

PROJECT AE2
PROJECT BENEATH GALLIPOLI

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AUSTRALIA

Committee Secretary
 Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
 Department of the Senate
 Parliament House
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: INQUIRY INTO MATTERS RELATING TO THE GALLIPOLI PENINSULA

**SUBMITTED BY: PROJECT BENEATH GALLIPOLI:
 JOINT AUSTRALIAN-TURKISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**

The Joint Australian-Turkish PROJECT BENEATH GALLIPOLI team wish to comment on the terms of reference for the Senate Inquiry into *Matters Relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula*.

The following comments are directed to:

Matter (c): the heritage protection of ANZAC Cove, including the proposed joint historical and archaeological survey of ANZAC Cove and proposals for the establishment of an international peace park, as well as national and world heritage listing for the area.

This successful project team have been engaged in-country since 1997 and have provided a wealth of information on the identification, condition and management of the famous Australian AE2 submarine wreck site (1915), located in the Turkish Sea of Marmora in 1998.

Supported by the Australian government, both in principle and financially (Department of Defence – Navy), the team have provided the Australian government with best-practice archaeological and conservation advice related to future management opportunities for this internationally significant archaeological wreck site (reports attached). We have also been involved in joint Australian-Turkish Technical Workshops in Istanbul deliberating government policy with regard to the site, provided advice to the *Intergovernmental Working Group on AE2* (IDWG - Commander Ray Saad, Chair), and in public forums such as the *Submarine Institute of Australia* conferences.

Due to our team's archaeological and heritage management expertise, we immediately realised the need to develop sound management policies with regard to AE2. A basis of this was the development of a Conservation Management Plan for the AE2 wreck site, subsequently delivered to both Government's and heritage interests.

It was through our work in Turkey at AE2, that we realised the inadequacy of similar conservation strategies for the Gallipoli Peace Park area – or at least their public

availability. It was also apparent that past energies at Gallipoli have been entirely related to the land component of the battlefield landscape.

To that end, our team have begun preparations for an inaugural maritime archaeological survey of the waters at ANZAC Cove. This has the aim of establishing the full range of cultural relics in the near-shore and underwater component of the battlefield site. This is a preliminary requirement for the management of any heritage asset in order to establish the full parameters of the site, the range and condition of any cultural elements, to determine the relative significance of those features, and to develop management policies to guide their identification, preservation and interpretation of key significance attributes. It is our teams understanding that such fundamental and standard heritage management practices have not been put in place for this internationally significant heritage site.

The 2005 road works program has done more than compromise the archaeological integrity of fragile relic deposits situated along the length of the affected road area. The dumping of spoil onto ANZAC Cove and into the sea has a potential impact on those archaeological remains still sited in situ within the near-shore areas. I attach images of fragile archaeological remains related to the pivotal "Watson's Pier", located just a few metres out from the beach – typical of the range of significant historic fabric related to the 1915 campaign. None of these items have seen proper identification, mapping or interpretation.

Our proposed work will involve the sophisticated 3D modelling of the underwater environment, and is under consideration by ABC TV for a major documentary to air for ANZAC Day 2006.

We would support the deployment of additional Australian archaeological and heritage experts to develop site mitigation plans that ensure the full and proper recording of in situ archaeological remains, and to identify potential threats to the survival of those remains.

The archaeological heritage of the Gallipoli battlefields is irreplaceable.

The archaeological landscape is of significance to both Turkey, Australia and relevant nations, and the values of the place must be protected.

Protection of these sites must meet the basic standards of international professional practice, as outlined in guiding documents such as the UNESCO *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* 1972, and the *Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* 2001.

I would be happy to discuss these and other issues and thank you for your time with this matter. PROJECT BENEATH GALLIPOLI supports initiatives that further the bonds of friendship developed between the Australian, Turkish and other nations involved in the conflict.

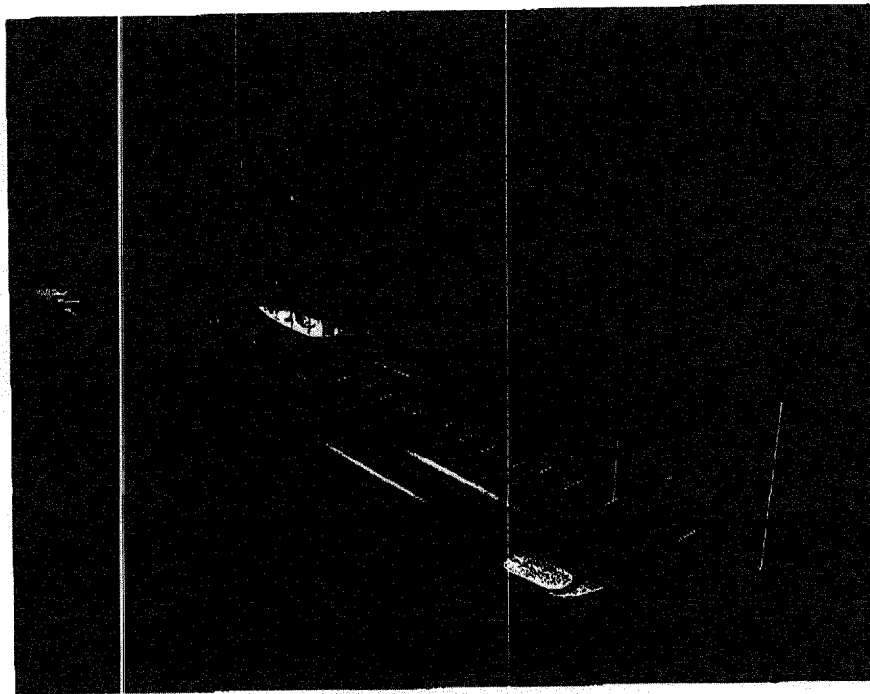
Yours sincerely

 10.6.05

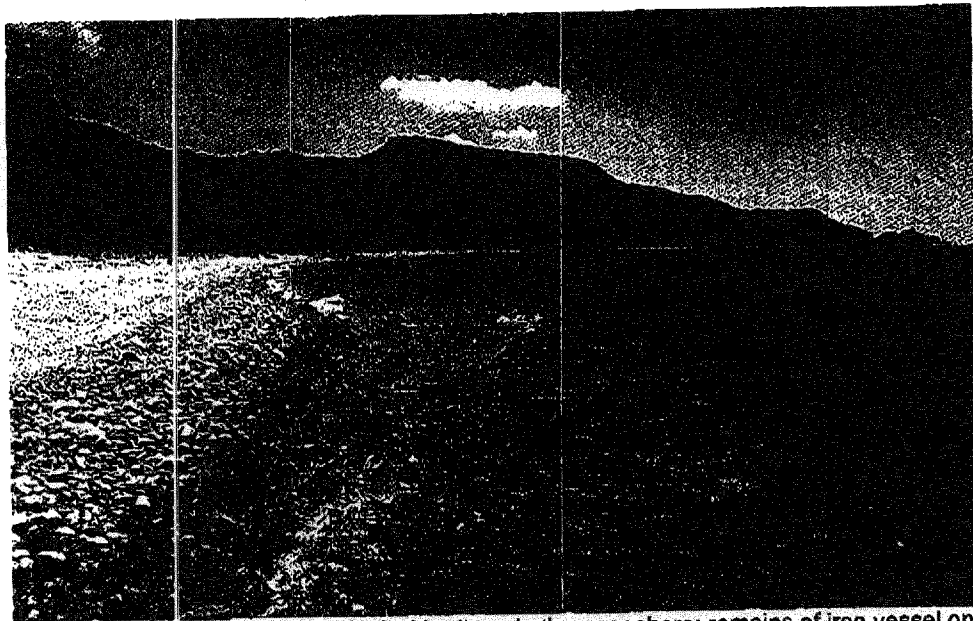
TIM SMITH
MARK SPENCER
Project Beneath Gallipoli Directors



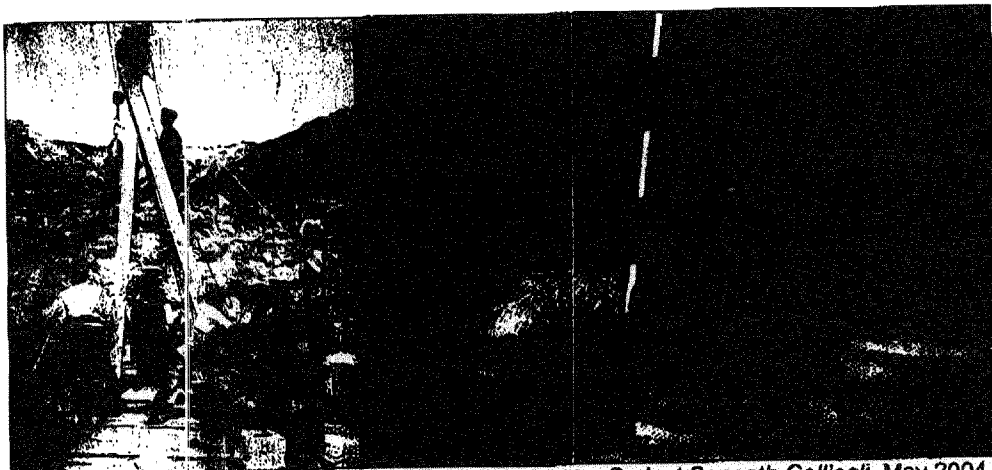
The bow of the AE2 1915 archaeological shipwreck site. Sea of Marmora, Turkey (depth 73 metres). Photo by Mark Spencer, *Project Beneath Gallipoli*



2005 version of detailed AE2 3D animation of the submarine being undertaken by our project partner – Defence, Science & Technology Organisation.



Representative of the archaeological heritage in the near shore: remains of iron vessel on North Beach, ANZAC. Photo: Tim Smith.



Watson's Pier, ANZAC Cove and remains inspected by *Project Beneath Gallipoli*, May 2004. Photo by Tim Smith.