

CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN



The Commonwealth and Ireland Service
to Commemorate the Centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign,
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Helles Memorial
24 April 2015

THE COMMONWEALTH AND IRELAND SERVICE
TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE
GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

24 April 2015
The Helles Memorial

Commemorative Programme

Front cover A shell from 'Asiatic Annie' bursting in the sea. Men resting on the beach road from Cape Helles to Gully Ravine, under the shelter of the cliffs.
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His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales



CLARENCE HOUSE

Both my younger son and I are extremely proud to be joining you for the centenary commemorations of the Gallipoli Campaign. We come together at Cape Helles to remember the Commonwealth and Irish forces which fought on these shores one hundred years ago and pay tribute to their remarkable courage and sacrifice.

Gallipoli was a new theatre to the Great War and many miles from home for the vast majority of our nations' servicemen and women. The historical and official records of the campaign illustrate that as the War spread across the world and became increasingly complex, the challenges, dangers and risks the Commonwealth and Irish expeditionary forces faced on this critical peninsula were considerable. It is the greatest testament to them, and all other nations' forces involved in the battle for Gallipoli, that they fought with such exceptional valour and dedication against the most difficult of odds and heart-breaking loss of life.

The private diaries and letters from Gallipoli provide us with a precious insight into the personal and human aspects of the campaign. They remind us all that this was a conflict fought largely by ordinary people called upon to do extraordinary acts. It is so very humbling to read that amongst the violence of those bitter months there are stories of remarkable human endeavour, of profound loyalty, of deep friendships, of compassion and enormous sacrifice.

As we stand and reflect in front of the memorials that mark this land, these commemorations provide us with an opportunity to show our deepest gratitude and respect for the actions of those remarkable Commonwealth and Irish forces who fought so gallantly here one hundred years ago. They will never be forgotten.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Charles", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.



The Right Honourable David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



HM Government

The First World War was a conflict the like of which had never been seen before. It touched all corners of the globe and resulted in many millions of deaths. Countless more were scarred by injury and bereavement.

The war also gave rise to a number of developments which continue to shape our world today. The rapid advance in medicine, industrialisation and the emancipation of women. In the UK it gave rise to the Royal British Legion, and established the poppy as our national symbol of remembrance. Some of the most moving and poignant poetry, literature, art and music was created as a response to it.

For all these reasons, I believe that the centenary of the First World War presents a unique opportunity to remind ourselves of the scale of the sacrifice, the effect on those left at home and the huge impact the war had around the world. That is why the British Government is commemorating a number of important events throughout the centenary period.

The First World War was not just fought in muddy trenches in the fields of the Flanders. It was a war fought on many fronts and the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign helps us remember the global nature of the conflict by focusing on a major theatre of war beyond the Western Front. It gives us the opportunity to mark and pay respect to the role played by the Royal Navy in transporting and protecting the men during the landings. Above all, it reminds us of the brave men who left their families to travel thousands of miles to fight on a foreign shore. An astonishing 410,000 came from Britain alone. Almost 30,000 British servicemen were never to return, leaving families throughout the country bereaved, and the name of that far away peninsula forever synonymous with loss and grief.

The Government is marking this important campaign with two events.

Today, at the Helles Memorial, representatives from all the nations involved in the Gallipoli Campaign are coming together to remember the courage and sacrifice of those who landed on the beaches a hundred years ago; and the bravery and determination of the forces of the former Ottoman Empire that met them. The campaign continued for a long and difficult eight months, with heavy losses sustained on all sides.

The Helles Memorial is the battle monument for the entire campaign, marking the efforts of all those who served here with the forces of the former British Empire. It is therefore a fitting place for representatives from all those nations involved, who fought on both sides of the conflict, to stand together as friends, honouring those who gave so much a hundred years ago.

I visited the beaches, hills and monuments of Gallipoli as a student and will never forget what I saw, or the impression they made on me.

Tomorrow, on the centenary of the first landing, I will attend a service of commemoration at the Cenotaph in London. With friends and partners from around the world, we will pay tribute on British soil to the brave men who fought in the Gallipoli Campaign.

We will remember them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Cameron". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned at the end of the text block.



His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



As President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, I am honoured to welcome you to the site of the Commission's Helles Memorial, to mark the centenary commemoration of the Gallipoli Campaign.

One hundred years ago today, Allied service personnel were preparing to land on the beaches of the Gallipoli Peninsula. Soldiers, sailors and airmen came here from all corners of the globe to face a courageous and determined adversary. The tragic losses suffered by both sides, during both the naval engagement and over the course of the eight-month campaign, were, and still are, felt across hundreds of communities in many countries.

Almost 36,000 Commonwealth and Irish casualties are buried or commemorated at CWGC sites on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and the haunting beauty of the cemeteries and memorials that we see here today are a powerful reminder of the tragedy of the Great War.

The work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission never ceases, and its staff tirelessly carry on their tasks the year round in 154 countries, to ensure that appropriate and fitting commemoration is provided for all those who fell in the two World Wars. The Helles Memorial itself stands as a battle monument for the entire Gallipoli Campaign, marking the contribution of those who served here with the forces of the British Empire, as well as a place of commemoration for 21,000 who died and have no known grave.

Today, we gather in this remarkable place, to reflect on the extraordinary sacrifices made by many and to remember them. They are not forgotten.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Kent', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned at the end of the text block.

THIS COMMEMORATION IS HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

OUR HOSTS

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales

The Right Honourable Philip Hammond, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Air Chief Marshal Sir Joe French, Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

HONOURED GUESTS

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey

His Excellency Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

His Excellency Mamnoon Hussain, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Right Honourable John Key MP, Prime Minister of New Zealand

The Right Honourable Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

His Excellency Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Defence, the French Republic

The Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular), Canada

His Excellency Markus Gröbel, Parliamentary State Secretary for Defence, the Federal Republic of Germany

His Excellency Md. Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of Bangladesh

His Excellency General V. K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State for External Affairs, the Republic of India

A representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiating Minister The Reverend Dr David Coulter QHC, Chaplain General to Her Majesty's Land Forces

The Royal Navy Guard is drawn from the Ship's Company of HMS BULWARK, lying off Cape Helles with: TCG YAVUS, TCG TURGUTREIS, TCG FATIH, TCG SALIHREIS, TCG HEYBELIADA, TCG UMUT and TCG GUVEN; HMAS ANZAC and STS Young Endeavour; FS CASSARD and HMNZS TE KAHA.

The step lining and military contributions for the event are provided on behalf of Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, France, Germany, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

The commemorative stone unveiled today in the presence of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales; His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales; His Excellency the President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan; His Excellency the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins; Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Right Honourable Philip Hammond; and Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Air Chief Marshal Sir Joe French', was laid by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It provides a permanent reminder of the Centenary Commemorations. The inscription 'LEST WE FORGET 25 APRIL 2015' was overseen by sculptor Stephen Cox RA, with letters cut by Gary Newton. Flower bouquets were laid by Arslan Mendes and Amelia Ann Spoor.

The Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland
Director of Music Captain Anthony Williams

Please stand when asked to do so for the arrival of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales; His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales; His Excellency the President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan; and His Excellency the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

Officers in uniform are to salute during the Royal Salute and the playing of the National Anthems. Gentlemen in hats are to uncover.

Please remain standing until His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales, the President of the Republic of Turkey and the President of Ireland are seated.

WELCOME

by The Reverend Dr David Coulter

The Bidding

We gather this day at the Helles Memorial to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign. We recall the courage of those who fought and died, and we give thanks for the freedom wrought by their sacrifice. We pray for our respective countries represented here today, asking that we may hold in our hearts the fallen in whose footsteps we stand and that we may be faithful to their legacy.

The Bidding Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, in whom all things have their beginning and their end, accept our offering of devotion this day. Grant your eternal peace to the departed whom we commemorate with love and thanksgiving, and bestow upon us and upon all your people the strength and the wisdom to pursue always the paths of peace, that your name may be glorified and your will may be done. Amen.

THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

Reading by Air Chief Marshal Sir Joe French, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

One hundred years ago, British and Allied forces were preparing to land on the beaches of Gallipoli. They were sent here to find an alternative to the stalemate of the Western Front; to hasten the end of the Great War. But the Ottoman soldiers who faced them on these shores fought with bravery, skill and determination. The Allies managed to establish footholds, at great cost, but every attempt to advance further was repelled.

Soon, trenches stretched across the fields around Cape Helles, where we are today, along the ridges above Anzac Cove and later the hills around Suvla Bay. Casualties mounted through the summer heat and winter snow, until the decision was made to evacuate. The last Allied troops left Gallipoli in January 1916, nearly nine months after the first landings, leaving behind the graves of their fallen comrades.

The cemeteries and memorials on the Gallipoli Peninsula stand as testament to those who lost their lives here, far from home. It remains the duty of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to honour them all, regardless of rank, race or religion, preserving their names forever. The monument around which we gather today honours the sacrifices of all who served.

Some fought in the frontlines, others put themselves in harm's way to provide care or support. Many served at sea, or in the air. Alongside the professional soldiers were volunteers, who had been among the first to answer the call to arms after the outbreak of the war. They represented many cultures, held many faiths and none, and spoke many languages.

Today we recognise their courage and remember their sacrifice.

Reading by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

Extracts from *Gallipoli* by John Masefield, 1916

Ship after ship, crammed with soldiers, moved slowly out of the harbour, in the lovely day, and felt again the heave of the sea. All the thousands of men aboard them, gathered on the deck to see, till each rail was thronged. These men had come from all parts of the British world, from Africa, Australia, Canada, India, the Mother Country, New Zealand and remote islands in the sea. They had said good-bye to home that they might offer their lives in the cause we stand for.

In a few hours at most, as they well knew, perhaps a tenth of them would have looked their last on the sun, and be a part of foreign earth or dumb things that the tides push. Many of them would have disappeared forever from the knowledge of man, blotted from the book of life none would know how, by a fall or chance shot in the darkness, in the blast of a shell, or alone, like a hurt beast, in some scrub or gully, far from comrades and the English speech and the English singing.

And those not taken thus would be under the ground sweating in the trench, carrying sand-bags up the sap, dodging death and danger, without rest or food or drink, in the blazing sun or the frost of the Gallipoli night, till death seemed relaxation and a wound a luxury.

As each ship crammed with soldiers drew near the battleships the men swung their caps and cheered again, and the sailors answered, and the noise of cheering swelled. They left the harbour very, very slowly; this tumult of cheering lasted a long time; no one who heard it will ever forget it, or think of it unshaken. It broke the hearts of all there with pity and pride.

Reading by Corporal Andrew Evans, 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers,

British Army

The Battalion to which I now so proudly belong and in which I serve is a successor to the 1st Battalion, the Lancashire Fusiliers, who landed very near here at W Beach on the early morning of 25 April 1915. Captain Richard Willis, awarded the Victoria Cross that day, recalled:

The timing of the ambush was perfect; we were completely exposed and helpless in our slow-moving boats, just target practice for the concealed Turks, and within a few minutes only half of the 30 men in my boat were left alive. We were now 100 yards from the shore, and I gave the order 'overboard'. We scrambled out into some four feet of water and some of the boats with their cargo of dead and wounded floated away on the currents still under fire from the snipers. With this unpromising start the advance began. Many were hit in the sea, and no response was possible, for the enemy was in trenches well above our heads. Our wretched men were ordered to wait behind the wire for the wire-cutters to cut a pathway through. They were shot in helpless batches while they waited, and could not even use their rifles in retaliation since the sand and the sea had clogged their action.

Music *The Supreme Sacrifice* composed by The Reverend Charles Harris DD (1865–1936), arranged by R. Barsotti

Reading by Company Sergeant Jim Aherne, 7th Infantry Battalion, Defence Forces, Ireland.

On 13 August 1915, Captain Paddy Tobin, 'D' Company, 7th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, wrote to his father. He was killed at Suvla Bay, aged 21 years, three days later.

I cannot describe to you my feelings crossing this [spit of sand] with D Company. We had been running along hard, for about a quarter of a mile in heavy sand before this and we had not much energy left. With a final effort we dashed across it and reached a little sheltered bank like the Alps at Dollymount, only not so high, where we rested. There were collected great numbers of troops huddled together. Well, across that neck of land I expected every minute to fall. As a matter of fact the Company only lost ten at that spot. Shrapnel and high explosives were bursting as frequently as the tick of a clock.

Music *The Minstrel Boy* composed by Thomas Moore (1779–1852), to the melody of *The Moreen*, trad. Irish

Reading by Infantry Staff Colonel Osman Kardal, Deputy Commander, 8th Mechanised Infantry Brigade, Turkish Armed Forces (in Turkish)

1918 Yilinda Mustafa Kemal Atatürk ile yapılan mülakattan alinti

Sayın....., Sayın Komutanım; Değerli Konuklar,

Sizlere 1918 yılında o sırada Gelibolu'da bir subay ve daha sonra Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Cumhurbaşkanı olan Mustafa Kemal Atatürk ile yapılan mülakattan bir alıntıyı takdim etmek istiyorum.

29 Mayıs 1915'de düşman 31, 33, 34 numara verdiğimiz siperlere taarruz etti. Fakat çok

zayiat vererek püskürtüldü. Bombasirtı'nda boyun noktasına komşu olarak 14 Nisan günü taarruzundan sonra meydana getirilen bu siperler, Arıburnu Cephesi'nde 7-8 metreden 10 ila 12 metreye kadar düşmana yakın olan siperlerdi. Bu yakınlık ve sonra bu siperler üzerindeki hadiseler, diyebiliriz ki kendilerine bir özel yer ve bir tarihi şöret temin etmiştir. Bu siperlerin karşısında bulunan düşman siperleri, gerileri Korkuderesi'ne inen bir yarın kenarında inşa edilmiş olmak itibarıyla özel bir yere sahipti. Söz konusu siperlerdeki düşman daima ürkek bir haldeydi. Bunun, işte numaralarını söylediğimiz siperlerimize karşı faaliyetleri, tecavüzleri, hemen hiçbir gece eksik olmazdı. Üstünden bombalar atılmakta, toprak altı lağımın infilakı ile bu siperlerimiz adeta bir cehenneme çevrilmekteydi. Tabii karşımızdaki düşman siperleri de hemen aynı halde idi. Düşmanın bombalarından meydana gelecek kayıpları azaltabilmek amacıyla bu siperler üzerine kalaslar örttürmüştük. Onlar bu kalaslara ikide bir "yakıcı sıvı şişeler" atıyorlar, siperlerde yangın çıkıyorlardı. Yoğun alevler ve dumanlar o siperlerin üzerinden hiç ayrılmazdı. Tabii biz oralarda pek çok kayıplar vermekte idik. Fakat buna rağmen cesur, kadere inanan askerlerimiz bütün bu yangın, lağım, bomba infilaklarına göğüs geriyorlar, imrenilecek bir sağlamlıkla yerlerini muhafaza ediyorlar, düşmana karşılık veriyorlardı.

Excerpt from an interview with Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1918 (then an officer at Gallipoli, later the President of the Turkish Republic)

On the 29th [May 1915] the enemy attacked trenches 31, 33, and 34, to be repulsed with heavy loss of life. These trenches we had dug after the attack of 14th April at a point near Bombasirtı on the Arıburnu front, some 7–8 m or 10–12 m from the enemy positions. This proximity to the enemy and the events that were to occur there give the spot a very special place in military history. A feature of the enemy trenches opposite these was their position on the edge of a precipice descending to Korkuderesi.

The enemy soldiers in these trenches were in a constant state of suspense. Not a single night passed without attacks on the trenches, which were converted into a veritable inferno by the constant explosions of shells and underground mines.

Of course, our own trenches facing the enemy were in much the same state and we had beams erected over them in an attempt to reduce the numbers killed by the enemy bombardment.

They were continually throwing 'incendiary petrol bottles' on to the beams, thus causing fires in the trenches, which, as a result, were never free of flames and smoke. Naturally, we suffered severe losses. But in spite of everything, the heroic devotion of our men stood up unflinchingly in the face of all the flames and explosions. They held their positions with admirable determination and gave effective response to the enemy.

Music *David of the White Rock* composed by David Owen (1712–1741), arranged by R. Barsotti

THE COMMEMORATION

led by The Reverend Dr David Coulter

Please stand

Prayer

Today we remember and commend to God's sure keeping; those who have died for their countries in war; we treasure their memory and we remember all those who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

Reading by Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC, Chief of the Defence Force, Royal Australian Air Force

For The Fallen by Laurence Binyon, 1914

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning;
We will remember them.*

All: *We will remember them.*

(At the sounding of the Last Post, officers in uniform are to salute.
Gentlemen in hats are to uncover.)

The Last Post Trumpeter from Prince of Wales's Division Band

One Minute's Silence Marked by a ceremonial gun firing from HMS BULWARK

Reveille Trumpeter from Prince of Wales's Division Band

Prayer

Let us now call to mind before God those who gave their lives in the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915: those from our countries who died on land and at sea and who gave their lives in the service of humanity and freedom, and whose sacrifice we honour and commemorate at this memorial.

Let us pray

*Eternal God, you teach us that, in Him, there is nothing that can separate us from your love. Strengthen us in this hope all the days of our life, and bring us at the last with all the departed to the fullness of your everlasting glory.
Amen.*

Laying of Wreaths

Wreaths to be laid individually:

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey

His Excellency Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

His Excellency Mamnoon Hussain, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Wreaths to be laid in the following groups:

The Right Honourable John Key MP, Prime Minister of New Zealand

The Honourable Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

The Right Honourable Philip Hammond, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

His Excellency Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Defence, the French Republic

The Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular), Canada

His Excellency Markus Grübel, Parliamentary State Secretary for Defence, the Federal Republic of Germany

His Excellency Md. Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of Bangladesh

His Excellency General V K Singh (Retd), Minister of State for External Affairs, the Republic of India

A representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Mrs Lyn Edmonds, on behalf of the Gallipoli Association

Air Chief Marshal Sir Joe French, Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Music *Solemn Melody* composed by Walford Davies (1869–1941), arranged by Denis Wright

Reading by Roger Boissier CBE, son of Lieutenant Commander
E. G. Boissier DSC RNVR

Rupert Brooke was the first major English poet to die in the First World War. Brooke volunteered for active service at the outbreak of the war in 1914 and, after serving on the Western Front, wrote sonnets which reflected upon his experiences. In 1915, Brooke died whilst travelling to Gallipoli. He was buried in a simple ceremony on the Greek Island of Skyros.

My father, Lieutenant Commander Boissier, was in the Howe Battalion of the Royal Naval Division. As a Chartered Electrical Engineer before the war, he was asked the best way to line the grave of Rupert Brooke on Skyros. He suggested tin plate panels, which he and others made by opening tins of Huntley & Palmer biscuits. My father was severely wounded in a battle on Achi Baba, in May 1915, and was evacuated.

The Dead by Rupert Brooke, 1914

*These hearts were woven of human joys and cares,
Washed marvellously with sorrow, swift to mirth.
The years had given them kindness. Dawn was theirs,
And sunset, and the colours of the earth.
These had seen movement, and heard music; known
Slumber and waking; loved; gone proudly friended;
Felt the quick stir of wonder; sat alone;
Touched flowers and furs and cheeks. All this is ended.*

*There are waters blown by changing winds to laughter
And lit by the rich skies, all day. And after,
Frost, with a gesture, stays the waves that dance
And wandering loveliness. He leaves a white
Unbroken glory, a gathered radiance,
A width, a shining peace, under the night.*

Prayer by The Reverend Dr David Coulter

*Let us commemorate the fallen;
Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.
All: And let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
All: And rise in glory. Amen.*

*Almighty and all-loving God, author of life and conqueror of death;
we dedicate these wreaths of remembrance to your care.*

*As the scarlet poppies sprang into life from shattered earth, may
these garlands be symbols of regeneration and continuing goodness
in our own days. Weaving together past sorrow and future hope,
may they make us mindful of the debt we owe and the demands
that lie ahead.*

Please sit

Reading by His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales

The Bathe by A. P. Herbert, 1916

The poet, novelist, playwright and activist Alan Patrick Herbert joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve when war broke out and landed at Gallipoli as an officer in the Hawke Battalion of the Royal Naval Division, in May 1915. Recovering in Britain from an injury, Herbert wrote about his experiences at Gallipoli, publishing *Half-Hours at Helles* in 1916, which included this poem.

*Come friend and swim. We may be better then,
But here the dust blows ever in the eyes
And wrangling round are the weary fevered men,
Forever made with flies.
I cannot sleep, nor even long lie still,
And have you read your April paper twice;
Tomorrow we must stagger up the hill
To man a trench and live among the lice.*

*But yonder, where the Indians have their goats,
There is a rock stands sheer above the blue,
Where one may sit and count the bustling boards
And breathe the cool air through;
May find it still is good to be alive,
May look across and see the Trojan shore
Twinkling and warm, may strip, and stretch, and dive.
And for a space forget about the war.*

*Then will we sit and talk of happy things,
Home and 'the high' and some far fighting friend,
And gather strength for what the morrow brings,
For that may be the end.
It may be we shall never swim again,
Never be clean and comely to the sight,
May not untombed and stink with all the slain.
Come, then, and swim. Come and be clean to-night.*

Reading by Sergeant Michael Williams, Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Canadian Navy

Extracts from the recollections of Sergeant W. Lench, a Canadian soldier at Gallipoli, who was injured the day before the evacuation.

The next morning the company officer called me into his dug-out. He was a hard drinker and a brave officer. 'There are rumours of an evacuation, sergeant,' he said. 'Kitchener does not like the look of it for the winter; but there is nothing official. Perhaps we shall have good news tonight.'

I smiled as I went back to my trench. When did the British Army ever retire? It was impossible. Here for ever. Flies in a spider web – million to one against ever getting out. Evacuation, no!

However, the impossible did happen. It was to be in ten days, the captain told me. Ten days, and the regiment would go to Egypt, the captain said – perhaps Cairo, certainly Alexandria. It was not a bad war after all!

The remaining days were full of feverish activity. Small mines were sunk; bully beef tins were filled with explosives and scores of rifles with time fuses were stuck about the trenches. I worked like a galley slave all day and all night.

The preparations were completed. I was detailed to fight the rear-guard action with five other men. I should do something to win the War. There was a conference in the company officer's dug-out to talk over the latest plans. In twenty-four hours, with a bit of luck, I should be sailing down the coast in a destroyer.

Music The Drums Platoon, 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

Reading by Ranjit Kaur Bains, British Embassy, Ankara

The Gift of India by Sarojini Naidu, 1915

*Is there ought you need that my hands withhold,
Rich gifts of raiment or grain or gold?
Lo! I have flung to the East and the West
Priceless treasures torn from my breast,
And yielded the sons of my stricken womb
To the drum-beats of duty, the sabres of doom.
Gathered like pearls in their alien graves
Silent they sleep by the Persian waves,
Scattered like shells on Egyptian sands,
They lie with pale brows and brave, broken hands,
They are strewn like blossoms mown down by chance
On the blood-brown meadows of Flanders and France
Can ye measure the grief of the tears I weep
Or compass the woe of the watch I keep?
Or the pride that thrills thro' my heart's despair
And the hope that comforts the anguish of prayer?
And the far sad glorious vision I see
Of the torn red banners of victory?
when the terror and the tumult of hate shall cease
And life be refashioned on anvils of peace,
And your love shall offer memorial thanks
To the comrades who fought on the dauntless ranks,
And you honour the deeds of the dauntless ones,
Remember the blood of my martyred sons!*

REFLECTION

led by The Reverend Dr David Coulter

A moment of silence may be kept

Prayer

Let us now resolve in the love of human kind to seek to do honour and continue the search for peace.

*Almighty God,
From whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:
Kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all people the true love of peace
And guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
Those who take counsel for the nations of the earth
That in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward
Till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love.*

Please stand

The Blessing

*Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve one another, rejoicing in the gifts of God.
May the blessings of Almighty God be with you and remain with you, now and always.
Amen.*

Please remain standing for the pipers' lament and remain in your place until our hosts and wreath layers have left the memorial. There will be a short pause while they sign the CWGC Visitor's Book, you may wish to sit at this time. All guests will then be invited to leave.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

Literary Works

Gallipoli by John Masefield, London: William Heinemann, 1916, with permission from The Society of Authors as the Literary Representative of the Estate of John Masefield

The recollections of Captain Richard Willis, from *Defeat at Gallipoli* by Nigel Steel and Peter Hart, London: Macmillan, 1994

Letter from Captain Paddy Tobin, 'D' Co. 7th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers to his father, reproduced with permission of Dublin City Archives

The Story of Gallipoli As Recounted by Mustafa Kemal by Ruşen Eşref, Istanbul: Grafik Sanatlar, 1930

For the Fallen by Robert Laurence Binyon, 1914, reproduced with permission of the Estate of Robert Laurence Binyon

The Dead by Rupert Brooke, 1914

The Bathe, from *Half-Hours at Helles* by A.P. Herbert, Oxford: B.H. Blackwell, 1916

The recollections of Sergeant W. Lench, from *Everyman at War* by C.B. Purdom, J.M. Dent, 1930

The Gift of India by Sarojini Naidu, 1915

Musical Works

The Supreme Sacrifice. Composed by Rev. C. Harris, D.D. (1865–1936). Arranged by R. Barsotti

The Minstrel Boy. Traditional Irish Air, The Moreen

David of the White Rock. Composed by David Owen (1712–1741). Arranged by R. Barsotti

Solemn Melody. Composed by H. Walford Davies (1869–1941). Arranged by Denis Wright

GALLIPOLI

The drama of the Dardanelles campaign, by reason of the beauty of its setting, the grandeur of its theme and the unhappiness of its ending, will always rank amongst the world's classic tragedies.

C.F. Aspinall-Oglander, *Military Operations: Gallipoli*, 1932

By early 1915, the fighting on the Western Front had reached a stalemate. With lines of trenches stretching through Flanders and France, Allied leaders debated new ways to break the deadlock and avoid further heavy casualties. In response to a request for aid from Russia, the British War Council sanctioned an attack on the Ottoman Empire.

Championed by Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, the plan was to eliminate one of Germany's key partners by sending Allied warships through

the narrow straits of the Dardanelles to attack Constantinople (now Istanbul), the Ottoman capital. By knocking the Ottoman Empire out of the war, a supply route to Russia could be created, the vital Suez Canal would be secured and the Balkan states might be convinced to join Britain and France.

In February and March 1915, Allied warships attempted to subdue the forts which guarded the Dardanelles and force their way through the narrows, but minefields and powerful shore batteries

The Attack on the Narrows, Gallipoli, 18 March 1915 by Norman Wilkinson, 1915 © Imperial War Museums (IWM ART 249)



Troops of the 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment, landing at W Beach, 25 April 1915 © Imperial War Museums (Q 37880)



proved insurmountable. After the sinking of three battleships on 18 March, the naval assault was abandoned. Allied commanders agreed that the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF), under the command of General Sir Ian Hamilton, would invade the Gallipoli Peninsula to capture the forts and take control of the straits, enabling warships to reach Constantinople.

Some 75,000-strong, the MEF brought together several different formations: the professional soldiers of the 29th Division, who represented all corners of the British Isles; the Royal Naval Division; the newly established Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), originally bound for Europe but training in Egypt, to which was attached the Indian Mountain Artillery and the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps; and the French metropolitan and colonial African troops of the Corps Expeditionnaire d'Orient. The amphibious assault on Gallipoli would be among the most ambitious ever attempted. Yet the invasion plans had been hastily assembled, with little firm intelligence, and Ottoman forces had

spent the weeks since the naval attacks preparing their defences under the direction of German officers.

Early on the morning of 25 April, the 29th Division and elements of the Royal Naval Division landed at five beaches around Cape Helles at the southern tip of the peninsula. Their objective was to advance quickly to the high ground of Achi Baba and then on to the Kilid Bahr plateau, overlooking the Dardanelles.

Meanwhile, the ANZACs came ashore further north, on the western side of the peninsula, with the aim of advancing inland to Mal Tepe, threatening the Ottoman units fighting to the south and cutting them off from reinforcements. Diversionary landings were made by the French on the Asian side of the Dardanelles at Kum Kale, while the Royal Naval Division undertook decoy operations near Bulair, in the north of the peninsula.

Heavy casualties were suffered on the two main landing beaches at Cape Helles. At W Beach the Lancashire Fusiliers



Australians landing at Anzac Cove at 8am, on 25 April 1915; part of the 4th Battalion and the mules for the 26th (Jacob's) Indian Mountain Battery. © Imperial War Museums (Q112876)

fought their way ashore under fire and it became known by the British as 'Lancashire Landing'. At V Beach, relentless gunfire from the surrounding cliffs devastated the Dublin Fusiliers approaching in rowing boats and the Munster Fusiliers, who attacked from the converted collier *River Clyde*, run aground close to the beach. Only after dark could progress be made and the wounded recovered. While the other Helles landings, at S, X and Y Beaches, met lighter resistance, the difficult landscape and communication problems, as well as Ottoman counter-attacks,

prevented British forces from linking their beachheads quickly and advancing inland. Further north at Z Beach, where the first units of the ANZACs came ashore, there were fewer defenders but precipitous terrain. Ottoman troops marshalled by Mustafa Kemal held the Anzacs on the ridges above the beaches where, on the advice of Hamilton, they would 'dig, dig, dig'.

When the exhausted Allies made their first attempt to break through Ottoman lines in Helles three days later, they suffered several thousand casualties.



The converted collier *River Clyde*, run aground at V Beach after the allied landings at Gallipoli, spring 1915. © Imperial War Museums (Q 50468)

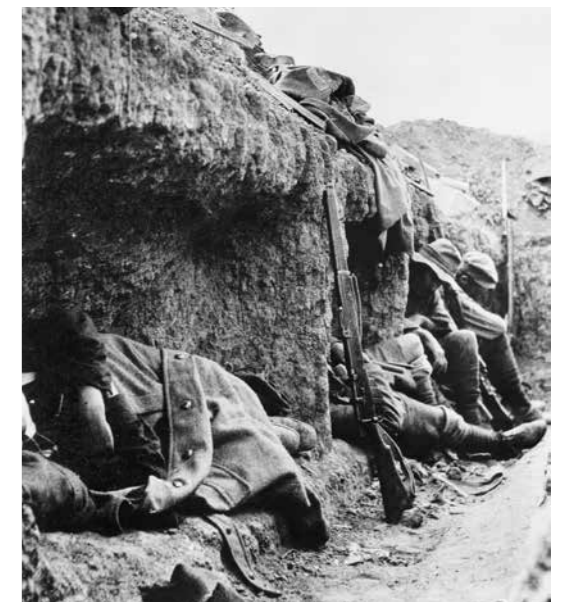
A stretcher bearer of the Royal Army Medical Corps, 42nd (East Lancashire) Division, lighting a cigarette for a wounded soldier. © Imperial War Museums (Q 13385)



Soon afterwards, the Ottomans mounted major counter-attacks in an attempt to dislodge the Allies across the peninsula, suffering heavy losses of their own. On 19 May, some 10,000 Ottoman soldiers were killed or wounded during a failed offensive in the Anzac sector. A formal ceasefire was arranged and on the morning of 24 May the guns fell silent for several hours, as men of both sides buried their dead under grey skies and falling rain.

Throughout May, June and July, Allied forces in Helles made a series of costly attacks, particularly near the village of Krithia and at Gully Ravine to the west. The Anzac sector was besieged by artillery and snipers, with vicious close quarters combat on the ridges above the beaches. Fresh troops joined the campaign, among them the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade, the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division, the Australian Light Horse and the New Zealand Mounted Rifles. Yet the Allies found themselves facing another stalemate. In the oppressive heat, with rampant sickness and disease, casualties on both sides began to mount.

While the fighting continued on land, the sea remained a vital part of the campaign. The Allied navies were responsible for delivering and protecting crucial supplies: from men and machines to arms and ammunition, medical equipment, food and water. Hospital ships evacuated the wounded and doctors and nurses cared for them on board. Reconnaissance by naval aircraft guided land forces and naval guns provided fire support. Allied submarines disrupted shipping and



New Zealand soldiers resting in the trenches on Rhododendron Spur, Gallipoli, a few weeks after it was taken. © Imperial War Museums (Q 112877)



Filtering water before it is put into covered cans. © Imperial War Museums (Q 13448)

A Royal Irish Fusilier reveals his position in an attempt to draw the fire of a Turkish sniper. © Imperial War Museums (Q 13447)

supply lines in the Sea of Marmara, while German submarines and Ottoman vessels sank several Allied warships. As many as 250 French and British naval craft were involved in the campaign at its height, from battleships to monitors, small trawlers and auxiliary vessels.

Those who served at Gallipoli reflected the diversity of imperial warfare. Muleteers and labourers from many nations supported the Allied forces, including the Indian Mule Corps, labour



corps from Greece, Egypt and Malta, and the Zion Mule Corps. The Ottoman army was dominated by Turkish soldiers from Anatolia, but they fought alongside recruits hailing from across the Ottoman Empire, from the Balkans to the Middle East. Many of its senior officers were German, including Otto Liman von Sanders, and its artillery included guns from Austria-Hungary.

A renewed Allied offensive began in August 1915. With Ottoman forces



Men of the 14th Sikhs of the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade examining a piece of shell from 'Asiatic Annie' that fell in their camp. © Imperial War Museums (Q 13372)

A Māori soldier in the Apex trenches, on 30 November 1915. © Imperial War Museums (HU 57430)

strongly entrenched at Helles, the focus shifted to the Anzac sector and another major landing at Suvla Bay. The main objective would be to breakthrough Ottoman lines on the high ground of Sari Bair and open the way across the peninsula. Meanwhile, supporting attacks would be made at Lone Pine and the Nek, with diversionary operations at Helles.

Early on 6 August, explosives were detonated below the Ottoman lines at Lone Pine, which had been bombarded from land and sea, before the 1st Brigade of the Australian Imperial Force began its assault. Within half an hour, key Ottoman trenches had been taken but fierce fighting with bombs and bayonets continued for five days before the position was finally secured.

On the night of 6 August, New Zealand forces – including a Māori contingent – along with British and Gurkha units, began an assault on Chunuk Bair, the southern peak of the Sari Bair ridge. By 8 August, they had fought their way to the summit and began to defend themselves against relentless Ottoman counter-attacks before, on 10 August, a major assault led by Mustafa Kemal recaptured the heights and drove Allied forces back towards the sea.



Since the British Army was fully engaged on the Western Front, many of those who would land at Suvla Bay were members of the Territorial Force or wartime volunteers of Kitchener's 'New Army', fighting for the first time. They were a mixed force hailing from across the British Isles, including Irishmen of the 10th Division, Welshmen of the 53rd, the 'Sandringham Pals' from the Royal Estate who served with the 54th (East Anglian) Division, members of the 11th (Northern) and the 13th (Western) Division, and the 2nd Mounted Division. They would be joined in September by the Newfoundland Regiment, also seeing its first action of the war.

Beginning on the night of 6 August, the Suvla landings had been intended to quickly secure the weakly defended high ground surrounding the bay, but confusion and indecision caused fatal delays. Soon, Ottoman reinforcements had taken up strong positions inland and the opportunity to advance was lost. The final offensives of the summer began on 21 August, with brutal fighting on Scimitar Hill and Hill 60, to the north of Anzac Cove. Although a link between the Suvla and Anzac sectors was secured, thousands more casualties were suffered and Ottoman resistance remained resolute.



French troops en route to Gallipoli. © Imperial War Museums (Q 13411)



Frost-bitten soldiers lying on straw in shelters constructed of biscuit boxes, at a store dump at Suvla, after the frost at the end of November 1915. © Imperial War Museums (Q 13644)

An Australian infantryman gives a drink to a wounded Ottoman soldier. © Imperial War Museums (Q 13285)

British troops and their artillery guns being evacuated from Suvla Bay on rafts in daylight, December 1915. © Imperial War Museums (Q 13637)

In October, Hamilton was relieved of his command and replaced by General Sir Charles Monro. With little hope of securing the Dardanelles and with the imminent onset of winter, the Allies began to consider evacuation. At the end of November, fierce storms and snow blizzards caused severe casualties among those manning the frontlines. In early December men, supplies and animals began to be withdrawn from the Suvla and Anzac sectors, followed later by those remaining in the Helles sector. In the early hours of 9 January,



the last soldiers left W Beach, while stores and ammunition burned on the shores behind them.

More than 500,000 Allied personnel served in the Gallipoli Campaign. They suffered some 250,000 casualties, of whom 58,000 lost their lives, including 29,500 from Britain and Ireland, some 12,000 from France, 11,000 from Australia and New Zealand, and 1,500 from India. Ottoman casualties may have reached 300,000, of whom at least 87,000 died. These losses were felt across the British

Periscope supply depot dug-out 'Splinter Villa', home to two Australians on the Anzac Beach. © Imperial War Museums (Q 13797)



Empire. In England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland communities marked those dates on which their local men had been lost, anniversaries which often became known as 'Gallipoli Day'. After the end of the war, the Battle of Çanakkale would have an important legacy in the newly formed state of Turkey led by Mustafa Kemal (later known as Atatürk). Today, the dates of significant victories over the Allies are marked by the Turkish people on 18 March and 10 August.

The anniversary of the landings became particularly meaningful for Australia and New Zealand, whose forces had experienced their first major campaign and suffered their first heavy losses. As early as 1916, ceremonies and services were held to mark the 25 April, including a march through London by over 2,000 Australian and New Zealand troops. It became known as 'Anzac Day'. Today, in both Australia and New Zealand, it is a national day of commemoration to honour all those who have fought or been involved in conflicts. Memorial ceremonies are held in almost every

town and city, while Australians and New Zealanders gather at locations throughout the world.

Many of those who fought at Gallipoli would go on to serve in other theatres of war: at Salonika, in the Middle East and on the Western Front. Yet the Gallipoli Campaign would remain one of the most evocative, controversial and tragic episodes of the war.

By 4 o'clock on the morning of the 9th of January, the last man had passed the graves of those who had won the beaches. They climbed on board their boats and pushed off... Some felt, as they passed those graves, that the stones were living men, who cast a long look after them when they had passed, and sighed, and turned landward as they had turned of old. Then in a rising sea, whipped with spray, among the noise of ships weltering to the rails, the battalions left Cape Helles; the 'River Clyde' dimmed into the gale and became a memory, and the Gallipoli campaign was over.

Gallipoli by John Masefield, 1916

COMMEMORATING THE FALLEN



Royal Naval
Armoured Car
Division burial
party, Cape Helles,
1915. © Imperial
War Museums
(Q 502170)

Shell Green
Cemetery.
© Commonwealth
War Graves
Commission

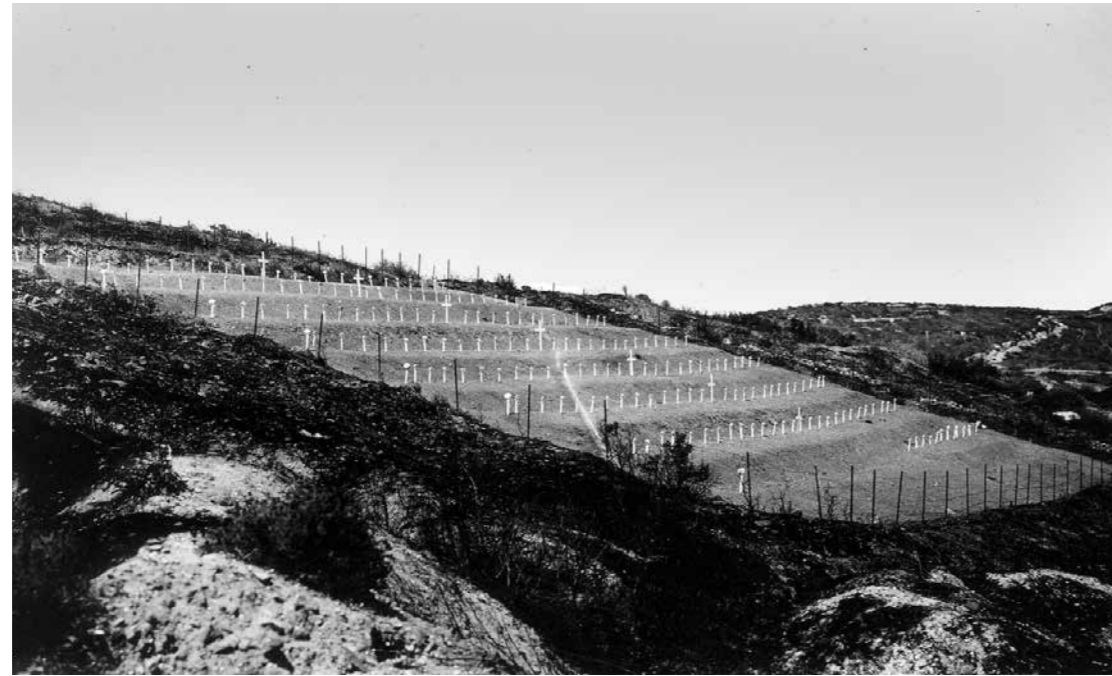
On 23 May 1915, while serving as an Intelligence Officer, Compton Mackenzie visited the scene of the 25 April landings. 'I wandered about by myself on V beach,' he wrote, 'looked with awe at the rusted bulk of the *River Clyde*, and knelt for a few moments by those two long graves, at the head of which a painted board commemorated: *Gallant dead of the Dublins and Munsters and others.*'

During the fighting many such burial grounds were created, as soldiers laid to rest their fallen comrades. After the evacuation, these makeshift cemeteries

and battlefield graves were abandoned. Only once hostilities had ceased could a Graves Registration Unit begin to find and officially mark the final resting places of those left behind, and to search for those remains still unburied in the war-scarred landscape. Once this arduous task had been completed, the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission (CWGC) began to construct permanent cemeteries and memorials. Many were built on the original burial sites, but those graves in more isolated locations were moved into enlarged or newly created cemeteries.



Chunuk Bair Cemetery, 1921.
© Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Supervisors and teams from Britain, Australia and New Zealand worked alongside stonemasons and labourers from Turkey, Greece, Italy and Russia over several years to create the sites we see today. Stone was sourced from a local quarry and transported across the peninsula, often using ingenious systems of ropes and pulleys, along with brute force, to traverse the difficult terrain. Mules and ponies helped carry the burden. The grave of one pony, Bill, is marked with a special headstone at the CWGC's base site, north of Anzac Cove.

The Commonwealth war cemeteries on Gallipoli appear very different to those on the Western Front in France and Belgium, reflecting the particular challenges of geography, climate and culture. Distinctive 'ha-ha' stone walls were used to protect the sites from flash flooding. A wall at the back of each cemetery was carved with a cross in relief, avoiding the more prominent free-standing cross used in Europe. Stone markers on low pedestals driven deep into the earth marked the graves of identified casualties. Unlike the practice on the Western Front, the graves of the many thousands of unidentified soldiers were not marked

individually. On the slopes of Chunuk Bair, for example, lie more than 600 graves but only ten headstones.

Memorials to the missing were created to commemorate by name some 27,000 servicemen with no known graves. Among them were those whose remains could not be identified or whose graves had been lost and also servicemen who had been cremated or buried at sea. Those who served with Australian and New Zealand forces were commemorated on memorials erected at Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, Twelve Tree Copse and Hill 60 cemeteries.

Designed by Sir John Burnet and completed in 1924, the Helles Memorial is the battle monument for the entire campaign, marking the efforts of all those who served here with the forces of the British Empire, whether on land, at sea or in the air, at Helles, Anzac and Suvla.

The Memorial also bears the names of nearly 21,000 servicemen with no known grave. The majority served with British and Irish regiments, but among them are over 1,500 who served with the Indian Army and 249 who served with Australian forces and died in the Helles sector. Some

The Helles Memorial.
© Commonwealth War Graves Commission





The unveiling of the Hellenic Memorial, 1924.
© Commonwealth War Graves Commission

10,000 men, around half of those commemorated here, died during the offensive of August 1915. Several panels around the Memorial mark the contribution of the Royal Navy, while most of those sailors who lost their lives are commemorated by name in the United Kingdom, on the great naval memorials at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham.

Each cemetery and memorial tells its own story of the doomed campaign. Those at V Beach and Lancashire Landing recall the struggle of the first amphibious assaults at Helles. Further inland, the beautiful Redoubt and Twelve Tree Copse cemeteries are testament to the ferocity of the battles fought across the southern sector. At Anzac, many small cemeteries mark the fighting in the valleys and along the ridges and peaks of this unforgiving terrain, their names often inspired by those used by Anzacs themselves: Shrapnel Valley,

Plugge's Plateau, Lone Pine, Quinn's Post and the Nek.

The cemeteries at Suvla feel particularly remote and are a poignant reminder of the experiences of those who fought in this often forgotten area: Azmak, the most northerly cemetery, where many graves were brought from lonely spots throughout the surrounding countryside; Lala Baba, which overlooks the landing beaches; Green Hill, the final resting place of 3,000 men, three-quarters of whom could not be identified, among them many who fell in the ferocious fighting at Scimitar Hill.

Almost 36,000 British, Commonwealth and Irish servicemen are commemorated on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Thousands more died after being taken elsewhere for medical treatment and their graves can be found in CWGC cemeteries across the Mediterranean, including on the nearby island of Lemnos, on Malta and



Lone Pine Cemetery.
© Commonwealth War Graves Commission

at Alexandria in Egypt, as well as further afield.

The Gallipoli Campaign was a clash of empires fought by those, in the words of the New Zealand memorial at the summit of Chunuk Bair, 'From the Uttermost Ends of the Earth'. The cities, towns and villages listed in the CWGC's next of kin records are evidence of the scale of the grief: London, Liverpool, Leith, Limerick, Lahore, South Shields, Sydney, St John's, Auckland, Otago, Manchester, Melbourne, Mumbai...

Few of the mothers whose sons lost their lives at Gallipoli were able to kneel before their headstones, or seek their names inscribed on the memorials. It remains the duty of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to honour them all, regardless of rank, race or religion. The names of husbands, fathers, brothers and sons are preserved in perpetuity,

for those pilgrims who came here to find the final resting places of their loved ones and also on behalf of those heartbroken across the world, who would never see them.

Text © Commonwealth War Graves Commission

PERSONAL STORIES

Captain Henry Croom-Johnson MC and Bar, 5th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment

Captain Croom-Johnson fought at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, from 5 September and was evacuated to Malta in December 1915. He wrote in his diary on the 27 November: 'It is pitch black and bitterly cold, I come across awful sights; two men in each other's embrace are frozen to death, they have tried to get the warmth out of each other's bodies.' His Battalion lost four hundred men out of a strength of seven hundred.

2nd Lieutenant Rota Waipara of the 1st Contingent of the Māori Battalion

Lieutenant Rota Waipara, from Manutuke, New Zealand, was born in 1894. He served throughout the war, on both the Western Front and at Gallipoli, where he sustained a gunshot wound to the wrist. He served in the 1st Contingent of the Māori Battalion, part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. The Battalion's motto was 'Te Hokowhita a Tū' (the warriors of the war god Tūmataunga).

Private Norman Woodcock, Northern Signals Company of the Territorial Army, the Royal Engineers Signal Service

Private Woodcock enlisted as a signaller on his seventeenth birthday in January 1914, but did not see service until the landing on V Beach on Gallipoli in 1915. He wrote in his memoirs of the 25 April: 'we saw land before the enemy opened fire. Suddenly all hell was let loose and we were amongst it. ...Then the fire from the Turks got heavier, until it was like hail whipping up the water. Men began shouting and crying out but in our boat all we could do was watch and wait...' Later, he stated: 'On that day I left my boyhood behind'. Private Woodcock ran out cables and repaired communication lines during battles at Gallipoli. He described repairing a signal cable to a naval observation station which had been hit by a shell when, 'a dreadful sight met my eyes, all eight men were dead, they were unrecognisable... I collected myself as far as I could and hurriedly connected my telephone...'. He was evacuated from Gallipoli and later served across the Middle East and at the Somme.

Lance Corporal Roy Lyndon Piercey MC, 5th and 7th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, Australian Imperial Force

Lance Corporal Piercey travelled to Gallipoli from Melbourne, Australia, on 'The Orvieto' and took part in the landings. He wrote in his diary on 25 April: 'we were the first boat to arrive at the beach, about 50 yards from the shore we received shrapnel after shrapnel over our boat and I am telling the honest truth when I say that I felt very frightened.' Piercey was tasked with supplying the firing line with ammunition, running 'up the steep tracks over the cliffs with boxes of ammunition to the firing line to arrive there only to hear the groans and cries of the wounded all round.' He wrote in his diary: 'as long as I live I will never forget Sunday 25th April.'

Lieutenant William John Symons VC, 7th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force

William John Symons was born in Victoria in 1889 and worked as a commercial traveller. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 17 August 1914 and landed at Gallipoli on 25 April. By July, he had been promoted to Lieutenant. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for successfully retaking a trench at Lone Pine, despite the fact that the overhead woodwork had been set on fire. He was one of seven Australians to receive the Victoria Cross at Lone Pine.

Captain Richard Osbaldeston Spencer-Smith, the Hampshire Regiment

Captain Spencer-Smith was on board the converted steamer *River Clyde*, when it anchored at V Beach. Landing under fire from her starboard side, as the port side was in flames, he helped to secure Sedd el Bahr fort and prevented a counter-attack that night, but was wounded on 27 April and returned to London to recuperate. He returned, however, in August 1915 with the rank of Major.

Lieutenant Colonel Franklin Macaulay Gillespie, 4th Battalion, South Wales Borderers

Lieutenant Colonel Gillespie landed at Cape Helles in July 1915, before taking part in the Sari Bair offensive as part of the Left Covering Force. He led his Battalion to capture Demakjelik Bair (later renamed Gillespie Hill) on 6 August, but was killed by a sniper on 9 August during a counter-attack. His name is recorded on the Helles Memorial. In a despatch, General Sir Ian Hamilton wrote that the success at Demakjelik Bair was 'largely due to Lieutenant-Colonel Gillespie, a very fine man, who commanded the advanced guard, consisting of his own regiment... a corps worthy of such a leader... here is an encouraging example of what the New Army under good auspices could accomplish.'

Admiral Sir Martin Nasmith VC KCB KCMG

As Lieutenant-Commander, Nasmith commanded HM Submarine E.11 in the spring of 1915 and received the Victoria Cross for undertaking three patrols into the Sea of Marmora, entering Constantinople harbour and sinking some 97 ships, including the battleship *Harradin Barbarossa*. On one occasion, while pursuing a ship, he found himself under rifle fire from a troop of Ottoman cavalry on the cliff above. Merchant ships were often searched and sunk once their crew were put into boats. It was Nasmith's policy to take any passengers who could not find a boat on board and discreetly land them on the nearest shore with a commandeered box of chocolates.

TIMELINE

- 3 August 1914:** Britain confiscates two Ottoman battleships under construction in the UK.
- 4 August 1914:** British Empire and Dominions declare war on Germany.
- 27 September 1914:** Ottomans close the Dardanelles and mine them against shipping.
- 28 October 1914:** Ottoman Fleet bombards Russian Black Sea ports.
- 2 November 1914:** Russia declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
- 3 November 1914:** Royal Navy squadron bombards the forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles.
- 5 November 1914:** Britain and France declare war on the Ottoman Empire.
- 13 January 1915:** Admiralty begins to prepare Gallipoli expedition.
- 19 February 1915:** Royal Navy begins bombardment of the outer forts of the Dardanelles
- 26 February 1915:** Royal Marines raid and disable Ottoman guns at Sedd el Bahr.
- 11 March 1915:** General Sir Ian Hamilton appointed commander of Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF).
- 18 March 1915:** British and French warships fail to force the Dardanelles.
- 22 March 1915:** Conference between Allied commanders on board HMS Queen Elizabeth at Lemnos. Decision to make amphibious landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula.
- 25 April 1915:** British 29th Division lands at five beaches around Cape Helles.
- 25 April 1915:** Anzac Corps lands at Z Beach, later known as Anzac Cove.
- 25 April 1915:** French diversionary attack at Kum Kale.
- 27 April 1915:** Ottoman counter-attack under command of Mustafa Kemal, Anzac.
- 28 April 1915:** First Battle of Krithia, Helles.
- 1–4 May 1915:** Ottoman counter-attacks at Anzac and Helles sectors.
- 6–8 May 1915:** Second Battle of Krithia, Helles.
- 19 May 1915:** Ottoman counter-attack at Anzac.
- 24 May 1915:** Ceasefire to bury the dead from the attack at Anzac on 19 May.
- 4 June 1915:** Third Battle of Krithia, Helles.
- 21 June 1915:** French attack at Kereves Spur, Helles.
- 28 June – 5 July 1915:** Battle of Gully Ravine, Helles.
- 6 August 1915:** Landings begin at Suvla Bay.
- 6–10 August 1915:** Battle of Lone Pine, Anzac.
- 6–13 August 1915:** Battle of Krithia Vineyard, Helles.
- 6–21 August 1915:** Battle of Sari Bair, Anzac.
- 7 August 1915:** Charge of Australian Light Horse at the Nek, Anzac.
- 7–19 August 1915:** Battle of Chunuk Bair, Anzac.
- 21–29 August 1915:** Battle of Scimitar Hill, Suvla.
- 21–29 August 1915:** Battle of Hill 60, Anzac.
- 19–20 September 1915:** Royal Newfoundland Regiment lands at Suvla.
- 14 October 1915:** Bulgaria joins the Central Powers.
- 15 October 1915:** General Sir Ian Hamilton relieved of command of MEF.
- 28 October 1915:** General Sir Charles Monro takes command of MEF.
- 12–14 November 1915:** Lord Kitchener visits peninsula.
- 22 November 1915:** Kitchener advises that Gallipoli should be evacuated.
- 27–30 November 1915:** Severe storms and blizzards across the peninsula.
- 7 December 1915:** British Cabinet orders the evacuation of Suvla and Anzac.
- 8–20 December 1915:** Evacuation of Anzac and Suvla sectors.
- 12 December 1915 – 3 January 1916:** French forces evacuated from Helles.
- 27 December 1915 – 9 January 1916:** Evacuation of Helles.

From 'W' Beach by Geoffrey Dearmer, 1918

*The Isle of Imbros, set in turquoise blue,
Lies to the westward; on the eastern side
The purple hills of Asia fade from view,
And rolling battleships at anchor ride.*

*White flocks of cloud float by, the sunset glows,
And dipping gulls fleck a slow-waking sea,
Where dim steel-shadowed forms with foaming bows
Wind up in the Narrows towards Gallipoli.*

*No colour breaks this tongue of barren land
Save where a group of huddle tents gleams white;
Before me ugly shapes like spectres stand,
And wooden crosses cleave the waning light.*

*Now the sky gardeners speed the hurrying day
And sow the plains of night with silver grain;
So shall this transient havoc fade away
And the proud cape be beautiful again.*

*Laden with figs and olives, or a freight
Of purple grapes, tanned singing men shall row,
Chanting wild songs of how Eternal Fate
Withstood that fierce invasion long ago.*

Geoffrey Dearmer, born in London in 1893, landed on Gallipoli with the Royal Fusiliers in October 1915. His mother died from enteric fever, serving as a nurse in Serbia in July that year, while his brother, Christopher, died at Suvla Bay only a few days before Geoffrey landed on the peninsula. Geoffrey served on the Western Front after the evacuation of Gallipoli and lived to the age of 103.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Gallipoli Memories by Sir Compton Mackenzie, London: Cassell & Co., 1929, with permission from The Society of Authors as the Literary Representative of the Estate of Compton Mackenzie

From 'W' Beach by Geoffrey Dearmer, W. Heinemann, 1918



The Gallipoli night sky
lit up by the fire of the
guns and star shells.
© Imperial War Museums
(Q 13332)



HM Government

To honour and remember the lives of those who served in and were affected by the war, the Government is leading a national centenary programme of ceremonial events, cultural activity and education.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, supported by 10 Downing Street, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Department for Education, the Department for Communities and Local Government, and other stakeholders – and working in partnership with its key delivery partners: Imperial War Museums, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Arts Council England, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund – is taking forward plans for the commemorations. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport chairs an expert advisory panel to oversee the four-year programme, building a commemoration fitting of this significant milestone in world history.



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) was founded by Royal Charter on 21 May 1917 and is responsible for the commemoration of almost 1,700,000 members of the Commonwealth forces who gave their lives in the two world wars. The graves and memorials of these men and women, who came from all parts of the Commonwealth and who were of many faiths and of none, are found around the globe at a staggering 23,000 locations, in 154 countries.

Nearly 37,000 Commonwealth war dead of the two world wars, and twenty-six of other nationalities, are buried or commemorated in the Republic of Turkey in thirty-six sites, mostly on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Of the war dead, over 27,000 who have no known graves are commemorated on six memorials to the missing.

In addition to these war graves, both Chanak Consular Cemetery (known locally as the English Cemetery) in Çanakkale and Haidar Pasha Cemetery in Istanbul contain numerous civilian and Crimean war graves, which the CWGC maintains on behalf of the United Kingdom Government.

The graves, cemeteries and memorials are maintained by the CWGC's 19 staff. They are led by a Regional Supervisor based in Çanakkale, while overall administrative responsibility rests with the Director of the Commission's Mediterranean Area, based in Cyprus.

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HM Government



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission