

100 years later, allies and former enemies join for ANZAC Day at the Army War College

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April 24,
2015 --
The
colors
and

inspiration of Australia, New Zealand, Turkey and the United Kingdom were represented by USAWC International Fellows at an ANZAC Day centennial commemoration with their academic colleagues and community friends and families on the steps of the Army War College academic building, Root Hall, today at dawn.

Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' (ANZAC) actions at Gallipoli in 1915 in the battles to capture Constantinople (now Istanbul) in World War I have inspired movies, art, the ANZAC Legend that is now engrained in the identity of those nations, and annually, a commemoration at dawn across those countries, Turkey, and wherever Australian or New Zealand military personnel can gather colleagues in remembrance.



The Army War College

commemoration at Carlisle, Pa., included the small assembly in the traditions of a century: the hymn 'Abide with me,' a prayer with U.S. student Chap. (Col.) Jeff Hawkins, wreath laying, The Ode, The Last Post bugle call, and a moment of silence.

The ANZAC story is remarkable, said **New Zealand Fellow Col. Christopher Parsons**, who quoted from a 1993 address by Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating.

“The campaign was a costly failure. More broadly, the Great War was a ‘mad, brutal, awful struggle, distinguished more often than not by military and political incompetence; because the waste of human life was so terrible, some said victory was barely discernible from defeat; and because the war which was supposed to end all wars in fact sowed the seeds of a second even more terrible war – we might think those who made the ultimate sacrifice did so in vain.

“But in remember and honoring our war dead, as we always have and as we do today, we declare that this is not true,” said Parsons, quoting Keating. “This is surely the heart of



the ANZAC story.

“It is a legend not of sweeping military victory so much as triumphs against the odds, of courage and ingenuity in adversity. It is a legend of free and independent minds and spirits whose discipline and motivation were born of mateship and the demands of necessity.”

“In nine months, about 58,000 allied soldiers – including 29,000 British and Irish soldiers and 11,000 Australians and New Zealanders lost their lives during the ill-starred operation to take the Gallipoli peninsula; a further 87,000 Ottoman Turkish troops died fiercely defending their homeland, and at least 300,000 more on both sides were seriously wounded,” according to The Guardian’s ANZAC Day coverage, April 23, 2015.



Turkey’s Fellow Col. Taskin Heken, in the Army War College, class shared remarks from Kemal Ataturk in a 1934 tribute to the ANZACs who were killed in Gallipoli.

ANZAC Day is a reminder of what and who we lost, and of what we gained, according to **Australia’s Fellow Col. Simon Stuart**.

Seventy-nine military officers from across the globe study alongside U.S. military officers and senior federal agency civilians at the Army War College in its 2015 resident course.

USAWC Prof. Jim Shufelt renders honors with a bugle made in London in 1916 and carried by a former member of a new Zealand Territorial Army regiment on the Western Front in WWI. His grandson, Paul Barton of central Pennsylvania, loaned the bugle for the event, recounting that his grandfather played it every Remembrance Day until his death in the early 1970s.

