

Anzac Day is a very important day for Australians. It is the moment we spend commemorating those who threw their lives on the line so we could stand here today.

The Anzacs left Albany, Western Australia on the 1st of November 1914. They were on their way to Egypt where they would be training for many months. Then on the 25th of April, 1915, the Anzacs first touched the shores of Gallipoli. That was 101 years ago to this day.

We can only imagine what the Anzacs went through. It all seems very surreal to us. We've heard stories and read textbooks in school but it's difficult for the younger generation to understand. The Anzacs are known as heroes, flawless and fearless but it's truly hard to comprehend what they would have had to go through to earn these names.

We see wars going on in movies and it is part of our everyday lives. We know about it but the majority of us have never experienced it. People fought and are still fighting to keep us safe so we don't have to witness these events in our country. We must not take this life for granted that is why we are all here remembering today.

Anzac day is not just about remembering those in World War One. We also give our time to remember those who have fought since then. My Grandpa, Allan Wright, served in Darwin when the Japanese tried to bring the war to us. The war almost swept through Australia but there were many troupes who stopped the enemies from invading.

Grandpa enlisted on the 17th of December 1941 at the age of 21. He served on continuous full time war service in the Citizen Military Forces and the Australian Imperial Force. He was discharged on the 24th of January 1944.

Although he was in World War Two, the tradition of mateship and pride for our country lives on. We have a picture in our home of my Grandpa and all his mates from war. The photo is a clear example of mateship. You can see they were like family to each other. On the back of the photo, all of their names have been signed. It's scary to know that not all of these men returned to their families. The ones who did all would have suffered from the pain and stress of

war but have different stories and perspectives. Unfortunately, Pa never told anyone about his experiences

When I used to speak to Pa he wouldn't be able to hear my squeaky little voice so I would have yell my words at him. This was a permanent effect war had on him. From the loud noises of gunshots and bombs Pa almost went completely deaf. He also suffered from post war stress. He struggled with sleeping and got into a habit of smoking. It was a massive struggle for him to give it up. He never stopped suffering from the war.

Grandpa died on the 1st of April this year at the age of 95. I always looked up to him and I still do today. I have always had respect for Anzac Day because of him. I am wearing his badges today to keep his memory alive and to thank him and his mates for their service and keeping Australia safe for everyone today.

There still are people fighting for our country overseas. It is important that we think about them as well on this day.

Lest We Forget

Thank You

Natalie Waters