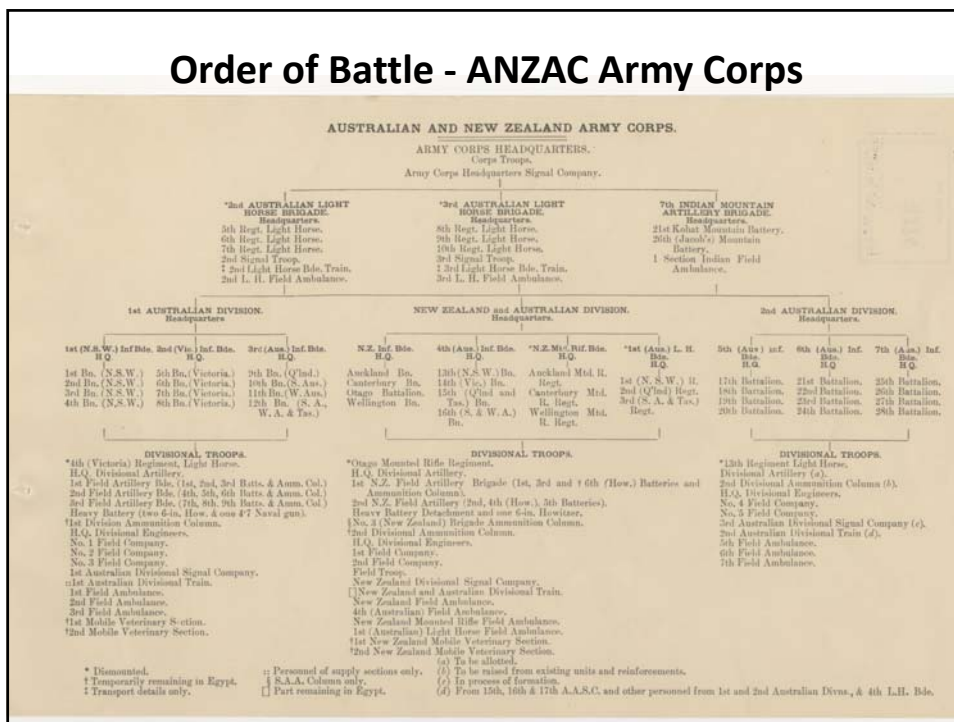


## Order of Battle - ANZAC Army Corps



## Battle of the Nek, Gallipoli, 7 August 1915

### Belligerents



Australia



Ottoman Empire (Turkey)

### Commanders and leaders

General Sir Alexander Godley, GCB, KCMG

- Brigadier Frederick Godfrey Hughes, CB
  - LTC Alexander White (KIA)
  - LTC Noel Brazier

- Mirliva (Major General) Mahmut Kâmil Pasha  
Field Marshal Otto Liman von Sanders, *Blue Max*
- Staff Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa Kemal Pasha

### Units involved

- New Zealand and Australian Division
- 3rd Light Horse Brigade
    - 8th Light Horse Regiment (Victoria), 300
    - 10th Light Horse Regiment (WA), 300

- Fifth Army (defence of Dardanelles Straights)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Ottoman Infantry Division (12-14,000)
    - 27<sup>th</sup> Ottoman Infantry Regiment
      - Unk Battalion (1,000 men)

### Strength

600

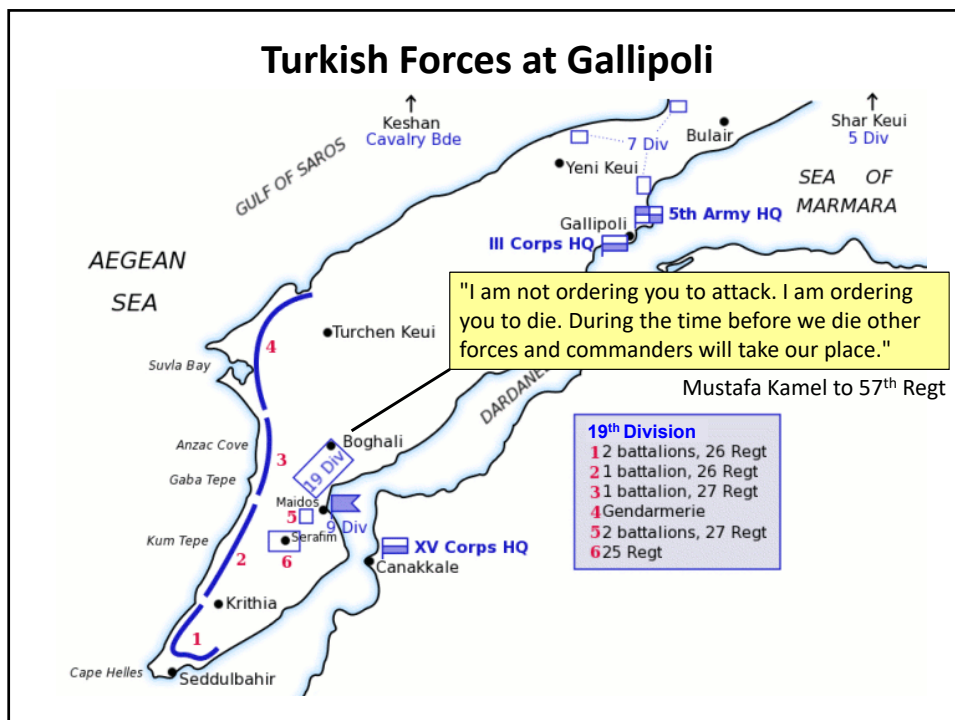
Unknown

### Casualties

- 8<sup>th</sup> Light Horse
- KIA 154
  - WIA 80

- 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse
- KIA 80
  - WIA 58

- KIA at least 8
- WIA unknown



## Commander's Talk – August Offensive

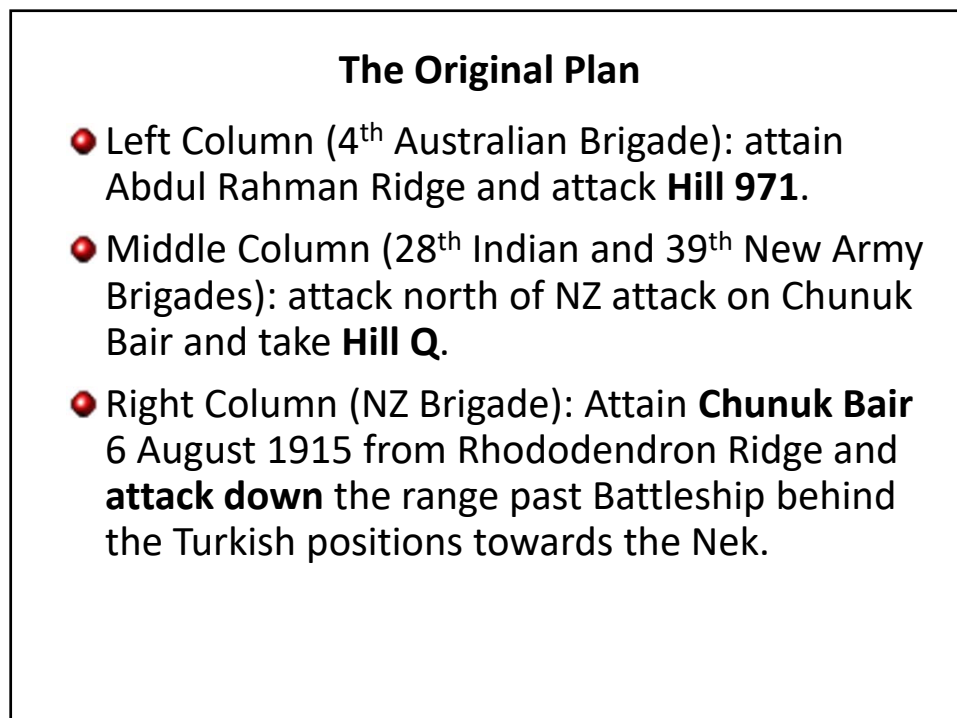
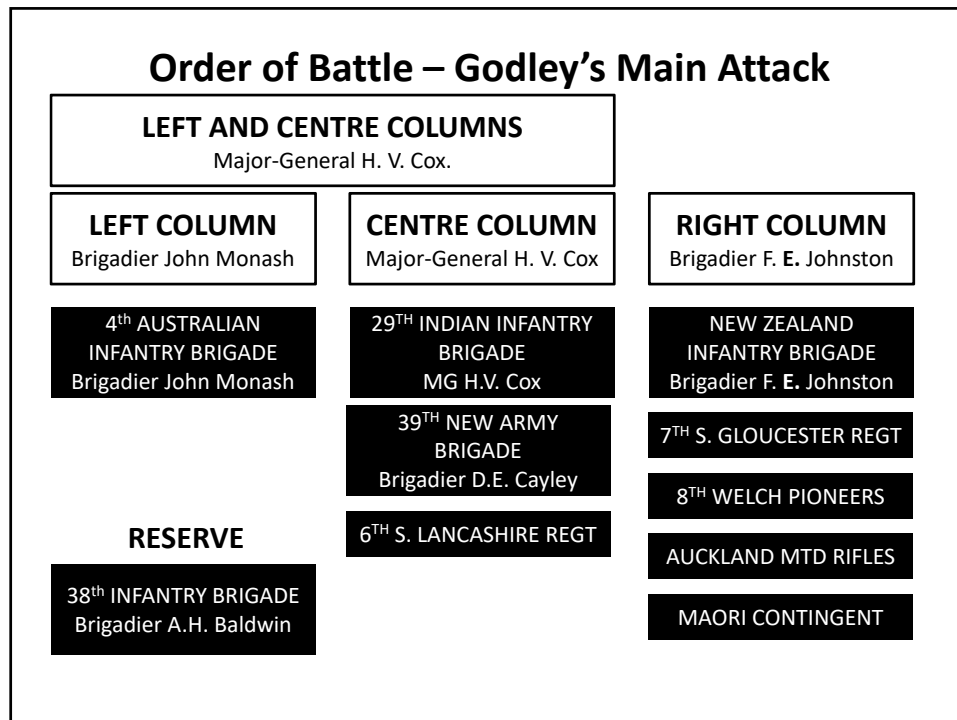
"Soldiers of the old army and the new.

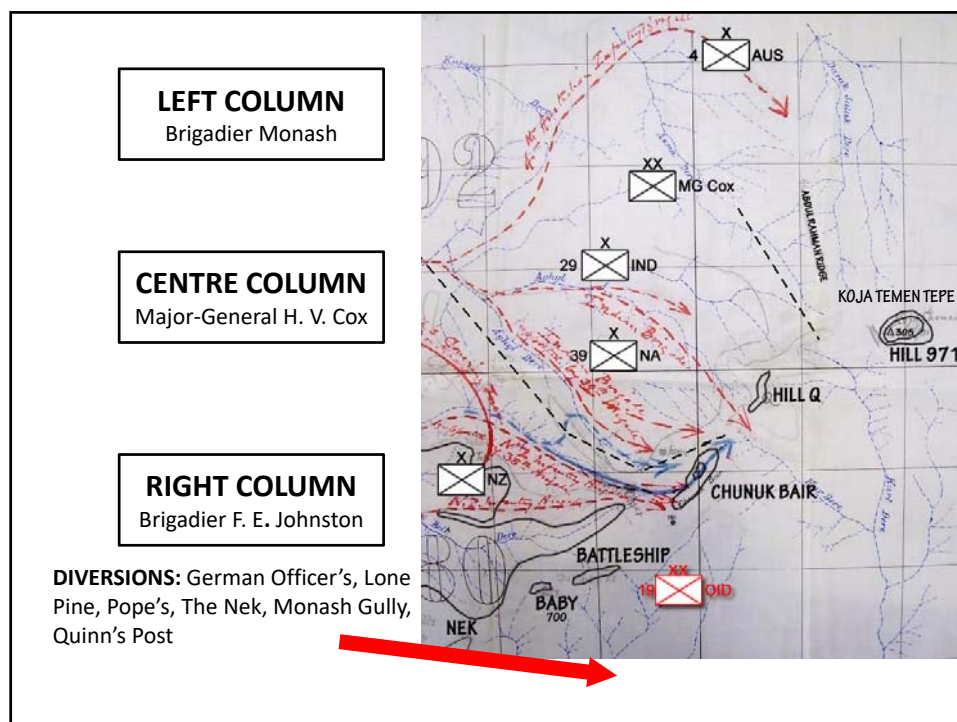
Some of you have already won imperishable renown at our first landing or have since built up our foothold upon the peninsula, yard by yard, with deeds of heroism and endurance. Others have arrived just in time to take part in our next great fight against Germany and Turkey, the would-be oppressors of the rest of the human race.

You, veterans, are about to add fresh lustre to your arms. Happen what may, so much at least is certain.

As to you, soldiers of the new formations, you are privileged indeed to have the chance vouchsafed you of playing a decisive part in events which may herald the birth of a new and happier world. You stand for the great cause of freedom. In the hour of trial remember this and the faith that is in you will bring, <sup>for</sup> victoriously through."

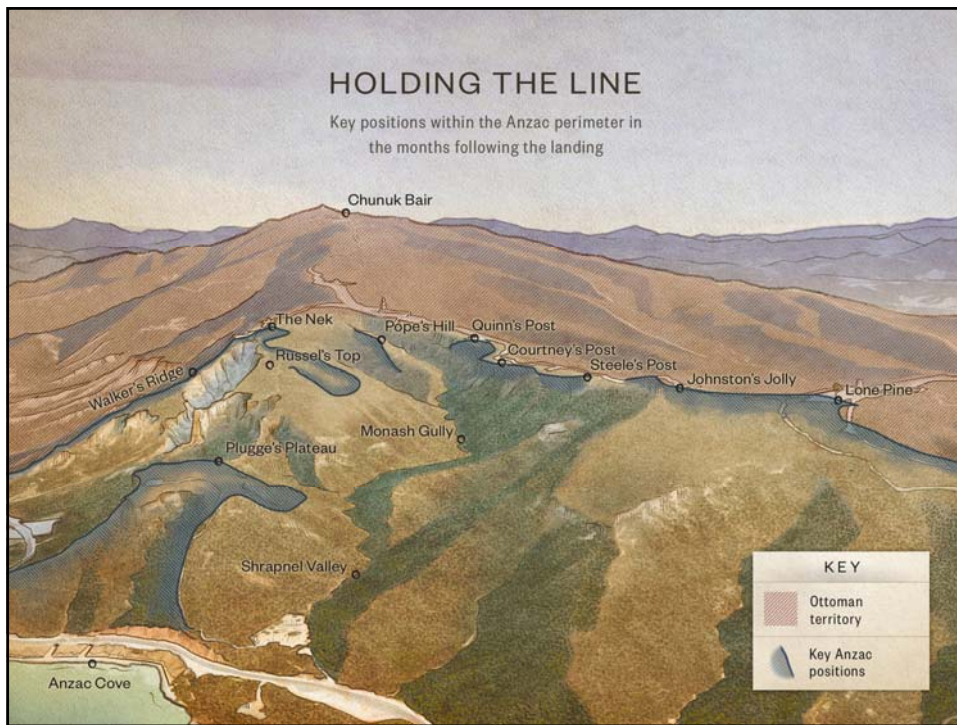
-sg- IAN HAMILTON, General.

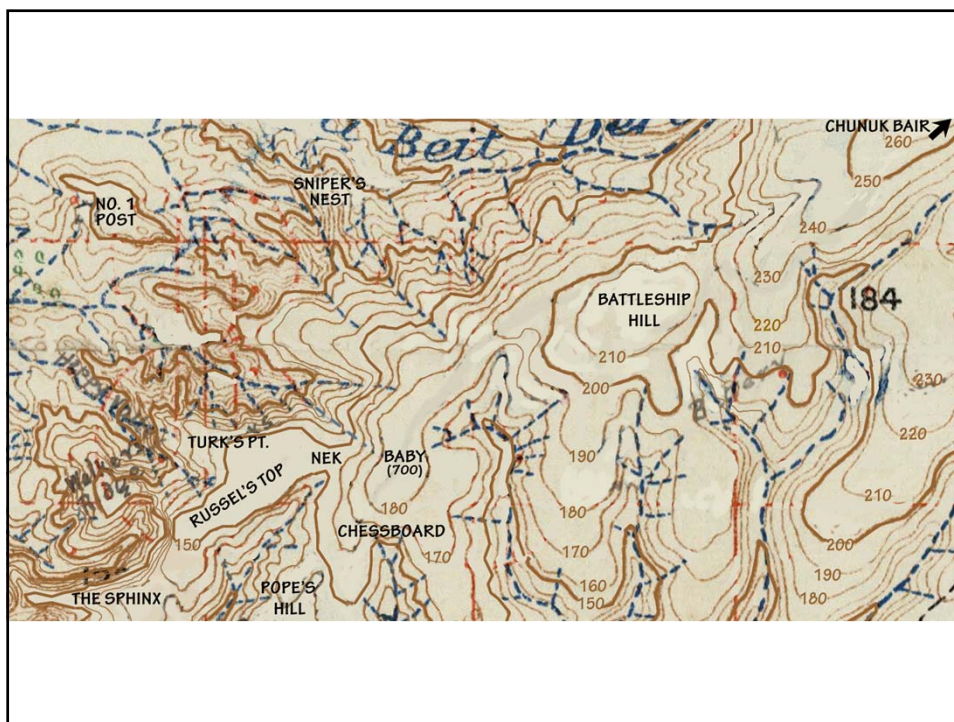
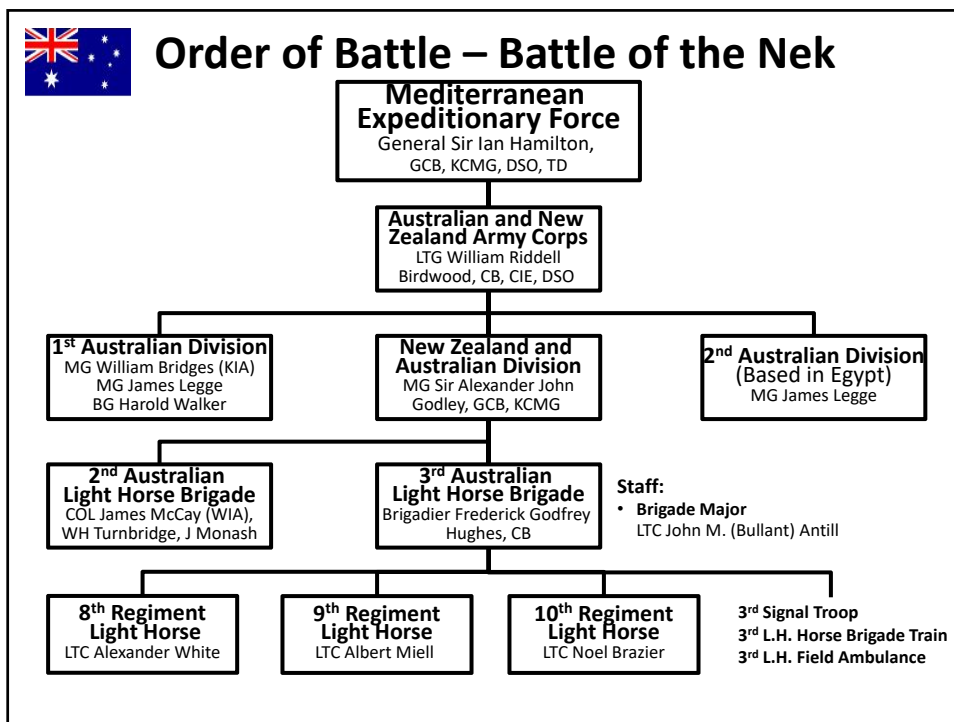


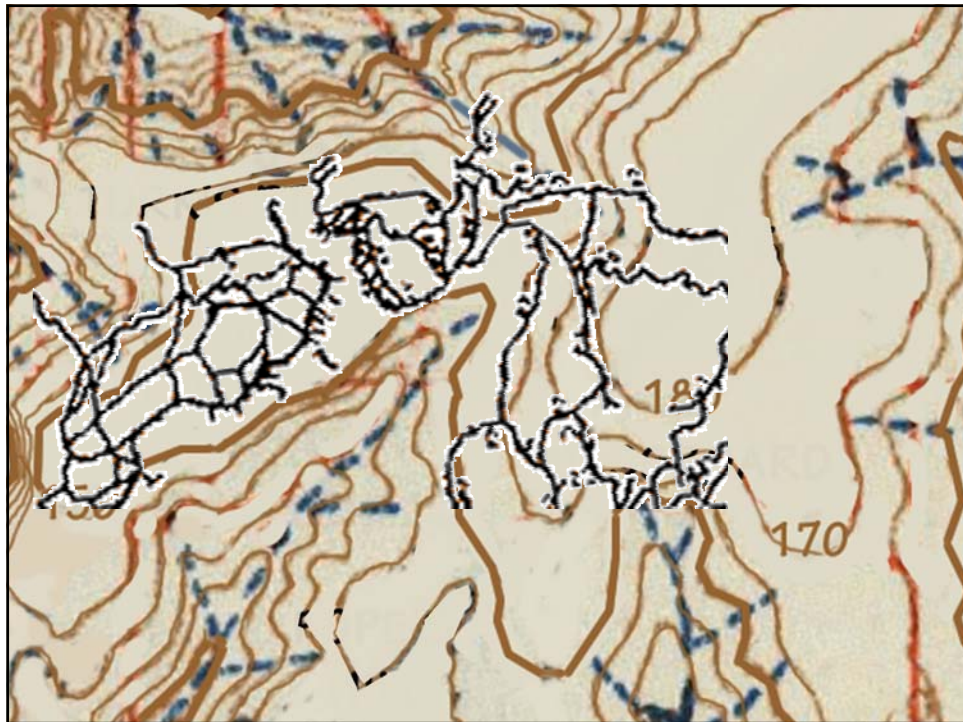
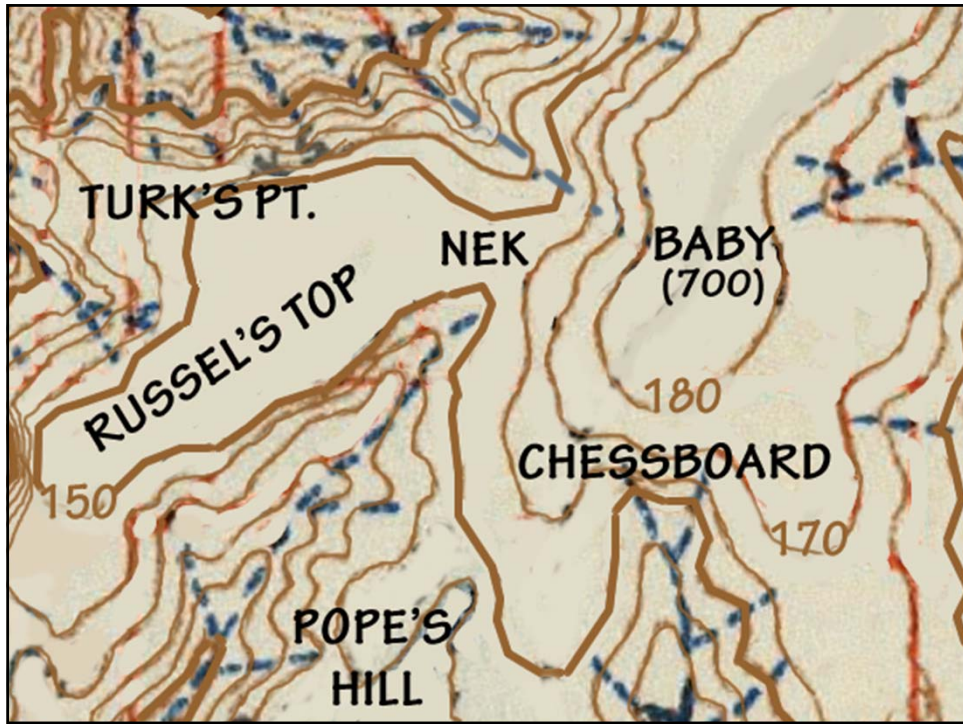


### Diversionsary feints

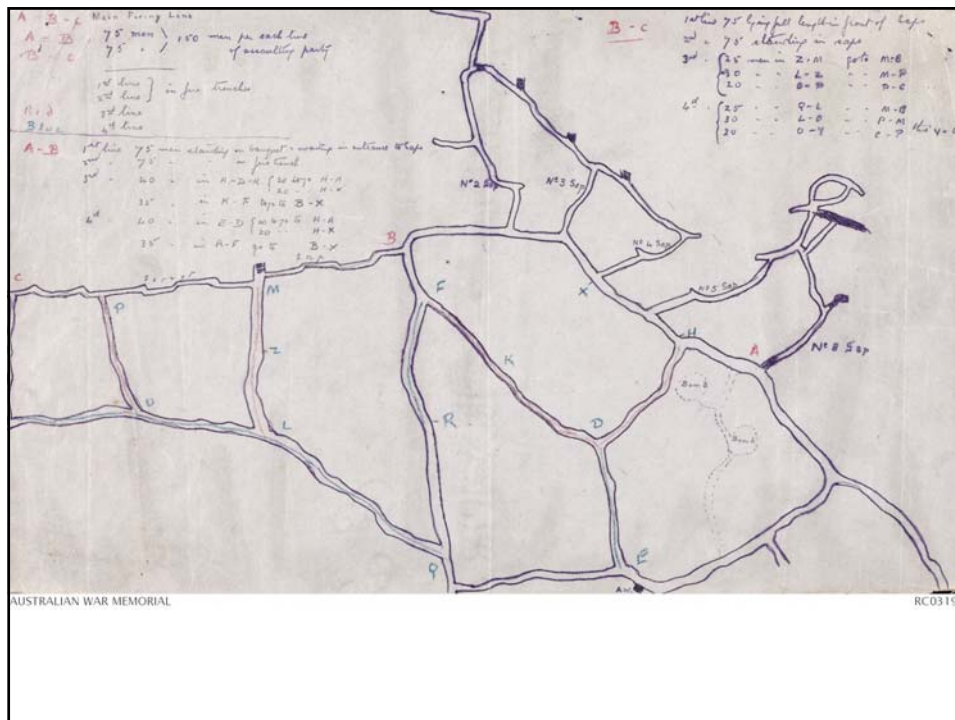
- 1730, 6 August: 1,800 troops of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Brigade charged and took the Turkish trenches, fighting continued until late 9 August. Six Australian battalions suffered 2,300 casualties. The Australians succeeded in drawing the whole of the immediate Turkish reserve. (Due to Oz success, Ottoman 9th Division (General Hans Kannengieser ) was sent to Chunuk Bair).
- Midnight: Following three mining attacks, assault German Officer's Ridge (German Officer's Trench and Sniper Trench) from Steele's Post, take and garrison German Officer's Trench. (Actual attack 1235; unsuccessful because Lone Pine alerted Turks; 6<sup>th</sup> Bn suffered 80 KIA 66 WIA)
- At 0330, 7 August: A & B of the 8th Bn Cheshire were to probe from Russell's Top to the head of Monash Gully for flank assault on the Chessboard. (Attacked at 0510 up a cliff; 4-O/61-EM casualties).
- 0430, Demonstration from the Nek
- 0430 Simultaneous demonstration from Quinn's (2<sup>nd</sup> LH) 16/37 of 56
- 0430 Simultaneous demonstration from Pope's Hill against the Chessboard









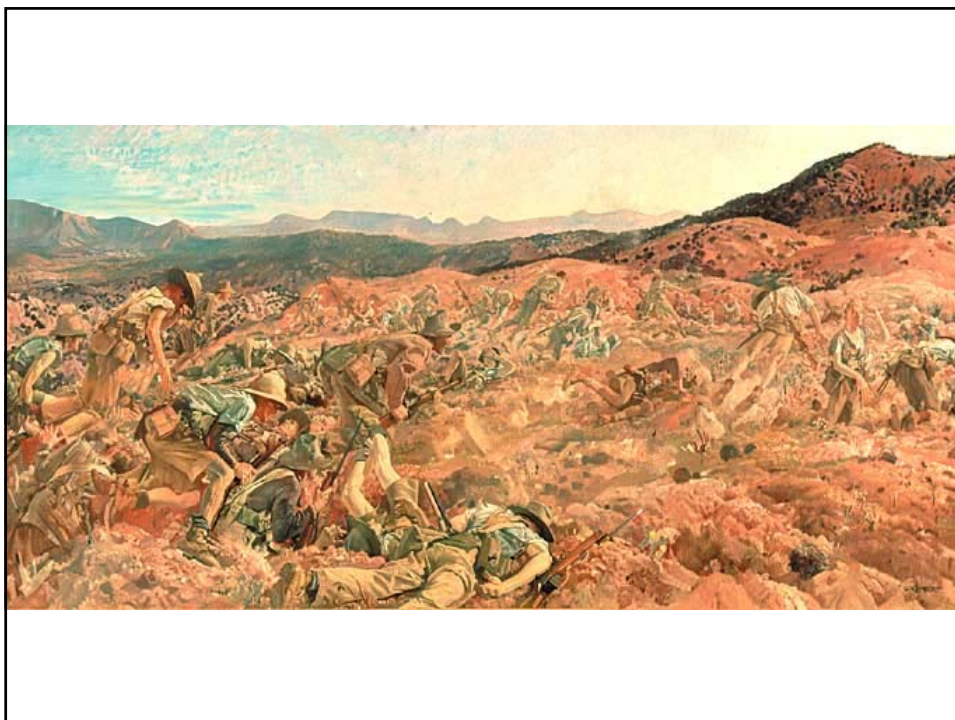


## The First Wave

- At 4.30 am the first wave of the 8th Light Horse Regiment-men from western Victoria-rose from their trenches and dashed for the Turkish line at the Nek.
- Minutes later a second wave went over.

"We saw them climb out and move forward about ten yards and lie flat. The second line did likewise ... As they rose to charge, the Turkish Machine Guns just poured out lead and our fellows went down like corn before a scythe. The distance to the enemy trench was less than 50 yards yet not one of those two lines got anywhere near it."

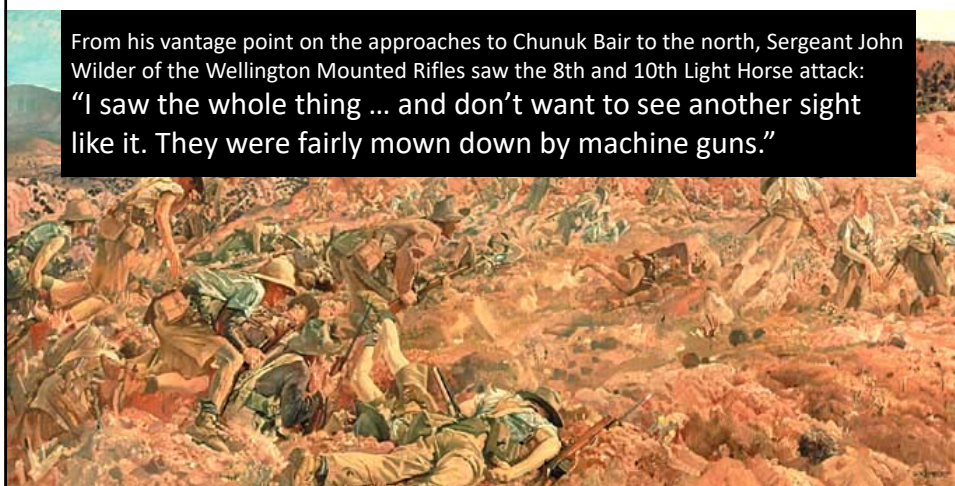
Lieutenant William Cameron, 9th Light Horse



### The Third and Fourth Waves

- Fifteen minutes later, at 0445, two further waves- men of the 10th Light Horse from Western Australia- met a fate similar to the Victorians.

From his vantage point on the approaches to Chunuk Bair to the north, Sergeant John Wilder of the Wellington Mounted Rifles saw the 8th and 10th Light Horse attack: "I saw the whole thing ... and don't want to see another sight like it. They were fairly mown down by machine guns."



## The Original Plan

- The New Zealanders will attain Chunuk Bair and then coming down the range behind the Turkish positions towards the Nek.

- Just before dawn the lead New Zealand battalion—the Otagos—were still short of Chunuk Bair.
- General Birdwood, CG Anzac forces, allowed the Nek assault to proceed to give all possible support to the Chunuk Bair assault.

- At 0330, A & B of the 8 Cheshires were to probe from Russell's Top to the head of Monash Gully. (Left at 05190 20/77E KIA; 8/66 WIA)

Probably the attack on the Nek effected its purpose of holding temporarily near Baby 700 at least part of the Turkish reinforcements which were just then streaming northward towards Chunuk Bair.

[C E W Bean, [Anzac to Amiens](#), London, 1984, p.271]

## However

- Birdwood had written *earlier* of the Turkish positions at the Nek and up the slopes of Baby 700:

“These trenches and convergences of communication trenches ... require considerable strength to force. The narrow Nek to be crossed ... makes an unaided attack in that direction almost hopeless.”

[Birdwood, quoted in C E W Bean, *The Story of Anzac, Vol II*, Sydney, p.464]

