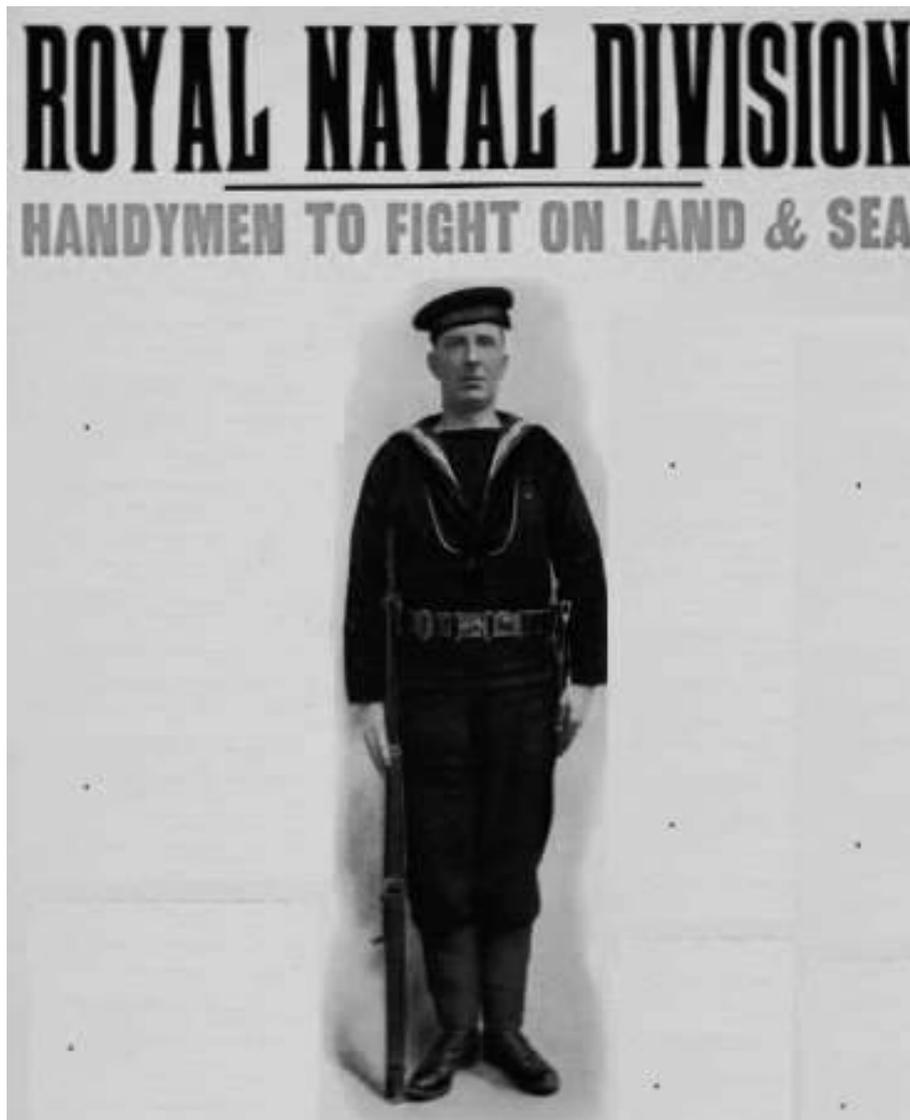


Ellis Bradbury (1891-1915)

*In memory of the men of Cutthorpe who gave their
lives on foreign shores.*



Louis Gilding for CADFS WW1 Project – prepared 31st August 2014

The tragedy of WW1 was how young men would enlist with their friends full of enthusiasm and be wiped out within such a relatively short period of time. The family background to Ellis Bradbury is briefly described then his WW1 story.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Our branch of the Bradbury family lived around the small rural villages of Cutthorpe and Barlow for several generations mining the shallow coal and ironstone deposits, before the deep mines to the east were fully developed. Old Brampton Church was their parish church.

Ellis was born on 3rd September 1891 in the village of Cutthorpe about three miles from Chesterfield. He was the youngest son of Ellis Bradbury (born 1846) and his wife Mary Ann (born 1847), the daughter of William Hayes a charcoal burner from Holymoorside. They had married at Old Brampton Church on 20th June 1870 and had at least ten children.

Ellis's elder brother Frank Bradbury was a former miner who became a gardener for the Townrow family. On 29th April 1908 at Chesterfield Parish Church, Frank married Louisa, the daughter of Thomas Wilford, a carpenter from Arthingworth, Northants. By 1914 Frank's family had moved from Ashover to their final home at 32 Vincent Crescent, Brampton. His family comprised three daughters Elsie (my mother), Dorothy and Marjorie Bradbury.

In the 1911 Census Ellis was aged 19 and employed as a gardener at Proctor's Nursery. He lived at home at 24 The Square, Cutthorpe with his 64 year old parents, his brother Tom a miner aged 28 and his sister Annie a dressmaker aged thirteen.

At the beginning of 1914 his father died leaving Mary Ann a widow who was shown as his "next of kin" in his service records. Mary Ann died at Cutthorpe in 1920.

ELLIS BRADBURY WW1 STORY

Aged twenty-three Ellis enlisted with four of his best friends as a private with the Notts and Derby Regiment (Sherwood Foresters) on 7rd September 1914 at Chesterfield.

The volume of volunteers at the outbreak of war had overwhelmed many army barracks and in some places they had to sleep rough on parade grounds or be sent home to the “Army Reserves”. As the Admiralty had immediate requirements for recruits for their new Naval Division, Naval Officers were despatched and toured the Northern Army Depots. The Sherwood Foresters contributed about 400 “transfers” to the Naval Division including Ellis Bradbury and his pals on 16th September 1914. These men provided a powerful reinforcement for the Royal Marine Infantry. Very high proportions were miners or labourers, extremely fit & strong. It was realised that such men would be a great asset to the battalions, despite their lack of discipline and training. The survival of an infantry battalion was known to depend upon its ability to entrench a position with the greatest speed & efficiency. In practice, this was proven time & again in Gallipoli, where digging absorbed so much of their time.

The Sherwood Forester volunteers were split evenly between the Portsmouth and Plymouth Battalions of the Royal Marine Light Infantry (RMLI) ; the Naval Division . The Portsmouth Battalion had already enlisted thirty men so the new transfers had service numbers starting at PO/31. Ellis’s service number was PO/37/S and rank Private. His service records provide a physical description of Ellis as five foot nine tall, with a fresh complexion, dark hair and light brown eyes. Prior to WW1 the Royal Marines would sign up for twelve years; from September 1914 “short service” marines would serve only for the duration of the war.

Britain declared war on Turkey in November 1915 followed by the Royal Navy bombarding Turkish forts in the Dardanelles. This proved to have little impact other than “showing our hand” to the Turks in advance of future operations.

By the end of 1914 the Western Front was deadlocked. Our allies the Russians believed they were threatened by the Turks and appealed for

immediate help on 1st January 1915. The members of the War Office, influenced by the First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill, allowed themselves to be detracted from the primary strategy of defeating the Germans in Europe. On 13th January the War Office mounted a naval



expedition to bombard and take the Gallipoli Peninsula on the western shore of the Dardanelles. By capturing Constantinople, it was hoped to link up with the Russians and knock Turkey out of the war. This was proven to be an exercise in wishful thinking, since long range bombardments seldom win wars without ground forces.

The main naval attack began on 19th February. Bad weather caused delays and the attack was abandoned after three battleships had been sunk and three others damaged. The Turks had learnt how to protect themselves from heavy artillery barrages and improved their defences. The Royal Navy finally accepted the operation had failed by 18th March.

Meanwhile preparations were made for a "limited" military operation utilising the Australian and New Zealand (Anzac) forces undergoing training in Egypt prior to going to France. The Anzacs proved to be independent spirited; lacking in discipline and their desert training was irrelevant for the terrain they would face. Additionally the Royal Navy Division, comprising a mixture of talents of half trained soldiers and sailors, were brought into active service on 28th February 1914.

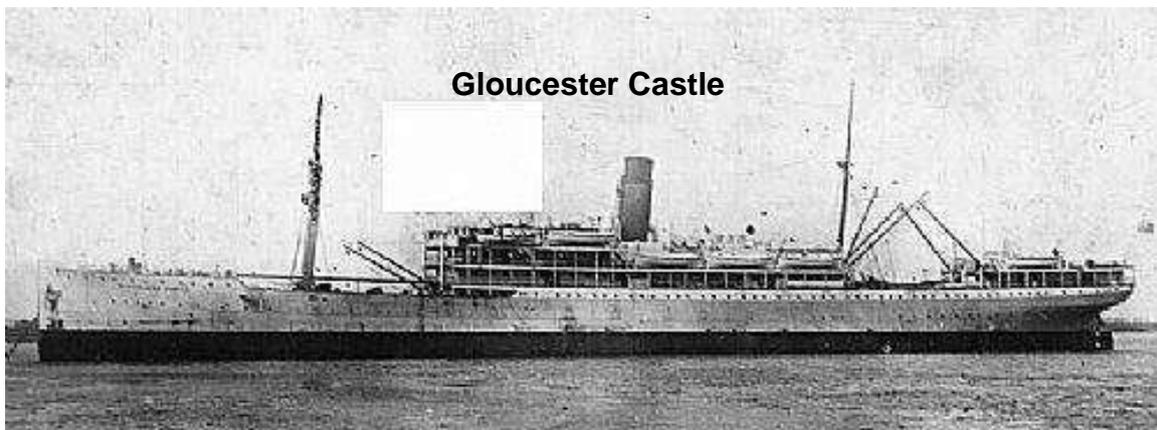
The plan quickly grew into a full blown landing on the Gallipoli peninsula additionally incorporating the 29th British Division of regulars and French Colonial troops. The Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) was formed in March 1914 to control operations at Gallipoli under the command of Sir Ian Hamilton; their GHQ remained on offshore ships throughout the campaign. The MEF would be 78,000 strong.

By the time troops would land on the peninsula, the Turks had had ample time to prepare adequate fortifications and the defending armies were now six times larger than when the campaign began

Ellis Bradbury embarked on active service with the Portsmouth Battalion of RMLI on 18th November 1914 . His RMLI records (*fairly limited in scope*) show he was serving in the Dardanelles from 1st January 1915 until his death five months later.

It seems likely Ellis joined the marines training at Blandford Camp, Dorset. On Thursday 25th February all the RND battalions numbering 20,000 men were at the morning parade which was inspected by King George V, the First Sea Lord Winston Churchill and Lord Kitchener.

The Portsmouth Battalion arrived at the docks at Avonmouth, Bristol and boarded the Gloucester Castle on 27th February. They set sail the following day. The ship had comfortable space for her 1,200 passengers and used to belong to the Union Castle Line where she was used on the Southampton to South Africa route. It subsequently became a hospital ship, but in 1917 she was torpedoed. She was brought back into service and sunk in 1942 in WW2.



On Monday 1st March the marines learnt they would be diverting from their original destination in East Africa and be going to the Dardanelles to fight the Turks. A week later the ship stopped to re-supply at Valetta, Malta and resumed its journey the following day on 9th March. The battalion reached the rocky island of Lemnos and anchored in the harbour of Mudros in the evening of Thursday 11th March. Everything that could float was anchored in the harbour, from the world's largest battleships and liners down to the tiny torpedo boats and trawlers. The Greek government offered the island of Lemnos as a "kick-off" point for

the attack on the Dardanelles. It was located to the west of the Gallipoli peninsular.

During March the marines slept aboard and carried out boat drills before going ashore for intense training. They practised disembarking from their transports and carrying out many mock attacks and manoeuvres against prepared positions on the rocky outcrops behind the beaches. The sweeter they got the greater the attacks from the local sand flies. On the evening of Wednesday 24th March the Marine Brigades were headed for Port Said in the north east of Egypt. They arrived ashore on the Saturday and marched to their camp half a mile in the desert where the windblown sand got everywhere. Prior to continuing their training the Battalion was granted 48 hours from Sunday morning when they went by train to Cairo to see the sights or get drunk. On their return on the Tuesday 30th March they had a ten mile route march across the sand. Also letters from home arrived the same day for the Portsmouth Battalion.

The training intensified including several battalion sized mock attacks. Apart from church parade and some rest time on Easter Sunday 4th April, the training stepped up a gear. The Battalion re-embarked on the Gloucester Castle and set sail in the early hours of Friday 9th April towing a 1,000 ton cargo lighter full of fresh water. It arrived back in Lemnos on Sunday evening. At first light on the Tuesday the Brigade HQ came on board. The Battalion and their troop transports would spend the next few days sailing around the island making landings and mock attacks at various bays under the watchful eye of their Generals. On Friday 16th April a convoy of ships including the RMLI Battalions steamed to the island of Skyros, 30 miles off the Greek mainland to carry out full scale mock landings. Monday 19th April was the last day of practice before the real landings on Gallipoli. The RND would remain offshore from Skyros for a few days while the weather improved.

On Friday 23rd, St George's day, the RMLI were briefed about the landings planned for the early hours of Sunday 25th April. The majority of the RMD would support the 29th Division in the Helles landing. The Anzacs would land further north near Ari Burnu commanded by General Birdwood. Elements of the Royal Naval Division would form part of a

diversionary attack in the Gulf of Saros to the north of the town of Gallipoli.



At dawn on Sunday 25th April 1915, the Allies launched their invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Despite suffering heavy casualties, they managed to establish two beachheads: at Helles on the peninsula's southern tip, and to the north above Gaba Tepe. A navigational error led to the troop boats being towed to a smaller beach a mile further north near the lesser promontory of Ari Burnu. The beach

was not as wide or long as at Gaba Tepe and overhung by steeper cliffs. However it proved better protected from shell fire. The cove later named Anzac Cove (in honour of the Australian and New Zealand troops) had a steep hinterland of rough gullies. Not an auspicious beginning.

Anzac Cove viewed from the sea



Anzac Cove viewed from land



The British 29th Division including the Plymouth Battalion of the Naval Division and the French Companies landed on the Helles beaches. On some of the beaches the shoreline was sown with mines and barbed wire; and shredded with machine gun fire. The Lancashire Fusiliers took heavy casualties but gained a foothold for the divisions which followed. The Turkish defenders were too few to defeat the landing but inflicted many casualties and contained the beachhead close to the shore. By the morning of 25th April, out of ammunition and left with nothing but bayonets to meet the attackers on the slopes leading up from the beach, the 57th Turkish Infantry Regiment received this command: *"I do not*

order you to fight, I order you to die. In the time which passes until we die, other troops and commanders can come forward and take our places". Every man of the regiment was either killed in action or wounded. The quality and determination of the Turks had been underestimated by the British who ultimately respected them as fellow soldiers.

Meanwhile the Portsmouth Battalion including Ellis and his comrades had arrived off Cape Helles with the rest of the Brigade. Their role was to land and support the advancing troops on Helles beachhead the following day.

However a last minute change of orders was received which changed their destiny. The ships carrying the Royal Naval Division would change course and reinforce the 1st Australian Division at Gaba Tepe. On the way the RMLI units, who had taken part in the diversionary attack near Gallipoli town, were picked up. The convoy including the Portsmouth and Chatham Battalions steamed to Anzac cove the Tuesday evening prior to landing the following day. The Deal and Nelson Battalions would arrive later in the week.

The initial landing at Anzac cove had taken place at 4.30am on Sunday 25th April. Four hours later, a significant portion of the Anzac divisions were safely ashore on the beaches. The Turkish fire grew heavier as the day progressed. The leading Anzac divisions were pushing inland with varying degrees of success. The dense thorny scrubland covering the maze of gullies and precipitous ridges was a barrier to their progress, The Turks utilised the terrain using hit and run tactics backed up by pre-prepared entrenched artillery and machine gun positions.

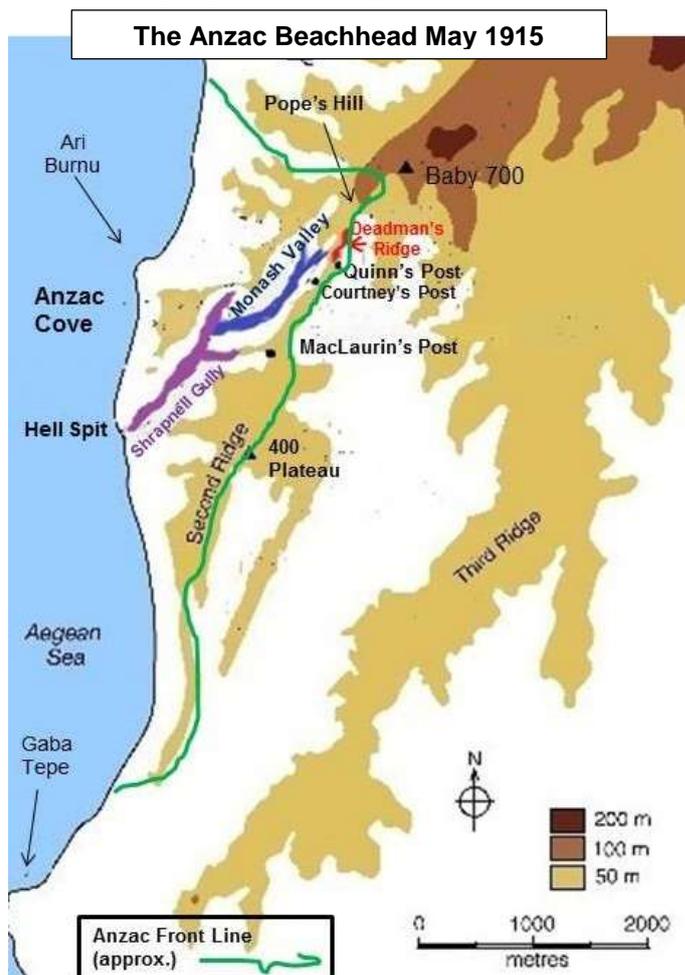
The Anzac advance was cut short by the local Turkish commander, Mustafa Kemal (later known as Kemal Ataturk) who rallied his men and seized the strategic ridges which overlooked the Anzac beachhead. A series of Turkish counter attacks including full scale bayonet charges continued into the night which was repelled with the help of offshore naval barrages.

By the morning of Monday 26th the Turks had pushed back the initial Anzac advances and contained them within a narrow beachhead. The Anzac achievement would be their ability to cling onto this. The Anzac "attackers" had become hard pressed "defenders" who had little food, water and ammunition left. The casualties on both sides were heavy.

The situation was so bleak that proposals were made for the evacuation of the troops. But the Anzacs were ordered “to dig in “.This they did, establishing a tenuous line of exposed outposts on the ridges with a front line of hastily dug trenches and rifle pits.

The troops were dependant on supplies of ammunition, water and food reaching them from Anzac cove via Shrapnel and Monash gullies/valleys which were a killing ground swept with Turkish gun fire and shrapnel shells. If they tried to move forward to reinforce their foremost positions they had a quandary. If they moved along the high ridge lines they could see the surrounding landscape but would be shot down from higher ground. If they hastily dived down into the gullies they would soon be lost or exposed to hidden Turkish sniper fire.

Throughout the morning and afternoon of Tuesday 29th April attacks and counter attacks continued, especially around the hilltop name Baby 700. This vantage point was held by the Turks after heavy fighting. It allowed fire to be directed on the Anzac lines in the head of the Monash valley and also on the gullies which were the lifelines for supplies and reinforcements from Anzac Cove.



The Portsmouth & Chatham Battalions waited most of Wednesday in the Gloucester Castle hearing rifle fire and heavy guns blasting away. At 4pm they were ordered to disembark. By 8pm they were all ashore and the Gloucester Castle, their home for the previous two months sailed away.

The Royal Marines made their way off the beach and bivouacked in Shrapnel Gully until nearly midnight. Each marine carried: 250 rounds of ammunition including two bandoliers; rifle & bayonet, entrenching tool with two empty sandbags wrapped around it; full water bottle; heavy

pack and two white muslin bags containing two extra days of “iron rations”, including bully beef, tea and biscuits.

The battalion followed their Australian guide in the pitch dark and pouring rain as they scrambled up the near vertical scrubby hillside out of Shrapnel Gully. The dense gorse like scrub and bushes left their hands covered in scratches. It was made more difficult as an endless stream of wounded on stretchers approached them on the narrow tracks as they climbed the hillsides. The marines were exhausted as dawn broke when they reached the Australian line located on Mac Laurin’s Hill at the northern edge of 400 Plateau. The Australians were worn out, hungry and thirsty. They had managed to survive with only the cover of a ditch, two feet deep, along the ridge. Enemy snipers were both in front and behind their lines so attempts to retrieve and bury the dead behind their lines resulted in more casualties.

The Deal and Nelson Battalions landed on Thursday 29th April. The Nelson Marines remained in Reserve and the Deal Marines would relieve the remaining Australian line on the southern part of 400 Plateau during Thursday night.

The following Australian “observations” were made on the arrival and deployment of the Portsmouth and Chatham Battalions. It provides a snapshot of what the RMLI were up against.

“Some of those who saw the two new battalions lined in their great sun helmets and faded khaki along the beach could not but feel a doubt. These men seemed strangely too young and slender to be old seasoned regular Marines we expected”.

“All through the night the relief operation continued. It was a cold, dismal evening and a black storm of rain descended at sunset, followed by a drizzle lasting till dawn. The Marines, each man laden with his blankets, waterproof sheets, ammunition, and rations as well as his rifle, were exhausted before they reached the hilltops. Though the Australians were not told it, these troops were for the most part raw recruits. Gallant youngsters who had volunteered at the outset. Some had but a few weeks training; most only a few months. They had no conception of the conditions of the fight at Gaba Tepe. Expecting to garrison well-made trenches - one asked “the way to the officers’ mess”. They were led to the worst sectors of the line. Here those who had occupied the trenches for days no longer realised what bad, wretched and isolated rifle pits they had been fighting in on Mc Laurin’s Hill and the 400

Plateau. The Marines knew nothing of what was ahead of them or on their flanks. Far on the left, wild and incessant fighting continued at the head of Monash Valley. From the dark came the distant sounds of Turkish bugle-calls. Close in front of them from the dense scrub flashed the occasional rifles of snipers: overhead the bullets cracked; machine-guns sent the mud of the parapets in showers upon them. The relief had not been completed by the dawn. But the tired battalion commanders, officers and men who were being relieved, had begun to realise that the young troops, in whose safe possession they had left their trenches would be tested beyond their capabilities.”

Despite the lack of experience of the new RMLI Battalions, they would quickly earn the respect of their Anzac comrades for their courage and fighting spirit.

On Thursday 29th April the Portsmouth Battalion was in the centre of the line on 400 Plateau, Chatham Battalion on their right and Nelson battalion on their left. All they saw were deep gullies ahead of them and hills overlooking their positions. The ground was littered with the Australian dead from the heavy fighting a few days previous. The day was relatively quiet since there was an order that ammunition was to be saved and the Turks allowed to waste theirs. The roar of rifle fire continued from the enemy. On Mac Laurin's Hill the Marines worked with all their might tunnelling from one rifle pit to the next to connect them. However on 400 Plateau little progress was made in improving the trenches as many Marines had been killed carrying out the work with minimal cover.

Strong efforts had been made by the Turks on Thursday to establish a trench line close to the Australian front to provide shelter for their planned advance. During Wednesday and Thursday five fresh Turkish infantry battalions arrived in the area to reinforce their line. The Turkish infantry and reinforcements were rested, fed and supplied ready for a major counter attack planned for Saturday 1st May. By this time a considerable part of the front line in the Anzac sector was in the hands of the Portsmouth, Chatham and Deal Marine Battalions. Some isolated pockets of Anzac troops still remained unrelieved.

On Friday afternoon and night increased activity had been noticed in the Turkish lines. Vigorous sniping was used to cover the massing of Turkish infantry behind their lines and an attack was thought imminent.

The Portsmouth Battalion repelled a strong Turkish attack leaving piles of dead in front of their line. However the lines either side of them fared badly leaving some of the Portsmouth RMLI isolated to the north of MacLaurin's Hill .In the southern sector, the marines were brought up behind the crest of the hill. Unfortunately this was an exposed position and the Turks saw the marines clustering together. A machine-gun was turned upon them from the rear, and large numbers were slaughtered. By 5pm the Chatham Battalion had been forced from their trench and called for reinforcements.

The Portsmouth Battalion had not survived unscathed and casualties rose as they remained under attack and heavy fire during the day. By night time pockets of marines had been isolated for many hours. They were desperate for supplies, water, and medical help for the wounded. The Marine battalions hung on "by the skin of their teeth" lying in exposed shallow trenches at the crest of the hills. All was confusion as rumours spread that the Turks had broken through.



Typical rugged terrain of gullies and steep ridges

The planned Turkish attack was launched at 5am on Saturday 1st May preceded with heavy shelling around Mac Laurin's Hill. The

Turkish line was only 30 yards in front of the Portsmouth battalion. The Marines met repeated attacks with tremendous fire and the heart was gone from the Turkish attack when the Marines fixed bayonets and charged. Attempts were made by Australian volunteers to carry supplies across open ground, swept with rifle and machine gun fire, to the Marines. At 4pm a thousand Turks made a spirited attack along the Anzac lines but again were rebuffed. The Turks rallied and by moonlight made an enthusiastic attack at the outposts at the head of Monash Valley. The Turks had some success and in places the Marines had to withdraw.

The Australian troops covered the withdrawal of the exhausted Marine Battalions during Saturday night. What remained of the Battalions lay in the gullies behind the lines to support the Australians at a later stage. The Nelson RMLI Brigade was in reserve to the New Zealanders.

In some respects the landing forces had been ill equipped. They did not possess any grenades like the Turks which were lethal in trench warfare. Eventually attempts were made to improvise using jam tins and scrap metal. Until the marines arrived there were very few periscopes which would save lives and avoid deaths from looking over the parapet of the trench. Four were sent on loan to each frontline brigade with instructions *“to be strictly returned”*. Sandbags were also in short supply. The digging of defensive cover while under fire had become such a priority that by the end of the campaign the Anzac soldiers became known simply as *“The Diggers”*. *“Dig your own trench now or they will dig your grave later”* and *“dig and fight”* became common sayings.

The main British thrust continued to be with the 29th British Division advancing the Helles beachhead. In the Anzac sector the struggle resolved itself into bitter and continuous fighting for the vital ground at the head of Monash Valley.

The relief operation carried out by the RMLI had provided some respite for the Anzac forces to regroup. Although of the four Anzac companies only one had received any rest at all,

While the Turks were heavily attacking the Anzac lines on Saturday afternoon; Anzac plans were made to launch a major counter attack of their own preceded by a naval barrage the next day. The objective of the Anzac plan was to consolidate and advance the Anzac line and capture the strategic high ground named *“Baby 700”* which overlooked the Monash Valley.

The sound of the bombardment which opened at dusk on Sunday 2nd May was the heaviest the troops had ever heard. It involved eight battleships and mountain artillery targeted for fifteen minutes on Baby 700. The New Zealanders advanced inland from the coast towards the Turkish high ground under heavy fire; however, the plan began to unravel as supporting divisions were severely delayed in arriving at their *“jump off”* points on time. The Australian divisions attempted to consolidate their forward posts along the eastern side of Monash Valley and join up with the New Zealand advance from the west. The initial naval bombardment subdued the enemy. However, not for long; the fighting grew more intense as the Anzac soldiers clambered up the rugged ridges with bullets fired from all directions. The shortage of ammunition meant again and again that volunteers dragging ammunition boxes and supplies up the slopes were killed.

Throughout Sunday night the Australians continued to fight and dig in. By midnight there were some successes, but for the most part the situation became desperate and communications between units had broken down as snipers had killed many officers and NCOs.

As daylight dawned on Monday 3rd May it was clear that the New Zealanders had not reached their target from the west. The Australians had advanced towards the hilltop of Baby 700 from the east with heavy losses. However there were significant gaps in their line in the hands of the Turks to make the situation tenable. The Australian divisions were just holding on exposed to gunfire from all sides. The attack was crumbling, communications had broken down and some units had retreated unsure what was happening.

By 1.35am on Monday 3rd May the whole attack had gone astray. At 2am the Portsmouth Battalion led the Chatham Battalion to support the Australian 4th Infantry Brigade who had dug in on a ridge at the top of Monash Valley, called Razor-Back Hill. Their progress was hampered by the crowds of wounded coming down the valley towards them. As dawn was breaking at 5.30am they reached the Australian Brigade HQ in Monash Valley. There followed a scene of pitiable confusion about their orders. It was believed that the 16th Australian Division was being pushed back and needed immediate support. The Portsmouth Battalion was ordered to launch a counter attack against the Turkish trench along what became known as Dead Man's Ridge.

View up Monash Valley from Anzac position protected by sandbags



They charged with great bravery up the steep slope to Dead Man's Ridge at the head of Monash Valley raked by heavy cross fire from shrapnel shells and Maxim machine gun fire from ahead and behind. The remnants of the Portsmouth

Battalion gained a small foothold on the ridge top. No sooner had they gained the position when they were attacked by mass formations of Turks. The ranks of the Marines were supplemented with Australians who had remained in isolated pockets along the ridge slopes. They lay shoulder to shoulder with little cover in an untenable situation inflicting heavy losses on the advancing enemy, while their own casualties increased.

A Mansfield man Private Frederick Timmons, of the Portsmouth Battalion, gave an account {probably edited to be upbeat} of his experiences to the Mansfield Reporter on 2nd July 1915: “ *On Monday morning [3rd May 1915] we were aroused and told to charge up the hill on the left, as the Turks were taking it. It was a charge. I shall remember it as long as I live. Before we had got half way up we had lost half our battalion. ... We charged for about four hundred yards, and simply littered the hill top with dead Turk ... The stench of the dead Turks was something awful... While I was being carried down to the beach a sniper shot me through the calf*”

Over the top in Gallipoli



They held on for several hours then were ordered to retire as they were outflanked by machine gun fire. The abandonment of a position so dearly won would rankle for a long time. They withdrew to the old Australian line at the

edge of the ridge. During the morning the troops would fall back in ones and twos to their lines down the hill. A full withdrawal took place under cover of darkness on the Monday night.

The severely depleted ranks of the Portsmouth and Chatham Battalions would withdraw into the reserve behind the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade.

In the confusion, the ferocity of the fighting, the rugged terrain and high temperatures the dead were left unburied and injured unaided.

A truce to bury the dead on both sides was not achieved until after 11th May. Lieutenant Aubrey Herbert was responsible for the Anzac operation " ... *there lay about 4,000 Turkish dead. It was indescribable. The Turkish Captain with me said: 'At this spectacle even the most gentle must feel savage, and the most savage must weep.' I talked to others [Turks]; one of them pointed to the graves and said: 'that's politics', then he pointed to the dead bodies and said: 'that's diplomacy'*

The Anzac military objectives had not been achieved. The commanding heights of hill Baby 700 and the Monash Valley had not been taken. The Turks overlooked every position, and only those who had dug deep trenches before dawn had a chance of living after daylight. The outcome was a stalemate as the Anzacs remained contained in their small beachhead consolidating their network or trenches.

The throwing in of the Royal Marines at daybreak on Monday 3rd May to retrieve a battle already lost resulted in the unnecessary slaughter of many brave officers and men.

The Portsmouth and Chatham Battalion casualties during their service in the Anzac beachhead were 21 officers and 217 men killed; 29 officers and 764 men wounded and 122 men missing.

On 12th May the RMLI brigades were sent to the Helles beachhead. The Royal Navy Division had suffered such crippling losses they were amalgamated and subsequently disbanded at the end of the campaign.

The Turkish Commanders accepted they had insufficient resources to dislodge the invaders. The stalemate continued for months and finally resulted in failure. However, the withdrawal of the British and Allied forces in January 1916 was exemplary involving minimal casualties.

The Gallipoli exploit was one of great naval and land disasters in WW1. Gallipoli was the plan thought up by Winston Churchill to end the war early. The campaign was poorly led and executed, apart from the final successful evacuation. It proved that naval bombardments could not be a substitute for a carefully planned land campaign. The cost was over 200,000 Allied casualties with many deaths from disease. The number of Turkish deaths is unclear but is generally accepted that there were over 200,000.

Winston Churchill was removed as First Sea Lord and would spend ten years "in the wilderness" as a politician. Kemal Ataturk would lead a

revolution to modernise and make Turkey a republic of which he was the first President from 1923 until his death.

The outcome for Ellis Bradbury and his comrades is that by the end of Monday 3rd May 1915 they had been killed in action. They lie in unmarked graves and their exact moment of passing is unknown.

Fortunately sources exist about the Portsmouth RMLI Battalion to supplement the few details included in the service and medal records of Ellis Bradbury. I have used these to provide background to determine where and when Ellis might have been.

In reality the sheer ferocity and confusion during the fighting means that still conflicting views are taken of events in the campaign.

There is an accepted disparity about when Ellis and other members of the Portsmouth Battalion were killed. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) records their death on the 6th May 1915. However, this was a few days after the last main assault the RMLI were involved in. The notes to the record reads "*all the casualties recorded on 6th May were most likely to be killed in the charge up Razor-Back hill, Monash Valley, on the 3rd May 1915, but may have been killed at Anzac beachhead on any date between 28th April and 3rd May.*"

Many soldiers were buried in unmarked mass graves or were not recognisable as a result of their injuries or the long period left untended in the hot conditions. If NCOs kept any records of the fallen, they themselves may have been killed.

Royal Marine Light Infantry Cap Badge



Ellis was awarded the 1914-15 Star, Victory and British War Medals. His service record shows that he was regarded as of "very good" character and satisfactory in the performance of his duties. His mother was paid a war gratuity of five pounds on his death - a small sum for such a sacrifice.

Ellis Bradbury Remembered

The **Derbyshire Times** dated **June 5th 1915** reported his death. A transcript is shown below and a copy of the grainy photo of Ellis. We have no documents giving more details of his death and do not know if any were revealed to his family.

*“Private Ellis Bradbury is 24 years of age and son of Mrs Ellis Bradbury, a widow, living at 24 The Square, Cutthorpe. He is well known and much respected and was a gardener in the employ of Messrs Proctor and Son, the Chesterfield Florists. He was a member of the Independent Order of Foresters *. Two of his brothers, who were miners at Grassmoor, both enlisted Tom in the 7th Leicester’s and Walter in the Chatsworth Rifles. His only other brother [Frank my grandfather] is married and lives in Vincent Crescent, Brampton. Mrs Bradbury, who was prostrate with grief, has received a letter from Mr Churchill on behalf of the King, ensuring her of the true sympathy of his Majesty and the Queen in her sorrow.”*

His elder brothers Tom and Walter Bradbury survived WW1

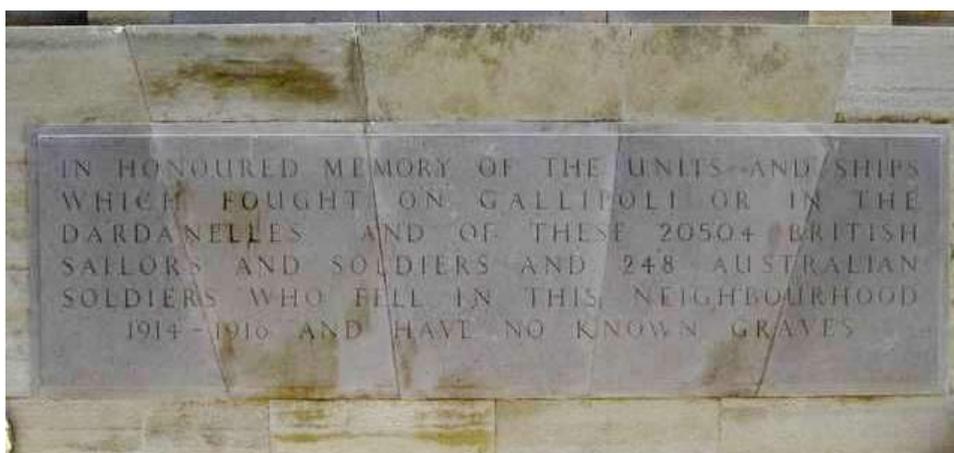
* The Independent (Ancient) Order of Foresters duty was “to assist their fellow men who fell in need as they walked through the forests of life”. His brother Frank was also a member.

Ellis Bradbury



Ellis Bradbury is remembered at the **Helles Memorial**, on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey. It reads: “In honored memory of the units and ships which fought on Gallipoli or the Dardanelles and of the 20,504 British sailors and soldiers and 248 Australian soldiers who fell in this neighborhood 1914-1916 and have no known graves.”

Helles Memorial, Turkey



Ellis Bradbury is also remembered together with other Cutthorpe fallen on the memorial in the quiet of the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul's Church in the village of Old Brampton across the fields from Cutthorpe.

The graveyard is also the resting place of Ellis's brother Frank Bradbury and his wife Louisa . As boys we would walk across the fields with mum to take flowers to their grave and play around the base of the war memorial bearing our great uncle's name. It has taken the best part of a lifetime to find out what happened to him, especially to discover with pride he was a Royal Marine.

St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Old Brampton and War Memorial



Ellis Bradbury is one of the eight Cutthorpe Men remembered



- | |
|------------------|
| Tom Black MM |
| Walter Black |
| Ellis Bradbury |
| Earnest Bramall |
| Maurice Fletcher |
| Frank Nicholls |
| George Shaw |
| Harry White |

The Derbyshire Times reporting the death of Ellis mentioned he was part of a group of five close Cutthorpe friends who enlisted together and transferred to the Portsmouth RMLI Battalion. They included Private Harry White who is the last casualty listed above. He was the 22 year old son of Rose White, Cutthorpe. His records show that he was probably killed in the charge up Monash Valley. William and Harry Black, the sons of the village Post Master, were also in the Royal Marines and were wounded at Gallipoli and sent to hospital in Cairo – they survived. Sadly their brothers died and are listed above. Corporal Tom Black was awarded the Military Medal and died in 1918; brother Walter Black died of wounds in UK in 1916. Finally their friend Will Fletcher was wounded and discharged in 1916.

LEST WE FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE

Sources

The main sources of information apart from family members and general WW1 background information were:

Websites:

- Commonwealth Graves Commission
- Ancestry – Census material & WW military Records
- The Long, Long Trail
- Forces War Records

The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18 by C.E.W Bean [First published 1921 , Revised in Eleventh Edition 1941]. To be found on the Australia War Memorial website

Gallipoli by Peter Hart

A Sunny August Bank Holiday to a Wet Easter. Royal Marine Light Infantry 1914-1918 by T.J. Budd {A semi fictional account written around his grandfather Raymond Loveridge's experiences in the RMLI}

The Story of Jack Clegg & Barnsley's Royal Marines Volunteers in the Royal Navy Division during WW1

Derbyshire Records Office - Derbyshire Times & Courier extracts