2nd Battle of Krithia 6-8 May 1915

The Australian 2nd Brigade and the New Zealand Brigade were transferred from Anzac Cove to Helles to assist the British and French in the second Battle of Krithia from 6 to 8 May.

British attacks on 6 May gained some ground but two further attacks next day failed to make progress. A further British attempt failed on 8 May and just before 5pm that afternoon, the 2nd Brigade, commanded by Colonel James McCay, was given orders to attack at 5.30 pm when it was still light. The Australians advanced from a trench manned by Indian soldiers and 500metres further on unexpectedly found another trench manned by British soldiers. This trench was named by the Australians as 'The Tommies Trench' and the Australians either jumped into it or laid down behind it. Three minutes later, McCay with more Australians approached and McCay called on the men taking shelter to continue the advance. The Australians pressed forward under heavy enemy fire before casualties compelled them to stop 400 metres from the Turkish trenches and two kilometres from Krithia. The Australians in an hour had suffered 1000 killed and wounded. On the left, the New Zealanders gained a little ground but at a heavy cost. With the Turks digging in and receiving reinforcements, the two brigades returned to Anzac Cove.

