

**Gallipoli Diaries**  
Orchid Tierney

beautiful day  
perfect day  
smooth sea  
total darkness

morning fine

glorious day  
    strong wind  
        heavy sea  
    Maunganui  
opposite us  
    taking seas  
over bows

fine  
bright  
smooth sea  
    heavy swell  
    school  
        of porpoises  
        several whales  
sighted  
    several whales  
close  
    to ship  
spouting  
    like geysers  
uneventful day

beautiful day

morning fine  
    but windy  
    very foggy

last night

southerly wind  
calm sea

fine weather  
quiet  
uneventful day

beautiful  
summer day  
    heavy swell  
        steady roll

misty rain  
heavy sea

fine morning  
calm sea

fine  
warm day  
quiet day

fine morning  
light showers  
very hot  
easy day  
uneventful

glorious  
sunny morning  
but windy  
fine moonlight  
magnificent  
beautiful  
full moon  
tonight  
clear weather

fine morning  
choppy sea

fine day  
calm sea

light showers  
choppy sea

strong wind  
heavy sea

choppy sea  
fine weather  
heavy swell

glorious day  
too warm  
calm sea

fine day

glorious weather  
warmer  
everyday

90°  
in the shade

warm again  
cool showers

very fine  
too hot

fine again  
very sultry  
sea smooth

tropical sun  
smooth sea

fine again  
calm sea

85°  
tropical rain

glorious day  
sea like glass  
clear cloud  
all day  
shoals of  
flying fish  
all day

beautiful day

extremely hot  
beautiful weather  
calm sea  
light southerly  
breeze

very fine  
smooth sea

beautiful day  
sea smooth  
light northerly  
breeze

fine day  
calm sea

glorious day  
more sea

monsoon  
heavy rain

beautiful weather  
smooth sea

perfect day  
smooth sea  
without a breath  
of wind

porpoises  
seen  
in shoals

beautiful  
sunset  
cloudless sky  
clear  
& moonlight  
hot day

tropical day  
hot  
as ever  
smooth sea  
gorgeous sunset  
cloudless sky

hot day  
96°  
86°  
120°

north wind  
cool  
& pleasant  
choppy sea

fine day  
strong  
northerly wind  
choppy sea  
pleasant

fine day  
northerly breeze  
bright moonlight  
pleasant passage

fine day  
cool weather

showery day

clear day  
showery morning

easy day

rainless  
heavy showers

fine weather  
fine again  
nights are  
very cold

quiet day

fine weather

quiet day  
glorious weather

quiet morning

miserable day  
strong wind  
rained clouds  
of dust

dust storm

fine day  
showers  
of rain  
laid dust

fine day

beautiful weather

quiet day

fine weather

splendid weather  
pleasant  
500 dead  
1 killed

quiet day  
slight rain

quiet here  
all quiet  
fine weather  
1 killed  
60 killed  
all quiet  
as usual

uneventful day

very hot  
dry day

usual day

lazy day

warm day  
hot sun

easy day

easy day  
very hot

cold night  
very warm  
after sunrise

rain fell  
rain fell  
short thunder  
storm

this morning  
afternoon  
again clear  
& hot

beautiful weather  
too warm

quiet day

fine day  
dust storm  
dust  
unpleasant

nice day

easy day

disagreeable day  
    "Rhamsean"  
    hot wind  
    102  
    after noon  
        sand storm  
        raged  
        all day  
        sand  
        & wind

quiet day

very warm day  
calm sea  
pleasant weather

beautiful day  
at sea  
cool weather  
        heavy rain  
        storm

fine weather  
calm sea  
very pleasant  
        dirty night  
    dark  
        dirty night

        heavy sea  
    the sea on  
        the gale  
        blowing  
        she rolled  
    the trough  
        of sea

sea  
went down  
calm weather

fine day  
fine spring  
weather like  
N.Z.  
in the spring

fine day  
water calm

another calm

& pleasant day

fine

but windy

miserable day

wet

& windy

strong wind

heavy sea

easy day

weather

settled

calm sea

glorious morning

calm sea

day beautifully

fine

heavy night

weather perfect

splendid weather

quiet night

quiet day

glorious weather

quiet day

weather fine

easterly wind

pleasant

we might

be on

a picnic

in N.Z.

another

beautiful day

weather

is perfect

nights

very cold

last evening

quiet

day



broke fine  
afternoon  
quiet

rain fell  
heavily  
quagmire

morning broke  
beautifully  
fine  
& warm  
again  
grounds  
soon dry  
after rain  
yesterday

fine weather

glorious weather  
continues  
4 killed  
77 killed  
weather  
continues  
very fine

fine day  
fairly quiet  
4 killed  
shells  
rained  
quiet day

perfect day  
heavy loss  
rain fell  
from day break  
unpleasant here  
breezes laden  
not with lavender

sun shone  
beautifully

fine day  
fairly quiet  
100 killed

500 dead  
fire hotter

settled down  
to the same  
old thing

fairly quiet  
day fine  
    rained heavily  
summer  
    showers  
    fell again  
sea calm

fine morning  
    cool breeze

fine day  
quiet day

very warm day  
uncomfortably warm  
usual night  
quiet

fine morning  
108 dead  
70 killed  
1 killed

weather  
continues  
beautifully fine  
splendid  
climate here  
too hot  
for work  
heavy firing

very hot day  
calm weather

hot day

fine warm day

again  
very hot day

quiet day here

fine  
hot

weather  
quiet  
very warm  
weather

quiet night  
I killed  
quiet day  
fairly quiet day  
sultry day  
    sweltering  
    in the shade  
    of a blanket

all day  
fairly quiet

    earth  
        & dust  
    showered  
        us  
    flying  
        lumps  
            of clay

very hot day  
quiet

weather  
continues  
hot  
& dry  
quiet night  
quiet day

weather  
remains  
very hot  
& calm

quiet morning  
weather  
conditions  
remain  
the same  
very warm  
& dry

quiet day  
the night  
    was dark  
the moon

a dust storm      rose  
dust              rose  
                    & din  
the moon  
                    rose  
bombs  
                    ignited  
several dead  
                    dead  
some weeks  
                    we were  
                    pleased  
to see them  
                    cremated

quiet day  
it was  
                    dark  
the moon  
                    rose  
                    thunderstorm  
                    constant  
                                vivid  
                    lightning  
a short  
downpour  
of rain

weather  
again  
clear  
& fine

fine day  
but dull  
nice change  
from the hot sun  
fairly quiet  
easy day

fine  
hot day  
fairly quiet

weather fine

fine day

splendid

summer  
weather

quiet day

quiet day

very quiet day  
hot  
& sultry

quiet day  
quiet day  
sultry air  
all quiet here

quiet day

quiet day  
again  
unpleasant

dust  
gusty winds

very warm

very warm  
& dry  
very quiet

weather  
continues  
very fine  
indeed

shower  
earth  
& debris

3 killed  
quiet day

fairly quiet  
morning  
10 killed

7 killed  
124 killed  
weather  
remains  
very fine

quiet day  
very fine

quiet day  
very fine

very fine  
quiet day  
as usual

“Gallipoli Diaries” draws references to the weather, climes, and casualty lists from the World War I diary of Major Edward Percy Cox. Cox’s regiment embarked at Wellington, Aotearoa/New Zealand on the 16 October 1914 for Suez, Egypt (“Cenotaph Record” n.d). After arriving at Alexandria, Cox participated in military training exercises before joining the disastrous Allied expedition to the Gallipoli Peninsula (now part of present day Turkey). On 25 April 1915, he landed with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) at Anzac Cove on the Aegean side of the Peninsula where they were met with heavy fire from the Ottoman Turkish forces. Cox was later severely wounded at the battle of Chunuk Bair on the highest summit of the Peninsula. He survived but his battalion was decimated.

Britain and France had hoped to secure the Gallipoli Peninsula en route to capturing Constantinople (present day Istanbul) thereby eliminating the Ottoman Empire from the war (“The Gallipoli Campaign” n.d.). The land invasion, however, was a total catastrophe. A combination of inadequate maps, poor communication, sickness, harsh weather, and the devastating failure of the Chunuk Bair and Hill 60 offensives managed to depress the confidence of the Allied troops, and of the 13,977 New Zealanders serving at Gallipoli during the eight months of action, roughly one fifth—or 2779—were killed (figures quoted in Green 2013). With momentum weakening and their occupied positions tenuous, the Allies began to retreat from the Peninsula on the 15 December 1915. The last of the Anzacs were finally evacuated five days later (“The Gallipoli Campaign” n.d.).

While a relatively minor event in the course of World War I, Gallipoli has figuratively and problematically entered Australian and New Zealand cultural memory as the birthplace of national consciousness. That said, Cox’s Diaries hardly register this emergent affective identity but rather the boredom of coastal warfare, occasionally punctuated by casualty and weather reports, occupy his attention. More telling is Cox’s obsession with the climate since, for many Kiwis, the weather codified a certain nostalgia for distant worlds, although the strangeness of conflict and encounter in the unfamiliar climes of Gallipoli must have been disorientating. The Kiwi soldiers, more used to the ever changing “four seasons in one day” climate of the home country, now had to contend with the cycle of stagnant heat, the pungent smell of bloated bodies during the day, and the penetrating cold of the Peninsula at night. No doubt for Cox, the small talk about weather was a soothing vocabulary of normality and pre-trauma memory as he wrote himself into an act of a peculiar disaster.

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#### References

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