

FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL



The Official Journal of

THE 1st NINETEENTH

1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION

THE 2nd NINETEENTH

2/19 BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION



The crest of the Royal New South Wales Regiment, featuring a central shield with a crown on top, surrounded by a wreath of olive and oak branches. The shield is set against a background of a sunburst. A banner below the shield reads "ROYAL N.S.W. REGIMENT".

I/XIX

Primus agat Primas - Fortiter et Fideliter



An illustration of a soldier in a wide-brimmed hat and uniform, holding a rifle, standing in a tropical setting with palm trees. In the top right corner, there is a crest consisting of a diamond shape divided into four quadrants (top-left red, top-right green, bottom-left blue, bottom-right white) inside a grey oval.

Fortiter et Fideliter
(Boldly and Faithfully)

Vol 18 No 2

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FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

1ST/19TH BATTALION

THE ROYAL NEW

SOUTH WALES

REGIMENT

ASSOCIATION &

2ND/19TH BATTALION

A.I.F. ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS OF THE

AUSTRALIAN

DEFENCE

FORCES

RESERVES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am pleased to commence this edition with some excellent news! In the previous edition of *Frontline* I told you that the 2019 Fall Of Singapore Commemoration at the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial would honour a soldier from 2nd/19th Battalion AIF. I am now very happy to announce that the AWM has acceded to my wishes and next year will honour TWO soldiers from 2nd/19th Battalion. They will be Roy and Arthur COTTON, brothers, both of whom fell in the closing days of the Malayan campaign. With invaluable assistance from Di Elliott we obtained their service records from the National Archives and have passed these to the AWM. Di has also put together their histories and I will be sending them to the AWM historians also. Exactly what arrangements will be in place for 15 February 2019 I am not yet sure about but I can guarantee that there will BE arrangements! So put the date in your diaries now and make an effort to join us in Canberra next year.

Sadly, I also have to report that one of our founding members, Martin Hanson – in fact our initial Vice President – having been diagnosed with a cancer in his mouth has been undergoing some pretty horrendous surgery. At the time of writing, Martin's prognosis is not clear and I am sure that the thoughts of all of his friends are with Martin, Helen and the family.

Bob and I took the opportunity recently to visit Joe and Muriel Coombs in their new retirement residence at Kellyville NSW. Joe had not recovered well from a recent fall and they decided that "retirement living" was the best option. Sadly, Joe will not be up to joining us on ANZAC Day so we cannot expect to attract much attention from TV cameras. However, as Joe said, with his absence my "sunset shout" at the Footsie will be significantly reduced.

April 3 brought the sad and unexpected news of the untimely passing of Association member, and former President of Ashfield RSL Sub-branch, Mr John Walsh PSM. John, who had moved to Rutherglen in Victoria to be nearer to his daughter and grandchildren in retirement had a few health issues in recent times but his sudden passing was a shock to his many friends. John was farewelled at Rookwood Cemetery on Friday, 20 April. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend and Bob Pink represented the Association along with a number of other members who are also members of Ashfield RSL Sub-branch.

ANZAC Day in Sydney dawned with clear skies, clouded over, light rain then cleared for the duration of the March. The March was, I regret to say, an absolute organisational shambles with absolutely no information available from RSL NSW. The first time we got sight of a Marshal was near the corner of Liverpool Street as we were about to fall out. It really is a disgrace and, if RSL NSW cannot get their act together then the organising role should be taken away from them. Our members started assembling from 9.30 am, the advertised form up time but we obviously hadn't got the "message" as we were looking very lonely in Pitt Street for some considerable time. A large group participated in the march and an even larger group joined us for the Harbour Cruise which, despite a couple of bursts of inclement weather, was a very enjoyable afternoon. We were all a little sad to note the absence of our two stalwarts, Joe Coombs and Glen Scriven but their absence was compensated for by the return of Maureen Mariner after an absence of a couple of years, Joe's family in full force, the Stewart family in even greater numbers than before and the large Wollongong "putsch" in their usual form. Bob will cover the details elsewhere but I would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL who participated, both in the March and on the Harbour Cruise. A special thank you to David RING who organised the raffle and extracted \$365 from those on board. Well done David!

ANZAC Day is a very important day to remember the sacrifices that our men made for us and to celebrate their lives in a warm family atmosphere. I sincerely hope that we can continue the 2/19th ANZAC Day tradition into the future with your support. The Sydney ANZAC Day March is open to all Association members and families, although very young children are discouraged by the march organisers. The Reunion cruise is open to ALL members, families and friends. Put this very special day in your diary now.

Friday, 18 May brought news of the passing of Association member, The Honourable Sir John Carrick AC, KCMG. Sir John, who served with 18 Anti-Tank Battery in Malaya, was a long-time member of the Association. Sir John's lifetime partner, Angela, predeceased him a short while before his death.

Bob has insisted I get this edition to him so that he can meet publishing deadlines.

I will not be at the Reserve Forces Day final "spectacular" as I will be overseas. Sad, that something that could have been a force for good degenerated into a farce for personal gratification. There are still parades organised around the country that are true to the original idea of Reserve Forces Day. Long may they continue.

As Winter spreads her chill around, after the unseasonably mild Autumn, stay warm and look after yourselves and each other.

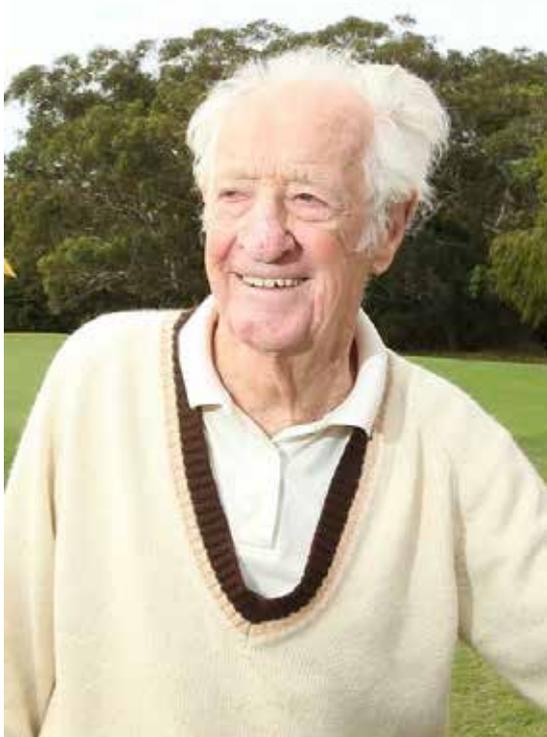
Roger Perry



VALE GOOD FRIENDS



**NX35147 (N74454) Captain Peter Ian Alexander HENDRY, AO,
2/10 Field Ambulance, 8 Australian Division AIF**



Association member Major Barry Chapman ED only recently became aware of Dr Peter Hendry's passing in Newcastle on 23 September 2017 and our thanks to Barry for alerting us.

Peter was born on 29 June 1915 at Coonabarabran and enlisted on 23 July 1940 in 2/10 Field Ambulance AIF. Following repatriation to Australia at war's end he was discharged on 3 November 1945.

Newcastle Herald editorial September 28 2017:

Dr Peter Hendry

THE passing of Dr Peter Hendry leaves Newcastle the poorer. The celebrated pathologist, who died on Saturday, was one of the Hunter's last surviving wartime captives of Japan. Dr Hendry has played a quiet role in many of our greatest institutions. But between his contributions to the city, medicine and countless other endeavours he and his late wife Senta Taft-Hendry remained some of the city's most intriguing people well into their old age. Both lived lives that put fictional characters in the shade.

Dr Hendry and his wife, herself a pilot and art collector, each had adventures for the ages. Dr Hendry served his community whenever he could. He was a deputy chancellor of the University of Newcastle, worked in private practice until he was 85 and was instrumental to saving countless lives with his work to transform a Newcastle hospital transfusion service into a regional blood bank as director. Perhaps his most noble service was to his comrades after he was captured by the Japanese, enduring conditions that linger in collective memory due to a brutality few truly knew.

His plans to become a surgeon were put aside after war was declared and he deployed to Malaya in 1941. There he would spend three-and-a-half years as a prisoner of war in Changi and working on the Burma-Thailand Railway. "I stepped off that plane [home] and said 'That's the end of the bloody war for me'," he said in 2013. "I closed the book on that chapter of my life."

In 2015, Dr Hendry enjoyed his 100th birthday simply, taking a place in the sun near the harbour surrounded by family and friends. That place in the sun is one the Officer of the Order of Australia earned many times over but rarely sought out. His fine deeds forced him into the limelight.

His centenary was only six months after the city farewelled Mrs Taft-Hendry. She was Australia's oldest female pilot, a fearless adventurer and Dr Hendry's beloved wife. Speaking to *Newcastle Herald* reporter Jason Gordon in 2014, she bemoaned that her age meant she required a chaperone when she took the controls. "Because after you turn 80, they like you to fly with somebody because of your heart," she said. May she and Peter fly on together in peace and happiness. They will be missed.

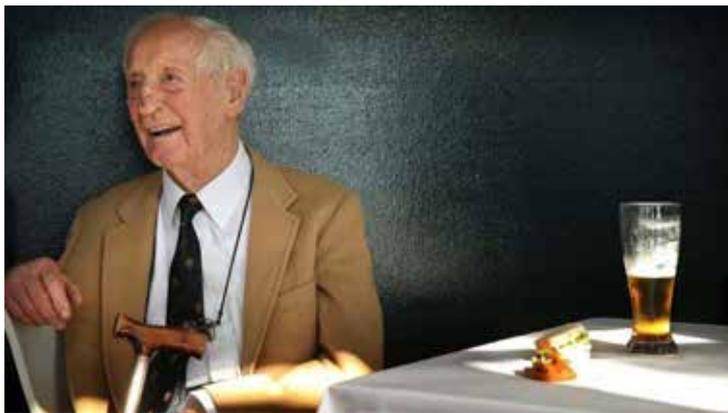
HUNTER LOSES A HEALER: DR PETER HENDRY DIES AGED 102

NEWCASTLE HERALD - TIM CONNELL

PETER Hendry, the prisoner of war survivor, pioneering blood doctor and one of Newcastle's most treasured people, has died aged 102. Dr Hendry passed away on Saturday, September 16, his family has confirmed. His funeral is expected to be held next week amid a sea of well-wishers from across society. In a life that spanned a century and rained achievements, Dr Hendry was president of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australia for three years in the 1970's and a founding member and director of the Blood Bank who became an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1985. After arriving in Newcastle - a city he wasn't
(continued over page).....

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impressed by, at first – in 1947 as a clinical pathologist, he ran a private practice until he was 85, established Hampson Pathology in 1956, co-authored a book still considered groundbreaking in clinical pathology and pioneered life-saving techniques for blood transfusions in dying babies.



And for a man who weathered the cut and thrust of being University of Newcastle deputy chancellor longer than anyone else, Dr Hendry is also remembered for his silence. Of his time as

a World War II Captain in the 2/10 Field Ambulance and a prisoner of the Japanese at Changi and Burma, Dr Hendry's close friend Dr Bernard Curran said he took years to open up. Talk of the war, friends knew, was cordoned off. But over time, in snatches, that changed. "I was amazed when he answered my question about his reaction to the surrender. He was in a cathedral in Singapore which had been converted into a hospital," Dr Curran said. "He went to hell when he went to Changi and he came out of it a changed man.

Having seen the worst of men, he emerged as a believer in the best of humanity." In a job that involved disposing of the dead he became known for his dedication and humour. It was a bone-deep optimism that his wife Senta Taft-Hendry – a tribal art collector and global adventurer who died in 2015 – would tease him about. "He's very sanctimonious. I'm not allowed to say anything unkind about anybody. If I have something to say unkind, he'd say I don't say anything at all," she told the *Newcastle Herald* in 2013. "But I adore him. He's a beautiful man. He's a magnificent character. I love him so much." They were widely regarded as the Hunter's most fascinating couple; she the German-born oldest commercial pilot in the country into her 80s, he the doctor who had advanced the frontier of his chosen strand of medicine.

Newcastle is considered a national leader in blood transfusion good practice, and that is credited to Dr Hendry and the principles he enshrined with the Blood Bank in 1947. A key tenet was that the Blood Bank was a consultation service, and wouldn't simply issue blood on doctors' requests. "These principles still pertain to blood transfusion management in the public hospitals in Newcastle," Dr Ross Kerridge, of the Newcastle University School of Medicine and Public Health, said. "His ideas were taken up by others. As a result, patients in Newcastle have tended to be transfused conservatively compared to most places in Australia, even into the 21st Century.

Interestingly, research in the two decades since the mid-1990s has vindicated Peter's ideas." Until Dr Hendry's final years in aged care he would walk from his home in Merewether and swim in the ocean baths. He played golf at Stockton on Wednesdays. Dearly loved father and father-in-law of Rosemary & John Reeves, Ian & Sue Hendry, loving Pop of Arna, Mitchell, Mark, Carolyn and Claire and their families. In June 2015 he marked his 100th birthday by dining with Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove, before his family threw him a party at Scratchley's on a bright winter's day.

MRS Ruth McEWEN, B Bus B Leg S FTIA PNA JP

Sadly belated notice of Ruth's passing was advised by the "Return to Sender - Deceased" Notice on her December 2017 Frontline Newsletter.

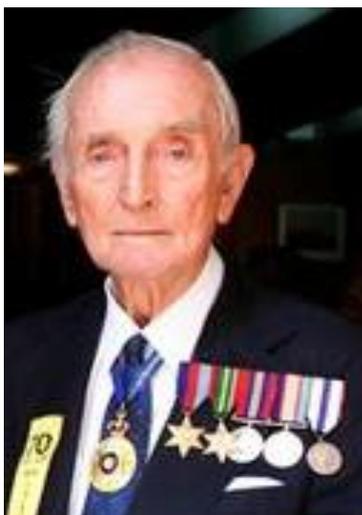
Subsequent search revealed her passing:

Died peacefully on 4th August 2016 at Milton Ulladulla Hospital. Aged 78 years. Beloved Wife of Bruce (dec). Loved Mother of Johane (dec), Owen (dec), Martin & Yvonna, Christine (dec), Sali & Peter. Loved Ma of Cassandra, Alicia, Emma, Llewellyn, Tazlin, Gemma. The relatives and friends of the Late Ruth McEwen are invited to attend her funeral service to be held at Milton Ulladulla Funeral Services Chapel, 2 Camden Street, Ulladulla on Friday, 19th August 2016 at 2.00pm. Followed by a Private Cremation. In lieu of flowers donations may be left at the service for Motor Neuron Disease NSW. Milton Ulladulla Funeral Services 2 Camden Street Ulladulla NSW 2539 (02) 4454 0722.

Association records show her connection to 2/19 Battalion AIF Association through NX 52546 SGT Kenrick Unwin PULLEY who was Killed in Action 9 February 1942.

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279004 & NX70514 Lieutenant John Leslie CARRICK, AC, KCMG



18 Anti Tank Battery, 8 Australian Division

A close and revered associate and comrade of 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF Association for many years Sir John died peacefully on 18th May, 2018 and a Memorial Service was held at St Paul's Anglican Church Burwood on Saturday 26th May, 2018.

Sir John was born at Sydney on 4 September 1918 and enlisted in 18 Anti Tank Battery AIF at Paddington NSW on 12 December 1940 and was discharged on repatriation to Australia at war's end on 20 November 1945.

Our thanks to Deborah Snow of The Sydney Morning Herald for the following tribute:

It was, the Anglican rector said, "the state funeral you have when you're not having a state funeral". Liberal party luminaries were prominent among the mourners who farewelled Sir John Carrick in Sydney yesterday. They honoured a man who looked death in the eye as a Japanese prisoner of war for three years, before returning to Australia to become a pillar of the NSW Liberal party.

Sir John Carrick did not want a state funeral, granddaughter Genevieve Woods told the gathering, because his wartime friends who had perished in the prison camps received, at most, a simple prayer to send them on their way. "Pa didn't want a state funeral because he wanted to honour his fellow prisoners," she said. "He wanted to be equal to them. He wanted to be remembered as just John." Yet the gathering at St Paul's in Burwood was testimony to the influence the 99-year-old had on NSW politics for years - often exercised in the backrooms. Prominent among the mourners were Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and his wife, Lucy, former prime minister John Howard and wife, Janette, federal Treasurer Scott Morrison, state party president Philip Ruddock, Bronwyn Bishop, and state ministers Brad Hazzard and Don Harwin.

Sir John was born just as WWI was ending. He left his selective Technical School at 16 to work for the Australian Gaslight Company, while also studying part-time for an economics degree. Joining the Sydney University Regiment, he went to war in 1940, becoming part of the Sparrow Force that went to Timor. He was captured in 1942 and was among the thousands who endured the horrors of the Hellfire Pass along the Burma-Thai railway. Mr Howard, who spent time with Sir John two days before he died, said the privations the Liberal elder endured as a POW "taught him about the durability of the human spirit".

Lacking the means to study medicine after the war, he joined the Liberal Party as a researcher. He rose to become general secretary of the NSW division of the party and a wily political tactician and adviser to former Liberal prime minister Sir Robert Menzies. In the 21 years that Sir John was state secretary, Mr Howard said, "there were nine federal elections in Australia and the Coalition did not lose one of them".

Later Sir John entered the Senate, making his mark most prominently as education minister in the Fraser government. Mr Howard paid tribute to Sir John as a "remarkable political tactician [who was] a conviction politician before that term came into general use ... He was a person who possessed a capacity to combine idealism with, when necessary, ruthless pragmatism". Sir John developed the notion of "continuous campaigning" between elections, adhering to the slogan that you "can't fatten the pig on market day".

Sir John's five grandchildren recalled a man who had a love of poetry, nonsense rhyme, riddles and magic tricks. His wife of 67 years, Angela, died four months ago. Grandson Ben Campbell said Sir John had done "everything he could to keep himself alive so that Nana would not die of a broken heart."

Beloved husband of Angela (dec). Adored and loved father of Diane, Jane and Fiona, Myee and Yvonne. Father-in-law of Bob. Beloved uncle of Philip, Lynda, Kerry, Terry, Sandra and Glen. Dearly loved grandfather of Noah, Joel, Ben, Matthew and Genevieve. Ever loved great-grandfather of Kurt, Matthew, Amelie, Archie, Evie and Jude. Deeply loved by all his wider family members and friends.

Mrs Margaret Jean CRAGO

Association member Mrs Di Elliott advised with sadness of Margaret's passing in Canberra ACT on 27 March 2018. Margaret was born on 21 February 1922 and was the widow of NX43482 PTE John Burley Crago 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF who pre-deceased her on 30 August 2001 and also the sister in law of NX32726 SGT James Olivant Smith. 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF.

Beloved wife of Jack (dec), Dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of David and Olga, and Geoffrey. Doting grandmother of Mathew, Anthony (dec), Tanya and James. Great-grandmother of Sophie, Luke, Archer and Zoe. Margaret was farewelled at St Ninian's Uniting Church, Lyneham ACT on Friday, 6 April 2018,

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Corporal John Francis WALSH, PSM, GCM, BCM, JP



John's daughter Karen advised with deep sorrow of his passing on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at his home in Rutherglen VIC. John was born at Marrickville NSW on 9 June 1941 and lived at Ashfield with his beloved wife Joyce who sadly pre-deceased him. John served from 1960 to 1968, with 19th Coy & 3 Coy RAASC (Inf Div Tpt), as well as for a short period of time in 5th Field Squadron, 1 Field Regiment RAE. 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 Servicemen'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 was a Life Member of the Returned & Services League of Australia, and a Life Member of Ashfield RSL Club. He was also involved with many other organisations and associations:

Vice President of 8th Australian Division AIF Association. Inaugural member of the Reserve Force Day Council. Board Member of EXODUS Foundation, Ashfield, which was started by the Rev Bill Crews AM.

John 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.

John is survived by his loving daughter Karen and son in law Scott and grandchildren Lindsey, Joseph and Erica, his brother Bill and sister in law Lynne and family, brother Matthew and sister in law Judith and family and sister Mary and family.

John was farewelled at The Sacred Heart Chapel Rookwood Catholic Cemetery on Friday 20th April 2018 and following the service a Wake was held at Ashfield RSL Club.

F2268350 Sergeant Dianne Gay WILSON 1st/19th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment

Association member Terry Beer advised with sadness of Dianne's passing in her 65th year on Sunday 29 April 2018 after a valiant 6 month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Dianne enlisted in 1/19 RNSWR on 10 May 1979 and served in the Signals Platoon SPT COY and later as the Intelligence Section SGT in Bn HQ. In civil life she was a General Support Officer at Wollongong Police Station in the early 1970's before moving to VKG 2 (Wollongong) when VKG 2 was at the old Wollongong Police Station before moving to the new Warilla Police Station, Lake Entrance Rd, Warilla, in the early 1980's. Di remained a Comms Officer for many years there before taking up an Administrative job at VKG2. Di was an active member of the Army Reserve and also the State Emergency Service – Wollongong).

Upon retirement, Di worked at Dapto Leagues Club driving the Club's bus to transport patrons to and from the Club. In November 2017, Di was diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer and by March 2018 was in Palliative Care at Port Kembla Hospital where she also suffered a Stroke.

Bob Weir represented the Association at Dianne's farewell at Hansen & Cole Funeral Chapel, Kembla Grange NSW 2526 on 4 May 2018.

Lest We Forget

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COMING EVENTS 2018

SAT	23 JUN 2018	1300h	RESERVE FORCES DAY WREATH LAYING CANBERRA	St John's Anglican Church REID, CANBERRA	Afternoon Tea follows service FURTHER INFORMATION Ian SAYERS 02 6254 5347
SAT SUN	30 JUN 2018 & 01 JULY 2018	TBA	RESERVE FORCES DAY WONDAI QLD	Main Street WONDAI QLD	Further info Noel SELWAY Tel: 07 4169 0448 Email: noel.selway48@gmail.com
SUN	01 JULY 2018	0930h	20th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE SYDNEY "The Last Hurrah" Photo shoot on steps of War Memorial for participants in the Inaugural Reserve Forces Day Parade of 1998 See further details in this newsletter	ANZAC WAR MEMORIAL HYDE PARK SYDNEY	Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals Refreshments after March at Downstairs Bar - Criterion Hotel Cnr Park & Pitt Sts SYDNEY
SUN	22 JUL 2018 TO BE CONFIRMED	0930	 POZIERES DAY Further info phone Bob Pink 0414 907 427	ST COLUMBA CHURCH Ocean Street WOOLLAHRA	Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals
SAT	11 AUG 2018	1800h TBC	ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT OFFRS/WOS/SNCOS REGIMENTAL DINNER	HOLSWORTHY BARRACKS OFFICERS' MESS Further info phone Bob Pink 0414 907 427	Mess Dress / Dinner Suit / Lounge Suit & Tie Miniature Decorations & Medals
SUN	12 AUG 2018	1000h TBC	ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE	MILITARY CHAPEL HOLSWORTHY BARRACKS Further info phone Bob Pink 0414 907 427	Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals
WED	15 AUG 2018	1045h	 VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals Refreshments after Service at Combined Services RSL Club Barrack St SYDNEY
WED	05 SEP 2018	1030h	 76th ANNIVERSARY BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals Refreshments after Service at Combined Services RSL Club Barrack St SYDNEY
20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION DINNER WEEKEND – ORANGE NSW					
FRI SAT SUN	26 OCT 2018 27 OCT 2018 28 OCT 2018		 ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB NSW 	ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB The Association has reserved 29 rooms at (CUT OFF DATE IS 01 OCTOBER 2018) the TEMPLERS MILL MOTEL NOW "HOTEL MERCURE ORANGE" Tele 6362 5611 PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT Members of 'Le Club Accor Hotels' Loyalty Program should be entitled to a discount.	
SUN	11 NOV 2018	1045h	REMEMBRANCE DAY	SYDNEY CENOTAPH	Decorations & Medals Refreshments after Service at Venue to be advised

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THE LAST SYDNEY RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE - 1 JULY 2018



Reserve Forces Day Council

RECOGNISING THE VALUE OF RESERVE SERVICE TO THE NATION ON JULY 1

ABN 15 698 948 849 CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACT CFN 16628

Patron in Chief His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

NSW Patron His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)
Governor of New South Wales

National and NSW Chairman the Honourable Tim Fischer AC

National Executive Officer and NSW Deputy Chairman Lieutenant Colonel John Moore OAM RFD ED Retd

ANZAC
CENTENARY
2014 - 2018

10 Aurora Drive St Ives NSW 2075 jmrfdcouncil@optusnet.com.au Ph 02 9983 9387/0403 160 750

14 April 2018

To RFDC Associations and Supporting organisations Sydney Data Base

Dear All

FINALISATION OF THE RFD 2018 SYDNEY PARADE AFTER ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE

It is with regret, and for practical reasons, I wish to inform you that this will be our last RFD Sydney parade.

Proudly, over the past twenty years, these parades have raised the profile of the service of reservists past and present, however this achievement would not have been possible or the parades successful, without the participation of the associations and support given by others to make it happen, for which we are thankful.

The RFDC database statistics which recorded participation in our RFD Sydney events, now shows that of the 84 associations and associated bodies only 27 participated in the 2017 RFD National parade. Several associations decided last year to disband or not march in future parades or had difficulty in supplying marchers and a top level review of the RFD operations was undertaken late last year.

REVIEW OF THE FUTURE OF RFD AND THE NATIONAL PARADE IN SYDNEY

After the National Launch for 2018 and conference, taking into account the other States reports of their own 2017 parades and activities, it was decided to set up and carry out a confidential review by a small committee of senior members of RFDC headed by the RFDC National Executive Officer and NSW Deputy CM to the Hon Tim Fischer AC, LTCOL John Moore OAM RFD ED Ret'd, to examine the current situation.

- This committee identified several options concerning the future of RFDC. Of these options only the cessation of future operations for Sydney was considered viable. Some of the considerations for this were:
- The Council's aim of raising the status of Reservists has largely been achieved.
- Advancing age and infirmity is significantly affecting the numbers supporting RFDC activities and active Association participation.

The question of when the cessation was to occur was also considered and the result was that the 2018 Parade should be the last.

Some of the reasons for this timing were:

- 2018 is the end of the ANZAC Centenary celebrations which have been supported by RFDC during 2014, with 2018 celebrating the end of World War 1.
- 2018 is also the 20th year since RFDC was incorporated and the first parades were held.
- In past parades RFDC has celebrated all decades of Reservist Service,
 - 200 years of part-time soldiering since 1800 with a parade to the Opera House Forecourt
 - Boer War
 - World War 1 throughout the Centenary of ANZAC
 - Service as Reservists prior to and during WW2 - the 39ers, and VDC, A special book of their service was printed and sold
 - The Originals (those joining the Reserve in 1948 and 1950) A special book of their service was printed and sold
 - Reservists who have served overseas since WW2
 - Support of family's spouses and partners- the Supporters Medallion. During the Sydney parade 800 medallions were presented by the senior officer from the Corps Association plus others at Government House by our Patron and Governor.
 - A number of parades were held on Corps centenaries with overseas military visitors from the USA, UK, Canada, HK and NZ attending.

It was considered, in view of the reducing number of associations supporting Parades that it would be preferable to terminate the Sydney formal parade whilst numbers are still significant.

LAST RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE SYDNEY 2018 continued

After the last Sydney parade was held the question of RFDC's future as an organisation was also considered and because the main operational role of RFDC is in planning and organising the Sydney National Parade, it was appreciated that RFDC Inc should be wound up.

As a legally incorporated body, Reserve Forces Day Council Inc has to comply with its own Rules of Association and the legal requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act. The sub-committee explored all the necessary requirements for winding up and was asked to produce a timeline of the formal actions required particularly making sure that the decision was kept confidential until formally approved the correct sequence.

Special Resolutions for winding up were approved by the Sydney RFDC Executive Committee of the Council a Special Resolution was unanimously resolved in the affirmative at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 22 March.

- *The next step RFDC Sydney held its first Association parade briefing on Monday 26 Mar 18. It was organised as close as possible to the AGM so that an accurate message could be given to the Associations. The 42 attendees covering most Associations that take part in our parades were there. Once again the plan was to make sure that they did not hear maybe part of the rationale via the grapevine.*
- *There were only few questions asked and all accepted the decision. A number of comments were made that numbers were reducing in outside clubs eg Rotary etc.*
- *One question was asked that all there were keen to hear the answer "would the current Ares members carry it on" It was explained that the Commander 2nd Division, the Division with its HQ based in Sydney has a wonderful WW1 record and in WW1 made up of Militia soldiers" did not support the RFD parade.*

Amongst the necessary issues to be completed in the winding up process are:

- The need to archive RFDC records.
- The need to ensure that all outstanding liabilities and payments due are met.
- The need to decide on distribution of the Council's assets on winding up.

Consequently so as to ensure that these requirements are fully dealt with, the Special Resolution requires that winding up will be finalised on Balance Date, 30 September 2019, with the last Sydney parade to be held in 2018, the 20th parade and an emphasis was placed on "going out on a high", In 1919 the war was over and the focus was on repatriation not as easy to highlight etc.

- When each state or city was established it was on the basis that once their plan had been to the RFDC Sydney and they would be approved the use RFDCs Logo and in NSW the State Governor as their Patron and all cities were approved to use the Governor-General as Patron-in-Chief.
- They were to be set-up as individual identities and not to rely on RFDC Sydney to fund their operations or pay for Insurances etc. The Sydney RFDC has to raise their own funds and there was not to be any levies etc placed on other cities. For example RFDC Sydney pays for the making of the CSA and the placement with Adstream and their costs to send it to the appropriate TV Channel in each State and running the National Launch and Conference.

The rules to be applied in distributing the Council's assets are spelt out in the legislation and the Rules of Association. The Special Resolution requires the Executive Committee to apply those Rules in deciding how the assets are to be distributed.

The operational decisions to make the 2018 Sydney Parade and the subsequent winding up have not been taken lightly and the support of the Interstate and Intrastate Councils and the Associations over the years since 1998 was fully accepted, appreciated and applauded during the decision taking process.

The Executive officers also recognise and are extremely grateful for the support given to them over the life of RFDC and for the success of the operations over the past 20 years.

All of this can be best summed up by the message of the RFDC Chairman, the Hon Tim Fischer AC to the Annual General Meeting. Tim has advised with other duties he has eg he is now the World Chair of the Crop Trust HQ in Bonn, Germany and Global Seed Vault in Svalbard, Norway. He will be required to travel a lot, with recent trip to the UK and another to Russia. Therefore he will not be continuing in his current position after 2018. We have been fortunate to have such a highly respected person as our National and NSW Chairman.

Tim said:

"Greetings

Over two decades the RFDC has achieved a great deal, especially in helping the Reservist linkages in the Australian Military Forces to provide a great boost in harmony and vital numbers, with special skill sets. Further the key parades have reminded many mid year, each year of the ongoing work and role of our Reservists and our Armed Forces more generally, around the world from Juba in South Sudan to the Middle East and beyond.

FRONTLINE

LAST RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE SYDNEY 2018 continued

Now is the time to salute this progress and service, in a sense since the AIF swept all before it in 1918 on the Western Front under Sir John Monash, 100 years ago. Now is the time to step back into the myriad of annual Anzac events, Unit events, and many events associated with key anniversaries but always in the knowledge there is one Australian Navy, Army and RAAF composed of many fulltime and part-time personnel.

Yours sincerely

Tim Fischer AC”

SYDNEY NATIONAL PARADE SYDNEY SUN 1 JULY 18.

The council is keen to have as many members attend this year including members who have not been able to march and a guest.

A few special incentives are being arranged.

More information will be released as planning continues:

- **PHOTOS** at the end of the parade. Each Association including their banner and Standard will be moved to the front steps of the Memorial, your ASM is to help the Parade RSM organise this part. The photographer will take the photo and the next Association will take your place and so on. The photo of each Association will be uploaded to a site where the member can download the photo and have it enlarged and printed (Office Works) handle this well at a good price. More details will be sent to each group eg AAL, RAAF Cadets etc by 31 May 18. Please let Ian Meek our Secretary know the names of the members who would like a seat allotted to them. The photos and the names (that will be provided after the day by the Assns) will be placed with a copy of the photo in the AWM Archives along with the video of the parade.
- **RIBBONS:** Associations are to send in the names of members who took part in the 1998 parade and they will be given a distinctive ribbon to wear on the parade and in the photo. We have used recognition ribbons before for the 1948ers and the 1939ers. They are very distinctive and can be placed with the photo you will have. More details will be sent by 31 May 18 – however it is important we know how many ribbons to order in time.
- **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE HORSES IN THE PARADE** The CHAUVEL Squadron Light Horse Escort have played a wonderful role in providing an escort for the Governor and in recent years they have not been able to be given the appropriate recognition they deserved. This year with the of the rubber mats at each end of the pool this can be rectified. The parade map outlining their placement gives you a clue of the plan.
- **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the Standard Bearers will take place when they move to forecourt and meet the Governor-General if he accepts our invitation to the parade.
- Please ask former members to join you as marchers or guests and then join with the Association for the photo shoot. They will be listed with parade members and will have their place in the archived photo. We will ask for the names after the day so we have the correct placement of the members in the photo. Ian Meek our Secretary will arrange extra seating once you send the names to him
- **STOP PRESS ASMs**
- It was decided last night we need to have a special meeting with ASMs on a night in Mid May. The ASMs have a new and important role after the formal part of the parade is over with the organisation with Photo shoot – it all has to be done in a “slick” way and this is where the ASMs will need to be well aware of their role in having their Assn moving into position on the steps. The Assn Banner will be in the rear of the group and will be held aloft for all to see and identify the Assn in the photo. We will finish the night with refreshments. (By that time we will know if the GG is to attend our parade)

Please send this letter to your serving and former members

Kind regards to all,

John

LTCOL John Moore OAM RFD ED Ret'd
National Executive Officer & NSW Deputy Chairman
For the Hon Tim Fischer AC National and NSW Chairman

STOP PRESS

The TV Commercial has just been sent to the TV stations around Australia.

The photos we have added are interesting the producer picked one that shows a huge column of German POWs walking along a road. The CSAs are now on our web site. <http://www.rfd.org.au/site/2018.asp>. The letter that we send to the stations is on its way to the stations asking them to play it. On purpose we have it out about a month earlier than usual and we hope the stations will play it before or soon after ANZAC Day. Our media work will increase from mid may with the announcement this 2018 will be the last RFD Sydney parade the biggest in Australia.

FRONTLINE



DONATIONS



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

Flight Publishing	
Tony	BRAY
Marj	BULLIVANT
Bob	CANE
Greg & Tony	COOMBS
Di & Paul	ELLIOTT
Eddie	GIFFORD
Vin	HALLINAN
Rod	HILLIKER
Jim	HURT
David	MARINER
Ethel	MELVILLE
Bryan & Arleen	SCHAFER
Adrian	SCHLIEPER
Peter	SHEARIM
Ross	TAYLOR
Peter	TRACEY
UNKNOWN	Please contact the
(Electronic Funds	President to enable us to
Transfer Bendigo Bank)	identify & acknowledge
	your generosity

NEW MEMBERS



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

MR	Alan	ARMSTRONG	BALMAIN NSW	2041
PTE	David	GATT	KALLANGUR QLD	4503
MR	Joseph	TULLY	CHARLEVILLE QLD	4470
	(son of QX13798 PTE Joseph James TULLY HQ Coy 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF)			
PTE	Peter	VYMYS	BONDI NSW	2026

*Get Well
Soon*



SICK REPORT

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

Mrs Lee WILLMOTT
Martin HANSON

Joe and Muriel COOMBS

and who send their best wishes to all and their thanks for your kind Get Well Greetings.



CONGRATULATIONS



To Mrs Arleen SCHAFER pictured below with husband Bryan who celebrated her 80th Birthday on ANZAC DAY in Melbourne cruising the Yarra !



To our comrade and President of the "Silent" 7th Australian Division AIF Association NX 7296 BDR David Clifford "Dick" PAYTEN, OAM 2/6 Field Regiment who celebrated his 97th Birthday in company with a large turnout of family members and friends at the Chester Hill RSL Club on Saturday 7th April 2018

Bob Pink conveying Best Wishes to Dick on behalf of the 1/19 RNSWR & 2/19 Battalion AIF Associations



To Mrs Annette WINTER who celebrated her 85th Birthday at Ingleburn RSL Club on 16 May 2018



CONGRATULATIONS

MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA



Mary Rose BRYANT, OAM
Kellyville NSW
For service to Veterans and their Families

Service includes:

Ashfield Sub-Branch,
Returned and Services League of Australia:
Senior Vice-President, since 2013.
Junior Vice-President, 2004-2013.
Committee Member, 2001-2004.
Alternate Delegate, Western District Council, 2012-2014.
Trustee since, 2004.
School Liaison Officer, since 2001 Member since, 2000.
Ashfield Returned and Services League Club:
President, 2014-2018. Director, 2006-2014.
Committee Member,
Defence Reserve Association, 2003-2016.
Member, Australia Reserve Forces Day Council, 2000-2003.
Lecturer, School of Business, Western Sydney University,
1994-2002.

Awards and recognition includes:
Recipient, Life Membership,
Returned and Services League of Australia, 2016.
Recipient, Life Membership,
Ashfield Returned and Services League Club, 2011.
Recipient, Australian Defence Medal, 2006.



CONGRATULATIONS



BRIGADIER

Kathryn Jane CAMPBELL, CSC

on her appointment as

COMMANDER 2ND, DIVISION

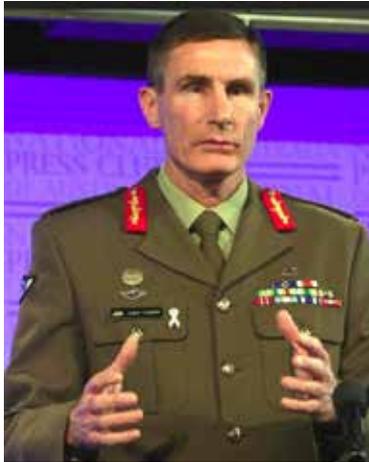
and promotion to

MAJOR GENERAL

wef December 2018



NEW CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE GENERAL Angus John CAMPBELL, AO, DSC



THE AUSTRALIAN 16 APRIL 2019

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has confirmed the new Chief of Defence will be current Chief of Army Lieutenant General Angus Campbell. Mr Turnbull also confirmed chief of joint operations Vice Admiral David Johnston would be the new Vice Chief of the Defence Force. "I look forward to working with the incoming chiefs when they are appointed in July," he said in an official announcement today.

Lt Gen Campbell is a former special forces commander who played a key role in the United Nations operation to restore order in East Timor and is a former Commander of Australia's forces in the Middle East. He also boasts political experience having served as a national security adviser and as head of the Coalition's Sovereign Borders Operation. Vice Admiral Johnston is a former commander HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Newcastle missile frigates.



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, left with Lieutenant General Angus Campbell. Picture: AAP.

Defence Minister Marise Payne announced Defence's new chief of joint operations will be Air Commander Mel Hupfeld while the Chief of Navy will be Rear Admiral Mike Noonan, replacing the departing Tim Barrett. The new Chief of Army will be Lieutenant General Rick Burr, said Senator Payne.

NEW CHIEF OF ARMY

Lieutenant General Richard Maxwell "Rick" Burr, AO, DSC, MVO



Served as Commander 1st Division from 2011 to 2012, before being appointed the Deputy Commanding General – Operations, United States Army Pacific in January 2013. Burr was succeeded by Major General Gregory Bilton in the latter post in November 2014. He was appointed Deputy Chief of Army in January 2015. He has been announced to become the next Chief of Army from mid-2018. Burr was born in Renmark, South Australia, on 2 June 1964 to Maxwell Henry Burr and Lorelie Ann Morrell. Educated at Renmark High School, Burr entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon as an officer cadet in 1982. Burr graduated from Duntroon in 1985 with a University of New South Wales accredited Bachelor of Arts, and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. His first posting came as a platoon commander in the 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. In 2000 Burr (then a lieutenant colonel) served as equerry to Queen Elizabeth II during her royal tour of Australia, during which he was appointed a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

Burr commanded Australian troops in Afghanistan in 2002, and later during Operation Falconer in 2003. For his leadership in the Middle East, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the United States Bronze Star Medal. Burr redeployed to Afghanistan in 2008, where he commanded a contingent of special forces. He went on to serve as the Director General Preparedness and Plans and as the Director General Military Strategic Commitments—for which he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2011 before assuming command of the 1st Division (2011–12).

On 21 August 2012, United States Army Secretary John M. McHugh announced that Burr would be seconded to the United States Army to become Deputy Commander, United States Army Pacific (USARPAC). He was thus the first foreign general to be given a service component command within the United States Army. Reporting to General Vincent K. Brooks, Burr supervised training within the command and served as USARPAC's liaison with countries in Southeast Asia and Australasia. Having served two years in the role, he handed over to Major General Greg Bilton in November 2014. In recognising his efforts with USARPAC, Brooks said of Burr that "Australia couldn't ask for a better leader, for a better soldier, a better warrior" and awarded him the Legion of Merit.

Burr has spent the majority of his military career with Australian special forces units, and is the patron of the Defence Australian Rules Football Association. He assumed the post of Deputy Chief of Army in January 2015 and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours 2018 .



PICTURED DURING A RECENT FLYING VISIT TO THE MELVILLE HOUSEHOLD
WHO SEND THEIR BEST WISHES
L to R: Bill – Brooke – Ethel & Katie at front

From: Robert Binns



COLUMN
8



old advertising signs. Today's column included the following. Remembrances of signs for Griffiths Brothers Tea (C8) filled the Column 8 mailbox. There were so many to choose from but Ian Butchart of St Ives captured it nicely. "Griffith Bros Teas were located in Wentworth Avenue, quite close to Central Station. Their signboards were posted along train lines coming from country stations with the mileage dropping every 5 miles as the train got closer to Central." Ian also adds an anecdote from his father Norman Butchart who, while serving as a member of the 19th Infantry Battalion AIF in World War I, saw a sign on the Somme battlefield that read: "12,000 Miles to Griffith Bros Tea."

Regards
Robert Binns

Sent in by Peter
TRACEY

WHO IS THIS WILD
EYED
FRONTIERSMAN?

If you are able to
identify him and his
unit - free
schooners will await
you at the AGM in
Orange

FRONTLINE



SEEN AROUND THE TRAPS



**CUSTOMS HOUSE SYDNEY AIRPORT / BORDER FORCE
ANZAC COMMEMORATION 24 APRIL 2018**

Pictured L to R

John SNOOK – Andrew LIDDEN (son of Association member & former 2IC 1/19 RNSWR MAJOR Bob LIDDEN) and Bob PINK



INSTALLATION OF THE NEW IMPORTED (FROM THE UK) CAST IRON GARDEN BENCHES FOR FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB – DO YOU RECOGNISE ANY FAMILIAR FACES AMONGST THE WORK FORCE ?



DID YOU KNOW ?? A series by Association Member LT Peter Hughes MAJOR R.W. (Bob) WEIR



I enlisted in the Army in 1968 was commissioned in January 1970 and served 32 years in both the ARes and the ARA.

I was commissioned through the Officer Cadet Training Unit and served in two Infantry Battalions, namely the 3rd Battalion and the 1st/19th Battalion of The Royal New South Wales Regiment as well as OC HQ Company of the Fifth Brigade.

In the 1st/19th Battalion I served as a Rifle Platoon Commander, OC Recon PI, the RSO, a Company 2IC and sat in for the ADJT when he was absent on course for 10 Weeks.

At the beginning of 1983 I transferred to the ARA and was posted to the HQ 2nd Division and detached back to 1st/19th Battalion as the Quartermaster. In 1984 I was posted to District Support Unit Randwick for 12 months and then in 1985 to HQ Second Military District as the Captain Quartermaster Advisor.

In 1986 I was posted to my first ARA battalion. I served in three battalions of The Royal Australian Regiment, namely the 2nd/4th Battalion, the 5th/7th Battalion (MECH) and the 4th Battalion (CDO) as well a number of staff postings in units and Headquarters, an ARES posting and four years at the School of Infantry (SOI). I was fortunate to be posted as OC ADMIN COY in 5/7 RAR for three years and OC OP SPT COY in 4 RAR from Jan 1999 until I retired from the ARA during 2000. In 2000, I also worked for the Olympic Roads and Transport Authority as part of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games team.

After the Olympics had concluded I travelled extensively OS and then worked at the Weapons Training Simulation System at Williamstown for not quite two and a half years.

To cut a long story short when the SO2 Infantry military position was subject to APEP action at the end of 2005 the then HOC, Brigadier Chris Appleton, organised approval from the then Chief of Army for an overage re-enlistment for me but the Medical Corps politely told me to "PoQ".

Not to be outdone the then Deputy Head of Corps Infantry and CO of the School of Infantry organised to have a public service position of ASO 6, SO2 Infantry created for which I applied and the rest is history.

In this position I was responsible for compiling, editing and publishing the biannual Corps magazine, as well as writing the occasional article, maintaining the RAR and RAINF Intranet web pages, Business Manager of the Corps Shop, managing the Corps Public and Non-public monies, Organising the RAINF Corps Conference and Corps' Dinner, organising the RAR Council Meeting and being a member of same, being the unit representative of the RAR Foundation and anything else the Head and Deputy Head of Corps wanted done. I served in this position from 6th Jun 2006 until I retired on 7th Oct 2016.

I am separated from my wife and have three sons, Stuart, Ranald and Callum, a granddaughter and three grandsons. I have been Legatee for the past 22 years, although I am on leave at the moment, and am a Vice President of my local RSL Sub-branch.

I am an inaugural member of the 1st/19th Battalion Association and currently I serve as the Honorary Assistant Treasurer.

I have also volunteered to undertake project work at the Victoria Barracks Sydney Museum and am writing the history of the Barracks from the end of the Vietnam War through to the first deployment to Timor Lesté, the start of "INTERFET".

As well I am the editor of "Duty First", the magazine of the Royal Australian Regiment Association.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, riding my motorcycle, travelling overseas, reading and watching Rugby hoping both the Waratahs and the Wallabies win.

FRONTLINE

**CAN YOU ASSIST PLEASE ? LTCOL GARY BELTRAME RFD ED (Ret.)
FORMER COMMANDING OFFICER 1/19 RNSWR, 23 Sep 1983 - 27 Sep 1985**

WORLD WAR I GERMAN ERFURT 7.92mm SQUAD MACHINE GUN

From Lieutenant Colonel GJ Beltrame, RFD JP (Ret.)



PO Box 7422
Urangan QLD 4655
Ph: 07 4194 6156
Fax: 074194 6956
Email: belgrif@iinet.net.au

12th October 2016

WO1 Warren J Barnes OAM
Lone Pine Barracks
Range Road
Singleton NSW 2330

Dear Warren,



Re: German Erfurt 7.92mm Squad Machine Gun

As mentioned to you I want to provide some background on the Machine Gun that was acquired from 1/19 Battalion some time ago for the Museum.

I originally lived in Griffith NSW and was the senior Reservist in the area and was well known in the area through both my business contacts and the fact that I was often asked to give the address on Anzac Day etc., over the years. As a result I was often asked about what to do with various items of militaria that were found in the area.

In the mid 1990's I was contacted regarding a WWI German Squad Machine Gun that had lain under the stage in the local hall in Matong or Grong Grong (I forget which) for many years and as the hall was to be demolished,— what should be done with it. I stated that I would donate it to 1/19 Battalion RNSWR then located at Ingleburn for their museum in the barracks which was agreed upon. I understand the gun was given to the local community to be used as a memorial to the fallen of the area in the 1920's.

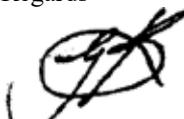
Two points of interest are that I was told that the machine gun had been captured by 17 Bn but no one could provide details of where or when. The second was that because of my association with the local police the gun was stored at my business for nearly two years and became quite an attraction.

After presenting it to the 1/19 Bn RNSWR Museum I then spent some time chasing up the bolt and carrier to fit it and enclose my letter to LTCOL Dennis Littame who was CO of the day, when I forwarded these items to the Battalion. The paper bags **have the serial numbers of the bolt and carrier on them** and are the bags I sent them to the Battalion in. **MD 069948 and MB 313111**. I also gave the Battalion Museum a Japanese Arisaki 6.5mm rifle, a Browning 9mm pistol which was to be the CO's pistol as it was a Service Browning I won pistol shooting. There was also the CO's Sword which used to hang in the Officers Mess.

I understand some years ago the gun was presented to the Infantry Museum and I thought its history would be of interest.

**RECENT INFORMATION RECEIVED SO FAR INDICATES THAT THE GUN IS NOT IN
THE INFANTRY MUSEUM SINGLETON - THE 1/19 RNSWR MUSEUM ORANGE OR THE CARMANHURST ROOM CARCOAR**

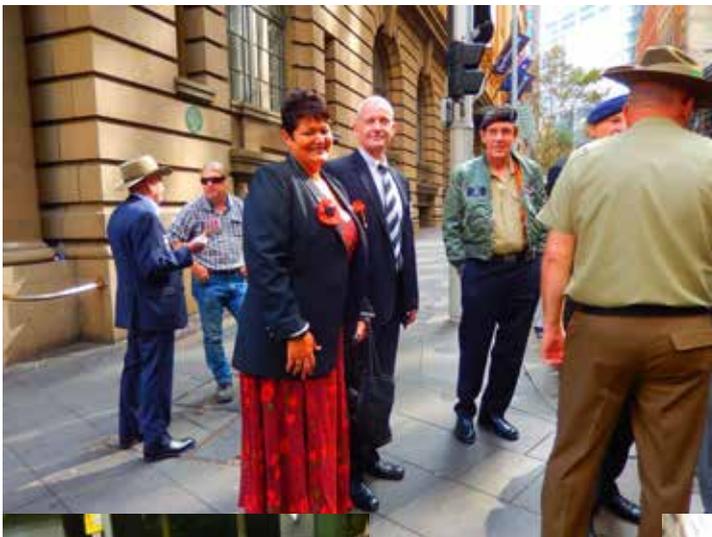
Regards


Gary J Beltrame

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE GUN'S WHEREABOUTS -
OR KNOW ANYONE WHO MIGHT !! PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT
GARY BELTRAME ON THE ABOVE TELEPHONE Nos-FAX- or EMAIL
ANY INFORMATION WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED.**

FRONTLINE ANZAC DAY SYDNEY

Our thanks to MAJ John RALPH, RFD & Grant ARMSTRONG for the many photographs taken & their valued assistance and contribution to the day



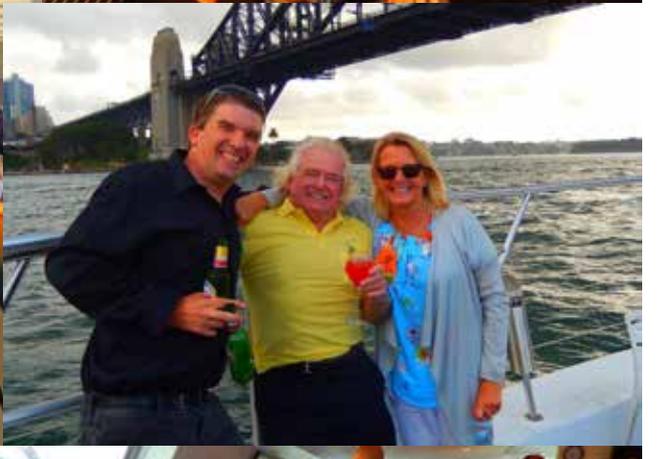
FRONTLINE ANZAC DAY SYDNEY



FRONTLINE ANZAC DAY SYDNEY



FRONTLINE ANZAC DAY SYDNEY



FRONTLINE

WAR FLIGHT HISTORY MUSEUM

WELCOME TO THE WAR-FLIGHT HISTORY MUSEUM.

WORLD WAR 1 TO THE PRESENT.

We are a ex service Association helping all that served.

Grab interest

This museum is a collection of wartime model aircraft, ships and armour ranging from WW1 through to our present day conflicts. From the monoplane, bi-plane, triplanes in World War I through to the dynamic warbirds of WW2 like the



Spitfire, Messerschmitt, and the Mustang, this collection will stun you with its colour magic and chronological layout. Information about the aircraft are displayed on name plates providing the bare necessity of specifications. You won't be standing

there for a long time reading the histories of these fantastic aircraft. Little pieces of wartime art are also situated amongst the display. You will be pleased to see this collection.

Generate excitement

You will not be ready for this collection. In store for you is a huge selection of wartime model aircraft. The colour schemes and nose art of these wartime Gems are just what can we say? brilliant. You will marvel at this collection. Set amongst the models are wartime art models. There is something in this collection for all age groups to enjoy. A free cuppa tea or coffee or a cool drink is inclusive in the entry fee. The entry fee is only \$5.



Close the deal

Close the deal

This is an easy to walk around museum. No long walks to see something in particular. It's all here in the one building. A small museum shop is also available for you to purchase gifts or just to give yourself a treat. Our prices are more than reasonable and quality assured. Free tea/coffee or cold drink is included in the entry fee. Entry fee is \$5.00.

Subscribe

WARFLIGHT HISTORY MUSEUM

Olympic Highway Bethungra NSW 2590

Telephone : 02 6943 4402

(PO Box 145 COOTAMUNDRA NSW 2590)

ANZAC DAY - BLAYNEY SHIRE



BY MARK LOGAN

It was with a shaky and emotional timbre that Jack Braddon, son of former Blayney Shire Councillor Geoff Braddon delivered his inaugural speech at four of the five ANZAC Day ceremonies held in the Blayney Shire.

Filling the role for one year only, Jack took the opportunity to remind those at the services in Millthorpe, Carcoar, Mandurama and Lyndhurst, of not only the sacrifices made 100 years ago but also of the ongoing trauma and sacrifices being made by those that have served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Recent studies have estimated the number of serving ex members of the ADF that have taken their own lives between 2001 and 2017 is 488. Seven times more than the casualty rate of every conflict since Vietnam combined. Almost 60% were people aged 18–34 he said.

Every day brave men and women, live constantly with the war inside themselves.

Safe at home with the families away from sounds of helicopters and gunfire they remain in the world of chaos, Their minds and bodies invaded by the scars of war. Jack said that he was honoured to officiate at the ceremony but stressed that it was for one year only. One year is the agreement that I made with Geoffrey he said. I was going to go to Sydney and march with the guys that I was deployed with. I haven't seen many of them for three years.

Jack served in Afghanistan in the 17th Construction and his father Geoff served with 1st/19th Battalion RNSWR during the National Service era and at its conclusion served on with the unit for a further 25 years.

For Jack the speech was something that was close to his heart and difficult to deliver. The suicide rate is something that is very close and personal for me he said in his hometown of Carcoar. I didn't think I'd get emotional when reading it but I did. Maybe I'll be alright by the time we get to Lyndhurst.

For his father Geoff Braddon seeing Jack officiate was a very proud moment. I'm kind of hoping that he'll do it every year but Billy MacDougall is sick at the moment and Jack said that he will do it just this once he said. But you never know he added with a wink.



FAMILY SUPPORT: It was a special Anzac Day ceremony for father and son Jack and Geoff Braddon. Photo: Mark Logan.

Women to lead Cowra's ANZAC Day March



Just four of Cowra's many female veterans.

Back row - Lesley Marshall, Felicity Jess and Margaret Clark. Front - Elvine Elliott-Horsfall.

For the first time ever, this year's ANZAC Day will cast the limelight on the service and sacrifice made by female veterans, with women set to lead marches across the nation. Cowra's ANZAC Day march will be no different and Cowra RSL Sub-Branch Secretary Felicity Jess says it's great to see women get the recognition they deserve. "I think it's great because it's always been the men up the front and the women have always hesitated to be included," she said. "But I think it's a great opportunity to hold your head high and just show them."

Felicity joined the Australian Army Reserve during the 1970's, as a member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC). "I enlisted in the Australian Army Reserve on February 26, 1975, I joined as a member of the WRAAC, which is the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps. "The unit that recruited me was 1st/19th Battalion Royal NSW Regiment, which has a company here in Cowra," she said.

Felicity spent 25 years with the 1st/19th Battalion, working her way up the ranks to become a Sergeant. She had jobs including pay sergeant and mess supervisor. "I had a varied career, I loved my jobs, I loved meeting people from all walks of life, forming lifetime friendships that exist still to this day, some of my closest friends are mates that I've met through the Army Reserve," she said. "I trained in all the basic elements of infantry work, carrying a pack, rifle shooting, staying out in the bush for days at a time."

Another of Cowra's veterans, Elvine Elliott-Horsfall served with the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) with the Red Cross during World War II, from 1940 until 1944. She said it was great to see women leading the marches. "I think it's a great idea, I was a nurse with VAD Red Cross, we didn't get paid and we were controlled by the Army," she said.

"We provided everything but got paid nothing," Felicity said whilst men and women did work together, women were not integrated or given the same opportunities as they are today. "We would all be trucked out on the back of a truck of a day time and then dark would come and we would all be trucked back and we were not allowed to sleep out in the bush where the men were," she said. "You sign on the dotted line, you sign up to protect mates and protect your country and that's really what it is all about and if I was called upon to undertake active service, I wouldn't have hesitated."

FRONTLINE

ANZAC COMMEMORATION 13 APR 18 Appin Public School



Mrs Mary WRIGHT 2nd from left and former 1/19 RNSWR RSM Ken WRIGHT 3rd from left and CAPT Bob BURRAGE, BM RFD 5th from left) with civic dignitaries and veterans at Appin Public School's ANZAC Commemoration Service at which Ken delivered the very impressive keynote address to a large audience

ANZAC SUNDAY - JAMBEROO NSW



Hi Bob

The Official Jamberoo/Kiama Troop of Light Horse leading yesterday's extremely successful parade. PS:very few Sub Branches have there own official LH detachment.

Regards

Tom & Hazel COOPER

ANZAC DAY - CONDOBOLIN NSW



Jim STEWART (photo at left) and Graeme YETMAN (2nd from left in photo at right) pictured with civil dignitaries at Condoobolin on ANZAC Day. Our thanks to Jim, and Martin HANSON for the photo at right from the Condoobolin Argus.

G'day Bob

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMEMORATIONS

We had lunch following the service at The Cenotaph in September. Unfortunately, the 24yr old Kiwi journalist confused the AIFs 6th division capturing Tobruk, with the 9th Division Rats defending during the siege. My Dad, (NX 5056 SGT Spencer Stanley Ronald SEYMOUR) was an original of the 2/3rd Infantry Battalion and was one of the 20% of seasoned NCOs transferred to the 2/1st on the 17/18 June 1941, to help rebuild the 2/1st after many were captured during the Greece & Crete campaign.

Trust you are "travelling well"

Regards

Ron Seymour

HONOURING OUR ANZAC HEROES

World War II changed our lives

Resident honours his father

Gary Hamilton-Irvine
 It was January 1940 when Ron Seymour's father left Australia to fight in World War II. His father Spencer Stanley Ronald risked his life during some of Australia's most famous battles including the Siege of Tobruk in Libya and the Kokoda Track campaign in PNG.
 While he survived the war he was never the same upon returning home. Mr Seymour a long-standing resident of South Turrumurra will be among the thousands of people commemorating and remembering those who fought for their country during Anzac Day services across the region on Wednesday, April 25. Mr Seymour is a member of the National Servicemen's Association Sydney Northern Sub Branch which is helping run services again this year.
 They include a dawn service at the Roseville club (5 AM) Anzac Day services at Warringah War Memorial tomorrow (7 AM) and Turrumurra Memorial Park (9 AM) as well as an evening service at the Kokoda Track tomorrow in Warringah (5 PM). And those who are inclined and a bit mobile can join the Anzac March in the city. He said he joined the National Servicemen's Association six years ago to keep these kind of remembrance services going. I joined because I thought who would carry on if we don't do something. I wanted to acknowledge and remember our military history.
 He encouraged everyone to get along to a service on Anzac Day. "Come along and help the traditions keep going." Anzac Day is held annually on the same date as the Anzac Cove landings in 1915 during the invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula Turkey by Anzac and Allied troops. Anzac Day services also pay tribute to all those who have served at war for Australia and New Zealand. Mr Seymour will wear his father's and grandfather's medals neatly across his uniform during the Anzac Day services. He said it was important to remember the many lives lost and affected by war. "My father survived but he was never the same man you know. We lived in Petersham and whenever planes would fly over he would get under the table because they had been strafed and bombed by the Germans." His father also fought in Greece Crete, Syria and Lebanon.

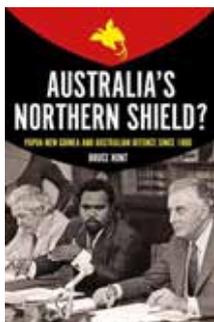
Ron Seymour at the Kokoda Memorial at Wairoonga. Picture: Julian Andrews

Pay your respects

- 5am: Dawn service at The Roseville Club off Pacific Highway.
- 7am: Anzac Day service and march Wairoonga War Memorial (next to the station).
- 9am: Anzac Day service at Turrumurra Memorial Park.
- 5pm: Evening service at the Kokoda Track Memorial on Kokoda Ave, Wairoonga.

FRONTLINE BOOK REVIEW

AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERN SHIELD?



Papua New Guinea and the Defence of Australia Since 1880

Bruce Hunt
Monash University
Publishing, 2017, 374pp
ISBN 978161251968

Bruce Hunt has written a comprehensive review of the place of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the defence of

Australia. He relies on primary source documents, including formerly classified Cabinet Notebooks. His book gives an insight into the development of policy over an extended period, and the speed with which long established policy could change.

Hunt identifies early concern about the strategic value of PNG among pre-Federation colonial governments. They pressed Britain to take control of the eastern half of New Guinea, the western portion then being controlled by the Dutch. British interest was limited until Germany took control of north-eastern New Guinea and the New Britain archipelago. Britain then annexed Papua.

The Japanese victory over Russia at Tsushima 'elevated Japan to the role of a direct military threat', focussing attention on PNG as a 'shield' for eastern Australia. Hunt describes the fraught negotiations after the First World War leading to an Australian mandate over the former German New Guinea, though control of German possessions north of the Equator went to Japan. Between the wars, Australia saw PNG as a defensive shield. After the Nazis took power, suggestions were made that German New Guinea should be returned, 'correcting the harshness of the Versailles Treaty'. Unsurprisingly, this proposal was not greeted with enthusiasm in Australia.

After the Second World War Australian governments both Labor and Coalition supported the Dutch desire to retain control over west New Guinea (West Irian to the Indonesians) after Indonesian independence, and Indonesia was identified as a potential threat. Attitudes changed across the 1950s and early 1960s, as Australia gradually came to accept the need for change in west New Guinea, particularly after the US made it clear that it would not support Australia militarily, while the UK counselled that Australia needed to keep Indonesian goodwill.

Among the first politicians to change their position were the prime minister, Robert Menzies, and the attorney general (later minister for external affairs) Garfield Barwick. However, support for the Dutch continued almost until the last moment, tempered by the desire to reduce friction with the Indonesian government of President Sukarno. Although Indonesia repeatedly stated that it had no claims against PNG, Australian authorities considered the wording of its claims for west New Guinea capable of being used to justify a claim for PNG or, indeed, north Borneo.

The start of Confrontation with Malaysia soon after Indonesia gained control of West Irian elevated concerns in Australia that a move on PNG might follow. Australia therefore decided to support Malaysia. Hunt follows the debates about Australian operations during Confrontation, including whether Australian forces should operate in north Borneo. Although Australia took a cautious line, Hunt notes that there were direct clashes between Australian and Indonesian troops. However, the attempted coup in Indonesia in September 1965, and subsequent purge of the Indonesian Communist Party, eased tensions.

As Hunt demonstrates, the Australian perception of PNG as a defence shield largely ended with the fall of President Sukarno. Australia's perception then identified Indonesia as our northern defence shield. Relations between Indonesia and PNG were managed to minimise friction between the three nations, particularly after PNG gained independence. Hunt describes the process under which the path to independence for PNG was complicated by secessionist movements and concern about a possible collapse of law and order there.

Hunt demonstrates how politicians and the Australian defence and foreign affairs bureaucracy consistently maintained the need for PNG as a defence shield for over 80 years. What stands out in his account is the speed with which Australian attitudes then changed. Within a decade the place of PNG in Australian defence and foreign policy diminished, with Indonesia becoming the new shield, while potential internal problems became the principal concerns about PNG. While PNG remained of 'unique strategic importance to Australia', there was no defence agreement with the independent PNG, only an undertaking with no explicit commitments.

Hunt records that personalities as different as Edmund Barton, W.M. (Billy) Hughes, H.V. (Bert) Evatt, Sir Robert Menzies, Sir Garfield Barwick and John McEwen took remarkably similar political positions on PNG. After federation, Barton sought unsuccessfully to develop a Pacific empire stretching as far as the Cook Islands and Tonga! After the Second World War Evatt sought 'complete and exclusive power' over PNG (as well as over parts of Borneo, which could then be exchanged for Dutch New Guinea¹).

This book is an invaluable reference on Australia's strategic interests in PNG. There might be more information available, but it is unlikely to change Hunt's conclusions.



REVIEWER: JOHN DONOVAN

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

FRONTLINE

NOR ALL THY TEARS

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

Continued from March 2018 Newsletter:

But it was Red Cross rumours that kept us alive. The Nips were very close at first, reluctant to tell us even where we were, but when they found that they could raise their prestige enormously by hinting at events outside, they became more and more eager to do so. Sometimes perfect strangers would edge up to us when no one was about, draw mud maps on the floor, and utter mysterious words in Nippon-go. Most of these surreptitious visits were wholly profitless, for their signs were as foreign to us as their language, and their cartography very inexact, but we encouraged them all and strove to look impressed.

The students were a more fruitful source in the long run, though we learnt more from what they strove to conceal than what they chose to reveal. Our immediate bosses were the most fruitful source. You got to know a bosses weaknesses, and flogged them for all they were worth. Once you had broken the ice you were right. Saw-Caw Poppa was one of the closest of them all until one day he told us very confidentially that the Americans had landed in the Philippines. This was some months after we could have told him ourselves, but he was so impressed with the reception we gave his "news" that in a few days he was one of the best "sources" of all.

Sometimes they would start by mentioning the great achievements of Nippon, and throwing them up at us. This always gave us a weakness to exploit. By feigning incredulity we could prove them into the most detailed description of the situation. eg. he might say: America small - Nippon big, and draw a mud map pointing out the might of Nippon, whereupon we would indicate an American plane flying all the way from its homeland and say: American plane very big - many kilos come, and write down 10,000, whereat he would fly into a rage and say American plane small. Small kilo. and would indicate a plane flying the small distance from Okinawa.

Some bosses became very confidential and issued regular bulletins, many of them defeatist. The better educated of them had no illusions about the course of the war, and, indeed it didn't seem to be the policy of the government to encourage them to be, but the low-heels generally lapped up some pretty tall stuff. Sometime we would turn the tables and darkly hint that we had vastly important "sources" ourselves. e.g. a Nip would say:

Japan big. America small!

America small?

Small. America small, small.

Yes. America small, small.

B neju ku (B29) small.

Yes. Bneju ku small

Then after a pause: Bneju ku small, but Bhaku ne ju ku (B129) very big. Almost without fail their jaws would drop, and I am sure that they would spread all over Shikoku, news that America had a new and mighty plane using B29's as lifeplanes instead of parachutes. Many were in favour of the war ending as soon as possible and all were crooked on the Army. They drew diagrams showing how the Haiti took all their products and gave them very little back, and how the Haiti was living the life of luxury with beer and plenty of rice while they did it tough on empty bellies. We assured them that from our experience at the camp we know that the Haiti was living on the fat of the land, sneering at modest radish tops and bogging into horse gut and red sambal regardless of public expense.

Maps were a reliable source, being independent of the veracity or mood of the narrator. Japanese maps are very expressive. Even though you can't read a line of the letter-press, the lines and arrows and pictures of ships and aeroplanes tell almost all you want to know. Sometimes we would find them on odd pieces of paper, sometimes they would show them to us voluntarily, but generally we could get a good look at any map we saw. All that was necessary was to point out Singapore and say that we came from there, point out Thailand and give a long and elaborate account of our adventures there and over on the boat, meanwhile fixing a steady eye on Japanese waters for whatever might be there. But the history of our mining career is the history of our progressive starvation. Food went up a little after we went out to work, but dropped progressively from then on until we got right out of the mine. The horse-gut stews and other delicacies that brightened up the early days became rarer and rarer, and each issue smaller and smaller.



FRONTLINE

The vegetable issue shrunk and fell in quality. The tops of horse radish and sweet potatoes (the celebrated error huh) began to fill, but not to fatten, and finally not even to fill. Sometimes a spoonful of these modest vegetables with a pint of water constituted a stew - this, with a pint of very wet rice was our Christmas dinner, and rations fell rapidly after Christmas - and the rice ration shrunk and shrunk. The wet rice would go sour in the mines, and the cooks would be socked for making it that way, while at the same time they were made to cook it with plenty of water so it would look more, for the army was not long in reviving the good old-fashioned animal acts.

We were helped out in some measure by the cooks, who stole many bags of rice at great risk to themselves. Many lives were saved by this, including, probably, my own, and the risk was enormous. Some of the time it meant carrying a bag of rice past the guardhouse. And it was not scrounging as we knew it in Malaya or Thailand. One man was caught cooking rice that he had shaken from empty bags, was forced to admit that he stole it from the cookhouse, and was shut up for three days in a wooden cell so small that he could neither stand up or lie down, with no covering save a pair of very thin linen shorts in the depth of the cruel Japanese winter. He subsequently died of cardiacal beri-beri, almost certainly as a result of this punishment.

For the spirit that dominated Thailand was still there below the surface, and there were many with the will, and occasionally the power to do as Thailand Nips had done. It was on that fatal last Christmas that this truth was brought home to us. We had been promised a holiday, some presentes, and a day of rejoicing, but an animal of a Nip we called Happy Jack, discovered that a small amount of sugar had been stolen from the Japanese ration store. Although he knew of it well before Christmas, he saved it up until the day before Christmas Eve, and then turned on a search, and when we arrived home, all the men with sugar and the officers were sent for.

There was something so very terrible about that night that it will remain in the memories of all of us. Right till the small hours of the morning the sound of blows and the screams of men being tortured came from the guardhouse. The officers were beaten continuously, and the men were made to sit in balanced positions over electric heaters until their skin blistered. The fantastic rage into which the mad animal worked himself, caused his voice to roll all through the camp.

The Lolly-Lopper was sent for, and he brought an interpreter from the base camp. An amazing feature as the fact that this mad sergeant seemed to have more power, merely by virtue of his rage, than the Lolly-Lopper himself. I have before spoken of this interpreter as being a gentleman. In doing so I quote Sandy, who said that never did he feel less like saying it about any Nip, but he felt bound to say it about this one. All through the night this highly educated Nip did everything in his power to make things easy. All the time he kept battling and saying what to do. This man is mad. He will break bones. There are bad Japanese the same as there are bad Australians. If he goes on speaking he will work himself up into a rage and will do anything. Say something and I will pretend to translate it into something that will pacify him.

The principals were given jail sentences of a fortnight after the manner of the man just referred to, and the whole camp was ordered to go to work on Christmas day on ordinary rations. I am sure the interpreter did something about it when he went back to the base camp, for from then on Happy Jack became very docile for no reason that we could fathom. Also they gave us a modest presento of vegetables for the New Year, which, since they had nearly all gone bad, we thought were the ones intended for Christmas, and the Lolly-Lopper made a speech that was almost apologetic.

We told the story to the miners who were mostly sympathetic, and many of them were very angry at the Haiti, as they called the Army. For my part I had to carry cast iron pipes on that day, and it took more than sympathy to cheer me up. That Christmas was the gloomiest day of our term. I shall never forget the silent and disconsolate faces as we marched home. And the hate that welled in our bosoms was greater than the hate of Thailand. From then on our rations fell rapidly, and became almost wholly vegetarian (or more accurately, herbivorous, for who would call radish tops vegetables,) and quantity more than anything else was our craving. The earlier luxuries were almost forgotten, and indeed, when we were given the meatless bones of four dogs (the only meat in about three months) to make up a stew for five hundred of us, it was suggested that our masters were being alarmed by Allied advances.

The Nips themselves did not lag far behind us. It was not very long before they were willing to work an extra one, two and even three shifts in succession for the extra three rice balls involved. True they bludged and slept a lot of the time, but three little rice balls was small payment even for a day sleeping on the job. The mine was run by Nips on the reserve occupation list, but they had to train on their yasmae days, and periodically they were called up. We could never quite work out what they did with their spare time. We did one shift, and had two days off a month to cart wood, and we had very little up our sleeves ourselves. It was thirteen hours from the time we left camp till the time we got back.

Working an extra shift took only half as long again, as most of the time was spent getting down into the mine, but when they did up to four shifts, did military training, and worked their farms, as well as attend to their conjugal obligations, it knocked a bit of a hole in their leisure.

To be continued.....

FRONTLINE

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Percy Valentine Storkey, VC (9 September 1893 – 3 October 1969) was a New Zealand-born Australian recipient of the [Victoria Cross](#), the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and [Commonwealth Forces](#). Storkey was born in [Napier](#), New Zealand, to an English-born printer and his wife. His father, Samuel Storkey, migrated to Napier as a young boy with his father William. He was educated at [Napier Boys' High School](#), where he was dux of the school in his final year, and later [Victoria College](#) in [Wellington](#). As a teenager, he served in the [Territorial Force](#). He moved to [Sydney](#) in Australia in 1911, and worked in administration roles. In 1913, he enrolled in law school at the [University of Sydney](#). His legal studies were disrupted by the [First World War](#). Storkey enlisted for service in the [Australian Imperial Force](#) (AIF) in May 1915. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and embarked for England at the end of the year. **He was posted to 19th Battalion. He was wounded in November 1916** while serving in the trenches on the [Western Front](#). Promoted to [lieutenant](#) in January 1917, he was wounded again during the [Battle of Passchendaele](#). In March 1918, the Germans began their [Spring](#)

[Offensive](#) and the 19th Battalion, as part of the [2nd Division](#), helped in shoring up the front-lines as the Germans advanced. On 7 April 1918, while holding the lines near [Villers-Bretonneux](#), his company was sent forward to clear [Hangard Wood](#), believed to be lightly held by the enemy. After the mortal wounding of his company commander, Captain [Clarrie Wallach](#), Storkey performed the actions that led to the award of a [Victoria Cross](#) (VC).

His VC citation read as follows:

For most conspicuous bravery, leadership and devotion to duty when in charge of a platoon in attack. On emerging from the wood the enemy trench line was encountered and Lt. Storkey found himself with six men. While continuing his move forward a large enemy party—about 80 to 100 strong - armed with several machine guns was noticed to be holding up the advance of the troops on the right. Lt. Storkey immediately decided to attack this party from the flank and rear, and while moving forward in the attack was joined by Lt. Lipscomb and four men. Under the leadership of Lt. Storkey, this small party of two officers and ten other ranks charged the enemy position with fixed bayonets, driving the enemy out, killing and wounding about thirty, and capturing three officers and fifty men, also one machine gun. The splendid courage shown by this officer in quickly deciding his course of action, and his skilful method of attacking against such great odds, removed a dangerous obstacle to the advance of the troops on the right, and inspired the remainder of our small party with the utmost confidence when advancing to the objective line. The London Gazette, No. 30733, 4 June 1918.

Later wounded for the third time, Storkey was promoted to Captain the following month and given command of his own company. On 25 July 1918, [King George V](#) presented him with his VC at [Buckingham Palace](#). He was discharged from the AIF in January 1919.

When he returned to Australia, Storkey resumed his legal studies and qualified as a lawyer in 1921. After working in private practice, he became a crown prosecutor for the [New South Wales](#) Department of Justice for several years. Shortly before the Second World War, he was appointed a district court judge. In 1955 he retired, and moved to England where he lived in [Teddington, Middlesex](#), with his English-born wife, whom he had married in 1922. He died on 3 October 1969, survived by his wife. The couple had no children.

Storkey left his VC medal to his old school, Napier Boys' High School. In 1983 there was a controversy when the school Parents' League wanted to sell the medal to finance student scholarships. Eventually the medal was transferred to the [QEII Army Memorial Museum](#) at [Waiouru](#), New Zealand, where it is displayed on a long-term loan. A replica of his VC is also on display in the foyer of the assembly hall at Napier Boys' High School.

Lest We Forget

Our thanks to Bob & Linda COLLIGAN for the above details on Captain Storkey kindly forwarded following their recent tour of the First World War Battlefields.

FRONTLINE

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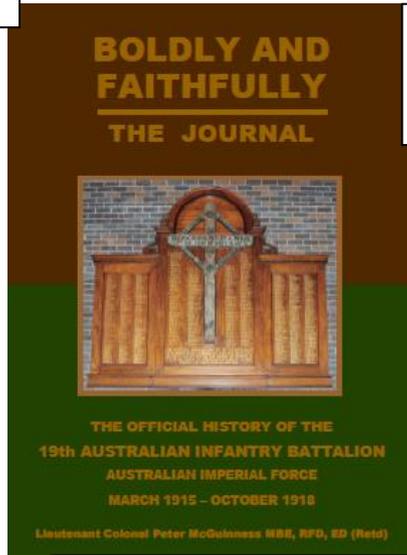


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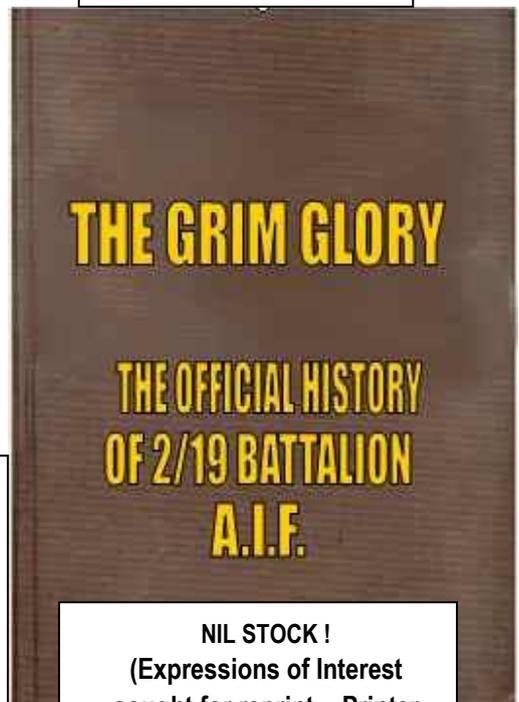
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