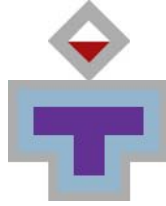


The Furphy Flyer in Mufti.**I HOLD FAST**

Official Organ of the 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association Inc.

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Vol 3, No. 42

Melbourne

August 2010

COMING EVENTS FOR 2010**9th Division's Shrine Service, Friday 22nd October**

(Refer to page 9 for further details)

2/24th's Shrine Pilgrimage – Sunday 24th October, 2.00pm

(Assemble 1.30pm)

(Refer to page 9 for further details)

Wangaratta Weekend Reunion, 5th, 6th and 7th November

(Please refer to page 12 and the brochures included with this 'Furphy' for all details)

Vale

Robert 'Bob' A Spencer	VX41611	18 th July 2010
G A Brownbill	VX145738	2 nd August 2010
E 'Hec' Frankel	VX3567	
John 'Lucky' Lockwood	VX94092	
Muriel E Monds		12 June 2010
Merle Beal		

All members of the 2/24th Battalion Association offer their deepest sympathy and understanding to those bereaved by the passing of members of the association.

Battalion Birthday Luncheon 2010

On Friday the 2nd July, thirty four Association members and friends attended the annual Birthday Luncheon at the Pascoe Vale RSL. It may have been cold outside but it was friendly and warm inside.

With the tables set up in a square, so that everyone could see everyone else, our President, Alan Macfarlane, welcomed and thanked us all for attending.

During the meal, which, as usual, was very good, some of our veterans, Keith Clark, Doug Dobson, Charlie Scales and Alan, passed on some of their funny war time anecdotes. Also, because it was the Battalion's 70th Anniversary, we all sang happy birthday.

Thanks again to the friendly staff of the Pascoe Vale RSL for their hospitality and generosity.

Attendees included:

2/24th Veterans, Charlie Scales, Bob Clark, Keith Clark, Doug Dobson, Ray Jinnette, Art Callander, Alan Macfarlane.

Also, Dot Clark; Fran & Bernadette Scully; Robyn & Maudie Stevens; Nance Ormsby; A Mackenzie; Janice Young; Maree Scully; Cameron Blackwood; Mrs Blackwood, Mark Quinn; Maryanne Scully, Keith Anderson, Ron Graham, Frank Tyrrell, Lyn Masters, Alastair Davison, Ian Holmes, B Knight, T Beecroft, K Curtis, Roma Taylor, Carol Henshaw.

Apologies were received from Hautie Crick, the Lewis family, Alan and Roland Nicholson and Faye Macfarlane.

Letters to our Secretary.

From John Heynes of Keysborough ...

Please find enclosed subscription renewal and a donation. My late father, Charlie Heynes, VX29173, served with the 2/24th Infantry Battalion. Although he passed away in 1981, he is still much loved and remembered by his family who are forever grateful for the service and sacrifices that he, his fellow Battalion members and the members of all Armed Services gave to this country at a time of need.

I wish all members of the 2/24th Battalion Association and their families' future good health and happiness.

Thank you for dropping us a note John. We appreciate your kind words and support.

On the 22nd July we received a note from Edna Brownbill of Laanecoorie Vic

At present Graham is in the Dunolly Hospital receiving full time care.

I know he would wish all that remember him all the very best wishes.

Sadly, Graham passed away on the 2nd August.

Our thoughts are with you Edna.

From Barny Creenaune of Gilgandra NSW Please find enclosed my subscription and a donation. We had a good ANZAC Day in

Gilgandra. World War 2 Veterans are very thin on the ground here but the numbers were made up by ex National Servicemen and a detachment of RAAF personnel from Richmond Air Force base.

The last issue of *Reveille* had a section about an Infantry Combat Badge. I would be interested to know if you had any information on it. I had not heard of it before.

Nice to hear from you Barry. With regard to the Infantry Combat Badge, it was first established in July 1970 for recognition of infantry service in battle or on operations. The role of the infantry is to seek out and close with the enemy, to kill or capture him, to seize and to hold ground, to repel attack, by night and day, regardless of season, weather or terrain. The purpose of the Infantry Combat Badge is to recognise this unique role and the particular training, skills and hardships attendant upon service as an infantryman

The Infantry Combat Badge is only awarded for operational service commencing from the Korean War.

From Cliff Hoskin of Marysville.....

I am writing this note to send a cheque for subs owed and a bit extra to help expenses.

We had a very bad year in '09; the whole town was wiped out in a couple of hours. We abandoned our house as the fire and the roar was evident. The heat must have been terrific. All the big things were reduced to blobs of steel and glass. No sign of anything small such as cutlery and crockery. They evidently atomized.

No locals were allowed back to scratch around their property for several weeks; the area was cordoned off as a crime scene.

Seven houses belonging to my immediate family were destroyed. They are in different stages of rebuilding. I am in my new home and have been for about three months; one son and one grandson are here with me.

My wife and I were together in the old house for 58 years but the trauma was too great for her and she passed away, immediately after the fire.

I see some familiar names in the Furphy Flyer but life is a bit of a battle now. I do a bit of garden restoration and get the evening meal. My son is on afternoon shift up Lake Mountain and gets home about 1.00 am and Josh, my grandson, goes to High School.

You cannot imagine the devastation that has occurred here.

I will close now wishing you all a happy and prosperous future.

Thank you very much for your letter Cliff. We can only try to imagine the sorrow and hardship that you and your family went through last year. I'm sure everyone who reads your letter hopes

that things are looking up for you. Our best wishes to you.

*From Marg Deering of King Valley VIC
.....Dear Alastair,*

It is always a pleasure to receive the "The Furphy".

I have included some photos for you, most of them taken when the boys put on concerts in the P.O.W. camp. I'm sorry I cannot put names to these 'boys'. The only one I know is Rod. Anyway some of the other POWs may recognise themselves, if they are still with us. I know it is a big ask as Rod would have been 96 this year.

It is incredible! How was Rod to know he would one day marry the little 12 year old Chinese girl with plaits and buck teeth who was with the High School Students who lined the Streets of Wangaratta when the 'oys' marched out?

Alastair, I was so lucky. We had 47 wonderful years. Now I am getting 'soppy'.

Love to you and your family.

Thank you Marg for your letter and support. These photos will be put on the website shortly.

We have also had notes from

Max Oakley of Geilston Bay TAS, Barbara Pavone of Echuca, N J Smith of Euroa, and C D Giersch of Mulwala, who send their best wishes to all officials and members.

From Charlie Lopez of Echuca

Sir, I am writing to you as I have been corresponding with Mr **Charlie Scales**, whom I met at this year's ANZAC March. He knew my father Jack Lopez and gave me a written account of my father and his mates defence of the Post S7. Charlie said that the defence of Post S7 has never been told to you and that you may like to hear it, and my story and that you may like to print it in a future issue of 'The Furphy Flyer'

Sir this is a copy of Charlie's letter to me;

"I was quite unprepared and shocked to meet you unexpectedly on Flinders Street, prior to the ANZAC Day March, to be reminded of an event so tragic that I became emotional.

Your father was a man among men who knew exactly what they were doing and I witnessed it from a distance of about 700 yards. The post, which they occupied, was built by Italians to be protected mostly by artillery fire, a business at which the Italian Army is particularly efficient but which at that time our side was lacking as our men were using old captured Italian Artillery pieces and shells. A lot of this old ammunition was pretty useless.

All day I watched them being attacked and at times, when a suitable target presented itself, even at extreme range I fired my 303 rifle at their enemies. Next day swirling dust in a dust storm clouded some of the little war but I saw them at least on two occasions leave the security of their gren pits and charge the enemy with their rifles and bayonets. This resulted quite a few enemy being killed but too, their small number suffered death also. They did this - I surmised - in desperation as they had ran out of ammunition.

I believe your father, Andy Thompson (Cpl), Rooda McGowan, Jack Petts –their names are eluding me but there were about 3 others, were killed. Stan Booley and Billy Wilson were taken prisoner. Wilson later escaped a Prison of War Camp in Italy but was shot and lost his leg. I believe he died in a hospital in Northern Italy. Stan Booley returned to Australia after the war but has since passed on.

The 2/24th Bn. "held up" the German and Italian advance into Tobruk for 72 hours which gave the generals time to rush two Battalions into position of support and prevented the enemy from progressing towards the harbour which was their intention.

Your father and his comrades were truly brave men who behaved beyond what was asked of them, the call of duty. As they were not fully trained, it was an exceptional effort and even after about seventy years I see it all vividly in my memory.

I hope you continue to have good health and happiness with your children and grandchildren.

I close with deep respect."

My father was killed when I was three months old so I did not know him. He never saw me but did see photos. I was the younger of his two children; my sister, who has since passed away, was four years older than I was. Our mother remarried after the war to another soldier who also died when I was 12 years old. By then we had another brother and our mother raised the three of us on her own. She never remarried again. I have a wife and three children and ten grandchildren and now one great grandchild, so my father's name lives on.

I feel that my father did not die in vain, as I have had a very good life.

Sincerely Yours, Charlie Lopez.

Thank you for your letter, and for passing on Charlie's letter. It's obvious the men defending Post S7 were very brave, as were all the men of the 2/24th.

Charlie Lopez and his wife, Jean, are now associate members and we welcome them to the 2/24th Battalion Association.

Subscriptions and Donations

Please note that receipts will not be sent unless a reply paid envelope is enclosed with your subscription. All subscriptions and donations will be acknowledged in the Furphy Flyer in Mufti.

Subscriptions

R L Robinson, Dawn Cleary, Richard Cains, Charles Twigg, Lorraine Holland, L Twigg, R Lawrence, W McIntosh, J Heynes, L T Ross, Lt Col D Blanksby, Alan Waterman, C Giersch, D Wymond, M Alabaster, R Smithwick, B Pavone, C Henshaw, C King, D Catherole, Bernie Creenaune, David Weir, N J Smith, Max Oakley, Bob Clark, R Graham, Norma Roche, James Leggo, Charlie and Jean Lopez, Cliff Hoskin

Donations

Bobby Fenwick, Margaret Deering, Richard Cains, Thelma Hemphill, R Lawrence, W McIntosh, J Heynes, L T Ross, M Deering, Lt Col D Blanksby, C Giersch, D Wymond, M Alabaster, B Pavone, `D Catherole, Bernie Creenaune, David Weir, Bill Rudd, Max Oakley, K Curtis, A Davison, A Mackenzie, M Neil (Scully), F Tyrrell, Edna Brownbill, Cliff Hoskin, Diana Wymond, D Weir.

It goes without saying that the Association is extremely grateful for the support that we receive from our members. I am constantly amazed at the donations, large or small, that we continue to receive. Thank you very much.

This quarter I would especially like to thank David Robertson, son of Helen Robertson and the late Dr Guy Robertson, the 2/24th's RMO, for his generous donation and also the Rats of Tobruk Association for their donation.

Update form.

I wish to thank all those members who returned the Annual Subscription Update form that was sent out with the May 'Furphy'. We asked that members return the form so as to ensure that our records are up to date. Of the 428 forms sent out we have had approximately 150 returned, a response of about 35%.

If you have not responded, and you still have that form, please return it to our Honorary Secretary.

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground.

The following is an item from ROTA, the Rats of Tobruk Association, NSW Branch, January-February newsletter. It is a letter written by Richard Stanton of Surfers Paradise and titled 'A voice from the Navy'.

I am a Rat. More specifically, a Tobruk Rat. A blue uniformed Rat. A very early one at that. Let me elucidate.

My ship was HMAS Vampire, one of the five Australian destroyers which were later dubbed "Scrap Iron Flotilla" by Lord Haw Haw.

We were everywhere in the Eastern Mediterranean – Palestine, Greece, Crete, the horrific convoys to Malta, chasing the Italian Fleet home at Calabria, the bait for the decisive Battle of Matapan, the Aegean Sea and along the coast from Alexandria to Bardia. Tobruk had not yet fallen, but this is where my story starts in early 1941.

Admiral Cunningham was planning the seaward attack on Tobruk, to be co-ordinated with Army and Air Force.

Not yet ready, he despatched the Australian destroyers Vampire and Stuart to take station outside Tobruk, where they were to prevent the escape of the massive Italian heavy cruiser, San Giorgio. A daunting task, considering our main armament, 4 inch and 4.7 inch guns, would be pitched against San Giorgio's approximately 13 inch gun turrets. There we spent the next two days.

The daylight hours were harrowing with expectation, but the nights belonged to us. We were two fast destroyers fully laden with torpedoes and she would have to pass between us.

On one of those nights we went to Action Stations as a shadowy bulk was sighted approaching. This Was IT!!! This was the big one.

It was comic relief to discover it was NOT San Giorgio, but an Italian schooner with troops aboard, attempting to run our blockade. After taking the troops prisoner, we blew their vessel apart. No doubt those in Tobruk would have seen and heard our gunfire and no more attempts were made to escape.

At the end of our two days, the entire British Battle Fleet took over from us and proceeded to blow Tobruk Harbour apart. That night the Air Force arrived and carried out their own brand of havoc on the town and environs. Tobruk fell to us.

In daylight, we threaded our way through the minefields and into the harbour.

Over there was the wreckage of that once proud cruiser, San Giorgio. Over here what was once a submarine, ships of all descriptions lying everywhere as stricken wrecks. Ashore, as we walked around it was much the same story. Wreckage!!! Buildings destroyed, piles of guns and ammunition lying in the streets, Italian soldiers looking for somebody to surrender to.

We certainly owned Tobruk.

Everything looked so good now, but the Germans were building up in Benghazi. it wasn't long before they pushed us back to Tobruk and the famous Siege began. They could not get in and we could not get out.

Here again the Scrap Iron Flotilla came to the fore. We were to run the blockade at night.

The system was to load reinforcements, food, ammunition and mail in Alexandria, depart so as to arrive Tobruk at night, unload, then reload with stretchers and get away fast — all before the moon could rise. To be caught there in moonlight would make us an easy target for the German guns. They did, in fact, sometimes fire into the harbour on the chance that they might hit any ship in the dark.

The only thing the soldiers who came aboard, to unload us, were interested in were mail, cigarettes and sweets. Bugger the food and ammunition. We gave them everything we could, keeping only enough to get us back to Alexandria. We soon found that we needed this for the guys on the stretchers. The wounded.

These stretchers covered every inch of open deck and our guys, as soon as they came off watch, went round helping tend the needs of the wounded.

On one of these trips I saw the worst sight of my career to date when we took aboard a stretcher bearing a soldier who had been hit by a German flamethrower. I watched many men die in those days, but that man remains vividly in my memory.

We lost one of our old destroyers on that job, the Waterhen, before more modern destroyers arrived to relieve us and we were able to leave the Mediterranean. It had been about 18 months of concentrated duty and fighting.

My own ship, Vampire, stayed in Singapore for a refit, with a new crew taking over and the tired original guys coming home for a rest and redeployment. Vampire, however, never came home. She was sunk by the Japanese in the Bay of Bengal.

There, Sir, is Tobruk from a sailor's point of view, a story not much told.

Following on from that great letter, this next item, from Tobruk House News, the ROTA Victorian Branch newsletter, is part of a speech given by Liet-General, Sir Leslie Morshead. It was made at the HMS Tobruk plaque presentation ceremony in June 1950 and taken from the newspaper Tobruk Echo, dated Sept 1950.

'Dauntless Courage' held Tobruk says Chief 'Rat', Liet-General, Sir Leslie Morshead.

"Two years ago, I unveiled the Memorial in Tobruk, and I should like to repeat something of what I then said.

Tobruk was held and could only have been held by offensive action, by beseiging the beseigers, by making No Man's Land ours, and by hard work. Every night patrols sallied forth to fight in countless raids, and many of them on a large scale, were made against the Germans and Italians, by day as well as by night.

It was the enemy, not the defenders, who were on the defensive. Everybody contributed his full share in these continual attacks—Australians, British, Indians and Poles.

But for that truly grand, that fighting garrison, Egypt would have fallen, and who could say what the course of the war would have been?

Tobruk was held by dauntless courage, the unbreakable spirit, the high endeavour and will to fight, and the unity and team work of the garrison.

And it was held through the help and support of the British Navy and Royal Australian Navy, who guarded us and maintained us, oblivious, to danger, and in that very gallant manner traditional with the Navy.

Here on this ship named 'Tobruk', we few from various States of the Commonwealth, representing all who fought at Tobruk - British, Australians, Indians and Poles - again acknowledge with admiration and gratitude the vital part that the Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy played in that long and eventful seige. We remember so dearly all those ships; particularly the "Grey Funnel Line" which protected and maintained us, and we are still mindful of the risks they ran."

From Bob Clark, VX44006

TOBRUK Propaganda Leaflets.

On a day when the Artillery on both sides were fairly quiet I heard the unusual sound of an aeroplane engine, quite different to the sounds we heard daily during our months spent defending Tobruk; the dive and high level Bombers, the Stuka.

I looked up to see a very small plane about to fly overhead, the pilot leaning over the cockpit throwing out leaflets from the German High Command, urging us to show white and surrender.

The plane was so slow and low that I could see a smile his face. Maybe he was saying good luck AUSSIE?

Committee Considerations

The Annual General Meeting and the Quarterly Committee Meeting were held on Friday 6 August at the Pascoe Vale RSL. Meeting was opened by the Chairman, Alan Macfarlane.

Main points were

1. Active membership is 429 but 64 are in arrears in their subscriptions.
2. The financial situation is stable. Last year the Association subsidised the Anzac Day Luncheon, the Annual Reunion and the ceremony at the Australian War Memorial for the unveiling of the 2/24 Plaque. This year has seen an increase in subscriptions and donations; which will ensure that charges for the 70th Anniversary Reunion can be kept at a reasonable level.
3. The major discussion point was the Annual Reunion. The proposed re-enactment march has been dropped and the Sunday barbecue is to be held at Purbrick Hall, close to the Cenotaph.
4. The attendance of the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipes and Drum at the Reunion was confirmed.
5. Zak Isaackson be nominated as a Life Member in recognition of his contributions in promoting the Battalion Association.
6. There was considerable discussion on the Dinner format, Friday night dinner, costings of Reunion events, and allocation of tasks.
7. Several photos of the AWM Plaque in Canberra were received from the War Memorial and the recipient organisations were nominated.
8. A sub-committee was endorsed to update the Constitution to conform to new regulations.
9. Elections saw Alan Macfarlane re-elected as President, Alan Dobson and Alan Nicholson as Vice Presidents, Roland Nicholson as Treasurer, Alastair Davison as Secretary, Janice Young as Asst. Secretary/Treasurer and Public Officer and Frank Tyrrell as editor of Furphy Flyer and Database Coordinator. Elected Committee members are Keith Clark, Bob Clark, Cameron Blackwood, Ian Holmes, Sandra Sharp, Mark Quinn, Greg Larkins and Keith Anderson.

The following is our President's report to the meeting.

I offer my report regarding the Association's activities over the last twelve months.

Shrine Service Sunday 18 October 2009

Our annual Service at the Shrine was blessed with fine weather and twenty plus members and friends in attendance. It is always a moving but short service with Dr Mark Johnston, our special friend and associate member, giving a fine address as usual. Thank you Mark.

Then the ladies with their goodies and the help of the Shrine staff, served us all with afternoon tea. A big thank you to all concerned.

Wangaratta Re-Union, 6, 7 and 8th November 2009

As always a wonderful weekend for all those able to attend. Our thanks to local RSL President and staff for the fine dinner, etc. on Friday evening. We were pleased to have Wangaratta High School Principal, Heather Sarau, special local members John & Gwen Elward, Greg & Helen Larkins and Val Gleeson join us for this happy gathering.

Saturday Memorial Service, 2.30 pm.

Wangaratta Cemetery. The Mayor, Cr. Ron Webb, welcomed us for our annual weekend get together. A short service then wreath laying by representatives of Battalion, Council, RSL and High School, followed by Norm Gray with our Silver Bugle for the Last Post and Reveille, then poppy parade by all in attendance. Again the wonderful ladies of Zonta providing us all with afternoon tea.

We were pleased to have the local cadets from Wangaratta 33 ACU carrying and supporting our 'Wangaratta's Own' banner. Thank you Liz Rouse.

We were also pleased to have representatives from a NSW Cadet Unit who have given their Unit the title of 24th Bn. in honour of our unit.

Saturday Evening Reception and Dinner.

This was our first occasion in the beautiful new Memorial Hall. Thanks to our caterer, members of Lions, our new Secretary Alastair and Assistant Janice, the full house in the new surroundings was something special.

An excellent welcome address by the Mayor Cr Ron Webb, a toast to the Battalion and recollections by Val Gleeson, OAM, plus the certificates to the special students of Wangaratta High School, Cathedral College and Galen College. The CEO, Doug Sharp and Paul Moss-Holland conducted our usual raffle in a pleasant and happy environment.

Sunday 11.00 am.

Our annual ceremony was held at the Wangaratta War Memorial. It was a bright and warm morning with the usual beds of red roses as we paid our respects to the local citizens who paid the supreme sacrifice during all conflicts. A wonderful re-union, our thanks to all concerned in Wangaratta and our own members.

Dedication of Commemorative Plaque Canberra, 25, 26 and 27th November 2009.

We had been waiting many months for this special occasion to take place. The many months of preparation etc all finally proved to be very successful and worthwhile with our Plaque of the Battalion service finally dedicated and in place at the Canberra Memorial.

Rightly so, the authorities at the Memorial were very firm and precise as how the Plaque should be made, when and how the service would take place, plus very strict timing. It all proved to be worthwhile and pleasing for all concerned, particularly those members who were able to make the trip to Canberra.

Our sincere thanks to our Secretary, Alastair, whose many efforts, plus the help of our Treasurer, Roland, made it all possible. Special mention should also be said about the effort made by our late secretary, Michael Oakley, in initiating this ceremony. A worthy and well planned event. We acknowledge the effort of the Mayor of Wangaratta, Cr Ron Webb and his wife Maxine, who attended and took part in this historic ceremony. Our grateful thanks.

ANZAC Day 25th April 2010

Again the weather was kind for our group of members plus many associates. The additional car transport provided this year enabling Veterans to ride rather than march was much appreciated. Again we were honoured to have Students and Principal, Heather Sarau, from Wangaratta High School carrying and supporting our banner to the Shrine. We acknowledge our associate member, Joe Kenyon, for the fine band he has organised to stir us along the route to the Shrine, playing Battalion marches etc. Thank you Joe and all your members.

Re-union Lunch, ANZAC Day.

Firstly, our thanks to Moreland Bus for transport to Pascoe Vale RSL for lunch and their usual hospitality. It was with much pleasure to have Heather Sarau and the school students with us for lunch and the decision to honour the students with Honorary Junior Associate membership was greeted with loud applause. There were a number of Veteran members at the lunch who were unable to march so perhaps they will attend next year and make use of the new transport arrangements.

Birthday Lunch 2nd July 2010.

Another happy gathering enjoying the hospitality of the Pascoe Vale RSL with a fine lunch. The attendance was up this year ensuring the function will continue.

It is with much pleasure I thank all members of the committee for their enthusiasm and commitment to all our activities. In particular, Secretary Alastair Davison, Treasurer Roland Nicholson, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Janice Young, Editor of the Furphy Flyer in Mufti Frank Tyrrell and my wife Faye.

The following is an edited copy of our Secretary's report.

Firstly, I pay tribute to the work of Michael Oakley as Secretary of the Association prior to my taking over as Secretary in 2009. Michael had spent considerable effort in preliminary organisation of the Canberra Memorial Service and preparation for the 2009 reunion.

On 26 November 2009, one hundred and one people attended the Dedication and unveiling of the 2/24 Commemorative Plaque at the Australian War Memorial. Of these 14 were Veterans. This service was the culmination of several years' work by both the President and the former Secretary. Five people attended from the ACT, 21 from NSW, 8 from Queensland, 5 from Tasmania and 62 from Victoria., and three officials from the Australian War Memorial and the chaplain from the Australian Military College. Also in attendance were representatives from the 24 Army Cadets, who served as banner bearers. We are thankful for the ongoing

support provided to the Association by Moreland Coaches who supplied transport for the 31 Victorians who were not making their own way.

In recognition of the link between Wangaratta High School and our Association a grant has been instituted to the Wangaratta High School student who receives the Community Award at the Reunion. This presentation was made at the Schools Award Day in December.

Early in 2010 the Committee endorsed a more formal structure for the Association to maintain the viability of the Association. The Annual Subscription was raised to \$15 to cover increased postage and production costs of the Furphy Flyer, and members in arrears were to be notified so that the benefits were only to accrue to financial members – in accordance with the Constitution. I thank Roland Nicholson for his solid work in maintaining the accounts of the Association, and to Frank Tyrrell for his maintenance of the membership database and production of the Furphy Flyer. Both provide invaluable service to the Association.

During 2009 the 2/24 web page went fully online thanks to the good graces of Cameron Blackwood, who has granted us a home on his web server. This has not only reduced our costs, but has also given us tremendous systems backup in the form of Cameron's expertise. A forum and a wiki have been set up on the website, but they have not been a major public face as the Webmaster has spent too much time on secretarial duties! The web site has been very effective. It has generated sales of the history of the battalion and has created many enquiries (at least 18 email requests for details on members of the 2/24) and brought us in several new members.

The Association was active in the 9th Division Service at the Shrine on 23 October 2009 and also at our own service the following Sunday with several country members attending. This year, 2010, we have maintained a presence at the Anzac Day March and had a large crowd of 93 at the Reunion at the Pascoe Vale RSL. Approximately 43 celebrated the Battalion birthday on 2 July with several country members present.

2/24th's Shrine Pilgrimage, Sunday 24th October 2010.

We will be gathering at the Shrine again this year for our Shrine Pilgrimage.

Weather permitting, we shall meet at our tree at approximately 1.30 pm., with the ceremony taking place in the Inner Sanctum of the Shrine at approximately 2.00 pm.

The wonderful Shrine staff provide guards for the traditional service in this very sacred place.

Later we will adjourn to an ante room where afternoon tea (kindly supplied by all attending) can be enjoyed by all.

I would encourage everyone to come along and spend 1½ to 2 hours at this iconic Melbourne landmark, remembering the men of the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion.

Ninth Division Shrine Pilgrimage and Lunch, Friday 22nd October 2010

The Shrine Pilgrimage, organized by the 9th Australian Division Association - Victoria, is to remember and respect our fallen comrades. If you are able to attend, please do so and if you require a carer to assist you, that person, whether wife, son, daughter or friend, would be most welcome. Alan encourages a good representation from men of the 2/24th.

Those attending should assemble at the East Entrance of the Shrine of Remembrance at 11.30 am.

Following the ceremony you are invited to Lunch at Scotch College, starting at 1.00 pm. Cost is \$30.00 per head, all inclusive. A free bus has been arranged to transport attendees to the College. (Please note that there will be no bus service back to the Shrine following the lunch)

Could you please advise our Secretary, Alastair, of your attendance and forward payment, made payable to 2/24th Battalion Association, prior to the 8th October.

New Veteran Member

Mr Keith Leggo, VX87423 has joined the Association. Keith served in Tarakan.

Welcome Keith and we hope to see you at some of our functions.

Following on from Alastair's article in the May 'Furphy Flyer', The Origins of the Last Post, he now explains the Origins of Taps.

Taps

Taps is a US musical piece used by the military during flag ceremonies and funerals, and is generally played on a bugle or trumpet. The tune is also sometimes known as *Butterfield's Lullaby*, or by the lyrics of its second verse, *Day is Done* (see below). The bugle call was composed by the Union Army Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield, an American Civil War general who commanded the 3rd Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. Butterfield wrote the tune at Harrison's Landing, Virginia, in July 1862. Butterfield's bugler, Oliver W. Norton, of Erie, Pennsylvania, was the first to sound the new call. Within months, *Taps* was used by both Union and Confederate forces. *Taps* was made an official bugle call after the war.

Historians agree that the tune is actually a variation of an earlier bugle call known as the Scott Tattoo used in the U.S. from 1835 until 1860. It was a bugle call to signal 'lights out'. As a signal for end of the day, armies have used Tattoo to signal troops to prepare them for bedtime roll call. The call was used to notify the soldiers to cease the evening's drinking and return to their garrisons. It was sounded an hour before the final call of the day to extinguish all fires and lights. This latter call was called *Extinguish Lights*.

On the Internet there is an urban myth about the origin of *Taps*. The story goes that a Northern boy, who was killed fighting for the south, was found by his father, Robert Ellicombe, a Captain in the Union Army. In his son's Confederate jacket he found the musical notation for *Taps*. Ellicombe had the notes sounded at the boy's funeral. There is no evidence to back up this story or even that Captain Ellicombe ever existed.

Words of Taps

Quite soon after *Taps* appeared, words were put to the music. The first set was, *Go To Sleep, Go to Sleep*. As the years went on many more versions were created. There are no official words to the music but there are many popular verses, such as,

*Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.*

John Wayne added a version to the end of a recording he made explaining the origin of *Taps*.

*Fading light...falling night...
Trumpet calls as the sun sinks in flight.
Sleep in peace, comrades dear...
God is near.*

You can listen to the story, as told by John Wayne, on the Internet at <http://www.lyricszoo.com/john-wayne/taps/>. It also has a vocal version of John Wayne's words.

I was forwarded this interesting newspaper item regarding this year's ANZAC day march.

Home and Away's Esther Anderson paid tribute to her family's war history by marching in Melbourne's Anzac Day parade yesterday.

Anderson marched alongside her father Jack, who served with the RAAF during World War 2, in Dutch New Guinea.

She proudly wore the medals of her uncle, Tom Anderson, who was a Rat of Tobruk. Her sister Lara, who marched with them, wore their aunt Anne's service medals.

"It was really, really special," Esther said. "My sister Lara did it (marched) last year for the first time. I was quite envious that I could not join her, so this year I made sure I could be here."

Esther said it was wonderful to share the emotional march with her father, who turned 85 on Saturday. "We were all a little bit teary," she said. "Dad and my uncle Keith were telling stories the whole way."

The gold Logie nominee then joined her family at the Pascoe Vale RSL for lunch with members of the 2/24th Battalion.

Committeeman, Cameron Blackwood, wishes to thank those members who brought in photos for scanning. The plan of scanning pictures from members has been a roaring success. Such a success that he spent two days scanning pictures and is still only half way through the stack of photos.

He would like to remind everyone that he will be bringing the computer and scanner to each unit meeting; so if you have any pictures and the stories behind them, then please bring them along.

The pictures shown are an example of photos received from members.



Resting on the March from Wangaratta to Bonegilla



First change of the guard for WW2?

This picture, from Peggie Mackenzie, is marked as the first changing of the guard in Australia, in World War 2, at Broadmeadows.



George Mackenzie escapes.

Peggie also had a picture of George Mackenzie, a POW who escaped and made his way over the Alps to Switzerland, where this picture was taken. If anyone has some details on who the other soldier is, please drop us a line.

Cameron also advises that at the July lunch a member brought along a photo album but didn't leave her name. (Or he didn't write it down) Woops! Could contributors please contact our Secretary to make sure we return it correctly.

We have received Newsletters from the following Associations,

- Dial Sight 2/7 Australian Field Regiment
- Mud and Blood 2/23rd Battalion Association
- ROTA NSW Branch
- Tobruk House News ROTA Victoria
- The Tannoy 2/8th Aust Field Regiment

Celebrations.

Ray Jinnette turned 90 last June.

Bob and Dot Clark celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary August this year.

Best wishes to you all

70th Reunion of the 2/24th Battalion – Formation, MarchOut and Embarkation 1940
Wangaratta: 5 – 7 November, 2010

Details on the weekend's Programme and a Booking Form are in two separate flyers with this issue of the 'Furphy Flyer'. If you lose the flyers (or make a mistake) you can download them from the web at <http://2-24.battalion.org.au/reunion2010> , or call Alastair on 03 9844.3036 for another copy to be mailed to you.

Why not come up to Wang a little earlier (or stay longer) and have a look around the town and district, and check out some of the local sights – and especially those associated with the Battalion.

Places to Visit and Things to Do

1. **2/24 Display** at the Workshop Space at Wangaratta Exhibitions gallery, 56 Ovens Street (rear of Performing Art Centre)*
 Open Friday 10.00 am till 5.00 pm; Saturday 11.00am - 4.00pm; Sunday 1.00pm - 4.00pm
 Exhibition of photos, maps and memorabilia of the 2/24 Battalion with explanatory storyboards.
 * Opening times subject to change.
2. **Wangaratta Showgrounds** where the 2/24th was based in its early days in 1940. View the Lions 2/24 plaque at the Showgrounds entrance at Evans Street (intersection with Green Street)
3. **The 2/24 Plaque** in the main street (100 Murphy Street) between Ely and Faithful Streets outside the Information Centre. The plaque is set in the footpath beside a seat.
4. **Memorial Tree** in 1 Tone Road (Wangaratta Road) on the east side just south of the intersection with Greta Road. (same entrance as Artist Studios at Batchelors Green. Drive to tree in the north west corner of the park)
5. **Wangaratta Historical Society Museum**, Ford Street, Wangaratta, open Sundays 2.00pm-5.00pm. and is housed in the old Fire Station built in 1895. The Historical Society Museum has a collection which includes historic kitchenware, handwriting, cameras, shoes, clocks, typewriters and travel goods to name a few. Much of its 2/24 collection will be in the 2/24 Display.
6. **Wangaratta Cemetery Walk** Cnr Mason St & Tone Rd, Wangaratta. The first plot of the current Wangaratta Cemetery was used over 150 years ago. There is a brochure which points out some of the interesting residents, including bushranger Daniel 'Mad Dog' Morgan. Obtain a map from the Information Centre.
7. **Interesting churches** – Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral, cnr Ovens and Docker Streets and St Patrick's Catholic Church, cnr Ford and Murphy Streets.

Out of town

8. **Glenrowan and the Ned Kelly saga.** Just a short trip south.
9. **Milawa** – home of gourmet treats to the east
10. **Eldorado** – old gold mining town to north east (off Beechworth road).

**2/24 DISPLAY AT THE WORKSPACE
 AT THE WANGARATTA EXHIBITIONS GALLERY**

This display will be open during the three days of the Reunion. Planning is well underway and themes are being developed – timelines, storyboards and photos; memories and diaries; the 2/24th Band; the siege of Tobruk, POW, equipment, events and activities. Also, we shall be showing some videos compiled from 2/24th material.

We want to hear from you if you have –

memorabilia, souvenirs, diaries, army records, photo albums, equipment, art work, etc that would be of interest to the members of the Association AND to the general public – and which you are willing to lend for the Display. All care will be taken of material on loan to the Association, and the gallery space is under constant security.

We will also need volunteers who have some knowledge of the activities of the 2/24th to be on duty to assist with questions and explain exhibits, particularly on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.

As a matter of urgency could you please contact Alastair Davison telephone: 03 9844.3036 (leave a message if no answer) email secretary@2-24.battalion.org.au or post to Secretary, 2/24th Battalion Association, PO Box 337, Warrandyte, Vic. 3113