

# FRONTLINE

## 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



Sadly, I once again commence my report with extremely sad news. Our valued and much loved senior member Joe Coombs passed away on 27 June just a few months short of his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. Joe's passing was swift and came as a great shock to his devoted wife of nearly seventy years, Muriel and his two sons, Tony and Greg and their families. Joe has been a staunch supporter of the Association since the merger of 2<sup>nd</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> and 1/19 and ANZAC Day 2018 was the first occasion he has missed in many, many years. Joe will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend Joe's funeral as I left for overseas the Friday before but the Association was well represented by Bob Pink, together with members of the Executive and Committee, Bryan Schafer, Sandy & Marge Howard, Ray Warden and Dennis Zalunardo. Also in attendance among the large assembly were Maureen Mariner and her grandson Simon, Glen and John Stewart, Andrew Donaldson, Geoff Hunt, Grant Armstrong, Matthew Fanning, Margaret & Michael Hopley, Paul Jordan, Rob Moir, Steve Winbank, Bob Binns, Roy & Trish Rae, David Ring and Jim Hurt. As an indication of the high esteem in which Joe was held also present was John Haines AM, former President of New South Wales Returned and Services League and James Badkin, President of the Lidcombe RSL Sub-Branch where Joe was a long time member and Officer.

During my absence Bob was kept very busy representing the Association at a large number of events. I am very grateful to him for carrying the Association "flag" where honour was due to our departed comrades and friends. We missed the announcement, in the Australia Day 2018 Honours List, of the Award of the Australian Fire Services Medal (AFSM) to Association member Mark Hoskinson. This only "came to light" while I was away. I have conveyed the warmest congratulations of the Association to Mark on his well-deserved recognition.

Indeed, a large number of our members serve their communities in a voluntary capacity and, in most cases that service goes unrecognised – except at a local level, where it is warmly appreciated. To all of you I say a special thank you for your commitment to your communities and the people of Australia generally.

Sunday 22 July saw Bob & I represent the Association at the 102<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Pozieres commemoration service at the Uniting Church of St Columba in Woollahra. This service, which has been held every year for aeons, under the auspices of the Association of First Infantry Battalions, and supported by 1/19 RNSWR for many, many years welcomed as their principal guest MAJGEN Mark Kelly AO, DSC and in addition the Regimental Warrant Officer, The Royal New South Wales Regiment, WO1 Warren Barnes OAM (Retd), the French Consul-General and the Mayor of Woollahra. Sadly, due to a "scheduling error" the Pipes & Drums of the Scots College, Sydney were a "no show". There was a large crowd of ex service personnel from neighbouring RSL clubs in attendance together with members of the St Columba congregation. The service was organised by Rev Alan Russell, a long time Rector of St Columba's and Rev Brian Jago, the present Rector, with the support of the Parish community. The morning tea provided at the conclusion of the service is without peer!

I am particularly grateful to the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major of 1/19 RNSWR for making the 1 RNSWR Colours available and to a Colour Party found from men of C Company, 1/19 RNSWR who provided, what I have to say, was the best March On and March Off of the Colours that I have seen at St Columba's in over twenty years of attending this ceremony.

These young men, LT Graham Bannerman, LT Sean (Bobby) McGee, WO2 Brandon (Jim) Carey; SGT Ian Donnelly and SGT Jaron Worsley under the command of OC Charlie (Werriwa) Company, MAJ Ben Biddington accompanied by PTE Michael Constance, who provided security and driving skills, gave up their weekend to perform this duty and the Battalion can be excessively proud of their performance. I know that the RSM 1/19 RNSWR had carried out a recce and written an instruction but the minute attention to detail during numerous rehearsals resulted in an execution that would have pleased the most demanding drill instructor. I am deeply indebted to the CO, the RSM and the men of Charlie (Werriwa) Company for their participation.

The Association of First Infantry Battalions is "winding up" its affairs and will be subsumed into 1 RAR Association. The question of the future of the Pozieres Day Commemoration is one that the Association is considering and discussions will be held with all interested parties in coming months.

# FRONTLINE

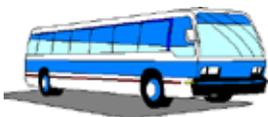
Wednesday, 15 August was Victory in the Pacific Day and I attended the RSL NSW Commemorative Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place in company with Bob Pink, Dennis Zalunardo, David Hunt and Corinna Kelly. The numbers attending continue to dwindle and the only veteran present, I believe, was Dick Payten of the 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Division. The Sydney Band of the Royal Australian Navy performed admirably and the Catafalque Party, found from the RAN lent lustre to the proceedings. I laid a wreath in memory of our Fallen Comrades from 2/19<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion AIF.

Due to a lack of planning in their scheduling, the Regimental Council has planned the Regimental Weekend for the same weekend as the Association's Annual Reunion. As I said to the Regimental Secretary, we set this date twelve months ago and it was widely known. There was really no excuse for the SNAFU! I look forward to seeing a large number in Orange on 26/27 October and regret that the Commanding Officer and the RSM will be unable to join us.

All of us will be concerned for those members from country New South Wales and the excessively hard times they are facing. Our thoughts are with each and every one of you and the hope of spring rains that will alleviate some of your problems.

Until we meet, be kind to each other and look after yourselves.

*Roger Perry*



**TEN (10) x \$65 SEATS (per person) STILL AVAILABLE FOR RETURN BUS TRIP TO ORANGE FOR THE 2018 AGM WEEKEND  
BOOKING CUT OFF DATE IS 15 OCTOBER 2018**

<b>FRI 26 OCT 2018</b>	10:00 A.M. DEPART GOSFORD Hospital Side Gosford Railway Station
	11:30 A.M. DEPART PARRAMATTA RAILWAY STATION 1/15 Lancer Barracks side – Cnr Smith & Darcy Sts
	12:15 P.M. DEPART PENRITH RAILWAY STATION Pick Up / Drop Off points TBA
	2:45 P.M. DEPART BATHURST Pick Up / Drop Off points TBA
<b>SUN 28 OCT 2018</b>	3:45 P.M. ARRIVE ORANGE
	9:00 A.M. DEPART ORANGE

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

Telephone Mobile: **0413 396 167** Email: [ring1965hd@gmail.com](mailto:ring1965hd@gmail.com)

Postal Address: **14 Range Road NORTH GOSFORD 2250**

**David will advise you of vacancy/ies and confirm your seating / pick up timing/location. It will assist if you have a mobile telephone number to advise of unforeseen traffic delays and disruptions to the above timings. The coach will depart Orange at 9:00 A.M. on SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER 2018 for the return journey.**



**Old man Emu handyman services**

**Dave Ring**

Handyman ABN 19148673402

0413 396 167

[emuhandymanervices@gmail.com](mailto:emuhandymanervices@gmail.com)

Free Quote

# FRONTLINE

## 1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER WEEKEND PROGRAMME 26-27 OCTOBER 2018

ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB Anson Street ORANGE

### FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2018

Timing	Function	Location	Dress	Remarks
1800 to 2130	 <p>Registrations "WELCOME" <b>MEET &amp; GREET RECEPTION</b></p>	Orange Ex Services Club Moresby Room \$25 per person	Smart Casual	Chili squid strips - Smoked salmon crostini with dill mascarpone - Moroccan Beef skewers- Chicken satay skewers- Torpedo prawn with chili jam

### SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER 2018

0930	 <p><b>ASSOCIATION WREATH LAYING CEREMONY</b> in conjunction with the Officers &amp; Members of Orange Ex Services RSL Sub Branch and Club</p>	VENUE TO BE ADVISED Wreath layers to be appointed	Suit/jacket & tie & Full size Decorations & Medals	Banner Bearers Orders of Service distributed Stereo & tape + PA
1030	 <p><b>MORNING TEA</b> Under members own cost &amp; arrangements</p>	Orange Ex Services Club	Casual	
1200	 <p><b>LUNCHEON</b> Under members own cost &amp; arrangements</p>	Orange Ex Services Club	Casual	
1345 to 1445	 <p><b>"1918"</b> Presented by Lieutenant Colonel Peter McGuinness MBE OAM RFD ED</p>	Orange Ex Services Club Moresby Room	Casual	
1500 to 1600	 <p><b>ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b></p>	Orange Ex Services Club Moresby Room	Casual	
1830	 <p><b>ASSEMBLE FOR FORMAL DINNER</b> Pre dinner drinks</p>	<b>\$65.00</b> per person	Mess Dress Winter / Dinner Suit Lounge Suit / jacket & tie Miniature medals	
1900 to 2300	 <p><b>ASSOCIATION FORMAL DINNER</b> (alternate servings) <b>ENTRÉE</b> <i>Mediterranean Salad with olives, artichoke, feta &amp; tomato basil with sticky balsamic</i> <b>OR</b> <i>Chicken &amp; leek risotto with vintage shaved parmesan</i></p> <p><b>MAIN</b> <i>Grilled Salmon on a crusted pea puree, fennel mash &amp; lemon cream</i> <b>OR</b> <i>Sirloin steak with potato gratin, &amp; seasonal greens jus</i></p> <p><i>Fresh Bread Roll and Butter</i></p> <p><b>DESSERT</b> <i>Honeycomb Cheesecake with hazelnut praline</i> <b>OR</b> <i>Frangipani Tart with mixed berry compote.</i></p> <p><i>Tea, Coffee &amp; After Dinner Mints</i></p> <p><b>Beverages</b> <i>A selection of Vins Rouge, Vins Blanc, will accompany the meal</i></p>	  	<p><b>ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB Coral Sea Room</b></p>	
2300 - ?	 <p>Post Dinner Camaraderie</p>			 <p>Ties may be loosened ! NGS</p>

**SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER 2018**

**Return Home**

## ACCOMMODATION HOTELS & MOTELS ORANGE

### HOTEL CANOBOLAS

A country Hotel with a unique, intimate feel. Hotel Canobolas offers 23 stylish appointed rooms all on Level 1 to suit the business traveller, a winter romantic getaway, family and friends for your wedding, conference retreat or a gentleman's golf tour.  
Cnr Summer St & Lords Place, Orange  
Ph: 02 6362 2444 Website: [www.hotelcanobolas.com.au](http://www.hotelcanobolas.com.au)

### METROPOLITAN HOTEL ORANGE

Good quality pub accommodation with shared facilities.  
Dine at the popular Balcony Restaurant.  
Cnr Byng & Anson Streets, Orange Ph: 02 6369 1444

### OPHIR TAVERN

From \$99 per night.  
Glenroi Avenue, Orange Ph: 02 6362 4995

### PARKVIEW HOTEL ORANGE

From \$120 single and \$150 double/twin per night includes breakfast.  
281 Summer Street, Orange Ph: 02 6361 7014

### ROBIN HOOD TAVERN

Burrendong Way, Orange Ph: 02 6363 1999

### ROYAL HOTEL

Cnr Summer Street & Lords Place, Orange Ph: 02 6362 1855

### THE GREAT WESTERN HOTEL

Cnr Peisley & Kite Streets, Orange Ph: 02 6362 4055

### CANOBOLAS MOTEL & UNITS

Located a short 100m walk from the Hotel Canobolas, the Hotel Canobolas Motel & Units are perfect for all types of travellers including families, contractors and golf tours. All units contain a flat screen TV, air conditioning a bar fridge and tea and coffee making facilities. 119 Kite St, Orange Ph: 02 6362 2444  
Website: [www.hotelcanobolas.com.au](http://www.hotelcanobolas.com.au)

### CENTRAL CALEULA MOTOR INN

First class centrally located accommodation including executive, family & spa suites. Restaurant, conference facilities, Astar & swimming pool. Single Deluxe from \$124, Executive Queen from \$142 per night. 60 Summer Street, Orange 2800 Ph: 02 6362 7699  
Website: [www.centralcaleula.com.au](http://www.centralcaleula.com.au)

### IBIS STYLES ORANGE

Ibis Styles Orange is a one-stop motel offering accommodation, a-la-carte dining, licensed bar and large function rooms. 50 rooms featuring Astar, free Wi-Fi, spa suites & family rooms.  
Rates standard queen from \$149 per night including continental breakfast.  
146 Bathurst Road, Orange 2800 Ph: 02 6362 6033  
Email: [admin@ibisstylesorange.com.au](mailto:admin@ibisstylesorange.com.au)  
Website: [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com)

### MID CITY MOTOR LODGE

Affordable and ideally located in the heart of the Orange business district. Dine at the award winning and fully licensed, The Indian Restaurant, authentic Indian, a-la-carte & children's menu.  
Double from \$109 per night.  
245 - 247 Lords Place, Orange 2800 Ph: 02 6362 1600  
Website: [www.midcitymotorlodge.com.au](http://www.midcitymotorlodge.com.au)

### ½ ORANGE MOTOR LODGE

All ground floor in a garden setting. Room service and evening meals available Monday to Thursday. Economy, standard and deluxe rooms with all facilities Astar TV & guest laundry.  
Double from \$125 per night. 110 Bathurst Road, Orange 2800  
Ph: 02 6362 4600 Email: [orangemotorlodge@bigpond.com](mailto:orangemotorlodge@bigpond.com)

**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 -

**Mention 1/19 RNSWR Association when booking**  
**PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY TO AVOID**  
**DISAPPOINTMENT**

Members of 'Le Club Accor Hotels' Loyalty Program should be entitled to a discount.



### MERCURE ORANGE (TEMPLERS MILL)

Centrally located. **Part of the Orange Ex-Services' Club.**  
Close to TAFE, Churches & CBD. Disabled rooms. Free WiFi.  
Single Standard from \$148 and Family from \$165 per night.  
94 Byng Street, Orange 2800  
Ph: 02 6362 5611 Fax: 6361 3714  
Email: [hb038@accor.com](mailto:hb038@accor.com)  
Website: [www.templersmill.com.au](http://www.templersmill.com.au)

### ½ ORIANA ORANGE

Spacious accommodation. Restaurant, pool and ample off-street parking. Family and interconnecting rooms.  
From Single/Double \$145 & Family \$160 per night.  
178 Woodward Street, Orange 2800 Ph: 02 6362 3066  
Email: [reception@orianaorange.com](mailto:reception@orianaorange.com)  
Website: [www.orianaorange.com](http://www.orianaorange.com)

### QUALITY INN AMBASSADOR ORANGE

Large rooms set well back from the street, you will get peace and quiet during your stay! All rooms are modern and provide a high standard of comfort and facilities, including air-conditioning and a modern bathroom. From \$145 per night.  
174 Bathurst Road, Orange Ph: 02 6393 7500  
Email: [reception@ambassador-orange.com.au](mailto:reception@ambassador-orange.com.au)  
Website: [www.ambassador-orange.com.au](http://www.ambassador-orange.com.au)

### TOWN SQUARE MOTEL

Located in the centre of Orange, featuring 29 units including executive, standard, spa & disabled suites. Adjacent to the historic Metropolitan Hotel with its licensed Balcony Restaurant. Single from \$130. Double from \$140 per night. Wi-Fi.  
246 Anson Street, Orange 2800 Ph: 02 6369 1444  
Website: [www.metropolitanhotel.com.au](http://www.metropolitanhotel.com.au)

### TURNERS VINEYARD MOTEL

Nestled amongst the grapevines overlooking Lucknow Valley. Studios, 1 bedroom & 2 bedroom apartments & spa villas.  
Rooms from \$140  
Mitchell Highway, Orange 2800 Ph: 02 6369 1045

### WESTEND MOTOR LODGE

Double from \$142 per night.  
2 - 6 Dalton St, Orange 2800 Ph: 02 6362 5755

### DE RUSSIE BOUTIQUE HOTEL ORANGE

Boutique style serviced apartment accommodation.  
Close to the CBD. Totally non-smoking luxury accommodation.  
From \$160 per night.  
72 Hill Street, Orange 2800 Ph: 02 6360 0973  
Email: [orange@derussiehôtels.com.au](mailto:orange@derussiehôtels.com.au)  
Web: [www.derussiehôtels.com.au](http://www.derussiehôtels.com.au)

### DUNTRYLEAGUE GUESTHOUSE

Comprising comfortable executive and family accommodation nestled on the grounds of the Orange Golf Club. Double from \$140 to \$210 includes a continental breakfast for two.  
Woodward Street, Orange 2800 Ph: 02 6362 3466  
Email: [guesthousebookings@duntryleague.com.au](mailto:guesthousebookings@duntryleague.com.au)  
Website: [www.duntryleague.com.au](http://www.duntryleague.com.au)

# FRONTLINE

## COMING EVENTS 2018 - 2019

DAY	DATE	TIMING	EVENT	VENUE / REMARKS
FRI SAT SUN	26 OCT 2018 27 OCT 2018 28 OCT 2018		 <p><b>ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB NSW</b></p> <p>See Detailed Programme of Events in this Newsletter</p>	   <p><b>ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB</b> The Association has reserved 29 rooms at (CUT OFF DATE IS 01 OCTOBER 2018) the <b>TEMPLERS MILL MOTEL</b> NOW "<b>HOTEL MERCURE ORANGE</b>" Tele 6362 5611 - Mention 1/19 RNSWR Association when booking <b>PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT</b> Members of 'Le Club Accor Hotels' Loyalty Program should be entitled to a discount.</p>
SUN	11 NOV 2018	1045h	<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY</b>	<p><b>SYDNEY CENOTAPH</b></p>  <p>Coat &amp; Tie Decorations &amp; Medals Refreshments after Service at Venue to be advised</p>
FRI	15 FEB 2019	1645h	<p><b>LAST POST CEREMONY</b></p> <p>2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF <b>Commemorating Brothers</b></p> <p><b>NX52468 CPL Roy COTTON</b> Killed in Action Singapore 11 February 1942</p> <p><b>NX36763 PTE Arthur COTTON</b> Killed in Action Malaya 22 January 1942 (Brothers of Association member Mrs Shirley DRUM)</p>	<p><b>AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA ACT</b></p>  <p>Coat &amp; Tie Decorations &amp; Medals</p> <p>Arrangements for Evening Meal following the Ceremony at a Canberra venue currently in hand and will be confirmed in the December 18 Newsletter</p>

### ASSOCIATION PATRONS & OFFICE BEARERS

**PATRON & LIFE MEMBER**  
**PATRON**  
**CHAPLAIN & LIFE MEMBER**  
**CHANCELLOR**

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

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FRENCHS FOREST NSW 2086  
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Email: dandpzal@bigpond.com



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



## NOTICE OF 20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION

PROUDLY INCORPORATING  
2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF  
ASSOCIATION

TO BE HELD AT ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB  
231-243 ANSON STREET ORANGE NSW 2800  
ON SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER 2018 AT 1500h



I/XIX

## AGENDA

1. **OPENING**
2. **FALLEN COMRADES**
3. **ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**
4. **MINUTES OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT GOSFORD RSL CLUB ON SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER 2017**
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
6. **CORRESPONDENCE**
7. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
8. **TREASURER'S REPORT**
  - Presentation of Statement of Receipts & Payments and Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 June 2018.
  - Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2018.
  - Form 12 Annual Statement.
  - Certificate of Currency of Public Liability Insurance.
9. **HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT**
10. **SOCIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT**
11. **CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR**  
Captain Dennis ZALUNARDO, OAM JP
12. **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS**  
(in accordance with Clause 14 of the Rules)
  - PRESIDENT
  - VICE PRESIDENT
  - TREASURER
  - HONORARY SECRETARY
  - ASSISTANT TREASURER
  - ASSISTANT HONORARY SECRETARY
  - ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN
  - MERCHANDISING & MEMORABILIA MANAGER
  - WEBSITE MANAGER -
  - COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2)
13. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
14. **NEXT MEETING**
15. **CLOSURE**

# FRONTLINE



## VALE GOOD FRIENDS



### **2268101 PTE Robert John LAVINGTON**

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

Robert was born on 4 March 1945 and enlisted at Padstow in February 1977 and was discharged in September 1981. He joined the Association on 27 MAY 2011 and was a regular attender at our functions. He sadly passed away at Ulladulla 30 January 2018 at the Sarah Claydon Residential Care Facility.

He is survived by his beloved wife Glenda and loving daughter Nichole.



### **61745 WO2 Barry Vivian DEBOMFORD**

Barry was born at Launceston TAS on 23 December 1940 and sadly passed away on 17 July 2018 at Yamba NSW.

He served both tours of South Vietnam with 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment in 1967 and 1970 and was wounded in action on the second tour. He later served as a Training Warrant Officer with the 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion RNSWR at Bathurst NSW and with 1<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion RNSWR at Ingleburn and Orange during the late 1990's.



## **COMMODORE & COLONEL The Honourable Justice**

### **Sir Laurence Lillingston Whistler STREET AC KCMG QC RANR**

We were much saddened to learn of the passing of Sir Laurence on 21 June 2018. He succeeded the Inaugural Reserve Forces Day Council National and NSW Chairman Sir Arthur Roden Cutler VC **AK, KCMG, KCVO, CBE** following Sir Roden's demise on 21 February 2002, a position Sir Laurence fulfilled until ill health forced his retirement in February 2013. Sir Laurence was born at Woollahra NSW on 3 July 1926 and after enlisting during World War 2 on 31 Dec December 1943 as an Ordinary Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class served in The Royal Australian Navy until discharge as a Sub Lieutenant on 26 February 1947. He was also very pleased to have served as the Honorary Colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Royal New South Wales Lancers.



Our thanks to Tony Stephens of the Sydney Morning Herald for the very fine tribute to Sir Laurence: After a meeting in 1986, the Supreme Court judges of NSW issued their first joint statement. The historic meeting addressed a burning issue: the balance between the judges' cherished independence and their public accountability, especially in view of allegations against High Court Justice Lionel Murphy, District Court Judge John Foord and Chief Magistrate Murray Farquhar.

Sombre judges had slipped through the court's back door, while their chief, the darkly handsome Sir Laurence Street, fondly known as Lorenzo the Magnificent, stopped helpfully for news photographers at the front. Street's historic public statement afterwards brought the government executive and the judiciary into serious conflict, with the judges joined by District Court colleagues and magistrates. Then premier Barrie Unsworth and attorney-general Terry Sheahan wanted to remove from parliament the power to sack judges; they wanted the judiciary to deal with the Foord case. Street led the revolt that forced a government back-down. The judges accepted a compromise - establishment of the Judicial Commission to investigate allegations of judicial misconduct, but parliament must still wield the ultimate power. Laurence Lillingston Whistler Street knew the history. The Stuart kings had sacked judges with whom they disagreed. The 1702 Act of Settlement gave judges independence and security of tenure. The Street family is steeped in history. Alys de Streate is in the 1085 Domesday book. Laurence's mother, Jessie, traced her ancestors back to King Alfred (the Great) of England (849-899). John Street shot dead two of the gunpowder plotters seeking to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605. In 1686 Sir Thomas Annie Besant, social reformer of the Theosophical Society, was of the extended Street family, as were anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce, American painter James Whistler and Edward Lear, most famous for nonsense poems.

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Laurence's uncle, also Laurence, was killed at Gallipoli. Geoffrey Street fought at Gallipoli and in France, won a Military Cross, became minister for the army and died with nine others, including two more cabinet ministers, in a plane crash near Canberra in 1940. Another John Street had arrived from England as a free settler in 1822, found land at Bathurst and married Marie Rendell, with Reverend Samuel Marsden officiating. A son, John Rendell Street, MLA, married Susannah, a daughter of William Lawson, one of the first white men across the Blue Mountains; their son became Sir Philip Whistler Street, chief justice of NSW (1926-1934) and father of Sir Kenneth Whistler Street, chief justice from 1950 to 1960. Kenneth Street married Jessie Lillingston. Both families feared the union would be a disaster. Jessie was accused of being a communist and fought for the peace, women's movements and for Aboriginal rights in the 1967 referendum. Conservative Kenneth dressed for dinner. Justice Street was Chief Justice of NSW. When he was appointed chief justice, she went to Europe for six years, including Russia for Joseph Stalin's funeral in 1954. The Menzies government tried to revoke her passport.

The marriage defied the dire forecasts and Laurence, born on July 3, 1926, was one of four children. He became a prefect at Cranbrook, lieutenant in the cadets, debater and school magazine editor. Joining the RAN at 17, he served in the latter stages of World War II. He said that Jessie had passed on her humanity and four years in the navy gave him "something of the common touch". He took second class honours in law at Sydney University and became associate to Sir William Owen in the Supreme Court, before Owen went to the High Court. Street went to the bar in 1951, married Susan Watt in 1952 and became a junior to Garfield Barwick. He established a large practice, particularly in equity, commercial law and naval matters, taking silk in 1963. Court observers noticed that his forensic cross-examinations came gently, even to hostile witnesses. Some called him "Lorenzo the Latin Lover"; he represented the American actor Connie Stevens, who referred to him as "so handsome I had a mad crush on him". Street became a judge in equity in 1965 and chief equity judge in 1972.



Appointed Chief Justice of the NSW Supreme Court in 1974, at 47 years, he was unabashed. He was accomplished at cutting through masses of detail to go to the hearts of matters. He mixed traditionalism with a certain radical touch, legal stability with creativity. Refusing an injunction to ban Hare Krishna activities in streets, he said: "Manifestations of eccentricities by a person or persons within such a large city lend some colour to that city." Street opposed the Whitlam government's establishment of the Family Court, disapproved of federal and supreme courts being under the same roof in the new Queen's Square building in 1977, and clashed with the NSW government over its appointment of judges from lower courts, rather than the bar. Yet he backed social reforms introduced by Frank Walker in Neville Wran's government, such as Aboriginal land rights, community justice centres and Legal Aid.

Describing himself as a "pragmatic idealist", he disliked controversy but headed the royal commission into allegations that Murray Farquhar had tried to influence a court case against rugby league boss Kevin Humphreys and that Wran may have influenced Farquhar. Wran was cleared, Farquhar jailed and Humphreys convicted.

Street made suggestions to the Law Reform Commission and championed the establishment of ICAC, although some colleagues believed that judges should be excluded from its scrutiny. He wanted to break impediments that stood between the benefits of the law and the people. He coped with a vast amount of new litigation by streamlining procedures, introducing declaratory orders and referring certain matters to specialist referees. His last case saw the Court of Criminal Appeal legally recognise sex change operations, with "a more compassionate, tolerant attitude to the problem of human sexuality". A person's sex would be decided on their psychological sex as well as genital features. Justice Michael Kirby spoke at Street's farewell in 1988 of his "shining capacities as a creative, energetic and imaginative judge ... he was swift and efficient, courteous and painstaking. He was equalled by none in his capacity to deliver extempore judgments which marshalled the facts, expounded the law and reached conclusions ... He is the very model of a modern Chief Justice." Street thought history was bringing law closer to social justice than in Dickens' time, softening the harshness of black letter law. "You don't leave your heart behind as a judge."

He was the first retiring chief justice to take on a new career, as a commercial mediator, and a new wife, Penny Ferguson. He said: "I've always enjoyed a streak of irresponsibility, both in my values and in my lifestyle. I've never felt constrained in my private life by the cast-iron requirements of society. I got divorced, I remarried, and had a second family of one. I have led a life that has not necessarily always conformed to the strict Victorian standards." In his second career he negotiated a settlement between the British National History Museum and Indigenous groups to return the remains of 17 people to Tasmania. He decided there was sufficient evidence to charge the arresting officer in the death of Mulrunji Doomadgee on Palm Island. He inquired into anti-terrorism, casinos and the Children of God.

Sir Laurence Street is survived by Penny, children Sylvia, Sarah, Alexander, Kenneth and Jessie (whose godfather is Prince Charles), 15 grandchildren and was farewelled at a State Funeral at the Sydney Opera House on 5 July 2018.



## **NX40803 LIEUTENANT Douglas Alfred SEYMOUR 2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF**

Alf was born at Sydney on 9 October 1918 and sadly passed away in late June 2018. He undertook National Service Training at Rutherford and Greta NSW in 1939 prior to enlisting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF on 2 July 1940 at Goondiwindi NSW. On 12 July 1940 he was promoted acting Sergeant and following his attendance at a promotion course at Narellan NSW was promoted substantive Sergeant and following attendance at the Officers' Training School Holsworthy NSW was promoted to Lieutenant on 15 May 1941.

Alf embarked Sydney on the MV Sibajack on 17th September, 1941 for Malaya and Singapore where he joined the 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF. He fought in the Malaya and Singapore Campaigns and was taken prisoner at Singapore and posted as missing on 13th April, 1942. He took the first POW working party to work on the Singapore Docks and from there they went to Pasir Panjang and then to an island known as Sentosa a large depot for fuels. From there to Woodlands near the causeway to dig bunkers in the hills to protect storage of fuels. He was recovered on 4th September 1945 and embarked HMAHS Manunda for home and was discharged on 26 February 1946.

Loving husband to Jean who predeceased him on 19 December 2011 and Alf is survived by his sons, Doug, John and Peter and their families. Penshurst RSL Sub Branch delivered the RSL Tribute, Bob Pink represented the Association at Alf's farewell at St Lukes Anglican Church Enmore NSW on Monday 2nd July, 2018.

Alf's son Peter delivered the following Tribute:

Our Dad, Douglas Alfred Seymour, known as Alf, was born at Crown Street Womens' Hospital on 9 October 1918. The son of British migrants he was the fourth born of 6 siblings. His life is a reflection of Australian history over the past nearly 100 years. Dad had a difficult childhood and adolescence, due in large part to world economics. He was just 14 years of age at the height of the great depression (1932) when 32% of Australians were unemployed, his Father being one of the unemployed. The collapse of Wall Street (1929) in the U.S.A. led to a world wide economic depression and the Australian economy collapsed.

Dad and his elder brother Ian worked tirelessly to support the family. They relocated by hand large boulders from the creek which ran at the back of their house in order to terrace their back yard so that vegetables could be grown for the table and for sale, he once told me that he and Ian must have grown thousands of tomatoes vines and lettuce for sale over those years. Dad left school during the depression aged 15 and relocated to West Wyalong. A person named Jack Vincent whom his parents had met during their sea voyage from England to Australia had established a wheat and sheep property there. Dad was to work on the property as a farm hand. He once told me it was little more than slave labour, working from before dawn to 8:00 pm at night with little payment other than somewhere to sleep and a little food. He did however learn a great deal about working with the land during his time at West Wyalong and he developed a great affinity with draft horses. As a youth he learnt to drive a team of six draft horses as he ploughed Jack Vincent's fields. Imagine a young boy from the city, standing on a plough share to give it ballast, with the reins of three draft horses in one hand and the reins of another three in the other, ploughing fields from dawn till dusk in the Australian outback. He was not a happy chap.

Eventually he accumulated enough capital to purchase a dray, two horses, and an Australian Terrier dog, and so he set off for better fortune at Tamworth, finding work along the way as he could. Somehow however he ended up at Moree. He spent some time living on Moree Common before with another person he had met, obtained a contract clearing land for pastoral activity at North Star which is approximately 80 kilometres north of Moree. The contract was to clear 1,000 acres which would be done by hand with axe and saw, practically a job for life. Somewhere during this time he served a term of national service for when he enlisted at the outbreak of World War II at the Goondiwindi army recruitment office he was immediately made acting sergeant, and shortly thereafter his non commissioned rank was confirmed as permanent. The military were so anxious to recruit men that anyone with any small amount of military experience was immediately given a position of responsibility. He applied for Officer training and was sent to Holsworthy; he graduated and was commissioned as a first lieutenant. After commissioning he found himself in barracks at Tamworth, his planned destination after leaving West Wyalong. It was here at the weekly dance that he met his wife to be, our mother, Jean, who was a Commandant in the Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment, working in Tamworth Base Hospital, the war room, and plane spotting.

They were taken with each other, however, with such an uncertain future decided to not marry at that time. Dad was originally to be deployed to the Middle East, however due to the situation of the advancing Japanese military through South East Asia he was diverted to Malaya. He left for Malaya on a Dutch ship from Sydney via Perth. It was during his time in Malaya and Singapore that he cheated death on three separate occasions. The battle at "The Muar" (a river in Malaya) yielded a Victoria Cross for his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Anderson who had already been awarded the Military Cross during World War I. The award was for his exceptional leadership and courage, his troops, Dad included, were infantry, and they were up against tanks. They managed to stop 10 tanks during the engagement and this gave their comrades time to retreat to Singapore. It was during this time that Dad first cheated death. He or another Officer was to lead a night patrol, a random choice which fell to the other Officer. The patrol went out and no trace of them was ever seen again, it was as if they had never existed. Dad told me the Officer who led that patrol was a great leader. In time Dad's leg was broken and he found himself in hospital on Singapore Island. The Japanese were now attacking Singapore and he was discharged to fight, a broken leg was no excuse to not participate. This was the second time he cheated death.

When the Japanese over-ran Singapore they rounded up the medical staff and patients in the field hospital, took them to one side, and then proceeded to slaughter them, they even killed one soldier who was on

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the operating table as an anaesthetised patient. This became known as Alexandra Hospital massacre. Along with many others Dad became a POW in Changi camp and it was during this confinement that he cheated death a third time. According to a British soldier, Fred Higginbottom, who nursed Dad, he became very weak and suffered from a rare form of arthritis, he was destined to die and so was separated from his comrades. However he survived and some 35 years later was reunited with the British soldier who nursed him through those bad times and who thought for 35 years that he was dead. At the end of the war Dad was repatriated to Sydney upon a hospital ship and eventually discharged. Six months after returning to Australia he married at St Philips Church, Church Hill Sydney our mother whom he had met at Tamworth all those years before, he was barely able to stand as he was suffering badly from malaria at the time, but Mum was keen to marry.

Bad health as a consequence of his experiences plagued him the rest of his life. Mum and Dad opened a delicatessen at Bondi but could not sustain it as Dad was often in Concord Repatriation Hospital. They then moved to Leura and he began to train as an accountant but bad health forced him to abandon this also. Eventually he joined the State Public Service as the Public Service offered unlimited paid sick leave for returned servicemen who were ill due to their war service, and this would at least provide for his wife and first born. Because of his affinity with the land he chose to work in what was then called The Department of Soil Conservation and was posted to Manilla, 40 kilometres north west of Tamworth. Mum's parents lived at Tamworth as did some close war time friends, and so this posting was a good fit. Dad lived in the Manilla hotel during the week, which was near to the office, and started building a house after work and on weekends, a home for his family. Mum was living with her parents at Tamworth and Dad would visit whenever he could. The Manilla house was completed and the family, now Mum, Dad and three sons moved in. The Department transferred Dad to Sydney, he moved there and the family followed later. Dad did some more home building and Mum's parents came from Tamworth to live out their days with us.

Dad was always involved with the family. He participated in our sport and other activities, and along with Mum always encouraged our participation in Church activity. We were involved in the Police Boys Club Movement and Dad held the office of Vice President of the St George Club. His particular interest was junior football (soccer), he was far advanced of junior coaches of the time in his understanding and organising of teams, with great success, he read widely about formations and "ways" of playing, and the systems he employed can still be seen today at senior professional level. At senior professional level he became member number 7 of the N.S.W First Division club, St George Budapest which was run by the Hungarian community. When the Hungarians planned to open a licensed club to support their team the maze of officialdom and red tape was too much for them, and so Dad became their foundation Treasurer, navigating them through the intricacies of the Chief Secretary's Department in obtaining liquor licences, poker machine licences, restaurant licences, and incorporation. The Public Service afforded Dad some opportunities and some disappointments. Dad was requested by Crown Ministers to be appointed as Permanent Head or Under Secretary of Departments, however it seemed that at these times his health would come back to bite him and the Public Service Board would not agree. In frustration Ministers seconded him to their private staff as a senior advisor. He retired in 1980 after extending his working life by 2 years at the expressed request of the government of the day and a special dinner was held at Parliament House to mark his retirement. In retirement Dad learned to play the organ and kept himself busy with bowls, he became proficient at both and became a bowls umpire. He also enjoyed travel with Mum. His last three and a half years were not happy as they were spent in aged care. Mum always said that Dad was a kind person which was borne out as every stray dog, every stray cat, or every stray person would approach him, and they all received kind attention. And so as we mourn our loss we also celebrate Dad's life. A life of hardship and achievement lived well, from young boy during the Great Depression, hardship on the land, through military leadership and parental responsibility and participation, and distinguished public service, a tapestry that reflects the last 100 years of Australia and which reminds me of Chapter 3 from Ecclesiastes:

- 1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
- 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- 5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- 7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- 8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

## **May He Rest in Peace**

### **PREFACE TO "THE GRIM GLORY" Official History of the 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF**

*Finally the Association extends its heartfelt thanks to the many members of the Unit who rendered assistance in submitting information and answering queries. Particular emphasis is placed on the support given by:*

*Sam Thompson our "father confessor" Battalion Orderly Room Sergeant, for sorting out the many reports from many sources, for his meticulous checking of the nominal rolls and the hours spent in wearing out two typewriters in a good cause.*

*Gilbert Mant our very senior and professionally expert journalist member, for his review and correction of the copy and for giving the manuscript its style and phraseology.*

*Gwen Burchell wife of Harold, Joan Harvey wife of Clarrie, Ethel Pearson wife of Arthur, Joan Stear wife of Neville, Helen Williams wife of Wally, Fay Newton wife of Reg, Rae Haywood daughter of Arthur – for the accurate, neat and professional expert typing of the multiplicity of pages of copy and the continued checking and re-typing of the many, many drafts.*

*The many members and friends of the Unit who helped, without question, in providing much stationery and time and copying many of the extracts and maps and sketches required. Particular thanks in this regard are extended to: Jim Gallagher of Cremorne, Les Bond of Eastwood, "Chook" Fowler of Kingsgrove, and our own members – Stan Baker, Alf Seymour, Bill Buchanan and Geoff DeGroen.*

**REG NEWTON**



## **NX48986 PRIVATE Joseph Frederick COOMBS**

A COMPANY, 2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF

Late of Regents Park NSW, Joe was born at Sydney on 18 October 1920 and advice of his passing on 27 June 2018 at Kellyville NSW was received with much sadness. He enlisted in 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF on 9 October 1941 and embarked for Malaya where he joined the Battalion.

He fought in the Malaya and Singapore Campaigns and following the Capitulation of Singapore on 15 February 1942 passed into captivity as a prisoner of war of the Japanese, slaving in Singapore and later in the Shipyards and Coal Mines of Japan until repatriation to Australia at War's end and was discharged on 7 January 1946.

Post War Joe served as President of 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF Association from 1969 to 1972 and as Vice President 1972 to 1973 and for many years as a Committee Member.

Joe was member of C Force which boarded the MV *Kamakura Maru* in Singapore Harbour on the 28th November, 1942 and sailed for Japan on the 29th November. At Manila she picked up 100 Americans — Texans from an Artillery Unit — and 1,000 Dutchmen POW at Java.

## **“C” FORCE – JAPAN - Extract from The GRIM GLORY:**

Just before we left we had one big parade when the Japanese Camp Commander addressed the new mixed overseas force through an interpreter and told us:

***"All men should be honoured to know that they are going to a land of peace and tranquillity, where even the birds can nestle on the hunter's hand and will not be harmed. Where the snow covers the land in winter and the warm sun of spring melts it leaving the country clean. A land of milk and honey. In Japan it is a sin to eat and not to work, so to prevent all men from becoming sinners we shall put you to work. That we had had a hard time doing work for The Emperor and the Imperial Japanese Army that was necessary. That time was now over. Now we were going to the homeland for a period of rest in a land which was much better and much healthier. Japan was a very beautiful land; it was a land bright with cherry blossoms; a land of beautiful valleys and snow-capped mountains. There we would meet in their homeland the considerate people of Nippon, people who were kind and generous; who treated their enemies humanely; a people inspired by the chivalry of their ancestors and the glorious spirit of Bushido. He hoped that we would have a safe journey."***

Then he dismissed us. One of the 2/20 Battalion chaps was heard to say:

***"If those people in Japan are the nice people of Nippon then who are these bastards???"***

### **TONY'S EULOGY**

We are here today to celebrate the life of Joe Coombs and say goodbye to a wonderful man – one of life's unsung heroes. For those who don't know me, I am Tony, #1 son of Joe and Muriel Coombs and next to me is #2 son Greg. The numbering is by age, not looks or intelligence. I would like to thank you all for coming here today to mourn the loss of Dad with me and my family. Dad was born on 18 October 1920 in St Peters, the youngest of 3 children of Ambrose and Annie. He was always close to his older brother George and sister Millie. They all lived in Balmain where Dad spiritually remained all his life. In the late 30's Mum and Dad went on a group hike to Stanwell Park with other partners.

They came home together. After a 2 year courtship they married on 3 December 1941. Mum and Dad had 3 children – Cheryl Anne who unfortunately didn't survive then me and finally Greg. Between us we have given Dad and Mum 6 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. The first 7 great grandchildren were boys and they were especially interested to hear Dad's stories of his time in the Army. Dad got immense pleasure from the boys curiosity and would talk with them for ages. Prior to his marriage Dad enlisted in the AIF and was sent to training camp at Dubbo. 3 weeks after his marriage Dad embarked on the Aquitania bound for Singapore. After the Fall of Singapore he was taken prisoner and eventually shipped to Japan landing in Nagasaki in December 1942. With the other POW's he slaved in the shipyards and coal mines under atrocious conditions till the end of the war, returning to Sydney in Oct 1945. After his discharge he returned to work at Symonds Furnishings on Pitt St Sydney until his retirement. Before the war, Dad was a very keen sportsman playing soccer for the Balmain Congs, winning numerous premierships and cricket for the Balmain Wanderers. After the War Dad's sporting interest continued with him playing cricket in the Auburn district when the family moved to Berala.

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The house had a big backyard so “Stanwell tennis court” as it was known, was constructed. Dad would play on Monday nights in the men’s social. He eventually took up golf when soccer and cricket were too much for him and this was now his great passion. He had joined Carnarvon where he was a regular – becoming a Life Member.

As if this wasn’t enough he was an active member of the 2/19<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF Association serving as President, Vice President and Welfare Officer and the Lidcombe RSL sub branch with various senior positions and being awarded Life Membership of the RSL. For relaxation there was the weekend, taking my brother and me to sport and scouts through the day and then parties at night. There was always family parties either at our place or Uncle George’s where we would gather around the pianola and sing till all hours of the night. If not that it was cards at one of Dad’s Army mates.

This continued till us boys left home. After a bad fall Mum and Dad entered Bella Vista Gardens nursing home where they received wonderful care from the staff, especially sister Tricia – our thanks to you. Dad always showed his appreciation and that was returned 10 fold by all those who had to deal with him. Dad worked hard but he always had time to help others. His positive attitude to life’s trial and tribulations, big or small helped him and those around him through to better times. He did his most to avoid conflict; it didn’t always make life easier but with his positive attitude it certainly made it more cheerful.



I’ll miss you Dad, as will all of us.

Tony Coombs

## GREG’S EULOGY

Today we mourn the loss and celebrate the life of a wonderful man – Joseph Frederick Coombs. Dad was born at a tumultuous time...not long after World War 1. Then came the Great Depression of the 1930’s. The Coombs family were doing it rough. Dad’s father Ambrose was out of work. Dad’s Mum Annie was at home. His elder brother George moved out to the country in an attempt to pick up work and went rabbiting so as to send money home. Dad’s sister Millie had a few hours a week of part time work. Dad was still a boy at school. When the Coombs family were evicted from their rented property things looked dire until a friend came to their assistance and put them into a Balmain terraced house rent free so long as they kept it in good condition and stopped squatters moving in and trashing the place. Perhaps this man’s generosity led to Dad’s view of the world and how to treat others.....but I think it was inherent in his character. Mom said, just last Friday, that Joe only saw the good in people.

In the years prior to the war Dad loved his sport.....cricket in summer.....soccer in winter.....and made some lifelong friends there. But it was his experiences during the war years....his internment as a POW....that really cemented his lifelong friendships with and love of those mates that experienced those years of hardship with him. I asked Dad, a few years ago, what would he would have said while he was away in Japan, if he was told he would be sitting now at the age of 95 having a beer with his sons? His response was: “I’ll take it”. I remember, in the years of me as a boy, Dad helping the neighbours fix a car, put up a fence.....and also the neighbours doing the same at our place. If out in the car, driving from A to B, we came upon a broken down car.....Dad would be out of our car in an instant helping to push somebody off the road. When Tony and I were big enough it was “come on boys, somebody needs a hand”. If they were out of petrol Dad had a can in the back of the car.....enough to get them out of trouble.

While Dad was a pretty nice fellow...he had marvellous support and help from Mum. Dad, working in the city, was a magnet for any 2/19<sup>th</sup> member in town for Anzac Day or a visit to the doctor. They would call in on Dad, drag him to the nearest pub for a beer.....when Dad brought one or more of these reprobates home, with a few beers under their belt, Mum would dig into the cupboards, find some extra food and dish up a feast for the participants. By this time the Coombs family had moved to a house in Berala and built a tennis court to supplement their income. Mum needed to walk a kilometre or two to get to the shops pushing Tony in a stroller and carrying me then cooked dinner and looked after the tennis court.

During this period the enlarged family of the 2/19<sup>th</sup> survivors and spouses and children would meet for regular outings and social events. I can still remember the Christmas parties at Narrabeen. Through all of this Mom was a stalwart, a pillar of strength to Dad and to the other wives. Tony and I have to be the luckiest children to have parents that cared for them and for the neighbours, friends, comrades and wives with true friendship and a sense of humour. I can only remember Dad complaining about a couple of things:

- 1) “At 93, I’m never going to get a hole in one....I can’t hit the ball that far even on a par 3”.
- 2) A couple of months ago when contemplating his situation he said “this was never part of the game plan”.

My, and probably everyone else’s thoughts on Joe, were summed up by one of Dad’s grandsons in law, Mike in a text message to me: “He was one of the best men I have ever met”.

Greg Coombs.

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**ATTENDANCE - 1/19 RNSWR / 2/19 BN AIF ASSOCIATION and RSL AT  
JOE COOMBS' FUNERAL ON TUE 3 JULY 2018  
SOUTH CHAPEL ROOKWOOD CREMATORIUM  
and WAKE AT CARNARVON GOLF CLUB**

Grant ARMSTRONG, James BADKIN, Robert BINNS RFD, Andrew DONALDSON,  
Matthew FANNING, John HAINES, AM, Margaret HOPLEY, Michael HOPLEY,  
Marj HOWARD, Sandy HOWARD, Geoff HUNT, Jim HURT, Paul JORDAN,  
Maureen MARINER, Simon MARINER, Bob MIDDLETON, Rob MOIR, Bob PINK, OAM, OAM (Mil),  
Roy RAE, Trish RAE, David RING, Bryan SCHAFFER, OAM, JP, Glen STEWART,  
John STEWART, Ray WARDEN, Steve WINBANK, Dennis ZALUNARDO, OAM, JP



## **Constance Frances HEYDON (Nee QUINLAN)**

The 99 Years & 4 Months History of my Mother Connie by Her Son Michael



1410h Saturday 07 July 2018 DEATH NOTICE OF WAR WIDOW CONSTANCE FRANCES HEYDON (Nee QUINLAN) better known as "CONNIE" aged 99 years and 4 months old, late of Roslyn Lodge Nursing Home Mt Tamborine QLD, also of Cootamundra and Gundagai NSW. Connie was the wife of NX35497 SGT Jack Heydon 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF POW WW2. Connie had a long association and history with the Australian Military. Connie was born on 01 March 1919 at Cootamundra Hospital to Mary and Ernest Quinlan of Sutton Street Cootamundra. Connie was the 4<sup>th</sup> eldest of 8 children, on finishing school she got a job and travelled daily by train from Cootamundra to Coolac to work for D.H. Roberts General Store that is where she met Jack Heydon and his brothers (9) and (1) sister. Connie, Winifred, Molly and Maude had met their future husbands prior to the outbreak of World War Two.

On the outbreak of World War 2 Connie, Winifred, Molly and Maude eldest and youngest brothers Jim and Jack Quinlan, Jack, Pat, Kevin, Mick, Len and Terry Heydon, Mackie and Tommy Murray and Alan Way all enlisted in the Army, Ray Bradley enlisted in the RAAF. Winifred's boyfriend was in the Army NX6132 Alan Stanley Way enlisted 3 Nov 1939 he rose to the rank of LT and saw overseas service in the Middle East Theatre during WW2 and on return to Australia he was posted to HQ BSD Adelaide River NT awaiting discharge. On 29 April 1942 he married Winifred Quinlan at Cootamundra, on 7 May 1943 in Sydney. LT Alan Way discharged from the Army and enlisted in the RAAF 31 Sqn. 437634 Alan Stanley Way rose to the rank of Pilot Officer and posted to Coomalie Creek Airstrip NT where he flew Bristol Beaufighter planes and saw service in the South West Pacific Theatre during WW2. On the 6 Oct 1944 RAAF A19-203 Mk x Bristol Beaufighter of 31 Sqn crashed and burnt on the Gunnery Range 10 miles South East of Coomalie Creek Airstrip NT during rocket projectile training, caused by a rocket exploding or burning while still attached to the aircraft, Pilot F/O I.J. INGLE and Navigator P/O A.S. WAY both were killed. 437634 Pilot Officer Alan Stanley Way is buried in Adelaide Cemetery. RAAF 31 Sqn during WW2, 79 men from the squadron were killed in action or died on active service. Connie's eldest brother on 20 Jun 1940 NX35443 Jim Quinlan enlisted in the Army he rose to the rank of LT and married Carmel Glover on 26 Dec 1940 in Albury. She gave birth to a son 13 Oct 1941 named Terry who never met his father. Connie's future

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husband on 21 June 1940 NX35497 Jack and his brother NX35499 Pat Heydon enlisted in the Army and they both rose to the rank of SGT and on 3 Jul 1940 NX25905 Tommy Murray enlisted in the Army and also rose to the rank of SGT all with the 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF. All served in WW 2 under LTCOL Charles Anderson. Anderson was awarded a VC for leading the 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF at the battle for The Bridge at Parit Sulong where LT Jim Quinlan had been wounded three times as he took out a Japanese machine gun post. He was aged 26 and died at the Bridge at Parit Sulong mass murder by the Japanese on 22 Jan 1942. On 15 Feb 1942, the Fall of Singapore saw LTCOL Charles Anderson and 8 Division including Sgts Jack and Pat Heydon and Tommy Murray become POW to the Japanese Army until the end of WW2. Connie's other sister Mollie's boyfriend NX19387 PTE Mackie Murray enlisted 31 May 1940 in the Army with 2/13 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF and saw service in Africa with the Rats of Tobruk and the Middle East and Borneo, PTE Murray on March 1944 was shipped back to Sydney to recover from sickness from the jungle fever on 10 April 1944 and married Mollie Quinlan at Cootamundra, on recovery of his sickness at the end of April 1944. PTE Mackie Murray was posted to New Guinea. Connie's other sister Maude's boyfriend 402691 Ray Bradley enlisted on 12 Oct 1940 in the RAAF he rose to the rank of Flying Officer and was posted to No 21 SQN B-24 Liberator at Fenton Airfield, NT Australia and saw service in the South West Pacific.

On 12 Feb 1944 F/O Ray Bradley was posted to RAAF Station (7OTU) at Tocumwal in southern NSW to train B-24 Liberator crews. On 11 Oct 1944 F/O Ray Bradley married Maude Quinlan in Cootamundra. No 7 Operational Training Unit (7OTU) heavy bomber training unit at evaluates the role of the Australian-supported B-24s in electronic warfare. When the Atomic Bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan they saw the end of World War 2. Prisoners of War under the Japanese from the Fall of Singapore 15 Feb 1942 till 2 Sep 1945 Sgts Jack and Pat Heydon and Tommy Murray were repatriated to Australia to Concord Hospital Sydney. All were discharged and returned home town to their families, the Heydon brothers to Gundagai, Murray brothers Cootamundra, Ray Bradley Albury and Jack Quinlan Cootamundra. In Jan 1946 Pat Heydon married Cath Leary of Criterion Hotel Gundagai they had no children. On 10 Jun 1946 Jack Heydon married Connie Quinlan in Cootamundra and they raised five children, Jack and Connie built a house and lived in Gundagai. Their 2 eldest sons joined the Army (ARA) their eldest son 217213 John Heydon enlisted 1967 he rose to the rank of Major with RAR as an infantry Officer, 2LT 217213 John Heydon toured Vietnam with 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment from 17 Feb 1970 to 10 Mar 1971. John Heydon served in the army for 27 years and he took discharge in 1992. Their second eldest son 221510 Mick Heydon enlisted into the Army (ARA) on 8 Dec 1971 as a Fitter and Turner and rose to the rank of SGT Tech Advisor with Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was posted to various units within Australia. His service covered from the Vietnam War to Afghanistan War with supplies to the defence forces on the front line. On the 17 Jul 1996 SSGT Mick Heydon was awarded a GOC Commendation Badge Silver as a member of the General Engineering, Armament and Marine Section of the Defence National Storage and Distribution Centre. SGT Mick Heydon received the GOC from MAJGEN D. M. Mueller General Officer Commanding, Logistic Command. SSGT Mick Heydon took discharge on 12 Mar 2004 having completed 32 years 3 months SSGT Mick Heydon had reached the CRA Compulsory Retiring Age of 55. After discharge Mick moved back to Gundagai to live and care for his Mother Connie for 3 years. In 2007 Connie relocated to Mt Tamborine to live with her daughter Carmel. In 2004 Mick met Bob and Gladys Bak (President) and (Sec) of Integrated Service People's Association of Australia and became a member, in 2007 Mick was elected Vice President. In 2009 Mick purchased Mum's house when Connie moved into Roslyn Lodge Nursing Home Mt Tamborine QLD

In conclusion Connie had 99 years and 4 months - a long Australian history being a direct descendant from Convict Mary Wade. Mary Wade was born 5 Oct 1777 in Southwark London, Christened 21 Dec 1777 at St Olaves London. Mary Wade was transported to New South Wales at the age of 11 in 1789. She had been found guilty of highway robbery and sentenced to death by hanging at her trial. However, as was often the case in such trials, her death sentence was commuted to transportation to the penal colony of New South Wales for life. As far as the records show, she was the youngest female to be transported to the Antipodes. She sailed with the Second Fleet, on the *Lady Juliana*, a ship comprised entirely of women convicts. It had been noted by the authorities that the colony was in 'great need of women. She arrived in Sydney Cove in June 1790 and was then sent to Norfolk Island. Mary established a relationship with a fellow convict, Teague (Edward) Harrigan. They returned to Sydney in 1803. Teague disappeared on a whaling expedition in 1806. Mary then established a relationship with Jonathon Brooker and married him in 1817. By then she had gained her Certificate of Freedom (1812). The family, like many of the ex-convict families in colonial New South Wales, struggled to make a living, but make a living they did. By 1828, they had settled in the Illawarra. Brooker died in 1833, and Mary remained in the Illawarra for the rest of her life. She died in 1859, aged 82. According to the family history, Mary had 21 children and their descendants' number in the thousands. They include Kevin Rudd, the former prime minister of Australia.

At 1410 Saturday 07 July 2018 Connie died with family at her bed side, Connie's death brings an end to her generation of the Quinlan Family she is also the last standing of the World War 2 veteran husbands and their wives. Connie was the beloved wife of Jack (John Dominick) Heydon (dec'd) he ironically died on 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fall of Singapore 15 Feb 1977 at the age of 58. Loved Mother & Mother-in-law of John & Margaret (Tamborine Mountain), Michael (Gundagai), Joe & Julie (Gundagai), Carmel (Jeddah Saudi Arabia), and Patricia (dec'd) she died 16 Jan 1980. Adored Nonie of her Grandchildren John, Cynde, Emma; and Great Grandchildren Lachlan, Isobel and Dominic.

On Saturday 17 July 2018 Relatives and Friends were respectfully invited to attend Connie's Requiem Mass con-celebrated by Fr Michael Bourke and Fr Mark Crocker was held at St Patrick's Catholic Church Gundagai commencing at 1200 noon. The cortege then left for the North Gundagai Catholic Cemetery, Connie's coffin was carried by her children John, Michael, Joe, Carmel, John G/child and GG/Child Lachlan thru the golfing girls forming a guard of honour and was buried in the Catholic section of the old Gundagai Cemetery next to her youngest daughter Patricia better known as Trish and husband Jack. Connie was a wonderful mother and friend to many she loved her golf.

*Lest We Forget*

# FRONTLINE

Get Well  
Soon



## SICK REPORT

Our Best Get Well Wishes for a speedy recovery for  
Association Committee Member and Historian  
Geoff BRADDON, OAM, JP  
recently in care at Carcoar NSW



## CONGRATULATIONS

Association Member



GROUP CAPTAIN

Mark Charles HOSKINSON, AFSM, JP

Good morning Bob,

Hope you are all well.

I thought you may be interested in that I received the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in the Australia Day awards and was presented the Medal by the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove on the 3rd of May 2018. I received it for Service to the NSW Rural Fire Service from 1979 till now. I am a Group Captain. It was a real Honour to receive my AFSM from the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove.

I served in the 3rd Battalion RNSWR, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion RNSWR, 4/3 Battalion RNSWR and 1/19 Battalion RNSWR between 1983 and 2000. I served from a recruit to the Platoon SGT at 3 Platoon Leeton and A Coy Wagga Wagga.

I have received Commendation for Brave Conduct and the NSW RFS Commissioners Commendation for Brave Conduct in 2010 if you are wondering what Awards I am wearing.

My Family and I farm at Kikoira central NSW.

Kind regards

Mark Hoskinson AFSM

0429 999 778

## AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL



*Mr Mark Charles HOSKINSON, Kikoira NSW 2669 Mr Hoskinson joined the Kikoira Brigade of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) in 1979 and has demonstrated his leadership capabilities on numerous occasions by serving in a range of positions including as Deputy Captain, Captain, Deputy Group Captain and Group Captain. He has also played a significant role in his capacity of Group Captain in the 1997 Tullibigeal fire, the 2009 Mt Mologone fire, the 2011 Monkey Top fire, the 2015 Yalgogrin fire and the 2007 Paynes Road fire. He has further demonstrated his capabilities in managing local and out of area crews, aircraft, heavy plant and providing timely reliable information to the Incident Management Team. He has excellent leadership skills and is well respected by the Bland Temora Zone volunteers, his colleagues and peers. He continually demonstrates his professionalism, resilience and commitment to the NSWRFS by representing volunteers on the Senior Management Team and the Bland Temora Zone Bushfire Management Committee. He is extremely passionate about his areas of responsibility including the isolated remote areas of Naradhan, Gubbatta and Kikoira. These and neighbouring districts have benefited from his positive attitude to change and continuous improvement for the benefit of the wider community. Mr Hoskinson's commitment in attending Senior Management Team meetings, Group Captain/Captains forums, annual group equipment inspections, brigade annual general meetings, pre and post season Captain's meetings and after action review debriefings has been outstanding.*





## DONATIONS

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



John	CONNELL
Mark	HOSKINSON
Jamie	OSBORNE

## NEW MEMBER



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

MR	Maurice SAINES	GOULBURN NSW	2580
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## LIEUTENANT Cecil HEALY

### 19<sup>th</sup> BATTALION AIF

From Terry NIXON



Bob I was trying to find out more on Cecil Healy and got this:  
Terry

Bonjour

I am writing to you in order to ask if any anniversary commemoration will be taking place for the late Lt Cecil Healy 19 Battalion 1st AIF who was killed in action on the **29 August 1918** and is interned at the New British Cemetery Assevillers. Cecil was an Olympic gold medal winner from the 1912 Stockholm and the only gold medal winner killed during the Great War, I stumbled across his grave in 2015 and to my shame knew nothing about him it would be sad not to mark his passing and I am hoping that some plan has been put in place to honour him one man among 1000's but one who distinguished himself. Please let me know if something is planned although it might not mean anything to most people I believe that he should not be forgotten.

Lest We Forget.  
**PTE Terry Nixon.**

Hello Terry,

Thank you for your email. I can confirm that there is indeed a commemorative event organised to recognise Cecil Healy's service and sacrifice. It is on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2018 and is called the Walk for Cecil Healy.

Information on the event is as follows:

In partnership with the municipality of Assevillers, the City of Péronne will host a walk in memory of the Australian swimmer Cecil Healy, Olympic medalist in 1912. A walk of 12.5 km will be jointly organised by the two municipalities with the help of several local walking associations (Marcheurs Péronnais, Marche Randonnée Chaulnoise, etc.). The walk will follow the route taken by the Australian soldiers during the capture of Mont-Saint-Quentin and Péronne in August-September 1918, and will end at the Assevillers military cemetery where Cecil Healy is buried. At Assevillers, after a short commemorative ceremony, the inauguration of a monument and a joint exhibition on Cecil Healy prepared by the Alfred-Danicourt Museum and Assevillers, the day will finish with a concert. Further information at this website: [http://cecil.healy.free.fr/?page\\_id=428&lang=en](http://cecil.healy.free.fr/?page_id=428&lang=en) cecil.healy.free.fr On 2nd September 1918, the community of Péronne was finally liberated by the Australian Imperial Forces. A century later, the city of Péronne declares "2018, Australian year".

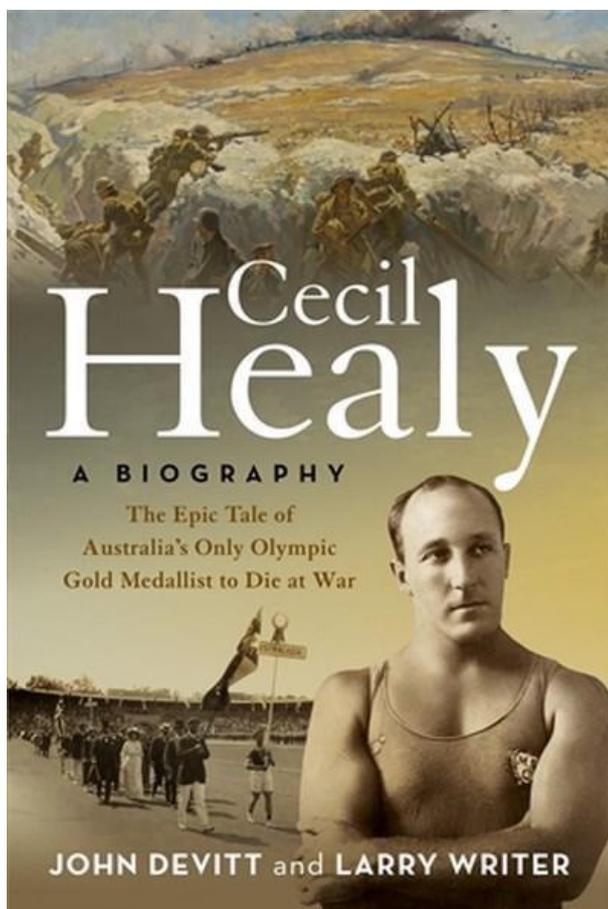
Hope this is of some help

Regards

**S.E. CLINGAN**  
Colonel

Defence Attache - Commemorations France and Belgium – Ambassade of Australie 4, rue Jean Rey Paris 75015

## LIEUTENANT CECIL HEALY 19th BATTALION AIF



SYDNEY MORNING HERALD  
Saturday 11 AUGUST 2018

### VICE REGAL

 In the morning, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, accompanied by Mrs Linda Hurley, launched the book "Cecil Healy: A Biography", at St Aloysius College, Kirribilli.

In the afternoon, the Governor, as Patron, and Mrs Hurley attended the final matches and Closing Ceremony of the 2018 Wheelchair Rugby World Championships, at Quaycentre, Sydney Olympic Park.

In the evening, the Vice Regal couple attended the Round 22 Match of the National Rugby League, featuring the Rabbitohs and Roosters, at ANZ Stadium, Homebush.

When John Devitt won Olympic 100-metre freestyle gold in 1960, his inspiration was Healy. He always wanted to write his hero's biography. Now, on the centenary of Healy's death, Devitt has joined with Larry Writer to produce an extraordinary tale of a man who was born to swim, earned sporting immortality but then sacrificed all. The book recalls Australia's first great era of swimming, our early Olympic achievements and the rise of the surf lifesaving movement. Healy helped organise the visit of Duke Kahanamoku to Australia in the summer of 1914-15, an adventure that inspired generations of board riders.

Three years earlier, at the Stockholm Olympics, he refused to race in the 100 metres final unless the Duke, the race favourite, was also allowed to swim. The great Hawaiian had missed his semi-final, after a misunderstanding over the starting time. Cecil later won gold in the 4x200m freestyle relay, but it was his altruism that earned him a place in sport's highest pantheon. When John Devitt adopted his sporting hero, he could not have chosen a finer man.

#### About the Authors

John Devitt AM is one of Australian sport's all-time greats, winner of four Olympic medals, including two golds. He held the 100m freestyle world record for four years, and was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame and the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

Larry Writer is the author of several best-selling books on sport, history and crime, including *Never Before, Never Again*, described as 'the finest study of sporting success ever published in Australia', *Razor*, which won the Ned Kelly Award for best non-fiction crime book, and *Dangerous Games: Australia at the 1936 Nazi Olympics*, which was short-listed for the Australian Sports Book of the Year.

# FRONTLINE



## SEEN AROUND THE TRAPS



**ON THE WESTERN FRONT 5 AUGUST 2018**  
Al Kelly, Al Giddings and Bill Regan with Mont Saint Quentin, the tree line in the right background.



From Les FORDHAM pictured with Peter & Judith BRANDER who dropped in for a few days in Newcastle on their round Australia tour



**THE NEW C COMPANY 1/19 RNSWR SIGN  
WAGGA WAGGA DEPOT**

Photo courtesy Association Patron  
Colonel Brian MARTYN, RFD

# FRONTLINE

RESERVE FORCES DAY SYDNEY SUN 1 JULY 2018

## THE LAST HURRAH" !

GLIMPSSES FROM YESTERYEAR

THE INAUGURAL 1998 PARADE IN SYDNEY



MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE FORCES DAY COUNCIL AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE SYDNEY JUNE 1998 TO WELCOME ADMIRAL DANNY VAUGHAN OIC US NAVAL RESERVE

L to R Back Row: Unknown – Terry MALING – Bruce LOYNES – John McKECHNIE – Bob PINK  
L to R Front Row: Paul "Rocky" WEBB – Carol McMAHON – Unknown – John WALSH – Matt WALSH  
(Our thanks to John McKechnie for the photo)



MEMBERS OF 1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION MARCHING IN THE INAUGURAL RESERVE FORCES DAY SYDNEY 1 JULY 1998 BEHIND THE 19<sup>th</sup> BATTALION AIF BANNER

L to R: WO1 Kevin MARSHALL – Alison BRADDON – WO1 Terry CURTIS – WO1 Bob PINK – WO2 Bodo SCHWARZ – LCPL Kevin BRANCH – COLONEL Tom CRAWCFORD – SSGT John FOY – WO2 Roger PERRY – LTCOL Gary BELTRAME – MAJ Phil CRAWCFORD – LTCOL Kim TEMPLETON



# FRONTLINE

## RESERVE FORCES DAY SYDNEY FINAL PARADE ANZAC WAR MEMORIAL HYDE PARK

HYDE PARK



# FRONTLINE

## SANDAKAN COMMEMORATION BURWOOD PARK BURWOOD SUN 5 AUG 2018



## RESERVE FORCES DAY WONDAL QLD



# POZIERES COMMEMORATION

## St Columba Church Woollahra SUN 22 JULY 2018



# FRONTLINE

## POZIERES COMMEMORATION St Columba Church Woollahra SUN 22 JULY 2018



# FRONTLINE

## NATIONAL SERVICEMENS COMMEMORATION BARDIA BARRACKS INGLEBURN SUN 12 AUG 2018





# FRONTLINE

## USS PAMPANITO

**From: Bob MIDDLETON**

**From:** Robert Middleton

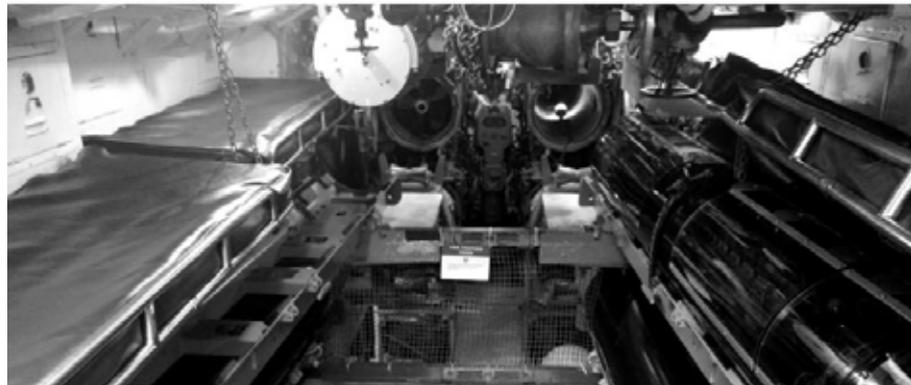
**Sent:** Friday, June 29, 2018 8:00 AM

Good Morning Bob,

So very sad with the news of Joe's passing. The end of an era really. I am re-arranging my schedule to try to make it next Tuesday, the 3rd.

I was very recently in San Francisco ( the reason I was not present on ANZAC Day but celebrated it at sea) and as is my want, had always wanted to see the USS Pampanito, moored near Fishermans Wharf, which was the submarine which picked up some of the POW's torpedoed on their way to Japan by the USS Swordfish. Among those who were picked up as I recall was the late Bob Farrands who passed many years ago now. I enclose some of the many photos I managed to take in what was a very cramped space, including the hatch they were sent below after washing the bunker oil off, and the bunks which were used to rotate the men in 8 hour shifts.

I hope this may be of interest.



## THE MYSTERY P-51 PILOT

From Gary O'BREE

This 1967 true story is about an experience by a young 12-year-old boy in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. It is about the vivid memory of a privately rebuilt P-51 from WWII and its famous owner/pilot.

In the morning sun, I could not believe my eyes. There, in our little airport, sat a majestic P-51. They said it had flown in during the night from some U.S. Airport, on its way to an air show. The pilot had been tired, so he just happened to choose Kingston for his stopover. It was to take to the air very soon. I marveled at the size of the plane, dwarfing the Pipers and Canucks tied down by her. It was much larger than in the movies. She glistened in the sun like a bulwark of security from days gone by. The pilot arrived by cab, paid the driver, and then stepped into the pilot's lounge. He was an older man; his wavy hair was gray and tossed. It looked like it might have been combed, say, around the turn of the century. His flight jacket was checked, creased and worn - it smelled old and genuine. Old Glory was prominently sewn to its shoulders. He projected a quiet air of proficiency and pride devoid of arrogance.

He filed a quick flight plan to Montreal ("Expo-67 Air Show") then walked across the tarmac. After taking several minutes to perform his walk-around check, the tall, lanky man returned to the flight lounge to ask if anyone would be available to stand by with fire extinguishers while he "flashed the old bird up, just to be safe." Though only 12 at the time I was allowed to stand by with an extinguisher after brief instruction on its use -- "If you see a fire, point, then pull this lever!", he said. (I later became a firefighter, but that's another story.) The air around the exhaust manifolds shimmered like a mirror from fuel fumes as the huge prop started to rotate. One manifold, then another, and yet another barked -- I stepped back with the others. In moments the Packard-built Merlin engine came to life with a thunderous roar. Blue flames knifed from her manifolds with an arrogant snarl. I looked at the others' faces; there was no concern. I lowered the bell of my extinguisher. One of the guys signaled to walk back to the lounge. We did. Several minutes later we could hear the pilot doing his pre-flight run-up. He'd taxied to the end of runway 19, out of sight. All went quiet for several seconds. We ran to the second story deck to see if we could catch a glimpse of the P-51 as she started down the runway. We could not. There we stood, eyes fixed at a spot halfway down the runway. Then a roar ripped across the field, much louder than before. Like a furious hell spawn set loose -- something mighty this way was coming.

"Listen to that thing!" said the controller. In seconds the Mustang burst into our line of sight. Its tail was already off the runway and it was moving faster than anything I'd ever seen. Two-thirds the way down 19 the Mustang was airborne with her gear going up. The prop tips were supersonic. We clasped our ears as the Mustang climbed hellishly fast into the circuit to be eaten up by the dog-day haze. We stood for a few moments, in stunned silence, trying to digest what we'd just seen. The radio controller rushed by me to the radio. "Kingston tower calling Mustang?" He looked back to us as he waited for an acknowledgment. The radio crackled, "Go ahead, Kingston." "Roger, Mustang. Kingston tower would like to advise the circuit is clear for a low-level pass." I stood in shock because the controller had just, more or less, asked the pilot to return for an impromptu air show! The controller looked at us. "Well, What?" He asked. "I can't let that guy go without asking. I couldn't forgive myself!" The radio crackled once again, "Kingston, do I have permission for a low-level pass, east to west, across the field?" "Roger, Mustang, the circuit is clear for an east to west pass." "Roger, Kingston, I'm coming out of 3,000 feet, stand by." We rushed back onto the second-story deck, eyes fixed toward the eastern haze.

The sound was subtle at first, a high-pitched whine, a muffled screech, a distant scream. Moments later the P-51 burst through the haze. Her airframe straining against positive G's and gravity. Her wing tips spilling contrails of condensed air, prop-tips again supersonic. The burnished bird blasted across the eastern margin of the field shredding and tearing the air. At about 500 mph and 150 yards from where we stood she passed with the old American pilot saluting. Imagine. A salute! I felt like laughing; like crying; she glistened; she screamed; the building shook; my heart pounded. Then the old pilot pulled her up and rolled, and rolled, and rolled out of sight into the broken clouds and indelibly into my memory. I've never wanted to be an American more than on that day! It was a time when many nations in the world looked to America as their big brother. A steady and even-handed beacon of security who navigated difficult political water with grace and style; not unlike the old American pilot who'd just flown into my memory. He was proud, not arrogant; humble, not a braggart; old and honest, projecting an aura of America at its best. That America will return one day! I know he will! Until that time, I'll just send off this story. Call it a loving salute to a Country, and especially to that old American pilot: the late JIMMY STEWART (1908-1997), Actor, real WWII Hero (Commander of a US Army Air Force Bomber Wing stationed in England), and a USAF Reserves Brigadier General, who wove a wonderfully fantastic memory for a young Canadian boy that's lasted a lifetime.



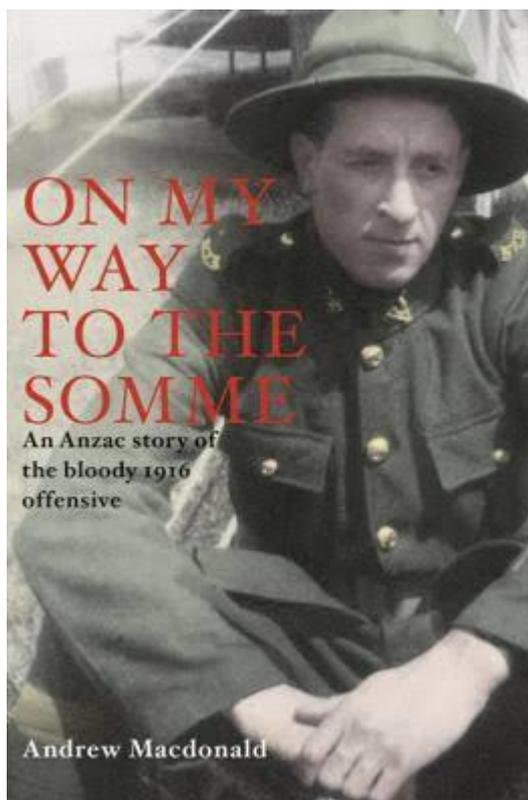
## BOOK REVIEW

### **ON MY WAY TO THE SOMME: NEW ZEALANDERS AND THE BLOODY OFFENSIVE OF 1916**

Andrew Macdonald

Published by Harper Collins 2005, 335 pages

REVIEWED BY John DONOVAN



Andrew Macdonald has set out to provide 'a detailed account of the New Zealand Division on the Somme in 1916'. He has covered the period extensively, but this book may leave the reader feeling tantalized rather than satisfied, as it delivers less than it promises.

The events recounted in this book led to at least 7959 New Zealand casualties (by the author's count, acknowledging that the figures for wounded are almost certainly understated), including some 2111 dead. Prior and Wilson (*The Somme*, UNSW Press, 2005) suggest a total of 9408. These losses occurred largely over a 23-day period between 11 September and 3 October, and over 900 of the dead fell in a four day period from 15 to 18 September. Even on Macdonald's total, the casualties exceeded those of two of the three Australian Divisions that served on the Somme.

A reader might expect to gain a detailed picture of the battles that led to such losses. Some feel is,

indeed, gained, but for the battle elements it is more of an overview than a detailed discussion of events during close combat. When describing battles, the author writes largely in the more detached style of Prior and Wilson, rather than the passionate style of Peter Charlton (*Australians on the Somme: Pozieres 1916, Methuen Haynes, 1986*). For example, one action that contributed to the award of a VC is described in just three lines. Macdonald saves his more passionate language for descriptions of the miserable conditions in the trenches between battles.

Macdonald at times projects post-modern attitudes to war and killing onto a generation to which those attitudes would have been alien. The calm descriptions, by veterans quoted in the book, of friends killed and wounded, and of the casual killing of enemy prisoners and wounded and retreating enemy soldiers, are more indicative of the attitudes of a generation that accepted both that war had a legitimate place in the world order, and that it involved casualties. His use of the word 'conscripted' for occasions when commanders were issued orders for specific tasks away from the battlefield, such as training reinforcements, also has echoes of late 20<sup>th</sup> Century attitudes.

The post-modern attitudes show particularly in Macdonald's frequent claims of declining or poor morale in the New Zealand Division. These claims are not supported by the soldiers' own records. At one point, Macdonald states that the 'ominous rumble of artillery fire ate away at ... morale as [the Division] approached the Somme battlefield', and that 'the prospect [of battle] rankled with the veterans of Gallipoli and Armentieres'. However, in the same context, quotes from veterans describe morale 'steadily improv[ing]', and men 'hoping for the best, determined to do well', 'in great heart' with 'morale ... really high'.

The author seems also to have a limited understanding of a battlefield, where plans rarely survive first contact with the enemy, and outcomes are usually less than perfect. In one attack, the successful gaining of all four objectives, and the holding of three, together with part of the objective of a neighbouring division, is described as a 'backdrop of mediocrity!' By the standards of 1916 (or 1917), this might more fairly be described as a significant achievement!

Macdonald describes well the vacillation, apparently endemic in the British Army of the era, between initial well-organized attacks and hasty, poorly prepared follow-up actions in the days immediately following, followed by continued

# FRONTLINE

repetition of the same sequence. He claims that Haig and Rawlinson were on a steep learning curve, however, while they may have been learning, the actual steepness of the curve seems open to challenge, while they persisted in dropping back down the curve, to retry techniques that had failed earlier! As Macdonald shows, the New Zealand Division staff was also guilty of such errors.

Nevertheless, despite Haig's (and Rawlinson's) slow progress up the learning curve, Macdonald notes their use of tanks for the first time in the New Zealanders' initial attack, part of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. Losses among the tanks reduced their contribution to later attacks involving the New Zealand Division. On the debit side, Haig's belief that the Cavalry Corps could break through seems to have been founded more on wishful thinking than the realities of the battlefield.

Australians are generally aware that the death penalty was not enforced in the AIF during World War I. They may not, however, be aware that this did not mean that no Australian was executed. Macdonald refers to Private John Sweeney, an Australian serving in the New Zealand Division, who on 2 October 1916 was shot for desertion, having been condemned on 15 September. One of his comrades felt that he should have been sent into the line with them, where it was 'likely enough the Germans would have provided the firing squad'.

The Somme proved to be a training ground for future senior New Zealand officers. Five New Zealanders who served on the Somme became brigadiers in World War II, while Bernard Freyberg, commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Division in World War II, served on the Somme in the Royal Naval Division. An artillery subaltern, Keith Park, became an RAF Air Chief Marshal and hero of the Battle of Britain,

Macdonald criticizes regimental histories for subjective praise of their own officers. Unfortunately, the example he chooses, of a new officer throwing his weight around, is nullified by his admission that the officer concerned was soon 'sent back to base as undesirable'. Clearly, standards had to be met to get ahead. It was not by accepting poor leaders that the New Zealand Division 'performed with distinction during its tour in the 1916 Somme offensive' (page 266). Strangely, however, Macdonald chooses to qualify this assessment on the very next page, calling the Division's performance 'as good as could have been expected', surely a case of damning with faint praise.

The book could have been improved with more careful editing. For example, reference to the New Zealand Rifle Brigade is at times confusing, it not always being clear whether the reference is to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the New Zealand Division or to the battalions within that Brigade. The use of the unqualified descriptors '1<sup>st</sup> Battalion' and '2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion' for two of those battalions can also cause confusion if any of the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the four regional New Zealand regiments (Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago) happen to be present at the time.

Within the regional regiments, some explanation of the New Zealand system of regional (named and numbered) companies would have been useful, as several of those companies are specifically mentioned. Also within those regiments, there is some confusion as to casualties in individual battalions, as Macdonald draws on aggregated totals in regimental histories, rather than the records of specific battalions. Brigadier General Johnston is variously referred to as 'Earl' (in the text) and 'Francis' (in his photograph). His initials are 'F.E.'; but from other context, it seems that he used the name Earl.

A particularly distracting artifice is the occasional use of present tense for a few pages before reverting to the past tense used through most of the book. Macdonald also has a propensity to mix his metaphors, at one point describing the New Zealand situation as being 'in the midst of Dante's inferno and, worse yet, rain clouds were hanging ominously over the battlefield'.

The author states that he chose a particular editorial style to refer to individuals (at first mention, given and surnames, rank in 1916, and unit; for later mentions, surname alone). However, this is honoured more in the breach than in the observance. The future Major General Kippenberger, for example, is more often than not referred to by given and surnames, and usually also rank and unit. Another annoyance is the omission from maps of places mentioned in the adjacent text. Maps are needed in a book like this, but they must be comprehensive.



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 June 2018 Newsletter:**

Until we had mastered the art of planning our lives to save fractions of seconds, we were lucky to get six hours sleep a day. I don't know what hours the women worked, for a Japanese is henpecked if he does half as much work as his wife. They are said to be starting unions in Japan. There is plenty of work ahead. Any Australian Industrial Court Judge examining the mine would immediately order the mouth of it be sealed up by airdrop, and order the Company to ensure that no one was allowed near the mouth of it for a hundred years.

As for awards - I don't know what could be done about them. Saw-Caw Poppa (one of our bosses and one of the comparatively elite of the mine) was paid two yen a day besides his rations, which were much less than enough even with the products of his farm and a bit of black marketing. Two yen was enough to buy eight chillies or a third of an egg. In addition to their salaries, the employees had an opportunity to earn prizes until things got a bit lean towards the last. These prizes we would see lined up on the tables as we marched out, from a handful of small fish or a pair of sox down to a humble onion, and with great ceremony the Japanese equivalent of Essington Lewis would hand these over to the workers who had contributed most to the New Order, while the others looked on with envy.

They got public holidays for which they were grateful. They even got two days off together at New Years Day. One was taken from their December two-days-a-month and the other was one of their January two days. In addition they had to work double shifts for these extra (?) days off. The poverty was incredible. A flunkey would bring the "morning tea" to the heads each day, nicely served up with cups and saucers, and it was just plain hot water -nothing else. Only the very elite could afford to carry matches. The continual blasting would cause strong gusts of wind through every tunnel and our lights were always being blown out. That unflinchingly meant crawling up the broken ladders to find another light, for none of the bosses could afford matches. Once my whole afternoon work was to climb down to the bottom of the mine to give a small piece of sand soap to a Nip engaged on a greasy job. If it had been good sand soap, a piece that size would not have cost more than a halfpenny.

That was the cause of most of their poverty - villainous waste of labour. So long as a man is exerting himself they are satisfied that they are getting their money's worth, regardless of the output. There was one old boss who used his

brains in handling machinery, but he was a rare exception. He would point to his head and say: OX and to his arm and say: No goodaroo! but mostly the head was used only when the arm failed. There were hundreds of small pipes and slabs of timber, all suitable for handling machinery, but they were never used while brute strength could do the job. You looked as if you were working when you were bullocking. They had many endless chains, some of them even greased, but they were never used until all other methods failed.



Industry gains little from cheap labour. I have said that we were paid enough carting gravel in Thailand to make a fair living in Australia, and we saw many similar examples in Japan. Neither in numbers or duration was human life considered to be of any value. As the food went down a new range of illnesses overtook us. Beri-beri took on an intensity it had never known before: malaria was still common, and these were reinforced by pleurisy and pneumonia. We grew weaker and weaker and the flesh fell from us.

I calculated that at the rate I was going I would have entirely disappeared within fourteen months and ten days from the time we landed. The machinery in the mine was constantly breaking down and the lower levels became flooded again and again. Our parties worst task was to replace the pumps damaged by the flood., and put extra ones in position. This always meant heavy lifting, panicking, discomfort and danger under the supervision of the No. Vs. We would often be waist deep in water, and sometimes would have to swim from place to place to bring odd bits of timber to build platforms.

The replacement pumps were just the ones that had broken down before, breakdowns taking place as fast as they could be repaired. Extra pumps were generally dug out of old rubbish-tips and bashed back into sufficient shape to tide us over a crisis. Once in a moment of great extravagance the company bought a new pump. It was carefully stored away until the one it was to replace finally demonstrated that it would not work and then the change over was made. The new pump broke down before the week was out. We have replaced the pistons of the same pump twice in one week.

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

# FRONTLINE

# DOWN MEMORY LANE

Thought you might be interested in the photograph below which appeared on the RASigs Facebook page a couple of days ago (July 2018). I believe it is 1982.

Regards, Brad Read

