

**MATESHIP
IN THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY**

**A
PHOTOGRAPHIC
STUDY**



JOHN 15:13

"GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS,
THAN TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE
FOR HIS FRIENDS."



WHAT IS MATESHIP?

Introduction

Mateship is an Australian cultural idiom that embodies equality, loyalty and friendship. There are two forms of mateship, the inclusive and the exclusive. The inclusive is in relation to a shared situation such as employment, sports, or hardship, whereas the exclusive type is toward a third party, like a person that you have just met. Russel Ward, in *The Australian Legend*, saw the concept as a central one to the Australian people. Mateship derives from mate, meaning friend, commonly used in Australia as a form of 'friendly' address. Mateship can also be expressed in qualities such as loyalty to one's mates.

Military Context

Mateship is regarded as an Australian military virtue. For instance, the Australian Army Recruit Training Centre lists the "soldierly qualities" it seeks to instill as including "a will to win, dedication to duty, honour, compassion, honesty, teamwork, loyalty, physical, moral courage and mateship itself. Mateship is vitally explored through a Military Context in the film 'Gallipoli', where Archy and Frank, two young Australian sprinters want to join the army to fulfill their sense of duty. Because they are too young, the pair hop a freight train to Perth, where they are allowed to join up. They board a troop ship heading to Cairo and after training in the shadows of the Great Pyramids, the boys are finally sent to the front line, where their speed makes them candidates for messengers in one of the war's bloodiest battles.

(From the "Meaning of Mateship" website).



**FORMER PRIME MINISTER
JOHN HOWARD
HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT 'MATESHIP':**

“Mateship is uniquely Australian. We are a country that celebrates individual achievement. But above all, we are a country that knows we must pull together. We are a country of mates. Mateship is born out of a common struggle.

Mateship is built in our workplaces, our schools, our homes, our sporting fields, out battlefields.

Mateship is built on respect for each other.

Mateship is built on respect for each other. Mateship is extending a helping hand when another person is down on their luck.

Mateship is trusting people equally, regardless of race, gender, creed or religion.

Mateship endures because it is so readily embraced by all who come here. I believe that true national leadership demands that Australian values are reinforced. We should never shy away from reaffirming what makes us proudly and uniquely Australian.”





BILL GRAYDEN ON MATESHIP

“Mateship meant everything,” he said quietly. “[The commemorations are] an opportunity to pay tribute to those who lost their lives, and those who were wounded ... I was a lieutenant with 30 men under me, and later a captain ... [and] you had complete faith in the troops, but mateship, that was everything.”



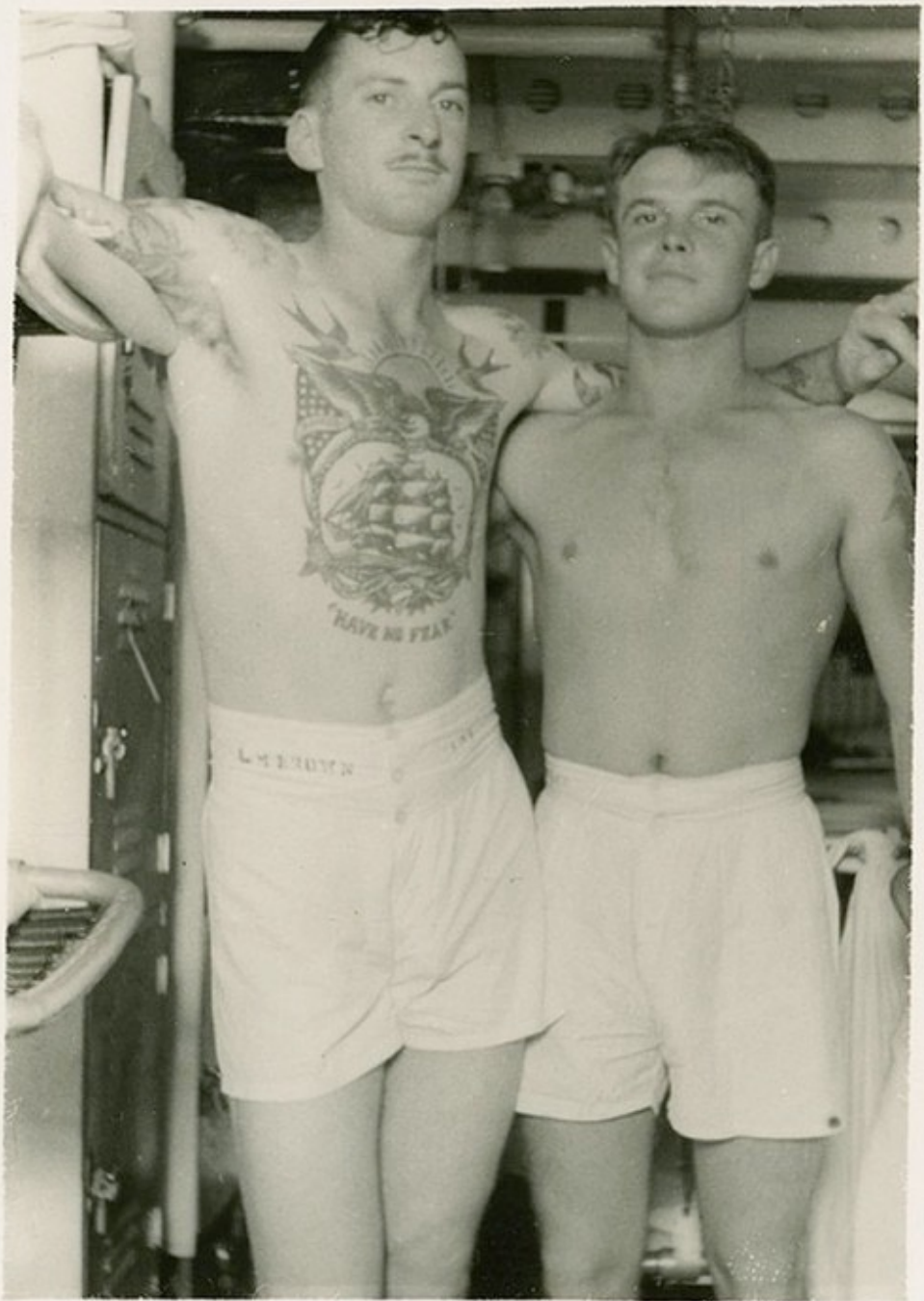
















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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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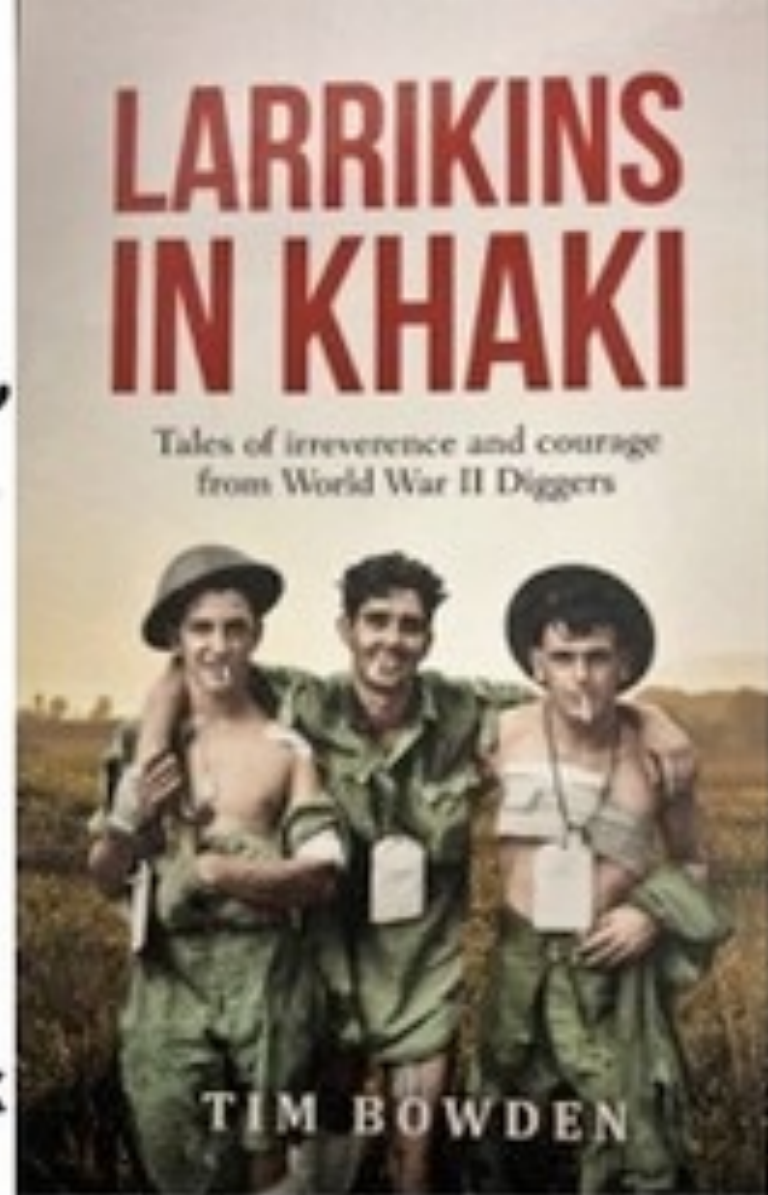
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Privates William Walker, Keith Beckmann and Bruce Chadwick, 55th/53rd Battalion, wounded during an attack on Japanese positions on the Sanananda Track on 7 December 1942, make their way back to the main camp.





















Henry Reid Bay, New Britain, 20 March 1945. A jeep and trailer, laden with boxes of rations, are ferried across a jungle river on a pontoon floating on empty fuel drums as Australian troops move up to a forward area to attack the Japanese

1942: An ANZAC soldier enjoys a rare event in the desert battlefield, a bath. (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images)



