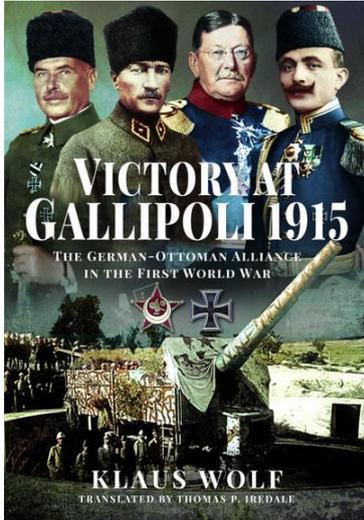


**BOOK REVIEW**  
**VICTORY AT GALLIPOLI 1915**  
**The German-Ottoman Alliance**  
**Klaus Wolf, Translated by Thomas Iredale**  
**Pen & Sword Military 2020(hb)**  
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I have been studying the Gallipoli Campaign for many years and I recall in the early phases of my research the dearth of information on many of the participants in the campaign, the historiography having a such major focus on Anzac many were under the impression that it was just the Turks and Australians who did the fighting. Even the New Zealand element of Anzac was subsumed under the Australian Legend.

Over the years much research has brought the involvement of many other participants such as the French Corps Expéditionnaire d'orient and Indian units for example amongst a number of other combatants to the fore. It has been noticeable however the lack of information about German support to the Ottoman Empire and its naval and military forces. First published in German in 2008 this is a long-awaited volume, giving as it does a 'view from the other side of the wire'. The Gallipoli Association and Pen & Sword Military are to be congratulated in (at last) getting this work published in English. In addition to the splendid research effort by Klaus Wolf, Thomas Iredale has done a remarkable job with the translation. In my research the German involvement was a shadowy presence, particularly at the level of detail this work provides. Most information was confined to the memoirs and such like of the senior commanders such as General Liman von Sanders, Field Marshal Colmar von der Goltz, Admirals Souchon and Usedom. Somewhat strangely the conduct of Major Wilhelm Willmer at Suvla is quite well known amongst the Gallipoli specialists but very little else about the rank and file especially of the German Naval Shore Detachment.

The description of the long-standing relationship between Germany and the Ottoman Empire provides a valuable perspective on the context of the political, economic and military assistance to the Ottomans over many years, a relationship that extends to the present day. This relationship was not always as cordial as perhaps it could have been, the 'Prussian Mindset' often clashed with the Ottoman oriental approach and on many occasions German diplomats and military personnel found it difficult to adapt to the ways of the orient and its culture, a factor I know well from my time in the Middle East, one must try to avoid insulting or deprecating the culture or individuals and give advice in a way as to allow your counterpart to believe he thought of it, not always the easiest thing to achieve. To be fair many commanders in the Ottoman Army resented what they saw as German interference and arrogance, probably the most notable of this type of character was Mustafa Kemal but he was not alone. Edward J Erickson demonstrates in his book Gallipoli; The Ottoman Campaign (also published by Pen & Sword) that the Ottoman Army certainly possessed effective SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) but as history shows there were

certain shortcomings in training, equipment and the quality of the average soldier and NCO. The fundamental reforms needed after the battering the Turks received in various Balkan wars, particularly in the Turkish Army, and the challenges that faced the members of the German missions are given in depth coverage and provide extra context. One aspect of the German involvement that some may find surprising was the level of internecine politicking by the Senior German Commanders mainly against each other! Despite the politics when the allied invasion of Gallipoli was launched, German officers and other ranks became a vital part of a robust Turkish defence of the peninsula on land sea and air (German aviators were in effect, founding fathers of the Turkish air arm). In some respects it is not surprising that even in Turkey the in-country presence of German service personnel and advisors has been subsumed by the Ataturk legend and post war events in Turkey itself.

However the actions of the German officers and rank and file in the Naval Shore Detachment are a true revelation, their performance under extreme conditions whether at their base at Kilia Tepe or in action at Helles, Gully Ravine or Suvla are worthy of commendation. This work and its appendices are in themselves a memorial to those Germans who served supporting the defence of foreign land, of which the history of their involvement seems to have been subsumed by other myths and legends but no less deserving of commemoration.

Klaus Wolf has produced a very worthy addition to the Gallipoli Historiography and this work should grace the bookshelves of anyone with a deep interest in the campaign.

***Martin Willoughby***