

Captive Life of British and Anzac Soldiers Captured in the Battle of Gallipoli in Letters and Memoirs

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ABSTRACT: The nobility and civilized stance of a nation should be measured by its behavior towards the soldiers captured in the war. The care showed by the Turks, especially to the captured and wounded British and Anzac soldiers, was reflected in the letters they wrote to the families of the soldiers and in the diaries they kept. Likewise, the lives of the Turkish soldiers who were captured by the British in the Egyptian POW Camps and the treatment against them took their place in the memories and letters of the Turkish soldiers. The First World War holds an important place not only in what happened on the battlefields but also in the memories of soldiers who were out of the war and in captivity. The captive life reflected in the letters and memories of prisoners of war is important in terms of showing a different side of the war. Therefore, warring countries should be evaluated not only by what they did on the battlefields, but also by their good or bad behavior towards the prisoners, wounded and sick who remained outside the war. The aim of the study is to compare the experiences of Allied soldiers captured during the Battle of Gallipoli with their own narratives, to reveal the difference between the Turks, who were defined as barbarians at that time, and the British who saw themselves as the representatives of the civilized world.

Keywords: Gallipoli, English, Anzac, Captives
JEL Kodu: Z

Mektup ve Anılarda Çanakkale Muharebesinde Esir Alınan İngiliz ve Anzak Askerlerinin Esir Yaşamı

ÖZ: Bir milletin asalet ve medeni duruşu, savaşta esir alınan askerlere karşı davranışlarıyla ölçülmelidir. Türklerin özellikle esir düşen ve yaralanan İngiliz ve Anzak askerlerine gösterdikleri özen, askerlerin ailelerine yazdıkları mektuplara ve tuttıkları günlüklere yansımıştır. Aynı şekilde Mısır savaş esir kamplarında İngilizler tarafından esir alınan Türk askerlerinin yaşamları ve kendilerine yapılan muameleler de Türk askerlerinin hatıralarında ve mektuplarında yerini almıştır. Birinci Dünya Savaşı, sadece savaş alanlarında yaşananlarla değil aynı zamanda savaş dışı kalmış, esaret altındaki askerlerin hafızalarında da önemli bir yer tutmaktadır. Savaş esirlerinin mektup ve anılarına yansıyan esir yaşamı, savaşın farklı bir yüzünü göstermesi bakımından önemlidir. Dolayısıyla savaşan ülkeler, sadece savaş meydanlarında yaptıklarıyla değil aynı zamanda savaş dışı kalan esirlere, yaralılara ve hastalara karşı iyi veya kötü davranışlarıyla da değerlendirilmelidir. Çalışmanın amacı, Çanakkale Savaşı'nda esir alınan İtilaf askerlerinin yaşadıklarını kendi anlatılarıyla karşılaştırmak, o dönemde barbar olarak tanımlanan Türkler ile kendilerini uygar dünyanın temsilcileri olarak gören İngilizler arasındaki farkı ortaya koymaktır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Gelibolu, İngiliz, Anzak, Esirler
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1. Introduction

The defeats in the Caucasus and Suez Canal fronts after the Balkan Wars demoralized the Turkish people and shook their self-confidence. Therefore, when the war started in Gallipoli, everyone hoped that the Ottoman armies would be defeated in a short time and Istanbul would be captured. Not only foreign countries, but also the Istanbul Government and official circles were of the same opinion. Necessary preparations were also made, and in case of the down of Istanbul, the first measures were taken to move the government and archives. However, upon the stopping of the world's strongest navy and armies in Gallipoli on March 18, 1915, the morale of the Turkish nation suddenly had improved and regained its self-confidence. In addition, the belief that success can be achieved no matter how difficult the conditions and the rising morale and increasing self-confidence of the nation constitute the first sparks of the Turkish national struggle to be started right after the First World War. For this reason, it can be said that the first serious tests of the national independence struggle, which led to the foundation of modern Turkey, were given on the shores and hills of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The Battle of Gallipoli was an important turning point in history for the Turks, and also left a deep impact on the soldiers of other nations participating in these battles. The ANZAC (The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps [A & NZAC]) (Robertson, 1990:33-38). soldiers, who were brought to Egypt and then to Gallipoli under the leadership of England, from their dominions and colonies, have remained the most important memories of their lives.

The land operation had begun, but the attacks of the Allied navy from the sea continued. In the clashes that took place on April, 27-28, 1915, some the ships sank and the navy withdrew to Bozcaada. The continuation of the losses in the naval operation led to the emphasis on the land operation. Anzacs and Indian troops were used rather than British forces in the ground operation. The troops were in Egypt before they came to the Dardanelles front (The Times, 1915: 7). They gathered together and received short-term training. The Anzacs were brought to the island of Lemnos by ships from here, and were sent to the Gallipoli Peninsula from there.

Australia and New Zealand, which were far away from the tension in pre-war Europe, did not have armies strong enough to participate in a great intercontinental war, and they were able to ensure the order and security of their regions with their limited military structure. However, some press and media organs in Austria and New Zealand, which support British citizens, draw attention to the "*Japanese and German threat*" and, on the contrary to those who are against the war, "*the Motherland should be on the side of England, until they sacrifice the last man and the last shilling*" in the war they argued that "*it is necessary*" (www.trdergisi.com). Both countries received the right to dominion status from England in 1907. Although the colonial law recognized the right to be neutral in the war and they seemed independent in foreign affairs, the governments of the countries had started to recruit volunteers.

The fact that Britain wanted these countries to join the war was mostly the German threat, which would face the loss of the war for both countries, and the increasingly stronger Japanese threat in the Pacific. However, despite all the propaganda, in both countries, there was great difficulty in finding volunteers to join the war, apart from the Maori and Raratongan² natives living on the islands, due to the counter-resistance and propaganda of the socialist unions.

In the early days of January 1915, the pro-war Australian Government staged an attack on "Broken Hill", one of the mining towns in southern Australia, to entice the volunteers and bring them into the war. It fictionalized this attack on "Broken Hill" in a way that would arouse hatred from the Turks and served it to the public through the press. It was made headlines with the testimony of an elderly eyewitness, where two attackers, wearing Ottoman soldier uniforms and hanging Turkish flags on an accompanying ice cream cart, opened fire on a picnic train that supposedly consisted entirely of civilians, and the attackers were killed in the clash. Articles pumping Turkish hatred throughout January accelerated the going of volunteers to Gallipoli from

² To encourage Maori and Raratongan natives to volunteer for war, they printed posters depicting "the spirit of their ancestors is fighting in the Dardanelles". (www.tarihturklerdebaslar.wordpress.com)

both countries.³ As the perception of "Barbarian Turks" and the sense of revenge began to spread among the citizens of Australia and New Zealand, it became apparent that even underage youth were willing and willing to join the war, and were enlisted under false documents. However, the reality was very different. When it became clear that the Broken Hill attack had nothing to do with the Turks, and that the attack was carried out by a few Afghan cameleers, the perception of "*Barbarian Turk*" began to change, and this perception turned into a "*Heroic Turk*" perception when the letters written by the soldiers who participated in the Battle of Gallipoli from the front and the statements of those who returned were added.

The Battle of Gallipoli is not only an important battle for the history of the war, but rather the battles in which the human and inhuman behavior of the fighters became in history, too. The treatment of the Turks, who were defined as barbarians, not only while they were fighting, but also with the treatment of their allied soldiers, who were captured as wounded and intact, and the behavior of the British, who were defined as civilized in the world, towards Turkish prisoners were reflected in the letters and diaries of the soldiers of both sides. In this study, the difference between the attitudes of both sides to the prisoners of war will be investigated.

2. The Battles of Gallipoli in the Letters and Diaries of the Allied Soldiers:

With the beginning of March, the attacks of the Allied navy began to increase. March 18, 1915, the most intense and the most intense of the naval battles in Gallipoli. It would go down in history as the strongest day of the bombardment. The attempt to cross the Bosphorus had begun in the early morning hours (Aybars, 2000: 55). As a result of the tough struggles that continued until the evening hours, the Allied navy had to withdraw with heavy casualties.

Letter from brother John Churchill to Winston Churchill: John Churchill writes this letter on the ship *Franconia* in Lemnos on the evening of the 18 March naval campaign. Stating that the bombardment of the British warships in the Dardanelles against the Turkish batteries on the land was insufficient and that these cannons could only be neutralized by an operation from the land, John Churchill also said that he had never encountered such a fire while at sea until that day; He also tells that the sailors, being stunned, could not hold on to where they were:

March 18, 1915 "...We were moving very fast. Before we went a mile, we were fired upon from a field artillery. Controlling the direction of the sound, we drew three large circles. Two or three miles ahead, we watch the navy, which is in a state of intense fire... We could clearly see the *Queen Elizabeth* ship, which was shelling Gallipoli, and the operation of its cannons. I watched the *Inflexible*, with its entire crew gathered on the deck, approaching us, following a strange route. A few small shells fell pretty close to us. We continued to follow the ships forward towards the strait. We stopped abruptly, and I immediately found out why: The *Inflexible* ship had reported that it had been torpedoed and wounded. Half a dozen destroyers had done the same as they prepared the boats and approached him. The ship had received a light blow and could travel at a speed of twelve miles per hour. Although he did not seem to have taken much water, he could not return to his normal state. We accompanied him to *Bozcaada*. I don't think it did much damage. On our way back, we passed near the *Gaulois*; It was leaning forward, almost as if it had sunk. I could see it speeding away towards the *Rabbit Islands*. From the incoming message, we learned that the ship *Irresistible* was also injured and the *Ocean* ship was trying to get it out of the strait. *Queen* then received orders to leave us and head for the *Irresistible*. Rescue efforts would continue with the darkness. I learned from the message that came later that I saw part of it, that both ships were lost. *Bouvet* sank with 700 people! What a dreadful end to a very enthusiastic and exciting day! (Tunçoku ve Taşkıran, 2000:59-61)"

³ Similar fictions by British propagandists were a frequent method during the First World War. By constructing simple and small public order incidents, they tried to gain advantage by agitating the Christian people through the press, as if genocide and massacre were being committed. One of the most important examples of these is the "*Armenian Deportation*". During the forced migration of the Armenian people living in the regions where Armenian Terrorist organizations operate to the ineffective regions in order to control the public order, the Ottoman Government took photographs of Armenians killed by Armenian organizations, bandits or died due to disease on the way, and with fictional witness statements, published with the propaganda of "*The Ottoman Government is killing Armenians*". With the "*Blue Book*", they tried to provoke the Christians living in the Ottoman Empire and in Europe - especially in Germany - against the Ottoman Empire, and to rouse the German people to put pressure on them to give up alliance with the Ottoman Government (Author's Note).

Diary kept by a sailor named Cecil Henry Jewell:

Thursday, March 18, “We got ready at 8.30 in Bozcaada and headed for the Dardanelles. Agamemnon received orders to initiate and direct the operation. 11.00 (Turkish) mortars are firing at our warships trying to advance. Triumph and Prince George set the balls on fire. All his ships set the Gallipoli and the Bosphorus castles on fire. The shots also hit the mortar batteries. 11.35 Queen Elizabeth started firing with her 15 mm guns. Ships were seen in the strait, possibly laying mines.” “Q.E. was hit by an exploding cannonball. Inflexible's patrol ship was hit by an artillery shell and sank. All crew were rescued. Patrol ships attached to the ships are circling around, trying to sink the stray mines left in the stream. At 12.19, fire from the forts hit the Inflexible ship from the bridge, causing it to catch fire. Artillery shells are falling around us, but no hits so far... 12.58, Inflexible is still in flames, the French fleet continues to bombard the field artillery of the Turks. 14:00, French warships approached the forts, one (Bouvet) was wounded by a torpedo or a mine and sank within half an hour...Ahead, the French warship Gaulois was taking on water and was wounded. His entire crew had abandoned ship. Patrol ships rescued 200 people and transported them to other French ships. Several French warships also came to the aid of Gaulois. Gaulois then withdrew towards the Rabbit Islands and the ship was stranded for rescue. (This ship was later repaired and left the Rabbit Islands.) At 2.43, a cannonball blew out Q.E.'s chimney... At 15.30, the shells hit the mainmast of the Lord Nelson ship. Lord Nelson's patrol ship was hit and sank... At 17.10, the Ocean ship received orders to evacuate the wounded Irresistible from the theater. At 18.15 the ships Vengeance and Albion were ordered to withdraw. 6:48 p.m., still being fired from the forts at the slowly sinking ships Ocean and Irresistible. We withdrew from the Dardanelles. Our human loss today was 1000 people. (Tunçoku ve Taşkiran, 2000:77-84)”

When it was understood that the strait could not be crossed only with an attack from the sea, it was decided to launch a land operation under the leadership of England. Allied forces managed to land tens of thousands of soldiers from a total of eight landing beaches on the shores of Gallipoli and Gallipoli in order to pass the Dardanelles Strait, which they could not pass-through naval battles on March 18, 1915, with the land invasion and cleaning operation they started on April 25, and they held them at the shores. The diary kept by a sailor named Cecil Henry Jewell on 25 April 1915:

Sunday, April 25, 1915 “02.15 the navy is full of supplies and forces to be transported. At 03.15 Agamemnon prepared to bombard and land troops. At 05.00, the navy began to intensely bombard Seddülbahir and other points where the forces would be deployed. After all the places where the Turks could hide in Seddülbahir and Kumkale were destroyed, the coal ship River Clyde (carrying soldiers) approached the shore to bring the troops ashore in rowboats. The Turks, thinking that the ship had drifted ashore, rushed to the shore to seize it. But there they were repulsed by the fire of both ours and other ships. The troops landed and took positions. Agamemnon and the destroyers advanced towards the Dardanelles; they will take care of minesweeper. Our troops landed successfully. The French, who went to Kumkale on the Asian coast and captured the village, then withdrew and returned to their ships. Kumkale was flattened by the fire of the French ships. Senegalese soldiers from France were drawn into the Gulf of Morto and formed the right flank of the British lines. Heavy rifle fire is being made in Seddülbahir. Turkish torpedo and minelayers were seen off Gallipoli. Q.E. began firing over the peninsula, with the help of the plane, which corrected the direction of the shots. Four parties were fired and one of the Turkish ships was sunk... (Tunçoku ve Taşkiran, 2000:77-84)”

The failure of the landing to be a complete success, with the reinforcement of the landing forces, the efforts to expand the success had turned into a spiral of operations as the Allied Forces constantly drove new forces to the peninsula. The idea that the Turkish will to fight would be crushed by increasing the troop presence on the peninsula became the main plan of the Allied headquarters. The New Zealander Sergeant Lamb, who went to Gallipoli with the landing troops for reinforcements in the New Zealand troops, described his experiences in the diary he kept:

“On Sunday, May 9, 1915, from Alexandria to the front:S. I boarded the ship called Grantully Castle. On Wednesday, May 12, we arrived at the entrance of the Dardanelles. Continuing

along the coast towards Anzac cove, the collision zone, I came ashore at 4 pm and under fire. I slept in the bushes all night. May 18 "Fun all day and night in the first support trenches! Towards midnight, while we were taking shelter in our underground trenches, the order came for us to go forward as the Turks began to advance. There was deafening rifle fire. We stood and waited for an hour with the gun, and then we went back to sleep. As the sun was getting brighter, the enemy started attacking our trenches. They got pretty close to our left. May 25, "This morning, we had fun watching the Australians dropping Japanese bombs (from the air) on the Turks! Because these bombs do not scare the Turks, even the devil. He is not resigned; Turks are afraid of Australians. They fire bombs at a certain height, and when it explodes it's terrible! As you know... No living thing can survive within an area of hundreds of meters. When the shooting accelerates, I can hear the Turkish cries of Allah, Allah. As the bombs fall on them, I am sure they will have a lot to say to Allah! (Tunçoku ve Taşkıran, 2000:65-72).

Letters from Landing Officer Charles Cabry Dix to his Wife:

17 May 1915 Anzac Cove "It's been three weeks and if we don't get substantial support, it looks like we'll be staying for another three months. This is a very large-scale operation and we can handle this, we have to figure it out. This beach is very hot. An average of 250-300 artillery shells falls every ten minutes, but our losses are noticeably low..." 30 May 1915 Anzac Cove "...We are still here, we are still resisting, and we are again under a rain of fire. Despite the presence of two German submarines that sank our Triumph and Majestic, our situation is better than before. I think the enemy is using his ammo more sparingly now. We know that our two submarines that entered the Sea of Marmara sank military ships as well as two ships carrying ammunition. Since their major offensive, the Turks have made two minor attacks, but both have been repulsed with heavy casualties. All of the POWs (we took) say that the Turks are tired of the war and do not want to fight England..." 20 July 1915 Anzac Cove "...Things seem to have relaxed a bit here. I believe very strongly that in three weeks we will completely defeat the Turks. It's so nice to be here on this mission again. In short, everything looks better. We strongly believe that the enemy will make a great attack. I say it will be in a week. Thus, the current uncertain situation will improve somewhat. After the last two bad days, the enemy is pretty quiet. I think they're packing up for a big attack..." (Tunçoku ve Taşkıran, 2000:73-77).

Contrary to the British propaganda, positive rumors began to spread about the soldiers who participated in the Battle of Gallipoli and the Turkish soldiers they fought, and this situation was also reflected in the letters written. J.M. from the southern trenches area. In a letter written by a soldier named Duncan to his friend: "*I can't describe them as I haven't met any Turkish people yet, but everyone here says very good things about them. They talk about fighting very conscientiously as an enemy...*" (Tetik vd., 2009: 1080).

In the letters and diaries sent, it is possible to see a highly adopted mood in which the war psychology of each soldier participating in the war manifests itself individually and collectively. It is understood that the names and adjectives attached to the enemy he fights and the weapons used are seen as a way to make the obligation experienced fun. They named the Turkish soldiers "Abdül, Maruf", and the Turkish artillery, which was fired from time to time, especially on the landing beach, "Beachy Bill", "Lonesome (lonely) Liz" and "Asian Annie". An Anzac soldier named Bop describes his war experience in a letter to his mother:

Gallipoli Line of Fire, November 11, 1915. "Dear Mommy. (...) We spent the night in the underground trenches here. It was only in daylight that we could see the difficulty of landing. The hills lined the beach one after the other. It was covered with thorny plants such as holly, scrub, heather, and spruce. How the Turks got out of them is a complete mystery. Only those who participated in the sticker can understand this. Abdul (Maruf among the soldiers) dug a tunnel. It will take more than a few men to root it out. On the third afternoon of the month, "Beachy Bill" The Turks' most feared and most inevitable cannon showed itself by firing its bullets at the forward positions..." (Tetik vd., 2009: 1115-1116).

Another subject reflected in the letters and memories of Anzac soldiers was their lives in the trenches. They wrote that they found solace in the approaching winter days, especially after a very hot summer, the harsh winds of November, and the destruction of the clouds of flies, which turn their lives into poison and stick like leeches, at least in the summer months. In a letter he wrote to a friend of the soldier named Artur V. Steel, he described life in the trenches as follows:

Desolate Refuge, Anzac Cove, November, 14 1915. "Dear Miss White, we are busy deepening trenches, digging new trenches, preparing our underground homes for winter. I think the Turks are playing the same game, since they've been pretty quiet lately. We still have little water. It was getting colder and colder to take a bath. We'll wait for the rain, and when it does, we'll run under the rain for a bath. The cold weather has destroyed the flies that stick like leeches to a bit, but we can eat our food in a more comfortable environment..." (Tetik vd., 2009: 1134-1135).

As each Anzac soldier who came to Gallipoli got to know the Turkish soldier he fought, he reflected the admiration he felt for him in the letters he wrote. They wrote that the Turks, who were described as savage and inhuman by black propaganda, were actually quite brave warriors. An Unnamed Anzac Soldier's Letter to His Mother:

Gallipoli, November, 12 1915. "Dear Mommy. I am writing these Lines to let you know that I am fine. Everything is quiet here. We have almost no injuries. Like everyone else, I hear that the war is over and that I will return to you as soon as possible. The Turks seem quieter than when we've been here before. I'm sure they're tired of it too. I don't think they've ever been on guard too long. I don't think they found much food either. But they are very brave warriors and they have done well to this day..." (Tetik vd., 2009: 1125).

3. Letters of Soldiers Captured During the War:

The loss of the Ottoman Empire in the bloody struggles on the Gallipoli front was around 210,000 people (Akkor, 2018: 6). This figure, which includes all kinds of losses during the collisions, should not be considered only as the number of dead people. The total number of Ottoman soldiers left out of the war is 207,696, of which 57,263 were martyred, 11,178 were missing, 97,874 were wounded, 7,084 were affected by weather changes, 29,297 died as a result of illness, and 14,000 were taken to the hospital. An important part of the part that was expressed as missing actually expressed the number of prisoners taken by England and France from the Ottoman Empire (Taşkıran, 2001:24).

Britain and France had primarily held the Turkish soldiers they had taken captive in the port of Mudros on the island of Lemnos (BOA, HR. SYS, 2194/16). The prisoners who stayed here for a while were transferred to the region and camp deemed appropriate for them after completing the necessary registration procedures. However, some prisoners had waited longer than they should have (BOA, HR. SYS, 2194/50). During the waiting, one Turkish soldier died of pneumonia and another of heart disease (Akkor, 2018: 7). The long stay of the soldiers here suggests that Mondros was both a concentration camp and a prisoner camp (Akkor, 2018: 7).

Letter from a British soldier named Frank:

April 16, 1915, "Saint Reevers, I am sure you will be astonished to hear that I am here. As you can see from my address, I was taken, prisoner. I've injured my legs, but I'm recovering. Turks take very good care of us. I was astounded to see such good treatment here. Brother, in short, I am very pleased to be here. Turks tell England well. All of what I said is true." (Tetik vd., 2009: 1339).

Letter from an ANZAC soldier named Ges:

"I am sending a few lines of the letter immediately to my dear parents. There's no need to wonder. I'm fine here. I don't know what happened to my two dear brothers. Because I was shot first. A bullet entered my back and exited my chest. The other bullet went into my leg.

He's recovering. These Turks are really the best men I've come across. Include information about George and Ted in your letter. The hospital I am in is the most beautiful hospital in Istanbul." (Tetik vd., 2009: 1341).

Letters from an ANZAC soldier named George to his parents and aunt and uncle:

"Dear Mom and Dad, I am writing these few lines to let you know that although I cannot move, I am alive. Because I am in a Turkish hospital with an injury to my leg. Don't worry, I'm recovering. The people here are very friendly. The doctor and one of the nurses and the other man speak more English." (Tetik vd., 2009: 1344).

"Saint Aunt and Uncle, you must have understood from my address that I am from the Hospital. Now I am writing these few lines to let you know that I am fine now. Turks here are very compassionate towards us. I was injured by an explosion. They left me in the field. The Turks took me. There are many of our regiments here." (Tetik vd., 2009: 1348).

An ANZAC soldier named of Frank a letter to his mother:

"Dear Mommy. I will write you two lines to let you know that I am alive. Until you receive this letter of mine, you will think that I am among the lost. I injured my foot with a piece of the cannonball. A big hole was made in my hip. I also have a bayonet wound on my back. I was captured on August 7th. Although we kept the Turkish trench we captured for a few hours, we lost it in the end. That's when my friends retreated. I stayed there. I was taken prisoner along with three other friends. The Turks treated us well. They did their best so that we could rest until we were brought to Istanbul." (Tetik vd., 2009: 1352).

An ANZAC soldier named D.C. Mc Lain wrote to his brother:

"Dear Sister. I think you heard that I was a prisoner. You will be relieved to know that I am in safe hands. But you will be glad to hear that I am completely saved and at ease. Turks are good guys here. I was transferred to a good hospital because I caught a cold myself. I am well looked after there. The best of doctors take care of me. The other staff of the hospital also took very good care of it. So, I recovered within a few days. I will never forget the humanity they showed me. All the officers I meet are truly noble people" (Tetik vd., 2009: 1370).

4. Evaluation and Conclusion:

The letters and diaries of the Anzac soldiers, who participated in the Battle of Gallipoli mostly in the rank of private, reflect the battles they lived from the beginning of the war to the end of the war. Their letters, daily lives, and the attitudes of those who were captured in captivity were written in a simple and unpretentious way. But they are much more detailed and realistic about the battles and what happened provides information.

The most important result seen in letter and diary narratives is the fact that it does not coincide with the "Anzac Legend", which is tried to be created as a result of the "chauvinist" perception that British-controlled Australian and New Zealand press." (Umunc, 2016:180).

Although the Anzac soldiers, who were sent to war by British politicians to realize their imperialist goals, initially volunteered with great desire with the dream of adventure, glory, and earning a lot of money, when they faced the reality of war, they suffered a great physical and spiritual defeat due to the difficulties and losses they experienced far beyond their dreams.

Another reality faced by the Anzac soldiers was that their opinion of the Turks, who were presented to them as savage and barbarian, changed completely when they were fighting and captured, in short when they encountered the Turks. While it is clear that the British, who are shown to the world as the exemplary nation of civilization, burned the captured Turks masse, gouged out their eyes through Armenian doctors, and dumped them into acid pools, the fact that the wounded and captured Anzac and British soldiers were cared for very well in the most private hospitals in Istanbul, with today's possibilities, is important in changing the minds of the soldiers has been one of the factors.

Thousands of Turkish soldiers who had been taken captive faced many problems such as malnutrition in the camps, living in unhealthy conditions, poverty and lack of money, communication problems with their families, and psychological depression caused by captivity.

The fact that some prisoners could not stand the harsh conditions in the camps and lost their lives for various reasons, or that some of the prisoners did not return or could not return, caused differences in the number of captured soldiers and the number of soldiers returning home.

As a result, the Anzacs entrusted the dead of their friends, relatives, neighbors, and parts of their bodies to these lands, where they landed on the peninsula from the end of April 1915 and lived until mid-January 1916, with they had come for victory, but they withdrew.

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ATTACHMENTS:

Examples of soldiers' letters and photos:



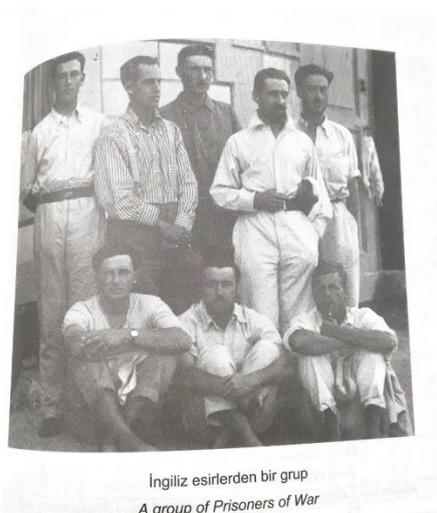
Siperde Anzaklar

Anzac unit in a trench





Captive Anzac soldiers



İngiliz esirlerden bir grup
A group of Prisoners of War

Turkish soldiers held captive



Kaynak: <https://bpakman.wordpress.com/turk-dunyasi/turk-esirlerin-yurek-burkan-drami/>



Kaynak: <https://www.belgeseltarih.com/ingilizlere-esir-dusen-osmanlilar/>

Graves of Turkish soldiers who died as captives



Kaynak: <https://haber.kursistem.com/birinci-dunya-savasi-sirasinda-turklerin-esir-tutuldugu-kamplar.html>

GENİŞLETİLMİŞ ÖZET

Savaş, sadece devletler birbirlerine üstünlük sağlamak için gösterdikleri mücadeleyle değil, çatışma dışı kalan hasım devletten ele geçirilen esir ve yaralılarına gösterdiği hukuksal olgunluğu ile de değerlendirilir. Çatışma dışı kalan hasım devlet askerlerinden yaralılarının uygun sağlık koşullarında tedavi edilmeleri ve esir alınan askerlerinde insan haklarına uygun koşullarda muhafaza edilmesi, sadece uluslararası hukuk normlarının değil, aynı zamanda insanlık adına da önemlidir. Savaşan devletlerin medeniyet anlayışının da en önemli göstergesidir.

Ancak tarih süreci içinde hasım devletlerin savaş meydanlarında esir aldığı askerlere karşı tutumu, insanlık için her zaman beklenen davranışları göstermemiştir. Yaralıların tedavisi yapılmayarak, ölüme terk edilmeleri, esirlerin ağır iş şartlarında çalışmaya zorlanmaları, hastalı, açlık ve zor şartlar altında yaşamlarını tehlikeye atmaları, çokça görülen uygulamalardır. Esir ve yaralıların temel insan haklarını görmezden gelen bir anlayış, cezalandırılmaya dönüşen bir esarete dönüşmesine yol açmasına neden olmuştur. Esir ve yaralılarına yönelik cezalandırılmaları ve insanlık dışı muammesi önlemek adına 1864 yılında Cenevre “Savaş alanında yaralıların durumunun iyileştirilmesi” ile uluslararası hukuka tanımlanmasına rağmen, ilerleyen dönemlerde savaşan devletler bu kuralları da görmezden gelerek, esir ve yaralılarına insanlık dışı muammelerine devam etmişlerdir.

Esir ve yaralılarına karşı insanlık dışı muammelerin yapıldığı en büyük savaşlardan biri olan I. Dünya Savaşıdır. Özellikle Çanakkale cephesinde İngilizlerin Türk esirlere yönelik insanlık dışı muammelerine karşılık, Türklerin İngiliz ve ANZAC esirlerine göstermiş olduğu insani davranışlar tarihe geçmiştir.

Balkan Savaşları'ndan sonra Kafkasya ve Süveyş Kanalı cephelerinde alınan yenilgiler Türk halkının moralini bozmuş ve kendine olan güvenini sarsmıştı. Bu nedenle Çanakkale'de savaş başladığında herkes Osmanlı ordularının kısa sürede yenileceğini ve İstanbul'un alınacağını umuyordu. Sadece yabancı ülkeler değil, İstanbul Hükümeti ve resmi çevreler de aynı görüşteydi. Gerekli hazırlıklar da yapılmış, İstanbul'un düşmesi halinde hükümetin ve arşivlerin taşınması için ilk tedbirler alınmıştı. Ancak 18 Mart 1915'te dünyanın en güçlü donanma ve ordularının Çanakkale'de durdurulması üzerine Türk milletinin morali birden düzelmiş ve kendine olan güveni yeniden kazanmıştı. Ayrıca şartlar ne kadar zor olursa olsun başarıya ulaşabileceğine olan inanç ve milletin yükselen morali ve artan özgüveni, Birinci Dünya Savaşı'nın hemen ardından başlatılacak Türk milli mücadelesinin ilk kıvılcımlarını oluşturmaktadır. Bu nedenle modern Türkiye'nin kuruluşuna yol açan ulusal bağımsızlık mücadelesinin ilk ciddi sınavlarının Gelibolu Yarımadası'nın kıyılarında ve tepelerinde verildiği söylenebilir.

Türkler için tarihte önemli bir dönüm noktası olan Çanakkale Savaşı, bu muharebelere katılan diğer ulusların askerleri üzerinde de derin etkiler bırakmıştır. ANZAC (The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps [A&NZAC]) birlikleri dominyonlarından ve sömürgelerinden İngiltere önderliğinde Mısır'a ve oradan da Gelibolu'ya getirilen askerlerin hayatlarının en önemli anıları olarak kalmıştır.

Kara harekâtı başlamıştı ama Müttefik donanmasının denizden saldırıları da devam ediyordu. 27-28 Nisan 1915'te meydana gelen çatışmalarda bazı gemiler battı ve donanma Bozcaada'ya çekildi. Deniz harekâtındaki kayıpların devam etmesi kara harekâtına ağırlık verilmesine yol açtı. Kara harekâtında İngiliz kuvvetleri yerine ANZAC ve Hint birlikleri kullanıldı. Birlikler Çanakkale cephesine gelmeden önce Mısır'daydı. Bir araya toplandılar ve kısa süreli eğitim aldılar. Anzaklar buradan gemilerle Limni adasına getirildi ve buradan Gelibolu Yarımadası'na gönderildi.

Savaş öncesi Avrupa'daki gerilimin uzağında kalan Avustralya ve Yeni Zelanda kıtalararası büyük bir savaşa katılacak kadar güçlü ordulara sahip olmamış, sınırlı askeri yapılarıyla bölgelerinin düzen ve güvenliğini sağlayabilmişlerdir. Ancak Avusturya ve Yeni Zelanda'da İngiliz vatandaşlarını destekleyen bazı basın ve yayın organları "Japon ve Alman tehdidine" dikkat çekerek, savaşa karşı olanların aksine

"Anavatan İngiltere'nin yanında olmalı, son adamı ve son şilini feda edene kadar" savaşın "gerekli olduğunu" savunmuşlardır. Her iki ülke de 1907 yılında İngiltere'den dominyon statüsü hakkını aldı. Sömürge hukukunun savaşta tarafsız olma hakkını tanımamasına ve dış işlerinde bağımsız görünmelerine rağmen ülkelerin hükümetleri gönüllü toplamaya başlamıştı.

İngiltere'nin bu ülkelerin savaşa katılmasını istemesinin altında yatan en önemli neden, savaşın her iki ülke için de kaybedilmesine neden olacak Alman tehdidi ve Pasifik'te giderek güçlenen Japon tehdidiydi. Ancak tüm propagandalara rağmen her iki ülkede de sosyalist birliklerin karşı direnişi ve propagandası nedeniyle adalarda yaşayan Maori ve Ranatongan yerlileri dışında savaşa katılacak gönüllü bulmakta büyük zorluk çekiliyordu.

Ocak 1915'in ilk günlerinde savaş yanlısı Avustralya Hükümeti, gönüllüleri ikna etmek ve savaşa sokmak için Avustralya'nın güneyindeki maden kasabalarından biri olan "Broken Hill "e bir saldırı düzenledi. "Broken Hill "e yapılan bu saldırıyı Türklerin nefretini uyandıracak şekilde kurgulayarak basın aracılığıyla kamuoyuna servis etti. Yaşlı bir görgü tanığının ifadesiyle, Osmanlı askeri üniforması giyen ve beraberindeki dondurma arabasına Türk bayrakları asan iki saldırganın, sözde tamamen sivillerden oluşan bir piknik trenine ateş açması ve saldırganların çatışmada öldürülmesi manşetlere taşındı. Ocak ayı boyunca Türk nefreti pompalayan yazılar, her iki ülkeden de gönüllülerin Gelibolu'ya gidişini hızlandırdı. "Barbar Türkler" algısı ve intikam duygusu Avustralya ve Yeni Zelanda vatandaşları arasında yayılmaya başladıkça, reşit olmayan gençlerin bile savaşa katılmaya istekli olduğu ve sahte belgelerle askere alındığı ortaya çıktı. Ancak gerçek çok farklıydı. Broken Hill saldırısının Türklerle hiçbir ilgisi olmadığı, saldırının birkaç Afgan devşirmesi tarafından gerçekleştirildiği ortaya çıkınca "Barbar Türk" algısı değişmeye başlamış, Çanakkale Savaşı'na katılan askerlerin cepheden yazdıkları mektuplar ve geri dönenlerin ifadeleri de eklenince bu algı "Kahraman Türk" algısına dönüşmüştü.

Çanakkale Savaşı sadece savaş tarihi için önemli bir muharebe değil, savaşın insani ve insanlık dışı davranışlarının da tarihe geçtiği bir muharebedir. Barbar olarak tanımlanan Türklerin sadece savaşırken değil, yaralı ve sağlam olarak ele geçirdikleri müttefik askerlerine yaptıkları muamele ile dünyada medeni olarak tanımlanan İngilizlerin Türk esirlere karşı davranışları her iki tarafın askerlerinin mektup ve günlüklerine yansımıştır.