

Patricia Bamford  
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RUSHCUTTERS BAY NSW 2011  
Tel: 02 0331 0956

14th September, 2014

His Excellency  
The Ambassador  
Embassy of Turkey  
6 Moonah Place  
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Your Excellency,

Greetings from Sydney Australia.

Recently, to my surprise, I found a small box containing letters and cards, written by my father to his parents, who were farmers in Victoria, about his early days in Gallipoli in 1915.

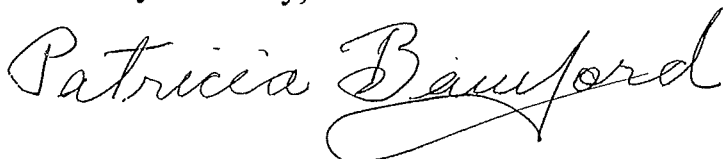
My father, Charles Rupert de Burgh Ker (known affectionately to his father as Pat) was an early volunteer from Western Australia in 1914. He was at the dawn landing on April 25 1915, from the flagship "Minnewaska".

I am writing to you because I found a very special letter about the Turkish soldiers, and enclose a copy of the original with a transcript.

In addition, I would like to mention that our youngest son Rupert visited Turkey some years ago and loved his time there. He was greatly moved by the beautiful words on the Gallipoli plaque, placed there by Kemal, which are a message to the mothers and fathers of those Australian soldiers who are buried beside the Turkish fallen. Rupert photographed the plaque and presented a copy to our Returned Soldiers Association.

The Turks have often been welcome visitors at our home and always will be.

Yours very sincerely,



(Mrs) Patricia de Burgh Ker-Bamford  
Daughter of Charles Rupert de Burgh Ker MC  
Encs (3)

My dear Father

Many happy returns of the 13th Sept. I am writing this in the hope that you will receive it fairly promptly as other fellows have told me that they have managed to get letters away recently. Well Dad old man if I had anything to do with the postal authorities I would have more pleasure in shooting the lot of them than shooting the Turks. I have had two letters in the last two months and as you always put absolutely the correct address on them there is really no-one else to blame but the Post Office.

Well it's no use me trying to tell you about the exact state of things here or the letter might never reach you. Our tucker is certainly pretty good considering the state of things in general but we are naturally getting very tired of it especially those of us who have been here since the first day. As regards the actual position of the war we really know nothing in fact we scan months-old ("Daily Mirror"s) for [*Knews Ha! re read*] news - in fact I saw in a paper that was 6 weeks old that one of our fellows had been awarded the V.C. and that was the first time I had heard it yet I was probably not more than a few hundred yards away from him at the time that he won it. - There is one thing that I want to warn you about & that is take no notice of letters written by fellows to the papers. I have seen Australian papers with bloodcurdling letters in them & signed by fellows that absolutely never landed on the Gallipoli peninsula at all.

**Taken as a whole the Turk is a remarkably clean straight out fighter and they have done some things here which unless one saw it with one's own eyes they would not believe that they could be so [*lenient*] chivalrous - there is no other word for it. Now whatever you do don't publish anything I write. But you may rest assured that you are getting the straight facts about the Turk & I have had 4 months pretty "intimate" relations with him.**

Well Dad old man "Keep a good Grip" for they must get "Jack" of making & shooting shells & bullets & bombs & grenades & darts & gases & fighting in the air and on the land & on the water & under the water & under the land and then D.V. I'll come back to dear old Glandore and "ab Pitch".

Best love to your dear old self and [two] Mater  
With all sorts of good wishes from  
Pat

Div Art Hd Gho  
Gallipoli  
18<sup>th</sup> Aug 1915

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P2

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