

# FRONTLINE

## A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

1<sup>ST</sup>/19<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION

THE ROYAL NEW

SOUTH WALES

REGIMENT

ASSOCIATION &

2<sup>ND</sup>/19<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION

A.I.F. ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS OF THE

AUSTRALIAN

DEFENCE

FORCES

RESERVES

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## VALE GOOD FRIENDS

### **NF465800 PRIVATE Louisa Joan WHITMORE, Australian Women's Army Service**

Dearly loved mother of Vicki and mother-in-law of Association member John Samin, Louisa was born at Sydney on 15 September 1920 and passed away on 4 August 2009. Louisa enlisted in the Australian Womens' Army Service on 30 November 1943 where she served until discharge on 5 October 1945. Louisa was farewelled at Belmont NSW where the Pelican Sub Branch delivered the Returned and Services League of Australia Tribute. Her ashes were interred in the Wall of Remembrance next to her beloved husband George.

### **NF445454 CORPORAL Colleen Irene BARRON, Australian Womens' Army Service**



Dearly loved wife of NX57790 PTE William Vincent "Bill" Barron 13 Platoon, C Company 2/19 Battalion AIF. Advice from Association member Mrs Margaret Jess advised with deep regret of Colleen's passing on 20 August 2009. Colleen was born at Sydney on 5 March 1923 and enlisted in the Australian Womens Army Service on 15 December 1942 where she served until discharge on 1 March 1946. Colleen was farewelled at St Keiran's Church Manly Vale on 25 August 2009. She is survived by her beloved husband Bill and family, Maureen, Terry, James, Christopher, Christine, John and Donna. Loving Grandmother of Octavia, Brie, Myles, Elliott and Gabriel.

### **SHEEDY, Marilyn Anne (nee Pass)**

We advise with deep regret of the passing of Association Vice President Mick Pass' sister Marilyn on 7 September 2009 aged 70 years. Late of Beacon Hill. Marilyn was the beloved wife of Michael (deceased) and loved mother of Tracey and dear Granma of Ethan and Tess. Fond sister of John, Barbara, Frank and Michael. Marilyn was farewelled at St Cecilia's Catholic Church Balgowlah on Thursday 10 September 2009.



### **NX68418 CORPORAL Roy Hamilton WHITECROSS, 07 APR 1920 - 11 OCT 2009 HQ G Section, HQ 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division**

More than once as a prisoner of the Japanese in World War II Roy Whitecross was ordered to kneel and bow his head and wait for the sword blow that never came. After this, nothing much scared him and he survived captivity in Singapore, Burma, Thailand and Japan to return home. After the war, he served as president of the Headquarters 8th Division Association for almost 60 years and in 2005 revisited his past when he went to Thailand with a group to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the war. Roy Hamilton Whitecross was born in Randwick on April 7, 1920, one of three children of Charles Whitecross, a storeman, and his wife, Eliza Churchwood. He went to state schools in the eastern suburbs and left at 16 to join the public service in 1936. He wrote excellent shorthand and was allotted to the Premier's Department, but when war broke out he enlisted in the army. He was sent to the headquarters of 8th Division and soon was in Malaya. His position allowed him to follow in detail every movement of the Japanese down the peninsula as his unit was directly involved in the fighting, until the surrender of Singapore. Whitecross was captured and sent to

Changi. In later days, after his hardships on the Burma railway, he would say that Changi was a five-star hotel in comparison. In 1942, he was in a group sent to Burma to work on the infamous Burma-Thai railway. Dr Rowley Richards, a medical officer with Whitecross's group, once said that his supplies were so limited he kept them for those he thought had the will to survive, and Roy Whitecross was on that list. When the railway was completed in October 1943, Whitecross was sent into Thailand and by the middle of the following year, was back in Singapore. In December that year he was sent to Japan to work in coalmines. He was allocated to a mine west of Nagasaki and the hardships continued. The men of his group saw the mushroom cloud from the atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki and a few days later they realised the war was over and took over the camp. He visited the bomb site soon afterwards and described it as "a plain littered with crumpled galvanised iron".

Back to Australia, Whitecross returned to the Premier's Department. He married Billie Breckenridge in November 1945 and enrolled in economics at the University of Sydney. In 1951 he wrote a book, *Slaves of the Son of Heaven: a Personal Account of an Australian POW, 1942-1945*, which sold nearly 200,000 copies and was reprinted many times. He had kept a diary during his time as a prisoner and buried it "somewhere in Tamarkan" before the war ended. A friend later dug it up for him and it is now in the Fisher Library. In 1957, Whitecross was appointed as the government agent to accompany a small mission overseas to attract industries to NSW. The mission, through Europe and North America, was a success, and in his report, its leader, William Smith, said the government must open an office in New York and that Whitecross was the man to run it. He had a couple of successful years in New York before returning to Australia. At one point, Fidel Castro was so impressed by his work that he asked Whitecross to be the Cuban consul in Sydney. When the political situation worsened in Cuba, Whitecross declined the offer. Back in Sydney in 1963, somehow he never settled back into the old group. A chance opportunity at the University of Sydney led to his appointment as assistant registrar and he served there happily for 15 years until he retired in 1978 and a "Chair of Tact and Diplomacy" was jokingly named in his honour. He said he "looked forward to doing nothing" after taking a cargo steamer through the Panama Canal to America and Europe. After his divorce from Billie, Whitecross married Jessie Green in 1969 but this ended quickly. In the 1980s, he married Jennifer Edols but she died a few years later. For the past 20 years, Whitecross shared his life with Virginia Bartrop, whom he met after her husband, a war veteran, died in 1973 and Whitecross called in to see if she needed anything. In 2004, Whitecross received a Medal of the Order of Australia. Roy Whitecross is survived by Virginia, her daughter Jennifer and granddaughter Catherine, her son Paul and six great-grandchildren, and his daughter Dianne and his brother Ken and family. (Our thanks to Harriet Veitch for Roy's Eulogy)

Lest We Forget



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



On 29 August I represented the Association at a reception at Government House in Sydney where Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO, Governor of New South Wales unveiled a magnificent portrait of MAJGEN Paul Cullen AC CBE DSO\* ED. The portrait was commissioned by The Royal New South Wales Regimental Council to honour a great man, a great soldier and a great Australian. It was a wonderful occasion with a large gathering of senior officers of the Regiment along with members of Paul Cullen's family. As is ever the case, Her Excellency was a gracious hostess in a magnificent setting. And it was memorable event. I am looking forward to seeing the portrait gracing the walls of Romani Barracks while the Regiment continues its search for a permanent home for the Regimental Museum. Paul Cullen commanded 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Battalion AIF in the New Guinea campaign, and was a great advocate for the Army Reserve in the years after World War 2.

Mrs Margaret Jess advised that Mrs Colleen Barron, wife 2<sup>nd</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF member William Vincent (Bill) Barron passed away on 20 August. Bill is a resident of Narrabeen War Veterans Home. Colleen was farewelled at St Kieran's Church, Manly Vale on 25 August. We extend our deepest condolences to Bill and his family.

On 2 September Bob Pink and I represented the Association at the Battle for Australia Commemoration Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place in the presence of Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO and A large crowd gathering of spectators. Ron Ferguson laid the "wreath" on behalf of 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division AIF. An impressive day with a spectacular flypast by the RAAF at the start of the ceremony!

On Sunday, 6 September Bob Pink and I represented the Association at a Commemoration Service at Miranda RSL Club for Edward (Ned) Kenna VC and his wife Marjorie. Ned and Marjorie Kenna had been married for sixty-two years at the time of Ned's death on 8 July 2009 and Marjorie followed him six weeks later. Ned's daughter, Marlene Day, gave a tribute to Ned on behalf of her family. One of the points that Marlene highlighted was Ned's great desire to reach ninety. He achieved that milestone and passed away two days later. He was heavily involved with 4 RNSWR (now 4/3 RNSWR) and will be sadly missed.

Saturday, 19 September saw Bob & I at the Royal New South Wales Regiment Warrant Officers' and Senior NCOs' Dinner at the Royal Australian Infantry Corps Sergeants' Mess at Singleton. Also present was Dennis Zalunardo and Bob Weir. A very pleasant evening presided over by the Regimental Warrant Officer, WO1 Warren Barnes, and attended by our own BRIG Paul Couch, the Regimental Colonel. Next year's dinner will most probably be on 18 September 2010 and I would like all Senior NCOs to put it in their diary NOW. This is an ideal venue to meet up with old mates from your serving days and, at the same time keep abreast of what is happening in the Regiment. The accommodation – including breakfast – is the cheapest you will get anywhere in the world.

On Saturday 26 September Bob & I again represented the Association in Bathurst when 1/19 RNSWR were awarded signal honour of being granted the Freedom of Entry to the City of Bathurst. This event has had many "false starts" and the actual grant was made in 2002. Operational requirements have intervened to prevent the actual ceremony taking place. After an impressive parade the Battalion then exercised their Right and marched up the main street of Bathurst to be challenged by the Town Marshal (the Police Superintendent). The Mayor of Bathurst then hosted a reception at the National Motor Museum. Treasurer, Joy Newton and husband Reg also made the trip from Sydney to attend. A number of members of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Battalion were also in attendance to witness this memorable event.

On the Saturday evening I also attended the Battalion Ball, which was held at Charles Sturt University and on that occasion, in my capacity as Chairman of the Captain M L Peryman Trust, I presented the Peryman Awards for 2009. A most enjoyable evening, added to by the fact that 1/19 RNSWR is supporting Ronald McDonald House at Westmead Hospital and the generosity of those present helped this worthwhile cause.

Those of you who have an email address will have received my message giving you the details of the website where you can donate to this worthy cause. Needless to say I am delighted with the response from our Association members. Thank you and keep up the good work!

Association member Fred Power advised that Mrs Pearl Hunt, widow of Edward James Bernard (Ted) Hunt, 2/19 Battalion AIF, passed away on 6 October. Her farewell was held at the Catholic Church, Sussex Inlet on 9 October. Unfortunately neither Bob nor I, or LTCOL Peter Morrissey, CO, 1/19 RNSWR, were able to be present at the funeral. Fred and Moira Power represented the Association on this sad occasion. I have conveyed our condolences to Pearl's large family.

At the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Division Association AGM, Association member John Walsh was elected as the Vice President of the Association. I congratulate John on the honour conferred upon him and I am sure that he, and Bob Pink, our Delegate to 8 Div Council, will ably represent the interests of our members.

Later in October I was saddened to learn that Ann, sister of Association stalwart Roy (Zeke) Mundine lost her battle with breast cancer. What made the news even sadder was that her passing occurred in Pink Ribbon month when all over the world the focus is on this terrible disease. Early detection is not an absolute but at least it gives someone diagnosed a much better chance of successful treatment. As Therese Rein, the wife of the Prime Minister, said at the National Breast Cancer Pink Ribbon Breakfast in Sydney you have to nag the women you love to have a mammogram so that you have some degree of certainty where this terrible scourge is concerned. Sunday, 1 November saw the briefing of the Rifle Company Butterworth detachment at Holsworthy prior to their departure for a three month rotation on this very important posting. Neither Bob nor I were able to be present and the Association was represented by Ray Warden. VIP guests included Jim & Margaret Forbes, Joe & Muriel Coombs and Neville & Lorna Riley (2/30<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF). The soldiers of 1/19 RNSWR were very pleased to be given the opportunity to talk with men who had actually fought in Malaya and meeting Jim, Joe and Neville gave new meaning to the Battle Honours emblazoned on the 19 RNSWR Colours. LTCOL Peter Morrissey, who organised the hospitality for our members, is to be commended. COMD 5 BDE, BRIG Paul Brereton was also impressed with the "real" link from the past to the present. Peter Morrissey will be visiting his troops in December and will, while in Malaysia, utilise the opportunity to conduct training exercises for today's soldiers on some of

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the significant sites. Peter will also arrange for a visit, and memorial service, at the Parit Sulong memorial.

On 5 November, Bob Pink and I, accompanied by Peter McGuinness were present at the launch of the "updated" History of the University of New South Wales Regiment 1952 -1956. The author of the updated section is our own Ken McKay who is also secretary of the UNSWR Association. Ken has laboured long on this project and I am pleased to say that Peter McGuinness took time off from his own writing tasks to assist Ken with the layout of the book. A very professional job and a credit to Ken's dedication (and the forbearance of his family) that he has completed it.

On 7 November, again accompanied by Bob Pink, I represented the Association at the Dedication of a Memorial Plaque to the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in Mortdale Memorial Park. This ceremony had particular significance for me as my late father served in 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion in World War One and was one of the men who formed part of the two companies that, in 1916, were transferred to add some experience to the ranks of the newly formed 45<sup>th</sup> Battalion. A very impressive ceremony and a beautiful memorial to the men of The St George Regiment! 45<sup>th</sup> Battalion was finally removed from the Order of Battle in 1960. Its traditions, and history, are today proudly carried by 4/3 RNSWR.

Out of town commitments prevented my attendance at the Remembrance Day Commemoration Service at the Sydney Cenotaph. The Association was represented by Bob Pink and Tony Ohlbach, David Ring and John Walsh were also in attendance. David Ring laid the wreath on behalf of 2/19 Battalion AIF and the Association.

Friday, 13 November saw the commencement of our Annual Reunion weekend. The weekend this year was in Orange NSW and was, in my opinion, one of the best that we have had. A large number attended the Friday evening Meet & Greet and got themselves into gear for the rest of the weekend. A raffle held to support the Battalion's fund raising efforts for Ronald MacDonald House raised \$100 and this was handed to the Commanding Officer who delivered it to the team that were starting their walk from Orange to Sydney on the Saturday morning.

About 80 attended the Memorial Service on Saturday morning at Romani Barracks. It was a very moving service and I am grateful to LTCOL Peter Morrissey and the soldiers of 1/19 RNSWR for their hospitality. The Catafalque Party and Guard were found by members of 1/19RNSWR and they performed their task superbly. 1/19 RNSWR also provided SGT Brian Tisdell as a Piper accompanied by Association member Lizzie Phillips and CFN David Maloney was the Bugler. The spectacular morning tea provided by SGT Wendy Sparks was a high point of the visit. As I was watching my weight I did not partake but I looked longingly at all the goodies on offer.

Peter McGuinness, ably assisted by Bill Edwards, gave a well researched and well presented talk on General Sir John Monash GCMG KCD VD. All those who attended voted this a highlight of the weekend and I am very grateful to Peter for taking the time from his punishing research schedule to prepare this talk.

The Annual General Meeting went without a hitch – some would say there was little opportunity for debate – and I am pleased to say that all members of the Committee were re-elected unopposed. I congratulate the members of the Committee and thank the members for their continued confidence in my leadership and the Committee. We do not take our responsibilities lightly and will continue to meet those responsibilities in the coming year. I congratulate the members of the Committee on their re-election and urge them to greater efforts in the future.

Over 90 members and guests attended the Association Dinner on Saturday evening and it was a resounding success. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion Colours were on display and Association members Brian Tisdell and Lizzie Phillips piped in LTCOL Peter Morrissey as the principal guest. I was also very pleased to welcome Cameron Provost, General Manager of Orange Ex Services Club, together with Peter & Kerry Single – Peter is President of the Orange Ex Services Club – and Brian & Helen Merchant – Brian is President of Orange RSL Sub-Branch – and had been present at the Memorial Service earlier in the day. Cameron Provost's grandfather, LT Erle Eagleston, served in 2/19 Battalion AIF and among the guests at the dinner were Cameron's mother & father, Narelle & David Provost, and his sister and brother-in-law, Rachael & Jim Savage. Another first time guest was Eddie Malcolm, accompanied by his wife Tess. Eddie's father also served in 2/19 Battalion AIF. Joy Bourke, daughter of SGT Frank McGrath was there accompanied by son, Michael and daughter, Mrs Jane Crowe. 2/19 Battalion AIF member, Glen Scriven who was accompanied by his daughter Gleness Larnach, proposed the Toast to 2/19 Battalion AIF.

Apart from a fairly long speech by me – during which a number of people were seen to be asleep – we received a very informative Occasional Address by Peter Morrissey who brought members up to speed on what is happening in 1/19 RNSWR. I was also pleased that we arranged for Association Patron, LTCOL Terry Irwin MBE, OAM, ED, to present the National Medal to long time Association member Neil Melville. The Association also recognised nearly 40 years of service to 1/19 RNSWR and to the Association since its inception by conferring Life Membership on LTCOL Terry Irwin and presented him with a silver salver to commemorate the event. We also presented a sheaf of flowers to Mrs Beryl Irwin as "compensation" for adding to her polishing tasks.

Any report on the weekend would be incomplete without a public acknowledgment of the generosity of those members who donated the raffle prizes, Roy & Alice Schmidke, Bob & Linda Colligan, Blue & Arleen Schafer and Neil & Ethel Melville. Their generosity, and the support (coerced by Maree Derrick) of guests present for the raffle, raised \$448 for Association funds.

In ending this report, which has tended to run on in a manner similar to my speech at the Annual Dinner, I would like to thank the Committee for their efforts during 2009 and to congratulate them on their re-election. I look forward to working with each of you in 2010



To all of our members and your families as we move towards the end of 2009 I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a happy Christmas and a safe holiday season. Please take care and spend time with those whom you love and who love you. Take care of yourselves and each other; I look forward to seeing many of you in 2010.



*Roger Perry*

## COMING EVENTS - 2010

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	Remarks
SUN	06 FEB 10	1000	NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S COMMEMORATION	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	To be confirmed
MON	15 FEB 10	1030	FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	
SUN	25 APR 10	0930	ANZAC DAY MARCH & REUNION – SYDNEY	March - Form Up Outside NSW Leagues Club Elizabeth St Reunion - MV Jerry Bailey - Sydney Harbour Cruise	
	TBA	0930	RNSWR CHURCH PARADE – GARRISON CHURCH	THE ROCKS SYDNEY	To be confirmed
	TBA		60 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION FORMATION OF THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT	DETAILS TBA	
	TBA	1800	RNSWR OFFICERS' DINNER (TBC)		
FRI SAT SUN MON	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 11-14 JUN 10	TBC	CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS WAGGA WAGGA DEPOT – DOCKER STREET	Contact Ben DAVEY 0408 695 770 davey88@ozemail.com.au	Accommodation will be critical – 11-14 JUN 10 is Queen's Birthday Weekend BOOK EARLY
SAT	26 JUN 10	1330	RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE - CANBERRA	CANBERRA	Australian War Memorial
SAT	03 JUL 10	1030	RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE - NEWCASTLE	NEWCASTLE	Assemble near Railway Stn
SUN	04 JUL 10	1045	RESERVE FORCES DAY NATIONAL & NSW REVIEW	SYDNEY DOMAIN Association Reunion NSW Leagues Club Phillip St	
SUN	25 JUL 10	0930	POZIERES DAY COMMEMORATION	ST COLUMBA CHURCH Ocean Street WOOLLAHRA	
SUN	15 AUG 10	1030	VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	
WED	01 SEP 10	1030	BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	
FRI SAT SUN	13 NOV 10 14 NOV 10 15 NOV 10		<b>1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &amp; REUNION WEEKEND</b>	Venue to be advised	
SAT	TBA	1800	RNSWR WO/SNCO'S REGIMENTAL DINNER OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION & BREAKFAST INCLUDED IN VERY REASONABLE COST	SCHOOL OF INFANTRY SINGLETON NSW	Phone Bob PINK 0414 907 427 or Warren BARNES 0409 909 439
THU	11 NOV 10	1030	REMEMBRANCE DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	

## ASSOCIATION PATRONS & OFFICE BEARERS

PATRON Lieutenant Colonel T.C. (Terry) IRWIN, MBE, OAM, ED, ARMIT, MIR, JP  
 PATRON Colonel B.E. (Brian) MARTYN, RFD  
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## SICK REPORT



Bill DUMBRELL recovering in Liverpool Hospital in mid September after undergoing radio therapy for a spinal fusion operation. Bill was packed ready to go for the Association Annual General Meeting in November but suffered a relapse which regrettably prevented his attendance. Bill sends his best regards and thanks for the many Get Well wishes and hopes to be back on his feet very shortly.



Peter HALL spent a few weeks in the Gold Coast Hospital undergoing some work by the fang farrier and we hope you're feeling a lot better mate.



## CONGRATULATIONS



To **Jean BIRCH** who celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday on 19 November. A Big Well Done and congratulations from us all Jean !



To **Bob & Virginia MIDDLETON** a new grandson, Dominic Henry Christian Pierre, born 24 August 2009 to second Daughter Emma and husband Martin Pierre.

TO 1/19 RNSWR FUND RAISING TEAM: WO2 Quentin STEIN, CAPT Matt DIRAGO, WO1 Shane McPHEE & WO2 Mark FISHER for their tremendous effort. As we go press they have raised

# Walk raising money for cancer support

By BEVAN SHIELDS

JUST two months after being welcomed into the world beautiful baby boy Jonah Stein was forced to fight a battle no child should ever have to go through.

Diagnosed with a life threatening brain tumour on New Year's Eve last year, Jonah has since spent his short life separated from his family as the "tough little bugger" undergoes a gruelling regime of chemotherapy in Sydney.

During that time his father, Warrant Officer Quentin Stein, has stayed in Orange to care for his four girls aged 2, 4, 6 and 8 while Jonah and mother Kylie have been staying in Ronald McDonald House at the Westmead Children's Hospital.

Each weekend Warrant Officer Stein packs up the family and travels to Sydney so the four girls can visit Jonah and their mother, a routine expected to continue until at least March next year.

"Being down there I've got to know a lot of families who have given up a lot in life to be there permanently," Warrant Officer Stein said yesterday.

"I've been lucky, we've had my in-laws living with us and they've basically given up their lives."

The experience is another example of the cruel and indiscriminate nature of cancer and a lesson in the need to have a Ronald McDonald House based at the new Orange Base Hospital.

To help make the house a reality Warrant Officer Stein and



**WALKING WARRIORS:** Warrant Officer Class Two Quentin Stein, Captain Matthew Dirago, Warrant Officer Class One Shane McPhee and Warrant Officer Class Two Mark Fisher make final preparations before walking to Sydney tomorrow.

Photo: JUDE KEOGH 1113army

three other soldiers from the 1st/19th Battalion of the Royal NSW Regiment will ship out at 0900 hours today on a 231 kilometre charity walk between Orange and Sydney.

The fundraising target of \$50,000 will be split evenly between the Ronald McDonald Houses in Westmead and Orange.

"Jonah's doing as good as can

be expected for someone that young undergoing chemo, he's a tough little bugger," Warrant Officer Stein said yesterday.

"The Orange community has been so fantastic."

The four soldiers will stop at McDonald's in Bathurst on Sunday morning, Lithgow on Monday, Blaxland on Tuesday and at each of the seven McDonald's

between Blaxland and Westmead. "I've been in the army for around 29 years and it's like one big family, when one of us are hurt we all hurt so we help each other out," he said.

They will be at McDonald's in Orange from 7am today and will depart at 9am. People are urged to donate at [www.everydayhero.com.au/quentinstein](http://www.everydayhero.com.au/quentinstein).

# DONATIONS



It is a pleasure to once again acknowledge the generosity of the following members which is gratefully received. Our Thanks folks !

MR	Allan	BRIDEOAKE, JP
CFN	Lindsay	DOBBIE
LTCOL	Terry	IRWIN, MBE OAM ED ARMIT MIR JP
Mrs	Margaret	JESS
MAJ	Reg	NEWTON
Mrs	Ella	PERCEVAL



# NEW MEMBERS

A very warm and sincere welcome is extended to the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter:

MAJ	Marj	BULLIVANT, RFD	YASS NSW	2582
PTE	Colin	CHALKER	TARALGA NSW	2580
LT	Peter	HUGHES	INDOOROOPILLY QLD	4068
LCPL	Eddie	PITT	MOREE NSW	2400
MRS	Narelle	PROVOST	ORANGE NSW	2800
MR	John	WALSH, PSM, JP	ASHFIELD NSW	2131

FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY OF BATHURST 19 SEP 09





## SEEN AROUND THE TRAPS



### VISIT TO BAPTIST REDEEMER SCHOOL



Ken GRAY (2/12 Field Company 8 Australian Division AIF) pictured at left with Bob PINK at right with Year 11 students during their visit to Parramatta Redeemer Baptist School on 9 September 09 where Ken had been invited to attend to speak on his war time experiences to assist with their project on NX35491 PTE Douglas Gray Simpson 2/19 Battalion AIF who died on the Burma-Thailand Railway 17 December 1943 and who is commemorated on a plaque at the school .



## 2/19 ERS AT REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - LIDCOMBE 8 NOV 09



L to R BACK: Mrs GILLIES – Joe COOMBS – Muriel COOMBS – Alf MANSFIELD – Margaret FORBES – Jim FORBES – Margaret GILL – Di ELLIOTT – Paul ELLIOTT  
 SEATED: Ettie READ – Maureen MARINER – Betty MANSFIELD – Ethel PEARSON  
 AT FRONT: Graeme GILL – Len GILLIES (Photo courtesy of Graeme Gill)

# FRONTLINE

## MEMORIAL PLAQUE UNVEILING 45th BATTALION AIF SAT 7 NOV 09 MORTDALE PARK



## PORTRAIT UNVEILING OF MAJGEN Paul CULLEN Government House Sydney 29 NOV 09



REMEMBRANCE DAY  
SYDNEY CENOTAPH  
David RING lays the  
Association wreath

# FRONTLINE

## AGM MEET & GREET FRI 13 NOV 09 ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB



## AGM MEET & GREET FRI 13 NOV 09 ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB



# FRONTLINE

## WREATH LAYING COMMEMORATION ROMANI BARRACKS SAT 14 NOV 09



## AGM DINNER ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB SAT 14 NOV 09



# FRONTLINE

## AGM DINNER ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB SAT 14 NOV 09



## AGM DINNER ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB SAT 14 NOV 09



# FRONTLINE



**I/XIX**

*Primus agat Primas - Fortiter et Fideliter*

**MINUTES OF 1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION  
(PROUDLY INCORPORATING 2/19 BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION)**

**ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB**

**243 Anson Street ORANGE NSW 2800**

**ON SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 1600h**

**OPENING:**

The Chairman, Mr Roger PERRY opened the meeting at 1600h and noted the apologies.

**ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES:**

It was **MOVED** by Neil MELVILLE and **SECONDED** by Bob WEIR that the apologies be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**PRESENT:**

Robert	BINNS
Steven	CARR
Barry	CHAPMAN
Harry	COLE
Bob	COLLIGAN
Brad	COLLIS
Tom	COOPER
Martin	DARBY
Alan	DRINKWATER
Bill	EDWARDS
George	FISHER
Eddie	GIFFORD
Sandy	HOWARD
Peter	HUGHES
Terry	IRWIN
Felicity	JESS
Dan	JOHNSTON
Corinna	KELLY
Malcolm	LE COMTE
Eddie	MALCOLM
Brian	MARTYN
Peter	McGUINNESS
Ross	McINTOSH
Ken	McKAY
Neil	MELVILLE
Peter	MORRISSEY
Joy	NEWTON
Reg	NEWTON
Mick	PASS
Roger	PEARSON
Roger	PERRY
Lizzie	PHILLIPS
Bob	PINK
Roy	RAE
Peter	REYNOLDS
Graham	ROSS
John	SAMIN
Eric	SAVILLE
Bryan	SCHAFER
Glen	SCRIVEN
Wayne	SKINNER
Graham	TIPPETT
Brian	TISDELL
Bob	WADE
John	WALSH
Rocky	WALSHAW
Charlie	WATSON
Bob	WEIR
Gavin	WINTER
Maree	WINTER
Dennis	ZALUNARDO

**BY INVITATION**

Warren	BARNES
Peggy	DRINKWATER
Jane	VAN LIMBEEK
Heather	WADE

**APOLOGIES:**

Colin	AIKEN
Rick	AVERY
Garv	BELTRAME
Warwick	BIRCH
Jean	BIRCH
Russell	BLACK
Joy	BOURKE
Michael	BOURKE
Geoff	BRADDON
Peter	BRANDNER
John	BRENNAN
Allan	BRIDEOAKE
Bruce	BRIDEOAKE
John	BURNS
Howard	BYE
Joan	BYE
Joe	COOMBS
Paul	COUCH
Jane	CROWE
Lance	CROWLEY
Terry	CURTIS
Lindsav	DOBBIE
Bill	DUMBRELL
Charles	EDWARDS
John	ELLIOTT
Ken	FITZGERALD
Tom	FLETCHER
John	FOGARTY
Jim	FORBES
John	FOY
Graeme	GILL
Peter	GODFREY
Bob	GRANT
Trevor	HAGAN
Peter	HALL
Bruce	HANSEN
Keith	HARRIS
Tony	HARVEY
Alan	HAYWARD
Sandy	HOWARD
John	JACKSON
Charles	JENSEN
Kevin	JONES
Mick	KILDEY
Maurie	LAYTON
Garry	LEWIS
Bob	LIDDEN
Dennis	LITTAME
Alan	LOWE
Cliff	LOWIEN
Alf	MANSFIELD
Maureen	MARINER
Kev	MARSHALL
Roy	MUNDINE
Larry	NOLAN
Tony	OHLBACH
Don	PECK
Ella	PERCEVAL
Peter	PHILLIPS
Narelle	PROVOST
Mark	QUILL
Brad	READ
Ettie	READ
David	RING
Jack	SANDERSON
Adrian	SCHLIEPER
Roy	SCHMIDTKE
Bodo	SCHWARZ
Noel	SELWAY
Helen	SHEEDY
Laurie	SHEEDY
Troy	THOMAS
Anaela	THOMAS
Mike	WALDRON
Mavis	WARD
Rav	WARDEN
Robert	WATSON
Tuck	WILSON

## FALLEN COMRADES:

The Chairman asked all present to stand and observe a period of silence in solemn memory of Fallen Comrades, relatives and friends:

	MRS	Muriel El-Louise	CANE	28 Jul 08	
	MRS	Liselotte	MUELLER	19 Oct 08	
	MRS	Ruth	HOWARD	26 Oct 08	
NX57909	LT	William Gordon	MINTO	16 Nov 08	RSO 2/19 BATTALION AIF
NX35747	SGT	Sidney Albert	WEEDEN	22 Dec 08	2/19 BATTALION AIF
NX32287	PTE	Allen Vincent	CLARK	07 Feb 09	2/19 BATTALION AIF
	MRS	Lilybell H.	BRINDLEY	15 Feb 09	
NX57265	PTE	Robert Peter	PIGGOTT	08 Apr 09	2/19 BATTALION AIF
	MRS	Barbara	WATSON	24 Apr 09	
2/774013	SPR	Lou	THIELE	24 Jun 09	19 NS BN & 6 FD ENGRS SON
NF465800	PTE	Louisa Jane	WHITMORE	04 Aug 09	AWAS
NX56216	SGT	Herbert James	DONALDSON	11 Aug 09	D COY 2/19 BATTALION AIF
	MRS	Colleen	BARRON	20 Aug 09	
	MRS	Marilyn Anne	SHEEDY (nee PASS)	07 Sep 09	
440108	WO & SSGT	Kenneth James	TREVALLIION OAM	09 Sep 09	148 SON RAAF & 1/19 RNSWR
	MRS	Pearl	HUNT	06 Oct 09	
NX68418	CPL	Roy Hamilton	WHITCROSS OAM	11 Oct 09	HQ G Sec HQ - 8 Division HQ
	MRS	Ann	MUNDINE	Oct 09	

## MINUTES OF THE 9th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT GOSFORD RSL CLUB ON 27 SEP 2008

The Chairman advised that the Minutes of the previous AGM held on Saturday 27 SEP 2008 had been circulated to all members via the Association's Frontline 4/2008 Newsletter of December 2008.

It was **MOVED** by Bob COLLIGAN and **SECONDED** by Bryan SCHAFER that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 SEP 08 be taken as read.

**MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising

## CORRESPONDENCE:

The Honorary Secretary tabled the Inwards and Outwards Correspondence since the last Annual General Meeting on 27 SEP 2008. A total of 120 Inwards and 1984 items of Outwards Correspondence had been dealt with since the last Annual General Meeting. These items include the Association Newsletters.

It was **MOVED** by Bob WEIR and **SECONDED** by Maree WINTER that the Correspondence Register be taken as read and the correspondence be accepted.

## CARRIED

## MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

There were no matters arising.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Chairman reported on the Association's activities and functions during the preceding year. Details are contained in the Association's newsletters. He also spoke on the close support the Association is privileged to enjoy from the Commanding Officer and members of 1/19 RNSWR. Lieutenant Colonel Peter MORRISSEY's attendances and those of the Adjutant, Captain Matt DIRAGO and other Battalion officers and NCO's at the funerals of comrades of 2/19 Battalion AIF is a moving testament to the unit's fostering and the Chairman's remarks were greeted by the hearty acclamation of the meeting. The Chairman also thanked LTCOL MORRISSEY for the unit's assistance to the Association this weekend.

The Chairman delivered a brief on the visit on Sunday 1 NOV 09 by Joe & Muriel COOMBS and Jim & Margaret FORBES of 2/19 Battalion AIF, Neville & Lorna RILEY of 2/30 Battalion AIF and Ray & Gay WARDEN of 1/19 RNSWR Association to farewell the Rifle Company Butterworth Contingent to Malaysia at Holsworthy Barracks NSW. The Chairman thanked all members of the Committee for their efforts and undertakings throughout the year and made special mention of the continuing valuable role played by Bob WADE in his position as Memorabilia Manager and who was also applauded for his efficient and ongoing work. The Chairman advised that the current stock sheets once again reflected a very profitable trading period.

## RAFFLE FUND RAISING:

The Chairman reminded all that a raffle will be conducted at this evening's dinner and he thanked the following members for their kind support in donating the prizes:

### Roy & Alice SCHMIDTKE

2 engraved silver salvers with the Regimental Crest of the 1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment & 2/19 Battalion AIF Sentry under the Palm Tree Logo

### Neil & Ethel MELVILLE

Glass faced clock

### Bob & Linda COLLIGAN

Duntroon Bear – made by Bob's late Mother

### Bryan & Arleen SCHAFER

8 bottles of fine Port & Wine

In closing the Chairman reported that the Association was in a sound financial position.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Chairman drew attention to the meeting's Agenda sheet which disclosed the Association's Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 which were formally tabled by the Treasurer Mrs Joy NEWTON:

- Audited Financial Report containing Balance Sheet, Receipts & Payments and Income & Expenditure Statement for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.
- Form 12 Annual Statement.
- Certificate of Currency of Public Liability Insurance (expires 4.00 pm local Standard time on 3 August 2010) QBE policy No. 42A173345 PLB

## 1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION INC STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity. The Committee have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards in so far as they are relevant to the members of the Association. In the opinion of the Committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 3:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of 1/19RNSWR Association Inc. as at 30 June 2009 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that 1/19 RNSWR Association Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

.....  
 ROGER J PERRY  
 President

.....  
 ROBERT J PINK  
 Secretary

30 July 2009

**1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION INC  
 INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS  
 OF 1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION INC**

**Scope**

I have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of 1/19 RNSWR Association Inc for the year ended 30 June 2009 as set out on pages 1 to 4.

The Committee is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) and the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW).

I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared. My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates.

These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material aspects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies adopted by the Association so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's financial position and performance as represented by the results of its operations.

These policies do not require the application of all Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies adopted by the Association the financial position of 1/19RNSWR Association Inc. as at 30 June 2009 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

DENNIS ZALUNARDO, OAM  
 Honorary Auditor

31 July 2009

1 Jacaranda Avenue  
 BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES  
 FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

2008		2009
<b>ASSETS</b>		
14,728	Cash at Bank	10,992
0	Sundry Debtors & Prepaid expenses	1849
5,199	Stock for sale	3,928
609	Equipment at written down value	350
<b>20,536</b>		<b>17,119</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
1,566	Medal Fund	1,566
297	Welfare Fund	297
210	Revenue in advance	210
3,070	Subscriptions in Advance	4,110
<b>5,143</b>		<b>5,973</b>
<b>15,393</b>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>11,146</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
14,838	Accumulated earnings 1 July 2008	11,888
3,505	Life subscriptions transferred	3,505
(2,950)	Add: Surplus/(deficit) for year	(4,247)
<b>15,393</b>	<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>	<b>11,146</b>

**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE  
 FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

2008		2009
<b>INCOME</b>		
5,380	Subscriptions	3,850
673	Bank Interest	419
1,817	Profit/Loss Merchandise sales	(1,467)
5,960	Donations received	4,633
<b>13,830</b>		<b>7,435</b>
<b>Less: EXPENDITURE</b>		
2	Bank Charges	42
100	Donations	300
392	Depreciation	258
983	Insurance	983
9,431	Net Cost of Functions	4,872
3,103	Postage, Printing, Stationery & Phone	2,918
2,224	Magazine costs	1,638
44	Filing fees	45
200	8th Div Assn Subscription	100
120	Welfare	345
181	Sundry expenses	181
<b>16,780</b>		<b>11,682</b>
<b>(2,950)</b>	<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>(4,247)</b>

23 New members joined the Association since the last AGM.

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

2008		2009
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
5,520	Subscriptions	4,890
673	Bank Interest	419
2,226	Sales – Merchandise	1,142
1,326	Sales – The Grim Glory	3,520
9,880	Donations	4,633
80	Welfare	0
0	Medal Fund	0
525	Quilt – Raffle	0
12,253	Functions	9,754
<b>32,483</b>		<b>24,358</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
2	Bank Charges	42
100	Donations	300
983	Insurance	983
27,549	Functions	14,837
	Postage, Printing, Stationery & Phone	2,918
3,103	Printing -The Grim Glory	3,234
1,078	Production - 19 Bn History	1,848
0	Sundries	181
180	8 Div Assn Subscription	100
200	Welfare	345
120	Magazine	1,638
2,224	Purchases – stock for sale	1,623
2,276	Equipment purchases	0
642	Filing fees	45
44		
<b>38,501</b>		<b>28,094</b>
(6,018)	SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	(3,736)
20,746	Cash Book Balance at 1 July 2008	14,728
<b>14,728</b>	CASH BOOK BALANCE at 30 JUNE 2009	<b>10,992</b>

The Treasurer reported that the current balance of the Association's Bank account as at 17 November 2009 was \$9,006. The Chairman commended and thanked Mrs Joy NEWTON for her valued efforts as Treasurer.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Statements.

It was **MOVED** by George FISHER and **SECONDED** by Bob WEIR that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

**CARRIED**

### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

The Association financial membership currently totals **340**

CATEGORY	No.
1/19 RNSWR	164
Former 2/19 Bn AIF Association Honorary Life Members	63
Former 2/19 Bn AIF Association Associate Members	113
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>340</b>

MAJ	Marj	<b>BULLIVANT RFD</b>	YASS NSW	2582
PTE	Steven	<b>CARR</b>	WARWICK FARM NSW	2170
PTE	Colin	<b>CHALKER</b>	TARALGA	2580
MRS	Joan	<b>CLARK</b>	NELSON BAY NSW	2315
MAJ	Brett	<b>COOPER</b>	MOUNT KEIRA NSW	2500
CPL	Paul	<b>DUNLOP</b>	ORANGE NSW	2528
CPL	Peter	<b>HALL</b>	GOONELLABAH NSW	2480
MR	Michael	<b>HEYDON</b>	GUNDAGAI NSW	2722
LT	Peter	<b>HUGHES</b>	INDOOROOPILLY QLD	4068
MRS	Margaret	<b>JESS</b>	COWRA NSW	2794
PTE	Dale	<b>JORDAN</b>	MUSWELLBROOK NSW	2333
CAPT	Andrew	<b>KFOURY</b>	GOSFORD NSW	2250
Mr	Wayne	<b>MATTHEWS</b>	BAR BEACH NSW	2300
MR	John	<b>O'CONNOR</b>	MOLONG NSW	2866
LCPL	Eddie	<b>PITT</b>	MOREE NSW	2400
PTE	Anthony	<b>PRESBURY</b>	OYSTER BAY NSW	2225
MRS	Narelle	<b>PROVOST</b>	ORANGE NSW	2800
MR	Mark	<b>QUILL</b>	BORONIA HEIGHTS QLD	4124
LCPL	Bill	<b>SAVILLE</b>	WOY WOY NSW	2256
CPL	Dave	<b>SMALL</b>	BOOROWA NSW	2586
PTE	Angela	<b>THOMAS</b>	BUDGEWOI NSW	2262
CPL	Troy	<b>THOMAS</b>	BUDGEWOI NSW	2262
CAPT	Peter	<b>WATT</b>	MACLEAN NSW	2463

### UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS:

Despite follow up, 27 (1/19) and 30 (former 2/19 Association) members regrettably failed to renew their Year 2009 Subscriptions and have been written off:

CATEGORY	No.
Former 1/19 RNSWR	27
Former 2/19 Bn AIF Assn Honorary Life Members	NIL
Former 2/19 Bn AIF Ass Associate Members	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>

### DEATHS:

Sadly, 11 members passed away during the year.

### ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER:

The Association's newsletter continues to be produced on a quarterly basis in a professional format, and the Honorary Secretary acknowledged the valued assistance of the printer in its production.

The Association maintains contact with other unit Associations and 68 copies of the magazine are currently sent to the following kindred associations and organisations:

# FRONTLINE

Association of First Infantry Battalions  
1st Battalion AMF Association  
Friends of the City of Newcastle Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalions  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion RNSWR and 3<sup>rd</sup> Inf Battalion Association  
Association of 4th Battalions  
Association of 17<sup>th</sup> Battalions  
Ex 22 Battalion RVR Association  
30<sup>th</sup> Battalion NSW Scottish Regimental Association  
CO 1/19 RNSWR  
RSM 1/19 RNSWR  
OPS OFFR 1/19 RNSWR  
Defence Reserves Association  
8 Division Council Association (3)  
National Library of Australia  
Australian War Memorial  
State Library of NSW  
UNSWR Association  
Reserve Forces Day Council (33)  
14 Field Squadron Association  
RAAOC Association  
3 Coy Transport Association  
45<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association  
RANR Association

1/19 RNSWR Depots at Orange, Bathurst, Dubbo, Parkes & Wagga Wagga, (175 copies)

Many magazines are also sent with application forms to enquirers throughout the year. A total of 600 copies of the magazine continue to be despatched each quarter.

The Honorary Secretary spoke on the generosity and the many donations received from the membership which has enabled the Newsletter to continue to be forwarded gratis to several ill and frail widows of 2/19 Battalion AIF members.

## **ANZAC DAY 2009:**

The customary and valued support by the Commanding Officer 1/19 RNSWR in the provision of a banner party under the command of SSGT Don KENNEDY for 2/19 Battalion AIF on ANZAC Day was acknowledged with thanks.

## **YEAR 2010 SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS:**

Fall due and payable on 1 JANUARY 2010. A subscription slip will be enclosed with the December 2009 Newsletter to all members.

## **VOTE OF THANKS TO PRESIDENT:**

On behalf of all Committee Members the Honorary Secretary sincerely thanked President Roger PERRY for his leadership and continued close guidance and dedication to the Association, together with the vast amount of personal time and effort he has and continues to contribute on behalf of the Association and its members.

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT:**

Vice President Mick PASS spoke on the Association's activities during 2009 which had generally been well attended in view of the economic downturn.

Next year's functions will be published in the December 09 newsletter and subsequent newsletters and he looked forward to increased attendances next year. The MV "Jerry Bailey" will again be booked for next year's ANZAC Day cruise on Sydney Harbour.

Mr PASS delivered a brief on the programme and arrangements for this evening's Formal Dinner to be held in the Orange Ex Services Club and thanked all for making a special effort to be present this evening – particularly those who have travelled long distances.

## **AGM & DINNER 2010**

The Chairman spoke on the background to the reinstatement of a Commemorative Service at St Luke's Church, Arden Street CLOVELLY NSW which is the repository of the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF Pozieres Cross in addition to a host of other 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF artefacts and memorabilia.

It was PROPOSED that next year's Annual General Meeting be held in SYDNEY. Following discussion it was further PROPOSED that subject to the cost of accommodation in the Randwick area, that next year's Annual General Meeting be held in SYDNEY on the weekend 13-14-15 NOVEMBER 2010.

The Committee is to assess the availability of suitable and reasonably priced accommodation, which will be a major deciding factor by the majority of members whether to attend, and this in turn will determine the success of the function and the Commemorative Church Service on the Sunday morning. In any event, subject to deliberations at Committee level and discussions with CO, 1/19 RNSWR, the Association will attend a Commemorative Service at St Luke's in 2010.

## **CONFIRMATION OF RE-APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY CHAPLAIN:**

The Chairman advised that unavoidable pastoral duties in Sydney had precluded our Chaplain's and Mrs Patricia AIKEN's attendance at this weekend's functions and today's meeting. He had much pleasure in confirming the continuation of the appointment of LTCOL Reverend Chaplain Canon Colin AIKEN OAM RFD ChStJ as the Association's Chaplain and expressed his personal thanks to Colin & Patricia for their continuing support.

## **HONORARY AUDITOR:**

The Chairman also confirmed the continuation of Dennis ZALUNARDO OAM as the Association's Honorary Auditor for the ensuing year. This was endorsed by the hearty acclamation of all present. The Chairman thanked Dennis for his ongoing commitment and characteristic meticulousness when undertaking the audit of the Association's accounts.

## **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2009-2010:**

The Chairman advised that only one nomination had been received for each of the positions of President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Honorary Secretary, Assistant Treasurer and 6 Committee positions. The Chairman then declared the following elected to the positions shown. This declaration was endorsed with acclamation by all present.

## **VENUE 2010:**

POSITION	ELECTED	
PRESIDENT	<b>Roger</b>	<b>PERRY</b>
VICE PRESIDENT & PUBLICITY OFFICER	<b>Mick</b>	<b>PASS</b>
TREASURER	<b>Joy</b>	<b>NEWTON</b>
HONORARY SECRETARY/ NEWSLETTER EDITOR / 8 DIVISION LIAISON OFFICER / ASSOCIATION PUBLIC OFFICER	<b>Bob</b>	<b>PINK</b>
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	<b>Bryan</b>	<b>SCHAFER</b>
ASSISTANT TREASURER	<b>Bob</b>	<b>WEIR</b>
COMMITTEE MEMBER & MERCHANDISING MANAGER	<b>Bob</b>	<b>WADE</b>
COMMITTEE MEMBER & WEBSITE MANAGER	<b>John</b>	<b>FOGARTY</b>
COMMITTEE MEMBER & ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN	<b>Geoff</b>	<b>BRADDON</b>
COMMITTEE MEMBER	<b>John</b>	<b>ELLIOTT</b>
COMMITTEE MEMBER	<b>Graeme</b>	<b>GILL</b>
COMMITTEE MEMBER	<b>Kevin</b>	<b>JONES</b>

The Chairman congratulated all on their election and with the President looked forward to their commitment in the ensuing year.

#### APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY VIDEO RECORDIST:

The Chairman thanked Felicity JESS for her presence at today's meeting and her video recording the proceedings of today's Monash Address and the Annual General Meeting.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS:

#### RESERVE FORCESDAY 2009 CERTIFICATES:

The Honorary Secretary advised that he has received the certificates from the Reserve Forces Day Council. Members' Regimental details are to be printed on each certificate which will be enclosed with the December 09 newsletter.

#### VOTE OF THANKS TO LTCOL PETER McGUINNESS:

The Chairman thanked LTCOL Peter McGUINNESS for the impressive and interesting address he delivered on General Sir John MONASH GCMG KCB VD earlier this afternoon which provided unknown insight into his life and accomplishments. This was endorsed by hearty acclamation.

The Chairman on behalf of the Association also paid tribute to the enormous undertaking by LTCOL Peter McGUINNESS in writing the history of 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF, which is now well underway.

#### VOTE OF THANKS TO COMMITTEE:

Mr Glen SCRIVEN rose and on behalf of all Association members conveyed the sincere thanks for the work the Committee undertakes on behalf of all and in particular those of 2/19 Battalion AIF.

#### COMFORT PARCELS 1/19 RNSWR MEMBERS RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH MALAYSIA DEPLOYMENT:

George FISHER spoke on and PROPOSED that the Association send a comfort parcel to each of the 41

members of 1/19 RNSWR serving with the current RCB Deployment in Malaysia.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that this be done and the Chairman undertook to investigate the best way of sending them through Australia Post to ensure their arrival by Christmas.

#### NEXT MEETING:

**Weekend 13-14-15 NOVEMBER 2010**

**Venue:** To be advised

#### CLOSURE:

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 1635 h

## YEAR 2010 SUBSCRIPTIONS

FALL DUE ON 1 JANUARY 2010 AND THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE YOUR PAYMENT.

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1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION**

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If you have already paid your subscription - or your cheque's in the mail please ignore the above and we thank you for your prompt attention



### CAPTAIN M.L. MAN TROPHY 2008-2009 WINNERS

Our congratulations to the following 1/19 RNSWR members who have been awarded this years trophies for exhibiting outstanding qualities in the performance of their military duties.

8218056	MAJ	Terry	<b>BETTS</b> Second-in-Command & Operations Officer, Bn HQ
8217235	WO1	Bob	<b>DOOLEY</b> Platoon Warrant Officer 6 (Lachlan) Platoon, B (Lachlan Macquarie ) Company
8222815	CPL	Adam	<b>BURTON</b> Section Commander 10 Platoon, D (NSW Mounted Rifles) Company
8244150	CPL	Erica	<b>ECCLESTON</b> Regimental Aid Post Corporal Medical Platoon, Administrative Company

## UNSWR HISTORY BOOK LAUNCH VIC BKS



### *The History of the University of New South Wales Regiment 1952 – 2006*

has been published to record the great contribution that UNSWR has made during its first 54 years to produce commissioned officers for the Australian Army Reserve. The history is in a hard covered book made up of more than 370 pages of interesting facts and photographs. The major features of the book are:

- Over 200 photographs including 29 pages with colour plates;
- Outlines of annual field training and exercises conducted;
- A record of major ceremonial events including the presentation of New Colours, exercising Freedom of the City of Randwick and the laying-up of Old Colours of the Regiment;
- A list of more than 600 members of UNSWR commissioned as officers in the Army Reserve;
- The way in which the Regimental Band has stirred the feeling of pride in UNSWR;
- Profiles of Honorary Colonels and Commanding Officers;
- Contributions by several former members of UNSWR who have described interesting and occasionally humorous experiences with the Regiment; and
- A summary about the way in which pre-commissioning training has developed for Army Reserve members generally.

With a comprehensive index, this book is a must if you have ever served in UNSWR or have had a family member who has done so. If you have an interest in the Australian Army either as a member or as a citizen of the local community where UNSWR has had a presence, then you may also find this book to be one worthy of your home library. An attractive personalised bookplate, signed by the authors, will be added to the inside front cover for anyone who has served in the Regiment. *The History of the University of New South Wales Regiment 1952 – 2006* can be obtained by sending the mail order form below to:

Honorary Secretary, UNSWR Association, c/- 6 Chester Avenue, Cambridge Park NSW 2747 (if paying by cheque or money order)

or

Email to: [secretary@unswr.com](mailto:secretary@unswr.com) (if paying through Internet banking)

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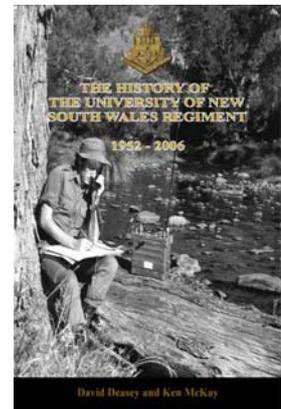
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## VISIT TO RIFLE COY BUTTERWORTH DEPLOYMENT 1 NOV 09

Following the invitation of the Commanding Officer 1/19 RNSWR LTCOL Peter MORRISSEY, Joe & Muriel Coombs – Jim & Margaret Forbes of 2/19 Battalion AIF & Neville & Lorna Riley of 2/30 Bn AIF together with Ray & Gay Warden of 1/19 RNSWR Association attended a BBQ lunch and briefing and met with the Commander 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade BRIG Paul BRERETON and his staff and 1/19 RNSWR members who were undergoing pre-deployment training at Holsworthy in Oct/Nov. Their attendance added a unique and valued impetus to LTCOL Morrissey's address on the Malaya/Singapore Campaign and to the soldiers about to follow in their footsteps in Malaya and Singapore. (Our thanks to Ray Warden for the photos)

CO 1/19 RNSWR LTCOL Peter MORRISSEY with L to R Mrs Lorna RILEY, Mrs ay WARDEEN, Mrs Margaret FORBES & Mrs Muriel COOMBS



CO 1/19 RNSWR at Right - pictured with COMD 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade at Left and his staff



Tony O'DONOGHUE – WO2 Barry PARSONS & Ray WARDEEN



L to R Mrs Muriel COOMBS – Mr Jim FORBES – Mr Joe COOMBS & Mr Neville RILEY



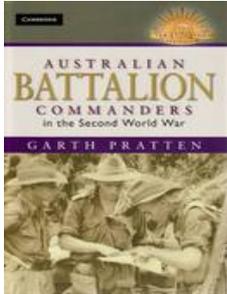
Deployment Members whose grandfathers had served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division in Malaya & Singapore during World War 2 with Joe, Jim and Neville

## RNSWR WO/SNCO DINNER SINGLETON 18 OCT 09 SCHOOL OF INFANTRY SERGEANTS' MESS



# BOOK REVIEW

## AUSTRALIAN BATTALION COMMANDERS in the Second World War



Garth Pratten  
Cambridge University Press,  
2009, 435pp

**Reviewer: JOHN DONOVAN**

Dr Garth Pratten has produced an interesting history of the commanding officers (COs) of Australian infantry battalions during the Second World War. He notes that there are few biographies of COs extant, and that

(perhaps surprisingly) they appear infrequently in unit histories, with the exception of a unit's first CO, who might have given a new soldier his first impression of the Army and been influential in setting unit standards. In those existing documents, little is written about the tactical skills of COs, and even less of criticism. This book succeeds in bridging those gaps. An additional benefit of the book is the overview it provides of the Australian Army's campaigns during the Second World War.

Dr Pratten highlights the deficiencies of the inter-war Australian Army, noting that even into the 1930s, First World War experience was a 'prerequisite for an appointment to battalion command', increasing the average age of COs. The personal commitment of the First World War veterans, and the other long-serving officers, NCOs and soldiers in the inter-war militia was, however, a strength of the militia system. The first of the new generation of COs, who would carry the Australian Army through the Second World War, began to be appointed in the late 1930s. Dr Pratten also notes the influence on selections of COs of the need, in a citizen army, for them to have links with the local community, in order to foster recruiting. Training in the 1930s Australian Army was still based on the experience of the First World War (even at the RMC,

Dr Pratten quotes one RMC graduate who described his course as persevering with '1918 theories and equipment'). While many officers studied in their own time, he comments that such self-education was 'self-directed and theoretical'. The inter-war units lacked the structures, personnel and equipment to provide real experience to a cadre of leaders on which to found a wartime army. Dr Pratten comments, however, that despite its many deficiencies, the inter-war militia 'exhibited many of the characteristics that modern social theorists use to define a professional organisation'. These characteristics seem to have provided a useful foundation for the future. Although the standards achieved fell short of what was desirable, Dr Pratten states that the militia COs of the inter-war period could be 'characterised as having a professional ethos but amateur standards'. Dr Pratten divides the wartime COs broadly into three groups. The first commanders of AIF

units, and commanders of militia units until 1942, were generally older men with First World War experience. These COs formed the new AIF units, and inculcated

discipline and military ethos into the new recruits who made up those units and the wartime trainees inducted into militia units. Dr Pratten notes that these men were 'unspectacularly effective' in making the new AIF units disciplined and cohesive, but that by mid-1941, if they had not been promoted, they were being replaced. Dr Pratten sees their experience as having 'been critical to raising the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF'. However, the first group of AIF COs had 'only ever been intended as watch-keepers'. Their successors were a second group of younger officers who served initially as company commanders and battalion seconds-in-command, and were intended by Blamey to replace the 'old hands' once they had been themselves adequately trained. The third group of COs comprised younger militia (and some regular officers) who were at the ranks of lieutenant and captain at the start of the war, and by the middle period of the war became COs of both AIF and CMF battalions. Dr Pratten traces the development of the battalion command system, from the early days when COs had to intervene to ensure that administrative arrangements worked, to the middle and later parts of the war, when well developed battle drills ensured that such matters were almost automatic. This allowed COs to concentrate on the tactical situation, which was handled by the company commanders, monitored by the COs. This command technique was facilitated by technical developments, particularly with wireless communications.

Dr Pratten highlights the manner in which the battalion commanders deployed to Malaya with the 8<sup>th</sup> Division, did not develop a functioning command system. What system existed was plagued by personality conflicts at higher levels and the limited quality of the available officers. He acknowledges that some of these COs relied on their subordinates (particularly on effective seconds-in-command like Majors Charles Anderson and Charles Assheton). Dr Pratten notes, however, that despite these deficiencies, the Australians were among the best-prepared troops in the Malayan theatre, and the Australian battalions performed competently during the retreat to Singapore Island. Charles Anderson is used as an example of an unlikely leader: 'myopic and a chain smoker with a terrible cough and ... a gentle whimsical sense of humour'. His leadership was critical during the retreat from Bakri to Parit Sulong. Dr Pratten shows, by contrast, the way the strain of battle undermined Lieutenant Colonel 'Black Jack' Galleghan's façade of command.

Dr Pratten shows that the New Guinea campaigns of 1943 and early 1944 'marked a period of consolidation'. Battalions and their officers gained confidence, and the jungle ceased to be the barrier to effective operations it was found to be in Malaya and Papua. By then some battalions, such as the 2/15<sup>th</sup> and 2/17<sup>th</sup>, had taken on some of the characteristics of their COs. By then, COs felt able also to question orders they considered to be 'ill-conceived, premature or badly prepared'. Unit 'personalities', however, could cause difficulties, as when Lieutenant Colonel Joshua took command of the 2/43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, bringing a different style to his predecessor. He was soon replaced, and Lieutenant Colonel Noel Simpson, the

'Red Fox' whose personality had been impressed on the 2/17<sup>th</sup> Battalion, resolved the problems in the 2/43<sup>rd</sup>. Also by 1943, some COs were overstrained. Men who had performed well in the Middle East, such as Lieutenants Colonel Starr and Guinn, had lost their edge, and were relieved of command. Some of those relieved went to other duties (often successfully). Their replacements were often men with a 'strong, aggressive personality', typified by Lieutenant Colonels George Warfe, who replaced Starr in the 58<sup>th</sup>/59<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and George Smith, who took command of the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion from the 'temperamental and difficult' Falconner. The Australian experience was shared with the British, New Zealand, Canadian and US armies, with older officers being replaced by a younger cohort, with an emphasis on current tactical knowledge and 'aggression, competence and courage'. Dr Pratten notes that in the British Army, where the average age of battalion COs in mid-1941 was 46, a similar solution of removing many older officers was implemented. By the end of the war, the average age of British infantry COs was 32.

The almost wholesale replacement of militia battalion COs by younger AIF officers in 1942 and 1943 led to a steady improvement in the standards of those battalions, as reported by their superior divisions and brigades. However, neither the standard of the replacements nor the improvements achieved were uniform. By 1945, Dr Pratten considers that the Australian Army 'bore all the hallmarks of a long-established professional army'. Most COs appointed in 1945 had started the war as platoon commanders, and 'had been exposed to the operation of all of a battalion's subunits'. They were quite young, but this was balanced in some units by the retention of older men as second-in-command or commanding headquarters companies. By that time, battle procedures were well established, and units could be moved rapidly into action with minimal formal orders.

However, Dr Pratten documents personality clashes between some battalion COs (and sometimes with their brigadiers), clashes which might not have occurred in the earlier, more desperate, phases of the war. At least one CO, described as a 'keen' and 'efficient' officer, was relieved of command for being 'uncooperative' and lacking 'team spirit'. Mutinous incidents occurred within battalions in 1945, particularly in Bougainville, and led to problems with company commanders and the relief of at least one CO. Other COs were relieved for what Dr Pratten terms 'combat exhaustion'. Many of these were experienced and highly decorated officers. Dr Pratten also notes that by 1945, the 'company was the primary tactical unit', and the battalion CO was more of a 'tactical resource manager'. Much tactical manoeuvre was 'designed to force the enemy into positions where ... fire support could be employed'. However, some battalions considered that small enemy positions could be captured more quickly and with fewer casualties by a quick infantry assault supported by the infantry's own weapons, 'rather than withdraw and lose contact while artillery fire was brought onto the objective'. Despite the changes, however, the Australian Army remained 'at its heart ... a citizens army'. Dr Pratten considers that it changed from 'an amateur force with a professional ethos' in 1939 to 'a professional force with an amateur ethos' in 1945, but 'never became a pure meritocracy'. Few wartime COs chose to continue in the post-war army. Overall, Dr Pratten demonstrates

the success of the process of selecting and developing battalion commanders. Where the process did not have time to move to the second stage of replacement of the original COs with younger officers who had time to develop in an operational area (as with a few of the original COs in the Middle East, and more generally in Malaya), the negative results experienced demonstrated the effectiveness of that process. Where the practice of appointing older officers (generally with First World War experience) persisted, as in the militia battalions up until 1942, the results were seen as generally deleterious. Dr Pratten considers that the COs of 1945 'were ultimately a validation of the philosophy underlying the reforms in command training and appointment practices in the late 1930s'. By 1945, however, 'the highly experienced cohort of officers ... was stretched increasingly thin'.

Dr Pratten provides some interesting statistics. Five COs had no pre-war military experience. Five others served as other ranks in the militia before the war. Twelve COs were killed in action or died of wounds. Another was executed soon after being taken prisoner in Papua. Three died of sickness, one was accidentally killed, and one committed suicide. Of note is the number of men with limited education and military experience who became battalion COs by the end of the war. A sample of 45 officers for whom data are available suggests that some 14% had not matriculated; at the other end of the scale, over 40% had university degrees, at a time when only about one percent of the male population did. Dr Pratten comments in several places that the battalion commanders came predominantly from white-collar backgrounds. However, he accepts that, given the limited numbers who completed secondary education in Australia in that era (only some five percent of boys), and the demands of a CO's duties, this should not be surprising. There are a few problems with names. Vivian England might prefer that version of his first name, rather than Vivien (as he appears on one occasion); William John Victor Windeyer is usually presented under his preferred given name of Victor, but also appears sometimes as William; while Mackay was Iven, Dougherty was Ivan, not Iven as he appears on one occasion; Rupert Sadler appears sometimes as Robert, while Alexander Falconner occasionally appears with only one 'n' in his surname. Noel Simpson is described as the CO of the non-existent 2/243<sup>rd</sup> Battalion in the photo caption on page 218. These are minor editorial points in a good book. However, it is somewhat surprising to see a work of fiction (Lambert's *The Twenty Thousand Thieves*) as a reference. It is used to make some points that surely could have been made from the actual experience of the 276 men who commanded Australian infantry battalions during the war.



John Donovan worked in the Department of Defence for over 32 years, principally in the fields of intelligence, force development and resource management. He also served for several years in the Australian Army Reserve (Infantry).

## THE TOCCHINI TALES

Reminiscences of a Halifax Bomber Pilot.

**FLIGHT LIEUTENANT Sydney Alberto TOCCHINI, D.F.C.**

Royal Australian Air Force who served with his Australian crew in 51 SQUADRON RAF

**Contributed by his nephew – Association member Troy THOMAS**



*Continued from the September 2009 newsletter:*

This test was carried out by the armourers, not either of the two crews, and of course was done before the bombs were loaded into the bomb bay. The aircraft had a main switch connecting the internal batteries to the services which allowed the pre-takeoff tests and checks to be carried out.. On this night we were carrying incendiaries, each about 8 inches long, hexagonal in shape and about 3 inches in diameter, about two -hundred of which were packed into each canister. We would have been carrying eight canisters which were similar in shape to a 4,0001b bomb and fitted into the bomb bay in a similar manner.

When the canisters were released they were designed to open and spill out the incendiaries, which primed themselves as they fell and caught fire when they hit the ground. On arriving at the aircraft we followed our usual procedure. Frank and Bert went into the aircraft to do their checks first, the rest of us went down into the dugout to join the ground crew who were still standing by the aircraft. Suddenly there was an almighty crash. I thought maybe someone pulled the wrong lever and collapsed the undercarriage. We raced up the dugout steps- -and what a sight! Lying under E Easy were four of the canisters, which had burst open spilling their contents on the ground directly under the aircraft, which was fully laden with high-octane petrol!

Imagine what would have happened if just one of those incendiaries had ignited. We certainly would not have got out of that dugout alive. The aircraft and remainder of the bombs would have erupted in a huge explosion and we would have been roasted like ducks in an oven.

There was all sorts of commotion at the control tower, which had been quickly alerted. They soon had a party of armourers despatched to neutralize and clean up the debris. I thought that as we had only half of our load they might pull us out, but, no, we were to go as we were. There was no time to complete the load. Of course there was an inquiry when we got back. It seems that when the armourers had tested the jettison mechanism one of the jettison bars had not been fully retracted, so that when the main switch was turned to ON one jettison bar was activated, and bingo, down went half the load. Thank you, Lord!

### **How Naked Can You Feel ?**

We had been on an operation against a naval base in Northern Germany. It was a cold clear night, not a lot of opposition, but a long trip with few but long legs. We were on our way home but still well inside Germany. We had been told to expect night fighters because the target was well north and deep inside Germany.

Suddenly at about 2 o'clock (not the time but the direction) and 1,500 feet above us there was a flash of gunfire followed by the terrible sight of a bomber catching fire. One of the aircraft had been caught by a night fighter and was burning fiercely. It is a terrible sight but not one we had not seen many times before. Of course we felt for the stricken crew, but we had to try to survive.

The burning aircraft lit up the whole of the sky around us. The prediction about the presence of night fighters had proved to be very accurate. We knew they were out there, and we also knew that we were being illuminated for them. As the burning bomber fell the situation got even worse. The night fighters were above us, and we were silhouetted against the light from the falling aircraft.

The time it took for that burning aircraft to reach the ground seemed interminable and was made worse by our wondering what had happened to the crew and whether it was to be our turn next because we knew that there was a night fighter out there looking for us. I felt like a fly on a saucer. Never in my life have I felt so absolutely naked.

## Paddy Murray

Paddy Murray was an Irishman, from Dublin, and he was also a pilot on 51 Squadron. He and his crew arrived at Snaith about the same time as we did. Consequently our tours ran along similar lines. We were of similar age, liked one another, and so saw a fair bit of each other in the mess. The Squadron kept a selection of civilian clothes which we could use for particular purposes. Jack, Tony and I thought it a pity to be so close to Ireland and not see a bit of it if we could. That was not as easy as it sounds. Ireland was neutral and one couldn't just go there as an English visitor without the real risk of being interned.

Paddy suggested we pose as his cousins, which would allow us to visit his mother in Dublin. It sounded like a good trick so we checked further and found this could be done fairly easily by filling in a few forms which allowed the authorities to look the other way during our stay. So Jack, Tony and I borrowed the Squadron civvies, became Paddy's cousins from Australia, and spent a leave in Dublin. We did visit Paddy's family and gave them the all the news, that is the good news, figuring that his mother was worried enough without knowing what was really happening to her son. His family made us most welcome, there was no doubt whose side they were on.

Some unusual things happened when we were in Dublin. As you could imagine, we didn't wear our borrowed civilian clothes too well, and you didn't need to be Sherlock Holmes to know they weren't ours. We got some fairly knowing looks in many of the places we visited, and on the other side of the coin it was to say the least disconcerting to see many of the young girls wearing German Swastika badges. Quite an experience! I had hoped to get to Strahan where my mother was born, only a few days' travel away, but travel was not easy in the circumstances, and it didn't seem worth the likely consequences of being late back from leave, plus the trouble it would cause for the rest of the crew. I just couldn't do it. Back to the Squadron.

It was another night operation in the middle of winter, we had been to..... and on the wayback had a spot of bother with a fire in the port inner, so we had to land at the emergency drome on the south coast. A new engine had to be fitted and it would take a few days so an aircraft was sent to pick us up. And who should be driving the aircraft but my mate Paddy. After we had taken off he said to me, "Have you ever been down in the bomb aimer's position and had a look at things from there?" Well, I hadn't, so this looked like a good opportunity to see things as Bert (our bomb aimer) saw things.

The bomb aimer did his job in the nose of the aircraft lying prone on a perspex panel, with only that clear panel separating him from whatever might lie beyond. No sooner had I gone 'downstairs' than Paddy began to enjoy himself. Down we went on to the deck.. What a ride that - was! Paddy made sure that our route back to Snaith was well clear of major towns. At times we would be no more than twenty feet above the ground, we were jumping over telegraph poles, at times I was looking up at the tops of trees. Paddy was a good pilot and it didn't do any harm to let off a little steam and get a bit of fun out of flying, after all there was a war on and nobody knew if there'd be a tomorrow. I'm not sure who enjoyed it most, Paddy or me, but I'll never forget that ride.

On the nose of E Easy, the aircraft we usually flew, was a swastika among the bombs which recorded the number of operational trips she did (about 105 altogether which must be near the record for a Halifax). The swastika found its way there in this way. Paddy Murray took Easy on one trip when we were on leave, and during the operation she was jumped by a JU88. Paddy threw the aircraft all over the sky and fortunately was able to throw the fighter off, but not before it managed to fire a few bursts at Paddy, very much to his annoyance. So when things settled down he went looking for -the JU88-. He figured out where it was likely to be, found it, stalked it, and gave it the treatment it had tried to give him. The incident was confirmed by other aircraft on the operation, and that's how the swastika came to be on the nose of E Easy. During our tour most of our crew were sent away to do various leader courses and because of this our tour and Paddy's tour got out of sync. Paddy's crew were due to finish their tour a fair while earlier than we were. For obvious reasons you were never told which was to be your last trip but most crews were able to work it out fairly accurately. Paddy certainly did.

Prior to takeoff he said to me, "When you get through the target get over on to channel C. The intercom had several channels which allowed you to speak to your own crew, or to base, or to other aircraft in your squadron. Notice it was "When you get through..." not "If you get through". That was Paddy! Somehow amid the tumult I remembered his remark and a minute or two after we were through the target but by no means out of danger I went to channel C. And there in the middle of all that mess, with flak exploding everywhere and searchlights probing the sky, through the intercom came the voices of Paddy and all his crew singing MacNamara's Band, not particularly well, mind, but you could sure tell they were happy.

*To be continued.....*

## Bill LOWCOCK'S WAR STORY

**NX10682 PTE William Mackenzie LOWCOCK  
2/19 Battalion A.I.F.**

Bill's story continues  
from the September 2009 Newsletter...

As I remember Weary Dunlop had become the Camp Commandant at Camp Tha Muang. I can remember being in Tha Muang at Christmas time and the cooks did a hell of a good job. The officers had saved up the money the Japs were paying us and with the Japs' permission, they had been able to buy extra rations here and there. They had even set up in camp a little shop and every now and then we would be issued with tokens representing X number of dollars and cents, not very much. We could buy things in the shop. You could buy cigarettes and tobacco and you could even buy sweets there.

Some of the enterprising characters around the place went in to making coffee. They would make coffee in 4 gallon kerosene tins and cart it around at night time and you could buy a cup of coffee for, I think, 5c. although nobody had very much money. That Christmas, we did fairly well. We ate fairly well. I had another run in with dysentery about this time and I had been fairly lucky because I got over it fairly easily, but after I got home I was still carrying amoebic dysentery inside me. I was in hospital in Sydney for 5 or 6 weeks while they got rid of it.

We did some working parties outside camp, nothing terribly heavy, although the Japs were fair bastards. I remember one time we were around in the Japanese petrol dump – an enormous petrol dump they had covering acres of ground. We were putting up camouflage nets and splashing all over them with tar and creosote and of course, we all got tar and creosote over our hands and arms and at knock off time, somebody produced a can of petrol. I washed my hands and arms in this to take the creosote off, but of course, that was a mistake because this was high octane aviation fuel. I burnt them very badly and I had blisters all over them and I was out of action for several weeks. Conditions in Tha Muang were, by comparison with the rest of the line, quite easy. Food was quite good and the biggest problem was lack of medical supplies. We still didn't have anything adequate to take care of any serious illness. I remember Bill Saunderson caught blackwater fever and we all thought he was going to cark it, but he didn't. (tough old beggar was Bill) At night time after the evening meal, half a dozen of us used to sit out in the cool and we would yarn about this, that and the other and the talk

invariably got back to what you would do when you got home. Everybody said "well the first thing I am going to do is have a good feed". And then we would all say what we were going to eat and what was our favourite food. We'd spend several hours out there doing nothing but wishful thinking. We didn't know when we were going to get home. We knew that there were radios in the camp but nobody ever told us particularly what was going on because it would have been dangerous to do so. Somebody would have blabbed and the nips would have found out that there was a radio. The officers knew what was going on and of course they knew best.



About March 1945 a team of some 50 of us was loaded onto a train, still in the old rice carrying carts, and we travelled towards Bangkok. Tha Muang was about 70 or 80 miles or so from Bangkok. The country around there was getting more closely settled – no jungle, farming land with small villages everywhere. As we approached Bangkok, it was quite amazing to see civilisation again after two years out of sight completely. There were houses and gardens and people walking around. We stopped in Bangkok at the lower end on the western side of the river. Not far away there was a substantial steel arched bridge with several arches in it crossing the river which was mainly for vehicular traffic.

One of the arches was lined with the term 'out of action' on the riverbank. We found out later the British had said to the Thais "either you put the bridge out of action or we will with our bombs" so the Thais took one of the arches out. We travelled past Bangkok and around to a waterfront docks area several kilometres out of the town and on the river not far from the main seaway. Obviously the actual dock area where sea going vessels pulled in. We were camped in one of these go-downs which was empty and about 400 yds farther on there were substantial buildings occupied by Japanese. We didn't know what this was and we couldn't have cared less really. We spent about three days there and one afternoon an air raid alarm went. We could see three planes (we learnt later they were B29's). They were so high up that all you could see were the vapour trails. They'd have to have been about 40,000 ft up. They were heading our way, so we got orders to scarp away from the buildings. At the back of the buildings there was an area of vacant ground – no trees, just grass – I suppose

about 200 – 300 yds across and we all raced out there and lay flat on the ground. You could hear the planes and you could always tell when the bombs were dropped, when the engine note would change. The engine note changed and after a few seconds you could hear the bombs coming. It is a funny thing about bombs, it is the only thing that you can hear coming towards you. If a bullet goes past you, you can hear it go past but if it doesn't go past and it hits you, you don't hear it. It is travelling faster than the speed of sound. The same with a shell, you don't hear the one that lands on top of you. A mortar bomb, you will hear it in the last two seconds of its flight, but an aerial bomb – you can hear the damn thing coming all the way and it is very scary.

We could hear these coming all the way down and we heard the first ones hit several hundred yards south of us and they were all blanket bombing of course, which means the area between where the first bomb lands and the second bomb lands is governed by the speed of the plane and how fast they fall out. It's many hundreds of yards and we could hear these explosions coming towards us and the concussion was so great it actually lifted us. You were lying flat on your face and the concussion actually lifted you off the ground a couple of inches. It took about 20 or 30 seconds for all the bombs to fall and all this time I kept thinking "this is it, this is where it finishes". Then it stopped and the last bomb fell about 50 yards away. Fortunately the ground was terribly soft and the only real damage was from concussion. Although one bomb did land off centre in behind us and two of our blokes were killed and another fellow had his foot blown off.

The next day we were loaded onto a train and we travelled north east out of Bangkok to a small town whose name I have never been able to find out. It was probably 150 km out. The country there was open farming country, not particularly given to rice paddies. It looked as though it could have carried cattle or something like that. It was fairly well settled with small villages and farmhouses all scattered around the place. Our camp was a few kilometres outside the town. A lot of fellows were already there. I suppose the camp was not terribly big. There might have been 300 – 400 fellows there and it was well set up. The food was quite good actually.

We were getting a reasonable amount to eat and the Japs weren't all that bad. The work we were doing, well some of the gangs were digging great caves out of the hill which was 3 or 4 km away from the camp. What it was for, nobody ever found out, but they were digging 3 or 4 of these gigantic caves into this hillside. I found out after we were back home that the Japanese High

Command had issued an order that, in early August, all prisoners were to be killed and the bodies were to be buried. (That's what the caves were for.) My job, with others, was doing the roadworks leading up to this. We were there for a month or six weeks and one of our fellows died from dysentery and I got his blanket. By now I had no hat, shirt, a lap lap to cover the bottom part of me, a pair of Jap sandshoes with toes wired up so they wouldn't flap about. I still had my army pack, mess tin, knife, spoon and a few personal belongings that I had carried with me all the way through and that was it.

About the middle of May some 100 of us with a Warrant Officer, Regular Army, Australian, in charge of us were told to move the following day and we marched out together with all the equipment from the cookhouses and the cooks going with us to prepare meals and all the Jap gear which was on two Japanese wooden carts. We travelled north and we stayed well away from the towns mostly for the first few days, we walked along dirt roads through scrub country and we got onto a railway and we marched along the railway line dragging these carts with us. Of course after a couple of days of this the carts fell apart, so we had to carry what had been on the carts which was not only our own cooking gear, but the Japs cooking gear as well.

We started marching just after daybreak, just after we had a bit of a feed and we kept going until we had a break at lunchtime (although nothing to eat at lunchtime mainly) and then on til just about dark until we found a camping site. It was decided by the officer then that it was impossible for the cookhouse to get ahead of us and have any sort of meal prepared by the time we reached the campsite. So it was decided that each group of men, grouping up in threes would prepare their own meals. We were issued with a quantity of rice (I don't remember just how much, but it wasn't a hell of a lot) and occasionally some greens and occasionally some of the dried fish that was pretty common around the place.

When we got to the camp in the evening, the three of us had a billycan in which we cooked the rice. You can't cook rice properly in a billycan so we simply stewed it up and boiled it and added whatever else there was and hoed into it. We tried to keep some for breakfast because you didn't have much time in the morning to cook your own breakfast, and there wasn't any way you could keep it going through to the midday meal. Rice won't keep once it's been cooked and it goes off very quickly in the hot climate. We mostly slept out in the open usually in a clearing somewhere in the scrub.

**To be continued.....**

# NOR ALL THY TEARS

**NX45804 Driver Herbert James McNAMARA, Carrier PI, HQ Coy, 2/20 Battalion A.I.F.**

*Continued from September 2009 Newsletter*

It was here that we first came to judge Reggie. We had argued his merits this way and that from the first time he said can you hear me in the rear, but at Tarsoa we all began to realise that we had a trump. I have never seen a greater master of Nip psychology than Reggie. He had an absolute genius for driving every point home to the hilt. They feared alike his anger and his scorn, and they courted his favour and dodged his ire. No one has seen all there is in Nip psychology until they have seen Nips react to Reggie. Once at Rintin a friend of mine saw the lesser Nips dodging out of sight into the hut, crying in awed voices: "Number One Australia". This story is not exceptional, but only typical of the awe he inspired.

I was at Tamuan under the Firebug late in my Thailand career, and the Bug had "turned on an act, bashing and hollowing and bellowing. One sick man had been struck with a stick and hurt enough to hinder him in working - which made him the butt for further punishment. Then, as Reggie appeared in the distance, all bellowing ceased and a quiet and chastened Nip supervised our task. When Reggie came near the tension was written all over the Bug's face. At last he could bear the strain no longer, and turning to Reggie he said: Major, why you come? Quite innocent of the events leading up to the question, Reggie said that he had just come to have a look around, and presently went away, but his influence survived his presence all the afternoon, and although Reggie himself probably doesn't know to this day the alarm he caused, I am quite sure that The Bug thought he knew by some psychic gift everything that went on and was contemplating drastic reprisals.

He struck shrewdly and he struck hard, and his blows always went home. At Rintin the sick were all dragged out of their tents to be sent to work. Reggie and the Doc battled through the interpreter. Ask him if he wants to murder the bloody men by, sending them out to work, Reggie bawled out at last. The interpreter stiffened like the victim of a fit, but muttered out the translation. It hit the Nip like a blow: he stared amazed at this raging Australian who roared so disrespectfully, as, mid coughing and spluttering the words were put into Japanese. But Reggie was not shot, and things eased off. He had his defeats and he had plenty of bashings, but he turned them all to good account in the general strategy. The Tiger fell out

with him again and again, but always it would be the Tiger who came round, usually with an address telling us that he, personally had put Reggie in charge of us, and we disobeyed him at our peril. Once the Tiger had ordered tents to be shifted almost at dusk, and all attempts to persuade him to change his mind failed completely until Reggie came. If the tents are moved now the men will miss a meal Reggie said in a horrified tone, and you don't want them to miss a meal do you ?



The note of scorn in the pronouncement did the trick. The fear of going down in History as the Japanese who had caused prisoners to go without a meal was too much for the Tiger. The tents were to be shifted next day. Together with Doc he battled constantly to get more sick kept in, and rarely a day passed but he did not gain a few. But I think he won us over when one day Oziki had promised us a holiday. We were duly dragged from our beds to be marched out for "small work" Somebody asked if it were necessary to take our mess-gear and water-bottles. *You always take your mess-gear and water-bottles.* Reggie roared louder than ever before. *Don't you know that you can't trust these bastards any farther than you can see them?* His voice must have echoed through Oziki's hut for minutes afterwards. Oziki spoke perfect English; and Oziki was an animal!

I doubt if he ever had need to use any of the few punishments that lay in his power to inflict, but he kept more authority by virtue of his amazing personality than any tyrant. Indeed the rule of his voice was almost a tyranny, but he got his men through if ever it were possible. With scorn of ceremony, he hoed into anything that wanted doing, from serving rice to telling off a Nip. *Him married?* said one P.O.W. in response to a question. *He'd never get married - he wouldn't be allowed to have the kids!* but he did his thousand jobs better than anyone else could do one. It was said that he aspired to the cloth in his youth, but I think Nature designed him to be a soldier rather than a devil-dodger. I could never quite picture him bawling out to a congregation: *Can you hear me in the rear? Did you sterilise those bloody hymn-books before you gave them out?*

*You always take your Bibles and prayer-books - don't you know you can't trust that bloody Satan as far as you can bloody well see him ? If you see a man reading the Rationalist Review, knock it out of his bloody hand! Or re-organising them beyond the pearly gates after his job was finished, rushing about to check up on the halo shortage, with God as his second-in-charge: but he must have kept many men's souls attached to their bodies where others could not have done so. Some of the party, including myself, were taken to a small jungle camp for a few days. They gave us a few initial bashings and then eased off. One man died because, being purely a work camp, they refused to send him back for treatment when he took ill. The work was so far from the camp that it took us most of the time to get there and back.*

There was a small camp of Thais adjacent to our own and these were employed by the Nips. They had bullock carts and some of them had the job of carrying the food out to us. With amazing futility, these were employed on that job alone. Each cart carried only two buckets of rice, and because the wheels had no tires they refused to go beyond the point where the road became stony, and that was less than half way, so men had to be detached to carry the rice on poles from there. The Nips had their match in the Thais, who did so much and no more. They had elephants to handle the timber, and we would be fascinated by these, so strong and skilful, controlled by the lightest touch, and seemingly able to do anything.

They scrapped the elephants later on, and all the log-hauling was done by us. They called us "elephant soldiers." They said that the elephants had been taken off because one of them had killed a Japanese, but we thought they ought have been given a second chance. We returned to Tarsoa to find ourselves getting up in the still darker hours of the morning, and coming home in the still darker hours of the evening. More of the old job and then a rumour that we were going North, and almost at once we found ourselves ploughing through mud, ankle-deep, up to the first of the hill country.

## CHAPTER X SOUTH TONCHIAN

An excellent camp for anyone with a masochist complex, South Tonchian was a world of slimy black mud. Trucks moving up past it would cut huge furrows that filled again with the viscid slush, to make a trap for each succeeding vehicle, so that bogged trucks were the curse of our lives until the heavy rains made traffic virtually impossible. Here we made our first unhappy acquaintance with the Tiger, but he left us for a while and we were under a Japanese officer. Not being a "hospital" camp, like Tarsoa, they could see no

reason why we should have any sick, and here for the first time the Battle of the Biokis (sick) began in earnest. Sickness is a heinous crime, even among their own men, and I believe that they must humbly apologise when they return from hospital. *The best thing a sick man can do is die. He is no use to anyone*, said Tanaka, and he summed up the whole philosophy of the Japanese Army. It is not only a crime for the sick man, but for everyone connected with him as a potential cause of his malady; the Nips themselves for letting him get sick: the doctor for saying he was sick and the man for being sick. Every day the Doc would line up his worst cases and severely battle to get a day off for them, getting practice in arguing with tongues, disputes that were later to be settled by blows.

If numbers were short the Nip would often grab men at random, and half the battle was to avoid this. The sick were divided by the Doc into a complex arrangement of groups and subgroups according to the order of priority. There was no saying how many of the sick would stay in, for (especially in the case of the Tiger) allowances were made more in accordance with the liver of the Nip in charge than any symptoms in the patient. So the patients were divided into subgroups according to whether the patient were fit to be transferred to the next group or not. Thus the Nip would send out some of the bed-downs and next day the Doctor would divide them into "light duties", "bed-downs" and "very bad bed-downs", the second category being available for transfer to either group as the situation warranted. Then the Nip might relent a little and let all three categories stay in and thus render it necessary to form an emergency category of spare "light duty" cases lest there should be a continuance of this benevolence.

Then the Nip would fly into a rage and the thin edge of the wedge would have to be inserted again and the whole cycle repeated. It is impossible to imagine the job the Doctor had to do on the line, just in this small matter alone. To argue each morning, knowing that a word too little might mean a man staying in without need, and a word too much, a burst of anger that would mean all the sick being sent out to do impossible tasks; to eke out the scanty supplies of medicine among those most in need of it, and to try and fashion some sort of resistance foods from jungle weeds or fermented rice. To do this for years, and not know if it were ever going to end, and all in addition to the unimaginable horror of a doctor's job mid cholera and a horde of foul diseases. For a doctor who worried about men's lives; who was really grieved by every terrible unnecessary death that took place,

*To be continued.....*

# DOWN MEMORY LANE



## ACTING-CORPORAL HARRY BROUGHTON MORIARTY

19th Battalion, late 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

**H**ARRY BROUGHTON MORIARTY was born on 24th January, 1898, at Queanbeyan, New South Wales, the son of Mr. Arthur William and Mrs. Nora Marion Moriarty. He received his education at the Monaro Grammar School, Cooma, joined the staff of the Bank at its Western Branch on 16th June, 1915, and was transferred from there to Yass on 3rd July following.

Harry Broughton Moriarty enlisted as a private in the A.I.F. in June, 1916, and was assigned to the 56th Battalion, subsequently embarking for France where he was on active service. He transferred to the 19th Battalion and was reported as killed in action at Bullecourt on 3rd May, 1917.



### "SOMEWHERE IN THE ULU"

Steve KOZICKI next to Geoff BRADDON at far right, Cec SMITH centre and we think a young Graeme DAVIS at back ? Any takers for the rest ? (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY GEOFF BRADDON)