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978-1-107-08719-4 - Stretcherbearers: Saving Australians from Gallipoli to Kokoda

Mark Johnston

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# STRETCHER-BEARERS

## SAVING AUSTRALIANS FROM GALLIPOLI TO KOKODA

*Stretcher-bearers: Saving Australians from Gallipoli to Kokoda* is a compelling account of the experience of Australian stretcher-bearers during the First and Second World Wars.

Respected military historian Mark Johnston traces the development of formal stretcher-bearing from its origin in the early nineteenth century under Napoleon to the battlefields of the Second World War. This book sheds new light on familiar figures, such as Simpson and his donkey, while giving voice to stories previously untold. Johnston's original research draws on accounts by stretcher-bearers who worked on the front line, as well as tributes from rescued soldiers, to deepen our understanding of the crucial role these soldiers played in Gallipoli, Palestine and the Western Front in World War I, and in the Middle East and the Pacific in World War II. The narrative is further driven by rich imagery, featuring more than 130 full-page photographs.

Written by a leading expert on the Australian Army and the Second World War, this book provides a generously illustrated, engaging and moving account of the history of the stretcher-bearer, a figure praised by countless Diggers but never previously the subject of a book.

**Mark Johnston** is Head of History, Politics and Philosophy at Scotch College, Melbourne, and Adjunct Senior Lecturer at the ANU's Strategic and Defence Studies Centre. He is a well-known authority on the Australian Army and the Second World War, and has been described in the Australian War Memorial's *Wartime* magazine as 'the leading historian on the experience of Australian soldiers during the war'. This is his tenth book, and his fifth with Cambridge University Press. His earlier works include histories of the 6th, 7th and 9th Divisions, and of the RAAF in the Pacific War.

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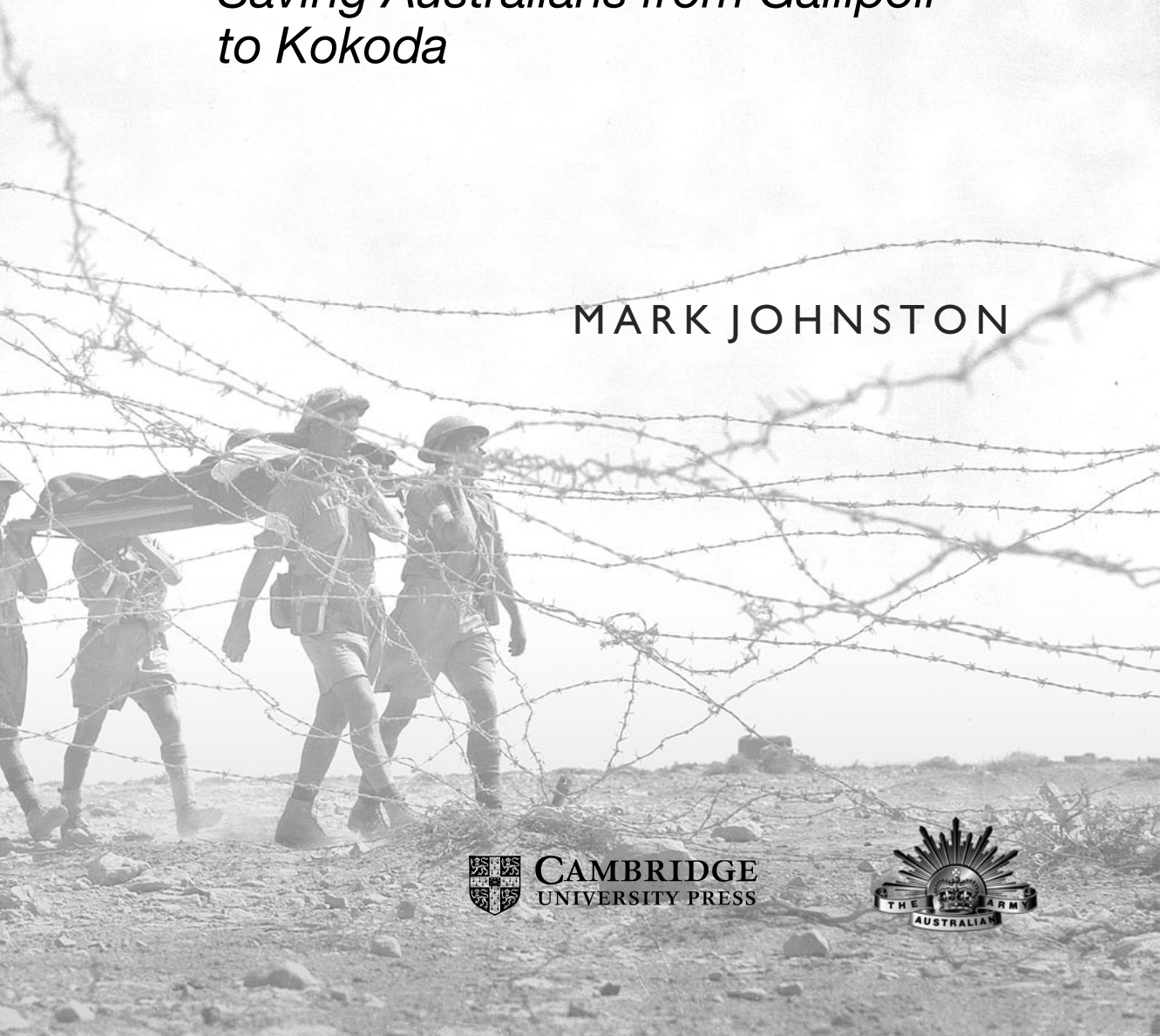
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## ABBREVIATIONS

AAMC	Australian Army Medical Corps
AASC	Australian Army Service Corps
ADMS	Assistant Director Medical Services
ADS	Advanced Dressing Station
AGH	Australian General Hospital
AIF	Australian Imperial Force
Amb	Ambulance
AWM	Australian War Memorial
Bde	Brigade
Bn	Battalion
Capt	Captain
Cav	Cavalry
CCS	Casualty Clearing Station
CO	Commanding Officer
Coy	company
Cpl	Corporal
CSM	Company Sergeant Major
DCM	Distinguished Conduct Medal
Div	Division
Fd	Field
Gnr	Gunner
GOC	General Officer Commanding
HE	High Explosive
HQ	Headquarters
IWM	Imperial War Museums
L/Cpl	Lance-Corporal
Lt	Lieutenant
Lt-Col	Lieutenant-Colonel
Maj	Major
MBE	Member of the British Empire
MC	Military Cross
MDS	Main Dressing Station
MID	Mentioned in Despatches
MJC	Mark Johnston's Collection (private)
ML	Mitchell Library
MM	Military Medal
NAA	National Archives of Australia
NCO	Non-commissioned officer

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ABBREVIATIONS xi

Pte	Private
RAP	Regimental Aid Post
RMO	Regimental medical officer
RSB	Regimental stretcher-bearer
SB	Stretcher-bearer
Sgt	Sergeant
SLV	State Library of Victoria
Spr	Sapper
VC	Victoria Cross