

#### A HISTORY OF THE 10TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE (A.I.F) IN WW2

FROM AN ORIGINAL DRAWING BY A MEMBER OF THE UNIT

# CARE, COURAGE & CAMARADERIE

A history of the 10th Australian Field Ambulance (A.I.F) in WW2

Leslie Williams

and

10th Australian Field Ambulance (A.I.F) Association



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Care, Courage & Camaraderie

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## PREFACE (cont.)

Tenth Tit-Bits, instigated and edited until his death by Kel White and since most capably by Ron Woff, has had an enormous influence in keeping members of the unit together and informed. It has been a prolific source of material for this history. The annual address, proposing the toast to the unit at our Anzac Day reunion, reproduced in Tenth Tit-Bits, has also given me a lot of useful material.

For the tactical side of the campaigns in which the unit was involved I have relied mainly on Alan S. Walker's excellent book, "The Island Campaigns".

There were of course lighter moments and as time goes by these seem to be remembered more than the serious side. I have been fortunate in having a plentiful supply of the lighter incidents recorded in Tenth Tit-Bits.

This book has been a co-operative effort. Many members have supplied suggestions, (the title is Ron Woff's suggestion). Others have written in letters giving their own experiences, supplied me with photographs, allowed me access to their personal diaries kept during the war, given me oral information of areas where I was not personally involved and so on. My task has merely been to collect all this material and hopefully put it into a coherent and readable form.

I have neither prior experience nor qualifications for authorship, but have enjoyed the task of compiling this history, (although it has been a larger task than I envisaged when I first set out.) In this regard my wife's help has been invaluable. I trust now that readers will obtain similar enjoyment. My thanks go to all who have contributed.

Leslie Williams.

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

A..A. Anti Aircraft

A.A.H.Q. Australian Army Headquarters
A.A.M.C. Australian Army Medical Corps

A & DA.D.S.A.G.H.Admissions and DischargesAdvanced Dressing StationAustralian General Hospital

AMB. Ambulance

A.M.C.U. Australian Malaria Control Unit

ANGAU Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit

A.S.C. Australian Service Corps A.W.L. Absent Without Leave

BCH. GP. Beach group

B.D.S. Beach Dressing Station

BDE. Brigade
BRIG. Brigadier
BN. or BATT. Battalion

B.T. (Malaria) Benign Tertian

CAPT. Captain CAV. Cavalry

C.C.S. Casualty Clearing StationC.M.F. Citizen Military ForceC.O. Commanding Officer

COL. Colonel COMD. Command COMDO. Commando COY.

D.D.M.S. Deputy Director Medical Services

D.A.D.M.S. Deputy Assistant Director Medical Services

DIV. Division

DUKW General Motors Code Name for Amphibious

vehicle known as 'Duck'

E.T.A. Estimated Time of Arrival Estimated Time of Departure

FD. Field

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

GEN. General

G.O.C. General Officer Commanding

GP. Group

G.S.W. Gun Shot Wound

H.Q. Headquarters

H.M.A.S. Her Majesty's Australian Ship

INF. Infantry

K.I.A. Killed in Action

LT. or LIEUT. Lieutenant

L.C.I. Landing Craft Infantry
L.C.M. Landing Craft Mechanised

L.C.P. Landing Craft Personnel

L.C.T. Landing Craft Tank

L.C.V. Landing Craft Vehicle
L.S.I. Landing Ship Infantry
L.S.T. Landing Ship Tank

L of C Line of Communication

M.A.S.H. (U.S.) Mobile Advanced Surgical Hospital

M.D.S. Main Dressing Station

M.B.D.S. Main Beach Dressing Station

M.G. or M/G. Machine Gun

MAJ. Major

M.L.O. Movement Liaison Officer

M.P. Military Police

M.S.P. Medical Staging Post M.T. (Malaria) Malignant Tertian

M.T. Motor Transport

M.V. Motor Vehicle or Motor Vessel

N.C.O. Non Commissioned Officer

N.G.F. New Guinea Force

N.Y.D.N. Not Yet Diagnosed Neurosis

N.I.C.A. Netherlands Indies Civil Administration.

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

O/C Officer in Charge

O/R. Other Ranks
O.O.B. Order of Battle

P.A.C. Prophylactic Aid Centre

P.O.W. or P.W. Prisoner of War

P.M.L.O. Principal Movement Loading Officer

P.U.O. Pyrexia of Unknown Origin

Q.M. Quarter-Master

R.A.P. Regimental Aid Post

R.D.S. Regimental Dressing Station

Recce Reconnaissance

Regt. Regiment

R.M.O. Regimental Medical Officer R.N.I.A. Royal Netherland Indies Army

R.O.M.S. Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant

R.S.M. Regimental Sergeant Major

S.A,T. or

S.E.A.T. Sea Ambulance Transport S.M.O. Senior Medical Officer

Sqn. or Sqdn. Squadron Steamship

Tpt. Transport

T.M.O. Transport Movement Officer

U.S. United States

U.T. Universal Trainee

U.R.T.I. Upper Respiratory Tract Infection

W.E. War Establishment
W.I.A. Wounded in Action
W.O. Warrant Officer

W.W.1 (2) World War One (Two)

Y.M.C.A. Young Men's Christian Association

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