

## Letters from Private Frederick Muir to his mother Alice

### **Saturday, April 24, 1915**

"At about 11 o'clock we dropped anchor in a small cove on the opposite side of the island, only about 40 miles from Gallipoli.

"We had been paid a few days previously and most of the men passed the time gambling with what remained of their loose cash. The powers that be were too busy to suppress this, so poker, and crown and anchor schools flourished. The tinkling of a couple of mandolins and snatches of the eternal soldiers songs added an air of festivity to the troop deck."

### **Sunday, April 25, 1915:**

"... 50 yards from the shore the destroyer stopped and we tumbled unceremoniously over the side into the ships' boats alongside ... and springing out into the water we waded ashore to find ourselves at last on hostile soil."

"As we went upwards we met a string of wounded returning to the rear, some limping painfully, others carried on stretchers. From these we learnt that the 3rd Brigade had captured two ridges and were fighting desperately for the third. Rushing over the crest of the hill we came for a moment under heavy rifle fire and a couple of our men fell."

".. We charged our rifles and rushing over the hill found ourselves in the midst of a hail of bullets. Our Captain fell almost immediately, mortally wounded, and the men commenced to drop. Henceforth it was a case of every man for himself."

"I have never in my life known a day which dragged on so wearily, or so ardently wished for the night to come as I lay there with a dead man on one side and a dying man on the other and wondered how long it would be before my own turn came."

### **Thursday, April 29, 1915**

"On Thursday I learnt that the 1st Battalion had all been sent to the beach so I went down and joined them ... It was a very sorry group that assembled: there were only 400 men and about 6 officers left out of our strength of 1000 odd - the remainder being killed, wounded or missing."

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