

ANZAC Day – Monday 25 April 2016



APRIL 2016

Compliments of
GREG PIPER MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER
FOR LAKE MACQUARIE





Lost but never forgotten



The special bond our defence force men and women form during times of war and conflict is like no other, a unique closeness only known by those who have served.

Together they are often placed in life and death situations which puts their friendship, trust and respect for each other at a whole new level.

The widespread and much-loved “Catalina family”, which has such strong links to the Lake Macquarie area and particularly Rathmines, is no different.

In late February this year a memorial service was held for the 11 crew members on the anniversary that the ill-fated Catalina A24-25 crashed in 1943. It was not until 2013 that a diver discovered the wreckage in north Queensland and it was later confirmed as this missing aircraft.

The discovery 70 years later was a significant outcome for the many family members, descendants and, indeed, the extended family of these men who died serving their country in a war zone. For all these decades those brave airmen were lost to us, but there is some comfort in knowing these 11 mates who shared that special bond laughed together, fought together and died together.

They made the ultimate sacrifice so today we can all enjoy the freedom and quality of life which makes Australia such a great place to live, work and play. The sea is their grave, and so that is the way it will stay.

Getting along to an ANZAC Day dawn service, commemoration or march is one of the best ways we can honour the memories of the many thousands of personnel who have fought and died in various wars and conflicts in defence of our country. Lest We Forget.

Greg Piper MP
Member for Lake Macquarie

WORLD WAR I

Remembering a brave son

Local miner Reuben Rundle was just one of the 23,000 Australian casualties suffered at the Battle of Pozières on the Western Front 100 years ago in 1916.



Eight months after he enlisted, Private Reuben Henry Rundle was part of the 19th Battalion's intense assault on Pozières. He was killed three days into the battle on 26 July 1916, aged 21 years.

His father Samuel was living at Teralba at the time, but moved around the Lake Macquarie region according to correspondence in official files.

Samuel later had a memorial card produced in honour of his lost son. The card in part reads: *“How little we thought when he left us that day, the grim hand of death would soon tear him away.”*



COVER PICTURE:
Men of the 5th Division take a break by the side of the Montauban Road, near Mametz, France, while enroute to the trenches as part of the Somme campaign in December 1916. Most of the men are wearing sheepskin jackets and woollen gloves and are carrying full kit.

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Mate, hero, legend ... 'Slim' was a true ANZAC

Korean War veteran Private Horace "Slim" Madden wasn't just a good mate to his fellow comrades. He was a highly regarded hero – a legend – and he didn't even know it.

Slim Madden's story is one of bravery and heroism in the face of adversity – a prisoner of war who put his mates first, himself second, and made life difficult for his captors.

Ultimately, Slim made the supreme sacrifice while a POW under Chinese guard and he died from malnutrition and ill-treatment on 6 November 1951, aged 27. In 1955 he was posthumously awarded the George Cross medal for gallant and inspirational heroism as a POW.

After serving in New Guinea in World War Two and then working as a nurse at Morisset Mental Hospital, Slim Madden enlisted on 19 August 1950 for service in Korea with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment attached to the Signals Platoon.

On the evening of 23 April 1951 the Chinese attacked 3RAR's positions near Kapyong. Concussed by enemy fire, Slim Madden was captured and later reunited with other prisoners Corporal Bob Parker and Private Keith Gwyther. All the time he was defiant and refused



to co-operate. He was beaten and mistreated, but remained cheerful and optimistic.



His health deteriorated but still he shared his meagre food rations with his ill mates.

After the war his remains were recovered and reburied in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery at Busan.

Pte Gwyther later said of Slim Madden: "He was a real hero and didn't know it. He became a sort of legend. He didn't try to be like that, it was just the way he was made. Nothing could make him co-operate with the enemy".

Parker and Gwyther had made repeated attempts to escape before their release in August 1953; both of them were Mentioned in Dispatches. 3RAR was also awarded the US Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of Kapyong.



Ft-Lt Don Hillier (left) and two other pilots of No 77 Squadron RAAF return from an operational mission over North Korea in September 1952.

On 8 March 1953, Flight Lieutenant Donald Hillier from Coal Point was flying one of two Gloster Meteors on a mission over North Korea.

Both aircraft, with Hillier leading, made a rocket attack against an enemy target in the Yesong River valley. Hillier's aircraft was last seen at 1000 feet heading in a south-easterly direction, and failed to respond to radio calls. His plane was never seen again. It is believed it was damaged by ground fire and crashed.

Hillier is one of 44 Australians who died in the Korean War and have no known grave.



FROMELLES: The blackest day

"Today I lead my battalion in an assault on the German lines and I pray God that I may come through alright and bring honour to our name. If not I will at least have laid down my life for you and my country, which is the greatest privilege one can ask for. Farewell dear people, the hour approacheth!"

– Major Geoffrey McCrae, 60th Battalion, 19 July 1916. McCrae went "over the top" with his battalion and was killed, shot through the neck, early in the battle.



Australian stretcher bearers having come from

The battle of Fromelles 100 years ago this year was the first major operation for Australian troops on the Western Front.

The battle on 19-20 July 1916 was a brutal initiation to warfare in Europe for soldiers of the inexperienced 5th Australian and the British 61st Divisions.

This battle, near the small French village of Fromelles, has been called the most tragic event in Australian history. Australian and British soldiers attacked at 6pm on 19 July over open ground in broad daylight on a summer's evening and were cut down by extremely heavy machine-gun fire.

It is recorded that 5533 Australians were casualties. Almost 2000 of them were killed in action or died of wounds and some 400 were captured. British casualties numbered 1547 – the attackers suffered more than 7000 killed or wounded.

By 8am on 20 July the battle was over. Enemy casualties of the 6th Bavarian Reserve Division were a little more than 1000. One of the soldiers in the 6th Bavarian was an Austrian corporal named Adolf Hitler.

The attack was intended primarily as a diversion to draw German troops away from the Somme offensive. It was a disastrous failure.

'I cannot believe my boy is dead'

Desperate words from the mother of Toronto Digger Eldred Belford highlight the pain of war for the families who endured the loss of loved ones miles away from home.

Lance Corporal Eldred James Stanhope Belford was just 21 when he died on 19 June 1916 of wounds received in action near Fromelles, France, the previous day.

A telegram communication giving what they believed to be a false timeline of events gave his family in Fassifern some hope that their son may have survived the action.

In pursuing more detail with the Army, his mother Priscilla wrote:

"We are most anxiously hoping that a mistake has been made and that our loved son is still living.

"I am anxiously waiting, and even expecting, the news that he is alive and will return safely to us. I cannot believe my boy is dead."

Pte Belford, who attended Toronto Public School as a young boy, is buried at Estaires Communal Military Cemetery. A marble memorial in his honour is erected at the Old Toronto Railway Station.

in Australian history



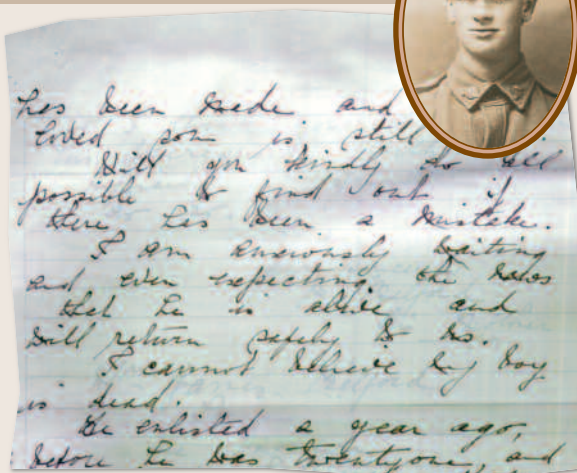
bringing in a wounded comrade, pass the old cemetery of Pozieres, from the front line near Mouquet Farm on 28 August 1916.

The Pozieres ridge "is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth." – war historian Charles Bean

The Battle of Pozieres was a two-week struggle starting on 23 July 1916 for the small French village of Pozieres in the Somme valley, the highest point in the area.

Pozieres is primarily remembered as an Australian battle and massive casualties decimated their forces. The 1st Division suffered 5285 casualties while the 2nd lost almost 7000 in 12 days. They held the village and ridge at enormous cost.

Mouquet Farm, north of Pozieres, was attacked by the 4th Division and then the 1st and 2nd Divisions. Canadian troops relieved the Australians and finally won the battle on 26 September. These two battles resulted in 23,000 Australian casualties.



1916 was the halfway point in World War I. The Battle of the Somme inflicted huge casualties on all sides. Commonwealth casualties from this fighting totalled 420,000, and the French lost 204,000. Combined with the German losses, there were more than a million battle casualties on the Somme. Other significant dates in Australia's military history include:

1916 – 100 YEARS – WWI

25 April: First ANZAC Day

1 July: Battle of the Somme

19 July: Battle of Fromelles

23 July: Battle of Pozieres

4 August: Battle of Romani

10 August: Attacks on Mouquet

19 November: Somme Offensive ends

1941 – 75 YEARS – WWII

3 January: Battle of Bardia

21 January: Capture of Tobruk

25 January: Battle of Derna

21 March: Battle of Giarabub

28 March: Battle of Cape Matapan

4 April: Battle of Er Regima

6 April: Battle of Greece

10 April: Siege of Tobruk

20 May: Battle of Crete

11 June: Battle of Merdjayoun

19 November: Sinking of HMAS Sydney

7 December: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor

8 December: Allies declare war on Japan

1951 – 65 YEARS

24 April: Battle of Kapyong (Korea)

1966 – 50 YEARS

11 August: Indonesian

Confrontation ends

18 August: Battle of Long Tan (Vietnam)

1991 – 25 YEARS

17 January: First Gulf War (Iraq)

2001 – 15 YEARS

7 October: War in Afghanistan

2006 – 10 YEARS

27 May: Indigenous Veterans Commemoration Service



WORLD WAR II



PICTURED: Catalina A24-25 (above) and 10 of the 11 crew members. No photo has been found of Sergeant Norman Notley Moore, Age 27

Catalina crew forever young

The memorial service for 11 crew who died when a RAAF Catalina crashed off north Queensland during World War II ended another chapter in the Catalina's "family history".

The service was held on the 73rd anniversary of No. 11 Squadron's Catalina A24-25 crashing in waters 56 kilometres south of Cairns on 28 February 1943.

The remains of the 11 young men – the oldest 36, the youngest 21 – have never been recovered from the wreckage, which was discovered by a diver in 2013 and later confirmed as this plane.

It was a significant discovery for the family and descendants of the "lost" crew who now have some closure. These men fought and died together and will continue to rest together, entombed in the wreckage.

Squadron 11 was based at Rathmines in 1942 before flying out of Cairns on anti-submarine missions. The Cat crews and bases worked closely with their colleagues at Rathmines and many of the personnel were familiar with each other, their aircraft and the work being done.

The A24-25 crashed when it ran out of fuel and attempted a forced landing. It was on a 17-hour mission to provide anti-submarine cover to ships bound for Papua New Guinea.

There were no witnesses and no sightings of wreckage or crew during subsequent searches.

The discovery of this No. 11 Squadron Catalina is also important to RAAF's ongoing effort to account for its missing personnel from past conflicts. Currently, 3124 from the Second World War and 18 from Korea remain missing.



Wing Commander
John William
Daniell, Age 26



Squadron Leader
Eric Hamilton
Barkley, Age 27



Flying Officer Lewis
Melvin Dunham,
Age 32



Flying Officer
Stuart Patrick King,
Age 36



Sergeant Keith
Arnold Watson,
Age 23



Corporal John
Corbett Stain,
Age 32



Corporal Douglas
Giffen Shaw Russell,
Age 21



Sergeant Alexander
Eric John Elsbury,
Age 22



Sergeant Allen
Richard Eather,
Age 21



Sergeant John
Daniel O'Grady,
Age 36

Fierce battle claimed 18 Aussie lives

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, 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 Tan, about 40 kilometres north-east of Vung Tau, South Vietnam, on 18 August 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, high ground surrounded by rubber plantations.

On the night of 16-17 August, 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 Tan rubber plantation when, at about 3.15pm, the lead platoon (11 Platoon, commanded by Second Lieutenant Gordon Sharp, a 21-year-old National Serviceman) encountered a small group of Viet Cong which fled.

The patrolling continued until, at about 4.08pm, the main body of the Viet Cong 275 Regiment was encountered. The Viet Cong attacked

vigorously with mortars, rifle and machine gun fire. In pouring rain, the Australians returned fire with platoon weapons and artillery which was firing from the Nui Dat base, some 5km to the west.

The combination of aggressive fire from D Company soldiers plus 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 the support of the beleaguered D Company. They did so, mounted in armoured personnel carriers from 1st APC Squadron which forded a flooded stream and then shortly afterward encountered a substantial enemy force. 2 Platoon of A Company dismounted and advanced on the enemy who fled.

The next morning revealed that the enemy force, estimated at up to 2500, had suffered heavy casualties with 245 Viet Cong bodies found. Eighteen Australians lost their lives and 24 were wounded.

PICTURED: Lance Corporal George Richardson, (left), D Company medic, and Bob Buick, Platoon Sergeant of 11 Platoon, D Company, apply first aid to Private Jim Richmond, 11 Platoon, one of two Australian wounded found by Delta Company of 6RAR, on its return, 12 hours after the Long Tan battle. He was shot twice through the chest and lay all night, face down, at his section post.





WORLD WAR II

No surrender, no retreat

Australians fought their first major land battle in World War II in January 1941 against Italian forces at the town of Bardia on the coast of Libya. More than 40,000 Italian prisoners were taken in the capture of Bardia. The 6th Australian Division captured Tobruk on 21-22 January 1941 – 75 years ago – and the town became a garrison for the Allies. One of Germany's best generals, Erwin Rommel with his Afrika Korps, reinforced his Italian allies in Libya. By April, German forces had begun to cut off and surround Tobruk. For eight months, from April to December 1941, Tobruk was besieged and Australian forces, notably the men of the 9th Division, the 18th Brigade of the 7th Division, along with



the RAN, defended the town. The Australians at Tobruk were told “no surrender, no retreat” and bravely held out against Rommel's powerful assault. These soldiers became known as the Rats of Tobruk, a nickname given because German radio propaganda broadcaster “Lord Haw Haw” described them as rats living in the ground.

2016 ANZAC Day activities in the region

BOOLAROO-SPEERS POINT

Sunday – 24 April

6.00pm: ANZAC Church Service at All Saints Church, Boolaroo.

Monday ANZAC Day – 25 April

5.15am: Assemble cnr Main Rd and Park St for march to Speers Point Cenotaph.

6.00am: Dawn Service at Speers Point Cenotaph.

CARDIFF

5.15am: Dawn Service at Cardiff RSL Sub-branch. Form up for march from intersection to sub-branch at 4.45am. Breakfast afterwards. Pre purchase tickets at club for \$7 adult and \$3 child. Tickets available from 11 April.

DOYALSON-WYEE

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

8.30am: March steps off from the Baptist 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.

MORISSET

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

10.00am: March from the railway station car park to the Morisset Country Club. Form up at 9.40am.

10.40am (approx): ANZAC Service at the Country Club.

RATHMINES

11.00am: ANZAC Service at the Rathmines Catalina Memorial. Assemble at 10.30am.

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

6.00am: Dawn Service at the War Memorial in Goffet Park. Breakfast available afterwards for gold coin donation.

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

10.45am: Form up at Diggers Club for march to the War Memorial in Goffet Park. Step off 11.10am.

11.30am: ANZAC Service at the War Memorial in Goffet Park.

WANGI WANGI

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

10.00am: March steps off in Puna Rd for the War Memorial. Assemble and form up at 9.30am. ANZAC Service at the Memorial to follow march.

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.