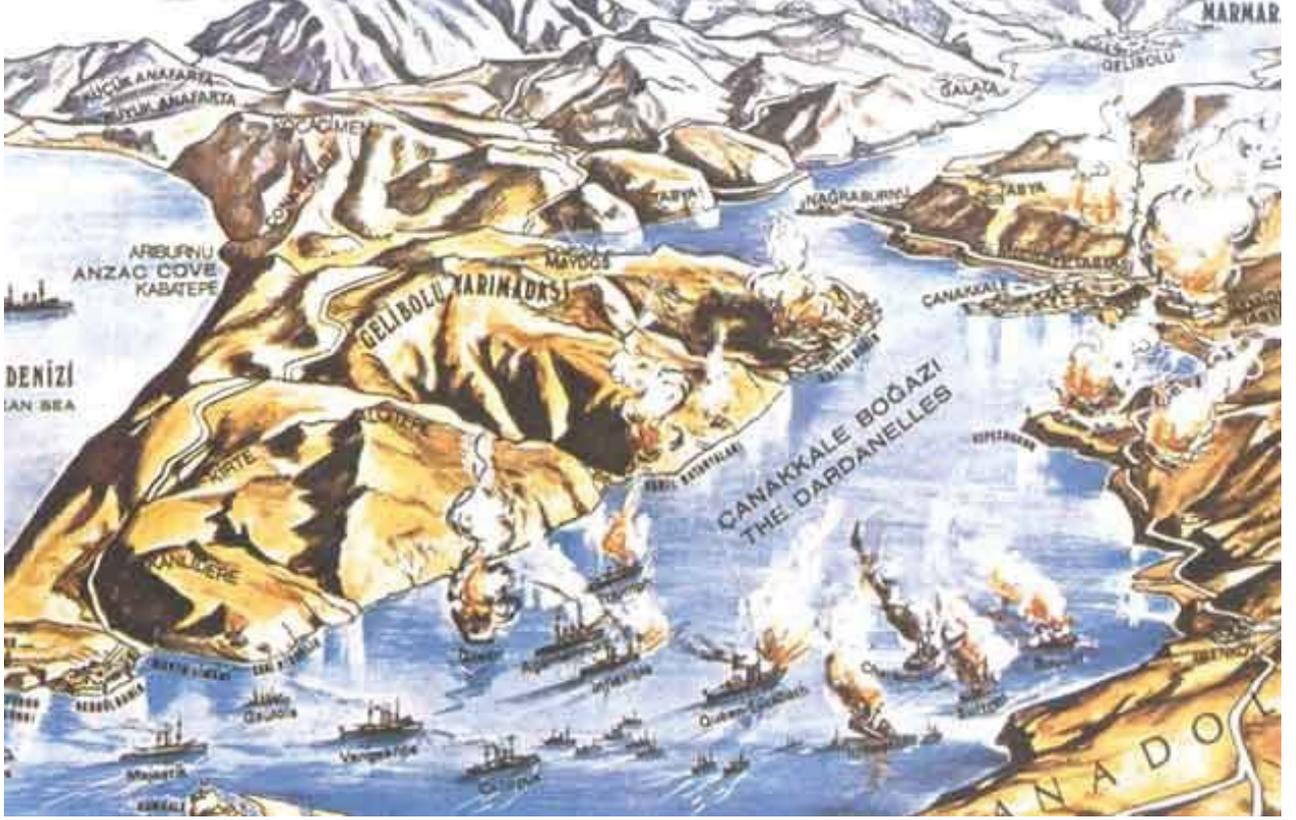


*Gallipoli in the First World War**



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* Text and some pictures are quoted from www.canakkale.gen.tr

THE FIRST WORLD WAR



In the beginning of the 20th century, Europe was overflowing from its frontiers. Economical rivalry, imperialism, and nationalist movements were dividing the continent into two blocs. The conflict was rising between Germany-France and Russia-Austria. The tension in Europe had reached its highest point on 28 June 1914 with the assassination of [Archduke Ferdinand](#), heir of the Austro-Hungarian throne by a Serbian nationalist.

On 28 July 1914, Austria had declared mobilisation then the Great War began. In Europe, two blocs had appeared: the Central Powers (Germany, Austro-Hungary and Italy) and the Triple Alliance (Britain, France, and Russia). With the outbreak of the war, Italy had declared neutrality but one year later joined the Triple Alliance.

On the other hand, the Ottoman Empire was losing its large territories in which many nations and beliefs had persisted for over 600 years. Both internal and external conflicts and wars were weakening the strength of the Ottoman Empire. Finally, the Ottoman Empire, with a series of military defeats in Tripoli and in the Balkans, lost nearly all its territories in Europe except the Thrace.

Moreover, it lost its power and international prestige. From then on, the death of the empire was certain and European powers were planning to share the heritage. As seen, the Twentieth Century had compelled the Turks to grant zones of influence to European powers: Britain (Egypt-Palestine), France (Syria and the Lebanon), Austria-Hungary (Bosnia-Herzegovina), and Italy (Libya). Russia was interested in the Mediterranean and Italy wanted parts of the eastern Mediterranean. Following the blow of the war, under threat from within and outside its borders, Turkey sought a protective agreement from one of the two European power blocs. At first, it intended to join the Triple Alliance, but Russia's protests led it to make a defensive alliance with Germany. On 2 August 1914, Turkey and Germany had signed a secret agreement.

Thereupon, the Turkish government had declared that it would remain neutral. However, to secure its borders, it introduced mobilisation. On 10 August 1914, Turkey allowed two German cruisers Goeben and Breslau, which were running from the Allied Navy, to enter the straits. Afterwards, it closed the straits to foreign ships.

The Allies became increasingly alarmed with the arrival of those German ships. The Turkish government had

stated that they bought these battleships from Germany in place of two dreadnought battleships, which had been built in Britain for the Turkish Navy and were requisitioned by Britain although Turkey had purchased them. Thus, the German ships became a part of the Turkish Navy with the Turkish names Yavuz and Midilli.

On 27 September 1914 Yavuz, under the command of German Admiral Souchon, bombarded Sivastopol and Novoroski, Russian shore establishments on the Black Sea. Thereupon, Russia passed the Caucasus border and declared war. This was the final act; the Ottoman Government was now at war.

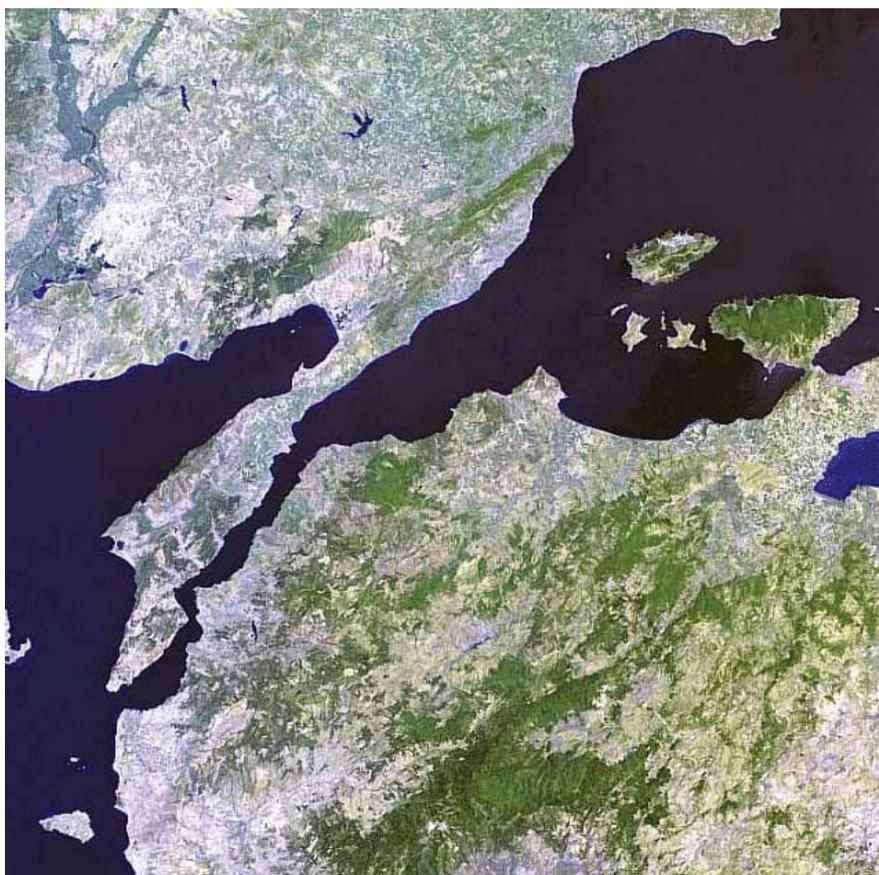
Turkey's geographical position was crucial; the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles were significant, as they were the only passages between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Moreover, they were Russia's main contact with its allies Britain and France.

In the course of history, countless wars had been fought for the straits in the name of their strategic positions and economic and cultural heritages. Even today, they still preserve their importance.

The Triple Alliance's attempt to pass the straits was certainly a direct result of their strategic positions. The allies' main target was to assist Russia. Likewise, it was believed that the capture of the straits would lead the British fleet to Istanbul and this might cause the downfall of the Turkish government. Further, it was hoped that the neutral European countries would join the Alliance against the Central Powers.

If the straits would be opened, this victory would intimidate all the Muslim colonies, and all the events disturbing the British would disappear.

Under these circumstances, Britain had decided to declare a war on 28 January 1915, and France offered a naval squadron to serve under British command in this great enterprise against Istanbul.



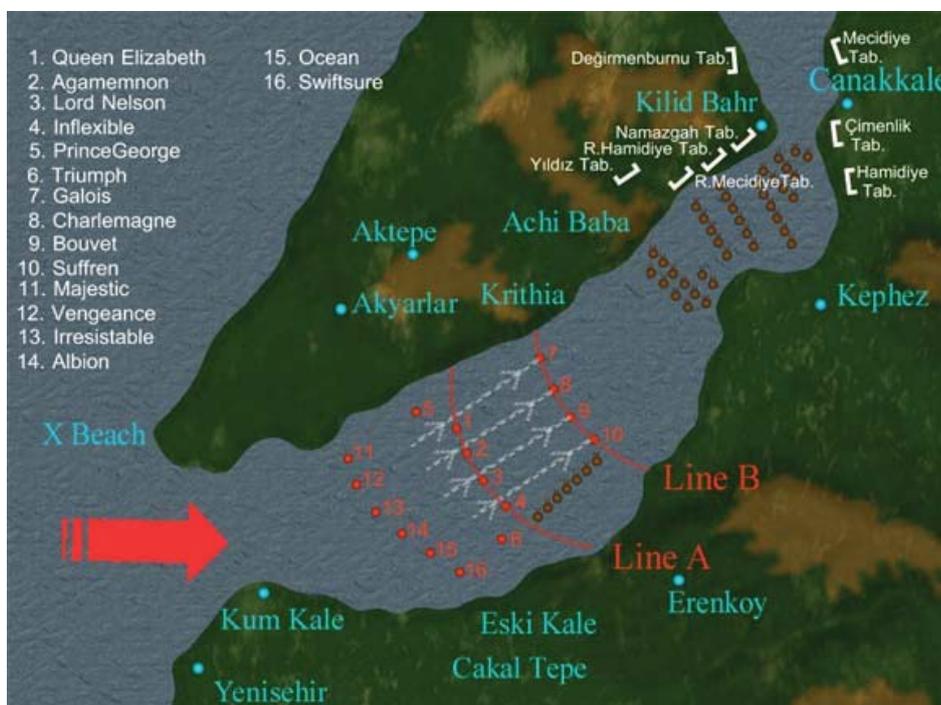
THE NAVAL ATTACK

The British, acting based on the concept "the one rules the seas, rules the world," believed that it was possible to open the Dardanelles "to ships only." Before The Naval Attack was instituted, First Lord of the Admiralty [Churchill](#) asked the officer commanding the Aegean, [Vice-Admiral Sackville Carden](#).

Carden stated that he believed the Dardanelles could be forced, given sufficient warships and minesweepers, in a three stage plan. First, the plan involved a neutralisation of the Turkish forts guarding the entrance, then a clearing of the Turkish minefields, and finally a drive into the Sea of Marmara. This plan persuaded the War Council despite Lord Fisher's doubts. The British Navy was proud of its ammunitions, technology, and surely, its victorious history, full of uncountable successes. It was impossible for the frayed, collapsing Ottoman Empire to withstand this invincible armada supported by French warships.

The Allied Armada's naval attack began on 19 February 1915. Until 13 March 1915, they continuously bombarded the Turkish forts and opened a way for the minesweepers. However, they had confronted the Turks' tough resistance. The Turkish gunners did not bother to return the Allies' bombardment. This showed that opening the Dardanelles was not that easy and that the Allies could have cleared only the first five miles of the strait.

Until 18 March, the Allied Armada destroyed Seddulbahir and Ertugrul forts located on the European shore and Kumkale and Orhaniye forts located on the Asiatic shore. It seemed that the entrance was now clear but the future was still uncertain. Nobody guessed what was going to happen on 18 March 1915. On 17 March 1915, Admiral de Robeck was in charge to proceed with the plan in place of Admiral Carden. In respect of Carden's plan, the Allied Fleet appeared in the entrance in the morning of 18 March. [De Robeck](#) himself commanded the Fleet's most powerful squadron. In bright sunshine and without the possibility of surprise, de Robeck in HMS Queen Elizabeth led the first wave up the channel at 10:30. Queen Elizabeth's target was Mecidiye fort, HMS Lord Nelson was going to bomb the Namazgah fort and HMS Inflexible's object was Hamidiye fort. This was called an "A Line," and it begun at 11:30. De Robeck's most powerful ships commenced to bombard the central forts.



Meanwhile, the Allied Fleet had entered the firing line coming from Kumkale. Turkish hotwizers began to fire, but their guns could not cover the distance and the gunners failed to reach the ships. At midday, the Allied Fleet had destroyed the Cimenlik and Hamidiye forts. De Robeck signalled his second wave, which included Guepratte's French squadron, Bouvet, Charlemagne, Gaulois and Suffren with HMS Triumph and Prince George, to go in closer.

This step of the plan was called a "B Line". Guepratte led his squadron through the British line and subjected the shore defences. Under Turkish gunners' heavy fire, the squadron had reached the B Line. After a mutual bombardment, the Allies had succeeded to stop the middle forts but the central forts continued to fire. Two British ships, the HMS Triumph and the HMS Prince George, had taken their positions in "A Line," and they targeted Mesudiye and Yildiz forts.

Turkish forts on the European shore were under a fierce fire. Most of the bombshells had hit them and destroyed the telephone lines. Moreover, Mecidiye fort stopped with the death of its gunners.

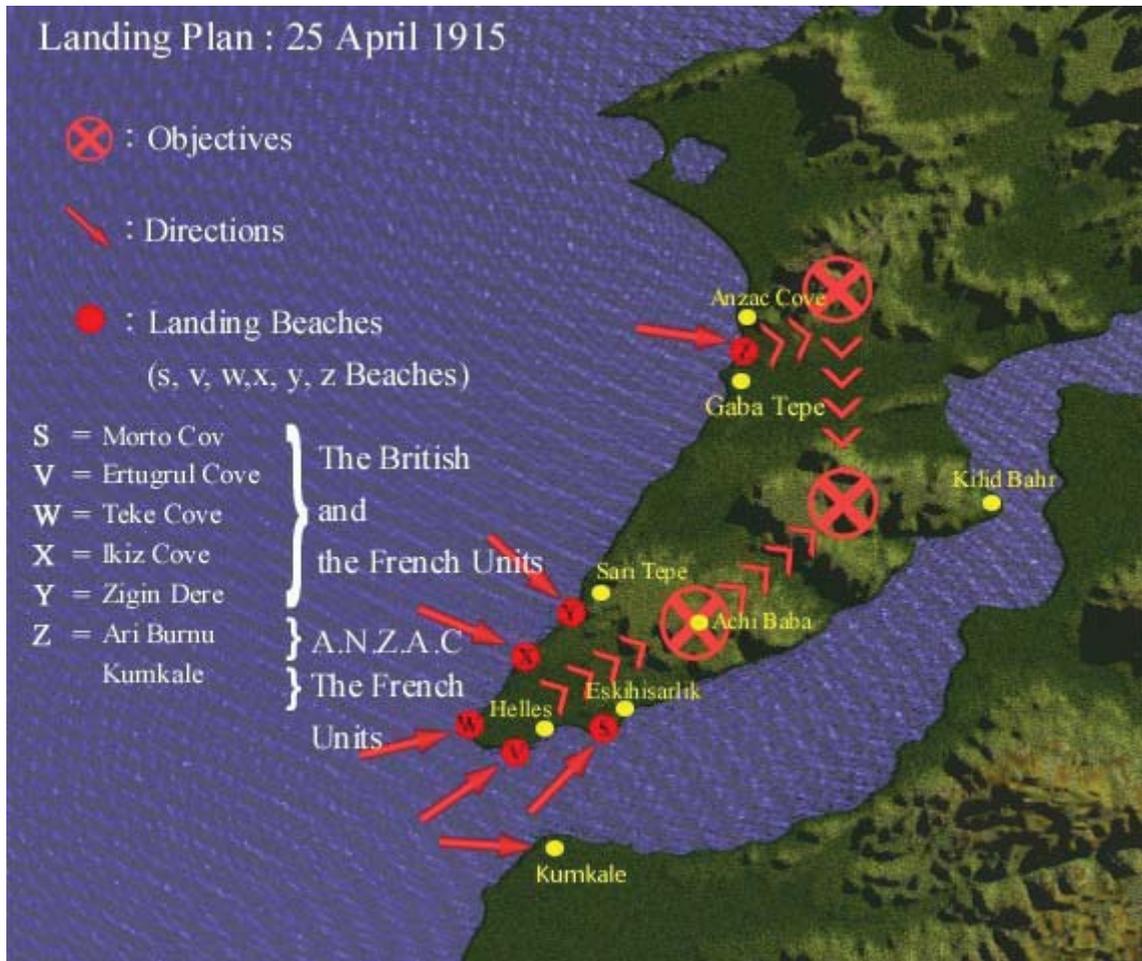
If the allies could have successfully accomplished the second step of the plan, the second squadron commanded by Colonel Hayes Sadler would have moved and replaced the third squadron. De Robeck signalled the French to retire for his third wave of advance with Ocean, Irresistible, Albion, Vengeance, Swiftsun, and Majestic.

When the French ships led by Suffren made their return and wheeled away to make room for the second squadron, something unexpected happened. Around 14:00, the French ship Bouvet following immediately behind Suffren hit a mine and within two minutes had disappeared entirely and lost almost all its crew. As the steamboats immediately arrived to rescue the crew, they only could save 20 people's lives. At 12:30, Gaulois hit a mine, but it could have left the strait with a serious stroke. At 15:30, Inflexible hit a mine not far from the grave of Bouvet.

Despite severe damage, the ship could make it to the island of Imros. Shortly afterwards, Irresistible hit a mine. The ship was out of control but was near the Asiatic shore to attract the attention of Turkish gunners, and its crew was taken out. On 8 March, Turkish minelayer Nusret had surreptitiously laid a line of mines parallel to the Asiatic shore, and now these mines were unexpectedly destroying the Allied Armada. Once De Robeck had realised that the Turks had laid mines in the channel, he abandoned the attack. At 18:05, while the second squadron was withdrawing, HMS Ocean hit a mine and exploded. Despite a heavy fire, the crew was evacuated.

The events on 18 March confused the Allies. [Churchill](#)'s opponents like Lord Fisher had turned out to be right—it was impossible to open the strait "by ships only." Nevertheless, de Robeck and Churchill were still insisting that a renewed push would succeed. They began to renovate the plans for another naval expedition to Istanbul.





THE ANZAK COVE

The Anzac's main target was to land at the beach located between Kabatepe (Z Beach) and Ariburnu. Their initial subject was Conkbayiri-Kocacimentepe line and then Maltepe to cut the Turks' connection from north to south.

In the morning of 25 April, instead of landing at Z Beach, the first troops had been deposited father north at Ariburnu itself. The boats had been swept more than a mile north by an unexpected current. Although they could sweep the expected landing beaches, the area in which the Anzacs had actually landed was defended very weakly, and thus, isolated parties were able to progress a little further.

In Bigali, there was maneuvering from the 19th Division commanded by Mustafa Kemal. By daylight, Mustafa Kemal heard the gunfire and he understood that the landings had begun. He immediately had informed the Army Commander but did not receive any further assignment. As soon as he was informed about the casualties of the 27th Brigade defending the shores, he comprehended the arduousness of the situation.

Without an authority given by the commander, Mustafa Kemal took all the enterprise's responsibility and ordered the 57th Brigade to move to Kocacimentepe. He had gone to Conkbayiri to observe the counter-attack. There he saw some soldiers withdrawing. He himself told that moment to Rusen Esref Unaydin as below:

"In that very moment, I saw the platoon responsible to observe and protect the Battleship Hill running away. I had stopped them and asked:

"Why are you running away?"

"Sir, the enemy!" they said.

"Where?" I asked.

"Here!" they said by pointing to the Battleship Hill.

It was true; the enemy's skirmishers were walking through the Battleship Hill. Imagine that, I had given the forces a ten minute break and the enemy had reached the hill. It meant that the enemy was closer to me than my own army. In that moment by premonition I said:

"Never run away from the enemy."

"We do not have sufficient ammunitions," they said.

"If you do not have ammunitions, you have your bayonets." I said.

By yelling, I had them fix their bayonets, and I had them lie on the floor. Meanwhile, I sent my adjutant back to take infantry. In that moment, my soldiers fixed their bayonets and laid down and the enemy did the same. We won the war in that moment.

That was true, when the Turks had stabilised their positions, the Anzacs stopped and did the same. Thus, Mustafa Kemal won the time to stabilise the 57th Brigade in Conkbayiri and enabled the Turks to prevent the capture of Saribayir. The creator of this success was no doubt Mustafa Kemal. Both Turkish and foreign experts always point and emphasise this reality. The same day, Mustafa Kemal returned to the corps head quarters and by permission of Esad Pasha he took the remains of the 27th Brigade under his command for a counter-attack. For this attack, his historical order to 57th Brigade was as follows:

"I am not ordering you to attack, I am ordering you to die. Until we die, we could win the time for the arrival of new troops and commanders".

On 25 April 1915, mid-afternoon, the initial landing was completed. Nevertheless, with Turkish counter-attacks and bayonet assaults, the Anzacs had lost many soldiers and they retreated to the shores. Despite these bitter and confused struggles, by the evening, a division of the Anzac corps could have managed to station itself on the cliffs of Ariburnu. Until August 1915, these bloody and bitter fights continued. Both sides attacked usually at nights and the soldiers fought man to man. In August, the war had completely turned out to be a trench war. As in Helles, the Anzacs could not have reached the main subject, and until the evacuation, they were blocked in a small land without any further progress.

HELLES

On April 25, under protective bombardments of the navy, the allied army had begun the landings on five different points of Gallipoli Peninsula. The initial task of the Indian and the British troops was to capture Alcitepe in the south and advance to Kilitbahir plateau where they could destroy the central forts and finally capture the entrance of the strait.

The naval bombardment was so intense that the Turkish 26th Regiment's 10th Company's defense line had been hit by 4,650 shells.

Despite the fiery bombardment, the allies had failed to destroy the Turkish artillery; moreover, they lost many soldiers. These events surely confused the allies. One of the great heroes of this war Sergeant Yahya was in the 10th company, as well.

Until the end of July 1915, these bloody and hard wars had continued. The Turks—to be saved from the naval bombardments—usually attacked at night by using their bayonets. Especially, the Kirte-X-V-W battle were fought man to man, bayonet to bayonet. The battles in the Y beach lasted eight nights and eight days and most likely had the most casualties.



KUMKALE

On 25 April 1915, at 4:30, the French fleet stationed in front of Kumkale shore. The first French wave landed under protective bombardments of the navy targeting Kumkale and Orhaniye.

The Turkish squad defending the castle and the region had endured for a long time but with the arrival of French reinforcements and fiery naval bombardments, they retreated to Kumkale village. Only half of the squad reinforced by 6th Division remained. In the street of Kumkale both sides began to fight. The Commander of the 6th Division had to drawback his forces to the graveyard of the Kumkale village, and they struggled to prevent the French's progress. In these bitter fights, one of the Turkish commanders had died and the ammunitions had declined. Despite all the negative conditions, the Turks continued to defend their position and prevented French progress.

When the Turks made a counter-attack to recapture Kumkale, in the village's streets a harsh war begun. The French hardened their defense. However, in the most intense moment of the Turkish attack they hoisted a white flag and wanted to surrender. One of the high ranking French officers wanted to surrender to an equal Turkish officer but because of the language difference, they could not understand each other. Thus, the French troops had gathered and returned to their positions. Both sides opened fire on each other. The French fleet began to bombard the shore by risking their own positions and the Turks retreated to the Mezarlik-Kumkale-Orhaniye line.

On the other side, the French had secured the beachhead but failed to progress further. On the night of 26 April, General Hamilton ordered the French troops to evacuate and to reinforce the British landings.

SUVLA

Until the end of August, the Allies did not realise their objectives nor in Ariburnu or in Helles. At last, they decided to capture the Dardanelles by surrounding the back of the Peninsula. Hamilton's primary target was to surround the Turks from the back and destroy them. Secondly, he was planning an advance on the Suvla shores for the opening of the third front.

For this purpose, on the night of 6 August, he landed 9th British division on that region. His aim was to make a surprise attack at daybreak. However, Liman von Sanders had ordered the commander of the Saros group to go to Suvla and attack the British early on the morning of 8 August. In addition, he ordered Lieutenant Colonel Wilmer to prevent British progress until the arrival of the reinforcements.



[Liman von Sanders](#) had appointed [Colonel Mustafa Kemal](#) to command the Anafartalar (Suvla) Forces. On the morning of 9 August, [Mustafa Kemal](#) attacked the 9th British Army Corps with his 12th Division. In addition, to cut their co-operation with the Anzacs he made another attack towards Damakcilik. The British were confused with these unexpected attacks.



This operation was named as the First Suvla War. [Mustafa Kemal](#)'s interpretation was as follows:

"In fact, I have defeated the enemy with my weak forces between Kirectepe and Azmak and I have followed them all the way to the Salt Lake."

Thus, as it was in the other fronts, the Suvla front had turned out to be a positional advantage in the war until the evacuation.

On the other hand, the 9th British Army Corps was reinforced by new landings, but it still failed in its operations, which were directed toward Suvla. However, for the Turks the situation was desperate and [Liman von Sanders](#) reinforced the 8th Division with two regiments and gave them to Mustafa Kemal. On the night of 9th August,

[Mustafa Kemal](#) made an attack by bayonets and this attack cost the British many casualties. After Mustafa Kemal has secured a defense line, he made necessary reinforcements and began an expanded defense.

During all the landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Turks had revealed their bravery, honesty, and their strong characters. In both Helles and Suvla, this was the same. For example, they have never shot the Red Cross tents, stretchers, or the hospital ships. Although the Turks dominated the hills, they had never used gas and never poisoned the fountains. They never tortured the prisoners of war. At first, the Anzacs were confused by these behaviours because the reality was completely opposite of what they had heard in Egypt. They were very prejudiced about the Turkish Soldier whom they named as "Abdul".

THE EVACUATION

The Allies lost their hopes after they were defeated in Suvla. [Hamilton](#) reported that he required massive reinforcements for any further progress, but his request was refused. Instead of receiving more troops, Hamilton lost two divisions. One of the French divisions and the 10th were sent to the western front.

Near the end of August in 1915, the idea of an evacuation developed. [Kitchener](#) had gone to Dardanelles to give an opinion about the campaign's situation. After his inspection, he decided that the Gallipoli Peninsula was "an awful place" and that further efforts to split the Turkish defenses were useless.

[Kitchener](#) recommended that Anzac and Suvla be evacuated immediately and these troops be sent to Salonica.

The Allied troops evacuated Anzac and Suvla between 8 December and 20 December. From 28 December to 9 January, they withdrew Helles.

The evacuation was very well planned. So that the Turks would not realise that the front line would eventually be deserted, automatically firing rifles were devised, which caused occasional shots to be directed towards the Turkish lines for half an hour after the troops had left. Mines were dug out for possible pursuits.

Until the last day of the withdrawal, the allies continued to fight, and the leaving troops tied sacs on their boots so the evacuation could be made in complete silence.

Were the Turks aware of the evacuation? This is the most common question being asked for the Turkish side. The Allies' success is uncontroversial; the evacuation was a triumph of organisation and discipline, and, of course, the weather conditions helped undeniably. In regard that the Turks had realised the evacuation, they did not attempt an assault.

Although it was possible to give enormous casualties to the Allies in the moment of withdrawal, the Turks preferred not to attack. Turkey was at war in all sides of the country, and it needed any soldier, but there were no soldiers to lose anymore.

Finally, on 9 January 1916, the Allies had completely left the Gallipoli Peninsula. This defeat had changed the outcome of the Great War and effected the fates of the participating countries.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

The Dardanelles failure has put an end to the British Empire's apogee. From then on, Britain's influence in its dominions gradually declined. Despondent Africa and India revolted. A period of awakening begun in the dominions with the sense of national identity. In 20-30 years time, the British Empire came to an end. The British sailed for world sovereignty but the Dardanelles campaign misled their route. After the Dardanelles Campaign, the course of history had been changed not only for Britain but also for Russia. Russia entered a period of progress, and this progress reached its highest point during the Second World War.

On the other hand, the Ottoman Government closed the straits until the end of the First World War and banned any passage through. Doubtless, this closure had very negative effects on international trading and especially on the countries neighbouring the Black Sea.

Military Assessment

- According to the Turkish sources, the Allies' total casualties were 187,000 soldiers. The Turkish casualties were 57,084 soldiers in the land attacks and 179,000 soldiers in The Naval Attack.
- The Allied Navy failed to open the straits and to capture Istanbul; thus, the fear of losing Istanbul disappeared.
- The worthiest tribute of this war to the Turkish nation was the birth of Mustafa Kemal's military genius. Both 18 March Naval and Gallipoli landing victories restored the Turkish Army's prestige.
- When the allies has decided to make an expedition to the Dardanelles, one of their objectives was to leave the Ottoman Empire off the war for an easier defeat of Germany. However, the Turkish victory in Gallipoli caused the Great War to continue two more years until Germany's withdrawal.
- The closure of the straits cut Russia's connection off with her allies and deprived her from their aids. Because, more than half million allied soldiers were engaged in Gallipoli, Germany led her eastern operations easily.
- Turkish soldiers showed great courage in defending the Dardanelles and they became an example for the Turkish Independence War.
- In these wars, many educated, intellectual Turkish people had died. Their loss negatively affected Turkey in the following years.

A CLOSER LOOK

ALL THE KING'S MEN AND 1/5 NORFOLK REGIMENT

A film was made in Britain, in 1999. The name of the film is "All the King's Men." The scenery is based on an alleged story about a British regiment, which attacked the Turks on 12 August 1915 in the Suvla region of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The plot runs as follow:

During the Gallipoli campaign, Sandringham Company, which served as part of the 54th Division 163rd Brigade 1/5 Norfolk Regiment, attacks the Turks on 12 August 1915 in the Suvla Region of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

In the combat, the Turks defeat them and take them captives. The tension of the story rises when the Turks shoot all the captives in their heads and burn all the wounded soldiers in a farmhouse to "end their pains." This story is not known in Turkey, but in Britain, it has been emphasised especially in recent years.

The British authorities claim that Turkey could not have given a sufficient reply when Britain asked the consequence of 1/5 Norfolk Battalion in the end of the First World War. They think that the reason was the event revealed above. However, the reality was totally different. In the battle fought in Suvla region, on 12 August 1915, the British 163rd Brigade suffered serious casualties because of the Turkish artillery and the snipers.

The commander of the 54th Division was General Inglefield, the commander of 1/5 Norfolk Regiment was Lieutenant Colonel Sir Horace Beauchamp, and the commander of Sandringham Company was Captain Beck. The Turkish force, which fought against the British, was the 36th Division under command of Major Munib Bey.

In War Chronicle, Munib Bey states that on the concerned day, the British attack had backfired and 35 British soldiers were taken captives. The captives gave evidence, which remain in the records.

One of them was Private A. G. Brown (1/5 Norfolk Regt. 54 Div. 163 Brigade East Anglian Division) and his evidence, which he gave to the Turkish commanders, is as follow:

"On 10 August 1915, I went ashore to the surroundings of the Salt Lake. In the attack I made it to a hill, which I do not know the name of, and I was taken captive on 12 August. Our commander was Inglefield. I only stayed in Suvla for two days and I do not know anything." These are the words of a captive and there is other evidence similar to this one. However, the British insist that the Turks killed all the captives but they did not prove their alleged plot.

It is clear that the Turkish forces stopped the Allies' on 12 August 1915. In that defense, the Turkish snipers were involved and the British Militaries agree that it is normal to die by the shots of the snipers in close combat. It was inevitable for the Turks to defend their country against the Allies' occupation.

Ataturk's words explain the situation of the Turks in the Gallipoli battles; "Unless it is indispensable, war is a slaughter." The Turkish Army defended the peninsula against the Allies and the result was heartrending.

The servants of King George V formed Sandringham Company of the Norfolk Regiment and most probably, this is the reason for such a story. In addition, Aspinall Oglender states that the company was not ready for such an important mission but General Inglefield assigned them to capture a region that was strongly defended by the Turks. Unfortunately, those untrained soldiers came across Turkish snipers. Maybe this fictitious story was created to cover this fatal mistake.

There were always rumours about the torments, which the Turks made to their captives. It is known that the Ally commanders, to make their soldiers fight more vividly, said, "if the Turks catch you, they will eat you." The Turks never ill-treated their captives. Especially during the Gallipoli Battles, both armies fought fairly.

If the archives are searched it would be possible to find the records about the medical services offered to the sick or wounded captives. For example, even to cure the teeth problems of the captives, dentists were designated. Did the British, French, or the Russians provide the same treatment for their captives? The Turkish captives of the Allies tell the opposite. Further research on this subject would reveal the facts and would reply to all the accusations.

THE BIRTH OF A HERO: MUSTAFA KEMAL

After the Turkish victory in Suvla, Mustafa Kemal became a hero. For the Turkish soldiers fighting in the Dardanelles, his name meant morale and courage. The Allied soldiers without knowing his name appreciated Mustafa Kemal, as well. Even Ian Hamilton wrote in his diary that the talents of the Turkish commander defending Gallipoli astonished him.

The heroic victory of Mustafa Kemal even inspired a poet. In September, 1915, the famous poet Mehmet Emin Yurdakul published a poetry collection named *The Sound of the Dawn*. One of the long verses of this collection is "The Epic of the Army," dated 15 September 1915. The first quatrain of the epic is as follows:

"O! The rough cliffs witnessed that day
O! The heroic trenches of Sergeant Mehmet
O! The sacred site of Mustafa Kemal
O! The bloody hills, burnt places."

Thus, the name of Mustafa Kemal was heard nation-wide.

During the battles, the attention of both foreign and Turkish press was on Mustafa Kemal.



After the Second Suvla Battle, on 21 August, a Polish journalist came to interview him. She felt the enthusiasm of the victory with Mustafa Kemal. On 2 September, a German journalist came. On 8 September, the first movie producer of Turkey Necati Bey came to see Mustafa Kemal and he filmed the Dardanelles for three days.

On 10 September, famous writer of Tanin Newspaper, Ekrem Bey has visited Mustafa Kemal. On October 21, a board of Syrian writers interviewed him. Henceforth, all the interviews and interpretations made Mustafa Kemal a national hero.

Famous writer, Yakup Kadri, in his work *Ataturk*, tells his impressions about those days as follow:

"This young commander, and a small group of soldiers with bayonets beside him, has been defending the nation against the rain of bombs, shells, and gunfire. This man was not burnt by fire; it was as if the bullets did not shoot him. The bombs of the battleships were like birds of prey flying without touching him."

This expression reveals Mustafa Kemal as if he was a tale-hero. The first sentence of Yakub Kadri's *Ataturk*, describes the reason:

"First years of our youth have gone with expectations of a national hero."

The fame of *Ataturk* has shown its effects in the Headquarters as well. After the battles, Mustafa Kemal was promoted to colonel rank, and he was awarded with three medals and two decorations. In addition, he was asked for two significant duties. One was to be assigned for Tripoli with brigadier general rank and the other was to be the Commander of the Army Corps in Iraq. The second duty was more important.

All these events reflect Ottoman administration's opinion about Mustafa Kemal. Before the conclusion of the war, the Ottoman government awarded Mustafa Kemal.

After the war, Mustafa Kemal became a legendary hero. From then on, he was remembered as the "Saviour of Istanbul." Journalists and writers have interviewed him. The people desired to see him. In January 1916, when he was assigned as the Commander of 16th Army Corps, crowds in Edirne welcomed him on the streets.

Staff Commander of Canakkale General Izettin Calislar explains this welcoming as follow in his diary.

"28 January 1916

...Streets were filled with people; all the students were positioned to welcome him. The city was decorated with triumphal arches. There were Aktuels on which "Long live Mustafa Kemal" and "Hero of Suvla" were written. All the notables of Edirne, city administrators, and the consulates were there... All the people welcomed him with great enthusiasm. They gave bunches of flowers to him. Applause and demonstrations were unbelievable..."

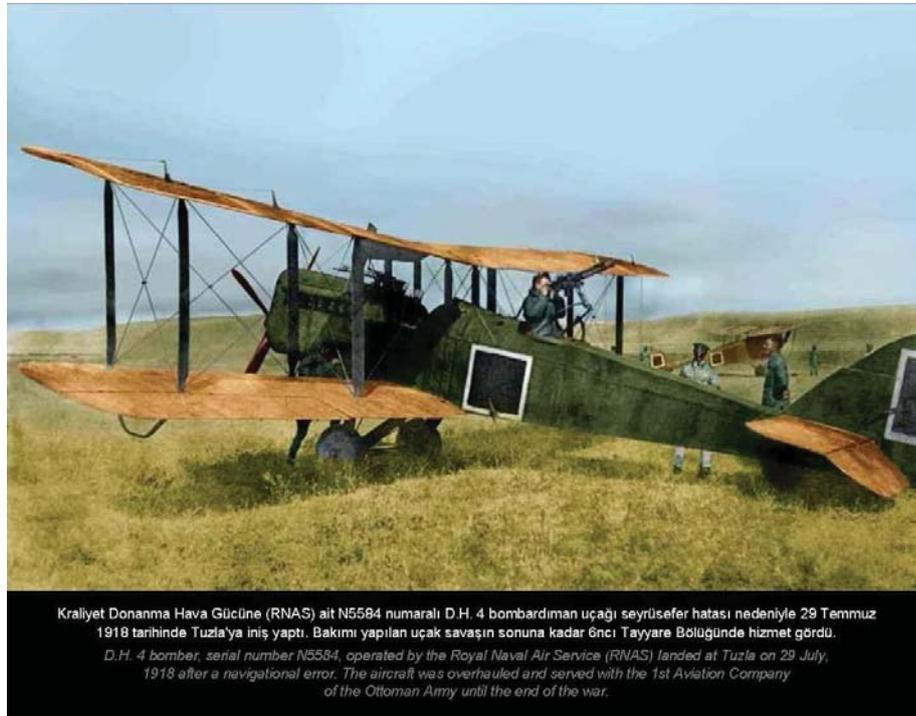
Neither Mustafa Kemal was the conqueror of Edirne nor he was the saviour of the city. people of Edirne admired him because of his victory at Suvla, a victory of his own creation. After a two hundred year break, Mustafa Kemal gave a victory to the Turkish nation. Thus, he won all his titles.

First Turkish Aeroplane

The Ottoman government ordered two aeroplanes to Rep (French factory) and requested them to be finished before the celebration of the Sultan, which was to be held on 27 April 1912. The aeroplane came to Istanbul on 26 April, and French pilot Gordonbel made a test flight for 45 minutes. That day, a military ceremony was going to be held on Hurriyet-i Ebediyye hill. When Sultan Mehmet Reshad arrived, he would fly above the cortege and join the parade.

The cortege and people gathered around the memorial located on Hurriyet-i Ebediyye hill. Everybody was joyful and excited to see the first flight of the first Turkish plane. Meanwhile, the first Turkish dreadnought Reshadiye's (which was a building in Britain) painting was exhibited and this painting was put in an auction to support the navy. While the plane was approaching Hurriyet-i Ebediyye hill, the President of the Navy Societiy Ismail Hakki Pasha and other high government officials gave speeches. After the speeches, the mufti of Bakirkoy prayed.

The first Turkish plane arrived at 13:30. The cost of this plane was 30,000 franks, and its speed was 90-100 km per an hour. Its length was 12 mm, and its width was 12.5 m.



Muavenet and Goliath

Muavenet-i Milliye is the Turkish torpedo boat, which sunk the British battleship Goliath. During the night of May 12, Muavenet-i Milliye had skilfully slipped down from Chanak and torpedoed Goliath. After this heroic success, General Hamilton noted on his diary that "The Turks deserve a medal." The sinking of the Goliath was the most disastrous event the Allies faced during the Canakkale Wars. The Allies' causality was enormous. Five hundred and seventy sailors drowned, and only one hundred and eighty of its crew survived.

The Allies failed to achieve their expectations with the landings. Thus, the British began to make plans for resumption of The Naval Attack. However, the torpedoing of the Goliath had proven that it was impossible to open the straits by a naval attack. Admiral Fisher, the commander of the British Naval Forces and the most feverish opponent of another naval attack, resigned two days after the sinking of the battleship on 15 May 1915. The resignation of Churchill First Lord of Admiralty came next.

A small Turkish torpedo boat raised a crisis in the British cabinet by sinking the Goliath. The Turkish resources reveal the event as follows:

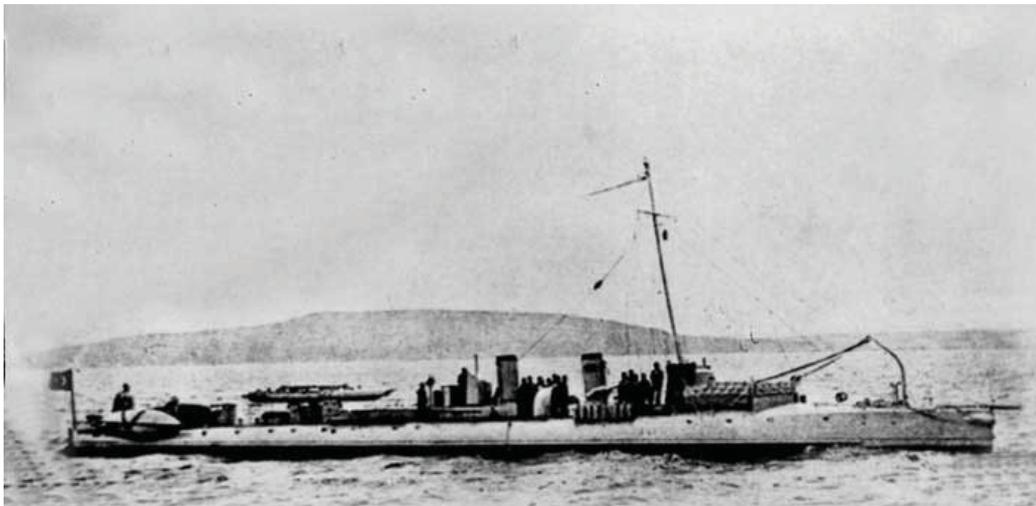
"In the history of the Canakkale Wars, the sinking of the Goliath has a significant place.

The French had asked the assistance of the battleships against the Turkish counterattacks targeting to recapture Kerevizdere. Thus, every night two battleships began to bombard the Turkish positions. The Turkish side, to eliminate damages caused by these battleships, assigned the Muavenet-i Milliye.

Captain Ahmet Saffet was commanding the boat and he immediately sailed through Canakkale from the Marmara Sea where he had been patrolling. On 10 May at 13:30, the Muavenet-i Milliye arrived at the strait and the preparations for its new assignment had begun. It was on 12 May at 18:40 that Muavenet had gone into action. Between 19:00 and 19:30 it passed the mines, and at 19:40 it anchored in Soganolu and waited until midnight. The projectors of the allied battleships were closed down at 23:30.

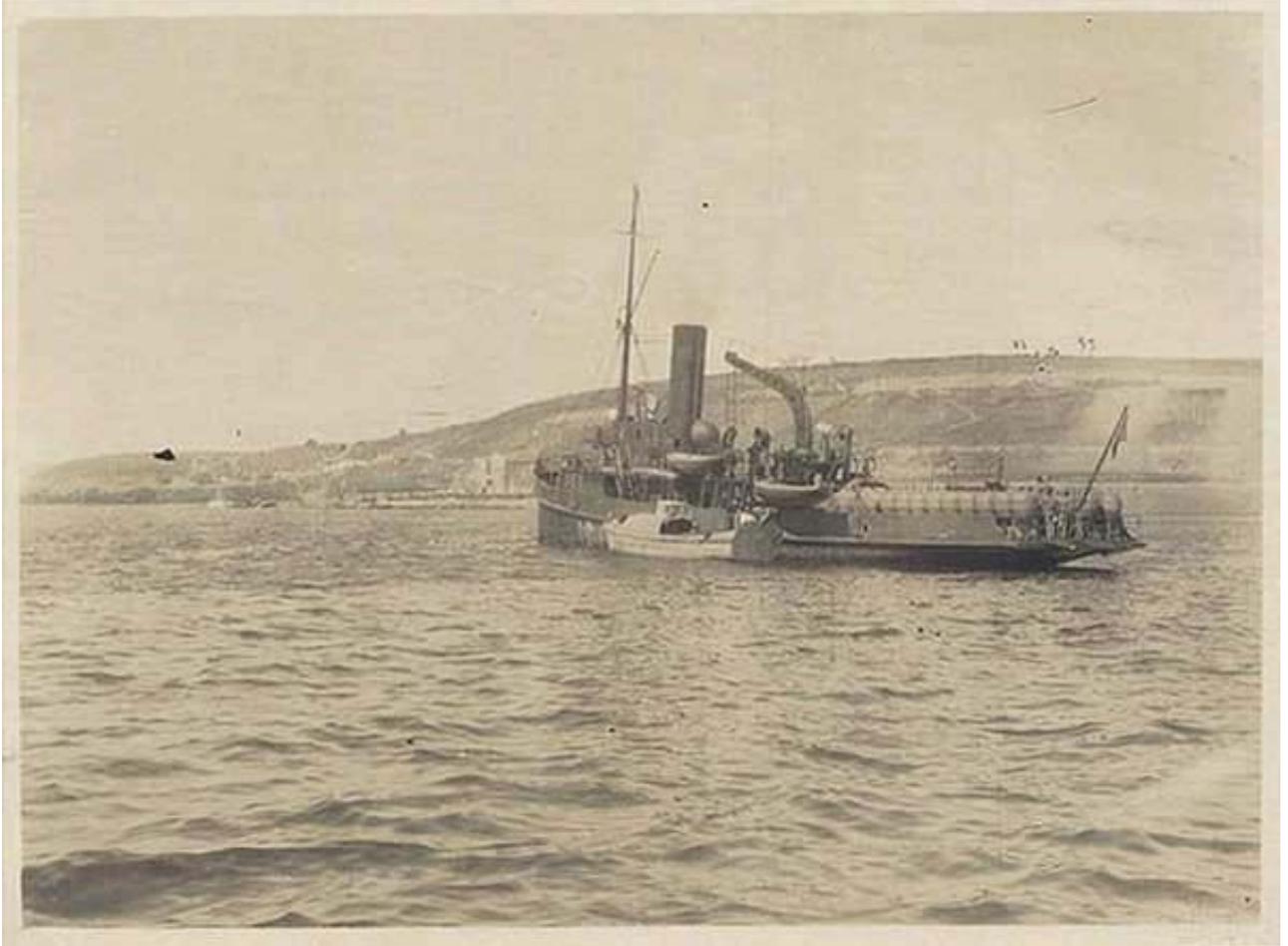
Muavenet weighed anchor at 00:30 and skipped through the European side of the strait. The Allied destroyers failed to notice its advance. At 01:00 on the line astern of the Muavenet, two destroyers were seen. On the forehead was the Goliath. The Goliath had asked the password, and the Muavenet without losing time sent three torpedoes. The first torpedo hit the bridge, the second hit the funnel, and the third the stern. In a very short time, the huge battleship with its five hundred and seventy sailors including the captain had sunk.

Muavenet returned to Canakkale at 05:00 and was welcomed with joy. On the same day, it sailed to Istanbul where it was welcomed with a ceremony. Enver Pasha awarded the crew on 16 May. Most importantly, this successful operation boosted the morales of the Turkish soldiers. However, the news about the sinking of the Goliath created a crisis in the War Council in London.



Nusret Minelayer and Victory of 18 March

For the Turkish side, Nusret is the symbol of the Wars of Dardanelles. With its twenty-six mines, it stopped the Allied Fleet, puzzled the allied commanders, boosted the morales of the Turkish soldiers, and brought joy to the Turkish nation.



After the wars ended, the heroic story of Nusret became a legend. Today, it has a place in books of legends. "The night of 17 March" in most of the records is when the venture of Nusret begins. Although the date is incorrect, to emphasise the dramatic sides the mission it achieved, this date is commonly mentioned. In fact, the venture of Nusret begins beforehand with its arrival to the strait on 3 September 1914.

It was constructed in Germany and it was able to maneuver in the narrows skilfully. Thus, it was able to pass the minefields safely.

Identification of Nusret is as follows:

Type	: Minelayer
Built in	: Germany
Tonnage	: 360T
Date of Arrival	: 1912
Length	: 40 m.
Width	: 7.4 m.
Guns	: 7.5/40-battery (1), 4.7-battery (2), and 2 mk. 5b.
Speed	: 15 miles
Taken out of Service	: 16.06.1957

Consequence:

From February 1915 until March, the strongest fleet of the world came to the Dardanelles and began to bombard the forts positioned on both sides of the strait. Reconnaissance planes determined the mines and minesweepers neutralised the strait for a safe passage through . The mines that Nusret had previously laid were cleared as well.

All these preparations showed that the most powerful armada of the world would be forcing the Dardanelles in a short period. Thereupon, with a German officer's advice, Turkish headquarters decided to lay the last twenty-six mines of Nusret parallel to the Asiatic shore.

Commander of the Fortified Area Selahattin Adil in his memories says:

"It was obvious the enemy would be attacking within few days. Therefore, German Admiral Menter Pasha advised Nusret to lay the last spared mines. He was responsible of Navigation. He was an experienced soldier and a nice person. We assigned Nusret to lay those mines."

Henceforth, Commander of the Fortified Area Cevat Pasha assigned Captain Hakki Bey in command of Nusret. On the night of 7 March, he sailed for this significant task. Captain Hafiz Nazmi (Akpınar) was also in Nusret that night for the pilotage.

On the night of 7 March a few minutes after midnight, Nusret left Canakkale. In complete silence and darkness, it slipped down through the previously laid mines. With the help of pilot Captain Nazmi, it advanced through Karanlık Liman and laid its only twenty-six mines parallel to the Asiatic shore. After it had completed the mission, within the same silence and darkness it returned to Canakkale. That night, Nusret drew the fate of the war.

The next day, the Ally planes reconnoitred the strait, but somehow they did not see the mines. They reported that the strait was neutral. The pilot who gave that report was executed by shooting on the day after The Naval Attack.

March 18 is one of the most significant victory days in Turkish history. The success of Nusret Minelayer in this victory is evident. Winston Churchill defines those twenty-six mines as the reason for the prolonging of the war and the enormous casualties in the interview he made with "Revue de Paris" in 1930.

By the year 2000, Nusret was anchored in Mersin. Many volunteers and societies are trying to save it from sinking. It desperately needs any donation to be saved from the destinies of Yavuz and Midilli.

Why The Turks Never Used Chemical Warfare?

The Gallipoli War is evaluated as the last "gentleman war" of the twentieth century. This evaluation is correct in terms of the techniques used during the battles and the war conditions. A comparison between the battles of the Gallipoli and the other fronts of the First World War would reveal why it was considered a "gentleman war."

When the Allied soldiers first landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula, they thought they would be confronted with barbaric, cannibal Turks. The day of 25 April 1915 was the beginning of their venture that lasted for eight and a half months. Each day, both sides became increasingly acquainted with each other. Both the Turks and the Allies realised that the enemy they were fighting was human. There was no difference between their pains, sufferings, or deaths.

In the beginning, the Allies thought being captives of the Turks would be a nightmare. They could not imagine the torments that they would experience. As time passed, the care the Turks showed to wounded Ally soldiers and their treatment of the captives erased those thoughts.

Another fear of the Allies was the chemical warfare. Turkish trenches were mainly positioned on the high points of the peninsula and the natural winds of the region were very convenient for the use of poison gases. The Germans released chlorine gas against the French in the western front. They could be using it here as well. The British were especially anxious about this possibility. They have given gas masks to the soldiers and trained them

against the detriments of the chemical gases.

The Turkish officers and commanders refused the German offer of chemical warfare. "Usage of such a fatal instrument was not fair and just," they said. Moreover, such an action was out of the "War Law." They rejected to release poison gas until the end of the war.

During the wars, the Australian and New Zealand press often mentioned that the Turkish Army had not been using any chemical warfare and there was nothing to worry about. For example, "Otago Times" published an article on 01 November 1915. In this article about the Turkish Warriors, the frankness of the Turks was emphasised as, "the Turks never fire at a hospital; they never use chemical warfare. They ceased fire when Triumph had been hit. The Turks are not hypocrites."

Another Australian Newspaper that dealt with this subject was *The Age*. On 11 December 1915, it published an article titled "no tread of gas bombs." The source of the article was the reports from the Gallipoli front. In the article, Australians confessed that they despised the Turks until they saw the Turkish decency in war. They said that they found the Turks were not "Germanized" so much that they would use chemical warfare.

Another reason the Turkish did not use poison gases was the location of the Turkish forces. The Turks were mainly positioned on the slopes of the peninsula. Explosion of a gas bomb especially in the Anzac Cove with the help of the rough winds would have affected the Turkish soldiers as well. Moreover, such an explosion would affect the entire peninsula considering the famous winds of the region. The Turks did not have gas masks and they could not take such a risk.

Did the Turks have chemical warfare capabilities? This question has not been answered yet. However, it is clear that if they had, they would not have used chemical warfare. As the Allied soldiers said, "the Turks are fair soldiers, they never use poison gas."

In contrast of the war's unpleasant aspects, the Turkish army has created such a nice image. This image made the Gallipoli War the last "gentleman war" of the century.



Women Warriors in the Dardanelles

It is obvious that, there are many unknown aspects of the Dardanelles campaign. For example, that Turkish women warriors fought side by side with Mehmet's is a fact that had never been revealed.

In New Zealand and Australian archives and in the Anzac letters, it is possible to trace the hints of this subject. Here is the Australian newspaper *The Ages'* headline dated 8 September 1915:

"A woman sniper had been shot in first action. A soldier called J.C. Davies in his letter addressed to his mother says, '.... On 18 May when I was shot, there was a sniper Turkish girl. She was beautiful, huge, and aged 19 or 20. Throughout the day, she continuously fired her gun. Although she shot many of us, I felt sorry when an Australian shot her. As we caught her dead body, we found a man's body by her side. There were 52 bullets in her body. This war is horrible.'"

In the archives, there are some other letters and diaries about this subject. At this point, it is possible to think that the women snipers could be illusions the soldiers dreamed up because of the long-term nature of the wars. However, the comparisons between the letters mentioning the "Turkish Women Snipers" or the "Turkish Women Warriors" show that they were most probably real. In short, there are many concealed points in the Dardanelles Campaign waiting to be illuminated.

