

## 'Then & now' images reclaim little-known Greek-Australian WWI story

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An evocative series of 'then and now' photographs – on show at the State Library of NSW from 24 February 2015 – will help shed light on the little-known stories of Australian nurses and soldiers on the small Greek island of Lemnos during the Gallipoli campaign.

*Lemnos 1915: Then & now* presents 16 powerful photographs which place 100 year-old B&W images of Australian nurses and soldiers within modern, colour landscapes taken in the same location by Sydney-based couple, playwright Cheryl Ward and Bernard de Broglio.

"I was fascinated with Lemnos. It was probably one of the hardest places for the Australian nurses to serve," says Cheryl Ward. "The hospital tents were regularly blown over, the tent kitchen would catch on fire, not to mention the dysentery, lack of fresh water, the relentless swarm of flies and burrs blowing around that forced nurses to cut off their hair."

Lemnos was the principal assembly, embarkation and supply point for the Gallipoli landings. Thousands of exhausted and badly wounded Anzacs were treated there by some 130 Australian nurses in makeshift hospitals set up from August 1915. Other major Allied medical hospitals supporting the Gallipoli campaign were also on the island and included Canadians, British and New Zealanders.

With few physical remnants of WWI on the island, Cheryl and Bernard set about relocating the original site of the field hospitals using a sketch map, then poured over Google Earth to match the background in the historic photos they found in the State Library of NSW's collection, taken by Australian soldier Albert William Savage.

"The landscape had barely changed. When we stood in the footsteps of the photographer from 100 years ago and matched the landscape it was a revelation," says Cheryl.

This 'revelation' was shared with the Australian Greek community and the Lemnians who became aware of Cheryl's 'then and now' images when they were posted online. The Greek community has embraced the photographs.

According to Consul General of Greece in Sydney, Dr Stavros Kyrimis: "These remarkable images recover an important part of Greek history. They provide a poignant visual record to bring us closer to the WWI story of Lemnos and renew the bond that was forged between Greeks and Australians 100 years ago."

*Lemnos 1915: Then and now* is a collaboration by the Australian Greek Community, the Embassy of Greece, Cheryl Ward and Bernard de Broglio and the State Library of NSW to commemorate a shared Australian and Greek story from the WWI Gallipoli campaign.

*Lemnos 1915: Then and Now* is a free photographic display at the State Library of NSW from 24 February 2015 to 24 May 2015. [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au) #Lemnos #Gallipoli #WWI

**For more information, interviews and images, please contact:**  
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# Backgrounder

## Little-known facts about Lemnos during the WWI Gallipoli campaign:

- Lemnos is located in the northern part of the Aegean Sea and was the principal assembly, embarkation and supply point for the Gallipoli landings.
- The landings at Gallipoli were practiced on Lemnos prior to the Australian soldiers deployment to the peninsula.
- Due to the islands deep water harbour it was the marshaling point for the seaborne invasion of the Gallipoli peninsula.
- In the evening of the 24 of April 1915, the Anzacs and allies - the largest armada assembled in history at that time - left Mudros Harbour, Lemnos for the shores of Anzac Cove.
- Lemnos was the location of the major nursing stations for the Gallipoli campaign, with 130 Australian nurses, led by Matron Grace Wilson – the first major overseas deployment of Australian nurses to a war theatre.
- The recently formed Australian Red Cross Society was represented on the island through its aid depot and in the distribution of aid parcels to nurses and soldiers.
- The armistice concerning the allies and the Ottoman Empire was signed on board HMS *Agamemnon* in Mudros Harbour, Lemnos in 1918.
- There are two military cemeteries on Lemnos – East Mudros and Portianos – 148 Australians are buried there.