

Australian Peacekeeper

AUTUMN 2015

MAGAZINE

**Global Reach
ADF Capabilities boost
Australian soft power**

**The Quest to
Reclassify
OP HABITAT 1991**

Plus

Gallipoli 100

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APPVA Year in Review

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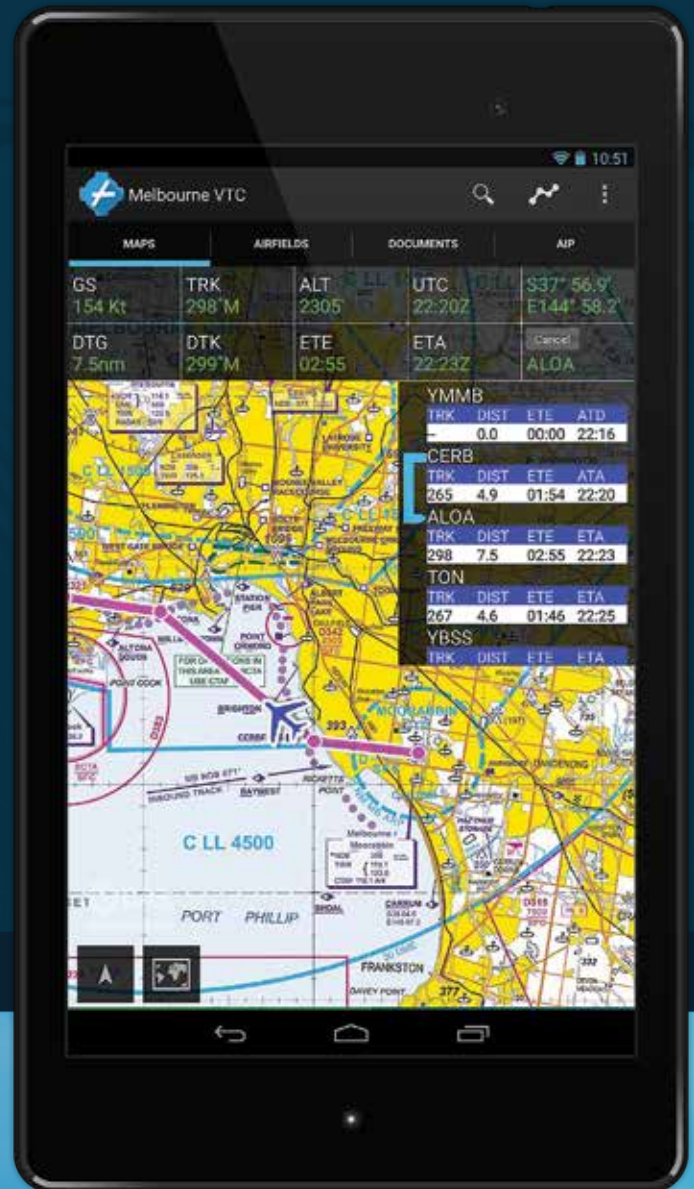
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Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

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Australian Peacekeepers Magazine attempts to provide insight into the experiences of peacekeepers, Defence members and war veterans and the issues that confront them together with encouraging informed debate regarding issues dealing with but not limited to Commonwealth compensation, pensions, superannuation and occupational health and safety that affect peacekeepers and their families. We welcome input from members and would love to feature personal experiences in each issue. Please email the editor with any stories you would like to see printed. The views expressed in the articles are those of the particular author and not those of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA). The APPVA will not be legally responsible in contract, tort or otherwise for any statement made in the articles in this publication.



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Elements of 2nd Commando Regiment, other Special Operations Command units and additional Navy, Army and Air Force personnel, which form the Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) are in the Middle East preparing to deploy to Iraq. Extensive preparations including planning, weapons training and logistical support has ensured SOTG are ready to deploy to Iraq.

SOTG will train and advise Iraqi and other security forces that are taking the fight to the ISIL terrorists. Approximately 200 personnel form the special forces commitment to Operation OKRA. This includes trainers and advisors, command, support, and logistics personnel.



From the President's Desk

Welcome back to all our members and on-lookers, I hope you had an enjoyable break with family and friends. As we gear up for the 2015 it is interesting to note that the department has been streamlining their reforms to as part of another government initiative to save costs. I have provided you with some insight into the Abbott Governments Smaller Government Measures Tranche which is the third of which I believe of many that will affect future erosions of veteran and defence members and their family's entitlements.

This is more of a reason why Ex-Service Organisations need to be wary of what discussions are taking place within the Government sector that will have a significant effect on veterans and defence member's and their family entitlements.

The APPVA is well aware of what challenges they lay ahead for us in 2015 and will be monitoring all issues closely.

Smaller Government Measures Tranche 3

What is it?

On 15 December 2014, building on earlier Budget measures, the Government announced a third tranche of Smaller Government reform which relates to the streamlining of government bodies.

For DVA, this means around 20 advisory groups in the health, research and commemorations areas will either cease, sunset, merge with new arrangements, or be subject to review. A range of commemorations and research committees will wind up as the projects they support conclude. Also, there will be a smaller number of multi-disciplinary health committees to better focus on whole of person care, whole of program design and contemporary issues for the health services sectors.

What does this mean for current DVA committees?

The implementation of the Government's Tranche 3

decisions and the new Australian Government Governance Policy creates an opportunity to refresh and streamline DVA's advisory groups with a view to minimising any administrative burden on the relevant sectors.

DVA will consult with outgoing committee members and relevant peak body associations in relation to the new arrangements.

DVA is committed to continued engagement with the various sectors and greatly values the contribution of past and current members to DVA's advisory groups. We will continue to take a client-focused approach to the delivery of services and programmes. Working closely with the veteran community and our health and service providers remains an important part of how we do our business.

Points of clarification:

With the implementation of DVA's revised National Consultation Framework, the three affected advisory groups ceased in December 2013, namely the Current and Former Members of the ADF Emerging Issues Forum (EIF); National Health, Aged and Community Care Forum (NHACCF); and the Operational Working Party (OWP). The EIF and OWP were replaced by the Younger Veterans Forum (YVF) who first met on 16th April 2014, and the NHACCF was replaced with the National Aged and Community Care Forum (NACCF) who first met on 30th April 2014.

To clarify the context of the Government's announcement concerning the three Veterans' MATES groups, these advisory groups (Practitioner Reference Group; Veterans Reference Group; and Writing Group) are currently required by contract and will cease once the current contract expires on 30 June 2015. New arrangements will be determined to ensure veterans, practitioners and providers continue to have access to advice about the provision of pharmaceuticals. Until then, the three affected Veterans' MATES advisory groups will continue to meet as usual under the current arrangements.

Smaller Government Tranche 3 - DVA affected advisory groups

ANZAC Centenary Public Fund Board	This Board was established to administer the ANZAC Centenary Public Fund. Given the fund expires on 1 May 2019, this committee will be abolished accordingly.	cease from 1 May 2019
Australian National Memorial New Zealand Advisory Panel	The Memorial will be dedicated on 20 April 2015. As creative design has been concluded and construction is in an advanced stage, the need for the panel has expired.	cease by 1 July 2015
Community Nursing Clinical Advisory Committee	This committee was established to advise DVA on clinical issues affecting the Community Nursing program. Community nursing representation will be included in the reshaped Allied Health Advisory Committee.	cease by 1 July 2015

DVA Human Research Ethics Committee	To merge with the Australian Defence Human Research Ethics Committee by 1 July 2017. Leveraging both agencies' research effort will lead to functions being performed more efficiently.	merge by 1 July 2017
eHealth Technical Advisory Group	This group was established to support the design elements of the In-Home Tele monitoring for Veterans' Trial. As the design phase has been concluded the need for this group has expired.	cease by 1 July 2015
Gulf War Study Advisory Committee	Gulf War Study expected to be released in the first quarter of 2015 and is a follow up study to the report released in 2003. The Committee will not be disbanded before release of the report.	cease by 1 July 2015
Pay for Performance Advisory Committee	The Pay for Performance (P4P) Advisory Committee provides expertise to guide the implementation, ongoing development, review and evaluation of the P4P framework, with a strong clinical focus on the performance measures. The P4P framework will be considered as part of the forthcoming tender process in June 2016.	review during the next tender in 2016
Peacekeepers Study Advisory Committee.	Study was released by the Minister on 28 October 2014. Any further outcomes will be considered as part of DVA policy and programme development. The need for the body has expired.	cease by 1 July 2015
Research Working Group	The Research Working Group was a sub-committee that supported the former Research program. In July 2013, DVA introduced a new Strategic Research model, which embraces input from the business and programmes areas, to build a proactive research portfolio. The former Research Working Group is now redundant.	cease immediately
Vietnam Veterans' Education Centre Advisory Panel	Panel was established to support the Australian Government's \$3.3 million contribution to the Vietnam Veterans' Education Centre in the United States of America. Content for the Centre has been settled and will be installed once fundraising delays in the United States are overcome. As the work for which this body was established has been completed there is no longer a need for it to continue. Any further work would be undertaken within the DVA National Consultation Framework.	cease by 1 July 2015
Vietnam Veterans' Family Study Consultative Forum	Report was released 28 October 2014 by the Minister. Post the consultation process there will be no further requirement for this forum.	cease following report of the VVFS
Current and Former Members of the ADF Emerging Issues Forum	This body has evolved into the new 'Younger Veterans – Contemporary Needs' Forum, which first met on 16 April 2014.	ceased December 2013
National Health, Aged and Community Care Forum	This body has been replaced by the National Aged and Community Care Forum which first met on 30 April 2014.	ceased December 2013
Operational Working Party	This body has evolved into the new 'Younger Veterans – Contemporary Needs' Forum, which first met on 16 April 2014.	ceased December 2013
Allied Health Advisory Committee –	<p>These five bodies will be replaced by one Allied Health Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Appropriate peak body representation for the new group is to be determined in consultation between DVA and the relevant sectors.</p> <p>The new structure will create less administrative impost on the allied health sector while aiding a greater 'whole of person care' conversation between DVA and the allied health community.</p>	<p>Merge by 1 July 2015 with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation Appliances Program Reference Committee • Rehabilitation Appliances Program Reference Committee • Dental Advisory Committee

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optical Advisory Committee • Community Nursing Clinical Reference Group
Local Medical Officer Advisory Committee	<p>This body will merge with the Health Innovation Clinical Reference Group.</p> <p>Appropriate peak body representation for the new group is to be determined in consultation with DVA and the primary health care sector. This merger will create less administrative impost on the primary health sector while aiding a greater coordinated care conversation between DVA and the primary health community.</p>	merge by 1 July 2015
Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services (MATES) Practitioner Reference Group – MATES Veterans' Reference Group - MATES Writing Group	<p>The MATES programme is a contractual programme, currently operated by the University of South Australia. The advisory groups are currently required by contract and will cease once the contracts expire on 30 June 2015. New arrangements will be determined to ensure veterans, practitioners and providers continue to have access to advice about the provision of pharmaceuticals.</p>	Cease by 30 June 2015

As you can see a lot of the contracts that are due to cease will have a major impact of those soldiers who have service on or after 2004 under the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004.

The APPVA will endeavour to keep you updated with issues that arise through our quarterly Peacekeepers Magazine.

The APPVA has one significant agenda item earmarked in 2015 which has been at the forefront now for some time that is to campaign to have the Peacekeepers Memorial in Canberra erected as soon as possible.

**National President
Allan Thomas**

Heading to France this ANZAC Day- Make Sure You Come Prepared

This ANZAC Day Australians will gather in Villers-Bretonneux, France, to remember the more than 295,000 of their countrymen and women who served on the Western Front during the First World War.

Attending ANZAC Day commemorations in France is a great privilege for all, being a time to pay our respects to the fallen.

If you're planning on travelling to France for ANZAC Day commemorations in 2015, below are some tips and useful information to make the most of your experience.

- The Australian National Memorial (ANM) commemorative site is a two hour drive from Paris and 20 minutes from the Somme capital Amiens.
- There is no parking available on site. Visitors must either be part of a formal tour group, be booked on a shuttle provided by the Somme Tourism Board or park in the neighbouring villages of Corbie & Fouilloy or Villers-Bretonneux, and walk between two to four kilometres to the site.
- The road (D23) between Corbie & Fouilloy and Villers-Bretonneux will close from 2:00pm on 24 April, opening again at 2:00pm 25 April.
- The tower of the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux will be closed to the public from 22- 26 April

for safety reasons.

- Following the Dawn Service the nearby townships of Villers-Bretonneux and Bullecourt hold community services that Australians and local French attend. A second Australian service is also held later that day at the Digger Memorial near Bullecourt.
- It is important that you dress appropriately, as it can be very cold in the early hours of the morning and then quite warm later in the day. It has also been a harsh winter across Europe, with extremely cold temperatures, so make sure you come prepared.
- Visitors and tour leaders are encouraged to register their attendance for ANZAC Day France commemorations. By registering, visitors will receive updates on traffic arrangements and service details, should any occur. Register at www.franceregistration.com

For further information about ANZAC Day commemorations in France and other overseas services visit www.dva.gov.au/france



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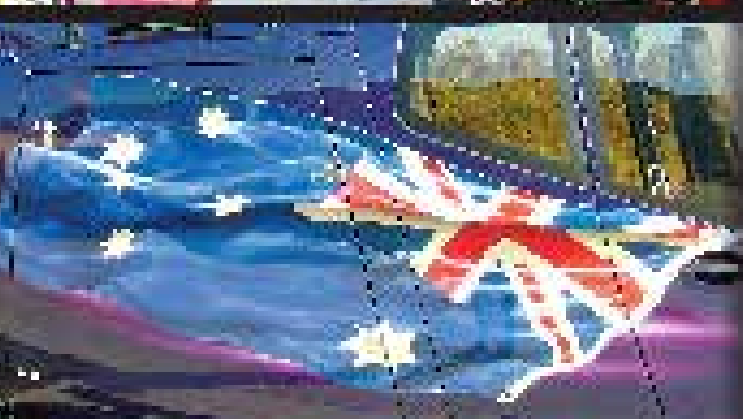
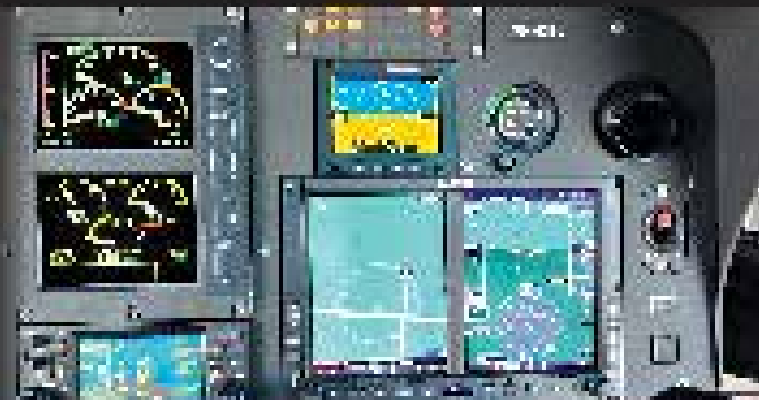
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Department shift opens door to hundreds of claims by veterans

Hundreds of military veterans denied compensation for injury or illness could take legal action against the federal government, after it quietly stopped using a private research company to investigate veterans' cases.

The Australian revealed last year that the company, Writeway Research Service, was involved in a commonwealth investigation over the use of an allegedly forged document to challenge one service - woman's case.

Court documents show the Department of Veterans' Affairs subsequently conceded it had stopped using Writeway, which has received nearly \$1 million to produce hundreds of "research reports" on veterans since the late 1990s.

These reports are often disputed by the veterans themselves but can have a huge influence on the decision to grant them a pension or other compensation for wounds suffered on active service. The decision to stop using the company has raised questions over the department's reliance on its reports and could open the floodgates to a tide of legal claims.

One veteran, whom The Australian agreed not to name, recently appealed to the national Administrative Appeals Tribunal, challenging the DVA's decision to deny his claim for post traumatic stress disorder. Citing the fact that the company was no longer used by the department, his case directly challenges the credibility of a Writeway report drawn up two years before that decision was made.

Last August, the tribunal overturned a DVA decision to deny another veteran, Grant Martin, an incapacity pension after the department's lawyer admitted it was no longer using Writeway. After being challenged about the company's report into Mr Martin's service on board HMAS Canberra in the Middle East during 1993, the DVA lawyer asked not to use it in the case.

"The investigation that was requested for the department of the Writeway services is still ongoing,"

DVA lawyer Bruce Williams told the tribunal. "Until such time as that's resolved, the instructions of advocacy ... is not to rely upon their services."

Mr Martin, a former navy radar plotter who subsequently served as a detective with the NSW Police Force, said the sudden climb-down came after the department had fought "tooth and nail", repeatedly rejecting his claim for more than two years.

He developed PTSD and depression after being warned the ship he was serving on was under Scud missile attack from Iraq, Mr Martin said, and approached the DVA at his doctor's suggestion after being repeatedly hospitalised. He now suffers "night terrors".

"I have to sleep in a separate bed from my wife because of violent fits and throwing punches all the time," he said. "You're on a knife edge all the time. You can't sleep, you

can't relax, you can't concentrate, it feels like your head's going to fall off."

The initial Writeway report found there was "no evidence" to support Mr Martin's claim the Canberra took evasive action after the missile threat was announced. In contrast, the tribunal's final decision found "there was a missile alert ... (Mr Martin) perceived a very real threat from the announced missile attack".

His subsequent illness was "war-caused", the tribunal found, and he was "entitled to receive a pension in respect of incapacity associated with those conditions".

In the last full financial year during which Writeway was employed, the DVA commissioned 99 "military research reports" into 78 veterans, most of them conducted by the company. In half of these cases, the subsequent compensation decision went against the veteran.

John Tilbrook, an army reserve officer who founded Writeway and also works in the Army History Unit, said the DVA was still not employing the company today. He had been instructed by a departmental director "not to discuss any relationship with DVA and Writeway with the media".

"They've actually got an investigation going," Mr Tilbrook said. "We've provided information and not had any feedback.

"The grain machine takes a long time to make any decisions, as you know."

The ongoing investigation centres on allegations a 2012 Writeway report into an unrelated veteran's claim relied on a forged letter claiming to have been approved by the head of the powerful Australian Signals Directorate.

Initial investigations by the Department of Defence found the letter, which challenged some of the veteran's claims, had not been produced by the intelligence agency, nor with its sanction. The letter's author, a former army Lieutenant Colonel, personally provided it to the Writeway researcher, himself a former Colonel, who the company said had taken the document "on face value".

Rod Thompson, a veterans' advocate leading the new legal challenge to the DVA's use of a Writeway report, said: "There's literally hundreds if not thousands of Writeway reports that have impacted on the way decisions are made. I think if it's found Writeway have been fraudulent ... there has to be some sort of compensation. You can't use these reports and if they are found to be flawed, you can't just get away with saying sorry."

The DVA declined to answer questions, instead releasing a written statement saying: "The recent issues ... are currently under investigation. Due to privacy reasons, it will not be possible to release the findings."

Source: Dan Box The Australian January 07, 2015.

The Year in Review - The APPVA Perspective

“This year has presented many challenges, in terms of our Abbott Federal Government imposing Legislation that is adversarial toward ADF members and our veteran constituents. It has been heart-breaking seeing the Department of Veterans’ Affairs making poor decisions on cases and cutting back costs to save money, rather than give the best possible care to all veterans.

We virtually now have to fight to get back all the benefits that we have lost, which, politically has put us back 15 years plus in order to regain this attack and continued erosion of our veteran entitlements.

But we have had some positives. Here is the year in review for the APPVA:

1. The 49 Peacekeepers who died on Operations since 1947 onward are now on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, being respected just as much as any service person who has died in war and conflict - this took us from 2000 onward to lobby;
2. The awarding of the Meritorious Unit Citation to the Force Communications Unit, UNTAC, after a 21 year wait; success with the Special Operations Command Australia, by appealing to the Defence Honours, Awards and Appeals Tribunal (DHAAT) over the awarding of the ASM Clasp CT/SR for members of 1 Commando Regiment;
3. The White card system for SRCA recipients (although they went one step too far from what was agreed at the Review, which was to place the Health and Pharmaceutical Benefits under the Repatriation Benefits Scales, which is considerably less in value than previously provided);
4. The Special Rate of Disability Pension (SRDP) under the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA), has, under pressure from the APPVA, now being reviewed by a new ESO Working Group of which we now have 2 Level 4 Advocates representing our veteran cohort for 2015;
5. The Operational Working Group will be brought in with a strong influence from Young Veterans, thanks to pressure placed onto the Department from the APPVA. This will potentially benefit many of our veterans who are experiencing an adversarial Department in Melbourne;
6. We have raised around \$6,000 for the Australian PK Memorial, although small in amount, we have plans for further fund raising arrangements in 2015 and have provided a greater awareness this year;
7. The release of the Peacekeeper Mental Health Study and the Rwanda Veteran Health Study confirms what the APPVA was lobbying for 3-4 years leading up to the Studies being conducted from 2008. Although there are questions as to why the Minister did not consult with us prior to release, the data indicates our belief that ADF Peacekeeping/Peacemaking Veterans of Western Sahara, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda and East Timor - have higher rates of PTSD than the current Iraq/Afghanistan cohort - and is marginally less by around 0.5% from the Viet Nam Veteran cohort. This is significant, in that our veterans are suffering just as much as Viet Nam Veterans have suffered in terms of PTSD, Mental Illness and other co-morbid conditions;
8. Our advocacy, primary level and welfare practitioners are considered among [if not THE] best in Australia;
9. The APPVA is continually recognised as punching well above its weight and is viewed by many politicians and senior Military Officers as one of the only Ex-Service Organisations that are relevant toward the needs of today’s veterans;
10. The “Aussie Diggers” Opportunity Shop in Boronia in Melbourne, has been a huge success for the APPVA in Victoria, with some significant benefits to the National level, with a profit margin increasing since takeover from the Viet Nam RAASC Association by 150% and expanding with another office space adjacent to provide for extra room to sell furniture and other items;
11. We were recognised by the RSL in Victoria and other RSLs around Australia by leading the ANZAC Day Marches around Australia, as a show of the future legacy of ANZAC Day and respecting that legacy for the commencement of WWI, which was in August 2014 (100th Anniversary from August 1914);
12. The APPVA has lodged a number of submissions to Government in the past 12 months for the improvement of recognition of our veterans from the Defence Abuse Reparation Taskforce [DART]; Modelling of the delivery of Advocacy services with DVA Staff; and the DHAAT.
- 12.a. The DHAAT received a significant submission from the APPVA looking at the recognition of Australian Operational Service Medal [Border Protection] prior to 1997 (looking at 1948 to 1997 for all three services who have conducted such patrols); ADF Disaster Relief Operations service recognised with the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM); A range of proposed medals including a General Service Medal (GSM) for Peacekeeping Operations (one off for Non-warlike service PKO); A GSM for Africa (for warlike service such as Somalia, Sierra Leone, UNTAG Namibia and Rwanda); GSM for S.E. Asia (for Cambodia and East Timor); acceptance of various Foreign Awards and fair and equitable

recognition of our cohort's service with that of pre-75 service.

- 12.b. We are also assisting some other special cases dealing in retrospective recognition for Gallantry in Somalia. Others also include the awarding of the Iraq Campaign Medal to Australian Forces who served on a wide range of warlike service in the Area of Operations of Iraq from 1 August 1990 through to 23 March 2003.
13. Reclassification submissions have been prepared for a UNTSO (Middle East - Beirut) veteran from Tasmania; OP HABITAT (Northern Iraq); and Humanitarian or Disaster Relief Operations Service from non-warlike and peacetime service to warlike and non-warlike service (Humanitarian), respectively;
14. The unique ability of the APPVA to resolve highly complex cases has been more than adequately demonstrated during the year, by a high success rate in Review and Appeals;
15. We continue to represent our veteran constituency at the highest levels of Government with APPVA Representatives being very effective on the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT); The National Younger Veteran's Forum; the National Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum; The Viet Nam Veteran Families' Family Study Consultative Forum; The Veterans' and Veterans' Families Counselling Service [VVCS]; The Prime Minister's Veteran Advisory Group on Mental Health; The Australian Defence Services Organisation (ADSO) Alliance (ADF Pay increases; COMSUPER issues; and Indexation of pension issues); and The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Committee - along with a range of State, Regional and Local Veteran Committees and Fora.

So, we have had a huge year and have an even greater challenge for 2015 and onward as we deal with a Government who will not be giving us much in return for the service, courage and sacrifice that we have given for Australia, with the lame excuse of a "problematic economy..."

International Matters. (Soldiers of Peace International Association).

A number of these areas are transferable into the International aspect, particularly toward the Mental Health and wellbeing of Peacekeeping Troops from Contributing Nations. Matters such as identifying the trauma that is experienced by International Peacekeepers, whilst serving on a range of PKO; the recognition of our Peacekeeper Veterans' service, courage and sacrifice toward International Peacekeeping is an unenviable task that must have the support to these troops on the ground during and after their PKO. When I say Troops, I also include Police and other para-military forces.

Other concerns is that Australia needs to contribute more troops to a range of UN PKO. Australia has not contributed significant troop levels since the UN Operation in East Timor.

An Advocacy Cell from within the DPKO would enable those UN PK Soldiers or UN Veterans a pathway to ensuring that the compensation for their death, wounds, injuries or illness is effectively receipted by the veteran or his/her family for future treatment and financial security.

The Proposed Training Section to train contributing troop nations who are intending to deploy UN Troops to a given PKO or Mission would provide a better preparation, reduce risk, reduce hazard, reduce casualties and ensure that the contributing troops are to an acceptable standard for deployment in representing the UN.

As you may see, the last four paragraphs will be the subject of a paper that I will be drafting for delivery at the UNOG for the Commemoration of the UN International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

The requirement for an International Brigade that has a high degree of Operational Level of Capability, ready to deploy at very short notice to trouble spots around the world, under the auspices of the UN Security Council is another matter that needs support.





Australian, French and American soldiers outside Villers-Bretonneux, 1918.

THEY FOUGHT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN WAY OF DEATH.

Three years after the first Anzac Day, in a small town in the North of France, a band of Australian soldiers showed what Australian values really are.

But, it wasn't just seen in the dashing way they fought, or the brave way they died. It was shown in the extraordinary way they handled death.

Villers-Bretonneux had already collapsed in front of four German Divisions and their A7V tanks as they marched to Amiens; its charming churches and proud homes lay in ruins.

The rag tag remains of two Australian battalions were ordered to liberate the town. They were vastly outnumbered and still reeling from a barrage of mustard gas from the Kaiser's howitzers. On the night of April 24, they huddled on the outskirts of town waiting for night to fall. Rather than bombard the German positions amongst the local people, the Anzacs launched a surprise attack at 10pm. Then they fought house to house, hand to hand, right through the following day – which happened to be Anzac Day.

The diggers saved the town, at the cost of 2,473 Australian lives. On that day they showed the best of our national values: dauntless courage, fearless compassion, and a bloody determination to stand up for the weak.

And the French have never forgotten it: *N'oublions jamais l'Australie* are the words that still stand high in the classrooms of the local school – “let us never forget the Australians”.

But there's one thing we have forgotten. These Anzacs gave us a value that's so widely accepted in Australia today, that we're oblivious to where it came from. It's the value of a person in life – and in death.

After the battle of Villers-Bretonneux, the Australians didn't simply lump their dead into a large hole and walk away. That was unthinkable. Though it had been normal in the decades before. Even the Germans maintained a practice of digging a *Kameraden Grab* – “a comrades grave” – believing that the group was more important than the individual.

The Australians didn't believe that then, and they don't believe it now. Rather, they invested days, weeks and years to identify the fallen, to give them their own cross and bronze plaque, with each man's name plainly set for all to see – showing that this was an individual. A brother, a father, a son.

As we mark the Centenary of the very first Anzac landing, it's this tradition that we, like sentinels, are resolved to protect. Not simply as a history to know and tell. But a value to live by, with every funeral we conduct, and especially so for the military families we are privileged to serve.

This value, the belief that everyone is uniquely important, lives on a hundred years later. And our funeral brands honour it deeply. We believe that every individual matters. Which is why we make every goodbye different.



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The Quest to Reclassify

OPERATION HABITAT 16 May to 30 June 1991

**To:
Warlike Service.**

PART 1 – Autumn Edition “The Peacekeeper”

The Quest thus far:

In 2002, the APPVA lodged a large submission to the Veteran Entitlement Review Committee (VERC), aka The Clarke Review. The Clarke Review was headed by The Hon John Clarke QC, and began in February 2002, reporting to the Howard Government in January 2003.

Within the APPVA Submission, was the case to have OP HABITAT, which was the ADF Contingent (ASC) under the auspices of the British Command of OP HAVEN. ASC OP HABITAT was deployed under command of the British 3rd Brigade, Royal Marine Commando from 16 May to 30 June 1991, in Northern Iraq.

OP HABITAT was specifically categorised by Defence and Government as a “Humanitarian Relief” Operation, however it was far from delivering emergency supplies and Medical assistance to a country struck by Natural Disaster. OP HAVEN physically invaded Northern Iraq and established a Security Zone in order to provide protection of 750,000 Kurds who were displaced as a result of attacks from Iranian Forces by air and then by land and air by Iraqi Forces.

Hence, the Ministry of Defence United Kingdom (MODUK), name for the operation was “OP HAVEN.” The Operation was later morphed into NATO “OP PROVIDE COMFORT.” This was the culmination of US Forces involvement, along with other NATO contributing nations, to the Operation.

After consideration of the APPVA Submission for OP HABITAT reclassification, The Clarke Review under recommendation 29 stated that: “*No change be made to the eligibility provisions of the VEA relating to service providing humanitarian relief to the Kurds during OPERATION HABITAT in 1991.*”

On 14 May 2010, the Rudd Government announced a revisit to the Recommendations of the Clarke Review. The APPVA Submission was forwarded for reconsideration by The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Mr Alan Griffin.

Around the same period a submission requesting reclassification of OP HABITAT from the APPVA NSW Vice President Mr Bruce Relph was also lodged through Ministerial Submission for action by the Nature of Service Branch (NOSB) of the Department of Defence.

An almost simultaneous response from Defence to Bruce Relph by Dr Mike Kelly (then Parliamentary Secretary for Defence); and the APPVA former National

President Paul Copeland from Mr Warren Snowdon the Minister for Defence, Science and Personnel, indicated that the submissions were given “*significant research and consideration*”, but were rejected as the operation was classed as “*Humanitarian Relief*”. The US Forces have called the Operation “*Humanitarian Intervention*” a significantly differing view to that of the Australian Government and ADF.

The Government responses of course were received with great disappointment from the ASC OP HABITAT Veterans and it is felt that not enough research went into the decision, along with no veteran input or evidence, including not having the COMASC OP HABITAT being consulted by Defence about the conditions that were experienced in the AO during deployment. These decision-making processes appear to remain as a one-way approach, without veteran consultation.

There are always two sides to a given matter and fair mediation, following the principles of Natural Justice and Procedural Fairness, along with the Right to be Heard, and the Right of Reply are the key matters to resolving such outstanding matters, particularly when it relates to retrospective reclassification of ADF Operations. The ADF needs to take up these fair approaches, rather than the status quo.

Overview of OP HAVEN.

In order to provide a perspective of OP HABITAT, it is important to note the tumultuous and violent Kurdish political, social and historical background. Essentially, why did Australia send 75 Army and RAAF (3) personnel to Northern Iraq in 1991, not long after the Gulf War?

Kurdistan was erased from the world’s maps after World War I when the Allied Powers carved up the Middle East and denied the Kurds a nation-state. More than twenty million Kurds live in parts of Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Syria. Throughout the 20th century their struggles for political and cultural autonomy were opposed by the region’s countries and the Kurds were often used as pawns in regional politics.

The Kurds’ plight captured the world’s attention in 1991 following the end of the Gulf War (GW91). Television around the world showed images of Northern Iraq’s Kurds fleeing Saddam Hussein’s Iraq through the mountains of Turkey and Iran. Since the 1920s, negotiations between Iraq’s Kurds and the government in Baghdad have always broken down over issues of Kurdish independence, and the Kurds’ desire to control the oil-rich city of Kirkuk and to have their own militia.



Major Jonathon Hodge, Senior Medical Officer of the Australian Contingent OPERATION HABITAT, pictured in Northern Iraq with a Royal Marine Commando. The British Commandos were escorts and protection for the ADF members, when they deployed three Medical Support Teams at a time to assist the Kurdish Refugees." Photo Courtesy Julie Booth.

The Pusat Khidmat Kontraktor (or Kurdish Workers Party PKK) played a significant role in the aftermath of the failed 1991 U.S. inspired uprising in Iraq against Saddam Hussein. Security zones in Kurdish areas of Iraq, provided by OP HAVEN/PROVIDE COMFORT, effectively gave those areas de facto independence. It should be noted that the PKK is a listed Terrorist organisation and were identified as belligerents within the Operation.

As a result of the Kurdish crisis, The UN Security Council authorised Resolution 688, dated 5 April 1991.¹ This resolution, voted in the aftermath of the first Iraq war (GW91), condemned Iraq for the repression of its civilian population (it mentioned specifically the Kurds) and said that this threatened "international peace and security". **By using this language, the Security Council was opening the door to military action, since threats to international peace and security are the only circumstance in which force can be authorised according to Chapter VII of the UN Charter.**

This resolution was indeed used by the United States and the United Kingdom to justify its imposition of "no-fly" zones over Iraq in the North and the South, even though the text itself says nothing about no-fly zones at all. The imposition

of no-fly zones led to hundreds of thousands of sorties being flown over Iraq between 1991 and 2003.

The key paragraphs in this resolution are 1 and 2, which "condemn" repression of the Kurds in Iraq and "demand" that it cease. This is an example of the UN Security Council intervening in the internal affairs of a state. The Resolution also says that the consequences of this repression "threaten international peace and security in the region", wording which triggers Chapter VII powers. These can be activated only when there is a threat to international peace and security.

The UK-US imposed "no-fly zones" (NFZ) - in reality a bombing campaign which lasted over a decade and which became increasingly aggressive - came to an end only with the invasion of Iraq in [early] 2003.²

It should be noted that **Chapter VII** of the UN Charter invokes warlike service in terms of ADF classification of service and conditions, as it is classified as Peacemaking or Peace Enforcement Operations. This is consistent with the ADF Policy of the Classification of Warlike Service. Yet, ASC OP HABITAT was and remains classified as non-warlike [Hazardous] service, an inconsistency that APPVA believes is disadvantageous to the 75 veterans of this Operation.

¹ UNSCR 688 adopted 5 April 1991, pp. 31-32; link: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/596/24/IMG/NR059624.pdf?OpenElement>

² Centre for the Study of Interventionism, link: <http://www.interventionism.info/en/UNSC-Res-688> retrieved 27 Jan 2015.

In America's dealings with Saddam Hussein and Iraq, Iraq's Kurds have been a tragic sideshow. For decades, the Kurds looked to the U.S. for support in their struggle against Saddam's government. Washington's response has been classic *realpolitik* - using the Kurds when it wanted to hurt Saddam and then abandoning them when their usefulness had run out.³

Weeks after the Gulf war's end, when Saddam turned his tanks north on rebelling Kurds, U.S. policymakers faced an unanticipated crisis: More than 2 million Iraqi Kurdish refugees began to flee the advancing Iraqi forces and amass along Turkey's south-eastern border, presenting Turkish President Turgut Ozal with a serious dilemma.

Turkey, a country fighting its own war against internal Kurdish opponents since 1985, feared that admitting these refugees would create an explosive situation and

undermine its efforts to control the 10 million to 15 million Kurds who live in Turkey. As the refugee flow continued, however, a massive humanitarian crisis was in the making and international outrage at Turkey was growing. Ozal sought help from his friend George Bush (Snr). The result was **Operation HAVEN, later known as Provide Comfort** - a UK and later NATO-led effort to create a "**security zone**" inside Northern Iraq where the Kurdish refugees would feel safe to leave Turkey and resettle back to their homeland.

"Operation Safe Haven" was a British initiative, made at a time when the USA was fundamentally disinterested in any further taking of action in the Gulf. The British Prime Minister's lobbying of European colleagues achieved NATO support, leveraging the necessary American air support. Then as Saddam's retribution activities escalated, US ground and logistic support was also achieved. This was a distinctly British operation though, with a proposed force of 6000 personnel, spearheaded by 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, with elements from the British Army, RAF and other coalition members, including Australia.

The established security zone was a way to ease the instability and warring factions of the Kurds and to protect them against the PKK, Peshmerger, Iraq National Guard, Secret Police and the Turkish military forces [all identified as belligerents]. The Security Zone was a method to ease the suffering of the Kurds than a Multinational effort to assist Turkey - a NATO member and an important partner in the international sanctions effort against Saddam.

OP PROVIDE COMFORT was initially intended as a short-term humanitarian and protection operation. The UK and U.S. land forces **secured** a small area, including Dohuk, one of three major Kurdish urban centres in Iraq. The Bush (Snr) administration declared that Iraqi ground forces would be prevented from crossing into this area.

The refugees returned. Kurdish hopes soared, and so did goodwill toward the United Kingdom, the United States and its coalition partners. Elections were held in May 1992 and a fledgling Kurdish parliament was put in place. The situation was far from perfect, but given the history of the war-torn region and the long struggle of the Kurdish people, the accomplishments were dramatic.⁴

Deployed Coalition Forces.

Within the NATO Multinational Force [MNF] Area of Operations (AO) of Northern Iraq, the US provided significant combat power from the 6th Fleet. The main Land or Ground Combat Force was US Marine Corps (USMC) 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) (Special Operations Capable (SOC)), with supporting detachments. A Unmanned Aerial Vehicle [UAV] detachment of which 15 UAV were controlled by 6 personnel were located at the HQ MEU; six Firepower Control Teams were provided in the Coalition AO; the US Army's 3-325th (Battalion) Airborne Combat Team was deployed;

The 24MEU is a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), with about 2,200 Marines. The 24th MEU's Command



"Lance Corporal Julie Booth equipped and ready to commence duty as the Australian Contingent's Ready Reaction Force in Gir i Pit, Northern Iraq. Julie and other female nurses, medics, doctors and staff are considered to be the first ever armed ADF females conducting Land Operations in a hostile and benevolent (or warlike) environment." Photo courtesy of Julie Booth.

³ Frontline Report of the "Survival of Saddam" by Greg Barker on website: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/saddam/kurds/>

⁴ By Katherine A. Wilkens, Sunday, September 15 1996; Page C01, The Washington Post.

Element (CE) served as the Headquarters for command and control [C2] of the Ground Combat Element (GCE), Aviation Combat Element (ACE), and MEU Service Support Group (MSSG). The CE also consists of detachments from USMC Radio Battalion, Reconnaissance, Counter Intelligence, Interrogator Translator Team, Topographical and Force Imagery Interpretation Units, as well as standard staff sections.

The 24 MEU had significant combat support through armour (18 x LAV); Mortar 81mm; Direct Fire Support Weapons, TOW II; Air Support and Air Combat Power. It is part of the Landing Force – 6th Fleet (LF-6F).

The 6th Fleet also had a Carrier Group providing Naval Gunnery Support (NGS) and Close Air Support (CAS) to the Coalition Force. HMM-264 is the USMC Tri-rotor Aviation Squadron that was based in Southern Turkey and supported operations with Medium Lift Helicopters. A-10 Thunderbolt (aka Warthogs); Sea Cobras; and F-14 Tomcat (Multi-Role Combat Aircraft) were also in support.

Further to this, US Air Force Air Support and Combat Aircraft were based with the MNF HQ in Incirlik in Southern Turkey.

The UK provided a significant Brigade (+) formation from the 3rd Commando Brigade (Royal Marines), This Force comprised of the 29th Commando Regiment, Royal Regiment of Artillery with three Batteries of 105mm Lightweight Towed Howitzers; two Commando Regiments (40th and 45th) ; the 59th Independent Commando Squadron (Royal Engineers) was imbedded into the 3rd Commando Brigade Royal Marines, as was the Australian Medical Support Force.

USMC 24 MEU provided an Artillery Platoon of 105mm Howitzers and a LAV Section to the 3rd Commando Brigade (Royal Marines), comprising of two LAV-25s; a LAV-AT (Mounted with TOW II Anti-Tank Missile Launcher); and a LAV-L (Logistics Vehicle).

The British deployed three Helicopter Squadrons. The Chinook Force (RAF); 846th Naval Air Squadron (Royal Navy); and the 3rd Commando Brigade Air Squadron. The British also had the Commando Logistics Regiment (Royal Marines).

Other British HQ Elements, Force Elements and significant RAF combat air assets were also located in Incirlik in Southern Turkey.

The French deployed what was known as a “Cougar Force.” It comprised of a Light Infantry Brigade, a Field Hospital, and part of a Helicopter Regiment. The Ground Combat Force was drawn from the French Rapid Action Forces 11th Airborne. This Force comprised of a Headquarters, an Infantry Regiment, an Alpine Company, a Medical Detachment and Support Personnel. The French Main Ground Force was the 8th Marine Parachute Regiment.

The Dutch deployed 1,000 troops, of which 400 were Dutch Royal Marines as the Dutch 1st Amphibious Combat Group.

Italy deployed elements of the famous “Falgore” Parachute Brigade, an Alpine Special Forces Company, a Helicopter Detachment and a Field Medical Unit.

The Spanish Expeditionary Force was the largest military unit deployed outside of Spain since 1898. Its Ground Combat Element was three Rifle Companies, from the 1st Airborne Brigade, “Roger De Flor.” The Spanish also sent Engineer, Helicopter and Medical Detachments.

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, and Luxembourg, provided small military units – mainly Medical Support Teams attached to the Allied larger Forces or AO Task Forces.

These Coalition Forces and assets, along with the CAS from the US Navy Carrier Group made the MNF a lethal force, with significant Offensive Fire Power, should hostile engagement be initiated by the identified belligerents. The MNF had to protect itself and the Kurds, in order to successfully conduct the Operation.

The Force required Combat Fire Control, particularly for the Naval and Air combat fire support, for significant coordination and control. Liaison Officers were identified and established a Fire Control and Communications Centre, working with the USMC Fire Control Teams (FCT) in order to coordinate the fire-power for the MNF. This included the Artillery units and elements within 3rd Commando Brigade.

The ASC OP HABITAT with the small number of soldiers, had 10 x MAG 58 (L7 – 7.62mm General Purpose Machine Guns (GPMG)). This was a considerable amount of fire-power for a Medical Support Team of 75 members, for what the Government has played down as a “Humanitarian” Operation.

As disclosed earlier, the MNF HQ was based in Incirlik, Turkey, with a significant Staging Area for the MNF. The Operation was Commanded by US Army General John Shalikashvili with British MAJGEN

The Australian Contribution.

On the 16th May 1991, 75 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel were deployed to Kurdistan, northern Iraq on **Operation Habitat**, Australia’s contribution to the multinational [NATO] response of UK **Operation Haven/Operation Provide Comfort**. The Operation continued until the Land Force withdrawal on the 30th of June 1991.

The goal of this mission was to **defend and protect** approximately 4 million Kurdish people fleeing their homes in the aftermath of the Gulf War and provide them with humanitarian aid.

When the ADF contingent arrived, the situation was improving but was far from normal. The Kurds were living in tents located on the side of the road or in their destroyed villages. Poor water supply and sanitation was a major problem. Temperatures were in the high 40’s to low 50’s °C and high tens during the night. Accommodation for the ADF personnel was in tents, with a defended perimeter, weapon-fighting pits at Stage 3, Defence in depth and barbed wire marking the boundary of the ASC defensive sector.

This was a multi-disciplined team from several Army Corps and RAAF, to provide Medical Support Teams to provide assistance to Kurdish Refugees and NATO Forces.

The ADF Contingent was commanded by LTCOL David Ross, CSC (RAINF), of which the ADF Contingent was under operational command of Headquarters 3rd Brigade, Royal Marine Commando. Expected tenure of posting for members was six months.

The ADF contingent was co-located with HQ 3rd Commando Brigade at Gir-i-Pit, approximately 30 km north of Dohuk in Northern Iraq. 4 medical teams of 5 personnel each were deployed, each consisting of a medical officer, nursing officer and three medical assistants. Each team had an interpreter attached. A dental team, preventative health team, engineering section and headquarters/administration support group were also deployed. Personnel were sourced primarily from the 2nd Field Ambulance of the Operational Deployment Force (the 3rd Brigade) in Townsville and from various units in the ADF including members from the 1st Health Support Battalion (1HSB).⁵

The ASC had to provide self-protection within their allocated Defensive position, manning five strong points with GPMG L7. Within the ASC Defence Sector, the Australians also provided their own Quick Reaction Force [QRF], which was also maintained 24/7, it was also armed with two GPMG L7.

To ensure the safety of the ASC MST, escorts provided by Military Police and at times Royal Marine Commandos. At all times the members of the ASC MST were armed with pistols and M-16 weapons and carried them at all times. Single vehicle deployment was banned and vehicles were to move throughout the AO with escort vehicles, to minimise the security threat.

ADF medical teams operated in an area approximately 500km². While 1 medical team remained at base, the other 3 medical teams would travel approximately 200km and treat 60-100 patients each day. More than 3000 patients were seen by the ADF medical teams, with over 80% of those being paediatric. 10 British Commandos were seen by ASC MST, as well as 58 members of the ASC itself.

The common conditions treated included diarrhoea, dehydration, malnutrition, scabies, respiratory tract infections, malaria, typhoid fever, anaemia, and a range of chronic diseases. Fragmentation injuries were also seen due to the **vast number of land mines and unexploded ammunition strategically placed or littered across the countryside.**⁶

The Threats.

As previously noted, the situation with mines was a serious threat, as was the risk of air attack, artillery fire and other dangers that were potential threat factors from the Iraqi Military Forces; and belligerents such as the Iraqi Secret Police who attempted to infiltrate into the Security Zone. Other belligerents are also noted the factionalised militia,

⁵ Australian Gulf War Veterans' Study 2003, Department of Veterans' Affairs website: <http://www.dva.gov.au/media/publicat/2003/gulfwarhs/html/ch2.htm>

⁶ Little, Mark (December 1991). "Operation Habitat: Humanitarian aid to the Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq". *The Medical Journal of Australia* 155: 807-812

particularly the Peshmerger, of which all were potentially volatile and could disrupt the efforts of the MNF. There were several other mine related fatalities that were suffered by Coalition Force troops.

There was no Civil Authority presence in Northern Iraq, and accordingly the rule of law was tenuous.

Two separate incidents of armed intervention by Peshmerger armed militia with AK-47 and RPG-7, held-up ASC Medical Support Teams [MST], during separate deployments within the AO to visit Kurds, the subject MSTs were under gun-point and the belligerents wanted to take all the Team's medical stores. The MSTs held their ground, being armed for self-protection and the stand-off situations were neutralised by the MST talking the belligerents out of their action on both occasions.

On a separate incident, two members of the ASC witnessed the death of a young Kurdish boy who stepped on a land mine, killing him instantly. There were numerous Potential Traumatic Events (PTE), of which many OP HABILAT veterans are suffering mental illness. Out of 75 of the ASC, six veterans have died from either cancer or of their own hand. At least 33% are Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) due to their service in OP HABILAT; and another 20% are believed to be undertaking psychiatric treatment. The effect of the veterans of OP HABILAT has had a profound life long effect on their respective health and well-being.

The Rules of Engagement [ROE] were continually being reviewed, along with Orders For Opening Fire (OFOF) as the tactical and political situation deteriorated in early to mid June 1991.

The ASC OFOF were interpreted to be restrictive in comparison to the more broader British and US Forces OFOF, which gave the authorisation for the protection of lives in comparison to the ASC OFOF. Land HQ in Australia forced a restrictive ROE for ASC, which placed the ambiguity of the OFOF of the ASC in comparison to the other MNF, particularly when the ASC was under Operational Control [OPCON] by the British Forces Commander. It appears that the Land HQ OFOF were sufficiently ambiguous to allow two opposing interpretations of the ROE/OFOF matter of the ASC, whilst operating within the British Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR).

However, further verification by COMASC to Land HQ with a verbal definition that the ASC OFOF was sufficient to allow a member to act against a person or persons who were committing or about to commit an act to endanger life and that this could be seen to extended to Kurds who were not sick or not wounded. (POR para 143).

It was noted by the COMASC "...significant threat to the ASCH security existed in Northern Iraq and these threats were effectively countered by routine and appropriate security measures." On the wider scale or the big picture, the force that the ASCH operated within had potent and

⁷ "Humanitarian Operations in Northern Iraq, Operation Provide Comfort PCN 19000316500_3, With Marines in Operation Provide Comfort."

lethal fire-power to combat any threat to the Operation. It is viewed that OP HAVEN/PROVIDE COMFORT was a Peace Enforcement Operation, with specific Military Objectives in maintaining a Security Zone, patrolling the respective TAOR, providing protection to the Kurds, providing protection to MSTs, and patrolling the Northern No-Fly Zone.

The shadow of what Chemical warfare could do to Kurds, particularly in a Chemical weapon attack by Iraqi Forces, on Halabja in March 1988, which the Iraqi army launched an attack that killed between 3,200 and 5,000 people and injured 7,000 to 10,000 more, most of them civilians. Thousands more died of complications, diseases, and birth defects in the years after the attack.

The incident, which has been officially defined as an act of genocide against the Kurdish people in Iraq, was and still remains the largest chemical weapons attack directed against a civilian-populated area in history. The threat of Hussein's Forces to conduct such deadly chemical attacks were fresh in the minds of the MNF and the Australians, who were in the region some three years afterward.

A dilemma for the MNF was that there were six Kurdish Political parties that intensely disagreed with each other, however they were united on one point and that was to have the oil-producing region in Kirkuk. In discussions of the repatriation of the Kurds, the Kurds demanded to return

to autonomy and to have Kirkuk handed over by the Iraqis to the Kurds. This was to prove to be a sticking point.

The Iraqis rejected the matter of Kirkuk being given to the Kurds and moved a Mechanised Battalion close to Kirkuk. Saddam Hussein also aggravated the situation by instigating several provocative acts to test the waters and resolve of the MNF.

The much renowned Kurdish PKK (The **Kurdistan Workers' Party**, commonly referred to by its Kurdish acronym, **PKK** (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanî)); were also a threat to the Force, of which Commanders grew increasingly concerned with Green on Blue attacks. Members of the MNF, particularly the ASC OP HABITAT were expected to protect themselves as individuals and within their allocated defensive position. Also, as previously stated members of ASC may engage if the threat existed to harm Kurds, whether they were ill or wounded, or not ill or not wounded.

Iraqi Police were present in several towns in Northern Iraq, although their numbers varied. Incidents including murder and abduction continued to occur between the Iraqi and the Kurdish people, throughout the operation.

Intelligence assessments indicated that Iraqi Secret Police could have initiated covert action against the Coalition in order to cause embarrassment or to suggest that such incidents were caused by the Peshmerger.



CPL Bruce Relph standing outside of the Australian Contingent of OPERATION HABITAT Command Post co-located with the Headquarters of the 3rd Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, Gi i Pit, Northern Iraq, during 16 May to 18 June 1991."

The Royal Marine Commando Intelligence Section commented that the ground threat was real and more volatile given the recent Gulf War had destabilised local military and political power arrangements. Commonwealth Medical Staff made projections of MNF casualties and were prepared to take combat casualties.

The 24 MEU were particularly concerned with the six Kurdish Political parties that were fighting each other for power. The terrorist threat was high and the Marines were menaced by unknown enemies.⁷

The US Navy 6th Fleet provided air cover in the NFZ, and was ready to provide a CAS response to any activated PLB within 120 seconds. This is an incredibly fast response time for any attacks against the MNF. The ASC Defensive Position had what is believed to be a US provided Portable Locating Beacon (PLB), with Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) coordinates that would be transmitted upon activation.

The Signal emitting a burst of data from this Beacon would be received by either the aircraft conducting the NFZ patrols, or Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) for the tasking of CAS assets. The guarantee put to the Commanders with the PLB was to have CAS available to provide such lethal air combat fire-power onto any belligerents or Iraqi Forces, should they attempt to attack MNF units, within two minutes of activation.

The major threat to the MNF and particularly the ASC OP HABITAT was ambush or Improvised Explosive Device (IED), including the vast numbers of land mines that were within the AO, mostly un-marked.

The other threat was the increased manoeuvre of Iraqi Mechanised, Artillery and troops amassing close to the Security Zone, of which this placed an intimidation toward the Kurds and the MNF.

There was potential, of which the ADF Members were briefed that they may restructure into a Peacekeeping Force. Whilst it is obvious that the MNF was a combat capable buffer zone between the Iraqi Forces and the Kurds, the political outlook remained precarious. The MNF was prepared to remain for some time in Northern Iraq, with the aim of the Operation developing into an armed Peacekeeping Force. The proposed Peacekeeping Force never materialised due to increased hostilities and the Ground Forces were unexpectedly withdrawn.

The Withdrawal.

On 31 May 1991, General Collin Powell announced the withdrawal of the MNF from Northern Iraq. This came as a shock to National commanders and agitated the Kurdish people, as it appeared that once again the Kurds will be left to fend for themselves. COMASC commented in his Post Operation Report (POR), para 177 *“Indeed, Local Commanders in NIZ [Northern Iraq] feared that violence could come from the announcement.”*

The matter of withdrawal was requested by the COMASC that if Australia made the announcement, that it would increase the security threat to the ASC by hostile Kurds. Despite this request the Australian Government made the announcement. As a result the ASC had to strengthen their

defences with all positions dug-in, as anticipation of attack.

The ground mission within Iraq took 58 days to complete. Operation Provide Comfort/Safe Haven officially ended shortly after and the enforcement of the ‘No Fly Zone’ continued to ensure security in the region. This continued as OP PROVIDE COMFORT, along with a number of other NFZ Operations. The Operation was deemed dramatically successful, even though it appeared to be risky given the climate of those times.

There was a very legitimate ground threat to the Operation by the Iraqi Military Forces including Militia units, who were attempting to infiltrate the Security Zone, in order to re-establish their position prior to the withdrawal of the MNF from the Theatre or Area of Operations. This placed a threatening tenet to the withdrawal phase of the MNF.

Allied troops agreed to remain in northern Iraq until a deal had been reached on Kurdish autonomy and a Western strike force was ready in south east Turkey to respond to any Iraqi aggression. But all the American, British, French and Dutch soldiers who had occupied Dohuk soon departed, leaving its population of about 180,000. They were initially replaced by a dozen UN guards. An Iraqi Kurd faction, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), later took control of the area.

OP HAVEN was considered as a “Test Bed” for ADF Post Cold-War Operations. Therefore, a pioneering force that provided a great deal of Lessons Learned, particularly for future inter-Coalition Combat Operations and deployment strategies.

Further Representations.

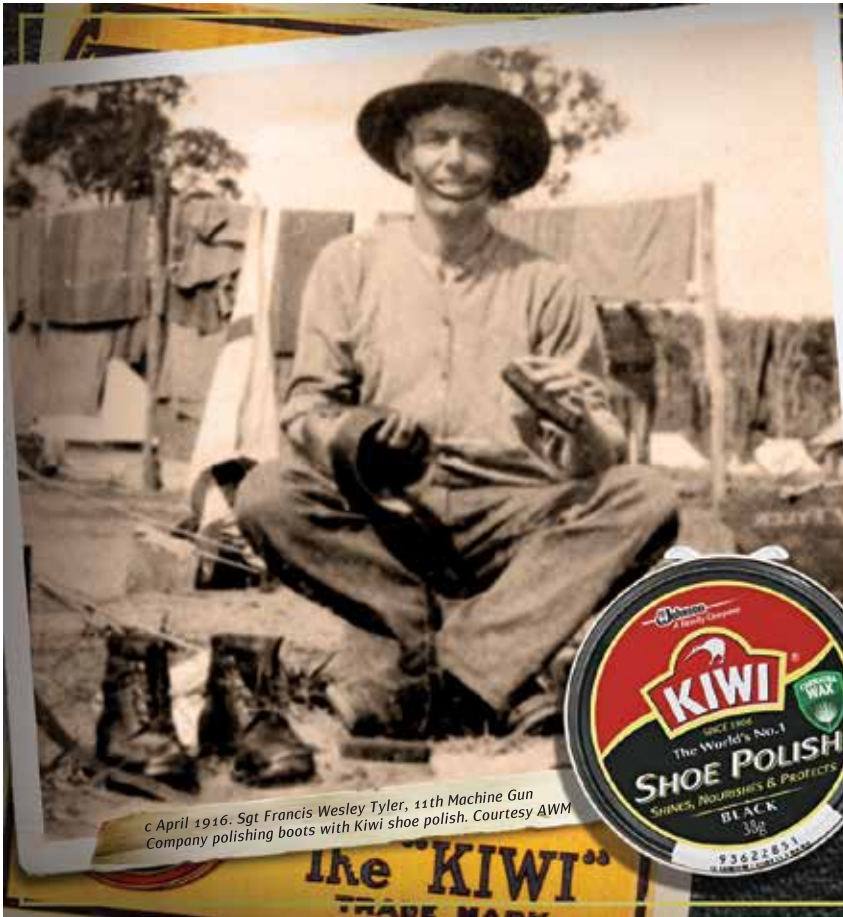
The APPVA has continued to represent the matters of the veterans of ASC OP HABITAT. The story was taken up by the ABC News on Sunday, 12th of October 2014. The Story presented well, with comments made on Social Media strongly in support of these veterans to be reclassified to warlike service.

The APPVA is currently undergoing Defence Freedom of Information (FOI) action in order to obtain documentation to analyse the decision-making process that was made prior to deployment and the degree of research that went into the decisions of 2010. The APPVA will then formulate a submission to Government in order to seek resolution toward the matter.

In the next edition of “The Peacekeeper”, the contrasting analysis of OP HABITAT against the Government response and previous warlike Humanitarian Operations are discussed.

END OF PART 1.

Paul Copeland



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or visit www.apsbs.com.au

Search for the Silent ANZAC

Defence scientists have been given a unique glimpse into Australia's history while at the same time assisting an international effort to preserve an important war relic.

ONE of Australia's last untouched Gallipoli war sites is now better protected, thanks to a group of Australian Defence scientists, submariners and naval historians.

After extensive exploration of the wreck of the submarine HMAS AE2, a joint Australian and Turkish team has protected the vessel from further corrosion and damage almost 100 years after it sank in the Sea of Marmara off the Turkish coast.

AE2 was one of Australia's first submarines. She was launched in 1913 and was commanded by Lieutenant Commander Henry Stoker.

Stoker was ordered to sail through the Dardanelles Strait. AE2 entered the Dardanelles on the morning of 25 April 1915, the same day Australian and New Zealand troops landed at Gallipoli. After torpedoing the Ottoman gunboat Peykisevket, the submarine negotiated through the Narrows.

She was pursued by surface vessels and, after passing through a minefield, she entered the Sea of Marmara the following day. AE2 was the first Allied warship to make it through the Narrows. Her mission was to "run amok" and torpedo transports bringing Ottoman reinforcements to the Gallipoli battlefields.

On 30 April 1915, the submarine was attacked by the Ottoman torpedo boat Sultanhisar, holed as a result of gunfire and scuttled by her commanding officer. All AE2's crew members were rescued by the Sultanhisar as the submarine slid to the sea floor.

Exploration and preservation of the wreck was undertaken in June and led by the AE2 Commemorative Foundation

and Submarine Institute of Australia. The team comprised 16 Australians, 19 Turks and two Americans including scientists, divers, academics, maritime archaeologists, film makers, submariners and historians.

Dr Roger Neill, of the Defence Science and Technology Organisation's Maritime Division, supervised the survey of AE2 from onboard a control vessel anchored off the wreck site.

He says AE2 was one of the most advanced submarines of her time.

"HMAS AE2 and her sister ship, HMAS AE1, were fitted with twin eight-cylinder diesel engines and the first gyrocompasses. AE2 had a mixed British and Australian crew of 32," he says.

Roger says the submarine has been dived on since being discovered in June 1998, but the real challenge was to fully explore and survey the interior of the vessel. "When the submarine sank, the upper hatch closed and the stirrups that normally lock it into place had caught on the clips. This meant it was almost locked into place, leaving a 10 centimetre gap. Apart from the three gun holes, that was the only opening into the submarine."

Roger says before the research team could fully explore the interior of the submarine, it needed permission from the Turkish Government to open the hatch.

"The challenge was to get inside the vessel to take a series of measurements and collect vision without disturbing the environment too much."

He says the team used a staged approach for the underwater exploration of AE2.

"For the first stage, we developed a highdefinition camera and sophisticated lighting system, specifically designed to enable the inside of the submarine to be visualised in its undisturbed state. The second phase of the internal survey used a specially modified remotely operated vehicle to access parts of the boat, which couldn't be reached with the camera system.

"These units sent data to the surface via 250 metres of flexible cable. This enabled

AE2 and AE1 docked at Garden Island in 1914.



all activities to be directed from operations rooms on the ship and, when required, divers supported the survey by working from a dive bell below surface,” he says.

Roger says team members were overwhelmed by what they saw as AE2 gave up its secrets for the first time in almost 100 years.

“We saw a lot of detail that had been lost to history. In the conning tower, we saw the telegraph and the forward steering position.

We also got a glimpse of something we had no idea was there – the flag locker. It’s not shown on any of the plans and there are still flags sitting in the locker.

“Once we entered the main control room, the camera revealed a set of oil-filled gauges.

What surprised me was the glass was still clear and the dials were readable. That is what struck me most of all during the exploration of HMAS AE2.”

Roger says despite the detailed exploration, the environment inside the submarine was left as undisturbed as possible. He says they also went to great lengths to protect and preserve the wreck.

“It has been smashed around by anchors and fishing nets, so we assisted in installing a marker buoy. It will be shown on Turkish charts and has been welcomed by local fishermen, who are tired of losing their gear, and naval historians, who are pleased to see the submarine protected.

“We also assisted in positioning a protection system around the wreck to control corrosion. It involves three four-and-a-half tonne pods carrying zinc anode arrays.”

Roger says the pods are connected to the submarine by cables and work to preserve the submarine in its current state.

“It is the world’s largest in-situ corrosion protection system for an historic shipwreck,” he says.

He says there is one final chapter to the exploration of AE2.

“We have explored the submarine and we have preserved and protected it. Now we are going to tell the story of HMAS AE2 through an education package for younger generations of Australians,” he says.

“We want them to come to understand that on 25 April 1915, the Gallipoli landings not only involved the young men storming the beaches of ANZAC Cove. At the same time, AE2 entered the Dardanelles Strait and the wreck is the largest intact remnant of the Gallipoli landings.”

The project is an initiative of the ANZAC Centenary Program 2014-2018, funded by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs in partnership with the Turkish Government’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The HMAS AE2 education resource is available at www.ae2.org.au



AE2 and AE1 docked at Garden Island in 1914.



Dr Roger Neill delivers a briefing to Turkish divers

KEY FACTS ABOUT AE2

Cost: £115,000

Built: Vickers at Burrow-in-Furness, Lancashire, England

Launched: 18 June 1913

Commissioned: 28 February 1914

Complement: 35

Length: 181 feet (55.17m)

Beam: 22 feet 6 inches (6.86m)

Draught: 12 feet 6 inches (3.81m)

Displacement: 660 tonnes surfaced, 800 tonnes submerged

Speed: 15 knots surfaced, 10 knots submerged

Armaments: Four 18-inch Whitehead torpedo tubes – single bow tube: two tubes in the beam port and starboard, stern tube. AE2 carried eight torpedoes: two at each of the four firing positions

Periscopes: Two: the main a fixed lens and another with moveable optics to view the sky

Crew: 32 (three officers and 29 seamen)

Other details: Gyrocompass: Marconi wireless (Marconi Type 10 M/F transmitter) wooden radio mast, which folded down to the deck when not in use.



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Global Reach

ADF capabilities boost Australian soft power

Much has been written in recent years about the RAAF's ongoing efforts to replace its F-111 long-range strike and F/A-18 'classic' Hornet multirole fighter fleets with a new air combat aircraft.

Despite the F-35 rightly remaining the ultimate choice to fulfil this role, ongoing project delays have seen the RAAF's introduction of the F-35 slip some six years, and forced the Howard coalition government to acquire the F/A-18F Super Hornet as a gap-filler capability.

Combat aircraft offer a nation a method of reinforcing its diplomatic efforts through the often persuasive but generally unstated threat of force or deterrence – the RAAF's F-111 along with the RAN's Oberon and Collins class submarines and Army's Special Forces were prime examples of this during times of tension with Indonesia and other regional nations in the past four decades. A highly capable air combat force presents a potential adversary with the risk of a bloody nose should it become overly aggressive or belligerent.

But on a quieter but no less costly scale, the ADF has also been building capabilities that will enable it to support government policy through the employment of soft power or soft diplomacy. In recent decades the ADF has been able to quickly respond to disasters or events in our region of influence via the employment of RAAF C-130 Hercules and DHC-4 Caribou transports, and RAN amphibious vessels such as HMA Ships Tobruk, Kanimbla and Manoora. Events in Cambodia, Timor Leste, the Solomons, Bougainville, and following the PNG and Indian Ocean tsunamis are all examples of where the quick employment of ADF soft power assets have resulted in closer and long-lasting allegiances and ultimately, diplomatic influence.

But with the introduction of the Boeing C-17 Globemaster III transport in late 2006, the ante was well and truly upped, so to speak. Suddenly Australia had an ability to rapidly exert soft power influence not only at a regional level, but also at a strategic one. The 2011 Japanese tsunami saw RAAF C-17s deployed to that country to support US and Japanese relief efforts. More recently, Australia's global reach was ably demonstrated by the rapid response to the initial recovery efforts following the July downing of Malaysia Airlines MH17 over the Ukraine, while fleeing refugees and forces fighting the Islamic State in Iraq have been supported by multiple RAAF C-17 flights ferrying relief supplies and weapons.

The initial fleet of four C-17s was quickly task-saturated in ADF service, and was soon bolstered by a fifth and then a sixth aircraft to provide sufficient capacity to support operations during planned maintenance cycles and unplanned unservicabilities. Now an additional two and perhaps as many as four more C-17s will further augment the RAAF's fleet, taking the total number of C-17s in service up to 10 and making the RAAF the second largest operator of the type.

In short, a C-17 can be employed twice as fast while carrying up to four times the amount of cargo than a C-130. While South-East Asia is a day's flight away for a C-130, a C-17 can be in the Middle East or even Europe in the same time. It provides Australia with the ability to apply powerful regional and strategic influence without resorting to a kinetic effect.

The introduction of the C-17 has also indirectly bolstered the ADF's tactical transport capabilities by allowing the retirement of the ageing C-130H, and the re-deployment of the younger and more capable C-130J to tactical tasks alongside the new Alenia/L-3 C-27J Spartan which will enter service next year.

The RAN will also soon add to Australia's capacity to apply soft power with the entry into service of the two 27,000 tonne Canberra class LHDs in 2015 and 2017. With each vessel able to deploy battalion sized forces of 1,000 or more troops and their vehicles and helicopter support elements and then support that force ashore for a number of days, the LHDs represent a similar step change in capability from the former LPAs as the C-17 does over the C-130.

Reproduced with permission from the Williams Foundation, Nov 2014.

Aid supplies unloaded from a RAAF C-17 at Nadi, Fiji following December 2012's Tropical Cyclone Evan. *Defence*



IT Expert Recognised

by Lieutenant Sarah West

A computer program designed to assist Navy and delivered at a fraction of the estimated cost has earned plaudits for an IT expert.

A public servant who developed a computer-based strategic management system for Navy at a fraction of the estimated cost was recognised in one of the Australian Government's top awards for outstanding performance in Information and Communications Technology.

Dan Milford is employed in Navy Strategic Command and was a finalist in the ICT Young Professional of the Year Awards for his contribution to the design of the Royal Australian Navy's Strategic Management System – NSManS.

He developed the system for a total cost to Navy of \$35,000, well under the projected cost of \$900,000.

Dan used engineering principles to design the system, which provides senior commanders with a clear picture of Navy's performance against its deliverables to Government and progress towards its future goals, as outlined in the Navy Strategy 2012-2017.

Dan says he designed the system using a 'Navy on a page' concept, to provide a more disciplined reporting system that empowers people to make decisions at the lowest appropriate level, while ensuring the Chief of

Navy maintains strategic oversight.

"The system provides a single point of truth to give the Senior Leadership Group a collective understanding of how the Navy is tracking, in order to inform evidence-based decision-making," Dan says.

"Accountability in reporting is a key function of the system. It ensures that we are achieving what we are meant to be achieving towards the Navy Strategy 2012-2017.

"Essentially, we have quickly developed a cost-effective, in-house solution that achieves Navy's requirements for strategic reporting."

Dan was surprised to have been recognised in the ICT awards, given his background is in other areas.

"It was good to get the award. ICT is not my core role. I think my project management is what led to the system's success," he says.

"We went live with the system earlier this year and already we are seeing great benefits for Navy."

The Deputy Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Michael VanBalen, has congratulated Dan.

"Dan's achievement in the Australian Government ICT Awards brings great credit not only to him, but also to the

wider Department of Defence," Rear Admiral VanBalen says.

"The work he has done to develop the management system will result in significant improvements in Navy's strategic reporting.

His project management skills, innovation, leadership, cost-consciousness and vision were clearly evident in this work.

"The recognition he has gained through the ICT Awards is thoroughly deserved."

NSManS will be used by Navy people in command positions at various levels from ship and establishment commanding officers to the Chief of Navy.



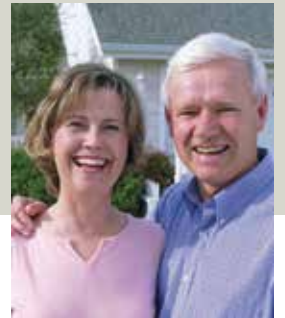
Mr Daniel Milford from the Royal Australian Navy's Strategic Executive is a finalist for the annual ICT Young Professional of the Year Award for his work to create a strategic management system for the Navy.

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A Monumental Anniversary

For 60 years the Australian-American memorial has stood as a testament to the ties that bind the United States and Australia. It is one of the most recognisable monuments in Canberra and a focal point for ceremonial and commemorative events.

Some affectionately call it “The Eagle”, “The Chicken on a Stick”, “The Blowfly on a Pole”, “Bugs Bunny” and even “The Russell Crow”.

It's the Australian-American Memorial that stands an imposing 73 metres in Field Marshal Thomas Blamey Square at Defence Headquarters in Canberra.

It's the stage and centrepiece for formal ceremonies, and this year it celebrates its 60th birthday after undergoing restoration work. It is also a symbol of the close ties between Australia and the United States.

To mark the Australian-American Memorial's 60th anniversary and its refurbishment, the US Ambassador, John Berry, and the Secretary of Defence, Dennis Richardson, unveiled a commemorative plaque at a ceremony on 17 October. The plaque, at the base of the monument, explains its significance and history.

The story of the monument began in 1948 when the Australian American Association initiated plans to build a memorial to demonstrate Australia's deep gratitude to the American service personnel for their help during World War II.

A committee was established that included Association President R.G Casey, who later became Governor-General, and Keith Murdoch, the father of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

They launched a competition for the design of a memorial and began the search for a site. Richard Ure won the competition over 31 other entries. His design called for an octagonal aluminium column topped by an eagle with its wings swept in a victory sign.

This feature was designed by Newcastle sculptor Paul Beadle.

In 1950, Prime Minister Robert Menzies launched a nationwide appeal for £50,000 to help pay for the monument. Within six weeks, more than £63,000 had been raised, a significant amount considering the population of Australia at the time was only eight million. The final cost came to £100,000.

A location near the intersection of ANZAC Parade and Constitution Avenue was considered, until a bush setting at Russell was finally chosen.

Work began in December 1952 and was completed in just over a year. The then United States Vice President,



The Eagle, designed by sculptor Paul Beadle, is ready to be hoisted to the top of the memorial.

Richard Nixon, visited the building site.

Construction called for a steel-framed structure clad in sand-blasted aluminium.

The inside of the column features two murals, one relating to the battle of the Coral Sea and the other a profile map of America in copper. It also features a series of internal ladders to the top.

Queen Elizabeth unveiled the Australian- American Memorial on 16 February 1954 during her first Royal Tour.

57 Defence December 2014 The Australian American Association's Canberra Division President, Alicia Doherty, says the monument is the stage for services commemorating the Battle of the Coral Sea.

“It is a really moving ceremony commemorating one of the most significant battles during WWII,” she says.

“Given the significance of the battle to the ultimate victory in the Pacific, it can be rightly considered as the moment in history that cemented the relationship between Australia and the United States of America.”

She says the Australian-American Memorial is one of the most recognisable monuments in Canberra, and it has special significance for her.

“You can see it from so many vantage points,” she says.

“When I look at it, I’m filled with a huge sense of pride that our Association, with the support of Australians from across the country, was able to achieve this.”

The National Capital Authority’s Director of Estate Development and Renewal, Rob Tindal, says the Australian-American Memorial is the earliest national capital feature in the development of Russell.

“It is a prominent feature in the third corner of the National Triangle when approaching Russell along Kings Avenue,” he says.

Rob says the Authority worked closely with Defence in two stages over an 18-month period to undertake restoration of the memorial, the first since its unveiling in 1954.

“The works cost \$1.2m and involved refurbishment of the podium, moat, plinths and commemorative tables,” he says.

“We replaced the sandstone pavers and stairs, forecourt pavement, upgraded electrical services and lighting, and installed new steel handrails.

“We also replaced the commemorative wreath, Australian Coat of Arms and US emblem, and repaired the granite commemorative tables.”

The Russell Base Support Manager, Bruno Blasi, says Defence and the National Capital Authority were in constant communication during the refurbishment of the Australian-American Memorial in terms of project timelines and access to the site.

“We took particular interest in the project because it had to be completed before the CDF Change of Command Parade and the Chief of Navy handover/takeover parade, which were both scheduled for 30 June,” he says.

“Several weeks of bad weather leading up to the parades meant the memorial and Blamey Square were at risk of not being ready for the big events.



Queen Elizabeth officially unveils the memorial on 16 February 1954.

“However, credit must go to the Authority and its sub-contractors for completing the works and meeting the tight deadlines.”

Australian American Memorial Facts

- **Commenced: 1952**
- **Completed: 1953**
- **Cost: £100,000**
- **Height: 73 metres**
- **Shaft: Steel frame comprising 21 inclined internal ladders**
- **Cladding: 8.1 tonnes of sandblasted aluminium panels**
- **Unveiled: 16 February 1954**



The then United States Vice-President, Richard Nixon, congratulates foreman Bill Tait and workmates during the construction of the Australian-American Memorial in October 1953.



The United States Ambassador to Australia, John Berry; the Secretary of Defence, Dennis Richardson; and the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, following the unveiling of a new commemorative plaque at the Australian- American Memorial .

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The global consulting organization Serenidad Consulting® was founded in 2010 by its CEO, Nola Hennessy, to deliver services and products that are a cut-above-the-rest and underpinned by the principles of excellence, great leadership and positive personal power. Its strategic intent is to facilitate global peace and it does so, in every context of its operations and by partnering formally and informally with like-minded others. Ms Hennessy sees global peace through an education and prevention-focused lens, not a conflict lens and, as such, has been spreading the importance of these strategies especially during her recent time in the USA.

Some say that peace will never happen; others, that peace is critical to the survival of the human race. Both those views create significant challenges to those who know that peace is achievable. The single most significant barrier to peace is at the individual level. Where there is no peace coming from within, there can be no peace sustained with others. As each person chooses a peaceful existence, so too will families, groups, societies, organizations and countries create peace and be able to flourish in the positive energy that is inherent in choosing that path.

Imagine a nation's military engagement "White Paper" visioning peace instead of ongoing conflict? Impossible, or inevitable? The question Ms Hennessy puts to each and every member of humanity is simple: "What do you want to see happen – peace or war?" When peace (and only peace) is the choice, then strategic documents will articulate that choice and provide direction to achieve that outcome.

Gaps Left by our Fallen Staff Members can Never be Filled’ – UN chief

At a solemn event at United Nations Headquarters on 8 January 2015, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon honoured colleagues killed on duty, as he explained that while demand for humanitarian workers is growing at an unprecedented rate, direct attacks against those vital actors are on the rise.

Between October 2013 and November 2014, 100 UN staff members were killed while on duty.

“Let us pause together for a minute of silence in their memory,” Mr. Ban said, adding that the fallen colleagues had paid “the ultimate sacrifice” while serving the cause of peace, development and human rights.

“In the past year, UN staff members have been killed while they were relaxing over dinner in a restaurant in Kabul. Two colleagues were targeted deliberately after getting off a plane at Galkayo airport in Somalia. And a UN Volunteer from Sudan who was treating Ebola patients in Sierra Leone succumbed to the disease himself,” the Secretary-General explained.

“Some were targeted deliberately; others were killed while protecting civilians; still others perished in accidents or natural disasters. All died while performing their duties in difficult and dangerous circumstances.”

Also at today’s ceremony, the UN paid tribute to the 102 colleagues who died in the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti five years ago this month.

“The terrible memories of that day are still fresh in all our minds, and in the minds of Haiti’s people. The gaps left by our fallen staff members can never be filled. I visited last

July and laid a wreath in memory of our beloved friends and colleagues,” the UN chief said.

In recent years, direct attacks against UN personal have become more frequent.

“I am appalled by the number of humanitarian workers and peacekeepers who have been deliberately targeted in the past year, while they were trying to help people in crisis,” Mr. Ban said.

Still, UN workers are persevering, Mr Ban said. In Iraq and Syria, UN personnel conduct life-saving humanitarian operations. In Central African Republic, South Sudan, Mali and Ukraine, they stand ready to response to political and human rights crises.

“I have seen many of these missions for myself. The bravery shown by United Nations staff under fire is an inspiration to all of us, every day,” Mr. Ban said.

Vowing commitment to their safety, Mr. Ban stressed the importance of better equipment and in-depth training. Member States must support these efforts, provide funding, and ensure that all those who attack UN staff are brought to justice.

While attacks have been more frequent, demand for peacekeeping and humanitarian operations has risen to unprecedented levels and is likely to continue to increase, due to the effects of climate change and competition for resources, the Secretary-General said.

“The best memorial we can offer our fallen colleagues is to continue their work, to expand our operations, to extend our open hand, wherever help is needed.”



Memorial Service in honour of UN personnel who lost their lives while serving the Organization.
UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Amalgamation of RAAF Combat Support Unit in the Middle East Region

The New Year commenced with a new role and patch for the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Combat Support Unit (CSU) in the Middle East Region.

The CSU was originally formed in 2009 to support air operations for the P-3s, C-130s and the Heron detachment, as part of the Air Component Command. Now the role of CSU is more focused on infrastructure support that includes messing, supply, medical, postal, pay and psychological support and from 01 January, 2015, the CSU became part of HQ Joint Task Force 633.

In a small ceremony, Commander JTF633 Rear Admiral Trevor Jones, AO, CSC, RAN, presented the members of the unit with their new patches.

Rear Admiral Jones said it was a great privilege to present the unit with their patches.

“While CSU is the first to be amalgamated into one unit, I don’t think you will be the last,” he said.

“The new command and control structure will see other elements elevated to unit status in the near future.

“So accept these new patches and take pride in coming together as a single unit, and continue to do the fantastic work you have been doing.”

Commanding Officer CSU 12 SQNLDR Steve Wellings said the new patch maintained the historical links with previous CSU patches.

“We’ve retained the eagle to symbolise we are still an Air Force body, even though we are under the tri-service environment of JTF633 and we have removed the numbering designation to align with current operational patches,” he said

Air Component Coordination Element –Middle East Region (ACCE-MER) Commander WGCDR Steve Larado said it was a historical day.

“We are currently involved in the most significant RAAF operation since the Vietnam War, with the deployment of TG630 Air Task Group and the commencement of kinetic



Royal Australian Air Force Leading Aircraftwoman Liz Knauer proudly wears her new Combat Support Unit patch in the Middle East Region.

air operations over Iraq.”

“That has been enabled because the CSU is here to support operations and it continues to happen because of the work you do – none of that will change now that you are under command of JTF633.”

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Wedgetail endurance mission



Four Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) F/A-18F Super Hornets flying in "echelon right" formation, briefly share the Middle Eastern airspace with a RAAF E-7A Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft.

Royal Australian Air Force E-7A Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft recently made history for the longest Australian command and control mission in a war zone during a combat mission over Iraq.

At 16 hours and 18 minutes, the E-7A Wedgetail's mission entailed the command and control of large numbers of Coalition aircraft operating in Iraqi airspace as part of the multi-national air campaign confronting ISIL.

Commander of Australia's Air Task Group, Air Commodore Steve Robertson commented on what the endurance mission meant for Australia's air power capability.

"After already being 'on station' for a number of hours, the Australian Wedgetail crew was advised the Coalition aircraft due to relieve them was delayed," Air Commodore Robertson said.

In response, the Wedgetail crew quickly assessed their ability to coordinate additional air-to-air refuelling and agreed to substantially extend their mission.

"Try to imagine coordinating a short-notice, mid-air refuel for a Boeing 737 in the middle of a combat zone. It is no small task," he said.

Air Commodore Robertson noted Australia's ability to 'go above and beyond' is a clear demonstration of the nation's important contribution to the Coalition air campaign.

The E-7A Wedgetail crew completed two air-to-air refuels during this mission, allowing it to stay airborne and make the historic time.

The crew first deployed to the Middle East in September 2014 and were regularly undertaking lengthy missions of approximately 13 hours. Including planning and debriefing, the extension to over 16 hours airborne resulted in the aircrew working toward their duty limits.

"The Australian crew's responsiveness and flexibility made up for a shortfall that night" Air Commodore Robertson said.

Commander of the E-7A Wedgetail Task Element Wing Commander Christian Martin echoed this praise but acknowledged there were also many in Australia who shared in this achievement.

"The performance and reliability of the aircraft are a direct result of the dedication of a joint 'Wedgetail team' comprising our Wing Headquarters back home, the Airborne Early Warning and Control Special Projects Office and Boeing Defence Australia," Wing Commander Martin said.

Wing Commander Martin believes the E-7A Wedgetail has developed into a world class command and control platform and is the envy of many nations.

Engaging women in peace and security

By Darryl Johnston and Lieutenant Kelli Lunt

Women are playing a greater role in planning and implementing peace and security initiatives under a United Nations program supported by Defence.

The Australian Defence Force is making significant progress in implementing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, according to the Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin.

Air Chief Marshal Binskin told the Annual Civil Society Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security at the Australian National University in Canberra in September that the National Action Plan provides a framework for a whole-of-government approach to implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

It also identifies strategies and actions that Australia has committed to and will implement over a six-year period.

Defence is responsible for contributing to the implementation of 17 of the 24 actions.

One way it is doing this is to ensure its policies and programs align with international measures to promote a more comprehensive approach to operations and peacekeeping.

In his address, Air Chief Marshal Binskin highlighted how Defence is driving the Services and Groups to understand, analyse and respond to the different needs and concerns of local men and women in communities affected by conflict.

“Defence is committed to ensuring that a gender perspective is considered in the planning and conduct of operations, whether on land, or at sea through border protection and other maritime activities,” he says.

“Our initiatives are centred on embedding policies, tools and practices into operations that promote a more detailed analysis of the culture, society and environment, and which take into account the needs and concerns of men and women, boys and girls.”

Air Chief Marshal Binskin says women, peace and security goals are included in the Defence Corporate Plan, Defence Annual Plan, all military operational planning directives and joint doctrine development. He says gender advisers have been appointed to Joint Operations Command and to operations and exercises.

“Defence’s primary focus is on increasing operational effectiveness through the role of women in fragile, conflict and post-conflict settings,” he says.

“The participation of women in the ADF and across Defence plays an important part in this agenda. I want our people to fully understand how this effectively contributes to peace and security operations within our region and internationally.

“Personnel from each of the Services can expect to hear more about this important initiative under a Defence-wide engagement plan, particularly in relation to how Defence is implementing the National Action Plan and embedding it into our core business.”

He says Defence will continue to collaborate with Government, civil society organisations and international partners, conduct training for Defence personnel and address gaps in strategic guidance, planning directives, joint doctrine and training to ensure the successful implementation of the National Action Plan.

The United Nations reports that women and girls are disproportionately affected in times of conflict because of gender inequalities. This can manifest itself in many ways, including sexual and gender-based violence, a lack of access to basic needs and increased responsibilities at a time when women and girls are already overburdened.

On the other hand, the United Nations says women are under-represented in conflict prevention and the peace and rebuilding processes, despite playing important grassroots roles in their communities.



Air Marshal Mark Binskin, is interviewed during the 2014 Women in Peace and Security conference in Canberra, ACT.



Australian medical technician Sergeant Bernadette Serong, Mentoring Task Force - Three plays with a local girl during a task to meet with local women in the Chora Valley, southern Afghanistan.

Representatives from across the three Services, Government, academia and civil society organisations, including United Nations Women Australia and Oxfam, attended the Dialogue.

The Women Peace and Security Introductory Manual can be accessed at http://acmc.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/WPS_manual.pdf

Details of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012-2018 are available at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/vcdf/sites/NAPWPS>

GENDER FACTS

- In 2011, only four of the 14 UN co-led peace negotiations included women.
- Eleven peace agreements were signed in 2011, but only two included provisions for women.
- Organised sexual and gender-based violence is mentioned in only 17 of the 585 post-1990 peace accords.
- Only 6 per cent of post-conflict budgets are directed at empowering women and promoting gender equality.
- Ninety per cent of threats against political candidates in Afghanistan are made against women.
- Between 50,000 and 64,000 internally displaced women in Sierra Leone have been sexually assaulted by combatants.



Australian Army medic Sergeant Bernadette Serong patrols with Delta Company in the Karmisan Valley, Southern Afghanistan.

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HMAS Success conducts first RAS as part of Operation MANITOU with ESPS Rayo



HMAS Success conducted its first Replenishment At Sea (RAS) for its Op MANITOU deployment with ESPS Rayo off the coast of Djibouti on 02 Jan 15. Success is an Auxiliary Oil Replenishment Ship force assigned to Joint Task Force 633 and as part of Combined Task Force 53, provides logistic support to coalition navy ships on patrol in the area. By supplying coalition navies with fuel and stores, Success enables ships to remain at sea on task for longer periods.

Rayo is a Spanish Navy meteor class corvette assigned to CTF 465, the European Union Naval Force, conducting anti-piracy patrols off the Horn of Africa.

80 000 litres of F76 fuel was transferred to the patrol force vessel from Success in an evolution that lasted under an hour.

As a sign of camaraderie, Success' imagery specialist captured a photo of Rayo coming alongside and the finished picture was mounted and transferred to the Spanish ship during the evolution.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Rafael Samaniego, displayed his appreciation by giving a thumbs up gesture when he received the picture and waved to Success' Commanding Officer, Captain Justin Jones, from the bridge.

These international engagements help to strengthen cooperation and mutual understanding between the

different nations and naval forces that are conducting counter-piracy, counter-terrorism and counter-smuggling operations in the Middle East.

Lieutenant Commander Samaniego of the Rayo said 'it is an honour to be on the same side'.

'Thank you very much for a safe and successful evolution', he said as the RAS concluded and the two ships said 'fair winds and following seas' (Naval jargon for farewell.)

Leading Seaman Boatswains Mate Luke Horsburgh (right) sends a final signal to Spanish Ship Rayo after conducting a Replenishment at Sea during Operation MANITOU.



Gallipoli 100

February 1915 – January 1916

On 19 February 1915, the sea off the entrance to the strait of the Dardanelles in Turkey was calm; there was no wind and the sun shone. A few kilometres offshore from the old Ottoman imperial forts guarding either side of the entrance—Seddülbahir at the toe of the Gallipoli peninsula and Kumkale on the Asian side — a small fleet of British and French warships took station. From there they opened a leisurely bombardment of the forts. All day shells fell on Sed-dülbahir and Kumkale without reply. Then, as the Allied ships came to within three kilometres, the Turkish gunners fired back, showing that the forts had not been destroyed. The British and French attempt to knock the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) out of World War One had begun. It became known as the 'Gallipoli campaign' and it lasted until 8 January 1916, when the last British soldiers left the Gallipoli peninsula from positions near Seddülbahir.

The Australian Imperial Force

Australian involvement with Gallipoli began, although none of the individuals concerned at the time would have realised it, with the raising of a military force during the later months of 1914. After the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914, the Australian government offered a force of 20,000 men to the British Empire war effort. This force, to be known as the

Australian Imperial Force (AIF), was recruited throughout Australia. On 1 November, the first contingent - infantry, artillery, light horse, field ambulances, engineers, and the many other units which made up a modern army - sailed away in convoy from Albany, Western Australia, into the Indian Ocean towards the Suez Canal. Private Archibald Barwick of the 1st Battalion AIF, who was to fight with his unit for the whole war and return home in 1919, wrote:

... all that day we watched the Australian coast fading away, till darkness shut it out, and when we got up in the morning we were out of sight of land, and nothing but the calm blue sea all around us, like a sheet of shimmering glass, and at last we felt we were fairly on the way to England.

Indeed, it was to England that the men of the AIF thought they were going, and then across the English Channel to France to engage the German army, which had invaded France and Belgium in August 1914. Few of them would have heard of a place called Gallipoli.

The first contingent of the AIF never got to England. On 3 December 1914 the force, along with men from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF), disembarked in Egypt and went into training camps there. Word had come from the Australian High Commissioner in London, Sir George



© Topical Press Agency/Getty Images

On their way: Australians soldiers embarking at Melbourne to fight in World War One in December 1914.



Reid, that facilities in England were totally unsuitable for Winter lodgings, a conclusion with which the British military authorities agreed. Between December 1914 and March 1915, as the Australians and New Zealanders trained in the desert beneath the pyramids, a situation developed which was to bring them to battle not with the Germans but with the men of the Ottoman Army.

Such an array of might and power 18 March 1915

The British Empire's decision to launch a major naval and military attack on Turkey in 1915 arose from the stalemate reached in France and Belgium by late 1914. Here, an initial war of movement had turned into static trench warfare, with neither side confident of breaking through the other's lines and forcing a victory. The British War Cabinet began looking for other strategic fronts where it might be possible to gain some success and cause problems for Germany. A request from the Russian Empire, battling with Ottoman forces on its southern frontier, turned Britain's attention to the possibility of using its own superior naval power to force Germany's ally out of the war. This might be accomplished by a rush with a battle fleet up the Dardanelles and through to Constantinople (Istanbul). The shelling of the Ottoman capital, it was thought, would then cause the Turks to sue for peace.

Between 19 February and 17 March 1914, a British and French naval force attempted to subdue Turkish forts and mobile howitzer batteries arrayed on either side of the Dardanelles from its mouth to the Narrows at the town of Çanakkale. It was also necessary, before the great battleships could steam past the Narrows and

on up the Dardanelles to the Sea of Marmara, for small minesweepers to sweep a channel through numerous minefields laid across the strait. This they failed to achieve, largely because of the accurate fire of shore-based mobile Turkish howitzer batteries. So it was decided that, on 18 March, a large British and French naval force would enter the Dardanelles and with naval gunfire hammer the Turkish forts and batteries to a point where they were no longer capable of resistance. Minesweepers could then approach safely and clear a way for the warships.

As the great fleet of sixteen battleships sailed into the strait on the morning of 18 March 1915, one British naval officer observed 'no human power could withstand such an array of might and power'. All morning the gunners on shore withstood it, their guns firing round after round; warships were hit, men killed and metal twisted, but the Turkish shells could not pierce the main armour of the battleships. Meanwhile, Allied shells crashed into masonry, hit munitions and caused loss of life at the batteries. Sensing a weakening of Turkish resistance, the British Admiral John de Robeck ordered the last line of battleships forward. As his second line turned away to allow these ships through, the French warship Bouvet suddenly sustained a massive explosion and sank within minutes, taking more than 600 sailors to their deaths. It had struck a mine. By late afternoon, the Allied fleet had lost three battleships and three more had been badly damaged.

That 'great array' of naval 'might and power' had not gained the day on March 18. There has been some dispute ever since about the state of the Turkish shore defence after the warships sailed away. Were they dangerously low on ammunition? Had the defenders' morale been affected? Whatever the situation, one basic fact remained - the mine-fields, whose clearance was essential to any further progress, remained virtually intact. The naval attack never resumed. On 22 March, at a conference on the British flagship Queen Elizabeth, de Robeck announced that he could not seize the Dardanelles alone. It would be necessary to land a sizeable military force to capture the shore batteries and allow the navy through the strait.

Australia's chance Gallipoli invasion plans

For some time before the naval attack was called off, the British Army had been preparing for the eventuality that a landing to support the navy would be necessary. General Sir Ian Hamilton, a semi-retired officer, was sent out to Egypt to take command of what became known as the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF). This force ultimately consisted of British, French, British India Army, New Zealand and Australian units. During their training in Egypt the AIF and the NZEF were combined into a corps — the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) — consisting of the First Australian Division and the New Zealand and Australian Division commanded by a British India Army officer, Lieutenant-General Sir William Birdwood.

The Australians and New Zealanders, soon to be known simply as ANZACs, were given the task of invading the central section of the Gallipoli peninsula. This landing was

to be effected at dawn on 25 April 1915, while two hours later the main British force was to go ashore at the tip of the peninsula. The French would stage a diversionary landing on the Asian shore of the Dardanelles near Kumkale, but come off within days to support what was envisaged as a successful British capturing of the main features of the Gallipoli peninsula. The British, so the plan went, would have advanced rapidly to the taking of Kilid Bahr, the high plateau which lay across the centre of the peninsula. Meanwhile, the ANZACs would have seized the heights of the Sari Bair range immediately inland of their prospective landing sites and made their way across the peninsula to a hill called Mal Tepe. This hill commanded the roadway leading from the eastern part of Gallipoli to the south, and was essential to Turkish forces moving to reinforce positions there. It was all meant to be over quickly; few thought that it would result in an eight-month long unsuccessful campaign. High opinions were not held of the fighting capacity of the armies of the Ottoman Empire, whose fortunes had been in decline for more than a hundred years.

In the month before the invasion, the MEF units gathered on the Greek island of Lemnos, 100 kilometres to the south-west of Gallipoli. Here, at Mudros Harbour, was the main base camp for the campaign, and soon to be an area for large tented hospitals such as the Australian No. 1 Stationary Hospital and the 3rd Australian General Hospital. The Australians, aware now of their destination, practised landings and some officers were instructed in that art:

... Lieutenant Green [12th Battalion, Tasmania and Western Australia] was detached for duty. No one exactly knew what his duty was, but he could always be seen careering around the harbour in a motor or steam launch, or towing lighters or barges from jetty to troopship ... the ease with which he substituted nautical orders for military words of command gained him the nickname ... 'The Admiral'.

On the afternoon of 24 April 1915, the ANZACs boarded troopships, destroyers and battleships for their short overnight journey to Gallipoli. The more reflective among them were aware that they were embarked on a significant venture, not only for themselves, but for Australia. Lieutenant Alan Henderson of the 7th Battalion, a 20-year-old accountant from Hawthorn, Victoria, confided in a letter that would have arrived home well after his death in action a few days later:

It is going to be Australia's chance and she makes a tradition out of this that she must always look back on. God grant it will be a great one. The importance of this alone seems stupendous to Australia.

Heading for Gallipoli that night was the British destroyer Ribble, commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Ralph Wilkinson, with elements of the 12th Battalion on board. Wilkinson, who admired the soldiers in his care, describing them as 'the cream of the men of Australia', had a close conversation with one of them:

I well remember a very fine Australian officer ... he spoke to me of his wife and his children, showing me snapshots of them. He asked me, 'Was I right to volunteer and come?' — I trust my answer helped to reassure

The difficult business

The Battle of the Landing, 25 April – 3 May 1915

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 thirty-six 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], thirty-two 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 away 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



Australian troops going into action across Plugge's Plateau after the landing on 25 April. Men in front may be seen kneeling in the scrub. The troops were under fire from the other side of Shrapnel Valley. This scene is from a Turkish trench overlooking the ANZAC Cove beach.

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 one kilometre deep and two kilometres 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 ten 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'.

As if into fierce rain

The Second Battle of Krithia, 8 May 1915



Boats carrying troops to shore on the morning of the ANZAC Cove landing. General Bridges is in foreground.

The British landings at the tip of the peninsula on 25 April were no more successful than those at ANZAC. The initial objective — the capture of the height of Achi Baba behind the village of Krithia (modern AlÇitepe) — was nowhere near reached. A determined push at the so-called First Battle of Krithia on 28 April gained little. Sir Ian Hamilton then ordered that two brigades — the 2nd Australian Brigade (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions, from Victoria) and the New Zealand Infantry Brigade — be sent to assist British and French troops in a second attempt to capture Achi Baba. The Second Battle of Krithia commenced on 6 May, and after two days of fighting little progress had been made.

On the morning of 8 May, the New Zealanders tried to advance towards Krithia, but were soon pinned down by Turkish fire and took heavy casualties. In general, nobody was really clear where the Turkish positions were, and this situation still prevailed in mid-afternoon when the Australians were suddenly ordered to attack. The Victorians were camping and cooking a meal when the order came for the advance across 'wide, dry, level grassland'.

They soon ran into intense Turkish fire. 'The *heavily loaded brigade*', wrote Charles Bean, '*hurried straight on, heads down, as if into fierce rain, some men holding their shovels before their faces like umbrellas in a thunderstorm*'. During one hour they advanced about 900 metres, but had nowhere reached the Turkish front line, and the houses of Krithia were still far off. In this tragic advance, which gained no ground, the AIF lost nearly 1000 men killed, wounded and missing. Among the dead was 52-year-old Lieutenant Robert Gartside, the commanding officer of the 7th Battalion. Struck in the stomach by machine-gun bullets, he was heard to call as he rose to lead his men forward, '*Come on, boys, I know it's deadly but we must go on*'. After this action, decried by one historian as '*one of the most misconceived episodes in a misconceived*

battle', Australians never fought again in any numbers on the Helles front.

No sound came from that terrible space The Turkish attack of 19 May 1915

Despite the consolidation of the ANZAC position, Turkish leaders did not give up on their hope of driving the invaders back to the sea. To make up for terrible losses during the Battle of the Landing, thousands of Turkish reinforcements were brought to Gallipoli in preparation for a hopefully devastating attack along the whole of the ANZAC line. The main weight of the attack was prepared for those sections considered most vulnerable, such as at Quinn's Post, where opposing trenches were only metres apart, and a breakthrough would make the whole ANZAC line untenable. Fortunately for the ANZACs, the Turks lost the element of surprise when Royal Naval Air Service reconnaissance aircraft observed these reinforcements making their way across the peninsula. There was also an ominous slackening of normal Turkish fire on 18 May, the day before the planned assault. When it began, in the darkness of the morning of 19 May, the ANZACs were ready.

Between 3.30 am and noon on 19 May, Turkish soldiers hurled themselves at their enemies. As always in this war, when close-packed masses of men attempted to storm strong trench positions defended by thousands of riflemen and machine guns, disaster ensued. Thousands were killed or wounded within metres of the ANZAC line, but nowhere was it breached. It was calculated that more than 948,000 rounds of rifle and machine-gun bullets were fired at the Turks. When the attacks ceased, the scene was horrific. Charles Bean wrote:

... the dead and wounded lay everywhere in hundreds. Many of those nearest to the ANZAC line had been shattered by terrible wounds inflicted by modern bullets at

close ranges. No sound came from that terrible space.

Of the 42,000 Turkish soldiers involved, 3000 lay dead along the ridge and another 10,000 had been wounded. That day gave new Turkish names to positions on the ANZAC battlefield — Kanli Sirt, Bloody Ridge; Kirmezi Sirt, Red Ridge; and Shehidlar Tepe, Martyrs Hill. ANZAC losses amounted to 160 killed and 468 wounded.

Within days, the bodies lying out in no-man's-land, along Second Ridge and elsewhere, were rotting in the sun. The smell became unbearable. A truce was arranged for 24 May to bury the dead, and for a few brief hours the firing ceased as Turks, Australians and New Zealanders moved hundreds of corpses into large, hastily dug pits. Bodies of men killed in earlier struggles along the ridge were also discovered and buried. Private Albert Facey of the 11th Battalion, from Western Australia, worked with the burial parties:

Most of us had to work in short spells as we felt very ill ... The whole operation was a strange experience — here we were, mixing with our enemies, exchanging smiles and cigarettes, when the day before we had been tearing each other to pieces ... Away to our left there were high table-topped hills and on these there were what looked like thousands of people. Turkish civilians had taken advantage of the cease-fire to come out and watch the burial.

From that time forward the ANZACs gained a new appreciation of their adversaries. They were soldiers like themselves, bound to the business of war, but experiencing equally its brutalities and sufferings.

Of all the bastards of places Life at ANZAC

As the period between the landing of 25 April and the truce of 24 May showed, the ANZACs had been unable to force their way inland across the peninsula. Likewise, the attempts of the Ottoman Army to drive them away had also failed. War at ANZAC soon settled into exactly what the Gallipoli planners had never envisaged — the stalemate of trench warfare. In one of his many official dispatches to Australia, Charles Bean informed his readers of the characteristics of this sort of warfare at ANZAC. Military actions, he wrote:

... are the incidents in long, weary months, whose chief occupation is the digging of mile upon mile of endless sap [trench], of sunken road, through which troops and mules can pass safely ... The carrying of biscuit boxes and building timbers for hours daily, the waiting in weary queues, at thirty half-dry wells, for the privilege of carrying wa-ter cans for half a mile uphill ... the sweeping and disinfecting of trenches in the never ending fight against flies.

For the soldiers, their main problems revolved around keeping clean, surviving on poor rations, and staying healthy. Water was scarce and had to be carried up to the front; to shave or wash, a man had to try to save enough from his small daily ration. Clothes were soon riddled with lice, causing constant itching, and the creatures were difficult to get rid off. An added advantage of a cleansing swim at

the beach was the opportunity it provided for thoroughly soaking a uniform in salt water, thus hopefully drowning the unwanted insects. As Joseph Beetson reported, this didn't always work:

I saw one man fish his pants out; after examining the seams, he said to his pal: 'They're not dead yet'. His pal replied: 'Never mind, you gave them a ... of a fright'.

Swimming was a dangerous activity and emphasised the fact that at ANZAC the soldiers were never safe from hostile fire. Turkish artillery regularly shelled ANZAC Cove, the main supply base for the whole ANZAC position until after August. It was recorded that during bathing at the cove on 23 June, eight men were hit by a shell and that one of them came out of the water holding his severed arm. At times, men simply disappeared, having been killed in the water.

The monotonous ANZAC diet was composed largely of tinned bully beef, hard dry biscuits, jam, tea and sugar. The biscuits were so hard that they often had to be soaked in water and then grated into a mush to make them edible. Many a tooth was broken by this hard tack and in the early days there were no official dentists on ANZAC. As the flies multiplied in the hot weather, fed by half-buried, decomposing corpses, food scraps and other human material in the unhygienic trenches, they got into everything. Trooper Ion Idriess of the 5th Light Horse, from Queensland, recalled how the flies swarmed into a jam tin he had opened. Despite his best efforts to keep them away, they also swarmed all over his jam covered biscuit and got into his mouth. Eventually he gave up the struggle:

... I threw the tin over the parapet. I nearly howled with rage ... Of all the bastards of places this is the greatest bastard in the world.

The heat of summer, bad diet and poor hygiene soon had its effect on general health. By August doctors were reporting that most of the ANZACs were suffering from some form of dysentery or diarrhoea and the evidence for this was the fact that hundreds of men were being evacuated sick. Indeed, many, many more men were evacuated from Gallipoli sick than were killed or wounded. In late August 1915, the Regimental Medical officer of the 15th Battalion summed up the cumulative effects of battle and the strains of life at Gallipoli on his unit:

The condition of the men of the battalion was awful. Thin, haggard, as weak as kittens and covered with suppurating sores. The total strength of the battalion was two officers and 170 men. If we had been in France, every man would have been sent to hospital.

This gradual, insidious wearing down of the army at Gallipoli was pointless. The aim of the landings had been to seize quickly the shore batteries on the Dardanelles and to allow the Royal Navy safe passage up to Constantinople. As June and July wore on, a plan was devised to break out from the ANZAC position, a plan that hopefully would see a successful end to the campaign. The ensuing battle to put this plan into operation began on 6 August 1915.

Like corn before a scythe The August Offensive, 6-10 August 1915

The country immediately to the north of the ANZAC line at



The first field dressing station of the 7th Battalion, AIF. It was a natural hole in Monash Gully and many early wounded were treated there. The man on the right is Corporal R. Bates who later became the Reverend R. Bates of Brisbane. The other two men were original stretcher bearers the 7th Battalion.

Walker's Ridge stretched away in a series of long ridges and deeply eroded valleys. These ridges snaked down from the main range leading to the heights of Chunuk Bair and, during the months of May and June 1915, Major Percy Overton, Canterbury Mounted Rifles, scouted the area. He found it lightly held by the Turks. Just as nobody thought the Turks would attack ANZAC from the north along the beach, exposed to the guns of the British warships, so the Turks thought themselves free from attack from this seemingly impassible terrain. Only Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Kemal thought an attack up these precipitous slopes possible, but his fears were discounted by higher command. Kemal was right. It was from this very direction that the proposed breakout from ANZAC was attempted.

The plan was a complex one. On 6 August there would be a diversionary Australian attack on key Turkish positions on the Lone Pine plateau, strong enough to make the enemy think that this was a major onslaught. As it was in progress, the New Zealand infantry would make its way north from ANZAC, into the valleys and then up to a ridge line just below Chunuk Bair, from where, at dawn on 7 August, that commanding position would be assaulted. An Australian force would also make its way well to the north behind the beach, then swing east into a valley, up to a ridge and on to capture the highest point of the Sari Bair range — Koja Temen Tepe (Hill 971), the 'hill of the great pasture'. The plan also called for other diversionary attacks in the early hours of 7 August, including one by Australian light horsemen. While all this was going on there would be a new British landing at Suvla Bay during the night of 6–7 August, well north of ANZAC at the far end of Ocean Beach, followed by the capture of Turkish positions further inland. Thus would the Turks be confronted by the ANZACs on the heights of Sari Bair and a major new British force inland from Suvla. Might not these strokes win the campaign? At least, so it was thought.

During the morning and early afternoon of 6 August, the New South Welshmen of the battalions of the First Australian Brigade filed into the trenches of Lone Pine. Charles Bean described the scene:

The men chaffed each other drily, after the manner of spectators waiting to see a football match. Some belated messenger hurried along the trench to find his platoon, and, in passing, recognised a friend. 'Au revoir, Bill', he nodded, 'meet you over there'. 'So long, Tom', was the answer, 'see you again in half an hour'.

It was 5.30 pm; ANZAC artillery, which had been bombarding the Turkish lines, fell silent; officers' whistles blew; and the Australians rose from their positions and raced across no-man's-land. Within half an hour the Turkish trenches, after hard fighting, had been seized and new posts established well into the Turkish position. But the real battle of Lone Pine — the Turkish efforts over the next three days to take back their lost trenches — was just beginning. As anticipated, the Turkish commanders saw these positions as essential, and reinforcements were quickly diverted to assist in their recapture.

The Lone Pine fighting for both sides during these Turkish counter-attacks was all about throwing bombs across hastily erected barriers, dashing around corners in trenches and getting off a few rounds at the shapes of advancing men, slipping over the dead and avoiding the dying and wounded. The dead and wounded, according to Sergeant Cyril Lawrence of the 2nd Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers, were impossible to avoid:

Right beside me within a space of fifteen feet, I can count fourteen of our boys stone dead. Ah! It is a piteous sight. Men and boys who yesterday were full of joy and life, now lying there, cold—cold—dead — their eyes glassy, their faces sallow and covered with dust ... somebody's son — now merely a thing.

For the ANZACs, now the defenders, all efforts went into holding on to the sand bag barriers hastily erected during their attacking phase. Dozens of small-scale actions were fought on 7, 8 and 9 August to hold off the determined Turkish efforts to drive the Australians out of their new Lone Pine positions. Typical of these actions was the one fought by men of the 7th Battalion, from Victoria, on 9 August. Lieutenant Frederick Tubb was in command of a captured Turkish trench and some of his men had been assigned to catch the Turkish bombs (grenades) and hurl them back before they exploded. Gradually, these men were killed or mutilated. One of them, Corporal Frederick Wright, clutched at a bomb that burst in his face, killing him. Another, Corporal Harry Webb, described by Charles Bean as an 'orphan from Essendon', continued to catch bombs until both his hands had been blown off. He walked out of the Pine and died. Tubb later described what it had been like:

Three different times I was blown yards away from bombs. Our trenches were filled with dead, mostly ours ... We were glad to get out ... I cannot write of details but many of our brave boys were blown to pieces. As fast as we put men in to fill the breaches they were out. I kept sending for reinforcements and bombs, all our bomb throwers were killed and so were those that volunteered to fill their places.

Conditions in Tubb's trench got worse. Tubb himself was wounded and soon only two soldiers were left fighting with

him — Corporals William Dunstan and Alexander Burton. A huge explosion virtually demolished their main barricade and, as Dunstan and Burton worked swiftly to rebuild it, Tubb covered them with his revolver. A bomb now killed Burton and temporarily blinded Dunstan. Reinforcements arrived from nearby and the barricade was held and not again seriously attacked. Tubb, Burton and Dunstan all received the Victoria Cross, the highest award in the British Empire and Commonwealth for bravery in action. Indeed, something of the sheer intensity of the fighting at Lone Pine is evident from the fact that seven Victoria Crosses were awarded to Australians for this action, in addition to a host of other lesser bravery awards. It was all over by the morning of 10 August, when Turkish counter-attacks ceased. ANZAC casualties amounted to more than 2000 killed, wounded and missing, while Turkish losses were estimated at more than 6900.

While the Australians held their gains at Lone Pine, one of the Turkish officers opposing them there, Major Zeki Bey, realised that this was not the main attack. He later told Charles Bean:

... all these days I had been looking over my left shoulder seeing your shells bursting on the rear slopes of Chunuk Bair ... I knew things must be happening at Chunuk Bair which were more critical by far, and, if you succeeded there what use would be our efforts at Kanli Sirt [Lone Pine]?

The New Zealand and British attempt to seize and hold Chunuk Bair began after dark on 6 August. As the Australians struggled at Lone Pine, New Zealand, Australian, and other British Empire units left the ANZAC lines and headed north beside the beach. Soon, the New Zealanders broke off and into the valley known as the Sazli Dere. Before their arrival, other New Zealand units, among them the Maori Contingent, had begun to capture local Turkish outposts. The Maoris attacked in traditional style:

They yelled as they went, with bayonets at the charge, 'Ka mate, ka mate! Ka ora, ka ora', the ancient Maori battle song ... On they went ... there was no breath to finish the chant; they needed it to push the bayonet home. The lads flung themselves at the foe like a band of destroying angels.

By dawn on 7 August, the New Zealand infantry was well on its way up the ridge to take position for an attack on the summit. However, the soldiers were exhausted after the strenuous and bewildering night march through difficult countryside and, instead of moving directly on to Chunuk Bair as the plan required them to do, they halted on Rhododendron Ridge. Below them, and to the south, they could see the Australian trenches at the Nek.

The Nek was a small area of ground where the ridge between Russell's Top narrowed on the way up towards Baby 700. On each side lay precipitous slopes. The plan was that as the New Zealanders captured Chunuk Bair, and were hopefully coming down the range behind the Turks, the men of the 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade, from Victoria and Western Australia, would simultaneously attack across the Nek. The Turks, feeling themselves vulnerable from both front and rear, would retreat. However, at the

time for the planned attack, 4.30 am, there were no enemy troops behind the Turks. In this situation even General Birdwood had felt an attack at the Nek was pointless:

These [Turkish] trenches and convergences of communication trenches ... require considerable strength to force. The narrow Nek to be crossed ... makes an unaided attack in that direction almost hopeless.

Hopeless or not, the attack went forward. A bombardment of the enemy lines unaccountably ceased minutes before the start time, so allowing the Turkish riflemen and machine-gunners to take up position for what they knew was coming. Between 4.30 and 5.20 am, four consecutive waves of light horsemen rose from their trenches and ran into a perfect storm of bullets; not one of them is thought to have reached the Turkish line. Lieutenant William Cameron, 9th Light Horse (South Australia and Victoria), watched in horror:

We saw them climb out and move forward about ten yards [nine metres] and lie flat. The second wave did likewise ... As they rose to charge, the Turkish Machine Guns just poured out lead and our fellows went down like corn before a scythe. The distance to the enemy trenches was less than 50 yards [45 metres] yet not one of those two lines got anywhere near it.

The first two lines were composed of men of the 8th Light Horse from western Victoria. The next to go, the 10th Light Horse from Western Australia, met a similar fate. Charles Bean wrote of this dire loss:

With that regiment went the flower of the youth of Western Australia, sons of the old pioneering families, youngsters — in some cases two and three from the same home — who had flocked to Perth at the outbreak of war with their own horses and saddlery in order to secure enlistment in a mounted regiment of the AIF.

Despite Bean's later claims, that the attack may have held Turkish reinforcements temporarily from Chunuk Bair, this disastrous action had little, if any, outcome for the battle over all.

Much further to the north, on the ridges leading to Koja Temen Tepe, other Australians were having little better success. The assaulting column, commanded by Brigadier General John Monash and composed of the battalions of the 4th Australian Brigade, had got lost on their night march, and dawn found them in hastily dug positions exposed to Turkish fire. They were ordered to continue the advance on 8 August, but, as the Australian battalions moved over an exposed slope, they were caught by Turkish machine guns and suffered heavy casualties. By the evening of that day Monash was informed that so great had been the losses that further advance was impossible; one unit, the 15th Battalion, which had set out from ANZAC 850 strong had been reduced to just 250 men. So came to an end the Australian attempt to capture Koja Temen Tepe, the highest point in the Sari Bair range.

After witnessing the light horse attack at the Nek on 7 August, the New Zealanders now struggled on up Rhododendron Ridge. In the teeth of intense Turkish fire and heavy casualties they dug in. Finally, at dawn on 8 August, the Wellington Battalion, led by Colonel William

Malone, made it to the top of Chunuk Bair. Sergeant Daniel Curham was aware of the significance of the moment:

Some chaps had a glimpse of the sea and all the country in between and we knew perfectly well that this hill was the key to victory or defeat on the peninsula.

For a whole day the Wellingtons, with support from two British regiments, defended the 'hill' in what is regarded as one of the epics of New Zealand military history. Time and time again, determined Turkish assaults were beaten off from the New Zealand trenches. One soldier wrote of the position to his right where 'all our men are wounded or dead'. Late in the day, Malone was killed and after dark the Wellingtons were withdrawn. Of the 760 of them who had captured Chunuk Bair only 70 unwounded or slightly wounded came out. Bean's words capture something of their condition:

Their uniforms were torn, their knees broken. They had had no water since the morning; they could talk only in whispers; their eyes were sunken; their knees trembled; some broke down and cried.

Throughout 9 August, the New Zealanders, again supported by British units, clung to Chunuk Bair. In the valleys below them British, and British India Army, reinforcements struggled in vain to reach them. Only the 6th Gurkha Battalion managed to burst over the crest of the summit between Koja Temen Tepe and Chunuk Bair—Hill Q—but shells falling among them from ANZAC and from offshore warships drove them back. Unknown to those defending Chunuk Bair, a great Turkish counter-attack was in the making.

At this critical point, Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Kemal came to take command of Turkish forces at Chunuk Bair. There he found his men disheartened by the strong New Zealand stand and the constant naval shelling. But, convinced that a last all-out effort must be made to drive his enemies off the heights, he called forward, despite some protests, the last of the available Turkish reserves. Near dawn, on 10 August 1915, he walked to the front of his force, realising that an attack needed to commence before daylight and not allow the naval guns or machine guns to recommence their demoralising fire. Kemal addressed the Turkish soldiers:

Soldiers! There is no doubt we can defeat the enemy opposing us. But don't you hurry; let me go in front first. When you see the wave of my whip all of you rush forward together.

At Kemal's signal, the Turks charged and swept aside the British troops manning the old New Zealand trench lines on the heights. Rushing down the seaward slopes of Chunuk Bair, they were caught in the open by New Zealand machine guns and the attack eventually stalled. The Turks had, however, regained Chunuk Bair and brought the ANZAC and British effort to seize these heights to an end. Like the landings of 25 April, the August Offensive was a failure; a sizeable area to the north of the old ANZAC position had been captured but no breakthrough had occurred, and the strait of the Dardanelles remained as far away as ever.

The tragedy of the battle for Chunuk Bair was visible in the valleys and on the slopes of the ridges. The dead lay everywhere, and the sheer number of wounded temporarily

overwhelmed the medical services responsible for their treatment and evacuation. Those incapable of struggling down through the dense scrub called out to the stretcher bearers who, working night and day to the point of collapse, had to make hard decisions about which man to take first. The carry down to the embarkation point on the beach was long and steep; some bearers were shot on the way. Private Ormond Burton, New Zealand Medical Corps, saw the plight of some 300 wounded:

No one appeared to be responsible for them. Their wounds were uncared for and in the heat some were in a shocking state. They had no food and no water. Many died there—some able to see the hospital ships with their green bands and red crosses no distance out to sea.

Once a wounded man reached a hospital ship he fell under the care of the British Empire nurses, amongst them the nurses of the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). These were the first Australian women to fully experience the devastating effects of modern war on their men folk, and working so close inshore they were, as Nurse Daisy Richmond reported, at times in danger from stray bullets, although the Turks never deliberately fired on the hospital ships:

We are well under fire many bullets coming on the decks. I was speaking to one boy, moved away to another patient when a bullet hit him and lodged in his thigh. It just missed.

The hospital ships took the wounded to military hospitals on the nearby Greek islands of Imbros and Lemnos, to Alexandria — 1050 km away in Egypt — or even to Malta or England. On Lemnos, Matron Grace Wilson and her staff of AANS nurses at the 3rd Australian General Hospital (AGH) tended the Australian and British Empire wounded. Military historians have summed up the August Offensive in broad strategic terms; Matron Wilson's conclusions went to the heart of the matter for its victims:

11 August — Convoy arrived — about 400 — no equipment whatever ... Just laid the men on the ground and gave them a drink. Very many badly shattered, nearly all stretcher cases ... Tents were erected over them as quickly as possible ... All we can do is feed them and dress their wounds ... A good many died ... It is just too awful — one could never describe the scenes — could only wish all I knew to be killed outright.

Land is very dear here Hill 60, 21–28 August 1915

While the August Offensive raged at ANZAC, the British at Suvla had been slow to consolidate their positions. By the time the offensive was over, the Turks had brought up enough reinforcements to hold the British to a small area of the western part of the Suvla plain. At the southern end of the British line and the new ANZAC line there was a gap, overlooked by a rise at the end of one of the ridges, known as Hill 60. It was felt necessary that this position be denied the Turks, as it was thought to be dangerously close to the main line of communication between ANZAC and Suvla. Consequently, between 21 August and 28 August recently dug Turkish trenches at Hill 60 were assaulted by a combined British, Indian, Australian and New Zealand



A view looking aft of lifeboat carrying unidentified men of the 1st Divisional Signal Company as they are towed towards ANZAC Cove at 6 am on the day of the landing.

force.

The initial assault on 21 August was a costly failure. The Australians involved — men of the 13th and 14th Battalions from New South Wales and Victoria, units exhausted and depleted in the 4th Brigade's failed effort to take Koja Temen Tepe (Hill 971) in the recent battles — were badly hit when crossing a shallow valley on their advance towards Hill 60. To make matters worse, enemy shells started a fire on ledges among captured Turkish bivouacs that were made from branches of cut scrub. Charles Bean described the scene:

The flames, reaching some of the dead or wounded, ignited their clothing and exploded their bombs and rifle ammunition, and thus pieces of burning cloth or wood were flung to other ledges, starting more fires. Any wounded man who so much as stirred to crawl out of reach of the flames was instantly shot by the Turks.

On 22 August, the 18th Battalion (New South Wales), only recently arrived on Gallipoli and described by an old ANZAC hand as 'great big cheery fellows, who it did your heart good to see', were sent against Hill 60. Commanders on the spot felt that only fresh, fit troops would have a chance of taking the position. The first wave managed to get through a gap in a hedge in a wheatfield below Hill 60 and into a captured Turkish trench. Other waves were not so lucky. Three Turkish machine guns were now brought to bear on the wheat field, inflicting heavy casualties. Among them was Lieutenant Wilfred Addison:

... [who] with dying and wounded men around him, and machine gun bullets tearing up the ground where he stood, steadied and waved forward the remnant of his platoon until he himself fell pierced by several bullets.

In its first action of the war the 18th Battalion, which had set

out from ANZAC 760 strong, took 383 casualties, of whom approximately 190 were killed. In subsequent actions on Hill 60, the unit suffered a further 256 casualties; within a week of coming to Gallipoli more than 80 per cent of those 'big cheery fellows' were dead, missing or wounded.

Further attacks on Hill 60 between 27 and 29 August involved, again, the men of the 4th Australian Brigade, the 9th Light Horse Regiment (South Australia) and the 10th Light Horse Regiment (Western Australia). The attack by the exhausted and worn down soldiers of the 4th Brigade was quickly shot to pieces by the Turks. A planned artillery bombardment on the trenches facing them never happened and, as the Australians rose to attack, Turkish rifle and machine-gun fire was raking the parapet of the trench above their heads. The first wave was, in Charles Bean's words, simply 'swept away'. There followed a night attack by the 9th Light Horse who, in confused fighting, gained little; their commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Carew Reynell, and a great many of his men were killed or wounded.

During the night of 28–29 August, the 10th Light Horse, the unit already hard hit by their costly attack at the Nek on 7 August, attempted to take a trench on the top of Hill 60. In a fierce bombing battle, the Western Australians inched the Australian line closer to the summit, holding off repeated Turkish counter-attacks. Throughout the action Lieutenant Hugo Throssell, despite his wounds, refused to leave the action and kept encouraging his men. Next morning he was observed, as he tried to smoke a cigarette, by Captain Horace Robertson at a medical aid post:

He took the cigarette but could do nothing with it. The wounds in his shoulders and arms had stiffened, and his hands could not reach his mouth ... [his] shirt was full of holes from pieces of bomb, and one of the 'Australia's'

[shoulder badges] was twisted and broken and had been driven into his shoulder.

Throssell was awarded the Victoria Cross, the last to an Australian soldier on Gallipoli. It was, wrongly, believed that the light horsemen had seized the summit, but it was later felt that they had pushed the line far enough up the hill for the battle to be called off. At the cost of more than 1100 casualties a position had been gained on the slopes of Hill 60 from which there was a view out over the plain. A New Zealand soldier, Corporal James Watson of the Auckland Mounted Rifles, accurately summed up the Hill 60 fighting:

We gained about 400 yards [360 metres] in four days ... 1000 men killed and wounded. Land is very dear here.

It was a lonely feeling The evacuation of Gallipoli, November 1915 – January 1916

After Hill 60 serious fighting virtually came to an end on Gallipoli. Attention now turned, at ANZAC, to the development of new trench lines in the rugged territory captured during the August Offensive, and to the looming problem of supply-ing an army during the coming winter, with its inevitable storms. A new, larger base was developed at North Beach, now relatively free from observation by Turkish snipers. Piers were developed and mounds of boxes of stores soon appeared. By November, two large tented hospitals had moved into the area, including the No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital from Lemnos. Sergeant Cyril Lawrence, returning from a long rest period on Lemnos, was amazed by North Beach:

What a change! Why, when we left there was hardly anything round this side of the Cove [ANZAC Cove]. It was not safe. Now there are tents and a YMCA and what is this great sandbag mansion going up directly in front of us? A Post Office, eh. Eighty feet long, twelve feet high and twenty feet wide. Some building! Windows, doors and a counter, too. Crikey, things are coming on in these parts.

But, if there seemed to be improvements aimed at easing the strain of life at Gallipoli for the ordinary soldier, what was most exercising the minds of the higher command was whether to remain on the peninsula at all. After the overall failure to make any real progress against the Ottoman defence, Sir Ian Hamilton had estimated that significant reinforcements would be needed to make any progress in the coming year. Doubts were now raised about Hamilton's continuing suitability to command the MEF, and in early October he was replaced by General Sir Charles Monro.

Monro was a convinced 'Westerner', one who believed that the war to defeat Germany, the main foe, was being fought in France and Belgium along the Western Front. To him, Gallipoli was a sideshow capable of drawing off much needed men and supplies. Monro soon sent in a report which stated that many of the troops, with the exception of the ANZACs, were incapable of further sustained effort; the Turks held all the high ground; and that information had been received that heavy guns were reaching the Ottoman Army from Germany. If used effectively, the latter could destroy the ANZAC positions. Indeed, on 29 November a heavy

bombardment was experienced by Australian positions at Lone Pine, which showed clearly that heavy artillery was now being used. The narrow approach trenches to the frontline positions were largely destroyed and the 23rd and 24th Battalions, both from Victoria, suffered some of the last heavy casualties to be sustained by Australian units at Gallipoli. Private Mark Peters, 24th Battalion, told the Australian Red Cross what had happened to his mate, Private Alexander Macbeth, as a result of this shelling:

Macbeth was taken off the cooks fires and put into the trenches. He was at work in a sap Nov 29 at Lone Pine ... A big shell came over and blew the sap to pieces. His mates hunted for Macbeth, but failed to find him. They all believed him blown to pieces and buried in the debris.

It was a foretaste of things to come for the men of the AIF when they reached the Western Front a few months later. General Monro recommended the evacuation of Gallipoli, and this opinion was later endorsed by Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, the British Minister for War, when he visited the peninsula in early November. After some dithering and much discussion, the British War Cabinet finally decided, on 8 December, to end the campaign. Unknown to them, the higher command on the spot had anticipated this decision and an evacuation plan was already in operation.

Could the ANZACs just sneak away, unseen? There was a view that any evacuation would result in heavy casualties but, in the event, there were virtually none. At ANZAC and Suvla, an Australian staff officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Brudenell White, devised a plan to gradually withdraw men and equipment while convincing the Turks that everything was normal. 'Silent stunts' were instituted, where nearly all firing from ANZAC ceased, in order to make the enemy think preparations for winter were under way. After the end of these stunts, an irregular rifle and artillery fire, of the sort to be expected by the Turks, was kept up. Although much equipment was taken away by night, during the day material was still brought ashore at the piers at ANZAC Cove and North Beach. On 17 December, just two days before the final evacuation, a famous game of cricket was held at Shell Green while Turkish shells passed overhead.

By 13 December, everyone had realised that they were going. For many, the hardest part of the evacuation was leaving behind their dead mates, and Charles Bean noticed soldiers in the cemeteries, alone or in groups of two or three, tidying up graves. When General Birdwood came ashore on the final day to take his leave, an ANZAC said to him, pointing to one of the cemeteries: 'I hope they won't hear us marching down the deres [valleys]'. As he left, Padre Walter Dexter went through the cemeteries and gullies scattering silver wattle seed: 'If we have to leave here, I intend that a bit of Australia shall be here'.

The ANZACs left Gallipoli in three stages. During the first two, the garrison was reduced to 26,000 men, a number thought capable of holding off any major Turkish attack. Then on the last two nights, 18–20 December, the rest came off. By 19 December, just 10,000 men held the ANZAC line from Bolton's Ridge in the south to Hill 60 in the north. On the final night, as the last contingents made their way to the piers, small rear parties manned the trenches, firing

occasional shots and making enough noise to convince the enemy that the whole garrison was still there. Private Joe Gasparich of the Auckland Infantry Battalion was among the last to leave:

I walked through the trench and the floor was frozen hard ... when I brought my feet down they echoed right through the trench down the gully, right down, you could hear this echo running ahead ... It was a lonely feeling.

Shortly after 4 am on 20 December 1915, the last steamboat left from North Beach. ANZAC and Suvla were de-serted. On the night of 8 January 1916, the British left Helles; the Gallipoli campaign was over.

Laid down his life at Gallipoli Remembering ANZAC

In human terms, the nearly eleven months of the British Empire and French effort to take the Ottoman Empire out of the war cost more than 141,100 dead and wounded soldiers, not to mention the sailors who died in the earlier naval efforts to get through the strait of the Dardanelles. Australian losses amounted to more than 8700 dead and 19,400 wounded. This was close to 50 per cent of the approximately 50,000 to 60,000 men of the AIF who saw service at Gallipoli. The Ottoman Empire lost some 86,000 dead and 164,000 wounded, but of them it could be said they sacrificed themselves on native soil in defence of their homeland.

How have military historians assessed the Gallipoli campaign? Some have judged it ill advised, largely badly executed and overall of little or no significance in the wider war that the British Empire and its allies were fighting to defeat the German Empire in Europe. Another has written that the only benefit to Australia was that, for another year, it kept the men of the AIF away from the Western Front, where they would undoubtedly have suffered even heavier losses. Of the possibility that the capture of the Gallipoli peninsula, and the arrival of a British fleet at Constantinople, would have knocked Turkey out of the war, Robin Prior, the most recent historian of Gallipoli, concludes:

... there is no evidence that Turkey would have been out of the war even if Constantinople had fallen. In all likelihood Turkey would have continued to fight ... Despite the bravery of the Allied troops ... the campaign was fought in vain.

For Australia, Gallipoli has never just been about such hard-headed analysis, however accurate. In defeat, and it certainly was a defeat, what mattered was the quality of those who endured those long months of struggle, danger, ill-health and loss. Then, as now, what enabled men to cope with the hell around them were the attributes of courage, endurance and humour. One who seemed to embody such stoic qualities was an ANZAC wounded at the landing on 25 April, who in September 1915 came reluctantly to see to a doctor to help him with a 'little trouble':

The medical officer found he had a compound fracture of the arm, two bullets through his thigh, another through his diaphragm, liver and side; and that there were adhesions to the liver and pleura.

An Australian officer wrote of how a trench was 'no place for a selfish natured man where almost everything is common property, just for the asking'. Many would say that this was the real legacy of the experience of Gallipoli for Australia.

Perhaps the meaning of ANZAC has always been most closely guarded by the families of those who fought and died there. In early 1918, Thomas Edward Drane of Forbes, New South Wales, a veteran of the landing, wrote to the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. Drane, aware of legislation preventing misuse of the word 'ANZAC' for commercial or other unsuitable purposes, asked if he could give his first child 'ANZAC' as a middle name. Was it legal for an 'original ANZAC' to do this?

I myself left Australia ... in Oct 1914, and was wounded on Gallipoli which cost me a leg, also I was the first to volunteer from this town, and my child is the first to be born here with an ANZAC for his father.

Drane's brother-in-law had also 'laid down his life at Gallipoli'. Such were the reasons he gave for wanting to use the name. While the Gallipoli campaign might have been fought in vain, for Thomas Drane and his family it was a place they would forever honour with their memory.

Source:<http://www.ANZACportal.dva.gov>.



By 1916, the Commonwealth government had passed legislation against commercial use of the word 'ANZAC', legislation which is still in force today. Such a restriction did not apply to personal use for family names. In 1918, Gallipoli veteran Thomas Drane from Forbes, NSW, wrote to the Commonwealth Attorney General asking permission to name his first child George ANZAC Drane. The Commonwealth Government raised no objection, and Drane went on to give each of his three sons the middle name 'ANZAC'. In 2010, descendants of Thomas Drane are continuing the family tradition. (Photos courtesy of Drane family collection)

‘Spirit of the ANZACS’ Honours 100 Years of ANZAC History

It is always a privilege to catch up with an iconic Australian – even more so when that person is country music legend and former Australian of Year, Lee Kernaghan.

Recently Phil Pyke of APPVA- TAS caught up with Lee with the occasion being the singer’s latest album, Spirit of the ANZACS – a tribute to past and present serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force.

Proceeds from the title track of the same name will go to Legacy and Soldier On with the song-writers, artists, studio staff, ABC staff, recording studios and publishers donating time and resources.

This was a very personal project for Lee – which began with a 2013 tour of the Australian War Memorial accompanied by Tasmanian country band, The Wolfe Brothers.

“I was deeply moved by a letter I read written by Private Benjamin Chuck who died in Afghanistan,” explains Lee.

“It was one of sealed letters the soldiers of 2nd Commando Regiment were instructed by their Commanding Officer to write to be opened only if the respective soldier was killed in action.”

Pte Chuck’s letter was to his girlfriend and he asked for forgiveness for what she would be going through in reading the letter, knowing he wasn’t coming home.

“Hey, baby, I waited till the night before going out to write this. Put it off is more like it. Obviously I didn’t think that I’d die. No-one does. The way I look at it is: if it’s your time, it’s your time. I just wanted you to know how special you are to me. You are the sweetest, kindest and prettiest girl I have ever met. I’m so happy you chose me and we got to spend the last 18 months together. I am sorry to put you through this. Please forgive me and I hope you find someone down the track to make you happy, although matching me will be a hard task. You’ll always be with me, my love, and I with you.”

“These words ignited a fire in me and this project was born,” Lee told *The Australian Peacekeeper*.

Coming on board was long-time music producer, Garth Porter, and the album came to life using letters from the front as the basis for all the songs.

Lee and Garth were granted unique access to the Australian War Memorial archive, collecting letters penned by diggers to their loved ones at home and spanning World War I to the present day. Each song on the 16-track recording is inspired by one of these real letters.

“This is some of the most powerful material that I’ve ever had the privilege to record in my career”, said Lee.

“The album takes you on a real journey, from the trenches of the Western Front to the bombing of Darwin, Kokoda, Long Tan, and the dust of Uruzgan Province in Afghanistan.

“It is a project that goes to the heart of who we are as a nation.”

Recorded in Sydney’s Rancorn Street Studio, Lee says this album is a tribute to those that have given their lives, those who have served, and those that still today step bravely into the unknown to serve our country.

“Every nation has its story. This is ours,” said the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson.

The Australian War Memorial assisted Lee and Garth with the project by providing access to the material, including Pte Chuck’s very personal letter.

“From the bloody Gallipoli landing to the dusty deserts of Afghanistan, precious war letters held at the Australian War Memorial have inspired this moving tribute from one of Australia’s great story tellers, Lee Kernaghan,” Dr Nelson said.

“The spirit of the men and women who wrote them, their courage and sacrifice lives in these songs – and in us.”

Tasmania’s Teddy Sheehan (RAN) and brothers, Fredrick (RAAF) and Harry Keck (RAAF attached RAF), are immortalized in this living memorial through the songs Forever Eighteen and Being Your Sons.

Fred Smith’s title track “Dust of Uruzgan” from his album of the same name is sung with Lee – a song that resonates strongly with a generation of younger veterans.

Phil Pyke said listening to the album draws one across ten decades of service and sacrifice by Australian servicemen and women.

“This is indeed a fantastic album – every song touches you in a personal way from WWI, WWII, Vietnam and more recent operations. Lee should be commended for his drive to produce this album in this Centenary year.”

“I am pleased to speak with Lee Kernaghan about this project as I was at the Canberra concert following his tour at the Australian War Memorial and know how the visit personally impacted.”

The album includes Australian artists such as Lisa McCune, Fred Smith, Guy Sebastian, Sheppard, Jon Stevens, Jessica Mauboy, Shannon Noll, John Schuman, Sara Storer and Megan Washington.

The March release of the album will be followed by a national tour over 2015.





Above: Lee Kernaghan
Below: Last image Lee Kernaghan with Tasmanian band the Wolfe Brothers and AWM Director Dr Brendan Nelson (image courtesy of Lee Kernaghan)



Force Protection Element 3 commences work in Kandahar

Having taken over from Force Protection Element-2 (FPE-2) earlier this year, soldiers from Townsville's 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) and 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion (3CSSB) have now bonded as FPE-3 conducting force protection duties in support of Operation HIGHROAD in both Qargha and Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Now part of Joint Task Force 636, a platoon-size team of soldiers in Kandahar perform Guardian Angel (GA) and transport duties for Coalition members of the Afghan National Army (ANA) 205th Corps Coalition Advisory Team (205 CAT).

Platoon Commander, Lieutenant (LT) Ryan Muller said his team was well prepared to step into the role.

"We conducted 10 weeks of force preparation training leading up to the deployment and that was a good lead-up package which included everything from legal briefs, medical training, weapon training and integration work with the advisors we'll be protecting," LT Muller said.

"I think we'll do well.

"We've got a very intelligent group of soldiers that work here and I've got absolute faith that they'll do their job correctly and at their highest capacity."

GA duties require a soldier to provide individual security to advisors which ensures they can remain focussed on their role of advising while out on site at Camp Hero where the 205th Corps of the ANA is based.

"One of the challenges for us is providing the control measures for our soldiers who are really conducting an individual task within a platoon environment versus how we would conventionally operate with section tasks within the platoon environment," LT Muller said.

"I think the mindset of every soldier is a positive one and they know that we're here for the benefit of the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission and also Afghan National Army,

One of the GAs, Private (PTE) Liam Kwasha, said it's different to what he expected but he's so far enjoying the opportunity.

"My role is basically to protect my advisor when he is on site advising the ANA," he said.

"My duties involve checking the work area initially, standing watch and calling in any situations.

"One of the challenges is the cold, it's a bit different to Townsville.

"Also, when working with the Afghans the language barrier is a challenge.

"Most of them speak scattered English but that can vary so it can be difficult."

The team will get see both sides of Afghanistan's weather having deployed in the height of winter and staying for the hotter months later in the year, however LT Muller is confident in his team's preparation for the six month deployment.

"We've had a good and long build up and training process prior to deploying here, including being trained up on the latest military equipment that we've deployed with," he said.

"That equipment provides us a huge level of security and safety whilst conducting our operations, which is the most important thing."

The transport function for the FPE is conducted by the Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) section which is made up of eight Bushmaster crews (16 pers) of Royal Australian Corps of Transport (RACT) soldiers.

The PMV section supports the protected movement of advisors and their GAs when on daily tasks outside the main Coalition bases and the RACT soldiers are amongst the first from their Corps to conduct this kind of mission since the transition of the PMV from Armoured Corps to RACT.



An Australian Army Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) drives through a Bazaar in Kandahar, Afghanistan, en route to Camp Hero.



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NSW Report

On behalf of the President and committee we hope you had a joyous Christmas and had a happy entry to the 2015 year.

Most of the committee were quite busy prior to the Christmas break the Vice President and Secretary attended the remembrance service at Old Bar Sub Branch and later that month also attended the Mid North Coast Pension and Welfare meeting at Bulahdelah Bowling Club and received some interesting reports from other pension and welfare organisations in the area.

We have been invited to meet with other pension teams from Harrington, Wingham and Forster / Tuncurry Sub Branches to assist with pension claims, as they have become quite busy being short staffed.

We also spoke to the Pension Officer that currently travels from Singleton to RAAF Williamstown to undertake claims for past and present members and we intend on travelling to assist when we can after my hospitalisation tour at Southport in February.

Pauline Maczkowiack has been flat out doing her pension claims on the Far North Coast which has taken up a fair amount of her time as she has also been attending the VVFC quarterly meeting with Paul Smith.

Pauline has also been invited to speak and the Pain Management Forum in Lismore which she was previously a patient. Pauline attended the Remembrance service at Dunoon and the RSL Care Nursing Home at Goonellabah and also representing APPVA at the funeral of one of Lismore Sub Branch members.

In my previous report I mention Pauline being part of the committee to restore the Cenotaph at Dunoon, she had applied for a grant through the NSW Government and has been presented with five thousand dollars cheque to undertake this work so well done Pauline hope to hear more of your restoration work for ANZAC 2015.

Remember members this is the 100th year since Gallipoli Landing and I hope that you have put this great day on your calendar and that you will be attending a service on the day as a representative of APPVA as we need a lot of exposure around the communities.

Trevor Plymin has become one of our new pension officers and is currently doing claims for Casino and McLean which he travels 110 klms each way twice a month or as required welcome as well.

The President and committee would like to welcome Mr Robert Woods to the committee as being elected as the Federal Police Liaison Officer for APPVA NSW. Rob had time the Army prior to joining the Federal Police and resides in Dubbo and we look forward for his involvement with APPVA so a great welcome Rob and hope to see you in the future

LEST WE FORGET

Peter Vidler
Secretary/ Treasurer
NSW APPVA

Trial of Alternative Dispute Resolution NSW/ACT from January 2015

As you would be aware, amendments to the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004, which impact on the Board came into effect on 28 July 2014? The amendments were contained in the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Mental Health and other Measures) Bill 2014.

The changes allow the Board to make significant improvements to service and will enhance the operation of the Board. They include the use of modern and effective alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes and improved case management powers, administrative and business procedures.

A number of case management powers are already in operation and the Board has commenced listing directions hearings and a number of oral reasons for decision have been issued. Decisions on the papers have also continued to be issued. For more information on these changes, please see the updated guidelines and practice directions on our website: www.vrb.gov.au. Our aim in implementing these changes is to ensure that veterans, current serving members and their families get the best possible service at the Board.

In respect of ADR, a trial using the new legislative framework will commence in NSW and the ACT only, from 1 January 2015. In all other locations the Board will still make case appraisals and neutral evaluation available to applicants and their advocates. The aim of the proposed ADR trial is twofold. Firstly, the ADR trial aims to encourage early resolution of matters. Secondly, where a hearing is required, the Board will actively case manage the application so that the hearing is conducted quickly and efficiently, with the issue in dispute having been refined through the ADR processes.

The first step for all new applications lodged in NSW and the ACT will be referral to an outreach event, which will normally be conducted by telephone. Outreach is designed to ensure the applicant:

- is informed of the practice and procedure of the Board;
- understands that the Board makes an independent review of Commission decisions;
- if unrepresented, is informed of all assistance I referral available; and
- Understand what will happen next.

Outreach will provide Board conference convenors with an opportunity to assist the applicant I advocate to identify the issues in dispute and provide information and education to help applicants assess their options before the Board. As noted at dot point three above, the outreach will ensure that an applicant is represented where possible by facilitating referrals to applicants who are not represented. Ideally, outreach will provide conference convenors with an opportunity to determine how to engage the applicant in the Board's processes. For example, a conference convenor may direct a matter for case appraisal, rather

than case conferencing if this form of ADR is more appropriate. Issues of jurisdiction and some other limited types of matters may be referred directly for a full hearing. In this case the Conference Convenor will refer the matter for listing. Outreach will not require participation by a Commission representative.

If a matter is not resolved at the outreach step, the matter may proceed to a conference. This is the second stage in the ADR process. A conference is an informal, private meeting arranged by the Board. It will normally be held by telephone. At a conference, the applicant I advocate can talk about their case with the Board's conference convenor and a representative of the relevant Commission. Conferences will provide the applicant I advocate with an opportunity to put forward their view as to why the decision is wrong and, where possible, come to an agreement with the Commission about how the case should be resolved. It may be necessary to hold more than one conference for a particular application.

If the case is not resolved at the conference stage, the Board will usually hold a hearing. In some cases, the Board might ask the parties to consider another process, such as case appraisal or neutral evaluation.

The trial will be conducted for 12 months. I would welcome your comments and feedback in relation to the trial throughout the coming year. If you have any questions about the trial, I would be more than happy to discuss them with you. Again, please be assured that our aim in conducting the trial is to ensure that veterans, current serving members and their families get the best possible service at the Board.

ANZAC Day

Hello Members,

This being the 100th Year of the Gallipoli Landing, please be aware to keep updated on ANZAC Day festivities across the country.

For the latest info on where to march in each Capital City, please refer to our website. Look in the Up Coming Events Page for timings. These maybe subject to change as the various locations and groups organise their day's proceedings.

Regards and Enjoy the day

Kevin Ryan
National Secretary
APPVA

Letter

Giddy Paul,

I would just like to say thank you to all the wonderful people at appva. I never thought that I would ever be in such a position that I now find myself in and have to admit that we were in a pretty dark place for a while. The support the association has provided has enabled us to stay together and keep living in our home. the realisation that there are people out there who genuinely care and give part of their lives for others has been quite humbling.

Please pass this on to all the great folks involved and a very heart felt thanks again.

Billy Sheen

Seeking Information

My name is Graham Wilson; I am a retired WO2 ARA (26 years) and Defence Department civilian employee (14 years) and now a full time military historian, researcher, writer and consultant.

I have had two critically well received books published by the Army History Unit and am now working on several other manuscripts for AHU.

One of these is a history of feeding the Australian soldier from colonial times to the present day.

I am keen to hear the experiences, reminiscences, anecdotes, etc, from current serving and recently serving members of the Army who have served in Iraq, Afghanistan, East Timor/Timor Leste, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, etc.

I wonder if it would be possible for you to publish my request for information on your webpage or in your journal.

I can be contacted via email at duty_first@hotmail.com or via post at:

PO Box 6021, Lanyon LPO, CONDER ACT 2906

Yours sincerely,
Graham Wilson



Members of the public enjoying the 2015 Australian International Airshow.

Tasmanian Branch

Veterans Gardening

Veterans Health Week in Tasmania was again recognised with garden workshops and activities sponsored by APPVA and led by local gardening gurus and media personalities.

Just before Veterans Health Week, ABC TV conducted a national Mental Health Week campaign with a special episode of Gardening Australia aired on Saturday the 11th of October 2015. In the Tasmanian segment Tino Carnevale interviewed Mike Romalis, Fiona and Josh about the Veterans & Families Garden Plot and why they found gardening beneficial. The key messages they had for viewers was that gardening was predictable, allowed them to be in control, to do things in their own way, in their own time and in a safe, secure environment.

The next week in Hobart, ABC Gardening personality Tino Carnevale gave Veterans and their families a full day of gardening tips and advice in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. And just in case they didn't get enough about gardening on the outside, for lunch everyone was given a healthy eating and cooking demonstration. Tino and Penni from A Method of Cookery started lunch by taking participants through the garden to select and harvest the greens for their salad. The appetiser was a green kale and banana smoothie [don't knock it unless you have tried it!], and the main course was a Tasmanian variation on a Thai beef salad - grilled organic King Island wallaby salad.

On Tasmania's Riviera coast, the St Helens-St Marys RSL Sub-Branch sponsored APPVA Honorary Member and gardening guru Peter Cundall for an all day gardening workshop at the St Helens Community House. The workshop was well and truly over-subscribed with the Community House having to stop registrations at 60 people. A great day was had by all, and luckily no one was affected by the near-by bushfire that afternoon.

In January members of the Veterans & Families Garden Plot shared their horticultural experiences with Tasmanian Mens Health Peer Education volunteers. At the same time Veterans have continued to tend their gardens through the summer holiday period. APPVA and Plot member Josh Weir has transformed his back yard into a lush vegetable and berry garden.

If anyone is interested in gardening as complementary self-help therapy or just for a healthy lifestyle, there are now Veterans gardens operating on the NSW Central Coast at Dig-in Gardening for Veterans at Terrigal or Wamberal (contact Tony Holley-Smith on mobile 0402 199 893); in Melbourne at Gardens4Diggers in Eltham (email Andre Obradovic gardens4diggers@obrad.com.au); or in Hobart at the Veterans & Families Garden Plot (contact Mike Romalis on mobile 0408 002892 or email tasvetgarden@hotmail.com.au)

Mike Romalis

President APPVA-Tas Branch



15 Oct 14 – Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
Tino Carnevale talking to Veterans @ RTBG



Josh Weir (L) & Nick Murnane (R) preparing salads



Peter Cundall talking to Veterans @ St Helens Neighbourhood House.



Josh Weir's Back Yard – Vege Patch



Josh Weir's Back Yard – Berries



Penni Lamprey @ Veterans & Families Garden Plot

Peacekeeping Day in Launceston

On Sunday the 14th of September 2014 the Tasmanian Branch achieved one of its state objectives with the dedication of a plaque at the Launceston Cenotaph. In combination with the Peacekeeping Memorial in Hobart and the Captain Peter McCarthy Memorial in Devonport, younger Veterans and peacekeepers across the state now have a local memorial that recognises their service. Listed on the Launceston plaque are some of the countries in which Tasmanians have conducted peacekeeping



Chaplain Steve Cloudsdale (L) and Mr Andrew Nikolic MP (R)

activities since 1975. Those countries are Afghanistan, Bougainville, Cambodia, Cyprus, East Timor, Iraq, Rwanda and the Solomon Islands.

The plaque was unveiled by Mr A. Nikolic MP who was also the key note speaker. Other key participants in the dedication were Senator Jacqui Lambie, Mr Ivan Dean MLC and Mr Guy Barnett MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier. After the dedication Veterans, families and guests moved to the Launceston RSL Sub-Branch for lunch.

Mike Romalis
President APPVA-Tas Branch



Senator Jacqui Lambie reading the Soldiers' Prayer

Midlands Military Meet & Rendezvous

In November APPVA Tasmanian Branch ventured to Campbell Town for the biennial Midlands Military Meet & Rendezvous. This event has turned into the Branches largest fund raiser as sausage sangers and drinks are sold to real veterans, re-enactors, military enthusiasts and the public. This time our customers included the Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery (C 1890); WW1 Light Horse Troopers, Tommys and Jerries; WW2 combatants and a few before and after those conflicts.

Mike Romalis
President APPVA-Tas Branch



AAPVA Tas Members with Honorary APPVA Member Peter Cundall AM. Left to right: Nick Murnane, Rob Jones, Peter Cundall, Graeme Barnett and Mike Romalis.

Photos Galina Romalis


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AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)
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APPVA
PO Box 480, Boronia Vic 3155
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Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Contact Details

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr (Rank) Address

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

Date of Birth...../...../..... Country.....

Name of Parent/Partner/Child Email.....
(Complete only for Affiliate Membership)

Phone Mobile

Service Details

Missions *(Attach separate sheet if necessary)*

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Enter Member No 153601 (if required)

For All other Financial Institutions:

Account: APPVA BSB: 803-205 Account: 20638827 Member No: 153601
Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form.
Enter Member No 153601 (if required)

DELIVERY DETAILS

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr (Rank) Address

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

Email..... Country

Mobile.....

The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) will accept returned products / merchandise where:

- The product is faulty, or not fit for the purpose
- The product does not match the sample or description

Proof of purchase (APPVA merchandise receipt) must be provided in order to:

- Obtain a refund (if paid by credit card, the credit card will be credited), otherwise a cheque will be provided, or
- Re-issue a like article

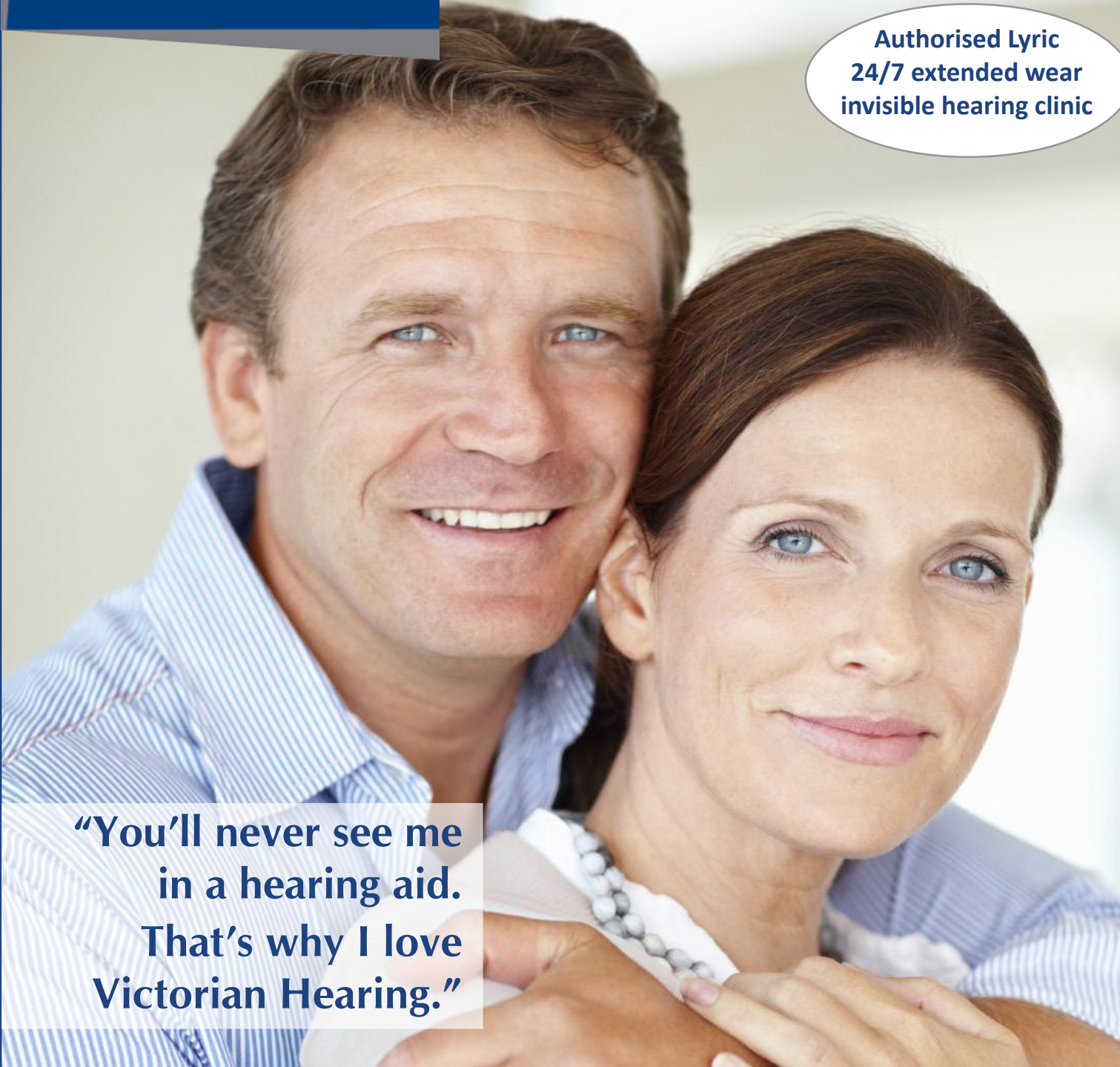
IMPORTANT NOTES:

The APPVA will take the utmost care in packaging; however, we will not accept any responsibility for goods damaged in transit.

The APPVA will not accept returns where the product or merchandise is ordered specifically for an individual (e.g. Montage, clothing, etc).

All queries for return of merchandise must be received within 30 days from date of purchase and directed to APPVA Merchandise Officer at merchandise@peacekeepers.asn.au. Item returns will be at the discretion of the APPVA Merchandise Officer provided the above criterion is met in the first instance. Please choose carefully as APPVA cannot accept returns due to change of mind.

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