

FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL



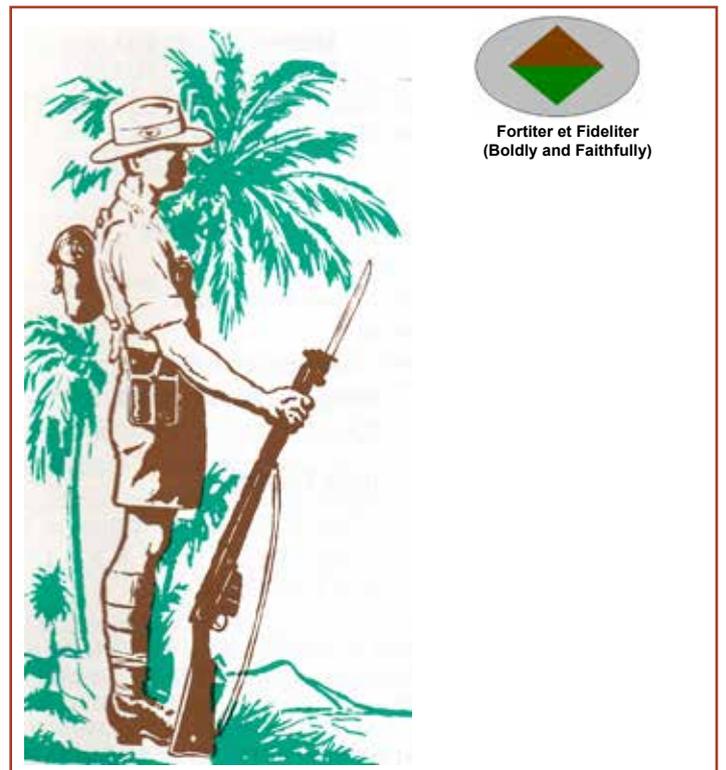
The Official Journal of

THE 1st NINETEENTH

1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION

THE 2nd NINETEENTH

2/19 BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION



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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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



For once we can start this commentary with unbridled good news! The Queen's Birthday Honours List was published on 13 June and the Association had two members who were recipients of recognition.

Our Patron, Lieutenant Colonel Peter McGuinness MBE, RFD, ED (Retd) received an OAM to add to his existing collection of "fruit salad" for his contribution to "military history". Peter, as most of our members will know, was the editor of the 3rd edition of the Official History of 2nd/19th Battalion AIF – "The Grim Glory" and, not satisfied with that achievement which resulted in the publication of that edition after a ten year "gestation" period where it went nowhere, he then set about writing the Official History of 19th Battalion AIF – "Boldly and Faithfully" to enable the exploits of that Battalion of our forebears to be chronicled. Along the way Peter made many corrections to records held by the Australian War Memorial, did research for his annual talks at the Association's Reunion weekend, and contributed to a number of other historical projects. An honour richly deserved!

Also receiving the award of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) was Association member Kevin Connelly. Kevin is the President of Ashfield RSL Sub-branch and heavily involved with RSL NSW State Branch. Kevin's award was for service to veterans and again, an honour richly deserved in recognition of his tireless efforts on many fronts in the cause of the veteran community. Our belated, but hearty congratulations also to Association member Major Barry Chapman, ED MB BS FRACP FCSANZ FICA FRSM RACI (Retd) on his appointment on 9 March 2016 as Patron of the Newcastle Region Sub-Branch of the National Servicemen's Association & Affiliates Inc. I was also delighted when Association Website Manager, Sandy Howard, called me with the intelligence that had just surfaced on that mysterious communications medium "Facebook" that the Commander 5 Brigade, Brigadier Kathryn Campbell CSC had been appointed Deputy Commander of JTF633 in the Middle East. Kathryn, who served in 1/19 RNSWR as a young officer has been an outstanding Brigade Commander and will, I am sure, excel in her new posting. Needless to say I have conveyed to her the warmest congratulations from all members on this very important posting.

Tuesday, 14th June brought the news of the unexpected passing of Kaye Mundine, sister of Association member, and Aboriginal Elder of the Australian Army, Roy "Zeke" Mundine, OAM. Kaye had been in indifferent health for some time but her death was a shock to her large extended family. I represented the Association at her funeral at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Newtown, together with Bob Pink and Bryan Schafer, on Tuesday, 21 June where a very large congregation assembled to pay tribute to and farewell this amazing woman.

Sunday, July 24, was the Centenary of the Battle of Pozieres and, in company with Bob Pink, I represented the Association at the Commemoration Service organised by the First Battalion Association at the Church of St Columba, Woollahra. Also present was the Association Chancellor, Phillip Gerber, his wife Deanne and son Anthony and the Regimental Warrant Officer, WO1 Warren Barnes, OAM who drove down from Singleton to attend. It was the usual moving service conducted by Rev Dr Alan Russell with the Pipes and Drums of Scots College Sydney in attendance. At the conclusion of the service there was a Dedication ceremony for the recently conserved Queen Anne Union Jack and a 1st Battalion Flag that had been laid up in the Church of St Columba. These have now been framed under glass and this will preserve them into the future. The ladies of St Columba's excelled themselves, as usual, with the magnificent morning tea that followed the service.

It was particularly sad to see that there were no senior officers of the ADF present on this important occasion. Had it not been for the presence in uniform of WO1 Warren Barnes and the Warrant Officer Bugler there would have been no serving personnel present. A far cry from the days when you couldn't move for General Officers vying for pride of place on the reviewing stand!

Sunday, August 7 saw the peaceful passing of Margaret Forbes, widow of 2/19th Battalion AIF member Jimmy Forbes, after a period of hospitalisation. Margaret, a gracious lady who maintained the links with the Association after Jim's death will be sadly missed. Margaret was farewelled at the Oatley Uniting Church on Tuesday, 16 August before a large congregation of family and friends. I represented the Association and was very pleased to see an extremely large crowd of Margaret and Jim's family and friends.

Sunday 14 August saw us once again at Lidcombe RSL Sub-branch's VP Day Commemoration as the guest of Association member Joe Coombs. It was the usual very moving ceremony with a catafalque party found from the local Cadet Unit. I laid a wreath on behalf of 2/19th Battalion AIF. Also in attendance, apart from Joe and his beautiful wife Muriel, were Joe & Muriel's two sons Tony and Greg, together with their wives Beryl and Julie, Margaret Gill, Anne Gillies and Paul and Di Elliott. The ceremony was followed by a magnificent luncheon at Lidcombe Catholic Club. Monday, 15 August was the Anniversary of the Cessation of Hostilities in World War 2 – VP Day. I attended the Commemoration Service organised by the RSL, NSW Branch at the Cenotaph in Sydney where Association member Ray Warden laid a wreath in memory of the men of 2nd/19th Battalion AIF. The Address at the ceremony was given by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales.

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Also present were Association Secretary, Bob Pink, Dorothy Howard, Roy & Tricia Rae, George Fisher, Kevin Connelly and Barry Nesbitt.

Saturday, 27 August was the occasion of the Royal New South Wales Regiment Annual Officers', Warrant Officers' and Senior NCOs' Dinner, which this year was held at Castle Hill RSL Club in north western Sydney in the presence of His Excellency, General The Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Retd) Governor of New South Wales and MAJGEN Paul Brereton, AM, RFD who has taken over a Colonel Commandant from our own Brigadier Paul Couch CSC, RFD who had served in the role for the previous eight years. I, together with Bob Pink, Dennis Zalunardo and Ron Richmond, attended and I was extremely pleased to see a significant number of serving members of 1st/19th Battalion present including the CO, LTCOL Ian Patingale and the RSM, WO1 Simon Foley. It was a very pleasant evening with a number of excellent dissertations by His Excellency and the Colonel Commandant but also, in a new departure, an address by subalterns of each of the Battalions on the role played by their predecessor Battalions on the Western Front in 1916.

I also had the opportunity of speaking with Brigadier Kathryn Campbell CSC, Commander 5 Brigade, who has recently returned from her deployment as Deputy Commander JTF633, which I mentioned earlier in this report. When I asked if she was glad to be home Kathryn replied that she was not quite sure having left temperatures of 45 degrees in the Middle East to get off the plane in Canberra to a temperature of minus 5 degrees.

Sunday, 28 August saw the Annual Regimental Church Parade at Holy Trinity Garrison Church in The Rocks in Sydney. It was a little unfortunate that the SES decided to conduct a disaster exercise in the area with the resultant traffic chaos. Fortunately, Bob and I made it in time from Castle Hill and were joined by Joy and Reg Newton for the service.

The Regimental Council, and in particular the Regimental Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Steve Brumby and the Regimental Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer Class One Warren Barnes, OAM, are to be congratulated on the excellent organisation of both events.

On Tuesday, 30 August, Bob Pink, Graeme Davis and I attended a lecture at the Royal United Services Institute in Sydney given by Major General Stephen Porter AM, COMD 2nd Division. General Porter spoke on the subject "The ADF Reserve Contribution to Australia's Defence". He also went on to outline some of the problems facing the Reserve today. Sad to say, the solutions of fifty years ago when we were embroiled in the Vietnam Campaign – solutions which were subsequently abandoned – are now being looked upon as the solution for the current lack of recruits into the Reserves.

As this edition goes to print we were shocked to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of Association member Warrant Officer Class One Barry Barry Willoughby. Barry was attending a conference in Melbourne when he, apparently, suffered a massive heart attack and was unable to be revived. More details will be in the next issue.

In a separate letter, providing the Editor gives me additional space, is some detail of the forthcoming Annual Weekend on 18 & 19 November. This is a very special event as it marks the 50th Anniversary of the Raising of 19 RNSWR in December 1966. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the weekend activities, which are being conducted, in part, in conjunction with 1/19 RNSWR. It promises to be a memorable weekend and one not to be missed.

As we move from Winter into Spring we can all rejoice at surviving another year and I exhort you all to take care of yourselves and each other.

Roger Perry



SEVERAL \$60 SEATS STILL AVAILABLE FOR RETURN BUS TRIP TO ORANGE FOR THE 2016 AGM WEEKEND

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

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

Telephone Mobile: **0413 396 167** Email: 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.



I/XIX

Primum agere Primum Fortiter et Fideliter

1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION

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



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Dear Fellow Members,

In this edition of *Frontline* you will read a great deal of material regarding the upcoming Annual Weekend on 18/19 November.

As all of you will have heard – ad nauseam – that this Annual Weekend is **special** because it marks the 50th Anniversary of the Raising of 19 RNSWR, as a Special Conditions Battalion, in December 1966. **It is special.**

Many of the first enlistees who attended Camp 1/67 at the former Infantry Centre in Ingleburn, together with a number of Senior NCOs who were drafted in to staff the fledgling battalion are members of the Association. Sadly, some of those are showing signs of "age".

This Annual Weekend is a milestone in the history of 1/19 RNSWR and I have written separately to each of the former Commanding Officers, even those who are not members of the Association, urging them to make the effort to attend this weekend.

What I would like all of you to do is to contact those that you served with, in some cases for what seemed at the time six long years, and with whom you are in touch, and get them to join in the weekend's celebrations in Orange.

It will be an opportunity to reconnect with old comrades and see what the modern day Battalion looks like.

Many of you will remember the Battalion's interaction with the men of 19 Battalion AIF in the very early days of our existence and subsequently the men of 2nd/19th Battalion and 2nd/1st Battalion. Sadly the ranks of those heroes are sadly depleted but the memory of their deeds lives on as an inspiration to those who proudly serve today under the numerals "1/19"

Encourage as many as you know to attend, assure them they will be warmly welcomed and that the weekend will be a joyous celebration of a great Battalion.

ROGER PERRY

President

FRONTLINE



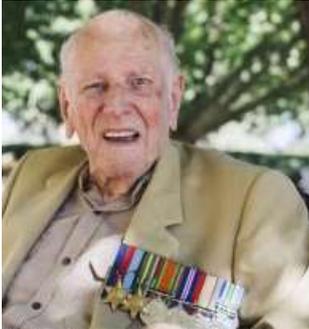
VALE GOOD FRIENDS

World War II Singapore prisoner of war Lloyd Ellerman farewelled in Canberra By Stephen Jeffery of the Canberra Times 11 SEP 16

Our thanks to Di Elliott in forwarding the following article from the Canberra Times

NX60640 CORPORAL Lloyd William ELLERMAN 8th Division Signals AIF

Lloyd was born at Young NSW on 9 September 1918 and enlisted in 8 Division Signals AIF at Goulburn on 1 June 1940 serving until discharge on 5 December 1945



A former Australian prisoner-of-war who risked his life hiding a clandestine radio in Japanese-occupied Singapore in World War II has died in Canberra. Lloyd Ellerman, who spent his later years in the capital, passed away on August 31, just nine days shy of his 98th birthday. Lloyd Ellerman, pictured at left on ANZAC Day 2016, was a prisoner of war in Singapore and Japan during World War II. [Photo: Rohan Thomson].

His frank accounts and memoirs of his time as a prisoner-of-war in Singapore and then Japan between 1942 and 1945 have helped historians understand the conditions experienced by others in his situation during the Second World War. As a signaller in the 8th Division AIF, Corporal Ellerman's unit was in Singapore when the island was surrendered to the Japanese in February, 1942. He was first taken to the Adam Park estate, where he kept a wireless set hidden with mate Harold Fischer to keep other prisoners up to date about the war effort abroad. Kept in an old ice box with a false bottom, the pair hid their secret beneath a pile of books and dug a hole in the cement floor to obscure it. They managed to trade spare parts with other prisoners to keep the radio operational. "Just before midnight we'd rearrange things, get out our earphones and listen to the BBC news," Corporal Ellerman wrote in his memoirs. The pair risked torture or even execution if the authorities discovered the clandestine radio, but Corporal Ellerman thought the risk worth it to keep fellow prisoners informed about the progress of the war.



Lloyd pictured with 2/19 Battalion AIF member Joe Coombs

After he was sent to a shipyard in Kobe later that year, Corporal Ellerman kept a diary documenting his time imprisoned, another act that risked severe punishment if he was caught. This idea of spreading information to others continued throughout his life with son Peter noting his commitment to telling his story to help others understand the reality of those years. He said societal attitudes immediately after the war limited his father's ability to tell his story, but from the 1980s onward he began to write memoirs and gradually got in touch with historians. "Initially when they came back from the Second World War they were told just to forget about their experiences, don't talk about them, just get on with your life," he said. "He had a lot of post-traumatic stress and the whole experience was brushed under the carpet. It was a relief, I think, to tell his story, and he said that was when he started to forgive his captors." When Mr Ellerman heard battlefield archaeologist Jon Cooper was leading a study of Adam Park in 2010, he sent a letter to him about the secret radio. The description helped Mr Cooper find the spot where the radio had been kept almost 70 years earlier, contributing to efforts to preserve the site and understand the history of the area. Mr Ellerman moved to Canberra with wife Muriel in the late 1990s after a postwar career as a banker, marching in every ANZAC Day parade until he was 91. He attended what was to be his last service this year in a wheelchair, having been determined not to join the parade after he could no longer march. "I suggested he ride in one of the Jeeps, but he said 'I'm either going to march or I'm not going to be there'," Peter said. "But he had the privilege when he was 90 of leading the Signals contingent past the dais at the Australian War Memorial."

Devoted husband to Muriel with whom he shared 70 years of marriage and 80 years of deep mutual love. Loved and respected father of Peter and father-in-law of Kathy. Adored Pop of Michael and Meg, Angela and Rohan and Old Pop of Neve. Much-loved and admired Lloyd and Lloydie to his nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Lloyd was farewelled at the Anglican Parish Church of All Saints, Cowper Street, Ainslie on Wednesday, 7 September 2016,



Mrs Kaye MUNDINE

Of Bundjalung descent, Kaye was born on 29 March 1947 in Grafton, New South Wales. In the 1960s she was employed at the State Bank of New South Wales before joining the Australian Public Service (APS). In 1975 she became editor of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies 'Dawn' magazine (<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/dawn.htm>), published by the New South Wales Department of Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs.

In 1980 she established the first Aboriginal Clerks Recruitment Program in the Australian Public Service. Between 1984 and 1987 Mundine was, simultaneously, Commissioner for the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, Head of the Victorian section of the Equal Employment Opportunity branch of the Australian Public Service Board, and largely responsible for the Pope's 1986 visit to Alice Springs.

In 1987 she was transferred to the Equal Employment Opportunities unit in the new Public Service Commission in Canberra. She served as a Commissioner on the Toomelah Inquiry and was Regional Director of the Queensland office of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission from 1988 to 1990. She also worked as a private consultant. In 1991 she acted as an advisor on multicultural affairs to the Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory government, and was an official visitor to the State's Corrective Services. In the same year she was also elected a Regional Councillor of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

Kaye was awarded the Centenary Medal in the 2001 New Year's Honours for her service to Australian society and to indigenous health and welfare. Kaye sadly passed away on 14 June 2016. Beloved daughter of Roy and Olive "Dolly" Mundine (both

dec'd), loving mother of Karen, cherished sister to Roy, Charles, James, John, Warren, Philip, Peter, Graeme and sister in law and aunt to their families. Kaye was farewelled at St Joseph's Catholic Church Newtown on 21 June 2016 followed by her committal in the South Chapel at Eastern Suburbs Crematorium, Matraville.

Remembering a fearless champion – Kaye Mundine

By Gai Smith - August 2016 - The South Sydney Herald

We planned to write an article about Kaye Mundine for the November edition of the SSH, to honour the 30th anniversary of her "big day", but Kaye died on June 14, having spent her last years in Annie Green Court in Redfern. Jon Altman's tribute to her was "Kaye Mundine was a fearless champion for Indigenous rights" and St Joseph's Church Newtown was filled with people who came from far and near to honour her memory and offer their condolences to her family and friends.

Kaye was an extraordinary Bundjalung/Gumbaynggirr woman with a passion for social justice and the personality to communicate her enthusiasm and win people to her cause. Born in Grafton in 1947, the second eldest of the 11 children of Roy and Olive "Dolly" (nee Donovan), Kaye and her family moved to Auburn in the 1960s so that the children could get a better education. Kaye worked for a bank and then studied social work at the University of NSW. Kaye's CV is impressive! In 1975 she became editor of the magazine *New Dawn*, published by the NSW Department of Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs. In 1980 she established the first Aboriginal Clerks Recruitment Program in the Australian Public Service. Between 1984 and 1987 she was, simultaneously, Commissioner for the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, and Head of the Victorian section of the Equal Employment Opportunity Branch of the Australian Public Service Board. In 1987 she was transferred to the Equal Employment Opportunities unit in the new Public Service Commission in Canberra. She served as a Commissioner on the Toomelah Inquiry and was Regional Director of the Queensland office of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission from 1988 to 1990.

She worked with her older sister, Olive Brown, to found the ACT's Aboriginal Health Service, Winnunga Nimmityjah, and played an important part in the establishment of the Baryugil Square Local Aboriginal Land Council. She also worked as a private consultant. In 1991 she acted as an advisor on multicultural affairs to the Chief Minister of the ACT government, and was an official visitor to the Territory's Corrective Services. In the same year she was also elected a Regional Councillor of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council (ATSIC). In 1993 she was the Leader of the Advisory Committee to the group at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University who researched views on alcohol and other drug problems in the Canberra/Queanbeyan Aboriginal community. In 1997 she was an Indigenous representative at the Ministerial Summit on Indigenous Deaths in Custody. In 2001 she was Honorary Chairperson of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Ethics Committee. In her tribute to Kaye, Lord Mayor Clover Moore wrote: "We were honoured to have Kaye serve as the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer at the City between January 2003 and June 2007. This was a very significant time for the City in building our relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The City built a new community centre at Redfern, established principles of co-operation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, adopted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural protocols and undertook community consultation and research to inform the Eora Journey projects.

Kaye contributed enormously to the success of this work." During those years, Kaye was an inspiring member of our local Redfern Residents for Reconciliation group. All that without getting to Kaye's "big day"! She was a fervent Catholic, and in the late 1960s was instrumental in the establishment of the Sydney Aboriginal Catholic Ministry with Father Eugene Stockton. In his 2015 book, *Amplifying that Still, Small Voice*, Frank Brennan wrote: "The preparation for the Pope's [1986] visit became a highly collaborative enterprise with Aboriginal leaders taking the lead in the Church as well as in their own communities. Kaye Mundine, who escorted the Pope up the dreaming path on November 29, 1986, assured the Bishops gathered in Alice Springs that the Pope fully supported an initiative for greater Aboriginal involvement in the structures of the Church." Part of what Pope John Paul II said that day is inscribed on the wall in St Vincent's Church Redfern and still awaiting its fulfilment.

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Mrs Patricia GULLEN



Association member Alan Drinkwater advised of Pat's sad passing after a short illness at Liverpool Hospital on 27 June 2016.

Late of Lurnea NSW, Pat was born on 22 November 1935. Introduced by her close friends and Association members Alan and Peggy Drinkwater Pat joined our Association on 1 November 2014.

Sadly her beloved husband Raymond John "Mick" Gullen predeceased her on 18 September 2007 and her son Raymond also predeceased her on 10 June 2014.

Mrs Margaret Mima FORBES



Formerly Swift, Nee Morrison
2/1/1932 - 7/8/2016
Passed away peacefully

Cherished wife of Bob and Jim (both dec). Loving mother of Roslyn and Carol, and mother-in-law of Geoff. Precious Grandma to Kate, Victoria, Jacqueline, Cameron and Alyssa. Much loved by David, Pam, Greg, Megan and Kirsten.

Forever in our Hearts

Margaret was farewelled at a Memorial Service at Oatley Uniting Church, Oatley on 16 August 2016.

260682 Lieutenant Geoffrey Michael HONEY



1st Commando Company 23 SEP 78, Officer Cadet Training Unit 19 JUL 1980
3rd Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment 14 MAR 1982.

Association member Rod Hilliker advised of Geoff's passing on 21 June 2016. Geoff was born on 4 JUL 1952 and served with the Army Reserve from 23 SEP 1978 to 29 OCT 1984. He was formerly a teacher and later the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Grain Board. A member of the Rural Fire Service he was a keen mountain climber and ran the Kokoda Track in aid of Army Welfare and walked it 8 times and rode in marathon bike rides in aid of various charities. Geoff is survived by his beloved wife Lucy and family, Rob, Laura and Georgia and was farewelled at the William McGrath Memorial Chapel, Warrawee NSW on 21 June 2016.

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE Barry WILLOUGHBY 23 Field Regiment RAA



The sad news of Barry's passing in Melbourne on Tuesday 13 September has only just been received as we go to print.

Barry's eulogy will be included in the next December 2016 newsletter.

Lest We Forget

FRONTLINE

COMING EVENTS 2016

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION DINNER WEEKEND – ORANGE NSW			 ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB The Association has reserved 50 rooms at the TEMPLERS MILL MOTEL which is co-located with Orange Ex Services Club 94 Byng Street, Orange 2800 Reservations/details Ph: 02 6362 5611 Fax: 02 6361 3714 PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT The Annual Orange Field Days and the Orange Wine Festival have made accommodation very scarce in OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016	
FRI	18 NOV 2016	1800		MEET & GREET FUNCTION
SAT	19 NOV 2016	1030		WREATH LAYING CEREMONY 1/19 RNSWR Romani Barracks Margaret St ORANGE NSW
SAT	19 NOV 2016	1330		CHURCH SERVICE Holy Trinity Church ORANGE NSW
SAT	19 NOV 2016	1530		ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SAT	19 NOV 2016	1800 for 1830		AGM 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION DINNER ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB 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
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COMING EVENTS 2017

WED	15 FEB 2017	1045	FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY Decorations & Medals
TUE	25 APR 2017	0930	ANZAC DAY	SYDNEY	FORM UP LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED & ADVISED REUNION VENUE: HARBOUR CRUISE Decorations & Medals
SUN	02 JULY 2017	0930	RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE SYDNEY	March details to be confirmed	REUNION VENUE: TO BE ADVISED Decorations & Medals
TUE	15 AUG 2017	1045	VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY Decorations & Medals
SAT	18 AUG 17	1800 TBC	ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT WO's/SNCO's DINNER	BATHURST RSL CLUB	Mess Dress / Coat & Tie Miniature medals
SUN	19 AUG 17	1000 TBC	ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE	ALL SAINTS CATHEDRAL BATHURST NSW	Decorations & Medals

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PATRON & LIFE MEMBER
PATRON
CHAPLAIN & LIFE MEMBER
CHANCELLOR

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Colonel B.E. (Brian) MARTYN, RFD, psc (r)
Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel The Reverend Canon C.G. (Colin) AIKEN, OAM, RFD, ChStJ
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1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION PROGRAMME

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER WEEKEND 18 – 20 NOV 2016

FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2016

Timing		Event	Location	Dress	Remarks
6:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.		Registrations "WELCOME" MEET & GREET RECEPTION SAVOURY FINGER FOOD <i>Chilli squid strips</i> <i>Smoked salmon crostini with dill mascarpone</i> <i>Caramelised eschallots with sour cream & chive puff pastry</i> <i>Chicken satay skewers</i> <i>Torpedo prawn with chilli jam</i> Dry till – beer, wine, soft drinks. (up to predetermined limit on numbers attending)	Moresby Room ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB 241 Anson Street ORANGE	Smart Casual	Savoury Finger food and drinks

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2016

Ceremony commences 10:30 A.M. sharp (Please arrive by 10:15 A.M.)		ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATIVE WREATH LAYING CEREMONY in conjunction with the Commanding Officer and All Ranks 1 st /19 th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment & the Officers & Members of Orange Ex Services Club & RSL Sub Branch (Members to travel to Romani Barracks under own arrangements)	1/19 RNSWR Romani Barracks Margaret Street ORANGE See Map at page 4 Wreath layers to be appointed	Smart Casual	Association Banner Bearers Orders of Service distributed. Cassette Player /tape PA System
11:00 A.M.		MORNING TEA	1/19 RNSWR Romani Barracks Margaret Street ORANGE	Smart Casual	
12:30 P.M.		LUNCH (under members own arrangements)	ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB has an excellent Bistro	Casual	
1:30 P.M.		COMMEMORATIVE CHURCH SERVICE In Commemoration of 50 years since the raising of 19 th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment in 1966	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH Cnr Anson & Byng Sts ORANGE	Jacket & Tie Full size Decorations & Medals	
3:30 P.M.		ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Moresby Room ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB	Casual	
6:00 P.M.		Assemble for Formal Dinner Pre dinner drinks	 Coral Sea Room ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB Mess Dress/Suit/Jacket & tie Miniature Decorations & Medals		
6:30 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.	 ENTRÉE: MAIN COURSE: DESSERT:	ASSOCIATION FORMAL DINNER (ALTERNATE SERVINGS) Heirloom tomato tart, wild rocket topped with fetta cheese Atlantic smoked salmon stack with salsa verde & lime aioli Herb crusted lamb rack with roast vegetables & natural jus Char grilled chicken breast with smashed chats & pink peppercorn sauce Vanilla bean creme brulee with almond biscotti Chocolate brownie with hot ganache sauce <i>Tea, Coffee & After Dinner Mints</i> Beverages A selection of Wines, will accompany the meal	  		

SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2016



FIRST PARADE VEHICLE SERVICING & DEPARTURE FOR HOME

SICK REPORT

Get Well Soon



The following members have been on the Sick List and our Best Wishes for their speed recovery and return to full health

- Bill EDWARDS
- Dorothy FARLOW
- Cliff LOWIEN
- Joy NEWTON
- Tricia RAE
- John REED
- Phil WILMOTT

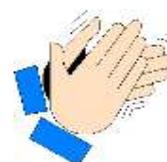
CONGRATULATIONS



To Katrina & Elmar
 A new daughter Iris Annie, born 12 August 2016
 - a sister for Daarci
 and a granddaughter to
 Proud grandparents Roy & Alice SCHMIDTKE



It's your shout Roy!



**TO Brad COLLIS
 ON HIS RECENT AWARD TO THANK
 & ACKNOWLEDGE HIS 40th YEAR OF
 SURF LIFESAVING AT
 YAMBA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**



**TO MAJOR Barry CHAPMAN,
 ED MB BS FRACP FCSANZ FICA FRSM RACI (Retd)
 ON HIS APPOINTMENT ON 9 MARCH 2016
 AS PATRON OF THE NEWCASTLE
 REGION SUB-BRANCH OF THE
 NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
 & AFFILIATES Inc.**



CONGRATULATIONS

To the following on their Well Deserved Awards in the
Queen's Birthday Honours List 2016

Mr Nyunggai Warren MUNDINE, Roseville Chase NSW 2069

OFFICER (AO) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA



For distinguished service to the community as a leader in Indigenous affairs and advocate for enhancing economic and social public policy outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander people.

Service includes: Chairman and Non-Executive Director, National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) Foundation, since 2013. Chairman, NAISDA Dance College, since 2005. Chairman, Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, since 2006. Chief Executive Officer, Generation One, 2012-2013 (aiming to end the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in one generation). Board Member, Save the Children Australia, 2008-2010. Member, Board of Directors, New South Wales Police Citizens Youth Clubs, 2002-2004. Founder and President, Janggarra Dance Association, 1996-1998. Ambassador for community organisations including the: Song Room, since 2007; White Ribbon Foundation and White Lion Foundation, since 2011. Executive Chairman, Australian Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, since 2008. Member, Advisory Board, Delaware North, since 2015. Member, Advisory Board, Aligned Resources Group, since 2015. Member, Board of Governors, Committee for Economic Development of Australia, since 2011. Director, Nyunggai Black, since 2013. (consulting services focussed on Native Title; Employment and Mining and Energy; Reconciliation Action Plans; commercial and economic opportunities in Aboriginal communities and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people). Chairman, Advisory Board, MAX NetWork Employment Provider, since 2011.(supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander job seekers in employment, education and training). Committee Member, Uranium Mining Implementation Committee, Government of Queensland, 2012- 2013. Director, Australian Uranium Association, 2009-2013. Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary, NTSCorp Ltd, 2003-2012 (Native Title Service Provider for Aboriginal Traditional Owners in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory). Advisory Board Member, Australian Employment Covenant, 2008-2011. Commissioner, Local Government Grants Commission, Office of Local Government, New South Wales, 2002-2004. Land and Culture Manager, AGL Pipeline Construction, 1996-2000. Chief Executive Officer, New South Wales Native Title Service. Co-Ordinator, Northern Tablelands Regional Aboriginal Land Council, 1986-1998. Chairman, Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council, since 2013. National President, Australian Labor Party, 2006-2007; Vice-President, 2003-2005; National Convenor, National Indigenous Labor Network; Chair, Indigenous People and Reconciliation Policy Committee, New South Wales Division. President, New South Wales Local Government Aboriginal Network, 1996-2004; Honorary Life Member. Member, National Indigenous Council, 2004- 2008. Deputy Mayor, Dubbo City Council, 2002 to 2004; Councillor, 1995-2004. Lobbyist and Advisor, Management Consulting, 1987-1993. Ambassador, Indigenous Football, Football Federation Australia, since 2008. Director, Western Sydney Wanderers Football Club, 2012-2014. Awards and recognition includes: Recipient, Doctor of the University (Honoris Causa), Southern Cross University, 2009. Recipient, Bennelong Medal, for Leadership in Indigenous Affairs, 2005. Recipient, Centenary Medal, for services to the community and local government, 2001. Recipient, Alan McGregor Fellow, Centre for Independent Studies



Mr Kevin CONNELLY, JP, Penrith NSW 2751

MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA



For service to veterans and their families.

Service includes: Returned and Service League of Australia, NSW Branch: Chairman, Branch Tribunal, since 2008 and Member, since 2005. Deputy Chief Marshall, Sydney ANZAC Day March, current and Parade Marshall, since 2007. Member, Organisational Committee Sydney ANZAC Day March, since 2005. President, Western Metropolitan District Council, since 2014. Acting President, 2013. Senior Vice-President, 2007. Member since 2004. President, Ashfield Sub-Branch, Returned and Services League of Australia, since 2014. Senior Vice-President, 2006-2013. Vice-President, 2001-2006. Committee Member, since 2000. Member since 1999. President, 3 Transport Association (Army Reserve), 1999-2014 and Member, since 1980. Member, Sandakan Education Committee, Burwood Municipal Council, since 2007. Founding Chair, Descendants of Veterans from World War II and post World War II Association, 2006-2009, Member 1st/19th Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment Association.



Lieutenant Colonel Peter Edward Morriss McGUINNESS MBE RFD ED (Retd), Lower Snug TAS 7054

MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA



For service to military history preservation.

Service includes: Author, 'Boldly and Faithfully, The Journal, The Official History of the 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF', 2011. Author, 'The Battle Honours of 12/40 Battalion, The Royal Tasmania Regiment', 2009. Editor, 'The Grim Glory, The Official History of 2/19th Australian Battalion AIF' 3rd Edition, 2006. President and Acting Secretary, Navy, Military and Air Force Club of Tasmania, current. Patron and Life Member, 1st/19th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment Association current. Tour Guide, Military History Tourism, 2008 (France and Belgium) and 2015 (Gallipoli for Centenary)



FRONTLINE



VICE REGAL INVESTITURE CEREMONIES



GOVERNMENT HOUSE TASMANIA
FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2016
Lieutenant Colonel Peter MCGUINNESS,
MBE, OAM, RFD, ED
With Her Excellency Professor The Honourable
Kate WARNER AM
Governor of Tasmania
Following his investiture with the
Medal of the Order of Australia



INVESTITURE DINNER
STANDING: BILL MEEHAN, Helen MCGUINNESS
(Peter's sister-in-law,) Susan RANSLEY (Peter's
niece) Luke Meehan SEATED: Nancy MEEHAN,
Lieutenant Colonel Peter MCGUINNESS and
Peter's young brother Bill MCGUINNESS.



Kevin CONNELLY
& Colonel Michael MILLER



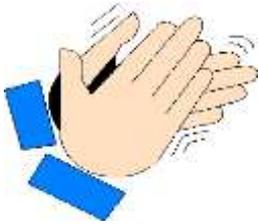
GOVERNMENT HOUSE SYDNEY - THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2016
At Right - Kevin CONNELLY, OAM,
Following his investiture with the Medal of the Order of Australia
with His Excellency General The Honourable David HURLEY AC DSC
Governor of New South Wales



Kevin CONNELLY
& Major Errol CHRISTIAN

FRONTLINE

DONATIONS



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



LCPL	Brad	COLLIS
MR	Mick	HEYDON
SGT	Mark	HOSKINSON
MS	Dorothy	HOWARD
CPL	Dan	JOHNSTON
MR	Gordon	McINNES
COL	Brian	MARTYN
MS	Alison	MERCER
MAJ	Reg	NEWTON
MRS	Alicia	OXFORD



NEW MEMBERS



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

CAPT	John	ADENEY	WEMBLEY WA	6014
PTE	Warren	AZZOPARDI	MARYBOROUGH QLD	4560

FRONTLINE

SEEN AROUND THE TRAPS



Former Commanding Officer 1st /19th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Gary BELTRAME recently visited Canberra and laid a Remembrance Poppy on the 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion Plaque at the Australian War Memorial.



OLD 1/19 RNSWR MATES WO2 Barry PARSON and SGT Wayne SKINNER MET UP AGAIN EAST TIMOR DURING OPERATION ASTUTE IN 2012



XMAS IN JULY CARCOAR 2016
Charles JENSEN, Kim & Phil MORCOM
& Grant DILLON



XMAS IN JULY 2016 CARCOAR
Bill MACDOUGALL Geoff BRADDON
& Bob PINK

FRONTLINE

THE PLAY: "A BRIGHT AND CRIMSON FLOWER" FROM Lieutenant Colonel Gary BELTRAME, RFD



I was talking to a Legatee that reminded me of the attached presentation some years ago. When I mentioned I was in contact with the Association, he said I should pass it on as it would be of interest now the numbers of POW's are so few. The play "A Bright and Crimson Flower" was about POW's of the Japanese and we made sure every local widow of a Japanese POW was given the opportunity to see it. While there were many tears, they all said that it gave them some insight into what their husbands had been through as they generally did not talk about it. Use it if you think it may be of interest but I will not be put out if you can't use it. Looking forward to seeing you in November.

Gary.

With the play "A Bright and Crimson Flower" to be staged shortly, I would like to share a few memories of my association with the POW's of the 8 Division AIF and in particular, those of the 2/19 Battalion AIF.

When I was asked to join Legacy in Griffith NSW all those years ago, the seconder for my application was a local orchardist, Frank Beverley, whom I knew had been a POW but that didn't mean much to me at the time. Later, I discovered that Frank was the Officer Commanding A Company 2/19 Battalion AIF during the withdrawal down the Malayan Peninsula. He was in an officers' camp at Sandakan and was marched off just prior to the infamous Sandakan Death March.

In the early 1980's two things occurred which would bring me even closer to the POW's. The first was my posting to 1st/19th Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment and being asked to reform Legacy in Hay NSW. I discovered that my Battalion had very strong links with the POW's and each year on the weekend closest to Remembrance Day we hosted a reunion of them and their partners at our barracks at Ingleburn. Further, each year my task was to visit Canberra and report to their Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Charles Anderson VC MC on the current status of our battalion. These links extended to the table setting for dinners in the Officers' and Sergeants' messes where at each place there was a pewter mug with the name of an Officer or WO/SNCO who did not return. After the loyal toast we would stand in turn and drink beer from the mug announcing "Mr Dining President, tonight I am drinking with Captain....."

My new legatee assisting with the reformation of Legacy in Hay turned out to be one Cliff Farlow who was also a 2/19 Bn POW. I mentioned to Cliff that I had recently been to San Francisco and at Fisherman's Wharf there was an old WWI submarine, the USS Pampanito anchored as a memorial. During my tour I noticed a photograph of POW's being rescued four days after the Rakuyo Maru was sunk in the South China Sea. I mentioned this to Cliff and he said "That was me!" After working on the Burma Railway, they were being shipped to Japan to work in the coal mines. Cliff said only 80 Australians were rescued and they arrived back in Australia in September 1944 and it was the first news of the conditions on the Burma Railway and the treatment of POW's to reach the west.

Some time later Marilyn and I had the opportunity to have a Japanese exchange student stay with us and the first thing we did was ask permission both of our fathers who fought the Japanese and Frank and Cliff. Permission was readily given.

My old unit still fosters very strong links with the POW's today and as their numbers decline we are picking up more and more of the task of maintaining contact. My greatest honour and privilege has been to prepare and read the eulogy at Frank's funeral and to be a pallbearer at the State Funeral of Lieutenant Colonel Anderson in Canberra. Both were such great men and as a group let me say that I have never had men care for each other so much as these POW's.

Just a few memories. There are so many more.

Legatee Gary Beltrame 21 August 2016

FROM Major Robert BINNS, RFD

The Editor

The Active Times

In a recent article, "The World's Scariest Bridges", your writer, Nicole Dossantos, stated that the Pai Memorial Bridge in Thailand "was built by Japanese soldiers during World War II".

This bridge was one of many on the Thai-Burma railway built by the Japanese using Prisoners of War and forced civilian labour. Approximately 60,000 British, Australian, Dutch and a small number of American prisoners and as many as 200,000 civilians endured extreme brutality and privation at the hands of the Japanese.

More than 12,000 Prisoners of War and as many as 90,000 civilians died in constructing the railway.

By failing to acknowledge this, your article dishonours the memory of those victims.

Yours sincerely

Robert Binns

July 6, 2016

Kathryn Campbell: from tough desk job to calling shots in Mid East

BRENDAN NICHOLSON, DEFENCE EDITOR, THE AUSTRALIAN, 1 AUGUST 2016



Brigadier Kathryn Campbell is given a tour of the Afghan Airforce at Kabul air base by Group Captain Terry Deeth.

Picture: Andrew Hetherington

One of Australia's most senior public servants who runs the Department of Human Services, including Centrelink's massive operations, has been serving for three months as second in command of Australia's forces in the Middle East.

Kathryn Campbell is a brigadier in the Army Reserve and was picked for the key operational role by Army Chief Angus Campbell.

She's the deputy commander of Joint Task Force 633, which covers Australian forces in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Brigadier Campbell, who took leave without pay from the department for three months, told *The Australian* from Kabul that as a public servant, she could bring a different way of thinking to the Australian Defence Force while learning a lot from the military to make her a better bureaucrat.

She now commands the Army Reserve 5th Brigade, the first woman to command a brigade in the Australian Army.

Brigadier Campbell attended the recent graduation of a class from the Afghan Army's officer academy, which included seven proud young women.

"Having women in the Australian Army they can see in senior positions is very promising," she said.

Iraqi soldiers asked her if she was a mother as well as a one-star general.

"I said yes I was," Brigadier Campbell said.

"They were a bit worried about where the children were and I said they were safely in Australia with their father."

The Iraqis were very entertained by that. "They were a bit confused about how you could be a woman and a one-star general but it's good for us to provide examples."

Lieutenant General Campbell, no relation, said Brigadier Campbell was both a distinguished public

servant and a very capable leader and commander in the ADF.

"She's done a superb job over there," he said.

In her day job, Brigadier Campbell's department has 35,000 staff in 400 locations delivering Centrelink services, Medicare and child support.

"It's a very challenging role and we touch the lives of most Australians," she said.

In the Middle East, Australia's forces included many women at different stages of their lives and careers, including young women on their first deployment and mothers who were balancing having children at home, she said.

Their presence brings home to governments and to local defence forces that women can play key roles in their national security organisations.

Brigadier Campbell said her parallel careers had complemented each other.

"I've found it very useful in my public service career to have that leadership and command training that the military provides, to always see people as a key determinant of achieving objectives," she said.

"My military experience gave me at a very young age a focus on leadership and working with people and decision-making that I may not have got from my public service career.

"To provide leadership to the department, I think the skills I learned in the military have been incredibly important.

"Some public servants might say I'm a bit too directive because I'm in the army. Military people might say I'm a bit too consultative because I'm in the public service.

"I think I'm somewhere in the middle."

FRONTLINE VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY LIDCOMBE 14 AUG 16



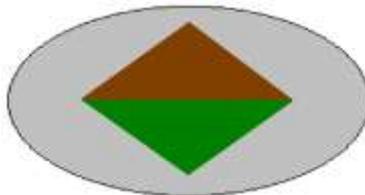
FRONTLINE

VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY SYDNEY 15 AUG 16



FRONTLINE

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY SYDNEY 18 AUG 16



CAN YOU ASSIST PLEASE ?

Mr Aaron BURNS 61 Coldstream Circuit MERRIWA W.A. 6030
Telephone: Home 08 6406 2329 Mobile: 0405 601 017
Email: sideburnz01@hotmail.com

is seeking an original Second World War
2nd /19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF COLOUR PATCH

Aaron's grandfather CQMS Herbert George WAGG served in the First World War with the 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF and the 20th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF 1915-1918.

He has a 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF Colour Patch and is very keen to obtain an original 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF Colour Patch to complete his collection of militaria and memorabilia of all the 19th Australian Infantry Battalions.

If you can assist in any way - Aaron would be only too pleased to hear from you.

FRONTLINE



THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT OFFR-WO-SNCO REGIMENTAL DINNER CASTLE HILL RSL 27 AUG 16



FRONTLINE



THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT OFFR-WO-SNCO DINNER & GARRISON CHURCH PARADE



FRONTLINE

CLIFF LOWIEN & SHIRLEY DRUM - YAMBA - ANZAC DAY 2016 PHOTOS

OUR THANKS TO CLIFF'S SON JEFF & SHIRLEY'S DAUGHTER MARY FOR THE FOLLOWING PHOTOS



FRONTLINE

SANDAKAN COMMEMORATION BURWOOD PARK SUN 7 AUG 2016



8 AUSTRALIAN DIVISION MEMBERS – PLEASE RESPOND TO ROGER MAYNARD’S REQUEST BELOW

From: [Roger Maynard](#)

To: dawnandron1@bigpond.com (Secretary 8 Australian Division Association)

Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2016 2:21 PM

Subject: **8TH DIVISION BOOK**



Dear Ron

I hope you are keeping well. It was good to catch up with you at the Martin Place ceremony in February and absorb all the memories and emotion which the 8th Division and your Association continues to evoke.

You may recall when we corresponded earlier this year that I mentioned how important it was to mark 8th Division's history, given that next year the association will be no more. Well, you may be interested to hear that I have found a publisher who is very keen to do just that. As the book has still not been signed, sealed and settled, I won't mention the publisher's name at this stage, but assuming it goes ahead, I will obviously like to talk to as many of the survivors who are still able to recall their war-time experiences.

With this in mind I wondered whether you could tell me if it might be possible at some stage to provide me with the names of any of the old soldiers who are still alive and – if you have them – their contact details.

I realise most of them will be in their nineties by now, but I'm sure you'll understand **that I'd like to include as many of them as possible in the book, which I hope, will be a fitting and lasting testament to the men who served in 8th division and those who sacrificed their lives.**

I very much hope you can help and look forward to hearing back.

Many thanks

Roger Maynard

Mobile 0418 978 616 EMAIL: roger@aimsmedia.com

FIGHTING MONSTERS

While sadly there is no longer a 2/15th organisation, I would like to let interested people know of the book I have finally finished. It is called "Fighting Monsters: An Intimate History of the Sandakan Tragedy". It contains much about 2/15th members. Chapter Two is about the Malayan campaign and partly based on an account I discovered my father had written in the late 1940s. There is a lot about his gun crew. Then in Chapters 4 and 6, there is discussion of people who shared the hut with my father, all 2/15th Field Regiment men. Later in the book I write about the postwar association and Rowley's encouragement and help. So I have attached a flyer about the book and there is an order form at the bottom should anyone wish to obtain a copy. Feel free to pass on. So few of the emails now

With very best wishes,
Dick Braithwaite

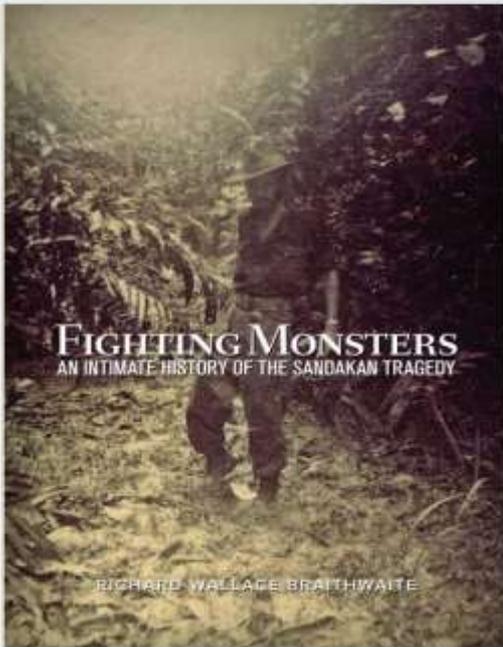


ADVANCE INFORMATION

FIGHTING MONSTERS

AN INTIMATE HISTORY OF THE SANDAKAN TRAGEDY

RICHARD WALLACE BRAITHWAITE



Only six escapees survived the Sandakan death marches of 1945 in North Borneo, the worst atrocity ever inflicted on Australian soldiers. 1787 Australian and 641 British POWs perished. Previous descriptions of the numerous violent acts have yielded little understanding of a situation where the real struggle was to keep one's humanity when so many were losing theirs, whether Allied POWs, local residents of Borneo, Javanese slave labourers, or Japanese soldiers. Understanding this extraordinary story is aided by reference to a wide range of sources in different countries and disciplines, and by examining the perspectives of all players in this terrible game of survival.

An unusual and extreme POW story, the Sandakan tragedy had four stages: active resistance in 1942-3, stubborn endurance in 1943-4, the collapse of civilized existence in 1945 and, finally, the postwar decades of torment for the six damaged survivors, the gradual assimilation of the story, the healing of the damage and the commemoration of the tragedy by the families and communities involved.

Richard Wallace Braithwaite's father was one of the six survivors of the Sandakan death marches of 1945. He died in 1986, still wanting the story to be properly told. This led to a project that has lasted for much of the last thirty years of the author's life, culminating in this book. With a scientific background, Richard worked for many years with CSIRO and universities in the biological and social sciences and in historical research. His extensive and diverse research history and lifelong personal immersion in the story has given him a unique perspective in exploring the complexities of the Sandakan tragedy.

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NFX70498
CAPTAIN WINNIE MAY DAVIS
AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING SERVICE
FROM ASSOCIATION MEMBER
LIEUTENANT COLONEL GRAEME DAVIS



Many readers would be familiar with the story of Sister Vivian Bullwinkel who, during WW2, was the sole survivor of the 1942 Banka Island massacre. Sister Bullwinkel was one of just 24 of the 65 nurses who had been on the *Vyner Brooke* to survive the war. Among the 65 nurses on the *Vyner Brooke* was Staff Nurse/Honorary Lieutenant Winnie May Davis, distant relative of Association¹ member Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Davis. Winnie (not Winifred) was born and raised on the Lower Clarence River of NSW and after finishing high school moved to Sydney and commenced training as a nurse at the War Memorial Hospital Waverley. On becoming a Registered Nurse, Winnie moved to the Royal Hospital for Women at Paddington to study obstetrics.

In December 1940, Winnie walked across the road to Victoria Barracks and enlisted into the Emergency Unit of the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). A few days later she was working in a Camp Hospital at Greta in the Hunter Valley and then, after a quick trip back to Ulmarra on pre-embarkation leave, she boarded the *Queen Mary* in February 1941 and headed to Singapore with the 8th Division. On arrival in Singapore, Winnie and her mates with the 2/10 Australian General Hospital deployed up the Malaya peninsula to the old Colonial town of Malacca and although the hours were long and acclimatising to the tropics had its moments the workload was not arduous, mainly caring for men from the 8th Division who were deployed nearby. On one occasion Winnie was able to catch up with her cousin Private Tom Davis from the 2/30 Infantry Battalion. The situation changed for the worse on December 7th when the Japanese launched simultaneous attacks on targets in Hong Kong, Guam, Philippines, Pearl Harbour and 500km to the north of Malacca near the Malaya/Thailand border.

Although there were pockets of determined defence the Japanese quickly rolled down the peninsula and some four weeks later were on Singapore Island and things were not looking good for the Allies. The British High Command ordered the evacuation of wounded personnel and nurses/physiotherapists onboard the *Empire Star* who although overcrowded and attacked by Japanese aircraft eventually disembarked many of the passengers in Batavia (present day Indonesia) before sailing for Australia. Not so fortunate were those who embarked on the *Vyner Brooke*, Sisters Bullwinkel and Davis included who were bombed two days sailing from Singapore and sank within half an hour in the Banka Strait off the island of Sumatra. Of the 65 nurses onboard, 12 were lost at sea.

Sister Bullwinkel was washed ashore with other nurses and soldiers but on surrendering to the Japanese they were bayoneted or marched into the sea and machine gunned. Although wounded, Sister Bullwinkel feigned death and eventually surrendered to another group of Japanese. Winnie was with another group of survivors taken prisoner, although arguably “interned” as the Japanese did not recognise them as being military personnel. And so began years of deprivation, hunger, sickness and for many, death. For the first two weeks the survivors were interned at Muntok on Banka Island before they were transferred to a camp at Bukit Besar near the provincial town of Palembang on Sumatra. It was at Bukit Besar that they experienced the threat of death when Japanese officers established a club and attempted to force Winnie and her colleagues to “entertain” them.



They were told that if they refused the whole camp would go without rations – after four days without rations each of the nurses were sent for and had to read something on a piece of paper and then answer some questions. Winnie was first to be sent for and her response was “NO, N-O spells no”, then you will die was the response to which she replied “I would rather be dead at your feet than do this”; Winnie turned and walked out. After protesting to other Japanese officers they were eventually put into bungalows with Dutch women and children at the other end of town. The reader is reminded that Sumatra was part of the Dutch colony known as the Dutch East Indies – now Indonesia. The

FRONTLINE

conditions were dreadful with inadequate sanitation, mosquitoes, scarce food, and unlike many of the Dutch internees, the Australians had no resources with which to purchase supplements for their diet of low-grade rice and vegetables. In 1943 the women were moved again, this time to a desolate spot in the jungle where they eked out an existence in leaking bamboo huts with mud floors and trench toilets. In October 1944, the Japanese moved their prisoners back to Muntok. Rations were worse than at Palembang and there were few medicines. Four of the nurses died in February and March 1945. Early in April 1945, the women and children were forced to take an appalling sea voyage back to Sumatra. They were packed into the holds of a small 'bumping little launch', many of them severely ill with malaria, dysentery and beri-beri. Others, some of them unconscious, were on stretchers and were carried by the 'fittest' of the women. Twenty-six hours later the women arrived at the wharf in Palembang. From there it was a train and then a truck trip to what was to be their final camp, Loebok Linggau. More than five hundred women and children were squeezed into the crowded and leaking 'atap' [bamboo and palm leaf] huts and all their water had to be carried from the creek. At first, the food supplied was an improvement, but after a month in the camp, the variety stopped and the diet was once again rice and sweet potatoes. *We find we can eat most of the grass growing near the creek, also the young curling fronds of ferns. Curried fern with sweet potato is exactly like eating mushrooms!* [Betty Jeffrey, *White Coolie, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1954, p162*]

By now the women were in an appalling state but the Japanese still expected them to work in the camp. In July 1945, only weeks before the war ended, Winnie May died of beri-beri after being desperately ill for some week. To save Winnie from only having rice to eat her friends worked wonders getting eggs and English potatoes on the black market but to no avail. Winnie was buried in the Dutch War Cemetery but after the war she and others were reinterred to the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Jakarta. After the Japanese surrender of 15 August 1945, Australian war correspondent Hayden Lennard began searching for the nurses and one month later the nurses were flown out of the camp.

The Australian Army doctor who travelled with the rescue team, Harry Windsor, was so outraged by the appearance of the surviving nurses and the other prisoners at the camp that he recommended, officially, that the guards, the Kempei Tai [military police] and all of the those Japanese involved in their treatment, ***Be forthwith slowly and painfully butchered.***

While interned, Winnie was promoted to Captain and granted military rank. The AANS did not become part of the Australian Regular Army until 1949. At the War Memorial Hospital Waverley, the Nurses Memorial Window commemorates the service of Winnie, Sister Florence Salmon¹ and Matron Elizabeth Hunter. Winnie is also remembered at Grafton High School, Memorial Park Ulmarra, Nurses Memorial Chapel Westminster Chapel and the Australian War Memorial.

OUR THANKS TO GRAEME FOR THE ABOVE ARTICLE. WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE HIS INVALUABLE EXPERTISE AND IF YOU REQUIRE SIMILAR INFORMATION ON YOUR RELATIVES PLEASE CONTACT GRAEME AT:

Family MILITARY HISTORY



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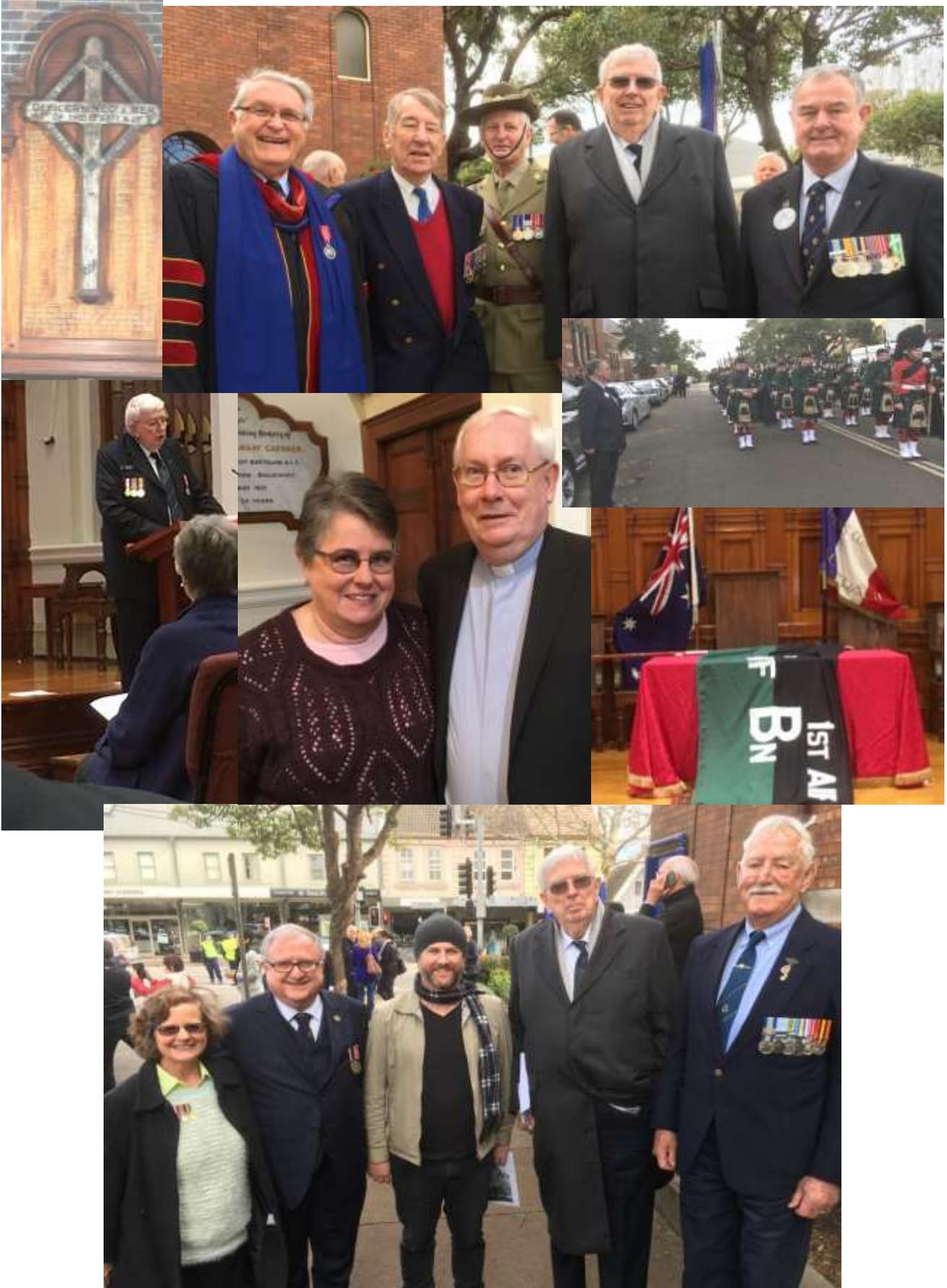
Research, Medals, Honour Boards



¹ Attached to the 19th AGH she escaped on the Vyner Brooke but was massacred by the Japanese on the beach at Banka Island

FRONTLINE

POZIERES COMMEMORATION SUN 24 JULY 16 St Columba Church, Woollahra



FRONTLINE

THE TRAVELLED NOTES OF THE MACHINE GUN OFFICERS' COURSE

Contributed by Association Member **CAPTAIN Bill EDWARDS**

One item within the Australian Army Infantry Museum which, if it could speak, could tell quite a story, is a copy of the notes issued to students attending the Brigade Machine Gun Officers' course at the Australian Small Arms School from 14 to 26 November 1938. The original notes are still retained in the Military Archives of Russia. The student who gathered the notes was Captain Cyril Henwood FIDOCK, who was then the Brigade Machine Gun Officer of 3rd Infantry Brigade, Adelaide. The course lasted for twelve days and consisted of seven days of theory and practical lessons on the Vickers machine gun and the three inch mortar, three days range practice and a one day tactical exercise without troops (TEWT). Day twelve included a test of the work carried out, and administration action.

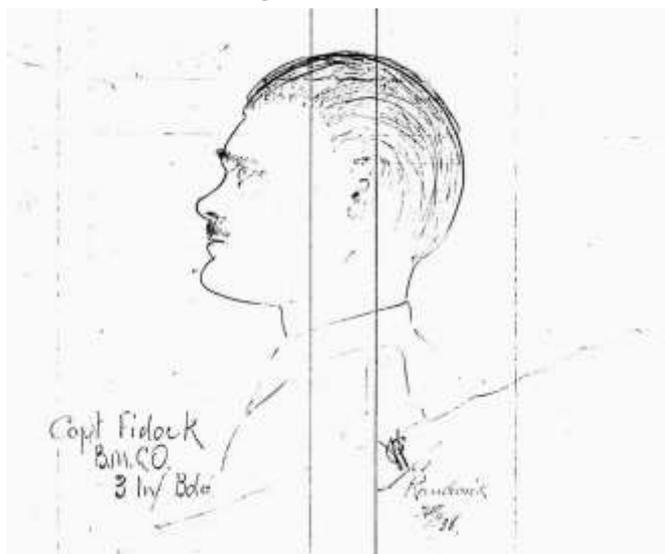
The basic tactical unit was the Machine Gun Platoon consisting of a Headquarters and four sections, each with four guns (peacetime establishment). Students were taught the roles and responsibilities of each member of the Platoon, and their actions on deployment. The course also taught the detailed operation of the Vickers machine gun, its maintenance and procedures for clearance of stoppages. It provided detailed explanation of the various procedures required for direct fire, flanking and overhead fire, night fire tasks and indirect fire when the target cannot be observed from the gun positions.

The notes provide examples of the geometry and elementary gunnery theory necessary to understand machine gun fire control. Example calculations are included for allowances for climatic conditions, tangent sighting principles, and the characteristics of a Cone of Fire and the Beaten Zone. Safety margin calculations for overhead fire are also explained, and it is pleasing to note that firing ceases or lifts well before the tallest member in the assaulting force drops¹. It is a long story as to how the notes ended up in the Military Archives of Russia, and it starts with Captain Fidock. He was born in Caltowie, South Australia, on 1 May 1898. On leaving school he worked as a clerk with the South Australia railways and served for two years as a Senior Military Cadet before enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force on 19 Jun 1916. He was allocated to Field Artillery Reinforcement, and did his initial training as a Driver at Maribyrnong, Victoria.

Driver Fidock sailed from Melbourne on 28 Nov 1916, and disembarked at Plymouth, England on 27 Jan 1917. He then did further artillery training at Larkhill and the South Downs area, before proceeding to France on 15 Aug 1917. He was initially allocated to 24 Howitzer Battery, 3rd Division, but after one month was reposted to the 3 Division Ammunition Column (DAC) as a Driver. Driver Fidock served with 3 DAC until the end of the war, and returned to Australia on 12 Apr 1919, for discharge on 28 May 1919. Cyril Fidock returned to work with the South Australia railways, and later enlisted in 27 Infantry Battalion, CMF, in 1931. Appointment to Lieutenant (Probationary) came on 21 Feb 1933 followed by promotion to Captain on 17 Aug 1936. He served as Acting Adjutant and Quartermaster in 27 Infantry Battalion for two years during this time, and on 7 Sep 1938 he was seconded to 3rd Infantry Brigade Headquarters as the Brigade Machine Gun Officer (BMGO). It was in this posting that he undertook the course at the Small Arms School, Randwick, in November 1938 and gathered the now infamous notes.

Pencil Sketch of Capt CH Fidock, at Randwick November 1938

At the outbreak of the Second World War, SX1437 Captain Fidock enlisted in the 2/10 Infantry Battalion. He was promoted to Major on 13 Oct 1939, and then transferred to 2/1 Machine Gun Battalion, 6th Division, on 18 Dec 1939. The battalion left Sydney for overseas service on 4 May 1940, but instead of joining the other elements of 6th Division in the Middle East, it was diverted to England following the evacuation from Dunkirque and the subsequent substantial loss of British forces and equipment. In England the battalion manned defensive positions against the expected German invasion, and continued their training. The 2/1 MG Battalion was released from its duty in England in November 1940, and reshipped to Egypt, disembarking at Alexandria on 30 December 1940 after a voyage via South



Africa. As the battalion was still waiting for their machine guns and vehicles to arrive from England, they were unable to join the remainder of

¹ "The Long Carry – A History of the 2/1 Australian Machine Gun Battalion 1939-46", Philip Hocking, 2/1 Machine Gun Battalion Association, Nunawading, Victoria, 1997, Page 227

the 6th Division in its successful campaigns in the Western Desert. By late March 1941 they were fully re-equipped and ready to proceed to Greece. The 2/1 MG Battalion arrived in Greece on 9 April 1941. The sub-units of the battalion were assigned to support various infantry brigades and when Major Fidock and his C Coy 2/1 MG Bn arrived in Athens on 11 Apr 1941 he received orders to support 4 New Zealand Brigade in the line South of Servia. Before first light on 15 Apr 1941 all three platoons of C Coy were ready for action. It was a very difficult position with the machine guns sighted right at the front with only a “...*thin screen of infantry which were attempting to hold positions far beyond the scope of the force available*”¹.

The German assault came later in the morning of 15 Apr 1941 and was initially repulsed. Further German attacks on 16 Apr forced a general withdrawal that evening. This was achieved with considerable difficulty for the machine gunners with their heavy guns, tripods and ammunition requiring manhandling over steep narrow mountain tracks, all the while under fire from German infantry, artillery and air support. Later one platoon commandeered twenty two mules with pack saddles to assist in carrying the loads, as vehicles were impossible to use. Many items of personal effects would have been left behind during this difficult night withdrawal, and no doubt the aforementioned notes from the Machine Gun Course were among these effects. They thus came into the hands of the German Army, and over the course of time ended up in Berlin for analysis and interpretation by their Intelligence. The notes were still in Berlin when the Russian forces defeated the German defenders and entered the city in April 1945. They were duly gathered with no doubt much other records and printed material, and taken back to Moscow. Following their further analysis by Russian intelligence officers, they ended up in the Russian Military Archives.

The story could have ended at this point, had not the Berlin Wall been breached in 1989 and subsequently demolished. This and other factors lead to the Soviet Government establishing a policy of “Glasnost” or “Openness”. As a consequence of this policy, officials of Western countries were invited to Russia to inspect and take back possession of material which could be shown to have originated in the West. The notes initially issued to students at the Brigade Machine Gun Officer’s Course, 1938, were still in good condition, and claimed by British officials. However the original notes would not be released by the Russian archivists. Photocopies of the notes were made and certified, and circa 1995 these were forwarded to Canberra via London. Army History Unit determined the appropriate repository to be the Australian Army Infantry Museum, Singleton.

The intelligence value of the notes to the then enemy, the German Army, is doubtful as the employment of medium machine guns by Australian forces between 1939 and 1945 was rarely in accordance with the doctrine taught at the Small Arms School in 1938². These course notes now are a valued part of the Museum collection of heritage items. The high level of heritage value comes from being a direct source of information regarding the organisation and operation of a part of Australian Infantry before World War II, the journey that the notes had to reach the Museum, and the fact the Russian Government would not release the original printed matter (they obviously value the notes as well). As a footnote, Major Fidock together with most of 2/1 MG Bn escaped from Greece on board the SS Costa Rica. When this ship was sunk by German aircraft, they were picked up by the destroyer HMS Hereward and disembarked on Crete. As all of their weapons and equipment were lost with the SS Costa Rica, 2/1 MG Bn except for D Coy were further evacuated to Egypt. On 16 Nov 1941 Major Fidock was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Commanding Officer 2/1 MG Bn. He continued in the posting until 7 Aug 1944 and was discharged on 16 Aug 1944. He later rejoined the South Australian Railways, retiring as Secretary to the Commissioner in 1963. He served as Mayor of Glenelg from 1950 to 1953. He died on 16 Feb 1989 and is buried in the Centennial Park Cemetery, Pasadena, South Australia.

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1. Programme of Work. No. 1 of the Brigade Machine Gun Officers Course, 14 – 26 November 1938, Small Arms School, Randwick, NSW.
2. “The Long Carry – A History of the 2/1 Australian Machine Gun Battalion 1939-46”, Philip Hocking, 2/1 Machine Gun Battalion Association, Nunawading, Victoria, 1997.
3. National Archives of Australia – Personal Records

Australian Army Infantry Museum files

¹ Operation Report by Maj Fidock, as quoted in “The Long Carry – A History of the 2/1 Machine Gun Battalion 1939-46”, Philip Hocking, 2/1 Australian Machine Gun Battalion Association, Nunawading, Victoria, 1997, Page 69

² “The Long Carry – A History of the 2/1 Australian Machine Gun Battalion 1939-46”, Philip Hocking, 2/1 Machine Gun Battalion Association, Nunawading, Victoria, 1997, Appendix 1

FRONTLINE

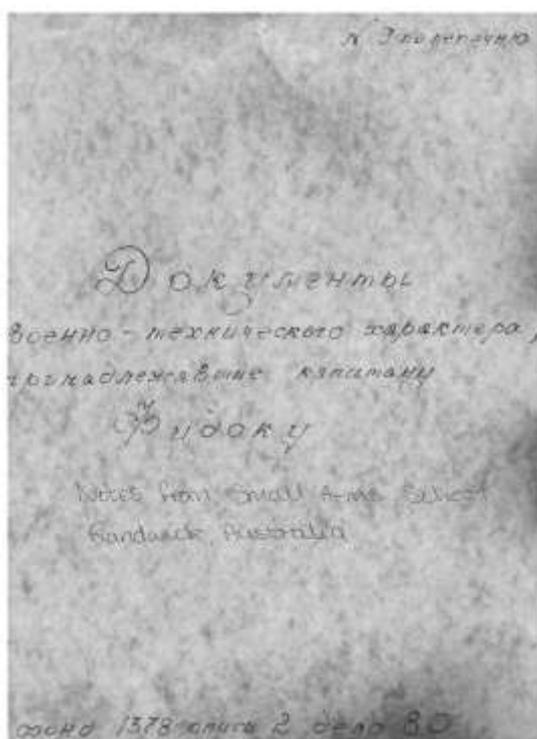


1938 Brigade Machine Gun Officers' Course, Randwick

Back Row (L-R) - Capt Salom (WA), Capt Key (Vic), Capt Edwards (Tas), Capt Smith (Vic), Lt Stephens (Qld), Capt Stringer (Qld), Maj Bradley (NSW), Maj Beaforth (Vic)

Centre Row (L_R) – Maj Butler (NSW), Capt Fidock (SA), Maj Logan (NSW), Maj Hosking (Vic), Capt Palmer (Vic), Maj Kessils (Qld), Lt Hayes (NSW), Capt Ward (NSW), Capt Pate (SA), Capt Winning (NSW).

Front Row – Small Arms School Staff – not identified.



Manilla Folder Provided by Russian Archives

Bill Edwards
Volunteer,
Australian Army Infantry Museum, Singleton



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

Lieutenant Colonel Gary Beltrame RFD JP Member, 1/19 Battalion RNSWR Association



Gary was born in Corrimal NSW in December 1944 to Italian emigrant parents who came to Australia pre WW11. His paternal grandfather came out in 1925 to work on the Sydney Harbour Bridge and it took him 12 years to save up enough money to get the rest of the family to Australia in 1936. They were naturalised in 1940. Gary's father was called up into the Militia in 1939 at the outbreak of war and immediately transferred to the AIF as he was a trained mechanic. He was actually in Papua New Guinea in 1942, on his way to Malaya when Singapore fell. His parents were married in 1943 and went to Griffith NSW for their honeymoon as his father's older sister had married an Italian shopkeeper who was not naturalised and they were sent to Griffith to grow vegetables for the war effort. After the war, Gary's father and uncle established a motor dealership in the village of Yoogali, near Griffith selling Hartnets and later, Borgward Hanza vehicles. In 1954 they opened their dealership in Griffith itself, selling Rootes Group vehicles

and Gary worked there every school holidays. Gary started his schooling at St. Mary's School Yoogali and then the Marist Brothers Griffith and college in Leeton. He went to Griffith High School and found his niche in the school cadets rising to the rank Cadet Under Officer.

On leaving school in 1962, he was sent to Wagga Wagga to learn about motor dealerships and joined the CMF in 1963 in what was 3RNSWR (Pentropic). He was trained as a rifleman and a crewman on the 106mm RCL as well as the 3.5inch Rocket Launcher. One incident that occurred is that they could fire as the fog lifted on Puckapunyal range. They found, as a target, a Centurion tank in what appeared to be good nick. After questioning their right to fire, they engaged the tank only to find it burned. After another check with Range Control, it was discovered that the tank had broken down the previous day and no one had told them. Much paper work was completed by all concerned. Gary went back to work in the family dealership in 1964 in a financial role and in 1973 took over as manager which he held until his father retired in 1979, during which time he attained a Diploma in Financial Services, Diploma in Business Management and a Diploma in Marketing. In the CMF in 1967, he was commissioned and posted as a Platoon Commander, B Coy 3RNSWR at the Leeton Depot and also married Marilyn in 1968. After a reorganisation in the Bn, he was posted as OC Mortar Platoon and after designing a Plotting Board in degrees, (as CMF units still used the 3inch mortar), he was also given the task of training mortar men for the Task Force and for posting to SVN. He also had to qualify as a DMEO to destroy unexploded ammunition, and has 477 jobs in his log book. Following service in SVN as a CMF Observer with 2 RAR in 1971, he was promoted to Captain. Interestingly, in SVN, Gary and two others from the same school class in Griffith stood on the side of Luscombe Airstrip Nui Dat talking about another of their classmates who was an officer with 2 RAR and had lost his legs just three months before. Gary carried mail to SVN from him with Gary being adopted by the Battalion.

In 1976, Gary became an Inducted member of Griffith Group of Sydney Legacy, Group Secretary for 25 years and Chairman in 1985 and 1986. Gary served as a Board Member of Legacy Foundation of NSW from 1984 to 1996, Board Member of Sydney Legacy from 1996 to 2000, being Vice President in 1999 and 2000 and was appointed Life Member of Sydney Legacy in 2012. Gary remains the first and only Sydney Legacy board appointment to reside west of the Blue Mountains. Between 1979 and 2003, Gary was the owner and Managing Director of Beltrame Bros Pty Ltd, car dealership in Griffith, NSW with 44 staff and was also a Director and representative for the Southern NSW in the Dealer Council of NSW, NRMA Country Service Association, to name just some. After promotion to Major, Gary was appointed as OC B Coy 3RNSWR and operated as enemy against 1/19 RNSWR in the exercise at Singleton when LTCOL John Jackson was CO. He then instructed at Junior Staff College at Bardia Barracks until completing Tac 5 in 1980. He was then posted as Operations Officer 1/19 RNSWR to CO Lt Col Peter McGuinness until taking over as CO in 1983. He also took part on Operation Northern Search in 1983, which mapped all the military resources in Northern Australia such as bridges, airfields, medical and repair facilities. In 1986, Gary was appointed to Training Command with General Ross Buchan writing Officer Promotion packages in Military Command and he retired to the inactive list in 1988 as his geographic location prevented any further rise in rank.

Outside Gary's car dealership business and his Army career, Gary has for 25 years been an active member of Rotary as club president, on district committees and as the governor's aide. Gary has been a member of Hervey Bay Legacy Group since 2005 and was Chairman in 2007 and a board member of the Hervey Bay RSL Memorial Club since 2012. He has three children and now five grandchildren and having sold the business in 2003, retired to Hervey Bay, Queensland.



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

Major Robert Binns RFD BA Med

Member, 1/19 Battalion RNSWR Association.



Bob was born in Leeton in January 1945, the first of five children for Ken and Pat. As children of a teacher they grew up in various parts of the state. Bob started his schooling at North Strathfield, then Balranald with his High School career at Hay before he and brother Greg moved to live with an aunt and attend Macquarie Boys' High near Parramatta. Bob was particularly proud of his association with Hay War Memorial High School. In the aftermath of WWI, when every town and village in Australia subscribed to build a monument, the people of Hay raised funds to build a High School as the town memorial, which the Department of Education agreed to staff. It was at Hay that Bob began his military career, as a school cadet. Bob was awarded a teacher training scholarship to the University of Sydney and completed a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma in Education in 1966. His birth date did not come up in the ballot for the National Service intake in 1965 so for various reasons, which are now a mystery to him, Bob applied to enlist in OCTU in 1967. At the fairly formal attestation parade for No 7 Course, Bob's father caught up with his former battery commander from the pre-war militia, then Major General Paul Cullen to introduce his son, young Bob (as any Dad did!!).

One of the first things Bob did when he began teaching at Villawood North was apply for leave to attend camp a month later, in March 1967. He considered himself to be reasonably fit and healthy, having played rugby and being a keen swimmer, but the first two weeks at Wallgrove corrected that idea. He graduated from OCTU as the most outstanding cadet in August 1968 and was posted officially as a PI Comd in 4RNSWR but in reality was assistant 'whatever-was-needed' in Admin Coy. Bob was transferred to Lowesdale Public School as Teacher-in-Charge (that means the only teacher) in 1969 and his application to transfer to 19 RNSWR was accepted.

He served as a PI Comd in C Coy, then A Coy commanded by CAPT McGuinness, then as Coy 2IC. He was Regimental Ensign when the Colours were handed over on the amalgamation of 1st and 19th Battalions. At the end of 1971, Bob resigned from teaching to travel overseas with his wife Ann. They spent two years based in the UK and travelling. Bob spent time teaching at a Prep School in Surrey and was attached to the Territorial Army - equivalent of the CMF/Army Reserve. He was a PI Comd in A Coy, 4th Bn, Royal Green Jackets. One particular incident has stuck in his mind. During a weekend escape and evasion exercise on the Brecon Beacons, Wales, in the middle of the night, heavy cloud cover, freezing cold, his group of three came up to and challenged another group. Their response was to fire their rifles (blanks) at very close range. At the end of the exercise, while everyone was enjoying a hot brew, the CO called Bob over and said, "Mr Binns, next time you stick the muzzle of your rifle in someone's nostril and threaten to clear their sinuses, I advise you change your accent." Bob returned to Australia in 1974 and rejoined a vastly depleted 1/19 RNSWR. He served in a variety of postings including Adjt (ARES) after his promotion to Captain in 1975. From 1974 -77, Bob taught at Auburn where he managed to make the first two steps on the Education Department's promotion ladder as well as completing a Masters degree in education part-time.

In 1978, Bob transferred to the inactive reserve while he was Principal at Caragabal and then Acting Principal at Wilcannia. He rejoined the Battalion in Sep 1981 with Lt Col Peter McGuinness as CO while teaching at Yass. Bob was OC for Exercise Tasman Reserve in the South Island of NZ in January 1982. By this time, he and Ann had a son and three daughters and the family moved from Yass to the Blue Mountains at the beginning of 1984. During the next five years, Bob qualified for and was promoted to Major and served as a Senior Instructor at OCTU and was then posted to Reserve Staff College (RCSC) as a student on the Senior Course.

In 1985, he was seconded to lead the Disadvantaged Schools Program in Metropolitan West of Sydney. This program aimed to improve educational outcomes for students from the most socio-economically disadvantaged communities. Bob led a team of consultants who operated in ten high schools and twenty five primary schools promoting better teaching practices and closer relationships between schools and their communities. He was commended for his leadership of a diverse group and he attributes much of his success to skills developed in his military service.

After completing RCSC he was posted to SUR as OC A Coy for 12 months, then as 2IC of 2/17 RNSWR. In 1989 Bob was appointed Deputy Principal at Jamisontown Public School in Penrith. He and Ann separated in 1990 and later divorced. Bob was retired from the Army Reserve in January 1992. In March 1992, he was appointed Principal at Campbelltown East and then at Springwood and later Clairgate Public Schools until retirement in January 2005.

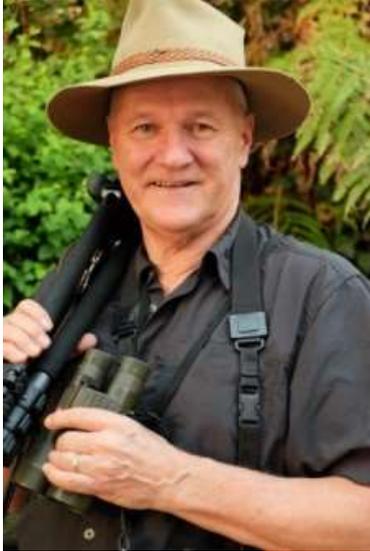
In 1994, Bob married Cheryl and they have made it through twenty two years. During his time as a Principal Bob was an active member of the Primary Principals' Association and served on a number of advisory committees at regional and state level.

Bob is a member of Penrith RSL, the Association of Retired Primary Principals and Nepean Art Society. He reads (too much), gardens (not enough), makes things with bits of wood (some of them useful) and tries to create watercolour paintings (seldom successfully). He also enjoys time with eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He is an active advocate for public education.



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

Major John Ralph RFD Member, 1/19 Battalion RNSWR Association.



John was born in Sydney in 1947 to parents Norman and Joan. Early days were spent at Northbridge in Sydney followed by time at Wollongong and Grenfell then back to Northbridge as father, Norm, was moved around the state with the Bank of NSW. John has a younger brother, Brian, who also served in both SUR and 1/19RNSWR.

As youngsters, they enjoyed the outdoors. Time after school was spent "patrolling" Northbridge golf links and encouraging other youngsters to join in various para-military activities. Timing of school moves prevented John from joining the school cadets but created a determination to sign up with the CMF as soon as he could.

This opportunity arose as he commenced studying Pharmacy at Sydney University. Enlisting on 10 MAR 65 in SUR with CO Lt Col K R Murray, he proceeded to attend every possible course that his university breaks allowed. He qualified for rifleman, signaller, NCO, sat for first appointment and was promoted to Sgt in his first 2 years.

In 1968, John had completed his Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree and was appointed Lt in SUR. He served 1 year as PI Comd and then various other tasks. Over the next three years he was working as a relieving pharmacist in many and varied locations across NSW. This made it hard to attend SUR regularly and led to a request to transfer to 19RNSWR –The Bushmen's Rifles.

Lt Col T.C. Irwin as CO approved and John made his only unit transfer, attending camp on 4 MAR 71 at Old Holsworthy. 19 RNSWR was over 800 strong and relied on the input of the National Servicemen. John ran the Promotion course then was appointed IO, a role he enjoyed immensely. The Bn accepted the colours of 1 RNSWR to become 1/19RNSWR and then was presented with the 19 RNSWR Colours. With the cessation of National Service in 1972, John Ralph, like many others, spent each camp travelling through country areas encouraging new enlistments.

John used the flexibility of the unit to undertake a series of overseas trips. By attending first and second half of the unit camp, it was possible to then have almost a year overseas and still maintain full efficiency. He used these trips to indulge in his favourite hobby –photography.

Over the next 7 years, Lt Ralph had a range of positions –Recruiter, PL Comd A Coy (under Capt PEM McGuinness) 2IC of C Coy, B Coy and Spt Coy. With little chance of getting back to PI Comd, John settled down to do the various promotion courses and was promoted to Captain. This led to a series of OC positions; the most memorable was OC A Coy with Lt Col McGuinness as CO, and as OC Admin. Promotion to Major followed.

One of the most unique camps was held at Singleton in Sep 1979. Capt Ralph (aka Capt Kodak) was asked by Lt Col Dick Arthur to create an on-site PR unit. A kitchen was converted to darkroom, press room etc and a team of photographers recorded every company every day. A picture with story was to be sent to every hometown paper of the soldier at camp to encourage more recruits. During this time, there had been many changes in his private life; the most significant was meeting Deborah in 1976 and marrying her in 1978. They purchased a share in a Central Coast pharmacy and expanded the operation to three pharmacies, and three photo labs/camera stores. There followed three wonderful children and then the decision to transfer to the Inactive Reserve in 1985.

Since then, John has left the Pharmacy game to concentrate on Photography. He and Deborah have one of the more successful Camera Houses at Erina NSW. He has been involved in the Camera House national Board and various Chamber of Commerce executive positions. There are four grandsons under four years old and perhaps more to come. He enjoys bushwalking, photography and travelling overseas – leaving soon for 5 weeks in Africa.

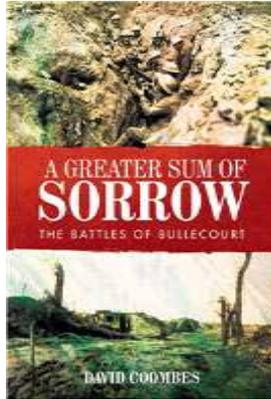
A GREATER SUM OF SORROW:

The Battles of Bullecourt

David Coombes

Big Sky Publishing, 2016, 427pp

ISBN 9781925275650



This volume on the two Battles of Bullecourt, in early 1917, provides a useful companion to Dr David Coombes' earlier books on Sir Leslie Morshead, Sir JJ Talbot Hobbs and Australian prisoners of war during World War I.

Coombes covers the two Bullecourt battles comprehensively. First, however, he discusses the Fifth Army commander, General

Gough. It would be fair to say that Coombes does not regard him with great favour. Australians first served under Gough at Pozières, and the unfavourable impression they gained there of his impatience and arrogance was confirmed at Bullecourt. His Chief of Staff, Major General Malcolm was also held in poor regard in the British Expeditionary Force (BEF).

The original intention of the first attack was to provide a feint to take some pressure away from the Battle of Arras. Field Marshal Haig, however, expanded the intention to a full attack on the Hindenburg Line, but then backed away from this. Gough decided to persist with the original plan, despite a shortage of artillery and time. Coombes speculates that one reason might have been that success at Bullecourt would strengthen his claim to lead the attack planned around Ypres later in 1917.

Australian leaders also come in for criticism. Lieutenant General Birdwood and Major General White seemed to ignore the evidence of German machine guns covering the area chosen for the attack. Birdwood accepted an argument that roads should "not be further damaged by 'hurrying up guns and ammunition'", an unusual proposition in a war where strong artillery support was recognised as an important element in an attack! Coombes considers that Birdwood and White should have argued more vigorously for a 'proper preliminary artillery barrage', and ensured that the machine gun positions were neutralised.

The eventual plan for the first attack (after many confusing changes, made right up to the last minute) was for an assault with minimal artillery support, but accompanied by 12 tanks. The troops involved had no opportunity to familiarise themselves with the tanks, which would approach the start line in darkness. The postponement of the attack for a day after the tanks failed to arrive simply warned the Germans to be alert. Coombes records that during the first attack, Birdwood rejected reports from his subordinates that it had failed, and that artillery support was desperately needed, preferring to believe false reports that Australians were in 'Hendecourt and Riencourt'. At least 18 requests for artillery support 'went unanswered'. When the artillery finally

BOOK REVIEW

intervened, it caused heavy casualties among captured Australians being marched to the rear. The tanks made no significant contribution to the attack. Like the 5th Division after Fromelles in July 1916, the 4th Division was shattered after First Bullecourt. Paralleling Lieutenant General Haking's comment after Fromelles that the attack 'has done both divisions [involved] a great deal of good', Gough expressed his belief that 'the Anzac attack had been of great assistance' even after its complete failure.

Coombes describes planning for the second attack that was not greatly improved over that for the first. Haig and Gough both focussed on wider political and personal ambitions, which they hoped that the attack might help to fulfil. Birdwood succeeded in rejecting the use of tanks, and in improving the artillery plan, but while the final orders issued were 'clear and comprehensive', the machine guns near Quéant that had caused heavy casualties during the first attack were not bombarded. Coombes blames this failure and other planning weaknesses largely on the staffs of I ANZAC and the 2nd Division. The second attack was also a costly failure.

While Coombes does not specifically mention it, the major attacks carried out by the AIF during its first year in France and Flanders were all either costly failures (Fromelles and the Bullecourt battles) or tactical victories obtained at excessive cost (Pozières and Mouquet Farm). The AIF's next major attack (Messines in June 1917) was a success, as were its early attacks during 3rd Ypres, albeit the later parts of that offensive degenerated into a muddy blood bath.

Recent scholarship on World War I has proposed a theory of a 'learning curve' in the BEF on the Western Front. There seems much logic behind that theory, but it is also clear from Coombes' account that there were many slow learners.

Coombes' book takes much of the gloss off White's reputation as the eminence grise behind Birdwood (whose weaknesses as a tactician seem to be well accepted). It might be time that White's full career received a new examination, including his role in the over-expansion of the AIF in 1916 and in post-war planning, to replace Bean's earlier somewhat hagiographic work.

Regrettably there are some editorial weaknesses. Coombes seems to have some trouble with the (admittedly rather quirky) British infantry battalion nomenclature, particularly for Territorial and new Army units. One notable error is a reference to the Honourable Artillery Company as 'Honorary'! He also has some difficulty with the accents on French place (such as Pozières and Quéant) and personal (such as Poincaré and d'Espèrey) names. At one point, Major General Walker is named as commander of the 4th Division, rather than Major General Holmes, while Major General Legge's middle name appears as 'Walker', rather than 'Gordon'. Some German words also are misspelled in places, although correct elsewhere.

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

FRONTLINE

NOR ALL THY TEARS

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

Continued from June 2016 Newsletter:

None of us thought that we would be willing to swap our next Christmas dinner for less than we were now eating. We went to sleep dreaming of Swiss men and meter men and stocks of Red Cross. Next day we anchored. We had one windfall before we landed. Just before we disembarked a poor misguided Nip was innocent enough to tell Sandy that he had a quantity of quinine that he had acquired by illicit means, and was anxious to dispose of it, but was at a loss to know how to get it ashore. Would Sandy take it and give it to him later. Sandy immediately replied that he would be delighted to.

It probably saved at least a couple of lives!

As we moved down the gangplank, an animal sat above the fall of it with a board, and struck each straggler on the head in a final burst of petty malice. For a moment I concentrated all the hate I had accumulated in Thailand on this smirking wretch and in a quick flash wondered if, even at this stage, it would not be worthwhile to grab his hand, wrench him from his ill-balanced perch, and bring him hurtling down onto the jagged corner of sharp concrete.

CHAPTER XX THE METRE MEN

They sprayed us lightly with sheep-dip, with, I think more faith than any priest had ever held in holy water. We were called together in one huge parade and rapidly split into round numbered groups. A small stood in front and called out a name. A pause and he asked if any of that name were there. Surprised at being addressed in perfect English, or rather American, none answered for a moment, then the name was claimed. Is that your name? Yes - Then why not answer?

He passed rapidly through the list of names, rolling them off with great precision, save that he called me "Makanamara" to my great resentment. Friends were split up according to initials without a chance to say a word. Reggie was lost to our group, but we retained the Doc and Sandy. Peter, a new name to us, was placed in charge. Our group consisted of 300 Australians and 200 Dutchmen. The Nip asked how many sick we had, and Peter told him. Can't they walk at all? - No! Not even two or three steps? Well, perhaps two or three steps. Well if they can walk two or three steps once, they can do it a hundred times, and if they do it a hundred times we'll there! They gave us lorries for the sick as it happened, but it later struck me how deeply we had absorbed the philosophy contained in this early speech.

Our later progress was not made in mighty efforts, but in an infinity of small steps of effort and pain. When I carried heavy pipes up the ladders in the mine, I did not climb two thousand steps, but two steps a thousand times. We did not work three hundred days for a scrap of rice, but one day three hundred times. We lived and worked from one minute to the next, never knowing when it would end and never borne down by the weight of what was ahead of us.



With more efficiency than we had seen in the whole of the term, we were sorted out and marched off. A mile, the interpreter said. It seemed as if this were the only word in English of which he didn't know the meaning, but we made it eventually, wandering through the narrow maze of streets, grimy and dismal. Here were the first Nipponese women we had seen en masse. They stood by and eyed us curiously, a cheerless spectacle in their baggy patched trousers hitched over them with bib and cloth braces. Their hair was straight and shiny, forming a flat oily curve round the blotchy tan of their round expressionless faces. There is no greater error than to suppose beauty is only skin deep. Their dull expressions bore the imprint of all their dreary past and hopeless future. This was all that total war left of the storybook beauty of popular imagination.

Now and then a wealthier woman would pass by in a bright kimono with a child strapped to her back and another couple grasping her hands, but for the most they were working women to whom hopeless drudgery was both the whole of life and the whole meaning of life. They housed us for the night in a series of open stables that had been swept out, and we were given some straw, then some men were sent for water. I had a thirst such that you could have struck matches on my tongue, and for the, first time since we knew not how long, we had water that was ice-cold and it slid over our parched throats like the nectar of the gods. I recall many drinks since we left home, but I shall always remember the clear fluid that I drank this day with the full assurance that I was not drinking cholera germs. Then they brought us food - two little wooden boxes, one of beautifully cooked rice, and the other a delicate arrangement of pickled vegetables and a little fish.

To be continued.....

Billy Young's new book

BILLY: - MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE POW

KEITH WILLIAM (BILLY) YOUNG OAM known as Billy, was born in Hobart in 1925. In 1929, after his mother died, his father moved to Sydney's Ultimo, at that time regarded as a slum. The Depression was at its height, and life was difficult. After several jobs, and an aborted attempt to ride round Australia on his bicycle, Billy enlisted in the AIF at the age of 15. He was sent to Singapore, where he was wounded before becoming a POW. Shortly afterwards he was drafted on a work force to Sandakan in British North Borneo to build an airstrip.

After a failed escape attempt in early 1943, he was badly beaten before being sentenced to four years' imprisonment in the high security Outram Road Gaol in Singapore. Conditions were horrendous, and a number of inmates died. Billy somehow defied the odds and survived, only to discover on his release that all but six of the 2500 POWs at Sandakan had perished.

He returned to Australia, became a carpenter and married. The marriage did not last, largely due to the trauma of the war years. There was no counselling for returned servicemen, but Billy has managed to work through his trauma by writing poetry and to paint and draw various scenes based on his many wartime experiences.

Some years ago Billy also began to record his experiences. However, while Billy has featured in various books on Sandakan, he had never told anyone the complete story, which until now he has kept entirely to himself. He lives in simple retirement in Sydney where he continues to paint, and indulge in his other favourite pastime, reading. In 2004, he received an OAM for his efforts to keep the Sandakan story alive.

LYNETTE SILVER OAM is an author and military historian. Often referred to as a "history detective", she is a recognised expert in identifying graves of servicemen killed in action or who died as prisoners of war and to date has identified the graves of 11 military personnel who were buried as 'unknown'. Each Anzac Day she organises a tour for POW relatives to Sabah and also accompanies trekking groups along the Sandakan-Barau death march track, "lost" for 60 years and which she located and re-established with trekking expert Mr. Tham You Koop.

Lynette has received a Defence Forces Commendation and Medal from Special Operations Command Australia, for her work during the 60th Anniversary of a wartime mission known as Operation Jaywick, the first civilian ever to receive this prestigious award. In January 2004 she was also awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours for her services to veterans and their families for her work on Sandakan. This was followed in 2009 by a Ministerial Special Award from the Sabah Government for her research in tracing the fate of more than 2,500 POWs who died in Borneo.

Lynette has two children and is the grandmother of three. She lives in Sydney with her husband Neil, whose help and support is integral to various memorial projects she has initiated to assist local people. When not researching and writing Lynette's time is fully occupied in consultative work with various organisations, raising money for her projects, public speaking, and accompanying tour groups to Singapore and Sabah. When she is 'retired', she hopes to take up painting again.

Other books include *A Four's Gold?*, *The Battle of Vinegar Hill, Gallipolis Furphies, The Hermes in Remou, Krait the Fishing Boat that went to War, Sandakan: A Conspiracy of Silence, The Bridge of Pent Subang, Moral Courage: A Life Unraveled, Blood Brothers, Deadly Secrets: The Singapore raids 1942-45, and In the Month of the Tiger* co-authored with Derek Emerson-Elliott.

Billy Young & Lynette Silver are available for interview

Contact: Jackie Evans, Publicist JEP on 0407 776 222 or jep.pub@bigpond.net.au
Available at all good book stores and online



media release

For Release: 5 September 2016



Billy: My Life as a Teenage POW Lynette Silver, Billy Young

Paperback | Sally Milner Publishing | 978-089514998 | 340pp | \$29.99

"I had never experienced a regular home environment, and certainly nothing ever approaching what people take for granted today. I had never experienced the feeling of belonging to a proper family, or the warm comfort of a family home. Life for me had always been a game of chance, a matter of heads or tails. Yet it was here, on that faraway island, while chained to a cable on an old timber wharf, that I had my first yearning for home." Billy Young

"Billy Young is a remarkable human being and a national treasure. I am proud and humbled to have him as my friend." Lynette Silver



Billy: My Life as a Teenage POW is the story of an orphaned 15 year old, who enlisted in the army in World War II. Assigned to 2/25 Infantry Battalion in the 8th Australian Division, he was captured by the Japanese when Singapore fell in February 1942. He spent all his teenage years slaving on airfield construction in Sandakan, Borneo, and as an inmate in Outram Road Gaol Singapore, the infamous high security punishment prison run by the Japanese secret police.

Billy is now the only soldier left alive from Sandakan and the only surviving Australian imprisoned in Outram Road Gaol. His close friend, historian and author Lynette Silver, has spent the last thirty years researching and writing about events that Billy experienced at first hand. Consequently, he talks to her as if she had actually been in the POW camp and gaol with him. This unique rapport between historian and POW survivor has produced a lively and at times thought-provoking account of life as a prisoner of war, told through the eyes of a teenage boy.

Their book has been compiled from a chronicle begun by Billy in the 1970s, when he recorded his memories in exercise books while travelling around Australia, supplemented by hundreds of conversations that Lynette and Billy have shared in the course of their close friendship spanning more than two decades. Billy's story is the only account published by a soldier from Sandakan, and one of only three to recount the daily struggle to stay alive in the Kempeitai's equally notorious Outram Road Gaol.

The way in which the teenage Billy overcame the many difficulties he encountered as a POW, and how he managed to survive incredible hardships when so many did not, is inspiring.

Interspersed throughout the book and printed in italics, are Lynette Silver's historical details providing additional narrative to compliment Billy's first-hand accounts.

Billy: My Life as a Teenage POW also includes short poems written by Billy, along with his drawings and paintings depicting events that occurred during his time as a POW. These are the only visual records in existence. The book is his memorial to all those who died in Borneo and in Outram Road Gaol.

Billy Young & Lynette Silver are available for interview

Please see over...

Contact: Jackie Evans, Publicist JEP on 0407 776 222 or jep.pub@bigpond.net.au
Available at all good book stores and online