

**Battle of Gallipoli
Centenary Memorial Challenge
New York to Gallipoli Peninsula
by Rowboat**

www.RowForPeace.com



CHALLENGE: A memorial row across the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, from New York in USA to Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey

MISSION: To deliver a message of peace, to raise awareness for the human cost of war, to raise funds for AKUT¹, the leading Search & Rescue NGO in Turkey, and for DefenceCare², supporting Australia's returned diggers struggling with homelessness and PTSD.

WHO: One experienced ocean rower with records and historic firsts and team members from nations that fought at the Gallipoli Campaign a century ago.

METHOD: One sea-worthy purpose-built two-person rowboat powered by accomplished men with competence, strength, grit and determination who will row approximately 5,600 nautical miles 3,100 nm of which will be on the open seas.

TIMELINE:

- Participate in the Dawn Service and the Centenary ANZAC Day ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in New York on 25 April 2015.
- Depart 19-25 May 2015 from New York, pending weather. Make progress due east during the same months as the Gallipoli Campaign, giving context to the Memorial Challenge. *Rowers: Erden Eruç and Kendon Glass*
- Arrive at Morocco in August then methodically advance eastbound on the Mediterranean during the months that follow. *Rowers: Erden Eruç and Mark Gasson*
- Planned arrival at Gökçeada (former Imbros) before the end of February 2016 with the goal to participate in local commemorations on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 18 March 2016 and in the Dawn Service at the ANZAC Cove on 25th of April 2016.

WHY: *Historical context for the row to Gallipoli Peninsula*

1915 was a difficult year in World War I. The modern republics of Turkey, Australia and New Zealand trace their national awakening from crumbling empires to one significant battle of that war: the Gallipoli Campaign. So significant, that the failure by the allies to break the Ottoman defenses at the Dardanelles in that campaign precipitated the fall of The Russian Empire, enabling the Germans to move resources to the Western Front and tied up Allied resources in the Middle East while bleeding the already weak Ottoman Empire, stretching the war to four years.

The battleships from the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) were stopped by mines and land-based artillery in the Dardanelles Narrows on 18 March 1915. That date is commemorated

¹ <http://www.akut.org.tr/en/>

² DefenceCare is a charity helping current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families in times of injury, illness and crisis. DefenceCare is part of RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution and is a Tier 1 RSL NSW recognised charity. ABN: 61 603 206 488. DGR: 752 766 491. CFN: 12317.

in Turkey as “*Çanakkale Maritime Victory and Memorial Day*” (Çanakkale Deniz Zaferi ve Şehitleri Anma Günü). Following this disaster, the MEF initiated amphibious landings to secure the Gallipoli Peninsula. Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) troops landed on the western shores of the peninsula on 25 April while the British and French landed further south around Cape Helles. The day of their landing is now commemorated in Australia and New Zealand as the *ANZAC Day* for "the contribution and suffering of all those who have served." The fight would continue for eight months until MEF evacuated in December 1915.

Casualties were high – the Ottoman side suffered about 300,000 dead and wounded or a rate of 60% while the British/French losses were approximately 252,000, or 52%. During the campaign, 8,708 Australians and 2,721 New Zealanders were killed.

Gallipoli is remembered as “the last gentlemen’s war” where the sides refrained from the use of chemical weapons and the troops benefited from the proximity of the trenches, tossing food and cigarettes to the enemy side with notes attached. Coupled with the respective gallantry that each side acknowledged in each other, this battleship camaraderie created a lasting bond of mutual respect, admiration and friendship.

A wounded Lt. Richard Casey was rescued by an Ottoman soldier who waved a white flag to pick him up in no-man’s land, to carry him to Australian trenches then to return to his own after an about-face. That same lieutenant led an illustrious political career, held ministry positions then became Lord Casey and the 16th Governor General of Australia (1965-69) to say:

“Having battled the Turks and lost thousands of our people, we parted from Gallipoli Peninsula with great appreciation and admiration for the heroic Turkish nation and its peerless patriotism.”

In 1985, the Turkish Government officially renamed the beaches where the ANZAC landed as “Anzak Koyu” for ANZAC Cove. Every year since then, a dawn service is held during the memorial ceremonies for the fallen. Atatürk, founder of modern Turkey, who as Lt. Col. Mustafa Kemal had stopped the ANZAC advance in 1915, issued the following words of wisdom in memory of the ANZAC in 1934:

“Heroes who 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 Mehments to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway 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.”

These powerful words are inscribed on a monument in ANZAC Cove in Turkey and on the Kemal Atatürk Memorial in Canberra, ACT, Australia to honor the heroism and the self-sacrifice of all soldiers in those fierce battles.

This Memorial Challenge is conceived on the mutual respect and friendship that exists today between the people of Turkey, Australia and New Zealand.

Inspired by the above words for peace and reconciliation, and in memory of all those who lost their lives during the Gallipoli Campaign, Erden Eruç and his team will row eastbound across the Atlantic Ocean from New York then east on the Mediterranean and the Aegean seas to ANZAC Cove. Rowers were intentionally recruited from countries that fought on the Gallipoli Peninsula a century ago. They will take turns to join Eruç at select locations along the route while Eruç will remain the skipper throughout on the two-person rowboat. The rowboat will reach the ANZAC Cove at the Gallipoli Peninsula before 25 April 2016. Attendance in the 101st Anniversary Commemorations may be possible, pending appropriate protocol.

SKIPPER: Erden Eruç³ – Past accomplishments and Guinness World Records

- First solo circumnavigation by human power, 2014 Guinness Book of World Records (BWR)
- Fastest circumnavigation by human power, 5 years 11 days
- First person to have rowed three major oceans, 2012 Guinness BWR
- Longest time at sea by a solo ocean rower: 312 days on the Pacific from California to the waters of Papua New Guinea, 2009 Guinness BWR
- Most experienced ocean rower alive in total career days: 876 days
- Most experienced ocean rower in history in total career miles: ~ 29,000 nm
- First ever ocean crossing by rowing from the southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere - Namibia to Venezuela
- Longest row across the Atlantic Ocean: ~5,465 nm in 153 days - Namibia to Venezuela
- First person in history who rowed mainland to mainland across the Indian Ocean from Australia to Africa
- Longest nonstop row on the Indian Ocean: 5,086 nm, Australia to Madagascar
- 2013 Adventurer of the Year, Outside Magazine
- 2013 Citation of Merit, The Explorers Club
- 2012 Career Accomplishment Award, Turkish National Olympic Committee
- 2010 Vancouver Award, The Explorers Club
- 2006 Fair Play Award, Turkish National Olympic Committee

³ <http://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=28524432>

Erden Eruç⁴ submitted over a dozen records pending certification by Guinness World Records. The submissions are refereed by the London based Ocean Rowing Society⁵, the official adjudicator of related records for Guinness.

TEAM MEMBER: Kendon Glass

As a founding member of Brink, an Adventure Learning organization in Australia, Kendon traveled around the world on bicycle and under sail on a journey that lasted five years, experiencing countries as diverse as Venezuela, Iran and a Tibet. Kendon is currently completing a Psychology Degree with a vision to researching how long distance human powered journeys may affect the psychology of an individual.

An avid bushwalker he has traversed remote areas of Australia including the South West Cape wilderness of Tasmania. He has also completed a 650km solo hike along the Australian Alps. He has also sailed across the Atlantic, the length of the Mediterranean and the Arabian Sea.



(left) Kendon Glass on expedition, (right) Mark Gasson and Erden Eruç in Western Australia

TEAM MEMBER: Mark Gasson

Mark's passion has always been to help others whilst leading an interesting life. This drive led him to start his career as a lecturer in Philosophy and Ethics, introducing students to thinking about different ways to live and work in the modern world. The value Mark places on helping others and his love of the water has resulted in various voluntary emergency service roles over the last 18 years. He has worked as a Rescue Boat Coxswain for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in the UK (RNLI) and was a member of both the Brighton and Tower Pier (River Thames) RNLI crews. Mark was also a member of the UK International Rapid Response Rescue Team. Mark has worked in Australia for the Volunteer Rescue Association as a Rescue Boat Captain and Unit Commander and trainer and assessor for NSW Marine Rescue in Australia

⁴ <http://www.Around-n-Over.org/erden.htm>

⁵ <http://www.oceanrowing.com/statistics/>

(NSWMR). Mark is a member of the NSW Rescue Captains' Committee, a former member of Byron Shire Emergency Committee and is a qualified Rescue Coxswain, Swift Water Rescue Technician, rescue trainer and assessor and RYA Advanced Power Boat Instructor and Yacht Master. He enjoys surfing, sailing and kayaking.

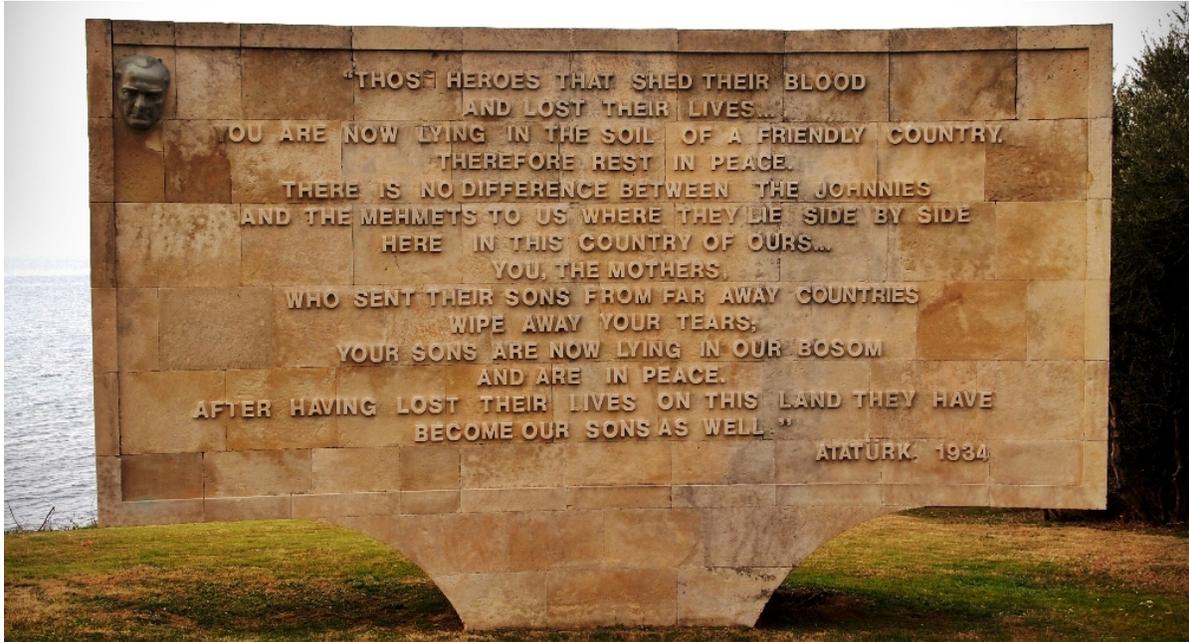
Mark has held a number of leadership and CEO roles for governments, NGOs and executive boards. He was a founding member of The Northern Rivers Anti Bullying Alliance. His experience across a range of disciplines from water safety to community leadership led to a recent fourteen-month role as an Antarctic Station Leader for the Australian government's isolated Macquarie Island community where, due to his extensive experience on the water, he was nominated Station Boating Officer.

Mark has been a mentor to two young men for the last decade and works with them to maximise their potential as they enter young adulthood. He is a firm believer that an individual learns from the people around them and recognises the enormous impact his mentors have had in helping him stay true to his passions and achieve his life goals.

Conservative Budget Estimate

Rowboat preparations, repair, reconditioning, replacement parts and other maintenance	35,000 USD
International travel health insurance for 1 year for Erden Eruç	4,500 USD
Seattle – New York towing, truck rental, accommodation, meals	6,000 USD
Pre-departure expenses, marina, lodging, meals in New York	5,000 USD
Satellite phone expenses	10,000 USD
Expenses during downtime related to weather/seasons, mooring along the Mediterranean, resupply, boat haul out if necessary	20,000 USD
Travel, lodging, resupply and insurance for three team members	30,000 USD
Build a cradle for the boat, ship to New York in a 40' container	20,000 USD
New York – Seattle towing, truck rental, accommodation, meals	6,000 USD
Estimated Total	136,500 USD

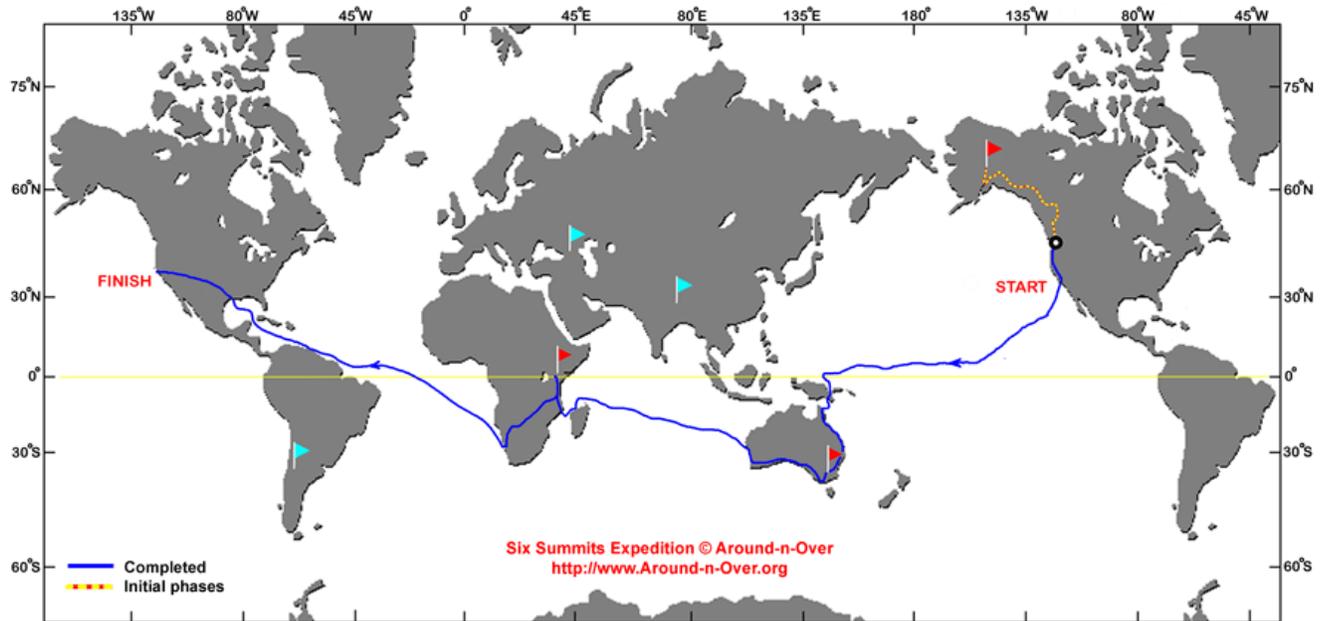
The above estimated budget is necessary to successfully execute this project assuming no loss or damage to the rowboat. Should there be damage requiring rescue, tow or repair, additional funds would be required. A prudent budget would be 160,000 USD and any proceeds would benefit AKUT.



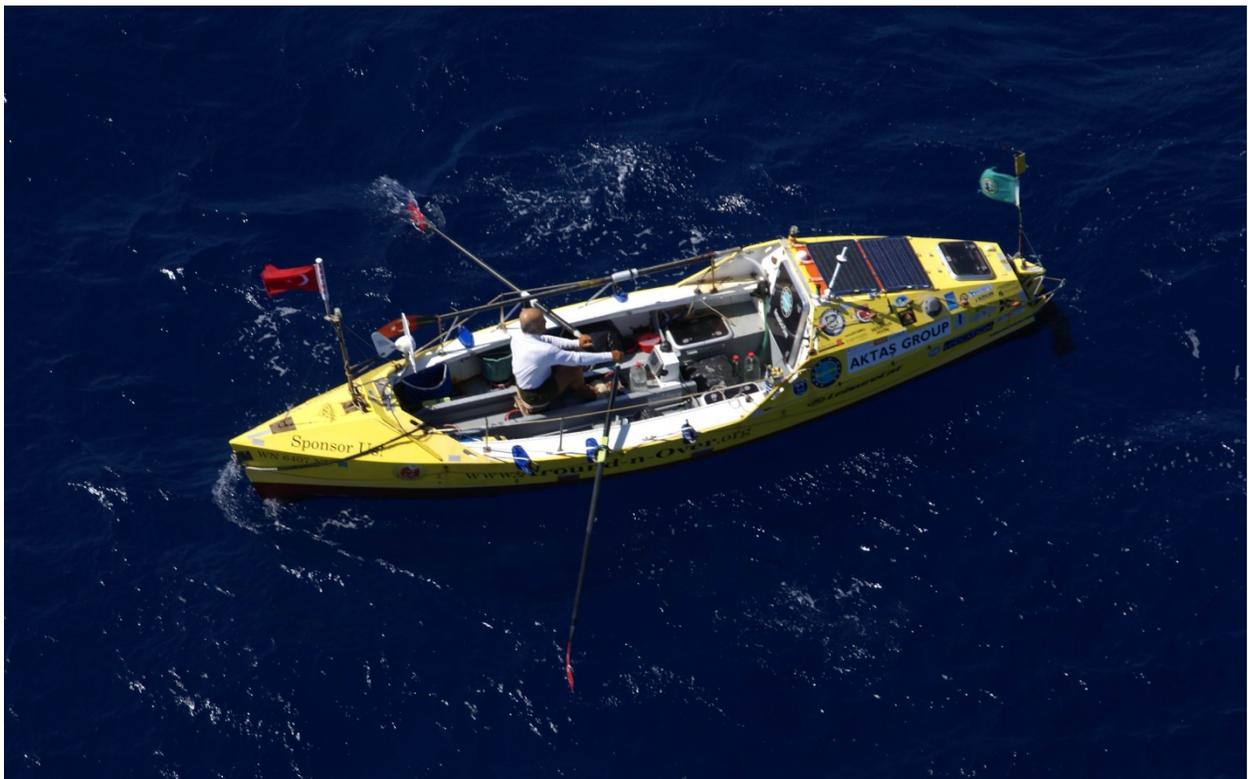
Above - The wise words issued by Atatürk in 1934 are immortalized on a monument on the Gallipoli battlefields.

Right – A Mehmetçik carrying a wounded allied officer back to the ANZAC trenches during a ceasefire. This monument depicts an actual event that took place where an Ottoman soldier waved a white flag then stepped out of his own trench to carry a wounded Lt. Casey out of harm's way, who later became Lord Casey, the 16th Governor General of Australia in 1965. This symbolizes the compassion and chivalry that developed between the warring parties.





“The first solo circumnavigation by human power” route completed by Erden Eruç in 5 years 11 days.



Erden Eruç, rowing on the Indian Ocean, northwest of Madagascar, Nov 2011