The Social Benefits for Australia originating from the Gallipoli Campaign

The battle for Gallipoli in World War I gave Australians, as people, a chance to meet the world, and Australia as a unified nation to display to the globe her morals, her honour and affirm herself as an independent nation. The landing in ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Cove on the 25th of April 1915 was catastrophic and the entire Gallipoli campaign claimed the lives of 136,425 men from six countries, including 8709 young Australian men\(^1\). There is no doubt in the mind of any person, whether it be a relative of one of the men or outside observer, that this particular military campaign was a disastrous defeat for the Allies. Nevertheless, the Gallipoli campaign provided opportunities for Australia’s young men which never would have occurred without the Great War. There came a sudden aperture for these men to travel, see distant lands and to observe entirely different cultures from the Anglo-Saxon influence most of them were brought up with. The Great War, and in particular the Gallipoli campaign, became a rite of passage for Australian culture. Australia had to rise up and support the Motherland, and as a result of this, the ANZAC legend and battle for Gallipoli echoes throughout time as a reminder of human will power, spirit and the thrilling strength and bond of fraternity. This was the first time that Australia, as a recently federated country, could show off these morals to the rest of the world and meet it squarely and on equal level. The Gallipoli campaign, a name synonymous with pain and death, became in Australia a name meaning honour, glory and pride, in reference to the young men who gave up their lives so that we may live ours.

The training period Australian Soldiers underwent in Cairo allowed Australians to meet the world, and conversely allowed the world to meet Australians. The Australians had a larrikin attitude and strong physique the likes of which British soldiers had never seen before, “Visitors from Great Britain … declared that the Australians and New Zealanders in … Gallipoli were the biggest men they had seen in any force.”\(^2\) Photographs (Source 1) show the sheer numbers of ANZAC soldiers departing to go to Lemnos and eventually Gallipoli; all these men had an opportunity while in Egypt to meet with Egyptian locals and men from all over the world including India, Canada, Britain and many other Commonwealth countries. This gave Australians for the first time a chance to become better acquainted with other foreign customs and traditions. Australians themselves made a cultural impact on the rest of the men. They gained a fierce reputation of being rowdy, unruly, drunken and undisciplined, “Their refusal to salute British officers became the accepted (if often resented) norm.”\(^3\) The Australian reputation was often frowned upon by the more traditional British officers; however, once the Australian men got to the shores of Gallipoli they proved their worth and confirmed that their spirit could not be shot down by their enemies.

\(^1\) Ayris, C. (1997), _ANZACS at Gallipoli_, Cyril Ayris Freelance, Perth, Australia
\(^2\) Quote: Charles Bean (C.E.W Bean) in the text of, Lindsay, P. (2006), _The Spirit of Gallipoli_, Hardie Grant Books, Melbourne, Australia
\(^3\) Lindsay, P. (2006), _The Spirit of Gallipoli_, Hardie Grant Books, Melbourne, Australia
Amidst the horror and devastation of the Gallipoli landing, the Australian fighting spirit was never broken. With the various mistakes made on the morning of the 25th of April 1915, the Allied troops landed into a heavily fortified and armed cove, now called ANZAC ove. The Ottoman soldiers lined the hills with massive machine guns, the height of the cliffs creating a massive military advantage. The Allied men jumped out of the boats and were immediately barraged with machine guns; there was total devastation with dead men everywhere (Source 2).

The Australians were the first men out of the boats and willingly sacrificed their lives for their fellow soldiers, “The fire was getting absolutely murderous but our chaps advanced again and again…would not be stopped. That Sunday (25th April) should live in history, for the Australians proved what stuff they were made of and many a one made a hero of himself.”

The Turkish were faced in their homeland with an army of unbelievable spirit and courage, in return the Allied and British forces were admiring of the Ottoman troops’ strength of will and humanity, one war chaplain even stating, “They (the Turkish) are magnificently led, well-armed and very brave and numerous.” The ANZAC and Turkish armies were known to have a cigarette together during the ceasefire which was provided to bury the dead. This was another instance when Australian men had the opportunity to meet another culture and even admire it even though they fought the enemy with tooth and nail. The Ottomans saw a glimpse into the vigour and soul of the Australians and truly met the Australians in all their glory for the first time. A captured Turk soldier said this, “We will go out to meet the French, we will wait for the British to come out of the trenches, but the Australians we will not face and no amount of driving will make us do so.” The brotherhood shown by Australian soldiers was also tremendous; they supported all their fellow soldiers and gained a steady reputation for their sense of fraternity (Source 3). The ANZAC soldiers were a credit to their respective countries and received recognition further down the years.

The ANZAC legend lived on even after the cease fire on the 11 of November 1918 which concluded The Great War. All Australians still, 93 years after the landing at Gallipoli, commemorate the ANZAC spirit annually on the 25th of April. The valiant soldiers were viewed by people all over the world and represented the Australian ethic and morale. For the first time Australia had a self-made identity which could be seen on a global scale. An Australian poem about the Gallipoli landing by Joan Torrance (Source 4) exhibits the intense emotions of pride, and increased feeling of Nationalism in Australia, “Australia! Our dear Homeland- All Nations hail thee now, Thy fearless sons have glory set upon thy royal brow.” This poem refers to Australia rather than Britain as the “Homeland.” It also illustrates that other nations now recognised Australia. However, despite the pride, the pain of the thousands of Australian and New Zealand lives lost at the Gallipoli campaign was engraved into the Australian national psyche. Many world leaders paid tribute to the fallen soldiers, one of the most moving and poignant speeches made after the war was by Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk), a Turkish commanding officer and eventual first President of Turkey. Ataturk stated, “Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives …you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country … there is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side … mothers wipe away your tears your sons are now living in our bosom … after having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.” The British Royal family also visited ANZAC parade, Canberra. (Source 5) The photograph in Source 5 depicts the Queen and the English Royal family with Prime Minister Menzies paying tribute to the Australian troops on the 50th Anniversary

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4 Quote: Sergeant Baker in the text of, Lindsay, P. (2006), *The Spirit of Gallipoli*, Hardie Grant Books, Melbourne, Australia
5 Quote: Unknown war Chaplain in the text of Fewster, K., Başarın,V., Hürmüz Başarın, İL. (1953). *A Turkish view of Gallipoli*, Hodja Educational Resources Cooperative Ltd. Richmond, Victoria, Australia
6 Quote: Unknown Turkish soldier in the text of, Lindsay, P. (2006), *The Spirit of Gallipoli*, Hardie Grant Books, Melbourne, Australia
7 Quote: Joan Terrance from National Archives of Australia: A1336, 11325. (1923) Nationhood poem, *On the Landing of Our Troops at Gallipoli* by Joan Torrance, located in Canberra
of the Gallipoli landing. The world and its leaders were enthralled by the bravery of the ANZAC soldiers and Australia for the first time was seen as an individual country which was capable of standing by itself.

During the First World War, in the midst of the death and despair, the Australian troops emanated pride and support. They rushed to Great Britain’s aid even though it was not geographically their war to fight. The Great War gave opportunity for travel and intermingling of cultures for the young men. It also allowed the ANZAC soldiers to represent their countries and develop a national identity. Government documents (Source 6) describe Australian and New Zealand officials deciding on Gallipoli medal colours. They decided to use hues which represented Australia’s natural beauty instead of using the red white and blue of the British Union Jack, “Light blue representing sea, crimson on each side of the light blue representing flower gum … Gold representing wattle blossom.” There was national pride in even the horticulture and physical features of the land. Official Australian War Historian C.E.W Bean said this when talking about the identity of the Australian troops, “What motive sustained them? ... It lay in the mettle of the men themselves … life was not worth living unless they could be true to the idea of Australian Manhood.” The Gallipoli campaign was when this idea of “Australian Manhood” was first realised. It was seen in the eager way thousands of men enrolled for battle and in the way they conducted themselves throughout the massacre of war. The values of fraternity they honoured and the bonds of friendship they discovered with citizens all over the globe. The ANZAC spirit became known all throughout the world and made people be proud to say ‘I am Australian.’

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9 Archives of Australia: A1767/1, RVDD422. Royalty, Queen and Royal Family, located in Canberra, Australia
10 Quote: Australian Governor General from: National Archives of Australia: A11803, 1918/89/128 (1918) Gallipoli Campaign Medal, page 20, located in Canberra
11 Quote by C.E.W Bean from The Story of Anzac, by C.E.W Bean, published in 1941, quote found in the text of, Darlington, D., Cupper, P., Hospodaryk, J. (2001), Heinemann History Links: Australia and the Twentieth Century World, Reed International Books Australia, Port Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Appendices:

Source 1: – National Archives of Australia: A1200/19, L50752, Anzac troops in Alexandria, Located in Canberra

1915, Anzac troops prepare to board the ship in Alexandria which will take them to Lemnos before landing in Gallipoli
A Letter card/ souvenir booklet of Gallipoli and the fallen soldiers during the campaign.
Source 3 – National Archives of Australia: A1200/18, L50758, Australians carrying an injured British soldier, World War 1, Located in Canberra
1915, an injured British soldier being carried by Australian soldiers away from the front line.
This 1923 poem represents the opinion that Australia should be proud of their national identity as a result of the Gallipoli campaign.
Source 5 – National Archives of Australia: A1767/1,RVDD422. Royalty, Queen and royal Family, located in Canberra

1965, The Queen and the British Royal family, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies marching on Anzac Parade to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.
With reference to your recent telegram re 1st
Gallipoli Star propose calling Committee of State as follows:
begin your secret telegram March 1918
Gallipoli Star and New Zealand Governments agree in regarding Gallipoli Star and
require that the following star eight pointed bronze star one and one-half inches in diameter, reverse, in the centre
in silver raised from surrounded by word "GALLIPOLI" and
the initial letters, reverse, plain for decorative
purposes considered. Der for convenience fixed to appropriate
link of the prize, shield five stripes, centre three
eight inch stripe light blue representing sea, one eighth
inch stripe crimson on each side of the light blue representing
flowing gun of entrance, one eighth inch stripe on each side of
five inch stripe of gold representing battle honour of Australia and on the other side with
five inch stripe of silver representing silver Snoopy of the New Zealand Force,
the whole one and one quarter
inch wide ending left to right gold, crimson, light blue,
crimson, silver stripe. Please advise whether your government
consents with foregoing. Also propose决议 that
upon recommendation this government considers that Gallipoli Star should only be issued to officers not per who
actually landed at Gallipoli.

Governor-General.
Primary Sources

1. National Archives of Australia: A1200/19, L50752, Anzac troops in Alexandria, Located in Canberra
   This photographic source was useful in capturing the sheer number of soldiers who were at this event. It depicted the troop movement well and was quite clear.

2. National Archives of Australia: A1861, 4071, Booklet, Gallipoli letter card page 8, photograph 2, Located in Canberra
   This photograph painted the perfect representation of the Gallipoli campaign’s horror, and even though it was a little distorted, the devastation of the piled dead bodies is very clear.

3. National Archives of Australia: A1200/18, L50758, Australians carrying an injured British soldier, World War I, Located in Canberra
   This photograph showed the fraternity values which Australians fostered not only among their fellow countrymen, but also among other allies. The photograph captured the grim but determined emotion of the moment.

4. National Archives of Australia: A1767/1, RVDD422. Royalty, Queen and royal family, located in Canberra
   This photograph even though taken from a distance, was very effective in showing the gratitude and respect which the Gallipoli events placed on Australia and therefore was very useful to the construction and development of essay arguments.

5. National Archives of Australia: A1336, 11325.(1923) Nationhood poem (On the Landing of Our Troops at Gallipoli) by Joan Torrance, located in Canberra
   This poem was very emotive and displayed the pride and honour which Australians felt about the Gallipoli campaign. It was well set out, clear and a strong emotional representation of the average Australian’s feelings at this time.

   This source was very interesting and showed a different way of people expressing National pride. It was hard to read, but the meaning was clear. There was great national pride and honour resulting from the campaign. This document was an example of this and from the beginning, helped me to shape and define my essay.