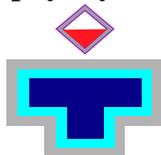


The Furphy Flyer in Mufti.



I HOLD FAST

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

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Vol 3, No. 35

Melbourne

Nov / Dec 2008



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Your President and Committee wish all our members, their families, our Association friends and well wishers, special greetings for the coming Festive Season. Have a wonderful Christmas and a New Year filled with good health and happiness.

This is the last "Furphy" for 2008, the next issue, in February 2009, will advise you of all our major events for the coming months. Thank you all for supporting the Association and for the many kind words you have said about the work of the Committee and the Furphy Flyer in Mufti.

Vale

George Pomeroy	VX53122	24 August 2008
Eric (Happy) J. Elsdon	VX109990	5 October 2008
R. Clem Eastick	VX75215	3 November 2008
F. G. W. Moore	VX93352	3 November 2008
Mrs M. M. Smith		

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.

Shrine Service Sunday 19 October 2008

It was a cool and overcast day but fifteen 2/24th folk were proud to attend this years Shrine Pilgrimage to remember and honour the fallen of the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion.

We were welcomed by our President Alan Macfarlane with the service held in the Shrine Sanctuary. The service included the singing of the hymn, Abide with Me, the laying of the wreath and the observance of One Minute's Silence.

Norm Gray, son of the late Doug Gray, played the Last Post, Lament and Reveille on the Flugelhorn. The sound of the music in the Shrine Sanctuary continues to bring a "tear to the eye". It is a shame that more members were not there to be moved by the service and the music – simple but so meaningful.

After the ceremony we all got to have a chat and a cuppa in an ante room of the Shrine. Lots of good things to eat plus real cups and saucers!

A big thank you to Norm Gray and the Shrine staff who were, as usual, very helpful.

We hope you can join us next year.

Attendees : Alan and Faye Macfarlane, Keith Clark, Doug Dobson, Edna Bridgman, Beatrice Fraser, Norm & Sue Gray from Bendigo, June Mitchell, Nancy Ormsby, HESSIE Knight, Joy Biernert, daughter of Eric Burgess, Keith Anderson from Geelong, nephew of Tom Anderson, Bruce Williams, son of Harold, Cameron Blackwood, son of James, Cliff Elliot and legatee seeking info regarding Doug Leeden and Lyndsay Marriner and Cosette Wilder from Queensland. These last two were visiting the Shrine and sat in on our Service so we invited them to join us for afternoon tea.

Apologies were received from Michael Oakley, Charlie Scales, Bob and Dot Clark, Alastair Davidson, Neil and Win Holland, Janice Young, Sherry and Eve Elsdon, Pam and Frank Tyrrell.

Wangaratta Weekend Reunion

Friday 07/11/08

Wangaratta RSL

On a very wet day in Wangaratta (approx 30+ mm fell), thirty five Members and guests met at the Wangaratta RSL for a casual evening meal in preparation for a busy weekend. The numbers may have been less than last year but it sure seemed noisier with lots of friendly chatter.

Our host was Wangaratta RSL President Norm Fearn and we thank him, his members and staff for making us most welcome.

Saturday 08/11/08

Memorial Wall Service at Wangaratta Cemetery, 2.30pm,

Well over 100 people gathered at the Wangaratta cemetery for the Annual Memorial Service. The weather was fine and warm and the cemetery, especially our Memorial area, looked immaculate. A very

big thank you to the cemetery staff, especially Paul Moss-Holland and Peter Szeligiewcz, for the care and attention they give it. All the plaques had been polished and the roses were looking superb.

Our President, Alan Macfarlane, welcomed us all followed by an address by the Mayor of the Rural City of Wangaratta, Cr Robert Paino. The mayor spoke of the strong bond between Wangaratta and the 2/24th Infantry Battalion, “Wangaratta’s Own”. He welcomed us all to Wangaratta and hoped we enjoyed the weekend events.

June Mitchell, wife of the late Robin Mitchell, kindly read the words from a hymn, a great choice of appropriate words. Thank you June, a great job during a very emotional weekend for you.

Following the singing of the hymn, Abide with Me, Alan Macfarlane, the Mayor, the President of RSL Victoria Major General David McLachlan AO, and Holly, the grand-daughter of John and Gwen Elward, laid the wreath at the memorial stone - “Lest we Forget”.



Major General David McLachlan AO and Alan Macfarlane OAM EM

Cadets from Wangaratta’s 33 ACU carried the Battalion’s Standard and assisted with the Ceremony. The cadets looked great and displayed fine professionalism in carrying out their duties.

Norm Gray, son of the late Doug ‘Dolly’ Gray, played the “Last Post, Lament and Reveille on the Battalions Silver Bugle, thank you Norm.

The Laying of Poppies completed the formal part of the ceremony.

The afternoon was finished off with a great afternoon tea supplied by the ladies of Zonta. A big thank you to their President, Nola Hausler and her helpers.

Reception, 08/11/08

Association Members, their families and special guests arrived at the St Patrick’s Hall for nibbles and drinks, served by volunteer Lions members. A good time to catch up with friends and old mates.

Dinner.

Following our nibbles and drinks we located our tables for the dinner. There were approximately 139 attendees. Each table had souvenir menus with pictures of the 2/24th Memorial area at the Wangaratta Cemetery.

Our Master of Ceremonies for the night was Association Vice President, Doug Dobson. Grace was said by June Mitchell, and the Loyal Toast was proposed by Association Vice President, Alan Nicholson.

The following is our President, Alan Macfarlane's, welcome to the gathering.....

.... Ladies and Gentlemen, the Mayor of Rural City of Wangaratta, Cr. Roberto Paino and Mrs. Meg. Paino, C.E.O. Mr. Doug Sharp and Mrs. Marie Sharp, Major General David McLachlan A.O. Sir, It is indeed a special honour for us to have you with us for this our Annual Reunion. We thank you most sincerely.

It is with much pleasure I welcome you all here this evening for our Annual Reunion Dinner and as always it is wonderful to see such a gathering of Battalion members and friends of "Wangarattas' Own".

Special welcomes to Ex-Mayor, Cr. Don Joyce and Mrs. Brenda Joyce, Cr. Ron Webb and Mrs. Maxine Webb, Wangaratta Cemetery Trust - Mr. Paul Moss-Holland and Marilyn Moss-Holland. Mr. Peter Szeligiewcz ("Alias Wheelbarrow") and Toni Szeligiewcz, and Wright Brothers Memorials, Alan, Debbie, John, Elma, Andrew, and Chris Hutchieson. Thanks for their wonderful work with our Memorial Wall Area.

Zonta Club president – Mrs. Nola Hausler and husband Rod plus all her hard-working and enthusiastic members. Nola is serving her first year as President.

Lions Club President – Mr. Steven Kazenwadel and Mrs. Kazenwadel and their very supportive members here this evening and all weekend.

RSL President Mr. Noel Fearn and daughter Carolyn Foote and Mr. Darrell Brumby.

H.M.A.S. Westralia – Mr. Bob Hutchieson and Mrs. Marj Hutchieson. Although Bob ("W16") is an Associate Member, we say welcome and thank him for all those lovely cruises around the Pacific Islands many years ago;

A very warm welcome to the Award Winning Students, teachers and families of Wangaratta High School, Galen College and Cathedral College who are with us for the first time.

Greetings and thanks to those members who have traveled from interstate – Doug Gray, N.S.W., Ted Turner N.S.W. and Mick Benson from QLD.

Mr Mayor - I take this opportunity to thank Council for their assistance and support in arranging this alternative venue for our weekend activities. Special thanks to Mrs. Linda Kosciora who is always most supportive.

I also thank you and council for the Reception here this evening.

The Mayor, Cr Roberto Pain, again welcomed us all to Wangaratta and hoped that the men of "Wangaratta's Own" enjoyed their Reunion Weekend.

The Battalion Toast was made by Major General David McLachlan A.O., President of RSL Victoria. He spoke of the exploits of the men of the 2/24th Infantry Battalion and of that generation of men who were so important to Australia. It was obvious he was impressed by the wonderful Memorial at the Cemetery and of the strong ties the 2/24th has with the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Student Awards.

Each year students from Wangaratta Schools are recognised for their achievements by the 2/24th Battalion Association. The students, chosen by their teachers, were presented with certificates by our President and Zonta President, Nola Hausler.

The students were Hilary Campbell from Wangaratta High School, Caitlin Nolan from Galen College and Niklas Kalcic of Cathedral College. They addressed the gathering, speaking with confidence and maturity, telling us about their achievements and ambitions.

As it was the initial year of participation of Cathedral College they were also presented with their Honour Board.

Stand to.

The lights were lowered and the 2/24th's Banners were floodlit as our President read out the names of Battalion Members who had died during the last twelve months. Norm Gray then played the "Last Post" and "Reveille" on the Battalions Silver Bugle. A very moving part of the evening.



9 Originals with Major General David McLachlan

Back Row : Les Hansen, Alan Nicholson, Major General David McLachlan, Alan Macfarlane, Ted Turner, Jack Caple.

Front Row : Charlie Scales, Bob Clark, Cliff Giersch, Eric Edwards.

The Len Ormsby (Pansy) Memorial Swindle.

A big thank you to the many people who donated prizes for this year's raffle. The prizes were again many, varied and exceptional.

To assist in drawing the winning tickets Paul Moss-Holland acted as MC, Major General McLachlan drew the winning tickets and the student award winners acted as runners with the prizes.

Only two tables out of eighteen missed winning a prize.

Sale of tickets cleared \$727, a great effort from a very generous group of people.

Alan formally closed the evening with a "special thanks to Jenny Bell Catering for again providing a great meal and the Lions Club for serving the refreshments".

Sunday 09/11/08

Cenotaph Memorial Service

On a beautiful day the Wangaratta Cenotaph looked lovely surrounded by beautiful red roses. About eighty to ninety people were in attendance to remember the Australians killed in the service of their country.

Those present at the service included the Mayor of the Rural City of Wangaratta, Cr Roberto Paino and the President of Wangaratta RSL, Norm Fearn.

June Mitchell led the assembled in the Lord's Prayer and Norm Gray played the Last Post and Reveille. The service was completed with Laying of Poppies.

BBQ Lunch

The traditional BBQ lunch followed the Cenotaph Service; the usual good country fare and excellent service provided by Lions and Zonta Clubs were enjoyed and appreciated by all present.

With Alan thanking us for attending the Weekend Reunion and asking us to drive home carefully, so ended another memorable weekend.

With apologies to anyone I may have overlooked, those attending the Reunion Weekend included

Nola Adams, Keith Anderson, Victor Anderson, Ellen Anderson, Phylis Baker, Joshua Bankier, Mick Benson, Steve Benson, Edna Bridgman, Euan & Dawn Brown, Jack Caple, Lyn Chaplin, Taryn Chaplin, Darren Chard, Bob & Dorothy Clark, Graeme & Linda Clark, Keith Clark, Jack Collins, Harry Cornehl, Hautrie Crick, Margaret Deering, Doug Dobson, Eric Edwards, Russell & Jocelyn Edwards, Peter & Beverley Emmett, Beatrice Fraser, Cliff Giersch, Ron Graham, Jenny Graham, Doug Gray, Norah Gray, Norm Gray, Les Hansen, Brad & Kellie Holland, Lorraine Holland, Rod Atherton, Neil & Win Holland, Bob & Marjorie Hutchieson, Vince Jackson, Greg & Helen Larkins, Owen & Jessie Lewis, Alan & Faye Macfarlane, Graeme Masters, Len & Grace McKenna, Graeme & Doreen Millane, June Mitchell, Phil & Lisa Murley, Reg Montgomery, Alan Nicholson, Marion Nicholson, Roland & Sue Nicholson, Bill Northausen, Sue Parsons, Vincent Pesic, Mark Quinn, Trish Reilly, Ted & Janene Richards, Charlie & Loris Scales, Helen Simmons, Gail Smith, Maudie & Robyn Stevens, Ted Turner, Piet & Lynne Van Hooydonk, Karl & Raelene Walla, Barry & Dorothy Weeks, Marion, Caroline & Paul Weir, Rod Wilson, David & Janice Young, Frank & Grace Zabilowicz.

Hilary Campbell, Claire Russell, Lorne & Amanda Campbell, Caitlin Nolan, Lindsay Fiddes, Gerard Nolan, Nikolas Kalcic, Julie Findlay, James Findlay, Stanko & Sara Kalcic, Zara Rumsey.

Maj Gen David McLachlan AO, Cr Roberto Paino & Mrs Meg Paino, Mr Doug Sharp & Mrs Marie Sharp, Cr Don Joyce & Mrs Joyce, Cr Ron Webb & Mrs Maxine Webb, Paul & Marilyn Moss-Holland, Peter & Toni Szeligiewicz, Stephen Kazenwadel & Mrs Kazenwadel, Noel Fearn, Carolyn Foote, Darrell Brumby, Alan & Debbie Wright, John & Elma Wright, Andrew Wright, Chris Hutchieson, Rod and Nola Hausler, Joyce Barry, Holly Bechaz, Maureen Bedford, Ray & Isabel Dunstan, John, Gwen, Anthony & Bailey Elward, Brian & Dawn Fox, Val Gleeson, Tiny Khan.

Apologies : Michael & Margaret Oakley, Pam & Frank Tyrrell, Vern Collier, Lyn Masters, Eve Gray, Rex Pirie, Wendy Anderson, Kevin & Nancy Baker, Alastair Davidson and Desma Brumby.

Notes from Wang

- Great to see Ted Turner at the Reunion Weekend. Ted's eyesight may be failing but he was determined to be there. Various family and friends relayed driving him from NSW. Fantastic effort.
- This year's substitute venue, St Patrick Hall, was well received. The atmosphere, decorations and table set up looked wonderful. There was even a chandelier and fairy lights from a previous function.
- The new Town Hall will be ready for next years Reunion. They say it will be 'State of the Art'.
- Alan received the following letter from Major General David McLachlan after the weekend.
What a wonderful afternoon and evening I had with you on Saturday! I reflected on the things that happened, particularly the conversations with the 2/24 members who were present and the pride that they and obviously the civic leaders of Wangaratta take in their ownership of the Battalion.
As I said, you are an incredible generation of men, the like we will be lucky to see again in the history of our Nation. The way in which you look after one another is an example for all to see and to take up.
Again Alan, my sincere thanks for allowing me to be involved with you at that special place and I would ask that you pass my thanks on to the members of your Committee and to all the Battalion.
- Maureen Bedford, a local lady, provided lots of photos and displays from past 2/24th functions, plus various news items. Thank you Maureen.
- Thank you also to David and Janice Young for providing the DVD display of Melbourne ANZAC Day marchers over the years. It's with mixed emotions that you catch sight of your loved one marching proudly from years gone by.
- We received great assistance in putting on the Reunion Weekend. Thank you to Greg and Helen Larkins, Linda Kosciora, Michael Oakley, Win and Neil Holland, Zonta, Lions, St Patrick's Hall staff and everyone else who helped.

Letters to our President and Secretary.

*From **Karen O'Shea** of East Keilor; Karen is the grand-daughter of Bob Thompson*

Dear Dobbie (Doug Dobson),

I thought you might like a photo of the Teddy Bear that Matthew won at the Battalion ANZAC Day luncheon. You will notice that we bought a 2/24th tie for the bear and turned him into the Battalion mascot named "Tobruk". He is sitting pride and place in Matthew's trophy cabinet next to the much treasured 2/24th footy photo you gave me.

As I am sure it is for you, ANZAC Day is a very emotional day for me and my family. I sincerely thank you for helping make this day of thankfulness and remembrance very special.



Thanks for the cute photo Karen.

*From **Marg Deering** of Moyhu VIC*

Thank you very much for giving me Eric Edwards' address and phone number. Since then we have had a chat. He told me he was not a P.O.W. in Germany with my Rod; but they were together in Italy.

It was really lovely for me to read (*in the May Furphy Flyer in Mufti*) that he, Rod and Laurie Brown (Rod's best mate) and 'Banjo' Patterson had shared a meal of ham, eggs and chips at Tel Aviv. It would have been special for them. As you

probably know, Laurie was killed, I assume the day most of them were taken P.O.W., 1st May.

Eric was not aware of the photograph album I mentioned to you, as this was made in German P.O.W. camp, however I will bring it to the next Wangaratta Reunion (provided my health is OK). Of course many of the photos are of Rod's family but there are some of concerts etc, which the 'boys' had put on whilst in P.O.W. camp. Some of them may still be with us, and recognise themselves – even if they are in frocks!!

As John McLean said in his letter to Frank Monotti our boys rarely spoke of their war experiences. It was only when a few of them got together that stories were recollected. This happened several times when several of them visited Rod and myself.

Most of them are no longer with us; Eric Edwards, and I'm not sure about Eric Garvey, are still here. We were so lucky to have so many visit. I still see some of the wives but sadly they are passing too.

Looking forward to the 2/24th Reunion and meeting with you and all the boys and girls.

Kindest Regards.

Thank you very much for lovely letter Marg. I agree with you about Eric's description of the meal the men had in Tel Aviv. It brought home to me, in those few words, the great friendships they experienced but also the sadness of many of those memories. Best wishes to you.

*From **Bill Rudd** of South Yarra*

I am writing to see whether you can help me with details of 2/24th member **Harold Ryrrie Blain** VX46586. His family lived in the Terang area, his father being Francis Blain.

Harold and Ernest Wolfe of the 2/32nd escaped after the Italian Armistice was declared in September 1943 and fled into the hills of Upper Northern Italy. They were protected and fed by an Italian family, whose name was Marca.

Unfortunately their whereabouts were betrayed by a fascist sympathiser. They were tried and later executed on May 8, 1944.

A member of the Italian Marca family, who sheltered these POWs, now lives in Australia and is anxious to contact any member of the Blain family.

At this point may I say that I was also an escaper from an Italian prison camp but was fortunate enough to make it to Switzerland. I was best man at the wedding of Gordon Dare of your Battalion back here in Melbourne.

If anyone has any information that may help with my search I can be contacted at PO Box 17, South Yarra 3141 or via my email address, bill@rudd.net

Contact can also be made via our Secretary.

From *Lyle Johnson* of Aspley QLD

Please find enclosed a donation for the "Furphy Flyer". I really enjoy reading it.

It's just over twelve months since my husband Ron passed away, I miss him very much.

Would you please give Alan and Faye Macfarlane my kind regards.

Lovely to hear from you Lyle, our best wishes for 2009.

We have also received notes and phone calls from Mrs McKenzie and Patricia McRedmond.

Thank you for your support and kind words.

The following is a copy of a letter received from the Hon Alan Griffin MP, Federal Minister for Veteran Affairs.

Dear Mr Oakley

I am pleased to advise that I have approved a \$1,241 grant under the commemorations program *Saluting Their Service* to the 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association Inc to help install a plaque at the Australian War Memorial dedicated to 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion.

The *Saluting Their Service* program is an Australian Government initiative that aims to honour the sacrifice and service of Australia's servicemen and women in wars, conflicts and peace operations, and to promote appreciation and understanding of the role that those who served have played in shaping the nation. The program is designed to preserve our heritage from wars and conflicts and to involve people throughout the nation in a wide range of activities and projects.

Further information can be accessed on my Department's website at.....

www.dva.gov.au/commemorations/activities.

Michael has advised that all the paperwork involved with the erection of the plaque has been finalised and it is hoped the work will be completed in the second quarter of 2009.

It is expected that a Dedication Ceremony will be held in Canberra and we will advise readers of a date and further information in 2009 "Furphy Flyers".

After having their 11th child, an Irish couple decided that that was enough, as they couldn't afford a larger bed.

So the husband went to his doctor and told him that he and his wife didn't want to have any more children. The doctor told him there was a procedure called a vasectomy that would fix the problem but it was expensive.

A less costly alternative was to go home, get a large fire-cracker, light it, put it in a beer can, then hold the can up to his ear and count to 10.

The husband said to the doctor, "B'Gorra, I may not be the smartest guy in the world, but I don't see how putting a firework in a beer can next to my ear is going to help me with my problem."

"Trust me, it will do the job", said the doctor.

So the man went home, lit a cracker and put it in a beer can. He held the can up to his ear and began to count: "1, 2, 3, 4, 5," at which point he paused, and placed the beer can between his legs so he could continue counting on his other hand.

The following is an edited version of the Eulogy to Ed O'Brien, QX50944, given by his son John. Ed passed away on the 20th May this year.

Ed was born at Southport, the eldest son of Martin and Alice's five children. He went to school at Nerang State School, which at that time was a one or two teacher school. Dad was disappointed that his teacher could not take him and his two classmates on to the Scholarship Examination in which a pass was necessary if you are to proceed to Year 8 and further education. Those of you who have known Ed well, know that he would have 'blitzed' the exam. Instead Ed went to work at age 13. He worked 'odd jobs' and when old enough learned the butchering trade. He enlisted in the Army during the Second World War.

Dad told us he met Mum "through an artillery box". While on training in Ravenshoe before being shipped off to New Guinea, Ed and his mates found a note in an artillery box from a girl in Brisbane. The boys got together, wrote a reply, "scored a cake from her" and went to war.

After the war Dad visited the address of the girl who wrote the note and there he met her friend, Jess. After a short courtship Ed and Jess married in the Ann Street Presbyterian Church in Brisbane in 1946. They were married for 61 years; plenty of time to raise five children and to experience the happiness and joy of ten grandchildren and nine great-grand children.

Dad would describe his occupation as a 'butcher by trade', but he had many different jobs.

He worked as a butcher in Brisbane until he joined the Royal Australian Air Force, serving at the RAAF bases in Amberley, Queensland and Richmond, New South Wales. He became a Flight Sergeant and at Richmond was a Loadmaster for the Hercules C-130 transport aircraft, No. 38 Squadron. He was honourably discharged from the Air Force in 1964.

Ed was a "handy" sportsman. He played Rugby League and cricket, mostly when in the Army and, later, tennis with mum and friends. After retiring Ed had time to learn to play lawn bowls at the Everton Park Bowls Club. As usual he did more than just play, he "rolled-up his sleeves" and worked for his club, becoming President in 1995. There were many significant events in Ed's 86 years: his marriage to Jess, the births and marriages of his five children, the 50th wedding anniversary, and two years ago, the 60th! Dad was proud of us all, proud of his marriage and proud to receive the messages from the Queen, the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, the Premier and other Members of Parliament.

The Second World War had a significant impact on Dad's life. The battle for Tarakan was considered to be "one of the nastiest periods of bitter fighting" in the story of the 2/24th battalion and a "proud chapter in the history of the 2nd Australian Infantry Force". The battle lasted 99 days from 27 April to 15 August 1945. Ed was a member of 'B' Company for that battle and is mentioned in the *History* of the 2/24th Battalion as "Lt. Ingham's 2-inch mortar" which on 28th May "so discouraged the enemy machine-gunners that they abandoned their heavily-protected pill-box". Ed's annotation on p. 341 of the *History* is "Junior Ritchie and me".

Dad was for many years an active Member of the Returned and Services League of Australia, Gaythorne Branch, and Life member and past secretary of the 2/24th Battalion Association.

Anzac day often was a significant event for Mum. Dad might have a drink or two too many, and feel the effects of a recurrence of malaria, which he initially contracted on service in New Guinea.

Ed was never boastful, his achievements silently noted, and he never complained. It wasn't until three weeks ago that he told me that he felt "bloody awful".

Ed would not ask someone to do something for him. For someone else, maybe, but not for him. He was stoic, not stubborn. He lived the motto of his 2/24th Battalion: "I hold fast".

He sure did. For a long, long time.

Farewell Dad, on behalf of Jess and all the "billy lids", farewell ! You have left a legacy of love, care and respect. You will be missed by many and loved forever by us all.

Thanks to Frank Schneider for forwarding this edited Eulogy to Clem Eastick, written by his nephew, Zac Stephan.

Clem was born **Richard Clement Eastick** in 1922 in Nhill at Nurse Meek's , the second of 6 children and eldest son of Frederick and Elsie Eastick. Brought up on the family farm at Tarranginnie he received his entire education at Harding's school.

Clem enlisted for the army in January 1942 at the age of 20. When he joined he gave his occupation as a farm hand because if he had said farmer they would not have taken him. At that time a farmer was a reserved

occupation. When Clem wanted to enlist, his father was doing garrison duty at Queenscliff and the story goes that he told his father that as an old soldier his father should return home from garrison duty and manage the farm so that Clem could enlist, because as a young bloke he could do the job better than his father. Nobody thinks that Clem ever had garrison duties in mind.

While home on leave in May 1942 Clem married Dolly McDonald. He was fined one pound for being 1 day late back to camp. In August 1942 Clem sailed to the Middle East as a reinforcement to the 2/24 infantry battalion. He didn't see any action there but the time in Palestine was spent doing a commando course and at Christmas that year met with several soldiers from Nhill and celebrated it in usual soldier style. He returned to Australia in Feb. 1943.

After spending time in the Atherton tablelands doing his jungle warfare training he sailed in August 1943 for Milne Bay in New Guinea where he saw action at Finchaven and Lae. During this action he carried his wounded Lieutenant Bob King to safety. Bob later became the member for Wimmera. Clem returned to Australia in March 1944. Apart from having been in hospital with malaria he was fit and well.

In May 1945 he again sailed, first to Moratai then to Tarakan. In the unit history of the 2/24 Battalion Clem gets several mentions. One is where he and another Corporal stood up with Bren guns at the hip and charged a Japanese machine gun post, this action clearing the way for the rest of the troops. Shortly after this episode he was seriously wounded. He was evacuated back to Moratai and then to Brisbane by ship. He spent some months in hospital in Brisbane and then Ballarat and was subsequently discharged in January 1946 almost 4 years to the day after his enlistment

You never heard much from Clem about his time in the army except for things like the time they were traveling on the troop train to the Atherton tablelands. At one of the stops to take on water they all headed to the local pub for a quick drink only to be told by the bartender "Sorry boys there's no beer, it's still in the carriage at the railway station". Needless to say it didn't take them long to locate the carriage and transfer the barrels onto the troop train leaving the local hotelier with nothing but a please explain to the regular patrons, guaranteed to develop into nothing but a literally dry argument. Back on board, the resourceful troops had only their dixies to drink from so decanted the barrels in the train-carriage hand basins and dipped in as required on their merry way.

After the war Clem settled down to farming life with his wife Dolly, share-farming and living on the McDonald family farm. He was later able to buy a neighbouring property and continued to farm this and the McDonald farm until his retirement in 1984. Clem's love and devotion to Dolly could never be over stated. Tragically Dolly's health began to deteriorate during the 1970's to the point that, late in the '70s, she became permanently hospitalized. Clem traveled in from the farm every night to visit her, and I mean every night. This continued until Dolly's passing in 2002, about 25 years. You could set your clock by Clem's visits depending on where you lived along the road from Boyeo to Nhill. If Clem didn't visit Dolly it meant that he was out of town, away somewhere.

Clem could also be described as having a very determined mind. Just ask anybody who has suggested that he should shift into Nhill. "Why the heck would I want to do that?" (Sometimes in stronger terms) "Have somebody peering over the fence to see what I am up to. Much prefer to be out here where I can take a walk around the swamp, shoot a rabbit or duck if I like, and read the paper where and when I want to". Those of you who know Clem's house would wonder why he wouldn't have wanted to shift... but it was where he was happiest. "It's a battle between me and the white-ants and I'm not sure who is winning," he would say. One could throw the rabbits in with that as well, as one day Clem commented that it was time he did some more renovating because he had met a rabbit in the bathroom that made a hasty retreat out through a hole in the floor under the bath. You could say the house was a perfect example of Clem's orderly resourcefulness... being in a perpetual state of renovation, decay and tidiness. An Occupational Health & Safety officer would have had a fit had he walked in to see bits of water-pipe propping up the ceiling while Clem worked on re-studding a wall that he discovered had been demolished by white-ants. Clem said he had noticed that the wall-paper was flapping in the breeze so thought that he should investigate, "That was a mistake" he dryly commented "I pulled off the wallpaper and the flaming ceiling nearly came down on me."

One soon learnt that it was pointless to question Clem's logic and wisdom. He may not always prove that you were wrong but paradoxically could usually prove that he was right.



Happy Birthday.

Our President, Alan Macfarlane, celebrated his 90th birthday on the 13th September this year. About 80 friends and relatives attended a very enjoyable evening at the Mitcham RSL where memories and stories (some tall, some short) helped us remember and acknowledge what a special person Alan is. He has asked me to pass on a big thankyou to the many people who have contacted him by card, letter and phone to offer their congratulations.

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 :

Reg Lawrence, Lucky Lockwood, Vivienne Williams, Lois Jackman, Joy Bienert, John Francisco, H Jordan, Gordon Walker, Norm Gray, Neil & Win Holland, Ellen Hand, G & R Edwards, David Young, Sherron Radman, Stephen Simpson, Marion Nicholson, Matthew Tranter, Greg and Jonathon Mitchell, Lyndsay Marriner.

Donations :

Reg Lawrence, Len McKenna, Vivienne Williams, Lois Jackman, Joy Bienert, Greg Larkins, Patricia McRedmond, F Cullen, John Francisco, N Ongley, Margaret Deering, Ted Turner, Neil & Win Holland, Hessie Knight, D & M Wymond, Curly Northausen, Isabel Dunstan, Mark Quinn, Val Gleeson, Lyn Chaplin, Marion Weir, Lyle Johnson.

Welcome to New Members

It's with much pleasure that we welcome new Associate Members.

Stephen Simpson, a relation of Doug Dobson;
Sherry Radman, daughter of the late Happy Elsdon;
Greg Mitchell, son of Robin and June Mitchell;
Lyndsay Marriner, nephew of Edward C Marriner;
 and **Marion Nicholson**, a relation of Alan Nicholson.

Congratulations to Cr. Ron Webb for his election to the position of Mayor of the Rural City of Wangaratta. Ron is a very hard working Lions member.

Magazines have been received from the following units and read with pleasure.

- 9th Australian Division Sappers' Association
- Dial Sight 2/7 Aust Field Regiment Social and Welfare Club
- Take Post 2/12 Australian Field Regiment Association

I haven't spoken to my wife in 18 months. She gets mad if I interrupt her.

Sick Parade

Harry Quinn, Val Wilson, Wally Doyle in Canberra Hospital

To all our members who are not feeling 100% we hope that the warmer weather will brighten your spirits and make you feel better

Welcome to the new Principal at Wangaratta High School, Ms Debbie Moor. The 2/24th Battalion Association looks forward to continuing our strong connection with the High School, especially having members from the school assisting with our ANZAC Day March in Melbourne.

NINE WORDS WOMEN USE

- (1) **Fine**: This is the word women use to end an argument when they are right and you need to shut up.
 - (2) **Five Minutes**: If she is getting dressed, this means a half an hour. Five minutes is only five minutes if you have just been given five more minutes to watch the game before helping around the house.
 - (3) **Nothing**: This is the calm before the storm. This means ***something***, and you should be on your toes. Arguments that begin with nothing usually end in **Fine**.
 - (4) **Go Ahead**: This is a dare, not permission. Don't Do It!
 - (5) **Loud Sigh**: This is actually a word, but is a non-verbal statement often misunderstood by men. A loud sigh means she thinks you are an idiot and wonders why she is wasting her time standing here and arguing with you about nothing. (Refer back to # 3 for the meaning of **Nothing**.)
 - (6) **That's Okay**: This is one of the most dangerous statements a woman can make to a man. That's okay means she wants to think long and hard before deciding how and when you will pay for your mistake.
 - (7) **Thanks**: A woman is thanking you, do not question, or faint. Just say you're welcome. (I want to add in a clause here - This is true, unless she says 'Thanks a lot' - that is PURE sarcasm and she is not thanking you at all. DO NOT say 'you're welcome', that will bring on a **Whatever**).
 - (8) **Whatever**: Is a woman's way of saying 'You're a bl..dy idiot!'
 - (9) **Don't worry about it, I got it**: Another dangerous statement, meaning this is something that a woman has told a man to do several times, but is now doing it herself. This will later result in a man asking 'What's wrong?' For the woman's response refer to # 3.
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- *One advantage of talking to yourself is that you know at least somebody is listening.*
- *Everyone seems normal... until you get to know them.*
- *There's many a bestseller that could have been prevented by a good English teacher.*
- *'Hospitality' is making your guests feel at home, even if you wish they were.*
- *Everybody wants to save the earth, but nobody wants to help with the dishes.*