

10TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD
AMBULANCE (A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION
 (AFFILIATED WITH ANZAC HOUSE)

President

Dr. D.J.M. DUNN,
 1 Grange Street,
 SOUTH OAKLEIGH 3167.
 Ph. 544 1541

Secretary

A.M. SHARP,
 30 Drummond Street,
 BLACKBURN 3130.
 Ph. 878 4552

Assistant Secretary

A.A. KENNY,
 626 Centre Road,
 EAST BENTLEIGH 3165.
 Ph. 97 3206

Vice President

E.P. YOUNG,
 1 Dalston Road,
 OAKLEIGH 3166.
 Ph. 569 8393, 56 5187

Treasurer

V.L. LAIDLAW,
 24 Belmore Road,
 BALWYN 3103.
 Ph. 85 2995

C O M M I T T E E M E N

J. BACON 233 1866
 K. GORDON 277 3942
 R. HANDLEY 57 5463

R. KING 359 6612
 J. MCGILL 97 5219
 L. MALKIN 20 3595

J. STIGLICH 857 9227
 C. WINCHESTER 93 2858
 R. WOFF 99 1576

* * * * *
 * T E N T H T I T - B I T S *
 * * * * *

No. 12 APRIL, 1978.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tenth Tit-Bits is nearly as old as our association and has played a major role in developing and maintaining our close knit character. It is a time of reflection of the lives and thoughts of those who make the association a living organism - our members.

The compiling of Tit-Bits involves a lot of work by the chief news sleuth, Ron Woff, but its life blood is letters and news about yourselves and your mates and all such contributions of whatever nature are most acceptable to the editor.

There is also a considerable expense involved in the printing and distribution and we are fortunate in that for many years a large proportion of this cost has come from sources outside the association but these conditions may not apply in the future.

The question of mailing Tit-Bits to financial members only has been considered many times by your committee but it was felt that the benefits of the wider distribution were more than worth the cost.

Nevertheless, if you are not financial and enjoy reading the news about old friends, please do the right thing and send a sub to Vern Laidlaw.

I shall be overseas for a conference on Anzac Day this year so that I will be unable to lead the best Marchers in the parade but perhaps that will improve the quality of the marching. However, I shall remember you all on April 25 and I know that the reunion will be as successful as it has been in the past.

With best wishes,

MICK DUNN

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANZAC DAY, TUESDAY 25TH APRIL

As usual, the March this year commences at 10 AM and the order of the March is - Army, Navy, Airforce.

Our assembly time is 10 AM in the same area as we gathered last year i.e. in Collins Street on the north side, outside Allans Music Shop. This is on the Elizabeth Street side of the Hotel Australia.

We hope you will be able to see the Unit Banner this year, last year it was rather hard to get it high enough to see, but more about that later on.

Please make a firm resolution now to come and meet all the "old gang" - you'll be surprised at the enjoyment you will get personally and I can assure you that your attendance will give the other chaps great enjoyment also.

A message to the wives of non attenders who read this newsletter; what about seeing if you can influence "him" into joining us this year, you don't have to get up any earlier, in fact you can even sleep in a little as he will have such a good lunch that there's no need to cook him a hot breakfast!! What about it? You can then have the day to yourself or join in with other wives and watch "him" March - If that little plug runs in line with other mail selling, we can look forward to about a 1% success rate!

After the March we stroll back to "The Dorchester" in Alexandra Avenue - The same as the past few years. So those of you who can't get up early enough, can't quite walk far enough or for any reason can't make the March, don't let that stop you coming to the Reunion Luncheon meeting at about 12 noon at "The Dorchester".

In these inflationary times you get used to accepting price increases as being inevitable but for the third year in a row, The Dorchester have really done the right thing by us and kept the price the same; - A mere \$8 per head for food and drinks - the lot! - so there's certainly no need to let the price keep you away.

I asked Jeff McGill how he was able to talk "The Dorchester" into such a good deal, Jeff explained that when the management looked like putting up the price he played his trump card - he produced our newly retired ex S.E.C. "worker" Ack-Ack Kenny and that really did the trick. A real sympathy deal!

Last year, you may remember, we were in the grip of a 'Petrol Drought' and undoubtedly that kept some Marchers away. However, we did have 37 'Marchers' and were joined by a further 12 for the luncheon. The following members Marched - Laurie Malkin, Claude Capstick, Jack Stiglich, Noel Blake, Ray Frith, Alan Sharp, Vern Laidlaw, Harold Grundy, Doug Potter, Bert Kenny, Ron Handley, Wally Bryant, John Hall, Andy McHattie, 'Bull' Martin, Lindsay Sampson, Dr. Mick Dunn, Des Rae, Ted Young, Roy Dickson, Jeff McGill, Lloyd Stewart, Cec Kelly, Ken Stanley, Keith Flintoff, Ron Woff, Roy McKim, Bob King, Arthur Holiday, Ted Donovan, Keith Davey, Wattie Tully, Neville Stephens, Don Ludlem, Dr. John Lawrence, Gerald Frogley and Ted Stroud.

Those who were waiting at the Dorchester were:- Jack Wenke, Bert Wise, Stan Herbert, Dr. Ian Wilson, John Stretton, John Grant, Don Braine, Ron Sincock, Bob Crawford, Jack Bacon, Jack Allen and Cliff Drury.

Although there were many things about those who attended that could be mentioned those who do get the M.I.D. are:- (1) Dr. John Lawrence who Marched despite the fact that he was still recovering from a car accident in which he suffered five fractured ribs and a fractured fibula - (no need to explain the technicalities to you medical blokes) and

(2) Lloyd Stewart who made it down from Sydney for the first time in thirteen years.

Talking of Lloyd reminds me that a new segment was added to our Reunion last year which will be perpetuated. That was a "Toast to the Unit and the Association". Lloyd was given the task of making the 'maiden' speech and did a first class job recalling many of the incidents which went to make up our history. He pointed out that fortunately we remember the good things about those war years.

Cont'd /3

The proposer of this year's toast has already been approached and should be well worth listening to - I won't tell you who it is but it's possible that if you don't listen properly you may be "run in".

Mention was made earlier of the short poles on the Unit Banner - I won't say who left the bottom half of the poles at home, but he better be "sharper" this year. Some wit suggested that the missing poles could be replaced by "Sticks" - Handley.

Despite the short poles, our Banner was carried for us by five volunteers from the 5th Frankston Sea Scouts.

We were fortunate to be positioned right behind the Tramways Band who made marching a real pleasure and the "journey" was completed in about 30 minutes.

After last year's official reunion the "unofficial" reunion was once again held at the home of Bob and Marg King.

It really isn't possible to adequately thank them for all the work they do and the tradition they perpetuate. Bob advises that it's on again this year and everyone is invited.

LEST WE FORGET

We have been advised of the death of the following four ex unit members:-

SAM CHAFFEY

CLIFF DRURY

BOB ADENEY

CLAUDE CAPSTICK

Cliff and Bob were original members of the unit but did not go away with us, Cliff was at our reunion last year for the first time.

It was a great shock to learn of the sudden death on Sunday 9th April of Claude Capstick. Claude has been a regular attender at our reunions and we will greatly miss his ready smile and friendly greeting. Claude turned 60 the day before his death. Some of you may have forgotten the close shave Claude had during the war when the ship on which he was travelling to rejoin us at Oro Bay was bombed and sunk by Jap planes. Claude had to jump into the sea and managed to hang on to a floating refrigerator until rescued. I was in the same tent as Claude for many months and feel a great personal loss at his passing.

WELFARE REPORT

Another year has passed, and again the Welfare Committee has nothing to report. Whilst this could mean that you are all well, and the years are treating you kindly, perhaps you may know of a member who is in need of help or advice, but is reluctant to make his wants known. Our responsibilities are not restricted to money matters. If you feel we should know of some problem affecting a member, please ring either of us. That's all you have to do - leave the rest to us.

JACK BACON - 233 1886

CLEM WINCHESTER - 93 2858

Cont'd/4

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

11 Waldron Street,
SANS SOUCI . . . 2219

19th March, 1978.

Dear Ron,

I always seem to put this letter off till the last minute, for which I apologise. Although a few things have cropped up recently that has taken up some of my time. My son Ken's wife Julie presented us with a baby girl in October - My first Grandchild!

Then in January, my daughter Jenny was married and is busy settling into a unit in Randwick. All these things are exciting and very gratifying.

Last July my daughter Margaret and I decided to go to Port Macquarie for a holiday. This place is not far from where Jack and Betty Cox live so I was able to 'phone Jack and arrange a meeting. It was great spending some time with Jack and his family and I am very grateful to Jack, Betty and Brenda for a lovely day, when we had a look at the sites of Laurieton, had lunch at Jack's nice home, even played some table-tennis with he and his son.

It was just like old times again Ron. As we all know, Jack is a man of many talents. The latest addition to his collection is a very fine organ, which both he and Brenda play quite expertly.

Jack, of course, is playing top tennis and still holding his own.

We had a great night over at Murdoch McMillan's home not very long ago when Ken Gordon and Keith Davies together with their wives Olive and Joan visited Murdoch.

Murdoch and Kath also invited Bill and Rose Schlenker, Roy DeJarlais and myself; everyone had a great time over a few drinks and continued well into the night talking over things past and present.

I must get going Ron as I am due at a meeting in about ten minutes.

Please convey my best wishes to the fellows in Victoria. I trust that you have a fine day, a large roll up on Anzac Day - May it be a huge success.

Best wishes,

BOB JAMES

Editors Note - Thanks again, Bob - we appreciate your news and that of our New South Wales members.

3 Kunzea Court,
MOUNT WAVERLEY . . . 3149.

30th March, 1978.

Tenth Tit-Bits,

Holidays had been rather scarce for the Gordon family in recent years, so that a kind offer from Keith and Joan Davey to accompany them to Sydney to see our mutual friends, the McMillans, was gratefully received.

We set off early one Sunday morning in July, and despite a ticket for speeding in the vicinity of Molesworth (a locality which brought back some Camp Site 2, Nagambie Road training memories for me) made our way to Wangaratta to spend a short time with Neville Stephens, or so we thought, however our luck was still out as Neville was away on his holidays. We spent the night at Holbrook and next day fought our way through thick N.S.W. frost, and reached Greenacre in the late afternoon.

Cont'd /5

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS CONT'D.....

It was great to sample the McMillan hospitality again - takes some standing up to but at least I stayed awake. I stayed fairly close to headquarters, most of the time. However, the others were able to see some Sydney sights. We were pleased to renew the acquaintance of Roy DeJarlais, Bob James and Bill and Rose Schlenker.

Another night Mac took Keith and I on a tour of the Bankstown R.S.L., which proved to be an eye-opener, particularly the sauna, (Keith said it reminded him of better days). The girls joined us for dinner and we tried out the poker machines.

Because time was rather limited, we were not able to see Lloyd Stuart and some others we had hoped to. The trip home was taken in easier stages, and completed a very enjoyable holiday which has given me confidence to try something further afield later.

Thanks Keith and Joan.

Yours sincerely,

KEN GORDON
PER OLIVE GORDON

Editors Note: What an example of true mateship on the part of Keith and Joan - Thank you Olive and Ken for this letter.

54 Salisbury Crescent,
LAUNCESTON .. 7250

26th July, 1977.

Dear Vern,

Sorry this has been held up so long. I'm no letter writer. I enjoy Tit-Bits as it gives the whereabouts of most and their state of health etc., and the efforts put into keeping the unit together, some effort.

I am not able for much these days, don't work and am on a pension; still, I try to enjoy what is left, and the view. We have a good view from our dining room window, city, mountains and at present, plenty of snow.

Good luck for your coming celebrations.

Yours truly,
"GLAXO"

BILL JONES

Editors Note: Thanks for your news Bill, it seems a really long time ago now that the Jones Brothers went fishing with hand-grenades at Morobe.

31 Cawkwell Street,
MALVERN .. 3144

Dear Ron,

You asked me to put a few words together about my trip overseas, so I thought I would confine them to an interesting visit to the Central American Republics.

After a stay in Europe and Jubilee Celebrations in England, my friends and I flew to Washington D.C. and were there for some of the Bi-Centennial Celebrations. Then by Greyhound Bus we journeyed through Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia to Florida and after a stay in Miami, we flew to Panama City and stayed at an incredibly luxurious hotel - The El Panama. It was unbelievable both the accommodation and food and the cost ! Wow! After a couple of days touring,

Cont'd /6

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS CONT'D.....

including the Canal Zone, we flew on to San José the capital of Costa Rica, over mountain ranges up to 15 thousand feet high. There are apparently only two classes of accommodation in Latin America so it was first class for us everywhere. Here we stayed at the Cariari Country Club and the wages are so low each waiter just had to look after one person.

Visited Coffee, Banana and Sugar Cane plantations and toured the beautiful city. Next day we drove over the Continental Divide at 11 Thousand feet to the Irazu volcano which has been dormant since 1965, but is still hot underfoot and on to the ancient capital of Carthage. In this part of the world the day begins early and we left at 6 a.m. when we flew to San Salvador the capital of El Salvador, making a short stop in Nicaragua which was rather a hot spot at the time. Spent a few days at San Salvador travelling on the Pan-American Highway to Lake Coatepeque, claimed to be one of the most beautiful in the world, and the Santa Ana volcano.

Next day we visited Taxmal to see the Mayan ruins. Our next stop was Guatemala City only 25 minutes by plane but over 15,000 feet mountains including about 30 volcanos.

Whilst in Guatemala we did a fantastic trip to Chichicastenango an ancient Indian village high in the ranges, and on to Lake Atitlan an enormous lake completely surrounded by mountains and volcanos. In places this was a hair raising trip but very interesting. From Guatemala we flew to Merida in Yucatan Mexico to visit Chicken Itza the ancient Mayan City, later rebuilt by the Teltetes and one of the archeological wonders of the world. Later we travelled to Uxmal a pure Mayan City with some of the largest temples and buildings, many almost completely reconstructed. There is a lot to write about in this area, but my "few words" seem to be developing into a long story, so I will just say we flew back to Miami and resumed our U.S. tour through Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and the Grand Canyon to California, arrived at Los Angeles and after a week there we flew home quite content to return after so many months on the move.

LAURIE MALKIN

Editors Note: This is as good as a Fitzpatrick travel talk, our thanks Laurie for letting us share it with you.

SURFERS PARADISE

20th April, 1977

Dear Vern,

Congratulations on the wonderful job you and your committee are doing in keeping the Unit so all together. Some day I hope to have the pleasure of meeting you all again.

My sincerest regards and good wishes to everyone.

NORM DOUGLAS

Editors Note: Thanks Norm, no doubt you're still dispensing good cheer.

73 Vincent Street,
SANDRINGHAM .. 3191

Dear Vern,

I enclose cheque for \$6.00 for subscription for 1977 and 1978 (I believe I missed paying last year's).

Cont'd...../7

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS CONT'D.....

Hope you are keeping well. I am enjoying my retirement, and finding plenty of "homework" to do, as well as paying visits to my family in the country and other states.

Regards to all the "boys".

Yours sincerely,

RAY MEADOWS

Editors Note: Lovely to get your letter Ray, but we'd rather you came to the reunion and sang for us.

171 Blyth Street,
EAST BRUNSWICK .. 3057

Dear V.L.,

Very sorry I haven't been around when the 25th April comes along. I always go up to Marysville around Australia Day and stop there for a couple of months, I have friends up there.

Sorry about subscriptions, enclosed find cheque for three dollars for last year's subscription and three for coming year.

Just been reading Tit-Bits and very good to get, it woke me up that I'm lagging behind whilst I was reading it. Very sorry Skinty.

Anyway Vern, hope you are well, you boys are doing a good job. Still one of the mob.

TED TYRRELL

Editors Note: Thanks for your letter Ted, good to hear from you.

137 Brougham Street,
FAIRFIELD .. 4103.

6th April, 1977

Dear Vern,

Tenth Tit Bits came as a very pleasant surprise. I'm afraid the 10th is now not very often on my mind. The years have rolled away and seldom I stray south of the border - if I do - it's mainly to Tweed Heads, if you could call it south of the border.

Tenth Tit Bits certainly brings back pleasant memories. Unfortunately haven't met any 10th Fd Amb. for many years except Dr. Adrian Paul as I passed through Sydney 15 months ago. Was wondering if there are any more members here in Queensland. Seem to remember Queensland was numerically very low in the 10th.

Our school holidays fall in the first week in May - so it's difficult to get away for Anzac Day. I would like to be with you on one of your reunions. Would love to see some of you. If any of you visit the best state, give me a ring on 44 3854 working days before 8 and after 4.

Spend many weekends at the Coast. Have a property down there on the ocean front and can't think of a better place to spend the weekend if you want to get away from the city.

I think it is excellent that you have such an active association and are able to keep contact with members. I am sure that the family picnic and other social

Cont'd/8

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS CONT'D.....

activities and reunions weld the friendship and comradeship started so long ago.

All the very best to everyone. Have a happy reunion. Hope you have a good roll-up for Anzac Day.

Be thinking of you.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR ROCKETT

P.S. I was sent to Atherton for five years. Started the Secondary School Department there. It hadn't altered much. Eacham Barime and Milanda Falls - it's God's own country.

AR

Editors Note: Right-oh! you Queenslanders - natural or adopted - what about contacting Arthur.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

ITEM 1 - DINNER DANCE - This was a failure, but at the same time a success. The failure part was that a considerable amount of effort, put in by Jeff McGill, came to naught when numbers indicated on Anzac Day failed to materialize. Jeff had to cancel arrangements made with the Dorchester. The success part was that Jeff then made alternative arrangements and the result was that a number of members, wives, families and friends had a very enjoyable night out at the "Out-rigger" Restaurant.

ITEM 2 - YARRAWONGA - Like a good wine, the weekends at Yarrowonga improve with age. As we arrived at the motel, we were greeted with the news that Winifred Atwell was on at the R.S.L. Club so all decided to have dinner at the club and see Winifred. We were unable to get dinner as, although extra sittings were put on, it was impossible to serve everybody. Winnie won everybody with her magical fingers and exhausted everyone with her exuberance. It was a cheap night out, no meal and no pokies. Hunger was satisfied at 10 o'clock Saturday morning in No. 1 unit by partaking of toasted sandwiches and coffee.

Saturday morning was spent relaxing and cruising the lake under the captaincy of Arthur Holliday. The afternoon's entertainment was a leg show put on by the ladies. One member was heard to protest, "How can men pick individual legs when they are always covered with slacks?"

Saturday night we made our presence felt at a social in aid of charity run by Joe's Lodge. All had a terrific night.

Sunday was the usual dinner at the hotel, farewells and then off home.

There will be another weekend trip later in the year and everyone is welcome. The social organisers point out that members are free to do their own thing at Yarrowonga and don't have to do what the others are doing.

ITEM 3 - PICNIC - The picnic held again at Healesville on the 19th February and as usual the weather was perfect. Twenty-two members plus Sixty-five relatives and friends had a thoroughly enjoyable time proving that this event must continue.

ITEM 4 - CRUISE - A group of members consisting of Roy Dickson, Bob King, Jeff McGill, Des Rae, Bill Shepherd, Jack Stiglich, Arthur Holliday, their wives friends and families - a group of 18 in all have booked on a P. & O. cruise from 5 - 18 January. If any further members are interested, contact Jeff McGill, Bob King or Jack Stiglich.

Cont'd/9

TOPICAL TIT BITS

Heard that Teddy Nicholas will be down from Queensland for Anzac Day, there was some message I had to give you about porridge Ted but can't remember what it was. Hope you can work it out.

Bob King is still winning swimming races and wants it made known that he hasn't missed the start of another race.

Believe that Marg King is so proud of their swimming club uniform - Blazer and Slacks, that she's not often out of them these days.

Noticed the following paragraph in a local paper:

'It's thumbs down to Oakleigh councillor Ted Young for his sexist put-down of women drivers. During a recent council meeting, Cr. Young was discussing plans to develop a carpark when he added this jibe....

"Women are loathe to drive into parking areas where there are pillars."
Perhaps the sayer of this hackneyed cliché should look at accident records!'

John Cox and Jeff Flower finally got together, and what's more they survived the event without loss of hearing.

Jeff made it to Laurieton last Anzac Day and they attended the local service.

Coxie returned the visit by a trip to Jeff's farm, he says the journey made Burke & Wills' epic seem like child's play. They hope to be able to get down for the reunion - some year! - . . .

Ron Sincock gets to many parts in his duties with the Bank and this year spent some time at Lae - Says the only thing that hasn't changed is the weather.

Alan Sharp represented the Unit Association at a service at Scots Church to observe the dedication of a memorial plaque commemorating the service and sacrifice of Chaplains who died on active service during world wars 1 and 11.

Bumped into Eric (Serg) Williams in town recently. He looked just the same and proudly introduced his two young grand daughters who were down from Sydney having a holiday with "Grandpa".

Our Treasurer, Vern Laidlaw, recently had a Government sponsored Asian Tour as part of a Seed Potato Mission, the object being to promote the growing and use of potatoes in Asia (good KAI). Whilst in Jakarta he met Aly Bahasoan whom many of you will remember lived near the Hospital at Ambon. Vern has kept in touch with Aly since the war and says the reunion with him was very sentimental. Aly took Vern to visit three of his sisters who live within a radius of 25 miles of Jakarta and they talked of old times for hours. Vern has promised to tell us more at the reunion. BARGOOS Vern.

Cheerio for another year - don't they go round quickly! - make the effort to come to the reunion and please write so that the rest of the boys can know how you are.

All the very best,

RON WOFF,

17 Summerhill Road,
BEAUMARIS .. 3193.

..... ooOoo