THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

JANUARY 1915—JANUARY 1916

Of all the Allied campaigns against the Turks, the most notorious was the the futile Anglo-French expedition to the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915. At first it was hoped that British and French naval power would find a way through the Dardanelles, but repeated attempts to clear the straits failed. The landings in April failed utterly to reach their objectives and the second phase of operations in August was equally unsuccessful.

1915 JANUARY 15

War Council authorizes naval attack on Dardanelles

FEBRUARY 23

Island of Lemnos taken over as base for Allied action

FEBRUARY 25

Second British attacks on outer defenses at the Dardanelles; Turkish long-range guns silenced

MARCH 13

Mediterranean Expeditionary Force sails from Egypt

MARCH 22

Military and naval commanders agree on joint offensive

APRIL 25

Landing at Anzac Cove gains small, exposed beachhead

APRIL 29

Despite series of advances from Cape Helles toward Krithia, none of initial objectives reached

MAY 24

Ceasefire at Anzac Cove in order to bury dead

MAY 25

British pre-dreadnought Triumph sunk by German submarine U 21 off the Dardanelles

AUGUST 6

Attempted breakout from Anzac Cove to capture nearby heights

AUGUST 10

Turks under Mustafa Kemal recapture summit of Chunuk Bair and force attackers back down slopes toward Anzac Cove

OCTOBER 15

Hamilton recalled: replaced by Sir Charles Monro

NOVEMBER 27–29

Fierce winds bring icy rain, sleet, and snow; many deaths from cold and 15,000 evacuated suffering from exposure, frostbite, and trench foot

1916 JANUARY 8-9 Withdrawal of forces from Cape Helles

FEBRUARY 19

First British naval attacks on outer defenses at the Dardanelles. These involve small landings by marines

FEBRUARY 24

Decision that if navy fails then "army must see the business through"

FEBRUARY 26

First British attack on intermediate defenses from within the straits. Conducted by three warships, which are harrassed by Turkish howitzers

MARCH 18

Anglo-French attack at the Dardanelles, involving 16 battleships and a host of smaller craft, suffers heavy losses

APRIL 25

British and French forces land at five beaches at Cape Helles on tip of Gallipoli peninsula

MAY 8

Stalemate at both landing sites

MAY 19

Turkish attempt to break through ANZAC positions. Wave upon wave of attackers shot down

MAY 27

U 21 sinks another British predreadnought Majestic

JUNE

Outbreak of dysentery accompanied by plague of flies

AUGUST 6

Further landings at Suvla Bay. Confusion on beaches and no significant gains

AUGUST 21

Hamilton sends 29th Division north from Helles for large-scale attack on Scimitar Hill and Hill 60, which overlook Suvla Plain. Attack fails with heavy casualties

NOVEMBER 10

Visit of Kitchener, which leads to decision to withdraw

DECEMBER 18-20

Evacuation of forces from Suvla Bay and Anzac Cove

KEY

Naval actions and political events

Land operations on Gallipoli Apr 25, 1915-Jan 9, 1916