

# FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE  
JOURNAL

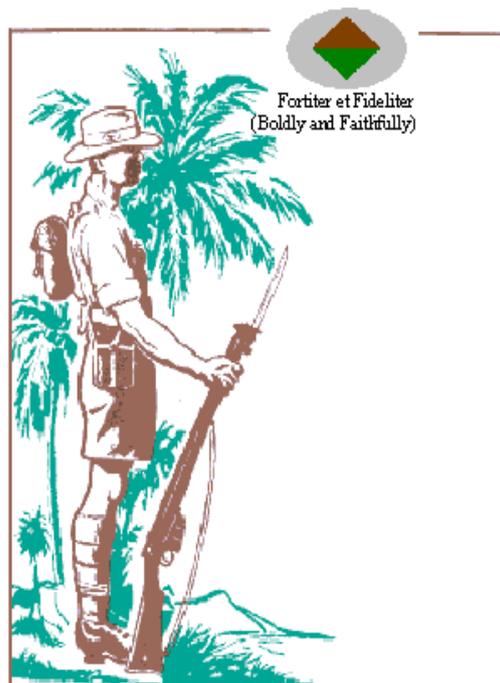
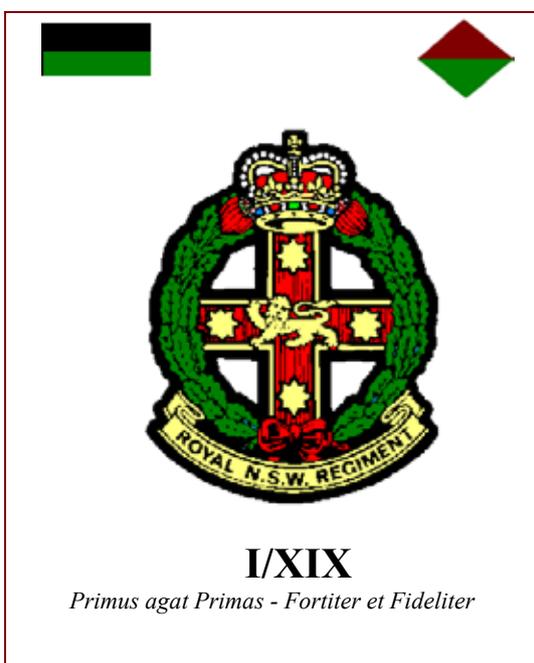


The Official Journal of

**THE 1st NINETEENTH** & **THE 2nd NINETEENTH**

1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION

2/19 BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION



**Vol 16 No 3**  
**SEPTEMBER 2017**

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# FRONTLINE

## A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL

**OFFICIAL JOURNAL**

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

**THE ROYAL NEW**

**SOUTH WALES**

**REGIMENT**

**ASSOCIATION &**

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

**A.I.F. ASSOCIATION.**

**MEMBERS OF THE**

**AUSTRALIAN**

**DEFENCE**

**FORCES**

**RESERVES**

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Sadly, this episode of the President's reflections again opens on a sad note. On 23 June one of our oldest members, Gladys Power passed to her Eternal reward at the age of 103. Gladys, the widow of PTE Roy Power, who was murdered by his Japanese captors on the infamous Sandakan Death March on 20 July 1945, was a lifelong member of, originally, 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF Association and subsequently of this Association. Gladys never remarried and her family consisted of a large contingent of nieces, nephews and cousins. The celebration of Gladys' life, carried out at Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney was extremely well attended. Bob Pink and I represented the Association on this occasion. A beautiful lady, sorely missed.

Bob and I attended the final meeting of the Council of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Association on Monday, 26 June. It had been previously decided that the wind up the 8<sup>th</sup> Division Council would take place after the Commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. COL David Ross CSC, the President for several years, has been styled President Emeritus and will continue to represent the Division on appropriate occasions. The surplus funds of the Association (\$4,000) have been donated to Legacy with a small amount retained to cover the costs of wreaths etc. into the foreseeable future. David has been successful in securing the agreement of Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, that the Sunset Service on 15 February in future years will feature a soldier of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division.

The weekend of 23/24 July was the occasion of the RNSWR Regimental weekend which this year was held in Bathurst with our own 1/19 RNSWR being the "host" Battalion. Excepting the cold – and there was ice on my vehicle when we emerged on Sunday morning – the weekend was a great success. The Regimental Officers', Warrant Officers' and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers' Dinner on the Saturday evening at Bathurst RSL Club was well attended with a strong contingent of serving personnel from 1/19 RNSWR in attendance and the Association well represented by Bob Pink, Michael Pass, Geoffrey Braddon, Leon Griffiths LTCOL Tony Ang, me, Ken Harper and Alan Lyons.

The Colonel Commandant, MAJGEN Paul Brereton AM, RFD, spoke on changes being made to the Army Reserve "structure" with all the Infantry Battalions in NSW (1/19, 2/17, 4/3 and 41) coming under command of 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade and the Werriwa Company of 4/3 RNSWR, based in Canberra, being transferred to 1/19 RNSWR later this year.

The Regimental Church Service on Sunday morning was held at All Saints Anglican Cathedral in Bathurst with Padre Kuchel and the Acting Dean of All Saints presiding. A particularly moving service with music provided by the band of 4/3 RNSWR, who also had provided the musical entertainment at the dinner the previous evening.

It was unfortunate that the weekend "clashed" with our traditional Pozieres Day Commemoration for the Association of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalions, held each year at St Columba's Uniting Church in Woollahra. I was forced to tender our apologies for non-attendance and the "clash" was regretted.

Sadly, we then journeyed to Carcoar where, on Monday 24 July, Bob, Michael and I, together with Bill McDougall, Blue Schafer and Mork Morcom, joined in saying farewell to Patricia Howarth, elder sister of Association member, Geoff Braddon. Patricia's interment in Carcoar cemetery was particularly well attended with family members coming from far and wide and a large representation of fellow residents of Carcoar.

We had no sooner returned from Carcoar than the news was received of the untimely passing on Tuesday, 25 July of LTCOL John Fogarty, RFD at age 68. John was a founding member of the Association and was, for some years, the Association's Website Manager. John had a distinguished career in 1/19 RNSWR serving in every Company and finishing as Battalion Second in Command. John was farewelled at Rookwood Cemetery on Friday, 4 August with an exceptionally large attendance of family, friends and former comrades. I represented the Association together with Bob Pink, Ray Warden, Bryan Schafer, Dennis Zalunardo, Sandy Howard and Bob Weir. Also present were Joe Coombs, looking particularly hale and hearty with son Greg to keep him in order, Jim Hurt, Adrian Schlieper and Paula Cornish, Bob Binns, Bill Edwards, Phil Coleman and his wife Elizabeth together with Philip and Margaret Crawford. Another "defection" from the ranks occurred with the untimely death of Warrant Officer Class 2 Bodo Schwarz on Friday, 11 August. Bodo, an inaugural member of the Association and long-time soldier in 1/19 RNSWR and 4/3 RNSWR had been in indifferent health for some time and this curtailed his attendance at activities. Bodo was farewelled at the Hansen & Cole funeral home in Bulli on Thursday, 24 August before a large gathering of family, friends and service colleagues. Bodo had been very active in the Illawarra branch of the Association of 4<sup>th</sup> Battalions and they took the lead in the military section of his farewell service. The Association was well represented by myself, Bob Pink, Ray Warden, Martin & Helen Hanson, Bob Weir, Keven Marshall, Jim Hurt and Alan Lyons.

Tuesday, 15 August was the Anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific on 15 August 1945. The Commemoration Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, organised by the NSW Branch of the Returned

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and Services League of Australia was well attended despite indifferent weather. The Catafalque Party and Band were found from the Royal Australian Navy and performed their duties in an admirable fashion. A particularly stirring address was given by the Commander Australian Fleet, RADM Stuart Mayer AO, CSC & Bar, RAN. I represented the Association and laid a wreath in memory of the men of 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF and was joined by Bob Pink and Ray Warden.

On Saturday, 26 August, Bob Pink and I attended the B Company, 1/19 RNSWR Regimental Dinner in Bathurst at the invitation of the PMC of the Grunt Inn Mess, CPL Joel Young and the members of the Bravo Company 1/19 RNSWR Mess. It was, as usual, a very successful function with a large number of partners present along with a number of guests. Both the Commanding Officer 1/19 RNSWR, LTCOL Ian Pattingale and the Officer Commanding Bravo Company, MAJ Scott Ferguson, spoke very forcefully about the future of both the Company and the Battalion and a number of awards were presented by the Commanding Officer. The hospitality of Bravo Company has been a stand out performer in the Battalion for some years and we look forward to attending similar functions in the future. Needless to say, Bob was taking pictures all evening and these will appear elsewhere in this issue.

As Winter draws to a close I look forward to seeing a large number at the Annual Weekend in Gosford. Full details are in the magazine and I urge any who are attending to get your accommodation bookings made as soon as possible.

Until we meet, take care of yourselves and those around you.

*Roger Perry*

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## FROM SCOTT RODHAM

Following the recent posting of photos and memorabilia which were included in the March 17 issue of the Newsletter, Rod remembered that his Dad NX3393 Keith Frederick RODHAM did his recruit training at Ingleburn 3 NOV 1939 to 5 JAN 1940. He was promoted (Gunner) Bombardier and left for the Middle East on 10 JAN 1940. His unit was 51 Battery 2 Company 2/1 Field Regiment 16 Bde 6<sup>th</sup> Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF. Dad is at the front left of the photo.

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## VALE GOOD FRIENDS

### Mrs Milagros Emily "Millie" HURT



Jim Hurt advised with deep sadness of his beloved wife Millie's passing in her 58<sup>th</sup> year in Canberra.

Emily was born on 12 May 1959 in Manila Philippines, the eldest child of Eladio and Eufemia Leyes. She migrated to Australia on 13 July 1981 and met Jim several days later. It was a "whirlwind" romance because they were married less than three months later - on 10 October 1981 - at Immanuel Lutheran Church Lyons ACT. For many years, Emily had to say goodbye to Jim as he attended 1/19 RNSWR bi-annual camps and work weekends - she missed him very much during these absences but this was compensated because she liked him in uniform. She attended several functions at the Unit where she met Mr Pink and this was the start of a lifelong friendship. She joined the public service in 1984 and spent many years in the Department of Health until she retired in mid 2014. It was in the latter half of 2000 that she was diagnosed with breast cancer. After almost 17 years of battling this cancer she quietly passed away at 12.30pm on 2 June 2017 at Clare Holland House Canberra. Jim was her primary carer for the last three years of her life and was ably assisted by daughter, Kirsten.

Emily is survived by her loving family: Jim; sons, Raymond with partner Lisa, and Jonathan; and daughter Kirsten. She was "Pretty Nanny" to Mariah, Videll and Ariana. She will be sadly missed by her mother, Eufemia, sisters Nilet, Justice and Joy, brother Leyman; and their families; plus a very large extended family both here in Australia and overseas.

Association Patron Colonel Bryan Martyn, RFD and Martin Hanson represented the Association at Emily's farewell at the Immanuel Community (Lutheran) Church, Lyons ACT on 8 June 2017. Emily was privately cremated.

### WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO Albert Edward "Bert" LAWTON



Bert was born on 8 May 1939 and we were saddened to learn from Mrs Ethel Melville of his passing on 3 June 2017. In civil life Bert was the renowned Post Master at 2 Training Group Bardia Barracks Ingleburn NSW for many years in addition to his extensive military service and contribution.

Ethel Melville and daughter Lynne represented the Association at Bert's farewell on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at The Chapel Shoalhaven Memorial Garden

Australian Government



Department of Defence

### STATEMENT OF SERVICE

<b>Full Name:</b>	Albert Edward LAWTON	
<b>Service Numbers:</b>	2769253, 2255312	
<b>Category of Service:</b>	National Service	8 October 1957 to 17 December 1957
	Citizen Military Forces	18 December 1957 to 30 June 1960
	Army Reserve	1 July 1960 to 28 March 1983
<b>Rank on Discharge:</b>	Warrant Officer Class Two	
<b>Postings/Attachments:</b>	13th National Service Training Battalion	8 October 1957
	1st Supply Platoon, 37th Supply Company	18 December 1957
	Headquarters 37th Company	1 July 1958
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Supply Platoon	1 July 1960
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Command Supply Depot	26 June 1962
	Headquarters Q 8th Supply & Transport Column	4 November 1963
	Headquarters 3th Supply Company	21 November 1964
	1st Supply Platoon	8 April 1968
	38th Air Dispatch Platoon	24 January 1972
	Officer Cadet Training Unit, 2nd Training Group	1 January 1974
	Headquarters 2 <sup>nd</sup> Training Group	9 July 1975
<b>Honours and Awards:</b>	Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal 1977	
	Reserve Force Medal with First and Second Clasps National 11edal	
	Australian Defence Medal	
	Efficiency Medal	
	Anniversary of National Service 1951-197 2 Medal	

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## Mrs Patricia Anne HOWARTH (nee BRADDON)



Patricia was born at Carcoar NSW on 16 March 1936 and sadly passed away in Canberra on 5 July 2017.

Dearly beloved Wife of Victor (dec) and Mother of Donna, Jacqueline, Matthew, Paula, Stuart, Ben and Luke and Mother in law of their spouses and loving Grandmother to her grandchildren.

Cherished sister to Rita (dec) Geoffrey and John (dec) and Aunt to Simon and Candice, Jack and Molly, Stephen, Loretta, Gary and Brian, Michael and Amy and sister in law to Marissa..

Patricia was farewelled at Carcoar on 24 July 2017. Her eulogy was delivered by her brother Geoff Braddon:

Thank you all for being here to help celebrate Pat's life. We will all grieve her passing in our own way, but today is an opportunity for us say goodbye to her. Her gentle spirit will however always be with us - as no one is gone, and no one has really passed away, until the memory is gone.

She was raised in Carcoar and went to school at St Mary's Catholic Convent of Mercy, also in Carcoar. On leaving school, she worked for the Carcoar Primary Production Board, as well as being a telephonist on the Carcoar exchange, and also worked as a ticket seller in the Carcoar School of Arts when the cinemas were presented there.

The oldest in the family, she stepped up to helping our parents with their daily work life and looking after our sister Rita, myself, and our younger brother Johnnie. From an early age, her life was about looking after others, and her kind caring nature took her to nursing school at St Vincents Hospital in Bathurst. She returned after gaining her qualifications to work in Carcoar hospital.

When Pat was 19 her life changed when she met Victor Howarth down the road in Lyndhurst at a commemoration ball on the 11/11/1955. Two and a half years later, they married, and Pats life from that time was about family. Living in Stoke Lane here in Carcoar, they had their first child, Donna – who was to be the first of seven.

Pat and Vic followed their adventurous spirit to Grafton where Vic undertook work on the local shire, Pat being a house-maker. The birth of their next six children - Jacqueline, Matthew, Paula, Stuart, Ben and Luke - occurred whilst living there.

The next 10 years were in Inverell, with a few of those years on a farm at Gilgai. In Inverell, Pat and Vic purchased a house with a shopfront and Post Office, which Pat operated for a number of years while still raising seven children. She re-entered the workforce when she started her career as a medical claims assessor.

Considering a future, they moved with their family to Canberra in 1978, where she continued her career as an assessor. They eventually moved to the current family home in McKellar in 1985, where she retired in 1989 to focus on being 'Nanny' for a growing number of grandchildren. She relished in her role as grandmother.

Her caring nature was most evident with the love and dedication she showed towards Victor in his final years. Even when he was in permanent care for the last couple of years, she would go and sit with him every single day. She never got past the grief of losing him in 2011, and a big part of her has wanted to be with him for some time. We can all take comfort in knowing that she now rests with him.

We will all miss her immensely. Goodbye Pat, Mum and Nanny, and Aunty we all love you. Rest in peace my darling.

Roger Perry, Mick Pass, Bob Pink, Bryan Schafer and Phil Morcom represented the Association at Patricia's farewell.

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## **Mrs Nancy Lynette ELLIOTT (Nee Gough)**

Nancy was born on 1 December 1930 and sadly passed away on 11 June 2017.

Nancy was the sister of NX58134 PTE Keith Douglas GOUGH 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF, who was murdered by the Japanese at the Massacre at Parit Sulong in Malaya on 19 January 1942..

Her brother Rupert predeceased her on 28 September 2007.

Nancy is survived by her loving daughters Christine, Kim and Susan and their families

Bob Pink represented the Association at Nancy's farewell at Woronora Cemetery on 19 June 2017



## **Mrs Gladys Eleanor POWER**

Late of Fairfield NSW Gladys was born at Woolwich England on 4 December 1913 and her nephew Bob Shaw advised with deep sadness of her peaceful passing in the early hours of 23 June 2017, in her 103rd year.

Loving wife of Roy (dec). Sister of Edith, Emily (dec.). Harry (dec.). Ron (dec),

Gladys will be sadly missed by all her extended family and friends.

Gladys' husband was NX50396 PTE Charles Gilbert Roy POWER 2/19

Australian Infantry Battalion AIF who passed into captivity as a prisoner of war of the Japanese following the Capitulation of Singapore on 15 February 1942. He was murdered by the Japanese on the infamous Sandakan Death March on 20 July 1945 – just 18 days prior to the Atomic Bomb being dropped on Hiroshima.

Gladys was farewelled at Rookwood Cemetery on 27 June 2017.

Roger Perry and Bob Pink represented the Association at Gladys' farewell at Rookwood on 27 June 2017.



**BRIGADIER Olof Hedley ISAKSSON, MC, OAM**

**29.06.1917 – 06.07.2017**



*The Sydney Morning Herald 24 July 2017:*

The late Olof Isaksson, believed to be the most senior surviving officer from World War II has died in Sydney at a care home in Northbridge where his wife, Margot, still resides. He was aged 100. As a Rat of Tobruk he won the Military Cross at the 2nd Battle of El Alamein in 1942. He made an extraordinary rise through the ranks from Private to Brigadier.

Olof "Zac" Isaksson was born in Port Adelaide, South Australia. His father was Janne Olof Isaksson, a Swedish locomotive engineer who migrated to Australia in 1905 in the footsteps of his older brother. His mother was Ruby Eveline Hansson, from Adelaide, also of Swedish descent. His parents married in 1912. He was the youngest of three children.

After his birth the family moved to Nauru until 1920 where his father oversaw the rebuilding of the phosphate crushers destroyed in WWI. His father contracted silicosis from phosphate dust and never recovered his health. After returning, his family lived in Gawler on the edge of the Barossa Valley. Being Swedish Lutheran the family gravitated to the Methodist church where the children attended Sunday school. Isaksson's father eventually died of silicosis on the eve of the Depression in 1927 leaving his wife and three young children in real poverty.

The family returned to Adelaide where Isaksson's Hansson aunts helped support the young family as best they could. He was grateful for the rest of his life for the kindness shown to them during these particularly unhappy years when, he said, his family, like many others, were "stoney broke".

He worked to help support the family, rising at 4.30 some mornings to work as delivery boy on the baker's cart. He sold chocolate on Saturdays at Norwood home games, the Redlegs being "his" team. He was thrilled when one of the players, Ron West, started to take out and then later marry his sister Johanna.

Isaksson was small and developed a stutter as a result of this traumatic period. He was picked on at school until the day he stood his ground and fought back, an invaluable life lesson. He was academically gifted but had to leave school at 15 to work when his family home disintegrated. His mother took work as a live-in housekeeper for a wealthy family. He and his sister were forced to move into a boarding house and he then saw his mother only on Sundays when they met for an hour in a park.

His fortunes changed as the Depression eased. He got a job at the J. Craven & Company department store, an Adelaide institution, where his sisters worked. The company was aware of the family's financial plight and took care of them. He had an exceptional tenor voice and, encouraged by his acquaintances, was now able to afford singing training at the Adelaide Conservatorium to pursue his operatic ambitions. His stutter disappeared.

In 1935 on his 18th birthday he joined the South Australian Light Horse. He was one of the last, if not the last, horse mounted Australian cavalryman when he died. Realising the tide of history was against the mounted horseman, and in a rare occasion of self-advancement, he made himself expert in the new technology of the machine-gun. He was consequently drawn to the attention of his superior officers when he enlisted when the war started.

Not given to anecdotes about himself, he did have one recollection. One day the regiment met at the historic Gepps Cross Hotel, then on the outskirts of the city, on their way to Salisbury for training. This was his first alcoholic drink, a result of his Methodist upbringing. When he remounted his horse he fell straight over into the dust on the other side, to the mirth of the rest of the troop. Many of these men were from the "squattocracy" but he remembered their warmth to him even though he was the son of an immigrant from a different social background.

He continued his vocal training until enlisting in the 2nd AIF in 1940 when he abandoned his operatic aspirations, to the despair of his teacher who believed in his potential.

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Isaksson joined the newly formed 2/48th battalion and was fortunate to have as his commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel Victor Windeyer of the prominent NSW legal family, later to become Sir Victor, the High Court justice. Windeyer immediately recognised his potential and promoted him quickly through the ranks. Sir Victor remained a mentor for the rest of his life.

Isaksson served in North Africa, New Guinea and Tarakan with the 2/48th, the most decorated battalion of the Second World War, awarded four Victoria Crosses (three of them posthumously) and more than 80 other decorations. He was a Rat of Tobruk and won the Military Cross at the 2nd Battle of El Alamein in 1942. The 2/48th and the 2/24th battalions were involved in the defining action of El Alamein which turned the tide against the Afrika Korps and caused its retreat. Going into this action the 2/48th took 250 men. A day later there were 41. He had enlisted as a Private and rose to the rank of Captain by 1945.

After the war he served in the Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan 1946-1949 as a junior member of the War Crimes commission, sitting in judgment on those Japanese soldiers equal to or lower in rank than himself. During the 1950s he was sent to the US, Malaysia, Korea and Japan on behalf of the army in increasingly quasi-diplomatic roles. This culminated in his appointment to the Australian delegation to the South-east Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) from 1959 to 1960. Between 1961 and 1964 he was the commandant of the Canungra Jungle Training School, overseeing training for Australia's troops in Vietnam.

He moved to Canberra to take up senior postings during the Vietnam War, first as Director of Military Intelligence, then Deputy Adjutant General for the Army, finally as the Military Director of the new super intelligence agency established in 1969, the Joint Intelligence Organisation.

Isaksson had risen from Private to Brigadier, believed to be the first time this happened in the Australian Army. With his path to further promotion blocked by illness, the fact that he had not gone to Duntroon but had instead risen through the ranks, and the shrinking of the army due to its impending withdrawal from Vietnam, he retired in 1971.

He was probably the senior surviving officer remaining alive from the war. On this basis he led the WWII army in the Sydney Anzac Day march in recent years.

During a sojourn in Melbourne in the later 1950s he met his future wife Margot Seward, herself a WRAN code breaker during the war. This, he said, was his greatest stroke of luck. They married in 1959 in Melbourne and returned to Bangkok where their daughter was born. Their life was exotic, they made friends from all over the world including the enigmatic American Jim Thompson, were invited to royal occasions and travelled throughout South-east Asia before the Vietnam War changed the region irrevocably.

His family returned to Australia in 1960, first to Canungra in Queensland then to Canberra. On retirement from the army they moved to Sydney where his children were educated. He devoted considerable time to volunteer work, co-ordinating the SES on Sydney's North Shore and running the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal in the same area for many years.

In Sydney he worked for a Swiss multi-national company before moving, again, to an avocado orchard in the Blackall Range north of Brisbane where he and Margot spent 30 very happy years. He was president and patron of several veteran organisations, the Rats of Tobruk, 8th Army and 9th Australian Division. He outlived them all. His empathy for them was real, he said that he knew many fine men who were broken by the experience of war, ravaged by alcoholism, marriage breakdown and suicide. He was awarded the OAM for his services to veterans' welfare in 2010.

Among his personal friends he counted prime ministers, diplomats, ministers of state, business and armed services leaders. He loved his country in a profound way and, like many of his generation, he put his life on the line for it. It repaid him amply with a rich and rewarding life. He is survived by his wife Margot, his son Tom, his grandson Nicholas, and his sister Johanna West. His daughter Gabrielle predeceased him. He was farewelled at the Garrison Church Millers Point NSW on 17 July 2017.

**Tony Isaksson**

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**2147615 LIEUTENANT COLONEL**

**John Bernard FOGARTY, RFD, JP, BEd, AFACM, MAITD, MAHRF  
1<sup>st</sup>/19 Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment**

Late of Berala NSW John was born on 12 July 1949 and his beloved wife Dianne advised with deep sadness of his passing at Auburn Hospital on 25 July 2017.

He enlisted with OCTU on 22 January 1973 and served in 1/19 RNSWR with A, B, C, SPT & ADMIN Coys and Bn HQ as Battalion Second-in-Command. He was an original member of 1/19 RNSWR Association joining in 1998 and serving for many years as the Association's Website Manager.

In civil life he enjoyed a long and rewarding career with the Australian Taxation Office.

Dearly loved husband of Dianne. Loving father of Belinda and Louise, father-in-law of Ryan. Adored granddad of Charlotte and Lucy. Loved son of Jack and Betty (both dec). Brother and brother-in-law of Judith (dec), Alan (dec), Ian and Eva, Stephen and Sheree, Gary and Michelle, Jan and Norm and uncle to their children. Fond son-in-law of Mabel Hewitt.

John was farewelled at Rookwood Crematorium on 4 August 2017 and the large turnout from 1/19 RNSWR Association was testament to the immense regard and high respect in which he was held as a leader and comrade to all ranks of the Battalion.



## **LTCOL John FOGARTY'S FUNERAL ROOKWOOD 4 AUG 17**

L to R: MAJ Phil CRAWFORD, LTCOL Phil COLEMAN, MRS Elizabeth COLEMAN, SGT Jim HURT, SGT Sandy HOWARD, WO2 Roger PERRY, MAJ Bob WEIR, MR Greg COOMBS, MAJ Bryan SCHAFER, MR Joe COOMBS, PTE Adrian SCHLIEPER, MAJ Bob BINNS, CAPT Bill EDWARDS, LCPL Ray WARDEN, WO1 Bob PINK,  
(Not in Photo: CAPT Dennis ZALUNARDO, Ms Paul CORNISH, Mrs Margaret CRAWFORD)

## **APOLOGIES & CONDOLENCES**

LTCOL Colin AIKEN, LTCOL Tony ANG, WO1 Terry BEER, LTCOL Gary BELTRAME, SSGT Geoff BRADDON, SGT John BURNS, MAJ Brett COOPER, LT Tom COOPER, BRIG Paul COUCH, WO2 John ELLIOTT, CPL Tom FLETCHER, SSGT Bill FOGARTY, WO2 Martin HANSON, MAJ Tony HARVEY, COL John JACKSON, WO2 Kev JONES, LTCOL Peter McGUINNESS, MAJ Ken McKAY, COL Brian MARTYN, WO1 Roy MUNDINE, Michael MUIR, PTE Juanita MOON, SSGT Mick PASS, MAJ John RALPH, PTE David RING, LTCOL Geoff STEVENTON, SSGT Roy SCHMIDTKE, SGT Lesley SCHWETZ, SGT Noel SELWAY, MAJ George THOMAS, MAJ Charlie WATSON

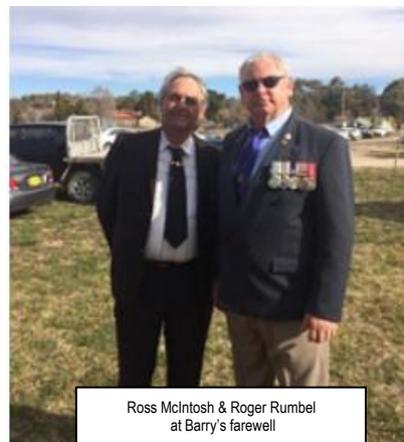
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## 2793072 SGT Barry John "Arab" GISELL

Rose and Ross McIntosh advised with much sadness of Barry's. Late of Woolbrook NSW, Barry was born at Bourke NSW on 26 April 1949 and died peacefully Tuesday 1st of August, 2017. Aged 68 years.

Barry served as a PTE / CPL Section Commander in South Vietnam with:  
 1 Australian Reinforcement Unit 18/03/1970 to 31/03/1970 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment  
 01/04/1970 to 13/05/1970 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment  
 14/05/1970 to 04/03/1971 and following enlistment in the Army Reserve as a Sergeant with 1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment



Ross McIntosh & Roger Rumbel at Barry's farewell

Dearly loved husband of Jody. Loving father of Glen, Tammi, Stacey, Darcy and Ben. Loving stepdad of Graeme, Lynden and Sandy. Cherished poppy of Ryan, Shannon, Felix, Loreli and Eve. He will be sadly missed by his whole family. Roger & Marlene Rumbel and Ross McIntosh represented the Association at Barry's farewell on 11th August 2017 at the Woolbrook Hall Dangoemah Road Woolbrook. It was a great service (different) with the Padre playing guitar and singing, well represented by about 25-30 7 RAR and Bourke Vietnam veterans, We all provided a guard of honour and it finished with a smoking ceremony.



## 2275497 WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO Bodo SCHWARZ

3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment  
 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment  
 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment  
 1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment

Late of Bulli NSW, Bodo was born in Berlin on 15 April 1940 and the sad news of his passing on Friday 11 August 2017 was advised by Major Bob Weir.

He enlisted with 3 RNSWR on 28 January 1964 and transferred to 4 RNSWR on 30 June 1965. During this service he qualified for and was promoted CPL on 12 April 1965 and to SGT on 25 November 1967. On 23 January

1970 he transferred to 19 RNSWR where he served in a variety of Regimental and Instructional postings, with 19 RNSWR and 1/19 RNSWR, being promoted to SSGT on 29 September 1975 and to WO2 on 18 April 1980.

He was discharged on 1 April 1984 after 20 years service to the Nation. He was a foundation member of 1/19 RNSWR Association joining on 9 October 1998.



AT BODO'S FAREWELL  
 Bob PINK, Roger PERRY, Kev MARSHALL, Martin HANSON, Ray WARDEN, Alan LYONS Jim HURT  
 Seated: Helen HANSON, Erica SCHWARZ, Kimberley SCHWARZ

He is survived by his cherished daughters Kimberley and Erica and his sister Heidi and their families. Bodo was farewelled at the Hansen and Cole Funeral Home BULLI NSW 2516 on 24 August 2017 and following the service a Wake was held at Woonona – Bulli RSL Club.

# LEST WE FORGET

# FRONTLINE

## COMING EVENTS 2017

WED	06 SEP 2017	1030h	75 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY <b>BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY</b>	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Decorations & Medals
<b>19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &amp; REUNION DINNER WEEKEND – GOSFORD RSL NSW</b>					
FRI	27 OCT 2017	1830 to 2130h	<b>MEET &amp; GREET FUNCTION</b>		<b>GOSFORD RSL CLUB</b>
SAT	28 OCT 2017	0930h	<b>WREATH LAYING CEREMONY</b>	The Association has reserved 25 rooms at the <b>GALAXY MOTEL</b> 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	
SAT	28 OCT 2017	1000h	<b>BUS TOUR of the scenic &amp; picturesque Central Coast Including MUSEUM VISIT &amp; LUNCH at the renowned DIGGERS AT THE ENTRANCE RSL CLUB</b>	& 20 rooms at the <b>ASHWOOD MOTEL</b> Located across the road from Gosford RSL Club 73 Central Coast Highway WEST GOSFORD NSW Reservations/details Ph: 02 4324 6577 <b>PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT</b>	
SAT	28 OCT 2017	1345h	<b>MILITARY PRESENTATION by LTCOL Peter McGuinness MBE OAM RFD ED</b>		
SAT	28 OCT 2017	1500h	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>		
SAT	28 OCT 2017	1830h for 1900h	<b>AGM REUNION DINNER GOSFORD RSL CLUB</b>		
SUN	29 OCT 2017		Return Travel Home		
SAT	11 NOV 2017	1045h	<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY</b>	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Decorations & Medals Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY

## COMING EVENTS 2018

WED	25 APR 2018	0945h	<b>ANZAC DAY SYDNEY</b> FORM UP IN SPRING STREET REUNION VENUE: SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE	SYDNEY	Jacket & Tie Decorations & Medals <b>REUNION SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE</b>
WED	25 APR 2018	1000h	<b>ANZAC DAY CANBERRA</b> FORM UP IN ANZAC PDE CANBERRA	CANBERRA	Jacket & Tie - Decorations & Medals Further details LTCOL David HORTON Mobile: 0410 814 619
SAT	22 JUN 2018	1300h	<b>RESERVE FORCES DAY WREATH LAYING CANBERRA</b>	St John's Anglican Church REID, CANBERRA	Afternoon Tea follows service FURTHER INFORMATION Ian SAYERS 02 6254 5347
SUN	01 JULY 2018	0930h	<b>RESERVE FORCES DAY SYDNEY</b>	March details to be confirmed	REUNION VENUE: TO BE ADVISED Decorations & Medals
SUN	22 JUL 2018 TO BE CONFIRMED	0930	<b>POZIERES DAY</b>	St COLUMBA's CHURCH Ocean Street WOOLLAHRA	Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals
SAT	Late JUN - early JUL 2018 (TBC)	1800h TBC	<b>ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT OFFRS/WOS/SNCOS DINNER</b>	HOLSWORTHY BARRACKS NSW	Mess Dress / Coat & Tie Miniature medals
SUN	Late JUN - early JUL 2018 (TBC)	1000h TBC	<b>ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE</b>	TBA	Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals
WED	15 AUG 2018	1045h	<b>VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY</b>	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY Decorations & Medals

## ASSOCIATION PATRONS & OFFICE BEARERS

PATRON & LIFE MEMBER  
PATRON  
CHAPLAIN & LIFE MEMBER  
CHANCELLOR

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

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Mobile: 0418 230 446



ASSOCIATION WEBSITE ADDRESS:  
[www.http//www.rnswr.com.au](http://www.rnswr.com.au)

# FRONTLINE

## AGM GOSFORD RSL PROGRAMME

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER WEEKEND 27-28-29 OCTOBER 2017

GOSFORD RSL CLUB 26 Central Coast Highway WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250

PLEASE COMPLETE & THE RETURN REPLY PROFORMA ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER BY 13 OCTOBER 2017

**FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 2017**

Timing	Function	Location	Dress	Remarks
1800 - 2130	 <p>Registrations  <b>"WELCOME"</b>  <b>MEET &amp; GREET RECEPTION</b></p>	<p><b>Pacific Room</b>                      Gosford RSL  <b>\$25 per person</b></p>	<p><b>Smart Casual</b></p>	<p>Mexican Meatballs,                      Mini Spring Rolls,                      Crumbed Whiting,                      Mushroom, Spinach &amp;                      Mozzarella Arancini Balls                      Sandwich Triangles                      Drinks</p>

**SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER 2017**

0930	 <p><b>ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATIVE WREATH LAYING CEREMONY</b>                      in conjunction with the Officers &amp; Members of Gosford RSL Club &amp; RSL Sub Branch</p>	<p>Gosford RSL Club Memorial                      Wreath layers to be appointed</p>	<p><b>Suit/jacket &amp; tie &amp; Full size Decorations &amp; Medals</b></p>	<p>Banner Bearers                      Orders of Service distributed                      Stereo /tape &amp; PA</p>
1000	 <p>Morning Tea en-route  <b>SCENIC BUS TOUR</b> of the picturesque Central Coast Including <b>MUSEUM VISIT &amp; LUNCH</b> at the renowned <b>DIGGERS AT THE ENTRANCE RSL CLUB</b> prior to returning to Gosford RSL at 1330h</p>	<p><b>LIMITED SEATING FOR 18 PASSENGERS</b>                      "First In - Best Dressed" !</p>	<p><b>Neat Casual</b></p>	<p>Morning Tea &amp; Lunch at own cost                      Join Bus in Gosford RSL Car Park</p>
1000	 <p>Morning Tea                      Under members own arrangements</p>	<p>Gosford RSL.</p>	<p><b>Casual</b></p>	
1200	 <p><b>LUNCHEON</b></p>	<p>Under members own cost &amp; arrangements</p>	<p><b>Casual</b></p>	<p>Lunch available from the Gosford RSL Club</p>
1345-1445	 <p><b>A PRESENTATION BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETER MORRISSEY</b>                      Presented by Lieutenant Colonel Peter McGuinness MBE OAM RFD ED</p>	<p><b>Pacific Room</b>                      Gosford RSL</p>	<p><b>Casual</b></p>	
1500-1600	 <p><b>ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b></p>	<p><b>Pacific Room</b>                      Gosford RSL</p>	<p><b>Casual</b></p>	
1830	 <p><b>ASSEMBLE FOR FORMAL DINNER</b>                      Pre dinner drinks &amp; hors d'oeuvres served</p>	<p><b>\$55.00</b>                      per person</p>	<p>Suit / jacket &amp; tie                      Miniature medals</p>	
1900 - 2300	 <p><b>ASSOCIATION FORMAL DINNER</b>                      (alternate servings)  <b>ENTREE</b>                      Smoked salmon blini with cream cheese and capers                      OR Tandoori chicken skewer with cucumber salad  <b>MAIN</b>                      Beef Wellington with roasted vegetables medley, pumpkin puree &amp; seeded mustard gravy. OR                      Grilled Barramundi with beetroot puree, &amp; potato &amp; leek gratin asparagus &amp; beurre blanc. Fresh Bread Roll and Butter  <b>DESSERT</b>                      Tiramisu with chantilly cream espresso coulis, choc chip biscotti &amp; strawberry mint salsa. OR                      Pavlova with chantilly cream melon salad &amp; passionfruit coulis.                      Tea, Coffee &amp; After Dinner Mints  <b>Beverages</b>                      A selection of Vins Rouge, Vins Blanc, will accompany the meal</p>	<p><b>Coral Sea Room</b>  <b>GOSFORD RSL CLUB</b></p> 		
2300 - ?	 <p><b>ENTREE:</b></p> <p><b>MAIN COURSE:</b></p> <p><b>DESSERT:</b></p>	<p>Post Dinner Camaraderie</p>		<p>Ties may be loosened ! NGS</p>

**SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER 2017 - Return Home**

# FRONTLINE

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION INC.  
(PROUDLY INCORPORATING THE 2<sup>nd</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION)

WILL BE HELD AT THE GOSFORD RSL CLUB,  
26 Central Coast Highway WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250  
on SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

### AGENDA

1. OPENING
2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES
3. MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION'S
4. 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB ORANGE NSW ON SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2014
4. MATTERS ARISING
5. CORRESPONDENCE
6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
7. TREASURER'S REPORT  
Presentation of Statement of Receipts & Payments Balance Sheet for the period 01 July, 2016 to 30 June, 2017.  
Form 12 Annual Statement.  
Certificate of Currency of Public Liability Insurance.
8. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT
9. SOCIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT
10. CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR
11. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS & 6 COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
(in accordance with Clause 14 of the Rules)  
PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
TREASURER  
HONORARY SECRETARY  
ASSISTANT TREASURER  
ASSISTANT HONORARY SECRETARY  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS (6)
12. GENERAL BUSINESS
13. CLOSURE
14. NEXT MEETING

### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Nominations are hereby called for the following positions for the 2017-2018 year.

- PRESIDENT
- VICE PRESIDENT
- TREASURER
- HONORARY SECRETARY
- ASSISTANT TREASURER
- ASSISTANT HONORARY SECRETARY
- COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 6 positions

Any member who is entitled to vote at a general meeting is eligible for election as an office-bearer. (A member is entitled to vote if all money due and payable by the member to the Association has been paid other than the 2016-2017 subscription). Subject to satisfying the voting eligibility requirement, all current office-bearers will be eligible to nominate for re-election on this occasion.

Nominations for election as office bearers must be made in writing, be signed by one or more members of the Association, and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination). A form for this purpose is available from the Honorary Secretary, but it is not mandatory to use it. Nominations must be delivered to the Honorary Secretary by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017. They may be mailed to the Honorary Secretary at PO Box 224 INGLEBURN NSW 1890 or lodged by facsimile to (02) 9328 3319.

- ❖ If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies, the candidates nominated will be taken to be elected and nominations for the positions remaining vacant will be accepted at the Annual General Meeting.
- ❖ If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated will be taken to be elected.
- ❖ If the number of nominations received for any position(s) exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot will be held for that position(s) at the Annual General Meeting.



R.J. PINK  
Honorary Secretary  
7 September, 2017

### ASSOCIATION PATRONS & OFFICE BEARERS

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

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

# FRONTLINE



## DONATIONS



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

Mr	Robert	BAK, OAM, JP
Mrs	Gladys	BAK, OAM, JP
LTCOL	Peter	McGUINNESS, MBE, OAM, RFD, ED
Ms	Angie	VALENTINE-FLINT



### LIMITED EDITION LIEUTENANT ALBERT MURRAY - THE WESTERN FRONT BEAR

Lieutenant Albert Murray, the Western Front Ltd Edition Bear, is the first ever Australia in the Great War officer bear. He is kitted out in boots and proudly wears his officer pips. In preparation for the Western Front he also wears 'Brodie' helmet and PH anti-gas mask carry bag. This 40cm digger is limited to just 10,000 units worldwide. He comes with a numbered certificate of authenticity. Valued at \$99.99



Gladys BAK, OAM JP & Bob BAK, OAM,JP of the Integrated Servicepeople's Association kindly donated The Western Front Bear which will be a major Raffle Prize at the Association's Reunion Dinner at Gosford RSL on SAT 28 October 2017

## NEW MEMBERS

No new members have joined since the last March 2017 newsletter:

*Get Well  
Soon*



## SICK REPORT

ALAN & CATH PALMER SHARED A HOSPITAL ROOM TAREE  
MANNING BASE HOSPITAL EARLY AUGUST  
ALL THE BEST FOR YOUR RECOVERY TO GOOD HEALTH AND  
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT GOSFORD IN OCTOBER

ETHEL MELVILLE ALSO HAD A RECENT STINT IN LIVERPOOL  
HOSPITAL AND ADVISES SHE IS BACK ON HER FEET  
RECOVERING !  
KEEP OFF THE SKATEBOARD ETH AND WE'LL SEE YOU AT  
GOSFORD !!



## CONGRATULATIONS



IT'S YOUR  
SHOUT  
COLONEL



To Gary & Marilyn BELTRAME  
on the safe arrival of their  
new granddaughter Maggie Rose  
on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017



To Bob WEIR  
on the safe arrival of his  
new grandson Jordan  
in May 2017

IT'S YOUR  
SHOUT  
MAJOR !



# FRONTLINE

## Glen SCRIVENS' 100th BIRTHDAY, 8 JULY 2017, WYEE, NSW



### THE BOYS IN THE BAND Of the Aussie 2/19th Battalion 1940/1941

Before enlisting in the army in 1940 Glenn was in the Lakemba Pipe Band where he played the bagpipes, while his younger brother Douglas Barker Scriven, was also in the band and played the side drum. Two of the pipers, Jack Sloan and Jimmy Gault, were at his wedding. James Gault was born at Ayr, Ayrshire Scotland in 1911 and John 'Jack' Hannibal Sloan at Waratah N.S.W. in 1907. While stationed at Ingleburn Army Camp, a pipe band was formed that consisted of the drum major Keith Harris, who was the bugler in the morning etc, at Wallgrove Ingleburn and Bathurst camps and later in Malaya. Ray Downs, bagpipes who was a champion Australian highlander dancer, Alan Rob bagpipes, his brother Lindsay Robb, bagpipes Glenn Scriven, bagpipes, Austin 'Aussie' Ellis and Arthur Lake on snare drums (side drums), and Jack Corey on base drum. Shortly before the 22nd Brigade's departure overseas, the band marched through Sydney leading the 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion. On the day, the band's numbers were increased with two side drummers, Macmillan and Scott, and two pipers, all from the 2/18<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The band was discharged shortly after at Bathurst, just before going overseas to Malaya in 1941. You can read the outcome of each member in the caption above them.

The 2010 artwork is in a modernist style using ink on paper and collage by Glenn's nephew Glenn Holmes. The work evolved after they talked and Glenn came across a photograph of the Rolling Stones band that showed them all happy and laughing just like the boys in the band would have been in 1940.





## SEEN AROUND THE TRAPS



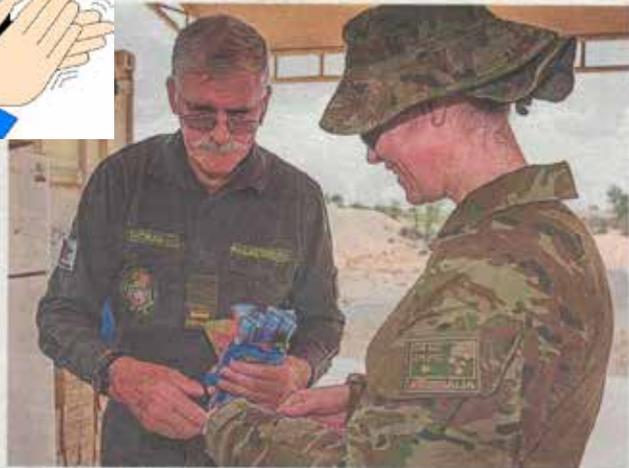
GREAT THANK YOU'S TO MICHAEL & ANN & SON DAVID NICHOL ON THEIR RECENT DONATION OF 3 LARGE BOXES OF BOOKS TO ASSIST THE SECRETARY OF BELMORE RSL ROY STEER IN HIS ROLE OF SUB BRANCH HOSPITAL VISITATIONS OFFICER. WELL DONE THE NICHOL FAMILY YOUR KIND THOUGHFULNESS IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED – ONCE AGAIN !!!



ASSOCIATION MEMBER LTCOL Graeme DAVIS ALERTED US TO THE ARTICLE BELOW FROM A RECENT 'ARMY NEWS' SHOWING ASSOCIATION MEMBER MAJ GEORGE THOMAS IN HIS HUMANITARIAN WORK IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Bob PINK & Tony BRAY snapped at the annual Sandakan Commemoration at Burwood Park on SUN 6 AUG 17



Everyman's Welfare Service Assistant Commissioner George Thomas hands an icypole to an ADF officer on a hot day at the range at Australia's main operating base in the Middle East Region. Photo: Cpl Sebastian Beurich

### Above and beyond the call of duty

**Cpl Sebastian Beurich**

DEFENCE'S philanthropic personnel are well known in Australia for showing up at the opportune moment of an exercise to provide a brew to soldiers in the field.

For Kapooka's philanthropic member, Assistant Commissioner George Thomas, there is not much change in the role while deployed on Operation Accordion, but the temperature of the drinks has switched from hot to cold.

Mr Thomas is part of Everyman's Welfare Service, one of the major philanthropic organisations that support ADF personnel, alongside the Salvation Army's Red Shield Defence Services.

"Our role is to connect with ADF personnel at all levels, as well as their families, and provide a level of support and welfare that is outside of the formal system," he said.

"Because we understand the system, but we're not part of the rank structure, service personnel are often more relaxed about connecting with us on the day-to-day issues that come up.

"It can be as important as something quite personal causing concern, through to sharing something they enjoy."

Mr Thomas was impressed by the professionalism displayed by many of the deployed Australians after his work at Kapooka, the 'home of the soldier', for a number of years.

"They're working very hard in quite difficult circumstances, but they are

more concerned about their mates and others around them than they are about themselves," he said.

"Particularly impressive were the soldiers who escorted me in Afghanistan. They were very professional, gave very good briefings and were right on the money making sure I was safe."

Although primarily seen as supporting Army units, the support of CDF enables them to support all three services.

"I had a chat with the CDF when he was here for Anzac Day, and his words to me were that the philanthropies are a very important part of the support system in Defence," Mr Thomas said.

"It's an interesting situation – philanthropic organisations are accredited through the ADF Support Services in Canberra, then the members are screened through both the organisation and the ADF to ensure they are suitable for the work.

"We are technically Defence civilians, but we are eligible for Defence housing benefits, and wear the same ID cards as members of the ADF, both of which are benefits only philanthropies are given."

Above all, Mr Thomas is proud of the Australians who are serving their country overseas.

"Having the privilege to be here and serve alongside some service personnel who are almost my age, and others who are young enough to be my grandchildren, is immense," he said.



**From Marj FLACK (HAY NSW) Widow of  
NX35752 Norman Charles FLACK 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF**  
Enclosing photo of two of my daughters and a granddaughter laying a wreath on ANZAC Day. One a Legacy Ladies and a Flack Family Wreath. Left: Granddaughter Lynn, Middle: Daughter Julia, Right: Lizzie youngest Daughter. Because of rain the ceremony was held indoors at the Spirit of ANZAC Hall (attached to our War Memorial High School). Lynn also marched with Norm's medals. I am proud of the family because they each have taken a turn to march with the medals. Best Wishes and Good Health to members and readers of the magazine.  
**Regards  
Marj Flack**



### 5 FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

Alan Curry, Secretary of 5 Field Ambulance Association presenting Bob Pink with an inscribed silver pewter mug following the Reserve Forces Day Parade in Hyde Park on Sunday 2 July 2017.

It has been a tradition of 5 Field Ambulance Association to purchase and inscribe a pewter mug to any member who receives an Australian Honours Award, and Bob was very honoured and appreciative of 5 Field Ambulance Association's distinctive and unique gesture.

## CAN YOU ASSIST PLEASE ?

Hello Bob

Just wanting to thank you for placing the article about my Uncle Max in the recent edition of Frontline. Both my mother and myself received your copy.... great.

You can imagine how she felt when she opened the Magazine and saw a picture of her brother walking down a street in Sydney. She wanted to pass on her thank you.

I had a call from Wal Williams from Warriewood. Wal joined the Battalion in January 1942, just after the Malay campaign and told me about how he survived the Japanese landing, the massacre of "X" Battalion and being a POW in Japan after his ship was sunk. He didn't know Max but knew Max's best mate and another person who our family knew. Wal was a very interesting person to speak to and remembered so well all those years ago. So I was very excited. Wal must have been 19-20 at this time.

This got me thinking and I'll ask one last favour. If I was to write a brief letter to you, would you be able to forward it to anyone who still happens to be alive that served in the 2/19th, B Company. Any replies could be made either to yourself, if you don't mind, or preferably to myself. I can understand if you say this request would not be possible.

Regards

**Wayne Evans**



### Open Letter:

**To all 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF Veterans/Family who knew or heard of  
Private Reginald Max Bedggood, NX 35342.**

### B Company

### Known as Max Bedggood

Max served with 2/19 Battalion, B Company, in Malaya and Singapore, along with his best mate Massey Taylor, sometimes known as Massey Harris. Originally from The Rock, near Wagga, he enlisted in June 1940 before departing Sydney in February 1941 on the Queen Mary. Max was engaged in battle in both Bakri and Parit Sulong (in Malaya). From Parit Sulong the soldiers escaped inland to Yong Peng then to Johore Bahru. Here, the 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion received 650 new recruits, before crossing onto Singapore Island.

B Company was positioned on the North West coast and took the brunt of the attack on the 8/2/42 with only 45 survivors. Massey was a runner for Lieutenant Buderus, Platoon 7, and therefore it's likely that Max may well have been in Platoon 7 as well. The Platoon Sergeant was Bernie Weaver.

The 2/19<sup>th</sup> were forced to pull back from their coastal positions in the early hours of 9/2/42 and grouped at Brigade H.Q. near Bukit Timah village. Given devastating loses, the 2/19<sup>th</sup> no longer officially existed and was reorganised into a composite "X" Battalion.

"X" Battalion was to counterattack the advancing Japanese army around West Bukit Timah but sadly after reaching their position at about 11pm on 10/2/42 were ambushed at 3am the following morning, 11/2/42, whilst asleep. Only a small group survived. Max's service record shows he was Missing, Presumed Dead on 11/2/42 but it is more than likely Max did not survive the initial Japanese attack on 8/2/42. His last letter to his Father was dated 6/2/42 in which he said he was an acting Corporal. Max was one of 6 siblings and is survived by his sister, Joyce 93, who lives in the Blue Mountains. Thank you to Wal Williams (Ex B company) and Joe Coombs (Ex A Company) who have spoken to me in the past. My sincere gratitude to you both.... you are wonderful men.



Should anyone know or may have come across Max's name or any of the mentioned listed in the group picture below or anyone else mentioned in this letter, would you please contact Wayne Evans, nephew of Max Bedggood on 0429567566. My email address is [waynemevans@bigpond.com](mailto:waynemevans@bigpond.com). I am keen to hear of any information you may have.

### Camped in Malaya, 1941

**Standing L to R: Bert Dallas, Lloyd Lewis, Phil Walsh,  
Pancho, Jack Alcock, Ernie**

**Sitting: L to R: Max Bedggood, Les Truscot, Joe Howard**

# FRONTLINE

## VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY SYDNEY CENOTAPH 15 AUG 17



# FRONTLINE

## VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATION CENOTAPH 18 AUG 17



# FRONTLINE

## RESERVE FORCES DAY SYDNEY SUN 2 JUL 17



## RESERVE FORCES DAY WONDAI QLD SUN 2 JUL 17



# FRONTLINE

## ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT OFFRWO/SNCO DINNER Bathurst RSL Club SAT 23 JULY 2017



# FRONTLINE

## Bathurst RSL Club SAT 23 JULY 2017 ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT OFFR/WO/SNCO DINNER



# FRONTLINE

## ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT CHURCH PARADE All Saints Cathedral Bathurst SUN 23 JULY 2017



## BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN

PRESENTATION BY LT SHAHEEN SHEKH 2/17 BATTALION RNSWR  
OFFRWO/SNCO REGIMENTAL DINNER AT BATHURST RSL CLUB 22 JULY 2017



**Overview:** There were 2 major battles at El Alamein between July and November of 1942. I will talk about the lead up to both battles, and I will talk about 2/17<sup>th</sup>'s role particularly in the second battle of El Alamein. El Alamein, located in Egypt, was in the North African theatre of World War II.

The lead up to the 2 battles of El Alamein involved Commonwealth Forces consisting of Australian, British, New Zealand, and Indian soldiers destroying the Italian Tenth Army in North Africa in 1941, which then prompted Adolf Hitler to commit two German Divisions with another 2 Italian Divisions to retake Libya and to ensure the capture of the Suez Canal. In command was the infamous Brigadier General Erwin Rommel.

The Suez canal was important to the Axis for two purposes – it would provide Axis Forces a rapid and abundant supply line to oil and natural resources from the Middle East and Asia. And, it would also deny Commonwealth Forces control of the Mediterranean sea thereby isolating Commonwealth Colonies in the area.

Despite some success, Rommel was forced to withdraw due to supply shortages and rear echelon interdiction from the Allies air assets. However, in 1942, Rommel had acquired enough supplies and troops to crack out another attempt at the Suez Canal. He successfully recaptured Libya, including Tobruk, and was now pushing to capture El Alamein in Egypt. This signified the commencement of the first battle of El Alamein, commonly referred to as the Defence of the Alamein Line. During the defence of the Alamein line, 2/17<sup>th</sup>, which was part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Division and commanded by LTGEN Morshead, were among the northern-most elements in the defence of El Alamein, holding the line at Tel El Eisa. During the Defence of Alamein Line, Rommel had surmised that a head-on assault against a strong point oriented would likely fail so he planned to flank El Alamein and attack from the south-east where it would likely be the weakest. However, this was pre-empted and a fluid defensive line that had been established a few miles south of the El Alamein defensive perimeter stopped Rommel's first flanking attempt.

Between Rommel's first and second attempt to flank El Alamein, Lieutenant General Sir Bernard Montgomery, known as 'Monty' stepped into command of Commonwealth Forces in North Africa. Monty implemented all of the defensive recommendations of his predecessor, such as laying extensive minefields to the south of El Alamein and fortifying Alam el Halfa IOT protect El Alamein from the south-east. These recommendations enabled Commonwealth forces to successfully defend against Axis forces but resulted in an encirclement. During this encirclement 2/17<sup>th</sup> and 2/15<sup>th</sup> conducted a successful penetration into the German's northern most sector which provided intelligence on the enemy's defensive layout and would prove critical for the second battle.

The second battle of El Alamein commenced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 1942 and lasted until the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. Whereas the first battle of El Alamein was defensive in nature, the second battle was offensive in nature. The Allies' mission was to break out from Axis encirclement with the commander's intent was that breaking out from encirclement would set the conditions finally destroy the axis forces in North Africa.

EN SOM:

Axis forces set up a 280km north-south defensive line between the ocean and an impassable swampy marsh known as the Quattara depression. 2/17<sup>th</sup> and 2/15<sup>th</sup>'s intelligence from the first battle suggested that Rommel had organised a series of mutually supporting strong points along this defensive line, with defensive positions also in depth.

Along the Axis defensive line, Rommel had placed a very strong force to the north to cover a road (providing a high MC for tanks) and a railway line (providing a quick access supply line) and also to the south which he believed to be the Allies' most likely avenue of approach.

FR SOM:

Monty planned to create two corridors into Rommel's defences – one from the south near the quattara depression and one from the north near Tel El Eisa. The northern corridor was the priority of effort because Monty knew that disruptions near a major road and railway line would force Rommel to reallocate troops from the south back up to the North so that at the very least Monty could breakout from the southern corridor and flank the German strong points from their 6 o'clock. Monty had ordered infantry to create these corridors with the intention that the infantry divisions would clear mobility corridors through minefields which would then allow armour and artillery to move forward and cover the infantry as they progressively destroyed strongpoints and outposts.

In terms of the Order of March, the 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Division, which 2/17<sup>th</sup> was a part of, were directly tasked to penetrate the northern corridor. Monty wanted the Australians to take on the Germans' best defences and soldiers because he knew of the Australians' tough fighting qualities. He well and truly believed in the Australians to bring about a decisive event in the North African theatre.

I will now outline some historical recounts of the key actions taken by 2/17<sup>th</sup> and the final outcomes of the battle of El Alamein:

1. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, at around 2300 hours, the 2/17<sup>th</sup> marched west of Tel El Eisa to make contact with the enemy as part of penetrating a northern corridor into the enemy's defensive line.
2. Upon making contact, the CO of 2/17<sup>th</sup>, LTCOL Simpson, along with CO's of neighbouring battalions ordered a 3 company up extended line to sweep forward and capture the enemy's forward defences so that engineers could clear lanes for tanks.
3. After completing their first objective, the 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> were to hold their position while the 2<sup>nd</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> captured forward defence's supporting artillery.
4. 2<sup>nd</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> and 2/17<sup>th</sup> then moved up in extended line to capture the outposts in depth, referred to as the Fig Orchard. Due to their success so far, Montgomery provided the Australians with whatever supporting assets he could spare.

# FRONTLINE

5. Later on in the battle, 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> defended the key terrain of Trig point 29 against several waves of counterattacks consisting of German infantry, armour, and 88mm artillery.
6. Exploiting the failed counterattacks, 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> as part of a division attack, penetrated further west into German lines which then forced Rommel to reallocate Germany infantry, armour and artillery from the south to the North. This left the Italians isolated without German support in the South which Montgomery saw as his chance to break out from encirclement.
7. In the end, while Montgomery didn't break out from encirclement, 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> kept pushing forward until the Germans and Italians abandoned their depth positions.
8. The 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> was then ordered to conduct another attack as part of the final divisional thrust which proved so successful that Rommel retreated altogether, leaving North Africa for good.

Indeed, the second battle of El Alamein was now over and the Commonwealth forces had won.

The Commonwealth success in North Africa was seen as a major turning point in the overall conflict between the Axis and Allies. This was reflected in Nigel Hamilton's (Montgomery's biographer) statement: "that the infantry of this Commonwealth country, not directly threatened by Germany, should have been willing to lay down their lives in such exemplary manner was to Bernard Montgomery the deepest proof that the allies would go onto win the war"

El Alamein, while successful for the Allies was costly in terms of human life.

### IN TERMS OF CASUALTIES:

	Axis	Allies
Dead	9, 000	4, 800
Wounded or prisoner	50, 000	9,000

Despite being only 1/10 of the Commonwealth forces, the 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Ddivision made up 1/5 of the total Commonwealth casualties. 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> in particular had an estimated 150 – 200 dead, to the point where companies were no bigger than the size of a platoon.

The following battle honours were received by the 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> for their actions in North Africa: North Africa 1941-1942, Defence of Tobruk, El Adem Road, El Alamein, and Alam el Halfa.

One notable personal decoration during 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>'s actions in North Africa, was a Victoria Cross awarded posthumously to Corporal John Edmondson who bayoneted 5 Germans whose intentions were to create a gap in the Australian defensive perimeter in the first battle of El Alamein. He managed to singlehandedly destroy this penetration attempt despite bullet wounds to the neck and stomach. In doing so, he saved the life of his platoon commander and his mates.

The end of this recount of important Australian Military History ends with 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> being shipped back to Australia in order to deal with the threat of the Japanese.

## BRAVO COY 1/19 RNSWR FORMAL DINNER 26 AUG 17



# FRONTLINE

## BRAVO COY 1/19 RNSWR FORMAL DINNER 26 AUG 17



# FRONTLINE

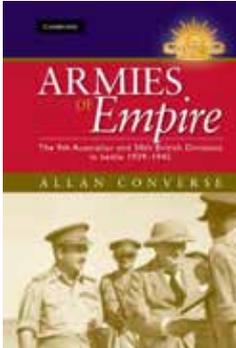
## BOOK REVIEW

### **ARMIES OF EMPIRE: The 9th Australian and 50th British Divisions in battle 1939-1945**

Allan Converse

Cambridge University Press, 2011, 347pp, \$59.95

Reviewer: JOHN DONOVAN



Allan Converse has provided a valuable comparison between the 50<sup>th</sup> Division, a Territorial Army formation mobilised in 1939, and the 9<sup>th</sup>, put together in 1941 using brigades intended for other Second AIF divisions. One striking element in this story is that while the 50<sup>th</sup> had a

long history, dating back to the First World War, the 9<sup>th</sup> had greater organisational stability after its rocky start. The three brigades of the 9<sup>th</sup> stayed together, while various brigades joined and left the 50<sup>th</sup>, with organisational stability only really coming in 1944.

Converse considers that the 9<sup>th</sup> Division had better commanders than the 50<sup>th</sup>, rating Morshead more highly than any of the 50<sup>th</sup>'s GOCs, who included the armoured advocate Giffard Martel and a later (unsuccessful) corps commander, Ramsden. He also rates Wootten highly. The 50<sup>th</sup>'s best GOC, Douglas Graham, did not take command until early 1944. At the next levels down, the 50<sup>th</sup> had difficulties with artillery commanders, and a high turnover rate for infantry brigadiers and battalion COs. Commanders at those levels changed much more frequently in the 50<sup>th</sup> Division than the 9<sup>th</sup>, with adverse effects on performance.

Converse sees leadership, at all levels, as critically important to success. However, he demonstrates that while a good CO could bring success, poor leadership at lower levels reduced the performance of even well trained and experienced units. He emphasises the professional ethos of the citizen-soldier leaders in the 9<sup>th</sup> Division (their equivalents in the 50<sup>th</sup> were largely British regulars, most Territorial commanders having been removed early in the war). In contrast to the 9<sup>th</sup> Division, few officers were promoted to battalion command from within the 50<sup>th</sup>, with most COs coming from outside.

The standard of training was an important element in each division's successes (and failures) across the war. While not always popular among veteran soldiers, Converse shows continuation training to have been a significant part of the process of integrating replacements into units, particularly once the system of

regionally based units broke down in both divisions. This breakdown had adverse effects on the cohesion of units, but unit loyalty remained a potent force.

Tactical development, particularly in the use of combined arms firepower to 'assist rather than substitute for infantry action' contributed to the successes of both divisions. Converse considers that the 9<sup>th</sup> was 'one of the most tactically sophisticated divisions in 8<sup>th</sup> Army' by the time of Alamein. However, learning, adaptation and tactical improvement occurred in both divisions, despite the image of the British Army as 'rigid and inflexible'.

Converse concludes that a formation with good leadership could succeed even if morale was less than perfect, but that high morale could not overcome 'basic weaknesses in training, equipment and tactics'. As long as morale, even if not perfect, was 'sufficient to withstand attrition', success could be obtained by good leadership and tactics.

Converse, perhaps unknowingly, echoes Sir William Slim in concluding that wars are won not by a few elite units, but by the average performance of main force divisions. The 9<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Divisions were both good main force divisions.

This book is well worth reading, however, the indexing is poor. As an example, the 150<sup>th</sup> Brigade (destroyed at Gazala in June 1942) was part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Division, yet it is omitted from the index. Also, a paragraph seems to have been dropped from the Conclusion. When discussing the bases of success for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Divisions, first, second, fourth and fifth factors are mentioned, but not a third. A minor point, Warfe is spelled without the 'h' (p235).

### **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*.

## NOR ALL THY TEARS

**NX45804 Driver Herbert James McNAMARA, Carrier PI, HQ Coy, 2/20 B**

*Continued from June 2017 Newsletter:*

The shunting of trains and the moving to and fro of the trucks was done with an irresponsibility only possible where human life is considered to be of no value. Accidents to us were of some concern; the Army was responsible at least for our numbers, but accidents to themselves were trifles. Once a Japanese fell down a shaft in the presence of some prisoners, and they thought that they might be under suspicion of having helped him on his way, but after they reported it to the first Nip they saw, not another word was said save that next day a couple of the bosses cheerfully announced that the victim had died.

One accident should be of interest to psychologists. I have spoken of the way the Tiger would wash his hands literally as well as figuratively, every few minutes. Well, at Yashamane there was an incident which no psychiatrist would fail to interpret symbolically. There was a particularly unpleasant Nip who used to work with us and he arrived one day without his lamp, which he had said he dropped down a shaft, and he kept borrowing mine. Your lamp was your life and you rarely dropped it, for you handled it with the greatest care, but the Nip kept dropping mine again and again, extinguishing it each time, until at last I grabbed it from him and said :Get one from one of your greasy mates, you silly bastard. (He was sufficiently down the social scale for such familiarities to take place without any breach of etiquette).

Now did the dropping of the lamp symbolise a suppressed wish to extinguish the flame that tied him to mortal sorrows? I won't even guess, but he fell down a shaft the next shift and was killed. The Wishful Thinkers Federation issued many bulletins when they suddenly gave orders that N.C.O.'s and O.R.'s were to write essays on a variety of subjects. I doubt if anyone did not toy with the idea that a moderate section might be getting control as we believed might have happened in Thailand. I was chosen to write one of these essays, and on this optimistic assumption chose the subject of "The Culture of Japan". It struck me that it might be interesting to read it over when my judgement was less blunted by the stress of circumstances, so, partly in ink and partly in pencil, and almost in the dark, in what time I could manage before handing it in, I made a copy of the essay which ran as follows:

#### THE CULTURE OF JAPAN

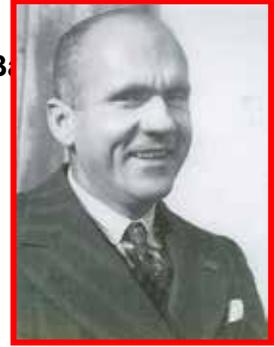
Owing chiefly to language difficulties the culture of Japan has not penetrated as deeply into the west as it might have done and as a Westerner I can speak little of what the Japanese have to offer the

world, but I shall write of the factors that I think will determine the importance of the part their culture will play in the future. Several years ago most western writers hailed Japan as the world's chief hope for bridging the gap between the East and the West. The strength of this opinion was remarkable. Not only did writers emphasise the rapidity with which the Japanese had adopted the machinery and organisation of our civilisation, but travellers gave us a picture of an Asiatic people strong in all the qualities most respected by ourselves.

A people that were courteous and humane, clean and industrious, who would work hard for any ideal they prized and bear with great courage and patience any great trial or suffering inflicted on them. Here indeed seemed a nation fitted for a great task. Then Japan became subject to attack. Firstly criticism was mainly political, but later we were given a picture of a people sharply in contrast with that which had become familiar. Exaggeration was suspected at first, but reports so insistent and undisputed told of things done by Japanese in far countries that readers began to wonder if the earlier picture had not been the dream of idealists. If Japanese were as we had been told, why did they do this and this and this? Must not one of the pictures be false, and if so, which?

On the answer to that question the influence of Japanese culture on the whole world depends. Whether great minds will look to Japan for cultural riches to add to those of past ages rest on their opinion of the value of Japan in things worthwhile. This question must be answered by anyone who would understand Japan and I shall write my opinion of the question as it has occurred to me during my imprisonment. I have seen the Nipponese of the earlier picture and I have also seen those who have caused the great change, and it is to the reason of this profound influence of these latter that I shall devote this essay.

I have seen Nipponese who are kindly and humane. I have seen Nipponese courteous and sympathetic both to ourselves and to each other. I have seen them showing so many likeable qualities that they would be welcome in any society. And I have seen Nipponese do things that would horrify the most callous. Once a Japanese officer took five of our men on a long journey by foot. As all food had to be carried it soon became very limited. The officer shared it all equally between all the members of the party, he taking the same share as the Japanese soldiers and the



# FRONTLINE

and the prisoners, even to dividing a small tin of meat among ten. I have seen them take on dangerous or heavy tasks themselves rather than leave them to those in their charge, and I have seen them show more sympathy to those in trouble, even ourselves, than can be expected from a near relative. And yet my experiences in Thailand have been hopelessly different from this. I myself have been struck for not hurrying when I had a temperature of 103.6 degrees and I have seen a medical orderly struck down with a pick for no other reason than that he did not understand an order bellowed out in Japanese, practically without gesture and these and a hundred other personal experiences are trifling beside many others of which I am as sure as if I had seen them myself.

What is the reason for this strange contrast, and why does the world insist on giving one or the other of these characters to the Japanese people rather than believe that both are present in the same nation? There are good and bad in all countries. Why are the Japanese judged by one type alone? The answer, I believe, lies in one weakness that has resulted from the rapid growth of modern Japan. As in all countries the main character of the people has been decided by a comparatively small number of people of strong character imposing their ideas on the mass of the people. But in Western countries conflict down the centuries has settled a common standard of ideals about which these leaders of the people are generally agreed. These leaders as a whole are able, with the support of the masses to ensure common standard values, good or bad, that can be said to represent the character of the people. These settling of a national character seems not to be complete in Japan, but Japan is being judged as if it were, and Westerners are apt to conclude that any important happenings in the Japanese Empire occur by the general consent of the people themselves.

For trying to speak through a gateway to friends marching through up country, two Australian were stood at bayonet point beside a raging fire and suffered so cruelly that one of them died a week later as a consequence. (*Attributed to the Mad Mongrel subsequently executed.*) To me this is a terrible thing, but to me and the majority of Australians it would be a still more terrible thing if an Australian had done this to a Japanese and the people of Australia are able to ensure that this is not possible. It may be argued that this is not possible in Japan either, and that wicked things are done in the outlying parts of all empires and I do not dispute this. But it seems to me that in Japan strong men with unacceptable standards are able to command influence that could give rise to the belief that they acted in the name of the people. Be it understood that these were not the deeds of individuals acting on their own behalf against constituted authority. They were done in

the name of constituted authority itself. True attempts were made to conceal the facts from authorities in Japan, but high people in Thailand must have known the state of things and still those responsible had power to continue their actions. Right to the last they retained their charges, even if they were restricted in their power. While ever this is the case there is a danger that the nation itself will be judged by their behaviour. Until the national development has achieved a unity of ideals the nation may be judged by the behaviour of any group strong enough to command attention and in wartime it is not the most civilised parts of an empire that attention is called. Likewise in wartime it is more difficult for a nation engaged in major problems to achieve the necessary unity, but until it is achieved the Japanese standing as a cultural influence will be in the balance.

This is independent of the result of the war. The power of a nation does not influence the value of its culture. It only helps to bring it into greater prominence. The deeper qualities of a nation's civilisation can be eternal. The world is still dominated by the culture of the small city of Athens as it flourished over two thousand years ago. The city itself became a mere speck in the vast empire that succeeded it, but its culture is everlasting.

Compare the empire of Alexander the Great, whose conquests embraced most of civilised Europe and extended half way across Asia, yet his influence died with himself and his story is a mere item in the pages of history. A nation's culture will live on its own merits if it is given a chance to make itself felt in the world. I am not competent to judge the value of what Japan has to offer the world in this way, but to me it is incredible that a civilisation so old and unbroken can have nothing to offer. I am not one of those who think that civilisation is permanently limited by race. The lesson of history has been that it has spread widely among the peoples of the world and it is the ideals that inspire a people that determine their ultimate worth, but those who would look forward to a future in Japanese culture must aim at ensuring that its chances are not clouded by any misjudgment of its people resulting from looseness in its cultural unity.

The achievement of western civilisation have been mainly in the diffusion of culture rather than depth. Culturally we are yet behind the ancient world in almost every way. Our success has been that we can spread what culture we have among a wide body of people. We cannot afford to neglect any country able to enrich what is ours. It will be a great irony of fate if the culture of Japan is lost to the world because of a few that have had nothing to do with the building of it.

**Sgt. H. J. McNamara**

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

# FRONTLINE DOWN MEMORY LANE



**BODO & ROSEMARY SCHWARZ'S WEDDING - WOLLONGONG SAT 5 MAY 1979**  
L to R: WO1 Bob PINK, WO2 Peter DELAMONT, WO2 Dennis ZALUNARDO, OAM, WO2 Martin HANSON, SSGT Chris OTTMAN,  
SSGT Bodo SCHWARZ, MRS Rosemary SCHWARZ, WO2 Keven MARSHALL, SSGT Bruce LOFTUS, SSGT Mike PASS, SGT Ken LOFTUS