

Transcription

Copy of letter from George Francis Murphy 22 October 1915 from Gallipoli

22/10/15

Dear Girlie

Though improving rapidly I am still in hospital in Rest Gully but hope to be out in a few days now. As I have been 'indoors' now for some weeks I have very little news of the outside happenings. The beautiful days we have had up till recently have given place to more wintry weather and just now a gale is sweeping the peninsula. These gales last from 6 to 7 days with spells of fine, lovely weather.

I suppose ere this you have fixed our position on the map. I have seen some very fair maps in the Sydney papers and the places mentioned are being held by the Aust are all within sight of each other. Anzac Beach itself is somewhat like Bronte, only the hills are right round it and then a narrow beach stretches north for 4 mls to Suvla Bay. Running at right angles, & just north of Suvla, is a range (Chocolate Hills) whilst beyond and in the distance we can see Bulgaria, our latest foe. Near our own place there is a series of ridges, 6 to 700 ft high rising from any?

[written in a different hand up left side of sheet] Suffering from jaundice & enteric refused to leave the Peninsula.

Page two

In between are Gullies, covered in places with low scrub of a thorny nature, We live from 6 to 10 ft below the surface, in saps, or dugouts.

The Island of Imbros is about as far away as Kelso from our house, and seen in the early morning or the setting sun it is a beautiful sight. It is only a few miles square, but is very mountainous and has several well defined '?' amongst the mountain peaks. The Sun sets almost directly behind it, and the glory of that setting sun fills us each day with fresh wonder and admiration. The golden edged clouds, the silvery light on the nearer waters running to the most delicate orange tints as it nears the island fairly baffle description. I've used film after film on these sunsets, yet ever look longingly at the next evening picture.

Lately, birds have been migrating in thousands, - Geese, pigeons, quail etc. - There are some small but pretty birds here, which flit about and rest upon the corpses quite regardless of the carnage.

Page three

I think I have already told you we get our store up the hills by mule trains. The mules are tethered in threes. Each one carries 112 to 160 lbs. on the pack saddle, and the first mule sets the pace, which at times is a fairly rapid one. The mules are not as large a decent size foal, but they are very sturdy. They are cared for by the Indians, fine big fellows who sing a most untuneful tune and appear to be everlastingly happy. One Br. officer wondered how his indian servant managed to keep his toast so warm & crisp. Investigation showed the Indian before the fire, stirring porridge with one hand, toasting with the other, whilst between his toes he held three or four pieces of toast before the fire.

Jack Paul (?) has got over his cold now, and is about again. Shepherd got dysentery & has gone away. - The Col is back again looking very fit. All the Bathurst lad in both Bns are O.K., so far as I can learn.

I fancy this is quite a long letter for a sick man write - at least I feel very tired after it.

Give my love to ? and Boy whose ? are not yet at hand and for yourself all sorts of love.

George.