

THE GALLIPOLI GAZETTE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB LTD

The Siege of Malta

Historically, the island of Malta, was a military and naval fortress, and in World War Two was the only Allied base between Gibraltar and Alexandria in Egypt.

The fight in World War Two for the control of the strategically important island of Malta, then a British colony, saw the navies and air forces of Italy and Germany battle Britain's Royal Navy and Royal Air Force (RAF) from June 1940 to November 1942.

In peacetime, Malta, an island 27 kilometers long and 14 kilometers wide, was a way station on the British trade route to Egypt, the Suez Canal and the ports of India and South East Asia. When the route was closed by war, Malta remained a forward

base for offenses against Axis shipping and land campaigns in the central Mediterranean. Due to its exposed position close to Italy, the British had moved the headquarters of the Royal Navy's Mediterranean Fleet from the Maltese capital, Valetta to Alexandria in October 1939, and so removed the naval protection. This caused the Maltese Government to question Britain's interest in protection of the people from being overrun.

There were hardly any defenses on Malta because of a

pre-war conclusion that the island was indefensible. The Italian and British surface fleets were evenly matched in the region, but the Italians had far more submarines and aircraft. Only the 35-year old HMS *Terror* and a few British submarines were still based at the island.

The start of the North African campaign in June 1940 opened a new front in WW2 and increased Malta's already considerable strategic value, with Winston Churchill calling the island "an unsinkable aircraft carrier"



Map of Malta

Editorial.....

This edition has a diverse offering of articles ranging from a changing of the guard at the Australian War Memorial following the retirement of the tireless Dr Brendan Nelson to linked articles by Bruce McEwan about Australia's military prodigy Douglas Marks and one of his superiors, Harry Murray VC. Marks met an unfortunate but valiant end soon after the war finished. Murray was Australia's

most decorated war hero who rose from private to senior officer within the four years of war.

From World War Two we look at the siege of Malta by Axis forces and the heroics of the Maltese people, reinforced by a personal recollection, and revisit the allegations leading to the controversial Court Martial of Coastwatcher John Joseph Murphy after the Papua New Guinea campaign.

On a brighter note, we hear of the considerate German pilot Franz Stigler whose honourable action allowed American pilot Charlie Brown to return to his British base and how decades later Brown tracked Stigler down in his new home in Canada.

Locally, its Gallipoli Art Prize time again with the exhibition moving to the Merrylands RSL Club.

The Gallipoli Memorial Club Creed

We believe..

That within the community there exists an obligation for all to preserve the special qualities of loyalty, respect, love of country, courage and comradeship which were personified by the heroes of the Gallipoli Campaign and bequeathed to all humanity as a foundation for perpetual peace and universal freedom.

President's Report

The club has not been trading now for over two years, and will not be doing so for perhaps another year.

The Annual General Meeting will again be held at the Harbour View Hotel on 15 April 2020 commencing at 11:05. There will be the AGM of the Club and the Museum Fund as well as two Special General Meetings to deal with proposed changes to the Articles of Association of the Club and the Museum Fund. Refreshments and Food will be available following the meetings.

I would like to especially thank Brian Perry and the staff at for their generous support.

The Gallipoli Art Competition 2020 will be held in the Exhibition Space at Club Merrylands RSL with the official opening at lunchtime on 17 April 2020 and running until 4 May. Refreshments and Food will be available. All members are encouraged to attend the opening or support the exhibition.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Bryn Miller, Jane Smith and the staff at Club Merrylands RSL for their generous and ongoing support.

We continue to support the Gallipoli Scholarship and the Board will be proposing a new class of membership to this end at the AGM.

The refurbishment of the club building at 12-14 Loftus St is proceeding and is on time. The new slate roof has been installed. The conservation works on the Eastern and Western facades is almost complete. The sandstone having been cleaned repaired/replaced where necessary has come up surprisingly well. The structural timber and steel work has been completed. The new internal staircase has been installed as have a number of the new timber windows.

The Museum space under 2-10 Loftus St. is currently occupied by site offices of the builder.

Both sites should be ready for occupation by September/October 2020, however Development Approvals would not see us completing the fit-out until early 2021.

The Building Committee continues to meet regularly with AMP Capital and the builder for negotiations, progress reports and site inspections.

John Robertson
President

A Personal Reflection:

Maltese born Dr George Boffa of Sydney was a child at the time of the siege. He reflects on the Siege of Malta:

The Hotel Point de Vue, on the escarpment just outside the walls of Mdina, the old capital of Malta, was one of the messes of the fighter pilots. The other pilots' billet was at the Xaghra Palace inside the Mdina ramparts, the old city which well predated the arrival of the Knights of Malta in 1530. When the hotel was hit, pilots were killed. It seemed to be a deliberate planned attack. Very accurate and deadly!

Someone insisted that the enemy knew who lived there. Somebody told them! The damage to the front of the hotel and inside was very bad indeed. Several pilots were dead. One of them, severely mutilated, was dead at the piano with his head blown off.

The pilots were not only our heroes, they were our friends. Their shoulder tabs denoted their origins; Australia, Canada, New Zealand...countries of the Empire. For a long time after the war ended, I sometimes wondered why they befriended us, boys of nine, ten, eleven. Many years later in Australia, particularly when meeting country people it dawned on me, the pilots looked upon us as substitutes of the kid brothers they had left behind...brothers who they would never see again!

The young men who fought in the sky over Malta to protect us were held in high esteem by the local population; they were greeted warmly wherever they went. We prayed for their safety as the vibrating noise of aero-engines and the sound of unrelenting battle penetrated everywhere, even deep down into the shelters. Those daring and gallant pilots fought under conditions which taxed their stamina and morale and decimated their numbers.

The stories are endless and the memories of those days remain sharp and haunting. There was an aura of fatality about Malta and its warriors. The recollections bring a realisation that what happened in our islands belongs to history.

Young pilots, on both sides in the war, would die in the battle over our skies; some to be buried in our fair land, some to fall at sea and have no known grave like the young pilot who fell to the North West of Zonqor Point. I met his parents in an emotional moment ten years after his death.

There was also Giuseppe Simonetto whose story we heard from his nephew, Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, born the year after his death and named after him. What passing doleful bells would toll for them? Only the monstrous anger of the cannon, only the stuttering rapid rattle of machine guns would patter out their sudden, untimely deaths.

Prayers and bells and the voices of mourning would mix with the choirs, the harsh demented choirs of wailing shells and the shrill, piercing whistle of falling bombs. Far, far away bugles would call to wounded hearts round empty graves.

"The pallor of girls' brows will be their pall, and each slow dusk a drawing down of blinds." (Wilfred Owen). In the heart of boys like me, who saw and wept in stunned grief, a candle of memory was lit and stays alight, burning bright and warm for every Australian for several years on Remembrance Day and Anzac March until death comes.

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as British air and sea forces on Malta could attack Axis ships transporting vital supplies and reinforcements from Europe.

German General Erwin Rommel, the operational head of Axis forces in North Africa, warned that "without Malta the Axis will end by losing control of North Africa".

The Axis resolved to starve or bomb Malta and its 250,000 inhabitants into submission. It attacked cities, towns and ports, and any Allied ships heading to resupply Malta which resulted in

heavy casualties for both sides.

During the siege, the main port, Grand Harbour around which one-fifth of Malta's population lived, suffered 3,000 bombing raids as Germany longed to take the island to support an Axis amphibious landing. However, the Allies prevailed and so reinforced Malta.

The siege ended in November 1942 after a major convoy, code-named *Operation Stoneage* reached Malta from Alexandria virtually unscathed. At this time the Allies won the Second Battle of

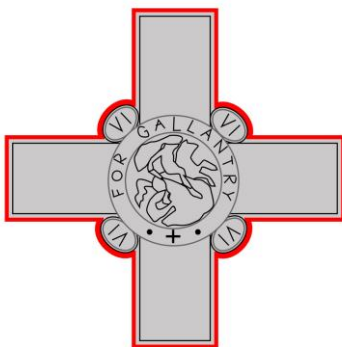
El Alamein and the conflict refocused on the Vichy French held territory of Morocco and then Algeria and Tunisia.

Immediately, Allied air and sea forces operating from Malta went on the offensive; 230 Axis ships within six months thereby underpinning Allied victory in the North Africa campaign.

The last Axis air raid over Malta occurred on 20 July 1943. It was the 3,340th alert since 11 June 1940.



HMS Terror



George Cross

The George Cross for civilian courage, the civilian equivalent to the Victoria Cross and the second highest award of the British honours, was awarded to the island of Malta by King George VI "for acts of the greatest heroism or for most conspicuous courage in circumstance of extreme danger". The King wished to "bear witness to the heroism and devotion of its people" during the siege.

Matt Anderson is new War Memorial Director

Mr Matthew Anderson is the new Director of the Australian War Memorial, replacing the retiring Dr Brendan Nelson.

In announcing his replacement, Dr Nelson said Mr Anderson possesses all the requisite personal and professional qualities necessary to lead the Memorial through its development.

“Beyond his sharp intellect, strong work ethic and humility, above all else he brings to our nation’s most iconic and loved institution empathy for young veterans and the ability to tell their stories. He is the right person for this role,” Dr Nelson said.

AWM Chairman, Kerry Stokes welcomed the appointment of Mr Anderson as Director.

“At a critically important time, this appointment is what the Memorial, veterans, their families and Australians need. With a military background and extensive experience in leadership, management and diplomacy, Mr Anderson brings empathy for young veterans and the telling of their stories.” Mr Stokes said.

Mr Stokes praised Dr Nelson’s personal dedication, distinguished leadership and strategic vision which have played a pivotal role in the successful operation of the Memorial.

“Throughout his tenure, the Memorial has further advanced as a world-class institution, significantly increasing public engagement and awareness of the service and sacrifice of current and former serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families,” Mr Stokes said.

“For years to come Dr Nelson’s legacy will be seen as the new building extension. However, his underlying legacy will be that he harnessed the energy and the spirit of those who work at the Australian War Memorial into a dedicated, efficient and highly motivated family that was responsible for achieving the outcomes of the visions that he set,” Mr Stokes said.

“We will all miss him and his enthusiasm but he has paved the way for the next Director to continue to evolve the Australian War Memorial, as the guardian of the values we hold dear as Australians — in this crucible that is in fact a cathedral of the spirit of the nation.”

Mr Anderson has been Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom since 2016 with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). He is also a former Ambassador to Afghanistan and High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands and Samoa. Prior to joining DFAT he spent eight years as an Australian Army Officer, including three years as Troop Commander, Royal Australian Engineers (1988–1991) and four years as a Careers Adviser with the Soldier Career Management Agency in Melbourne (1992–1995). Mr Anderson was awarded the Public Service Medal for his role in leading the humanitarian and consular response to the 2009 Pacific tsunami.

Mr Anderson has a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Strategic Studies from Deakin



Matthew Anderson



Kerry Stokes



Dr Brendan Nelson

University, and a Master's Degree in Foreign Affairs and Trade from Monash University. He is also a Graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

Following the announcement

that Dr Brendan Nelson would leave the Memorial at the end of 2019, a nationwide search was conducted to find a suitable replacement. A merit-based selection process was undertaken

with the selection advisory panel unanimous in their recommendation of Mr Anderson.

Dr Brendan Nelson is to become the next President of Boeing Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific.

Australia's shortest court martial deliberation

Probably the shortest court martial deliberation in Australian military history, of only 50 minutes, was that at Lae in 1946 of former Coastwatcher, Captain John Joseph Murphy.

As with many young Australians in the 1930s, John Murphy trained in Sydney to become a Patrol Officer for the Administration of Papua and New Guinea.

By the time the Japanese invaded PNG in early 1942, Lieutenant John Joseph Murphy was a member of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR). He was soon seconded by the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) as a scout, guide, field intelligence and native liaison officer. He played a vital role with Kanga Force in operations around Wau and Bulolo, and, was mentioned in despatches for "gallant and distinguished services South-West Pacific Area". He participated in repulsing the first Japanese assault in Papua New Guinea at Mubo.

As the Japanese took over, Murphy along with many other Patrol Officers who, knowing the local geography, proved very useful by returning to their former areas as Coastwatchers from 1942 onwards. Murphy

volunteered in mid-1943 for service with the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB) and became one of these Coastwatchers. These men hid in the jungle, observed Japanese military movements and radioed their observations to a central AIB office as valuable military intelligence.

During the nights of September 28-29, 1943 an American submarine landed three coast watcher parties at Cape Orford in New Britain with orders to set by up the end of November and be able to radio back warnings of Japanese air attacks on the American military landings at Arawe and Cape Gloucester in West New

Britain. Murphy, now promoted to Captain, faced a walk of over 100 kms through jungle. He believed he had insufficient time, so opted to go as far as possible by sea.

By the time he arrived at his designated post, his batteries were flat. It was while engaged in picking up the new batteries that Murphy and his team were betrayed.

A native sent to fetch carriers returned accompanied by Japanese soldiers. After a brief battle near Awul, Murphy was captured and his men, Lieutenant Francis Barrett and Sergeant Bert Carlson, and two natives were killed. Murphy spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of the Japanese, including a year at the Tunnel Hill Camp in Rabaul that the POWs had to dig out of the volcanic pumice stone hillside. Murphy became the camp's senior fit officer. Only seven of the original 63 prisoners in the Tunnel Hill camp survived. By the end, Murphy was the only Australian.



Murphy, pictured in August 1942 (far right), was mentioned in despatches for assisting Australian troops in campaigns near Wau. (Credit: AWM 013146)

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2020 GALLIPOLI ART PRIZE

The Gallipoli Art Prize Organising Committee invites any eligible artist to submit a painting for the acquisitive Gallipoli Art Prize to be administered by the Gallipoli Memorial Club Limited.

First prize money of \$20,000 is awarded to the artist of the winning entry subject to the conditions on the entry form. Each competitor must either have been born in Australia, New Zealand or Turkey or hold Australian, New Zealand or Turkish citizenship.

The Club's acquisition of the work and its copyright will remain the property of the Gallipoli Memorial Club Museum Fund.

The Gallipoli Art Prize will be awarded to the artist who best depicts the spirit of the Gallipoli Campaign as expressed in the Club's Creed. (See page 2) The submitted work must be original work and not have previously entered in this or any other competition and is not to exceed in size four square metres and being not smaller in size than 38 cm by 30 cm. It should preferably be produced on canvas or similar material. Artwork does not need to reflect warfare or the Gallipoli conflict. The entry must be delivered at the competitor's expense to:

The Gallipoli ArtPrize Organizing Committee, C/-Merrylands RSL, 8/12 Miller Street, Merrylands 2160, between the hours 10AM and 4PM on Sunday 15, Monday 16, Tuesday 17, and Wednesday 18 March 2020.

It is intended that a selection of finalists' works, to a maximum of forty, will participate in a public exhibition at the Merrylands RSL commencing Thursday 16, April to end on Sunday 3, May 2020 between the hours of 10AM to 4PM every day.

For full details and entry form please see *The Gallipoli Club Website: Gallipoli Art Prize*



The 2019 Winner "War Pigeon Diaries" by Martin King

Previous winners:

Winner 2019: "War Pigeon Diaries" by Martin King

Winner 2018: "Mont St Quentin" Steve Lopes

Winner 2017: "The Sphinx, Perpetual Peace" Amanda Penrose Hart

Winner 2016: "Yeah, Mate" Jiawei Shen with his painting

Winner 2015: "Boy Soldiers" by Sally Robinson.

Winner 2014: "Gallipoli evening 2013" by Idris Murphy.

Winner 2013: "Dog in a Gas Mask" by Peter Wegner.

Winner 2012: "Trench Interment" by Geoff Harvey.

Winner 2011: "Sacrifice" by Hadyn Wilson.

Winner 2010: "The dead march here today" by Raymond Arnold.

Winner 2009: "Smoke/PinkLandscape/Shovel" by Euan Macleod.

Winner 2008: "Max Carment, War Veteran (The last portrait)" by Tom Carment.

Winner 2007: "Glorus Fallen" by Lianne Gough.

Winner 2006: "Ataturk's Legacy" by Margaret Hadfield.

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In 1943 the Australian Army found, among captured Japanese papers, a document purported to be a record of Murphy's interrogation. The army filed it away for the end of the war. This, coupled with statements taken from Japanese soldiers by Allied interrogators resulted in the Army ordering Murphy's court-martial for having provided intelligence to the Japanese. Of the charges, two carried the death penalty, namely "treacherously giving intelligence to the enemy" and "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline".

In the months before the court martial, Murphy was able

to recruit, Sydney barrister Eric Miller QC, who was married to his cousin.

Miller dominated the court martial. He requested the case be dismissed, as "the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would not send a dog to the lethal chamber on evidence such as that".

The court heard that Murphy had often placed his own safety at risk by standing up to the guards during his period of captivity in Rabaul. One American airman, James McMurria said Murphy would often sneak out of the prison to steal food and medicine for his fellow captives. He used his fluency in Pidgin and

self-taught basic Japanese, to gain information about his captors. He helped a local called Gundov to escape and supply information to Australian troops in the west of New Britain.

Miller noted that the testimony of the main prosecution witness, Lieutenant Commander Fukute Yoshihiko, the local navy commander at Gasmata who had first interrogated Murphy, was often vague and contradictory. Fukute himself was later convicted and executed for the unlawful killing of Allied prisoners at Rabaul, so he may have been careful not to implicate himself in his testimony.

By the second day the extent of Murphy's bravery and his reinforcing of his weakened fellow prisoners-of-war plus the obvious translational errors in statements from his various Japanese accusers - themselves facing war crimes trials and likely to say anything to save themselves - and the enormity of the looming miscarriage of justice became clear. His chief accuser, Yoshishiko, claimed that on October 5-6, 1943, Murphy told him of troops movements, when in fact the troops did not arrive until December 1943.

Also, Miller pointed out that the Japanese were fully aware of the details of AIB operations on New Britain from other sources: local informants, monitoring of Allied news reports, and captured documents, including Murphy's own code and log books. Murphy's "interrogations" had taken the form of a series of statements by his captors, each of which was met with silence on his part. The contents of the interrogation report, while for the most part accurate, seem to have been concocted by the Japanese from other sources, and not from Murphy's interrogation.

On February 19, 1946, after a month of deliberations and

midway through the case for the defence, the Judge Advocate, Major V. Rees, closed the proceedings, announcing that the court had "certain matters to discuss". The court resumed 50 minutes later, unwilling to hear further evidence.

Murphy was proclaimed not guilty and handed an honourable acquittal. What had gone on behind the closed door is unclear. Perhaps the court was satisfied that Murphy's defence had already done enough to discount the evidence presented. More tantalisingly, the court may have been convinced that sufficient explanation had already been given concerning the contents of the NIDS report and how it had been produced.

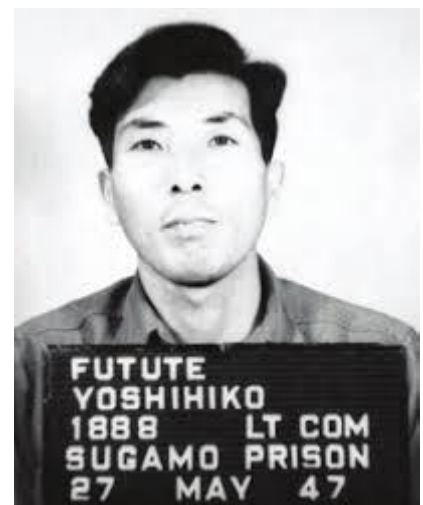
On regaining his fitness, Murphy returned to New Guinea after the war and continued his service to the territory, rising to the post in Kerema of District Commissioner of the Gulf District.

For many years, his lawyers made unsuccessful attempts to extract an apology from the government, to gain compensation for the injustice of his treatment by the military court, and to achieve recognition in the form of military decoration.

By the time of his death in 1997, none of these had been forthcoming.

From one point of view, the honourable acquittal left no doubt or suspicion attached to Murphy's name. From another, the discovery of a significant piece of intelligence on the battlefield led many, both from within the army and the general public, to believe at the time that he had indeed "squealed" and betrayed his comrades.

Murphy and his family have always felt he was poorly treated, while there is division in legal circles over the result, although there is a general consensus that there should have been an inquiry into the events that led to the court martial that examined the Japanese documents and their translation more closely, rather than a straight step to a court martial.



Futute Yoshihiko

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Gallipoli Memorial Club Limited and The Gallipoli Memorial Club Museum Fund Incorporated

Meetings will be held on 15 April, 2020 at the Harbour View Hotel, 18 Lower Fort St, Dawes Point, Sydney
Commencing at 11.00am

Candidates for positions on the Board of Directors year 2020 have been nominated unopposed, there will be no ballot. Therefore the candidates will be declared elected at the Annual General meeting

A Positive War Story

American farmer Charlie Brown and German Franz Stigler met each other at high altitude and speed on opposite sides of World War Two while flying for their respective countries.

On December 20, 1943, after a successful bombing run over Bremen the B-17 Flying Fortress of 2nd Lt Charles "Charlie" Brown of the 379th Bombardment Group was severely damaged by German fighters.

The Allies' target was the Focke-Wulf Flugzeugbau aircraft production facility in the industrial city of Bremen. The crews were informed in a pre-mission briefing to expect probable encounters with hundreds of fighter aircraft. Also, they were warned that Bremen was guarded by 250 flak guns. On the flight to Germany, three bombers had to turn back because of mechanical problems, so Brown was told to move up to the front of the flying formation well before they reached their target.

Before the B-17 started its ten-minute bomb run at 8,320 meters, accurate German flak shattered the Plexiglas nose, knocked out the second engine and damaged the fourth. These hits slowed the bomber causing it to fall behind its flying formation. As a straggler the B-17 became a target for enemy attack by a dozen fighters. The tail gunner was killed and another crew member critically injured and most other crew sustained some injury. Damage to the third engine meant Brown was flying with no more than

40-percent power. In addition, the electronics, oxygen system and hydraulics were damaged along with its rudder.

The outside temperature of Minus-60C froze some poorly maintained guns. The damaged electronics meant heated uniforms were malfunctioning.

Enter Franz Stigler, a German ace with 27 victories, who was refueling and rearming at an airfield when called into combat. He took off in his Messerschmitt Bf 109 G-6 and soon caught up with Brown's plane as it lumbered back westward to its base at Kimbolton, UK.

Through the damaged B-17 airframe Stigler saw the incapacitated crew members.

As a younger pilot Stigler and his associates in the North

African Campaign had been sternly told by a superior officer, Gustav Rödel, that if Rödel heard of them shooting a man descending in a parachute, he would shoot the offending German himself.

"To me, it was just like they were in a parachute. I saw them and I couldn't shoot them down," Stigler stated after the war.

Twice Stigler tried to get Brown to land the B-17 on a German airfield and surrender, or divert to nearby neutral Sweden, where they would receive medical treatment and be interned for the rest of the war. The B-17 crew didn't understand what Stigler was trying to mouth and gesture to them and so continued westward.



Franz Stigler (left) and Charlie Brown (right) at a reunion

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Australia's youngest Lt-Colonel died post-WWI saving a drowning woman

January 25, 2020 marked the centenary of the death of Douglas Gray Marks, the youngest Australian Lieutenant Colonel in World War One. The Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Pavilion on Sydney's Northern Beaches was renamed in his honour on the centenary of this death. Bruce McEwan reviews the life of this forgotten hero.

Douglas Marks was born at Junee, New South Wales March 20 1895 to a local shopkeeping family.

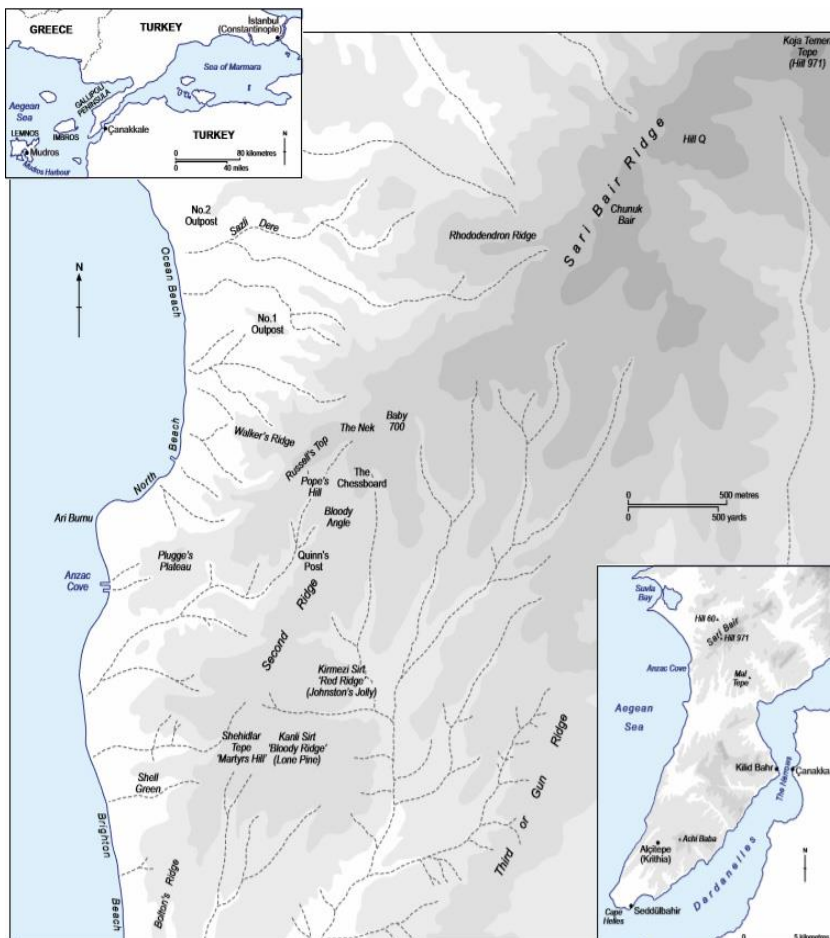
In his teens he was enrolled at Sydney's Fort Street Boys' High School, and later became a bank clerk. By night he studied mining engineering at Sydney Technical College.

In June 1914 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 29th Infantry Australian Rifles, transferring to the 13th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force, known as the 'Fighting Thirteenth' in November.

A month later he sailed for Egypt. Four weeks before the Gallipoli landing he was promoted to Lieutenant. After landing at Gallipoli on April 26 his battalion moved to Quinn's Post and Pope's Hill with orders to clear Russell's Top. In its first week of action the Battalion suffered very heavy casualties. On May 2, in the attack on Baby 700, the battalion temporarily captured the Chess Board and Dead Man's Ridge. Marks' personal knowledge of the enemy dispositions greatly assisted his



Douglas Marks



Map of the Gallipoli landing area

Commanding Officer Lt Col Burnage.

Having been acting Adjutant, on 20 July he was promoted to temporary Captain. On August 7 he was wounded in the left foot and evacuated. The Serbian Government awarded Marks the Order of the White Eagle 'for significant services rendered to the Crown, State and Nation' for his outstanding service on Gallipoli.

Marks was promoted to Captain in January 1916 and in February became Adjutant of his battalion prior to its sailing from Egypt to France in June. Following the unit's two operations at Pozières in August, Marks was awarded the Military Cross for his consistent and energetic work as Adjutant; he had rendered 'conspicuously valuable service frequently under the heaviest shell fire'.

Promotions continued, with Marks becoming a Major on November 11 and appointed second-in-command to Lieutenant-Colonel James Durrant whom he assisted in planning the attack on Stormy Trench near Gueudecourt in the following February.

At Bullecourt, Marks suffered a bad chest and lung wound when a shell struck battalion headquarters. He coughed up blood while struggling through the snow to the casualty clearing station. Marks was evacuated to England for about six months to recover. In late August he re-joined his unit. On December 5, he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, replacing Durrant.

Aged 22 he was one of the youngest commanding officers in the A.I.F. For his work from September 1917 to February 1918 (including the Ypres Salient operations) he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

In March 1918 Marks's battalion led the 4th Brigade advance to stop the German breakthrough at Hébuterne. They secured the town.

The 4th Brigade Commander, Brigadier-General Brand told Marks 'The Corps Commander is afraid to let the defence of Hébuterne out of your hands'.

After the April Villers-Bretonneux operations the battalion joined the battle at Monumment Wood and then in the July attack on Hamel where its success owed much to Marks's detailed planning and rehearsals.

In the August allied offensive the unit captured many prisoners near Morcourt, at Vauvillers and then in the September assault on the Hindenburg line. In these weeks Australian officers helped lead the 27th American Division through its first big battle of the war.

Marks returned to Australia via North America.

During his service in the A.I.F. Marks was mentioned in dispatches four times. In his planning he was consistent, resourceful and thorough; under fire he was cool, capable and courageous, and took every care to ensure the safety of his men. According to Durrant 'He was loyalty itself to his commanders, and he governed with universal fairness and humanity'; and Lt. Col H.W. Murray VC (*see next article*) said: 'We loved Douglas Marks for his high indomitable spirit, his dash and daring ... no truer comrade ever lived'.

Soon after was discharged in February 1919., Marks was accepted for law at the University of Sydney in the following year but deferred for twelve months, taking a position at the Continental Paper Bag Co at Alexandria, Sydney.



Malcolm Donaldson and Jan Webb with Major Michael Regan and Cr. Kylie Ferguson at the Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Marks DSO, Mc Pavilion

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Harry Murray VC

Tasmanian born Henry William Murray received more fighting decorations than any other Allied infantryman

Henry William Murray was born on December 1, 1880 at Evandale south of Launceston, Tasmania.

When his father died when he was young, Harry left school to help run the family farm. He later joined Launceston's Australian Field Artillery (Army Reserve) for six years. In about 1900 he moved to Western Australia and became a mail courier on the goldfields.

In October 1914, Henry enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Force and joined the 16th Battalion. He trained as a machine-gunner along with his gold-miner mate, Percy Black (1877-1917) who was the Number 1 gunner. They both landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. The following day both gun-crews were on the rear slope of Pope's Hill shooting at the Turks creeping onto Russell's Top. Historian Charles Bean recorded that 'The 16th Battalion machine-guns were in charge of men of no ordinary determination'. Both men, though wounded, refused to leave their guns on that day or during any of the heavy fighting of the next week. Murray was evacuated due to wounds received on May 30 but re-joined his unit on July 3.

Bean described Black and

Murray as part of a 'magnificent' machine-gun section and 'possibly the finest unit that ever existed in the A.I.F.'.

Murray had been promoted to Lance-Corporal on May 13. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for 'exceptional courage, energy and skill' from May 9-31.

Murray was wounded again on August 8 when the machine-gun section of the 4th Brigade covered the withdrawal after the attack on Hill 971.

He was promoted to Sergeant on August 13 and soon after commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and transferred to the 13th Battalion.

'Cool, determined and confident', Murray remained 'a compelling, ubiquitous figure' on Gallipoli, according to Bean.

In Egypt, Murray was promoted to Lieutenant in January 1916 and captain on March 1 prior to leaving for France where he took part in every major battle the 13th battalion entered.

At Mouquet Farm in August, with fewer than 100 men, he stormed the remains of the farm, capturing his objective. After beating off four German counter-attacks, Murray ordered his men to withdraw. The farm was eventually recaptured by a force of 3000 men.

Murray was awarded the Distinguished Service Order because, although twice wounded, he had commanded his company 'with the greatest courage and initiative'. Later when an enemy bullet 'started a man's equipment exploding he tore the equipment off (the soldier) at great personal risk'. Evacuated with wounds, he re-joined his battalion on October 19.

On February 4, 1917 Murray led his company in a night attack on Stormy Trench, near Gueudecourt across frozen snow. The group reached the objective trench and set up a barricade. The Germans counter-attacked, shattering the barricade, and Murray fired an S.O.S. signal, which brought artillery support. The enemy continued attacking and were bombing heavily with hand grenades when Murray then led a brilliant charge by twenty bombers that drove them away.

Fierce enemy bombing continued for three hours from midnight. Murray observed movement in an adjacent trench and called again for artillery support. By daylight his party had occupied the trench and held it until relieved at 8 p.m. For this, Murray was awarded the Victoria Cross.



In April, in the 1st battle of Bullecourt, Murray's unit, following the 16th Battalion, was caught against the wire in a torrent of machine-gun fire.

'Come on men', he shouted, 'the 16th are getting hell'. His mate, Percy Black, was killed trying to find a gap in the wire. Murray got through to the German trenches and sent a message that the position could be held with artillery support and more ammunition, but the artillery was not permitted to fire. Under a heavy German barrage Murray withdrew his men.

For his part in the battle Murray received a Bar to his D.S.O.

As that battle raged, Murray was promoted temporary Major (later confirmed). By year's end he temporarily commanded his battalion.

Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in May 1918, he was appointed to command the 4th Machine-Gun Battalion, a post he held until the end of the war. In January 1919 he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and next May was appointed C.M.G.

In 1917-19 he was mentioned in dispatches four times.

At war end he toured Britain studying agricultural methods as he planned a post-war life on a sheep-grazing property. After discharge in March 1920 in Tasmania he moved to Queensland and became a grazier at Muckadilla. He married the following year, but the marriage failed and Murray moved to New Zealand. In November 1927 married Ellen Purdon Cameron and returned to Queensland where in 1928 he bought Glenlyon station, Richmond, a 74,000-acre (29,947 ha) grazing property where he lived out his life.

In World War II he commanded the 26th Battalion in North Queensland until April 1942, then became Lieutenant-Colonel commanding his local battalion of the Volunteer Defence Corps. Murray retired from military service in February 1944, aged 63.

He died in District Hospital, Queensland in January 1966 after a car accident, survived by his wife and their son and daughter. He was cremated

after a Presbyterian service.

The historian of the 16th Battalion wrote of him: 'To Murray belongs the honour of rising from a machine-gun private to the command of a machine-gun battalion of 64 weapons, and of receiving more fighting decorations than any other infantry soldier in the British Army in the Great War'.

The 13th Battalion historian noted: 'Not only was the 13th proud of him but the whole brigade was, from general to Digger. His unconscious modesty won him still greater admiration. Murray's courage was not a reckless exposure to danger like that of Jacka or Sexton who didn't know fear'. He was a sensitive man who believed in discipline and wrote that it transformed thousands of men—nervy and highly-strung like myself—enabling them to do the work which, without discipline, they would have been quite incapable of performing'.

The Australian historian Charles Bean called him 'the most distinguished fighting officer in the A.I.F.'

Continued from page 10.

Stigler then flew near Brown's plane in a formation on the bomber's port side wing, so German anti-aircraft units would not target it, escorting them over the coast until they reached open water. Brown, unsure of Stigler's intentions at the time, ordered his dorsal turret gunner to point

at Stigler, but not open fire, to warn him off. Understanding the message and certain that the bomber was out of German airspace, Stigler departed with a salute.

The B-17 spluttered the 400 km across the North Sea and landed at RAF Seething in

Norwich, the most easterly airfield in that part of England.

During the postflight debriefing Brown informed his officers about how a German fighter pilot had let him go. He was instructed to never repeat this to the rest of the unit as it could build positive sentiment about enemy pilots.

"Someone decided you can't be human and be flying in a German cockpit," Brown said after the War.

Stigler said nothing of the incident to his commanding officers, knowing that a German pilot who spared the enemy while in combat risked execution.

After the war, Brown returned home to West Virginia and serving in the US Airforce until 1965. Later, as a State Department Foreign Service Officer, he made numerous trips to Laos and Vietnam. In 1972 he retired from government service and moved to Miami to become an inventor.

Stigler moved to Canada in 1953 and became a successful businessman.

In 1986, the retired Lt. Col. Brown was asked to speak at a combat pilot reunion event called a "Gathering of the Eagles" in Alabama. Someone asked him if he had any memorable missions during World War II; he thought for a minute and recalled the story of Stigler's escort and salute. Afterwards, Brown decided he should try to find the unknown German pilot.

After four years of searching vainly in the records of the U.S. Army's Air Force, U.S. Air Force and West German Air Force that

might shed some light on who the other pilot was, Brown had come up with little, so he wrote to a combat pilot association newsletter. A few months later he received a letter from Stigler, who was now living in Canada. "I was the one," it said. When they spoke on the phone, Stigler described his plane, the escort and salute, confirming everything that Brown needed to hear to know he was the German fighter pilot involved in the incident.

Between 1990 and 2008, Charlie Brown and Franz Stigler became close friends and remained so until their deaths within several months of each other in 2008.

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Marks was not a strong swimmer. On January 25, 1920 he was picnicking at Palm Beach with friends and his fiancée, nephew and brother-in-law.

He saw Miss Johanna Rogers, 32, enter the water north of Black Rock about 3pm. Within moments Miss Rogers got caught in a rip and was swept away from the beach. He saw her in distress and rushed into the water with a length of rope, threw off his coat and shoes and swam toward her but disappeared in the surf. Both drowned and Mark's body was never found.

A memorial service at St James' Church, Sydney, was attended by an overflow crowd, mainly of ex-members of his battalion.



Captain Douglas Gray Marks, Major General Granville Ryrie, Major William James Foster, and Captain Joseph Espie Dods of the 5th Light Horse Regiment (5ALH). (AWM C217261)

A book about the life of Lt-Col Marks, *The Boy Colonel*, by Will Davies, has been published by Vintage Books, of the Penguin Random House Group

THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB LIMITED

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"Pride In Our Heritage"



"The Landing" 25th April, 1915

THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN THE BEGINNING – "THE LANDING"

Men of the 1st Australian Division A.I.F. (Australian Imperial Force) landing under heavy Turkish fire at ARI BURNU, 4.30am on 25th April, 1915. The beach was later named ANZAC COVE.

The name "ANZAC" originated in Egypt early in 1915 where the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps were training. The Corps Commander, Lieut. Gen. William Birdwood, used the abbreviated title of the Corps, A.N.Z.A.C., as the code word for the Corps in preparation for the Gallipoli Campaign – a word that was to make history and be revered by Australians and New Zealanders for all time. An "ANZAC" was an Australian or New Zealand soldier who served in the Gallipoli Campaign. The term "an Original ANZAC" identified those men who participated in the initial landing on the 25th April, 1915 – the 1st Australian Division, A.I.F.

The Campaign ended on the 18th December, 1915, following the evacuation of all Allied troops from the Peninsula.

In the 8 months period of the Campaign, Australian casualties were:

Killed in action and died of wounds	8,079
Wounded in action and missing	17,924
Total	26,003

Our Club was originally "The Gallipoli Legion Club" until November, 1967 when it became "The Gallipoli Memorial Club" – a memorial where the legend of GALLIPOLI would be firmly entrenched as an inspiration to future generations of Australians.

It was founded and developed by the GALLIPOLI LEGIONS OF ANZACS, those "ANZACS" who survived the Gallipoli Campaign and following that, the Campaigns of France and Belgium until the Armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.