FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL

The Official Journal of

THE 1st NINETEENTH

1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION

I/XIX

Primus agat Primas - Fortiter et Fideliter

THE 2nd NINETEENTH

2/19 BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION

Fortiter et Fideliter
(Boldly and Faithfully)

Vol 19 No 4

COMBINED SPRING AND SUMMER ISSUES

DECEMBER 2020

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FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

1ST/19TH BATTALION

THE ROYAL NEW

SOUTH WALES

REGIMENT

ASSOCIATION &

2ND/19TH BATTALION

A.I.F. ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS OF THE

AUSTRALIAN

DEFENCE

FORCES

RESERVES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I commenced my dissertation in the June issue by saying that there was not a great deal to report, and I finished by saying that we had high hopes that COVID-19 pandemic, with the restrictions that have been imposed, would have been "over" by the time of the AGM in October. NSW was doing remarkably well, most of the other States and Territories were doing spectacularly well and then Victoria exploded. The blame game will go on for years I am sure with all levels of government trying to avoid responsibility. The sad truth of the matter is that it is, ultimately, the people who are to blame. Yes! the restrictions are onerous, yes! we would prefer not to have them but when the alternative is DEATH it is very hard to understand the selfishness of people who defy the regulations, cause outbreaks and, in far too many instances, see people dying.

Unfortunately, the crisis continues and while Australia seems to be "coping" well with the pandemic there is still disruption to our lives with continuing border closures between States and the "blame game" on responsibility still playing out in Victoria.

You will all have received our "abridged" September edition of *FRONTLINE*, with the normal print run cancelled at the request of our publishers (much also to the relief of our Editor who was having his own problems filling the pages) and this edition will be a combined September/December issue.

Again, you are aware, we decided to cancel the 2020 Annual Reunion Weekend in Orange because of travel restrictions and government regulations. This decision was not taken lightly but, with the safety of our members as paramount we decided that we could not, in all good conscience, proceed. We have set a tentative date for the 2021 Annual Weekend, which we will also be held in Orange, and we hope that we will be able to proceed with that weekend.

I can also tell you that we have, in anticipation of the pandemic being more controlled, booked The Aussie Magic for the cruise post the ANZAC Day march. This has always been a highlight of the year and I hope that we can expect strong support in 2021. Always assuming that ANZAC Day proceeds in the traditional fashion.

To return to more "routine" matters. I am very pleased to be able to tell you that funeral attendance by members of your Executive continue to be almost non-existent and this is, in part, due to all of our members obeying the "rules", exercising common sense and caring for each other. To all of you I say WELL DONE! Continue to be vigilant, look after your health and do not expose yourself to danger.

On 14 July I had the sad duty, along with Bob Pink and Mike Waldron from the Association of 1st Battalions, of participating in the Memorial Service for NX80463 SGT Frederick Drewett LUXFORD, who passed away on 3 July at the age of 97. Fred is reputed to be the last survivor of 2nd/1st Battalion AIF, so another link in the history of 1st/19th Battalion is severed. In the post 1971 days, after 1 RNSWR and 19 RNSWR were linked a very strong relations ship was forged with 2nd/1st Battalion – fostered by their former Commanding Officer, MAJGEN Paul Cullen. Fred's very large family were present at St Matthew's Anglican Church in West Pymble to celebrate his life together with a significant number of his Legacy colleagues. A life well lived

15 July was the anniversary of the 1940 raising of 2nd/19th Battalion at Wallgrove in NSW. History repeated itself when 19 RNSWR conducted their second annual camp in the same location twenty- seven years later and then took up permanent residence there – or as permanent as any residence for 1/19 RNSWR was in its early days – in the early 70s.

Sadly, on 12 October, I received news of the passing of Mrs Dianne Elliott after a long, and very brave battle with cancer. Di, who was the daughter of SGT Frederick Howe of 2nd/19th Battalion AIF who fought in the Malayan campaign, was an amateur historian who had an

encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of 2nd/19th Battalion AIF, its activities and its members. Di also volunteered for many years at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra where her assistance to visitors and researchers was invaluable. Her passing will leave a very large hole in our research capability and "knowledge bank". To Paul, Martin, Nina and Di's family our sincere condolences on their sad loss. Di was farewelled at Norwood Park Crematorium in Canberra on Monday, 26 October and the Association was represented at the service by Bob Pink, Ray Warden, Martin Hanson, Greg & Julie Coombs, Tony & Beryl Coombs, Andrew Donaldson, Howard Bye, Jim Hurt and myself. Another "surprise" guest was Rod Beattie a colleague from Thailand who had worked for an extended period with Di. We were unable to attend the wake that was held at Yowani Golf Club as other commitments prevailed. A beautiful lady taken from us too early!

As our Editor says on the coming events page we are hoping the situation will have clarified in relation to events scheduled for 2021.We are planning a "normal" year. What will happen is anybody's guess and is something that is beyond our control. We will keep you updated via the website or directly as the situation unfolds.

All any of us can do is obey the regulations, look after our loved ones and take very special care of each other.

Remember in your thoughts and prayers the men and women of 1/19 RNSWR who are among the "front line troops" dealing with this pandemic. Just as they were on the "front line" during the bush fire emergency last summer. These young men and women are performing in the finest tradition of 19th Battalion and we should all be very proud of their efforts.

As this is the final edition for 2020 I can only express the hope that conditions allow you to be with your loved ones during the coming festive season.

On behalf of all members of my Executive I wish each and every one of you, your families and all those you hold dear, a very joyous Christmas filled with happiness and peace. And may 2021 bring you everything you wish for.

Until we can meet again stay safe, stay well and may the good Lord hold you in the palm of His Hand

Roger Perry

2021 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FALL DUE ON 1 JANUARY 2021

PLEASE SEE PAYMENT SLIP ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

VALE GOOD FRIENDS

2730953, 260646 WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE Lionel Stanley JACKSON, BEM

Lionel "Bluey" Jackson BEM, was born on 30 September 1932 and we were saddened to learn of the passing on 12 September 2020.

He served 1/19 RNSWR as the magnificent and very memorable Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant from May 1974 to Dec 1975.

Beloved Wife of Wendy and Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather to his very large family Bluey was farewelled at Pinegrove Memorial Park on 23 September 2020 by a very large presence of his family, former comrades and friends.

Major Bryan Schafer, Ron Richmond and brother David and Bob Pink represented the Association at Bluey's farewell.

STATEMENT OF SERVICE

Full name:	**Lionel Stanley JACKSON, BEM**
Service numbers:	2730953, 26046
Category of service:	
National Service	03 JAN 52 to 08 APR 52
Australian Regular Army	09 APR 52 to 09 APR 78
Employment:	Quartermaster Sergeant
Rank on discharge:	Warrant Officer Class One

Postings:

Unrecorded National Service Training Battalion	03 JAN 52
Unallotted List, Eastern Command	09 APR 52
13 National Service Training Battalion (Staff)	22 APR 52
1 Recruit Training Battalion (Staff)	12 NOV 52
4 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment	12 MAR 54
I Reinforcement Holding Unit (Holding Strength)	17 AUG 54
I Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment	13 JAN 55
3 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment	27 AUG 50
5 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment	15 SEP 65
Unallotted List, Eastern Command	03 FEB 66
Officer Training Group	28 FEB 66
Headquarters 2 Division	28 NOV 69
1/19 Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment	15 MAY 74
Australian Defence Assistance Group Papua New Guinea	04 DEC 75
Unallotted List, 2 Military District	03 DEC 77

Operational Service/Deployment:

Japan and Korea	12 AUG 54 to 05 APR 56
Singapore and Malaya Singapore and Malaysia Borneo	25 SEP 57 to 20 OCT 59
Singapore and Malaysia Papua New Guinea	06 AUG 63 to 07 MAR 65

Attachments:

Australian Ancillary Unit Korea	29 NOV 54 to 04 DEC 54
Headquarters 2 Division	06 JAN 66 to 02 FEB 66

HONOURS AND AWARDS

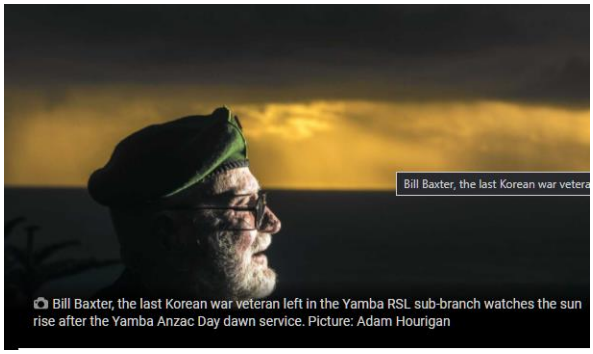
British Empire Medal
Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasps Malaya, Malaysia, and Thai-Malay Border
General Service Medal with Clasp Malaya
General Service Medal 1962 with Clasps Borneo and Malay Penisula
Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasps Korea and SE Asia
Australian General Service Medal for Korea
Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal
Defence Force Service Medal
National Medal with First Clasp
Australian Defence Medal
Long Service and Good Conduct Medal
Meritorious Service Medal
Anniversary of National Service 1951-72 Medal
Pingat Jasa Malaysia
Infantry Combat Badge
Returned from Active Service Badge

Bluey's wife Wendy with Ron & David Richmond at the Wake at Penrith Panthers

FUNERAL AT PINEGROVE 23 SEP 2020 of WO1 Lionel "Blue" JACKSON, BEM. Bryan "Blue" SCHAFER – Ron RICHMOND (back to pole) ex 1/19, Ron Richmond's brother David (sunglasses) & Bob PINK

A37592/26033 Warrant Officer Class Two William Montgomery BAXTER

Royal Australian Navy
2nd Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment
3rd Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment
Australian Army Training Team Vietnam
19th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment



Bill Baxter, the last Korean war veteran left in the Yamba RSL sub-branch watches the sun rise after the Yamba Anzac Day dawn service. Picture: Adam Hourigan

As the sun peeked out from the horizon on the Yamba coastline after the conclusion of the Yamba ANZAC Day dawn service, local veteran Bill Baxter couldn't be prouder."What a wonderful day, and a wonderful turnout," he says, motioning to the crowd that surrounded the hilltop Cenotaph.

Mr Baxter grew up in Yamba, and is the last surviving Korean War veteran in the Yamba RSL sub-branch, though his service did not end there. I was 12 months in Korea, two years in Malaya and 12 months in Vietnam," he said. "I was only just legal to join, I was 18 when I joined in 1949 ,and got out in 1980." Mr Baxter served his time as a rifleman with the rank of Warrant Officer, and his army career took him all over the country, before retiring back to Yamba.Bill was born at Tamworth on 27 January1932 and sadly passed away on 11 August 2020 at Yamba in his 88th year. He was farewelled at Yamba NSW on 18th August 2020.

He served as a Naval Airman, 1st Class Mechanic (Airframes) on HMAS SYDNEY in Korea 31 August to 2 November 1951, 2 RAR 17 March 1952 to 6 April 1954, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam 11 September 1964 to 8 August 1965 and as the Training Warrant Officer 19th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment following its raising on 12 December 1966 where he was held in high esteem during his service.

Former Commanding Officer 1/19 RNSWR Lieutenant Colonel Peter McGuinness MBE OAM RFD ED certainly remembers Bill Baxter. “Bill was one of the best Regular Army cadre that 19 Battalion had. Bill was helpful to me in my early days of 19 Battalion in planning the Training Programme for A Company for the Gosper’s Camp.”

FROM Association Patron Colonel Brian MARTYN RFD who noted Stewart Thompson’s passing in the recent issue of *“Harim Tok Tok”.* Stewart and his son both served in 1/19 RNSWR for a time

262290 John Russell Stewart THOMPSON. 0AM. 262290

Died 14 Apr 2020 Aged 85. Stewart died peacefully of cancer at West Melton N.Z., six days before his 86th birthday. After service at rank of Senior Constable in the Mounted Division of the New South Police Force between 7.11.1955 and 14.6.1969, during which time he also served in the Citizen Military Forces (C.M.F.) firstly as a Private before he was selected to attend Officer Cadet Training Unit Sydney from which he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant having been awarded the Sword of Honour.

He was appointed to RPNGC on 19.6.1969 and served at Mt.Hagen, Rabaul, Lae, Tomaringa with mobile squads and later with the Joint Services College. At P.N.G. Independence on 16.9.1975 he transferred to the new national government and served there during the Bougainville emergency (during which an estimated 10,000 Bougainville citizens died during the national government blockade).

In January 1977, he was terminated at his own request with the rank of Senior Inspector and returned to Australia, firstly to Springwood and then to a property “Mistley Grange” at Tennyson (N.S.W). He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Joan and family. While in the Constabulary he also served in the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (Australia’s only overseas CMF Unit) from 12.2.1970 as Lt and T/Capt and 2/IC.c of B Company, Rabaul until the PNGVR was disbanded in 1973. The O.A.M. was awarded in 2009 for service to the community through the Australian Light Horse Regiment “A” troop.

His R.P.N.G.C. Valour award was only the 3rd awarded to expat officers of the 12 medals awarded. The circumstances for this award are that during the Bougainville emergency a RPNGC Sergeant accidentally set off a gas grenade in the police armoury which exploded. Stewart being aware of the danger to a large amount of police ammunition proceeded to throw it out of the armoury before it too exploded.

Thank you Maxwell Hayes RPNGC

MRS Dianne ELLIOTT

Dianne's husband Paul advised with deep sadness of her passing in Canberra on 12 October 2020 after a valiant battle with her illness. Born 12 November 1948 Beloved Wife of Paul and cherished Mother and Mother in Law of Martin and Nina, Dianne was the daughter of the late (d. 07 August 1975) NX35481 SGT Frederick HOWE, Signals Platoon Sergeant, HQ Coy 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF.

Dianne was farewelled at the Norwood Park Crematorium, Mitchell, ACT on Monday 26 October 2020 and a Wake followed at the Yowani Golf Club, Lyneham, Canberra. The Association was represented at the service by Roger Perry, Bob Pink, Ray Warden, Martin Hanson, Greg & Julie Coombs, Tony & Beryl Coombs, Andrew Donaldson, Howard Bye, Jim Hurt and Rod Beattie a colleague from Thailand.

Mr Neil McLeod delivered the following Eulogy
First, I would like to attribute credit where credit is rightfully due: this eulogy was compiled by Paul and Marty. I am merely the conveyor of their words and images.

Dianne was born in November 1948 at Boorowa NSW to parents Fred & Elsie Howe. She became known to many as Di, Dize or, Dizey and a few from Boorowa still affectionately refer to her as Howie from her maiden name "Howe". She was a bit of a surprise. Her father had come home from the war a battered man from his days as a prisoner of the Imperial Japanese Army and was supposedly unable to have any more kids. Luckily it happened and Di grew into the wonderful lady you all got to know and love.

Di grew up the youngest of a loving family. The next youngest of the kids was her brother Nicky, born ten years earlier. She also had a brother, John and two sisters, Joan and Pauline. Pauline, who was 17 years older, left school to help raise Di and has always been her second mum. Growing up with her father though, was tough at times. His years as a Prisoner of War left him suffering from PTSD at a time when such things were left undiagnosed. His moods were often erratic, and she feared him at times and this would affect the path of her life.

Di went to school at Boorowa Central School, which is where she first met Paul in 1961. Paul had come into town from Rye Park Primary to complete his secondary studies. The Boorowa girls were all told to keep away from those dreadful Rye Parkers as they were an uneducated terrible lot with the reputation of a Viking. She did keep away from Paul to some extent until a couple of years after leaving school and then the magic happened. By 1970 it all came to a head and in January Di and Paul were married at the Anglican Church in Boorowa. Some of those present on that day are also here today.

At the time of their wedding Di was a receptionist for the local doctor in Boorowa and Paul was working in Sydney with the Rural Bank of NSW. After 21 years of living in Boorowa Di moved to Sydney to be with Paul and begin their married life. Most of her time in the "Big Smoke" was spent working for the shipping line P&O (aka Pee & Owe). She helped arrange a trip back then for a couple of today's guests.

Di grew very quickly to hate the hustle & bustle of city life so a transfer back to the country was arranged with Paul's work moving them to Goulburn. They spent 5 years in Goulburn and in the March of'1974, a daughter Meredith was born. This was a blessing of sorts as when Di became aware of the pregnancy, she immediately gave up a "two packet a day" cigarette habit, cold turkey. It was also at that time Di became a fulltime housewife and mother.

Di and Paul then moved to Wagga where in November 1976 Martin (aka MARTY) was introduced to the world. The Elliott family then continued to move around the state to Leeton, Coleambally, Mount Ousley, Hillston and finally arriving in Canberra in January 1984. This was like a breath of fresh air to Di as a lot of smaller towns were like living in a fishbowl. Here in Canberra Di had the chance to become her own person and she flourished.

Di and Paul joined Yowani Country Club, which is where we will head to after this service. There, Di began an eventful 13-year stint as an avid golfer. During that time, she reduced her golf handicap to 8 and in doing so represented Yowani in many inter-club Pennant matches. A highlight of this era was achieving two holes in one on the 16th at Yowani, a feat later equalled by Paul.

Di had many fun times with the girls at Yowani and joined in muck up concert days, the likes of which have never been seen since. One incident comes to mind where on a "take a plate" day, Di made & took a beautiful looking batch of lamingtons made from foam RUBBER. The looks on the faces of people trying to eat them were priceless.

These happy days were brought to an abrupt end in May 1997 when most of you will be aware that a serious car accident in Thailand involving Di, Paul and Meredith occurred. Di's back was broken and she was incredibly lucky to survive. To this day she carries the screws and bolts inserted in tier lower back to hold her together. Di could no longer play golf and it became a difficult time for her as she tried to reframe her future life. She was a fighter and an inspiration - from being told she might not walk again, to walking 10 kilometres a day within a few years of the accident. She lived with back pain the rest of her life, but she never complained, she just did what had to be done and she did it well.

It was around 1995 that Di began researching her father's war history as a POW on the Burma/Thai Railway. She longed to understand what had happened to him to make him behave the way he did while she was growing up. She was searching for a sense of forgiveness, and to make her peace with him. This was unfortunately one of the reasons Di and Paul were in Thailand in 1997 when they had the accident, but it would lead her into the defining phase of her life.

Di became a volunteer at the Australian War Memorial in the year 2000. While researching her father, Di had contacted an ex POW Tom Morris who had spent time with Fred as a prisoner on the railway. Tom was a volunteer at the Memorial and he shared many of his wartime memories and expertise with Di. Tom became a strong mentor and much like a second father to her. He egged her on to become a volunteer and continue her research into Japanese POW history. Her valuable 20 year contribution as a volunteer at the Australian War Memorial has helped countless people, find peace with their family members' wartime experience and in many cases her research has changed previously written war history.

Another major turning point in Di's life came in 1998 when Di and Paul gate crashed an "invitation only" book launch. Lyn Silver was in town at the National Archives launching her book, 'Sandakan: a Conspiracy of Silence'. Di was met at the door by Lyn's mother and had to give a secret handshake to be allowed entry. From that day onward an unbelievably strong friendship and bond was forged between the two and is quite evident today by the contribution of Lyn in preparing and conducting this very personal service.

Di and Lyn became researchers of World War 2 history, unsurpassed by any other. Their fact finding took them in all directions and rectifying errors in the recorded history was a specialty. Fraudsters and furphies were taken on and outed by the two girls. A book well worth a read is 'Marcel Caux a Life Unravelled'. He lived a double life and was undeservingly given a State Funeral as the last WW1 soldier to pass away.

Another fraud they uncovered was a man by the name of Rex Crane. Rex was a war service imposter who defrauded the government of hundreds of thousands of dollars when he convinced everyone that he was a war hero. Much to his detriment, Rex wasn't aware of Di & Lyn uncovering his web of lies and through their untiring research, he was awarded 4 years in jail.

Di was involved in the research of many year history books (12 in total) and is duly acknowledged in them all. Her most recent and last achievement was her life. Last year she wanted to make it to her 71st birthday, then to celebrate Christmas, then on to her 50th wedding anniversary with Paul in January. She did all of that and more, with the grace of the lady that she was and forever shall be.

As well as the human family, Di absolutely adored her cats who she believed to be much better than a lot of people. Seven cats became part of regular life over a period of fifty years and they all ruled the Elliott household in the same way; cats first and everything else second. The last two became ill in October last year caused by fretting over the change in household routine and were put to sleep under Vet instruction.

This, together with Paul having another bout of cancer shortly after, did not help DI's situation at all but she managed to support Paul through his successful treatment and was very pleased to see him recover — as are we all. The extent to which you, Paul and Marty with Nina's support suspended your regular lives over the past 15 months to put Di's needs first, is a selfless model for us all to emulate. As time went on Di became too weak to move herself and by the end of June this year, she was taken to Calvary Hospital. She was then moved to Canberra University Rehab Hospital with the aim of gaining enough mobility to return home. Unfortunately, she was unable to regain her strength and was moved to the Bupa Aged Care residence in Stirling.

On the 12th October 2020, Di was taken from us by the dreadful disease Glioblastoma Multiforme. Please be aware today, that Di is still with us and has merely changed her address. She has now moved to take up residence in our hearts.

Rest in peace dear lady.

SGT Steve KOZICKI

Garry LEWIS' Highway Patrol friend advised that Steve had died of cancer on about 01 OCT 2020. Regrettably no further details.

Many Association members will remember Steve through his service with 1/19 RNSWR in the late 70's early 90's

Lest We Forget

COMING EVENTS 2021

TO BE CONFIRMED (SUBJECT TO COVID19 REQUIREMENTS)
WHICH WILL APPEAR ON THE ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE: rnswr.com.au
AND AS ADVICE COMES TO HAND

SUN	**25 APR 2021**	0930	**ANZAC DAY SYDNEY** REUNION VENUE: SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE	**Form Up SPRING ST SYDNEY**	REUNION VENUE HARBOUR CRUISE ABOARD ' AUSSIE MAGIC' 1200 -1600h Jacket & Tie Decorations & Medals

22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION DINNER WEEKEND – ORANGE NSW

FRI SAT	**22 OCT 2021** **23 OCT 2021**		**ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND** **ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB** **231-243 Anson Street** **ORANGE NSW 2800**	**The Association will reserve 30 rooms at the MERCURE HOTEL which adjoins the Ex Services Club** **Bookings Tele: 02 6362 5611** **Email: hb038@accor.com** **PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT** **(CUT OFF DATE IS 01 OCTOBER 2021)** **The Format of the Weekend will include** **MEET & GREET on Fri evening 22 OCT 21** **Saturday 23 OCT 21** **Morning WREATH LAYING at Romani Barracks** **Afternoon PRESENTATION:** ***"LEMNOS – WWI"* by** **LTCOL Peter McGUINNESS MBE OAM RFD ED** **Afternoon ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **Evening FORMAL DINNER**

ASSOCIATION PATRONS & OFFICE BEARERS

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PATRON	Colonel B.E. (Brian) MARTYN, RFD, psc (r)
CHAPLAIN & LIFE MEMBER	Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel The Reverend Canon C.G. (Colin) AIKEN, OAM, RFD, ChStJ
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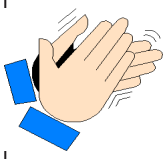
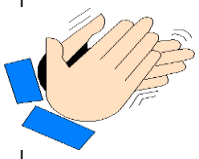
SICK REPORT

OUR BEST WISHES TO MEMBERS

CHAPLAIN LIEUTENANT COLONEL THE REVEREND CANON Colin AIKEN, OAM, RFD, ChStJ



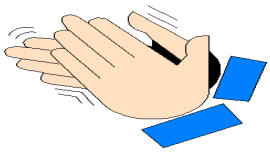
CAPTAIN Dennis ZALUNARDO, OAM, JP



MAJOR Reg & MRS Joy NEWTON, RN, BHSc

Who we are very pleased to report have recently returned home after successful hospitalisations

CONGRATULATIONS



NX44989 Alex WHITE

C Coy 2/19 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF

PRESENTED WITH HIS 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR 2 COMMEMORATION MEDALLION 02 NOVEMBER 2020

FROM THE CESSNOCK ADVERTISER

SENT IN BY MAJOR GEORGE THOMAS RFD

Our thanks to Association member George Thomas' eagle eye once again and forwarding the following article.

Seventy-five years ago, on August 15, 1945, the Second World War was finally over, and VP Day was gazetted. The day, "Victory in the Pacific Day", commemorates Japan's unconditional surrender as Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's acceptance of the Allies' terms. The 75th anniversary will mean a lot to so many Australians, in towns and cities right across the country.

World War II 75th anniversary: Goulburn's Bye family Prepares to Remember

Photo Taken in Japan after repatriation from the Japanese: Back (left): Bert Donaldson, Jim Winbank and Bob Beaumont. Front (left): Allan Bye, Les Connell and Frank Donat.

Photo: Howard Bye

The anniversary is especially significant for Howard Bye, whose late father Allan Howard Bye was a WWII veteran and POW who worked on the Thai-Burma Railway.

At the time of VP Day, Australian forces were engaged in campaigns across the Pacific - in New Guinea, Bougainville, New Britain, Borneo, and in the Philippines - and Australian prisoners of the Japanese were spread throughout Asia. Mr Bye, from Goulburn, NSW, described his father's experiences as a POW after signing the enlistment papers in Adelong, in the NSW Riverina.

"In 1940 he became one of the original members of 2/19th Battalion along with four mates from Adelong and was moved to Ingleburn then Bathurst for training," Mr Bye said. "Dad was promoted to Corporal [almost a couple of years after joining], but when his Battalion surrendered, he became a POW. "Following the surrender, the men were marched to Changi Prison. "A short time after, Dad was transferred to the Great World POW Camp in Singapore which was situated in a fun park like Luna Park.

"As a prisoner, Dad worked on the Thai-Burma Railway line and at sites stretching from Wampo and Tha Sao in the south to Kinsaiyok in the north. "Conditions overall were pitiless and the cruel treatment of the prisoners was unforgivable. "The fittest survivors, including Dad, were shipped to Japan from Singapore which took 70 days.

"It had been a life threatening trip marked by American submarine attacks, a terrifying typhoon on the China seas, semi-starvation, almost continuous confinement in stifling holds and unpredictable bashings by the Korean guards. "They were then ferried to Koyagi Island and assigned to ship building duties like working in the docks unprotected against the elements.

"Dad was moved to Nakama where he was tasked to be a miner.

"As history tells us, the Americans dropped two atom bombs on Japan in early August, 1945 and work for POWs ceased on August 15 as the emperor had agreed to an unconditional surrender."

Howard Bye, Edwina Bye and Russell Bye at the Hellfire Pass in Thailand. Photo: Howard Bye

Allan BYE in uniform

Lovers: Allan Bye and Joan Bye met when Allan arrived home in Adelong after the war.

Photo: Howard Bye.

Mr Bye did hear plenty of stories about the war from his father growing up, but didn't really understand.

"A story that stood out to me the most was when he told me about the bombs beings dropped," he said.

"He said everything just went so quiet in the prison camp. "I undertook a visit to Thailand three years ago to the railway line where he worked and I got a bit of an appreciation of the hardship they actually had to put up with," he said. Though Allan Howard Bye returned to his home and family in Adelong after the war, he never really recovered mentally.

"As he got older, because he wasn't as active as he was when he was working, the war was on his mind more than ever," he said. To mark the 75th anniversary, Mr Bye was hoping to travel to Thailand, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, he is unable to. Most had expected the war against Japan to continue into 1946, but instead, Australians enjoyed what Prime Minister Chifley called "this glorious moment".

We'd love to hear your family's stories of that moment and their contributions to the VP Day fight.

DONATIONS

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

CPL	Dan	**JOHNSTON**
LTCOL	Dennis	**LITTAME**
LCPL	Ray	**WARDEN**
PTE	Anton	**YUSWAK**

NEW MEMBERS

No new members have joined since June 2020

CAN YOU ASSIST ?

Association member Ross Mierendorff

Tel: 07 3286 5531 Mobile 0419 635 319

E mail: rmierend@bigpond.net.au

Is very interested in locating former comrades he served with in 19 RNSWR

Charlie MENZIES - from DORRIGO NSW

& Col DICKSON / DIXON? - (who never wore shoes !)

Ross would be most appreciative of any information on their current whereabouts

1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION INC

INCORPORATING
2nd/19th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT
30 JUNE 2020

1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION INC

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION INC

Scope

I have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of 1/19 RNSWR Association Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2020 as set out on pages 1 to 4. The Committee is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) and the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW). I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Procedures including examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material aspects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies adopted by the Association so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's financial position and performance as represented by the results of its operations. These policies do not require the application of all Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies adopted by the Association the financial position of 1/19 RNSWR Association Inc. as at 30 June 2020 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

DENNIS ZALUNARDO, OAM
Honorary Auditor
10 August 2020

1 Jacaranda Avenue
BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153

1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION INC

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

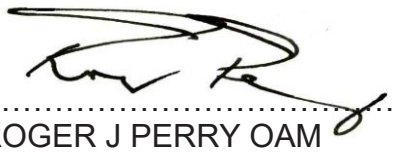
The Committee have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards in so far as they are relevant to the members of the Association.

In the opinion of the Committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 3:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of 1/19 RNSWR Association Inc. as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that 1/19 RNSWR Association Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



……
ROGER J PERRY OAM
President

……..
ROBERT J PINK OAM, OAM (Mil)
Secretary

1 August 2020

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

2019			2020
	ASSETS		
24,636	Cash at Bank & on Deposit	24,519	
18,942	Stock for sale at cost	20,629	
819	Prepayments	650	
783	Equipment at written down value	422	
45,180			46,219
	LIABILITIES		
2,942	Subscriptions in Advance	2,602	
2,942			2,602
42,238	**NET ASSETS**		43,617
	Represented by:		
36,966	Accumulated earnings 1 July 2019		36,083
1,155	3 RNSWR Award Reserve		1,155
5,000	Assn 1st Battalions Award Reserve		5,000
1,379	Add: Surplus/(Deficit) for year		1,379
44,500	**MEMBERS FUNDS**		43,617

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

2019		2020
	INCOME	
4,310	Subscriptions	3,761
93	Bank Interest	30
172	Profit Merchandise sales	262
3,159	Donations received	1,805
0	Quilt Raffle	4,051
7,734		$9,908
	Less: EXPENDITURE	
72	Bank Charges	60
165	Computer expenses	330
120	Depreciation	361
0	Donations	117
520	Insurance	545
3,472	Net Cost of Functions	2,337
1,659	Postage, Printing, Stationery & Phone	2,924
742	Magazine costs net of subsidy	955
46	Filing fees	47
580	Presentations & gifts	395
100	Subscriptions	40
715	Welfare	416
426	Website	3
8,617		$8,529
(883)	**NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR**	**$1,379**

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

2019		2020	
	RECEIPTS		
3,595	Subscriptions	3,421	
93	Bank Interest	30	
1,133	Sales - Merchandise	1,184	
898	Sales - Histories	685	
3,159	Donations	1,805	
11,810	Functions	5,247	
	Quilt Raffle	4,270	
6,155	Special Award Receipts	0	
26,843		16,642	
	PAYMENTS		
72	Bank Charges	60	
904	CAPEX	0	
165	Computer expenses	330	
0	Donations	117	
520	Insurance	545	
14,282	Functions	6,983	
1,659	Postage, Printing, Stationery & Phone	2,924	
580	Presentations & gifts	395	
1,289	Purchases - stock for sale	3,295	
100	Subscriptions	40	
715	Welfare	416	
426	Website	2	
742	Magazine	955	
44	Filing fees	45	
819	Prepayment for Orange 2020	650	
22,317			16,757
4,526	**SURPLUS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS**		(115)
20,110	Cash Book Balance at 1 July 2019		24,634
24,636	**CASH BOOK BALANCE at 30 JUNE 2020**		24,519

Interesting Statistics from the Department of Veterans' Affairs
Veteran Service Pensioners by Conflict and State
Dec 2019

Courtesy of the HATS JOURNAL
INTEGRATED SERVICE PEOPLES ASSOCIATION

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	O'seas	Total
Second World War	1,310	1,011	834	395	374	190	7	37	10	4,68
Korea & Malayan Forces	786	396	708	151	233	93	9	27	7	2,410
Far East Strategic Reserve	618	284	628	181	252	62	21	55	6	2107
Vietnam	7,140	4,736	9,248	2,719	3,348	1,064	141	393	174	28,963
British Commonwealth	506	352	443	293	407	43	8	16	56	2,124
Allied Veterans	2,598	1,827	458	359	399	7	9	58	52	5,767
British Commonwealth & Allied Mariners	31	12	13	12	9	6	0	0	3	86
Australian Mariners	39	15	23	9	9	4	0	1	1	101
Gulf War	39	14	33	5	13	2	0	3	1	110
East Timor	148	85	373	25	39	26	4	5	6	711
Other Post 1972 Conflicts	188	97	337	47	68	36	3	12	9	797
Unknown	7	5	22	14	25	2	1	0	1	77
All Wars and Conflicts	13,410	8,834	13,120	4,210	5,176	1,535	203	607	326	47,421

CAN YOU ASSIST ?

Subject: INFORMATION ON 2/19TH BATTALION AIF PIPES AND DRUMS

My name is Ralph Jones, a former member of the Australian Army Band Corps – serving 20 years. I have been reading from the internet Wikipedia about the history of the 2/19th Battalion and on that website there is a picture of the 2/19th Battalion marching down Castlereagh Street in Sydney on 15th September 1940. At the head of the battalion is a Pipes & Drum band.

It is this band that I am seeking information as to who they are? Did they (Pipes & Drums) belong to the 2/19th Battalion? I do know that the Battalion had its own brass band, but it's the Pipes and Drums that I am seeking more information.

Are you able to identify this band? Or, can you direct me to someone who may know about them? Also, as a matter of interest, can you give me any information about the brass band attached to the Battalion. I do have a picture and a list of the names of the musicians in the band.

As a hobby, I make miniature models of military bands. See attached a model of the 2/20th and 2/21st Battalion Bands in 30mm size. I am planning on making a set of the pipes and drums that I mentioned earlier in the email.

It was good of you to ring me regarding the 2/19th Battalion Pipes & Drums. When you put my details in your association magazine regarding the P & D band, what I am asking for is any photographs (especially if there are any in colour) – plus some history of them prior to going overseas.

Any names would be helpful too.

I look forward to hearing from you.

My mobile number is 0404 053 254
and my postal address is 14 Peony Court, Morphett Vale, 5162 South Australia
EMAIL: rmjones@adam.com.au>

Regards,

Ralph Jones

CAN YOU ASSIST ?

Good afternoon Bob
I am the military curator of the Bathurst District Historical Museum. Geoff Braddon suggested I contact you.

I am currently researching Major Arthur Cecil PEPPER who was a local doctor here in the 1950s and 60s. Arthur served with the 6 Div during WW2 having joined the 2/3rd Battalion in 1940 then later 6 Div HQ as GSO 3 Operations. When he returned he enrolled in medical school of Sydney University and joined the Sydney University Regiment where he was promoted Major in 1951, I am told he was the SUR 2IC.

He transferred from SUR to 6th Motor Regiment (New South Wales Mounted Rifles, Royal Australia Armoured Corps on 7/7/55. The following year it was reorganised as an Infantry battalion and transferred to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, adopting the designation of the 6th New South Wales Mounted Rifles. In 1960, the 6th New South Wales Mounted Rifles was subsumed into the Royal New South Wales Regiment, forming a company-sized element of that regiment's 2nd Battalion. It may have been the reason Arthur was transferred to assist in setting it up as an Infantry Battalion. Arthur remained active until he transferred to the Retired List on 7/12/64.

I wonder if you may have any records or information relating to him? He was awarded an MBE in 1954 in the military division, the reason for which is not gazetted so I am interested in finding out the reason for this award.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me vis this email. Thank you.

Regards

Andrew Fletcher
Bathurst District Historical Society
Military Curator
EMAIL andrew.fletcher2@bigpond.com

OBITUARIES
Arthur Pepper, MBE

Doctor
1921 – 2000

The distinguished war service of Arthur Pepper didn't end with victory in the Pacific. After Japan's surrender in August 1945, the Sydney-born soldier stationed in New Guinea was chosen as a division liaison officer to travel, with another officer and a party of local natives, by dugout canoe up the Fly and Sepik rivers to seek out any Japanese troops who might not have heard that the war had ended, and accept their surrender. With their knowledge of Japanese military fanaticism, and lack of knowledge about how the news would be received, this would have indeed been a daunting mission. Pepper was awarded an MBE in the Military Division.

Arthur Cecil Pepper was educated at Newington College, where he was a member of the school rifle team and the cadets. When war was declared in September 1939, he was not old enough to enlist, but managed to do so after obtaining his parents' permission. His spirit, enthusiasm and cadet training soon saw him promoted to lieutenant. He sailed in 1940 to Egypt as a reserve for the 6th Division of the second AIF, and served with the 6th Division until the final peace in 1945. This took him to Egypt, Syria, Palestine and Greece. He entered Tobruk, immediately after the relief of the siege, and was also at the battle of El Alamein.

On his way back to Australia, he was sent to the British Army Staff College at Poona in India. On reaching Australia he went on to New Guinea and finally Borneo.

Like many ex-servicemen after discharge, he entered the University of Sydney as an undergraduate. He had already married Beryl Hyde, and he now faced a six-year medical course. He became an excellent student, graduating in January 1952. After working as a resident medical officer at the Royal South Sydney Hospital and the Women's Hospital Crown Street, he began medical practice in Bathurst in 1953. He was appointed as an honorary medical officer to the Bathurst District Hospital. Apart from his busy practice he found time to help set up the local branch of the SES, and then to serve on the council of the Mitchell College of Advanced Education, which later became the Sturt University. He remained an active member of the Army Reserve, and rose to the rank of major and second-in-command of the Sydney University Regiment.

He was an enthusiastic teacher of young doctors and nurses. He became one of the early Fellows of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. As well as training NSW undergraduates in family medicine at his Bathurst practice, he also travelled on several occasions to Tonga to help train young doctors there. After 30 years practising in Bathurst, he took a position as an instructor at the Family Medicine Unit, which had been recently set up at Hornsby, to train doctors who had completed hospital residency and wished to enter general practice.

Arthur, like most ex-servicemen, said little about his war service. He did tell one story, after a visit to the battlefields of northern Greece in 1991 with a group of men who had served there in May 1941 and their

wives. The hospitality of the Greek community was overwhelming. Another group, also making the 50th anniversary pilgrimage, were German veterans. By chance he met the man who commanded the German tank squadron that had caused his group to hastily withdraw from their position. He told his former enemy that he had seen the dust stirred up by the tanks, then counted them, and quickly decided that it was time to leave to avoid capture. This decision by a 19-year-old officer enabled the men in the platoons he commanded to fight for at least another day.

Pepper was a keen student of military, Middle Eastern, Irish and South Pacific history, and had an extensive library. His knowledge of the 1914 Battle of Mons was such that just after moving to Bathurst, he discovered that an elderly patient had been at that battle. Arthur described it in such detail that the veteran asked: "Geez, doc, were you there?"

The Peppers, shortly after settling in Bathurst, were the first family to buy a block of land and build a house on Mount Panorama – their driveway led off the race circuit. Apart from the magnificent view, it was an ideal site to rear a young family. They were never short of house guests when the car races were on, and stocked an enormous supply of food and "refreshing fluids" to cater to their large number of day guests, who had to arrive early in the morning and leave late at night because the racing circuit, and hence the entrance to the Peppers' home, was closed to traffic. They were wonderful hosts, with many friends.

Until Arthur's health failed, he and Beryl maintained their interest in Bathurst and made frequent trips there. He is survived by his wife, his children, Antonia, Penny and Jonathan, and eight grandchildren.

William McBride

VIETNAM WAR CASUALTY STATISTICS

Unit Code	No.
1 RAR	53
5RAR	51
6 RAR	51
7 RAR	35
9 RAR	35
1 FD SQN	34
AATTV	34
2 RAR	31
3 RAR	27
4 RAR	24
8 RAR	18
1 ATF	12
1 ARU	10
A SQN 3 CAV	9
B SQN 3 CAV	8
9 SQN	7
2 SQN	6
12 FD REGT	5
RAN HFV	5
2 SASR	4
4 FD REGT	4
1 FD REGT	3
104 SIG	3
161 RECCE	3
1 DSU	2
1 SASR	2
102 FD WKSP	2
105FD BTY	2
110 SIG	2
131 DIV LOC	2
17 CONST	2
2 AOD	2
3 SASR	2
32 SSS	2
8 FD AMB	2
HOBART	2
HQ AFV	2
1 ALSG	2
1 APC	1
1 DIV INT	1
1 DIV MP	1
1 DIV SUP	1
1 FD HOSP	1
106 FD WKSP	1
2 COD	1
21 ENGR	1
26 TPT SQN	1
3 TP 1 APC	1
52 CSP	1
522 SIG	1
55 ADV	1
55 ENGR	1
A SQN 1	1
AFVAWU	1
AFVMP	1
8 SQN 1	1
BSF	1
C SQN 1	1
RANCD Team 2	1
TOTAL	521

Rank	No.
PTE	253
CPL	47
LCPL	40
WO2	33
SPR	29
SGT	24
TPR	15
LT	12
2LT	11
CAPT	7
SIG	6
MAJ	6
GNR	6
LAC	5
SSGT	4
AC	3
PLTOFF	2
CFN	2
FLGOFF	2
WO1	2
BDR	1
SMN	1
SQNLD	1
SUBLT	1
CPOP	1
FLTT	1
LBDR	1
CHAP	1
PO	1
LACM	1
LTCDR	1
AB	1
TOTAL	521

Home State	No.	%
New South Wales	170	32.6%
Victoria	90	17.3%
Queensland	81	15.5%
South Australia	47	9.0%
Western Australia	47	9.0%
Tasmania	14	2.7%
Australian Capital Territory	2	0.4%
Unknown/Overseas	70	13.4%
TOTAL	521	100.0%

Place of Birth	No.	%
Australia	447	85.8%
UK	39	7.5%
Germany	10	1.9%
Holland	6	1.2%
Ireland	4	0.8%
Italy	3	0.6%
Unknown	3	0.2%
Ukraine	1	0.2%
Papua New Guinea	1	0.2%
Finland	1	0.2%
Denmark	1	0.2%
India	1	0.2%
Wales	1	0.2%
Latvia	1	0.2%
South America	1	0.2%
Canada	1	0.2%
TOTAL	521	

Service	Number	%
ARMY	495	95.0%
RAAF	17	3.3%
RAN	9	1.7%
TOTAL	521	100%

Age at Death	No.
18	
19	10
20	35
21	75
22	154
23	60
24	36
25	13
26	18
27	14
28	16
29	17
30	12
31	12
32	7
33	5
34	3
35	1
36	3
37	8
38	2
39	8
40	2
41	2
42	1
43	1
44	2
45	
46	
47	
48	2
49	
50	
51	1
52	
53	1
54	
55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	
TOTAL	521

Our thanks to Bruce LOYNES for kindly forwarding the table and its compilation by Messrs Bob COLLINS and Bob BUXTON of the WESTPAC RSL SUB BRANCH

US ARMY AIR FORCE IN WORLD WAR 2

From Bruce Loynes

"Boys, put some clothes on those girls - we're going home!"

It is not what you think. These words were purportedly spoken by a general of the AAF (US Army Air Force) to air crew on VE Day in Britain in 1945. It relates to nose art on B17 and B24 Bombers.

Apparently, no one worried about nose art at the time. In a later age of political correctness, the bombers would probably not be allowed to leave the ground!! But in England in 1942-43 it was statistically impossible for bomber crews to complete a 25 mission tour in Europe.

In the heat of battle, high over enemy lines, America's heavy bombers flew into occupied Europe with the images of loved ones emblazoned on the sides of their planes as a reminder of home. The troops who were based in East Anglia during World War II said their lives became more bearable thanks to the talents of United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) artists who created highly personalised art for the nose cones of their aeroplanes.

Almost 1,000 Army planes disappeared en-route from the US to foreign locations, but an eye-watering 43,581 aircraft were lost overseas including 22,948 on combat missions -18,418 against the Axis powers, 4,530 against the Japanese and 20,633 attributed to non-combat causes overseas. In a single 376 plane raid in August 1943, 60 B17s were shot down. This was a 16 percent loss rate and meant 600 empty bunks in England.

By the end of the war, over 40,000 US airmen had been killed in combat theatres and another 18,000 wounded. Some 12,000 missing men were declared dead, including a number 'liberated' by the Soviets but never returned. More than 41,000 were captured - half of the 5,400 held by the Japanese died in captivity, compared to one-tenth in German hands. Total combat casualties were pegged at 121,867.

US manpower made up the deficit. The AAF's peak strength was reached in 1944 with 2,372,000 personnel - nearly twice the previous year's figure.
The losses were huge - but so were production totals. From 1941 through to 1945, American industry delivered more than 276,000 military aircraft. That number was enough not only for US Army, Navy and Marine Corps, but for allies as diverse as Britain, Australia, China and Russia. In fact, from 1943 onward, America produced more planes than Britain and Russia combined. And more than Germany and Japan together from 1941- 45.

However, our enemies took massive losses. Through much of 1944, the Luftwaffe sustained uncontrolled haemorrhaging, reaching 25 percent of aircrews and 40 planes a month. And in late 1944 into 1945, nearly half the pilots in Japanese squadrons had flown fewer than 200 hours. The disparity of two years before had been completely reversed.

Experience Level

Uncle Sam sent many of his sons to war with absolute minimums of training. Some fighter pilots entered combat in 1942 with less than one hour in their assigned aircraft. The 357th Fighter Group (often known as The Yoxford Boys) went to England in late 1943 having trained on P-39s. The group never saw a Mustang until shortly before its first combat mission. A high-time P-51 pilot had 30 hours in type. Many had fewer than five hours. Some had just one hour. With arrival of new aircraft, many combat units transitioned in combat. The attitude was, *"They all have a stick and a throttle – "Go fly 'em."*

Col. Donald Blakeslee is believed to have flown more missions than any other American fighter pilot during World War II.
Credit: United States Army Air Corps

When the famed 4th Fighter Group converted from P-47s to P-51s in February 1944, there was no time to stand down for an orderly transition. The Group Commander, Col. Donald Blakeslee (pictured right and one of the most decorated fighter pilots of World War II and the commander of the first American fighter squadrons to reach Berlin as the Allies ground down the German Luftwaffe) said, *"You can learn to fly `51s on the way to the target"*.

A future P-47 ace said, *"I was sent to England to die"*. He was not alone. Some fighter pilots tucked their wheels in the well on their first combat mission with one previous flight in the aircraft. Meanwhile, many bomber crews were still learning their trade: In Jimmy Doolittle's raid on Japan in April 1942, of 15 pilots only five had won their wings before 1941 – and all but one of the 16 co-pilots were less than a year out of flight school.

As a result of this wartime experience the Army Air Forces began instituting and enforcing stricter safety measures and emphasising safety in all phases of training. By the end of the war, the Army Air Forces had transitioned from an organisation with loose standards for selection, training, and safety to one with formal procedures for all three. In WWII, flying safety took a back seat to combat. The AAF's worst accident rate was recorded by the A-36 Invader – a version of the P-51 Mustang, a staggering 274 accidents per 100,000 flying hours.

Next worst were the P-39 at 245, the P-40 at 188, and the P-38 at 139. All were Allison powered engines. Bomber wrecks were fewer but more expensive. The B-17 and B-24 averaged 30 and 35 accidents per 100,000 flight hours, respectively -- a horrific figure considering that from 1980 to 2000 the US Air Force's major mishap rate was less than 2.

The B-29 was even worse at 40 - the world's most sophisticated, most capable and most expensive bomber was too urgently needed to stand down for mere safety reasons. The AAF set a reasonably high standard for B-29 pilots, but the desired figures were seldom attained. The original cadre of the 58th Bomb Wing was to have 400 hours of multi-engine time, but there were not enough experienced pilots to meet the criterion. Only ten percent had overseas experience. Conversely, when a $2.1 billion B2 bomber crashed in 2008, the Air Force initiated a two-month "safety pause" rather than declare a "stand down", let alone a grounding.

The B-29 was no better for maintenance. Though the R3350 was known as a complicated, troublesome power-plant, no more than half the mechanics had previous experience with the Duplex Cyclone. But they made it work.

The A-36 Invader had the worst accident rate per flying hours during WW2

Pacific theatre losses were far less (4,530 in combat) owing to smaller forces committed. The worst B-29 mission, against Tokyo on May 25, 1945, cost 26 Superfortresses, 5.6 percent of the 464 planes dispatched from the Marianas.

Navigators.

Perhaps the greatest unsung success story of AAF training was Navigators. The Army graduated some 50,000 during the War. And many had never flown out of sight of land before leaving "Uncle Sugar" for a war zone. Yet the huge majority found their way across oceans and continents without getting lost or running out of fuel - a stirring tribute to the AAF's educational training.

Cadet to Colonel.

It was also possible for a flying cadet at the time of Pearl Harbor to finish the war with eagles on his shoulders. That was the record of John D Landers, a 21-year-old Texan, who was commissioned a second lieutenant on December 12, 1941. He joined his combat squadron with 209 hours total flight time, including 2 in P-40s. He finished the war as a full colonel, commanding an 8th Air Force Group - at age 24. As the training pipeline filled up, however those low figures became exceptions.

By early 1944, the average AAF fighter pilot entering combat had logged at least 450 hours, usually including 250 hours in training. At the same time, many captains and first lieutenants claimed over 600 hours.

At its height in mid-1944, the US Army Air Force had 2.6 million people and nearly 80,000 aircraft of all types. Today the US Air Force (formed in September 1947) employs 328,000 active personnel, 146,000 civilians, plus 69,000 reservists with 5,400+ manned and over 300 unmanned aircraft.

These figures represent about 20 percent of the manpower and 7 percent of the airplanes of the WWII peak. Whether there will ever be another war like that experienced in 1940-45 is doubtful, as fighters and bombers have given way to helicopters and remotely-controlled drones over Afghanistan and Iraq.

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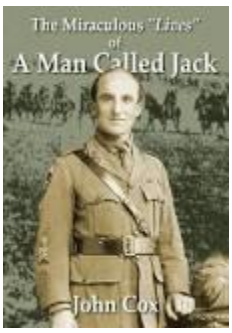
THE MIRACULOUS "LIVES" OF A MAN CALLED JACK BOOK REVIEW



John Cox
Lime leaf publications, 2017, 205pp

John Cox has written a touching biography of his father, Regimental Sergeant-Major Arthur John (Jack) Cox, DCM, who served in action in the Boer War, the 1907 Zulu Rebellion and the First World War. He also served in the Australian Militia from 1938 until 1942, when he was discharged as unfit for overseas service before his unit sailed for New Guinea.

The author follows his father's early life including his time on a fishing boat as a teenager and service in the Hampshire Yeomanry. On the outbreak of the Boer War, Jack transferred to the Imperial Yeomanry. He served in South Africa with his twin brother Herbert, who was taller than Jack. This contributed to Herbert's death in action. He was tall enough to be incompletely concealed in a gully after a Boer ambush, and was shot through the head by Jack's side.

The author recounts Jack's later life in South Africa when he took his discharge there after the war ended. While working with explosives with de Beers, Jack extinguished a fire next to an explosive store, saving the facility from a possible disaster. Later, Jack joined a contingent to help suppress a Zulu uprising in 1907. Service as a patrol officer in the Transvaal followed. This ended when a trainee patrol officer under Jack's supervision disregarded orders and was taken by a lion. Enough of Africa!

After a short interlude in New Zealand culminating in an earthquake, Jack moved to Australia, ending up in Lithgow. There he worked in the small arms factory, and met his future wife at the boarding house where he stayed. Jack later moved to Bendigo and worked in the gold mines until the outbreak of the First World War.

Jack soon enlisted as Number 85 in the 4th Light Horse Regiment. He married his fiancée on the morning the unit embarked, and did not see his wife again for more than four years.

When the Light Horse units were required as reinforcements on Gallipoli, Jack went with his Regiment, landing on 5 May. On Gallipoli Jack had a number of close escapes, including from shell bursts and a faulty Turkish bomb that landed beside him as he slept. He was also commended orally for staying in a trench while wounded, until reinforcements could arrive.After the evacuation of Gallipoli, Jack spent some time with the newly raised Imperial Camel Corps Brigade, including at the Battles of Romani, Magdhaba and Rafa, before returning to his Regiment late in 1916. Jack rode with the 4th Light Horse at Beersheba. During the charge he captured a Turkish machine gun post on the flank. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for this action, although he was told by his commanding officer that he had been recommended for the Victoria Cross.

During the Es Salt raid, Jack had another narrow escape, when his horse took the force of a shell burst that killed three other men (and the horse). During the final offensive Jack's Regiment advanced to Damascus. Soon after, he and other 'originals' of the unit embarked for Australia.

After working a soldiers' settlement farm in northern New South Wales, where his six children were born, Jack moved to Sydney in 1935. He joined the 36th Battalion of the Militia when aged almost 60. After being discharged in 1942 as unfit for overseas service at the age of 63, he worked in the Naval Armoury Stores until after the War. Jack died in 1958 from the effects of a stroke he suffered in 1951.

Jack Cox, DCM, lived almost 80 years, many of which were spent serving the countries in which he lived. He was an exemplar of a society that has now almost passed from the scene. In some ways his story is reminiscent of another Australian soldier of the First World War, Bert Facey.

The author expresses disappointment that his father did not receive the VC that he probably earned. This disappointment is understandable, but there were undoubtedly many men who did not receive the recognition they deserved. For better or for worse, Jack did receive the second highest award available to him. That award, this book, and his many descendants, will ensure that he is not forgotten.

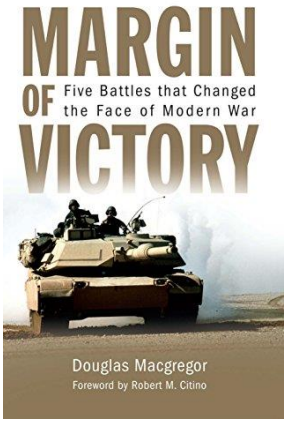
JOHN DONOVAN

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

MARGIN OF VICTORY: BOOK REVIEW

Five Battles That Changed the Face of Modern War

Douglas MacGregor
Naval Institute Press, 2016, 270pp
ISBN 978161251968



Reading a book by retired US Army Colonel Douglas MacGregor is a challenging experience. It is not necessary, however, to agree fully with MacGregor to gain valuable insights from the research and analysis behind his proposals.

In this book, MacGregor studies five battles to glean lessons relevant to army reform in the 21st Century. He differentiates between wars of decision, choice and observation, focussing particularly on wars of decision, and seeks reforms to ensure that the US is victorious in the first battle in such wars.

The first battle studied is Mons in 1914. MacGregor attributes British success during the retreat from Mons through Le Cateau largely to reforms implemented before 1912 by Richard Haldane, Secretary of State for War. Despite budget constraints, where priority was given to the Royal Navy, these reforms prepared the British Army (just) enough for a continental war. Resistance within the Army diminished the effect of the reforms, but MacGregor notes that sufficient remained to provide a margin of victory when needed, despite deficiencies in British leadership.

The next study is on the Japanese capture of Shanghai in 1937. MacGregor introduces General Ugaki Kazushige, who in the 1920s attempted to move the Japanese Army from a focus on infantry numbers towards greater mobility and firepower. Reaction to Ugaki's proposals arose, however, and opposition was more successful, delaying many reforms until the 1940s.

Shanghai was a battle between masses of infantry, with limited mobility and fire support. While Haldane had given the British Army a margin of victory in 1914, opposition to Ugaki's changes left the Japanese Army strong enough to prevail in individual battles, but not able to win against China.

These first two case studies emphasised the need to implement reform before a war, as more immediate priorities might constrain implementation during one. In his next two case studies MacGregor introduces command arrangements.

The third study, on the destruction of Army Group Centre in 1944, differentiates between German military reforms between the wars, which 'focused on marginal, tactical changes to … [a] …World War I army', and Soviet reforms implemented during the war, which focused on 'integrating and concentrating combat power … for strategic effect'. MacGregor also compares the polyglot German command system unfavourably with the integrated, joint, Soviet system. The Soviet reforms were based on theoretical concepts developed in the 1930s, but temporarily abandoned after Stalin's purge of the Red Army. They became the basis of the Reconnaissance-Strike Complex of the 1980s.

The fourth study is on the Egyptian crossing of the Suez Canal during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. MacGregor compares Egyptian military reforms, implemented with deep understanding of Egyptian culture with Israel, which learned incorrect lessons from earlier wars. The Egyptians specifically planned to counter known Israeli tactics. While the Israelis eventually prevailed using maneuver, the victory was costly, in part because Israeli supporting firepower and infantry were not closely integrated with tanks. MacGregor considers that Israel's unified military command structure provided the necessary margin of victory.

MacGregor's final case study is of the US Battle of 73 Easting, against Iraq in 1991. He sees the 1991 conflict as perhaps the ultimate expression of World War I tactics. He considers this war a lost opportunity to move 'beyond industrial-age warfare to … highly mobile, joint, integrated, aerospace and sensor dominated forces'. Instead, the US services each fought their own wars, in their preferred manner. MacGregor notes that airpower was not able to defeat the Iraqi army in the field, but did prepare the way for the ground attack. He criticises the failure to combine the air and ground efforts in an early joint operation, which might have produced a clear victory.

The final chapter is the core of the book. In it, MacGregor proposes a way forward for the US in the 21st Century. He sees little use for light infantry (or even special forces) in conflicts with a peer or near peer opponent, dismissing them as '[a]thleticism in uniform'. Rather, MacGregor favours fully mechanized ground forces, operating with air support as a strike/maneuver force under a joint and integrated command structure. Whether such a force is affordable by any nation other than an economic giant is a question for non-American readers to ponder.

One element of MacGregor's thesis that is relevant to Australia is defining the nation's 'core, existential interests'. MacGregor does not see nation building/counterinsurgency in the Third World as core for the US. Without US support, there can be little realistic belief that these could be core functions for Australia.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL H02143

Group of eleven soldiers, known as the Syndicate, from the 19th Battalion, AIF. Identified back row from left to right: 4746 Private (Pte) Alfred Francis McGuinnes and his brother 4747 Pte Walter Edward McGuinnes of St Peters, NSW; 4729 Pte Charles Norman Kenny of Ryde, NSW (died of wounds in France on 3 May 1917); 4727 Pte Reginald Sam Ingram of Ryde; 4265 Pte Arthur Warren of Sydney, NSW; and 1576 Pte Ephraim Ninnim of Sydney (died of wounds in France on 2 September 1918). Seated in second row: 4726 Pte Robert Searle Ingram of Ryde (killed in action in France on 14 November 1916); 3802 Corporal Edward Thomas Foord of Ashfield, NSW (killed in action in France on 15 April 1917); and 4269 Pte James White of Glebe, NSW. Reclining in the front: 1226 Pte Charles William Leslie (killed in action in France on 3 May 1917) and 1227 Pte Henry Alfred Long (died of sickness in England on 9 April 1917), both of Chippendale, NSW. The two signs being held in the front read "The Syndicate. Get an eye full of it. 19th Batt." and "Somewhere in France."

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P00102.028

Bathurst, NSW. 1940. An informal group portrait of members of Headquarters Company, 2/19th Battalion, standing in front of a car prior to their embarkation for Malaya. Left to right: Back row: Lieutenant J. J. Brindley, 5 Platoon; NX34869 Lieutenant C. Fallaw, 3 Platoon; Captain Reginald W. Newton, Company Commander; Lieutenant J. Howard, 2 Platoon; Lieutenant G. Gill, 1 Platoon. Front row: Lieutenant A. Pickup, 4 Platoon; Captain I. Duncan, Quartermaster; Captain W. Bracher, 6 Platoon.