# TED ANKARA COLLEGE FOUNDATION PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL

HISTORY EXTENDED ESSAY
Name Of The Supervisor: Pınar TÜRKECAN
Name Of The Candidate: Beren TUNÇALP
Candidate's Number: 1129072
Change of perspective of ANZACS about Turkish Soldier after The Gallipoli Campaign
<b>Research Question:</b> Change of perspectives of ANZAC soldiers' about Turkish soldier throughout Gallipoli War between 1915 and 1916

#### **ABSTRACT**

The First World War influenced many countries' point of view about other countries and their soldiers. Nevertheless, this extended essay will only analyze the change of perspective of ANZAC soldiers about Turkish soldiers and the research question "Change of perspectives of ANZAC soldiers' about Turkish soldier throughout Gallipoli War between 1915 and 1916is replied. The reason of selecting particularly ANZAC soldiers is because of the variation in their perspectives which lead me to be curious about the reason of this verification. The memories of the ANZAC soldiers was formed the beginning point of this extended essay, because it made me wonder the differentiation of their point of views, before the war, during the war and lastly after the war. After the research, I conclude that their perspectives changed during the war. These differences about the perspectives of ANZAC soldiers are analyzed in this essay in a elaborated way. For primary sources, I used a compilation book about ANZAC soldiers memories, named "ANZACS and Their Descendants Are Telling About The Hero Mehmet" which is compiled by 'Nevzat Karabağ Anatolian Teacher High School' and a cultural publication of 'Çanakkale 18 Mart University' about Anzac diaries, named "Çanakkale Cephesinden ANZAC Günlükleri"

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION:

#### 1.1 First World War (1914-1918):

First World War is a total war, that's why it is called a 'world war'. However, everyone thought that the reason of it was, including nearly the whole world, lasting so long and affecting all continents. 'In this war, aims did not determine tools, but tools determined aims. To sum up, the most important attribute of this war was the improper between the aims that they wanted to reach, the price that was paid and the results they got.' <sup>1</sup>

#### 1.1.A. Situations Of the States:

When the common lines of European Countries in 19th Century are examined, men can observe some differences in their politic, economic and strategic point of views.

In this period, the main purpose of the *capitalist*<sup>2</sup> and *imperialist*<sup>3</sup> Britain, which was one of the most powerful countries in the world, was protecting the leadership of the colonials. However, Germany was just provided their national unity in 1871 and started to search for colonies. Therefore, Germany was a huge risk for Britain and it's colonies. Besides, Germany was improved their military industry. For this reason, Britain does not want Germany to pass through the Ottoman Empire territory and reach to their eastern colonies like India. That is why Britain does not approve the relationship between Germany and Ottoman Empire. Thus with Berlin Treaty in 1878, Britain abandoned the Ottoman Empire's territorial integrity.

As it mentioned, Germany, which had arisen as a new power in Europe, was searching for raw materials and market area to expand it's economy and to find new colonies. That is why, it was clashing with other Colonial powers such as Britain and France. In addition to that, they do not want Russia to expand in Europe.

Till 1870s, the main ambition of France, which was another fearful power, was conquering the world leadership of colonies from Britain. Also, they were enemies with Germany because of a coal territory named *Alsace-Lorraine*<sup>4</sup>. With *Sedan Battle*<sup>5</sup> in 1870,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Siyasi Tarih ilkçağlardan 1918'e, Oral SANDER

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalism, is an economic system based on the private ownership of capital goods and the means of production, with the creation of goods and services for profit (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitalism)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Imperialism, is the creation and maintenance of an unequal economic, cultural, and territorial relationship, usually between states and often in the form of an empire, based on domination and subordination. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperialism)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Alsace-Lorraine, provided coal and iron ore, which in 19th Century industrial countries, were the most needed minerals for that industrialization to move forward.. (http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20110410145112AAVTsgi)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> War between France and Germany for Alsace-Lorraine territory. The war and its resulting German victory is notable for its impact and legacy on Europe. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franco-Prussian\_War)

Germany acquired that territory. Thence, France changed their politics and got close to Britain to protect their colonials.

Russia was trying to maintain it's *panslavist*<sup>6</sup> politics. Therefore, they were planning to conquer the South Seas. Because of this politics, they were enemies with Austria-Hungary and Germany. Because these two Empires contain Slav races in their structures. So Russia was a threat for them.

Italy was provided it's national unity in 1870. So it was searching for raw materials and market area like Germany to get included to the process of industrial revolution and become one of the most powerful countries in the world of 20. Century. By this reason, it captured Tripoli from Ottoman Empire with *Tripolitanian War*<sup>7</sup> in 1911-12.

Austria-Hungary was from Germen race and trying to protect it's territory unity from Russia's panslavist politics. Also they were relatives with Germany so they were moving together.

For last, 'sick man' Ottoman Empire was applying a balance politic between European countries to continue its existence.

## 1.1.A.a. Ottoman Empire:

In 19. Century, Ottoman Empire was not considered as an European Empire anymore. At the end of the period of Sultan Süleyman, it started to lose it's power. The reasons of this recession were;

Most of them were about economical reasons. At first, because of the *geographical*<sup>8</sup> discoveries in 16. Century, *The Silk Route and Spice Trade*<sup>9</sup> lost their value but the most devastating effect in economy was capitulations. In addition to that, the *capitulations*<sup>10</sup> which was given to the France when the Ottoman Empire was powerful, now turned into liability, so

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Panslavism, a scheme or desire to unite all the Slavic races into one confederacy (http://www.definitions.net/definition/panslavism)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Tripolitanian War, was fought between the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Italy from.As a result of this conflict, Italy captured the Ottoman provinces of Tripolitania, Fezzan, and Cyrenaica. These provinces together formed. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italo-Turkish\_War)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Geographical discoveries, the conventional term employed in literature to designate the major geographical discoveries made by European voyagers from the mid-15th to the mid-17th centuries (http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/Geographical+Discoveries.+Great)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Silk Route, a modern term referring to a historical network of interlinking trade routes across the Afro-Eurasian landmass that connected East, South, and Western Asia with the Mediterranean and European world, as well as parts of North and East Africa

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Capitulation, when investors give up any previous gains in stock price by selling equities in an effort to get out of the market and into less risky

investments.(http://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/capitulation.asp#axzz2KzQh3Kmk)

the economy of the Ottoman Empire collapsed. Also with the *Treaty Of Balta Liman*<sup>11</sup>, the restrictions in the trade section for the foreign removed. Thus, tariff wall also removed. By this action, cheap and sleazy European goods started to sell to Ottoman Empire. At the end of those events, in 1854, Ottoman Empire got into debt for the first time. Also it can not evaluate that as an investment. All of those money was spend as show. At the end, it even can not pay interest. So in 1881, creditor empires established *Ottoman Public Dept Administration*<sup>12</sup> and seized the all of the source of incomes of the Ottoman Empire.

Deterioration of the economy influenced the management, body politics and sociocultural structure too. Because of the absolute monarchy, the role of the sultans were important. Because of the game of thrones, concubines, women, scholars and landlords gained strength. So a gap in the authority occurred. Also as nationalism gained power, the minorities in Ottoman Empire such as Serbian, Greek, started to rebel. Because of these reasons Ottoman Empire lost it's power.

To regain it's power, it started to publish some imperial orders, such as *Charter Of Alliance*<sup>13</sup>, *Tanzimat Edict*<sup>14</sup> and *Islahat Edict*<sup>15</sup>. But, none of those edicts worked and Ottoman Empire continued to lose it's power per day. At the end, as it's said, it started to apply balance politics.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Treaty of Balta Liman, a commercial treaty signed in 1838 between the Ottoman Empire and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, regulating international trade. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty of Balta Liman)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Ottoman Public Dept Administration, a European-controlled organization that was established in 1881 to collect the payments which the Ottoman Empireowed to European companies in the Ottoman public debt. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman\_Public\_Debt\_Administration)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Charter Of Alliance, was a treaty between the grand vizier of the Ottoman Empire and a number of powerful local rulers signed in 1808, in an attempt to regulate their power and relations with the central Ottoman government.( http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charter\_of\_Alliance)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Tanzimat Edict, encouraged Ottomanism among the diverse ethnic groups of the Empire, attempting to stem the tide of nationalist movements within the Ottoman Empire. The reforms attempted to integrate non-Muslims and non-Turks more thoroughly into Ottoman society by enhancing their civil liberties and granting them equality throughout the Empire. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanzimat)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The decree from Sultan Abdülmecid I promised equality in education, government appointments, and administration of justice to all regardless of creed. The decree is often seen as a result of French and British influence, Congress of Paris, for their help of the plagued Ottoman state against Russians in the Crimean War. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman\_Reform\_Edict\_of\_1856)

## 1.1.B. Formation Of The First World War:

According to the reasons above, a polarization occurred in Europe and this polarization formed the two sides of the First World War; alliance and entente. Entente side basicly consisted of Britain, France and Russia. In response, alliance side consisted of Germany, Italy, Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Empire. During the war, the sides changed and Italy, Serbia, Greece, Romania, Japan, USA and Brazil joined to the entente's side and corresponding to that Bulgaria joined to the alliance's side

In this war, Ottoman Empire had a battle in seven facade. Those facades are: Caucasian Facade, The Iraqi Facade, The Syrian-Palestinian Facade, The Hejaz-Yemen Facade, Macedonia-Romania-Galicia Facade, The Suez Canal Facade and lastly Gallipoli Facade. Only facade that Ottoman Empire won, was Gallipoli.

## 1.2.Gallipoli Façade:

Between 1915 and 1916, in Gallipoli Peninsula, between Entente States and Ottoman Empire, one of the most bloody wars of First World War were experienced, named The Battle Of Çanakkale or with other name Gallipoli Campaign. The façade was opened by Entente States. Ottoman Empire battled with an army that Britain united from it's southeast colonials named ANZAC soldiers (The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.) It is the only facade that Ottoman Empire had a victory in First World War.

## 1.2.A. Importance Of This Façade:

The victory of this façade had an importance through the world and Turkish history. Gallipoli was an epic story of Turkish soldier. Turkish soldier showed an extra ordinary battle against the enemy and they did not let the enemy pass through Çanakkale. This victory, provided the spirit of the national struggle. Also, this spirit leaped to other colonial states. Battle of Çanakkale, was a guidance of the economic development of the world. As the war period elongated, Europe fronted to Japan and ABD to fulfilled their battle industry. This was why the United States and Japan had became economically strong countries.

Ottoman Empire lost some of it's territories with Tripoli War and Balkan Wars. At the end of Tripoli War, with Ushi Treaty, capitulations against Italy was removed. Also Twelve Islands were given to Italy as compensation. Also with Balkan Wars, Ottoman Empire lost it's domination on Aegean Sea and Balkans. So, with this façade, they showed that they still got power.

This victory, also effected the Liberation Struggle. Ottoman Empire gave martyrs and ghazis in this war but they united around Atatürk. Finally, they won the struggle for independence, so the state of the Republic of Turkey established. Atatürk's outstanding features, surfaced during this battle, and had attracted the attention of the nation. Due to the victory that he won, Turkish nation started to call his as "Istanbul-saving Hero" and he became the legendary hero among the people. With this prestige, he flamed the national struggle's fire. In addition he quitted from military, even he was civil and he was sentenced to supreme punishment, he did not give up. This environment provided Turkey's liberation and prevented from collapsing. In addition to that, this façade had some social importance too.

This facade also changed the thoughts of two sides; New Zealand-Australian and Turkey. These sides knew nothing about other but New Zealand-Australian were colonies of Britain, so they were sent by Britain and they were carrying Britain's thoughts. But this façade changed this. That is why, this victory was so important.

## 1.2.B. Reasons Of The Façade:

Ottoman Empire had an victory in only this façade, and that was the biggest defense war in whole Ottoman history. Also with this façade, Turks' prestige increased in the world. In addition, this façade had an importance in the Turkish and also world history. As it' said on the above, this façade was opened by Entente States. Some reasons of this façade were;

One of the main reasons of the facade was because of geopolitical location; the problem of İstanbul and Çanakkale Bosphorus. The Straits now had an importance like past in terms of world's strategic locations. Cause these straits connects Asia to Europe. Also through the history, they had an economical importance too. To own straits meaned to become the leader of this trade. By this reason, throughout the history, some empires aimed to own these straits. Gallipoli war had an importance in this respect. The role of the Bosphorus was important for the course of the war. Entente side was planning to capture the Bosphorus, then capture the Capital city of the Ottoman Empire which was İstanbul. Thence, Ottoman Empire would become ineffective and the length of the war would get shortened.

Another reason was the 'mayday call' of Russia. Ottoman Empire's army compacted Russia in Caucasian Façade. Economy of Russia was sunken and their victuals was about to run out. So, Russia would not stand alone anymore to Ottoman Empire. In addition to that, their military source was weakened, so they need both military and weapon help.

The other main reason was compressing Germany by pulling Balkan States to war. Thus, the lifetime of Germany would get shorter or even could end. In either case, it would be what the Entente States want.

## 1.2.C. Results Of The Façade:

At the beginning, with the victory that Ottoman Empire had in Gallipoli Façade, the length of the First World War elongated. Entente states, did not capture the Bosphorus so they could not send help to Russia. Thus, the Russian economy collapsed. Because of that, a revolution named 'Bolshevik' emerged in Russia. So, Russians withdrew from the First World War by exposing all of the secret treaties that Entente States made.

The confidence of the other countries for Britain and France were shaken. In this way, the world have seen that every country ,no matter how strong it is, could be defeated. Because of that, the colonial states, took courage. In addition, the Turkish army gained their self confidence back and other countries started to trust back to Ottoman Empire. Also, this confidence was reflected in the national struggle.

Besides, it is one of the most bloody façade of the First World War. Nearly half a million people died in this façade.

## 1.3. Who Is ANZACS and Their Role In Gallipoli Façade:

During the First World War, the army that, Britain united for back up force from it's Australian and New Zealand colonies named ANZAC (The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps).

Actually, both Australia and New Zealand were countries that against war. Naturally, they did not have an important military source unlikely Japan or Serbia. They just had regional organizations to protect themselves. That shows, substantially they were against any type of war. Notwithstanding, Britain called them to war.

By entering the war alongside the Britain, they were aware of, Britain would use their both military and victual sources. On the other hand, they were also aware of the German threat on their territories. So, they entered the war, but not for only Britain called them, but also to protect their territorial unity against Germany.

As a result, as Britain requested, the command of the Australian and New Zealand navies transferred to Britain. In addition to that, an army that consisted of 20 thousand soldiers were rendered. Moreover, this army would do what Britain says without asking any questions during the war. So they were like a slaves of Britain.

When this navy, shove off, Ottoman Empire was not in the war officially. During the 'journey' of this navy, the first news was about Ottoman Empire that joined the war alongside

Germany. Thus, Britain commanded, as a defense action, navy would attack Ottoman Empire to protect Egypt.

Later, because of the defeat of the force's of Entente States, the navy and the army were shipped to the Gallipoli. On the other hand, no one told the ANZAC soldiers the destination of the ship or who was the enemy that they would fight. So that, ANZACS shipped to a war, without knowing where it is and with whom it is. When they arrived to Aegean Coast, they learned that they would attack to Turkish army, and their aim was capturing the Gallipoli Peninsula.

As a result, ANZACS battled with an army that they knew nothing about them but claimed as 'barbarians' and took a battle against them. During that battle, they found a chance to get to know the real Turks who is 'Johnny Turks'.

## 2. COMPARISON OF THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE ANCAZ SOLDIERS:

ANZAC soldiers' opinions about Turks were unpleasant before the Gallipoli Campaign. The reason of that was, most of them never met with a Turk in their whole live. So, they were moving with a prejudice that Entente States created to win the façade, but when the Gallipoli campaign is over, their ideas changed in a better way. Because, they obtained a chance to see the natural side of the Turks.

## 2.1. ANZACS Thoughts Before The War:

As it mentioned earlier, ANZACS had no idea about neither Ottoman Empire nor it's army, because of the geographical locations of the countries. As we can see this from their memories (*A few of us met Turks*." (*Albert Roy Kyle*)) However, each of them had an idea about Turks which is created by Entente States that intended for winning the war. As it emphasized before, ANZACS had no idea about where were they going or who would they fight too. They were moving towards Britain's orders. Also, they just knew that their goal was fighting and winning. Soldiers did not know who are Turks and what were their aims. Yet, the main views and the reasons of those views were like that;

• "Turks were barbarous and enjoyed to kill Armenians. We might help Armenians. A few of us met Turks." (Albert Roy Kyle)

During the First World War, in 1915 Ottoman Empire published a law about Armenians. So all of Armenians who were living in the east side of the Ottoman Empire were forced to migrate. The reasons of this migration was not personal, during the war Russia provoked Armenians in the east. So they started to rebel, as a defense action, Ottoman Empire had to force them to migrate. In addition, Armenians who were living in the Istanbul did not forced to migrate, because they were not considered as a threat. During this migration, some of the Armenians died because of diseases, famine, cold etc. However, Entente states used this as a black propaganda to wash ANCAZS' brains and to turn ANZACS to enemy of Turks. So Turks announced as 'Barbarians'

- "I know nothing about Turkish people and Turkey. We did not meet Turks well before Gallipoli. I believed that we would go to Egypt when we moved from New Zealand." (Martin Aldred Brooke)
- "We did not have any idea neither Turkey nor Turks, we did not know where we were going... when we arrived there, the commanders did not give us any information..."
  (J.J. Ryan)
- "We did not have any idea when we left Australia to join the First World War." (Arthur T. Breezley)
- "I did not know that I would go to Turkey for fighting..." (Thomas William Epps)

As it mentioned before, for Britain, New Zealand and Australia prepared an army that consisted of 20 thousand soldiers and Britain would determine wherever and whenever this army would attack. So they followed the orders and attacked to a nation which they knew nothing about.

• "We knew that the Turkish army was ready. But we did not attach importance to their force. E thought that before we went to Gallipoli, the fight would be over." (Allan Salreeson)

Apart from those reasons, till the Period of Sultan Süleyman, Ottoman Empire entered collapse period. So Entente States saw Ottoman Empire as an 'easy prey'. In addition, Ottoman Empire did not have a victory in other facades. So, no one attach importance to their force.

- "I saw them as only enemy. I did not have any personal thoughts or feelings." (William Arthur Cooper)
- "They were fighting for their country, like us." (E.W. Bartlett)
- "Personally, I did not know anything about Turks." (Alfred Douglas Dibley)

Some of them had no idea about Turks, so they were not probably exposed to black propaganda of Entente States.

To sum up, ANZAC soldier had not have their own idea but prejudice about Turks. They were just following the orders without questioning. However, ideas are changeable, and their ideas changed during the war.

## 2.2. ANZACS Thoughts During The War and After The War:

As it mentioned before, opinions are mutable and during the wars, men can find a true way to get to know a nation. First World War is a good example for this. ANZAC soldier's thoughts about Hero Mehmet changed during this war. When they truly see who are Turks.

## 2.2.A.Reasons Of This Change:

When the memories of ANZAC army about Turks and their heroism are considered, the reasons of this change became obvious. Turks was an example of conscience, heroism and sacrifice. Men can see this from ANZACS memories:

- From First Lieutenant Casey's Memories;
- "... Between the 2 trenches, an English captain, badly injured and with almost dropped off leg, was crying for help... A piece of white cloth was waved from Turkish trenches. Then a well-built Turkish soldier go out of the trenches unarmed... He hugged the English officer softly. Putting his arm on the shoulder walked towards our trenches. Then he put him ground... We talked about his courage, glamour and humanity for days."
- From Argus Newspaper in 1915 which is written by an ANZAC soldier;
- "... Our twelve wounded soldiers found themselves on front by Turkish Kızılay team. They do not captive our soldiers. Their wounds are bandaged... Another time, the Turkish soldier found our wounded soldier. He cleaned up his wound... He left our soldier in a hidden place. Then he thought that maybe his friends can not find him on time and gave him biscuits and water..."

How can men call those Turkish soldiers as barbarians? They were in a war, the risk of stopping by a bullet was so obvious but still they kept helping their enemy. Cause, Hero Mehmet was so compassionate. They helped their enemies in a battle field, obviously that action needs courage and humanity to do. So the ANZAC army saw the real Turkish army and realized that they are the Turks who were said to be barbarians...

## 2.3. Same Soldiers Impression:

- "They were brave, witty, joker people. When we understood they digged a tunnel, we started shooting, when we missed, the Johnny Turk would do a sign with his gun..." (Albert Roy Kyle)
- "... they were always on alert, they had discipline. We had respect to them. When everything stopped and the war finished, I think Johnny Turk was not a bad person. We were misled by English Commanders" (Martin Aldred Brooke)
- "Turkish soldiers were very brave. They weren't afraid of death. They were good, honest and brave soldiers..." (J.J. Ryan)
- "They fought very honest..." (E.W. Bartlett)
- "We had the feeling of respect to them." (William Arthur Cooper)
- "In my opinion, Turks were helpful and honest warriors. I thought Turks were friendly..." (Allan Salreeson)
- "Turks were helpful and honest... Turks were always in a superior position." (Arthur W. Barleet)
- "...they were good warriors who defended their country. My thoughts about Turkish army changed when the war is over..." (Alfred Douglas Dibley)
- "... Australian and the other soldiers like me who fought in Gallipoli have respect and admiration for Turkish soldiers and nation.... I saw the walk of an Anzac and a Turk by supporting each other. Their bravery and resistance created respect..." (Arthur T. Breezley)

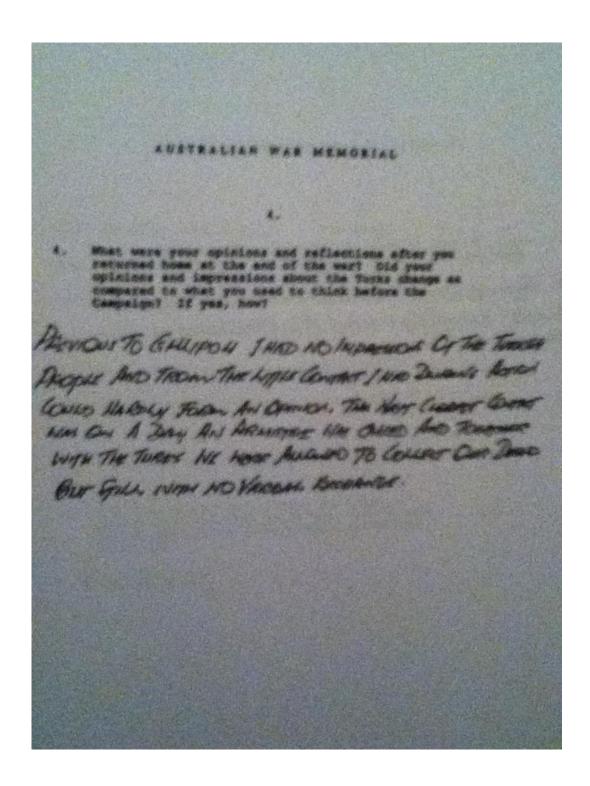
As men can see, the opinions of the same soldiers about Turks changed during the war. Cause they found a chance to get to know the real Turks. In fact, instead of barbarians, they started calling Turks as; 'The Symbol of Gentlemen', 'Brave and Heroic Enemy', 'The Turk both Enemy and Friend' or 'Jocko Turk'.

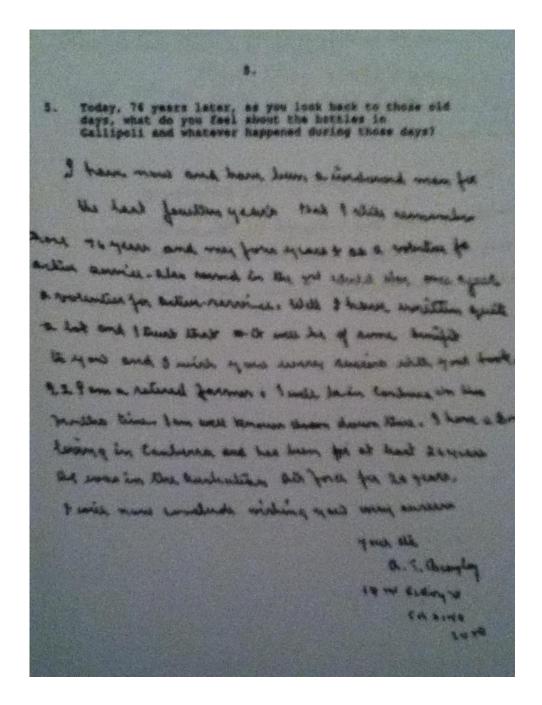
## 3. CONCLUSION:

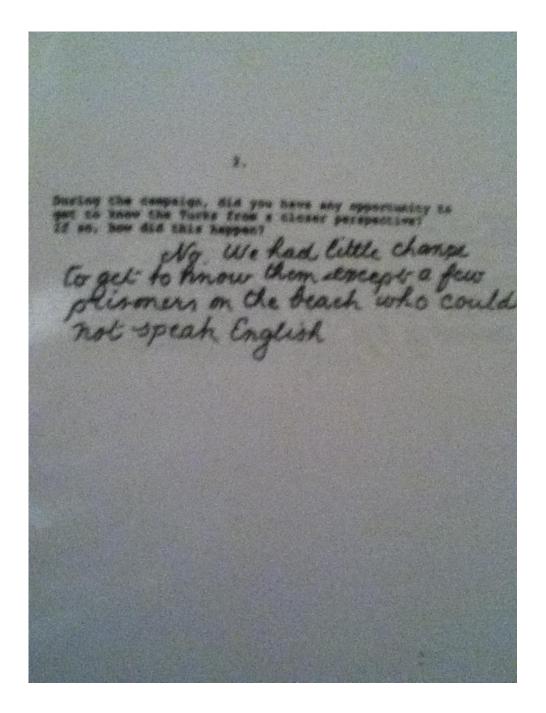
To sum up, although the black propaganda that Britain did, ANZAC army could find a way to get to know the Turkish soldier. Also, their opinion changed in a more pleasant way. We can see that not only from the memories of the ANZAC soldiers but also from the examples of today too. In the Çanakkale Cemetry, men can see that they are still grateful to Turks, they are looking at you with a great respect and blessing. Because they still remember the courage and humanity of our soldiers. As a basic answer to the research question "How did the perspective of ANZACS changed about Turkish Soldier after The Gallipoli Campaign between 1915 and 1916?" we can say that all of their unpleasant thoughts washed in a washing machine and turned to white after they truly met with the Turkish soldier.

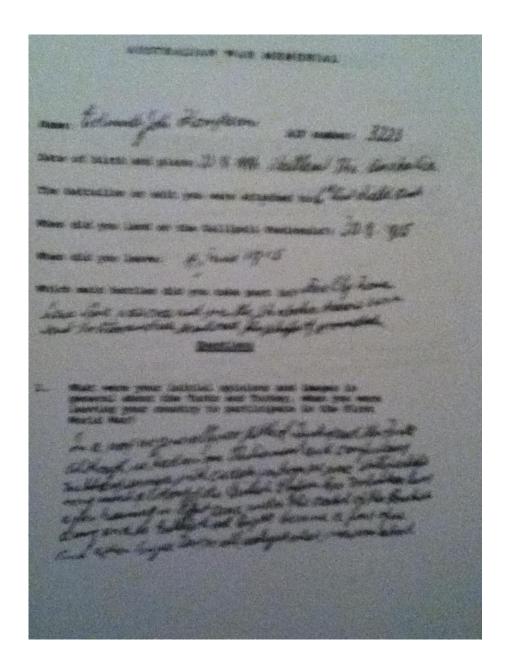
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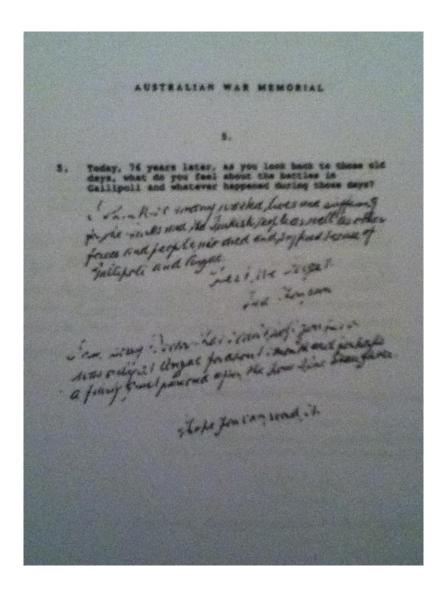
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