

# FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL



The Official Journal of

**THE 1st NINETEENTH**

1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION

**THE 2nd NINETEENTH**

2/19 BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION



Vol 15 No 2

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# 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**

### CONTENTS

From the President.....	3-4
Coach Travel to AGM Orange NSW 18-20 NOV 2016.....	4
Vales.....	6-8
Coming Events / Office Bearers .....	9
RNSWR OFFRS-WOS-SNCOS Regimental Dinner .....	10
Letters.....	11-13
ANZAC Day Sydney - March & Reunion Harbour Cruise.....	14-17
Donations & New Members.....	18
Sick Report & Congratulations .....	19-20
Seen Around The Traps.....	21
Hervey Bay War Memorial - LTCOL Gary Beltrame .....	22
From CAPT Peter Watt, LT David Sabben's Visit to Wagga Depot .....	23
From Jonathan Stallard – PTE Francis Munford 2/19 Bn AIF.....	24
A Trip to Thailand – MAJ Robert Butt .....	25-26
The RAF's Guard Gate Bomb - CPL Tom Fletcher.....	27
Did You Know ? - LT Peter Hughes .....	28-30
Book Review - John Donovan .....	31
Nor All Thy Tears - Dvr James McNamara .....	32-33
Down Memory Lane .....	34

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



One piece of news that missed out on the March edition was that, finally, we have received official confirmation that from 1 January 2016 MAJGEN Paul Brereton AM, RFD has been appointed as Colonel Commandant of The Royal New South Wales Regiment to replace BRIG Paul Couch CSC, RFD who has gone into a well-deserved retirement after more than eight years in the position of Colonel Commandant and Regimental Colonel.

General Brereton is well known to many, having served in a number of senior postings in recent years and I am sure that he will prove to be a worthy successor to our own Brigadier Couch. Paul Couch, who was one of Sid Needham's corporals in the early days of 1/19, has been a staunch supporter of the Association, with his lovely wife Carmel, for many years and has done an outstanding job as Regimental Colonel and Colonel Commandant.

On behalf of all members I have wished them both well in their coming and their going and I hope to have the pleasure of seeing both MAJGEN Brereton and BRIG Couch at the 2016 Annual Dinner in Orange in November.

One thing I omitted from the previous issue was to congratulate Fred Power who achieved a remarkable milestone of 100 years old on 15 February. Well done Fred – and my sincere apologies for overlooking you while we were involved in the commemorations of Fall of Singapore Day.

Sunday, 17 April saw me attending the Lidcombe RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Sunday service as a guest of Association member, Joe Coombs, where I laid a tribute on behalf of the men of 2/19 Battalion AIF. This service, and the luncheon that followed, which is facilitated by Lidcombe Catholic Club, was extremely well conducted and I was joined on the day by Joe, in great form as usual, Bob Pink, Margaret Gill, Paul and Di Elliott and Maureen Mariner. Also with us were Joe's beautiful wife Muriel and Ann Gillies.

Monday, 25 April dawned fine and clear except for the fact that I was confined to bed by some mystery illness. Fortunately, Sandy Howard stepped up to the plate and, in my absence, took over the running of the day – Bob had skived off to spend the day carousing with his 2 RAR mates in Melbourne. I managed to catch the March on TV and saw Sandy in the vanguard alongside Joe Coombs at the head of the combined 2/19 & 1/19 contingent.

Apparently getting to Circular Quay to board the cruise was a bit "touch and go" but they all made it in the end and some number between 60 and infinity enjoyed a great afternoon on Sydney Harbour. The great support shown by the Coombs family – with Joe's sons, grandsons and assorted family members on board; the Wollongong contingent led by Grant Armstrong; Ray Warden and his extended family; a large number of 1/19 members; Barry Chapman who travelled down from the Hunter for the occasion; Michael & Margaret Hopley who are becoming fixtures on the cruise each year; LT Evan Healy RAN, grandson of the last President of 2/19 Battalion Association, Bill Loughrey, who marched in honour of his late grandfather and was then joined on the cruise by his parents, Sue and Richard Healy, his aunt, Robin Loughrey and his partner Aisha. Sadly, stalwart supporter Maureen Mariner missed the cruise for the first time in more than forty years but is certainly hoping that her son David will let her off the leash next year. Also missing was Glen Scriven who could not make the journey and sent his apologies.

I am very grateful to Sandy for taking over the organisational duties – he assures me he will be long absent from Sydney before he gets caught again. I am also grateful to David Ring for extracting obscene amounts of money out of you all for the raffle – despite Maureen's absence. Your generosity ensured that the day turned out to have a financially positive outcome despite Joe Coombs' best efforts at "sunset drinks".

Finally, I should record our grateful thanks to Shirley Drum who contributed the two beautiful quilts that were raffled. I have lost count of the number of quilts that Shirley has made for us but they certainly ensure great interest in the raffle. Thanks Shirley.

This issue, having started out with no bad news, changed rather rapidly. Sadly late April was the harbinger of sad tidings for two of our Committee members. John Elliott's mother in law, Ellen Cohen, passed away on 26 April at the age of 92. Fortunately, Dianne and the family were with her and her passing was peaceful.

29 April saw the untimely death of John Braddon, brother of Association Historian, Geoffrey Braddon. John, who served as a Lieutenant in 19 RNSWR and 1/19 RNSWR, was not a member of the Association and had been in indifferent health for some time. Although John was not an Association member, as a mark of respect to his brother, a number of members, including Bob Pink, Bryan Schafer, Eddie Gifford, Jim Hurt, Alby Kolbuch, Charlie Watson and Bob Weir, attended John's funeral at the Catholic Church of St John the Apostle in Holt ACT on 9 May.

And the bad news kept on coming. Ethel Melville, wife of one of the original Association members, Neil Melville, advised us of Neil's death in Liverpool Hospital on Wednesday, 4 May. Neil had been in indifferent health for some time and had not been able to continue his active participation in the Association. Neil served a total of 36 years in the Army Reserve, including five years in 19 RNSWR and 1/19 RNSWR. He will

# FRONTLINE

be sadly missed by his large family. Neil was farewelled at the Catholic Church of St Francis Xavier at Lurnea on Thursday, 12 May. I represented the Association at Neil's funeral accompanied by Bob Pink, Mick Pass, Bryan & Arleen Schafer, Ray Warden, Zeke Mundine, Dennis Zalunardo and Bob Weir. Bob Pink delivered the Eulogy and Bill McDougall, from Lyndhurst RSL Sub-branch, delivered Neil's Military Eulogy. I was unable to attend Neil's committal in Springwood cemetery where the Association was represented by Bob Pink, Ray Warden and Ken McKay.

And yet more tragic news with the advice of the death, at the age of 48, of Angela Lee Thomas on 19 May after a valiant battle with cancer to which she finally succumbed. Angela, together with husband Troy served in 1/19 RNSWR – Angela from 1990 to 1999 – as a cook in ADM Coy. Angela was farewelled on 24 May in two very moving ceremonies. One, at the Cliff Street Reserve - "The Wedding Chapel" - at Norah Head where Angela and Troy were married and the other at Bowden Family Funeral Home at North Wyong where a large congregation assembled to say farewell. I represented the Association, together with Bob Pink, Mick Pass, Ray Warden, Felicity Jess and David Ring.

The Association of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion's March Newsletter brought news of the passing of Bill Hoare. Bill was one of the early senior NCOs transferred into newly formed 19 RNSWR and served for many years as CQMS of C Company. Bill retired to Harden in southern NSW and died on 4 December at the age of 85.

We are now moving into the planning for the 2016 AGM in November in Orange. As I have already told you this is a very special occasion – the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the raising of 19 RNSWR in 1966.

I am looking to see a VERY LARGE attendance in Orange and suggest you make your accommodation arrangements early.

Until then, take care of yourselves and each other, stay warm through the approaching winter and be well until we meet again.

*Roger Perry*

## **COACH TO ORANGE NSW FOR THE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & 1/19 RNSWR 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND 18-19-20 NOVEMBER 2016**

*Association member David RING has advised, that subject to the response from the members - he will - under his own resources arrange for the hire of a 21 seater coach with baggage trailer for the return trip to Orange on the Association's Annual General Meeting – 1/19 RNSWR's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend on 18-19-20 NOVEMBER 2016.*



### **Cost for RETURN TRAVEL \$60 per person.**

Given the uncertainty of travel by rail due to track maintenance / disruptions this is a very viable alternative. Depart GOSFORD and travel to ORANGE via the Pacific Highway and Hume Highway departing GOSFORD on FRIDAY 18

NOVEMBER 2016 at 10:00 A.M. and pick up/drop off at the following locations en-route to and on the return journey from ORANGE.

<b>FRI 18 NOV 16</b>	<b>10:00A.M. DEPART GOSFORD</b> Hospital Side Gosford Railway Station
	<b>11:30 A.M. DEPART PARRAMATTA RAILWAY STATION</b> 1/15 Lancer Barracks side – Cnr Smith & Darcy Streets
	<b>12:15 P.M. DEPART PENRITH RAILWAY STATION</b> Pick Up / Drop Off points TBA
	<b>2:45 P.M. DEPART BATHURST</b> Pick Up / Drop Off points TBA
	<b>3:45 P.M. ARRIVE ORANGE</b>
<b>SUN 20 NOV 16</b>	<b>9:00 A.M. DEPART ORANGE</b>

Please phone or e mail: **David RING** before sending your payment.

Telephone Mobile: 0413 396 167 Email: [ring1965hd@gmail.com](mailto:ring1965hd@gmail.com)

Postal Address: 14 Range Road NORTH GOSFORD 2250

David will advise you of vacancy/ies and confirm your seating / pick up timing/location. It will assist if you have a mobile telephone number to advise of unforeseen traffic delays and disruptions to the above timings. The coach will depart Orange at 9:00 A.M. on SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2016 for the return journey.

**AS WE GO TO PRESS 8 MEMBERS HAVE BOOKED WITH DAVID AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OFFER OF A SEAT OR TWO ON THE COACH - PLEASE CONTACT DAVID ON HIS MOBILE PHONE OR EMAIL HIM.**

# FOR OUR VALUED ADVERTISERS

The support of the advertisers who take space in Frontline is what enables us to produce a professional publication four times a year to keep our members – who range from descendants of men who served in 19th Battalion AIF in World War 1, through men who served in 2nd/19th Battalion AIF in World War 2, to the men and women who serve today, or have served in 1st/19th Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment - informed of activities and items of interest.

I was recently contacted by the Editor of The Australian Defence Journal (no “relation”) who advised me that he had received a number of complaints regarding aggressive selling and collection tactics being employed by people claiming to represent Frontline magazine. Unfortunately, he was unable to give me any specific details except in relation to complaints over three years old in relation to the previous publishers.

Sadly, what is being perpetrated is a scam that arises from time to time. I have made extensive enquiries and am completely satisfied as to the ethical practices of our publisher – Sabre Publishing Pty Ltd – and their employees.

What is “interesting” is that none of the complaints referred to were made to me or the Editor of Frontline and no specific details, except for some that were three years old, were forthcoming.

I can assure you, our advertisers, and the wider community, that the business practices of Sabre Publishing Pty Ltd, and the entity that they publish Frontline under, which is Frontline Publishing, are entirely above board and beyond reproach.

In particular I advise that neither this Association nor Sabre Publishing Pty Ltd is in a position to “offer” advertisers access to Department of Defence contracts and does not do so. What we do offer is access to a large number of Defence personnel, both serving and retired, who may be interested in advertised services.

.Should you receive a phone call from a caller identifying themselves as being from the Frontline Journal / Frontline Publishing seeking to secure an advertising commitment or demanding payment / threatening debt collection action for an advertisement you placed in the Frontline Journal, we ask that you do the following:

*Record (including if possible the name and telephone number of the caller) details of the demands made and any other pertinent details and immediately advise our Publisher - Sabre Publishing – their contact details are contained on page 1 of this newsletter, or Association Hon Secretary, Bob Pink (Tele: 0414 907 427) or Association President, Roger Perry (Tele: 0414 961 969).*

What is even more interesting is that these complaints have not come to this Association or directly to Sabre Publishing Pty Ltd despite the fact that points of contact appear prominently on the Contents Page of each issue of Frontline and the contact details of all members of the Association executive appear, not only in each issue of the magazine but on the Association’s website.

Regrettably, there are unscrupulous operators in the market place who will take advantage of any opportunity to make a dishonest dollar. Advertisers can be assured that any complaint which is brought to my attention will be fully investigated and resolved.

The continued and continuing support of our advertisers is what enables our magazine to continue to do its work. The Association, its executive and members, are grateful to you and to Sabre Publishing Pty Ltd for that support.

**Roger Perry**  
**President**  
**1/19 RNSWR Association**

# FRONTLINE



## VALE GOOD FRIENDS

### QF268021 PRIVATE Ellen Weaver COHEN, HQ LINE OF COMMS SUB AREA



Association Committee Member John Elliott advised with much sadness of the passing of his beloved Mother-in-law Mrs Ellen Cohen on 26 April 2016. Ellen enlisted in the Army at Michelton QLD on 5 January 1943 serving until 23 September 1944

Our thanks to Ellen's daughter Dianne and granddaughters Samantha Elliott and Denise Cohen for the following tribute:

Born Ellen Weaver Rostron on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1924 in Rockhampton, Nell grew up in Claremont on Iron Bark Hut station. The eldest of three children, Nell has always had a strong maternal instinct. Nell was a self-taught woman on many fronts. She rode a horse 9 miles to school every day and left school in primary. Nell first worked in a bakery. She made quite an impression, literally by stepping in the cooling sponge cake on the floor. She was rest reassured when the baker told her "not to worry he would just make lamington's".

Nell joined the Royal Australian Women's Army Corps where she took on the role of Transport Driver. She knew the engine and undercarriage of a five ton truck better than most men. Whilst in the Army, on a blind date, Nell met the very handsome and charming William Kenneth Cohen. It didn't take long for her to realise this was on a winning bet. Three weeks later they were engaged and married in August 1944. Nell and Ken moved to Griffith where they settled and had 4 of their 5 children, Barb, Dick and twins De and Di. They welcomed their 5<sup>th</sup> Brian, in Cobar when they moved here in 1956. With Ken away shearing Nell essentially raised the kids single handed. Nell had many interest including sewing, painting, Hospital auxiliary, pink ladies, the show pavilion, swimming club, and the list goes on.

Sadly Nell was widowed at 56; the love of her life was gone. Once Nan's own kids were grown, along came all of us. Between the six of us, Nan had her hands full. Matt and I moved in, in 87 and 88 to go to Primary School, Katie and Deid were frequent flyers at Nan's to and from school or just to visit, and Steve and Beck visited every chance they got. Nan was an expert "kid wrangler", and afternoon tea extraordinaire. Nan saw us all through to the end of our High School years, be it in Cobar, Forbes or Beenleigh. Nell loved to travel our wonderful country and it never ceased to amaze her with its beauty. In the last many years of her life Nell kept busy with her volunteer work be it at St Vinnies, the Museum, CREST or her other interests. Nell also had the joy of knowing three great grandchildren, Zoe, Dom and Allie Paige. She was a very generous and kind hearted woman who had time to listen to anyone who just needed to share their woes. She also kept Telstra in business ringing around and talking to us all on the phone for as long as we wanted. Her belief and faith got her through many hardships and will get us all through this one. She was the dearest Mum, Nan, Sister, Aunt and friend to us all and will remain in our hearts for ever.

### NX49702 PRIVATE Grenville Paige "Bill" LEECH A Company, 2<sup>nd</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion AIF

Advice of Bill's passing was sadly noted in the May/June 2016 issue of the NSW RSL "Reveille". Late of Kingscliff NSW, recent contact with Bill's daughter Annette advised that Bill had sadly passed away on 13 March 2016 and his beloved wife Bonnie had pre-deceased him on 29 November 2012. Bill was born at Tenterfield NSW on 29 April 1923 and enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF at Paddington NSW on 27 October 1941 arriving in Malaya as a reinforcement for the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division just prior to the Japanese invasion. He fought in the Malaya and Singapore Campaign and following the Capitulation of Singapore was taken on strength of 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF on 17 February 1942 and passed into captivity as a Prisoner of War of the Japanese. .

Bill sailed to Japan as a member of 'C' Force following the completion of the Japanese War Memorial at Bukit Timah on Singapore Island, 2,200 of the work force were selected to go to Japan, including 563 Australians. At that stage this force had been in Singapore working on the memorial task for many months and based in the Sime Road, Robertson Road and Adam Park Camps.

2/19 Battalion AIF, provided two Officers, Captain Frank Beverley and Lieutenant Cec Furner and 126 other ranks. The Force boarded the *Kamakura Maru* in Singapore Harbour on the 28th November 1942 and sailed on the 29th November. They arrived at Moji at the western end of the inland sea on 8th December and one party of about 300 under Lieutenant Colonel Robertson went to a place called Naoetsu on the West coast of Honshu and the others, now under the next senior officer, Captain J Patterson of 8 Division Signals were sent to Kobe the principal port on the South coast of Honshu there to slave in the coal mines and shipyards.

At War's end Bill was recovered from Fukuoaka and repatriated to Australia where he was discharged on 4 December 1945. Our thanks to Mrs Di Elliott for her provision of details of Bill's military service.

# FRONTLINE

## **2744536, 2140036 WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO Neil William MELVILLE**



**12<sup>th</sup> National Service Training Battalion**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Royal New South Wales Lancers**  
**1<sup>st</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Royal New South Wales Lancers**  
**19<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Training Group**  
**District Support Unit Sydney**

Neil's wife Ethel advised with deep regret of his passing at Liverpool Hospital on 4 May 2016. He had not enjoyed good health in recent times. Neil enlisted in 12 National Service Training Battalion on 28 April 1955, transferring to 1 Royal New South Wales Lancers on 4 August 1955 and to 1/15 Royal New South Wales Lancers on 17 February 1956. He transferred to 19 Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment on 31 May 1970 and subsequently served with 1/19 RNSWR until transferring to the Officer Cadet Training Unit on 2 May 1975. Over the next decade he served in a variety of postings at 2 Training Group including periods of full time service before transferring to the District Support Unit Sydney on 8 September 1985 where he served until discharge on 3 April 1991 after 36

years service. Our thanks to Neil's daughter Lynne for the following tribute:

Late of Lurnea NSW, Neil was born at Waverley War Memorial Hospital on 17th September 1935 to Bill and Alma. Only brother to Maureen and June (dec) devoted husband of 56½ years to Ethel and loving father of Irene, Maureen, Ian, William, Lyn (dec), Alan and Lynne and father in law to their partners. Loving grandfather of 17, great grandfather of 12.

Neil was a paper boy in his younger years in the Balmain area. He left school at 14 or 16 and worked as an apprentice electrician and then a clerk for the railways. In his lifetime he had various jobs at Duly and Hansford, the Warwick Butter factory, the Water Board and 23½ years as a shift worker at the Shell Oil Refinery in Clyde, retiring in December 1983. Neil and Ethel purchased a coffee lounge in Ingleburn and operated that for 2 years then took up running a snack bar at Ingleburn Army Camp. During that period Neil obtained a job with the Navy as a safe hand driver and cash office clerk leaving Ethel to run the snack bar. In 1997 due to serious medical reasons he was forced to finally retire from work.

He loved watching his beloved Eels, whether they were wooden spooners or not even though his father was a staunch Balmain supporter. That caused some good discussions at home in Charles Street Parramatta. Neil met Ethel in Warwick Queensland after visiting Brisbane to watch the Davis Cup. It was supposed to be a road trip with his mate and his mate's parents but it was actually an interstate pub crawl. Except for playing golf at Warwick Gold Club where he couldn't find the 3rd hole. Neil loved his sport, he played club cricket for Parramatta East Cricket Club, and was a weekend golfer and loved the 19th hole. He also loved fishing at Huskisson with his friends and children..

His army training was well used in his life which his daughter recently found out. Everything was in a folder and each folder was regimentally marked. Neil enjoyed talking politics with his grandson and son in law as long as it was Labor. He also liked to keep up with the daily weather report writing down in a small notebook the daily temperature. Neil was also crowned the supervisor of the family. Many times he would break something just so he could buy a new tool or toy as the family would like to call them. Neil would be sitting in his seat directing everyone to do particular jobs. He never had the right tool for the job. We think that was just his reason to go to the hardware store.

He also had a love of trains and travelling and travelling up the New England Highway which he kept to a strict schedule, only stopping at the exact same places no matter what the weather. He always felt at ease at his father in law's farm getting down and dirty. That must have had something to do with when he was a little boy tramping around the pig pens at a family farm in Lismore. He never missed watching Land Line every Sunday on Channel 2. No one was game to interrupt him except his youngest Granddaughter who had him wrapped around her little finger.

His family have lost count of how many cross word puzzle dictionary's he wore out in the later years, some were held together with sticky tape. He supported Ethel in her love of netball, often sitting and listening to the post game whinging session often directed to the umpires. This got interesting when his son Alan got into netball umpiring. Neil will be dearly missed by his family and friends and all that knew him. Neil was farewelled at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Lurnea on Thursday 12 May 2016 and following the service was interred at Springwood Cemetery. The Association was represented by President Roger Perry, Roy Mundine, Mick Pass, Bob Pink, Bryan & Arleen Schafer, Ray Warden, Dennis Zalunardo and Bob Weir. Bob Pink delivered the Eulogy and Bill McDougall, from Lyndhurst RSL Sub-branch, delivered Neil's Military Eulogy. Ken McKay, Roy Mundine, Bob Pink, and Ray Warden attended Neil's committal at Springwood Cemetery.

# FRONTLINE

## **2982 STAFF SERGEANT William Charles HOARE, (KNOWN AS BILL HALL)**



**65<sup>th</sup> Battalion – British Commonwealth Occupation Force Japan**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment,**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment,**  
**C Company 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment**

From the "First Post" – Journal of the First Battalions' Association:

Born – Kogarah NSW 19/4/1927 Died – 4/12/2015

I wish to advise that my Father, Bill Hall as known to many, passed away on the 4th December 2015 at the age of 86 years in the Harden Murrumburrah District Hospital after a long battle with various health issues. Dad served with the 65th Battalion in Japan as a member of the BCOF and later in 1 RAR and in Korea with 3 RAR including the battle of Kapyong in Korea. He was wounded while out on patrol (bayonet wound) and was discharged from the Regular Army in 1952. He joined the Army Reserve (CMF) and was honourably discharged in 1971. A few years later he

moved to Harden Shire (God's country as he called it). He loved the Army way and was a regular participant at the Association events and reunions.

From God's country he is now in God's hands as he was laid to rest at the Harden – Murrumburrah Lawn cemetery to a rendition of the Last Post by the 1 RAR band. A fitting epilogue. Thanks to the Harden Community, Harden RSL Sub Branch and all those who attended the service. Bill would have been pleased.

Bill was known as "Junior" in 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion RNSWR where he served in its formative years as the much respected CQMS C Company.

## **2267013 LIEUTENANT John Anthony BRADDON,**



**19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment,**  
**Officer Cadet Training Unit**

**1<sup>st</sup> /19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment**

Late of Melba ACT John was born at Blayney NSW 14 October 1948.

Association Committee Member Geoffrey Braddon advised with deep sadness of the passing of his brother LT John Anthony Braddon at Calvary Hospital Canberra ACT, on 29 April 2016). John had not enjoyed good health in recent times. John enlisted in 19 RNSWR in July 1970 and following selection for Officer Training attended the Officer Cadet Training Unit and subsequently commissioned. He returned to 1/19 RNSWR where he served as a Lieutenant until civilian work commitments led to his discharge.

Beloved son of John (Jack) and Margaret (Maggie) Braddon (both dec). Adored son-in-law to Anthony and Katarzyna Kolbuch (both dec). Devoted husband to Marysha of 40 years. Dearly loved father to Michael and Amy. Father-in-law and special "Dad" to

Rebecca and Sean. Proud grandfather (Da) to Cooper and Eve. Brother to Patricia, Rita (dec) and Geoff and brother-in-law to Phillip and Michelle, Ray and Vic (dec). Uncle to Donna, Jacqueline, Paula, Matthew, Stuart, Benjamin, Luke, Stephen, Lorretta, Gary, Brian, Simon, Candice, Jack and Molly Jo. Geoff Braddon, Eddie Gifford, Jim Hurt, Alby Kolbuch, Bob Pink, Bryan Schafer, Charlie Watson and Bob Weir, attended John's funeral at the Catholic Church of St John the Apostle in Holt ACT on 9 May 16. Following the service John was interred at Gungahlin Cemetery.

## **F2307394 PRIVATE Angela Lee THOMAS (nee PAGE)**

**5<sup>th</sup> Field Supply Company and**

**Admin Coy, 1<sup>st</sup> /19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment**



Association Member Troy Thomas advised with much sadness of the passing of his beloved wife Angela in hospital in the early hours of Thursday morning 19 May 2016. Late of Bluff Point NSW, Angela was born on 9 May 1968 and enlisted in 5 Field Supply Coy in February 1988 prior to transferring 1st/19th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment on 16 June 1990 where she served in the Catering Platoon, Administration Company until discharging on 30 April 1999.

Angela is survived by her loving family, her parents Ray and Julie, husband Troy and daughters Aleesha Jade, Rhiannon Jane, son Jonty Rhys, granddaughter Charlotte and her sister Corrina who also served in 1/19 RNSWR with Angela and who delivered a very fine tribute on behalf of the family.

Felicity Jess, Mick Pass, Roger Perry, Bob Pink, David Ring and Ray Warden represented the Association at Angela's farewell on 14 May 2016 at Cliff St Reserve Norah Head and Bowden's Funeral Home at Wyong on 24 May 2016,

## **Lest We Forget**

# FRONTLINE

## COMING EVENTS 2016

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	Remarks
SAT	25 JUN 2016	1400	RESERVE FORCES DAY CANBERRA	St John's Church REID ACT	Details: Phone: 02 6254 5347
SUN	03 JULY 2016	0945	 RESERVE FORCES DAY MARCH SYDNEY The Association WILL NOT be participating however individual members may attend as desired	ANZAC WAR MEMORIAL HYDE PARK SYDNEY	REUNION VENUE: TO BE ADVISED (NSW Leagues Club in Phillip St has closed !).
SUN	24 JUL 2016	0930	 POZIERES DAY	St Columba Church Ocean Ave WOOLLAHRA	Decorations & Medals
MON	15 AUG 2016	1045	VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Refreshments after Service at the COMBINED SERVICES RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY Decorations & Medals
SAT	27 AUG 2016	1830 for 1900	ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT COMBINED OFFICERS' & WOs'/SNCOs' DINNER NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FROM ORANGE NSW TO CASTLE HILL RSL CLUB	PHOENIX ROOM CASTLE HILL RSL CLUB See page 11 of this newsletter for full details	\$105 per person + Pre & Post Dinner drinks at individual expense Mess Dress (6A) or White Jacket 6(B) Black Tie or Lounge suit with Decorations & Medals
SUN	28 AUG 2016	1115	ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH MILLERS POINT NSW	Ceremonial uniform / Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals
WED	7 SEP 2016	1045	BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Decorations & Medals Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY
<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &amp; REUNION DINNER WEEKEND – ORANGE NSW</b>				 <b>ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB</b> The Association has reserved 25 rooms at the <b>TEMPLERS MILL MOTEL</b> which is co-located with the <b>Orange Ex Services Club</b> <b>94 Byng Street, Orange 2800</b> Reservations/details <b>Ph: 02 6362 5611 Fax: 02 6361 3714</b> <b>PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT</b> The Annual Orange Field Days and the Orange Wine Festival have made accommodation very scarce in <b>OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016</b>	
FRI	18 NOV 2016	1800	MEET & GREET FUNCTION		
SAT	19 NOV 2016	1030	WREATH LAYING CEREMONY (Location to be confirmed)		
SAT	19 NOV 2016	1400	CHURCH SERVICE		
SAT	19 NOV 2016	1530	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
SAT	19 NOV 2016	1830 for 1900	 <b>AGM 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION DINNER</b> Commemorating the raising of the Battalion on 12 DECEMBER 1966		
SUN	20 NOV 2016		Return Travel Home		
FRI	11 NOV 2016	1045	REMEMBRANCE DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Decorations & Medals Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY

## ASSOCIATION PATRONS & OFFICE BEARERS

**PATRON & LIFE MEMBER** Lieutenant Colonel P.E.M. (Peter) McGUINNESS, MBE, RFD, ED  
**PATRON** Colonel B.E. (Brian) MARTYN, RFD, psc (r)  
**CHAPLAIN & LIFE MEMBER** Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel The Reverend Canon C.G. (Colin) AIKEN, OAM, RFD, ChStJ  
**CHANCELLOR** Philip GERBER, LL.M., M.Crim.

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

# ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT

## 2016 REGIMENTAL OFFRS-WOs-SNCO's DINNER



**THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT**  
**2016 REGIMENTAL OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS**  
**AND SNCO DINNER**  
**ACCEPTANCE PROFORMA**



**From: Lieutenant Colonel SA Brumby**  
 Regimental Secretary, The Royal New South Wales Regiment

"RedBank"  
 3603 Limekilns Rd  
 WATTLE FLAT NSW 2795  
 Telephone: (02) 6337 7562

E-mail: [stephen.brumbly@defence.gov.au](mailto:stephen.brumbly@defence.gov.au)

20 May 2016

"Primo in Terra Australi"

I will be attending the Regimental Officers, Warrant Officers, and SNCO Dinner at the Phoenix Room, Castle Hill RSL on Saturday, 27 August 2016 and provide the following details:

Rank/Name/Decorations: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(for the seating plan)* *Please Print*

If possible, I would like to be seated at the dinner with \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment:**

- By enclosed cheque for **\$105** per person  
 Cheques should be made payable to: **RNSWR Welfare Fund**
- By direct deposit of **\$105** per person  
**Details:**  
 Direct deposit should include your last name in the payments description and be made to:  
**RNSWR Welfare Fund**  
**BSB 062016**  
**Account number-2802 5917**
- PayPal payment – payment of **\$105** may be made to email address [mawrwellfund@gmail.com](mailto:mawrwellfund@gmail.com) using Paypal. Payee must accompany payment with a comment indicating last name.

**The preferred option for serving personnel** is that this proforma is returned to the PMC of your Battalion Mess no later than Friday, 15th July 2016 so that a consolidated list of acceptances can then be forwarded to the Regimental Treasurer.

All others are asked to send the completed proforma and payment to the Regimental Treasurer by NLT 15 Jul 16 as follows:

COL Glenn Weir  
 26 Gibbs Street  
 Manly Vale 2093

Email : [glenm.weir@defence.gov.au](mailto:glenm.weir@defence.gov.au)

Should have any queries relating to the Dinner, please contact the Regimental Secretary

LTCOL Steve Brumby on **0467740432** or **(02) 6337 7562**

I write on behalf of the Colonel Commandant of the Royal New South Wales Regiment, Major General P.L.G Breerton, AM, RFD, to extend an invitation for you to attend the 2016 Regimental Officers', Warrant Officers', and Senior Non Commissioned Officers' Dinner to be held at the Phoenix Room, Castle Hill RSL on Saturday, 27 August 2016.

The dinner celebrates the 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment. The dinner is held in conjunction with the Regimental Church Parade which will take place at The Garrison Church in The Rocks on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at 11:15am.

The timings for the dinner are 1830 hrs for 1900 hrs.

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 preferred option for serving personnel** is that the attached proforma is returned to the PMC of your Battalion Mess no later than Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 16 so that a consolidated list of acceptances can then be forwarded to the Regimental Secretary. **For former personnel and affiliates of the Regiment**, the attached proforma should be returned to the Regimental Secretary by post, or email as soon as possible but no later than Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 16.

The cost of the dinner is \$105:00 which includes all wines and soft drinks during dinner. Payment may be made by cheque, direct deposit or PayPal and return of the acceptance proforma. It will not be possible to register for the dinner on the night.

A cash bar will operate for pre and post dinner drinks.

I trust that you will be able to join with the officers, warrant officers and senior non commissioned officers of the Regiment for this important commemoration.

Sincerely

# FRONTLINE



I/XIX

*Primus agit Primus – Fortius et Fideliter*

**Patrons**

Lieutenant Colonel P. E. M. MCGUINNESS, MBE, RFD, ED  
Colonel B. E. MARTYN, RFD

**Chaplain**

Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel The Reverend Canon C. G. AIKEN, OAM RFD ChStJ

**Chancellor**

Philip Gerber LL.M. M. Crim

**President:**

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& Association Publicity Manager:**

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**Merchandising &  
Memorabilia Manager:**

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Telephone: (02) 9363 2439

Mobile: 0414 961 969

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Email: roger.perry@bigpond.com

**'Ranelagh'**

**Apartment 25G**

**3 Darling Point Road**

**DARLING POINT NSW 2027**

13 April 2016

Brigadier Paul Couch CSC, RFD  
PO Box 38  
CUNDLETOWN NSW 2430

*Dear Paul*

On the occasion of you assuming the title Colonel Commandant Emeritus of The Royal New South Wales Regiment I wanted to formally express my thanks, and the thanks of the members of my Association for the sterling service that you have given to the Regiment during the past, nearly nine years.

I am not sure what the title "Emeritus" means, unless it puts in you the same category as Pope Benedict and they will keep you locked away from the public gaze, but your achievements during a record run as Regimental Colonel have been legion and the Association is extremely grateful for the support that we have received from both yourself and Carmel during your term.

As I have told your successor you will be a hard act to follow!

I certainly look forward to seeing both of you in Orange in November and I hope that in conjunction with CO, 1/19 RNSWR, we can organise an appropriate program of celebrations to enable us to showcase the Army Reserve, the Regiment and the Battalion.

In the meantime, enjoy your retirement and don't lose sight of your early links to 1/19 RNSWR.

My warmest best wishes to Carmel

*Sincerely*  
*Roger Perry*

**ROGER PERRY**  
President

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FIRST NINETEENTH BATTALION THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT  
AND THE SECOND NINETEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION

# FRONTLINE



**LXIX**

*Primo: ager Provo: -Fortis et Fidelis*

**Patrons**

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Colonel B. E. MARTIN, RFD

**Chaplain**

Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel The Reverend Canon C. G. AIKEN, OAM RFD C&Sf

**Chancellor**

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## 1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION

PROUDLY INCORPORATING THE 2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION



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**'Ranelagh'**

**Apartment 25G**

**3 Darling Point Road**

**DARLING POINT NSW 2027**

13 April 2016

Major General Paul Brereton AM, RFD  
GPO Box 3  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

*Dear General Brereton*

It gave me great pleasure to read that your appointment as Colonel Commandant of The Royal New South Wales Regiment has finally been "regularised" after such an extended period of being an "open secret".

Paul Couch tells me that the appointment was effective from 1 January 2016 although notification only "filtered down" in February.

While opining that you have a "hard act to follow" after Paul Couch's 8+ year term, I am sure that you will bring much lustre to the appointment and will lead the Regiment to further success in the years ahead.

My warmest congratulations on your appointment! The Association looks forward to a long and fruitful co-operation with you during your term of office.

As early warning I would like to inform you that this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the raising of 19 RNSWR in December 1966 and the Annual Reunion of the Association will be held in Orange on the weekend of 18/19 November - with the Annual Dinner on Saturday, 19 November.

You and Mrs Brereton will be invited as guests of the Association to that event and I am hopeful that, in conjunction with CO, 1/19 RNSWR, we can organise an appropriate program of celebrations to enable us to showcase the Army Reserve, the Regiment and the Battalion. I sincerely hope that you can reserve that date in your schedule.

*Sincerely*

*Roger Perry*

**ROGER PERRY**  
President

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FIRST NINETEENTH BATTALION THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT  
AND THE SECOND NINETEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION

# FRONTLINE



**COLONEL COMMANDANT  
THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT  
& THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT  
MAJOR GENERAL THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE  
Paul Le Gay BRERETON, AM, RFD**



Justice Brereton was appointed a member of the Defence Force Discipline Tribunal on 5 August 2013. He enlisted in the Army Reserve in Sydney University Regiment in 1975, and was commissioned in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps in 1979.

He has served as Second-in-command Sydney University Regiment (1994-6), Commanding Officer 4th/3rd Battalion, the Royal New South Wales Regiment (1997-99), Chief of Staff 5th Brigade (2004-5), Assistant Chief of Staff Land Headquarters (2006-7), and Commander 5th Brigade (2008-10).

He was promoted Major General in December 2010 on appointment as Head, Cadet Reserve and Employer Support Division and appointed Colonel Commandant The Royal New South Wales Regiment on 1 January 2016.

Justice Brereton was admitted as a solicitor in New South Wales in 1982, was called to the Bar in 1987, and appointed Senior Counsel in 1998. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 2005, where he is assigned to the Equity Division and is the Corporations List Judge and the Adoptions

List Judge. He is one of three joint authors of the current edition of *Nygh's Conflict of Laws in Australia*.

He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Military Division in 2010 for exceptional service as Chief of Staff 5th Brigade, Assistant Chief of Staff Land Headquarters and Commander 5th Brigade.

## LETTERS continued.....



Dear Editor

The members of the association have a lot to thank two of its executives for what they do for the Association. They are the President (Lord) Roger Perry and the Honorary Secretary & Newsletter Editor and (Official Photographer) Bob Pink OAM. The President's Report keeps everyone informed in every issue of Frontline on what is happening in the ex-service community and beyond. Bob Pink the Secretary does a great job in organising the association and in putting together and editing our outstanding association journal.

I belong to and have belonged to many associations during my life and apart from the RSL Reveille, Frontline is one of the best association journals I have had the pleasure to receive and read. I would like to mention the effort the editor puts into compiling the Vales. I believe our association through the editor has the foremost Vale than any other association newsletter, including the RSL Reveille.

I mentioned to the editor that Alan Stannard of the 2/15 Field Regiment, 8th Division 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF had passed away in November 2015, and I am sure we have all read the Vale given to him by the editor (Bob Pink). Bob Pink and I were on the committee of the 8<sup>th</sup> Division AIF Association for four or five years and Bob Pink is still on the committee. The father of the President of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Association, Colonel David Ross, CSC, was the CO of 2/15 Field Regiment AIF when the Japanese captured Singapore on the 15 February 1942.

I had the pleasure of knowing Alan Stannard as I worked with him at his firm Stannards as a wages and accounts clerk in 1964 & 1965, and he was a true gentleman. Alan Stannard and I had a close association through the 8th Australian Division AIF as he knew I had an Uncle, Bill Bruce 2/20 Infantry Battalion KIA on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1942 and two cousins killed with the 8th Division, Ted Byrnes 2/18 Infantry Battalion died in Singapore Hospital on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1942 and Jim Ryan 2/15 Field Regiment died on the Sandakan Death March on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1945.

I know the Association has good committee members in Mick Pass, Bryan Schafer and others but my big worry is we are all getting older, and Bob Pink informs me the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division AIF Association may be holding its last memorial service on the 'Fall of Singapore' on the 15 February 2017. Therefore, I wonder what the future of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nineteenth and 2<sup>nd</sup> Nineteenth Association will be. I believe this should be a subject of discussion at the Association AGM at Orange in November 2016. We cannot expect Roger Perry and Bob Pink to be here for ever.

With Best Wishes to All

**John Walsh, PSM  
Rutherglen Victoria**

## ANZAC DAY SYDNEY 2016

OUR THANKS TO ASSOCIATION STANDARD BEARER DAVID RING FOR THE PHOTOS APPEARING ON THIS PAGE



## ANZAC DAY 2016 QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM Sandy HOWARD

### 1. Formation discussion before start of march

Sandy "I think that we will form up in 5 or so rows of 8 abreast, will that be alright with you blokes?"

Bloke 1 "That sounds better than usual - Roger with his bloody stock whip!!"

Bloke 2 "More like John Le Mesurier - Sgt Wilson in *Dad's Army*!"

### 2. At the end of the march

Sandy "Sorry for going the wrong way, I now realised that the marshals were trying to move the 2 slow guys in front, not us, and I just followed. We still ended in the same place and we had an easier exit and direct access to the footpath and the station."

### 3. Opening address to the troops on board 'Aussie Magic'

Sandy "I have been fully briefed by Roger, who is in bed with food poisoning, sounds ghastly and said that he's lost 10kgs," (relevant dispassionate comments from the troops) "he hasn't seen a doctor but I hope that he does tomorrow. There are 3 points....-

- 1) Thank you all for attending....., etc....
- 2) The apologies are....., etc, enjoy yourselves."
- (Pause)
- 3) "I resign!!

.....that's that - I need that beer!!"

Laughter from all

### 4. Overheard talking to somebody after the late payers paying on board

Sandy "I'm most impressed, they just lined up and threw their cash at me, it was raining notes and I didn't have to chase anybody. They're an honest lot, this bunch! We have 62, so Roger's prediction on numbers was correct. That's great !"

# FRONTLINE

## ANZAC DAY SYDNEY 2016

OUR THANKS TO ASSOCIATION MEMBER MAJOR JOHN RALPH FOR THE PHOTOS APPEARING ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES



# FRONTLINE

## ANZAC DAY SYDNEY 2016



# FRONTLINE ANZAC DAY SYDNEY 2016



# FRONTLINE

## DONATIONS



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



MR	Robert	BARDSLEY
MR	Bruce	BATHGATE
MRS	Sylvia	BELL
MAJ	Robert	BINNS
LCPL	Geoff	BLAIR
MRS	Joy	BOURKE
MAJ	Allan	BRABY
PTE	Tony	BRAY
PTE	Ian	CANNOCK
WO2	Mick	DANIELS
MR	Tony	FANNING
MR	Andrew	GILL
LTCOL	Vin	HALLINAN

LT	Peter	HUGHES
MR	David	HUNT
MRS	Beryl	IRWIN
MRS	Norma	JAMIESON
CPL	Charles	JENSEN
SGT	Felicity	JESS
MR	Cliff	LOWIEN
MR	David	MARINER
MRS	Coralie	MOWBRAY
PTE	Tony	OHLBACH
MAJ	John	RALPH
MR	Lachlan	RENDALL
MR	Jim	STEWART



## NEW MEMBERS

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



CAPT	Peter	POLKINGHORNE	CROWS NEST QLD	4355
PTE	Paul	CROWE	MANILLA NSW	2346
MR	Brendan	DOYLE	SUTHERLAND NSW	2232

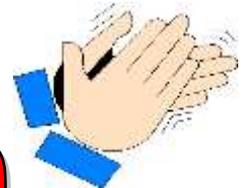
*Get Well  
Soon*



## SICK REPORT

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT PRESIDENT ROGER PERRY IS WELL ON THE WAY TO A FULL RECOVERY AFTER BEING STRUCK DOWN WITH A PESTILENCE JUST PRIOR TO AND WHICH PREVENTED HIS ATTENDANCE ON ANZAC DAY.

## CONGRATULATIONS



## ON HIS 100th BIRTHDAY TO

# Fred Power - Centurion

Monday of last week, 15<sup>th</sup> February, long term resident Fred Power reached 100 not out. On the day before Inasmuch gave a big birthday bash which was attended by family and friends.

Fred was born in the famous NSW wool town of Gunning on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1916, and he attended a local school then starting his working life as a grocer's assistant at the local George Wells Grocery shop. He continued to work there until his enlistment for the Second World War at Goulburn on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1940. Fred's enlistment form lists that he was also a motor cycle rider which shows he has also been a bit of a "rebel".

On 30<sup>th</sup> July 1940 he joined the 2/19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion as did the majority of enlistment from South Western NSW. After training the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion embarked, on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1941 for overseas from Sydney. The belief was that they were sailing to the Middle East but it soon became apparent that the destination was the Far East. 1<sup>st</sup> March 1941 saw the unit disembark in Singapore which was the commencement for many of the troops one of the most horrible brutality of any War, Fred was wounded in the arm and just before the formal surrender of Singapore to the Japanese he joined 300 others on the converted hospital ship "Wu Sueh". This vessel first sailed to Java then to Ceylon, now Sri Lanka. Fred eventually made his way back to Australia and had further active service in New Guinea and the Islands and was eventually discharged 19<sup>th</sup> November 1945. He served for 1951 days of which 1752 days where on active service. Fred is a very proud member of the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association and a fount of knowledge on many subjects.

Fred was married to Moira in 1949 and they have two children and two great-grandchildren.

The sub-Branch and RSL Club Presidents were happy to make presentations to Fred to celebrate this important milestone.

Well done Fred a fine and humble Australian.

G. Quinton



Moira and Fred Power with 100 birthday certificate from the Queen.

Our thanks to Sussex Inlet RSL Club's Publicity Officer in forwarding the above article

## & To Fred's wife Moira on knitting her 1000th ! Trauma Teddy doll !

CONGRATULATIONS continued.....



50



To Alice ELDRIDGE & Ernest Roy SCHMIDTKE who were married at Punchbowl Methodist Church on 4th June 1966 and celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with their family at the Moorebank Sports Club

& CONGRATULATIONS to Mistress of Her Craft,



Mrs Linda COLLIGAN on her taking out the top prizes at the Sydney Royal Easter Shows



Hi Bob. Here he is. Second place this year. I am giving you all the photos so you can have a good look at him. You can eat everything except the table itself - his arms and the bomb. The cupboard - stoves and Grrdon !!! are fruit cake. I will sell him for \$150 if anyone wants him. Linda.



LINDA & BOB (Chief Cake Tester) COLLIGAN at a recent Association function



LINDA WON 1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE AT THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW LAST YEAR WITH THIS BEAUTY



## SEEN AROUND THE TRAPS



### FROM GEORGE THOMAS

Hi Bob

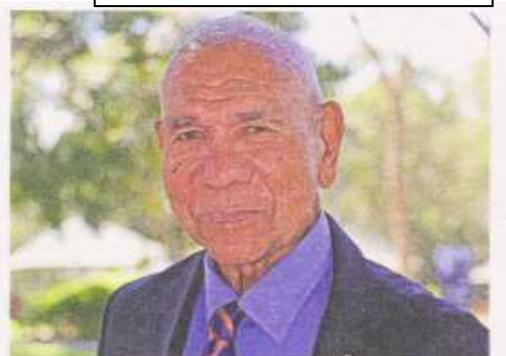
Caught up with Zeke Mundine at Kapooka on Monday – he was there as Elder as part of the ADF efforts to increase indigenous recruitment and retention. He was in very good form !

***On 14 March the ADF Indigenous Elder WO1 Roy (Zeke) Mundine MID OAM was part of an ADF function at Kapooka. The Defence Minister, the Honourable Marise Payne and Chief of Army Lt Gen Angus Campbell attended to promote efforts to increase recruitment and retention of indigenous men and women. The occasion was an opportunity for former 1/19 RNSWR member George Thomas to meet with his former QM. George has been at Kapooka as a volunteer with Everyman's Welfare Service since 2004 and is currently Assistant Commissioner with the organisation, responsible for the operation at Kapooka and at EWS Headquarters at Bandiana for financial management and compliance in EWS.***

***Photo L to R: RSM of the Army WO1 Don Spink. WO1 Zeke Mundine (Rtd) and EWS Assistant Commissioner George Thomas.***



ARMY NEWS  
24 MARCH 2016



## Outstanding Army career

AN INDIGINEOUS soldier spoke at the launch of the recruiting campaign to encourage young Indigenous people to consider an ADF career.

Army Elder Uncle Roy Mundine, pictured, joined up from his home town of South Grafton in 1958 and spent the next 36 years in the Army.

He was awarded a Mention in Despatches for his leadership with 5RAR during an incident in South Vietnam where he lost a leg in a mine-field on Anzac Day 1969.

Uncle Roy said he thought it was a good idea for young people to join the Army.

“There’s so much they can learn and take back to their communities later on”, he said. “You learn something new every day, you’ll get a great education and you can get out into society and mix with interesting people.”

## LIDCOMBE RSL SUB BRANCH ANZAC SUNDAY 17 APR 16



## FRONTLINE

# HERVEY BAY QLD WAR MEMORIAL

FROM LTCOL Gary BELTRAME, RFD, JP

(Commanding Officer 1/19 RNSWR SEP 1983 - SEP 1986)



Last ANZAC Day we celebrated the Centenary of ANZAC before our magnificent new memorial here in Hervey Bay. This year we are commemorating the incredible battles on the Somme in 1916 and I thought I should show you that our forefathers are not forgotten.

The Memorial has cost some 3/4 of a million dollars and was paid for in part by people purchasing pavers which line the base, to remember the fallen, those who served, or organisations who care. I took the opportunity to have one paver laid in memory of 19 Bn AIF and 2/19 Bn AIF so they will never be forgotten here.

The Memorial is of a Light Horseman because so many from here worked as jackaroos and drovers and were immediately posted to mounted units. Many served on Gallipoli as foot soldiers as you know.

Looking forward to seeing you in November if not before.

**Gary Beltrame**  
Hervey Bay QLD

# FRONTLINE

## FROM PETER WATT

Dear Bob,

Mate, I thought this would interest you. I am good mates with Dave Sabben who has stopped off and stayed with me in the past. I will also send you the photo of Dave (whose image appears on the new 25 cent coin to represent Vietnam). With all the very best wishes

Pete

=====  
**From:** PETER WATT  
**To:** DAVE SABBEN

Dave,  
Is it okay if I post this photo on my facebook for my readers to see as it fits into the comp I ran a bit back. 16 Platoon C Company was my time at Kapooka in 1969. Had you gone in I am sure the Officers' Mess would have put on a mess night for you. The postage stamp is next displaying Dave Sabben MG.

Cheers  
Pete

**From:** DAVE SABBEN  
**To:** PETER WATT  
**Subject:** Re: "Back where it all began..."

Fine to post the photo, Pete. That night we roosted in Wagga and were hosted by one of the 1/19 RNSWR depots. There, I spotted a copy of the Bruce Fletcher painting of Long Tan hanging on the wall. I offered to sign the back, which they accepted, and then the OC came in and "demanded" that I sign the white plaster wall next to the bar.

Now they reckon the wall is more valuable than the rest of the building and swear that if/when replaced, that piece of wall will be framed and placed in the new building!  
Dave.

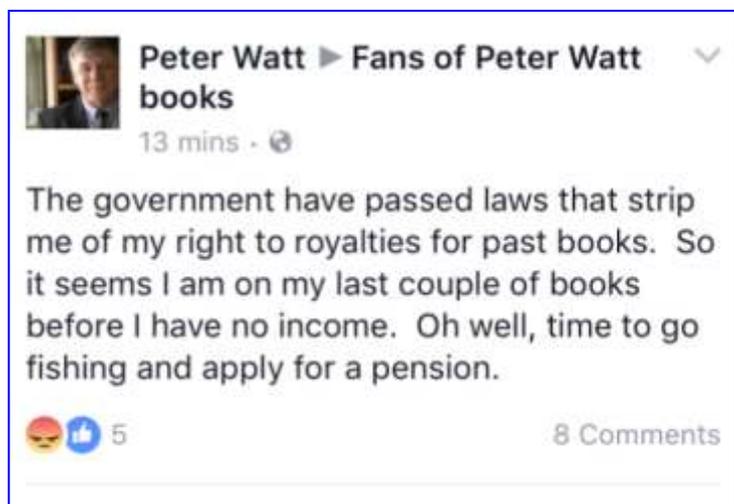
**From:** DAVE SABBEN  
**To:** PETER WATT

**Subject:** "Back where it all began..."

The VetRide 2016 took us right past the front gates to Kapooka. Time for a quick nostalgia photo - back where it all began. Mind you, 51 years has done some damage to the physique, and the RSM might not like the beard, but a few seconds after the shot was taken, I was "on my bike", out of there! I wondered - the last time I drove out those gates, if I'd known what was ahead, would I have turned around and driven back...?  
Cheers,  
Dave.



L to R: CSM A Coy 1/19 RNSWR Wagga Wagga WO2 Ian MASON pictured with former LT David SABBEN, MG, 12 PI Comd, D Coy 6 RAR at the Battle of Long Tan 18 AUG 1966



# FRONTLINE

## LETTERS

From Association Member Jonathan Stallard, Latham ACT:

I took my daughter to the National War Memorial Canberra to place a poppy next to a great uncle of Ashleigh who was the brother of my wife's Nana. He served in 2/19 BATTALION AIF and died a POW in Borneo. Makes being a member of the Association quite important and my service with 1/19 RNSWR is my own personal connection. Thanks for all your efforts.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P02467.532  
**Paybook photograph, taken on enlistment, of NX47341 Private Francis Arthur Munford, 2/19th Australian Infantry Battalion, A.I.F.**

Francis was one of over 2000 Allied prisoners of war (POW) held in the Sandakan POW camp in north arriving in Borneo, having been transferred there from Singapore as a part of B Force. The 1494 POW's that made up B Force, were transported from Changi on 7 July 1942 on board the tramp ship Ubi Maru, Sandakan Harbour on 18 July 1942. Private Munford, aged 24, died as a prisoner of the Japanese on 6 February 1945. He was the son of Isaac and Isabelle Phomie Munford, and the husband of Edna Munford, of Taree, NSW. He is commemorated on the Labuan Memorial Panel 14. (Photograph copied from AWM232, items 4 and 5. *Personal information from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Database.*)

# FRONTLINE

## THE EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS VISIT TO KANCHANABURI WAR GRAVES COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION - THAILAND

CONTRIBUTED BY (MAJOR) ROBERT A. C. BUTT, RFD, JP  
Former Company Commander and Operations Officer,  
1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment

2nd INSTALMENT *Continued from March 2016 Newsletter...*

In my first article, I described how the barge was set up for "classroom" style lecture and address, given by a member of the War Museum on the Kwai River. This address, accompanied by a huge hanging map, briefly described the reasons, and the advance, and the conquest the Japanese had made in the South-East Asia part of the world, in late 1941, and the early months of 1942.

After disembarking from our floating barge, we are taken to The Thailand-Burma Railway Centre, which is a modern, and excellent air-conditioned, two-level Museum, adjacent to the War Cemetery in Kanchanaburi. This was established in 2003, by researcher Rod Beattie, OAM, MBE, and contains an extensive Research Centre / Library and database of not only those who worked and / or died on the Railway, but also many of prisoners-of-war, under the Japanese and their subsequent fate(s).

This Museum, is very much worth a visit, and can only be described as excellent. Many of my co-travellers, even those who weren't military or historically orientated, commented most favourably on the presentation, content and factual detail of this Museum, also named "The Death Railway Museum".

The displays, written and informative exhibitions are very professionally done and one can see that these exhibits have been prepared with much care and attention to detail. There are many souvenirs and original pieces on display, including an actual (small) rail carriage used to transport POW's and Asian labourers, from Singapore and other places to Kanchanaburi and further up the track to other camps. It was said that up to (28) prisoners were crammed into this tiny enclosed carriage, and honestly, with about (8) of us STANDING in this rail-car, you would have to just wonder how that many, actually fitted into this carriage, let alone travel for up to a week, with little or no food or water, no ventilation, no toilet facilities.

In my previous instalment, I described how luxurious our train trip had been, and how we had taken for granted, such travel journeys are, in this day and age. A POW, who travelled in one of the POW rail-cars;

"A few minutes later, we started off, on what was to be the worst railway journey I have ever had. The trucks were all steel, including the floor, and all had sliding doors. They were bitterly cold at night and furnaces during the day.

I think the days were worse than the nights. The heat blazed down on the steel roofs and sides of the trucks, making the interior like ovens. We had to sit there hour after hour, naked except for a loin cloth or a pair of shorts, the perspiration pouring of us."

And this was even before the POW's arrived and worked in the various work camps, on this infamous "Death Railway" Ironically, the idea of a railway, linking Burma & Siam was examined by the British Colonial authorities in Burma who conducted (2) surveys, over (4) possible routes. These were done as far back as 1885, and 1905. Even more ironical was the fact, that, despite the cost to build, and the viability of such an enterprise, and its usefulness to link cities within these two countries, a major consideration against the idea to construct such a railway would be the fact that it would "cost too many lives in the construction & maintenance of such a railway", and the idea was abandoned.

In the late 1930's, the Japanese carried out a study of these surveys, and others, to come up with an idea and plan to link Moulmein (Burma), a big port, and Kanchanaburi, (Siam), a railway junction for either Bangkok, or Malaysia & Singapore. [ Does this tell us something ?? ].

There were (2) Japanese Railway Regiments tasked to construct this railway, one starting at each end, and this was seriously under way by June 1942. Initially, at least on the Thai side, labouring work was done by contracted Thai labourers. However, at about this time, the Japanese, had several serious setbacks, (mainly in the Pacific) and it was clear that any completion of the Railway would take years to complete and that a more

drastic plan was needed. Hence the decision to use POW's as labourers and to push ahead with the construction and to try and complete the job, in what was really, an unrealistic time-frame, and what turned out to be a horrific cost in lives and manpower. Whilst Kanchanaburi, was a major camp, and was situated near the major river crossing, there were soon many camps up the line, and the actual construction of the railway was very much hampered by small rivers and stream crossings, as well as major earth and rock removal sites, especially carried



# FRONTLINE

by manual labour, and virtually no mechanical aids, other than some explosives. Cut rations, little food, and long hours and hard manual work were the order-of-the-day, however it was disease and particularly, debilitating tropical diseases, that took its toll on the work force. I mentioned previously, the movie "Bridge on the River Kwai". However good it was at the time, it is none-the-less, a fiction, as it was NOT this bridge over The Kwai River, (a substantial steel construction), that was built by the British or the POW's, but the story was probably based on one of the many constructed up the line. The movie also tries to depict the horrible conditions and disease suffered by most POW's, and to a certain extent succeeds.

What really makes the suffering most poignant to us today, is a visit to the Museum, which has consolidated so much history, and so many articles and displays, and put all this together in such a vivid presentation. Well worth a visit indeed.....

Immediately opposite, is The War Cemetery, looked after and maintained by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This is a beautiful and serene place, with many of the trees and plants from Australia, with of course local people carrying out lawn and garden maintenance duties.

Like so many of the War Graves, either in Australia, or indeed around the World, this was (is), a place of solace and contemplation. Visiting Kanchanaburi Cemetery gives one a time for reflection, to remember those who have served or fallen in previous times, and to know just how lucky and fortunate we now are. I have taken some photos, hopefully that can be published, of a few 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion graves, just at random, they were all so young.

During the war, there was a wooden-bamboo trestle bridge, crossing the River Kwai, just 200 metres from the main steel bridge. In the movie, (1957), it was intimated, that this was the bridge destroyed at the end of the war, however, sadly this was not the case. In fact there were over (300) bridges built on this railway, many surviving to this day. For any visitor to Bangkok, a day spent travelling to Kanchanaburi, and the War Cemetery, will be well rewarded, and I highly recommend this to anybody.



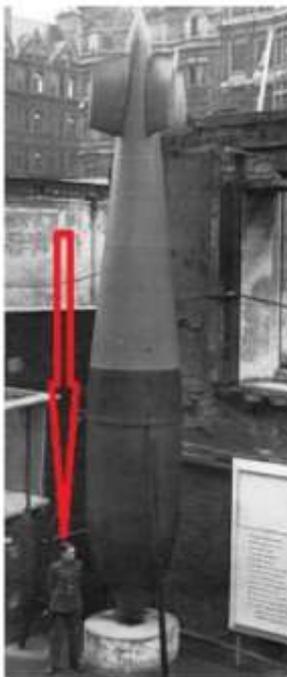
Our thanks to Major Bob & Mrs Christine BUTT for their very interesting and meaningful contribution.



6 November 2015

### The RAF discovered that a 15 year old 'Gate Guard' Grand Slam Bomb was "LIVE" !!!

Apparently when Lincolnshire County Council were widening the road past RAF Scampton's main gate in about 1958, the 'gate guards' there had to be moved to make way for the new carriageway. Scampton was the WWII home of 617 Sqn, and said "gate guards" were a Lancaster...and a Grand Slam bomb. When they went to lift the Grand Slam, thought for years to just be an empty casing, with an RAF 8 Ton Coles Crane, it wouldn't budge. "Oh, it must be filled with concrete" they said. Then somebody had a horrible thought .... No!...Couldn't be? ... Not after all these years out here open to the public to climb over and be photographed sitting astride! .... Could it? .... Then everyone raced off to get the Station ARMO. He carefully scraped off many layers of paint and gingerly unscrewed the base plate. Yes, you guessed it, live 1944 explosive filling! The beast was very gently lifted onto an RAF 'Queen Mary' low loader, using a much larger civvy crane (I often wonder what, if anything, they told the crane driver), then driven slowly under massive police escort to the coastal experimental range at Shoeburyness.



There it was rigged for demolition, and when it 'high ordered', it proved in no uncertain terms to anyone within a ten mile radius that the filling was still very much alive! Exhaustive investigations then took place, but nobody could find the long-gone 1944, 1945 or 1946 records which might have shown how a live 22,000 lb bomb became a gate guard for nearly the next decade and a half. Some safety distance calculations were done, however, about the effect of a Grand Slam detonating at ground level in the open. Apart from the entire RAF Station, most of the northern part of the City of Lincoln, including Lincoln Cathedral, which dates back to 1250, would have been flattened. The Grand Slam was a 22,000 lb (10,000 kg) earthquake bomb used by RAF Bomber Command against strategic targets during the Second World War. It was the most powerful non-atomic bomb used in the war. Known officially as the Bomb, Medium Capacity, 22,000 lb, it was a scaled-up version of the Tallboy bomb and closer to the original size that the bombs' inventor, Barnes Wallis, had envisaged when he first developed his earthquake bomb idea. It was also



nicknamed "Ten ton Tess".

When the success [of the Tallboy bomb] was proved, Wallis designed a yet more powerful weapon... This 22,000 lb. bomb did not reach us before the spring of 1945, when we used it with great effect against viaducts or railways leading to the Ruhr and also against several U-boat shelters. If it had been necessary, it would have been used against underground factories, and preparations for attacking some of these were well advanced when the war ended. — Sir Arthur Travers Harris (1947). On 18 July 1943, work started on a larger version of the Tallboy bomb, which became the Grand Slam. As with the original Tallboy, the Grand Slam's fins generated a stabilizing spin and the bomb had a thicker case than a conventional bomb, which allowed deeper penetration. After the hot molten Torpex was poured into the casing, the explosive took a month to cool and set. Like the Tallboy, because of the low rate of production and consequent high value of each bomb, aircrews were told to land with their unused bombs on board rather than jettison them into the sea if a sortie was aborted.

After release from the Avro Lancaster B.Mk 1 (Special) bomber, the Grand Slam would reach near supersonic speed, approaching 1,049 ft/s (320 m/s), 715 mph (1150 km/h). When it hit, it would penetrate deep underground before detonating. The resulting explosion could cause the formation of a camouflet (cavern) and shift the ground to undermine a target's foundation. Unlike Tallboy, Grand Slam was originally designed to penetrate concrete roofs. Consequently, it was more effective against hardened targets than any existing bomb. The first Grand Slam was tested at the Ashley Walk Range in the New Forest, on 13 March 1945. By the end of the war, 42 Grand Slams had been dropped on active service.

## DO YOU KNOW ?? A series by Association Member LT Peter Hughes Lieutenant Colonel Peter McGuinness MBE RFD ED – Patron and Life Member, 1/19 Battalion RNSWR Association.



Peter was born in Hobart in 1938 and attended Elizabeth Street School. He left school at age 15 to be an apprentice hand and machine compositor beginning a long career in commercial printing and newspaper publishing. He was Tasmanian Printing Apprentice of the Year in 1958.

In January 1957, Peter was conscripted into 18 National Service Training Battalion at Brighton and then transferred to Q Battery, 6 Field Regiment at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart. Quick promotions followed from Gunner to Bombardier, Technical Assistant RA, Gun Sergeant and Peter was commissioned in October 1959.

In 1960, Peter moved to Sydney with W. C. Penfolds introducing labour saving management techniques and reducing printing press down times. At this time, he also served with 14 Field Regiment and 7 Field Regiment as Troop Leader and Gun Position Officer. On return to Hobart in 1961, Peter transferred to the Infantry, where he was Platoon Commander, Derwent

Company, RTR, played Rugby as a breakaway and was Secretary of Army Rugby Union Team, Tasmania. He also held the position of Army representative on the Tasmanian Rugby Union Executive. His other sporting activities included swimming and running.

Peter returned to Sydney in 1965 as Platoon Commander Instructor, 4 Course OCTU, 2 Training Group Sydney, at which time he was promoted to Captain. In 1968, then CO Lt Col Tom Crawford invited Peter to transfer to 19 Battalion RNSWR (The Bushmen's Rifles) – which on amalgamation in 1971 became 1/19 Battalion RNSWR – as Company Commander, A Company.

At the same time, Peter joined *The Australian* newspaper as a proof reader and became Head Reader in 1969 which was then followed by a lateral career change to become Operations Manager of News Limited's first computerised typesetting system in Sydney. Peter was promoted to Group Level Executive as Project Manager installing similar systems in Brisbane and Perth.

Peter's Army career highlights, intertwined with his civilian career, over the next 15 years including;

- 1971 CMF Observer Tour Vietnam with 3RAR.
- 1975 qualified and promoted Major and as 1/19 RNSWR Battalion Operations Officer, attended ARA Exercise DARK KNIGHT,
- 1977 attended ARA Exercise Straight Bat, then commanded Composite ARES Rifle Company at ARA Exercise Kangaroo 2 attached to 6 RAR,
- 1978 attended TAC 5 at Canungra qualified for promotion to LTCOL,
- 1979-80 Second-in-Command SUR,
- 1980 Official Australian Government Observer to USA Army War Games - Exercise Tropic Lightning, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and
- Promoted LTCOL Sept 1980 and commanded 1/19 RNSWR, Sept 1980 - Sept 1983.

In 1977, Peter was awarded an MBE (Mil Div) for distinguished service in promoting good relations between the ARA and ARES, and for exceptional man management and leadership skills. His other awards are; Reserve Forces Decoration and Australian Efficiency Decoration.

Peter was then appointed Computer Services Manager with News Limited's Sunday Times in Perth in 1984, where he concurrently was the Army Senior Instructor 5 Trg Grp for Offensive and Defensive Operations. He returned to News Limited in Sydney in 1986 to be Group Project Manager and Systems Analyst and was influential in developing and introducing new advanced Pre-Press technology in all capital and major rural cities in Australia. Corporate projects overseas included Fiji, London, New York, Washington and Los Angeles. In 1988, after over 30 years of service, Peter retired from the Defence Force.

Throughout Rupert Murdoch's Australian divisions, Peter was known as 'Mr Fixit' but admits the one thing he couldn't fix was Murdoch's foray into SuperLeague. Peter led News Limited Y2K Rectification Projects throughout Australia and Overseas in 1997-99 and retired in 1999 returning to Tasmania to live at Lower Snug south of Hobart in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel area.

In retirement, Peter has;

- Provided consultancy for the New Zealand Herald in Auckland introducing Advanced Editorial Pre-Press Publishing Systems and Production Processes Review,
- Authored two books:
  - The Battle Honours of 12th/40th Battalion RTR a private and limited edition.
  - Boldly and Faithfully – The Journal. The Official History of 19th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF.
- Edited the 3rd Edition of The Grim Glory – The Official History of 2/19th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF, and amongst other publications
- Prepared numerous presentations for the 1/19 RNSWR Association's annual gathering
- Revised the History segment of the 1/19 RNSWR Association website
- Visited the Western Front AIF battlefield as a Military Historian Tour Guide and attended last year's 100th Anniversary Commemorations, also as a tour guide.

Peter admits to being a part time recluse, studying military history, doing some writing, gardening, occasional fishing and enjoying the great food and wines that Tasmania has in abundance and educating his Big Island friends on the wonders that Tasmania has to offer.

## DID YOU KNOW ?? A series by Association Member LT Peter Hughes



### Roger J Perry – President and Life Member, 1/19 Battalion RNSWR Association

Roger was born in Sydney and spent most of his adult life as a resident of Bondi until he moved to Double Bay about thirty years ago and more recently to Darling Point in Sydney's Eastern suburbs. He is the son of Roger Bede and Ellen (nee Dwyer) both of whom originally hailed from western New South Wales. Roger was educated at Marist Brothers, Woollahra and Marcellin College, Randwick. Roger Bede served in World War I, originally in 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion and subsequently, when the Army was re-organised in Egypt after Gallipoli, with 45<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the Western Front. Roger has an elder brother, an elder sister and a younger brother.

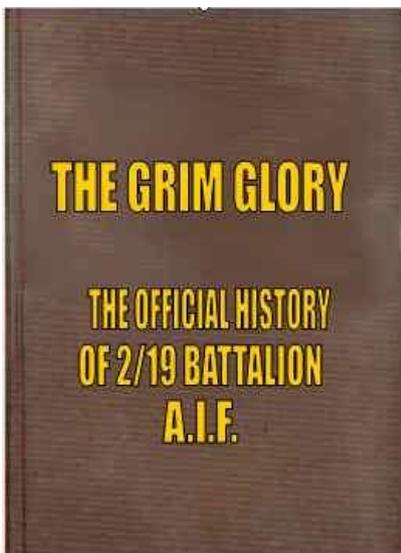
Roger has had a career in Investment Banking with a primary focus on the mining industry but was, for ten years, CEO of Photo Corporation of Australia – at the time the largest portrait photography company in Australia with international branches and operations. He has been, at various times,

Chairman of a number of ASX listed public companies.

Roger enlisted in the CMF in May 1965 as an Officer Cadet in 4 Course OCTU where he qualified in Subjects A & C for First Appointment before pressure of business travel forced him to withdraw from the course before completion. After leaving OCTU in 1966 he spent a short period in the I Section of 4 RNSWR before transferring to 19 RNSWR when it was raised in December 1966. Roger served with 19 RNSWR and subsequently 1/19 RNSWR at Old Holsworthy, Wallgrove and Ingleburn rising to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 as CSM of Admin Company. Roger was the first member from within the Battalion to qualify and be promoted to Warrant rank. Civilian business commitments finally forced Roger to resign from the CMF in March 1973. His resignation did not sever his connection with 1/19 RNSWR because he was a founding Trustee of the 19 RNSWR Sergeants' Mess Property Trust which had been established some years earlier to ensure that the Sergeants' Mess silver collection was not "lost" should the Battalion be disbanded. The association continues to the present day with Roger as Chairman of the 19 RNSWR Sergeants' Mess Property Trust, The Peryman Memorial Trust and the 6<sup>th</sup> Mounted Rifles Trust all of which now fall under the "umbrella" of the 19 RNSWR Sergeants' Mess Property Trust.

When 1/19 RNSWR Association was formed in 1997 Roger was appointed as the Inaugural President and has continued in that role for the past nineteen years. Together with Bob Pink, the Honorary Secretary, he was the architect of the merger of 2/19<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion AIF Association into 1/19 RNSWR Association when the men of 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF felt that they did not have the strength to maintain their Association into the future.

Roger is a Member of the Returned and Services League of Australia, and a Trustee of Ashfield RSL Sub Branch.



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### CHEQUES/MONEY ORDERS

TO HON SECRETARY (Phone: 0414 907 427)  
PO BOX 224 INGLEBURN NSW 1890

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER TO: "1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION INC". ST GEORGE BANK BSB No. 112 – 879 ACCOUNT No.119085582

Please insert in the REFERENCE - YOUR SURNAME & INITIALS to enable identification of your payment on receipt. Please note that if you are depositing at a St George Bank there is no provision for the above information to be recorded so it is IMPORTANT that you email / phone or write to the Hon Secretary advising of the date, amount deposited and the location of the St George Bank here your deposit was made. It is the responsibility of the member to ensure that we have sufficient information to identify their remittance.

# FRONTLINE

## DID YOU KNOW ?? A series by Association Member LT Peter Hughes

**Robert J (Bob) PINK OAM – Honorary Secretary and Life Member,  
1/19 Battalion RNSWR Association**



Bob was born in Camperdown, Sydney in 1945 to Bob Snr and Jean and was raised in Redfern, Hargrave Park and Panania and educated at East Hills Boys' High School. Bob Snr was born in North Surrey England and served during World War II with 2/17 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo. Bob has a younger brother Geoffrey.

On leaving school in 1963, Bob commenced employment with Mingay Publishing in Chippendale and then in clerical positions with the Australian Gas Light Company (AGL).

Bob enlisted in the CMF on 25 March 1964 with A Company (NSW Scottish) 2 RNSWR and following the unit's reorganisation in March 1965 served in 17 RNSWR until discharging from the CMF on 1 February 1966 and re-enlisting in the ARA (S) NS the following day. Following recruit training at Kapooka NSW, Bob was posted to 2 RAR Enoggera QLD and on 1 February 1968 was

discharged at the expiration of his National Service Engagement.

Bob returned to AGL in 1968 and in 1972 embarked on a brief sojourn to New Zealand for 9 months.

Bob's re-enlistment with 19 RNSWR on 15 March 1969 at Old Holsworthy was followed with service in Admin and C Coys and promotion to SGT in April 1970. Following the unit's relocation in 1971 from Old Holsworthy to Wallgrove, Bob was posted as CSM SPT Coy and promoted WO2 on 7 April 1972.

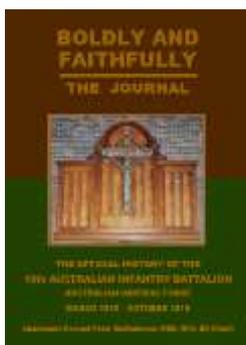
The cessation of the National Service Scheme in December 1972 saw the unit strength drop to 200 overnight and 1/19 RNSWR was again relocated for the second time to Bardia Barracks Ingleburn where Bob was posted as the CSM Training Wing. A vigorous and very successful recruiting program was initiated in which all ranks were involved. In October 1975, following the unit's relocation for the third time from Ingleburn to the Padstow Training Depot, Bob was posted as the Unit Recruiting Officer and in November 1977 was promoted WO1 and posted as the Warrant Officer Regimental Duties (WORD) in addition to his recruiting responsibilities. In March 1981 the unit relocated for the fourth time from Padstow to Mount Olympus Lines Ingleburn. During its service at Ingleburn, 1/19 RNSWR reached its zenith of 978 All Ranks. Bob continued to serve as the WORD until the unit was once again ordered on 13 September 1995 to relocate for the fifth time to Orange NSW.

Bob was awarded the Medal of the Order Of Australia (OAM) for service to the Army Reserve, in the 1980 Queen's Birthday Honours.

Following the establishment of the unit at Orange, Bob transferred on 30 July 1996 to the Army Reserve Recruiting Unit at Randwick NSW and on 2 June 1998 transferred to the Reserve Command and Staff College at the Regional Training Centre Bardia Barracks Ingleburn as the WO Coordinator where he served until discharge on 17 October 2000 having reached the prescribed age for retirement.

Bob was employed with the then Department of Customs and Excise from 1972 until retiring in October 2000. Bob has served as the Honorary Secretary and Editor of 'Frontline' for the 1/19 RNSWR Association since 1997 and his dedication in this role and his detailed knowledge of both 1/19 Bn RNSWR and the 1/19 Bn RNSWR Association has formed the backbone of the continuation of membership and camaraderie in the Association. Bob also regularly attends to the needs of 2/19 Infantry Bn AIF veterans and their widows as well as 1/19 RNSWR members including notification and attendance at funerals and other ceremonies and functions for those involved on behalf of the Association.

Bob is a Life Member of the Returned and Services League of Australia, Secretary of 19 Bn RNSWR Sergeants' Mess Property Trust, Secretary of the Peryman Memorial Trust, Committee Member Ashfield RSL Sub Branch, Life Member of 1/19 RNSWR Association, 5 Field Ambulance Association, and The Association of 17<sup>th</sup> Battalions and a member of a number of Ex-Service and Veterans' Associations.



## "BOLDLY AND FAITHFULLY"

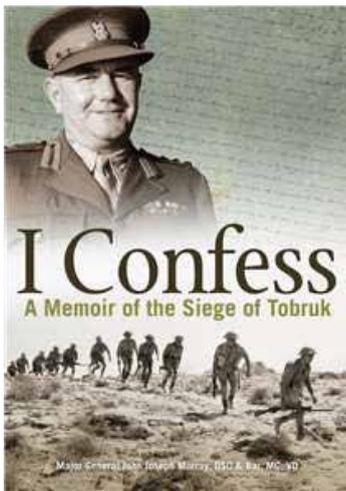
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# FRONTLINE

## BOOK REVIEW



### **I CONFESS: A Memoir of the Siege of Tobruk**

**Major General  
John Joseph  
Murray**

Big Sky Publishing,  
2011, 247pp

Reviewer: JOHN DONOVAN

Major General Murray drafted this memoir in 1945, while he was General Officer Commanding Northern Territory Force. He had intended to publish it himself, but his early death at the age of 59 (in 1951) denied him this opportunity. His family have now arranged for it to be published before the passage of time and the deaths of Murray's siblings and children lead to his papers being scattered among grand-children and great grand-children, and lost to wider community access.

The memoir does not focus on the battles in which Murray took part, rather it gives an account of his personal life as commander of the 20th Brigade of the 9th Division before and during the Siege of Tobruk, with the battles as a backdrop. Many anecdotes show Murray's companions in a humorous light. His writing style is easy to read, with some memorable phrases, such as a reference to the Army's troubles with 'women who become professional camp followers for pecuniary gain'. Delicately phrased, but very informative!

His first batman (one Jack Murray, not related) seems to have been the kind of 'character' that might best be played by a younger Paul Hogan, who helped himself to the Brigadier's alcohol stocks, in one case leaving a promissory note for a bottle of gin 'borrowed' when Jack was despatched back to his unit after getting drunk (on another bottle of the Brigadier's gin) when he should have been digging a shelter in the desert. Not long after, Jack reappeared at brigade headquarters (minus the 'borrowed' gin, but still promising to replace both bottles), as the brigade major's batman.

While signallers were often considered to be good sources of the 'Dinkum oil' on future events, when Murray had his hair cut, the 20th Brigade headquarters barber was primed to ask whether

he wanted a full cut, or just a trim. The former was considered to be a sign that relief was not imminent. As the actual time for relief came near, the barber asked the question, but provided a trim without waiting for an answer – perhaps the signallers had restored their position as the leading distributors of 'Furphies'!

While much of this memoir is fairly light-hearted, Murray is always conscious of the harsh background of war; he pays frequent tribute to the front-line soldiers, who faced the greatest dangers, and whose living conditions in Tobruk were considerably less comfortable than even the Spartan conditions experienced by Murray.

Murray's grandson, Andrew Murray, who prepared the draft for publication, has added an interesting selection of photographs, some well-known, but many that will be new to readers. He has also added several original documents, and some notes of speeches on leadership and the duties of staff officers that Murray gave while commanding the 4th Division and Northern Territory Force respectively. Even after almost 70 years, the speeches remain cogent.

One matter shows what a tight community Australia was in that era – Murray's driver in Tobruk was the son of A.B. (Banjo) Paterson; two of his poems are reproduced in the book, and have a style recognisably inherited from Banjo. The record of military service by members of Murray's family in two world wars is also a reminder of the impact of those wars on Australia, when the population was much lower than it is now.

Big Sky Publishing has turned Murray's memoir into a handsome book, well worth reading.

Reviewer: 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.*

# FRONTLINE

## NOR ALL THY TEARS

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

**Continued from March 2016 Newsletter:**

The seriously ill had just to lie there like the rest and the dysentery cases too. The shivering of malaria and its burning fever and the cruel pains of colic, now becoming common with the onset of the colder weather, were alike incidents of the day. The sea raged more fiercely; the wind howled more loudly; and the boat groaned more thunderously. It seemed as if it were working to a climax of swift annihilation. There's land ahead ! The words broke into my consciousness and startled me. It was some seconds before I realised that they had come from a man who had been with me quite an hour. I tried to keep back my disappointment by asking: How do you know? How could he know? Look for yourself I stared amazed.

The walls around us were a full deck height, for there should have been another deck above us, and we were crowded into a corner so that we could see no more than if we had been down a hole. I had never had any idea how much a boat is tossed about in a violent storm until that moment. Staring up over the edge of the hole" I saw the sea where the sky should be, and dangling from it, precariously, as if they were likely to fall into the boat, were two tiny islands. They slipped rapidly from sight and the sky was in its place again and a shower of water covered our vision. We hugged the boat every inch of the way to these tiny islands. It was unthinkable that we should not shelter there. Surely it was impossible that if we ever reached them we should still go on in this terrible way. Not a port of call, certainly, but were they not placed there from an eternity of time just for this moment. Surely we would stop.

We anchored between them in a sea that was almost calm. The deeper blackness of the storm darkened the horizon, and we anchored for the night. We had lost the convoy, but were in one piece and would surely finish the journey now. We settled down into a sleep like death, and I do not know if it rained or not. We moved on for Formosa the next morning. About noon we caught sight of a ship on fire, hopelessly ablaze. They chased us below when it came into sight and with the usual charming inconsistency, told us that it was one of our convoy. Later in the day we saw two ships that had run aground and they claimed these too. That made five so far and the real danger zone had not yet to be reached. Our first call in Formosa was brief. We anchored, and almost at once, pulled out again. Formosa, we knew, was within bombing range of planes based in China. They promised us more food in Formosa., but we saw little hope of it as we made our way up the

dreary forbidding coastline. We hugged the coastline as never before, and the rough barren mountains seemed uninhabited and uninhabitable. Nevertheless we did get better rations after we had nosed our way into a harbour walled by high rocky

mountains, and approached under the shadow of an island that was nothing but a vast mountain of rock hewed in sharp jutting angles, dead and desolate. Someone among us who knows about these things said that foreigners were not allowed to land in Formosa, and this grim natural fortress, made mightier with steel and concrete, looked a deathtrap to any who took it lightly.

They gave us green rice with the husk on it - a welcome change from what we had been getting. Also we got vegetables and a new foodstuff we called crab cake, which was something of a delicacy. To our sensitive palates it seemed to be made of a mixture based on crabmeat and had all the flavour of crab, but a few tastes of even the small ration we got soon dispelled this illusion, and we decided that it was crab cooked in a soft dough of rice and let steam out. Later we decided (I think accurately) that it was nothing but dough made of rice that had been cooked in water in which crabs had been boiled. Still the strength of the illusion at the first taste was almost incredible and supplies did not last until custom had made it entirely tasteless. They also let us buy some tomato sauce (a travesty of a noble name, but still a luxury) and some soap. We began to get optimistic about Japan, banking on getting some fish there.

They moved us out of Formosa and we struck due North. It was a relief to be on our way. This next lap, they told us, was the most dangerous. A wide stretch of open sea that was within easy range of everything, had to be covered. After that there was a continuous line of small islands right to the mainland, and we should be safe. To our great horror we woke in the middle of the night to find that the stars had reversed their positions symmetrically and our worst fears were confirmed when again we passed under the grim island of rock and anchored once more in the rugged fortress. It was a cheerless wait. Sooner or later we would have to run the gauntlet and we knew it. If the allies had command of the sea enough to turn back a



convoy on the move in its own waters, what sort of a gauntlet must it be to run? There were rumours that we were to go ashore and we welcomed them. This would do us. A land with some food in it. We had no further desire to brave the high seas, but we moved off again in a course so zig-zagged that we were uncertain whether we were going forward or back for a couple of days. Shortly after that Stackem saw the light. His "acts" had become progressively fewer and milder, and now he came up to Sandy each night with a bit of "drum" in broken English. Things were not going too well for Nippon. Germany was not going too hot, and America was driving with increased violence, sinking their ships and raiding their towns.

Louis Mountbatten was in these waters, and he was the cause of our turning back. He told us also that we would be better treated in Japan; that the camp we were going to was near a European tourist resort; that we would have Red Cross and have fish. Also that there would be no more bashings, for our treatment would be under the supervision of "Swiss Men", who would report these things to Roosevelt, who would "very big speak" to the civilised world in general to the detriment of Nipponese prestige. It seemed that Roosevelt had very big spoken already and Nippon was hurt. We had one more fright before we reached safer waters. The rain had eased off and we were sound asleep in the middle of the night when we were awakened by a noise more violent and horrible than anything we had ever felt in the storm.

A tearing, wrenching and snapping that made it impossible to believe but that the ship had been finally torn in halves and was diving to the bottom. It must have been more than five minutes before we were sure that we were still moving intact along a sea that was no more than choppy. We were not the only ones alarmed, for we were told later that the captain had sent up distress signals (he had never had any illusions about his craft) but old sailors told us that it must have been a pile-driver; a phenomena not uncommon when a boat strikes a rhythmic series of waves that raise its nose out into the air to pound it suddenly down onto an almost solid sea. Startling, but not dangerous at ordinary times, but by no means the sort of thing the "Bioki Maru" was fitted for. We came now among a continuous chain of islands.

We felt safe enough to turn our thoughts to food. Each night we would discuss imaginary feeds, planning them to the last detail. We had many such feeds in the following year. In the later months talk of food dominated everything else. Any casual remark could bring up the subject.

The land of cherry blossoms. Yeah! We ought to get some cherries there, anyway. No. They're only flowering cherries. That's the only thing wrong with the place. The cherry-trees are barren and the women aren't.

And then it would start. From the most lavish dishes down to the humble cockies joy, we used to run through them all. It was impossible to think of a single food that would not be a luxury here. Even rice as we had known it at home would stir our souls to ecstasy. We greatly delighted in extravagant mixtures of rich foods spread layer upon layer to be attacked systematically - a layer of tomatoes, a layer of chopped onions and salmon, a layer of cheese with pepper, a layer of chopped ham, a layer of lettuce with mayonnaise, a layer of chopped egg and pickles, a layer of salad vegetables and so on until some nark would chip in with: Before you start on the meal, have you sterilised your bloody mess gear? Don't forget flies have a habit of vomiting their last meal (borehole) onto their next meal (your food).

Remember the five F's. Filth, flies, faeces, fingers and food. Waste food means flies; flies mean dysentery and dysentery means death. We called at a couple of small ports and passed many tiny islands, one after another, until we came at last to a high mount with the contours of a volcano, the level ground surrounding it showing a queer rough surface of the blackness of pitch. The Nips told us that it had been in eruption recently. Then we moved below a volcano of huge proportions, its high top ringed with clouds through which its gaping crater broke into the dim sky. It towered so high above us that its blue was scarcely visible against the sky, and its outline showed most clearly in the long rigid tongues of creamy whiteness spreading out round the high crest and halfway down the sides. It looked grim, desolate and terrible.

We felt that at last we were really in Japan. We did not know how much farther we had to go, but it could not be very far. At least we should be safe. There were two small incidents on the voyage that I have not recorded. One was that the ship caught fire and the other that it had sprung a leak. Ask anyone who was on the Bioki Maru if it were ever on fire and you will probably be answered in the negative. The coal caught alight in the hold near us and a bit of sweat was lost in getting it out. It could quite easily have got worse, but as it was I doubt if anyone considered it worthwhile spreading about the ship. As for the leak, it took place towards the end of the voyage in one of the lower holds. The men in the hold concerned got under the stream, had a shower, and then reported it to the crew, who plugged it with a piece of wood. I mention these minor details as a matter of interest.

Food was getting lighter and was practically limited to rice and fish-paste and we looked disconsolately at our meagre tea. Never mind, I said. Just think. This is the worst meal you well ever have in your lives. From now on every tea you get well be better than this and you will never have another one like it.

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

# FRONTLINE

# DOWN MEMORY LANE



**FROM BOB WADE Article from - NZ "The Star" 25 JAN 1983**

About 40 members of The Bushmans Rifles, the First Nineteenth Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment, spent a day's leave at Timaru on Monday. The regiment is camped at Lake Tekapo under the sponsorship of the Fourth Otago-Southland Regiment. The slouch-hatted army reservists, in two-toned summer uniforms and wearing distinctive regimental lanyards were entertained at the Timaru Garrison Club. The troops are normally stationed at Ingleburn New South Wales. The original Nineteenth Battalion, First Australian Imperial Force, fought at Gallipoli and on the Western Front in World War I. The First Battalion, a commando unit, was raised in Sydney. The Territorials, who are required to attend two camps yearly, each of a fortnight's duration, have had to contend with bitterly cold winds, rain and blizzard conditions at Lake Tekapo. There was at least one case of hypothermia, and several, cases of discomfort in the field. The riflemen will return to Australia on Saturday.

**NZ "THE PRESS" 26 JANUARY 1983 NSW Riflemen visit Timaru**

Members of the 1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal New South Wales Regiment are entertained at Timaru Army Barracks after a trip from Balmoral Army camp via Omarama, Lakes Benmore and Waitaki and Oamaru. They will return later through Fairlie and Lake Tekapo to Balmoral. Then they will pick up in preparation for the return to Australia on Saturday. From left Private Paul Siddell, Lismore, Staff Sergeant Don Newman, Moree, Sergeant Frenchie Le Comte, Tumberumba, Private Therese McMahon, Werris Creek, Lance Corporal Alan Hatcher, Invercargill, Staff Sergeant Ray Berry, Harden, Sergeant Peter Tracey, Lithgow, Warrant Officer Marty Hanson, Newcastle and Sergeant Robert Wade, Canberra.

**FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION OF THE LATE Mrs Lillybell BRINDLEY**  
 Photos taken in Malaya by LT John BRINDLEY  
 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF.



L to R:  
 LT Jack VARLEY, G. WISHART, Mrs WISHART at rear  
 LT Jim HOWARD, LT John BRINDLEY



"THE TIGER'S CAR" Modelled & painted to represent a tiger  
 L to R: LT Gordon BENNETT, LT Jack VARLEY  
 & LT Jim HOWARD