



## The Poppy and the Forget-Me-Not

The poppy is forever associated with World War I battlefields and especially ANZAC Day, made famous by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's poem *In Flanders fields*. It also grows prolifically in the sun-drenched fields of Turkey, like the red poppies at Gallipoli in the image.

The forget-me-not flower is the symbol of the Armenian Genocide centenary, 24 April 2015. It evokes the 12 stone slabs of the Tsitsernakaberd Genocide Memorial in Yerevan, Armenia.

The events of Gallipoli and the Armenian Genocide are linked, as Turkey used the Allied invasion as an excuse for 'deporting' [religiously cleansing] millions of unarmed Christian (Assyrian, Armenian and Greek) men, women and children. They were murdered in the same sort of evil ways that we see ISIS do (burning, hanging, beheading, crucifixion, etc.), but the Ottoman leaders also used death marches and death camps, later inspiring Hitler's Holocaust.

Turkey tells us it was an 'act of war' but are silent on why the Ottoman leaders stole the property of deportees (knowing they would not return), destroyed thousands of churches, and even renamed Armenian places to try and wipe out this indigenous culture. We know the truth.

The Armenian Genocide is commemorated on 24 April as the day more than 200 prominent Armenians were taken from their homes in Constantinople (Istanbul) and murdered.

We like to think of ourselves as an honest and caring people. Shamefully, Australian, New Zealand and UK officials have declined to recognise the Armenian Genocide centenary, because they are frightened of Turkey's response, unlike our Gallipoli allies Canada, France and Russia.

I am asking Australian, New Zealand and British people to remember and recognise the Armenian Genocide on 24 April, to show more courage than our leaders, and to show we care about humanity. I am asking you to wear a poppy for our brave troops, together with the forget-me-not for the innocent civilians slaughtered please.

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