



Gallipoli

Issue 1, February 2010



Their Story

Letters from the battlefield in Gallipoli.

May 14th 1915

Dearest Mother, Father,

I am sorry that it has been so long since I last wrote to you. You see I have been caught up in a dreadful battle at the Dardanelles so have been unable to reply as often as I would've liked. I'm sure you would've heard about this in the newspapers so I am writing to let you know that I'm alive and well so not to worry about me. I will try to tell you all I know about our situation but due to the censors I am unsure of how much will get through.

Well it has been a few weeks now and our food and resources are running low and everyone is unsure of when the next load can be safely dropped off. Everyone is incredibly stressed at this point as there has been so many casualties and they seem utterly pointless. I'm sorry about the dreariness of this let-

ter it's just that there is little positive stuff left to write. Mother this next paragraph may be a bit sad so I suggest you should not read it just now. The circumstances here are getting almost barbaric. There is little hygiene and fellow comrades are getting very ill all around me but no worries Father I have been lucky as you say and am keeping pretty good health. Please make sure Mother knows this as I don't want her to worry. You have raised a tough and lucky boy so you need fear no more.

The latrine situation is getting dire and poor, poor Jim fell in and drowned. God awful stuff Father. But that is the last of the ugly stuff and now I will tell you of the little upside we have in our situation.

We have had ceasefires to collect our dead and wounded and I found myself talking to a



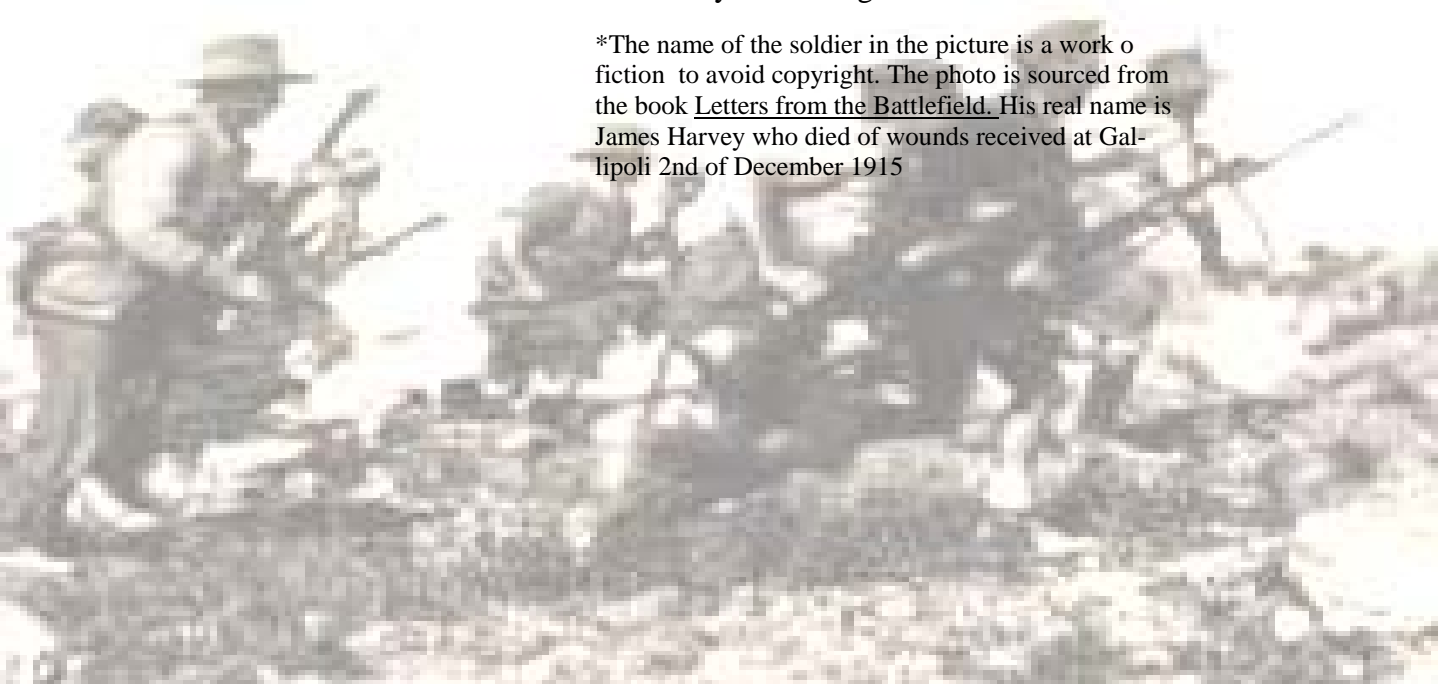
Soldier Henry Smith *

Johnny Turk. He was surprisingly well mannered and reminded me a lot of my own men. It is a shame about our predicament as under different circumstances I'm sure we could have been friends.

I do hope all is well at home and you do not miss me much. I shall be back once I'm finished here I promise. Tell all our friends and family I send my best wishes and that I am doing well. Hopefully I can write to you again soon.

Yours Sincerely,
Your loyal son Henry.

*The name of the soldier in the picture is a work of fiction to avoid copyright. The photo is sourced from the book Letters from the Battlefield. His real name is James Harvey who died of wounds received at Gallipoli 2nd of December 1915





New Zealand

1914

Part One

New Zealand society was forever changed by World War I. From the calibre and determination of our brave soldiers abroad to the struggles at home the war affected all aspects of New Zealand at the time.

Despite the fact that the actual fighting was occurring on the other side of the globe the pressure was not any less apparent.

World War One took 103,000 kiwis overseas to take part, of the 120,000 that enlisted. For many of these soldiers it would be their first trip outside of New Zealand. This is a huge percentage as New Zealand's population at the time was just over 1 million, amounting to nearly 10 percent of the whole of New Zealand absent for the war. This immense number meant that everybody in New Zealand was affected by the war as those remaining were either related to or knew some one who was serving in the war.

New Zealand found itself without many of it's strong young men who were pivotal to the economic stability of the Country. This put huge pressure on the remaining population who now had to take on the jobs of those who had left for the war.

This was incredibly complicated as many were farmers or hard labourers with trades that were difficult to master. This created huge strain and consequently New Zealand found that the young boys of the country were now taking on the jobs of their fathers or older brothers.

Young boys in New Zealand during 1914-1918 were forced to grow up far quicker than previously in peacetime. Boys as young as 13 found that they were now the man of the house and were filled with responsibility of providing for their family.

Many of the young boys were forced to give up their education in order to find a job so their family could afford the necessities it needed to survive, or in some cases manage the farmland and animals so it would maintain value.

The responsibility placed on the shoulders of the nations young boys due to the pressures of the war changed society drastically. As there was now a country where it was basically running on undereducated youth trying their best to achieve where they had little experience.



New Zealand Soldiers offloading in France



and the War,

-1918



The most significant impact WWI had on New Zealand society was the fact that of the 103,000 soldiers who took part 18,000 would never come back and 40,000 would be badly injured.

This casualty rate per capita was the greater than any other nation who took part in the war. This shaped New Zealand as it showed that people at the time thought this country was so beautiful and worth saving that it was worth dying for. This installed a great sense of national pride within New Zealand despite the sorrow it felt.

Of the soldiers that were lucky enough to return, many were no longer the same men they were before. A lot of the soldiers suffered PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) where they were forever haunted by the atrocities they witness on the battlefield. Society found it impossible to relate to the soldiers illness's which in some cases

seemed like a severe mental disorders so people thought that the soldiers with PTSD were mad.

Gallipoli spoke with Joan Watters (90yrs old) whose Uncle was one of many New Zealand soldiers who was forever haunted by his time in the war. "He came to live with us when he returned from his service as he was unfit to return to work and live by himself."

She described him as being physically healthy but spent his time alone on the porch intently staring into nowhere. "Before he left he was the most jovial person dad said, always joking and very down to earth. I never got to know this uncle as I only met him when I was 4yrs and always found him odd and frightening as he'd often shout angrily for no reason."

Mrs Watters grew up in post war society moving to New

Zealand from England when she was just 2years old at the end of the war.

"At school being a fatherless parent was not unusual as so many children lost their fathers in the war, I am forever grateful that my Father was not one of

"The Casualty rate per capita was greater than any other Nation who took part in the war."

the unlucky ones." Mrs Watters recalls.

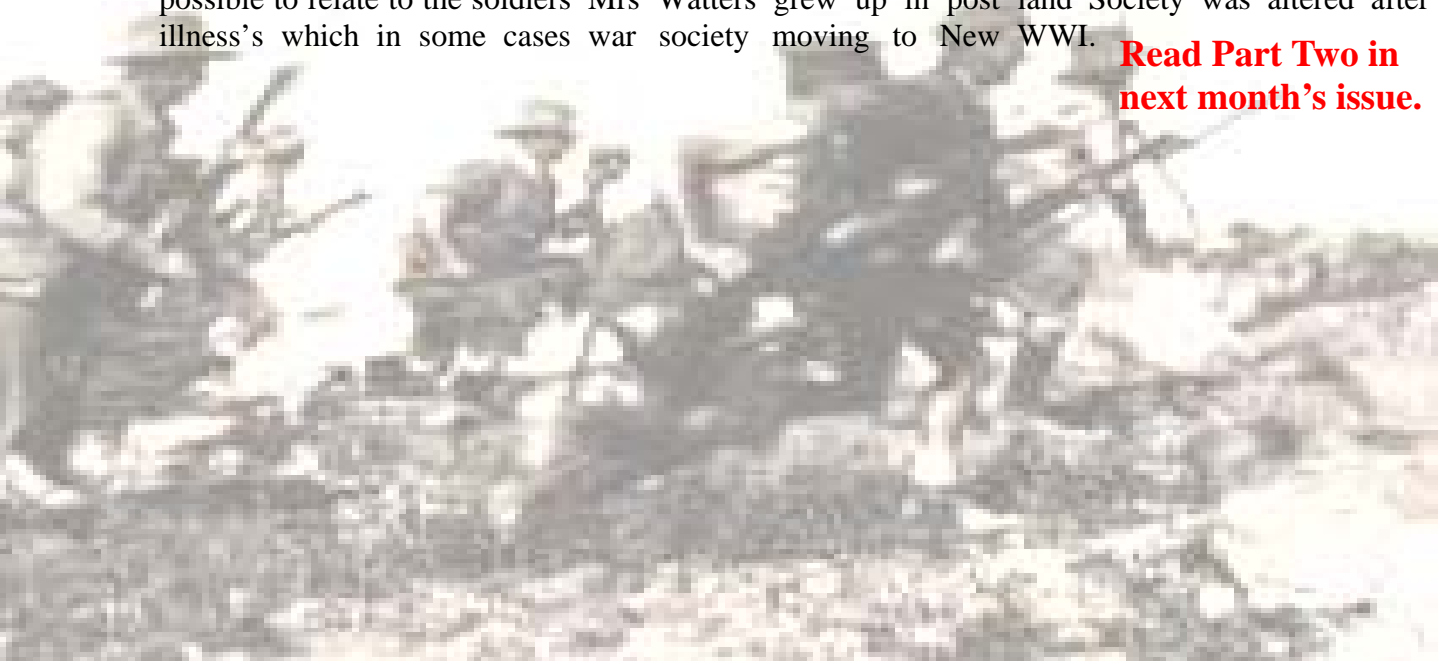
"Times were tough in New

Zealand after the war and I always remember that the adults at the time seemed very on edge about jobs and money as the war had drained so much from the economy."

Mrs Watters was the eldest of two sisters and was forced to leave school very young, like most girls at her time, as she had to find a job to provide for her family and find a husband to start her own.

Almost every area of New Zealand Society was altered after WWI.

Read Part Two in next month's issue.



Women

The role of women in World War One is unfortunately commonly overlooked throughout history. In this section of Gallipoli we hope to show you the bravery and struggles that women in New Zealand went through during World War One and how it shaped the way Woman are seen in society today.

While the number of soldiers from New Zealand that served in the war are staggering the number of Kiwi Nurses who took part is equally notable. There were over 500 nurses from New Zealand who travelled overseas to assist the wounded in World War One, and in particular Gallipoli, where the most casualties of New Zealand soldiers occurred. (over 7000 NZ soldiers wounded and 2721 killed.) The huge demand for qualified nurses overseas lead to around a quarter of New Zealand's total nursing workforce joining the battle in Europe. This had a similar effect on New Zealand society as the lack of men did,

as New Zealand's medical sector became severely understaffed.

This had a huge impact on New Zealand society as due to the falling economy from loss of soldiers there was a shortage of food and resources which created higher risks for sickness and illness. Because of this increased risk there was an increased need for medical attention but due to the lack of nurses this made it gaining the necessary help very difficult.

The Nurses however were doing an amazing job overseas helping endless wounded soldiers back to health. Although this may sound heroic these brave nurses were also subject to some of the wars worst atrocities. These nurses had to deal with huge losses as many

of their patients could not be helped. This put a huge damper on the morale of all the nurses but they were however very honourable as they continued through the lack of resources to help each soldier as best as they could.

The nurses were not exempt of the danger that the soldiers faced as many were in high risk

areas surrounded by the war. The troopship Marquette was carrying a large number of nurses and soldiers across the Mediterranean in 1915 when it was torpedoed. The ship sunk taking 10 nurses lives and injuring many more. This



New Zealand Nurse WWI

shows how it was not just the male side of New Zealand society that was brave and honourable for fighting for their country the women



at War

of New Zealand society were on the front line. Unfortunately make up for the lack of men. equally as brave and determined. since the soldiers were forbidden to re-

It was not only the role of nurses that changed in New Zealand society due to the war, it was also the role of all woman throughout NZ. Many women in New Zealand found themselves without their husbands, brothers or fathers for the first time. Many letters show how Kiwi women felt powerless to help their men at war but were burden with a huge responsibility to keep the soldiers morale high and keep home in order until (or if) they returned.

The women who were left home to worry about their men at war were forced to keep a happy facade for the boys so when they received their letters at war they had something positive to look forward to. This was a very important task as these boys were literally going through hell and these letters would be their only ray of hope

lease to much about their mission in case it got into enemy hands so the women were left to worry about their mans condition. The only time they could really know would be when the soldier returned or when they received a letter telling them their man could never return.

Due to their new responsibilities the role of woman was drastically changed in New Zealand society. Women found themselves taking on more prominent roles in society to ety.



Ronald Waterman with his sisters Maggie and Minnie

Women went from being expected to only cook, clean and look after the children to being perfectly accepted to go help on the farm doing hard labour to help New Zealand through its time of need.

It is quite saddening that the stories of women in New Zealand during WWI are hardly told as they are by no means less important to help show the true picture of how Gallipoli and World War I had a huge impact on New Zealand society.



ANZAC

ANZAC Day is a day of remembrance, but what exactly does ANZAC day mean to New Zealanders nowadays?

Gallipoli took to the streets to ask what the youth of today thought.

Q. What does ANZAC Day mean to you? What do you think of when you think of ANZAC Day?



Amy Moffat 17yrs

“Me and my family always go to the ANZAC parades in Richmond each year. I think it’s important to remember the soldiers who gave their lives. My Granddad was in WWII so its means a lot to him that we show our support. When I think of ANZAC Day I think of poppies and the soldiers of NZ.”

Jean Williams 18yr

“Umm. I’m originally from South Africa so I don’t think of it as very important to me, but I think it’s a good idea that New Zealanders have it so they remember their soldiers. I think of poppies and how we used to learn about it in school.”

Breanne Johnstone 15yr

“I think it’s the day where most of New Zealand takes a day to relax and pay tribute to the people who made it so we could have a country like this. I think of the parades and the lowering of the flag.”

Damien Walker 17yrs

“Both my grandfather and my Great Grandfather were in the wars so I think its pretty cool that there’s a day specifically to honour them and those like them for their bravery. I like to go to the parades when I can.”

Maggie Shearer 16yrs

“It means it that time of the year where I buy a poppy to sponsor the RSA. I don’t really go to the early parades anymore because its too early but I think I’ll go to the later one this year to pay tribute.”



Day

ANZAC Day epitomises the extent of that WWI impacted on New Zealand society. It is one of the few days of the year where everyone agrees it is a

holiday worth having, there are no great protest like the ones on Waitangi Day or over-commercialism featured on Christmas

and Easter. ANZAC day is the day were all of New Zealand can feel proud of their country and their citizens who fought in the war. From Pakeha to Maori all areas of society stand united on this day showing that ANZAC Day and Gallipoli remembrance have the ability to unite a country.

Its great to see that in the last few years the number of people attending dawn services has grown immensely and that the young generation seems to be taking interest in the remembrance of the brave soldiers.

While none of the youth will have experienced the immediate effects of the war they are able to see through education the significance of it and the

“The Great War proved that thousands of our brave soldiers thought this beautiful land of ours was worth dying for. We are too young to do as they did, but we pledge ourselves, so to live, that when our hour of trial shall come we shall not be found wanting. We salute those who gave their lives that we might live in peace and security.”

impact it still has on society.

Here at Gallipoli we think it is great how the education systems teaches the students all sides of the war. So they have an understanding of why these soldier gave their lives so that the students wouldn't have to. But it also shows how unnecessary war is and that it is not all glorious and full of adventure. This installs in the youth of today the

feelings of gratitude. Stopping the efforts of the soldiers from becoming pointless to being well worthwhile.

In today's society there are very few people who were living in New Zealand at the time of WWI who are still alive. Yet their stories have been passed down and well documented so

that society today will never forget the impact that WWI had on society and how we can learn from the past to stop atrocities like WWI happening again.



Have your say

Do you think ANZAC Day should be our National Day or should we keep to Waitangi day?

Send your answers into Gallipoli, Two chances to win a \$50 prize for lucky voter.



When the War came Home

Woman cry, Families fall,
When the war came home.
Brave yet gone
Never here too long,
Gone where the poppies do grow.

Young boys stumble
While the economy crumbles
When the war came home.
Helps gone astray
Where their bodies lay
Down where the poppies do grow.

Long white cloud standing tall
When the War came home.
Night, kiwis cry,
Knowing they will never again fly
Amongst where the poppies do grow.

Katherine Bruce

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