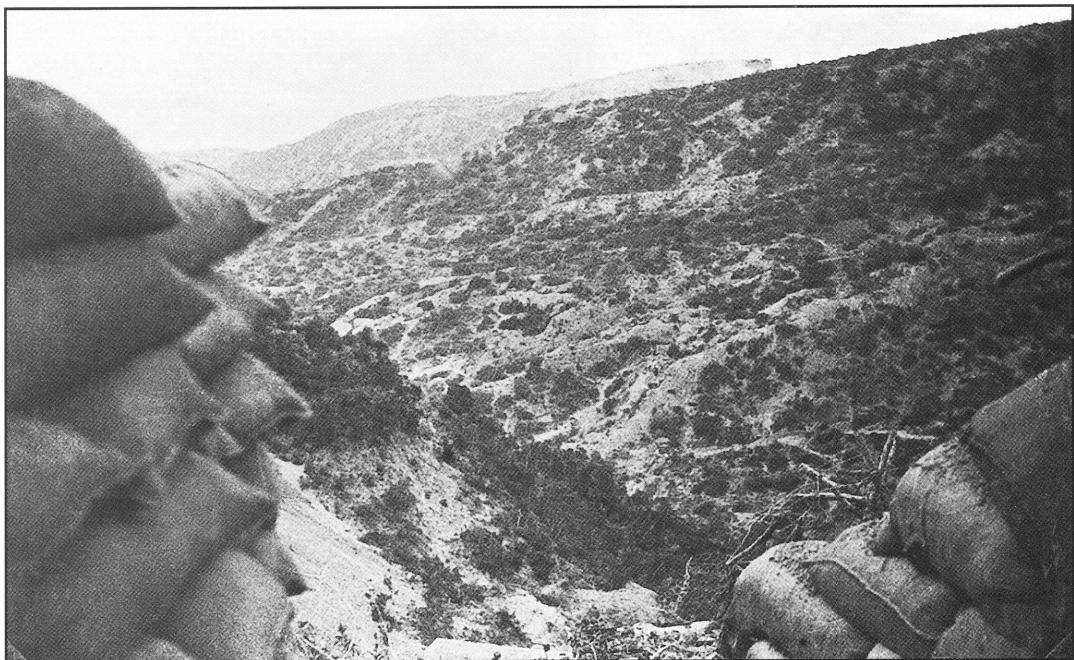


# 5 QUINN'S POST



*“Had breakfast at 5.00 am (bully and biscuit), loaded up our gear and started off for Quinn’s Post, the ‘death trap’ of the Anzac line ... I shall never forget the sight of that place — mangled bodies of our own men and the Turks everywhere — rifles twisted and misshapen by bombs as were the bodies — corrugated iron sheets just like huge nutmeg scrapers with bullet and bomb holes — and the ground itself worse than after any flood or storm — to look at it made one sad — it seemed wounded and bleeding in its own way — the whole of the trenches full of flies and vermin and blood stains.”*

George Bollinger, Wellington Infantry Battalion



(QEII Watouru)

*The view from Quinn's Post down Monash Gully to the sea.*



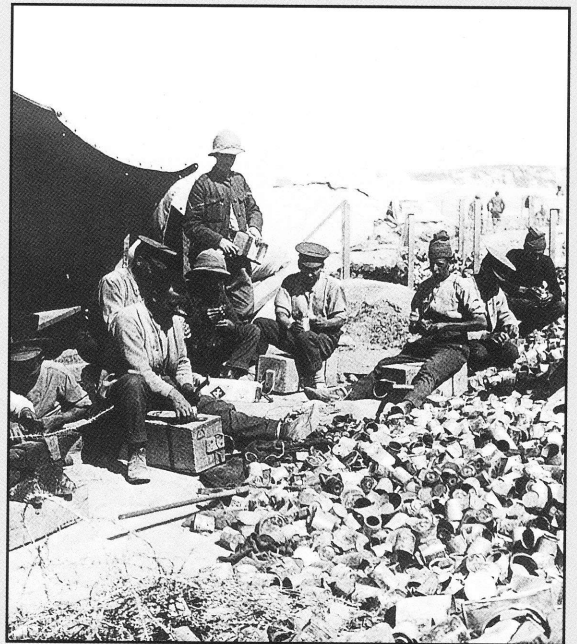
*Canterbury soldiers going into the front line at Quinn's Post.*

After the failure at Helles the Anzacs were sent back to where they originally landed now known as Anzac Cove. On the hills above the beach they strengthened the defences to prevent the Turks breaking in. Quinn's Post was the closest point to the Turkish line. Imagine a classroom with all the desks pushed together in the centre of the room with you in a trench on one side of the room and the Turks

## BOMBS



The best way to clear an empty trench was with hand grenades or bombs. The Turks had plenty of bombs, mostly the German cricket ball type, but the Anzacs had none so they made their own out of jam tins filled with nails, bits of exploded shells, barbed wire, scraps of metal and an explosive charge. A fuse through the top of the tin was lit by a match.



*The bomb factory.*

in a trench on the other. That was how close each side was at Quinn's. If the Turks could advance 20 metres they could look down into Monash Gully and the Anzac front line would collapse. Quinn's Post had to be held at all costs but by late May it looked as if the Turks would either capture it or tunnel underneath and place explosive mines that would blow its defenders to pieces.

It was then that the New Zealanders took over the garrison. George Bollinger was a 25-year-old bank clerk from New Plymouth and a member of the Wellington Infantry Battalion. It was the

Wellingtons under their 56-year-old commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel William Malone who turned Quinn's Post into a fortress that could not be taken. They deepened the trenches and roofed them over with timbers. They dug terraces and built bombproof shelters where the men could rest. For every bomb the Turks threw, the New Zealanders threw three back. Anzac snipers shot at every Turkish loophole. By the end of June Quinn's had been transformed and now it was the Turks who feared going into the trenches opposite Quinn's Post.

## SNIPERS



There were many deadly snipers among the Anzac troops. It is said they were so good they could shoot the left eye out of a fly. They usually worked alone, often in 'no man's land', stalking Turkish snipers.



(Davy Collection, 3rd Auckland & Northland Battalion)

*A New Zealand sniper using a periscope rifle while his spotter alongside him looks for Turkish soldiers to shoot.*

## BULLETS AND GUNS



All bullets and artillery shells fired from guns made noises. One high overhead could be heard like a boy whistling, starting on a low note, getting higher and higher then gradually sinking lower and lower until it died away. Others sounded like the droning of a bee, the whimper of a whipped dog, the crack of a whip, or a faint zip as it flew by one's head. The men gave them nicknames such as 'Moaning Minnie'. The soldiers also gave nicknames to the Turks' artillery guns. One called 'Christian Awake'



was always fired in the morning. Its shell landed on the beach in the same place every day. Other guns were called 'Gentle Annie', 'Hell-fire Mack', 'Jack Johnston' and 'The Slug'. 'The Slug' was only fired after tea time.



*Malone's terraces behind the front line (on the upper right of the picture) at Quinn's Post. The Turks were also on the ridge that you can see on the skyline on the left.*