

# "THOSE OTHERS"



*THE road which the Kiwi Division has marched with the armies of the United Nations has been long and difficult, but it has led to a great triumph over the armed might of Nazi Germany. As the Victory bells are heard, thoughts go back to that other army of New Zealanders who contributed to the defeat of the military power of the German Empire nearly thirty years ago. The progress of time has not dimmed the memory of the achievements of the First N.Z.E.F.*

On the outbreak of the First World War, New Zealand's military effort was quickly set in motion. Recruiting began immediately and thousands of men enlisted in the first few days. On August 15, 1914, nine days after the receipt of a telegram informing the Government that New Zealand would render a "great and urgent Imperial service in seizing the German wireless station at Samoa", 1,413 men, fully equipped, embarked on two transports. They took possession of the German territory on August 29, without opposition.

The main body of the First N.Z.E.F. comprising 7,761 men, left New Zealand for Egypt on October 15 in ten transports. Such was the eagerness to help the Motherland guard the security of the Empire, that some of the men were fearful that they would arrive too late to fight. Seven weeks after leaving Wellington the troops disembarked at Alexandria. The first task for the main body came in February, 1915, when they assisted in frustrating an attempt by Turkey to capture the Suez Canal.

The departure of the New Zealand troops for Gallipoli was, at first, a disappointment to the Mounted Rifles men and the Maoris, but later the mounted men (without their horses) and the Maoris, were allowed to join the main body. The New Zealanders, together with men of the Australian forces, landed at Gallipoli under withering fire. From the association of these corps the famous name Anzac came. April 25, the day of the landing, is honoured by the name and solemnly commemorated in every English speaking land.

By August 8, New Zealand troops had gained the summit of Chunuk Bair, the strategical key to the Gallipoli peninsula. When the Turks counter-attacked the men in the front trenches fought on to the end. It is recorded in the official history that "there is no finer story of fortitude, no finer exhibition of heroism and self-sacrifice, than was shown in this forward trench of Chunuk on that desperate August morning. Here died some of the noblest characters in the New Zealand army. August 8 was a day of tragedy for New Zealand, but no day in our calendar shines with greater glory." By December it was considered that the Gallipoli enterprise had failed in its main object and the peninsula was evacuated. But the First N.Z.E.F.'s reputation for skill and courage was established.

Just prior to the evacuation, the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, a unit formed in New Zealand as an addition to the main body, landed in Egypt. Within a few days this brigade was