

'The Simpson Prize'

ANZAC: The Past, Present and Future

They went to war as young, carefree men with their whole futures ahead of them. Their Gallipoli campaign began with two agonizing and difficult landings at ANZAC Cove on April 25th, 1915. The campaign was destined to become more than the glorious victory they expected and rapidly showed them the harsh realities of war. Determination and courage, in the face of adversity, was ever present in the men that fought there. Today, we continue to see these qualities displayed in Australians during the best and worst times, in an ever changing world. This is the legacy of our ANZACs.

“Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear.”¹

The Gallipoli campaign claimed many young lives on both sides, and would have claimed many more if it was not for the sacrifices made by fellow comrades on the front. To the men in the Gallipoli trenches, John Simpson Kirkpatrick was simply known as the man with the donkey, but today his courage to rescue men from the battlefields is recognized as one of the most famous and touching images of the campaign. Instead of agonizing over the difficulty of his role, Simpson demonstrated his own resourcefulness by finding a stray donkey to help share the load. During this time no man was ever free from the threat of danger but men like Simpson let their courage surpass any fear or doubt they may have had.

There is no doubt that Simpson would have been anxious of his surroundings, but he was driven by the suffering of those men around him, his mateship towards them and his self obligation to risk his own life to save another, which put all his fears aside and made him the

¹ Ambrose Redmoon (Quotes. Internet, 2005)

courageous man that he was. Many men owed their lives to Simpson's courage and his legacy to help others continues today, in a new generation of heroes.

Although former elite footballer, Jason McCartney is not a war veteran like Simpson, or even a famous television superhero, he is still an inspiring young Australian who became a national hero after the worst of October 12th, 2002. Despite suffering horrific injuries from the initial bombing in Bali, Jason showed strong courage and great determination by taking an enormous risk to rescue two sisters from the wreckage.

A letter written to Jason McCartney from Bali survivor, Simon Quayle, proved that many others share a high opinion of Jason. He stated: *"Your courage to tackle adversity, your ability to achieve dreams and your capacity to inspire makes you a great Aussie."*²

Jason McCartney's story is extremely moving. His amazing courage to survive and become a stronger, better person shone through all his heartache and suffering. The ordinary men who became the immortal ANZACs overcame the adversity of the Gallipoli campaign with their own strong sense of courage, resourcefulness and humanity. Jason shows that in the worst times, even today, ordinary people can still do extraordinary things and show the great strengths that were true to the first ANZACs.

*"Determination is the wake-call of human will."*³

The battle for Lone Pine, notably one of the most famous assaults of the Gallipoli campaign, was launched during the late afternoon of August the 6th, 1915. It was declared a victory by the Australians but that victory cost a terrible number of deaths on either side. Hugh Anderson was part of the historical battle, he was later injured but continued to send correspondence to his parents telling them of his role. *"I will never forget that picture; (the ANZACs charging towards the Turkish trenches) I was well up with the rest racing like mad, all nervousness gone now. The shrapnel falling as thick as hail, many a good man went down here although I never noticed it at the time."*⁴

² Letter to Jason McCartney. Internet, 2002)

³ Anthony Robbins (Quotes. Internet, 2005)

⁴ The Battle for Lone Pine. Internet, 2001

Hugh Evans may share nothing in common with this man except his name, but they both displayed the determination to continue forward when everything else seems to be falling apart. In 2004, at just twenty years of age Hugh Evans became Young Australian of the Year, honoured for his many years of dedication to helping the most underprivileged people in the world. His resourcefulness and determination to fight for poverty and injustice began at a young age after travelling to India. Upon returning to Australia, he recalled his experiences: *“The greatest injustices I witnessed this year happened, not when comparing the poor of India to the rich of India, but upon arriving home. I couldn’t understand why we as Australians are so determined to get the latest mobile phone... comparing this to walking through the markets of India and seeing a man with no legs... begs at the car door, all he asks for is the equivalent of 20 cents. I couldn’t help but want to do something...”*⁵

It is this experience along with many others that lead him to establish the Oaktree Foundation, Australia’s first entirely youth-run and driven non-profit organization. His work with Oaktree has taken him to some of the most underprivileged and remarkable places in the world.

On January 2nd 2005, Hugh Evans touched down in Indonesia, prepared to help the survivors of one of the worst hit areas after the Boxing Day Tsunami, Banda Aceh. Although Hugh had visited some of the world’s poorest, most war-ravaged countries, nothing could prepare him for the devastation he was to witness. *“The reality of what had happened hit me very hard.”*⁶ With the images of human suffering surrounding him, he was determined to help the survivors by launching the Oaktree Foundation’s \$10 Wave of Support appeal, encouraging young people to donate and help those of Indonesia.

What is truly remarkable about Hugh Evans’ story is his ability to inspire young people from all around the world. He helped these people through an incredibly difficult period in their lives, despite knowing nothing about them. Hugh shows strong mateship and determination by helping and caring for all people under any circumstance.

⁵ Evans, 2004. page 25

⁶ Life Stories. Internet, 2005

For those who returned and those who were lost, we remember them for their courage in dangerous times and their determination to fulfill their duty for their mates and for their country. The deepest meaning of ANZAC is not about the number of victories or the amount of land that was gained, it is about the qualities that shone from the most amazing and inspirational people.

Everyone has the qualities of the ANZACs inside them; it's just a matter of when they let them shine to their full potential. The courage, mateship, determination, resourcefulness and the sense of humour shown by so many who have fought for what they believed in, continues to inspire the generation of today, and will continue to do so in the future. ANZAC will always be the past, the present and the future.

“Though born from the doomed campaign at Gallipoli the Spirit of ANZAC is not really about loss at all.

It is about courage and endurance, and duty, and love of country, and mateship, and good humour and a sense of self worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds.”⁷

⁷ William Deane (Australian War Memorial, 2005)

Bibliography

Books:

Evans.H. 2004, *Stone of the Mountain: The Hugh Evans Story*, Lothian Books, South Melbourne, Australia.

Darlington.R. 1987, *Sudan to Vietnam*, Shakespeare Head Press, New South Wales, Australia.

Bean. C. E. W, *ANZAC To Amiens*, 1961, 4th ed., Halstead Press, Sydney, Australia.

Laird.J.T, *Other Banners*, 1971, The Australian War Memorial & the Australian Government Publishing Service, Melbourne, Australia.

Johnston.S. 1987, *Experiences of the Great War, 1915-1918*, Longman Cheshire Pty. Limited, Melbourne, Australia.

Pugsley. C., *The ANZACs At Gallipoli*, 2000, Thomas C. Lothian Pty Ltd, Port Melbourne, Australia.

Encyclopedia:

Australian Encyclopedia, 1990, Penguin Books Australia, Melbourne Australia, p. 16

Internet:

Australia War Memorial, Canberra, 2004, *The ANZAC Spirit*, viewed 17 October, 2005.

<http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/anzac/spirit.htm>.

Bali Foundation, 2003, Letter to Jason McCartney, viewed 20 October, 2005.

<http://www.balifoundation.org/letterjm.htm>

Birds Down Under Ozbird.com, 1995, *ANZAC Day*, viewed 19 October, 2005.

<http://www.ozbird.com/oz/anzac.htm>

Crew.G., Unknown, *ANZAC Day 25th April*, viewed 11 October, 2005.

<http://www.rochedalss.qld.edu.au/anzac.htm>

National Bank of Australia, Unknown, *Jason McCartney- National's Ambassadors*, viewed 20 October, 2005.

<http://www.national.com.au/Sponsorships/0,,63415,00.html>

Partington. Dr. G, 2004, *Gallipoli- The Facts Behind the Myths*, viewed 12 October, 2005.

http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-battles/ww1/anzac/gallipoli-facts.htm#Can_Gallipoli_be_Justified?

Returned Armed Services League Western Australia Branch Inc., 2004, *The ANZAC Spirit*, viewed 12 October, 2005.

<http://www.rslwahq.org.au/anzacspirit.html>

Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Unknown, *Australian Military Units: Battle of Lone Pine*, viewed 13 November, 2005.

http://www.awm.gov.au/units/event_71.asp

Digger History, 2004, *Chapter 9 The ANZAC Story: Lone Pine*, viewed 05 November, 2005.

<http://www.firstaif.info/anzac-story/page/lone-pine.htm>

Australians At War, 2001, *The Battle For Lone Pine*, viewed 16/19 October, 2005.

<http://www.australiansatwar.com.au/stories/stories.asp?war=W1&id=7>

The Melbourne Anglican, 2005, *Hugh Evans*, viewed 10 November, 2005.

<http://www.media.anglican.com.au/tma/2005/hughevans.html>

SIGHT Magazine, 2005, *Life Journeys: Hugh Evans*, viewed 10 November, 2005.

<http://www.sightmagazine.com.au/stories/Features/hughevans2.4.05.php>

Other:

The Australian Football League, 2004, *Your Destiny Is A Matter Of Choice*, Seminar Information Booklet.

The Gallipoli Diaries: The Untold Stories, 2005, Lift out from Herald Sun April 20th 2005.

Ending quote taken from:

The Spirit of ANZAC Exhibition, The Australian War Memorial, Canberra. Date visited: 24/11/05.