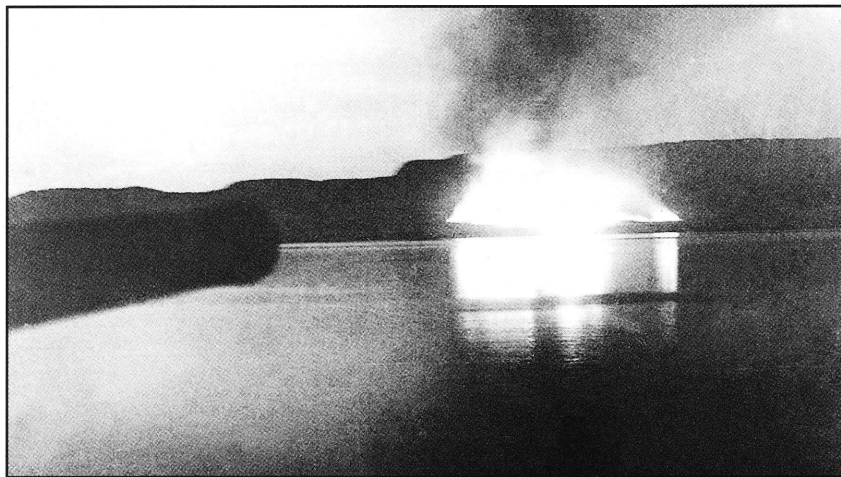


# 10 EVACUATION



*“Today has been cold and miserable and tonight snow is falling, a sleet having set in. Hardships have begun ... Mud everywhere and everywhere so steep. Taranaki cowyards are nothing to it.”*

George Bollinger, Wellington Infantry Battalion



(Australian War Memorial A3312)

*Fires burning at Suvla Bay after the evacuation.*

Winter came and froze men in the trenches. The Gallipoli Campaign had failed and evacuation became the only choice. The men were angry and bitter. So many lost chances, so many wasted lives. Over ten days in December the number of men at Anzac was reduced from 42 000 to 20 000.

The last 20 000 were evacuated over two nights. In the early hours of 20 December 1915 the last of the Anzacs crept down from the hills to the waiting boats and were towed to the waiting transports offshore. It was over.

*“I am no hero but I would sooner go over the Ridge in frontal assault with all its chances of death with honour than do this thing.”*

George Tuck, Auckland Infantry Battalion

# 11 THE END



*“Gallipoli Peninsula was ours any time after the attack in August last (if we had enough men). It’s the same old tale, four men and a sergeant to do the work of a regiment, anyway it fed me up with war, and now I’m war sick and only want to get home.”*

Trooper AD Blanks, Auckland Mounted Rifles



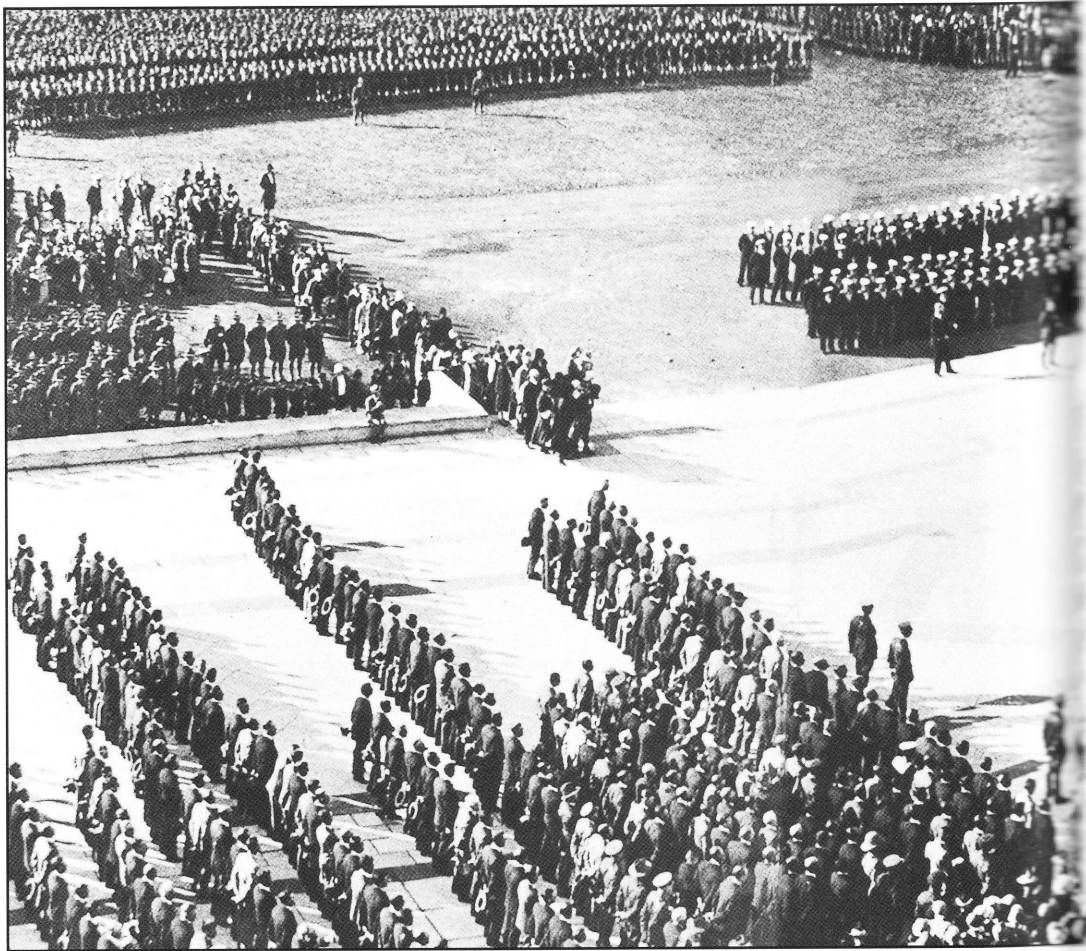
(Imperial War Museum Q14339)

*The unknown dead on Chumuk Bair.*

Gallipoli had failed, but for the New Zealanders there was still three years of fighting on the Western Front in France and Belgium and in Sinai and Palestine.

The Gallipoli Campaign, nine months of bloody fighting, lasted from 25 April to January 1916. When it was over there were hundreds of thousands

of dead and wounded on both sides. 8556 New Zealanders landed on Gallipoli. They were young men from every town and district throughout New Zealand. During the Gallipoli Campaign 2721 died and 4752 were wounded — a total casualty list of 7473. It was a tragedy that was felt in every New Zealand home. Every day parents waited for the

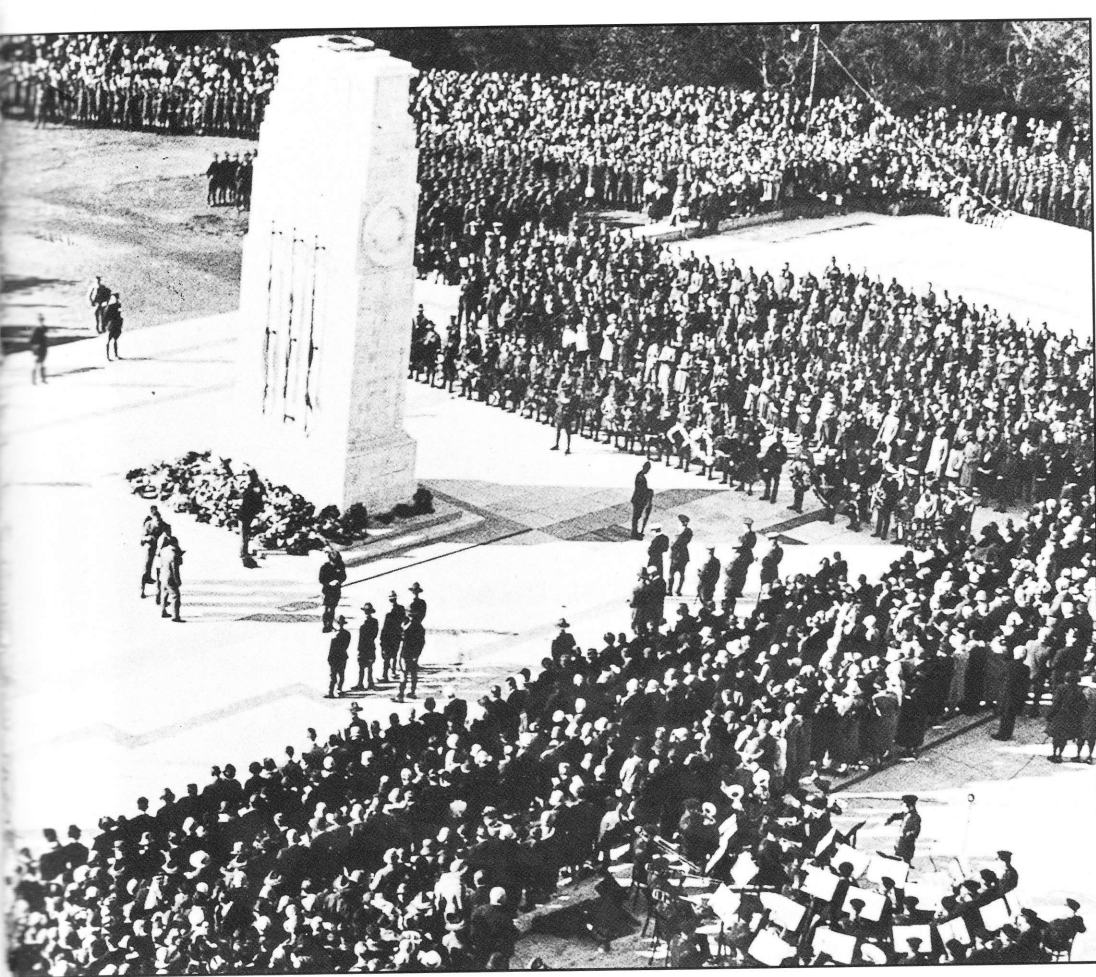


*Anzac Day service, Auckland 1930.*

telegrams to arrive bringing the names of the killed and wounded. Mothers and wives prayed that their sons and husbands would not be on the list but, as you can see by the numbers, almost every New Zealander who landed on Gallipoli became a casualty. Of those that died, almost all have no known grave and their bones can be found lying in the scrub above Anzac Cove.

In 1916 on the first anniversary of the landing people gathered in every small town and district

throughout New Zealand to remember those who died in the Gallipoli Campaign. The war was still going on but people believed that the New Zealand dead of Gallipoli had to be remembered. In this way the Anzac Day commemoration service began. The war continued until 1918 and by the time it ended New Zealand, with its population of just one million people, had sent 100 000 men away to war. Almost 60 000 became casualties with some 20 000 dead. This cost broke New Zealand's heart.



We have met some of these men on these pages and have read what they wrote home to their families or the private thoughts they put in their diaries, young men like George Bollinger, who survived Gallipoli but was killed in France in June 1917. They found out what it was to be a New Zealander. They were people like us, with the same

hopes and dreams. War destroyed their ambitions and plans but all these years later it is important that we remember that they were more than just names on a war memorial. These young men and women helped shape who we have become today. That is why we still gather each Anzac Day to remember them.

*“Lest We Forget”*