

Evaluation



Focus question

What is your score out of ten for the military success of the Gallipoli campaign?

Talking points

In making your video clip you should address these questions and other issues:

- What were the objectives of the Gallipoli campaign?
- Were they achieved?
- What positive aspects came from the campaign despite the ultimate result?

Suggested sites

A [historian's account](#) of the Gallipoli campaign

Journalist Keith Murdoch gives his appraisal of the Gallipoli campaign in a [letter](#) sent to Australian Prime Minister Andrew Fisher. The second last paragraph of his letter (starting on page 24) gives a summary of his thoughts.

Further reading

The writer John Masefield wrote an assessment of the Gallipoli campaign although he didn't go to Gallipoli in 1915. Read this assessment at the end of this document.

Presentation ideas

The following tip(s) could be useful in your presentation:

- Scan the sites mentioned for positive and negative comments about the conduct of the campaign.
- Consider the strengths and weaknesses of the sources in evaluating a military operation.
- Have a short meeting with The plan group to discuss the campaign's objectives.
- Acknowledge all primary and secondary sources.

* These points are a guide only. Credit will be given for wider research, further information and original presentation ideas.

Gallipoli assessment

Many people have asked me, what the campaign achieved. It achieved much. It destroyed and put out of action many more of the enemy than of our own men. Our own losses in killed, wounded and missing were, roughly speaking, one hundred and fifteen thousand men, and the sick about one hundred thousand more, or (in all) more than two and one half times as many as the army which made the landing. The Turk losses from all causes were far greater; they had men to waste and wasted them, like water, at Cape Helles, Lone Pine and Chunuk. Though we did not do what we hoped to do, our presence in Gallipoli contained large armies of Turks in and near the Peninsula. They had always from 15 to 20 000 more men than we had, on the Peninsula itself, and at least as many more, ready to move, on the Asian shore... In all, we disabled, or held from action elsewhere, not less than 400,000 Turks, that is, a very large army of men who might have been used elsewhere, with disastrous advantage.

So much for the soldiers' side; but politically, the campaign achieved much. In the beginning, it had a profound effect upon Italy; it was, perhaps, one of the causes which brought Italy into her war with Austria. In the beginning, too, it had a profound effect upon the Balkan States. Bulgaria made no move against us until five months after our landings. Had we not gone to Gallipoli she would have joined our enemies in the late spring instead of in the middle autumn.

Some of our enemies have said that the campaign was a defeat for the British Navy. It is true that we lost two capital ships, from mines, in the early part of the campaign, and I think, in all, two others, from torpedoes, during the campaign. Such loss is not very serious in eleven months of naval war.

Still, our enemies say, you did not win the Peninsula. We did not; and someday, when truth will walk clear-eyed, it will be known why we did not.

Masefield J (2011), *Gallipoli*, New Holland Publishers, Sydney, pp.188-90