



THE LEMNOS GALLIPOLI COMMEMORATIVE MEMORIAL

As we approach the 2015 Centenary of Anzac, there is one major commemoration which is in need of re-dedication – that of the role of Lemnos and Australia’s nurses in the Gallipoli campaign.

The first major campaign by Australian forces (and the wider Anzac Corps) in the First World War, Gallipoli saw 50,000 Australian troops take part with over 8,700 killed and 19,000 wounded. The significance of this campaign to Australia and its part in Australian history has long been recognised. What has not been sufficiently recognised is the critical role the nearby Island of Lemnos played in the Gallipoli campaign, and the specific Australian aspects of this involvement.

The Lemnos Gallipoli Commemorative Committee seeks to promote recognition and commemoration of this role in the commemoration of Anzac both in Australia and overseas.

Lemnos’ role in Australia’s ANZAC legend should not be forgotten:

- Lemnos island Greece was the principal assembly, embarkation and supply point for the Gallipoli landings;
- The landings at Gallipoli were practiced on Lemnos prior to their deployment at Gallipoli and the islands’ harbour was a major staging post for naval operations in the Gallipoli campaign, including Australia’s AE2 submarine campaign;
- The vast majority of Anzac troops spent time on Lemnos – whether preparing for the landing, resting or recuperating at its rest camps or recovering from the horrors of war in its field hospitals;
- Lemnos was the location of the major nursing stations for the Gallipoli campaign, with 130 Australian nurses, led by Matron Grace Wilson - the first major overseas deployment of Australian Nurses to a war theatre;
- The recently formed Australian Red Cross Society was represented on the Island, through its aid depot and in the distribution of aid parcels to nurses and soldiers;
- A number of major Australian military figures visited and were photographed on the island, such as Albert Jacka VC and Generals Birdwood and Monash;
- The armistice concerning the allies and the Ottoman Empire was signed on board HMS Agamemnon in Mudros Harbour, Lemnos in 1918; and,
- Lemnos is the location of two major but under-recognised Commonwealth War Graves, with 148 Australian graves.

The Gallipoli campaign also brought Australians to Greece for the first time. The Lemnians welcomed and helped the Anzacs as they sought rest and recuperation on the Island. And they helped supply and supported the campaign. The 24 year old Melbourne cook born in Athens **Private Peter Rados**, came to Lemnos as an Anzac, and died at Gallipoli, buried with his comrades near Anzac Cove. Lemnos and Anzac represents the beginning of Australia's lasting connection with Greece.



Matron Grace Wilson on Lemnos

Sadly there is not a major memorial to the nurses on Lemnos, or even recognition of Lemnos' role in Gallipoli, in Australia. Apart from their mention as names on memorial plaques in a few places, the nurses of Lemnos and their vital role in the story of Anzac are in danger of being forgotten.

The Lemnos Gallipoli Commemorative Committee has been working to establish a major permanent memorial to the essential role of Lemnos in Australia's Anzac story and the role of the Australian nurses there during the Gallipoli campaign since 2011. Our Memorial is proposed to be erected of a major statue in Port Phillip, near where many of Victoria's Anzac soldiers and nurses departed. We are glad to have received the support of the City of Port Phillip for locating our Memorial in their City.

It is intended that an opportunity will also be provided for a copy of the Melbourne memorial to be erected on the Island of Lemnos itself.

Our Sculptor - Peter Corlett, OAM

Peter Corlett, OAM, Australia's leading commemorative sculptor has taken on the task of designing and creating this important new Memorial. Peter is one of Australia's most well regarded sculptors and has already completed many Anzac memorial sculptures, including Simpson and His Donkey at the Canberra War Memorial, the Bullecourt Digger in Bullecourt France, Australian Light Horse WW1 memorial sculpture at Be'er Sheva, Israel and the Cobbers statue at Fromelles in France. Details of Peter's work can be found at <http://petercorlett.com/index.html>



Peter Corlett addressing at the launch at Parliament House]

A Memorial for Lemnos, the Anzacs and the nurses.

A model of the design is pictured below. Its central feature will be of an Australian nurse on Lemnos, protecting an ill Anzac soldier returned from the peninsula, resting on a rough stone base, reflective of the Lemnian earth and motifs, evoking classical Greece. The statues will also subtly reflect classical Greek sculptural features. The area will include flag poles and places for wreaths for commemorative events. An information stand will explain the Lemnos Gallipoli connection in detail. It will be a place of pilgrimage, reflection and for commemorative events. A fitting memorial.

In designing the Memorial, Peter has been informed by the amazing photographic archive of the Anzac's presence on Lemnos in 1915 as well as the stories of Lemnos and its strong female characters stretching back to the ancient Greek legends.



Statue

Port Melbourne, Victoria and the Link to Lemnos and Anzac

The Memorial will be located in Port Melbourne. The location of the Lemnos Gallipoli Memorial Statue in the Municipality of Port Phillip is particular relevant. This Municipality has many links not only with Australia's Anzac legend but also with Lemnos and its role in the Gallipoli campaign. They are linked by the soldiers from Port Phillip who served on the Island and those who remain buried there (such as **Corporal George Knight** of Albert Park and **Driver Ralph Berryman** of South

Melbourne). They are linked through **Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Wilson**, the Doctor from Albert Park and the Port Phillip nurses who served there (such as **Staff Nurses Victoria Emilie Drewett** and **Clarice Jessie Daley**, of Port Melbourne and Elwood respectively) and cared for the sick and wounded Anzacs, including those from Port Phillip (like **Captain Harold Burke** of St Kilda). And through the famous Anzac soldiers and nurses who were there too – like **Corporal Albert Jacka VC**, a future Mayor of St Kilda and **Matron Grace Wilson**, of the 3rd Australian General Hospital and the future of Matron of the Alfred Hospital. And of course, Port Melbourne welcomed Victoria's new arrivals from Greece in the 1950's.

Yet Lemnos' connection to Australia – and especially Victoria – extends beyond Port Melbourne. Amongst the over 200 Anzacs buried on Lemnos are:

- 24 year old **Trooper Edward Somerville** of the 8th Australian Light Horse from Melbourne;
- 19 year old former labourer **Private Frank Hanley** of the 5th Batt and 22 year old Private Percy Graham 5th Battalion from Richmond;
- Carlton-born 20 year old **Private Cyril Leishman** of the 5th Field Ambulance;
- Middle Brighton's 54 year old **Colonel Richard Linton**, commanding the 6th Infantry Brigade;
- Brighton-born 24 year old **Private Thomas Carter** of the 5th Battalion;
- 25 year old Able **Seaman Thomas Chitts** of HMAS Brisbane and 20 year old **Private Horace Harton** of the 23rd Battalion – both from Sandringham;
- 23 year old **Private Herbert Claxton** of the 19th Battalion from Prahran;
- 20 year old **Private Leslie McMichael** of the 12th Battalion from Armadale; and,
- 24 year old **Private Oliver Holmes** of the 21st Battalion, 21 year old **Private Maurice Kalman** of the 23rd Battalion, and 39 year old **Major Francis Murphy** 17th Battalion – all from Malvern.

And they came from across Victoria – like **Private William Cleave Carstairs** of the 8th Battalion, who came from Lakes Entrance and **Private Roy Woolcock** of the 5th Battalion, from Trentham north of Melbourne. Roy enlisted at Albert Park, embarked from Port Melbourne aboard the *HMAT Orvioto*. Both William and Roy died and are buried on Lemnos.

And many other Victoria nurses served on Lemnos in 1915 - like 31 year old **Evelyn Davies** from Healesville and 32 year old **Gertrude Davis** from Warrnambool Brighton's 21 year old **Emily Brown** and 35 year old **Constance Cramer**, Malvern-born 40 year old **May Young** and 43 year old **Louise Ball**, along with Toorak-born 35 year old **P.M. Blundell**.

All of these – along with other Anzacs buried on Lemnos and the other nurses among the 130 Australian women who served on Lemnos – will be honoured by our new memorial to Lemnos' role in Gallipoli.

Donate Now - Help us make our project a reality

A major fundraising effort is now underway to make our Memorial proposal a reality. With sufficient community support we can make this an enduring monument and legacy of Australia's Anzac Centenary in 2015. If you are able to make a donation, we would welcome your support via:

- **Buying a Lemnos Gallipoli Memorial Badge.** This beautiful lapel pin, features the image of Australian nursing Matron, Grace Wilson, crossed by the flags of Australia and Greece. They cost \$5.
- **Making a donation by completing the Pledge Form.** Complete our Pledge Form and return to our Committee. Copies of our pledge can be downloaded from our Committee weblog page via the following link:
https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BykAwRt6w9_XdWNTZINNVWRhMFU/edit
- **Make a donation by depositing to the Memorial Fund into our bank account:** Account Name: Lemnos Gallipoli Commemorative Committee Inc; Account No: 204299-020 BSB No: 941300. Include your surname in the reference section.

If you would like further information on the Memorial or would like members of the Committee to address your organisation please contact either the Committee Secretary Jim Claven (at jimclaven@yahoo.com.au) or Committee President Lee Tarlamis (at lee.tarlamis@parliament.vic.gov.au).

For further information on the Lemnos Gallipoli Commemorative Committee and fact sheets on Lemnos' role in Anzac and Gallipoli, go to the Committee's weblog page via the following link:
<http://lemnosgallipolicc.blogspot.com.au/>