

'War has been one of the defining forces in Australian history.'

The *Oxford Companion to Australian Military History* is a comprehensive guide to the Australian military experience. It combines extensive information with analysis and comment in a manner that is accessible to general readers as well as to those with specialist interests.



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PETER DENNIS JEFFREY GREY EWAN MORRIS ROBIN PRIOR

This landmark book explores the richness and diversity of Australian military history, which has had a profound impact on the development of Australia. The two world wars — destructive yet often ennobling commitments for the young nation — have been the most important experiences for several generations of Australians, but military considerations and obligations have had a pervasive influence throughout Australian history. Just as it would be impossible to form a proper understanding of that history without due consideration of Gallipoli, the Kokoda Track, and conscription, it would be difficult to exaggerate the abiding influence of the 'digger' and the Anzac legend. From the beginnings of European settlement and the violence that accompanied it, to the more recent engagement of Australian forces in the Gulf War and peace-keeping operations in Africa, military questions have been a constant theme in the story of Australia. Anzac and Gallipoli are well-known names in the Australian consciousness, but they can only be fully appreciated if examined in a wider context. This book does just that, providing a detailed analysis of Australian military achievements and an assessment of the importance of war in Australian history.

The *Oxford Companion to Australian Military History* covers all aspects of this complex and fascinating subject. It contains more than 800 individual entries, written by leading military historians. All the major campaigns and battles are examined, along with significant military and civilian figures, such as Thomas Blamey, John Monash, John Curtin, Albert Jacka and Charles Bean. There are articles on weapons and weapons systems and on the development of the individual services and their component parts. The roles of industry, science and technology are analysed, and a series of essay-length articles discusses key aspects of our military legacy, including military humour and the impact of war on Australian film, television and literature.

Here, then, is the most comprehensive guide to Australian military history, ranging from the colonial period to the 1990s. The *Companion* is supplemented by 100 photographs and by more than 30 maps. It is an indispensable source for students, specialists and general readers alike.

Front cover painting and detail on spine:
H. Septimus Power, *The gunners, France, 1924*,
oil on canvas, 94.5 x 94.5 cm. Australian War Memorial (9100).

Back cover photograph:
Trench warfare on the Western Front. Stretcher bearers of the 45th
Battalion in a trench near Ypres, Belgium, 28 September 1917.
(Australian War Memorial E00839)