



A Newsletter of the Bribie Island R.S.L. Sub-Branch Library

To view the library catalogue go to the Sub-Branch website and click on library.

Produced and edited by Graham Bradshaw

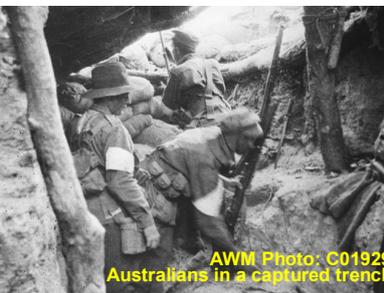
IT HAPPENED IN AUGUST

WAR DECLARED

On the **4th of August 1914**, the British Empire declared war on Germany and her Allies. Over the following four years, Australia, with a population of just five million, sent overseas 300,000 of our finest young men to fight for the Empire. Sadly 60,000 died and another 150,000 became casualties. Take a moment to reflect on those figures—over 2 out of 3—killed, wounded, gassed—you name it—they suffered.

ATTACK AT LONE PINE

The attack against the Turks at Lone Pine took place on the **6th of August 1915**. It was a ferocious affair in which the Australians suffered 2,277 casualties and seven were awarded the Victoria Cross. Although the Australians captured the Turkish trenches, fierce fighting continued until the **10th** as both sides rushed in reinforcements. Then a stalemate continued for the rest of the Gallipoli campaign.



AWM Photo: C01929
Australians in a captured trench



Lone Pine Cemetery is the main Gallipoli cemetery for those with no known grave. Photo by: Getty Images.

ATTACK ON THE NEK

The day after the Lone Pine attack men of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade attempted to storm across the Nek on the **7th of August 1915**. The first two waves were cut down within minutes and by the time the following lines of attack were called off, 249 had died and a further 100 were wounded out of the original 600 men from the 8th, 9th and 10th Light Horse Regiments of the 3rd Brigade.

1st ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED

The American B29 bomber, "Enola Gay" lifted off from the Tinian base in the Mariana Islands on the **6th of August 1945** carrying a uranium bomb nicknamed "Little Boy". Six hours later it dropped that bomb over Hiroshima destroying the city and killing tens of thousands of inhabitants. A new frightening age had now descended upon the World.



THE "ENOLA GAY"



LITTLE BOY



HIROSHIMA after the bomb

NAGASAKI ALSO BOMBED

Just three days after the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a second bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki on the **9th of August 1945**. This second bomb finally convinced the Japanese to surrender.

BATTLE OF ELANDS RIVER

This Boer War battle began on the **4th of August 1900** at the Elands River outpost in Transvaal where huge supplies of food and ammunition were being stored. British Empire troops, including bushmen from five Australian States, were involved in this action which turned into a siege and lasted until 10,000 British troops arrived and convinced the Boers to back off.

IRAQ INVADES KUWAIT

The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq on the **2nd of August 1990** and its subsequent military occupation of some seven months, led to the Gulf War of 1991.

THE COWRA POW BREAKOUT

Camp B, No. 12 Prisoner of War Camp located near the New South Wales town of Cowra was the scene of a large breakout of Japanese prisoners on the **5th of August 1944**. Almost 370 prisoners escaped, 234 were killed and another 108 were wounded. All escapees were rounded up within a few days. Four Australian soldiers were killed. All are buried in the Cowra War Cemetery and the Japanese War Cemetery and a Japanese garden was established in the town.



Bean at his tent in Egypt
AWM PHOTO: A05381

Case carried by Bean from 1914



AWM Photo: RELAWM10212

All 3 photos taken by Graham Bradshaw in 2015



The Cowra Japanese War Cemetery



The Cowra Japanese Gardens

The Cowra War Cemetery

THE SECOND MAORI WAR

The second Māori War began on the **3rd of August 1860**. About 2,500 from Australia joined the Waikato Militia Regiment or the Company of Forest Rangers

THE BATTLE OF ROMANI

The Australian 1st Light Horse Brigade were involved in the Battle of Romani against the Turks in the Sinai Desert on the **3rd of August 1916**. During the night they were forced to retreat, however, when re-enforced in the morning they counter attacked and the Turks then fled. This action saved the Suez Canal and allowed the British forces to begin the push through the Middle East.

1st Australian Light Horse Regiment at a desert well



AWM Photo: P00153.018

CHARLES BEAN DIES

Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean, the famous WWI historian and founding member of the Australian War Memorial died on the **30th of August 1968**.

HMAS CANBERRA SUNK

The heavy cruiser, HMAS Canberra, was sunk after suffering heavy damage on the **9th of August 1942** at the Battle of Savo Island while supporting the American landings on Guadalcanal. In a surprise attack by the Japanese navy the Canberra was hit 24 times in two minutes. Eighty-four sailors, including the Captain, were killed. She was torpedoed and sunk the next day by a US Destroyer.



AWM Photo: 137295

HMAS Canberra sinking off Savo Island

BATTLE OF LONG TAN

As a tropical storm raged across the rubber plantation called Long Tan in the Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, 108 members of D Company, 6th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment fought desperately against a numerically superior VC force of around 2,500 from the 275 VC Main Force Regiment and the D445 Battalion. This action, which took place on the **18th of August 1966**, became known as the Battle of Long Tan. For four hours in atrocious conditions, the men of D Company fought off determined attacks by the enemy. The battle finally ended when B Company arrived in APCs and drove off the enemy with 50 cal. machine gun fire. Eighteen Australians died that day and another 24 were wounded. VC losses were in the hundreds.



AWM Photo: EKN/68/1056/VN

THE LONG TAN CROSS

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EKN/68/0005/VN

BATTLE OF MONQUET FARM

Not a great deal is said about the Battles for Monquet Farm which began on the **8th of August 1916** because, in the main, it was a costly defeat. Three Australian Divisions attacked the farm a further eight times suffering 11,000 casualties in the process. Although the buildings were obliterated none of these attacks succeeded in taking and holding the farm. The British then bypassed the area but captured it later in 1916.

AWM Photo: E00006

Monquet Farm landscape after the battles



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00006

However, they were eventually defeated and retreated towards the Hindenburg Line. It was a great victory for the Australians although the cost, as usual, was high.

Australians prepare to attack Mont St Quentin



AWM Photo: E05139

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E05139

THE BATTLE OF MILNE BAY

The Battle of Milne Bay commenced on the **25th of August 1942** when around 2,000 Japanese landed and attempted to capture the three Allied airfields. The Japanese had underestimated the strength of the Australian and American forces and suffered the consequences.



AWM Photo: 013320

A 61st Battalion patrol at Milne Bay

After some initial success they were forced to flee the area after losing half their men. Allied casualties were light in comparison.

THE BATTLE FOR AMIENS

Australian and Canadian forces advanced from positions around Villers-Bretonneux and Hamel, launching attacks against the German positions on the **8th of August 1918** in what was the beginning of the Hundred Days Offensive. It was also the beginning of the end for the German Armies who would now be pushed back across the Hindenburg Line. The Australians and Canadians had advanced quickly and further than earlier attacks had achieved. Allied and German casualties were high and the Germans lost almost 30,000 men who were taken prisoner. They also lost about 340 artillery pieces and masses of other arms and equipment.

Australian artillery moves from near Villers-Bretonneux



AWM Photo: ART03022

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART03022

BATTLE OF MONT ST QUENTIN

With just ten weeks left in the First World War the Australian Divisions led by Lieutenant General Monash crossed the Somme and attacked the German stronghold on Mont St Quentin on the night of the **31st of August 1918**. There were five German Divisions defending the position on Mont St Quentin and the town of Peronne. They became confused by the tactics of the Australians and 2,600 were captured and many fled. They re-grouped and mounted counter attacks.

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC

Emperor Hirohito finally announced the unconditional surrender of the Japanese on the **15th of August 1945**. This day is



USA Army Signal Corps photo: C-3719

Japanese representatives on board the USS Missouri for the signing

now celebrated as Victory in the Pacific Day. VP Day.

THE BOXER REBELLION ENDS

Because of the commitment to the war in South Africa only four hundred and sixty Australians served in the Boxer Rebellion in China which ended on the **14th of August 1900**. Six Australians died there but only from sickness and injury. None were killed in action.

WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE

The Australian Women's Army Service was formed on the **13th of August 1941**. Their task was to provide women to work as cooks, drivers, clerks and typists and many other occupations to take over these jobs from the men who could then be relocated to other Units where their numbers were desperately needed.

Lance Corporal Leonard Maurice Keysor

L/Cpl Keysor, a Londoner in the 1st Battalion AIF, received his VC for his most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in the Lone Pine trenches on the **7th of August 1915** when he picked up two live bombs in a trench attack and threw them back at the enemy. Although wounded, he continued to throw bombs until the trench was secured. The next day, and wounded again, he bombed the enemy out of part of the trench and threw bombs for another company which had lost their bomb thrower.



Dunston, his Captain, (Tubb), another Corporal, (Burton), and other troops held a newly captured trench when a strong Turkish counter attack blew up their barricade. They rebuilt it only to have the enemy destroy it twice more as each time the Turks were driven off. The fighting must have been terrifyingly furious and Dunston was wounded.

Sergeant William John Symons

Sgt. Symons of the 7th Battalion, AIF, was awarded the VC for his actions also at Lone Pine on the night of the **8th/9th of August 1915**. After repelling several attacks Symons withdrew to a spot with some overhead cover and built a barricade which the enemy set fire to. He rebuilt it and continue the fight, finally compelling the enemy to discontinue their attacks



Corporal Alexander Stewart Burton

Cpl. Burton was in the trench with Dunston and Tubb fighting off the Turks and re-building their barricade when he was killed by a bomb while building up the parapet. He received the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross for his action on the **9th of August 1915**. He has no known grave, and his name is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial.



Captain Frederick Harold Tubb

Capt. Tubb, 7th Battalion AIF, was awarded his VC for his actions at Lone Pine on the **9th of August 1915**. Along with Dunston and Burton he fought off the enemy three times while they re-built their barricade. Although wounded in the head and arm he held his ground as they succeeded in maintaining their position. After recovering from his wounds in England and Australia, Tubb was sent to France in late 1916, however, his luck ran out on the **20th of September 1917** near Polygon Wood when he was mortally wounded by the supporting artillery barrage which fell short. He died later that evening.



Private John Patrick Hamilton

Pte. Hamilton, as a member of the 3rd Battalion, AIF, was another who was awarded the VC at Lone Pine. Like Keysor, 'Jack' Hamilton was a bomb thrower who received his VC on the **9th of August 1915**. He had left the trench under heavy and secured a better position from where he could to direct his bombs against the enemy. Hamilton later fought on the Western Front and then re-enlisted during WWII. Passing away in 1961 he was the last of the seven Lone Pine VC winners.



Corporal William Dunston

Cpl. Dunston of the 7th Battalion, AIF was one of three men awarded the Victoria Cross for their defence of their trench at Lone Pine on the **9th of August 1915**.

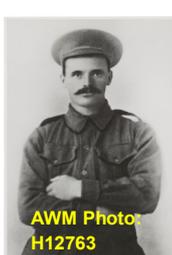
Lieutenant Alfred Edward Gaby

Lt. Gaby, 28th Battalion AIF, received his VC on the **8th of August 1918** for his actions during an advance at Villers-Bretonneux. Gaby's men were held up by a thick barbed-wire entanglement. Lt. Gaby spotted a gap and rushed through and single-handedly captured the German garrison, four machine guns and 60 men.



Three days later while his Company was under heavy enemy machine gun and rifle fire Lieutenant Gaby was felled by a sniper and died instantly.

AWM Photo: AO2622

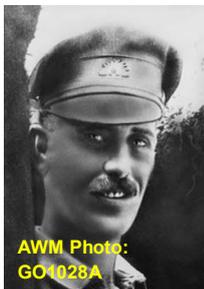


AWM Photo: H12763

under heavy artillery and machine gun fire. He also carried ammunition and bombs to trenches that were being heavily shelled at the time. He had been wounded three times and returned to Australia after the War where he went mad and was confined to a mental hospital for the rest of his life until he passed away in 1935.

Captain Alfred John Shout MC

Born in New Zealand, Shout served in the Boer War before settling in Sydney in 1905. Capt. Shout landed on Gallipoli with the 1st Battalion, AIF, on the 25th of April and just two days later during Turkish counter attacks, he was wounded three times. He had to be forced to leave the front line. For this action he received the Military Cross. At Lone Pine on the **9th of August 1915**, Capt. Shout led his men along a trench forcing the Turks to retreat. He lit three bombs and threw two at the enemy, however, the third exploded early and blew off his hand, wounding him in the face and body. He still cheerfully encouraged his men as he was being taken away but died on a hospital ship on the **11th of August 1915**. For this action he was awarded the Victoria Cross.



AWM Photo: GO1028A

Private Robert Matthew Beatham



Pte, Beatham, 8th Battalion, AIF, was awarded his VC for his actions during an attack near Amiens on the **9th of August 1918**. When the advance was held up by heavy machine gun fire, Pte Beatham and another man rushed forward and attacked the crews of four machine guns,

killing 10 and capturing 10 more. As the advance reached its objective, and although wounded, he rushed forward again and silenced another machine gun. He was riddled with bullets and died doing so.

Private Martin O'Meara

Pte O'Meara, 16th Battalion, AIF was the only Irish born man who received the VC with the AIF. Pte O'Meara was awarded his VC for his actions at Pozieres during a four day period from the **9th-12th of August 1916**. As a stretcher bearer he repeatedly went out into No Man's Land and brought in more that two dozen wounded men



AWM Photo: HQ1651

attack a blockhouse. He single-handedly killed the occupants with bombs but was killed while fighting on. He received his VC posthumously. Both Pearse and Sullivan served with the British Army North Russian Relief Force, 45th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

Sergeant Percy Clyde Statton MM

Sgt. Statton, 40th Battalion, AIF, was awarded his VC for his actions on the **12th of August 1918** near Proyart, France. When his Battalion advance was stopped by an enemy barrage, Sgt. Statton rushed four enemy machine gun positions armed only with a revolver He silenced two posts and killed five enemy. He later went out under fire and brought in two badly wounded men. He had previously received an MM in actions at Messines in 1818.



AWM Photo: HO3332

Corporal Arthur Percival Sullivan

The Australian Government refused to send war weary men to Russia as part of the North Russia Relief Force, therefore, Australians who volunteered were required to join and serve with the British Army. The Australians who did so included Cpl. Sullivan, who was awarded his VC for rescuing four men from drowning while fighting a rear-guard action across the Sheika River on **the 10th of August 1919**.



AWM Photo: AG2497

Sergeant Samuel George Pearse MM

Like Arthur Sullivan, Sam Pearse was another ex-AIF volunteer to fight in Russian after WWI had ended. On the **19th of August 1919**, Pearse went through barbed wire defences under heavy machine gun fire to

Lieutenant William Donovan Joynt



Lt. Joynt, 8th Battalion, AIF, was awarded his VC for his actions at Herlville Wood, near Peronne, France, on the **23rd of August 1918**. His company commander was killed and the company was pinned down by heavy machine gun fire so he took over and led his men in a

frontal bayonet attack against the enemy, thereby saving the situation and taking more than 80 prisoners..

He continued to attack until badly wounded by a shell.

Private George Cartwright

Pte. Cartwright, 33rd Battalion, AIF, received his VC at the Battle for Mont Saint-Quentin on the **31st of August 1918**. His company was held up by machine gun fire coming from a post near Road Wood. Cartwright coolly walked towards the post firing his rifle from the shoulder where he killed the gunner and two others who tried to replace him. He bombed the post and captured the gun and nine prisoners.



Lieutenant Lawrence Dominic McCarthy

Lt. McCarthy, 16th Battalion, AIF, received his VC for his leadership and actions near Madame Wood, France on the **23rd of August 1918**. Lt. McCarthy



led his company and attained their objectives, but the battalion next to them was held up by German machine guns. He and a sergeant then attacked the machine gun posts, and within twenty minutes they had killed 20 Germans, taken another fifty prisoner and captured 500m of enemy trench.

McCarthy a Gallipoli veteran, was wounded at Bullecourt, France on 1917 and received the French Croix de Guerre with palm leaf for his service at Gallipoli and in France.

Lance Corporal Bernard Sidney Gordon MM

L/Cpl Gordon, 41st Battalion, AIF, received his VC near Fargny Wood, France on the **27th of August 1918** when he led his men through heavy shell fire and then single-handedly attacked an enemy machine gun post. L/Cpl Gordon then cleaned up a number of trenches and in the process captured 2 officers and 61 men together with six machine guns. He was wounded a few days later. For his actions at Le Hamel in 1917 Gordon had received an MM.



2nd Lieutenant Hugo Vivian Hope Throssell

2nd/Lt. Throssell, 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment, was awarded his VC for his actions on Hill 60, Gallipoli on the **29th/30th of August 1915**. Having received several wounds sustained during bomb fights with the enemy, Throssell refused to leave his post until the danger had past. After having his wounds dressed he returned to his post until ordered out by the medical officer. He was invalided back to Australia until he recovered and later returned to the Middle east with the 10th LHR where he was wounded again in the Battle of Gaza. He was the only member of the Light Horse to receive the Victoria Cross.



Private Bruce Steel Kingsbury

Pte. Kingsbury's Battalion, the 2/14th, fought its way up the Kokoda Trail until his platoon was over-run by the Japanese attack at Isurava where he earned his VC on the **28th of August 1942**. Kingsbury was one of the few survivors but immediately volunteered to join another platoon to launch a counter attack. He rushed forward firing his Bren from the hip and cleared a path through the enemy inflicting an extremely high number of casualties. Unfortunately, he was shot dead by a sniper hiding in the wood. Bruce Kingsbury had also served in the Middle East before his unit moved to New Guinea.

