

AFTER ACTION REPORT - Submitted by Mitch Holland - WW2 Jeeps NSW, Australia

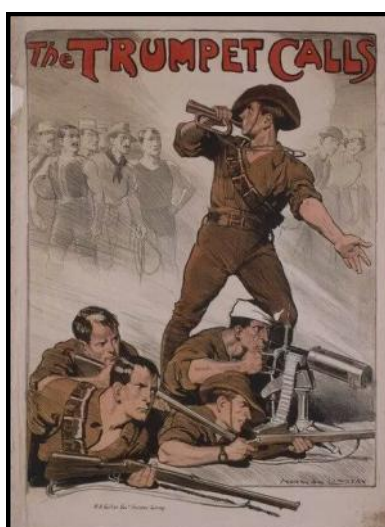
Brief history of the origins of ANZAC DAY

Like your Veteran's Day, ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Day, is celebrated annually on the 25th April every year, since 1916. The day was selected after the ill fated Gallipoli campaign that commenced one year before on the shores of the Dardanelles in Turkey during World War One. Australia as a developing nation under British Rule, was finally getting somewhere. It had undergone Federation in 1901 where the separate Colonies and States were brought together under one Government with its Capital in its own Territory and the City of Canberra. The First World War was to see our own Army sent abroad to help the Empire in its defeat of Germany and the Axis powers in a War that went on from bad to worse.

The full extent of the Gallipoli disaster was not known back home. Enlistment posters still portrayed an adventure to come and help your mates. It was eventually relayed in September by a journalist sent to report on mail irregularities. He sent a detailed report on the stalemate direct to the Australian Prime Minister which with his persistence at the British Command eventually lead to a fast tracking of an evacuation plan. The next few months before that top secret evacuation, the campaign basically ground to a halt as it was realised by the front lines that further attempts to charge each other will only lead to your certain death and not achieve anything. During this time there were frequent exchanges of food and fags between the frontline soldiers of the opposing armies.

The most successful part of the whole Gallipoli campaign was its eventual abandonment and the evacuation of the beachheads at Anzac and Helles in December 1915 and January 1916 respectively. The strong spirit of mateship within the Anzac ranks saw many of our Diggers wishing to be the last to depart as they did not want to leave their lost comrades. The following summation was written by C.E.W.Bean – Australia's Official Historian – *"yet for the withdrawing Anzacs, Gallipoli had a special meaning. It was not merely that 7,600 Australians and nearly 2,500 New Zealanders had been killed or mortally wounded there, and 24,000 more (19,000 Australians and 5,000 New Zealanders) had been wounded, while less than 100 were prisoners. But the standard set by the first companies at the first call – by the stretcher bearers, the medical officers, the staffs, the company leaders, the privates, the defaulters on the water barges, the Light Horse at The Nek – this was already part of the tradition not only of Anzac but of the Australian and New Zealand peoples. By dawn on December 20th Anzac had faded into a dim blue line lost amid other hills on the horizon as the ships took their human freight to Imbros, Lemnos and Egypt. But Anzac stood and still stands, for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship and endurance that will never own defeat"*.

Anzac day (25 April) was first celebrated on its first anniversary in 1916 by soldiers either repatriated home to Australia or at the other theatres of the continuing war. The need for our population to remember this day was so strong that the Commonwealth Government was restricting the use of the word Anzac to only commemorative events. This tradition continued for many years and was finally officially declared the day for Australians to remember their sacrifices. Following the end of World War One, when the guns fell silent on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month 1918, this day was celebrated throughout the Commonwealth and French countries as Armistice Day and one year later, was observed with two minutes silence. After the end of the World War Two, the name was changed to Remembrance Day to commemorate all war dead.



CAMDEN MILITARY TATTOO - MARCH 2015

Well organised by the Camden Show Society in association with the Camden Returned Services League to commemorate the Centenary of the ANZAC's in the South west of Sydney, NSW Australia.



Well attended with about a dozen Jeeps, several Landies, a Blitz, a Yankee Joe, a Dodge Weapons Carrier, a Fargo Truck and of course the Cinesound Chev from the Military Vehicle Clubs, as well as several Re enactor groups, WW1 vehicles, the Light Horse Group and even Simpson and his donkey!

As one can imagine with the 100 year anniversary of such an important event in our history, there will be a plethora of such commemorations happening throughout the year all over!



Simpson, was an Irishman who emigrated to Australia not long before the war and used a donkey to return injured soldiers to the beach head before being killed himself.



"Pssst - Hey Wolfy, do you wanna see some REAL Horse Power!!?"



Several thousand kids in the fair ground couldn't give two hoots, while the Tattoo in the presence of the Governor of NSW, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), witnessed various events with the NSW Mounted Police, Light Horse and rein actors which included a Gallipoli battle to celebrate the life and death of their own hero (Show President 1908 to 1915), Lieutenant Colonel Astley John Onslow Thompson, who was killed there. The quality of the display's was second to none and well liked by the crowds as well as the many who lined the main arena throughout the two hour Tattoo.

The NRG was represented by the addition of Bill Campbell's nifty flag holders to my Jeep! Cheers from "Orstalia" - MITCH



WW2 Jeeps NSW, members know how to find the FREE beer and Pizza!!