Navy League of the United States March-April 2025 Issue

The Ship's Bell

Placer County Council, Navy League of the United States Auburn, CA

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President's Message

By Becky Dunavent

Happy Spring! What a wonderful time we had at our March dinner meeting with so many young people attending from the youth groups we support. We were fortunate to have attendees from the Sacramento and Matthew Axelson Sea Cadet units, our two NJROTC units, and leadership and midshipmen of the month from the California Maritime Academy. This is always such a fun dinner meeting with all of these young people looking so sharp in their uniforms! Each of the attending groups gave a brief status report on their units and how the Navy League's financial helps them out.

Our support of youth continues into the month of April when several of our board members will be interviewing seniors for the Rose Hoeper Memorial Scholarship. Rose loved the Navy League, and she loved our youth. We are glad to be able to honor Rose in this way with the funds she bequeathed to our Council, which we used to create a scholarship at the Placer Community Foundation that will be awarded every year in her memory.

It's not too early to be thinking about the Big Day of Giving (Thursday, May 1) and once again our Council will participate in this huge fundraising event. It is because of your generous donations that we are able to support the Sea Cadet and NJROTC units and this is an easy way for you to donate to Placer County Navy League and other charities of your choice. Simply go to Big Day of Giving - Placer County Navy League. If you prefer to donate directly to the Council you may send a check payable to Placer County Navy League to PO Box 6135, Auburn, CA 95604. And, a HUGE thanks to Alicia Wilbur for being our Team Captain!

As announced at our March dinner meeting, the board voted to increase the price of our dinners to $22 starting at the May dinner meeting. It was only last June when we last raised our price but I know how much the price of groceries has gone up in the last year. This way we can continue to offer a good dinner with the very best of Navy League camaraderie!

Be sure to mark your calendars for our April dinner meeting - Monday, April 14th. Our scheduled speaker is due to be Donald G. Treco, Gumshoe Detective Agency, with an updated Amelia Earhart Program. We hope to see you there!

Lastly, please remember the courageous men and women of all of our armed Services who selflessly defend our freedom, whether at home or abroad!
Please take care!

Becky

2025 NLUS ANNUAL INSPECTION

By: PO1 Maylin Liu (Sacramento Division)

"Anchors Aweigh, my boys, Anchors Aweigh" rang out through the air, as Sacramento Division and T.S. California marched proudly in the pass and review, the final step of their Annual Inspection. This timeless hymn, sung with deep pride, perfectly embodies the spirit and unity of our unit, capturing the essence of esprit de corps that defines us as Sea Cadets.

On the 16th of February, 2025, we gathered for our Annual Inspection—a day that holds special meaning for everyone involved: cadets, inspectors, and spectators alike. This is a day that takes months of preparation, and this year was no different. For weeks leading up to the event, cadets worked hard to perfect the skills that define us as Sea Cadets.

From long drill days to community service events and training sessions, each experience has shaped us into the cadets who stood proudly before you on inspection day. Every weekend, we give our absolute best—even when it's tough—because we know that the effort we put in will shine through, especially on days like this. We are deeply thankful for the incredible staff who support us in every way, helping us reach our full potential. A special thank you to LT Kelleher, our commanding officer, whose leadership and guidance inspires us all. We are truly fortunate to have such a remarkable team of officers behind us.

It required all hands on deck to ensure everything ran smoothly. Our officers worked diligently to keep cadet paperwork up-to-date, while the supply team made sure every uniform was perfectly prepared. Invitations for distinguished guests were coordinated, and countless other details were handled with care. It was a collective effort, with each person playing a crucial role in making the inspection a success. In full Dress Blues, every cadet took great care to ensure his and her uniform was in perfect condition—shoes gleaming, ribbons meticulously aligned, and covers worn with pride. Cadet leadership took the time to inspect each uniform individually, ensuring that every piece fit perfectly and met the required standards. Uniforms were carefully ironed, with creases placed precisely where they should be. Cadets worked together to double-check that all pieces were accounted for, holding each other accountable and demonstrating the teamwork that defines us. Standing in formation, we showcased the precision and discipline expected of us. Captain Rebecca Dunavent and other esteemed officers, LCDR Duong, HMC "Chief" Manoogian, and LT Gordon conducted a thorough inspection, carefully evaluating everything from uniform presentation to drill proficiency. Their keen attention to detail reminded us all of the importance of upholding high standards and continuously striving for growth.

Under the guidance of Petty Officers First Class Alex Kasel, NSCC LPO of Sacramento Division and Sydnie Hoeltje, NSCC Company Commander of Training Ship California, our cadets exhibited exceptional dedication and professionalism. It's worth noting that PO1 Kasel was honored with the inaugural NSCC Junior Cadet of the Year award. This accomplishment serves as an inspiration to us all, reinforcing the values of hard work and perseverance.

Furthermore, Chief Petty Officer Bortoletto was honored as the NSCC Cadet of the Year, a well-deserved recognition of his leadership and commitment to excellence. This recognition is a reflection of his exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication, qualities he has exemplified throughout his years with us. Chief Bortoletto's influence goes far beyond his words; his actions have inspired and guided countless cadets, always with a heart committed to their growth and success. As he embarks on his final year with our unit,

his impact is felt more profoundly than ever. Alongside PO1 Kasel and PO1 Hoeltje, Chief Bortoletto has shaped the lives of so many cadets. Their leadership will continue to resonate within the Sacramento/TS California combined unit, and we are beyond grateful for the lasting mark they've made.

PO1 Joy Rothberg led the Honor Guard team, proudly guiding the Sea Cadets onto the main deck as they presented the colors with great honor. The team, made up of SA Thinh Le (right rifle), PO3 Rex Levinson (TS California flag), PO1 Angelina Zha (the ensign), PO3 Shelby Mantzouranis (Sacramento Division flag), and SA Evieanna Lopez (left rifle), performed their duties with the utmost precision and respect. A military honor guard is entrusted with the important task of carrying and presenting the national flag at ceremonies and parades. They symbolize our unit and our country, carrying the flag with honor and performing movements to show respect. At this moment, they protected and displayed the colors, embodying the pride and tradition we hold dear.

In conclusion, the inspection was a resounding success and a moment of immense pride for all who were present. A heartfelt HOOYAH to all the cadets for their unwavering dedication and hard work! As we look forward to our next inspection, let us carry this wonderful momentum forward.

Above & Below (left to right): T.S. California and Sacramento Division in formation, ready for inspection. Officers seen applauding cadets for their dedication and commitment throughout the year (Photograph courtesy of PO1 Maylin Liu).

Youth Group Updates

By Becky Dunavent

February 16, 2025

Sacramento Division Sea Cadets and TS Randy Goodman

Annual Inspection

It was a beautiful Sunday morning in Sacramento on February 16, 2025 when the unit held its 2025 inspection. The Sea Cadets and League Cadets had their uniforms looking sharp and there were many proud friends and family members that looked on as the troops were inspected and then proudly marched around the parade ground.

March 22, 2025

On Saturday, March 22, 2025, Becky Dunavent (CAPT, USN, ret) travelled to Redding to attend the Shasta Division Sea Cadets chief's pinning, change-of-command, and annual inspection. There were three new chief petty officers pinned: CPO Robert Flower, CPO Shawn VanHorn, and SPO Paisley Larsen. Once the new chiefs were pinned, the LT Van Horn Turned over command to LT Robert Flower. From there, things moved outside where the troops were looking sharp as the annual inspection was performed. Bravo Zulu to all of you!

Top Left: The three new chief petty officers looking sharp in their khaki uniforms. Left to right: CPO Robert Flower, CPO Shawn VanHorn, and CPO Paisley Larsen.

Top Right: CAPT Becky Dunavent and LT Smith performing the annual inspection. The cadets stood tall and proud!

Left: Outgoing Shasta Division Commanding Officer LT Heather VanHorn and incoming Commanding Officer LTJG Robert Flower. LT VanHorn is stepping up to replace LT Jason Simith as Regional Director.
(Photographs courtesy of Rebecca Dunavent).

Youth Group Updates

Above: TS Randy Goodman League Cadets.

Below: Sacramento Division Sea Cadets.
(Photographs courtesy of Rebecca Dunavent).

Youth Group Updates

Above Left: CPO Bortoletto receiving Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal.

Above Right: PO1 Kasel receiving Theodore Roosevelt Youth Ribbon.

Below: Sacramento Division Color Guard.
(Photographs courtesy of Rebecca Dunavent).

Victory Village

By Don Goard

Victory Village has facilities in Jackson, California, that, for over a decade, provide housing services for veterans in the southern counties of the Gold Country. They include transitional and permanent housing for veterans and families. They also provide other general veteran assistance services.

More recently, they have established an office and residential facility in Auburn to serve Placer and Nevada Counties.

This dinner will be their largest fund-raiser for the year.

Sacramento Division CyberPatriot National Finals Competition

By PO1 Angelina Zha

On March 14-18, 2025, Sacramento Division High School Team attended the CyberPatriot 17 National Finals Competition in Rockville, Maryland. CyberPatriot is one of the largest cybersecurity competitions. A total of 28 National Finalist teams across the country competed for the National Championship in their respective divisions after starting with 5,050 teams.

The competition kicked off on March 15 with the opening ceremony in the morning, followed by competition orientation and system familiarization. The team had a pleasant surprise during lunch time. Admiral Lennon came in person to meet us! He sat down with both USNSCC teams and chatted cordially with everyone. He asked about our thoughts on the USNSCC program, what type of challenges we encountered during training, and any feedback on training. What impressed me most was his insights on leadership. He also shared his stories with us and answered questions from the team.

To make his visit even more unforgettable, Admiral Lennon presented every one of us a challenge coin! Challenge coins are hard to earn and signify recognition of special achievement. We proudly display our challenge coins as a symbol of accomplishment and dedication.

On the competition day, March 16, all teams faced the ultimate CyberPatriot challenges. We were tasked to resolve real-world cybersecurity problems in Network Security Master Challenge, Cisco NetAcad Challenge, and Boeing Cyber Physical System Challenge. This was a real test of our technical skills and ability to work together in network security, system defense, and critical infrastructure protection. The National Finals Competition was most certainly very challenging and stressful, yet also an eye opening and motivating experience that inspires us to continue learning and improving.

The National Finals Competition came to a close on March 17. In the evening, at the Awards Banquet, guest speakers greeted all competitors and the winning teams were announced. Besides attending the competition, we also had the great opportunity to connect with other teams across the country.

On our free day, we travelled to Washington D.C. for sightseeing. The National Mall was a historic and beautiful place to tour around. The team visited Washington Monument, World War II Memorial, Reflecting Pool, National Museum of American History, and National Museum of Natural History. We also wanted to see the well known cherry blossoms in D.C., but sadly it was too early and we missed the National Cherry Blossom Festival by a few days. After completing a challenging competition, we enjoyed a very relaxing and amazing trip.

It was an exceptionally memorable and rewarding experience for the whole team. Our trip was filled with challenge, gain, surprise, and joy. We hope to be back again in Maryland for CyberPatriot 18 National Finals in 2026!

Left: CyberPatriot 17 National Finals (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).
Opposite Page: All Service Division (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

Sacramento Division CyberPatriot National Finals Competition

Top Left: Admiral Lennon with Sacramento Division (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).
Top Right: Admiral Lennon with Sacramento Division (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

Left: Admiral Lennon with Sacramento Division (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

Bottom Left: Admiral Lennon with Sacramento Division (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

Bottom Right: Admiral Lennon with Sacramento Division (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

Sacramento Division CyberPatriot National Finals Competition

Left: Sacramento Division at National Finals (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

Left: Sacramento Division at National Finals (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

Left: Sacramento Division at National Finals (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

Sacramento Division CyberPatriot National Finals Competition

Left: Sacramento Division at National Finals (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

Right: Fun trip to Washington D.C. (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

Left: Fun trip to Washington D.C. (Photograph Courtesy of PO1 Angelina Zha).

The Origins of ANZAC Day

By Natalie Brennan

While listening to my favorite Swedish heavy metal band Sabaton, their song *Cliffs of Gallipoli* began playing, and it got me thinking. Since April 25 is ANZAC Day, and one of my former graduate school classmates, who was born in New Zealand, told me how ANZAC Day is Memorial Day for the Australians and New Zealanders, I thought I'd write about the origin of this holiday.

The holiday was declared official on April 25, 1916, one year after the Allies invaded the Dardanelles and shortly after their decisive defeat at Gallipoli at the hands of the Ottoman Empire in January 1916. To fully understand the reasons for the holiday's origins and why there were attempts to take the Dardanelles, and Gallipoli by extension, one must first understand the empire whose territory extended into Gallipoli itself.

Why Gallipoli?

The infamous Gallipoli campaign occurred due to the Dardanelle peninsula being what separated the European and Asian continents. According to historian John Keegan, the Dardanelle passage was thirty miles long, less than a mile wide at its narrowest point, and in 1915, the European portion of the shoreline was part of Turkey's territory. The Ottoman Empire had, at its height between the 16th and 17th centuries, encompassed parts the continents of North Africa, Southeastern Europe, and Western Asia. By World War I, it was on its proverbial last leg. According to the International Encyclopedia of the First World War, this was due to the empire being isolated and weakened by treaties with the European Powers, which capitulated Turkey's sovereignty by allowing Europe to interfere in the Ottoman's internal affairs. On top of the Ottoman's recent defeats in the Balkan Wars of 1912 and 1913, which fully showed their vulnerability and shattered their military prestige, the European Powers of Britain, France, and Germany agreed to divide the Asian portion of the Ottoman Empire amongst themselves for economic interest. World War I was, for all intents and purposes, the Ottoman's last bid for survival. Therefore, the Ottoman Empire aimed to achieve three goals. The first goal was to ensure its survival and long-term security; the second goal was to establish itself as a fully independent and sovereign state so as to prevent Europe from dividing it up; the last goal was to extend its territory and influence to the Balkans, Iran, North Africa, and the Caucasus. The Ottoman Empire hoped to achieve these war aims by allying themselves to the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary.

According to Keegan, Russian Tsars had a long-standing ambition to complete their hundreds of years of trying to seize Istanbul, formerly known as Constantinople—the center of the Byzantine Empire—thereby recovering the seat of Orthodox Christianity from Islam while also gaining the added bonus of securing permanent southward access to warm waters that lead to the sea, and by extension, their allies. While France and Great Britain were not inclined to partake in the war aims of Russia, the crisis of 1914-15 made them consider opening a new front in Turkey so as to provide relief for their ally and break the impasse on the Western Front, which had already begun to devolve into the stalemate of trench warfare. British interest in Mesopotamia and Suez were other reasons that the British were soon taken with the idea of invading Turkey because Suez would allow a quicker route to India. The Dardanelles was one promising location to open this new front, and gained British support by 1915.

On January 2, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia sent a telegram to London asking for help in repelling an Ottoman attack in the Caucasus by launching a diversionary tactic elsewhere. Nicholas' telegram reached the British First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill, who was immediately convinced by the Secretary of State for War, Kitchener, to launch a landing party in the Dardanelles. The reason why Churchill was convinced to land a party there was because

on November 3, when Turkey declared themselves allies of the Central Powers, Churchill sent the British Aegean squadron to bombard the Dardanelles shoreline. This bombardment successfully managed to destroy most of the Turks' heavy gun batteries in the process. Though after the batteries were destroyed, the British ships did not attempt to penetrate further into the Dardanelles. The destruction of the gun batteries and the navy's initial success aided in Churchill's belief that naval power could conceivably be used against the Dardanelles strategically so that a landing party could gain a foothold.

The Planning

However, the beginning of the disaster at Gallipoli began long before the campaign itself started. This was due in part to the British War Cabinet initially rejecting Churchill's proposals for an amphibious landing at Gallipoli—even with Churchill's additional support of the First Sea Lord, Admiral Fisher, who urged a joint-naval and military attack on Turkey. The initial rejection was namely because the War Cabinet were coming to terms with the fact that the trench warfare in France and Belgium was doing away with the traditional warfare of the old times: namely the disappearance of 'flanks' in warfare that helped to determine the decisiveness of battle results. The War Cabinet had to accept that such flanks must now be sought beyond the Western Front.

Additionally, despite the success of destroying the gun batteries the first time, according to the Smithsonian's book *World War I: The Definitive History*, the Royal Navy still believed that being able to penetrate into the Dardanelles was impossible. Their fears were due to the fact that the Dardanelles were still blocked by minefields while both sides of the channel were bristling with fortresses and mobile German howitzers that had succeeded in sinking three Allied battleships prior to the first bombardment. During this time, the idea of attacking Turkey wound up sitting in what might best be referred to as 'development hell.' This waiting and debating on what the best strategies would be amongst the Allies allowed the Ottomans to rebuild their gun batteries and dig in a defensive line along the Dardanelles. The initial success of the British navy wound up going to waste.

Eventually, Churchill managed to convince Fisher—who had grown reluctant to accept the idea of opening the new front in Turkey—to experiment with an invasion of the Dardanelles. Churchill had received command of a fleet of old French and British battleships, including the new prototype super-Dreadnought class ships, whose guns would batter the Dardanelles fortifications. Along with the naval force, a landing force of around 500,000 men from India, England, France, French colonial soldiers, Gurkhas, Newfoundland, and ANZACs (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) were deployed to Gallipoli. According to John Keegan, the soldiers of the British 29th Division were regulars of the pre-war army who were collected from the overseas garrisons in France before being moved to Egypt in case they were needed at Gallipoli. The ANZACs (Australians, New Zealanders, and Māori), on the other hand, were citizen soldiers who were used to tough, daily outdoor activity, or as Keegan says, "products of the most comprehensive militia system in the world, which trained every male from early school age upwards for military service and enrolled all fit men in their local regiments," while "to be a New Zealander in 1914 was to be taught that: 'The Empire looks to you to be ready in a time of need, to think, to labour and to bear hardships on its behalf.'"

Despite the equipment that was to be used and the professional fighting force that was to be deployed, the Allied planners, namely the commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, General Sir Ian Hamilton, ignored one very critical flaw. This flaw would be the entire operation's undoing, and it was the arrogant notion that the Ottoman defenders were too weak to stand up to an invading force. The outcome, as previously indicated, was that the Ottomans did not retreat and break with the initial naval bombardment, but instead dug in with the intent to fight to the end.

The Green Light

The advance began on March 18 with sixteen pre-Dreadnought battleships, twelve being British and four French, assembling in three lines abreast. According to John Keegan, "even in the long naval history of the Dardanelles, such an armada had never been seen before." The ships' guns opened up, bombarding the Ottoman gun batteries, but despite their best efforts, the naval attacks failed to destroy these defenses, and it became clear to the Allies and the Ottomans that the only way to successfully take the Dardanelles would be to send troops in to seize the peninsula themselves. According to the National Army Museum, a landing party of assault troops was the only way to enable the Royal Navy to force their way into the straits and take Constantinople. Taking Constantinople would have been a strategic victory for the Allies because it would take pressure off of the Western Front as well as helping Russia open a supply route in the Black Sea, and a bonus psychological defeat for the Ottomans that could knock them out of the war completely due to the fall of their capital. However, the Allies' naval operation had alerted the Ottomans and their German allies to what was coming, not to mention that the Allies were not trying to hide their intentions, resulting in the Allied landing losing its vital element of surprise.

The following is an almost eerie prequel to the D-Day landings in Normandy during World War II, and can explain why the British—especially Churchill—were extremely reluctant to green-light Operation OVERLORD, rejecting it two other times during 1942-43. The landings themselves occurred on April 25, 1915. While the French forces attempted to divert the Ottomans' attention at Kum Kale, the British 29th Division landed on the tip of the peninsula at Cape Helles with the goal of capturing Krithia and the high ground at Achi Baba before pushing north and joining with the ANZACs at Gaba Tepe—later known as Anzac Cove—to take the fortresses on the high ground overlooking the straits.

Gaba Tepe—Anzac Cove

When the ANZAC's landing crafts touched the beaches in the night, the Ottoman guns opened up, causing mass confusion amongst the ANZACs despite the fact that they were not even facing a large enemy force and soon, their wounded and dead began to litter the beach. The outnumbered Ottomans withdrew to the high ground, where they had prepared trenches, being able to rain fire down on the invaders as the sun rose. The ANZACs were ordered not to load their rifles during the landings, instead to fix bayonets and rush up the heights. However, in the dim morning light, it was extremely difficult to see where to go and many got stuck in the thorny undergrowth. All the while, the Ottomans fired at them and withdrew to trenches higher up the cliffs. The ANZACs were left in the open, trying to make sense of the landscape and navigate the thorns and slippery rocks, many falling to the accuracy of Ottoman snipers.

The Ottoman divisional commander, General Mustafa Kemal (later known as Atatürk), saw that the ANZAC landings were not a diversion and posed a danger to the defense of the peninsula. While leading his division to the highest point above Anzac Cove, Kemal encountered men who were coming from the beaches. The soldiers informed him that the ANZACs were moving up the cliffs at a rapid pace, and the defenders were without ammunition. To counter this threat, Kemal personally led his 19th Regiment in a counter offensive, ordering the retreating soldiers and his men to fix bayonets, stating "I don't order you to attack—I order you to die. In the time which passes until we die, other troops and commanders can take our place." Kemel and his division succeeded in eventually pinning the shocked and surprised ANZACs above Anzac Cove and surrounded them with the sea to their backs. Any ANZAC attempt to climb the cliffs was met with gunfire from an enemy that they could not see.

Cape Helles & the 29th Division

If the ANZACs had it bad where they were, the British potentially had it even worse. Where they landed at Cape Helles, it was the very tip of Gallipoli, the entrance into the Dardanelles itself. Unlike Anzac Cove, the Ottomans knew that Cape Helles was a landing zone and did everything they could to bulk its defenses. Many British troops were hit with bullets before they even landed on the beaches; panic took over some and they jumped into the water, only to drown due to their now-waterlogged heavy kits. The ones who managed to land were then faced with lines of thick barbed wire, and soon the beach was littered with corpses, the water running red with blood.

The 29th Division landed on five beaches at Cape Helles: Y Beach, X Beach, W Beach, V Beach, and S Beach. Y Beach in comparison to the other four was not as heavily defended and the British troops managed to advance to within 1/3 of a mile of Krithia. However, the following day the beach was evacuated once Ottoman reinforcements arrived, leaving the beach shot to pieces. The attacks on X and S Beaches broke down the same way with little successful results. W and V Beaches were far more well-defended positions and the British troops suffered heavy casualties. According to the National Army Museum, at V Beach, once the British disembarked from their troopship, they faced heavy machine gun fire that resulted in only 21 making it ashore out of 200 in the first wave. Not even the French Army's success at Kum Kale on the Asian side of Turkey, which actually had more Ottoman troops than on the European side, was enough to help the British and ANZACs.

At W Beach, the fighting was so ferocious that the Lancashire Fusiliers won six Victoria Crosses "before breakfast," while another two were awarded to sailors who "struggled in the sea to hold steady the lighters bridging the gap between *River Clyde* and the shore." While most of the troop boats beached, the Lancashire Fusiliers found that they encountered a mass of barbed wire on the beach, behind which the entrenched Ottomans were shooting everyone in the sea with rifle and machine gun fire. According to John Keegan, Major Shaw of the Lancashire Fusiliers remembered that "the sea behind was absolutely crimson, and you could hear the groans through the rattle of musketry. A few were firing. I signaled to them to advance… I then perceived they were all hit." Amidst the gruesome scenes, some Fusiliers succeeded in breaking through the wire and advancing. Despite the survivors succeeding to consolidate a foothold by evening, their efforts were costly, because out of the 950 men who landed, 500 were killed and wounded. Their landing zone at W beach has since become known as Lancashire Landing.

By evening, the beaches had been secured, but casualties were high; out of the 300,000 men who landed, 2,000 were killed and wounded at Anzac Cove and at least 2,000 at Cape Helles, with the numbers steadily rising every hour. According to John Keegan, what should have alarmed the British commanders of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) was that the injuries of their own troops had been done by so few of the enemy. They had grossly underestimated the Ottoman strength and commitment to defending the Dardanelles. As stated previously, the Ottoman division commander General Mustafa Kemal, had managed to rally the divisions who were being pushed back by the MEF by ordering them to lie down and fix bayonets after running out of ammunition. Kemal reflected that "at the same time I sent my orderly officer… off to the rear to bring up to where I was at the double those men of the [57th Regiment] who were advancing [behind me]."

The Australians had seen Kemal on the crest of the cliff and tried unsuccessfully to shoot him. Their additional failure to push forward to the tops of the cliffs may be judged "the vital moment of the campaign" for Kemal because as soon as his troops were behind him, he began to launch a series of counter attacks against the Australian line. These counter attacks lasted until nightfall, followed by a series of constant pushing back and forth between the Australians and Ottomans. Every time the Australian wounded were escorted and carried down

the narrow strip to the beach, new, fresh troops would replace them. This process was repeated every day for as long as the campaign lasted and solidified itself into every ANZAC's memory of the event.

The Long Battle & Evacuation

On Anzac Cove, by May 4, both parties were exhausted with the ANZACs losing 10,000 men and the Ottomans losing 14,000. After this day, Kemal conceded that the Australians were too tenacious to be driven back into the sea, so he ordered his troops to dig in. The plague of trench warfare, what the Allies had wanted to avoid and take pressure off of the Western Front's trenches, had at last reached Gallipoli. Skirmishes were daily occurrences at locations like Lone Pine, Battleship Hill, and Dead Man's Ridge and the fighting was always savage. However, there was a surprising new addition to certain areas of Gallipoli: camaraderie with the enemy.

At Anzac Cove, the ANZACs had actually succeeded in finding ways to communicate with the enemy. It was true that both parties were having an extremely difficult time and neither side wanted to die needlessly, so in a way, enemies had actually become friendly acquaintances. For example, Australians would occasionally throw cigarettes packs and cans of bully beef to the Ottoman lines. The French also had their own mutual agreement with the Ottomans as well. If either side needed to travel through the narrow gullies of No Man's Land to get fresh water, they would find little flags marking the path that would take them to water, and so long as they did not cross over the flags, they would not get shot by the enemy. These instances, however, only really occurred with the French and the ANZACs. For the British, there was no fraternization and the Ottomans felt the same, viewing the British imperialists as the war's true aggressors, since the British were looking to carve up Turkey and share it with the Russian empire.

On top of the fighting being extremely savage along the beaches and frontlines, the weather's hot summer months lead to diseases like dysentery, and dehydration. Flies swarmed the rotting corpses and morale was at an all-time low to the point where there were questions arising about what the point of the campaign was. For the Ottoman's the answer was simple: they were defending their homeland. But for the Allies, the true purpose for the Gallipoli campaign had long since been lost. However, the Allied command did not know what the best outcome was; they could not truly afford to send in fresh soldiers into a veritable meat grinder, but they also could not afford to pull out of Gallipoli either. For Secretary of War Lord Kitchner, an evacuation would harm British prestige in the Islamic world, and he wanted to avoid such a possibility, especially because some of their vital imperial assets like Suez were within Islamic countries.

In August, a new beach landing was made along with an attempt to break out of Anzac Cove to take the high ground of Sari Bair. While the ANZACs still retained their tenacity despite the brutal hardships they endured, these new landings and breakout attempts still met the same problems that the very first landings faced. The battles brought no major changes to the situation and more men became casualties. The fighting for the rest of the year along all of the beaches and bridgeheads were savage, the garrisons slowly slipping away between December 1915 and January 1916 and the troops were completely exhausted and demoralized. By the time October rolled around and winter set in, talks of evacuation finally began to float around. Sir Ian Hamilton was replaced by Sir Charles Monro as commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, who was a lot more realistic about what was happening upon visiting three landing zones. Monro's conclusion was that the campaign was a complete, disastrous failure; the Ottomans still had control of the high ground and no amount of renewed assaults were going to push them off. Kitchner initially did not believe Monro's assessment of the situation until he visited Gallipoli himself and was unable to hide his shock. The order for evacuation was approved by the war committee in November 1915.

Evacuating thousands of troops was easier said than done because of the huge risk of the Ottomans massacring the Allies if they caught wind of what was going on. But at the same time, if the better-supplied Ottomans did not kill the Allied troops, the winter would due to the freezing rain and winds pummeling the troops and frostbite taking hold of their bodies. The evacuation was achieved by diverting the Ottoman's attention away from the frontlines. This was done by not responding to the Ottoman artillery and machine gun fire. When the Ottomans would approach the silent trenches, they would be repelled by Allied fire. Eventually the Ottomans grew used to the silence from their enemy's trenches, all the while the Allies would slowly evacuate their men until only a screening group was left. Sappers would booby trap their trenches and supplies, detonating them, the explosions distracting the Ottomans as the last men were pulled out.

According to Keegan, by January 9, 1916, Anzac Cove and Cape Helles had been emptied of Allied troops. The evacuation of Cape Helles specifically was tricky due to the troops having their nerves completely shot due to the fear that if the Ottomans figured out what was happening, they could potentially overrun the beaches. The Allies continued to confuse the Ottomans with their silence and diversionary tactics while the British troops were being pulled out. Only when the last British soldier was evacuated off the beaches, did an Ottoman patrol figure out what was going on. For all intents and purposes, the evacuations of the Gallipoli peninsula was the only successful event within the entire campaign.

The disaster of Gallipoli haunted many who participated in the campaign, from the front lines to the War Cabinet and planners. The First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, was demoted after the disaster and resigned from the government, his participating in the planning resulting in him taking the blame for the defeat. While Churchill would eventually rise to become Prime Minister, leading Great Britain through World War II. Gallipoli never left him, however, as he was extremely reluctant to allow the American plan to open another front in north France. While Operation OVERLORD did succeed, Churchill's and Britain's fears of having D-Day be another even worse repeat of Gallipoli was all too real.

ANZAC Day and Gallipoli Now

By the time the Gallipoli campaign officially ended with the last evacuation on January 9, 1916, the Ottomans had probably lost 300,000 men—they never bothered to bury or count their dead. The Allies lost 265,000 men; the British 29th Division lost its strength two times over throughout the campaign, the New Zealanders—who contributed 8,566 men to the campaign—suffered 14,720 casualties, including the wounded who returned to the fighting two to three times. However, out of all the contingents who fought at Gallipoli, the Australians perhaps suffered the most and were marked by the experience, remembering the campaign the most deeply. John Keegan explains that "citizens of an only recently federated country in 1915, they went as soldiers of the forces of six separate nations. They came back, it is so often said, members of one nation." This is why ANZAC Day is a sacred event in Australia—as well as New Zealand—and why the sunrise ceremony is observed by all ages in the land down under. For the ANZACs, Gallipoli has become part of their national identity, because it was quite literally their baptism by fire—an experience that was completely separate from the British. For the Turks, the campaign emphasized a bond of friendship between enemies; they shared the same feelings of valor and national pride, of sacrifice and loss along with the Allies.

As for Gallipoli itself, Anzac Cove has become a shrine, the peninsula is a Turkish national park with a memorial erected by Mustapha Kemal Ataturk. Ataturk, who became president of Turkey after the war, recalled the suffering of all parties involved in the fighting and wanting to remember the sacrifices of everyone. As stated, the Turks saw the campaign as reenforcing bonds of friendship with their former enemies, seeing as they all endured the same hardships. Ataturk himself was quoted in 1934 to have stated in reference to the ANZACs and

Allies who fell at Gallipoli: “those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives. You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are at peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well.” That speech has been immortalized on the memorial wall at Gallipoli.

While the British and French veterans and their descendants don’t make annual trips to Gallipoli, those who do are moved by the appearance of young Australian men and women who traveled to this proverbial Mecca where their grandfathers and great-grandfathers fought and died. Two-thirds of Australians who went to fight in World War I became casualties and the first of their nation’s war heroes won their medals along Anzac Cove. Their grand and great-grandchildren bring their medals to Gallipoli on their pilgrimage to the hallowed ground of Anzac Cove, to reconsecrate the symbols of the ANZAC spirit.

There is a whole lot more to the Gallipoli campaign that could, and has, filled out multiple books, so go and read those too. I was inspired to write about it by my favorite Swedish heavy metal band that I am going to reference and credit to the end of time for half of the stories I write in these newsletters. Their song *Cliffs of Gallipoli* is more like a mournful ballad rather than a rock song that continues to hit me in the gut and I highly recommend you listen to it. Even if heavy metal is not your cup of musical tea, I do strongly recommend at the very least checking out their YouTube channel Sabaton History where they go into the history of the event that their songs are about. So concludes my article on the Gallipoli campaign and the origins of ANZAC Day, celebrated on the anniversary of the landings.

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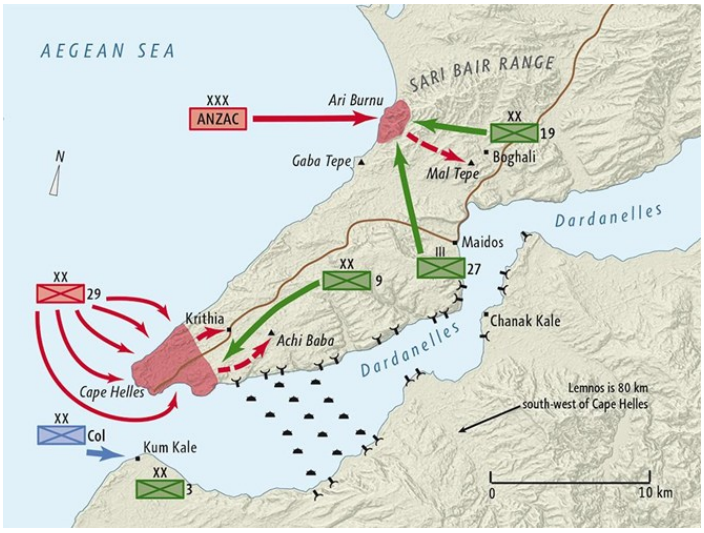

Left: Map of the Dardanelles during the Gallipoli campaign (Photograph found on https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/gallipoli-invasion-map).

Above: Australian soldier giving wounded Ottoman soldier water circa 1915.
Below: Australians landing on Anzac Cove April 25 1915 (Photographs found on https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/15-photos-of-the-anzacs-at-gallipoli).

Above: General Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who led the 19th division against the ANZACs and became president in post-war Turkey (Photograph found on https://libnews.binghamton.edu/specialcollections/2017/05/19/mustafa-kemal-ataturk-the-first-president-of-turkey/).

Below: Çanakkale Martyrs' Memorial dedicated to the tens of thousands of Ottoman troops who died at Gallipoli. (Photograph found on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallipoli_Peninsula_Historical_Site).

Above: Anzac Cove Memorial at Gallipoli with Ataturk's declaration (Photograph found on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallipoli_Peninsula_Historical_Site)

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Special thanks goes to one of our Community Affiliates, Lassila Funeral Chapel, Chapel of the Hills, and TGH Aviation. Your partnership with the Placer County Council Navy League is most appreciated.

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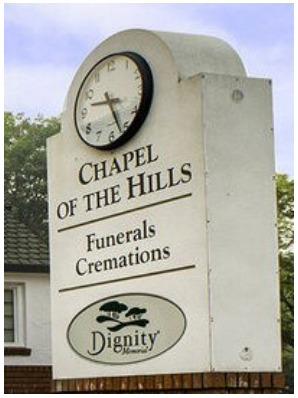

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