. (Corps Routine Orders.)

There are again many tents not properly camouflaged. Apparently some have been treated with mud which has since washed off. Proper camouflaging with the material supplied by the Ordnance Department must be carried out at once.

Reference --- Orders were from the Public Record Office, Kew. ADM137 3088C.

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BLANDFORD.

Collingwood Corner.



**Photograph by Len
Sellers 4th June 1996.**

By Roy Adam.

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by ?”

On leaving the village of Pimperne, going towards Tarrant Hinton, you might notice a small pinnacle pointing to the heavens from a vantage point on a hill; it is visible for miles around. It is a very modest affair, and to many offers a mute appeal, seeming to ask, “Why do you not come closer and read why I am here ?” It is no higher than eight feet, consisting of a square base surmounted by a tapering needle, very similar to Cleopatra’s Needle, iron railings give access to the front. Nearby is a large notice ‘Government Property’, and a smaller board bearing the words ‘Collingwood Corner’. The inscriptions on the memorial read:

“In memory of the Commanding Officer, Officers and Men of the Collingwood Battalion Royal Naval Division who fell in action in Gallipoli on the 4th June 1915, when the battalion was practically destroyed.

“The Collingwood Battalion completed its training on these downs. This memorial is erected by the survivors.”

The memorial is of polished marble, and its simplicity is at once striking and effective. It is indicative of the manner in which the lives of those commemorated were sacrificed. No show, they went quietly and passed into the unknown with only the glory of a soldier’s grave as their reward.

As the winds blow keenly across the downland it is difficult to imagine those fine men roaming over the downs learning the art of war. They left the peaceful and beautiful surroundings for the shell-shattered battlefield of Gallipoli where they stood bravely shoulder to shoulder, fought blade by blade till they bled and died. Within a few feet of the memorial traffic on the A354 passes at great speed and I often wonder if those words ‘Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by ?’ applies.

Each year on the 4th June homage is paid by the Captain, Officers and Men of HMS Collingwood, the Blandford Garrison, the High Commissions of Australia and New Zealand, the sons and daughters of the members of the Royal Naval Division and many other organisations.

Those wishing to be present on the 4th June when wreaths will be laid, would perhaps like to meet from noon onwards in the Anvil Hotel, Pimperne before moving to the Memorial for the service at 1500 hours. Contact Roy Adam Camveere House, Portman Road, Pimperne, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 7DG. (Or phone 1 258 453797.)

Note :- It is a very good day out, and the remembrance is very worth while. This article first appeared in the Dorset Yearbook and then the ‘The Gallipolitan’ the journal of the Gallipoli Association in Spring 1993.

Remember if you have an article, papers or photographs on any subject concerning the RND I will be very pleased to hear from you.

Next issue is in September 1997, which will include a paper by Captain Christopher Page RN concerning the Battle of the Ancre which took place during November 1916, well worth waiting for !

If you enjoyed the RND please tell a friend, remember back issues will be available.

Note - My article 'In Search of Skew Bridge Cemetery' etc, first appeared in issue number 83, Spring 1997 of 'The Gallipolian' the journal of the Gallipoli Association, but headed 'Observation Hill', but without the map & additional photographs.

Note - R.N.D. issue number 1. Contains 20,485 words.

On the left Captain R.W. Annand VC DL, son of Lieutenant Commander Wallace Moir Annand, who was Adjutant Collingwood Battalion who perished on the 4th of June 1915. Arm in arm with Roy Adam, Chairman of the Blandford Branch of the Royal Naval Association. Photograph taken by Len Sellers on the 4th of June 1996.



On the left Marcel Albert John Sellers with Vera Murray the daughter-in-law of the late Joseph Murray, member of the Hood Battalion, Royal Naval Division and author of two books on the subject. Photograph taken by Len Sellers on the 4th June 1996.

68.

