**Why are you studying Gallipoli?**

This education resource is about a particular military campaign during the First World War, and its influence in forming Australian national identity over time.

We generally know it as the Gallipoli campaign, or just Gallipoli. At the time it was more commonly referred to as the Dardanelles campaign.

The campaign took place in a small area of Turkey. The fighting was between Allied forces (mainly British, Australian, New Zealand and French) and those of the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) with some German support. At the time of the First World War, modern Turkey did not exist. Britain's declaration of war was against the Ottoman Empire, which had been in existence since the 1300s. Although the Ottoman military was ethnically diverse, it was commonplace to call all Ottoman soldiers Turkish soldiers, a practice that will be followed in this educational resource.

The campaign was fought from February 1915 to January 1916, and was a defeat for the allies. It is estimated that over 50,000 men on the allied side died of disease or were killed.

Although the Gallipoli campaign was fought away from the war's main theatre, it was nevertheless significant for Australia, New Zealand, Turkey and the other nations who fought. For Turkey it was the successful defeat of an invasion of their homeland. It saw the emergence of the military leader, Mustafa Kemal (or Kemal Atatürk), who after the war would bring Turkey into the modern world. For Australia and New Zealand, it was the event that has become associated with their national identity in a way no other event has.

Every year since 1916 Australians have commemorated the first day of the landing, 25 April. It is a day that Australians are aware of, nearly 100 years after the event. It is a day that will probably continue to be a significant part of Australian identity during your lifetime.

So what happened on this day and in this campaign? Why were Australians involved in it? What did it mean to people at the time? Why was it considered so important and so powerful that it has lived beyond the lifetime of any person who was there at the time, and is a day of national significance? And is it still a day that has meaning and relevance for you in your life?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus questions</th>
<th>DVD-VIDEO connections</th>
<th>DVD-ROM interactives connection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Why did a world war start in 1914?</td>
<td>Revealing Gallipoli 00:00-06:30 (Part 1 Chapter 1)</td>
<td>Can you help the troops get to the battlefront?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 How did the Australian Government react? Why?</td>
<td>Australians At War Episode 2 “Who’ll come a fighting the Kaiser with me” 00:00-09:20 (Chapter 1)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On 4 August 1914 the European nations went to war. The Australian Government committed the young nation to participate in the world war. Why? Was it because we were being attacked by an enemy? Was it to help an ally who was under threat? Was it because we believed that the cause was a just one? All these are possible reasons.

Whatever the reason, how did people feel about this involvement? How did men and women react to the call for them to enlist to go off to this war?

1.1 Read this information about the European nations, and then look at the sequence of statements that explain the events leading to the start of the war.

**GERMANY** — had only been a nation since 1871. By 1914 it was a powerful nation and wanted to expand. It had several colonies, a strong army, and an increasingly strong navy that would allow it to challenge the superiority of the traditional naval power, Britain. It was traditionally an enemy of France. In 1871 they had been at war over possession of the territories and resources of Alsace-Lorraine. Both France and Germany claimed this border area. The German victory had humiliated the French and wounded their national pride.

**AUSTRIA-HUNGARY** — was a declining empire. It included in its borders many nations whose inhabitants did not feel ethnically part of the empire, and who wanted to break away. Some of these, such as Bosnia, looked to Serbia and Russia as ethnically compatible nations. Austria-Hungary had a military alliance with Germany.

**SERBIA** — bordered the Austro-Hungarian empire. It wanted to expand its power by adding to its own sphere of influence areas which had ethnically similar populations. One of these was Bosnia. It supported attempts by Bosnian nationalists to break away from the Austro-Hungarian Empire — even if violence was to be used.

**RUSSIA** — was a huge nation, but not a modern one. It had a military alliance with France for each to help the other in case of attack from another nation.

**BRITAIN** — was the world’s leading nation, through its colonies, and its sea power. It felt threatened by Germany's growing power, especially the German navy. It had an agreement to protect Belgium if that nation was attacked.

**FRANCE** — was hostile towards Germany, and believed that Germany controlled border areas that were rightfully French. It had a military agreement with Russia to protect that nation if Russia was attacked.

**BELGIUM** — was a small country between France and Germany. It was neutral, but was likely to be invaded if Germany wanted to invade France. This was because, while the French had strong border defences with Germany, it had virtually none with Belgium.

The main powers of Europe were delicately balanced in a system of military alliances and agreements. One relatively small event, a political assassination in July 1914, resulted in the two sets of alliances coming into catastrophic conflict.
1.2 Look at the next page to see the sequence of events that led to the outbreak of war in 1914. Illustrate these events on the map below, using colours, lines and any other appropriate symbols. For example, where nations are allied, colour them in the same colour; where there is talk of military mobilisation, draw lines showing the direction and location that troops from one country would be heading towards. Note that some of the countries mentioned no longer exist under those names or with those borders.
28 June 1914
Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, is assassinated by Bosnian nationalists (people who wanted to separate the area called Bosnia from the Austro-Hungarian Empire) while he is in Sarajevo.

23 July
Austria-Hungary sees this as a chance to suppress the Bosnian nationalists who want to separate from Austria-Hungary, and to crush Bosnia’s supporter, Serbia. It makes unrealistic demands of the Serbian Government, hoping that it will refuse and thereby give the Austro-Hungarian government the excuse to invade and defeat Serbia.

25 July
Serbia gives in on 9 of the 10 demands made, but mobilises its troops — that is, it begins the process of calling up troops, equipping them and moving them to the borders against Austria-Hungary in case of attack. Russia promises to support its fellow Slavs in Serbia, seeing the possibility of expanding its influence and empire. The Russian government warns the Austro-Hungarian government not to invade Serbia.

28 July
Despite Serbia’s concessions to the demands made, Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Austria-Hungary knows that if Russia helps Serbia in an armed conflict Austria-Hungary will lose. Their only hope, if they are to crush Serbia and still remain safe from Russian intervention, is if Germany is prepared to support them. They accordingly call on their German ally for support. Germany promises that support. Germany believes that conflict with Russia is inevitable. They also realise that a conflict with Russia will draw France into the war.

30 July
Russia mobilises its forces. The Russians are worried that Germany and Austria-Hungary can dominate the Balkan States — those countries on the Balkan Peninsula, bordered by the Adriatic, Ionian, Aegean and Black Seas. If the Ottoman Empire supports Germany, it can close the Daranelles Strait, and block Russia’s only way out of the Black Sea for trade and defence. Russia only wants to mobilise against Austria-Hungary, but all battle plans have been designed on the assumption that in any conflict against Austria-Hungary, Germany will also be involved. Therefore mobilisation plans have to include massing troops on the German border as well as against Austria-Hungary. Germany obviously sees this as a threat, but Russia cannot partly mobilise against one and not the other. Troop movements require detailed and precise railway timetables, and these cannot be changed without creating chaos and paralysing all troop movement within Russia.

31 July
Austria-Hungary mobilises against Serbia, and Germany demands that Russia demobilise its troops. This cannot be done without also demobilising against Austria-Hungary. Russia refuses to do so.

1 August
Germany mobilises against Russia, and also against France. Germany’s war plan, the Schlieffen Plan, is based on the reasoning that it must fight both Russia and France. France is stronger than Russia, and the Russians will take longer to be ready to fight — so the German plan involves defeating France quickly in the west, then moving east to defeat the Russians. Germany declares war against Russia.

2 August
France is determined to win back areas lost to Germany in 1871, and sees this as an opportunity to do so. France now mobilises against Germany.

3 August
Germany invades Luxembourg, to enable it to strike at France through undefended borders.

3 August
Germany declares war on France.

3 August
Britain warns Germany not to invade Belgium. Britain has a great fear of Germany occupying a port in Holland, Belgium or France, and being in a position to challenge Britain’s great defence asset, its fleet. Britain has an old treaty with Belgium, so a German invasion may bring Britain into a conflict.

4 August
Germany invades Belgium as part of the Schlieffen Plan to attack France.

Britain declares war on Germany as a result of its agreement with Belgium.

The nations of Europe are now at war. What will Australia do?
How did the Australian Government react? Why?

Look at the following sources and answer the questions on each.

Source 1  An historian on Australia’s entry into war

On 3 August 1914, a federal cabinet meeting in Melbourne decided to make two offers to the British Government: to place the Australian fleet under [British] control, and to dispatch an expeditionary force [of 20,000 men] overseas. Two days later news reached the Governor-General’s office … that Britain’s ultimatum over the invasion of Belgium had expired and the British Empire was automatically at war with Germany. In Australia’s … automatic, almost blithe acceptance of war, parliament was irrelevant … the right to choose between war and neutrality was generally considered to be beyond its power … the authority of the British Government and parliament in such matters was generally accepted in Australia, and no one had suggested that the Commonwealth’s external affairs power could extend to declaring war and peace. In 1914 the choice was felt to lie with the Sovereign as head of the Empire, and he, or rather his British advisers, had chosen war.


2.1 What was the role of parliament in deciding to go to war?

2.2 How influenced was Australia by its relationship with Britain?

2.3 What was Australia’s view of itself as an independent nation?

Source 2  Country of birth of Australians 1911

The proportion of Australian-born contained in the population of the Commonwealth … [is] 82.90 per cent … while of the remainder … 13.37 per cent were natives of the United Kingdom, and … 0.72 per cent were natives of New Zealand, that is, 96.99 per cent of the total population … had been born in either Australasia or the United Kingdom. As regards race and nationality, therefore, the population of Australia is fundamentally British … The Australian at present is little other than a transplanted Briton, with the essential characteristics of his British forbears.

Commonwealth of Australia Year Book 1914, pages 94-95

2.4 Who were ‘Australians’ by 1914?

2.5 Why would there have been such a large number who were born in the United Kingdom?

2.6 How might this racial composition influence Australian loyalties? Explain your reasons.
What is the attitude of the Australian leaders of the two main parties towards the war Britain has entered?

What is their attitude to Britain?

What is their attitude to Australia and its role in the crisis?

From the information in these five sources, list the main reasons why the Australian Government committed Australia to involvement in Britain’s war in 1914.

What do these figures show about economic ties to Britain?

Are they likely also to have any impact on Australian attitudes to Britain? Explain your reasons.

Australia was involved in a Federal election while war was developing. How did the main political leaders react to the threat?

Source 4 Speech by Prime Minister Cook during the election campaign

Whatever happens, Australia is a part of the Empire right to the full. Remember that when the Empire is at war, so is Australia at war … I want to make it quite clear that all our resources in Australia are in the Empire and for the Empire, and the preservation and security of the Empire.

Argus, Melbourne, 3 August 1914

Source 5 Speech by Labor leader (and soon to be Prime Minister) Andrew Fisher during the election campaign

We are strongly opposed to the present Government in our Australian politics; but, as I have stated frequently in Parliament, in a time of emergency there are no parties at all. We stand united against the common foe … our last man and our last shilling will be offered and supplied to the mother country in maintaining her honour and our honour, if we should happen to come into the conflict.

Argus, Melbourne, 1 August 1914

2.7 What do these figures show about economic ties to Britain?

2.8 Are they likely also to have any impact on Australian attitudes to Britain? Explain your reasons.

Source 3 Australian exports and imports 1913

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Exports %</th>
<th>Imports %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>44.30</td>
<td>59.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Empire — Canada</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>1.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceylon</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>3.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South African Union</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straits Settlements</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other British settlements</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total British possessions</td>
<td>12.03</td>
<td>12.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total British Empire</strong></td>
<td><strong>56.33</strong></td>
<td><strong>72.13</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Countries — Argentine Republic</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>9.50</td>
<td>2.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islands</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile and Peru</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>12.33</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>8.75</td>
<td>6.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Java</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippine Islands</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>3.35</td>
<td>11.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Foreign Countries</td>
<td>12.56</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Foreign Countries</td>
<td>43.67</td>
<td>27.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** | **100.00** | **100.00**

Commonwealth of Australia Year Book 1915
In 1914 the Australian Governor-General Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson claimed:

There is indescribable enthusiasm and entire unanimity throughout Australia in support of all that tends to provide for the security of the Empire in war.

Official History of Australia in the War, vol XI page 207

Is this true? We cannot know how every person reacted. We can, however, look at a variety of significant signposts to what large numbers of people thought at the time. Look at the following evidence.

**Source 6** The attitude of churches to the war — an Anglican bishop’s response

Never before had such great issues been at stake. While he was speaking, things of enormous moment to the peace, freedom and stability of the Empire might be happening … They realised that honour had dictated this course. And honour had compelled us to stand by our friends in the present crisis, and every dictate of nationalism appealed to us to try and uphold the nationalism of Denmark, Holland and Belgium. If we stood outside, there would be the greatest danger that those three countries, each of whom stood for certain principles in national freedom and life very dear to them, would be mopped up in a great teutonic [German] Empire … Amid loud applause, Dr Long said we were not going to add anything to the Empire by our present action, but we were going to preserve the peace of the world, and the best way and the nearer way to do that … was for the Empire to declare war.

Bathurst National Advocate 6 August 1914

**Source 7** The attitude of churches to the war — a Catholic bishop’s response

The war now broken out challenges the attention of all. The issues at stake are tremendous … War, being the worst of three evils by which mankind may be overwhelmed, cannot be regarded passively. War is worse than pestilence, worse than famine … Yet war evokes patriotism, courage, wisdom, fraternal regard, individual heroism — all noble and manly virtues. Evil is not unmixed with good; yes, and when a just war, nobly waged, is crowned with victory, then our nation wins imperishable glory. Our present duty is [clear] … we should stand shoulder to shoulder with our responsible rulers and leaders, in word and action, trusting one another.

Daily Telegraph, Sydney, 8 August 1914

3.1 What do both church leaders have in common in their attitude to involvement in the war?

3.2 Do you think church leaders’ opinions are likely to be a good indicator of many people’s attitudes? Explain your views.

**Source 8** The attitude of the Labor movement — The Worker

[The Worker was the leading Labor newspaper of the day.]

Australia is as much part of the British Empire as England is … where is the man who would say to Australians: ‘It is no affair of yours to protect from aggression the motherland that was always ready to defend you?’ Shall we be content to be branded as a people willing to take the hand of a mother in our time of need, and afterwards see her in trouble and not go out to help her? Australian Labor has shown the world many object lessons in the way of standing shoulder to shoulder in time of trouble. And now that war has been proclaimed, Australian Labor will stand shoulder to shoulder with old England in this her hour of storm and stress.

The Worker 6 April 1914

**Source 9** The attitude of the Labor movement — Labor Call

[Labor Call was a radical Labor newspaper]

On the other side [of the world], war is in the atmosphere. This is not political warfare, but manslaying. It is unthinkable to believe that because an archduke and his missus were slain by a fanatic the whole of Europe should become a seething battlefield, and deplorable misery brought upon the people … What glory is there in today’s warfare? None, whatever, it is only slaughter and carnage.

Labor Call 6 August 1914

3.3 How do sources 8 and 9 differ in their attitude to the war?

3.4 How do you explain the contradictory views of two representatives of the Labor movement?

3.5 Do you think Labor movement newspapers are likely to be a good indicator of many people’s attitudes? Explain your views.
One of the strongest influences on a community is education — the attitudes and values that people learn in school.

Source 10 A poem in *The School Paper*

THE CALL.

1. Northward unto Brisbane, westward unto Broome,¹
The smoke is blacking out the stars, the clouds of battle loom,

2. Forgot our tale of party strife,
forgot our varied creeds;
Perhaps we’ve wrangled over words, we stand as one in deeds;
Divided in her time of peace—
when first the bugles blare,
Her enemies have yet to learn the Empire stands foursquare.²

3. It is not ours to rule the fate
which God may hold in store,
But let us stand to meet it as our fathers stood of yore;
Our sword is loosed in its sheath—go, tell the motherland
Her sons have girt their armor on, their help is close at hand.

Coo-ee! It’s the mother country calling,
Coo-ee! Her sons shall make reply;
The children of the free,
From sea to surging sea,
Have heard the call, they’ll stand or fall, prepared to do or die.

Coo-ee! The mother country’s calling,
Coo-ee! Her sons have made reply.
From Darwin³ to the Bight,
We’re ready for the fight—
Australia’s sons have manned their guns, prepared to do or die.

—O’Hara, in *The Argus.*

¹ Broome, a port-hunting station and small seaport in the northwest of Western Australia. ² Foursquare, figuratively, established on a firm basis, and preserving an unbroken front to every point of the compass. “And the city” (the heavenly city of Jerusalem) “shall be foursquare.” (Revelation, XIII, 14.) ³ Darwin, the largest town in the Northern Territory. It is on Port Darwin, and used to be called Palmerston.

By the courtesy of the proprietors of *The Australasian.*

LORD ROBERTS INSPECTING THE AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED CADETS IN LONDON.

(On the extreme left are Sir John Madden and Sir Reginald Talbot (once Governor of Victoria); the fourth figure is Lord Roberts; and, on his left, Lord Eddystone.)

3.6 What is the attitude of this poem to the war, to Britain, and to Australia?

3.7 This was published soon after the outbreak of war, and would be studied by students in Grades 7 and 8. Do you think such a poem might influence young people’s attitudes and values? Explain your reasons.
Source 11  Public reactions to the war on learning that war had been declared

A seething crowd broke through the cordon at the [newspaper office] door and rushed the counter where the papers were being sold . . . In an incredibly short time . . . everyone in the street seemed to have heard the news of the declaration of war. Some were enthusiastic, some evidently gratified; some seemed overweighted by the import of the news, some were openly pessimistic, but the general feeling was one of relief that the terrible waiting and uncertainty of the last few days was over, and that, whatever the issue might be, Great Britain had made her voice known in the quarrel of the nations.

The Argus 6 August 1914

3.8  Does the description of the crowd and the photograph of it provide strong evidence of support for the war and Australia's involvement in it? Explain your views.

Source 12  An Irish organisation in Australia

The manifestations of enthusiastic support [for the war] came from many quarters [from where] such fervour was not [usual]. Meetings of the supporters of the Labor party ended with the singing of the National Anthem . . . The spokesman of the Melbourne Celtic Club, an Irish Nationalist organisation, on August 5th said that, "while the members of the club had been keen participants in the Home Rule struggle, their sectional feelings were set aside during the present crisis; they felt that they were all Britons, and desired to stand by the Empire in its hour of need". At a crowded meeting of citizens convened by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne at the Town Hall on August 6th, Mr. John Gavan Duffy "the bearer of a name famous in Irish revolutionary politics", said that he appeared as an Irish Catholic Nationalist, but "in this crisis Irish Nationalists forgot all the grievances of the past. Justice was being done to them at the present time, and they were ready, eager, and willing to stand shoulder by shoulder, knee by knee, fighting the battle of the great Empire to which they belonged." Such declarations, and there were many of them in various parts of the Commonwealth, justified the description given by [Labor parliamentary leader] Mr. Hughes on August 9th: "With almost miraculous [speed] the din of party strife has died down, the warring factions have joined hands, and the gravest crisis of our history is faced by a united people."

Official History of Australia in the War Vol XII page 24

3.9  What does this document say was the reaction of the Irish in Australia to involvement in the war?

3.10  Draw up a table like the one below, and using Sources 6–12, summarise the various attitudes that they reveal. Note that you will not always find something about each of these various attitudes in every document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Attitude to war</th>
<th>Attitude to Empire</th>
<th>Attitude to Britain</th>
<th>Attitude to Australia</th>
<th>Attitude to the enemy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>12</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.1 Why do you think people volunteered in 1914 to participate in the war? Brainstorm as a class and list some possible reasons or motivations for enlistment.

We cannot know why every person volunteered. We can look at a selection of recorded motives and start to see the range of reasons.

Look at the following quotations, letters and diaries of men (and one woman) who enlisted in the Australian Army (Source 13, on page 21) and complete a table like this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Motives or reasons for volunteering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Antill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Ellsworth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>McSparrow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Mulvey</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Chinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Betts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Youdale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Rynie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Hamer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Champion</td>
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<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Gibbons</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Alexander</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Raws</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Mulvey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Davies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2 Which was the most unusual or surprising reason for volunteering?

4.3 Do you think there may have been other motives for enlistment that may not have been mentioned in these extracts? If so, suggest what they were.

**Drawing conclusions**

1. From the evidence about Australian reactions to the war are there voices that have not been heard? For example, we say there were 20,000 volunteers, but far more did not volunteer. Why not? Is this evidence that there may have been people who were opposed to the war? We have heard from community leaders and government representatives, but not from ordinary people. Does this matter? Discuss this possibility and decide on your attitude to it.

2. Would you now say that the Governor-General’s assessment on page 17 of Australian public reaction to the war was accurate? Explain your reasons.

The Australian volunteers who had enlisted early in the war trained in camps in Australia for several months. They then boarded troopships in their state capital cities, and sailed to King George Sound, at Albany, Western Australia. Several New Zealand troopships joined them there.

On 1 November a mighty convoy of 36 transports carrying some 30,000 men and three warship escort ships sailed out of King George Sound.

They believed they were on the way to Britain for further training before being sent to the Western Front. However, the training facilities in Britain were inadequate, and the troops would arrive in winter. The decision was made for them to train in Egypt before being sent to Britain and then on to the Western Front. By this time Turkey had entered the war, and the Australians and New Zealanders would soon be fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula, and not the Western Front.
Source 13: Some reasons for enlistment

[Note that spelling and punctuation in these extracts are as they are in the original documents.]

A Corporal RE Antill

[I]f we go to war and they call for men here I will make one quick and lively. I think I know what it is to rough it now and if it is my lot well here goes I am itching to get a dig at a few Germans . . . we have all got the war fever . . . its not bad money here 5/- a day and clothes and food that’s nearly as good as good Cabinet Making and not half so hard. You may think it funny me turning up such a good job but it was like this Philpott had only about 3 days work left for us and things are so bad out here for there is a drought on we haven’t had any rain for months so I thort I would join the army.

B Battery Sergeant Major G Ellsworth

[I]f I had stayed at home I would never have been able to hold my head up & look any decent girl in the face . . . Surely everyone must realize that the Empire is going thro a Crisis it has never gone thro’ before and that every one is expected to do his duty now.

C Private AJ McSparrow

I have [enlisted] . . . and I don’t regret it in the very least. I believe it is every young fellow’s duty. There are far better men than any of us have already gone . . . besides every paper one lils it has something to say about young fellows being so slow in coming forward . . . we are the sort of young men who should go.

D Lance Corporal FC Mulvey

I have enrolled as a volunteer . . . one [son] can be spared for the defence of Australia and Australia’s fate is going to be decided on the continent and not out here . . . being suited in physique and occupation and being prompted by a sense of duty and spirit of adventure I can hardly do anything else but volunteer.

E Lieutenant EH Chinner

[I am] very keen to get to grips with those inhuman brutes . . . to do something to help wipe out such an infamous nation. The Parson this morning preached on this text—‘What can a man give in exchange for something to help wipe out such an infamous nation. The Parson this morning preached on this text—’What can a man give in exchange for

F Gunner RW Betts

[The outlook of the war is getting worse . . . it is just . . . 12 long weeks of awful bloodshed, properly smashing, killing and crippling of men to, today and may it all soon be over, but I am afraid its not to be and we people of the British Empire will all feel the strain of it . . . before the so called civilized and cultured nation of Germany is crushed underfoot.

G Second Lieutenant AC Youdale

I thought that [the war] . . . was too colossal to last long and that Christmas 1914 would see it all over. But . . . I then realized that it was going to be a long struggle, and that it was time I got a wriggle on . . . [By January] I felt very fit for a big fat greasy German.

H Major General Sir G de L Ryele

I don’t think they will take married [militia] officers of my age, but after thinking for years over it I feel I must offer my services. I know that you would not have it said . . . that although I talked a lot about loyalty and defence of the Empire &c, that I didn’t offer to go myself. I am worried to death about it. I would do almost anything in the World to avoid leaving you . . . but I feel I couldn’t look men in the face again . . . I must offer [to enlist].

I Private W Harney

Another volunteer had been sacked after punching his boss; Bill Harney volunteered from the Queensland Gulf country partly because his horses were poor; one or two men, their enthusiasm no doubt quickened by alternative offers of a prison sentence, accepted magistrates’ suggestions to enlist. Men offered because they had friends in Europe, or mates enlisted, or because everyone else in the district had gone and they could not bear the abuse of elderly women. The list was almost infinite.

J Lieutenant DG Armstrong

I am going to have a try for the war . . . I think I ought to go, they want all they can get and . . . I think it is the greatest opportunity for a chap to make a man of himself, those that come back from this war will be the right sort that anybody would be proud of.

K Lieutenant BW Champion

When the news of the Anzac Landing came through to Sydney, and the huge A.I.F. casualty list which soon followed, my Dad at last unwillingly gave his permission for me to enlist.

L Lance Corporal J Gibbons

Things are now looking so serious, and the Russians and Allies are getting so many knock backs, that after a long talk with the manager I have decided to [enlist] . . . the time has come for every able bodied man without ties to go and help.

M Lieutenant CH Alexander

I enlisted on last Sunday week . . . but whether I shall see any fighting or not, I sincerely hope not . . . but . . . I think the time has undoubtedly arrived when everything else . . . should be laid aside until this truly awful bugbear has been gotten rid of. Up to a few weeks ago the Government here seemed to be getting as many volunteers as they could or wished to handle, and as fighting is entirely out of ‘my line’, I did not feel called on to offer myself. However, they are now prepared to enroll as many as will come forward, and . . . I must not hold back any longer.

N Lieutenant JA Raws

The reduction of the standard has enabled me to get through . . . I was . . . [never] a great man for heroics but . . . there are some things worth more than life. I curse the systems of government . . . which permits this dreadful welter of blood and suffering to have enveloped the world . . . I go . . . believing that the only hope for the salvation of the world is a speedy victory for the Allies.

O Captain RD Mulvey

[T]housands should go before me—men who are more physically fit and men who have made no sacrifice . . . But . . . in this struggle which will determine whether spiritual principles or a military despotism will control this world of ours, I feel . . . ‘were better to die in fighting for such a cause than to live in life long self-abasement for having failed to respond to ‘the Call’. Should we be defeated life would be intolerable.

P Nurse Evelyn Davies

I feel that now I have the opportunity, I ought to go. Nurses are badly needed, goodness knows, and someone must do it . . . I want to do the right thing.
Connections

**DVD–VIDEO film connection**

*Revealing Gallipoli*

Watch this film from 00:00-06:30 (Part 1 Chapter 1) and discuss these questions in class:

1. Why was the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) on the side of Germany in the First World War?
2. What were the attitudes to war of
   - the Englishmen Rupert Brook and Joe Murray;
   - the Irishman Francis Ledwidge;
   - the New Zealander William Malone;
   - the Australian Frank Parker; and
   - the Turk Adil Shahin?

What do these show about the variety of attitudes to involvement in the war?

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**Australians At War**

*Episode 2 ‘Who’ll come a fighting the Kaiser with me’*

Watch this film from 00:00-09:20 (Chapter 1) and discuss these questions in class:

1. What ideas did this society hold about duty, pride and the Empire?
2. What main similarities and differences existed in the Australia of 1914 and Australia today?
3. Why did Australia need to ‘prove’ itself to Britain?
4. What does the statement ‘it was harder not to enlist than enlist’ tell you about Australia at that time?

**DVD-ROM connection**

- Can you help the troops get to the battlefront?

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*HM Burton, A call from the Dardanelles, 1915, poster, Department of Defence. Lithograph on paper, 100 x 74 cm, AWM ARTV05167*