

# HELLENIC ANZACS

## Anzac Day April 2014 – Sydney

Anzac Day Sydney services this year started with thousands cramming into Martin Place, standing somberly as dignitaries, veterans and serving defence personnel arrived in the early morning dark to remember and pay tribute.



Anzac Day Dawn service 2014, Sydney Cenotaph  
Photo Nick Moir



Anzac Day march through city streets 2014  
Photo Ben Rushton

As we approach the 100 Year Anzac Day Anniversary, next year, we should try and remember some of the facts why Anzac Day is relevant to Australians of Greek heritage.

For over 100 years Australia and Greece have been allies in most major world conflicts and most peace keeping missions and both people are intertwined in many, many ways from the earliest conflicts such as the Boer War to the recent conflicts in the Middle East and their aftermaths. It's a Century of Brothers and Sisters in Arms and the Contribution of Australians and Greeks and the special relationship which has developed between them needs to be acknowledged and discussed

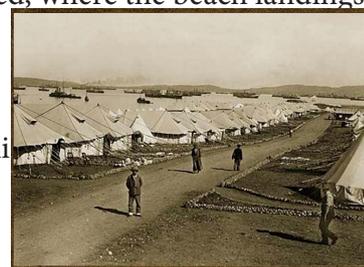
so that current and future generations learn from this important Human Legacy.

Below is a brief outline of some of the facts that bind Australians and Greeks as allies in War and in Peace for more than a century.

1. In 1899 the first Greek Australian to serve Australia was in the Boer War in South Africa and their names were Frank Manusu, 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, Peloponnissos Samos, Kefalonia, 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 Greek island of Lemnos was set up the headquarters for the Gallipoli Campaign. 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 to act as a diversion to lure the Turks and coincided with the Australian's 1st Brigade assault on Lone Pine.
6. From 1917-1918, nearly 450 Australian Men



Francis Manusu 1900



Hospital on Lemnos 1915

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 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 the Hellenes and By the Government of Australia. Joice NanKivell- Loch lived most of her life in Ouranopoli and died there in 1982.



Joice Nankivell Loch

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joice\\_Nankivell\\_Loch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joice_Nankivell_Loch)

8. 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.
9. With so many members serving in the Boer War, World War I and World War 2 the contribution of the Manousou 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>.
10. 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](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Greece) and then in the Battle of Crete [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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.
11. 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).

12. In 1943 Lance/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. They have named a street and some public buildings in Townsville 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.

13. 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.



Captain Reg Saunders

14. 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>.  
In honour of the people who cared for and protected him, he also built the chapel of *St John the Theologian*, on the hill overlooking the sea on Wallcliffe Road.



Prevelly Greek Monastery  
Prevelly Park Western Australia

In the 1960's Mr Edwards subdivided the area and the developers named it Prevelly Park. Following the subdivision Mr Edwards named several streets after the families and monks who saved him. So take note of the street signs next time you are in the town and you will notice names such as Vatos Way and Papadakis Road.

During the 70's the shire of Augusta-Margaret River requested that the new development be declared a townsite and in 1978 it was gazetted.

15. Australia received hundreds of thousands of Greek Migrants from the late 1940's to the early 1970's as a result of 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.
16. 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 Paidomazoma ) 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>
17. 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.
18. 128 Greek Australians served for Australia in the Vietnam War between 1962 and 1972. Greek reporter May 25, 2009 – "The Premier of Victoria, John Brumby met with a group of Greek Australian Vietnam veterans on Thursday and was presented with Greek Australians in the Vietnam War, a book prepared by Victorian Premier, John Brumby, with Greek Australian Vietnam veterans Steve Kyritsis. The book is a compilation of oral histories in Greek and in English, from over 30 veterans of Greek background who served in Vietnam. 128 Greek Australians in total served in the Vietnam War between 1962 and 1972. "It took me over four years to bring together, It was not easy to get the veterans to join in," said Mr Kyritsis.' <http://au.greekreporter.com/2009/05/25/brumby-praises-book-on-vietnam-veterans/>



Victorian Premier, John Brumby, with Greek Australian Vietnam veterans

19. 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.
20. In 2007 the largest unmarked 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/fromelless-missing/>
21. In 2013 Australia and Greece have contributed 110 and 63 personnel to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_number\\_of\\_UN\\_peacekeepers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_UN_peacekeepers)
22. 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>
23. In 2014 the 42nd Street Memorial will be erected on the outskirts of Chania, Crete to commemorate the "Battle of 42nd Street" [http://www.awm.gov.au/units/event\\_288.asp?query=battle+of+Crete](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 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.



The beach at Tripiti

### "Lest We Forget"

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#### References

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