THE GALLIPOLIAN

Christmas & New Year Greetings

from the

President, Officers & Committee

to all members of the

GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION

Price to non-members
2/6

Christmas
1969

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THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION

(Founded in 1969 on the campaign of 1915)

PRESIDENT - - - - - - - -	Brigadier B B Rackham CBE MC DL
CHAIRMAN & HONORARY SECRETARY	Major E H W Banner TD Claydene Cowden EDENBRIDGE Kent
HONORARY TREASURER - - -	A K Kirk
COMMITTEE - - - - - - - -	Lt Cmdr F E Garner DSC RN (Ret) H J Sayers Lt Col F C Stigant

LIAISON

Lt Cmdr F E Garner DSC RN (Ret)
Gallipoli Legion of Anzacs of Western Australia
New Zealand Gallipoli Association

F A Kennedy MBE (Anzac) **Honorary Public Relations & Information Officer for the Returned Soldiers League of Australia**

Captain E F Wettern RE RND **French Dardanelles Association**

Major E H W Banner TD
Turkish War Veterans Association (as honorary member)

REUNIONS PLANNED FOR 1970

23 April: Thursday: St George's Day

LUNCH AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, SW3, by kind permission of the GOC London District. Lunch accommodation may be limited to 80 and first applicants will have preference. The AGM will follow. The price is expected to be about ten shillings. Further particulars will be circulated in February or March 1970 and applications should NOT be submitted now.

25 April: Saturday: Anzac Day or Gallipoli Day

CENOTAPH PARADE

Members of the Gallipoli Association are kindly invited to take part in the Anzac Day parade at the Cenotaph where a wreath will be laid by the Gallipoli Association, among others. Those wishing to attend should parade there by 10.40, wearing medals, and Association ties if possible. The parade will be followed by a service in Westminster Abbey commencing at 12 noon. There will be no march.

1 October: Thursday

ANNUAL DINNER

This will again be held at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly. Further particulars will be circulated to all members in September.

GENESIS

This is the story of the founding of the Gallipoli Association

There has never been an association in the United Kingdom concerned solely with the Dardanelles-Gallipoli campaign of 1915. There have been Divisional Associations, such as the Twenty-ninth Division Association, which while very much concerned with the campaign had members who only served elsewhere; this Association closed in 1965, fifty years after the Landings on 25th April. The Royal Naval Division Association is still going strong, but it now has relatively few members who were in the campaign.

Since 1965 I have often thought that an all-Services Association could still be formed, even at this late day, but approaches to some very senior officers led nowhere: all agreed with the idea but said they were, understandably, too old. Then as an attempt at a single reunion I found sufficient Gallipolians, some known to me by name only, who were keen enough to attend either or both a lunch and a dinner which I planned for the 25th April this year (1969). The lunch was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters and the dinner at the Royal Air Force Club in London. I also arranged an additional lunch in Birmingham in the same week. Each time there was a real reunion spirit as old friends of 1915 met, some for the first time since then. There was a general call for some means of making the reunions into annual affairs.

In view of my very minor Gallipoli service I was reluctant to take steps to form such an Association, but I realized that unless I did we should get nowhere. A committee was set up and so the strategic formation of the Gallipoli Association took place on that day (25th April 1969). On 20th July the committee first met; this may be said to have been the tactical start of the Association, but the real attack commenced on 12th August with a barrage of 240 letters sent to all the various Gallipolians whose names I had. From this beginning the present membership has grown, and is still growing.

In these days while even some second-war Associations are fading away, history is being made by the foundation of this Association fifty-four years after the campaign, a sign that the Dardanelles-Gallipoli saga, that epic campaign with its naval action followed by successful landings but with indeterminate long-term results, is an everlasting nostalgic memory to those who took part in it over half a century ago.

E H W B

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS ON THE FORMATION OF THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION

'Herewith I send you my application for membership . . . Naturally I am astonished that this Association is being formed so late in the day, but equally am I pleased and congratulate . . . '

'I have not been one for Service associations; as a Kitchener man I have always held that I enlisted for a particular purpose, then that was all that mattered and the job was finished. However, I have always been proud that I was a 29th Division man and took part in the Gallipoli campaign so I am very happy to be a member of the new Association . . . It all seems a hell of a long time ago altho' some incidents stand out very clearly . . . particularly when 7 Platoon was dam nearly left behind!'

'I was a little unsure about the tie at first, having been devoted to red and black for many years. However, we will try green and blue-grey for a change. I wondered if it would be a little more appropriate if the Gallipoli green were speckled with blowflies!'

(Editor: If now in our old age we still something on our tie we must claim that this is what it is).

'I would like to suggest that a few of typed copies of the list of Gallipolians with their Units and addresses be made available for purchase by members. There will be those who by reason of distance, infirmity, etc, are unable to attend meetings in London, but who would value greatly a means of making contacts with comrades lost sight of for half a century.'

(Editor: This is it, but at no extra charge).

'I ended up at Suvla Bay lying on a stretcher beside a major-general, waiting to go aboard a hospital ship, but I think his tip was bigger than mine! It was a tough campaign to experience at the tender age of 16½ years, all because an old lady stuck a white feather in my lapel in August 1914, saying: "Your King and country need you."'

'I am a victim of arthritis and heart trouble and should not be able to attend any functions, but I should like to be a member . . . '

'What a marvellous idea and I hasten to enclose my cheque. If the Dinner on the 2nd October is half as good as the last one it will still be a grand show.'

(Editor: This refers to our exploratory dinner held on 25th April 1969).

'I feel sure that your target of 100 will be overshot when the formation of the Association becomes generally known . . . I shall be very proud to wear the tie of the very select company of Gallipolians.'

'Unfortunately I can take no active part as I am now an invalid. However, I feel that I ought to be a member of such an Association.'

'I note that the sub. is 5 shillings annually. I have a suggestion to make. As most of us are old and our infirmities increase as we get older, why not suggest that while the minimum sub. . . . those in a position to do so should donate as much as they can afford. I think there must be many of us who may not be able to attend the annual functions, but who would be most interested to read of them.'

(Editor: I think the points are now covered).

'Having a Gallipoli record second to none — never leaving my Company from the landing to the evacuation — I was naturally interested to read the article in yesterday's Daily Telegraph 'Gallipoli Veterans to Meet.' I was with the Canterbury Regiment of the New Zealand Division . . . I hold the 'Gallipoli Medallion' issued to survivors after 50 years by the New Zealand government. I applaud your efforts and wish I could support you practically, but living in such a remote situation it is difficult to keep contact. . . .

However, I hope the enclosed 'note' will help a little because I cannot for the life of me understand what you use for money when the sub. is only 5 shillings p.a.'

'Gallipoli, especially Suvla, has haunted me continually. Stopford could have won a Field Marshal's baton and his young troops imperishable renown. Alas, Major Wilmer the Bavarian with about a thousand Turks checked and demoralised 20,000 British, when they made a belated and pathetic advance. The Record Office in Chancery Lane (London) has held me captive many days. Suvla could have redeemed Gallipoli.'

'As a member of the Middlesex Yeomanry Old Comrades Association I drew the attention of our honorary secretary to the newly-formed Gallipoli Association . . . The sentiments in our minds favour giving a well-deserved boost and encouragement to the Gallipoli Association of veterans with the object of attracting many others.'

'You also mention a pilgrimage which was made in 1965 on the fiftieth anniversary of the Landing. I wonder whether would it be possible to arrange another such pilgrimage in 1970 on the fifty-fifth anniversary . . . '

(Editor: Any comments ?).

'I noticed a paragraph in our local newspaper . . . It gives your name as trying to start a Gallipoli Veterans Association, so I am putting my name forward . . . '

(Editor: The address was 'Bedford', but it was not Bedford England but Bedford South Africa, and his 'local newspaper' was the 'Eastern Provinces Herald of Port Elizabeth,' being evidently extracted from the article in our ' Daily Telegraph ' of 22nd September. Can we now expect applications from Russia, on the strength of the 'Packet of Woodbines' naval contribution to the Dardanelles action?)

Major Rodda, New Zealand Defence Staff in London, writing to me after the Dinner on the 2nd October, at which he was an official guest: . . . 'I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet and dine with so many veterans who, unlike many people today, are justifiably proud of their service. It was a pleasure also to see the fine spirit of comradeship which exists in such a fine group of men. I wish your Association every success.'

One member has ordered two ties. Is he a pessimist, expecting poor quality which will soon wear out, or is he a supreme optimist who really believes that 'old soldiers never die ' ?

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE TURKS

on the formation of the Gallipoli Association

The Gallipoli Pilgrimage of 1965 was met on our arrival at Istanbul by the Director of Protocol of the Turkish War Veterans Association, Captain Ekrem Akomer. He said his father had been staff officer to the German commander in the campaign, General Liman von Sanders. I had written about the formation of the Association and he kindly replied:

'Dear Major Banner.

How pleased I am to hear from you and to know that you have, after fifty-four years, at last founded the Gallipoli

Association. Our hearty congratulations and good wishes. We shall be really happy to see you again here in Turkey.

May God bless all of you always.'

Ever your friend
(Captain Ekrem Akomer)
Board Member and Chief of Protocol of the
War Veterans Association, Istanbul Branch.

8 September 1969.

(It is interesting to note here that while on the pilgrimage Lt Commander J C Forster and I were made honorary members of the Turkish War Veterans Association).

A further letter was received from Major General H G Aran, in Ankara:

'Dear Major Banner.

Your letter, addressed to Captain Akomer reached me recently and I learned that you had organized a new Association.

Our Headquarters in Ankara, when you need to inform anything please do not hesitate.

I was member of the ministerial committee for the planning of the 50th anniversary of the Dardanelles, which you attended.

On that day I was going to the General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation, and I had no chance to be with you at Dardanelles.

At present I am Council Member of the World Veterans Federation for Turkey and member of the General Board of Management of the Turkish Veterans Union.

WVF had Council meeting in Istanbul last May, which Squadron Leader L G Johnson, MBE, DFC, was Council Member for UK.

If my letter will reach you before your annual dinner please remember that I will be with you when you raise your glass for HM the Queen.

I am also honorary life member of the Royal Artillery Association.

My deepest regards to you all.

Most sincerely yours
(H G Aran)
Major General, Retired
World Veterans Federation,
Council Member for Turkey.

29 September 1969.

THE ANZAC

Born in England, went to South Africa and served in the Boer War, joined the Australian army early in World War I and became one of the immortal band of Anzacs, the name given to the troops of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. This was the early life of one Anzac.

After completion of training in Egypt the Anzacs were destined to make history at Gallipoli, in Turkey, where on April 25th, 1915, they, with regular UK troops and some Marines and French troops made epic landings against heavy opposition, with considerable losses on both sides, but the Allies did make their precarious landings.

The Anzacs made up in physique and enthusiasm for their short military training — the many headstones in the Anzac military cemeteries testify this.

Naturally, after it was over all wanted to forget about it, but, as usual, after the passage of years the wish to revisit the scene became a longing with many; in fact in some cases an obsession which cannot be understood by many of the present generation. Our Anzac was one of these. Over the years he had recalled the Gallipoli peninsula and longed to revisit his old gunpit — if it was still to be found. When he found a pilgrimage party being organized in England he joined enthusiastically, with his wife. This was fifty years on, and he was at this stage over eighty: a very gallant gentleman, living in England.

The pilgrimage party was primarily for UK veterans who had served there, but we welcomed our Anzac, and another one, making up representatives from all Divisions, including the Royal Naval Division, but without any French veterans. The party duly set off and the first contact with the old Mediterranean Expeditionary Force was a short call at Mudros, the bay where the whole of the Allied fleet assembled in the week before the Landing. From there we steamed towards the Dardanelles; near the entrance we stood on deck or wherever we might be for a minute, in memory of those who lost their lives at sea in the action. Up the Dardanelles by night and a stay of two days in Istanbul where a parade was held and a wreath laid at a Turkish war memorial.

Next down the Dardanelles to the Narrows, staying at Chanakkale on the Asian coast. In the morning we crossed to the Gallipoli peninsula near old X Beach and landed for the first parade, at the Turkish war memorial where a wreath was laid. Then down to Cape Helles where wreaths were laid at the British war memorial by the pilgrims as a whole, then by individual regiments, etc. After this we broke up for our individual sightseeing for those who had been in the Cape Helles area, roaming as far afield as Krithia, where we found their local war museum of great interest, seeing our equipment, etc, from the former enemy's point of view.

For our second day on the Peninsula we were first to visit Anzac Cove, then on to Suvla Bay for those who had served in these places.

The Anzac, a very friendly, wise and much-travelled Anzac, had in the intervening years seen life in many parts of the world. Although serving in the Anzac forces in 1915 he had long left that continent. At this time of his life his main ambition was to revisit Anzac Cove, and especially his old gunpit, or traces of it. He was a philosopher and would discount the modern bustle of life by saying that we worry too much over trifles, such as just missing a bus, or if the electricity fails, or something transient, always ending with: 'It's not a matter of life and death.' Earlier that morning I had joined him in a walk around Chanakkale: he had said that he hadn't a care in the world and he enjoyed life to the full.

We crossed the Narrows to Eceabat, near the old Maidos, and went by coaches across to Anzac Cove. It was noticed by those in his coach that the Anzac became more and more excited as we approached. The guide with the first coach, in which was the Anzac, arranged for the stop to be a little beyond the Cove for traffic reasons. Friends noted that the Anzac worried over this; he would rather have stopped right at the Cove. But it was only a short walk back to the Cove and the party left the coach at the Anzac cemetery by the roadside. The Anzac stepped forward too but fell immediately.

Later on, when we had time to adjust ourselves to the situation, it was agreed that this was a fine way to go out. Up to that moment a long and happy life with no worries; now, attaining a half-century wish and being at last once again where he had spent an eventful and exciting time in his younger days. To us of course it was a tragedy, but for the Anzac, an octogenarian who knew that his circulation was such that he might expire at any moment, what more would he have asked?

I had known that at an Anzac pilgrimage two weeks earlier one of their veterans had fallen in almost exactly similar circumstances. We were accompanied by a most helpful representative of the War Graves Commission who had also been present at the previous tragedy. Because of this he was able to expedite the proceedings by arranging for burial that day at the Christian cemetery at Chanakkale. At sunset that day the whole of our party of veterans, one hundred strong, medals worn, marched with the Anzac for the last time, leaving him in company with his fellow-Anzac from the earlier pilgirmage.

I sometimes think of the quirk of fate, which, with the Anzac's exhortation: 'Why worry, it isn't a life and death matter' finally found in the excitement of the return to Anzac once again, that just missing the actual landing place at Anzac Cove, did prove to be a matter of life and death.

So passed a very fine gentleman, the Anzac.

E H W B

LIST OF MEMBERS (at November 17th, 1969)

Names are in alphabetical letter order, but in any particular letter the names are in order of membership (NB The information is taken from members' application forms) **Gallipoli service is in bold-face type**

This page and a number following it contain the names and addresses of founding members.

For reasons of data protection and personal privacy, this content has been omitted.

THE GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION

Composition — The Gallipoli Association shall comprise those members who have registered their service in the 1915 Gallipoli campaign with the Association and have paid the current subscription.

Object — The object of the Gallipoli Association is to keep alive the memory of the campaign among those who served in it, by meeting for meals annually or biennially, and other functions as may be decided at Annual General Meetings. The basic meetings shall be: (1) An AGM to follow a lunch in London on a weekday near to 25th April; (2) A dinner in London on an evening in October. All members shall be eligible to attend all functions. Other functions may include participation in the Anzac Day ceremony at the Cenotaph which is held on the 25th April and normally followed by a service in Westminster Abbey.

Membership — Membership shall be open to all who served in the forces in the Dardanelles-Gallipoli campaign of 1915, including the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. Associate membership may also be granted at the discretion of the committee to those whose service did not actively include the campaign.

Present residence is not limited to the UK.

Representation — The officers shall consist of a President; Chairman; Honorary Secretary, with or without an assistant; Honorary Treasurer and Committee Members as appointed at an AGM. In addition two members shall be appointed annually as honorary auditors. Other officers may be appointed at an AGM.

Subscription — The subscription shall be five shillings per annum, but those members who are willing to pay £1 are invited to do so in order to create a fund for initial expenses, such as partly subsidising one or other functions, defraying part of the cost of official guests at the dinners, publicity to obtain new members, etc.

Guests — At both the lunches and dinners in London, members shall be entitled to bring personal guests, male only unless otherwise decreed by the committee. Official guests may be invited by the committee; they may include Commonwealth or foreign representatives with Gallipoli connections.

Association Tie — A tie has been designed for regular wear by members. It comprises wide green bands for the land of Gallipoli and blue-grey for the waters of the Dardanelles, with narrow stripes of Navy blue and scarlet for the services. Price, in a hard-wearing and crease-resistant Crimplene, 15/- post free, as available, from the Honorary Secretary.