



ISSUE 1/99
 "MICE OF MORESBY"-MEMBERS BULLETIN

I.Y.O.P.

1999 has been declared International Year of Older Persons (I.Y.O.P.) with concern for us to demonstrate a positive image - to develop our potential as voluntary workers and as veterans to fulfil a more active roll in society. This means we will need to appear brighter in coping with change in technology such as automatic "teller" machines and telephone banking. If you are really keen about the plan you can check the detail on Internet <http://iyop.health.govt.au> – somebody believes we have something stored "between our ears" – SO GO TO IT FELLOWS. - "YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU"

JOHN RICHARDSON'S FINAL JOURNEY.

November 27th 1998 was a "grey" day for our Association. Following a massive heart attack John's funeral was held at NORTHCLIFFE Chapel Berkeley (South Coast). I attended on behalf of the Association and the service was extremely well attended (some 400) and many of his past newspaper friends and family contributed to a most moving service.

In the near future John's wife Angela (John's right hand) will be asked to join with me as a Trustee replacement to "Remember" publications. This is a most important adjunct to our Association's activities.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - WACOL BARRACKS - BRISBANE

Mr. Gus Forbes, President of the Newcastle Branch of the National Servicemen's Association was commissioned to lay a wreath at the Sanananda Memorial on our behalf. This memorial lists units of 16, 30 & 14 Brigades committed to the Battle of Sanananda. Padre Roy Wotton conducted the service of Remembrance.
(Ed. Note: Wacol Barracks is scheduled to close soon and be transferred to Ennogera with movement of the memorial included.)

GLEBE LIBRARY - LOCATION HISTORY

In 1880 what was up to then a school building commenced to function as the Hospital for Sick Children. Later with a name and location change it became the Royal Alexandria Hospital for children. During the 9 year period 1880- 1889 at Glebe there was a strong disruption to staffing. (This information was published by Mr. Geoff HOWE a local historian and featured in the Inner West Courier Weekly on Monday 23rd November 1998.

GLEBE LIBRARY -MEMORABILIA STORAGE

Recent additions include a swagger stick and suede gloves of a former 53rd Bn R.S.M., also photographs and newspaper clippings from Vi Hall (Port Macquarie) whose father was a Lieutenant with a Military Medal Decoration (John Prescott, M.M. 13 Bn A.I.F.. Also, item from Keith Mason (Metford). We are hopeful of obtaining the ceremonial sword of one of the unit's C.O's., Lt/ Col. "Mick" Henry.

(Ed. Note: Members who have been holding back on offering their war time souvenirs should add their "Booty" to the UNIT'S COLLECTION without delay - the security of same is guaranteed.)

DRILL HALL BELMORE - CLOSE DOWN

Accompanied by 12 members I attended a commemorative church service and barbecue on Sunday 11th October '98 prior to the formal closing of another historic army centre. The Minister of Defence has been approached for a 55/53 Bn plaque to be located on site when present site undergoes redevelopment

A KOKODA HERO.

A Sydney newspaper item on 23rd Nov '98 was headed "56 years after being shot a hero of

Kokoda has the bullet removed." This article referred to George Tarlington of 2/2 Bn., author of the book "Shifting Sands and Savage Jungle". This book mentioned before is dedicated to George's young brother N20969 Pte. Cecil Tarlington of 55/53 Bn. Killed at Sanananda.

LAST N.S.W. "ANZAC" DIES

Frederick John Kelly 53 Bn. WWI. died at his Abbotsford home on Boxing Day. (Ed. Note: I attended his funeral on Monday 4th January). I called to interview Fred at his home some time ago and retain the memory of that occasion as a great experience.

Some 400 attended Fred's funeral and the Acting Premier Tim Fisher was included in those who provided interesting anecdotes concerning this good man who is a Worthy National Icon.

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

36 BATTALION

I recently acquired a Legacy Publication titled "A Legacy of Laughs & Other Stories" by Clifford Johnston. Keith Irwin (President 36 Bn Assn) submitted material for this publication and the story of George Willian (Knobby) Clark

is reported in brief:

"Knobby was born in 1881 and in 1900 joined the Royal Scots Regiment and fought with the unit during the Boer War (South Africa). Afterwards he went to service in India.

In 1912 he joined the Australian Staff & Instructors Corp. - attached to the 16 Bn. stationed at Perth. When WWI was declared he was not allowed to volunteer for service overseas due to his appointment. However he jumped ship and went on to serve with the 13 Bn.

When WWII was declared (he was then aged 58) and without blinking an eye convinced the recruiting officer he was just 35 and then below the upper age limit of 36. As NX9569 he became a member of 2/1 Bn and attained the appointment as Regimental Police Sgt and went on to serve in New Guinea and retired in 1944 then aged 63.

He served first as a foundation member of the Association and then as President. He died aged 89.

The purpose of telling this story is - NOT because he was an old warrior

NOT because he was a man who just had to go to war

BUT he was a man who quickened memories and inspired respect. This inspiration, like that of many others makes ANZAC Day important. The people who express that feeling on

ANZAC Day WILL NOT BE GLORIFYING WAR!"

(Ed: See you all on Anzac Day 1999 !!!)

This was one of many items submitted by Keith - the book is a worthwhile purchase particularly as a gift. Available through Australian Military Histories (Loftus) who also have copies of Frank Budden's "That Mob" and "Chocos" priced at \$35 and \$40 respectively - ph. No. (02) 95216515.

BUSHMAN'S TELEGRAPH 49TH BATTALION NEWSLETTER

This new communication is no doubt due to the enthusiasm of the "young-uns" of the 25th Bn. component of the Association.

In the part of the Newsletter titled "HISTORY" section mention is made of a memorial cross to those 49er's of WWI who died at MOUQUET FARM area of the SOMME Campaign in 1916. Casualties were 14 officers and 417 other ranks of a total of 1042 battalion strength.

This information tells me that history has a habit of repeating itself - the 49th casualties at Sanananda were equally as staggering as those of 55/53 Bn...

14th FD. COY. R.A.E. ENGINEERS

On the 16th Sept 1998, I made positive contact with this unit Association through Les Mercer of Panania.

The brief history of the unit reads: -

- 1915 - Jun 30 Unit assumed formation as part of 5 Div.
- 1916 - Feb 20 Unit became part of 5 Div Engineers
- 1916 - Apr 19 Unit committed to Battle of Fromelles
- 1918 - Nov 10 14 Fld Coy in location with 14 Inf Bde at
SO-LE-CHATEAU
- 1921 Unit moved to Newcastle as Militia Unit
- 1942 - Jun 2 14 Fld Coy Left Mainland Australia for PNG
serving in SW Pacific Area until cessation of hostilities.

The Association Newsletter is titled "PEPPER".

The important annual event is the laying of a wreath at 1100 hours 15 August at the Martin Place Cenotaph.

7 M.G. BATTALION NEWSLETTER "GUNNERS' GOSSIP ISSUE 82/95

Substitute ten commandments is offered and reads: -

CHOOSE TO	LOVE	rather than	HATE
	SMILE	rather than	FROWN
	BUILD	rather than	DESTROY
	PERSEVERE	rather than	QUIT
	PRAISE	rather than	GOSSIP
	HEAL	rather than	HATE
	GIVE	rather than	TAKE
	ACT	rather than	DELAY
	FORGIVE	rather than	CURSE
	PRAY	rather than	DESPAIR

(Ed. Note: Thanks to 7 MG Bn. Assn. and a further thankful acknowledgement to Belmore RSL Publication "The Bell" for this item.

14 FD. REGT. R.A.A. NEWSLETTER "GUN BLAST"

Accompanied by Betty I had the pleasure of attending the reunion of 14 Fld. Regt. at Bardwell Park R.S.L. as a guest. It certainly was a most enjoyable occasion and I express our gratitude to President Geo. Fetterplace for the invitation and to the members and wives present for the warmth of their welcome to us.

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Other linked Associations of the (1942) 14th Inf. Bde., i.e., 3rd Bn.

Infantry and 14th Fld. Ambulance Association do not have active newsletters but we retain strong contact.

I am in regular contact with 7 Div Cavalry Regt and extend warm greetings to members from the units named.

"REVEILLE" Se Oct 1998 Issue

Association members will be familiar with Jim NEILSON the Martin Place Cenotaph

Custodian. Due to his wife's illness Jim was represented Nov. '98 by a long time friend, Walter Scott-Smith of Kingsgrove. Wal was honoured with the RSL ANZAC AWARD 1998 for services at the Cenotaph in excess of 40 years- Congratulations Wal!

"REVEILLE" Nov Dec Issue

Campsie R.S.L. Sub-Branch Secretary (Jack Scott) joined with 3 other members who were honoured with Life Membership Awards made by the Sub-Branch President (John Campbell).

In drawing Association members attention to this fact, I do so reminding them that Campsie RSL Sub-Branch in company with 55/53 are supporting sponsors of the Sanananda Commemorative Station on the Concord Kokoda Walkway. The official opening of the Station is now scheduled for 1999. (Finance is an overall Walkway problem.)

PITTWATER HOUSE SCHOOLS

Partnered by my daughter Denise I attended the 37th Annual Prizegiving at Sydney Town Hall (Monday evening 6pm.) of this excellent school. Not only do students attain high scholastic results but it is also recognised for its outstanding school cadet unit. The guest of honour, Miss TRACY HOLMES, well known sports presenter is also an old girl of the school and she did in fact give an inspiring talk to blend in with the general high quality of this occasion.

Thanks to Trevor Harper for filling in for Anthony Kenyon who normally types the manuscript for each issue of the GOSSIP.

MEMBER JOTTINGS

Harvey Blundell (Carramar) for his recollection of early service days gathered from the reading of letters sent home in 1942:

UNITS OFFICIAL ADDRESS	Late '41-larly '42	EMU FORCE
	Early '42	PORT MORESBY
	May '42	NEW GUINEA FORCE
	Sep '42	HOME FORCES

Other Memories noted were: -

Jan '42	No native females in Port Moresby after nightfall
Feb '42	Received fruit cake from home
Mar '42	Concert - Joe E Brown
Apr '42	Deferred Pay entry in Pay Book
Jun '42	Issue of fresh meat to unit
Jun '42	Concert American Army Band
Jul '42	Pictures "Seventh Heaven"
Jul '42 "	plus shorts - German Army marching to tune LAMBETH WALK
Aug '42	Concert (Soldiers featured as "Females" - UGH!
Oct '42	Cigarettes 11d packet, 2 oz ready rubbed 1/5d
Nov '42	Picture "Sea Devils" plus short "Midway Battle"
Nov '42	Issue of bottle of cordial
Nov '42	Picture "Piccadilly Jim"
Nov '42	Picture "Quick Millions"

Thanks for reminding us Harvey!

LES MARCHANT (GORDON) passed away and funeral 11th November attended by 16 members. Les showed genuine interest and concern for all he encountered. We have on record where he defended a unit member charged with desertion in New Guinea. He obtained his acquittal at the hearing arguing that the unit had in fact left the soldier behind (in hospital) when it had returned to the mainland. (Ed: No names no pack drill as the old saying goes.)

ANTHONY KENYON (PARRAMATTA) as mentioned earlier in this newsletter was absent overseas and sent greetings from CONNEMARA (near Galway Bay).

CLARRIE JAMES (DUBBO) received a mention in OR Gossip in 1998 and an expansion on his book "One Man's Law" is as follows:

The current title of the autobiography of Clarrie James commences with his induction into the 53rd Bn., his journey to Port Moresby, experiences there and subsequently life as an ANGAU patrol officer. The manuscript has been accepted by Australian Military History Publications. However, it will be several months before it hits the bookshops. Currently the

work is about 90,000 words with 25 maps dealing with early days of 53rd Bn before settling in to tell of varied experiences in out of the way places, from being a one man law enforcer in GOROKA where the inhabitants did not know the meaning of the word "law" to building an emergency aerodrome with the aid of two policemen and local old men, women and children to save allied planes being wrecked on KITTYHAWK Beach near MILNE BAY, to being assistant hangman of eight natives guilty of murdering a Patrol Officer and eleven others at MISSIMA.

It is expected that the publication will require some adjustment to the manuscript and already a slight change of the title is envisaged to reflect service with ANGAU.

PROFILE OF CLARRIE JAMES

Clarrie first saw service as a 3rd Bn. "rookie" in June '41 in Chocolate City GRETA. October saw him as one of the first transfer group to 53 Bn. INGLEBURN where he took up his duties in Bn. H.Q's.. Early promotion took him to "one striper" rank.

The "SARPIDON" took him to PORT MORESBY where he became familiar with Simpson's Gap, Nappa Nappa and 3 Mile Area. In May '42 along with Harry Jacka, Bill Moses, Bill Ryan, John Sherlock and Bill Saville, Clarrie was accepted as a Patrol Officer with Australian New Guinea Management Unit (ANGAU). After completing OCTU school at SOGERI and further special training, Clarrie, Bill and Peter volunteered for services in WAU. They travelled there by canoe and on foot and then walked to GOROKI via the MARKHAM VALLEY and then Clarrie took his first patrol which was a wild and woolly outpost of the empire. Then followed a posting to ABAC (S/E coast) MISSIMA ISLAND,

LOUISADE ARCHIPELAGO, MILNE BAY, KAMPIE and then to GOKALO at war's end. He finished his service period while on loan to the N.G. Provisional Government 31st March 1945 and was demobbed 12 April 1945. On his return to the Commonwealth Public Service in CANBERRA exactly 5 years to the day from when he first joined 3 Bn..

This profile that is so interesting has been produced in detail.

Ed: Clarrie has written an article of his friendship days with Les Cooper which will appear in the next issue of "Orderly Room Gossip".

CHARLES COVER ERUDGERE via MUDGEER writes that he hopes to attend our 1999 reunion and expresses his sadness hearing that his mate Paul REEVES had passed on. The story

in our last newsletter referring to OUTBACK PUBS has been followed up by Charles and he reports on a book "PUBS PAST and PRESENT" available through Ossie WALLIS of GULGONG, Telephone 0263741484 at a cost of \$30 plus postage.

"SKEETER MATTHEW" had a few days sick leave recently and has reported back fully recovered.

KEITH MASON (METFORD) keeps in regular contact and recently supplied further material for the Unit Memorabilia Cabinet at Glebe Library.

OLLIE HARDY (GOLDEN BEACH QLD). Following Ollie's recent return trip to PNG he forwarded an outline of his visit. He intends to return in March '99, hopefully to be joined by his son Andrew (a pilot with AIR NIUGINI) to undertake a more detailed "walk about" in the Sanananda region. He agrees "one look is worth a 100 reports" when dealing with many NG nationals, time values are virtually Non-existent.

BRUCE MITCHELL (CAMBERWELL VIC) recently had a heart operation and is now feeling much better. He keeps in touch with Peter GROTTTO, George NOLAN, Neil HALLIWELL, and recently responded to Trevor Harper's plea for next of kin details - Well done Bruce.

GEORGE NOLAN (NEW GISBORNE VIC) is a good friend of Bruce MITCHELL and expresses his pleasure concerning the news he gets from "Gossip".

VICTOR HUNT (PARKDALE VIC) As promised another of Vic's wartime experiences entitled a "Bed Time Story" follows:

A BED TIME STORY

This is not really a war story but one which illustrates some of the vicissitudes and problems of a soldier when not in action.

The CO saw fit to send me to the LHQ School of Military Intelligence. You would hardly

believe it but it was at the Pacific Hotel SOUTHPORT and for six weeks! Wow! I hadn't seen my wife and 18 months old son since he was born. Now this was the chance. Somehow my wife managed to tell big enough lies to transport officials to come up to Surfers and stay in a little flat I had rented. Needless to say, the six weeks passed rapidly with both enjoyable companionship and hard work.

Back in Brisbane on the way to our separated lives we couldn't find a hotel in which to spend the night prior to departure. In desperation, my wife remembered some people she had met several times at Surfers who insisted that if she was ever stranded in Brisbane to come and stay with them. We finished reluctantly imposing on them and to our embarrassment were given the hosts' own bedroom.

At about midnight with the double bed for the three of us I started to get extremely itchy legs and other bits. I put the light on and lifted the bed clothes to find lady-bird-like insects climbing up the mosquito netting and along the bed clothes. God Almighty! They were bed bugs. I jumped out of bed and lifted the mattress end which seemed to be the source of the invasion to find the corner a seething mass of these creatures of all sizes, many red with my blood.

Strangely they were only interested in me and fortunately neither my wife or baby suffered a bite. It was a nasty night. We got up early, made our excuses and scarfed it.

Our hosts however asked us if we'd had any troubles and on my explanation said the bugs were a bit of a problem and they should have told us to use the methylated spirits and talcum powder at the foot of the bed!!!

(Ed: Many would remember the old wire bed mattress which needed regular attention from time to time with Metho or KERO.)