

ISSUE 15 - APRIL 2016

COMBAT



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ANZAC

DAY

2016



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MINIATURE MACHINE GUNS



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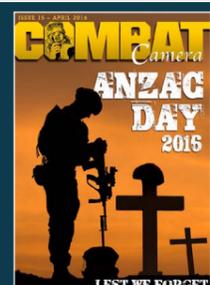
SUPPORTING



EDITORIAL

Issue 15 – April 2016

COMBAT
Camera



2016
ANZAC DAY
Special issue

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Welcome to a very special one-off issue of **COMBAT Camera** magazine – issue number 15.

We put together this extra issue of **COMBAT Camera** so that we could use way more of the great ANZAC Day images produced by the photographers of the Australian Defence Force than would otherwise be possible in a six- or eight-page report in **CONTACT**.

We also did it because we hate waiting until 1 June to report on the important and poignant activities of 25 April.

And, while we weren't able to use all the beautiful photos the ADF produced this year, we did manage to fit in a pretty decent spread from all around Australia, New Zealand and overseas.

Putting a magazine like this together isn't exactly easy, especially in a short timeframe (and yes, I did burn some midnight oil (and got a little snappy with Rosie) over this past week), but it is made so much easier when you have such great photos to work with – especially photos such as those produced by Corporal Jake Sims on the front cover and several pages to follow. Well done that man.

We also want to thank Military Shop for sponsoring this publication at short notice (I didn't actually decide to produce this magazine until Tuesday, after I saw the quality and quantity of photos available from the ADF).

Speaking of Military Shop – you may or may not be aware that Contact Publishing has a very special and growing relationship with this retailer, so I encourage you to support them. And, in the interest of full disclosure, I do declare that we get a small commission from Military Shop when you buy from them, if they know that you are a **CONTACT** fan.

So, if/when you shop in their massive on-line store, please use the appropriate drop-down menu during checkout to let them know you are one of us.

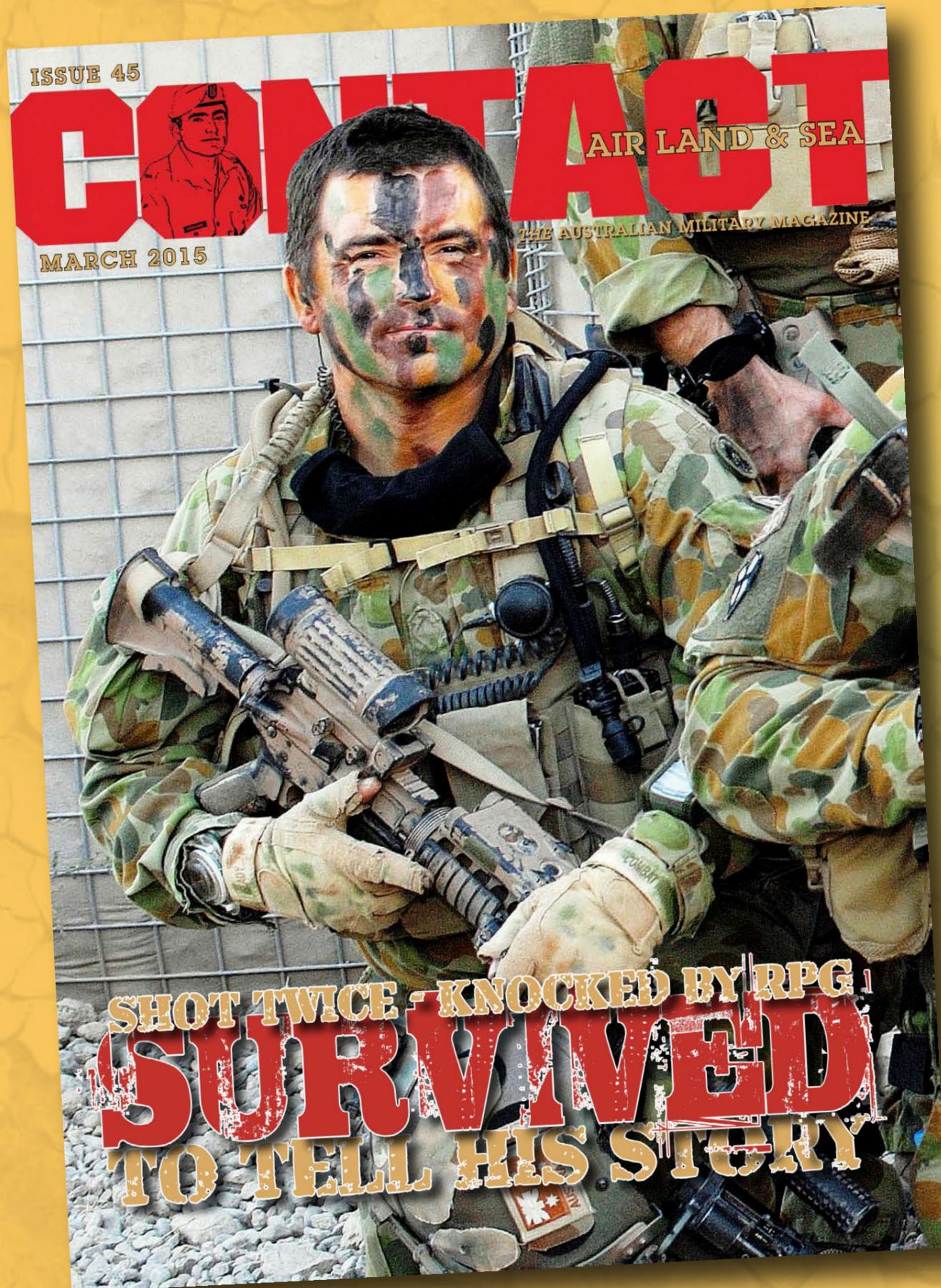
Another reason we are delighted to support Military Shop is because they also support Soldier On. In fact, in the first year of their **Centenary of the Great War** collections and collectables, they have raised more than \$250,000 for Soldier On – and we are very proud to be associated with that.

Anyway, I sincerely hope you enjoy this extra, bonus, FREE magazine. Please pass it on to anyone you want – and encourage them to sign up for their own FREE subscription.

Sincerely,

Brian Hartigan
Managing Editor

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Private Andrew Lawrence, a member of Task Group Taji, commemorates ANZAC Day at the Taji Military Complex, Iraq.



Australian Army soldiers from Task Group Taji, commemorate ANZAC Day at the Taji Military Complex, Iraq.



Private Alex Ogilvie, a member of Task Group Taji, plays the 8/9RAR bugle (inset) during the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Taji Military Complex, Iraq.



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ON OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

PHOTO BY CORPORAL JAKE SIMS



Private Patrick Schill, a member of Task Group Taji, serving in Iraq on ANZAC Day 2016.



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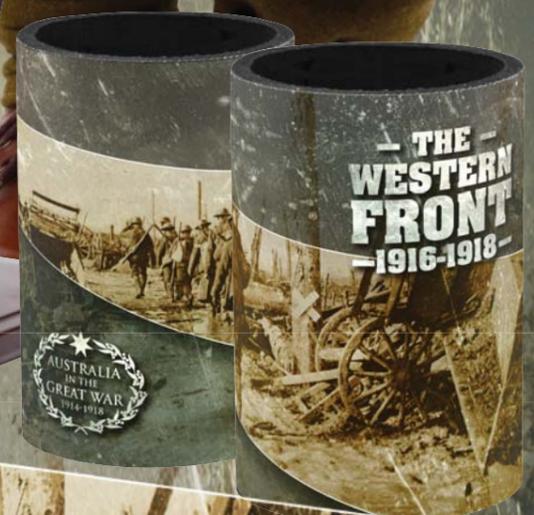


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ON OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

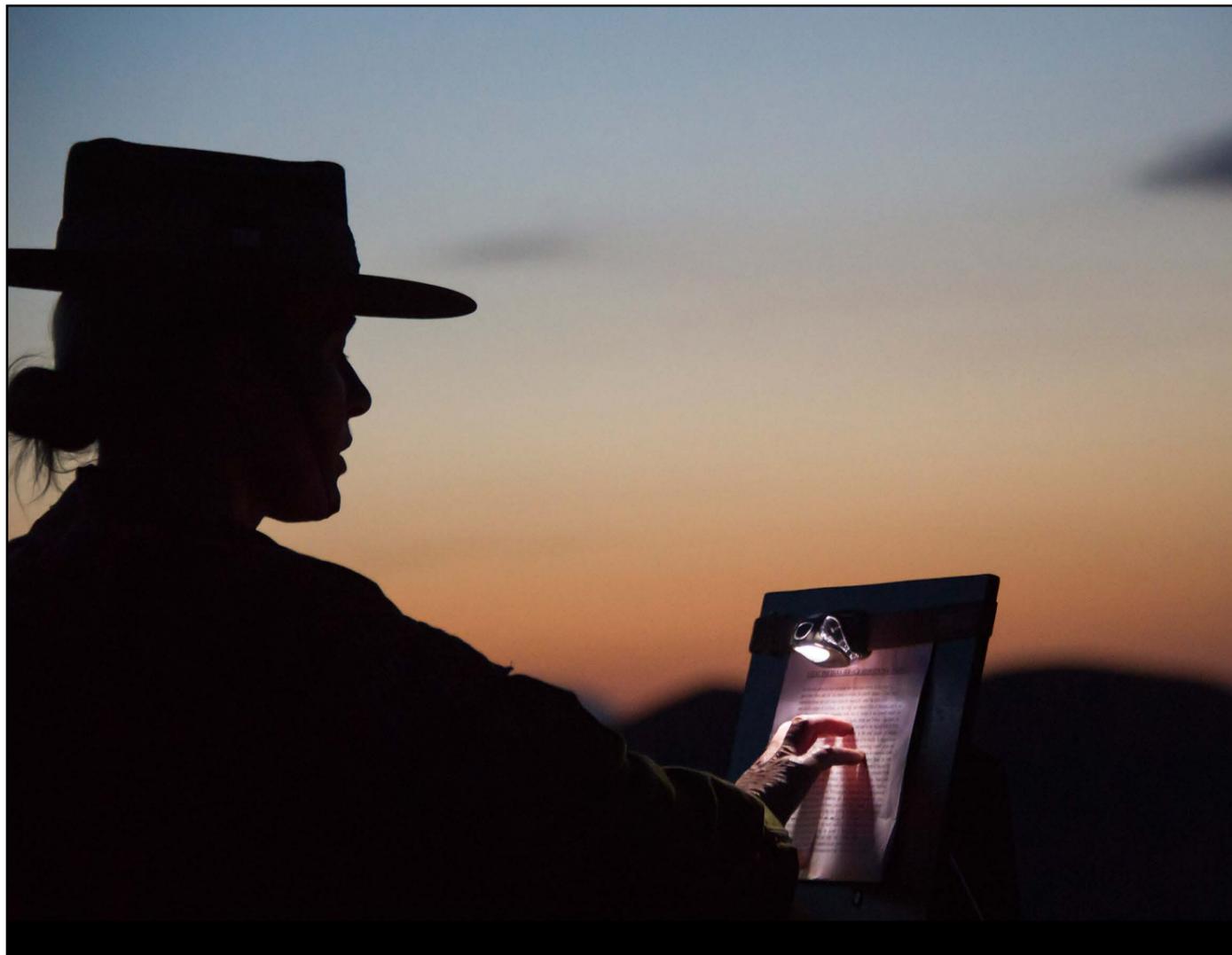
Coalition servicemen and women, including Australian Defence Force personnel, deployed to Afghanistan, staged an ANZAC Day Dawn service atop Mount Charandaz overlooking Camp Qargha, on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan.





HIGH ROAD

The ADF's commitment to Afghanistan is known as Operation HIGHROAD and is fulfilled by personnel serving with the ADF's Task Group Afghanistan, headquartered at Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport with a command element of about 45 personnel. Another 250 ADF members and Defence civilians are deployed in Afghanistan under Operation HIGHROAD with the NATO-led train, advise and assist mission called Resolute Support.



MANITOU

Since 1990, the Royal Australian Navy has conducted maritime security operations in the Middle East. Operation MANITOU is the current name for the Australian government's contribution to support international efforts to promote maritime security, stability and prosperity in the Middle East Region. An enhanced security environment ensures Australia's safe and open access to the region while fostering trade and commerce. HMAS Darwin is currently deployed on Operation MANITOU - her seventh and the Royal Australian Navy's 62nd rotation since 1990.



OKRA ATG

Australia's Air Task Group is conducting air combat and support operations in Iraq and Syria, operating within a US-led international coalition assembled to disrupt and degrade Deash (also known as ISIL). ATG consists of six Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18 Hornets, an E-7A Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft and a KC-30A Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) and support personnel.



Wreath ushers Leading Aircraftwoman Kerry Paszyn and Corporal Camille Elderhurst.



Dawn Service bugler Leading Aircraftman Liam Bone.



Royal Australian Air Force Chaplain, Squadron Leader Robyn Kidd.

Support Base

Operation ACCORDION's mission is to support and sustain Australian Defence Force operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, enable contingency planning and enhance regional relationships in the Middle East Region.

Operation ACCORDION's supporting units are:

- Force Communications Element (FCE)
- Force Support Element (FSE)
- Combat Support Unit (CSU)
- Air Component Command Element – Middle East Region (ACCE-MER)
- Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) Detachment
- Air Movement Task Unit (AMTU)
- Joint Movements Coordination Centre (JMCC), and
- ADF Investigation Service (ADVIS).



Just some of the support staff at Camp Baird in the Middle East.



RAAF Corporal Chris Dwyer places a poppy on a plaque commemorating a fallen Australian soldier at Camp Baird in the Middle East.



Dawn Service 'bugler' RAAF Corporal Andrew Strange.



SOLDIER ON
HELPING OUR
WOUNDED
WARRIORS



SOLDIER ON IS ABOUT AUSTRALIANS COMING TOGETHER TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR OUR WOUNDED. IT'S ABOUT TELLING OUR DIGGERS THAT WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE THEIR BACKS; THAT WE WILL REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE COME HOME, AS WELL AS THOSE THAT HAVE DIED. IT'S ABOUT GIVING THE WOUNDED THE DIGNITY THEY DESERVE AND THE CHANCE TO DO AND BE WHATEVER THEY CHOOSE.

SOLDIER ON IS ABOUT THE ANZAC SPIRIT, AND MATESHIP AND ALL AUSTRALIANS KEEPING THEIR PROMISE TO TAKE CARE OF OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS.



INSPIRE, ENHANCE AND EMPOWER

Our wounded have done their part for Australia, they have given their best. Thousands have wounds, some you can see and some you can't. It is now Australia's turn to look after them, please give generously and make a difference in our wounded warriors lives.

In the Nation's Capital

An estimated 55,000 visitors gathered on 25 April at the Australian War Memorial for the 2016 Anzac Day Dawn Service, with a further 11,000 turning out for the National Ceremony and veterans' march later in the morning.

Director of the Australian War Memorial Brendan Nelson said he was proud of the commitment and dedication of everyday Australians to the annual commemoration of Anzac Day.

"The attendance at this year's Dawn Service shows the enduring connection so many people have to Anzac Day and what it represents for our servicemen and servicewomen – and indeed for all Australians," Dr Nelson said.

"Anzac Day is the day we remember the commitment and sacrifice of all our men and women who have served in conflicts and on operational service, and those who continue to serve today."

For the fourth year in a row, images of Australian servicemen and servicewomen were projected onto the front

façade of the Memorial prior to the Dawn Service.

The pre-dawn proceedings also featured a series of readings by Australian servicemen and servicewomen, including Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG.

The Dawn Service commenced with, Sergeant Norman Daymirringu, Patrol Commander, Arnhem Squadron, North-West Mobile Force (NORFORCE) and Tribal Elder of the Yolngu Tribe, playing the didgeridoo from a parapet of the Memorial.



Photo by Sergeant Janine Fabre



Photo by Leading Seaman Jake Badior

Dr Brendan Nelson said he was delighted to see large crowds in attendance at today's Anzac Day National Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

"Anzac Day is a time for all Australians to come together to commemorate the sacrifices made by Australian servicemen and servicewomen in every theatre of war and operational service.

"Importantly, this year marks 100 years since the arrival of Australian troops on the Western Front. In fact, more Australians lost their lives on the Western Front than in any other theatre of war.

"The bravery and courage of Australian soldiers at Fromelles, and on the Somme at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm has created a remarkable legacy for our nation.

The Commemorative Address at the National Ceremony was delivered by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, while Dr Nelson delivered a very poignant Anzac Day Dawn Service Address...

"Australians all let us rejoice - for we are young and free.

With a sense of awkward humility, abiding reverence and overwhelming pride, we pause here at the Australian War Memorial - free and confident heirs to a legacy born of idealism, forged in self-sacrifice and passed now to our generation.

We gather in renewed commitment to one another, our nation and the ideals of mankind.

Young Australians and New Zealanders gave their all at Gallipoli, forging in bloody sacrifice the bond within which our two nations now live.

It heralded the cataclysm from which we emerged proud - but inconsolably mourning 62,000 Australian dead.



Photo by Lauren Larking



Photo by Lauren Larking

Witness to it all, Australia's official historian Charles Bean, wrote at its end:

"What these men did, nothing can alter now. The good and the bad.

The greatness and the smallness of their story.

'It rises, it always rises...above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men, and for their nation - a possession forever.'

Bean's account of an Australian digger arriving at the front trench before the assault on Lone Pine says it all:

"Jim here?" A voice rose from the fire step, "Yeah, right here Bill".

"Do you chaps mind movin' up a piece?" asked the first voice. "Him and me are mates - and we're goin' over together".

A generation later, Sergeant Jack Sim of the 39th Battalion endured the desperate struggle on the Kokoda Track:

Some prayed, some swore with fear - but you couldn't show it in front of your mates. One of the

boys got shot fair between the eyes right alongside me. It was a perfect shot...terrible to be afraid. Yet it's the brave ones that are afraid and still keep going. That's what they did you know. Scared bloody stiff and still kept going. They were so young. They were so young. I loved them all.

It is tempting, human beings that we are, to settle for broad brushstrokes, headlines and shallow imagery of history. Our comfortable lives breed easy indifference to individual sacrifices made in our name and devotion to duty.

102,700 Australians are named on the Roll of Honour. Like us, each had only one life, one chance to serve others and our nation.

They chose us.

No Australians have given more, nor worked harder to shape our values and our beliefs, the way we relate to one another and see our place in the world, than those who have worn and who now wear the uniform of the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force.



Photo by Lauren Larking

Representatives from the New Zealand Defence Force lay a wreath during the 2016 Anzac Day Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commemoration Ceremony held on the slopes of Mt Ainslie in Canberra.

They have given us a greater belief in ourselves and a deeper understanding of what it means to be Australian.

They, and especially the physically and emotionally wounded veterans amongst us and the families who love and support them, remind us that there are some truths by which we live that are worth fighting to defend.

To young Australians – your search for belonging, meaning and values for the world you want, ends here.

Enshrined in stained-glass windows, sentinel above the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier, are 15 values informing character:

RESOURCE CANDOUR DEVOTION CURIOSITY
INDEPENDENCE COMRADESHIP ANCESTRY
PATRIOTISM CHIVALRY LOYALTY COOLNESS
CONTROL AUDACITY ENDURANCE DECISION

Our Australia enshrines principle above position and values before value.

Our responsibilities to one another, our nation and its future transcend and define our rights.

Charles Bean concluded that what made the Australian soldier so special, 'lay in the mettle of the men themselves'.

To be the kind of man that would give way when his mates were trusting to his firmness. To spend the rest of his life haunted by the 'knowledge' he had lacked the grit to carry it through, was a prospect with which these men could not live.

Life was very dear. But life was not worth living

unless they could be true to their ideal of Australian manhood.

A century later, SAS Sergeant 'S', reflecting on the battle of Tizak in Afghanistan said:

To fail would be worse than death. To let down your mates in combat, would be worse than death. I don't [even] know why I'm getting emotional about this. Yeah, that's it – that's the essence. You don't let your mates down.'

That is the essence.

The most fragile yet powerful of human emotions is hope – belief in a better future, a better world.

Hope is sustained most by men and women reaching out in support of one another – 'mates who go over together' and, though gripped with fear, don't let one another down.

Their spirit is here.

This place, this day – is not about war. It is about love and friendship. Love of family, of country – and honouring those who devote their lives not to themselves but to us. And their last moments to one another.

After the bloodbath at Fromelles, Sergeant Simon Fraser spent three backbreaking days bringing in the wounded from No Man's Land.

A lone voice pleaded through the fog, "Don't forget me clobber".

He didn't. We won't. We never will.

For we are young, and we are free.

Lest we forget.

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VETERANS SOLDIER ON

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old



Photo by Able Seaman Steven Thompson



Photo by Able Seaman Bonny Gassner

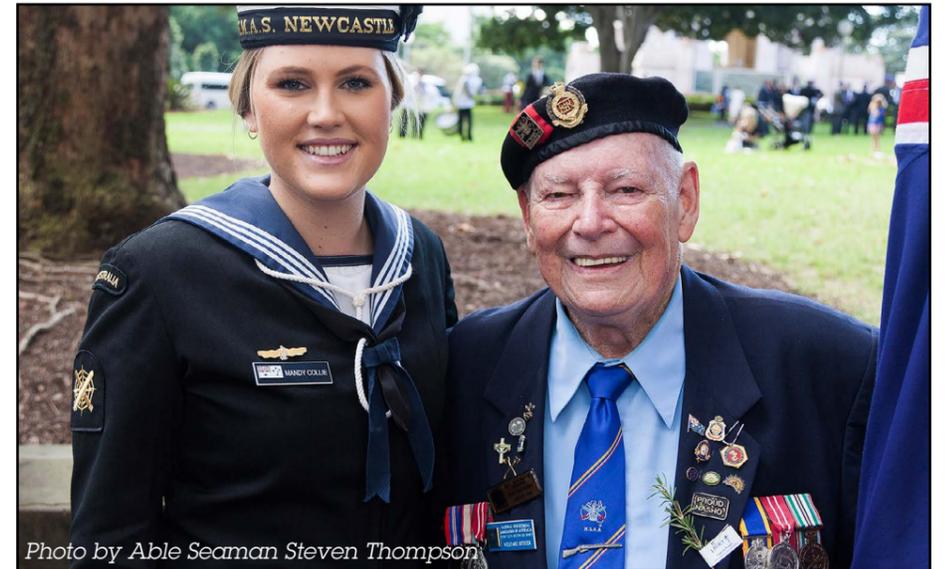


Photo by Able Seaman Steven Thompson



Photo by Leading Seaman Nina Fogliani

VETERANS SOLDIER ON

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn



Photo by Leading Seaman Dove Smithett



Photo by Leading Seaman Dove Smithett



Photo by Major Al Green



Photo by Sergeant Brett Sherriff



Photo by Sergeant Brett Sherriff



Photo by Able Seaman Bonny Gassner



Photo by Able Seaman Steven Thompson



Photo by Leading Seaman Sarah Williams



Photo by Able Seaman Bonny Gassner



Photo by Petty Officer Andrew Dakin



Photo by Able Seaman Kayla Hayes



Photo by Corporal Nunu Campos



Photo by Able Seaman Kayla Hayes



Photo by Corporal Nunu Campos



Photo by Sergeant Andrew Eddie



Photo by Able Seaman Kayla Hayes



Photo by Sergeant Christopher Dixon



Photo by Sergeant Christopher Dixon



Photo by Corporal Brenton Kwaterski

Photo by Corporal Casey Gaul



Photo by Major Al Green



Photo by Corporal Casey Gaul



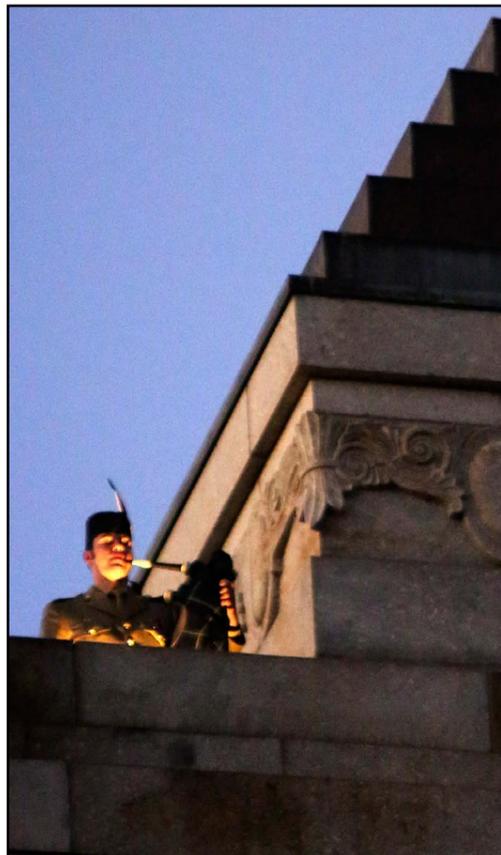
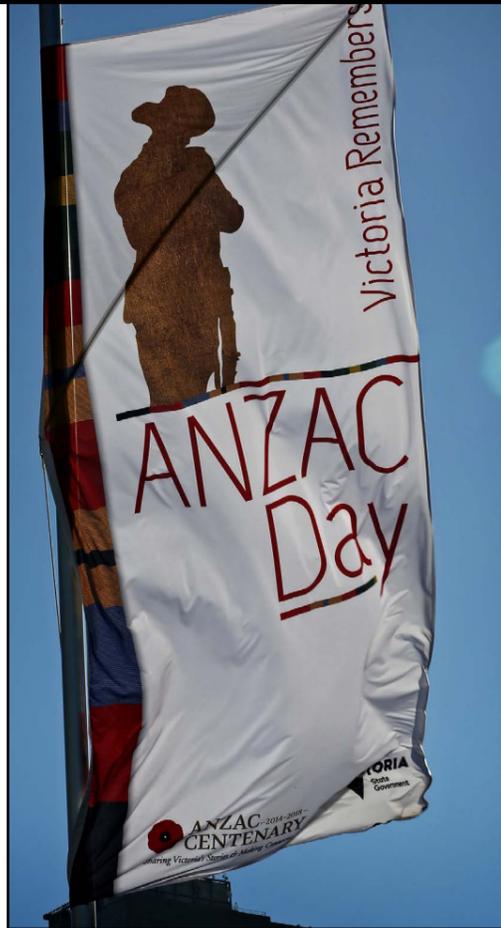




Photo by
Leading Seaman
Lee-Anne Mack



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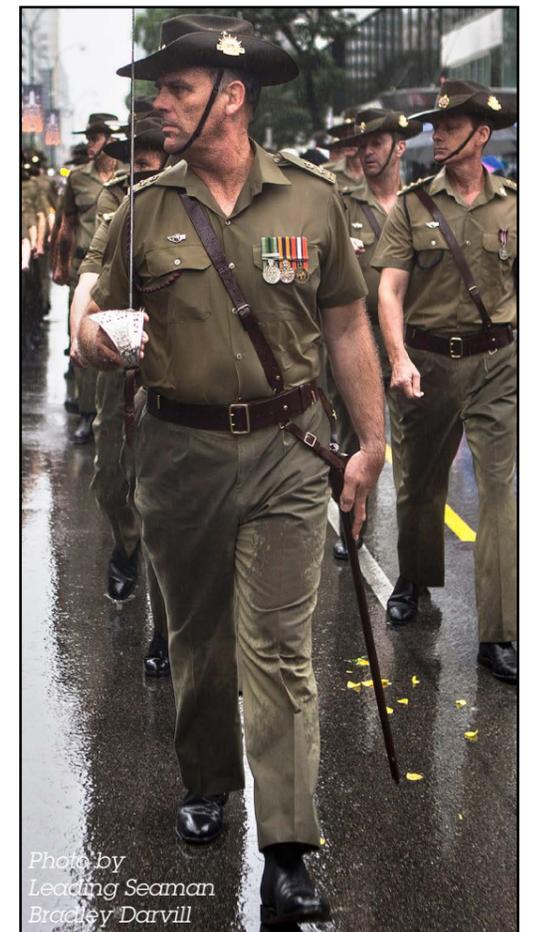


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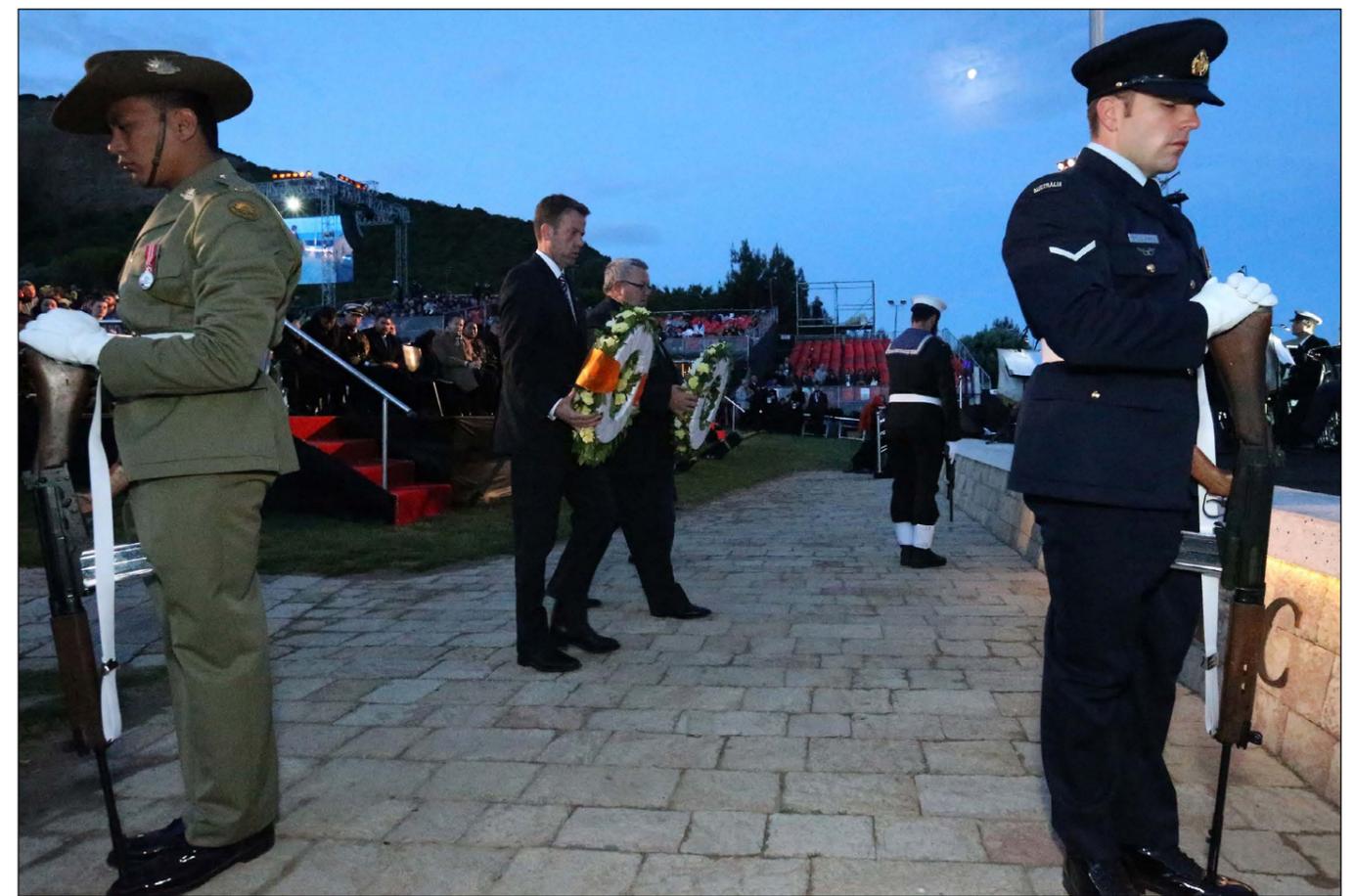
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ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

We stand here in this place to mark the sacrifice, the resolve and the bravery of the men who died for us.

We remember them through their story, a story that we carry as their descendants.

We have travelled here to pay our respects to the first Anzacs and to those who follow them.

It is a story of brave men who fought in a foreign land for our values, our freedoms and for our sovereignty.

We gather here because this is the place where that story began.

It is a story of courage, resilience and a unique Anzac spirit of rolling your sleeves up and getting the job done.

It is a story of people like Lieutenant Duncan Chapman, an office worker from Maryborough in Queensland.

Enlisting in Brisbane, Duncan had no idea of what awaited him in this place, half a world away.

As a member of the 9th Battalion, Lieutenant Chapman was in the first wave of Australian forces sent to land at Gallipoli.

In fact, 101 years ago, in this same dark dawn, Duncan was one of the very first Anzacs to land on these shores.

Surviving the landing, Duncan wrote:
"What a living Hell it was, too, and how I managed to go through it from 4 o'clock in the morning of Sunday, April 25th, to Wednesday, the 28th, under fire the whole time, without being hit, is a mystery to me."

Lieutenant Chapman spent four months on these hills and in these trenches fighting for his country. This steep terrain would have become his home.

Duncan was lucky enough to leave alive. Many others did not. Over 11,000 Australians and New Zealanders died in the eight-month-long ordeal that was the Gallipoli Campaign.

Thanks to the talents of Australian Lieutenant-Colonel Cyril Brudenell White, Duncan Chapman wasn't the only Anzac to leave these shores.

Duncan left in August, four months before the evacuation of the Anzac and Suvla sectors in December 1915, which saw more than 93,000 troops, 200 guns and over 5000 animals leave here without incident.

The remarkable story of the evacuation is often forgotten – an incredible feat of logistics. It was the task of moving a city the size of Rockhampton or Bunbury or Palmerston North from this peninsula without the enemy engaging.

This effort and its success was extraordinary.

It's not often that a withdrawal is held up as a victory. But so much of the Anzac story is more than ordinary.

The countless lives that were saved, the untold tragedy that was avoided, has meant that Anzac didn't end as a story that we remember bitterly.

Many Australians and New Zealanders died here. The Anzac story did not.

Lieutenant Chapman's story did not finish at Gallipoli. In Egypt, Duncan Chapman was present

ADDRESS AT GALLIPOLI

THE HON DAN TEHAN MP
 MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
 MINISTER ASSISTING THE PM
 FOR THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC
 MINISTER FOR DEFENCE MATERIEL



when General John Monash paraded the troops on the first Anzac Day in 1916.

Even at the time, Monash knew the importance of those first soldiers who fought at Gallipoli in the coming Western Front Campaign.

In a letter home, Monash recorded that *"Every man who had served on Gallipoli wore a blue ribbon on the right breast, and every man who, in addition, had taken part in the historic landing on 25 April 1915, wore a red ribbon also ... Alas how few of us are left who were entitled to wear both."*

Promoted to major, Duncan Chapman sailed from Egypt to France with the newly-raised 45th Battalion and entered the massive theatre of warfare on the Western Front.

On 6 August 1916, German shellfire killed Duncan Chapman at the battle of Pozieres, the centenary of which we commemorate this year.

He was 27.

Less than three weeks after Duncan Chapman's death, his father wrote to the Minister of Defence.

"It is a great blow to me in every way as he was my sole support. Still I gave him freely for the cause ... still we are human and would almost grudge what we gave. My heart is not very strong being 73 years of age."

Duncan's father died soon after.

Each year we remember the beginning of the story of Anzac here at Gallipoli. But while it began here we cannot forget where it has taken us.

It is a story that continued on the Western Front: at Fromelles, at Pozieres, at Passchendaele, at Villers-Bretonneux.

It is a story that continues wherever Australian or New Zealand service men and women are deployed today.

It is a story that continues in us, those who gather every year to remember.

Lest we forget.

'Defining page' in shared history



In cool and showery conditions, more than 1200 people attended the Dawn Service at the ANZAC Commemorative Site at North Beach on the Gallipoli peninsula on 25 April 2016, marking the 101st anniversary of the ANZAC landings.

The New Zealand government was represented by Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee and the New Zealand Defence Force by Chief of Air Force Air Vice-Marshal Tony Davies.

Delivering the Call to Remembrance at the beginning of the service, AVM Davies said the Gallipoli landings gave New Zealand and Australia a defining page in their histories.

"The achievements of the Anzacs who came ashore here and held these ridges for eight months, in awful and trying conditions, are rightly to be honoured, their endeavours remembered," he said.

"The shock of the first true experience of war was, for some, almost overwhelming, giving rise to feelings of guilt, grief and loss that, for many, would last the rest of their lives."

A varied reflective programme centred on explaining various aspects of the Gallipoli Campaign with a number of musical contributions from a combined NZDF/Australian Defence Force

band, presented from 8pm through to 5am, kept the crowd engaged, although most managed to get some sleep at some point during the night.

The reflective programme included the winning speech of the annual ANZ/RNZRSA Cyril Bassett VC prize – awarded in honour of the only New Zealander to receive the supreme gallantry award during the Gallipoli Campaign. This year's winner was Stephanie Simpson of Marlborough Girls' College.

Katanga, the Maori Call to Gathering, performed by the women of the NZDF, set the scene for the Dawn Service, which began at 5.30am.

Both Mr Brownlee and Australian Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan gave addresses and laid wreaths during the ceremony.

Flight Sergeant Kathleen Nikau, leader of the NZDF contingent's Maori Cultural Group, represented the NZDF in laying a wreath on behalf of military veterans.

Members of the public were also able to lay wreaths at the conclusion of the service.

The New Zealand Service at Chunuk Bair, which began at 11.30am, was also at full capacity for the site.

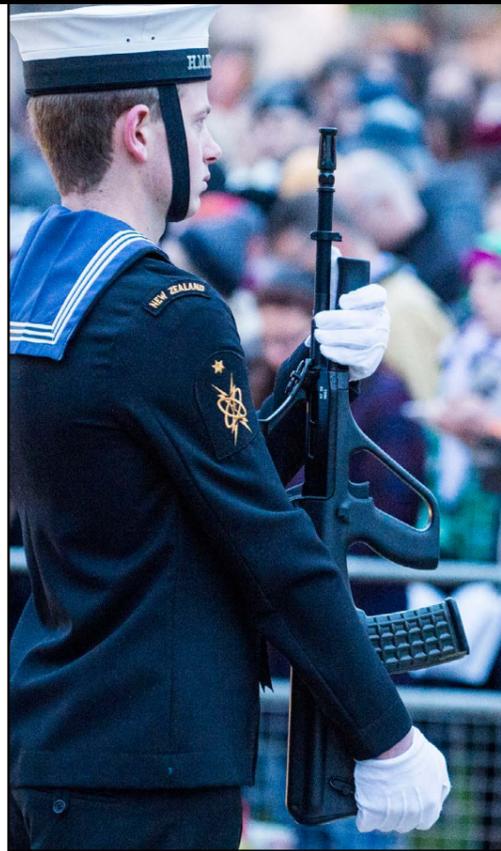
THE ANZAC SPIRIT LIVES IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF ALL AS WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH IN SHAPING THE IDENTITY OF TWO PROUD NATIONS

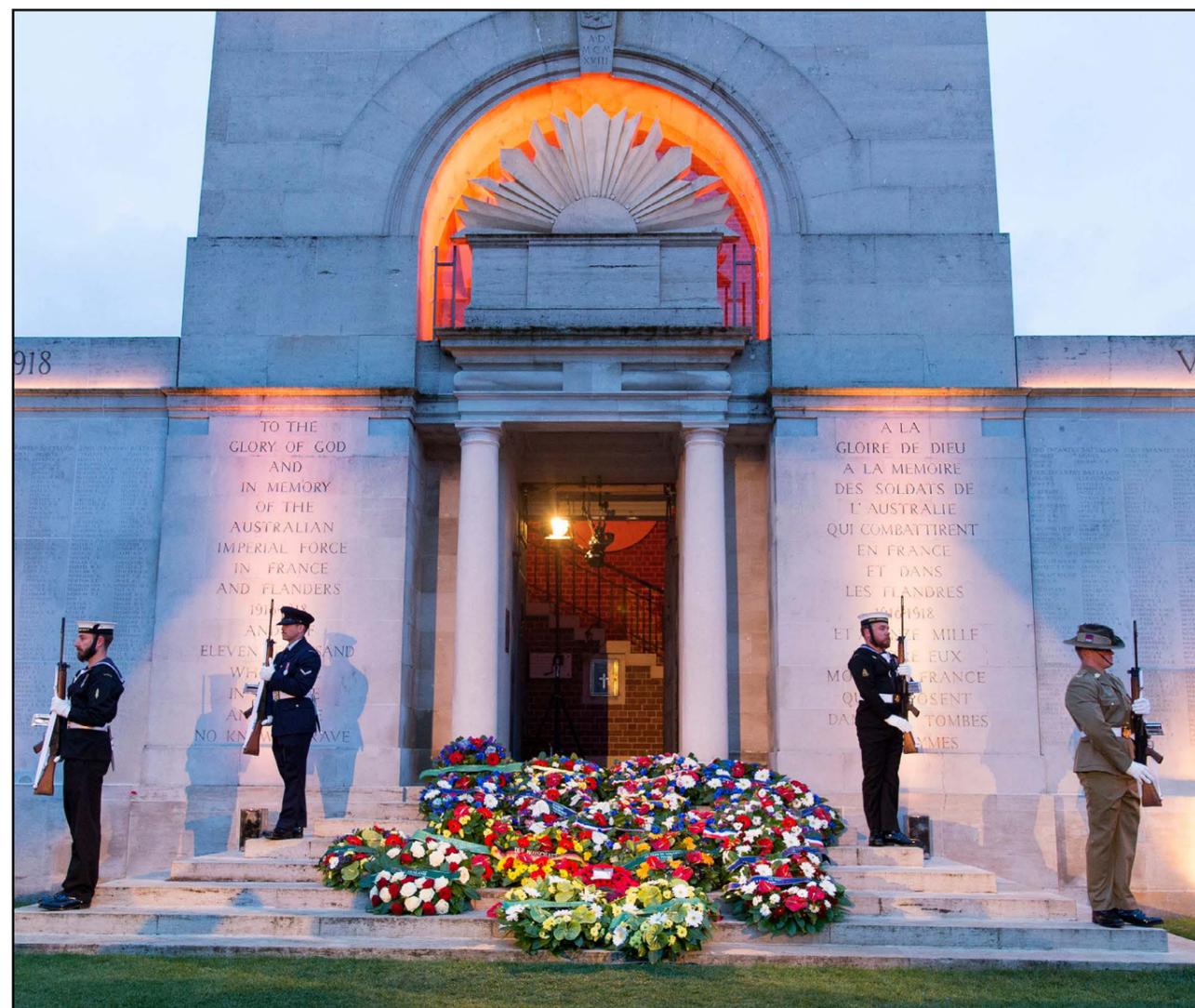


Hear our voices we entreat









25 April 1915

That first awful day

As dawn approached on 25 April, the Ribble, along with other British destroyers and battleships, eased its way towards the Gallipoli Peninsula. The first wave of men, whose task it was to storm the beach and then push inland as fast as possible, was composed of the units of the 3rd Australian Brigade: three infantry battalions of men from Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. They made the last part of their night journey in 36 rowing boats, towed inshore from battleships by small Royal Navy steam boats. Even before they reached the beach in the half-light, the small Turkish garrison had spotted them and bullets began hitting the boats, killing some, wounding others. As the boats grounded around the tip of the Ari Burnu promontory men launched themselves out, some into deep water where they drowned. Most struggled ashore, soaking wet and weighed down by their rifles and sodden packs. There was initial

confusion about where exactly they had landed, for above them towered a steep cliff-like landscape. Australia's official historian, Charles Bean, later described this critical moment:

Lieutenant Talbot Smith with the scouts of the 10th Battalion [from South Australia], 32 in number, had struck the shore just after the first shot was fired. 'Come on, boys', he cried, 'they can't hit you' ... '10th Battalion scouts,' he shouted, 'are you ready?' He then led them straight up the height, while the Turks were firing over their heads. From the left hand edge of the plateau could be seen the flash of a machine-gun. They made towards it.

Soon hundreds of Australians were hard on the ascent of what was later known as Plugge's Plateau, their first major obstacle on the peninsula. It was no easy climb: the wounded or killed slid back down the slope until stopped by a bush; bayonets were dug into the earth to help them climb; and

from the top of the plateau the Turkish defenders kept up a steady fire. Soon, the Australians reached the top and quickly overcame a trench full of Turkish soldiers, while the remainder of the garrison made off into the country beyond.

From the top of Plugge's it would have been possible in the increasing light to see just what the landing force had taken on. Stretching arway into the distance were the ridges and deep valleys of a wild, rugged, scrub-covered landscape. The ridges stretched southwards from the main Sari Bair chain, which lead up to the highest points on this part of the peninsula: Chunuk Bair, Hill Q and Hill 971, Koja Temen Tepe. For the Anzacs, the day's fighting, as it developed, never brought them near the objectives called for in the original plan. Small, isolated groups did manage to make their way up landward slopes towards Chunuk Bair and on to Third or Gun Ridge, from which positions the strait of the Dardanelles was visible, but they were beaten back by ever strengthening Turkish counter-attacks. Indeed, one historian of Gallipoli is convinced that it was this swift and decisive Turkish response that defeated the Anzacs:

... it was the celerity with which the Turkish command propelled reserves towards the battlefield and the tenacity with which those who met the landing continued to fight that turned the tables.

So the Anzacs were discovering not, as they had envisaged, an enemy that would soon run from determined attack, but soldiers who would stand and fight. Leading the Turkish counter-attack down from Chunuk Bair was the commander of the 19th Turkish Division, Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Kemal, who famously told his men:

I don't order you to attack, I order you to die. In the time it takes us to die, other troops and commanders can come and take our places.'

On 25 April, despite their efforts to get inland, and the landing of the bulk of their infantry, the Anzacs were held by the Turks to an area of the peninsula (soon also called 'Anzac') about 1km deep and 2km long. The front line eventually stretched from the south at Brighton Beach, northwards along Bolton's Ridge, through Lone Pine and along Second Ridge to Quinn's Post. There was then a gap in the line across a valley to a small ridge known as Pope's Hill. A further valley separated Pope's from the left wing of the Anzac position at Walker's Ridge and Russell's Top. To the north along Ocean Beach were the Outposts, No. 1 and No. 2, positioned to give warning of any Turkish attack from that area.

By the evening of 25 April, the little cove to the south of Ari Burnu, soon named Anzac Cove, was crammed with the wounded who had made their way down or been carried down from the front line. Turkish shelling, which had begun within an hour of the initial landing, also took an increasing toll. So pessimistic were some Australian commanders on the spot that they recommended to General Birdwood, when he came ashore, that the whole force be withdrawn, as it had failed to meet its objectives. Although horrified, Birdwood relayed this opinion to Sir Ian Hamilton, then asleep on the battleship Queen Elizabeth. After hearing from naval commanders that instant evacuation was virtually impossible, Hamilton replied:

'You have got through the difficult business, now you have only to dig, dig, dig until you are safe.'

Hamilton also sent the reassuring news that the Royal Australian Navy's submarine AE2 had successfully made its way through the Turkish defences of the Narrows and was on its way up to the Sea of Marmara. At the Anzac firing line, developing along the seaward side of Second Ridge, ordinary soldiers might have been a bit surprised to hear thoughts of retreat. Private Roy Denning of the First Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers, wrote:

'In spite of the dirty and in some cases ragged uniform covering tired bodies, the men were cheerful and laughed at their plight, some jokingly saying, 'Oh, if only my girl could see me now' ... In the early hours of the morning I heard the officers going along amongst the men, saying 'Stick to it lads, don't go to sleep: and the cheerful reply would come, 'No, Sir, we won't go to sleep' ... and my heart swelled with admiration ... I thought I was justified in being an Australian ... Give me Australians as comrades and I will go anywhere duty calls.'

The struggle to hold, even enlarge, the Anzac position, called by Bean 'The Battle of the Landing', went on for nearly 10 days. During that time the Turks made a number of fierce attacks aimed at driving their enemies back into the sea, and only equally determined Anzac defence prevented disaster. In this they were assisted by the guns of the British warships, whose shell bursts were capable of breaking up bunched groups of Turkish soldiers making a mass attack. Private Archibald Barwick fought through those days in one of the hottest parts of the line – the Chessboard area near Quinn's Post:

'I had two rifles smashed in my hands during the fighting on the 27th ... the piece of ground opposite us was literally covered with dead bodies, our own boys and Turks. God knows what our losses were – must have run into a few thousands.'

During the night of 2-3 May 1915 a final attempt was made to push the Anzac line forward, up towards a hill called Baby 700, on the way to Chunuk Bair. Four Anzac battalions, among them the 16th Battalion from Western Australia, were to take the action up steep slopes to Turkish trenches at the top. Private Les Wallis of the 16th Battalion was one of the few to reach the crest of the hill known as the Bloody Angle. He wrote to his brother:

'At 12 o'clock ... we were entrenched where the enemy had been. I can't speak of our Dead and wounded – too sad Jimmie ... bullets were again flying around like flies ... I'm scratches all over ... It's a sad, sad day when we land in Fremantle, if we ever do, what's left of our old 16th West Aust. Batt.'

Shortly after dawn, the 16th were beaten off their newly won trenches. Landing on 25 April with more than 1000 men, the battalion had been reduced in nine days of continuous fighting to only 309 men. Bean eventually estimated the loss to the Anzac Corps during this period as 8364 killed, wounded and missing. Signaller Ellis Silas, 16th Battalion, wrote that there were few left at battalion roll call on 11 May: *'just a thin line of weary, ashen-faced men, behind us a mass of silent forms, once our comrades'*.

Source: Dr Richard Reid, *Gallipoli*, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Canberra 2012 – via hallipoli.gov.au

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