

Captain Chechele Keppel (Hart) Bampton

Chichele Keppel Hart was born on 2nd June 1882 and he married Nancy Margaret Sprot early in 1935 at Cirencester. The 1891 census shows that he was living with his father Henry Hart and his Mother Maria and that he had an elder sister called Grace and an elder brother called Richard as well as two younger sisters Charlotte and Augusta. Chechelle's father was the Rector of Cranwich and the family were staying in the Rectory.

The UK Navy List of 1888 to 1970 shows that Chichele Keppel Hart was enrolled on 15th July 1896 and appointed midshipman on the Majestic on 15th May 1898 after passing out of Training Ship Britannia. His next posting was to HMS Venus in the Mediterranean before transferring to HMS Magnificent from April to November 1901 in the Channel Islands.

The 1901 census shows that Chechele was 18 years of age and had taken to being called Keppel and was a midshipman in the Royal Navy. Apparently he received a legacy and altered his surname.



The UK Navy list of 1888 to 1970 shows Chichele Keppel Hart was promoted to Lieutenant on 31st December 1903. He was then promoted to Lieutenant-Commander on 31st December 1911 and he would remain at this rank until 1916. On 30th June 1917 he was again promoted to the rank of Commander.

His next posting was to HMS Triumph where he stayed until 21st April 1903. From 1903 to 1908 Chechele undertook a number of posts including PT Instructor in PT school. His reports over this period were consistently VG. On 17th September 1909 he was transferred to HMS Thetis who was on manoeuvres. The next series of postings were as PT Instructor, on occasions these were unpaid postings. The reason for these postings may have been due to an injury or illness that he was not fully recovered from. From 2nd July 1912 he was posted to HMS King Alfred which was on manoeuvres, on 15th July 1913 he was posted to HMS Vincable until 3rd January 1914 when he was transferred to HMS Prince of Wales where he was promoted from 2nd Lieutenant to 1st Lieutenant on 19th November 1914 and served on HMS Price of Wales until 12th July 1917 when he then transferred to HMS Cornwall where he saw service in Atlantic Convoy duties, he served on HMS Cornwall until January 1919. On 22nd January 1919, Chechele was piquet officer in London. In July 1920 he was attached to the Ministry and carried out a variety of duties.

In 1920 Chechele requested that he be placed on the retired list and this was granted.

In 1940 Chechel was a F.O.G.O. and in 1941 was the senior F.O.G.O. in Great Yarmouth and Harwich. He eventually ended up in Scotland on 19th July 1941 as the Senior F.O.G.O. and he returned to the retired list on 20th December 1945. The valuation rolls show that Captain Bampton was the owner and occupier of Croft House from 1944 to 1975.



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Captain and Mrs Nancy Bampton 1970s

Captain Bamford's Dardanelles Diary

Between March and May 1915, Captain Brampton served on HMS Prince of Wales and the following extracts give some idea of life at sea during World War 1.

Saturday 20th March 1915

1am, left Portland with the "London" for Dardanelles.

Sunday 21st March 1915

At sea. Lost two men overboard in big sea, lowered boat but could not find them.

Tuesday 22nd March 1915

Gibraltar, coaled. Dined ashore at Bristol Hotel ~ a lovely evening.

Friday 26th March 1915

Arrived Malta, Went ashore for an hour, left in the afternoon.

Monday 29th March 1915

Arrived Lemmors. Harbour full of transports etc. "Inflexible" (<http://www.naval-history.net/OWShips-WW1-02Inflexible.htm>) with salvage steamers alongside, had a bad list, she was mined on 18th. "Orwell" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Orwell_\(1901\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Orwell_(1901))) went out of harbor shortly after our arrival with dead from "Inflexible" ~ not very cheery.

Tuesday 30th March 1915

At Nindros, Lemmors Island.

Thursday 1st April 1915

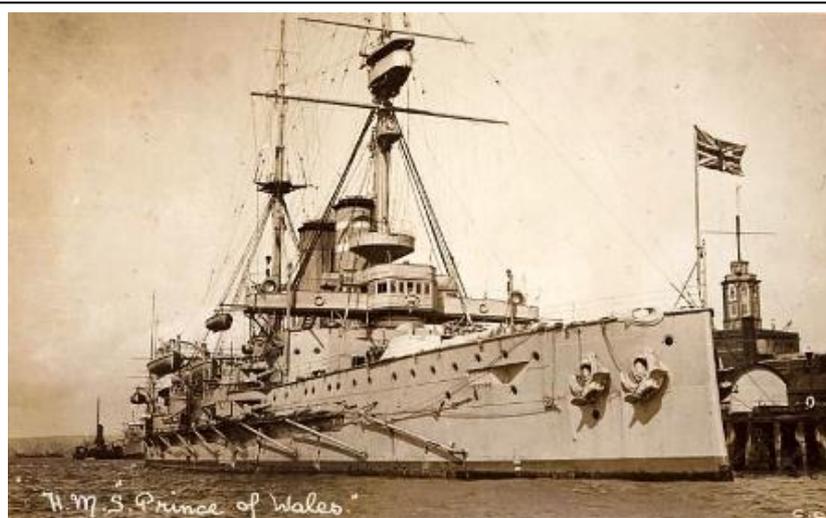
Left Nindros went to Teuedos Island. Saw evidence of the Straits in the distance : what a date to sight it.

Friday 2nd April 1915

Went on patrol between Rabbit Island and Main land in the evening. Sank floating mine with rifle and maxim fire.

Saturday 3rd April 1915

7a.m. first entered straits astern of "London" with mine sweeping. Greatly struck by the courage of the men in the mine sweepers. Came under heavy fire in the straight. Trawler was struck ahead at once. "London" was slow in opening fire and a battery at de Tott's had a good innings before being silenced. "London" was too far astern of the trawlers too.



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Two men were wounded owing to shell bursting steam pipes, we returned to the "Endurance" and took them on board. Prince of Wales shockingly scald. Covering mine sweepers all day till 6p.m. and fired at a concealed howitzer in

the afternoon and spotted by aeroplane with wireless: fired 26 rounds at it and scored 2 direct hits. Went on patrol between Imbros Island and C. Helles in evening. Ammunition expended: 60 rounds 6".

Sunday 4th April 1915

Entered straits about 8a.m. Covering minesweepers. Hardly any firing from Gallipoli side but Asiatic side pretty busy. One battery which refused to dry up for 6" was silenced by a beautiful shot from the fore turret. Saw high explosive shrapnel for the first time, a most terrifying invention, fired 2 rounds at 1200 yards at a battery which opened fire, both good shots. Firing better today and shrapnel bursting well. Ammunition expended: 3 * 12"; 150 * 6"; 60 * 12 pounders.

Monday 5th April 1915

Returned to tenders on leaving the straits last night. Put to sea at 9a.m. to bury one of the wounded from the trawler who had died: the other is going on fairly well. Beastly weather.

6th to 9th April 1915

Unloading aerodrome gear, aeroplanes, motor lorry from ships to tenders.

Saturday 10 April 1915

Went out with the "London" to patrol.

Sunday 11th April 1915

Fired at howitzer battery with aeroplane spotting. Expended 5 * 12"; 26 * 6". Enemy fired 2 rounds shrapnel at the aeroplane, both rotten shots. Patrol for night C Helles to Imbros Island.

Monday 12th April 1915

Went inside straits with "London" and escort "Reynard" which was taking submarine captains in to have a look at the place. Rain and mist. "Reynard" by constantly altering course and speed was not hit. Asiatic side fired at us a good deal but no hits. Projectiles seemed to be all coming straight for the top!! Only actually saw one ~ they pitched very close to the ship. Later on I the day they eventually opened fire on one of the patrol destroyers at the entrance, no damage.

Tuesday 13th April 1915

At Nindros. Coaled.

Wednesday 14th and 15th April 1915

Practiced landing troops from transporters.

Friday 16th April 1915

500 Australians from "Ionian" (infantry) came on board in the evening to practice disembarking in the dark, these men are the advance guard of the landing. S.O.S. Troopship "Manitou" was attacked off Skyros Island by Turkish T.B. flying German colours. Given 10 minutes to abandon ship (?) approximately 100 lives were lost in the panic which ensued. T.B. fired 3 torpedoes at close range and missed all three, presumably too close and torpedoes went under. Later this T.B. was cut off by "Minerva" and "Wear" and ran herself aground on S. extremity of Khios Island. Instructions given to destroy boat and arrange with Greek authorities about internment of crew.

Saturday 17th April 1915



© Wikipedia
Wreck of the *E15* inspected by Turkish and German personnel

Submarine E15 ran aground off Kepez Point immediately under Fort Dardanus: no very definite news. Destroyer attack at 10p.m. to destroy her and *Prince George* to enter straits at dawn to destroy her. Reported by *Vengeance* that Turkish tug working on her had capsized and sank (presumably reported by aeroplane). Aeroplanes dropping bombs on her during afternoon. Heard afterwards crew were taken prisoner.

Further information on this incident can be found at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_E15

Sunday 18th April 1915

Nothing of interest, no further news of E15. A good many soldiers on board as visitors. "*La Provence*", French armed liner arrived with troops.

Monday 19th April 1915

Bombardment of Turkish Camp in Gallipoli Peninsular commenced at dawn by "*Bacchante*" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Bacchante_\(1901\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Bacchante_(1901))) and "*Talbot*" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Talbot_\(1895\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Talbot_(1895)))

"*Prince George*" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Prince_George_\(1895\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Prince_George_(1895))) failed to hit E15 yesterday, reported still in the same position. Later reported Lt. Commander Robinson of "*Vengeance*" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Vengeance_\(1899\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Vengeance_(1899))) took *Triumph* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Triumph_\(1903\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Triumph_(1903))) and *Majestic's* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Majestic_\(1895\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Majestic_(1895))) picket boats up last night with dropping gear and succeeded in torpedoing E15. Later aeroplane reconnaissance: "E15 listed over and only bottom and part side showing." So Turks will have little possibility of getting her off now. Still no news of the crew. Australian advance guard came on board in the evening and were landed in dark for practice. Harbour still filling up with transports, mostly French today. There are two German prizes here in use as transports.

Tuesday 20th April 1915

Nothing interesting. Practiced hoisting out boats in the dark. 20 men of the R.N. Division came on board.

Wednesday 21st April 1915

Topping lift of derrick carried away while hoisting, 7 men injured, 4 of which with broken legs etc. sent to "London" hospital ship. Took on 110 tons of coal. In evening Captain explained general plan of operations to officers. Discharged R.N. division men. Heard *Bacchant's* and *Talbot's* camp which was to be shelled on the 19th had departed, so they shelled another.

Thursday 22nd April 1915

Went in the afternoon to save a waterlogged lighter, towed her back to this ship and got a morning span under her and lifted slightly with the main derrick, then pumped out which was successful.

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Friday 23rd April 1915

About 6p.m. 1st squadron sailed. One of the transporters nearly bumped metal with another as they sailed past HMS Prince of Wales. General Walker and about 12 other officers came on board in the evening, they will stop here now until the landing.

Saturday 24th April 1915

Major General Bridges and 500 troops came on board about noon. Sailed about 1.30pm. No hammocks got down everyone. Standing by more or less.



Sunday 25th April 1915

Anchored about 1a.m. and hoisted our boats and disembarked troops. Proceeded at slow speed to Kaba Tepe. It was at 4.25 that the boats reached the beach which was entrenched: enemy opened fire with rifle and shrapnel fire when the boats were about 50 yards from the beach. Destroyers then went close in and disembarked troops, the landing proceeded (under heavy fire) from transports. Our advance party stormed the hill where they landed which was unfortunately about 1½ miles N. of the spot chosen, owing to the dark this inaccuracy occurred. By 8.35 8000 troops had been landed. They shortly captured 3 Krupp guns. From the time of landing all day there was incessant rifle fire, varied by shrapnel from the enemy and an occasional gun from the ships. Troops advanced about 3 miles but later had to retire again. Turks got between right wing and the beach causing right wing to crumple on to the centre, causing the centre to retreat: this was about 3p.m. and I saw them through the Range Finder, coming back over the ridge, a shell burst immediately behind them and they all fell. There seemed to be a difficulty in getting sufficient ammunition ashore and water will be a difficulty. Soldiers asked us to shell 224 d. which we did about 7p.m., ceasing fire at about 7.15., then enemy shelled our troops rather hotly with shrapnel which looked rather dramatic in the failing light. At 7.30p.m. all firing ceased. About 20 000 troops have been landed, and there are about 2 to 3000 casualties: some 600 being suffered in storming the hill at the outset. We have only one hospital ship which is supposed to take 400, she has 600 and the remainder are crowded into two transports. This lack of hospital ships and attendants and doctors seems all wrong. Some big gun fired in the morning and nearly hit some of us, so we shifted further seaward. We have one Turkish prisoner on board! Very frightened and expecting a bad time.

Monday 26th April 1915

Intermittent rifle fire all last night. The party commenced at daybreak again. We shifted closer inshore. Turks attacked strongly apparently and attempted a flanking movement on the left flank. Urgent signal from general to shell 224d, which we did it being visible and not indirect firing: this was about 10a.m., nearly all ships fired, we fired 6" and fore turret and must have flattened anything living in that square. Signal "cease fire" followed by a signal expressing the thanks of the Infantry Brigade for the assistance given. I gather this heavy shelling saved the left flank. P.M. a tale from the beach party that we have taken 1000 prisoners and 14 machine guns. The engineers by night had built a road of sorts up the hill and field guns are being landed: it must be a hard struggle to get them up the hill. Some are already in position and they will take some shifting from this hill now as they are heavily entrenched: all the same this is useless unless they can

advance. Very heavy rifle fire this afternoon, and troops advancing on both right and left flanks. Queen Elizabeth (<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/The-Fleet/Ships/Future-Ships/Queen-Elizabeth-Class/Queen-Elizabeth/History-of-HMS-Queen-Elizabeth>) shelling something inland with 15 guns. Have just noticed 2 lifeboats run up on the beach N. of our landing place, a good many poor fellows dead around them ~ these must have got lost in the dark at the time of landing somehow and got wiped out, getting separated from main body. Two men with stretchers carried by 3 with rifles have been along this afternoon and rescued one (perhaps not dead) while the *Majestic* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Majestic_\(1895\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Majestic_(1895))) shelled the immediate neighbourhood: this was a very plucky act. Heavy shrapnel fire commenced on our position from about 7p.m. to 7.30p.m.

Tuesday 27th April 1915

Big guns firing at daybreak from somewhere inland came rather close and transports moved more seaward. Heavy rifle fire all day, reported from beach, we are doing well and have taken several trenches. Also that Turkish spies dressed in Australian's uniforms have been found on the beach. One of our gunners Mr Gamblin offered a cigarette to, he says ~ more probably he asked for one! But the man could not understand and was therefore arrested. Also a wounded man told our purser who was over there assisting in dressing wounded, that a Turk had held up his hands to him and being approached picked up his rifle and opened fire again. That Turk's head was heavily belaboured with the butt end of a rifle but stupidly did not make a job of it and they were in the same hospital ship! Constant signals all day from shore to increase volume of fire, it seems amazing that it should be necessary to make this signal to ships. The Prince of Wales has not been allowed to fore all day. We heard that things were very bad on Sunday night and that the troops were very nearly re-embarked, which would have meant very heavy losses. An amusing incident ~ a New Zealander stumbled and fell during a charge yesterday, he was closely followed by an Australian whose bayonet unavoidably stuck him in the sternum. The Australian stopped to help him, but while doing so was wounded with a rifle bullet. The charge passed on and they helped each other down to the beach to be taken off to the hospital ship. These two were last seen sitting (?) on the beach having a furious argument as to whose fault it had been. The "Manica", (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Manica) the balloon ship reported a submarine early this morning ~ great excitement, destroyers getting under weigh etc., it turned out to be a boat bottom up. Had a good burst of firing this afternoon to cover left flank. Troops have advanced about 700 yards today, very hard fighting again. It is a pity that they have no proper arrangements for spotting and controlling our fire from shore, also that the hospital arrangements are so inadequate. The doctor tells me there has been no time to give anaesthetics and those badly injured one can only hope will die. They said the men showed most stoical pluck while being dressed: one Captain had thumb amputated without anaesthetics, merely took precaution of being blindfolded. Hear today that Turkish War Office announced they would not respect Red Cross, to which our war office replied they would not respect white flag. This may be a pain but our men have orders to take no notice of white flag. All three of our doctors away attending to wounded soldiers. Several bullets arrived on board, one man struck on arm yesterday and grazed an arm, one killed and two or three reported wounded yesterday. A trawler to-day was damaged by the propeller of a transport and had to be beached, she sunk just before reaching the beach but was not entirely submerged. Canadian Brigade should arrive tomorrow as reinforcements from Egypt. 1st landing party were doing well, were to have stormed Acha-[Patra] at noon to-day but have not heard result as yet. AE2 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMAS_AE2) torpedoed a ship near the narrows today, but has not yet reported her name. Queen Elizabeth ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Queen_Elizabeth_\(1913\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Queen_Elizabeth_(1913))) sank a Turkish transport firing over the land. Hear from wounded that a German officer speaking excellent English and dressed in

Australian uniform got into Australian trench ~ this should be fairly easy on account because of the mix up caused by the thick scrub ~ and was bowled out actually speaking to Turks ~ natural results for him without Court Martial, but one can't help having a sneaking respect for his courage. Letter from M. today.

Wednesday 28th April 1915

A hot calm day. Enemy fire started later this morning, at around 9a.m. when about 6" 12 or thereabouts arrived, one rather near "Majestic" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Majestic_\(1895\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Majestic_(1895))) but no damage. Artillery general on board, pointed out supposed observation station which we shelled with 122, 1 round every 10 minutes all day and taking bursts of fire whenever they opened fire on our men with shrapnel. This seemed effective, but later they evidently moved more to the south on the ridge ~ anyway much less shrapnel fire today from the enemy. Saw a party of about 60 of our men on the beach as far as the "Fisherman's Hut" ~ presumably went to recover or bury bodies at stranded boat, they were under fire from snipers and were taking every available cover, but one anyway was killed and had to be left on the beach ~ these Australians have courage, are full of fight. About 5p.m. report received that big gun was being drawn by a team to an emplacement post by Salt Lake. Prince of Wales ordered to go and knock it out. We went but could see nothing of it, a seaplane which came to spot for us broke down and had to land in the sea. These sea planes always seem to be breaking down and must be very shaky. No 1 landing were in a line from De Tott's battery, (our old friend) right across the peninsular this morning. They were to advance today. This should have been done at noon yesterday but was put off owing to the delay caused by the French troops being so painfully slow landing. However it was evidently going on this afternoon and the hill Achi Baba this side of it was being heavily shelled. Hear the No 1 landing was strongly opposed, that the fleet only shelled for 40 minutes instead of 2 hours as previously arranged and that the entire 1st advance landing party was wiped out, 4 pom-poms being employed. Admiral Nicholson took ships in close and gave them hell, after which a second landing was attempted with success. The Naval Brigade feint landing at Bulair I hear was fruitless, Bulair lines being completely deserted. The "Dartmouth" (<http://www.naval-history.net/OWShips-WW1-06Dartmouth1.htm>) with about 8 empty transporters carried out a joint landing this evening, reported no sign of life. He also carried this out at another place ~ ditto. We now hear that Turks had full details of the landing plans, including the times of sailing etc. and it was only the mercy of providence that put us 2 miles out in our reckoning. Had we attempted a landing at the spot intended, viz just N. of Kaba Teper ~ they were waiting for us and we should have probably have shared the fate of the 1st landing at C. Helles: as it was, the Turks who opposed our landing had to do a 2 mile sprint and were therefore rather cooked! The fact that Bulair and the coast N. of Xeios is deserted proved by the feint landing ~ goes to prove that they knew our plans and that all the troops are massed here and in the S. of the Peninsular. We took the "Bacchante's" (<http://www.naval-history.net/OWShips-WW1-05Bacchante.htm>) billet off Gala Teke this evening till 6a.m. tomorrow morning. The wind has got up a bit this evening and it is raining. There is evidently a strongish night attack on our position going on ~ heavy bursts of rifle fire. Cox's Brigade arrived today, about 4000 including Ghurkas, a welcome reinforcement.

Thursday 29th April 1915

Another heavy day's fighting with apparently no progress. No news about Krithea (<http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/5environment/timelines/100-events-gallipoli-campaign/april-may-1915.html>) which should have been occupied by Southern party today. Big projectiles came over the land early this morning again as usual: two very nearly struck "Majestic" causing her to shift billet hurriedly. The "Triumph" (presumably) set something on fire inland with her shells, possibly Maidors, anyway a great cloud of smoke all the afternoon from that bearing. A

very heavy attack on the centre of our line about 5p.m.: they were heavily shelled there ~ it was tantalising seeing this and not being able to see who was doing it so as to be able to silence them. We spent the day shelling the most likely spots for enemy's observation station. A lovely hot day and it seems a waste of life, in both senses, to be doing this. Hear a Division from Egypt has been ordered here forthwith, we can do with any amount. Robinson who has been away as transport officer in the transports came on board today. He endorses the information about the lack of arrangements for casualties. Hear there were 2300 casualties here the first day and these only represent the number actually picked up, some had to be left in the retirement, when one troop advanced too far the first day and when the right wing was turned. Wounded say that Turks kill their own badly wounded men and either bayonet or break the legs of any of ours they find. Hear also that Australians captured about 100 Turks: whilst arranging about their disposal they received a flanking attack ~ they therefore shot the lot. Evidently there are no kid gloves out here on either side. The tale of the treatment of the wounded is terrible ~ poor fellows waiting hours on the beach in scorching sun, then taken off to a transport the only hospital ship having been filled up and more: these arrangements had been made and they were laid on the deck, in some cases where horses had been: that it was impossible owing to the lack of medical assistants apart from doctors to give anaesthetics, and that badly wounded men had to be left to their fate in order to deal with those who had a chance. All accounts state there hasn't been a murmur from any of them either for their lack of treatment or while being dressed or cut: they are tough. Our doctors (3) and chaplain go away every day to help and things are now getting better but someone ought to be scrubbed for the previous state of affairs.

Friday 30th April 1915

Instead of letting them send their big projectiles over our way this morning as is their habit ~ a sea plane was sent up at 5a.m. to report whether there was any ship in the Straits just above the Narrows. Each ship with 12 guns fired 2 rounds, two of which the seaplane reported fell within 100 yards. The ship an oldish battleship then hurriedly withdrew to the N. We took on coal this morning and had to open fire with Y1 during coaling. Rather a novel situation ~ firing and coaling at the same time. The "Lord Nelson" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Lord_Nelson_\(1906\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Lord_Nelson_(1906))) had a go at Chanek over the land this morning spotted for by the kite balloon in the "Monica" ~ they fell short. She apparently listed herself and had another go this afternoon, balloon reported all shots hit and parts of town now in flame. Smoke is coming over the hill. The balloon had to come down, otherwise it seems a pity not to complete the job, especially as Leman von Sanderp is reported to be there. Another hot day today and things seem much quieter ashore today if one can judge by the volume of rifle fire which is much reduced.

Two big projectiles came over from the Straits about 4.30 one about 300 yards astern us. The glow of Chanek on fire on the sky over the hill is rather a wonderful sight this evening. 10.30p.m. "Majestic" just ordered to open fire on 237Z ~ I think it a rather good thing to fire them a shake up now and then during the night just to make them feel insecure. The same orders about our seaplane going up at 5a.m. tomorrow were given this evening i.e. to see if anything is within range in the Straits. This signal was repeated by flashing lamp in some cases cruiser arc lamp all over the anchorage which seems rash, surely one should assume the Germans or even English taking in signals from the ships. There's a good deal of rifle fire going on tonight. Hear the Turks on our left may have been using hand grenades, we haven't got any ~ the trenches at that part of the line have got very close.

Saturday 1st May 1915

Shots from big guns over in the morning: aeroplane broke down so no firing could be done. Our troops heavily shelled at daybreak: stiff fighting all day. At 4.30p.m. went into Sadler Bay and fired 6" at the windmills also at the minaret in the village, these being suspected of being observation stations. Range about 8500 yards: burst and Lydite near one mill and damaged it, blew the sails off and a lot of shots fell in the village which seemed a pity, albeit it's probably being used as a camp: otherwise the range was too great for so small a target with a 6". Then we moved on to the North and fired vaguely at a position where fires had been reported, this seemed a waste of ammunition with no aeroplane to spot. Then sighted about 15 men in a boat with Greek flag beating up the Gulf of Xeros. Stopped them but couldn't understand their stupid language ~ however they had a pass from Temple, the military governor of Tiaedos, so they were allowed to go: probably they were Turkish reservists returning to Turkey. A fairly quiet night, we anchored on the South near Raba Tepe.

Sunday 2nd May 1915

Aeroplane was to have gone up at 5a.m. and spotted for Prince of Wales to fire at Battleship in the Straits across the land. The beastly thing broke down and while we were waiting No 32 battery just N. of Maidos had several shots at us, the f. turret trainer saw the flash in that position: Later saw some Turks in a small green field 224 S2: had quite good fun with 2 12 pounders from fore shelter deck. Two men on horseback were amongst them: excellent gun laying and even at the range of 6500 yards, near the extreme range for 12 pounders, could put a shot practically anywhere. The men on horses I was told afterwards cleared out to the right, but ~I expected them to go to the left and watered the scrub on that side ~ no doubt plenty of the others were there though, but I would have preferred the mounted ones as they were probably big wigs of sorts ~ there being no cavalry in this party. One poor thing crawled over the field on his hands and knees afterwards to great delight of riflemen etc. Heavy firing to the S. ~ 12" by the sound ~ our ships shaking up Kuthia, probably preparatory to an advance of the Southern army. Heaven only knows how we are going to get enough to do any good without about 100 000 more men at least. We're still on the ridge taken this day last week by the Australians bayonet charge on landing. At 6.30p.m. a battery of 4 guns opened fire on our troops from the crest of a hill, or another post behind the crest, about 2000 yards inland: these guns were not visible but for the first time since we've been here, we could see the flash. This was rather remarkable, the battery was firing rapidly, you could see the flashes over the crest of the hill: The Dartmouth and Bucchante fired short. Then while they were still firing rapidly and almost simultaneously with the flash of one of these guns, a 6" cannon from the Bucchanti burst right on them: it was like a knock out blow, not another sound! The Bucchanti and Dartmouth persisted for a time and the soldiers as well, firing common and shrapnel shot and make a job of it. At 7p.m. most of the ships, not Prince of Wales or Queen started firing on squares allotted to them ~ supposed to be slow fire until 7.15 but the area seemed to be covered with shells ~ rather an impressive sight. At 7.15 p.m. instead of "increase volume of fire" "decrease" was signalled and "cease fire" at 7.30 when attack by our own troops commenced. Prince of Wales shifted to Caurpus billet on the N. end and at 10p.m. was suddenly ordered to open fire on two squares. Search lights were burnt and 3 or 4 lights trained on the crest of the hill ~ we seemed to do very good shooting for about a quarter of an hour, range about 600 yards. We've got to stand by to open fire at daybreak, viz at 4.30 a.m. There's a tremendous fusillade going on ~ and the flashes of our guns at the S. of Peninsular are very vivid. They are probably shaking them up. Hear tonight that the Fleet Surgeon of Implacable has been killed by rifle bullet from sniper, whilst on quarter deck. We are rather lucky that no-one on board here was killed, we had plenty of bullets landing on board: There's regular bursts of rifle fire as I write this.

Monday 3rd May 1915

Fighting hard ashore all night ~ hear the troops have advanced slightly but cannot yet get the ridge of the higher or northern end of the hill. Troops on the beach have advanced to the N. and advanced posts are now beyond the "Fisherman's Hut". The erstwhile home of snipers now has a trench round the top, but the bodies of the men from the boat, and the stranded boat still appear to be on the beach. Presumably the beach there is too exposed to enemy's fire at present. Battery 32 and a ship in the Straits fired a good deal over the land today, some went very near the Queen: All ships in the fire zone shifted further to seaward, but one collier was rather slow in doing so and was struck in No 3 hold: which of course threw up clouds of coal dust: it appeared to do little damage ~ probably a 6" shell did this. Did not fire so much as usual today but got through a good deal of ammunition. Walker-Jones went in this morning to salvage a capsized horse boat and brought off two hand grenades. Queen's aeroplanes pretty busy today. We ought to have many more seaplanes. Hear our General does not propose to advance from the ridge until reinforcements arrive. Dartmouth fired a few more shots into Gaba Tape look out station. Forgot to mention yesterday she was firing at this at close range, what for I didn't gather unless she was clearing the vicinity for landing fresh troops as she also fired at the beach and demolished a small building there. It was rather like salting, as soon as she fired her lyddite into the building the soldiers almost simultaneously burst and shrapnel over it, and a destroyer was waiting the other side of the point in case anything bolted! Wish we could get 971 Hill, believe we could knock out Asiatic forts of Narrows from this side without entering the Straits, with a spotting officer on the top of that hill. The whole of the Asiatic forts of the Narrows must be visible from there, and they're well within range of Queen Elizabeth and just within range of L. Nelson and Agamemnon. This would be more satisfactory and certain than spotting from an aeroplane. Hear 6700 bags of mail were brought up today, but turned over to a collier at Mudros ----! AE2

(http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_10760.asp) has been rammed and sunk in the Straits or Sea of Marmosa, and a fresh submarine mined this according to Turkish wireless made enclair. Poor little "Tich" (Hereford) has just been sent over to the hospital ship with Septicaemia, the result of picking his finger with a safety pin after dressing a man's knee ~ the poor fellow had been lying out for some time before being picked up and his knee was in a shocking condition when he reached the transport: and some of the poison must have got into "Tich's" finger, through the pin prick. Rather hard as he was working there quite voluntarily as they were so scandalously short-handed in the way of doctors.

Tuesday 4th May 1915

The Dartmouth and several destroyers shelled Geba Tepe this morning and apparently attempted a landing, probably a demolition party ~ but apparently were driven off. All the ships are further to seaward today except the covering ships. Our usual morning call from the Straits this morning, one went rather close to a collier, but the balloon was up and the Queen Elizabeth opened fire and there was no more trouble from that direction. A signal ordering no more 6" ammunition to be expended without special orders, so I suppose we've run short of that. Hear little "Tich" is rather better today so I hope there's a chance. Trawler came alongside, going round the fleet to collect spare canvas and old fire bars, round shot etc. for the London, thank goodness we haven't that job anyway. We've been out of 12 pounder range and not allowed 6" so haven't fired all day, a quiet day, rather a rest but too much time to think. Who on earth started this show? Why were they stirred up before and so warned to prepare for this? The whole Peninsular is entrenched and barbed wired, guns placed and ready. As I write this 11 p.m. there's evidently a night attack going on on our position ~ we have hardly moved since the Sunday we landed. Hear the casualties in the advance on Sunday night were 700 and very little gained. The

thick scrub makes it very difficult, and they say every bush has a hole behind it with a Turk in it!! As I said we have had too much time to think today. Why were they so stirred up and so put on their guard before, was it to make a diversion [??] Egypt? The guns to the South are flashing like lightning again tonight but they make very little head way. Hear Prince George ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Prince_George_\(1895\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Prince_George_(1895))) and Lord Nelson ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Lord_Nelson_\(1906\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Lord_Nelson_(1906))) have been struck but not seriously damaged. We've got to go through with this now, re-embarkation of troops is impossible without ever more losses ~ and even supposing with huge reinforcements we take the Peninsular, what about the Asiatic side?? Tonight as after the first time we went into the Straits, the Narrows far up seem like the [????] of teeth, what a sentiment! The fruits of today's idleness and the general lack of progress probably: things will appear more rosy presently.

Wednesday 5th May 1915

A quiet day from our point of view, didn't fire at all.

Thursday 6th May 1915

Another quiet day, no firing. Two Brigades secretly embarked in destroyers and mine-sweepers last night and moved without detection apparently, to the Southern party. Apparently they can hold our ridge now fairly easily although they aren't quite on the top ~ and the idea seems to be to reinforce the main landing so that they can advance. Rumours of a submarine passing Gibraltar 21st April. ~ if they arrive here they will be in a rather difficult position ~ we shall want another 30 destroyers or so to deal with them if they come at the same time, can't imagine why they haven't sent submarines before: or even let off torpedoes from the beach, it would hit something amongst this crowd of ships and cause a sense of insecurity anyhow. Prince of Wales to fire at daybreak tomorrow if fine enough for a seaplane to go up, (It's being blowing mildly today), at the Turkish battleship if she's in the Straits, and at Maidos. Hope to goodness it will be a fine morning, should immensely like to knock out that battleship ~ some of their early morning attentions have been close enough to be annoying. Hardly any shrapnel fire ashore today. Hear old Syson is here ashore with the Marine Brigade ~ also Bill Ledgaid in charge of a 15" howitzer with the Southern landing ~ just the sort of job he would love!

Friday 7th May 1915

Got under weigh 4.30 a.m. and moved down to Gapa Tepe. Seaplane reported no ship in Straits, so we fired about ten 12" at Maidos when seaplane reported town well on fire and we left and took on left wing covering ship in afternoon. A quiet day till the evening when our troops were heavily shelled with shrapnel, including some gun which commanded the beach. Mr Moran, our wireless warrant officer was killed by shrapnel this afternoon and that shore wireless station was disabled. In the evening an aeroplane dropped a couple of bombs, presumably at the "Queen", but they did not do any damage. Spent forenoon surveying cable. One letter from M. today, but only 3 days mails.

Saturday 8th May 1915

Left in morning at 6a.m. and anchored at seaward of the remainder, took in stores from "Baron Ardrossan". Surveyed cable all forenoon: then left for ammunition. Hear old Syson is in "Lutzow" shot through the arm, only a flesh wound, rifle bullet, nothing serious. Hear bvery bad reports of Naval Division ~ why should we be so honoured? What connection do they have with the Navy?? Apparently quite useless as soldiers, except of course the Marine Brigade: and equally so as sailors. Some came alongside in a horse boat the other day, and the officers told them to "get out that round thing" ~ meaning a fender! No discipline and no professional skill, exceptions there must be of course though. Went back to Gapa Tepe in the evening, anchored outside all ready to coal at

daybreak. Enemy's submarine sighted near Alborau Island 6th May ~ if there bound here we'll have a lively time.

Sunday 9th May 1915

Coaled in the morning, then moved in to take over London's job, fortunately only for a few hours. Then moved in to Gaba Tepe to take on Triumph's job as right wing covering ship. Went up in kite balloon to spot for Prince of Wales.

Monday 10th May 1915

Went away at 4.30 a.m. Went up twice in kite balloon, saw ship but she was out of range ~ they must have direct communications about the balloon. The system of making signals en clair by visual about the time of balloon going up, seems absurd ~ it doesn't take a great deal of imagination to see that it could easily be taken in from the shore by anyone with an elementary knowledge of our signals. Shifted billet several times. A fairly quiet day. Troops on the beach severely shelled periodically by 2 guns concealed somewhere inside Gaba Tepe. Have been reading the reports which arrived yesterday. "Who started this?" our Winston is blamed, possibly justly so. Rumania, Italy, Bulgaria and Greece would be a welcome addition, they all seem to be in a constant state of on the verge and that's all!

Tuesday 11th May 1915

Nothing much happened today. "Chelmur" brought up a Turkish boat containing 63 suspicious characters (!) to us ~ after many hours we got interpreter from the beach who after much cross questioning pronounced them to be either pirates or Turkish deserters. Pirates sounds quaint in this year of place, but apparently it's true that boats of this size cruise off the coast and snap up anything they find smaller than themselves. Heavy rifle speed most of the night. Suppose night attack from the Turks, but our people don't seem able to advance, they don't seem likely to be moved from where they are.

Wednesday 12th May 1915

The "suspects" were taken down to the "Areadian" by a trawler, most heartily bored they looked. Nothing much happening all day; but a heavy bombardment going on at the Northern landing all the evening. Hear a 6" Howitzer battery was shelling our troops and the ships were hotting them up a bit, though probably it was impossible to discover the whereabouts of the battery. Our beach has been shelled again today, it is wonderful how difficult it is to find a properly concealed howitzer battery. Hear that General d' Amade is to be relieved by General Girande (or some such name) he having made rather an ass of himself and sent in ridiculous reports etc. It is difficult to see what will be the end of this picnic ~ I hope if they propose to send reinforcements they will send about 100 000 at a sitting and not send batches of 10 000 or so ~ one very large surprise reinforcement might do the trick as far as the Peninsular is concerned, small reinforcements the Turks could balance as they arrive. 20 000 and 11 000 Turkish casualties reported from Dedeapatch but I doubt whether this number is anything like correct, though they must have lost heavily in places from our gun fire. Hear that a Turkish attack in South part way completed. Stopped the other day by one well-placed 15" shrapnel from Queen Elizabeth ~ This is probably a gross exaggeration but just the same a shower of about 25 000 bullets is not pleasant! Had two more horse boats brought alongside wrong way up today to be salvaged, it is a mystery how these soldiers manage to capsize them ~ or is it the Naval Brigade!

Thursday 13th May 1915

Bad news this morning, "Prepare to weigh" signalled at 2.30 a.m. "Goliath" (<http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/fulltext/gw1922/goliath.htm>) was sunk off Seddul Bahr at about 1.30 a.m. by

Turkish destroyer which is presumed to be still outside since destroyer patrol in Straits are sure she didn't return. It was a pitch dark night and patches of mist in the Straits so it was comparatively simple luck to get through the patrols. The "Goliath" was burning searchlights on enemy's lines in support of our right wing, and had two torpedoes fired at her. Reported that 20 officers and 160 men the only survivors. 3 submarines, 2 German and one Austrian reported on the way here, shall arrive tomorrow or soon after, so I expect some more of us will be doing compulsory bathing before long. Went to have another go at that Tourfod Reis in the Straits this morning but she went under the land as soon as the balloon went up. A good many of the transports, colliers etc. have been sent in to Mudros, but there are still lots here ~ are they all necessary? Surely the fewer the better. Hear that Admiral Nicholson had protested a day or two ago against the covering ship in the Straits burning searchlight, or sending her open to torpedo attack, so he was right. R transport arrived this evening, with the Devon Regiment I think. We've been playing a sort of Badminton with a medicine ball this evening: it is wonderful how soon one gets used to the gun fire and one takes no notice of it at all now. Barring a few bullets this ship hasn't been touched so far, (touch wood!) so I suppose we are lulled into a sort of false security: three of the ships in our 5th battle squadron have gone West and we haven't come to the hot part yet ~ Kismet: the men are convinced this is a lucky ship!

Friday 14th May 1915

Went to sea secretly at 9 p.m. last night to be in position for supporting a landing at Mount Falcon this morning at daybreak. We were heading between Iumbros and Samothrace when two rockets went were fired ahead of us, this is the signal for a submarine being sighted. We altered course S. and passed between Imbros and C. Helles: several other ships about without lights so there was a good chance of a bump. All night expecting either a bump or a torpedo, however we were back at daylight for the landing ~ about 100 troops were landed from two destroyers but they met with no opposition ~ there were a few bluejackets ashore with the troops evidently men who'd got leave to go ashore from the destroyers. Nothing happened, there appeared to be no one there, when suddenly there was the old familiar crackle of rifle fire ~ this turned out to be nothing more than the bluejackets had sighted a couple of sheep, and fresh meat being a luxury these hard times in destroyers, it was too much for them!! Rather doubtful now whether a submarine was sighted last night, probably an upturned boat or something ~ anyway Henry and his two friends aren't expected till today. Life will be a bit of a strain with them about but I daresay one will get used to it as one did more or less in the Channel ~ When our time comes, if it does, I hope it will be in daylight and on a nice sunny day. Left suddenly about 10 a.m. for Lemurs to ammunition and coal. Got a mail before leaving but only letter of 27th, none from M. perhaps there'll be another mail at P. Mudros, we're about 6 days about now. Report from aerodrome urgent. 5 submarines observed about 3 miles below Kephez Point steaming towards Channel: this is generally discredited but it is not impossible: if it is true things will be very lively ~ anyhow some submarines must surely arrive shortly. We are spending the night in blissful peace at Mudros and sail again for Gaba Tepe at 5 a.m.

Saturday 15th May 1915

Nothing of much interest ~ came round to Gaba Tepe and took on London's duties viz transport of wounded and burial of dead. Hear the 5 submarines sighted turned out to be 5 buoys! Feel very sorry for the man who reported them: there bound to arrive soon. Got wireless message, Italian cabinet reopened. Wonder whether they'll join in and if so who else? Lying close in on N. wing: saw movement on hill between us and Kuchuk Anafaita ~ later a battery of 4 guns opened fire enfilading our beach from there: saw the flashes and fired 12 pounder which was sufficient to silence them ~ Oh for some seaplanes that would fly without breaking down.

Sunday 16th May 1915

Transport officer and general living on board, one more general and I get pushed out of my cabin! Our new battery towards Kuchuk Anafaita fired a salvo at 6.30 a.m. then nothing more until the afternoon when they fired another salvo: both very good for the range and shrapnel burst. Had a go at them once or twice with 12 pounder but they are over the ridge of the hill and can't do more than keep them quiet. Can't destroy the guns without an aeroplane. "Triumph" is going to destroy a store depot near Koja dere tomorrow, lucky devils ~ with the kite balloon: another spherical one has come but seems not so much good. Feel more hopeful today ~ We're landing a brigade from S. party at 7 a.m. they'll get shelled landing for sure, much better to have landed them tonight. Have hit on a great strategy!! Given another 60 000 men land them at Bulair lines, take the lines which are reported practically deserted ~ hold them against attack from the north, supported by ships, advance to the South and take Gallipoli ~ establish a submarine base there, torpedo tubes etc. conceal heavy howitzers in the gullies and stop by these means all supplies from Constantinople passing through the Straits. There are no sail ways and they would have there work cut out to take ammunition, stores etc. from Constantinople round by the Asiatic side on Turkish roads, it's many many miles and very hot!! I'm rather proud of this bright scheme and it seems feasible: only heaven defend us from submarines. They might of course land on the S. side of the Sea of Marmosa from ships, and also shorten the road journey ~ but that's where the submarines come in: No further news of E14 she's still in the Sea of Marmosa as far as we know, hope they'll be able to get out safely ~ they've done well and the whole crew deserve all honour,

Monday 17th May 1915

German submarines reported by trawler 8' from Rabbit Island at 3 a.m. this morning ~ trawler tried to ram her but she dived ~ this sounds the most plausible report so far and it seems likely one has arrived this time ~ no doubt we shall know for certain shortly. Brigade (or what was left of it), from C. Helles landing, were landed here at 7 a.m., we were left wing covering ship. The battery on the hill between us and Kuchuk Anafaita fired a couple of salvos at them as they landed. We gave them a shake up with 12 pounders and a few 6" shrapnel ~ later when I was looking up, they fired again, and I gave them another shake ~ (their gun smoke was just visible over the ridge) Shortly after this a biggish projectile came over the main ridge from somewhere inland probably about Koja dere and past astern of us ~ we weighed and shifted berth, while doing so they fired two or three more, they'd corrected for deflection but increased their range (which was right in the first place) so failed to touch us ~ these projectiles were about 6". In the afternoon the Queen bombarded Kuchuk Anafaita and Kuchuk Anafaito simultaneously, half her broadside on each. They fired badly but the clouds of dust and smoke when the houses were struck was rather impressive. Like us they failed which pleased us, since they had the cheek to jeer at us for not being able to do so! Position ashore seems unchanged ~ hear the soldiers have named the principal parts of our position ~ "Shrapnel Hut" which is covered with hundreds of shrapnel bullets and shell cases ~ "Suicide's gully" is another, a gully much favoured by Turkish snipers! Rumours that Italy is going to join the Allies. Hear that the Turkish losses during the first few days amounted to 60 per cent! Ours was about 20 per cent.

Tuesday 18th May 1915

The battery N. of our left wing, near Kuchuk Anafarta fired a couple of salvos about 7 a.m. which we replied to ~ could just see the smoke of their firing again over the ridge. They didn't fire again. Later soldiers asked for 224 F7 to be shelled which we did with 6" cannon, the soldiers on the ridge spotting. For the first time spotting corrections came

through quite promptly, but mostly quite wrong. I imagine the spotter was at an angle to the line of fire and was calling over R. shorts L, right S and left O, anyway after about an hour they made "cease firing no further signs of activity and some Turkish trenches damaged" so I hope we did some good. It struck me at the time what a change a year of war has made in gunnery, we were firing straight over a trawler and over our own men ~ the slightest error in laying or the projectile not being properly rammed home would have planted it right into our own lines ~ and the trawler was perfectly happy with the shells going just over her and she never attempted to move out of the way: moreover as usual we were firing over the ridge of the hill and couldn't see the shells burst. Hear the Turkish dead are stacked in front of our trenches and that they have been sapping to take them away, also that in "dead man's gully" oratines and Turks in some places are lying 4 or 5 deep ~ both sides find this an excellent sniping ground. In the evenings the snipers take their rifles and set out in twos or threes, like going out for an evening rabbit at home. Hear also the Australians are devils for fighting ~ they are reported to have been seized with exuberance of spirits the other day and charged clean over our own marines trench and took the Turkish trench in front of the marines! The trouble appears to be to hold them back. Suddenly left after lunch for Mudros, with rumours of Malta tomorrow ~ several wounded sent on board for passage including Bunny West, who has had a "break down". His Captain, one Smith, appears to be an impossible person and that's probably the truth about it. We're puzzled where we're going to after Malta ~ can't be back to the Dardanelles or they wouldn't have been so anxious to get all our men back from the beach, nor would they have sent old Thursby with us, there are four the Queen, London, Prince of Wales and Implacable. He's in command of all the Naval forces at the Gapa Tepe landing so what is happening? All sorts of theories, that Italy is just coming in etc. ~ talks about a camp with them in the Adriatic, going home for the Belgian coast.

Wednesday 19th May 1915

Left Mudros at 5 a.m. for Malta, hope Henry won't get us but we have a patrol there so it might be all right. Missed our mails at Madras, they'd gone on to Malta in the "London" ~ Sickening mismanagement somewhere, no better since the ones written 28th April. Parker, my boatsman's mate of the flats got a shrapnel bullet in the Tummy on Monday, haven't been able to hear how he's getting on. General Bridges got a bullet through the femoral artery and vein about 3 days ago, a doctor happened to be handy and he was temporarily saved ~ but hear they've been unable to restore circulation in the leg, he is too old and has lost too much blood and amputate and gangrene has started: so far there's no chance left: he was a good soldier and will be a great loss in every way. Hear that our scouts have only past job to parts that were shelled from 7.0 to 7.30 p.m. on Sunday 2nd May and that the place is a regular shambles. It is assumed that by an extraordinary piece of luck we just happened to open fire during the preparations for a big Turkish attack on our left flank. The whole hillside at that point is covered with thick scrub so it was impossible to see what damage was being done at the time.

Thursday 20th May 1915

At sea ~ nothing of interest happening. Wireless message makes it look very much as if Italy were coming in. Perhaps that has something to do with our sudden departure from the Dardanelles ~ it is one of the many theories propounded anyway and that we are going to escort Italian troops to the Dardanelles or bombard Caltaso ~ but why? They have plenty of ships of their own.

Friday 21st May 1915

Arrived at Malta. Delayed for nearly two hours by French ships coming in and out of harbour, goodness knows what they're doing. Orders to be complete for sea by 26th,

Mails at last and 3 letters from M. 3 weeks mails in one go! Dined at the club with Ballard and Franklin. Telegrams there, Italy really seems about to join in, and it's supposed that our move from Gaba Tepe has something to do with this. Telegram also that poor General Bridges is dead in Alexandria. Also Barker who was in this ship killed in the Southern landing. Bunny West and the other wounded discharged to hospital.

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd May 1915

At Malta

Monday 24th May 1915

At Malta. Italy declared war on Austria and Germany. Details of big attack on SariBain the night we left. Hear that the Turks had 90 guns: that they opened fire from Chanak forts also and pitched into the sea, then corrected too much for range and fired into their own troops: that they attacked our right wing, Gaba Tepe end, about 20 to one in massed formation, that when about when 5 yards from our trenches the leading Turks lost their nerve with the result that the whole lot became a confused crowd and were mown down with maxim and rifle fire to the time of 7000. The account of our casualties varies from 100 to 500, but all agreed about 7000 Turks.

Tuesday 25th May 1915

Italian destroyer came in Lt Com. D' Annunzo of the Carte di Cavoni came on board, said that bhe had orders to go with us to Jaraut. He left in the evening though in the destroyer French dreadnoughts, sailed for Bijerta?

Wednesday 26th May 1915

Queen, London, Implacable, Prince of Wales sailed for Jarauto escorted by French destroyers.

Thursday 27th May 1915

Arrived at Jarauto, a most wonderful harbour with a narrow entrance passing between the old and new towns. Great enthusiasm from the Italians as we passed through. Joined up with Italian fleet under Duc d' Abrugzi in the Conti di Cavons. All the more modern ships of the Italian navy here and they look pretty useful. Understand French battle squadron will no longer be employed in the Adriatic.