

I served 17 years in the RNZ Signals. During that time I was involved in various Trans Tasman exercises both in NZ and Australia including exercise Barra Winga 1969. In the middle to late 1950s as a communicator in Army HQ Wellington I operated on a direct Commonwealth Army network that was world wide, Our gateway was through the Australian network at Watsonia Vic.

We are here today to remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars. The Gallipoli campaign was where and when the ANZAC name was born and where it became a legend. BUT , who were these men who made the ANZAC such a memorable name, It was basically a citizens army consisting of volunteers from all walks of life

When WW1 began men enlisted in droves, It was patriotism a sense of adventure and probably a chance to travel the world that motivated them,. . The Australian and New Zealand soldier possess shared characteristics, that is, tenacity, courage, ingenuity, good humour and irreverence in the face of authority, The Aussie can be a bit of a larrakin the Kiwi a bit quieter or a bit more shy. both are disdainful of British class differences, will submit to discipline providing it serves a useful purpose. They love sport , have on many occasions played together and against each other, especially both rugby codes where no quarter is asked or given. They are not particularly fond of saluting unless the officer concerned has their respect.

When the Australians first landed at Gallipoli (in the wrong place) they were met with a murderous fire, they advanced and cleared a way for the Kiwis to land, Against all odds the ANZACs got to the heights finally driven back by a vastly larger force, but they were not driven back down to the beaches. Under constant turkish fire the ANZACs dug in and were never driven out of their trenches. On the 19th May at the battle of ANZAC a Turkish Army consisting of 40,000 were thrown against a force 17,000 ANZACs.

At the Nek a human wave swept forward and streamed inland through the New Zealand lines, the New Zealanders rallied poured fire into to the Turks as they rushed past, then counter attacked with fixed bayonets forcing the Turks back to the own trenches. Only at Courtney did the Turks capture an Australian trench This

was recaptured by Albert Jacka in an incredible act of heroism that earned him a VC. There were many other battles but I always believe that this battle was where the ANZACs came of age and the adjective "untried" disappeared in reference to ANZAC troops and with it any doubt as to their fighting abilities.

The ANZACS has great faith as to the fighting ability of each other. .

As the Kiwis said \"she'll be right - the Aussies are on the right. \" When the ANZACs finally evacuated Gallipoli they had held their line intact and were never defeated . They had earned the respect of the Turks and vice versa but more to the point the ANZACs had great trust and respect for each other which remains to this day.

Lastly the NZ "A" Division the first NZ troops to land consisted of the NZ Inf Bde

- NZ Mounted Rifles - 1st Australian Light horse - 4th Aust Inf Bde.

NZ casualties at Gallipoli 2721 Killed 4753 Wounded all this out of a total of 8450 men. that is an 88% casualty rate. Populations of NZ at that time -just under one million.

*I would like to thank the Chairman Terry Hunt and members of the Kempsey RSL for inviting me to lay the wreath and speak on behalf of the NZ Vets association on this auspicious day Thank you everybody*