

Trail 2

Holding the Line

Explore the defence line that the Anzacs held for two months
– and understand the immense challenges they endured



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 6 kms across the peninsula. Take the road signposted for Chunuk Bair (the Conkbayiri road). This road is one-way, though there is the chance you could meet oncoming traffic because some drivers don't follow these rules. After a drive of some 2 km climbing past a number of Turkish monuments along the way you come to Lone Pine Cemetery on the left of the road.

Plan your time

Allow 1 ½ to 2 hours to explore the entire Holding the Line trail.

If you're short of time, you can simply visit the must-do stop on the trail – Quinn's Post. The audio guide to Quinn's Post gives you the big-picture Holding the Line story.

Where to go after

After Holding the Line, the next Ngā Tapuwāe trail is Chunuk Bair. You will need to get to No. 2 Outpost to do the full trail or Chunuk Bair if you have less time.

Trail stops

1. Lone Pine
2. Johnston's Jolly
3. Courtney's Post
4. **Holding the Line – Must-do stop**
5. Quinn's Post
6. The Nek
7. Russell's Top
8. Walker's Ridge
9. Baby 700

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

Stop 1

Lone Pine

Many Australians and Turks lost their lives here, in some of the bloodiest close-quarters fighting of the campaign

**Getting there from Ari Burnu**

Returning to your car, retrace your path along the coastal road, heading south towards Gaba Tepe, the headland 2.5 km to the south of Anzac Cove. Take the first paved road to the left, signposted for Chunuk Bair (the Conkbayiri road). This road is one-way, though there is the chance you could meet oncoming traffic because some drivers don't follow these rules. After a drive of some 2 km climbing past a number of Turkish monuments along the way you come to Lone Pine Cemetery on the left of the road.

Your stop

Walk through Lone Pine Cemetery, and go up the right-hand steps in front of the monument. At the top, turn around and face west towards the pine in the centre of the cemetery.

Story

Lone Pine is famous for the Australian attack that began on 6 August 1915, and the ferocious fighting that took place over subsequent days. There were thousands of Australian and Ottoman casualties, and seven Victoria Crosses were awarded – one to New Zealand-born Captain Alfred Shout.

This land was taken by the Australians on 25 April 1915, but they lost it almost immediately. They were driven back to the line of trees on the edge of the cemetery. That became the Australian front line until the August offensive.

The aim of this offensive was to take Chunuk Bair and the other high points on the Sari Bair range. A series of secondary attacks along Second Ridge would draw the Ottoman Army's attention away from these high points. The largest attack would be here at Lone Pine.

The Australians dug a series of underground trenches as close as possible to the Ottoman front line, which was just short of the lone pine tree. These underground trenches were dug just below the ground, so that you could break them open, jump out and run at the enemy. In fact, they called them wombat holes.

Covered by British and New Zealand artillery, the Australians broke out of their underground trenches. They raced

forward and were initially surprised because they didn't expect the Ottoman front trenches to be timbered over. But the artillery had created enough holes so that some soldiers could drop through them, while others ran to the support trenches at the far end of the cemetery, which hadn't been covered over. These soldiers jumped in and fought their way back.

Over the next few days, this became a bloody battle of attrition – right beneath where you are standing. Some of the fighting was the bloodiest of the entire Gallipoli campaign.

A New Zealander, Bombardier Arthur Currey, described working his way forward: the place was clogged with the dead, and it was obvious men were killed face to face, bayonet to bayonet.

The Australian attack was successful in drawing attention away from the high ground, but it was at a massive cost.

The panels in front of the monument represent Australians who have no known graves. If you look at the sides of the monument, you will see the names of the New Zealanders who went missing between April and August, or who were buried at sea during the campaign.

Stop 2

Johnston's Jolly

Here you can explore some of the best-preserved trenches of the Anzac frontline

**Getting there from Lone Pine**

Continue north along the same road you took to get to Lone Pine Cemetery. After around 300 metres you come to Johnston's Jolly Cemetery on the right.

Your stop

Walk across the road from the cemetery into the pine trees, and stand in the remnants of the Anzac trenches. Face Johnston's Jolly Cemetery.

Story

You are immediately north of Lone Pine and the Lone Pine Cemetery. This area has some of the best-preserved trenches of the Anzac frontline. It gives you a feel for what it must have been like at Gallipoli in the period from April through to December 1915.

The trenches were built so that you would have one man for every metre of trench. So if you were standing in a trench 10 to 12 metres long, that would be for a section of 10 to 12 men, and they would live here for up to eight days, then they would rotate with another section.

Half the battalion would be in the front trench – that's about 400 men. They did everything here – they ate, slept, shat. That was their world.

The Turkish troops opposite did the same. In fact this wasn't a bad piece of ground because the Ottoman line here was quite some distance back, unlike Quinn's Post where it was only 5 metres away. Here the two sides were 50–100 metres apart.

The Ottomans had been masters of siege warfare for centuries and had recently fought in the Balkans – so their defences were very good.

The trenches were not long and straight, but zig-zagged. This meant that the soldiers could defend themselves

against the enemy firing down the trench, and they had cover from an artillery shell.

Everyone made trenches the same way and perhaps the only difference in the trenches was the materials. For overhead cover, the Anzacs used corrugated iron placed across the trench and covered with earth, whereas the Ottomans tended to use timber about the size of railway sleepers.

Conditions in these trenches were terrible. Men were in constant danger of being killed, and they longed for the chance of joining a fatigue party down to the beach where they could get a sea bathe. They would go through the seams of their shirts and shorts and use a candle to kill the lice. They were unconsciously scratching all the time – they called it knitting.

They lived on bully-beef and biscuits. There were often no fresh vegetables, and rarely fresh bread. Almost everyone suffered dysentery, and trooped backwards and forwards to the latrines. Everyone stank. A fit man was simply one who could stand in a trench and hold a rifle – and these were the guys who on August 6 got ready for the big attack on Chunuk Bair.

Stop 3

Courtney's Post

The New Zealand soldiers set up a network of machine guns here and along Second Ridge to protect each post from attack

**Getting there from Johnston's Jolly**

Continue north along the road, passing Courtney's and Steele's Post Cemetery, and carry on a short distance until you come to a sign at the left side of the road that says 'Courtney's Post'.

Your stop

Stand on the verge facing the Courtney's Post road sign. Make sure you can see the Quinn's Post Cemetery memorial cross just to the north further along the ridge.

Story

You're on the edge of Courtney's Post, which runs along the seaward side of the road. Where you're standing is similar to Quinn's Post in that there is a little gully, which they terraced, where the men lived. You're standing in what were the frontline trenches. If you go into the bush to your left, you can see some of those trenches. But be careful: you will find that about 10–15 metres in, there's a sheer drop down into Monash Gully.

Courtney's Post was critically important because the machine guns that were here were sighted to fire in front of Quinn's Post, preventing any attempt by the Ottomans to attack it from the east. Quinn's was also protected by machine guns at Pope's Hill and Russell's Top.

New Zealand and Australian machine guns were set up here by Captain John Rose of the New Zealand Staff Corps, along with Captain Jesse Wallingford, who was the New Zealand Infantry Brigade machine gun officer. They worked out a system of interlocking machine gun arcs so that any enemy attempt to charge on Quinn's Post would be mown down by these machine guns.

Steele's Post protected this post on the southern side. All along the front line, Australians and New Zealanders protected each other. Courtney's and Steele's posts were very important because they were the only part of

the Anzac line that overlooked the Ottoman trenches, but at the same time they were overlooked from the high ground to the north.

These posts protected the top of Monash Valley. If the Ottomans controlled that valley, it would be the end of the entire Anzac perimeter.

Turkish machine-gun fire could sweep down over where we're standing. Anyone who popped their head up here would be killed. The best way to fight in the trench here was to use a periscope rifle, which was a contraption that you could fire from the safety of a trench.

By taking mirrors stolen from the ships offshore, the Anzacs could fire accurately up to 300 metres, without raising their heads above the trench. By using periscopes and periscope rifles, the Anzac troops managed to keep the Ottomans at bay.

Stop 4

Holding the line

Quinn's Post was the post closest to the Ottoman frontline – just a few terrifying metres away

Must-do stop

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

Getting there from Courtney's Post

Continue north along the road for a few hundred metres until you come to Quinn's Post Cemetery on your left.

Your stop

Walk into Quinn's Post Cemetery, and go to the far left corner. Look down the valley below towards the sea.



Story

You are standing at the edge of Quinn's Post. 1,200 metres away, down the valley towards the sea, is Hell Spit on the southern edge of Anzac Cove. Right of that, on the high ground, is Plugge's Plateau. Ari Burnu, the Northern tip of Anzac Cove, is out of sight, behind Plugge's Plateau. Ari Burnu is where the Anzacs landed at dawn on 25 April 1915.

Around noon that day, Lieutenant Spencer Westmacott climbed up on to Plugge's Plateau, made his way down into the gully in front of you, and led his Aucklanders up to the high ground that you can see to your right, by the distinctive pyramid-shaped Turkish memorial with a flag. The New Zealanders fought there all afternoon on 25 April, until the Ottoman counterattack drove them back to where you're standing.

"From the front, from the right, and now from the right rear the rifle fire was coming. The last got several of us, though we did not know it at the time, for a sniper lay there just on the edge of the plateau and picked us off as we showed up, one by one."

–Lieutenant Spencer Westmacott

Here the New Zealanders dug in, and Quinn's Post became the critical point on the Anzac frontline. The road that runs from the Turkish memorial, along the front of this cemetery, and then

goes south all the way along the ridge, roughly follows what was no-man's-land – the area between the two front lines.

If you can imagine: on the inland side of the road were the Ottomans, and on the seaward side were the Anzacs. The Anzacs were so close to the edge of the cliff that they were hanging on by their fingernails.

If you look back down that road from where you've come, you can see the Lone Pine memorial in the distance. From Lone Pine to here, each cemetery marks a critical point on the Anzac front line.

You have Lone Pine, Johnston's Jolly, Steele's Post and Courtney's Post, and here – Quinn's Post. And if you look at the dates in the cemetery, you'll see that many of these men died between May and August 1915, while a bloody stalemate ensued.

"Loaded up our gear and started off for Quinn's Post, the 'death trap' of the ANZAC line. I shall never forget the sight of that place – mangled bodies of our own men and Turks everywhere – rifles twisted and misshapen by the bombs as were the bodies. The ground itself worse than after any flood or storm – to look at it made one sad – it seemed wounded and bleeding in its own way."

–Sergeant Charles Saunderson



Lieutenant Beetham at the entrance to sandbagged trenches on Walker's Ridge.
Alexander Turnbull Library PAColl-0184-1-026

Turn and face the Turkish monument. To its left you will see, along the ridge, a cemetery and another monument in amongst the pine trees. That is the Nek, and the monument marks the Ottoman front line. The Nek was a tiny piece of no-man's-land. It is famous as the place where the troopers of the Australian Light Horse were massacred on 7 August 1915. It is where the final scene of Peter Weir's famous movie Gallipoli was set.

"I saw the whole thing from the Table Top and don't want to see another sight like it. They were fairly mown down by machine guns."

–Sergeant John Wilder

Where you are standing was the area of the Anzac frontline trenches. The area between the two front lines was carpeted with the bodies of the dead –both Anzac and Ottoman.

"We moved to Quinn's Post at 8 o'clock this morning. In places our trenches touch the Turks and consequently all trenches are made bomb-proof. One would never credit miles of enemy divided only by a narrow bank of earth; is it a wonder men break down?"

–Sergeant George Bollinger

By the end of April 1915, the Anzacs had secured Anzac Cove and a small area stretching as far as Second Ridge.

From early May, the Anzacs consolidated their position. A network of machine guns ensured that soldiers at one Anzac post would be protected by machine guns at another. Officers such as Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone improved the trenches and sanitation at each post.

"On our part we promptly realised that there was sound commonsense in everything the 'old man' did. He was one of the few commanding officers who really thought about war. His ideas were original and practical – all directed either to increasing the comfort and wellbeing of the men or to improve their fighting capacity and security."

–Lieutenant Hedley Howe

On 19 May, a Turkish counter-attack involving over 40,000 saw some 10,000 mown down by Anzac troops along Second Ridge. With bodies decaying in the hot sun and increasing the risk of disease, an armistice was agreed to, whereby each side could retrieve their dead.

"There was a narrow path, absolutely blocked with dead, also a swathe of men who had fallen face down as if on parade –victims to our machine guns. The brink of the precipice was thick with bushes and every few yards we found dead."

–Lieutenant-Colonel Dr Percival Fenwick

During this time, the hot climate and cramped living conditions took their toll. Water was scarce and strictly rationed, and there were plagues of flies. Many soldiers suffered from dysentery and other diseases. A diet mainly consisting of bully beef and biscuits provided little variety or nutrition.

"These biscuits were not of the household variety, but were great big affairs four inches square and as hard as rock. The only way to eat them was to break off corners and keep them in the mouth until they were soft enough to chew."

– Gunner Norman Hassell

The bloody stalemate continued until early August, when the Allied commanders decided they would launch a major offensive to take key high points of the Sari Bair range, including Chunuk Bair.

Turkish Story

You are standing at Quinn's Post. The Turks named this Bomba Sirtı or 'Bomb Ridge', because hand grenades were often used here. The distance between trenches was very close – just a few metres. The men would fight in shifts of no longer than 48 hours. If they stayed here longer they would go crazy.

Quinn's Post was a critical place for the Turks and Anzacs. On 25 April 1915, the Australians and New Zealanders moved forward to this ridge after landing, which is known as Second Ridge.

About three weeks after the landing, on 19 May, over 40,000 Turks attacked along the line of Second Ridge, which roughly follows the road you can see today. The division commanded by Mustafa Kemal, later known as Atatürk, came from Baby 700 towards the Nek and Pope's Hill – further up the road to your right. Another division attacked at Quinn's and Courtney's Posts, yet another at Johnson's Jolly, and another division attacked Lone Pine.

The Turkish attack started at 3.30 a.m. and went on for nearly six-and-a-half hours. But it was a catastrophe because the army was not synchronised. One party would occupy a position, but Anzac fire from the flanks would cut it down. The Turks made some ground towards the Nek but devastating fire from here at Quinn's Post meant that they had to retreat.

When the Turks tried to advance here at Quinn's Post, machine guns at Courtney's Post and Russell's Top cut them down.

According to Mustafa Kemal, at Quinn's Post, where the trenches were so close, death was inevitable. The men in the first row died within minutes, and they got replaced by the row behind. They didn't receive orders to do this; they simply used their initiative. The men in the second row knew they would be killed in the next few minutes but they didn't hesitate. Those who could read had the holy book, the Koran, and read from it. Those who could not read just repeated the name of Allah and prepared to go to paradise.

Eventually, at about 10 o'clock in the morning, the Turkish attack stopped, because they knew that if the Anzacs were to counterattack there would be no Turks left to defend the ground. To

make things worse, a military band was brought very close to the lines, and started singing and playing very moving Turkish songs. This raised the morale of the troops and they pushed forward again, which made losses even higher.

The Ottoman corps commander, Esat Pasha, said in his memoirs that when the men at the Ottoman headquarters learned that about 3,000 men were killed in the six-hour battle, they all cried.

After a few days, the dead bodies lying in no-man's-land started to bloat and stink. When the wind was blowing in the right direction, soldiers from both sides fired at the bloated bodies so that the stench would waft over enemy lines.

On the 24 May 1915, because of the awful stench and the major health risk that the decaying bodies posed, the enemies agreed to a truce. At one place, hundreds of Turks were buried in a single mass grave – it was a long trench - 50 metres long. The Turks packed the bodies in like sardines. They had no time to bury the rest so they put them in the neighbouring trenches and quickly covered them. All along Second Ridge, remains of dead men lie underneath.

After the truce, things got back to normal and hostilities resumed. However, one story that New Zealanders tell is that when the soldiers from the Wellington Infantry Battalion were here at Quinn's Post, at nighttime it was very quiet. There was a New Zealander who sang songs every night. One night, he finished singing, and a Turkish soldier started singing. And it became like a concert every night.

Then there was a skirmish and the New Zealand singer got killed. The New Zealanders didn't know what had happened to the Turkish singer. For a few nights they listened to the Turkish trenches but there was no singing, so they assumed he had been killed in the same skirmish.

As well as bombarding the Ottoman front line, Allied warships shelled the area behind the lines. As a result, Turkish kitchens were located well away from the front line, so it took a long time to bring food to the soldiers. Turkish soldiers complained that their food was cold, especially the soup. Tea was very rare and coffee was very difficult to find.



*Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) in 1915.
Australian War Memorial A05319*

A Turkish major wrote how one day Mustafa Kemal came to inspect his battalion. He was tired and rested for a while. They served him some tea. The impressed commander asked where they had got the tea, as the Ottoman army didn't issue it.

The men then realised that they had made a mistake, because they got the tea from the Anzacs in exchange for tobacco. Such interaction was strictly forbidden. They admitted this to Kemal and he didn't say anything. After a tense pause he said that it was all right, and drank the tea obtained from the Anzacs.

Stop 5

Quinn's Post

Quinn's Post was the post closest to the Ottoman frontline – just a few terrifying metres away

**Getting there from Courtney's Post**

Continue north along the road for a few hundred metres until you come to Quinn's Post Cemetery on your left.

Your stop

Walk into Quinn's Post Cemetery, and go to the far left corner. Look down the valley below towards the sea.

Story

During the Gallipoli campaign, most of this cemetery was no-man's-land. Where you are standing is close to the area of the New Zealand frontline trenches. The graves at the far end of the cemetery mark the Ottoman frontline trenches. If you were to look out here at no-man's-land in June 1915, there would be a tangle of barbed wire, chicken wire, burst sandbags and bodies. In fact, there were so many dead men between here and the Turks that maggots fell out of the trench walls.

And often, when soldiers were digging forward towards the enemy, they would have to dig through bodies and seal them off with wood simply to get past. You can imagine the stench and the conditions that men lived with here at Quinn's Post.

This particular spot was the most hated place at Quinn's Post because this is where grenades were thrown. The Ottomans had a very good cricket-ball grenade. Until the very end of the campaign, the Anzacs only had a very lousy homemade grenade. These were made from empty jam tins at the beach. They were full of scrap, a bit of explosive, a detonator. Then the soldiers would hope to God that the grenades wouldn't blow up in their hands as they turfed them into the enemy trench.

At the same time, New Zealand and Australian tunnellers were digging underneath where you stand.

The Ottoman tunnellers were digging as well, and there was an underground war going on. In fact, what you're standing on is a 'Swiss cheese' full of tunnels that have been sealed off.

In June 1915, when Quinn's Post was taken over by the Wellington Infantry Battalion under Lieutenant-Colonel Malone, he transformed it into an impregnable bastion. He put up chicken-wire to stop the grenades bouncing down into the trenches and erected bomb-proof terraces for his men to live in. Malone insisted that every Turkish bullet, every Turkish grenade was met with at least twice the number from his own men. And in the end it was the Turk who feared coming into the line at Quinn's Post. This became a very impressive stronghold, where both improvisation and professional skill turned it from the most dangerous post into one of the strongest.

When Malone took over Quinn's Post, he set up a team of crack shots under Lieutenant Hami Grace, a young Māori officer who was part of the Wellington Infantry Battalion. Along with Jimmy Swan – an experienced deer stalker – they dominated. If there was a supply convoy coming up Monash Gully, the New Zealand and Australian snipers got busy and wiped out any Ottoman snipers – and guaranteed control over no-man's-land.

This was how New Zealand soldiers survived at Quinn's Post.

Stop 6

The Nek

The Battle of the Nek was one of the costliest mistakes of the campaign

**Getting there from Quinn's Post**

Continue along the road past the memorial to the Ottoman 57th Regiment on the right and a statue to Mehmetçik the Turkish soldier on the left. After 100 metres the road forks. Take the left hand turn and go a further 200 metres along the road to The Nek Cemetery, which is on the right, just after a Turkish memorial to Mehmet Çavus (Sergeant Mehmet). Park at the side of the cemetery.

Your stop

Walk past the cemetery and turn right, which will bring you to a series of trenches at the western edge of the cemetery. Standing in these trenches, turn to face The Nek Cemetery.

Story

You're standing at the Nek. It is the point where the ridge known as Russell's Top links up with the hill Baby 700 at the narrowest point. Just beyond this hedge in front of you was no-man's-land, now the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, and behind that, where the Turkish monument is, the Ottoman front line.

These trenches around you, and the communication trenches behind them, go all the way back to Walker's Ridge. This is a great piece of ground because you can see the trenches more or less as they were back in 1915. After listening to this talk, don't just stay at the front trench –work your way back through these cleared trenches. See how deep they are a hundred years later, and visualise the New Zealand Mounted Rifles, with engineers supervising, gradually digging their way forward.

After landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, the New Zealanders established a front line here. It was named Russell's Top because Brigadier General Andrew Russell, the commander of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade, had his headquarters back behind you, just near the Walker's Ridge cemetery.

On the night of the 19 May 1915, a major Ottoman counterattack took place all along this front line. At the time of the counterattack these trenches were not finished. There was a gap and the

Wellington Mounted Rifles fired at the Ottomans as they ran through it.

The orders were to hold for 20 minutes at all costs. In fact, they held it full stop, because when you look over to your right, you can see that even though there's a gully between this place and Quinn's Post, the Anzac machine guns firing from Quinn's and Courtney's Posts could cover the piece of ground in front of you like a wall of fire. Any Ottoman running towards you had to cross that wall. Well, of course, they couldn't. The Ottomans reached the wall of fire and were mown down.

Where you're now standing was carpeted with the bodies of Ottoman dead. According to Lieutenant-Colonel Fenwick you could walk from trench to trench without touching the ground because you were stepping on bodies all of the way.

The New Zealand Mounted Rifles held this ground then handed it over to the Australian Light Horsemen who were newcomers to the trenches. The New Zealanders then headed north to the outposts to mount their advance through the foothills on the night of 6 August. In order to distract the Ottomans the Australians were to attack here at dawn.

So if you can imagine the front trench here jam-packed with Australians with



*Armistice Day, May 24, in front of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles at the Nek.
Alexander Turnbull Library PA1-o-811-23-3*

rifles and bayonets. They were standing a-man-a-metre. They had put in little stakes so they could step on them to jump out of the trenches. In some cases there were small ladders. They knew how close the enemy line was –and they were just raring to attack.

And all time their artillery fire was passing over their heads and landing on Baby 700. And as soon as that stopped, someone was meant to blow a whistle to signal the attack. But they didn't.

A dreadful mistake had been made. The Australian Light Horsemen had not synchronised their watches with the artillery and so they were seven minutes out. This gave the Ottoman Army seven minutes to man their trench parapets in preparation for the attack. As soon as the artillery fire lifted, it should have been a race to get into the Ottoman frontline trenches. And so for seven minutes the Australians paused and gave the Turks precious time. Finally, the Australians attacked in waves on this area in front of you, only as wide as a tennis court, barely 30 metres to the Turkish frontline and were utterly destroyed.

Peter Weir, when he made the film *Gallipoli*, was inspired by the account in Charles Bean's *Official War History*, which talks of two brothers from Western Australia. One was a noted runner, and was last seen running towards the Turkish line here at the Nek, like a runner in a race. You have that final memorable scene of the film, and it was right here where you stand that it took place.

Stop 7

Russell's Top

Malone and the New Zealand Engineers consolidated this position as the campaign progressed

**Getting there from Courtney's Post**

Leave The Nek Cemetery and walk along the dirt road that continues west.

Your stop

Go past Walker's Ridge Cemetery on the right, and stand where you can see the sea in front of you and to your left on the coast Ari Burnu Cemetery. On your right you should see Walker's Ridge running down to the sea. On your left Russell's Top extends towards the top of the Sphinx.

Story

On 25 April 1915, the Australians landed at 4.30 in the morning and made their way up here. Later that day, men from the Auckland and Canterbury Infantry Battalions followed them up and pushed inland. But on the evening of the 25 April they were driven back to where you now stand. This critical position was held by New Zealand machine gunners that first night. We know this because men from these battalions are buried nearby in Walker's Ridge cemetery. The next day an Australian battalion occupied this position and came under heavy attack and was reinforced by the Wellington Infantry Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone, commander of the Wellington Infantry Battalion, consolidated this position. Under Malone, the sappers of the New Zealand Engineers dug the trenches that you see here behind you.

Later that month, Brigadier General Andrew Russell's Mounted Rifles arrived as dismounted infantry and dug forwards to occupy the ground up as far as the Nek.

And if you walk forward from here through the trench lines you will see the trenches developed by the New Zealand Mounteds during May and June 1915.

The New Zealanders were still digging forward when, on 19 May the Ottoman army mounted its big

night counterattack. There was a gap between the unfinished trenches. As the Turks ran forward through this gap, the Anzacs mowed them down, the place was littered with hundreds of Turkish bodies.

At the end of the month they had an armistice to bury the dead, but burying most of them was impossible. All they could do was throw a light covering of earth over over the dead. Any attempt to pick up the bodies that had been lying out in the hot sun for days saw the bodies simply disintegrate in their hands.

The gully directly below you, which goes down to the beach below, was known as Mule Gully, because it provided safe cover for the mules of the Indian Mounted Battery that was set up here on Walker's Ridge and Russell's Top. The mules brought supplies up the ridge.

The New Zealanders thought that Mule Gully was quite exotic because if they went through the mule lines, there was a chance they would get a curry or a chapatti, and that was a great change from bully beef and biscuits.

Stop 8

Walker's Ridge

This ground was vital to the Anzacs; they knew that without it they could be driven back into the sea

**Getting there from Russell's Top**

Turn back and walk into Walker's Ridge on your left.

Your stop

Walk up the centre of the cemetery to the third row of headstones on your left. Walk along that row until you find the grave of A. C. Bluck.

Story

You are standing at the Walker's Ridge Cemetery, which is where Walker's Ridge links up with Russell's Top. Beyond Russell's Top it moves up to the high ground of Baby 700, which was as far as the Anzacs got on the day they landed.

During the 1915 Gallipoli campaign, this ground became very important because if the Anzacs lost it they would have been driven back into the sea. So it was consolidated first by the Wellington Infantry Battalion under Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone on April 26 1915. You can find New Zealanders in this graveyard from that fighting.

On 26 April, this area was the New Zealand front line. The front line was then pushed forward to the Nek by Colonel Russell, after his arrival on 12 May. The push forward was only partially completed by 19 May when the Ottoman Army mounted a major counterattack. New Zealanders who died in that counterattack are buried in this cemetery.

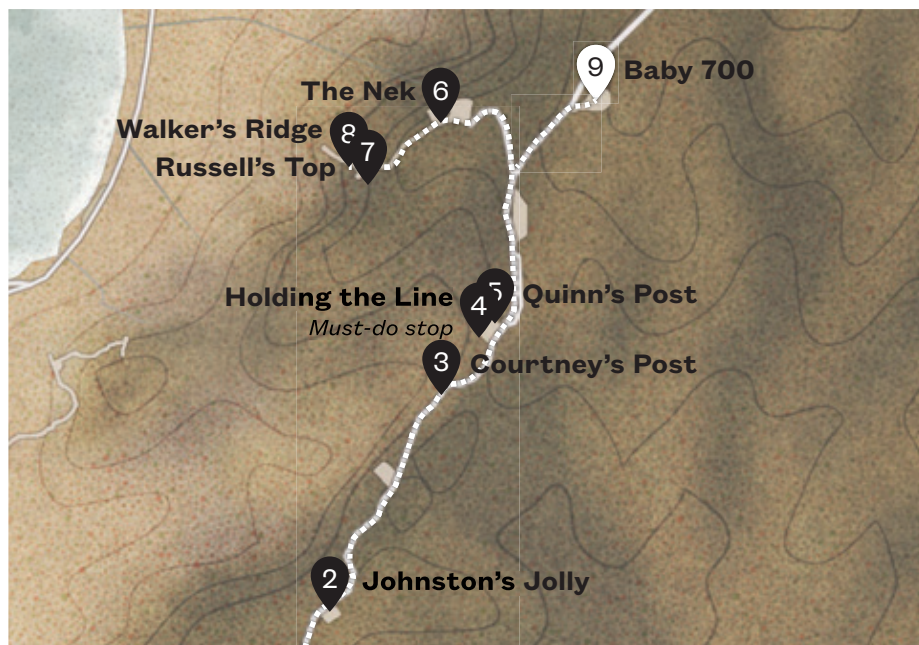
And two New Zealanders – Captain Alfred Bluck and Sergeant-Major Joseph Marr, Bluck's company Sergeant-Major – are buried here. Bluck is interesting because Lieutenant Spencer Westmacott of the Auckland Infantry Battalion, a New Zealand hero on 25 April, was with Bluck on a territorial course in New Zealand when war broke out. Bluck immediately

rang his wife to tell her he was enlisting. Westmacott just happened to be passing, and he heard Bluck talking on the phone to his wife. Then there was a pause and he heard Bluck say, 'Are you crying?' And, of course, all her fears were realised in May 1915.

Stop 9

Baby 700

On the first day of the Gallipoli campaign, the most important battle was for this hill

**Getting there from Walker's Ridge**

Return to your car at The Nek Cemetery car park, then drive back to the fork in the road, turning left at the junction. After 100 metres, there is a small signposted path on the right leading to Baby 700 Cemetery.

Your stop

Walk along the path into Baby 700 Cemetery, and go to the far right corner (to the right of the memorial cross). Look for the Turkish flag on the horizon, and face in that direction.

Story

You are standing on the hill Baby 700. This is where the most important battle was fought on 25 April 1915. Look to your right, and see the flag in the distance in the gap in the trees. That's Chunuk Bair.

Just forward of where you're standing, you can see that it starts to go downhill into a little gully before climbing up on to the next hill, known as Battleship Hill. It is in this gully where the infantrymen of the Auckland Battalion, led by a young Spencer Westmacott, linked up with the Australians on the left of the line on 25 April.

The New Zealanders were down in that gully in scrub like you see now. There were no pine trees, but this low scrub is typical of the vegetation in 1915. We were looking for the Australians and we found them on these forward slopes, but by that stage they were shot to pieces.

Almost all of the Australians had been killed or wounded because, at this time, coming down these slopes was the counterattacking Turkish 57th Regiment. That large, pyramid-shaped structure, with a flag that you can see behind you, is the memorial to that Turkish regiment.

Westmacott and his men went into the line here and were reinforced by other members of the Auckland Infantry Battalion. At the same time, the soldiers of the Canterbury Infantry Battalion

under their commanding officer, Colonel McBean Stewart, were on the other side of the hill on the seaward slope. They were also coming to reinforce the Australians. This was the battle for Baby 700 on the afternoon of 25 April.

The Turkish commander, Mustafa Kemal, later known as Atatürk, was on Chunuk Bair. He pushed his 57th Regiment down towards where you are standing in order to push the New Zealanders off. The Turkish snipers just shot them to pieces, and there was a seesaw battle. The New Zealanders held it, were driven back, counterattacked, were driven back again, counterattacked – this happened five times. And then, finally, the New Zealanders were driven off Baby 700.

In the late afternoon, Mustafa Kemal's 57th Regiment seized this hill, and small parties of Australians and New Zealanders ended up in Quinn's Post and at the Nek. And it's those two areas that became established as the Anzac frontline for the next 9 months.

The Anzacs tried to take back Baby 700 in a major night attack on 2 May, but again failed to take the seemingly impregnable position. They called the hill the Chessboard, because that's how it looked from the Anzac line, with its criss-crossed Turkish trenches.

If you look in this cemetery, you'll see that they are officers and men of the Auckland and Canterbury Regiments, together with Australians. And you'll see most of the men in this cemetery were killed on 25 April 1915.