

N.S.W. State President W. Yeo is at present on the official R.S.L. World Tour. Members will be interested to know from the pen of Mrs. Yeo, who is accompanying him, how Anzac Day was celebrated at Gallipoli. The previous account has been omitted, as this deals with the many welcomes and receptions they have been given.

ANZAC DAY AT ANZAC

"On Sunday afternoon (24th April) we gave a cocktail party at our hotel as a gesture of thanks for all the hospitality given us. There were, including ourselves, about 120 folk, and during the party the Turkish Minister for Defence came. Bill presented him with a rug which Sir George Holland had sent on behalf of the R.S.L. of Australia. The British Consul was also present.

TO GALLIPOLI

"At 8 p.m., we boarded the 'Gemlick' for Gallipoli. There were representatives of the Army (General and Mrs. Karabelen), the Turkish Ex-Servicemen's Association, the British Legion, and the three Vice-Consuls from the British Embassy.

"We were made very comfortable; the ship was heated, and tea, with cabbage rolls (rice inside cabbage leaves) was served. There were four cabins, with two beds in each, so we gave one cabin to Mr. W. Gray and Mr. J. Doyle, who have leg injuries, and the six other beds were shared, on the basis of two hours for each of the women. Not long, but a wonderful relief to get one's feet up.

FIRST FUNCTION

"At 6.30 p.m., Anzac Day, the wreath was floated in the Dardanelles, and so our first Anzac Day function was held.

"When we came aboard at 8 o'clock and settled down, we thought of you all—from Dawn Service on. We remarked: 'The Dawn Service is just about to commence,' and at midnight, in the midst of all the chatter, Bill said, 'The March is assembling,' and so it went on. We could picture you all, and were with you in spirit, right through the day. We

hoped that the weather was kind to you all.

"We disembarked at 7 a.m., and what a reception awaited us! Once again the guard of honour, and band. General Ziyautlermden and his aide, Major Kildiz awaited us at the gangway, and I was presented with two sheafs of flowers, one from the Army, and one from the Turkish ex-servicemen (these were subsequently placed on Lone Pine, and the Beach cemetery).

"Two buses, six jeeps and several cars were waiting for us, and a huge crowd of the townsfolk. Lieut.-Col. Rogers, of the U.S.A. Marines, drove Mrs. Karabelen, Mrs. Dawson, Miss Grey and myself to Anzac—Bill, of course, was in the first car.

"It took us one and a half hours to reach Hill 971. The day was absolutely perfect, the countryside smiling and peaceful, dotted with tiny farms of wheat.

QUINN'S POST

"A donkey loaded with sticks, another with women, a few sheep, completed the restful scene. The air was soft, the sky a heavenly blue, a countryside at peace with the world, and then the cemeteries commenced to appear, and, with a sinking feeling in the pit of my tummy, I saw Quinn's Post, and realised here is a part of Australia.

"The company wound up through scrubby country until, at last, we arrived at Hill 971, where a huge obelisk, to the New Zealanders, stood.

"From here, the whole of the Anzac and Suvla battlefields spread out below us, and so much have I read of the story of Anzac that as Major Kildiz gave a topographical talk about the area, I could see every part.

"The men in our party were very emotional. Bill very much so.

"It was pointed out to us where the Anzacs should have landed—such a flat spot—and where they actually did, and where the English, under General Stoppard, crossed the Salt Lake after landing at Suvla, and where he decided to rest—and the result of that poor decision.

"After this splendid talk by Major Kildiz, we assembled to lay the first wreath. The British Legion also laid one. A wonderful address of welcome was made by Capt. Akomer, during which he said:

"Comrades in Arms,—

"Here, we, representatives of the Turkish War Veterans' Association, have the honour and deep pleasure of meeting the honourable members of the ANZACS, our valiant ex-foes, on this very piece of land during the First World War.

"I have difficulty in expressing our sentiments adequately, and I would quote what was said by Atatürk himself.

"It is well-known that Atatürk, our first President, had commanded the defending forces, the Anafartalar group here, as Colonel Mustafa Kemal, throughout the campaign.

"Upon an occasion, he sent a deputation with a special message, in which he said:

"Oh, heroes, those who spilt their blood on this land, you are here sleeping side by side in close embrace with our Mehmeds.

"Oh, mothers of distant lands, who sent their sons to battle here, stop your tears. Your sons are in our bosoms. They are serenely in peace. Having fallen here now, they became our own sons."

"Wouldn't that be good in 'Reveille'? What comfort it could bring to mothers of these lads resting on Anzac!

LONE PINE

"From here, the convoy drove to Lone Pine. There are no less than 25 cemeteries scattered over this area, and as we only had one day, of which three hours were taken up in travelling to and from, we could visit only selected ones to lay wreaths.

"Lone Pine is considered the main cemetery. Its memorial is in the shape of a chapel. Here again the wreaths were laid by the pilgrimage—British Legion, Legacy, Victoria, Williamstown, Campsie, and Canterbury-Hurlstone Park Sub-branches.

"From here, a jeep took Bill and me to Steel's Post, to see just where he was prior to the Evacuation.

"The whole terrain was, and still is, so rugged (the Turks were up on the ridges) that the wonder of it all is how any came out alive from this show.

"We then visited the Turkish memorial, where wreaths were laid. A group of Turkish school children were waiting for us outside the gate, with their teacher, who presented me with a bouquet of field flowers, in the most charming manner.

"The kiddies did a folk dance for us. I believe they come to the different graves every week with flowers.

TO THE BEACH

"After Lone Pine, we went on to the beach, passing Steel's Post, Courtney's Post and Quinn's Post cemeteries on the way. There are three cemeteries on or near the beach, and we stopped at the largest, but did not lay the

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last wreath here — but kept it for the little cemetery right on the beach.

Lunch, provided by the Army, had been arranged for us right out on the lawn. Little tables were set out on a beautiful expanse of lawn, and here we Australians sat down with Turkish Army men and ex-servicemen to eat together in friendship on a calm, sunny, peaceful day, in just the place where, 45 years ago to the day, our boys, and theirs, were locked in deadly conflict. I just couldn't blot out from my mind the picture of what that spot must have looked like 45 years ago.

"After lunch, we retraced our way to the earlier-mentioned beach cemetery. Just a tiny spot right at the beach, a little monument and 60 or 70 graves, the most peaceful spot imaginable; the lapping of the clear water on the pebbly beach is the only sound to be heard.

"Of all the cemeteries we've visited, this was the one I loved best, for here I felt was peace, perfect peace.

TRENCHES STILL THERE

"From here we commenced our drive back to the ship, and as the shadows commenced to lengthen over this lovely land, it seemed hard to realise that it was once the scene of such dreadful fighting. The Sphinx, Shrapnell Gully, Hill 60, Johnson's Gully, are all there, and, amazingly, the trenches are still there, too. This seems hard to credit, but they are, and Bill and General Kara-

belen picked up pieces of shrapnel and spent bullets.

FAREWELL

"When we arrived at the town of Gallipoli for our return journey, the townspeople had turned out in great style. School boys lined the road outside their school to cheer, and the townsfolk did the same. The guard of honour and band were there, and our men, and the Turks, formed up, and led by Bill, the two Generals and Major Kildiz marched (they said it was their Anzac Day march) from the top of the street to the ship, where farewells were sadly made. The ship steamed away at 4 p.m., and we arrived at Istanbul at 1 a.m.

"We left Istanbul at mid-day on the 26th, and it seemed that all the ex-servicemen had come to see us off. We were driven to the airport, and in front was a military jeep that used its siren to clear our way.

"The guard of honour was there, as were representatives of the Army, and the three Karabelens. Just before the plane left, who should arrive but the Turkish officer Attila, who was one of the young ones out in Australia in 1915.

"He had just arrived from military duty in Ankara, and rushed down to see us. As our plane took off, the guard saluted, and with much waving and farewells, we roared away, after the most wonderful reception anyone could have been given."

26 C.M.F. BASES IN N.S.W. TO BE CLOSED

Locations of the 54 Citizen Military Force Training Depots to be closed in Metropolitan and country areas, as part of the Army re-organisation reviewed by the Minister for Defence, in Parliament, have been announced by the Minister for the Army, Mr. J. O. Cramer.

In his statement in the House of Representatives, Mr. Townley announced that, of the 292 existing Citizens' Military Force training depots throughout Australia, 238 would remain after June 30.

Of the 54 to be closed, 12 were located in Northern Command, 26 in Eastern Command, seven in Southern Command, two in Central Command, two in Western Command, four in Tasmania,

and one in the Northern Territory.

The depots in N.S.W. to be closed are: Queanbeyan, Temora, Young, Leeton, Griffith, Bulli, Hornsby, Blacksmiths, Lambton, Kurri, Wauchope, Wingham, Richmond, Katoomba, Walcha, Yass, Junee, Grafton, Macks-ville, Coff's Harbour, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Kyogle, Mullumbimby, Bomaderry, Ballina.