

Mackay

ON MONEY

BY FINANCIAL ADVISER CHRIS MACKAY

I was multi tasking the other day and contemplating a few things. Some guys can do this you know!

I was thinking about my grandfather, a wonderful man, memories of whom always make me feel sad but ... happy, and I was reminiscing about the movie starring Colin Firth playing the reluctant King George VI.

And I was thinking about another film I once saw called *The Prince and the Pauper* where a rich regal kid and a poor plebian kid born at the same time were then swapped.

Edward VII's grandson Prince Albert (hero of *The King's Speech*) did not believe he was going to end up at the Battle of Jutland in 1916 and to later become King George VI. My grandfather Arch Williamson did not fantasize as a young lad that he was going to end up at the Battle of the Somme in 1916 either.

For a couple of boys (rich kid, poor kid) born on the same day on December 14, 1895 at opposite ends of the globe, their early 20s were not what they expected.

According to his letters, Pa enlisted for overseas service on June 5, 1915, aged 19.

He went to Trentham Camp and from what I had always believed from family folklore, he was due to be sent to the Gallipoli peninsular a month or so later, but contracted measles and was stuck back in Upper Hutt recovering for some time. Now my research has not discovered whether we were still sending our boys to die in Turkey in the second part of 1915, but regardless, our family is very thankful that Arch was not sent to Gallipoli at all in World War One. Most likely you would not be reading this if he had! Instead he ended up spilling his blood in France in the days leading up to Messines, having been wounded by a German gas shell And yes in case you are not keeping up, he did survive!

Visiting Gallipoli or Gelibolu in Turkish, has been on my bucket list for some time and in August, I ticked it off. That experience fed my musings which led to this circuitous introduction. This is my take on the background to Anzac Day in 1915.

From what I have heard, seen and read,

the Turks could have ended up being part of the Allied side in WWI. Apparently the majority of Turks in what was left of the Ottoman Empire felt closer to France and Great Britain than to Germany. However, Russia was part of the Allies and Turkey and Russia had long been "worst friends". Neutrality was another option.

Step back a few years to 1908, when the "Young Turk Revolution" broke out and a young guy called Enver Pasha quickly became one of its military leaders. He introduced a military triumvirate with two other blokes also called Pasha.

Incidentally, the same Enver Pasha according to Wikipedia, later initiated the genocide against the empire's Armenian population which resulted in between 1 million and 1.5 million deaths.

Furthermore, it turns out that this Enver Pasha fellow who had received military training in Germany before the war, was the architect of what would later become





Sultans' names, the new battleships sailed through the Dardanelles, up the Marmara into the Bosphorus and then steamed across the Black Sea and opened fire on various Russian ports. Meantime the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus were closed to foreign ships, and mines were laid in the Dardanelles. Russia's lifeline to the Mediterranean was cut. Being more than slightly miffed about this, Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire and so did Britain and France three days later on Guy Fawkes Day 1914.

Russia was isolated by sea from her Allies and wanted some support from her komradskies. She wanted a clear passage from the Black Sea, through the Bosphorus,

Continued on page 10...

the Turkish German alliance in 1914. Before or concurrent with the start of the war, Turkey had ordered and paid for two battleships from Britain. Turkey was pretty well bankrupt, but they funded this purchase by a campaign of public subscriptions. Everyone got behind it. Kids donated their pocket money. It was lucky they coughed up early on, because inflation ran at about 400 per cent p.a. during the war years and assuming they paid for the ships in pounds, it just would not have been a goer later on.

This is all academic however because in early August 1914, while the Turkish crews were in England waiting to man the ships and bring them home, Winston Churchill, part of the government, (and someone who you will hear about a bit later), suddenly commandeered the already paid for ships, for use by the British Navy. An inspired piece of serendipity, because some historians say the Pasha lads had a day earlier signed a secret treaty with the Germans to join forces with them. Duplicitous all around it seems.

The Turkish public back home believed the Brits had reneged on the deal but were delighted when Germany then gave the Turks a couple of spare battleships that had been floating around. The Kaiser's boys provided a Teutonic commander and German sailors whom they dressed in Ottoman uniforms and crowned in fezzes.

Now Turkey is a country divided into a European side and an Asian side, separated by the Sea of Marmara which feeds in to the Bosphorus (which bisects the European and Asian side of Istanbul too) and which in turn leads into the Black Sea. The narrow bit of sea at the start of the Marmara Sea is called the Dardanelles. The land on the north western side of the Dardanelles is called the Gallipoli peninsula.

Under their German commander and crew, freshly signwritten with Turkish

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A disclosure statement is available on request and free of charge.



WHATEVER THE WEATHER, THIS SUMMER WILL BE "DRY"

BY PRUE LAMASON

You may already have noticed one of the Stuart Macaskill storage lakes in Te Marua is empty. The lake will be out of action this summer – halving our normal water reserves...

The lake is being upgraded to increase its strength in an earthquake and its storage capacity. It is a crucial piece of work for Greater Wellington, as at present there's a risk of significant cracking of the lake lining from a major earthquake, which would cause leakage.

The upgrade work will also add another 400 million litres of stored water – enough to maintain normal supply for up to two weeks longer in a drought. So it is an important step to maintain a reliable water supply – especially during dry periods – for the four cities' (Upper Hutt, Hutt, Porirua and Wellington) growing population.

However, the upgrade does mean the southern lake will be empty this summer (2011/12) and the northern lake will be empty in summer 2012/13. And if there are any delays, a lake may be empty in summer 2013/14.

With an empty lake, it will be harder to overcome a shortage of water from our rivers (which supply about 60 per cent of our water) if we get the kind of warm, dry summer most of us hope for. But if everyone saves a bit more water this summer, it will go a long way towards ensuring there is enough for essential uses and avoiding tough restrictions.

If it is a dry spring or summer, extra water savings will be necessary. So now is a great time to start preparing for the possibility of less water being available.

Spring is ideal for mulching your garden – mulching reduces the need for garden watering because it traps moisture in the soil. Using a hose-trigger (which lets you turn the water on and off instantly as needed) and timers for garden irrigation systems can help you save hundreds of litres of water.

Fixing leaking taps, pipes and toilets is important. Putting a one to two litre plastic soft drink bottle filled with water in your

toilet's cistern (if it is a "one-flush" toilet) will save a litre or two with every flush and should not reduce the effectiveness of your toilet. You could also install a shower flow restrictor (this has the added benefit of saving on your power bills).

House and window washing or water-blasting can also use a lot of water. Consider bringing them forward to spring or delaying them until autumn.

WHEN SUMMER COMES...

You will not be on your own – we are working with Upper Hutt and Hutt City Councils (as well as Porirua and Wellington) to keep you informed on how much water is available and provide simple tips on how you can help.

There are other easy things you can do during summer that will make a difference – like not leaving the tap on while brushing your teeth, taking shorter showers and only doing full loads of washing.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE WATER THIS SUMMER:

www.gw.govt.nz/water

COUNCIL RESTRICTIONS

It is important to follow your local council's restrictions on garden watering. Upper Hutt's restrictions are in force all year, while Hutt City's are in force during Daylight Saving (check with your local council for details). As in previous summers, council water patrols will be on the streets checking people are following local water restrictions.

The councils each have annual programmes to locate and quickly fix leaks in city pipelines, as well as helping to locate leaks on private property and advising on how to fix them. Councils are also taking care to manage watering of public parks and gardens effectively and installing more water-efficient fittings in council facilities.

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...continued from page 9

down the Sea of Marmara and squeezing out via the Dardanelles into the Aegean and thence into the Mediterranean.

January 1915 and enter Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty who wanted to help the Rusksies. Through Admiral Carden, the British fleet assaulted the Dardanelles in February 1915. Fourteen British battleships in all, along with four French ships blasted the 15th century forts with 15 inch guns. No luck. The Turkish resistance held. Carden was sacked. Vice Admiral De Robeck took over. Another full scale crack at opening up the Dardanelles crapped out on March 18, 1915. A French ship and two Pommy ones were blown apart by mines and the Brits withdrew. The Turks were rapt, not having had a military victory for some years but also realized like Paul Revere, the British (and the Allies) would not give up and were still coming. This gave the Turks time to fortify their positions.

Churchill, we believe, if it had all gone to plan had wanted to sail up through the Dardanelles, up the Marmara and from the Bosphorus blast the hell out of the historic Constantinople, later named Istanbul, beating the Turks into submission. If you had been a member of the Constantinople Historic Places' Trust, this would have created a seriously bad hair day, the city being full of ancient palaces and churches/mosques.

Winston was an unhappy chappy having had two Admirals perform a less than admirable job. They needed some further military grunt. A land attack was necessary. "The Straights are not likely to be forced by battleships alone; it must be a deliberate and prepared military operation, carried out at full strength to open a passage for the navy," said Sir Ian Hamilton, Commander of the troops at the Dardanelles. And once the Dardanelles were clear, Churchill could sort out Constantinople, allow the Russians to be able to sail into the Mediterranean and provide a back door entrance for the Allies advancing the fight towards Germany from the south. Simple really. Warfare 101.

Unfortunately for Churchill, he did not count on the resolve of the Turks and in particular a military commander called Mustafa Kemal who later was to lead Turkey into the modern world.

Next time I will explore where our brave Kiwi boys and our digger mates fitted into the whole debacle.