THE WORDS
“THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE MEHMETS AND THE JOHNNIES”
ENGRAVED ON THE 1915 GALLIPOLI MONUMENTS
DO NOT BELONG TO ATATÜRK.

PART II.

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In last last issue of our magazine dated March 2015, we explained the fact that the expression “There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us” accompanied by the signature Atatürk 1934 and included in the inscriptions on the monuments erected in Canberra (Australia), Wellington (New Zealand, and Arıburnu (Turkey) in relation to the April 25, 1915 Gallipoli Landing by the ANZAC Australian and New Zealand Corps during the Çanakkale Battle does not belong to Atatürk. 84 years after the event, we found the speech that was claimed to be the source of the expression, and published the first and complete reprint of the speech written by Atatürk and read out by Şükrü Kaya. Apart from this speech, Atatürk made another official statement in 1934 about the "April 25 1915 Gallipoli Campaign" and the combat in the "Gallipoli Battle", but this statement does not include the expression in the inscriptions accompanied by the signature "Atatürk 1934". That is, on April 18, 1934, a wire from Australia to "Mustapha Kemal Pasha" arrives: "Would appreciate (a) message to (the) Australians (on) occasion (of the) Anniversary (of the Gallipoli) Landing (on) April twenty-five - Star newspaper, Melbourne."

The wire sent to Atatürk by The Star from Melbourne, Australia on 18/04/1934 (Presidential Archive cited by Sermet Atacanlı, "Atatürk and the Commanders of Çanakkale", İş Kültür P., February 2015, p. 571.)

Atatürk’s response to the wire of the Australian newspaper was brief and to the point: "The April 25, 1915 Gallipoli Landing and all the combat that took place on this Peninsula, have shown the world how sad the losses incurred by this struggle have been for their nations, alongside the heroism of those who shed their blood."
Atatürk’s Turkish statement was translated into French, the international language of diplomacy at the time, and then signed by the President’s General Secretary Hasan Rıza and wired to The Star on April 22, 1934.

The Star newspaper, in its 25.04.1934 issue published the English translation of Atatürk’s French wire together with the French wire text, under the heading: “Turkey, Old Foe, Remembers. While Atatürk’s wire reads "how sad the losses incurred by this
struggle have been for their nations", in the subheading of the news item, the newspaper changed this expression to “heartrending for our nations”. It also referred to Atatürk using the phrase "Kemal Pasha, Dictator of Turkey", and what is more, foisted into the English translation the phrase “will never be forgotten”, which is a phrase non-existent in the original wire text.

The 25/04/1934 issue of the Australian newspaper The Star, which published the English translation of Atatürk’s wire together with its French original. (See: Sermet Atacanlı, “Atatürk and the Commanders of Çanakkale”, İş Kültür P., February 2015, p. 574.)
One day after Atatürk’s *distorted* wire was published in the Australian newspaper, it was published in the UK, in *The Times* newspaper on 26/04/1934 with a more accurate translation (without using the expression “*will never be forgotten*” that was added by the Australian newspaper, and without the epithets “*Dicator of Turkey*” and “*Old Foe*”).

The statement that Atatürk sent to the Australian newspaper *The Star* in Australia as it appeared in the UK newspaper *The Times* on 26/04/1934.
This news item in the UK newspaper *The Times* of 26/04/1934 was made news in the Cumhuriyet newspaper in Turkey on 30.04.1934. This time, the English translation of the French wire that was sent to the Australian newspaper by Atatürk and that appeared in the UK newspaper *The Times* was published [in this Turkish newspaper] by translating the English [version of the French wire] into Turkish: "The landing and the combats on the Gallipoli peninsula have proven to the world the heroism of those that shed their blood here. How heartrending are the losses caused by this battle for the nations that participated in this war."

The 30/04/1934 Cumhuriyet newspaper that published the Turkish translation of the 26/04/1934 *The Times* English translation of the French wire sent by Atatürk 22/04/1934 to the Australian *The Star*.

One month later, enclosing 2 copies of their 25/04/1934 issue in which Atatürk's wire was published, the Australian newspaper sent a letter dated 21.05.1934 thanking Atatürk and requesting a more detailed speech on the Gallipoli Battles.
This time, Atatürk did not respond to the Australian newspaper’s request for a more detailed speech. His decision may have been affected by the fact that the Australian newspaper had foisted into the text the expression “will never be forgotten” which did not exist in Atatürk’s French wire, while translating the wire into English. Actually, in the speech that was read by Şükrü Kaya by the Mehmet Monument in Gallipoli on 25/08/1931, which we published in the March 2015 issue of our magazine, Atatürk states: **We Turks are confident that, forgetting the meaningless, irrational, intricate tortures of the**
past, we have created a new life. This life, this view that includes the Turks’ first and universal meaning, has been set in stone with our actions as well. If the nations that left graves opposite us, consider our sincere and new viewpoint well, these graves that face each other will ensure conversation and friendship between us instead of hatred, animosity, and feelings of conflict.iii Although through the speech read by Şükrü Kaya, Minister of Interior Affairs and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, in 1931, Atatürk had voiced to the world his view on "becoming friends by forgetting the tortures of the past", three years later, this Australian newspaper published his wire dated 22.04.1934 with the heading "Old Foe, Turkey, Remembers!" using the epithet "Kemal Pasha, Dictator of Turkey" and foisting into the English translation the phrase "will never be forgotten", which did not exist in the French version of the wire. This may have led Atatürk not to respond to this newspaper’s later request for a more detailed second speech in its letter dated 21.05.1934.

However, the same Australian newspaper does not pay heed to the fact that their second speech request in 1934 was left unanswered, and one year later, in 1935, for the third time, in a letter, requests a speech from Atatürk on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the ANZACs’ April 25 Nisan 1915 Gallipoli Landing. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey prepares a speech draft to be sent to this newspaper. The content of this draft contains a meaningful implication as to this newspaper’s one year earlier publication of Atatürk’s wire with the heading "Old Foe, Turkey Remembers!" and adding to the translation the expression "will never be forgotten", which did not appear in the original, and thus distorting the wire message: “I wish that all of those who fought in the trenches of Gallipoli will today remember more than ever the hardships suffered, and that they will show as much effort and courage to defend peace as they did to defend their countries 20 years ago.” iv This draft prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was sent to the president’s office on 28/04/1935 and received on 29/04/1935 (that is, did not reaching him before 25/04/1935, the 20th Anniversary of the ANZACs Gallipoli Landing), and therefore, Atatürk did not send it to the Australian newspaper, thus leaving the third speech request in 1935 unanswered as well.v

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English inscriptions with the signature “Atatürk 1934” on the monuments erected by the states in Australia, New Zealand, and Turkey is: vi “Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours... You, the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well. Atatürk, 1934.”

However, in 1934 Atatürk did not give such a speech. The only statement that Atatürk sent to the Australians is this statement that we report at the beginning of this article, and that was published by The Star in Australia dated 25/04/1934: “The April 25, 1915 Gallipoli Landing and all the combat that took place on this Peninsula, has shown the world how sad the losses incurred by this struggle have been for their nations, alongside the heroism of those who shed their blood.”

There is no other statement of Atatürk sent to the Australians in 1934, and this statement was not dedicated to the ANZAC (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) soldiers that were landed on Gallipoli on April 25, 1915, but rather included our soldiers who during the Gallipoli Battles clashed with “ANZAC”s in Gallipoli. The words that appear with the signature “Atatürk 1934” in the English inscriptions on the monuments erected in Canberra (Australia), Wellington (New Zealand), and Arıburnu (Turkey), that adress only “The Johnnies” (ANZAC soldiers) and their mothers, and that include the expression
“There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets”, which we have proven to belong to the Australian Alan J. Campbell, do not belong to Atatürk.

While there are so many of Atatürk’s writings, speeches, and statements published during his lifetime that contain his sayings related to his views on world peace, is there any need to explain Atatürk’s pacifism and humanity by putting his signature under others’ poetic words, instead of just using his own words?

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3 For the full text of the speech that was published in the Hakimiyet-i Milliye newspaper on 26/08/1931, see: Cengiz Özakıncı, "The words in the inscriptions on the 1915 Gallipoli War Monuments 'There is No difference Between the Johnnies and the Mehmets' Do not Belong to Atatürk", Bütün Dünya Magazine, March 2015.
6 The English equivalent of the Turkish columns, which do not correspond exactly with the English inscription text, read: "Heroes that shed their blood on the soil of this country! Here you are in the soil of a friendly country. Rest in peace and quietude. You are side by side, bosom to bosom with the Mehmets. Mothers who sent their sons to war from faraway countries! Stop your tears. Your sons are in our bosom, they are in peace and they will rest in peace. After having lost their lives on this soil they have become our sons. Atatürk, 1934.”