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**Descendants and the public are invited to join national commemorations in London to mark the Centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign**

Descendants of those who fought in the Gallipoli Campaign in 1915 are asked to come forward to take part in a ceremony in London to mark the 100th anniversary, Culture Secretary Sajid Javid announced today when he met the New Zealand Prime Minister at the IWM (Imperial War Museums) London.

The ceremony in London will be held on Saturday 25 April 2015 at the Cenotaph on Whitehall. Descendants of those who fought in the Campaign can apply for free tickets to watch from a reserved area or join a march past the Cenotaph as part of the ceremony. Members of the public will also have the opportunity to come to Whitehall and view the ceremony. The event is being led by the UK government in collaboration with the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions.

Before the event there will also be a Commonwealth and Ireland Commemoration Service on Friday 24 April 2015 at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission’s Cape Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.

Culture Secretary, Sajid Javid said:

“The Gallipoli Campaign fought on the Turkish peninsula saw considerable losses for Britain, her allies, and the Turks. It is only right that on the centenary of this event we commemorate not only those from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps but all those who fought and died and remember their sacrifice, both at the site of the conflict and in London.

“I hope as many descendants as possible – of whatever nationality - are able to attend to remember their loved ones, along with members of the public who also wish to join with us as we pay our respects.”

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said:

“One hundred years ago, young soldiers from our countries showed extraordinary gallantry as they fought shoulder to shoulder on the beaches and cliffs of Gallipoli. On Anzac Day this year we will again stand shoulder to shoulder as we honour and pay tribute to their courage and sacrifice, a sacrifice that will inspire for ever.”

Australian Prime Minister, Tony Abbott said:

“This year we will commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign. It will be the most significant commemoration in a generation.

“In remembering their sacrifice, we will draw on our own strength and confidence for the future.

“I encourage Australians in the United Kingdom, especially descendants of those who fought during the First World War, to take this opportunity to commemorate and honour the sacrifice of our ANZACs.”

Descendants of those who fought in the Gallipoli Campaign, and any other members of the public who wish to participate in the event must apply for tickets, which are free. Further details can be found on the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/marking-relevant-national-events-and-ceremonies/supporting-pages/centenary-of-the-gallipoli-campaign?343>

Members of the public who wish to attend but not participate do not require tickets. Further details will be available at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk/xxxxxx) in March.

Information on how to find out if you are a descendant of someone who fought in the Gallipoli Campaign is also available.

**Notes to Editors**

1. Commemorations in Turkey

There will be a Commonwealth and Ireland Commemoration Service on Friday 24 April 2015 at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission’s Cape Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.  Due to the restricted nature of the site, this event will not be open to members of the public.

2. Commemorations in London

There will be a ceremony in London on Saturday 25 April 2015 at the Cenotaph on Whitehall. The High Commissions of Australia and New Zealand hold an event here each year.  With their kind permission, the event this year to mark the centenary – which will have many more attendees and a significant number of senior VIPS - is being led by the UK government in collaboration with them.

Descendants of those who fought in the campaign are invited to join a march past, led by military application form personnel, as part of the ceremony.

We want to make sure that the descendants of those that fought form a central part of the commemoration.

Descendants of those who served during the Campaign and wish to attend should fill in the to apply for tickets, which are free. Application forms should be sent to [gallipoli.london@culture.gov.uk](mailto:gallipoli.london@culture.gov.uk) by Friday 20 February.

Anyone else wishing to join the march past, should fill in the application form and send it to [gallipoli.marches@culture.gov.uk](mailto:gallipoli.london@culture.gov.uk) by Friday 20th February.

The application forms can be downloaded on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/marking-relevant-national-events-and-ceremonies/supporting-pages/centenary-of-the-gallipoli-campaign?343>

This is a public event - and all are welcome to attend.  Other members of the public will be able to watch the event without a ticket. Further details on how to do this will be available in March.

**Press Enquiries: 020 7211 6263**

**Out of hours Press Enquiries: 07699 751 153**

**Public Enquiries: 020 7211 6000**

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