

# Gallipoli

Douglas Darby, April 1955

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Just pause, you will remember, it was forty years ago  
That you started planting crosses in a neat and tidy row  
And four years later when you'd leashed the dogs of war  
You came again to Anzac and we watched you come ashore.  
Take heed, you will remember how you laid our bones to rest  
And raised the shrine of Helles on a dominating crest  
And counted us, nine thousand souls, who once were laughing men  
And vowed that cursed warfare would not blight the world again.  
War came again, remember, with its glory and its crêpe  
And having slain the dragon, see its virile young escape  
We watched the dragon's offspring prosper, great and gross and grim  
And God denied by millions who had once acknowledged him  
Saw slavery come back to earth and justice set aside  
Small nations scattered to the wind and the rule of law denied.  
And we who stayed at Anzac saw our sons and nephews go  
To give their lives as we did; against a crueller foe.  
May the Good Lord grant that war shall never come again  
Nor inflict upon our grandsons horror, death and pain.

An officer in the Royal Naval Division, New Zealander Bernard Freyberg (1889-1963) served in the defence of Antwerp before earning his first DSO during the landings at Gallipoli, where he put to use his swimming skills (NZ Champion, 1910) in the setting of flares. He served in the Dardanelles until the Allied evacuation.

Commanding the Hood Battalion at the River Ancre in the Somme Offensive, Freyberg led a successful attack on Beaucourt, capturing 500 prisoners, then refused to leave his troops although wounded four times. Awarded the VC for this action, Freyberg was promoted to Brigadier at the age of 27. By the Armistice he had been wounded nine times and was commanding a Division.

WWII saw Freyberg placed in command of NZ Mediterranean forces, and he commanded British and Greek troops in Crete in the defeat by the Germans. In a tribute to NZ troops as well as their leader, Wavell wrote that Maj Gen Freyberg had 'produced one of best trained and disciplined and fittest divisions I have ever seen': Freyberg then commanded a Corps in the Eighth Army in North Africa and contributed significantly to the success of the second battle of El Alamein. His final major contribution to WWII was to lead New Zealand troops into Trieste in May 1945, and his fourth DSO came from an action moments before the Armistice.

Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Freyberg VC became Governor-General of New Zealand in 1946. In 1951 King George VI created him Baron of Wellington and Munstead.

The man who was one of the heroes of the Great War, one of the most respected Generals of WWII, and one of the greatest products of New Zealand, died in 1963.



General, The Lord Freyberg, VC, GCMG, KCB, DSO (3 Bars), KStJ, MiD (5), Commander of the Legion of Merit (USA), Gold Cross of Valour (Greece), Grand Commander with Swords of the Royal Order of George I (Greece), First Baron Freyberg of Wellington in New Zealand and Munstead in the County of Surrey.