

# Serving Faithfully

Newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force  
Published by the Diocesan Curia. Editor: Monsignor Peter O'Keefe AM VG EV

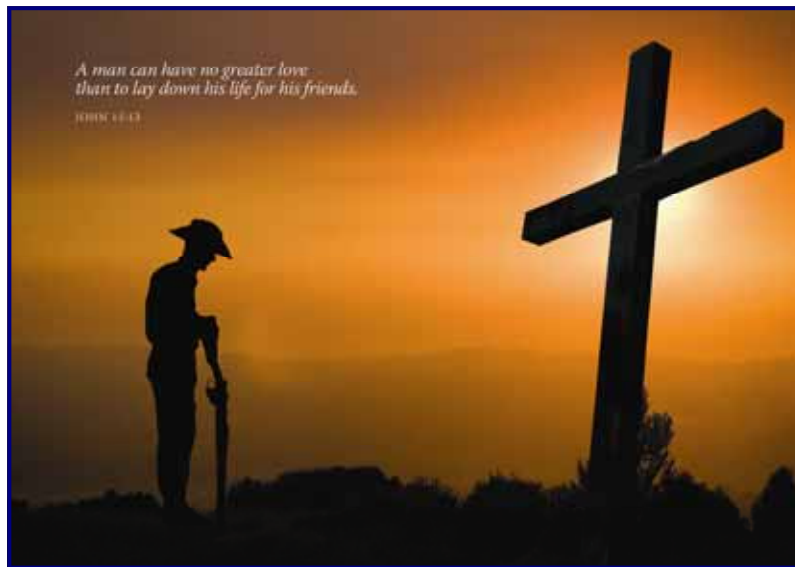
April 2017  
Issue #26



## From the Vicar General Monsignor Peter O'Keefe AM VG EV

### The Cross of Anzac—Hope for Life

This year 2017 we celebrate two memorials within a relatively few days: Good Friday and Anzac Day. For many of us there is a very strong connection between the two. Bishop Peter Ingham of Wollongong in his Easter Message this year states that “We should not disconnect them, both are inextricably linked. In the Gospel, Jesus calling us his friends, proclaiming, *A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.* (John 15:13).”



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Jesus' crucifixion, with its agony, disfigurement and death is the ultimate act of selfless love, as only God can give; a free gift - in laying down his life for us. He pours out his life in obedience to the Father; with outstretched arms he dramatically demonstrates that his words and action are one. He promised life, now he gives life in this one perfect act of love to a sinful people in an imperfect world. *God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all.* (Rom 8:32). When we reflect upon this selfless act, our response can only be a confession of faith with deep gratitude. Pope Benedict XVI states that “This confession of faith is the real starting point and rooting point of Christian Faith”. Christ's ultimate act of love on the Cross is brought to completion in the Resurrection: his glorious victory over sin and death. *We venerate your Cross, Lord; we praise and glorify your holy resurrection: because of the wood of the Cross, Joy has come into the whole world.* This is the very source of our Christian hope.

As we recount the deeds of the ANZACs we are confronted on many levels. On the one hand by its horrific and barbaric warfare, hardships endured and in the overwhelming loss of youthful life. But on the other we are exposed to the very best of human character and 'God-like' human spirit forged in and through the atrociousness of war. The ANZACs performed selfless acts of love with many paying the ultimate sacrifice. *A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.*

For the ANZACs and for those soldiers, sailors and airman who have served valiantly since Gallipoli in all wars, conflicts, various peacekeeping missions and humanitarian relief over the last century, and who are currently serving in the Middle East, we can presume in many instances that their Christian faith, albeit severely tested, did provide enduring hope, and for those who serve today, it is significantly contributing to the calibre of their service.

These two memorials are indeed inextricably linked! In both, God is absolutely present! The death and the Resurrection of Christ is the par excellence of selfless love. But the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus dramatically and ceaselessly flows into and through every human experience. In the worst and best of humanity, throughout every age and generation, God is present. The Anzac spirit of sacrifice exemplifies this truth. The fact that the ANZACs continue to inspire, that their actions are emulated in the selfless attitude of Australians today in response to natural disasters, national and international tragedies, whether their service be as members of the Australian Defence Force, State Police Forces, Ambulance and Emergencies Services or in the many aspects of community life points to the enduring Calvary event and the victory of Easter Sunday.

However sorely tested we are in life, Easter speaks of hope. The example of the ANZACs speaks of hope. It's too easy to be overcome by pervasive evil leading to discouragement in life and about today's world. Easter hope and the fruits of the ANZAC spirit of sacrifice and selfless acts can be a powerful antidote to battle those negative forces around us and to live hopeful lives – the Christ Life.

May the Hope of the Risen Christ and the example of the ANZACs live with us now and always.

A very joyful Easter.



The *Anzac Book* was an instant success when it was released in 1916. It was an anthology of poems, stories, colour illustrations and cartoons. It was written by soldiers on operations who were suffering a harsh Gallipoli winter.

In November 1915 a committee was formed to produce the publication and a notice seeking contributions was circulated at Gallipoli. Prizes were offered for various categories and 150 submissions were received, although not all were incorporated in the book. After the evacuation of Gallipoli, official war correspondent Charles Bean and his assistant, Arthur Bazely, edited the contributions.

Over 100,000 copies of the book were sold. About half went to the AIF and many could also be found in Australian households. In 2010 the Australian War Memorial reprinted a quality reproduction of the book with a new foreword by author Les Carlyon and an introduction from AWM historian Ashley Ekins. The hard-cover reprint of 240 pages also includes material originally rejected by Charles Bean. The book is available through the AWM online shop. It can be viewed online from the National Library website at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-19061379>

This poem is a contribution in the book by Capt James Sprent: A.M.C. (attached 3rd Field Ambulance.):

### A CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Who would remember me were I to die,  
Remember with a pang and yet no pain;  
Remember as a friend and feel good-bye  
Said at each memory as it wakes again?*

*I would not that a single heart should ache  
That some dear heart will ache in my one grief.  
Friends, if I have them, I would fondly take  
With me that best of gifts, a friend's belief.*

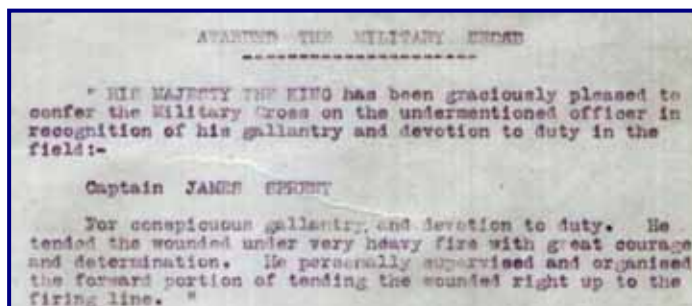
*I have believed, and for my faith reaped tares;  
Believed again, and, losing, was content;  
A heart perchance touched blindly, unawares,  
Rewards with friendship faith thus freely spent.*

*Bury the body – it has served its ends;  
Mark not the spot, but "On Gallipoli,"  
Let it be said, "he died." Oh, Hearts of Friends,  
If I am worth it, keep my memory.*

Capt Sprent was born in Table Cape, Tasmania in January 1883. He was a medical practitioner who qualified in Edinburgh in 1909. With the rank of captain, he was enlisted in the First AIF, departed Hobart in July 1915, and joined the No 1 Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis, Egypt. He served in Gallipoli and France. In November 1916 he was awarded the Military Cross. Then in January 1917 he was promoted to Major and served with 13 Field Ambulance.



Capt James Sprent MC



Advice to Dr Sprent's wife in April 1917 stated that he had been evacuated to 3rd London General Hospital with a gun shot wound to the chest, which was described as mild. Later in the year Dr Sprent returned to Hobart and was discharged. He became the first medical officer of the Repatriation Department, Hobart. When he died at age 66 in 1948, Dr Sprent was a well-known and respected Hobart identity.

### Serving Faithfully

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 comprised 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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*Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Catholic Military Ordinariate*

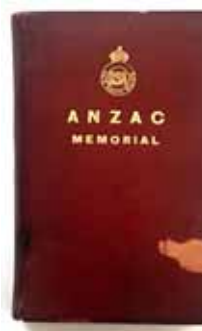
### A Gift in Your Will

Making a gift to the Catholic Military Ordinariate 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](http://includecharity.com.au)

# Anzac Memorial



The first issue of *Anzac Memorial* was published on 25 April 1916 by the Returned Soldiers Association, Sydney. The Preface of the book states:

‘The chief object of this Memorial is to record the names and deeds of Soldiers and Sailors of Australia and New Zealand: particularly those who have fought, are fighting, or will fight the current “Liberation War of Humanity” from Germany’s Prussian

threat of tyrannical domination.

‘Especially it is designed to show the character and the worth of those who, dying or living, have distinguished themselves on the field of battle.’

This initial publication and further books published in 1917 and 1919 (known as The Peace Edition) contain between them a Roll of Honour, Gallery of Honour, photos of commanders, soldiers’ stories and verses, portraits and illustrations, and military despatches. The Roll of Honour in the image below was one of over 250 pages in the 1919 edition listing all who died between 4 August 1914 and 30 June 1919.

The listing is in alphabetical order, whereas earlier editions were arranged with the deceased grouped by the units to which they belonged.

OFFICERS AND MEN A. I. F. DIED ON SERVICE				
No.	Name and Rank.	Unit.	Cause of Death.	Date.
2024	Abell, H. Pte.	34th Batta.	K. in A.	22/8/18
2227	Abberton, L. J. Pte.	2nd L.H.	Exhaustion	30/11/17
3679	Abel, H. J. Pte.	1st Batta.	D. of W.	21/11/16
1576b	Abercrombie, E. M. L.-Cpl.	18th Batta.	D. of W.	29/6/16
2052	Abernethy, D. B. L.-Cpl.	1st Batta.	K. in A.	22/7/16
5026	Abingdon, E. Pte.	15th Batta.	K. in A.	29/8/16
2020	Abrook, E. Pte.	3rd Batta.	K. in A.	9/6/17
1170	Abrey, A. T. Pte.	1st Batta.	D. of W.	11/4/17
12	Abt, C. Dvr.	1st P.A.	K. in A.	29/5/15
6200	Abbott, J. P. Pte.	18th Batta.	K. in A.	20/9/17
1412	Abbott, W. E. Pte.	2nd M.G. Batta.	K. in A.	21/10/18
1922	Abbott, A. Gnr.	10th P.A. Bde.	K. in A.	20/4/18
3208	Abbott, A. R. Pte.	17th Batta.	D. of W.	6/9/18
2170	Abbott, F. A. Sgt.	3rd Batta.	K. in A.	11/5/18
2513	Abbott, S. Pte.	56th Batta.	Pneumonia	16/2/19
7133	Abbott, W. H. Spr.	2nd F. Co. Engrs.	D. of W.	21/10/17
4598	Abbott, D. R. L.-Cpl.	52nd Batta.	K. in A.	19/7/16
1516	Abbott, E. W. L.-Cpl.	30th Batta.	K. in A.	20/7/15
16422	Abbott, G. Gnr.	6th P.A. Bde.	D. of W.	9/6/17
412	Abbott, J. E. Pte.	17th Batta.	K. in A.	27/8/15
11687	Abrahams, E. G. Pte.	Trench Mortar B.	Illness	27/8/15
552	Abraham, H. C. Pte.	19th Batta.	K. in A.	16/4/17
6025	Abraham, F. W. Pte.	17th Batta.	K. in A.	31/8/18
6030	Ackrill, W. J. Pte.	17th Batta.	K. in A.	18/4/18
2906	Ackland, R. Pte.	1st L.H.	D. of W.	10/1/17
306	Ackling, C. Pte.	3rd Batta.	D. of W.	2/2/17
6157	Ackroyd, G. C. Pte.	2nd Batta.	K. in A.	4/5/17
6216	Ackland, E. Pte.	4th Batta.	K. in A.	6/5/17
2126	Adam, W. T. Pte.	45th Batta.	D. of W.	5/4/18
222	Adair, H. Pte.	1st Batta.	K. in A.	9/10/17
5536	Adam, D. P. Pte.	17th Batta.	K. in A.	2/2/17
76	Adam, J. Pte.	4th Batta.	K. in A.	27/7/16
2222	Adams, A. G. Act.-Cpl.	18th Batta.	K. in A.	7/6/17
359	Adams, H. Pte.	35th Batta.	K. in A.	22/5/18
428	Adams, S. A. Lieut.	30th Batta.	K. in A.	25/7/16
154	Adams, H. Pte.	3rd Batta.	Heart Fail.	7/8/17
6702	Addeins, W. C. Pte.	29th Batta.	—	12/1/19
302	Adie, W. T. Pte.	4th Trop. Force	—	3/2/17
3783	Addison, J. B. Pte.	20th Batta.	K. in A.	22/8/18
1127	Addison, A. J. Pte.	18th Batta.	K. in A.	24/8/15
2101	Addison, G. A. Pte.	13th Batta.	D. of W.	22/8/15
4425	Addison, W. E. Lieut.	18th Batta.	K. in A.	22/8/15
4425	Addison, W. E. Lieut.	14th P. Amb.	K. in A.	4/5/17
624	Adel, C. Tmptr.	1st L.H.	K. in A.	21/5/15
486	Adel, J. Pte.	29th Batta.	D. of W.	16/4/16
3451	Ades, W. Pte.	17th Batta.	K. in A.	7/8/16
4277	Adams, J. Pte.	30th Batta.	Pneumonia	10/2/19
6378	Adams, F. Gnr.	11th P.A. Bde.	D. of W.	11/6/17
2948	Adams, A. C. H. Spr.	6th P. Co.	K. in A.	19/11/16
7191	Adams, W. T. Pte.	2nd Batta.	K. in A.	22/6/18
4203	Adams, H. Pte.	52nd Batta.	K. in A.	1/9/18
6701	Adams, D. L.-Cpl.	1st Batta.	K. in A.	22/8/18
	Adams, E. Capt.	20th Batta.	K. in A.	18/3/18

## From *Anzac Memorial* Preface 1919

‘And while we offer thanks on their return to those who have won for us this right to make our country one of the greatest and our nation the happiest upon earth, while the flags flutter and hands are waving, let us not ever forget that, to many of those to whom we owe the most, our thanks can never be given. They who raised Australia to the very height of the world’s regard—the gay welcome in our streets is not for them. For others the cheers, the smiles. The rejoicing which they so often longed for, they will never see. Twelve thousand

The following is a contribution in the 1917 issue of *Anzac Memorial*, page 219.

## ALL SO HUMAN

*The following are copies of letters picked up in the Turkish trenches at Gallipoli, carried to the Headquarters’ Staff and translated. The reference to the 4th February apparently shows that the Turks were on the defensive long before the landing in April. The tenor and spirit of the letters show the quality that made our troops respect and even feel friendly towards the Turks, and give pathetic evidence that, on the Turkish side as on our own, war is a great grief.*

### TO MY DEAR SON-IN-LAW, HUSSEIN AGA

*First I send you the best salaams and I kiss your eyes. Your mother Ataf also kisses your eyes. Mustapha also kisses your eyes and Mrs Kermin also sends her salaams. Your daughter, Ayeola, kisses your eyes. Should you inquire after our health, thank God I can tell you we are all in health, and I pray God we may continue to be so.*

*Your letter of 4th February we have received. Your mother kisses your eyes and Abdullah kisses both your hands. Your brother Bahram’s wife has died – may your own life be long – but before dying she brought into the world a child. The child has also died. What can I say about the decrees of God?*

*Your brother Bahram has been taken as a soldier. We pray God that his health may be preserved. The money you sent has arrived. Thank God for it, for money is scarce these days. Everybody sends salaams; everybody kisses your hands and your feet. Got keep you from danger – Your father, FAIK.*

### TO MY DEAR HUSBAND, HUSSEIN AGA

*I humbly beg to inquire after your blessed health. Your daughter sends her particular salaams and kisses your hands. Since you left I have seen no one. Since your departure I have no peace. Your mother has not ceased to weep since you left. Your daughter declares that she is with child and weeps all day. We are all in a bad way. Your wife says to herself, “While my husband was here we have some means.” Since your departure we have received nothing at all. Please write quickly and send what money you can. All your friends kiss your hands and your feet. May God keep you and save us from the disasters of this war – Your wife, FATIMA*

miles from home they sleep forever on the bleak moorlands whereby their lives the place of Australia in the world was won. Yet, could they speak, they would not call us to weep. Their lives they gave cheerfully, grandly, knowing the cause; and they have won for their country more than they ever hoped to win. Only by one means can we work out our thanks to them—by continuing the task which they were forced to drop when the bullet took them, and devoting our lives to make this country the happy, great, and generous land whose future, with their death, they gave into our hands.’

## A Soldier's Diary – No 36 Sergeant Major Thomas Murphy, First Australian Infantry Battalion

[Group Captain J Pratt, KCHS [Ret'd]]

When Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914, the young Australian nation also found itself at war. Many records of this conflict are finding new readers as the recent Centenary commemorations highlighted. As well as formal histories of the conflict, there was an outpouring of accounts recording the views and experiences of individuals - soldiers, sailors and nurses - in the war. This account by Sergeant Major Thomas Murphy is such a record. In this article there are extracts from his personal diary of his experiences of service from call-up on 6 August 1914 as a reservist in 29th Infantry Regiment to his return home on 4 May 1916 after 565 days of operational service. On 16 August, as recruiting filled the units, Murphy volunteered and was accepted for service with the AIF, joining the 1st Australian Infantry Battalion as a temporary Sergeant Cook,

The Australian War Memorial notes that the 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War. 'The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and served there until the evacuation in December. Its most notable engagement at Gallipoli was the battle of Lone Pine in August. Two members of the battalion, Captain A J Shout and Lieutenant L M Keysor were awarded Victoria Crosses for their valour at Lone Pine, Captain Shout posthumously.'

The publication of the diary in both the 1917 and 1919 editions of *Anzac Memorial* is one of many sponsored by the NSW Branch of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia. We owe thanks for the foresight of the League in preserving such history.

On 18 October 1914 Sgt Murphy was farewelled by his Mother and family at Fort Macquarie on boarding a ferry to troopship HMAT *Afric A19* in Athol Bight, then leaving the harbour at 5pm for Albany, WA. An enormous fleet of troopships and their supporting Australian, Japanese and British warships assembled and departed for the War, via Ceylon, the Red Sea and then through the Suez Canal on 2 December 1914 to assemble at Alexandria in the Mediterranean Sea.

Murphy was a Catholic and the impact of religion on him is evident. He makes mention of 'Mass' being conducted on 7 November by a Lt Street, for which he provided a prayer book and crucifix. It appears that he means a prayer meeting of fellow Catholics, rather than the celebration of Mass. Later, he includes in his diary troopship attendances at Masses celebrated by chaplain priests. Throughout his diary his Catholic upbringing is evident.

6 December: 'Death of Pte Boothman, and I lend my crucifix while he is dying, and the priest comes aboard, just too late.' They leave their berth, go ashore and entrain for Cairo and Camp Mena. Christmas Eve: 'Prepare Xmas dinner for Battalion; cooks and butchers work all night and all day. Xmas Day. 'Attend Mass Xmas Day on desert, and priest says Mass in officers' mess.' Boxing Day: 'I smoke Egyptian pipe and get sick ... Troops training on desert daily. Training very severe, and heat oppressive ... 1st Brigade marches to Beni Yusef, 10 miles from Camp Mena and camps there for four days. Weather very cold at night. After four days training, Brigadier-General MacLaurin declares 1st Brigade fit for war, and men cheer and continue the usual routine.'

3 April 1915: '1st Division receives orders for the Front ... I leave with cooks at midnight and march to Cairo.

Arrive 4 am. Easter Sunday: 'Read prayers for Mass on train. Go on board *Minnewaska*.' 12 April: 'General Birdwood lectures to officers and NCOs on Sunday in the saloon.'

18 April: 'Visit Mudros town again, see christening of Greek child, and leave a present.' On the same day: 'No Mass on board; say prayers for Mass.'

19 April: 'Receive letter from Mary (his wife).' 21 April: 'At 8 or 8.15 am received news of Mother's death. Write letters home, and Capt McGuire obliges with envelopes, censors letter, and allows it to go. Repeat the rosary for Mother.'

24 April: 'We also leave at 5 am for the back of Lemnos Island ... then we leave for action and at slow speed we arrive off Gallipoli early Sunday morning ... Australian troops begin their entry into the war in earnest.'

25 April: 'Men jump overboard and chase the Turks up the hills and gullies, and bayonets, fists and stones, and butts of rifles are used. Daylight breaks ... The beach and the water is bloodstained, and men lie dead and wounded at different parts of the beach. The fighting gets heavier ... NZ troops land and support our left flank, and then we charge up the Valley of Death, take Quinn's Post, push the Turks back further ... Losses are getting heavier, then HMS *Queen Elizabeth* steams about 10 miles out and brings her eight 15-inch guns into action and the shells drop on to the Turkish reinforcements ... Two ASC are killed on the boat from which I land. Major Swannell predicts his own death and is dead in a few hours. The Adjutant is wounded and the 1st Battalion is badly cut up. The 3rd Brigade is almost wiped out and the 2nd Brigade is suffering almost as badly. ... Water is running short and many men die for want of it. Burial parties begin work ... Word is sent to the beach that positions cannot be held much longer on account of losses. General Hamilton sends back word to hang on at all costs ... Hospital ships are crowded, and the deaths on board are many. The nurses on board break down and cry at the sight of the dead and dying ... An officer of the 15th Battalion is also with us. He is shot through the arm and bullet enters the back of Capt Christian's heart. He does not speak, and just groaning, lies down and is dead ... Major General Bridges wounded; attended by our Battalion doctor; died on hospital ship.'

24 May: 'Armistice granted to Turks, about 3,000 buried; the stench is beyond description. 27 May: 'Wounded at Shrapnel Gully, in the head. Shrapnel shell bursts over me while taking ammunition on mules up the gully. Got struck on the disc. Mules play up, and I am dragged down the hillside, and badly bruised.'

6 August: 'Cookhouse shelled heavily. Wounded in right eye on 7/8/15; fighting continues and is very stubborn, and lasts till 10/8/15.' 15 August: 'Go to Mass on the beach to Father McAuliffe; too late for communion. Report to Dr Thompson, and have my eye treated.' 16 August: 'sent on to the hospital ship *Rewa*, but while lying on the beach two men are killed near me by a shell while they were swimming.' 17 August: 'See Anzac for the last time and transferred to ship named *Andania*.' The author travelled to Devonport Naval docks near Plymouth via Malta and Gibraltar.

19 September: 'Mass is held for the first time in hospital (King George Hospital, Waterloo), and I attend.' He was able to undertake a complete return to his religious practices in England. There despite the Zeppelin air raids on London, these wounded Diggers were feted and restored to health.

22 September: 'Party of 26 patients invited to Mr Cullen's mansion at Leatherhead, in Surrey. Entertained and well treated, taste old English cider. Butler and maids attend us.'

From page 4



King George Hospital, Waterloo  
By Lobley J Hodgson Imperial War Museum ART3821

(At the outbreak of WW1 the War Office commandeered the newly-built 5-storey warehouse for the H.M. Stationery Office in Stamford Street and Cornwall Road, Waterloo for use as a Red Cross military hospital. Within a fortnight, by December 1914, all 1650 beds had been subscribed for - at a cost of £25 per bed - thus raising £41,250. Queen Alexandra, the mother of King George V, had provided the first bed.

Reputedly the largest hospital in the United Kingdom, the King George Hospital finally opened at the end of May 1915. The first convoys of wounded men were brought by boat train to Waterloo station nearby. Tunnels built as an integral part of the warehouse connected the building to the station so as to facilitate movement of supplies, and these enabled badly wounded men to be conveyed to the Hospital out of sight of the public.)

1 October: 'Invited to Mansion House by Lord Mayor of London, and we are entertained by him and the Lady Mayoress in the Banquet Hall, and waited on by butlers and ladies.'

18 October: 'Communion. Gentleman provides free stamps for Australians in hospital.'

3 November: 'Mass in hospital ... London police entertain us at a concert in the Basement Theatre.'

8 November: 'Communion.' 15 November: 'communion ... and declared fit for convalescent home.' 28 November: 'Eleven o'clock Mass at St Raphael's Kingston-on-Thames.'

25 December: 'Xmas Day. Mass at St Raphael's.'

9 January 2016: 'Mass at KGH.' 16 January: 'Mass.'

24 January: 'Communion.' 14 February (Dublin): 'Breakfast in sergeants' mess; go to Mass at the Pro-Cathedral at 10 o'clock. Poverty of the people is very sad, and children attend Mass in rags, and some are without boots and hats, but despite their

poverty they are real handsome, and especially the women who have the prettiest skin that can be seen anywhere.'

21 February: Mass at Westminster Cathedral; the service is very impressive.'

27 February: 'Mass at St Mary's Hanwell.

8 March: 'Anniversary of Mother's death, which is Ash Wednesday. Go to Benediction, receive the Ashes, and churchwarden of St Augustine's invites me into RC Club near church, Dorchester Road. Receive rosary beads and Sacred Heart badge from Royal Garrison Artillery Man.'

10 August: 'To St Augustine's for Stations of the Cross.'

A Medical Board declared Murphy unfit for Foreign Service and he was given furlough pending embarkation to Australia. He left for home by troopship staffed with Australian nurses on St Patrick's Day 1916 via South Africa, Fremantle, Melbourne then to Sydney.

19 March 1916: On board the troopship *Ascanius* (the first ship of the Anzac convoy to depart Fremantle on 3 November 1914): 'pass along French coast. Mass on ship in officers' dining-saloon.' 16 April: 'Still in Indian Ocean. Mass at 7 am in officers' saloon.' 20 April: 'Stations of the Cross at 10am. Chaplain gives prayer-books to men.'

25 April: 'Anzac Day, first Anniversary of Landing. Saloon food to all ranks supposed to be issued, but does not appear. Officers have ten-course dinner.' 30 April: 'Mass. Land with NSW party, and march from pier to city (Melbourne). Go through Burke and Collins Streets. 2 May: 'Leave Melbourne for Sydney.'

4 May: 'SYDNEY AND HOME, THANK GOD!'

In an appendix to his diary, Murphy listed 'Battles we were in:

'Landing Gallipoli.

'Quinn's Post. German officers' trenches.

'Turkish night attack. Lone Pine.'

He also listed his injuries:

'Hit four times: twice wounded; once sick, influenza.'

The service record of Thomas Murphy at National Archives Australia gives his discharge date as 2 November 1916 'in consequence of medical unfitness'.

The War Pensions form of 15 January 1917 shows that fortnightly pensions were payable to:

Samuel Thomas Murphy - 1 pound 18 shillings;

Wife Mary Elizabeth - 18 shillings;

Daughter Kathleen Alice Clare - 10 shillings;

Son Leonard James - 7 shillings 6 pence;

Son Thomas Gregory - 5 shillings.

Mrs Murphy was listed as the trustee for the payments to the children.

### Happenings in the Diocese

We welcome **Fr Nicholas Lim** of the Diocese of Bunbury who is joining the Royal Australian Navy Reserve. Following completion of his Reserve Initial Course, he will take up duties as a Reserve Chaplain at HMAS Stirling

**Fr Paul Ghanem OFM**, Parish Priest of the Franciscan Parish of Paddington-Edgecliff, Archdiocese of Sydney, has been commissioned into the Army Reserve and will serve at Randwick Barracks, as well as being available for Catholic chaplaincy in the Sydney area. As St Francis of Assisi, Paddington is only a stone's throw from Victoria Barracks in Sydney, Fr Paul has come to know families requesting the sacraments over recent years. Welcome Paul.

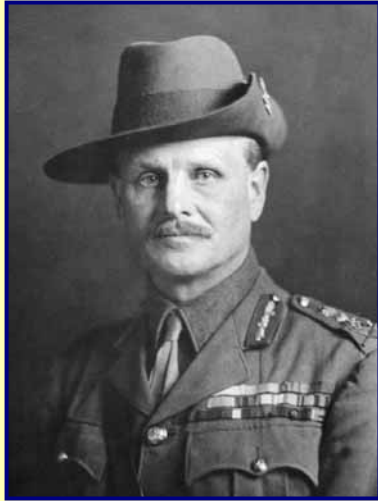
**Chaplain Kevin O'Sullivan**, who is presently a lay Pastoral Associate Chaplain posted to RAAF Base Tindal, will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in Brisbane on 17 May 2017. There are currently four Permanent Deacons serving in

Army. The Diocese has ordained married men to the Diaconate since the mid-1990s.

The Diocese welcomes Kevin to ordained ministry. Kevin is married to Denise with the family currently living in Brisbane. Kevin's ordination will not only be a very significant day for him and the family but will also be celebrated in the Military Diocese. Would you please keep Kevin in your prayers as he prepares for his ordination.

**Fr Piotr Kowalczyk**, posted to Robertson Barracks, Palmerston, is currently deployed with our troops overseas. He is soon to complete his successful six months deployment. The Diocese thanks Piotr for his deployed ministry. As a Catholic Priest, his ministry has been appreciated, not only by ADF Members, but also by other coalition forces in the area of operations. The newly-ordained **Deacon Kevin O'Sullivan** will be deployed later this year.

## Field Marshal Lord William Birdwood



AWM P03717.009

*This photo of General Birdwood wearing a slouch hat was taken during his tour of Australia in 1920.*



AWM G00401

*General Birdwood taking a dip in the sea at the end of the day*

William Birdwood was born in India in September 1865, where he later served after graduating from the Royal Military College Sandhurst. He also served on Lord Kitchener's staff during the Boer War. In December 1914, as a major general, he took command of the Australian and New Zealand forces in Egypt. He quickly impressed the troops in Gallipoli by his front-line visits, his keen interest in the men, his high principles and

bravery, and his daily swims in the sea. He was fondly known as 'Birdy' and 'the spirit of Anzac'.

In France in November 1917 he took command of the Australian Corps of five AIF divisions. In May 1918, when he took command of the British 5th Army, he was succeeded by Lieutenant General John Monash. Following the end of the war General Birdwood returned to India and in 1925 was appointed Commander-in-Chief in India.

In 1920 General Birdwood toured Australia where he was warmly received. He was made a general in the Australian Military Forces and in 1925 he became a field marshal. He died in May 1951.

### **SPECIAL ORDER BY COMMANDER AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS—April 2015**

OFFICERS AND MEN—In conjunction with the Navy, we are about to undertake one of the most difficult tasks any soldier can be called on to perform, and a problem which has puzzled many soldiers for the year past. That we will succeed I have no doubt, simply because I know your full determination to do so. Lord Kitchener has told us that he lays special stress on the role the Army has to play in this particular operation, the success of which will be a very severe blow to the enemy—indeed, as severe as any he could receive in France. It will go down to history to the glory of the soldiers of Australia and New Zealand. Before we start, there are one or two points which I must impress on all, and I most earnestly beg every single man to listen attentively and take these to heart.

We are going to have a real hard and rough time of it until, at all events, we have turned the enemy out of our first objective. Hard, rough times none of us mind, but to get through them successfully we must always keep before us the following facts. Every possible endeavour will be made to bring up transport as often as possible; but the country whither we are bound is very difficult, and we may not be able to get our wagons anywhere near us for days, so men must not think their wants have been neglected if they do not get all they want. On landing it will be necessary for every individual to

carry with him all his requirements in food and clothing for three days, as we may not see our transport till then. Remember then that it is essential for everyone to take the very greatest care not only of his food, but of his ammunition, the replenishment of which will be very difficult. Men are liable to throw away their food the first day out and to finish their water bottles as soon as they start marching. If you do this now, we can hardly hope for success, as unfed men cannot fight, and you must make an effort to try and refrain from starting on your water bottles until quite late in the day. Once you begin drinking you cannot stop, and a water bottle is very soon emptied.

Also as regards ammunition—you must not waste it by firing away indiscriminately at no target. The time will come when we shall find the enemy in well-entrenched positions from which we shall have to turn them out when all our ammunition will be required; and remember:

Concealment whenever possible,  
Covering fire always,  
Control of fire and control of your men,  
Communications never to be neglected.

**Lieutenant General W R Birdwood**

## The Evacuation of Anzac—Special Order of the Day

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS December 21, 1915

The Commander-in-Chief desires to express to all ranks in the Dardanelles Army his unreserved appreciation of the way in which the recent operation, ending in the evacuation of the “Anzac” and “Sulva” positions have been carried to an issue successful beyond his hopes. The arrangements made for withdrawal, and for keeping the enemy in ignorance of the operation which was taking place, could not have been improved. The General Officer Commanding Dardanelles Army, and the General Officer Commanding the Australian and New Zealand and 9th Army Corps, may pride themselves on an achievement without parallel in the annals of war. The Army and Corps Staffs, Divisional and subordinate Commanders and their Staffs, and the Naval and Military Beach Staffs, proved themselves more than equal to the most difficult task which could have been thrown upon them. Regimental officers, non-commissioned officers and men carried out, without a hitch, the most trying operation which soldiers can be called upon to undertake—a withdrawal in the face of the enemy—in a manner reflecting the highest credit on the discipline and soldierly qualities of the troops.

It is no exaggeration to call this achievement one without parallel. To disengage and to withdraw from a bold and active enemy is the most difficult of all military operations;

and in this case the withdrawal was effected by surprise, with the opposing forces at close grips—in many cases within a few yards of each other. Such an operation, when succeeded by re-embarkation from an open beach, is one for which military history contains no precedent.

During the past months the troops of Great Britain and Ireland, Australia and New Zealand, Newfoundland and India fighting side by side have invariably proved their superiority over the enemy, have contained the best fighting troops in the Ottoman Army in their front, and have prevented the Germans from employing their Turkish allies against us elsewhere.

No soldier relishes undertaking a withdrawal from before the enemy. It is hard to leave behind the graves of good comrades, and to relinquish positions so hardly won and so gallantly maintained as those we have left. But all ranks in the Dardanelles Army will realise that in this matter they were but carrying out the orders of His Majesty’s Government, so that they might in due course be more usefully employed in fighting elsewhere for their King, their Country, and the Empire.

There is only one consideration—what is best for the furtherance of the common cause. In that spirit the withdrawal was carried out, and that spirit the Australian and New Zealand and the 9th Army Corps proved, and will continue to prove, themselves second to none as soldiers of the Empire.

**A LYNDEN BELL, Major General**

Chief of the General Staff  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force

### Lord Kitchener’s Message 25 November 1915

Lord Kitchener has ordered me to express to all the very great pleasure it gave him to have the opportunity, which he considers a privilege, of visiting “Anzac” to see for himself some of the wonderfully good work which has been done by the officers and men of our Army Corps, as it was not until he had himself seen the positions we had captured and held, that he was able fully to realise the magnitude of the work which has been accomplished. Lord Kitchener much regretted that time did not permit of his seeing the whole Corps, but he was very pleased to see a considerable proportion of officers and men, and to find all in such good heart, and so confidently imbued with that grand spirit, which has carried them through all their trials and many dangerous feat of arms, a spirit which he is quite confident they will maintain to the end, until they have taken their full share in completely overthrowing our enemies.

Boys! We may all well be proud to receive such messages, and it is up to all of us to live up to them and prove their truth.

**W R Birdwood**

### General Birdwood Relinquishes Command December 1, 1915

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS

BOYS — I cannot tell you how sorry I am to be leaving “Anzac” as I have to do on shifting over to Army Headquarters.

I have not, however, any intention of saying “Good-bye” to anyone for I trust it is by no means “Good-bye” as I still hope and intend to see much of my old friends in the Army Corps as I possibly can do.

Nor am I going to express my thanks to officers and men, even if I could find words to do so. I feel it would only be presumption on my part, for it is for the British Empire to do that: and I well know it will be so.

My one wish is to be able to finish this war alongside all my old comrades of “Anzac”; having begun it together close on a year ago now in Egypt. I sincerely trust that many of us may be spared to see it through together, when the time comes to make an end of our German enemies, though that day may be yet far distant.

**W R BIRDWOOD, Lieutenant-General,**  
Commanding Australian and New Zealand  
Army Corps

## Not on our mailing list?

If you would like to receive *Serving Faithfully* regularly by post or by email, please advise your preference by contacting:

- The Chancery, Catholic Military Ordinariate of Australia  
PO Box 63, CAMPBELL, ACT 2612
- Telephone: (02) 6248 0511
- Email: [sec@cmoa.org.au](mailto:sec@cmoa.org.au)

## When the Troops Came Home

Upon arrival in Australia the home-coming troops were provided with various privileges and concessions by the State Governments. The 1919 *Anzac Memorial* edition records the arrangements in New South Wales.

After a soldier's disembarkation, the Defence Department granted a furlough at the rate of seven and a half days for each six months that a soldier had been away and provided a special sustenance of 2 shillings per day paid in advance.

Each troopship or troop train was met by a member of Cabinet and the Military Commandant. Through cars arranged by the Red Cross, the returned soldiers were taken to meet relatives and friends at the Anzac Buffet in the Domain where they were given their discharge dated for the expiration of their furlough.

If the relatives of returned soldiers lived outside Sydney, they were given two first-class return rail tickets to Sydney. If the next-of-kin lived in the Sydney area, a rail ticket could be provided to one relative or close friend whose home was in the country.

On disembarkation the State provided soldiers with a first-class return ticket to home in the country; a first-class periodical railway ticket for duration of leave between Sydney and home station within 34 miles; and a tramway pass for the duration of leave for all city and North Sydney lines, or for Newcastle lines.

During leave, free rail tickets were provided for use within the State, and interstate tickets to visit parents or next-of-kin in another State (although the journey had to be commenced within 14 days of the beginning of leave in the case of Victoria!)

Tramway passes and periodical railway tickets were issued to invalid soldiers. These benefits were also available for 28 days to soldiers who had served with other British Empire armies and were in Australia on furlough or for repatriation.

The concession scheme operated at the commencement of demobilisation in March 1918 and continued to September 1919. The New South Wales Government issued more than 154,000 railway and tramway warrants for soldiers and relatives. The value of the passes amounted to £395,000.

## General Birdwood in Gallipoli



AWM G00573

*Lord Kitchener in the trenches at Anzac with General Birdwood from Russell's Top within 30 yards of the Turkish trenches, November 1915. Following the visit of Lord Kitchener, planning for the evacuation of Gallipoli commenced. The British Cabinet agreed to the evacuation on 7 December 1915*



AWM H10389

*Anzac Cove—General Birdwood at North Beach at Gallipoli on 19 December 1915 during the evacuation, which occurred from 18 to 20 December.*



AWM G01222

*Gallipoli Peninsula 6 October 1915, General Birdwood near Hill 60 on his rounds.*

**A despatch by General Sir Ian Hamilton, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force stated:**  
*Lieutenant W R Birdwood has been the soul of Anzac. Not a single day has he ever quitted his post. Cheery and full of human sympathy, he spent many hours of each twenty-four inspiring the defences of the front trenches, and if he does not know every soldier in his force, at least every soldier in the force believed he is known to his chief.*