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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: The disappearing regiment in WWI

From: [werd@interlog.com](mailto:werd@interlog.com) (Drew Williamson)  
Date: Sat, 17 May 1997 12:30:41 -0400 (EDT)  
Fwd Date: Sat, 17 May 1997 13:58:16 -0400  
Subject: Re: The disappearing regiment in WWI

>Date: Fri, 16 May 1997 20:03:08 -0700 (PDT)  
>From: Jim Deardorff <[deardorj@ucs.orst.edu](mailto:deardorj@ucs.orst.edu)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>  
>Subject: The disappearing regiment in WWI

>A friend was asking me if I knew where this large-scale abduction >event  
>is written up within the UFO literature. I came across it >years ago and  
>can't remember now where I saw it. Can someone on the >List?

>It involved British soldiers, as I recall, engaged against Turkish  
>>soldiers in WWI. The one group marched into a "cloud," which then  
>>lifted up and off.

>Thanks,

>Jim Deardorff

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Jim,

I don't know where you saw it, but here is the account as related in Peter  
Brookesmith's, UFO: The Complete Sightings, which includes a possible  
(Earthly) explanation.

Drew Williamson

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UFO: The Complete Sightings  
By: Peter Brookesmith

Brown Books  
255-257 Liverpool Road,  
London N1 1LX  
United Kingdom

1995  
ISBN 1 897884 16 8

Pages 29-30

THE REGIMENT THAT VANISHED

Cloud-shaped UFO abducts  
a British unit at Gallipoli

TYPE: Close encounters of  
the fourth kind

PLACE: Suvla bay, Gallipoli,  
Turkey

DATE: 28 August 1915

#### BACKGROUND

In one of the most famous and ill-starred actions of World War 1, French, British, Australian and New Zealand troops first landed on the Gallipoli peninsula in April 1915, in an attempt to seize Turkish forts overlooking the narrow Dardanelles entrance to the Black Sea. The mysterious events related below were first reported as late as 1965.

#### THE EVENTS

According to three eyewitnesses serving with the New Zealand Army, 28 August 1915 was clear and bright but for a group of clouds that, oddly, did not move despite a breeze of about 4-5 mph (6-8 km/h). One cloud - an 'absolutely dense, solid-looking structure' - seemed to be resting on the ground across a creek near Hill 60 on Suvla Plain. A battle was raging between Turkish and British troops for possession of the hill. The New Zealanders, whose post was on Rhododendron Spur, some 300 ft (100 m) above the hill, then observed the following:

'A British regiment, the First-Fourth Norfolk... marching up this sunken road or creek towards Hill 60. However, when they arrived at this cloud, they marched straight into it, with no hesitation, but no one ever came out to deploy and fight at Hill 60. About an hour later, after the last of the file had disappeared into it, this cloud very unobtrusively lifted off the ground and, like any cloud or fog would, rose slowly.... As soon as the singular cloud had risen to their level, they all moved away northwards.... In a matter of about three quarters of an hour they had all disappeared from view.

'The regiment mentioned is posted as "wiped out" and on Turkey surrendering in 1918, the first thing Britain demanded of Turkey was the return of this regiment. Turkey replied that she had neither captured this regiment, nor made contact with it, and that she did not even know that it existed.... Those who observed this incident can vouch for the fact that Turkey never captured that regiment, nor made contact with it.'

#### ASSESSMENT

Records show that two of the three 'eyewitnesses' had been evacuated from Gallipoli by 28 August because of illness. The First-Fourth Norfolks was not a regiment but the First Battalion of the Fourth Norfolk Regiment. The unit did not disappear on that day or any other, but went on to fight with distinction in Gallipoli until the end of 1915, when it was evacuated. However, on 12 (not 28) August, the First Battalion of the Fifth Norfolk Regiment's Colonel, 16 officers and 250 men did vanish. They were in hot pursuit of the enemy when night fell; the next day, there was no trace of them. Sir Ian Hamilton, the commanding general, called the incident 'a very mysterious thing.' But they were operating over four miles (6 km) from the New Zealanders, and nowhere near Hill 60.

New Zealand researcher I. C. McGibbon

suggested that the memory of Frederick Reichardt, the main witness (who had indeed been on Rhododendron Spur), became confused. He concludes that at some point Reichardt did see soldiers disappear into a (normal) mist on the battlefield - for instance, one official report noted: 'By some freak of nature Suvla Bay and Plain were wrapped in a strange mist on the afternoon of 21 August.' He also probably heard of the 'disappearance' of some of the First-Fifth and conflated the two events. His imagination supplied the rest. In the early Eighties, however, one of Reichardt's sons stated that he had heard his father tell the story 'from the earliest days I can remember (I was born in 1932).'

[PHOTO CAPTION] Troops go 'over the top' during the disastrous Gallipoli campaign of 1915. The disappearance of a Norfolk infantry unit's colonel, with 16 other officers and 250 men, during a battle in August 1915 has been promoted for years as a mass abduction by UFOs, but the grim truth is that at least half the missing men died in battle, and the rest were probably taken prisoner and shot in cold blood by their Turkish captors. The British, intent on fostering good relations with Turkey after the war, kept the soldiers' murder secret for many years - and so gave the UFO myth fertile ground in which to grow.

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Drew Williamson

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