

ANZAC TRADITIONS



The Dawn Service

The Dawn Service observed on ANZAC Day has its origins in an operational routine which is still performed by the Australian Army today.

The half light of dawn can play tricks on one's eyes. The half hour before dawn, with its grey and misty shadows, became one of the most favoured times for an attack. Soldiers in defensive positions were therefore woken before dawn, so by the time first light crept across the battlefield they were awake, alert, and manning their weapons. This was and is still known as stand-to. The operation was also repeated at sunset.

After World War 1, returned soldiers sought the comradeship they felt in those quiet, peaceful moments before dawn. With symbolic links to the dawn landing at Gallipoli, a dawn stand-to or ceremony became a common form of ANZAC Day remembrance during the 1920s. The first official Dawn Service was held at the Sydney Cenotaph in 1927.

Poppies

Red poppies were the first signs of life in the fields of northern France and Belgium after World War 1. Arising from the blood drenched ground, bright red poppies grew where four years of war led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of soldiers, including 45,000 Australians.

The poppy has enabled Australians to show they have not forgotten the 102,911 Australian servicemen and women who have given their lives in wars and conflicts.



Rosemary

The Ancient Greeks believed that rosemary made their memories stronger.

This idea continues today as people wear sprigs of rosemary symbolising remembrance for those who have died in war.



The ANZAC Biscuit

Previously known as an ANZAC wafer or ANZAC tile, the ANZAC biscuit we know and love today is a far cry from what the ANZACs ate a hundred years ago. The ANZAC biscuit was originally intended as a bread substitute for soldiers fighting in hostile conditions. The biscuit was made to have long shelf life, meaning it was notoriously hard; in fact, they often adopted the affectionate nickname of 'bullet-proof' biscuits!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of traditional rolled oats
- 1 cup of sifted plain flour
- 1 cup of caster sugar
- 3/4 cup of desiccated coconut
- 125 grams of butter
- 1 tablespoon of golden syrup
- 2 tablespoons of boiling water
- 1 teaspoon of bicarbonate soda

Directions:

- Combine rolled oats, sifted plain flour, caster sugar and desiccated coconut in a bowl.

- Heat butter and golden syrup over a low heat until butter is melted.

- Mix boiling water with bicarbonate soda and add to the butter mixture.

- Stir into the dry ingredients.

Form the mixture into balls on a greased oven tray.

- Press the balls flat and bake in a slow oven (150°) for twenty minutes or until golden brown.

- Loosen the biscuits while still warm.

- Allow to cool on tray.

Photo Left: *Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing for the dead of WW1 in the Ypres Salient in Belgium.*

ANZAC DAY Traditions and Symbols

The Ode

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning,
We will remember them.

The Last Post

The Last Post historically has been used to signify the end of the day.

It is played during commemorative ceremonies to serve as a tribute to the dead.

Minute's Silence

One (or two) minute's silence is held to reflect on the significance of the day and as a sign of respect.

Reveille and Rouse

In major ceremonies, the Last Post is normally followed by Rouse except at the Dawn Service when Reveille is played. Historically Reveille woke the soldiers at dawn.

ANZAC Day Services

For information on ANZAC Day services in your area, ring your local council.

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Animals in War

March 3rd was National Day for War Animals, a day to pay tribute to all animals who have served Australian forces. From famous animals immortalised in history like Simpson's donkey, to more contemporary heroes like IED dogs Sarbi and Xena, animals of all kinds have been intertwined with Australian soldiers throughout history.

A crucial part of our war efforts, horses, donkeys, mules and camels carried food, water, ammunition and medical supplies to men at the front, and dogs and pigeons carried messages. Canaries were used to detect poisonous gas, and cats and dogs trained to hunt rats in the trenches.

More than 16 million animals served in the First World War.

Australia shipped some 120,000 horses overseas during WW1. Over 39,000 horses served with the AIF, mostly in Egypt and Palestine with the Australian Light Horse.

Because of the bio-security risk, all Australian horses and donkeys sent to Gallipoli were destroyed or left on the shore during the evacuation – including none other than Simpson's donkey.

In Vietnam, all 11 dogs who served during the Vietnam War were left in the country when the ADF returned home.

Today, military working dogs are the only animal employed by the ADF. They serve in a variety of roles, from IED detection to base protection and now, in modern times, they are treated like any soldier and will never be left behind.

Photo: AWM PO6853.001 - Private Leonard Templer Napper, 9th Light Horse, of Orroroo, SA. A farmer prior to enlistment, he embarked with B Company from Melbourne on 11 February 1915. On 28 August 1915 he was killed in action at Gallipoli, aged 26.



ANZAC DAY 2021



A MESSAGE from Rowan Ramsey MP

Federal Member for Grey



Last year our observance of ANZAC Day took a much different form as we grappled with COVID-19.

I was heartened by the fact that so many made time to singularly pay tribute to those who have risked and laid down their lives for us, our friends and our ideals.

Australia still has a considerable number of service people on overseas deployment, mostly centred in the Middle East and while not engaged in all-out warfare, they never-the-less face very real risks on a daily basis. We thank them for their commitment and recognise their families also make an enormous contribution.

Australians are indebted to the brave service personnel who put their lives on the line to protect us and to all who have preceded them. ANZAC Day presents an opportunity to teach a new generation of the sacrifices made for them by those who have gone before. Lest we forget.

Rowan.



Australian Army soldier Musician Maureen Wallace from the Australian Army Band Sydney, stands at Procedure Alpha on board HMAS Canberra for the arrival into Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, during Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2019.



The RAAF turns 100

Considering first powered flight only occurred eleven years before the outbreak of WW1, the impact of airpower changed the nature of trench warfare on the Western Front. Australian pilots made significant contributions through the Australian Flying Corps (AFC), including South Australians Sir's Ross and Keith Smith, Cpt Harry Butler and the Father of the RAAF, Sir Richard Williams who featured in this publication last year.

The RAAF was established as a stand-alone entity in 1921 and is the fourth oldest independent air force in the world. During WW1 around 1,800 officers and 2,840 airmen served in the AFC.

By WW2 air power had changed the nature of war. Under attack from the sea, by 1945 Australia had the 4th biggest air force in the world with 6,200 planes and 182,000 personnel. Today, equipped with a range of highly sophisticated aircraft it is undeniably an equal arm of defence.

Pictured: A Bristol Bomber, flown by No 1 Squadron (ISQN) in World War 1, and ISQN's current aircraft, an F/A-18F Super Hornet share the flight line at RAAF Base Amberley.

Cover: AWM NEA0414 Flight Lieutenant D. H. Goode of Port Pirie 1944 flying an Australian designed and built Boomerang fighter.

Below: AWM OG3604 North Borneo 1945, Flt Sgt N. A. Duckmanton of Clare and Flt Sgt M. J. Paige of Kingston, among the first crews from the famous no. 93 Green Ghost.

AUSTRALIA'S ROLE In Various Conflicts

World War 1 1914-1918



WW1, was the Great War, the war to end all wars. While the ANZAC legend was first honoured in reference to Gallipoli the biggest and most costly battles were on the Western Front, in France and Belgium. The battle saw the establishment of trench warfare with a costly stalemate resulting in years of gridlock. Advances in

artillery, air warfare and poison gas inflicted huge damage on ground troops. The Battle of the Somme alone saw more than a million casualties.

Australia's role in these battles was significant. A world away from the action Australians read in newspapers of the conflicts at Fromelles, the Somme, Bullecourt, Messines, Passchendaele, Dernancourt and Villers-Bretonneux. They learned by telegram when loved ones had made the ultimate sacrifice.

Of the more than 290,000 Australians who served on the Western Front, 46,000 were either killed in action or died of their wounds. Dotted across the landscape of France and Belgium are hundreds of war cemeteries and memorials where these soldiers lie buried or where their names are listed among those thousands who have no known grave, the missing.

Each year thousands of Australians visit the Western Front and the monument at Villers-Bretonneux where the Australian battalions are still revered for their part of the liberation of the town. After the battle an unnamed German officer said of the Australians *"They were magnificent. Nothing seemed to stop them. When our fire was heaviest, they just disappeared in shell holes and came up as soon as it slackened. When we used Vercy lights they stood still and were hard to see"*. (Fix Bayonets, Neville Browning)

Picture: AWM P09291.227 The Burra Boys enlisted in the 32nd Battalion & came together on the battlefields of France. Pictured are Thomas Dearlove (KIA 27 April 1918), Lance Corporal Stanice Fuss, Albert Dew (KIA 30 July 1918), Walter Spackman, Henry Webster, Roy Lloyd, George Williams (DOW 21 November 1917), Leo Borowski (KIA 27 April 1918), Ray James Callis Flower (DOW 6 July 1918).

The Siege of Tobruk - 1941



Tobruk on the Mediterranean coast in far eastern Libya held vital strategic value for the Axis troops (German and Italian) to supply their eastern front in WW2.

Under attack from Germany's Field Marshal Rommel the allied forces

retreated to the Egyptian border, but left a garrison, mostly from the Australian 9th Division to defend Tobruk. Supplied by British and Australian ships from the sea, but totally isolated by land, the garrison resisted for 241 days.

Outnumbered two to one, the Australians constructed what their commander Lieutenant General Leslie Morshead dubbed "active defence" running nightly patrols into the desert harassing the German positions.

When Rommel's tanks charged, recognising resistance was futile, they instead repelled the following ground troops, isolated the tanks and then attacked them. Having dug-in extensively, when the Luftwaffe dropped waves of bombs, they hid safely in the network of tunnels. Consequently, when German propagandist Lord Haw-Haw (William Joyce) broadcast that they were caught like rats in a trap, they wore the label with pride and became the Rats of Tobruk.

The siege was the first time Rommel had been repelled and he wrote to his wife, "The Australian's are fighting magnificently, and their training is much superior to ours." And at another time "If I had to take Hell, I would use Australians to take it and New Zealanders to hold it." The siege was recognised as a monumental achievement, but cost 749 lives, 1996 were wounded and another 604 taken prisoner. However, the battle for the Western Desert was far from over. As a rat once said, "Tobruk wasn't much fun, but it was a picnic compared with El Alamein."

Picture: AWM 009514 - Tobruk. Australians standing by the front, 400 yards from the enemy. Pte William Goodgame, Pte Gordon Watkins and Pte Charles Stening. Lance Corporals Goodgame and Watkins were killed in action at Buna, Papua, in 1942.

LOCAL HERO

Lance-Corporal Kevin Leslie Mitchinson of Port Lincoln



Lance-Corporal Kevin Leslie Mitchinson, 22, (NS) single, of Port Lincoln, SA, A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

Sixty thousand Australians served in Vietnam, a quarter of them were conscripts. Of the five hundred and twenty-one Australians to lose their lives in the conflict, two hundred were conscripts. Lance-Corporal Kevin Leslie Mitchinson of Port Lincoln was one of them. Born in Adelaide, Kevin was a bank clerk in Port Lincoln and a popular sportsman, playing both football and tennis. He was also a member of the CMF attaining the rank of Sergeant and having served three years elected to be discharged so to be eligible for the National Draft. He received his call-up in October 1965 and following training departed for Vietnam on May 25th the following year serving with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. February 21st, 1967 was a horrific day for Australia and Kevin Mitchinson was one of seven Australians killed in action by two Vietcong mines in the Long Hai mountains, about 25km

from the Australian base at Nui Dat. The men from 5RAR and 3CAV were participating in Operation REMARK, the pursuit of Vietcong soldiers in the Long Hai mountains.

The majority of the deaths occurred when an APC struck a mine, which was believed to be a booby-trapped bomb. The force of the bomb ripped the carrier apart, killing the six men onboard. At the same time, an anti-personnel mine (colloquially known as a 'jumping jack') also went off nearby in the midst of another section, killing one and wounding numerous others.

Kevin served 273 days in Vietnam leaving behind his devastated parents Jean and Ken and sister Cassandra. A memorial with his medals, beret and service history is mounted on the wall of the Port Lincoln RSL.

May he RIP.

Bangka Island Massacre

The Bangka Island Massacre is a WW2 war crime better known than most in Australia. It included the murder of 21 unarmed nurses following the sinking of their ship the Vyner Brooke as they attempted to escape the fall of Singapore in 1942. Twelve nurses were lost at sea including Sister Annie Merle Trenery of Moonta, while 32 nurses survived the sinking and were taken prisoner. Another 22 were washed ashore along with 25 British soldiers, where they surrendered to the Japanese. The soldiers were bayoneted to death as the nurses were forced to watch and were then motioned into the sea where they were machine gunned from behind. Just one survived, Sister Vivian Bullwinkle, a native of Kapunda. Seriously injured by a bullet which passed through her body, she feigned her death until the Japanese soldiers left. Battling her injuries, twelve days later she was captured and spent 3.5 years as a prisoner of war. Following the war, she gave evidence at The Tokyo War Crimes trials and by 1947 was the Director of Nursing at the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital. She spent time on the council of the Australian War Memorial and was the President of the Australian Nurses Federation.



P02783.028 Sister Annie Merle (Merle) Trenery of Moonta, 2/13th Australian General Hospital, Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) the daughter of Mrs E. J. Trenery of Moonta Mines.



WM P03960.001 - Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkle was the sole survivor of the 1942 Bangka Island massacre. She was born on 18 December 1915 at Kapunda.