

**Transcription of Volume 2, handwritten in ink and pencil, by S.W. Siddeley.**

[Inscription on fly leaf pages] Egypt S.W.Siddeley Medical Officer 5 + 6<sup>th</sup> Section Concentration  
Camp Egypt

Signature's of persons who have read contents

Sgt W. H. Walters

W Gw Klaws [sp?]

Staff Sgt A Spivey

Sg H Conroy

L Definer

Jack Facer

B Thompson

M Remmai [sp?]

C Matherson

J & N Afward [sp?]

W E Evans

M Siddeley

W Yeule

L. Siddeley

D Siddeley

D Lord

D Mekan

[end fly leaf / page 1]

To Sgt Siddeley Iodine King

Yer can only stick a poultice, an

yer don't know how ' te fight

They say a little glorys ' all yer

want.



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But in the thickest of the fray, yer  
worked without dismay  
Despite the bullets that caught yer  
one by one.  
For fear, yer had no time though it  
was a stiffish climb  
With the snipers waiting for yer  
as yer came.  
But yer 'ad come to do yer work +  
yer didn't mean to shirk  
Though yer duty is to succour  
not to maim.

The Corp.

Sometimes he gives us Castor Oil  
Sometimes a number '9'  
If on your arm you've got a boil  
A paint with Iodine  
If in your turn a pain you've got  
Your tongue he'll ask to see  
But the most pleasant dose of  
All the lot is a pill  
And M + L. D.

(Medicine and Light Duty)

Composed by G. Hemingway

[end page 2]

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4/4/15

Left Mena camp, very hot day, flew around Cairo in a Carrage for the last time for a while. Entrained for Alexandria [sic] 9.30 P.M. before entraining were issued with coffee pots. Travelled on open trucks, arrived at Alexandria 5 A.M.

5/4/15

Saw 6 olb [pound] Howitzer field gun, also portion of Lord Kitcheners Spring army. Issued with hot tea. Bordered [sic] S.S. Novian A 12 during morning + pulled out into bay, + left for Dardanelles toward night fall. Had very good trip, very sea sick. Tobacco + cigarettes scarce, food fair, dined in Sergeants mess. Not many sick.

11/4/15

Land in sight, camps of 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (Australians) British + French troops. Passed H.M.S Queen Elizabeth Flagship of British Fleet at Dardanelles. She carries 15 inch guns, also several other war troop ships. Some of the warships were [end page 3]

11/4/15

damaged by fort guns at the Dardanelles. We anchored in Lemnos bay; very pretty Island. We remained here until 24.4.15, during which time the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion went ashore for further training Wild flowers on the island very pretty on 22/4/15 Capt [Captain] Lind R.M.D., had the misfortune to fall down the hold, through the carelessness of an officer in leaving a hatch cover off by the dispensary + sustained a compound fracture to the base of skull. He was taken ashore to No 1 Stat Aust Hospt. [Number 1 Station Australian Hospital] Capt Matherson took his place. [Crossed out] I met Col Bryan at the Hospital, he was in command of the 13<sup>th</sup> A.M.C. in Melbourne. [Sentence circled with pencil] When I went ashore with Capt Lind I stayed ashore for a few hours + walked about. I saw French Troops. We went back to the ship in a Yacht. Steered by Greeks, they took us in all directions, before we finally got on the right track Rowed to S.S. Mashoubra Capt Matheson M.D with a serious case.

24/4/15

packed up and got ready to go to the Dardanelles for our first action. Left Lemnos at 4.30 P.M, arrived in sight of land 25/4/15 [on side] at 5.30 A.M. + could hear rifle, machine gun + shrapnel fire some of which struck the ship at intervals. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade were the first to land + were met by 1000's of Turks who were driven by the Australians. a mile or more back from the Beach, our Corp before making the charge [making the charge crossed out] landing lit cigarettes + pipes + some singing ragtime songs but some [some crossed out]several [pencil] of the glory boys died while doing the latter [died while doing the latter crossed out] ahead killed[pencil] in this charge that shall long be remembered. they charged too far about a mile + a half the Enemy knowing the ground, knew



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when to stop retreating ; they had good trenches, while the Australians were on open ground without any cover + had to en-trench amidst bullets + shells. many were killed + wounded. i might say the A.A.M.C. were in this charge. [end page 4]

25/4/15

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade were the next to land. I think I am quite correct in saying we all of 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion [5<sup>th</sup> Battalion crossed out] were fairly shy of shrapnel. It came down worse than a hail storm It was a terrible position to be in no cover + no chance of retalatating [retaliating?] I felt sad thinking we would all be killed before having a shot at the enemy. When we were about ½ Mile from shore we saw two boat loads of Australians total about 76 who were all killed, poor fellows. when we got within 15 yds [yards]from shore we had to jump, we landed in all directions, some were drowned, or rather very near. It was indeed great fun to see the way the men got out of the boats + at the same time trying to dodge shot + shell. The sailors helped us in every way that was possible. I consider our battalion exceedingly lucky not one being injured during

25/4/15

our landing. As soon as our battalion had formed up on the beach we made for the firing line. The A.A.M.C. halted when we found cover + orders were given. Capt Matherson L/c [Luitenant Corporal?] Mulhall [sp?] + self went to the firing line to seek a plan of coping with the killed + wounded. On our way we decided that Capt Matherson + L/c Mulhall should work on one flank + that I should take the centre or other flank. I took the right while the others took the left. I had a fair amount of work before I reached the firing line. (I saved Lt. Lillies platoon from being damaged in Shrapnel Gully it was a few minutes before I could convince him of the danger he was exposed to by taking his men under such heavy fire.) On my way to a favourable place to dress the wounded I came across some terrible wounds legs, arms, heads + their whole bodys [sic] blown into countless [end page 5]

25/4/15

pieces, after having done my best, I met Capt Matherson + we established a dressing station N.E of Shrapnel Gully we had no stretcher bearers + were in great demand the men in the firing line were calling stretcher bearers on the right or on the left. H.M.A.S Triumph + Ver-shanta [sic] were bombarding the fort South of where we landed I was dressing a wounded man a few yards from our so called dressing station when the Indian Battary [sic] came down from a position ( East of our station) + shrapnel started to burst very low the pack mules who were carrying the Mountain Guns (10 lbs shell) The mules [the mules crossed out] suddenly took fright + fell over on our medicine stores etc. + by good luck missed the wounded. Every man who came down from the firing line up to 2.45 P.M. told me we were being beaten back + by the look of things we were but after this hour, our boys were

25/4/15



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making good progress. During the afternoon reinforcements were arriv-ing fast. [sic] The enemy gave the firing line \* Shrapnel Gully + beach Hells own delight + our men o war retalating [sic] with 6 " up to 12 " shell of Lydiate + shrapnel + towards 5 P.M, temporaly [temporarily] silenced a fort on the enemys [sic] right flank. The position of our dressing station enabled us to get a perfect view of the bombardment from the enemy + the landing of our reinforce-ments. [sic] 7.30 P.M., up to the present we have not seen the sight of a stretcher bearer + had 8 seriously wounded wounded men, shot through the abdomen chest head etc., I gave them Morphia [morphine] + made them as comfortable as was possible. I had now a minute to myself + when I began to think, it seemed to me a nightmare + I cryed [sic] to think what had caused it. [end page 6]

25/4/15

but I was soon brought to my sences [sic] by a Sniper who sent a few bullets my way [who sent a few bullets my way in pencil on side] it was dark + I could see the flash of fire from his rifle. I had now to act against the Geneva Convention + that was of using firearms against the Enemy whilst I was under the red cross for protection, but I had 8 men to protect so I took out my revolver took careful aim (as revolver ammunition is scarce) + sent two home but he again spoke, + so did I, by sending two more home he did not speak. again [again in pencil] I gave him my last. He nearly [sp?] wounded me again. this revolver given to me by Mr. A. Buckler saved my life. it is a five cham-bered one + a bonza. I was thankful I was a member of the 14<sup>th</sup> A.A.M.C. rifle club before the war started. Things this night were very busy at 10.30 P.M. we were attacked, [ed added in pencil] but reinforcements had arrived, but both sides

25/4/15

lost heavily. Machine gun fire was dangerously close to our dressing station but not much notice was taken of the fire. Capt. Matheson went to the beach for a sleep + to send stretcher bearers to me. I waited for them up to 4. A.M., on 26.4.15., but no signs of any one, at 4.30 L/c. [Luitenant Corporal] Mulhall + self had to retreat owing to machine gun fire + gas [+ gas crossed out in pencil] it was terrible. We could only guess our way we could not see a yard in front of us, we had to crawl through scrub + then would have to [have to crossed out in pencil] drop a few feet + proceed as before. we reached the last [the last crossed out] Base [in pencil] dressing station previous to reaching the beach + here we found Capt. Matheson + the others. We had only got under cover when things got lively, it was now impossible to reach the firing line or our first line dressing station. I shall never forget this first day, although I should [end page 7]

25/4/15

very much like to. I thank my almighty god for having got out of such terrible positions I was in. the places we had to render via to the wounded was exceedingly open.

26/4/15

Another very heavy day. at 6.30. AM., our boys had a good position. The New Zealanders were on the left flank + the Australians on the right + centre [+ centre in pencil] flanks both corps were well entrenched + were ready for anything. Two Australian Batterys [sic] of Artillary [sic] had landed +



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were busy getting their guns into position two guns were placed on ridge near beach opposite to where we landed + had a board up in front of their [their in pencil] guns Turkish Delight Supplied free of charge + two more were placed on [on crossed out] in a [in a in pencil] paddock ½ mile right of Shrapnel Gully + [+ in pencil] 300 Yards from beach both gun positions did fine work + a Turkish Camel Corp was blown out of existence The Enemy's Guns spoke severely this day + would

26/4/15

fire 20. shells + our men of war would reply then [then in pencil] the enemys [sic] guns would fire. It was tit for tat. ½ mile North or South [ ½ mile North or South crossed out in pencil.] An aeroplane was sent up + found out a gun on a trolley running on lines. This gun was caught with a shell from the Queen Elizabeth 15 " as it was entering a tunnell [sic] + a blockage was caused but very soon another gun was again at work + tit for TAT was being given by each side. After dark the enemy blew bugal [sic, bugle ?] calls by the dozen to attract our attention but only two calls are used on the battle field by the Union Jack. The charge and assembly. German Officer were breaking through to our lines + giving orders but they soon met their doom. On one occasion a German Officer asked for the Adjutant, who was o/c [Operating Colonel?] for a Company + told him he was wanted by the Colonel. the Adjutant hesitated, so after a squabble the German [end page 8]

26/4/15

Officer led the way he had not gone far, when the Adjutant asked a question . the G.O., with his hand on his sword turned quickly round + got the full benifet [sic] of two shots. This night I was able to get a wink of sleep was awake at 5.30. A M.

27/4/15

through shrapnel bursting very near. I detailed Stretcher Bearers off for different duty + I found out the Sgt of 5 B [symbol, short for Battalion?] was missing , upon making enquiries, he had not been seen for 3 days I took my baynot [sic] + went to the beach where I believed he was, however I met him at the door of an old hut where the Turks stored their ammuniton, + threatened him with a stab [sp?] from my baynot [sic] if he did not go to where I directed him he thought it was a joke so I drew my baynot + he soon flew. I then proceeded to look for my blankets etc + as luck would have it I found most of my belongings. I looked for a pack, but all equipment of dead men had by now been taken to Ordnance stores. So I hunted around + found a Turkish pack which was handy. When I got back we started to make a dressing station, we had to cut into the brow of a hill our dressing station dimensions were 33 feet long, 8 feet wide 10 feet high 2640 cubic feet of earth we had to cut out. make a dispen-sary [sic] + stretcher beds for wounded. I was this day transferred to Brigade Headquarters through a shell or two landing by the the [sic] Staff Offices + one shell burst + did great damage, knocked a Sgt head off and was found 15 yds [yards] away. Capt Wallis was shot through the hip. This shell knocked a brough [sic] off a tree + fell on 2 stretcher bearers + self. after all the excitement was over I went into the Dug out with Major Carr Brigade Major + spent a very [end page 9]

27/4/15



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interesting. [sic] The way manoeuvres [sic, manoeuvres] are directed all through telephone is wonderful. While I was studying the plan of the Peninsula our firing line + new positions I was struck up in the abdomen by a bullet hitting the buckle of my belt it ricocheted [sic, ricocheted] + hit me in the left groin it was just as if a hot poker had been put against the skin. Bombarding was going on heavily on both sides + the Enemy were being badly beaten our casualties were now about 7000. Went to bed 7.30. P.M., although shrapnel was bursting very near, but in war one has to take risks I was sheltered from shrapnel fire from the East fairly well. but open to guns of North + South. Whenever we boil our dixies shrapnel falls thick + we of course have extra for our meals. that is dirt.

27/4/15

With empty shrapnel cases (measurements 3 " in diameter 9 " long) we had made a handsome fire place + General Bridges ( who passes our dressing station every 4 hours or so.) admired very much

28/4/15

Capt Matheson + self went to the trenches + gave pills etc., + put clean dressings on men who were slightly wounded. I was shown a party of Turks advancing on our trenches + the Fighting 5<sup>th</sup> opened fire needless to say I had a shot only one of our men were wounded. the others suffered badly. Towards nightfall an attack was made on the Enemy + we had three men killed. I had just arrived in time for a little excitement + enjoyed the fun. Cigarettes Tobacco Matches were given out + much appreciated. Slept well this night after a little supper of Biscuit Bully Beef + Cheese + Cold Water [end page 10]

29/4/15

Shrapnel fairly heavy again. An attack was made last night + the Second Brigade did splendid work + were complimented personally by Sir Ian Hamilton. It was rumoured during the morning that the Second Brigade were to be relieved. The rumour was true + the relief was greatly needed.

30/4/15

The men took every advantage of the relics + all available packs belonging to the 5<sup>th</sup> were found

30/ [crossed out] 1/4/15 [1/5/15?]

+ dealt out accordingly. Capt Math-eson [sic]

2/4/15 [2/5/15?]

+ self did sick parade + had a large attendance. We occasion-aly [sic] paid a visit to the firing line as Army Medical Men were scarce. When the roll call was held it was found Capt Clements to be missing. Cpl [Corporal] Day, Cpl Matthews, Major Fetheis [sp?] killed. Major Saker was reported wounded but I believe he was killed.

2/5/15



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Lieuts [Lieutenants] Ross, Adams, Moore, Flockart, Derham to lie wounded. Other Ranks to numerable to mention

Missing 204

Wounded 394

Killed 49

Mobilised [sic] 499 1150

Lieut Derham recommended for D.S.O., Pte Merrin who held a ridge left of Brigade H.Q.S., Right of Battalion H.Q.S., against an attack recommended for D.C.M.

[small, simple sketch of positions held by Merrin, Reserve M.G and firing line]

The Battalion up to the present had been doing excellent work + Cpl [sp?] Wanlars [sp?] should be a proud man + he no doubt had a fine body of men under [end page 11]

2/5/15

his command.

About 3.P.M., the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade again went to the firing line. We were again very busy, not many of the Second Brigade met with accidents The Light horse artillery [sic] met with a few Whilst we were in the firing line we got good rations Jam, Cheese, Biscuits Bully Beef, Bacon, Ham, Sugar Tea, Rum, Cigarettes Tobacco, occasionally if we were lucky we would be able to procure a loaf of bread from the warships. When possible to as many as could be spared would go to the beach a swim, but many were killed by shrapnel whilst enjoying their swim.

3/5/15

Great work had been done by the Engineers in making roads, where it looked impossible to do so, but once the Australians got to work, nothing could stop them, perhaps only death or serious injury.

3/5/15

General Bridges was very fond of his men, + they of him. he very nearly always when seen was smoking cigarettes very seldom he was heard talking to anybody he was always thinking. Brigadier McKay who was not cared for very much at Mena, was now a chum of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, he was a hard worker + he + Major Carr were always together + working hard. One day a sniper had shot Pte Stapleton through the head he + I were walking together, when I heard a thud + saw my pal beyond all aid dead. Brigadier McKay saw this + he soon got a party together. + went in search of snipers inside ½ an hour + German was found in a dug out 4 feet by 3 feet + eight feet deep a tunnel a [sic] the bottom for his bed, sufficient [sic] food for 3 weeks + 4000 rounds of ammunition when he was taken out [end page 12]

3/5/15



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of his hiding place he had five bayonet wounds + one bullet wound. was also painted green, even to his face + his rifle + bayonet so as he would resemble a bush. A very fine ball [sp?] had by now been established on the beach a full Army Corp Base including a Post office. Stables for Mules, Donkey, horses Prisoners cells + Officers + Men's dining rooms. The Sykes + Indian Soldiers worked well, in loading their pack animals with ammunition, stores, water, etc. for the men in the trenches A stretcher bearer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance also worked well and was admired by every man on the battle field. he had a donkey + would go to the firing line + carry wounded + the donkey was never once seen to halt or get out of the way of shrapnel. I am glad to say he was recommended for the V.C.

4/5/15

We had all turned in fairly early th [th crossed out] last night as we were all fairly fatigued, at 5.30. A.M. we were aroused through shrapnel bursting a few yards from where we were sleeping + shrapnel ball caps + shrapnel (size of shrapnel ball)[black circle drawn, approximately 2 cm diameter] cases were rolling into our dressing station. This morning whilst the bombardment was in progress a party from the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion were sent out to dig a communication trench from Brigade headquarters to the firing line.

[sketch of sand dunes with bushes, enemy and Australian trench positions, labelled.] More fus [sp?] came out [with arrow drawn to Australians line of trenches] Occupied by 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade

5<sup>th</sup>    6<sup>th</sup>    5<sup>th</sup>    7<sup>th</sup>    8<sup>th</sup> Btn [Battalion]

Road cut by engineers [parallel lines sketched]

¼ mile [sketching] Communication Trench [with arrow to trench sketch] B.H.Q.S., [ Battalion Headquarters, next to sketched square] [end page 13]

4/5/15

They had only been at work ½ hour when 1 man was killed + 7 seriously injured, the remainder of the party had to be withdrawn on account of the Bombardment but again resumed when the enemys [sic] guns had been silenced by the Queen Elizabeth 15 "/ After tea the Queen Lizzy bombarded heavily + the enemy replied at [an?] attack was made by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade + many casualties resulted. Capt Matheson + self took charge of stretcher bearers, we had just left our dressing station about 8.30 P.M + shrapnel commenced to burst very low, we had to take cover as much as possible. Capt Matheson took lead + I followed him we were maki9ng our way through the communication trench that had been temporary [temporarily] made. 2 feet wide 18" deep + it was here I thought

4/5/15

we would see our last machine gun, rifle fire + shrapnel came very near us. We later found out the enemy were searching for our artillery [sic] who held good positions. we stayed in the trench all greedy for cover, Capt Matheson told me to wait for a while until he went to see the Colonel, he was away for some considerable time but the fire was so hot that my party + I had to retreat, Capt



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Matheson came down later + said it was the best thing to, when the Bombardment ceased 1.50. AM. 5/5/15, we made for the firing line, + saw many killed in the [the crossed out] precisely the same position in the communication trench we had occupied earlier. To our great surprise very few had received wounds + the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade + advanced [sic] 200 yards + held a very fine position. We went [end page 14]

5/5/15

back to our dressing station + all were fast asleep in a very short time When we awoke 9.30 A.M., our boys were doing god work so it was decided to relieve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade at 2.30 P.M. we came out of the trenches + had a good hot dinner, Biscuits broken + boiled with Bully beef Tea, Sugar, Bread jam biscuits + cheese. During the afternoon 8-12 Shells (Jack Johnstons) were coming from the Atialii [sp?] Side + did considerable damage We were told by Sir Ian Hamilton we were going to Cape Hellis [Helles?] South of Carpetete to relieve the trench troops We pack up all our belongings had tea + under the stars made our way to the beach. The Men of War played their searchlights on the shore near + at the place where we should have landed we were issued with Iron [crossed out, sp?] rations, 1 lb Biscuits Tea Sugar Bully Beef + a present of Mc. Coniche [sp?] ration

5/5/15

a stew very rich taste. 25 stray Bullets landed thick amongst the brigade + john Bright was hit by one on the thigh + was taken to hospital. we were all sound asleep for a while when we got the word to fall in or rather assemble, we then made ready to embark I was in the H.O.S Boat + were towed to F.s. (Fleet Sweeper) No. 4. Those who had money + some who had not were given hot coffee

6/5/15

Bread Butter Jam etc. One man was hit by shrapnel as he was embarking ( John White) + had his collar bone fractured. We landed in sight of Cape Hellis [sic] at 5 A.M + saw a great many troop ship + here I was [?] + 1 Hospital Ship. It was at cape Hellis [sic] that our war ship did damage the Turkish Market was a mess of ruins + had on 1 side of a wall remaining + that was badly broken up [end page 15]

6/5/15

The fort was a mass of ruins + housed [sic] were the same only three shells burst near us. We were landed under protection of S.S River Clyde. We landed any how + no one knew exactly where we were to go, the Head Quarter Staff were the first to land + somehow forgot to give directions. The A.A.MC. [Australian Army Medical Corp] were heavily laden with red cross material etc. Before moving off we made an atom [sp?] round to see damage done by our guns which was terrible. the beach was a mass of graves, Turks, Germans Sailors + Imperial + French Soldiers + the Stench was awful. The bay was black with war ships Troop ships + here + there could be seen a hospital ship. We also saw a 4 funnell [sic] ship similar to the Lousatania [sp?] which was conveying French Troops

6/5/15



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We now made for our camping ground which we gussed. [sp?] It was indeed a long walk but an interesting one. French guns in position that could not be seen by the most powerful telescope from the firing line which was 4 miles away. they were situated thus

[sketch of positions, with hill, Road, and dry creek bed marked]

Enemys [sic] lines	HILL 700	Village
		Enemys [sic] lines
		Allies lines
	Road	
French art		French Artillery [sic]
(Dry Creek)		Creek (Dry)

They were very pleased to see the Australians + I should think they would to. The reason shall be seen later. [end page 16]

6/5/15 to 7/5/15

we also saw Tommies who gave us a great reception, but to me they did not care for us. We pushed on + after about 3 miles walk from the beach we came across our battalion + next saw our whole Brigade or rather what were left of us about 4000. out of 12,000 [out of 12,000 in pencil] The ground was very damp. I made a dug out for myself also a fireplace. + a storeroom We were told we would be here for two days. So a little extra comfort is everything after coming out of action. Our rations were good. Bacon. Cheese. Bully Beef. Desicated [sic, desiccated] Vegetables Shell proof Biscuits Tea Sugar. During our stay we walked about the place smoking pipes cigarettes etc. + in our minds living like kings + would not change places with the King of England.

6/5/15 to 7/5/15

Saw trenches which had been occupied [sp?] by the enemy before we landed also trenches which they had vacated very hurriedly [sic, hurriedly] remains of rifles packs + uniforms could be seen all over the place also inspected guns of the fort which the Queen Lizzie has smashed up to atoms. we had a jolly good rest although plenty of pills were given out. + several men required bandages for wounds. had good tea The country here at Cape Hellis sic, Helles] is very much different to that of Cape Tete [sp?] no cover except for tall trees which make good grandstand for snipers. During our stay here we were all ready to go into action at a Minutes Notice. Several stray bullets found their mark on several occasions + stretcher bearers were Sing out [sic, singled out?] for S.B. had their work all right [end page 17]

8/5/15



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next morning we were told to be ready at a Minutes Notice + nobody was allowed to leave the camp. about 2.30 PM we left camp + were to go into action in an hour or so. god know [sic] how many of us would be alive at 2.30 A.M. 9/5/15 The A.M.C. each arrived. a pick or spade. medical gear etc. we marched or tried too [sic] about a mile, + we halted + got a view our of [sic, of our] position which did not look to [sic] healthy on the left of where we halted to about ¼ mile dispatch riders + S.B. all had made their H Q S. in an old hut. Shot + shell poured in + around this hut + it looked more like a moving picture to see them jumping on their bikes both push and Mctoo [sp?] and riding for dear life. (Hell for leather) through crops + pools of water. about 2 miles on our right + 3 miles in front of

8/5/15

our position there stood a village called Krithea it stood about five minutes longer \* Warships \* fired guns poured shell Lydite + shrapnel, windmills houses + enemy were sent hundreds of feet in the air. we saw a grave of a colonel + a bonza grave it was his name etc. had been cut out on a tree + a tombstone a few inches from the tree. it was an Elm tree, this grave reminded me of Poet Lindsay Gordon only he was buried under a Wattle Tree. The order came for us Advance + the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance made their base hospital. The order was given to charge + Brigadier Mc Kay yelled out. Come on Australia + the charge [end page 18]

8/5/15

which made the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade famous took place. Our dear boys were knocked over like Skittles, god knows how many died for Australian Honour, god knows it was hell, The A.M.C. had to work[sp?] out + attend to the wounded + we made our dressing station + the bank of a crack. This crack we had to work up to the firing line. A dug out was made to shield the wounded + ourselves. The wounds we attended were awful.

Arms. + legs blown off. hands + feet " ". Mouths blown away + hundreds of others we were about ¼ mile from the firing line + bullets were landing all round us + would often hit our Medicine Kits

8/5/15

Two candles lamps are supplied to each A.M.C. detail, as luck happened I had a few candles in my pack. that Nobody knew about + the situation was saved. How we would have got on without candles I don't know. We were told several times to blow the light out, but we paid little or no attention. How many wounded were treated god only knows, + how many dead we had god only knows. when the wounded slackened Capt Matheson + self made for the firing line + to attend to the wounded who had been missed by stretcher bearers. The cries for stretcher Bearers was [was crossed out] were awful + very few stretchers were to be had + the majority [arrow drawn] of wounded were carried down [end page 19]

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from the firing line to a place of safety [up arrow] on water proof sheets some men were asking to be shot, but I had not the heart to do such a thing + so gave them morphia [sic] or opium to ease the



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pain, + some very bad cases I gave an overdose + their suffer-ings [sic] were relieved in a few minutes + [+ in pencil] for ever the firing was hell. bullets + shells landing all round us and on several occasion [sic] the wounded whilst being treated were again hit. We were in the valley of death + fully  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of dead be [of dead be crossed out] stretch of ground lay dead. + on several occasions 3 or more bodies [3 or more bodies circled] I would stack so as to make a shelter, whilst I was attending to the wounded The wounded cried for water most because [sp? added in pen] my water bottle was dry + the only water to be had was pretty nigh green + unfit stagnant [stagnant added in pen]

8/5/15

for animals. but water of any description is worth its ' weight in gold.' [arrow up] when one is wounded. after drinking this water we suffer [sic, suffered] colic pains which are very unpleasant. Capt Matheson + self made several trips to the firing line. If some of the lads men in Australia [lads, men in Australia crossed out] ladies. knew or saw the anonies [sic, agonies] or war + what suffering we have to go through, it would make their bones rattle. I managed to get 4 parties or 1 section of stretcher bearers + led them to where I had 22 wounded men. they were in an old Turkish trench there was also a great number of dead in this trench one man I went to help I found he was dead his face was black. so had been dead several hours [end page 20]

8/5/15

Upon looking at his disk . I found he was one of my mates. I also in the trench met an old school mate of mine named Cakebread. [sic] he had been shot in the chest. he was very bad. I don't know how he got on after I treated him, if he got good treatment he should pull through We had 21 taken away on stretchers + the remaining one had to be carried he had been shot in the ankle. We had passed this trench several times during the night, when we first made for the firing line, + were 50 yards from the trench where I had the 22 wounded I heard someone

[along side of page, in pencil] Gas was coming over at frequent intervals. through the gas attacks home front a fountain [sp?]

8/5/15

saying, For gods sake shoot me. [arrow up] I went to him [in pencil] he was at first [at first in pencil] beyond aid being shot in the stomach. I gave him morphia [sic] 8m  $\frac{1}{4}$  [sp?] + laid him on a waterproof sheet + out of danger Zone It was a doubtful case, + I had an idea with careful treatment he might pull through. If I sent him to the field Ambulance he would not get treatment for some time. So I kept him under observation I left him here + every time I passed him [I passed him crossed out] was passing his direction I would go over + see how he was. I am pleased to say, he was progressing slowly, to cut a long story short, I had him removed to the field Hospt [sic, Hospital] + am

[along side of page, in pencil] I finally operated on his abdominus [sic] I.Buitt. Leash " bandage [sp?] there [sp?] [end page 21]



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pleased to say he recovered about midnight. (I cannot give the correct time). I got word at the dressing station from Brigade H.Q.S. that Col. McKay the Brigadier was wounded. + was in a trench with the Sergeant of Signals. The night being very hard. [sp?] It was hard to find a small trench like the one Brigadier was said to be in, as luck was in my way, there was a telephone line running from Brigade H.Q.S. to the Colonel. I followed this line + after following it near to the firing line. I found I had the wrong

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line + I cursed the Capt of Signals for giving me the wrong line. I searched in vain for the Brigadier but could not find him. I met Capt. Bean the reporter for the A.T.F.F, + I can tell you well offer [sp?] it was on the battle field I met him I felt like putting him to his doom for what had been written by him to the Melbourne papers. there were wounded to be looked for, + not time for revenge, Capt Bean offered me a drink of fresh water which was accepted [arrow up] + appreciated I would have drunk stagnant water, he also offered me assistance + you can bet your life I soon to [to crossed out] gave [end page 22]

8/5/15

Mr. Bean a job he had 2 Kerosene [sic, kerosene] Tins of Cold Water for wounded. after I quenched my thirst we then began to look for the Brigadier he went South + I went west. [sic]The water was planted. [sp?] I had picked the right course + before I came to the Brigadier I met Capt Matheson, + it was a good thing I had met him, as the Brigadier had been wounded in the knee + the trench he was in was quite 6 feet in depth + we had no stretcher so we had to carry him between us. We reached Brigade Head Quarters ½ hour + there we met Stretcher Bearers I did not see Capt

8/5/15

Bean after that. I lit a cigarette, [sic] it revived me, that no one but myself could have any idea I had within half hour after getting the Brigadier managed to collect 6 stretchers or rather it were 5 + ¾ men so we made for the firing line. The wounded were terrible + had to be taken out in waterproof sheets. it was now daylight + snipers very busy we had done walk with the next man [sp?] + could do absolutely no more without a rest. [sp?] Capt Matheson was badly in need of a rest but he would not say. So, I told him point blank. that I could do no [end page 23]

8/5/15

more unless I had a rest + something to eat + drink. he said he could do with the later, [sic, latter] so I told him allow [sic, allow?] the former If any person doesn't [sic, doesn't] think that Capt Matheson + self didn't do our bit, let him come forward. The bullets were hopping + sniggering [sp?] all round us + some going that 9/5/15 [on side] close that hair on our heads very nearly got singed We ['I' in pencil on top] got HOT Tea + Bully Beef + Biscuit + Jam can assure the reader, we both did justice to the food. also to a sleep afterwards. at 7.P.M. the Capt + I were awakened by the orderly. From what we could hear the wounded had been coped with



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9/5/15

very well. We all had a jolly good breakfast. Capt Matheson ordered me to Stay at the dressing station as I was for night duty, the remainder of the detail went out for the wounded. I did not have many to treat so I spent most of the day in cleaning up the dressing station. The place was nigh covered in blood, bandages etc. the scene was like a cold blooded murder of 50 people, there were 3 dead men so I buried them I said a prayer over them. I boiled several gallons of water + had it sent to the wounded + men in the firing line. I had [end, page 24]

9/5/15

a good hot meal ready for when the Capt + men came home, bully beef biscuits mustard salt pepper + desic-ated [sic] vegetables all stewed up. + hot or rather boiling tea cheese marmalade, plum jam with biscuits. so you can see how one can live, this is the best meal a man can have in the battle field, but it will always do me, In Africa I believe the British occasionally raided farms but the nearest from [sic, us?] I think is in Constantinople. Whilst I was having a rest wounded men + men carring [sp? carrying?] rifles, equipment etc. made it a

9/5/15

pitiful scene. It looked to me the last of the Army after battle + it did not number more than a few it was a sight I shall never forget Colonel Boultoon C/O. of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battn [sic, Battalion] is now acting as Brigadier. about 5.P.M. I had myself ready until next morning or as long as I would last, on my way to the firing line I called at Brigade Headquarters to see if anyone was in need of medical or surgical attention, all was right for once. Word had come through that Medical Aid was required by the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion [end page 25]

9/5/15

The Capt of Signals gave me the teleph-one wire leading to 5<sup>th</sup> Btn H.Q.S. I had 13 Stretcher bearers + 4 AAMC. Men with 5. Stretchin [sp? stretchers?] we had not been long on our Journey when a general attack from our side work [sp?] level. shrapnel simply poured from one side of the Peninsul-ar [sic]to the other, + one who has never been under heavy shell fire could not imagine what position one feels in especially when mens' [sic] lives, are in your hands. Machine guns, rifle fire + shell fire oh my God, I wonder what Hell is like. When I took a orin [sp?]

9/5/15

of our position I found it best to remain where we were, there was absolutely no cover + no means of making any if we moved forward we should all be wiped out + if we retreated we would all be more or less wounded I found it desirable to lay down. as flat as possible + if anyone was hit it would not be so bad as if we were standing still or walking. Bullets wizzed past our ears + landed by the side + in front of us. It beats me how it was none of us got wounded or killed. I was [end page 26]

9/5/15



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not worrying about shell fire, as we were in between the gun fire of the enemy s' [sic] + our guns. we remained here for some considerable time, when the fire reduced we advanced + were making a diagonell [sic] line from the left to the centre flank + by making [arrow up] in this way we are sheltered by trees for about 2 miles, on the other hand, the trees are full of snipers + as I have afore said their aim was always deadly After we had left the shelter of the trees we were exposed full force to the fire + when

9/5/15

I viewed our position I practically gave little hope in any of us getting back to our base without being at least wounded. We had now to take shelter behind dead men + I gave orders to each party of four men to extend 25 yards from the left and to take as much cover as was possible, also to keep a weather [sic] eye on me, + not to shout or whistle as we were much exposed to snipers + by no means to worry if they could not keep with me. We now started to advance. Waiting for the worst + it was not long. [end page 27]

9/5/15

before I thought we had got it shell fire + machine gun fire seemed to have long thenov [sp?] or have mistaken their range. as we had not yet reached the support trench I spied bushes in fornt of us, but it is absolutely waste of time + nearly always life. So we turned to the right + ran about 15 yards when we 5 went head over heels over a bank of sand + into a trench. I cant say what I felt like or ant of my men The French were throwing night light [flares?] which make the battle field

9/5/15

like day. well Just + we all gained our feet after our box of tricks one of these lights flared + lo + behold we saw dead Turks + the trench was like this [sketch of bumpy trench with '10 yards' distance noted.]

we could only see 10yds of the trench God knows what was in the other portion of the trench possibly a sniper there were 7 dead Turks one an officer I think he was a German officer. I did not hesitate ( he who hesitates is lost) + whispered to the men I was going to advance. it was far better to die advancing or fighting than be taken by surprise [end page 28]

9/5/15

as I thought we might be in a trench or home of snipers a [sic] this position is very seldom traversed by any one. we advanced + came across a trench about 6 feet long. well sheltered from Bullets we remained here quite a time some one heard a rustle in the bushes. I drew my revolver. I was the only one armed out of the party I saw there were three men + were making for a path left of the trench when they were



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9/5/15

about 5 yds from me I challenged them. / The Reply was Christ almighty eh eh etc. [sic] we are out repairing the telephone wires if ever I saw 3 men searched it was then. they were also carrying ammunition. We advanced again + this time covered 500 yds of ground fearing nothing we came to a trench of Tommies + Australians + a bullet landed between my little finger + the next one. we left this trench + had now to follow a path which would bring us to the firing line this is the place [end page 29]

to get hit, + each one of us were all thinking the same thing who would be the first to go down. We met a few wounded + all stretcher cases were at once sent to the barge, [sp?] I had now one stretcher squad left. I arrived at Battalion H.Q.S. + the wounded were attended to as quick as possible. We had a man with his this [sic] badly broken + we had to move him onto the stretcher we now made for the base. It took us a jolly long time. to advance but going back we simply ran

9/5/15

but not more than 20 yards at a stretch as the French Lights are going up every few seconds + shows to the snipers where we are. should there be any about. The Searchlights from the men o war also started to play + it gives one such a beastly feeling. we had difficulty in crossing a wide trench with the stretcher. we all thought we were taking the wrong course so we decided to turn to the left after covering about 100 yds at all possible speed we came across [end page 30]

9/5/15

a trench of Indian troops + were at once challenged You always answer a chall-ange [sic] from an Indian Soldier by 3 slaps on Your Knees [sp?] I now know [o crossed out, made 'knew'] we were within a stone throw of Brigade Headquarters. Being on light [sp?] case the man was conveyed to the field Hospital + a shell burst high up in the air as we halted in the grounds of the Field Hospital perhaps the Turks wished to announce our arrival. The man was at once taken to the Hospital Ships + we went + filled ourselves with well water

9/5/15

+ made for our dressing station

After a brief rest we again made for the firing line

10/5/15

on our way there I was hit on top of my left hand little finger it was like a burn from a red hot poker I was heartily pleased the way we all had worked, the red cross, have by far the worst position on the field The Allies were making a steady advance all the while. The Australians were not having so many casualties thank god there are not many of us left to form a casualty list

[in pencil, at bottom] 19<sup>th</sup> buried by a shell [end page 31]

[In black ink, clearly written] This diary will be continued at an early date.



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11/5 [11/5/1915]

[In pencil]

The bombardment continues all day. We cleared up all wounded + operated where necessary but under very great difficulty the operators knives were blunt [sp?] this day was very sad. Capt Matheson + I were clearing our underclothing [sp?] and were sitting on the edge of the crash. [sp?] snipers shooting us + missed us by a mere fluke one of our remaining men was shot in the Gully I said to Capt Matheson lets take care, [sp?] he was at the time telling me how he was Estimated [sp?] at the hurriedly [sp?] then he was shot through the head + fell on my arm Dead a few mins before this we made a bet as to who would get kunked [sic] first + were both pleased to know we had him recommended for decoration for Auppose [sp?] Bravery we had been mentioned in dispatches. Poor old Matheson + me. we have hew [sp? hung?] together through all this

heavy fighting then shared + then abode [sp?] + had worked together + had operated together under really great difficulties + we felt pleased with our Surgery. Dear Poor old Mathie. I was now the Senior MO [Medical Officer] + had to at min [sp? admin?] reorganise. I had lash [sp?] 3 skins [sp?] + had to obtain reinforcement through 15 British Headquarters the 19<sup>th</sup> Drusin [sp?] pined not purposely [sp sp sp?] + who the men officer men [sic] were mere boys I + where I was going a man had to be ready for heavy work + be ready to die at any tick of the clock. death did not worry us a bit. We were a lot + all shared dangers + glowed w [sic, with] it Our forces had Dwindled to a mere handful, barely 300 out of 4,000 left. we may us all have give [sic, given?] still we have work to do fighting was going back over [end page 32]

now had one man every 20 feet of trench: still we held on the firing was intense + casualties were plenty. I've another weaseal [sic, weasel] officer put on my staff. he was too wet [sp?] + in one way so I packed him off to another Reprimand. [sp?] so decided to carry on by myself. I was now in charge of the Medical Staff + very high [sp?] irespinda [sp?] Lisithm [sp?] but I kept strict [sp?] discipline + made the men work as paid as I lived. [sp?] if we 9<sup>th</sup> we him behind we ciner [sp?] never pick up we were thus able to be ready for any number of casualties. This worked very well. Word came through that we were to be relieved next day. after such an engagement [sp?] we were all in a Hell of a Mortal Condition [sp?] – Heavy shell Bullets were on + mist conditions [sp?] revelled in deaths. [sp?] this eased our work down we were all tired out. this

was my 3<sup>rd</sup> day c [sic] out without [sp?] + I have beaten men 900 cases Medical Wais [sp?] were running out [sp?] + no food. water. well there was none hoe [sp?] had a fairly hullo [sp?] night + advance to the firing line were undertaken to great risk. lost a couple more men that night. we were all in close formation make of Super. [sp?] I was now in charge of the Brigade Medical Staff having 120 men in my charge. 14 dressing stations + one C.C.S. [end page 33]

[Several blank pages]

[Shorthand symbols in pencil, 2 lines small, 2 lines large, loose and bumpy. Appears to be Pitman style shorthand. end page 35]



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[Shorthand symbols, appears to be Pitman style, and words in pen, possibly names in a running tab?  
Date at bottom 4/9/11. end page 36]

[Similar shorthand in pencil on first leaf, illegible]

24/4/15 [in pen]

Received [up arrow] 1 month's pay. Orders received from H.Q.S that when we captured Krithia [sic] Village we were not to break into houses or cause any trouble to the inhabitants, if we behaved properly we should be well repaid by the people of the village. Certain portions of the village were to be preserved for soldiers, + the market place was not to be entered. [end page 37]

25/4/15

Where we landed was due to an Naval error thank god. If we had landed where we should have, very few Australians would have been alive today. The only place where a landing here could have been effected was  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile long with barbed wire entanglements 25 yds [yards] from shore. + from 5 yards from the waters edge to where the water would be 20 feet deep, the barbed wire entanglements [sic] extended + were absolutely impregnable on our [our crossed out] the right flank of these entanglements was a concealed [concealed] fort with several guns which gave us our first dose of shrapnel

[Sketch in ink, depicting layout of barbed wire on beach and concealed guns on right hand side. Features marked include: "rough country" "Grass" "(Waters edge)" "Water" "20 feet deep" "HILL 35" "Scap [sp?] LEVEL" and "concealed guns". Compass also drawn facing North East.] [end page 38]

[Abbreviated list of words and clear repetitive symbols on both pages in ink. Could possibly be a pharmaceutical list, as some words seem to include: "Sodi Sal" [Sodium Salicylate?] "Sodi Bicarb" [Sodium Bicarbonate?] "8/1 Ammon Amon" [Ammonia?] and at the end of the list some Latin words: "Sig [Symbol] P.T.P.S Post cit et die ex ip et SWS" [Previously cited signed by S.W.S?] [end page 39]

[Back fly leaf pages of diary, marbled paper in burgundy and cream colour. Written in ink :

" SAX. W. SIDDERLEY

48 BYRON STREET

ST. KILDA S.A." [end Volume 2]



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