

The little-known story of the *HMAS AE2*
is told from both sides of the Gallipoli battle.



BENEATH THE DARDANELLES

Vecihi & Hatice Basarin

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MEDIA RELEASE

In the Australian psyche, the Gallipoli Campaign is the action on the Gallipoli Peninsula, beginning with Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915. But an important addition to the land campaign was the part played by the Australian submarine *HMAS AE2*, as the Anzac troops were landing on the other side of the Dardanelles.

The *AE2* performed an amazing feat, penetrating the Dardanelles, when the whole Allied armada failed miserably earlier. The landing at Gallipoli happened on the same day, yet the *AE2*'s remarkable story is not a publicly emphasised aspect of the campaign.

This book tells the story of the *AE2*'s five-day adventure in the Dardanelles and the Sea of Marmara before it was caught by the Turkish *Sultanhisar* torpedo boat. After his vessel was holed, *AE2*'s Captain Stoker scuttled the submarine, and its crew was saved by *Sultanhisar*'s Captain Ali Riza.

Beneath the Dardanelles reflects both Australian and Turkish perspectives and it features extracts from the memoirs of the two captains. As events unfold from both sides of the conflict, the story becomes richer and a higher degree of understanding is reached. Rarely in military books are two sides of a battle presented so evenly.

The wreck of the *AE2* lay undiscovered at the bottom of the sea until 1998 and awaits its destiny as the largest historical Australian relic of the Gallipoli Campaign. It is a national treasure and a common heritage for Australia and Turkey. It serves to remind us of our past as well as highlighting the peace and strong friendship that has developed between the two nations.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Vecihi (John) Basarin was born in Istanbul, Turkey. He trained as a chemical engineer and after migrating to Australia worked in the energy sector. Vecihi's involvement with *AE2* goes back about a decade. He is the Turkish advisor to the *AE2* Commemorative Foundation. Recently, he began working as a Research Fellow with Deakin University to further his understanding of matters related to the Gallipoli campaign.

Hatice Basarin was born in Izmir, Turkey, and migrated to Australia with her husband in 1979. After receiving a Masters degree in Urban Planning from the University of Melbourne, she worked in the Victorian public service in areas related to urban planning, local government and public housing. Hatice has also freelanced as a translator and author.

Beneath the Dardanelles is the fifth book Vecihi and Hatice have co-authored.

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