

Private James Albert Brill

BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Peter Daniel

Section
2




City of Westminster
ARCHIVES

Dec. 26 1914
Boxing Day

St. Simon Church

1914 Marriage solemnized at St. Simon Church of Quebec in the County of Quebec in the Province

Column No.	Was Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
175	1914	James Brill	21	Bachelor	Private	1410 St. Louis Street, Quebec	James Brill	Painter
		Florence Margaret Tompkins	18	Spinster	Domestic	1410 St. Louis Street, Quebec	William James Tompkins	Labourer

Married in the Church of St. Simon according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Catholic Church by St. L. Levesque-Thomas or after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, James Albert Brill in the Presence of us, Ermy Brill Florence Margaret Tompkins Blanca Brill Offy Minier



Source 15 St Simon's Church, Chelsea where James Brill and Florence Tomkinns married.

Page 1.

R-154. (Revised May, 1912.)

COMPANY CONDUCT SHEET.

Hythorn
DIVISION

No. *3466* Name

Ja. Brill

Rank

Private

Attested

10th Oct.

Officer Commanding Company or Detachment.

1914.

Age *21-8-19*

Approves 20 Lieut ~~James~~ G.M.

Date of Offence	Cases of Drunkenness	OFFENCE	PUNISHMENT awarded	By whom ordered and date	REMARKS
1914.					
30/12/14		Absent from 12 midn. until 9.15 a.m. 5th instant.	14 days C.B.	<i>Brig-Gen Kenney 6/1/15</i>	<i>Hythorn Sergeant 6/1/15</i>

1914

30/12/14 Absent from 12 midnight until 9:15 AM 14 days C.B.

5th Instant (CB= Confined to Barracks)

Brig. General Kenney

Chatham Recruit 1st Class

Forfeits 6 days pay

6.1.15



Training at Sutton Waldron

When the Chatham company left their barracks, they first headed out to train at Sutton Waldron, Dorset.

Brill, would have found the country to be a very different experience to where he grew up in London. The Chatham Battalion were billeted on local farms and so James would have enjoyed eating fresh food straight from the farm-eggs, milk and meat.



The attack at Gallipoli

The war in France was going badly and the British war leaders were getting desperate. First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, had a new idea: to attack Germany from the rear.

Early 1915



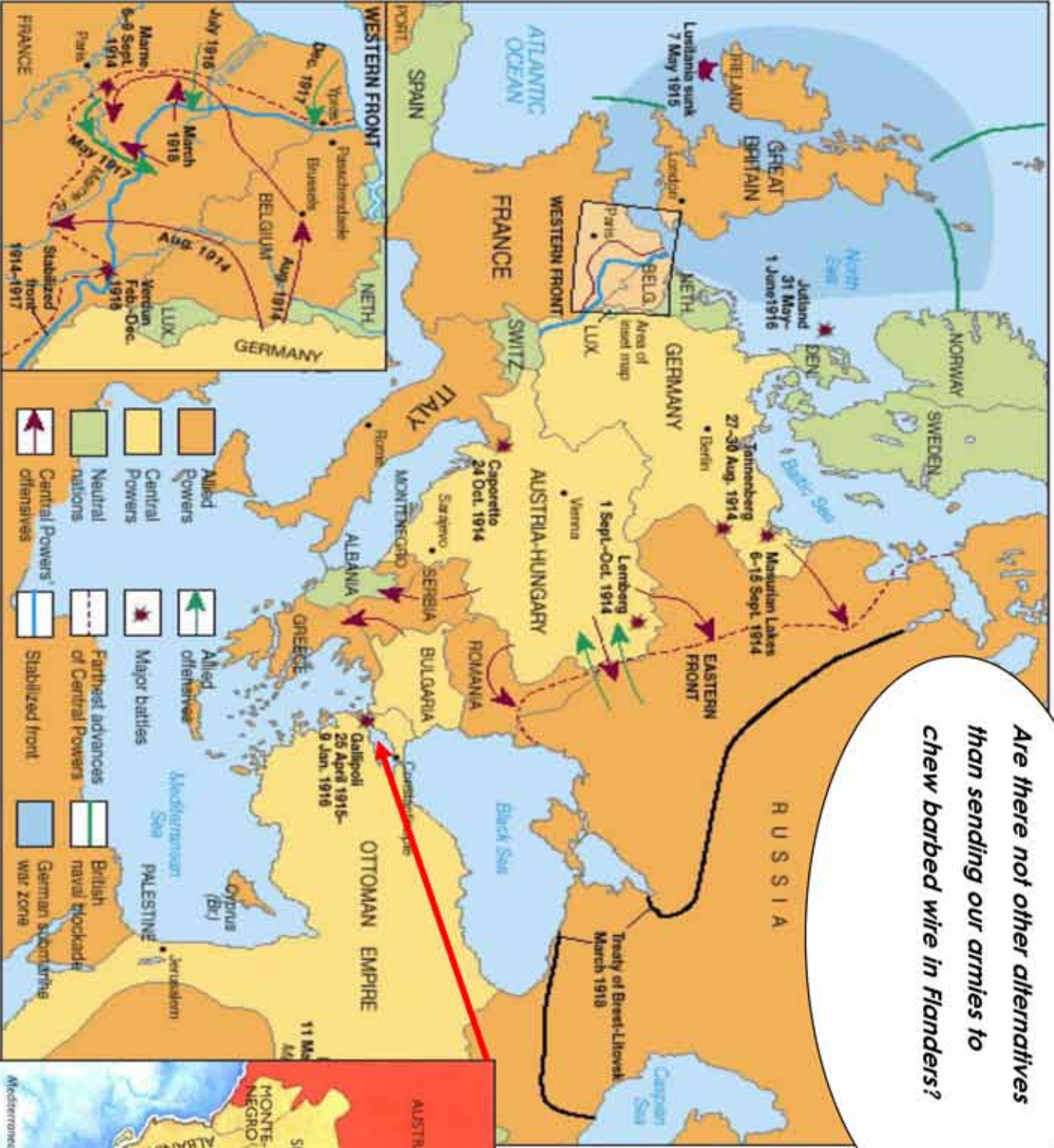
Churchill persuaded Lord Kitchener, commander-in-chief of the troops, to attack Gallipoli.



PLAN OF ATTACK

- Aim:** To defeat the Turks, open up shipping lanes through the Dardanelles and attack Germany from the rear.
- Method:**
- Navy gunships will destroy defences at the Dardanelles.
 - A 75 000-strong army, the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF), will invade Gallipoli Peninsula and defeat Turkey.
 - The MEF will include British, French, Australian and New Zealand (Anzac) troops.

Source 17 Churchill's Victory Plan



Are there not other alternatives than sending our armies to chew barbed wire in Flanders?



Winston Churchill



Barrack Sergt. S. W. Hayes
Royal Marine Barracks
Chatham, Kent
14th February 15

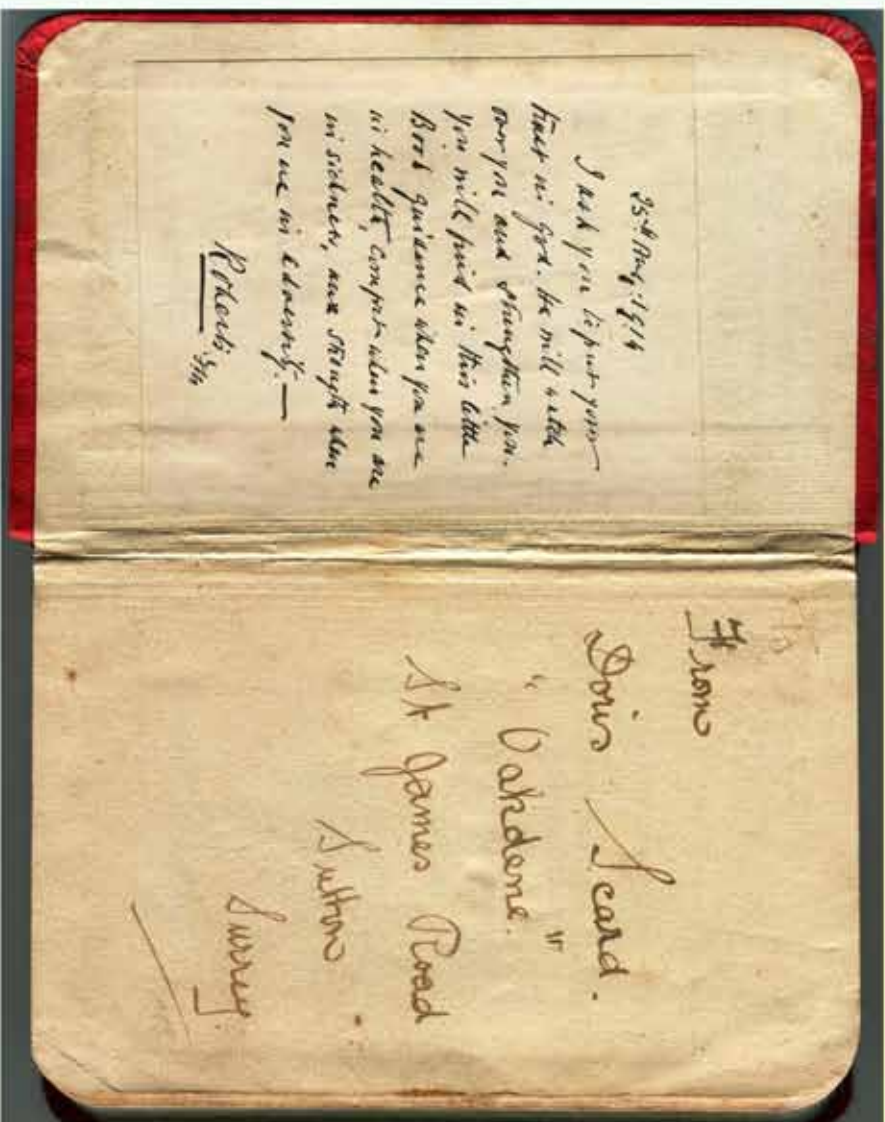
Dear Brill

Your calling so suddenly upon me last night came as a surprise, and I forgot to offer you, this New Testament, which had been sent here with a lady's good wishes, I do hope you will accept it, and likewise make a strong, firm resolution, to read, a portion every day you are away from home, "Home, Sweet-Home, and all it means, if you have an hour to spare at anytime, and will read "The Epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans" completely through, as you would another book, I feel you will realize, the Holy Bible, is a book, which is worth reading in this manner, in a way you have

Barrack Sergeant S. W. Hayes
Royal Marine Barracks,
Chatham Kent
February 4th 1915

Dear Brill,

Your calling so suddenly upon me last night came as a surprise, and I forgot to offer you, this **New-Testament which had been sent here with a lady's good wishes**, I do hope you will accept it, and likewise make a strong, firm resolution, to read, a portion every day you are away from home, "Home Sweet-Home, " and all it means; if you have an hour to spare at anytime, and will read "The Epistle of Saint-Paul to the Romans" completely through as you would another book, I feel you will realize the Holy Bible, is a book, which is worth reading in this manner, in a way you have...



25th Aug 1914
 I ask you to put your trust in God. He will watch over you and strengthen you. You will find in this little Book guidance when you are in health, comfort when you are in sickness and strength when you are in adversity. —
 Roberts

From
 Denis Seard.
 "Oakdene."
 St James Road
 Sutton
 Surrey

25th Aug 1914

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Roberts

From

Denis Seard

"Oakdene"

St James Road

Sutton

Surrey



never before imagined. ⁱⁿ I have also put a small card, ~~in~~ with a short prayer, this you can put in the lining of your cap, where you can ^{get} it anytime and anywhere. I would be glad to know that you will read this, ^{but} you need not write though, for you must write frequently to your dear wife, and I feel sure that whatever difficulties you are called on to pass through, (only our Heavenly Father can know this) you will putte yourself a real, thoughtful husband, by ~~never~~ mentioning, any, of your own hardships, to her, to make her anxiety more intense, but rather, let each letter convey a rich breath of love to her heart. If you have not made an allotment out, do so at once, and as much as you can possibly spare, for all this means safeguarding your

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dear ones.

You will, I know, excuse my liberty of so advising you, but older heads know something about these matters.

Please give the enclosed letter to your Company Sergeant Major; that is, in barracks, he is your "Company Sergeant"; the message there contained will get ^{to} the right person.

Accept my best wishes for your welfare, and remember I shall think of you night and morning in my prayers; I feel sure your wife will also, and may your Heavenly Father help you, to draw near to Him in the same way is my sincere desire, for truly knowing Him makes life so different.

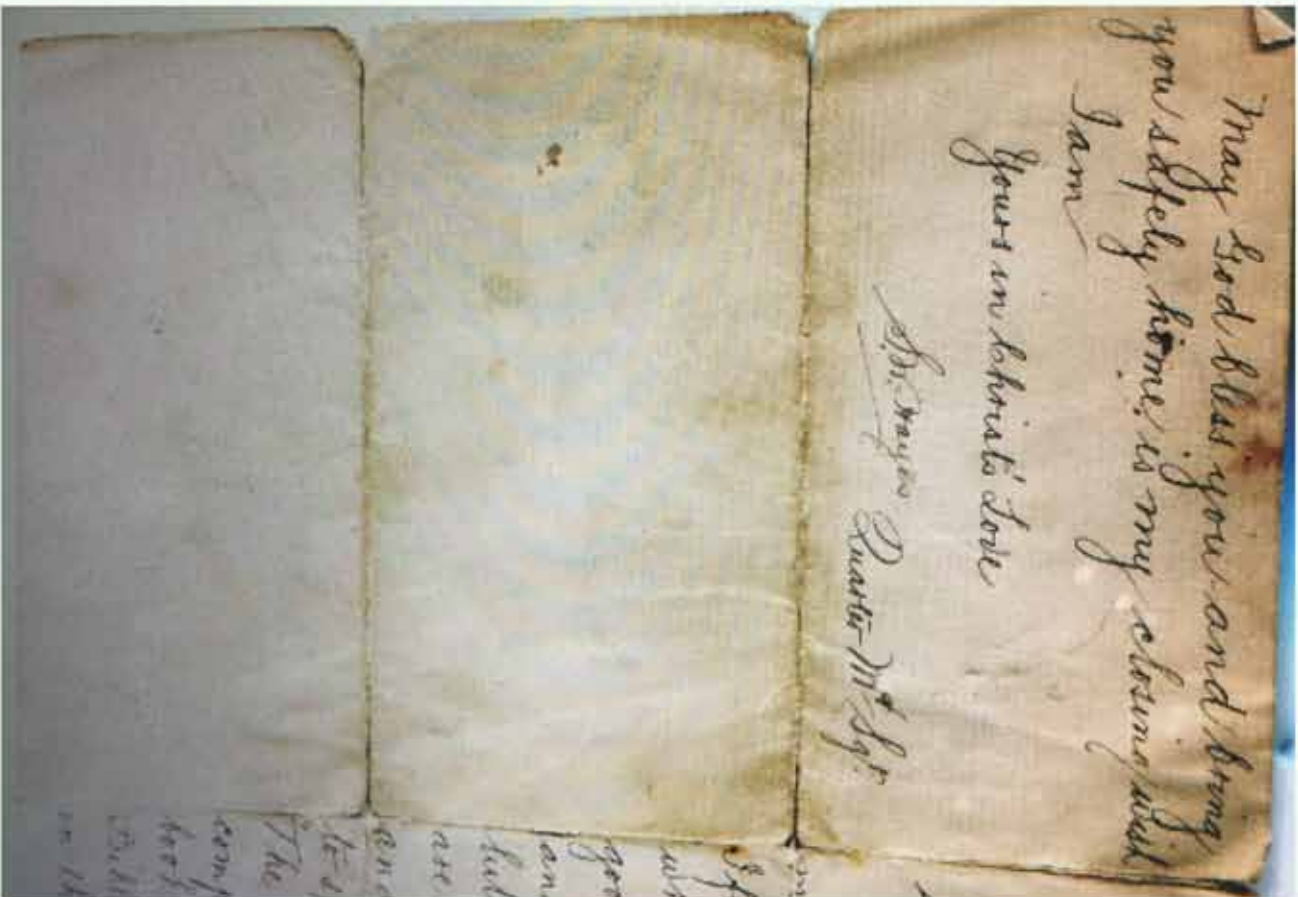
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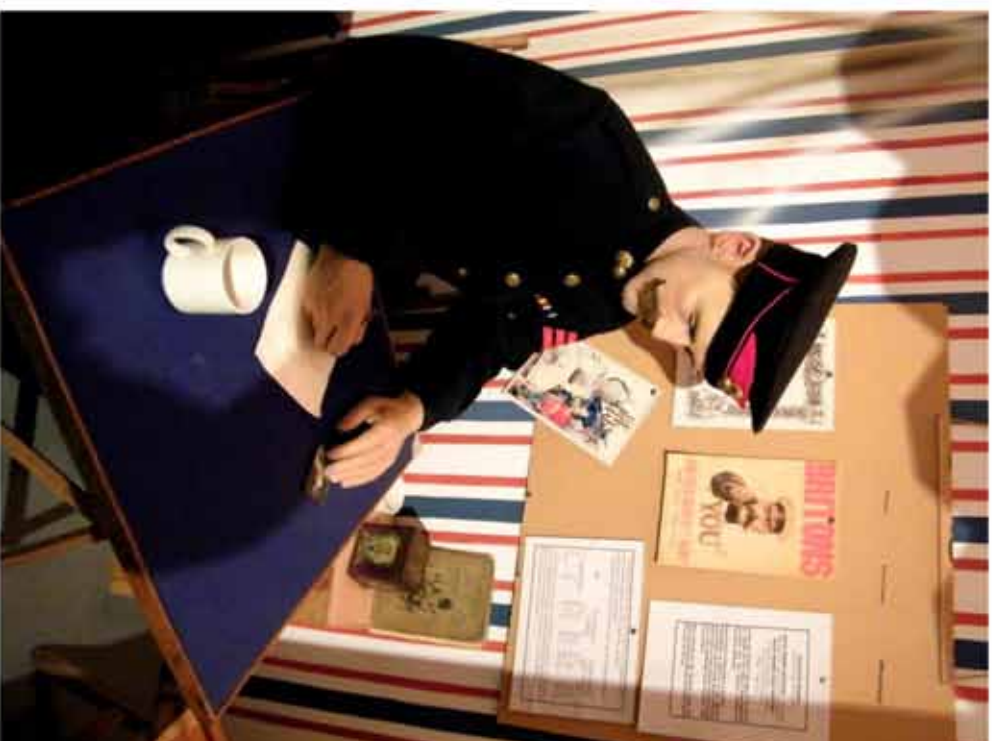
Source 18 (c) cont. Eve of Departure: Letter from S. W Hayes Quarter Master Sergeant



May God bless you and bring you safely home is my closing wish.

I am Yours in Christ's Love,

S. W Hayes Quarter Master Sergeant



**Chatham Battalion RMLI
Voyage to Gallipoli 1915**

The Royal Naval Division returned from Antwerp in October, and were sent off to the Dardanelles in February. In the interval they had been training the infantry at Blandford, the engineers at Walmer, and the A.S.C. at the Crystal Palace. In the middle of February two of the marine battalions were packed off to a destination unknown. It was the Dardanelles. At the end of the month the rest of the division embarked at Bristol for Lemnos, which was reached on March 12. Things were not yet ready, and the division was sent off to Port Said to sort out its units and its gear, which seemed to have been very necessary after a hurried embarkation in England. From Egypt the division was moved to Scyros, where they remained until the landing in April.

Source 19 Destination Unknown



RMLI (Chatham Battalion) Deployment to Gallipoli

February 1915

6 February: Chatham Battalions entrain at Shillingstone near Blandford and move to Devonport.

They are temporarily known as the "Royal Marine Special Service Force".

About 6pm Chatham Battalion sails on "Cawdor Castle".

Arrive St Paul's Bay (Malta) 14 February 1915, sailed 8am on 19 February.

Arrive Tenedos 3.15pm on 21 February, Lemnos 4pm on 24 February, returned to Tenedos next day.

Sailed at 1am on 26 February for Dardanelles, arriving 8am.

Naval bombardment of the Straits forts and emplacements is underway. Ships return to Tenedos but at 5pm ordered to Imbros.

Orders to land on Gallipoli on 28 February cancelled due to bad weather at sea.

March 1915

5am 2 March ships ordered to Tenedos. Operations once again cancelled due to weather.

Moved to Imbros 3 March.

12 March: Royal Marine Brigade reorganised and "Royal Marine Special Service Force" ceases to exist. Brigade comes under orders of [Royal Naval Division](#).

A contingent of Chatham Battalion (4 officers and 200 men) together with 2 officers and 20 men from Australian forces boarded "Cawdor Castle" in preparation for a landing. Ship sailed to Tenedos at daylight 18 March but this force was not used and returned to units on 23 March.

18 March at 6.30pm: Royal Marine Brigade sails for a "demonstration" off Gaba Tepe, which was carried out at 5.30am next day. 1.30pm ships returned to Lemnos.

24 March: Royal Marine Brigade sails for Alexandria in Egypt. Orders are modified en route and force sails instead to Port Said, arrives 26-7 March.

April 1915

7 April: Brigade re-embarked at Alexandria. 11-12 April arrived at Lemnos.

16 April: moved to Trebuki Bay, Skyros, where Division was concentrating.

23 April: Brigade sails for Gulf of Xeros.

25 April: Division carries out feint landing at Bulair, while British [29th Division](#) lands at Cape Helles beaches and Australian and New Zealand forces at beach near Gaba Tepe / Ari Burnu soon named Anzac cove. 27

April: ships carrying Brigade arrived off Cape Helles at daylight.

28 April 5pm: "Cawdor Castle" ordered to move and anchor off Gaba Tepe. Chatham Battalions ordered to disembark and come under orders of [1st Australian Division](#) on arrival. On completion of disembarkation at 8pm, Brigade ordered to take over No 2 Section of defences held by Australian and New Zealand forces.

This was the western edge of Lone Pine plateau.

Sources

WO95/4291, war diary of Royal Marine Brigade (National Archives)

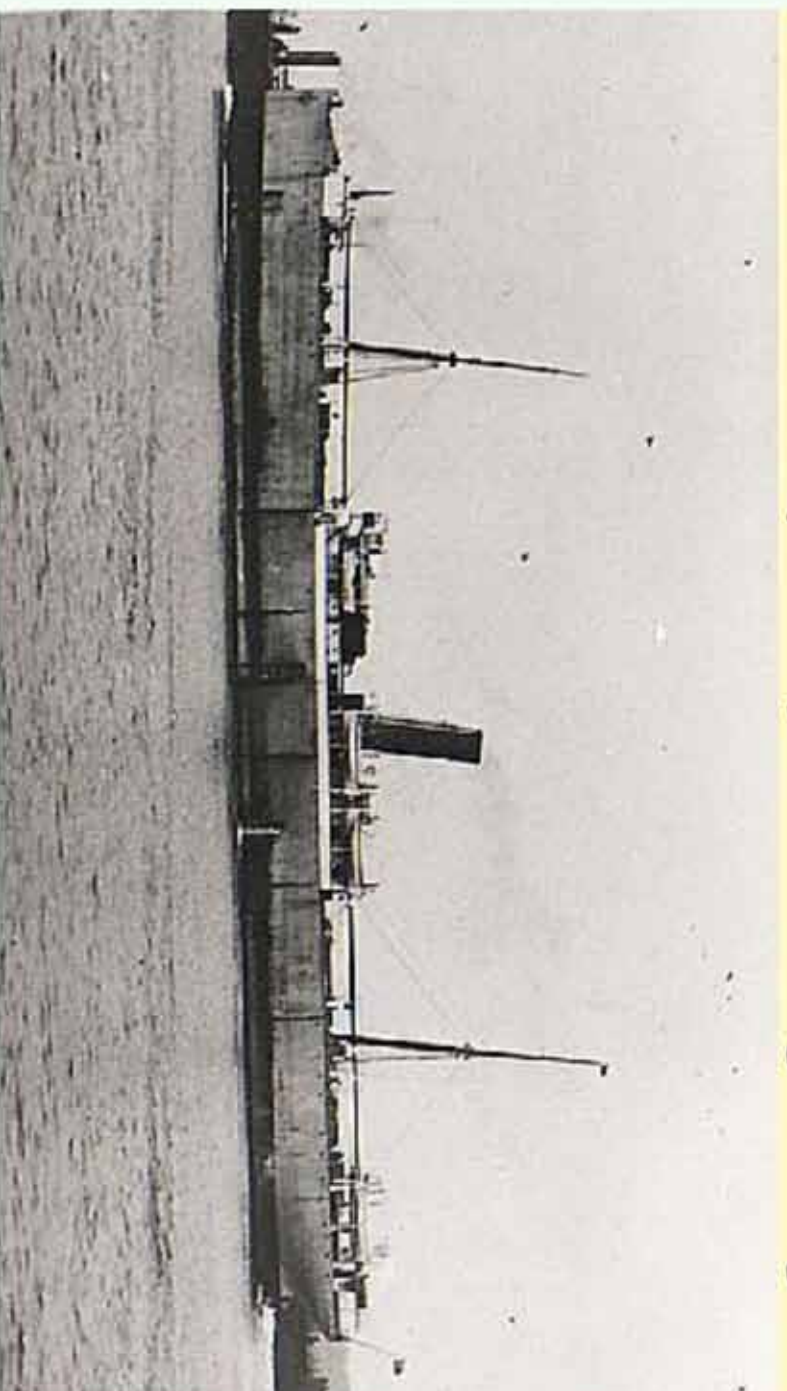
"Britain's Sea Soldiers" by Gen. Sir. H. E. Blumberg

3/4/15
My Dearest Florrie
I am writing to you as I think I have an opportunity of letting you know where I am. When I left Chatham I went to Blandford (in Dorset) this was Feb 4th & on Sat Feb 6th we left there at 2 a.m. & marched to Shillingstone (4 1/2 miles). We arrived there at 4 a.m. for Plymouth and arrived there at 1:30 P.M. We embarked on the S.S. Cawdor Castle at 5 P.M. I left Plymouth at 5 P.M. for where of course we did not know. We thought at first that we were going to France then we thought we were going to Egypt. As it so happened we passed Gibraltar & went on to Malta before we stayed four days & were given

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On 6.2.15 Chatham Battalion entrain at Shillingstone Dorset and move to Devonport. They leave England aboard the ship, "**Cawdor Castle**" at 6 pm in extremely bad weather.

The weather did not improve as the ship attempted to cross the Bay of Biscay. Everyone aboard the ship, including the crew, suffered from sea sickness. Many of the Marines, had never been at sea before and sea sickness was a new experience for them. Although when the weather finally did calm down, the food that the marines were fed was "not fit for pigs."

MALTA



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3 times altogether. We then went
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on to Tenedos another island off
of the Asiatic Coast & then
right up to the mouth of the D
dardelles where we witnessed part
of the bombardment. Dear Flo I
have been standing by to land
there for some weeks, & we know
that if we did land that we
would be stiff as iron. I
have no doubt read in the paper
of the British Marines landing
there but that was the Oldsmo
Battalion & not us so you need
not worry as to whether any
or not of my lost several killed
& wounded. Dear Flo we after
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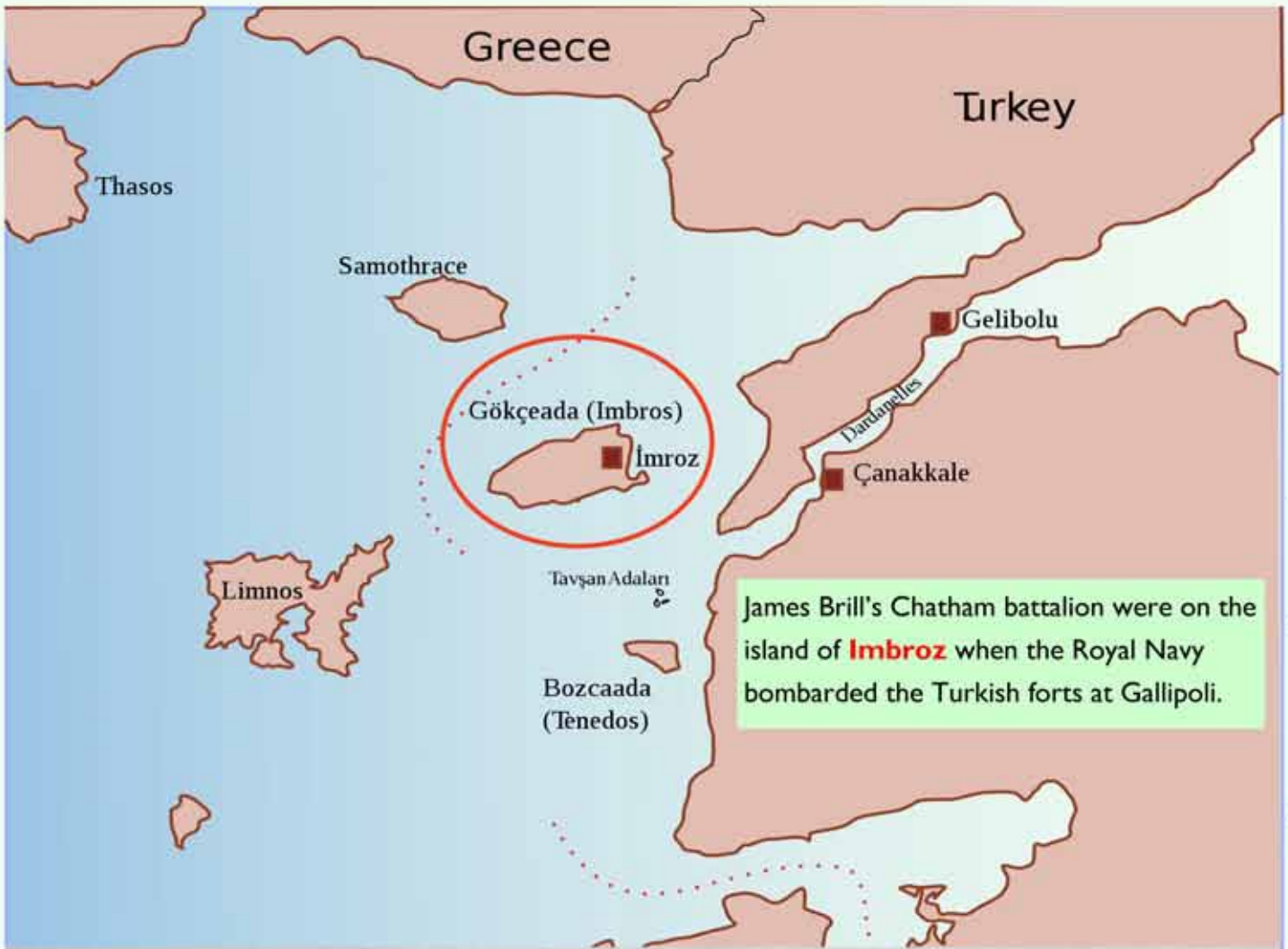
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Port de Ténédos.

Λιμήν Τενέδου.



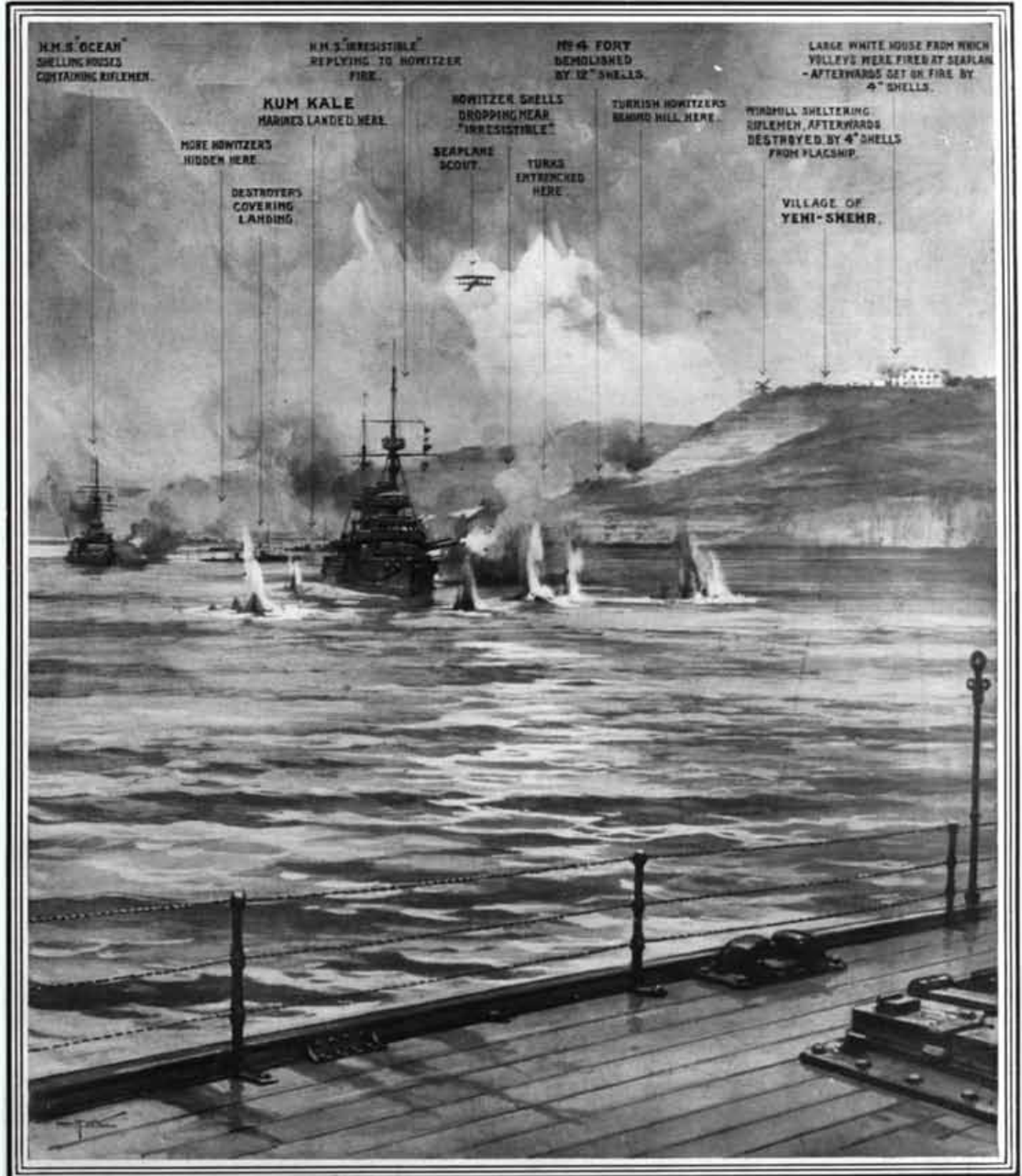
James Brill's Chatham battalion were on the island of **Imbroz** when the Royal Navy bombarded the Turkish forts at Gallipoli.



The Journey from England to Gallipoli— **IMBROS**

BEFORE THEY WERE MINED: "OCEAN" AND "IRRESISTIBLE" IN ACTION.

DRAWN BY H. W. KOEKKOEK FROM A SKETCH MADE BY A BRITISH OFFICER PRESENT AT THE ACTION.



AS SEEN FROM THE DECK OF ONE OF OUR WAR-SHIPS; THE TWO BRITISH SHIPS AFTERWARDS SUNK BY DRIFTING MINES ENGAGED IN BOMBARDING TURKISH POSITIONS IN THE DARDANELLES.

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4th March 1915 8.30am **Plymouth Battalion** landed one company each at Kum Kale and Sedd-el-Bahr, to cover the demolition of Turkish guns by raiding parties. Sedd-el-Bahr company re-embarks at 2.30pm, Kum Kale at 7.15pm. Operations successful, at cost of 22 dead and 22 wounded.



A REMARKABLE EXCLUSIVE PHOTOGRAPH: A NAVAL LANDING-PARTY COMING IN TO KUM KALEH, AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE DARDANELLES.

Kum Kaleh is situated on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles at the point of entrance from the Aegean Sea. After the Turkish forts at the entrance on both sides had been bombarded, the ships and landing-parties ashore. To quote an Admiralty report: "On March 4 the weather became fine, and the sweeping and bombarding operations within the Straits continued steadily. Meanwhile demolition parties, covered

by detachments of the Marine Brigade of the Royal Naval Division, were landed at Kum Kaleh and Sedd el Bahr to continue the clearance of the ground of the entrance to the Straits. The party at Sedd el Bahr discovered and destroyed four Nordenfeldts. Some skirmishing ensued on both banks, and the enemy were found to be holding the villages in force."—[Photo, Exclusive to "The Illustrated War News."]



A BRITISH LANDING-PARTY AT WORK IN THE DARDANELLES; MARINES FIND GOOD COVER BEHIND A DISMANTLED TURKISH FORT.

Photo: C.N.



WITH WASHING HUNG IN THE STREET AND THE INHABITANTS IDLING AT THEIR DOORS: BRITISH MARINES IN A TURKISH VILLAGE.

The presence of British Marines huddled from wash-bags in the Dardanelles does not seem to have disturbed the villagers seen in the photograph. The hanging patterned bag, however, seems to be a general expression. One Naval officer, writing home, said: "One of the bath-rooms sent in another demolition party, one hundred strong, to find and destroy if possible a bomb-warehouse resorted to behind the town of Souda."

Baku. This they did . . . and then started to retreat for the shore. The Turks came swimming down upon them, so they fired a rocket, and their ship opened fire on the advancing Turks. The demolition party then made their way inland through the town, firing their submersible light every now and again to show their position until they emerged through the water of the beach."—[Photo. F.N.]

Our Amphibious Warriors on Dardanelles' Strand



"Water-gunners," as the Royal Marines are nicknamed, in Turkish forts built with German money. Left: Sentries in an abandoned Turkish redoubt. Right: Good cover behind a dismantled Turkish fortress.



Left: Royal Marines arriving to take up guard duties ashore. Right: Marine sentry interested in the native method of washing clothes by beating them upon rocks.



Turkish women and children soon became quite used to the presence of sturdy British bluejackets and Marines. They quickly realised that our men do not wage war on non-combatants, and that they were perfectly safe. "Jack," especially, is always a prime favourite.