



The Placenames of Gallipoli

Gallipoli was described in the Age newspaper on 16th May 1915, just three weeks after the landing at Anzac Cove as ‘that new word of liquid syllables’. It is also a word that in 1915 suddenly entered the consciousness of Australians as an important symbol of an emerging sense of nation.

The word *Gallipoli* most likely originated from the Greek *Kallipolis* (Καλλιπόλις, ‘beautiful city’), and took on a Latin form *Gallipoli* for use by Europeans in medieval times.¹ When the Turks (as the emerging Ottoman Empire) arrived at the Dardanelles from the east in the early 14th century A.D. and eventually occupied Gallipoli town and peninsula, their transliteration of its name (most likely representing their ‘foreign’ pronunciation of the Latin form as *Gelibolu*) became written in their Arabic script (read right to left) as

كـالـيـبـولـي

—literally written ‘Geliboli’, but pronounced ‘Gelibolu’ with ‘u’ sounding like the ‘a’ in the word ‘about’. Turkish used the Arabic script until the 1930s, when Kemal Atatürk instructed Turks to adopt the Roman alphabet as a modernisation reform. *Gelibolu* survives to the present day in Turkey.

The 1915 campaign, though, is not known generally in Turkey as the ‘Gelibolu Campaign’. Turks see the campaign as the struggle for the Dardanelles Straits, starting with the failed Allied naval attack of 18 March 1915 on the Narrows at Çanakkale (pronounced ‘Chanak Kaleh’, trans: Place of the Clay Pot Fortress). Hence their naming the campaign as the Battles of Çanakkale (*Çanakkale Savaşları*). The following land battles on the peninsula, which marks the north western shores of the Straits, constitute the second phase of Turkey’s struggle for salvation in 1915 as foreign armies executed amphibious landings and invaded the homeland.

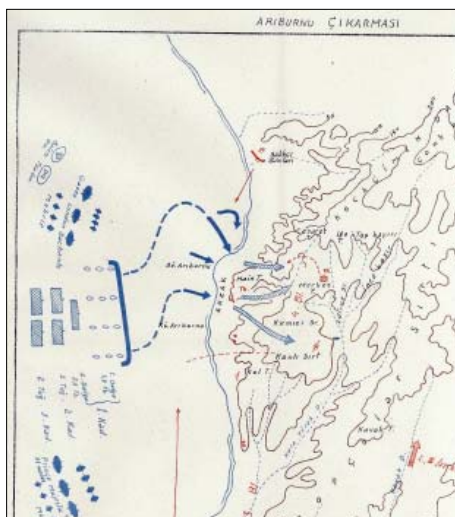
The battles that ensued created an interesting phenomenon in location nomenclature as they brought another and present layer of foreign names to a landscape that was formerly identified through a long historical period of settlement and conquest. This period stretches from ancient indigenous Thracian via Greek and Roman imperial additions to Turkish. Çanakkale itself is one example among several. It was previously known as *Abydos* in ancient

times then in Ottoman times as *Kaleyi Sultaniye* (*The Sultan’s Fortress*) fort, named after the Ottoman sultan who commanded its construction to guard the Narrows. As the area became the centre of ceramic pot production a further change to *Çanakkale* occurred via local influences. The British, as their strategic interest in the area increased in the latter half of the 19th century, referred to the town verbally, textually and on maps simply as *Chanak*.

Another example of generational change is the major objective of the British at the Cape Helles landings of 1915—the inland village of Krithia and its adjacent hill which dominates the southern end of the peninsula. *Krithia* was its Greek name and was used by Ottoman subject Greek-speaking local people in 1915, and appears on Allied campaign maps as such. Its pre-Greek is obscure but its Turkish version is *Kirte* (as it appears on contemporary wartime Turkish maps). Then sometime in the late 20th century *Kirte* disappeared from official use, and was replaced by *Alçı Tepe* (*Gypsum Hill*), the Turkish name for the adjacent hill, which now serves both hill and village. The story of this toponym became even more complex, since in 1915 it was known to Allied troops as *Achi Baba* hill (Turkish: *Acı Baba*, pron. *Adji Baba*, meaning *Bitter* or *Painful Father* hill); this was the name given to the hill by local inhabitants, adopted on Allied maps and stated as the British objective on the first day. Interestingly, although officially defunct for over seventy years, it is quite common to find locals

still referring to Alçitepe as *Kirte* or even *Krithia*, attesting to the occasional longevity of indigenous placenames.

The coming of the English and French armies with their colonial contingents in 1915 suddenly caused another nomenclatural layer to be laid on this sparsely populated and (particularly in the ANZAC area) rough terrain with lonely gullies and hills. This resulted in the appearance of British, French, Australian and New Zealander names on many post-1915 maps of the Gallipoli Peninsula, especially those relating to and illustrating the campaign. They continue to appear today on maps, even on some Turkish maps and signposts on the battlefield. This is the natural result of the place being a visited historical battlefield site and of battle histories being written.²



Turkish sketch map of the ANZAC landing from a leading Turkish officer’s memoir written in 1934 showing some of the Turkish names for places on the battlefield.

(courtesy of Turkish General Staff Archives, Ankara)

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Dear Readers,

In this March issue, with Anzac Day not far away, we feature a major article on Gallipoli placenames by Harvey Broadbent of Macquarie University, Sydney. We then turn to rather more distant fields, with Brendan Whyte's feature on the Oz-related toponymy of the planet Mars. Below you will find our first contribution from Keith Collicoat of Buderim, Queensland. We will tell you more about Keith in our next issue. Happy reading!

Tricia Mack

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As Caroline Gonda of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, informs us in the *London Review of Books* (28 January), Mary Shelley saw a stage adaptation of *Frankenstein* in 1823, in which Frankenstein's creature was simply referred to as ----- . Afterwards, in a letter to Leigh Hunt, she expressed approval of 'this nameless mode of naming the unnameable'.

Coming across a reference to Mount Nameless in Western Australia prompts me to ask whether anyone has considered the significance of acts of naming which appear to contradict themselves, or perhaps to shrink from the consequences of trying to name 'the unnameable'.

I don't think this kind of name can be said to produce a full-blown paradox (such as 'This sentence is false') unless we are prepared to say that an act of naming presupposes the utterance of a sentence. But can anyone tell us why the evasions and ironies lurking in such no-names are so persistently intriguing? Comments would be welcomed.

John Miles
Cherrybrook NSW

Who's doing What

Our members are involved in various toponymy projects this quarter.

David Blair has finished recording Captain Cook's placenames from his 1770 journal, and is preparing the material for publication as a chronological listing.

Dale Lehner is still working on incorporating Ron Potter's database of South- East Queensland placenames into the ANPS records.

Jan Tent is continuing to work with David Blair on an effective and practical typology for Australian placename specifics; and with colleague Helen Slatyer, starting research on early European place-naming practices in the South Pacific.

Joyce Miles is investigating placenames in the Orange-Cowra area, and beginning to work on some new WA data.

Future issues will keep you up to date on the work of our staff and Research Friends.

Conference in Edinburgh

Trends in Toponymy
Conference in Edinburgh
28 June – 1 July 2010

We remind all our readers of this conference to be held in beautiful Edinburgh this northern summer. ANPS people will be there in force: Laura Kostanski is giving a keynote address on the Grampians; and others attending and giving papers are Ian Clark, and Michael Walsh. For further details, see <http://www.delc.ed.ac.uk/conferences/TOPONYMYCONFERENCE.html>

The Shire of Banana

The Shire of Banana, a "Local Government Area" of 28,577 square kilometres, is located in the Capricorn region of Central Queensland west of Gladstone.

The Shire gets its name from an old dun working bullock (named "Banana" because of his colour) which was used, on the Rannes pastoral run, as a decoy to "lead" wild cattle into yards when mustering. The bullock died and his body was taken to a nearby gully which became known as "Banana's Gully". Later a town, established near there, became known as Banana and when the first Council sat there the Shire was named Banana. This sculpture stands in front of the Banana State School.



It became a Shire council, under the *Local Authorities Act 1902*, on 31 March 1903. The Shire has a population of 13,489 (2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census) and Council "sits" in Biloela, population 5752, the largest town in the shire. Check out the *Comparative profile Incorporating data from the 2001 Census* at; http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/docs/profiles/BananaShire_ComparativeProfile.pdf.

Keith Collicoat

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The battalions of foreign soldiers who peopled the scrubby ridges and gullies spontaneously named their localities, and Australian and New Zealand names appeared at ANZAC as did English and French ones in the Helles sector. Preparations of trench maps or operational orders required fixed names and these became the new foreign names for the landscape that exist to this day. *The Sphinx*, a prominent rocky outcrop overlooking the Anzac Cove area, is a good example of this, so named because it reminded the troops of the original in Egypt from where they had most recently come.

Prior to the campaign the placenames on the peninsula were mostly Turkish. They were for the most part confined to such features as:

- villages (e.g. Maidos, Kojadere, Kirte, Anafarta Saghir),
- creek courses, which in Turkish carried the term *dere* (pron. *dereh*), meaning valley or gully with a creek/stream, or dry creek bed, e.g. *Asmak Dere* (Vine Valley), *Zigindere* (pron. *Zighindereh*) (Sharp Edged Gully),
- and the most prominent ridges (*sirt*) and spurs (*bayir*) e.g. *Sari Bayir* (Yellow Spur), *Abdul Rahman Bayir* (Abdul Rahman's Spur or Ridge) and high hills (*tepe* -- pron. *tepeh*) e.g. *Koja Chimen Tepe* (Hill of the Great Pasture), *Kaba Tepe* (Rough Hill).

It will be obvious that these gazetted names mostly represent either the nature of the landscape feature or are associated with an individual, such as a farmer or land owner.

Other common Turkish placenames that existed were *Büyük* (large), *Küçük*, pron. *Kuchuk* (small), *Burnu* (Cape or Point), *Dağ*, pron. *Dagh* (Mountain), *Kale* (Fort), *Kuyu* (Well), *Ova* (Plain), *Tekke* (Shrine, originally a dervish lodge).

Some of these names, appearing on Turkish maps, became features with which the Allied armies at Gallipoli were to become familiar. They were to be transliterated from the Arabic alphabet into the Roman alphabet and appear on the Allied campaign maps, most of which incidentally were to prove inadequate in scale and detail for successful battle planning. Even so, some of these locations became battle objectives and as such acquired a numerical Allied military description along with their Turkish names. A case in point was *Koca Çimen Tepe* (pron. *Koja Chimen Tepe*) (Hill of the Big Pasture) at the ANZAC landing, which was designated as Hill 971 (i.e. 971 feet above sea-level), the main objective of the ANZACs on the first day.³

The arrival of military forces, both Allied and Ottoman, on the peninsula resulted in most of the strategically important hills or elevated sections of landscape being designated with a number that indicated their height above sea level. The Allies used the 'imperial' feet, the Ottomans used metres. Hence the 400 Plateau, Hill 60, Hill 14 and later in the campaign, alongside Suvla Bay, even Hill 10, hardly a hill at all but high enough to hold a Turkish machine gun platoon in a dominant position, which had to be cleared to enable the new British landings to take place unmolested.

Not all Turkish-named locations were given numerical designations by the Allies; some were called by their Anglicised transliterations. *Sari Bayir* for example became 'Sari Bair', and *Conkbayir* (the joint summit point on the Sari Bair ridge and main objective with its partner summit, Hill 971) later became the renowned 'Chunuk Bair', taken by the New Zealanders in the August offensive and then re-taken from the Allies two days later in bloody fighting. Other examples of places that the Allies called by their pre-existing Turkish names are the *Aghyl Dere*

(Sheepfold Valley), *Asmak Dere* (Vine Valley), *Kiretch Tepe* (Lime or Chalky Hill), *Tekke Tepe* (Shrine Hill), and *Kerevez Dere* (Celery Valley).

Other than the failed Allied objective of Hill 971, perhaps the best-known numerically-named feature is Baby 700. This feature, lying en route up the second ridge towards Hill 971 and south of it, was an intermediate hill that had to be taken before Hill 971 could be attacked. It was almost taken by the advanced units of the ANZACs on the first day, but successfully defended by the newly-arrived Ottoman reserve force and held by the Turks for the rest of the campaign. On the 25th April, though, the Allies designated it *Hill 700* only to discover it had two humps, one slightly higher, so two names were quickly applied to differentiate the locations: *Big 700* and *Baby 700*.

The name *Big 700* only lasted a few days, as a more suitable name for the hill ensued after it became the target for British naval artillery—*Battleship Hill*. The name also denotes a facet of the battle itself in that British naval guns could not easily penetrate Turkish land defence emplacements in many places, most of which were purposely deployed in gullies and lees which could not be reached by the flat trajectories of naval guns. Targets for naval guns had to be in sight: Battleship Hill, being one such exposed hill on its seaward side, was in Turkish hands and any Turkish wide frontal attack against the ANZAC line would have to take place over it. Destroyer Hill, a small hill overlooking the *Sazli Beit Dere* (Seaweed Valley), often heavily shelled by destroyers, was another such exposed feature duly named.

Such tactical concerns and incidents in the battle for the Gallipoli Peninsula were the stimulus for the imposing of European (mainly English) names on the topography. Further examples of this genre of toponyms are Shrapnel Gully, Shell Green and Hell Spit—all named as a result of their susceptibility to Turkish artillery fire. Others taking their inspiration from the often bloody battle events are:

- Dead Man's Ridge, where the bodies of ANZACs and men of the Royal Naval Division lay from May 2/3 until the Armistice of 24 May;
- the nearby Bloody Angle—named after the 4th Australian Brigade and units of the Royal Naval Division suffered heavy losses there on May 2/3;
- Sniper's Nest, a scrubby hill from which Turkish snipers made North Beach vulnerable to enemy fire and unsafe for traffic;
- the Valley of Despair, on the extreme ANZAC right flank, always in Turkish hands.

Geographical appearance and battlefield features also provided another genre of names. Lone Pine is perhaps the best known example and the most famous spot after ANZAC Cove. It was so named because in the first few days of the campaign a single pine tree marked the No-Man's Land spot where the Australian and Turkish front lines battled it out on the right flank. The original name given by the men was the *Lonesome Pine*, the inspiration coming from a popular song of the period. The tree was destroyed by artillery fire within a few days but the name of the position survived. In the August Offensive the front line of Turkish trenches at Lone Pine was taken by the Australians earning them seven Victoria Crosses.

The following are further illustrations of this genre:

- The Nek, one of the most notorious of positions—a narrow stretch of No Man's Land, connecting Russell's Top to Baby 700 and the forward Turkish trenches, which was the scene of the deadly dismounted Australian Light Horse charge in August;

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- Rhododendron Ridge (or Spur), leading up to Chunuk Bair from the west and named by New Zealander, Major Overton, after the local arbutus that he saw as resembling the rhododendron;
- The Apex, the highest point on Rhododendron Ridge;
- Camel's Hump, a Turkish position below Sniper's Nest;
- The Chessboard, a criss-cross network of Turkish trenches inland from the Nek;
- Chocolate Hill, a brownish red scrubby hill inland from Suvla Bay, its colour later even browner after it was swept with fire;
- Green Hill, adjacent to Chocolate Hill;
- The Cornfield, a small patch of cultivated ground just above Shell Green;
- The Daisy Patch, a piece of old meadow at Cape Helles and scene of a particularly heroic and costly failed attack by New Zealand units;
- Happy Valley, just north of Walker's Ridge so-called because in the early days, when it was spring, the lower area was a mass of flowering shrubs and soft grass filled with the fragrance of wild thyme;
- Scrubby Knoll, the Turkish command position on the northern end of the third ridge, where Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Kemal set up his Field H.Q. The Turks named the spot prosaically *Kemalyeri* (Kemal's Place or Position);
- Table Top, a flat-topped hill, at the foot of Rhododendron Ridge captured by the Wellington Mounted Rifles on the night of August 6/7;
- The 'W' Hills, the name given to the original Turkish-named ridge of Ismail Oglu Tepe about a mile due north of Hill 60—when viewed from Russell's Top, to the south, the ridge appears in the shape of a 'W'.

By far the most common genre of battlefield placenames remains those called after individuals, usually commanders and officers, who either made their local HQs in these places or who distinguished themselves in some way at those points. Monash Valley is perhaps the best known. It is named after Australian 4th Brigade Commander, the renowned John Monash, who led his brigade to occupy the head of the valley at the end of the first day. Equally well-known is the first ridge high above ANZAC Cove, known as Plugge's Plateau (pronounced Pluggey's) and named after Arthur Plugge, the commander of the Auckland Infantry Battalion, who made the area his H.Q. for a short while on the afternoon of the first day before receiving wounds. Space prevents a full explanatory list of place-names and it must suffice to mention a few:

- Bauchop's Hill (Colonel of the Otago Rifles);
- Bolton's Hill (Colonel, 8th Australian Infantry Battalion);
- Braund's Hill (Colonel 2nd Australian Infantry Battalion);
- Bridges' Road (leading from Shrapnel Valley towards Wire Gully, named in memory of General Bridges, the Australian Divisional Commander, who was mortally wounded in Shrapnel Valley);
- Chatham's Post (Lieutenant, 5th Australian Light Horse);
- Courtney's Post (Lt. Col., 14th Australian Infantry Battalion);

- Johnston's Jolly, (Colonel G. J. Johnston, Brigadier of the 2nd Australian Artillery Brigade, named after Johnston's frequent remarks about 'jolly along' the Turks with his artillery);
- Malone's Gully (the gallant Colonel of the Wellington Infantry Battalion);
- Maclaurin's Hill (Colonel, the Brigadier of the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade, was killed in Monash Gully two days after the landing);
- MacLagan's Ridge (Australian 3rd Brigade Commander, the man in charge of the first landings);
- MaCay's Hill (Colonel, the Brigadier of the 2nd Australian Infantry Brigade, the commander of the second wave at the landing);
- Quinn's Post (Major Quinn, the 15th Australian Infantry Battalion, who was killed defending the post);
- Steel's Post (Major Steel, of the 14th Australian Battalion).

In their own naming of battle field places, the Turks refrained from any aggrandisement of individual commanders, apart from Mustafa Kemal (at *Kemalyeri*), probably because it was the main Ottoman field HQ position. In the first weeks of the campaign, Turkish orders, reports and signals referred to locations and targets by their existing names if they appeared on existing maps. ANZAC Cove was already named by its two promontories as *Ariburnu* (Bee Point) and *Küçük Ariburnu* (Little Bee Point) and so they remained. The major ANZAC objective *Koca Çimen Tepe* (Hill 971) also remained in currency as did other existing names e.g. *Yüksek Sirt* (High Ridge) (Russell's Top), *Mestantepe* (Drunken Hill) (Chocolate Hill). If names did not exist the crucial places were designated in the early periods by altitude designations e.g. "Hill with the Altitude 120" (i.e. 120 metres). This was a military procedure and, as mentioned, was also utilised by the Allies in places. But later in the campaign prosaic Turkish names for locations where action was centred began to appear in both Ottoman verbal and written communications and orders.

While avoiding geographical and personal names, the Turks often adopted descriptive toponyms or names echoing the sentiment of battle, and these frequently had their less colourful Australian, English or French equivalents. Plugge's Plateau went from being Hill with Altitude 105 (approx.) to *Hain Tepe* (Traitor Hill), Lone Pine went from being Hill with Altitude 140 (approx.) to *Kanlı Sirt* (Bloody Ridge), Quinn's Post went from having no name to *Bomba Sirt* (Bomb Ridge), and Monash Valley became *Korku Dere* (Valley of Fear). The important Allied objective Chunuk Bair did not originally have a designated name, but early references are as Hill with the Altitude 220. It is only much later in the campaign that it becomes referred to as *Conk Bayir* (Hill of War). The Third Ridge had no given Turkish name, but soon became known as *Topçucular Sirt* (Gunner's Ridge) as did its similar English name, *Gun Ridge*.

This is not the place to offer an exhaustive gazetteer with background explanations of Gallipoli Campaign placenames—it would require a small book to do justice to the task. But as a conclusion I list, alongside their English equivalents, a few more of the most prominent Turkish names that have found their way on to Turkish maps depicting the campaign.

<i>Al Bayrak Sirt</i> (Red Flag Ridge)	Pine Ridge
<i>Boyun</i> (The Neck/Defile)	Courtney's Post
<i>Çakal</i> (Chakal) <i>Dere</i> (Jackal Gully)	Clarke Valley

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Australian Placenames on Mars

The red dust of Mars is not unlike that of the Australian outback, so it is somehow fitting that two aboriginal place names, *Canberra* and *Woomera*, have been ascribed to features on the Red Planet.

American exploration of Mars (the Russians concentrated on Venus) began with the Mariner 4, launched in 1964 and which sent back 21 scanning TV images in 1965 when it passed less than 10,000 km from Mars. This was followed by Mariner 9 which went into orbit around the planet in late 1971 during a massive dust storm. When the storm abated in early 1972, 70% of the planet's surface was imaged, and landing sites selected for the upcoming Viking programme. The two Viking craft, each consisting of orbiter and lander modules, were launched in August and September 1975, and reached the Martian surface on 20 July and 3 September 1976 respectively, after year-long journeys. The landers analysed soil samples for signs of life, but returned negative results. The Viking missions were milestones in space exploration, but for all their success, it was over 20 years before the next landing on Mars, when the Mars Pathfinder mission of 1996-7 landed the mobile robotic Sojourner unit (Furniss 2001:212-220)

The published results of the Viking missions include two controlled photomosaic maps, at a scale of 1:250,000, centred on the landing sites of each Viking lander: the *Yorktown* and *Canberra* regions (USGS 1977a&b). Each map includes detailed notes on the left side explaining the projection, control and image processing used, as well as the adopted nomenclature.

On the Canberra sheet (USGS 1977b), the Nomenclature notes state:

The Viking mission was planned, in part, to honour the bicentennial celebration of the United States of America (1776-1976) and the names chosen for the two Viking maps at a scale of 1:250,000 honour this event. Names on the first Viking landing site map commemorate the thirteen American colonies and the ports and countries that traded with them and from which expeditions originated in 1776. Names on the second Viking landing site map honour the launch facilities, tracking stations, and mission control centres concerned with the exploration of space in 1976, including the Viking mission.

A table of place names used on the map is then given:

Name	Reference	Country
Baykonyr	Launch site	USSR
Canaveral	Launch site	USA
Canberra	Tracking station	Australia
Evpatorya	Tracking station	USSR
Goldstone	Tracking station	USA
Hamaguir	Launch site	Algeria
Houston	Mission Control	USA
Hsüanch'eng	Launch site	China
Johannesburg	Tracking station	South Africa
Jodrell	Tracking station	UK
Kagoshima	Launch site	Japan
Kaliningrad	Mission Control	USSR
Kourou	Launch site	French Guiana
Madrid	Tracking station	Spain
Tsukuba	Mission Control	Japan
Volgograd	Launch site	USSR
Wallops	Launch site	USA
Woomera	Launch site	Australia

All these features are craters and all the names were all approved by the International Astronomical Union in 1979.

Canberra crater is about 3.25 km in diameter, and centred on 47.5° N, 227.4° W (Martian coordinates utilise latitudes from 0 to 90° north and south, but a single longitude of 0 to 360° measured westwards). The derivation of the word *Canberra* is obscure. It was first recorded in 1826 when Joshua Moore wrote to the Colonial Secretary advising that land he wished to purchase was at 'Canberry'. Some sources suggest this is an Anglicization of *nganbirra*, meaning 'meeting place' in reference to seasonal corroborees held in what is now the ACT to feast on Bogong moths. Other sources suggest the word derives from *kaamberra* possibly meaning 'women's breasts', possibly in reference to Black Mountain and Mt. Ainslie (Appleton & Appleton 1992, 55; Reed 1967:25). Whatever the name's origin, in the 1960s NASA built three tracking stations in the ACT close to Canberra. These were Orroral Valley (1965-85), which supported orbiting satellites, as well as the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project and the space shuttles; Tidbinbilla (1965-present), which was used for tracking the Apollo Lunar Module; and Honeysuckle Creek (1967-81), which supported the Apollo moon missions, mainly communicating with the Apollo command module, Skylab, until that satellite fell to earth in 1979, and finally Viking and Voyager projects. The *Canberra* on Mars honours these three tracking stations.

Mars' *Woomera* crater, 50 km due north of *Canberra*, is about 2.5 km in diameter, and centred at 48.4°N, 227.4°W. It was named for the 'secret' town of Woomera in outback South Australia, which was developed during the Cold War as a centre for various British, and later European and American rocketry experiments. In addition, over the years NASA and the USAF had several tracking stations in the vicinity of the town including Island Lagoon (1960-72), and Nurrungar (1969-99). *Woomera* is an eastern aboriginal word meaning spear-thrower. Ironically the indigenes of what became the Woomera area had a different word for this implement: *miru*. 'Woomera' was chosen from an aboriginal glossary by N.H. Freeson of the RAF and George Pither of the RAAF in 1947. Pither passed the suggestion to Air Marshall E.C. Wackett, the RAAF's representative on the board of the Long Range Weapons Establishment which was building the site, and the board adopted the name on 24 April 1947. An earlier proposed name, *Red Sands* (an antipodean tip of the hat to the White Sands range in New Mexico (Morton 1997: 117)), was ruled out, but would have been highly appropriate for subsequent transferral to Mars!

Both the *Yorktown* and *Canberra* maps of Mars can still be purchased from the USGS for US\$9 each:

U.S. Geological Survey Information Services
Box 25286
Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225
USA
<http://store.usgs.gov>

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Assistant Curator of Maps
National Library of Australia

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Two unusual early names for the Australian Continent

Part 1

The continent of Australia had several appellations before its current name was unequivocally and universally adopted. These names included: *Terra Australis (Incognita)* (Unknown South Land), *Nova Hollandia* (New Holland), *New South Wales*¹, *Notasia*, and *Ulimaroa*. Various sections of the coastline also had specific labels, e.g. *G.F. de Witt's Land*, *d'Edels Land*, *van Nuyts Land*, *Arnhem Land*, *Carpentaria*, 't *Land van Leeuwin*, 't *Land van d'Eendracht*, *Maria van Diemen's Land*, (Antonie) *van Diemen's Land*, *Terre Napoléon*, *Dampier's Land*, *Dinning's Land* etc.

Most of these appellations are well-known and their origins easily explained. However, two have remained unexplained – *Ulimaroa* and *Notasia*. Very little has been written on the meaning and origin of these names. Paul Geraghty and I are currently conducting research into the origin and meaning of the most enigmatic of this pair, *Ulimaroa*, and will feature as a separate article in a future issue of the Newsletter. In the mean time, I present a brief account of the meaning of *Notasia*.

This name is used on a number of early nineteenth century maps of Australia, e.g. Lowry (1806), Scott (1811, 1817), Arrowsmith (1816), Norie (1816), Lapie (1817), Tardieu (1821), Rossi (1824), and Reichard (1827).² The name also appears in several literary and scholarly publications, as well as in the title of one of the earliest general histories of New South Wales, compiled from the written accounts of members of the First Fleet – *Heroes of Notasia: a record of Australian exploration*.³ The only attempt I have been able to unearth that attempts to explain the meaning of *Notasia* is in a 1927 letter by Arthur Wilberforce Jose to the Rev. A. J. Prowse.⁴ During his life, Jose was a wood cutter, brick maker, author, historian, university lecturer, journalist, barrister, intelligence officer, and editor-in-chief of *The Australian Encyclopaedia* (1925, 1926).⁵ In his letter to Prowse, Jose explains that *Notasia* means 'Southern Asia' and is derived from the Greek *votos* (*notos*) 'south; the south wind'. This seems a most valid explanation, especially given numerous contemporary maps labelled Australia by its Latin equivalent, *Australasia*.

More in part 2, on the origin and meaning of *Ulimaroa*.

References and footnotes:

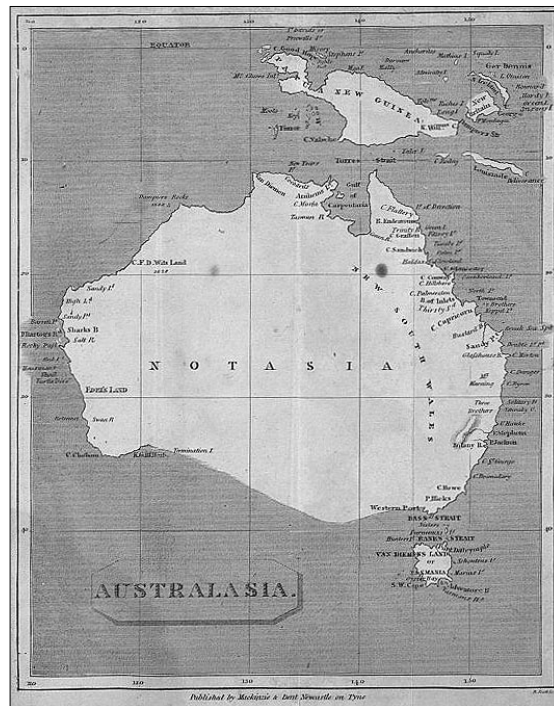
¹ When James Cook named the east coast of the continent, *New South Wales*, the entire continent was still known as *New Holland*. At the establishment of the first British colony, in 1788, Governor Arthur Phillip proclaimed the name *New South Wales* for the eastern half of the continent (to 135° east); *New Holland* remained the name for the western half. In 1825, the western boundary of the colony was extended to 129° east. In 1831, *New Holland* was renamed *Western Australia*.

² Wilson Lowry, *Australasia*, in John Pinkerton, *Modern Geography a Description of the Empires, Kingdoms, States, and Colonies...* (London 1807); R. Scott, *Australasia*, in George Paterson, *The History of New South Wales from its First Discovery to the Present Time...* (Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1811) and Eneas Mackenzie, *A New and Complex System of Modern Geography...* (London 1817) <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-rm2969>; Aaron Arrowsmith, *Australasia* (Edinburgh 1816); John William Norie, [untitled map] (London 1816) <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-rm3381>; Pierre Lapie, *Australia Pacific Oceanie ou Australasie et Polynesie* (Paris 1817); Ambroise Tardieu, *Mappe-monde en deux hémisphères dressée pour l'intelligence de l'Histoire générale des voyages de Laharpe*, in J.F. La Harpe, *Abrégé de l'histoire générale des voyages...* (Paris 1821); Carlo Rossi, *Oceania* (Milan 1824) <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-t1009>; and Christian G.T. Reichard, *Oceanica (Polinesia)* (Venice 1827).

³ Robert Brown, *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae Van Diemen* (London 1810); Charles-Athanase Walckenaer, *Cosmology, or, a General Description of the Earth...* (Paris 1815); Thomas K. Harvey, *Australia; with other Poems* (London 1825) pp. x, 16, 30, 37; Jules Verreaux and Eduard Verruex, *L'Océanie en Estampes: ou description géographique et historique de... Notasie, Polynesie, Australie...* (Paris 1832); 'Dio', *Heroes of Notasia: a record of Australian exploration* (Hobart 1888).

⁴ Arthur Wilberforce Jose, Letter 14 Dec. 1927 to the Rev. A. J. Prowse (Queenstown, Tasmania) on the meaning of *Notasia*. Hayes Manuscript Collection, University of Queensland Library, Ref. UQFL2/1377.

⁵ R. Lamont, 'Jose, Arthur Wilberforce (1863 - 1934)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 9 (Melbourne 1983), pp 523-524.



*Australasia - National Library of Australia
nla.map-rm2969-v*

Placenames puzzle no. 33

With References to Reading

The clues reveal placenames with a literary reference (disregard spelling)

E.g. (SA) Otherwise known as Mr HolmesSherlock

1. (SA) The cargo also contained cedarwood and sweet white wine
2. (SA) Home of Fanny Price
3. (SA) Basil Hallward painted a portrait of Mr Gray
4. (SA) Her police detective is Adam Dalgleish, settlement
5. (NSW) The daughter of Prospero
6. (NSW) He came out of the West to wed the fair Ellen
7. (NSW) He's in his hammock till the great Armadas come
8. (NSW/SA/TAS) Goldsmith thought it was the loveliest village of the plain
9. (ACT) Keats was 'Silent, upon a peak in Darien', when first looking into this author's translation of Homer
10. (ACT/SA) From experience, he wrote of Tom's education at Rugby
11. (QLD) The noble lady from Malfi
12. (QLD) According to Jack Higgins this large bird has landed; agricultural establishment
13. (QLD) This son of Apollo lost his wife through looking back; land surrounded by water
14. (VIC) It is right in the centre of Midlothian
15. (VIC) The grandson of Nokomis
16. (VIC) Pick one of these flowers as time is passing
17. (WA) Beneath this tree the party took place after the wedding of the tranter's son Dick Dewey and Fancy Day
18. (WA) The winter of discontent was made glorious by him
19. (VIC/WA) Father of Goneril, Regan and Cordelia, one twelfth of a year
20. (VIC/QLD) This 2009 Miles Franklin award winner took a deep breath

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(Continued from Page 4)

Çukur (Chukur) Dere (Glen Valley)	Australia Valley
Düz (Düs) Tepe (Flat Hill)	Battleship Hill
Cesaret (pron. Jessaret)	The Nek
Tepe (Hill of Valour)	Cooee Valley
Kara Dere (Dark Gully)	Legge Valley
Karayürek Dere (Dark Heart Valley)	Johnstone's
Kirmizi Sirt (Red Ridge)	Jolly
Pilav Tepe (Cooked Rice Hill)	Table Top
Şahin Sirt (Eagle Ridge)	Rhododendron
Süngü Bayir (Bayonet Spur)	Ridge
Yeşil Tarla (Green Meadow)	Chathams Post
	and Harris Ridge
	Shell Green

Harvey Broadbent is Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations at Macquarie University and Director of the ARC-funded Gallipoli Centenary Research Project, which is researching Turkish documentation of the campaign.

References:

- ¹ There is a *Gallipoli* also in Italy. Professor Sam Lieu of Macquarie University is presently completing a book that includes his extensive research on the origins of the name and offers varying possibilities.
- ² *Anzak Koyu* (Anzac Cove) was officially gazetted on Turkish maps in 1985, the 70th anniversary of the campaign, as a reciprocal arrangement with the Australian Government, which established Atatürk Park opposite the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and named a stretch of the coastline at Albany, W.A. as Atatürk Reach.
- ³ An objective that was not achieved on the first day nor in the eight months of the Anzac action at Gallipoli.

Australian Placenames . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

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Answers:
1. Sandalwood 2. Mansfield Park 3. Dorrien 4. Jamestown 5. Miranda 6. Lochinvar 7. Drake 8. Auburn
9. Chapman 10. Hughes 11. Duchess 12. Eagle Farm 13. Orpheus Island 14. The Heart 15. Hiawatha
16. Rosebud 17. Greenwood 18. York 19. Learmonth 20. Winton

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