



HELLENIC ANZAC DAY 2021

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This post is for my mates that I have served with, my family and for mates now since gone. It is for cobbers in hospital or ill at home. All that can say is to remain strong and never give up. As for the poor 2021 ANZAC post and incorrect protocol, please accept my apologies. I am without doubt utterly exhausted.

Today can only be described as an emotional remembrance for me. Five years it has taken to get to this stage. Although I was inspired by the members who crested the Royal Australian Regiment Memorial in Brisbane (Australia) as well as LtCol (Ret) Ross Bastiaan, it all started with a few mates, Maurice Barwick, Barrie Daniel and Don Norman. Since the original stone was put in place back in 2017, many other generous mates have donated and contributed towards making it a special place. (More below).

ANZAC DAY for me is time where Australians and New Zealanders no matter where they are located, will stop what they are doing and remember the freedoms they enjoy came at a price. The Greeks over here in Greece are aware of the close relationship they have with the ANZAC generations.

The ANZAC spirit born on the field of battle and in the arms of mates, holding a cobber who lay dying. A legend was formed and since those days the generations that followed carried the torch aloft and ensured that I got remained lit and never forgotten.

For me ANZAC Day is not about battles, wearing of medals, marching or catching up with mates. There is nothing wrong with that as it is always wonderful to be with mates of our youth. Despite my outgoing appearance I am normally a shy, sensitive and an ordinary bloke.

ANZAC DAY therefore for me goes much more deeper than that. I mourn greatly for the loss of my mates and I become emotional. For me, it's finding that quiet place in my life where I can retreat to and reflect on the past and thank the almighty for being here today to remain those who have gone before us.

It is also a time when ANZACS were fighting at Thermopylae against the Nazis, the battle Crete, in Korea, the battle of Kapyong. Then on a different scale of bloodshed, the horrors of the genocide being carried against the Armenians, Assyrians, Pontian Greeks and those of the Jewish faith.

Today, (ANZAC DAY) was spent in silence, keeping my own council, reflecting on the past and remembering each mate that had gone on the heavenly patrol leaving us behind. That is why I weep in side, sad to know that mankind can be so destructive to its own kind. Mind you, I am far from being a pacifist for I know only too well that FREEDOM COMES AT A PRICE.

I was concreting, painting, weeding and preparing the Hellenic ANZAC Memorial in my place of birth, Pellana, Laconia, Greece. I had no qualms about working as it kept my mind occupied and focused in completing the memorial.

I miss my wife, family and mates very much this year and hoped to have been back much earlier. However life is what it is and we make the most of it.

I have tried to complete as much as I could to be ready for ANZAC Day, but unfortunately I have failed. The good news is that the flowers bloomed just in time and as such have brighten up the memorial.

The good news is that I have been able to identify more individuals as Guardian's of the memorial. Furthermore, I had the good fortune to have met Arthur Davakis, local Federal member of the Greek Parliament and former deputy Defence Minister. Arthur visited the HANZAC Memorial and paid his respects. He has also agreed to be the Greek Patton of the memorial.

As with previous years, my old mate Kostas Sgourdas the master stone mason read the Ode in Greek. Kostas has been a part of the memorial from the beginning. I would also like to thank all those good people who donated funds towards the development of the memorial. Without their support I would not have developed it thus far. I thank you again.

I do hope that everyone enjoyed ANZAC Day and met again mates from their youth. Stay strong and be of good cheer. That is all for now. LOVE YOU ALL. Peter Adamis <abalinx@gmail.com>