



Lemnos served as a hospital and recuperation area for the allies in World War I.

Lemnos – the Greek dimension in the ANZAC Centenary

Lemnos is a Greek island of the northern Aegean situated 145 kilometres from Gallipoli.

In 1915, due to its proximity and strategic location, the island's facilities were provided by the Hellenic side as a transit point, training centre and supply base, as well as a hospital and recuperation area for the allies.

In addition to the British and Canadian medical missions, two Australian hospitals with 130 nurses were established in West Moudros. A rest camp became a convalescence depot in nearby Sarpi.

With heroic efforts under extremely difficult conditions, Australian nurses managed to create the appropriate infrastructure and attend to the wounded.

Matron Margaret Grace Wilson from Ballarat exemplified this titanic effort when she organised the tent hospital in Lemnos. Distinguished Australian biographer and historian Susana de Vries eloquently explains the hardship faced by the heroic nurse corps in her book *Australian Heroines of WWI*.

To commemorate the 2015 centenary, two memorials have been commissioned in Sydney and Melbourne by the Lemnian Brotherhood of Sydney and the Joint Commemoration Committee of Victoria. They will be officially unveiled in the coming months.

On April 18, the Chief of Navy Vice-Admiral Tim Barrett will lead an Australian delegation to Lemnos. IIMAS Success will visit the island for the ceremonies and the Greek defence minister has officially invited the Australian veterans' affairs minister.

There are two allied cemeteries in Lemnos, one in Portianou and another in East Moudros.

Lemnos is also a locality in Victoria's Goulburn Valley on the outskirts of Shepparton. Australian veteran Ernest Hill built the soldier settlement in 1927 in tribute to the island's historic contribution to the allied cause.