



Censorship

The official reason for censoring the press at Gallipoli, as well as soldiers' letters was to prevent military information falling into the hands of the enemy. The unofficial reasons varied but basically the censors didn't want stories that would 'excite public alarm' thus affecting morale and recruitment. And they didn't want the public knowing about any poor decisions made by the campaign's generals.

For these reasons all reporters at Gallipoli had their stories censored. The list of banned topics for reporters was long. It included details or examples of:

- the size, movement and condition of the Allied forces
- the plans for present or future operations
- defensive works or fortifications
- anything likely to upset relations between the various Allied countries
- the high death toll
- the lack of progress
- behaviour by soldiers that showed they were scared
- cowardice
- the 'dark' side of war, for example, soldiers mistreating Turkish prisoners-of-war
- bad tactics and strategies from the officers
- disorganisation of the troops
- unsanitary conditions.