

The Spirit of ANZAC

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The Spirit of ANZAC is a series of values, stemming from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps and the Landings on Gallipoli in 1915. Although the Spirit of ANZAC is defined using a multitude of words, I am limited in the amount I can say. I have chosen not to describe all of them, but instead will be focusing on three values which I think are the most important. They are courage, mateship and equality. The reason for choosing these values are that I use these as my personal values and I believe that they can be used to sum up each of the ANZAC Values. Before I go into detail about each of these things, I will be writing about whether the spirit is still alive in today's generation of ADF and Australian citizens. I will also write about whether the values we envisage to be the Spirit of ANZAC is unique to the ADF and Australian citizens.

The Spirit of ANZAC is the thing that has thrust the Australian Defence Force into the history books. It has been shown in many places around the world and is recorded amongst the great acts of heroism of the 20th and 21st century. The Spirit of ANZAC played an important part in infamous global battlefields, such as ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli, Pozieres on the Western Front, Kokoda in Papua New Guinea, Tobruk in North Africa, Kapyong in Korea and Long Tan in Vietnam. In records of each of these battles, Australian Defence Force personnel are praised for their bravery, mateship and being distinguished fighters. These records are what we use to define the Spirit of ANZAC today. Australian soldiers, sailors and airmen of today's ADF may not be serving as part of the ANZAC but they definitely show the values which were shown by the ANZACs on the Gallipoli peninsula 95 years ago. As a testament to this belief, Trooper Mike Donaldson, a member of 1st Battalion, RAR and later the Australian Special Air Service was awarded the highest military honour one can be given in Australia, the Victoria Cross for Australia for "*most conspicuous acts of gallantry in action in a circumstance of great peril in Afghanistan, as part of the Special Operations Task Group during Operations SLIPPER, Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan*". Quoted from the citation awarded to Trooper Donaldson. The actions he was awarded the VC for occurred on the 2nd September 2008 in the Afghani province of Oruzgan. He was part of a combined US, Afghan and ADF patrol which were attacked by a much larger and well prepared Taliban insurgent force. After being attacked by sustained machine-gun fire and a rocket propelled grenade bombardment, during which the patrol suffered several casualties. Trooper Donaldson exposed himself to enemy fire so that the casualties could be loaded onto vehicles and the patrol evacuated by foot, as the vehicles were full of casualties. It was soon realised that the Afghan interpreter was wounded and wasn't loaded onto a vehicle, Trooper Donaldson then ran the eighty metres back to the wounded man and carried him back to the convoy to administer first aid. Trooper Donaldson's actions clearly show the ANZAC values of courage, mateship and initiative. If any scenario can prove the relevance and existence of the ANZAC Spirit still being alive today, it is the one of Trooper Mark Donaldson VC.

The Spirit of ANZAC is something that many people believe to be unique to the original

ANZACs and the modern ADF. In reality, this is a short sighted belief, there is many reports of people displaying the values we associate with the Spirit of ANZAC, such as courage, mateship, loyalty and integrity. One popular example of this is 2nd Lieutenant Carwood Lipton, an original member of Easy Company, 506th PIR, 101st Airborne Division. He joined the airborne in August 1942 and quickly rose through the ranks in his company until he was promoted to Company First Sergeant, shortly after the Invasion of Normandy. During the time between D-Day and Operation Market Garden, he was one of the few people within the company to accept the brand new replacements as true soldiers. During Market Garden he helped the replacements by teaching them the lessons needed to survive combat. In the aftermath of the Battle of the Bulge, SGT Lipton kept Easy Company together when their Company Commander, 1st Lieutenant Norman Dike failed to do so under some of the worst conditions imaginable, heavy shelling day and night accompanied by freezing cold temperatures. During the Battle of Foy LT Dike failed to make a decision that would save the lives of many of Easy Company and SGT Lipton along with LT Ronald Speirs took over the attack, saving many lives in the process. SGT Lipton became 2nd Lieutenant Carwood Lipton through a battlefield commission which he said was the "Greatest honour he'd ever received". Carwood Lipton is an excellent example of how the Spirit of ANZAC is not unique to just Australians but is represented throughout the world's militaries. He showed the values of courage, mateship, initiative, loyalty and integrity. 2nd LT Carwood Lipton would have made an excellent ANZAC.

Courage is one of the most common virtues associated with the Spirit of ANZAC. The reasons behind this are the common sights on the Gallipoli Peninsula of ANZACs sacrificing themselves or singlehandedly assaulting a Turkish position to give their mates a chance to survive, this is physical courage. There is also moral courage which was displayed on many occasions on the beaches and cliffs of ANZAC Cove, but also back home in Australia and New Zealand by the courageous young men and women who felt the need to enlist and serve their King, Country and family overseas. Boys as young as 13 lied about their age or convinced their parents into signing their paperwork. Possibly the most famous documented case of this kind of courage is Private James Martin, 21st Battalion, AIF. At the age of 14 and 2 months, he threatened his family that unless they signed his paperwork to say he was 18 he would never talk to them again. This threat worked and PVT Martin signed up by lying about his age to a army recruiter. He travelled to Broadmeadows and Seymour (Puckapunyal) Barracks for his basic training. When he left basic training, PVT Martin sailed to Egypt aboard the *HMAT Berrima* in June 1915 to prepare for combat against "Johnny Turk" (This is what the Turkish soldiers were called by many ANZACs). After receiving their training, PVT Martin and his companions sailed for Gallipoli aboard the steamer *HMT Southland* which was torpedoed of the island of Lemnos, PVT Martin was rescued after four hours in the water. After reaching ANZAC Cove PVT Martin was stationed with the rest of his battalion in the Monash Valley. He wrote home telling his family that he was having a splendid time and that the Turks were only about 60 metres away from his trench. He spent nearly two months on the Peninsula and contracted Typhus. Private James Martin, aged only 14 years and 8 months old died aboard a hospital ship and was buried at sea. PVT Martin is an excellent example of the courage it takes to leave ones family and fight in a strange foreign land.

Mateship is one of more popular terms used when describing the Spirit of ANZAC. It embodies equality, loyalty and friendship. Most examples of mateship used when describing the ANZACs are of diggers sticking with their mates until the end or fighting on and covering their comrades while they withdrew to safety. Other stories tell of soldiers charging

singlehandedly into a superior enemy force to help a comrade. Corporal John Edmondson VC is an excellent example of this. CPL Edmondson enlisted in the ADF in 1940 and after receiving his basic training, he was promoted to corporal and joined the 2/17 Battalion after serving as a member of the 4th Militia Battalion. With the 2/17th he received desert training in the Middle East as reinforcements for the 9th Division. After finishing their training, his division relieved the 6th Australian Division at Marsa Brega in Cyrenaica. Shortly after the German Afrika Corps launched an attack on the Australian and British positions, and forced them to withdraw to Tobruk. During the Siege of Tobruk CPL Edmondson manned the lines with his comrades, repelling everything the Germans could throw at them. A few days after the siege began; a large German infantry force broke through the wire and established a pocket in Australian lines with machine guns, mortars and two small field guns. The Australians decided to launch a counter-attack using bayonets, a party lead by one officer which included Corporal Edmondson assaulted the German position. During the attack Corporal Edmondson was wounded in the neck and stomach but still managed to go on. When the officer was being attacked by two Germans, Corporal Edmondson came immediately to his aid and killed the Germans despite his wounds, undoubtedly saving the officers life. After being helped back to an aid station, CPL Edmondson died of his wounds. Corporal John Edmondson VC clearly showed the value of mateship, by putting the lives of others before his own and greatly deserved the Victoria Cross he was awarded for his actions.

Equality is an important part of ANZAC history and the Spirit of ANZAC. From World War One to the Vietnam War the Aborigines were treated poorly by the governments of the time. One of the only places they were treated as equals among white men and women was the ADF. There are many reports of Aboriginal and white soldiers fighting alongside each other in battle and forming bonds of brotherhood often only found among a Defence Force. In today's ADF any role is open to an Aboriginal and the Army's NORFORCE is 60% Aborigines. Women were also treated as inferiors in the early AIF and ADF, only being able to perform nursing roles. Even though women weren't allowed to fight, they were respected by the soldiers like any other combat veteran would be. This all changed when the RAAF integrated them into service in 1977, the Army followed suit in 1979 and the RAN in 1985. Between the three branches in the ADF there are only six roles women can't perform in today's ADF, with naval clearance diver being restricted due to medical complications women experience and the rest due to restrictions of women in combat. The modern ADF upholds the value of equality among different races, religions and genders and is an excellent example of how everybody can serve together under trying circumstances.

In conclusion, the Spirit of ANZAC has played an important part in Australian civil and ADF history, starting from the beaches of Gallipoli and the recruitment drives in the capital cities and still continuing in the streets of Baghdad and the young kids who help to keep the Spirit alive in the Australian Defence Force Cadets.