

Soldiers tell their stories

Aussie Soldier Up Close and Personal

By Denny Neave
with Craig Smith

Big Sky Publishing. \$34.95

★★★★☆

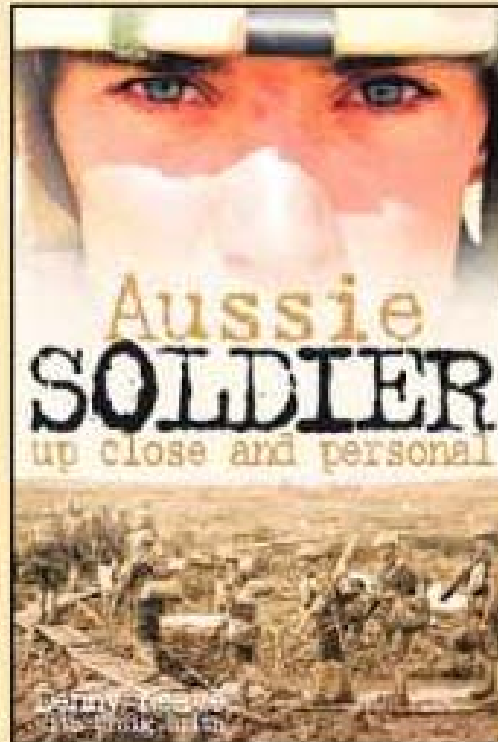
By Sgt Dave Morley

THIS book should be compulsory reading for all new diggers. It is the first book for Maj Denny Neave and Maj Craig Smith, the editors of the bi-annual *Australian Infantry Magazine*.

More than 200 soldiers, young and old, have shared their experiences and anecdotes from World War I to the present conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. For those who have been in the Army a while, there will be blokes you know among these pages.

The book is set out in easy-to-read chapters. Some of the 15 chapters include Mateship, Initiative, Courage, Compassion, Integrity and Loyalty, all significant qualities of the Aussie soldier.

Maj Neave said the book was also aimed at non-military readers.



"We're hoping the 25-year-old woman or the 45-year-old bloke who has no knowledge or experience of the military will pick the book up," he said.

"That's why it's more about experiences than actual military history."

The photos are done in sepia, linking photos 80 or 90 years old with photos taken last year. The edges of the pages are lined with a dirty brown strip so you can take it bush and not have to worry about it getting dirty.

A portion of the sales of the book will be donated to Legacy.