

Serving Faithfully



Newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force
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From the Vicar General Monsignor Peter O'Keefe AM VG EV

To Love is to Serve

Part of our DNA as Members of the Defence Force is our preference to get on with the 'doing' rather than drowning in the endless use of words!

Since his Papal inauguration in 2013, Pope Francis has used gestures to speak more than words, a trait consistent with his namesake: Saint Francis of Assisi often instructed his young friars that actions are far more potent than words. He was reported to have said 'In everything we do, we must preach the Gospel. But only when absolutely necessary should we use words.'

The Church has always upheld the dignity of military service when it serves the cause of right, in justice and for the promotion of peace. Christian military service is the authentic 'doing', the living of the first and greatest of the commandments, that of love of God and our neighbour. Through Christian military service we live out our baptismal call, witnessing to Christ and achieving holiness of life. As a Military Diocese we are very hopeful that the following four activities of the Church this year and throughout 2016 will assist us in living out our vocations. Each can speak to us and helpfully support us in daily living.

The Year of Consecrated Life— Radical Evangelical Living! While this theme relates directly to those consecrated religious in the Church, the same heroic evangelical living is demanded of us all. It is sometimes said that we can't expect heroism of ordinary Christians. This is not true! The Gospel calls all the baptised, according to their vocation, to a new heroic way of life that witnesses to Jesus and his Kingdom. Military members are called to be prophetic witnesses to the Gospel in their duties as soldiers, sailors and airmen. By simply doing the best we can in military service, we become instruments of Christ, in and through our families, and in undertaking our daily duties within our military units.



Jubilee Year of Mercy— on 11 April this year, Pope Francis announced that the Church will celebrate a Jubilee Year of Mercy commencing on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, 8 December 2015 and concluding on the Feast of the Christ the King, 20 November 2016. The theme will be mercy: *Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy*. The Pope states: 'Let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of throwing open the doors of his heart and repeats that he loves us and wants to share his love with us.' Along with the whole Church, our Diocese, our chapels, our homes and workplaces we will strive to live mercifully in Christ. How do we as the local Church of the Military authentically and credibly show the face of Christ? We will hear more about this Jubilee Year as we get closer to its commencement.



Synod on the Family— The Year of Consecrated Life coincides with the Synod on the Family to be held in Rome on 4-25 October this year. In calling the Synod, Pope Francis asks that its underlying spirit be one of listening to the needs of our families in today's world. It is vital to help, support and encourage our families, especially those who are experiencing difficulties in family life. The Pope speaks about the 'Gospel of the Family'. In the messy, imperfect reality of family life, God is present. We are very mindful of our Defence families. May our families strive to be places that speak of love in action.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalised find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



World Youth Day 2016 (WYD 16)—The Military Diocese is calling interested ADF members to form an Australian Military contingent to participate in World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland, 25-31 July 2016.

These WYD gatherings have taken on an immense importance over recent years and Krakow promises to be a wonderful occasion of faith. The Diocese is looking at various pilgrimage options culminating in joining with various military groups hosted by the Military Ordinariate of Poland as part of this international demonstration of faith. Are there generous young military members, single and married, who could take up the challenge of Pope Francis in living the Beatitudes? If anyone would like to know more about WYD16, please contact the Military Diocesan Chancery at Campbell on (02) 6248 0511. Further details will also appear on our diocesan website www.military.catholic.org.au. Also see: www.worldyouthday.com

We pray for our young people that their military service will indeed be seen as love expressed in service.

Under Mary, the Mother of God's protection— In celebrating the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15 August, we seek the intercession of Mary Mother of the Church at this time, praying that all current and former members of ADF, with our families, will be abundantly blessed in both love and peace through the generosity of their service to our country. Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

Message from the Governor-General



Just as so many Australians draw strength and inspiration from the members of our Defence Force, many of them draw support and pastoral care from the Catholic Military Diocese.

I commend the work of the Catholic Military Diocese and their efforts to contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of Australian servicemen and women through faith.

**His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd),
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia**

Our Patron



In these tough times on a range of fronts, Christian faith in the Navy, Army and RAAF and Chaplain support services are more vital than ever.

One hundred years ago in World War One, 414 Chaplains of all faiths stepped up and served in the AIF; today a much smaller number of Chaplains are carrying a huge burden from the Sinai to Sydney and beyond. The Diocese needs our help and support. Please consider this request,

Tim Fischer AC

We are very honoured by The Honourable Tim Fischer AC agreeing to be the Patron of the Catholic Military Ordinatee. As a young man, his connection with the Australian Army was significant, having served in 1RAR in South Vietnam. As the biography below indicates, he has been engaged in many aspects of Australian life, as well as Ambassador to the Holy See. We are very encouraged by his support to us.

Tim Fischer was born at Lockhart, NSW, and educated at Boree Creek in the Riverina and Xavier College, Melbourne. Mr Fischer served with the Australian Army, 1 RAR from 1966-1969, in both Australia and Vietnam, before returning to the family farm at Boree Creek in southern NSW.

In 1971 he was elected to the NSW Parliament. During his time in State Parliament, Mr Fischer became National Party Whip and served on a number of Parliamentary Committees, including the State 'Staysafe' Committee. He resigned from state politics in 1984 to seek pre-selection for the Federal Parliamentary seat of Farrer, at the time based on Albury, Corowa and Deniliquin, from the ACT to the SA border.

Mr Fischer was subsequently elected Federal Member for Farrer and served in this role from 1984 to 2001. During this time he was Shadow Minister for Energy & Resources, Shadow Minister for Trade, Leader of the National Party and later Minister for Trade and Deputy Prime Minister in the Howard Government (1996 - 1999). He led the Official Delegation to observe the East Timor Referendum in 1999.

In Federal Parliament, Tim Fischer strongly supported harmonized strict Gun Law Reform and the world's newest transcontinental railway, Adelaide to Darwin, where freight tonnage has increased greatly since its inception in 2004.

He retired from politics in 2001, served as Chair Tourism Australia 2004 - 2007 and then first Rome-resident Australian Ambassador to the Holy See 2009 - 2012. He was also appointed Special Envoy by the Australian Government to Bhutan, Eritrea and South Sudan, for a period of years.

A gift in your Will

Making a gift to the Catholic Military Ordinatee is a meaningful way to fund the education of future priests and deacons and to support our clergy in providing spiritual guidance to our service men and women and their families.

To make a bequest, you should consult your solicitor or trustee company. It may be sufficient to make an addition or amendment to an existing will by adding a codicil.

A useful website for more information is: includecharity.com.au

Serving Faithfully

(Article by Second Lieutenant Tim Fischer, AC [Ret'd], Former Ambassador to the Holy See)

Diggers serving in the front line today will be interested to know that there was once a Presbyterian padre who crawled forward through the wire and across the start line, minutes **before** 3.10 am when the Battle of Hamel commenced on 4 July 1918.

As I describe some aspects of my work as Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, including public diplomacy across the board and boosting Australia's profile, I begin with an extract from some of my previous writings relating to Anzac Day.

Padre Frank Rolland served in the Australian Imperial Force in World War I, most notably in the 14th Battalion, and performed with extreme and characteristically understated bravery. His initial foray was in and around Cairo, Egypt, in 1915 as a chaplain captain, one of two Presbyterian chaplains in the locality.

Rolland had enlisted after hearing news of the appalling casualties incurred at the landings at Gallipoli, resigning from his parish at Noorat in Victoria. Prior to this he had served in Beltana in South Australia, having been appointed by John Flynn ('Flynn of the Inland'), and had travelled as far afield as Broome and Thursday Island with his work.

Every bit of his undoubted bush skills came to the fore when he joined the 14th Battalion on the Western Front, particularly in the Battle of the Somme, through to Hamel and beyond. John Monash, of Jerilderie and Melbourne, knew Frank Rolland and later awarded him the Military Cross in the field, a rarity in any war at any time for a non-combatant. His epic notes from the Battle of Hamel point to his courage, practical determination and absolute dedication to the diggers. General John Monash had fixed 3.10 am as zero hour for the Battle of Hamel, the planning allowing 90 minutes to capture the village and surrounding terrain. History records that it took 93 minutes and casualties were very light.

Padre Frank Rolland, with the doctor and his team of medics, pushed forward to reach the nominated place for the RAP (Regimental Aid Post) minutes before 3.10 am; as usual he was unarmed but carried stretchers, supplies and equipment to brew hot cocoa for the men. Halfway to the RAP post, the huge barrage planned by Monash commenced, with many retaliatory shells from the Germans falling nearby. Calmly and coolly, the medics, the doctor and the padre made their way to the RAP, reaching it by 3.18 am. Already the wounded had started coming in and the work commenced. Here is an extract from his written notes:

It was still almost dark but I noticed a few German shells dropping behind us and towards us, so I crept over to the doctor and advised him to push on further at once. He agreed and as we stood up and moved again, the scene was indescribably apocalyptic. The eye, and not the ear, was receptive, though I remember the

machine gun crackle shrilling through the heavy roar. Every kind of gun was at work. It was cloud and fire, lead falling in colossal showers, the hill hidden with smoke, the smoke flashed with flame; all the force of the elements seemed concentrated and hurled.

Rolland was, of course, describing the holistic approach meticulously planned by John Monash, which became the template that turned the Western Front and showed one or two British generals how to do so. Rolland went on to become the Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church and, for 25 years, Head of Geelong College. His official MC citation reads: 'For conspicuous bravery and extremely good work'.

Clearly, he is an outstanding example, not only of a military padre on the battle front, but a leader in education and in the Presbyterian Church in Australia. Here in Rome, it happens that some of my work relates to the Anglican Centre and various Protestant faiths. More broadly, one key priority is interfaith dialogue and building links between Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism and all branches of the Islamic faith.

It is a great privilege to have been appointed by the Australian government as first Rome-resident Ambassador to the Holy See, and the timing has worked out well. Australia's first Catholic saint, Mary MacKillop, will be canonised in Rome on Sunday 17 October. Please visit the Sisters of St Joseph website for more information.

Interestingly enough, around 1900, Mary MacKillop, then in her fifties, John Monash, then in his thirties, and Frank Rolland, then in his twenties, spent considerable time in Melbourne, Australia's first national capital. Who knows if they met in Collins Street, Melbourne, or Albert Street, East Melbourne, but all made enormous contributions to the fabric of Australia. Ironically, all made particularly vital contributions in relation to education.

As I continue my work here in Rome, I am conscious of the fact that these three Australians all worked in Europe, making huge efforts against incredible odds for the good of Australia. It puts the various irritants of Rome traffic jams, triple parking, weather extremes and moving to a second floor apartment into perspective.

It will amuse some to know that Padre Captain Frank Rolland, MC, who became the Very Reverend Major Sir Francis Rolland, CMG, OBE, MC, MA, was once described as 'the nearest that Protestants ever came to producing a Jesuit'. In completing this writing, I acknowledge material obtained from the biography written by B.R. Keith entitled 'The Lives of Frank Rolland' and I salute this giant of an Australian padre.

This article was first published in **Australian Army Chaplaincy Journal** Winter 2014 Page 22 and is reprinted with permission.

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is a newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force.

It is published quarterly by the Catholic Military Ordinariate of the Australian Defence Force.

The Diocese is composed of members of the Australian Defence Force and their families wherever they may be serving.

Its people are scattered widely across Australia and overseas.

Serving Faithfully aims to be a means of sharing events and experiences from across the whole Diocese.

Articles are welcome to be submitted for publication and should be addressed to

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Father Michael Bergin SJ MC

(Article by Brigadier Alan Hodges AM [Ret'd])

Michael Bergin, Jesuit Priest, Australian Army Chaplain, an ANZAC, died in action in Flanders, awarded a posthumous Military Cross, and he had never set foot in Australia. How did this happen?



Father Michael Bergin SJ MC

In Tipperary in 1879 Michael Bergin was born to a mill-owner, Michael Bergin, and his wife Mary. The young Michael, after education at the local convent school and Jesuit College in Limerick, joined the Jesuit Noviceship at Tullbeg in 1897. From there he went to the Syrian mission where he studied for nine years at the University of Beyrouth and immersed himself in missionary work and local customs. He learnt French and Arabic, and in Ghazir in

Lebanon he studied philosophy. In 1904, he taught in Beirut at the Jesuit College. He was sent to Hastings in England in 1907 to complete his theology studies and on 24 August 1910 was ordained a priest. In 1914 he was sent to Damascus and placed in charge of Catholic schools. At the outbreak of the war he was imprisoned by the Turkish Government and subsequently expelled.

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* records that, 'By the time he reached the French Jesuit College in Cairo in January 1915, the first Australian troops had arrived in Egypt, and Bergin offered to assist the Catholic military chaplains. Though still a civilian, he was dressed by the men in the uniform of a trooper in the Australian Imperial Force and, when the 5th Light Horse Brigade left for Gallipoli, he went with it. Sharing the hardships of the troops, he acted as priest and

stretcher-bearer until his official appointment as chaplain came through on 13 May 1915.

The 50th Battalion History, *Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred* records that: 'The church authorities in Melbourne, knowing nothing of him, naturally queried his appointment. He was greatly distressed until he was told that he could go to Gallipoli as a stretcher-bearer with the Light Horse, with the rank of private, until the question was settled.' The Commonwealth Gazette of 18 Sep 15 appointed Bergin Chaplain 4th Class with effect 13 May 15, two days before the regiment marched out from Maadi Camp. On his attestation paper he describes his civilian occupation as Professor.

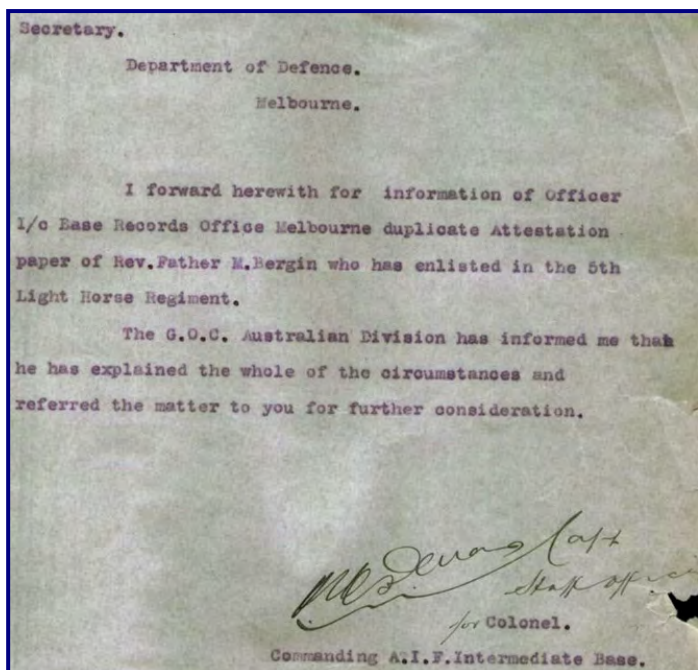
Service in Gallipoli took its toll on Fr Bergin, especially as he was described in *The Cross of Anzac* as not having a robust constitution. He was evacuated to London in September 1915 with enteric fever. Following his recovery, he visited his family in Ireland and caused quite a sensation with his arrival in khaki and slouch hat with emu feather. On return to Lemnos he served in hospitals and hospital ships as he was not fully recovered. In April 1916 he joined 51 Battalion in Egypt and accompanied the unit to France where he saw action at Pozières, Mouquet Farm, the Hindenburg Line and Messines.

The Irish Jesuits website states that, 'Padre Bergin is always to be found among his men, helping them when in trouble, and inspiring them with his noble example and never-failing cheerfulness.'

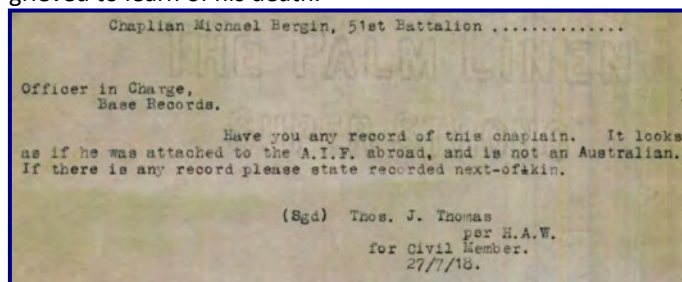
Divisional Chaplain, Fr William Devine, described Fr Bergin as: 'Tall, spare, gaunt; he looked the typical Jesuit of anti-Catholic literature. We worked together in the same division in Egypt and France until his death, and I have never known anyone to inspire such respect and admiration from such diverse characters: good men and bad, broad-minded and those without that reputation.'

The Commanding Officer of 51 Battalion, in a letter to Irish Jesuit Father Provincial described the death of Fr Bergin: 'He was killed at Zonnebeke, North East of Ypres on 11th Oct. Our battalion was in the front line, and as was his usual custom, he went up to find out if there was anything he could do for his men. On the way to the front a piece of shell caught him in the chest, killing him instantly.' He was buried in the village churchyard at Renninghelst, Belgium.'

The *Catholic Press* Sydney of 29 Nov 17 reported an appreciation from a non-Catholic major, who knew Fr Bergin well: 'Without disparaging the work of other padres, he stood out as being always at his post. He did the work of the stretcher-bearers; he tended the living and buried the dead. In Egypt, through some reason, he was for a considerable time without a horse, and I have known him to walk over the sands of the desert under a burning sun for five or six miles to hold a ceremony. Father Bergin would be fasting for Mass on these occasions. He was also with the troops at Lemnos and Gallipoli. He won the admiration of all who knew him. I am deeply grieved to learn of his death.'



This letter on behalf of Major General Bridges indicates that enlistment of Fr Bergin was far from straight-forward [National Archives Australia]



As late as 1918 there was still confusion about Fr Bergin's status [National Archives Australia]

The *Commonwealth Gazette* of 20 December 1917 announced a posthumous award of a Military Cross to Fr Bergin for his service with the 5th Light Horse Brigade+. The citation based on recommendation before his death read: 'Padre Bergin is always to be found among his men, helping them when in trouble, and inspiring them with his noble example and never-failing cheerfulness.'

On 19 May 1933 the Adelaide Catholic newspaper, *The Southern Cross*, reviewed a biography of Fr

Bergin by Sister Sophie (a Sister of Charity and sister of Fr Bergin) and stated: '... as a priest, missionary and army chaplain, we see him simply standing up to his duty, regardless of likings and dislikings, with a light, deprecatory air carrying out everywhere Christ's command of self-denial whether in classroom or Arab village, in muddy dug-out or shell-raked battlefield ... He would not have penned a line with the spectre of publicity before his eyes, and he would only have shuddered at the idea of posthumous fame.'

In 1939 Captain Patrick Auld MC of the 50th Battalion wrote to Sister Sophie:

'It was at Serapeum in Egypt in 1916, that I heard of the good work Padre Bergin was doing amongst the men of the 13th Brigade, and how his friendliness and kindness were extended to members of all religious denominations ... In June, 1916 the Brigade moved to France. As a lieutenant in charge of a platoon I was aware that some of my men were to attend mass in a village church of Pernois and, having no Catholic officers in the battalion, I volunteered to go with them. Padre Bergin was the celebrant and I well remember how he emphasised the importance of going to confession and receiving absolution before reaching the danger zone. I can hear now his rich Irish voice repeating, "The one thing is to be in the state of Grace." As a Protestant, the mass did not convey much to me, but I was impressed with the personality and sincerity of the Padre and quiet of the church, and the reverent attitude of the men.'

'In September, 1916 as we were moving forward to take up our battle positions for the attack on Mouquet Farm, I remember Father Bergin — as near the forward area as he was permitted to go. He was standing on the side of the road while the whole Brigade, numbering between 3 and 4 thousand men, marched by; he was blessing some, waving to others, smiling and passing cheery remarks with all and sundry. Well known to us all by then, he put new heart into us and, while his own flock must have been proud of him, we non-Catholics deeply appreciated his beneficence and his concern on our account.'

'Father Bergin was frequently to be found in the front line, and this fact alone created a deep impression on all ranks

... Usually the men would not be bothered with chaplains, and sometimes showed it, but with Padre Bergin it was different. He always received a warm welcome and deservedly had the respect, admiration, and affection of all.'

After the war the second-in-command of 51st Battalion wrote:

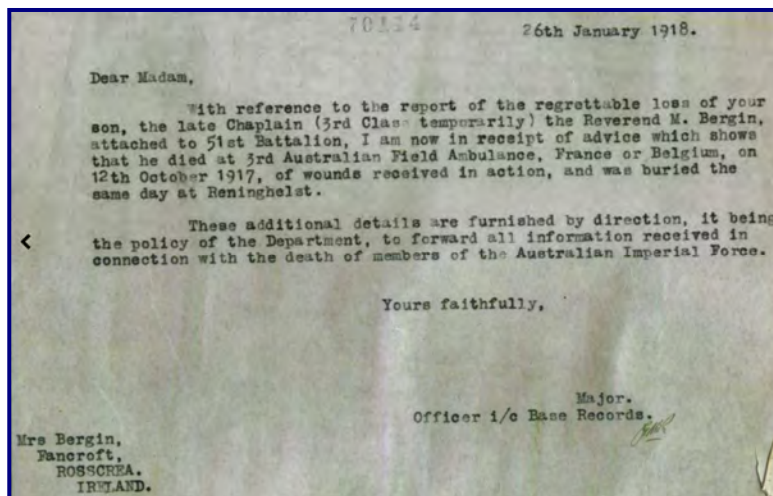
'Fr Bergin was loved by every man in the Brigade...I am not a Roman Catholic myself... A part of his work, and a valuable part, too, was done among the French children living at that time in the war areas. To them he was a real Father.'

'I often attended the services in the village church; it was a short service, and it followed the last parade of the day. I must confess my chief interest was not in the service itself but in the five minutes succeeding the service. It's then the padre's saint-like face was transformed, the chin was thrust forward, the blue eyes flamed as he singled out misdeeds after misdeed committed by members of his flock during the last twenty-four hours ... He dressed the culprits up hill and down dale. The men squirmed under the lash of his tongue.'

'He loved Australians, he understood us, condoned our many faults and recognised our virtues. His death, thought glorious, was one of the great losses of Australia and the Australians in the war.'

12/7/15.	Attested and taken on strength.
13/5/15.	Appntd. Chaplain 4th. Class. Continuous Service. Alotted to 13th. Inf. Bde. 4th. Aust. Div.
26/3/16.	Attached as Chaplain to 51st. Btn.
4/1/16.	Taken on str. of 3rd A.G.H. Mudros. (E.W.)
24/3/16.	Trfd to 13th Bde. ex 3rd A.G.H. (E.W.)
23/9/15	Enteric. Trans. to England H.S. "Kareela" from Alexandria. (ER)
5/10/15	Enteric Admt to 3rd London Gen Hosp England (MR)
24.12.15	Disembarked at Lemnos. Disembarked at Alexandria (MR) and posted to 3rd A.G.H. 27.1.16 (States A.M. Bergin)
5.6.17.	To be Chaplain (3rd Class) tempy under provisions of A.I.F. Order 677-
12/10/17	Died of Wounds received in Action at No 3 Aust. Fld. Amb.
1/1/18	Awarded the Military Cross. (Deceased) Buried in Penninghelst Churchyard about 2½ miles S.E. of Poperinghe

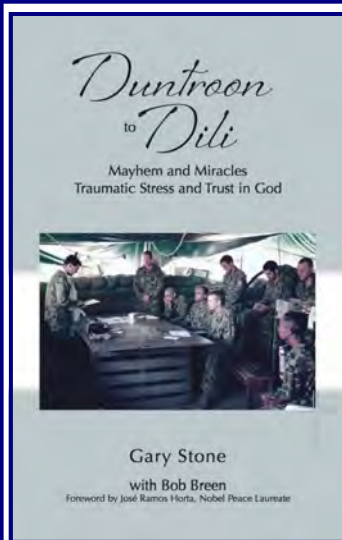
Extract of Fr Bergin's service record [National Archives Australia]



Letter to Fr Bergin's mother [National Archives Australia]



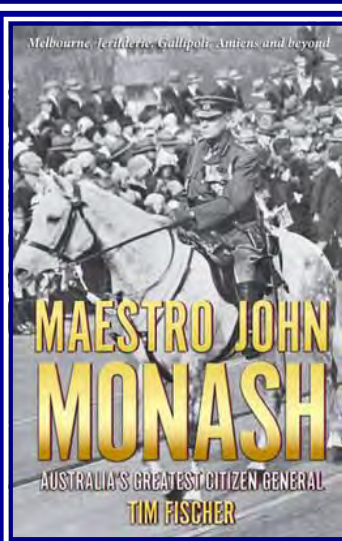
Fr Bergin's grave in Renninghelst village churchyard, Belgium. Although it is inscribed with the date 'OCT 11 1917', it appears that he was wounded on that day and died on 12 October. Photo courtesy Jesuits in Ireland



Dunroon to Dili is a compelling story of a man who has committed his life to the service of others. Gary Stone graduated from the Royal Military College Dunroon and his service as a peacemaker has exposed him to considerable danger and personal trauma. Dramatic experiences in the Iran-Iraq war saw him develop post-traumatic stress disorder. Gary chronicles his own struggle and management of this illness, and his parallel ministry to other veterans similarly affected. Despite being a distinguished graduate of senior military staff colleges and with a wealth of experience as an Infantry officer, Gary gave up his promising military career to train and be ordained as a Deacon in the Catholic Church.

In his new vocation, Gary served as Chaplain in both the Australian Army and Federal Police, with multiple deployments to Timor-Leste, The Solomon Islands, Bougainville and the Asian Tsunami of 2004. He also continued to be an active leader in a wide range of communities that he has been a part of, as well as an outspoken advocate for peace, justice and morality.

Gary Stone's journey will take you through a life of adventure around the world. It is a powerful testament of a man who says 'Yes' to God's call of service to humanity; a story of a man who does not back away from a challenge regardless of the risk or magnitude. For further details contact Echo Books: info@echobooks.com.au, 0405 587 800



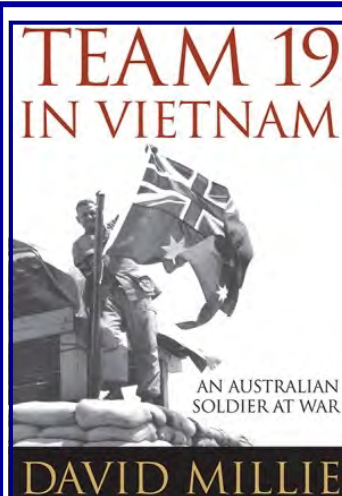
Maestro John Monash is a galloping good read about Monash, arguably Australia's greatest military commander. It is not a polished history of the man and his campaigns but there is enough to put him in context. As a biography, it is unpretentious and falls short of the works by Geoffrey Serle and Roland Perry but it paints a balanced picture of Monash, 'warts and all', and his achievements.

What you will find in this book is a passionate plea that Monash should be given his just rewards by being promoted posthumously to the rank of Field Marshal. It is a big call but who better to make it than Tim Fischer: former infantry officer, man of the land, author, railway enthusiast, State and Federal politician, leader of the National Party, Deputy Prime Minister and lately Australian Ambassador to the Holy See.

Written in Fischer's often quirky style, the book is unashamedly partisan in promoting this cause. There are some wonderful asides as Fischer shares with us fascinating sidelights gathered from his long experience and genuine interest in military history. He could not desist from including some dubious hobby horses such as his defence of 'Breaker' Morant on which I and others more learned in the field have publicly disagreed.

It is a rich book but moderately priced. Interestingly, Fischer dedicates the book to the 414 chaplains of the 1st AIF. Ecumenically, he gives special mention to five: Anglican, William Dexter MC, Jewish, Jacob Danglow, Presbyterian, Frank Rolland MC, Salvationist, William McKenzie MC and Roman Catholic, John Fahey, DSO, MID.

Review by Major General Peter R Phillips AO MC KCSG [Papal] [Ret'd]



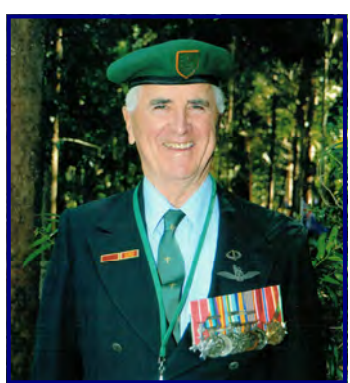
Team 19 in Vietnam David Millie was a member of the Army Training Team Vietnam in 1968 – 69 and served in Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Advisory Team 19. He was based in Quang Tri province in the north of South Vietnam adjoining the demilitarized zone (DMZ) where he was a District Senior Advisor for four months and a Planning and Operations Staff Officer for eight months. For his service, he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire and from USA the Bronze Star for Service and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (with Bronze Star)

Team 19 in Vietnam draws heavily on David's 47-year old diaries and letters to his wife Eva. He devotes a chapter to 'Faith at Work' and concludes by quoting a letter to Eva:

Attending Mass is the highlight of my Sunday and the week for that matter. I will probably get along to some week day Masses as my present routine may allow me an occasional 6:30 a.m. Mass. The discipline of prayer is excellent as it helps keep everything in perspective. You and the boys are always in my

thoughts during my prayer time. I have prayed the rosary when possible. Sometimes it takes up to 15 minutes to get through the rosary, when thoughts come up that cause me to digress from prayer, yet at the same time cause me to examine my conscience. So in all it helps me to behave in a better way, hopefully.

For further details see: www.team19vietnam.com



LTCOL Davie Millie MBE (Ret'd)



New Catholic Military Ordinariate Website

The Ordinariate has launched its new website. We have been working towards this event for some time and we hope that all our readers will avail themselves of the opportunity to view, as well as use, the new site. The address is the same;

www.military.catholic.org.au.

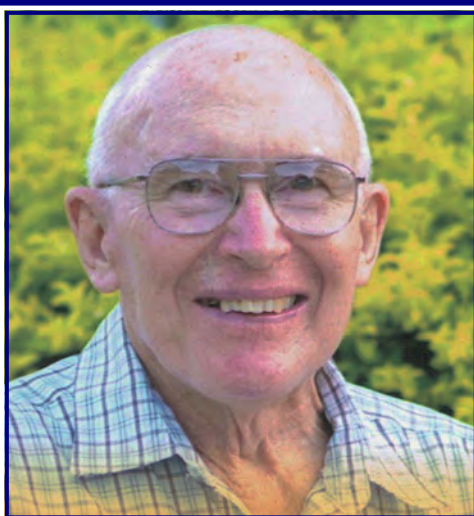
The development of the new site has been driven by a simple ideal:

We are a family, a Church living the Gospel and our Faith, in Service of the ADF.

The website is structured so as to be able to perform as a conduit for information, news, events and latest thought. It is also designed to facilitate a pastoral connection for our parishioners to their local chapels and other relevant information. At the moment the RMC Chapel is the only fully developed local page, but we intend for others to be developed in the near term.

There is more content we would like to embed onto the site. We will do that and also fix some format issues. We thought, however, that it more important to release it now for use by you, our Chaplains, parishioners and friends. We believe the website lives up to our principle:

As the Catholic Diocese of the ADF, we live in the world and relate to the world. As a Diocese we uphold the way of life, traditions and mores of our society and Church in relation to behaviour, family life and marriage.



Vale Father Peter Quilty

The Catholic Diocese of Townsville announced that Fr Peter Quilty died peacefully on 18 May 2015. Fr Peter was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia in mid-2013.

He was commissioned as an Army Chaplain in 1967 and served throughout Australia. In February 1985 he was posted to Townsville as the RC Chaplain North Queensland, based at Lavarack Barracks. He was posted away from Townsville until he returned in 1996 until 1998. During this time he was also Chaplain to 5 Aviation Regiment and was with them through the trauma of the Blackhawk accident. After his discharge from the regular Army, due to age, he continued as civilian Chaplain in many capacities at Lavarack Barracks.

While in the Townsville Diocese he served in many parishes. The Pastoral Leader of Mundingburra Parish, Mrs Lyn Horner said, 'Father Peter loved being the Priest in Mundingburra Parish. He especially enjoyed working with the staff and students of St Joseph's School Mundingburra, St Margaret Mary's College and Mary

Mackillop Early Learning Centre. He also engaged with those who visited the Townsville Multicultural Support Group in the parish. He was well loved in the parish community.' As well as his parish responsibilities, Father Peter played an important role in the administration of the diocese, sitting on many councils and commissions including the Council of Priests, College of Consultors, Spiritual Advisor to St Vincent de Paul, Chaplain to the Prison, Tokelau Community and most recently Centacare. Father Peter was also the local Director of Caritas between 2002 and 2010.

Last April the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Fr Peter on behalf of the Commander 3rd Brigade, Roger Noble DSC, CSC. It read:

In deep appreciation to Fr. Peter Quilty for the many years of dedicated compassionate service, as both a Chaplain and a Pastor. Current and past serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families have drawn great solace and hope from your unfailing ministry to them.

Following Fr Quilty's death, the former Commander 3rd Brigade, Major General Shane Caughey and his wife Carol said:

We have been privileged to know Father Quilty for over thirty years. Peter's chaplaincy during his dedicated service to the Australian Defence Force left an enduring legacy to the organisation as a whole and to the countless individuals and military families that he assisted, counselled and to whom he provided his friendship and support. Our family was among the many to enjoy his guidance and friendship. In life, Father Quilty's actions epitomised his Christian beliefs. We will always remember his humility, devotion, good humour, friendship and uncompromising loyalty to all he encountered.

Correction to Issue 20, page 5. The last paragraph of the article about Fr John Fahey DSO, MID was incomplete. It should have read:

His funeral, held at Karrakatta cemetery after his death on the 28 April 1959, would probably have been an embarrassment to him as it attracted over 2,000 mourners from all walks of life and from all faiths. They were there to pay homage to this truly remarkable 'Renaissance' man, who, with his towering intellect, knock-about larrikinism, total disregard for personal safety and all-embracing love of humanity had touched their lives so profoundly.

[Casey, K. Literature Prize, Mosman Park Council WA 2008]

Borneo Oboe Campaign Remembered

(Father Paul Stuart RAN, HMAS CERBERUS)

In the dying days of World War II one large island still remained in control of an invading aggressive Imperial Japanese military – Borneo.

Among the allies, Australia and the United States bore the task of defeating the Japanese in a region now composed of Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

Commanding the Australians was General Leslie Morshead, alongside the US Commander, General Douglas MacArthur.

Their 35,000 strong force faced off against 15,000 Japanese commanded by Vice Admiral Mickiaki Kamada (notorious for ordering the beheading of many Australian POWs and executed for war crimes in 1947), and General Masao Baba

(executed in 1947 for war crimes as a result of the deaths of 2,200 Australians during the Sandakan Death

Marches). Borneo saw some of the worst brutality by the Japanese against the indigenous people of the nations they invaded in WWII and some of the worst atrocities against captured or surrendered allied military.

As a demonstration that the people of Australia have not forgotten the thousands of Australians and others who fought, died or survived that bloody campaign, a group of frail elderly Australian Borneo veterans, supported by Australian Defence Force members and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, embarked on a ten-day mission to visit key locations around Borneo to conduct memorial services on the 70th anniversary of that Campaign (Operation Oboe). Eight veterans were chosen from about two hundred still surviving. Aged between 89 and 96, they are Geoff Chapman (Army: 2/48th Battalion); Keith Hearne (Army: 2/31st Battalion); Brian Winchcombe (Army: 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion); Jack Olsson (Army 2/8th Field Regiment); Tom Tyne (Air Force: 2 Airfield Defence Squadron); Fred Sharon (Air Force: 1 Airfield Construction Squadron); Pat Curtis (Navy: HMAS Westralia) and Bryan Wearn (Navy: HMAS Manoora).

Emotions ran high at each and every memorial and gravesite. Age has wearied these veterans who tearfully paid respect and homage to their mates who were denied the chance to live a full life, to see Australia again, and to reunite with parents, wives, sweethearts or children. Instead, their remains lie in the soil of foreign lands where unimaginable horrors took their toil upon them and often their lives.

The Australian war graves at various locations in Borneo

are beautifully kept attracting many visitors. It was wonderful to see the old veterans, full of stories both funny and sad, sharing their experiences with the young serving ADF members (Federation Guard and drummer and bugler) accompanying the group.

It was a privilege to hear their stories and experience first-hand the terrain and climate they

risked their lives in to defeat an evil aggressor that had evil designs of conquest upon the whole Asian-Pacific world.

I'm grateful to Monsignor Stuart Hall for my being tasked to be Chaplain to this Veterans' Mission and appreciate even more the bonds of mateship and hardship that battle and

imprisonment forge and how the human spirit, often strengthened by Faith, can overcome extreme challenges.

Seeing old Aussie veterans tearfully bowed over the grave of a mate not seen since 1945 as they kiss and place a poppy at the headstone in Kranji or Tarakan; seeing murals of Christ and Gospel scenes of hope and mercy line the Chapel walls of that hell-hole Changi prison that were painted by a gifted POW; and seeing the crowds, young and old, some survivors of WWII themselves, out in force cheering the veterans in gratitude for the liberation they won, will be among the many memories that will be treasured by those who were part of this remarkable act of Remembrance.



Eight WWII Veterans from the 1945 Borneo Campaign with Chaplain Paul Stuart and members of the Federation Guard at a ceremony in Brisbane before they all departed Australia for Borneo to conduct 10 days of 70th Anniversary commemorations in Sandakan, Balikpapan, Tarakan, Changi (POW Prison) and Brunei.



Amina with Fr Paul Stuart. She was one of many Borneo indigenous who suffered at the hands of Japanese military occupation forces and helped the Australian military.