

Recount Years 7 to 9: The Gallipoli Campaign

Gallipoli was one of the Allies greatest disasters in World War One. The campaign was the first major battle undertaken in the war by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs). It is often considered to mark the birth of national consciousness in both these countries.

When the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers in 1914, they cut off Russia's access to the Mediterranean via the Dardanelle Straights. This meant that they could not receive any supplies via this route, including military supplies. The British devised a plan to capture Constantinople and force the Ottomans (Turkey) out of the war. This would also open up a sea route to supply Russia with troops and arms to assist the Allied campaigns on the Eastern and Western Fronts which were not faring well.

The British and French naval attack took place in February and March 1915 but failed and it was decided that the navy should withdraw and an attempt would be made by Allied ground forces. They planned to attack the Turks over land in order to seize Constantinople. Australian soldiers who were en route to fight on the Western Front in France were redirected instead to the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The first Gallipoli landing took place on 25 April 1915 at 4.15 am. The Allied forces included Anzac, British and French regiments. The campaign did not begin well. The failed naval attack in February and March had alerted the Turkish forces to the likelihood of a land attack. This allowed them six weeks to dig trenches, lay mines, bring in extra troops and armaments and establish themselves on the high cliff tops. Also the Anzacs landed on the wrong beach and the various battalions became separated causing mass confusion.

The area had only a small beach front which was met with steep cliffs. The Turkish forces began a barrage of Artillery and machine gun fire. By nightfall of the first day, the Anzacs had advanced only 900 metres but at a cost of about 2000 casualties. All the men could do was 'dig in' to protect themselves from machine gun fire. This area was home to the Anzacs for eight months and became known as Anzac Cove.

Introduction informs the reader about the content of the recount
Includes new terminology

Key dates used

Past tense

Written in third person

Includes a series of events told in chronological order

Topic sentences used to organise the information

Use of terminology and key places

<p>The men faced great hardship during this campaign. Not only were they bombarded with constant shelling and machine gun fire, there was never enough clean drinking water and food was plain and scarce. The climate was hot in summer and cold in winter. There was a blizzard in early December and men died due to exposure. Men also suffered from frostbite and many had to have toes and feet amputated. The trenches were unhygienic which led to dysentery and other diseases. The men also had to contend with plagues of rats and flies.</p> <p>The campaign soon became a deadlock and in August the British decided to try a new tactic. The Anzac troops were to attack the Turkish strongholds at Lone Pine and The Nek. The Anzacs succeeded in taking Lone Pine but at a huge cost to both sides. Over four days the Anzacs suffered 2300 casualties. The attack at The Nek was even worse. Four waves of suicidal charges by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade went 'over the top' to attack the Turkish trenches. This attack failed mainly because Allied preliminary artillery shelling ceased seven minutes too early which allowed the Turks time to prepare for an assault. In a forty-five minute period, there were 372 casualties among the Light Horse.</p> <p>After these failures it was soon decided that evacuation was the only alternative. The evacuation was the most successful part of the whole campaign with the loss of only two lives. All Anzac troops were all finally evacuated by 20 December after eight months at Anzac Cove.</p> <p>Even though the Gallipoli campaign was a military disaster for the Allies and a resounding success for the Ottomans, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps became a legend. Gallipoli has become such an important part of Australian culture that we continue to commemorate Anzac Day on the 25th of April each year.</p>	<p>Details provided about the conditions faced by the servicemen</p> <p>Sequencing words used</p> <p>Lots of factual information used</p> <p>Conclusion sums up the importance of the topic</p> <p>Finishes with a personal evaluation of impact</p>
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