

# Anzac Day 2019

They went with songs to the battle,  
they were young  
Straight of limb, true of eye,  
steady and aglow,  
They were staunch to the end  
against odds uncounted:  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.

– From 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon





Auckland



Iraq (Photo: ADF)



South Korea



South Korea



Iraq (Photo: ADF)

## New Zealand Defence Force personnel throughout the world commemorated Anzac Day on Thursday 25 April.

New Zealand and Australia commemorated Anzac Day with three services in the Anzac sector of the Gallipoli peninsula – a joint Dawn Service followed by the Australian service at Lone Pine and the New Zealand Memorial Service at Chunuk Bair.

The official party, led by Trevor Mallard, Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives, placed roses at the New Zealand Memorial to the Missing. The party was then led to the New Zealand Battlefield Memorial where 380 New Zealanders were seated for the service. Many Australians also gathered to watch the ceremony as they made their way to Chunuk Bair to wait for their transport off the peninsula.

Her Excellency Wendy Hinton, New Zealand Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, led attendees in a minute's silence for those killed and affected by the Christchurch terror attack which included two wounded Turkish nationals.

In his commemorative address, the Speaker noted that those gathered at Chunuk Bair had come together in the spirit of respect, peace and understanding. He also remembered all those that fought at Gallipoli – from whatever their country or creed – and the legacy they left behind as we face different challenges in the 21st century.

Significant Anzac Day ceremonies were also held in Iraq and Afghanistan, Egypt and Korea, Australia and New Zealand and many other nations where New Zealand is represented.



Afghanistan

# ERNIE, 105, & ALEX, 99

## The Anzac Spirit Revisited

By Judith Martin

Two Wellington men with more than 200 years of life experience behind them have fond memories of their wartime experience overseeing munitions in an Australian explosives factory.

Mr Ernie Sellens, who has recently turned 105 years old, and Mr Alex Lees, 99, are New Zealanders but both worked together at the Mulwala Explosives Factory in New South Wales during World War II.

The men, both of whom have science backgrounds, are now residents of Te Hopai Home in Newtown, Wellington. They commemorated Anzac Day together, and shared some of their memories with *Army News*.

A Wellingtonian, Mr Sellens attended Victoria University where he studied chemistry, physics and geology.

"The Australian government got in touch with the New Zealand government and asked for a bunch of scientists to be sent over there during the war. We were to work at a factory producing munitions. I had to investigate and report on any accidents that happened. I also had to check that the munitions were made according to specifications, and were safe to send to the troops."

He says when war broke out he was a pacifist. "Then I realised pacifism would never win a war or get me anywhere." Mr Sellens went on to become, amongst other science-related occupations, an



Inspector of Dangerous Goods for the New Zealand government.

Mr Lees also studied at Victoria University attaining a Master of Science, majoring in chemistry, physics and maths. He joined the group of Kiwi scientists working at the Mulwala factory, and spent much of his time working with five inch shells full of TNT, as well as mortars and grenades. He was in charge of the ballistics laboratory at the factory.

"You could only work in the TNT bay for a week at a time. I got sixpence extra an hour in my pay for working there." He trained other people to do the job he was doing until his services as a scientist were no longer needed at the factory, and he eventually returned to New Zealand.

Both men brought their families up in New Zealand.

After the war the pair found themselves working together again

at a paint manufacturing plant. They changed jobs and lost touch, but were reunited when they chose to live in Te Hopai in their twilight years.

"I never wore a uniform, but it was good to be part of the war effort," says Mr Lees.

In recent years Mulwala factory has provided the propellant for 5.56mm ammunition, .50 calibre machine gun ammunition, 25mm cartridges for the Bushmaster gun

mounted on Army ASLAVs and Armidale-class patrol boats, 81mm mortar, 105mm artillery and 5-inch 54 calibre naval gun ammunition, and the solid rocket motor for the Nulka active decoy. It has also supplied the explosive filling for 81mm mortar, 105mm and 5-inch projectiles, and aircraft bombs.

Above: Ernie Sellens (left) and Alex Lees



South Sudan



South Sudan



Auckland



Dubai



Iraq (Photo: ADF)



Iraq (Photo: ADF)



Afghanistan



South Sudan



South Sudan