

GALLIPOLI MISSION



I. THE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL MISSION IN TURKEY

Five members of the Mission in one of the trucks which served as their living quarters on the railway over the Taurus Mountains, March 1919. Above, left to right: Lieut. J. Balfour, Capt G H Wilkins below, Lieut Mackinnon (Railway Control Officer at Eregli), Staff-Sergt G. H. Rogers, Capt. George Lambert Lieut H S Buchanan

A W M photo. G2138

GALLIPOLI MISSION

By

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PREFACE

THIS book was planned with the intention merely of passing on to general readers in Australia experiences which seemed too interesting to be stored in a few fading memories and in semi-official records.

The writer is, however, conscious that it may be used as a source book, in which case its authorship could be criticised for lack of scholarship, for example, in the unscientific transliteration of Turkish names and in the failure to point out all discrepancies between the information given to us by Zeki Bey and that which is now available from other sources, including the answers kindly supplied by the Chief of the Turkish General Staff and here printed in an appendix. An attempt has been made to indicate some of the discrepancies; but in the spelling and translation of the place names the course adopted in the *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18* has been generally followed here also, namely to leave them as Zeki Bey and I thrashed them out between us on the spot in February 1919.

In recording the narrative of our Turkish friend, I have made him speak in the first person. Much the greater part of his account was taken down by me in longhand at our mess-table nightly, after dinner, by means of question and answer; that is, in precisely the same way in which I had recorded the evidence of hundreds of Australian, New Zealand and British soldiers in the previous four years, except for this—that I questioned him, and he answered, in French, the resulting narrative being written down by me there and then, but in English and

in the third person. My notes, however, followed so closely his actual phrases that I feel the adoption of the first person to be justified, affording, as it does, often a literal translation of what he said and a much more vivid picture of our little friend's personality. The reader is, however, asked to bear in mind that Zeki Bey and I spoke in a language foreign to each of us, and my translation may be inaccurate; and that though my note followed generally the wording of his answers it was not actually verbatim, and here again error may have slipped in. And I must add that where our conversations covered the same ground more than once, and I have therefore two or more notes on one subject, I have combined them here into a consecutive account.

For all these reasons it would be unwise and unjust to criticise Zeki Bey for having used any phrase here attributed to him; any error may be mine. But, needless to say, where he is recorded as speaking in the first person to any of his fellow Turks, or they are reported as so speaking to him, the conversation here set down is an exact translation of his words. In a very few instances I have relied on my memory of some phrase used by him which impressed itself beyond possibility of forgetting.

The reader may be interested as to the subsequent history of the team of mainly-young Australian enthusiasts whose names appear in these pages. The oldest of us, George Lambert, after busy and anxious years of really great work in his studio at Randwick Military Hospital, Sydney, died in 1930 partly as a result of overstrain in riding a mettlesome horse. Harry Gullett became the first Director of the Australian War Memorial, wrote the magnificent history of the Palestine Campaign, became Director of Immigration, and later, for twelve years before his death in a tragic air-crash at Canberra, was minister in successive Federal Governments, playing a large part in the framing of the Ottawa Agreement. Major (later Lieutenant-Colonel) J. L. Tre-

loar succeeded him in 1920 as Director of the War Memorial, and has made the establishing of the memorial his life's task. Except when detached to organise Australia's share in the Wembley Exhibition, and, in World War II, to organise and command the Military History Section of the Australian Army, he has, since 1920, played by far the chief part in planning and organising it.

Captain G. H. Wilkins has since become a famous Arctic and Antarctic flier and explorer, besides leading for the British Museum an expedition among the wild Australian blacks (employing generally Stefansson's method of "living off the land") and now has his home in America. C. E. Hughes, after finishing his task with the position of chief administrative officer of the Imperial War Graves Commission in the Middle East, became Australian Government Commissioner in Egypt; H. V. Howe between periods as private secretary to Mr W. M. Hughes and military secretary to successive Ministers for the Army (in World War II), has been secretary of the Chamber of Manufactures of New South Wales, and finally exchanged the wild West Coast for an orchard near Sydney; W. H. James became a colonel of Light Horse; H. S. Buchanan, after alternating private with government practice, is Deputy Chairman of the Federal Contract Board, and has lately given some thrills to his old comrades as a member of the national radio quiz team; G. H. Rogers, when last I heard from him, was a manufacturer of refrigerators; J. Balfour and A. W. Bazley, my chief assistants in the history of World War I, are now in important positions respectively with the historian of World War II and in the Department of Immigration. Balfour was present at the signing of the armistice with Japan. Of others mentioned in these pages, T. H. E. Heyes (like A. W. Bazley after him) acted in charge of the War Memorial during the Director's absence on war service, and is now Secretary of the Depart-

ment of Immigration; and S. W. Gullett is a prominent Melbourne businessman.

I am especially indebted to Mrs Lambert's excellent biography of her husband (*Thirty Years of an Artist's Life*, published in Sydney by the Society of Artists, 1938, and which should certainly be reprinted). His letters to her from the Mission have been freely quoted in these pages. Other books to which reference has frequently been made are: *Under the North Pole* by Sir Hubert Wilkins; *Gallipoli Today* by T. J. Pemberton, and *Crosses of Sacrifice* by J. C. Waters—both these relating to the cemeteries; H. C. Armstrong's vivid biography of Mustafa Kemal (*Grey Wolf*); Philip Graves' *Briton and Turk*; Toynbee's *Conduct of British Empire Foreign Relations since the Peace Settlement*; and our Mission's much-thumbed Baedekers (*Konstantinopel und Kleinasien*, and *Palestine and Syria*). References to the Gallipoli graves have also been checked and amplified by perusal of the reports of the Imperial War Graves Commission through the courtesy of its Australian headquarters in Melbourne and of the Australian War Memorial, which last is also the guardian of the writer's diaries and of the papers of the Mission. Where "Official History" is cited, the reference is to the *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18*. The British Official History of the Gallipoli Campaign also has been of great assistance.

The drawings are traced from the writer's field-books and diary. Where necessary for clearness the place names on the originals have been added to, enlarged, or replaced by letters, and a very few other slight alterations made. Some of the best photographs taken at the time of the Mission's visit were used to illustrate the Official History. These, except in a few cases, have not been reprinted here but hitherto unpublished photographs selected instead. Many references are, however, made to plates in the Official History illustrating points in the

present work. Except where otherwise stated, the photographs here printed were taken in 1919.

The pictures given of the cemeteries do not represent their present condition, cameras having been banned there since 1936 when the Dardanelles again became a military area. For the same reason adequate maps of the cemeteries are difficult to obtain. The maps are from the Official History and Australian War Memorial with alterations carried out by Mr W. H. G. Guard. The index is by Miss Mary Ordish.

C. E. W. BEAN.

1st February, 1948.

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