

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

BATTLES WITNESSED FROM A WARSHIP.

Corporal J. E. H. Butler, of the ammunition column, writing on May 13 from the Gallipoli Peninsula to his mother at Brampton Park, says:—"The troopship anchored at 3.45 a.m. on Sunday, April 25, and we were awakened by heavy gunfire, our infantry endeavoring to obtain a landing under cover of heavy ship-firing. The Turks shelled the landing-place, killing and wounding many of our infantry, a great number of whom had no chance to land, as they were shot while in their boats. At 6.30 a.m. our gallant lads took the first line of trenches, and drove the enemy over the first line of hills at the point of the bayonet, killing and wounding hundreds of Turks. At 8 a.m. the second line of trenches were taken with heavy losses on our side, but with enormous losses to the enemy. Terrible bombardment by our warships on the enemy's position followed: our aeroplanes were being shelled. An hour later the wounded were being brought to the hospital ship, shells from the enemy dropping all round our ship so closely that the troopships had to move farther out. At 11 a.m. bombardment continued, accompanied by heavy firing from the shore machine guns and rifle fire; three of the enemy's batteries were silenced, and our airships dropped bombs. The battleships continued firing until 12.30 p.m., when a lull occurred. At 4.30—While shrapnel was bursting all around, our reinforcements were landing guns, ammunition, and mules. While standing on the bridge, a sergeant of the Engineers received a bullet through his coat, the bullet lodging itself in a panel of the skipper's cabin. There was great excitement as each broadside from the vessel tore up hundreds of feet of earth round the enemy's trenches, and the Queen Elizabeth poured out her 20-cwt. shells. It was a wonderful sight. Another temporary lull, and at 5.30 guns began booming again. The roar was deafening. At 7.15 p.m. we were out of the range of the enemy's guns, and at 9 o'clock all turned in with everything quiet. At 6 next morning the bombardment recommenced, and by noon more reinforcements were landed, including the New Zealanders, who landed at the Gulf of Saros. On Tuesday we were ordered to go nearer shore to take off more supplies. In the afternoon the Turks' gunfire came so near that the decks were sprayed with sea-water. Three puntloads of wounded also narrowly escaped being shattered. The wounded have told us some horrible tales of

also narrowly escaped being shattered. The wounded have told us some horrible tales of Turkish atrocities. The Turks mutilated the wounded, and stripped the dead of their uniforms, which they wore. Talk about sights! I don't want to see any more like it. Some of our men had their arms blown away, and others were injured in every conceivable way. After receiving attention they were sent to Alexandria, 611 miles distant. On the fifth day 12,000 more of our reinforcements landed. The British lost heavily, 50 per cent. of them being killed or wounded, as the French were unable to get up in time to help them. The Turks brought a big gun into action, but it was quickly silenced by our navy. The British and French troops were on the advance. The Army Medical Corps bearers lost heavily, the Turks firing on them and ignoring the Red Cross. The navy again silenced a determined attack on our batteries. A big fire, reported to be in a village called Maidos, with a population of 25,000, could be seen on the peninsula. On the sixth day the burning of Maidos created a wonderful glare in the sky, and quietness, on the whole, prevailed. At 7 a.m. on the seventh day the Turks got hell battered into them, while 'Lizzie' shelled Chanak fort near the Narrows, and set the village of Chanak on fire by dropping a shell into a magazine. Six troopships arrived with Lord Kitchener's spring army, as our navy fired on the retreating Turks. Our boys were now on the defensive, the British and French troops bringing up our right flank. On the eighth day heavy firing began early, and at 8 a.m. a motley crowd of refugees from Palestine, driven from their homes by the Turks, were brought aboard. Everything had been taken from them. There were 1,200 of them, and the men have taken up arms against the Turks. All was quiet until 7 p.m., when hell again was let loose. The Turks crept up with guns on the left flank under cover of the thick bush, but they were seen by the man in an observation balloon. They were allowed to get into position, when six battleships and three batteries opened fire on them. The noise was terrific, and the shooting was so effective that it demoralized the Turks, whose losses while on the retreat must have been appalling. It lasted for an hour, and the night afterwards was awful. One of our store ships was struck by a shell, which made a great hole in the deck, but luckily only two of our men were slightly wounded. A German aeroplane, which hovered round, dropped bombs close to our airship. Our ship had four narrow escapes. The first shell lobbed about 20 yards to the rear of our boat, and the second one just missed the funnel as it buzzed past, and finished by hitting the water just in front of the boat. It was the nearest to it I have ever been. The other two came on either side of the vessel, causing the sea-spray to come over its side."

FIGHTING MR. TURK.