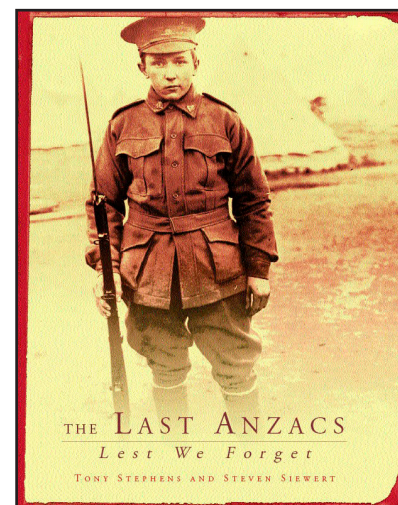


The Last Anzacs

Tony Stephens and Steven Siewert

About the Authors

Tony Stephens was born in Goulburn in 1939, three weeks after the outbreak of the Second World War, in which his father was killed by the Japanese. Tony interviewed the men and wrote the text for *The Last Anzacs*.



Steven Siewert was born in Sydney in 1964, the son of a German father and Irish mother who came to Australia after the Second World War. He is a photographer with the Sydney Morning Herald. Steven took the photographs for *The Last Anzacs*.

Before Reading

1. As a class, brainstorm what you know about the ANZACs. Some starting questions might be:
 - What does ANZAC stand for?
 - Which war did they fight in?
 - What do we commemorate every year on Anzac Day?
 - What date is Anzac Day?
2. Write a list of questions that you still have about World War I, Gallipoli and the Anzacs.

After Reading

HISTORY

1. Take your list of questions to the library and use books, encyclopedias and the internet to look for answers and check the accuracy of what you already knew.
2. How long did the First World War last? What else was this war called? (i.e. World War I, The Great War.) Why was it called a 'World War', and later the *First World War*?
3. How did this war begin? Which countries were involved, and at what points did they become involved?
4. Draw a timeline of significant events in World War I.
5. Find out about the battle at Gallipoli.

- Which country was Gallipoli in? Take a world atlas and locate it.
 - Compare this map to the one found on page 48 in *The Last Anzacs*.
 - Who were the Anzacs fighting and why?
 - Did they intend to land at Anzac Cove, or not? What difference might it have made if they had landed further north or south?
6. Research the country of Turkey.
 - Name its capital city.
 - What are some traditions of Turkish culture?
 - Describe the geography of the country.
 - Draw a picture of Turkish national dress.
 - What were Turkey's relations with its neighbouring countries before World War I?
 7. Did the beach where the Anzacs arrived have a name before it was called 'Anzac Cove'? What areas in Turkey are nearby? What is it now called in the Turkish language?
 8. Research other battles in World War I, such as Passchendaele, the Somme, the Western Front, Villers-Bretonneux, etc. How did the Anzacs' battle at Gallipoli compare?
 9. If you know anyone (a grandparent, great aunt or uncle, or anybody else of a similar age) who was alive during the Second World War (since the First is too long ago), spend some time talking to them about life during wartime. Prepare some questions and interview them, or bring them in to speak to the class about life during a war.
 10. Gather information from the memoirs in *The Last Anzacs* about an Anzac soldier's life in the First World War. Then expand what you have found out with further research at the library. Some questions to get you started:
 - How did a soldier enlist?
 - What kinds of divisions (battalions, Light Horse etc.) were there, and how was a soldier chosen for each section?
 - What were the uniforms and weaponry like?
 - In between battles, what did a soldier do?
 - Name some places that soldiers fought at or spent time in otherwise while in the army.
 11. Pretend you are a soldier or a nurse in the war. You are either on your way to or have landed at Gallipoli. Write a diary of what you see and how it makes you feel. Base this record on as much of your previous research as possible.

THEME AND STYLE

12. From pages 39-51 we read about the myth and legend that has arisen from the story of the Anzacs.
 - Find out the difference between 'myth' and 'legend'.
 - In what ways do the stories that emerged from Gallipoli fit the description of myth and/or legend?
 - How has the Anzac legend had an influence on our idea of what Australia is, or means? (Refer to page 50 in particular, and research changes in Australian identity.)

13. What is a hero? How do the stories of the last Anzacs compare to your existing ideas of heroism? Do you have a different idea of 'heroes' after reading this book?
14. In *The Last Anzacs* there are several different literary styles. These include poetry, essay and life stories (mainly resulting from interviews).
 - Describe the narrative style that the stories of the Anzacs are told in. What is the tense? The narrator's perspective? How much dialogue is there? How does it compare to other writing styles, such as newspaper reports?
 - What is the function of the foreword? How differently are the three short essays on 'ANZAC' written to the stories of the men?
 - Read each of the poems that appears in the book (pages 34, 41, 64, 180, 181, 182). Do they each express different sentiments? Describe the different techniques they employ.
15. Does this book promote or discourage war? Why or why not? What are some of the complexities of this issue?
16. Have a class debate about whether Australia should have fought in World War I or not.
17. Write a personal reflection on reading the stories of these eighteen Anzac soldiers.