

**7<sup>th</sup> INDIAN MOUNTAIN ARTILLERY BRIGADE  
(EX BRITISH INDIA)  
AT GALLIPOLI**

7MAB

21 Kohat  
Battery

26 Jacob's  
Battery



**The First Self  
Propelled Medium  
Regiment Artillery  
(Frontier Force)**

**First Jacob's  
Battery  
(1826)**

**2 Royal Kohat  
Battery (1851)**

**3 Peshawar  
Battery  
(1853)**





A group of gunners from the 7th Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade with one of their guns, which was used to support the Australian and New Zealand troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The guns of this brigade were the first shore at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915; from then on they won, and kept, the admiration of the infantry.

**Each battery has distinct history.....**

# Intent

To give an overview of preparations of 7MAB for the battle, brief account of participation in Gallipoli and the lessons learnt

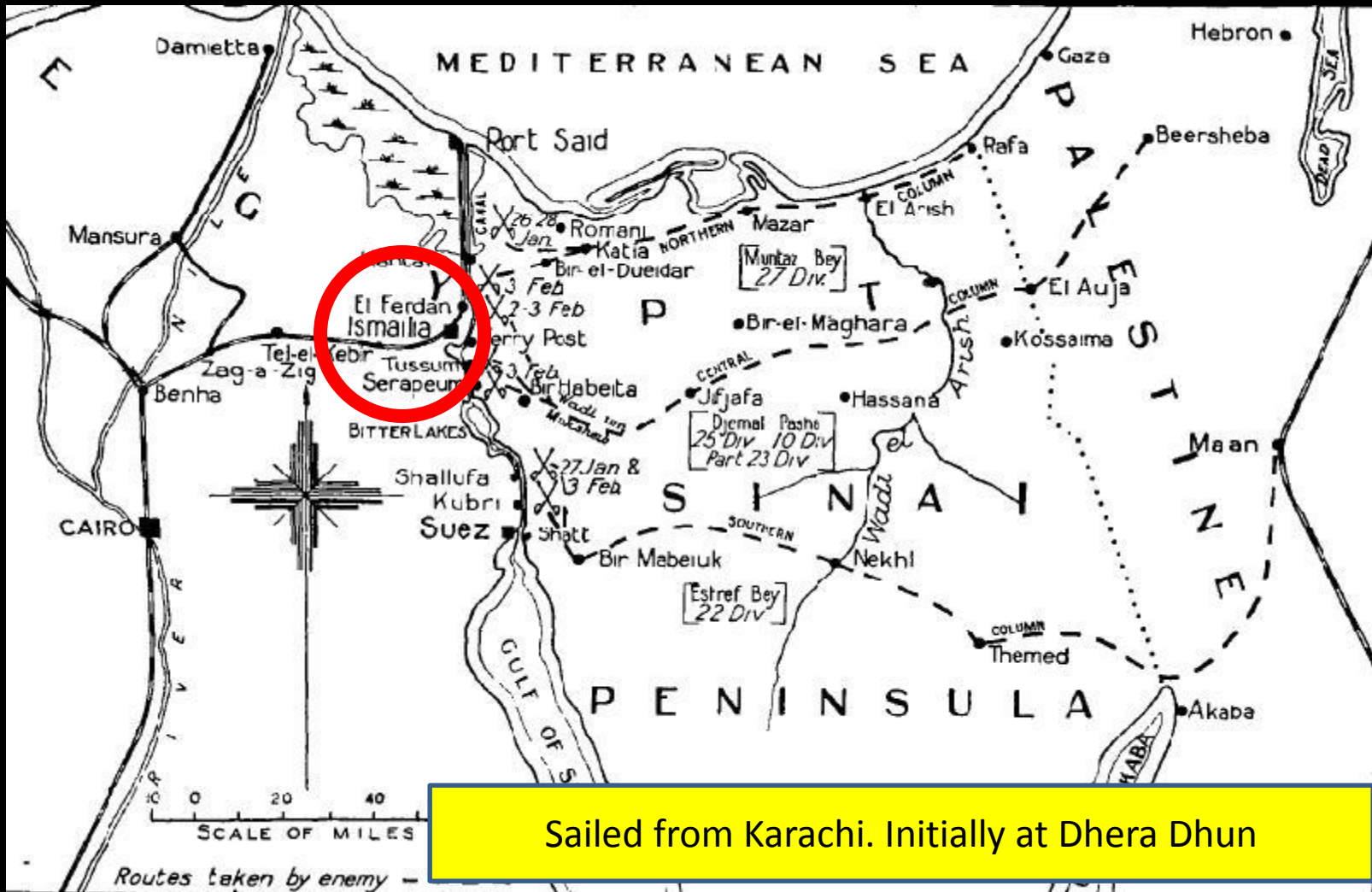
# Research is based on.....

- Two days visit to Gallipoli in 2008
- War diaries of Jacob's and Kohat Batteries
- Record of Australian War Memorial
- **Die in Battle, Do Not Despair by Dr Peter Stanley – being released soon**
- Climax at Gallipoli – Failure of the August Offensive by Rhys Crawley

# 26 Jacob's Mountain Battery



THE BOMBAY ARTILLERY.



26 Jacob's Mountain Battery



0 50  
Kilometres





*Very early 26/1/1915*

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

Lieut-General. Sir W.R. BIRDWOOD, K.C.S.I., C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,  
Commanding Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Headquarters,

H.M.T, MINNEWASKA,

19th April, 1915.

Troops. 14. The undermentioned Units are included in the Corps Troops:

No 7 Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade,  
Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps.

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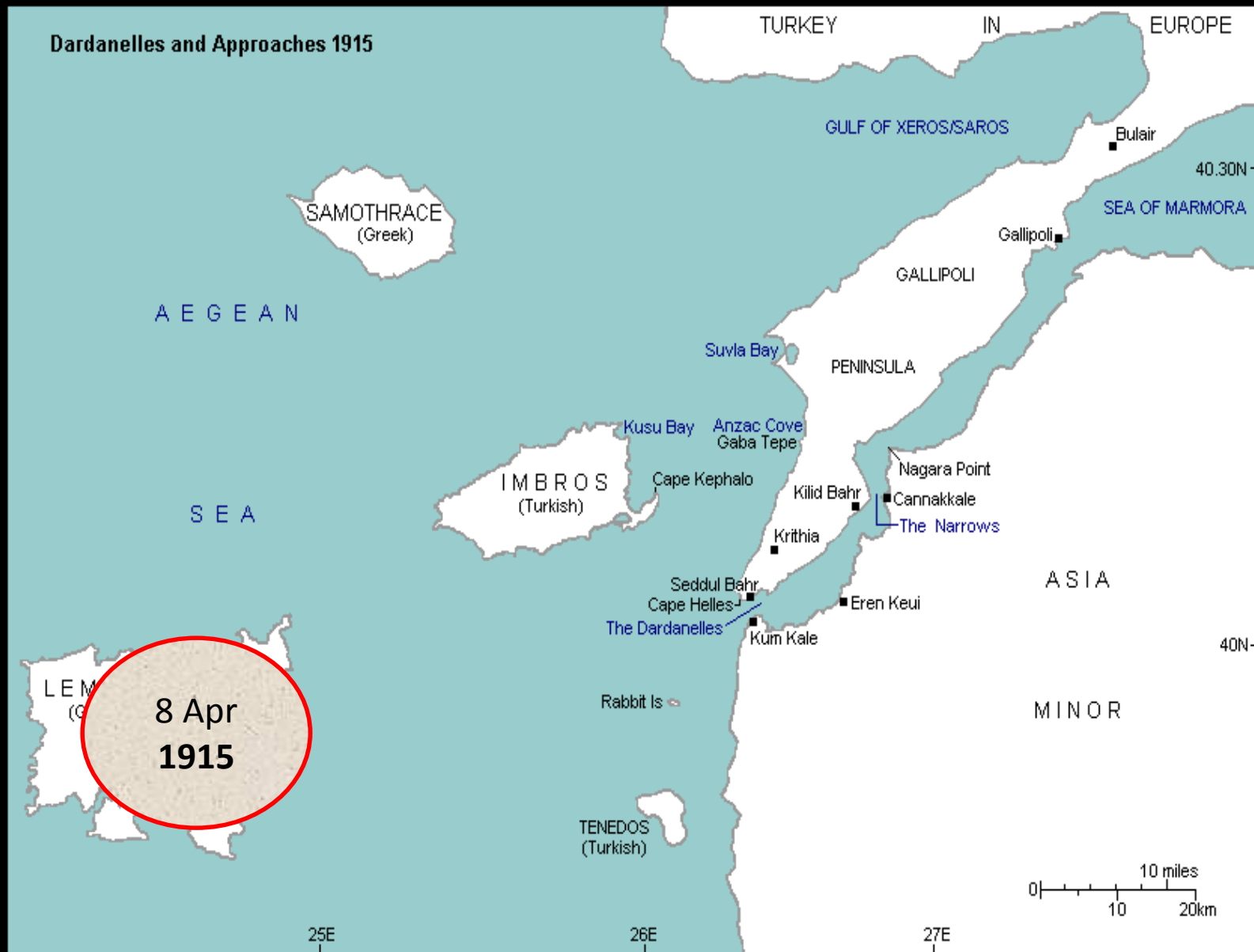
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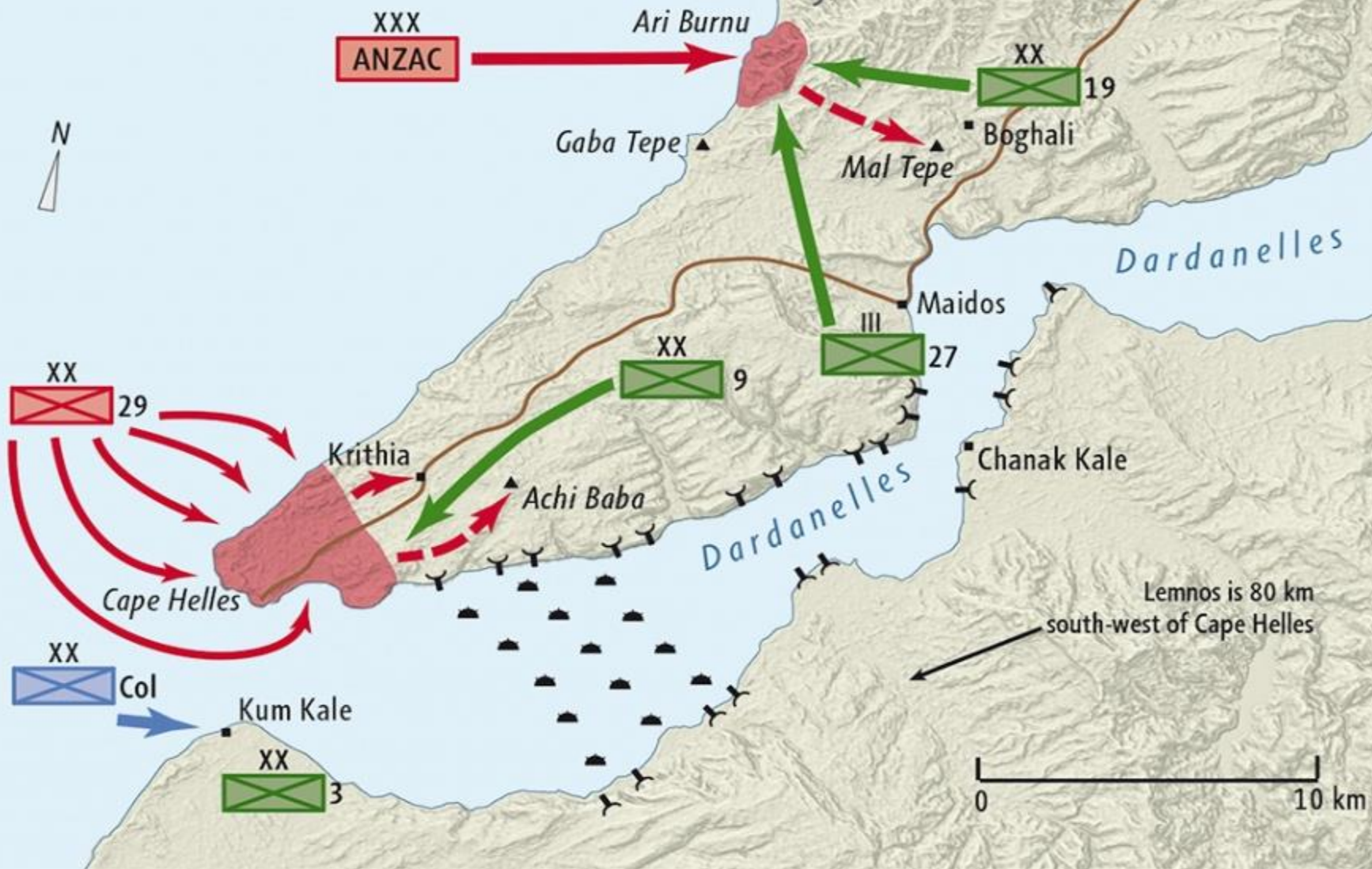
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# Dardanelles and Approaches 1915



AEGEAN SEA



Source : <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/gallipoli-invasion-map>



# Landing at ANZAC Cove



<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/the-landing-at-anzac-cove>

1915.

" get HELL from machine guns on landing. I fear  
 " they will be badly reduced tomorrow, as they have  
 " a stiff climb, and are the party detailed to  
 " rush two, if not four, guns with the bayonet.  
 " Those guns have got to go."  
 " April 25<sup>th</sup> - We arrived at the inner Landing - was  
 " with the Battle-ships at 3 am. - At 3:30 am, we got  
 " the order to "GO", and we raced through the Battle-  
 " ships in our four T.B.D.'s to within 200 yds. of the  
 " Beach. As we stopped for the men to get into the  
 " boats, rifle fire was opened on us.  
 " The Colonel (PARKER) & I (KENYON) went with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tow  
 " and 2 men on the t.b.d. were wounded before we  
 " left. Embarking was ticklish work while being  
 " sniped. A hole was made in the boat which  
 " we plugged, and just as we arrived a man  
 " was wounded. We fairly tumbled out  
 " on grounding and a practically all tumbled  
 " head over heels in the water. "BAYONETS ONLY"  
 " was the order, and the men went like smoke,  
 " But there was no order, no discipline, and  
 " all shouting. We went with the men up the  
 " first hill and then looked for Battery Positions.  
 " The Turks bottled.  
 " About 10:30 am., 26<sup>th</sup> J.M.B. went up the hill  
 " and I went up at 11 am. By then things were  
 " going badly, and wounded were pouring down  
 " on the Beach. The ships did not seem to be able  
 " to do anything.  
 " It was HELL up with the Battery - (26<sup>th</sup> S.M.B.) They  
 " had 27 men (25%) wounded, including CHAP-  
 " -MAN, KIRBY, and an Indian officer.  
 " About 4 pm. things looked real Black. The  
 " beach was strewn with wounded, and the

“But there was a Battery inland which it was impossible to locate. During the whole afternoon, it fired continuously a salvo of four shells every minute onto the ridges which our troops were holding – for the most part without protection. Some of them were in deserted Turkish trenches, of which the Turks had exact ranges. **The first relief was when a small force of Indian Mountain Artillery (26 J.M.B), which landed with us managed to drag its guns into a position just behind part of our line which was especially suffering. Then there was sound of our guns, answering the enemy’s. It came like fresh water to the infantry. The guns were doing blooming good work”.**



- 25<sup>th</sup> April
  - 323 rounds fired
  - 2 British officers wounded, of whom one died later.
    - One Indian Officer and 18 soldiers wounded.
    - 2 mules killed and 9 wounded.
- The Battery received following awards
  - Capt H.A.Kirky                      - Military Cross
  - Subedar Jawala Singh   - O.B.I
  - Havildar Gurbit Singh   - I.D.S.M
  - Naik Nikka Singh                - I.D.S.M

- **26<sup>th</sup> April**

*one officer and twenty Australian gunners were attached to*

*26<sup>th</sup> Jacob's Mountain Battery*



Source: Regimental History of The First SP Medium Regiment

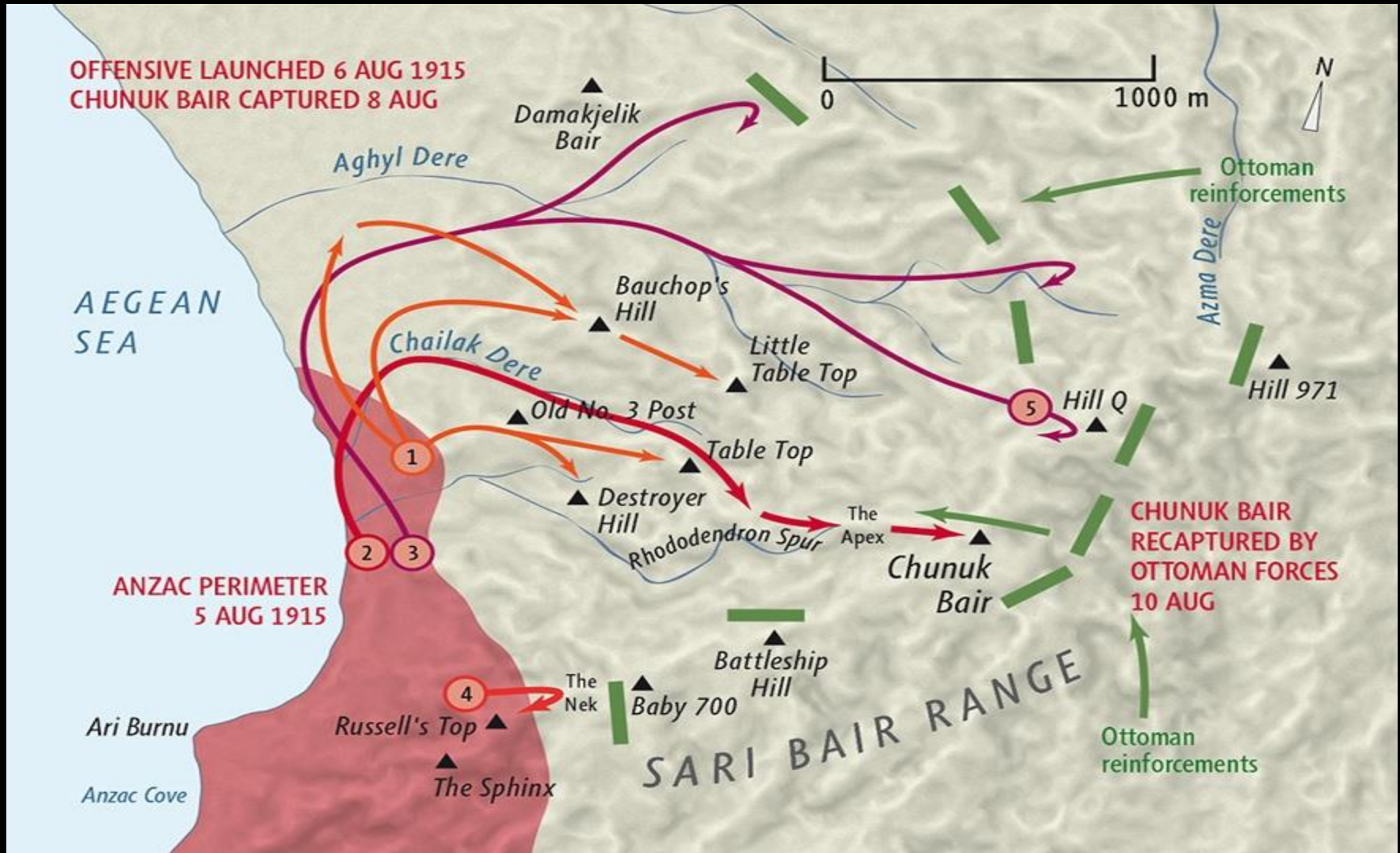
# ANZAC – MAY 1915

- On 18<sup>th</sup> May, the Turks reinforced by a Division strength under heavy artillery shelling launched greatest effort to drive the ANZAC Force into the sea. They suffered heavily and gave up at about mid-day leaving **3000 dead out of approximately 30,000**. The total number of rounds fired by the Battery on the day of this great attack was **500**

“A senior officer of the Indian Army states that he has been much impressed by the **comradeship and good feelings** existing between the Australian troops and the soldiers of Indian mountain batteries. These men fought side by side in the famous landing at Gaba Tepe and the batteries did so well that the **Australians have metaphorically taken them to their hearts**”.

# ANZAC – AUG 1915

- 6<sup>th</sup> August - commencement of Sir Ian Hamilton's great August offensive



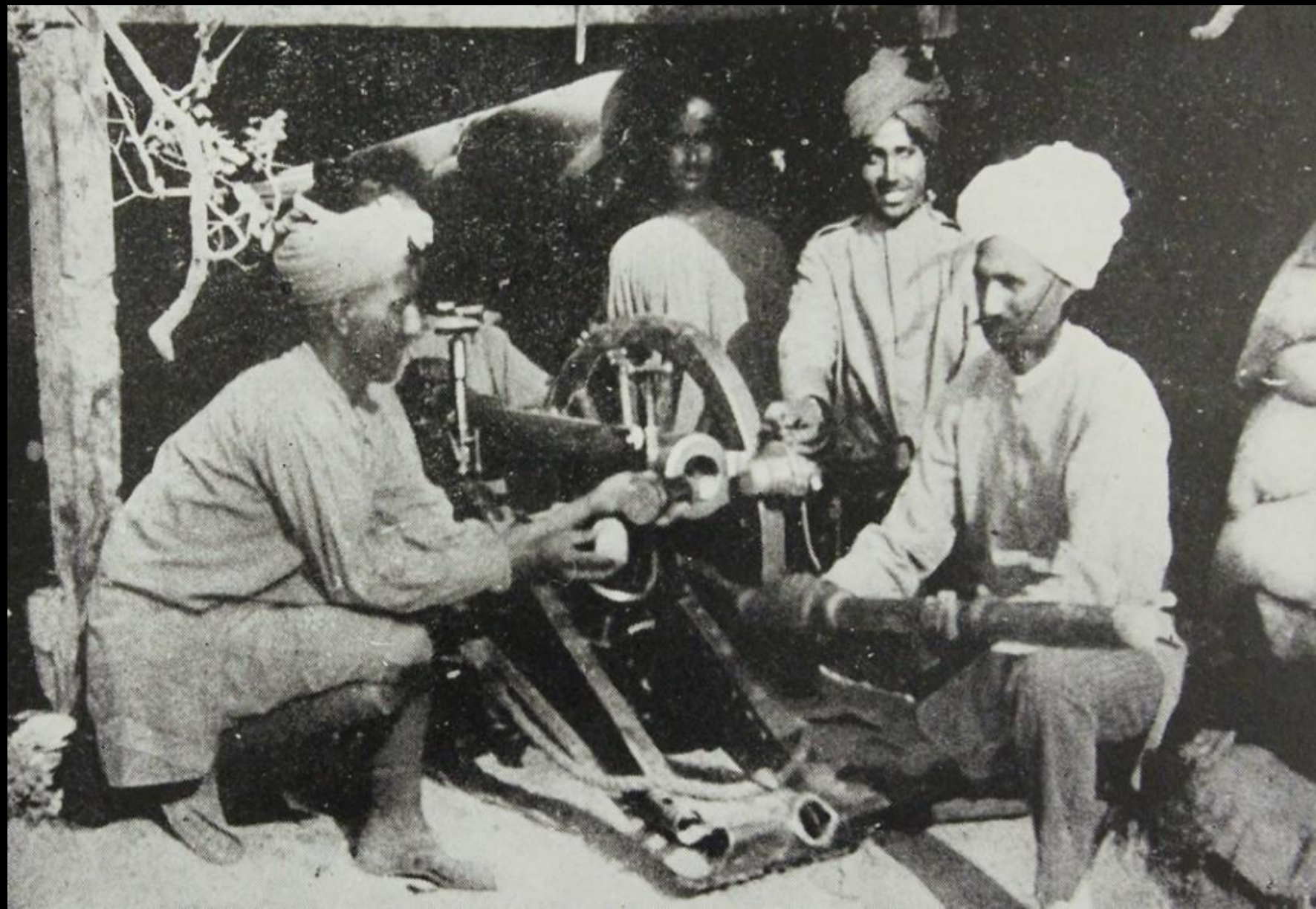
# Evacuation of Gallipoli

- The evacuation was carried out by a masterpiece of organization, without casualties and without the Turks suspecting, on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December
- **The Battery prides itself on being the last artillery unit to leave ANZAC**
- The various scattered details of the Battery joined up at Mudros and the Battery, complete, left on 25<sup>th</sup> December for Alexandria with one gun mounted in the bows for anti sub-marine purposes.
- The Battery can thus claim, amongst many other roles during the war, to having acquired skill in naval gunnery. Four rounds were fired from this how gun. Alexandria was reached on 31<sup>st</sup> December and same day it entrained for Suez.

- Battery statistics show that Jacob's Guns fired 9135 rounds in Gallipoli, 21 men were killed and 144 wounded.
- 3 Military Cross
- 7 IOM

*The Great War – “ANZAC”, “LANDING AT ANZAC”, “DEFENCE OF ANZAC”, “SARI BAIR”, “GALLIPOLI-1915”, SUEZ CANAL”, “EGYPT 1915-1916”.*







# 21<sup>st</sup> Kohat Battery



Captain Whitting of 26<sup>th</sup> Jacob's framed following formula to clear the crest which helped achieve desired ranges:-

“Double the range minus 16% of range or  $\frac{1}{6}$ <sup>th</sup> of the range”

The life at Pifferpore was quite interesting and exciting. It very soon became exactly like an **Indian village**. Compartments were made for the mules by digging in. Mules would eat “**chappaties**” eagerly and often reported sick for stomach disorder.





# 21<sup>st</sup> Kohat Battery



- *12248 rounds fired*
- *11 men killed*
- *134 wounded*
- *35 animals killed*
- *199 animals wounded*

The Battery was granted permission to bear on its colour and appointments the words:- The Great War – “ANZAC”, “LANDING AT ANZAC”, “DEFENCE OF ANZAC”, “SULVA”. “GALLIPOLI, 1915”, “SUEZ CANAL”. “EGYPT, 1915-1916”

# Analysis of Artillery Fire Support

- Artillery was mainly responsible for **causing heavy casualties on the both sides** besides curtailing freedom of action in the battlefield which resulted into stagnation.
- Ottoman artillery had complete supremacy on Day 1, they also had maximum liberty of action.
- Majority of 5000 casualties on Day 1 was due to problems in getting the artillery ashore in an earlier time frame.
- Turks exploited strength of the terrain and deployed most of the artillery pieces on reverse slope in nullahs and gullies ensuring complete concealment (particularly Kaba Tepe Battery).



# Analysis of Artillery Fire Support

- Geographical configuration of the ANZAC Cove was a challenging preposition which presented Turks an opportunity to generate artillery maneuver along exterior lines.
- This helped Turks achieve superior gun density in the particular sectors.
- On the other hands slowness by Anzac in getting artillery ashore in the environment (12 out of 60 guns could land in two days) where limited naval support was available on the first day
- Naval guns were also constrained due to their flatter trajectories with limited success to neutralize the hostile batteries.
- It is worth mentioning that Turks had advantage of mix caliber which put intense pressure on Anzacs (estimated 40 Turkish artillery pieces fired on Anzac – ratio of 8:1).

# Analysis of Artillery Fire Support

- Command chain was also responsible for slow reactions. Most of them had **no experience of application of modern fire power in rugged terrain.**
- Application of **arty air observation post** was in infancy.
- **Limited number of planes, difficult areas, limited availability of the trained pilots and evolving communication system** affected application of the air observation and surveillance

# Analysis of Artillery Fire Support

- Gallipoli theatre helped in refinement of drills and techniques.
- These included concept of piled up barrage, air OP, preliminary bombardment, SOS targets, superimposition of fire, review of safety distances, survey of gun locations, counter battery fire techniques and target registration procedures.

- Farewell message sent by the GOC, ANZAC to the Brigade Commander, in January, 1916 - *“I want to thank you, both your batteries, and all your officers and men for the really magnificent work they have done for us during the months when, I am glad to say , we were all together at ANZAC ..... what a high regard the Australian troops have for your two batteries, and I am delighted this is the case, for they have thoroughly deserved their high reputation.....”*.

