

The Southern Yarn

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

April 2015



downundercalendar

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ANZAC

1915
100
2015

*Our special DUCW
ANZAC commemoration
Saturday 25th April*

**Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada
958 Ferry Road, Winnipeg**

Formal Ceremony starts promptly at 2:00 pm followed by Afternoon Tea Reception and panel discussion. DUCW Members attending the event will have free access to the Aviation Museum from 10:00 am to closing.



Please bring along any memorabilia from New Zealand or Australian military service.

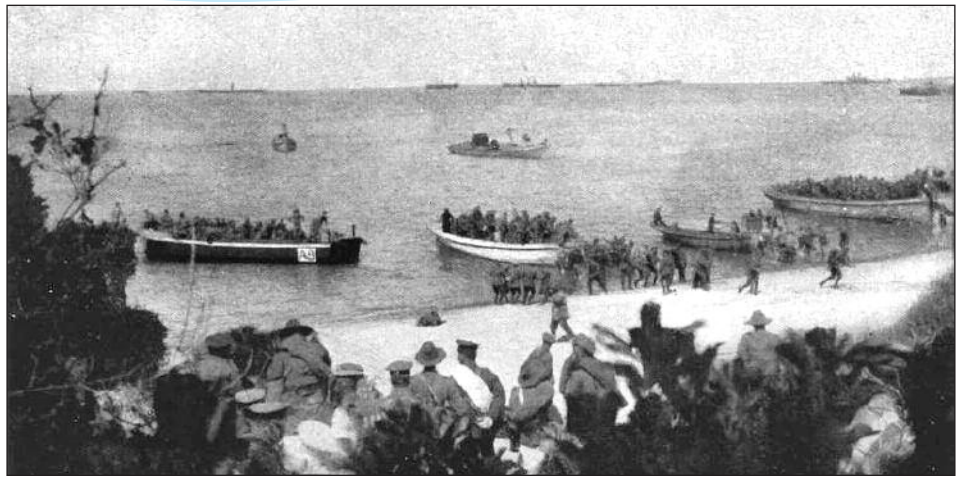
RSVP

If you let us know you are coming, RSVP to (Liz) social@downunderclub.mb.ca or 204-487-0067.

Please renew for 2015

Individual \$20 ... Couple/family \$30 ...

Dues for 2015 can be made online with Pay Pal, by cheque or pay in person at the next event. Please call **Norm Griffiths** at 204-661-3873 to indicate your intentions. Phone Peter Debenham at 204-955-0393 for assistance, or email peter@pdlactg.ca.



The Australian Imperial Forces, NSW Regiment, 4th Battalion, landing at Gallipoli at 8 AM, 25th April, 1915. Join us for a special commemorative 100th anniversary ceremony and event in Winnipeg.

April 25th: 100 years of ANZAC history

It was early in the morning on Sunday, 25th April, 1915, with a final off-shore disembarking and scrambled landing on the beaches of the hilly and rugged coastal incline of the Gallipoli Peninsula, that the heroic ANZAC story began. This year the DUCW invites you to reflect on this experience as we commemorate one hundred years since the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps troops sailed into the Aegean Sea, ostensibly battle ready, with orders to claim the Turkish lands and help secure a route into the Black Sea.

Have you ever wondered why Australians and New Zealanders were sent to Turkey to fight? Did you know they were joined by Newfoundlanders? What was the strategy behind the Gallipoli campaign? What good came out of this battle at the time and what did it contribute the war in the long run? We know some of the facts, but what does it all mean one century later?

Our ANZAC History Presentation *Lest We Forget First World War Mates: ANZACs and Newfoundland Canadians Together at War* following the Anzac Day formal ceremony will have us reflect on the politics, strategies and supreme sacrifices made by the troops who defended our nations. **Dr. James Ferguson** and **Captain Emmanuel Goffi** from the Centre for Defence and Security Studies and **Warren Otto** from the Military Support Unit at the University of Manitoba and Kelvin

teacher **Chris Young** will share their knowledge and experience and help us relive some of the experiences of the ANZACs and their mates. See more details throughout this issue of the *Yarn* and on our website.



Photo 1: Mrs Anita Lee, Murray Burt, and Lieutenant Governor Philip Lee. Photo: Jenny Gates.

Commonwealth Day celebrations

On Tuesday March 10, several members of the Down Under Club joined members of the Commonwealth Society of Manitoba (CSM) for the annual Commonwealth Day Celebration at the Lieutenant Governor's House. Our generous hosts, the Honourable Philip Lee and Mrs Anita Lee, welcomed each of us personally and spoke about the importance of Commonwealth Day. This was followed by a report on the Commonwealth from Murray Burt, president of the CSM, and a delicious supper for us all to enjoy. DUCW members Peter and Joanne Debenham, Murray and Betsy Burt, Gordon Keatch and Jenny Gates mingled with other guests during the two-hour event.

online



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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



G'day -
Through my high school years in Queensland I was in the Army Cadet Corps, so of course ANZAC Day was an important and proud event for us, including marching through Sandgate along with the Vets and many other groups - a common annual scene that repeats in every community throughout Australia and New Zealand. So it has been interesting to research a bit of the history around the genesis of the commemoration: that landing at Gallipoli 100 years ago. For one thing, I learned that there was an Australian sub in the thick of it, with orders to "run amok" (p. 4)! I also learned a bit about the Officer who was put in charge of the "ANZACs", Lieutenant General Sir William Birdwood (Getting to know ...) and the three Divisions that converged there for the landing (p. 6). I trust you too will find it enlightening. For me, the more I read, the more respect I gained for the courage and sacrifice of those involved. Lest we Forget!

Thanks again to others who have contributed to this edition - Murray, Jenny, Laurie, Terry, Peter, Chris, Ed, and Liz.

The birds i view this month are geese. Who knew there are Canada Geese in NZ? And that some tried their luck in Australia (p. 8)?

Enjoy!

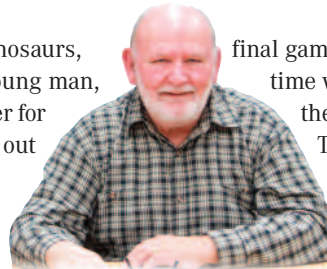
Charlie Powell



Soldiers of 11th Battalion posing on the Great Pyramid of Giza on 10 January 1915, prior to the landing at Gallipoli.

Back in the Age of Dinosaurs, when I was still a young man, pulling an all-nighter for study purposes, or staying out until dawn carousing with your buddies (or your young lady), was not an uncommon occurrence, and most of us dealt with the sleep deprivation fairly easily. In the last week, twice, I was reminded that I cannot now do easily what was once fairly common.

Blame it on the ICC Cricket World Cup from Melbourne. With local television outlets charging ridiculously high subscriptions to watch the cricket as a pay per view event, I subscribed to an English web-site at a reasonable rate for the semi final and



president's ramblings

Peter Munn

final game, and streamed it to the TV. Start time was 10.30pm Winnipeg time, and the games finished about 6am.

Thursday morning after the semi-final vs India was spent trying to catch up on sleep. Peter Debenham watched the game with me, and he went straight to work at 6.30am after the game. Talk about stamina. Saturday night was the final vs the Kiwis. Terry Roberts turned up to cheer for the Kiwis, and Peter and I backed the Aussies. It was not as close as most people expected, but a good spectacle from the MCG. Peter had a full morning of volunteer work to look forward to, me.....I slept for a long time.

See you at the Anzac Day service,
Peter



Congratulations to our own DUCW member, Air Cadet **Peter Vernon**, on his recent promotion. He is now LAC (Leading Air Cadet) Peter Vernon.

Air, Army, and Sea Cadet Corps and Squadrons will be represented at our Anzac Day ceremonies on April 25th, as part of their community service.

Dignitaries from Canadian and foreign armed forces will also be in attendance at this event, which marks 100 years since the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli.

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More than 40 years' South Pacific experience



John Malcolm Fraser, 1930-2015

No Australian politician became Prime Minister in more controversial circumstances than Malcolm Fraser, whose name will forever be associated with the dismissal of the Whitlam Government, and no prime minister's accession to power has been more hotly debated ever since. Certainly, few political events convulsed the nation as that did. Yet, however shocked and outraged people were at the time, at the subsequent election, just a few weeks later, on December 13, 1975, the electorate ignored Whitlam's appeal to maintain the rage, and confirmed Fraser in office with the largest majority in Australian history.

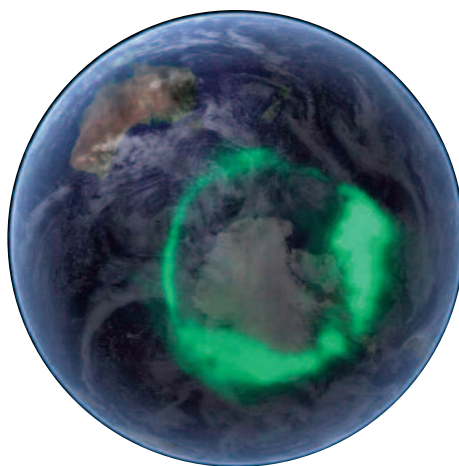
From being Leader of the Opposition, Fraser, who died March 20 aged 84, won his way to The Lodge by blocking Supply and creating a House of Representatives-Senate deadlock, which Governor-General Sir John Kerr broke by dismissing the Whitlam Government and appointing Fraser as caretaker Prime Minister until an election was held. [More online].

The tie that binds ..

There is a move to make work and movement within the Commonwealth similar to the way things work in the European Union. The Commonwealth Freedom of Movement Organization has a petition with



nearly 25,000 online signatures. James Skinner, who is the Organization's founder and Executive Director, says he plans to send the petition to politicians in New Zealand and Australia, and then to the Canadian and British governments, pending elections in each respective country. [More online]



Aurora Australis

The NT News reported March 19 that a rare show of the Aurora Australis was seen in central Australia. Some spectacular photos can be seen online.

newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



It's all uphill...

Baldwin Street, in Dunedin, New Zealand, is considered the world's steepest residential street. It is located in the residential suburb

of North East Valley, 3.5 kilometres (2.2 mi) northeast of Dunedin's city centre. [More online.]



Brendon McCullum was named the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal winner.

Remember Richard Hadlee?

Sir Richard Hadlee played in 86 test matches for New Zealand over an eighteen year period. When he captured his 374th test wicket on the 12th of November 1988 against India in Bangalore, he became the world record holder. He went on to become one of the greatest all rounders in the history of the game, as he captured 431 test wickets & scored over 3000 test runs.

Well, this year **Brendon McCullum** (pictured here) has won the medal named for him: Brendon McCullum's galvanising leadership and explosive batting has seen him hold off strong challenges to be named the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal winner at this year's NZ Cricket Awards. McCullum, 33, was crowned at the New Zealand Cricket Awards held in a glitzy ceremony at Auckland's Langham hotel tonight.

He led New Zealand to the World Cup final in Melbourne last week and although they fell one game short of perfection, his attacking and instinctive captaincy captured the imagination of the public who embraced this team like never before.

Lost in the World Cup hubbub, perhaps, was the fact that McCullum had a brilliant year with the bat, becoming the first New Zealander to score 1000 test runs in a calendar year. [More online.]

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ANZAC 1915 100 2015

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DUCW ANZAC commemoration
Saturday 25th April, 2015*

**Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada,
958 Ferry Road, Winnipeg**

- Formal Ceremony 2:00 pm
- Afternoon Tea Reception
- ANZAC History panel discussion 3:00 pm
- Free access to the Aviation Museum
- RSVP appreciated - 204-487-0067



Australian sub ordered to “run amok” at Gallipoli

The Royal Australian Navy’s new E Class submarine, AE2, arriving at Portsmouth on 17 February 1914 to prepare for the voyage to Australia. [AWM P01075.043]

The Australian submarine, the first Allied warship to make it though the Narrows, was the AE2 commanded by Irishman Lieutenant-Commander Henry Stoker.

The date for the great Allied invasion was fast approaching and

the admirals were keen to get the submarines through to cause maximum disruption in the Turkish rear areas. The AE2’s first attempt on 23 April failed due to faulty machinery. But, on the evening of 24 April, Stoker was again given the go-ahead, being told by Admiral de Robeck that if they got through, then ‘there is nothing we will not do for you’. Commodore Keys issued more dramatic instructions. Stoker was to sink any mine-laying ships he saw in the Narrows and, as the landings were due at dawn the next day, to ‘generally run amok’ around Çannakale and cause maximum disruption to the Turks. [More online.]



Websites and apps: modern takes on an event 100 years ago

Down Under public broadcasters have created impressive interactive resources which bring alive the story from 100 years ago. Check out the ABC's new website and download their dynamic 'app' for your tablet integrating details and timelines, concentrating on the first day of landing. Check it out at our event. Many elements come from an award-winning online documentary. www.abc.net.au/gallipoli

Radio New Zealand also has an ANZAC Interactive website titled "The war to end all wars" at www.radionz.co.nz/events/anzac-2015



Lieutenant General Sir William Birdwood

Lieutenant General Sir William Birdwood, [pic in Dropbox] a senior officer in Britain's pre-1914 Indian Army, was appointed in December 1914 to the command of the Australian and New Zealand forces then assembling in Egypt. These units were soon formed into a corps, the 'A and NZ Army Corps', of two divisions – the 1st Australian Division AIF (Australian Imperial Force) commanded by Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges and the New Zealand and Australian Division commanded by Major General Sir Alexander Godley.

In the corps headquarters at Shepherd's Hotel in Cairo, material addressed to the 'A and NZ Army Corps' piled up and the title seemed far too cumbersome. Demands were made for a simpler name and Lieutenant AT White, an Englishman, suggested the abbreviation ANZAC. Birdwood approved and the word 'Anzac' was born. On Gallipoli, it was Birdwood who requested that the position held by the Australians and New Zealanders



Lieutenant General Sir William Birdwood

be known as Anzac and that the place where most of them had landed on 25 April be known as Anzac Cove. Soon those who fought there were themselves being called Anzacs. In late 1917, an AIF order approved

by Birdwood officially obliged all those who had taken part in the Gallipoli campaign to wear a small brass 'A' for Anzac on their unit colour patches on each shoulder of their uniforms.

Birdwood has been described as the 'Soul of Anzac'. His Corps headquarters was located in the hills just behind Anzac Cove and was open to Turkish shelling. Anxious members of his staff often tried to pile up bales of hay on the exposed parts of his dugout to protect him, and according to Australia's official historian, Charles Bean, 'many a man lost his life within a stone's throw of the place'. Birdwood was often to be seen walking around the Anzac position and up along the trenches on the ridges. On most days, he could also be observed swimming off the beach, sharing the dangers of Turkish shelling with everyone else. Such behaviour made him, unlike many generals, very visible to his men, and Bean summed up this aspect of Birdwood: Above all, he possessed the quality, which went straight to the heart of Australians, of extreme personal courage. [Charles Bean, The Story of Anzac, Vol 1, Sydney, 1941, p121] [Read more online.]

100yearsago

history from downunder

Three divisions converge on Gallipoli for the April 25th landing. While that ill-fated battle plays out, an Australian submarine gets through the Narrows and disrupts some of the naval action against the Allies.

1. **The 29th Division** embarked at Avonmouth on 16-22 March 1915 and went via Malta to Alexandria. On 7 April the first units to have arrived at Egypt then to re-embark for the move to Mudros, the deep water harbour at the island of Imbros that was going to be used as a forward base for operations at Gallipoli. The Division landed at Cape Helles on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 [More online.]

2. **New Zealand and Australian Division:** A New Zealand Expeditionary Force of just under 8500 men, volunteers for overseas service drawn from the recently raised Territorial Force, sailed from home on 14 October 1914. En route they linked up with an Australian brigade and, original intentions of going to England having been changed, together arrived at Egypt on 3 December 1914. 2 February 1915 : engaged in defending

against Turkish attack on the Suez Canal. 1 April 1915 : Division receives orders to prepare to make amphibious assault at Gallipoli. 25 April 1915 : Division lands at what was to become forever known as ANZAC Beach, Gallipoli [More online.]

3. **63rd (Royal Naval) Division:** After a lengthy period of refit and training (scattered in various locations, and still short of many of the units that ordinarily made up the

establishment of a Division), the Division moved to Egypt preparatory to the Gallipoli campaign. 25 April: Division carries out feint landing at Bulair, while British 29th Division lands at Cape Helles beaches and Australian and New Zealand forces at beach near Gaba Tepe / Ari Burnu soon named Anzac cove. Plymouth Battalion makes a landing at "Y" beach in support of 29th Division. [More online.]

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Alpine beauty in NZ's North Island grumbles to scientists

Minor volcanic unrest has prompted scientists to raise the volcanic alert level for Mount Ngauruhoe in the central North Island. GNS Science says it is now rated at level 1.

The most likely hazards associated with the new level include steam eruptions, volcanic gases and earthquakes near the mountain.

The famous volcano, often dubbed Mt Doom after featuring in Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings film trilogy. Despite the change, Mount Ngauruhoe is still in a normal, non-eruptive state, authorities say. – *Source: NZH*

Barbados to unlink Queen, elect President

Barbados, that Caribbean island jewel and magnet for North American and UK tourism, is about to sever its link with the Queen as head of state. It has been independent from the UK since 1966, but Prime Minister Freundel Stuart says the government is making plans for the change. The head of state thereafter will be a president.

According to the *Jamaica Observer*, Stuart told supporters of his ruling Democratic Labour party (DLP) that the island would function as a republic after a draft bill is put before parliament and passed. The opposition party seems to be in accord with the move.

"We respect (the Queen) very highly as head of the Commonwealth and accept that she and all of her successors will continue to be at the apex of our political understanding. But, in terms of Barbados's constitutional status, we have to move from a monarchical system to a republican form of government in the very near future," Stuart said.

George Pilgrim, DLP general secretary, said the change will likely coincide with the 50th anniversary of Barbados's independence in 2016.

Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew dies at 91, leaving legacy

The passing of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew last month at 91 marked the end of an era of national growth and government maturity in Southeast Asia that has no parallels and is unlikely to be matched. You have to look no further than his neighbors:

– **Indonesia's** Suharto just next door, advertised himself as a benign father of the nation. His regime collapsed under the weight of its corruption in 1998.

– **The Philippines'** Ferdinand Marcos in the 1980s, faded unceremoniously trying to legitimize the idea that you can have progress without democracy, at least the kind with a robust opposition, critical press and changes of government.

– And more recently, the modern Commonwealth nation of **Malaysia**, formed in 1963 (and from which Singapore separated in 1965) is sturdy but has not fared as brilliantly as the tiny island party that left it.

Lee Kuan Yew did marvels for his country, transforming an island city from a swampy colonial port to a nation that is an economic dynamo in the course of a generation. Mr. Lee headed his city-state for 31 straight years, brooking little dissent. His son, Lee Hsien Loong, is Prime Minister today, and is considered smart and capable in his own right. Their People's Action Party has held power since 1959. He was an incorruptible strongman who really did put country above personal gain.

Powerful leaders around the world applauded. Gulf State sheiks, Russia's Vladimir Putin, a succession of Chinese leaders heeded his advice. If he could raise his country to riches without all the fuss and bother of democratic politics, why couldn't they? The kind of leader that Mr. Lee personified – stern, fatherly, morally upright, far-seeing, a good shepherd to his flock – has enormous appeal even in a democratic age. His is the legacy of a leader so sadly lost to us. – *Sources: GofM; wire services*

Vanuatu makes slow recovery after Cyclone Pam

Three weeks after one of the worst cyclones in a century battered the population of Vanuatu and left it physically and emotionally battered and largely homeless, the struggle for a nation to survive continues.

Efforts to rebuild the tiny South Pacific Commonwealth state are gaining speed, however, and relief supplies are starting to reach some of the remote islands. Up to 90% of homes in the main islands of the archipelago have been destroyed. When Cyclone Pam

had finished tearing through the country the bodies of 17 victims were found in the first days. Sadly the count has not ended.

Most of the population this tiny state (11,400 in July 2013), northeast of Australia, were left bereft of everything. Tuvalu, second smallest of the Commonwealth's 53 nations, was on its knees.

UN Humanitarian Affairs estimated there were thousands in evacuation centres and more in need of temporary shelter. Vanuatu's government, coordinating relief efforts, is struggling to get basic aid – food, fuel, clean water, shelter, and medical care to more than 60 inhabited remote islands in the archipelago.

Prime Minister Joe Natuman said the food aid, included tinned meat and fish, instant noodles and also more than 1 million cabbage seeds with gardening tools had been sent out. He has urged people to plant green vegetables as soon as possible to replace destroyed crops.

Food, shelters and hygiene kits donated by Australia were loaded onto two ships with one headed for the Shepherd Islands and the other to the outer islands around Efate.

"On the good side, the government is doing a fantastic job in assessing what the needs are." Aerial surveys of the islands are continuing with troops from Australia, New Zealand and France all helping in the relief effort.

A NZAF plane flying over Vanuatu's northern islands has surveyed the damage and checking on potential water sources. Speaking from the plane, Vanuatu representative Cliff Luke said the situation was dire. "The leftover water in those creeks is what people are using now," he said. "They are basically drinking mud. There's no more running water."

The UN says Vanuatu needed at least \$US2 million in financial aid. An RAAF transport plane has hauled supplies and aid workers from Brisbane and two Australian Blackhawk helicopters are already in Vanuatu together with HMAS Tobruk.

Murray Burt writes this column to raise sensitivities to the Commonwealth's value and to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world. The Commonwealth name and significance is rarely mentioned in daily news, he says. It should be. Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; secretary of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada advisory board; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; a senator of the 166th Battery RCA (Kenora) and a director of The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.

Geese: good for a gander

Spring is definitely sprung – many of our feathered friends have returned from their southern sojourns. Robins are back, listening in the grass for the early worm in the quiet dawn; Dark-eyed Juncos are foraging and competing at the feeders with the resident Sparrows, Chickadees and Nuthatches; “snow-birds” are showing up at Richardson International Airport. One of the best signs however, is the overhead honking and unmistakable V formations of the Canada Geese.

Branta canadensis returns each year from southern States and Mexico to breed

and add nutrients to parks and golf courses – except, that is, the flock that brought

down US Airways Flight 1549 into the

Hudson River in 2009. They are native to the arctic and temperate regions of North America.

While their habits may tend to upset some of our recreational activities, they do have a calming effect on traffic and you have to admire the way they have accommodated our intrusion into their space – continuing year after year to return and raise their young as they have for millennia.

They were introduced to New Zealand early last century as a game bird, the native species having succumbed to extinction in the 1500s. In late December 2007, 4 of these apparently tried the migration thing and were spotted in New South Wales; they had disappeared by the end of January 2008. Hmm ...

Australia is home to a couple of distant relatives. In the south is the Cape Barren goose (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*) and in the north, the Magpie Goose (*Anseranas semi-palmata*). Both groups are year-round residents in their habitat. While working in Darwin in the early 70s, I sometimes headed down “the track” (Stuart Highway) on my days off. A couple of times I tried to get to Kakadu, but was stopped on one occasion by a flooded river crossing and on another by a stubborn water buffalo (this was pre-Crocodyl Dundee, so I didn’t know about the fist-turning trick). However I did get to witness noisy flocks of Magpie Geese.

I think the superheroes of the family has to be the Bar-headed geese: they migrate over the Himalayas! It is believed that their physiology slowly adapted to the extreme low oxygen and temperature as the migration continued millennia after millennia while the mountains pushed up higher.

Alison Cassidy penned this thoughtful tribute and advice: “Wild Geese”.

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine. Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting-over and over announcing your place In the family of things.



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Peter Debenham B.Com., CA
Partner

Suite 201, 1215 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg
Office: 204.339.8038 Fax: 204.339.8066
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THE DOWN UNDER
CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

Station Main, PO Box 1655,
Winnipeg Manitoba Canada R3C 2Z6
1-204-832-4405

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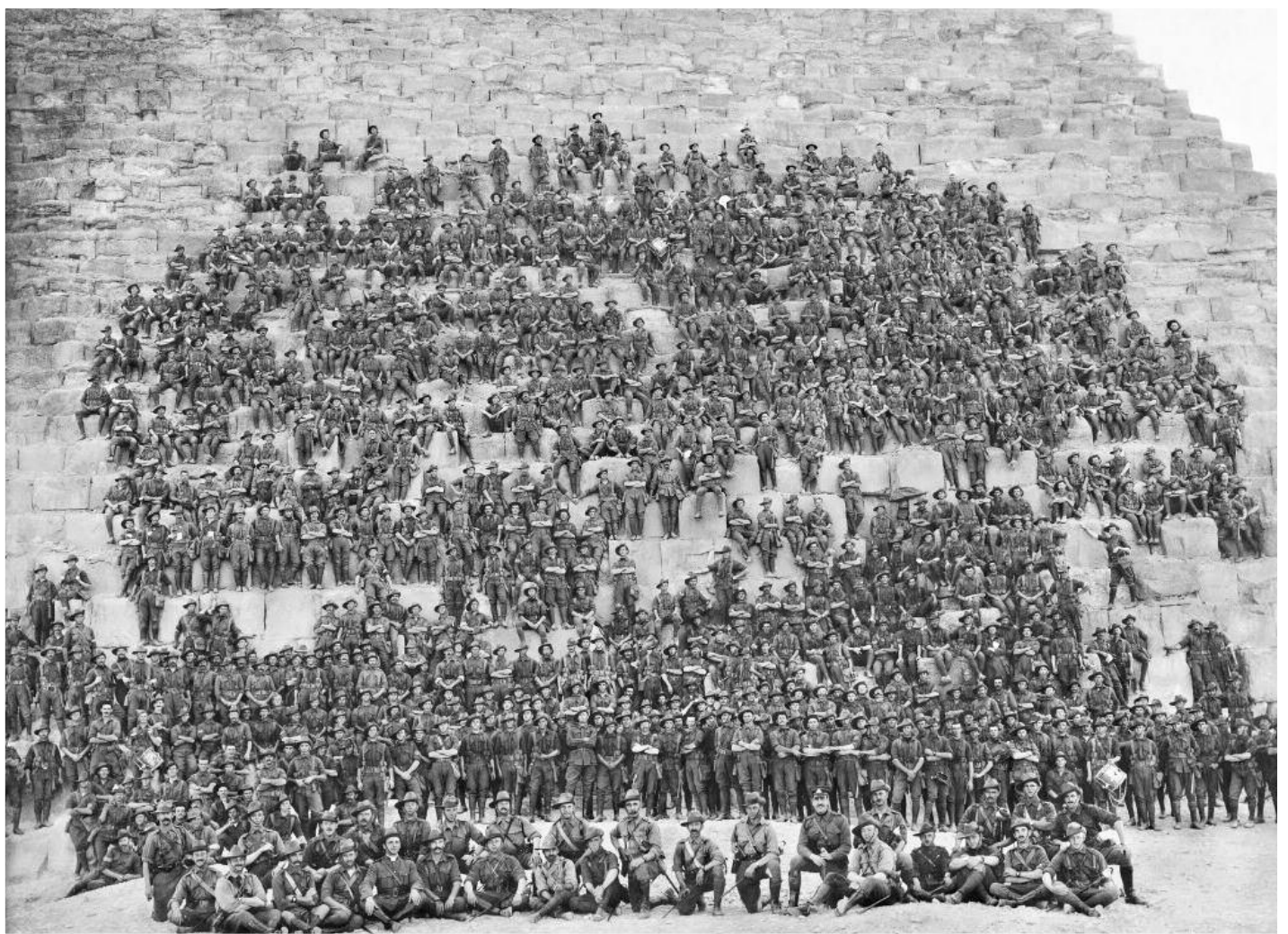
Retiring Namibia president awarded \$5-million leadership prize

Outgoing Namibian president Hifikepunye Pohamba, who left office last month, collects \$5-million he has been awarded as winner of the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership. Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma warmly congratulated him, the third Commonwealth leader to be so honored.

"The Commonwealth is once again proud that the winner of this prestigious prize is an

outstanding leader from one of our member countries," said Mr Sharma. "I am proud that Namibia, along with six other Commonwealth member states, ranked in the top ten on the 2014 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance."

The award is for democratically elected African leaders who excel in governance and who step down from office at the end of their terms. Hage Geingob, was inaugurated last month as Namibian president.



Soldiers of 11th Battalion posing on the Great Pyramid of Giza on 10 January 1915, prior to the landing at Gallipoli. (We ran this on page 2, but it is such a great photo that we wanted to make it bigger for you. It is hard to say how many of these soldiers survived Gallipoli.)