

## The ANZAC Spirit

**The ANZAC spirit is a number of things. It is the determination amongst fear of the ANZAC troops, their sacrifice to save their country and people, their comradeship or 'mateship' that allowed them to protect their fellow soldiers no matter what, their courage that kept them going even in the face of death, their resourcefulness that kept them healthy enough to endure their living conditions and now, to us, the pride we have to live in a country that was and still is the home to such great men. Australians overall should want to look after themselves and their home in order to respect the great deeds those soldiers did for us.**

**The ANZAC spirit definitely was real in the time of the First World War. The Anzacs had an extraordinary set of values that kept them going. But, does it still exist to and in the Australians of today? Some people would say yes, some no, but really it depends on the person. It is hard to have these values in the society we have today. Things are so much easier, in many ways things are more plentiful, people are always quite busy and we forget what it was like for the soldiers and the impact it had on everything. We are bust with our own lives and do not see the things troops working overseas have to see and don't reflect on what it would be like for us. I believe this is why to the everyday people of Australia, the ANZAC spirit is disappearing. The more we learn about wars and the Anzacs, the easier it is to accumulate these values because we see what good people they were and how important it is to be like them.**

**However, I think the ANZAC spirit is still very present in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) today. (Figure 1)**



**(Figure 1: An Airfield defence guard in the Australian Defence Force)**  
**The Australians must contain these values in order to deal with the things they do and see and to even want to be part of the ADF in the first place. The ADF covers a big range of things, for example: border protection, peacekeeping in other countries and basic duties and training. An example of something the ADF is doing at the moment is operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan. This operation is Australia's part**

of the international campaign against terrorism by stopping piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf and trying to help stop the war. At the moment there are approximately 1550 ADF personnel based in Afghanistan and 800 more spread throughout the middle-east area of the operation. The Australians taking part in this have to deal with fighting, sick people, harsh living conditions and the threat of being shot because the government doesn't understand that they are trying to help. Doing this job and dealing with these things requires courage, resourcefulness and the willingness to risk their life to give other people a happy existence. This shows that they truly do contain the ANZAC spirit.

The spirit is quite unique as it is only really found in Australia and New Zealand and only some people know what it is and contain it. But, it is very important for all Australians to have the ANZAC spirit because it doesn't only help in the case of a war, but also in everyday life. Courage, resourcefulness, determination, pride and mateship helps everyone be a good person in every situation. All Australians can improve their morals by dealing with their fears, looking after their possessions, sticking to their goals and dreams, being proud of other peoples success as well as their own and looking after their families and friends no matter what the problem.

An example of an ANZAC that contained the ANZAC spirit, was a good person and is someone we should look up to is Hugo Vivian Hope Throssell. (Figure 2)



(Figure 2: Hugo Vivian Hope Throssell (1884-1933))  
He was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 1884 in Northam, Western Australia. He was the youngest of fourteen children. He became captain of an Adelaide football team and a champion boxer. When the war started, Hugo and his older brother Frank Eric Cotrell joined the tenth light horse regiment. He was made second lieutenant and took part in the charge at the Nek in Gallipoli in 1915. Throssell saw a lot

of death but still continues his job. Eighty-two men from his regiment were killed within five minutes of the Gallipoli battle. He was part of a fierce bomb fight on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 1915 at 1.00am where he killed five Turks and suffered bomb splinters to the forehead. For his part in this battle he was awarded the first Victoria Cross to be given to a West Australian during the war. Throssell was then promoted to Captain. On the night his brother died, April 1917 at the second battle of Gaza, he searched the battlefield for his brother although under enemy fire and being wounded. Throssell survived the war and on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1919 married Australian author Katharine Susannah Prichard. He was a very brave man that did a number of great things throughout all his life, not just during the war. It is obvious that he was very determined by how well he fought and by how he was made second lieutenant and then captain. His bravery was shown by how he dealt with all the deaths and still kept going. He also kept fighting, straight into fire, for his country and his sense of loyalty and mateship was shown by how he stuck by and looked after his brother.

Another aspect of the ANZAC spirit is the 'King and Country'. Mentioned earlier was the Anzac's wants to protect their country, which was of course Australia or New Zealand. But also, Australian had only been its own nation for fifteen years before the war and was still very much connected to Britain. One of the Australian soldiers main reasons for joining the war was the want to defend the King and country Britain. They felt that they still owed their services to Britain because Australians still thought that they belonged to Britain. New Zealanders also felt like this because they were still considered as just another colony of Britain. When posters were released in Australia to promote joining the war, they were very British, stating that 'Britons' wanted them to join and 'God save the King'. (Figure 3)



**(Figure 3: a poster to promote joining the war)**

**The war was the main reason Australian states really came together as a whole nation.**

**No longer do Australians feel obliged to fight wars or join armed forces to protect the 'King and Country' but they do still feel the need to look after Australia and its people. Not only should members of the ADF feel this, but all Australians. We should see the need to protect our country by looking after its resources and culture and by doing this, also look after ourselves. All Australians, especially the youth, should use resources in a respectable, sustainable way to ensure that the next generations will be able to live with such riches as we do. We should also look after its culture by being open to people of all nationalities and helping people from other countries but still staying true to our roots by not changing our own ways. We must remember our Australian values of mateship, humour and love for life. If we do this we can guarantee that Australia will not be lost nor the good old Aussies down under. This is all the Anzacs would of asked for and the most respect we can give them is to live in this way, how they wanted us to.**

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