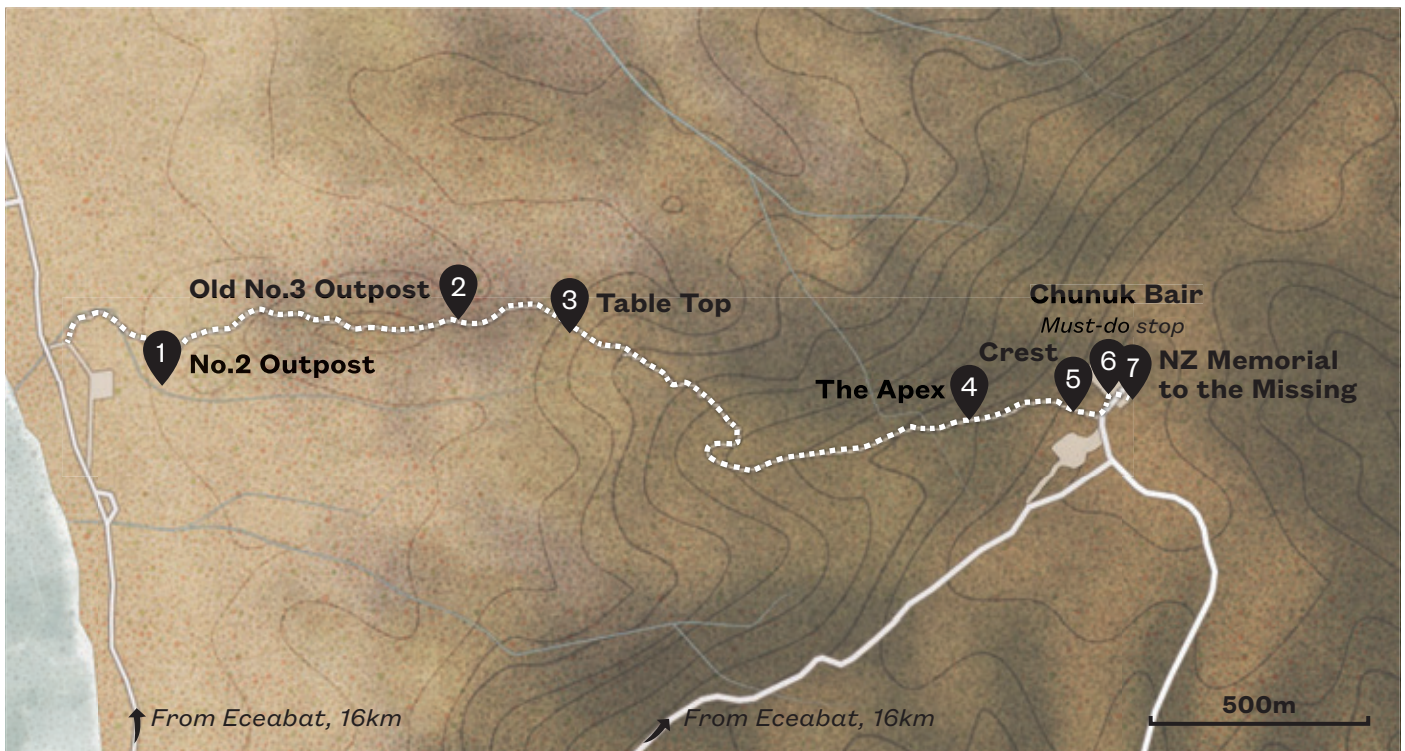


Trail 3

Chunuk Bair

Visit the ridge where New Zealanders tasted brief, exhilarating triumph, as the Allies launched a daring new offensive



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 two kms until you reach the roundabout near the coast, signposted for Anzak Koyu (Anzac Cove). Turn left and drive 6kms across the peninsula. This will bring you to the Aegean coast, with the road turning north. Follow the coastal road past Anzac Cove and drive along the coast till you come to New Zealand No.2 Outpost Cemetery to the right of the road. Just before the cemetery there is a dirt track, follow this track inland for about 50 metres, till you come to a smaller trail on the left leading through the scrub. Take this

side track, which is the starting point for the New Zealand track leading up to Chunuk Bair.

Plan your time

Allow 2 hours to explore the entire Chunuk Bair trail. Note that the trail is steep and rugged and requires a degree of fitness and mobility. If you want to go up but not down you can get someone to meet you at the top.

If you're short of time, you can simply visit the must-do stop on the trail – Chunuk Bair. The audio guide at the summit gives you the big-picture Chunuk Bair story.

Trail stops

1. No.2 Outpost
2. Old No.3 Outpost
3. Table Top
4. The Apex
5. Crest
6. **Chunuk Bair – Must-do stop**
7. NZ Memorial to the Missing

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

Stop 1

No.2 Outpost

The Anzacs set up outposts along the beach. From these they launched their attack on Chunuk Bair

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.



Getting there from Ari Burnu

Drive north along the main coastal road till you come to New Zealand No.2 Outpost Cemetery just to the right of the road. Park your car at the side of the road. Just before the cemetery there is a dirt track leading to No.2 Outpost Cemetery. Follow this track inland for about 50 metres, till you come to a smaller trail on the left leading through the scrub. Take this side track, which is the starting point for the New Zealand track leading up to Chunuk Bair.

Your stop

Follow the track upwards, climbing a dozen or so stairs cut into the earth, till you come to a small saddle with a view of the hills and rugged terrain leading up to Chunuk Bair, site of the New Zealand memorial on the horizon. Follow the trail to the right, looking out over the Anzac sector.

Stand at the southernmost point of No.2 Outpost.

Story

You are standing at No.2 Outpost. From here, you can see how far inland the Anzac troops got during the Gallipoli campaign. If you look towards the ocean, you can see the beach running back to the headland, which is Ari Burnu – the northern headland of Anzac Cove. You can see that landscape climbing up to the first major ridge with the clay face on the left, which is Plugge's Plateau. Then it drops down to a long, straight piece, which is the Razor Edge, then you've got the next promontory, which is the Sphinx. If you look along the ridge from which this promontory runs, you can see a clump of pine trees. That was the Anzac frontline. If you look in the centre of the group of pine trees, you can see the glimmer of a stone memorial. That is the area of the Nek and that is where Russell's Top links up with this next slight ridge, which is Baby 700.

Further down, that cluster of buildings on your right, and to the left of the road, are the headquarters and workshop of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. They do all the repairs on the cemeteries and memorials here.

No.2 Outpost was one of three outposts established to protect against Ottoman attacks along the beach. If you look to the left of the War Graves Commission building, you can see a small, isolated, bush-covered hill. That is No.1 Outpost. The part below it, where the Native Contingent camped

after they landed on 3 July 1915, became known as 'Maori Pah'.

The next outpost is No.2 Outpost, where you stand now, and the far north end of this ridge becomes No.3 Outpost. Directly in front of you is Fisherman's Hut, which was held by the Ottomans on 25 April 1915.

If you look inland, you will see the flat feature that runs off immediately in front of you. In May 1915, Anzac soldiers attempted to expand their hold out here, between this outpost and the high ground. The New Zealanders fought for it and the Turks kicked them off because they were worried that the Anzacs were encroaching into their area in the foothills. That flat feature became known as Old No.3 Outpost. And the Turks strongly fortified that position.

The Outposts became the base for preparing for the August offensive. The objectives included capturing the high ground of the Sari Bair Range: Hill 971, Hill Q and Chunuk Bair. The New Zealand Infantry Brigade were to take Chunuk Bair. Look up to your left to the high ground and look for the flag, and you can see the summit of Chunuk Bair.

Brigadier-General Andrew Russell, who commanded the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade, took these foothills in front of us. All four Mounted Rifle



*Looking South towards Ari Burnu in August 1915.
Alexander Turnbull Library PA1-o-1312-08-1*

regiments were involved: Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago. The two South island regiments were reinforced by the Native Contingent.

The Mounted Rifles were going to 'open the door' by securing the foothills that dominated the valley, allowing the infantry to advance and push on towards the summit of Chunuk Bair.

So, if you can imagine, here on the night of 6 August, the men of the Auckland Mounted Rifles already held this position. They waited for the searchlight of HMS *Colne* to illuminate the ground in front of you. That was followed by artillery fire, and when that stopped, they attacked. It was a silent attack with rifle and bayonet. There was fierce hand-to-hand fighting, in pitch dark with bayonets only.

By early morning, the Mounted Rifles had cleared these foothills. The door to the high ground was now open, and the next stage was for the Wellington Mounted Rifles to pass through and take the next piece of high ground, called Table Top. If they took this, then the Infantry could come forward and push on up to the ultimate goal - the summit of Chunuk Bair.

Stop 2

Old No.3 Outpost

This rugged maze of trenches was an Ottoman stronghold, until its takeover by the Auckland Mounted Rifles

**Getting there from No.2 Outpost**

Follow the main trail north and then east for some 750 metres from No.2 Outpost. When the path begins to drop away in front of you onto a narrow ridge, you will have reached the forward edge of Old No.3 Outpost

Your stop

Stand on Old No.3 Outpost facing the bare clay cliff face in front of you to the east – this is Table Top.

Story

You're standing on Old No.3 Outpost. Before the night of 6 August 1915, this was an Ottoman stronghold – until it was taken by the Auckland Mounted Rifles in fierce hand-to-hand fighting. The Auckland Mounteds attacked up these slopes you're standing on, which were covered with trenches.

Imagine what it was like that night - the soldiers with bayonets at the ready, advance through a maze of trenches, with vegetation similar to what you see in front of you. It was pitch dark and the only warning the soldiers had was the flash of a Turkish rifle fired from 10 metres. There were small parties of New Zealand Mounteds, Native Contingent, and Ottomans all intermingled, and so when the Anzacs said they'd cleared the post, the reality was there were still isolated groups everywhere.

Ahead of the New Zealand soldiers was the large hill with a flat top in front of you called Table Top – where the Turks had a stronghold. The Turks heard the sounds of firing from the gully, so they assumed that the attack was going to come out of the gully to your left, which is Chailak Dere. However, instead of coming up that obvious route, the Wellington Mounted Rifles, under Lieutenant-Colonel William Meldrum, crept up the slopes and surprised the Turks from the rear. The Mounteds rounded them up with their bayonets. It was an amazing achievement, and the Turks never suspected they would come this way.

By the time Table Top was cleared, the New Zealanders were two hours behind schedule. Despite their successes, they were running out of time, and that would become incredibly important in the next few hours.

Meanwhile, the infantry, who'd been waiting by the beach in the Great Sap – the long communications trench running from Anzac Cove to No.2 Outpost – got the order to start moving forward. The Otago Infantry Battalion advanced inland, along the gully to your left, towards Table Top. But skirmishes broke out in front and behind. Confusion reigned, and in this confusion and the pitch dark, the Canterbury Infantry Battalion, who were in the gully to your right, got lost and went around in a big circle. The Otago Infantry Battalion found itself scattered everywhere. So it was the Wellington Infantry Battalion that passed through the Otagos, below Table Top and pushed forward.

The important thing at this stage was to get to the high ground by daylight, and the Anzac troops were running out of time. The night afforded good cover and the commanders knew that if the men were exposed in daylight halfway up the hill, they could be shot to pieces.

By 4.30 in the morning, the Wellington Infantry Battalion had arrived at the Apex, and its commander, Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone informed his brigadier and asked for orders.

Stop 3

Table Top

The fighting was fierce and confused here, as the Anzacs pushed towards Chunuk Bair under cover of night

**Getting there from Old No.3 Outpost**

Continue along the rough track, crossing a narrow ridge and then climbing a set of steep stairs to reach the summit of Table Top.

Your stop

Stand on Table Top looking down to the valley below towards the sea.

Story

You're standing on Table Top looking down the valley towards the sea. The gully on your right is Chailak Dere. On the night of 6 August 1915, the Wellington Mounted Rifles secured where you now stand.

Imagine the soldier leading the Wellington Mounted Rifles. He'd scramble up the cliff, he'd get to the top, and the next guy would follow him up. He'd be trying not to make a sound because the New Zealanders were vastly outnumbered by the Ottoman defenders. He wouldn't do anything until he had about a dozen men up with him. Then with a rip and a roar, he would go in with his bayonet in pitch darkness and overwhelm the Turks. The New Zealanders stabbed whoever they could, and the others either surrendered or ran away.

Meanwhile, Brigadier-General Andrew Russell, commanding the New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade, listened for progress of the night attack. The only thing he could hear was the rifle fire of the Turks as they retreated further up the hill, and the war cries of the Māori soldiers who were attached to three of the New Zealand Mounted Rifle Regiments. Russell wrote that it was this that allowed him to judge his men's progress.

It was now time for the New Zealand Infantry to advance. This was a nightmare march because there

were still scattered groups of Turks everywhere. There was fighting going on all along the valley and the men were very tired. As one soldier said, 'you were dead from your feet up,' and if you stayed too long in one position you'd fall asleep.

The only communication was word of mouth. It was night, it was pitch dark, if you were separated or lost, everything broke down. The Otago Infantry Battalion had lost touch with each other, with soldiers scattered all over the place. The Canterbury Battalion were completely lost, and would eventually go around in a big circle back to where they started.

Brigadier-General Earl Johnston, the commander of the New Zealand Infantry Brigade, told the Wellingtons commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone, to take over the lead. So the Wellington Infantry Battalion passed through the Otagos and took the lead in advancing up the ridge towards Chunuk Bair.

And why did the New Zealand soldiers use only their bayonets here on Table Top? The element of surprise was best achieved with a silent attack. And in pitch darkness, a soldier was more likely to accidentally shoot one of his mates if he had a loaded rifle. The New Zealand soldiers decided that if they had a rifle with a bayonet, they would either club or stab the enemy to death.

Stop 4

The Apex

Stand here, and tunnels that the Anzacs dug are just beneath your feet



Getting there from Table Top

Continue climbing along the rough track, over a further 50 metre saddle of land leading onto Rhododendron Ridge. Follow the trail further past a number of trenches from the campaign till you come to a dirt road (leading to The Farm Cemetery). The trail to Chunuk Bair continues on the far side of the road about 15 metres to the south. After a further 500 metre climb, passing the New Zealand position known as The Apex you will come to the openings of some tunnels on the track.

Your stop

Stop at the partly caved in tunnels, the remnants of a defensive system constructed by New Zealand sappers.

Story

You're standing on Rhododendron Ridge, just forward of what is known as the Apex. This is where this ridge meets the ridge running through the trees on your left. The junction point is marked by these large tunnels which were dug by the Anzacs after the August offensive. After August 1915, the Apex became the Anzac front line. We're standing on a 'Swiss cheese', because there is a whole matrix of tunnels and underground chambers beneath the surface. If you go down into the bush on the left, you'll find a whole network of trenches marking the Anzac front line.

At first light on 7 August 1915, Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone's Wellington Infantry Battalion occupied this ground and the ridge to the left. Malone sent scouts up towards the summit. He was ready to mount an attack to take Chunuk Bair. Early in the morning, before dawn, was a golden opportunity. Malone sent a message to Brigadier General Earl Johnston, commander of the New Zealand Infantry Brigade, telling him where he was, and asked for permission to attack. Johnston hesitated, believing he did not have enough support for an attack, and decided to wait.

Meanwhile, the Australian Light Horse attacked the Turks at the Nek, in support of the New Zealand advance, and were annihilated. A telephone link was established from General

Godley's headquarters down at the beach to Johnston's headquarters at the Apex.

Godley told Johnston to attack at once. If you can imagine the situation here, the Wellingtons were tired men, conscious that their one water bottle was all the water they had. Most men were just sucking on stones to try and keep some moisture in their mouths, and many were suffering from dysentery. It was a battalion of sick, exhausted men, just hanging on, waiting to attack.

Johnston decided that the Wellingtons would stay and hold the ridge. The only other battalion that he could use was the Auckland Infantry Battalion. Their commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Bobby Young, was directed to attack along the line of this track and seize the summit.

Bobby Young did not like the job. By the time his battalion moved up here, it was about 10 am. Artillery and warships were pounding the top of the hill, and once the barrage finished, Young was to attack in broad daylight. He made a recon up the track and immediately came under rifle and shrapnel fire. He turned to Captain Jesse Wallingford, the brigade machine-gun officer, and said, 'For God's sake Wallingford get your guns up and cover me, or my men will be cut to pieces'.



*A Dressing Station between Table Top and Rhododendron Ridge during the August Offensive.
National Army Museum 1992.760*

But Brigadier-General Johnston wouldn't wait for Wallingford to bring up the guns. He was anxious for the attack to start and ordered it before the machine guns were in place. The Aucklanders advanced from where you are standing to the next tiny rise about 80–90 metres along the track. In 20 minutes, they were shot to shreds, losing some 300 men.

The wounded lay out all day, moaning in the hot sun, and no one could do anything for them because any movement forward was picked off by Turkish snipers.

Johnston turned to Malone, who commanded his only remaining intact battalion and told him to attack, but Malone refused. And, according to an eye-witness accounts, there was an argument right about where you are standing with Malone telling the Brigadier-General that he would attack by night, but would not send he was not going to send his men to commit suicide by day.

Stop 5

Crest

Eight hundred Anzacs marched up this hill, packed together, bayonets ready



Getting there from The Apex

Continue along the track for about 100 metres, which will take you to the Pinnacle, with a walk of another 200 metres bringing you close to the summit.

Your stop

Stand at the saddle just below the crest of Chunuk Bair. If you look back down the track behind you, you should be able to see raised ground of The Apex, where you have walked from.

Story

You are just below the crest of Chunuk Bair. If you look back down the track behind you, you can see the Apex where you have walked from.

At 4.30 in the morning on 8 August 1915, Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone's Wellington Infantry Battalion lined up at the Apex in a solid mass eight across, and headed for the summit. You can imagine a tightly packed group of 800 men no wider than this track, marching up here with their bayonets fixed. They waited for the artillery fire on the top of the hill to stop, then they attacked. However, the summit was all but deserted.

Half the Wellington Infantry Battalion occupied the Ottoman trench up on the summit. The other half started to dig a reserve trench from where you're standing, across the track, up to the Turkish memorial that you can see through the trees on your right.

On the top, the Wellingtons almost immediately came under intense Turkish fire.

Now walk up the track to where it reaches the summit.

Where you now stand, on the summit of Chunuk Bair, was a shallow Turkish trench. Imagine being one of the Wellingtons here, after all the months of fierce fighting. For the first time, they

could see their goal of the Narrows of the Dardanelles. If they could hold this high ground it would be an epic victory.

By the time the Wellingtons reached here, day was dawning. As they started to dig in on the hard stony ground, they were reinforced by two British battalions, which came under heavy fire as they moved up. Jimmy Swan, one of Malone's scouts, said, 'The British are coming and the artillery is bowling them over like bees.'

The British reinforced the left and the right, but broke and ran when the Turks counterattacked. This battle was largely fought by the Wellington Infantry Battalion.

By 8 o'clock in the morning on 8 August, Turkish counterattacks, on the trench where you now stand, had wiped out half of the Wellington Infantry Battalion. But the New Zealanders in the support trenches behind hung on.

The battle for the crest occurred right here. It was fierce hand-to-hand fighting with rifle and bayonet. These attacks and counter-attacks continued throughout the day and this crest became no-man's-land.

Malone, 57 years old, led the attacks. He was proud that an enemy bullet had bent his bayonet. He looked on it as a lucky charm. Late in the afternoon,



The Wellington Battalion in close combat with Turkish forces on Chunuk Bair.
Alexander Turnbull Library D-001-035

the Wellington Infantry Battalion who are 800-strong that morning, were reinforced by 186 Troopers of the Auckland Mounted Rifles, who dribbled in under fierce Turkish fire. By the end of the day there were only 50-odd Wellingtons still able to fight.

On the slopes behind you, hundreds of wounded New Zealanders and British gathered without medical support, unable to crawl back down the ridge. Some people, like Charlie Clark and Harvey Johns, crawled down the hill and survived, but it took between six and eight hours to get a man down to the beach on a stretcher, and most of the wounded couldn't move and died here on these slopes in the hot sun.

At 5 pm Malone was killed near the summit of Chunuk Bair, by New Zealand artillery fire. That night, the Wellington Infantry Battalion was replaced by the Wellington Mounted Rifles and the Otago Infantry Battalion. The next day, the battle was repeated with attack and counterattack, but the New Zealanders still held this ground.

During the night the New Zealanders were relieved by two British battalions, who were wiped out on the morning of 10 August by a counterattack led by Mustafa Kemal, later known as Atatürk. The summit of Chunuk Bair was lost.

If there's an epic New Zealand story, it is the battle that took place right here on Chunuk Bair on 8 and 9 August, 1915.

Stop 6

Chunuk Bair

The battle for Chunuk Bair began before dawn on 8 August, and for two days the Anzacs held this ground

Must-do stop

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

**Getting there from The Apex**

If you have walked the New Zealand track from No. 2 Outpost then follow the track up to its end on the crest of the hill. Turn left and walk to the New Zealand National Memorial.

If you are coming from Baby 700, take the Conkbayiri road from Baby 700 and continue two kms. You will pass the Turkish Conkbayiri Mehmet Memorial (five large stone monoliths) on your left. You will reach an intersection, turn left here and you will be able to see the New Zealand battlefield memorial on the summit of Chunuk Bair.

Your stop

Stand on the drain to the right of the New Zealand battlefield memorial and the Ataturk statue. Look towards the New Zealand battlefield memorial.

Story

You're at Chunuk Bair, looking at the monument that was erected to commemorate the New Zealand achievement in this battle between 6 and 10 August, 1915.

Though Chunuk Bair is not the highest point of the Sari Bair Range, this location is important because of the two spurs that run off it. One to your left, goes down over Battleship Hill to Baby 700, this was held by the Ottomans. Beyond Baby 700 the spur becomes Second Ridge which was the Anzac frontline. The other spur behind you is Third Ridge, which was held by the Turks.

The Turkish-held Baby 700 blocked any attempt by the Anzacs to break out from the tiny piece of ground that they had established by the end of 25 April. General William Birdwood, the ANZAC commander, accepted a plan for a night advance in early August from the foothills north of Anzac Cove, up these spurs and up Rhododendron Ridge.

The object of the August offensive was to capture the high ground of the Sari Bair Range. The New Zealand Infantry Brigade, under Brigadier-General Earl Johnston, was to take Chunuk Bair.

It's only a matter of a day or two now when we will be making a big attack on the Turks. Getting very anxious. So far the orders are indefinite; but everybody is speculating as to their chances. Corporal Rikihana Carkeek

Opening the way was Brigadier General Andrew Russell's Mounted Rifles Brigade. The New Zealand Mounteds took the foothills below Chunuk Bair, including Table Top, and opened the way for the infantry to be on Rhododendron Ridge, just below this crest, early on the morning of 7 August.

However, Johnston hesitated. Instead of attacking the summit he delayed below on Rhododendron Ridge. At that time, this high ground was all but undefended. There was an excellent opportunity to take Chunuk Bair.

Finally, a telephone cable was run up the hill to Rhododendron Ridge from General Godley, whose divisional headquarters was down on the beach. Godley ordered Johnston to attack at once. By now the summit had been strongly reinforced by the Turks. The Auckland Infantry Battalion attacked in broad daylight up towards where you are standing, and were torn to shreds.

"The Auckland Battalion charged. It was a wonderful sight, but oh so heartbreaking! Before they could reach the crest this awful hail of lead would hit them and over they went in heaps. It was simple slaughter, but not a man hesitated and no one even thought of turning back."
–Sergeant Major Saxon Foster



A soldier salutes at a grave prepared for the remains of New Zealand soldiers killed at Chunuk Bair.
© Imperial War Museum Q 14340

Nothing happened for the rest of the day. Then just before first light, at about 4.30 in the morning on 8 August, Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone's Wellington Infantry Battalion swept up onto the crest, and seized this ground.

The Ottomans counterattacked from north, south and east. Two British battalions were sent up to reinforce the Wellingtons in daylight, and they came under heavy Turkish fire. They broke and ran and played little further effective part in the battle.

During 8 August, the 800-strong Wellington Infantry Battalion initially held the crest, but Turkish counterattacks drove them back to the trenches just below the summit.

"The Wellingtons seemed to rise up each time from nowhere, and the Turks were hurled back. In the first of these attacks the bayonet on Captain Malone's rifle was twisted by a bullet, so after this he kept it with him, as he said it was lucky."

–Hastings

The crest became no-man's-land. The Battle of Chunuk Bair raged on throughout the day, and by late afternoon the Wellingtons held the line just below the crest but suffered heavy casualties.

The Auckland Mounted Rifles reinforced what was left of the Wellington Infantry Battalion. Brigadier Johnston's headquarters on Rhododendron Ridge tried to get a telephone line to the top of the hill.

Corporal Cyril Bassett, a young signaller, earned New Zealand's only Victoria Cross in the Gallipoli Campaign by leading a party up to establish telephone communications.

At Anzac Cove two New Zealand howitzers had been firing all day supporting the New Zealand Battle. At about 5 pm some of the shells landed on the New Zealand trenches.

"Swish! swish!" came the shrapnel and all except two in our little trench were killed or wounded. Colonel Malone was killed the other side of me, I cannot remember where he was hit."

–Captain John Hastings

Malone, the hero of Chunuk Bair, was killed by New Zealand artillery fire. That evening the Wellington Mounted Rifles and the Otago Infantry Battalion replaced the Wellingtons. The 50 or so survivors of the Wellingtons – broken, crying and exhausted – trudged back down the hill to the Apex.

On 9 August, the battle continued with attack and counterattack and heavy casualties on both sides.

"The only sign of life was the stump of an arm which now and then waved feebly for help and a voice called "New Zealand" to four listeners who could give or get no aid for him."

–Trooper H. Browne

By nightfall there were no more New Zealand battalions left and they were replaced by two British battalions. They came in and occupied the New Zealand trenches, and at first light on 10 August they were swept away by Mustafa Kemal's counterattack.

Chunuk Bair was an epic battle. It exhausted both New Zealand brigades. Those not killed or wounded had dysentery. It was their last gasp, and after the 10 August 1915, they knew it had failed. Chunuk Bair remained in Turkish hands.

Turkish Story

Chunuk Bair is a very significant hill. The climax of the Anzac campaign was reached here between the 7 and 10 August, 1915. Over nearly four days, thousands of Allied and Ottoman soldiers fought for these heights.

Mustafa Kemal, later known as Atatürk, predicted the August offensive about a month before it occurred, and wanted his superiors to take strong measures. Corps commander Esat Pasha, who had been Kemal's teacher, asked him which way he believed the Allies would come and in what direction.

Using his arm, Kemal drew a half-circle from north of Anzac Cove through the gullies to the top of the hills, to the hill behind us, which is Hill 971. Kemal reckoned that the Allies would carry out two operations simultaneously. He predicted that if the Allies also landed in Suvla then the Turks would have a nightmare up here on Chunuk Bair.

Mustafa Kemal's teacher patted him on the back and said, 'Don't worry, my son, only bandits can walk through this country'.

But Kemal was right and on 6 August, the Turks lost the Lone Pine trenches, and the British army landed at Suvla. Two days later, the Wellington Infantry Battalion managed to occupy trenches below the crest here at Chunuk Bair.

At first, the New Zealanders didn't meet much resistance at the top. The Turks may have retreated because there was no leader. And even though the Turks then counterattacked, it was impossible to push the New Zealanders back.

During 8 August, General von Sanders, the German in charge of the Ottoman 5th Army, appointed Mustafa Kemal to command the sector that included Suvla and Chunuk Bair. Von Sanders believed Suvla to be more important than Chunuk Bair.

On 9 August, with Mustafa Kemal in command, the Turks counterattacked and stopped the British army advancing at Suvla. At Chunuk Bair, repeated Turkish attacks over the last two days had depleted the New Zealand forces. And British reinforcements had been called in.

On the night of 9 August, Mustafa Kemal returned to Chunuk Bair and spent the night somewhere around here, about



*Turkish rifles captured on 6 August 1915, on Big Table Top.
Alexander Turnbull Library PAColl-0184-1-014*

300 metres from the crest. There were nearly four Turkish regiments fighting here against the New Zealanders, but nobody could secure the summit.

Kemal wanted to mount one final advance, as he believed that by a sudden overwhelming advance he could regain the trenches lost to the New Zealanders.

A staff officer told him that they had lost very heavily during the last few days, and if this counterattack was not successful, there would be no soldiers left. But even though it was a desperate situation, Mustafa Kemal was confident of victory and told everyone to prepare for a counterattack.

Three regiments were placed along this ridge on the Turkish side and Mustafa Kemal made a short speech to his men. He stood like a statue for a while. When he cracked his whip, the Turks counterattacked. The Allied positions on the summit were now held by British reinforcements.

Even though many advancing Turks were mowed down, eventually the British defenders couldn't stop them and the Turks swept through their lines.

The Turks advanced down towards the New Zealanders who had machine guns on Rhododendron Ridge. The New Zealanders started firing and stopped the advancing Turks. Then the Allied

navy started pounding this hill, firing thousands of shells.

New Zealand soldiers reported seeing thousands of Turks lying dead and wounded. During this bombardment, a piece of shrapnel hit Mustafa Kemal, but his pocket-watch saved his life. The shrapnel broke the watch but Kemal only received a bruise. If Kemal had been killed, Turkish history would have been very different.

For the New Zealanders, 8 August 1915 was an important day because they got to the top of Chunuk Bair. For Turks, 10 August was an important day because they were able to sweep the invaders back from the heights.

Stop 7

NZ Memorial to the Missing

When the battle for Chunuk Bair was over, 853 New Zealanders were missing. They are honoured here



Getting there from Chunuk Bair

Walk down the eastern slope and find the New Zealand Chunuk Bair Memorial, commemorating those New Zealand soldiers who fell in this sector and have no known graves.

Your stop

Stand facing the New Zealand Memorial to the Missing.

Story

You're standing at the New Zealand Memorial to the Missing on Chunuk Bair. The New Zealanders who held this high ground on the morning of 8 August could see the Narrows of the Dardanelles and realised that their goal was in sight. If they could just hold on here and expand their grip on this high ground then this would be an outstanding achievement.

For two days, the battle was in balance. In New Zealand terms, the cost has to be read in the 853 names of the missing New Zealanders who have no known graves. The men of the Infantry Battalions, the Mounted Rifle Regiments, the Native Contingent, the engineers and the supporting artillery, fought until they could fight no more. Now their names are recorded in stone on this memorial.

The youngest of them, Basil Mercer, aged just 17, is buried in the cemetery. Next to him is another 17-year-old, Matthew Persson. He lied about his age and joined up with his brother. Both fought on Chunuk Bair. Matthew died; his brother survived.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone of the Wellington Infantry Battalion, who was the heart and soul of the fight on August 8, has his bones somewhere here, along with his men.

Less than 50 Wellington Infantry remained on this hill when they were relieved on the night of 8 August. The next day the Otago Infantry Battalion

and the Wellington Mounted Rifles continued the fight. They were replaced by two British infantry battalions that evening. On 10 August, the Turks counterattacked and drove the line back down to the Apex. Once again, Captain Jesse Wallingford's New Zealand machine gunners prevented it all falling apart.

I will always remember Gallipoli veteran Vic Nicholson of the Wellington Infantry Battalion telling me that if he was to describe Chunuk Bair on 8 August, it was dull red, and that was blood, dried blood.

After the Allied evacuation in December 1915, the bodies were left unburied. In December 1918, after the war ended, the Canterbury Mounted Rifles and an Australian Light Horse regiment were selected to be part of the force occupying Gallipoli.

This gave the Anzac soldiers an opportunity to visit battle sites of the campaign, including Chunuk Bair. Special parties searched for graves and the bodies of their comrades. As well as collecting bones for burial, the soldiers took great care to collect buttons, badges and other items.

At this spot, there were neat piles of bones all down the slope in front of you. Everything was done with enormous reverence. There's a photo of a British soldier, saluting the remains, before they were buried.



*The kits of dead men after the August offensive.
National Army Museum 1991.588*

Nearly 70 per cent of those New Zealanders killed at Gallipoli have no known graves. After the war, the New Zealand government decided that these soldiers should be commemorated near to where they lost their lives.

The Chunuk Bair memorial was unveiled in May 1925 by General Godley, commander of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. There are other New Zealand memorials to the missing at Hill 60, Lone Pine and Twelve Tree Copse.

The cemetery here at Chunuk Bair has 10 identified graves, including eight New Zealanders, but under this grass, on which everyone rests before the Chunuk Bair service each Anzac day, lie the unknown dead. But whatever time of year you sit on this grass, you are certainly resting amongst friends.