



# Army Museum of Western Australia



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Wednesday - Sunday

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## IN THIS EDITION

- “Baldrick”, alias Sir Tony Robinson, captivates museum visitors.
- The story of a West Australian soldier who was awarded the American Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), the second-highest award for bravery.
- A Turkish family finds a visit to the museum brings back memories of a great uncle, an army captain, who fought at Gallipoli.

A significant collection of artefacts, including a major work of military art by an Australian/ New Zealand artist, several diaries and a collection of cards and letters, has been put on display in the World War 1 Gallery. The collection is part of the Kerry Stokes Collection and is on loan to the Army Museum of Western Australia, as part of the commemoration of the centenary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli. The painting, “The Capture of German Guns by the Tanks”, c. 1919, is an oil on canvas, painted by Harold Septimus Power (1878-1951), whose flair for equestrian painting was recognised by the Royal Institute of Oil Painters and Society of Animal Painters. Other pieces include a handwritten diary detailing the arrangements for the evacuation of Anzac, December 1915, by an Australian serving in the British Army, Major John Gilbert Browne (1868-1978), and a series of personal and official notes, books and other contemporary publications.



(More in Page 3)





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**THE MAGAZINE**  
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## A letter of thanks from a Turkish family with Perth and Gallipoli connections



From left: Gino and Mary Della Maddalena, Nilgun Kurtul, Cengiz Kurtul, Clarrie Cole, Ali Kurtul

“My wife and I are a Turkish couple living in Istanbul, Turkey. We come to Perth every year to see our only son Cengiz (32) who is an Australian Citizen. Cengiz has been living here for 11 years.

This year we came to Perth again for 3 months and we have been pleased to see our good Australian family friends the Della Maddalena family.

We have shared with them many good times over the years and we became like extended family.

We also visited Fremantle Cemetery together with Della Maddalena family (Mary, Gino, Alfonso, Sebastian) to pay homage to their precious son Gerard who passed away 6 years ago. In the cemetery Della Maddalenas introduced us to Clarrie Cole, who regularly visits his father in the same cemetery.

We then started to see Clarrie regularly and he invited us to Fremantle Army Museum where he volunteers on a weekly basis. On Wednesday 9 April we visited the

museum and Clarrie gave us a tour. What we saw there was amazing. The exhibitions were very detailed and very well presented. While we visited the Gallipoli Section, I had goose bumps. It was a very emotional experience which reminded us of the stories told by our great uncle Army Captain Selahattin Yurtoglu who fought in Gallipoli. We would like to thank Clarrie for



sharing his knowledge and for his hospitality. We would also like to thank all the friendly staff at the museum who welcomed us and made us feel special.

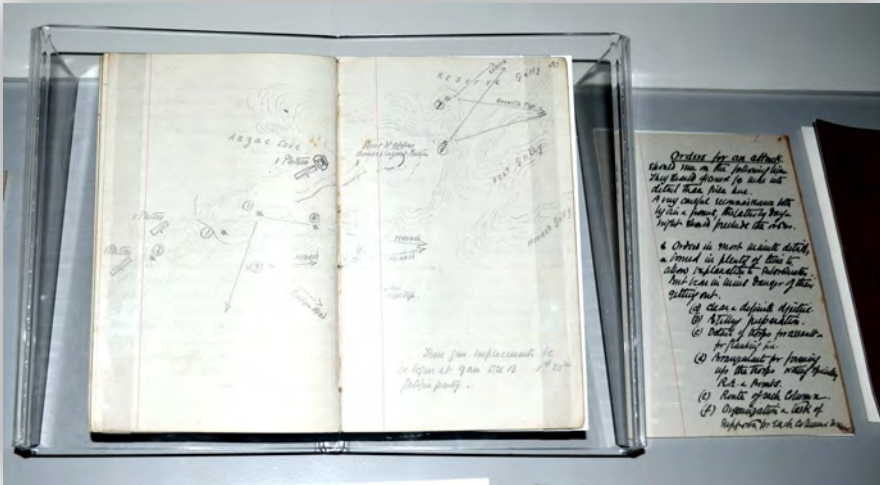
Best Wishes,

Nilgun & Ali Riza Kurtul.”

(Pictured above with a display in the Gallipoli section of the WW2 Gallery.)

## Meticulous hand-written diary detail operational plans and maps for ANZAC evacuation

Part of the collection of ANZAC items on loan from the Kerry Stokes Collection (see Page 1) include a detailed diary of the allied plans for the evacuation of the ANZAC forces from ANZAC Cove in December, 1915.



Hand-written in ink and pencil, the red-covered diary was painstakingly compiled by Major John Gilbert Browne, who, at the time of the evacuation, was a member of the British staff officer corps commanding the Australian and New Zealand Division.

The diary contains a timetable for the operation on December 17 and 18, 1915.

The notes cover details of the successful evacuation, including the roles of each officer and unit, lists of weapons and materiel, the tactics to be adopted, lines of communication and contingency plans.

The diary, along with other booklets and publication, notes and photographs provide a vivid account, from a soldier's viewpoint, of the battle at Anzac Cove almost 100 years ago. A detailed brochure is available to explain the purpose and provenance of the collection.

### CORRECTION

In our last edition (Autumn 2014), we published a story about veteran museum volunteer Ray Mawson, who received his 35-years service medal. Ray has pointed out a couple of errors and he would like to set the record straight. He says: "My last year as CO of 16

RWAR was 1976 (the year Colonel R. Mercer contacted the Brigadier), not 1975.

Brig. Jamieson was CMD of 5 MD not MD of 5MD.

The profit on the raffle of two cars was approximately \$3,500 each, not \$9500 each."

Thanks, Ray, for setting us straight - Ed.

## Publicity captures community's imagination - with big benefits for the Museum

It has certainly been a busy few months for the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia since the great success from the 2014 Anzac Day program. Following the Channel 7 Today Tonight television and other media coverage, our visitor numbers have continued to be high, with an extra benefit of higher revenue from shop sales. Then we had the excellent result from the Sir Tony Robinson History Channel/Foxtel event on Sunday 25 May 2014 with nearly 1,700 visitors to our museum. The great participation by local community groups added to the overall success on the day.

The Board would like to thank all those volunteers who were able to be available to offer their services on the day. Everybody worked in well for the common good of our Museum. A tremendous team event by all concerned.

Again, the media coverage on the television, on the radio and in the newspapers gave our Museum excellent coverage that will continue for some time in the community.

I would like to acknowledge Mr Kerry Stokes AC and his excellent staff at the Kerry Stokes Collection for the loan to the museum of significant World War I items from his personal collection. Besides a diary written on Gallipoli detailing the planning for the evacuation of troops in December, 1915, there is also an excellent action painting by Harold Septimus Power of horse-drawn German artillery being captured by a British tank. We are extremely lucky to have this collection on loan and greatly appreciate their confidence in our Museum. This will provide us with a higher profile in the community.

Continued Page 4



# A most successful event - the Tour of Duty production day - a message of thanks from the manager

The Sir Tony Robinson "Tour of Duty" was to date the most successful event held at the museum with the exception of the Band Concerts. The support given to the event by the numerous volunteers and organisations is to be commended especially from the organising and liaising skills of Graham McEwan and the Team Leaders. As I went around the museum after the event there was a noticeable boost in the morale of the volunteers and staff.

There are also others who supported the event who must be thanked. Firstly Captain Wayne Gardiner who was tasked with organising and running the appraisal and vetting team which consisted of local valuers and dealers in militaria, Mr John (Bluey) Burrridge and his son David. John and David, along with Captain Gardiner, were busy all day appraising the many items that families and individuals brought into the event. Each individual was afforded the time for the team to appraise their items. They were amazed at what still is out there with items that have not seen the light of day for many years. A number of items were donated to the museum collection with negotiations still going on for a significant medal group, more on that donation in a later issue of this magazine.

I would also like to thank the Military Police Domestic Policing Unit for their professionalism in providing the security for the event, their constant vigilance resulted in a trouble free day.

Defence Support and Reform Group- WA who own the barracks infrastructure and were responsible for certain aspects of the corporate governance of the event, were represented by Olwen Parry, who ended up assisting in the food tent as a temporary volunteer for the day.

Defence Public Relations Officer

Mr Gary Booth attended to control all aspects of the media and ensure that the media coverage of the event added to the reputation of Army and the museum, he was also pleased about a trouble free day. Gary has submitted an article on the event for the Army Newspaper.

I personally was happy and proud of the museum and its volunteers. Everything went to plan with no accidents or incidents. The exposure the museum received through the marketing and media efforts of the museum and the Tour of Duty team will ensure a higher profile for the museum, which should result in more visitations and opportunities for fund raising. The museum will continue to ensure that more events are scheduled with planning underway for a Victoria Cross display scheduled for November.

Again thanks to all those volunteers (whether mentioned or not) who supported the event.

Major Henry Fijolek  
Manager



## Publicity brings big benefits

(from Page 4)

After the excellent reorganisation of the shop by Thelma Chilton, Richard Bennett and Lloyd Halvorson, we are now stocking more items that the public are prepared to purchase. Well done to those people.

Although we have just recently completed some training courses, we will conduct some more tour guide and duty officer courses in July. If you are interested, please contact the acting Human Resources Manager, Mark Stevens, and advise him of your interest.

Lastly, please remember that our mid-year Volunteer sausage sizzle will be on Sunday 29 June 2014 at 1600 in the Officers Mess. This is a Volunteer only event and we require notification of your attendance. Please advise the main administration office if you are attending.

Well done to all the hard working Volunteers at the above events.



Graham McEwan  
Chairman



# A West Australian soldier first to win America's highest honour for gallantry in WW1

A set of medals and other items belonging to an Australian soldier in World War 1, described as “significant and valuable”, has been presented to the Army Museum of Western Australia by the man’s descendants and their families, for display in the World War 1 Gallery.



The medal group is important because its original owner, the late Sgt John Padgett, was one of three Australians to win the American Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), the second-highest American bravery award. John Rush Padgett, who was born in England, but migrated with his wife to Western Australia and lived in Pickering Brook, joined the 44th Battalion, AIF, which was raised in Claremont. The battalion left in June 1916 for Britain for further training and arrived on the front line in France in December. The 44th spent a cold winter moving between the front line and service or training areas. It was during the attack on the

Hindenburg Line in 1918 that Sgt Padgett carried out the action that won him the DSC - American.



The citation reads:  
“John Rush Padgett, sergeant, number 546, 44th Battalion, AIF, for extraordinary heroism in action in the attack on the Hindenburg Line, September

**Pictured left:** members of the Padgett family (from left), Benjamin Padgett, Bruce Padgett, Tynka Padgett, Murray Padgett, Jenny Padgett, Jodee Gerard, Belinda Gerard, Renee Gerard, Peter Lam, Conrad Speed.

Above: John Padgett’s grandson, Murray, with a portrait of Sgt Padgett and the medal set in the World War 1 Gallery.

Below left: The portrait, medal group, dog tags and bronze devotions as displayed in the gallery.

29, 1918. Sgt Padgett led his section in a successful attack on an enemy trench. When a grenade fell amongst his section, he picked it up and threw it back towards the enemy. Later he exposed himself to heavy fire in order to carry an American soldier to a place of safety. This action took place when fighting alongside the American 27th Division.”

By the time the 44th was relieved on October 3, only 80 of its original 600 men were left.

The battalion was out of the line when the war ended and was disbanded in May, 1919.



# Sir Tony Robinson conquers Fremantle - highlights of the

A crowd of 1,640 visited the Army Museum for the production of the 11th and final segment of "Tour of Duty" a History Channel program about the ANZAC contribution to World War 1 and the Gallipoli Campaign, hosted by Sir Tony Robinson. The host won the crowd's hearts within minutes of his arrival - in restored Bren Gun Carrier from the museum's collection.

The event called for an unprecedented turnout of volunteers, museum staff and members of the community to provide the audience and creative input for the show.

And there was the added bonus of an input of almost \$5,000 into the Army Museum of WA Foundation's coffers, from entry fees and refreshments sales.

The head of the Australian Army's History Unit museums, Neil Dailey, and the show's producers declared the Fremantle the event the best of the series, which has been produced in locations around Australia.

These pages show some of the events during the day and the people who attended to make it such a success.

Pictures by David Nicolson.





# "Tour of Duty" production at the Army Museum of WA





# THE SAS - OUT OF THE SHADOWS

by Museum Curator, Robert Mitchell

As volunteers at the Army Museum of Western Australia, many of us have enjoyed access to the museum and collections of the Special Air Service Regiment and a chance to better understand the roles, traditions and history of the Regiment. The community rarely gets a similar opportunity except when an exhibition like SASR - Out of the Shadows comes along. Out of the

Shadows offered an exclusive glimpse into the secret world of Australia's Special Air Service Regiment on the Golden Jubilee of the Regiment's formation in 1964.



Presented at the Western Australian Museum from 12 April to 1 June, Out of the Shadows, provided glimpses of the Regiment's service through art and artefacts. This service extends from the jungles of Borneo and Vietnam, to peacekeeping in Rwanda, Somalia and Timor through to the ongoing war on terror in Afghanistan.

In a unique community art initiative, artist Ian Coate was in the Gallery every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday throughout the duration of the exhibition. Producing art works inspired by the exhibition and SASR, he welcomed interaction and engagement as the artworks come to life. Part of the engagement was discussing the special relationship he has as Artist in Residence and his commitment to accuracy and detail to convey the reality behind the SASR motto, "Who Dares Wins". A part of the engagement was the opportunity to add a few brush strokes to Ian's current painting depicting an action in Afghanistan.

For more on Ian Coate visit:  
<http://iancoate.com>

For information on SASR Trust visit:  
<http://sasresourcesfund.org.au/>

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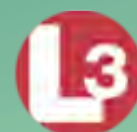
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