

Major SWP Beale Royal Sussex Regiment



Major SWP Beale (1917)
Photograph from Beale Family Archive

By Stephanie Druce

Summary

Sydney William Phipson Beale was born in 1875 into a prosperous and high achieving family. They lived in London and his father James, a very successful solicitor, built a country house, "Standen", in East Grinstead in the 1890s, which the whole family enjoyed for many years¹.

Sydney was educated at Harrow School and Trinity College Oxford, and was called to the Bar in 1900 when he started practising law². He joined the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment (RSR) as a Territorial Reserve whilst at University³, and in 1901, volunteered for service in the Second Boer War in South Africa. He joined in the fight against the Boers, and returned to England at the end of the war in 1902⁴, where he resumed practicing law in London. He continued his reserve association with the 2nd Battalion RSR, which became the 4th Battalion RSR in 1908⁵.

At the outbreak of World War 1, Captain Beale was mobilised along with the 4th Battalion RSR, which was posted to Newhaven on coastal defence reinforcement duties until April 1915, when they joined up with 53rd Welsh Division in Cambridge⁶. In July 1915, they were posted to the Dardenelles and joined the fight against the Turks in Gallipoli until they were evacuated in December 1915⁷. They then embarked for Egypt where they took part in the Middle East Campaign until June 1918, when the Battalion was ordered to France⁸. At that time Major Sydney Beale was suffering from a serious peripheral neurological condition and was invalided back to England⁹.

Sydney married Margaret Crookshank of Saint Hill, East Grinstead in 1912 and later had two children¹⁰. They had a house in Hanover Terrace, London, and in 1918, bought Cobnor House and Farm in Chidham, West Sussex¹¹. After the war he gave up his Law Practice and moved to Cobnor, where he became immersed in farming, spending time improving the area and developing facilities in and around it. He died in 1960.

Background

Sydney Beale's family had strong roots and widespread business interests in and around Birmingham. By the mid nineteenth century, the family were very prominent in the area and were involved in many aspects of business and civic life, particularly the Midland Railway. Sydney's grandfather William headed up the family solicitors Beale & Co., and his father, James, also a solicitor, became a partner. The Midland Railway wanted to extend their network into London, and Beale & Co. provided the legal advice required¹².

Because of the increasing work in London, James Beale moved there with his wife Margaret in about 1870 to open an office at 28 Great George Street, Westminster¹³. He was a key advisor to the Midland Railway during and after the building of its London terminus at St Pancras¹⁴, and lived nearby at 41 Gordon Square¹⁵. James and his wife Margaret (née Field) had seven children, and the four eldest, including Sydney, were born there. In 1875, the family moved to 32

Holland Park, Kensington, a very prestigious London address, where the younger three children were born¹⁶.

James Beale's practice was very successful and when he was 50, he decided to build a house in the country for his large family to enjoy during leisure times, and for him to eventually retire to. He bought three derelict farms near East Grinstead, and appointed the architect, Phillip Webb to design a house for him, with much of the interior furnished by William Morris. It was completed in 1894 and named after one of the farms, Standen. The development of the gardens commenced before the house plans were finished, and his wife Margaret was very much involved in their planning and design.¹⁷ The family lived in London and spent many happy holidays and weekends at Standen.



Beale Children c1887
 (Sydney Beale 3rd from left)
 Photograph from Beale Family Archive

Sydney Beale was born on 11th September 1875, and was the second son and fourth child born to James and Margaret Beale. He was educated at Harrow School, as was his older brother John, and left in 1894 to go to Trinity College, Oxford.¹⁸ His younger brother Samuel went to Marlborough and like John went on to Trinity College, Cambridge. Sydney very much enjoyed his time at University¹⁹ and while there, became a very keen oarsman and rowed in the Torpids in 1896 and the Trinity Eight of 1896 and 1897²⁰. During vacations, he and friends sailed at Emsworth²¹, which started his lifelong enjoyment of sailing. He was still an undergraduate when he joined the 2nd Battalion Volunteer Reserves of the Royal Sussex Regiment, was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in 1897 and promoted to Lieutenant in 1899²².



Torpids Eight 1896.
 (Sydney Beale back right)
 Photograph from Beale Family Archive

Sydney obtained a degree in Jurisprudence and was admitted as a member of Lincoln's Inn on 18th November 1897 and called to the bar on November 19th 1900²³. His chambers were at 3 Harcourt Buildings, Inner Temple, and he carried out his Law Practice from there. He co-wrote a law book published in 1901, Light Railway Procedures, Reports and Precedents²⁴.

Sydney Beale and the Second Boer War

(See Appendix 1, Map of South Africa)

In 1901, Sydney volunteered to join the fight against the Boers in South Africa and was promoted to the temporary rank of Captain.²⁵ He wrote very interesting and graphic accounts of his experiences in his many letters home which were preserved by the Beale family²⁶. The account below is based on his letters home and the book "Two Years on Trek" by Lieutenant Colonel Du Moulin²⁷.

The Second Boer War started in October 1899 and was thought by the British to have been won by September 1900, when the capitals of the two protagonist Boer republics (South Africa (or Transvaal) Republic and the Orange Free State) were in British hands. However, the Boers had other ideas and a guerrilla war ensued, the Boers forming commando units which were sent to the districts from which they had been recruited. They therefore had personal knowledge of the local terrain and could rely on local support. They conducted raids aimed at disrupting the operational capacity of the British Army, and withdrew quickly. This led to the Commander in Chief, Kitchener, forming his "scorched earth" policy, burning farmhouses and destroying livestock, in an attempt to prevent the Boer commandos regrouping^{28 29}.



Sydney Beale 1901
 Photograph from
 Beale Family Archive

By the time Captain Sydney Beale landed in Cape Town in May 1901 (winter in South Africa) in command of the 2nd Volunteer Active Service Company, (115 officers and men³⁰), the guerrilla commando units were operating very effectively. Sydney described the long and slow train journey to join the 1st Battalion RSR at Norvals Pont, on the Orange River South West of Bloemfontein and remarked that it was the "habit of the Boers to shoot up slow trains". His Company joined Colonel Williams' column and their role was searching the area for raiding Boers and "to clear up every farm and village about. Our orders are to leave nothing that can walk or be carried or burnt". They moved to Springfontein with part of Colonel Byng's Column where they were quarantined for Scarlet Fever. Sydney said he was "sick of this place" as apart from a few forays, he spent time breaking a "bay" which he picked up at a farm, winning his first "case" defending an Imperial Yeoman Subaltern who had a fight, finding animals for food or horses for his use, and collecting fuel.

Orders were soon given that every man of the Regiment who was willing should be mounted and join Lieutenant Colonel du Moulin's mounted column. Accordingly Sydney was training his men to ride and use arms at the same time, and wrote to his brother Sam, that out of two Companies, nearly 80 of his own Company and 30 of the other Company had become riders, although some were "rotters on a gee-gee"! The mounted column picked them up at Springfontein and left within two hours on 21st July. Sydney expressed great respect for Du Moulin, and described the strange sight of "practically a whole battalion of British Infantry standing to its horses".



Sydney Beale, Boer War 1900-1901
 Photograph from Beale Family Archive

In August, he was offered the post of Intelligence Officer to the column, as he had "no Volunteer Company to run", and his job was to supply the Colonel with information about any Boer activity around the column; how many, where they were, who was commanding, how many guns and horses. He also had responsibility for finding routes to places, whether wagons

could get there, and where to find water, so a lot of scouting expeditions were involved. He joked about losing his way, being mistaken for the enemy and being fired at!

The Column had moved to Philippolis at the end of July which was nearly deserted and "a perfect wreck". The District they patrolled was around the town, and their tasks included following up sightings of the Boer and shooting or capturing them if possible, moving from farm to farm looking for stock, hidden grain and anything that might be useful for transport. The attrition amongst horses was heavy because of the long distances they had to cover, and fresh stock was constantly needed, so Sydney went out on "horse hunts", subsequently breaking and training them.

On 17th September, the Sussex Column marched to Springfontein, entrained for Bloemfontein and then marched to Vlakfontein, the scene of an attack by the Boers where two guns and their escort of mounted infantry had been captured. By this time the small bands of Boers had been combined into a much larger fighting force. After two days of tracking the guns, and a week when various columns swept the area to little effect, the Sussex column headed for their new district near Reddersburg.

On 24th October, one of the British columns near Ventershoek was attacked and all available columns, including the Sussex column, were ordered to the area. After some exchanges the following day, a large force of Boers launched a major attack on 26th and after heavy engagement, they were repulsed. Captain Beale wrote that he was sent to look at a gorge, when he found himself totally exposed to enemy fire from the ridge and "bolted for cover"!

During November, patrols were sent out, various skirmishes took place and many Boer prisoners were taken. In one letter to his sister Maggie, Sydney wrote that 26 Boer had been rounded up, described the wonderful countryside, compared the sizes of farms and stock to Standen, and said that he was training two ponies. At the end of the month, Colonel du Moulin was ordered to try and cut off Kritzinger and about 300 men heading for the (Cape) Colony. They were nearly caught, but after some fighting, and being followed for some distance, the Boer column managed to get through.

The Sussex column moved to Edenburg, and then towards Jagersfontein where they successfully raided a farm on the night of 23rd December. A number of local

Boers were captured and a large haul of rifles, bandoliers, ammunition, horses, saddles, blankets, cloaks and wheat was made. On Christmas morning the column moved to Fauresmith where gunfire had been heard and camped outside town; it was deserted but in the gardens they found plenty of very welcome fruit on the trees. The column moved back to Vlakfontein after searching the area around Jagersfontein to no effect.

On 3rd January 1902, at the beginning of a combined move of all Colonel Rochfort's columns against the Boers, Colonel du Moulin's column moved out and reached Luckoff on the 11th having seen no Boers. They crossed into the Cape Colony to Witteput, then camping near Belmont on 15th, and moved back to Luckoff on 18th on hearing about a 300-strong group of Boers. By the 27th, the column was in touch with them, Captain Beale having seen four men leaving a farm some miles away; a scouting patrol was sent out and saw them joining a large laager of some 400 Boers. The column followed and bivouacked at the farm "Abraham's Kraal". At 1.00 am, they were woken by tremendous gunfire in the centre of the camp as the Boers attacked them. They gradually managed to fight them off as groups of men got together, "Captain Beale bringing across several parties", but Colonel du Moulin, after clearing the enemy from several walls, led a charge for the corner of the kraal and was shot dead. The Boers withdrew leaving seven Sussex dead and several wounded, and the camp prepared for another attack which never came.

The column, under Major Gilbert, moved to Vlakfontein, where there was little action until they moved out on 21st February to join Colonel Rochfort in a general move to the North. In early March, they came up to a large Boer force, and after heavy exchange of fire and the use of the pom-pom, the Boers moved off. During this battle, Captain Beale's horse was shot, but carried him to safety. He commented that "the fire as we went up that hill was as thick as any met so far" and there were "about 300 firing at about 150 of us".

It was thought that the Boer leader de Wet was somewhere nearby and might attempt to join forces with another leader, Delarey, in the Transvaal, so British forces were deployed in a line along the Vaal and Valsch rivers to try to stop them. The Sussex column was sent to Strydfontein where they held the drift for more than a week. However, de Wet had already crossed the Vaal and joined Delarey the previous week. British troops amassed at Commando Drift and Colonel Rochfort and 3000 men crossed the Transvaal border on 23rd March.

The column was broken up and a Military Intelligence Company was formed out of the remaining mounted column, attached to Colonel Western's column. Captain Beale was given leave, and went to Bloemfontein, where he wrote that it was the "first occasion I have had to sleep in sheets in the country"! In May, he was in Bethulie and by 17th gradually collecting his Company together with a view to going home; by 23rd he said "I am most heartily sick of this place and want to get out of it badly". He was in Cape Town waiting for a ship to take him home, when the war ended on 31st May 1902. He and his Company arrived back in Chichester on 26th June 1902 and disbanded.

Captain Beale received the Queen's South Africa medal (5 bars)^{31 32}, and was promoted from temporary Captain to Captain on 27th September 1902³³.

Between the Boer War and World War 1

On his return from South Africa, Sydney Beale started rebuilding his Law Practice at 3 Harcourt Buildings, Inner Temple³⁴, and enjoyed life both in London and at Standen, his parents' country house near East Grinstead³⁵. He led a happy bachelor life until he became aware of and attracted to Margaret, one of the daughters of the Crookshanks of Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, who, in 1910, had just returned from studying art in Paris. He was then 35 years old and she was ten years younger. They married on 28th May 1912 at the Parish Church, East Grinstead at a quiet wedding, which had been brought forward because Sydney's father James was dying of cancer. After their marriage, they lived at 16 Hanover Terrace in London where Sydney carried on with his legal practice and Margaret ran the house and continued studying and practising art.³⁶

Sydney kept up his voluntary reserve association with the RSR, attending parades and regular training sessions with the East Grinstead and Crawley Company, and went to the training camps every summer. He acted as one of the "Gold Staff Officers" at Westminster Abbey at the coronation of George V and Queen Mary on 22nd June 1911.

In 1908 the 2nd Battalion RSR was transferred to the new Territorial Force and became the 4th Battalion RSR.³⁷

Major³⁸ Sydney Beale and World War 1

When war was declared, the Battalion was at a training camp at Bordon, Aldershot, and received orders to mobilise on 4th August 1914. They moved immediately to their war station at Newhaven.



Major Beale, RSR Recruiting March, East Grinstead 1914
 Photo from Beale Family Archive

The Commanding Officer (CO) subsequently asked for volunteers for overseas service and within days 26 Officers and 731 men had volunteered. The Battalion spent the next few months in training, digging trenches, building up the South Coast defences and providing guards at vulnerable points. In January 1915 they received orders that they were selected for services on the Continent, given three days leave and warned to get inoculated. The

orders were cancelled within a month to the disappointment of Major Beale.

In April 1915, two trains took the Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Campion, to Cambridge where they joined the 160th Brigade 53rd (Welsh) Division. The Division was to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force; Major Beale commented that it "seems to be the real thing this time". They marched to Bedford in early May, staying there until 16th July when they entrained for Devonport and embarked on the "HMT Ulysses" the following day, en route for the Dardenelles.

The first two days at sea were rough and a large number of men were seasick, but the ship was reasonably comfortable and the food good; officers slept in cabins and soldiers in hammocks. After a short stop at Malta and a two-day stay at Alexandria, the ship arrived at Port Said. Four days later the "HMT Ulysses" left in convoy escorted by a Russian cruiser, and arrived at Suvla Bay during the night of 8th and 9th August.^{39 40}

Gallipoli Campaign (See Appendix 2, Map of Suvla Bay and Anzac Cove Gallipoli)

There had been stale-mate on the Western Front, so it had been decided to attempt to attack Germany "by the back door" via the Dardanelles Straits. The objective of the campaign was to take control of the Straits through a joint naval and land operation by seizing the Turkish territory on the Gallipoli Peninsula, which was about 45 miles long and 10 miles wide. However, naval efforts to bombard the Turkish fortifications from the sea and to push through the minefields in the Straits, had failed, and the army was then tasked with capturing the guns from the land side. The terrain was very difficult, hilly and rocky with ridges, deep gullies and ravines, and the Turks were holding the high ground.

General Sir Ian Hamilton, Commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, was allocated five new Divisions, (one being the 53rd (Welsh)), to be known as the British IX Corps, which would reinforce the Allied position on the Gallipoli Peninsula in a final attempt to gain control of the Straits. He asked for an experienced commander, but Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, chose Lieutenant General Stopford, who had the seniority but little combat experience. Hamilton planned a major offensive with a view to linking up with the forces at Anzac and forging ahead to capture the Turkish gun positions overlooking the Dardanelles.

The new British IX Corps started landing at Suvla Bay during the night of 6th and 7th August, while diversionary operations took place around Helles and Anzac. Their objective was to seize the ring of hills and ridges that surrounded Suvla Bay, which were relatively lightly fortified on the higher ground by Turkish troops. The landings were fraught with problems from the start; some were landed in the wrong place or in deep water, units became mixed in the darkness, officers were unable to locate their targets, and clear orders were lacking. The British troops were hit by sniper fire and shelling and by the end of the day very little had been gained, but a great many men had been lost. General Stopford remained on ship during the landings, seemingly happy with their progress, but eventually Hamilton lost patience and took control. He ordered an advance to Tekke Tepe ridge on the evening of the 8th August, and by the time the leading troops arrived there at 4 am on the 9th, Turkish reinforcements had arrived. The British advance had been delayed too long and was crushed.

⁴¹Major Beale came ashore with three companies of the 4th Battalion RSR on the evening of the 8th August, describing in a letter to his wife, "a battle raging in front and a lovely sunset behind us". He went on to say they were landed in the wrong spot and had to wade in; it was pitch dark and they had no maps and no idea where they were or where they were going. They were found and conducted to Headquarters by 1.00 am, slept until about 4.00 am when they packed up and

headed inland. Before long, they were ordered to turn about and move back; an hour later they were told to march out again along the same road, but by then were being shelled, their first taste of active service.

They reached the shelter of a little hill and stayed there under persistent shell fire, while the CO went hunting for "the very latest general". He returned soon after midday with orders to "attack and restore the left of the line which was being driven in. The orders were the vaguest." They advanced under heavy rifle fire across difficult country where it was hard to "keep proper touch", and through the debris of an earlier battle. The pressure on the left became so severe that they had to call for support, which arrived just in time to throw back the last Turkish counter attack of the afternoon. In a letter to his sister Helen on 15th September, he wrote that "It was an exceedingly muddled show, I'm afraid", and that there was nobody to get things organised and moving.

The following note was made in the 4th Battalion records and in the War Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Campion (CO) – "Officers who deserve mention: Major SWP Beale has most ably and loyally carried out his duties as 2nd in command & directed the leading platoons in the attack on Aug 9 with ability & distinction."⁴²

⁴³ Five other officers were mentioned.

By the end of the day, the Battalion fighting force was down to 250 men, having landed with 750; the casualty numbers were not known for certain because the men were scattered amongst different regiments. They were ordered to hold the line during the night and the following day, while an attack on Anafarte Ridge was made. They were to follow up if the attack was successful, but it failed. The men, "our lost lambs", gradually rejoined the battalion over the next few days, until there were more than 600. "All this time the sun had been bright and hot – we were soft and out of condition and under severe nerve strain and the thirst was fairly raging." The Battalion spent the night of the 11th August digging trenches after a day of fighting, and were eventually relieved after sunset the following day. It "took all night with an hour's sleep, to march down to a moderately safe patch of beach" to rejoin their Brigade, and they were exhausted through lack of sleep and thirst. A much appreciated lazy day followed when they were able to bathe in the sea "in bright sun, even if there was some shrapnel flying about", but they were not able to relax fully as they had to be ready to move at an hour's notice.^{44 45 46} (General Stopford was relieved of his duties on 15th August.)

That same night, the Battalion marched to Sulajik and took over some "very inadequately converted Turkish Trenches", where they remained for the rest of the month, carrying out Trench routine and contending with enemy sniping, blowing sand and flies. Apart from the battle casualties, many men suffered from dysentery and some had to be evacuated.⁴⁷

After they had their first "rest" from 1st to the 4th September and "didn't have many casualties from shrapnel", they moved to the trenches again, where enemy sniping was very severe, especially at night and from close range. On 11th September, Major Beale wrote that they had "one lively little scrap", when a party of 30 to 40 Turks approached their trench, probably intending to throw bombs, but were halted and fired at, and about ten were killed.⁴⁸ They were relieved on 19th, moved to the Salt Lake lines where they were occupied with the

Royal Engineers (RE) at Lala Baba, until another move on 24th to "A" Reserve area, again occupied in fatigues. During this time, there was heavy shelling on occasion and the battalion had little rest.⁴⁹

The Battalion moved back to the Salt Lake Lines on 2nd October, and then to dugouts at Lala Baba on the 5th, the same day that Lieutenant Colonel Campion was admitted to hospital. Major Beale took over command. By 20th October the Battalion strength was reduced to 17 officers and 197 soldiers; many men were unavailable due to dysentery and diarrhoea⁵⁰, which few avoided altogether. In a letter to his wife, he expressed the need for more men from East Grinstead to keep the battalion up to strength, and suggested that an extract be used to encourage recruitment⁵¹. This rather blunt request to fill the gaps in the ranks was published in a Recruitment Poster in East Grinstead⁵². (General Sir Ian Hamilton was recalled to London on 16th October and replaced by Sir Charles Monro.)

Because the 4th Battalion was so under-strength, it was linked to a Battalion of the Queens Regiment, and was to be known as the Queens and Sussex Battalion for administrative purposes, under the command of Major RJ Few. At the end of October, the strength was 11 officers, 282 soldiers. During November which was cold and wet, and into an icy cold December, they were in reserve in the area of Lala Baba, working on defences and communications. In letters home during that time, Major Beale wrote that there had been 300 casualties in action, and he estimated that twice that number were sick, out of 1000 men; he said that a number of men had died of exposure, and many had frost-bite. He had also been a "bit seedy" with "tummy trouble". He expressed strong feelings on the lack of informed planning, which he referred to as staff work, the frequent changes in orders and the confusion this caused, and the issuing of contradictory orders, some of which could not be carried out because there were not enough men. He said that apart from occasional spurts of activity, not much was happening on either side and the conditions were terrible. "We're more than halfway through our 18th week and we're never far from gun fire, and generally within rifle range as well". They were all exhausted and "fed up".⁵³

At the end of November, orders were received to embark for Mudros, weather permitting, but after days of high winds, gales and sleet, the move was postponed and then cancelled. Finally, on 13th December the remainder of 53rd Division was given orders to evacuate Gallipoli, and at 7.15 pm the linked Battalion left by lighters and embarked on the "SS El Kahira" for Mudros, where they transferred to the "HMT Haverford". The 4th Battalion RSR strength was 14 officers, 217 soldiers, and 4 attached, total 235⁵⁴. Major Beale wrote that after pursuing a devious course, they got to Alexandria on 19th December, and immediately entrained for Warden Camp (renamed Beni Salam Camp), arriving about 8.00 pm. On arrival in Egypt it became apparent that the two Battalions had been unlinked, as they were camped in different areas and treated separately.⁵⁵

The evacuation of 80,000 troops from Suvla and Anzac with much of their equipment was completed by 20th December, without loss, the Turks being deceived into believing that the British forces were still there. Attention then turned to Helles where the position was by then untenable, and more than half

the troops were evacuated by 7th January. The last troops left on the 9th, again without loss, and without the Turks being aware until it was too late.

Suez Canal (See Appendix 3, Map of the Northern and Central Sinai area)

Major Beale took two days leave in Cairo, his first break since leaving England in August, and on his return on 23rd December found that the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel HS Ashworth had arrived to command the Battalion. When asked for his view on the Regiment, the CO said they were "in want of a rest, recovering from dysentery and diarrhoea, a good lot, spirit excellent"^{56 57}. Sydney Beale had a week's leave in Alexandria in January.

Over the next six weeks, the men of the 4th Battalion were in training in Egypt and gradually regained their strength. In mid-February they moved by train to El Azab Camp at Fayoum where they were again in training, practising route marches and performing guard duties. They were waiting for orders and Major Beale wrote about some activities they did to fill the time, such as football, concerts and visiting places of interest. He saw a pyramid which was surrounded by disturbed burial grounds and covered in pottery, skulls, bones and bits of mummies and their wrappings. He described the local landscape, flora and fauna, the weather, his daily routines, and seemed very keen to learn from his new CO who he described as knowing a great deal more than most, "he being a fighting animal"⁵⁸. Colonel Ashworth was placed in temporary command of the Brigade and Major Beale took command of the 4th Battalion from 6th April to 15th May 1916. By the end of April the Battalion strength was up to 33 officers and 722 other ranks.

The month of May passed in the same way until the 27th, when the Battalion entrained for Moascar Camp, near the town of Ismalia, and then proceeded to Ferry Post Camp on the Suez Canal to relieve the Australians on Outpost Duty in the Sinai Desert. On 31st May, Colonel Ashworth took over duties as the Outpost Line Commander of the Brigade and Major Beale again commanded the Battalion. Most of the men were back in trenches, building defences and on garrison duty for the next month. At the end of June, Major Beale was put in command of the Brigade Detail Camp, which meant he had to leave the Battalion temporarily, which disappointed him, but said he was in a "good campsite overlooking the lake". He wrote of his job, "The theory is that all drafts from England for the Brigade come here for a month, but when I ask what I'm to do to them, the topic of conversation is changed with the utmost rapidity." So he had to work on "a dozen young and not very knowing officers, some of whom have never done anything but be 'trained' in England, as officers, that is".⁵⁹

The Battalion was ordered to El Ferdan by train from Moascar Camp on 24th July, where they took over garrison duties and were engaged in repairing existing works, guard duties and fatigues: strength 33 officers 826 soldiers. They moved to Kantara on 4th August and spent the month training in the desert nearby, attending classes, and training in desert marching. They reached a speed of 2mph by day and 1½mph by night without difficulty. On August 23rd, they moved to take over front line posts at Ballybunion near Ballah, and provided escorts to protect Royal Engineers working on a pipe line. They returned to the Moascar area mid-September and spent two months exercising and training.^{60 61}



Meanwhile, Sydney Beale went on home leave on 17th July, much to the excitement of his family, and arrived in England on 11th August. He was able to visit most of them, and even managed a walking holiday in the Lake District with his wife Margaret. He tried to extend his leave, but much to his (and their) disappointment, although he expected it to be refused, he left for the East on 15th September, rejoining the Battalion in the Moascar area on the 24th.^{62 63}

August 1916
 Sydney and Margaret Beale
 Photograph from Beale Family Archive

Gaza (See Appendix 3, Map of the Northern and Central Sinai area, and Appendix 4, Detail of 1917 El Arish to Beersheba Map)

On 22nd November the Battalion started to move East across the Sinai Desert by route march, using camel transport for stores and water. One of the biggest problems for the troops and their management in the desert was the need for a continuous supply of water, the ration being one gallon per day per man for all purposes. It was carried in galvanised tins called fantasies which held 15 gallons, two fantasies to each camel.⁶⁴

They arrived at Bir el Abd on 2nd December, spent six weeks on construction of an inner line of defences, marched to Bir El Mazar where they took over the Defences until 31st January 1917 when they marched on again to El Arish. Here the Battalion constructed a wire road - the Turks had destroyed the wire mesh roads they had made previously. On 22nd February they marched to Sheik Zowaid where they were in reserve to the Outpost line held by 160 Infantry Brigade. The British Army was by then in front of Gaza, which was a strongly defended and fortified town on the coast held by the Turks. The Battalion moved on 8th March to hold the left section of the Outpost Line, and then on the 21st to the Rafa position and were held in reserve.⁶⁵



Advance at Gaza 1917
 Photograph from Beale Family Archive

The British strategy in the area at that time was to take Palestine; many British troops had been amassed in the area over the previous months, but they had to get through the difficult passage between Gaza and Beersheba, where the Turkish forces held a commanding position. The territory had a natural barrier of lines of ridges, and the ground was very hostile, consisting of small olive yards with bristling hedges of cactus. The British plan for the attack on Gaza was for the Cavalry to throw a wide net round the town from east and north, and the 53rd Division (including 4th Battalion) was to assault the hill above Gaza, Ali Muntar. Having won that, they were to rush the town.

First Battle of Gaza

The following account of The First Battle of Gaza was derived from several sources - letters from Sydney Beale to his wife in April 1917⁶⁶, the 4th Battalion RSR 1914-1918 War Diary⁶⁷, the Account of the 4th Battalion RSR compiled by Major JF Ainsworth⁶⁸, as well as books and Internet stories.

The 4th Battalion marched up by stages on the nights of March 23rd and 24th, and on the evening of 25th March they marched at the head of the Brigade to Deir El Belah, crossing the Wadi Ghuzzi and advancing across a series of ridges. In the early morning they reached position at the top of the El Sire Ridge, when thick mist came down. They moved on at intervals until the mist lifted at about 8.00 am, when they could see other troops, and the Turkish positions about two miles ahead. They could hear the discordant sounds of the Turk bugles and trumpets blowing the alarm as they continued to move forward slowly until about noon when they got orders to attack.

Soon after 1.00 pm they started the attack and the Turkish trench was taken with slight opposition. The advance continued and one small party went ahead, but the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Ashworth, stopped any further advance as Turkish shell fire was heavy and intensifying. Colonel Ashworth was killed shortly afterwards along with three other officers and a number of soldiers; many others were wounded or missing. Major Beale took over command of the Battalion. He wrote that there was a "good deal of machine gun fire as well as shells" and the line was withdrawn to the crest of the ridge. Major Beale set about getting things organised, collected together some of the troops and put them to work digging in, while he tried to find out what was happening, but could get no news.

Just after sunset he and his group of about 100 men were relieved by a company of the Essex Regiment, and two companies of the Queen's, and were able to get back to the hollow to feed and rest, but were in great need of water. He managed to get a wire through to Brigade and was trying to arrange communications and water, when the officer in command of the company in front came down and said he had orders to go. There were not enough men for Major Beale to stay without support, so after a "horrid march, falling over things in all directions", they met up with Brigade Headquarters about 3.30 am. There was no water there, so they marched on back to Wadi Ghuzzi, getting there about dawn. After "a drink at the first puddle they came to", they walked up the Wadi bed and found "the drums, the transport & a few odd men" and plenty of water so stopped to eat. "Soon after sun-up we went on nearly on our tracks of the previous morning & found that there were over 200 of them all told, & we collected more little parties who had got lost in the night, till we had about 400 (men)".

They pushed on again, presently receiving orders to hold a ridge. In the early afternoon they advanced again and were told to take up the Outpost line for the night. It was dark and Major Beale was directing another officer, Gray, to get his company to the right of their line, when a machine gun opened up – "he was hit, I wasn't". He started to crawl to him but was fired on again, so had to back up. He had to send an officer to get help for him (and another man who had been hit

not far off), as at 8.00 pm he received a message from the Brigadier that the Battalion was to parade and march off at 10.00 pm. He needed to make preparations for moving, and to organise catering for the men before setting off; they got to the starting point just in time and marched until soon after 2.00 am when they bivouacked for nearly three hours at Sheikh Rashid. The following day they had orders for outpost duties, which Major Beale wrote "wasn't very strenuous, & our chief trouble was that we couldn't get more than half a gallon of water a head – we could have drunk two easily."

The action on 26th March was known as The First Battle of Gaza and the Battalion casualties that day were four officers and 24 soldiers killed, 10 officers and 154 soldiers wounded, 57 soldiers missing, 2 soldiers wounded and missing, and one attached officer wounded. The next day, one more officer was missing, one was wounded and missing, and 28 men were sick. Major Beale wrote to his wife on 29th March that he was "perfectly fit but sleepy, & bruised & scratched" and "A spent shrapnel bullet did rap me in the & just drew blood – but I have plenty of scratches that are worse". He also said that "The men did spendidly".

Lieutenant Colonel TM Bridges of the Loyals joined and took over command of the Battalion from Major SWP Beale on 14th April. He was just out of a convalescent home having had malaria.

Second Battle of Gaza

The Battalion stayed in the region west of Sheik Rashid near the coast until the start of The Second Battle of Gaza on 17th April. The element of surprise had been lost in this second Gaza attack, which was planned to be a frontal attack, and the Turks had been able to strengthen their defences along the Gaza to Beersheba front. The Battalion, as part of the 53rd (Welsh) Division, advanced across the Wadi Ghuzzee, west of the Rafa-Gaza road to Tel el Ujul, to establish an outpost line in the sand dunes. Their objective was to attack and capture Samson Ridge, a great sand dune halfway between the Wadi Ghuzzee and Gaza⁶⁹.

The following day, while the British infantry were strengthening their positions, the Turkish forces were being bombarded from land and sea, but they returned fire, fiercely defending their terrain. In the early morning on 19th April, the Battalion was ordered (by telegram) to attack, so advanced and assaulted the Ridge which was eventually taken during a bayonet attack. Major Beale wrote "We've been scrapping again, but didn't get as much damage this time."⁷⁰ The British attack was unable to advance further because of powerful Turkish defence, even with superior manpower. The Turks had the advantage of strong positions across a wide front against an enemy advancing from the south. It was decided that the action should be broken off, that all ground occupied should be consolidated, and that further British attempts to advance should be delayed until reinforcements could be brought up from Selonika⁷¹. Casualties had been very heavy; the 53rd Division had 600 casualties; the 4th Battalion suffered 15 men killed and 51 wounded.⁷²

For the remainder of April and during May, the Battalion was either in the front line or strengthening trenches, improving defences and helping Royal Engineers to build roads. Major Beale was delighted and very relieved to receive a telegram

on 11th May to say that his wife Margaret had safely given birth to their first child Joan on 7th May.⁷³ He had been on tenterhooks for some time and had expressed his concern very poignantly in his letters to her. He went on leave in Cairo for a week at the end of May, had another week's leave in early August, and ten days in October.

For the next three months, the Battalion spent long periods in the front line, but there was little enemy activity. On 28th June 1917, Major Beale was mentioned by General Sir Archibald Murray R.C.B. in his dispatch for distinguished service⁷⁴, and on the same day, General Allenby was appointed Commander in Chief in place of General Murray who was recalled to London.

Major Beale had received news in April that Gray had died (after being shot beside him in the first Gaza Battle). In a letter to his wife on 1st September Major Beale wrote that he had received "a letter from Mrs Gray asking point blank whether her boy had been brought in and buried. I answered it yesterday saying I didn't know. All the same I'm afraid it's fairly certain that he wasn't."⁷⁵

Third Battle of Gaza and Battle of Tel el Khuweilfe
(See Appendix 5 Map of Palestine 1917)

The Third Battle of Gaza was carefully planned and prepared by Allenby, who needed to break the strongly fortified Turkish line between Gaza and Beersheba. He knew that command of water supplies would be a vital factor if he was to succeed in breaking through and capturing Jerusalem, the ultimate goal. To this end, he decided to focus his main attack on Beersheba, which had a plentiful supply of water and was more lightly defended, while keeping a strong force in front of Gaza, thus hoping to trick the Turks.

On 24th October the 4th Battalion marched to Shellal and bivouacked in Wadi Ghuzze until 26th, when they moved up as part of 53rd Division to hold a position to the rear near Beersheba, and dug in at Wadi Hanafish. At that time the Battalion manpower was 29 Officers and 966 soldiers. It was essential to make the Turks think that the main attack was to be on Gaza, so a heavy bombardment of Turkish positions was begun on the 26th, while it continued to be strongly defended by allied troops. Meanwhile, troops had been moving up to Beersheba and on 31st October Allenby launched an attack with 40,000 men over a front of about three miles. Beersheba was captured with great speed and with the vital water supply intact. However, the Beersheba garrison, having suffered many casualties, managed to withdraw to the hills, while the Turks prepared to counter-attack.⁷⁶

On 1st November the 53rd Division marched through Beersheba and occupied an outpost line from Bir Marrineh to Abu Jowal, experiencing little enemy action. On November 3rd they moved towards Khuweilfeh Hill and were held up by strongly held Turkish positions. On the 4th, the Battalion advanced to occupy higher ground, supported by overhead fire from machine and Lewis guns posted on high ground, but no further progress was made that day or the next. Lack of water and retrieving it from the available sources was a serious problem, so plans to attack had to be postponed⁷⁷ until the 6th, when the advance started before dawn in thick mist. The Battalion (attached to 158 Brigade) advanced under a creeping barrage and captured their objectives, one being taken with bayonet

and the garrison annihilated. Their position was consolidated and several counter attacks by the enemy were repulsed with heavy losses⁷⁸. The Battalion casualties at Tel El Khuweilfeh were three officers and 60 soldiers killed, and six officers and 158 soldiers wounded⁷⁹. Major Beale wrote⁸⁰ "The regiment has had some pretty severe fighting. Two officers killed and one died of wounds – they were all good men too. And six others hit of whom we don't expect more than 2 to recover quickly enough to come back within 3 months or so. There are over 200 others."

Advance through Palestine

By 8th November all the Turkish positions which made up the line from Gaza to Beersheba had been captured, and the Turks were in full retreat.⁸¹ They regrouped and in mid-November were again forced to retreat following the battle at El Mughar, during which Junction Station (also known as Wadi es Sara) was captured by Allied forces, and the Ottoman railway link with Jerusalem was cut. Over the four weeks while General Allenby's forces continued heading for Jerusalem, there were several fiercely contested attacks and counter attacks. The battle of Nebi Samwil (traditionally, site of the tomb of Samuel), took place from November 17th to 24th; the hill overlooked Jerusalem and its defences, and was occupied by Turkish forces. It was taken with very heavy casualties, but there were strong counter attacks from the Turks, and the results were inconclusive; the Turks still held the vital road link from Jerusalem to Nablus. "By 1st December the fighting for Jerusalem was almost over, as the Ottoman Army had failed to win any ground as a result of their counter attacks, and the advancing British troops were successfully replacing their tired comrades who were well entrenched close to Jerusalem."⁸²

Meanwhile, the 4th Battalion moved to Ras El Nagb and held the outpost line from the 9th to 22nd November, during which time there was no enemy action. Major Beale expressed irritation in his letters that it was difficult to find out exactly how successful the Allies had been. On 19th November Lieutenant Colonel Bridges fell sick and was sent to hospital. On the 22nd the Battalion withdrew to bivouac and were in training until 4th December. By the end of November, added to the casualty figures were four officers and 121 soldiers off sick.

On 4th December they marched on the Hebron to Bethlehem road towards Jerusalem and took up the outpost line one mile south of Hebron. Major Ainsworth wrote that "It was very cold and wet and the camels slipped badly on rocky slopes. Luckily, General Headquarters (GHQ) had assembled 2000 donkeys to take over from camels in hilly country".⁸³ Having been informed that there were no Ottoman troops there in Hebron, on the 6th they marched on and were halted just north of Hebron with orders to set up an outpost line covering town. The following day they continued their march, taking up another outpost line at Wadi El Biar on the way, and then carried on to Bethlehem which they reached on the 9th. They had orders to bivouac along the road there to protect the telephone lines which were continually being cut. The Battalion was quartered in houses in Bethlehem.⁸⁴

The Turkish forces withdrew from Jerusalem on December 8th and by the 9th, the city was almost entirely encircled by Allied forces. The Ottoman Governor sent a letter of surrender to the British forces via the mayor of Jerusalem, saying that

he was forced to hand over the city in order to protect it, particularly the holy places, from further damage. On 11th December 1917, General Allenby made his formal entry to the city on foot, to show his great respect for the holy place.⁸⁵

Four days later the 4th Battalion marched to Abu Dis and took over the line. Early on 17th December they advanced under artillery barrage and seized higher ground near Abu Dis, a mile South East of Bethany. The line was consolidated and they spent the next week on "Sussex Ridge"; "Christmas was a day of misery. Essential supplies on pack-mules and donkeys arrived, but turkeys & plum puddings were held up by floods on the plain."⁸⁶ On the 26th the weather improved. Casualties were two officers and seven soldiers killed, and 19 soldiers wounded. Major Beale seemed rather incensed when he wrote to his wife, "..... we are rather disgusted at the communique, which says that the Welsh Cheshire and Home Counties troop did it. As a fact, the Kents and ourselves were the only infantry, the guns did very good work. The Welsh were nowhere near; the Cheshires tried 5 times and hadn't succeeded! I suppose the explanation is that Companies only told GHQ which Division did it."⁸⁷ To his brother John he wrote that he thought they had been lucky as another battalion in a similar skirmish had "150 hit"⁸⁸.

The enemy attacked another position at Deir Ibn Obeid, and the 4th Battalion was sent to relieve and defend it on 28th, where they pushed forward and occupied the higher ground. The Turks retired from the Abu Dis area at the end of the month. Allenby reported to the War Cabinet that the rainy season would prevent any further operations, after Jerusalem was secured, for at least two months.

(See Appendix 6 Sketch Map of the Capture of Jericho February 1917)

In the first week of 1918, the Battalion as part of the 53rd Division, moved to Ramallah in preparation for the plan to capture Jericho. The 53rd were to cover the left flank of the main attack, by capturing the higher ground at Rammun, three miles north of Mukhmas⁸⁹. Major Beale wrote "We had a perfectly miserable move up here yesterday, marching through the wind and rain and mist. Everybody got wet through and numb with cold and we didn't get in till dark and then the companies only got the walls round muddy fields for shelter for the night. If there hadn't been an issue of rum available there'd have been some more weather casualties, as it was there's only one to hospital this morning." He also commented on the current situation, "The Turks have been attacking us with the idea of getting back to Jerusalem. Instead of that we have advanced on each section that they selected to go for."⁹⁰ Major Ainsworth wrote that the Turkish forces were now split, half on the coastal plain North of Jaffa, and the other half in the Judean hills "astride the road between Jerusalem and Nablus."

On 11th January the Battalion moved to take up an outpost position on the Brigade line on the eastern side of the Nablus Road near Bethel.⁹¹ Major Beale travelled to Heliopolis, Cairo, for a five-week Senior Officers' course on 21st January.⁹² During operations against Jericho over the next few weeks, the Battalion held or advanced their positions in the line, with short periods of relief when they provided working parties to the Royal Engineers for repairing roads. There was little enemy activity or sniping in their area, occasional shelling, and any advances were met without opposition.⁹³ It was difficult country for

operations because of the steepness of the hills and the lack of roads. The capture of Jericho took place between the 19th and 21st February.

(See Appendix 7 Map of Jordan Valley)

On 14th March, the Battalion marched in wet, windy and cold conditions to join the Brigade at Beitin (Bethel) and then marched with the Brigade for the next four days, reaching Wadi Nueiamah on the 18th. In a letter to his sister Helen, Sydney wrote "It rained nearly all the way till the last march from the Good Samaritan in to Jericho. It is really a wonderful walk in two days from nearly three thousand feet to nearly one thousand feet below sea level."⁹⁴ The following day they marched to Abu Tellul and took over posts at El Musallabeh – these two ridges were strategically important to the British defensive line in the Jordan Valley⁹⁵ midway between Jerusalem and Nablus. There was considerable enemy movement on the Battalion front and the whole area was intermittently shelled during the day. On the 21st, about 300 Turkish infantry were seen advancing from the North towards the Musallabeh Post, and at the same time it was heavily shelled. The attack continued throughout the afternoon, some enemy coming within 100 yards of their post. They were finally driven off having received heavy casualties. Over the next few days, the Turks continued to shell the Battalion area and attempted to take the ridge, but were repulsed each time. Four men from the Battalion were killed and 18 were wounded, but the estimated enemy casualties were thought to be about 100. Colonel Bridges was admitted to hospital sick on the 25th and Major Beale assumed command. On the 28th, the Battalion marched into Brigade reserve on the banks of Wadi el Aujah.⁹⁶

In the first week of April, the Battalion marched with the Brigade to the Tel Asur area. In a letter dated 4th April, Major Beale commented that "Last night – or rather this morning early, we marched out of the Jordan Valley and we agreed that we none of us want to go back there – the climate is beastly. Even tho the march is steep, most of it, and uphill all the way, the further we went the better we felt."⁹⁷ They joined the line on 9th April near the village of Kefr Malik; there was little enemy activity apart from some shelling and they held the line until 22nd May.

Departure from the Middle East

The Government had planned to send more troops to the area to knock Turkey out of the war once and for all, but were unable to carry this through as the Germans launched their Spring Offensive on the Western front in March 1918. Not only did Allenby not get additional men, he also lost 60,000 of his troops in the Middle East to France over the next two months.⁹⁸ The 4th Battalion heard on 23rd May that they were to leave Palestine and join the fight in France. They left the 53rd (Welsh) Division on 30th May, travelled to Alexandria for embarkation to Taranto, Italy, and then onwards to France.⁹⁹

Just before this, on 20th May, Sydney wrote in a letter to his wife that he had to go to hospital. He explained,

"When we took over this bit of line in the second week of last month, I had occasion to walk over to our furthest post three or four nights running, and tho' the country is particularly stony and beastly for walking about at night, I thought I was finding it worse than I'd any business to. Then at the end of the

month we shifted our headquarters and it was just about then that I discovered a sensation as if both my feet and legs had gone to sleep and I had it in my finger ends, and in my mouth for a short time, but that's gone now. Still it didn't go out of my feet and legs – in fact, it's there now and in this beastly rough country I can hardly walk at times, it seems to affect my power of balance too.

Well the Dr. says it won't get better without special treatment (electricity and massage) and will take some time at that, he talked about months in fact. I haven't asked him what name he gives the trouble."¹⁰⁰

Major Beale was transferred to hospital in Cairo which took five days and involved stopping the night at various hospitals on the way. He was seen by a Neurologist and wrote that his opinion was that the "probable cause of the trouble is the long series of boils". He had been suffering from severe and infected boils around his neck since August 1917, and had developed more around his "sitting area" after a scrape in Heliopolis. He was getting massaged every day but the numbness in his arms and legs was not improving, "I'm oddly weak from my knees down, walk as if I was drunk, and haven't any sense of touch, or much direction in my fingers, as the writing shows." His diagnosis was shown as Multiplex Neuritis.¹⁰¹ The Medical Board arrived to assess him on 17th June, and he was pronounced "Unfit Category A, 5 months. The Board recommends change to England". He embarked on a Hospital Ship from Alexandria on 20th June, arrived in England on 3rd July and was admitted to the Hospital for Officers in Arthur Street, Chelsea, SW.

Major Beale attended several Medical Boards over the next year, his diagnosis being shown as "Peripheral Neuritis",* and although his condition very slowly improved, his sick leave was extended until the end of August 1919 when he was demobilised. He wrote to resign his commission in the Territorial Force in 1920 and the following announcement appeared in the London Gazette of 28th July 1920; "4th Bn., Royal Sussex Regt. – Maj. S.W.P. Beale, T.D., resigns his commission, 29th July 1920, and retains the rank of Maj., with permission to wear the prescribed uniform".^{102 103}

**After the war, the Beale family referred to his diagnosis on his return to England as "Post Diphtherial Paralysis", (although he was inoculated in 1916¹⁰⁴), "and depression".^{105 106 107}*

Sydney's wife Margaret trained as a remedial masseuse, (nowadays a physiotherapist), during the war, and worked at Hammersmith Hospital. She stopped working when he returned to England, and was able to use her skills to gradually restore him to full health and strength.¹⁰⁸

It is astonishing that Sydney Beale was able to survive the many horrors of Gallipoli, and then of desert warfare in the Middle East, comparatively unscathed, for so long; the hard fought battles with dying and wounded men all around him, the long marches, the difficult terrain, the extreme climate, the illness and disease, the intermittent lack of food and water, and the responsibility for his men. He had been abroad for three years with only one period of home leave when he returned to England at the age of 43, and had been through some extremely tough and challenging situations, ending with an exhausting and debilitating medical condition. Like many officers during World War 1, he put his

men first and did his best to look after them and their interests. In his numerous letters to his wife and family, he always gave a calm and clear account of his experiences, and although he occasionally hinted at his frustration with some of the Command orders, he rarely criticised them. He is to be admired.

Post war

After the war, Sydney decided that he no longer wanted to remain in the legal profession so gave up his Law Practice in London. He resolved to turn his hand to farming, and to that end, in 1918 he and his wife Margaret found Cobnor House and Farm on Chichester Harbour in Chidham, West Sussex, and bought it by auction.¹⁰⁹ He absorbed himself in learning about farming and when the tenant farmer left, took over the direction of the farm himself, becoming entrenched in the local farming community. He was Chairman of the Westbourne branch of the National Farmers Union (NFU) in 1930 and 1931, and was County Chairman of the NFU in 1935 and 1936.¹¹⁰ During the Second World War he served on the War Agricultural Committee, advising farmers on how to get the best yields from their land.

Major Beale, or The Major as he was known locally, was a churchwarden and Chairman of Chidham Parish Council for many years. He was elected to Westbourne District Council, which then became Chichester Rural District Council, and served the community as representative for Chidham for twenty years with a special interest in housing.¹¹¹ He was involved in getting council houses built in Chidham, and organised the purchase of the Old Malt House and its conversion into Chidham Village Hall.¹¹²

Sydney and Margaret had a second daughter Ruth, who died in infancy in 1920, and a son, Martin, born in 1923. Their daughter Joan recalled that she and her brother were sent to stay at Standen or elsewhere when they were young, whilst their parents went travelling. Margaret was an artist and used to sketch "avidly". Joan described Sydney as "a wonderful father, firm and kind." He taught the children to ride horses and to sail, which was his great love. He was one of the early members of the Royal Cruising Club and Commodore of Bosham Sailing Club in 1939.¹¹³ He continued sailing into his seventies.¹¹⁴



Sydney Beale with Joan
 and Martin c1924
 Photograph from Beale
 Family Archive

The family often visited Standen, the country house built by Sydney's parents, who had moved there permanently just before his father died. The house was put into a family trust and was run firstly by his mother, then by his sisters Maggie and Helen in succession. During his World War 1 service in Gallipoli and the Middle East, Sydney sent many seeds, bulbs and plant roots back to England for his mother to experiment with in the Standen gardens. The family enjoyed many happy holidays and weekends relaxing in the comfortable house and indulging in the various sports that the estate offered. The regular gatherings there of their numerous relatives and friends gave great pleasure to them all. Helen Beale, the last of the Beales to live at Standen, bequeathed it to the National Trust on her death in 1972. It is considered to be an excellent example of the arts and crafts movement.¹¹⁵

Sydney Beale died peacefully in 1960 at the age of 84 and his funeral was held at Chidham Parish Church. The Chidham Parish Magazine in August 1960 referred to Major Beale as "a man of authority yet with a friendly and gentle nature that won him affection as well as esteem. He was indeed a true country gentleman in every sense, of a kind that is rare today."¹¹⁶

Major Sydney Beale's dress uniform, sword, scabbard, medals (Queen's South Africa (5 bars), 1914-15 Star, War Medal, Victory Medal (Mention in dispatches), Territorial Decoration, Coronation Medal 1911), and other military memorabilia were donated to the Royal Sussex Regiment Museum¹¹⁷, which is now at Redoubt Fortress and Military Museum, Eastbourne.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Tel_el_Khuweilfe
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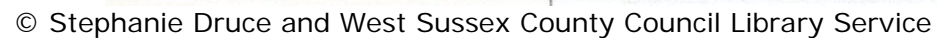
The Beale family for allowing me access to their family records

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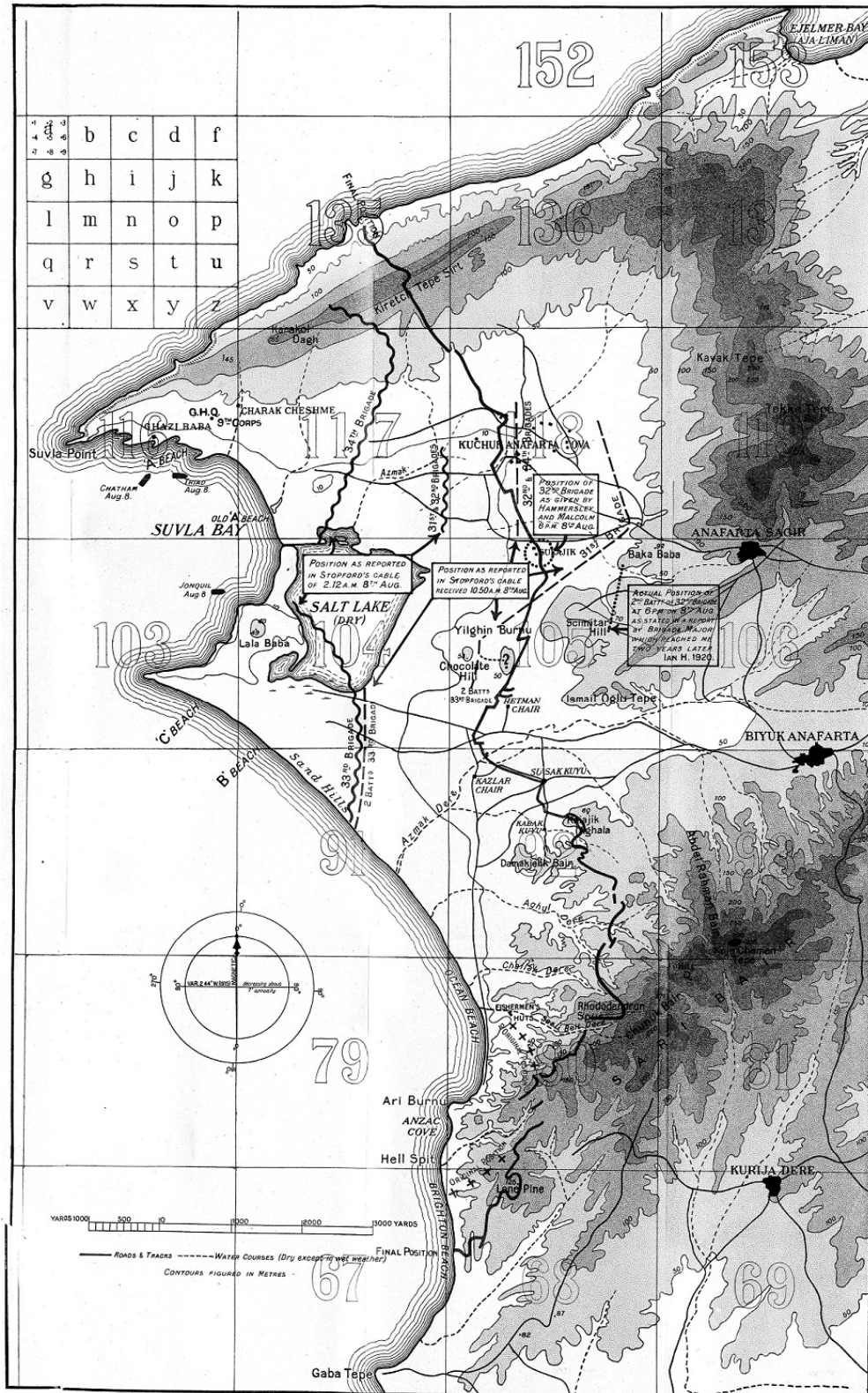
Project Gutenberg's Lord Milner's Work in South Africa, by W. Basil Worsfold
Map Reference: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/26490/26490-h/images/fullmap.jpg>
ebook Reference: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26490>



Appendix 2

Map of Suvla Bay and ANZAC Cove from *Gallipoli Diary*, Vol. 2 by Sir Ian Hamilton.
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Suvla_Bay_%26_ANZAC_Cove,_Gallipoli_Diary.jpg

This is two halves of a map found on opposite pages and stitched together
 (Source ebook <http://www.archive.org/details/cu31924088057223>)



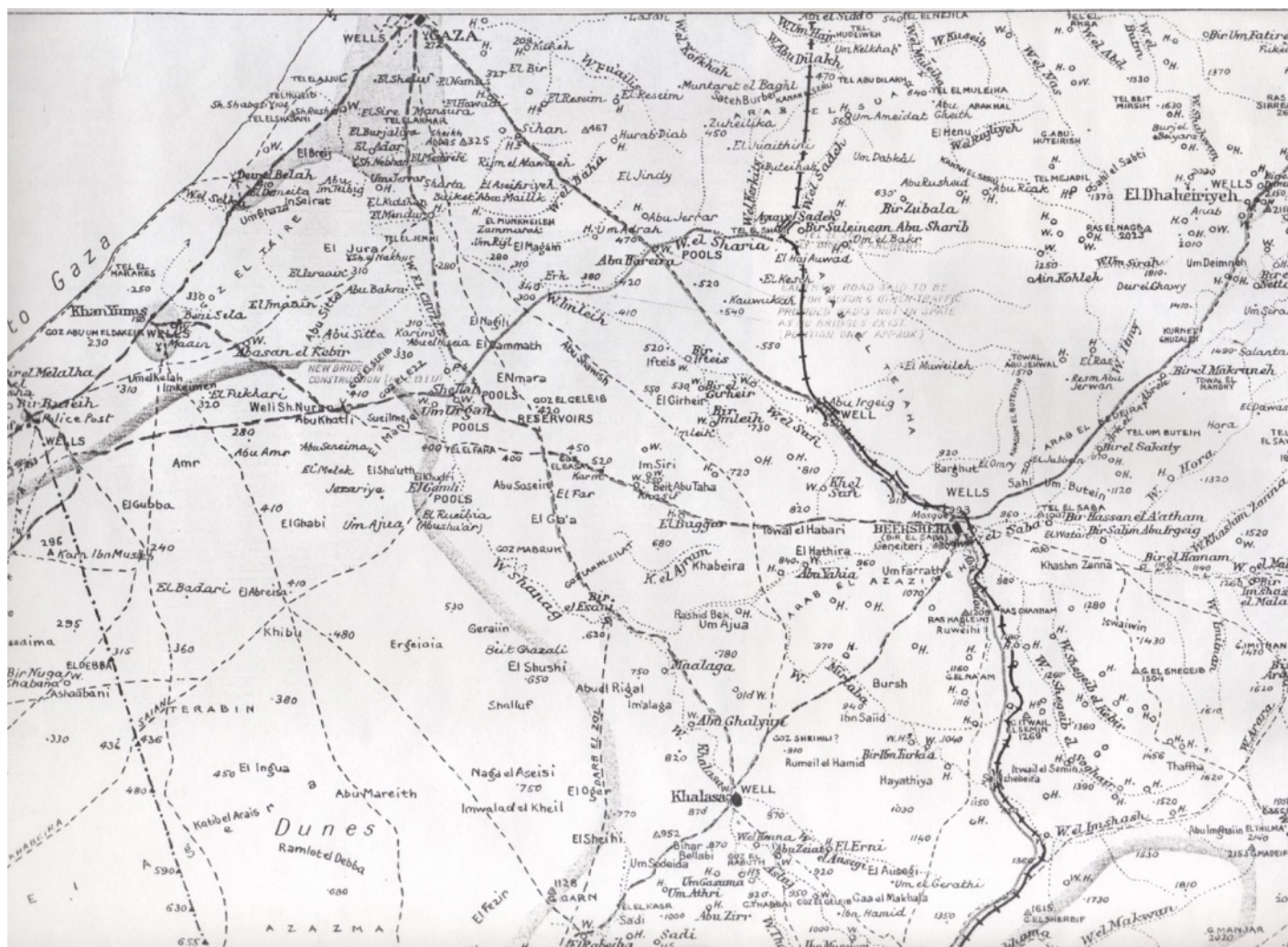
Map of the Northern and Central Sinai area in World War I 1917
 "The Times History of the War" Volume X, page 368
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MapSinaiWWI.jpg>



Appendix 4

Detail of 1917 El Arish to Beersheba Map

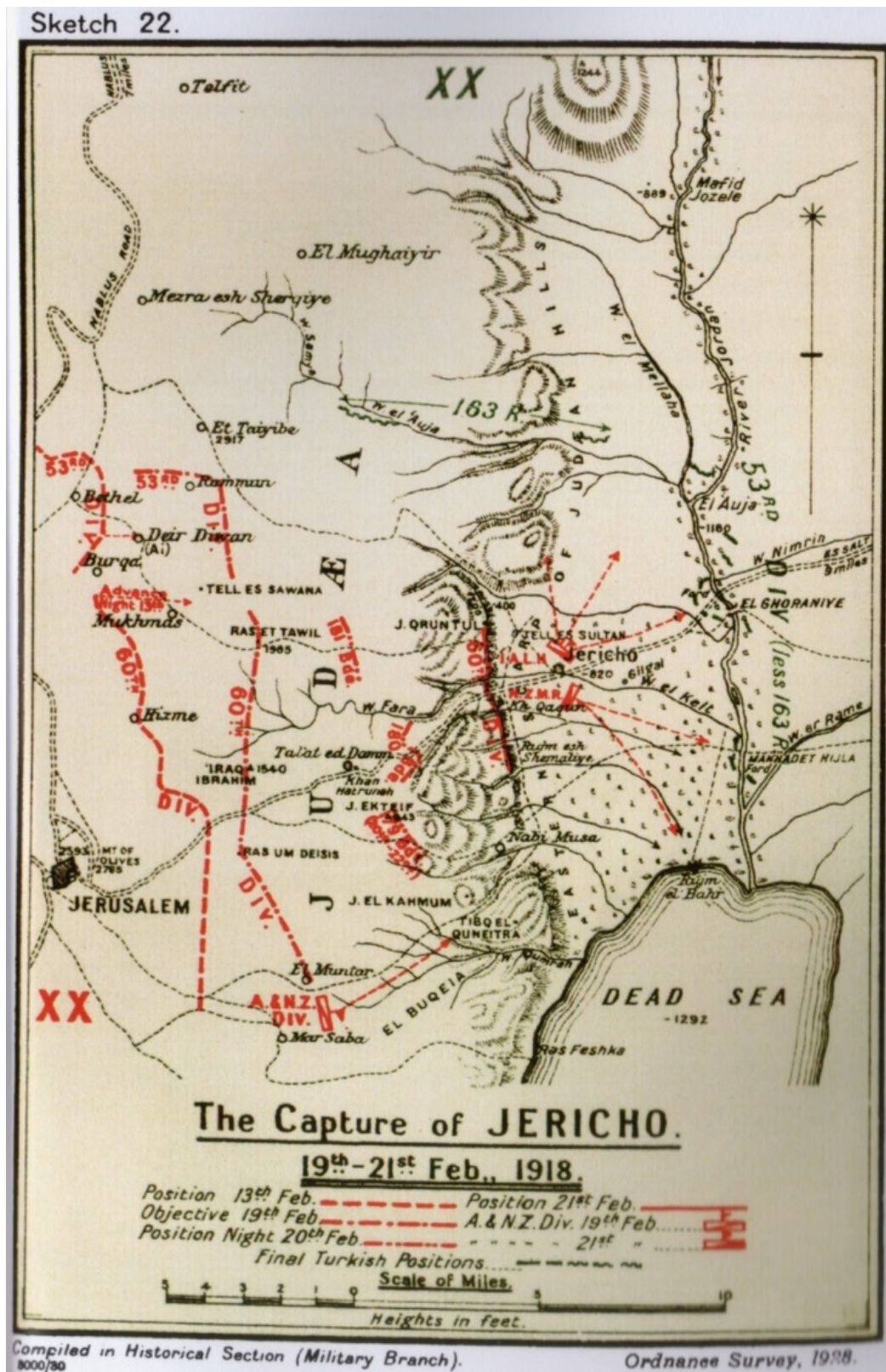
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:SofE7-22.1.17_697ZGaBee.jpeg



Appendix 6

Sketch map of the capture of Jericho in February 1918

Source: Military Operations Egypt & Palestine from June 1917 to the end of the War
Volume 2 Part 1 History of the Great War Based on Official Documents by Direction of the
Historical Section of the Committee of Imperial Defence
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Falls_sketch22.jpeg



Appendix 7

Falls Map 24 showing detail of Jordan Valley.

Authors: Cyril Falls & A. F. Beck

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:FallsSkMap24detJordanValley.jpeg>

