

# "TAKE POST!"

Newsletter of the  
2/3rd Australian Light Anti-Aircraft  
Regiment Association

April 1996

## JOIN YOUR 2/3rd MATES ON ANZAC DAY



*2/3 Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment — Anzac Day, Melbourne 1995.*

### REUNION NOTICE

The Anzac reunion will be held on **Wednesday, April 24, 1996**, from 12 noon until 3.30 pm., lunch and drinks provided. The subscription this year is **\$20** (again subsidised by the Association).

The venue is the same as last year — the **Air Force Convention Centre, 4 Cromwell Rd, South Yarra**. (Access to the car park is from Cromwell Road).

*John Campbell, Hon Secretary.*

### NOTICE OF MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the **Air Force Convention Centre, 4 Cromwell Road, South Yarra** at 11.45 am., April 24, 1996 (just prior to the Anzac reunion).

Members are reminded that nominations for Committee must be lodged with the Honorary Secretary 7 days before the meeting.

*John Campbell, Hon Secretary.*

## EDITORIAL

At the Association's Annual Reunion and Annual General Meeting on 24th April 1995, Bert Baglin retired as President. Bert's eyesight is not so good now for conducting meetings so he decided to stand down.

Although President for only two years, Bert is a well-known, cheery, welcoming figure and serves us well. We are pleased that he will continue as a member of our Committee as Immediate Past-President, and as Patron.

Tom Dawson also retired after many years of service on the Committee and was duly thanked for his efforts.

We are very pleased to announce that Cec Rae who has been Honorary Secretary for 27 years was nominated and declared President.

Ron Bryant, John Campbell and Bruce Tulloch were elected as Vice President, Hon Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively.

John Hepworth continues his long service as Hon Treasurer. The remaining members of the Committee are listed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

**Our new President** is well-known because of his great service as Hon Secretary. The Association has been capably administered by Cec as Hon Secretary and John Hepworth as Hon Treasurer, both being highly qualified in business management. We congratulate Cec on becoming President

Cec marched into Werribee Camp on 18th September 1940 to become a gunner with the 9th Battery of the Regiment. He served with that Battery throughout the war until discharged on 7th December 1945.

Cec was engaged in *Operation Battleaxe* in the Western Desert when an attempt was made to relieve Tobruk, then moved with the Battery to Beirut, later serving in the Suez Canal area until assigned to a crew whose gun was mounted on the foredeck of a 10,000 ton freighter for return to Australia. After arrival in Adelaide the Battery was posted to Townsville from whence it moved to Port Moresby by MV *Macdhui* and MV *Karsik*. Two troops of the Battery then moved to Milne Bay where it assisted in the defeat of the Japanese. After 17 months the Battery moved to Lae, but after a short period Cec returned to Australia on leave. The next move was to Labuan Island, North West Borneo, moving out in November '45 for discharge.

Cec returned to his pre-war position as a clerk with the Union Bank of Australia Ltd (later ANZ) and later was employed as the accountant and company secretary with two legal firms. Cec and his wife Betty now live in retirement at Shoreham on the Mornington Peninsula.

**We are pleased to welcome John Campbell as Honorary Secretary of our Association.**

At the age of nineteen, John was in Camp Pell Army Camp at Royal Park and elected with others to join the 2/3rd LAA Regt then being formed at Werribee. He was promoted to Acting Bombadier in October 1940 then progressed through the ranks to WOII in March 1945.

After service in Tobruk with 8th Battery, then later in New Guinea at Buna with 2/8th Lt AA Battery (Airborne), John was discharged in November 1945.

On discharge, John completed a three year Rehabilitation training course with a Melbourne City Tailor and Cutter.

John's father was a tailor and cutter also, so the two formed a partnership in 1948. Diversification in the late 60's led to John founding and operating the largest Men's Formal Wear Hire business in Australia and at its peak, in the mid 1980's, over one hundred and twenty people were employed. This business was sold in 1989.

During 1945 John married a Queenslander and later they had three sons and one daughter.

Over the years John has been involved in a number of community affairs, but now has scaled his involvement down to just one. As a Trustee of the Cheltenham Cemeteries for nearly thirty years and Chairman for at least fifteen, he is heavily involved in the construction of a new Cemetery at Carrum Downs where three hundred acres will become the main Regional Cemetery for the South Eastern Region of Melbourne for the next one hundred and fifty years. It is expected to open March 1996.

John lives in Mentone – in which area he has lived all his adult life. Our thanks go to John for accepting the office of Honorary Secretary and we wish him well.

### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

*It is with sincere regret that we report  
the passing of former comrades:*

Frank (F. H.) Jorgenson	7 Bty
Ron G. Finlayson	8 Bty
Leo Armitage	
John F. McPherson	
Eric C. Alcock	
Jack S. Milligan	8 Bty
Robert (Bob) Stevens	7 Bty
Gerry (G. J.) Sampson	9 Bty
Harry B. Anderson	9 Bty
G. J. Thomson	9 Bty
R. A. Horner	8 Bty
Cliff W. Scott	8 Bty
Jack (J. G.) Christie	7 Bty
Tom (T. F.) Eveley	7 Bty
Clive (C. S.) Rose	RHQ
Bob (R. M.) Lowe	9 Bty
Jim (J. L.) Moyes	8 Bty
Arthur Finney	
Ted Bell	8 Bty
A. V. Wills	
H. T. Woodward	
Bill (W. A.) Green	9 Bty
Eric (E. J.) Harrower	8 Bty
Jim (J. H.) Jeffreys	Sigs
George Wardrope	8 Bty
W. A. Wrigglesworth	7 Bty
Bob (R.A.) Little	8 Bty

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT — by CEC RAE.

1995 was the year to remember the end of the war in the Pacific and it was heartening to have such a fine attendance at the Reunion — 108 members was the final count.

Financially it was gratifying to receive \$1,000 from the Federal Government towards the cost of the catering allowing a reduction in the charge to members.



*Cec Rae — now our President.*

It was great to welcome the contingent from Western Australia and members from other States and the country.

There was a splendid attendance at both the Dawn Service and the Anzac Day March at which was carried an Australian Flag donated by the Federal Government and a flag which had been flown at 7th Battery Headquarters on Crete.

The 7th Battery HQ flag has been donated by the Brimacombe family in memory of Harold Brimacombe.

Frank Washbourne and I represented the Association on 8th May at the Shrine Service commemorating VP Day.

The *Australia Remembers* march through the City on 15th August was very well attended by members, widows of members, wives, sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters. The public was most enthusiastic and the day was fine.

At the Western Australia Association's Christmas lunch, with 23 members attending, Theo Fitzhardinge was appointed President and Honorary Secretary following Gordon Connor's resignation as President. Our hearty congratulations to Theo and our thanks to Gordon for founding the WA Association and maintaining it over the years.

With all the goodwill fostered (no pun intended) through *Australia Remembers*, I suggest each of us contact a member with whom we have not been in touch for some time. Remember, some members are not capable of attending Reunions and would appreciate a phone call, a letter or a visit. Let's keep up that bond of friendship!

*Cec Rae.*

### **2/3rd AUSTRALIAN LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT ASSOCIATION.**

*President:* CEC RAE.

*Hon Secretary:* JOHN CAMPBELL,  
Box 205, PO Mentone, Vic.3194.  
Phone 9583 8756.

*Assistant Secretary:* BRUCE TULLOCH

*Hon Treasurer:* JOHN HEPWORTH.

*Newsletter Editor:* RON BRYANT.

*Committee:*

BERT BAGLIN  
LES HARRIS : DICK HAWTING  
DAVE THOMSON : ROY THOMSON  
JACK CRITTENDEN : MAL WEBSTER

*W.A. Contact:* GORDON CONNOR.  
6 Exton Place, Spearwood, WA 6163.



*Secretary  
Our Treasurer,  
John Campbell  
will be pleased  
to receive your  
subscription.  
\$5 may be  
posted to him  
at : PO Box 205  
Mentone  
3194.*

### **ORDER OF THE ANZAC MARCH**

Please note that we will assemble (as last year) in Flinders Street, Melbourne on the east side of Swanston Street. It is estimated that 2/3rd LAA Regiment will move off at about 9.40 am.

The Official Party this year will be located further down in the forecourt of the Shrine, away from the Eternal Flame. "Eyes Right" will be ordered at the Eternal Flame — not at the Official Party.

This year the March will be led by the RAAF. Next year and onwards, we understand that the order of March will be Navy — Army — Airforce.

We are asked to march 10 abreast and no less than 8 abreast for small groups.

## THE SENTRY'S LOG

Apropos **prostate problems** mentioned opposite, one of our Gunners has had tinnitus (ringing noise in the ears) for years. More recently, he was also unfortunate enough to develop prostate trouble. Our worthy Gunner said he had so many fingers and instruments poked up his rear end that it seemed to have done his tinnitus the world of good! We reported this to his prominent Ear, Nose and Throat specialist in case he wishes to publish this information in the medical journals.

"**Take Post**" again received many interesting notes and welcome donations from widows of our old comrades and members who were unable to attend the last Reunion — including **Joan Paton** of Shepparton, **Ida Worsley**, **Margaret Dickinson**, **Geoff Clucas** (now OBE – Over Bloody Eighty), **Tom Chadwick** in Echuca, **Ron Walsh** in Montrose Tasmania, **Terry Gleeson**, **Mario Takasuka** in Peterhead SA and **N Anderson** of Mudgeeraba.

**Gnr J C Ballantine** (9) advises that he has moved to Collaroy Plateau, NSW. He recalls a couple of incidents in *how he won the war*. Enroute to Lae in October 1943 in a LST, he was on aircraft spotter duty late at night. He drew the attention of the bridge officers to a silver light far up overhead. Later an officer came down to congratulate him on his dedication to duty, and explained that it was a star. Later again, on landing from the LST, the guncrew's cat *Tiddles*, which had been sleeping in the gun tractor was one of the first to set foot on the beach-head to lead the crew to its position near Jacobsens.

The WA troop still get together now and then. It was great to see **Gordon Connor** (7), **Gordon Fellows** (8) and **George Howat** (8) at our 1995 Reunion. The two Gordons represented the Regiment at the WA Victory parade in August last. Later, Gordon Connor unfortunately joined the *Club of Retired Gentlemen Who Have Fallen Off Ladders*, resulting in the need for a new hip. Gordon Fellows and **Frank Wallis** (Sig Sgt) were nominated to attend the Royal Show to take part, with banner, in the Grand Parade as a tribute to War Veterans on the 50th Anniversary of WW2. As Frank's son was Chief Administrative Officer of the Agricultural Society, Gordon and Frank were treated with the respect due to veteran anti-aircraft men.

**Jasper Coghlan** (9) visited WA and was welcomed at the Anzac Club by several comrades in usual WA style. **Bob Little** who has been ill on and off for years has been holding his own lately, working in his garden of prize roses.

**Ralph Hawkey** (8) still farms at Nathalia and soldiers on within the limits imposed by age and his old gsw.

**Clive Greenhill**, now well into his eighties, attended a family re-union in Adelaide, then travelled up the east coast, across the top, then down the west coast to home.

At the WA troop's pre-Christmas lunch (with twenty-three attending), **Theo Fitzhardinge** was appointed President and Honorary Secretary, following **Gordon Connor's** resignation as President due to ill-health.

Annual Confidential Reports – Officers

"Senility will overtake him before he matures"

"Industrious and sober but never at the same time"

"An independant thinker with a mediocre mind"

## COMMITTED TO THE NEEDS OF VETERANS

The Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre holds an enduring and special commitment to the needs of Veterans and War Widows and is very pleased to announce a number of Veteran specific initiatives being undertaken to ensure these particular needs are met.

- ⇒ 26 Veteran specific beds (20 open on the Repatriation campus and 6 soon to be open on the Austin campus). These beds will be flexibly staffed to ensure that no Veteran or War Widow whose medical condition is such that they should be treated, is refused admission.
- ⇒ The Special Cardiac Surgery contract has been finalized with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. This arrangement guarantees Veterans will not wait longer than three weeks for surgery.
- ⇒ Charge Nurses throughout the Medical Centre have undertaken to inform their colleagues of the special care needed for Veteran and War Widow patients.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



### At Wadi Auda, Tobruk 1941

*This mobile oven had been left by the Italian Army.*

*In front, L to R:*

**8th Battery Gunners — George Howat, K.O. Bell and Harry Reid.**

*Harry baked good quality bread using compressed yeast called Dri-Balm.*

# PROSTATE CANCER — Options in Screening and Treatment

by Dr Graeme Killer: Principal Medical Adviser, DVA. (Published with permission of Vet Affairs).

Prostate cancer has become one of the important issues in men's health, the cause of much anxiety in the veteran population, and the subject of debate in medical journals and local national newspapers. While in principle debate is healthy, differing advice and messages from respected members of the medical profession can leave both doctors and their patients confused. This confusion occurs because there is incomplete understanding of prostatic cancer and advice given in good faith is often based on personal clinical experience that may or may not turn out to be correct.

Problems with passing urine, difficulties with getting or maintaining an erection and prostate cancer are three subjects that men are often unwilling to talk about with their mates, their wives or even their family doctor. There is no doubt if you have a problem or a concern in any of these areas it is worth talking about it and having it investigated and resolved.

Problems with voiding or the passing of urine are not uncommon in men over the age of 50. You might find you need to get up several times during the night to pass water, your stream may be weakened, you may have a burning sensation and dribbling at the end of passing water. All these symptoms could be caused by a variety of conditions including infection of the bladder, infection of the prostate, benign prostate enlargement or sometimes cancer of the prostate. If you have these problems or concerns discuss it with your general practitioner.

## Should I have tests for prostate cancer?

One of the common questions posed to general practitioners by their veteran patients over the age of 50 is, should I have a blood test for prostate cancer? In answer to this important question, the following explanation is given:

Some of the common screening tests we now do in practice for conditions such as TB (a chest X-ray), hepatitis (a blood test), are simple, reliable and will give you the correct diagnosis without too much discomfort or inconvenience and not lead to complications. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for currently available screening tests for prostate cancer.

The initial test for prostate cancer is a blood test, the so called Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA). The problem with the test is in some cases:

- it is not specific for prostate cancer
- it can tell you that you have prostate cancer when you haven't
- it can tell you that you haven't when you have
- if you have a positive PSA blood test your doctor is virtually committed to further investigations.

These follow up tests include an examination through the back passage; a test with an instrument through the back passage; and a biopsy where a piece of tissue is taken from the prostate.

Because of the limitations of the currently available tests for prostate cancer, advice from learned organisations including the Urological Society of Australasia is that the risks to the community of testing all males over

a certain age outweighs the benefit of early diagnosis. So asking all men over 50 to be regularly tested, is at this stage not recommended.

In terms of an individual, however, you need to be guided by your general practitioner on your particular need for a prostate cancer test. In some cases, these tests may well be indicated particularly if there is a strong family history of prostate cancer.

## The options for treatment in prostate cancer.

The real problem in prostate cancer is not so much the testing for cancer but in deciding what to do if you are told you have prostate cancer. The problems in treatment relate to the fact that although prostate cancer affects many men, prostate cancers behave differently. Some progress slowly and others more rapidly. Most men die with prostate cancer not from it. We don't know for sure if the available treatment always works although we do know it can cause (in terms of surgery), problems of lack of control of the water and inability to get an erection.

It is also not clear what is the best option:

- radical surgery of the prostate
- radiotherapy
- drug treatment
- do nothing at all and carefully monitor progress
- treatments in alternative medicine; combinations of these treatments

If you have prostate cancer diagnosed you need to carefully examine the options for treatment on the advice of your specialist and your general practitioner. If necessary, you might seek the advice of another specialist. You should not rush your decision on treatment as it is an important one and it should be based on having all relevant information available to you.

I had a phone call from a woman whose husband had been referred by his GP to a specialist urologist about a prostate problem. After a careful clinical examination and very brief discussion, the specialist advised the veteran that he needed an operation on his prostate and he should make a booking with the receptionist on the way out. From the veteran's perspective this anecdote demonstrates unthinking and really unsatisfactory management. The veteran should have been given ample opportunity at the time of the consultation to discuss his medical problem and options for management. In no way should he have been rushed into making a decision without time to consider his position and discuss the matter with his family. Always remember: if you are still unsure in relation to a problem go back and discuss it with your general practitioner.

## To Ex-POW'S – Europe

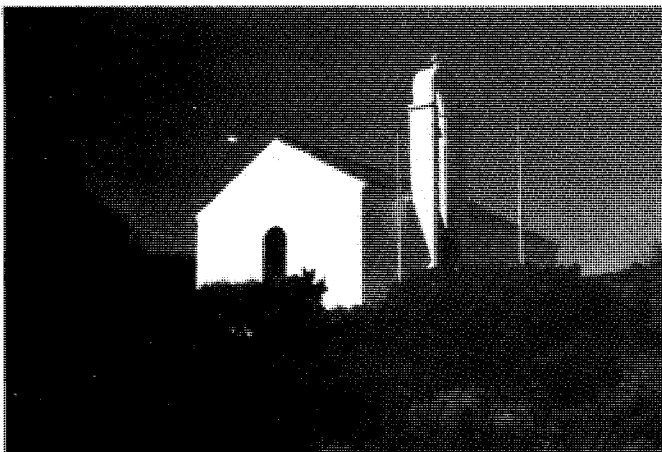
If you have not received a circular regarding a book to be written on Prisoners-of-War to be entitled — "In the Bag", the authors would like your contribution. John Campbell, Box 205 Mentone, phone 9583 8756, can send you information.

## THE ROAD TO PREVELLY

The book, *The Road To Prevelly*, described how the author, Geoffrey Edwards of the 2/11th Australian Infantry Battalion, with other Australian, British and New Zealand servicemen, after the Battle for Crete in 1941, avoided capture by the Germans and survived in the mountains with the aid of Cretan villagers. Many of the allied troops were assisted and fed by the monks of the monastery at Preveli on the south coast of Crete.

Eventually, Edwards and others were rescued by a British submarine crew who took them back to Egypt.

On his eventual return to Australia and discharge, Edwards and his family later built a caravan park in what was then remote coast-line in the south-west of Western Australia near Margaret River. With little capital and because of the remoteness, this was a daunting task in itself. As time went on, they took on an additional project in building a chapel as a memorial to the villagers and monks of Crete, who at great risk to their own lives had helped the allied servicemen.



The chapel built in traditional Greek style was completed with the aid of voluntary labor and donations.

Ron Bryant (8) and his wife Doreen visited the chapel on a recent caravan journey from Melbourne to the south-west of Western Australia. The building is well maintained. It stands traditionally stark white against the surrounding green scrub, with a magnificent view of the blue ocean below.

The pews inside and furniture have plaques naming the donors, which include Associations of 2/7th Field Ambulance, 2/1st Machine-gun Battalion, 2/1st, 2/3rd and 2/11th Infantry Battalions, 6th Division Engineers and 2/3rd Field Regiment.

The caravan park in its lovely setting is still operating. Mrs June Home, Manager of the Park kindly lent the Bryants a key of the Chapel to enable them to view the inside.

A plaque states:- *"This symbolic Greek Orthodox Chapel was given to the Greek people by Geoff and Beryl Edwards who founded the adjoining village and named it Prevelly as a token of gratitude to the Preveli Monastery and surrounding villages on Crete. Where after the battle of Crete in 1941, the founder and hundreds of Australian and New Zealand and British soldiers were sheltered, hidden and helped to escape to the free world. May all who pause here remember with gratitude the courage of the Greek people who fought and died for the freedom of their land and ours"*

## GUN OPERATIONS ROOM

### Milne Bay 1942-1943

Gun Operations Room co-ordinated the fire-power of heavy anti-aircraft, light anti-aircraft, field artillery units and the RAAF at Milne Bay, New Guinea.

Alec Hepburn (ex 9th Battery) writes:-

"The only way Force HQ could talk to RAAF was via GOR (Gun Operations Room) switch and even this was so poor that the switch operator had to relay sentences in alternate directions. The RAAF in Milne Bay had to obtain permission from RAAF Melbourne – via Army Melbourne – before they were able to mount strikes against Japanese troops on the ground.

RAAF kept phoning Force HQ asking if permission had been received, and being told "Not Yet". Our operator, after many calls, at last thought this wasn't good enough, and, instead of repeating "Not Yet", said "Yes Yes" and off went the Kittyhawks.

### How We Won the War

Anti-aircraft HQ and GOR had a Comforts Fund radio which achieved some remarkable feats. We often received SSR Shepparton. With some help from Bombardier Dick Davies, a radio actor in civil life, the gunner on duty at GOR would take notes of the ABC news, and, at appointed times, read these notes at dictation speed to all gun sites, where the duty telephonist would take them down and display the result on a notice board.

After one unusually long bulletin all the gun sites acknowledged receipt except one Heavy AA site. When queried, the telephonist said: *'The hurricane lamp (kerosene) blew out as soon as you started, and, when someone got the lamp going again I found I had written all the news with a pencil with no point'.*

The same unit, when told to be ready for plotting practice (an exercise unique to Heavy AA sub units, and being a sort of practice air-raid) produced the reply, *'We can't do any plotting today; all the blokes are having swimming sports in the creek; I'm the only one here.'*

## CATARACTS AGAIN

**Readers will recall previous advice in "Take Post" regarding cataracts experienced by AA gunners.**

John Campbell advises that following his appeal against the rejection by the DVA of cataracts (bi-lateral crystalline lens opacities) the Review Board set aside the rejection. The Board substituted the following:- "that the veteran's bilateral crystalline lens opacities are war-caused as defined in Sec 9 of the Veterans Entitlement Act 1986 and that the DVA is liable pursuant to Sec 13 to pay a pension." (John's specialist eye doctor in his letter had written - "It is noted in his history that Mr Campbell was involved in a great deal of UV radiation in his war service. In my opinion this cannot be excluded as a factor causing the lens opacities").

**The Honorary Secretary, John Campbell, would appreciate any information regarding changes of addresses so our mailing list can be as up-to-date as possible.**

## **PILOTS HAD THEIR PROBLEMS TOO!**

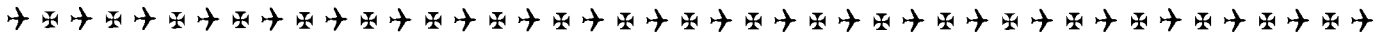
*(An extract from "The Desert War, 1940-1942")*

*Many Australian airmen were serving in British squadrons including eight pilots in No.250 Squadron, RAF. On August 29, one of these, Pilot-Officer C R "Killer Caldwell" was escorting a Tobruk convoy in his Tomahawk north of Sidi Barrani, and was attacked by two ME 109s. He later reported:-*

"Bullets astern damaged tail, tail trimming gear, fuselage and starboard mainplane while the aileron on the side was destroyed and a sizable hole made in the trailing edge and flap, evidently by cannon shells, a quantity of splinters from which pierced the cowling and side of the cockpit, some entering my right side and legs. Fire from the port side damaged the fuselage.

A number of bullets entered my left shoulder and hip. Small pieces of glass embedding in my face, my helmet and goggles being pulled askew across my nose and eyes by a near miss no doubt. As a result of the hits, on the mainplane and probable excessive avoiding-action the airplane spun out of control. Checking the spin I blacked out when pulling out of the ensuing dive, recovering to find flames in the cockpit. Pulling the pin from the safety harness I started to climb out to abandon the aircraft.

The fire, evidently caused by burning oil and not petrol as I thought, died out so I decided to remain and attempt a landing. Looking behind me, as I crossed the coast at about 500 feet some six miles east of Sidi Barrani, I saw a number of planes manoeuvring in a manner suggesting an engagement. As my plane seemed to answer controls fairly well, apart from turns, I made a gradual turn and climbed back towards said aircraft finally carrying out an attack on what I believe to be an ME 109. Having previously lost the pin to my harness I was holding the straps in my left hand for security which together with damage sustained to the aircraft made it inadvisable to attempt too much in the way of quick change of altitude so I carried straight on to a very low level and continued to base arriving at 2010 hours. Using half flap only I landed to find the starboard tyre flat, as the result of a bullet hole".



## **7th BATTERY — AT MELVILLE 56 YEARS AGO**



*"A" Troop, 7 Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Battery at Melville W.A.  
Lieutenant David Humphries, Tp. Cdr. — Sergeant Tom Evely, Tp. S.M.*

## CARRY ON WIDOWS!

*After World War 2, Bill Tom, a member of 8th Battery, returned to farming at Romsey and was successful at that occupation. Bill eventually became Shire President, and he and his wife Jean accepted many public duties. As we knew that after Bill's death, Jean had become National President of the Country Women's Association of Australia, we asked her to tell us something of her experiences.*

*We were so pleased to receive her reply, which follows:—*

Tomorrow my husband Bill Tom should have been turning eighty and we would have had family celebrations with the nine grandchildren, few of whom he ever knew. Instead we will be visiting his grave for he died suddenly fourteen years ago. This is just a small glimpse of how it is to have lost your partner of many years, and how the way a life must change. It is now a life of making decisions, often by myself, and of arranging to have things done. It is a life of living and managing alone and yet filling each day with purpose. We had five children, four girls and a boy, and I see them and the grandchildren frequently. However they live some distance away and have busy lives and families of their own. I have appreciated the interest taken in my welfare by the local branch of Legacy.

There are many things that I now do that I would not be doing if Bill was still with me. We can never know as we go down the paths of life what the alternate paths would have held for us. I always had a commitment to the Country Women's Association of Victoria, having been their State President before Bill died, and I have built on this experience and knowledge, involving myself in a range of rural issues, especially the interests of rural women. From the experiences I had gained have come all my other commitments. First was the Victorian Sesqui-Centenary when I was on a sub-committee and obtained funding for a project in my own area. Then there was the Victorian Women's Consultative Council where I served five years, and my interest in the Victorian Women's Trust evolved from being on the Council. I was involved in the initial planning for the Trust and continued as a Director and Board member for about nine years.

For three interesting and challenging years I was National President of the Country Women's Association of Australia, representing the interests of rural women to the Federal Government. During that commitment I was also a member for three years of the National Women's Consultative Council, meeting quarterly in Canberra, where my part was to maintain support for the interests of rural women, and issues across the board.

Then there has been the Rural Women's Network, and the Farm Women's Gatherings, both innovative programs that initiated in Victoria. The first International Conference for Women in Agriculture was held in Victoria in 1994 at the Melbourne University. I was a member of the committee planning the conference, and responsible for a Farm Safety Workshop at the conference. I am maintaining my interest in Farm Safety and am helping to plan a local Farm Safe day in April.

I am no longer a farm woman as our farm was sold six years ago and I have moved into the nearest town, looking out of my kitchen window to the land my father farmed when I was young. Our town and community has changed from a farming community to a popular hobby farm area with a commuting workforce to the city and suburbs – an hour drive away.

My story is not so different from other women who have to continue their lives and interests after their husbands have died. We all must go on living and shaping our lives as we see is right for us. What is right for one of us is not necessarily the path another woman wishes to take. We all wish that our husbands could still be here with us, so we could share our interests. But that cannot be.

*Jean Tom, Romsey, Victoria.*



### IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA IN 1949<sup>1</sup>

Sergeant Frank Cavanagh of 8th Battery and other members of the Battery on the deck of HMS *Griffin* bound for Alexandria after being relieved from the Siege of Tobruk.



## ANXIOUS DAYS

*Many of our recollections of World War 2 are of the lighter side, and rightly so. Occasionally we have a poignant reminder, as is this copy of a letter from Lieutenant Coggins (7 Battery) to a waiting mother, in 1941.*

Dear Mrs Tylour,

I am writing this because I think you will want to know further particulars about "Tiny", as everybody called your son. We were all evacuated from Crete by the destroyer *Hereward*, but at sea, some of us were transferred to a cruiser to avoid overcrowding. In the darkness it was not possible for all of us to keep together, but we were not worried as all were in the same convoy. However at dawn the convoy was heavily bombed and the *Hereward*, badly hit, was forced to turn back to Crete, where she beached. Rome radio subsequently stated that 267 prisoners were taken from the ship, so that there is every chance that our lads are safe – even if they are prisoners.

"Tiny" took command of the gun after the Sergeant was wounded and his example of coolness and steadiness brought the gun crew through with flying colours. The gun he commanded shot down a number of German planes and "Tiny's" work throughout was very fine indeed.

I would like to offer you our sincere sympathy during this period of uncertainty and under the circumstances feel very hopeful that the boys are alive and well.

Yours very sincerely,

Richard Coggins.

*("Tiny" Tylour did not survive).*

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Nicknames were common in the AIF.

Here are a few, mainly from 8 Battery:— *Boomer, Black Bess, Big Wog, Little Wog, Tiny, Diamond Jim, Ding Dong, Searchlight, Nap, Pidge, The crow, Mocka, Needles, Charlie Wolf the Urger, Organ, Squeaker, Curley, Cuckoo, Sonny, Nipper, Billygoat, Plonk, Butch, Plum, Strawb and Nimrod.*

The universal one at one stage – for everyone – was *Gus*. For what reason? We don't know.

## A Correction and Apology

In the 1995 edition of *"Take Post"*, in an article headed *"Sidi Barrani — Retrospection"*, the following was mentioned:-

*"It was in this action that a bomb fragment accounted for our driver, Dick Todd, who was minding his own business asleep in the cabin of our tractor".*

Mr D B M (Bill) Fitzhardinge states that Gunner Todd was not asleep at the time he was mortally wounded, but was repairing a punctured tyre. The original article was accepted and published in good faith. The Editor of *"Take Post"* and our Committee regret causing anyone concern, particularly with any inaccuracies which may occur in the content of our magazine.

Whilst we endeavour to avoid offence to anyone and all care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the contents of *"Take Post"*, the Editor and Committee cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions; nor are the views of the contributors those of the Editor or of the Committee.

## SOME OF THE SMILING FACES OF "I" TROOP AT WERRIBEE CAMP IN 1940



L to R (Back Row):— Neil, Canning, Purves, (?), Allender, Wright, (?), (?), Membrey, Rae, Johnson, Bird H G, Oddy, Cole, (?), Anderson, Nolen, Boothby, Gray J K, Mears, (?), Westcott, Crees.

L to R (Front Row):— Evans, Smith, Sauerberg, Minetti, (?), Pulsford, Clucas, Bridges, Paton, (?), Briscoe, (?), McEwan, Brown, Delahunty, (?), Silver. And reclining at front: Hardy J.

**1995  
MELBOURNE  
REUNION**

is now a fond memory  
but you may  
renew friendships in 1996.



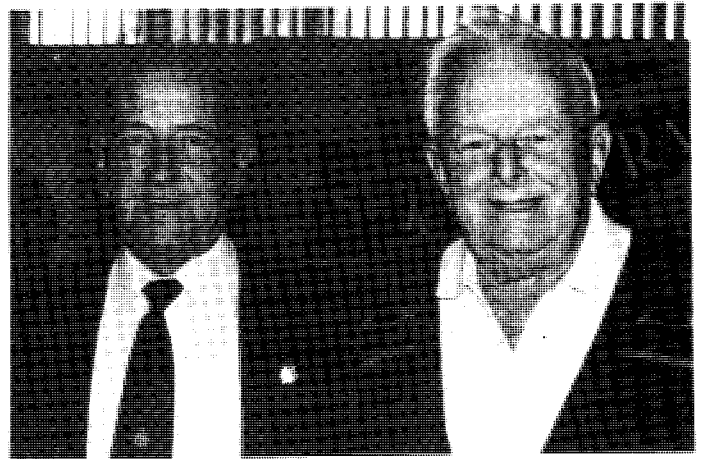
*Pictured Left to right:—  
Reg Swift, "Killer" Curtin,  
Ian Evans with hand on Norm Marshall,  
and Hec Bird (looking at the camera). →*



*A Royal Flush; — Reg, "Killer", Ian, Norm and Hec.*



*Col Reilly, Les Shields, Hugh Hill and Jack Berkley.*



*Sandgroppers — Gordon Fellows and George Howat.*



*Peter Brimacombe handing the flag, which was flown at Crete, to Bert Baglin — Melbourne March 1995.*