

# Turkish Area Studies Review

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## TEENAGE SPRING IN GALLIPOLI

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Spring flowers in riot  
in Rumelia's Chunk Bhair  
showing how sublime life can be  
even under shellfire.

Murat of Travnik  
son of Murat  
Murat Muratovic  
in his seventeen  
holding the line  
in a trench of Lone Pine.

This is Gallipoli  
in the year of nineteen fifteen  
lines full of soldiers  
riotous flowers in between.

Youngsters daydream  
on both sides of the divide  
the earth is their shield  
like their mothers  
her scent so sweet  
firing their desire  
to go soon  
away from here.

Dreams tumble  
like a wounded horseman  
from his horseback  
when Mehmet the Pomak  
carries the news  
it is time to attack  
while the sun is out  
catching the eyes  
of the Anzac.

Murat's best mate  
Artin  
hugs him tight  
begging forgiveness  
from the bottom of his heart  
for errors on his part  
if any.

Ladders stand erect  
bayonets fixed  
all ready to take  
the final step.

Ottoman officer Abbas  
the eagle of Kafkas  
in his spotless uniform  
topped with shining stars  
blows the whistle  
to take his boys  
heavens above.

Fears submerge  
nothing matters any more  
fighters surge  
in a deafening roar;

Allah, Allah, Allah, Allah,  
Allah, Allah, Allah,  
Allah, Allah,  
Allah,  
All,  
A.

Suddenly  
the breeze eased  
wild flowers stopped swinging  
the Lone Pine in tears  
begging them not to hop  
over the top.

Murat sensed  
he had a few minutes life left  
in his slight frame  
he knew  
he'll never see his mother  
and more than that  
he won't ever taste  
the excitement of kissing  
his Leyla  
for the first time.

Trench came alive  
no time to waste  
soldiers in their haste  
hugging their friends  
saying goodbye  
a few jokes in the air  
to ease the awesome fear.

Murat was the last to fall  
in Lone Pine's shadow  
as he was parting  
caught the eyes of the Anzac  
who pumped five into him  
a teenager born in Connemara  
Michael O'Hara  
his eyes just as blue  
but watery  
for the last two bullets  
were unnecessary.

Pearl drops in Irish eyes  
Murat's last consolation  
knowing for sure  
at least he cared.

Hundred and four springs past  
since Lone Pine cried  
hills in their Sunday best  
waiting to welcome  
visitors from far  
for Michael and Murat  
who were left behind.



### Conferences & Organisations

## The Levantines: Identities and Heritage

The Levantine Heritage Foundation's 3rd  
International Conference, Athens, 2-3 November 2018



As I compose this report Greece's Parliament has recently voted narrowly to ratify agreement to a change of name to one of the country's northern neighbours. But the newly agreed name 'Republic of Northern Macedonia' may not finally put to bed a dispute that has lasted nearly three decades, given that many Greeks are fiercely opposed to their neighbour's use of the name 'Macedonia'. It's all a question, we are