



ANZAC Cove

Timeline

This timeline is an overview of the 8-month Anzac campaign at Gallipoli in 1915. In total, more than 130,000 men died at Gallipoli—twice as many Ottomans as Allies. Among the dead were nearly 2,800 New Zealanders, about a fifth of all those who had landed on the peninsula.

Glossary of terms:

Allies

The countries fighting alongside Great Britain in WWI. At Gallipoli, these included Australia, France, India, Ireland, Newfoundland and New Zealand.

ANZACS

Australian and New Zealand Army Corps which were formed in Egypt in 1915.

Battalion

An organisational unit, usually around 800 soldiers.

Campaign

A large-scale military strategic plan, incorporating numerous military operations or battles.

Casualties

Soldiers who can no longer perform a duty due to death, injury, illness or capture.

Infantry

Soldiers who fought on foot.

Māori [Native] Contingent

The Māori [Native] Contingent landed at Anzac Cove on 2 July 1915. Following Gallipoli, the contingent was disbanded but was later re-formed as the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion to fight on the Western Front.

Ottoman

The people of the huge Ottoman Empire, which ruled much of the south-eastern Europe and the Middle East. Most of its people were Turks and Arabs.

Trench

A long ditch dug into the ground, which was generally deeper than wide. Australian and New Zealand soldiers dug a lot of trenches at Gallipoli.

From go to woe

EARLY APRIL

Greeks driven out of Gallipoli

About two weeks before the Allied invasion, the Ottoman army forcibly removes 22,000 inhabitants from the Gallipoli Peninsula. Most of them are Greek. Greeks had been living in the area for some 2,500 years. They never return.

15 APRIL

The Allies prepare to attack

New Zealand soldiers leave their training camps in Egypt to join Australian, British and French soldiers on the Greek island of Lemnos. This is the launching point for their invasion of Gallipoli.



25 APRIL

A disastrous start

The Anzac assault on Gallipoli begins with a costly mistake. The troopships arrive at the wrong landing spot. Instead of the gentle hills they'd expected, the soldiers are forced to scramble up steep ravines and ridges while under fire.

After hours of desperate and confused fighting, the exhausted Anzacs dig trenches for shelter. The beach below becomes known as Anzac Cove.

25-30 APRIL

Clinging to their position

The first battle is over—both sides are at a stalemate. The exhausted Anzacs maintain a tiny foothold on the peninsula.

New Zealand Casualties: April

372 Dead
703 Wounded, missing or prisoners of war
1,075 Total



2 MAY

Doomed to fail on Dead Man's Ridge

The Anzacs launch an attack on a nearby Ottoman hill position. It is poorly planned and goes badly from the start.

The Otago Infantry leads one arm of the assault along Dead Man's Ridge, hauling machine guns up with ropes, sliding in the dark on the rain-soaked hill. They gain no ground. Many are killed just 150 metres short of their goal. There are about 800 casualties.

8 MAY

'Daisy Patch'—into a hail of gunfire

The Anzacs are called to support the British further south at Helles, with disastrous results. Most are cut down by Ottoman machine guns and rifles as they dash across an open meadow towards Krithia (see map to your right). The Auckland Battalion bravely leads the charge, losing 66 of its 170 men. This meadow, covered in beautiful wild flowers, becomes known as the 'Daisy Patch'.

24 MAY

The most ghastly day

Anzac and Ottoman soldiers agree to a day-long ceasefire to bury their dead—a grisly task. No-man's land is covered in corpses. Most of them are Ottoman. Soldiers on both sides try to talk to each other, and exchange cigarettes.

New Zealand Casualties: May

701 Dead
859 Wounded, missing or prisoners of war
1,560 Total



4-5 JUNE

Clinging on at Quinn's Post

The frontline at Quinn's Post is the most dangerous place at Gallipoli. There is a constant barrage of machine-gun fire and hand-thrown bombs.

At 11pm on June 4 the Auckland and Canterbury battalions launch a daring raid on the enemy trenches, which are just a short sprint away. Dozens of Ottoman soldiers are killed and taken prisoner. But a supporting Australian attack fails. By morning, enemy bombs are pounding the captured trench—it is a death trap.

Some 31 New Zealand soldiers die and more than 100 are wounded.

EARLY JUNE

Malone cleans up

The New Zealand Infantry Brigade takes over from the Australians at Quinn's Post. The whole campaign will fail unless this post holds—and yet it is still little more than a ragged line of trenches.

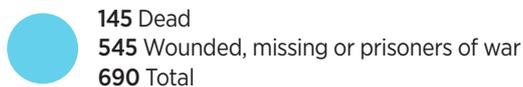
The commander of the Wellington Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel William Malone, orders crucial improvements—new trenches and sandbag walls and a much-needed supply of home-made bombs. A single Ottoman attack could have threatened the whole campaign.

7 JUNE

Reinforcements arrive

The 4th New Zealand Regiment lands at Anzac Cove. Thirst, sickness, swarms of flies and heat continue to take their toll on the soldiers.

New Zealand Casualties: June



2 JULY

Māori Contingent arrives

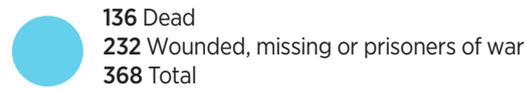
The 480-strong Māori Contingent arrives from Malta, boosting the demoralised New Zealand troops. They mainly work as 'pioneers', doing manual tasks such as dragging water tanks up from the beach. Other Māori are already fighting at Gallipoli within existing New Zealand units.

11 JULY

Coming to collect the wounded

The hospital ship Maheno leaves New Zealand bound for Gallipoli. It will visit Anzac Cove five times over the next two months to evacuate and treat the wounded.

New Zealand Casualties: July



6-10 AUGUST

The August offensive—the battle of Sari Bair

On August 6 more Allied troops join the Anzacs in a bold but poorly planned five-day attempt to break out of the pocket of land they've held since April. Their battleground is the Sari Bair ridge—the high ground dominating the peninsula above Anzac Cove.

8-9 AUGUST

Chunuk Bair: the battle for the summit

The Wellington Battalion, under Malone's command, briefly captures the summit of the hill Chunuk Bair at night. It is deserted. Cut off from the rest of the Allies, the New Zealanders are soon fighting off wave after wave of attacks.

The two days of fighting are the fiercest of the whole campaign. Malone is killed on the summit.

Despite their effort, by the morning of 9 August, the battle is lost. The wounded are stranded on the summit, out of reach of stretcher bearers.

26 AUGUST

Poor, torn, mangled fellows

The New Zealand hospital ship Maheno arrives in late August. Anchored in the open sea, it winches patients onboard from launches, trawlers and towed barges.

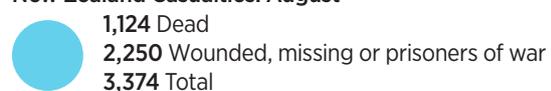
Each nurse or orderly struggles to care for dozens of desperate, thirsty, wounded men while bullets pepper the decks.

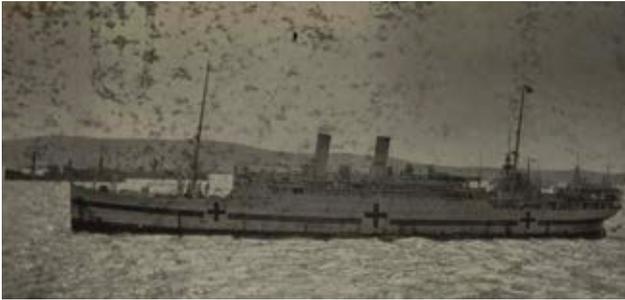
19-28 AUGUST

The attack on Hill 60

The Anzacs launch two ill-planned attacks on Hill 60. Both attempts are horrific failures. In the first battle, more than half of the New Zealand soldiers are cut down in just 15 minutes. The New Zealand infantry is all but destroyed as a fighting force.

New Zealand Casualties: August





MID-SEPTEMBER

A break from the carnage... for now

Most of the surviving New Zealanders are sent to the island of Lemnos to try to recover. Just 4,000 of the original 18,000 men straggle into the 'rest camps'.

New Zealand Casualties: September



16 OCTOBER

Farewell to a failed leader

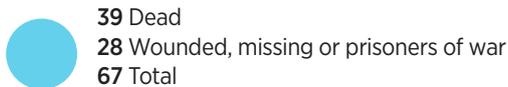
British Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces at Gallipoli Sir Ian Hamilton is replaced by General Charles Monro. Hamilton had failed to inspire his officers or troops during the disastrous campaign.

23 OCTOBER

Tragedy at sea

32 New Zealanders, including 10 nurses, die when the troopship Marquette is sunk by a German submarine in the Aegean Sea.

New Zealand Casualties: October



8-9 NOVEMBER

Back to the battlefield

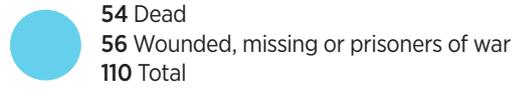
The New Zealand troops return to Anzac Cove and an approaching winter.

26-28 NOVEMBER

A deadly winter blast

Huddled in their trenches, the Anzacs are hit by a thunderstorm that turns to sleet, then heavy snow. Two nights of bitter frost follow. Across the peninsula the blizzard claims more than 210 lives and causes thousands of cases of frostbite. Dozens of men drown in their sodden trenches as the snow melts. They start to hear rumours of a planned evacuation.

New Zealand Casualties: November



8 DECEMBER

Moving on out

The Allies' newly appointed commander, General Charles Monro, orders the evacuation of Gallipoli.

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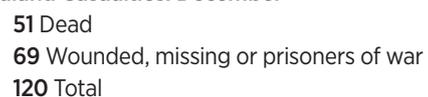
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17-20 DECEMBER

A sudden, silent retreat

At dawn on the 20th December, the Ottomans suddenly realise Anzac Cove has been abandoned. All is quiet. Thousands of Allied soldiers—34,000 in all—have been slipping away in boats for the past five nights. The evacuation is a brilliant feat—the most successful single operation of the campaign. Astoundingly, there is almost no loss of life. Britain celebrates when the news comes through. The Anzacs can't help feeling they are deserting their dead comrades. They erect new crosses and tend graves up to the last possible moment.

New Zealand Casualties: December



Total New Zealand Casualties: 25 April – 20 December

