

# Counter Battery Fire during the Gallipoli Campaign

# Indirect Fire

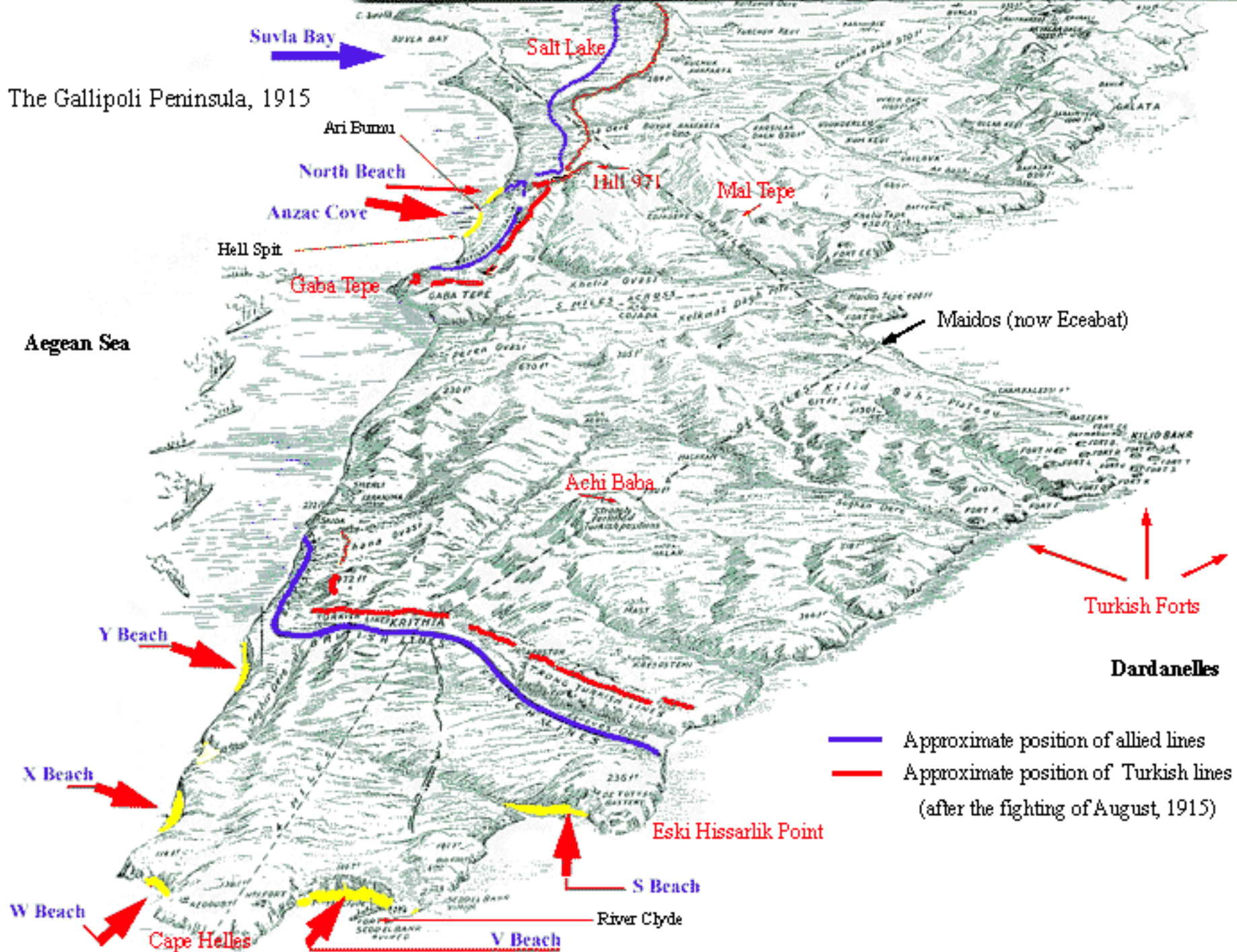
- Up until the American civil war, largely the realm of mortars.
- At Waterloo, a bty of the RHA fired Shrapnel indirectly against advancing French troops at Hougoumont.
- In 1882, Russian Lieutenant Colonel KG Guk publishes: *Indirect Fire for Field Artillery / Field Artillery Fire from Covered Positions*
- Late 1880's Germany invents the Richtfläche (lining-plane) sight. A means of indirect laying in azimuth, complementing the clinometers. Indirect fire German army, doctrine by the 1890s.
- In the early 1900s, Germany develops an optical sight for azimuth.
- The British were the first to use indirect fire in war - 1899 in the Boer War, doing so without a lining-plane sight.
- In the next 15 years leading up to World War I, the techniques of indirect fire became available for all types of artillery.
- It remains a novelty to the RA – is doctrine in the German Army.
- An estimated 75,000 French soldiers were casualties of friendly artillery in the four years of World War I

# Geography

- Runs south-westerly direction into the [Aegean Sea](#), between the Hellespont and the Bay of Melas ([Saros bay](#)).
- Near [Agora](#) (narrowist point) it was protected by a wall running across its full breadth about 6.5 km, the length of the peninsula from this wall to its southern extremity, Cape Mastusia, was about 77.5 km.
- ANZAC Cove – features such as:
  - Baby 700, the 400 Plateau, Hill 971, Battleship Hill.
  - Beach 600m in length, was always within 1km of the front.
  - Sheltered at some points, exposed to observation and fire at many



# The Gallipoli Peninsula, 1915







RA 60-pdr at Cape  
Helles

[1st Division](#) artillery. The battery was originally equipped with 2 old [6 inch 30 cwt howitzers](#) and one even older [4.7 inch naval gun](#)

# Turkish Artillery



**German (Turkish) 10.5 cm Feldhaubitze 98/09**



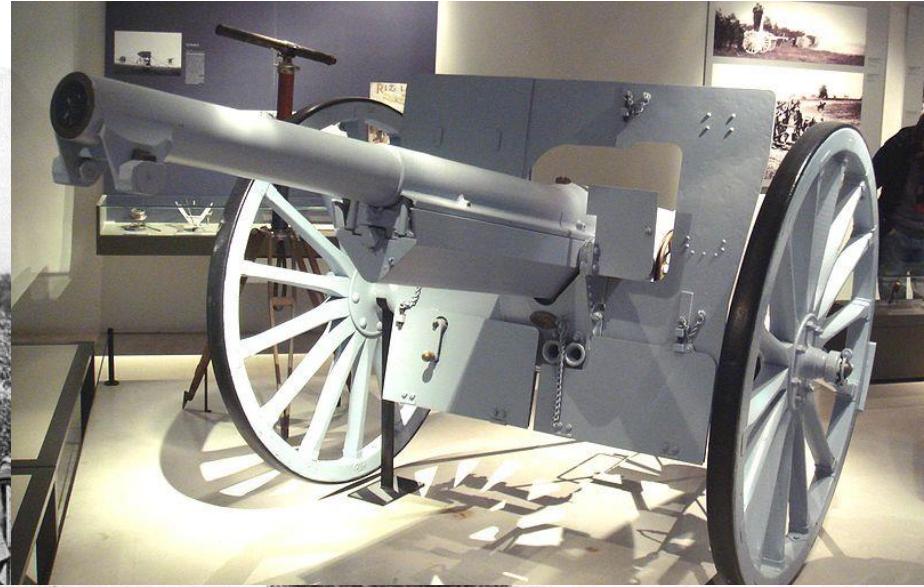
**Turkish 7.5cm Krupp field gun M1903**



**German Krupp 6-pdr (78.5mm) field gun (1868) – Turkish version**



# British and French Artillery





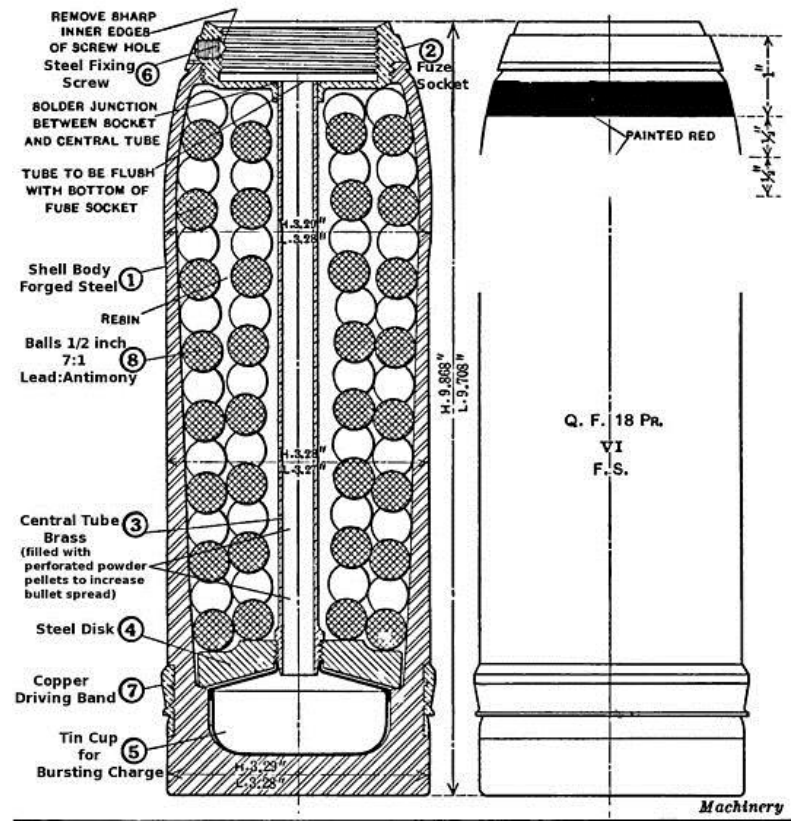
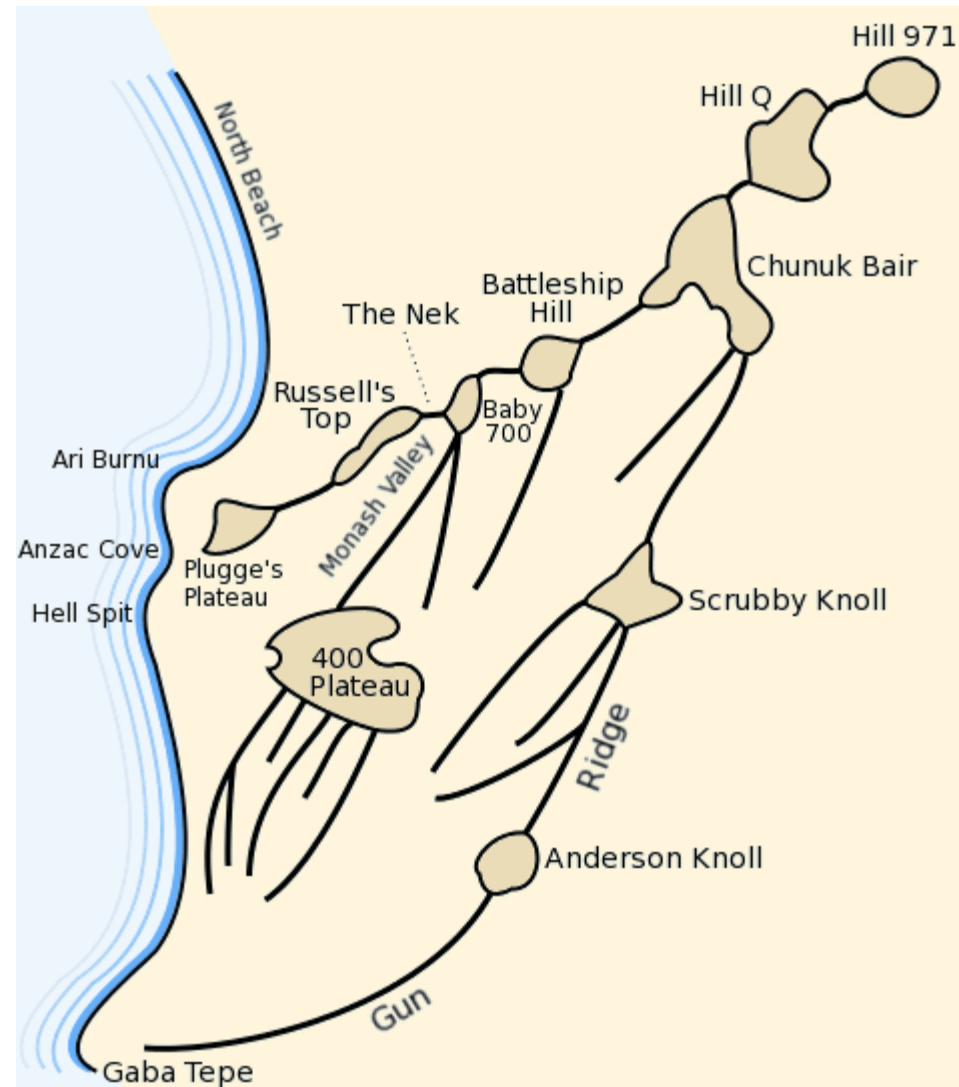


Fig. 1. Construction of British 18-pounder Quick-firing Shrapnel Shell



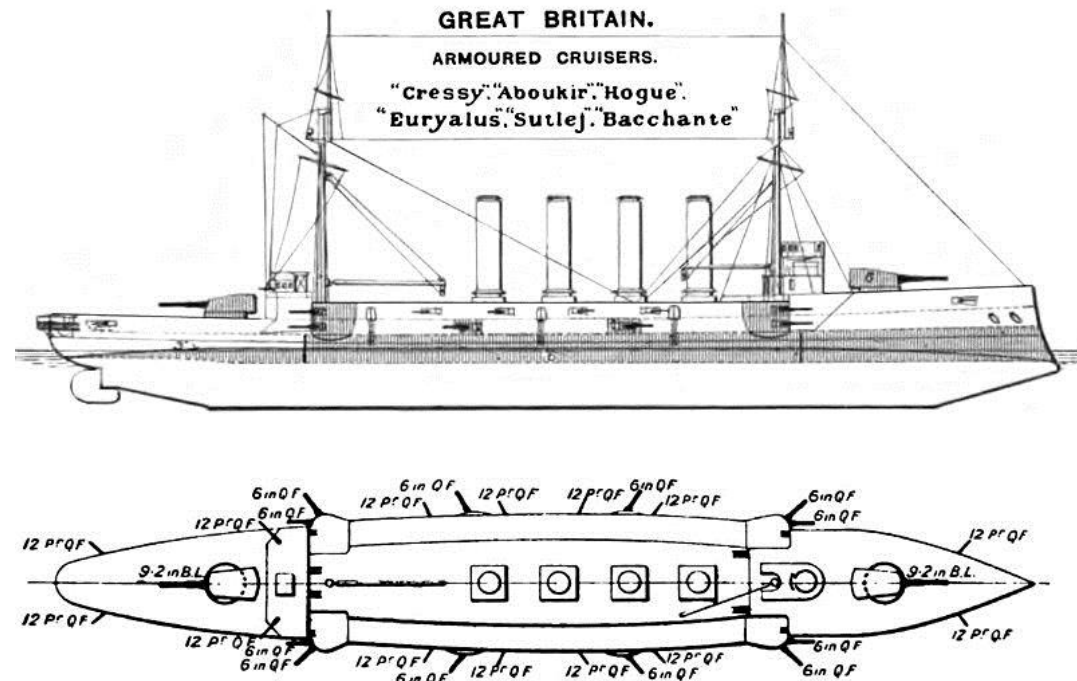
# Counter Battery

- Few means of concealed guns:
  - kites or balloons.
  - Spotters ashore.
  - Planes (few of).



# Lone Pine – CBF (6-10 Aug)

- HMS Bacchante
  - A *Cressy* class armoured cruiser
  - Commissioned 1902 (pre-Dreadnought)
  - 12,000 displacement, 760 pers
  - 21 knots
  - 2 x 9.2 in BL
    - 380-pound (170 kg) shells to 15,500 yds (14,200 m)
  - 12 x 6 inch BL
    - max rg approx 12,200 yds (11,200 m) with 100-pd (45 kg) shells
  - 12 x 12 pdr, local defence role
  - 2 x torpedo tubes
  - 2 – 12 inches of armour
  - Returned home late 1916, became the flagship of the 9<sup>th</sup> Cruiser Sqn on convoy escort duties off the African coast in mid-1917. Remained there for the rest of the war, reduced to reserve in 1919, sold for [scrap](#) in 1920.



# Conclusion

- Indirect fire was novel
- The terrain was tight
- Defenders advantage
- Too many guns, not enough howitzers
- Rudimentary techniques