

# FRONTLINE

## A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL

**OFFICIAL JOURNAL**

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

**THE ROYAL NEW**

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

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### Editorial

R.J. (Bob) PINK  
PO Box 224 INGLEBURN NSW 1890  
Telephone: 02 8747 0941  
Mobile: 0414 907 427  
Email: bob.pink@optusnet.com.au

### Advertising

Sabre Publishing Pty Ltd  
A.B.N. 083 407 050  
PO BOX 1269  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



As this is our first issue for the year, I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you, and your families, a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015. I hope that 2015 is kind and you enjoy loving family, good health and good friends. If there are differences, now is the time to resolve them. We are here but a short time and life is too short to be estranged from family and friends.

Sadly, 2014 ended on a very sad note with the news on 27 December of the passing of Charles Edwards. Charles, who was an indomitable figure in the Association, seemed to always be “there”. Whenever a commemorative visit was organised, Charles’ hand was one of the first raised and, as the years passed and age and infirmity thinned the ranks of “available” candidates, Charles was always fit enough to go. Now, sadly, he has joined the ranks of our departed colleagues and he will be sadly missed.

We also received news of the untimely death of Lisa Ring, sister of Association stalwart and Standard Bearer, David Ring. Lisa, who was a member of the Ordnance Corps served with 1/19 RNSWR from 1990 to 1993. Her passing is a sad loss for her family.

Regrettably, the sad news continues with news of the death of Mary Hill, widow of Athol Hill, MBE, 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF, on 3 January 2015 at the age of 95. Mary had been a staunch supporter of the Association and attended most functions until age and infirmity intervened. Mary was farewelled at St Aloysius’ Catholic Church, Cronulla on 8 January 2015. Bob Pink and Michael and Rhonda Mulcahy represented the Association at Mary’s funeral.

Adele Winbank, widow of Angus James “Jim” Winbank, 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF passed away on 23 January at the Orana Nursing Home, Point Clare where she had been a resident for some time. Her son, Steve, advised us of her passing. Adele was farewelled at The Greenway Chapel, Green Point on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

15 February saw a pleasant late summer day for the Commemoration of the Fall of Singapore in 1942. While the attendance was down on past years this is to be expected with the passing of the years and, as His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret’d), Governor of New South Wales and Patron of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Association said in his moving address, this was the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the event. I laid a wreath in memory of the men of 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF who fell in the Malayan/Singapore campaign and represented the Association. I was joined on the day by Bob Pink, Ray and Gay Warden, Dorothy Howard, Margaret Forbes, Ted Haslehurst and Roy and Trish Rae. It was a very well organised commemoration and the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division AIF Association is to be congratulated on the arrangements.

Sadly, 26 February saw the passing of Dr Rowley Richards, MBE, OAM, KStJ, ED, at the age of 99. Rowley was, for many years, the President of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division AIF Association and, even after he stood down from that position he was a regular attender at 8<sup>th</sup> Division functions where he invariably laid the tribute for the Doctors and Nurses who served in the Malayan Campaign and subsequently, with him, on the Burma –Thai Railway. As David Ross, President of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Association said, in his email reporting Rowley’s passing, Rowley remained mentally alert until the end but he had become increasingly frail. A great man! He will be sadly missed. Rowley was farewelled from Northern Suburbs Crematorium on Thursday, 4 March before a capacity crowd. Bob Pink and I represented the Association at Rowley’s funeral and we were joined by Sandy Howard, Joy & Reg Newton and Bob Middleton. The Piper at the ceremony was Robert Pearce, former Pipe Major, 1/19 RNSWR.

4 March saw the passing of CPL Stephen Hook, formerly of 1/19 RNSWR, 4/3 RNSWR and 3 TPT Company. Stephen was a recent “recruit” to the Association having joined after meeting Bob Pink and Zeke Mundine at the 45<sup>th</sup> Battalion dedication of Barney Hines’ gravesite in September 2014. Stephen had been in hospital for some time but his death, at age 60, was a sad loss to his family. Bob Pink represented the Association at Stephen’s funeral at St John’s Anglican Church Padstow on 9 March 2015.

I am pleased to announce that thanks to the staunch efforts of Sandy Howard and my IT consultant, Darren Covell, the website is now back up and running. Some content is still being written so the History pages are not there but the site is looking good. Any comments or suggestions will be looked at seriously. My thanks to Darren and Sandy for the many hours they have put in to organising the “rebirth” and my thanks also to John Fogarty for his efforts over many years.

ANZAC Day 2015 will be a special day and I would like as many members as possible to participate in the Sydney March and attend the post March Reunion Cruise. Details are elsewhere in the Magazine but a strong showing in support of our few remaining World War 2 veterans, and in memory of our World War I predecessors, will be appropriate. Any serving member of 1/19 RNSWR, who is not otherwise engaged, is also warmly welcome to join us on ANZAC Day and to also join the Harbour Cruise with their family.

I remind all former Commanding Officers that I am still awaiting their input for the history of 1/19 RNSWR and I want to thank Geoff Braddon and Jeff Williams for the material they sent down. Anyone who has any material that is relevant to events over the past fifty years of 19 RNSWR and 1/19 RNSWR should get the material to Bob or me.

I look forward to seeing a large number of you on ANZAC Day and to all of you I wish good health and happiness.

*Roger Perry*

# FRONTLINE

## LAST POST CEREMONY AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA

**PRIVATE Harry Broughton MORIARTY, 19<sup>th</sup> BATTALION AIF**

Researched by Bruce Loynes



The Last Post Ceremony is presented in the Commemorative area of the Australian Memorial at 4.55pm each day. The service is streamed and can be watched via the internet - go to Last Post Ceremony on the AWM web site. The daily ceremony commemorates more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in war and other operations and whose names are recorded on the Roll of Honour. At each ceremony, the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour is told. The story presented on 7 November 2014 was that of Bank of New South Wales employee Private Harry Broughton Moriarty of the 19th Battalion, First AIF World War I. Today we remember and pay tribute to Private Harry Broughton Moriarty. Harry was born on 24 January 1898 in Queanbeyan, New South Wales to Arthur and Norah Moriarty. He grew up in Queanbeyan and attended the Monaro Grammar School at Cooma. Harry left school in 1915 and as he was too young to enlist, gained employment as a clerk at the Western Branch of the Bank of New South Wales. In July 1915 he transferred to the bank's branch at Yass. Harry enlisted for service with the Australian Imperial Force at Goulburn on 22 May 1916, shortly after his 18th birthday and was allotted to the 7th reinforcements to the 56th Battalion.

He embarked from Sydney aboard the transport ship Ascanius that October along with other reinforcements. After arriving in England at the end of the year, Moriarty was admitted to hospital with influenza. After spending nearly two weeks in hospital Moriarty returned to his training battalion and sailed for France at the end of February. Moriarty found himself at Etaples and was promoted to acting Corporal. After three weeks at the depot where he no doubt experienced the infamous "Bull Ring" training ground. He was transferred to the 19th Battalion and sent forward to join his new unit, and reverted to the rank of Private. In March Moriarty joined the 19th Battalion at Gre'villers. He experienced his first battle soon after when German forces attacked the town of Lagnicourt, capturing several other villages and Australian artillery batteries. The Germans withdrew in the face of a heavy Australian counter-attack and suffered heavy losses. After a short break the battalion again moved up into the line. This time to take part in what became known as the Second Battle of Bullecourt.

At 5.30 am on 3 May 1917 the battalion "hopped the bags" and went into the attack. Soon after Moriarty was killed by a shell. In the short space of time that he had been a member of the battalion, Moriarty's personality had made him many friends and his loss was keenly felt. He was buried near where he fell, but his grave was lost as the battle raged on. He was 19 years old. Today Moriarty's name is commemorated on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Brettoneux in France. His name is listed on the Roll of Honour along with more than 60,000 others from the First World War and his photograph is displayed beside the Pool of Reflection. This is but one of the many stories of courage and sacrifice told here at the Australian War Memorial. We now remember Private Harry Broughton Moriarty and all of those Australians who have given their lives in service of our nation.

**OUR THANKS TO BRUCE LOYNES FOR THE ABOVE TRIBUTE AND FOR BRINGING IT TO OUR NOTICE]**

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# FRONTLINE



## VALE GOOD FRIENDS

### **MRS Leonie Rodda WARDEN**

(Widow of NX4742 Charles Andrew "Chick" WARDEN 2/19 Battalion AIF)



We were very saddened to learn of Leonie's passing at Kilbride, Gilead on Sunday evening 30 November 2014. Late of Belfield, Baulkham Hills and Silverdale, Leonie was born to Charlotte and Cecil James on 27 May 1925 at Mitcham, South Australia then a small settlement south of Adelaide where she was raised through those very tough and turpid times during the great depression. Her elder brother Eugene was born at Adelaide on 28 August 1922. Tragically their father Cecil passed away in 1939 when Leonie was just 14 years of age and Eugene just 17 and just 3 years later they suffered the loss of their mother Charlotte on her passing in 1942. Following the outbreak of the Second World War Eugene enlisted in the Australian Military Forces in April 1941 and served with the 7<sup>th</sup> MD Signals in Darwin. Sadly Eugene predeceased Leonie in 2002. Following the death of her mother Leonie moved to Sydney to live with her aunt Isobel and worked in the University of Sydney medical department for the duration of the war.

Post war Leonie's luck began to change and she was introduced to Charles Andrew 'Chick' Warden a recently returned soldier of the 2/19<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion AIF who had enlisted at 16 years of age and following the aftermath of the savage fighting against the Japanese in Malaya and Singapore was taken prisoner of war and for the next three and a half years he and his comrades endured horrific and unspeakable barbarism at the hands of their Japanese captors. Leonie and Chick fell in love and following his discharge from the army after a long period of hospitalisation on 30 January 1946 they were married on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1946 and bought a small house at Belfield NSW. Their wonderful union was a very fruitful one which bore three sons and a daughter. Raymond arrived on ANZAC day 1947, Darrell on 18 May 1949, Lyle on 15 October 1952 and Yvonne on 6 December 1953. After the family had grown up Leonie and Chick decided in 1970 to build a new home in Baulkham Hills. Sadly Chick was taken from us on 18 October 1999 and Leonie lived there with her son Darrell until his sad and untimely passing on 17 March 2012.

In the early 1980's Leonie suffered a severe brain haemorrhage which resulted in her being in a coma for 3 months and for the next 6 months she spent learning to walk and eat and lead a normal life. Leonie then went to live with her daughter Yvonne and husband Ross at Silverdale NSW for 12 months or so when she decided that it would be best if she went into care at a nursing home. Raymond was tasked with finding a suitable residence and after much looking around Leonie decided on Kilbride at Gilead. She was extremely happy there and said that she didn't feel like a burden on her children any more - they had their own lives to lead. After residing at Kilbride for approximately 14 months Leonie started to suffer from falls which on occasions required in patient care at Campbelltown Hospital. It was during her last trip to hospital that she was diagnosed with osteoporosis which given her frailty she was unfortunately not able to fight off and she sadly left us at 11:00 pm on Sunday night 30<sup>th</sup> November. With her generation died the values of basic goodness based on the ancient ten commandments and her generation was drilled to learn and repeat by rote those fundamental laws that govern man's relationship with god and humanity. The world has become and is a far less safe, peaceful and happy place without that strength of character - which was second nature to them. She was certainly a great fighter all through her long and eventful life and fought the good fight in spite of immense personal hardship which she undertook with her customary zeal and good humour which set her in a true class of her own. Her departure has left an irreplaceable void in many lives but, thank God, we are all the richer for the sheer joy of her presence and everything she stood for.

Leonie is survived by Ray, Lyle and Yvonne and their families was farewelled at Forest Lawn Crematorium Leppington NSW on Monday 8 December 2014. Association Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel The Reverend Canon Colin Aiken, OAM, RFD, ChStJ officiated at the service. Ray Warden has asked that his and the family's thanks and gratitude be conveyed to those many dear friends who attended Leonie's farewell and sent condolences and expressions of sympathy on their sad loss for which they are most grateful and most appreciative of their kindness and support at a very difficult time.

### **F2311121 PTE Lisa Gai RING 1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment**

David Ring advised with deep regret of the passing of his beloved sister Lisa on 15 December 2014. Lisa was born on 16 February 1966 and following enlistment on 2 June 1990 in The Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps was allocated to 1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment at Ingleburn NSW where she served until discharge on 11 September 1993. In civil life Lisa enjoyed a variety of callings where she worked as a bar attendant, landscaper, fibreglasser, ward person at Royal North Shore Hospital and Customs Officer.

Lisa is survived by her brothers David and Peter, sister Cheryl & brother in law Paul, nieces Jessica Emily & Sophie and was privately cremated on Monday 29 December 2014 at St Mary's. A Memorial Service was held on 15 February 2015 at the Central Coast.

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**VX35590 PRIVATE Charles Arthur Mainwaring EDWARDS**  
**16 Platoon D Company, 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF**



Charles was born at Corryong VIC on 1 April 1918 and sadly passed away at about 5.00 am on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2014 with his family by his side. There may not be many better ways to go than this. Charles was a man of many people, but his family were his great love. He was husband to Ella, father to Alyson, Pamela and Phillip and grandfather of eleven and great grandfather to fifteen. That's some innings. For a young baker from Corryong, Charles had a big, big life. From the casual point of view of a passer by, this might never be suspected of Charles, as he was always modest about his life. He was forever the welcoming, chatty and the happy man we all knew well.



Charles whilst a POW in Japan

A great part of Charles' life, and a part he was very proud of, was that he was a member of 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion. On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Charles was one of the first Australian servicemen captured at Parit Sulong in 1942; three days later he was interned at Pudu Gaol. It was not until September that Charles was moved to Changi; a relief after Pudu. Thailand and the railway was the next entry in his diary. And it was there he came under the wing of Captain Reg Newton, later Major, and known to everyone as 'Roaring Reg'. Charles and all of the other Australians POWs under the command and often, protection of Newton in his U Battalion/D Force up on the Thai Burma railway were lucky, as he was a great officer. I use the word 'protection' as this Force had the lowest death rate of any Force on the Line, due to Reg Newton's ferocious attention to making the men deal with their hygiene. They did and they didn't die in the numbers as in other Forces. 'No better man pulled on a pair of boots as did that officer,' said Charles.

After learning of the loss of Charles Edwards, a son of one of Charles' fellow POWs up on the Line sent me a note to say, 'I see dear old Charles has finally died. What an innings and what an amazing man.' Taeko Sasamoto, one of the guiding lights in the Japan POW Network also made contact. 'What a sad news! About Mr. Edwards, we've just heard yesterday, but we didn't know about Mr. Ramsey. I accompanied Mr. Ramsey to his campsite in Yokohama, and also Mr. Edwards to Ohama, so their memories are especially impressive for me. I sincerely pay their last respects. I'll never forget them.' 'Young Charlie' is how his mate Allan Brideoake remembers his friend from their days in the 2/19<sup>th</sup>. Both boys joined up together in Wagga and remained close throughout the early days in Australia training camps. They then fought the enemy and endured together, right through the Line, even onto the POW coal mine in Ohama.

Allan Brideoake has recently had published an autobiography. Of Charles he writes so simply, 'Charles Edwards was with us too, a good man.' The clear eloquence of the Australian soldier who needs no more words than this to describe a mate is better than a thousand words. We will all miss Charles as he attended every ex-POW event. And he was ever the 'amateur historian' as he called himself. The POW history was most important for Charles to pass onto others. Yet, as most of those men who did return from the Line, Charles did not speak of it at all until after his retirement. When he was ready to deal with what he had survived he began to remind us not to forget. And we won't, thanks to men like Charles. The annual Fall of Singapore pilgrimage at the Shrine will feel the absence of Charles very dearly this month. For as long as anyone can remember, Charles has attended this day with a simple shoebox containing two red roses of others now lost. There is every hope that the Edwards family will continue this tradition. The Shrine family loved Charles as did the Ex-POW & RA. He was forever with us. But sadly no longer.

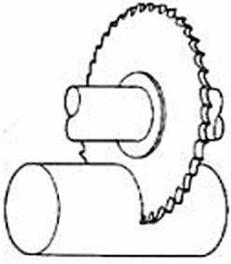
Condolences and support to Ella, Alyson, Pamela, Phillip and Barry and all of the Edwards extended family. [Our thanks to Mrs Pattie Wright for the above tribute to Charles]

**2175095 CORPORAL Stephen Leslie HOOK**  
**1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment**  
**3 Transport Company RACT**  
**4<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment**



Steve was born on 28 June 1954 and sadly passed away on 4 March 2015. Late of Padstow NSW we were very pleased to accept his membership of 1/19 RNSWR Association on 1 October 2014. He is survived by his beloved wife Ann Maria and their children Douglas, William, Christopher and fiancé Melinda. Michael, Elizabeth, Shaun and daughter-in-law Amanda.

Bob Pink represented the Association at Steve's farewell at St John's Anglican Church Padstow on Monday 9 March 2015.



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## **MRS Kathleen Unitt LOWIEN**



Mrs Shirley Drum advised with deep regret of Kathleen's passing. Formerly of Bellata, late of Yamba. Dearly loved Wife of Cliff (NX53593 2/19 Battalion AIF) Loving Mother and Mother-in-law of Rick and Nettie, Peter (dec'd) and Karen, Jeff and Karen, and Wendy and Bruce Howard. Dear Sister-in-law to Iris, Roland and Gwen, and Judy. Adoring Grandmother and Great-Grandmother to her family. Passed away peacefully 14 November 2014. Aged 89 years.

Kevin Jones, Shirley Drum and Brad Collis represented the Association at Kathleen's farewell at All Saints Anglican Church, Yamba, on Friday 21 November 2014.

## **MRS Mary Josephine HILL,**



Mary was born on 26 September 1919 and sadly passed away on 3 January 2015 aged 95 years. Much loved wife of NX35788 PTE Athol George HILL, MBE, 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF who predeceased her on 27 August 1995. Devoted mother of David, Sandra, Patricia (dec) and mother-in-law of Andrew.

Cherished grandmother of Prudence and Charlotte. Mary was farewelled at St Aloysius Catholic Church, Cronulla on 8 January 2015 and interred at Woronora Cemetery Sutherland. Bob Pink and Michael and Rhonda Mulcahy represented the Association at Mary's farewell

## **2781478 LIEUTENANT Clifford Ronald DIBDEN**

**5<sup>th</sup> BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT**  
**1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> BATTALION THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT**  
**8 January 1945 – 27 October 2014**



Roy Schmidtke advised of the notice of Cliff's passing in the Jan/Feb 15 issue of "Reveille" and sadly we were notified that he had passed away suddenly on Monday 27 October 2014 at his home in Mayfield, NSW, apparently from a heart attack. Cliff arrived at 5 RAR after his recruit training and completed his Corps training with 8 Platoon, C Company. When others marched in from Infantry Centre he was transferred to Mortar Platoon, where he served in South Vietnam on the Battalion's 1966–67 tour. On discharge from the Regular Army, Cliff

re-enlisted in the Army Reserve and served for a period in 1/19 RNSWR. He was farewelled at Pettigrew Funerals, Wallsend on 3 November 2014

## **NX27091 BRIGADIER Keith STRINGFELLOW, RFD, ED, COMMANDER 8<sup>th</sup> BRIGADE**



Keith was born at Concord NSW on 8 January 1922 and sadly passed away on 6 February 2015 at the age of 95. Brigadier Stringfellow commanded 8 Brigade from 1965-1969. Keith was a member of 2nd/5th Independent Company and later SRD (Z Special Unit) in Z Special Force during World War 2, ending the war with the rank of Captain and then joined the CMF. He served in the Intelligence Corps and rose to the rank of Brigadier. He was Patron of the Australian Commando Association (NSW) and The Australian Intelligence Corps Association. During 1940 he also served with 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Training Battalion at Wallgrove. Many will recall him as a very pleasant and capable officer. His beloved wife of 72 years, Phyllis, predeceased him by only a couple of months, on 27 December 2014.

## **N3917, NX126952 and 252109 CAPTAIN Bede George Donald TONGS, OAM, MM, 2/3 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF**



Bede was born in Narrandera on 27 June 1920 and sadly passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015. His passing was peaceful and not unexpected by family and close friends who have been aware of his failing health through last winter and at the 3 Inf Bn Kokoda Flag Raising Commemoration Service at The Rock, East Jindabyne, in November last. In addition to his long and committed leadership of the 3 Inf Bn Association, Bede was an active member of 3 RNSWR Association and leading participant in a wide range of veteran and community activities in Australia and Papua New Guinea. He was well known among those involved in the Battle for Australia Commemoration and deeply respected by us all. He will be sadly missed by his family and many close friends and in particular his remaining comrades of the Kokoda Track. Brother of Alfred, Reginald, Keith (Binni), Joyce, Fay Melvin and Ronald. Father of Garry. Grandfather of Angela and Stephen (Taylor) and David and Sarah (Smith). Bede was farewelled at Christ Church Anglican Church, Queanbeyan, on 27 January 2015.

# FRONTLINE

## MRS Adele Vera WINBANK



Wife of the late NX5618 CORPORAL James Angus Winbank, 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF. Adele was born in Sydney at Chatswood on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1922 and sadly passed away on 23 January 2015 aged 92 years. Adele spent her childhood and early years at Lane Cove with her parents Stanley Wallace and Nellie Vera Martin and six siblings, three brothers and three sisters Alf, Lorna, Shirley, Avis, Donald and Edward.

A very close family they would play with other kids in their street and have lots of fun. Adele started school when she was five years old and along with brother Alf would walk three miles to school and back. In those days they used to have their bread delivered by horse and cart and Adele's Uncle Tom was the baker, so she would climb up on the cart and get a lift when he happened to come along. It was great fun. The family would have lots of

visitors on the weekends, mostly relatives who were all nearby in different suburbs and Adele's family would return the visits. Adele lived through the 'Depression' and there were a lot of people out of work and living on the dole. Her family survived as her father had a government job and he used to grow his own vegetables and they had fruit trees and a cow. Adele then went to Chatswood School then eventually to Willoughby High. There she topped her class in her first year. Adele was fourteen when she had to leave school as my mother was expecting her seventh child (Edward). "I had to stay at home and help my mother with the chores and cooking."

She then moved with the family to Rose Bay in Sydney's eastern suburbs and at fifteen had to go to work. On her seventeenth birthday, celebrations were cut short when the Second World War was declared in 1939 and everything in her life changed. Adele remembered the Japanese bombings and the midget submarines that sneaked into Sydney Harbour. During her spare time some Sundays she would go into the city and help out in the canteen for the American Servicemen who were on leave. And so the War ended after four years on the 15<sup>th</sup> August. She was now twenty two years old. How things changed in her life after the War. Adele was invited to a friends wedding and this is where she met future husband Jim (James Angus Winbank, born 1<sup>st</sup> January 1919). Jim and his brother 'Bricky' Winbank had seen action in Malaya with both ending up as POW's, Jim culminating his time at the Kobe Shipyards in Japan and 'Bricky' working on the Burma Railway. Anyway Adele looked across the crowded room and saw and heard this stranger making a lovely speech to his niece Joan and of course when it was possible she got an introduction to this nice young man. Of course one of her favourite songs was "Some Enchanted Evening" from South Pacific. Adele and Jim married two years later and were blessed with two sons Stephen John and Gregory James



Jim and Adele lived in Sydney at Guildford until Jim retired. He had to on account of his health. After many good years at Guildford, they sold up and made a decision to move to the Central Coast and purchased a house at Point Clare in 1979. Jim had been an active member of the Granville RSL and the POWs Association and continued this on when he moved to the Central Coast. At various times he held the position of president and was a dedicated committee member organising functions and fund raising for the organisation. He regularly participated in the ANZAC Day March with the 2/19<sup>th</sup>. On the Central Coast Adele amazingly met up again with a close childhood friend, Mavis Coote. Mavis' husband and Jim got on really well and for a while they had some fun times with dinner parties, card nights and barbeques. However it was not to last and Jim died in 1995 from a sudden heart attack. He was seventy six years old. Then after a few years Mavis lost her husband Norm. So now they were there for each other and their friendship grew stronger as both passed the eighty years mark. Adele always enjoyed family and family gatherings. She watched her grandchildren grow into young men and her great grandchildren brought her great joy in her later years. In her life time she tried to have a go at most things, she learned to knit, sew and crochet as well as cook. She also played the odd game of golf, tennis and tried ice skating and enjoyed swimming. She worked in a hotel and service station and was an Avon seller and of course shop work including managing a delicatessen. Adele travelled overseas, twice to America after saving enough money and was able to see my sister Avis and her family. The first time was in 1975. She visited Canada, Las Vegas, Reno, Disneyland and Hollywood as well as visiting Universal Studios and toured through six States. Four years later she went again with her mother and sister Lorna in 1979.

Adele was a member of Gosford RSL Club and was an active member of Legacy attending lunches and donating her wonderful crocheting to fund raising fetes and stalls and was also deeply involved with the Prisoners of War and later War Widows Associations on the Central Coast. She also donated her time to 'Meals on Wheels' delivering meals to retirees less fortunate than herself. Unfortunately in the last few years Adele lived in a nursing home and philosophically stated "I do get lonely at times and live with my memories. I've had a wonderful life and loving family and I have five great granddaughters. They all keep my life full when they come to visit and I love them all. They are all so beautiful." She will always be remembered as a lovely lady with a wonderful smile and engaging personality and will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Adele was farewelled at the Greenway Chapel Green Point NSW on 2 February 2015. Our thanks to Adele and Jim's son Steve for the above tribute.

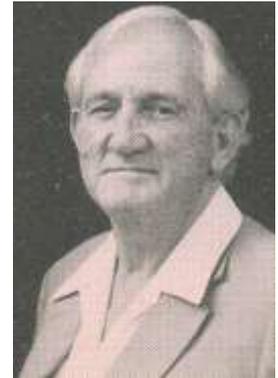
# FRONTLINE

**NX38458 BOMBARDIER Thomas UREN, 2/1 HEAVY BATTERY AIF**  
**28 May 1921 – 26 January 2015**



THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 27 JANUARY 2015.  
**Tony Stephens**

As a soldier Tom Uren witnessed some of the worst excesses of mankind. He spent the rest of his life working for peace and tolerance. Tom Uren left school at 13, became a boxer, was fighting World War II in Timor on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, spent his next three birthdays as a prisoner of the Japanese, including on the infamous Burma-Thailand railway, and saw the sky change colour over Nagasaki after the atom bomb was dropped.



He became a minister in the Whitlam, Hawke and Keating governments, deputy leader of the federal Labor Party, and was largely responsible for the creation of the National Estate, protecting large areas of Glebe and Woolloomooloo from developers, and decentralisation to Albury Wodonga. Believing that one of the greatest advances of the 20th century was the new understanding of humankind's impact on the environment, he campaigned long after leaving Canberra for saving wilderness areas and the Sydney Harbour foreshores. For an old boxer and prisoner of war, he spoke frequently of love, sometimes quoting Paulo Freire: "Dialogue cannot exist in the absence of a profound love for the world and for men." Freire was a Brazilian Marxist Catholic whose writings were a tonic to Uren's soul, although Uren was never a Marxist. He drew his social values from life and living, rather than from books. Tom Uren, who has died at 93, was born in Balmain on May 25, 1921 to Tom Uren and his wife, formerly Agnes Miller. He carried Cornish and Celtic blood from his father's family, and Jewish and English from his paternal grandmother. After the family moved to Harbord when he was five, Tom walked barefoot to the local primary school, before being made to wear shoes to Manly Intermediate High.

He left school during the Depression, because his father, a former jockey and jack-of-all trades, was out of work. Young Tom helped classify rabbit and kangaroo skins, sold newspapers and caddied on golf courses. He gave all his earnings to his mother, a former barmaid, not just because they were poor but, he said later, because he wanted to marry her. He became a surf lifesaver, rugby league forward and learnt to box at Jack Dunleavy's gymnasium, perhaps driven by the fact that one of his father's cousins, Tommy Uren, was a notable boxer. He had applied to join the army in May 1939 and was accepted soon after World War II broke out in September, but took leave to fight for the Australian heavyweight title in 1940, aged 19. He had been suffering from the flu and, although he knocked Billy Britt down in the sixth round, was beaten in the seventh.

Uren went to Darwin, then to Timor in December 1941 with the 2/1 Heavy Battery AIF. He had heard the stories of Australian courage at Gallipoli and in France in World War I, but what he saw in Timor was confusion. As the Australian force was being over-run in February 1942, Uren volunteered to go forward in a vehicle armed with a single Bren gun to support a Tasmanian battalion, the 2/40th, which was making what has been described as the last bayonet charge in Australian military history. Witnessing the Australian advance up the Oesaoe ridge under machine-gun fire marked the 20-year-old for life. Forced to surrender, the prisoners were taken early in 1943 to Singapore, from where Uren was loaded into a railway goods truck which ended up at Konyu River camp where the surgeon Lieutenant Colonel Edward "Weary" Dunlop was commanding officer of the men slaving to build the Burma-Thailand railway for the Japanese. Uren moved later to the Hintok camps. One man is said to have died for every sleeper laid on the railway. Uren prayed every day, frightened that cholera would take him, as it had so many others. Yet he rejoiced in the Australian egalitarianism. He believed that the British officers cared above all for themselves, while Dunlop and other officers funded what passed for a hospital.

Uren was transported in 1944 to work in a copper smelting plant at Saganoseki, Japan, then at lead smelting works at Omuta. Finding his Japanese fellow workers comradely, he realised then that it wasn't the Japanese he hated, but militarism. He later quoted Martin Luther King: "Hate distorts the personality and scars the soul. It is more injurious to the hater than the hated." He never forgot the colour of the sky over Nagasaki after the atom bomb was dropped: "We didn't hear any noise, just witnessed that vivid crimson sky." Later, he worked at the Port Kembla steelworks and met Patricia Palmer; her brother had shown him her photograph when they were prisoners. They married in 1947 and honeymooned at the Hotel Carrington, Katoomba. She gave him a copy of the J.B. Phillips version of the Bible. The Bible stories moved him and it wasn't until much later that he realised that his prayers were for himself and not others. Uren was 45 before he became an atheist. He later preferred the term "non-believer", largely in deference to the Sisters of St Joseph, the Catholic order who admired his humanity and called him an honorary Josephite. Uren continued to box and went to England, with mixed success; his wartime malaria had left effects. He came home, worked as a labourer, then as a trainee executive at Woolworths. He decided to join the Labor Party in 1951 on the way from Lithgow, where he managed the Woolworths store, to Bathurst for the funeral of Ben Chifley, the former Labor Prime Minister.

His political views were founded on his mother's sense of social justice, Weary Dunlop's example of leadership and F.D. Roosevelt's New Deal. He was to add Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Ho Chi Minh and Nelson Mandela to his list of influences. Living in Guildford, he won the western Sydney seat of Reid in 1958. When he retired from Parliament in 1990, he had been Father of the House for eight years. Uren was a leading figure in the Australian anti-war movement. In 1960, he revisited Japan as part of a peace initiative. He urged in 1968 that trade with Asia be expanded: "Trade and goodwill are our frontline of defence." He was the first Labor MP to question support for US intervention in Vietnam, in August 1962. He was jailed in 1971 for refusing to pay a fine over a Vietnam march protest and again for protesting against Queensland Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen's ban on street marches. He led a delegation to Iraq seeking to have the hostages held by Saddam Hussein released prior to the first Gulf War. ....[continued page 9].....

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# FRONTLINE

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Uren sued the Fairfax and Packer news organisations in 1963 over allegations that he had links to communists which amounted to him being a traitor. The judgment in his favour for £43,000 was then an Australian defamation record. The case was finally settled on undisclosed terms in 1969. During negotiations, Uren spoke to Sir Frank more abusively than he had to anyone else. The more abuse, the more Packer seemed to like his adversary. As Minister for Urban and Regional Development in the Whitlam government, Uren bought large areas of Glebe and Woolloomooloo, rehabilitated Fremantle and parts of Hobart, helped improve urban public transport and green western Sydney. He opened Australia's first bicycle path, in Canberra, and declared the Namadgi National Park in the Australian Alps. He helped stop the destruction of inner-city suburbs, cut the sewerage backlog and established the Australian Heritage Commission. Like most Labor leaders of his time, Uren paid scant attention to the economy. He lost more economic arguments than he won in the last 25 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the global financial crisis of 2009 saw trust in free market forces evaporate.

His wife, Patricia, left him 1974, when he was a minister. He regretted not having fought to keep her. When they parted, he gave her nearly all the money he had. She bought a farm at Dorrigo, which she ran, and painted and wove. When she developed breast cancer she returned to him and he was with her the night before she died in 1981. He quietly married Christine Logan, a singer in the Australian Opera, in 1992, after waiting for her at the stage door. They lived in Balmain, with Christine's daughter, Ruby, in a house designed by Richard Le Plastrier. The house cost so much in the end, with timber from Western Australia, that Uren lived for some years in the basement, with lodgers upstairs.

Uren was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1993, then a Companion in 2013. On Anzac Day 2011, near his 90th birthday, he returned to Hellfire Pass, on the Burma-Thailand railway, with the Governor-General, Quentin Bryce. Then prime minister Julia Gillard announced that day that the government would meet Uren's long campaign for a supplementary payment to Australia's 900 surviving prisoners from World War II and the Korean war. Tom Uren is survived by Christine and Ruby, and his adopted children, Michael and Heather.

## **NX70273 MAJOR DR Charles Rowland Bromley "Rowley": RICHARDS MBE OAM KStJ ED MB BS FRACGP FACOM FASMF FACSM FAIM, 2/15 FIELD REGIMENT AIF**



Rowley Richards, was born in Sydney on 8 June 1916 and sadly passed away at Manly Hospital on 26 February 2015. He grew up in Summer Hill. Both his parents were profoundly deaf and the way they overcame daily challenges had a strong influence on their young son. Rowley graduated MBBS from the University of Sydney in 1939. He enlisted in the AIF as a medical officer and served in the Malayan campaign of 1941-42 before being imprisoned by the Japanese following the fall of Singapore in 1942. He was a prisoner of war in Changi Prison before being sent to the infamous Burma Railway. Later he was sent to a slave labour camp in the north of Japan, surviving shipwreck on the way, a harsh winter and infection with smallpox just prior to liberation. On return to Australia, when these things became known, he was Mentioned in Dispatches for his service as a regimental medical officer whilst a prisoner of war. In 1969 he was awarded an MBE for his services in war and peace. He also earned the Efficiency Decoration. He supported other survivors of Japanese prisoner of war camps and their families through his role as President of the 2/15th Field Regiment AIF Association, and his long service as president of the 8th Australian Division AIF Association. On his return to Australia, Rowley became a general practitioner in Seaforth in Sydney. He was one of the first members of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners which was established 50 years ago, and he was one of the first general practitioners in Australia to attain Fellowship of the RACGP by assessment. He later worked in occupational medicine and sports medicine and was Foundation Fellow of both the Australian College of Occupational Medicine and the Australian Sports Medicine Federation, and was awarded Fellowship of the American College of Sports Medicine.

He was medical advisor to the Australian Olympic Rowing teams for the Mexico City Games in 1968 and the 1972 Munich Games. Rowley was Honorary Medical Director of the Sydney City to Surf Fun Run between 1977 and 1998, and since 1998 has served as Honorary Medical Consultant. In 1993 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to sports medicine and the City to Surf. Rowley served as New South Wales Chairman and Vice President of the St John Ambulance Association and in 1981 was made a Knight of St John in recognition of his long service. In 2003 he was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal for service to the sick and injured through the St John Ambulance Association. At the age of 89 years Rowley published his memoirs. *A Doctor's War*, published by Harper Collins, provides a graphic and very moving account of his experiences as a doctor while imprisoned in Changi, on the Burma Railway. Beloved husband of Beth (Dec 1 July 2005) father of David and Ian (dec) grandfather of Charlie and Belinda, Guy-Barratt, Lee-Bromley, Angela, Robert, Tim and Salli. Roger Perry, Reg & Joy Newton, Sandy Howard, Bob Middleton and Bob Pink represented the Association at Rowley's farewell on 5 March 2015 at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium. The inaugural Pipe Major of 1/19 RNSWR Robert Pearce piped Rowley on his last journey.



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# FRONTLINE

**215799 CORPORAL Timothy Hocart McCOMBE, OAM**  
**11 Platoon, D Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment**  
**24 May 1945 – 31 January 2015**



Tim McCombe, OAM sadly died of a heart attack at Bowral Hospital on 31 January 2015. Tim served in Malaya and Borneo during the Indonesian Confrontation and then went to Vietnam with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment. He was seriously wounded as a result of a mine explosion. He lost one leg above the knee; the other was saved but he needed a brace as support for the rest of his life. Tim spent some 12 months in hospital and a year-and-a-half in rehabilitation. But, as is so often the case, the trauma of the event left psychological scars as well. The reduced mobility, the pain and the psychological damage later led Tim into some years of depression and despair. He dropped into a black hole, he later related, and wondered whether he would ever emerge. But emerge he did.

Tim was, for 20 unbroken years, the national president of the Vietnam Veterans Federation. This record shows the high regard in which he was held by the membership. But Tim's contribution to the veteran community began much earlier, in 1981, when he joined the band of Vietnam veterans renovating the storeroom at the back of an old Granville RSL hall. There he joined the newly formed Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, counselling sick and troubled veterans, campaigning for the establishment of counselling centres and seeking recognition of the harmfulness of exposure to Agent

Orange.

Tim became a pension officer and an advocate at both the VRB and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. When the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service was established in 1982, Tim was appointed a member of the supervising National Advisory Committee. He maintained a strong and active interest in its functioning till his death. When the Royal Commission on the Use and Effects of Chemical Agents on Australian Personnel in Vietnam—the Agent Orange royal commission—was established in 1983, Tim spent hundreds of hours in the veterans' royal commission office assisting the lawyers to prepare the case.

But it was after the royal commission that Tim came into his own. Unhappy that the royal commission findings had not encouraged the acceptance of Agent Orange compensation claims, Tim, now the national president of the VVF, began sponsoring appeals. By the early nineties, Tim had sponsored a score of successful Agent Orange cases at the VRB and at the AAT. This was a remarkable achievement that marked Tim as a major force in the veteran community.

Since that time, Tim had been closely involved in every important veterans' issue. Memorably, for 10 years he relentlessly pushed the case for fair indexation of the TPI and other veterans' disability pensions. He successfully pursued appeals against decisions of the Repatriation Medical Authority, even taking one appeal through Federal Court hearings. He lobbied for privacy for counselling centre clients, leading to extensive renovations to some centres. Notably, Tim always considered the families as equal victims of war's trauma and fought for that recognition.

The list of Tim's campaigns, many successful and some still ongoing, is a long one—too long to discuss here. Suffice to say that for 30 years Tim was a tiger in his fight against what he saw as injustice and was a campaigner for better treatment and benefits for veterans and their families. He explained that having been through those dark years he became determined to help others suffering war trauma. The veteran community will miss him.

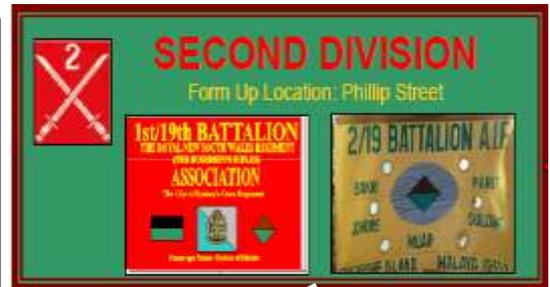
I offer my condolences to his family, Tran, Craig and Stephanie. In my time as Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Tim fought hard for veterans—as hard as anyone did. But he was also always a straight shooter who had integrity—more integrity, I have to say, than many others I have dealt with over the years. May he rest in peace. A Veteran has died. A great Australian has died.

Our thanks to Mr Alan Griffin, MP – former Minister for Veterans' Affairs for the above tribute to Tim. Tim served as a member of 1/19 RNSWR cadre staff at Wallgrove in 1971. The large turnout at his farewell at the Sacred Heart Church Cabramatta NSW on 14 February 2014 which included the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Senator Bruce Ronaldson MP, Senator Jacqui Lambie, NSW Deputy Commissioner for Veterans' Affairs Ms Jennifer Collins, National President of the RSL Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO, RAN, was testament to the enormous and profound esteem in which he was held by the veteran community. Ken & Mary Wright, Roy Mundine and Bob Pink represented the Association at Tim's farewell.



# ANZAC DAY SYDNEY 25 APRIL 2015

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*Penne pasta tossed in fresh tomato, garlic, and basil*

*Linguine with porcini and mixed mushroom sauce with a touch of fresh cream, Parsley and Parmesan*

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*Baby spinach with roasted pumpkin, semi-dried tomatoes and fire-roasted capsicum*

*Mixed Garden salad - Salad of mixed greens with cherry tomatoes, cucumber,*

*Spanish onion, olives and herbed vinaigrette  
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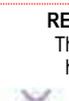
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# FRONTLINE

## COMING EVENTS 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	Remarks
SUN	15 FEB 2015	1045	 <b>FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION</b>	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Refreshments & Lunch after Service - NSW LEAGUES CLUB Phillip Street SYDNEY Decorations & Medals
SAT	25 APR 2015	0930	 <b>ANZAC DAY</b>	See details at pages 11 & 12 SYDNEY	<b>FORM UP IN PHILLIP STREET between BENT &amp; BRIDGE STREETS</b> REUNION VENUE: HARBOUR CRUISE Decorations & Medals
SAT	25 APR 2015	TBA	 <b>ANZAC DAY</b>	CANBERRA	Please contact Garry LEWIS 4846 1042 for full details Luncheon at Ainslie Football Club
SUN	05 JULY 2015	0945	<b>RESERVE FORCES DAY MARCH SYDNEY</b> The Association WILL NOT be participating however individual members may attend as desired	SEE RFD WEBSITE rfd.org.au	REUNION VENUE: NSW Leagues Club Phillip St near Martin Place.
SAT	27 JUN 2015	1330	 <b>RESERVE FORCES DAY WREATH LAYING CANBERRA</b>	St Johns Church REID ACT	Afternoon Tea at the Australian War Memorial
FRI	24 JUL 2015	TBA	 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> DIVISION CENTENARY PARADE</b>	Australian War Memorial CANBERRA ACT	Details / Timings TBA for inclusion in June 2015 Newsletter
SUN	26 JUL 2015	0930	<b>POZIERES DAY</b>	St Columba Church Ocean Ave WOOLLAHRA	Decorations & Medals
SAT	08 AUG 2015	TBA	 <b>ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT COMBINED OFFICERS' &amp; WO's/SNCO's' DINNER</b>	<b>SYDNEY NSW NOVOTEL HOTEL</b> Brighton Le Sands	Details from RNSWR Regimental Secretary LTCOL Steve BRUMBY Mobile: 0467 740 832 stephen.brumbay@defence.gov.au
SUN	09 AUG 2015	1030	 <b>ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE</b>	<b>Garrison Church MILLERS POINT</b>	Ceremonial uniform / Coat & Tie Decorations & medals
SAT	15 AUG 2015	1045	<b>VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY</b>	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Refreshments after Service at the NSW LEAGUES CLUB Phillip Street SYDNEY Decorations & Medals
WED	2 SEP 2015	1045	<b>BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY</b>	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY
<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &amp; REUNION DINNER WEEKEND – GOSFORD NSW</b>				 <b>GOSFORD RSL CLUB</b> GET IN QUICK – THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DARTS COMPETITION IS BEING HELD IN GOSFORD (NOT AT THE GOSFORD RSL CLUB) ON THE SAME WEEKEND AND ACCOMMODATION IN THE GOSFORD AREA WILL BE VERY LIMITED The Association has reserved 25 rooms at the GALAXY MOTEL which is co-located with Gosford RSL Club Reservations/details Tele: 02 4323 1711 26 Central Coast Highway WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250 & the ASHWOOD MOTOR INN 73 Central Coast Highway WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250 Reservations/details: 02 4324 6577 (10% Discount)	
FRI	23 OCT 2015	1800	<b>MEET &amp; GREET FUNCTION</b>		
SAT	24 OCT 2015	1030	<b>WREATH LAYING CEREMONY</b>		
SAT	24 OCT 2015	1400	<b>PRESENTATION</b>		
SAT	24 OCT 2015	1530	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>		
SAT	24 OCT 2015	1830 for 1900	<b>AGM REUNION DINNER</b>		
SUN	25 OCT 2015		Return Travel Home		
WED	11 NOV 2015	1045	<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY</b>	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Decorations & Medals Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY

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# FRONTLINE

## ACCOMMODATION - GOSFORD NSW ASSOCIATION AGM REUNION WEEKEND FRI 23 - SAT 26 OCTOBER 2015

**THE FUNCTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE:  
GOSFORD RSL CLUB 26 Central Coast Highway NORTH GOSFORD NSW 2250**

WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DARTS COMPETITION IS BEING HELD IN GOSFORD (NOT AT THE GOSFORD RSL CLUB BUT AT ANOTHER VENUE IN GOSFORD) ON THE SAME WEEKEND AS THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION DINNER WEEKEND AND THAT **ACCOMMODATION IN THE GOSFORD AREA ON THIS WEEKEND WILL BE VERY LIMITED. MOTELS AND HOTELS IN THE OUTER GOSFORD AREA ARE TAKING BOOKINGS FROM THE DARTS COMPETITION COMPETITORS NOW – AND HAVE BEEN FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT PLEASE GIVE CONSIDERATION TO MAKING AN EARLY RESERVATION FOR YOUR STAY IN OTOBER.**

**MICK PASS HAS ALSO ADVISED THAT BOTH MOTELS ARE NOW OWNED BY THE RSL CLUB AND HAVE BEEN UPGRADED AND AS A RESULT THE TARIFF'S HAVE ALSO BEEN UPGRADED. HE HAS RESERVED ROOMS FOR THE ASSOCIATION AT THE GALAXY MOTEL & THE ASHWOOD MOTELS. PLEASE MENTION "1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION" WHEN BOOKING.**



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TWIN(2 SINGLE BEDS)	\$95.00(1-2 guests)	\$115.00(1-2 guests)
DELUXE TRIPLE(DOUBLE/SINGLE)	\$95.00(1-2 guests) \$110.00(3 guests)	\$115.00(1-2 guests) \$130.00(3 guests)
4FAMILY DOUBLE/2 SINGLE	\$95.00 (1-2 guests) \$110.00 (3 guests) \$125.00 (4 guests)	\$115.00 (1-2 guests) \$130.00(3 guest) \$145.00(4 guests)
6FAMILY DOUBLE/SINGLE/BUNKS TRUNDLE	\$140.00(5 guest) \$155.00(6 guest)	\$160.00(5 guest) \$175.00(6 guest)
EXTRA PERSON	\$15.00	\$15.00
CHECK-IN TIME IS AFTER 1PM		CHECK-OUT TIME IS 10AM



**THE GALAXY MOTEL**  
The Association has reserved 25 rooms  
at the **GALAXY MOTEL** which is co-located with  
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WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250  
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### The Galaxy Motel rates from April 1, 2015

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Deluxe Queen 1 - 2 Guests	\$143.00	\$163.00
Executive King 1 - 2 Guests	\$173.00	\$183.00
Family suite 2 rooms 1 - 5 Guests	\$183.00	\$218.00
Family Apartment - Fully self contained 2 bedrooms - sleeps 6	\$252.00	\$ 315.00
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# FRONTLINE

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COL	Brian	MARTYN, RFD, psc (r)
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WO2	Ray	MULLER
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PTE	David	ROSETTA
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MRS	Grace	TOBIN
SGT	Bob	WADE
LT	Robert	WIESE
SSGT	Tuck	WILSON, OAM
WO1	Ken	WRIGHT
CAPT	Dennis	ZALUNARDO, OAM, JP

## NEW MEMBERS

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



CPL	Rod	HILLIKER	NORTHMEAD	NSW	2152
MR	Michael	MULCAHY	KENTHURST	NSW	2156

# SICK REPORT



Pleased to report that Roger PEARSON is recovering slowly after chasing a White Pointer shark on his surfboard resulting in a spill in the waves and 2 broken ribs.



# CONGRATULATIONS



TO **Fred POWER**  
who celebrated his  
**99th BIRTHDAY**  
**ON 15th FEBRUARY 2015**

(and did a bit of gardening with Moira !)

**AND TO David RING WHO TURNED 50 on 6 MARCH**



TO **Bruce LOFTUS**

**AWARDED THE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION IN THE AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS 26 JANUARY 2015**



**Neil Bruce LOFTUS.**

**Cundletown NSW**

For service to the community of the Manning Valley, and to veterans



# FRONTLINE

## CONGRATULATIONS continued



TO Former Second-in-Command  
1/19 RNSWR Major David HORTON on his promotion  
to Lieutenant Colonel in January 2015 and his new  
posting in Canberra.



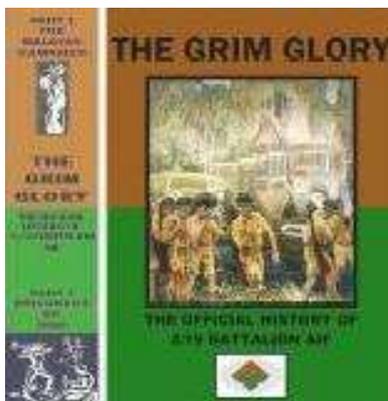
## SEEN AROUND THE TRAPS



Dining at the Lolli Rendini Restaurant, ORANGE NSW following the SGTS  
Mess Property Trust Meeting at Romani Barracks on 31 JAN 15.  
L to R: Bob PINK, Mrs Beryl IRWIN, President Roger PERRY,  
Mrs Helen HANSON, Martin HANSON and Dennis ZALUNARDO



At the NSW RSL Life Members' Luncheon held at  
Concord RSL on 10 MAR 15 L to R: Ms Casey  
STEEDEN, Mrs Muriel & Mr Joe COOMBS



## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST BEING SOUGHT REPRINT OF "THE GRIM GLORY"

The Association has been sitting on 4 "Expressions of Interest: / requests for copies of "THE GRIM GLORY. To make a re-print worthwhile we have placed an order for a further 10 copies which will sell for \$180.00 per copy. 4 copies have been sold and the remaining 6 copies will not last on the "For Sale" list for long.

If you – or if you know of someone who is interested in obtaining a copy of this unique history please let:

Hon Secretary Bob PINK  
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Mobile 0414 907 427  
Email: bob.pink@optus.net.com.au

or President Roger PERRY  
Tele: (02) 9363 2439  
Mobile: 0414 907 427  
Email: [roger.perry@bigpond.com](mailto:roger.perry@bigpond.com)  
Fax: (02) 9328 3319

know of your interest as soon as possible. As ever your valued support will be appreciated.

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# FRONTLINE

## FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION Sydney Cenotaph SUN 15 FEB 2015



# FRONTLINE

## 1/19 RNSWR OFFICERS' & SERGEANTS' MESS REGIMENTAL DINNER Romani Barracks Orange 31 JAN 2015



# FRONTLINE

## CAPTAIN Mario Lemmers PERYMAN TROPHY PRESENTATIONS

1/19 RNSWR ROMANI BARRACKS ORANGE 31 JAN 2015

**2014**



Presentation by President 1/19 RNSWR Association & Chairman The Peryman Trust  
Mr Roger PERRY  
and Commander 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade  
Brigadier Kathryn CAMPBELL, CSC., at  
1/19 RNSWR Officers' & Sergeants' Mess Regimental Dinner Romani Barracks ORANGE  
on



SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 2015

Title: ***"BOLDLY AND FAITHFULLY" – "THE JOURNAL"***  
**THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION**  
**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE MARCH 1915 – OCTOBER 1918**  
AUTHOR: Lieutenant Colonel P.E.M. McGUINNESS, MBE RFD ED

8258074	LT	Peter Andrew	GREENING	PL COMD	B COY
8264728	SGT	David Ian	MASON	CSM	A COY
8486611	CPL	Robert John	TREANOR	OPS NCO	Bn HQ



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# FRONTLINE

## TOP SECRET OPERATION AIRPORT BEACON

### (OR HOW RON FOLLINGTON SAVED OUR BACON)

#### Scenario:

It was the early 70's amidst a fuel shortage in NSW with Emergency Services on emergency only movement orders, that 11 PI D Coy (a [very] independent rifle PI of Parkes) embarked on a Tuesday night exercise to neutralise the Parkes Airport Beacon, the International and Domestic navigation direction signal, to and from Sydney. Great idea!

The beacon was on a low hill at the Southern end of the main runway on the South side of the Parkes Orange road. 1 Section was enemy situated at the beacon to protect it. 11 PI (-) with attached 1 TCV (221 Sup Coy- Bogan Gate) moved the 4.5 km to the base of Beacon Hill, debussed 100m off the road, and advanced to complete the mission. TCV driver, having previously recce'd the OR's Canteen at 221, set himself up for a long wait, under a tree "somewhere" nearby.

#### **Post Op Report:**

The PI advanced two sections up with the track as axis and was able to get within range unobserved. The demolition charge (simulator grenade) was fired and the exercise was deemed a success. The PI then executed a strategic withdrawal to the TCV. Everything had gone to plan.

However the planning had not taken into account the time of departure of the evening flight of the Fokker Friendship passenger plane. It had just taken off and disappeared behind Beacon Hill as the demolition took place.

The methodical strategic withdrawal quickly became a rout as there appeared a stream of flashing lights and sirens heading from Parkes for our location. The PI rushed the TCV expecting to avoid a confrontation. But where was the driver? The sirens woke him from his deep reverie to a chaotic scene.

Sprung! End of round 1.

Enter Private (Constable) Ron Follington. Addressing the senior police officer, "I entered the activity in the Duty Book Sarge, did you look at it?" Round 2 to Ron.

It was decided at that point that a debrief at the Parkes Mess was the best way to deal with this delicate subject (unauthorised explosion, usage of fuel on a non-emergency etc.) and the TCV was escorted on its RTU.

The episode was cleared up with the application of many pacifying sedatives in little aluminium cans, and peace reigned once more. Young 2Lt Steventon lived to soldier another day through the initiative of Ron Follington.

BOTTOM SECRET

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# Putting skills to good use

**FROM THE SCONE ADVOCATE, AUGUST 14, 2014**

By Caitlin Andrews

FOR a man who hasn't lived back in Scone for a long time, Bruce Brideoake has certainly shown in a quick time that he is here to give and get involved. Mr Brideoake grew up in the Upper Hunter but left as a youngster to pursue his career endeavours and that's exactly what he did leading a very interesting and satisfying professional life for many decades before returning to the shire in 2009 to be close to his family and help care for his elderly father. Many readers would know Mr Brideoake's father and sister, as he said he is often known to people as Allan's son or Beryl's brother.

Well, Allan is his 94-year-old father, a well-known Scone community member and proud war hero being a former prisoner of war in World War II. Beryl Yates is Mr Brideoake's one sister, who has lived in Scone since 1961 and together they care for their dad. Originally hailing from West Wyalong, the Brideoake family moved to a farm at Wingen where they ran 'Mountain View' next door to the well-known Callinan family. Mr Brideoake was 10-years old at the time and attended Wingen Public School before moving on to Farrer Memorial Agricultural College for secondary.

After graduating in year 12, Mr Brideoake studied a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics at the University of New England preparing him for a diverse career, but one he didn't really plan, it just worked out that way. As a young graduate, the country lad made the big move to Canberra to take on a position at the Department of Agriculture where he worked for the following six years.

The next step in his career was one that would ultimately influence the remainder of his working life and played a major role in the development of a very fulfilling and rewarding profession working in the Kimberley and Northern Territory regions. Mr Brideoake started working as a rural officer in Inverell with the Aboriginal Development Commission where he spent four years purchasing rural properties for Aboriginal groups who could identify links with the country as traditional country.

In 1984, his skills and professional experience were poached to coordinate a program to eradicate brucellosis and tuberculosis from all Northern Territory Aboriginal pastoral properties. It was in 1990 that Indigenous Business Australia was formed as a joint venture between white and Aboriginal people, focusing on the Jawoyn people who are the traditional owners of the Katherine Gorge. The alliance built, which Mr Brideoake played a large role in, was responsible for purchasing many iconic places, including the Kakadu Crocodile Hotel at Fabiru, Monkey Mia in Western Australia and a large coal mine in Queensland, to allow the people to build ownership and provide employment and training where possible.

In 2005, Mr Brideoake decided to move to Perth with intentions of beginning a quiet retirement however he soon started his own consulting firm which grew and grew throughout the following five years before he pulled back to move back to Scone for his family. Although he is semi-retired, Mr Brideoake still works part time in consulting and remains on the board of companies with Aboriginal ownership interests in Western Australia. Mr Brideoake said since he started working in Aboriginal economic development he has absolutely loved it. "It has been a very rewarding career, a very interesting and fulfilling career. I like dealing with Aboriginal people particularly the



**INTERESTING:** Scone's Bruce Brideoake is happy to use his career and life experience to give back to the local community

traditional people, they're great people," he said. "My career has taken me all over Australia to places where the average person doesn't go or can't go. My life has been very interesting, I chose an unusual tangent to go on, but have truly loved every bit of it. A very worldly man, Mr Brideoake has travelled extensively to countries such as Botswana, Zambia, Africa and South Africa, and more recently to Turkey and Jordan with his partner Julie.

With a daughter as a professor at Washington DC, he has also travelled to America quite a bit to visit the family, including his grandson. Mr Brideoake also has a son who is a school teacher in Canberra and has brought him another grandson. Since moving back to Scone, Mr Brideoake has become involved in a number of organisations as he feels with his corporate experience and background he can contribute something to community organisations. "I think if you're semi-retired and got some skills, living in a small town, you should put your hand up and help to benefit everybody," he said. "There are a lot of people out there who do a lot for this town, which is great.

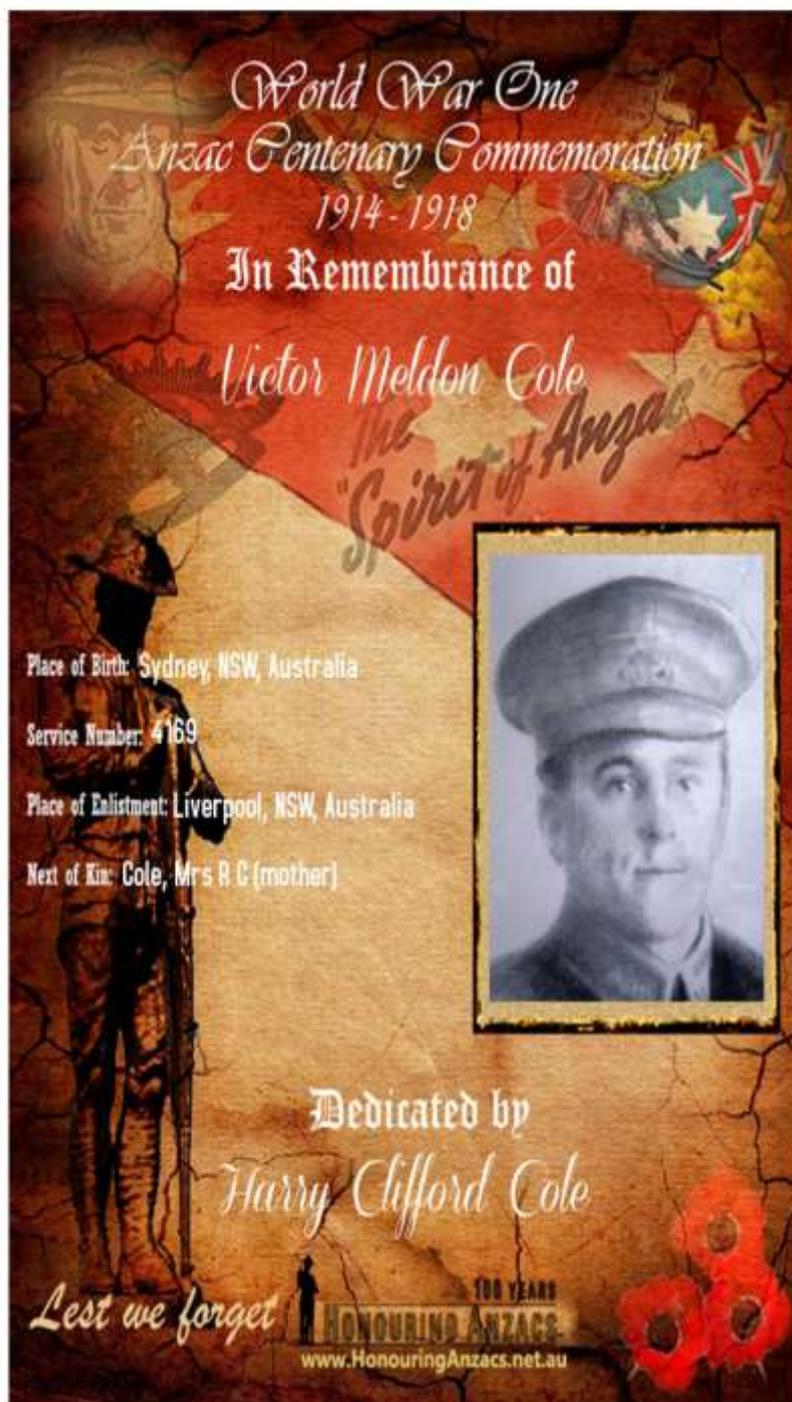
In 2011, he became a board member of TransCare and last year he took on the role of chairman of the board of seven voluntary members who are all "busy people trying to help". "I think TransCare is an incredible organisation that does great work for the region," Mr Brideoake said. "TransCare is an undervalued entity in our town." "It advantages a lot of people just in terms of the services provided," he said. After taking his father to the Probus Club meetings each month, Mr Brideoake was encouraged to join the club and became a committee member about two and a half years ago.

He was appointed to the vice president's position in March last year to quickly learn he would then become the president this year. Mr Brideoake said he really enjoys Probus as it is a great way for people like himself to get to know others in town. "Probus does a great job, it's a place where men can go once a month, listen to an interesting guest speaker and catch up with mates," he said

# FRONTLINE

"It's a good social outing and we have lots of great committees including the sports committee and tours committee." With his dad also being a legatee, Mr Brideoake quickly became involved in the Scone Legacy Group – a small group of about nine people who care for war widows in town. Mr Brideoake has a number of war widows he checks on and provides assistance to where necessary, as well as helping to provide a Mother's Day and Christmas lunch for them, assisting with smoke alarm battery changes, VitalCall and winter warming. "It's not onerous, but it does a good job in the community and the war widows appreciate what is done for them," he said. Recently, Mr Brideoake put his hand up to become involved in the Boys' Mentoring program -at Scone High School as he believes it is a good program to support the youngsters. "I have been incredibly lucky in my life with great parents, who've been incredibly supportive and I want to be able to provide support to others," Mr Brideoake said. Another project the busy man has been working on is one that is very special to him. He is currently in the process of completing the final edit of writing his dad's story — 'Closer Than Brothers' — which he has been working on with his father for the past 12 months for his family and close friends

## COMMEMORATING VICTOR MELDON COLE



This was put together by an offshoot of the AWM to commemorate the anniversary of the ending of WW1.

This one is for my father who was in the Field Artillery Battery with original group at Gallipoli and later served in France as an infantryman where he was wounded at Lone Pine and Ypres in France.

After listening to the 19th Battalion AIF historian, Lieutenant Colonel Peter McGuinness's comprehensive talk on the actual timeline history of the suggested ending of WW1, I now fully believe it should be recorded that WW1 ended in 1919 with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles rather than with the armistice that occurred in late 1918. A great presentation Peter McGuinness.

My father would turn 123 years of age next month.

Regards  
Harry Cole

# The Daily Advertiser

WAGGA WAGGA Saturday September 20, 2014

## Last Post ceremony stirs memories of a heroic family for Linda Douglas

By Ken Grimson Sept. 16, 2014, 5 p.m.



MEMORIES: Linda Douglas holds a 1941 photograph of her father and his World War II medals. Brigadier Varley's WWI medals were kept by his son, Jack, but were lost in a house fire. Picture: Michael Frogley

MEMORIES of a loving father came flooding back to Wagga woman Linda Douglas when she watched the Last Post ceremony enacted at the Australian War Memorial in honour of Brigadier Arthur Leslie Varley MC and Bar. The ceremony was conducted in Canberra last Friday on the 70th anniversary of the day Brigadier Varley, as a prisoner of war, was forced into a lifeboat when the Japanese ship he was on was torpedoed by a US submarine on September 12, 1944. He was last seen in command of about seven lifeboats and it is believed he and others on the lifeboats may have been killed by machine gun fire heard by survivors who floated off in a different direction. "He was just shy of his 52nd birthday," Mrs Douglas said. Mrs Douglas, 89, was told about the planned tribute to her father by her friend and military historian Di Elliott and it was arranged for her to watch the ceremony on a screen at Legacy House on Tompson Street. "It was absolutely emotional, all the old days came back (of) my brother (Jack) and my dad, he was a wonderful father," Mrs Douglas said.

Arthur Varley was a hero in both world wars. He served on the Western Front in World War I and was recommended for the Military Cross (MC) for his actions in June, 1917, during the Battle of Messines when he took command of two companies in forward positions that had lost all its officers. In August, 1918, he was awarded a Bar to his MC for ensuring positions were kept supplied despite being exposed to artillery fire. After the war, he was mentioned in dispatches. He married Linda (nee Middleton, after whom Mrs Douglas was named) and they had three children - Jack, Robert and Linda - while living in northern NSW. In 1940 after the outbreak of World War II, then Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Varley was seconded to the 2nd AIF and placed in command of the 2/18th Battalion, which went to Malaya. Jack, a Lieutenant, was also in Malaya as part of the 2/19th Battalion. On February 8, 1942, Colonel Varley was promoted to Brigadier when his commander in Singapore became extremely fatigued. He was captured with the fall of Singapore to the Japanese a week later and was imprisoned in Changi before being shipped off to Burma where he was imprisoned with Jack.

Mrs Douglas said that while a prisoner of war, her father wrote secret diaries that he kept hidden in hollowed-out bamboo. They were brought home by Jack at the end of the war. "They were used in the war trials and are kept in the Australian War Memorial," Mrs Douglas said. Brigadier Varley was recommended again for the Military Cross, but it could not be awarded to someone who had died, so he was mentioned in dispatches again. Jack was also awarded the Military Cross for his exploits during the Malayan campaign. Robert also joined the AIF and was killed in action in April, 1945. "When Jack got home he said where is Bob? He did not even know he was in the army," Mrs Douglas said. Jack introduced Linda to Wagga man and fellow POW Bill Douglas in December, 1945, and they were married the following April before moving to Wagga and raising three children. The years have not dimmed Mrs Douglas's memories or love for the heroic men in her life. "It was so emotional seeing that program, everything welled up inside of me, all the memories," she said.

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO MRS DI ELLIOTT FOR ALERTING US TO THE ABOVE ARTICLE

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## FIRST AUSTRALIAN KILLED IN WORLD WAR I

CONTRIBUTED by Christopher Dawson



Lieutenant Leslie Richmond of the Gordon Highlanders who died at the Battle of Mons.

An officer fighting with a Scottish regiment may soon be recognised as the first Australian-born casualty of World War I. New details have emerged indicating Lieutenant Leslie Richmond, born in Victoria, died at the Battle of Mons on August 23, 1914 while serving with the 1st Gordon Highlanders. Just weeks ago, the Australian War Memorial altered their records to recognise Lieutenant Malcolm Chisholm as the first Australian-born casualty after he was killed in France on August 27.

For many years, Seaman William "Billy" Williams and Captain Brian Pockley were honoured as the first Australians to fall after their deaths on September 11, 1914 in the battle of Bitia Paka in Papua New Guinea.

Toni Munday, curator of the HMAS Cerberus museum in Victoria, was researching information on the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) when she came across a notice about Lt Richmond in The Argus newspaper of October 1914.

She undertook some research and soon realised that Lt Richmond would be eligible for inclusion on the Australian War Memorial's (AWM) Commemorative Roll.

### FROM AUSTRALIAN SHEEP PADDOCKS TO A SCOTTISH CASTLE

Lt Richmond was born in Armadale in June 1888. Like Lt Chisholm, he too returned to the UK with his family and attended Sandhurst Military Academy. His father James Richmond had migrated to Australia from Scotland in 1863, becoming a successful pastoralist. He owned several sheep stations and in 1873 established the Haddon Rig Merino stud which he owned for 40 years. After their return to Scotland, the Richmond family rented the 17th century Monzie Castle in Crieff, Perthshire. Census records of the time show the family employed a range of staff including a hall boy, a laundress, several maids, a cook and a governess.

### THE BATTLE OF MONS

- First major battle of the British Expeditionary Force in WWI
- Took place on August 23, 1914 in Mons, Belgium
- British troops forced to withdraw due to the greater strength of the German army
- Approximately 1600 British casualties
- The legend of the Angel of Mons began after it was reputed to have appeared in the sky during the British retreat, protecting the troop withdrawal

Lt Richmond's descendants Jeannie Furphy of Shepparton, Victoria and Alexandra Ramsay of Warren, NSW were aware of their ancestor's military history but because he had fought for a British regiment, they never considered him a candidate for recognition in Australia. "There had always been plenty of military history associated with the Richmond family [and] though Australian, they fought with the British Army but were never considered to be fighting as Australians," Ms Ramsay said. "To them I think they were one and the same." While Australians who served in wars in foreign armies are not eligible for inclusion on the Australian War Memorial's Honour Roll, they are considered for the Commemorative Roll if they meet the criteria.

Diane Morris, the AWM's centenary communications officer, is excited about the most recent discovery. "Like Chisholm, they [soldiers who served overseas] do count on the Commemorative Roll," she said. "The Memorial relies on members of the public to come forward with nominations for the Commemorative Roll as records of Australians [serving in] overseas [battalions] are difficult to come by. Learning their ancestor may now qualify as Australia's first casualty of the war has come as a surprise for the women who have not yet lodged a nomination with the AWM. "It sounds like something we should do and Alex and I will discuss it with the family," Ms Furphy said.

### FAMILY'S TRAGIC LOSS OF HUSBAND AND SON

Lt Richmond gained his commission in 1906 with the Gordon Highlanders and in 1909 became a lieutenant. He married Ruth Greenwood in April 1914 and at the time of his death she was pregnant with their only child, born in January 1915 and also named Leslie. Lt Richmond's widow never remarried. In a tragic encore, the younger Leslie was killed in action at Dunkirk in May 1940 while serving with the 10th Royal Hussars. He too had only recently been married. Both Ms Furphy and Ms Ramsay say their family's war history highlights the anguish their "Aunt Ruthie" and so many others endured, having lost loved husbands and sons in war. "The tragedy of a lost life is awful, but the void for the people left behind is so upsetting and I do think what a horrendous impact it would have had on her life," Ms Furphy said.

Lt Richmond is buried at St Symphorien Military Cemetery in Belgium. He is Christopher Dawson's Great Uncle and our thanks to Chris in forwarding this most interesting and revealing article.

# FRONTLINE

## 5TH BRIGADE CENTENARY REGIMENTAL DINNER Holsworthy Barracks 21 FEB 2015



# FRONTLINE

## LAST POST CEREMONY AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA

**The Last Post Ceremony commemorating the service of  
Captain Keith Heritage, 19th Battalion (Infantry), First World War  
THE FIRST MAN TO ENLIST IN THE 1<sup>st</sup> AIF**

### Description

The Last Post Ceremony is presented in the Commemorative area of the Australian War Memorial every day. The ceremony commemorates more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in war and other operations and whose names are recorded on the Roll of Honour. At each ceremony the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour is told. Hosted by Craig Blanch, the story for this day was on Captain Keith Heritage, 19th Battalion (Infantry), First World War. The address was read by guest speaker Flight Lieutenant Carl Snelling.

Captain Keith Heritage, 19th Battalion  
KIA 26 July 1916



Photograph: DACS1276  
Story delivered 26 July 2013

Today, we remember and pay tribute to Captain Keith Heritage. According to a report by the Department of Defence in 1920, Keith Heritage was the first man to volunteer for the new Australian force to be sent in aid of Britain's war effort. He was commissioned into the Australian Naval and Military Force and sent to New Guinea within days of his enlistment to take part in the capture of German colonies in the South Pacific.

After he had returned to Sydney, Keith Heritage enlisted in the AIF proper and was sent to Gallipoli, where he spent at least five months there before going to the Western Front. In June 1916 Keith Heritage, now promoted to captain, was given command of a raiding party into enemy trenches. The party made it into the German trenches, where they spent five minutes blowing up two bomb stores and taking four prisoners. In the same action, Heritage single-handedly carried a wounded man through an intense bombardment back to the Australian trenches. He was the last man of

the party to leave the hostile trench and was awarded the Military Cross for his conspicuous gallantry, dash and enterprise in leadership.

One month later, Captain Keith Heritage was dead. He was in the trenches at Pozières on 26 July 1916 with the 19th Battalion. While making his rounds one night, he noticed that two of the men on guard looked very tired. He told them to get a few hours sleep, and took their watch for them. He also gave them some of his own food. There was little to be had, because shellfire had blocked supply routes. As the two men lay down to rest nearby, a large high explosive shell landed near Captain Heritage, killing him almost instantly.

Keith Heritage's family and friends had only heard the news of his decoration days before news of his death reached Australia. His sister, a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Auburn, was celebrating his decoration at work each day by wearing the colours of the 19th Battalion. But one day, as she was about to dress a patient, she noticed a paragraph in a newspaper on the bed, announcing the death of her brother. She collapsed in shock. Keith Heritage was the only one of five brothers serving on the Western Front to die for his country.

His name is listed on the Roll of Honour on my right, along with around 60,000 others from the First World War, and his photograph is displayed today beside the Pool of Reflection. This is but one of the many stories of courage and sacrifice told here at the Australian War Memorial. We now remember Captain Keith Heritage and all those Australians who have given their lives in the service of our nation.

**OUR THANKS TO ASSOCIATION PATRON, COLONEL Brian MARTYN, RFD, IN ALERTING US TO THE ABOVE.**

# FRONTLINE

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE BACKROOM BOYS

Alfred Conlon and Army's Directorate of Research and Civil Affairs, 1942-46



Graeme Sligo  
Big Sky Publishing, 2013,  
380pp  
ISBN 978-1-921941-12-2-7  
Reviewed by John Donovan

Colonel Graeme Sligo has written an interesting story on the Army's Directorate of Research and Civil Affairs, and its enigmatic director, Alfred Conlon. However, he could have focussed more on Conlon, beyond the glimpses into his personality that appear

in the book. The Directorate started its existence as a small section reporting to the Adjutant-General, then Major-General Victor Stantke. Conlon, formerly the manpower officer at Sydney University, was commissioned as a major to head the Directorate, and stayed with it through most of its existence, being promoted progressively to colonel as the directorate expanded.

In an early excursion beyond the Adjutant-General's Branch, Conlon also chaired a Committee on National Morale operating under the Prime Minister's department. The principal outcome of this committee seems to have been a report on education, elements of which were later adopted through the Universities Commission. This set the precedent for other activities by the Directorate, some not of direct relevance to winning the war, that should have been conducted by other parts of the Army or by other organisations, except that Conlon had access to resources and personnel that they did not. While, for example, it was appropriate that the Directorate provided advice on the legal framework for contingency planning in regions of Australia that might be invaded, the Army's surveyors or the Department of External Territories could have conducted some other projects, which included construction of a terrain model of northern Australia and consolidation of the laws of Papua and New Guinea.

After nearly being sidelined by Stantke's replacement, Major-General Charles Lloyd, Conlon saved his organisation by having it moved to the CGS Branch. From there he liaised with government ministers, including Eddie Ward, Minister for External Territories, and the erratic Bert Evatt, Minister for External Affairs, while supporting Blamey in his roles as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Land Commander under General MacArthur.

Sligo covers in detail the dispute in 1942 and 1943 between Blamey and the Secretary to the Department of the Army, Frank Sinclair. While Blamey, with Conlon's advice, was successful in delaying the re-introduction of the Military Board until after the war, the division of financial responsibilities between the secretary and the senior military commander, at the core of the dispute, remained unresolved for decades after the war.

Probably the Directorate's most important achievement was the LHQ School of Civil Affairs, later the Australian School of Pacific Administration, which trained personnel for civil affairs units. Deployment of civil affairs staff to British North Borneo, however, was complicated by Conlon's willingness to support a plan by Evatt to bring North Borneo under Australian post-war administration. This plan seems to have involved first gaining Australian control over North Borneo, which would then be exchanged for Dutch New Guinea (West Papua). This and a Directorate proposal for increased Australian administrative responsibilities in Timor might seem

somewhat outlandish to modern eyes, as could Conlon's ambition that Australia become 'an almost "paramount power" in the South Pacific'. Sligo notes that Blamey, who had 'a practical view of "troops to task" and military priorities' probably told Conlon that the latter policy was impractical. There seems only a limited connection between the problems of an army with limited resources and some of the Directorate's activities. The resources directed into the Papua and New Guinea law consolidation project and establishing the Australian National University and the John Curtin School of Medical Research might have been better directed to higher priority tasks. Perhaps Sinclair did have a case for closer scrutiny of some of the Army's activities, which had little direct connection with the pursuit of immediate combat operations?

While Conlon was intellectually brilliant, his attitudes suggest a less than reflective personality. His reported quote, that Blamey 'did not have a clue who was up who in Canberra' indicates that Conlon was either inflating his own ego, or that he did not understand the degree to which Blamey had been immersed in politics before the war and in the Middle East. While, as Peter Ryan commented, Conlon might have had 'up-to-the-minute knowledge of "who was up who"', Blamey was no slouch in that department. Sligo notes Churchill's comment that scientists (and by extension advisers like Conlon and his Directorate) should 'be on tap, not on top', but Conlon might not have shared that opinion. Indeed, while Conlon seems to have seen himself as some kind of puppet master, Blamey could actually have been pulling the strings.

Blamey was distrusted, in some cases actively disliked, by some ALP ministers, and might therefore have used Conlon as a 'go-between'. Conlon had influence with and kept close to senior ALP figures, including Prime Minister John Curtin. Sligo records that Conlon was concerned that Curtin's death might cause all his plans to come to naught, as he was not as close to Curtin's replacement, Ben Chifley, who also did not share some of Evatt's ambitions. Sligo notes that 'in many respects [Conlon] behaved as if he were a ministerial or political policy staffer', not an apolitical military officer.

Conlon's personality also caused dissent in the Directorate, with the anthropologist (and previous commander of the North Australia Observer Unit) Lieutenant-Colonel W.E.H Stanner, being posted to London to put distance between them. Some other staff members seemed less than convinced by Conlon's plans, as did some outsiders who dealt with him, including H.C Coombs. Many of the Directorate's staff, however, later went on to high academic or bureaucratic achievement (one, the later Sir Arthur Tange, becoming the *bête noire* of many military officers).

In retrospect, it might have been better had Lloyd got his way, and Conlon and his then small group been despatched to the suburbs of Melbourne. Those tasks conducted by the Directorate that really mattered, such as training civil affairs staff, would still have been done by other parts of the Army and the bureaucracy, while Conlon's assertive and manipulative personality would have been removed to the sidelines.

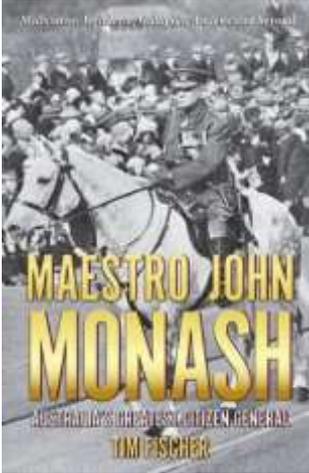
Overall, an interesting book, but it leaves open many questions about Conlon.



**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.**

## NEW BOOKS

## MAESTRO JOHN MONASH - The Hon Tim Fischer AC



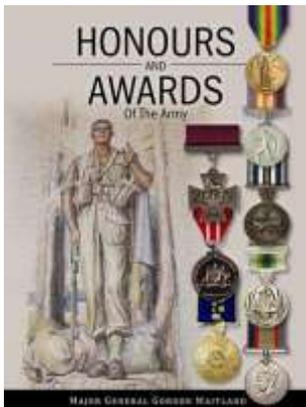
A perfected modern battle plan is like nothing so much as a score for an orchestral composition, where the various arms and units are the instruments, and the tasks they perform are their respective musical phrases. Every individual unit must make its entry precisely at the proper moment and play its phrase in the general harmony. John Monash who was the most innovative general of World War One? For Tim Fischer, the answer has to be Australia's John Monash, a man who, for all the recognition he received in his lifetime and after, has arguably not been given his proper due within the major military histories of this conflict. Fischer also asks why Monash was never promoted to Field Marshal, as international precedent suggested was most appropriate, pointing the finger primarily at the Australian prime minister from 1915 to 1923, Billy Hughes, within a wider context of establishment suspicion towards this son of a German Jewish migrant. Might not a posthumous granting of the Field Marshal rank now constitute a due reward for this great servant of the Australian nation, and a salutary reminder of his legacy?

**About the Author**

Tim Fischer was born at Lockhart, near Jerilderie, in the Riverina and was educated at Boree Creek Public School, Xavier College Melbourne and at OTU Scheyville, graduating as a Second Lieutenant and serving with 1 RAR in Australia and Vietnam. In 1971 at the age of 24 he was elected to the New South Wales State Parliament, switching to the Federal Parliament in 1984 and was for ten years Federal Leader of the Nationals, including serving as Deputy PM and Trade Minister. On retiring from Parliament, he took up various philanthropic and corporate roles. From 2008 to 2012 he was Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, based in Rome. He is married to Judy Brewer and they have two sons

## HONOURS AND AWARDS OF THE ARMY

### Major General Gordon Maitland AO OBE RFD ED



**Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE** [3.49 p.m.]: Today I pay tribute to a remarkable man: Major General Gordon Maitland, AO, OBE, RFD, ED (Ret'). On Wednesday 17 September 2014 Mr Victor Dominello, MP, Minister for Veterans Affairs, accompanied by the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO, hosted the *Honours and Award of the Army* book launch, in the Strangers' Function Room, New South Wales Parliament House, Sydney. Major General Maitland's military career is one which no other can match. At 17 years of age he signed up to join the World War I Australian Imperial Force. After a year as a private he was promoted to corporal and returned to Australia as a sergeant. He then began a journey that finally took him to Canberra to command a branch of Army headquarters and be appointed to the Chief of Army's Advisory Council. During that journey he was appointed an officer in the British Empire Order [OBE] for his performance as a battalion commander, and later as an Officer of the Order of Australia [AO] for his performance as Commander of the 2nd Australian Division. What was unique about his career was that of the hundreds of thousands who joined up as private recruits during World War I, he was the only one to rise to such heights as a major general. **The Hon. Charlie Lynn:** Hear, hear

**Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE:** After his retirement he devoted himself with even more energy to military history, to the interests of veterans, to leading commemorative activities and to safeguarding the image of the Australian Army. He has now written five books. Major General Maitland said:

I am a collector of military information which, I readily acknowledge, does not make me a military historian. I have been interested in matters military since childhood and began my primitive collection before reaching my teens—obviously without thinking that the data or the source of the cutting, extract or notation was worth recording. Unfortunately, it was not until I was in my 70s that I started to think that I should commit my thus acquired knowledge to a series of volumes relating to the Army. I had in mind that they would be of value to the Army and others, even if only as a source of reference. This is the first of these volumes.

The book is detailed and thorough, and includes the following chapters: Orders of Chivalry, the Australian System, Bravery and Distinguished Service Awards, Prior to the Australian System, The Victoria Cross, Bravery and Distinguished Service Awards under the Australian System, Operational Service Medals, Meritorious Service Medals, Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, Other Medals and Awards, Other Forms of Recognition and Protocol. In the foreword of the book, entitled "In Eternal Gratitude", Major **General Maitland said:**

This is the first of a number of volumes to be produced that will tell the story of the Army in Australia—the British regiments, the colonial forces and the Australian Army

This project has occupied many years not only of my life but also of my wife's. Young men are not quick to mature and it is a source of wonderment to me that, when only 18 years old and a private in the Second AIF, I had the wisdom to single out Dorothy Bowness Gunn as my choice to share my life's journey. He said further: Life is unfair at times, for that journey has brought me honours and awards while Dorothy who, in her own way, has contributed enormously, has received nothing except my undying love.

Major General Maitland is an honorary elder of the New South Wales veterans' community. He is a man of great accomplishments. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to honour a man who was my company commander in the 45th Infantry Battalion, St George Regiment, when I was a platoon sergeant. He approved my twenty-first birthday party whilst we were out on Army exercises in the bush. Major General Maitland was the commander of the 45th Infantry Battalion, St George Regiment, when I was commissioned lieutenant. He later became my General Officer commanding 2 Division when I was promoted to captain and given the appointment of company commander D company in the Royal New South Wales Regiment at Merrylands. I greatly enjoyed that period of my life. I appreciate the friendship Major General Maitland and I have had over many years—from the 1950s to now. May God continue to bless him and his wife, Dorothy.

# NOR ALL THY TEARS

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

*Continued from September 2014 Newsletter*

We saw the new routine from the first arrival. They gave us the mess call at an incredibly early hour, and as the shades of night drew on, most of us got a feed. The mess queue was like a football queue, but less polite. I never realised that the Japanese had taken so many prisoners.

This is going to be a grouse rest camp, someone said to me. We do two hours less work and spend an extra six hours lining up for tucker.

We won't. I said.

For about five hours Reggie's mighty voice shook bugs from Thai kampongs right out on the horizon, and thenceforth we ate in comfort and speed.

The camp was now complete as far as accommodation went, but there were roads to be built and drains to be dug. The wet season was approaching. The incoming parties had pooled their bosses with us, not to our great gain. Many of the famous villains of the line were among them. Modiam, who was said to have killed more than anyone on the line, was there in all his glory, and the Mad Mongrel was due to come. But mostly they had their teeth drawn. Their authority to bash, if existent at all, was very limited. It was almost pitiful to see the old villains whaling into trees and stumps with sticks in a vain endeavour to find a suitable object for their natural instincts.

The strain of this oppression proved too much for Modiam when he saw a man trying to fix a hoe instead of working, and he took the hoe from the man and hit him on the head with it.

The man was taken to hospital and we were called together on a parade and told that we must not provoke the anger of our Nipponese guards, who were very zealous in doing their duty for the New Order, but if there were any complaints about treatment by the guards we were to report it, and, though the Enemies of Nippon, we would be heard as impartially as its own soldiers.

Once I stood a few feet from Modiam, and in burst of morbidity was tempted to dwell on his face for quite a while, and I gazed fascinated at the expression on the face of a man who could kick a sick man to death. The whole of evil was written in the cast of those fish eyes, the cruel twitch of the wide, thinly bordered nostrils and the thick lips delicately fashioned into the blending of a sneer and a scowl. It is said that were are all a blending of good and bad, but I found it impossible to imagine this face distorted into any

expression of tenderness or pity, or inspiring any feeling but horror and hate.

It was some time later that I saw the Mad Mongrel, of like repute, but his face gave a much different impression. There is no art can find the mind's



construction in the face, but if character were written as plainly as with Modiam, I think there would be an exact science. Many of the Thais still lived in the area. It was said that Nippon was behind in her resumption payments, but whatever the reason, they were determined to stay their own time. Some of the houses were right in the line of the road, but the road let up to them, made a "U" bend around them, and followed on the other side.

It was a pleasure to see how the Thais stood up to the representatives of the New Order. The Nips had them working on the roofs of the huts, but as soon as a Nip uttered an animal bellow, they would down tools in a body. It was a pleasure to see the strained expression on the Nip's faces as they strove to master the soothing word. We did a good bit of business with the Thais - licit and illicit. The Nips didn't prevent them from establishing stalls in the old Kamburi style, but they threatened everything if we bought -from them.

The Nips tried hard to impress the Thai women; for example by pointing to a gang of prisoners and showing by gesture how they captured them all single-handed, but as soon as the Nip turned his back some Thai kid would bow out his legs in imitation of the gallant son of Nippon, and then go through the motions of a monkey scratching for fleas, amid universal amusement. The language difficulty stood in our way once again. Once Ned tried to buy some eggs from a Thai woman, but could not make himself understood. He tried to cackle, but without much success, then he tried to crow, with more success, but still without making himself understood. At last he roughly indicated the shape of an egg with his fingers, and sat down to give an imitation of laying one. The woman brightened and her eyes lit up with understanding. She took him by the hand and led him out to the second-class carpenter's house. The rumour of a trip to Japan, though still persistent, was weakening. There were conflicting rumours of

# FRONTLINE

further parties to go up the line, and we learnt that parties had already gone from other camps. "Meccano Set" bridges were seen on trains moving up, and we were told that these were to replace the wooden ones. Then came a terrible rumour that we ourselves were to move up, and it was fairly "Authentic". The supplementary rumour that those already gone were paid extra and lived on the grouse brought us no consolation. Up North was the wrong direction. There were rumours of attempts being made to get parties of men who had never been "right up" to do the job, and the Tiger was said to be battling for us. Our own officers were reluctant to issue any statement. Rumours contradicted each other hourly, and we dwelt on all of them. Some were the vaguest possible and some were amazingly detailed. Some of unknown origin. Some direct. It was nerve racking to experience this alternate rise and fall in our spirits day after day. The one well authenticated rumour capped them all. It was nothing definite. Just a basis to form theories, but for what it was worth it ran through the camp like a flash. Unimpeachable authorities had heard Reggie say something inaudible to Westie, but Westie's answer was quite audible. All witnesses were agreed that it was plainly and unmistakably: Thank Gawd for that!

We did not move north. They found another party to take our place, and rumours of a trip north died until the Japan trip was quite definite. Thank Gawd for that. The greatest worry of the camp was the thousand dysentery cases. Amoebic dysentery was a greater killer than cholera, but because it killed slowly and the death rate spread over a longer period it left the Nips unimpressed. It was impossible to keep the standard of hygiene we had maintained up the line, and with the flies growing daily, and it seemed certain that in the long run the dreadful disease would spread to the whole camp.

A man waking up in the middle of the night with a violent vomiting attack gave the doctors an idea. Hastily they asked for permission to erect a small tent in isolation and declare the hut out of bounds. In a few days about six "cholera" cases were romping about as fit as athletes in a tent away from the camp, and the Nips were all hygiene. Within twenty four hours of the first "Case" we had facilities for boiling our mess gear before eating, extra men detailed for hygiene jobs, and the Nips were racing about to see what else they could do. It scared us, too, at first, for the plan wasn't broadcast, but we soon woke up, though I don't believe the Nips ever did. They made their own hygienic measures. Every man was ordered to kill so many flies. Special men were given the job as fly-catchers, and the production of two flies entitled men on other jobs

to an early knock-off. Because of the "cholera" the hospital area was out of bounds, but we were instructed that we might go into the cholera latrines to build up our score. Nonetheless the very mention of the word disheartened us. It served to remind us that the cholera season was once again working around. Even if we were going to Japan, it seemed likely that once again this grim and terrible slayer would cut through our numbers before we left, and leave another huge toll of those who would go no farther.

The cholera season! What a country for God to have on his conscience! No Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter as in the lands that poets write about, but the Cholera Season, the Malaria Season, the Tropical Ulcer Season and the Amoebic Dysentery Season. Did their society papers feature this year's Cholera Bride's or their new seasons Tropical Ulcer fashions? Would the papers run such advertisements as "Spend your Malaria Vacation at the Emetine Hotel, and "Do your Dysentery shopping early?" or their philosophers console themselves with such thoughts as "If Cholera comes, can Ulcers be far behind?"

We got comfort from a few Nip papers printed in English. They spoke of feats of their soldiers and airmen as narrated in Chapter VI and of the ill-treatment of the Japanese internees in the British and American hands. (The latter weren't allowed to do anything but lie down and play cards and read and their food was so monotonous they could hardly eat it). But there were many things to cheer us. It became increasingly clear that the second front was almost due and things were going well. Also they published photos of a Yank with a caption headed in big letters "Proof", and setting forth that here indeed was proof that Japan was giving prisoners Red Cross parcels in spite of all American denials.

As we had seen similar pictures made, we did not find this proof as convincing as it might have been to the lay mind, but they followed it by more substantial evidence in the shape of a parcel to eleven men. This built up such a feeling of optimism that the Wishful Thinkers Federation started a theory that in Japan the issue would be one man one. Reggie became very ill suddenly, and for some days Sandy took the parade, reading out the orders in his usual irreverent style. Some of the cattle across the line have contracted a disease, and to save their lives they're killing them. So you can expect an increase in the meat issue for the next few days. I'm told to tell you once again that you are to salute all Japanese soldiers.

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

# DOWN MEMORY LANE

PHOTO FROM WO2 Jeff WILLIAMS



**Tim**

**MIDDLETON**

**Ben PARKER**

**Peter**

**XUEREB**

IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY ANY OF THE UNNAMED IN THE PHOTO PLEASE LET  
Bob PINK KNOW:  
Ph: 0414 907 427  
bob.pink@optusnet.com.au

**David RING**

**BAYSWATER POWER STATION EX 'MARTIN REVISITED' 1989**