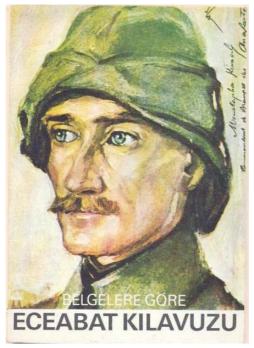
THE WORDS "THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEHMETS AND THE JOHNNIES" ENGRAVED ON THE 1915 GALLIPOLI MONUMENTS DO NOT BELONG TO ATATÜRK. PART I.

Cengiz Özakıncı

While Lüleburgaz Atatürk Elementary School teacher Tahsin Özeken is walking in the Anafarta Valley on April 15, 1977 with a booklet published in 1969 titled "Documented Eceabat Guide", he meets an old Australian who was lieutenant in the "ANZAC" troops that came to Gallipoli under the command of the English in 1915 and reports to him the following expression that the guide states to belong to Atatürk: "Those heroes that shed their blood in this country! You are in the soil of a friendly country. Rest in peace. You are side by side, bosom to bosom with Mehmets... The mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries! Wipe away your tears. Your sons are in our bosom. They are in peace. After having lost their lives on this soil, they have become our sons as well."



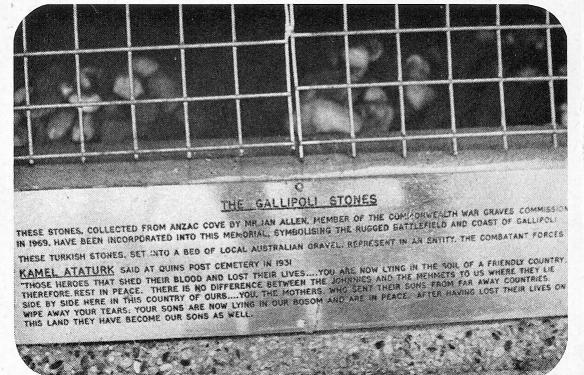
"Documented Eceabat Guide", First Edition, 1969

The Australian former ANZAC soldier is delighted by the words that declare as heroes those that came to invade Gallipoli in 1915; he notes down Özeken's postal address and the words shown to belong to Atatürk in the guide. When he returns to his country, he forwards these words to the "Veteran Anzacs Association". The chairperson of the "Gallipoli Fountains Honor Committee" in Australia, Alan J. Campbell, considers to add this onto the monument in construction and asks Özeken in a letter dated September 12, 1977 to send him information accompanied by the documents related to the date and place that Atatürk said these words. Özeken forwards Campbell's letter to the Turkish Historical Society on October 13, 1977. The director of the Society Uluğ İğdemir, who does the research as to the date and place of these words, determines that the answer to Campbell's question is mentioned in an interview with Şükrü Kaya, former Minister of Interior during Atatürk's time, published in the Dünya newspaper of November 10, 1953.



Minister of Interior Şükrü Kaya together with Ataturk.

In that interview, Şükrü Kaya states that he delivered a speech at the Mehmets Monument in Gallipoli, and that Atatürk himself wrote and gave the text of this speech to him. These words that were reported to belong to Atatürk in the *Eceabat Guide* published in 1969 without any reference, are exactly those words that Şükrü Kaya in his interview of 1953 reports Atatürk himself to have written and given to him. On behalf of the Turkish Historical Society, İğdemir sends an official letter to Alan J. Campbell on March 10, 1978, translating into English these words, which he considers to be "a very meaningful speech that Atatürk had Şükrü Kaya read out in Gallipoli in 1934". [i] In a letter dated April 7, 1978, Campbell informs İğdemir that they added these words to the monument made in Australia making slight alterations and with Atatürk's signature under them [ii] and sent İğdemir a photograph of the monument together with a letter dated May 31, 1978.



Photograph of the monument, enclosed in the letter that Alan J. Campbell sent to the Turkish Historical Society on 31/05/1978.

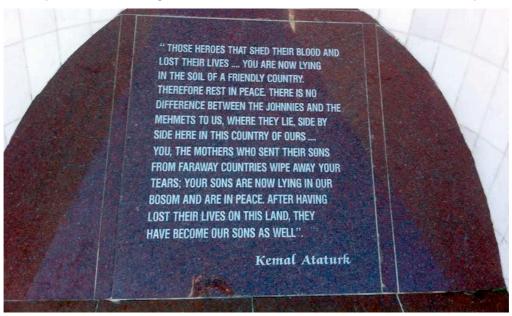
A look at the photo reveals that the **slight changes** made by the Australians are (1)-adding the statement **"there is no difference between the Johnnies and Mehmets to us"**; (11)- changing the date **1934** sent by İğdemir into **1931**; (111)- changing Atatürk's first name **Kemal** into **Kamel**. [iii]

In his response to Campbell on June 8, 1978, İğdemir points out that the year 1931 should be changed into 1934, and Kamel into Kemal; however, he did not ask for removal of the statement "there is no difference between the Johnnies and Mehmets to us" that the Australians added to the monument as Atatürk's words, and expresses that he likes the addition to "Atatürk's beautiful words".

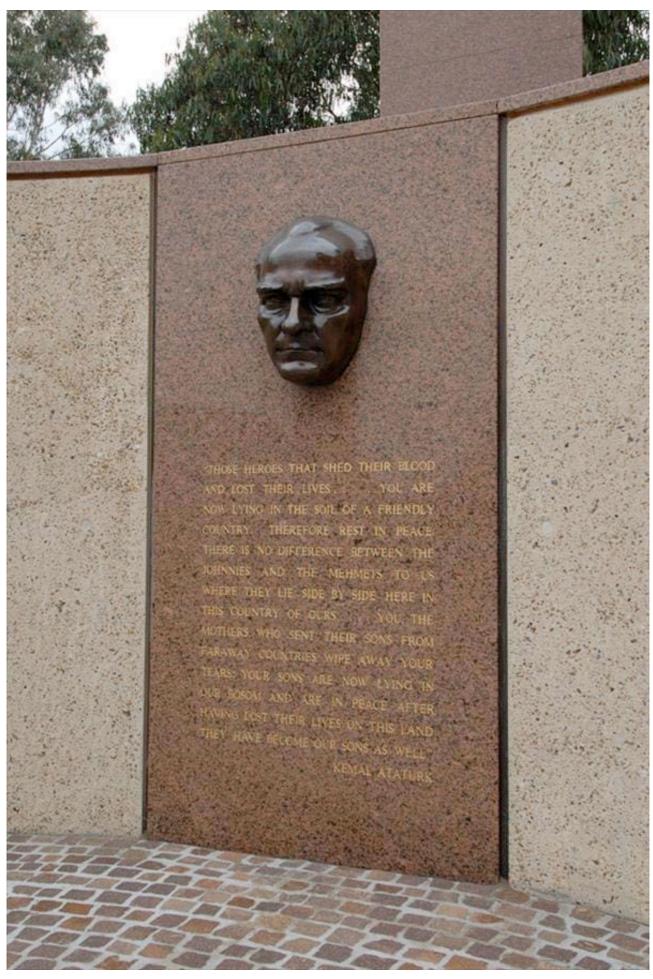
After the military coup in September 12, 1980, the Australian Government requested of Turkey to rename the place where the ANZACS set foot on Gallipoli as ANZAC COVE and to have it written as such on all official maps of Turkey; in return, Turkey requested a statue of Atatürk to be erected in an appropriate place in Australia named after Atatürk. In line with mutual requests, these words were officially placed, both in the inscription on the monument erected in the place Gallipoli that was renamed as ANZAC COVE, and on the monument constructed in Australia, accompanied by **1934** and the signature **K. Atatürk**.



Inscription with Atatürk's signature on the monument erected in the "Anzac Cove" in Gallipoli.



Inscription on the Ataturk monument in New Zealand's capital Wellington.



Inscription on the Ataturk monument in Australia's capital Canberra.

In the research I have conducted since 2005 related to these words that are claimed to belong to Atatürk, I have found that the statement included in the inscriptions on the monuments reading "there is no difference between the (invading) Johnnies and Mehmets (who defended their country) to us" does not belong to Atatürk.

The speech that Atatürk had Şükrü Kaya read was dated **1931**, not **1934**. The fact that the Minister of Interior Şükrü Kaya was to go to Çanakkale to deliver a very important speech at the Gallipoli Mehmets Monument was announced in the Cumhuriyet newspaper of August 17, 1931.



Cumhuriyet Newspaper, 17/08/1931.

Indeed, Şükrü Kaya, went to Çanakkale on **August 25, 1931** as announced and delivered a speech at Kemalyeri. The full script of this speech was made public to the world by the state's official news agency Anadolu Ajans through the newspapers of August **26, 1931**- having it coincide with the anniversary day of the Great Attack.

The news item in the Hakimiyeti Milliye newspaper that published the whole text of the speech reads:

Patriotic Speech by the Minister of Interior at Kemal Yeri at the Point Where Mustafa Kemal Saved Çanakkale.

Gallipoli, 25 (A.A.) – The Minister of Interior Mr. Şükrü Kaya has come to Maydos from Imbros by Peykişevket torpedo boat in the company of Army Corps Commander Ali Hikmet Pasha and G. Gendarmerie Commander Kazım Pasha and has disembarked and arrived at Kemalyeri. With the president, the Minister has placed a wreath at the **Mehmet Monument** in the name of the Prime Minister and the Parliamentary Speaker, as well as in their own names, and that of the Republic police and gendarmerie.

It is said that the delegation to arrive in Çanakkale on August 27 will also visit Kemalyeri.

The Minister and his company have come to Gallipoli by automobile. They will spend the night here and go to Yalova tomorrow by Peykişevket.

Dahiliye Vekilinin Kemalyeri,nde Vatanperverane Bir Hitabesi.

Mustata Kemal'in Canakkaleyi Kurtardığı Noktada.

Gelibolu, 25 (A. A.) — Dahiliye Ve-kili Şükrü Kaya B. bugün refakatlerin-de Kolordu Kumandanı Ali Hikmet ve U. Jandarma Kumandanı Kâzım Paşalar hangi bir fatihin kolaylıkla karşı duraolduğu halde Peykişevket torpidosu ile İmroz adasından Maydosa gelmişler ve Karaya çıkarak Kemalyeri'ne gitmişler-dir. Vekil B. Mehmetçik abidesine Reisicümhur Hazretleriyle Başvekil ve Mcc kurtaracak mevki olduğuna karar vere ilis Reisi Pasalar Harratı namına birer çelenk koydukları gibi kendi namlarına Kemalin çok faik dusman kuvvetlerini

lccek heyetin de Kemalyeri'ne çıkarak ziyarette bulunacakları müstahberdir. Vekil B. refakatindeki zevat ile bir-

Maydos, 26 (A.A.) — Dahiliye Vekili Sükrü Kaya bey bugün Kolordu Kumandanı Ali Hikmet ve Unum Jandarma Kumandanı Kāzım Paşalarla birlikte Kemalyerini ziyaret etmiştir. Dahiliye vekili bey burada aşağıdaki nutku irat etmiştir:

— Arkadaşlar,
Üzerinde bulunduğumuz nokta kürei arazın meşhul her hangi bir noktası idi. Halbuki biz bugün buraya tanınmış meşhur bir meyki olduğunu düşünerek geldik. Bu nokta ne münasebetle tanınış ve ne diye coğrafi ve askeri haritalarda muayyen isim alnuştur: Kemalyeril Bilhassa asker arkadaşların kaşışısında bunu izah teşebbüsünde bulunmak istemem. Her türlü izahlar bittabi onlara aittir. Fakat ben de bu yere ismi onlara aittir. Fakat ben de bu yere ismi oniara atter. Farat ben de bu yere ismi verilmiş büyük adamın yakın arkadaşı olmak iytibəriyle öndan işittiğim bir hatırayı esas tutarak üzerinde bulundu-ğumuz yerin, Kemalyerinin ne olduğu-na dair bir kaç kelime söylemek isti-

Efendiler, üzerinde bulunduğumuz mesafeyi, hep beraber görüyoruz. Bu dar sahada tarihte malûm olan büyük kuvvet karaya çıktı. En aşağı iki üç kilometre cephede yarıldı. Bu vaziyette henüz üzerinde bülündüğümüz noktada Büyük Türk evladı Kemal o geniş duşman cephesinin sol canahında ufak bir kuvvetle göründü. Orada cephanesi dirarak ise basladi. Bu tesebbils muvaf-

we Cümhuriyet polis ve jandarması na-mına da birer çelenk vazetmişlerdir. Ağustosun 27 sinde Çanakkaleye ge-men yerinde durdurduğu bir Kumandan men yerinde durdurduğu bir Kumandar yeridir. Bir Türk Kumandanının Türk ziyarette bulunacakları müstahberdir.
Vekil B. refakatindeki zevat ile birilkte otomobille Geliboluya gelmişlerdir. Geceyi burada geçirecekler ve yarın Peykişevket'le Yalova'ya gidecekler
dir. Maydos, 26 (A.A.) - Dahiliye Vekili noktadan sadır olan Türk iradesi bugür

Bir Hitabesi.

(Baş tarafı 1 inci sayıfada)

devletier de bu Kemalyerine ve bu yere ismi verilmiş olan Büyük Türke abidelere hürmetle bakar ve iki tarafın hürmetle takdirle bakmaktadırlar. Ben bu noktada yalnız bütün hassasiyeti-min ifadesi olarak tek bir cümle söyle-temenni: Bu ölü abidelerin bir daha mekle iktifa edeceğim:

kanlarını döken Türk çocuklarına ebedî sanlık bağlarının yükselmesidir.

Bu büyük kahramanlar için henüz bir abide dikilmediğini görüyorum. Bundan fazla müteessir olmak istemem. Biliyoruz ki, bu aziz kahramanların kurdukları ve korudukları yıkılınaz Türk vatanı onların hatıralarını daima taziz ettirecek ifade ve manzarası cihan şumul, en yüksek bir abidedir.

Karşıda da bizimle harpetmiş insanların mezarlarını ve abidelerini yoruz. Orada yatanları da takdir ederiz. Medenivet tarihi yarın karsı karsıya yatanlardan hangisinin fedakârlığını daha haklı ve daha insanî bulacak ve daha zivade takdir edecektir. Tecavüz etmiş olan onların abidelerini mi, yoksa vatanını müdafaa eden kahramanların halâ el uzatılmamış mukaddes taş ve toprak halinde, bırakılmış olan bu izleri bu kahraman izlerini mi? kati hüküm medenî beşeriyetin insanî takdirine emniyetle bırakabiliriz. Yalnız şunu tespit etmek isterim ki biz Türkler mazinin her türlü manasız, mantıksız girift eziyetlerini unutarak yeni bir hayat yarattığımıza kaniiz. Bu hayat Türkün ilk ve medenî hayatmın alemşümul manasınr ihtiva eden bu kanaatimiz, filiyatrmızla da sabit olmuştur. Karşımızda mezarlar bırakan milletler bizim bu samimi ve çok yeni mahiyette noktai nazarı-

Dahiliye Vekilinin mızı eyi telakki ederlerse bu karşılıklı mezarlar aramızda kin, husumet ve ölmez hisleri yerine muhabbet, dostluk temin eder. Ben, mensup olduğum Türk içtimaî heyetinin kurduğu Cümhuriyet kuvvet ve kudret göstermiş olan büyük hükûmetinin mesul bir adamı olarak ölülerini rahmetle yadederken dimarekzolunmaması,bilakis bunları kuranlar «Vatanın müdafaası için burada aziz arasında insanlık münasebetlerinin, in-

Hakimiyeti Milliye newspaper, 26/08/1931.

Maydos 26 (A.A.) – Today, the Minister of Interior Mr. Şükrü Kaya visited Kemalyeri together with Army Corps Commander Ali Hikmet and General Gendarmerie Commander Kazım Paşalar. The Minister of Interior delivered the following speech here:

The point we are standing was just any unknown point of the world. Yet, today we came here thinking that it is a well-known, famous place. For what reason did this place become known and did it receive the special name on geographical and military maps: Kemalyeri! I would especially not attempt to explain this in front of our friends from the military. All explanations of course belong to them. However, I would like to say a few words on what Kemalyeri, the place we are now, is, based on an anecdote that, as a close friend, I heard from the great man whose name was given to this place.

Gentlemen, we can all see the distance from this point to the shore. Onto this narrow strip of land, the greatest force in history disembarked. It spread over a battlefront of at least two, three kilometers. Under these conditions, the Turkish descendant Kemal appeared with a small force right at this point at the left of this broad enemy battlefront. He started off by making his foot soldiers, who had run out of ammunition, use their bayonets. This attempt yielded its first successes. After the great and beloved descendant of the Turks, Mustafa Kemal, had struggled at night to win over a situation that pointed at a disaster that no conqueror can easily stand up against, he woke up in the morning after a dark night to find himself at this point, and, deciding that

this was the point that would save the high Turkish fate, stayed here. This point is the Commander's post from which Mustafa Kemal defeated many superior enemy forces, made them retreat, and finally made them stay where they were, despite all their following reinforcements. This is the commander's post that a Turkish Commander saw fit to heighten the Turkish fate. I am not a soldier, but I know that the Turkish resistance that emanated from this point, this Kemalyeri, against all the horizons of the west, against the firing of the supposedly greatest force of all seas of the west, is **the first of the actions that saved today's Turkey in this first place.** Therefore, I am happy and elated to be here to think of this high memory we see here.

It is quite natural that we are moved by remembering the valuable memories and that we are grateful to the great Turk this place was named after while thinking what he did for the Turkish nation and of the great works he created for the Turks. With honor and pride do we see that the great states who fought with the greatest force and might against this place look with respect and appreciation at Kemalyeri and the great Turk that it was named after. At this point, I will content myself with one sentence to express my whole emotionality:

"Endless gratefulness to the Turkish youth who shed their blood to save the fatherland."

I see that for these big heroes no monument has yet been erected. I would like not to be grieved by this. We know that the indestructible Turkish state that these glorious heroes established and protected is the highest monument of universal nature that will always make them be remembered with love.

Across we see the graves and monuments of the warriors that fought us. We also appreciate those that rest there. Tomorrow, the history of civilization will judge those lying opposite each other and determine whose sacrifice was more just or humane and who to appreciate more: The monuments of the invaders, or the untouched traces of the heroes left here in the form of sacred stones and soil, these traces of heroes. We can safely leave the final judgement to the humane evaluation of civilized humanity. However, I would like to point out that we Turks are confident that, forgetting the meaningless, irrational, intricate tortures of the past, we have created a new life. This life, this view that includes the Turks' first and universal meaning, has been set in stone with our actions as well. If the nations that left graves opposite us, consider our sincere and new viewpoint well, these graves that face each other will ensure conversation and friendship between us instead of hatred, animosity, and feelings of conflict. As a person responsible in the government of the Republic, which was established by the Turkish social committee I am a member of, I propound that while the Turkish nation looks with respect at these monuments and remember the dead of both sides, the sincere wish that lives in their mind and conscience is for such death monuments never to be erected again, on the contrary, to heighten the human relations and human bonds between those who erected them.

As is seen, the words engraved years later onto the monuments with Atatürk's signature and that equate the invading Johnnies to the fatherland defending Mehmets do not exist in the speech that Şükrü Kaya delivered beside the Mehmets Monument in Canakkale in 1931 and which he, in the interview published in 1953, explains to have been written by Atatürk himself. On the contrary, in the speech, the Anzac troops, etc. that disembarked in Gelibolu in 1915 are referred to as "enemy front", "enemy forces", "the invaders"; while Mehmets are referred to as "heroes defending their country"; and the world is asked the following question: "Tomorrow, the history of civilization will judge those lying opposite each other and determine whose sacrifice was more just or humane and who to appreciate more: The monuments of the invaders (Johnnies-C.Ö.), or the untouched traces of the heroes left here in the form of sacred stones and soil, these traces of heroes (Mehmets-C.Ö.)?" in order to emphasize that the aggressive, invading Johnnies are not held equal with the Mehmets defending their country; the words "never to erect dead monuments" expresses the wish not to erect monuments in Canakkale for Anzac soldiers, etc., who are defined as "dead".

This is the truth.

(to be continued)

[NOTE: In this article, I have tried to leave aside my feelings as much as possible, and to only present **information and documents** for the reader to interpret. However, the sensitive reader who analyzes Atatürk's speech on the Anzacs delivered by Şükrü Kaya, and the statement that is claimed to belong to Ataturk when it is not, will sense the turmoil in my heart when I discovered the alterations that make Ataturk appear to equate the invading Johnnies to the Mehmets defending their country.]

Uluğ İğdemir, "Atatürk and the Anzacs", Turkish Historical Society Publications, Ankara 1978, p. 8, 14.

"Uluğ İğdemir, ibid., p. 10.

"The inscription on the monument reads: "Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours... You, the mothers, who sent their sons from fraraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace, after having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well." Ataturk, 1934