

IT HAPPENED IN FEBRUARY

OPERATION "BRIBIE", 17/18TH OF FEBRUARY 1967

This battle, fought between 6RAR and the D445 Viet Cong battalion, took place in the Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam. It was a short sharp deadly battle fought at close quarters against defensive machine gun positions. Australian casualties were 8 KIA and 27 others wounded. 1 APC was destroyed (driver killed).



ROLL OF HONOUR.....WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



2781363 ARNOLD P.J., Private 6RAR

2781899 BIRCHELL M.J. Private 6RAR

38728 RICH A.W., Private 6RAR

5411599 RILEY W.M., Private 6RAR

15561 ROONEY K.M., MID, Lance Corporal, 6RAR

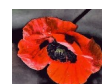
5713981 WATERS B.D. Private 6RAR

5713986 WEBSTER D.R., Private 6RAR

3786644 POMROY V.I. Trooper 3 Cav Regt



LEST WE FORGET



MEMBERS OF 6RAR GATHER AT THE VIETNAM VETERAN'S PARK, BRIBIE ISLAND AT 4PM ON THE 17TH OF FEBRUARY EVERY YEAR TO REMEMBER THEIR FALLEN.

A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF OPERATION BRIBIE APPEARED IN EDITION No.5 WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR. SEE WEBSITE FOR A COPY.

TURKS ATTACK SUEZ CANAL

The Turkish forces launched their first attack on the Suez Canal on the **3rd of February 1915**. This attack failed and they were driven back into the desert. Other attacks also failed as British forces held the canal area.

HUON PENINSULA SECURED

The **10th of February 1944** saw the end of Japanese resistance on the Huon Peninsula, New Guinea as Australian and US forces drove the enemy towards Madang.



Members of the 30th Infantry Battalion cross a small creek on the follow-up. AWM Photo: 070302

AUSTRALIAN ATTACK AT WAU

The Australians counter attacked at Wau on the **3rd of February 1943** after the Japanese had failed to take the town. The Japanese were then forced to retreat and follow up actions continued until the fighting finished on the **23rd of February**. It had been a costly campaign for both sides with the Japanese losing 1,200 men and the Australian lost 300.

CHINESE OFFENSIVE IN KOREA

The Chinese launched their 4th phase of attack against US and UN forces on the 11th of February 1951. This attack failed and they were driven back to the north.

ATTACK BY BOER FORCES

Pink Hill, Cape Colony, South Africa was held by men of Victorian and South Australian units when they were attacked by a superior Boer force on the **12th of February 1900**. This attack resulted in the deaths of seven Australians and the wounding of twenty-two others. At Paardeberg, Orange Free State, another major action occurred on the **17th of February 1900**. The New South Wales Mounted Rifles were involved in this action which finally saw the surrender of 4,000 Boer troops under commanded by General Piet Cronje.

THE RELIEF OF KIMBERLEY

Prior to the above battles at Pink Hill and, Paardeberg, the diamond mining town of Kimberley was relieved from a three months siege on the **14th of February 1900** by charges from cavalry troops led by Major General John French. Australian units involved were from the New South Wales Lancers, New South Wales Mounted Rifles and the Queensland Mounted infantry.

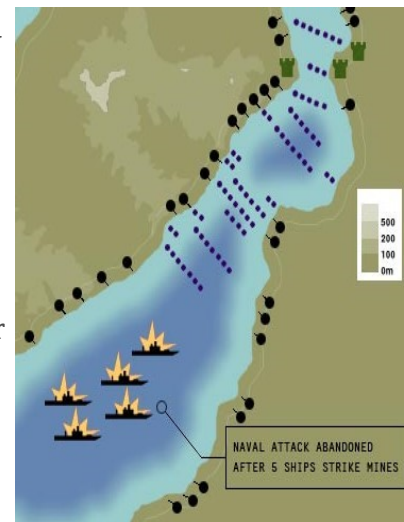
9th DIVISION BACK HOME

The “Rats of Tobruk”, 9th Australian division arrived back in Fremantle on the **18th of February 1943** after being recalled to Australia to help counter the Japanese threat in New Guinea. As they had done in the Middle East they showed in New Guinea why they were one of Australia’s best Divisions of all time.

DARDANELLES SHELLED

Russia had asked Britain for help in its fight against the Ottoman forces. Britain thought that the route through the Dardanelles could be opened and secured by the Allied Navies alone. To this end, shelling of the Dardanelles fort positions began on the **19th of February 1915**. This action failed because of bad weather and return fire from the well fortified Turkish forts. Three allied battleships were sunk by mines and many other vessels were damaged with high casualties sustained. By mid March Britain realised that the Dardanelles could not be taken without Army support action.

This map of the Dardanelles shows how strongly fortified the passage was by the time the Allied Navies decided to begin a bombardment. The rows of small dots indicate the minefields while the larger dots represent the shore batteries. Several old castles were also used as defensive positions.



JAPANESE LAND IN TIMOR

Japanese forces landed in Portuguese Timor on the **20th of February 1942**. The small Australian “Sparrow Force”, which had been sent to the island shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, was forced to surrender on the **23rd of February**. Some remnants of Sparrow Force escaped into the rugged jungles and became a guerrilla force which continued to harass the Japanese. Many Timorese were executed by the Japs for providing food and support to the Australians.

BOMBING IN MALAYA

British and Australian aircraft bombed Communist Terrorists (CT) positions in Kluang, Malaya on the **21st of February 1956**. Lincolns of No.1 Squadron, RAAF and RAF Canberra bombers wiped out a CT jungle camp in a successful raid. It was one of 4,000 sorties flown by the Australians during the Malayan Emergency.



VERDUN, WESTERN FRONT



The battle of Verdun, which was fought between the French and German armies began on the **21st of February 1916**. It became a long costly battle lasting until mid December 1916. This photo shows French convoys moving along the “Sacred Way” towards the Verdun battle front.

1 SQN. BOMBS MORE CT CAMPS

Lincoln bombers from No. 1 Squadron, RAAF, bombed more Communist Terrorist camps on the **23rd of February 1956** further north near Kuala Lumpur.

MacARTHUR ORDERED OUT



General Douglas MacArthur was ordered to leave the Philippines on the **22nd of February 1942** as the Japanese swarmed through South East Asia. He reached Melbourne and eventually set up his Head Quarters in Brisbane. MacArthur Chambers, as the building is called

today, stands on the corner of Queen and Edward Streets and houses a museum in MacArthur's former office. The museum is open Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 10am until 3pm. Seniors \$5, groups must book. Call in for a visit when in the city.

1ST IN MIDDLE EAST

On the **12th of February 1940**, the convoy carrying men of the 2nd AIF, reached the Middle East to begin the first land campaign of the war. On the **6th of February 1941** the 6th Division entered Benghazi.

GULF WAR ENDS

Iraqi's 100,000 troops had invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and the Gulf War, (sometimes called the 1st Gulf war), came to an end on the **28th of February 1991**. During the course of the war the Coalition air forces flew 100,000 sorties and dropped 88,500 tons of bombs.

Coalition aircraft fly over burning oil fields



HMAS SYDNEY IN VUNG TAU

"The Vung Tau Ferry", HMAS Sydney, arrived in South Vietnam on the **29th of February 1972**. During the course of the war the Sydney completed 21 voyages carrying troops and supplies.

JAPS INVADE JAVA

The Japanese Eastern Invasion Force comprising 4 Cruisers, 14 Destroyers and 41 transport ships clashed with the Allied, Dutch led, Eastern Striking Force on the **27th of February 1942** in what became known as the Battle of the Java Sea. The Allied fleet comprised 1 US Heavy Cruiser, 2 Dutch Cruisers plus 1 British and 1 Australian Cruisers escorted by 9 Destroyers. The invasion force's transport ships escaped to the North as the Japanese escorts attacked the allied fleet. The Allies were outgunned and suffered heavy losses. Both Dutch Cruisers, "Java" and De Ruyter", were lost with nearly all crews. The British Cruiser "Exeter" was badly damaged and was sunk 2 days later along with the Destroyer "Encounter". Three other Destroyers, "Kortenaer", Jupiter and "Electra" were also sunk with considerable loss of life. The US Heavy Cruiser "Houston" and the Australian Cruiser "Perth" were both sunk on the **1st of March** as they tried to escape to Ceylon through the Sunda Strait.

The Dutch Cruiser "De Ruyter"



AWM Photo: 305837
Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Doorman went down with his flagship

Captain Henry William Murray

Captain Murray, 13th Battalion, AIF, was awarded the only Victoria Cross for a February when he led his men through a night of savage hand to hand fighting and incessant shell fire, on the **4-5th of February 1917** at Stormy Trench near Gueudecourt, France. He led by example, inspiring his men through the entire night as two thirds of the Battalion became casualties. On one occasion he rushed the front with his revolver and a bomb where he shot three Germans and took another three prisoner. Henry Murray was a great Australian soldier having served on Gallipoli, and on the Western Front through many other battles of the Somme. Captain Murray's many other awards included the CMG, DSO & Bar, DCM and MID. He

rose through the ranks to become a Lieutenant Colonel by 1920. Miraculously he survived the war and died of injuries he received in a car crash near Condamine, Queensland in 1966.

AWM Photo: PO2939.053

