

FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

1ST/19TH BATTALION

THE ROYAL NEW

SOUTH WALES

REGIMENT

ASSOCIATION &

2ND/19TH BATTALION

A.I.F. ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS OF THE

AUSTRALIAN

DEFENCE

FORCES

RESERVES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



I was very pleased to be contacted in early March by COL Craig Bickell, CSM, a member of the St Matthias church community in Paddington NSW, a former Garrison Church where the original Colours of 1 Battalion were originally laid up. We had been involved in the project by church members to preserve these Colours but had not heard from them for some time. The project had, in fact, moved to a conclusion with the preserved Colours placed in glass cases and displayed on the walls of the transept of the church. A brief history of the Colours, which LTCOL Peter McGuinness, MBE, RFD, ED had co-operated in authoring is also displayed with the Colours. The Rector of St Matthias has decided to recognise the work done by the community in conserving the Colours and also commemorate the actions of 1 Battalion AIF in the Gallipoli campaign. This event was held on 31 May 2015 in the presence of His Excellency, General The Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales.

25 March brought the sad news of the death of Maurie Layton at age 86. Maurie was the brother of WO2 OJ Spider LAYTON, CSM D Coy, 2/19 Battalion AIF. Spider was Killed in Action on Singapore Island on 10 February 1942. Maurie, together with his sister, Mavis Ward and Spider's daughter, Helen Sheedy were all very staunch and generous members of the Association in the years before their passing and they will be sadly missed. Bob Pink and I attended Maurie's farewell at Forest Lawn Cemetery at Leppington on Thursday, 2 April before a large crowd of family and friends.

Sunday, 19 April I was the guest of Joe Coombs at the Lidcombe RSL Sub Branch ANZAC Sunday Commemoration where I laid a tribute on behalf of the men 2nd/19th Battalion AIF. It was the usual very moving ceremony with the catafalque party found by local school cadets who performed exceedingly well. Also in attendance were Muriel Coombs, Ann Gillies, Margaret Forbes and Maureen Mariner.

On the evening of Wednesday, 22 April I was privileged to attend the *ANZAC DAY SALUTE Centenary Concert* performed by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as a guest of Ms Claire Whittle, the Philanthropy Coordinator for the SSO. Claire is a young lady who met up with the Association at the recent Fall of Singapore Commemoration and assisted Ray Warden to assemble the 2/19th Battalion banner. The special works, including two specially written for this occasion will be broadcast on the ABC on the evening of ANZAC Day. It was a particularly memorable evening and a fitting tribute to those who served in the First World War. In early April, Association member Roy (Zeke) Mundine OAM, who served some time in 1/19 RNSWR, was appointed Elder of the Australian Army by the Chief of Army. This signal honour conferred upon Zeke recognises the valuable contribution that our indigenous soldiers have made to all forces raised by the Australian Army since the days of Gallipoli one hundred years ago. It will also provide a valuable source of counsel for the Australian Army on matters affecting indigenous soldiers.

ANZAC Day 2015 was a great success. We had a large contingent that took place in the March behind the 1/19 and 2/19 Banners. A number of eyebrows were raised as we passed various marshals along the route. It was, this year, a shemozzle to end all disasters. We were over an hour late stepping off and had to put back the cruise departure by thirty minutes. Despite the unmitigated stuff up in the March organisation, the March was a great success in beautiful weather and with large crowds looking on.

The cruise on *Aussie Magic* was the best that we have had for many years. Seventy two members, guests and families were on board including our Patron, COL Brian Martyn, RFD, his wife Joanne and his son Ashley. We were very honoured that they made the trip from the ACT to join us. Unfortunately, MAJ Barry Chapman, ED, an Association stalwart, was unable to join us because of damage that his house sustained in the wild weather that the East Coast of Australia experienced in the week before ANZAC Day. Barry was sadly missed and we hope that repairs have now been effected. Joe Coombs and his family again helped to swell the numbers as did Grant Armstrong with his 21 strong "Wollongong" contingent. This year we had two descendants join us for the first time. Geoff Hunt and his charming wife Liz and Steve Phillips and his lovely wife Merissa! Both have assured me that they will be regular attendees in future and were very impressed by the warm and welcoming atmosphere that they encountered. You will see the usual suspects in Bob's photo gallery elsewhere in the magazine.

All present voted the cruise the best yet and a significant number adjourned to Phillip's Foote for the President's Sunset Drinks. I asked Bob when this tradition started and he told me "about 12.30 pm this afternoon". Unfortunately those other Association stalwarts, Maureen and David Mariner and David's son Simon, couldn't join us after the cruise but I was very pleased that they could be with us on the Harbour.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge those who contributed to the success of the day and, apart from all who organised parties to join us, my particular thanks goes to Ray Warden (who celebrated his birthday on board) and David Ring and Ray Warden for making sure that the two banners and associated flags were "on parade". David had also had the 1/19 banner refurbished. To all those who formed part of the banner parties my thanks! A number were volunteered but you all did a magnificent job! To David Ring, Maureen Mariner and her "bagman" Greg Coombs for selling the raffle tickets, well done.

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Their collective efforts raised nearly \$500 for the Association. For some reason the distribution of prizes was somewhat uneven but this may have been a blessing in disguise, it may have been safer NOT to win! I also want to thank all those who sent messages of support and good wishes, in many cases accompanied by hefty donations.

I think I can honestly say that we paid appropriate homage to those of our comrades from both WW1 and WW2 who are no longer with us and honoured their memory by our presence. I have already secured the same boat for next year and the prices will be the same so if you enjoyed yourself this year start saving your pennies in anticipation and if you didn't make this year's cruise put it in your diary for next year.

Thursday, 7 May saw Bob Pink and me attending the funeral of Ray McColl, a former Officer of Lidcombe RSL Sub-Branch who passed away in somewhat tragic circumstances on ANZAC Day. Lidcombe is the "home" sub-branch for Joe Coombs and 2/19th Battalion AIF is prominently honoured at every commemorative function that they hold. Ray was the man behind the organisation of these services for many years and he will be sadly missed. He was farewelled at Rookwood Crematorium before a large crowd of friends.

As I said at the start of this message Sunday, 31 May was the date set down for a "special" church service at St Matthias Anglican Church in Paddington to recognise the work done by members of the church community in conserving and displaying the original 1st Battalion Colours and to pay tribute to the men of 1st Battalion AIF who fell at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. In particular I should mention Reinier Jesserun who first brought the project to my attention and whose efforts together with those of Stephen Hodgkinson, led to the construction of two magnificent display cabinets by Heath Larke, a master craftsman of the highest order. The resultant "montage" is a fitting memorial to all men of 1st Battalion AIF. It was a spectacularly successful occasion, held in the presence of His Excellency, General The Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Retd.), Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Linda Hurley, with twenty seven members of the Association, who had travelled from all over Australia to be present, including LTCOL Peter McGuinness MBE, RFD, ED who came up from Tasmania and Allen & Janeen Giddings who travelled down from Lightning Ridge. 1/19 RNSWR was represented by the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Tony Ang and the Royal New South Wales Regiment was represented by the Colonel Commandant, BRIG Paul Couch CSC, RFD accompanied by his wife Carmel. Also present were the OC and CSM of 1st Commando Company and a very large contingent of members of the 1st Commando Company Association led by their President, Barry Grant and including among their number WO2 Blue Curran who served some time as an instructor in 19 RNSWR in the early days of the Battalion. A number of the Commandos attending had been part of the Parade that Laid-Up the Colours in St Matthias Church on 16 June 1968. Many who intended to attend were prevented by various reasons from attending among them BRIG Kathryn Campbell CSC, COMD 5 Brigade who was represented by LTCOL Tony Ang.

The very large number of visitors was made extremely welcome by the St Matthias community led by the Rector, Rev James Harricks and an excellent morning tea was served at the conclusion of formalities giving the Vice Regal Party the opportunity to mingle with guests.

The occasion was a very moving tribute both to the work done in conserving the Colours and to honouring the memory of the men who fought and died for the ideals that they portray.

The Queen's Birthday Honours List brought the news that Warrant Officer Class One, Warren Barnes had been awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to veterans and their families. Warren, a very strong supporter of the Association, and is also the Assistant Manager of the Infantry Museum at Singleton. is the Regimental Warrant Officer of the Royal New South Wales Regiment. A fitting tribute to long and devoted service! I am informed he will be shouting for the bar at the Annual Reunion in Gosford.

As this issue of *Frontline* was about to go to print we received the sad news of the passing of LT Maurice Brennan, Platoon Commander, A Company, 2/19th Battalion AIF. Maurie passed away on 6 June. Maurie enlisted in the Battalion on 3 July 1940 and fought in the battles in Malaya and Singapore before the Capitulation, when he became a Prisoner of War and served with E Force in Borneo. After the war Maurie qualified as a Doctor and had a long career in the medical profession. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth and a large family. Sandy Howard and Bob Binns represented the Association at Maurie's farewell at the Ann Wilson Funeral Home, Mona Vale on 12 June. Sadly, the ranks of the gallant men of 2/19th are thinning and those that remain become even more precious.

If you are planning to attend the Annual Reunion weekend in Gosford in October I strongly urge you to arrange your accommodation early because the rooms reserved for Association members are going rapidly.

As the winter cold settles in please look after yourselves and each other and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you in the not too distant future.

Roger Perry

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VALE GOOD FRIENDS

Mrs Ella Catherine PERCEVAL

(Widow of NX30731 PTE Rosslyn Langford PERCEVAL 2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF)



Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, for those of you who don't know me, my name is Paddy Forbutt and our family owned the neighbouring farm alongside Ross and Ella's farm at Gidginbung. My sister Gail and I and our families are extremely honoured to be asked to be involved with Ella's service today. What a remarkable person Ella was. Not just because she lived well beyond the average life span, taken just short of her 100th birthday but because she was a special person, Ella gave her everything to the community, her humour, her warmth and her generosity of spirit which will live on. So remarkable was Ella that I have been provided with two eulogies by Pat Dart (Ella's niece) to present today, one by Pat's brother Denis and the other, of course compiled by memories from Ella's own notes and other items found in Ella's "special tin" where she kept all her important papers. I have attempted to blend them into one, as a combined tribute.

Memories of Ella Catherine Perceval

In welcoming you today to help us celebrate Ella's life, it also allows us to express our gratitude in having the pleasure of her company as a sister in law, aunt and good friend to so many in the community. On behalf of her family members and everyone else here today, I wish to extend to Val Schmidt our heartfelt appreciation for the care and friendship she extended to Ella. I am sure in many ways Ella looked upon Val as a daughter. I'm sure there are many here today who feel that Ella was that magical mother figure who we all admired greatly. As those who knew Ella would be aware, she was a strong willed and purposeful woman, who never needed the so called trappings of life to be happy, she was also a pre planner who gave some very strong instructions as to what could or could not be said at her funeral service. No crap, get to the point. I will endeavour to do as I'm told. She had some very specific instructions for the service; she did allow Pat to prepare the Service booklet, whilst under strict instructions.

Ella was the second eldest of five children born to Patrick and Charlotte O'Malley; she was born on the 12th of July, 1915, in Boorowa and was fast approaching her 100th birthday. Sadly all members of her immediate family have now passed. She began her schooling at the convent in Boorowa up until 3rd Grade, then going to Illyria and then to Frogmore. The eldest 3 children drove a horse and sulky to a Bush School 5 ½ miles away, there she excelled at Poetry and could still quote all the poems of John O'Brien. "Around the Boree log" being one of his most notable. As there were not enough boys at Frogmore for a football team Ella, being small, played scrum half and was still interested in football in her later years.

Ella was always Auntie Ella to her nieces and nephews, Ella to many, Mrs Perceval and Mrs Percy to some. One of Denis' earliest memories of her was when he and his sister Pat would travel by bus from Yass to Boorowa enroute to their grandparent's home for school holidays. Ella always met the bus and entertained them at Pappas Café where she worked for 9 ½ years. During World War 2, Ella and her family had a trying time, with brother Jack a POW of the Japanese, her future husband Ross was also interred as a POW by the Japanese. She made camouflage nets during the days and spotted planes at night, knitted socks and scarfs and sent chocolates, tobacco and cigarettes to troops in Malaya. The war eventually came to an end and some of Boorowa prisoners of war arrived home. One of these prisoners was Rosslyn Perceval. Ella married Rosslyn (Ross) Perceval in 1950, and with, as she often said "little more than a pocketful of hope" moved to their property at Gidginbung, where life on the land was tough, however she and Ross, through hard work made a success of the venture.

Ella built a wonderful Fan Club at Gidginbung with close associations with every family in the Gidginbung and surrounding districts. Families such as the Schmidts, Blocks, Wilesmiths, Whersteds, Stienkes, Obsts, Rodways, MacCormacks, Hartwigs and many many more, the names are endless, every one of those families admired and respected Ella. She joined the Public School P&C and enjoyed cooking for school picnics, she was also a dab hand at yabbing or "craybobbing" as she called it, and she enjoyed the fun it brought to everyone. Ross and Ella later moved to Temora, where both were busily involved in various community projects. Ella was very involved in Meals on Wheels and Legacy for over forty years. She was also a Life Member of the RSL Women's Auxiliary.

Ross did not enjoy good health in his later years, and the bond existing between he and Ella was one forged in their mutual respect for each other. Ella had a strong sense of right and wrong, and it was following these high principles, she always chose the right way, not the easy way to deal with life problems. She was a woman of great courage and fortitude, with a truly fierce independent nature; she never shirked responsibility, believing one is always responsible for their own actions. She adopted a resolute and almost cavalier attitude towards her imminent death, and as she often said as she puffed away on a fag, smoking won't kill me, so I'll keep smoking and enjoy it. On the 26 April, 2015 at 2.00am in her 100th year, Ella departed from us. She was in total control of her destiny up to that time, even when in severe pain she chose the path leading her to eternal life, such was her strength. We all loved Ella, and we always will, we will always remember her.

Ella was farewelled at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Temora NSW on Thursday 30 April 2015.

Our thanks to Mrs Val Schmidt, Mrs Leeane Wells and Mrs Di Elliott in the arrangements for sending Ella's eulogy and to Ella's niece Pat Dart and her brother Denis and Paddy Forbut for their moving contributions to Ella's eulogy. Ella's membership and exceptional graciousness, generosity and kindness to the Association over many years will long be remembered.

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Kenneth Joseph BOURKE and Philip Douglas CROWE

Mrs Joy Bourke, daughter of E.W. (Frank) McGrath NX35742 2/19 Battalion AIF, advised of the passing of her husband and son in law within days of each other.

Ken was born 14 December 1926 and sadly passed away 29 December 2014 after suffering for a number of years from Parkinson's and Dementia. Loving husband of Joy and father of Michael, Jane and John. Father in law to Beverley and Philip, grandfather to Hannah, Stephanie, Christopher and Russell. Great grandfather of Patrick.

Phil was born 18 January 1960 and sadly passed away 2 January 2015 from cancer. Loving husband of Jane. Son in law to Joy and Ken. Father of Stephanie and Christopher. Father in law to Brock and Caitlin and grandfather of Patrick.

Ken was farewelled at St Mary's Catholic Church Moruya on 6 January 2015 and Phil was farewelled at St Raphael's Catholic Church Queanbeyan 9 January 2015.

Maurice Walter LAYTON



It was with sadness that Maurie's granddaughter Erin, on behalf of her mother Sandie and the family advised of his passing at his home on Wednesday 25 March 2015. Maurie was the brother of NX55098 WO2 Oswald James "Spider" LAYTON, CSM D Coy 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF, Killed in Action on 10 February 1942 and sister to Association members Mrs Mavis Ward (deceased) and uncle to Mrs Helen Sheedy (deceased) and Helen's brother James.

Maurie joined the Association on 5 June 2005 and was a great and very generous supporter of the 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion Association and 1st/19th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment Association. He was born on the 18th of September 1928 at Melrose Avenue Lakemba to Oswald Ozzie Layton and Maude Matilda Layton. Known as Dad, Grand-dad, Pa, Uncle Maurie and Uncle Wally. Maurice was the youngest sibling to Doris, Oswald (Jimmy), Arthur and Mavis. Maurice attended Belmore Central Technical School and completed his schooling on the 1st March 1944 with an "A" in workshop practice.

Maurie went on to complete an Apprenticeship as a fitter and turner with the NSW Railways where he could fulfil his love of steam trains. On the 28th of December 1949 he completed his apprenticeship and went on to work on the 3830 Steam trains. Maurice was a man of loyalty and stayed with the railways until retirement in 1988 seeing the many changes with technology from steam, to red rattlers, to the electric trains. His love of locomotives never wavered. He just loved the steam trains. Maurice attended many a debutante ball in his youth and his love of dance and jazz was well known. Attending the Trocadero and other dance halls. Dance introduced him to his first wife Monica and on the 8th of December 1950 they welcomed their daughter Sandie. As life goes Maurice and Monica parted ways but Sandie was never far from his thoughts keeping photo's of her close by. Maurice went on to meet Mercia his soul mate and love of his life. They married on the 4th of May 1968 and shared many happy years together until her passing in 1986. Maurice's brother Jimmy was lost to him in WWII on the 10/02/1942 in Malaya. Jimmy was part of the 2/19 Battalion AIF. Maurice respected his brother's sacrifice for his country but was devastated by his loss.

In respect of his brothers legacy he maintained contact with the 2/19 Battalion up until his death. Maurice enjoyed the company of his grandchildren and great children having a special relationship with his Great Grandson Jack. He was a very quiet, self sufficient, determined man who refused to be helped but helped many others. You had to remember not to call him near the news time as he wouldn't answer the phone or if he did it was a very quick call. He loved a visit as long as you didn't mind watching the T.V. show he was watching at the time. He loved a cigarette and a beer and his beloved Canterbury Bulldogs.

Maurie was a founding member of the Canterbury Leagues club and come thick or thin he supported his dogs no matter what. Continuing his membership and support of the club until his passing. He loved to go up to Guildford Leagues Club for a bistro meal and it was an excuse to catch up with family in his own personal way.

He also had a love of Milo, Cheerios, ice cream and a good old fashioned meat pie not in that order and obviously not the best diet but when you reach 86 who is going to argue with you! And no one except Mercia ever won an argument with Maurice. He had a love of family history that he shared with both his grand-daughter Erin and his niece Helen. Enjoying discovering long lost ancestors and reminiscing about days gone by.

He had a long lasting mateship with Lenny and Lenny's wife Pat. And so today we also remember a man who was many different things to many different people, Maurie was Old school, he was a union man, and he could be a grumpy bugga at times. His likes in life were simple, he liked family to come and over and visit and spend time with him, he often wouldn't talk much but he never wanted you to leave. Maurie was a Collector, he didn't collect stamps or coins, he collected STUFF all sorts of stuff, he had his trade certificate his original first aid certificate he had every brochure that he ever received. Maurie liked steam trains a good read, family history, dancing, walking, having a beer, shiny shoes playing Darts in his time. His loves in life were simple to, he loved his family, he adored his grandchildren. Our thanks to "Pam" for the above tribute to Maurie.

Roger Perry, Bob Pink and Laurie Sheedy represented the Association at Maurie's farewell at the Leppington Lawn Cemetery on 2 April 2015.

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255988 PRIVATE Raymond Richard TOOMEY **3rd & 4th BATTALIONS THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT**



Association Vice President Mick Pass advised of Ray's passing at Wyong Hospital on 1 April 2015. Ray was the Sub Branch Secretary of The Entrance Long Jetty RSL Sub Branch and Association members will recall his attendances at our Meet & Greet Nights on several occasions during our AGM weekends at Gosford RSL Club. Ray was very helpful when Mick asked for the use of the bus to take our members on the popular Saturday morning outings. Ray had worked for James Hardie in years gone by and came down with the dreaded lung problems. Sub Branch Senior Vice President Rod Smith, BEM delivered the following tribute on behalf the Sub Branch President:

Family and Friends we are assembled to pay our final tributes and to bid farewell to our comrade in arms Private Raymond Richard Toomey 255988 who proudly and faithfully served his country as a member of the Citizens Military Forces (CMF).

Ray, as he was known, saw two engagements with the CMF, enlisting on September 17th, 1960 before being honourably discharged on July 20th, 1972. Private Toomey served with the 3rd and 4th Battalions, Royal NSW Regiment and was awarded the Australian Defence Medal. Truly a great record in the service of one's country

Ray joined The Entrance Long Jetty RSL sub Branch in May 2001 and over his many years with us, has held various positions and represented the sub Branch on occasions as a member, Vice President, Hon. Secretary, Welfare Flag Custodian, Museum Curator, Congress Delegate, Delcoate Gun Licensee and Cenotaph Trustee. Ray was also our resident music man, always prepared to set up the PA equipment for many ceremonial services. He spent countless hours within these positions, particularly in the administrative field, always ready to lend a helping hand or sympathetic ear to those requiring assistance. Ray was one of the most unselfish and dedicated persons at the sub Branch, his gentle soul will be truly missed.

On behalf of the President and members of this organisation, I extend to his family, his children Kenneth, Vicki, Belinda and Wade, his brother Kevin, his grandchildren and to all extended family, comrades and loved ones our very deep and sincere sympathy. Ray was farewelled at McKay's Funeral Home on 9 April 2015

NX52485 LIEUTENANT Maurice Joseph BRENNAN **A COY 2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF**



Association member Wal Williams advised of Maurie's passing notified in the Manly Daily newspaper. Late of Newport Beach NSW, Maurie was born at Broken Hill NSW on 31 July 1918 and enlisted in 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF at Paddington on 3 July 1940. Prior to enlistment he had been a high school teacher. He served as the Intelligence Sergeant 2/19 Battalion AIF and later attended Malaya Command OTU in February 1941 and following his commissioning was appointed as a Platoon Commander in A Company 2/19 Battalion AIF. Joe Coombs served as Maurie's runner.

Maurie fought in the Malaya and Singapore Campaign and following the Capitulation of Singapore was together with so many of his comrades taken prisoner of war of the Japanese and during his captivity served with E Force which departed Singapore on 29 March 1943 for Borneo. He was repatriated to Australia at war's end and discharged on 3 January 1947. Post war Maurie qualified as a Doctor and enjoyed a long, successful and rewarding career in the Medical Profession. He is survived by his beloved wife Elizabeth. Father and Father in Law of Virginia & Russ, Peter & Jeny, Proud Papa to Lucy, Laurene, Alice, Chloe, Max & Kate. Sandy Howard and Bob Binns represented the Association at Maurie's farewell at the Ann Wilson Chapel, Mona Vale on Friday, 12th June 2015.

NX57422 PRIVATE Neville Thomas RILEY **CARRIER PLATOON, HQ COY 2/30 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF**



Neville's wife Lorna advised of his passing on 5 October 2014. Late of East Hills NSW Neville was born at Hurstville NSW on 11 November 1920 and enlisted at Paddington on 12 July 1940. He fought in the Malaya and Singapore Campaign and following the Capitulation of Singapore was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese and slaved for the Japanese in Singapore before being sent with F Force to slave on the Burma Thailand Railway. He was recovered at war's end at Changi POW Camp and after return to Australia on 9 October 1945 was discharged on 9 April 1946. In civil life Neville was a sign writer and served as the President of the Panania East Hills RSL Club.

LEST WE FORGET

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The article below is a discussion paper put out by the executive of the 8th Australian Division AIF Association relating to the future of that Association. Bob Pink and I will attend the 8th Div Assn AGM in September 2015 when this proposal will be discussed. What the paper outlines is a sad fact of life. The number of men who fought in the Malaya/Singapore campaign and survived the subsequent years of captivity as "guests" of the Imperial Japanese Army, is sadly diminishing. Similarly, the attendance at the Sydney Fall of Singapore Commemoration on 15 February each year is falling, as the significance of this day passes into history with the passing of the men and women who were there.

Before we express our views to the 8th Australian Division Association AGM I would like to give you, the members, and in particular those members who were in Singapore on that fateful day, an opportunity to let me know your feelings on the proposal. While I consider 15th February an "important date" it is an inescapable fact that the cost of mounting these commemorations is rising and participation is falling.

I look forward to hearing from as many of you as care to respond. My email address is roger.perry@bigpond.com or you can write to me at GPO Box 890 Sydney NSW 2001.



THE FUTURE OF THE 8TH DIVISION AIF ASSOCIATION AND THE ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF THE FALL OF SINGAPORE

Background

In 2001; 8th Division veterans entrusted the next generation to conduct the annual Fall of Singapore Commemoration at the Cenotaph in Martin Place Sydney. Since 2002 the descendants and friends of 8th Division veterans have been planning and conducting the service.

Since 2000, all 8th Division Association Executive positions including the President have been occupied by the descendants of veterans. As of 2 January 2015, DVA records indicated that there were just 227 surviving prisoners of war of the Japanese in Australia. Involvement of those remaining veterans in 8th Division Association activities has dwindled, with the youngest now aged in their 90s.

Aim

15 February 2017 will mark the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore and it is appropriate that the members of the 8th Division Association consider the future of the Association and the future of the annual Fall of Singapore commemoration.

Factors

Financial resources: the Fall of Singapore commemoration is now costing approximately \$3200 per event to stage. Association funds in the bank amount to approximately \$16,500 which would enable underwriting of the event and meet other expenses for a further three or four years. Membership fees are now paid by only one or two active Unit Associations, and some small donations are received from individuals. For some years now the Association has relied on funding raised from direct approaches to RSL Sub branches. While these have at times been generous, they by no means provide any certainty for the future.

Human resources: with one exception, the executive members of the Association have not changed since 2006. Elections of office bearers on an annual basis are perfunctory with incumbents being reelected unchallenged, and this is not anticipated to change. 2017, as well as marking the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, will mark over a decade of service for most office bearers and it should not be assumed that they will serve on indefinitely.

Proposal

Unless new volunteers come forward in the interim, it is proposed that the 8th Australian Division Association wind up its activities following the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore on Wednesday 15 February 2017. This would have the following advantages:

- * Current office holders may be expected to remain in office until this time;
- * The Association would conclude on a high note commemorating the 75th anniversary;
- * Association financial resources will easily take us through to 2017;
- * Fixing an end date in 2025 will allow time for a build up to the final Event and also allow thoughtful consideration of disposal of remaining financial assets, for example to the AIF Malaya Nursing Scholarship Trust Fund.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this proposal be considered at the 8th Australian Division AIF Association Annual General Meeting on 7 September 2015

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COMING EVENTS 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	Remarks
SUN	05 JULY 2015	0945	RESERVE FORCES DAY MARCH SYDNEY 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	 RESERVE FORCES DAY WREATH LAYING CANBERRA	St Johns Church REID ACT	Afternoon Tea at the Australian War Memorial
FRI	24 JUL 2015	1430	2nd DIVISION CENTENARY PARADE 	Australian War Memorial CANBERRA ACT	
<p>The 2nd Division of the Australian Imperial Force was raised in Egypt on 26 July 1915. It consisted of the 5th, 6th and 7th Brigades and deployed to Gallipoli later that year. After the withdrawal it became the first Australian Division into the line on the Western Front where it served throughout the remainder of the First World War.</p> <p>To celebrate its Centenary the Colours, Guidons and Banners of the Brigades and direct command units which comprise today's 2nd Division and those of the 2/14 LHR (QMI) will be paraded at the AWM on 24 July 2015. As part of Army commemorations for the centenary of the First World War the Chief of Army considers the parade to be a significant event.</p> <p>Parade commences at 1430hrs and should finish around 1530/1545. The parade will consist of all Colours, Banners and Guidons of the 2nd Division and a 100 man guard provided by 5 and 8 Bdes.</p> <p>The AWM Last Post ceremony at 1700hrs on Fri 24 Jul will highlight the service of a 2 Div soldier and the soldier selected is CPL John Mooney of 19th Bn. CPL Mooney served with the Bn at Gallipoli and was KIA on the Western Front. CO 1/19 RNSWR will participate in the ceremony and CPL Mooney's relatives will lay a wreath.</p>					
SUN	26 JUL 2015	0930	POZIERES DAY	St Columba Church Ocean Ave WOOLLAHRA	Decorations & Medals
SAT	08 AUG 2015		 ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT COMBINED OFFICERS' & WOs'/SNCOs' DINNER DINNER TIMINGS: 1830 for 1900h The dress for the dinner is Mess Dress (6A). Mess Dress White Jacket (6B). Black tie or Lounge Suit. Medals, orders and decorations may be worn THE COST OF THE DINNER IS \$105 which includes a 3 hour drinks package. RSVP by proforma to Regimental Treasurer by not later than 6 JULY 2015 The Association's Web Site contains a Reply Proforma for attendance and payment arrangements www.rnswr.com.au	ENDEAVOUR BALLROOM NOVOTEL HOTEL Brighton Le Sands	FOR DETAILS OF THE DINNER PLEASE SEE 'COMING EVENTS' ON THE ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE www.rnswr.com.au which contains a Reply Proforma for attendance notification and payment arrangements Please contact Bob Pink 0414 907 427 For further details
SUN	09 AUG 2015	1100	 ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE	Garrison Church MILLERS POINT	Ceremonial uniform / Coat & Tie Decorations & medals
SAT	15 AUG 2015	1045	VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Refreshments after Service at the NSW LEAGUES CLUB Phillip Street SYDNEY Decorations & Medals
WED	2 SEP 2015	1045	BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION DINNER WEEKEND – GOSFORD NSW					
FRI	23 OCT 2015	1800	MEET & GREET FUNCTION	GOSFORD RSL CLUB 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)	
SAT	24 OCT 2015	1030	WREATH LAYING CEREMONY PRESENTATION		
SAT	24 OCT 2015	1400	"THE BIG ADVENTURE 1915" LTCOL Peter McGUINNESS, MBE RFD ED		
SAT	24 OCT 2015	1530	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
SAT	24 OCT 2015	1830 for 1900	AGM REUNION DINNER		
SUN	25 OCT 2015		Return Travel Home		
WED	11 NOV 2015	1045	REMEMBRANCE DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Decorations & Medals Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY

FRONTLINE

ASSOCIATION PATRONS & OFFICE BEARERS

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CHAPLAIN & LIFE MEMBER Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel The Reverend Canon C.G. (Colin) AIKEN, OAM, RFD, ChStJ
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ASSOCIATION WEBSITE ADDRESS: <http://www.rnswr.com.au>

THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE HAS UNDERGONE A REFURBISHMENT AND NOW INCLUDES A 'COMING EVENTS' PAGE WHICH WILL BE REGULARLY UPDATED TO PROVIDE CURRENT/LATEST INFORMATION ON FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 1970

THE



Lieutenant P. R. Hughes, Namoi Shire Council Deputy Engineer, pointing out a feature in the rugged Colo-Patty Army training area to Corporal R. A. Howard, of Maroubra, who is a 2nd officer with QANTAS. Both are members of the 19th Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment, which has been carrying out an annual camp of 33-days.

OUR THANKS TO PETER HUGHES FOR THIS NEWSPAPER CUTTING FROM 1970

Bushmen's rifles an efficient unit

The newest CMF unit in New South Wales is rapidly becoming the most successful.

It is 19th Battalion, Royal NSW Regiment—known as the Bushmen's Rifles—which has a number of unusual features.

The unit was raised in December, 1966, principally to meet the needs of people in remote areas where they could not join an ordinary Citizen Mil-

itary Forces unit located in more populous areas.

It also provides training facilities for those unable to attend the routine CMF training comprising an annual 14-day camp, weekend and night training parties totalling 33 days each year.

Instead, the 19th Battalion members may complete their annual training in one continuous period of 33 days.

However an alternative camp is also provided annually at a different period to help meet the requirements of seasonal workers and others who find either the first camp or the 33-days continuous training inconvenient.

The two camp periods are: March-April and July-August.

SURPRISING

Commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Terry Irwin, of Orange, says that the unit has been surprisingly successful during its 3½-years life.

"We now have a strength of 693 officers and other ranks," he said. "And this has come from a modest beginning of less than 50."

"Our fellows come from all over New South Wales and from all walks of life. Some of them do their 33-days at one camp. Others find it more convenient to split their training between the two camps, say with 17½-days in one and 16 in the other."

Because of its unusual composition and role within the CMF, the battalion

has a regular Army Officer as its second-in-charge.

He is Major Mark Cox formerly of the Wollongong Area, who administers the unit headquarters located at Holsworthy.

He is assisted by an adjutant, quartermaster and 12 others who fill key NCO and other rank appointments.

The battalion's second annual training period for 1970 ended last week. It included a reserve training course and general training at Holsworthy and a tough exercise in the Army's Colo-Patty training area.

The exercise, aptly named "Lee House", was mainly aimed at basic military tactics and included setting ambushes, patrolling, and fighting in contact with "insurgents" during long marches through the rugged terrain of the ranges.

Troops carried their own supplies and equipment to live hard in the bush.

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FRONTLINE

DONATIONS



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



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MRS	Valerie	BARTON
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MRS	Sylvia	BELL
LCPL	Geoff	BLAIR
MRS	Diana	BLAND
MRS	Joy	BOURKE
LCPL	Kevin	BRANCH
MAJ	Marj	BULLIVANT, RFD
MAJ & MRS	Bob & Christine	BUTT, RFD
MAJ	Barry	CHAPMAN ED
MR & MRS	Ray & Betty	CLENDENNING
MAJOR	Harry	COLE, J.P.
MR	John	CONNELL
LT	Tom	COOPER, OAM,
MRS	Rita-	DEAN
MR	Perry	DEAN
MR	Robert	DEAN
WO2	John	ELLIOTT
MRS	Dorothy	FARLOW
MAJ	Ken	FITZGERALD
MRS	Marj	FLACK
CPL	Tom	FLETCHER
CPL	Eddie	GIFFORD
Mrs	Margaret	GILL
MAJ	Peter	GODFREY, B.Com CPA
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SGT	Mark	HOSKINSON JP

SGT	James	HURT
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MRS	Norma	JAMIESON
LT	Corinna	KELLY
CAPT	Heng	KHONG
MRS	Olive	KIRKBY
GNR	Alby	KOLBUCH
MRS	Maureen	LONG
COLONEL	Brian	MARTYN, RFD, psc (r)
MRS	Pattie	McALEER
MR	Norm	McDONALD
MRS	Coralie	MOWBRAY
WO2	Ray	MULLER
PTE	Tony	OHLBACH
WO2	Roger	PERRY
WO2	Peter	PHILLIPS
MRS	Gladys	POWER
MAJ	John	RALPH, RFD
MRS	Rene	RENNIE
SGT	Peter	REYNOLDS
PTE	David	RING
PTE	David	ROSETTA
PTE	Jonathan	STALLARD
LTCOL	Geoff	STEVENTON, MBE, RFD
MR	Ron	STEWART
MRS	Jean	TEERMAN
CPL & MRS	Troy & Angie	THOMAS
MRS	Grace	TOBIN
SGT	Bob	WADE
LT	Robert	WIESE
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:



PTE	Garry	DWYER	BUCKETTY	NSW	2250
MRS	Barbara	JONES	BERRIEDALE	TAS	7011
MRS	Leanne	MASON	TREGEAR	NSW	2770
MR	Stephen	PHILLIPS	PENRITH	NSW	2750

SICK REPORT



Pleased to report that after a spell in hospital SSGT Bob ("Tuck" WILSON is back on the mend and sends his regards to all.



CONGRATULATIONS



TO
Warrant Officer Class One
Warren John BARNES
Regimental Warrant Officer
The Royal New South Wales Regiment

AWARDED THE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION IN HM THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

FOR SERVICE TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



President, Association of the 4th Infantry Battalions, since 1988 and Member since 1975.

Secretary, New South Wales Branch, Defence Reserves Association, since 1997 and Member since 1986.

Honorary Member, New South Wales Branch, 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association Australia, since 2008.

Regimental Warrant Officer, The Royal New South Wales Regiment, since 2005 and Member since 1975.

President, Miranda Sub-Branch, The Returned and Services League of Australia, 2006-2011; Director, Miranda RSL Sub-Branch Club Limited, 1995-2009; Committee Member, 1990-2005.

Assistant Manager, Australian Army Infantry Museum, since 2009.

Legatee, Singleton Chapter, Legacy New South Wales, since 2014.





CONGRATULATIONS

Roy Leonard MUNDINE, OAM

115

NEWS

6

Recognising proud service

CA appoints inaugural Army Indigenous Elder

THE Army's inaugural Indigenous Elder, Uncle Roy Mundine, was appointed by CA Lt-Gen David Morrison at a ceremony in Canberra on April 18.

A Bundjalung man, Uncle Roy had a distinguished 36-year Army career, enlisting in 1958.

Before his retirement as WO1 in 1995, Uncle Roy served in Malaya in 1959 with IRAR and had two tours in South Vietnam with 5RAR in 1966 and 1969.

During his 1969 tour, Uncle Roy was Mentioned in Dispatches for his actions on April 25, 1969, during Operation Surfside where he was the leading section commander with 1 Pl, A Coy.

On approaching a suspected enemy area, the then-Cpl Mundine deployed his section on the ground and moved forward alone to reconnoitre the enemy position.

He sighted enemy bunkers and was about to signal further instructions when he detonated a mine that severed his lower right leg and caused severe wounds to his back and his other leg.

Members of his section started to move forward to his assistance into what was later shown to be an enemy minefield.

Although in considerable pain, Cpl Mundine ordered his section to stay

out of the area and directed them to new firing positions after giving full details of the enemy bunker system.

For more than 40 minutes, he continued to give instructions to his section and refused to allow any members of the platoon to move near him until engineers had cleared a path through the minefield. This was typical of his outstanding leadership.

Uncle Roy was also awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1987 for his service as the Quartermaster of 49RQR.

Among his duties, Uncle Roy will represent serving and ex-serving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island personnel, advise Army's senior leadership, and participate in events of Indigenous significance such as National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lt-Gen Morrison said the appointment signified Army's commitment to engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

"The appointment of the inaugural Army Indigenous Elder is an important milestone for Army and acknowledges the proud history of service that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have provided to the Army and our nation," he said.

"Uncle Roy had a distinguished Army career and is a respected and

active member of the Indigenous community. He is an influential voice on issues related to Indigenous veterans and young people.

"We are privileged that he has agreed to be the Army's Elder."

Uncle Roy said he was delighted to be the inaugural Elder and was looking forward to working with the Army on its Indigenous activities.

"I think it was a very good idea to appoint an Elder and it is a great honour to have been asked by Lt-Gen Morrison," Uncle Roy said.

"As the Army Elder, I hope to go out and talk to the younger people in Australia and enlighten them about the careers that are available to them in the military.

"Army is an awesome career which is great for young people as it gives them so many opportunities to do and learn new things."

When asked how Army could encourage more Indigenous people to join, Uncle Roy said the key was getting out and meeting people.

"The big thing you have to be able to do is talk to people and let them see the Army as an attractive option," he said.

"Getting out and talking to people about the Army and the experiences they can have will encourage young Indigenous people to start thinking about joining the services."



Army's Indigenous Elder Uncle Roy Mundine served 36 years in the Army.

Photo by Cpl Mark Doran

ROY MUNDINE, OAM MILITARY

Bundjalung (Northern NSW)
Retired Warrant Officer Class One,
Australian Army

Vietnam War Veteran

In South Vietnam he was wounded, more
dead than alive,
Only Zeke had the strength and the will to
survive.

As a young soldier's mentor, none were
finer than he.

I salute you Roy Mundine, you're a
legend to me."

From a poem by Bill Charlton, a young
soldier mentored by Roy (2013)

Military Awards:

Medal of the Order of Australia (Military
Division) (1987)

Community Awards:

National Medal (1981)

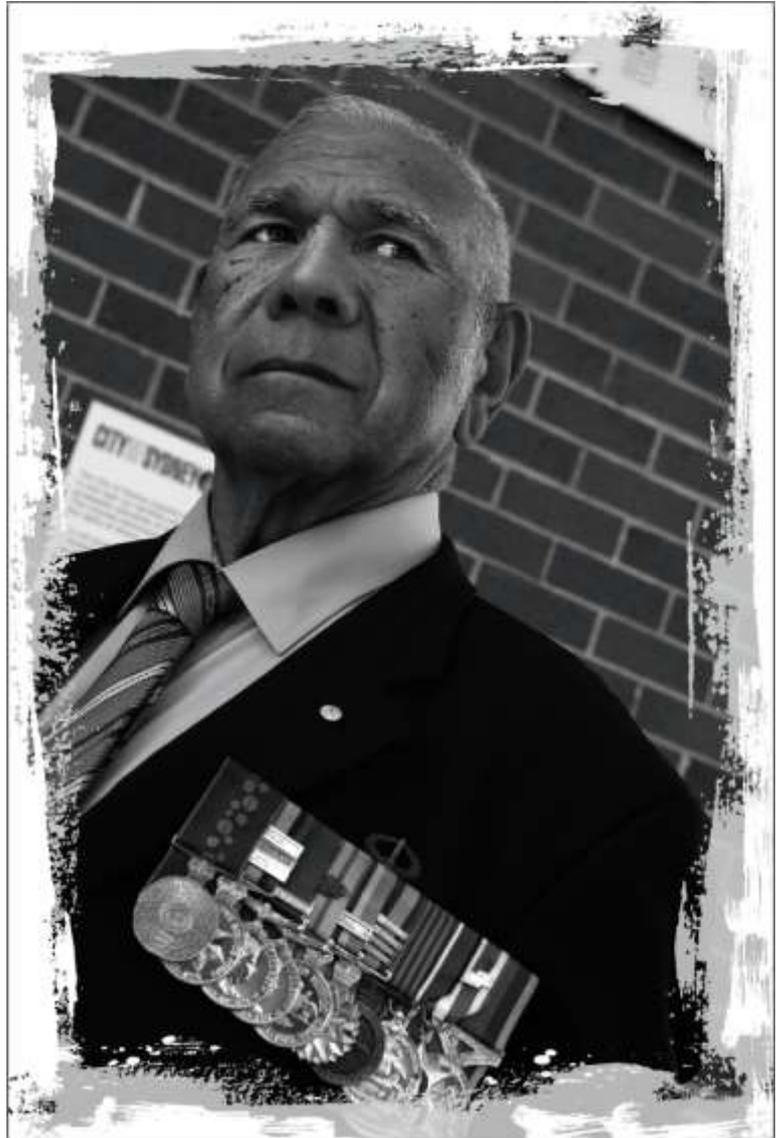
Roy enlisted in the Australian Regular
Army in 1966. After allocation to 5th
Battalion in The Royal Australian
Regiment, he served in South Vietnam in
1966/67. He returned for a second
operational tour to South Vietnam with the
5th Battalion in 1969.

On 25 April 1969, during Operation
Surfside in Phuoc Tuy Province, Corporal
Mundine was the leading Section
Commander with 1 Platoon, A Company.

On approaching a suspected enemy area, Corporal Mundine deployed his section on the ground and moved forward alone to reconnoitre the enemy position. He sighted enemy bunkers and was about to signal further instructions when he detonated a mine that severed his lower right leg and caused severe wounds to his back and his other leg. Members of his section started to move forward to his assistance into what was later shown to be an enemy minefield. Corporal Mundine, although in considerable pain, ordered his section to stay out of the area and directed them to new fire positions after giving full details of the enemy bunker system. For over forty minutes he continued to give instructions to his section and refused to allow any members of the platoon to move near him until engineers had cleared path through the minefield. This occasion was typical of his outstanding leadership. He was mentioned in dispatches (MID) in 1969.

Roy received an OAM Military for his 36 years of serving with distinction in the armed services. His old battalion, the 5th Battalion, named a military operation in Afghanistan after him "Operation Mundine".

When you serve, you place the needs and safety of others before your own.





CONGRATULATIONS Phillip James MORCOM



Anzac Spirit award for Lyndhurst RSL member

April 11, 2016, 5 p.m.



Lyndhurst RSL Sub Branch volunteer Phillip Morcom received an ANZAC Spirit Award from Member for Calare Jon Cobb.

Surrounded by family, friends and colleagues, Lyndhurst RSL Sub Branch's Phillip Morcom was rewarded for nearly 20 years loyal service to the Sub Branch with a prestigious ANZAC Spirit Award. Federal Member for Calare John Cobb established the ANZAC Spirit Award to pay tribute to a member of each RSL Sub Branch in Calare nominated by their peers for their tireless work and dedication.

"I thought it was important to contribute to the memory of the Australians who have served and continue to serve our Defence Forces, especially on the Centenary of ANZAC", Mr Cobb Said.

"The amazing thing about Mr Morcom is that he actually lives in Lithgow but frequently travels to Lyndhurst to attend Sub Branch meetings and events. For nearly two decades Mr Morcom has played an integral part in the success of the Lyndhurst Sub Branch.

He is very supportive of ex and returned servicemen and women and is admired by his peers and the entire Lyndhurst community for his hard work and



Phillip Morcom Lyndhurst RSL Sub Branch

For nearly 20 years Phillip Morcom has been an important member of the Lyndhurst RSL Sub Branch, making him a worthy recipient of the Anzac Spirit Award.

Mr Morcom now resides in Lithgow but travels to

Lyndhurst to attend RSL Sub Branch meetings and events - a sign of his dedication to the branch.

Mr Morcom has played an integral part in the success of the Lyndhurst branch, going above the call of duty to assist his colleagues and members of the community, and carries out an important part of the Memorial Guard every Anzac Day and Remembrance Day - a role that is much appreciated by his peers and the community.

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CONGRATULATIONS

To MAJOR Rod WHITE AM RFD MAICD



ON HIS ELECTION AS THE STATE PRESIDENT OF THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA NSW BRANCH.

(From and our thanks to the Association of 17th Battalions Newsletter 'Stand Easy' April 2015)



Many members will already be aware that during March 2015 Association of 17th Battalions Secretary, Major Roderick D White AM RFD MAICD (Retd), was elected as the State President of the Returned & Services League of Australia NSW Branch. A resume of Rod's military career and RSL service follows.

Rod White was born at North Sydney, when his family resided at Cammeray and moved to Chatswood in the early 1950s. In 1964 enlisted in the CMF with A (NSW Scottish) Company 2RNSWR (later 17RNSWR) at the Drill Hall, Carlow Street, Crows Nest.

As a Corporal he was on parade in 1968 at Victoria Barracks when 17 RNSWR received its Queen's and Regimental Colours. In 1969 he volunteered for National Service and following training at Kapooka and Singleton, was posted to 9RAR at Enoggera Qld, later transferring to 3RAR at Woodside S.A. With 3RAR he served as a Corporal with the Anti-Tank & Tracker Dog Platoon, later as their Mortar Fire Controller and with the Assault Pioneer Platoon Whilst on operations in South Vietnam he was accidentally wounded by friendly fire.

In 1972, he re-enlisted with 17RNSWR as a Section Commander, commissioned through OCTU, he returned to 17Bn and served as a Platoon Comd, ADC to Commander 2nd Division, Company 2IC & OC A Coy 17RNSWR. Then with SUR he was a Company Commander and Regimental 2IC with a final posting as Battalion 2IC, 2/17RNSWR retiring in 1993 after 29+ years service, of which 17 were with the 17th Bns.

Rod's civil career was in a range of roles with BHP Lysaghts, Babcock-Wilcox, Monier & CSR Ltd. With the RSL over the past 44 years, he has served as President Hornsby RSL Sub Branch, State Councillor, State Honorary Treasurer, Trustee Welfare & Benevolent Institution, Director ANZAC House Trust, Director RSL Custodian, Director Hyde Park Inn, Chairman Finance committee, Chairman RSL LifeCare. He has been appointed as a life member of the RSL. For many years Rod has served on the Committee of the Association of 17th Infantry Battalions and has been Secretary for over 10 years. Also, who has been our Curator of the Association Historical Collection at Suakin Depot at Pymble and our Liaison Officer with the current 2/17 RNSWR.

Rod also served on the Regimental Council of the Royal New South Wales Regiment and in the 1988 New Year's Honours was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in the Military Division for service to the Army Reserve,

In the NSW RSL Media Release advising of his election as NSW President, Rod said "It is a great honour and privilege to be elected as State President of the League, as we approach not only the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, but also next year's 100th anniversary of the founding of what has become the RSL," said Mr. White. "As chairman of RSL LifeCare I am only too well aware of the challenges facing our nation as we grapple with the problem of caring for young veterans, many of whom carry with them the trauma of service in Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. "The issues of mental health are significant and I look forward to leading the RSL in this State as we continue the League's outstanding record in caring for veterans and their families."

Mr. White paid tribute to his predecessor, Don Rowe OAM and Vice-president 'Peter Stephenson OAM who has been acting President for the past five months. "Don and Peter have both been outstanding servants of the League and we are in their debt," he said.

We trust that in his new role as the President of the State Branch, he will still be able to find time to be involved in the affairs of our Association. We congratulate him on his election and wish him all the best in his new role.

FRONTLINE

100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GALLIPOLI LANDING - ANZAC DAY 2015

Contributed by Peter HUGHES

1/19 RNSWR Association was well represented on the Gallipoli Peninsular leading up to and on ANZAC Day 2015. Those spotted on the Peninsular included (in alphabetical and not rank order); Warren Barnes, Terry and Belinda Betts, John Brennan, Paul Couch, Peter and Julie Godfrey, Peter and Judy Hughes, Peter McGuinness, Terry Nixon and there may have been more. The above were all part of Military History Tours' 1700 strong Aussie and Kiwi contingent aboard the MSC Opera with historians Brig. Couch, Lt Col McGuinness, Maj Godfrey and WO1 Barnes amongst others providing historic commentary on the various landings, battles and the historically successful withdrawal that occurred on the Peninsula during 1915. Briefings of the Gallipoli ANZAC Cove and Cape Helles landings planning and proposed implementation by the British military hierarchy were provided to those present on ship prior to arriving in Turkey and a full 3 days field briefings were provided by the historians to the full 1700 group prior to ANZAC Day. Night entertainment on board the ship was provided in a most professional manner by the Barker College, Hornsby, orchestra, jazz band, choir, historians and solo performers; all 109 of them from Grades 9 to 12.

They all were excellent ! ANZAC Day saw some of the group attend the official government Dawn Service at North Beach adjacent to ANZAC Cove followed by the Australian Service at Lone Pine or the New Zealand Service at Chunuk Bair, while others attended the ANZAC Service at Hamza Bay, Gelibolu (Gallipoli), depending on how one's luck was with the DVA draw for tickets to the official services. Some scenes from the Dawn Service of the lit-up 'The Sphinx' and the narrow sand ridge that runs from Plugge's Plateau to Walker's Ridge and on to The Nek; the flotilla of 9 war ships off ANZAC Cove representing 6 countries including HMAS ANZAC; and Judy and Peter Hughes. Being at Gallipoli for the 100th Anniversary of the Landing was very poignant for Judy Hughes, whose father was at Gallipoli in 1915 and as Lt Col George Murphy CMG DSO & Bar was CO of 1 8Bn throughout the entire Western Front campaign with 17, 18, 19 and 20 Battalions forming the 5th Brigade, 2nd Division of the 1st AIF.

The friendliness and support shown by the Turkish soldiers present on the roads and tracks between North Beach and Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair towards the Aussies and Kiwis on ANZAC Day shows that the 3 nations are today very close and that language differences with the Turks does not hinder communication between the peoples. 26 April saw The Gallipoli 100 year Anniversary Ball held at the Convention Centre in Istanbul. Music and entertainment at the Ball was of a most professionally high standard including World War I hits of the day and provided by the various bands and orchestras from Barker College. Those present at the Ball from 1/19 Association included Terry Betts, Terry Nixon, Peter Godfrey, Peter Hughes, Paul Couch (in the photo) and Warren Barnes. Everybody who attended this 2015 Gallipoli Centenary ANZAC Day had a great unique experience which will be remembered for the rest of their lives.



FRONTLINE

100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GALLIPOLI LANDING - ANZAC DAY 2015



AT THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF GALLIPOLI BALL AT THE CONVENTION CENTRE ISTANBUL, PTE TERRN NIXON
L to R LTCOL Terry BETTS, PTE Terry NIXON, MAJ Peter GODFREY, LT Peter HUGHES, BRIG Paul COUCH CSC RFD

BATTLE OF CORAL BALMORAL COMMEMORATION INGLEBURN RSL CLUB SAT 16 MAY 2015



CAPT Sarah WINTER & Mrs Annette WINTER with friends



L to R: Merv MORGAN, Bob PINK, Roy MUNDINE & Barry WILLOUGHBY

FRONTLINE



Rod HILLIKER and GROUP from ANZAC DAY 2015, Rod was aircrew on the official QANTAS Flight which flew veterans and widows to Turkey for the ANZAC Centenary. Rod delivered the oration at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Istanbul.

Rod HILLIKER at the Lone Pine Memorial Gallipoli

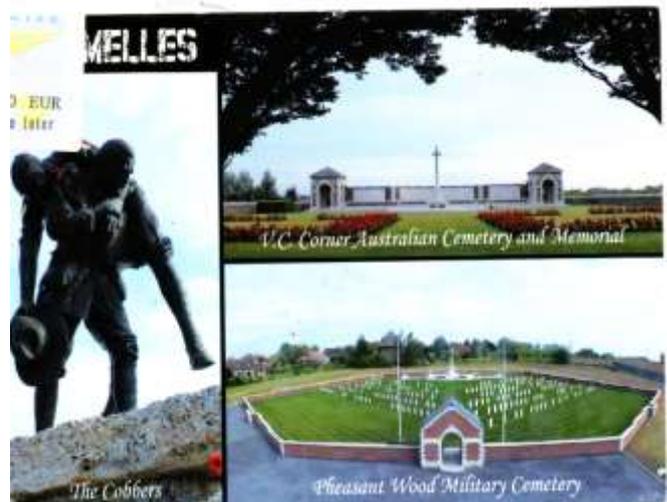


Mick BATCHELOR from Grong Grong who attends Wilccanna's ANZAC Day every year



Postcard from Terry NIXON during his recent tour of the French Battlefields

1 June 15
 Bonjour Rob
 Today I visited the grave of Leslie Richmond mentioned in Vol 14 no 1 as believed 1st Australian KIA.
 It is surprising that the St Symphorien Cemetery was laid out by the Germans in 1917 and houses the remains of British, Canadian, and Germans together.
 There are a couple more fellows killed on the 11 Nov 1918.
 Tomorrow I will visit Keith Heritage and a Cecil Healy 198m Gold medalist 1912 olympics he is in the Assevillez New British Cemetery Also in the village of Geluwe (Belgium) is a mound to William Leggett born Lithgow N.S.W. 14 OCT 1914 he joined the Life Guards in 1940 - claimed to be 1st Australian KIA.
 So long Terry Nixon



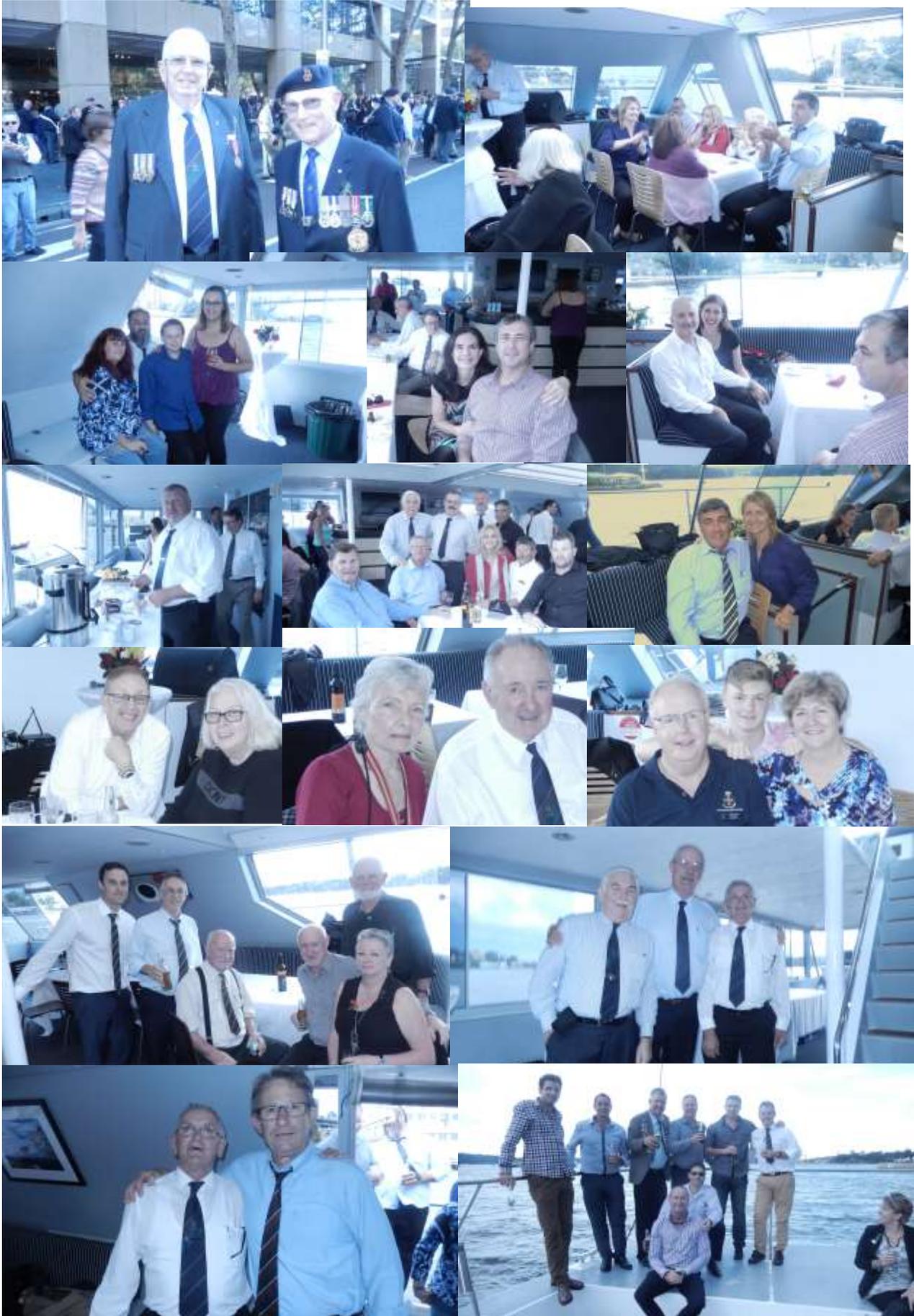
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ANZAC DAY SYDNEY 2015



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ANZAC DAY CANBERRA 2015

DID YOU MARCH WITH 1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION IN CANBERRA ON ANZAC DAY ?

Garry LEWIS is missing a couple of names of members who marched with the 1/19 RNSWR Association Contingent and has requested that **all members who did march to telephone/email him and confirm their attendance.**

Tele: 0433 987 423 or (02) 48446 1042

Email ellen.lewis@westnet.com.au

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SEEN AROUND THE TRAPS



**Denis CONNELL, RFD & John ELLIOTT
pictured at ANZAC DAY in Wilcannia NSW**



From: Tom NOLAN
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2015 5:22 PM
Subject: MORTAR PLATOON PHOTO

Hi Bob,
I view with interest the photo of the Mortar Platoon on the rear page of the March 15 edition of "Frontline". The photo is dated 1989 and two rounds are shown with calico charge bags on the fin assembly. In the mid 1980's I went to the UK to see a speciality plastics manufacturer. This company does not produce mainline plastics as we know them. It produces high quality plastics for specific purposes. For example, plastic sheeting for boat windows with a prolonged tolerance to sunlight deterioration. The company representative took me through the latest product range. My interest was aroused when he produced a plastic "C" clip, about the size of a man's thumb, which he explained was replacing the calico bags on 81mm mortar rounds. Things of this type are typically in the assessment phase for years before introduction. But only 12 months later, on the firing range at the Infantry Centre, there were the new plastic "C"s. From the very UK factory that I had visited! I had seen that supply chain, from a factory on the other side of the world, all the way to Singleton. Perhaps those first "C"s that I saw were still being trialled, otherwise why would the Mortar Platoon in the 1989 photo still be training with the calico charge bags?
Best wishes,
Tom Nolan



Roy MUNIDINE, OAM being presented with a painting by Integrated Servicepeoples Association of Australia National President Bob BAK, OAM & National Secretary Gladys BAK OAM at Ingleburn RSL Club on 2 June 15 in recognition of his recent appointment as the Army Indigenous Elder



Bob PINK & Chris HALLORAN enjoying a refreshing ale at Lane Cove Bowling Club on 27 May. Chris sends his best regards to all who remember him

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY INFANTRY MUSEUM - SINGLETON

The displays within the museum galleries contain items which demonstrate the history and traditions of Australian Infantry since the late Nineteenth century until the present. All of these items have an interesting individual and collective story to tell. But there are some items displayed which we consider have a special interest, and which should not be missed on a visit to the Museum.

Some of these especially interesting items are small and some are large. Some were successful in their operation and others were not so useful particularly when compared to our modern day technology. Over the next few issues of "In Support" I will bring you some detail of these special interest items and their history.

The first of these is the Russell Boomerang Grenade. It was invented by Mr G. V. Russell, a Melbourne engineer, and submitted to the Federal Munitions Committee in August 1915 for trials. This was at the time during the Gallipoli Campaign when grenades (then called "bombs") were first employed and front line troops were being forced to make their own supplies from available material such as jam tins or bully beef tins.

Scale in Centimetres

Russell Boomerang Grenade



The Boomerang Grenade was designed to be able to be thrown further than other grenades (bombs) available at the time and with greater accuracy. It was also claimed that it would descend vertically onto the enemy and that it could not possibly return. The explosive charge comprised 3 ounces of blasting gelatine which was attached externally to the elbow of the boomerang. Blasting gelatine was one of the most powerful explosives known at that time. It was composed of 93-95% of nitro-glycerine and 7-5% nitro-cellulose (gun cotton) and was 50% stronger than dynamite. Detonation was by a detonator and a short length of Bickford's fuse, tipped with a similar composition as used on wax matches. This allowed ignition by friction.

The Boomerang was made from galvanized sheet iron, with a total cost of 1/6d (15 cents) per unit. The trials were conducted by the Australian Grenade Training School, Lt Col R. Law Commandant, and finalised in January 1916. Lt Col Law's conclusion was that: *"The Board are of the opinion that this Grenade is so erratic and uncertain in its flight that they consider it of no value for Military Purposes"*.

Mr Russell objected to this finding and offered to supply further grenades for testing. While the offer was accepted, no further correspondence is recorded. It was assumed that Mr Russell decided to cut his losses. So ended the life of a potentially unique Australian weapon with an ancestry of over 40,000 years.

The example on display in the Museum is located within the Grenade Cabinet in the Latchford Gallery, and is the only one of its type known to still exist. Of course, it lacks the explosive charge and detonator.

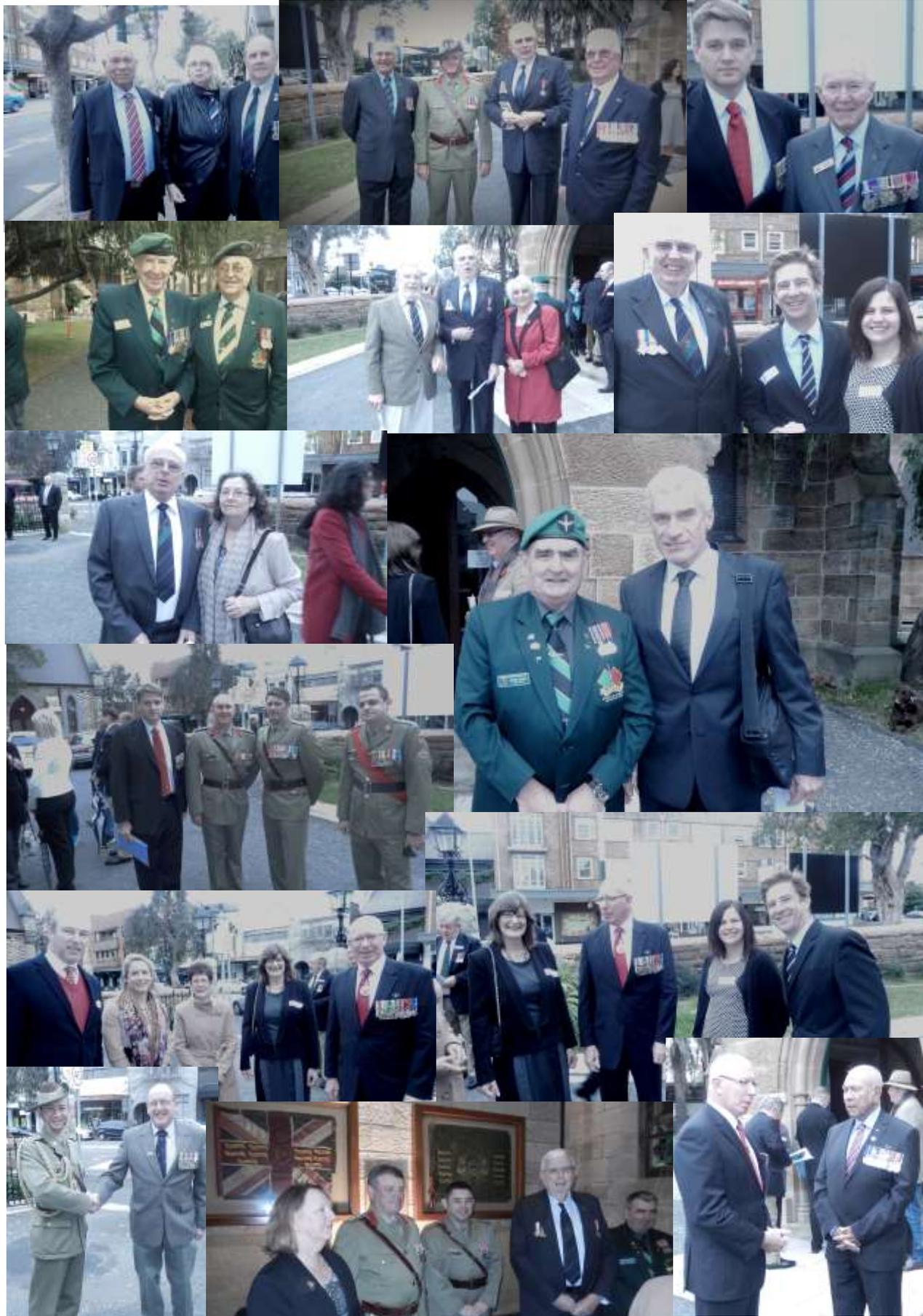
Reference Sources:

1. Richard Landers "Grenade: British and Commonwealth Hand and Rifle Grenades", Landers Publishing, Dural NSW, 2001
2. Lt Col R. Law "Grenades and their uses", Instructional Pamphlet of the Australian Imperial Force, 1916

Bill Edwards
Museum Volunteer

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ST MATTHIAS CHURCH SERVICE SUN 31 MAY 15

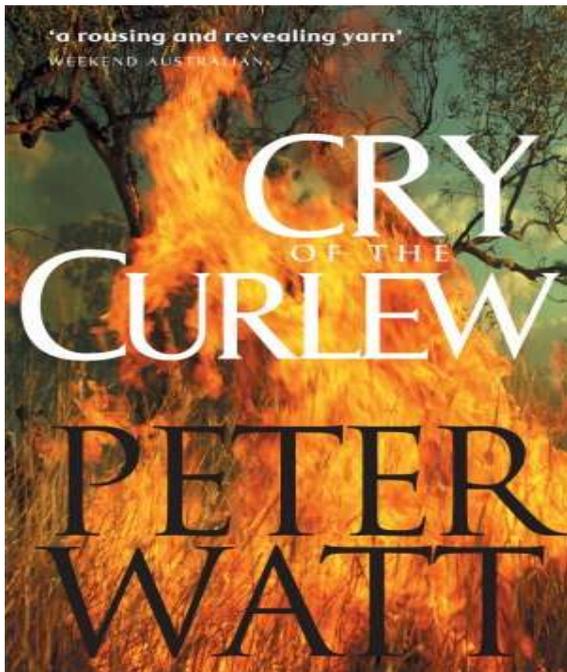


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ST MATTHIAS CHURCH SERVICE SUN 31 MAY 15



PETER WATTS' NEW BOOK



Confronting, graphic and erotic, ***Cry of the Curlew*** is a riveting novel of Australia's brutal past from master storyteller Peter Watt. It is the tale of two families, the Macintoshes and the Duffys, who are locked in a deadly battle from the moment squatter Donald Macintosh commits an act of barbarity on his Queensland property. Their paths cross in love, death and revenge as both families fight to tame the wild frontier of Australia's north country.

Cry of the Curlew and the next two novels in this compelling trilogy, ***Shadow of the Osprey*** and ***Flight of the Eagle***, depict our turbulent history as never before.



MANLY WARRINGAH PIPE BAND

2015

ANNUAL HIGHLAND BALL

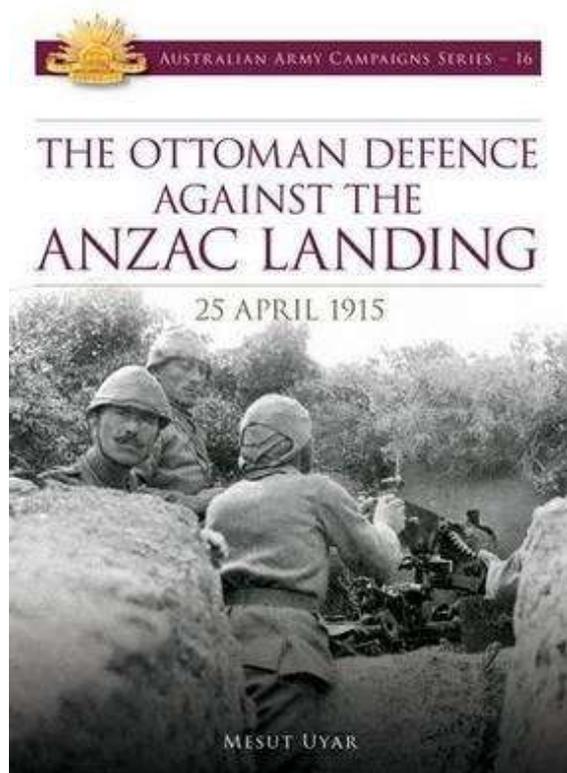


Saturday, 18th July 2015
International College of Management Sydney, Darley Rd, Manly
6:00pm-11:00pm
\$120 per person
(includes pre-dinner drinks and canapes, 3 course dinner and drinks)

Entertainment by The Four Clansmen, the Beachside Highland Dancers and
The Manly Warringah Pipe Band

To book tickets contact Vicky Lindsay
on 0419-265-099 or email info@mwpb.com.au

 www.mwpb.com.au



ANZAC LANDING 25 APRIL 1915

Mesut Uyar

Big Sky Publishing, 2015, 181pp

ISBN 978-1-9221322-99-4

Mesut Uyar, a former Turkish officer, but now Associate Professor of Ottoman History at the University of NSW in Canberra, has presented a clear account of the Ottoman defence on 25 April 1915. He has the advantage sometimes not available to English speakers of being able to read original documents, including those in the old Ottoman script, adding depth to the study.

Professor Uyar starts with a review of reforms to the Ottoman army after its defeats in the period 1911-13. He notes that the Ottoman forces had the advantage of experience repelling attacks on the Gallipoli Peninsula, including an attempt by the Italian Navy to enter the Dardanelles in April 1912, and preparations for ground defence during the Balkan Wars. Professor Uyar is more critical than is usual in English language sources of the German General Otto Liman von Sanders, head of the German military mission to assist with the reform program. Interestingly, the major reforms to Ottoman divisional and army corps structure preceded his arrival.

Discussing the Ottoman preparations for defending the Peninsula, Professor Uyar describes the detailed defence plan for the Ariburnu area prepared by Mehmed Şefik, commander of the 27th Regiment, who believed this area was the key to the defence of the northern peninsula. Also, as commander of the corps reserve 19th Division, Mustafa Kemal conducted an exercise to counter a landing between Suvla and Kumtepe on 19 April, and had scheduled a further exercise for 25 April. Together, these should have given the Ottoman forces a major advantage on 25 April. However, Professor Uyar explains the detrimental effect on the defences around Anzac Cove resulting from intervention by von Sanders just weeks before

the landing. When von Sanders overturned Şefik's plan, he reduced the force allocated to the Gabatepe-Anzac-Suvla region from a regiment to a battalion. Had Şefik's plan been in place on 25 April, the Anzac landing might have faced a stronger force than the four (large) platoons actually occupying the area between Bolton's Ridge and the Fisherman's Hut and inland on Third Ridge.

Instead, von Sanders gave greater emphasis to the Bolayır area, where a British diversionary force simulated a landing on 25 April, confirming his predilections at a crucial moment. Perhaps Australia and New Zealand have reason to be grateful to von Sanders for actions that made the landing easier than it might have been! The former Ottoman Empire might have had less reason to cheer his use of frontal attacks as he attempted to remove the invaders in the following weeks.

Professor Uyar shows how von Sanders' obsession with Bolayır, and the failure of the 9th Division commander Halil Sami to react promptly to the landings, endangered the Ottoman positions at Ariburnu and Helles. Mustafa Kemal's initiative saved the situation around Anzac, where he sent first the complete 57th Regiment, rather than the single battalion requested by Halil Sami, and later the rest of his division. At Helles, Halil Sami's command paralysis was also overcome by the initiative of his subordinates. Between them, Şefik, Kemal, and Halil Sami's subordinates at Helles saved the situation for the Ottomans. While Anzac forward elements reached Third Ridge, they could not hold it. Professor Uyar follows in detail the actions that eventually stabilised the front. From there the campaign proceeded to its inevitable conclusion in December.

Professor Uyar resolves the enduring controversy about the presence of Ottoman machine guns and artillery on 25 April. He confirms that while machine gun positions had been prepared on Ariburnu, on 400 Plateau, and near the Fisherman's Hut, the initial pre-dawn landing was not opposed by machine guns, which had been kept in reserve. The first four machine guns arrived at Scrubby Knoll on Third Ridge around 0740, and four more arrived at Chunuk Bair around 1000. Four more arrived around 1530.

As well, Professor Uyar shows that only limited Ottoman artillery was present on 25 April (only 13 operational pieces before 1030, three of which were captured near The Cup around 0700, but later re-captured). Another eight arrived around 1030, a further eight around 1600, and a final eight around sunset, but those were not actually engaged on 25 April.

This book complements that by Brigadier (Rtd) Chris Roberts (The Landing at ANZAC 1915, BSP, 2013). Read together, they provide as good a picture of events on 25 April as is likely to be available at this remove.

JOHN DONOVAN



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.

NOR ALL THY TEARS

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

Continued from March 2015 Newsletter

If they're on your right turn to the right and salute - if they are on your left you turn to the left and salute and if they are facing away from you, you salute their backsides etc. I heard a more detailed version of the story of the cows illness later. The doctors had wanted to get livers for the sick, but the Nips declined to come good as they fancied these delicate organs themselves. Therefore an enterprising slaughterman had spilt gall on the coveted organs, and when the Nips complained of the flavour, told them that the cows had malaria, thinking thereby to get all future livers. At least in the short run, the deception had proved more effective than had been hoped.

Then at last they told us definitely that we were going to Japan, and they sorted us out and gave us needles and tests, and split us into groups. They took all our particulars, and one glorious day we were lined up and the Nip doctors went through us and asked if any of us had had malaria. The whole bloody lot, was our doctor's brief answer. After the final sorting, we were divided into even blocks, given serial numbers, and a Nip was stood in front of each block. Some of them looked pretty villainous, and we watched the division carefully. A tallish Nip with a big grin on his face stood in front of us. He passed among the ranks, swinging his arms and laughing in an hilarious manner.

I am the Very Big Japanese soldier, he said in some sort of English, You must ask for the Very Big Japanese soldier if you look for me. Well, he looks a bit of a dill anyway? I said hopefully. It was the highest praise we could give a Nip at the time, and I felt pleased. Then someone whispered in a low voice: Don't you know who that is. That's the Mad Mongrel ! They took all our clothes from us and issued us with new stuff (or more accurately, different stuff). The equipment was Dutch and the strides were nearly all far too small, so they took them back and said that we would get more at Singapore. So we were left, many of us, including myself, with only a pair of the thinnest linen shorts to wear from the Tropics to Japan. It was not to be long before the Dutch strides would have fitted us nicely.

The News started to improve at the critical moment. The fact that we had to go right down to Singapore to embark was itself proof that the bombing of Bangkok was proving effective. Then came a rumour that the colonel of the camp had been asked if he could control his men if the war ended. I never learnt whether this were true or not. However, true or false, it was dwarfed by the "Official" announcement that the second front had been opened successfully. We felt that after all there must have been a God that delayed our trip until this wonderful news came true,

so that we could spend the rest of our prison days with it engraved on our hearts. The second front started on my birthday.

Just before we moved the Camp Commandant called us together and addressed us through an interpreter. We had, he told us, had a very hard time doing work that was necessary. That time was over. Now we were enjoying a period of rest, and so we would be going to a land much better and much healthier. Japan was a beautiful land it was a land bright with cherry-blossoms, a land of beautiful valleys and snow-capped mountains. There we would meet in their homeland the Nipponese people; a people that were kind and generous; who treated their enemies humanely; a people inspired by the chivalry of their ancestors and the glorious old spirit of Bushido. He hoped we would have safe trip. If those are the people of Nippon, said Smythe, Who are these bastards ?



CHAPTER IXX "BIOKI MARU"

The trip down the mainland was much less pleasant than the journey up, for besides having thirty in each trunk, including a Nip guard who was as good as five, we had sixty 100 lb. bags of rice, and it was a starvation trip all the way. They dumped us back in the old camp at River Valley, now filthier than ever, and more and more densely populated with insects that battled for our anaemic blood than ever before. Indians occupied one part of the camp, and they were still working. Then some more Australians came in with the cheery news that they had come from Java and been torpedoed. We wondered if Singapore would be the same as Bangkok and we would be left there till the end, but they did little messing about, and we were lined up and marched down to the wharf in a few days.

The Harbour was no longer crowded with shipping as it had been in the old days, and an air of gloom had settled on the whole city. We soon saw our tub pulled in against the wharf. It was a dismal looking wreck; small and weather beaten, and it scarcely looked seaworthy, even then we couldn't see all the things wrong with it. As we marched up the gangplank a Nip officer whom we had come to know as the doctor walked over to some baskets of dried fish that lay on the wharf waiting to be loaded up. He picked up one of the odorous pieces, held it closer to his nose than I would have thought to have been humanly possible and tossed it back with a nod of approval. Apparently we were destined to eat it, but it was good to see

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that they at least considered the possibility of food being unfit for prisoner consumption. With much hollowness we were led down below and crowded into a small space in one of the holds. The space was not wide enough to stretch out and it was too low to sit up comfortably, but when we were all in, there was still room to curl up a bit, and we had expected no better, though we already felt stifled in the heat. We were far less happy when they bellowed orders for us to pack up closer to make room for another party, and when we were informed that another row of men had still to fit in with their heads the opposite way, we began to think.

We were just nicely knotted together when they ordered us all out again with the explanation that another party had to have that place. The other party was moving in already, and as their Nips were impatiently urging them to move in as ours were urging us to move out, while there was scarcely any room to move at all, anyone acquainted with Japanese organisation can imagine there was some confusion, but we kept moving into each vacant square inches as it occurred, and the law of averages finally determined that we should eventually be two separate parties again, and we were all out and they were all in.

They gave us a position right on the open deck. We did not know it at the time, but we had to do a seventy day boat-trip on that open deck, most of it in the rain, inadequately clad, right from the tropics to the land of snow, but even if we had known it, it is doubtful if we would have been sorry to leave the foul sweatbox below. At least we had room to look round and survey the frightful wreck. We were not on the upper deck as it is generally known, in fact, according to those of us who were acquainted with the sea, we were travelling saloon. That is, we were in that part of a merchant ship that is reserved for passengers. Unfortunately a bomb had blown the bridge away, and we slept, not under the bridge, but under the stars and a few plates of rusty iron drilled with rivet holes.

The bomb that had blown away the bridge had naturally almost blown the vessel in halves, and to strengthen the frail remains, huge four-foot girders were welded along the sides as splints. We made a rough guess as to how long the spot-welding would stand up to the job on the high seas, and our guesses proved pretty accurate. There could hardly have been one part of the ship that had not been wrenched out of alignment by the explosion, and the rust, scaled and twisted the metal where the flames had seared it. The once graceful lines of the hull were warped into unnatural bulges, so grossly distorted from the designers shape that they seemed too weak even to bear the weight of the still water pressing against them. Paint had been scorned entirely, and it was impossible to tell how far the thick shell of rust had eaten into the steel. Pillars that had bent under the weight they carried, had snapped open showing the frailty of the shell that covered their hollowness. Compared to the lower deck there

was plenty of room for those who had missed out on the first scramble for the partly sheltered bed spaces, but there was still competition to avoid the high folds of the deck, as we did not realise that these folds would change their position when we got moving. Recesses in the hull showed where girders that should have been binding it together were missing, and horrible twists in those that remained showed how little was left of the tempering that gave them strength. To the ignorant landlubber these things were depressing, but any sailors that had been members of the Wishful Thinkers Federation handed in their resignations at once. They developed a horrible habit of pointing out all of the things that would have prevented the vessel from being classed as seaworthy besides those that were obvious, and added their stories of ships that were classed as seaworthy, but broke in halves just the same.

Finally we shunned them. In this horrible wreck we were to weather a storm that old salts declared to be worthy of the Tasman at its best, and I thought worthy of anything. When I say weathered I mean that we got through afloat in defiance of all the laws of physics. It took us seventy days to do what previous loads of prisoners had done in ten, but I am writing this, and that's all that matters. However, it was not long before hunger mastered our fear and at last we got a meal of sorts and made ourselves uncomfortable for the night. By the time the anchor was raised we were reconciled to most things, and we creaked out to sea with Singapore only a memory.

The rain came almost at once, and those sleeping under the rusty iron plates soon lost any illusions about their value, for the rain that fell just gathered round the rivet-holes, dripping down like a Chinese torture device when it was light, and running like a tap when it was heavy, But the holes did not worry us for long, for the first wind that tipped the ship over onto its side broke the frail ropes that held the plates together, and with a mighty noise hurled them into the central dip of the vessel, together with the machinery stacked on them, leaving us under the stars alone - when there were any. The hollow into which they fell was also the result of the bomb-blast, and though it was done enough to keep them in place, there was no such assurance about the machinery that was stacked on them. .

This rolled about continuously with the rock of the vessel, and there was plenty of room for it to fall between the girders above us onto our own deck. In that case we were quite sure that it would go through our deck and the ones below it as if they were paper. Our own deck was hollowed down even more deeply than the remnants of the one above it, and the deck was rusted into a state that was almost waterproof, and the falling rain and waves that splashed over the deck, gathered into a great inland sea, that rolled from one side of the ship to the other, gathering anything that was not fastened down, including, on one occasion myself. **To be continued.....**

FRONTLINE DOWN MEMORY LANE



**From Geoff Braddon's Photo collection !
Info on where & when the photo was taken and Names would be appreciated to Bob Pink (bob.pink@optusnet.com.au Tele: 0414 907 417)**