SCURRY

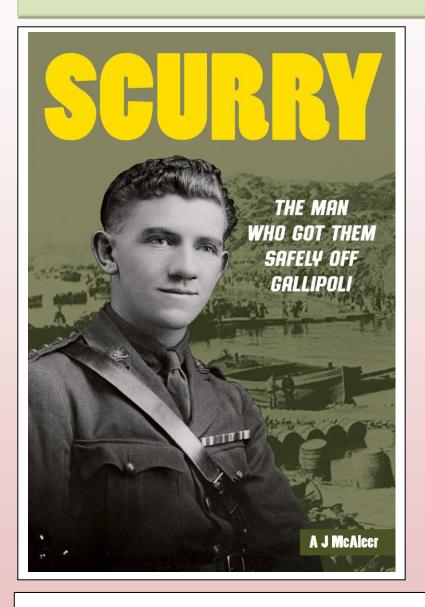## THE MAN WHO GOT THEM SAFELY OFF GALLIPOLI

SCURRY

THE MAN WHO GOT THEM SAFELY OFF GALLIPOLI

A J McAleer

On December 8th, 1915 there were 38,500 Australian troops occupying trenches on Gallipoli, facing a larger Turkish force of some 80,000. Twelve days later they had all been evacuated from the Peninsula without the loss of a man and without the enemy knowing.

How they did this was helped in no small way by an ingenious invention created by twenty year old Lance-Corporal Bill Scurry, a self-firing rifle with a primitive timer that would convince the Turkish soldiers that the Anzacs were still in their trenches shooting at them when in fact they had long gone. It would earn for him the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the gratitude of those who had got off Gallipoli safely.

But this was only a small part of the Bill Scurry story. From Egypt to Gallipoli and on to the Western Front, where he lost an eye and gained the Military Cross. Then to his post-war days as a soldier settler in Silvan before he was to serve once more in the Second World War.

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