



Gallipoli





A view across Gully Ravine and the coast
of Gallipoli, with troops and transport of the
42nd (East Lancashire) Division



Landings at Gallipoli 1915



Settling on the Beaches



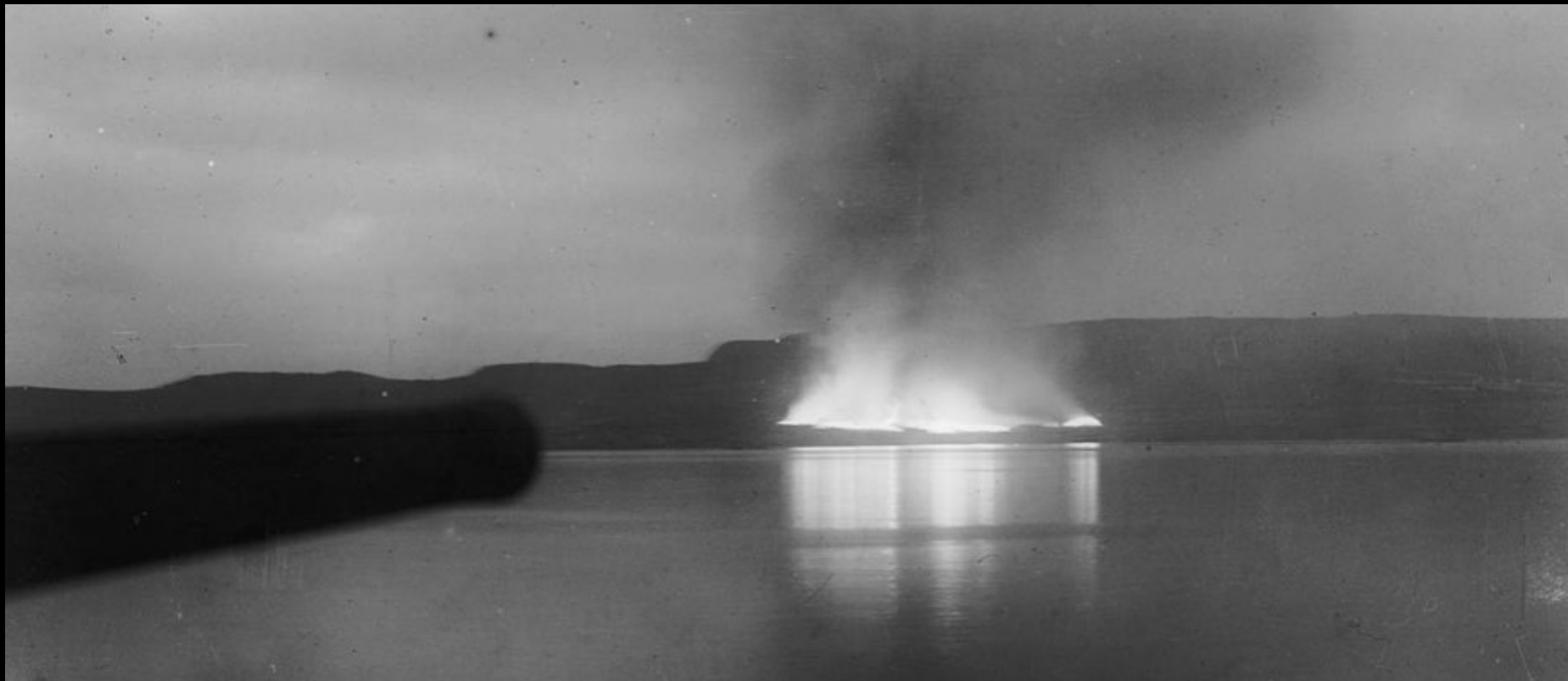
British officers enjoying a cuppa



Resting in the Trenches



Evacuation



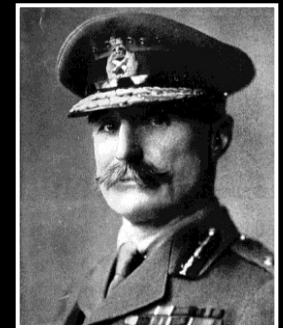
Stores burning on the beach at
5am after the evacuation at Suvla,
photographed from HMS
Cornwallis as it left Gallipoli.

The Gallipoli Campaign 1915

The aim of the campaign was to open a supply route through the Dardanelles to Russia. Among forces sent to the Gallipoli peninsula were Cradley men from the Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, and South Wales Borderers Regiments.

In all, 24 men with Cradley connections died of their wounds or sickness either at Gallipoli, in Egypt or back in England.

Major General Sir Hunter-Weston's message to the 29th Division was to expect "*heavy losses by bullets, by shells, by mines and by drowning*".



The following poem is a tribute to those men who lost their lives.../

IF I KNEW I WOR CUMMIN' BACK

by Terry Evans

I knew I wor cummin' back,

thairs things I 'ood 'ave sed

I'd 'ave tode 'er mooer times 'ow much I luvd 'er

an' tucked the kids up tieter in bed

**A good nite in the boozier with me mates,
me last goodbyes ter all
But I thort I woz invincerbul
I wor ever gooin' ter fall**

**I woz gooin'ter do me bit,
I woz that sort of mon
I'd jine the Woosters,
for I 'new they'd got many a Craidlee son**

**If I knew I wor cummin' back,
I'd 'ave rote mooer oftun than I did
I'd 'ave tode 'er it 'ood be alrite
and sum of the things I'd done an' sid**

**Me mates woz all around me,
born an' bred in Craidlelee town
I thort we woz soopermen
and wor ever gooin' down**

**The Woosters 'ad trained us well,
we 'new wot we 'ad ter do
But we wor gooin' ter France,
but ter sumw'eer new**

**If I knew I wor cummin' back,
I think I'd still 'ave gon
She 'ood 'ave whanted me ter jine,
an' be proud of 'er mon**

Ter plairces, sum I'd never 'erd on afower,

we went

Befower we got ter Gallipoli,

w'eer we 'ad bin sent

**We landed at a plairce nairmed Helles,
an' it woz truly hell**

**On the sond we woz 'ommered
with bullet, shrapnul an'shell**

**If I knew I wor cummin' back,
I think I'd 'ave tried ter med mooer of me life
But I 'oodn't 'ave changed 'er,
she woz the perfect wife**

**We got used ter life under fire,
we knew w'en ter duck and dive
We woz the Woosters from Craidlee
and knew 'ow ter stay alive**

**Ower time 'ood soon be 'ere,
we 'ood mek them Turks run
We 'ood soon be up out of ower trenches,
chargin' with bayonet and gun**

**If I knew I wor cummin' back
I'd 'ave rote that fineul day
She 'ood 'ave red it ter the kids
the last things thair dad 'ad ter say**

**In swelterin' 'eat we waited
for ower time ter charge the foe
Wot'ood it be like?
We woz soon gooin' ter know**

**As we charged the Turkish lines,
not a slacker woz there 'ere
We went forward, feelin' a mixture
of excitement, pride an' fear**

**If I knew I wor cummin' back
I'd 'ave left 'er picture back at camp
This lickwid cummin' from me chest
ull meck it sticky an' damp**

A'ommer like blow 'ad 'nocked me down,

an' I lay in the dust

I'd got ter get up an'goo on an' 'elp me mates,

I must

Jimmy Clark, Tummy Green and Dave Reynolds

were lyin' not far away

It woz if the flower of Craidlee

woz dyin' all around me that day

**I just lay theer, I felt so tired, I coodn't move,
no matter 'ow I tried
Surely this wor the end,
this coodn't be 'ow yo felt w'en yo died**

**Suddenly I saw the missus an' the kids
sittin' around me bed
I 'erd 'er say
"Yo've dun yower bit, now goo ter sleep,
rest yer weary yed"**

**'er fairce slowly vanished
an' everything went black
Then I knew –
I wor never cummin' back**

IF I KNEW I WOR CUMMIN' BACK

*Dedicated to all who fought in the Gallipoli Campaign,
especially the men from Cradley with the 4th and 9th
Battalions of the Worcestershire Regiment, the 7th
South Staffordshire, West Yorkshire, Lancashire and
South Wales Borderers Regiments”*



From: 'Some of Cradley's Finest'

Terry Evans

The Gallipoli Campaign 1915

William Byng

Joseph Round

William Hill

Thomas Green

David Reynolds

Harry Dunn

William Pearshouse

Ben Tromans

John Henry Tromans

James Henry Clarke

Daniel Heath

Harry Morton

Herbert Wallace

Ishmael Rawlins

William Henry Savage

Edwin Grazier

Gordon Homer

George Plant (alias Boughey)

James Stevens

John Homer

Bert (Birt) Ferraby

Thomas Burgess

Caleb Bills

George Rowley



For more information visit:
www.stpeterscradley.org.uk

