

# Marlow's Rowers at Gallipoli



The First World War was a truly global conflict and Marlow's rowers served in many parts of Europe and beyond as well as in France. Three club members died in August 1915 during the Gallipoli Campaign in what is modern-day Turkey.

The Gallipoli campaign was one of the most controversial conflicts of the First World War. From the spring of 1915 until early 1916, Allied and Turkish servicemen fought for control of a small strip of land. The conflict came about because, in November 1914, the Ottoman Empire joined the First World War on the side of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Its lands covered much of the Middle East as well as modern-day Turkey and its entry into the war was seen as a threat to the Allies.

The Allies, made up of British, French, Australian, New Zealand and colonial forces, attacked the peninsula of Gallipoli in April 1915 to try and capture the Ottoman capital Constantinople and knock the Ottoman Empire out of the War. However, the Allies were underprepared, lacked the right resources and were poorly led. They had also badly underestimated the resilience of the Turkish troops who faced them. Right from the initial landings on 25 April, the Allies suffered heavy casualties in repeated attacks across rough terrain on well-defended Turkish positions.

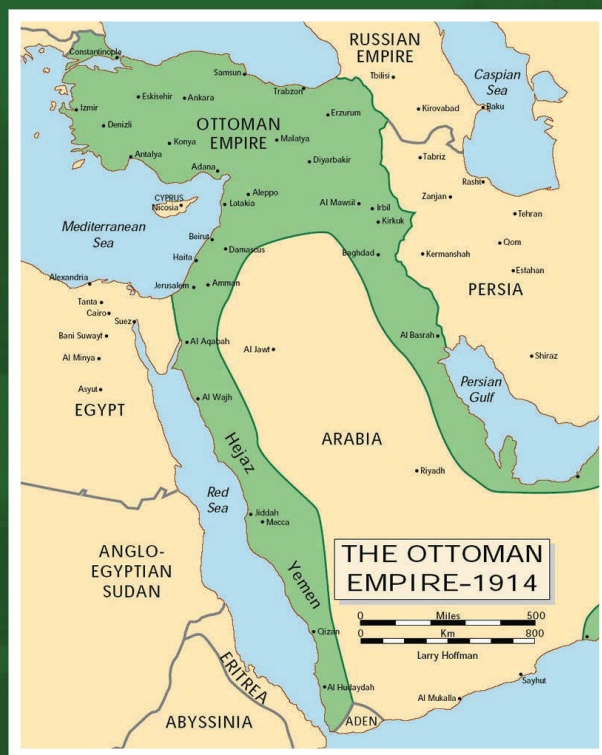
They made very little progress and eventually withdrew their forces in January 1916, having failed to achieve their objectives. By then, over 120,000 servicemen from Britain and the Empire had been killed or wounded, or were missing. Included amongst the casualties were three rowing club members – Henry Haddon, Jack Langley and Ewart Wells.



British troops fighting at Gallipoli  
Courtesy of Imperial War Museum



Marlow Rowing Club War Memorial



Map of the Ottoman Empire, 1914

