

# Unit

# 3

## The landings at Gallipoli 25 April 1915

### OVERVIEW

Focus questions	DVD-VIDEO connections	DVD-ROM interactives connection
<b>1</b> What was the plan for the landings? <b>2</b> What happened at Anzac Cove? <b>3</b> What happened at the other landing sites? <b>4</b> How do we judge the landing at Anzac?	<i>Revealing Gallipoli</i> 34:35-37:13 (Part 1 Chapter 4) 37:13-51:25 (Part 1 Chapter 5)  <i>Australians At War</i> <i>Episode 2</i> <i>'Who'll come a fighting the Kaiser with me'</i> 19:50-24:30 (Chapter 4)	<i>Gallipoli: who, where and why?</i> <i>Can you plan the landing at Anzac?</i> <i>Gallipoli: The First Day</i>

On 25 April 1915 Australian and New Zealand troops landed at Gallipoli. It is a significant national day, and the key element in the Anzac legend.

Why is this? What happened on this day in 1915? Why is it considered so significant? And was it considered to be a special day even at that time?

In this unit you are going to explore what happened with the Anzacs, the other Allies and the Turkish defenders during the landing.

Your task will be to prepare a report about the day, and then compare it with how the event was actually reported at the time. Comparing what you decide to say with what the official reporters of the time said will help you understand the event and its significance.

But before you start to find out details about the landing, test yourself on what you already know. As a class brainstorm your knowledge of the events of 25 April and summarise your knowledge in a table like this:

### What I know about the Gallipoli Campaign

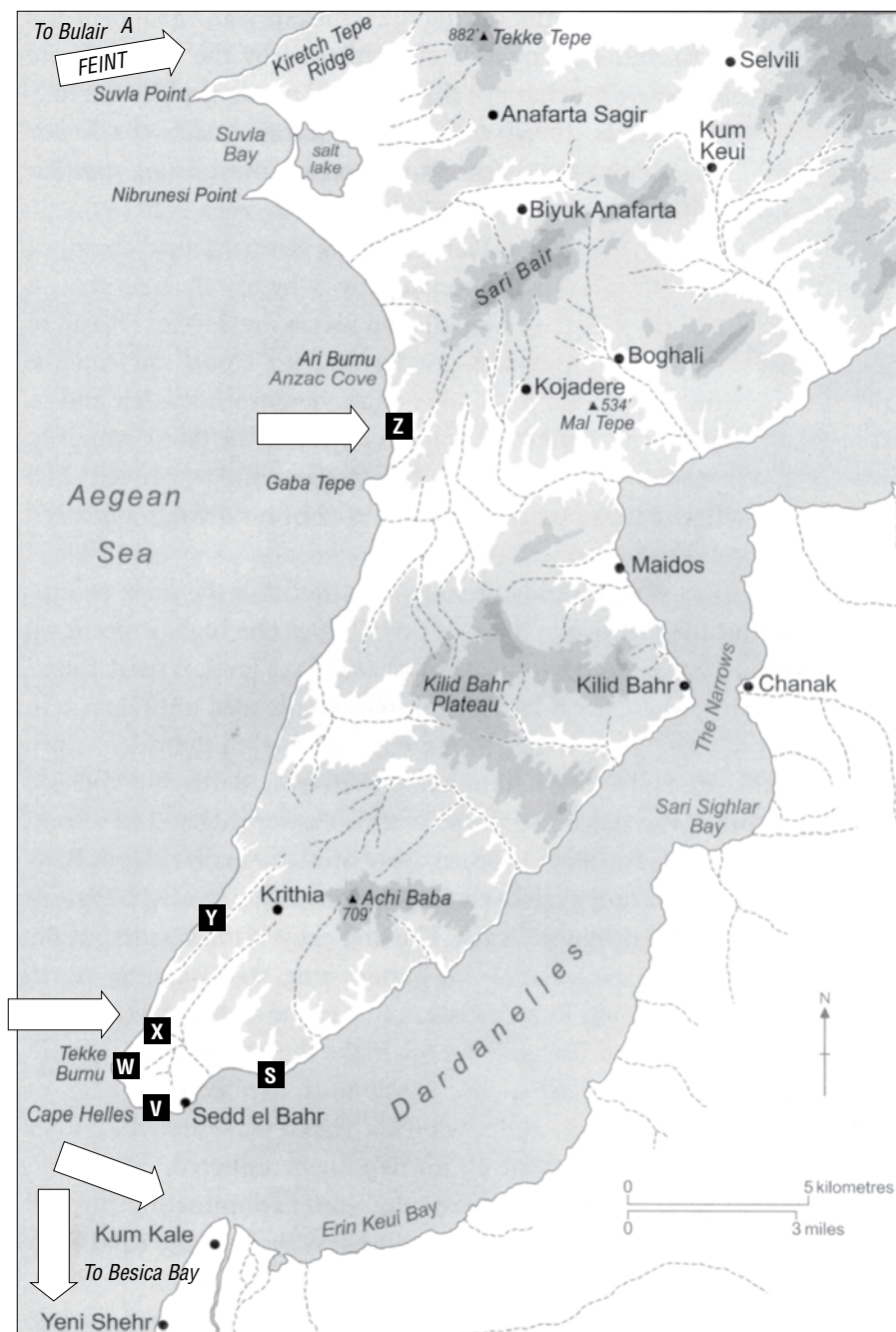
Who was involved?	
Where did it happen?	
What was the purpose of the landing?	
How was it done?	
When did it occur?	
What happened during the landings?	
What was the outcome of the landing? Why?	
What were the Australians like as soldiers?	
What were the enemy like as soldiers?	
Why is it still important to Australia today?	

# What was the plan for the landings?

The landings were an attempt to place Allied troops on the peninsula. These troops would work their way to the rear of the Turkish forts and mobile artillery batteries that prevented Allied warships from sailing through the Dardanelles Strait into the Sea of Marmara, and to Constantinople, the Turkish capital (see page 25).

The landings (and pretended landings, or feints) were to take place in the locations on the peninsula shown by the arrows and letters on this map.

## The landings on the Gallipoli peninsula 25 April 1915



Robin Prior, *Gallipoli. The End of the Myth*, University of New South Wales Press, Sydney, 2004, page 83

There were four main landing forces:

- Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs)
- the British 29th Division
- the French Oriental Expeditionary Corps
- the Royal Naval Division.

The total number of men to be landed was about 75,000.

These troops came from:

- Britain – with Regiments formed in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales;
- the British Empire – mainly from Australia and New Zealand, but with troops also from Newfoundland, Ceylon (the English Planters' Rifle Corps), India (the Indian Mule Cart Corps), and Malta;
- France and some African colonial troops from Algeria, Morocco, Senegal; and
- Palestine – Russian and Syrian Jewish refugees (the Zion Mule Corps).

Their landings would be resisted by troops of the Ottoman Empire. These were mainly Turkish soldiers and officers, trained by German officers, and with German officers in overall command and in charge of artillery.

- 1.1** Read the description that follows of the various elements of the invasion plan. Mark them on the map on the previous page. Your map should show which were landings, which were feints and which forces were involved in these. One example has been done to help you.

### ANZAC or Anzac?

ANZAC was an acronym devised in Cairo in early 1915 and referred to the **A**ustralian and **N**ew **Z**ealand **A**rry **C**orps. The word Anzac soon came into common use. *The Anzac Book*, which was published in 1916, was written in 1915 by the Anzacs themselves, while still at Gallipoli. In their own writings and illustrations the word is frequently spelt as 'Anzac'.

Anzac is a proper noun and a grammar rule for proper nouns is that the first letter is upper case and the rest of the word is lower case.

Legislation enacted by the Commonwealth Parliament, including the Protection of Word 'Anzac' Regulations (1921), use Anzac as a word with upper and lower case letters. New Zealand and the United Kingdom have passed similar Acts to protect 'Anzac' as a word.

For more discussion on the word go to [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au) > Commemoration > Protection of Anzac > Background.

To see examples of attempts to use the word Anzac in commercial life go to [www.anzacsite.gov.au](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au) > Researching > *Anzac — a national heirloom*.

## 25 April 1915 landings plan

**A** There would be several feints or attempts to trick the Turkish defenders into concentrating their forces at the wrong places:

- a British naval bombardment at Bulair (north-east of Suvla Bay)
- a French naval bombardment of Besika Bay (south of Kum Kale)
- a landing of French troops at Kum Kale. The French troops would withdraw after the real landing had been achieved.

**B** The real landings were to be by the British 29th Division at Cape Helles, on five separate beaches. These were:

- Y Beach (opposite Krithia on the west coast of the peninsula)
- X Beach (just north of Cape Helles)
- W Beach (on the tip of Cape Helles)
- V Beach (opposite Kum Kale)
- S Beach (inside the Dardanelles Strait).

**C** The Anzacs were to land at Z Beach, at Ari Burnu (later known as Anzac Cove).

**D** The landings at Cape Helles would be preceded by a naval bombardment. Then 2000 troops would land at Y, 2900 at each of S, W and X, 2000 troops from a converted collier ship at V. Once these had been secured more troops would land at V, W and X.

**E** These troops would then advance to take the Achi Baba ridge, followed by fresh troops who would advance to take the Kilid Bahr Plateau, and then attack the Turkish artillery and forts guarding the Narrows.

**F** Meanwhile the Australians would land and advance to capture Sari Bair. Once this was secure fresh troops would advance to take Mal Tepe. By controlling this high ridge Turkish movement of fresh troops and supplies between the north and south of the peninsula would be cut, and they would be less able to resist the invasion.



## What happened at Anzac Cove?

The landings were an amphibious operation — troops would be carried by boat to a landing site, with support from naval artillery while they landed from small boats.

The Australian troops had moved camp from Egypt to the island of Lemnos, near the Gallipoli peninsula, in April. Here they practised landing from boats to secure a beach under attack, and then moving forward to seize their set objective for the day.

On the night of 24 April the ships carrying the troops left Lemnos and gathered off the coast of the Gallipoli peninsula. At 3 am the troops who would be first to land climbed down from their transports into the small boats that would take them to the shore. These small boats were towed in twelve groups of three by steam boats. Five hundred men from the 9th Battalion were in the southernmost tows, then a gap and 500 men from the 10th on their left, then another gap and 500 men from the 11th. The remainder of each battalion, and other battalions, would then land soon afterwards to support this initial attacking force.

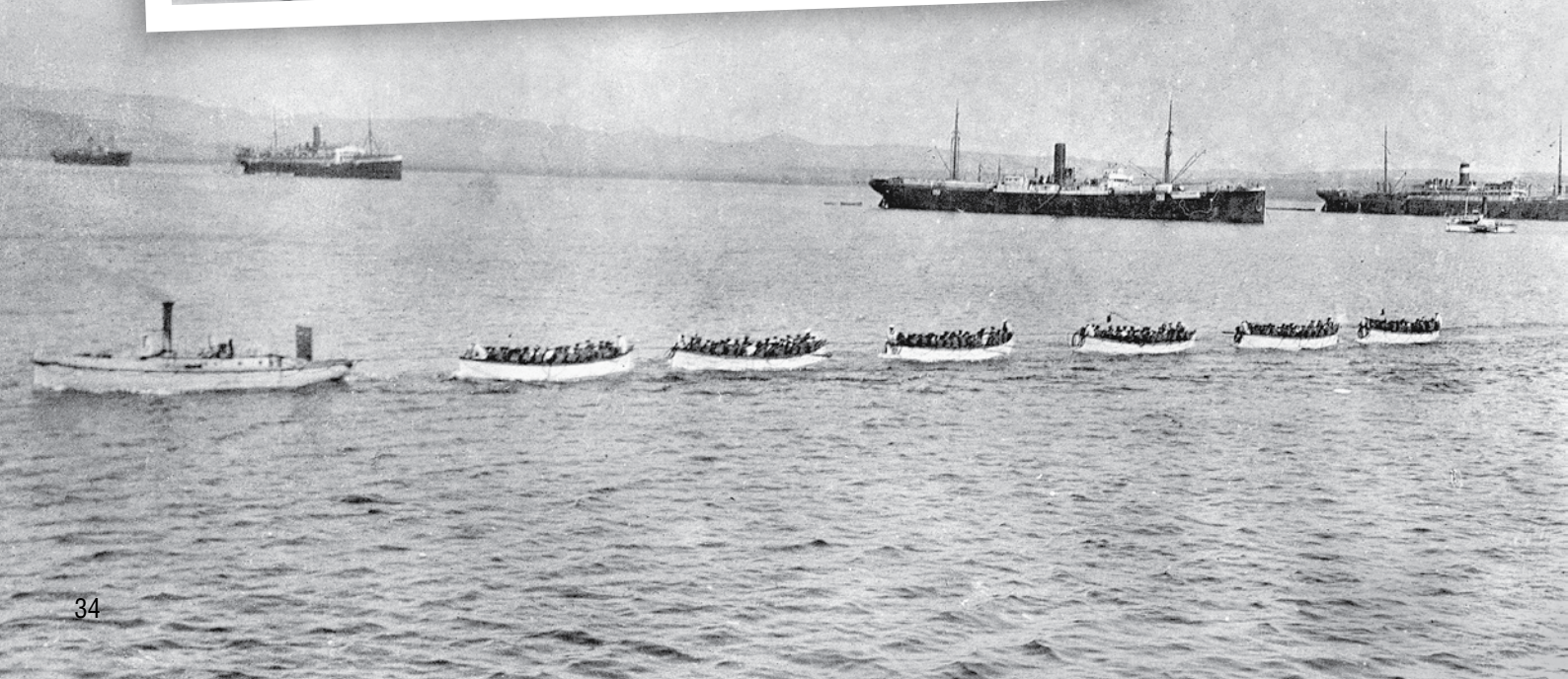


*Practising landing, Lemnos.*

AWM P00821.005

*Infantry in boats being towed behind a steamer, Lemnos.*

AWM H16825



Each of the three battalion groups had a set task to achieve when they landed. They were to secure a particular area, and then more troops would follow and move forward to take the heights of the Sari Bair range (Chunuk Bair and Hill 971), and then the ultimate objective, Mal Tepe.

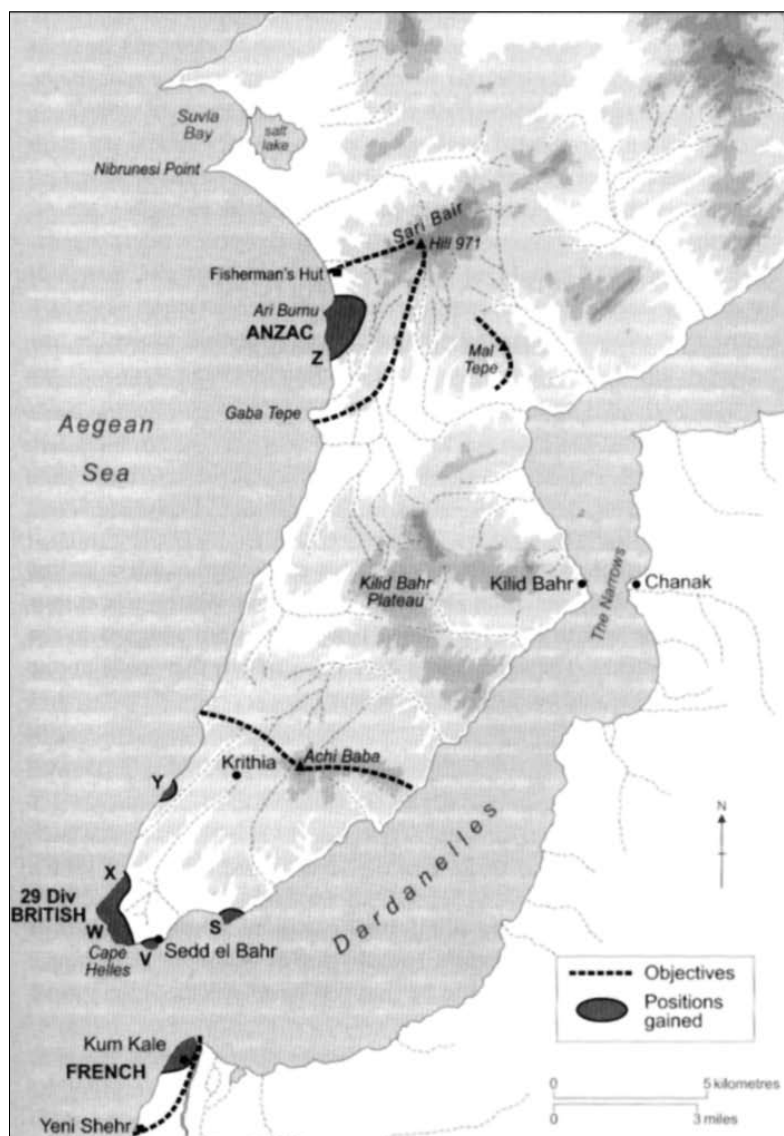


The DVD-ROM has these interactives:

- *Gallipoli: who, where and why?*
- *Can you plan the landing at Anzac?*
- *Gallipoli: The First Day*

See also the *Gallipoli and the Anzacs* website [www.anzacsite.gov.au](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au) list on page 46.

### Landing and objectives 25 April 1915



Robin Prior, *Gallipoli. The End of the Myth*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2009, page 90

However, the three lines of boats being towed did not keep their positions, and the boats did not land in the correct order. It is also possible that they did not land in the right place.

**2.1** Look at the following evidence of the experiences of the men at the landing, and prepare a report on what happened at the landings in the Anzac area occupied by the Australians and New Zealanders between Fisherman's Hut and Gaba Tepe, and including North Beach (north of Ari Burnu), Ari Burnu, Anzac Cove, Hell Spit and Brighton Beach. As you study each source you should add ideas and information to a table like this:

### Report on the landings at Anzac Cove

The sequence of the day's events	
Behaviour of the Australian soldiers	
Leadership	
Conditions	
Supplies/equipment	
Medical support	
What the fighting was like	
Attitudes of the soldiers	
Qualities of the soldiers	
Result or achievement	



**Source 1** Landing times of units at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915

<b>0430</b>	9th Battalion (Qld), 10th Battalion (SA), 11th Battalion (WA), 12th Battalion (SA, WA, Tas), 3rd Field Ambulance (Qld, SA, WA, Tas), 1st Field Company Engineers (NSW)
<b>0530</b>	7th Battalion (Vic)
<b>0600</b>	6th Battalion (Vic)
<b>0700</b>	5th Battalion (Vic)
<b>0730</b>	8th Battalion (Vic), 1st Battalion (NSW), 2nd Battalion (NSW)
<b>0800</b>	3rd Battalion (NSW), 4th Battalion (NSW)
<b>0900</b>	Auckland Battalion (NZ)
<b>1030</b>	Canterbury Battalion (NZ), 26th (Jacob's) Battery (British Indian artillery)
<b>1300</b>	Wellington Battalion (NZ)
<b>1400</b>	Otago Battalion (NZ)
<b>1600</b>	15th Battalion (Qld, Tas), 16th Battalion (WA, SA)
<b>1800</b>	21st (Kohat) Battery (British Indian artillery), 4th Battery, Australian Field Artillery
<b>Evening</b>	14th Battalion (Vic)
<b>Late night/early morning 26th</b>	13th Battalion (NSW)

**Source 2** Sergeant WE Turnley

*Shall we be seen or not? That's our anxious question.*

*'Why don't the ----- fire at us?'*

*'Look, there's a light!'*

*'No, it's only a bright star creeping up behind the hill.' ...*

*[N]o challenge rings out. How we wish they would fire — or that we would land ...! The suspense is nerve-racking. All we can do is follow the pinnacle towing us about. The thought comes to me that perhaps we are the unfortunate ones to be sacrificed in drawing the enemy's fire. Such a cheerful thought! ... Oh, why the dickens don't they fire at us! There are a couple of lights flashing about — they must have seen us ... Crack! Swish! Ping! At last we breathe a sigh of relief, the suspense is over! ... some get ashore safely, some are hit slightly, others are drowned in only a couple of feet of water because in the excitement no one notices their plight ... [One] fellow remains in the boat after all the others have disembarked ... he ... looks at us dazedly, leaning forward on his rifle. A sailor ... touches him on the arm, and the soldier falls forward in to the bottom of the boat, dead.*

Bill Gammage, *The Broken Years, Australian Soldiers in the Great War*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2010, page 62

**Source 3** A painting of The Landing at Anzac by New Zealand war artist Charles Dixon in 1915

Charles Dixon, *The Landing at Anzac 1915*, painting 119.8 x 196.2 cm, AAAC 698  
NCWA Q 388 New Zealand Archives

**Source 4** A painting of the landing by war artist George Lambert in 1920-22

G. Lambert, *Anzac, the landing 1915, 1920-1922*, oil on canvas, 190.5 x 350.5 cm. AWM ART02873



**Source 5** Captain DG Mitchell

*'Klock-klock-klock. Wee-wee-wee' came the little messengers of death. Then it opened out into a terrific chorus ... The key was being turned in the lock of the lid of hell. Some men crouched in the crowded boat, some sat up nonchalantly, some laughed and joked, while others cursed with ferocious delight ... Fear was not at home.*

Bill Gammage, *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2010, page 65

**Source 6** Company Sergeant Major GS Feist

*I was in the second tow and we got it, shrapnel and rifle fire bad. We lost three on the destroyer and four in the boat getting to land. The Turks were close on the beach when we got there. We had to fix bayonets and charge. We jumped into the water up to our waists and some of them their armpits ... we had to trust to the [bayonet] at the end of our rifles ... I tell you, one does not forget these things ... all we thought of was to get at them. One would hear someone say 'They've got me' and you register another notch when you get to them, that's all.*

Bill Gammage, *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2010, page 64

**Source 7** Private Frank Parker

*It was very steep terrain, and steep gullies, and it was very hard going. We didn't see many Turks at all. It was just a matter of going for your life. But we got all mixed up. There was the 5th Battalion mixed up with the 6th, and the 8th — all over the place! The higher up we went the worse it got! We had to pull ourselves up in virgin scrub, and here they were in trees and God knows what. They had a sitting shot at us. Then we started to get heavy fire and the casualties were high, very high.*

Harvey Broadbent, *Gallipoli. The Fatal Shore*, Penguin, Melbourne, 2009, page 69

**Source 8** Anonymous diary entry

*Now we have commenced up those steep cliffs, parts of which one has to almost pull himself branch by branch ... in many places to fall back again ... We are near them now, only 50 yards away ... then a roar and a yell ... as we are charging at them ... they are out of their trenches ... On and on, up those awful cliffs and through the dense scrub, where every few yards a Turk jumps out with his bayonet ready ... Then the second line of trenches and again the third, just as the dawn of a new but bloody day is breaking. The top of the mountain is now strongly outlined against the grey morning sky (our goal) but yet fully two miles away. We now ... form up in some sort of a line, that has been hopelessly confused ... fire (10 rounds rapid is the order) charge magazines again and up and at them ... until at last ... we gain the mountain peaks. The goal is reached but at what a cost ... As soon as it grows dark the order is passed down to the officers to select so many men to go back to the landing place at the beach for ammunition ... after nearly two hours we get there ... But oh God the sight of the dead and wounded absolutely covering the little sandy beach ... there is an enormous staff of medical men etc. there but it is absolutely impossible to attend to all, so that many a life ... expires on the beach for want of looking after ... [A]t midnight we regain the firing-line, worn-out, weary and hungry ... No chance of sleep as the enemy are ever at us, and so the night advances to the dawn of a new day and thus was the work of our first day's bloody battle.*

Jonathan King, *Gallipoli Diaries*, Simon and Schuster Australia, Sydney, 2003, pages 27-28



**Source 9** Major W Darnell

*A brief pause on the beach to fix Bayonets and singing 'This bit of the world belongs to us' much swearing and cheering we charged up a hill so steep in places we could only just scramble up. No firing all bayonet work. Clean over a machine gun we went, men dropped all around me, it was mad, wild, thrilling ... Not till I was near the top of the hill did I realise that in the excitement I hadn't even drawn my revolver.*

Bill Gammage, *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2010, page 68

**Source 10** Corporal John Stubbs

*I cannot tell you what pain our boys went through and the pluck they kept through it all. We went up to one man to put him on a stretcher, he kept saying don't trouble about me boys, there are plenty worse than me up there. This was not the only case but you would hear it all over the place ... You could not imagine their bravery.*

Jonathan King and Michael Bowers, *Gallipoli: Untold stories from war correspondent Charles Bean and front-line Anzacs*, Doubleday, Sydney, 2005, page 24

**Source 11** A painting by soldier artist Silas Ellis made in 1920

E Silas, *Digging in at Pope's Hill: end of a great day*, 1920, oil on canvas, 76.2 x 101.8 cm, AWM ART02435

**Source 12** Sergeant Greg Donnellan

*By 10.30 pm we had got rid of over 300 badly wounded men and our own portion of the beach was gradually getting cleared ... About this time a 'false' order was received for the troops to retire on the ships, and for a short time the situation was rather nasty. The men were coming down the hills saying they had orders to get away, and at the same time reinforcements kept coming ashore.*

Jonathan King and Michael Bowers, page 32

**Source 13** Private Blake Young

*The South Australians were sent straight into the thick of it, and our first taste of fire affected me, at least, less than I expected. I am not boasting, for I frankly admit that I dodged every shell that screamed overhead and it took me some time to distinguish between the echo of the rifles and the ping of the bullets landing in the bushes near by. Still, at times I found myself scarcely heeding the risks ... Every case was a new experience, and another danger passed, and we became callous to the terrible sights.*

Jonathan King and Michael Bowers, page 50



**Source 14** Troops arriving at Anzac Beach at 10.30 am

AWM A00834

**Source 15** Private John Turnbull

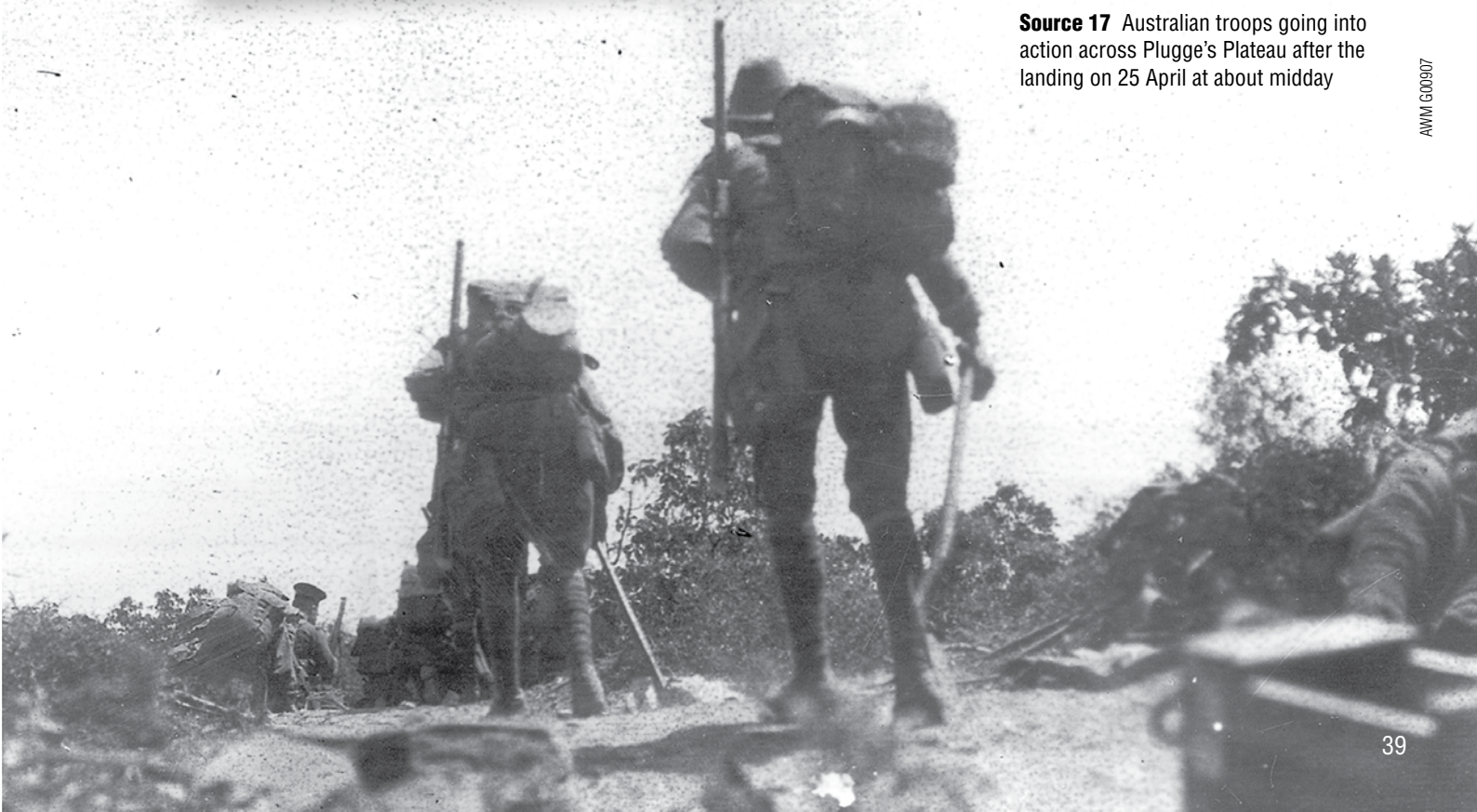
*Snipers have been caught behind our lines today with Aust. Uniform & equipment with a pocket full of our identity discs ... They were bayoneted. Two others were caught by New Zealanders sniping at the Hospital Ship. Their heads were cut off by bill hooks which are none too sharp. Another sniper was found behind our lines in a well hidden dugout in the cliff face. He had water & rations for a fortnight. The sniper behind our trenches is still busy. He still commands Shell Green & got a few more of our chaps galloping for water.*

Jonathan King and Michael Bowers, *Gallipoli. Untold stories from war correspondent Charles Bean and front-line Anzacs*, Doubleday, Sydney, 2005, page 54

**Source 16** Private Jocelyn Carr

*Have just taken a run right into the firing line ... Chap there shot in head 1 hour ago, brain protruding, still alive. At 12 a call came for a stretcher in the firing trench and I ran up with two others ... Bullet right through head very bad bleeding. Bandaged and carried him through trench and the connecting trenches to Dressing Station. Very difficult to get it through and round the angles and to keep low to escape bullets.*

Jonathan King and Michael Bowers, page 5

**Source 17** Australian troops going into action across Plugge's Plateau after the landing on 25 April at about midday

AWM G00907



**Source 18** Evacuation of wounded from Anzac Cove on barges

AWM C02679

**Source 19** Private AT Elwood

*I am slightly wounded ... but am leaving tomorrow for the front again and very pleased I will be I want to get my own back I got it in the head and right arm. Last Sunday it happened it has not healed up yet but I am quite fit to go back again.*

Bill Gammage, *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2010, page 71

**Source 20** A panoramic photograph of the Anzac area behind the beach, 1919



**Source 21** Private RG Richards

*It was a remarkable day right enough and a day in which it was easy to pick out the wasters and also the brave men.*

Jonathan King, *Gallipoli Diaries*, Simon and Schuster Australia, Sydney, page 41

**Source 22** Private RL Donkin

*I know it is right and proper that a man should go back and fight again but Sunday's battle and the horror of the trenches Sunday night ... have unnerved me completely ... [We sailed] ... off to death and 'Glory'. What fools we are, men mad. The Turk he comes at one, with the blood lust in his eyes, shouts Allah! Australian like, we swear Kill or be killed ... Where are the rest of my 13 mates?*

Bill Gammage, *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2010, page 70

- 2.2** Are there any aspects of the landing that surprise you? Explain your answer.
- 2.3** Look at the four art works depicting the landing (sources 3, 4, 11 and 23). Which do you think best illustrates the events of the day? Explain your reasons.
- 2.4** Complete your **Report on the landings at Anzac Cove** on page 35, adding any final comments or information.

**Source 23** One of several designs for the cover of *The Anzac Book* made in 1916

F Crozier, Design for 'The ANZAC Book' cover, 1916, AWM ART19665

AWM G01810P





# What happened at the other landing sites?

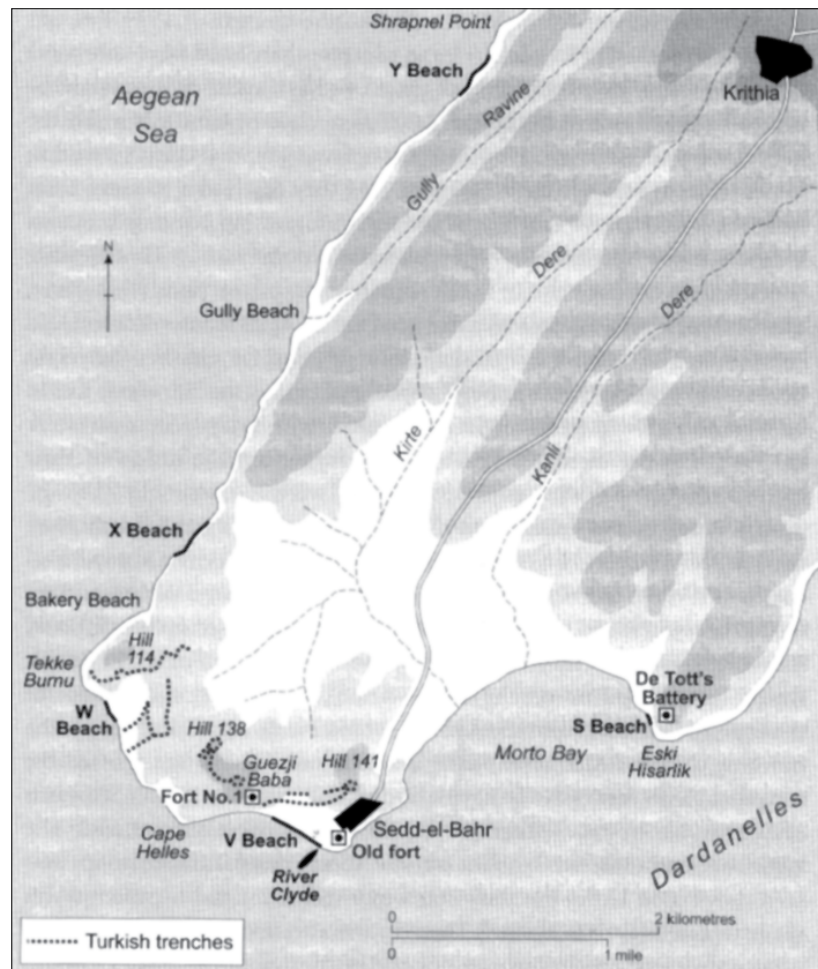
What happened at Cape Helles, where the main invasion force was landing at the same time?

The Turkish military leaders were expecting an invasion of the peninsula, but were not sure where. They had some troops placed in the most likely invasion sites ready to oppose the landing, but most were being held in reserve, to be used where they would be most needed. There was also barbed wire and trenches in the places where landings were expected.

The landing force was the British 29th Division, with infantry units from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and the Royal Naval Division. Six thousand troops would land initially to take control of the beaches and the immediate area, and a further 21,000 would quickly follow. Most of the troops would land at V and W beaches, and then all would link up and move forward in a line across the peninsula to the objective —Achi Baba, about 15 kilometres away.

**3.1** Look at the following information about what happened at each of the Cape Helles landing points, and at Kum Kale. Complete a summary like this for all the landing points.

## Cape Helles landings



Robin Prior, Gallipoli. The End of the Myth, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2009, page 95

Aspect	S Beach	V Beach	W Beach	X Beach	Y Beach	Z Beach	Kum Kale
Who (which nations landed?)							
Aim of the landings							
What was the fighting like?							
Outcome — success or failure?							
Casualties — heavy or light?							



## S Beach

The British units to land here were:

- 2nd South Wales Borderers (less one company)
- Detachment of 1st/2nd London Field Company, Royal Engineers.

The landing here was quickly successful against a small force of enemy, and with relatively few casualties. Once they had captured the beach they could see that they could not join up with the troops on V and X beaches, as they were being engaged by the enemy. The officer in charge sought new orders, but none arrived so they stayed on the beach until they were told what to do next. The Royal Navy had bombarded the beach to help the landing, but the warship *Cornwallis* stayed longer than had been planned, and in doing so it was not available to give artillery support to the landing at V Beach. This was to be costly.

## V Beach

The British units to land here were:

- 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers
- 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers
- 2nd Hampshire Regiment
- 2 platoons of the Anson Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry
- 3 platoons, Royal Naval Division
- Naval and Military Beach personnel
- Headquarters Signals section
- 1st/1st West Riding Field Company, Royal Engineers
- 89th Field Ambulance
- Naval and Military Beach personnel.

At 5 am the battleship HMS *Albion* opened fire on the medieval fortress at Seddulbahir. Others joined in. The aim was to destroy the entrenched Turkish defensive positions around the beaches, forcing the enemy to flee.

However, the Turks had well protected positions and were ready to return to their trenches as soon as the bombardment finished. The bombardment was fired from too far off shore for accuracy, and it finished before the soldiers in the boats had landed — giving the defenders time to move from their protection back into the front trenches that had not been destroyed.

Three thousand British soldiers now landed — about a thousand in boats, and 2000 in the British coal ship *River Clyde* which was deliberately run aground. The idea was for the men to be protected as they came in, and then to rush off across a portable bridge from the boat to the shore.

The Turkish defenders waited, and then mowed down the men who were advancing up the beach from the boats.

The boats that were to be the base for the portable bridge drifted out of place, and as the men aboard the *River Clyde* tried to get from the boat to the shore, they were slaughtered by the Turks.

There were many acts of bravery by the Royal Navy personnel in getting the men ashore, but there were also extraordinary acts of bravery by the Turkish defenders. They had the advantage of defensive positions, but were greatly outnumbered by the invading Allies.

The British commander, unaware of the failure of the advance party to secure the landing, now ordered more troops to land — with drastic results.

## W Beach

The British units to land here were:

- 1st Lancashire Fusiliers
- 1 platoon of the Anson Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry
- Headquarters and 3 platoons of the Anson Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry
- Naval and Military Beach personnel
- Headquarters 86th Brigade and Signals section
- 1st/2nd London Field Company, Royal Engineers.

W Beach was a killing ground.

Despite heavy casualties from the bombardment, the surviving Turkish soldiers quickly rushed back to the front trenches to oppose the British. The barbed wire entanglements on the beach and into the shallows were uncut by the bombardment, and there were 30 metre cliffs on either side of the small beach. The invading troops would be funneled into a killing zone. The death toll of the British in less than an hour was over 250 men killed and 263 wounded of the 950 men who landed.

## X Beach

The British units to land here were:

- 2nd Royal Fusiliers
- 1 platoon of the Anson Battalion
- British Naval and Military Beach personnel.

The landing here was quickly achieved. There were only 12 Turkish defenders, who surrendered. There were no British casualties.

## Y Beach

The British units to land here were:

- 1st King's Own Scottish Borderers
- 1 company of the 2nd South Wales Borderers
- Plymouth Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Two thousand troops landed completely unopposed.

However, the British commander on the spot believed that this beach was too far away from the others for the men to join forces, so he left them sitting on the beach, rather than pushing them inland towards the main objective.

The Turkish defenders were now being slowly killed by bombardment and the attacking troops, but they followed their orders to hang on while reinforcements were on their way from Achi Baba.

In the end, the Turks were able to bring in sufficient reinforcements to keep the British troops in a small area around their landing sites. The invasion had failed.

## Kum Kale

French forces were engaged at Kum Kale, on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles, on 25th April. Their presence was a feint to make sure that Turkish troops stayed on the Asian side of the Dardanelles and did not become engaged in the landings. This ploy was successful. The French forces withdrew and arrived to take over the right of the Cape Helles sector on 27th April.

# How do we judge the landing at Anzac?

In many popular accounts of the landing, the thing that is stressed is the bravery of the troops, and their effectiveness as soldiers and fighters.

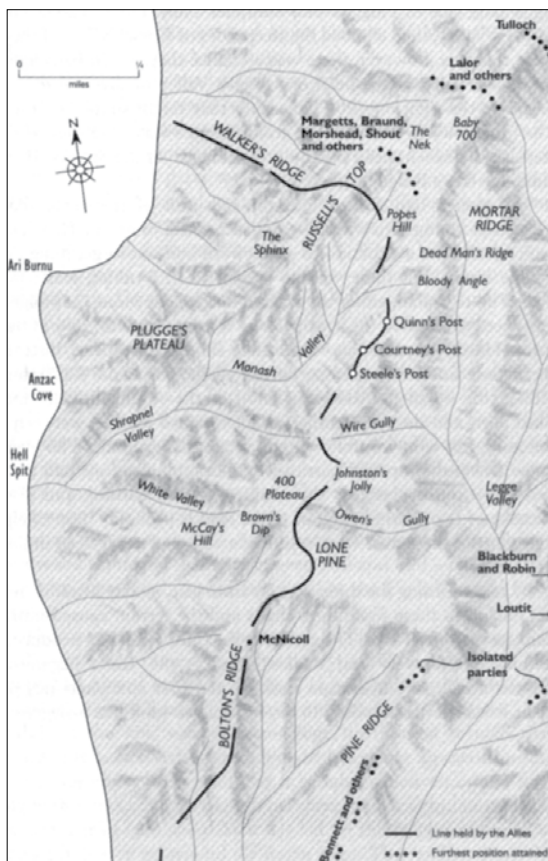
Is this true? And if it is, was this enough?

Here is some extra information about the landing, and the reasons for its failure to achieve its objectives. The four historians' comments are interesting, as they remind us that, although

historians tend to use the same sources, they may use them very differently and have different emphases in what they present.

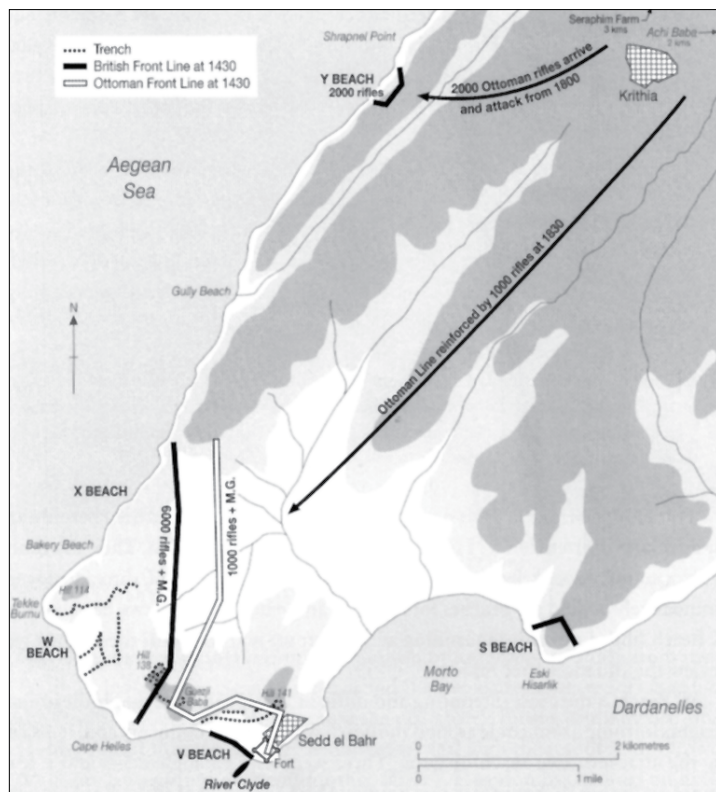
When you have completed reading and discussing the elements below, look back at your brainstorm page on page 31. Add new information that you have learned and take out any aspect that you have found to be inaccurate.

## A Anzac: the first day



Les Carlyon, *Gallipoli*, Macmillan, Sydney, 2001, page 150

## B Cape Helles: the first day



Peter Williams, *The Battle of Anzac Ridge*, Australian Military History Publications, Loftus, 2007, page 184



**Source 2** Summary of the comments of historian Tim Travers

*A British historian, writing an international account of Gallipoli, stresses these elements of the landing:*

- *The vagueness of plans for the invasion, and late changes to these plans;*
- *The loss of the element of surprise in the landing — the Turks were first aware of the impending invasion at 2.30 am;*
- *Landing in the wrong place, causing confusion among the troops about where they should go to achieve their objectives;*
- *The rough country causing added confusion and lack of effective control of the troops;*
- *The effectiveness of the Turkish infantry in holding up the advance, allowing time for reinforcements to be brought up;*
- *The lack of artillery in support — a battery of mountain guns that operated for only a few hours, and only one larger piece being landed during the first day;*
- *The lack of effective naval artillery support from the British warships other than HMS Bacchante and Triumph;*
- *The loss of morale among the Australians during the afternoon, largely caused by the effective Turkish use of artillery. This led to large-scale 'straggling' of many troops back to the beach during the day — a controversial claim of cowardice that is not accepted by all historians;*
- *Some poor leadership by officers during the landing; and*
- *The lack of experience of the Australians in combat.*

Tim Travers, *Gallipoli 1915*, The History Press, Stroud, 2009, chapter 4

**Source 3** Summary of the comments of historian Peter Pedersen

*An Australian historian, writing about the landings during the First World War, stresses these elements of the landing:*

- *Not enough firepower available to the landing troops from machine guns;*
- *Poor training that did not prepare the men properly for the situation they faced;*
- *The qualities of the men made what they did achieve an outstanding outcome;*
- *Confusion due to the terrain and the uncoordinated rushes after troops landed;*
- *The Turkish control of the high ground;*
- *The effectiveness of Turkish artillery; and*
- *The inefficient and slow organisation of the medical evacuation of the wounded.*

Peter Pedersen, *The Anzacs Gallipoli to the Western Front*, Viking, Melbourne, 2007, chapter 3

**Source 4** Summary of the comments of historian Denis Winter

*A British historian, studying the details of 25 April, stresses these elements of the landing:*

- *Both the Commander-in-Chief of all the invasion forces, General Hamilton, and the Commander of the Australian force, General Birdwood, privately believed that the Anzacs should have achieved more on the first day;*
- *The invasion force was too small — a numerical superiority of 3 or 4 to 1 was needed for success;*
- *The enemy was well-trained and well-equipped;*
- *The enemy was effectively led;*
- *The tactic of defence in depth, with the invaders having to fight their way through sniping, then layers of well-prepared defence lines, was effective;*
- *The defenders made effective use of machine guns;*
- *The defenders had effectively prepared the area, with posts as distance markers to allow them to set their gun ranges accurately, and with fields of fire cleared of scrub, creating 'killing zones';*
- *The Allied training did not replicate the conditions;*
- *The soldiers were not sufficiently well briefed to allow them to operate effectively when their officers were shot or became separated;*
- *The Turks always controlled the high ground;*
- *The landing forces were not equipped with sufficient machine guns or artillery;*
- *They had not sufficient training in live firing; and*
- *The naval artillery support was not adequate.*

Denis Winter, *25 April 1915: The Inevitable Tragedy*, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 2004

**Source 5** Summary of the comments of historian Robin Prior

*An Australian historian, investigating possible 'myths' of the Gallipoli campaign, stresses these elements of the landing:*

- *The Turks held the high ground, a great advantage;*
- *The failure was not due to possible landing at the wrong site — only the first wave of 1500 troops may have done this and become confused, the rest landed in the required place and order;*
- *The problem was not the terrain, it was the swiftness and effectiveness of the Turkish response;*
- *The plan for the landing was vague and could not realistically have been achieved; and*
- *Many commanders on the spot were not able to respond well.*

Robin Prior, *Gallipoli. The End of the Myth*, University of New South Wales Press, Sydney, 2009

# Connections



## DVD-VIDEO connection

### Revealing Gallipoli

Watch this film from 34:35-37:13 (Part 1 Chapter 4) and 37:13-51:25 (Part 1 Chapter 5) and discuss these questions in class.

- 1 How did the Allies' attitude to the Turkish troops contribute to the failure of the Gallipoli plan?
- 2 What role did the Australian submarine *AE2* play in the first few days?
- 3 How did a lack of detailed knowledge of the geography of the area contribute to the failure of the Gallipoli plan?
- 4 Explain the *River Clyde* strategy at V Beach. Why did it fail?
- 5 What happened with the strategic town of Krithia during the landing? Why did the British not stay there?
- 6 Why did the British commanders decide to stay rather than evacuate after the first day?

### Australians At War

#### Episode 2

#### 'Who'll come a fighting the Kaiser with me'

Watch this film from 19:50-24:30 (Chapter 4) and discuss these questions in class.

- 1 What impression of the landing at Anzac Cove does the film give? How does it achieve that? Identify the methods that the film makers have used to create the impression.
- 2 Much of the footage used is from later reconstructions of the landing at Anzac. Discuss how you can distinguish between scenes shot at the time, and later filmed reconstructions.

## DVD-ROM interactives connection

### Gallipoli: who, where and why?

See where the events at Gallipoli took place, which nations were involved, and what they were trying to achieve.

### Can you plan the landing at Anzac?

The planning of the landing is in your hands. Will you make good decisions?

### Gallipoli: The First Day

See the events of the first day in great detail on this 3D website.

## Website connections

### Gallipoli and the Anzacs website

[www.anzacsite.gov.au](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au)

- *The Anzac Landing at Gallipoli*  
[www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/index.html](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/index.html)
- *War correspondents Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Charles Bean*  
[www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/)
- *Signaller Silas*  
[www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/s\\_intro.html](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/s_intro.html)
- *A Duty Clear Before Us*  
[www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/nbeachc.html](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/nbeachc.html)
- *Interpretative - Panel 2 Anzac The Landing 1915*  
[www.anzacsite.gov.au/4panels/index.html](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/4panels/index.html)
- *The Drawings of Major LFS Hore*  
[www.anzacsite.gov.au/5environment/hore/hore.html](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/5environment/hore/hore.html)
- *Submarines at Gallipoli*  
[www.anzacsite.gov.au/5environment/submarines/ae2.html](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/5environment/submarines/ae2.html)
- *First to Fall*  
[www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/first-to-fall/index.html](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/first-to-fall/index.html)

### Gallipoli: The First Day website

[www.abc.net.au/innovation/gallipoli/](http://www.abc.net.au/innovation/gallipoli/)

At *Gallipoli: The First Day* [www.abc.net.au/innovation/gallipoli/](http://www.abc.net.au/innovation/gallipoli/) you can explore the landing as a 3D narrative story, or choose key moments and explore the events in detail through evidence and personal profiles.