



## Ireland and Gallipoli

A joint conference by PRONI and Antrim and Down Western Front Association branch

30 April 2015, 10.00 to 16.00

Venue: Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), 2 Titanic Boulevard, BELFAST, BT3 9HQ.

The Gallipoli Campaign, known to the Turkish as the Battle of Çanakkale, still remains controversial. France, Britain and its dominion sought to eliminate Turkey from the Great War by landing on the northern bank of the Dardanelles, marching on the Ottoman capital Constantinople to open the Dardanelles sea channel to Russia. A brilliant strategic plan was marred by tactical failure and poor execution. The initial naval attack was repelled and subsequent land campaign also failed at a cost 250,000 allied casualties which led to the invasion force being evacuated in January 1916 after eight months of fighting. This conference seeks to examine this campaign 100 years on with special focus on the experience and role of Ireland and Irish people.

**[Draft programme – subject to change]**

10 am: Arrival, registration and morning tea/coffee

10.30-10.45 – Welcome, introduction and opening remarks by Tom Thorpe, Chair, Antrim and Down WFA

Session 1 (Chair: Dr Timothy Bowman, University of Kent)

10.45-11.15 - Prof Keith Jeffery, Professor of British History, Queen's University Belfast, Ireland and Gallipoli (tbc)

11.15-11.45 - Dr. Stephen Sandford, Queen's University Belfast, 10th Irish Division at Gallipoli (tbc)

11.45-12.15 – John Lee, author of *A Soldier's Life: General Sir Ian Hamilton 1853 to 1947* (London, 2001), General Sir Ian Hamilton and Gallipoli (confirmed, title tbc)

12.15-13.00 – Panel discussion

13.00-14.00 - Lunch

Session 2 (Chair: Ian Montgomery, PRONI)

14.00-14.30 – Dr. Timothy Bowman, University of Kent, Gallipoli and British Grand Strategy (confirmed)

14.30-15.00 – Ian Montgomery, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Irishmen at Gallipoli: Stories from the PRONI archives (tbc)

15.00-15.30 - Prof Jeff Kildea, Keith Cameron Chair, University College Dublin, subject tbc

15.30-16.00 – Panel discussion/closing remarks