



ANZAC DAY

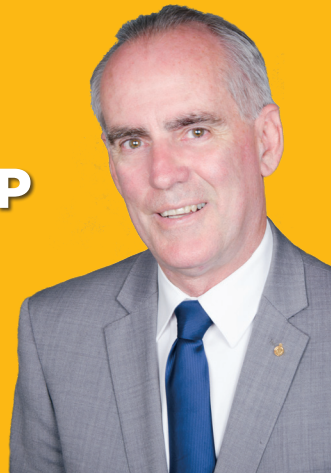
**SATURDAY
25 APRIL 2020**



Compliments of

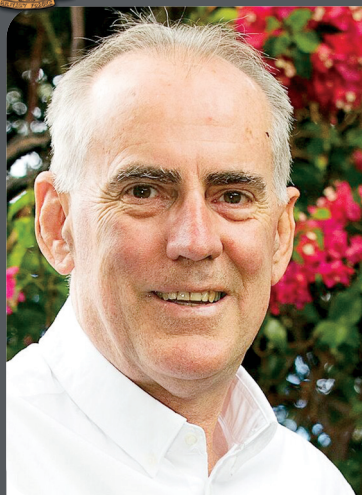
GREG PIPER MP

**INDEPENDENT MEMBER
FOR LAKE MACQUARIE**





THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC



A message from Greg

This inspirational image is one of my favourites and typifies what being an Australian is all about. A Digger showing courage and taking a risk to help out a mate in need.

It represents the power of ANZAC – qualities which have been passed down through the generations for more than a century.

If ever we needed reminding of this, we need only remember a few short months ago when bushfires ravaged this country. It was a battle of a different kind, but one which brought

communities together, people standing shoulder to shoulder, neighbours and complete strangers, helping each other in the face of adversity. The same qualities to help out your mates, just like in the photo below, has endured and we can thank our Diggers for much of that.

When we talk about courage, mateship, endurance and sacrifice, we talk about the ANZAC legend. It was born on the battlefields of Gallipoli and this year we honour and respect those who fought and died in this campaign.

Thousands of young Australians went to war, confronted near impossible challenges, pain and fear – and often death – so today we can enjoy the freedom and democracy this great country offers us all.

ANZAC Day is our chance to remember all the men and women who have fought and died in defence of Australia and, indeed, for world peace.

I encourage our communities within the electorate to embrace the Spirit of ANZAC at this special time – the 105th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings on 25 April, and also 75 years since the end of World War Two.

ANZAC Day is a time-honoured tradition, part of our history and culture which unites our nation ... it is a day we can all be proud to be an Australian.

Greg Piper MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



Rathmines seaplanes inspired war artist's works

The cover image on this year's Spirit of ANZAC publication is a superb artwork of a seaplane by one of Australia's few official war artists.

Dennis Adams' work depicts a Vought-Sikorsky Kingfisher floatplane off the Australian coast not far from RAAF Base Rathmines.

In April 1942, 18 Kingfisher seaplanes were shipped to Australia from the United States and assembled at Rathmines as A48-1 to A48-18. The Kingfishers were allocated to No.107 Squadron which was formed at Rathmines on 10 May 1943.

Enemy submarines operated in Australian waters during this time of World War Two and the Kingfishers carried out patrols and attacks, recording "probable damage" against a German U-boat.

The Kingfisher also resembled the Japanese Rufe seaplane and many of the Squadron's early missions were carried out against gunfire from both friend and foe.

Dennis Adams (pictured), a commercial artist by trade, joined the Citizens Military Force in 1941 and was later seconded to the Department of Home Security for camouflage work. He was in good company alongside artists such as Frank Hinder, Gervais Purcell and William Dobell.

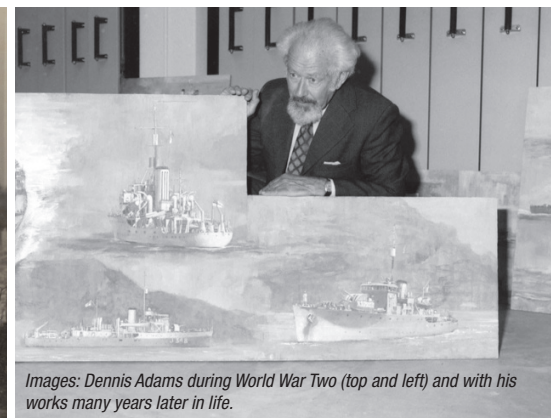
In 1942 Dennis was appointed as an official war artist to represent the activities of the Australian and US Navies and the merchant marine in the South Pacific. He was made Captain in Military History Section AIF in 1943. He served in New Guinea, Middle East, Italy, Egypt, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Newfoundland, Canada, the Bahamas, USA, and Japan.

After the war Dennis Adams established a career as an artist specialising mainly in maritime and war art and also taught art at the East Sydney Technical College.

He completed several public works of art, including Sydney's Second World War Servicewomen's Memorial in 1990, and the Royal Australian Regiment Memorial in 1976.

Dennis, born in Sydney in July 1914, was awarded the order of Australia Medal in 1989. He died in 2001.

His works are extensively displayed at the Australian War Memorial.



Images: Dennis Adams during World War Two (top and left) and with his works many years later in life.

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105 years ago: Gallipoli landings

On the dark side of dawn 105 years ago on Sunday, 25 April 1915, thousands of young men – the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs) – huddled anxiously in boats before charging ashore at Gallipoli in Turkey.

It was the largest amphibious invasion in history. More than 75,000 men from Australia, New Zealand, Britain and France invaded the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. The aim of the campaign was to open a supply line to Russia through the Dardanelles and capture Constantinople (now Istanbul), capital of the Ottoman Empire and an ally of Germany.

The 3rd Australian Brigade (4000 men) was to be the covering force on 25 April, with other brigades to come ashore later in that day and the next. In the darkness the boats landed in the wrong positions. Those who made it to the beach, under heavy enemy fire, then faced high cliffs and deep ravines. Scrambling up the hills, the ANZACs took the first ridges, but their objectives were still far off. The rugged terrain provided some protection.

For eight long months they stuck it out until eventually withdrawing. The most successful operation of the campaign was in fact the evacuation of the troops on 19-20 December, under cover of a comprehensive deception operation.

In all, 8709 Australians and 2700 New Zealanders died as a result of the failed campaign yet the huge sacrifice and stories of the original landings – Simpson and his Donkey and the Battle of Lone Pine – all resonated back home and stirred fierce patriotism.

The ANZAC legend was born.

Gallipoli inspired Australian courage, mateship, endurance and valour like nothing before or since. This motivated young Australians to lead the way when the call came for more and more recruits, often to replace those already buried in a foreign field.

Lest We Forget



VP Day: A time to celebrate



The war was finally over! Celebrations erupted across Australia 75 years ago this year when Imperial Japan surrendered to the Allies, ending World War Two.

Known widely as Victory in the Pacific Day, 15 August 1945 is the day hostilities officially ended against Japan – just days after two significant air attacks on major cities.

It was a historic day around the world but particularly for Australians at home and abroad, and especially those suffering in the Prisoner of War camps. VP Day is also referred to as VJ Day – Victory over Japan.

Three months earlier, on 7 May 1945, the German High Command authorised the signing of an unconditional surrender on all fronts: the war in Europe was over. The surrender was to take effect at midnight on 8-9 May 1945. This day, 8 May, was declared Victory in Europe Day (or VE Day).



The celebrations are etched in Australian history with some iconic images. None more so than "The Dancing Man" – an iconic image of a young man in Sydney's Elizabeth Street celebrating the end of the war (right).

He is retired Sydney barrister Frank McAlary QC, who joined thousands in the ticker-taped streets to celebrate the end of hostilities.





Sharpshooter from the air: Billy's vital war-time role

Billy Robinson was a tall lad with a keen eye for photography. In fact, this image (at the right) suggests Bill was ahead of his time and might have produced one of the very few war-time "selfies" way back in 1944.

While stationed in the Trobriand Islands in Papua with No.79 Spitfire Squadron, Bill managed a self-portrait in a mirror which has found its way into the Australian War Memorial collection.

Bill joined the RAAF as a Leading Aircraftsman in 1941, just two months after his 20th birthday.

He was a storekeeper's assistant but earned extra money in his spare time with a camera – producing, printing and enlarging images for people in his local community.

This interest led Bill to inquire after an advertisement was placed in the *Courier Mail* newspaper calling for professional photographers to join-up with the air force.

He was accepted in the role as an amateur "shooter" and soon after posted to Rathmines on Lake Macquarie where he undertook important reconnaissance work along the coast and inland over the Great Divide.

The Supermarine Walrus amphibian aircraft was best suited for this specialist work, which involved lake surveys across the NSW western plains areas of Hay, Balranald and Lake Cargelligo.



Bill Robinson clicks a self-portrait while serving with the No.79 Spitfire Squadron in Papua in 1944.

The Rathmines base was home to a large group of photographers who played a vital role in the war for their surveillance information in regards to homeland security. Bill was 6'3" and stood out in a crowd. He worked hard on his family's Queensland farm before joining up and seeing the war from a different perspective through the camera lens.

Shortly after the war, Bill married Phyllis in November 1945 and continued to pursue a career in photography.

His story is just one of many linked to the great history of the Rathmines air base.



ABOVE: Leading Aircraftsman Bill Robinson in the nose of a Supermarine Walrus amphibian aircraft. He is holding a F-24 camera used in a survey flight of lakes from Rathmines to Hay, Lake Cargelligo, and Balranald.



LEFT: Two Supermarine Seagull V (Walrus) aircraft in flight near Rathmines, which are part of the Bill Robinson collection.

Australian soldier met his fate on last day of the war

Australian soldier Lawrence Saywell will always be remembered for his heroism, not only in his homeland but also at a small town in Czechoslovakia where he met a terrible fate on the last day of the war in Europe.

Private Saywell is known to be the last Australian killed in Europe on the day of Germany's surrender. He was shot and murdered by a SS German patrol on 8 May 1945 (Victory in Europe Day) at the farming village Miretin.



Miretin villagers at the unveiling of the memorial erected in honour of Private Lawrence Saywell.

Four months after his death, a memorial was erected in his honour by the "grateful inhabitants of the village of Miretin", just metres from where he died. In November 1945, the President of the Czechoslovak Republic awarded Pte Saywell the Czechoslovak Military Cross for his "brave and eminent services to our State in the battle for liberation".

Pte Saywell was the son of Mrs Gertrude Saywell of Double Bay, NSW, and is buried in the Evangelical Cemetery in Miretin. Lawrence Phillip Saywell was a wool buyer before signing up for duty in November 1939, just two months before his 21st birthday. He enlisted with the 17th Brigade

Company, Australian Army Service Corps.

Pte Saywell was reported missing on 5 June 1941 after the evacuation of Crete, and later confirmed as a Prisoner of War (POW) in Stalag VIIa (in Moosburg, Germany) on 24 October 1941, and then Stalag VIIb (Memmingen, Germany).

In January 1943 he was transferred to Kommando E7010, a prison camp in Bohemia, from where he escaped during a routine march with three other POWs, New Zealander Sydney "Mac" Kerkham and two Russian soldiers.

They were sheltered by local villagers and in return offered to assist the Czech partisans in their sabotage operations, which they did successfully for two years.

The fate of Pte Kerkham and the two Russians on that day is not immediately known.



A group photo of Private Lawrence Phillip Saywell (second from left wearing glasses), with Private Sydney "Mac" Kerkham of New Zealand (left wearing a cap) and two Russian soldiers.



THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC

70 years ago: Korean War starts

Only five years after the end of the Second World War, Australia became involved in the Korean War.

It is 70 years this year since the start of the Korean War in 1950.

Personnel from the Royal Australian Navy, Royal Australian Air Force, and the Australian Regular Army were committed soon after the war began and would serve for the next three years in the defence of South Korea. Many thousands of Australians served in Korea during the war; some continued to serve for another four years after it had ended. The Australian Army was primarily represented in Korea by the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR), which arrived in Pusan on 27 September 1950.

1 RAR and 2 RAR also joined the war later, each on a one-year tour of duty.



The RAN had nine ships operating during the Korean War. The RAAF deployed 77 Squadron.

Australian soldiers are known for their efforts in the Battle of Kapyong between 22-24 April in 1951. The men of 3 RAR (above) suffered heavy casualties with 32 killed, 53 wounded, and three taken prisoner. More than 17,000 Australians served during the Korean War, of which 340 were killed and over 1,216 wounded. A further 29 were prisoners of war.

While it's hugely disappointing that this year's ANZAC Day services have been cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic, I know that every Australian will still pause to honour all of our former and current servicemen and women on our national day of remembrance.

It's the Australian way. It's the type of spirit that was born by the original ANZACs.

It's the pride, the endurance, the mateship and the willingness to stare down adversity to protect the common good.

Wherever you are on Saturday, 25 April, make sure you pause for a moment and remember those who have fought and served so gallantly for all of us.

– Greg Piper

“LEST WE FORGET”

