



Greek Australians in the Australian Forces

80 Greek Australians served their new
Country in World War One.

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As with other years, Australians all over the Country will Commemorate ANZAC DAY to honour all those that served, Men and Women, in the Great War from 1914 - 18. As a young Nation of five million, Australia send 332.000 soldiers to support mother England and its Allies. When the war started young men volunteered, to serve the King and Country. The correct age to enlist in the Australian Forces in 1914, was 18, but many young men as young as 16-17 sign to serve their Country.

James Martin born 1901 in New South Wales was only 14 when he lied his age and enlisted in 1915. Upon landing at Gallipoli in September 1915 at the age of 14 and three months old, James died from typhoid at the age of 14 and nine months old. James was one of 20 Australians that died in the war under the age of 18.

Australian casualties in the first World War was 62.000 killed and 156.000 wounded.

Among the Australians, there were also Greek origin men that served in the Australian Forces. About 80 men of Greek origin served their new Country when the war broke out.

From the 80 that served, 47 were born in Greece, the others were from other Australian States. From the 12 Greek Australians that served in Gallipoli, Peter Rados born in Athens age 24, was the only Greek-Australian that died in Gallipoli on 19th May 1915. The other 9 Greek Australians that died in the Australian Forces were killed in France and Belgium 1916-17.

In total, 80 Greek Australians served their new Country in World War One.

Some of these men(47) were born in Greece, places such as Athens, Kythera, Sparti, Cyprus, Lamia, Patra, Crete, Korinthos, Samos, Pireus, Kastelorizo, Nafplion, Kefalonia, Lefkada, Makedonia, Thesaloniki, Their occupation varied from working in the railways, labourers, Salesman, Kooks, Waiters, Shop Assistants, Farmers, Barman, Miners, Musicians, Fireman, Bakers, Carpenters, Fruiterers, Telegraphist, Bank Clerk, Seaman, Engine Drivers, Hairdresser.

The oldest to Enlist was Alexandros Demas age 44, born 1872 in New South Wales.

List of Greek Australians in the Australian Forces, that died in World War One.

Chifithis Alexander – born in Sparti 1892 died in France 1916 age 24.

Elias Charles – born in Ithaca 1886 died in Basra 1917 age 31.

Florence John – born in Pireus 1887 died in Belgium 1917 age 30.

Halkas Arthur – born in Athens 1886 died in France 1916 age 30.

Kellas George – born in Victoria 1896 died in Belgium 1917 age 31.

Macryannis Basil – born N.S.W 1894 died in Belgium 1917 age 23.

Manousos Leonidas – born N.S.W 1894 died in France 1916 age 20.

Paxin (Paxinos) George – born Victoria 1878 died in France 1917 age 39.

Rados Peter – born Athens 1891 died at Gallipoli 1915 age 24.

Zula (Zulanos) Reuben (Jewish Mother) – born Victoria 1891 died in Belgium 1917 age 26.

Total, 27 Greek Australians were wounded in action in World War One.

Source: "Greek Australians in the Australian Forces WWI & WWII"

On ANZAC DAY the Hellenic RSL Melbourne proudly will march with many of its members to pay respect to all Australians that gave so much in the First World War.

LEST WE FORGET

Steve Kyritsis OAM,