

Leane's Trench ceremony

■ Gary Warner

Whipped by a cold wind, people gathered for a solemn ceremony east of Geraldton last Wednesday.

They were commemorating the 98th anniversary of a bloody night-time battle for a trench at Gallipoli.

That trench was captured on July 31, 1915 by Western Australia's 11th Battalion led by Capt (later Brig-Gen) Raymond Leane CB, CMG, DSO and Bar, MC.

Remaining in Australian hands until the final evacuation, Leane's Trench became part of the Anzac legend.

Hardy volunteers are replicating Leane's Trench at Northern Gully, home to the annual Valley View Vintage and Military Display.

A non-profit project under the guardianship of the RSL, to be



Dinnertime: Dominic Higgs and Tim Rust look on as Stuart Adamson prepares basic 'bully beef' stew, just as it would have been done in Leane's Trench in 1915. Picture: Gary Warner

completed for Anzac Day 2015, the trench will become an educational experience.

Eating 'bully beef' stew and dry bread, supporters heard an account of the battle by Mr Rust, followed by a roll-call of the fallen and a minute silence.

That was followed by the first

demonstration of a pair of replica Vickers machineguns, which use industrial oxygen and LP gas to look and sound like the originals.

To join the Leane's Trench Project, contact Tim Rust on 0411 670 347 or Stuart Adamson on 0429 682 113.