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Prime Minister's Department,  
Melbourne, 16th September, 1915.

**T**HE following reports received from the official press representative with the Australian Forces on the 7th, 8th, and 13th September, respectively, are published for general information.

ANDREW FISHER,  
Prime Minister.

**GABA TEPE (thirty), 29th August.**—Two hours before sunset on 27th August the New Zealand Mounted Rifles and the 18th Australian Battalion at the extreme north of the Australian position charged from a trench which the Mounted Rifles had taken on the previous Saturday, stormed two lines of trenches opposite them, then worked to the right, seized a communicating trench between all three, and fortified themselves in this position. The Turkish trenches had been tremendously bombarded for the space of one hour, but the foremost trench was still crowded with Turks when the Mounted Rifles charged. The Mounted Rifles shot these down, and went straight to the second trench, and a flag showing we had captured the whole position appeared in the extreme corner within ten minutes of the first charge. The 4th Australian Infantry Brigade, which adjoined the right of the Mounted Rifles, supported the attack by an attempt to capture the section of trench opposite it. The attempt was most gallantly made by parties of the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 17th Battalions.

**GABA TEPE (thirty-one), 30th August.**—The Turkish trenches captured by the Mounted Rifles on 27th August formed an almost circular redoubt at the seaward end of the spur connected with the further trenches leading up the spur to the main ridge. In the first rush we took within ten minutes the whole of the redoubt and the

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maze of trenches inside it except a fair-sized gap at the north-western corner, where several trenches in the interior and part of the circumference remained in the hands of the Turks. This portion was originally seized, but later our men were driven out. The 9th Light Horse were ordered to retake it. About midnight they charged, and occupied the outer trenches facing the Turks, who were still in some inner trenches. The Turks, coming up from outside, bombed the 9th, who were bombed by the Turks inside the lines as well, and forced slowly to withdraw, leaving the Turks still in possession of the gap. Yesterday morning, just after midnight, the 10th Light Horse charged from the portion occupied by us, and within five minutes had taken almost the whole of the remaining portion of the circle. Presently they met the 9th Light Horse coming from the outer trench to meet them, thus completing the capture of the whole redoubt. A few Turks probably still remained inside in a trench blocked by Turkish dead. The Turks counter-attacked with bombs at daylight, but our men succeeded in retaining the whole circle.

During the fight on 28th August, a New Zealand chaplain went down a trench in the interior of this redoubt searching for a wounded New Zealander. The trench was full of wounded Turks, whose wounds he dressed. Presently voices were heard down the trench. There was something strange about the sound, and the chaplain's companion said, "I think there must be a Turk in this trench." The chaplain answered, "Well, we will go a little further, and see if we can reach him." He crept to a bend of the trench, when suddenly there was a report. The chaplain fell forward, a rattle of rifle shots broke out, and the fire was kept up, making it utterly impossible to reach him. If Australia and New Zealand are not drawn very close together by the way in which their boys are fighting and dying side by side in the same charges and the same trenches on these battlefields, "there must be something rotten in the state of Denmark."

GABA TEPE (thirty-two), 3rd September.—The Turkish Labour Battalion, which largely consists of Greeks and Armenians, has been very active lately digging and improving trenches. This may mean that the Turks are preparing for a winter campaign. The winter at Gallipoli is very severe, beginning with heavy rains, and later northerly winds, intensely bitter. Blinding snow falls on to the higher hills, if not over the whole country. During the final months of winter, the sea is swept by fierce south-westerly gales. I have not the least idea whether a winter campaign is likely to become necessary for the Allied Forces in Gallipoli, but, if so, it is to be trusted that Australians see their troops do not go short of whatever is necessary, and obtain it in time. It is

necessary to face the fact that winter in these hills and plains, where the Australians and New Zealanders have been for nearly nineteen weeks under fire in the trenches without relief, except in a few cases for three days, is likely to be severer than in Flanders, where all the joys of civilization and rest from the fire zone lie within a few miles behind the firing line. The weather, so far, has been perfect, despite the heat, and though heavy fatigue, which elsewhere is carried out by animals, is here necessarily performed by men, the continuous fine weather probably compensated for this. But the Balkan year is divided into two halves, one exquisitely fine, the other the reverse. It is still fine, but this will not always last.