

Indian Soldiers at Gallipoli

Research Question: What were the significant contributions of Indian soldiers to the Gallipoli landings in 1915 and why have they been forgotten?

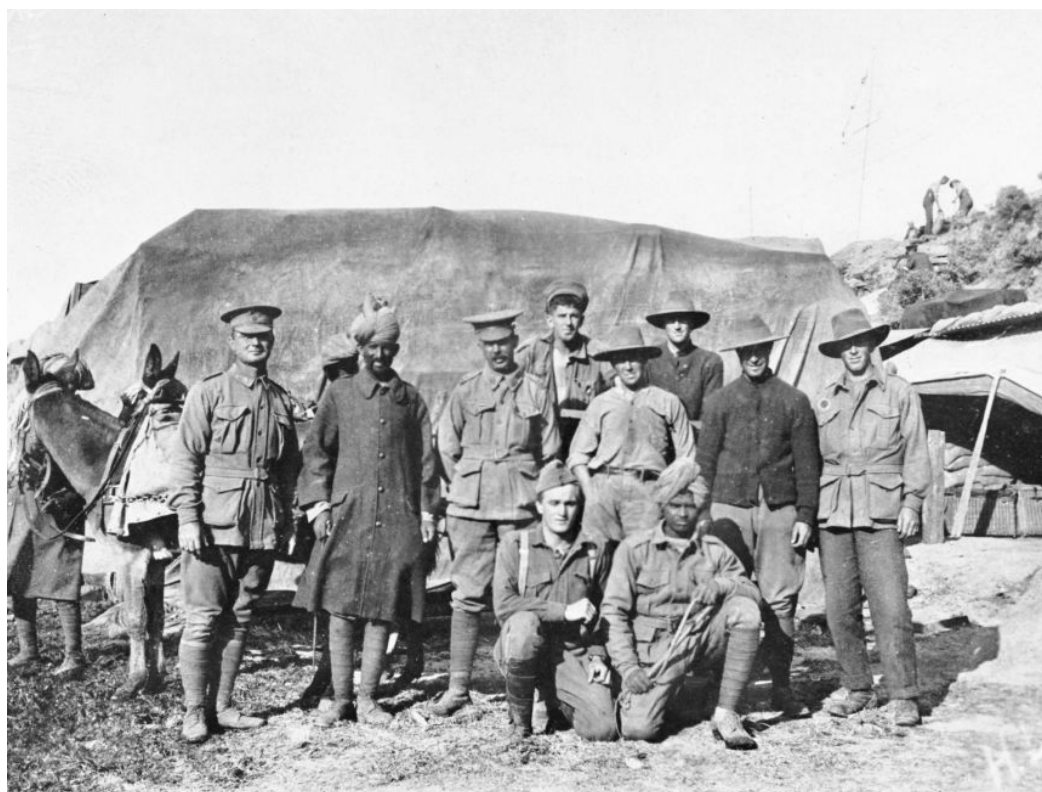
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¹ ABC News. 2015. *Anzac Day 2015: Up To 15,000 'Forgotten' Indian Soldiers Fought Alongside Anzacs*. Image. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-22/indias-forgotten-soldiers-who-fought-alongside-anzacs/6406086>.

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Landing at ANZAC Beach, Gallipoli, 1915

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The Gallipoli landings in WW1 are celebrated by the ANZAC as their nation's cornerstone since the national character of Australia and New Zealand was forged on the beaches of Gallipoli under the fire of Ottoman Turks. The Allies lost at Gallipoli but the ANZAC found glory in the actions of their brethren and continue to honour them. ANZAC parade commemorating the landings and visit to war memorials demonstrates the nation's fervour in revering their heroes. However it is also noticeable that very few are aware that Indians also fought in Gallipoli. Whilst the ANZAC warriors of Gallipoli became heroes to rouse their nation, their brother-in-arms from India returned to anonymity and were lost in the pages of

² NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN. 2019. *Anzac Beach, Gallipoli, 1915*. Image. Accessed December 16. <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/gallipoli-landing>.

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history. In a moving tribute, Kemal Atatürk honoured the sacrifices of “Johnnies and Mehments...”³, but forgot the Singhs, Bahadurs, Thapas, and Gurungs.

This research paper attempts to **highlight the glories that were achieved by the Indian soldiers in Gallipoli and explore circumstances leading to them being lost to the pages of history**. The planning of the Gallipoli campaign, deployment, training and structure of the Indian forces, Indian participation in WW1, the ethereal promise of Dominion status, and India’s mood post-WW1 will be examined to determine the conclusion.

The research question suffers from lack of available authoritative/ historical data as well as literature. ‘*Die in Battle, Do not Despair*’ by Professor Peter Stanley and research by Rana Chhina are seminal works covering Indians at Gallipoli. Authoritative Gallipoli writers like Les Carolyn, Jonathan King, Charles Bean, and Richard Reid mention the presence of Indians on the battlefield only as passing. Australian letters from the battlefield and war diaries⁴ also do not do much justice to the Indian contribution. Sergeant Denis Moriarty, No 8308, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, 86th Brigade, 29th Division, landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. He maintained a meticulous diary till 13 July 1915 but mentions ‘Indian Brigade...’ only once in his entry on 29 June 1915.⁵ Letters by Indian soldiers are lost and

³ The inscription appears on a plaque at ANZAC parade at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra

⁴ Collection of letters, personal diaries and war diaries available at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, were accessed for the purpose of research.

⁵ Osborn, W. (2020). *A Gallipoli Diary - World War One*, <https://ww1.osborn.ws/a-gallipoli-diary> [Accessed 8 Oct. 2019]. The Diary of Sergeant Dennis Moriarty was researched as a primary source to have the eyewitness account of the proceedings at Gallipoli and it was found that the only mention of India forces in his diary was on 29 June 1915 when the Indian troops relieved the

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those that are available in the National Archives, New Delhi are heavily redacted, poorly composed, and emphasise on family issues.

The Great War in 1914 brought the empire's resources to bear against the German war machine. India, the crowning jewel of the empire had been under the yoke of British rule for 157 years. Congress, an Indian political entity founded in 1895 and its leaders - Naroji, Tagore and Basu supported the British effort whilst Edwin Montagu, Secretary of India proposed progressive realisation of self-governance.⁶ In 1915, Gandhi returned to India and advocated for Indian soldiers to fight alongside the British, in return for Dominion status. With the hopes of civil rights, grant of self-rule and dominion status, support came pouring in the form of soldiers, industry and money. By September 1914, two Indian Divisions - with 24,000 men each under the command of General Sir James Wilcox arrived at Marseilles to the joyous cries of "Vivent les Hindous".⁷ They were immediately deployed in the trenches at Orleans with new weapons, lacking proper clothing or training on new weapons and consequently suffered heavy losses.

The impasse in the trenches of western Europe, turned to an indefinite wait for the Germans to strike at the time and place of their choosing and the necessity was to *do something!* Lord Fisher, the First Sea Lord of Admiralty was lamenting at

Fusiliers, though the War Diary of 29th Indian Brigade mentions the Fusiliers working together with the Indian Brigade multiple times during the campaign.

⁶ Dadabhai Naroji, Rabindranath Tagore and Bhupendra Nath Basu (President of Congress Party in 1914) were Indian national leaders from the early 20th century.

⁷ Chinna, R. (2020). *Last Post Indian War Memorials Around the World*. New Delhi: United Service Institution of India, p.16.

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the inactive role of the British fleet and wanted to land behind German lines, through the Baltic sea. The Russians were getting pressed at the Caucasus and requested for action against Turks. Lord Kitchener promised a *demonstration*, which Winston Churchill took as an opportunity to force the Dardanelles and break the European deadlock. Conceived as a naval campaign, four allied ships waiting at the mouth of Dardanelles for the German cruiser *Goeben*, undertook the bombing of forts at the entrance to straits. Further progress became prohibitive as the Turks mined the straits and strengthened their defences against any allied misadventure. Since the landing of troops became imperative, Churchill and Kitchener planned to wrest control of Dardanelles by using the newly minted ANZAC soldiers and troops from the Empire. The haphazardly concocted plan, defensive terrain at Gallipoli and the willingness of Turks to loose men rather than ground, ensured that withdrawal was the only way out.

The Indian Army, a multiethnic fully volunteer force faced an existential paradox. It served the interest of the British - the oppressors of India, whose actions were guided by the events of the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. The distrust resulted in no heavy artillery, command limited to British officers, pay disparity, segregation in transport and barracks and an atmosphere of racial discrimination. The findings of the Proceedings of the Army in India Committee, 1912, brought to the fore witness account of *agitators*, *sedition*, and *disloyalty* within the Army, to the extent that Major General Fenton Aylmer equated them to mercenaries.⁸

⁸ Stanley, Peter. 2015. *Die In Battle, Do Not Despair*. 1st ed. Solihull, United Kingdom: Helion & Company. p.39.

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With the outbreak of WW1, the British were in a hurry to raise forces and recruited Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs from villages in India who were illiterate and volunteered to earn a living. 1.3 million men were recruited during WW1 for Indian army, the War Office in India was overwhelmed to maintain scrupulous accounting of personnel and the records were limited to details of the unit deployment. The records of death and injuries from Gallipoli continued to be sketchy as the Central Casualty Bureau, India, was established only in October 1915.⁹

The planning for the campaign was completed with varied inputs from different sources. The Greeks believed that 150,000 would be needed, whilst British Admiral Fisher wrote to Admiral Jellicoe that 200,000 troops would be required. Churchill was of the view that 50,000 would suffice and Kitchener concluded that 70,000 men would be adequate to overpower Turkish defences. On March 12th, Lord Kitchener appointed British General Sir Ian Hamilton in command of 75,000 ANZAC, French, Irish, British and Indian soldiers to land at Gallipoli.

The Indian Army, especially Gurkhas, had earned a reputation in Europe. General Hamilton, who had served in India earlier, requested for battle-hardened Gurkha battalions but received only 1/6th Gurkha. The 29th Indian Infantry Brigade, under the command of Brigadier Herbert Cox was formed by four Indian Battalions - 1/6th Gurkha, 14th Sikhs, 69th and 89th Punjabi. Significantly, the Gallipoli

⁹ Stanley, Peter. 2015. *Die In Battle, Do Not Despair*. 1st ed. Solihull, United Kingdom: Helion & Company. p.130.

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campaign was the first time that the Indian Army had a Brigade without a British battalion within them, as a none-too-subtle warning of the perils of mutiny. The first landings at Gallipoli had 21st Kohat mountain battery, 26th Jacob's mountain battery and the Indian Supply and Transport Corps who were at Lemnos.



The swift and agile Mountain Battery worked beyond expectation

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On 25th April, Australian infantry landed at ANZAC Cove and the British force landed near Cape Helles. The Australians and New Zealand troops landed in a position North of Gabe Tepe, which was subsequently named as ANZAC Cove to honour their valour. The Turks proved to be relentless in their efforts and provided determined resistance. The ANZAC heavy artillery units could not land in extremely limited space in the gullies, rugged terrain and steep hillsides. The two Indian Mountain batteries, considered to be less powerful, gained the favour of the day, due to their agility, ability to deploy at treacherous positions and being

¹⁰ AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL. 2019. *A Group Of Gunners From The 7Th Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade With One Of Their Guns*. Image. Accessed December 16. <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C02192/>.

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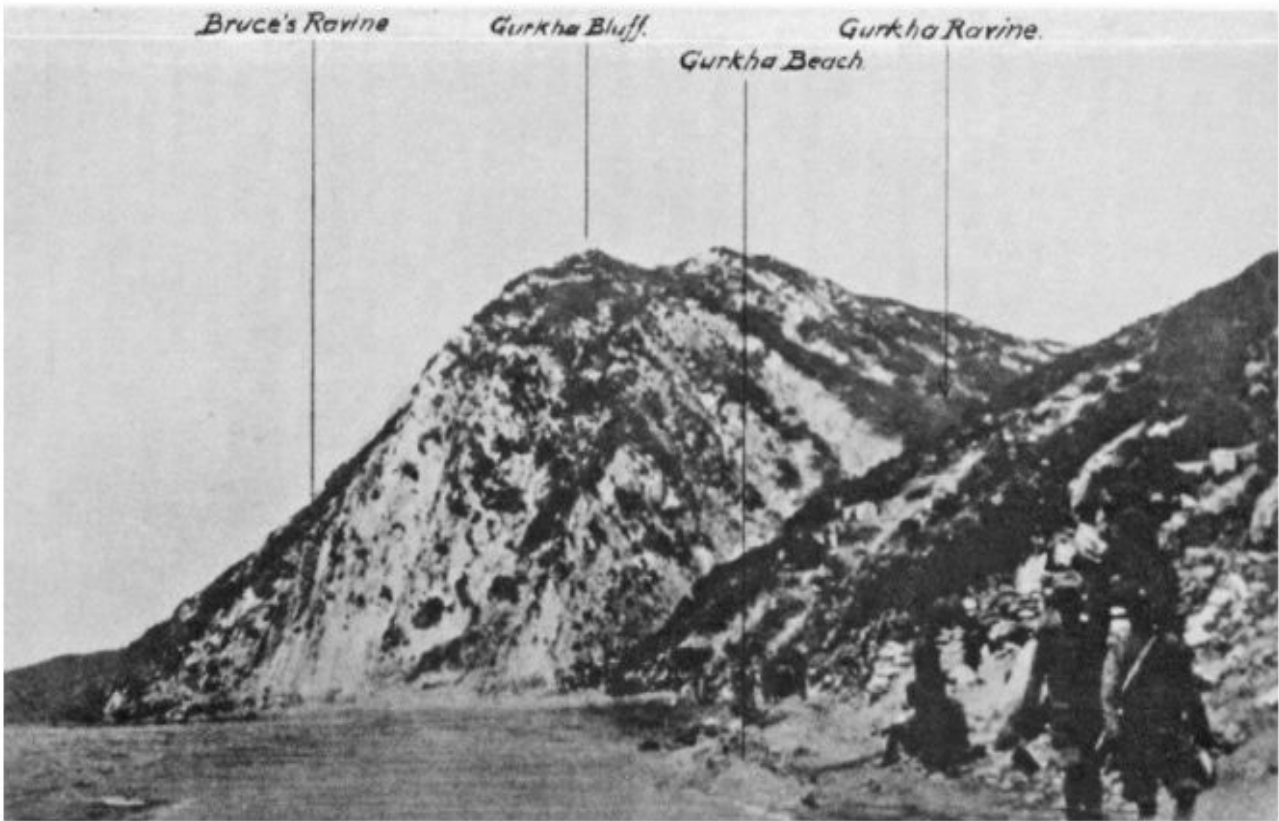
nimble. Bean recorded that at the mere sound of Indian Mountain guns, "...the spirits of the tired men began to rise".¹¹ The Jacob's battery was allocated to Alexander Godley's New Zealand and Australia Division and Kohat to William Bridge's 1st Australian Division, both at Anzac. In a reversal of roles, the 3rd Australian Brigade ammunition column provided twenty men to Jacob's battery to assist the Indian gunners. The gunners improvised to overcome the challenging Gallipoli terrain by taking their guns to the foremost line, firing at the Turkish machine-gun positions and dismantling the gun to relocate, before the retaliatory fire. John Treloar at the Australian headquarters appreciated the gunner's bravery and *precise machine-like motions*.

On 30th April, transports Dunluce, Castle, Ajax, Ismailia and Japanese Prince arrived at Cape Helles, with the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade.¹² On landing, the troops came under heavy attack until they moved out to the bridge over the Krithia stream on 2nd May. They were then to be placed as reserves until 9th May in the valley South-West of Krithia.

¹¹Bean, Charles. 2020. *THE STORY OF ANZAC FROM THE OUTBREAK OF WAR TO THE END OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE Gallipoli CAMPAIGN, MAY 4, 1915*. 11th ed. Australia: ANGUS & ROBERTSON LTD. pg 315

¹² Brigade Major (2020). *Gallipoli Diaries: Headquarters 29th Indian Infantry Brigade 1915*. Amazon Kindle, p.9.

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The treacherous terrain which was captured by 1/6th Gurkha and renamed Gurkha Bluff

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On 12th May, orders were received to advance 1/6th Gurkha Rifles onto the bluff 500 yards in three fronts, with naval and artillery cooperation. The operation began at 1830 hours with a Gurkha double company creeping along the seashore to the foot of the bluff. The 89th Punjabis who were in the Gully ravine, drew hostile fire and managed to divert attention from the Gurkha double company, which reached the top of the bluff unopposed by 2000 hours. A second Gurkha double company continued to cover the right flank and the battalion entrenched during the night. On the morning of 13th May, the balance of the Gurkha battalion made a rush forward and connected both the double companies and the Gully Ravine, thus making a complete line. The 89th Punjabis also advanced by 80 yards

¹³ Stanley, Peter. 2015. *Die In Battle, Do Not Despair*. 1st ed. Solihull, United Kingdom: Helion & Company. p.121.

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and the 14th Sikhs took over the right half of the Gurkha line. By 15th May, a continuous front was formed across Gully Ravine extending from Gurkhas on the left, Sikhs in centre and Manchester Regiment on the right. The capture of the Bluff proved extremely useful, as it was on high grounds and supply chains could be maintained. Owing to the utility of the bluff for the survival of allied troops at Gallipoli, it was later named *Gurkha Bluff*.

On 17th May the 69th and 89th Punjabis left Gallipoli on two ships.¹⁴ The War Diaries mentions the event but provides no reasoning to reduce troop strength at Gallipoli when by all accounts, the requirement was to have more soldiers. Perhaps it was the *religion of the Punjabis* that led to their withdrawal from the battlefield, which was demanding more troops. However, what was noticeable was that the loyalty of gunners and muleteers, half of them Muslims, was never in question.

On 19th May, the Turks launched an offensive along the Anzac line and began shelling early morning. The mountain batteries destroyed an ammunition wagon, drove off a 4-gun Turkish battery and fired at Turkish infantry gathering to begin the offensive. The Kohat battery fired over 600 rounds - about 100 rounds per gun, an overachievement by mountain gunners. The ammunition supply chain was maintained, amidst heavy shelling and gunfire, by terrified mules and their brave drivers. Major Arthur Fergusson was proud of his gunners and the muleteers when

¹⁴ Ibid. p.16.

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he recorded, "Not a man jibbed and not a mule broke loose".¹⁵ Charles Bean illustrated *the magnificent spirit of Indian artillerymen* through the story of Karam Singh, who continued to be in station passing orders, despite losing both his eyes to a shrapnel pellet. The valour of the day saw the Kohat battery winning four decorations including the Indian Order of Merit to Lance Naik Karam Singh.¹⁶

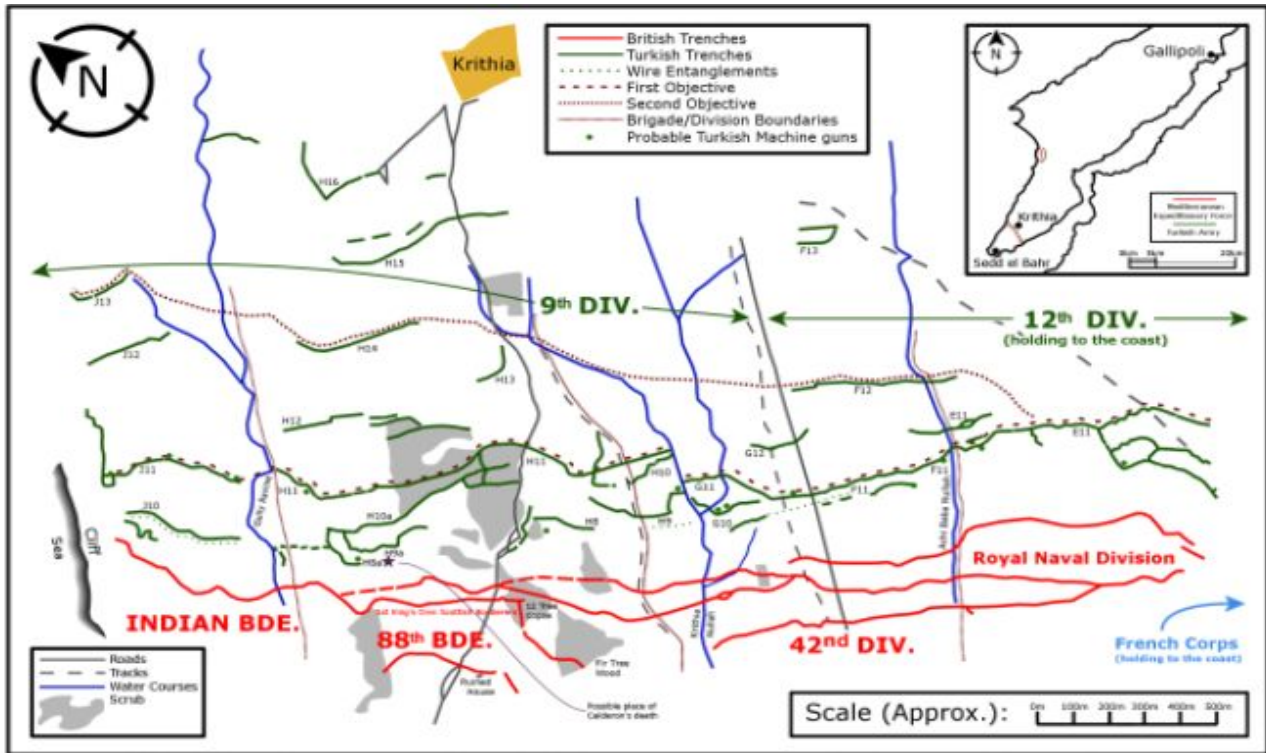
By the end of May, 2/10th and 1/5th Gurkhas had arrived at the peninsula and Indians had lost 78 personnel, 335 wounded and 13 missing, out of which the war diary contains only 11 names.¹⁷

¹⁵ Stanley, Peter. 2015. *Die In Battle, Do Not Despair*. 1st ed. Solihull, United Kingdom: Helion & Company. p.101

¹⁶ Ibid p.101-102

¹⁷ Brigade Major (2020). *Gallipoli Diaries: Headquarters 29th Indian Infantry Brigade 1915*. Amazon Kindle. p.46.

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Allied and Turkish formations for the III Battle of Krithia - 4th and 5th June 1915

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The allied attacks on Turkish positions on 4th and 5th June were the bloodiest battles fought at Gully Ravine by the Indian Army. 14th Sikhs were to advance in two lines to link up 29th Indian Infantry Brigade and 88th Infantry Brigade on each side of the ravine. They were to assist the assault on the first of the two formidable trenches facing the East of the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade by taking it in the flank. The attack by Gurkhas and the Fusiliers met resistance and their line remained unchanged. The Sikhs, with their determination and unwavering courage, managed to clear the trenches facing them by putting the Turks to the bayonet. The Sikhs came under machine-gun fire from hidden positions on both sides of the ravine and lost 4 British Officers and 25% of their numbers

¹⁸ Crown Copyright. 2015. *The III Battle Of Krithia Trench Diagram Issued By VIII Corps*. Image. <https://georgecalderon.wordpress.com/2015/06/04/4-june-1915/>.

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immediately. Gallant rushes lead to capture of three trenches, at a great loss, but served little purpose as the main attack had failed. The positions were held till the next day when the Turks bombed the ravine. The Fusiliers and the Gurkhas, brethren in gully ravine, placed on record their admiration for Sikhs gallantry and the war diary reiterated the character of the Sikh "...as a stubborn fighting man".¹⁹ This great courage had cost them 380 out of 514 men. In his letter to the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Ian Hamilton described the outcome of the attack as "...the slope was thickly dotted with bodies of these fine soldiers all lying on their faces as they fell in their steady advance on the enemy".²⁰

On 28th June, with the aim of capturing Krithia, the 10th Gurkhas charged five lines of Ottoman trenches in the Gully Spur, whilst the 5th and 6th Gurkha extended the line near Gurkha bluff and pushed the Turks by 1000 yards. After eight days of Turkish counterattack when the battle ended on 5th July the Gurkhas had lost 40% of their strength. Subedar Sahabir Thapa, 6th Gurkha and Jemadar Dalbahdar Thapa, 10th Gurkha received the Indian Order of Merit whilst Ambare Gurung and Sriman Rai, buglers of the 10th, received the Indian Distinguished Service Medals. The shortage of British officers in the Indian battalions led to the Brigade being placed in reserve until August.

¹⁹ Ibid. p.80.

²⁰ Ibid. p.80

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On 5th August, Indian Brigade landed at Anzac Cove, to be part of the Australian Division under General Monash.²¹ An ambitious plan to capture Sari Bair, coordinated with a feint at Helles, became underway. The Brigade war diary records that all units were disoriented owing to the guide losing their bearings and mistaking the gullies and spurs in the darkness.²² On 9th August, the 1/6th Gurkha managed to reach Sari Bair and Major Allanson related "At the top we met the Turks... we fought hand to hand, we bit and fisted, and used rifles and pistols as clubs... And the Turks turned and fled, and I felt a very proud man".²³ The victory was short-lived since they came under artillery attack by 0525 hours, presumably by their own guns, and had to evacuate their position. The capture of Sari Bair by the Gurkhas, though only for 10 minutes, remained the only major objective attained during the Gallipoli campaign. Every British officer in the 1/6th was killed or wounded, except for the Medical Officer Captain Phipson. Subedar-Major Gambir Singh Pun, the de facto leader, spoke no English and relied on Captain Phipson to interpret for him. The battalion withdrew in good order and Gambir Singh was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership and gallantry.

On 21st August another plan was devised to take over Hill 60 and seize wells Susak Kuyu and Kabak Kuyu. The 5th and 6th Gurkha joined the attack, whilst 14th Sikh and 10th Gurkha supported the main force. A very light preliminary bombardment which stopped prematurely, led to Gurkhas coming under fire, the

²¹ Stanley, Peter. 2015. *Die In Battle, Do Not Despair*. 1st ed. Solihull, United Kingdom: Helion & Company. p.194

²² Brigade Major (2020). *Gallipoli Diaries: Headquarters 29th Indian Infantry Brigade 1915*. Amazon Kindle, p.100.

²³ Moorehead, Alan. 1997. *Gallipoli*. 1st ed. England: Wordsworth Edition Lt, p. 238.

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moment they left their trenches. Despite suffering heavy losses they pressed on and reached their objectives. On 22nd August, Gambir Singh Pun was hit by a shell but continued to maintain his position till he was forcibly removed to the dressing room by the Commanding Officer. The mountain gunners contributed by moving forward and bombing the Turkish trenches on Hill 60. 2/10th Gurkha recorded that they were shelled by both British and Ottoman artillery at different times and suffered unnecessary losses. Jemadar Nandlal Gurung of 6th Gurkha and Jemadar Nar Bahadur Rai of 10th Gurkha were awarded the Indian Order of Merit. Peter Stanley cites numerous letters praising the bravery of Gurkha and his "...terrible kukri" and Sikhs who were "also very brave".²⁴ Peter Stanley highlights the bonhomie between the Australian and Indian soldiers through the story of Lance-Naik Satar Mohammed, who distributed surplus water to Australians from a soak well - operating within sight of Turk snipers, he would organise the Australians in queues and ended the day's encounter with a curt "Goodnait".²⁵

It was on 19th September that fate delivered the biggest blow to the Indian Army in the Gallipoli campaign. The transport ship *Ramazan* left Alexandria on 15th September with Sikh and Gurkha reinforcements for the Indian Brigade. *Ramazan* was torpedoed and lost at least 80 Sikh and 173 Gurkha soldiers, the second-biggest loss in the campaign after troopship *Royal Edward*, but least

²⁴ Stanley, Peter. 2015. *Die In Battle, Do Not Despair*. 1st ed. Solihull, United Kingdom: Helion & Company. p.229-230

²⁵ Ibid. p.173

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known. The deaths of other sunken transports are mentioned on the Cape Helles memorial, except *Ramazan*.²⁶



Indian Muleteers maintained the essential supply chain at Gallipoli

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The Indian Mule Corps landed at Gallipoli at the start of the campaign and was one of the last to leave. The Indian Army considered the drivers as *Followers*²⁸ and not as combatants, though the bravery of muleteers was second to none. It was their innate sense of duty and courage under fire that maintained the supply lines with the clarion call of 'Jhill-o Johnnie' at Gallipoli. Jemadar Hashmat Ali and driver Bir Singh received the Indian Order of Merit.²⁹

²⁶ Ibid. p.254

²⁷ AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL. 2020. *Gallipoli, Turkey, 1915. Mules Stand On The Beach At Gaba Tepe*. Image. Accessed January 24. <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C305009>.

²⁸ Indian army had *Followers*, who were *Non-Combatants* but worked alongside the infantry and gunners, facing bullets, shrapnel, and tribulations of the battlefield.

²⁹ Alexander, H. M. 1917. *On Two Fronts, Being The Adventures Of An Indian Mule Corps In France And Gallipoli*, By Major H.M. Alexander, ... London: W. Heinemann.p.223

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By October, with the arrival of General Charles Monro, preparations for withdrawal were underway. The muleteers did a dummy supply run, a night before, to allow the Turks in believing that the Allies were still on the peninsula. The mountain gunners who were the first to arrive were also the last to leave having spent 238 days in action without pause with loss of 24 killed and 278 wounded. At 0100 hours on 21st December, the last of the Indian Brigade set drip rifles and embarked transports at the wharves. Contribution of the Indians - the attack on Gurkha ravine and Gurkha bluff at Helles, the battle of Sari Bair, assault of Chunuk Bair, innovative and reliable support of mountain artillery and courage under fire of the ubiquitous muleteers, were achievements of an army to be celebrated for generations to come.

Indian political leaders supported the British efforts and 1.3 million soldiers served in WW1 for the award of Dominion status. 73,000 lost their lives and countless returned with lifelong injuries and trauma to spend their lives in poverty and misery. Far from granting Dominion status in return for the support by Indians, the Imperial Legislative Council passed the Rowlatt Act, extending wartime 'emergency measures' in India. Indians felt betrayed and there were protests in the country, which were quashed brutally by the British. With the nation's mood against the Raj, the political leaders distanced themselves from the Indian Army since they could not justify their earlier support for WW1. Political

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leaders embarked upon the Non-Cooperation movement and the soldiers' sacrifices were in vain and their valour lost in oblivion.

There existed a quandary with regard to the participation of the Indian army in WW1. The soldiers were fighting for the British, who were the oppressors of Indians. The army was a tool for the British to use against the Indian nationalist movement and therefore, the political leaders and citizens felt betrayed by the soldiers rather than any pride.

The Indian Army was a homogeneous mix of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Gurkha soldiers. When the Ottomans sided with Germans, the loyalty of Muslims came under suspicion, since they were to fight against their religious leader. The 69 and 89 Punjabis were sent back from Gallipoli owing to their religious beliefs. The unrest in the Muslim population in India due to the fight against the Ottomans added to British suspicion. On returning from battlefields the Muslim soldiers chose to fade away rather than face the wrath of their fellow Muslims for contributing to the fall of the Ottoman empire.

It is not just the deeds but also the ballads of the bravery which maketh legends. Achilles was the greatest warrior of his time but it was Homer's Iliad which immortalised his glory. Medals in wars are awarded to honour bravery and immortalise soldiers as legends. British were debating the status of the Indian army - 'regulars or mercenaries'. Their pay, allowances, transport, places of stay

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and pension were far low when compared to any other soldier in WW1. Indians were not eligible for the award of Victoria Cross before WW1 and the British continued to be extremely restrictive in the award of medals. Out of 39 VCs awarded for valour to soldiers during the Gallipoli campaign, Indians did not receive even one, though it was not for lack of examples of conspicuous bravery. The morning of 9th August, witnessed an unparalleled act of bravery on Sari Bair when Gambir Singh Pun led his troops to win the only objective during the Gallipoli campaign. Karm Singh, the mountain gunner, continued to pass orders despite losing both his eyes and the muleteers who never wavered in their supply runs amidst shelling, bullets and evident danger were overlooked for the award of the highest order. Lack of these awards added to the anonymity of the soldiers when they returned to their homes after WW1.

WW1 shattered many myths prevalent during the 20th century. The supremacy of Europeans in every sphere, including warfighting, was embedded deep in the psyche of everyone. The prejudice of British masters coupled with the suspicion from the 1857 mutiny led to the Indian army having limited prowess with artillery and many other modern weapons. Indian army had *Followers*, who were *Non-Combatants* but worked alongside the infantry and gunners, facing bullets, shrapnel, and tribulations of the battlefield. The British themselves were surprised by the success of Indian soldiers in western Europe. It was the curiosity of Anzac soldiers, to see the brown soldiers of the empire, that brought them to Indian camps in Cairo and ships in Lemnos. The Anzac soldiers mentioned that the

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Indians put up a good fight as if to say it was surprising to see a man of colour be able to fight almost as good as them, if not better. The heroic deeds of Indian soldiers were often relegated as one-off chance encounters rather than admiring their tenacity.

The Indian soldiers came from poor villages with no formal education. Simple tasks like writing and reading letters could only be undertaken with the help of very few soldiers among the battalion who themselves could barely read and write. Letters from the battlefield didn't paint a picture of experiences that they were going through or even share the details of their acts since it was often limited to the handling of family affairs. The impoverished background of the Indian soldiers ensured that after the Great War, they went back to their hard lives, worried to ensure basic necessities for their families rather than record their stories. There was no Charles Bean on the beaches of Gallipoli with the Indian Brigade to narrate the eyewitness account and there were no stories akin to *Simpson and his donkey*, to tell for generations to come. It is on the sidelines of accounts and memoirs written by prolific writers and letters by Anzac, British and Irish soldiers, that the deeds of the Indian Brigade can be put together in piecemeal. The war diaries of the Brigade, a running commentary of the battlefield, have scanty information about the Indian soldiers since it is limited to the narrative of the proceedings and actions of the British officers. The importance of written records in building a narrative for countrymen to revere, instil pride and even elevate the selfless and brave actions of the soldiers to superhuman, can never be overstated. Lack of

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seminary works and authoritative literature has pulled a shroud of anonymity over the contribution of Indians at Gallipoli.

The efforts of Rana Chhina, Peter Stanley and countless others to tell the deeds of the Indian army in Gallipoli and WW1 have brought their stories to the current generation. There is an increased effort to identify the heroes of WW1 and understand their views. This paper attempts to follow the path shown by these luminaries and highlights Indian Army's achievements.

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