

# 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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# FRONTLINE



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



2018 got underway with the usual festivities in Sydney and I hope that all of you celebrated the start of another year in good company and in happy circumstances.

Saturday, 3 February saw Bob and I travelling to Orange to attend the 1/19 RNSWR Officers' and Senior NCOs' Dinner as guests of the Commanding Officer. It was an extremely pleasant evening and we were able to meet and talk with the Officers and Senior NCOs who came over with Charlie (The Werriwa) Company. They were a fine group of young men – sadly no women – and I think they will be a very fine addition, with their soldiers, to the Battalion. We also had the opportunity of meeting the new RSM, Warrant Officer Class 1 Jamie Osborne who marched into the Unit at the end of 2017.

Thursday, 15 February, was the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore and the first since the disbandment of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Association. As I have reported in earlier editions of *FRONTLINE*, arrangements have been made to have a fallen 8<sup>th</sup> Division soldier honoured in the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on this day into the future. This will replace the Annual Fall of Singapore Commemoration Service that was held in Martin Place Sydney in the past. I travelled to Canberra, accompanied by Bob Pink and Ray Warden, to represent 2/19 Battalion AIF Association at this Ceremony. The soldier honoured this year was PRIVATE William Maxwell FERGUSON a soldier in 2<sup>nd</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF who died on 10 February 1942 and his son, long serving Secretary of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Association, Mr Ron Ferguson, laid the first wreath. We had arranged for Joe Coombs to lay the wreath for 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF. Unfortunately, Joe had a fall the day before and was confined to hospital. Joe's son Greg Coombs stood in for his father and performed extremely well. Association member Bruce Brideoake had organised a dinner at the Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel and a large contingent, mainly consisting of 1/19 RNSWR Association members and 2/20 Battalion Association members, gathered there. Di Elliott had organised for one of the Curators from the Australian War Memorial, Garth O'Connell, to present a very interesting talk on a couple of little known aspects of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Campaign in 1941/42.

It was very pleasing to see a large gathering of Association members at both the AWM and the dinner. Joy Bourke, along with her daughter Jane Crowe and Jane's children Christopher and Stephanie were there in force in honour of their father, grandfather and great-grandfather, SGT Frank McGRATH. Bruce Brideoake was accompanied by his wife, Julie and Greg Coombs was also accompanied by his wife Julie. Di Elliott was accompanied by her husband Paul and came to honour her father, SGT Frederick HOWE and did an excellent job assisting with the organisation and liaison with the AWM. Other attendees were Robyn & David Hotson, daughter of SGT Stan DAY, David Hunt and Colleen Triance, Ray and Monica Sanderson, John Stewart representing the large Stewart clan and MAJ Charles Watson RFD and Graham Tippett from the Association.

Next year (2019) the soldier commemorated will be from 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF. More details will be forthcoming when I have all the "ducks in a row" and I look forward to an even greater attendance from Association members.

Sadly, while we were in Canberra I received advice that Association member Martin Hanson had been diagnosed with cancer in his tongue. This prevented Martin from attending the AWM. Our thoughts and prayers are with Martin and Helen and I am assured that he is recovering well from initial surgery and his prognosis is good.

Saturday, March 3 saw Bob and I attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon of the Association of 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalions. A great celebration of a "partnership" forged fifty years ago between men who served under the numeral "4" in World War I, World War 2, The Royal Australian Regiment and in the Army Reserve. Sadly, Association "founder" MAJGEN Gordon Maitland AO OBE RFD ED was unable to be present due to advanced age and infirmity. A great luncheon and the opportunity to catch up with many old friends.

Sunday, 4 April brought the sad news of the passing at Campbelltown Hospital of MAJ Peter Godfrey. Peter had been in indifferent health for some little time but his untimely death was unexpected. An early "recruit" into 19 RNSWR Peter served as a platoon commander, a Company second-in-command and a Company Commander. Peter also served in The University of New South Wales Regiment (UNSWR) and recently took over the role of their Unit Association Secretary. Peter was farewelled at St Michael's Catholic Church in Mittagong on Friday, 9 March before a large congregation of family, friends and fellow Service personnel. Bob Pink and I represented the Association and we were accompanied by Ken and Ronda McKay (Ken was somewhat torn between his UNSWR & RNSWR loyalties); Helen and Martin Hanson; Tom and Hazel Cooper, Bob Binns and Bill Edwards. Apologies were received from Paul Couch, Brian Martyn, Peter McGuinness, John Jackson, Geoff Steventon, Gary Beltrame, Mick Pass, Bryan Schafer, John Elliott, Sandy Howard, Dennis Zalunardo, David Ring, Peter Hughes, Tom Fletcher, Jim Hurt, Noel Selway, and Juanita Moon. Peter's Military Eulogy was delivered by COL Bruce Green, President of the UNSWR Association, and a brief Poppy Ceremony was performed by the President of Mittagong RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Spence.

By the time this edition of *FRONTLINE* reaches you ANZAC Day 2018 will be very close. As yet there is no information from RSL NSW but we have to assume that the route (along Elizabeth Street) and timings (start time 9.00 am) will be the same as they were in 2017. Bob will have covered the arrangements elsewhere in the newsletter and I can only suggest that you have your mobile phone with you and put my number **0414 961 969** on speed dial so that you can contact me on the day if you cannot find the FUP. What IS KNOWN is that the Reunion Cruise WILL take place and the ferry will depart from Commissioners Steps at Circular Quay at 12.30 pm. If you have not participated in this cruise in the past now might be a good time to do so. It is a great afternoon – rain or shine - in the company of friends and family, paying tribute to those who have gone to the reward of their valiant service.

Until we meet again, may the good Lord hold each and every one of you in the palm of His loving hand

*Roger Perry*

# FRONTLINE



## VALE GOOD FRIENDS

### 2189934 MAJOR Peter GODFREY, B.Comm, CPA



Peter's widow Mrs Julie Godfrey advised with much sadness of Peter's passing at Campbelltown Hospital on Sunday 04 March 2018. Peter was born on 8 January 1946. Late of Mittagong, formerly of Goulburn. Dearly loved husband of Julie. Loving father to Alexandra, Adrienne, Thomas and partners. Brother and brother-in-law of Janelle and Barry.

Peter enlisted in the University of New South Wales Regiment on 30 November 1964 and following his commissioning was appointed to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment on 31 October 1968. Appointment to 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment and 1<sup>st</sup> /19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment followed on 1 May 1969. He served with 19 and 1/19 RNSWR as a Platoon Commander, Company Second in Command and Company Commander. On 25 March 1980 he was posted to the Command and Staff Training Unit, 2 Training Group and on 1 October 1981 to the Reserve Command and Staff College Wing 2 Training Group and discharged on 17 March 1982. Peter was the Secretary of the University of New South Wales Regiment Association.

Robert Binns, Tom and Hazel Cooper, Bill Edwards, Ken and Ronda McKay, Roger Perry, and Bob Pink represented the Association at Peter's farewell on Friday 9 March 2018 at St Michael's Catholic Church Mittagong NSW which was followed by a private cremation. Peter's daughter Adrienne, delivered Peter's family eulogy and his son Tom, the Prayers of the Faithful. The President of the University of New South Wales Regiment Association Colonel Bruce Green delivered Peter's military eulogy and the President of the Mittagong RSL Sub Branch Mr Stephen Spence conducted the RSL Poppy Tribute.



### MRS Joan Gloria ALCHIN (nee Bell)

Following advice from Robyn Hotston, Andrew Donaldson advised of Joan's passing at Tumut on 4 March 2018. Late of Tumut, Joan was born on 27 September 1928.

Joan was the widow of NX31444 Private Mervyn Hugh Alchin, of 2/20 Battalion AIF and they married in Tumut on 21 January 1946. Mervyn sadly predeceased her on 22 August 2008. She was a Life Member of the Association.

Mervyn, a Prisoner of War in Changi and on the Burma-Thai Railway will be remembered with deep affection by many 2/19 Battalion AIF members who served with "U" Battalion on the Burma-Thai Railway where Mervyn's and Shorty Cooper's exceptional efforts in pilfering tucker from the sons of heaven kept so many of their mates alive during those dark days in Thailand

Joan is survived by her loving family and was farewelled at All Saints Anglican Church, Tumut NSW on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018



### MRS Audrey TONACIA

Late of Warimoo NSW and Legacy Aged Care Wyoming NSW, Audrey was the widow NX35198 Private Harold John "Tony" Tonacia, 17 PI D COY 2/19 Battalion AIF who sadly predeceased her on 30 July 2012. She was a Life Member of the Association. Her passing was advised following the return of her December 2017 Frontline newsletter in February 2018. Tony and Audrey had one son Michael who was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident on 2 January 1966. Audrey was a sister to Lennie McAleer and Noel McAleer and sister-in-law of Mrs Pattie McAleer.



## STAFF SERGEANT William E. "Paddy" FOX, BEM 15/19 King's Royal Hussars

A much-loved Chelsea Pensioner who died aged 82. Bill "Paddy" Fox, was born on 3 September 1933 in racing stables near Clonmel, County Tipperary, and passed away at the Royal Hospital Chelsea London on 9 January 2016. Advice of his passing was received following the return of the Association's Frontline December 2017 newsletter endorsed "Return to Sender – deceased !"



He lived in Cahir after spending his childhood there. Cahir became twinned with Scarborough through the efforts of his sister Edie and their niece. The connection with Scarborough began when

Paddy's eldest brother - also known as Paddy - married a Scarborough girl and settled here after the war. Another brother, Michael, and sister Edie, also settled here. Paddy came to Scarborough on holiday in 1951 and ended up joining the army here. Edie, 77, who lives off Scalby Road, said: "He was always close to Scarborough - he loved it here. He joined up and then went off round the world." Paddy, who was recruited into the 15/19th Hussars, began his training in Carlisle as a radio operator and was posted to Hamburg, where he became skilled in gunnery and driving armoured cars. In 1953 he was posted to Londonderry as a TA instructor and later to Barnard Castle as a radio instructor.

Next he went to Northallerton as House Corporal to run the home of General the Lord Thurlow at Ainderby Steeple. The staff included a batman, an Aide de Camp, two army cooks, and a Pipe Corporal who played Reveille on the bagpipes on the lawn every morning. After two interesting years there, looking after many VIP guests, Paddy decided he wanted to rejoin his regiment - much to the General's disappointment. Paddy went on to teach radio in Munster, enjoyed a spell as an Air Troop Sergeant in Skeeter helicopters and once made regimental history by losing his troops on a busy nudist beach in France during a training trip, finally rounding the soldiers up at 10.30pm. His biggest achievement was recruiting for his regiment. In his first year as a recruiting sergeant he recruited 132 men, with the total at 2,500 by the time he retired in 1988. He was given the nickname "Daddy Paddy" as he took a great interest in all his recruits and drove their parents to passing out parades all over the country. It was for his exceptional recruiting work - the highest number of recruits in the country - that he received the British Empire Medal. Paddy was also given the Meritorious Service Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal with bar, the latter awarded after 36 years.

On his retirement he became a Chelsea Pensioner and moved in to the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London. The site provides accommodation, comradeship and the highest standards of care for veterans in recognition of their loyal service to the nation. They are known for their smart red uniforms, which tend to be worn on visits and for special occasions - with a navy blue uniform to be worn locally. Paddy wore his red uniform while visiting Edie in Scarborough and became a familiar sight in town and in Seamer, where the pair would worship. He was the chief tour guide and gave talks about the Royal Hospital, meeting many people, including dignitaries, from all over the world - resulting in him receiving around 400 Christmas cards. He got to know Princess Beatrice after forging links with her school and also met the Queen numerous times. Paddy was a keen gardener and had two allotments on site, which helped the hospital win an award for its entry in the Chelsea Flower Show. Edie said: "I'm very proud of him. He was a positive, cheerful person who loved to travel. "He was also so kind and thoughtful. He would often send little gifts to people if he saw something he thought they'd like. "He was so proud to be a Chelsea Pensioner and to wear the uniform."

Paddy's funeral, with full military honours, was held on January 28, 2016 at 3.30pm in the Great Hall at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London. Paddy was a memorable visitor during his several visits to Australia and was feted on several occasions by the exceptionally warm and gracious courtesy and hospitality he received from the Combined Services Club RSL Sub Branch and their esteemed and highly valued Secretary Angie Valentine Flint.

# FRONTLINE



## **N392272 CORPORAL Amy Katherine TAYLOR, AM, OAM (nee Millgate) AUSTRALIAN WOMENS' ARMY SERVICE**

Amy was born Sydney NSW on 28 December 1923 and sadly passed away on 28 January 2018. She was elected Chair of the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Associations in 2005. In 1939 she joined the Women's Australian National Service and in 1942 (aged 18 years) enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS). During her service she served in both Australia and Papua New Guinea (12 months). On discharge from the Army, Amy joined the New South Wales Police Force and served for four years (1946-1951). She pioneered the uniform branch of the Women Police and was the first woman to do traffic duty in the city in 1948. A Foundation member of the Australian Women's Army Service Association (NSW), formed in 1948, she served on the committee from that date. She was a Life Member and State

President of the Association. From 1978, Amy Taylor served as Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Associations (NSW) and State Councillor – Women's Services - Returned & Services League of Australia NSW Branch. In this role she represented female veteran members throughout New South Wales. She became a Life Member as well as a member of both the State Executive and the State Council. In 1994 she was appointed a Board member of the RSL Retirement Villages at Narrabeen and Yass. Amy Taylor retired in May 1999 and was appointed Life Governor.

She volunteered and served on the Commemoration Committee and was Chairman of the Education Committee for the Australia Remembers events in 1995. In January 2001, Amy Taylor co-ordinated the AWAS participation in the Centenary of Federation Parade. Appointed to the Advisory Committee by the Australian War Memorial for the Australian Servicewomen's Memorial, Amy Taylor was also Patron and Life Member of the Thirty Niners Association of Australia NSW Branch.

For her service during World War II, Amy Taylor was awarded the War Medal 1939/45, Australian Service Medal 1939/45, the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star and Australia Service Medal 1945/75 with New Guinea clasp. On Australia Day 1992 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the welfare of ex-service personnel. She was later elevated to (3 June 1997) and appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to veterans, particularly through the Australian Women's Army Service, and the Education Committee of the 'Australia Remembers' Programme. In October 2002, she became a member of the working group for the "Women in War Project." In 2005, Amy Taylor was elected Chair of the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Associations.

Cherished wife of Bruce (dec). Much loved mother of Rob and Jenny. Loving mother-in-law of Sheryl and John. Adored grandmother of Catriona, Ruairidh, Rebecca and Emma, and great grandmother of Alexa and Rosie.

Amy was farewelled at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium, North Ryde on Monday, February 5, 2018 where Angie Valentine Flint of the Combined Services RSL Sub Branch conducted the Poppy Tribute.

## **Diana Margaret (Angela) Lady CARRICK, A.O.**

Lady Carrick (nee Smith) was born in Papua New Guinea on 14th October 1927. She was educated in Sydney and married John Leslie Carrick on 2nd June 1951. (NX70514 – 18 Anti Tank Battery 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division AIF). He later became Sir John Carrick, A.C., K.C.M.G., as a Minister in the Menzies governments of the time. She developed as a leading figure in the world wide Girl Guides movement. She delivered a famous speech to Wenona Girls School in 1956, exhorting the school leavers to do great things.

Beloved wife of John. Adored and loved mother of Diane, Jane and Fiona. Sister-in-law of Myee and Yvonne. Mother-in-law of Bob. Beloved aunt of Philip, Lynda, Kerry, Terry, Sandra and Glen. Dearly loved grandmother of Noah, Joel, Ben, Matthew and Genevieve. Ever loved great-grandmother of Kurt, Matthew, Amelie, Archie, Evie and Jude. Deeply loved by all wider family members and friends. Appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for her services to the Girl Guides In recognition of service to the Girl Guides Association of Australia in The Queen's Birthday 1988 Honours List

Lady Carrick passed away peacefully on 2 February, 2018 and was farewelled on 10 February 2018 at St Paul's Anglican Church, Burwood, Sydney.

## **LEST WE FORGET**

# FRONTLINE

## COMING EVENTS 2018

WED	25 APR 2018	0930h	<b>ANZAC DAY SYDNEY</b> FORM UP IN SPRING STREET REUNION VENUE: SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE	SYDNEY	Jacket & Tie Decorations & Medals REUNION SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE Phone Roger Perry 0414 961 969
WED	25 APR 2018	1000h	<b>ANZAC DAY CANNBERRA/CONDOBOLIN</b> FORM UP IN ANZAC PDE CANNBERRA	CANNBERRA ACT CONDOBOLIN NSW	Jacket & Tie - Decorations & Medals Further details Garry LEWIS Mobile: 0433 987 423 ellen.lewis@westnet.co.au
SAT	23 JUN 2018	1300h	<b>RESERVE FORCES DAY WREATH LAYING CANNBERRA</b>	St John's Anglican Church REID, CANNBERRA	Afternoon Tea follows sservice FURTHER INFORMATION Ian SAYERS 02 6254 5347
SAT SUN	30 JUN 2018 & 01 JULY 2018	TBA	<b>RESERVE FORCES DAY WONDAI QLD</b>	Main Street	Further info Noel SELWAY Tel: 07 4169 0448 noel.selway48@gmail.com
SUN	01 JULY 2018	0930h	<b>RESERVE FORCES DAY SYDNEY</b> Photo shoot on steps of War Memorial for participants in the Inaugural Reserve Forces Day Parade of 1998	ANZAC WAR MEMORIAL HYDE PARK SYDNEY	Coat & Tie - Decorations & Medals
SUN	22 JUL 2018 TO BE CONFIRMED	0930	<b>POZIERES DAY</b>	St COLUMBA 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 (TBC)	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 Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals
WED	06 SEP 2018	1030h	<b>76th ANNIVERSARY BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY</b>	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Coat & Tie - Decorations & Medals

### 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION DINNER WEEKEND - ORANGE NSW

FRI SAT SUN	26 OCT 2018 28 OCT 2018 27 OCT 2018	<b>ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB NSW</b> 		<b>ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB</b> The Association has reserved 29 rooms at (CUT OFF DATE IS 01 OCTOBER 2018) the <b>TEMPLERS MILL</b> NOW "HOTEL MERCURE ORANGE" Tele 6362 5611 <b>PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT</b> Members of 'Le Club Accor Hotels' Loyalty Program should be entitled to a discount.	
SUN	11 NOV 2018	1045h	<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY</b>	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**  
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, ChSt  
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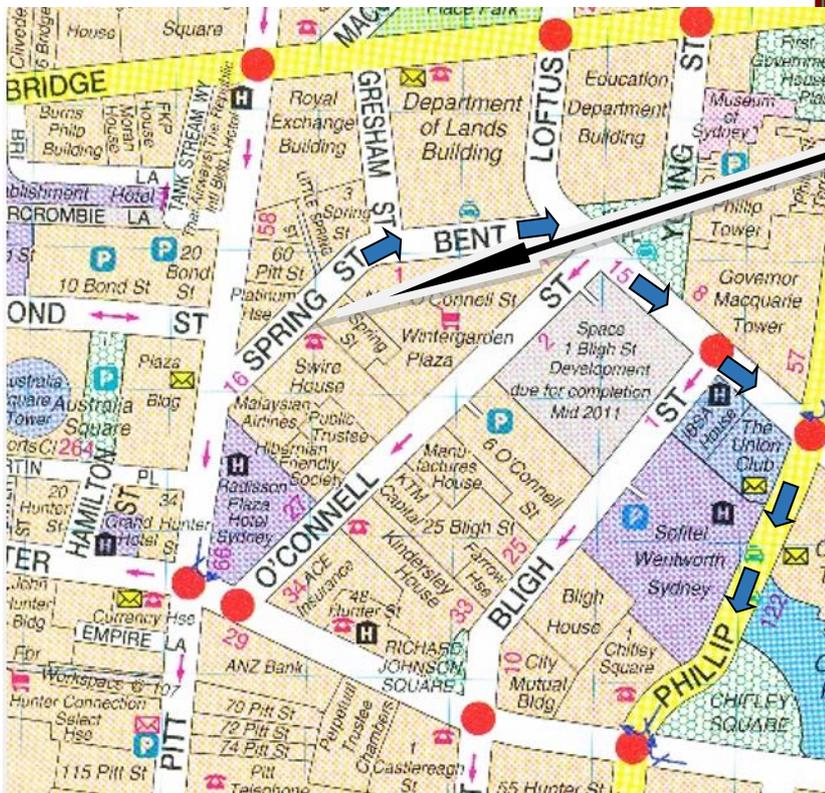
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[www.http://www.rnswr.com.au](http://www.rnswr.com.au)

## ANZAC DAY MARCH SYDNEY WED 25 APRIL 2018

### NOTE NEW FORMING UP POINT

1/19 RNSWR & 2/19 BATTALION AIF  
FORM UP AT 9:30 A.M.  
IN SPRING STREET

Please check with the next issue of the RSL REVELLE for confirmation / changes to details on this page. Limited info – if any has been “coming” from NSW RSL. If we’re not at the R/V please phone 0414 961 969 or 0414 907 427 and we’ll tell you where we are !



### MARCH ROUTE: (as Last Year's ?)

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)





# ANZAC DAY SYDNEY 2018

**28 MEMBERS & GUESTS HAVE SO FAR INDICATED THEIR ATTENDANCE AND WE NEED ANOTHER 42 - LAST YEAR'S CRUISE SET SAIL WITH 64 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 INGLEBURN 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

## M E N U

### 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

**Get Well  
Soon**



## SICK REPORT

The following members have been on the Sick List in recent months and are now in "Recovery" mode and our Best Wishes go to them for a speedy return to good health



Graham ROSS had a recent hospital visit and has returned home in good condition and conveys his thanks for the many Get Well Wishes and messages received - which were appreciated

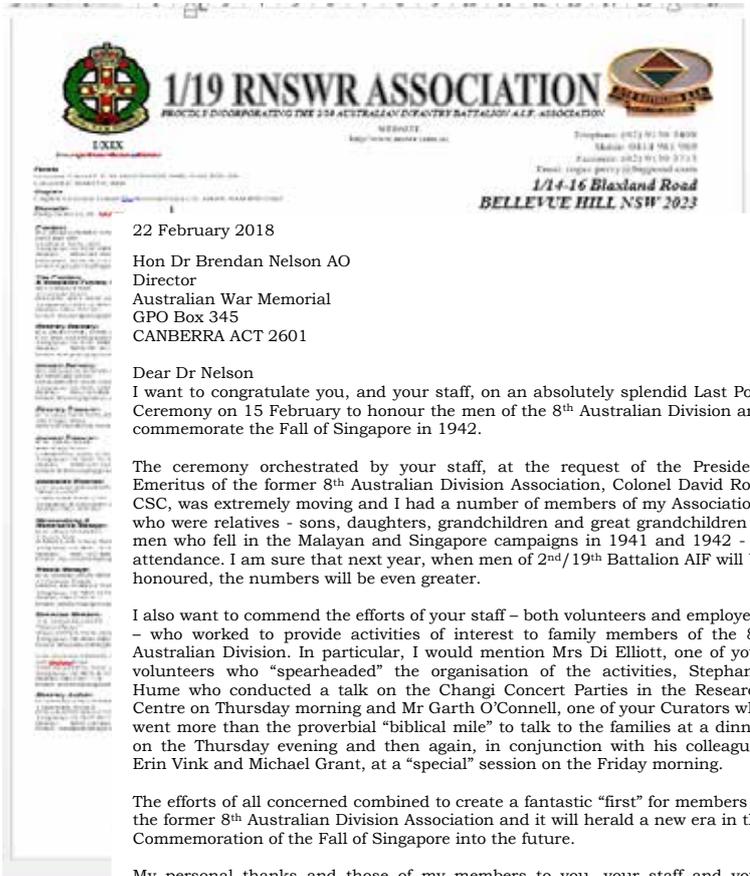


Martin HANSON underwent urgent oral surgery which all went well and he is back in fine form and thanks all for their kind messages



Geoff BRADDON was recently incarcerated in Bathurst Hospital for a minor injury and is now back in harness and thanks all for their kind good wishes

## CONGRATULATIONS



22 February 2018

Hon Dr Brendan Nelson AO  
Director  
Australian War Memorial  
GPO Box 345  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Dr Nelson

I want to congratulate you, and your staff, on an absolutely splendid Last Post Ceremony on 15 February to honour the men of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division and commemorate the Fall of Singapore in 1942.

The ceremony orchestrated by your staff, at the request of the President Emeritus of the former 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Association, Colonel David Ross CSC, was extremely moving and I had a number of members of my Association, who were relatives - sons, daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren of men who fell in the Malayan and Singapore campaigns in 1941 and 1942 - in attendance. I am sure that next year, when men of 2<sup>nd</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF will be honoured, the numbers will be even greater.

I also want to commend the efforts of your staff - both volunteers and employees - who worked to provide activities of interest to family members of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division. In particular, I would mention Mrs Di Elliott, one of your volunteers who "spearheaded" the organisation of the activities, Stephanie Hume who conducted a talk on the Changi Concert Parties in the Research Centre on Thursday morning and Mr Garth O'Connell, one of your Curators who went more than the proverbial "biblical mile" to talk to the families at a dinner on the Thursday evening and then again, in conjunction with his colleagues Erin Vink and Michael Grant, at a "special" session on the Friday morning.

The efforts of all concerned combined to create a fantastic "first" for members of the former 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Association and it will herald a new era in the Commemoration of the Fall of Singapore into the future.

My personal thanks and those of my members to you, your staff and your volunteers for a great effort.

  
**ROGER PERRY OAM**  
President



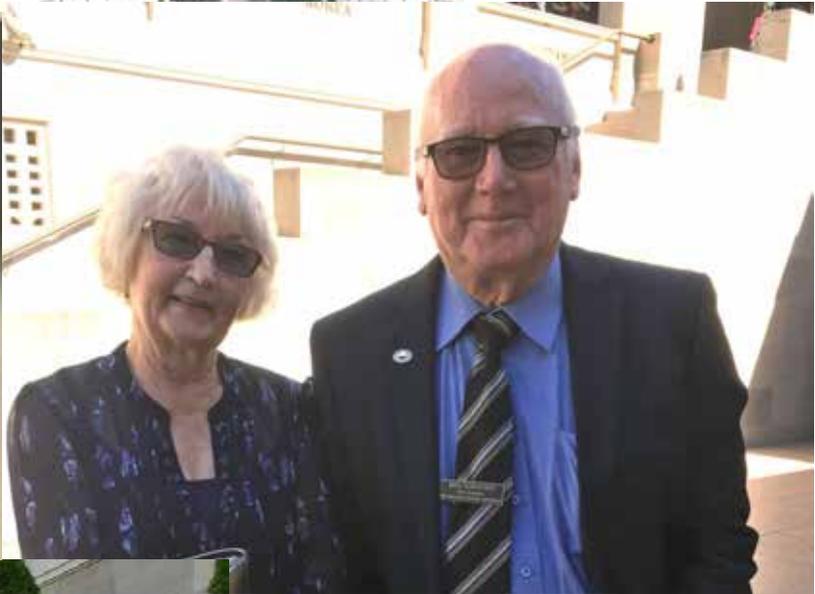
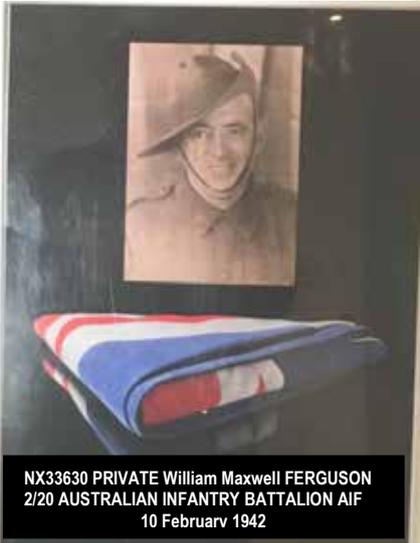
And thanks to the Director Dr Brendan Nelson AO and his Staff of the Australian War Memorial Canberra for their superb courtesy and hospitality extended to members of the Association during their recent visit to Commemorate the Fall of Singapore on 15 February 2018



# FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION

## LAST POST CEREMONY - AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA

### THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2018



# FRONTLINE

# FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2018



# FRONTLINE

## FALL OF SINGAPORE COMMEMORATION

LAST POST CEREMONY - AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2018



# FRONTLINE

## THE MALAYAN VOLUNTEERS

**Our thanks to Mrs Shirley DRUM for forwarding the following article**

The Malayan Volunteer Forces, or 'Vultures', as they were sometimes affectionately known amongst themselves or to other FEPOWs, are virtually unknown and unrecognised in this country, except to other FEPOWs.

The origin of the Volunteers was in Britain's major conflicts of the 19th and early 20th centuries - the Crimean War led to the enrolment in 1854 of the original Singapore Volunteer Rifle Corps with its proud motto '*In Oriente Primus*', and the Boer War of 1899-1902 further stimulated the Volunteer movement with the formation of the Malay States Volunteer Rifles. In 1888 the Singapore Volunteer Artillery Corps was formed. The outbreak of World War 1 in August 1914 led to an immediate and rapid increase in the enrolment of Volunteers who the following year took part in the suppression of the Sepoy Mutiny in Singapore.

Again Volunteers answered their country's call in the years running up to World War 2, particularly after the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939. They came from all nationalities and walks of life in the pre-war peninsula known as British Malaya. The Volunteers were not only Europeans, but Malays, Chinese, Indians and Eurasians. They came from all branches of the Malayan Government Service, from the Mines and Plantations, from the business communities, from the Medical Profession and from the Church. Many other civilians who would have joined the Volunteers, were prevented from doing so because they were in so-called 'reserved occupations' considered essential for the continued smooth running of the country. Whatever their background, they were motivated by a profound sense of wanting to do everything in their power to defend the Crown Colony of Malaya and her dependents.

The Volunteer Forces were similar in concept to the British Territorial Army, but were organised within 3 separate groups according to which administrative area of Malaya they came from. Officers held a Governor's Commission instead of a King's Commission. The three political entities were:

### **A. The Crown Colony of the Straits Settlements (S.S.)**

The Straits Settlements were administered by a British Governor (Sir Shenton Thomas) who was also High Commissioner for the eleven Malay States. The Straits Settlements consisted of Singapore, Penang and the Province Wellesley, and Malacca (and Labuan and Christmas Island). Volunteers were organised into 4 Battalions:- Singapore - 1st and 2nd Battalion S.S.V.F. [1250 men] Penang & Province Wellesley - 3rd Battalion S.S.V.F. [916 men] Malacca - 4th Battalion S.S.V.F. [675 men]

### **B. The Federated Malay States (F.M.S.)**

These States were ruled by Sultans, but each had a British Resident to whom they were accountable. The Federated Malay States consisted of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang. Volunteers from these States were also organised into 4 Battalions: Perak - 1st Battalion F.M.S.V.F. Selangor - 2nd Battalion F.M.S.V.F. Negri Sembilan - 3rd Battalion F.M.S.V.F. Pahang - 4th Battalion F.M.S.V.F. There was also an F.M.S.V.F. Signals Battalion, F.M.S.V.F. Light (Artillery) Battery, F.M.S.V.F. Reserve Motor Transport Company and F.M.S.V.F. Field Ambulance units. F.M.S.V.F. = Federated Malay States Volunteer Force. Total number of men: 5,200.

### **C. The Unfederated Malay States (U.M.S.)**

Each of these States was ruled by a Sultan and each had a British Advisor with far less influence than the British Residents of the F.M.S. These 5 States were Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu and Perlis. Apart from Johore, they were the more northerly States with fewer Europeans and more tenuous lines of communication. Volunteers from these States were, perhaps, less well organised, again with the exception of Johore, and deployed into Local Defence Corps or Forces, rather than Battalions with a more formal command structure. Volunteers were organised into the following groups: Johore - J.V.E. (Johore Volunteer Engineers) - 258 men. Kedah - K.V.F. (Kedah Volunteer Force) - 571 men. Kelantan - K.V.F. (Kelantan Volunteer Force) - 136 men. Trengganu & Perlis - no regular Defence Force or Corps. As well as these Volunteer groupings, there were also Local Defence Corps, similar to the Home Guard, throughout Malaya. Some Malayan Volunteers joined:

a) The Malayan Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve (M.R.N.V.R.) - 1083 men. b) The Malayan Volunteer Air Force (M.V.A.F.) - 350 men. c) The Armoured Car Squadrons under S.S. & F.M.S. commands. In the final days the F.M.S.V.F. Armoured Car units were amalgamated and given regimental status. d) The Singapore Royal Artillery and Singapore Royal Engineers. e) SOE - particularly in the form of Stay Behind Parties. Volunteers participating in these were given General List Commissions.

The Volunteers were of enormous help to the thousands of captured British Forces, especially those who had only been in the Far East for a matter of weeks before capture. They knew and understood the local languages and the people, particularly those who remained loyal to the British and wanted to help them. They were acclimatised to the conditions, which must have been difficult to adjust to for the newly arrived troops - most of whom had received no training in jungle warfare. They understood the prevalent diseases such as Malaria and Dengue Fever, how best to avoid them, and the medicines that were needed to control them. They were able to barter with the local traders for food and medicine, and to set up a system of 'listening posts' for information, especially in the early months of imprisonment.

Even in Thailand, while building the infamous Burma/Siam Railway, some of the Volunteers were able to speak Thai and make contact with the local Thai / Thai Chinese population, to get the extra food and medicines so urgently needed by the starving and desperately ill prisoners of war.

When the Volunteers and other FEPOWs were finally repatriated to Britain late in 1945, and returned home to their loved ones, Europe had been at peace for over 4 months. There was a sense of purpose in the country, and a great determination to put the memories of the last six years of war behind them, so that people could get on with their lives and look forward to a brighter future.

It was into this atmosphere of optimism that the FEPOWs, including the Volunteers, returned. How devastating it must have been for them that no-one wanted to know about their ordeals and experiences, or could understand what they had been through. Indeed, most people in this country had been (and still are) totally unaware of the harrowing time the FEPOWs had endured - the murders, the tortures, the deprivations, the sheer and utter brutality of an alien foe - and they didn't want to start hearing about it. In fact, the general impression was that the FEPOWs had been languishing in some kind of luxurious holiday camp in the Far East, while their kith and kin had been enduring the horrors of the Blitz on the Home Front, and the D-Day Landings in Europe.

At first, very few books were written about the horrors of the Far East War. No one wanted to re-live their unendurable experiences, but in recent years more books have been written so that younger generations will know what happened to their grandfathers, uncles and cousins. A small proportion of these recent publications have been written by Volunteers, who were treated in the same way as other members of the British Forces, by the Japanese.

**If anyone would like to find out more about the Volunteers or has more information about them please contact Rosemary Fell, Secretary Malayan Volunteers Group Australia, Tele: 9247 3374**

# 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



Rick	AVERY
Robert	BARDSLEY
Bruce	BATHGATE
Robert	BINNS
Warwick	BIRCH
Geoffrey	BLAIR
Diana	BLAND
Joy	BOURKE
Robert	BUTT
Betty	CLENDENNING
Harry	COLE
Hazel	COOPER
Tom	COOPER
Warwick	DILLEY
Shirley	DRUM
John	ELLIOTT
Tony	FANNING
Marj	FLACK
Tom	FLETCHER
Geoffrey	GREEN
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Lynette	HISCOX
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Brian	MARTYN
Ethel	MELVILLE
Roger	PERRY
John	PICKUP
Ron	RICHMOND
Geoffrey	STEVENTON
Glen	STEWART
Angie	VALENTINE FLINT
Anton	YUSWAK
Dennis	ZALUNARDO

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## *NEW MEMBERS*

Whilst we have – in recent months received several queries and requests for application forms to be provided - No new members have joined since the last June 2017 newsletter.

# FRONTLINE

## NX202327 & 2268445 WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO KENNETH ROY CURRAN, OAM, JP



**OUR THANKS TO OUR ASSOCIATION WEBSITE MANAGER Sandy HOWARD and Brian DUNBAR – BOTH MEMBERS OF FORESTVILLE RSL SUB BRANCH, FOR THEIR RECENT VISIT TO KEN AND THE PHOTOS OF HIS IMPRESSIVE MEMORABILIA !**



## CHIEF OF ARMY'S ADDRESS TO VICTORIAN RUSI 21 JULY 2017 Australian Army Reserve Transformation – A Total Force

Address by Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, AC, DSC, to the Royal United Services Institute (Victoria), Defence Plaza Melbourne, 12.30pm, Thursday 27 July 2017

As delivered

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

I want to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, and pay my respects to their elders, past and present.

I would like to thank Major General (Retd) Mike O'Brien, president of the Royal United Services Institute (Victoria), for the opportunity to speak to you today. The Victorian branch of the RUSI is a fitting place to speak about the transformation of our force of part-time soldiers. It is a matter of record that John Monash was active in the early days of this branch when he was a young lieutenant. That early interest in military affairs, fostered by the RUSI, seems to have stood him in good stead...A few short years later Monash was commanding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division on the Western Front – an Australian Army formation which also had a long association with the state of Victoria.

The history of the Australian Army is one of citizen soldiers serving alongside each other, in full time and part time service. Over the 116 year history of the Australian Army, the components of our Army have had various names: Militia, 'permanent' forces, the First and Second Australian Imperial Forces, Citizen Military Forces and 'Regular' Army to name just a few. For more than half our history, part time soldiers made up the bulk of our force; serving, sacrificing and contributing to the development of our proud record.

This pathway of service has given us some of our greatest wartime leaders, at all levels: from Monash and Chauvel, to Albert Jacka and Charlie Green. It has also given us some of the humblest but most remarkable soldiers. Men such as Private John Carroll of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 1<sup>st</sup>AIF. John was a labourer and railway worker when he enlisted in Western Australia in 1916. The son of Irish immigrants, John was an athlete and a prominent member of the Kurrawang Aussie Rules Club. A taciturn man, he was sometimes referred to as 'Referendum Carroll' because he rarely said anything other than 'yes' or 'no'.

In the AIF, Carroll's mates called him 'The Wild Irishman'. For his actions in the battle of Messines Ridge, fought 100 years ago last month, he was awarded the Victoria Cross. During the battle he rushed an enemy trench and bayoneted four men, then rescued a comrade in difficulties. Later in the same advance, he attacked a machine gun crew, killing three men and capturing the gun. Then, in spite of heavy shelling and machine gun fire, he dug out two of his mates who had been buried by a shell explosion. Private Carroll missed the first three dates for his investiture at Buckingham Palace. Rumour has it that he found certain other establishments in London more convivial. He finally received his VC on the fourth attempt, after he had to be sent for...John was quickly returned to his battalion in Belgium after discovering that, as a VC holder, he could 'turn out the guard' at the Palace.

Whether a feted leader like Monash or an 'everyman' like John Carroll, our citizen soldiers have made extraordinary contributions. They are inextricably a part of our Australian Army story. Part time soldiers have taken part in all of our campaigns; from the high veldt of South Africa to the dust of Iraq and Afghanistan. Theirs has been a consistent contribution to, and an enrichment of, the ANZAC heritage *they* created.

Today, the Australian Army is a highly trained and professional force of 45,000 soldiers. We are an integrated 'total' force of some 30,000 full time and 15,000 part time citizens. Our Army is focussed on delivering capability outcomes, rather than dogmatic adherence to a particular process to develop and deliver that capability. By embracing different pathways to capability, the Army gains from a broadening of our skills base, attracting a range of generalist and specialist experience to our modern force. The commitment of all our people is the same: to serve our nation in peace and war, as duty requires. The only difference being their employment flexibility, in training but not on operations, associated with full time or part time service.

This means service in our contemporary Army is characterised by people who, across their career and as their circumstances and needs change, move between various service categories. The service of my brothers and I is indicative. The three of us have variously served in a range of categories: from full time service in conventional and special force units, to active, inactive and standby service. And for two of us, back to full time service: at least for now! Of course, the very great majority of our reserve personnel do the opposite, joining in a part time capacity, with some then offering periods of full time service.

Change is underway to ensure that our Army, including the Reserve as an indivisible component of our Army, continues to deliver the capability required of us by Government. With regard to the reserve component, the

# FRONTLINE

Let me be very clear – this is not a case of a Regular Officer telling the Reserve what's good for it. Rather, senior reserve leaders have said they want and need change:

- *Change* that acknowledges the significant strategic challenges of our times;
- *Change* that better supports the training and development of our people, especially young adult Australians;
- *Change* that aligns Army service and contemporary civil employment demands; and
- *Change* that appreciates the opportunity and complexity of modern land force materiel.

A key change concerns the way in which we think about the wider utility of the Reserve. For some decades we have been moving away from the strategic rationale of the Reserve *purely* as a mobilisation base. Moving away from thinking of it as a *separate part* of the Army, or even a *separate Army*, whose purpose was only to generate capability *in extremis*. In the 'total force' model the Reserve contributes to capability in all of our endeavours to defend Australia and secure its national interests.

The contribution of the Reserve is particularly notable in our efforts in the Middle East and elsewhere. Between 2004 and 2014, 2,400 Reserve soldiers deployed on operations, with Reserve officers routinely holding significant appointments. 2016 is illustrative:

- Brigadier Kathryn Campbell was the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force 633 on Operation ACCORDION;
- Brigadier Michael Annett commanded Task Group Afghanistan on Operation HIGH ROAD; and
- Brigadier Michael Bond commanded the Australian Service contingent on Operation ASLAN with the United Nations in South Sudan.

The pattern continues this year. Lieutenant Colonel Tony Hoyer is currently the Commanding Officer of the Australian Contingent at the Afghan National Officer Academy in Qargha, while Colonel John Brennan will deploy very soon to Operation ASLAN as the Commander of the Australian Contingent.

Whether providing reinforcements to deploying battle groups, embeds to coalition headquarters, niche specialist capabilities or entire contingents, the operational experience of today's Reserve is extensive. This will continue to develop. In February this year, I issued a directive, the '*Total Force Approach for Operational Deployments*'. The directive mandates a review of all current and future operational deployment documents. Through this mechanism, *some* positions on *all* operations will be made available to Army Reserve soldiers who undertake contingent force preparation; thereby embedding a 'total force' approach to our operational deployments.

Our Reserve now generates significant collective capability every year. This is most evident in the 'reinforcing battle group' of around 850 soldiers provided to the 'ready' Army brigade during our major exercise period. Battle Group Cannan, made up of soldiers from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Brigades, deployed this month to Shoalwater Bay. While there, the Battle Group supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade on Exercise Talisman Sabre 2017. I had the opportunity to visit the exercise a few weeks ago and was very impressed by what I saw. Battle Group Cannan, just like Battle Group Jacka before it in 2016, demonstrates the commitment, current capability, and the extraordinary potential of our Reserve soldiers.

Battle Group Cannan was 810 strong, with an additional 50 personnel from 11 and 13 Brigades embedded as specialists throughout 3 Brigade and Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Division. They were well equipped and supported by 3 Brigade, indistinguishable from any other soldiers on the exercise. When I asked how they got EF88s rifles and the latest Battalion Headquarters C3 kit, the Commanding Officer explained that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade had provided them. The Brigade Commander followed on to note that he needed the capability, so he wanted it to be the best our collective resources could make it. Now *that's* an integrated force in word, spirit and deed!

Through this battle group training the Reserve is developing considerable expertise in the essential and enduring tasks of rear area security and stabilisation. This is lifting their skills and reducing the training time required to prepare them for operations, whether that is humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, security and stabilisation or conventional warfare. The importance of this contribution cannot be overstated. In any sustained operational deployment of an Australian Army brigade group, Reserve participation in successive rotations is likely to rise from an initial 10% of the first deployment, to 30%, and then 60% of the third rotation.

There are many paths to service in the Australian Army and many levels of readiness across units, full and part time, subject to respective roles and responsibilities. But there is only one path to deployment: our 'operational generation' process. This provides assurance, on my behalf, of the preparedness of all forces. This process is designed to

certify, or not, individuals and units as ready to deploy. Full or part time in origin, all our people on operations are prepared and ready for those operations; one team, working for Australia.

Of course, the contribution of the Reserve is far broader than just operational deployments. For example, in 2016, while the Army had 100 Reservist deployed on operations, we had 600 on Continuous Full-time service and 500 on short periods of *Defence Act Section 26* service. Reserves also figure prominently in the Australian Army's many domestic roles. From disaster relief to special events, such as the G20 or the Commonwealth Games. We could not achieve what the Government asks of us without the 'total force'.

Whatever the roles and tasks assigned to the Reserve, it is a simple truism that to have a viable and effective Reserve component we must have enough suitable people. Demography *is* destiny in this regard:

- We know that if we have 30 people parading we can generate efficient, effective and progressive training that builds capability while also meeting our necessary governance, safety and management responsibilities;
- We know that if we have 90 effective soldiers on the books, we can reliably anticipate 30 soldiers will attend training in any given period; and
- We know that we need a pool of 1,000 people aged between 17 and 29 years old in order to attract and recruit 1 soldier.

Extending this logic, we need around 90,000 to 100,000, young adult Australians, living within a reasonable distance of a Reserve hub, in order to offer a progressive training experience.

These numbers are all well-established and affirmed by similar experience among our allies. Yet our current disposition does not always support this reality. Australia is one of the most urbanised nations on earth. Yet many of our current hubs are located in rural and hinterland areas where, *disaggregated*, demography does not and cannot support the capability development we need. This is also true in some urban areas, where Reserve locations reflect Australia's demography in 1917 rather than that of 2017. Accordingly, we are studying the data from the 2016 Census to help determine where we need to be opening new depots.

Any Australian can join the Reserve and I want them all to consider doing so. We keenly want the hard working quiet stoicism of young rural Australians as much as the inner city worker and everyone in between. So, in order to facilitate a better way of connecting to you, wherever your home and associated depot, we are increasingly adopting, for city and country alike, a modular or block training approach to building capability. In doing so, we seek to *aggregate* people for training so that the *experience* of Reserve service is worthy of the *commitment* of young Australians. Remember, they are a very discerning generation who readily vote with their feet.

This is about creating the opportunity for any Australian who volunteers and passes the entrance requirements to serve. Soldiers who live in urban areas often have more flexible training attendance options, due to simple proximity. These range from weeknight / weekday options, through to weekends and modular blocks of training. For rural, regional and remote soldiers, many of whom may be hundreds of kilometres away from their unit's hub, such options are neither feasible nor desirable. An example of modular training may see up to 3 x 9 day blocks (weekend, workweek, weekend) and 5 x weekend blocks within a training year. This means that city, rural, regional and remote soldiers - we want them all - can now all access a participation model that works for them.

The Army has also renewed our focus on *recruiting* for our Reserve. And it is working. Two years ago we were barely recruiting 900 reserve soldiers a year. We are now recruiting 1,400 a year and this number is rising. We have also addressed retention and wastage rates in the training pipeline. In doing this the Army is changing patterns of training and service to meet the flexibility required of the modern Australian workforce. While training standards remain the same, the Army realises that there are many paths to achieving them. An example is the trial of new 35 day and 28 day, part-residential, Army Reserve Recruit Training Courses.

Another focus for recruiting and development concerns getting more tradespeople into the Reserve. This target group includes the traditional 'trades' - our need for diesel mechanics, plumbers, electricians, cooks and carpenters is not going away anytime soon. But it now also includes newer and emerging civilian trades, such as cyber experts, software developers and computer programmers, social media and communications experts, electronic systems technicians, UAS operators and technicians, to name only a few. Like doctors and lawyers, the skills we require from these people in uniform are the ones they have mastered in their civilian employment.

We are looking at ways we can attract and retain the right people from these professions, so that the employment offer is attractive, predictable and mutually beneficial. One initiative we are looking at is developing a simple course to induct them into the military so that their skills can be accessed quickly.

An important and related initiative, happening right now, is the re-rolling of the Sydney-based 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade to support the development and delivery of individual training to the Reserve. 8 Brigade's task is to deliver trained individuals (soldiers and officers) through innovative and practical combinations of modularised, residential and distributed regional training, as well as individual e-learning pathways.

# FRONTLINE

As well as changes in recruiting, training and participation models, change is underway with respect to equipment. Modern land platforms, such as the armoured vehicles being acquired for the Army in Project Land 400, are highly capable. They are also highly complex and costly. Due to the complexity of these vehicles they will not be crewed by Reserve personnel. This is a factor of the number of training days per year necessary to establish and maintain crew proficiency. The high cost of this capability also makes it unlikely that our nation can afford more than a number sufficient to equip our full time brigades.

Of course, the Reserve will *utilise* Land 400 Armoured vehicles, as Cavalry Scouts for the Armoured Cavalry Regiments and as reinforcements for the infantry battalions of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Brigades. And our Reserve infantry soldiers will continue to be trained and employed in dismounted roles, such as stability operations and operations in close or complex terrain environments.

Our citizen soldiers have come a very long way from the assessment made by Major General Stanley Savage when he joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division in 1942. He wrote in a letter:

*When I got back I was really sick at heart when I saw the unreal outlook and effort which I could only term as 'Gathering mushrooms and chasing rabbits'*

He went on:

*Bullshit, malingering, social ambition and bugger all in the way of getting on with the job were in full cry...<sup>[1]</sup>*

Whether fair or foul, this divided view marred too much of our Army's history. Today's citizen soldiers are highly-trained and motivated part-time professionals. They are ready and relevant. The Reserve's role to support the generation of directed operational capability by the total force of 45,000 is 'locked in' to the design of the contemporary and future Army.

As I have outlined, this has involved change for all parts of the Army. It is a change for good. Change initiated, requested and driven by the leadership of the Reserve. The tenets of these changes are flexibility, modularity, world class training and a relentless focus on generating; land forces for the defence of Australia and its national interests. I am proud of the fact that our current reservists have embraced these changes. And like the example offered by John Carroll, they are quietly, competently and modestly getting on with the job at hand.

After his adventures in the UK Private Carroll VC went back to his unit and was promoted to Lance Corporal in September 1917. Severely wounded during the second battle of Passchendaele in 1917, he returned home to Western Australia in August 1918 and resumed work as a Railway Guard on the Kurrawang Line. He married Mary Brown in April 1923, and they moved to Yarloop a few years later. He lived a quiet life working as a labourer and railway employee, attending the centenary of Victoria Cross celebrations in London in 1956. John Carroll VC was 80 years old when he passed away in the Perth Repatriation General Hospital in October 1971.

Our contemporary reservists follow in John Carroll's footsteps. They are hardworking Australian men and women, offering service to the nation beyond that which they already give as citizens in their daily lives – and frequently achieving extraordinary things in both careers. The Reserve transformation underway in our Army demonstrates our commitment to them and respect for their service and the capability they deliver.

There are many paths to service in today's Australian Army, but we are one Army. A 'total force', united under the rising sun.

Thank you.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Palazzo, Albert, 2002. *Defenders of Australia: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division, 1916-1991*. Army History Unit, Department of Defence, Canberra ACT, p.103.



### OUR THANKS TO MARTIN HANSON:

The above attachments were taken from the Australian War Memorial – Face Book page and I thought you would be interested in them.

They refer to the **NATIONAL TOUR FOR AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL INDIGENOUS EXHIBITION FOR COUNTRY, FOR NATION**. The tour will begin at **THE BUNDABERG REGIONAL ART GALLERY FROM 7 April until 3 June 2018**



Pictured L-R: Harry ALLIE, BEM, Indigenous Elder, Royal Australian Air Force;  
Ray ROSENDALE, CSM, Royal Australian Navy Strategic Advisor on Indigenous Cultural Affairs;  
Roy MUNDINE, OAM, Indigenous Elder, Australian Army.

## From Howard BYE - Wally BUCKLAND

Wally Buckland is in the photo at right - the Sergeant on the right. He fought in the Battle of Long Tan and did two tours of Vietnam namely 1966/67 with 1 RAR and 6 RAR. He then went back in 1971 with 3RAR. My poor old mate is doing it a bit tough at present. He was an only child and has no immediate family so a few of us keep an eye on him. He is an easy bloke to like and when he is focused he has a lot of interesting stories.



Howard & Wally at a recent Wreath Laying at Goulburn NSW



# FRONTLINE

## 1/19 RNSWR OFFRS/WO-SNCO's DINNER ORANGE 3 FEBRUARY 2018



# FRONTLINE

## 1/19 RNSWR OFFRS/WO-SNCO's DINNER ORANGE 3 FEBRUARY 2018



## FAREWELL TO THE OUTGOING REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE SIMON FOLEY



Warrant Officer Simon Foley enlisted into the Australian Regular Army in May 1996 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry. His postings as a Private soldier and junior non-commissioned officer were to both the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions of The Royal Australian Regiment. Warrant Officer Foley has also had the privilege of serving in Australia's Federation Guard as a Training Corporal and in 2000 was fortunate enough to be deployed as a section commander as part of Operation TANAGER.

In 2005, Warrant Officer Foley was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment, on promotion to Sergeant. Whilst posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion he deployed on Operation CATALYST as part of AI Muthanna Task Group 3 and Overwatch Battle Group (West) 1. In 2007 Warrant Officer Foley was posted to the Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Academy as an instructor, with the Sergeant Training Team and was employed as the Operations Package Master. In 2009, Warrant Officer Foley was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two and posted to the Warrant Officer and Non Commissioned Officer Academy as an instructor, with the Junior Leader Course Team. In 2010 he was posted to the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment where he served as the Company Sergeant Major, Alpha Company. In 2012 Warrant Officer Foley deployed on Operation SLIPPER, with the Battalion as the Company Sergeant Major of Mentoring Team 1 as part of Mentoring Task Force 4. In 2013 he was posted to the 8<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal Victoria Regiment, as a Training Warrant Officer where he served for two years prior to being posted as an instructor to the Royal Military College – Duntroon in 2015.

Warrant Officer Foley was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One in 2016 and appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment.

Warrant Officer Foley has been awarded all the applicable medals associated with the deployments listed above and his length of service. In addition, he has been awarded the Infantry Combat Badge, a Soldiers Medallion and a Training Commander's Silver Commendation for his performance at the Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. Warrant Officer Foley is married to Nicole and they have two sons Jack who is ten and Sean who is eight. The family enjoy camping, travelling and spending time together.

The relationship between Warrant Officer Foley and the Association was nothing but positive from the time he took up his appointment and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with him for the benefit of those serving in the Battalion and those former members who retain fond links of their time of service. His professional and friendly demeanour will be sadly missed and 51 FNQR is very lucky to have this fine soldier join their command ranks. The Association conveys all our very best wishes to Simon and family when he takes up his new posting with 51 FNQR at Cairns QLD in early 2018.

## WELCOME TO THE INCOMING REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE JAMIE OSBORNE



A very warm welcome from the Association is extended to 1/19 RNSWR's new Regimental Sergeant Major who was appointed in December last year. Warrant Officer Class One Jamie Osborne came back from a training deployment in New Zealand and, like his predecessor, has distinguished a career behind him. The Association looks forward to working closely with Jamie for the benefit of those serving and those who have served and welcomes him to 1/19 RNSWR.

# Exposing service 'lies'

DEFENCE  
BY STEFF WILLS

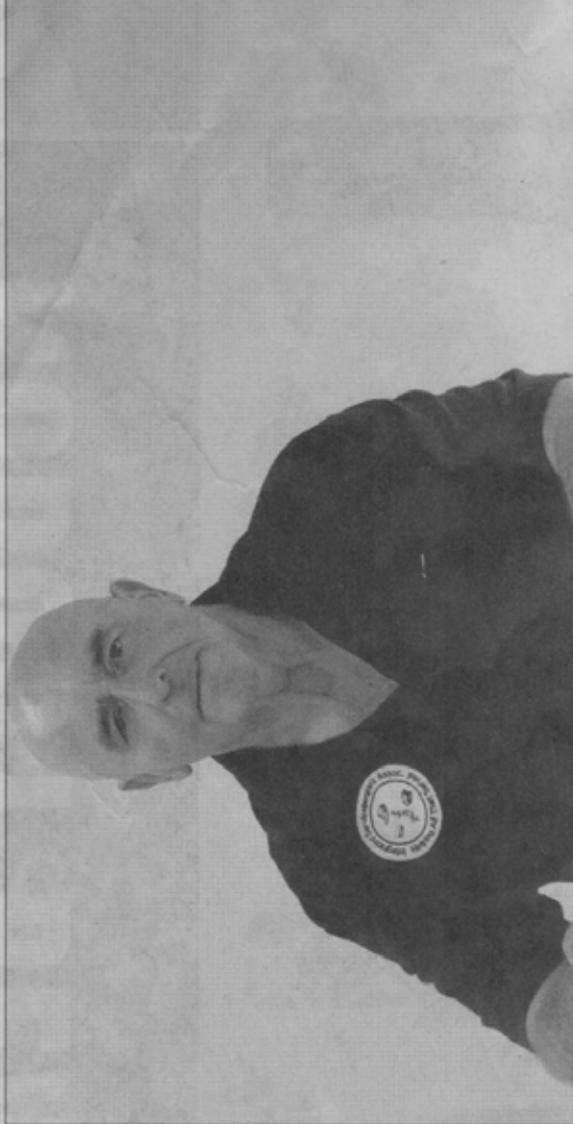
ONE of the Riverina's former soldiers says he and more than 9000 other infantrymen were lied to.

When Bob Bak was sent to Malaysia with the Australian Army Rifle Company in the 70s, he was told the purpose of the operation was for training.

But, formerly secret military documents have since indicated this was a deliberate deception, stripping veterans of deserved "war-like service" recognition, associated entitlements.

Mr Bak said soldiers and airmen stationed at RAAF Butterworth Air Base between 1970 and 1989 were sent for "strategic protection", with troops ordered to keep the base and its assets secure.

The operation came at a time when the success of communism was a global concern. The Australian government, in response, said it would commit troops to Malaysia as part of the Far East Strategic Reserve Land Forces. Despite being pub-



**DESERVED:** Former soldier Bob Bak is calling for 'true' service recognition for infantrymen he says were denied, following a military 'cover-up' in the 1970s. **Picture:** Steff Wills

licly labelled a "peacetime" deployment, Mr Bak said a number of military documents found the government had been "well aware of the seriousness of the threat".

According to the Rifle Company Butterworth Review Group, this means personnel deployed to the base during this time were serving in war-like conditions.

Without the appropriate recognition of service, he said every defence member involved in that operation had been denied significant associated benefits and entitlements, like the Service Pension.

Mr Bak said the operation's tasks clearly met the criteria for war-like service but the government was "ignoring facts".

The Department of Defence failed to respond before deadline.

## Driver in rollover cops fine after fire

A 63-YEAR-OLD truck driver has been issued with an infringement notice for negligent driving over a crash which sparked a two-hectare grass fire in Holbrook on Wednesday.

The Tongala man was transporting lime in a B-double at about 10.10am when he took a right-hand sweeping bend under the 100km/h speed limit.

The truck has gone down a small embankment, which caused it to roll onto its passenger side then collide with a high voltage power pole, igniting a grass fire in an adjacent paddock. About two hectares of grass were burnt.

NSW Rural Fire Service extinguished the fire without any damage to property or stock.

The driver was assisted out of the truck and was treated for minor cuts to his arms by paramedics at the scene, but did not require any further treatment and was not conveyed to hospital.

## RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

Welcome to the **RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH'S**

It is the communications control centre for the RCB Review Group's management of Operation "Exposure" which aims to have the Government declare RCB service as warlike or failing that to appoint an independent (of Government) public inquiry into the rightful recognition of the nature of RCB military service.

The Reference menu provides the time-line of and access to all our submissions with evidence, the Government's replies and our responses to them. [Check it out here](#)

We encourage your support by direct engagement in having your say direct to us and to Federal MPs/Senator on all matters associated with RCB service. If you have additional evidence to that already revealed here then please tell us.

[Ted Chitham](#) | February 5, 2018 at 10:44 pm | Categories: [Videos](#) | URL: <https://wp.me/p5aMcg-1aA>

# The Daily Advertiser

Steff Wills

FEBRUARY 17 2018 - 5:00PM

## Claims Defence lied to Riverina veterans refuted

The Department of Defence has hit back at claims it lied to former soldiers across the Riverina.

It comes after army veteran Bob Bak said the government had incorrectly labelled the military service of almost 9000 men during an overseas operation.

When Bob Bak was sent to Malaysia with the Australian Army Rifle Company in the 70s, he was told the purpose of the operation was for training. But, reports containing details the operation at RAAF Butterworth Air Base between 1970 and 1989, have since revealed this was inaccurate.

As a result, veterans say they have been stripped of a deserved "war-like service" recognition and its associated entitlements. They have since called for a public inquiry into the matter. Despite these claims, the Department of Defence last week said Australian Defence Force service at Butterworth had been examined across several independent reviews, that found it to be peace-time service.

"Defence has responded to a number of claims for reclassification of Rifle Company Butterworth service," a statement read.

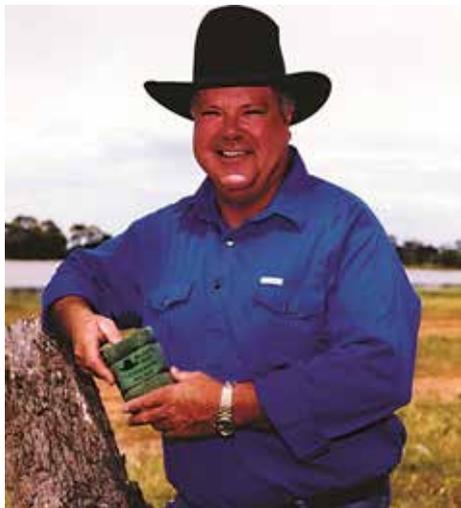
"These claims were investigated through extensive research of available records ... and found personnel were not engaged in duty relating to warlike operations."

A department spokesperson said the role of the company was to provide a ground presence, to conduct training and to assist, if required, in the protection of assets.

"Unless authorised, (the company) was not to be involved in local civil disturbances or ... security operations outside (base)," the spokesperson said.

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

### John (Black Hat) ELLIOTT, J.P. Committee Member 1/19 RNSWR Association



2266962 is the number I was allocated so many years ago as I entered 19 RNSWR at Liverpool in July 1968 and met at the gate by WO (the late) JJ Brown. I also have a vivid memory of CPL RJ Perry with his flash car in the lines!

As a called-up National Serviceman, because of my situation on a remote station at Wilcannia in far western NSW and very limited farm help available, I enlisted in the Bushman's Rifles Battalion to serve my six years CMF to complete my obligation.

My theory was that if I was going to be in the CMF for six years and beyond I had better make the most of it so I very quickly rose through the ranks to Corporal and then onto the coveted position of Sergeant. Mind you it was hard work but worth every minute of the experience.

During that journey great names come to mind and many friendships formed. One of the best was the late Peter Delamont. We always shared a room together and he later became my best man at our wedding to my wife Dianne in 1978 and later Godfather to our son Matthew. We also shared the honours of being escort to the Colours presentation of 1/19 RNSWR in 1971.

A WO's course quickly followed and the powers to be even thought I was officer material !

I stayed in the unit as long as possible after my commitment was over but again the labour forces on the property came into play.

Our property had to come first and that's why we are still here at Moira Plains. We have 53,000 acres of God's own country near Wilcannia in western NSW running 6,000 sheep and 400 head of Hereford cattle and opportunity goats. My son Matthew now runs the property and our daughter Samantha is the senior nurse educator for the Far West region of NSW Health.



In 1987, I established an advertising business known as Western Advertising and promoting 'Shop Locally' and I quickly became known as the man in the Black Hat (Registered trade mark) and the business is still operating. Photos here are of my receiving the Fire Service Medal and the Defence Force Medal in Dubbo.

On a more personal note, I have had good health apart from two new hips, two shoulder reconstructions and a wisdom tooth removed at 69! We have travelled the length and breadth of Australia as well as four trips to the USA (visiting Vegas of course).

I have become a Justice of the Peace (the only one within 100 km) and served on several local committees and chaired several others. My current passion is serving on the NSW National Party Central Council representing the Western Division. I attend as many Association AGM's as possible but they all seem to be the other side of the State. I look forward to another one in Orange next year.



# FRONTLINE



## ASSOCIATION OF 4TH INFANTRY BATTALIONS

50th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON MIRANDA RSL CLUB 3 MARCH 2018



# FRONTLINE

## FROM JOHN WALSH - RUTHERGLEN, VIC

Bob, I have a feeling you may be away so I am sending you this photograph and story on Bill Bruce of the 2/20 Battalion. I placed it on face-book today. Last Sunday I took my granddaughter Lindsey (12) to the National Servicemen's Memorial Service in Rutherglen War Memorial Park. It was a reasonable good service and afterwards we all went back to the Rutherglen Star Hotel for lunch and a beer if you wanted one.

Best wishes - John

### 'THE FALL OF SINGAPORE' - 76<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY – 8<sup>th</sup> DIVISION - THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018.

My daughter Karen in the Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore in 1999 at the headstone of Private Bill Bruce 2/20 Infantry Battalion. He is my uncle and Karen's grand uncle. Private Bill Bruce was killed in action on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 1942. He was a driver in the 2/20 Battalion, Transport Platoon. He was driving one of the forward trucks in the convoy taking battalion wounded back to Singapore. The convoy was ambushed by the Japanese along the Neo Tiew Road. Bill Bruce with many of the wounded in his truck was shot before he could decamp. CSM Haywood Webster and S/Sgt Walter Cates, although both wounded managed to escape and hide in the jungle and from their position they observed a Japanese officer shoot each of the wounded in the head. Captain Alex Betteridge escaping from the front truck gathered some of his men together and moved into the jungle.

He moved where he thought the battalion was holding some ground. However, he found this area occupied by the Japanese and he and his QM Kevin Murphy were killed. Bill Bruce was born and lived in Marrickville with his parents Bill and Catherine Bruce, he was 30 years of age. He was my mothers Nell Walsh's brother.

The 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 'Fall of Singapore' will be on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and unfortunately the last memorial service for the 'Fall of Singapore' was held at the Martin Place Cenotaph in Sydney NSW on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Before I left Sydney to become a resident of Rutherglen in 2013, I was the Vice President of the 8<sup>th</sup> Division Association for five years. We must continue to remember the 22,376 men and women who served in this conflict. And especially the 8,031 who paid the supreme sacrifice during the Defence of Singapore and Malaya. I should point out that three members of my family served and died in the 8<sup>th</sup> Division. A cousin Ted Byrnes 2/18 Infantry Battalion died in Singapore Hospital on 3rd February 1942, and another cousin Jim Ryan 2/15 Field Regiment died on the Sandakan death march in Borneo on the 18th April 1945. As well an uncle by marriage, who married my Mothers sister Gwen Bruce, L/Cpl Rodney Parker HQ, AASC was a POW in Changi and Japan. However he returned to Sydney after the war and lived to be ninety-one years of age.

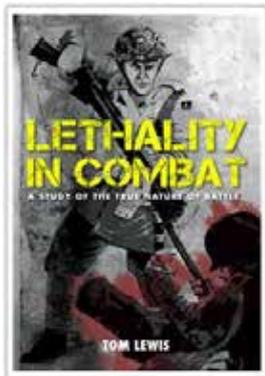
### 'LEST WE FORGET' JFW2/2018

**BEFORE, AFTER AND IN BETWEEN** – Corporal John Walsh at Walgrove Army camp in 1965 wearing the American style helmet, short boots and black gaiters and carrying an Owen Machine Carbine. He lived in Sydney at Ashfield with his wife Joyce. He was in the CMF from 1960 to 1968, and served in 19<sup>th</sup> Coy & 3 Coy RAASC (Inf Div Tpt), as well as for a short period of time in 5<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, 1 Field Regiment RAE. Fifty-three years later John Walsh PSM GCM BCM, now lives in Rutherglen Vic, not far from his daughter Karen and his three grand children. He is pictured at the National Service Memorial service in Rutherglen War Memorial Park on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018. In between these fifty-three years he involved himself with many community organisations. With his late wife Joyce they formed an 'ANTIOCH' Youth Group at St Vincent's Catholic Church, Ashfield from 1984 to 1990. State President, St Vincent de Paul, Disaster Relief from 1989 to 1991, and he worked on the Newcastle Earthquake disaster in 1989-90. State President NSW National Serviceman's Association 1997 and 1998. President of Ashfield RSL Club from 2003 to 2013 and President of Ashfield RSL sub Branch from 2003 to 2013. He is a life member of the Returned & Service League of Australia, and a life member of Ashfield RSL Club. He was involved with many other organisation and associations e.g. Vice President of 8<sup>th</sup> Division Association, an inaugural member of the Reserve Force Day Council and Board Member of EXODUS Foundation, Ashfield, which was started by the Rev Bill Crews AM. He was awarded the Public Service Medal by the Australian Government in 1991 for outstanding service with Ashfield Council. The Gold Cross of Merit and Bronze Cross of Merit were awarded to him by the Polish Government in Exile, London. The BCM was awarded in 1985 and GCM 1990. He was involved with the Polish community through the Polish Club in Ashfield. As well as with Poland through the St Vincent' de Paul and Ashfield Council. In 1989 when Poland became free and Lech Walesa was elected President in 1990 all records from London went back to Poland. Lech Walesa declared all medals awarded by the Polish Government in Exile legitimatised. In 2003 he was invited to a reception at Government House for Lech Walesa who was visiting Australia. Gough Whitlam former Prime Minister of Australia, Barrie Unsworth former Premier of NSW and Bob Carr former Premier of NSW were also guests at the reception.



## BOOK REVIEW

### LETHALITY IN COMBAT, A Study of the True Nature of Battle



Tom Lewis  
Big Sky Publishing,  
2012, 358pp.

Reviewer:  
JOHN DONOVAN

During a Memorial Day address in 1884, the American Civil War veteran Oliver Wendell Holmes commented that he and his fellow war veterans had

'shared the incommunicable experience of war. In our youths, our hearts were touched with fire'.<sup>1</sup>

Tom Lewis's book is addressed largely to those whose hearts have not been 'touched with fire'. He aims to educate them, and particularly those in authority and the very many commentators who attempt to influence them, about the realities of war. In this he has a difficult task, as few in modern Australia have served in the armed forces, even as reserves, and even fewer have been under fire.

Lewis focuses on the role of the armed forces, to defeat their country's enemies, in the shortest practicable time, and with the minimum of friendly casualties. He notes that minimising enemy casualties in the short term might be counter-productive, if a war then becomes extended, and total friendly and enemy casualties are thus increased. For Lewis, the idea of 'proportionality' must consider the alternative possibility of greater casualties.

Lewis uses examples from previous wars to demonstrate the essential nature of war, and to give readers some understanding of the pressures on soldiers on a battlefield. He shows that survival depends on behaviours that many unaware of battlefield realities might find repugnant. This point was made by George Patton, quoted in the book, when he said to his soldiers that 'Your job is not to die for your country. Your job is to make some poor bastard die for his'. This essential point seems lost on some modern community 'leaders'.

Shooting or bayoneting wounded enemy before passing by them might seem wrong to observers who are unaware that wounded enemy have frequently taken up their weapons again to shoot

soldiers who had moved past them. The prevalence of this practice among wounded Japanese soldiers during the Pacific war might explain why so few were captured. Ensuring that risk is minimised also seems to be essential when fighting an enemy that favours suicide tactics, or does not routinely wear uniforms or display distinguishing marks, as required by international law. Lewis contends that it is reasonable to kill an enemy who refuses to surrender, to minimise the risk to friendly personnel.

Lewis shows that actions sometimes described as desecrating enemy dead (perhaps by kicking them) can have a compelling logic, as an alternative to the use of a bullet or bayonet to ensure that the enemy soldier is no longer a threat. Some of the other actions he describes, however, seem to go beyond battlefield necessity.

Lewis also demonstrates that there is logic to treating an enemy well, if this treatment might ensure that friendly soldiers are also treated well. He does not explore in detail the likelihood that this practice will be effective in a war between ideologically irreconcilable enemies, one of which is determined to conquer absolutely the other.

Lewis concludes by proposing that international law should reflect the realities of combat, rather than an idealised view of human nature. He makes his case forcefully, showing that warfare is an ongoing part of the human condition, in which seeking maximum effectiveness is the task of the soldier (and sailor and airman; although the book focuses on land combat, there are discussions of naval and air operations). He does, however, have a tendency to hammer his point home excessively, and the repetition of essentially similar stories can cause a degree of mental overload. Well worth reading, despite the difficult style. **REVIEWER: JOHN DONOVAN**

<sup>1</sup> Quoted in Bergerud, Eric, *Touched with Fire, The Land War in the South Pacific*, Viking Penguin, New York, 1996



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

# NOR ALL THY TEARS

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

*Continued from December 2017 Newsletter:*

While on the other hand if too much prestige were sacrificed to the desire to get out alive, the prospect of getting out alive would be considerably reduced, for they were ever ready to exploit a weakness and you might well have to put up with more than if you had stood your ground. In this you were making the same sort of decisions that people are accustomed to making every day in private life, but under tremendous emotional and physical stress, so that you find yourself weighing each word and action as if your life depended on it, as indeed it well could.

Here in Japan we did not play the game for the high stakes that ruled in Thailand, but with the close personal touch, we played it all the time and its effects were cumulative.

Themselves the victims of standover merchants for years, they were only too eager to exploit any weakness to reverse the positions. With years of practice most of us were able to checkmate every move, but some of them played the game with a subtle skill.

One such a Nip named Shimizuzan, who was, by the way the same one as I referred to as the Gorilla previously. I never struck him on the same job after, but we often had him on fixing pipes and pumps. He never repeated this blitzkrieg tactics on these jobs, but would often put on minor tantrums. As we finished work each day he would meet up with other bosses and address me asking whether he were good or bad. This was an obvious case of the old game. Clearly a prisoner is not in a position to tell his boss in public that he is no good every day. On the other hand it is doubtful whether any consequences are worse than being made to stand up in front of his mates and yours and testify that he is a good fellow just after he has exhausted all his quite considerable knowledge of bastardry.

I maintained the necessary standard of equilibrium by always answering truthfully in respect of his performance for that particular day. Each day I would be called out for the quiz : Shimizuzan OK ? and each day I would answer Dummy or OK according to his deserts.

Everytime I answered Dummy his mates would laugh and he would put on his most fearsome frown and come up to me and say: Shimizuzan OK to which I would repeat Shimizuzan dummy. This performance would be repeated several times each time with him raising his voice and frowning more deeply, until he would give up. He really enjoyed it as a joke for quite a while, but he had the Japanese gift of living the part he was acting, and each time his gestures of anger owed less to histrionics and he was working himself up

to a real rage. Also he was obviously losing face with his mates if he got too many bad reports. This had a good effect for a while, for he would control himself and earn "O.K.'s" When he thought he had earned one he would always check with me to confirm it before he returned to the other bosses, and I never publicly recanted any opinion I had given privately. But the more prestige he built up the more necessary it was for him to maintain it, and the strain of continual good behaviour was beginning to tell. It became obvious that each time he was finding it more difficult to control himself and turn it off as a joke. I began to wish that I had tried to divert his interest to something else.



It was now an established institution and each time I was with him they would look forward to the quiz. I knew that there was now no turning back and that furthermore, the time was rapidly approaching when he would not laugh it off. I knew that if he were ever driven to force to achieve a favourable verdict, he would not be able to desist until he was successful, and I began to wonder uncomfortably how long that would be. Then one day I struck him on a cow of a job on moving pumps to higher levels under the direct supervision of Paleface and several of the No.1's of the mine. Shimizuzan was at his animalistic worst, both exasperated at the job and anxious to show off before the No. 1's. We finished at last and gathered together to report the No. 1's. Very deliberately he caught the eye of the No.1's and said to me, almost in triumph: Shimizuzan dummy? Shimizuzan OK ?

He had forced me into a position from which there was no retreat. To say that he was O.K. after today's performance would mean that henceforth he could call the tune as he chose. I took a plunge. Shimizuzan dummy, I said. Tuscan Hanashi! (too much talk). Paleface burst out laughing and followed by all other No. 1's and Shimizuzan himself. A face saving truce had been reached. I had averted defeat and Shimizuzan had enhanced his prestige by amusing the No. 1's. He settled for that, and contented himself with telling the story to the others and the duel was off. But many lesser such duels were fought every day. Later they gave us permission to write home and said that we could mention anything except the war.

This concession was another typical Japanese presento, since they burnt all the letters in any case, but as we were filled with optimism we took the matter very seriously. The officers suggested that we should try and give as much

# FRONTLINE

information as possible by hints. I told my people that I had been in Thailand and that I had Hyphen Stroke with me nearly all the time and that he was with me on my birthday. I said that in Thailand I had learnt what good fellows Dash and Blank were and that I thought I might be getting my first Red Cross Parcel before long. Unless he went to considerable trouble and expense I did not think that the censor would be likely to discover that Hyphen Stroke was the name of the local newsagent in my home town and that this misuse of his name would convey to my parents that I was getting the news. Lacking this clue the information that the second front started on my birthday would not help him to understand that I knew about this, too.

Similarly, I grossly underestimated the Japanese Secret Service if they were able to discover that Dash and Blank were two local celebrities, held by unanimous consent to be the lowest form of vermin ever to figure on a birth certificate, and that I must have indeed struck something pretty low down the evolutionary scale to have come to consider them good fellows. Likewise I thought that if he forced his brain to work from the fact that I would soon be getting my Red Cross parcel to the remote conclusion that I had therefore not received one, he would be likely to suffer a nervous breakdown.

If it had been a little later I could have added: I am in wonderful health and am now seven and a half stone, and I'm sure it would have passed, but the prospect of my mother trying to picture me in that meatless condition was hardly what I could wish.

## CHAPTER XXII THE MELLOW LIGHT

Young students from the schools did much the same work as ourselves and probably for the same pay. (Our pay was 10 sen a day, sufficient to buy nineteen eggs in the three and a half years at the existing prices, though there was practically nothing that we were allowed to spend it on.) Most of them spoke a bit of English, which they were glad to demonstrate and they were glad to hear in case they were tempted to spill something, for we no longer had our radio. They did not show much sign of this, shutting up rapidly with the words "I have not to say" when we tried to pump them. Sometimes they got talkative. He was learning mining engineering, one of them told me after looking around to see if it were safe for him to lean on his hoe. He would complete his education in a few months then go into the army. He knew all about Australia. He had learnt about it from the other prisoners and at school. In Australia education finished when you were fourteen, he told me, but in Japan it was continued until you were eighteen. I felt a little self-conscious about belonging to such a backward country. Your English is very broken, he finished

as a final blow. Our life in Camp (what there was of it) though lacking in the more impressive disabilities of Thailand, grew more intolerable as time progresses. Pete left us before long but not before he showed us he was an animal. I met some Yanks after the war who had put him in boob himself, to my great glee. He was succeeded by the Sugar-King, of whose fate I have spoken, and he was succeeded by one Hiram, who could scarcely speak any English except You speak all the men and That is no good, you see, and was rarely able to indicate, even by signs, what the officers were to speak all the men about, and what was no good they saw.

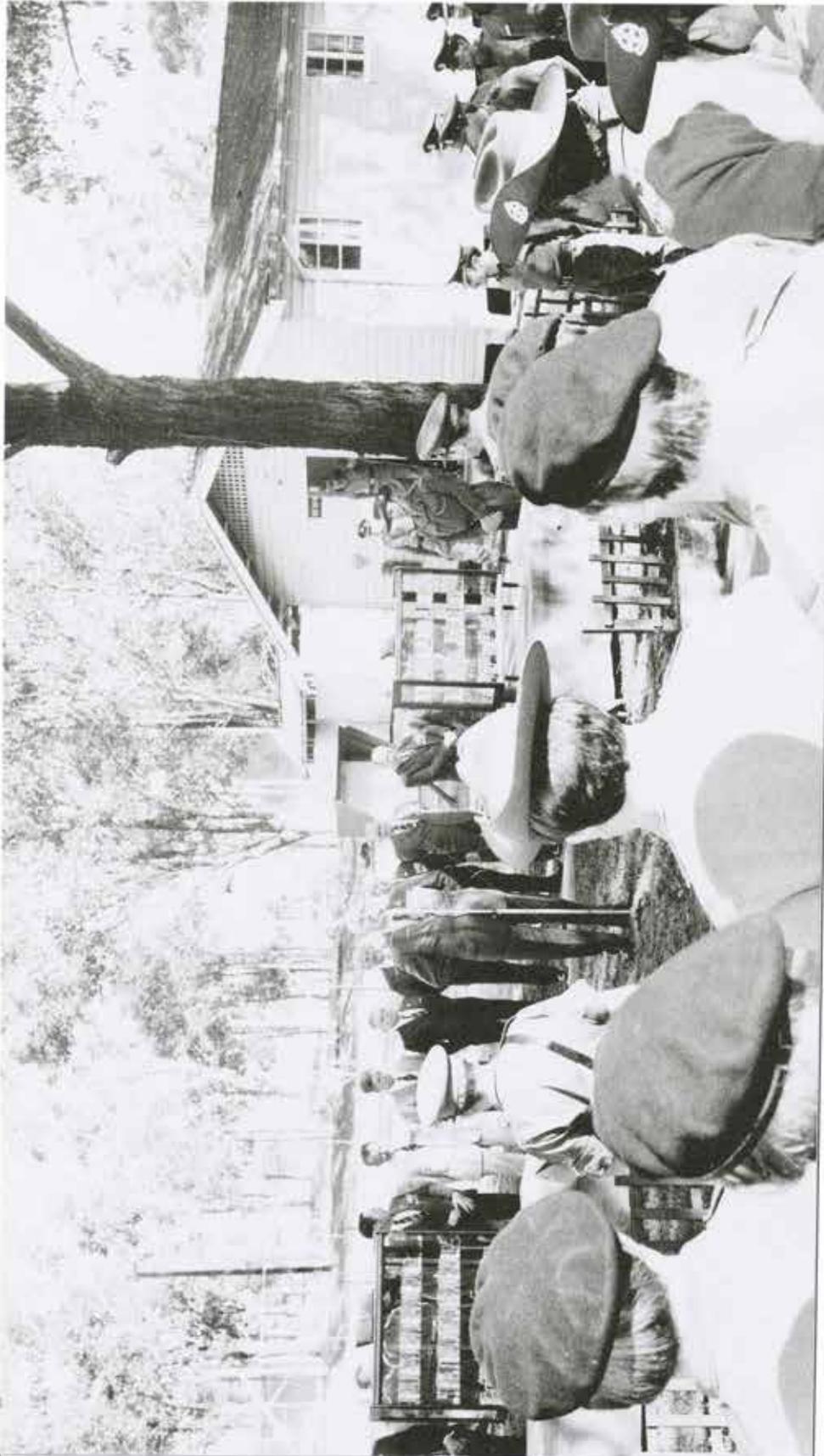
One or two of the Nip staff spoke better English than we realised at first, and probably the cause of many "animal acts" lay in this. The Nip doctor left soon after we began work, paying only periodical visits. He put the thumbscrews on his understrapper who passed it on. The understrapper, a Japanese medical orderly was a man of moods. It was impossible to predict how he would go. Sometimes he could be bullied into letting a few more sick stay in, sometimes kidded, and sometimes he would fly into a rage at the mere mention of the word sickness. Like all Nips he was a great believer in visible maladies. Wet beri-beri was good for a day off in the better times, but the more dangerous dry beri-beri just caused him to fly into a rage. Anyone injured in the mine, no matter how slightly, was right. I've had to work with malaria, but got a spell with a very slight burn, though he was in a villainous mood at the time, and had been raging at a Dutchman for a quarter of an hour, poking and threatening him with a wooden sword, and accusing him of killing Japanese at Singapore and a thousand other crimes against the New Order. The Dutchman had malaria.

Not only did he give a fair go to those injured in a mine, but he even seemed to encourage them to stay in, keeping them in until there wasn't a sign of a scratch left. He seemed to be building up a big list of injured so it would compare unfavourably with the list of the other sick for whom he was responsible.

Often the company would send men back that he had sent out, but he would always keep in his blood cases. However, the company must have squealed or something, for the injured were sent out just the same as the sick one day, and hence forth there was no distinction. Even the seriously injured who could do nothing, were sent out to make the figures up. Shortly after our arrival the Lolly-Lopper brought in some American Red Cross parcels - one to about six, and the orderly was constantly promising more and threatening that the sick would not get any, but this soon lost force, for even the Wishful Thinkers Federation now declined to support the one man one rumour.

*To be continued.....*

# DOWN MEMORY LANE



PRESENTATION BY MEMBERS OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY CABINETS, MINIATURE SLOUCH HATS AND PEWTER MUGS INSCRIBED WITH THE NAMES OF THE OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND SENIOR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF 2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF LOST IN ACTION OR AS PRISONERS OF WAR DURING THE MALAYA CAMPAIGN 1941-1945 TO THE 1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> BATTALION THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT OFFICERS' MESS AND THE 19 RNSWR SERGEANTS' MESS PROPERTY TRUST AT BARDIA BARRACKS INGLEBURN NSW AUGUST 1973.

Pictured at microphone addressing the parade Lieutenant Colonel Reginald NEWTON, MBE, ED former OC HQ Coy 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF

and standing to his rear former members of 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF Association from Right from over Reg Newton's R shoulder: Keith WESTBROOK, Mick CURNOW, George DONALDSON, Tom SMITH & Cyril BADGER (obscured) (OUR THANKS TO CAPTAIN Bob BURRAGE, BM, RFD, FOR THE KIND DONATION OF THIS PHOTOGRAPH AND OTHERS FOR REPRODUCTION IN FURTHER FORTHCOMING ISSUES OF THE ASSOCIATION'S NEWSLETTER.)