

100th anniversary of ANZAC Day: two choices to commemorate ANZAC Day with US allies

Robert D. Martin, USAWC Public Affairs Office

100th anniversary of ANZAC Day: two choices to commemorate ANZAC Day with US allies



On **April 24 at 5:55 a.m. on the Root Hall patio**, International Fellows from Australia and New Zealand along with Army War College students, staff and faculty will sponsor a traditional dawn service to commemorate the 100th year anniversary of ANZAC Day, named for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

On **April 25, 8 a.m. a public commemoration will take place at the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial, next to Collins Hall parking**, supported by the Australian Embassy to the US. With bugler Jim Shufelt, Chap. (COL) Gregory D'Emma, and refreshments provided by the Soldiers' club, BOSS.

ANZAC Day is one of Australia's most important national occasions, according to Saturday's event coordinator Maj. Deane Giles, Security Assistance Liaison Officer Australia. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

On the morning of 25 April 1915, the Anzacs set out to capture Constantinople (now Istanbul) on the Gallipoli peninsula. Landing on Gallipoli the Anzacs were met with fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turkish defenders and what had been planned as a bold strike to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stalemate. By the end 1915 the allied forces were evacuated, 8709 Australian and 2779 New Zealand Soldiers were killed during the Gallipoli campaign. The events of Gallipoli had a profound impact on Australians at home and 25 April soon became the day on which Australians remember the sacrifice of those who had died in the war.

Although the Gallipoli campaign failed in its military objectives, the Australian and New Zealand actions during the campaign left us all a powerful legacy. The creation of what became known as the "ANZAC legend" became an important part of the identity of both nations, shaping the ways they viewed both their past and their future.

ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as Anzacs, and the pride they took in that name endures to this day.