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Ever since the First World War, ANZAC Day has been celebrated as a day of remembrance, originally for the men who served in the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, ANZACs, who fought at Gallipoli and other fronts. The famous ANZACs landed at ANZAC Cove at dawn of the 25th of April, a public holiday now recognised in every Australian state since 1927.

When World War I began in 1914, Australia had its first chance as a nation to prove its integrity to the world. The Dardanelles campaign, hastily planned, was launched in 1915 by the Allies. The original plan was to breach the Dardanelles Strait connecting the Aegean and Black Seas to capture the Turkish capital Constantinople from the sea and thus reopen Russian supply lines. But Turkish guns and sea mines repelled them. Instead Allied soldiers, among them the ANZACs, were landed along the Gallipoli coast. Despite terrible conditions and tough terrain, as well as their incompetent leaders, the soldiers fought desperately to gain the high ground to capture the Dardanelles' Narrows from the land. For eight months the ANZACs fought Turkish soldiers at Gallipoli with limited successes. Eventually the disastrous campaign came to an end with a well planned evacuation that saw the troops onto the boats in the nights with out a single fatality. On the tenth morning only clever devices remained to fool the Turkish. Even so 250,000 Allied soldiers died at Gallipoli, only 90,000 were evacuated.

In 1916, marches and ceremonies were held in London, Egypt and Australia by AIF and NZEF troops for their fallen comrades in Gallipoli. By the 1920s April 25th had come to honour all 60,000 ANZACs who sacrificed their lives in the war. The earliest known ANZAC Day service was held in Albany 1918 by Reverend Arthur White who would also hold the first dawn service there years later. Since the 1930s the ANZAC Day commemorations have hosted a variety of services, traditionally beginning before sunrise with the dawn stand-to, and continuing through the day, including the sounding of the Last Post

and Reveille, laying of the wreaths, recitations and prayers, the Australian flag flying at half mast and minutes of silence.

Australia, until 1901, was simply made up of British colonies and served under Britain in war. But in World War I, 13 years after Australian Federation, Australia fought beside the Allies as a separate nationality. ANZAC Day celebrates this and shows respect for the thousands of Australians who served and died in military action. Also it reminds us of the ANZAC Spirit for which they were famous; qualities of mateship, courage and endurance despite their circumstances. They possessed the determination to carry on, keeping their sense of humour and a compassion for fellow soldiers that made Australia proud of their efforts, regardless of the original mission's failure.

The war affected every Australian, even those in remote communities. All over Western Australia and the nation, memorials and graves of local soldiers of the war stand as a testament to this, often bedecked with flowers and wreaths, and are the subject of services using military drills on ANZAC Day. Pilbara towns, where thousands of people attend the Dawn Service every year, were among the hardest hit, having smaller populations and losing most of their men, such as in Roebourne, home to a memorial listing the known fatalities, all local men who fought in World War I. For the size of its community large numbers of men volunteered, both indigenous and non indigenous. In Whim Creek, a tiny settlement, there are memorials for five Aboriginal brothers, the Lockyers, who all served in the Australian military. Even though they fought in World War Two they are still remembered on ANZAC Day. While at war the ANZACs sense of mateship displayed an equality between all Australians which was rare in their usual society, their differences were cast aside as they fought for their lives and identity.

On 1st November, 1914, 30 000 troops, aboard thirty-eight ships set sail from Albany, Western Australia, the first soldiers to leave for the war as men of the combined Australian and New Zealand armies. Albany was the last view of home many military men ever saw. April 25th is the day that immortalises the ANZACs for thousands of people, promoting to every Australian their courage

and perseverance, and especially the enduring ANZAC Spirit. They earned the world's respect while proudly volunteering their lives to serve their country and continue to gather the admiration of their descendants, even after they are gone.

As the sun rises and goeth down, we will remember them.

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