

# Battle of Gallipoli



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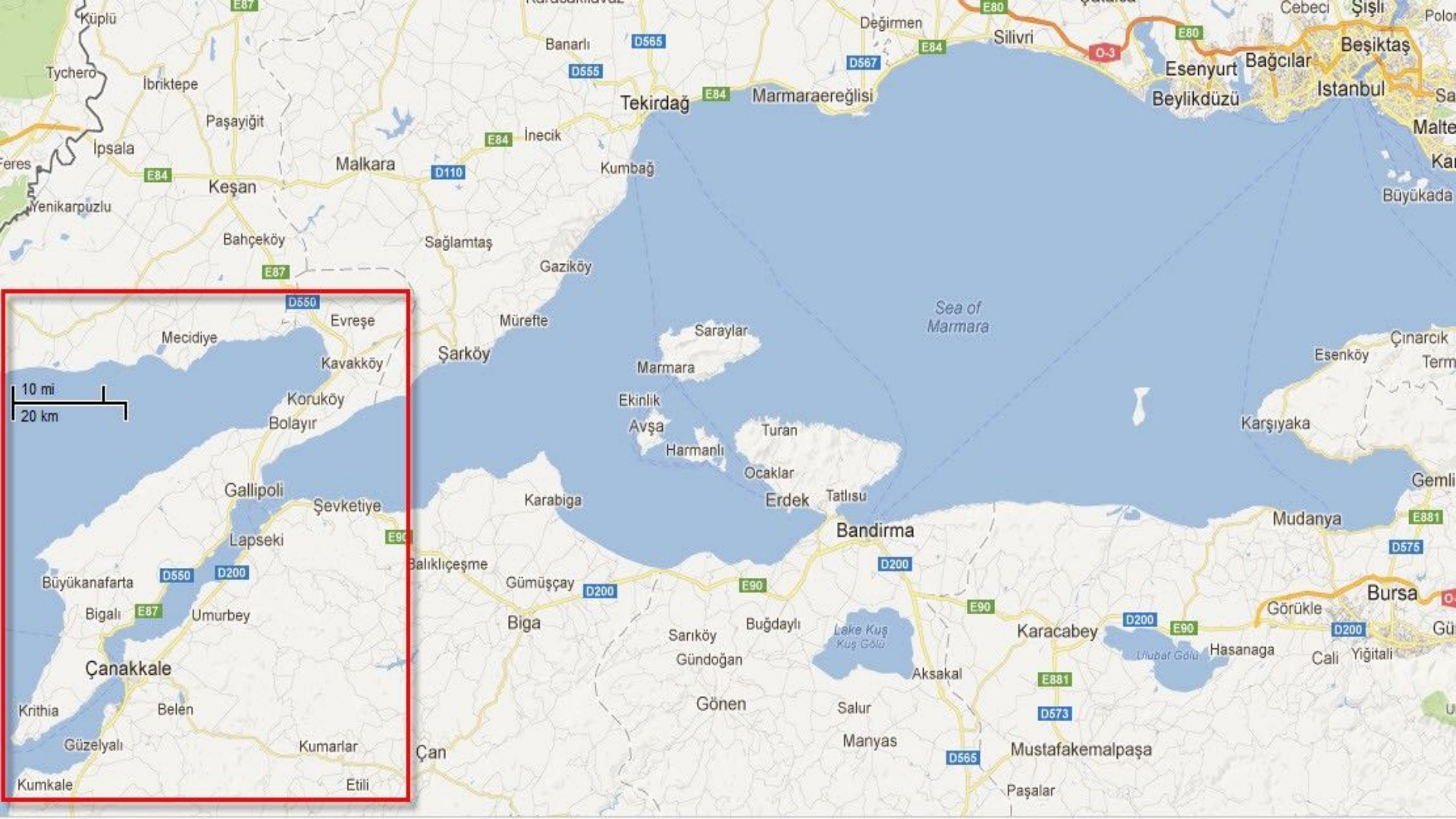
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The Gallipoli Campaign of 1915-16, also known as the Battle of Gallipoli or the Dardanelles Campaign, was an unsuccessful attempt by the Allied Powers to control the sea route from Europe to Russia during World War I.



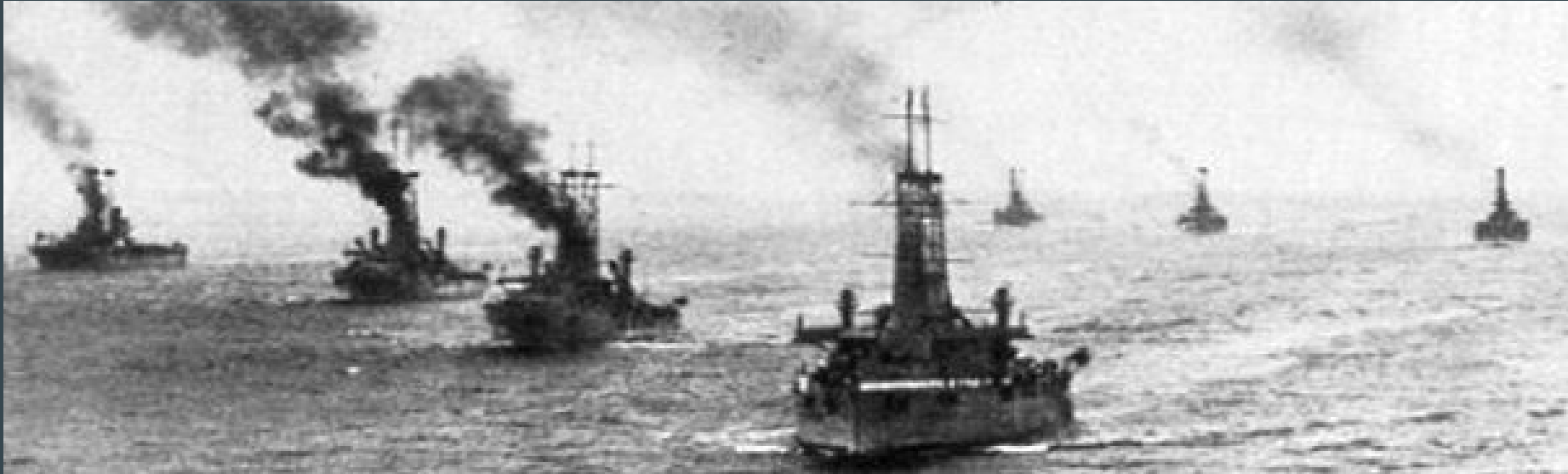
# Reason for the Battle

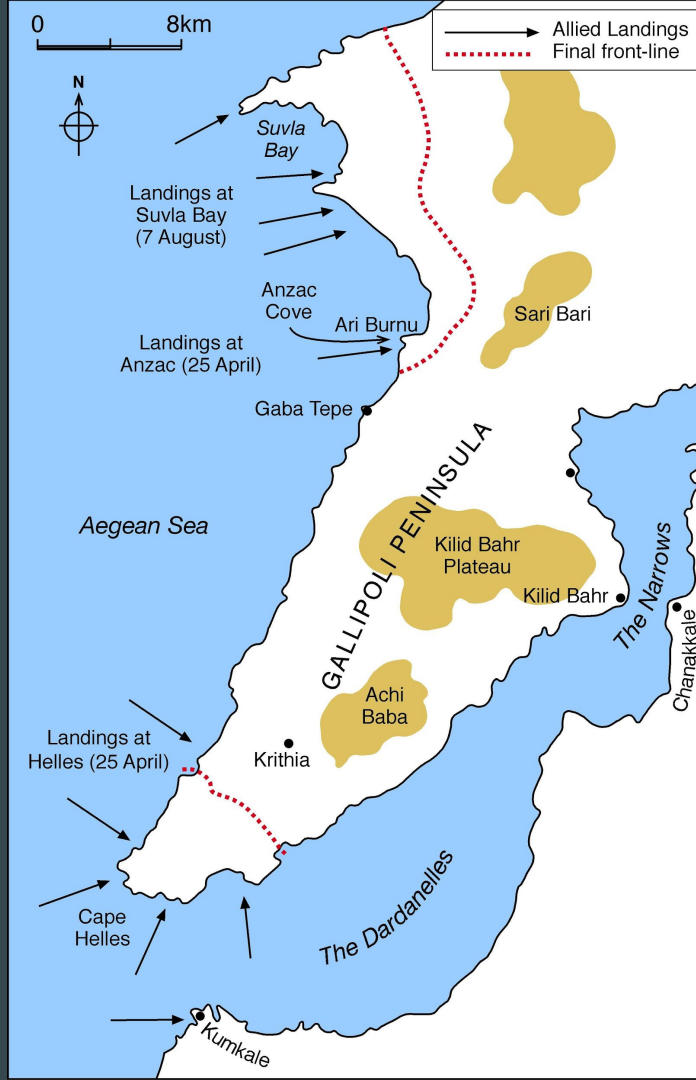
Turkey's control of the entrance into the Black Sea has cut Russia's main trade route with its western Allies. This is a problem because Russia's weak industrial base is unable to keep the army sufficiently supplied with the material it needs to fight this terrible war. Seizing control of the straits leading into the Black Sea would allow British industry to equip Russian armies. And a well equipped Russian army should be able to overwhelm the Germans and bring the war to a swift end, or so the optimistic thinking goes.



# Start of the Battle

Spearheaded by the first lord of British Admiralty, Winston Churchill, the naval attack began with long range bombardment by British and French battleships.





Turkish forces stalling attempts to clear the mines from the straits. Admiral Sackville Carden collapsed under the pressure and the new Naval commander ordered ships to enter the straits. The result was awful, as Turkish fire and mines sank three ships and severely damaged three more.







After the failed naval invasion, the allies began plans for a land invasion on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Troops from Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the French colonies assembled on the Greek island of Lemnos and started the invasion on April 25, 1915. Despite suffering heavy casualties, they managed to capture two beachheads at Helles and at Gaba Tepe.



After the landings, the Allies were able to make little progress. With hopes to break the stalemate, the Allies made a large troop landing on August 6 at Sulva Bay. Together with an advance from Anzac Cove towards the heights at Sari Bair and a diversionary act at Helles. The surprise landing at Sulva Bay had little opposition, but Allied indecision and delay stalled their progress in all three locations, allowing Ottoman reinforcements to arrive and gather their defenses.



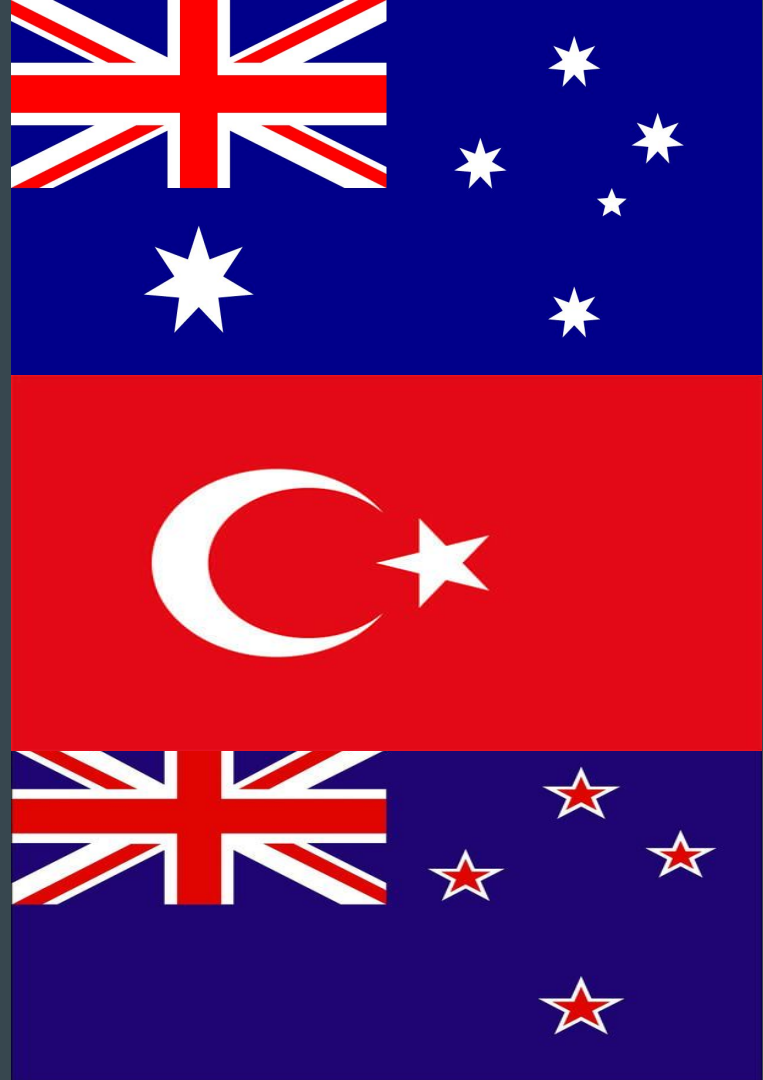




Allie casualties quickly increased throughout the peninsula as the Ottoman reinforcements continued to arrive. British commander, Hamilton, petitioned for 95,000 reinforcements, but was only offered a quarter of his request. Hamilton was unwilling to evacuate, so the British government replaced him with a new commander, Kitchener. The evacuation began very quickly in mid December of 1915, having the last troops leave in early January, 1916.

# Significance of the Battle

This battle did not have a very large impact in terms of the overall war. There was a large death toll, which is made tiny, compared to other battles fought in France and Belgium. The most significance it had was for New Zealand, Austria and Turkey - it fostered a new sense of national identity for these few countries.





# Canada's Contribution

Canada did not have a huge contribution in this battle. The Royal Newfoundland Regiment with a total of 1,076 troops joined the 29th division of the British Army. They arrived along the shores of the Dardanelles Strait on September 20, 1915. They remained active until allied forces withdrew from the battle. Approximately 40 members of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment died at Gallipoli.



# Toll of the Battle

## Allies:

An estimated 250,000 casualties, including close to 45,000 deaths

- 21,600 British and Irish
- 8,700 Australian
- 10,000 French
- 2,800 New Zealand
- 1,500 Indian
- 40 Canadian

## Ottoman Empire:

Around 250,000 casualties, of which surpasses the Allies with 65,000 deaths





# Sources

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