

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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Editorial

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

Advertising

Flight Publishing Pty Ltd
A.B.N. 083 407 050
PO BOX 1269
BONDI JUNCTION NSW 1355
T: 02 9386 4213
F: 02 9387 7143

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



I wish each and every one of you, our readers, a bright, happy and prosperous 2017. I trust that the year will be kind to you and yours and that you will enjoy good health, good friends and good times throughout the year.

The year started on an auspicious note when I read in the Australia Day Honours List that our Assistant Secretary, Bryan Schafer had been awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia (OAM). Blue Schafer has been on your Committee for as long as the Association has existed and is always there to help out, unobtrusively, when required. While the award was largely recognition for his many years of service to Western Sydney Rugby League and his work for Legacy, it recognises his strong commitment to community service and this has been very evident in his service in the Australian Army and his work for War Widows. Well done Blue!

January 18 saw another good news story when Association Asst. Treasurer, Bob Weir represented the Association at a ceremony at the Australian War Memorial and handed to PTE Gilbert Mant's daughter, Carol Brown, her father's medals from World War 2. The medals had been acquired by Gary Traynor who contacted the Association seeking advice regarding Gilly Mant's family. Bob Pink, in turn, contacted Di Elliott who put us in touch with Gilbert's daughter and it all proceeded from there. Di also organised the handover at the AWM where, I am pleased to announce, the Director, Dr Brendan Nelson, paid for morning tea.

From commencing on the above auspicious notes the year started to turn gloomy very rapidly.

We were informed, by her daughter Carol, of the passing on 21 January of Joan Stear, widow of Neville Stear. Joan, a long-time member of the Association was buried privately and her death notice appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on 1 February.

Hard on the heels of this announcement came the news of the passing of Alan Henry Dawson, 2nd/19th Battalion AIF on 27 January. Alan, who became a POW on the Fall of Singapore saw out the war in the mines in Fukuoka, Japan. Alan was the uncle of the Association's Piper, SGT Brian Tisdell of 1/19 RNSWR. Brian represented the Association at his uncle's funeral on 6 February 2017 at Tewantin QLD.

In conjunction with Bob Pink and Association member Martin Hanson I was in Orange on 4 February for a meeting of the 19 RNSWR Sergeants' Mess Property Trust and that evening we were guests of the PMC (WO1 Simon Foley) and the members of the 1/19 RNSWR Offrs' & Sgts' Mess at a Regimental Dinner. Bob, Martin and I, in company with Martin's wife Helen, had enjoyed a very pleasant lunch after the Trust meeting which, with hindsight, may have been a mistake as SGT Wendy Sparkes put on a meal that would have stopped a starving soldier. It was a very pleasant evening and a great opportunity to reconnect with some of the men and women who serve today and carry on the traditions forged by their predecessors in World War 1 and World War 2.

Wednesday, February 15, was the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore in 1942. The 8th Australian Division hosted the Commemorative Service at the Cenotaph in Sydney's Martin Place and there was an enormous crowd in attendance including eight veterans of the 8th Australian Division. Our own Joe Coombs was in the place of honour, seated next to His Excellency, General The Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC, (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales. Joe laid the wreath on behalf of the 8th Australian Division Association. Also present was Mrs Shirley Drum, sister of the Cotton brothers (Roy and Arthur) who served in 2nd/19th Battalion AIF and fell on Singapore Island, who laid the wreath in memory of the men on 2nd/19th Battalion. Other Association members present, apart from the writer, were Bob Pink, Ray Warden, Greg Coombs, Sandy Howard, Dorothy Howard, Tony Bray, Kevin Connelly, Mary Bryant, Barry Nesbitt, Ian Cannock and Tom Nolan.

This was the final ceremony that will be arranged by the 8th Australian Division Association, as they will be winding up later this year, so the Divisional Association Banner, which had been proudly displayed on the Cenotaph during the Commemoration, was formally retired from service after an Epilogue delivered very movingly by His Excellency. Two of the Cenotaph attendants reverently folded the Banner and then formally handed it to Bob Pink, in his capacity as a member of the 8th Australian Division Association Council. The Council secured agreement from the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson, that, in future years, the Sunset Ceremony conducted on 15 February each year will feature a commemoration of a member of the 8th Australian Division.

After the Cenotaph service, His Excellency and Mrs Hurley graciously hosted an Afternoon Tea at Government House, Sydney for the veterans, their families and officers of the various Associations that make up the 8th Australian Division Association. The NSW Police Force provided buses to transport people from Martin Place to Government House and the "grandeur" of the occasion was enhanced by a Police motor cycle escort in front, behind and beside the convoy of buses as it moved through the Sydney lunchtime traffic. A fitting end to a special day!

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Many of our members who attended but did not go to Government House, adjourned to the Combined Services RSL Club where Joe, Greg, Bob and I joined them for refreshments after leaving Government House.

The 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore was the subject of a number of other commemorations. The Department of Veteran Affairs organised a visit to the Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat and this was attended by Glen Scriven, accompanied by his daughter, Gleness Larnach.

There was also a major Commemoration held at Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore. The Association was very proud that the Catafalque Party for this Commemoration was found by serving soldiers of 1/19 RNSWR who were, at the time, on active service as part of Rifle Company Butterworth Rotation 116. From photos and press coverage that I have received these young successors to our World War 1 and World War 2 veterans did us proud on the day.

The occasion was also commemorated at the Australian War Memorial where the serviceman honoured in the Sunset Ceremony was Private Charles Stanley 'Chicka' Buchanan of 2nd/19th Battalion AIF who died, aged 17 years of age, on Singapore Island on 15 February 1942. The Association was represented at the ceremony by Di & Paul Elliott, Andrew & Margaret Donaldson and Anne Buttsworth all children of 2/19 Battalion men. Di, Andrew and Anne laid a wreath from the Association in memory of Chicka and the men of 2nd/19th Battalion AIF.

As this issue goes to press we are looking towards ANZAC Day. The arrangements will be covered elsewhere in the magazine but the Annual Harbour Cruise will again be a feature of the day. I hope that we will see a large roll up of members and family for this very pleasant occasion.

Until we meet again, be kind to each other and take care.

Roger Perry

(In view of the very inclement & torrential weather experienced in Mid March)

FROM ROY SCHMIDTKE:

**AN OFT CRY NOT HEARD IN
THE SERGEANTS' MESS FOR
MANY MANY YEARS !**

**"WHO WAS THE
BASTARD WHO
MOVED THE
RAINMAKER ?**



BOLDLY AND FAITHFULLY

Official History of the 19th Battalion AIF

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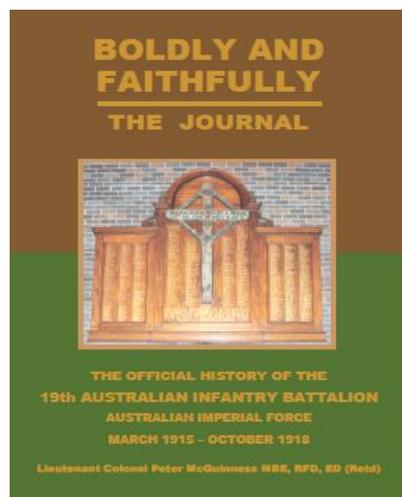
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VALE GOOD FRIENDS



NX44834 & 29931 PRIVATE Alan Henry DAWSON 2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF AND AUSTRALIAN REGULAR ARMY

Alan was born at Gilgandra, New South Wales on 7 September, 1924, to John Dawson, a carpenter, and his wife Clara Myrtle. Sadly Alan passed away on Monday 27 January 2017 at Coolum Beach QLD. While living at Gosford, New South Wales and working as a shop assistant, Alan enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 15 September, 1941, just a week after his 17th birthday (after putting his age up by 2 years). On 10 January, 1942, he sailed out of Sydney onboard RMS *Aquitania*, destination Singapore, as a reinforcement for the 2/19th Battalion AIF. Arriving at Singapore on the 24th, Alan proceeded to the General Base Depot at Johor Bahru on the Malayan mainland where, on 26 January, Routine Orders show he was officially taken on strength of the 2/19th Battalion. The 2/19th Battalion had just fought a fierce campaign in Malaya and with deaths and wounded depleting their number, the Battalion required close to 700 reinforcements, Alan being one. On 31 January, 1942, 2/19 Battalion, along with the rest of the 8th Division and Allied Forces, crossed the Causeway onto Singapore Island. The Japanese then invaded Singapore on 8 February. On capitulation to the Japanese on 15 February, 1942, Alan became a prisoner of war. Initially held in Selerang Barracks, in April he transferred to the Adam Park Prison Camp followed by a short stay in Sime Road Camp. On 28 October, 1942, he left Singapore onboard *Kamakura Maru* as a member of C Force bound for Japan. During his time in Japan, Alan worked in the shipyards and down mines. They experienced the coldest of winters and very harsh working conditions and of the approximately 550 Australians on C Force, 82 died in Japan of various causes. The deaths included one officer who was killed on 28 August, 1945, when his chest was crushed by a box of supplies being parachuted into the camp. Alan was recovered from Fukuoka No 26 Camp (Keisen, Japan) on 19 September, 1945, and from there he went to Manila in the Philippines before finally coming home to Australia. Alan was officially discharged from the Australian Army on 28 October, 1945. Just prior to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Alan had the honour of carrying the Olympic Torch for a leg of the run.

Alan's Story, the early years

(Lyn)

Dad was born on 7th September 1924 at Gilgandra, NSW. He was the first and only son of John and Clara Myrtle Dawson but over the next six years, four sisters came into his life - Hazel, Heather, Bud and Joy. The family lived in the country for many years; Dad spent his last two school years in High School at Gosford in 1938 and 1939.

(Kevin)

Bicycling

At one stage Dad had an 11 mile bicycle ride to and from school. To keep his hands warm on cold winter mornings, he would pour boiling water into the handlebars. Dad was a natural left hander like me. In those days though, school kids were all required to write right handed. You got a whack over the knuckles with a wooden ruler if you didn't. Hence Dad became very good at being ambidextrous.

(Lyn)

He then worked for a chemist in Gosford before enlisting in the AIF on 15th September 1941....one week after his 17th birthday. He lied about his age in order to be accepted to serve his country as World War 2 escalated and the threat to Australian shores was imminent.

After basic training at Dubbo, he was shipped to Singapore to join the 2/19th Battalion, arriving on 26th January 1942. Only three weeks later on 15th February 1942, the allied forces surrendered to the Japanese Imperial Force and he became a prisoner-of-war along with over 15,000 other allied servicemen. They were all to suffer years of unimaginable brutal treatment. For Dad, this was initially at Changi Prison in Singapore before he was shipped to Japan in November 1942, where he was put to work in the shipyards as a painter.

(Lyn)

Early in 1945, he was lined up with other prisoners and only those who were the strongest and fittest were selected and sent by boat to Fukuoka, on the West Coast, to work in underground coalmines. On 9th August that same year, after surfacing at the end of a 12 hour shift, he saw a strange looking cloud on the horizon. He was only 20 miles outside Nagasaki and had witnessed a devastating event which ultimately brought on the end of World War 2 in the Pacific region. Within days their guards left them and they were picked up by American troops, eventually to be shipped home after a recovery period, arriving on 13th October 1945....Dad had only just turned 21.

Dad rarely spoke about his years as a prisoner-of-war but it took a terrible toll on his physical and mental health, suffering from nightmares for the remainder of his life.

Poppy Tribute - accompanied by "Jessica's Theme"

Alan's Story continued

(Lyn)

After Dad was discharged from the Army, he worked as a cabinet maker while living with his family at Beverly Hills, who had moved to Sydney by then. He later worked in the basement of the Sydney GPO building, relaying job messages to the telephone technicians. Mum was working upstairs in the same building as a switchboard operator. One day she reported that her switchboard was on the blink and the next day, Dad rang her to check if it was working again. Dad then started ringing her six times every day and sometimes all day! She eventually gave in but on their very first date, they ran into Mum's Uncle Ted who teased her terribly. They continued dating and were married on 20th May 1950 at the Methodist Church in Rockdale. Dad hand-made a coffee table for Mum for her 21st Birthday later that year, which is still in use today. They lived with Mum's family until Lyn was born, then moved in with Dad's parents. After Jan was born, they bought the block of bushland at Sutherland on which to build the first home of their own.

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This home came as a "packaged garage", which Dad assembled then added a bathroom, kitchen, laundry and an extra bedroom. Kaye was born while the family lived there. On 14 July 1958, Dad re-enlisted in the Army and the family was moved to Ingleburn. Both Ken and Kevin were born while we were there. In 1962 he was transferred to Singleton, in 1965 to Bandiana (we lived in Wodonga) where Dad was instructing the Nashos (National Service conscripts). We followed him with every transfer and at the end of 1966, we moved to Watsonia in Melbourne. Dad continued his education during these years in the Army and was eventually promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2 and discharged on 13 July 1970 after 12 years service.

(Kevin)

Nickname and Marching. In case you're wondering, anyone in the military with the surname Dawson was nicknamed 'Smokey'. Dad was, and so was I. My first day at the Police Academy, my Drill Sergeant Graeme 'Daisy' Atkinson came up to me nose to nose and said, "Dawson huh, your Dad and I are good mates, I've got my eye on you young Smokey." It's a nickname I've always be fond of and proud of. This is the best legacy he gave me. Weekends when I was at home, Dad would have me out in the garage teaching me to march and salute. There was no escape.

(Kaye)

Dad retired from the Army in 1969 and bought a home for us in Greensborough. He continued to work in the private sector until 1980 when Mum and Dad moved to Marcoola Beach in Qld, following the sad passing of our beloved brother Ken. Dad settled into a familiar routine here, which included putting out and returning the neighbours' bins for them and walking his dogs on the beach, first Benji then Sammy. In 2007, Mum and Dad moved into Aged Care at Amarina (now St Mary's) at Coolum Beach. Over the years, we recall Dad proudly marching on several ANZAC Days, not just in Melbourne but also in Maroochydore in 1995 to commemorate the 50th year anniversary of the end of World War 2 in the Pacific. On another special occasion, he travelled to Sydney to march with his old regiment in their ANZAC Day parade.

(Kaye)

Throughout his life, Dad was involved in many sports, including playing and umpiring cricket for many years in Sydney and regional NSW. He was a talented golfer, winning many prizes, including several sets of towels, which I think Mum appreciated, but also cut-glass bowls and vases – not so useful! He also won the 100 yard dash at an annual POW picnic, wearing his army boots! We three girls took up Marching while at Wodonga, which Kaye and Lyn continued for many years after we moved to Melbourne. Dad took over the role of Instructor of the Senior (Lyn's) team and eventually became one of the judges at our competitions, as did Kaye alongside him.

(Kevin) Bagpipes

Dad not only loved the music of Country Legend Slim Dusty, he also loved the bagpipes. When I was a young teenager Dad joined me up in the Nunawading Pipe Band as a drummer. Wearing a skirt with no undies underneath wasn't easy for me to accept. To this day though I still share Dad's passion for the pipes and drums. Good one Dad.

(Kevin)

After moving to Qld, Dad took up lawn bowls. However, playing outdoors in the hot sun was not good for his health so he switched to Tenpin Bowling....in air-conditioned comfort! He won many games, comps and trophies, although one time he came last but still won a trophy....of a horse's backside. He also had an uncanny knack for winning regularly when playing against us at Mahjong and Canasta, and had a very dry sense of humour, making us laugh. In his retirement years, Dad developed a talent for writing poetry, especially bush ballads. For his 90th birthday, we had 100 of his poems printed for him in book format.

(Jan) In 1999, Dad applied for and was accepted as a Torch Bearer for the 2000 Sydney Olympics Torch Relay. On 16th June 2000, he carried the torch proudly along a section of David Low Way at Marcoola Beach, where he received enthusiastic applause and recognition. He was also very keen to speak about this experience at his granddaughters' (Amy & Lucy's) schools, dressed in his uniform, answering students' questions, and giving all the students a chance to hold the torch. He relished any opportunity to share this very proud moment in his life. Dad's training for the Torch Relay was an extension of his love for sport, exercise and the great outdoors, which also included working out at the gym, walking on the beach or around the neighbourhood, as well as travelling and camping in his younger years. We remember many family holidays, driving and camping while exploring the regions that the Army had sent us to, and he enjoyed travelling to the Australian Outback in his retirement. He has passed this legacy of the love for travelling and camping onto all of us. Recently, Dad was honoured to participate in a photographic portrait project called "Reflections", which is a memorial to all surviving World War 2 veterans and will be on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. We have Dad's memorial portrait here with us today. He has also received several invitations to attend Commemoration Services for the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore.

Dad is survived by his wife Elaine (our Mum), four of his five children, eight of his nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and

one great-great-grandson, all of whom he loved and who loved him in return. He is now resting in peace, never to be forgotten, always in our hearts and in our memories. Bye Dad.

Brian Tisdell represented the Association and piped at Alan's farewell at the Drysdale Chapel Tewantin QLD on 6 February 2017. Alan was Brian Tisdell's uncle (his mother's eldest brother).

Our thanks to Di Elliott for Alan's military service and his family for their eulogies.



QX42540 & 1314 MAJOR Thomas Lloyd MUGGLETON, MBE

Soldier, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam



Tom was born at Texas QLD on 10 December 1924 and sadly passed away at the Gold Coast on 13 January 2017.

Tom Muggleton epitomised the modern Australian soldier, tough, courageous, professional, uncompromising and loyal in every sense of that word. Like many of his generation who struggled during the Depression, the Army and the war offered security and purpose. Tom stayed on and made soldiering a lifelong career.

After a rudimentary Christian Brothers education in Warwick and Toowoomba, Tom returned to Texas where he mustered cattle from age 12. Enlisting in the AIF on 12 May 1943, he fought in the Aitape-Wewak campaign in PNG with the 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF. In 1945 in Morotai in Borneo he joined 67th Battalion, as the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment was part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces, Japan. .

In Kure, Japan, he met and proposed to Australian Army nurse, Thelma Fleming, before returning to Australia for further training. When North Korea invaded the south, Tom returned to 3 RAR as UN forces counter attacked. He fought at the Battle of the Broken Bridge on the Taeryong River, at Kapyong in April 1951 where 3 RAR was awarded a US Presidential Citation, and at Maryang San in October that year before returning to Japan. Tom and Thelma married in Kure, where Tom was Company Sergeant Major of the Reinforcement Holding Unit.

On returning to Australia he served at Ingleburn, training reinforcements for Korea then, as Regimental Sergeant Major, at Maralinga, where atomic tests were being conducted. After instructing at the School of Infantry at Seymour, Victoria, in 1961. he was posted to The Royal Military College, Duntroon as Regimental Sergeant Major, then the Army's most prestigious, senior Warrant Officer's appointment. Before assuming the role he was sent to the United Kingdom to study at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and was attached to the Brigade of Guards.

Tom remained at Duntroon until July 1967, where he was a demanding but revered figure as a senior disciplinarian, reigning supreme on the parade ground. His colourful, ever humorous but never profane turn of phrase remains stuff of legend. Many cadets who endured his tender ministrations later held senior ADF appointments and also Vice-Regal rank. He was awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Military Division in the Queen's Birthday Honours on 12 June 1965. Following Duntroon he served in Vietnam from 27 January 1969 to 4 March 1970 as Quartermaster 5th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment.

After a period as a recruiting officer in Sydney, he was promoted Major and returned to Duntroon as OC HQ Company in 1973, a time that coincided with his son Paul's cadetship.

On retiring from the Army aged 55 he worked in the House of Representatives until moving to the Gold Coast. Tom is survived by his daughters Mary Rose, - Denise, Allison and their families. His wife Thelma (on 11 October 2015) and son Paul (on 15 December 2013) sadly predeceased him. Our thanks to Association member Roy Mundine, OAM, for alerting us to Tom's passing and forwarding the above eulogy by Ross Eastgate of the Brisbane Courier Mail.

Joan STEAR

(Widow of NX35511 PTE Neville John Stear, HQ Coy 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF)

Joan's daughter Carol advised with much sadness of Joan's peaceful passing at the SAN Hospital, aged 91 years on 21st January 2017. Joan was the beloved wife of Neville who sadly predeceased her on 29 June 1989, devoted Mother to Lloyd and Carol, Mother in Law to James. Proud and loving Grandma to Melissa, Anton (dec) Ingrid, Gareth, Monika, Nicolas and Great Grandmother to Phoebe. Dearly loved sister of Lorna (dec) and Marge.

As per Joan's wishes a private service was held for her.

Edna Mary WILLMOTT

Beloved Mother of Association Member Phillip Willmott (CPL - Mortar Platoon 1/19 RNSWR).

Edna was born on 19 March 1925 and her family advised with much sadness of her passing at Erina on 27 February 2017 in her 91st year. Her beloved husband William predeceased her in 1977. Edna is survived by her loving family, sons and daughters in law Philip and Lee, John and Helen, and daughters and sons in law Vivienne and John and Christine and John and her cherished grandchildren.

Dorothy Joan URQUHART

(Widow of NX1000 SPR William Reginald Boyd URQUHART - 2/25 Field Park RAE)

Dorothy's son Robert advised with much sadness of her passing in her 85th year on 26 November 2015. Dorothy was the dearly beloved wife of Reg who sadly predeceased her on 28 February 2005. Loving Mother and Mother-in-law of Sue and Ern, Robert and Dianne, and loving and adored Nan and Great Nan to their families. Joan was farewelled at Rookwood cemetery on 1 December 2015.





ANZAC DAY SYDNEY 2017

23 MEMBERS & GUESTS HAVE SO FAR INDICATED THEIR ATTENDANCE AND WE NEED ANOTHER 47 - LAST YEAR'S CRUISE SET SAIL WITH 65 IF YOU CAN MAKE IT WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE AGAIN THIS YEAR

PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN THE REPLY PROFORMA ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

THE HON SECRETARY Bob PINK

PO BOX 224 INGLESBURN NSW 1890 BY 11 APRIL 2016

Telephone: 0414 907 427 or

President Roger PERRY 0414 961 969

PICK UP: 12:30 PM following the ANZAC Day March at the usual Embarkation point at **COMMISSIONER'S STEPS CIRCULAR QUAY** returning to Circular Quay at 4:30 PM



Aussie Magic is a 26 metre luxury sailing catamaran with a spacious outdoor entertaining deck, luxurious interior space and the unique feature of its opening Targa roof. There is no better way to enjoy all the delights that Sydney Harbour has to offer! You have the rare choice of enjoying smooth cruising with the engines on or hoisting the sails and enjoying the sounds of vibrant Sydney Harbour. We have again been afforded a **special price of \$90 per person (usually \$120 per person) which includes the vessel's All Occasions Banquet and Unlimited Beverage Package** together with exclusive charter for the Association on the day. **Note:** A recent quote from another prominent Cruise vessel was \$75 per head (minimum of 70 persons) and **did not include** refreshments! which were extra. **PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE ARE FREE & THE COST FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN 5 & 16 YEARS IS \$60 PER PERSON**



CRUISE PACKAGE Includes:-

Personalised event co-ordinator to assist you in the planning of your celebration

Exclusive charter of the Aussie Magic for 4 hours cruising the sheltered waters of Sydney Harbour

Cruise director on board to assist and ensure our event is seamless

You will be greeted upon boarding with COLD beverages

All Occasion Banquet with the inclusion of Fresh Prawns

Unlimited beverage package to include local tap Beers,

Australian

Red, White & Sparkling Wine, Soft drinks, Juice and Water

Upper and Lower level will be set up to our specific requirements

Professional uniformed crew providing exceptional service

MENU

Canapés on Arrival

From the Buffet

Grilled Chicken breast with honey mustard sauce

Fresh Prawns

Antipasto platter of cured meats, marinated vegetables and cheeses

Penne pasta tossed in fresh tomato, garlic, and basil

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

Parsley and Parmesan

Au-gratin (baked thin slices of potato with onion, garlic and cheese)

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

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

Spanish onion, olives and herbed vinaigrette

Crisp, freshly baked dinner rolls

From the Dessert Buffet

Chef's selection of cakes served with whipped cream

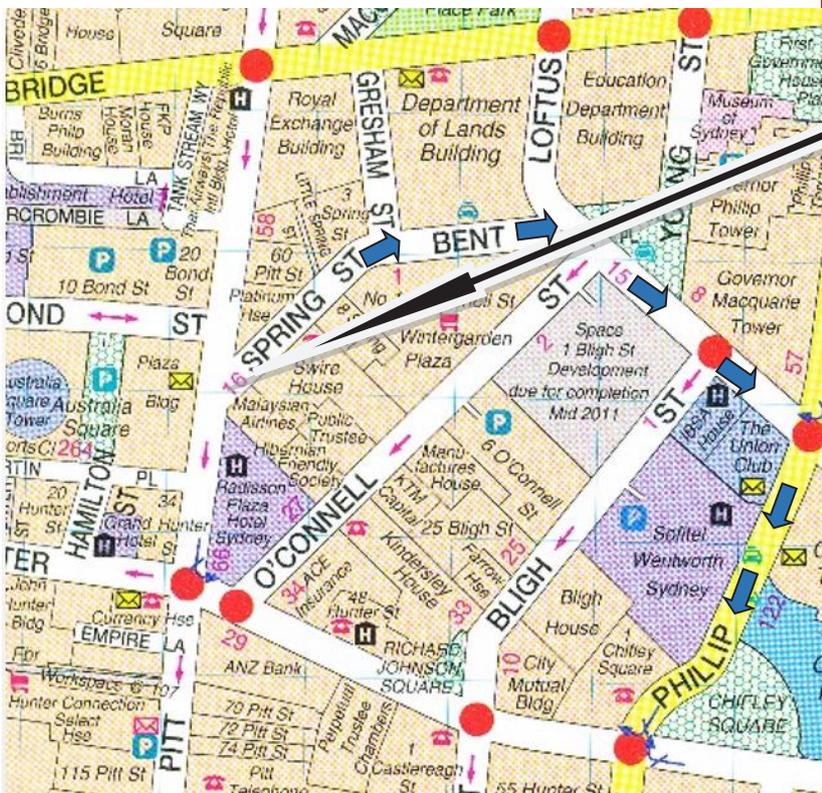
Fresh seasonal fruit platters

Freshly brewed tea and coffee

ANZAC DAY MARCH SYDNEY TUE 25 APRIL 2017

NOTE NEW FORMING UP POINT

1/19 RNSWR & 2/19 BATTALION AIF
FORM UP AT 9:45 A.M.
IN SPRING STREET



MARCH ROUTE:

Spring Street – Bent Street,
Phillip Street,
Elizabeth Street. Proceed
down Elizabeth Street –
“Eyes Left” at the Hyde Park
ANZAC War Memorial
thence left into Liverpool
Street for dispersal at
conclusion of March.
thence
TRAIN FROM MUSEUM RAILWAY
STATION to CIRCULAR QUAY
RAILWAY STATION (if attending
Harbour Cruise Reunion)



FRONTLINE

COMING EVENTS 2017

SAT	15 APR 2017	1100h	MEMORIAL SERVICE PTE Thomas BAKER 19 th BATTALION AIF	SUNNY CORNER NSW (Near Bathurst)	Jacket & Tie Decorations & Medals SEE FULL DETAILS IN THIS NEWSLETTER
TUE	25 APR 2017	0945h	ANZAC DAY SYDNEY FORM UP IN SPRING STREET REUNION VENUE: SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE	SYDNEY	Jacket & Tie Decorations & Medals REUNION SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE
TUE	25 APR 2017	1000h	ANZAC DAY CANBERRA FORM UP IN ANZAC PDE CANBERRA REUNION VENUE: TBA	CANBERRA	Jacket & Tie - Decorations & Medals Further details LTCOL David HORTON Mobile: 0410 814 619
SAT	24 JUN 2017	1330h	RESERVE FORCES DAY WREATH LAYING CANBERRA	St John's Anglican Church REID, CANBERRA	Afternoon Tea follows sservice FURTHER INFORMATION Ian SAYERS 02 6254 5347
SUN	08 JULY 2017	0930h	RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE - SYDNEY	March details to be confirmed	REUNION VENUE: TO BE ADVISED Decorations & Medals
SAT	22 JUL 2017	1800h TBC	ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT WO's/SNCO's DINNER	BATHURST RSL CLUB	Mess Dress / Coat & Tie Miniature medals
SUN	23 JUL 2017	1000h TBC	ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE	ALL SAINTS CATHEDRAL BATHURST NSW	Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals
TUE	15 AUG 2017	1045h	VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY Decorations & Medals
19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION DINNER WEEKEND – GOSFORD RSL NSW					
FRI	27 OCT 2017	1830 to 2130h	MEET & GREET FUNCTION	 <p>GOSFORD RSL CLUB</p> <p>The Association has reserved 25 rooms at the GALAXY MOTEL which is co-located with Gosford RSL Club 26 Central Coast Highway WEST GOSFORD NSW Reservations/details Ph: 02 4323 1711 Quote "1/19 RSWR" for discount when making booking & 20 rooms at the ASHWOOD MOTEL Located across the road from Gosford RSL Club 73 Central Coast Highway WEST GOSFORD NSW Reservations/details Ph: 02 4324 6577</p> <p><u>PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT</u></p>	
SAT	28 OCT 2017	1030h	WREATH LAYING CEREMONY		
SAT	28 OCT 2017	TBC	BUS TOUR of the scenic & picturesque Central Coast including LUNCH at the renowned Doyalson RSL		
SAT	28 OCT 2017	TBC	MILITARY PRESENTATION by LTCOL Peter McGuinness MBE OAM RFD ED		
SAT	28 OCT 2017	1530h	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
SAT	28 OCT 2017	1800 for 1900h	AGM REUNION DINNER GOSFORD RSL CLUB		
SUN	29 OCT 2017		Return Travel Home		
SAT	11 NOV 2017	1045h	REMEMBRANCE DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Decorations & Medals Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY

ASSOCIATION PATRONS & OFFICE BEARERS

PATRON & LIFE MEMBER
PATRON
CHAPLAIN & LIFE MEMBER
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Lieutenant Colonel P.E.M. (Peter) McGUINNESS, MBE, OAM, RFD, ED
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Philip GERBER, LL.M., M.Crim.

PRESIDENT:
R.J. (Roger) PERRY
GPO Box 890 SYDNEY NSW 2001
Telephone: 02 9363 2439
Mobile: 0414 961 969
Facsimile: 02 9328 3319
Email: roger.perry@bigpond.com
VICE PRESIDENT & PUBLICITY OFFICER:
M.J. (Mick) PASS
15 Gwydir St BA TEAU BAY NSW 2261
Telephone: 02 4339 5040
Mobile: 0412 993 417
Email: michaeljpass@optusnet.com.au
HONORARY SECRETARY & NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
R.J. (Bob) PINK, OAM
P.O. Box 224 INGLEBURN NSW 1890
Telephone: 02 8747 0941
Mobile: 0414 907 427
Email: bob.pink@optusnet.com.au
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:
B.J. (Bryan) SCHAFER, OAM, JP
42 Delaunay St INGLEBURN NSW 2565
Telephone: 02 9605 5841
Mobile: 0412 432 464
Email: blues5@primus.com.au

TREASURER:
R.J. (Joy) NEWTON RN BHSc
146 Fragar Rd SOUTH PENRITH NSW 2750
Email: newbraeton@gmail.com
ASSISTANT TREASURER:
R.W. (Bob) WEIR
2/46 Wilma Street CORRIMAL NSW 2518
Telephone: 02 42851278
Mobile: 0408 639 168
Email: bob.weir@bigpond.net.au
ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN:
G.P. (Geoff) BRADDON, OAM, JP
"Briar Corner" CARCOAR NSW 2791
Telephone & Facsimile: 02 6367 3139
Mobile: 0457 898 063
MERCHANDISING & MEMORABILIA:
R.N. (Ray) WARDEN
3 Avery Way NARELLAN VALE NSW 2567
Telephone: 02 4647 7670
Mobile: 0407 055 448
Email: ray.warden4@bigpond.com

WEBSITE MANAGER
R.A. (Sandy) HOWARD
33 Peacock Parade
FRENCHS FOREST NSW 2086
Telephone: 02 9401 9130
Mobile: 0411 145 077
Email: sandy1h@optusnet.com.au

COMMITTEE
J.A. (John) ELLIOTT
"Moir Plains"
WILCANNIA NSW 2836
Telephone: 08 8091 9492
Email: BlackHat2000@bigpond.com
K.W. (Kevin) JONES, OAM
9 Potaroo Place
TOWNSEND NSW 2463
Telephone: 02 6645 5474
Mobile: 0419 164 411
Email: thebigthree@bigpond.com
HONORARY AUDITOR:
D. (Dennis) ZALLUNARDO, OAM JP
1 Jacaranda Ave BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153
Telephone: 02 9639 4673
Mobile: 0418 230 446
Email: dandpzal@bigpond.com

ASSOCIATION WEBSITE ADDRESS: 19rnsw.com.au

FRONTLINE



DONATIONS

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



WO2	Michael	ALI
WO1	Warren	BARNES
MR	Bruce	BATHGATE
MAJ	Bob	BINNS
MR	Warwick	BIRCH
COL	John	BRENNAN
MR	Bob	CANE
MAJ	Barry	CHAPMAN
MRS	Betty	CLENDENNING
MAJOR	Harry	COLE
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WO2	Roger	PERRY
WO2	Peter	PHILLIPS
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SSGT	Roy	SCHMIDTKE
LTCOL	Geoffrey	STEVENTON
MR	Glen	STEWART
MRS	Jean	TEERMAN
LCPL	Graham	TIPPETT
MRS	Grace	TOBIN
LCPL	Ray	WARDEN
PTE	Robert	WATSON
CAPT	Dennis	ZALUNARDO



NEW MEMBERS



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

SSGT	Bruce	LOFTUS, OAM	CUNDLETOWN NSW	2666
PTE	Dallas	MARTIN	GLOUCESTER NSW	2422
LT	Mervyn	NG	TANAH MERAH QLD	4128

FRONTLINE

From Association & 1/19 RNSWR Member Terry NIXON MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNNY CORNER NSW 11:00 AM SAT 15 APRIL 2017 5784 PRIVATE Thomas Albert BAKER 19th BATTALION AIF

to be held on SATURDAY 15TH APRIL 2017 AT 11:00 AM AT SUNNY CORNER NSW 2795
100 years to the day he was Killed In Action at Lagnicourt France when the 19th Battalion AIF helped repulse a German attack that broke the Australian Line and captured 21 of our guns.

The reason I became interested in him is that when I recently walked the war graves in France I passed those of many 19th Battalion AIF members but PTE Thomas Baker's caught my attention. The grave stone was marked with his details but it said that he came from "Sunny Corner" which was unusual and as I have spent many years on cold wet Army training weekends I know the place well. The local Historical Society will hold the service and I am hoping to get the local RSL to participate which I am told they will do however, I feel that we need representation from the 1/19 Battalion Association.

It is my hope that a wreath can be laid on his grave in France at the same time as our service. I have contacted a local from Bullecourt who I have known for many years and am waiting for his reply. Although the ANZAC Day Service will be only days away from ours I feel that an individual name amongst so many should be remembered even if only for a few hours

DIRECTIONS TO SUNNY CORNER

To reach "Sunny Corner" from Bathurst take the Kelso Rd then through Yetholme and turn off at Kirkconnell to "Sunny Corner" a distance of 37.6Km or 32 min drive.

If coming from Lithgow start at Bowenfels (the giant miners lamp) on the Great Western Hwy and drive towards Bathurst when reaching Meadow Flat Public School turn off on the "Sunny Corner" Road, this should be an 18 minute drive or 27.3km from Bowenfels to your destination.

Please advise Terry Nixon of your attendance at the Memorial Service by email to

terrilynixon64@hotmail.com

at least a couple of days prior so he can arrange catering.

OR

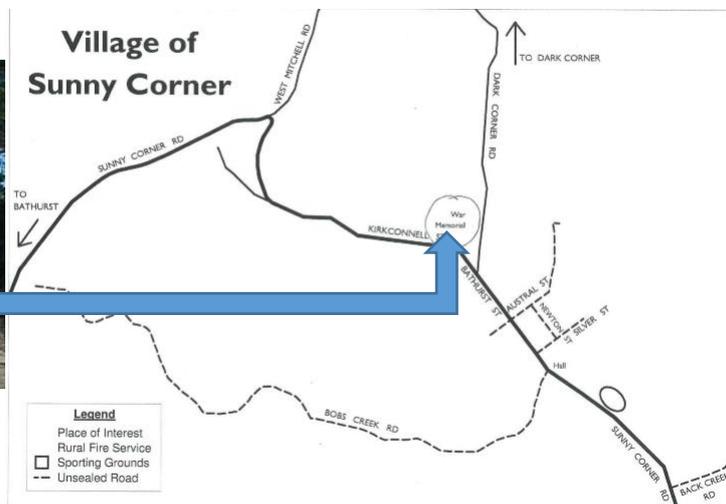
If you do not have email access:

Please phone the Association Hon Secretary Bob PINK on 0414 907 427 or (02) 8747 0941 who will advise Terry of your attendance.

Your presence would be welcomed and we look forward to a good attendance on the day.

LEST WE FORGET

Terry Nixon



*Get Well
Soon*



SICK REPORT

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

Brad COLLIS recently underwent knee surgery at Pindara Private Hospital at the Gold Coast and is recovering well.
Dorothy HOWARD underwent recent hip surgery and is also recovering well



CONGRATULATIONS



To Alissa & Andrew WARDEN

A new son Jonah, (11lbs) born 27 February 2017 - a brother for Craig and a grandson to proud grandparents Ray & Gay WARDEN



IT'S YOUR
SHOUT
RAY !



IT'S YOUR
SHOUT
CHARLES !



To Jess & Michael CUNNINGHAM
a new son Parker Dennis (9lb 2oz, 55cm) born
18 February 2017 at Orange Hospital
and first grandchild to proud grandfather Charles JENSEN





CONGRATULATIONS



MAJOR Bryan John SCHAFER, OAM, JP (Retd)
on his Well Deserved Award in the 2017 Australia Day Honours List
MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
FOR SERVICE TO RUGBY LEAGUE, AND TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
 MACARTHUR CHRONICLE.COM.AU TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2017



Picture: Robert Pozo

Tarik Elmerhede

In his 25 years with the Western Suburbs Magpies Rugby League Club, Bryan Schaffer oversaw the development of a number of highly esteemed players on their path towards professional football. Just some of those included John Skandalis, Brett Hodgson, Liam Fulton and Ryan Hoffman.

For his services to rugby league and to veterans and their families through Legacy, the Ingleburn man was awarded a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia.

Mr Schaffer said he was shocked to receive such a prestigious award. "It came as a big surprise. It felt really good to be honoured like this," he said. "I'd like to thank whoever nominated me. I'm trying to

track them down." Throughout his time at Wests, Mr Schaffer has acted as manager, junior representative secretary, first grade assistant coach, grounds manager, sin bin official, gear steward and change room manager.

In 2007 he was named club Past Players' Association clubman of the year and became a life member in 2014. Mr Schaffer said his biggest passion in rugby league was developing juniors and helping to make them see just how good they could be at the "great game". Having served in the Australian Army for 30 years, he also felt passionate about supporting veterans and their families. He has worked with the South West Metropolitan Branch of Sydney Legacy since 1992.



Pictured at Left
 Celebrating Bryan's Award of his OAM at
 an impromptu celebration at his residence.
 L to R Steve REEVES, Roy MUNDINE
 Bryan SCHAFER, Peter ALLEN, Bob PINK



CLARENCE VALLEY INDEPENDENT FEBRUARY 15, 2017 9

Kevin Jones OAM retires

LYNNE MOWBRAY

Maclean RSL sub-branch president Kevin Jones OAM will be retiring at the end of the month, after three years service.

Mr Jones who retired from his job in the police force in 1998 said that he and his wife Maureen moved to the Clarence Valley from Byron Bay, after Maureen retired in 2000.

"In 2001 I was approached by Maclean Services Club board member Rod McPhee, to join the club," said Mr

Jones.

"I went from director to chairman within two years."

Mr Jones remained president of the Services Club for 14 years, until he retired in November last year, for health reasons.

Mr Jones said that he followed in his father's footsteps, joining the police force in 1967. During this time he was a member of the army reserves, but after 22 years he was discharged because it was impacting too much on his work as a police officer.

His work in the police saw

him stationed at several country towns where he would involve himself within the community starting up youth groups, blue light discos and forming SES units.

In 1986 Mr Jones was posted to Maclean from Wilcannia as officer in charge, however he was only stationed here for 14 months before being transferred to Byron Bay.

Mr Jones loved his community work and in 2010 he was awarded an OAM – for assisting veterans and the community.

Mr Jones said that he will

be reluctantly retiring as president of the sub-branch on 27 February, because of health reasons.

"I have vision issues and I can't read the correspondence anymore," he said.

"I've enjoyed my involvement with both the Maclean sub-branch and the Maclean Services Club and have enjoyed being involved within my community."

President of the Maclean RSL Sub-Branch, Kevin Jones OAM. Image: Lynne Mowbray.



Association Committee member Kevin JONES OAM, has announced his retirement as President of the Maclean Services Club. Kevin has served as a Committee Member of 1/19 RNSWR Association since his election on 21 October 2006 and advised at the Association's AGM last December that he would not be standing for re-election. Our and sincere thanks to Kevin for his valued contribution and efforts to the Association over the past ten years and our Best Wishes for a long, healthy, happy and rewarding retirement.

FRONTLINE

CONGRATULATIONS



IT'S YOUR
SHOUT
ROSS



To Jessica & Bronson McINTOSH

On the arrival of their first child - William James McIntosh, born on 31st July 2016 and the first grandchild for Rosalin and Ross McINTOSH. Bronson is now posted to HMAS Parramatta.

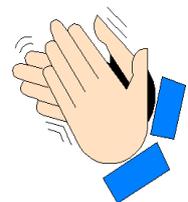
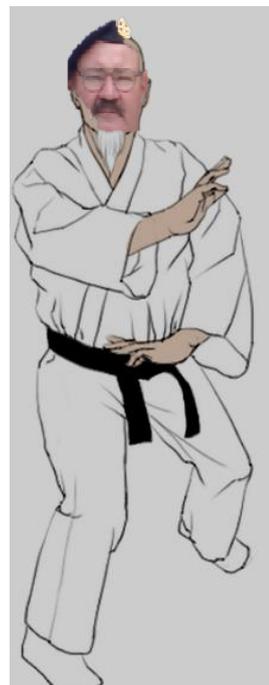


To Felicity JESS, JP

Who has been elected as the Secretary of the Cowra Sub Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



CONGRATULATIONS TO
DAVID RING
ON HIS ELEVATION TO
THE HONOURED
YELLOW BELT
QUALIFICATION
IN KARATE ON
22 FEBRUARY 2017





DID YOU KNOW ?? A series by Association Member LT Peter Hughes **BRIGADIER Paul Michael COUCH, CSC**



Paul Couch was born at Chatswood, NSW on 27 June 1950. Paul's father served for 5 yrs. 8 months during 1939-45 mainly in the 2/13 Australian Infantry Battalion (9th DIV). He achieved the rank of SGT and saw service in the Middle East including Tobruk and then later in New Guinea and Borneo. Like many returned servicemen he talked little to his family of his service and never wore his medals, even to Battalion Reunions on ANZAC Day. I had my father's medals mounted following his death to preserve them. His service was the main influence on my interest in the Military

Paul was educated at De La Salle College High School at Ashfield and then studied Law externally through Law Extension Committee of Sydney University Law School on a part-time basis as he was not living in Sydney at the time.

In those days, it was the only way you could study law part-time if you didn't live in Sydney. Paul left Sydney in 1970 and since has lived at Coffs Harbour, Yass and Leeton with a couple of years in Sydney in the middle of all those moves before settling in Taree/Cundletown in 1983. He was admitted as a Lawyer in 1981. Paul enlisted as a soldier in July 1970 into B Company 19th Battalion RNSWR. He was promoted to LCPL in August 1972 and to CPL in July 1973. In April 1975, he was commissioned from the ranks into the 1st/19th Battalion as a 2nd LT and posted as a Platoon Commander in B Company. In September 1977, he was promoted to Lieutenant and posted to A Company.

In May 1981, he was promoted to Captain and posted as the Mortar Platoon Commander. After attending Intermediate Course at RCSC, he was promoted to Major in November 1984 and served as OC A Company and Support Company. He served a total of 18 years with 1st/19th Battalion RNSWR. In 1988, he was posted to the 41st Battalion RNSWR for 3 years as Officer Commanding D Company in Taree and later as the Operations Officer. He commanded D Company 8th/9th Battalion RAR on Exercise "Kangaroo 89".

After attending Senior Course RCSC and the IOC at LWC Canungra in 1991, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in January 1992 and posted as the Commanding Officer of the 41st Battalion RNSWR for 4 years. This was followed by 3 years as a Tactics Instructor at Tactics Wing of the Land Warfare Centre at Canungra from Jan 1996 to Dec 1998. Paul's one regret is that his father didn't survive to see him achieve Unit Command as Paul knows that it would have meant a lot to him.

In February 1999, Paul was promoted to Colonel and posted as the Chief Instructor at the Regional Training Centre NSW at Moorebank. He was promoted to Brigadier on the 1 January 2001 and posted as the Commander 8th Brigade. On completion of this posting, Paul elected to Transfer to the Stand-By Reserve on the 31 December 2002.

Brigadier Couch was awarded the Reserve Force Medal (RFM) in 1985 and the Reserve Force Decoration (RFD) in 1990. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) in 1996 for his service as the Commanding Officer of the 41st Battalion RNSWR. He has also been awarded the Australian Defence Medal and the Anniversary of National Service Medal.

Brigadier Couch was appointed as Regimental Colonel of RNSWR effective from 1 June 2007 and as Colonel Commandant of the UNSWR from the 1 July 2013. He retired from these appointments on the 1 January 2016.

FRONTLINE

SEEN AROUND THE TRAPS



Mrs Betty CLENDENNING laying a wreath in honour of ex Prisoners of War at the Batemans Bay Cenotaph on ANZAC DAY 2016. Betty was assisted by her neighbours (at left) Mr Jeff JONES and Mr Sandy CURRY (at right.)



1/19 RNSWR Caterer SGT Wendy SPARKES and her gallant crew at the 4 Feb 17 OFFRS & SGTS Dinner at Orange



A WONDERFUL GESTURE AND A BIG THANK YOU DAVID !

David HUNT - (grandson of NX20438 PTE Edward HUNT OAM JP - 2/19 Battalion AIF) presenting the Association with 12 x 2/19 Battalion AIF Association ties. On learning that the Association no longer had stocks of 2/19 ties David and his wife Colleen took the initiative and arranged for a quantity of ties to be manufactured-at their own cost for members of the Hunt family. The 12 ties that were left over were graciously presented to the Association by David & Colleen and our grateful thanks for your valued and much appreciated gesture from us all.





SEEN AROUND THE TRACK! Zeke Mundine's Fighting Qualities

The Greyhound Recorder, Thursday 22 December 2016
Written by Jeff Collerson and Adam Dobbin

Zeke Mundine may have won only a modest maiden race in slow time at Dapto last Thursday night but nobody was more proud than Appin breeder Ken Wright, whose wife Mary trains the greyhound.

The Wrights bred Zeke Mundine and named the greyhound after legendary Vietnam War hero Roy "Zeke" Mundine, the brother of Aboriginal leader and former national president of the Australian Labor Party, Warren Mundine. In April 2015, Zeke Mundine was named as the Australian Army's inaugural indigenous leader. "I served alongside



Zeke, also known as Uncle Roy, in Vietnam, and was there when he had a leg blown off by a landmine," Ken Wright said. "When that happened Zeke refused for a long while to allow anyone to come out to help him as he realised there would be other mines scattered around." I had been waiting to get a decent young greyhound to name after Zeke and his two year-old namesake Dapto winner, can go a lot quicker than the 30.73 he clocked on Thursday. "The dog is capable of breaking 30-second at Dapto and Mary and I are confident he will pick up a low grade 520m race at Wentworth Park."

Roy "Zeke" Mundine's military resume is profound - recognised with an Order of Australia Medal in June, 1989, for his out-standing and meritorious service to the Australian Army for which he served for 38 years before retiring in 1995. Receiving numerous medals during his service, including the National Medal and the Defence Force Service Medal, the below citation makes for spectacular reading. If his namesake greyhound has half the courage to that of Mundine, it's fair to suggest he'll be picking up his share of races.

On 25 April 1969 during Operation SURFSIDE in Phuoc Tuy Province, Corporal Mundine was the leading section commander with 1 Platoon, A Company. On approaching a suspected enemy area, Corporal Mundine deployed his section on the ground and moved forward alone to reconnoitre the enemy position. He sighted enemy bunkers and was about to signal further instructions when he detonated a mine which severed his lower right leg and caused severe wounds to his back and his other leg.

Members of his section started to move forward to his assistance into what was later shown to be an enemy minefield. Corporal Mundine, although in considerable pain, ordered his section to stay out of the area and directed them to new fire positions after giving full details of the enemy bunker system.

For over forty minutes he continued to give instructions to his section and refused to allow any, members of the platoon to move near him until engineers had cleared a path through the minefield.

This occasion was typical of the outstanding leadership and complete disregard for his own safety that Corporal Mundine had shown throughout three months of operational service.

Wal Williams honoured on a Pittwater RSL plaque to Prisoners of War after his Japanese transport ship was torpedoed

John Morcombe, Manly Daily December 5, 2016 2:44pm

SEVENTY-TWO years ago two Japanese ships transporting Allied prisoners of war to Japan were sunk by American submarines, resulting in the loss of nearly 1600 Australian and British lives. *Rakuyo Maru* and the *Kachidori Maru* were sunk by American torpedoes on September 12, 1944. It was not the first time it had happened. In July 1942 the *Montevideo Maru* was sunk by an American submarine with the loss of more than 1000 POWs, but the Americans had no way of knowing the POWs were on board.

The worst incident was when the *Jun'yo Maru* was sunk in September 1944 and 6520 prisoners, mostly Indonesian, were killed.

All up, more than 1800 Australian POWs and internees died when their Japanese transports were sunk. One man who survived the sinking of the *Rakuyo Maru* is Wal Williams. He was unable to attend yesterday's dedication of a plaque at Pittwater RSL Club's war memorial to the Australian POWs who died at sea, but his name is recorded on the plaque. Following the fall of Singapore in February 1942, Mr Williams spent the rest of the war as a prisoner, apart from the few days after the sinking of the *Rakuyo Maru*, when he and other survivors drifted in the South China Sea hanging on to a raft and then in a lifeboat.

He was rescued by a passing Japanese ship and taken to Japan, where he survived the American bombing of Yokohama and was eventually liberated. He returned to Australia on October 23, 1945 – his 23rd birthday. Now 94 and living in Warriewood, Mr Williams knows he was lucky to survive the forced labour on the Thai-Burma Railway and the sinking of the *Rakuyo Maru*. "I certainly don't blame the Americans for sinking the *Rakuyo Maru*," he said. "The ships weren't painted to indicate there were POWs on board. "I just wish I had been picked up by an American submarine, like some of the other survivors of the sinking were. "My war would have been over 10 months earlier."

Another plaque dedicated at the RSL club yesterday was to people who served their country between 1951 and 1972, while a third plaque, to the former Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary, was rededicated in the presence of four members now in their 90s. The auxiliary was formed at the same time as the Mona Vale sub-branch of the RSL. Its accommodation was first a small cricket pavilion in Village Park, then a clubhouse in Huxley St, before a room was made available when the Pittwater RSL Club was built at 82 Mona Vale Rd.



National Servicemen's Sydney Northern Beaches sub-branch President Barry Andrews speaking at the Pittwater RSL War Memorial on Friday



Australian and allied prisoners of war at Hellfire pass to build Japan's notorious Burma-Siam railway during WWII.



Barbara Mcmananey, Lois Griffiths, Dorothy Clark and Beryl Clarkefour were all involved in the Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary

FRONTLINE

FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION KRANJI WAR CEMETERY 15 FEB 2017

FROM CPL Ian DAHLENBURGH

Dear Sir,

I am a member of Alpha Company 1/19 RNSWR at Wagga Wagga and also a member of the 1/19 RNSWR Association. I am currently serving on Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia and Singapore along with a number of other members from 1st /19th Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment as part of a combined 5 and 8 Brigade trip.

Due to the historical links of our current Battalion to the 2nd/19th Battalion AIF, which served in Malaya and Singapore during World War II, members of the 1st/19th Battalion have been selected to provide the Catafalque Party for the afternoon service at Kranji War Cemetery on the 15th of February for the 75th Anniversary of the Commemoration of the Fall of Singapore.

I just wanted to give you a heads up that members of our Battalion will be heavily involved in the service and it will be our great privilege to do so, especially thinking of the Association members that were part of the 2nd/19th Battalion AIF and their Fallen Comrades. Also on a personal note my great uncle served with the 2nd/19th Battalion AIF in World War II and was a POW at Changi for the duration of the war after the Fall of Singapore so it holds even more importance for myself.

Not sure if any other members of the Association will be there for the service but at least those of us here from 1/19 RNSWR can do our part in commemorating the service of all soldiers who served in Malaya and Singapore during World War II and provide representation for both the 1st/19th Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment and for the Association itself.

It sounds like it will be a fairly big occasion with the Vice CDF confirmed to be attending and dignitaries from a number of nations to be in attendance.

Kind Regards,
Ian Dahlenburg
Corporal
Section Commander
RCB116



**MEMBERS OF 1/19 RNSWR WITH THEIR SINGAPOREAN COUNTERPARTS AT THE
KRANJI CEMETERY WAR MEMORIAL 15 FEBRUARY 2017**

FRONTLINE

75th ANNIVERSARY - FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION SYDNEY CENOTAPH WED 15 FEB 2017



FRONTLINE

75th ANNIVERSARY - FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION GOVERNMENT HOUSE WED 15 FEB 2017



FRONTLINE

75th ANNIVERSARY - FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION PRISONER OF WAR MEMORIAL BALLARAT VIC

Association Member Glen Scriven accompanied by his daughter Glensess attended the POW Memorial in Ballarat to Commemorate the Fall of Singapore. Our thanks to Glensess for the photos of their trip



Glen accompanied by a Nurse to lay a wreath



Glen & Glensess with Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston



Glen being interviewed by the media



Glen with His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove – Governor General



Glen with Samantha McIntosh The Mayor of Ballarat



Statue of the grieving Mother



Glen with DVA Robert Knight



Glen discussing with Jayne his upcoming 100th Birthday

THE RETURN OF NX55915 PTE Gilbert Palmer MANT'S MEDALS

BY Di ELLIOTT



Gilbert was born at Langham, Darling Point, NSW on 20 July, 1902. He was one of three sons born to William Hall Mant and his wife Frances. Being an original member of the 2/19 Battalion AIF, he sailed to Singapore onboard HMT *Queen Mary* in February 1941. Prior to enlisting, Gilbert was the Australian News Editor for Reuters and in July, 1941 he was manpowered out of the Army and returned to Australia. Reuters then returned him to Malaya as a war correspondent, where he met up with his old battalion again. Following the fighting in Malaya, Gilbert returned to Australia and avoided the surrender on Singapore Island. He immediately set to and his small book, *Grim Glory*, was first published in July, 1942 telling the 'grim glory' of Malaya and the role the men of the 2/19 Battalion played. At the time of publication, no one knew of the terrible fate of the wounded left behind in ambulances and trucks at the bridge at Parit Sulong. In his 90s, and suffering from motor neuron disease, Gilbert finally penned his book, *Massacre at Parit Sulong*, as he had felt bad about not writing it many years ago when Ben Hackney, one of just three who survived the massacre, had asked him to do so. If not for Ben, none of us would have ever known the fate of the 150 wounded left behind that day in January,

1942. Gilbert was also the author of many other books. On a personal note, the godfather of his brother, Lieutenant Colonel John Mant, who served in WW1 and WW2, was none other than Banjo Patterson and his other brother, Richard, served with the RAAF during WW2. Gilbert died on the 16 February, 1997, aged 94.

On Monday 9 January, 2017, Gary Traynor from Medals Gone Missing contacted Bob Pink, Secretary of the 1/19 RNSWR Association, regarding some medals he had purchased on ebay many years ago belonging to Gilbert Mant. Gary wanted to return the medals to their rightful owner but after years of searching he had just about given up hope of finding a relative. That was until he was looking for information on Parit Sulong where his second cousin, Ken Burt of the 2/19 Battalion, had died. He came across a blog on the Australian War Memorial website written by someone he knew, Garth O'Connell. Garth is a historian at the AWM and Gary had previously worked at the AWM himself. In that blog the 1/19 Association was mentioned so Gary found contact information online and spoke with Bob Pink. Bob told Gary he should contact Di Elliott as she may know if Gilbert had any family – and she did. Knowing Gilbert had a daughter, as she had been in contact with her several years ago; the trouble now was she couldn't remember her name. Going through tons of her files would take forever, so thinking that back in the day we didn't leave home until we married, Di thought his daughter may be listed on the old electoral rolls still at the same address as her Dad. Bingo, there she was, Carol Frances Mant. Well, she wouldn't be Mant now as she would have no doubt married so now to find her married name in BD&M. An entry in 1963 showed she married Robert John Brown. Then knowing the name Carol Brown, Di immediately recalled Carol lived in Cooma and she was soon located in whitepages. On advising Gary, he requested Di ring Carol herself. Following that call both 'girls' admitted to some tears being shed. Carol has no idea what happened to her father's medals after he died and they had often wondered about them. Possibly when Gilbert's wife, Carol's step-mother, went into the nursing home, she downsized and they went somewhere then. After several conversations Di told Carol that Gary would be in Canberra on Wednesday 18 January to do some research at the Australian War Memorial, and that Di would meet him that day as she worked there as a Volunteer. Carol said she and her family could come to Canberra that day too. Gary suggested all could meet at the 2/19 Battalion plaque in the grounds of the AWM to do the handover of the medals. Wanting to be sure of protocol at the AWM for gathering in the grounds, even for such a small group, Di emailed the AWM Director, Dr Brendan Nelson, to make sure this met with AWM approval.

Turned out Dr Nelson was in the UK on leave but true to form, he replied that very same day saying it was a wonderful story and the AWM would do all they could to assist on the day. Seating, photographers and morning tea were on offer. Dr Nelson, via email, introduced Di to his Events Officer, Chris Widenbar and all was in place to meet on the steps of the AWM at midday on 18 January. The day before Chris advised Di that as well as the AWM Media and Communications section intending to cover the handover, that Channel 9 would also be there to do a report to be screened during the week of 15 February as part of their coverage of the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. This was getting bigger than Texas!

18 January was a stinking hot and windy Canberra day but all was well; the 2/19 Battalion AIF plaque is right under the canopy of a huge tree. Chris had also directed the ground staff give the plaque a good clean and polish. Just before midday, everyone gathered at the entrance to the AWM and then proceeded into the grounds. The original small group of three was now in the twenties and with introductions and thankyou's over, it was on with the main event. Bob Weir, Asst Treasurer 1/19 RNSWR Association, had the honour of handing the medals to Carol Brown, and Gary spoke of the journey from the day he purchased the medals until the handover. The Channel 9 reporter, Harry Frost, then did several interviews and it was a story of personal interest to him. While doing his Media and Communications degree at the University of Canberra, he was also serving with a NSW Reserve Force and had spent time in Malaya visiting the old battle sites of the 8 Division. He became interested in the history and had used the story of Parit Sulong in a project as part of his degree.

His 'study buddy' at university was able to assist him in this as his mum was Di Elliott. After the formalities and interviews, everyone gathered at Poppy's Café in the grounds of the AWM for coffee and reminiscence. The events of the 9 days, culminating with the handover of the medals had been somewhat of an emotional whirlwind. But, as Di said to Dr Brendan Nelson when she thanked him for helping make it such a memorable event for the Mant family, and everyone else involved, it was, 'Just another great day at the AWM.' Congratulations also to Gary Traynor for the work he does returning medals to their rightful owners. You can visit his website on www.medalsgonemissing.com.au



FRONTLINE

LAST POST CEREMONY AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA NX49374 PTE Charles Stanley "Chicka" BUCHANAN 2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF



On 15 February, 2017, the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra commemorated the life of 2/19 Battalion AIF member, NX49374 Private Charles Stanley 'Chicka' BUCHANAN. He had died during the fighting on Singapore Island and was officially presumed dead on 15 February, 1942, aged just 17 years.

When enlisting in the AIF on 18 October, 1941 he stated he was born on 22 September, 1922 when he was actually born in 1924. He left Australia onboard RMS *Aquitania* on 10 January, 1942 and on arrival in Singapore he crossed to Johor Bahru in Malaya where he was taken on strength of 2/19 Battalion AIF on 26 January. All troops then moved to Singapore Island on 31 January.

The Japanese invaded Singapore on 8 February, 1942 and it was during the ensuing week long battle that Chicka was killed. His body was either not recovered or if so, not identified and he is therefore listed on Column 122 at Kranji War Cemetery.

The service at the AWM was well attended. The AWM Director, Dr Brendan Nelson, gave a heartfelt address and likened the Fall of Singapore with the landing of the First Fleet – two major events in our history that changed Australia forever. A serving Army Officer, Colonel Stephen Hume, spoke of the short life of young Chicka and, along with the Federation Guard and several serving Trainees from HMAS Harman in attendance, it was indeed a memorable occasion.



Boldly and Faithfully
TO THE HALLOWED MEMORY OF

NX49374 PRIVATE
Charles Stanley BUCHANAN
A GALLANT COMRADE OF THE
2nd/19th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
KILLED IN ACTION
SINGAPORE ISLAND - 15 FEBRUARY 1942
AGED 17 YEARS

From the Members of the Association of
1st/19th BATTALION
THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT
& 2nd/19th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF
Laid by Di Elliott, Anne Buttsworth and Andrew Donaldson
on behalf of the Association
15 February 2017

LEST WE FORGET

A wreath was laid on behalf of the 1/19 RNSWR & 2/19 Battalion AIF Association by three 'children' of members of the 2/19 Battalion. They were Andrew Donaldson (son of the beloved Bandy Donaldson), Anne Buttsworth (daughter of Hal Buttsworth who died as a POW in Japan) and Di Elliott (daughter of Fred Howe).

It was unfortunate that, despite a concerted effort, no family of Chicka Buchanan could be located in time for the service in his memory but Paul & Di Elliott, Andrew and Margaret Donaldson,, Anne and Di were honoured to be there to represent his 2/19 Battalion family.

[OUR THANKS TO DI ELLIOTT, ANNE BUTTSWORTH & ANDREW & ANNE DONALDSON FOR ATTENDING AND REPRESENTING THE ASSOCIATION AT THE CEREMONY AND THE VALUED RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN BY DI ON CHARLES BUCHANAN AND IN FORWARDING THE ABOVE DETAILS AND PHOTOS OF THE CEREMONY.]

FRONTLINE

8th DIVISION BATTLE RUN

by LTCOL Graeme Davis (Rtd)

The Fall of Singapore in January 1942 is a pivotal event in the history of World War II, an event remembered with profound reverence in Australian military circles. In January 2017 I travelled to Malaysia and Singapore with a colleague from Lane Cove RSL Sub Branch to walk in the footsteps of my late father Private Tom Davis (Don Company, 2/30 Australian Infantry Battalion) to attend the service commemorating the 75th anniversary of the ambush at Gemenchah Bridge.

That ambush, on 14 Jan 1942, was so successful that it is studied to this day at staff colleges and by avid students of military history/tactics. I would like to share some of the experiences and challenges we encountered during our two-man battlefield study tour so as to encourage fellow military history buffs to contemplate such a visit. Accordingly, our adventure is presented together with an overview of the 8th Division. One of our objectives was to locate and visit as many of the locations where 8 Division Units trained, fought and were incarcerated. With exception of one small sign on Singapore Island, we had to rely on various publications including one produced by the Australian Army History Unit ("*Malaya*"). Not surprisingly, Malaysia and Singapore are very different places in 2017 to what it was 75 years ago.

The roads are now wider, expressways criss-cross Malaysia and Singapore, jungle villages have been transformed into vibrant cities, and Johore could be described as a coast-to-coast palm oil plantation with nary a rubber tree to be found. Singapore today is a model multi-cultural progressive city, globally recognised as an exciting tourist destination in its own right. Nevertheless, my colleague and I were able to locate most of the key locations/terrain, thereby enabling us to conduct our two-man battle appreciation/analysis.

Road to War

Throughout the 1930s Japan attacked neighbouring Korea, Manchuria and Russia, and there were clear indicators that she had her sights set on the colonial powers of France, Netherlands, Portugal and Britain. Japan's relationship with the United States of America had deteriorated to the extent that access to key resources such as oil, rubber and tin was denied.

When France was overrun by Germany in 1940, Japan (as an ally of Germany) occupied Indo-China. This gave Japan access to airfields and naval ports in what is now Cambodia and Vietnam, placing Thailand (formerly Siam), Malaya and Singapore within easy striking distance.

As part of its strategy to protect Malaya and Singapore, Britain undertook extensive capital works such as airfields, naval docks and shore fortifications. Naval Force Z (which included HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse) and deployed ground troops drawn from England, India and Australia, with Australia contributing the 8th Division and some RAAF and RAN assets to the mix.

In early December 1941, the Japanese launched simultaneous attacks against Pearl Harbour, Hong Kong, Wake Island, Philippines, Siam and Malaya.

8th Division

The 8th Division began forming in July 1940, with its headquarters at Victoria Barracks Sydney, amidst an influx of fresh volunteers for overseas service following Allied reverses in Europe.

Consisting of around 20,000 personnel, the foundation elements of an Australian Division were three infantry brigades with various supporting elements including an artillery regiment, machine gun battalion, an anti-tank regiment, cavalry regiment and engineer, signals and other logistic support units.

The three infantry brigades initially assigned to the 8th Division were the 22nd (NSW), 23rd (VIC/TAS) and 24th (QLD, SA, WA).

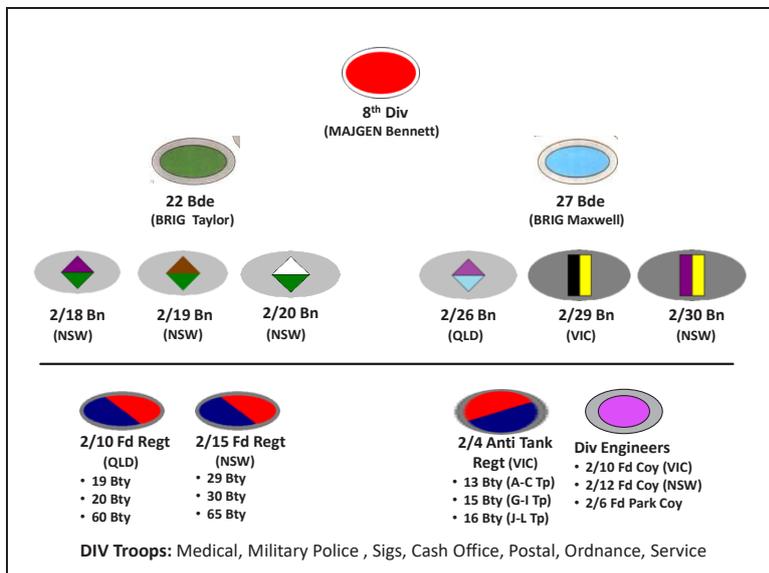
In September 1940, a reorganisation of the 2nd AIF resulted in the 24th Brigade being sent to North Africa where it became part of the 9th Division. It was replaced in the 8th Division by the 27th Brigade (NSW/VIC/QLD)

As the possibility of war with Japan loomed, following a British request for more troops, the 22nd Brigade was sent to Malaya in February 1941 to undertake garrison duties there.

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Meanwhile, the 23rd Brigade moved to Darwin in April 1941, and over coming months its battalions were deployed piecemeal to Rabaul, Timor and Ambon.

The 27th Brigade arrived in Malaya in August 1941.



Order of Battle – December 1941

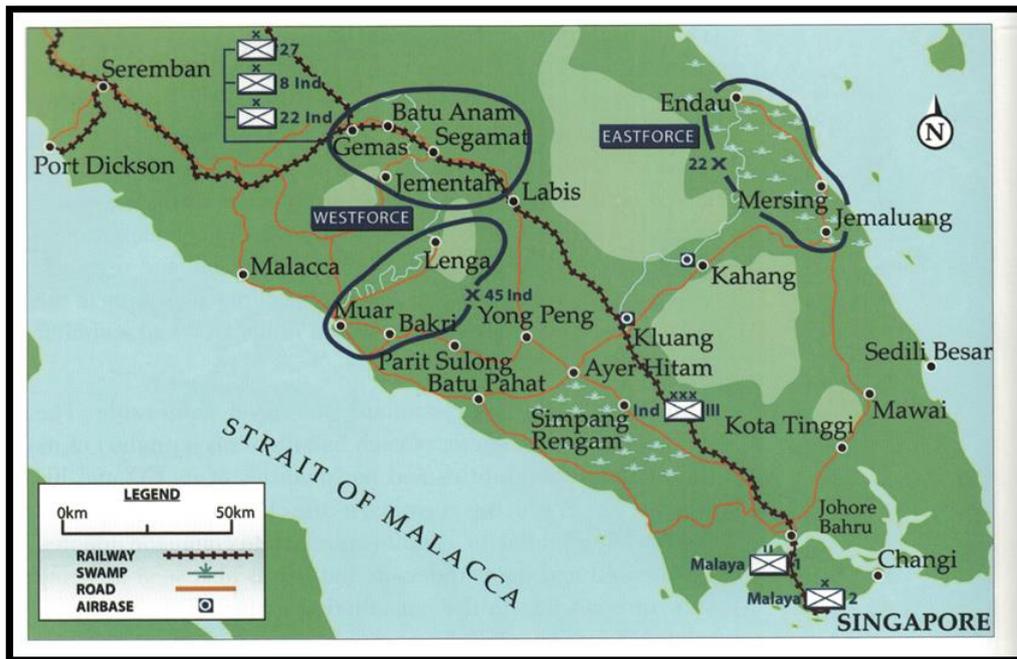
Note: In late January 1942, as Allied forces withdrew towards Singapore, a 2,000-strong detachment of reinforcements arrived in Singapore, including the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion. These reinforcements were largely provided to the 2/19th and 2/29th Battalions although most of the men had not completed basic training and were ill-prepared for the fighting to come.

Battle is Joined

Five weeks after the “Day of Infamy” on 7 December 1941, the Japanese had gained control of 80% of Malaya. Defending forces were in constant retreat in a campaign similar in many respects to the blitzkrieg conquest of Europe by the German allies. But in this case, using the subtler tactic of encirclement, they deliberately avoided direct confrontation.

By 10 Jan 1942, Japanese Forces were south of Kuala Lumpur and approaching a defence line stretching across the southern part of the peninsula from coast to coast.

The central portion of this line was manned by the Australian 27th Brigade together with the 2nd Loyal British Regiment and the remnants of 9th Indian Division. This rather mixed group was named **Westforce** and placed under the command of MAJGEN Gordon Bennett, Commander 8th



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Division. The 22nd Brigade, less 2/19th, was in its original position at Mersing where elaborate and effective defence positions had been prepared. They became part of **Eastforce** together with the 11th Indian Division under the command of BRIG Taylor.

LTGEN Heath of the 3rd Indian Corps was in overall command of both Forces.

Dispositions – Mid January 1942

Battlefield Touring - Our Approach

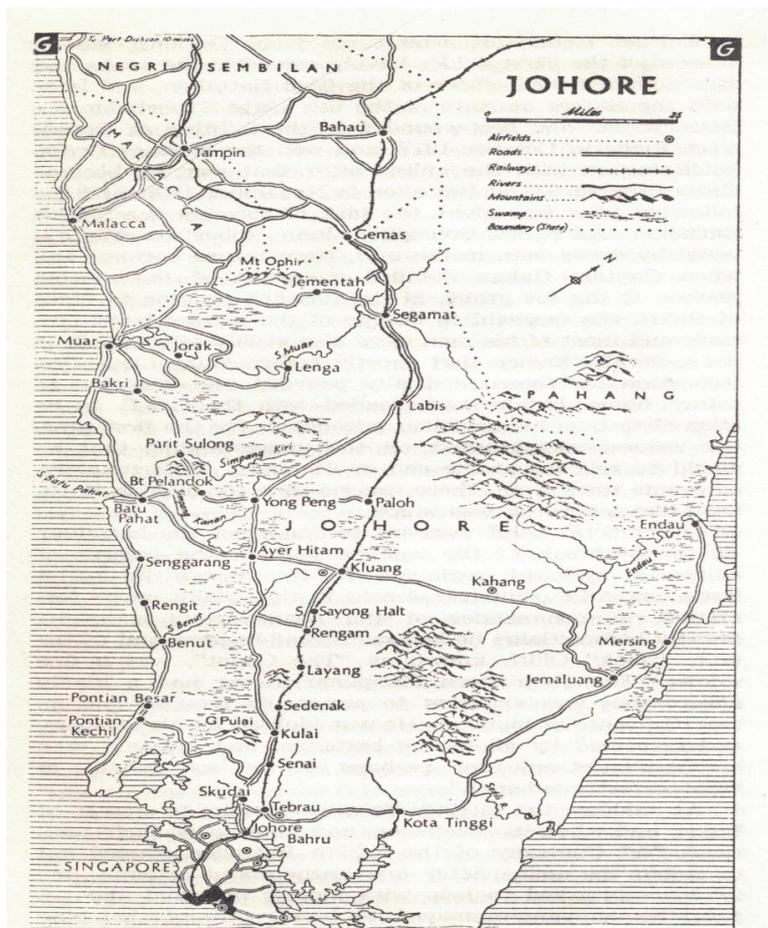
We flew into Singapore and after an overnight stay we progressed through Immigration at the Causeway and picked up a hire car – with GPS – in Johore Bahru and headed to the east coast of Malaysia.

Prior to hostilities, the Brigades/Battalions were scattered throughout Johore in an effort to accustom them to the heat and humidity of a jungle environment. It should be noted that the Brigades had trained at Bathurst NSW for the Middle East.

When the codeword “*Raffles*” was released in early December 1941, the Brigades proceeded to their battle stations on the east coast centered on the town of Mersing. Battalions and Companies were also deployed north to Endau, south to Sedili Besar and west to the airfields at Kluang and Kahang.

Today, Mersing is a thriving town and useful point of departure for foreign tourists en route to the Tioman Islands and Endau-Rompin National Park.

In late January 1942, a strong Japanese force of cruisers, destroyers and two transports, all with heavy air cover was spotted off Endau by a RAAF Hudson. Once again, fortune favoured the Japanese. They had avoided the more accessible beaches at Mersing because they knew every detail of the well-prepared defences of the 22nd Brigade.



Nevertheless, the Australians were in a good position to deal with the enemy advance towards an important road junction at Jemaluang when orders were issued by Malaya Command to withdraw. Confusing and disappointing though such orders were, the Brigade group managed to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy, delaying the enemy advance by three days.

Following a tip from a local, and using “*Malaya*”, my colleague and I located the site where the 2/18 Bn successfully executed a battalion sized ambush - the fire of the 2/10th Field Regiment was so devastatingly accurate that the Japanese wanted to know how they did it.

From Mersing we drove across to the west coast where we had booked accommodation in the historical city of Malacca. The history of Malacca goes back hundreds of years, having been colonised by the Portuguese, Dutch, British and Japanese. It is well worth a visit.

From our base at Malacca we took day trips to Muar, Bakri and Parit Sulong.

The crack troops of the Japanese Guards Division had landed at Muar and quickly overcame the untrained,

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In mid January 1942, two Australian battalions - the 2/19th from the east coast and the 2/29th from Segamat were hastily dispatched to the Muar area to support the 45th Indian Brigade to try and stem the tide. The two battalions, with excellent support from 2/4th Anti Tank Regiment and 2/15th Field Regiment, fought their way along the road from Muar to Bakri with the aim of linking up with the rest of the Force at Yong Peng.

Unfortunately, the Japanese had used small ships and landing craft to land further down the coast at Batu Pahat thereby allowing them to advance inland and seize the bridge at Parit Sulong.

At the bridge the Japanese commander refused a request for the Australian wounded to be allowed passage. A decision was made to leave our wounded in the care of medical staff volunteers in the hope that the Japanese would look after them. The outcome of this decision was that more than 100 soldiers were massacred.

Memorial at Parit Sulong

At this point in hostilities, LTCOL Anderson, CO of 2/19th took command of the group. They fought gamely but when food, water and ammunition ran out, Anderson ordered his group to form themselves into small teams and rather than surrender, try to make their way through the jungle and swamps to Yong Peng.

Although not sign posted, my colleague and I located a well tended small park on the north side of the bridge over the river at Parit Sulong. Within the park is a memorial commemorating the battle and massacre. We recommend visiting this park.

From Malacca we drove to Port Dickson where the 2/18th, 2/20th and other units were initially deployed upon arrival in country in early 1941. We visited an excellent army museum there which houses a comprehensive collection of armoured vehicles. The museum also traces the contribution made by the Malaya Battalions in WW2 and during the battle against Communist Terrorists in the 1960s.

From Port Dickson we drove towards Gemas so that we could participate in the 75th Commemorative Service organised by the 2/30th Training Group. The Training Group, also known as Rifle Company Butterworth, plays a role in training, on a rotational basis, rifle companies drawn from the Australian Army (both Regular and Reserve) in jungle fighting. For the 2017 service, soldiers were drawn from NSW Army reserve units which was significant as the Army reserve depot at Pymble NSW is used each January by the 2/30th Bn Association to commemorate the ambush.

On 14 Jan 1942, a strong force of Japanese troops was crossing the bridge at Gemencheh River when they were ambushed by B Company from the 2/30th Battalion, sustaining many casualties when the bridge was blown up. However, a small advance party had been allowed through the trap, a move that enabled the



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enemy to locate and cut the telephone lines to the gunners and HQ. Consequently, the artillery barrage which had been planned did not occur until much later by which time the target had deployed in an encircling movement.

In the meantime, following Japanese forces managed to cross the river and cut off the ambush party. Japanese engineers quickly repaired the bridge with timber from a nearby sawmill which had been left intact. Although the Japanese had received a severe setback, it was not long before their light tanks and infantry were exerting considerable pressure on the 2/26th Bn near Segamat, as the forward unit of the main defence group.



Malaysian Officers, CO 2/30 Training Group (in uniform) with LTCOL Davis



Story Board at the Gemas Memorial

After staying a night at Gemas, my colleague and I set off next morning to follow the withdrawal route down Highway 1 as it passes through Segamat, Yong Peng, Ayer Hitam and Simpang Renggam before it terminates in Johore Bahru.

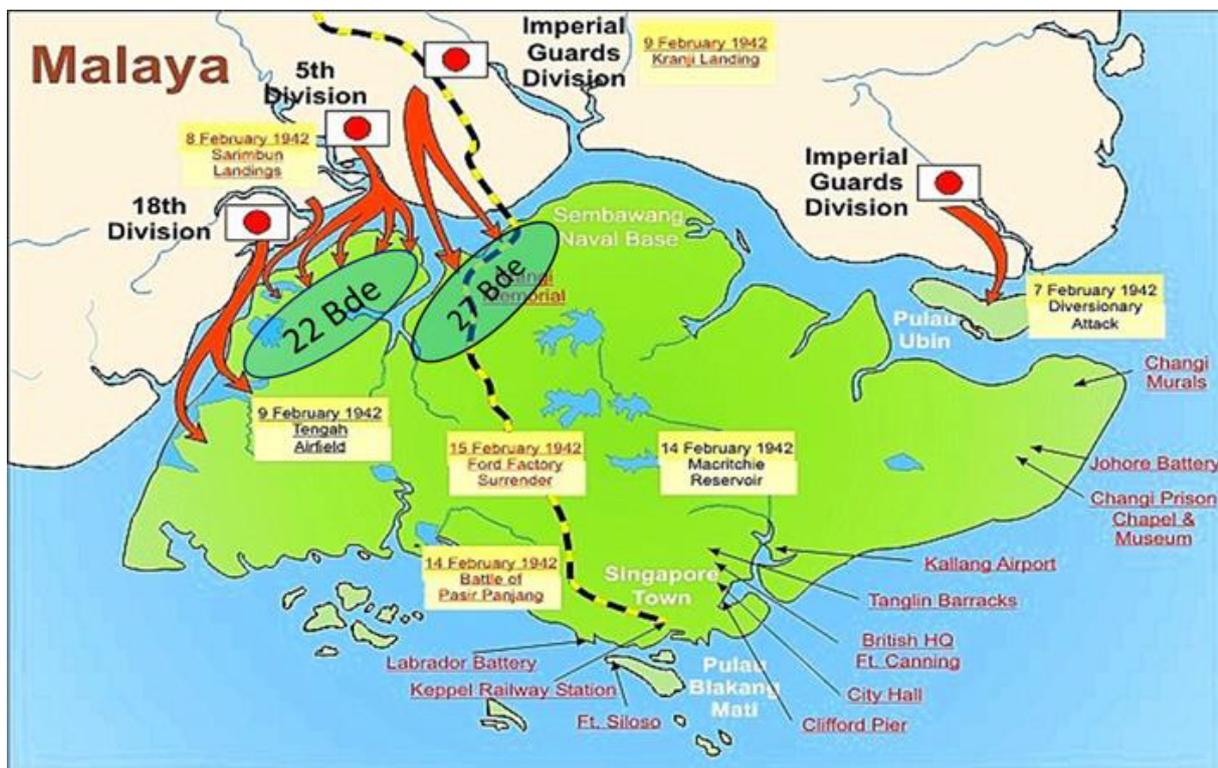
Enroute we identified locations where the battalions secured key intersections (eg Yong Peng, Ayer Hitam) and mounted delay ambushes such as at Namazie Estate.

Along with the remaining British and Indian troops the 8th Division withdrew to Singapore, with Engineers destroying bridges as they went, with the last troops marching across the Causeway on 31 Jan 1942.

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Singapore

Despite it being much promoted as a “fortress”, the 8th Division discovered to their dismay that their sector in the North West of the island adjoining to, and west of, the Causeway, had not been prepared for defence. The ground allocated to the Division was beyond their resources, and they bore the brunt of the Japanese assault force which landed a week later on 8 February 1942.



Within another week, the allies were pushed back to a perimeter around the city. When Percival realised the extent of the situation, he surrendered on 15 February 1942, thus commencing three-and-a-half years as a Prisoner of War, with the notable exception of MAJGEN Gordon Bennett who, without permission, returned to Australia the day before the surrender.

Singapore Battlefield Touring

Commercial tours visit Kranji War Cemetery, Changi Museum and Percival's Command Post at Fort Canning while a “*Madame Tussauds*” depiction of the surrender negotiations is located on Sentosa Island. The naval port is now commercialised and 150m of the perimeter wall of Changi Gaol has been retained for historical purposes. The Ford Factory was not open to the public but the Changi Museum is a must visit. It is possible to find the landing sites, Rimua Commando plaque, coastal gun/MG pill box at Labrador Battery and the memorials at Bukit Batok.

The tourist industry in Singapore recognises the interest of relatives and friends in WW2 but to a lesser extent in Malaysia. We had no difficulty finding our way around either country, the Australian dollar went a long way in Malaysia, the locals in both countries were friendly, and driving was easy. Being on the equator the weather is hot and humid and in the wet season an umbrella/shower jacket is recommended.

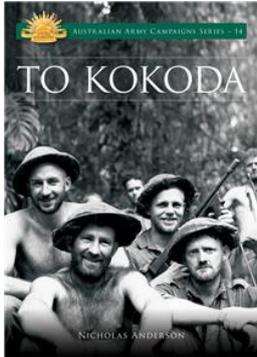
As “*battlefield tourists*” take their fill of Gallipoli and the Western Front, I predict that the sites associated with the Fall of Singapore will be the next big (and affordable) attraction.

OUR THANKS TO ASSOCIATION MEMBER LIEUTENANT COLONEL GRAEME DAVIS FOR HIS VERY INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING CONTRIBUTION.

TO KOKODA

Nicholas Anderson
Big Sky Publishing 201 236pp \$19.95
ISBN 978-1-9221322-95-6

Reviewer: JOHN DONOVAN



Australian military history has enjoyed something of a revival in recent years, and no doubt this will continue as the anniversaries associated with the Centenary of the First World War occur. Within that revival, some battles (Fromelles, but mainly around the time of the discovery of the Pheasant Wood burials, most battles on the Western Front, Greece, Crete and Syria,

Alamein, the 1943-44 campaigns in New Guinea, and those in 1945 on Borneo and Bougainville) receive only occasional attention. Some others, notably Gallipoli, Tobruk and Kokoda, are regularly the subjects of books.

Nicholas Anderson has produced an informative history of the campaign up until the recapture of Kokoda, with some useful summary judgements on its place in the history of the war against Japan. The style of recent books on Kokoda varies from popular 'yarns' to detailed academic studies. This book, like others in the Australian Army Campaign Series, is academically rigorous, but written and published in a highly readable style.

The descriptions of events during the Australian retreat and subsequent advance are well written, enabling the reader to understand events as they occurred. Anderson avoids the temptation to over-analyse events, which led one recent author (Peter Williams, *The Kokoda Campaign 1942, Myth and Reality*, CUP, 2012) to produce somewhat artificial estimates of the numbers engaged at specific times.

Anderson's account describes the logistic problems of operating along a tenuous foot track, with air dropped supplies capable of providing only a limited supplement to the work of Papuan carriers. As an illustration of the difficulties of the Kokoda Trail, some wounded from the early part of the Australian advance back across the mountains could not be evacuated until weeks after the battle had moved on. These difficulties did not seem always to be understood by senior officers in Port Moresby, leading to friction between them and the commanders on the Trail.

Anderson's summary of the significance of the campaign is balanced. Kokoda did not save Australia from invasion, however, as Anderson notes, the information available at the time suggested that a 'Battle for Australia' was underway. There might not have been an actual Battle for Australia, but it probably seemed at the time as if there was. That the Japanese had already decided against invasion was recorded in Japanese archives that were not then available to Australia's intelligence authorities (but some recent historians seem to ignore this reality).

Pre-war strategy held that the Singapore strategy would ensure Australia's safety. In the event, however, Australia's security from invasion during the Second World War was ensured by the maritime power of the United States Navy at the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway, not by the Royal Navy

operating from the Singapore base. After those battles, the Japanese ability to land troops at Port Moresby was minimal. This led to the Kokoda campaign, as the Japanese attempted an overland advance.

As Anderson points out, Guadalcanal was more important than Kokoda (or Milne Bay) because the Japanese made it so. Japanese power could not support both campaigns, particularly if they gave priority to holding Guadalcanal. They did this, easing the pressure on the Australian forces on the Kokoda Trail. Success at Kokoda, however, did keep space between the Japanese and the Australian mainland. The campaign also provided the opportunity for the army to learn jungle-fighting skills, which were valuable well beyond the end of the Second World War.

Anderson deals fairly with the relief of senior officers during the campaign. Brigadier Potts lost his command in part because under pressure he was insufficiently informative in his reports; he might have been reinstated had Lieutenant General Rowell remained in command, but Rowell's successor Lieutenant General Herring would not accept Potts. The impact of his sacking on the 21st Brigade was exacerbated by poorly worded (to put it tactfully) speeches by Herring and General Blamey to the brigade at Koitaki, implying that the troops had not fought bravely.

Rowell allowed his personal dislike of Blamey to overcome his discipline, and was sacked; even lieutenant generals cannot persistently be insubordinate! Major General Allen was replaced in large part because of his poor relationship with Blamey and Herring. His successor, Major General Vasey arrived just as the Japanese withdrew from Eora Creek, leaving the way to Kokoda open. Vasey then gained the credit for Allen's work.

Anderson sees the experiences of the individual soldiers along the Kokoda Trail as the most significant legacy of the campaign. It is invidious to select any one soldier to exemplify those who fought on the Kokoda Trail, but Sergeant Bede Tongs of the 3rd (Militia) Battalion stands out.

On 17 October 1942, the 3rd Battalion was preparing to attack strong Japanese positions at Templeton's Crossing. Tongs identified a Japanese machine gun post as a potential obstacle to the attack. He crawled forward alone and threw a hand grenade into the post, destroying it. Tongs then ran 'like a Stawell Gift runner' back to his platoon, where the company commander ordered him to 'Get that attack going Sergeant Tongs'. He then led his platoon forward in their successful attack. Thousands of such young Australians combined to win the campaign.

REVIEWER: JOHN DONOVAN



John Donovan worked in the Department of Defence for over 32 years, principally in the fields of intelligence, force development and resource management. He also served for several years in the *Australian Army Reserve*.

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NOR ALL THY TEARS

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

Continued from December 2016 Newsletter:

A Japanese doctor was put in charge of the sick, and he had some American Red Cross medical supplies which we hailed as a good sign. He asked how many sick we had and we were told: In three weeks you will have none. We did not know if this was a promise or an order. A little of each it turned out to be. They definitely tried to make the sick better, but when work started it soon became a crime once more.

One day a selection of us were taken for a trade test. We were marched to the station and loaded onto V-bottom trucks. Pete warned us to sit securely as the trucks were in a habit of running off the line. The line wound round a narrow cutting, fringing the edge of a deep valley, hollowed into a huge blue mountain. The edges of the valley were lined with a fernlike greenness; the gentle slopes covered with even rows of cone-topped pines with their beautiful soft grooves forming a symmetrical pattern up to the skyline, and the more broken surfaces were smoothed with vines and smooth bushes.

We bored through two short tunnels and found ourselves among a group of drab, high buildings fitted with machinery. They marched us up a series of steps and we were sat down in a square beside several large buildings. Through the windows of these we could see the workers - mostly women - and they were doing P.T. Presently they stopped and went on with their work. Alongside the square were rows of tiny train lines and two of these led into a gaping hole in the side of the mountain. Little skips were being pulled up and down by tiny electric engines, and now and then a long train of them would come out of the side of the mountain, laden with ore, or a longer one would go in with empties. There was much confusion and trucks frequently jumped the rails. This happened several times while we were watching, and I remember how unnatural it seemed to see a gang of Nips crowd round these and lift them onto the rails again without blows and scarcely an angry word.

Care of the machinery was up to the army standards, however, if the trucks were loaded, or otherwise hard to lift on, a few sticks were laid down and they were given a violent tug by an engine until they bounced into position. We sat on the ground for some time and then they picked up a few of our number and marched them off. They returned not much later, and gave their different stories of their "trade tests". They had just been marched into a machine shop and asked if they could work any of the various machines and marched out again. The Lolly Lopper, as we now came to call the camp commandant, because of his alleged feats with the sword, addressed us and told us that our trade tests had proved unsatisfactory, and we would have to do much better. So we were taken back to camp. We

dealt a final blow to any doubts as to whether we would be working in a mine or not and to the rumour that the mine was "open cut". We were issued with headgear. Caps for those who had to work on the surface; hard composition hats for those who had to go down the mine. I got a hard one. Before going down the mine



we had to learn our trade on the surface. We were given two days training in "tool drill" army style. This took place in the playing field of the "College of Mining Engineering", or something, and we passed by the young kids at school. There were thousands of them crowded into a tiny area, all of them incredibly small and active. Two kids with wooden guns were on guards at the gate as sentries. Those off duty made faces at us.

Finally the whole party was divided into groups and given numbers, N.X.45804, McNamara H.J., became Five Zero Five. Various instructors severely informed us that they would be working over us in our respective parties. The metre men furphy had also gone the way of the others. The Nips were all of military age and size, ready to be called up at any time.

CHAPTER XXI FIVE ZERO FIVE

The great day came and we were back in the square at the mine divided into parties. We were delegated to our different bosses by a small, pleasant-faced Nip who introduced each of these to their respective groups with the words: This is your teacher, concluding by going to the centre and saying: I am everybody's teacher. My party was given a tall, white-faced, slimy Nip whom we came to call Paleface, and he turned out to be one of the Number Ones of the mine. We were given loincloths, sweat-towels and carbide lights. They gave us instructions about the use of these latter and served us with carbide. Then we got orders to move onto the train, and we were told to mind the electric cable that was just over our heads, as to touch it, even with our hats meant to be killed instantly, which (Allah be praised) was an exaggeration, and also that it was lower in the mine, which was no exaggeration.

The tunnel in the mine ran three miles through to the headquarters, and I don't know how many miles out to the other side where they had another colony of people having no touch with the outside world save through this ghastly hole (which they never seemed to use) and over the mountain by flying-fox. (This latter would send you grey to look at it). The small carriers

from their high steel cables hundreds of times, for in the bed of the valley, the only place where they were visible, a great number had fallen, and this was only a small fraction of the villainous journey). The dense blackness of the tunnel was broken at intervals by dim, yellow lights, showing distances in meters on the wall. Steel walls formed into arches, held rotten timber into position over our heads until we had come to where the rock was solid enough to bear its own weight, and at intervals where it became broken once more. We unloaded at a group of offices moderately lit by twelve candle-power lights, lined up as a parade and marched off to the dressing-rooms, also hewn into the rock, where we were told to change into our loin-cloths and bring out our lights.

Then my small party was divided into groups and mine was led off into a workroom filled with plumbing gear. There were a couple of Nips inside and they pointed to various articles saying: Japan: PI". EngEsbka? Japan: Flanged Eng&hka! meaning the objects (a pipe and a flange) were called "pipo" and "Flangee" respectively in Japanese, and asking the English word for them. We told them. Usually the words were much the same, since their technical terms are taken from English. One of them pulled out a pipe (a smoker's pipe) a long cast iron one with a little bowl the size of the circumference of a cigarette. Into this he put a tiny pinch of queer-looking tobacco, lit it against his acetylene lamp, took two puffs and blew the remaining ash into the air.

Then he filled it again, repeated the process and tucked it away. If that were how the Nipponese themselves flirted with My Lady Nicotine, it didn't look too well for the smokers among the P.O.W.'s, I thought, and I was right. Presently they said "Messee" and gave an imitation of pushing food down their throats in a most violent manner, and we opened our boxes of rice that we had brought and began to eat. The enormous speed they showed in "going through the motions" was not limited to symbolism. The solid rice offered no more resistance to the swirling chopsticks than the free air. Their boxes were empty in an instant and they were waiting in wondering impatience for us. When we had finished one of them took up a bag of tools and a couple of large stillson wrenches, divided them among us and led us round past the lights of the office, and over rough heaps of timber into a tiny room. Then we started up a steep flight of stairs.

The light of the outer office was cut off by the turn in our path, and we had nothing but our own acetylene lamps to illuminate the darkness of our way. The stairs, or ladders, for they were little more than ladders fitted against a steep wall of rock and built up with wet ore dust, were wet and slippery, the boards broken away and bent back at all angles. A warm slime covered the rough, black walls and showed up with a glow in the light, exposing huge cracks in the vast slabs of rock seeming to hang in the very balance. We climbed a great distance up into the gloom until we came to another dim rough circle of yellow light, and entered a small winder-room.

The Nips in charge exchanged grunts with our boss and we were led around a turn and up another flight of stairs. The air was stifling, but it was the steepness of the climb that made us pant for breath, and we soon lagged behind. The Nip bellowed something, but hearing our breathing, stopped for a while, waving us on again suddenly before long. At last we came to a long tunnel leading in both directions from the stairhead. We could see another flight of stairs, but he waved us along the tunnel. The tunnel was so small that we had to duck our heads to avoid the roof, which was cracked in every direction, with great wedges of rock seeming ready to fall at any moment. Every now and then the Nip would call: "Hobnail" and "Sinoo!" pointing to one of these jutting blocks of rock or down at his feet. "Hobnail" means careful or something like that and "Sinoo!" means dead. We did not know this at the time, but we gathered what he meant. Below our feet at intervals were deep, black shafts only partly covered by rotten-looking boards.

Long pipelines followed the length of the tunnel and we came at last to a place where a spare pipe was lying at the side of one of these. He put down the tools and ordered us to sit down. After a while he poured the tools onto the slime below his feet and indicated that the pipe had to be changed, and detailed us to our various tasks.

I have never seen a stillson wrench in Australia that would let go, and I never saw one in Japan that would not. Contrary to all the laws of physics these would take a mighty bite on a nut and then slip round to let you fall on the floor.

We soon became prepared for this, but progress was slow. We tried the fixed spanners but none of them would fit. We showed him, and amazed at our ignorance, he picked up one a little oversize, lay it on the pipe, and bashed it with a hammer until it closed to the required size. As I learnt the trade later I discovered that if you only have spanners that are too small, the accepted engineering practice was to put them against a small pipe and beat the other end until the jaws spread sufficiently.

At last with sweat, blood and tears, we got the pipe changed and he sat us down once more, turning his light into the hollow in the rock. The sweat was running down my fevered body, tickling the skin to cause intense irritation. I ran the sweat-rag over me until it was soaking and settled down to survey my environment. It was the most dismal and gloomy place possible to imagine. The floor below was covered with a coat of thick, black ore dust, smoothed into a paste by the oozing water. The black circles of darkness at the end of each line of vision seemed to be piercing to very eternity. Above us, God only knew how far, through the solid rock, was the sunlight: below us more and more dismal tunnels.

To be continued.....

FRONTLINE

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Pictured relaxing after field training on Recruit Course August 1973 at Puckapunyal.
Standing far left Jim HURT and standing next to him Don FORSYTH (Wollongong).
The other members were from Wollongong (NSW Policemen) PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM HURT



1/19 RNSWR INITIAL EMPLOYMENT TRAINING COURSE 1980

Signatures on back of photo: G. ANGEL – CURLY – D.HENSHAW – BULLOCK ? – Andrew HILL – Ross McINTOSH
Dean MITCHELL – Neil ? - GRIFFITH – HILL- David GATT- Stephen O'CALLAGHAN- Jamie TANCRED

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN AZZOPARDI