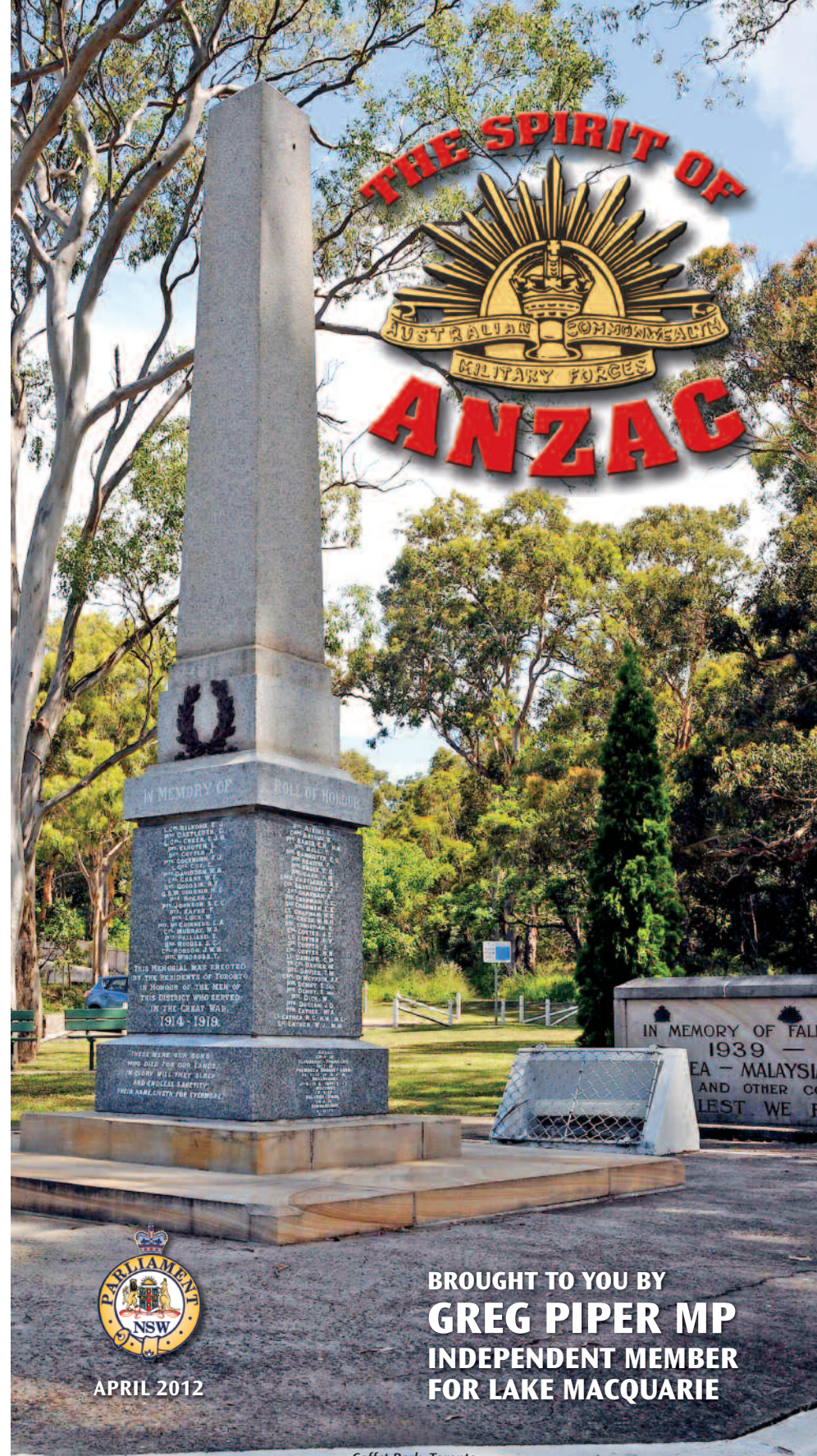


THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES ANZAC



APRIL 2012

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
GREG PIPER MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER
FOR LAKE MACQUARIE

Goffet Park, Toronto



Australians stood tall in the face of adversity

Seventy years ago it was a turbulent and worrying time for Australians at home and abroad.

The year 1942 – virtually halfway through the Second World War – was when Australia was at its most vulnerable.

Our country came under attack and was in real danger of being invaded as the war in the South Pacific reached new heights.

The bombing of Darwin, the midget submarine attacks on Sydney Harbour and the shelling of Newcastle brought the war to our doorstep, with raids on the mainland putting Australia in the direct line of fire.

Just to the north in New Guinea our troops were in a desperate fight to defend the Kokoda Track – an absolutely vital battle which had to be won to save Australia from a full scale invasion.

The freedom we enjoy today is a direct result of so many men and women having fought and died in times of war. We should never take for granted the democracy in which we live and work. Freedom of speech and choice is what we enjoy today – but it came at a cost to many.

This country's ANZAC Spirit is strong. We should never forget the dawn landing at Gallipoli on April 25 1915, from which the legend emerged.

This ANZAC Day I urge you to attend a march or commemoration service. It is important to remember past conflicts while keeping in mind the men and women currently serving overseas, particularly in Afghanistan.

GREG PIPER MP
Member for Lake Macquarie

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COVER PICTURE: The Toronto War Memorial in Goffet Park commemorates World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia and also National Servicemen. The WWI monument lists 115 names of those from the district who went to The Great War. An inscription reads: "THESE WERE OUR SONS WHO DIED FOR OUR LANDS; IN GLORY THEY WILL SLEEP AND ENDLESS SANCTITY; FOR THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE".

LEST WE FORGET

A TRADITIONAL recitation on ANZAC Day is *The Ode*, the fourth stanza of the poem *For the Fallen* by English poet Laurence Binyon (1869-1943). It was also used at the laying of the inauguration stone at Canberra's Australian War Memorial in 1929. The most well-known lines are:

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

Top pilot joins Rathmines' Cats

One of the Royal Australian Air Force's top men spent time at Rathmines during World War II training pilots of the famed flying boats.

William Bolitho (pictured) was promoted to Wing Commander and appointed to 11 Squadron at Rathmines and later moved to 3 Operational Training Unit (3 OTU), also at the Lake Macquarie base, as Chief Instructor.

He was among the Air Force's "best of the best". His experience and exceptional performance in Catalina flying boats was recognised when he was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for his work in the South Pacific prior to his posting to Rathmines.

A young William was working as a bank clerk when he enlisted in the RAAF on April 29, 1940. He was commissioned as a Pilot Officer on June 3, 1941, then six months later promoted to Flying Officer and to acting Flight Lieutenant on April 1, 1942.

He arrived in Port Moresby on Christmas Day 1941 and was attached to 20 Squadron.

A promotion to Squadron Leader followed in 1943 and on June 8, 1944 he was made Wing Commander and posted to Rathmines.

He continued to serve with the training unit until the end of the war and stayed in the RAAF until his retirement as Group Captain.

Group Captain Bolitho served as Aide to the Minister for Air and Navy during the Korean War and later commanded RAAF Base Fairbairn in Canberra from August 1962 until November 1964.



His DFC citation reads: "Since the outbreak of war with Japan, Flying Officer Bolitho has completed 1,100 hours operational flying against the enemy, including 28 night bombing raids and 32 reconnaissance and convoy patrols, many of which were in enemy controlled waters."

"In January and February 1942 he made eight night raids on Rabaul. During a period of 31 days in April and May 1942, he flew on daylight reconnaissance of the Solomons area each day, completing 270 hours flying in the period."

"On the nights of 8 and 9 October 1942, he made two incendiary raids on Rabaul township involving 36 hours flying in 42 hours."

"Both raids entailed carrying a full load of unjettisonable incendiary bombs through a fierce anti-aircraft barrage while caught in searchlights. The bombs were dropped by hand."

"At all times this officer has displayed the utmost keenness to engage the enemy and his courage, coolness and determination have been an inspiration to all ranks."

ANZAC mateship to endure

For Australia, as for many nations, The Great War remains the most costly conflict in terms of deaths and casualties.

From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of whom more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. The total population of New Zealand in 1914 was just over one million.

In all, 120,000 New Zealanders enlisted, of whom 103,000 served overseas. A total of 18,500 New Zealanders died in or because of the war and nearly 50,000 more were wounded.

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, or ANZACs, responding to the Empire's call, forged a permanent bond between the two countries – inextricably linked by bravery, mateship, unity and valour – which is commemorated on April 25 each year, the anniversary of the original Gallipoli landings in 1915.

BELOW: The ANZACs land at Gaba Tepe, 1915.





VIETNAM 1965-1972 – AUSTRALIA'S LONGEST WAR

Courage shown at Long Tân

This year marks the 46th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tân, arguably the most famous battle involving the Australian Army during the Vietnam War.

The battle was fought in a rubber plantation near the village of Long Tân, about 40 kilometres north-east of Vung Tau, South Vietnam, on August 18-19, 1966.

The action took place when the hopelessly outnumbered D Company of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR), part of the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF), encountered the Viet Cong 275 Regiment and elements of the D445 Local Forces Battalion. D Company was supported by other Australian units, as well as New Zealand and United States personnel.

The 1ATF's Phuoc Tuy operations base was at Nui Dat, on high ground surrounded by rubber plantations. The Viet Cong had achieved dominion in the province and decided to inflict a politically unacceptable defeat on the Australians.

On the night of August 16-17, the Viet Cong fired a barrage of shells into Nui Dat, wounding 24 Australians. On August 18 D Company of 6RAR was patrolling in the area of the Long Tân rubber plantation. At about 3:15pm 11 Platoon – the lead platoon, commanded by National Serviceman Second Lieutenant Gordon Sharp – encountered a small group of Viet Cong who fled. The patrolling continued until the main body of the Viet Cong was encountered at about 4:08pm. The Viet Cong attacked vigorously with mortars, rifle and machine gun fire. In pouring rain, the Australians returned fire with platoon weapons with artillery firing from the Nui Dat base, some 5km to the west.

The combination of aggressive fire from D Company soldiers and devastating artillery fire from Nui Dat had swung the battle in the Australians' favour but the Viet Cong continued to manoeuvre to gain the upper hand. Meanwhile, A Company of 6RAR had been ordered to move to support the beleaguered D Company.

They did this in armoured personnel carriers from 1st APC Squadron which forded a flooded stream, shortly afterward encountering a substantial enemy force. 2 Platoon of A Company dismounted and advanced on the enemy, who then fled.

The next morning revealed that the enemy force, estimated at 2500, had been virtually decimated with 245 Viet Cong bodies found. Eighteen Australians lost their lives and 24 were wounded.

I recall with pride and humility my March 2008 visit to the Long Tân Memorial in the company of a former Australian infantry man who had served at Nui Dat and who now resides in Vietnam. – Greg Piper



The Long Tân Memorial marks the site of the battle in a rubber plantation near Nui Dat, Vietnam, in which 18 Australian soldiers were killed in August 1966.

Local soldiers killed in Vietnam

The attack on an Australian soldier in Vietnam 40 years ago has become a chequered piece of war history which has links to the Lake Macquarie electorate.

Australian Army Staff Sergeant John Hall was murdered in the Vietnamese city of Vung Tau on October 27, 1971.

Details are scant, but it is recorded that he was killed by a South Vietnamese national in a fight – a long way from the guns and battles he had experienced while serving with the 12th Field Regiment.

John Hall was born at Teralba on June 21, 1940. He was 31 years old at the time of his death and had served 246 days in Vietnam.

His murder gave John the sad distinction of being the last Australian serviceman to be killed in Vietnam. Some personnel wounded in Vietnam were to die back in Australia after this date.

Another Australian serviceman with ties to the Lake Macquarie electorate and who is commemorated locally is Lieutenant Peter Aubyn Hines of Wangi Wangi.

He was killed in action on July 21 1969 while serving with 3 Platoon A Company 6th Battalion in the Phuoc Tuy Province of South Vietnam.

A plaque in Peter's memory has been placed at the war memorial at Wangi Wangi.

Both men are also named on the Belmont "Australia Remembers" Memorial along with 17 other servicemen from Lake Macquarie, Newcastle and the Upper Hunter who were killed in action during the Vietnam War.



Australians paid the price: 521 deaths

Australia's military involvement in the Vietnam War was the longest in duration of any war in Australia's history.

The arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 was the beginning of Australia's involvement.

Australia's participation in the Vietnam War was formally declared at an end when the Governor-General issued a proclamation on January 11, 1973. The only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon, which was withdrawn in June 1973.

From the time of the arrival of the first members of the Team in 1962 almost 60,000 Australians, including ground troops, air force and navy personnel, served in Vietnam; 521 died as a result of the war and more than 3,000 wounded (of which about 40 per cent were national servicemen).

Source: AWM



THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC

Fighter pilot 'missing' in Korean War air battle



Pilots of No 77 Squadron RAAF return from an operational mission over North Korea. Pictured (from left) are Flight Lieutenant (Ft Lt) Donald Hillier from Coal Point via Toronto, Flying Officer Martin Chandler RAF from Godmanchester, Hunts, England, and Pilot Officer Hugh Howard from Malvern, Victoria.

Coal Point fighter pilot Donald Hillier was a member of the elite 77 Squadron which flew thousands of sorties in the fight for air superiority in the Korean War.

Flight Lieutenant Hillier started service in Korea on August 28, 1952 – just over two years since the start of the war – and knew his way around the Meteor jets which equipped the squadron.

By the Christmas of 1952, just four months into his service, Donald had flown several missions and witnessed first-hand the air power of the MiG-15 jet fighters.

These jets were a respected enemy in the skies and had claimed their share of Meteors.

When Donald took off for a mission on March 8, 1953, it would be his last.

His jet went missing and his body was never recovered. He was listed as missing, presumed killed in action. This was less than five months before the war ended on July 27, 1953. Donald, who had served 193 days in Korea, is commemorated at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea.

The pilots of 77 Squadron flew almost 19,000 individual sorties while in Korea.

Their performance also reaped diplomatic rewards: their excellent reputation played a large role in the signing of the ANZUS pact.

Yet despite their successes, during three years of operations 77 Squadron paid a high price.

Forty pilots were killed – 30 in action, eight in accidents, and two on the ground.

Six were captured and became POWs. Of the squadron's 90 Meteors, 54 were lost during the war.

On December 1, 1951, 14 Meteor jets of 77 Squadron were attacked by some 50 MiG-15s high over North Korea. At least one MiG was shot down – the first victory by a Meteor – but three Australian pilots were downed. One of the three was Sergeant Vance Drummond, who landed in enemy territory south-east of Pyongyang and was taken prisoner.



Ground staff members of No 77 Squadron RAAF chat with pilots after their return from a mission. Pictured are (from left) Corporal John Dooley, Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Graham Deede, Cpl Donald Mather, LAC Rex Hoole; 04425 Flight Lieutenant Donald Hillier, Flying Officer Martin Chandler RAF and Pilot Officer Hugh Howard.

Ferguson family's father and son did their service

Seeing his son earn his "wings" was one of the proudest days in the life of Catalina crewman Wilfred Ferguson.

Leading Aircraftsman Wilfred Clyde Ferguson always wanted to be a pilot. He joined The Royal Australian Air Force from Hamilton in 1941 as a fresh-faced 20-year-old but his eyesight stopped him from getting to pilot school.

Instead, he became a Class Ila Fitter. This gave him a fantastic opportunity to fly in the mighty Cats out of Rathmines and Cairns. "We always needed to be there to fix something," Wilf would say. "Wilf enjoyed his time in Catalinas and entertained us many times with stories of the flights he went on and the work they did during the War," his wife Dorothy says.

One of those flights with No. 11 Squadron involved the mining of Manila Harbour in late 1944 – a flight of 14,500 kilometres and reportedly the RAAF's longest mission of the war.

"He was good at his job and didn't let



Leading Aircraftsman Wilf Ferguson (right) during WWII and with his children Chris and Kate on ANZAC Day 2001. It was the first time Chris and Wilf had marched together.

anything hold him back. Later in life Wilf actually went on to get his "student pilot's licence" and enjoyed many hours flying around the local area.

Wilf re-married in later life and had two children – Christopher and Kate.

Kate would often march with her father on ANZAC Day and Chris would listen to the stories from the airmen at reunions.

Dorothy said Wilf was delighted when Chris won a scholarship to the Australian Defence Force Academy and later trained in Pearce, Western Australia, to become a pilot. It was one of Wilf's proudest days when Chris graduated in 1996.

Chris went on to fly Hercules aircraft with the RAAF and travelled the world in his job including Bougainville, the Solomon Islands, Antarctica, North America, England, Scotland, Timor and the Middle East. He was also an exchange pilot for two years in the New Zealand Air Force.

"The day he flew over our house in a 'Herc' while on a training exercise was one of the most exciting moments for me," Dorothy remembers.

Chris and his wife Tanya now have a son William, 2, and daughter Charlotte, 3 months. William loves aeroplanes.

Wilf Ferguson died on August 18, 2001 aged 81 years. Before he died he said he'd ticked all the boxes – he saw Chris fly, he walked Kate down the aisle, he spoke with the Queen and he took a trip back to England. A fine list of achievements indeed for a respected and humble gentleman.

Korea 1950-53

The Korean War started on June 25, 1950, when North Korean forces launched an invasion of South Korea. Australian personnel from the Army, Air Force and Navy fought as part of the United Nations (UN) multinational force, defending South Korea from the Communist force of North Korea.

The end of the war came with the signing of an armistice on July 27, 1953, three years and one month after the war began. The ending was so sudden that some soldiers had to be convinced it really was over. After the war ended, the presence of Australians in Korea continued with a peacekeeping force until 1957.

In the three years of fighting 1,263 men of the Commonwealth forces were killed and a further 4,817 were wounded, while the US lost 33,000 men. Australian casualties numbered more than 1,500, of whom 340 were killed. Almost half a million South Koreans and an unknown number of North Koreans and Chinese died as a result of the war.

Source: AWM



THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC

Kokoda was a vital win

The fight for the now famous Kokoda Track left more than 600 Australian troops dead and nearly 1,700 wounded. It was the effort of these soldiers – 70 years ago this year – which saved Australia from the Japanese invasion.

Japanese forces landed at Gona on the north coast of Papua on July 21, 1942, intent on crossing the Owen Stanley Range to capture the Australian base at Port Moresby.

The next four months saw a battle of fierce jungle warfare which tested the mettle of the

Australian troops against a larger and well-trained Japanese force. Battles raged along the Track as ground was lost and then regained by both armies, but finally it was the Australians, with some local help, who won the fight.

It was on the Kokoda Track that the Papuan people – the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels – played a crucial role in helping the Australians.

The battle for the Kokoda Track was finally won by Australia in mid-November 1942 after intense warfare.



Wounded members of the 39th Australian Infantry Battalion in a six-day trek along a jungle trail to get to the base hospital. All are suffering from gunshot wounds sustained in the fighting in the Kokoda area.

2012 ANZAC Day activities in the region

BOOLAROO-SPEERS POINT

5.20am: Assemble at Lake Macquarie Council car park for march to Speers Point Cenotaph.

6.00am: Dawn Service at Speers Point Cenotaph.

CARDIFF

5.15am: Dawn Service at Cardiff RSL Club. March will step off from the cnr of Main Rd and Macquarie Rd at 5am to the RSL Club for the service.

DOYALSON-WYEE

5.00am: Dawn Service at the Doyalson-Wyee RSL Club. Breakfast afterwards.

8.30am: March steps off from the Presbyterian Church in Wyee Rd for the War Memorial at the RSL Club. Form up at 8am.

9.00am: ANZAC Commemoration Service at the War Memorial.

Service will be inside the club if inclement weather.

MORISSET

6.00am: Dawn Service at the Morisset Country Club. Breakfast afterwards.

10.00am: March from Morisset train station to the Country Club. Form up at 9.30am.

10.30am: ANZAC Service at the Country Club.

RATHMINES

2.00pm: ANZAC Service at Rathmines Catalina Memorial Park (Adjacent Memorial Bowling Club).

RYHOPE

9.00am: ANZAC Service at Lake Macquarie Memorial Park, Ryhope.

TERALBA

7.40am: Assemble in ANZAC Parade for march to the War Memorial.

8.00am: Service at the Teralba War Memorial in ANZAC Park.

TORONTO

5.00am: Dawn Service at Toronto Diggers. Breakfast available afterwards.

9.00am: ANZAC Service at Lake Macquarie Memorial Park, Ryhope.

10.45am: March steps off from Toronto Post Office to the War Memorial in Goffet Park.

11.00am: ANZAC Service at the War Memorial in Goffet Park, Brighton Avenue.

2.00pm: ANZAC Service at Rathmines Catalina Memorial Park (Adjacent Memorial Bowling Club).

WANGI WANGI

5.30am: Dawn Service at the War Memorial at Wangi RSL Club.

10.00am: March steps off in Puna Rd for the War Memorial. Form up at 9.45am. ANZAC Service at the Memorial to follow march. A range of military vehicles will be on display.

WYONG

5.45am: Dawn Service at Wyong RSL carpark.

9.30am: Morning Service starting at Wyong Town Centre Park, cnr Alison Rd and Rankens Ct. This will be followed by a march along Hely St, into Anzac Ave., into Margaret St and finishing at the RSL carpark.

Service will be inside the club if inclement weather.

PLEASE NOTE: All times and venues have been supplied by various RSL Sub-branch officials. Care has been taken to ensure as many services as possible have been included and were correct at the time of publication. For verification of other services please contact your local RSL Sub-branch.