

'25 April 1985: Arıburnu, "Anzac Cove", the Mehmetts and the Johnnies'

by Cengiz Özakıncı

[Translated from the Turkish by Burçin Çakır]

*We were in the hands of fate, and the hour has struck on the great clock of destiny for settling accounts with the Turk. The Turk is the greatest enemy of his own faith because he has discredited it by misgovernment. What have the Turks contributed either to culture, to art, or to any aspect of human progress that you can think of? They are a human cancer, a creeping agony in the flesh of the lands which they misgoverned, and rotting every fibre of life. And now that the great day of reckoning has come upon the nation, I am glad. I am glad the Turk is to be called to a final account for his long record of infamy against humanity in this gigantic battle between right and wrong.*¹

British Prime Minister Lloyd George said this concisely in his speech in the City Temple on 10 November 1914 in the first months of World War I. This speech, published in *The Times* newspaper in England, was also published in the newspapers of Australia and New Zealand, which were Dominions of England, with headlines such as 'Contemptible Turk'.²



David Lloyd George (1863-1945) gives a speech.
19 September 1914

ships from Egypt to the Gallipoli Peninsula and they came ashore in Arıburnu and set out to occupy it throughout the morning of 25 April 1915.



New Zealand and Australian soldiers above Anzac Cove, 1915

The capital city of the 'contemptible Turk', İstanbul, would be occupied and Turks, as the Human Cancer, would be eradicated from the European territories. The soldiers gathered by England from Australia and New Zealand were transferred to Egypt in December 1914 and massed under the command of General Birdwood. Birdwood named these soldiers 'ANZAC', which stood for 'Australian and New Zealand Army Corps'. The Anzacs were transported by

In *The Anzac Book* (1916), General Birdwood stated that he named the *Arıburnu* area 'Anzac Cove', with the aim of enabling the courage of the Anzacs to pass into history as a geographical name for all time.³

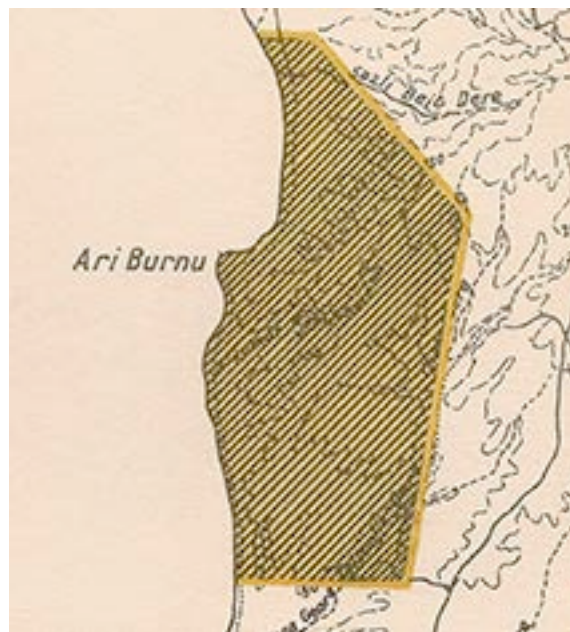
In their letters they sent from Arıburnu to their families in their own countries, the soldiers wrote their address as 'Gallipoli Peninsula/Anzac

Cove'. These letters sent from Gallipoli were published in the Australian newspapers in June 1915 and the public heard these words, 'Anzac' and 'Anzac Cove', for the first time.⁴ However, those who looked at the map of Gallipoli could not see any place called Anzac Cove. Therefore, the Australian newspapers needed to publish articles explaining the meanings of these new words, Anzac and Anzac Cove, in their language. According to a newspaper, Ariburnu would be named Anzac Cove on the maps that would be drawn after the war and, therefore, the role of Australians in achieving the target of expelling the 'unspeakable Turks' from Europe would pass into history.⁵ Another newspaper reported that the Anzacs put their own stamp on the Gallipoli Peninsula, giving new names such as Anzac Cove to the territories that they occupied.⁶



No one mentioned the possibility that the Anzacs could be defeated. At the end of the battles that lasted eight months, however, the Anzacs did not succeed in occupying Istanbul and retreated quietly, leaving the area on 18-20 December 1915. However, they still used the name Anzac Cove on the map published in 1916 and gave English names to everywhere they set foot on the Gallipoli peninsula.

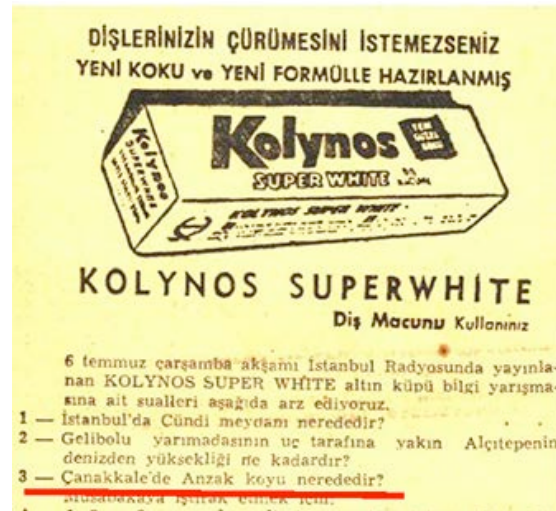
The Turkish War of Independence made invalid all of the maps on which the English and Australians gave names such as Anzac Cove. Ariburnu, which had been named Anzac Cove by General Birdwood, was shown as Ariburnu, its Turkish name that had been used for centuries, on the map attached to Article No. 129 of the Lausanne Peace Treaty signed on 24 July 1923.



The map attached to Article No. 129 of the Lausanne Peace Treaty

However, the English, Australians and New Zealanders continued calling Ariburnu 'Anzac Cove' after the Lausanne Peace Treaty was signed. What is even more interesting is

that, in a Turkish radio advertisement for Kolynos-branded toothpaste in the 1960s, the audience was asked, 'Where is Anzac Cove in Çanakkale?', and those who answered this question correctly were rewarded; thus, there were efforts to make Turkish people adopt the name Anzac Cove by this means.



Turkish newspaper Cumhuriyet, 8 July 1960.
Question 3 - "Where is the Anzac Cove in Çanakkale?"

In 1981 it was suggested in the Australian press that the name Ariburnu be changed to Anzac Cove officially by the State of the Republic of Turkey and that the statements that were reportedly made by Atatürk, such as 'There is no difference between the Johnnies (Anzacs) and the Mehments to us... ', be set in stone and that the stone be erected there at Anzac Cove. The Honorable Dr Bilal N. Şimşir, who was the Turkish Ambassador to Canberra in Australia from 13 June 1995 to 18 March 1998, wrote in detail about the process – which began with this suggestion in 1981 – based on the documents in the Embassy archive. (See: Dr Bilal N. Şimşir, 'Kanberra'da Atatürk Anıtı Tarihi' ['The history of the Kemal Atatürk Memorial in Canberra'], *Journal of the Atatürk Research Center*, [Ankara], Volume XVII, November 2001, Issue 51, p. reprint from 633-726.)



Dr. Bilal N. Şimşir.

According to the information given by Dr Şimşir, Australian military historian Frank Cranston suggested in his article published in the *Canberra Times* newspaper on 1 August 1981 that the Ariburnu shore on which the Anzacs came ashore should be officially named as Anzac Cove by the Republic of Turkey and, in return, a location in Australia should be called Gelibolu on the 70th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign on 25 April 1985.⁷ This suggestion was adopted by the members of the Gallipoli Legion of Anzacs in 1984 and they launched a campaign, wanting the Ariburnu territory where they made the military landing in 1915 to be officially called Anzac Cove.⁸

On 23 February 1984 the Anzac soldiers who consulted the Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke requested that attempts be made to have the Republic of Turkey change the name Arıburnu to Anzac Cove and Hawke made a press statement regarding this request of the Anzac soldiers.⁹ Thus, the negotiations on this matter began between Turkey and Australia.

On 3 July 1984 when Kenan Evren was the President and Turgut Özal was the Prime Minister, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Canberra, Faruk Şahinbaş, negotiated with the advisers of Prime Minister Hawke, announced that the request for calling the cove located between the headland of Arıburnu and Little Arıburnu, Anzac Cove, was accepted and submitted a copy of the sketch of the location where the name Anzac Cove would be designated, drawn by the Turkish General Staff.¹⁰

Australia requested that (i) the name Arıburnu be changed to Anzac Cove, (ii) the name on the maps printed by the Republic of Turkey be written as Anzac Cove, and (iii) a memorial and epitaph including Turkish and English versions of Atatürk's statements about the Anzacs (consisting of sentences such as 'There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments to us') be erected.¹¹ (It was proven in the March-April 2015 issue of this journal that these sentences were not uttered by Atatürk.) On 4 February 1985 the Turkish Embassy in Canberra notified the prime minister's adviser, John Bowan, that the proposal of the Australian government was accepted by the Turkish government. Therefore, these two governments reached an agreement to officially give the name Anzac Cove to Arıburnu and, in return, Australia would build an Atatürk memorial in Canberra.



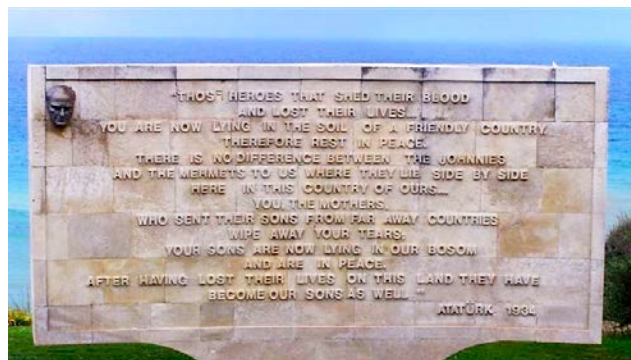
Arıburnu has been officially named as *Anzac Cove* with a ceremony on 25 April 1985.

The Australian newspapers were happy about this and reported that giving the name Anzac Cove to Arıburnu meant this location was finally going to be attributed to the Anzacs. For example, the *Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper reported that, 'Seventy years after they stormed ashore in April 1915, the ANZACs have finally made the stretch of beach between Gaba Tepe and Suvla Bay their own – but

not for nothing ... [The article referred to the reciprocal arrangements.] Canberra's Atatürk memorial will include a commemorative stone inscribed with the tribute delivered by Atatürk in 1934 ...'¹² while *The Age* newspaper carried the headline, '70 years on, the Turks name it Anzac Cove'.¹³

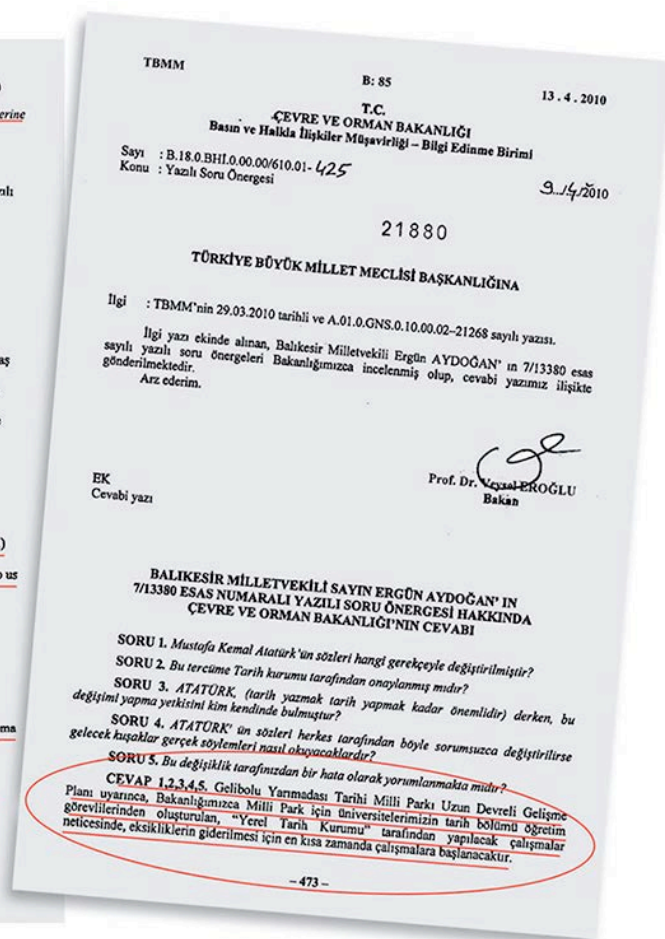
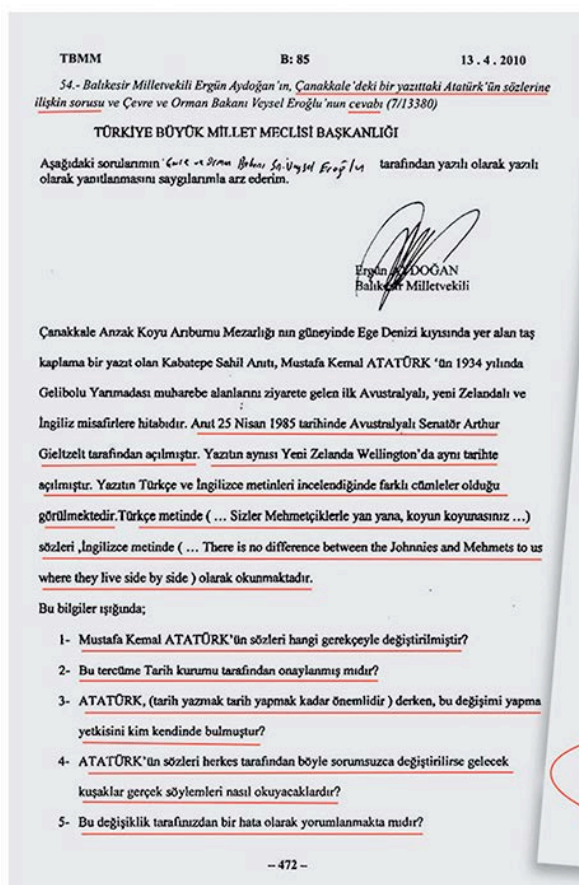
The State of the Republic of Turkey, represented by Kenan Evren, and the Government of the Republic of Turkey, presided over by Turgut Özal, officially named Arıburnu as Anzac Cove with a ceremony on 25 April 1985 on the 70th anniversary of the Arıburnu campaign of the Anzacs. Also, they erected a stone called the 'Anzac Cove Atatürk

Monument' upon which the statement, 'There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments to us' was inscribed over the signature of Atatürk.¹⁴



A stone called the 'Anzak Cove Atatürk Monument' has been erected with a ceremony on 25 April 1985 upon which the statement, 'There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments to us' was inscribed over the signature of Atatürk.

Years later, the [Turkish] member of parliament Ergün Aydoğan asked the government why the sentence 'There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments to us' was included in the English translation of the inscription, although it was not included in the Turkish version. He did not receive a satisfactory answer.



29 March 2010 dated questions of the member of the Turkish Parliament Ergün Aydoğan (left) and replay of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Prof. Dr. Veysel Eroğlu (right). [13 April 2010 dated Minute of The Grand National Assembly of Turkey, p.472, 473.]

[Mr Aydoğan's exchange with the government in 2010 is contained in an illustration to the article. Honest History has had this material translated and will publish it separately. HH]

Has anyone asked why the Republic of Turkey officially named Arıburnu as Anzac Cove (which stands for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps Cove)? We do not know. The only thing we know is that giving the territory saved by an invaded country – losing hundreds of thousands of people – the name of those who invaded it is uncommon around the world. •

cengizozakinci@butundunya.com.tr

Endnotes:

- ¹ *The Times-11.11.1914-Mr. Lloyd George's Appeal To Free Churchmen.- Justice as a Military Equipment. Mr. Lloyd George made a rousing appeal in behalf of re-cruiting at a great Free Church demonstration last night at the City Temple (Rev. R. J. Campbell's Church-c.ö.) promoted by the National Council of Evangelical Free Churches." (...) "We were in the hands of fate, and the hour has struck on the great clock of destiny for settling accounts with the Turk. The Turk is the greatest enemy of his own faith because he has discredited it by misgovernment. What have the Turks contributed either to culture, to art, or to any aspect of human progress that you can think of? They are a human cancer (cheers), a creeping agony in the flesh of the lands which they misgoverned, and rotting every fibre of life. And now that the great day of reckoning has come upon the nation I am glad. (Cheers.) I am glad the Turk is to be called to a final account for his long record of infamy against humanity in this gigantic battle between right and wrong. It is meet that the Turks should march into action shoulder to shoulder with the devastators of Belgium. They have made themselves fit comrades. The ravagers of Armenia and the desolators of Flanders. The Turk of the East, and the Turk of the West, both ruthless military Empires with only one god, and that is violence. Their downfall will bring gladness, security, and peace to a world which for generations has been oppressed and darkened by their grim presence."*
- ² *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express (NSW) Friday 25 December 1914 - Daily Standard (Brisbane, Qld.) Thursday 31 December 1914 p 8 - Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser (Qld.) Thursday 31 December 1914 p 8 - Kalgoorlie Miner (WA) Friday 1 January 1915 p 7 - Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld.) Saturday 2 January 1915 p 10*
- Kalgoorlie Western Argus (WA) Tuesday 12 January 1915 p 24 - Manilla Express (NSW) Wednesday 20 January 1915 p 5
- Guyra Argus (NSW) Thursday 21 January 1915 p 5 - The Gundagai Times and Tumut, Adelong and Murrumbidgee District Advertiser (NSW) Friday 22 January 1915 p 3 - The Grenfell Record and Lachlan District Advertiser (NSW) Friday 22 January 1915 p 4 - Forbes Times (NSW) Friday 22 January 1915 p 7 - The Scrutineer and Berrima District Press (NSW) Saturday 23 January 1915 p 3 - The Muswellbrook Chronicle (NSW) Saturday 23 January 1915 p 3 - Lachlander and Condobolin and Western Districts Recorder (NSW) Wednesday 27 January 1915 p 3 - The Picton Post (NSW) Wednesday 27 January 1915 p 3
- Jerilderie Herald and Urana Advertiser (NSW) Friday 29 January 1915 p 3 - Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record (Renmark, SA) Thursday 4 February 1915 p 6 -The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW) Wednesday 17 February 1915 p 3 - Southern Cross (Adelaide, SA) Friday 7 May 1920 p 10 - The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld.) Thursday 15 April 1926 p 13 - Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record (Renmark, SA) Friday 23 July 1926 p 8
- Northern Standard (Darwin, NT) Friday 26 November 1926 p 4
- ³ The Anzac Book, 1916. Preface.
- ⁴ *Register (Adelaide, SA), Friday 25 June 1915, page 8. "Turks Won't Reap the Barley."* Following are extracts of a letter from Capt. Kayser, 12th Battalion, to his wife, dated from Gallipoli Peninsula, Anzac Cove, May 15.
- ⁵ *Casterton News and the Merino and Sandford Record (Vic. / 1914 - 1918), Thursday 1 July 1915, page 4. "ANZAC" COVE. A New Australian Word."*
- ⁶ *The Casterton News and the Merino and Sandford Record (Vic.) Monday 5 July 1915 p 4. "Australians in Gallipoli. Altering the Map." - The Mildura Cultivator (Vic.) Saturday 18 September 1915 p 6 "Arising From The War" - Freeman's Journal (Sydney, NSW) Thursday 18 November 1915 p 23. FUGITIVE NOTES. 'Anzac,' a New Place Name.*
- ⁷ *Dr Bilal N. Şimşir, 'The draft [Tasarısı] for an Atatürk Memorial in Canberra', Journal of the Atatürk Research Center, Issue 51, Volume: XVII, November 2001. [The reprint of the article – referred to in the text above – has a different title 'Kanberra'da Atatürk Anıtı Tarihi' or 'The history of the Kemal Atatürk Memorial in Canberra', which is a better indication of the contents of the article. The article is 18 000 words long. HH]*
- ⁸ Frank Cranston, 'Veterans to recruit PM for Anzac Cove campaign', *Canberra Times*, 3 February 1984.
- ⁹ 'Anzac Cove', *Canberra Times*, 25 April 1984.
- ¹⁰ Four-Star General Necdet Üruğ.
- ¹¹ *Dr Bilal N. Şimşir, note 26: The Archive of the Turkish Embassy in Canberra: A telegram from the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Turkish Embassy in Canberra, 29 January 1985.*
- ¹² *Dr Bilal N. Şimşir, note 51: Hugh White, 'ANZACs take Gallipoli – but Atatürk makes Canberra', Sydney Morning Herald, 19 March 1985.*
- ¹³ *Dr Bilal N. Şimşir, note 54: Margot O'Neill, '70 years on, the Turks name it Anzac Cove', Age, 19 March 1985.*
- ¹⁴ *Dr Bilal N. Şimşir, note 41. 'A new English translation which is faithful to the original words of Atatürk for the memorial in Canberra was made by the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, the Embassy stated that the translation of Atatürk's words in the book "Atatürk and the Anzacs" was adopted in Australia, and changing it would not be proper, thus the idea of a new translation was given up. B.N.Ş.'*