

# THE GALLIPOLI GAZETTE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB LTD

## The Artist's Rifles

*Patrick O'Neill recently visited a special art gallery in London in the former home of Lord Fredric Leighton, the famous British artist of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and discovered the history of an unlikely group of artist-soldiers.*

In 2025, an artist as a soldier or war-hero might be a strange job-description! But in 1859 it was not so strange. That was when a group of painters, engravers, sculptors, writers, and poets got together and formed an Army Reserve unit to defend the British Empire.

On display in Lord Fredric Leighton's house, alongside his painter's pallet was a sword. I commented on such an unexpected combination to one of the gallery attendants, who said "you mean 'Colonel' Leighton's sword?"

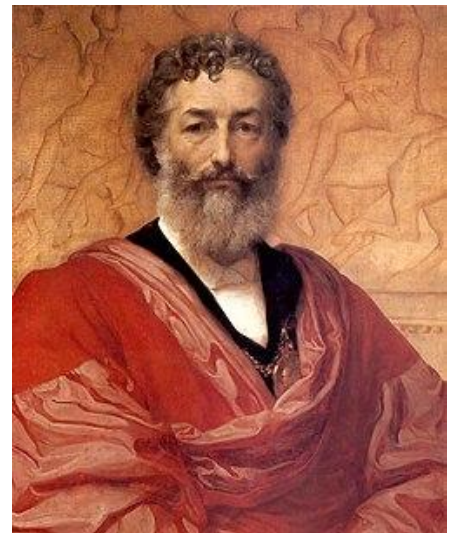
It was called the Artist's Rifles and Lord Leighton would go on to become their commanding officer, hence his sword, proudly displayed alongside his palette.

At the time there was wide-spread fear of a French invasion, so many members of Britain's more creative talent were anxious to do their part to defend Britain and Empire.

The Artist's Rifles boasted various famous painters in its ranks; people such as one of the founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, John Everett Millais, Symbolist movement painter and sculptor, G. F. Watts, land scape and botanic artist, John Northcote Nash, leader of the arts and crafts movement William Morris and Leighton himself.

The Artists Rifles was not a club for amateurs or an excuse for 'a jolly'. The Artist's Rifles was an active fighting unit, seeing action in the 2nd Boer War where it distinguished itself through its bravery, weapon's use expertise and commitment. It acquired such a reputation in South Africa that the Artist's Rifles was soon attracting recruits outside artistic circles including lawyers, doctors, architects and engineers.

By the outbreak of WW1 its impressive fighting spirit was well known, and it became an active officer's training unit. Many of its members went on to see service with other units. The Artist's Rifles



Lord Fredric Leighton



Leighton drawing his sword



Lord Leighton's palette sword



also had some of the highest casualty rates of any British army unit, indeed during the Great War, over 2000 Artists Rifles personnel were killed and 3000 wounded. Not all of them perished as artists creeping forward and drawing images of enemy trenches, but rather while under heavy enemy fire!

Altogether Artists Rifles members earned eight Victoria Crosses, over 800 other military medals such as DSO's (52) and MC's (822); while over 500 were mentioned in dispatches.

But at least one artist did creep forward to record the front lines. John Nash's pictures depicted his regiment in action in all its horror. On December 20, 1917 the 1st Artists Rifles went over the top near Cambrai. Nash called it 'pure murder'. Most of his company was killed. By the end of the action, Nash by now a Sergeant, felt lucky to still be alive.

Poet Edward Thomas was not so lucky. In 1916 he wrote a well-known poem for his daughter while in the trenches:

*'What shall I give my daughter the younger?  
More than will keep her from cold and hunger.'*

A year later Thomas would be killed at the Battle of Arras.

During WW2, the Artists Rifles became largely an officers training unit, with its influence spreading throughout the armed services. Many members went on to greater fame. Today we tend to associate



*"Over the Top" - The 1st Artists Rifles at Marcoing' by John Northcote Nash*



*The Artists Rifles in South Africa*

artists with left-wing 'progressive' thinking. Indeed Leighton himself never married and was even thought to be 'gay'. But the soldiers recruited to his regiment all acquired a reputation for 'thinking outside the square'; a classic example being former Artist's Rifles officer Barnes Wallace; inventor of the Dam-buster's bouncing bomb! Unfortunately, Lord Leighton himself would not live long enough to see what his regiment became. He became the first Artist in British History to be made a Lord – and a hereditary Lord at that. His peerage was announced on January



*SAS Cap badge*

24, 1896. On the following day he died. He was the shortest-lived peer in British history!

By 1945 and the end of WW2, his regiment was disbanded. But it was quickly re-established a couple of years later as a reserve training unit. Interestingly it went on to inspire the formation of the 21st Special Air Service (Reserve - Artist Rifles), which in turn would go on to become possibly the most elite regiment in the British Army; the SAS!



*Artists Rifles badge*

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## Presidents Report

This will be the last edition of the gazette edited by Bob Lawrence. Our heart-felt thanks go to Bob for his long and dedicated commitment to the club and his professional work to get the gazette out each quarter.

Our Senior Vice President, David Ford has resigned from the Board of Directors and Management Committee. We thank David for his wise counsel and contribution to discussion during his term on the Board.

The casual vacancy has been filled by David Scott who has assisted us in the preparation of the annual reports for some years. We welcome David to the Board.

The Proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye was celebrated at the home of the Consul General on October 30. Extremely well attended, with several current State and Federal members of Parliament in attendance, and a very enjoyable evening. Congratulations Türkiye and all our Turkish friends.

A commemorative ceremony in memory of the late Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Şarik Arıyak and Attaché Engin Sever, who were assassinated outside the Consul's home in Dover Heights on 17 December 1980, will again be held this year. A number of the board will be attending.

The board have also been invited to the Commemoration of the guns falling silent in the ANZAC sector of Gallipoli at the Anzac Memorial Hyde Park on December 20.

We continue to be active within the Strata Management Committee for the Quay Quarter and the Gallipoli Scholarship Fund.

The Board continues to meet regularly via tele-conference and face to face where possible.

Keep safe, keep well and keep smiling.

*John Robertson*  
*President*





**On behalf of our Patron and Directors, I extend  
our sincere best wishes to all of our Members  
for a Happy and Merry Christmas and  
good luck for the coming year.**

**John Robertson  
President**

#### **THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB LIMITED**

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## Editorial

This edition offers a broad scope of stories. Today, we associate people from the bohemian world of the arts more with the peace movement than military involvement, but in Victorian times things were different. Patrick O'Neill stumbled across the story of Lord Fredric Leighton and his Artist Rifles who proudly claim eight Victoria Cross winners and the genesis of Britain elite SAS.

From Eire comes the story of the Irish cemetery set aside for Germans who died in the two World Wars, and hear of the little known destruction caused to Dublin and other places by German aircraft with dubious navigators dropping bombs in the wrong places.

We venture to the Southern Polar Region for a report on German plans to occupy Antarctica and use it as a source of whale oil to feed to Nazi war effort and the international reaction it caused.

In our continuing series on museums and war memorials, we visit the British Army Museum in Chelsea, London where hundreds of years of military history is on display.

With this edition I sign off as Editor of *The Gallipoli Gazette*, a job I took on willingly 35 years ago as a new Committee member keen to rescue the

operation from heavy debt and no obvious way to turn it around. However, we did just that and I leave an organisation that is financially strong and led by a committee in which I have great faith and a functioning magazine that never missed an edition under my control both in its original hard copy printed edition and its more recent incarnation as an e-magazine.

I must thank Margaret Brown, the quiet hand that makes so many things happen in our Club, for her friendship, support, skilful typesetting and layouts. I also wish to pay tribute to all who contributed articles, most notably my faithful regulars, Tony Underwood, Patrick O'Neill and the late Bruce McEwen.

It has been a privilege to keep alive the memory of Gallipoli veterans and all the servicepeople of all the wars and peace keeping efforts Australia has been involved with and in particular the memory of my father and his war time colleagues from whom I learned to respect the sacrifices they made for all of us.

Thank you all for reading our magazine to which I hope to be a future occasional contributor under the new leadership.

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## Board Changes

Long time director David Ford has retired after serving on the Club Executive over the two decades.

He has been replaced by Sydney chartered accountant, David Scott, who has worked for two of the *Big 4* accounting firms for 15 years and now in a smaller city-based practice. David Scott has assisted Club Treasurer, John Brogan, with the preparation of the year-end financial statements for the Club for the past 12 years.

"I am very much looking forward to playing a part in the future developments of the Club and being involved with its ongoing philanthropic work," David Scott said.



## German Antarctic Expedition (1938–1939)

*The German Government in its strategic preparations for World War Two was concerned at the nation's dependence on imports of industrial oils, fats and dietary fats. Whales were seen as a solution and the Antarctic as a source of whale oil*

Preparations for the Antarctic initiative took place under strict secrecy as the enterprise was also tasked to make a feasibility assessment for a future occupation of Antarctic territory in the region with a view to establishing a German whaling operation.

Hermann Göring, as part of his Four Year Plan, arranged the German Antarctic Expedition of 1938–1939 led by naval commander Alfred Ritscher (1879-1963) in strictest secrecy.

It was the third official Antarctic expedition of the German Reich, by order of the "Commissioner for the Four Year Plan" Hermann Göring. Prussian State Councilor Helmuth Wohlthat was mandated with planning and preparation.

The expedition's main objective was economic, notably setting up a whaling station and the acquisition of fishing grounds for a German whaling fleet.

Germany had sent expeditions, mainly scientific, to the Southern Ocean and Antarctic region in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Astronomical, meteorological, and hydrological data were collected on Britain's South Georgia, the French controlled Crozet and Kerguelen Islands and in the ocean, mostly in close collaboration with scientific teams from other countries

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, their focus centered on Antarctica.

The first German expedition to Antarctica was from 1901 to 1903 which included using a hot air balloon to discover Kaiser Wilhelm Land in 1911-12.

Nothing more happened until the German whaling fleet was put to sea in 1937 and, upon its successful return in early 1938, plans for a third German Antarctic expedition were drawn up.

In July 1938, Captain Alfred Ritscher received a mandate to launch preparations for an Antarctic expedition and within a few months he brought about logistics, equipment and organizational

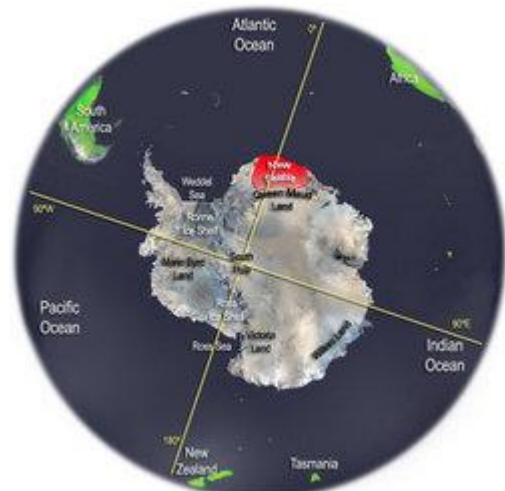
measures for a topographical and marine survey expedition. Whale oil was then the most important raw material for margarine and soap production in Germany and the country was the second largest purchaser of Norwegian whale oil, importing some 200,000 tons annually. Dependence on imports and the forthcoming war was considered to put too much strain on Germany's foreign currency reserves.

Supported by whaling expert, Otto Kraul, marine explorations were to be undertaken in order to set up a base for a whaling fleet and aerial photo surveys were to be carried out to map territory.

With only six months to prepare, Ritscher had to rely on the antiquated *MS Schwabenland* ship and aircraft of *Deutsche Lufthansa's Atlantic Service*, with which a scientific program along the coast was to be carried out and retrieve biologic, meteorologic, oceanographic and geomagnetic studies. By applying modern aero-photogrammetric methods, aerial surveys of the unknown



*Expedition logo*



Antarctic hinterlands were to be carried out with two Dornier Do J II seaplanes named *Boreas* and *Passat*, that had to be launched via a steam catapult on the *MS Schwabenland*. After urgent repairs on the ship and the two seaplanes, the crew of 82 members in total, left Hamburg on December 17, 1938.

The expedition reached the Princess Martha Coast on January 19, 1939, and was active along the Queen Maud Land for the next month.

In seven survey flights an area of about 350,000 square kilometres was photomapped. Previously unknown ice-free mountain ranges and several small ice-free lakes were discovered in the hinterland. The ice-free Schirmacher Oasis (named by the pilot Richard Schirmacher after himself) which now hosts the Indian research base at Maitri and the Russian base at Novolazarevskaya research stations, was spotted from the air.

At the turning points of the flight polygons, 1.2 m long aluminum arrows, with 30 cm steel cones and three upper stabilizer wings embossed with swastikas were supposedly dropped in order to establish German claims to ownership, which have never been debated. In eight further flights, over 600,000 square kilometers, Ritscher and his team filmed interesting regions with color photography. About 11,500 aerial photographs were shot.

Biological investigations were carried out on board the "*Schwabenland*" and on the coastal sea ice.

Ill-equipped for sled expeditions, there was no exploration of the ice shelf or landings of the flying boats in the mountains. No expedition member entered the inner territory. A large region was named New Swabia or '*Neuschwabenland*' before departure.

The Norwegian government became aware of the German Antarctic activities in their territory, so on January 14, 1939, the Norwegian government declared the entire sector between 20 ° W and 45 ° E Norwegian territory as Queen Maud Land without defining its southern extent.

On February 6, 1939, the expedition embarked on its return voyage and carried out oceanographic research in the vicinity of Bouvet Island (French territory) and Fernando de Noronha (Brazilian). In addition, there was a secret military assignment to explore the islands of Trindade and Martim Vaz (Brazilian) for use as potential future naval bases. The landing crew was shipwrecked in a small bay and had to be rescued. On April 11, 1939, the *Schwabenland* arrived in Hamburg.

Pioneer geo-mapper, Otto von Gruber, produced detailed topographical maps of eastern New Swabia in the next three years before his death, but the war effort interrupted German Antarctic plans including another Ritscher expedition with improved, lighter aircraft on skids.

A large part of the 11,500-plus aerial photographs were lost during the war. About 1,100 aerial photos survived the war, but these were only rediscovered and evaluated in 1982. The results of the biological, geophysical and meteorological investigations were not published until 1954-58.

Due to the great secrecy and relatively little time for preparation, the enterprise escaped nearly any advanced public attention as *MS Schwabenland* embarked unnoticed.

The first report of the expedition was telegraphed only during the return journey from Cape Town through a news release in March 19



*German inspired ship "Neuschwabenland"*



## Gazette Editor Retires after 30 years

*The Editor of the Gallipoli Gazette, Bob Lawrence is retiring after more than 30 years' service which saw him produce more than 120 editions along with various other Club publications*

Adelaide born Bob grew up around ex-servicemen and stories of World War Two. In the 1930s his teenage father, Lindsay, had joined the Militia, as the Army Reserve was known in the 1930s, and was automatically enlisted when Australia joined the war. Lindsay was captured after the fall of Crete in 1941 and spent nearly four years in German POW camps before being handed over to the Swiss Red Cross "to go home and die" because his pneumonia affected lungs made him too weak to work. He weighed about 40 kgs. The Lawrence family grew up to sounds of his coughing in a house they deliberately built overlooking Adelaide's Repatriation Hospital where Lindsay knew he would end his days.

Lindsay served for decades in Federal and State leadership roles with the Ex-POW Association, the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment Association and the Thirty-

Niners Association – open only to men who enlisted by December 31, 1939. Lindsay joined the Gallipoli Club in the 1990s and it became the Sydney base for informal reunions when he passed through Sydney on his annual pre-winter migration from Adelaide to the warmth of Queensland.

Bob's birthdate missed the Vietnam era conscription lottery, so his military record is only four years in the school cadets, ending up as Quartermaster Sergeant.

Bob trained as a radio and television journalist with ABC News Adelaide. He volunteered to join the ABC contingent establishing the National Broadcasting Commission of Papua New Guinea, becoming the National Sub-Editor in Port Moresby and later the Head of Island News, Rabaul.

In Rabaul, he first heard of the horror of the



*Bob Lawrence, who was a finalist in the NSW Premier's History Awards with his biography of colonial artist Sir Oswald Brierly, talking with Gladys Berejikian*



*Montevideo Maru* sinking in 1942 with the loss of about 1000 Australian prisoners of war, which would become a challenge for Bob 30 years later. He returned to Adelaide as Deputy Chief of the new Australian Associated Press Bureau which he helped set up.

In 1977 he was engaged as Media Adviser to the Federal Health Minister in Canberra, the first of six Federal and State Ministers he would advise over the next 35 years. Two years later he headed to Europe for a back packing holiday but within 24 hours was engaged by the Head Office of the UK Conservative Party and became an Adviser on Industrial Relations media issues to Opposition Leader Margaret Thatcher. He worked there until the end of their successful national election campaign and the European elections that followed later that year.

He then moved to the Fleet Street office of AAP and later returned to Australia and joined AAP-Reuters Economic Services in Sydney where he rose to become Deputy Finance Editor.

In 1989, Bob became Director of Public Relations with the NSW Farmers Association. The Policy Director, Terry Ryan, and Economist Stephen Ware, introduced him to the Gallipoli Memorial Club. A year later the three successfully ran for the Board of the Club which was in deep and mounting debt.



*Terry Ryan and Stephen Ware*

Bar duties were taken over by unpaid Board members and Bob also became the Gazette Editor while Stephen became the Treasurer and later President.

For health reasons in 1996 Bob handed the Editorship over to President John Hartley. On John's death in 2001 Bob retook the job and has done it since.

In 2009 Bob joined fellow members of the Papua New Guinea Australia Association in setting up the *Rabaul and Montevideo Maru* Association (with Bob as Secretary) to have a memorial erected to those lost. This memorial was unveiled near the Australian War Memorial by the Governor General, Quentin Bryce in 2012.

Due to his commitment to open democratic government, Bob was inaugural Public Relations Officer for Transparency International Australia.

From 2006 Bob was a long term panellist on the ABC's weekly high-rating *Spindoctors* segment which analysed the Australian media on Sydney Radio 702.

In 2015, for the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign, the Club wished to publish two books entitled, *Battle of Lone Pine* and *Gallipoli Art Prize (2006-2015)*. As Bob had previously successfully published histories of NSW agricultural politics, the Australian Tea Tree Industry and biographies of colonial entrepreneur, Benjamin Boyd and was planning one on Anglo-Australian painter, Sir Oswald Brierly, (who became official Marine Artist to Queen Victoria) he agreed to undertake the task. These two Gallipoli Club books were launched at the Club by the Governor of NSW, David Hurley.

Last January, Bob's wife was diagnosed with a physically disabling motor neurone disease. The intense care she requires has led Bob to relinquish various committee roles and the magazine.

## A Germany war cemetery in 'neutral' Ireland

*Éire or the Irish Republic was strongly neutral during the Second World War. So it is with some surprise that Patrick O'Neill recently came across a German war cemetery in Ireland at Glencree, just south of Dublin in the beautiful Wicklow Mountains.*

How is it that Ireland, a prominently neutral country in WW2, managed to acquire so many German war dead, in a conflict that the nation never officially took part in? The Glencree cemetery contains 134 German war graves; 75 of whom are unidentified combatants. Six bodies dated from WW1, prisoners of war interned in Ireland who died while under detention. During WW1 Ireland was still part of the UK, and as with Australia, Wales and Scotland, at war with Germany.

But the majority, 128 of them, date from WW2; their remains dug up from 100 sites across the Irish Republic. All were transported to Glencree for reburial in an old quarry. It has now become the 'Deutsche Kriegs Friedhof 1914 - 1945'.



*"It's such a beautiful surrounding that provides the calm you need to reflect on certain issues" said Deike Potzel, former German ambassador to Ireland. "For me it is a special place where you can reflect on the victims of war".*

The explanation is a tale of 'smoke and mirrors'. Mirrors, as it reflects on so many Irish decisions taken from the perspective of a long and violent history. Smoke, because of a need to disguise what was really happening behind the scenes. So, what were these Irish realities, so shrouded in the 'smoke' of 1939?





Firstly, Ireland was not actually a Republic, or not at the time! The Irish Republic wasn't declared until 1949. When it was, it didn't include Northern Ireland, which had doggedly stuck to its UK links and status. No matter how loudly the rest of Ireland likes to call itself a Republic, at the outbreak of WW2 it was in reality, just another Imperial Dominion. So, if 'Dominion status' had brought New Zealand, Australia and Canada into WW2, why didn't the same apply to Ireland?

Perhaps 'the Brits' had learned a lesson or two from the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin during WW1. Over time, many Irish rebels have studied Daniel O'Connell's dictum; *"Britain's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity"*!

So, while the UK was embroiled in the Great War, it's no surprise that the IRA would choose such a time to strike. It's no surprise that the 1916 Easter Rising was seen by Britain as an act of treachery; which may explain why it was savagely put down.

After the armistice, the 'Troubles' of the early 1920's were very bitter when the IRA found itself at war with the 'Black 'n Tans' (the British Army). Once the



*Michael Collins photo taken a few days before his death in the Irish Civil War*

fighting was largely over, a treaty was established; and Ireland (without Northern Ireland) became a Dominion. The fighting was not yet over. Many Irish rebels wanted an Irish Republic - and they wanted it now! Which is why Ireland slid into another even more fratricidal war.



*Prime Minister Eamon de Valera*

The Irish Civil War of 1922 was particularly bitter, as former brothers-in-arms slaughtered each other - for nothing. This was when one of Modern Ireland's great leaders, Michael Collins was killed. It would be nearly a quarter century before they got their Republic. In the meantime they had to make do with a 'Dominion of Ireland', cleverly disguised by the Gaelic language as *Saorstát Éireann* (Irish Free State). I did bring peace for 25 years, so in 1939, on the eve of WW2, the last thing Britain needed was yet another Irish uprising. Worse - a German-assisted one! Which is why Britain acted with restraint.

It was a smart move. Irish neutrality frustrated Britain at the time, but it actually brought Ireland into the war in a very under-cover way. But if Ireland's Taoiseach (Prime Minister), Éamon de Valera thought he had found a way to keep Ireland out of another war, he was wrong. As Winston Churchill said; *"Legally I believe they are at war, but skulking"*.



*Dublin after the Easter Rising*



On the outbreak of the Second World War, to de Valera's horror, an estimated 60,000 Irishmen enlisted in British defence forces, to fight for Britain! This was not officially admitted by de Valera. Indeed, he refused to even utter the word 'war', instead calling it 'The Emergency' (*Ré na Práinne*, in Gaelic)!

So, during De Valera's 'Emergency', he introduced censorship like a war-time dictator. The Irish enlistment figures were classified as 'top secret'! It wasn't until well after WW2 was over, that the truth would emerge.

Actually, Ireland was geographically too close to Britain not to be drawn into the conflict. So close indeed that Dublin was bombed by the Luftwaffe in 1941, causing 28 deaths and 90 injuries. This was one of a number of German air raids on many Irish towns. All accidental we are told: mostly due to bad German navigation, we are not told! And many's the lost bomber that dropped its load somewhere over Ireland, in the hope that by reducing its weight, they would save enough fuel for the aircraft to make it back home!

But it was Britain that benefited most from de Valera's neutrality. While Ireland would allow no over-fly rights to German aircraft, the RAF was always quietly given access to over-fly corridors. If for instance, they wanted to attack German shipping in the Atlantic Ocean, they quickly got



*North Strand, Dublin after a German "accidental" air raid in 1941*

permission. And unlike Luftwaffe aircrews, if an RAF aircraft crash landed in Ireland, any survivors were quietly returned to the UK. If Luftwaffe pilots came down in Ireland and survived, they were detained.

Secret links were also forged between the British and Irish intelligence services. During the war, Ireland quickly became a hotbed for spies. Any German agents found in Ireland were arrested, detained and 'disposed of'. One in particular was Major Hermann Görtz, a secret agent who had been liaising with the IRA. He was in Ireland



*German Heinkel which crash landed in Ireland during WW2*

plotting a potential German para-troop attack on Britain or Northern Ireland.

One of Ireland's top spy catchers, Richard Hayes, who worked with British intelligence, was the code-breaker who defeated the notoriously impenetrable German code. This was the evidence needed to convict Götz. Hermann Götz died by his own hand and his remains lie buried at Glencree. It seems that unlike the Germans, British intelligence agents were quite welcome in Ireland during 'the Emergency'.

Another forgotten aspect of Ireland's role in WW2 was weather reporting. Despite Irish neutrality, both meteorological services were closely linked throughout the conflict. Indeed it was Irish forecasters who sent the vital meteorological details to the Allies giving them the facts they needed to launch the 'D' day Normandy landings.

But as the war raged on, by the mid 1940's a lot of dead bodies were found washed up on Irish beaches, many the result of attacks on shipping or other naval encounters. These were largely bodies of German sailors from the German Navy. Others as we have seen, were found near crashed aircraft sites - again mostly German.

British dead were also washed up on beaches or found near crash sites. These were buried or sent north of the border to Northern Ireland. The Germans were buried close to where they fell; their identity and burial places noted. And this is how Glencree came to be first imagined; as their final resting place.

Glencree has had a varied history. It was originally built as a barracks after the 1798 'United Irishmen' rebellion, for soldiers fighting rebels. It then became a reformatory for boys following the Irish famine in 1845. A century later it became a refugee for German children escaping the bombing of Dresden. Recently it has been a 'peace and reconciliation centre' for victims of the Northern Ireland troubles.

The German war cemetery was opened in 1961 as that centre for peace and reconciliation. As it states: *"Glencree is about creating space. Space for the mind. Space for the soul. A space for tribes to meet"*. But after the Germans found 'peace' in Irish soil, there was still one more reconciliation yet to be delivered.

What happened to all those 60,000 Irishmen who back in 1939, volunteered to enlist with the British to fight Hitler? Weren't they also doing their 'dominion duty' along with other dominions? There were rather a lot of them, so all de Valera could do was shower them with disapproval. But he took out special vengeance on the nearly 5000 Irishmen who had been soldiers in the Irish Free State Army. To him, they were just deserters.

Maybe the 'King's shilling' across the water paid more than de Valera's shillings back home? But those brave Irish soldiers who returned from fighting Nazi tyranny, were the only ones denied any Irish government support, jobs, decorations, pensions etc. That was disapproval for life! Many thought they deserved an apology. And they didn't get one until 2013, almost 40 years after Éamon de Valera had died.



*Two unknown German soldiers at Glencree*



## Britain's National Army Museum

*Bob Lawrence was suddenly confronted by a British Army tank after meeting some Chelsea Pensioners in London, and found he had come across the British Army Museum*

The National Army Museum in Chelsea, London was established by Royal Charter in 1960, with the intention of collecting, preserving, and exhibiting objects and records relating to the Regular and Auxiliary forces of the British Army and of the Commonwealth, and to encourage research into their history and traditions.

It concentrates on the overall history of British land forces, whereas other U.K. military museums are devoted to the history of individual corps and regiments, while the best known, London's Imperial War Museum, highlights the war experiences of British civilians and military personnel from all three services from 1914, plus the colonial era East India Company Army and the British India Army, the Irish Regiments to 1922, the Women's Royal Army corps and smaller bodies.

The Museum owes its existence to the persistent hard work of Field Marshall Sir Gerald Templar (see box on page 16) who did most fundraising for it and helped select the site in part of the old infirmary of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The new building was completed ten years later and opened by Queen Elizabeth on November 11, 1971. It has been refurbished since



*Artefacts*

to include the new permanent National Service gallery in October 2010. Later galleries were added that cover the nation's military history from the Civil War to modern times.



In early March 2017, the Queen re-opened the Museum and while much public response to the revamp was positive, historian and Museum Trustee Andrew Roberts wrote in *The Spectator* severely criticised the new displays, stating: "Instead of seeing artefacts in a historical context, as part of a chronological narrative, the visitor is forced to explore themes, and as ever this has provided an opening for guilt, apology and political correctness"; he also pointed to incorrect statements, and suggested a generalised dumbing-down, writing of medal displays: "we are not told in very many cases what they are or even who they were awarded to."

In 2022, in a follow-up article, Roberts announced that under new director Brigadier Justin Maciejewski, (the first leader of the museum to have first-hand experience of soldiering), the museum had "returned to the aims of its Royal Charter, anchored itself to historical facts rather than contemporary politicised fashions," and telling the Army's story from "an evidence-based, objective perspective." Maciejewski has explicitly rolled back on decolonisation and other attempts in the 2017 redisplay to deal with controversial aspects of the army's history, despite concerns raised earlier in his tenure about a focus on improving gender diversity in the Museum's staff whilst the real issue lay in other kinds of diversity, and about his January 2021



staff restructure, with concerns that it showed a "lack of consideration of professionalism and understanding of the core role of the museum as a public institution ensuring the preservation of history and exhibitions".



## Sir Gerald Templer

Field Marshall Sir Gerald Robert Templer (1898-1979) fought in both World Wars and against the Arab Resistance in Palestine before being appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff (1955-58) when he became chief military adviser to Prime Minister Anthony Eden during the Suez Crisis.

Templer is best known for implementing strategies that heavily contributed to the defeat of the Malayan National Liberation Army during the Malayan Emergency.

Some historians have described his methods as a successful example of a 'hearts and minds' campaign, while other scholars have dismissed this as a myth due to his over-reliance on population control and coercion. Templer also oversaw, ordered, and personally approved of many controversial policies and numerous alleged atrocities committed by his troops, including the use of internment camps and forced relocation of ethnic minorities, forced conscription, collective punishment against civilians, pioneering the use of Agent Orange and the use of scorched earth policies to derive his Malayan enemies of food.



## Continued from page 7. (German Antarctic Expedition)

In Great Britain the *Daily Telegraph* and in the USA the *New York Times* reported on the expedition in reference to the Norwegian occupation of the area. Only the Hamburg local press took notice of the expedition's return to Germany. On May 25, 1939 a magazine published a small-scale map of the mountains discovered and the flight polygons without authorization by the expedition leader. The map was drawn by the aircraft mechanic Franz Preuschoff and is as such referred to as the "*Preuschoff map*". This map was incorporated in the 1939 1: 10,000,000 scale map of Antarctica by Australian cartographer E. P. Bayliss.

A reference to the expedition was posted in the Berlin Zoo in front of the Emperor Penguin enclosure as the penguins had been caught by Lufthansa flight captain Rudolf Mayr, Franz Preuschoff and zoologist Erich Barkley and arrived in Germany on April 12, 1939. The expedition geologist Ernst Herrmann published the only popular science book for a wider audience for more than 60 years in 1941.

Due to the lack of information during the following decades, myths and conspiracy theories eventually developed around the expedition and Neuschwabenland.

Although Germany issued a decree about the establishment of a German Antarctic Sector called *New Swabia* after the expedition's return in August

1939 no official territorial claims were ever advanced for the region and were fully abandoned in 1945. No whaling station or other lasting structure was built by Germany until the Georg von Neumayer Station, a research facility, established in 1981.

As a result of great secrecy and relatively little time for preparation, the enterprise escaped nearly any advanced public attention as the *MS Schwabenland* embarked unnoticed.

New Swabia is occasionally mentioned in historical contexts, it is not an officially recognized cartographic designation today. The region is part of Queen Maud Land, administered by Norway as a dependent territory under the Antarctic Treaty System, and overseen by the Polar Affairs Department of the Ministry of Justice and the Police.

## Conspiracy theories

New Swabia has been the subject of conspiracy theories for decades, some of them related to Nazi UFO claims. Most assert that, in the wake of the German expedition of 1938–39, a huge military base was built there. After the war, high-ranking Nazis, scientists, and elite military units are claimed to have survived there. The US and UK have supposedly been trying to conquer the area for decades, and to have used nuclear weapons in this effort. Proponents claim the base is sustained by hot springs providing energy and warmth.



## *"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	<u>17,924</u>
Total	<u>26,003</u>

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.