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978-1-107-02868-5 - To Win the Battle: The 1st Australian Division in the Great War, 1914-18

Robert C Stevenson

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TO WIN THE BATTLE
THE 1ST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION IN THE
GREAT WAR, 1914-18

In 1915 the 1st Australian Division led the way ashore at Gallipoli and later seized and held Lone Pine. In 1916 it achieved the first Australian victory on the Western Front at Pozzières. It was still serving with distinction in the battles that led to the defeat of the German army in 1918.

This important book provides a balanced assessment of the factors that led to the division's success. Drawing extensively on primary sources as well as recent scholarship, this fresh approach suggests that the early reputation of Australia's premier division was probably higher than its performance warranted. Robert Stevenson shows that the division's later success was founded on the capacity of its commanders and staff to administer, train and adapt to the changing conditions on the battlefield, rather than on the innate qualities of its soldiers.

To Win the Battle explains how the 1st Australian Division rose from obscurity to forge a reputation as one of the great fighting formations of the British Empire during the First World War, earning a place in history and forming a central part of the Anzac legend.

Robert Stevenson is a Research Fellow at the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra.

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To the members of the 1st Australian Division who have served and
continue to serve their country in war and peace,
especially Colonel RMJ Mustard.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAQMG	Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General
AASC	Australian Army Service Corps
ADB	<i>Australian Dictionary of Biography</i>
ADC	aide-de-camp
Adjt	adjutant
Admin	administration/administrative
ADMS	Assistant Director Medical Services
ADVS	Assistant Director Veterinary Services
AIF	Australian Imperial Force
AIFO	<i>Australian Imperial Force Orders</i>
AN&MEF	Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force
Anon.	Anonymous
ANZAC	Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
AOH	<i>Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918</i>
AOHMS	<i>Official History of the Australian Medical Services in the War of 1914–1918</i>
APM	Assistant Provost Marshal
A&Q	Adjutant and Quartermaster
Aust	Australia/Australian
AWM	Australian War Memorial
AWOL	absent without leave
BEF	British Expeditionary Force
BGGS	Brigadier General, General Staff
BGRA	Brigadier General, Royal Artillery
BM	brigade major
BMRA	Brigade Major, Royal Artillery
Bn	Battalion
BOH	<i>History of Britain in the Great War</i>
BOHMS	<i>Official History of the British Medical Services in the Great War</i>
Bty	Battery

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xvi ABBREVIATIONS

CAG	<i>Commonwealth of Australia Gazette</i>
CEF	Canadian Expeditionary Force
CGS	Chief of the General Staff
CO	commanding officer
COA	Commonwealth of Australia
Coy	Company
CQMS	Company Quartermaster Sergeant
CRA	Commander Royal Artillery
CRE	Commander Royal Engineers
DAAG	Deputy Assistant Adjutant General
DAAQMG	Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General
DAC	Divisional Ammunition Column
DADMS	Deputy Assistant Director Medical Services
DADOS	Deputy Assistant Director Ordnance Services
DADVS	Deputy Assistant Director Veterinary Services
DAQMG	Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster General; Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General
DHQ	Divisional Headquarters
Div.	Division
ed./eds/edn	editor/editors/edition
FA	Field Artillery
Fd	Field
fn	footnote
<i>FSPB</i>	<i>Field Service Pocket Book</i>
<i>FSR</i>	<i>Field Service Regulations</i>
GHQ	General Headquarters
GOC	General Officer Commanding
GOCRA	General Officer Commanding Royal Artillery
GS	General Staff
GSO	General Staff Officer
HMAS	His Majesty's Australian Ship
HMSO	His Majesty's Stationery Office
how	howitzer
HQ	headquarters
Inf	infantry
IWM	Imperial War Museum
LH	Light Horse
MD	military district
memo	memorandum
MG	machine-gun

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ABBREVIATIONS xvii

MGGS	Major General, General Staff
NAA	National Archives Australia
NCO	non-commissioned officer
nd	no date of publication
NLA	National Library of Australia
np	no place of publication
NZ	New Zealand
NZ&A	New Zealand and Australian
NZEF	New Zealand Expeditionary Force
OC	officer commanding
OOB	<i>Order of Battle of Divisions</i>
Op	operation
OR	other rank
PD	<i>Parliamentary Debates</i>
psc	Passed Staff College
RA	Royal Artillery
RE	Royal Engineers
Regt	regiment/regimental
RMO	Regimental Medical Officer
RO	routine order
SC	staff captain
SCRA	Staff Captain, Royal Artillery
Sig	Signals
SLNSW	State Library of New South Wales
SLV	State Library of Victoria
SMLE	Short Magazine Lee–Enfield
SS	Stationery Service
TNA	The National Archives (UK)
UNSW	University of New South Wales
VC	Victoria Cross
WD	war diary
WE	War Establishment
WO	War Office

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BRITISH MILITARY RANKS

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Usual employment</i>
Commissioned officers	
Field Marshal (FM)	Titular British commander
General (Gen)	Army commander
Lieutenant General (Lt Gen)	Corps commander
Major General (Maj Gen)	Divisional commander
Brigadier General (Brig Gen or BG)	Infantry brigade commander from 1915
Colonel (Col)	Infantry brigade commander in 1914
Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col)	Unit commanding officer (CO)
Major (Maj)	Unit second-in-command (2iC)
Captain (Capt)	Subunit officer commanding (OC)
Lieutenant (Lt)/Second Lieutenant (2Lt)	Platoon commander
Warrant officers (WO) and non-commissioned officers (NCO)	
WO Class 1 (WOI)	Unit regimental sergeant major
WO Class 2 (WOII)	Company or battery sergeant major
Staff Sergeant (SSgt)	Company Quartermaster Sergeant
Sergeant (Sgt)	Platoon sergeant
Corporal (Cpl)	Section or detachment commander
Lance Corporal (LCpl)	Section second in command
Enlisted	
Private (Pte)	Trooper, gunner, sapper or driver