



PRG 1175/1 Diary kept by Arthur Oxer from his Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915 until his death on 21 August 1915

Transcribed by a Volunteer at the State Library of South Australia

p.1

Pte A.L.Oxer
Reg No 1333
"C" Coy
16th Battalion
4th Brigade
A.I.F.

p.2

The Charge of the 16th Battalion

- 1/ The soldier of the 16th
Were detailed to make a charge
And take the Turks position
Which was not very large
- 2/ It was Sunday evening
Seven thirty was the time
When the old 16th Battalion
Was formed up into a line
- 3/ An hour or so before this
Our warships gun did boom
And stormed the Turks position
Till our shrapnel made them swoon
- 4/ They ran in all directions
Those Turks all mad with fear
And evidently hoped and prayed
No more our guns to hear
- 5/ Then the good old Queen Elizabeth
made her 15 inches roar
and drove the frightened Turks back
a hundred yards or more
- 6/ And now the charge was started
How those 16th boys did run
Up the steep hillside and bushes
Sining Tipperary just for fun



p.3

- 7/ They struggled gamely onwards
With bayonet fixed so fast
And only thought to reach the top
And fight untill the last
- 8/ The Turks they saw our bayonets
And thought of the cold steel
Then faster up the hillside did run
And louder yet they squeal
- 9/ Our boys they reach that top allright
And took the Turks position
And did it with their bayonets fixed
They use no ammunition
- 10/ The Turks were not yet beaten
And on our flank broke through
And place a machin gun on our left
Manned by an artful crew
- 11/ They turned the machin gun on our boys
But we struck there hard and fast
And down our reinforcement went
As they came running past
- 12/ But we took this new position
from the Turks that Sunday night
Although we lost 800 men
And had a hellish fright

p.4

- 13/ So the Old 16th Battalion
Upheld Australian name
And in the History of the world
They recorded its name

By
Pte Chabrell [Chabrel]
"C" Coy
16th Battalion
A.I.F.



p.5

16th Battalion
2nd reinforcement

Sgt HW Lewis

Cpl I Ballantyne killed 17/5/15

LtC LP Worisse

Pte HL Oxer (brother)

- " LR Bishop
- " TH Sporle 2M Abbarrick (Base)
- " J Sinclair
- " R Codling
- " JJ Rombouts
- " MW Battye
- " M Connelly
- " TE Marshall
- " J Marsh 2M Abbarrick (Base)
- " A Buse
- " K Cox R Aus Venereal disease
- " H Middleton
- " ET Weeden
- " M Carmody R Aus Venereal disease
- " ET [EJ] McMurray
- " C Norton
- " V Atkinson
- " R Birrell 2M Abbarrick (Base)
- " J Sullivan
- " S Bowley

p.6

Pte RW Benfield

- " A Marston
- " JM Cornford
- " L Hoyce
- " F [L] Nourse
- " R Shannon
- " J Sandercock
- " AL Matthews 2 M Abbarrick (Base)
- " A Walker
- " J Mullins 2 M Abbarrick (Base)
- " ET Niant



- “ AH Jarvis
- “ A Goodman
- “ CL Bartlett
- “ R Keep
- “ G Henderson
- “ D Ball
- “ H Gobell
- “ ET Williams
- “ HG Dodd
- “ AW Pike
- “ GA Wison R Aus Broken ankle
- “ F Brown
- “ R Barnwell

p.7

Landed at Anzac on the 25 of April under heavy schrapnel and Rifle fire had to charge up the cliffs. Had to make a sort of trench with our entrenching tool Had a whole week of heavy fatigue

2/5/15 Had a bayonet charge We took the position but had to retire on account of getting no reinforcement. Our Battalion lost close on 600 men. Reinforcement arrived here on the 6/5/15 had four days spell out of the trenches but they kept us digging new supporting trenches

10/5/15 had 4 days fatigue down the beach

14/5/15 Recalled to the trenches

15/5/15 Another bayonet charge with same result, as last time lost about 150 men.

Received your letter 15/5/15 in the trenches. Received Georges on the 16/5/15

p.8

17/5/15 Light Horse arrived here.

18/5/15 to 22/5/15 things have been fairly quite The Turks trenches are about 15 yds away

23/5/15 The Turks had the white flag up, as soon as our chaps seen they went nearly mad with the cheering think that the Turks had surrendered but it was only to ask for an armistage which was not granted.

24/5/15 The Turks put the white flag up again and had an armistige for 6 hours.

25/5/15 The Battleships “Triumph” and the “Majestic” were sunk by a submarine

26/5/15 The Turks blew up a part of our trenches but with very little damage they also made a charge but were mowed down by our machin gun and rifle fire. 18 Turks were captured they got into one of our old communiton trenches but could not get out



p.9

again and had to give themselves up.

27/5/15 The light horse made a charged but after holding the new position for about 5 hours had to retire on account of inflaid fire they only lost 25 men.

28/5/15 Things fairly quite

29/5/15 We had a fairly lively time The Turks bombard us with hand grenades for about 5 hours but we had few casulities.

31/5/15 Leaving for a holiday down the beach.

1/6/15 —Still down the beach doing fatigue –7/7/15

8/7/15 Had 4 days holiday on an island called Imbrose about 10 miles from Anzac.

12/7/15 Returned to do some more fatigue.

p.10

2/8/15 Still doing fatigue down the beach. They started landing troops Going to land troops for 4 days Things are very quite.

4/8/15 A lot of warship has been cruising around so expect a big movement very shortly

6/8/15 They are still landing troops Recalled to the trenches Warship has just started bombardment. We captured 800 Turks they were In a very bad state hardly had anything on. They were dressed in pyjamas. They landed 5,000 Gurkars Made a charge on the 6/8/15 Took two hills Charged again on 7/8/15

9/8/15 Entered a trenches that the Gurkhs had captured we lost about 250 men

10/8/15 Still holding the position the Tommies are advancing on our left

16/8/15 Same position things are very quite

p.11

17/8/15 to 20/8/15 Things are fairly quite Tommies advancing on our left.

[Killed in action 21/8/15]