

C. Powell

PRIME MINISTER

HMS ARGONAUT

When you went to the Gallipoli ceremony, you invited members of the Ship's Company of HMS Argonaut to come to No.10 to present you with a chart of the Dardanelles. We have arranged for two of them to come at 1045 tomorrow morning: Lieutenant Commander Wadham, the Marine Engineer Officer and Petty Officer Green. They will be accompanied by Mrs. Dunn, Senior Mapping and Charting Officer from the Hydrographer's Office. Chief Petty Officer Wellings will attend to take photographs of the event. He was present for the reception with President Bush on board HMS Arrow in Bermuda; and will take the opportunity to present you with a commemorative album.

We are arranging coffee and a tour of No.10 after you have met the group briefly.

Details of those coming are in the folder.

C. D. Powell

mt

C. D. POWELL

28 June 1990

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 071-21 82111/3

Charles
a Pres.

MO 25/3/4D

Wadham 25th June 1990
P. Wellings
a

Dear Margaret,

PRESENTATION OF CHART TO THE PRIME MINISTER BY HMS ARGONAUT

We have spoken about the presentation, by members of the ship's company of HMS ARGONAUT, of a chart of the Dardanelles to the Prime Minister at 1045 on Friday 29th June.

The ship has nominated Lieutenant Commander J Wadham (the Marine Engineer Officer) and Petty Officer(M) A R Green to make the presentation and, provided you are content, would also like Mrs E Dunn (the Senior Mapping and Charting Officer from the Hydrographer's Office responsible for producing the chart) to be included in the presentation party. I will let you have CVs for all three by Wednesday.

Chief Petty Officer(Phot) P A Wellings will also attend to take photographs of the event. He covered the naval side of the Prime Minister's meeting with President Bush in Bermuda and I understand you are already aware that he would like to use this opportunity to present the Prime Minister with a commemorative album of photographs taken on that occasion. Please let me know if this causes you any difficulty.

It would be useful if you could let me know when you would like them to arrive and details of any security arrangements they may need to observe.

Yours sincerely
I M Woodman

(I M WOODMAN)
Private Secretary

Margaret Bell
No 10 Downing Street

*cc Biff
Wadham*LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JOHN WADHAM

- Lt Cdr John Wadham joined the Royal Navy as a Junior Marine Engineering Mechanic (Second Class) in 1966. After completing basic training at HMS GANGES, he served in a variety of ships including HMS VICTORIOUS, HMS EAGLE, HMS BLAKE and HMS HERMIONE.

- In 1975, he was selected for Mechanician training and was promoted to Chief Petty Officer after further experience at sea. He was commissioned as Sub-Lieutenant in 1983 and following appointments in HMS JUNO, HMS DOLPHIN and HMS INTREPID, was transferred to the general list and promoted to Lt Commander in 1989. He is currently serving as the Marine Engineering Officer on ARGONAUT.

- Lt Commander Wadham is married with two children and lives in Lee-on-Solent.

PETTY OFFICER ANTHONY GREEN

- Petty Officer (Missileman) Anthony Green joined the Royal Navy in 1976. Following completion of his basic training at HMS RALEIGH, in Cornwall, he served in HMS TIGER, HMS BULWARK, HMS RHYL, HMS KENT and HMS LOWESTOFT.
- He was promoted to Petty Officer in 1986 and is currently serving in HMS ARGONAUT, where he is responsible for weapon instruction and ceremonial training.
- Petty Officer Green is married with two children and lives in Portsmouth.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER PAUL WELLINGS

- Chief Petty Officer Airman (Phot) Paul Wellings joined the Royal Navy in 1967. After completing basic training at HMS GANGES, he was posted to the Photographic School at HMS FULMAR in Lossiemouth and following further training, served in HMS ARK ROYAL, HMS HYDRA and various shore establishments before being promoted to Petty Officer in 1977.

- He then served in Germany as a Close Observation Instructor and in Northern Ireland as part of the Training and Advisory Team. He was promoted to Chief Petty Officer in 1981 and has since served as Chief in Charge of the Fleet Photographic Unit, the Film and Video Department at Portsmouth, and in the Naval School of Photography in the USA. He joined the MOD Directorate of Public Relations (Navy) in 1989.

- Chief Petty Officer Wellings is married with two children and lives in Portsmouth.

MRS ELIZABETH DUNN

- Mrs Dunn joined the Hydrographic Office in 1974, after completing a degree in Geography at Oxford and a Diploma in Cartography at Swansea.
- She has held several posts within the Hydrographic Office, working in areas responsible for Home Waters Charting, North West European Charting and the Admiralty List of Radio Signals, and was appointed Curator of the Hydrographic Office in 1989.
- Mrs Dunn is married and lives in Ilchester in Somerset.

The Memory of Gallipoli

Veterans from both sides meet to recall a fierce campaign

By **PENBERTHY MELBOURNE**

While Vietnamese and Americans mark the 15th anniversary of the end of a tragic war this week, politicians, diplomats and World War I veterans from several countries will gather on Turkey's windswept Gallipoli Peninsula to honor those who fell in another bloody clash of arms.

As a planeload of veterans of the campaign that began on April 25, 1915, left Sydney for the commemoration last week, Prime Minister Bob Hawke told them, "I am glad to say, and you will be very glad to hear, that the planning for the second landing is a definite improvement over the first." Taking a further swipe at British military bungling in the Dardanelles campaign of 75 years ago—troops were put ashore in the wrong places, in chest-deep water, under steep cliffs, in the teeth of withering Turkish fire—Hawke added, "This time around it is an all-Australian affair."

Well, not exactly. Hawke and John Hewson, the head of the Australian opposition, will lead the Gallipoli pilgrimage in a dawn ceremony at Anzac Cove, the name given to a bare Aegean beach by troops of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps after the landings. But British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, New Zealand Governor-General Sir Paul Reeves and officials and veterans from Turkey, France, Canada, West Germany, India and Pakistan and a number of North African countries will also be there. Turkish President Turgut Ozal will preside over the ceremonies at the Cannakale Martyrs Memorial on the peninsula where, between April 1915 and January 1916, half a million troops of the British and French empires, backed by naval gunfire, sought in vain to dislodge 300,000 Turks entrenched on high ridges.

The Allied objective, proposed by Winston Churchill, then Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty, was to secure the passage through the strategic Dardanelles straits by ousting the Turks from the peninsula that dominates it. Had they succeeded, the Allies would have been able to open a third front in Europe, isolating the Ottoman Empire from its allies, Germany and Austria, the so-called Central Powers, and relieving German pressure on Czarist Russia. In the end, the Allies withdrew, with

few of their troops having caught more than a glimpse of the strategic waterway during the battles for the Gallipoli heights. By the time they pulled out in January 1916, an estimated 120,000 men—40,000 Allied and 80,000 Turks—had been killed and 250,000 wounded. The withdrawal, in which scarcely a single soldier was lost, was



Preparing for combat: a crucible of nationhood

the Allies' most successful operation of the entire campaign.

Today the barren, 60-mile-long Gallipoli Peninsula is the site of dozens of war cemeteries. On the ridges, trenchworks, though overgrown, remain visible; in the dust of the ravines, bones and pieces of ordnance can still be found. Gallipoli is, as one recent visitor described it, "perhaps the most naturally preserved major battlefield in the world."

The Turkish victory, under such leaders as Lieut. Colonel Mustafa Kemal, later better known as Atatürk, marked the country's emergence as a modern state; in Britain the careers of Churchill, of Sir Ian Hamilton, the commanding general who was eventually sacked, and of a raft of staff officers were set back for the remainder of the Great War.

Yet the heroic failures of the Australians and New Zealanders at Gallipoli, in what were actually diversionary landings for the benefit of British forces coming ashore at Cape Helles, 13 miles to the south, are etched in memory. Year after year, their effort is marked in both countries by a national holiday, with dawn services in every town and hamlet.

As Hawke pointed out last week, the long casualty lists from Gallipoli raised national consciousness in Australia, then still a British dominion, and increased a sense of bonding on a far-off continent where six small British colonies had unasily come together in a federation only 14 years earlier. The memories of the few surviving Gallipoli veterans, most now well into their 90s, are not always sharp, but inevitably they talk of the "mateship" that sustained them in the face of sniper and artillery fire, hunger, thirst, lice and disease in the trenches. While the Australians distinguished themselves as hard-bitten fighters, they did not accept British discipline. Coming from a country that thought of itself as egalitarian, they would not salute British officers and addressed their own by their first names. "They were superb to lead, but could not be driven," one Australian officer recalled.

At places like Anzac Cove, Shrapnel Gully, Lone Pine and a ridge called the Nek, the 50,000 Australians who went ashore at Gallipoli suffered 26,000 casualties, including 8,000 dead; of the 18,000 New Zealanders who fought there, 2,700 were killed and more than twice that number wounded. Although Anzac casualties accounted for only a quarter of the Allied dead in the Dardanelles campaign, their 50% casualty rate was two to three times as high as that of the entire Allied force. The reason: they were trapped longer in some of the most rugged and difficult terrain on the peninsula after the main British landings, first at Cape Helles and later at Suvla Bay, had failed to carry offensives forward. Though 46,000 Australians and 13,000 New Zealanders were later to die in France, it is Gallipoli that Australians and New Zealanders remember as their crucible of nationhood.

Said Australian veteran Walter Parker, 95, who is attending this week's ceremony: "We achieved this much: that we were an Australian nation and could make an account of ourselves. This was the only good thing that came out of it. The loss of life was very terrible. I didn't know for many years just how many we had lost."