



# GALLIPOLI

A

# SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE



**Matt Walsh**

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## *Preface*

It is important that the details of the development of a country or nation is recorded to provide information and references for future generations.

Whilst history to most people is the recording of those aspects of the development of a country or nation encompassing people, places, buildings, local events, and government, many forget that the military also played a part in this development and that military history is an important part of the overall history of a country.

Australia in its short life as a collection of Colonies and then a Commonwealth has seen established a rich military history in particular our ANZAC traditions and ethos, which were born on the sands of Anzac Cove and the hills and trenches of the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915.

This booklet is produced as a social history, a succinct overview, rather than a detailed history of the event. That period between the 25 April 1915 and the 19 December 1915 will always remain an important part of Australia's development as a nation and our military history.

This booklet forms part of a series supported by the Defence Reserves Association and the Military Police Association of Australia as part of their program to provide information on Australia's Military History to our students to enhance their knowledge and maintain our military traditions and customs.

Let us never forget the word ANZAC and that it more than just an acronym for

### *Australian & New Zealand Army Corps*

but that it was developed from the blood and spirit of the Australian Digger and his New Zealand (Kiwi) brother.

Whilst many articles, books and histories of events (Military) are usually written from one sides view point, it is important wherever possible that a balanced account of a major event in history provides information about both sides involved in the action.

It is with this concept in mind that this brief history of the Gallipoli Campaign provides details of the Turkish involvement and their perspective of the battle.



The attack was to be undertaken using the old British Battleships- Agamemnon; Lord Nelson; Ocean (sunk); Inflexible (damaged) Irresistible (sunk) and the new Battle ship Queens Elizabeth, together with the French ships Bouvet (sunk) and the Gaulois (damaged).

It was after this failure that Lord Kitchener (the Secretary of War) reluctantly, agreed to Churchill's plan which involved the use of amphibious landing of troops.

Kitchener also blundered when he would only authorise the use of 50,000 men instead of the 150,000 requested by General Hamilton, he also indicated that no aircraft were to be used.

The campaign was to be under the command of General Ian Hamilton with the Anzac troops being under the command of Major General William Birdwood a British Officer. Unlike many of the Senior British Officers Kitchener *did visit* the front and after visiting the trenches he recommended withdrawal.

### ***The Theatre of Operations***

The Gallipoli Peninsula is 52 miles (83.6km) long with a narrow neck which widens to 12 miles (19.3km) in the middle becoming a point at Cape Helles. It has a number of beaches on the western side. Ari Burna(Anzac Cove), North Beach, Brighton Beach and Suvla Bay.

### ***The Troops involved***

The invasion force was made up of troops from a number of nations – Australia – New Zealand – Britain – India – France and The Zion Mule Corps (Jewish Troops) under the command of the British.

The British contingent was made up of troops from Ireland, Scotland, England and the Ghurkas. The Indian troops contained Regiments of Sikhs. The French troops included the French Foreign Legion and the Zouaves from North Africa.

### ***The Ghurkas***

The Ghurkas are drawn from the hill tribes of Nepal and have served in the British Army since 1816. They also serve in the Royal Nepalese Army and the Indian Army.

They have developed a fearsome reputation particularly, with their traditional weapon the 'Kuki Knife' which is used for close quarter fighting. It is interesting to note that one of the symbols of the Ghurka is a felt slouch hat.



A Ghurka soldier of  
World War I



## ***The Sikhs***

The Sikhs are from Northern India and were used at Gallipoli because of the difficulty with some of the other Indian troops (which involved Muslim) and who were reluctant to fight against their brothers the Turks.



A Sikh soldier of  
World War I

## ***The French***

The Zouaves troops at Gallipoli were White Regiments formed from the French Colonies in North Africa. They are French troops about which not many people have any knowledge, let alone that they fought at Gallipoli.

The Zouaves Regiments were made up of white volunteers who formed part of the French Armee d' Afrique (The Army of Africa).



A Zouaves soldier  
of World War I

The French Foreign Legion (Legion Etrangere) was formed in 1831 to serve in the French Colonies the troops were mainly foreign volunteers who swore an allegiance to the Legion but not to France. They could become French Citizens after five years service. The French Foreign Legion was not allowed to serve in France during peace time.



A Foreign Legion soldier  
of World War I

## The Landings

The landings were to take place on the beaches on the western side of the peninsula. The Australians were to land at Gaba Tepe and the British and French at Cape Helles.



The first Australian troops to land at 4.29am and the first Allied troops were the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade which was made up of the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalions under the command of Major E.G. Sinclair-MacLagan and numbered about 4,000 men.

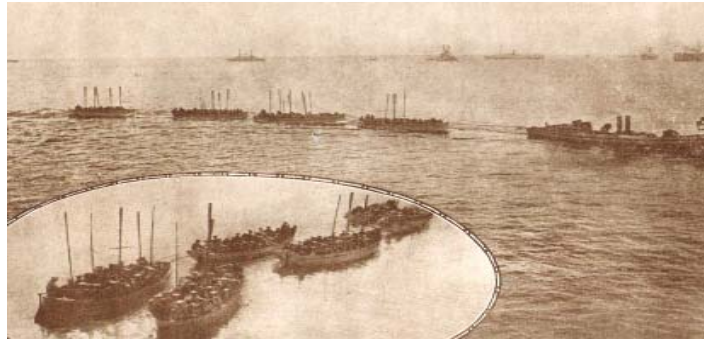


As we are now aware due to an error and tidal problems the Australians did not land at Gaba Tepe but at Ari Burnu (Anzac Cove) which is about a mile (1.4km) north of the projected landing site.



Anzac Cove

The second wave of Australians to land was from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade. By the end of the 25<sup>th</sup> about 12,000 Australians had landed. It would appear that the first Australian ashore was Lieutenant Chapman of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion. One of the Australians killed on that first day was Captain Joseph P. Lator of the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion who was the grandson of Peter Lator of the Eureka Stockade battle in 1854.



*The Landing Anzac Cove 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915*

It is interesting to note that not only were the Australians the first troops to land on Gallipoli an Australian Lt. Col. J. M. Antill CB was the last was also the last to leave Gallipoli.

The landing was described by Warrant Officer Frederick Forrest in his War Diary.

### *25<sup>th</sup> April 1915*

*What a memorable day. At 1 am. We steamed out of Port Mordos for Anafarta Bay at which place we reached at 5.am. The warships had preceded us and had landed 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Bde. The bombardment of the coast from the Dardanelles to the bay was tremendous. About 20 ships belched forth. All shore batteries were apparently silenced. Close into discharge. Saw Infantry attacking hills. Peal of musket tremendous. At about 9.a.m a destroyer came alongside and ordered us to close in and informed us that Col. McClagan O/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Bde had captured 3 Krupp Guns. A great cheer went up.*

*At 9.30 am the enemy's shore guns got our range. First shell struck torpedo boat 50 yds from us, just under the waterline. Next shell a few yards from us. They had got the range and things looked bleak for us. We received orders to get out of range and then there was a rush to get away. We had a narrow shave. Many curious incidents occurred trying to clear forecastle head when shells dropped near.*

*Miniwashes. All dropped several of her boats.*



*The landing of Artillery on Anzac Cove*

*All anxious to get ashore and help infantry. We are the first artillery to go ashore. Enemy's battery causing trouble to our infantry. Ships guns cannot locate them. Bombardment tremendous. Our infantry suffering terribly. Sent two guns with horses ashore, commencing to send more.*

*Orders received to re-embark –country to precipitous. O/C and HQ sent ashore.*

*One of our B.A.C. wounded with shrapnel on returning to ship with boat. Infantry returning –cannot hold on - the work done by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Bde. is magnificent –cannot say more. They landed at 2.1m today in rowing boats. The enemy was entrenched on the beach. They made a renowned bayonet charge and took trench after trench. Captured many prisoners and machine guns.*



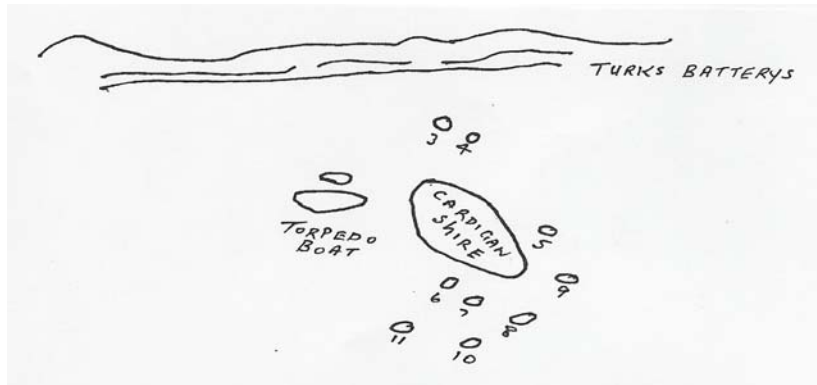
Unfortunately we cannot land the artillery to hold ground they have so dearly won. The roar of muskets and field gun fire is awful. Almost deafening. Reported that one shrapnel killed 30 men on the beach.

I shall never forget Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April. It has been a most perfect day as regards the weather. The water was as smooth as a mill pond yet on the hills in front of us, men were laying down their lives amidst suffering. Our hospital ship the "Casgon" has returned to Port Murdos Station Hospital with a load of wounded. We heard that the 12<sup>th</sup> Batt. were almost cut up.

At 5 p.m. this evening H.M.S. Queen and Majestic commenced bombardment on the hills to try and silence the enemy's battery that was causing our Infantry trouble. It is a great shame that we could not get our guns ashore to assist them for all the casualties were being caused by the enemy's shrapnel.

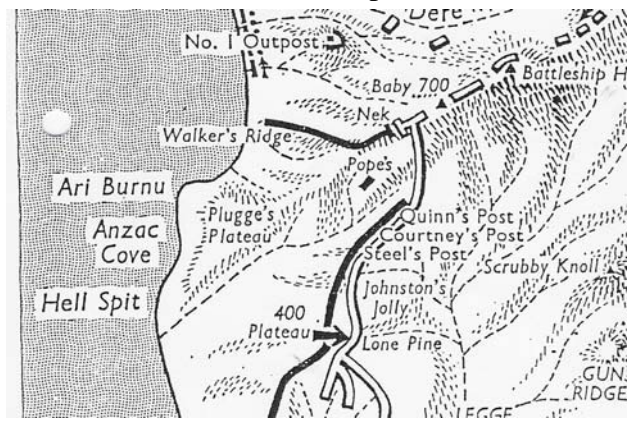
The Australians have made a name in history for themselves, particularly the 12<sup>th</sup> Batt. Their landing and the bayonet charge on the foreshore at dawn this morning is beyond all praise. They ran the enemy back about 3 miles, taking trench after trench. The first attack was made without firing a shot. Their bayonet charges were terrific. The Turks could not stand them. It was something they had never seen before. The enemy Siege guns again commenced to shell our boats and in consequence we had to pull further out.

The following is a rough diagram of the firing on our boat this morning. From it, it will be seen that we had a very close shave.



**The Nek – 25<sup>th</sup> April**

The area known to Australians as 'The Nek' is situated in an area which is now known as where Monash Valley and Malone's Gully cut deeply into both sides of a hill which became known as Baby 700. 'The Nek' is about 30 metres wide with sheer drops on either side.



Map showing location of 'The Nek' and 'Lone Pine'

### *The action*

Parts of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalions reached 'The Nek' by 8.00 a.m. on the 25<sup>th</sup>. At this early stage opposition had been light and a party under Captain Joseph P. Lalor of the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion had established themselves at 'The Nek'. Unfortunately later that day Captain Lalor (related to Peter Lalor of 'The Eureka Stockade') was killed.

The Australians continued to advance towards Chunuk Bair and on encountering the Turks went to ground (unfortunately the Australians were unaware that the Turks were out of ammunition). This gave the Turks a chance to regroup and eventually push the Australians back past Baby 700 and 'The Nek' to a location known as 'Russells' Top.

### *The August Offensive*

The August offensive which commenced on the 6<sup>th</sup> August was aimed to break the stalemate which had existed on Gallipoli. One part of the plan was an attack on 'The Nek'.

In essence the plan was simple the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Brigade (acting as dismounted infantry) and being made up of the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Regiments were to attack the Turkish trenches across a ridge so narrow that only about 150 men could advance at a time. The advance would be in broad daylight and the troops would have the sun in their eyes.

The attack was to take place after a heavy concentration of artillery fire was brought down on the Turkish trenches. Unfortunately, another blunder occurred and the barrage was lifted seven minutes early. This gave the Turks time to re-enter the trenches and to compound the problem there were machine guns with a clear view and range of our troops.

The attack was a slaughter and the men of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Regiments were virtually wiped out. Four lines of troops were sent to their deaths before the attack was called off.

Whilst the British Officers were culpable for the slaughter of troops on many occasions during the Gallipoli campaign, it was an Australian Colonel J.M. Antill who must be held responsible for the Australian losses at 'The Nek'.

Of the 600 men who made the attack at 'The Nek' in excess of 300 had been killed in an area smaller than a tennis court.

There are 326 burials at 'The Nek Cemetery', the burials took place after the Armistice, and therefore nearly all were unidentified although many would have been from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Brigade killed on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1915.



*The Nek Cemetery*

Australians were continually involved at 'The Nek' until the general evacuation of Gallipoli during the period 18 - 20 December 1915.

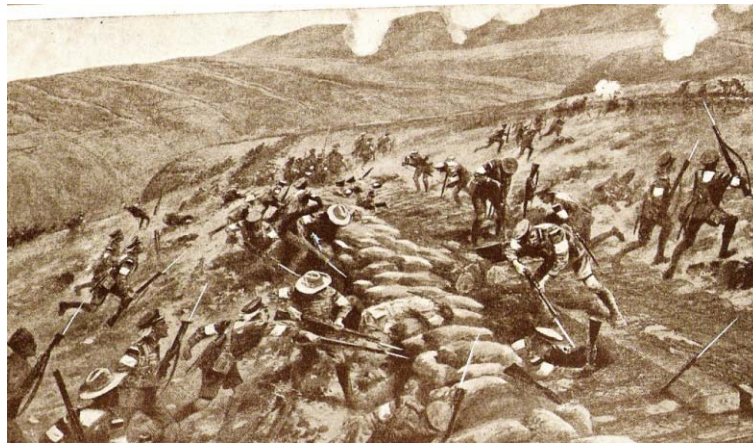
### *Lone Pine*

Lone Pine was originally captured and subsequently lost on the day of the landing at Gallipoli. Lone Pine was reached and passed by members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion about 8.00 am on the 25<sup>th</sup> as they pushed further inland. By this time they had been joined by members of other units. By the evening this area had become a 'No Mans Land' and on the 26<sup>th</sup> it was re-occupied again by the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Again it was given up to the Turks in the evening. This was an important area to both sides as it commanded Gaba Tepe in the South and the ravines leading up from the Coast. It remained a Turkish stronghold during the months of May, June, and July.



*Lone Pine*

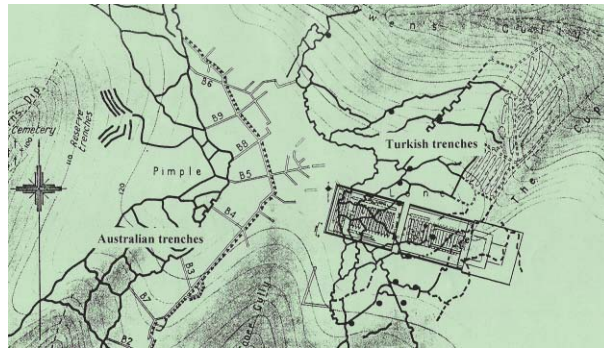
It was during the August offensive that the Australians again became engaged at Lone Pine. On the 6<sup>th</sup> August the Australian 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade emerged from a long sap (and underground tunnel) which had been dug under 'No Mans Land' and this allowed them to storm the Turkish trenches and capture the position after five days and nights of fierce fighting. During this action on one day Australians won seven Victoria Crosses. Lone Pine was retained by the Australians until the evacuation.



*The Battle for Lone Pine*

To day on the site over the original Turkish tunnels stands 'Lone Pine Cemetery'. The name 'Lone Pine' is derived from the single pine tree that was left after all the others had been chopped down by the Turks to be used as firewood.





*Map of the Lone Pine Trenches and position of the Memorial*

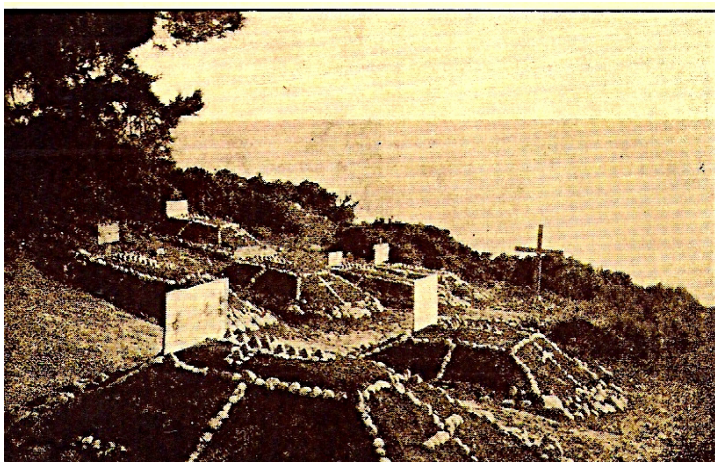
Lone Pine contains 1167 graves and the memorial contains 4930 names – 4221 Australians and 709 New Zealander soldiers who have no known graves.



*The author and Lt Col John Fielding of the RACMP laying a Wreath 25 April 2000*

### ***Allied Cemeteries***

There are 31 War Cemeteries on the Gallipoli Peninsula and they contain 22,000 graves, however it was only possible to identify 9,000, the remaining 13,000 rest in unidentified graves with an inscription 'Known only to God' or 'A Soldier of the AIF'. The remaining 14,000 who were never found are commemorated individually on various memorials.



*1919*



*Shell Green Cemetery*

*2000*

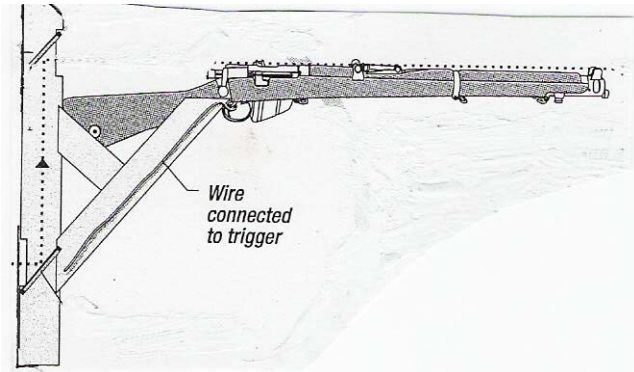
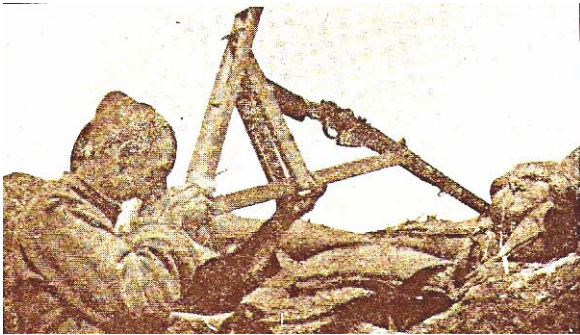
### ***The Evacuation***

Whilst the Gallipoli campaign was a disaster the evacuation of the troops was well planned and executed and why not it was planned by an Australian Lieutenant Colonel Brudnell-White.



His plan allowed for 83,000 men, horses and guns to be extracted from the battle field without the Turks realising what was happening and in the process only two men were wounded.

It was again the ingenuity of the Australians by their development and use of devices to make the Turks think they were still in the trenches. They adapted the concept of the periscope rifle by attaching weights and water filled cans to provide random fire from the rifles to create the impression that they were still occupying the trenches.



*The periscope rifle concept*

The War Diary of now Lieutenant Frederick Forrest records the Evacuation as:

### ***13<sup>th</sup> December 1915***

*Orders received for the evacuation of Anzac. The whole force was to be withdrawn during the following 6 nights. Another party consisting of guns and men from our Brigade were sent off during the night.*

### ***19<sup>th</sup> December 1915***

*The remainder of the Force was withdrawn without casualties. The guns left to cover the last parties were blown up as soon as Infantry were clear of firing line.*

*The arrangements made for withdrawal were perfect. Not a hitch occurring throughout all tracks from firing line to beach were clearly marked to enable the Infantry to retire safely on the last night. The enemy was not aware that we had gone until some 24 hours after the last party got away.*

*A huge quantity of store, tent, ammunition and wagons had to be left behind. The success of the movement depended on keeping the enemy ignorant of our intentions and this was only possible by leaving everything appear as if nothing unusual was happening. The enemy's aeroplanes were very active throughout the operation and were kept off by our own planes.*

*A large quantity of stores were burnt by accident on the beach and a large quantity of ammunition had to be dumped into the sea. All ammunition and explosives were buried before leaving.*

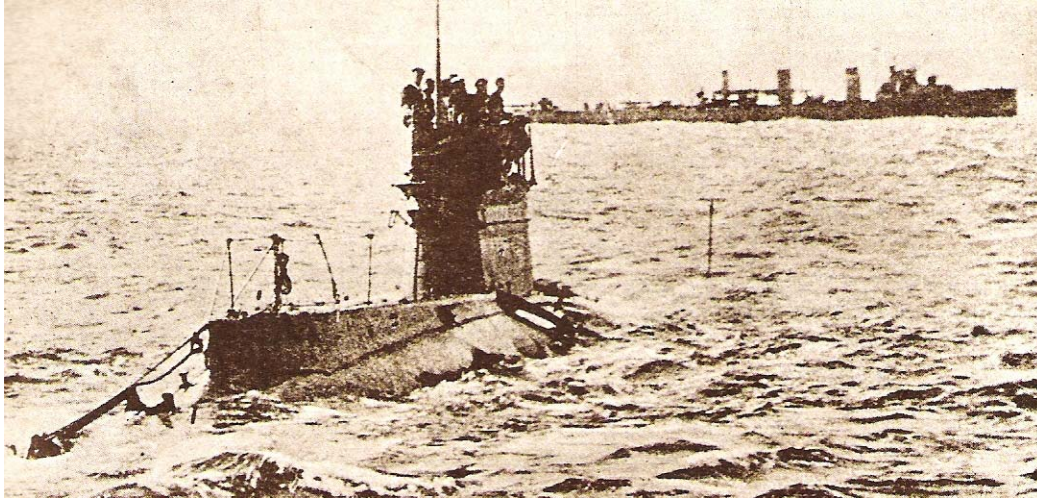
*The Imperial Division at Suvla Bay were withdrawn at the same time as our Divisions at Anzac. The whole Force concentrated at Murdos and were eventually shipped to Egypt.*

*It was estimated that some 30,000 casualties would result from the withdrawal and some 20 hospital ships were lying at Murdos awaiting to be filled. Fortunately, none of them were required.*

*We arrived at Murdos on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> December and were transferred to the H.M.T Campenello. On 21<sup>st</sup> December we were again transferred to the "Horatio" which left Murdos en route for Alexandria at 7.30 a.m. on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1915 with 3,000 troops (1<sup>st</sup> Div. Artillery and New Zealanders) on board.*

## ***The Australian Navy***

A little reported involvement in the Gallipoli campaign was that of the Australian Submarine AE2 captained by Lieutenant Commander Henry Stoker RN. AE2 operated in the Straits between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 1915 and was the first Australian (British) ship to successfully enter the Straits and sink a number of enemy ships before being holed by enemy gunfire which caused it to be scuttled. The crew were captured and taken to the town of Gallipoli (Gelibolu) before being transferred to Istanbul. It was found in 1998.



*AE2 in the Dardanelles Straits April 1915*

## ***Casualties***

Approximately 500,000 men were involved in the Gallipoli campaign and just over half became casualties.

Depending on the source the numbers vary our New Zealand comrades lost between 2,632 and 2818 killed and 5,427 wounded and POW 22. Whilst the British lost 21, 255 killed whilst the Indian Army had 1,558 killed and the French 10,000.

## ***Australian Casualties for Gallipoli Campaign (Landing to Evacuation)***

<b>Casualties</b>	<b>Officers</b>	<b>Chaplin's</b>	<b>Other Ranks</b>	<b>Total</b>
Killed	326	1	5,957	6,284
Wounded	414	4	13,332	13,750
Missing	20	-	1,652	1,672
POWs	7	-	52	59
Sick	592	7	13,355	13,954
Nature Unknown	99	-	254	303
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>34,602</b>	<b>36,022</b>

## ***British and New Zealand Casualties***

### **British and New Zealand Casualties**

	<b><i>Killed</i></b>	<b><i>Wounded</i></b>	<b><i>Missing</i></b>	<b><i>Prisoners</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
<b><i>British</i></b>	28,200	78,095	11,254	-	117,549
<b><i>New Zealand</i></b>	2,632	5,427	180	22	8261

However, when we talk about casualties we should not forget the other side. The Turkish casualties were 251,000 of which 86,692 were killed.

## ***Women and Gallipoli***

One area of the Gallipoli campaign which receives very little mention was the involvement of the Nurses. Whilst no women landed on Gallipoli they were highly involved in the campaign looking after the wounded onboard hospital ships off the Peninsula and in the Australian General Field Hospitals on the island of Murdos. Without their involvement many of those wounded would have died. There is a record of a marriage on Murdos between an Australian Digger and Australian Nurse.

## ***Personalities***

### **Winston Churchill**

Winston Churchill the First Lord of the Admiralty, was the man responsible for the planning of the campaign and therefore the man responsible for its total failure.

Many believe including the author that particularly by today's standards, Churchill should have been considered a 'War Criminal' and what compounds his blunder at Gallipoli is that he repeated it again during World War II.

Fortunately, his mistakes were recognised by the Government and he was convinced to resign from his post.

### **General Ian Hamilton**



Hamilton was placed in charge of the campaign by Lord Kitchener the Secretary of War. Unfortunately, he was inept and lacked many skills and could be considered in the same mould as Churchill a war criminal.

Consider Hamilton's Message to his troops issued on the eve of the Landings- 24<sup>th</sup> April 1915.

#### ***SOLDIERS OF FRANCE AND OF THE KING!***

***“Before us lies an adventure unprecedented in modern war. Together with our comrades of the fleet we are about to force a landing upon an open beach in face of positions which have been vaunted by our enemies as impregnable.***

***The landing will be made good by the help of God and the Navy: the positions will be stormed, and the war brought one step nearer to a glorious close.***

***Remember, said Lord Kitchener, when bidding adieu to your commander, remember, once you set foot upon the Gallipoli Peninsula, you must fight the thing through to a finish.***

***The whole world will be watching our progress. Let us prove ourselves worthy of the great feat arms entrust to us.”***

***(Signed) IAN HAMILTON, General.***

*(Authors comment) Hamilton was so inept and lacked man management skills that he gave preference to the French over his own Commonwealth Troops in the wording of the “Special Order’ and one should examined the words he used. ‘adventure’ – he also apparently placed more faith in God than the British Navy.*



From the time of the landing until he was sacked in October 1915, Hamilton went ashore in Suvla Bay on one occasion for less than two days. However, it would be easy for one to believe that Hamilton was ashore with the troops on Gallipoli. There are photographs of his Dardanelles Headquarters (see below). In actual fact these Headquarters were on the island of Teudos (Imbros) which was located 45 minutes from Cape Helles – 40 minutes from Anzac Cove and 50 minutes from Suvla Bay.



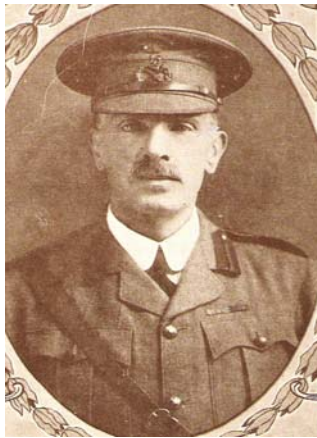
*The caption to this photograph reads “General Hamilton’s Headquarters at the Dardanelles*

On the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1915 was requested to advise Lord Kitchner on potential losses if an evacuation was to take place.

Hamilton replied ‘*that such a step was unthinkable*’ – He was so wrong. He was so wrong an evacuation plan was developed by Lt. Gen. Cyril Brudenell White – *an Australian* which resulted in no casualties and took place without the Turks realising that an evacuation was occurring.

If one could say that Hamilton did one thing right it was when he issued a Special Order relating to the Battle for Lone Pine in August when he spoke about “The gallant capture of the almost impregnable Lone Pine Trenches by the Australian Division”. He couldn’t even get that right it was little more than half a Division.

### **Major General Sir William Bridges K.C.M.G.**



Bridges was born in Greenock Scotland and arrived in New South Wales (Australia) in 1884. He joined the New South Wales Permanent Artillery as a Subaltern at the age of 24. He saw service in the Boer War where he received the Queen’s Medal with three clasps. He was an Officer in the Permanent Staff of the Australian Defence Force and was appointed the Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division of the 1<sup>st</sup> A.I.F.

Unlike many of his British counterparts he did involve himself with his troops and on one of his daily visits to his troops on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1915, he was seriously wounded passing away on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1915 making him the highest ranking Australian killed on Gallipoli.



Bridges wounding and subsequent death is recorded as follows:

*Whilst carrying out one of his daily inspections, because he believed that by example he would inspire his troops. It is reported that one turn in the path leading to the front lines was particularly exposed to the enemy's sniper fire and the bend had to be negotiated rather quickly. Bridges having stopped at a dressing station close to the bend. Remarked " Well we must make another run for it" Unfortunately as he made his run he was hit in the thigh the wound eventually being fatal. Bridges considerate of his men said to those around him "don't carry me down I don't want any of you fellows to run into danger."*

### **Lieutenant General William Birdwood**



Birdwood was a British Officer who was given command of the Australian and New Zealand troops (the ANZACS). He was not a gifted tactician and was against the evacuation of the troops from Gallipoli, believing that retreat would be disastrous to the men and more particularly the prestige of the Empire. A typical attitude from what can only be described as an upper class British Snob. This was reflected in his appointments after Bridges was killed, when he formed around him a group of Officers who could only be described as a group who supported the concept of the 'Imperial Connection' one of these was Brudnell White, whilst being an Australian Officers he apparently supported Birdwood's feelings.

Birdwood was not impressed with officers like Colonel James Gordon Legge (later Major General) and Lieutenant Colonel 'Pompey' Elliott (later Brigadier General), they were not part of his 'Imperial Connection' how wrong was he in his assessment of these men.

### **Lieutenant General Cyril Brudnell-White**



White was the son of a British (Irish) Officer whose background is reflected by the fact that although he was an Australian Army Officer he supported the 'Imperial Connection' of Birdwood and thus became part of Birdwood's inner sanctum.

Notwithstanding this throw back to the 'Imperial Connection' he was responsible for the successful planning of the evacuation from Gallipoli.

In the 1960's the Australian Army's Small Ships Squadron named a landing craft after him the 'Brudnell -White'.

## Major General James Gordon Legge



Whilst born in London he migrated to Australia and records show that in the 1880's he was a member of the New South Wales part time Infantry serving in the 'Ashfield Reserve Corps' and during 1885 he was a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Lithgow Corps which was formed on the 15/12/1884 as a Part Paid regiment of the Volunteer Infantry.

Following Federation he was appointed to implement the "Universal Training Scheme" (the Cadets). Whilst serving in Gallipoli following the death of General Bridges he was on the 24<sup>th</sup> June appointed as the Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division.

After Gallipoli Legge went on to serve as the Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division on the Western Front. He was very critical of the British and this would probably account for why he was not part of Birdwood's inner circle.

## Private John Simpson



*Simpson's Grave at Ari Burnu Cemetery (Anzac Cove)*

Simpson and his donkey are an important part of our ANZAC tradition and history. Simpson whose real name was John Simpson Kirkpatrick enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF as John Simpson and was allocated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance.

During the short time he was on Gallipoli from April to May 1915 Simpson and his donkey (Murphy) were responsible for the recovery of many wounded Australians and his actions probably save many of their lives.

Unfortunately, on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1915 whilst returning with a wounded soldier he was shot through the heart by a machine gun bullet. At the time it is recorded that Murphy (his donkey) just stopped and looked down at his mate.

### **Corporal Ted Matthews**

Ted Matthews was to have the honour of being the last surviving Australian soldier to have landed at Gallipoli. He passed away at the age of 101 in 1997 and was given a State Funeral.

Matthews a Signaller apparently had no love for the British. On the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1915 he is reported as saying, "Those dam fool British, just sat down had a picnic, drank cups of tea and played soccer for so long that the Turks were able to muster reinforcements – which meant they lost any advantage of surprise".

A true Aussie Digger who said what he thought and was certainly a good judge of men.

### **Mustafa Kemal ('Ataturk')**



Mustafa was born in 1881 in Solonika. His childhood was not a happy one and at the age of twelve he was able to obtain entry into the Military School as a Cadet. He was so good that one of his instructors bestowed on him the name 'Kemal' which in Arabic means 'perfection'

He graduated in 1905 with the rank of Captain and by 1914 he was a Lieutenant Colonel and was in charge of the 19<sup>th</sup> Division, when the Allies landed on Gallipoli. It was during this campaign that he delivered to his troops his famous speech.

*"I am not giving you an order to attack, I am ordering you to die"*

After the War he continued to be active in the political arena and in 1923 on the formation of the Turkish Republic he was elected it first President.

### ***Australian Victoria Cross Winners at Gallipoli***



Between the landing on Anzac Cove on the 25 April 1915 and the evacuation on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1915, nine Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross (VC).

## ***Victoria Cross Winners***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
Alexander Burton	L/Corporal	14 <sup>th</sup> Battalion- 4 <sup>th</sup> Brigade	9 <sup>th</sup> August	Lone Pine
William Dunston	Corporal	7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade	9 <sup>th</sup> August	Lone Pine
John Hamilton	Private	3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion -1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade	9 <sup>th</sup> August	Lone Pine
Albert Jacka	L/Corporal	14 <sup>th</sup> Battalion- 4 <sup>th</sup> Brigade	19/20 May	Courtney's Post
Leonard Keysor	Private	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion -1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade	7/8 August	Lone Pine
Alfred Shout	Captain	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion- 1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade	9 <sup>th</sup> August	Lone Pine
William Symons	Lieutenant	7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade	8/9 August	Lone Pine
Hugo Throssell	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant	10 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse	29/30 August	Hill 60
Frederick Tubb	Lieutenant	7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade	9 <sup>th</sup> August	Lone Pine

### ***The Gallipoli Star – The Medal that was but never was.***

A little known issue relating to the Australians and New Zealanders who landed on Gallipoli was the fact that the British government blocked the awarding to them of a Campaign Medal specially struck to mark their service during the attack on Gallipoli.

The Campaign Medal was never issued due to the influence of the British Politicians who had decided to issue their own British Troops with a Campaign Medal for Gallipoli notwithstanding that the Australian and New Zealand Governments wanted to issue the Gallipoli Star to their troops and the concept was supported by the British Army Council.

Records from the Secretary of State for the Colonies record a cablegram dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1917 supporting the issuing of the Medal.

Typical of the British Politicians who were safe in London the War Office on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1918, issued a statement to the Australian Government that the Gallipoli Star would not be issued, but instead all troops who left their home shore before the end of December 1915 would be awarded the 1914/1915 Star, even though they had not engaged the enemy or fired a shot in anger. One can only draw their own conclusions as to the motives of the British Politicians.

### ***The Turks***

When we talk or read about Gallipoli it usually relates to the Anzacs and or the British, however, the Turks were also important players in the action and should not be forgotten, because they have not forgotten the Australians.

When Australians visit Gallipoli they are often asked by the Turks “*why do you celebrate a defeat*”. They are right it was a defeat, however, they do not realise that we are not celebrating a defeat, but the birth of a tradition ‘the ANZAC Tradition’ which is important to our people and our Nation. It is considered to be one of the foundation stones on which Australia has been built. It is “Sacred”.

The Turks attitude to the Australians is reflected in the Gallipoli area in a number of ways. As one approaches the Gallipoli Peninsula from Canakkale carved high on the hill behind the town of Eckbat is a sign in Turkish when translated reads;



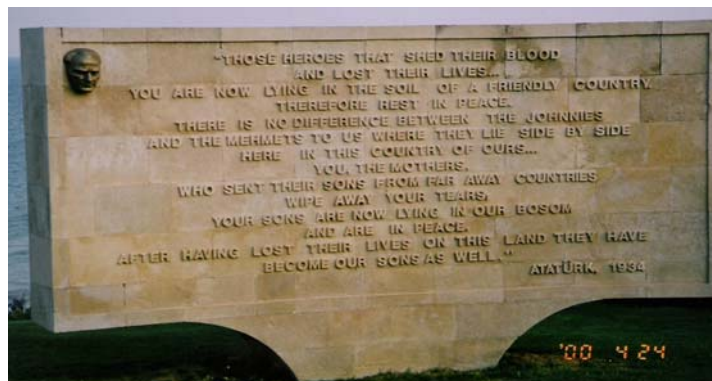
***“Stop Passer By  
Tread on this land softly because this place witnessed the death of a generation  
In this land beats the heart of a Nation”.***



*The hillside behind Eckbat – the Dardanelles*

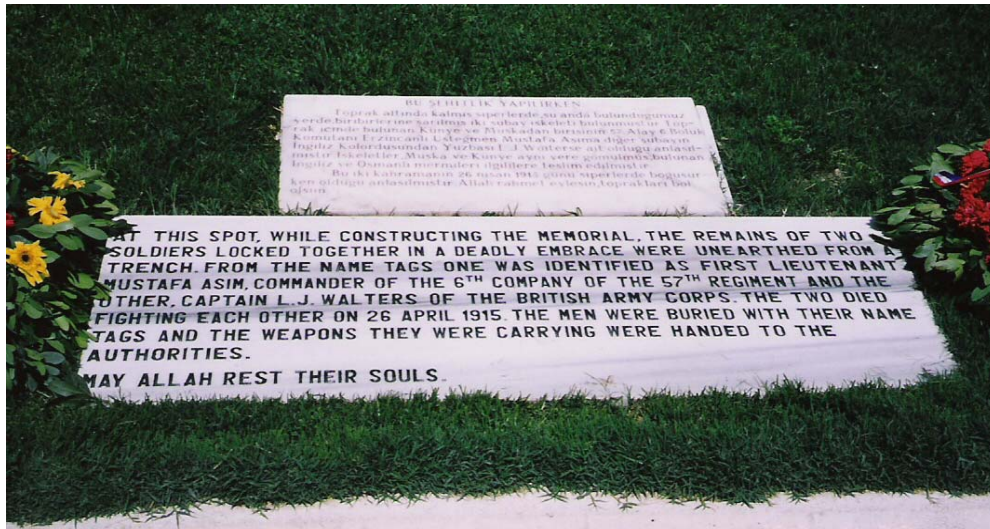
The feelings of the Turks for the Anzacs can be summed up by the statement made by Ataturk in 1934 when he said:

*The Heroes that shed their blood  
and lost their lives  
you are now laying in the soil of a friendly country  
therefore rest in peace.  
There is no difference between the Johnnies  
and the Mehments to us where they lie side by side  
Here in this country of ours...  
You their 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  
having lost their lives on this land they  
have become our sons as well.*



The relationship that has developed between the Turks and the Allies can again be seen in the Turkish Cemetery on Gallipoli, where after the War the bodies of a Turkish and a British soldier were found in a deadly embrace, as they killed each other.

As they died together, they were buried together a fitting testimony to a relationship and respect which has developed over time.



### *The Turkish perspective-‘or why the Turks supported the Germans’*

Realising the importance of oil for Warships the Germans were anxious to have the Ottomans (Turks) on their side just as the Allies wanted them on their side.

It appears that the British reneged on the sale of two battleships that were being built for the Turk and kept them for themselves. The Germans saw this as an opportunity and arranged for two German warships the Battle Cruiser *Goeben* and the Light Cruiser *Breslav* to sail into Black Sea in late October 1914 and attack some Russian towns and on their return journey to hand them over to the Turks. As a result Britain, France and Russia gave the Turks a (12) twelve hour ultimatum which they ignored as a result of this action War was declared against the Turks (Ottomans) on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1914.

It was suspected that when Turkey joined the Central Power (Germans) in October 1914 that the Turkish troops would mount an attack on the Suez Canal. This suspicion proved correct and the Turkish Troops engaged the Australians for the first time in February 1915, when a raiding party of Turkish troops attacked the Suez Canal (unsuccessfully) as they came into contact with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Company Royal Australian Engineers.

Following the ‘Declaration of War’ the British and French Navies attacked the ‘Forts’ guarding the Dardanelles after this attack the Turks strengthened their defences and laid ‘Mines’ in the Straits. The Turks defeated the Allies in this battle with losses of 44 killed and 74 wounded.



On the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915 Mustafa Kemal 'Ataturk' which means "***father of the Turks***" whilst on his way to Hill 971 encountered some of his troops from Hill 261 (Chunuk Bair) running towards him and indicating the enemy and informing him that they had no ammunition. Ataturk informed them that if they had no bullets, you have a bayonet and he ordered them to fix their bayonets and face the enemy.

Ataturk gave the men of the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment which was considered one of the famous Regiments to serve at Gallipoli the following 'Order' - "***I am not ordering you to attack. I am ordering you to die. During the before we die other forces and commanders will take your place***". The Regiment was wiped during the battle from the commander to the lowest private. The actions of these men on behalf of their Nations is now recorded at the "***57<sup>th</sup> Regiment Cemetery for Martyrs***"



*The 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment Cemetery for Martyrs*

The Turkish Navy supported by the Germans managed to inflict great damage against the British Fleet. On the 12<sup>th</sup> May the Turkish torpedo boat "*Muavinat-i-Millye*" sunk the British Battleship *HMS Goliath* with 618 men lost. A German U-Boat U21 on the 21<sup>st</sup> May managed to sink the Battleship *HMS Triumph* off Gabe Tepe and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May the Battleship *HMS Majestic* was also sunk by a torpedo.

The Turks were troops who respect their enemy on Gallipoli and this is recorded on a number of occasions when cease fires were arranged to bury the dead and exchange gifts. On one of these occasions Colonel C.S. Ryan (a Melbourne doctor) who had served with the Turks in the Russo-Turkish War wore his Turkish Ribbon and was honoured by the Turkish Troops.

On another occasion during a lull in the fighting a Turkish Soldier carried a wounded British soldier from his Turkish Trench over to the British line and left him with his mates and then returned to his own lines. This act of respect is recorded by a Mounment - *Mehmetcige Saygi Aniti (The Monument to respect Mehmetick)*.





*The Zion Mule Corps*  
*The first Jewish Military Unit in modern times*



When we speak about Gallipoli, we remember the ANZACS, the British and their colonial troops –the Indians etc), the Turks and to a lesser extent the Germans. But very rarely do we ever hear any one speak about the involvement and exploits of the Jews as an identifiable group of soldiers in their own right and not just as members of the armed forces who follow a particular religious belief like any of the other main stream religious groups – Christian, Hindu, Muslim, etc.

The men of the Zion Mule Corps deserve just as much recognition and acknowledgement for their actions and involvement in defending freedom as the all the other troops involved on the side of the allies during World War I.

We are all aware of the role and work undertaken by the Indian Mountain Battery and their mules on Gallipoli. Without these animals (the mules & donkeys) the movement of supplies, ammunition, water and of course the evacuation of the wounded would have been difficult and we may well have seen a different result in respect to the campaign.

We are all aware of “*Simpson and his donkey*” and the role he played in saving soldiers lives, particularly Australians. Whilst a donkey was not standard issue to Medics in the Australian Army some how Simpson like a typical “*Aussie Digger*” acquire what he need to carry out his role. Who knows the donkey used by Simpson may well have originally belonged to a member of the Zion Mule Corps.

The British like to make life difficult- or when something is unconventional then it cannot be used or is not right. This attitude was seen when General Maxwell was originally approached to accept the assistance of a “*Jewish Volunteer Unit*” – his attitude was- ‘Regulations forbade the enlistment of Aliens’. However he reluctantly agreed to do what he could if a ‘*detachment of mule transports*’ was organised.

One wonders what General Monash would have said if he had received a similar reply, the results in France may well have been different and England may well be speaking German today.

However, God (or by what ever title one wishes to call him) works in strange ways. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1915 the Zion Mule Volunteers were sworn in and began work as part of the 29<sup>th</sup> British Division. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1915 the Corps went into camp with four troops each had a British and a Jewish Officers in joint command. Orders below the Troop level were given in Hebrew. On the 17<sup>th</sup> April the Corps departed for Lemnos onboard the HMT Hymettus and Anglo- Egyptian.

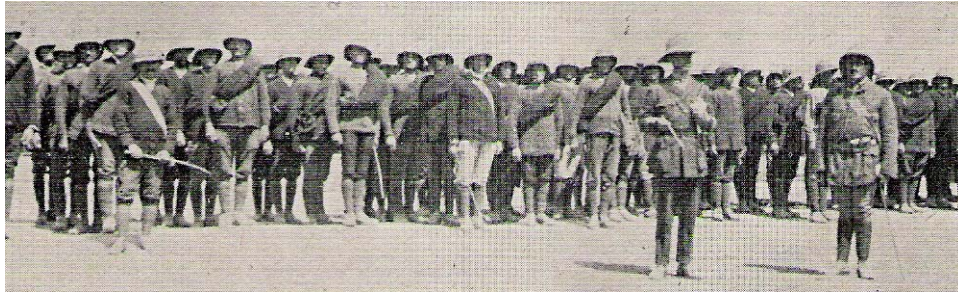
When one looks back Captain Patterson of the Zion Mule Corps was told that his soldiers might well have averted a military and medical calamity for during the first two days of the attack on Gallipoli there were no hospital supplies available for the troops.



On the 27<sup>th</sup> April the Zion Mule Corps landed with its main function to assist the British 29<sup>th</sup> Division at Cape Helles. The Corps requested to be allowed to take part in the assault on Achi Baba as combat troops. However the stiff upper lip attitude of the British would not allow this to occur. However the Muleteers took the 'bit between their teeth' and unofficially took part reinforcing the Inniskilling Fusiliers. Again one can only surmise what the result might have been had this not occurred. The unit under the command of Lt. Col Patterson was given the nickname of the "Allies' Cavalry".

Unfortunately, the unit was not allowed to continue and on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1916 the Zion Mule Corps was disbanded. During its short life as a Military Unit the Zion Mule Corps on Gallipoli lost:  
8 soldiers killed: 55 wounded

*The Zion Mule Corps*



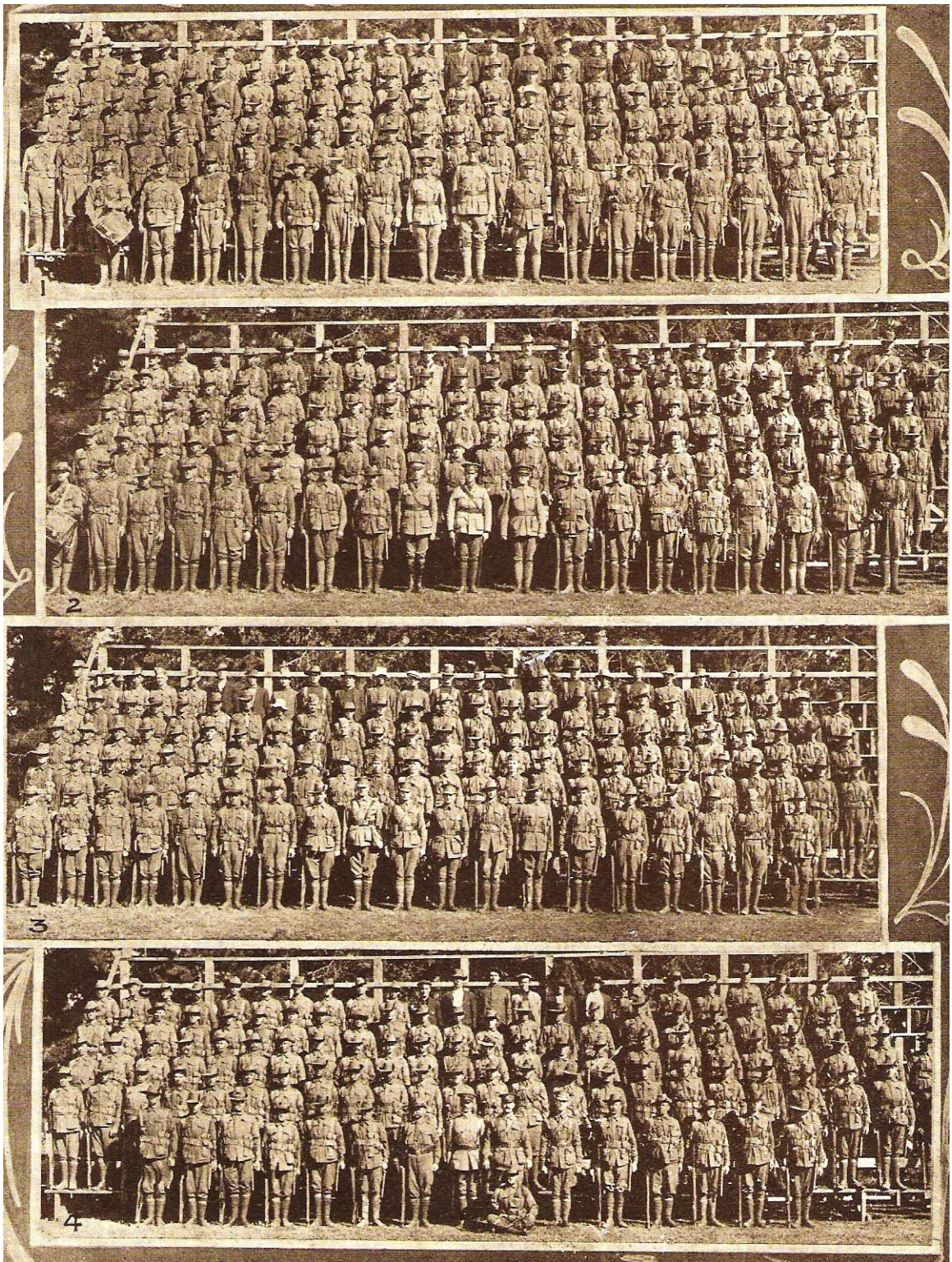
The concept of a Jewish Unit was not looked at again until the end of 1916 when 120 ex- Muleteers were sworn in to assist the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the London Regiment. This was the catalyst for future Jewish Battalions, one such Battalion was commanded by an Australian Jew Lt. Col E. Margolin DSO.

*Lieutenant-Colonel John Henry Patterson  
Commander of the Zion Mule Corps  
Gallipoli*



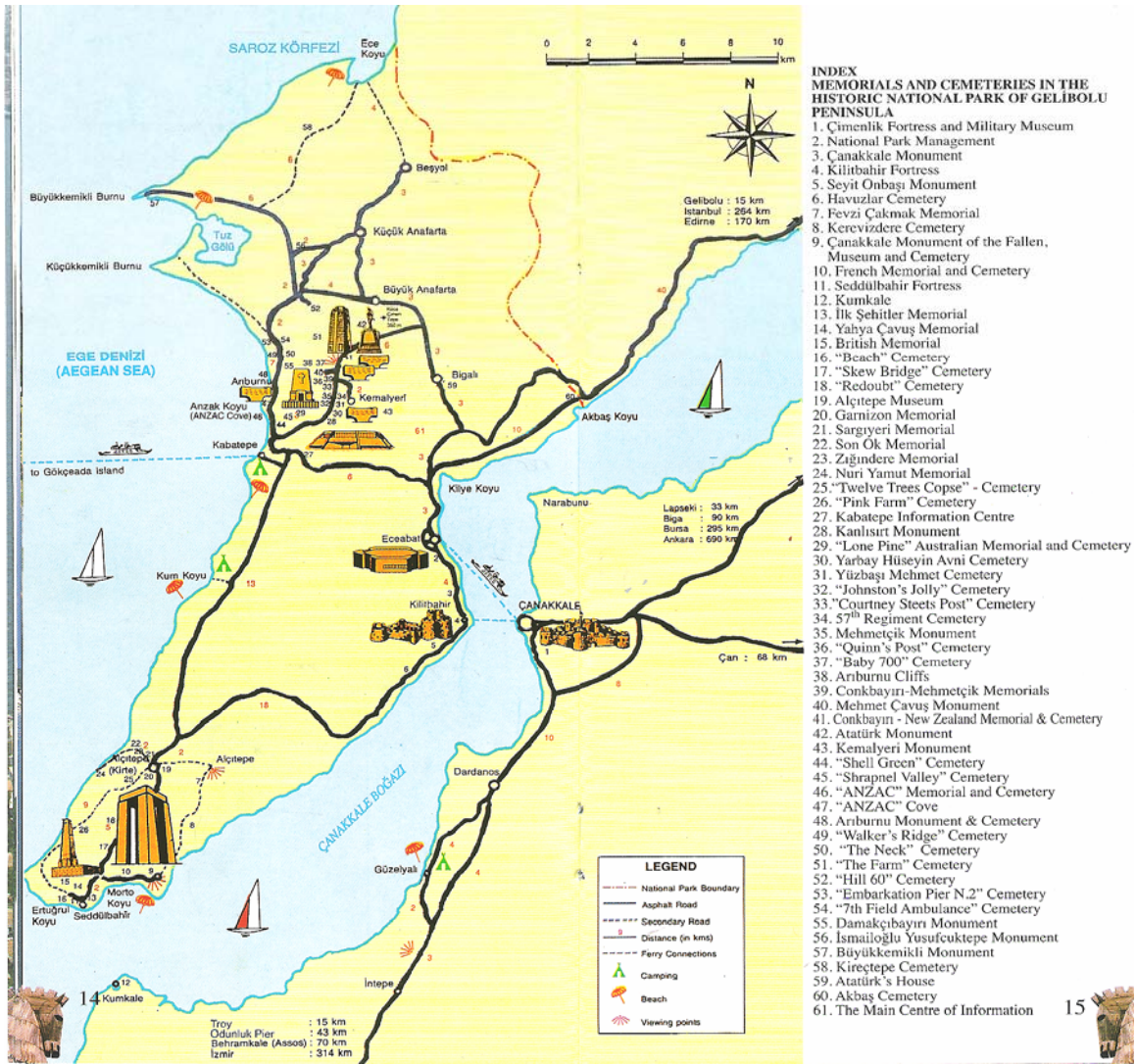
*Mule transport on Gallipoli*





*7<sup>th</sup> Battalion – “E”-“F”-“G”- “H” Companies  
who saw service on Gallipoli*





## The Gallipoli Motif



The motif adopted for Gallipoli has been the *Gallipoli Rose with a sprig of Rosemary*.

**The Gallipoli Rose-** *Cistus salvifolius* has a strong link with wartime heritage. It grows wild on the Gallipoli Peninsula. It is believed soldiers at Gallipoli during the First World War were so taken with the plant's beauty that some brought seeds home to Australia and scattered them around fields and gardens as a symbol of peace and remembrance. Over time the rose has become known as the Gallipoli Rose.

**Rosemary-** *Rosmarinus officinalis* is an ancient symbol of remembrance. Since ancient times, this aromatic herb was believed to have properties to improve memory. Rosemary became an emblem of fidelity and remembrance in ancient literature and folklore. Sprigs of rosemary are worn in Australia on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day as a sign of Remembrance and to honour those of our servicemen and women who paid the 'Supreme Sacrifice' during times of War in defence of their country and the protection of others from invading forces. Rosemary can be found growing wild on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

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All photographs used were taken by the author during a visit to Gallipoli for the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2000.

## ***The author***

Matt Walsh JP. MLO ALGA (MCAE), Dip Bus & Corp. Law (CPS) was called up for National Service in 1957 and received a deferment in 1958 enlisted in his local Citizen Military Forces (CMF) Unit, 19 Company (Tipper) Royal Australian Army Service Corps (RAASC) at Ashfield. He was to later find out that this was the same unit his grandfather had served in during World War I.

In 1959 he was finally called up for National Service serving with the 13<sup>th</sup> National Service Training Battalion at Ingleburn, on completion of his full time training he was posted back to 19 Coy RAASC, until the cessation of National Service in 1960.

In 1961 he re-enlisted in the CMF with 5 Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) and in 1963 transferred to 1 Division Provost Company (Military Police) and then to 2 Division Provost Company, until his discharge in 1969 with the rank of Sergeant.

He has served on the Executive Committee of the Defence Reserves Association (NSW), the Military Police Association of Australia the Joint Committee for the Commemoration of the Battle for Crete and the Greek Campaign, the Reserve Forces Day Council, Treasurer of the Ashfield RSL Sub Branch and Secretary/Treasurer of the NSW National Serviceman’s Association and is a Director of The Army Museum of New South Wales Foundation.

He has been awarded the ‘Australian Defence Medal’ and the ‘Anniversary of National Service Medal’ in January 2006 he was awarded the ‘Australia Day Achievement Medallion’ by the National Australia Day Council. In November 2007 he was awarded “Member of the Order of Liverpool” by the Liverpool City Council, in 2002 he wrote the ‘History of Ingleburn Military Camp’.