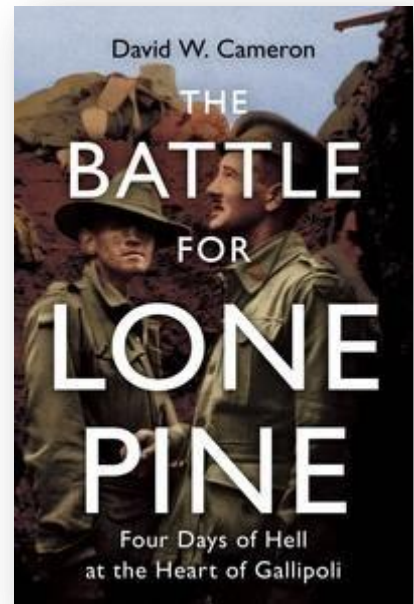


The Battle for Lone Pine

Author: David Cameron



**Penguin Q & A with David Cameron,
author of *The Battle for Lone Pine***

What is your new book about?

The four day battle for Lone Pine at Anzac during the August Offensive at Gallipoli in 1915.

What or who inspired it?

There has been no detailed account of this battle since the official history first published by Charles Bean in 1924. There has been no single volume published on this important and crucial Australian/Turkish battle.

What was the biggest challenge, writing it?

Sorting out the chronology and positioning of men and units in the small confines of Lone Pine over the intense four day period of the battle.

What did you want to achieve with your book?

People to understand the heroism of the men from both sides and the sacrifices they made on behalf of others.

What do you hope for your book?

That it will become recognised as the authoritative work on the battle for Lone Pine.

Are there any parts of it that have special personal significance to you?

Yes, my great uncle was killed in the area four days (29 April, 1915) after the landings before the defences of Lone Pine were constructed - four months before the battle.

What do you see as the major themes in your book?

An intimate history of some of those who participated in and out of the line - including those in the front line and supporting them including nursing staff, sappers, cooks, engineers, stretcher-bearers etc.

Did the title come instantly to you or did you labour over it?

Yes - the sub title a little longer.

To whom have you dedicated the book and why?

To all of those who served at Gallipoli and in the supporting areas.

Who do you think will enjoy your book?

Anyone interested in Australian history and/or military history. The general reader who is keen to learn about individuals from the past.

When did you start writing?

About two years ago.

Tell us a bit about your childhood?

I grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney, having moved there from Bondi at an early age. I spent lots of time camping in the bush on weekends and generally exploring around the bush.

Tell us a bit about your day job?

I'm a Canberra based author. I used to be an archaeologist and held a number of positions as an Australian Research Council Fellow at the ANU and University of Sydney. I spent a considerable amount of time overseas on excavations and various surveys - India, Hungary, Turkey, and Vietnam. Looking for fossils of early humans and non-human apes.

Describe yourself in three words?

Driven, inquisitive, and collegial.

The Lone Pine action remains notorious to the present day. Seven Victoria Crosses were awarded to the Australian force as a consequence of fighting at Lone Pine. Unfortunately for the Allies the attack upon Lone Pine proved far less diversionary than intended, for the Turkish reserves drafted in to defend Lone Pine were subsequently better placed to rush to the Sari Bair range once its importance became clearer. To view maps detailing the progress of the Gallipoli campaign [click here](#); [and here](#); [and here](#); [and here](#). In Gallipoli, the Lone Pine Cemetery and Memorial attracts large crowds to commemorate Anzac Day. David W. Cameron's absorbing history reveals the fate of those who fought on the ground where they gather. ...more. Like so many Australians, I had read "The 1st Australian Division's battle for Lone Pine resulted in 2277 Australian casualties, and over 800 killed outright." From 6 August to 9 August 1915, one of the most brutal battles fought by Australians in any war was fought between the Australians and the Turks at on a small plateau at Gallipoli known as Lone Pine. While I've read quite a bit about World War One and I've heard of Lone Pine, it wasn't until I read this book I realised how significant it was. The Battle of Lone Pine, which took place during the Gallipoli campaign from the fourth to the tenth of August, was the only successful Australian attack against the Turkish trenches within the original perimeter of the ANZAC battlefield, and yet it was merely a diversion to draw attention from the main assaults of 6 August against the Sari Bair peaks of Chunuk Bair. The Lone Pine battlefield, named for a solitary Turkish Pine that stood there at the start of the fighting, was situated about the centre of the eastern line of the ANZAC trenches on a rise known as '400 Plateau' that joined Bolton's Ridge to the south with the ridge along the east side of Monash Valley to the north.