

FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

1ST/19TH BATTALION

THE ROYAL NEW

SOUTH WALES

REGIMENT

ASSOCIATION &

2ND/19TH BATTALION

A.I.F. ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS OF THE

AUSTRALIAN

DEFENCE

FORCES

RESERVES

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FRONTLINE



VALE GOOD FRIENDS

NX35541 PRIVATE George Robert MANN 16 Platoon D Company 2/19th Battalion AIF



Belated advice of George's sad passing on 5 June 2009 was only recently received. Late of Leeton NSW, George was born at The Rock NSW on 23 October 1917. A 2/19 Battalion AIF "Original" George enlisted at Wagga Wagga on 21 June 1940 and fought in the Malaya and Singapore Campaign.

Following the Capitulation of Singapore he worked on the Singapore wharves before being sent to slave on the Burma-Thai Railway and afterwards sent to Japan to slave in the Jap Coal Mines before being repatriated to Australia's at war's end. He was discharged on 8 January 1946. George is survived by his beloved wife Hilda and family

NX52475 PRIVATE James Lancelot "Lance" CROWLEY, 2/19 Battalion AIF



Lance's daughter Clare advised with deep sadness of Lance's passing on Monday 21 June 2010 at Griffith Hospital NSW. Late of Coleambally NSW Lance was born at Milbrulong NSW on 19 April 1917 - one of eight children. When he 5 years of age the family moved to a property "Victoria Park" at Junee Reefs where they ran sheep and grew cereal crops, the cultivation and harvesting in those times was all done with horse drawn implements. His schooling years were spent at both Erinvale and Murrulevale, travelling to school in those days was either on foot or by horse and sulky. Over the years Lance mentioned many funny stories of the adventures in their travels to and from school with his family and neighbouring children. After leaving school Lance worked on neighbouring properties turning his hand to whatever tasks were required. Lance also spent many seasons shearing with hand shears.

He enlisted aged 22 years in 2/19 Battalion AIF at Old Junee on 3 July 1940. An original enlistment in the Battalion he had served pre war with the 56th Battalion Militia. On the outbreak of war in Malaya he fought with a special unit known as "Rose Force" which was made up of members of various 8 Division Units. They operated as a Commando force behind the Japanese lines from December, 1941 to January, 1942 and inflicted severe casualties on the invading Japanese. He was among a force of 22 men who took part in the first Australian Army action against the Japanese. He was one of six volunteers selected from his Battalion to serve with Rose Force behind the Japanese lines in northern Malaya. They went by boat up the west coast of Malaya and then along a river into the rear of the Japanese advance. Armed with a Tommy gun he took part in an ambush, shooting up a staff car and a truckload of enemy troops.

He came back again only to miss the next part of the fighting, laid up in hospital with malaria. He was probably lucky - his Battalion lost many men in the battles that followed. At Singapore he was attached to another Battalion, the 2/30th, and Lance's unit later surrendered without having fired another shot. The next six months in Singapore were not too bad for Lance. He was attached to a unit organising the supplies for the prison camps. He even got a bed to sleep on. It was hard work moving stores around but compared to later there was enough food. He then went to the main POW camp at Changi from where he was sent up to Thailand along with many others to work on the Thai-Burma railway. The men went up by train - a five day journey squeezed into tin cattle trucks on a train. The men could only lie down head to feet to fit inside. Many have heard of what happened on the Thai Burma railway. The men were underfed and overworked in terrible conditions, suffering beatings and open to tropical diseases. Lance worked in a four man crew building railway embankments. Two men would dig dirt and fill the rice bags and then Lance and a mate would get on each end of a pole through the top of the bag and then haul the bag to the edge of the embankment and

empty it. Over and over again from sun up to sunset. Clad only in shorts they went back to work again every day, existing on paltry rice meals, struggling to survive. Lance nearly joined the many who did not. At one stage Lance caught typhus from a rat bite and with a raging temperature. Weary Dunlop came by at this time and after feeling Lance's forehead said that a bucket of water was needed because if Lance got any hotter the bed would catch fire. Lance survived it. Lance made it back to Changi and then in 1944 was sent with others on a convoy to Japan. They called these the hell ships and the one Lance was on, the Byoki Maru, was a condemned burnt out cargo vessel. In the first week two ships in the convoy were torpedoed and when the ship reached Manila it stayed there for 2-3 weeks, the men not let ashore. When they again sailed for Japan they ran into a typhoon which nearly sunk them. But Lance survived.

Lance went to work in the dock yards at Nagasaki. His job was to crawl around under the hull of the ships, patching leaks in the steel hull. It was thankless work with less and less to eat and the cold at night gnawing at your bones. The men would roll themselves up in blankets to try to beat the cold. But Lance survived. The shipyard ran out of steel and the men were sent to the nearby coal mines. He worked here for many months-going over a kilometre underground to dig the coal.

One day he watched a large plane fly over in the morning. When it returned it had left a huge mushroom cloud behind. Lance thought the bomber must have hit an oil dump or something but he had just witnessed the second atomic bomb, the one that ended the war. A few days later a Japanese guard cleared a patch of ground, pointed to it and said 'that's Nagasaki'. Lance had survived that too and within days he was on his way back south. Though it took time to get back he returned to Australia on the British aircraft carrier HMS Speaker at the end of October 1945. Lance was a man who saw a lot of things that a young man was never meant to see. On reaching the dockside in Sydney he saw his family was waiting for him. This was meant to be, he had survived so much to see his family again.

Repatriated to Australia at war's end he was discharged on 9 January 1946 and returned to the country life at Erinvale NSW. In those days there were no counselling services for such men as Lance, they just got on with life. Many couldn't but somehow Lance managed it, survived it if you like, he was a survivor. In 1949 he married Margaret and they lived at Junee Reefs where they share farmed with his father. In their early years together time was spent enjoying social tennis and family gatherings. Lance and Margaret were from large families many living in the district.

Throughout his life, horses played an integral part and this was evident with stallion named 'Starlight' who he often exhibited at local shows. He was a difficult horse to handle with Lance being the only one able to pacify and control him. Four years into married life the first of seven children was born. Lance continued farming the property at Junee Reefs and successfully drawing Farm 608 Yamma. This was the last ballot he was going to enter as he had over 100 unsuccessful attempts at previous ballots !

During the development of the farm Lance travelled back and forth from Junee Reefs to Yamma to continue farming operations on both properties. Lance ceased share farming at Junee Reefs and relocated the family to the farm at Yamma in 1972 to grow rice and wheat. He was a proud farmer- an aerial photo of his property took pride of place in his house. During this time on the farm Lance was involved with the establishment of the Yamma Hall. He also spent many years as a member of the Coleambally Pony Club.

In the early 90's Lance and Margaret moved into their new home in the township of Coleambally.. Lance took time to adjust to life in town and he continued to travel to the farm each day to help with any work. As a returned soldier one of his highlights was the ANZAC Day march this year tallying up his 64th march. He was an active member of the Darlington Point-Coleambally Sub Branch of the RSL for many years. Lance enjoyed the company of his family and friends, a cold beer or two and anyone that was up for a good chat.

Lance is survived by his beloved wife Margaret, cherished sons and daughters Gerard & Margo, Anne, Mary, Ruth, Clare & Peter, Michelle & Simon, his many grandchildren and great grandchildren - and his brother Laurie and sister Rita. Lance's son Brendan pre-deceased him. Lance was farewelled at St Peter's Catholic Church Coleambally NSW on 25 June 2010.

The Honorary Secretary of the Darlington Point – Coleambally RSL Sub Branch, Mr Ken Martin delivered Lance's eulogy and the Returned & Services League of Australia Tribute. Our thanks to Ken in providing details of Lance's eulogy and that of Mr Phillip Bradley, an author who had only recently interviewed and recorded Lance's war time reminiscences and experiences.

2184355 STAFF SERGEANT Graham John “Lofty” O’CONNOR 1st/19th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment



Born on 30 September 1947 and late of Monash ACT, Graham’s wife Julie advised with deep regret of Graham’s sudden passing at home on 22 July 2010. It is particularly poignant that his new granddaughter Chloe was born the day after his passing on 23 July. Graham is survived by his beloved wife Julie, his son Brent and daughter-in-law Kerry, grandchildren Blake, Mia and Chloe and his daughter Megan and son-in-law Robert.

Graham enlisted in the CMF in 1967 with 17 RNSWR later transferring to 1/19 RNSWR where he served with many of the Battalion’s sub unit’s until discharge in 1989. His service with the Mortar Platoon and as CQMS Support Company was exceptional and he also served as the Company Sergeant Major of Admin Company.

In civil life he worked with the Soil Conservation Service for almost the whole of his adult life, retiring in 2007 and was an active and highly respected volunteer member of the Rural Fire Service for many years. Graham was farewelled at the Queanbeyan Uniting Church on Thursday 29 July 2010 and later interred at the Woden Cemetery.



GRAHAM O’CONNOR’S FAREWELL 29 JULY 2010

L to R: Bob PINK, Don KENNEDY, Kev MARSHALL, Cheryl KENNEDY, Alan LOWE, Jim HURT, David SMALL, Joy MARSHALL, Graham TIPPETT, Helen HANSON, John JACKSON, Bob BURRAGE, Bob WADE, David RING, Eddie GIFFORD, Marj BULLIVANT, Phil WILLMOTT, John BURNS, Graham ROSS, Bill FOGARTY.

(not in photo: Malcolm LE COMTE, John FOGARTY, Michael McMAHON, Bob COLLIGAN, Ian BULLIVANT)



**NX54110 LIEUTENANT Gordon Roy BENNETT
18 Platoon D Company & Mortar Platoon, Headquarter Company
2/19 Battalion AIF**

Late of Caloundra QLD Gordon was born at Perth W.A. on 10 February 1917 and sadly passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday 8 August 2010. He maintained his incredible will power and was so mentally alert to the end.

Gordon served pre-war with the 54th Battalion and was an “original” member enlisting in 2/19 Battalion AIF at Parkes NSW on 10 July 1940.

“The Grim Glory” recounts Gordon’s rejoining the Battalion after his Mortar Course:

“Just before sailing we noticed a Naval pinnace coming alongside, and Lieutenant Gordon Bennett of the Mortar Platoon came on board, having raced across from Eastern Australia after completing a Mortar Course at Seymour, Victoria, and taking his final leave in his home city of Perth. We thought we had lost him.”

Just as well he rejoined us before we left Australian waters, otherwise he would have been transferred to another Unit. As it was, he was not on our Sydney embarkation rolls and had to be shown as rejoined Unit when we arrived in Malaya. So unofficially he just snuck out of the country”.

Gordon fought in the Malayan and Singapore Campaigns, with the Mortar Platoon and as a Rifle Company Platoon Commander during the Battle of Muar and following the capitulation served as a POW working on the Singapore waterfront before being sent off with “F” Force to slave on the

Burma-Thai Railway.

After the railway had been completed, Gordon returned to Changi until war's end and following repatriation back to Australia he was discharged on 17 January 1946. Post war he enjoyed a very successful career with the ANZ Bank as a senior Manager until retiring to Queensland.

Gordon is survived by his beloved wife Helen, and his family - loved father and father-in-law of Ian (deceased) and Gayle, Graham and Julie, Brian and Jenny, Andrew and Julie, and Scott. Loved Poppa to Briony, Allison, Meredith, Mark, Karen, Matthew, Tanya, Brenda, Hayley, Hannah, Eloise, Greta and 5 great-grandchildren.

Gordon’s close comrade, Lieutenant Jack Varley, M.C., attended and represented the Association at Gordon’s farewell at the Caloundra Uniting Church, Caloundra, QLD on 12 August, 2010. Jack also advised that the daughter and son of the late NX35370 Sergeant Des Mulcahy, who was Gordon’s Platoon Sergeant, had flown to Caloundra to attend Gordon’s farewell. One of Des’ former comrades, Mr Simmons from the 2/18 Battalion AIF was also present.

Grace Margaret DONALDSON,

Passed away peacefully, July 30, 2010, at Kiama. Late of Temora. Beloved daughter of Andrew and Edith Donaldson (both deceased). Loving sister of Edith (Dee), Fergus, Francis, Douglas (all deceased), Ruth Winley, Herbert (*Bert – NX56216 SGT H.J. Donaldson 17 PI D Coy 2/19 Battalion AIF - deceased 11 August 2009*) and much loved aunt to their families. Aged 93 years. Grace was farewelled at the Scots Presbyterian Church Kiama, on 4 August 2010. [Saturday July 31, 2010, The Sydney Morning Herald]

Lest We Forget



FROM THE PRESIDENT



It seems that in recent times I have started each of these reports with “bad” news, so I am very pleased to be able to commence this report with some “good” news. The Queen’s Birthday Honours brought recognition to an Association member, two very good friends of 1/19 RNSWR and the Association and a former member of 1/19 RNSWR. Brigadier Paul Brereton, Commander 5th Brigade – of which 1/19 RNSWR is a part – was honoured with an Award as a Member of the Order of Australia. Contemporaneously, Paul’s impending promotion (in December) to Major General was also announced. Both honours are well deserved. Lieutenant Colonel Kathryn Campbell was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for her work as Commanding Officer of Sydney University Regiment. Kathryn is the wife of John Brennan and has long been involved with the Association through her husband, John Brennan, a former Commanding Officer of 1/19 RNSWR. Bill Baird, the legend of Hay and Ivanhoe, a 2/19 Battalion AIF survivor and long term Association member received an Order of Australia Medal for his outstanding devotion to the members of the Hay and Ivanhoe communities. Bill adds this well deserved honour to other awards that he has received for a lifetime of outstanding service. Well done Bill! John Straskye, a former member of 1/19 RNSWR, but not a member of the Association, received a Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the Royal Australian Medical Corps Association.

Sadly, shortly after this information reached me I was advised of the passing on 21 June of long time member Lance Crowley of Coleambally. Lance, an original enlistment in 2/19 Battalion AIF was one of the few survivors of Rose Force. As I was overseas at the time the Association was represented at Lance’s farewell by Association members Tom and Hazel Cooper. I have written to Lance’s family to convey our deepest sympathies on their sad loss of this wonderful man.

July continued the run of “bad” news with advice of the sudden and unexpected death on 22 July of Graham “Lofty” O’Connor. Lofty passed away suddenly at home. Sadly, this brings into stark reality the passing of the years. All of a sudden I am not writing to the families of the heroes who defended our country so valiantly in World War II but I am writing to the families of men that I served with in 1/19 RNSWR. Lofty was farewelled in Queanbeyan on 29 July. Unfortunately, due to my absence overseas I was unable to attend but the Association was represented by Bob Pink and a very large contingent of members.

We also learned, belatedly of the death, on 5 June 2009, of Private Robert George Mann, formerly of 16 Pl, D Coy 2/19 Battalion AIF. George’s wife Hilda advised us of his passing and was most distressed that word had not reached us sooner.

It is very important that we “keep track” of our members and circulate to the wider membership the news of someone’s passing. So if you know of someone’s death please let our Honorary Secretary know – do not rely on the principle that someone else will pass on the news. I would rather we got fifty notifications of the passing of one of our valued members than miss out altogether.

I also have to apologise to all of those generous people who donated prizes for the ANZAC Day raffle. I know I mentioned Liz and David Mariner, and I mentioned the Mortar Platoon but I managed to ignore all the other generous supporters. I know Betty Mansfield donated a bottle of Drambuie, and I think Margaret & Jim Forbes donated a tin of biscuits. While I apologise to everyone that I haven’t mentioned it is not really MY fault. You can blame the Hon Secretary, who was off drinking in some low dive, and Maureen Mariner, who was recovering from a fall. Both of them are usually responsible for these details. So I am not to blame! But to all who did donate – even unacknowledged you are REALLY appreciated!

Sunday, 25 July was the Commemoration of the Battle of Pozieres. Bob Pink and I represented the Association at the Annual Church Service at St Columba’s Uniting Church in Woollahra. 1/19 RNSWR again provided a Colour Party to Parade the 1st Battalion Colours and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Morrissey, CO, 1/19 RNSWR together with A/Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class Two Paul New and 1/19 RNSWR Operations Officer Major Tony Said were in attendance. Music was provided by the magnificent Pipes & Drums of Scots College.

I also read in the newspaper of the passing on 30 July of Mrs Grace Donaldson, sister of the late Bert Donaldson.

While I was overseas I was saddened to receive news of the death, on 8 August 2010, of Lieutenant Gordon Bennett. Gordon was one of the 2/19 Battalion AIF originals enlisting in Parkes on 10 July 1940. He served with distinction in the Malayan and Singapore campaigns and then was with F Force on the Burma-Thai Railway. Gordon is survived by his wife Helen and his large family. The Association was represented at Gordon’s funeral by that Association stalwart, Jack Varley MC.

August 15 was the Commemoration of Victory in the Pacific. I arrived back from overseas in time to represent the Association at the service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place along with Bob Pink, Glen Scriven who laid the wreath from 2/19 Battalion AIF Association, and Libby Thiele. Also joining us on the day was Dorothy Howard, sister of the late Jim Howard. As usual, the address by Her Excellency, The Governor of

New South Wales and Administrator of the Commonwealth, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO was inspirational.

Shortly after my return from overseas I represented the Association at a Morning Tea at Government House, Sydney hosted by Her Excellency, the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO. The occasion was the "relaunch" of the Battle for Australia Day Committee. This very active group is promoting Battle for Australia Day, which is commemorated on the first Wednesday in September and they are seeking to raise awareness of this important commemoration in the minds of all Australians but particularly the young. Your Association is very pleased to support this ideal. My pleasure was increased by seeing Colonel Tom and Val Crawford there. Tom was looking very spry despite the approach of his 90th birthday this year! I am hoping that they will both be able to join us at Gosford in November.

The winter weather has been taking its toll with Alf & Betty Mansfield and Ray & Betty Clendenning all having spells in hospital during August and Helen Sheedy suffering a similar inconvenience. All are now back home! Please take care of yourselves you are very precious people. Tony Tonacia had a successful lung removal operation and is well on the mend but Bill Dumbrell is doing it tough with his treatment for cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Bill. Neil Melville has also spent some time in Liverpool Hospital and we hope that he returns home soon so that Ethel will not terrorise the nursing staff for too long.

Further news of our senior members is that Mavis Ward has moved to a nursing home so that she has full time care and Mrs Poppy Hibbert is still with us in the Homestead Hostel Nursing Home in Brisbane.

On a slightly brighter note Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Steventon has recently returned from a spell carrying out pastoral duties in East Timor and Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Davis is presently serving in that theatre of operations.

I also have to congratulate Major Terry Betts who is currently serving with the Australian Command and Staff College. Terry will be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel with effect January 2011 and will assume command of 1/19 RNSWR upon Lieutenant Colonel Peter Morrissey relinquishing command. Terry has had a long association with the Battalion and we all wish him every success in his new responsibilities. I look forward to working with him during his term of command.

The Annual Reunion weekend is shaping up to be a success. A number have indicated that the cruise on the Great Lakes will be popular and the reserved accommodation at the Galaxy Motel is going fast, so if you want to stay next door to the Club then you need to get your order in fast. Bob will include a Reply Proforma in this edition of *Frontline*. Please get it back to him as soon as possible.

As I have been travelling a great deal over the last few months I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the great job that our Association Secretary does. In addition to the enormous work load that is his lot as Honorary Secretary he has stepped up to the plate to represent the Association in my place on a large number of occasions. Thanks Bob – we are very lucky to have you!

Finally, **this is a last reminder to everyone who has not returned their raffle tickets.** The raffle for the magnificent Commemorative Quilt will be drawn at the Annual Weekend in November. If your tickets are not in the barrel then you have no chance of being the lucky winner. Remember, the raffle is to raise funds to defray the costs of publishing the Official History of our predecessor Unit – 19 Battalion AIF – one of the few World War 1 units without a published history. Lieutenant Colonel Peter McGuinness, who did such a magnificent job on editing the 3rd edition of *The Grim Glory* has done a great job on this publication, giving so generously of his time to prepare it for publication. Can we, as members, be any less generous in our support. The response has been very heartening with almost complete support from our 2/19 members. I am sure that many of you have put your tickets aside saying "that can be attended to later". Let me remind you later is NOW! Find your tickets, fill in the butts, attach \$20 and get them in the mail.

Until November, when I hope to see a large number of you in Gosford, please take care of yourselves and each other. To our country members I hope the recent rains have improved your situation and that you face the spring and summer with renewed hope.

Roger Perry

"THE GRIM GLORY"

OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE 2/19 BATTALION AIF

The expressions of interest in purchasing a copy of *The Grim Glory* continue to grow and which now total 8. The cost for printing less than 20 copies remains prohibitive however, if we receive 20 "expressions" of interest we will arrange for the printing of a further 20 (+) copies – which are likely to cost \$150.00 per copy.

If you are interested please contact the Honorary Secretary Bob Pink

PO Box 224 INGLEBURN NSW 1890

Tele: (02) 8747 0941 Mobile: 0414 907 427 bob.pink@optusnet.com.au

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION INC.
(PROUDLY INCORPORATING THE 2nd/19th BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION)
WILL BE HELD AT THE PACIFIC ROOM, GOSFORD RSL CLUB,
26 Central Coast Highway WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250
on SATURDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. OPENING
2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES
3. MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION'S
11th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB ORANGE NSW
ON SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2009
4. MATTERS ARISING
5. CORRESPONDENCE
6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
7. TREASURER'S REPORT
Presentation of Statement of Receipts & Payments
Balance Sheet for the period 01 July, 2009 to
30 June, 2010.
Form 12 Annual Statement.
Certificate of Currency of Public Liability Insurance.
8. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT
9. SOCIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT
10. CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT
OF HONORARY AUDITOR
11. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS
& 6 COMMITTEE MEMBERS
(in accordance with Clause 14 of the Rules)
PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
TREASURER
HONORARY SECRETARY
ASSISTANT TREASURER
ASSISTANT HONORARY SECRETARY
COMMITTEE MEMBERS (6)
12. GENERAL BUSINESS
13. CLOSURE
14. NEXT MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Nominations are hereby called for the following positions for the 2010-2011 year.

- PRESIDENT
- VICE PRESIDENT
- TREASURER
- HONORARY SECRETARY
- ASSISTANT TREASURER
- ASSISTANT HONORARY SECRETARY
- COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 6 positions

Any member who is entitled to vote at a general meeting is eligible for election as an office-bearer. (A member is entitled to vote if all money due and payable by the member to the Association has been paid other than the 2010-2011 subscription). Subject to satisfying the voting eligibility requirement, all current office-bearers will be eligible to nominate for re-election on this occasion.

Nominations for election as office bearers must be made in writing, be signed by one or more members of the Association, and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination). A form for this purpose is available from the Honorary Secretary, but it is not mandatory to use it. Nominations must be delivered to the Honorary Secretary by Monday 8th November, 2010. They may be mailed to the Honorary Secretary at PO Box 224 INGLEBURN NSW 1890 or lodged by facsimile to (02) 9328 3319.

- ❖ If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies, the candidates nominated will be taken to be elected and nominations for the positions remaining vacant will be accepted at the Annual General Meeting.
- ❖ If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated will be taken to be elected.
- ❖ If the number of nominations received for any position(s) exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot will be held for that position(s) at the Annual General Meeting.



R.J. PINK
Honorary Secretary
12 September, 2010

ACCOMMODATION GOSFORD AGM WEEKEND & DINNER WEEKEND 12-14 NOVEMBER 2010

The Association has reserved 25 rooms at the GALAXY MOTEL
(Tele: 02 4323 1711 Fax: 02 4322 0409 Email: info@galaxymotel.com.au
which is co-located with Gosford RSL Club:

Please quote "1/19 RNSWR Association" when making your booking to ensure you receive the discounted price

Cost is \$135.00 per double room \$150.00 per triple room which includes a 10% discount
**All rooms are double or twin – they all have a Queen size Bed and a Single Bed
ROOMS NOT BOOKED BY 25 OCTOBER 2010 WILL BE CANCELLED**

There are other Motels in the area and the Mercure Hotel is also close by – but access requires crossing the Central Coast Highway.

PROGRAMME

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER WEEKEND 12-14 NOV 2010

GOSFORD RSL CLUB 26 Central Coast Highway WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250

FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2010

Timing	Function	Location	Dress	Remarks
1800 – 2130	 <p>Registrations “WELCOME” MEET & GREET RECEPTION</p>	PACIFIC ROOM Gosford RSL Club	Smart Casual	Finger food and drinks

SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2010

0915		<p>LAUNCH CRUISE OF BRISBANE WATER ABOARD M/V LADY KENDALL Cruise includes Morning Tea and a Fish & Chip Luncheon</p>	Assemble Gosford RSL Car Park outside Motel Office, 1 st Shuttle Bus departs for wharf at 0915 	Casual	
1200		<p>LUNCHEON (under own arrangements if NOT attending the Brisbane Water Launch Cruise)</p>		Casual	Lunch available from the Gosford RSL Club Bistro
1245		<p>Cruise returns to Wharf & Bus returns all to Gosford RSL Club</p>			
1330-1415		<p>“ONE HUNDRED DAYS TO VICTORY” WORLD WAR I Presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Peter McGuinness MBE RFD ED</p>	PACIFIC ROOM Gosford RSL Club	Casual	
1430-1530		<p>ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</p>	PACIFIC ROOM Gosford RSL Club	Casual	Pacific Room to be vacated by 1600h
1800		<p>ASSEMBLE FOR FORMAL DINNER Pre dinner drinks and hors d'oeuvres served</p>	CORAL ROOM Gosford RSL Club	Suit/jacket & tie Miniature Decorations & Medals	
1900 – 2300	 <p>ENTRÉE:</p>  <p>MAIN COURSE:</p> <p>DESSERT:</p> 	<p>(alternate servings)</p> <p>Herb Crumbed Chicken roasted peppers, pecorino and lemon aioli or Buttered Leek, Walnut & Goats Cheese Tart, baby herb salad</p> <hr/> <p>Rosemary Slow Roast Lamb Shoulder, spinach peas, crisp potato and juices or Oven Baked Barramundi Fillet, lemon sauce, fries and salad</p> <hr/> <p>Fresh Bread Roll and Butter</p> <hr/> <p>Slow Baked Lemon and Lime Tart or Vanilla Bean Brulee, toffee and coconut biscuits</p> <p>Tea, Coffee & After Dinner Mints Beverages A selection of Vins Rouge and Vins Blanc, Beer, Port, soft drinks & juices will accompany the meal</p>	   		
2300 - ?		Post Dinner Camaraderie		Ties may be loosened	

SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2010

1000		<p>ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATIVE WREATH LAYING CEREMONY in conjunction with the Officers & Members of Gosford RSL Club</p>	Gosford RSL Club Memorial Wreath layers to be appointed	Suit / jacket & tie Full size Decorations & Medals	Banner Bearers Orders of Service distributed
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COMING EVENTS 2010-2011

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	Remarks
SAT	25 SEP 10	1800	RNSWR WO/SNCO'S REGIMENTAL DINNER OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION & BREAKFAST INCLUDED IN VERY REASONABLE COST	SCHOOL OF INFANTRY SERGEANTS' MESS SINGLETON NSW	Phone Bob PINK 0414 907 427 or Warren BARNES 0409 909 439 for a booking
THU	11 NOV 10	1030	REMEMBRANCE DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	
FRI SAT SUN	12 NOV 10 13 NOV 10 14 NOV 10		1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION WEEKEND	GOSFORD RSL CLUB	SEE PAGE 9 FOR WEEKEND PROGRAMME
SAT	27 NOV 10	0930	NATIONAL & NSW LAUNCH OF RESERVE FORCES DAY 2011	VICTORIA BARRACKS PADDINGTON	BY INVITATION ONLY
SAT	27 NOV 10	1830	RESERVE FORCES DAY 2011 LAUNCH FORMAL DINNER	CASTLEREAGH BOUTIQUE HOTEL	BY INVITATION ONLY
TUE	15 FEB 11	1030	FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	

ASSOCIATION PATRONS & OFFICE BEARERS

PATRON & LIFE MEMBER Lieutenant Colonel T.C. (Terry) IRWIN, MBE, OAM, ED, ARMIT, MIR, JP
PATRON Colonel B.E. (Brian) MARTYN, RFD
HONORARY CHAPLAIN Lieutenant Colonel Reverend Chaplain Canon C.G. (Colin) AIKEN, OAM, RFD, ChStJ
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 Email: dzal@tpg.com.au



ASSOCIATION WEBSITE ADDRESS: <http://www.rnswr.com.au>

SICK REPORT

The following members have been on the "Sick List" of late and our best wishes for a speedy return to health folks:

Aif & Betty MANSFIELD
Ray & Betty CLENDENNING
Tony TONACIA
Helen SHEEDY
Mavis WARD
Bill DUMBRELL



& Neil MELVILLE
(in Liverpool Hospital)

*Get Well
Soon*



CONGRATULATIONS

The Commanding Officer 1/19 RNSWR Lieutenant Colonel Peter MORRISSEY has advised with pleasure that Major Terry BETTS has been appointed CO 1/19 RNSWR on promotion to LTCOL with effect January 2011. Terry has a wealth of experience and very strong performance with the Battalion as OC B Coy, OC Admin Coy, Bn 2IC and OPSO. In 1999 and again in 2009 he was awarded the Peryman Trophy as Best Officer in the Battalion.



To Mrs Ella PERCEVAL who celebrated her 95th Birthday on 18th July

To Ed DONNELLY who celebrated his 90th Birthday on 4th June

To Alan BRIDEOAKE who celebrated his 90th Birthday on 6th June

To Milton "Blue" BUTTERWORTH who celebrated his 90th Birthday on 25th August

To Roy "Zeke" MUNDINE who celebrated his 70th Birthday on 6th September



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
 MAJOR David TAYLOR**
 who completed 40 years of military
 service in July this year

Pictured L to R in the photo taken circa 1970 at Long Weeney Creek
 Bob Pink – SGT Russell BLACK – the late CAPT Bruce READING and David TAYLOR (person at far right unknown) inspecting the roof of the Battalion Command Post
 [Our thanks to Russell for the photo]

AWESOME FOLKS! AND OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS AND A BIG

WELL DONE!



LTCOL Geoff STEVENTON & CREW IN THE ROUGH DURING HIS RECENT SOJOURN TO EAST TIMOR IN THE WET SEASON. GEOFF SENDS HIS BEST REGARDS & BLESSINGS TO ALL



Wayne STEWARD & Felicity JESS with Martin & Helen HANSON at their 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebrations at the Canberra Yacht Club on Saturday 19 June 2010 [Our thanks to Felicity for the photo]



Kevin JONES OAM with Her Excellency The Governor of NSW Professor Marie BASHIR AC CVO after presenting Kevin with his Medal of the Order of Australia at Government House Sydney



Roy "Zeke" MUNDINE'S 70th Birthday Celebrations at the Campbelltown Catholic Club on Saturday 4 June 2010

L to R: Bob PINK-Brad COLLIS-Tony OHLBACH-Blue SCHAFFER- Zeke -Bill SMITH-David COWDREY



Roy "Zeke" MUNDINE'S 70th Birthday Celebrations at the Campbelltown Catholic Club on Saturday 4 June 2010 Zeke pictured with the original members of his Section from 5 RAR in 1969 who had travelled from near and far to attend the celebrations



SEEN AROUND THE TRAPS



AT THE SANDAKAN COMMEMORATION BURWOOD PARK SUNDAY 1 AUGUST 2010

Mrs Mary McBETH (at left) sister of NX36222 PTE Leonard BILLS 2/19 Battalion AIF who died on the Sandakan Death March 14 February 1945



PTE CHOWNIE VEH RECOVERY Blayney-Cowra Rd
Cold Wet Windy Day 9 JUNE 2010
Photo courtesy PTE Terry NIXON



WO2 Barry PARSONS Team Manager 1/19
bRNSWR Rifle Team at Puckapunyal
AASAM Australian Army Skill at Arms
Meeting MAY 2010
Photo courtesy PTE Terry NIXON



SGT Rocky WALSHAW and SGT
Brian TISDELL Smoko break Romani
Barracks ORANGE JUN 2010
Photo courtesy PTE Terry NIXON



VEH RECOVERY MOUNT CANOBOLAS JUN 2010
Photo courtesy PTE Terry NIXON



SGT Rocky WALSHAW doing running repairs on Land Rover near Parkes
while in support of Cadet Camp March 2010
Photo courtesy PTE Terry NIXON



RAEME MAFIA
SGT Brian TISDELL & CPL SPURWAY Smoko break
Romani Barracks ORANGE JUN 2010
Photo courtesy PTE Terry NIXON

DONATIONS



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

MAJ	Jerry	BISHOP
MR	Colin	BRIEN
MAJ	Marj	BULLIVANT
MRS	Shirley	DRUM
MRS	Ella	PERCEVAL
CPL	Barry	REES



NEW MEMBERS

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

CPL	Barry	REES	MOUNT COLAH NSW	2079
-----	-------	-------------	-----------------	------



The train was quite crowded, so a U S. Marine walked the entire length looking for a seat, but the only seat left was taken by a well dressed, middle-aged, French woman's poodle...

The war-weary Marine asked, 'Ma'am, may I have that seat?'

The French woman just sniffed and said to no one in particular 'Americans are so rude. My little Fifi is using that seat.'

The Marine walked the entire train again, but the only seat left was under that dog. 'Please, ma'am. May I sit down? I'm very tired.'

She snorted, 'Not only are you Americans rude, you are also arrogant!'

This time the Marine didn't say a word; he just picked up the little dog, threw it out of the train window, and sat down.

The woman shrieked, 'Someone must defend my honour! This American should be put in his place!'

An English gentleman sitting nearby spoke up,

'Sir, you Americans often seem to have a penchant for doing the wrong thing. You hold the fork in the wrong hand. You drive your cars on the wrong side of the road. And now, sir, you seem to have thrown the wrong bitch out of the window.'

BOER WAR COMMEMORATION CARCOAR 30 MAY 2010



NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S MEMORIAL UNVEILING CANBERRA 08 SEP 2010



50th ANNIVERSARY PARADE THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT *Garrison Church The Rocks Sydney, Sunday 20 June 2010*



Primus in Terra Australi



RNSWR 50th ANNIVERSARY PARADE



RESERVE FORCES DAY CANBERRA



RESERVE FORCES DAY NEWCASTLE

OUR THANKS TO Dan JOHNSTON FOR THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHS



RESERVE FORCES DAY SYDNEY 4 JULY 2010

OUR THANKS AGAIN TO Dan JOHNSTON FOR THE PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE



POZIERES DAY COMMEMORATION - ST COLUMBA CHURCH WOOLLAHRA SUNDAY 25 JULY 2010



VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY 15 AUGUST 2010



VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY 18 AUGUST 2010



BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY 01 SEP 2010



BOOK REVIEW

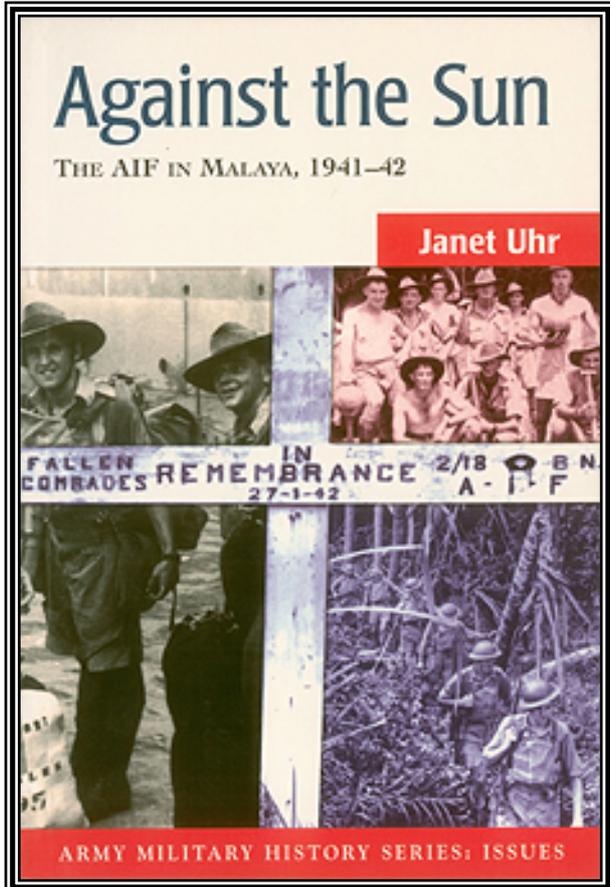
AGAINST THE SUN

The AIF in Malaya, 1941-42

Janet Uhr

Published by Allen and Unwin 1998, \$29.95

Reviewed by John Donovan



This book is both interesting and annoying.

It is interesting in the deeper perspective that it gives to the AIF campaign in Malaya in 1941-42 and in the descriptions of many individual members of the AIF, a force now largely forgotten by Australian society.

Janet Uhr gives more emphasis to the operations of the AIF on the East coast of Malaya than the Official History does, and I found these parts of the book extremely interesting. Although I had previously read both the Official History and Major General S. Woodburn Kirby's 1971 book *Singapore The Chain of Disaster*,

I had not previously understood the intensity of the operations carried out there. For this insight alone, I would recommend this book to those with an interest in Australia's military history.

To an extent the book falls between two thematic positions, involving as it does both discussion of the broader sweep of the campaign and an intimate description of the actions of junior participants. That said, I found the battle descriptions, which switch between the perspective of commanding officers and the "worm's eye" view of the men on the ground, gave me an understanding of the events of the Malayan campaign as they were recalled by the participants at both levels.

The book is annoying, however, in a number of essentially minor ways. The writing style does not flow as smoothly as it might, largely because the author has a habit of mixing tenses. Quotes from participants describing particular incidents come in the expected past tense, but descriptions of actions are sometimes given in the present tense and sometimes in the past. While this might be a stylistic artifice of the author, I found it distracting.

I also feel that the author missed some opportunities to give an insight into the make up of the AIF (in many ways quite different to the peacetime force with which we are more familiar).

Many family relationships get a mention, with several pairs of father and son, including the Varleys (one the CO of the 2/18th Battalion, the other a platoon commander in the 2/19th Battalion, with a second son serving in the Middle East).

The fate of the senior Varley (lost in the sinking of the *Rakuyo Maru* in September 1944) is detailed, but that of his son (who survived the prison camps to return to Australia) is not, while other "characters" such as Ringer Edwards of the 2/26th Battalion, said to have been the model for the character played by Peter Finch and Bryan Brown in the two film versions of Neville Shute's novel "A Town Like Alice", pass but briefly across the pages.

Overall, worth reading, as the insights provided more than outweigh the stylistic annoyances.



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).

CAN YOU ASSIST PLEASE ?

Dear Bob

As I was unable to attend Lance Crowley's funeral please find a small donation from me in memory of him and our phone conversations. Sometime back, Lance rang to relate a story he had been told by a fellow 2/19th survivor re: my brother Roy Cotton who being wounded himself stayed to fight so 3-4 others (including the story teller) could get away.

Lance stated he was requested not to pass the story on to me as I'd be too upset – I was – but I prefer to know all I can re: my brothers. In another call I asked Lance the name of that person – I think he said Davidson – it was sometimes hard to understand his voice on the phone as he spoke so softly and my memory questionable.

If the incident is fact I would most sincerely appreciate the teller of the story contacting me with the details. As well as needing to know all I can re: my brothers I want my children to also know to keep their memory alive.

Regards

(Mrs) Shirley Drum
13 Susan Street
YAMBA NSW 2464
Tele: (02) 6646 2112

11 July 2010

Mr Andrew Taylor
is seeking details on his great uncle:

NX35343
Private
Edward Harris TAYLOR
2/19 Battalion AIF

Who was born 1 March 1916 at Wagga Wagga NSW to John Harris and Margaret Jane TAYLOR and enlisted in 2/19 Battalion AIF at Wagga Wagga on 19 June 1940. His locality on enlistment was The Rock NSW. Edward served in the Malaya and Singapore Campaign and was Killed in Action on 15 February 1942.

Andrew would be very grateful to hear from any member who may remember Edward



and/or know of the circumstances of his death - Andrew's parents told him that Edward was in an ambulance at the time of his death as he was returning with some wounded soldiers.

Regrettably there are no photographs of Edward, and if anyone has a photograph of him Andrew would dearly appreciate a copy.

If anyone can assist please contact:

Mr Andrew TAYLOR
13 Kiah Court
COORAN QLD 4569
Telephone: (07) 5485 0288
Mobile: 0466 521 135

Dear Bob,

MONTEVIDEO MARU
NATIONAL MEMORIAL PROJECT

I am writing to you as the President of the NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association and Convenor for the above mentioned project which is being driven by the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society. As part of the work of the Advisory Committee, of which I am a member, formed by the Australian War Memorial to develop the concept and build the National Memorial in the grounds of the AWM by 1 July 2012. All available stakeholders are to be contacted for their views to ensure the Memorial meets as many requirements of the stakeholders as possible.

The second attachment is a schedule of the military units which formed Lark Force which defended Rabaul and nearby New Guinea Islands, and it is these unit Associations, if any, which I wish to contact. The main contingent of Lark Force was 2/22 Battalion of 23 Brigade, 8th Division. The other battalions of 23 Brigade were the 2/21 and 2/40 which were deployed to Ambon and Timor respectively with Brigade HQ in Darwin. The 2/22 and 2/27 Brigades were deployed to Malaya, thus the soldiers of 8th Division who survived the battles were mostly captured by the Japanese. About 840 Lark Force servicemen and over 200 civilians, including 30 Norwegians, a commonly accepted total of 1053 were victims when the Japanese prison ship the Montevideo Maru was sunk by an allied submarine off the Philippines, on route to Hainan Island, on 1 July 1942, 68 years ago tomorrow.

I would appreciate any contact details which will lead me to any surviving associations

or individuals of the Lark Force units, many of which were not of the 8 Division. I have been in contact with Norm Furness, the President of the 2/22 Battalion / Lark Force Association, who was in Canberra last week and is aware of recent developments.



Yours faithfully,

Phil Ainsworth

President
 NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association
 Phone: (07)38443222
 Fax: 0738449888
 Mobile: 0418730348
 Email: p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au
 www.pngvr.com

Dear Bob

**COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE UNVEILING
 BURLEIGH HEADS QLD**

(Frontline Newsletter Vol 9 Issue 2)

The plaque itself commemorates "the 49 Australian medical and dental officers that served the men working on the Burma-Thai Railway." The accompanying photograph includes Dr Peter Hendry.

The names on the plaque include four that are well known to myself. They are Capt (Thomas) Le Gay Brereton, Lt Col Thomas Hamilton, Capt Peter Hendry and Capt Roy Mills. All were established medical specialists in the Hunter area when I first came to take up a position as a Junior Resident Medical Officer (Intern) at the Royal Newcastle Hospital in 1960. Sadly, Tom Brereton, Tom Hamilton and Roy Mills are now deceased.

Dr. P. I. A. Hendry, A.O., however, is the survivor, and as the above-mentioned photograph demonstrates, he is still going strong. Recently I had the honour to be seated next to him and Mrs Hendry at the 30th Year Anniversary Dinner of the Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute. This is but one of the many organisations to which Dr Hendry has made crucial contributions. After his return from the POW camp he put the War behind him. His career since has been a very distinguished one. That includes significant achievements on the international scene, in his specialty of Pathology and in the field of medical education. Whenever I attend the funeral of one of our colleagues, Peter Hendry is there delivering the Eulogy because he knows everybody, and the families entrust him with this important duty.

I sent Peter Hendry a photocopy of the article from our Newsletter. He had not seen it himself,

and expressed his pleasure and gratitude for it. It is with his permission that I am writing this letter to you - though he is not yet aware of the extent of the information about him that I am now disclosing!

Of the other Newcastle veterans listed on the Burleigh Heads war memorial, Lt Col Thomas Hamilton was a Specialist Surgeon. He detailed his wartime experiences in his book "Soldier Surgeon in Malaya". His daughter, a former Nurse, survives him and is the wife of a retired General Practitioner in this area.

Both she and her husband formerly worked at the Royal Newcastle Hospital. So, indeed, at one time or another did everyone else I am talking about today, and the other recent occasion when I caught up with Dr Peter Hendry was the Annual Oration in memory of that famous and innovative institution.

Of the others, Capt Le Gay Brereton - whose Christian name, Thomas, was omitted from the plaque - became a Specialist Physician in private practice, and a Visiting Medical Officer at the major Newcastle hospitals.

After the War Capt Roy Mills became a distinguished Chest Physician. He was of especial significance in my own professional development as a Specialist Physician, subsequently going on to become a Consultant Cardiologist.

All the above explains why I was so interested to see the article on page 19 of the latest issue of the Newsletter. How much important history and human interest lies behind a few names on a memorial plaque !

Best Wishes,
 Yours Faithfully

Major Barry Chapman ED, RACI.

Rankin Park NSW
 4 August 2010

The following letter to Dr Barry Chapman from Dr Peter Hendry will be of interest:

Dear Barry

I thoroughly approve of your letter which I am sure will be of interest to members of the 2/10 Fd Amb as well as Some of the 2/19th Bn.

Roy, Tom H & Tom B were all popular with members of 8 Div. Roy was for sometime the MO for the 2/19th so quite a number of the 2/19 survivors will be glad to read the letter.

Have a great trip to Cambridge, one, of my favourite cities.

Peter



Dear Bob.

First of all I would like to thank you for printing the correction of the number of survivors from the Parit Sulong massacre. On page 19 of the current Frontline (Volume 9 Issue 2) I noted that a plaque had been dedicated at Burleigh Heads commemorating the P.O.W. doctors and medical staff who had provided medical support on the Burma/Thai railway and it stated that it was believed to be the only memorial dedicated to those wonderful doctors who worked on the line. In fact, since 1995, there has been a memorial dedicated to all the P.O.W. doctors and the centre piece of this memorial is a bronze statue of "Weary" Dunlop. This memorial is in the grounds of the Shrine of Remembrance and as I march past on ANZAC Day I give an "eyes left".

Each year a service is held at the memorial. I have enclosed photographs and information of the memorial. I thought that you may also be interested to know that in the City of Ballarat in Victoria there is a memorial dedicated to all P.O.Ws commencing with the Boer War. This memorial was dedicated by General Peter Cosgrove in 2004. The majority of the money was raised by a dedicated group of people and it was only towards the end of the appeal that the Commonwealth Government finally allocated some money. A small portion of the wall has been left blank as it is only being realistic that some names are missing and as they come to hand then they can be added to the wall. This memorial has become a major tourist attraction, I have enclosed photographs and information of the memorial.

Bob, each year the ANZAC Day protocol seems to appear and I remember sending a copy of Melbourne's ANZAC Day protocol to Ron Ferguson, Eighth Australian Division Association within the past few years. I have enclosed two copies for you to use as you see fit. I realise that I have sent you a lot of information but if you could submit it for printing I'm sure that the readers of Frontline would find it quite interesting particularly the Ex P.O.Ws. Hoping that you are enjoying good health;

Yours sincerely,

Jim Kerr

Hon Secretary
4th Anti-Tank Association
DINGLEY VILLAGE VIC 3172
July 2010.



MAJOR Barry Lloyd CHAPMAN

Influenced by his family, by reading textbooks, and by his physical education master in high school, Barry Lloyd Chapman thought that the field of medicine was an interesting and a worthwhile occupation. He graduated from the University of Sydney in 1960 with an M.B.B.S. degree; while a student there, he received a Commonwealth Scholarship and several credits and distinctions. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians awarded him M.R.A.C.P. and F.R.A.C.P. in internal medicine in 1966 and 1972, respectively. He received F.C.S.A.N.Z. in cardiology and a fellow in medicine from the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand in 2004, of which he became a member in 1980.



Serving at Royal Newcastle Hospital in New South Wales, Australia from 1960 to 1970, Dr. Chapman was an intern, senior resident medical officer, medical registrar, fellow in medicine, and foundation director of coronary care. From 1971 to 1973, he was a senior registrar and research fellow at West Middlesex Hospital in Isleworth (with an attachment to Hammersmith Hospital in London, England). He returned to Royal Newcastle Hospital in 1973 as a staff specialist in medicine, a position he held until 1991. During this time, he was also a consultant cardiologist (1984-1987) and senior consultant cardiologist (1988-1991). Dr. Chapman was a conjoint and clinical lecturer in medicine at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Newcastle in New South Wales, Australia from 1979 to 2001, and a senior consultant cardiologist at John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia from 1991 to 2001, when he retired. Additionally, he served on various committees and boards related to teaching hospital and university medical school matters.

From 1955 to 1973, he served with the 13th National Service Training Battalion and other units of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, rising from a recruit to a major. He became qualified to command a force of all arms. Major Chapman also served in the Australian Citizen Military Forces, where he was a member of the Sydney University Regiment and 1st/19th Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment; the Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve in the United Kingdom, where he was a member of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion of the Royal Green Jackets. He is a member of the

National Servicemen's Association of Australia, the Sydney University Regiment Association, 1/19 RNSWR Association; the Returned and Services League of Australia, and the Royal United Service Institution of New South Wales.

Dr. Chapman is a life fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, a life member of the New South Wales Society of the History of Medicine and the Sydney University Union, an emeritus fellow of the International College of Angiology, an emeritus member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the Sydney Gut Club. He is a retired fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, a retired medical practitioner of the New South Wales Medical Registration Board, and a retired member of the Australasian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the International Society for Heart Research, the Hunter and Northern Society of Physicians, the Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute, the Australian Society for Medical Research, the Gastroenterological Society of Australia, the Gut Foundation, the New York Academy of Sciences, and the United Medical Protection. He is a former member of the University of Sydney Club, University of Newcastle Staff Association, Stroke Council of the American Heart Association, Australian Society of the History of Medicine, Sydney University Medical Society, Hunter Medical Association, Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Association, Australian Association of Consultant Physicians, Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Tertiary Education Union. Dr. Chapman is a foundation member of the Medical Graduates' Association of the University of Sydney, and a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society, National Trust of Australia, State Library of New South Wales Foundation, Art Gallery Society of New South Wales, Royal Automobile Club of Australia, Imperial Service Club, Club Macquarie in Newcastle, New South Wales, New South Wales Masonic Club, City Tattersalls Club in Sydney, Hunter Valley Scots Club, P.G. Wodehouse Society in the United Kingdom, Agatha Christie Society, the Presbyterian Church of Australia, Panthers Club in Cardiff, New South Wales, The (Anthony) Trollope Society, and the Medical Benevolent Association of New South Wales.

A contributor of numerous original articles and papers to professional journals and conferences, his research has dealt with such areas as liver cirrhosis, peptic ulcer with risk factors of aspirin, celiac disease, dermatitis herpetiformis, polymyalgia rheumatica, and acute myocardial infarction. Major Chapman was awarded the Efficiency Decoration in 1970, an award in recognition of his commissioned service, the Australian Defence Medal and the Anniversary of National Service Medal. While a member of the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia, he was honoured with a Resuscitation Certificate, an Intermediate Certificate, a Bronze Medallion and an Instructor's Certificate. Dr. Chapman is listed in *The Medical Directory of Australia, 2000 Outstanding Scientists of the 21st Century, Who's Who in the World, 2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century, the Dictionary of International Biography, Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare, Who's Who in Science and Engineering*, and several other biographical works. He won service awards from Royal Newcastle Hospital, John Hunter Hospital, and Hunter Area Health Service in New South Wales, Australia.

The son of the late Lloyd George Chapman and Winifred Cordell Chapman (O'Shea), Dr. Chapman was born on 6 June 1936 in Werris Creek, New South Wales, Australia. He now lives in Rankin Park, New South Wales, Australia, where he pursues his interests in history, English literature, classical music, art, photography, gardens, genealogy, and cryptic crossword puzzles. He is the father of Sandra, Ian, Michael and Louise.

[The above is from Barry's biographical entry in the Fourth Edition of *Great Minds of the 21st Century*.]

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 June 2010 newsletter:

especially to the mainspar.

At that time the Allies had advanced well into France. Being closer to France than to England I decided to head for France; if we had to jump we could do so in unoccupied territory. So we lost height, turned to port under the stream and set course for France. The aircraft was behaving well and our track was almost down the centre of the English Channel; we were as close to England as to France, there was an emergency field at Woodbridge on the south coast, so we set course for Woodbridge. We were okay on three motors but I wasn't happy about possible hidden damage to the mainspar, so I decided it was better to be sure than sorry, and to put her down at Woodbridge.

Woodbridge gave us a meal and a bed, and notified Snaith that we were alive and well. Next day a Squadron aircraft arrived to take us back, and once again who should be driving it but Paddy Murray! Our aircraft E Easy looked pretty sick with all that foam over her and blackened and burnt by the fire. She was to stay at Woodbridge for a new port outer engine, which happened in due course and we went down to bring her home.

When we had landed at Woodbridge I was interested to find out the reactions of the crew to the night of drama. Most were not overly concerned - it happens... Frank's reaction was a bit different and unexpected. His concern was that if we had had to ditch there would have been no chance of recovering the camera or his navigation watch. I think the possibility of not finishing our tour never crossed Frank's mind.

The Long, Long Minute

December 1944. It was cold, we were a long way from home, and each in our way wondering if we would ever see home again. The target was Koln (Cologne). Flying conditions were awful, towering cumulus cloud up to 18,000 feet, visibility so bad we were bombing on Wanganui, that is on cloud markers. The Pathfinders marked the target by dropping coloured flares into the clouds and the main force bombed on the flares. We were well into our tour by this time, we had about twenty trips in I think, and unfortunately getting a little too confident, not a good thing in Bomber Command.

I was not satisfied with our run up to the target and decided to go round again, to do which I had to turn left out of the main stream and do a steep left-hand turn to bring us back into the main stream again; not a healthy pastime or what one should do for kicks with all that flak around. We made the turn all right and were coming back into the stream.

At this point the aircraft was literally standing on its wingtip in a very, very steep turn. We were fast approaching the release point when right above us appeared a Lancaster with bomb doors open ! Nothing to do but pray.

I had no idea if he had seen us or how close he thought he was to his release point, but right above us were those two rows of four thousand pounders which if released could go straight through us. I felt close enough to reach out and touch them. That Lancaster's bomb bay looked like the mouth of a prehistoric monster about to drop its deadly cargo on us. I remember seeing Blue (Harry Copley our engineer) looking out through the astrodome, his tongue stuck to the roof of his mouth, his eyes sticking out like organ stops, and I've no doubt I looked the same to him.

I suppose the whole incident from the time of the turn-in would not have taken more than a minute, but holding the aircraft in that steep turn to get out from under the Lancaster, knowing that any moment those bombs could be released, and if they were released we were just names on a memorial, seemed like a very long time.

Rocky Road

Promotion came quickly on the Squadron. When we first arrived Frank, Bert and Tug each held the rank of Flying Officer, Blue, Jack and Peter were Sergeants; and I was a brand-new Pilot Officer (Pilot Officer is a rank not a mustering). Frank and Bert had been commissioned at the end of their training courses, Tug had already done one tour of operations in the Middle East and so had acquired his rank in action.

The reasons for promotion coming quickly are obvious. Personnel were constantly arriving and departing, some happily because their tours were completed, others for less happy reasons. By this time we had done about ten trips, Frank and Bert had been promoted to acting Flight Lieutenant, and about then I went up to acting Flying Officer. When we had done about twenty trips Jack and Blue were up for commissions, and I made acting Flight Lieutenant. By that time too the personnel of the station had changed considerably. We had lost quite a few, some the happy way, some not. Red Robbie had gone, having completed his tour, to be followed for a short time by Charles Boyer, yes, the same Charles who had caused the drama which resulted in our landing at Burn.

Our next Flight Commander was an English Squadron Leader named Rochborough. Rocky, as he was quickly re-named, had been in Training Command all this time and was said to have around four thousand hours on Tiger Moths. Squadron Leader was the appropriate rank for a Flight Commander, but people coming from Training Command with that reasonably high rank were not always popular; finding themselves having to direct people in matters they knew less about than the people they were directing. Rocky and I were never bosom pals, we clashed fairly soon after his arrival.

One of the aircraft was in for an engine replacement, after which it would have to be air tested before it could be flown on an operation. There were other procedures involved in this particular situation. One was that all operational aircraft had to be fuelled up and ready for operations, another was that no aircraft was to be landed when carrying a load in excess of the regulation safe landing weight, and a Halifax with full fuel tanks was over that safe landing weight. The air test would take about half an hour, and in that time it would not use up enough fuel to bring it below the safe landing weight. Furthermore, if something went wrong with the replacement motor and it had to be shut down the test pilot could have a problem with an overweight aircraft. This particular aircraft was one of our flight, and I was Duty Pilot, so we got the job of doing the air

test. "We" meant at least Frank, Blue, one of the gunners and myself. The test itself meant seeing that the motor could develop full power, stopping and starting it in the air, feathering it, checking the pressures and generally putting it through its paces. The aircraft was fuelled up, so I got the ground crew to drain off fuel to a safe level in case anything went wrong. The test went off all right and in due course I arrived back at the mess. It so happened that Rocky was in the mess drinking with one of his mates. I joined them, and during the enquiry about the results of the test Rocky questioned the necessity of draining the fuel to do the air test. Perhaps I misunderstood him, but considering the company he was in and the way it was put I interpreted it as implying that I had shown more caution than was necessary, and that now the aircraft had to be refuelled which otherwise would have not been necessary.

I did not like this too much, particularly coming from someone so new and without a lot of experience with the Halifax. One word led to another until in the politest terms I could muster I told him that if in the future the same situation arose and he wanted it done differently he had better do it himself. I think we both knew where we stood after that. Shortly after, Rocky had an accident on the station motorbike. It became known that he would be off flying for some time I remember Wing Commander Holford saying to me, "Don't think this doesn't concern you", which I thought an odd remark at the time, but I found out what he meant the next day when he told me Rocky would be off for some time and that until then I was to do his job as Flight Commander.

The situation had some plusses and some minuses. A plus was the motorbike that went with the job and on which I used to ride out to the dispersals to check the readiness of the various aircraft. Usually Jack came with me on these occasions, mainly to keep the back wheel down - you could get up to a fairly high speed down the long runway. We had some fun on that bike. A minus was that I had to attend what was called the "prayer meetings" which were held every day to report the state of readiness of the aircraft and which crews were available, and if there was any war on that night, what crews were to go. I didn't like that part much.

Smash Deans

Smash would have to be one of the most unusual characters I have ever met. I am sure that if he wrote a book of his wartime exploits it would be a best seller. That is, if anyone was prepared to believe such things could happen. I first met Smash at Bradfield Park ITS in 1941 on 26 Course. *To be continued.....*

NOR ALL THY TEARS

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

Continued from June 2010:

it did little more than parallel diseases we had learned to accept as commonplace, but never, even at the last, did we reach a level of callousness so deep that cholera could not horrify us, nor even that the mention of the word would not spread a gloom over everything around. Indeed it is in its very simplicity that gives it an unnatural frightfulness. The cramped legs and the lack of temperature are symptoms enough to distinguish it from the diarrhoea common to us all, and the fact that these two simple things could be enough to mark a man off for death, seemed to bring into sudden prominence the frailty of the thread that kept the life in our bodies. And the almost mechanical working of the disease gave it the inevitability of Fate. The salt-laden fluids sucked from the muscles, let them cramp, the cramp spread from the extremities of the body to the trunk, and under the pain of the cramp, the victim lapsed into a coma, and generally never woke. And in the ghastly simplicity of the way it was spread there was a horror, for it could lurk virulent in everything that linked by the remotest contact to the victim. It is most terrible to think that every patch of soil you touch may be clamped with water that has soaked from some polluted drain, and every dry place may once before have been touched by hands damped in the deadly fluid.

It is most terrible to think that every unconscious stroking of your lips may carry the deadly germ to your mouth, that every single movement of your hand to your face may be the one to bring your death. And it is most terrible of all to feel how every effort to check these impulses drives deeper into your consciousness the realisation of Death's imminence. It strikes quickly and it strikes surely. In the early hours of the morning they took a man from our tent complaining of cramps in the legs, and we buried him in the afternoon. It is horrifying to wake in the black of night and hear a low commotion of men rising from their beds, and the doctor call softly for a couple of stretcher-bearers. The horror that is marked on the face of each man as he hastens to help at the first dusk - loosening the guy-ropes and letting the tent fall into a disorderly mass is unforgettable.

They began by shifting the stricken tents away from the others, but this was soon impossible. They were then just dropped, and if there were any sun, we spread them out in it, while ashes were scattered about the ground in pious hopefulness. You do not speak much in a cholera

plague. There is an almost deathly silence. Even the Nips keep their voices until violent rage masters them. You wish only for silence. When the rain poured through the roof of our huts, we sang, when the burden of the years weighed us, we yarned, in the dreadful camp at Kanya we laughed wildly, late in the night, as we spoke of the vengeance we would wreak in the days to come, and in the long starve in Japan, we dwelt on the glories of the days to come, but in the cholera camp at South Tonchian we said nothing.



You cannot forget cholera that way. You cannot forget it by dwelling on other things, for there is no other thing. Every single thought brings back the reminder that death lies in each speck of dust around you, and that those whom you spoke to a few hours past will have gone forever in a few hours to come. It can be forgotten only by shutting the whole world from out of your thoughts, by numbing and deadening the senses. Or else by callousing your feelings in consciously dwelling on the horror itself, until the mind becomes insensitive to it, as it fails to register a steady constant sound. If we spoke of anything at all, we spoke of "it" - the wave of the death-rate, the total of the dead, its indifference to sick and healthy bodies, or tried to imagine living all our lives in a place like this with such a plague sweeping down the river all our lives. One man had been in cholera country in the Army in India, and he told how troops had been used to burning out whole villages, and marching the population, naked, to a new place, in an effort to check a plague. Here we sprinkled the tent floor with ashes.

The natives died like flies. On spirits already broken by hardships greater than they had ever borne, this fresh horror came down on them like a physical weight. The new frightfulness cut through their camp like a scythe. Nearly seven hundred of them in this small area were swept out of their misery in one swift stroke. A hundred and fifty were buried by the prisoners in three days. And their liberators let them die. We, at least, had the right to bear our stricken on bamboo stretchers across to the little isolation tents for the doctor to give them what care he could. We at least were given time to pull down an infected tent and expose the bamboo sleeping platforms to the air and sprinkle our ashes about. But those whose

bodies were dedicated to the New Order were given nothing but grave-space. Their suffering bodies were borne on bamboo stretchers to the edge of vast graves where they could watch those who had ceased to struggle being thrown in, and there they were left until the cruel pestilence, fear and the sight of the unspeakable, brought them to their journey's end. The dead were those that were lying still. Even the formality of a kick in the stomach was ignored in the hast to be rid of the polluted. Once in a shower of rain, two "corpses" rose to their feet and fled. They had merely fainted with fright. A blow with a shovel was the orthodox arbiter of such disputes on the verdict. One genuine "corpse" sat up with rigour mortis and a horrified Nip hit him on the head.

Nothing was ever so bad that we could not feel profound pity for the natives, and here midst the greatest horror we had ever felt, we still had room in our hearts to pity them. With nothing to live for but the fear of death: without hope or friends or consolation, they were shut up in this ghastly hole in the almost certain knowledge that they would suffer only this unspeakable horror until death wrenched them out of it all. Not another happy moment in their lives, or a friendly word to hear, they had no power to stave off whatever form of terrible death Fate kept for them, nor the will to end it all in one sudden stroke. Their weak bodies powerless to lift a hand, even to keep the bare elements of hygiene, their camp was rotten with the poisoned excrement of all the foul diseases that struck them, and here Death was piling up its victims in ghastly heaps, ending their miseries or bringing to a climax another cycle of them.

The filth of the neighbouring camp brought almost to nothing Reggie's hygiene, but for what it was worth, it was kept up to the limit, and even as things were, many lives must have been saved by it. Reggie said that not a thing that had not been boiled was to touch food that we ate and not even a grain of rice was to be left on the ground to attract flies, and this was carried out absolutely literally. For miles along the slippery road men carried heavy logs of wood to boil our eating gear, and stooped to pick up single grains of rice to burn them. However much effect it had here, it was to do much to hold back the other contagion's in later years. When we were in camps isolated from others we were able to keep them completely free from flies, and amoebic dysentery struck us far less harshly than in any other camp. We had hoped to be taken away from this futile horror. It seemed insane that men should be thrust into a place so far beyond men's power. We were soon corrected. Indeed it seemed that the burden of the work would fall on us alone, for the natives rapidly gathered their belongings and began to head south. But these emancipated

voluntary labourers were soon chased back, and remained with us to face the horror till it passed. Some went to the jungle, but the path to freedom had to converge on the only cut track - the railway, and the stick and the rifle barred the path of these too. Many who had tried to leave were already stricken, and their rotting, invisible corpses gave a sickening stench to the air of the jungle, until their entire flesh had rotted into the earth, sowing next years' harvest of death. This was in the lower camp, still partly in touch with civilisation. Farther up the river the plague took on a frightfulness that microfilmed all we say. In one prison camp the orderly in charge of returns lost count of the dead, so rapidly were they replaced by the living. Burial of the natives was impossible. Their bodies were just thrown into the river, and floated down past us, bloated festering corpses, poisoning the whole land.

The deadly plague followed the path of the river, starting in the upper reaches, and sweeping down its banks. It crept in the path of everything that moved: the green rushing river; the tiny muddy streams; the feet that trod the earth and the hands that touched it. The slow path and the quick; the narrow trail and the broad. It followed them all, breaking the barriers of our pitiful disinfectants, and piercing into the closest recesses and spreading on the widest front. We washed our hands in phenyl, we spread ashes on the ground; and we boiled every drop of water we touched, but the creeping pestilence moved on. In the path of the water it crept. We could feel its presence in every patch of black sliminess that oozed from under our feet; every pool of dark liquid that settled in each hollow patch.

For in the water was movement. It soaked and oozed among the trees in the jungle; rippled over the roads and down the broken gutters and settled in stagnant pools, bearing always the insidious horror, washed from the bodies of the dead and thickened by the foul excreta of the dying. The raining season was reaching a climax now, drenching our fires and making it impossible to expose the infected tents to the air. Often while we were at work, a heavy fall would start raging torrents in the gullies that divided us from the camp, and we would have to lock our hands, forming a chain, to avoid being swept away as we crossed. But we drew hope from the rain, for it was the rain that would finally wash it away. At any time, we were told, the death rate would fall rapidly and we would be free from cholera for a year, and surely we would be out of the frightful country by then. We watched the rise and fall of new cases with elation and despair. Some would be discharged as cured and this would build up our hopes.

To be continued.....

DOWN MEMORY LANE



2/19 BATTALION AIF CARRIER PLATOON MEMBERS AT BATHURST 1940
(Photo courtesy Barry PICKUP)



SUBJECT 2 CORPORAL COURSE SEP 1983
Back Row PTE ORME – PTE Kevin MILLER – PTE Paul LANGA ?? – PTE Les FORDHAM
PTE Larry BURRIDGE - PTE Dane.....PTE Greg BOWRA ?
Front Row WO2 Peter PHILLIPS (Training Staff) PTE BARKLEY - PTE Barry.....- .PTE Edward PITT
PTE Phil SMITH. - Audi....(Training Staff)
[Photo courtesy of Eddie Pitt]