
HISTORICAL RECOUNTS: THE ANZAC LEGEND

PART 1 —KNOWLEDGE & CONTENT

1. What Is a Historical Recount?

A **historical recount** is a factual retelling of past events in chronological order. It is a type of informative text used in:

- History books
- Museum plaques
- Newspaper reports
- Archives and documentaries
- Biographies and war records

A historical recount aims to *explain what happened* and *why it mattered*.

2. Key Characteristics of Historical Recounts

✓ Accuracy

Events must be real, researched, and factual.

Writers may refer to:

- historical records
- letters and diaries
- photographs
- official documents
- firsthand accounts

✓ Chronological Order

Events are sequenced using time markers.

✓ Objectivity

The tone is factual and neutral — not emotional like a narrative.

✓ Past Tense

Because events already happened.

✓ Third-Person Perspective

He, she, they, the soldiers, the troops, etc.

✓ Detail to Build Credibility

Names, dates, places, battles, statistics, significant people.

3. Understanding the ANZAC Legend

The **ANZAC Legend** is the story Australians tell about the qualities shown by soldiers at Gallipoli:

Value	Meaning	Example from Gallipoli
Courage	Bravery in the face of danger	Storming the beach under heavy fire
Mateship	Loyalty, friendship, helping one another	Carrying wounded mates from the trenches
Endurance	Continuing despite extreme hardship	Months of harsh weather and shortages
Sacrifice	Giving up something for the greater good	Lives lost in failed assaults
Perseverance	Not giving up	Holding positions despite impossible odds

The Gallipoli campaign failed militarily, but it shaped **national identity** and established values still honoured today on **ANZAC Day (25 April)**.

4. Useful Historical Facts About the Gallipoli Campaign

Provide these to students to support their recount:

- The landing occurred at **dawn on 25 April 1915**.
 - ANZACs landed on a beach later known as **ANZAC Cove**.
 - The cliffs were steep and rocky, making the mission extremely difficult.
 - Soldiers dug extensive trench systems to defend their positions.
 - Harsh conditions included disease, heat, flies, limited water, and constant bombardment.
 - The campaign lasted **eight months**.
 - The Allies evacuated in **December 1915**.
 - Over **8,000 Australians** died.
 - The campaign failed to achieve its military goals.
-

5. Language Features to Include

Time Connectives

- At dawn
- On 25 April 1915
- Shortly after
- During the first assault
- Over the following months
- By December
- Eventually

Formal Verbs

- advanced
- retreated
- established
- encountered
- endured
- evacuated
- engaged

Descriptive but factual phrases

- “steep and unforgiving cliffs”
- “constant artillery bombardment”
- “harsh and unsanitary living conditions”
- “limited medical supplies”

Objective tone starters

- Historical records show...
 - According to military reports...
 - Eyewitness accounts suggest...
-

PART 2 — SCAFFOLD TO WRITE A HISTORICAL RECOUNT

This scaffold walks students step-by-step from planning to writing a full recount.

STEP 1 — PLANNING

A. Orientation Questions

Students answer:

- 1. What event are you recounting?**
→ The ANZAC landing at Gallipoli.
 - 2. When did it happen?**
→ 25 April – December 1915.
 - 3. Where did it happen?**
→ Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey (ANZAC Cove).
 - 4. Who was involved?**
→ Australian and New Zealand soldiers, the Ottoman forces.
 - 5. Why is this event important?**
→ It shaped the ANZAC Legend and national identity.
-

B. Chronological Event Planner

Students complete:

Time Period	Key Events	Details / Facts
Before the landing	Allies planned to capture the Dardanelles	Open sea route to Russia
25 April – Dawn	First wave landed under fire	Steep cliffs, confusion
April–May	Trenches established	Limited supplies, hardship
June–August	Major assaults attempted	High casualties
Sept–Nov	Stalemate	Disease, heat, flies, exhaustion
Dec 1915	Evacuation	Carefully planned withdrawal

C. Reorientation/Conclusion Questions

Students choose:

- How did the event end?
 - Why is it remembered today?
 - What values or lessons did it teach Australians?
 - How did it shape the ANZAC Legend?
-

STEP 2 — WRITING SCAFFOLD

Orientation Paragraph Scaffold

Sentence Starters:

- *On 25 April 1915, Australian and New Zealand troops landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula as part of the Allied campaign to capture the Dardanelles Strait.*
- *The purpose of the operation was to weaken the Ottoman Empire and support Russia during World War I.*
- *The soldiers landed at what later became known as ANZAC Cove, facing steep cliffs and unexpected resistance.*

Students fill in the missing details:

Template:

On **(date)**, **(group)** arrived at **(location)** to **(purpose/goal)**. The campaign was part of **(context: WWI)**, and involved **(details about planning or preparation)**. This recount explains the key events of the landing and how it contributed to the ANZAC Legend.

Body Paragraph Scaffold (Chronological Events)

Each paragraph should include:

- ✓ A time marker
 - ✓ A factual event
 - ✓ Specific detail/evidence
 - ✓ Explanation of hardship, bravery, or significance
-

Body Paragraph 1 — Dawn Landing

Sentence Starters:

- *At dawn on 25 April 1915, the first wave of ANZAC soldiers reached the shore.*

- *They immediately encountered heavy gunfire from Ottoman forces.*
 - *The steep and rocky cliffs made movement slow and dangerous.*
 - *Despite the confusion, the troops continued advancing, demonstrating cooperation and determination.*
-

Body Paragraph 2 — Establishing Trenches

Sentence Starters:

- *In the weeks following the landing, the ANZACs dug trenches to secure their positions.*
 - *The soldiers endured harsh living conditions, including heat, limited water, and swarms of flies.*
 - *Frequent bombardments made everyday tasks dangerous.*
 - *Their endurance reflected the qualities later associated with the ANZAC Legend.*
-

Body Paragraph 3 — Ongoing Hardship & Evacuation

Sentence Starters:

- *As the months passed, the campaign reached a stalemate.*
 - *Illness and disease spread quickly through the trenches.*
 - *By December, commanders decided that evacuation was necessary.*
 - *The withdrawal was carried out silently and successfully, marking the end of the Gallipoli campaign.*
-

Conclusion Scaffold

Sentence Starters:

- *Although the campaign did not achieve its military aims, the actions of the ANZAC soldiers shaped a powerful national legacy.*
- *Their courage, mateship, and perseverance became central to the ANZAC Legend.*
- *Today, Australians commemorate their sacrifices on ANZAC Day, recognising the enduring impact of their service.*

Template:

Although the Gallipoli campaign ended in evacuation, the bravery and endurance shown by the ANZAC soldiers left a lasting impact on Australian identity. Their actions formed the foundation of the ANZAC Legend, a symbol of courage, mateship, and sacrifice that continues to be honoured today.

STEP 3 — FULL WRITING FRAME

Below is a full-page writing scaffold students can write directly into:

HISTORICAL RECOUNT WRITING FRAME

Paragraph 1 — Orientation

Write:

- What happened
 - Who was involved
 - When and where
 - Purpose of the event
-

Paragraph 2 — Event 1 (Landing at Dawn)

Write:

- Time marker
 - Key event
 - Detail/evidence
 - Hardship/bravery shown
-

Paragraph 3 — Event 2 (Trenches & Hardship)

Write:

- Time marker
 - What life in the trenches was like
 - Conditions faced
 - ANZAC values demonstrated
-

Paragraph 4 — Event 3 (Stalemate & Evacuation)

Write:

- Time marker
- Challenges
- Outcome or turning point

- Final withdrawal
-

Paragraph 5 — Conclusion

Write:

- Overall impact
 - Why it is remembered
 - The values that form the ANZAC Legend
-

STEP 4 — SUCCESS CRITERIA

Students should check:

- I used past tense
- I wrote events in chronological order
- I used at least 8 time markers
- I included 5+ factual details
- My tone was formal and objective
- I clearly explained the significance of the ANZAC Legend