

Now and then, the spirit of ANZAC

By Delanie Molloy

It all began in August
1914 was the year,
The men and women watched
And waited for their turn, in fear.

The war began
Britain and Germany in full steam,
And Prime Minister Fisher of Australia
Pledged full support for Britain and Australia to fight as a team.

Australia,
Fully behind the cause,
Readied themselves for a fight
But still dreading that one silent pause .

By this time,
Australia and New Zealand did federate,
And, as one united front,
The Anzac's were now ready to fight together and determine their fate.

The conscriptions had gone out
And every boy available had to go,
There was no doubt there was panic
Nevertheless, they were chosen, that's all they had to know.

They began their journey
Not knowing what lay ahead,
Hoping for some sort of revival
To save them from all the dread.

So now that they had landed
The Turks were in perfect position
On top of three hundred foot high cliffs
Ready to take out the opposition.

At dawn of the 25th of April 1915
The troops of the Anzac were landed at Anzac cove,
This was only a mile north of the targeted area
And what happened next is a part that we all loathe.

It was then decided to land in Gallipoli
The peninsula to be exact ,
To help silence the Turkish forts
Guiding the narrow straits and keeping the Anzac spirit intact .

The ambush had begun.

The Anzac's dashed from their landing boats
Still under heavy fire
Across the beaches and up the ridges
But our Anzac heroes are the ones we still admire.

Simpson and his donkey
Staggered across the field
Tending to all the wounded
With not one protective shield.

The comradeship and the fidelity
Was shown through times of destruction
But no one could prepare themselves
For this life of endless reduction.

The Turks had the advantage point
And a much more advanced force
But the Anzacs kept up a fight
Even through the trench warfare and brutal course.

It was finally decided by the allies
That it would be safest to evacuate,
So the Anzac's had stopped their Gallipoli campaign
In order to vacate.

The courage, bravery and sacrifice
Strived to show the loyalty and commitment
And still in every man, woman and child,
And the pride and patriotism for our country in every Anzac spirit.

The Spirit of Anzac is not confined to the battlefield
But in the souls of our generation,
In classrooms and on sports fields
And in our hearts and minds as one powerful driving sensation .

Today, we look up to our veterans
And respect them for what they have done,
And as the young generation
We aspire to be like them and have courage and bravery instead of none.

Our brave young Anzacs, relentless they were
Are our role models of today,
Showing the qualities and values that we respect
And we one day hope that we can show them in every possible way.

If bravery and turmoil wasn't enough
We as the young generation one day dream,
That we can be as proud as them,
Even on a court or oval , but still united as one powerful 'team'.

The nation unity and patriotism
Illustrated the determination and nationhood,
Between all troops and families alike
Became not only an alliance , but a brotherhood.

And to this day
The fields of Gallipoli still stand,
And the deep red poppies blow in the breezing wind
Remind us of those who lent a helping hand.

Fathers, sons and brothers
Together they fought and died
So that we may live in peace and unity
And never have to hide.

When that final bugle calls them
They cross that great divide
Those comrades will always be waiting
When they do finally reach the other side .

Now we stand safe and free
Clothed and sheltered,
We have security, liberty and opportunity
And our generations owe those men and women who endured and suffered.

So when that final bugle does call
We gather as Queenslanders, Tasmanians and Victorians,
But still remember that we
Are all Australians.

Now and Then, the Spirit of Anzac – Explained

Stanza 1, 2 and 3:

In the first three stanzas, I thought it was important and relevant that the historical facts be observed. The importance of Australia's allegiance with Britain was the reason the Anzac's fought against Germany, and this I thought was a good point to illustrate. I have also tried to show how Australia were willing to fight alongside Germany to help stop the terror and to show how Australia were always willing to help.

Stanza 4:

In stanza 4, I decided to write about how the Anzac's came about, and how Australia and New Zealand joined forces to help with the overseas despair. I have tried to show how Australia and New Zealand fought alongside each other and became one united front, known as the Anzac's.

Stanza 5 and 6:

In these two stanzas I have written about how the young boys were made to go and fight in the war, even though they may have only been young, they had to do as the conscriptions said. When they began their journey to Gallipoli, they had no idea what was going to happen, so I implied how the soldiers knew nothing about the ambush that was forced on them.

Stanza 7 and 8:

In this stanza I wrote about the location in which the troops were made to land, through the misguided directions. This stanza is supposed to reveal how the Anzac spirit was still guided even though all the troops were nervous about fighting. I have written about how the cove in which they were situated was renamed as Anzac cove, to show that we still remember the things they did for us and the sacrifices they made for their country.

Stanza 9:

This stanza is about the position of advantage in which the Turkish had over the Anzac's and how big an advance they had over their opposition.

Stanza 10 and 11:

Stanza 10 reflects on how the Anzac's had barely anytime to prepare themselves for what was about to happen and how they were fighting for their lives, while trying to take out their opposition. They had to duck for cover as soon as possible, or their lives could have been ended. I decided to write about Simpson and his donkey to show that not everyone that was called to the war, 'fought' as such, but they are still admired for their bravery, and in this case tending to the wounded and injured was an important part in the attack.

Stanza 12:

In this stanza, it is being discussed how the spirit of the Anzac's was still shown even through bad times, and in this case, at the worst of times. The troops still showed how comradeship and mateship was relevant out there on the battlefield.

Stanza 13 and 14:

These two stanzas depict how much of an advantage the Turkish had over the Anzac's, but that still didn't stop them from putting up a fight if it meant standing up for their country. Then comes in some more historical information about how the Anzac's were ordered to evacuate and stop the Gallipoli campaign because of how much damage the Turkish soldiers had done to our force.

Stanza 15 and 16:

Stanza 15 and 16 reflects upon the spirit and courage of our Anzac's and how it is shown through the youth of today. The courage from every person on the battlefield and off was greatly appreciated in those horrible times of destruction and how proud they were to fight for their country. But the Anzac spirit is not confined in the Anzac's generation, but ours, as the

youth of today as well. We see courage and bravery and even pride out on the sports fields and in the classrooms as a sign of struggle and integrity.

Stanza 17, 18 and 19:

Stanza 17 shows how we still admire and look up to the now veterans of the Anzac's and how we honour them for all the sacrifice they have been through and how much effort they put in, just to keep this country a great place to be. We all one day aspire to be like them in their qualities and values even if it isn't on the battlefield. Stanzas 18 and 19, show how we still admire the Anzac's aspects and qualities, but also how we try to put them to use in our every day life as the youth and generation of today's society, and in communities of our own.

Stanza 20:

This stanza exposes how close Australia and New Zealand now are because of the Anzac spirit and how we strived to be one united front. We now admire the patriotism and unity that our country has and how important it was then as well.

Stanza 21:

This stanza is about the fields of Gallipoli and how they are still honoured and remembered as a sacred place of sacrifice and hard work. The poppies that are a symbol of our hardships remind us of all the people that helped Australia to get back on its feet to the great nation that it is today.

Stanza 22 and 23:

These two stanzas speak of the troops that went into the war together, but never came out as freemen and women and how their sacrifice has let us live free in peace. Stanza 23 talks of how the deceased comrades will be waiting for those we lost in the war and will be safe and forever remembered in heaven.

Stanza 24:

This stanza reflects on how lucky we are today as a nation to have the many privileges that we do have and the freedom that we are allowed. Because of our fateful Anzac's we are a free country and have the many opportunities that we do have.

Stanza 25:

The last stanza of the poem I decided had to reflect on how Australia united as one for the cause, and that we are one united country of Australia.