

Anna Dunkley, The Hamilton & Alexandra College, Victoria

"Courage- its significance to Gallipoli and in more recent times"
The Hamilton and Alexandra College

Courage, an element of ANZAC that is unfalteringly applied to those who went, may not have been so intrinsic in the heroes who fought on the beaches. Despite this, it seems that Gallipoli provided our diggers not only an opportunity to prove their worth to the world, but also to themselves.

Jean Anouilh said that "Until the day of his death, no man can be sure of his courage."¹ but my Great-Grandfather, Samuel Fitzpatrick, spent years proving to himself that he did possess this elusive quality - courage. During his time as a surgeon at Gallipoli and Pozieres he kept a diary of his experiences. The following are excerpts where he is writing about his fears:

"...the day at the picnic near Cohen Bridge when a good friend fell into the Thomson River, slipping too close to the invisible edge ...he was soon dragged out. But why had I feared to jump in and rescue him? The stigma of cowardice stuck in me."²

When war was declared Fitzpatrick enlisted and was sent to Egypt.

"Under the group pressures of press, public and private opinion who could face sheltering behind those volunteering to go? Is the old stigma of cowardice still there?... A notice was posted on the notice board in headquarters ... reading "Those who desire to serve in forward areas, please sign below." ...putting it on the conscience of each eligible officer to prove his courage or cowardice... After some hours I signed. ...Again I believe I did this to prove myself, to prove to myself that I wasn't a coward."³

The men that went to Gallipoli proved to themselves that they were capable of what was demanded of them, that they had courage. They grew in maturity and showed the world, and most importantly themselves, that they were deserving of the praise given to them.

The Anzacs must have been afraid- for their Empire, country, home, family, mates and most overwhelmingly, afraid for themselves. How could they not be, with the very real possibility of being shot in the next minute, in the next night, in the next week? They were scared, and yet they did their duty courageously, freezing and boiling, and killing, for their country.

¹ Jean Anouilh on [http://www.quoteworld.org/author.php?thetext=Jean+Anouilh+\(1910-87\)](http://www.quoteworld.org/author.php?thetext=Jean+Anouilh+(1910-87))

² Samuel Fitzpatrick, *Personal War Diaries and Reflections*, circa 1950

³ibid.

The Gallipoli campaign was truly a 'baptism of fire' for the newly made nation of Australia- no longer were they separate colonies fighting only for King and Empire, but for Australia as a whole. Many Australians identify that it was on the beaches of Gallipoli that we proved our beloved list of national attributes - courage, resilience, determination, resourcefulness, a sense of humour and mateship. However, these qualities were not to be found only in the Australian camp and Australia does not have a monopoly on the Gallipoli legend. New Zealand, of course, was the NZ part of ANZAC, but we tend to forget that fact and focus only on our own achievements. Britain, France, Canada, India, Germany and Turkey all had troops fighting with or against the ANZACS in Gallipoli. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, said that:

*"There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments to us
Where they lie side by side
Here in this country of ours."³*

We were not the only nation whose soldiers displayed great courage. Simpson, an Englishman, who enlisted in an attempt to get home and was caught up in the ill-fated campaign. The bravery he showed rescuing wounded soldiers and transporting them to dressing stations became an inspiring legend not only in Australia, but also in Turkey, where they say that he once ferried wounded Turkish soldiers back to their trench. Whether or not this story is true, it shows that respect for the courageous and compassionate is universal.

Another story of true courage and kindness in Gallipoli comes from the diary of Major Richard Casey. During a time of heavy firing an Australian officer was lying injured between trenches, calling for help. A pair of white underpants was raised by the Turks above their trench on a rifle; the fighting paused. A Turkish soldier climbed from his trench and lifted the Australian to the ANZAC's trench. The Turk hurried back to his own side, the shooting resumed and the War went on. ⁴

Colonel August Lyle Buchanan remembered vividly his fear at the Gallipoli landing. Though terrified, he did his duty and kept going. "I don't know what it was, shrapnel, maxim or rifle fire- I was frightened to look, but I was never so frightened in my life as when I had to stand up in the bow to dominate the men (to keep rowing)... I could feel the damned things hitting me all the time in my imagination, while we couldn't see the

³ Mustafa Kemal on <http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/ataturk.htm>In
This inscription appears on the Kemal Atatürk Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra.
In 1934 Atatürk wrote this in a letter as a tribute to the ANZACs killed at Gallipoli:

⁴ Jan Wositzky page 2, (paper distributed HTAV, 11 November 2005)

other boats for the spouts of spray all around and the men hit yelped and they whined and clawed the air as they died." ⁴

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon.

And remember them the returning soldiers must have. It would take a great deal of courage to return home to a family that can not understand you anymore, to go on living after years away, when things could never be the same. One of the greatest acts of courage that the war veterans had to face was not dodging bullets or avoiding shells, but returning home.

All around us in Australia we see examples of courageous people fighting for something that they believe in - Salvation Army officers, Saint Vincent de Paul workers, lifesavers at the beach or pool, doctors and nurses - all these people are following in the footsteps of the men who showed compassion by helping each other at Gallipoli. Also, people involved with the Country Fire Association place themselves in dangerous situations while protecting the families, homes and properties and the property of others. These men and women show true courage as they battle the fierce bushfires - they are probably afraid, but do it anyway. As Mark Twain suggests, "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear- not the absence of fear." ⁵

There are smaller acts of courage in our communities that we dismiss as not brave or special, but show true valour because the person is scared but perseveres. Examples are: the schoolgirl going against all public opinion to stand up for the bullied outcast, or the primary school child pausing to chat to the disabled man, only to discover that he's not so scary after all. Such little things, it might seem, are acts of courage to them.

The spirit of ANZAC is embodied in those Australians who show courage above fear in frightening situations. Whether it be living with disabilities or helping the homeless; they all follow in the footsteps of those men who stepped onto the beaches at Gallipoli. Celebrating ANZAC Day, then, is about celebrating the present heroes and the essence of what ANZAC stands for, as much as it is about those men, like my Great-Grandfather, who are etched into our history by the courage they displayed.

⁴ Tom Curran, Not Only a Hero: An Illustrated Life of Simpson, the Man with the Donkey; ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee, Brisbane, 1998. Page 29.

⁵ Mark Twain on http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Mark_Twain/

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