



Australian Embassy
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E-NEWS: ANZAC DAY 2014

What is Anzac Day?

ANZAC Day is celebrated on 25 April and is probably Australia's most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

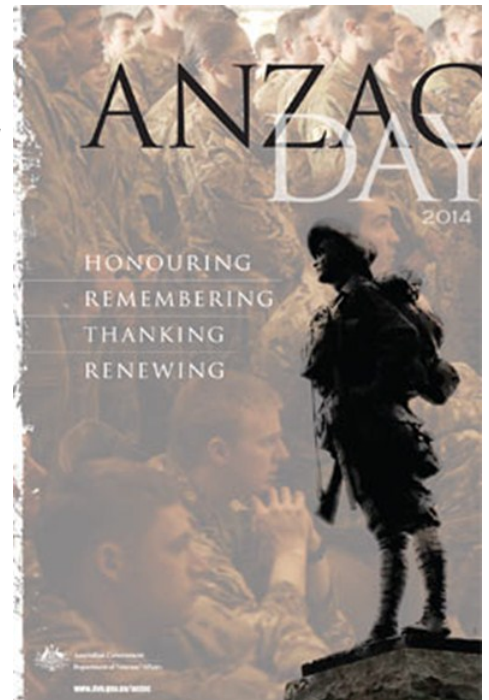
ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as Anzacs, and the pride they took in that name endures to this day.

Why is this day special to Australians?

In 1915 Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula in order to open the Dardanelles to the allied navies.

The Australian and New Zealand forces landed on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, meeting fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turkish defenders. What had been planned as a bold stroke to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months. News of the landing on Gallipoli had made a profound impact on Australians at home, and 25 April soon became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in the war.

Read more: [here](#)



Anzac Day service in Gallipoli 2015

The winners of a public ballot to attend centenary Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli next year have been announced.

More than 42,000 people applied for one of 8,000 Australian tickets to the service to mark 100 years since Anzac troops landed on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Turkish officials announced last year the number of attendees had been capped at 10,500 people.

The breakdown of tickets for the event includes 8,000 places for Australians, 2,000 for New Zealanders, 250 places for Turkish representatives and the remaining 500 places have been allocated for official guests of nations involved in the Gallipoli campaign.

Read more: [here](#)

Anzac Day commemoration in Korcula

This year the Australian Embassy in Croatia is organising an ANZAC Day commemoration in Korcula. This is the first time the commemoration is being held outside of Zagreb.

Numerous Croatian families had descendants in both World Wars, and Croatians were seen as being patriotic to Australia and some were recognised for their bravery. One of these is Private Leslie Starcevic of the 2/43rd Australian Infantry Battalion, who received the Victoria Cross Medal for exceptional bravery in the face of the enemy in North Borneo during the Second World War. The Victoria Cross is the Commonwealth's highest military decoration and has been earned by less than 100 Australians.