

General Vasey's War

D. M. Horner

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"General Vasey's war" is a wonderful insight into a great Australian. It analyzes Vasey's military performance and draws on interviews with numerous men and women who knew or served with him. But more than this, it allows us to share his private thoughts, disappointments, triumphs, hopes and cares. To many, "Bloody George" was a hard-bitten professional soldier, technically competent and tactically proficient. But through the remarkable collection of letters to his wife, Jessie, we get inside the mind of this successful commander. The picture that emerges is one that his closest comrades knew -- a compassionate and humane commander who genuinely cared for the well-being of his men. Major-General Vasey "was" one of Australia's great fighting leaders of the Second World War, and one of the Army's outstanding personalities. He and his troops were instrumental against the Germans in Greece in 1941, and against the Japanese in New Guinea in 1942. He was killed in an aircrash near Cairns in March 1945 while flying back to New Guinea to take command of the 6th Division. "David Horner is on the staff of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University. He is the author or editor of eight books on Australian military history, strategy, command and defence policy, including "The commanders". A graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, he served as a platoon commander in Vietnam and in a variety of regimental and staff postings in a military career of over twenty-five years."



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