



1st Book

~~Notes~~

~~Cash Book~~

~~Survey Book~~

Diary of
Lt. J. M. Grace
Wght. Battl.
N.Z.B.

To

L. M. Grace
Govt. Buildings
Wellington
N.Z.

Thursday 22-4-15

Usual routine to-day
& nothing happened! Mail day and
great excitement! About 6 sacks of
it came aboard and I think every
one got some news from home! The
quietness that prevailed after it
was all given out was quite path-
etic! It's marvellous how happy &
bright everyone was after all the
reading was over!

Friday 23-4-15

Same old things
all day! Late in the afternoon
the transports containing Aust-
ralians began to move beginning
the last great movement! Our turn
will come very soon we hope!
It will take sometime to get clear
of this place! Hydro planes
have been flying above all day!
Beautiful machines!

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Saturday 24-4-15

Today the Australian transports have been going off one by one accompanied by warships. The 'Queen Elizabeth' also went and looked a power of strength as she steamed away! To-morrow we hope to be on the move! The harbour looked quite deserted to-night. We have had a telegram from Kitabener which has been read right through-out the fleet! It was very good & right to the point. It sketched what we were out to do etc etc.

Sunday 25-4-15

At 5am this morning our anchor was weighed in glorious weather! Of the remaining ships of which there were a goodly number we steamed out of Lemnos under escort of the remaining warships! Of course we had a fair idea of what was before us but what we have actually seen far surpassed all our

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conjectures! From ~~9~~ 9 o'clock we could hear the distant thunder of the guns! As we neared ~~the~~ the Dardanelles they became louder & louder! Away in ^{the} distance we could dimly see transports & warships overhung by 'a dense cloud of smoke. By now the guns were crashing forth in a perfect fury! The ridges on Gallipoli Peninsular ^{were} ~~was~~ a cloud of flying earth & flame! The skies seemed to be raining shells! All this was just off the old el Bahri. We passed at a range of about 15,000 yards and the din was terrific! By gad it was a sight and one I shall never forget. From where we were we could see no answering shots from the land. All this time transport after transport landed troops. We land higher up in the vicinity of the Gulf of Saros. Three forces are landing at different points all making for the one spot! Warships are stat-

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ioned at close intervals all along the coast line and the crashing of the guns is awful! At last we came to anchor off a rather formidable hill which needless to say was being shelled continually! One position which we could see was held by the enemy after a point-6 shot was reduced to ruins! Two capsized rowing boats drifted past us perhaps telling some mute tale! Our first line has landed and are having a very hot time of it! The rifle & maxim fire could be heard distinctly in the hills of heavy gun fire. With glasses you can distinguish our troops quite distinctly and also the enemy. Aprop- nel is playing blazers with them (enemy). It's one perpetual crackle of fire and our chaps are cutting their way up the hill by means of long zig-zag tracks. Kaba Tepe is where we are

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landing! It's going to be pretty hot going! We are awaiting our turn to go off! Between 4 pm & 5.30 pm the fighting by sea & land was terribly fierce! One warship lying in pretty close had to move out. Other ships soon picked up the hidden guns and very soon silenced them! At 6 pm all firing ceased! Aeroplanes were controlling most of the fire & it was rather amusing to see the futile attempts made by the Turks to reach ^{them}! 6.30 pm bombardment commenced again with renewed vigour the concussion shaking our boat terribly! It's a magnificent yet terrible sight to ~~at~~ see the shots tearing up the ground in dense clouds of shells bursting above the trenches. The naval shooting is good and shell after shell burst in the same place. At 8 pm things quietened down a

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lot! An occasional shell showing up in a vivid flash on the ridge top and the rattle of rifle fire! We turned in to have a few hours sleep. Midnight all were roused to stand by! Fierce fighting was evidently going on on shore by the din!

Monday 26-4-15

Up at 1 am. and then on decks to see what was doing! Along the whole ridge line was nothing but the flashing of rifle fire! Quite like one continuous sparking electric wire! At one stage yesterday 50 to 60 shells fell & tore up the earth in one particular spot in the space of a quarter of an hour. It's rather wonderful when you consider that the coast for at least 20 miles is more or less being shelled in this manner! Disembarked at 3.30 am for shore by torpedo destroyers!