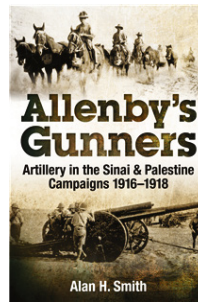


**KAMPONG AUSTRALIA
THE RAAF AT
BUTTERWORTH**

By Mathew Radcliffe
Published by New South
ISBN 9781742235141
RRP \$39.99 in paperback

I lived in Malaysia from June 1980 until July 1982 because my father was serving in the RAAF at Butterworth. My recollections of my family's time in Malaysia are based on a child's experiences. Fortunately, *Kampong Australia* offers a vastly broader insight into the RAAF's time in Malaysia. It begins with an explanation

of the political and historical reasons for the RAAF's presence in Malaysia, and moves on to discussions of the relationships between the Australians and the British, who were still in Malaysia when the RAAF first arrived, and Australians and the local people. Differences in the experiences of single versus married RAAF personnel are also discussed, as are various experiences of RAAF servicemen's wives. I particularly enjoyed the last chapter – 'Remembering Butterworth'. It shares comments from various people who experienced life in Malaysia, as serving members, spouses and children, as provided to him via the questionnaire he distributed to inform his research. An interesting and highly recommended read for anyone with an interest in the RAAF's time at Butterworth. – Guest reviewer Kelli Jones

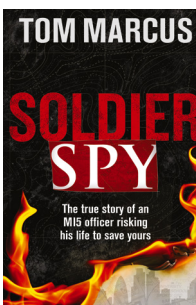


**ALLENBY'S GUNNERS
ARTILLERY IN THE SINAI &
PALESTINE CAMPAIGNS
1916-1918**

By Alan H Smith
Published by Big Sky
Publishing
RRP \$34.99 in hardcover
ISBN 9781925275759

A subject rarely covered because of the obvious emphasis on the Western Front, Alan Smith's *Allenby's Gunners* examines how support was provided by the British Territorial Artillery Units during the Middle East campaigns of 1916-1918 to the British, Australian and

NZ forces. During the first 12 months of the campaigns, the Allied forces were outgunned by the increased Turkish artillery and suffered heavy losses. The reconstitution of the Australian and NZ forces following Gallipoli had resulted in insufficient artillery being available for the desert campaigns. But with the appointment of the British General, Edmund Allenby, in June 1917, more resources were allocated via the British artillery and the tide began to turn in favour of the Allies. Smith records some detail of the various battles which ensued in the campaigns. From Romani and the coast plain, the Palestine desert, Jordan Valley and the Eastern Escarpment to Amman, until the theatre armistice in October 1918. But it is Allenby's victor at Megiddo which Smith believes was the outstanding feat of the campaigns.

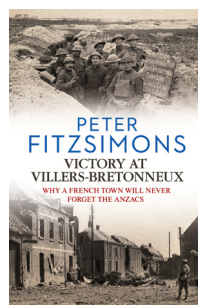


**SOLDIER SPY
THE TRUE STORY OF AN MI5
OFFICER RISKING HIS LIFE
TO SAVE YOURS**

By Tom Marcus
Published by Penguin
Random House
RRP \$32.99 in hardcover
ISBN 9780718184858

Soldier Spy reads like a John Le Carre novel but then you realise this story is real. Tom Marcus, not his real name for obvious reasons, was an MI5 counter terrorist field operative from 2005 to 2013. He lived in constant fear of being outed. That he rose to this

position is remarkable given that he grew up in abject poverty with no mother and an alcoholic father. His life skills came from living on the streets. Putting these to good use, he cheated on his final school exams to qualify for the British Army. After a posting in Germany, he was selected for the Special Forces Unit serving in Northern Ireland where he proved to be an effective operator. He was then drafted into MI5. He recounts some of his missions, which took on a heightened sense of danger. His ability to observe and remember faces proved vital for his work. But the job extracted a heavy price. A series of incidents convinced him that he was suffering PTSD and needed help. He documents his struggle to adjust to a 'normal' life. This is a revealing memoir and one worth reading.



**VICTORY AT VILLERS-
BRETONNEUX
WHY A FRENCH TOWN WILL
NEVER FORGET THE ANZACS**

By Peter Fitzsimons
Published by William
Heinemann
RRP \$ 49.99 in hard cover
ISBN 9781742759524

After four brutal years, the fate of the Great War hangs in the balance. With the Bolsheviks in power in Russia, German attentions could be transferred to the Western Front. But with America about to enter the war, the Germans realise that their only hope is striking at

the Allied lines first. In March 1918 the Kaiser's battle is launched. Across a 45-mile front, no fewer than 2 million German soldiers hurl themselves at the Allied lines, with the intention of splitting the British and French forces. For nigh on two weeks, the plan works. The Germans are able to advance without check. British commander, General Douglas Haig, calls upon the Australian soldiers to stop the German advance and save Villers-Bretonneux. If the Australians can hold this, the very gate to Amiens, then the Germans will not win the war. The Australians are indeed able to hold off the Germans, launching a vicious counterattack that forces the Germans back the first time. *Victory at Villers-Bretonneux* is the final instalment of Peter Fitzsimons' Great War trilogy. This book, like those before it, is a substantial yet easy read.