

Kizmet:
the Fate of the Australian Gallipoli POWs

by

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Acknowledgements

My interest in the Australians captured at Gallipoli began one evening in Istanbul in 1999. A chance reference by my husband to a small Commonwealth cemetery at Haydar Pasha in the southern Istanbul suburb of Kadiköy raised some questions in my mind. On visiting the cemetery the following day, which lies behind a military hospital of the same name, I discovered the graves of eight young Australians whose dates of death suggested that they had been engaged at Gallipoli. Why were they buried there? Gallipoli was a long way from Haydar Pasha. What had happened to these young men? Why wasn't I aware of their stories?

On my return to Australia, I began my search, firstly on the background information concerning my initial eight soldiers, gradually expanding to all prisoners captured at Gallipoli. As the search progressed it became obvious that there were many layers requiring gradual exposure and scrutiny – those of prejudice, exaggeration, misinformation and official propaganda. Ten years later, many gaps have now been filled. However, many personal stories remain untold and I hope with time, further details will be discovered to provide more substance to the shadowy outlines of 'my boys'.

I would like to thank my husband, Sedat Bulgu, who accompanied me for over 8,000 kilometres throughout Turkey, sat with me for weeks in the archival reading rooms of Kew, Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth and patiently translated Ottoman and Turkish documents in Istanbul, Çanakkale and Ankara and interpreted throughout my quest. I could not have done it without your personal and professional support.

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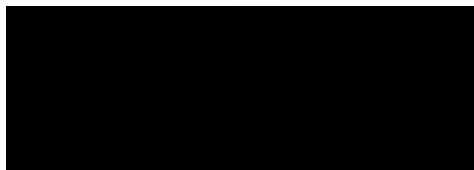
Abstract

This thesis examines the experiences and fate of the Australian soldiers captured at Gallipoli during World War I and has attempted to provide a coherent and detailed narrative of the experiences of capture and imprisonment of these neglected soldiers of the Gallipoli campaign. The topic has received scant attention from historians for the past ninety years despite the professional and public attention paid to the Gallipoli campaign and subsequent Anzac legend. For the first time, the thesis has identified and verified the number of prisoners, as well as broadening the source base for the prisoner of war experience to include relevant Turkish sources. The historical context of Western 'orientalist' attitudes towards the Ottomans that underpinned many contemporary sources has also been examined.

A central theme has been to challenge the myths that have developed since the end of World War I, including the belief that few of the captured Australians returned home and that their experiences mirrored that of the brutal World War II POW experience under the Japanese. The thesis is based on extensive archival research in Australia, Britain and Turkey, site visits, oral history and local tradition.

**I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for
any degree and is not currently being submitted for any other degree or
qualification to
any other university or institution.**

**I certify that any help in preparing this thesis and all sources used have been
acknowledged in this thesis.**



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List of abbreviations

AIF	Australian Imperial force
ARCS	Australian Red Cross Society
AWM	Australian War Memorial
ARC W & M	Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing File
ARC POW	Australian Red Cross Department of Inquiry Prisoner of War File
CMF	Citizens Military Forces
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
NAA	National Archives of Australia
PRO	Public Records Office, London
RTA	Returned to Australia

Anglicised and Turkish Place Names

Anglicised Name	Turkish Name
Afyon	Afyonkarahissar
Angora	Ankara
Ada Bazar	Adapazari
Bozanti	Pozanti
Ismidt	Izmit
Kangiri	Çankiri
Kastamuni	Kastamonu
Kedos	Gediz
Maidos	Eceabat
Ouchak	Üşak
Psamatia	Samatya
San Stefano	Yeşilköy
Smyrna	Izmir

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