

a fine hardback book describing the Greece campaign of the Anzac Corps.

What Ewers persuasively contends is that fighting in Greece had remarkable parallels with Gallipoli.

This was a long retreat and ultimately a defeat which resulted in further action in Crete until large numbers were captured.

Men of the Line: Stories of the Thai-Burma Railway Survivors
by Pattie Wright
Melbourne University Publishing, \$45

IF there is an enduringly painful episode of Australia's participation in World War II, then it is the horror of the Thai-Burma railway.

In *Men of the Line: Stories of the Thai-Burma Railway Survivors*, the survivors relate their experiences.

What gives this book remarkable force is the fact that we are reading the participants' words.

Often painful and deeply costly to record, they portray not only unspeakable suffering but remind us of the edifying principles and strength of mateship.

Bravest: How some of Australia's greatest war heroes won their medals
by Robert Macklin
Allen and Unwin, \$29.95

IF there is one characteristic of the Australian soldier, surely it is a kind of unthinking, spontaneous courage.

In Robert Macklin's *Bravest: How some of Australia's greatest war heroes won their medals* we read of the feats of sheer selfless courage.

The 12 stories of the Victoria Cross winners make up part of the book.

Macklin also gives space to the George Cross and Military Cross winners from the Boer War right through to the Vietnam War.

The black-and-white photographs illustrate the individual biographies well.

Aussie Soldier: up close and personal
by Denny Neave with Craig Smith
Big Sky Publishing, \$34.95

WHILE Macklin reminds us of the heroics of the diggers, the authors of *Aussie Soldier: up close and personal* fuse

historical and contemporary comments, presenting various impressions of what it means to be an Australian soldier.

The book has drawn on diary excerpts, and letters and quotes from past and present serving members. To this end, the book has a remarkably current feel.

What is soon evident is the core values of the Australian soldier: mateship, sacrifice and defiance, first displayed at Gallipoli, enduring to this day.

Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Imagination
by Ken Inglis
Melbourne University Press, \$49.95

GIVEN that Anzac Day brings people together around monuments and memorials, it is a mark of the importance of this annual pilgrimage that Ken Inglis's book *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Imagination* is in its third edition.

This multi-award-winning book has maintained its relevance.

Inglis explores in significant detail the outpouring of a mix of residual grief and patriotism when after World War I, Australia began to construct memorials.

But more than this, Inglis analyses the way in which Australians have responded to the Bali bombings and 9/11.

He also includes a new chapter, 'Towards the Centenary of Anzac.'

All books available in Hobart bookshops. **CB**



The *Sunday Tasmanian*, thanks to File Mile Press, has five copies of *Australians At War: A Pictorial History* to give away.

For your chance to win, send your name, address and phone number on the back of an envelope to: **Sunday Tasmanian Australians At War competition, PO Box 334, Hobart, 7001.**

Entries close Thursday, April 24, and winners will be announced in next week's Bookchat column.

Davies Brothers Pty Limited (DBPL), publisher of the *Sunday Tasmanian* newspaper, respects your right to privacy. The information being collected by DBPL is to include you in this competition and at DBPL's discretion publication of the details of the winning entry. No further use of the information is made.

