



Respect, Gratitude, Admiration

TRIBUTE

The Newsletter of the Military
Historical Society Australia,
Queensland Division

President: Russell Paten
Website: www.mhsa.org.au

JULY 2024 No. 36

Members get up close to some great old warbirds



Jacko and the F111 with our tour guide Dave.



The team being hosted in the DC3. The incredible history of this aircraft, including World War 2 activities in Indonesia, Broome and with Douglas MacArthur were described in detail.

Seven intrepid members of the MHS A Qld Division travelled to Caloundra on Saturday 28 June for a tour of the Queensland Air Museum. They were met by David and Noel who guided the group through the various aircraft in the museum. Highlights were exclusive tours (climbs) through the F111, Neptune, Orion, DC3 and Huey. Some of these areas are off limits to the public so it was truly VIP treatment we were given. The pictures show the highlights. – **Russell Paten**



Our courageous and highly skilled flight crew of the Orion.

President's Report

It's a pleasure to be writing the first President's Report for the new year. Thanks to everyone who attended the AGM at Hervey Bay and thanks again to Ray Eustice for looking after us so well.

A very special thanks to the team who volunteered to support me this year. It feels good to have a full team comprising Vice-President (Wuzzy Alford), Secretary (Jim Nuttall), Treasurer (Cindy Munro), Membership Officer (Jim Nuttall), Tribute Editor (Alan Quinney) and committee members (Bob Jackson, John Steel, David Geck). Our first committee meeting is to be held in Gympie in August.

I would like to make a special shout out to Wuzzy Alford who has worked tirelessly for us over the past year. He has successfully organised Quilts of Valour presentations, polo shirt orders, presentation desk set orders, transport for Gympie members to meetings, committee meetings and meeting rooms at Gympie RSL. Wuzzy, you are a true power in the Qld Division. I can't thank you enough.

The main thing I would like to ask of all members is to let me know what you would like me to concentrate on going forward. What would make membership of the Qld Division more rewarding for you? Please just give me a call or drop me an email at any time to let me know.

Thanks again Alan for a great Tribute edition. I receive only positive feedback regarding your work.

The secretary would like a word

Hello to our members and I sincerely trust that this edition of *Tribute* finds you and yours well.

The latest version of the Membership Application / Renewal form is attached to the last page of this edition. You will note that we are requesting some additional information, the info is confidential and if you do not wish to provide the details then it is your decision.

In addition we currently have 51 financial members and 35 unfinancial. I urge our members to remain financial and to encourage their friends with a 'Did you pay your MHSA subscription?'

A simple memory jogger is all they will need in some cases.

Jim Nuttall

From the Editor

As many may know our esteemed president was on the Iberian Peninsula recently. This was the setting for a number of major battles during the French occupation of the Napoleonic era.

I am sure Russell and Ann were near some of these sites and I am eager to hear about the experiences. Wonder if he picked up a musket ball or two?

Thanks to those who sent articles in, always appreciated and looked for. Keeping them coming and if you think you may have sent something that has not appeared please contact me or Russell or just resubmit.

Feature Article



Another Lady of the Lamp

David Geck gave a Show and Tell presentation at a recent meeting. He told of a headstone he found in the Maryborough cemetery. The headstone was that of a nurse, Eliza Barker, who served in the Crimean War with Florence Nightingale no less.

Eliza Barker was born in Wales in 1806.

On 27 October 1854, Eliza, then aged 48, joined Florence Nightingale as a nurse, and sailed for the Crimea aboard the mail ship *Vectis* arriving in Constantinople in November of that year.

Eliza nursed soldiers in Smyrna, Scutari and Balaclava.

<https://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/register-of-nurses.pdf>

It was reported that the rats encountered at balaclava were bolder than they had ever been at Scutari. Other nurses became so used to them that they found it

amusing and horrifying when “fat” Nurse Barker coming in exhausted after her climb up the hill to quarters, fell panting on

her bed and rose screaming to say that she had squashed six young rats.

They were all immensely relieved when a non-commissioned officer brought them a little yellow cat.

<https://archive.org/details/florenceighting00omal/page/12/mode/2up?q=barker>

After the war, from about 1860 – 1869, Eliza was appointed to the position of matron aboard immigrant vessels to Australia. She served on nine different vessels including the *Lady McDonald*, *Annie Wilson*, *General Caulfield*, and *Queen of the Colonies*. Her last voyage was on the ship *The Light Brigade*.

It was particularly noted that Matron Barker could read and write.

In 1871, aged 65, Eliza was appointed as the first lady superintendent of the Rockhampton orphanage, a position which she held for 15 years.

She did her duty thoroughly, even to “whopping” unruly boys. It was reported in newspapers of the day that the orphanage seemed more of a home than an institution for its 68 children under care and that Matron Barker was loved by the children who, although regarding her word as “law”, saw her as a friend and not someone to be dreaded.

In 1887 a report in the paper described a visit to Maryborough hospital here Eliza met with a veteran of the Crimea who was a patient there. The two were able to share memories of their time during that dreadful war.

Eliza Barker passed away, a spinster, in July 1888, aged 82. She died at the home of her friends Mr and Mrs George Willey of Zante Street.

Researcher: Jenni Pioch

Navy

This photo is from Vintage Queensland and shows patrol boats under construction at Walkers Ltd shipyard, Maryborough in 1967.

The Attack-class patrol boats were built for the RAN in 1967-68 at Walkers in Maryborough and at an Evans Deakin shipyard in Brisbane.

Photo is from Qld State Archives.



Air Force



From AeroTime

By Jean Carmela Lim. Edited By Andy Murray

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) has restored a World War II P-40E Kittyhawk A29-90 aircraft, just in time for the Australian International Airshow 2025.

The American all-metal, single seater fighter bomber, nicknamed ‘Ming the Merciless’, has been brought back to life by a dedicated team of mechanics.

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Stephen Chappell unveiled the restored aircraft on March 23, 2025.

“Our Air Force has an incredibly proud history, especially the history of our aviators during the Second World War – they were daring, brave and endured unimaginable danger and sacrifice,” Chappell said.

“By restoring Ming the Merciless, we are preserving the stories of the men who crewed this Kittyhawk, as well as the stories of the men who crewed the more-than 840 Kittyhawks operated by the RAAF during the Second World War,” Chappell added.

The Kittyhawk was first allocated to the RAAF's 76 Squadron on May 2, 1942. It fought in the Battle of Milne Bay, New Guinea, in August and September of 1942.

After further service at several Australian bases, A29-90 was damaged beyond repair in 1944 following a forced landing. Work to restore Ming the Merciless began in 2012.

The P-40E Kittyhawk A29-90 was unveiled as part of the 2025 Australian International Airshow in Avalon, but will be on permanent display at the RAAF Museum at RAAF Base Point Cook.

BOOK REVIEW

David Cameron – Death on Bloody Ridge: Chunuk Bair – the battle that decided the fate of the Gallipoli Campaign

Big Sky Publishing, 2024

Australia's iconic Gallipoli campaign is burnt into our national psyche through many publications. Some focus on the landing of 25 April 1915, others on the extraordinary deception concerning the successful evacuation without the loss of a single Anzac life executed to end the campaign. Many are general histories that seek to place Gallipoli in the context of the war. Others are about individuals, seeking to sample what it was like through the perspective of participants. Some, like this book, address critical battles of the campaign. With *Death on Bloody Ridge*, David Cameron has produced an excellent coverage of the critical August Offensive, a battle which effectively settled the eventual outcome.

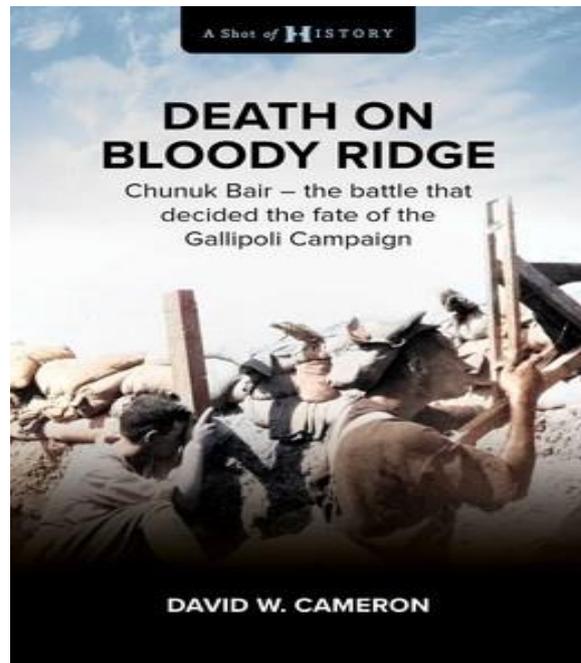
As the sub-title most accurately portends, the Battle for Chunuk Bair decided the fate of the Gallipoli Campaign. Who controlled that vital ground, controlled the Dardanelles. The Allies, having failed to achieve their initial objectives within days of three main landings – one a feint - ended up in the slugfest on the peninsula with which we are all so familiar. Our men held on to what they had attained in the first two days despite every effort by the defenders to dislodge them. Neither side could prevail. By August it was realised that an outflanking effort was the only possible way to gain that vital ground, and hence the story told so well in this book.

The author provides a balanced narrative from both sides as we are taken through the August offensive, focussing on the ‘Bloody Ridge’ that dominated Anzac Cove and its hinterland. He provides us with sufficient coverage of the more well known and often-documented battles also etched into our memories – Lone Pine and the Nek, both diversionary attacks - to give proportionate context to the crucial ‘big picture’ that the assaults on Chunuk Bair reflected. It was essentially a case of ‘all or nothing’. And history tells us the ultimate outcome.

There are many commendable attributes reflected in this book. One is the use of the Turkish place names, interspersed with ours. The dual/alternative naming of topographic features makes it easier to follow the battle as many Australians even to this day are less familiar with them. I now know the meaning of ‘*dere*’.

The terrain was difficult, to put it mildly. To even move across it let alone fight on it, in the dark, without accurate maps, with little reconnaissance, under fire (sometimes from both sides) was an absolute nightmare. A battle of such importance, planned largely off a map and overseen by a commander who chose to watch it unfold from a ship rather than being forward on the ground in the pre-radio era will probably shock the average reader.

Professional soldiers will be aghast reading about what their forebearers faced back in 1915. Confusion over the naming of features was common. One glaring example was the 1/5th Gurkha Rifles and 14 Sikh Battalion being ordered by Godley to attack Hill Q. It was not even marked on maps, nor did the unit



commanders on the ground know where it was. Yet they received orders, delivered by a runner, to attack it within a few hours. One can only wonder about the risk taking involved in such decisions.

Cameron 's writing is highly visual, and we are the better informed of the decisive Battle through that skill. I was particularly impressed with the accurate description of the means of killing on both sides. It is not easy for a writer to describe how machine gun fire works in both the direct and indirect fire modes. Concepts such as firing from a defensive defilade position (not easily being able to be hit from the front by attackers) and achieving enfilade (firing optimally down a line of assaulting troops who must try to pass through and survive the cone of fire, multiplied by the number of guns firing) is very well demonstrated. I give full marks to the author for this, along with the graphic descriptions of the suffering endured by both sides. Brutal fighting by both sides, pushed to the limit of their endurance as each manoeuvred to seize and control this Vital Ground and the Key Terrain surrounding it, is well described. As an ex-Infantryman myself, I would not like to have been there, in any role.

Losses were appalling, and poor communications meant that commanders at all levels had a very difficult job made even worse by totally inadequate battlefield situational awareness. What was really happening, how many men there were left, what their supply situation was, where they really were, where the enemy was, how could one control fire support from artillery, naval gunfire and machine guns – all were questions that no one could really answer, other than try to work with what was planned. A case of hope for the best. Cameron provides a detailed narrative of these issues from both sides, and this to me greatly adds to the accuracy of the battle narrative, something that is very hard to do in any era. For Chanuk Bair, this is even more remarkable.

The maps are hard to read because of the size of the print, and this is unfortunate as I am sure their design is a publishing decision. Larger and clearer images placed in the centre, as is often the case in books, is a production technique. However, such a layout does not serve the narrative as well as embedded maps. Such maps that are best located in the text to which they refer as we follow a fluid battle as it unfolds over time. One does not envy either the author or his publisher in wrestling with that dilemma.

The Epilogue is effectively used to wrap up this history. In this closing segment, Cameron draws our attention to the appalling medical consequences of the battle, at least for the Anzacs. In a few pages, he effectively captures the horrors of the casualty treatment and evacuation situation and how the wounded suffered from the moment of wounding to their evacuation by hospital ship. At

no point along the casualty evacuation chain were the carers fully able to cope. Doubtless, both sides lost many, many men who might have survived had their medical support not been overwhelmed. This a key part of the book and worth reading a couple of times.

The Notes and Bibliography are first class. Being a collector of publications by Gallipoli sniper veterans – one being Frank Clune – I was particularly impressed to see that name pop up. To me, that reflects the depth of research carried out to give good effect to the soldier-level experiences as well as the spread of published authoritative sources including unit histories. As one of the publications in Big Sky Publishing's *A Shot of History* series, this publication is right up there. Strongly recommended.

Reviewer: LTCOL Russell Linwood, ASM (Retd)

Humour (over page)

8:29

VoLTE 70%



Important Dates

July 14, 1916 – First day of the battle of the Somme. This was the worst single day in the history of British arms, with 60,000 men being killed or wounded.

July 1, 1942 – Sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*. It was carrying more than 1050 Australian prisoners, captured on New Britain and New Ireland, when it was sunk by an American submarine. None survived.

July 1, 1945 – 7th Division landed at Balikpapan, Borneo. The largest and final Australian amphibious landing of the Second World War.

July 2, 1950 – No.77 Squadron flies first combat mission in Korea.

July 2, 1952 - A Company, 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, raids Chinese positions on Hill 227 during Operation Blaze, Korea.

July 2, 1993 – Death of Sir Edward “Weary” Dunlop who gained fame for the medical services he rendered to his fellow prisoners of the Japanese on the Burma-Thailand railway during the Second World War.

July 3, 1900 - 400 Imperial Bushmen in action at Leeuw Kop, South Africa.

July 3, 1950 – Pilots of No.77 Squadron involved in friendly fire incident.

July 4, 1918 – Battle of Hamel, France, the first set-piece operation planned and conducted under Lieutenant General Sir John Monash.

July 4, 1918 – VCs for L. Cpl T.X. Axford, 16th Battalion and Pte H. Dalziel, 15th Battalion, a Queenslander, for actions at Hamel Wood.

July 4, 1941 – VC for Acting Wing Commander H. Edwards, No. 105 Squadron, Bomber Command, RAAF, originally from Fremantle, Western Australia, for a raid on Bremen.

July 5, 1945 – Death in office of PM John Curtin.

July 6, 1918 – VC for Cpl W.E. Brown 20th Battalion, originally from New Norfolk, Tasmania, at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

July 6, 1941 – Battle of Damour, the final battle in Lebanon against the Vichy French.

July 6, 1943 – Darwin bombed. It was bombed 64 times during the Second World War.

July 7, 1942 – 9th Division in action at El Alamein during unsuccessful attempts to push back Axis forces.

July 7, 1942 - Horn Island, a Torres Strait Island, was bombed by Japanese aircraft nine times during the Second World War.

July 7, 1956 – Last RAAF transports return from Korea. The last Australian servicemen did not depart Korea until 1957.

July 8, 1942 – Thirteen Wellingtons of 460 Squadron participated in a night time bombing raid on Wilhelmshaven, a major German port.

July 9, 1941 – Damour taken. The Australian victory at Damour opened the way to Beirut and led the Vichy French to seek an armistice.

July 9, 1943 - Nos. 3 and 450 Squadrons, RAAF, and eight RAN corvettes involved in the allied invasion of Sicily.

July 10, 1911 - Formation of the RAN. It consisted of the battlecruiser *Australia* and several cruisers, destroyers and submarines.

July 10, 1940 - Beginning of the Battle of Britain.

July 10, 1941 - Private J.H. Gordon, 2/31st Battalion, originally from Rockingham, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross near Jezzine, Lebanon.

July 10, 1951 - Negotiations between the United Nations Command and the Communists begin at Kaesong. They continued for two years before an armistice was finally declared.

July 11, 1941 - Vichy French surrender in Syria.

July 12, 1941 - Last 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, ambush of Malayan Emergency.

July 13, 1953 - HMAS *Tobruk* begins a two-week patrol of the northern part of Korea's east coast. Its last patrol before the war in Korea ended in late July 1953.

July 14, 1918 - Fighting at Abu Tellul, Palestine. Fighting at Abu Tellul, Palestine was repulsed.

July 15, 1940 - The Volunteer Defence Force (VDC), composed mainly of First World War veterans, was formed for home defence by the Returned and Services League (RSL).

July 16, 1940 - HMA Ships *Stuart* and *Waterhen* were on screen at the bombardment of Bardia.

July 17-18, 1918 - Lt A.C. Borella, 26th Battalion, originally from Borung, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Villers-Bretonneux, France. At 36 Lt Borella was the oldest member of the first AIF to receive this award.

July 19, 1916 – Battle of Fromelles. A total of 5533 Australians were killed or wounded in this battle, most on the night of 19–20 July. Fromelles was the first battle for the Australians on the Western Front.

July 19, 1940 - HMAS *Sydney* sinks the Italian cruiser *Bartolomeo Colleoni* in the battle of Cape Spada off Crete.

July 20, 1943 - HMAS *Hobart* torpedoed off San Cristobal, Solomon Islands. The *Hobart* was able to reach Espirtu Santo the next day.

July 21, 1942 - Japanese forces land at Buna and Gona.

July 22, 1917 - Four members of the Australian Army Nursing Service, Sisters Cawood, Deacon and Ross-King and Staff Nurse Derrer, won Military Medals for rescuing patients trapped in a burning Casualty Clearing Station at Trois Arbes, France. These were the first bravery awards won by Australian nurses in action.

July 22, 1938 - Australian National War Memorial opened at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

July 22, 1942 - Beginning of the battle of the Kokoda Trail, New Guinea.

July 22, 1942 - Pte A.S. Gurney, 2/48th Battalion, originally from Dayawn, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at Tel el Eisa, Egypt.

July 23, 1916 - Battle of Pozières begins.

July 23, 1916 - Lt A.S. Blackburn, 10th Battalion, originally from Woodville, South Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at Pozières, France.

July 23, 1916 - Pte J. Leak, 9th Battalion, originally from Portsmouth, United Kingdom, wins the Victoria Cross at Pozières, France.

July 24, 1900 – Capt. N.R. Howse, New South Wales Army Medical Corps, originally from Somerset, United Kingdom, wins the Victoria Cross at Vredefort, Orange Free State. Howse's was the first Victoria Cross awarded to an Australian and remains the only Australian medical officer to win this award.

July 24, 1945 - Pte F.J. Partridge, 8th Battalion, originally from Grafton, New South Wales, wins the Victoria Cross on the Bonis Peninsula, Bougainville.

July 24, 1927 - Opening of the Menin Gate Memorial Ypres, Belgium.

July 24-25, 1916 – Pte T. Cooke, 8th Battalion, originally from Kaikora, New Zealand, wins the Victoria Cross at Pozières.

July 26, 1940 - Formation of the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS).

July 26, 1942 – Dawin bombed by the Japanese, one of 64 times.

July 26, 1945 - Japan issued with ultimatum to surrender.

July 26, 1950 - Australian troops committed to Korea.

July 27, 1942 – Formation of the Australian Women's Land Army.

July 27, 1942 – Japanese capture Kokoda.

July 27, 1942 – Fighting at Ruin Ridge, western Egypt.

July 27, 1953 - Ceasefire signed in Panmunjon, Korea, bringing hostilities to an end.

July 28, 1916 - Sgt C. Castleton, 5th Machine Gun Company, originally from Suffolk, United Kingdom, wins the Victoria Cross at Pozières.

July 28-29, 1942 - Townsville bombed by Japanese aircraft.

July 31, 1900 - Victorian naval contingent departs Melbourne on SS Salamis for China as part of a commitment to the Boxer Rebellion.

July 31, 1914 - Labor leader Andrew Fisher declares Australians will defend Britain "to our last man and our last shilling".

July 31, 1917 – Third battle of Ypres or Passchendaele begins.

July 31, 1962 - The advance party of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) arrives in South Vietnam.

July 31, 2009 - Australian combat troops cease operational role in Iraq.

Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division Committee 2023 – 24

President	Russell Paten
Vice President	Greg (Wuzzy) Alford
Honorary Secretary	Jim Nuttall
Honorary Treasurer	Cynthia (Cindy) Munro
Committee Members	David Geck, John Steel, Bob Jackson

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 13, meeting at Maroochydore • November 6 meeting in Brisbane venue to be announced • 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FELLOWS of MHSa</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Meyers (Deceased) • Anthony Staunton • Donald Wright • <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Leslie (Les) Williams, Blackall, Qld.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>VALE</u></p>
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Australian Business Number (ABN) 97 764 781 363

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MILITARY SERVICE: SHIPS / UNITS / SQUADRONS YOU SERVED IN.....

TELEPHONE: MOBILE:.....FIXED LINE:.....E-MAIL:.....

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I understand the above details will only be used by the Qld Division and the Federal Secretary of the Military Historical Society of Australia to maintain correct records of my membership and for general branch or administrative business, and by the Journal editor to assist with editorial planning. I understand that the

Society's Constitution requires the Federal Secretary to maintain a membership register (including the Journal mailing list).

In addition to information kept for these purposes:

OPT IN I agree to my email details being included on the Federal Secretary's contact list which will be used solely to distribute Society business and convey items

of interest to members (including members' notices) YES /NO (circle whichever applies)

OPT IN I wish to be included on the members' interests register and give permission for my military interests and my phone/email/address contact details to be

included on it (cross out whichever does not apply). YES/NO (circle whichever applies)

I understand that I can revoke permission for inclusion on register and contact lists at any time.

Please send this form and your membership fee to: Cheque/Money Order: Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division

Treasurer, Qld Division

Military Historical Society of Australia

27/11 Innovation Parkway

Birtinya, Qld 4575

Email: patens@bigpond.com

Or,

Direct deposit to the Qld Division MHSA Westpac Account at Maryborough, Qld.

BSB No. 034-128 Account No. 23-3618

If paying by Direct deposit, reference your name and forward the application form as well.