



The **JOINT COMMITTEE** for the **COMMEMORATION** of the **ANNIVERSARY** of the **BATTLE** of CRETE and the **GREEK CAMPAIGN**

AUSTRALIANS & GREEKS A CENTURY OF ALLIANCE IN WAR AND PEACE



Nurse in Lemnos – Gallipoli Campaign



Anzacs on the Acropolis April 1941

1. **In 1899 the first Greek Australians to serve Australia were in the Boer War in South Africa and their names were Frank Manuso , Constantine Alexander, Thomas Haraknoss, Elias Lukas and George Challis.**
2. **Some 87 Australians of Greek heritage fought in Gallipoli and France in World War 1.** Some were born in Athens , Crete , Castellorizo , Kythera , Ithaca , Peloponnesus Samos , Cephalonia , Lefkada and Cyprus . **About 60 of them fought in Gallipoli known as the First Anzac Campaign. Three of these Anzacs fought again in Crete and Greece in World War 2 which is known as the Second Anzac Campaign. They are also known as dual Anzacs.**
3. **Two Australian Nurses of the first world war were also of Greek Heritage.** One of them was Cleopatra Johnson (Ioanou) daughter of Antoni Ioanou gold miner of Moonan Brook NSW.
4. **On 4th March 1915 the first Anzacs of the Gallipoli campaign stepped on the island of Lemnos culminating with the largest armada assembled in Moudros Harbour carrying tens of thousands of Anzacs** It was on Lemnos where the ships anchored , where water and food was sourced , where horses , donkeys and mules were procured , where the beach landings were practised , **where the hospitals were set up to look after the wounded from Gallipoli and if the wounded died they were buried on Lemnos . Over 200 Anzacs are buried on Lemnos.** The Armistice with the Turks was signed in Moudros Harbour, Lemnos in 1918. <http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/5environment/nursephoto.html>
5. **In August 1915, 170 Cretan Guerrillas under the Command of Pavlos Gyparis fought in the Gallipoli Campaign. They attacked the Gulf of Saros as a diversion to lure the Turks and coinciding with the Australian's 1st Brigade assault on Lone Pine.**
6. **From 1917-1918, nearly 450 Australian Men and Women (nurses) served in the War in Macedonia.** They fought alongside Commonwealth Forces and the Greek Allies against the invasion by Germans and Bulgarians.

7. **In 1918 Hector Vasyli an eleven year old newspaper boy of Greek Cypriot descent was killed in Brisbane when welcoming home soldiers.** Hector did lots of patriotic work for returned soldiers during the war, and gave gifts of cigarettes to them. He participated in many of the welcome home parades in the city but lost his life in one of these parades when a vehicle swerved suddenly and hit him. <http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/people/military/display/92516-hector-vasyli/photo/2>
<http://bmag.com.au/your-brisbane/brisbane-extra/2013/11/15/discover-memorial-patriotic-boy/>
8. **In 1922 Australia's highest decorated heroine Joice NanKivell-Loch and her husband Sydney Loch went to Greece as aid workers for refugees of the Asia Minor conflict.** The Lochs worked in a refugee camp on the outskirts of Thessaloniki and then at the village of Ouranopoli, the last settlement before Mount Athos. For their work in Greece the couple were awarded medals by the King of Greece and by the Government of Australia. Joice NanKivell- Loch lived most of her life in Ouranopoli and died there in 1982. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joice_NanKivell_Loch



Hector Vasyli Monument, Brisbane



Joice NanKivell- Loch

9. **About 2,400 Australians of Greek heritage fought for Australia in World War 2.** Of these 35 were women who served in various roles at home and abroad.
10. **With so many members serving in the Boer War , World War I and World War 2 the contribution of the Manus family from country NSW (originally from Lesbos) stands out . Of the Ten members that enlisted four were killed.** <http://neoskosmos.com/news/en/the-greeks-who-fought-for-australia?page=2> .
11. **The Second Anzac Core was established in Macedonia on 12th April 1941 by General Blamey to resist the Nazi Invasion of Greece.** They fought firstly on the Greek Mainland at Florina , Vevi , Brallos pass (Thermopylae) , Tempe Gorge , Volos, Megara and Corinth
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Greece and then in the Battle of Crete
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Crete . Over 17,000 Australians were involved in the Greece Campaign and around 6,500 were involved in The Battle of Crete.
12. **In 1941, 494 Australians were wounded and more than 2,000 were taken prisoner on the Greek mainland. In the Battle of Crete 507 Australians were wounded and more than 3,000 were taken prisoner. 252 Australians are buried in Phaleron War Cemetery (Battle of Greece) and 197 Australians are buried in Suda Bay War Cemetery (Battle of Crete).**

13. **In 1943 Corporal Angelo Barbouttis, born in Castellorizo, stands out for his amazing bravery in New Guinea**, when he wiped out almost a whole boat load of Japanese thereby saving his men. He was eventually killed by a sniper who had swum to shore and buried at sea with little fanfare. A street and some public buildings in Townsville have been named in honour of Angelo Barbouttis. An application to award a posthumous Victoria Cross to Angelo Barbouttis has been made by Tas Psarakis and is currently before the Australian Government for determination.



Anzac Captain Reginald Saunders, Battle of Crete



Corporal Angelo Barbouttis, New Guinea

14. **Australia's highest decorated Aboriginal Soldier Captain Reginald Saunders fought in Greece and Crete.** <http://www.awm.gov.au/blog/2009/02/13/reginald-saunders/?query=saunders> . Captain Saunders supported by the Zacharakis family evaded capture on Crete for almost one year until he finally escaped. Captain Saunders also served Australia in the Korean War.
15. **Anzac Geoff Edwards of the 2/11th Battalion's Carrier Platoon remembered the bravery and sacrifice of the Cretans who helped him avoid capture.** In 1979 he built a Greek Orthodox Church on the hill above his seaside community and named his home in Western Australia, Prevelly Park, after the monastery at Preveli on Crete. Today Prevelly Park is known as the Town of Prevelly and is an important town of the Margaret River region. <http://www.margaretrivervista.com/prevelly.html> .
16. **Australia received hundreds of thousands of Greek migrants from the late 1940's to the early 1970's as a result of the fall out World War II.** It is estimated that Greece lost 11 percent of its population during the Nazi occupation due to military activity, crimes against humanity and war related famine and disease. Following World War II, Greece faced further extreme hardship during the civil war. Migration was necessary to avoid increasing poverty and unemployment.
17. **In the early 1950's the Australian Council of Social Service under the leadership of Aileen Fitzpatrick made Australia the first country in the world to successfully orchestrate large-scale expatriation and reunion of children separated from their parents as a result of War.** In this case it was the "gathered" children (also known as Pantomazoma) from the Battle of Greece and the following Greek Civil War that were re united with their parents in Australia. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/03071022.2012.696850>
18. **Between 1950 and 1955, Greece and Australia participated in the Korean War** in response to the United Nations Resolution. 17,000 Australians served in the Korean War and they suffered 339 dead, and 1200 wounded. Greece sent some 2,163 men to Korea and suffered 186 dead.
19. **128 Greek Australians served for Australia in the Vietnam War between 1962 and 1972.** <http://au.greekreporter.com/2009/05/25/brumby-praises-book-on-vietnam-veterans/> .

20. In 1976 The Joint Committee for the Commemoration of The Battle of Crete and The Greek campaign was established by the RSL, the Military Police Association and the Cretan Association of NSW to annually commemorate the anniversary of The Battle of Crete and The Greek Campaign
21. In 2007 the largest un marked military grave of Australian soldiers was discovered at Fromelles, France due to the five years effort of research and lobbying of indefatigable Greek Australian Lambis Englezos . <http://www.awm.gov.au/blog/2008/07/18/fromelles-missing/> .
22. In 2013 Australia and Greece contributed 110 and 63 personnel to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_UN_peacekeepers
23. In 2013 Dr Ian Frazer, Anthropologist along with 50 Australians and New Zealanders (Anzac Descendents) erected a memorial at the Tripiti Gorge in Southern Crete. The memorial was a tribute to the Greek people and the Anzacs who managed to evade capture some two years after the Nazi occupation until they were rescued in 1943. <http://neoskosmos.com/news/en/the-road-to-koustagerako/> .
24. In 2014 the 42nd Street Memorial will be erected on the outskirts of Chania, Crete to commemorate the Battle of 42 nd Street http://www.awm.gov.au/units/event_288.asp?query=battle+of+Crete . Australia's highest decorated Aboriginal soldier Captain Reginald Saunders fought in this battle along with the Maori Battalion one of who did a haka before the onslaught against the Nazis. <http://www.awm.gov.au/blog/2009/02/13/reginald-saunders/?query=saunders> . The Saunders family along with Journalist Michael Sweet and private donors have been instrumental in the creation of this memorial.

References

Three volume work Australians and Greeks by Hugh Gilchrist
Greek Australians in the Australian forces WWI and WWII by Steve Kyritsis
Australian Hellenic Historical Society member Tas Psarakis
Australian War Memorial



Lieut. Pavlos Gyparis, leader of the Cretan volunteer force in the Gallipoli campaign
(Courtesy, Directorate of Army History, Athens).

**Pavlos Gyparis Cretan Volunteer
 Gallipoli Campaign**



Francis Manusu South African Boer War

For more Information Contact Joint Committee Battle of Crete & The Greek Campaign
0411183500 or nick@lateralcorp.com.au