The Gallipoli campaign lasted eight months for the Australians, until December 20, and then three more weeks for the troops at Cape Helles, until 9 January 1916.

This unit will help you see the big picture of the campaign, to understand why the Allies remained at Gallipoli for eight months after they had failed to achieve their initial objective. It will also help you to understand that the Australian and New Zealand involvement at Gallipoli, while the primary focus of this resource, was only part of the overall Ally campaign. The greatest numbers of men at Gallipoli were from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey), Britain and France.
Your task is to work in small classroom groups to create a timeline of the main events of the campaign. Ten key events have been identified for the campaign. Each group can take responsibility to prepare information about one or two of these events, look at the material provided in the following Timeline File for each event, research other information about that event, and then complete a report page that provides a summary of the event.

Each group should report on their findings about the particular event they are responsible for, using the Gallipoli Campaign Timeline Report. A copy of this report page is on page 49. This report page can be placed on your classroom wall with the timeline. You will be able to position your report page for each event to create an annotated timeline display like this:

### Ten Key Events of the Gallipoli Campaign

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>REPORT</th>
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When all ten events have been studied and summarised the whole class will have a broad understanding of the main developments of the Gallipoli campaign.

The ten key events to be investigated and reported on in your annotated timeline are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE/TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>25 April-3 May</td>
<td>Landing and consolidating at Anzac</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>25 April-30 April</td>
<td>AE2 submarine sinking</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>6-8 May</td>
<td>2nd Battle of Krithia — Cape Helles</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Turkish Offensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>3rd Battle of Krithia</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>6-5 August</td>
<td>August Offensive — Suvla Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6-10 August</td>
<td>August Offensive — Lone Pine, Anzac</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>6-10 August</td>
<td>August Offensive — Chunuk Bair, Anzac</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>7 August</td>
<td>August Offensive — The Nek, Anzac</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>17-19 December 1915, 7-9 January 1916</td>
<td>Evacuation of Anzac, Cape Helles and Suvla</td>
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<td>Description of the terrain</td>
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<td>Description of the fighting</td>
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<td>Add an illustration and/or map of the event</td>
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We talk about the ‘landing’ of the Anzacs at Gallipoli as though it were only one day. 25 April was the first day, but the process of landing and the initial fighting to secure as much land as possible really lasted for several days.

There were heavy casualties on the first day, but the worst fighting and greatest casualties came as the Turkish defenders counter-attacked. An estimated 2300 Australians were killed in the Anzac area up to 3 May.

An example of the fierceness of the early fighting can be seen from the experience of the 16th Battalion, from Western Australia. They landed at 5.30 pm on 26 April, went straight to Monash Valley, and stayed there until 3 May. At the roll call on that day only 307 men were there of the 995 who had landed.

Anzac terrain

Part of the experience of the landing was the provision of supplies and equipment, landing pack animals, setting up medical facilities, setting up condensers to provide fresh water, sending out wounded men, setting up head quarters, digging in to the hills to provide shelter, landing guns and ammunition.

The attacking force needed to set up what was, in effect, a settlement. This had to be done within a limited area because the Anzac landing, just like the landings at Cape Helles, had not achieved its objectives. This meant that the Anzacs were confined to the beach and a small area of the cliffs. Crucially, they did not hold the high ground.

Les Carlyon, Gallipoli, Macmillan, Sydney, 2001, page 132

F Crozier, The Beach at Anzac, 1919, oil on canvas, 123.4 x 184.6 cm, AWM ART02161

E Silas, The roll call, 1920, oil on canvas, 101.8 x 153.1 cm, AWM ART02436

USE THE INFORMATION in this Timeline File and from other resources (such as the films Revealing Gallipoli and Australians at War Episode 2, and the websites Gallipoli the First Day www.abc.net.au/gallipoli and Gallipoli and the Anzacs www.anzacsit.gov.au) to complete your report on page 49.
Part of the Gallipoli landing involved an attempt to send the Royal Australian Navy submarine AE2, with its crew of 35 men, through the Dardanelles Strait. The Turkish forces relied on the port at Maidos for supplies and reinforcements from Constantinople. If the AE2 could disrupt sea traffic through the Dardanelles and in the Sea of Marmara this would greatly aid the Allied landings.

First World War submarines had many weaknesses. These included:
- They carried only eight torpedoes;
- It took half an hour to reload a tube after firing;
- There was no radar or sonar to ‘see’ where the submarine was travelling underwater;
- To see the enemy or to see where it was the submarine had to surface to periscope depth;
- A periscope created a wake that people on enemy ships would look for;
- Some submarines, including the AE2, did not have a deck gun;
- They had to surface regularly to replenish air and recharge their batteries, exposing them to view;
- When recharging their batteries they had to run their diesel engines, which were very noisy and created a thick smoke exhaust.

However, enemy ships also had no sonar or radar to track submarines once they were underwater, so this provided the submarines with some advantage.

The AE2 had a dramatic journey to the Sea of Marmara, through the Turkish defences. The Captain of the submarine, Lieutenant Commander Henry Stoker, managed to avoid the mines in the Dardanelles Strait, and at the Narrows torpedoed a Turkish gunboat. The AE2 then had to evade an enemy destroyer, and in doing so ran aground under a Turkish fort. The fort was unable to lower its guns sufficiently to fire at the submarine, which managed to get off the bank and back into deep water.

The AE2 now made it into the Sea of Marmara, but developed mechanical problems, was seen and fired on by an enemy warship. Stoker had to order the crew to abandon ship. They were taken prisoner, and all but three survived the rest of the war in captivity.

Two other submarines of the Royal Navy, E14 and E11, both made it through the Strait soon after the AE2 and entered the Sea of Marmara, where they inflicted damage on several ships, and disrupted Turkish supplies to the Gallipoli peninsula.
This was an attempt on the Cape Helles front to advance towards the original objective of the landing — to seize the heights of Achi Baba and then move to and capture Kilid Bahr.

About 25,000 men, including British, French, Australian and New Zealand troops, were to advance in a broad front across the peninsula and take the village of Krithia, and then Achi Baba. The 2nd Australian Brigade and the New Zealand Brigade had been sent from Anzac to Cape Helles for this attack.

The Allied force had artillery support, but they lacked sufficient shells. Those they had were shrapnel shells, suitable for killing soldiers in the open but not for destroying entrenched positions.

The Turkish forces were well dug in, and also had artillery, including an ample supply of shells.

The ground to be crossed was largely open and unsuitable for an advance. However, there were four gullies that could be used to advance troops part of the way to Krithia under cover.

The Allies did not have an accurate idea of where the Turkish defences were, meaning that any preliminary artillery bombardment of the Turkish defences would be inaccurate.

The Allied leaders also decided to launch the attack by daylight, fearing that a night advance would result in confusion.

The attack commenced on May 6, but fierce Turkish resistance meant that while some ground was gained, the Allies did not reach the Turkish defences. The attempt was repeated the next day, but with no further advance.

On the third day, yet another advance saw some ground temporarily taken, but with huge losses. Among the attackers were Australian troops. A British major described the scene as men responded to an officer's cry of 'Now then Australians — which of you men are Australians? Come on Australians!':

They were disemboweled. Their clothing caught fire, and their flesh hissed and cooked before the burning rags could be torn off or beaten out. But what of it? Why, nothing! They were as devils from a hell bigger and hotter. Nothing could stop them … Their pluck was titanic … Not for one breath did the great line waver or break. On and up it went, up and on … Our men tore off their helmets and waved them, and poured cheer after cheer for those wonderful Anzacs.

In Peter Pederson, The Anzacs. Gallipoli to the Western Front, Viking, Melbourne, 2007 page 72

Troops were stopped 500 metres from the Turkish lines. Many of the wounded had to wait in agony for hours before stretcher bearers could reach them.

About 6000 of the 25,000-strong attacking force were killed or wounded. The Australian 2nd Brigade gained about 500 metres, but lost 1100 men out of 2500.

The poor planning of the battle included inadequate provision of medical support. Stretcher bearers had to carry wounded men all the way back to the beach, as no intermediate dressing stations were set up to treat the wounded from the battlefield.
On 19 May the Turkish forces launched a massive attack on the Anzac lines, seeking to drive the invaders down to the beaches and off the peninsula.

An estimated 42,000 soldiers, mostly Turks, attacked the 17,000 Australian and New Zealand defenders.

Who were these soldiers? A German officer who helped train the Turkish army wrote that the Turkish soldier is

‘…easily contented and modest, it did not even occur to him not to accept the authority of his superiors. He followed his leader unconditionally, also ahead into the enemy. Allah wills it. He is deeply religious and sees his life as the first step to a better one. Directly under the detonating grenades, shortly before the battalion enters a fight, the Imam, the army chaplain, normally delivers an address … The Imams were often splendid people, who had a great and good influence on the men and would take up a command, if all the officers had fallen … When troops fail, it is probably due to the leaders … In the fight I often had the impression: the unit is a willing mass, but they are lacking leaders to give them purpose. Out of this willingness and absolute acceptance of the authority of the superior follows the extraordinarily great influence a leader can have on his inferiors, if he is good, energetic, purposeful and Turkish — but he must be Turkish.’

H Kannengeisser, Gallipoli; Bedeutung und Verlauf der Kämpfe, Berlin 1927 pages 122-3 in Kevin Fewster, Vecihi Basarin, Hatice Hürmüz Basarin, A Turkish View of Gallipoli: Canakkale, Hoxa, Richmond, 1985, page 87

The Turks lacked artillery and ammunition, but relied on surprise and numbers to succeed. However, the defenders had noticed their preparations for the attack, so were not taken by surprise.

The Turkish forces attacked in waves. An Australian soldier described it:

We were wide awake now, surely an attack was meditated. Yes! The enemy was advancing in mass formation. Our fellows had received orders to allow the Turks to come within ten paces and then to pour the lead into them. Our rifles held eleven cartridges, and are in every way, very formidable little weapons.

‘Allah! Allah! Allah!’

They are coming with leaps and bounds, their dismal, howling cry rending the night. Closer and closer, they are almost upon us! ‘Fire!’ yells an officer.

We comply willingly, rifles crack and rattle all down our line, the high-pitched music of machine guns being audible above the din.

At the end of the attack the Turks had lost 3000 men killed, and about 10,000 were wounded. One hundred and sixty Australians were killed, and a further 468 wounded. It was during this attack that Corporal Albert Jacka was awarded the first Victoria Cross to an Australian during the First World War.

The casualties were so great that on 24 May, the leaders called a truce to enable the bloated and putrifying corpses to be buried.

Historians often comment that it was after this event that the Australian attitude to the Turks changed, from being one of contempt, to being one that acknowledged and respected their bravery and humanity.

The official Australian historian, CEW Bean, wrote a poem at Anzac about ‘Abdul’:

Yes, we’ve seen him dying there in front —
Our own boys died there, too —
With his poor dark eyes a-rolling,
Staring at the hopeless blue;
With his poor maimed arms a-stretching
To the God we both can name . . .
And it fairly tore our hearts out;
But it’s in the beastly game.

So though your name be black as ink
For murder and rapine,
Carried out in happy concert
With your Christians from the Rhine,
We will judge you, Mr Abdul,
By the test by which we can —
That with all your breath, in life, and death,
You’ve played the gentleman.


USE THE INFORMATION in this Timeline File and from other resources (such as the films Revealing Gallipoli and Australians at War Episode 2, and the website Gallipoli and the Anzacs www.anzacsites.gov.au) to complete your report on page 49.
This was the third in a series of attacks at Cape Helles to seize the high ground at Achi Baba. It involved British, Indian and French troops against the Turks. There were further actions on 21 June and from 28 June to 5 July, and again from 12 to 13 July.

The earlier battles for Krithia had been fought over thinly fortified ground, but by late May the trenches of both sides were far stronger.

The British had been secretly extending their trenches towards those of the Turks, so as to have less open ground to cover in an attack.

Artillery support remained a problem — there were too few guns and too little ammunition for an effective preliminary bombardment of the Turkish defences. Naval gunfire support had been reduced by the sinking by submarines of the British battleships HMS Majestic and HMS Triumph, and the remaining ships had to be travelling at speed to fire their guns — reducing their accuracy.

The plan of attack was for an artillery bombardment, to be followed shortly after by a second one, hoping to catch the Turkish defenders coming out from under cover to take their places in the exposed front lines. The attack was to be limited to specific objectives, and eight armoured cars were to be used to move up the dirt road to Krithia, to provide support to the advancing troops.

The bombardment caused heavy Turkish casualties, but once again the Turkish soldiers resisted the advance of the attackers, who nevertheless made ground. As the attackers were digging in to consolidate their gains, Turkish forces mounted a counter-attack, and the British withdrew.

Hindsight has shown that if the Allies could have resumed the attack the following day, the Turkish defenders probably would not have been able to hold their ground. At the same time, the Turks nearly broke through the British, and were stopped only when a British officer, Second Lieutenant Moor, shot four of his own troops to stop the rest running away. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for this action that led to the successful halt of the Turkish attack.

There were 13,000 Allied casualties, and an estimated 12,000 Turkish ones.
The August Offensive was a series of actions that were designed to break out from the positions held at Anzac, and to secure the Sari Bair heights, which would provide a new front that could be pushed forward to achieve the original objectives of the invasion. The landing at Suvla Bay was part of that offensive.

Twenty thousand British troops were to be landed at Suvla Bay during the night of 6 August. These troops were then to seize the ring of hills that surrounded the Suvla plain: Kiretch Tepe, Tekke Tepe and the Anafarta hills.

They met relatively light opposition from 1500 Turkish soldiers, but, as with the original landing, there was confusion in the dark with units landing in the wrong places, becoming mixed with others, and officers being unable to identify their objectives.

So on 7 August the troops had landed, but did not progress. This gave time for Turkish reinforcements to arrive on the evening of 8 August. When the British finally started to move towards Tekke Tepe, they were marched at night over difficult terrain, and were met by a fierce Turkish bayonet charge.

Turkish forces had now also fortified the other high ground, and continued attempts to defeat them failed. In one incident the fighting set fire to grass, and many wounded British soldiers were burned to death as they tried to escape.

Most historians say Suvla was a failure. However, one historian, Robin Prior, argues in Gallipoli The End of the Myth (UNSW Press, Sydney, 2009) that the intention of the Suvla landing was to establish a secure supply base for the northern part of the area, and that this was achieved.

In Peter Weir’s film Gallipoli the final charge of the Light Horse at the Nek is supposedly ordered to support the Suvla landing, even though the troops there ‘are sitting on the beach drinking cups of tea.’ This is a misrepresentation by the filmmaker of the connection between the events at Suvla and those at The Nek.
The August Offensive was a series of actions designed to break out from the positions held at Anzac and secure the Sari Bair heights, which would provide a new front that could be pushed forward to achieve the original objectives of the invasion.

The action at Lone Pine was a diversion to draw attention from the main assault of 6 August by New Zealanders against the Sari Bair peak of Chunuk Bair.

The terrain was a fairly flat area of open ground with the opposing trenches 100 metres apart. The width of the attacking area was about 300 metres.

The Australians had dug several tunnels to within 40 metres of the enemy trench, giving them less time in the open as they charged. They also set three mines that would explode at the start of the attack, and provide some areas of shelter in front of the Turkish front line. Preliminary naval bombardment over the preceding three days had cut much of the protective barbed wire entanglements in front of the Turkish trenches.

When the Australians charged they found the Turkish trenches roofed with pine logs. Some Australians had to struggle to rip open entrances to the trenches, while under fire from the defenders within. Others ran forward to the next line of open trenches and communication lines beyond. Seven Australians were later awarded the Victoria Cross for their actions in the savage and confused hand-to-hand fighting that occurred.

The Australians took the line in the first few hours but were counter-attacked by Turkish troops over the next six days. However, they were able to hold their position and the Turks finally conceded the loss of ground. Each side suffered around 2,500 casualties.
The August Offensive was a series of actions that were designed to break out from the positions held at Anzac and secure the Sari Bair heights, which would provide a new front that could be pushed forward to achieve the original objectives of the invasion.

Chunuk Bair was the scene of fighting between 6 and 10 August by British and New Zealand troops against the Turkish defenders. The aim was to take the summit on 6 August, and from there, attack German Officer’s Trench from behind on 7 August. At the same time the Australian Light Horsemen would be attacking it from the front across The Nek. Its success depended on timing.

The New Zealanders had to fight their way towards Chunuk Bair, where three battalions coming from the north would meet one coming from the south, and the four would join in the attack. Having taken the summit, they would fire down on the Turks at German Officer’s Trench in support of the Australian attack.

The exhaustion of the troops and the difficulty of the terrain meant that the forces were never able to make their objectives in time to support the attack at The Nek — with drastic consequences for the Australians there.
It also gave the Turks time to reinforce Chunuk Bair, and reduced the New Zealanders’ chances of success. Eventually the New Zealanders attacked, and were driven back with heavy casualties. They were reinforced with British troops, and following a naval barrage, attacked again — and took the summit easily. The ground was too hard for trenches to be dug, and under the naval barrage the defenders fled. It was now the turn of the Allies to try and defend this difficult place.

A Turkish counter-attack raged all day, with fierce hand-to-hand fighting. The Turks were eventually successful in forcing the British who had relieved the New Zealanders to abandon the summit and retreat to the trenches down the hillside.

The loss of Chunuk Bair ended Allied attempts to take Sari Bair. There had been about 10,000 Allied casualties during the offensive, and an unknown number of Turks.

USE THE INFORMATION in this Timeline File and from other resources (such as the films Revealing Gallipoli and Australians at War Episode 2, and the website Gallipoli and the Anzacs www.anzacsite.gov.au) to complete your report on page 49.
The August Offensive was a series of actions that were designed to break out from the positions held at Anzac and to secure the Sari Bair heights, which would provide a new front that could be pushed forward to achieve the original objectives of the invasion.

The events that took place at The Nek on 7 August are featured in Peter Weir’s film, *Gallipoli*.

The Nek was a narrow stretch of ridge connecting the Anzac trenches on a ridge known as ‘Russell’s Top’ to the knoll called Baby 700, which was controlled by the Turks. The area is about the size of three tennis courts.

**August Offensive — The Nek**

The attack at The Nek was planned to coincide with an attack by New Zealand troops from Chunuk Bair, which they were supposed to capture on the night before. The dismounted Light Horsemen (they had left their horses in Egypt) would attack from the front, and the New Zealanders would fire on Baby 700 from the height behind it, at Battleship Hill. The enemy would thus be trapped by fire from front and rear. At the same time there would be an attack from Steele’s Post against German Officers’ Trench, which would stop the Turkish machine guns covering the open ground of The Nek.

The attack was to start immediately after a naval bombardment of the enemy lines. The Australians would advance across an 80-metre front, in four waves of 150 men each. They would carry coloured marker flags to show when they captured a trench.

Everything went wrong. The New Zealanders had failed in their attempt to take Chunuk Bair. The artillery barrage ended seven minutes before the Light Horse attack, allowing Turkish defenders to move into their firing positions. The Australian attack from Quinn’s Post did not succeed, leaving the Turkish machine gunners with a clear field of fire into The Nek.

The first wave of attackers were cut down, including the commander, Colonel White. The second wave was also cut down. The 10th Light Horse commander attempted to have the third wave cancelled, but his superior officer claimed to have received reports of marker flags in the enemy trench, indicating success. (Turkish records confirm that a few Australians made it into their trench and had marker flags with them.) The third wave was sent forward, knowing what was in store. The attack was then called off, but poor communication meant that about 75 men of the fourth wave also advanced, and were cut down. There were 372 Australian casualties, and very few Turkish ones.

In 1919 a Commonwealth burial party returned to The Nek, and found the bleaching bones of 316 bodies. Only five could be identified.

After the failure of the August Offensive, and with criticism of the campaign from journalists Keith Murdoch and Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, plans were made to admit failure and evacuate the Allied forces from Gallipoli. This decision also acknowledged that things were likely to get worse for the Allies there, not better — following the entry of Bulgaria into the war on the side of Germany and the Turks, British troops were now needed for a campaign at Salonika, and German supplies now had a clear land route to Turkey. This meant that heavy artillery could be brought in which would seriously damage the Allies in their small beach-heads, and especially at Anzac.

Evacuating 14 divisions in winter was an extraordinarily challenging task to achieve without heavy casualties.

Excellent planning enabled men and equipment to be withdrawn unobserved in stages by night. Various strategies gave the impression that the Anzacs were still in place and in force even as they withdrew — such as setting up rifles that would fire after dripping water filled a tin and dragged on the trigger.

Stores were destroyed, or left for the Turks — sometimes with greeting cards left by the Australians.

The last Anzac troops withdrew during the early morning of 20 December.

The Turks now knew that the next evacuation would be at Helles, and launched one last attack on 6 January 1916, which failed. The last British troops withdrew on 9 January, probably allowed to do so by the Turks, who were as exhausted as the invaders.

Despite estimates that the withdrawal could cause 50% casualties, there were only two deaths during the evacuation.

Ironically, the most successful event of the whole campaign, from the Allied perspective, was the ending of it.

**USE THE INFORMATION** in this Timeline File and from other resources (such as the films Revealing Gallipoli and Australians at War Episode 2, and the website Gallipoli and the Anzacs www.anzacsites.gov.au) to complete your report on page 49.
Connections

**DVD–VIDEO film connections**

*Revealing Gallipoli*

- 00:57-05:54 (Part 2 Chapter 2)
- 05:54-13:40 (Part 2 Chapter 3)
- 13:40-15:16 (Part 2 Chapter 4)
- 20:12-22:14 (Part 2 Chapter 6)
- 24:19-28:38 (Part 2 Chapter 8)
- 28:38-51:53 (Part 2 Chapter 9)

*Australians At War*

**Episode 2**

*‘Who’ll come a fighting the Kaiser with me’*

- 32:07-44:05: (Chapter 8)
- 44:05-46:15 (Chapter 9)
- 46:15-48:31 (Chapter 10)
- 48:31-52:36 (Chapter 11)
- 52:36-54:31 (Chapter 12)

**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.

**Website connections**

*Gallipoli and the Anzacs website*

  - A Duty Clear Before Us
  - Interpretative Panel 3 – 2nd Krithia
  - Interpretative Panel 4 – The Turkish counter-attack of 19 May
  - Interpretative Panel 5 – Stretcher bearers
  - Interpretative Panel 6 – Lone Pine and The Nek
  - Interpretative Panel 7 – Chunuk Bair
  - Interpretative Panel 8 – Evacuation
  - Interpretative Panel 9 – Mustafa Kemal

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You have now investigated a number of events at Gallipoli. What determined the success or failure of these battles? Here is a list of possible contributing factors. Discuss what you have discovered about these through your study of the events, explaining how you think particular factors have been significant. You may also suggest other factors to add to this list.

- Leadership
- The terrain
- Equipment/technology
- Planning/preparations
- The training and expertise of the soldiers
- Luck
- Bravery
- Motivation of the soldiers
- Numerical superiority
- Weather