

Background

- The Allies were stuck in a stalemate in WW1 with the Central powers and were looking for different strategies
- All of the battles so far in WW1 had been land based. The British had superior navel power so they decided to use that to their advantage
- The First Lord of the Admiralty (*The politician in-charge of Defence of Britain*) Winston Churchill came up with the idea of attacking the Dardanelles and the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey

Remember:

Allied Powers: Britain, France, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Japan, Serbia

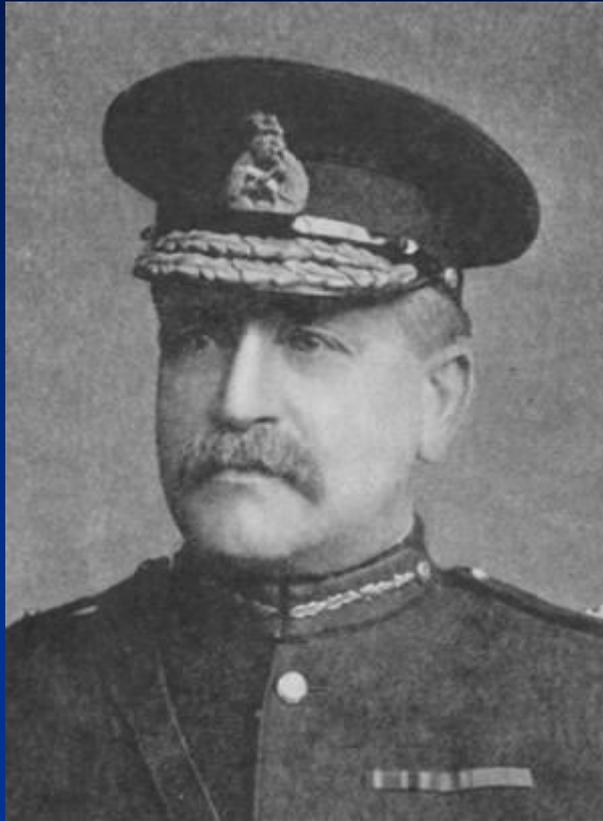
Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire (Turkey), Bulgaria



Preparation

- British and French forces went into the Dardanelles to attack Turkish forts but some ships were sunk due to mines
- It was decided the shift from a naval strategy to a military one where they would land on the shores and fight for territory.
- Sir Ian Hamilton was put in charge of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force which included the Anzacs
- Sir Alexander John Godley was commander of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and commanded the Australian and New Zealand Division
- The Anzacs had been in Egypt training for many weeks they finally had their chance to take part in fighting.





Sir Ian Hamilton



[Photo by Bartlett & Andrew
MAJOR-GENERAL SIR A. J. GODLEY, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.]

Sir Alexander John Godley

Landing Plans

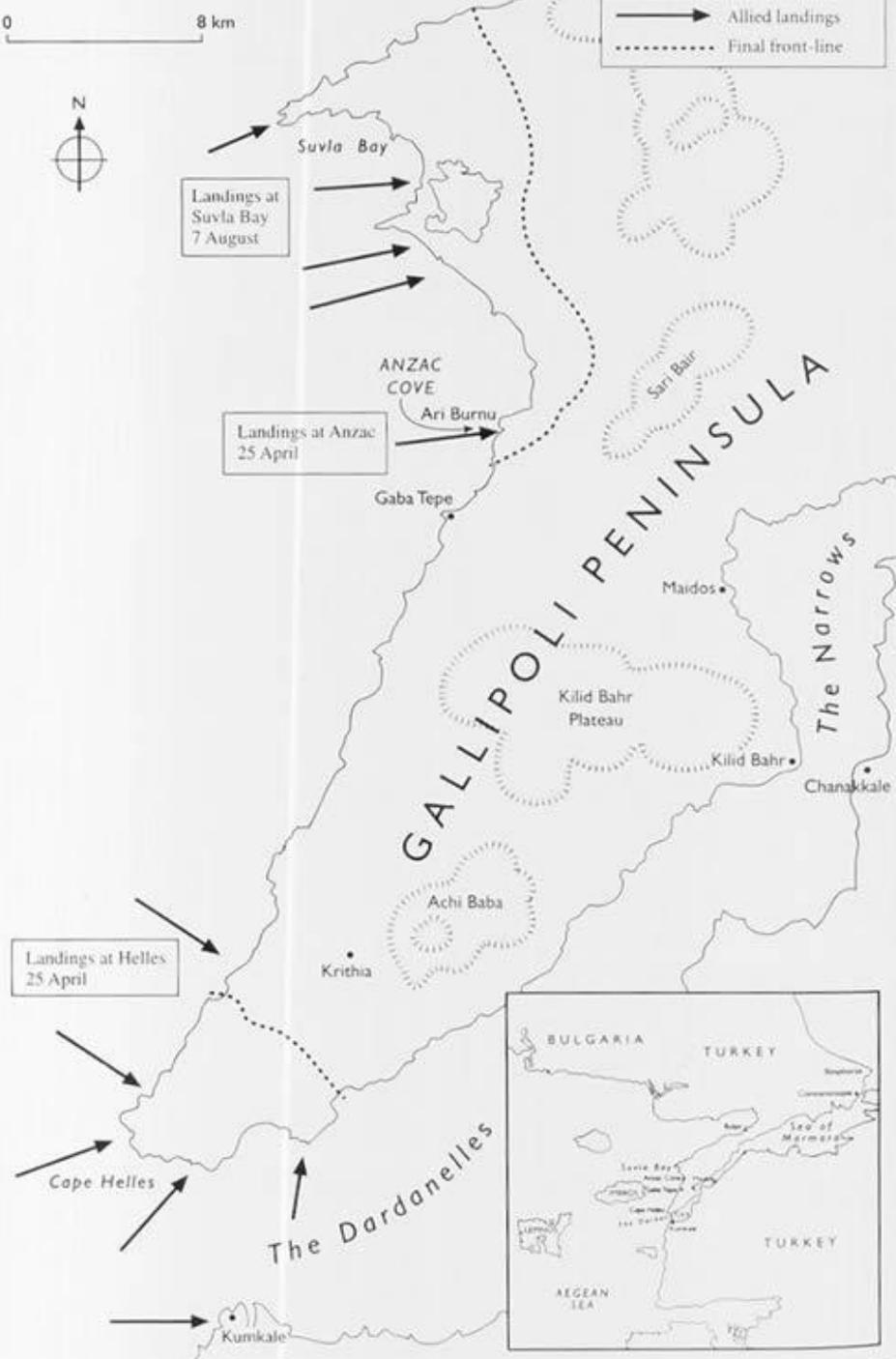
- Plans were set up very quickly with much improvisation and little time to practice
- Most of the focus was to be on Cape Helles at the Southern Part of the Peninsula with a feint landing by the French just opposite.
- The Anzacs were to be 20 km further up the coast just up from Gaba Tepe and a Feint landing further North by the Royal Navy Division.
- The Anzacs were to be first ashore.
- The New Zealanders formed up with an Australian Division who were to go on shore after 1st 2nd and 3rd Australian Divisions.
- Everyone was then to make the push uphill to take the rest of the Peninsula
- The British made a serious mistake in underestimating their enemies – the Turkish defenders.



0 8 km



 Allied landings
 Final front-line



Problems

- There were problems from the outset
- Bad weather delayed the landings for 2 days
- When they finally did land the Anzacs found they had been misdirected 2km North of where they should have been onto a much narrower, steeper strip of land.
- There has been much debate about how this occurred, from arguments that blame the tides to the lack of navigation skills by the British.
- The most likely explanation is that a midshipman in one of the leading boats changed direction without authorisation leading the rest of the boats after him.





25th April – The Gallipoli Campaign

- The landing was incredibly messy. The soldiers had extremely difficult terrain in front of them, divisions were split up or mixed together, there were delays on the landings of the other divisions; it was chaos.
- The first New Zealanders made it to shore shortly after 9am in a process that lasted all day.
- Only a few made it up to Gun Ridge their objective for the first day and they were quickly forced back or killed.
- The Turks were well organised under Mustafa Kemal Bey and they had the high ground.
- 1 in 5 Kiwis who made it to shore became casualties on the first day.
- The British had fared even worse at Cape Helles suffering a 70% casualty rate.
- After the first day the Anzacs were in danger of being forced back into the sea





“It was a matter of just a disorganised crowd of those fine brave fellows not knowing where to go, no one in charge, no orders, no possibility of officers, because they were all scattered in the scrub”

Tony Fagan
Auckland Infantry Battalion



Ongoing Battles

- The Anzacs has no where to go and were forced to dig in.
- The rest of the campaign was marked by small battles for territory which were unsuccessful.
- Some small victories did occur: Private Frank McKenzie and Major Dawson of Auckland Infantry along with a small group of Anzacs managed to hold on to a tiny ledge that became known as Quinn's Post which was overlooked by Baby 700 (a main mountain that overlooked Anzac cove). This stopped the Turks dominating the valley and became a supply lifeline.





Quinns Post: an incredibly dangerous but useful spot. Deadmans Ridge on the left skyline was held by the Turks.

- On 2 May what became known as Bloody Sunday they New Zealand and Australian Division tried to capture Baby 700 in a night attack. It was an appalling failure due to poor command decisions. It led to the sacrifice of the Otago Infantry Battalion which lost 400 out of 800 men.

“The fire was murderous but over the hill we went, pitch darkness – stumbling over dead Turks-don’t know exactly what happened until I found myself brought down within a few yards of the enemy’s trenches...All I know is I went to earth with my nose well down on the ground and the spade over my head. It stopped three for me and I could feel the bullets striking my haversack which was strapped on my back. It wasn’t long before I felt a tremendous shock in my shoulder-it felt as though I had been hit with a steam hammer.”

**Cecil Duncan
Otago Infantry Battalion**



- The Anzacs did become more organised and their most successful battle came on the 19th of May when they came up against 40,000 Turks against their 10,000. About 3000 Turks died that day and another 7000 wounded, it was the Turks worst disaster of the whole campaign.
- There was an Armistice on 24th of May 1915 to bury the dead. The Anzacs had a grudging sense of admiration for the Turks abilities as soldiers.

“We mix freely with the Turks and we all had a turn to bury the dead...They exchanged cigarettes with our chaps and did the sign language but when it was over they walked back to their trenches and we walked back to ours”

Albert Cochrane
Wellington Infantry Battalion

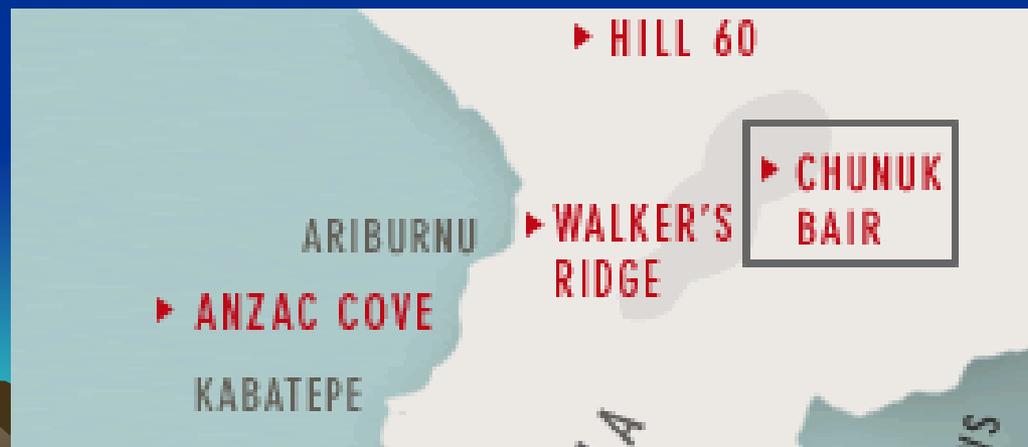






The August Offensive: Chunuk Bair

- Although many thought the men too weak for another major assault, Hamilton planned another one.
- The plan was to seize two major heights Hill 971 and Chunuk Bair.
- The New Zealand Infantry Brigade were to capture Chunuk Bair.
- The Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago Mountain Rifles and a Maori Contingent worked to capture the hill.



- The assault began on 6 August 1915. The Maori war cry indicated progress that day.
- By the 7th the Kiwis were only 500m from the summit of Chunuk Bair but the Turks had reinforced their position.
- By 11am Auckland Infantry Battalion lost 300 men in 20 minutes for a gain of only 100m.
- The dug in to maintain their position and the Wellington and Otago Battalions took over.
- Throughout the 9th of August the Wellington Mounted Rifles held on just below the crest of Chunuk Bair but they were extremely exhausted.
- Two British battalions came to relieve the New Zealand soldiers. They were raw infantry and panicked when the Turks counter-attacked. The New Zealanders were recalled to try and gain back the ground but the Turks had already gained too much.





New Zealanders at Chunuk Bair

Conditions at Gallipoli

- The Gallipoli peninsula was a hostile environment. It had steep valleys, deep ravines and high cliffs towering above long, narrow beaches. It could be extremely hot in summer and freezing cold in winter.
- Water was scarce and soldiers stole water bottles of the dead
- There was enough food but of the same variety every day and flies swarmed all over it.
- No man's land was filled with many soldiers' bodies which decayed in the searing heat. They lay there until there were brief truces to bury the dead.
- Disease was rife, especially dysentery.
- In November there was a big flood, trenches were flooded, ammunition and belongings were swept away. Many drowned.



Evacuation

- The failure of the August Offensive led commanders in London to change their mind about Gallipoli
- The storm in November has worsened conditions for the soldier's (many had died of exposure in the snow that followed)
- Hamilton was replaced and the decision to evacuate was made
- Unlike the landing the evacuation went off without a hitch





Evacuating the Wounded

- There was no sounds of firing for 48 hours and the Turks thought the Anzacs were digging in for winter.
- The final evacuation was conducted over 2 nights with 10,000 being evacuated each night.
- The New Zealand rear guard snuck away in the early hours of the 21st December 1915.
- Some historians argue the Turks knew what was happening but realised both sides had gone through enough carnage and let their enemy escape unharmed.



*“I am no hero but I would rather go over
the ridge in frontal assault with all its
chances of death with honour than do this
thing.”*

**George Tuck
Auckland Infantry Battalion**



The Cost of War

	Dead	Wounded	Total
Total Allies	44 092	96 937	141 129
UK	21 255	52 230	73 485
France <small>(est)</small>	10 000	17 000	27 000
Australia	8 709	19 441	28 150
NZ	2 721	4 752	7 473
British India	1 358	3 421	4 779
Newfoundland	49	93	142
Ottoman Empire <small>(est)</small> (Turks)	86 692	164 617	251 309

- There were only 8556 New Zealanders that fought in Gallipoli with 7473 being injured or killed. Only roughly 1000 Kiwi soldiers left Gallipoli physically unhurt.
- Of the 2721 Kiwis dead, 1669 have no known grave.
- The number of NZ dead and wounded were dwarfed by the UK and the Turks but for our small size, comparatively our country went to the most extremes to fight in Gallipoli

“Racked with guilt at having survived when their mates had died, they returned to an uncomprehending New Zealand and had to fit back in as if they had never been away”

— Christopher Pugsley



Anzac Day

- In 1920 the Anzac Day Act was passed making the 25th April a public holiday to remember our part in WW1
- Today Anzac day is to commemorate the veterans and the Kiwis that have died in all wars.
- Anzac day is no longer just for veterans to remember their lost mates but for the younger generation to discover their nations past and identity. In a world where they have grown up never being involved in direct conflict, this is an important lesson.





Egypt 1940 – WW2

Kiwi soldiers in a moment
of silence on Anzac Day

- It has become a major tradition for many young Kiwis on their O.E to visit the memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula.
- Thousands of Kiwis and Australians go every year to remember the brave deeds of their fellow countrymen
- A great mutual respect has evolved between the Turkish and Australian and New Zealand Governments over the bravery of both their lost soldiers.





Lest we forget.