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## OPINION...

### LETTER

#### **Indian troops at Gallipoli and Australia's strategic direction**

Allow me to make a few comments on some of the excellent articles in the latest issue of *United Service* [*United Service* 64 (3), September 2013].

With respect to Gülseren Çelik's paper, "The Gallipoli campaign: a Turkish perspective" [pp. 25 – 30], I note that in World War I, the Indian Army comprised 1.4 million men of whom 1.3 million served overseas. A Google search for "Indian Army at Gallipoli 1915" will reveal that out of the 5000-odd Indian troops who landed there on day one, the total Indian casualties by the end of the campaign were an astonishing 4130. The Indian contingent subsequently formed part of the ANZAC troops – the 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade joined ANZAC on the first day itself, while the 29<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade served in the Helles area

from 1 May to 10 July 1915, before joining ANZAC. I wish to particularly mention the contributions of the 14<sup>th</sup> Sikhs at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Krithia and the 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas in the climactic battle of Sari Bair.

The Indian contingent at Gallipoli comprised 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade, 16<sup>th</sup> Mule Corps (with 4316 mules!!), a medical team, and the 29<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade. So on 25 April 2015, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ANZAC Day, it may be worth remembering the Indian component of ANZAC and perhaps renaming it as ANZIAC Day, to remind ourselves that it is not only cricket that is a common factor amongst our nations !!

With respect to David Leece's editorial on "Australia's strategic direction" [page 5], I completely agree with David's views. In my opinion, Australia needs to invest more in its security.

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