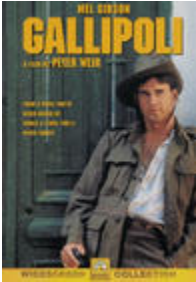


Gallipoli (1981)



Directed by Peter Weir

Starring Mel Gibson

Genre: Drama / War

Runtime: 110 min

Country: Australia

“From a place you've never heard of, comes a story you'll never forget.”

Plot Outline: .The story of a group of young Australian men who leave their various backgrounds behind and sign up to join the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs) in World War I. They are sent to Gallipoli, where they encounter the might of the Turkish army.

What is Anzac Day?

Anzac Day - 25 April - marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as Anzacs.

Why is this an important day for Australians?

When war broke out in 1914 Australia had been a federal commonwealth for only fourteen years. (Before then the different States were run by different governments.)The new national government was eager to establish its reputation among the nations of the world. In 1915 Australian and New Zealand soldiers were part of the force sent to capture the Gallipoli peninsula. They landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Turkish defenders. The campaign dragged on for eight months. At the end of 1915 the allied forces were evacuated after both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers were killed (a huge number when you remember Australia's small population). News of the landing at Gallipoli made a profound impact on Australians at home and 25 April quickly became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in war. The Anzacs created an event which, it was felt, would help to shape the new Australia.

Anzac Day is now a national holiday. Every year hundreds of thousands of Australians participate in ANZAC Day activities. We remember not only the soldiers who died at Gallipoli but all those who have died in war.