



CWGC

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

ROYAL NAVY
BATTLESHIPS
AGAHEMION ALBION
CAROLUS CORNWALLS EXMOUTH
GLORY GOLIATH HIBERNIA
IMPERIAL MAPS IRRESISTIBLE
LONDON LORD NELSON
MAJESTIC PRINCE OF WALES
PRINCE GEORGE PRINCESS ELIZABETH
QUEEN QUEEN ELIZABETH
TRINITY SWIFTSURE
VENGEANCE ZEALANDIA
BATTLE CRUISERS
INFLEXIBLE
CRUISERS

BACCHANTE BLENHEIM CORNWALL
EDGAR ENDYMION EURYALUS
GRAFTON THESEUS

IN HONOURED MEMORY OF THE UNITS AND SHIPS
WHICH FOUGHT ON GALLIOLI OR IN THE
DARDANELLES AND OF THESE 20504 BRITISH
SAILOR AND SOLDIERS AND 248 AUSTRALIAN
SOLDIERS WHO FELL IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
1914-1916 AND HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVES

The Gallipoli Campaign, 1915

By early 1915, the war on the Western Front had reached a stalemate. The Gallipoli campaign was intended to break the deadlock. In the spring of 1915, Allied warships bombarded the peninsula's coastal forts and attempted to force their way through the narrow Dardanelles Straits, controlled by the forces of the Ottoman Empire. On 18 March, three Allied battleships were lost to mines and the naval attack was abandoned.

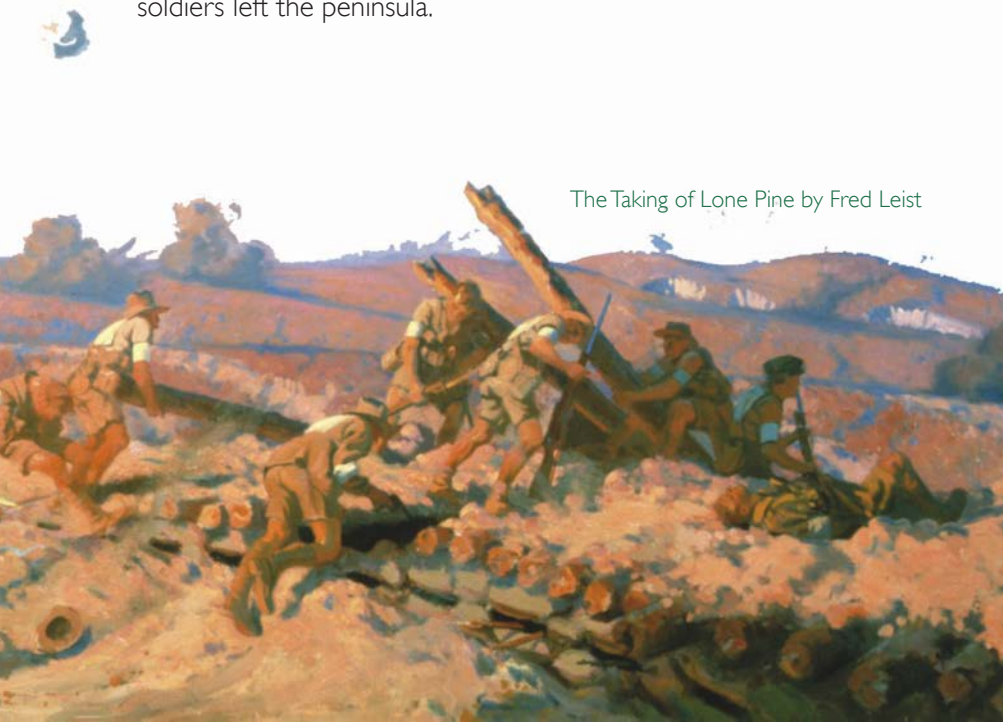
A 70,000-strong Mediterranean Expeditionary Force was assembled, comprising British, Canadian, Indian and French troops, along with the fledgling Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). Its mission was to seize the peninsula, opening the Straits for Allied warships which could attack Constantinople (now Istanbul), taking the Ottoman Empire out of the war, and opening up a route to provide Russia with much-needed supplies.





Royal Irish Fusiliers, Helles

On the morning of 25 April, British forces landed around Cape Helles on the southern tip of the peninsula, and the Anzacs came ashore further north, in an area later named Anzac Cove. Over the next eight months, determined Turkish resistance prevented both forces from advancing and the campaign degenerated into trench warfare. Despite a major offensive in August 1915, the Allies were unable to break the deadlock. An evacuation began in December, and on 9 January 1916, the last Commonwealth soldiers left the peninsula.



The Taking of Lone Pine by Fred Leist



The Challenge of Commemoration

“Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives; you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side, here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears. Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well.”

Mustafa Kemal, the first President of Turkey, whose words are today inscribed on a memorial at Anzac Cove

Converging on this peninsula from the uttermost ends of the earth, those who fell at Gallipoli represented a diversity of cultures, held several faiths and spoke many languages. During the eight-month campaign, the dead of both sides were buried under battlefield conditions, their final resting places marked by wooden crosses.



Following the evacuation, Commonwealth forces were unable to revisit the peninsula until after the Armistice. Once a Graves Registration Unit had discovered, marked and mapped the burial sites, the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission began the task of constructing permanent cemeteries and memorials.

A total of 31 were built, containing the remains of 19,000 servicemen, of whom only 6,000 were identified. A further 2,500 who were believed to be buried among them are commemorated in the cemeteries by Special Memorials. The remainder of those buried in unknown graves, or whose remains were never found, make up the 27,000 named on six memorials to the missing on Gallipoli.

Most of the cemeteries and memorials on the peninsula were designed by the Scottish architect, Sir John Burnet. Due to the extreme climate and landscape, they look very different from those of the

Western Front. To prevent masonry sinking into soggy ground, we use stone-faced pedestal grave markers instead of headstones, and a walled cross feature rather than the free-standing Cross of Sacrifice. Rubble-walled channels surround the cemeteries to protect them from flood water.

The high proportion of unidentified casualties gives the cemeteries we maintain on the peninsula a unique character. Their burial places are marked on cemetery plans but their graves are not marked on the ground, meaning that many cemeteries have wide expanses of open space dotted with just a few grave markers.

Visiting CWGC sites on the Gallipoli Peninsula

This leaflet is a brief guide to the cemeteries and memorials maintained by the CWGC on the peninsula today. Not all of the cemeteries and memorials are highlighted within this text, but their locations are included on the map within this leaflet. For further information, please visit our website at www.cwgc.org or contact our office in Çanakkale, the details of which can also be found within this leaflet.

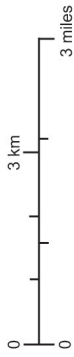
If you are travelling to our sites on Gallipoli from the Turkish mainland, there is a ferry service operating across the Dardanelles between Çanakkale and Kilitbahir, or Çanakkale and Eceabat.

For exact times and fares, please check with your travel operator.



THE GALLIPOLI PENINSULA

- over 190 Metres approx
- 135-190 Metres approx
- 40-135 Metres approx
- 0-40 Metres approx
- Commission Cemeteries & Memorials
- Non-Commission Sites
- Road
- Track
- Path
- Ferry







V Beach Cemetery



The Helles Memorial

Helles

On 25 April 1915, British forces fought their way ashore on five beaches around Cape Helles, on the southern tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. Their aim was to push inland and capture Achi Baba, the high ground which dominates the region. After the landings, every attempt to advance was met by strong Turkish resistance, resulting in huge loss of life on both sides. Today, the cemeteries and memorials here are a testament to the struggle which took place in the Helles sector over the spring and summer of 1915.

Below the village of Seddülbahir lies **V Beach Cemetery**. This was one of the key landing sites, where men fought their way ashore from small boats and the converted merchant ship **River Clyde**. The beach was strongly fortified by Turkish forces who could fire down from the cliffs above, and many of those buried here were killed on the beach on 25 April.

Just inland lies the **Seddül-Bahr Military Grave**. This is the final resting place of Lieutenant Colonel Doughty-Wylie and is the only isolated



Seddel-Bahr Military Grave

grave on the peninsula. On the morning of 26 April, Doughty-Wylie, along with Captain Garth Neville Walford, led survivors from V Beach in an attack against Turkish positions. Although the attack was successful, both officers were killed and were subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross for their actions. Captain Walford is buried in V Beach Cemetery.

On the very tip of the peninsula stands the **Helles Memorial**, the Commonwealth battle monument for the entire Gallipoli campaign. Reflecting the multinational nature of operations here, it bears the names of over 21,000 Australian, British and Indian servicemen who died in all three sectors of the peninsula.

To the west of the Helles Memorial is **Lancashire Landing Cemetery**. Just below it lies W Beach, where the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers landed on 25 April. Under heavy Turkish fire, they fought their way ashore and took the surrounding cliffs. The area around the beach became a key Allied base, and was renamed in their honour. Six Victoria Crosses

were eventually awarded to men of the battalion, famously hailed in the press for winning "six VCs before breakfast."

Heading inland, **Twelve Tree Copse, Redoubt, Skew Bridge and Pink Farm** cemeteries are the final resting places of thousands of British, Anzac, French and Indian servicemen who fell during the fierce fighting which followed the landings around Gully Ravine and the village of Krithia.

Anzac

As British forces made landfall at Helles, the men on the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzac) came ashore further up the peninsula, at Ari Burnu. Having overshot their planned beachhead at Kabatepe, they were now faced with sheer cliffs rather than the low foothills they had expected.

Their attempt to take the high ground of Sari Bair was halted by Turkish forces. Driven back to the beachhead by heavy bombardment, the Anzacs had no choice but to literally dig into the narrow spit of land along the coast, thus earning their nickname: 'diggers'.

Ari Burnu Cemetery



Today, the entire Anzac sector has been preserved as a memorial to the men who died here. It contains 21 cemeteries and three memorials as well as the **Anzac Commemorative Site**, which is the location of the annual Dawn Service on 25 April. The cemeteries here can be split into three main areas: the landing beaches, the front line and the valleys and slopes which lie in between.

On the coast, **Ari Burnu** and **Beach** cemeteries were begun almost immediately after the Allied landings at Anzac Cove. Throughout the campaign they were exposed to Turkish artillery fire from the ridges above, and are the final resting places of hundreds of Australian, New Zealand, British and Indian troops.

Nearby is **Shrapnel Valley**, which took its name from the heavy shelling it was given by Turkish forces in the days after the Allied landings. This cemetery was located on an essential road that led up to the frontline. Accessed by a track leading up a ridge is **Plugge's Plateau**, the smallest Commonwealth cemetery at Anzac. Captured within half an hour of the landings, it later became a key command post.

Shrapnel Valley Cemetery



Plugge's Plateau Cemetery



Lone Pine Cemetery is located on a strategically important plateau on the southern extreme of the Anzac sector. A Turkish stronghold, it was attacked by Australian forces on 6 August 1915. For four days, fighting raged over the ground on which the cemetery stands, until the last Turkish counter-attacks were defeated. Lone Pine was then held until the evacuation of the peninsula in December.

Along the ridge above the beach are several cemeteries on what was once the front-line: **Quinn's Post, Courtney's and Steel's Post,** and **Johnston's Jolly**. This last site marks the position reached by the Australians on 25 April, but was lost the next day and never recovered.



Quinn's Post Cemetery



The Nek

Lone Pine Cemetery



The unusual name is attributed to the repeated saying of Australian Colonel J L Johnston that, if he could bring the Howitzers to bear on that point, he would have a “jolly good time.” Further along the ridge lies **The Nek**. This was the ground on which the men of the Australian Light Horse made a famous and fateful charge on 7 August 1915. Only ten grave headstones remain to mark the burial place of some 300 soldiers.

Standing at the peak of the ridge, Chunuk Bair was one of the main objectives throughout the campaign. It was captured and then lost between 6 and 10 August, and this effort marked the end of Allied efforts to take the peninsula’s central high ground. **Chunuk Bair Cemetery and New Zealand Memorial** (below) now stand where Commonwealth soldiers at Anzac briefly glimpsed the Dardanelles.





Lala Baba Cemetery



Green Hill Cemetery

Suvla

By the summer of 1915, the Allied offensive in the Helles and Anzac sectors had stalled. In an attempt to break the deadlock, Commonwealth forces landed at Suvla Bay, in the far north of the Gallipoli Peninsula, on 6 August.

Their aim was to link the beachhead at Suvla with that at Anzac and to drive inland, seizing the heights at Teke Tepe at the heart of the peninsula. Diversionary attacks were launched in the Helles and Anzac sectors but, despite success at Lone Pine, Turkish forces held firm. Further attempts to take Chunuk Bair, Hill 60 and Scimitar Hill resulted in the Allied forces being driven back.

The war cemeteries at Suvla tell the story of this little-known part of the campaign. **Green Hill Cemetery** stands on ground captured by British forces on 7 August, yet this was as far as they were able to advance. Among those laid to rest here are men killed in the fierce fighting for nearby Scimitar Hill.



Hill 10 Cemetery

Just to the south of Suvla Bay lies the remote **Lala Baba Cemetery**. This low hill was stormed by the 9th West Yorkshire and the 6th Yorkshire Regiment on the morning of 7 August, and many of their number were laid to rest here.

Azmak and **Hill 10** cemeteries are the final resting place of many hundreds of men who fell fighting to take the Kiretch Tepe Ridge and the high ground to the east. Among nearly 700 unidentified casualties buried at Azmak are 114 members of the Sandringham Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment, mostly employees of the Royal Estate at Sandringham, who died here on 12 August 1915.

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

The Evacuation

By October 1915, with prospects for the campaign darker than ever, commanding officer General Sir Ian Hamilton was relieved of his duties. He was replaced by Sir Charles Monro, who recommended that the Allies should withdraw from the peninsula. Anzac Cove and Suvla Bay were evacuated in December 1915 and the last Commonwealth soldier left the Helles area on 9 January 1916. Only a handful of casualties were suffered during the evacuation, after a campaign which had cost the lives of some 36,000 Commonwealth, 10,000 French and at least 86,000 Turkish troops.

Other Places of Interest

On the eastern edge of Morto Bay, in what was once the Helles sector, the **Çanakkale Martyrs' Memorial** commemorates the Turkish soldiers who fought and died in what is known in Turkey as the 'Battle of Çanakkale.'

The **French National Cemetery and Memorial** lies just inland from Morto Bay. This is the final resting place of 3,200 French servicemen who took part in the Gallipoli campaign, and the remains of thousands more are held in four ossuaries inside the cemetery.

Located in the suburbs of Istanbul, **Haidar Pasha Cemetery** is hundreds of miles away from the former frontline. This site was given by the Turkish Government to the British Government in 1855, and contains about six thousand Crimean War graves. It is also the final resting place for Commonwealth prisoners of war captured during the Gallipoli Campaign.





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Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Our office in Çanakkale

The maintenance of our cemeteries on the Gallipoli Peninsula is supervised from our office in Çanakkale. Contact details are as follows:

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Front cover: Helles Memorial, Turkey