



***“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 now 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 in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.”***

**Atatürk, 1934**

### **“TWO TRENCHES, ONE LETTER” A DARDANELLES PROJECT**

#### **The Story of a Project**

100 years have passed since the battle of Gallipoli. Within these 100 years, empires collapsed, countries dashed. Generations changed. The last Anzac soldier who came back from the battlefield rejoined his brothers 12 years ago in 2003. However, those who died on this land are still in their twenties. Them, the young martyrs! We, the new generations owe them. About what? About patriotism, courage, heroism and sense of fidelity.

Now I'd like to talk about our Gallipoli project, which was prepared in order to pay our debt even if a little. As TED Mersin College, we started a project for the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the war so as to let the new generations know more about Gallipoli and stories of both sides. We want to share the details of our project and our works and so contribute to “The Spirit of Gallipoli”. Here is our story of Gallipoli.

#### **A. The Name of Our Project :**

We started out taking Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's speech to Anzac mothers in 1934 as our main reference and named our project “TWO TRENCHES ONE LETTER”.

#### **B. The Objectives of Our Project :**

1. To establish a bridge of peace between Turkish and Australian youth.
2. To commemorate our martyrs as well as the Anzac sons / soldiers after 100 years.
3. To remind everyone that the children of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk will always be faithful to the words he said in 1934.
4. To show our students that Dardanelles was not only a battlefield, but also it holds crucial stories about people and therefore, to arouse awareness about history.
5. To let the new generations learn about the heroes like Martyr Lieutenant İbrahim Naci, First Lieutenant Saffet (Pozantı) and Lieutenant Penistan James Patterson, Plevne Ryan (Charles S. Ryan), Mehmet Şefik, Hüseyin Avni.

#### **C. Project Date :**

We started our project in January 2015 and decided to end it in May 2015.



### D. Preparations for the Project

- Before starting the project, we initiated informative studies for our students about the Dardanelles War. We told them about the war and stories of people in the lessons.
- We made use of NTV History Journal issue March 2015 and talked about the dramatic life of Martyr Lieutenant İbrahim Naci. We read parts from İbrahim Naci's diary. We gave the students research tasks on Dardanelles War and so introduced him and other Dardanelles heroes to the new generation.
- We watched the movie 'Water Diviner' by Russell Crowe with our students and discussed about the movie in our classes.
- We tried to help our students visualize the atmosphere of that time using pictures, journals, videos and photographs.
- In the lessons, we talked about the heroes of Gallipoli, Plevne Ryan (Charles S. Ryan), 27<sup>th</sup> Legion, 57<sup>th</sup> Legion, Saffet Pozantı, the hill that is 261 meters above sea level, what the soldiers lived through in Anzac Cove and many more things about Dardanelles.

### E. Project Work :

- Inspired by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's speech in 1934, our students wrote '**letters**' and postcards.
- Our students' letters are the basis of our project. These letters were written to two different addressees.
  1. To Anzac families and grandchildren.
  2. To İbrahim Naci, in memory of all our martyrs.

### **The Letters and Postcards to Anzac Families / Mothers**

- Our students wrote letters addressing Anzac families and grandchildren. It is planned that the letters will be translated to English and conveyed to Anzac families through the Australian embassy. Within this framework, we contacted the Embassy and other channels.
- In addition to the letters, our students made '**postcards**' with the help of our art teachers. On the front face of the postcards are the "Anzac Memorial" and "57<sup>th</sup> Legion Memorial". Turkish and Australian flags were placed in the middle and the flagsticks were designed as olive branches.
- Inside the postcards, "Turkish Soldiers' Caps" and "Anzac Caps" were placed as montages. Under these caps, Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's speech and an Anzac mother's reply were written.

### **Letters to İbrahim Naci :**

- The first part of our project consists of the letters of Lieutenant İbrahim Naci. As you know, Naci's name became known in Turkey with the help of Sayit Ahmet Silay. After telling our students about İbrahim Naci's life and his diary, we immediately asked them to write letters to him. They were so



moved by him that they wrote these letters to him and to all the martyrs on his behalf. Then these letters, which were written by our 12-13 year old students and which were full of emotion and historical awareness, were completed. These letters were directly sent to Canakkale Museum which was founded by Seyit Ahmet Silay. Mr. Seyit will display these letters there. This way, Ibrahim Naci is remembered once more and the letters have the chance to be viewed by future generations.

### Additional Works to Enhance Our Project :

- To enhance all these works, we also designed posters in memory of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gallipoli War. We posted these on the walls of our school and gave them as presents in official visits.
- We designed a T-Shirt with “Anzac Memorial – 57<sup>th</sup> Legion Memorial” on it. They are being printed and when they are ready, our students will write their thoughts in a sentence and sign it. These signed T-shirts will be sent both to the Australian War Memorial and Canakkale Museum.
- We also designed a “100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medallion” to be sent to Anzac families and to the Australian War Memorial. There two sides of this medal. On one side, there is the “Anzac Coat of Arms”, and on the other, there is the “Canakkale War Medal”.
- All these materials will be sent to Australian War Memorial and Canakkale Museum like a “Soldier’s Dowry”.
- We contacted some authors and cartoonists and asked them to write a letter and draw a caricature in accordance with the “Gallipoli Spirit”. The ones that are sent to us are also included in this project.
- Finally, we proposed that all TED schools use our specially designed “Canakkale logo” in formal correspondences.

### Conclusion :

With these letters, postcards and all the other materials, we intended to create bonds of brotherhood between the two sides of this war. There’s no way to tell if these materials will last but we believe they will help from a strong friendship between Anzac and Turkish teenagers and it will also create Canakkale Spirit for future generations.

We should never forget that every breath we take, we owe to the last breath of a martyr. So, it’s our lifelong debt to commemorate and remember the people who gave their lives for their country. We must remember them every year, with every breath.



## TED MERSİN KOLEJİ ORTAOKULU

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This work is dedicated to all heroes of Dardanelles War who lost their lives.  
May they rest in peace.

Regards,

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