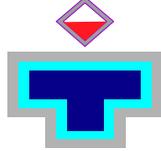


The Furphy Flyer in Mufti.



I HOLD FAST

Official Organ of the 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association Inc.
Postal address : 10B Somme Parade, Edithvale 3196

President Alan Macfarlane, OAM EM, 1Philip St. Vermont 3133 Telephone 9884-9378

Vice Presidents : Ken Dobson and Alan Nicholson

Secretary, Michael Oakley Telephone 9772 3302

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Janice Young Telephone 0414 782 557

Committee : Bob Clark, Keith Clark, Eric Elsdon, Robin Mitchell, Roland Nicholson and Charlie Scales.

Assisting the committee. Vern Collier, Owen Lewis and Sandra Sharpe.

Editor, Frank Tyrrell Telephone 9789 4764

Vol 3, No. 29

Melbourne

May 2007

COMING EVENTS FOR 2007

Battalion Birthday Lunch, Friday 6th July at Pascoe Vale RSL

(further details on back page)

Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 22nd August at Pascoe Vale RSL

9th Division's Shrine Service and Luncheon, Friday 19th October

(the August "Furphy" will provide further details)

2/24th's Shrine Pilgrimage – Sunday 21st October, 2.00pm

(Assemble 1.30pm)

(the August "Furphy" will provide further details)

Wangaratta Weekend Reunion, 9th, 10th & 11th November

(further details on back page)

Vale

John (Jack) Walker

VX70408

N E Johnsson

QX42062

J (Jack) K Walsh

VX57463

T E G (Guy) Robertson

VX48597

14 April 2007

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.

ANZAC March

Wednesday 25th April 2007 was a lovely autumn day in Melbourne. The sun was shining as the marchers assembled in Flinders Street for the march to the Shrine. Mind you, the city buildings did shade our assembly area causing "Dobbie" Dobson some problems writing down the names of those in attendance; his hands were shaking with the cold.

There was a good attendance with veterans, sons, daughters, grandchildren and relatives generating an enthusiastic and emotional atmosphere prior to the march.

With our President leading, the unit looked impressive and professional. As usual, we can be proud of the way they marched, and, like all units, they were clapped and cheered along by the many individuals who came to support the marchers and remember the Australians who fought and died for Australia.

We were thrilled to have five students from Wangaratta High School marching with the 2/24th. Rachel Hutchinson, Martin MacLeish, Aidian Jago, Tim Goodson and Simone Coote were very welcome and we appreciated the effort they made to be with us.

Following the march our bus driver safely delivered us to Pascoe Vale RSL. We especially wish to thank Peter Wright, son of the late Clarrie Wright, of the Morland Bus Company for their continued support over many years.

Listed below are some of the people who marched. I apologise for anyone I may have overlooked :-

Keith Anderson, nephew of Tom Anderson; Trevor Beard, son of Harry Beard; Arthur Callander; Keith Clark; Bob Clark; Brendan Cooke, grandson of Herb Cooke; Ralph Davies; Doug Dobson; Alan Dwyer; James Dwyer; Eric Edwards; Russell Edwards, son of Eric Edwards; Eric Elsdon; Ray Jinnette; Alan Macfarlane; Lyn Masters, daughter of Bob Clark; Robin Mitchell; Stephen Mollard, son of Bill Mollard; John Mollard, son of Bill Mollard; Alan Nicholson; Karen O'Shea, grand daughter of Bob Thompson; Elizabeth Ryan, grand daughter of Gil Duncombe; Charlie Scales; Tom Seymour; Sandra Sharpe, daughter of Bert Kee; Ted Turner; Rod Wilson; Rachel Hutchinson; Martin MacLeish; Aidian Jago; Tim Goodson and Simone Coote

Apologies were received from Sam Mollard.

ANZAC Lunch at Pascoe Vale RSL.

Following the march members and families returned to the Pascoe Vale RSL. Approximately ninety people attended the lunch where the food was wonderful and the atmosphere was warm and inviting. We were not expecting quite as many people but we were delighted with the turn up.

Our President, Alan Macfarlane, was our Master of Ceremonies and welcomed us all.

Ted Richards again provided beautiful place mats that we could take home as souvenirs. Ted says he obtained the photo from the Australian Army Corps and the group photo was taken in Tarakan, most likely at the Djoeata Oilfield. (Dobbie says he can spot Major Ralph Eldridge in the picture)

Among those present was Brendan Cooke, grandson of Herb Cooke. Herb, who received a Military Medal during the war had worked for the railways at Benalla. Brendan enjoyed talking to members who remembered his grandfather.

Also present were the O'Rafferty brothers, Pat and Charlie. By coincidence, they met up with Bob MacRae and his son Ralph. Bob had been a Prisoner of War with their uncle, the late Pat O'Rafferty. The good news was that the daughter and grand daughter of Pat O'Rafferty, Maureen and Jodie Moyle, now have a contact to hopefully find out more about Pat and his time as a POW

The RSL organized a TV so that we could view a DVD of previous marches; to see how young we looked and to catch a glimpse of departed loved ones. This again proved to be very popular.

Also joining us at the reunion were the five students from Wangaratta Secondary College. Following the march, two of them had to return to Flinders Street to pick up luggage and then make their way to Pascoe Vale. Well, after navigating the Loop, locating Pascoe Vale station, and then being kindly directed up the Gaffney Street hill to the RSL they arrived to a thunderous round of applause. Speaking at the gathering they said how privileged they were to be with us on ANZAC Day and that they would see all of us again in November.

A special thank you to the great staff of the Pascoe Vale RSL and, also a thank you to our Treasurer, Janice Young, for her contribution to the success of the Luncheon.

All in all a long day but a very memorable one.

Attendees at the Lunch and March are listed below and again, I apologise for anyone I may have overlooked. Keith Anderson, nephew of Tom Anderson; Brendan Anderson; Trevor Beard son of Harry Beard; Vic Bennett; Daphne Bevis; Chris Birchall; Arthur Callander; Robyn Ciuro, daughter of Andy Clapton; Keith Clark; Bob Clark; John Clark; Vern Collier; Brendan Cooke, grandson of Herb Cooke; Andrew Dalton; Oliver Dalton; Alistair Davidson; Ralph Davies; Doug Dobson; Alan Dwyer; James Dwyer; Eric Edwards; Russell Edwards, son of Eric Edwards; Eric Elsdon; Bev Emmett; Ron Graham; Stephen Greentree, grandson of Les Morris; Neil Holland; Winn Holland; Ian Holmes; Ray Jinnette; Collette Jones, grand daughter of Roy Smith; Anthony Joscelyne, grandson of A P Gebhardt; Robin Koiker; Owen Lewis; Michael Lewis; David Lukey; Peter Lukey; Alan Macfarlane; Faye Macfarlane; Bob MacRae; Ralph MacRae; Lyn Masters, daughter of Bob Clark; Graham Masters; Andy McRedmond; Leeanne Mickelson; Chloe Mickelson; Robin Mitchell; Tim Mitchell, grandson of Robin Mitchell; Stephen Mollard, son of Bill Mollard; John Mollard, son of Bill Mollard; Les Morris; J Murphy; Alan Nicholson; Jeanette O'Brien, daughter of Russell Leeder; Patrick O'Rafferty; Charlie O'Rafferty; Karen O'Shea; Rob O'Shea; Ashleigh O'Shea; Mathew O'Shea; Jim Price; Harry Quinn; Mark Quinn; Elizabeth Ryan, grand daughter of Gil Duncombe; Charlie Scales; Tom Seymour; Sandra Sharpe, daughter of Bert Kee; Darryl Shilton; Helen Simmons; Alan Smith; Robert Spencer; Bob Spencer; Jessica Spencer; Maudie Stevens; Ted Turner; Ross Underwood; Rod Wilson; Mrs D Wilson; Janice Young; Rachel Hutchinson; Martin MacLeish; Aidian Jago; Tim Goodson and Simone Coote.

This next item is an extract from the original Furphy Flyer, No. 79, dated the 20th October 1941.

Announcement : The proprietors of the Furphy Flyer Press Inc. No Liability (nobody will trust us) wish to announce that publication will temporarily cease owing to a new propriety company having taken over the Tobruch estate as a going concern. After a glance at our balance sheet they took the printing press but diced the goodwill and the personnel. Are we downhearted? My bloody. But we expect to resume business somewhere in the M.E. very soon.

Vale Tobruch

We are to say goodbye to Tobruch and although we are, perhaps, glad at the moment there can be no doubt that this place will always exert a special attraction.

Tobruch has been the scene of our baptism of fire. The Battalion has been plunged into the crucible of war. We have learned to use a new standard of values by which to assess mateship at its true worth and we have never found our mates wanting.

Our departure will be saddened by the thought of the little white crosses that mark the last resting places of our cobbors. Others rest in unnamed graves in the enemy lines but wherever they are and wherever we are we will remember them with pride.

This word Tobruch, in retrospect, will take on a new significance replete with memories both grave and gay but the discomforts we have endured will be as nothing to the mateship we have found.

The following obituary is taken from the Border Watch and written by Lois Dean.

Thomas Ernest Guyatt ROBERTSON.

On April 14, 2007, a surgeon died at the Hamilton Base Hospital, whose name still commands respect and affection among the people of the Lower South East, particularly in Mount Gambier, where he practised for 34 years.

Thomas Ernest Guyatt Robertson, son of a grain merchant, was born in Moonee Ponds on the 2nd November 1914. He was educated at Northern Grammar and later at Scotch College, where he became a School Prefect and played in the College's First Eleven. He studied medicine at Melbourne University (where he played cricket and baseball) and after graduation, in 1938, did his year of residence at the Alfred hospital.

Early in World War 2 he joined the 2/24th Infantry Battalion, trained at Wangaratta, and, as Captain Robertson, became the Battalions R.M.O., taking part in the siege of Tobruk and the battle of El Alamein.

His performance at Alamein was outstanding and "Doc Robbie", was Mentioned in Dispatches.

A fellow officer, Lt Jack Caple, reports the words of their C.O. : "The Battalion had the good fortune to have the services of a great Regimental Medical Officer in Captain T.E.G. Robertson, who had been with the unit since its inception at Wangaratta and had earned the confidence of all ranks to a quite remarkable degree".

Caple adds that Doc Robbie had an amazing knowledge of every man in the Battalion and it was said that the C.O. always sought his opinion before agreeing to recommendations for promotion.

He was promoted to the rank of Major and sent to New Guinea to oversee the establishment of hospitals, which, he noted, "were filled up with 800 malaria victims as soon as they were completed".

After the war he returned to the Alfred Hospital and was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1948 he became a partner in Hawkins Medical Clinic at Mount Gambier spending 3 days a week operating and 2 days consulting. He also performed surgery at Millicent and Penola.

In 1954 he married Helen Atkins and they had two sons, John and David.

Guy was Medical Superintendent of the Mount Gambier Hospital from 1948 to 1982. He was not only admired for his professional skills but also for his sense of humour, outgoing personality and the kind heart that he concealed beneath a sharp wit.

Guy was a keen Rotarian, a member of the Mount Gambier Tennis Club, played squash and golf and enjoyed a good red. He was an enthusiastic stamp collector and loved gardening.

"Robbie" is survived by his widow, Helen, sons John and David and daughters-in-law Sally and Fiona. There are three grandsons, Guy, Hamish and Hugh.

This next item was written by the Rev David Lamont and appeared in the May 2006 edition of the Queenscliff Herald.

The Dawn Service has become a solemn Australian and New Zealand tradition. It is taken for granted as part of the ANZAC ethos and few wonder how it all began. Its story is buried in a small cemetery carved out of the bush a few kilometres outside the northern Queensland town of Herberton.

One grave stands out by its simplicity and is covered by a protective whitewashed concrete slab, a plain cement cross at its top end. No epitaph recalls the name of the deceased. The inscription on the cross is just two words – A Priest.

Without the simple marker placed beside the grave in recent times, no one would identify the clergyman who initiated the Dawn Service.

The marker reads – 'Adjacent to, and on the right of this marker lies the grave of the late Reverend Arthur Ernest White, a Church of England clergyman and padre, 44th Battalion, First Australian Imperial Force. On the 25th April 1923, at Albany in Western Australia, Reverend White led a party of friends in what was the first ever observance of a dawn parade on ANZAC Day, thus establishing the tradition which has endured Australia wide ever since.'

Reverend White served as one of the first padres of the earliest ANZACs to leave Australia with the First AIF in November 1914. The convoy assembled in the Princess Royal harbour, King George Sound at Albany, and before embarkation at four in the morning, he conducted a service for the Battalion.

After his return to Australia in 1919 he was appointed relieving rector of St John's Church in Albany. It was a strange coincidence that the starting point of the AIF convoys should become his parish. No doubt it was the memory of his first dawn service many years earlier, his experiences overseas and the loss of so many lives which inspired him to honour valiant men, living and dead, who fought for the allied cause.

"Albany," he is quoted as saying, "was the last sight of land these ANZAC troops saw after leaving Australian shores and many of them never returned. We should hold a service (here) at the first light of dawn each ANZAC Day to commemorate them."

The Colour Patch

(Extracted from "Tobruk and El Alamein" by Barton Maugham)

On December 17, 1942, a new divisional Colour Patch was issued. It was shaped like a 'T' but with the vertical stroke shortened. There was much speculation as to the origin of the 'T' shape and some years later Moreshead was asked to comment.

He wrote :- "The 'T' stood for Tobruk. The 9th Division was hurriedly formed and wore a collection of colour patches – oblongs, squares, circles, ovals. After coming out of Tobruk, I decided we should have one form, but, knowing how attached the men were to their old colour patches, the change had to be unanimously accepted. If not, then there would be no change.

Finally, but not altogether readily, it was accepted.

Nothing, as far as I was concerned, had been indicated that the 'T' stood for Tobruk, nor, when informing the Commander-in-Chief in Australia, the late Field Marshal Blamey, of the change, did I make reference to Tobruk. I did explain that a common colour patch was necessary and I had decided (as all other simple forms from squares to circles had long since been bespoken) on the combination of two oblongs, the larger one on top."

Prince Charles was visiting an Edinburgh Hospital and entered a ward full of patients who showed no obvious signs of illness or injury.

Upon greeting one, the patient replies, "Fair fa your honest sonsie face, Great chieftain o the pudding race, Aboon them a ye take yer place, Painch, tripe or thairm, As lang's my airm."

His Royal Highness is confused so he just smiles and moves onto the next patient.

This next patient responds, "Some hae meat an canna eat, And some wad eat that want it, But we hae meat an we can eat, so let the Lord be thankit."

The Prince, with a rictus grin is confused and troubled. He turns to the accompanying doctor and asks, "Is this a psychiatric ward?"

"No," replies the doctor, "this is the serious Burns unit."

LETTERS to our President and Secretary

From Hautrie Crick of Pakenham VIC

Please find enclosed my subs and donation. I don't know whether there are any 2/24th members living in Pakenham now. I did know of one but he isn't with us now. Could you please tell me if there are any others down this way?

Alan Macfarlane was my first officer in the Battalion; we got on well.

I am keeping well but have had a few worrying times in hospital. They have got things right now, I hope.

My handwriting isn't as good as it used to be so I hope you can understand it.

I would like to do the ANZAC march with the Battalion but my legs are not so good these days.

I do hope all the boys in the Battalion keep well and I wish them all the best throughout the year.

Good to hear from you Hautrie. Your handwriting is better than mine ever was. Best wishes to you.

I checked our data base and it looks like you are the only one with a Pakenham address.

From Bob Hutchieson of Wangaratta

I still have wonderful memories of the 1st May 1945 as I waved you 2/24th boys on your muddy way up the beach of Tarakan; a finer, braver group of men the Westralia never carried.

Too true Bob, all the best.

From Jack Collins of McCrae VIC

I have enclosed details of a funeral notice dated 19/12/06 which may be of interest to some members of the 2/24th.

Mrs Leura May Coltish, from the Western District (VIC), a widow of Laurie Coltish VX74419 of D Coy, 2/24th, who was killed at the Busu River, New Guinea, in 1943. Mrs Coltish was 91 when she passed away. They had a family before Laurie joined the Army.

I posted a card and photo taken of the two of us in the Middle East in 1942, via the funeral director.

All the best.

Thank you for your note Jack, best wishes to you.

From Morry Parry of Leongatha

I'm Fay, Morry's daughter. I am writing for him as his eyes are deteriorating with age. He can't see to read very well and write. I am reading the "Furphy Flyer" to him and Dad has just told me the story about Big Mac. He was with him when he died in New Guinea, in Don Company.

Morry's wife passed away last August. Dad is getting a bit old for the March but we might make it to the reunion.

Thanks for your letter Fay, best wishes to you and Morry.

From the daughter of Tom Karnatz of Euroa

Dad is 90 years old and a bit frail so therefore does not get out and about very much but, he can still enjoy a good discussion with anyone who calls in to see him in Euroa.

All the best to you Tom.

From Jean Gibbs of Echuca

I received the "Furphy Flyer" last week and, as always, was glad to hear news of members. The sad news was reading of the Members who have passed on. I do send my sympathy to their families.

I enjoyed reading of the "Man they called Big Mac" and his large boots.

Our prayers go out to our younger generation, the children of the "old diggers", who are struggling with the drought.

I wish you all a successful Anzac March.

Always nice to hear from you Jean, hope you are keeping well.

From Fred White of Lindisfarne TAS

Having read the letters to our President and Secretary has prompted me to include a few brief comments. I often reflect back with reminiscence of July 1940 when we marched out of Wangaratta on our route march to Bonegilla camp, and the occasion of a farewell tribute by the citizens of that popular Victorian country town, it was an event especially nice to remember.

My thoughts often drift back to that memorable day in November 1940 when we embarked from Port Melbourne on board the P & O Line, Strathmore. I also recall the occasion of the Naval exercise that took place in the Indian ocean nearing Colombo. As a farewell salute from the

ratings of HMAS Canberra and Perth, their ships did a circle around the convoy acknowledged by the sounding of troopship sirens, but with much sadness those gallant Naval vessels, with their ratings, sailed over the horizon and were never seen again. The HMAS Canberra was badly damaged and scuttled at Guadalcanal with considerable loss of life. (Lest we forget)

I conclude with much appreciation of my memorable day in Melbourne for ANZAC day 2006, with Max and brother Gordon, it was great to join you all. Cheers.

Great to hear from you Fred. Your memories remind us of the many, many brave men who fought for Australia.

*From **George Pomeroy OAM** of ManlyI was interested to read in the last "Furphy Flyer" of Nancy Ongley of Mortlake, whom I understand is the widow of Stan Ongley. Stan and I went to school together and grew up in Terang, some 14-15 miles from Mortlake. I lost track of Stan when the war broke out and eventually caught up with him in the latter part of the El Alamein show where I became his driver in the Carrier Platoon. Soapy Phillips was a member of the Platoon; he was quite a character.*

I am hoping to make a trip back to Terang later in the year and I will make an effort to make contact with Mrs Ongley.

ps. I was fortunate in the New Years Honours list to be awarded an OAM for service to the community.

Congratulations George. The OAM was thoroughly deserved. George is a Regimental Sergeant Major at the Balgowlah RSL sub-branch and has been actively involved in its affairs, including organising ANZAC Day marches since 1946. He was also secretary of the 1st Aust. Army Entertainment Group Assoc. for many years, where he entertained veterans and others in hospitals and nursing homes, something he continues to do.

*From **Cath Johnson** of Trinity Park QLD*

I came across some old photos (copies enclosed) and was wondering if some members might know who some of the people are. They were taken in Tobruk.

I enjoy reading the "Furphy Flyer".

Thanks for your letter and photos Cath. Unfortunately the quality of the photos means that if they were "reprocessed" through the "Furphy Flyer" they would come out as grey blurs.

What we will do is take them along to our gatherings and show them around in the hope that someone will have some answers for you.

Best wishes to you.

*From **Jack Caple** of Warnambool*

His letter is dated 17/3/07.

Just a short note to report that I, along with my friend Alma, visited Guy and Helen Robertson yesterday for lunch. Their hospitality and time given was most enjoyable.

Guy looks well but age is catching up with him.

They live between Hamilton and Coleraine on a large grazing property, with assistance from son David. It was a good drive over from Warnambool, and of course the dry is affecting all of that area. Regards to all.

Thank you Jack.

Sadly, Guy died on the 14/4/2007.

*Our Vice President, Doug Dobson, received the following letter from **Bob Semple**, a member of the 2/12th Artillery and the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipe and Drum.*

I acknowledge with thanks your donation to the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipe and Drum. Whilst not on the committee I assure you the gesture is deeply appreciated and most helpful in our endeavours towards the journey to Moscow and participation in the Tattoo in Red Square. It will be held in early to mid September and be the first of its type.

As a point of interest it was a great pleasure to be part of a family birthday gathering in Melton recently. The occasion was for **Bob MacRae** who was taken prisoner at Tobruk, May 1941, and finished WW2 in Switzerland. More importantly, he was one of your boys and another connection with the 2/24th Battalion.

These special events stir my feelings for your Unit; it was great to support you in action and equally pleasing to enjoy valued friendships in our twilight years. Regards to all.

If anyone has any questions about the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipe and Drum you may contact their Secretary on (03) 9401 2580.

*From **Ted Bell** of Glynde SA please pass on my regards to Alan Macfarlane, Chas Scales and others. Regards to all.*

Good to hear from you Ted

*From **Clem Eastick** of Nhill VIC*

Once again I am late with my sub. Please find cheque for same, do as you wish with the extra.

I am still living alone here in the bush and almost too lazy to feed myself. In the last 24 hours we have had a wonderful rain, so now we will see green fields instead of dust; and lots of mushrooms. With the help of a few tablets and a jar of Arthro rub I am really quite well.

What a great story of Mac. It was a great honour to know and serve with 'Mac and Little Mac'.

If I had a problem, just take it to Mac. He was one of the boys. At one stage in New Guinea I tied a snake to an enamel mug which was on the strap of his pack, being unattended. I got the blame. "Eastick you will get duties".

I was well forward on the track when Mac was killed. With him was his runner, "Cyril, my mate". They just walked straight up the track to help out. It was a very sad day.

We lost several of the Battalion's old timers. They had the feeling that time might run out.

"Mac", what a man. Regards to all.

Thanks for your note Clem. Good to hear that you are 'really quite well'. Best wishes to you.

*From **Kaye Antoine** of Narre Warren North ...*

My name is Kaye Antoine (nee Daphne) and I would very much like to hear from anyone who knew my late father **Wilfred (Fred) Daphne**. Dad passed away in 1970 and my mum died two years ago at the age of 90, and it is only now that my brother Ken and I realise we have a very deep seated need to have contact with any of dad's old Army colleagues. There are so many questions, the answers to which would help us to finally put our dad to rest and ease some of the pain we have felt since his death.

His service number was VX51403 and he enlisted in Melbourne on 17/3/1941. He was in the 15th

Platoon of 2/24th Battalion and sailed from Melbourne on the Queen Mary. He fought in the battle of Tobruk and was taken prisoner in El Alemain, and imprisoned in Europe for about 3 years. He was eventually freed and repatriated to England, coming home to his loved ones to be discharged on 31/8/1945.

He was a member of the Rats of Tobruk Association until his death in December 1970. I was also an inaugural member of the "Tobrukettes" Marching Girls for several years. As Dad's post-war association was more with the ROTA, I went to Tobruk Hall on Anzac Day just passed. This was a very emotional experience for me and I realised the importance of making a concerted effort to try and make contact with any of Dad's old Army buddies, before old man time took away that opportunity. Some of the people I met on Anzac Day suggested I contact the 2/24th Battalion Association – so here I am.

My email address is kaveantoin@bigpond.com, my phone number is 03 97968022 and my address is 12 Cantwell Road, Narre Warren North 3804. Please contact me if you knew my dad – your contact would be very much appreciated.

We have also had notes from

Bob Robinson, who wishes members all the best;
Cliff Giersch, who enjoyed reading about Big Mac, "what a man";

Shirley Wild, who sends best wishes to all;

Charles & Lois Twigg, David & Wilma Evans, Beverley Weir and Joy Pigdon, who all had kind things to say about the "Furphy Flyer",

Thankyou.

The Fallen Comrade

Out in the midst of no-mans-land
Tears forming in his eyes
A grimy soldier kneels out where
His fallen comrade lies

His face is lined with marks of grief
There's sorrow in his thoughts
His comrade had been by his side
Where ever they had fought

He looks back on the time when they
Had said "Goodbye" back there
Two carefree lads who left there homes
To come and do their share

The plans they'd made together
While they trained in foreign lands
They often talked of home and folks
While plodding through the sands

They had been through hell, side by side
"Where angels fear to tread"
He finds it hard to realize, now
His brave comrade is dead

He placed his comrade in a hole
Once there he'd not come back
And on the bloodstained chest he laid
A tiny Union Jack

"There lies a Gallant soldier here
The Bravest of the Brave"
He wrote this on a little cross
And placed it on the grave

If ever he gets back home again
And guns have ceased to fire
He'll still think of the comrade, who
He left beside the wire.

The poem above was written by **Ossie Warden** in 1941. This poem, along with others, was written in the leaves of his "*Australian Soldiers Pocket Book*".

The poems, reflecting on the sacrifices of war, the mateship and the homesickness of the men for their families, is in stark contrast to many of the topics in the book:-

The Laws and Customs of War,
Things a soldier should know (65 items),
Bugle Calls and their Meanings,
How to Behave Abroad,
First Aid Treatment for Gas Injuries,

Glossary of Military Terms,
Talking Points on Australia
(courtesy Aust Travel Assoc)
Rates of Pay,
and Directions for Making a Will.

Ossie also provided his Intelligence Officer Course workbook. This fascinating book is meticulous in its clarity and information. I'm sure he was top of the class.

Lastly, Ossie made available his *Egyptian Pocket Guide, July to December 1942*. This little book is the font of all knowledge with information about :-

Cinemas
Trains to Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said
Telephone Trunk Line Tariffs
Banks of Alexandria
Tram Routes and their costs
Booksellers
Bars Cabs & Taxis, Fares

Hospitals
Churches
Places to be seen
Postal Rates
Photographers
Phrases in common use
Currency

Plus many advertisements for local businesses. The best one, I thought, was for "Egypt's Latest Craze", Luna Park Skating Rink.

Thank you Ossie for your continuing generosity to the 2/24th Battalion Association.



The pictures above show three generations of the Dwyer family – proud members of the Australian Defence Forces.

James Anthony Dwyer enlisted in the AIF on the 25th May 1915, aged 28. He was assigned to the 7th Reinforcements, 24th Infantry Battalion. James was married at the time he enlisted and lived in West Brunswick.

He embarked for Alexandria on the 16th July 1915 aboard HMAT Demosthenes. From there he went to Marseilles, France, arriving March 1916. Army records show that he received 5 shillings a day, 4 shillings of which was allotted to his wife. In October 1917 his records show that he was “blown up and gassed” in France and thereafter developed a persistent cough. He was admitted to London General Hospital in 1918 suffering from Tuberculosis. James’ last rank was Lance Corporal in the Army Services Corps.

James returned to Australia on the Hospital Transport “Ruahine” in 1918 and discharged in August 1918. His health continued to deteriorate and he died, as the result of war service, 20th December 1922, aged 35.

Allan Joseph Dwyer enlisted with the AIF on the 17 April 1941, aged 22. He was living in West Coburg at that time and enlisted at Royal Park. In June 1941 Allan was posted to 5th Reinforcements of the 2/24th Infantry Battalion. He embarked from Sydney for the Middle East, disembarking there on the 5th July 1941.

On the evening of 14th July 1942, whilst in action at Tel El Eisa, Allan saw a German tank run over a Bren gun pit which was occupied by Pte. Bateson and Pte. Millman. The two were buried by sand and Allan ran to the pit and began to dig the two men free. Allan was awarded the Military Medal for this act of bravery.

Allan was wounded several times whilst in El Alamein and Tobruk. After recovering from his injuries he returned to Australia in February 1943.

After several months in Australia Allen embarked from Cairns aboard HMAS Westralia and arrived at Milne Bay in August 1943. During service in PNG Allan was promoted to Acting Corporal. He suffered bouts of dengue fever and malaria whilst in PNG and in February 1944 embarked from Finschaafen on “Sea Snipe” for Brisbane. Allan suffered a further bout of malaria and did not serve in theatres of war thereafter. He was discharged in August 1945.

Although the circumstances are very different, **James Patrick Allen Dwyer** has followed his Grandfather and Great-grandfather into Australian Army service. James enlisted on the 10th August 2004 at Parramatta and commenced three months of basic training at Kapooka Barracks, Wagga Wagga, the next day. He ‘marched out’ in September 2005. A few days later James was transferred to Bonegilla to undertake training for the next nine months on the Basic Medical Course. He completed the Course and was inducted into the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps (RAAMC). He is posted to Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, Brisbane until July 2009.

Presently James is undertaking the Advanced Medical Course at Bonegilla and part of that course involves working in emergency rooms of major Melbourne hospitals. James attended the ANZAC day Dawn Service and later marched with Allan and the 2/24th Battalion. He also enjoyed the hospitality of the Pascoe Vale RSL in the afternoon. James returns to Enoggera in May and from there, who knows where.

Over the last few months we have received Annual Subscriptions and Donations from the following members. Thank you for your support and your kind 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 : Danny Maher; Arch Stiglich; Jack Collins; A Loram; R M Jenkins; J Mathieson; Joy Pitts; Fred White; Joy Pigdon; Cliff Giersch; Graeme Caple; Mervyn Twentyman; Tom Karnatz; P Spence; L McKenna; M Parry; George Pomeroy; G & R Edwards; Hautie Crick; Janet Macfarlane; Bob Robinson; Charles and Lois Twigg; P J Kelly; Wilma and David Evans; Bob McGrath; Beve Rowley; J and R Richardson; Joy Bienert; Lois Jackman; Clem Eastick; Shirley Wild; Patrick O'Rafferty; Charlie O'Rafferty; Vern Collier; Robert Spencer; Harry and Mark Quinn; Robyn Ciuro; Ray Jinnette; Chris Birchall; Alan Nicholson; Alistair Davidson; Rod Wilson; Karen O'Shea; Bev Emmett; Heath Keighley; Les Morris; Steven Greentree; Janice Young; Keith Anderson; Ted Bell; Bev Weir; Judy Fogarty; Elizabeth Ryan.

Donations : Arch Stiglich; Jack Collins; A Loram; Joy Pigdon; Joan Gibbs; Graeme Caple; Mervyn Twentyman; Tom Karnatz; George Pomeroy; Lorna Hill; Hautie Crick; Anne Bonner; Ossie Warden; Bob Hutchieson; Charles and Lois Twigg; Beve Rowley; Margaret Joyce; Joy Bienert; Lois Jackman; Clem Eastick; Shirley Wild; Robyn Ciuro; Rob Mitchell; Ray Jinnette; Brendan Cooke; Janice Young; Judy Fogarty.

Memorial Wall Donation : Bob McGrath;

Great to see some men of the 2/24th on TV and in the newspapers.

As you are probably aware, the Albert Park Meeting Hall of the Rats of Tobruk Association was recently sold to a philanthropic businessman, Bill Gibbons. The white knight businessman paid \$1.7 million dollars for the property and told the members that they can "stay put as long as they liked."

The story of the sale was told on Channel 2's 7.30 Report, in TV news items and the Melbourne papers. It was good to see Murray Burles, Eddie Shilling, Bob Clark, Jack Caple, John Shelton (Auctioneer) and Edna Bridgman.

Also, it was nice to see Murray Burles and Eddie Shilling doing a lap of honour (in the back of a car) at the ANZAC Day football match at the MCG.

Bumper Sticker

Your Vice President, Doug Dobson, has very kindly donated the 2/24th Bumper Sticker that has been included in this issue of the "Furphy Flyer". The "sticker" could be attached to your car bumper or back window, or other surfaces such as refrigerators, folders, files, etc..

Doug recommends using clear adhesive tape if using it for the car.

Thanks Doug.

A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer. **Ralph Waldo Emerson**
 We learn from history that we learn nothing from history. **George Bernard Shaw**

Welcome to New Members

It's with much pleasure that we welcome new Associate Members to the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion Association;

Charlie O'Rafferty; Mark Quinn; and Chris Birchall. We apologise for not welcoming you earlier. **Chris. Brendan Cooke**, grandson of Herb Cooke; **Judy Fogarty**, daughter of Sid Perris; and **Elizabeth Ryan**, grand-daughter of Gil Duncombe.

Pictures

Our President advises that he has some photos of the initial Middle East graves of members of the 2/24th Battalion who were Killed in Action. Should anyone be interested please supply a stamped addressed envelope, 1200 x 1600 mm, postcard size, to Alan Macfarlane.

The members are ;_

VX3385	E G Graham	VX43332	F N Henwood
VX47305	R W McWaters	VX48178	S Stratton
VX47684	A H Climpson	VX27227	S C Batty
VX50455	K D Thornbury	VX26892	P Doyle
VX45221	L L Thompson	VX42554	D J McKee

Memorial Wall.

The 2/24th Battalion Memorial Wall is the main feature at the entrance to the Wangaratta Cemetery – a fitting tribute to the Battalion members. Since advising that the newly prepared East Wall is now available for the placement of individual Memorial Plaques, the Association has been proud to add the names of many, much loved, Battalion members. The latest plaques have included the following names....

E H J Burgess R D Gunning N F G King J J Nolan

Applications for a Plaque for a deceased Battalion Member should be made to the Association enclosing a Cheque/Money Order for \$88 (inc GST) made payable to "E J Wright & Sons" – the memorial masons who manage the wall. Send your request to, The Secretary, 2/24 Aust Infantry Batt. Assoc Inc, PO Box 2003, Edithvale VIC 3196.

Details required for the Plaque are :- Surname, Initials, Service Number, Honours and Date of Death.

IF MY BODY WERE A CAR

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model.

I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull, but that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things close up.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was, I slip and slide and bump into things even in the best of weather.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed.

My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins.

But here's the worst of it. Almost every time I sneeze, cough or splutter either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires.

THE BATTALION BIRTHDAY LUNCH --- FRIDAY 6 JULY 2007
12 FOR 12.30 AT PASCOE VALE R.S.L

Coming up in July we have the Annual Birthday Lunch. The cost is approximately \$14.00 for a two course meal with tea and coffee provided. (Please pay on the day)

If it is your intention to attend could you please phone one of the following Members and advise the number that will be attending the lunch :-

Michael Oakley	9772 3302
Janice Young	0414 782 557
Alan Macfarlane	9884 9378

If you are unlucky enough to get a recorded message, just leave your name and the number attending. Thank you.

Also coming up is our **Wangaratta Weekend on the 9th, 10th & 11th of November.**

The events at Wangaratta - the Memorial Wall Service at the Cemetery; the Reception and Dinner at the Town Hall; the Service at the Cenotaph; and the BBQ lunch - all make for a memorable and enjoyable weekend, a weekend that is an important part of the 2/24th Battalion Association.

To enable the Committee to plan for this Weekend could you please advise us of your intention to come and the possible number of guests who will accompany you.

This request is only to gauge possible numbers. A form giving more details about the weekend and asking for more information will be sent out in the next "Furphy".

Please phone one of the following Members advising us of the number that you think will be attending :-

Michael Oakley	9772 3302
Janice Young	0414 782 557
Alan Macfarlane	9884 9378

Important

As with last year we are asking you to book your own accommodation for our Wangaratta Reunion. The following is a list of toll free / phone numbers for you to ring.

Park View Motor Inn..... 1800 032 475

Warby Lodge..... 1800 806 720

Wangaratta Motor Inn..... 03 5721 5488

Heritage Motor Inn..... 1800 066 679

Ryley Motor Inn..... 03 5721 6388

Please indicate that you are part of the 2/24th Reunion and please specify room number or upstairs or downstairs room requirements. The staff are waiting for your call and I know they will assist you. Thank you.