

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A SOLDIER'S SOLDIER
A BIOGRAPHY OF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
SIR THOMAS DALY

Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Daly was a renowned soldier and one of the most important and influential figures in Australia's military history. As Chief of the General Staff during the Vietnam War, he oversaw a significant reorganisation of the army as he fought a war under political and resource restrictions. In this unique biography, Jeffrey Grey shows how Daly prepared himself for the challenges of command in a time of great turbulence and political upheaval.

A Soldier's Soldier examines Daly's career from his entry to Duntroon in the early 1930s until his retirement forty years later, covering the key issues in the development of the Australian Army along the way. Drawing on extensive interview transcripts, the book provides a compelling portrait of Sir Thomas Daly and his distinguished career.

Jeffrey Grey is Professor of History and founding director of the Australian Centre for the Study of Armed Conflict and Society at the University of New South Wales, Canberra. The author or editor of numerous books and articles, he has held the Major General Matthew C. Horner Chair in Military Theory at Marine Corps University, Quantico, and served as a trustee of the Society of Military History.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

OTHER TITLES IN THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY HISTORY SERIES

Series editor
David Horner

Phillip Bradley *The Battle for Wau: New Guinea's Frontline 1942–1943*

Mark Johnston *The Proud 6th: An Illustrated History of the 6th
Australian Division 1939–1946*

Garth Pratten *Australian Battalion Commanders in the Second
World War*

Jean Bou *Light Horse: A History of Australia's Mounted Arm*

Phillip Bradley *To Salamaua*

Peter Dean *The Architect of Victory: The Military Career of Lieutenant-
General Sir Frank Horton Berryman*

Allan Converse *Armies of Empire: The 9th Australian and 50th British
Divisions in Battle 1939–1945*

John Connor *Anzac and Empire: George Foster Pearce and the
Foundations of Australian Defence*

Peter Williams *The Kokoda Campaign 1942: Myth and Reality*

Karl James *The Hard Slog: Australians in the Bougainville Campaign,
1944–45*

Robert Stevenson *To Win the Battle: The 1st Australian Division in the
Great War, 1914–1918*

Mark Johnston *Anzacs in the Middle East: Australian Soldiers, Their
Allies and the Local People in World War II*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A SOLDIER'S SOLDIER

A BIOGRAPHY OF
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
SIR THOMAS DALY

JEFFREY GREY



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107031272

© Jeffrey Grey 2013

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2013

Cover design by Rob Cowpe
Typeset by Aptara Corp.
Printed in China by C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

A Cataloguing-in-Publication entry is available from the catalogue of the National Library of Australia at www.nla.gov.au

ISBN 978-1-107-03127-2 Hardback

Reproduction and communication for educational purposes

The Australian *Copyright Act 1968* (the Act) allows a maximum of one chapter or 10% of the pages of this work, whichever is the greater, to be reproduced and/or communicated by any educational institution for its educational purposes provided that the educational institution (or the body that administers it) has given a remuneration notice to Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) under the Act.

For details of the CAL licence for educational institutions contact:

Copyright Agency Limited
Level 15, 233 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 9394 7600
Facsimile: (02) 9394 7601
E-mail: info@copyright.com.au

Reproduction and communication for other purposes

Except as permitted under the Act (for example a fair dealing for the purposes of study, research, criticism or review) no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, communicated or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission. All inquiries should be made to the publisher at the address above.

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

Illustrations	vii
Maps	ix
Tables and diagrams	x
Acknowledgements	xi
Abbreviations	xiii
1 Regimental soldiering	1
2 Balikpapan, 1945	37
3 'He could fill any appointment with distinction'	58
4 The challenges of senior rank	90
5 Chief of the General Staff	114
6 Daly, the army and the war in Vietnam, 1966–71	146
7 The civic action crisis, 1971	177
8 Epilogue	197
Notes	208
Sources and bibliography	236
Index	243

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ILLUSTRATIONS

1	Baby Tom	3
2	Major T.J. Daly, Broadmeadows Camp, December 1911	5
3	Young Tom, aged three, 1916	6
4	Major T.J. Daly, Palestine, 1917	7
5	Tom Daly and Joe St Ellen winning the junior pairs, Xavier College, 1929	9
6	First Eleven, Royal Military College, 1932	10
7	Graduation portrait, Royal Military College, 1934	12
8	Lieutenant Daly, attached to 16th/5th Lancers, Risalpur, 1938	13
9	In bivouac, 1938	14
10	2/10th Battalion officers, 1939	16
11	Captain T.J. Daly, England, 1940	17
12	Officers' Mess, Headquarters, 18th Australian Infantry Brigade, Giarabub, Libya, 21 March 1941	20
13	The town of Giarabub from Ship Hill, March 1941	23
14	Major T.J. Daly, Giarabub, Libya, March 1941	25
15	Lieutenant-Colonel T.J. Daly addressing a parade of the 2/10th Battalion, Kairi, Queensland, October 1944	41
16	Daly and Brigadier Chilton inspecting a parade of the 2/10th Battalion	43
17	Assault barges at the beachhead, Balikpapan, 1 July 1945	47
18	Soldiers of the 2/10th Battalion moving along Vasey Highway towards Hill 87, Balikpapan, 1 July 1945	52
19	Wedding day	60
20	Lieutenant-Colonel T.J. Daly, Camberley, 1948	63

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii ILLUSTRATIONS

21	Colonel T.J. Daly is farewelled before departure for Korea, 1952	71
22	Brigadier Thomas Daly, DSO OBE, on a tour of the front line, Korea, c. 27 June 1952	76
23	Brigadier T.J. Daly talks to unidentified soldiers at a camp in Korea, September 1952	81
24	The 1956 course, Imperial Defence College, London	88
25	Chief of the General Staff	115
26	Military Board, 1966	117
27	Handover of Oakey facilities to the army, 1 July 1969	144
28	Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Daly is greeted by Lieutenant-General Tran Ngoc Tam of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam	157
29	The CGS talks to a soldier from 6RAR manning the perimeter of Fire Support Base Discovery, November 1969	171
30	The CGS talks to soldiers from C Company, 7RAR at the Horseshoe, 1970	173
31	The CGS inspects a guard from the Grenadier Guards, Whitehall, 1970	184
32	Military Board, 1970	195
33	Chairman of the Board of Trustees escorts the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Murray Fox, on an official visit to the Australian War Memorial, September 1975	203
34	Sir Thomas is carried from the cathedral to the hearse on the way to his final resting place, 2004	205

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

MAPS

1	Western Desert, 1941	19
2	Giarabub, March 1941	22
3	Siege of Tobruk, 1941	27
4a	Balikpapan, July 1945	49
4b	Balikpapan, July 1945 – detail	50
5	Area of operations, 1st Commonwealth Division, Korea, 1952–53	73
6	28th Commonwealth Brigade, Korea, 1952–53	74
7	Phuoc Tuy province, South Vietnam, 1966–71	149

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES AND DIAGRAMS

Table 4.1	Strength of the Australian Regular Army and Citizen Military Force, 1960–64	105
Figure 6.1	Build-up and relief patterns of Australian Force, Vietnam, 1967–69	155

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As a young and impatient academic a long time ago, I used to wonder why productive historians in their seeming prime often appeared to drop away completely and write less just when one might think they had more in them. I know the answer now – it's called 'life', and it has a habit of getting in the way. I started work on this book fifteen years ago, and a lot of things have happened in the intervening period to explain why it has taken so long to reach fruition. On the one hand, it has travelled with me like the spectre at the feast, reproving me silently for its unfinished state and at the same time stopping me from moving on with anything new. On the other hand, biography is a difficult form of historical writing (which is why I think every serious historian should attempt one), and I think this one is a better book for being written by someone in his early fifties rather than, as might otherwise have been the case, appearing from the keyboard of an author in his late thirties. Readers will be the judge of that.

As with every book I have written, this one has accrued debts near and far, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge and thank those whose contribution was essential at some step along the way. The staff of various archives head the list: National Archives of Australia, Parkes (especially Tim Mifsud, who dealt with a barrage of access clearance requests quickly and efficiently) and Melbourne; Australian War Memorial, Canberra; and the National Archives, Kew (which must now be the best public archive in the English-speaking world in which to work). Roger Lee and his people in the Australian Army History Unit helped with access to records not yet transferred to archival custody and with photographs, production of the maps and the provision of transcripts of Bob Breen's series of interviews with Sir Thomas Daly, and supported the early research with an Army history research grant, for which I thank them. Dr Breen was kind enough to fill in some gaps in the transcripts as well. Dr Garth Pratten very generously gave me a copy of his own interview with Daly and notes on interviews with former soldiers of the 2/10th Battalion, and shared

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

thoughts on the record of unit commanders in the latter years of the war. Tom Richardson kindly gave me a copy of his paper on Giarabub. David Nalson, Queen's Royal Lancers Museum, answered some queries about the regiment's service in India, and Colonel A.J. Lenard, Chief of Staff, Royal College of Defence Studies, London, provided photos from the 1956 course together with a class list for that year. Yasmin Tadich of the Army Production Learning Centre kindly transferred two interviews with Daly to DVD and forwarded them to me. I also benefited from correspondence and the provision of papers from Brigadier John Salmon, Colonel Derek Sharp and Colonel Stan Maizey, and from Monsignor Eugene Harley.

I had the advantage of several extended conversations with my subject before his death in 2004, greatly to my benefit. I think Daly was slightly bemused by the idea of a biography, although he recognised a certain inevitability in the process given his long and distinguished public career. I have also had considerable assistance from the Daly family and especially his oldest daughter, Betty-Ann, or BA, as she is generally known. I was generously given the run of the family photo albums, and BA has dealt with my intrusions into the details of family life and lore with good humour and patience; I am very grateful for her efforts. The editor of the Army History Series, David Horner, read the manuscript with his usual gimlet eye. Isabella Mead at Cambridge University Press smoothed the submission process of the manuscript, and she and the staff at CUP Melbourne have my thanks. My editor, Cathryn Game, imposed order, discipline and readability on me.

The book is dedicated to the memory of my mother, and to my small son, Sebastian. My mother used to ask periodically, 'How's Tom going?' I regret that she did not live to see its publication. She never met Sebastian, either, although I am sure she would have approved of him. He is, as yet, too young to understand what Dadda does for long periods in his study, which perhaps is just as well.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ABBREVIATIONS

AAF	Australian Army Force
AATTV	Australian Army Training Team Vietnam
ACAU	Australian Civil Affairs Unit
ADC	aide-de-camp
AFV	Australian Force Vietnam
AG	Adjutant-General
AHQ	Army Headquarters
AHU	Army History Unit
A&I	Administrative and Instructional
AIF	Australian Imperial Force
ALH	Australian Light Horse
ALSG	Australian Logistic Support Group
AMF	Australian Military Forces; official name of the army of Australia, 1916–80, encompassing both full-time and part-time forces
ARA	Australian Regular Army
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
ATF	Australian Task Force
ATIS	Allied Translator and Interpreter Section
CAS	Chief of the Air Staff
CGS	Chief of the General Staff
CIGS	Chief of the Imperial General Staff
CMF	Citizen Military Forces
CNS	Chief of Naval Staff
CO	Commanding Officer
COMAFV	Commander, Australian Forces Vietnam
COMUSMACV	Commander, United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam
COSC	Chiefs of Staff Committee
DCGS	Deputy Chief of the General Staff
FARELF	Far East Land Forces

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-03127-2 - A Soldier's Soldier: A Biography of Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Daly

Jeffrey Grey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv ABBREVIATIONS

GOC	General Officer Commanding
GSO	General Staff Officer
GVN	Government of [South] Vietnam
JIO	Joint Intelligence Organisation
LST	Landing Ship Tank
MA	military assistant
MGO	Master-General of the Ordnance
MM	Military Medal
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
OCS	Officer Cadet School, Portsea
PIR	Pacific Islands Regiment
PMF	Permanent Military Forces
PNGVR	Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles
QMG	Quartermaster General
RAAOC	Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps
RAEME	Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
RAR	Royal Australian Regiment
RF/PF	Regional Forces/Popular Forces
RMC	Royal Military College
RNSWR	Royal New South Wales Regiment
RQR	Royal Queensland Regiment
RSM	regimental sergeant major
RVNAF	Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces
RWAR	Royal Western Australian Regiment
SAS	Special Air Service
VC	Victoria Cross; Viet Cong
WRAAC	Women's Royal Australian Army Corps