Gallipoli to Macedonia: two differing literary and cultural images of war
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The Macedonian front engaged thousands of British and British empire soldiers and civilians, including representatives of the arts and literature. Notable examples were, in the visual arts, Stanley Spencer; in literature Hugh MacDiarmid; in music Ralph Vaughan Williams, after Elgar the greatest English composer of the first half of the 20th century, and his friend Gustav Holst. But Macedonia did not engage the British imagination in the same way that Gallipoli did, and it is worth asking why. This paper contrasts the experiences of Gallipoli and Macedonia as seen through the eyes and the words of poets, and as reflected back home in Britain.