

Don't let Anzac Day be used to promote today's wars

AS THE COUNTRY GETS READY to commemorate the loss of thousands of New Zealand lives 100 years ago at Gallipoli, the government is preparing to commit us to another brutal intervention in Iraq—a war that the American government expects 'could last years.'

Today's government has now deployed a joint ANZAC military force. Despite publicly committing itself to no more than a 'training team' of 40, the NZ Defence Force is training its soldiers for Middle East combat 'just in case.' When asked why New Zealand might join an ANZAC-badged unit, the prime minister replied 'one argument could possibly be the 100 years commemoration of Gallipoli.' He has stepped away from that idea now realising many saw it for the transparent propaganda exercise it was.

New Zealand has followed America, Britain and Australia into the Middle East before. In 2003, NZ supported the US occupation with engineers, a frigate and surveillance aircraft all helping to contribute to the current disastrous situation.

Gallipoli was a bloodbath. The US invasion of Iraq in 2003 was a bloodbath. Both wars were wrong. Both were avoidable.

Oppose New Zealand involvement in the current conflict.



LEST WE REMEMBER

For 100 years our military myth-makers have been trying to rewrite history. The NZ government and its defence force today still seek to take over the memory of World War I through their celebrations of Anzac Day, lest we remember what really happened and why.

LEST WE REMEMBER...

that WWI was not fought in defence of ideals of democracy and freedom, but rather in defence of European empire and industry. New technology such as the machine gun saw young men turned into mass cannon fodder at the mercy of a relentless and dehumanizing industrial war machine applied to goals of empire.

LEST WE REMEMBER...

that many Iwi, such as Taranaki, Waikato and Tuhoe strongly opposed the war, causing the government to rope in young men in Niue and the Cook Islands instead.

LEST WE REMEMBER...

that the victories of WWI extended Western colonialism in the Middle East. After signing the armistice in 1918 British troops continued to advance on Iraqi oil fields. They ruled the local people with an iron fist, bombed and terrorised local people, and refused to negotiate with the nationalist Muslim groups that flourished as a result, labelling them 'extremists'.

LEST WE FORGET.