

HONG KONG DAWN SERVICE

ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL 2014

SPEECH BY VADM RAY GRIGGS

CHIEF OF NAVY AUSTRALIA

Each year at this hour, Australians and New Zealanders around the globe gather to remember those who have fought and died for our countries. Hundreds and thousands have already done so this morning.

Every year we are joined by those from other nations who understand the significance of this day for us. I thank those you who have made this effort today appreciate the respect you pay us.

This time last year I was standing at Anzac Cove for the 1st time, as someone who has seen more than a few Anzac Day services the experience was unexpectedly overwhelming and brought home to me how deeply embedded Gallipoli is in our national psyche.

The Gallipoli campaign was much bigger than Anzac of course but it was where two young nations were blooded in the crucible of war, where a military legend was born, where many believe our national identities were forged and most definitely where the unshakeable bond between our two counties was formed.

Anzac losses were around ten and a half thousand of the of the 112,000 Turkish, British, French, Indian and Newfoundland lives lost; another 25,000 Anzacs were wounded.

One of the most unique features of this campaign is the legacy of the relationship between former foes. The profound respect and care which our Turkish brothers and sisters treat any Australian or New Zealander who make the pilgrimage to Gallipoli is quite remarkable.

All too often it is very easy to forget the importance of this campaign to the people of Turkey, the heavy loss of life, the great naval victory of the 18th of March in protecting the Straits, the successful defence of their homeland and the rise of Mustafa Kemal Attaturk whose wisdom and vision shaped the country of Turkey that we know today.

So as we rightly stop to remember and commemorate our war dead and the awful cost of the freedom that they helped secure, we should never forget those who fought alongside us and against us, for remembering all involved is the key to us never treading this path again. Lest we forget.