

★
Bridges
Brudenell White
Creswell
Chauvel
Monash
Lavarack
Sturdee
Gordon Bennett
Morshead
Blamey
Rowell
Herring
Vasey
Robertson
Scherger
Wilton
 ★

THE COMMANDERS Edited by D.M. Horner

George Allen &
 Unwin Australia

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THE
COMMANDERS
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★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Australian military leadership
in the twentieth century
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Edited by **D.M. Horner**

This book tells the story of sixteen of Australia's most eminent military men, as they performed under the stress of strategy-making and in the heat of battle. In scrutinising critical periods in the careers of such men as Brudenell White, Chauvel, Monash, Gordon Bennett, Blamey and Scherger, it addresses a number of fascinating questions:

- Is there an Australian style of command?
- How well have Australian officers been prepared for high command?
- How have Australian commanders handled the problems of coalition way or co-operation with allies?
- How have political direction, organisational structures and entrenched defence policy affected the performance of commanders in the field?

Each re-evaluation compares performance with reputation. Some of the figures examined are familiar (What was the real basis of Monash's reputation as a commander? Was Blamey worthy of the field-marshal's baton?); some are given an appraisal long denied them.

This roll-call of some of Australia's greatest warriors presents a fascinating picture of the realities of war at the top. Each of the sixteen lives examined presents a revealing account of the conditions under which crucial military decisions are made and carried out — on the battlefield, at headquarters, in victory and defeat.

The *Commanders* will appeal not only to students of military affairs but to everyone interested in Australian history and biography.

Major David Horner PhD is a serving officer, co-author of *New Directions in Strategic Thinking* and *Australian Defence Policy for the 1980s*, and author of *Crisis of Command and High Command: Australia and Allied Strategy 1939-45*.