



APRIL 2022

THE BRIBIE "BUGLE"



A Newsletter of the Bribie Island R.S.L. Sub-Branch Library

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Produced and edited by Graham Bradshaw

IT HAPPENED IN APRIL

WE REMEMBER THEM ALWAYS, HOWEVER, ANZAC DAY IS STILL THAT ONE SPECIAL DAY OF THE YEAR WHEN WE SEE THAT THE SPIRIT LIVES ON AS WE REMEMBER WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS

Anzac Day the **25th of April** is the day that we remember the sacrifices made by Australians in ALL wars. The official casualties for Gallipoli are: 5482 (KIA), 1212 (died from wounds), and died 665 from disease = 8159 total for an occupation that lasted 8 months. It is a sobering fact that at Fromelles there were 5533 casualties IN ONE NIGHT, including around 2,000 killed in action. That figure was more than the total number of casualties in the Boer War, Korea and Vietnam put together.

I am pleased to be able to share the story of "Digger" Te-Toa Wairua (The Spirit of the Warrior). Digger is now a



well loved attraction in Carpenter Way, Sandstone Point. He was sculptured by Jill, wife of Noel and the neighbour of Peter and Ann where "Digger" stands in remembrance. Peter added a flag pole, light and a plaque. Peter asked me to say that "Digger" was a Sapper although I must say that I did not see too many Engineers doing drill as "Digger" rests on Arms Reversed. "Digger" is a true Anzac who was crafted by a lovely KIWI lady (Jill) and he wears his Australian slouch hat

Photos by Graham Bradshaw 2022

and uniform as he stands beside Peter's letter box. Cars often stop to look and take photos. Peter tells me that one lady was so moved by "Digger" that she burst into tears as she stood there.

HMA Submarine AE2 was sunk by Turkish gunboats in the sea of Marmara on the **30th of April 1915** after a perilous five days sailing and fighting her way



through the Dardanelles. The AE2 had just surfaced and was out of torpedoes when a Turkish shell hit the engine room. Lieutenant Commander Stoker and his crew were forced to scuttle

her and were then captured by the Turks and became prisoners of war. Sister Submarine, the AE1, was lost at sea near New Guinea in September 1914.

THE BATTLE OF KAPYONG

The most significant battle of the Korean War involving Australian troops was The Battle of Kapyong which took place on the **24th of April 1951** when the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment stopped the advance of Chinese forces in the Kapyong valley. Wave after wave of Chinese troops attacked 3RAR positions over a period of 3 days and nights and were repulsed by small arms fire, grenades, Owen guns, Bren guns and an artillery barrage called down onto their own position. Although the Chinese numbered around 10,000 they were unable to overrun the Australians. For their part in this action 3RAR received the United States Presidential Unit Citation along with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and "A" Coy, 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion, United States Army. British and New Zealand units also took part in the lead up to the main battle.

DIGGER

Te Toa Wairua

To honour all
servicemen and women
of the ANZAC forces
who have paid the ultimate
sacrifice for our freedom.

"Lest We Forget"

3RAR casualties were 32 KIA, 59 wounded and 3 captured by the Chinese. **We will remember them.**

ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO KILLED

The Japanese who led the Harbor, Admiral of the Imperial Navy, was shot on Bougainville **April 1943** by aircraft from His flight decoded by the



commander of the raid on Pearl Harbor, Admiral Yamamoto was shot down near the **18th of April 1943** by aircraft from the United States Navy. His flight was decoded by the Americans.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
3RAR receives the Presidential Unit Citation 083027

A.W.M. KAPYONG DIORAMA....art93183



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART93183

HMAS VAMPIRE SUNK

HMAAS VAMPIRE.....AWM Photo

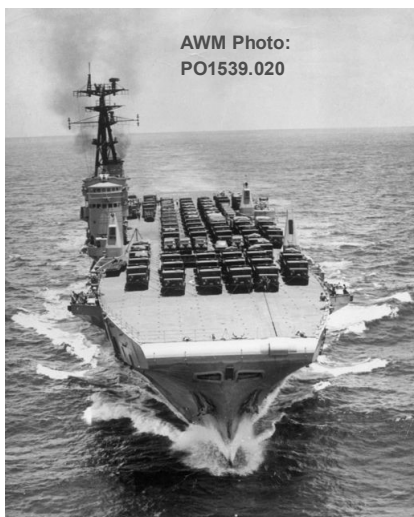


Japanese bombers sank the Destroyer HMAS Vampire and the British Aircraft Carrier HMS Hermes in the Bay

of Bengal near Colombo on the 9th of April 1942.

HMAS SYDNEY TO VUNG TAU

AWM Photo:
PO1539.020



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PO1539.020

HMAS Sydney arrived in Vung Tau on the **9th of April 1968** and 1RAR disembarked for its tour of duty. 7RAR then embarked for the trip home to Australia. During the course of the Vietnam War, "The Vung Tau Ferry" made 24 voyages to Vietnam.

THE AUSTRALIAN 6th DIVISION

suffered heavy losses when they engaged the German forces in Greece on the **10th of April 1941**. Along with around 50,000 allied forces they were eventually forced to evacuate to Crete. This evacuation was completed during the rest of April with loss of life and many ships sunk or damaged by German bombers.

JIFJAF WELL CAPTURED

During its first encounter with Turkish troops in the Sinai as part of the Palestine campaign during World War One, the Australian 9th Light Horse Regiment captured the well at Jifjafa on the **13th of April 1916**.

The Australian 9th Light Horse Regiment crossing the Suez Canal



Photo: AWM

SIEGE OF TOBRUK BEGINS

The German Afrika Korps surrounded the Libyan town of Tobruk on the **10th of April 1941**. Then began the

siege which lasted until December although most Australians had been evacuated by sea during August, September and October.

Photo: AWM

Australian troops on the front line at Tobruk April—December 1941



U.S. 41st DIVISION ARRIVES

The United States 41st Infantry Division (A National Guard Unit) was the first American unit deployed to Australia arriving on the **6th of April 1942**. After initial training at Puckapunyal, Victoria, the unit moved to the Rockhampton area where they conducted jungle warfare training. The 41st also undertook amphibious warfare training at the Toorbul Point Combined Training Centre before moving to New Guinea.

The U.S. Army 41st Infantry Division is inspected by the Australian Prime Minister
AWM Photo: 012036



Private Joergen Cristian Jensen



Of the 50th Battalion, AIF, was awarded the VC for his actions at Noreuil, France on the **2nd of April 1917** when he rushed an enemy barricade throwing grenades and captured the post forcing others to also surrender. Jensen was later severely wounded near Villers Bretonneux in May 1918 and then invalided back to Australia and died in Adelaide in 1922.

Lieutenant Percy Valentine Storkey

Of the 19th Battalion, AIF, was awarded the VC for his bravery and leadership on the **7th of April 1918** at Bois de Hangard near Villers-Bretonneux when he led his platoon in an attack on the enemy flank and rear where they killed or wounded 30 enemy and captured another 50 men and a machine gun. New Zealand born, Lt. Storkey had been wounded twice at Flers and at Ypres. He returned to Australia, where he studied law, and became a Judge.



Major Peter John Badcoe



A member of the AATTV, Major Badcoe was awarded his VC for a series of three actions in Vietnam between February and April 1967. In February he ran across 600m of fire swept ground to assist a territorial platoon and led it in attack. In March, Major Badcoe led a series of

attacks around the Quang Dien headquarters. Finally, on the **7th of April 1967**, after he rushed out to help some South Vietnamese troops, he was shot and killed rising to throw grenades at a machine gun post.

Captain James Ernest Newland

Of the 12th Battalion, AIF, was awarded his VC for his bravery on three separate occasions. On April 7-9, 1917

he led a bombing attack against the enemy and stopped a counter attack the following night. Later, on the **15th of April 1917**, he led a counter attack which succeeded in restoring the line. Captain Newland had been wounded three times before returning to Australia in 1918. He saw service in South Africa during the Boer War and had been wounded at Gallipoli. He continued to serve with the Army and retired in 1941 as a Lieutenant Colonel.



Sergeant John Woods Whittle

Of the 12th Battalion, AIF, was awarded the VC on the **8th of April 1917** for charging and repelling the enemy who had infiltrated his trench. At Lagincourt, France, when they broke through a second time, Sgt. Whittle attacked and killed a machine gun crew and returned to his position with the enemy gun. John Whittle had served in South Africa during the Boer War and then served for five years in the Royal Navy prior to World War One.



Private Thomas James Bede Kenny



Of the 2nd Battalion, AIF, was awarded the VC on the **9th of April 1917**, at Hermies, France, for his actions when he charged a machine gun post which was preventing his platoon from advancing. He captured the machine gun crew and the weapon.

Corporal John Hurst Edmondson

Of the 2/17th Battalion was the first Australian to be awarded the VC in World War Two on the **13th of April 1941** when he helped counter attack German infantry who had breached the Tobruk defences. and were establishing positions. Cpl. Edmondson was wounded during the attack and died of his wounds after the attack was defeated.

Lieutenant Charles Pope

Of the 11th Battalion, AIF, received his VC for his actions near Louverval, France, on the **15th of April 1917** when he gallantly held his platoon position and fought off the enemy even though they were surrounded and short of ammunition. His body and those of his men were later found along with 80 German dead.



AWM Photo: A02648

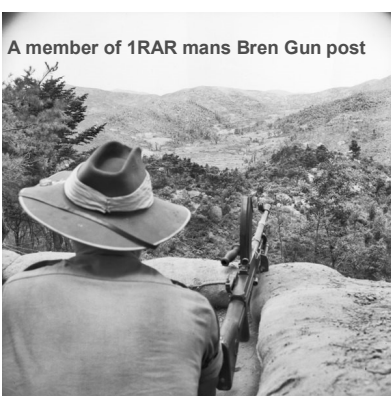
Lieutenant Clifford William King Sadlier



AWM Photo: D00022

Of the 51st Battalion, AIF, was awarded his VC for his gallant actions at Villers-Bretonneux on the night of the **24th – 25th of April 1918** when, although wounded twice, he led his sections in the dark and captured two enemy machine guns. He then single-handedly attacked and captured a third gun and was wounded yet again.

1RAR ARRIVES IN KOREA



A member of 1RAR mans Bren Gun post

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, arrived in Korea on the **6th of April 1952** and completed its tour on the 24th of March 1953. March 1954 saw 1RAR back in Korea for a second tour. Although the battalion did not

fight in major battles it was, however, involved in many minor actions which saw casualties rise. The battalion lost 35 KIA, 5 DOW, 3 MIA, 2 POWs and 166 WIA.

THE 1st BATTLE OF BULLECOURT

This first Battle of Bullecourt, France, took place on the **11th of April 1917** as part of the British 5th Army action around Arras, Northern France, as the Allies tried to break the German Hindenburg Line. It was a poorly planned attack which drew strong criticism of British leadership and tactics from General Monash. This distrust of British leadership continued for most of the war. The attack was an ill planned disaster from the start and cost the Australian 4th Division over 3,300 casualties. Another 1,170 Australians were taken as POWs, making this the highest number of POWs in any action of WWI.



Australians in a sunken road near Bullecourt

AWM Photo: E02021

THE BATTLE OF HAZEBROUCK

Beginning on the **12th of April 1918** and continuing until the 17th, the Battle of Hazebrouck, France, featured numerous frontal assaults by waves of German infantry against the Australian 1st Division which repulsed all attacks with a great loss of life to the Germans.



Australians under a bombardment near Hazebrouck

AWM Photo: E20258

THE BATTLES FOR VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

The **1st Battle** of Villers-Bretonneux took place on the **4th of April 1918** when the German offensive

was repulsed by the 9th Brigade, 3rd Australian Division, supported by some British troops. British units then occupied the town,



"Mephisto" is the World's only surviving A7V Tank and is on display in the Queensland Museum

however, three weeks later the Germans recaptured it again. It was necessary to keep the Germans out of the area because from the high ground they could fire artillery rounds into Amiens. The **2nd Battle** was fought by the Australian 13th and 15th Brigades on the **24th-25th of April 1918** and after heavy fighting the Australians retook the town. During this battle Tanks were used for the first time by both sides.