

Garland's Story

New Zealand Engineers Divisional Signal Company

Egypt and Dardanelles 1914-1915

World War 1

Killed in Action



Preface

My connection to Garland Oswald MORGAN is as his first cousin, three times removed. My great-great-grandfathers, John and William MORGAN, were Garland's uncles—elder brothers of Garland's father, Tom Henry MORGAN.

I first recorded Garland's story in 2022. Since then, further research has brought to light valuable new material, including Garland's personal diary, which records his experiences in the lead-up to departure and during his service at Gallipoli. I have also had the privilege of corresponding with Garland's great-niece, Maree LEWIS, whose family recollections have added personal insight and depth to this family record. Together, these discoveries have prompted a careful revision of my original work.

This account has been prepared to preserve Garland's story and the broader strands of our family history for future generations. Drawing on personal writings, official records, and family recollections, it seeks to honour a young life shaped by duty, service, and sacrifice at a defining moment in New Zealand's history. This year marks 111 years since he was killed.

Beyond recording events, the work provides context for Garland's family background and pre-war years, situating them within the broader narrative of his military service. In doing so, it aims to ensure that his experiences—and the values they embody—are known, remembered, and understood by our relatives and by generations yet to come.

Lest we forget.

Andrew MORGAN

May 2026

Pukekohe

Cover photo:

New Zealand soldiers in Monash Gully circa May-Aug 1915 including 4/560 Sapper George Vivian MOORE and 4/481 Sapper Norman Roy VAUSE. Behind them one can see a track lined with dugouts going up to Quinn's Post and Pope's Hill, Gallipoli, 1915.

“Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives. You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.

Therefore, rest in peace.

There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us, where they lie side by side here in this country of ours.

*You, the mothers who sent their sons from far away countries—
wipe away your tears.*

Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.”

(Col.) Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, speech in 1934 – Commander of Turkish Forces (Northern Sector), Gallipoli 1915

Early Life

4/558 Sapper G. O. Morgan, New Zealand Engineers Divisional Signal Company, was killed in action at Gallipoli during the Dardanelles campaign in 1915.



Garland Oswald MORGAN was born in Hawera, Taranaki, on 14 December 1892, the only son of Tom Henry MORGAN¹ and Mary Amelia NUTTALL. Garland had four sisters—Catherine, Sarah, Byrl and Hilda—and grew up at the family home, *Heatherlea House*, the family's boarding house in Wilson Street, Hāwera.

Garland's father, Tom Henry MORGAN, is the son of our great-great-great grandparent's Edmund and Miriam MORGAN.

After completing his education at Hāwera District High School, Garland began an apprenticeship with the Post and Telegraph Department at the age of sixteen. Following completion, he was transferred first to Wellington and later to Christchurch before enlisting with the Main Body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

An accomplished sportsman, Garland represented Taranaki in hockey, was a proficient swimmer, and played an active role in the Maranui Surf Life Saving Club at Lyall Bay, Wellington. His commitment to lifesaving was demonstrated when he rescued a person in distress, sustaining injuries that left him incapacitated for two months.

During the 1912–13 lifesaving season, his dedication to the club was recognised with the award of an Honorary Instructors' Certificate and a trophy for best weekend attendance². His sporting achievements and acts of public service reflected the energy, discipline, courage, and sense of duty that characterised his short life.

Newspaper Article: The Dominion, 18 February 1913

A RESCUE AT LYALL BAY.

The efficacy of the life-saving reel in cases of surf accidents was fully demonstrated at Lyall Bay on Saturday afternoon last, when the Maranui Surf and Life Saving Club was successful in rescuing a man named McGregor whom the backwash had carried beyond the breakers. It appears that McGregor swam out to tell a young lady to come ashore, but found that she was unable to do so and that he was similarly placed. Their plight was noticed by the Maranui Club's look-out, and a squad went immediately to the rescue. The lady was safely brought ashore by two members. Mr. Newman, of the Lyall Bay Surf Club, stood by McGregor till the beltman arrived and took charge of him, when all were brought safely ashore. Special praise is due to Mr. G. O. Morgan, who acted as beltman, and who had a strenuous twenty minutes' struggle with the breakers, and to Mr. Newman, who stood by McGregor without regard to his own safety. McGregor and his rescuers were thoroughly exhausted when shore was reached, but the resuscitating appliances kept at the Maranui Club's rooms soon restored them. This is the second rescue effected during the past week by the Maranui Club. On Sunday afternoon, February 9, a man named Evans was brought ashore in an apparently lifeless condition and restored by the Royal Life Saving Society's methods.



Family of Tom and Mary MORGAN (circa 1900). (back row standing) Catherine (Kate) NUTTALL (Garland's half-sister), (middle row L to R) Sarah Miriam MORGAN, Mary Amelia MORGAN (nee NUTTALL), Garland Oswald MORGAN, Tom Henry MORGAN, Byrl Adeline MORGAN, (front) Hilda Linda (Tiny) MORGAN.

Garland's photo (top of page) was taken in January 1914. He was best man at his sister Byrl's wedding to Harry BRAGG in Hāwera.

¹ Tragically, Tom was killed by a drunk driver on 24 July 1918, aged 73 years.

² Mr C. G. HEDGE'S Trophy for the best weekend attendance at the clubrooms, recording an impressive total of 214½ hours.

Professional Beginnings

Garland began his career during a formative era of New Zealand's public service, where aptitude, diligence, and technical competence shaped long and distinguished careers.

In 1908, at the age of sixteen, Garland joined the Post and Telegraph Department in Hāwera as a telegraphic linesman apprentice. He quickly established a reputation as a capable operator and, after completing his apprenticeship, transferred to Wellington (circa 1911-12) where he commenced work as a clerk, reflecting both his ability and the opportunities available within the Department. His neat handwriting, administrative aptitude, frank manner, willingness to assist others, and athletic energy made him well suited to greater responsibility and earned him the respect of colleagues.

It was here that he became acquainted with James Patrick Joseph (Joe) HANRATTY³ who had joined the department in 1908 as a cadet. In January 1913, Garland sat and passed the Public Service Senior Examination in four subjects. Subsequently he was transferred to Christchurch as Head Clerk in the Postal and Pensions Department, a position likely based at the Chief Post Office in Cathedral Square. The following year he completed additional examination papers to achieve a full pass. By this stage Garland was regarded as a highly promising young public servant, noted for his intelligence, reliability and sound character.

At the recent examinations, Reydon Bates and Fritz Strack, of the Hawera District High School, gained a partial pass, and Garland Morgan and Karl Strack a full pass, in the Senior Civil Service examination. Cable advice has been received that Mr George Strack has gained his B.A. degree and a section on the L.L.B. (law examination).

Hawera & Normanby Star, 20 February 1914. Note: Reydon BATES and Garland served as signallers aboard HMNZT 12 Waimana on their way to Egypt, departing Wellington on 16 October 1914 with the Main Body.

At Christchurch, Garland lived at **41 Bealey Street**, St Albans. Joe HANRATTY was also transferred to the city around the same time, working in the Money Order and Post Office Savings Bank section. HANRATTY was also living at the same address—given their similar age and the common practice of the day, both men likely **lodged** at the Bealey Street address; the owner of the house has not been identified.

Garland's experience as a telegraphic linesman would later shape both his military service and, ultimately, his fate. Men drawn from the Post and Telegraph Department were central to the formation of the Divisional Signal Company⁴, and his civilian expertise in communications made him a natural choice for signalling duties. Like many signallers, he entered military service with practical skills in telegraphy, telephony, line-laying, and visual signalling.

Joe HANRATTY would follow Garland into military service, enlisting in 1916. He served in France and Belgium, was wounded at Messines, and returned to New Zealand in 1919 holding the rank of Lieutenant. Family recollections suggest that Garland's mother, Mary, disapproved of Joe, and his sisters were also somewhat sniffy about him—he was Catholic, and that was a real NUTTALL taboo!

The Bealey Street of Garland's day no longer exists. Originally laid out in the early twentieth century, it was formally renamed **Champion Street** by the Christchurch City Council in 1948. It should not be confused with nearby **Bealey Avenue**, which also existed in Garland's day. Bealey Avenue, a major Christchurch thoroughfare, still retains its original name and function today.

³ HANRATTY would later become a career civil servant and one of the Post and Telegraph Department's best-known and most highly regarded employee's, with postings including Deputy Chief Postmaster at Hamilton and Chief Postmaster of Dunedin.

⁴ The Divisional Signal Company, New Zealand Engineers, was formed on mobilisation in August 1914, drawing skilled personnel from the Engineer Signal Service, Post and Telegraph Department, and Territorial Force signallers. Origins: Cycle and Signalling Corps formed 1909; New Zealand Post and Telegraph Corps formed 1911.

Enlistment

Within days of war being declared, Garland stepped forward, becoming one of the earliest volunteers for overseas service.

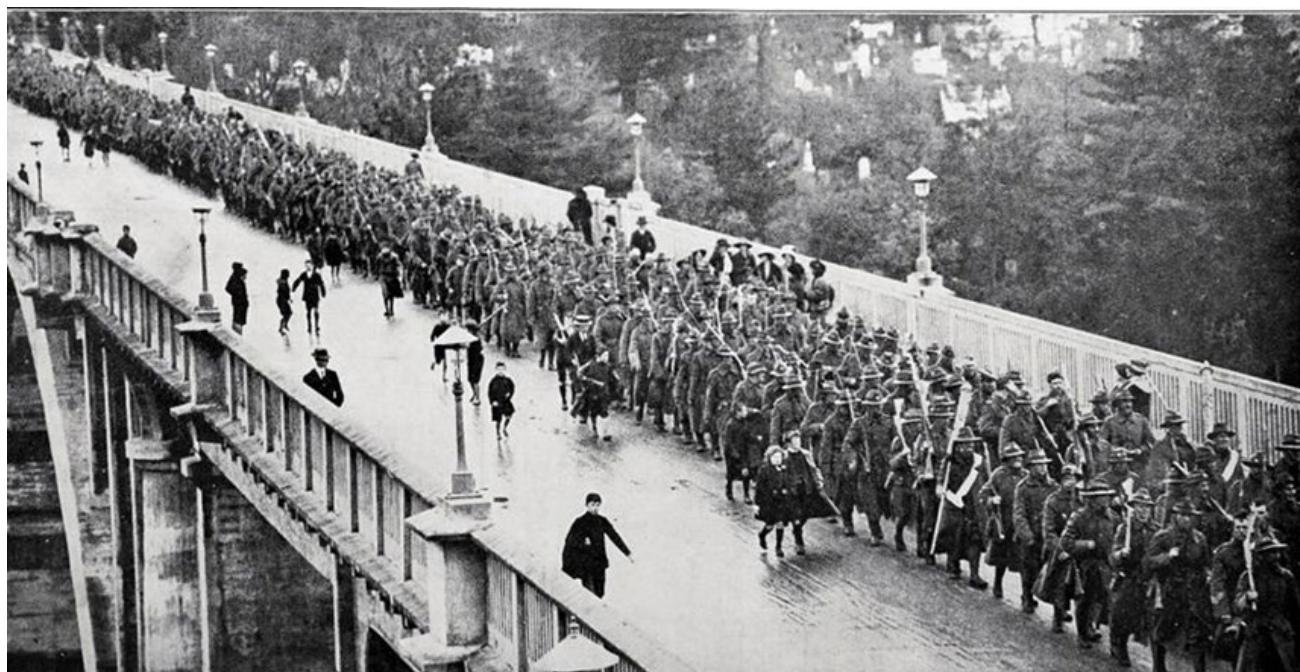
Following Great Britain's declaration of war on Germany on 4 August 1914—honouring its pledge to defend Belgium—New Zealand was drawn into the conflict. Of a population just over one million at this time, approximately 120,000 New Zealanders would serve during the war, with 100,000⁵ deployed overseas, ensuring that nearly every family had a direct connection to the conflict.

Garland enlisted in **Christchurch on 14 August 1914** at the age of 21. Owing to his specialist skills and technical experience with the Post and Telegraph Department, he was posted to the New Zealand Engineers, Divisional Signal Company, with the rank of Sapper. His attestation records describe him as 5 feet 8 inches (173 cm) tall, weighing 148 pounds (67 kg), with grey eyes and brown hair.

From mid-August 1914, Garland undertook five weeks of training at Awapuni Racecourse in Palmerston North under the command of Sergeant-Major VICKERY. Training concluded in mid-September, at which point specialist signallers were redistributed from the unit to combat formations requiring their expertise [this was common practice]. Garland was attached to the **Auckland Infantry Battalion**⁶.

As the Auckland Infantry Battalion entered its final concentration and administrative phase prior to deployment, attached personnel were required to report several days in advance. Garland therefore likely travelled by rail to Auckland around 20 September 1914, allowing him time for integration with the battalion, the issue of equipment, embarkation procedures, and the establishment of communications arrangements.

On the morning of 23 September 1914, the Auckland Infantry Battalion marched from its mobilisation camp at Alexandra Park, Epsom, crossing Grafton Bridge en route to the Auckland Domain. There, before large and enthusiastic crowds, a formal civic farewell was held as the men prepared to depart for service overseas.



Auckland Infantry Battalion march over Grafton Bridge, Auckland, on 23 September 1914. They are on their way to Auckland Domain for the official farewell to the Auckland section of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

⁵ During the WW1, 100,444 troops left New Zealand for service with the expeditionary forces: 16,697 lost their lives and 41,317 were wounded—a staggering casualty rate of 58 percent [*The New Zealand Army: A History from the 1850s to the 1980s*, WICKSTEED RNZA, page 25].

⁶ The Auckland Infantry Battalion composed of men from the 3rd (Auckland), 6th (Hauraki), 15th (North Auckland), and 16th (Waikato) Regiments.

Images



(Above Left) Awapuni Camp, Palmerston North, August 1914—(L to R) Unidentified, 4/490 Sergeant-Major Ernest Marr VICKERY (DCM), NZ Field Engineers (referenced on page 4), 4/528 Lieutenant Arthur Ernest ALEXANDER, Divisional Signals Company.



(Above Right) Awapuni Camp, Engineers and Signallers tents are situated in the background and to the right, August 1914.



(Left) Crossing the line [equator] ceremony on board HMNZT 12 *Waimana*, October 1914.

(National Army Museum of New Zealand)



Christmas Dinner at Zeitoun Camp, Cairo, December 1914. (National Army Museum of New Zealand)

Off to War

Garland's journey to war was to begin amid uncertainty and delay, as events far removed were to unfold that would ultimately influence his fate.

False Start

On 22–23 September 1914, Queen's Wharf was a scene of intense activity as troops, cargo, and horses of the Auckland Infantry Battalion hurriedly embarked for war.

Garland was assigned to *HMNZT 12 Waimana* which carried 1,461 men and 496 horses, while the remaining personnel embarked aboard *HMNZT 8 Star of India*, transporting a further 682 men and 395 horses. Following final preparations and leave-takings, both transports steamed out of Waitematā Harbour on the evening of 23 September 1914.

They were bound to rendezvous with the remaining New Zealand contingents (departing from Wellington) and then proceed to Australia, where they would join the Australian Imperial Force before continuing in convoy to Europe. Such was the plan; however, events soon intervened to alter it significantly.



At the same time, Wellington troops assembled in the capital, while transports carrying the Canterbury and Otago contingents arrived in Wellington Harbour in anticipation of an imminent departure.

Soldiers and horses preparing to board HMNZT No. 12 *Waimana*, which sailed from Auckland on 23 September 1914 with the main expeditionary force for Europe

That expectation was quickly overturned. Intelligence indicating German cruisers were

operating in the Pacific led authorities to judge the available naval escort inadequate.

On 24 September 1914, *Waimana* and *Star of India* were **recalled** to Auckland, troops and horses disembarked, and Garland returned to training while the Government sought a stronger naval escort.

For the next fortnight, Garland remained ashore at their mobilisation camp in Epsom.

Only after the arrival of the armoured cruiser *HMS Minotaur* and the Japanese battlecruiser *Ibuki* was the risk considered acceptable. On 10 October 1914, Garland re-embarked *Waimana*, which sailed south to Wellington. In the early hours of 16 October 1914, the reassembled transports finally departed together, marking the true sailing of the Main Body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

The drama wasn't over yet!

The Main Body Embarks

The Main Body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force sailed from Wellington Harbour in the early hours of 16 October 1914.

Before dawn, thousands of Wellingtonians lined the waterfront as ten grey-painted troopships, escorted by four warships, departed for war. On board were 8,427 men and 3,815 horses— the largest single body of troops ever to leave New Zealand at one time.

“The morning of departure [Friday] broke clear, but very grey. The turmoil and excitement of previous days—the hurrying about of big masses of men and horses, the exhilaration of stirring patriotic events, the sweet sadness of lingering farewells—all this was over, and there remained only the setting-forth.” Frank Morton—Journalist.

The *Waimana*, and *Garland*, finally sailed with the force, believing that they was bound for Europe and the Western Front of France and Belgium.



The fleet of troopships which transported the Main Body of the NZEF and their escort in Wellington Harbour, 15 October 1914.

Following brief stops at Hobart, Albany, and Perth, the New Zealand transports linked up with the Australian Imperial Force convoy of 28 Australian troopships. The combined fleet of 38 vessels crossed the Indian Ocean headed for Europe, but events soon altered their destination. During the voyage *Garland* and a fellow Hāwera schoolmate, Reydon BATES⁷, served as signallers aboard *Waimana*, gaining valuable practical experience.

Diverted to Egypt

The convoy's destination would dramatically change after the Ottoman Empire entered the war on 5 November 1914, siding with the Central Powers.

Great Britain and its Commonwealth allies were now at war with Türkiye and the Central Powers—a coalition consisting of the German Empire, Austria-Hungary, Kingdom of Bulgaria, and now the Ottoman Empire.

This development placed the strategically vital Suez Canal under threat and in response, British authorities

diverted the convoy to Egypt to secure the canal. The decision unsettled many troops, who feared they would miss what they believed to be the decisive fighting action in Europe.



Troops on the deck of the HMNZT 12 *Waimana* enroute to Egypt in cold weather (National Army Museum of New Zealand)

⁷ On arrival in Egypt these two schoolmates stood their training well, but just before leaving for the Dardanelles Signaller [Sapper] Bates was sent to hospital, invalided with pneumonia.

A Welcome Distraction

A brief action at sea removed an emerging threat to the thousands of troops in the transit convoy.

On 9 November 1914, a stirring and historic event occurred when one of the convoy's escorts, *HMAS Sydney*, was diverted to engage the German cruiser *Emden* off the Cocos Islands. News of the victory generated tremendous excitement, as *Emden* posed a serious threat to the convoy and, had she broken through, could have inflicted devastating losses among the 30,000 troops being transported.

Operating independently from the German East Asia Squadron, *Emden* had conducted a highly successful commerce-raiding campaign in the Indian Ocean, disrupting trade by intercepting 29 ships and sinking those belonging to Britain or its allies, before ultimately being brought to action by *HMAS Sydney*.

Egypt

Forty-eight days after leaving New Zealand, Garland and the convoy reached Alexandria on 3 December 1914.

On arrival in Egypt, Garland travelled by train to Cairo and marched out to the newly established Zeitoun Camp. There the New Zealand Division trained for several months under demanding desert conditions of cold nights and intense daytime heat—conditions Garland described as “*the most god-forsaken place I have ever seen.*” Training was physically exacting, involving long marches, specialist signals instruction, and a relentless routine that tested endurance and discipline.

Tensions Brewing

By early April 1915, tensions among ANZAC troops in Egypt had reached a breaking point, spilling from central Cairo into the camps themselves.

After four long months of tedious and somewhat pointless exercises, tensions among the troops culminated in the Cairo riots of 2 April 1915 (Good Friday), centred on the Haret al-Wassir district. Driven by frustration, poor leave discipline, and alcohol, up to 2,500 Australian and New Zealand soldiers attacked buildings, burned furniture, and overwhelmed military police, with shots fired and casualties reported.

The disorder extended beyond the city. In an incident the following day, a screening at the picture palace (cinema) at the New Zealand camp was cancelled without refunds prompting enraged soldiers to wreck and partly burn the picture-show building. This incident was separate from the riot but occurred in the same period of unrest and involved soldiers on or returning from leave.

Garland records on 3 April 1915: “*Picture show in camp advertised and boxing competition. House packed, then announce no show. Refuse to refund money. Troops go mad and burn the building.*”

On 7 April 1915, the Australian and New Zealand Infantry Division received orders to prepare for the invasion of Gallipoli.

Gallipoli

The eight-month Gallipoli campaign aimed to force Türkiye from the war by seizing the Dardanelles, enabling the reopening of the maritime supply route to Russia.

The Allied plan was to seize control of the narrow Dardanelles Strait, allowing naval forces to enter the Sea of Marmara and threaten Constantinople, the capital of Türkiye and the Ottoman Empire, opening a vital supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. Success would have potentially forced the Ottomans out of the war.

However, the campaign was undermined by overconfidence, poor planning, and inadequate resources. After a major naval assault on the Dardanelles failed in March 1915, the Allies turned to a land campaign, launching an amphibious invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25 April 1915.

While British (and later French) forces made the main landing at Cape Helles on the tip of the peninsula, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs) were to deploy a diversionary attack 20 kilometres to the north. The New Zealand troops followed the Australians ashore on the first morning of the assault and the ANZAC division took responsibility for the northern sector of the battlefield⁸.

In the face of a vigorous Turkish response, no significant Allied advance proved possible. The fighting quickly degenerated into trench warfare, with the ANZAC's holding a tenuous perimeter. The troops endured heat, flies, the stench of rotting corpses, lack of water, dysentery, and other illnesses—and above all a sense of hopelessness. Ultimately, the Allies were to cut their losses. By early January 1916 all troops had been evacuated from Gallipoli⁹.

In total, 2,721 New Zealanders would die during this campaign¹⁰.



View up Monash Valley toward Quinn's Post (centre). Bivouacs in the foreground

⁸ Australian and New Zealand troops contributed approximately 16,000 men to the Allied Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) 75,000-strong initial landing force.

⁹ The evacuation of Anzac Cove and Suvla Bay began on 15 December 1915, with the troops being shipped out over four nights in a coordinated withdrawal from the front-line trenches. At 4.10 a.m. on 20 December 1915, the evacuation was completed with zero fatalities and no man left behind. The British and French forces were evacuated over the nights of 8-9 January 1916.

¹⁰ Gallipoli: The New Zealand Story, Christopher PUGSLEY—Official New Zealand Casualties, p360.

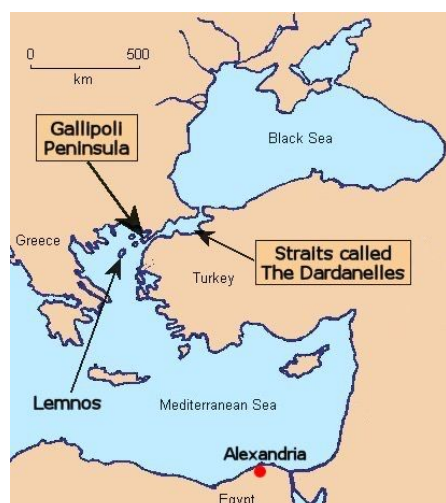
Baptism of Fire

On 9 April 1915, the Auckland Battalion received their orders to depart for the Dardenelles.

There was excitement all round at the news that they were finally leaving Egypt. Despite the intense heat, final preparations were hurriedly completed and that evening the battalion marched out of Zeitoun Camp for Cairo. *"We are not sorry to shake that dust of Egypt from our feet"* Garland wrote. After a seven-mile march and a late-night train departure for Alexandria, an exhausted Garland settled down to sleep.

The Auckland Battalion embarked on the *Lützow*, a captured German liner, on 10 April 1915, and this was 'home' for the next two weeks. Men slept on deck without mattresses and subsisted solely on bully beef and hard biscuits. At 5pm on the evening of 12 April 1915, soon after the troops had enjoyed a swim in Alexandria Harbour, *Lutzow* slipped her moorings and steamed into open water, where she anchored at the rally point to await her turn to sail with the invasion fleet.

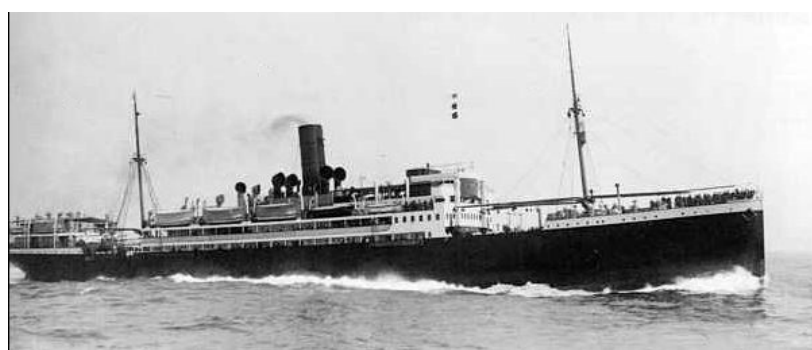
Garland noted 104 ships at anchor off Alexandria at this time, with transports departing every few hours. During this period he was struck down with severe colic—severe pain of the intestinal or urinary system—and confined to bed and treated with doses of chlorodyne and castor oil. Later that night *Lützow* finally sailed for the Port of Mudros, Lemnos.



Lemnos, a Greek island, lies just under 100 kilometres (about 60 miles) from the Gallipoli Peninsula, a proximity that gave it major strategic value. The island served as the principal staging point for the Allied Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF), where troops assembled, trained and prepared for the invasion of Gallipoli. This relatively short sea distance made it an ideal forward staging and logistics base.

During the passage to Lemnos the ship encountered a storm and endured a very wild night, with cargo shifting and the vessel developing a heavy list to starboard. Many of the 1,800 men aboard were left violently seasick. Arriving at Lemnos during the evening of 14 April 1915, Mudros was a hive of activity; *"Seaplanes, Submarines, Battleships, Dreadnaughts, Predreadnaughts, Cruisers, and Torpedo Boats buzzing around everywhere"* Garland observed.

Final planning and preparations for the invasion dominated the days at Lemnos. Training was relentless, focused on boat drill, incessant practice climbing up and down the ship's side on rope ladders, and long marches ashore carrying full kit—equipment, rifle, and packs. Garland managed to go ashore on several occasions, but the routine left little opportunity for rest; the emphasis was firmly on physical conditioning and rehearsing the movements that would soon be required under fire.



SS Lützow. Captured in August 1914 in the Suez Canal and later renamed *SS Huntsend*.

Eve of Battle

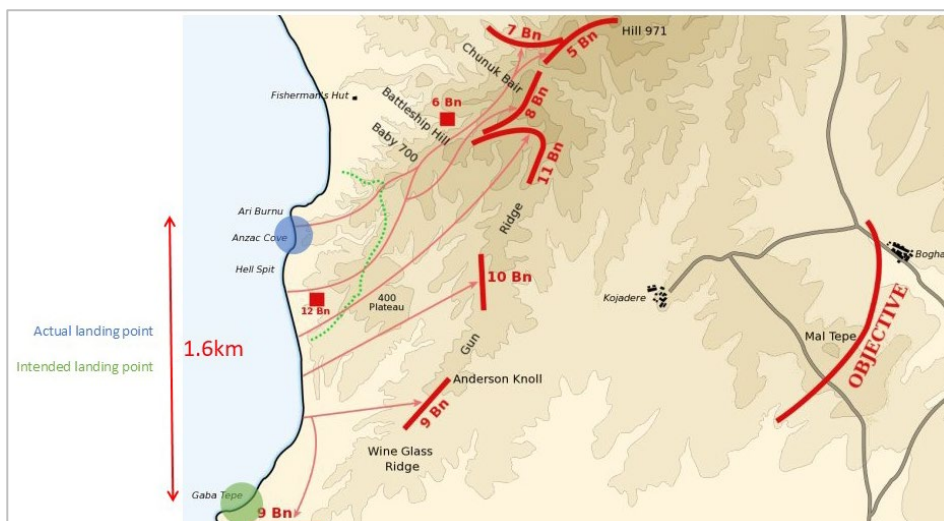
At 4.30 p.m. on 23 April 1915, the *Lützow* weighed anchor, calmly turned around, then steamed quietly past the amassed lines of transports and warships of the invasion fleet.

As the *Lützow* made its way towards the Mudros harbour entrance, moving slowly down the lines of anchored warships, she was greeted by cheer upon cheer from French, Russian, British, Australian, and New Zealand troops. As she steamed past each vessel, the ship's band struck up a succession of national anthems—the Marseillaise for French ships and the Russian National Anthem for the cruiser *Askold*.

The rousing music met with cheers and excitement across the anchorage. Once it reached open waters, the *Lützow* made anchor again as the final preparations for the invasion continued. With expectations to land the next day (24 April 1915), on the eve of battle, Garland captured the prevailing mood: *"All are as excited and as happy as can be. I wonder what the morrow will bring forth."* The anticipation proved premature as the ship remained at anchor for much of the following day.

The Allied invasion of Gallipoli began before dawn on 25 April 1915.

The *Lützow* set sail at 1.30 a.m. and Garland was awakened three hours later by the thunder of naval gunfire as the initial landings commenced.



While British troops landed at Cape Helles on the southern tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula, the ANZACs were tasked with a diversionary landing at Gaba Tepe (Kabatepe), 20 kilometres to the north.

Navigational errors would cause the ANZAC force to land approximately one mile (1.6 km) north of the intended landing area near Gaba Tepe—instead coming

ashore at what became known as Anzac Cove after their boats drifted off course in darkness and strong currents.

'We are only about 40 miles from the seat of trouble, so the sight-seeing part of our tour is coming to an end. Good job, too!' Lieutenant Herbert (Bert) RICHARDSON – Auckland Infantry Battalion, Lemnos, 23 April 1915

Chaos and Confusion

At dawn on 25 April 1915, the Gallipoli campaign began, drawing thousands of Australians and New Zealanders into one of WW1's most unforgiving battlefields.

In the early hours of 25 April 1915, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) went ashore at a small, unfamiliar bay north of Kabatepe on the Gallipoli Peninsula, a place that would soon be known as Anzac Cove. Australian units landed first at 4.30 a.m., landing in darkness amid confusion, scattered fire, and a shoreline that quickly became choked with men, boats, the dead and wounded. Units became intermingled almost at once as officers struggled to impose order and find their bearings in the steep, broken terrain rising sharply above the beach.

The Auckland Battalion departed its staging point off Mudros Harbour at 1.30 a.m. on 25 April 1915. Garland was awoken at 4.30 a.m. by the thunder of Allied battleships opening fire on Ottoman defences—the Gallipoli invasion had begun. As the transport *Lützow* neared the coast, the men were transferred into longboats, towed shoreward by steamboats, then released to row toward the beach.

At about 10 a.m. the Auckland Infantry Battalion came ashore amid the same chaos. Garland was among the first of some 3,100 New Zealanders to land that day, stepping onto a narrow, congested beachhead swept by continuous shellfire. Wrecked boats and congested landing points clogged the water's edge, and the men were pushed forward almost as soon as they landed, hurried inland with little cover and understanding of the ground ahead or the enemy positions looming above them.

"Very hot here, shells landing wholesale" recalls Garland. "At one time Turks got a [shell] right into our trench and gave us a hell of a time. The din is awful. Casualties heavy".

The landing was chaotic and intensely dangerous. Coming in through a curtain of shrapnel, the Auckland Battalion was immediately committed to the front. Turkish counter-attacks were fierce, shrapnel swept the forward positions, and much of the ground gained in the initial advance was soon lost. Turkish shells fell continuously, disrupting communications and destroying much of the Signal Company's equipment during disembarkation. Semaphore signalling proved largely impossible under fire, telephone lines were repeatedly cut by shellfire, and linesmen and runners faced extreme risk maintaining contact between units.

The ANZAC objective was the Sari Bair Range, the commanding high ground overlooking Anzac Cove. Although the distance inland appeared short on a map, the terrain—sheer slopes, tangled scrub, and narrow gullies—made any advance slow and disorienting. From the first day, the heights immediately above Anzac Cove were physically close, yet tactically out of reach; a predicament compounded by the navigational error that had brought the troops ashore at the wrong beach.

Lessons Learned

Garland's duty as a signaller thrust him into constant danger, maintaining communications while shells cut lines and lives alike.

25 April 1915

Garland had a specific role to play. He was a signaller, responsible for establishing and maintaining communications with headquarters—a task fraught with danger and one that exposed him constantly to fire as lines were laid, cut, and re-laid under battlefield conditions. Only twenty-five New Zealand signallers landed that day, and from the moment Garland went ashore, his work placed him at the centre of the fighting and at continual risk to his personal safety.

Immediately after landing, Garland was attached to headquarters, helping establish the initial communications framework under fire. Within hours he was ordered forward to Brigade Headquarters to take charge of a signals station after a corporal was wounded—an illustration of how quickly casualties forced responsibility onto junior men. From exposed headquarters positions, Garland maintained links to subordinate units, supervised runners and linesmen, and managed message traffic while shells fell around his trench.

A fellow signaller¹¹ and Garland were tasked to accompany Brigadier-General WALKER¹² to handle communications, his companion commenting "... MORGAN [Garland] and I were now learning a bit about war and decided that there would not be much future in standing up waving a morse flag ..." ¹³. Garland recalls, about 5.00 p.m., a low shell passed so close to Brigadier-General WALKER that it knocked him flat on his back. Those nearby thought he was dead, but he soon declared himself "all right"—having been only winded. ¹⁴

That evening Garland returned to divisional headquarters, where he dug a shallow trench and went to sleep at 8.45 p.m., while the fighting continued through the night. He recorded the unrelenting noise, the constant threat of shrapnel, and the sight of naval gunfire pounding the Turkish positions, with heavy shells screaming overhead. Over the following days the battle raged on, with New Zealand troops pressing the enemy back at times, only to lose hard-won ground to fierce counter-attacks.

Author's Note

Garland's unnamed companion [SENN] displays a dry, almost laconic sense of humour that feels all the more striking given the circumstances. It is worth remembering that both men had only been ashore for a matter of hours and, presumably, neither had previously experienced a live combat situation. His understatement cuts through the chaos. Another great comment comes from the same incident that left Brigadier-General WALKER badly winded. He recalls:

"The Turks were counter-attacking and were endeavouring to get shell and machine-gun fire over the top and onto the beach. The shells were clearing the Plateau by as little as 4 feet. At this time General WALKER ... was watching the position from about five yards from the beach edge of the Plateau, and MORGAN [Garland] and I were ordered to take cover behind the edge. We did not need to be told twice!"

The humour is understated but unmistakable, revealing both the immediacy of the danger and the instinctive pragmatism of men learning, very quickly, how unforgiving the battlefield could be. I would like to think he and Garland were mates.

¹¹ Possibly 4/483 Spr. Frederick Victor SENN, New Zealand Engineers, Divisional Signals also attached to Auckland Infantry Battalion.

¹² Brigadier-General Sir Harold Bridgwood WALKER assumed temporary command of the New Zealand Infantry Brigade. Notably forward, he frequently reconnoitred under fire, directing troops at close quarters. 'Walker's Ridge' was later named in recognition of his role in securing the Anzac perimeter.

¹³ *Gallipoli: The New Zealand Story*, Christopher PUGSLEY, page 130.

¹⁴ This incident is recorded in Garland's diary, dated 25 April. The same event is described in the book *Gallipoli: The New Zealand Story*, Christopher PUGSLEY, page 134. PUGSLEY, a renowned New Zealand military historian, references both Garland and SENN's diaries as sources, pages 373 and 374.

Over the Wire

Garland's service as a signaller extended well beyond communications, requiring constant readiness to fight, defend positions, and operate under fire.

Beyond repairing and patrolling communication lines, he undertook a wide range of front-line duties typical of signallers in active combat, including manning telephone and telegraph posts under fire, maintaining visual signalling when lines failed, and relaying messages during attacks and bombardments.

His role placed him at the centre of the fighting, where effective communication was essential to maintain any hold on the battlefield. Telephone wires were repeatedly severed by shellfire and had to be inspected and repaired under hostile observation, often forcing him beyond the relative safety of the trenches. In doing so, he faced constant risks from snipers, artillery, and sudden bombardment.

Garland also performed the general duties expected of a front-line soldier, including standing sentry, conducting routine patrols, and reinforcing defensive positions when required. In quieter periods, signallers frequently served as infantrymen, acting as riflemen or snipers, assisting with digging and strengthening trenches, and securing newly taken ground. His role demanded constant readiness, adaptability, and an equal willingness to fight, observe, and endure prolonged exposure to danger.

His diarised account conveys the relentless rhythm of combat: prolonged bombardment punctuated by deceptive lulls, night alarms, and sudden violence. He worked while shrapnel burst overhead, hand-grenades (bombs) exploded nearby, rifle and machine-gun fire, and heavy guns pounded both sides. Even when conditions briefly eased, the threat never disappeared.

His work was both vital and hazardous. Garland repeatedly went 'over the wire' to patrol and inspect communications, operating in exposed ground where signallers were frequent, and primary, targets for enemy snipers. He recorded on 30 April 1915: *"4 AM had to patrol wires again. Day very quiet here, no shells landing at all. Over wire again at 6.15 PM. Fired on by snipers while out and narrowly escaped but could not locate him to return his fire"*.

Such encounters were an accepted risk of the role. Signallers were not merely technical specialists but frontline soldiers, expected to defend themselves and, when conditions allowed, to act offensively. From concealed positions, they often operated as riflemen and snipers, harassing enemy observers and protecting vital communication routes.

Like many of his comrades, Garland endured these conditions with composure and resolve. His experience reflects the reality of frontline service—constant exposure to danger, adaptability under pressure, and quiet determination in the execution of essential work, despite the risks. Trooper WATSON succinctly captured the reality of the battlefield, observing:

*"We gained about 400 acres in four days of fighting. 1000 men killed and wounded.
Land is very dear here."*

Tpr. James WATSON – Auckland Mounted Rifles¹⁵, Battle of Hill 60, 27-29 August 1915.

¹⁵ Elements of the New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade landed at Gallipoli (minus their horses) on 12 May 1915, as reinforcements for the Infantry Brigades and served as infantry.

A Fatal Decision

Garland was killed in action by a sniper on 11 May 1915. Originally buried in Monash Gully he was later reinterred at Quinn's Post Cemetery, Anzac.

Fourteen Signallers were killed in action while serving at Gallipoli – Garland being the second. Like other units of the division, the Signal Company prepared to fight in the Dardanelles with limited understanding of the conditions they would face there.

Garland was killed in the early hours of the morning of 11 May 1915:

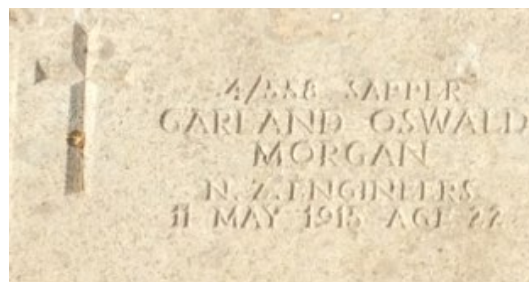
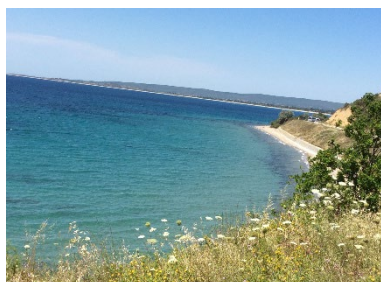
'At about 4 a.m., a squad including Sapper MORGAN was sent out to lay a loop on the line. Sapper MORGAN had been on duty all night, and was really entitled to a rest, but he practically begged to be allowed to carry out this dangerous mission. He had only been away about 20 minutes when a member of the squad tapped the wire with his portable telephone and intimated that MORGAN had been shot through the heart by sniper.'

An officer wrote "Sapper MORGAN was always ready to tackle any work at any time. He was equally good as a Sapper or Driver and was very highly thought of by the officers commanding the company."



Quinn's Post Cemetery, Gallipoli

Between April and December 1915, some 11,600 New Zealanders served at Gallipoli. Of these, 2,721 died on active service and 4,752 were wounded¹⁶—a casualty rate of 64 percent. Garland, being among those who lost their lives, died at the age of 22 after only 17 days on the Peninsula. He is buried at Quinn's Post Cemetery, grave A.27. Of those killed at Gallipoli, only 265 have marked graves, including Garland. He is remembered as a young man of sterling character and as a loyal, dutiful son—a soldier richly entitled to the garland of honour.



¹⁶ The New Zealand Army: A History from the 1850s to the 1980s, WICKSTEED RNZA, page 17.

Commemoration

Garland received the standard suite of First World War decorations issued to New Zealand servicemen who undertook overseas service in the war's early years.

His medals, forwarded to his parents in 1923, recognised Garland's service up to the end of December 1915, including the Gallipoli campaign. Garland's medals were donated by the family to the Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum, Waikato (the National Army Museum of New Zealand), which also holds the original copy of his 1914-1915 diary (RV3281). The medal set comprises:



1914–15 Star¹⁷—Awarded for overseas service in any theatre of war between 23 November 1914 and 31 December 1915. Instituted by King George V to recognise service during the war's earliest and most hazardous phase, the medal was received by many volunteers who served before mass conscription.

British War Medal 1914-18—Issued to service personnel of the British Empire who completed overseas or qualifying service during the First World War. The medal recognised sustained commitment throughout a prolonged global conflict marked by industrialised warfare and heavy casualties.

Victory Medal—Awarded to those who served in an operational theatre during the First World War. Issued only in combination with other campaign medals, it symbolised Allied victory and the shared sacrifice of Britain, the Dominions, and their allies.

Together, these three medals formed the familiar First World War 'standard trio', colloquially known as 'Pip, Squeak and Wilfred', a light-hearted nickname drawn from popular British cartoon characters of the time and widely adopted by soldiers to describe the set.

As Garland was killed on service, his family were presented with the **Memorial Plaque** (pictured below left). Often referred to as the 'Death Penny', the bronze plaque served as a personal and symbolic act of national remembrance for the fallen.

In addition, the **ANZAC Commemorative Medallion**—also known as the Gallipoli Medallion—(pictured below right) was instituted in 1967 to recognise Australian and New Zealand personnel who took part in the Gallipoli campaign; it features Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick with his donkey carrying a wounded soldier.



¹⁷ Should not be confused with the 1914 Star (also known as the 'Mons Star'). The 1914 Star was awarded to officers and soldiers of the **British Expeditionary Force** who served in France or Belgium from the outbreak of war until late November 1914, including those who fought at the Battle of Mons. Being the first major British engagement on the Western Front, only those who served under fire during this period were eligible.

Divisional Signal Company

The Divisional Signal Company developed from early twentieth-century efforts to modernise the Army's ability to communicate in the field.

Origins

As warfare became increasingly dependent on rapid transmission of orders and intelligence, New Zealand began experimenting with specialist signalling units. These included the Cycle and Signalling Corps formed in 1909 and the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Corps established in 1911, both of which drew heavily on civilian communications expertise. Defence reforms culminated in 1913, when these organisations were consolidated under the New Zealand Engineers, formally recognising signalling as a distinct technical function within the military.



On mobilisation in August 1914, the Divisional Signal Company was raised as part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF). It was composed of four officers and approximately 109 non-commissioned officers and men drawn from the Engineer Signal Service, the Post and Telegraph Department, and Territorial Force signallers across all four military districts. Departing with the NZEF Main Body in October 1914, the

company became the communications backbone of the force, responsible for maintaining links between divisional headquarters, brigades, and front-line units.

Technical Character

Training in Egypt focused on the full spectrum of contemporary signalling methods, including semaphore flags, signalling lamps, heliographs¹⁸, and the laying and repair of telegraph and telephone lines. Particular emphasis was placed on visual signalling, seen as essential for operations in open and rugged terrain.

At Gallipoli in 1915, the Divisional Signal Company faced extreme conditions. Steep slopes, limited cover, and constant enemy fire made communications fragile and easily disrupted. Signallers worked continuously to establish and repair lines, often under direct fire, while visual signalling, runners, and despatch riders carried messages when wires were cut or equipment destroyed.

Their work sustained command and control throughout the campaign and proved vital to the coordination of operations. The Gallipoli experience demonstrated the central importance of specialist signalling in modern warfare and confirmed the Divisional Signal Company as an indispensable element of the New Zealand force.

After the war, defence reorganisation sought to professionalise and standardise these lessons. Signalling was recognised as a permanent, specialist military function requiring its own identity, career structure, and technical focus. This led to the formal separation of signals from the Engineers and the establishment of the New Zealand Corps of Signals in 1921. The Corps inherited the personnel, traditions, and operational experience of the wartime signal companies, marking the transition from an ad hoc wartime necessity to a standalone, enduring arm of the New Zealand Army.

¹⁸ The heliograph system had worked well during the South African War (Boer War) but was much less suited to cloudier climates. The need for each signal office to have a runner standing by to hand-deliver messages was underlined during the New Zealanders' first fighting, against an Ottoman Turkish attack on the Suez Canal in February 1915.

Preconceptions Dismissed

Garland landed at Gallipoli under heavy shell fire, serving from the first day as a forward-deployed signaller. Pre-war beliefs that signals work would be conducted safely in rear areas were quickly overturned; communications had to be established while the battle was ongoing, across broken terrain and under sustained artillery, shrapnel, and sniper fire. These links were vital in restoring order after the landings at Anzac Cove, yet constructing and maintaining them was extremely dangerous, with runners and visual signallers frequently exposed and often targeted by Ottoman snipers.

A signaller with the Canterbury Battalion, Lance Sergeant Bill LEADLEY, recalled with great sorrow the day after the landings that *"my friend Bob Wilson was killed as he was bringing a message from the firing line. We had to keep under cover all day because of the snipers."* Then two days later that *"we have been under heavy shrapnel fire all day. We lost two Begbie lamps and a heliograph ... it was impossible to keep up communication with our various stations by semaphore because of enemy fire"*.

Throughout the Gallipoli campaign, the Divisional Signal Company's work followed a relentless pattern: laying line, repairing breaks, and improvising alternatives when wire was destroyed. Where telephone systems failed, visual signalling and runners carried the burden. Garland's diary records repeated wire patrols under fire, narrowly avoided casualties, and the constant necessity of keeping the line open despite enemy action. His death while laying a loop on a telephone line, was tragically emblematic of the unit's experience.

Badges and Insignia

Members of the Divisional Signal Company wore the insignia of the New Zealand Signal Corps. Cap and collar badges featured crossed semaphore flags—symbolising visual signalling—often within a wreath and surmounted by a crown to denote service to the Crown. The Corps motto, *Sodales Parati* (prepared as comrades together), reflects both technical proficiency and collective duty.

Signal personnel wore the New Zealand Engineers shoulder title and the standard Engineers puggaree: a khaki/blue/khaki hatband, introduced under the 1912 Dress Regulations and worn on the slouch hat later known as the 'lemon squeezer'.



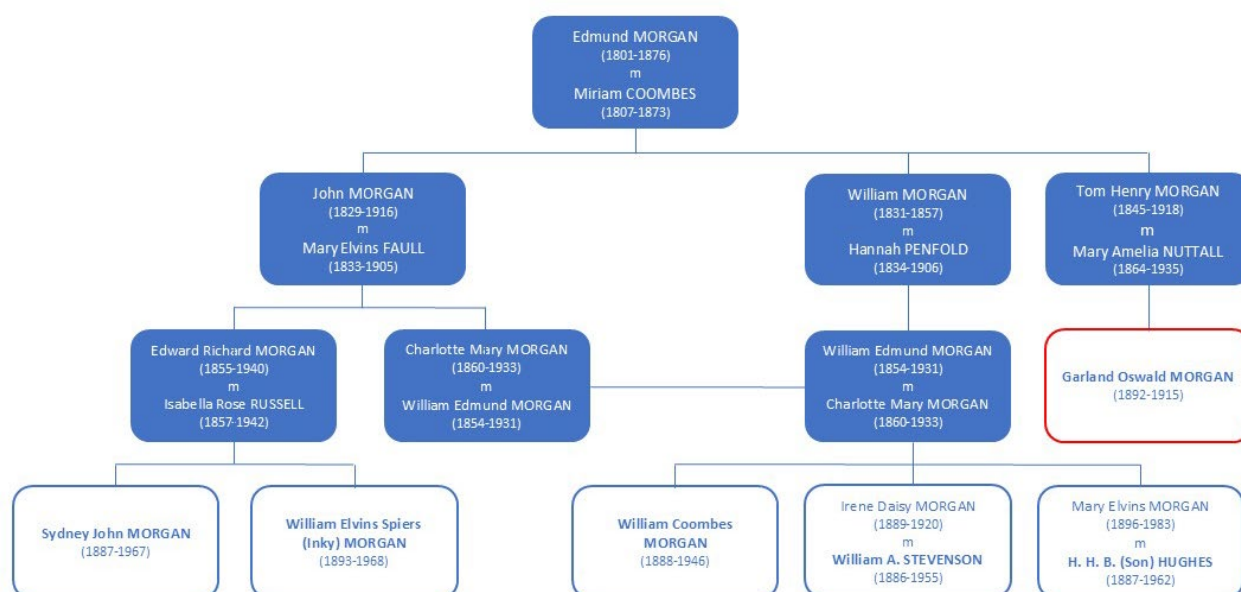
Gallipoli Morgan's

Other members of Garland's extended family also served at Gallipoli, underscoring the breadth of the MORGAN family's involvement in the campaign.

In total there were six MORGAN relatives who served at Gallipoli. Only William STEVENSON was present at the time of Garland's death (although technically not a relative at this point in time). Garland's second cousins—brothers Syd and Inky (William Elvins Spiers MORGAN), and William MORGAN—landed a few hours after he was killed. The close timing of their arrival highlights the tragic immediacy of his loss and adds a poignant dimension to the family's shared wartime experience.

Gallipoli Family Tree

The MORGAN'S who served at Gallipoli and how they are related.



Gallipoli Service Details

No.	Name		Regiment/Unit	Rank	Enlisted	Force	Transport Ship	Departed NZ	Date Landed Gallipoli	Date of Casualty	Gallipoli Battles	Casualty Description
10/1851	HUGHES	Herbert Hoey Burnett	Wellington Infantry Battalion 7th Wellington West Coast Company	Corporal	5 January 1915	Fourth Reinforcements NZEF	HMNZT 21 Willochra HMNZT 22 Knight Templar HMNZT 23 Waitomo	17 April 1915	7 June 1915	8 August 1915	Chunuk Bair	Wounded (invalided home)
4/558	MORGAN	Garland Oswald	NZ Engineers Divisional Signal Company	Sapper	14 August 1914	Main Body NZEF	HMNZT 12 Waimana	16 October 1914	25 April 1915	11 May 1915	Monash Gully	Killed in Action
11/571	MORGAN	Sydney John	Wellington Mounted Rifles 2nd (Wellington West Coast) Squadron	Trooper	15 August 1914	Main Body NZEF	HMNZT 10 Arawa	16 October 1914	12 May 1915	31 May 1915	Walker's Ridge No. 3 Post	Wounded (invalided home)
11/528	MORGAN	William Coombes	Wellington Mounted Rifles 2nd (Wellington West Coast) Squadron	Trooper	15 August 1914	Main Body NZEF	HMNZT 10 Arawa	16 October 1914	12 May 1915	11 July 1915	Walker's Ridge No. 3 Post	Wounded (invalided home)
11/599	MORGAN	William Elvins Spiers	Wellington Mounted Rifles 2nd (Wellington West Coast) Squadron	2nd Lieutenant	13 August 1914	Main Body NZEF	HMNZT 10 Arawa	16 October 1914	12 May 1915	31 July 1915	Walker's Ridge No. 3 Post	Evacuated sick (to Egypt)
10/259	STEVENSON	William Alexander	Wellington Infantry Battalion (Inf. Brigade Headquarters)	Private	17 August 1914	Main Body NZEF	HMNZT 3 Manganui	16 October 1914	26 April/ 8 July 1915	19 May/ 10 August 1915	Walker's Ridge	Evacuated sick (invalided home)

Morgan Gallipoli Timeline

The 'Morgan' Gallipoli Timeline

April 1915

- 25th Garland lands at Gallipoli with Auckland Infantry Battalion.
- 26th William (STEVENSON) lands at Gallipoli with Wellington Infantry Battalion – 7th (Wellington West Coast) Company [assumed].

May 1915

- 11th Garland is killed in action while laying a loop-line at or near Quinn's Post [initially buried at Monash Gully].
- 12th Willie, Inky and Syd land at Gallipoli with Wellington Mounted Rifles – 2nd (Wellington West Coast) Squadron as infantry reinforcements.
- 19th William (STEVENSON) is evacuated from Gallipoli and admitted to Deaconess Hospital (Alexandria) with measles.
- 30th Syd is wounded during the battle at No. 3 Post, evacuated to the hospital ship *HS Gascon* then to Alexandria, Syd is eventually invalided home.
- 31st Inky is evacuated with severe illness (enteritis) firstly to Egypt then England, returned to service in Egypt.

June 1915

- 7th Son lands at Gallipoli with Fourth Reinforcements and is immediately posted to the Wellington Infantry Battalion - 7th (Wellington West Coast) Company.

July 1915

- 8th William (STEVENSON) re-lands at Gallipoli – rejoins "HQ" and then attached to Auckland Brigade HQ (temporarily).
- 11th Willie suffers a head wound during a skirmish at Walker's Ridge, evacuated to Lemnos then Alexandria, Willie is subsequently invalided home.

August 1915

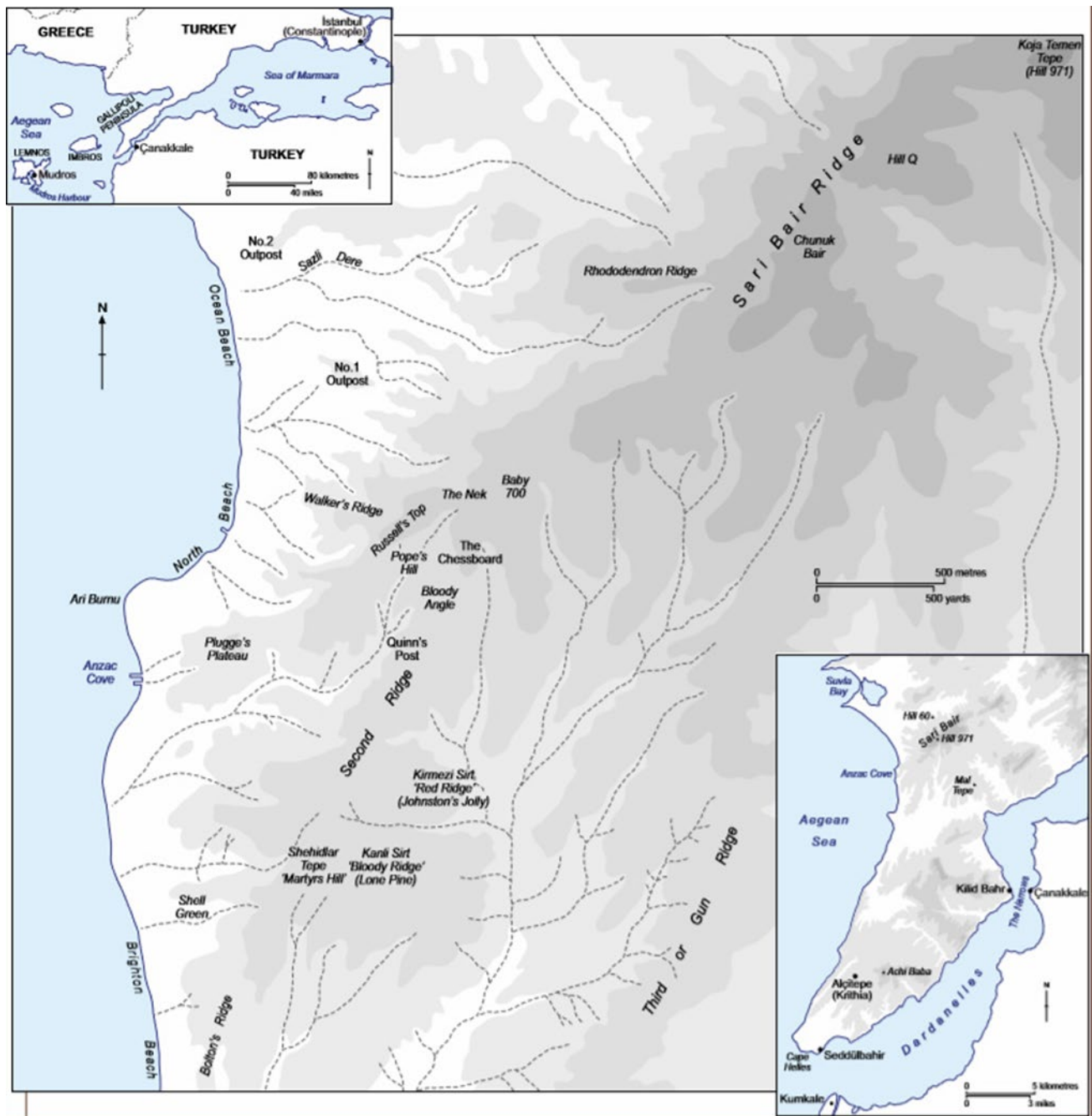
- 8th Son is wounded during the fierce battle of Chunuk Bair, one of the few who reached the summit, subsequently invalided home.
- 10th William (STEVENSON) is evacuated from Gallipoli to Cairo with severe Enteritis, subsequently invalided home.



Troops and supplies coming ashore at Anzac Cove, 25-26 April 1915. The hill in the foreground leads up to Plugge's Plateau.

Note: It is quite likely that this image was taken not far from the location referenced by 4/483 Spr. Frederick Victor SENN (page 12) and where the incident involving Brigadier-General Sir Harold Bridgwood WALKER occurred.

Map – Anzac Cove



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<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/infantry-units>

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<https://ww1lives.com/sapper-4-558-garland-oswald-morgan-22-killed-in-action/>

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Navy Museum - Troopships of World War 1

<https://navymuseum.co.nz/explore/by-themes/world-war-one/troopships-departed-nz-ww1/>

The New Zealand Expeditionary Force Sets Forth

<https://ww100.govt.nz/the-new-zealand-expeditionary-force-sets-forth>

National Army Museum

<https://www.armymuseum.co.nz/visit/exhibitions/gallipoli/>

National Army Museum of New Zealand

<https://nam.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/8989#idx14015>

The National Army Museum of New Zealand has a magnificent collection of photos from various theatres of campaign during the World War 1 era. Many of these can be viewed online. In my research I stumbled across a 100+ photographs (album) belonging to 4/560 Sergeant George Vivian Thomas MOORE, MM, of the Divisional Signals Company, New Zealand Engineers.

The album covers training in New Zealand, troopship journey aboard the *HMNZT 12 Waimana*, training at Zeitoun Camp, Egypt, and action at Gallipoli including Anzac Cove, No. 3 Post, Walker's Ridge, and Monash Gully. The significance of this is that George and Garland belonged to the same regiment, travelled to Egypt and served at Gallipoli at the same time.

It is possible that Garland may be in some of these photos. He would have been acquainted with some of the people in them and would have seen or visited the sites depicted in the images. Of most interest are the photos around the time of the Gallipoli landings and Monash Gully. Most soldiers in the images are from Garland's Divisional Signals Company.

Diaries

G. O. MORGAN

Personal experiences of Garland leading up to the invasion of Gallipoli and the days preceding his death.

H. G. RICHARDSON

<https://www.specialcollections.auckland.ac.nz/ww1-centenary/collegians-at-war/their-stories/herbert-richardson>

An extract from 12/1492 Lieutenant Herbert George (Bert) RICHARDSON'S diary covering the days before the landing at Gallipoli. He enlisted in October 1914 and left New Zealand with the 2nd Reinforcements in December, joining the rest of the Auckland Infantry Battalion in Egypt in January 1915. In his final entry, written on 24 April, RICHARDSON mentions that he will be landing with the 15th North Auckland Company rather than the 3rd Auckland Company of the Battalion. RICHARDSON was killed in action on the day of the landing, 25 April 1915.

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