



PRIME MINISTER

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER
DAWN SERVICE, GALLIPOLI
25 APRIL 1990

The ANZACs who came ashore at this place, at this hour, on this day, seventy five years ago, and their comrades who followed them here during the eight long months of the dreadful combat that ensued, were not, despite all their efforts, to achieve their military objectives.

But because of the courage with which they fought, because of their devotion to duty and their comradeship, because of their ingenuity, their good humour and their endurance, because these hills rang with their voices and ran with their blood, this place Gallipoli is, in one sense, a part of Australia.

So we return to this remote peninsula today, privileged in the company of some of the diggers who fought here, and proud to identify in their exploits the very character of our nation.

We have not come in order to dedicate this place - it is already sacred because of the bravery and the bloodshed of the ANZACs.

We should instead dedicate ourselves - to keeping bright the memory of those men who so unstintingly did what was asked of them on our behalf - and to ensuring that the freedom and peace for which they so ardently yearned, for which they so bravely fought, and for which so many of them so selflessly gave their lives, shall not pass away.

Let us remember too, in respect, the valour of those Turkish soldiers who died here in defence of their country.

As dawn broke on this day in 1915, a terrible slaughter began. Today, as dawn emerges from the blackness of night, let us hope that the nations of the earth are emerging from the self-destructive practices of enmity and will build, in sunlight, a world of peace.