

Trail 1

Anzac Cove

Begin at the beach where Anzacs landed – and imagine their first harrowing day at Gallipoli



Taking the trail

From the ferry wharf in Eceabat, turn left and follow the road along the Dardanelles coast 200 metres before it turns right, looping around the back of the town. Follow this road north for 2 kms until you reach the roundabout near the coast, signposted for Anzak Koyu (Anzac Cove). Turn left and drive 6 kms across the peninsula. This will bring you to the Aegean coast, with the road turning north. Follow the coastal road 3 kms until you reach Ari Burnu Cemetery. Walk through the cemetery and down the steps on its western face to the beach.

Plan your time

Allow 1 ½ to 2 hours to explore the entire Anzac Cove trail. If you're short of time, you can simply visit the first stop on the trail – Ari Burnu. The guide to Ari Burnu gives you the big-picture Anzac Cove story.

Where to go after

If you have time, visit other nearby zones of Holding the Line or Chunuk Bair. If you have a car, from any of these zones you can also drive back to Eceabat while following the The Defence driving tour.

Trail stops

1. **Ari Burnu** – *Must-do stop*
2. Anzac Cove
3. Hell Spit
4. Plugge's Plateau
5. The Outposts

Visit ngatapuwa.govt.nz for more information on the trails.

Stop 1

Ari Burnu

From the moment of landing, the Anzacs were tested, both physically and mentally

Must-do stop

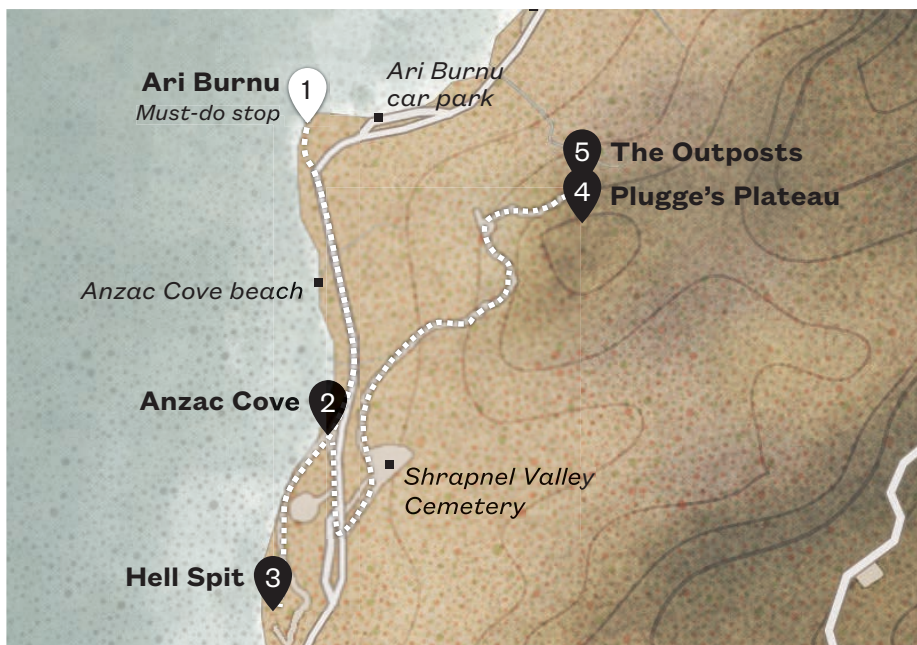
This stop introduces the 'Anzac Cove' trail. If you're unable to do the whole trail, this stop gives you the big-picture story in one go.

Getting there from Eceabat

See directions on previous page.

Your stop

Walk as far as you can towards the water then turn and face the hills.

**Story**

You are on the beach at the Northern tip of Anzac Cove. On the 25 April 1915 it was part of a combined attack that involved the British landing to your south, on the right, way down at the tip of the peninsula. This was the primary attack, which was going to advance all the way up to where you are now. The job of the New Zealanders and Australians was to take the high ground in front of you all the way up to the left – to the highest point on the seaward ridge. They would then advance across the peninsula to the Straits of the Dardanelles and cut off any Turkish reinforcements that tried to come and stop the main advance.

*"Sunday 25th of April 1915, 9.00 a.m.
We are just going to disembark.
Everything has gone extraordinarily well. The sea is as calm as a duck pond, and MacLagan with his covering Australian brigade is well ashore, and has thoroughly established himself."*

– General Sir Alexander Godley

The landing was to be between where you are standing and the headland that you can see in the distance, beyond Anzac Cove. However, all the boats gravitated towards this spot instead, and so this became the focus of what was the biggest amphibious operation in history to this time.

"We are going ashore now, but I do not think anyone is going to be killed today."

– Major Walter Alderman

If you were here at Anzac Cove on the day of the landing, this water in front of you would have been a mass of transports, cruisers and battleships. Providing support to the landing, and coming towards you, would have been little steam tugboats, towing barges and boats full of soldiers. The tugboats did a turn and released the barges and boats – which then came in and grounded just where you're standing. Had the Anzac soldiers landed where they were supposed to, they would have been able to go straight up the ridge. Instead, many here ended up going across country, up ridge and down gully.

You're standing in the Ari Burnu cemetery. This is where the Australians landed at dawn and pushed inland. The New Zealanders landed at about 10.30 in the morning. They were not under fire, and they lined up along the beach and waited for orders.

"Never while I live, shall I forget the grandeur of that scene. In front was the coast, rugged and steep, with easy country to the right front and beyond. Achi Baba with huge 15-inch shells bursting on it. Right and left, were the battleships firing at the

Turkish positions in crashing salvoes which went booming and echoing among the hills."

–Lieutenant Spencer Westmacott

The New Zealanders on the beach were the men of the Auckland Battalion. Suddenly the word came down to 'reinforce the Australian Line on the left'. Look at the coastline and see the beach going around to the North towards Suvla Bay, then look at the high ground in front of you. It stretches all the way up to the high ground in the distance, which is the Chunuk Bair part of the Sari Bair range. Taking the Sari Bair Range would seal off the whole southern end of the Gallipoli peninsula and trap the Ottoman forces fighting there. There were not enough Australians to take this ground, so New Zealand troops were urgently needed to reinforce the push to the top of the range.

The New Zealanders moved from where you are standing, around the headland towards the Sphinx – that very prominent feature above you. The spur on the left, coming down to the beach, is Walker's Ridge. The New Zealand soldiers headed to Walker's Ridge. In column of fours, the 900 men of the Auckland Battalion marched off. When they got to the base of the hill it became obvious that it was going to take too long and they were going to be disorganised. They were told to turn around and come back towards where you are standing.

"The regiment was very confused and bunched, owing to Dawson's company having run into an unclimbable cliff. No parade ground formation seemed possible here. I was followed by some of my more active men and from where I was above them, helped others by taking their rifles by the muzzle and pulling them up till six men were with me, when I saw it was too steep for most of them. It was only afterwards that we learned that the landing had been made in the dark at the wrong place. No General would have dared to launch troops at those cliffs."

–Lieutenant Spencer Westmacott

The New Zealanders pushed up to the top of Plugge's Plateau, and found that there was no direct link on to Walker's Ridge. They were forced to go down into a valley that you can't see from here. Throughout the rest of the day,



View of Anzac Cove looking towards Ari Burnu with stores, supply dumps and piers visible.
National Army Museum 2001.215

New Zealanders were sent the same way –up over this hill in front of you and down. They ended up fighting inland, together with the Australians, in a confused battle.

"We were under a perfect hail of shrapnel and bullets. I would jump up, run about ten yards, and then dive under a bush or behind a small ridge. In a few seconds off I'd go again, watching where the shrapnel was bursting."

–Private Robert Steele

At this critical junction, the Turks kept attacking, and by nightfall on the 25 April, held the high ground. The Anzacs were hanging on by their fingernails to what became the key ridge.

"I had not been there more than five minutes when an Australian next to me got his rifle up to fire and just as he pulled the trigger, a piece of shell struck him on the head and split his head from top to chin. I felt very sick then, this being the first man killed near me."

–Sergeant Richard Ward

Back here at Anzac Cove, everything was happening. Everyone was coming in over these beaches and being pushed inland. When the plans were made, it was imagined that the Anzacs would have held much more ground, so that as the wounded came back down, they could have been sorted out.

"On reaching the beach a surgeon came to my stretcher and asked

me about myself. I told him how the sergeant had tied my arm up with twigs, in case it needed further attention. On looking at it the surgeon said: 'It is a rough job but quite a good one.'"

–Lieutenant Spencer Westmacott

Once sorted out, the wounded were meant to be sent out to the hospital ships. That didn't happen. At the south end of the beach, there were about 400 wounded. At this end, there were about 200. As boats came in with new reinforcements, the wounded were put onto these boats higgledy-piggledy and sent back to the transports out at sea, and the whole system broke down.

At nightfall the Anzac generals weren't sure whether or not they could hang on the next day and they proposed evacuation, but the reality was that there was no way of getting word to the soldiers inland or organising the boats to get them off – particularly in the dark and with no communications. So, the 25 April ended with a big question mark. Could the Anzacs hold onto what they had got?

For the next nine months, Anzac Cove became the lifeline for the small area of land that the Anzacs had gained. All these little niches and gullies were crammed with men. It was described as just like a gold-rush town. And if you can imagine thousands of men digging in on this piece of ground, well that was Anzac Cove – where you are now standing –in the last week of April 1915.

Turkish Story

Around 25 April 1915, the Turks knew that the landing was about to start because the number of Allied ships going along the beaches increased, as did reconnaissance flights.

The troops got orders to get enough food, water and rations for two days, and to expect an Allied landing. The Turks didn't know exactly what time it would take place, but they knew it was about to happen. But how do you properly defend a peninsula that is about 90 km long, with at least 50 km of the coastline suitable for landing?

There were four main locations on the peninsula where General von Sanders, the German commander of the 5th Ottoman Army, expected the Allies to land:

One was the Asian side of the peninsula, as there was an island that could be used as a base for logistics. Von Sanders suspected Cape Helles at the southern tip of the peninsula was another potential landing spot. Gaba Tepe, south of Anzac, also had suitable beaches for landing and the width of the peninsula at that point was less than 10 km.

Von Sanders didn't believe that the Allies would land at Suvla because it was too far from the heights. He thought the most strategic spot was Bolayir, at the neck of the peninsula, roughly 60 km from here. He sent troops to these four potential landing spots.

Von Sanders did not regard Anzac Cove as a likely landing place, when the Anzacs landed, there were only three platoons of the 27th Regiment deployed here – less than 300 soldiers. They were vastly outnumbered.

One platoon was deployed over in the hills to the north, later known as No. 2 Outpost. The second platoon was on Hain Tepe, later named Plugge's Plateau. The third platoon was on Second Ridge, inland from what later became known as Anzac Cove.

The Anzacs travelled from the island of Lemnos, about 100 kilometres from here, and waited in the moonlight over by the island of Imbros, now called Gokceada, which you can see offshore. The Anzacs thought that the Turks couldn't see them but the Turkish soldiers on top of the ridges in this sector saw the silhouettes of the ships and reported this but they thought

it was impossible to land here because this terrain was so unsuitable. They told the company commander not to worry, as the landing would be further south at Gaba Tepe, as there were more suitable beaches there. No reinforcements were directed here, and when the moon set, the Turks lost sight of the ships. Then the Anzac landing operation started. The Australians were the first to go ashore.

By the time the Turks saw the Australians they were only a few hundred metres from the beach. Around 4.30 a.m. it was still dark and the Turkish platoon on Plugge's Plateau opened fire.

Australian sources say that within half an hour the Australians were on top, and had wiped out the Turkish platoon, which was in a trench halfway up the slope. Turkish sources say three men survived from this platoon: the commander, who was wounded, and the two men who carried him back to the second line. All others in the platoon were killed.

According to the commander of a Turkish platoon near No. 2 Outpost, 2 km away to the north, when the landing began they could hear the crack of rifle fire. But they couldn't see in the dark. Then dawn broke and they could see infantry moving inland along Plugge's Plateau. However, they couldn't do anything about it because their rifles wouldn't be effective at such a distance. While they were waiting, the Turkish platoon saw a boat coming towards them carrying Anzacs. They waited until the boat was in range and they opened fire.

Reports were sent back to headquarters about the Anzac invasion but the Turks couldn't decide whether it was a real landing or a diversion. To make sure, they waited nearly two hours. Meanwhile, the Anzacs took the First and Second Ridges, and headed towards Third Ridge.

Şefik Bey, an officer in the Ottoman army, correctly estimated that about 8,000 Anzacs had landed. He reported this critical situation to headquarters in Eceabat, and asked for reinforcements.

His commander, Halil Sami Bey, commander of the Ottoman 9th division didn't know what to do as the British had landed at Cape Helles as well. Halil

Sami Bey finally decided to direct his only remaining regiment to Cape Helles.

Meanwhile Mustafa Kemal, later known as Atatürk, the commander of the 19th Division, was 5 km inland from Anzac Cove in the village of Bigali. Since 5 o'clock in the morning, he had been very worried about what was going on here. He could hear the navy bombardment, but his men were in reserve. Without orders from headquarters he couldn't move forward to reinforce the men of the 27th Regiment, who were under intense attack.

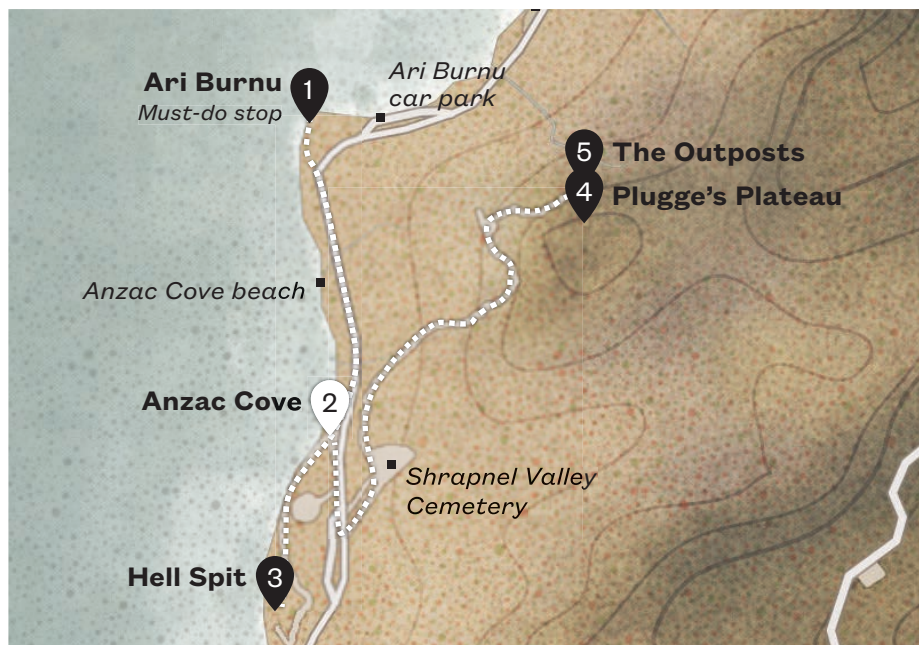
In a crucial development, Kemal moved forward at about 8 a.m. towards Chunuk Bair with the entire 57th regiment. This ensured he got there just in time to reinforce the 27th regiment and had enough soldiers to repel the Anzacs advancing up the ridge.

On Battleship Hill and Baby 700, his soldiers reinforced and counterattacked. So by mid-morning, nearly 5,000 Turks were at Anzac. By then, there were about 12,000 Australians, yet the Turks checked the Anzac advance. This was about when the New Zealanders arrived on the beach at Anzac Cove.

Stop 2

Anzac Cove

All day, men filled this beach: the wounded awaited treatment while fresh troops flowed in

**Getting there from Eceabat**

Return to the coastal road and walk or drive back south along the coast until you reach a low, stone sign that says 'Anzac Cove/Anzak Koyu.' This is the cove's southern end.

Your stop

Face north back towards Ari Burnu from where you have come, so you can see the whole sweep of the cove.

Story

You're standing at the southern end of Anzac Cove. On 25 April 1915, this is where the Australians and then the New Zealanders landed.

The first landings were at the northern headland at Ari Burnu – and you can see the cemetery marker at the far end of the beach.

On the day of the landing the fighting took place inland from here, beyond the heights above you. But this was the spot where the wounded came back down to and where the reinforcements gathered, so it was jam-packed with men. Imagine this beach, which is only about 20 metres wide, with 400 wounded at this end, and 200 wounded at the far end, and overworked medical staff dealing with them all as best they can.

The wounded were lying everywhere, and being put anywhere possible. Many were trying not to moan or complain, but when they were moved onto the boats, often without stretchers, they were in agony.

It was chaos. And instead of a nice, tidy evacuation out to the hospital ships and transport ships out at sea, the wounded were put into every boat that came in to unload soldiers. They found themselves in all sorts of craft, and instead of ending up on hospital ships, many were taken on a five-day voyage to Egypt on horse boats or ordinary troop ships,

with no medical staff. Those who died were buried at sea.

From that beginning, all the stores, supplies, reinforcements, water – in fact everything that made holding on here at Anzac Cove possible – came to this beach. After the first night ashore, bivouacs were starting to appear all over these slopes.

Supply dumps appeared all along the beach, and all the infrastructure to support over 20,000 men, keeping them able to fight, came to this tiny cove. If you look along it today, you can see the two concrete water channels built into the side of the cove. They mark the two gullies below Plugge's Plateau that held all the headquarters and supplies. Just to the right of the road is where General Birdwood had his ANZAC headquarters.

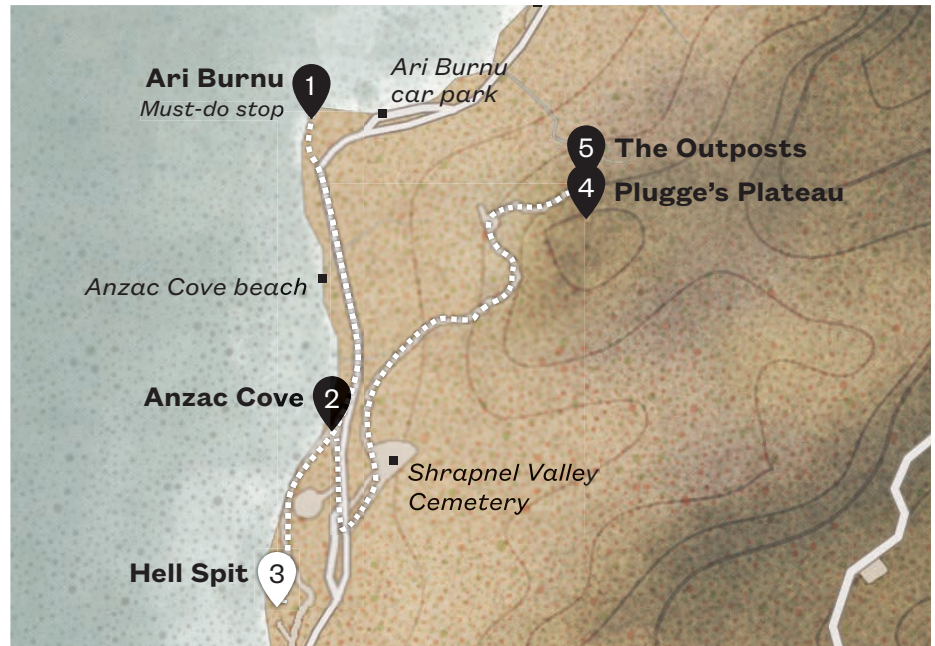
25 April 1915 was a battle that took place inland. The Australians landed first and pushed inland, then the New Zealanders followed them up. The Anzac troops grabbed some ground – but not nearly as much as they'd hoped, so the hills you see above became their front line for the next nine months.

To find out more about what happened on 25 April 1915, make your way up to Plugge's Plateau.

Stop 3

Hell Spit

Under constant Turkish fire, this stretch of shore would become every Anzac's nightmare

**Getting there from Eceabat**

Continue south along the coast for 200 metres, then turn right onto the stabilized track signposted for Beach Cemetery. Walk down to the cemetery. Stand by the memorial cross, facing the sea, and walk down the steps on the right. You will come to the grave of John Simpson Kirkpatrick.

Your stop

Stand at the grave of John Simpson Kirkpatrick ('Simpson').

Story

You are at Beach Cemetery on Hell Spit. Hell Spit was so named because it was the most exposed part of the area held by Anzac troops. The Ottoman artillery on the headland of Gaba Tepe, which you can see to the south, bombarded Hell Spit during the day, as did the artillery to the north.

This was one of the first graveyards established during the Anzac campaign, and most of the dead had to be reburied a number of times because their bodies kept being blown out of their graves.

It's an important site because just inland from here is Shrapnel Valley, which connects the Anzac frontline to the beach. Shrapnel Valley was a lifeline: all the stores went up this valley and all the wounded were evacuated back down it.

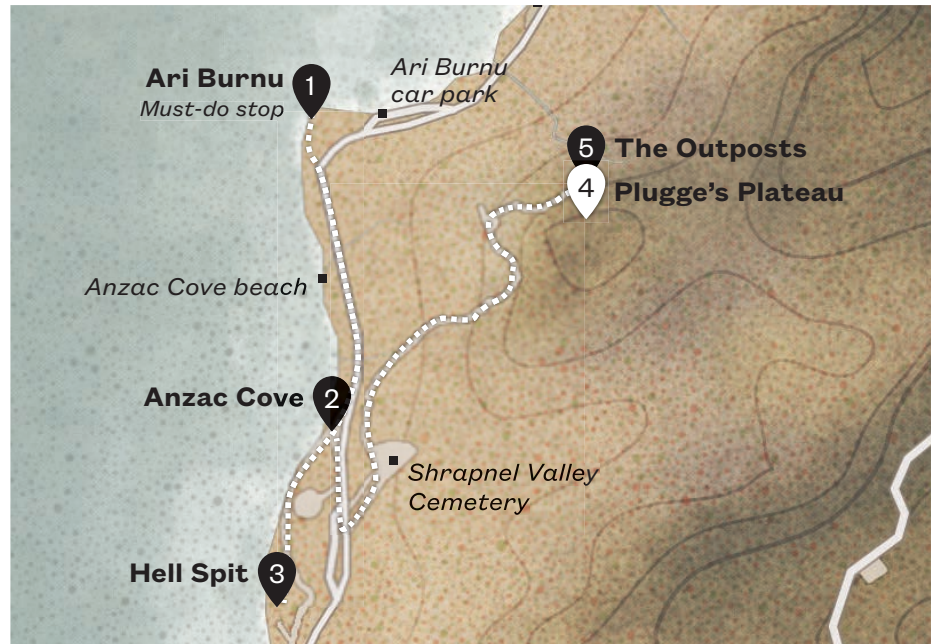
One of the key figures in the Shrapnel Valley story was John Simpson Kirkpatrick. He was an English stoker who jumped ship in Australia, and became a member of the Australian Field Ambulance. He borrowed one of the donkeys that were brought in from the Greek islands and used it to bring wounded men down Shrapnel Valley from the front line. Everyone took bets as to how long Simpson would survive. It was three weeks before he was killed by a Turkish sniper.

A famous photo was taken and everyone thought it was Simpson. In fact it was a New Zealander – Dick Henderson. The image of Henderson and his donkey became famous throughout the world. Henderson and his donkey, like Simpson and his donkey, represented a whole range of stretcher-bearers and medical staff who carried the wounded men the 1,500 metres from the front line down to where you now stand. The field hospitals on the beach would tend to them before they were evacuated out to the hospital ships offshore.

Stop 4

Plugge's Plateau

The newly landed soldiers hiked across unfamiliar land, never sure what they would find



Getting there from Eceabat

Return to the paved coastal road, turn left and travel 100 metres to the dirt track on the right signposted for Shrapnel Valley Cemetery. To the left of the entrance to Shrapnel Valley Cemetery there is a path marked for Plugge's Plateau Cemetery. Follow the steep path upwards to Plugge's Plateau Cemetery and then follow the path that runs to the left of the cemetery for about 40 metres. This brings you to a clearing on the eastern edge of the plateau.

WARNING: Many locations at Gallipoli are potentially dangerous, and there are undercut cliffs and sudden drops. Go slowly and carefully – and never stand close to a cliff's edge.

Your stop

Stand facing inland so that the Sphinx is to your left.

Story

You're on the inland side of Plugge's Plateau. New Zealand troops passed through here on 25 April 1915 on their way up to a hill called Baby 700, which is as far as they got on the day they landed. The distinctive clay point to your left is called the Sphinx, and you can see why they named it that. It looks a bit like the famous sphinx in Egypt, where Anzac troops trained before they landed at Gallipoli.

Beyond the Sphinx, if you look to the right along the ridgeline, you'll see a pyramid-shaped Turkish memorial. This marks the forward slope of Baby 700, which became the Turkish front line for the Gallipoli campaign.

If you look further along that ridge, to the right, you'll see a white stone marker in that copse of trees. This is the area of Quinn's Post, and if you continue further along the ridge you will see a flagpole with another stone memorial to its immediate right. That is the area of Courtney's Post – where Anzac troops spent months in trenches only a few metres away from the enemy.

Follow this round up onto the next small rise, and that's the area of Steele's Post.

If you then come round to those pine trees on the high ground, and through the pine trees, you can see an Anzac memorial to the right of the pine trees. That's Lone Pine, held by the Australians.

It's where an epic battle took place in early August.

That entire ridge, where all these posts I've just mentioned are located, is known as Second Ridge. On 25 April 1915, by the time the New Zealanders arrived, the Australians were fighting all along this ridge, desperately holding back successive Ottoman counter-attacks. Most of the Australians had been drawn into fighting at Lone Pine.

The New Zealanders tried to climb Walker's Ridge, the spur that you can see beyond the Sphinx, to get to the higher ground from the beach. However, it was too steep so they were sent back in, up over Plugge's Plateau, right here through this bush where we stand.

Imagine walking through this bush in single file, thinking you're going to go straight up to the ridge, and suddenly – 'oops' – you reach this spot and see the Razor Edge in front of you, and it is far too steep to cross. Lieutenant Spencer Westmacott of the Auckland Infantry Battalion, the young platoon commander who was leading, had two choices. He either had to go left, which would have taken him back to where he started, or go right.

Westmacott went right. He headed off down the path, winding along the cliff down into the valley junction that you can see to your right. He then headed



Australian troops advancing across Plugge's Plateau, 25 April 1915. Australian War Memorial G00907

up towards Baby 700. He knew that somewhere up there was the left of the Australian front line. By then, Westmacott was at the forefront of the Auckland Battalion. He picked up some Australians, and some of the Canterbury Battalion. His platoon was a hodge-podge of everyone who had come ashore and they were now trying to find out where they were and make their way up the valley to reinforce the Australian front line.

As they moved inland up the valley, they heard rifles firing and people were yelling out: 'Stretcher-bearer!' 'Ammunition!' 'Reinforcements!'

Some of the stretcher-bearers and men who were carrying ammunition went and helped, so Westmacott's men were drawn away, up onto the high ground on the right.

Westmacott finally got to Baby 700. He and his men were the first New Zealanders in action on 25 April and they were reinforced by other New Zealanders later that day.

The memorial at Baby 700 marks the 57th Turkish Regiment memorial cemetery. This is where the Turkish officer Mustafa Kemal, later known as Atatürk, attacked to drive the Anzacs back into the sea. Late in the afternoon of 25 April, the Turks pushed the New Zealanders back off the high ground

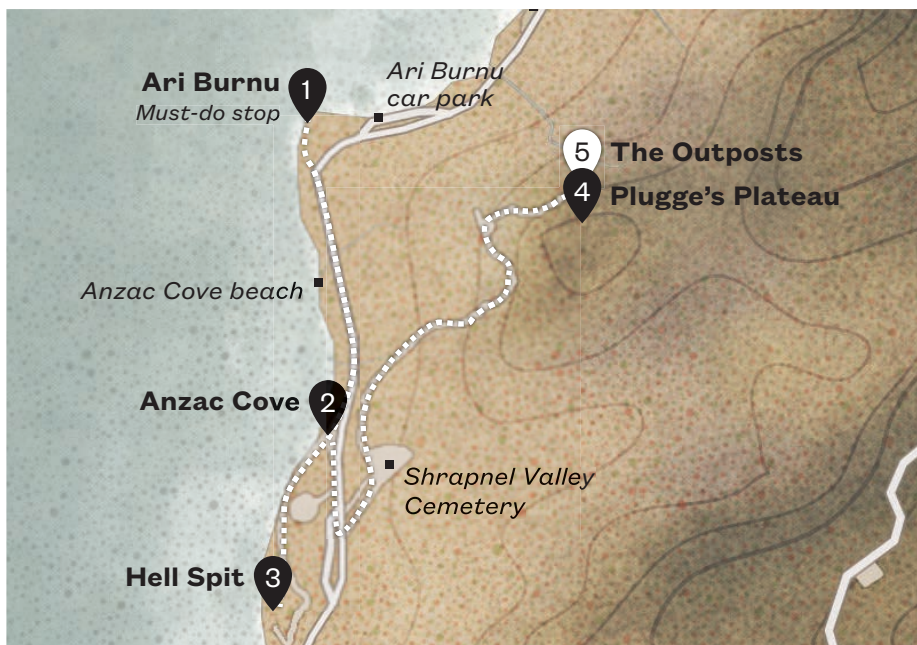
and down the spur around the Sphinx, known as Russell's Top. The Anzacs were also driven back into Quinn's Post, Courtney's Post and Steele's Post – those little gullies off the side of Second Ridge. Meanwhile the Australians hung on to Lone Pine and Second Ridge became the Anzac front line for the next nine months.

To find out what happened during that nine months go to the Holding the Line section of this guide.

Stop 5

The Outposts

The men who were stationed at outposts along the beach could only move round at night

**Getting there from Plugge's Plateau**

Reposition yourself along the path you came along from the Plugge's Plateau Cemetery so that you can see all along the beach to the north.

WARNING: Many locations at Gallipoli are potentially dangerous, and there are undercut cliffs and sudden drops. Go slowly and carefully – and never stand close to a cliff's edge.

Your stop

Stand so that you are looking north along the coast towards Suvla Bay, the Sphinx will be to your right.

Story

You are looking down at what is now the Anzac Day commemoration site. It's that open patch of grassland with the plinth along the beach.

If you look at that, and from there look back up to the prominent clay headland to the right – that's the Sphinx. To the left of the Sphinx you can see a ridge with a very bushy ledge on what is otherwise a series of clay slopes. That bushy ledge spur which runs down almost to the beach – with a cemetery marker at the bottom – is Walker's Ridge.

The high ground at the top of the ridge, which is known as Russell's Top, is the northern end of the ground that the Anzacs gained by nightfall on 25 April 1915. It became the main New Zealand defensive position, because the Ottomans held everything beyond that point.

Look back down to the beach. During the Gallipoli campaign, if you walked along the beach in daylight, towards the cemetery at the base of Walker's Ridge, you would probably be shot by an enemy sniper. Most of this area was in view of Turkish snipers in the hills. But it was important to have some outposts along the beach. The Turks might attack from the north, or down the valleys from the east, so a number of fortifications – called outposts – were established. If you look north, past the base of Walker's Ridge, and beyond the

cemetery, there's another spur with a very distinctive clay slope. On top of the high ground, further inland from there, is the site of Number 1 Outpost. The Native Contingent was based at Number 1 Outpost after it arrived on 3 July 1915. The area just below it, where the Māori soldiers camped, was known as the 'Maori Pah'.

Beyond Number 1 Outpost is Number 2 Outpost, and then Number 3 Outpost. There were New Zealand soldiers at all three. The Big Sap was a communication trench running from Anzac Cove out to Number 2 Outpost. Until it was dug, you couldn't get there during the day because of Turkish snipers.

The outposts were manned first by New Zealand infantry, and then by the New Zealand Mounted Rifles who arrived in May without their horses, which had been left in Egypt. A lot of these guys were graziers from the Canterbury foothills and this country looked just like home. The Australian light horsemen also manned all three outposts for periods. The Anzacs were penned into the area around Anzac Cove and could not reach the high ground along the coast to the North. The New Zealanders at the outposts sent out patrols looking for a way round to the high ground, and out of that came the scheme for the big August offensive, which involved pushing up through the coastal foothills that you can see, towards Chunuk Bair.