

The Lemnos Gallipoli Memorial

This memorial commemorates the role of the Greek Island of Lemnos in Australia's ANZAC story and is dedicated to the Australian nurses and soldiers who served there during the Gallipoli campaign in 1915, to the 148 Australian soldiers who remain buried there and to the local Lemnian community who supported them.

Lemnos and ANZAC

Situated in the northern Aegean only 80 kilometres from the Dardanelles, Lemnos was offered by Greece as the advanced base for the Gallipoli campaign. Its great Mudros Bay sheltered the Allies' 200 ships as they assembled for the landings on 25 April 1915.

A place of rest and care

The Anzac Rest Camp at Sarpi provided respite for Anzac soldiers from the Gallipoli battlefields, including General John Monash and the future Mayor of St Kilda, Corporal Albert Jacka, VC. The 3rd Australian General and the 2nd Australian Stationary Hospitals, staffed by 130 Australian nurses, were located on Lemnos' Turks Head peninsula. The nurses arrived on 8 August 1915, including Sister Clarice Jessie Daley. She served under Matron Grace Wilson - the Alfred Hospital's Matron after the war. Almost every one of the 50,000 Australian diggers who served at Gallipoli received medical care or rest on Lemnos. Many of those who arrived ill and wounded recovered with the care of Australia's nurses, as did St Kilda's Captain Harold Burke.

Lemnians and ANZACs

Despite their own hardships, the people of Lemnos welcomed the diggers and nurses into their homes, churches and schools. The Australians enjoyed this hospitality, tasting new foods, and taking donkey rides to the ancient hot springs at Therma. The famous John Simpson's donkey was from Lemnos. In October 1915, West Mudros was the location for the marriage of Sergeant Ernest Lawrence and Sister Clarice Jessie Daley, who would return to live in Elwood after the war. The villages visited by the Australians and the villagers who helped them are commemorated on the plinth of the memorial.

Those that remain

148 Australians remain in Lemnos' military cemeteries at East Mudros and Portianos. Among the diggers from the Port Phillip area who served at Gallipoli, local Albert Park electrician Corporal George Finlay Knight, St Kilda-born Private Cyril Thomas Leishman and South Melbourne-born Driver Ralph Berryman all lie buried on Lemnos, along with Second Lieutenant Alfred Jackson, and Privates Francis Carter and Roy Woolcock who all departed from Port Melbourne aboard the HMAT *Orvieto* on 21 October 1914 as part of the first convoy of troops.

Lest we forget