

10TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD
AMBULANCE (A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION

(AFFILIATED WITH ANZAC HOUSE)

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* T E N T H T I T - B I T S *
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No. 16 APRIL, 1982.

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The Passing of an Era

One of the quotations I remember from school days went something like this.

*Of all the wonders that I yet have seen
It seems to me most strange that men should fear.
Seeing that Death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.*

For some reason I recalled this quotation on reading that the original 10th Field Ambulance Association had disbanded because there are now so few members left alive.

As a lot of you know, my late father was a member of the original 10th and so I felt a special tie with them. Both Mick Dunn and I had attended some of their reunions in latter years and marvelled at the spirit shown. Also we were privileged to have representatives of theirs attend our reunions on several occasions. The following is the announcement that appeared in Mufti.

"10th Field Ambulance Association bows out

With sadness we learn that the 10th Field Ambulance Association, 1st AIF, is winding up in view of the very small number of surviving members.

The Association's honorary secretary, Roy Werner, of Malvern said the decision was made at the 62nd annual meeting when members reluctantly accepted the inevitable - "fading away". "We were a very happy unit and have enjoyed good fellowship and unforgettable memories of the many years we served together in 1914-18." Mr. Werner added.

Don't wait until it's too late to attend a Reunion, resolve to come this year, you'll be glad you did and so will we.

Arrangements for Anzac Day 1982

As you have no doubt realized, Anzac Day this year falls on a Sunday. This causes a change in arrangements which are as follows:-

The March takes place in the afternoon and it is expected that we will move off at approximately 2.45 p.m. We therefore aim to assemble at about 2.30 p.m. in the now usual place in Collins' Street on the north side outside Allans Music shop.

Our Reunion

This will still take the form of a luncheon but we have a change of venue. Unfortunately the Dorchester is no longer opening on Public Holidays but we have been very fortunate indeed to obtain the use of the Heyson and Buvelot Rooms on the ground floor of The Travelodge corner of St. Kilda Road and Park Street - almost directly across St. Kilda Road from the Shrine.

The other beaut news is that the cost to members, excluding liquor, is still only \$10 per head.

The rooms have been booked from 11.00 a.m. so that we can complete our luncheon reunion in time to march. Sounds good doesn't it? So do your very best to be there. The toast to the unit will be proposed by a Victorian Country member, recently retired - he usually has something to say so this year it will be official - see if you can guess who.

The Afters

The Fawkner follies are on again as usual at Bob and Marj King's home, even though it means a later start. After marching you will probably feel like some refreshments and at 30 Princess Street, Fawkner everyone is treated like a king.

Interstate Members

Vern Laidlaw has again volunteered to be 'accommodation Officer'. Just contact Vern and "rest assured".

A special invitation was extended to Colonel Palmer to attend but Vern received a reply from Mrs. Palmer advising that Ted is too ill to accept.

What happened at our 1981 Reunion

Fifty-six members attended the Reunion luncheon of whom forty marched. So our members have been fairly consistent over the years.

Our President Dr. Mick Dunn again led the March in fine style, his consistent attendance is a real inspiration and we hope that the spring in his step remains for many years. Mick presided at the luncheon meeting and welcomed the following interstate members:- Arthur Rockett, Dr. Ross Hayter, Ted Nicholas, Murdoch McMillan and Jack Cox.

It was Arthur's first visit, the second for Ross, and the first for 10 years for Jack Cox.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by Dr. Gavin Johnson. The President then called on all present to observe the traditional two minutes silence in memory of fallen and deceased members. This was followed by the reading of the names of departed members and the sounding of the Last Post. This part of our Reunion is always a moving one.

What happened at our 1981 Reunion (Cont'd

Apologies were received from the following members:- Alan Williams, Lloyd Champion, Ray Frith, Lou Courtney, Bert Capes, Jack Allen, Ken Trafford, Jock Roe, Les Martin, Dr. Alec Reith, John Standerwick, Ted Tyrell and 'Ken Clinch' (who rang from Townsville during the reunion).

Jeff McGill reported on the poor attendance at the Picnic and after a discussion it was decided to hold it again this year. However it again proved to be poorly attended and Jeff will be putting a proposition to you at the Reunion that we hold the Picnic closer to home.

Joe Strudwick reported on the successful weekend at Yarrawonga. Jack Bacon gave a short report on his welfare activities during the year and the President thanked him for the excellent job he was doing for members.

The positions of Secretary and Assistant Secretary had become vacant due to the resignation of Alan Sharp and Bert Kenny. Also Ron Handley's move interstate created a vacancy for one committee man. Our new committee man is Des Rae who was elected unopposed. We could not get a volunteer for Secretary but Noel Norton and Ken Stanley agreed to be joint Assistant Secretaries and to see how things worked out. As it happened Noel has carried out most of the Secretarial duties as Ken Hasn't been too well and has managed an overseas trip in his retirement. I have taken the liberty of showing Noel as Secretary on the front of Tit Bits as I believe that the Secretary is the focal point for correspondence etc. and one should be nominated. I hope this doesn't upset anyone.

There were some glowing tributes paid to Alan Sharp for his three years as Assistant Secretary and seven years as Secretary by Mick Dunn, Keith Davey and Ted Nicholas. John Hall moved and Vern Laidlaw seconded a motion that Alan be made a life member of our association. Alan responded in his typical modest fashion and said that he was very honoured to accept. He recalled that when he took on the job as Secretary he told the meeting that there would not be anyone to adequately replace Kel White and he was still of that opinion. Alan, that was nicely spoken and you could not have failed to be moved by the rousing acclamation you received.

The toast to the Unit was very ably proposed by Murdoch McMillan and the manner in which he presented it showed that his time in the N.S.W. Police force had not been wasted. He recalled receiving that "nice little letter with OHMS on it" which said something like "bring a cutlunch and report to the drill hall". He was then required to report to Mr. "Mac" at Windy Hill at Seymour and recalled several mainly humorous incidents. Murdoch said that as he had now retired he hoped to be able to attend more of our Reunions as it was good to be amongst such a lot of friends including some whom he had not seen for years. He mentioned several N.S.W. members including Bill Schlenker, Bob James and Bob Mitchell and also that he had really enjoyed the weekend at Yarrawonga.

Mick Dunn responded warmly to Murdoch's toast.

Somehow or other in moving that our association again donate \$50 to Legacy (a thing we have done for many years now) Ted Young must have provided Jack Cox with the opportunity to speak because as quick as a flash Jack had a few interesting words to say, particularly mentioning his meeting with Ron Handley and Jeff Flower.

The following members were seen on Anzac Day 1981.

Marchers: Arthur Batchelor, Jack Bacon, Keith Davey, Roy Dickson, Ted Donovan, Mick Dunn, Jock Drysdale, Keith Flintoff, Gerald Frogley, Harold Grundy, Ross Hayter, John Hall, Arthur Holliday, Horrie Hamer, Dave Johnson, Bob King, Dick Holmes, Steve Langton, Jeff Laidlaw, John Lawrence, Don Ludlem, Harold Mollison, Mick Morrow, Murdoch McMillan, Laurie Malkin, Eddy Mott, Roy McKim, Ted Nicholas, Noel Norton, Doug Potter, Des Rae, Arthur Rockett, Joe Strudwick, Neville Stevens, Lionel Tulley, Ken Stanley, Bert Wise, Ron Woff, Ted Young. Attending Luncheon: Wally Bryant, Don Brain, Doug Clements, Bob Crawford, John Cox, Ken Gordon, Neil Gerrand, Gavin Johnson, Stan Lucas, Jock Lovett, Vern Laidlaw, Ron Moyle, Jeff McGill, Roy Meadows, Alan Sharp, Jack Stiglich, Ron Sincock, Bert Webster, Ern Utting.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

2 Erlandson Avenue,
Sorrento. Vic. 3943.

May 1981.

Hi Ron,

So sorry I couldn't make the March, but I watched it from my sick bed somehow I missed the Banner but I saw you in the last row of marchers. I have been in Frankston Hospital for three weeks and now I'm still in bed after 2 operations, as you see this scribble from bed.

Thanks again for your information on Unit affairs, I often see 'Snow White' (Geo Williamson) down Rosebud when we are shopping. He used to be a great mate of Mick Hodland's I couldn't tell you his name but perhaps you will know.

See you soon
Sgt. Bluey.
(Stroud)

I'm sure most will remember 'Snow'. Thanks for your continued interest Bluey and hope you are now fully recovered.

105 Marlborough Street,
East Bentleigh. Vic. 3165.
Phone: 570 6268

Dear Alan,

I am deeply touched by the kind expression in sending me the basket of fruit and flowers during my stay at Heidelberg. My wife was too, so touched. My hand is very shaky at the moment. I came home last Sunday, had the stitches removed before leaving, but am very well and in no pain.

My kindest regards to all. Before the operations, I asked were there any of our Unit there I could visit and they answered no.

Well so long for now. Alan.

John Hall.

Glad to read of your recovery John, sincerely hope you can make it to the Reunion.

7 Airlie Road,
Montmorency. Vic. 3094.
9.2.1982

Dear Vern,

First of all greetings and best wishes. Secondly apologies for late payment of subscription. Just recently I looked up the last copy of "tit-bits" to check on something and found the statement still attached thereto, thus I hasten to make amends.

I am not certain at this stage whether I will be able to attend the re-union but will be trying.

With sincere regards to you and yours
and to the members of the "10th"
Yours sincerely,

Alex Murphy.

Thanks for the subs and your greetings Alex from all who survived your cooking.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS CONT'D

16 Lake Street,
Laurieton. N.S.W. 2443.

July 1981.

Dear Ron,

Bet and I have just completed a fly-cruise to South-East Asia. Briefly we flew to Singapore and had a few productive (and expensive) days there receiving enormous help and hospitality from contacts of my old Company - terrific really since I've been a "has been" for 11 years now!! Anyhow we went from there to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Manila, Cebu and down to Ambon - the 2nd only cruise ship there since the war and Indonesian takeover, so you can imagine the welcome and festivity and enormous interest this created amongst the population. If I had a secretary I could write a book on the cruise and the highlights particularly in Taiwan and Hong Kong as we went local as much as possible rather than take stereo-typed tours... and it paid off in a lot of incidents worthy of memory. However I'll just concentrate on Ambon. The town is of course expanded but is pretty 'daggy' as are most of these Indonesian and Phillipine set-ups. However up in the hills it was just like old Ambon and the old language is still there. We had one of those bamboo bands with us playing Western and Indonesian music etc. During a lull I took a chance that they looked mostly Ambonese rather than Indonesian and started to sing the old songs in Ambonese. You wouldn't believe the impact this made as it appears no-one could recall any old Aussie getting back there before and they nearly fell apart. We and the couple with us really got the treatment and they "threw away" their music and played the Ambonese songs I remembered - it was really very emotional.

Anyhow during the afternoon after walking for miles it seems a lady who remembered the Bahasoan family name but could speak virtually no "Australian" escorted us to the house (even the street name "Urimessing St" is changed. We met Ali's sister, Ali is still in Djakarta but hasn't been answering mail, and she then arranged for us to be escorted to the house where Annie (used to be Ririmasse but now married) lived. She was the youngest daughter of the Ririmasses - the Dad was a Methodist lay preacher killed during the Jap invasion and others in the family were Ma, John and a lass named Llotje lived with them. Ted Young, Nev Stevens etc. etc. will remember. Anyhow I walked in and yelled out "where's Annie" to seven great looking but astonished kids. She eventually walked in and when I mentioned my name she really fell apart. A photographer with us said he'd give a lot to have captured that moment. She grabbed hold of me and when she'd recovered enough immediately said and "that must be Betty" - how's that for 36 years!! You can imagine that we found it all wonderfully worthwhile and yet I could still live up in the hills there I reckon. She remembered the names of quite a few of the boys without any prompting - of course she is now in her mid fifties... hard to believe isn't it. Lena Birhitoe is still there working for the Government - Paul her husband was killed in the invasion (Indonesian). They promised to pass on to her and others the address and good wishes from Aussie.

I am enclosing a few negatives of Ambon in case any of the boys would like to obtain copies. Well Ron this is a lot of effort from a bloke who now hates writing (no Secretary) so I'll close ... got to work on getting back some fitness for tennis and golf.

Trust you, Joyce and family are well.

Best wishes to all the mob
Cheers from Bet and I
(John Cox)

n.b. Annie's address:
Mrs. Annie Gelupessy
Jln. Gahlwin Revolosi
Lorong Sagu 56
AMBON INDONESIA.

*What a wonderful trip - there's no doubt about you
Cox it rather reminded me of the Pied Piper. I
know that everyone who was at Ambon will have
thoroughly enjoyed reading your letter. "Bargoose!"*

.../6

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS CONT'D

28 Marguerita Avenue,
Mt. Martha. Vic. 3934.
28.4.1981

Dear Ron,

Did not get around to much of a talk with you, but I know your boys are doing well and hope that Joy is fit and looking forward to your next trip abroad.

Had a good day with Bob Crawford, we went out to Fawkner, and Merle was down here with Bet; Merle was still as bright as ever although everything seems to happen to her. They are off to Cairns again for six months any time now.

Tenth Tit-Bits was excellent, we hear a lot about the boys this way. I thank you for my extracts which I did not expect and found them appropriate and sufficient.

Best regards,

Ron Sincock.

Thanks Ron, It was good to see that your son Russell is still playing great cricket. I'll bet you were proud of his semi final performance.

11 Waldron Street,
Sans Souci. N.S.W. 2219.
19th March, 1982.

Dear Ron,

This year has provided quite a few changes in my fairly routine life. At the beginning of last year I retired from a job I had been doing for the past forty years. Since then part of my time has been taken up with helping my son extend his house, then for the past four months I have worked at the Royal Far West Home three days a week while a colleague has been to the U.S.A. on a study tour. I have enjoyed the work and hope to stay on for a while.

My children are all married and so far have presented me with four grandchildren and at the moment I am baby-sitting three of them.

I regret to say that Jack Best passed away on 19th February after a long illness. He will be greatly missed by his wife and family and many friends who knew and loved him.

Unfortunately I was visiting Grafton at that time and was not aware of his death until I returned to Sydney.

After my stay in Grafton I decided to return home via the New England Highway and surprise Geoff Flower who lives at Guyra. I spent a very pleasant few hours with Geoff and Joyce and family. Geoff has a fine property on which he runs sheep and cattle and in his spare time grows potatoes and a variety of other vegetables. I can never quite imagine how one man can look after such a vast area of land. I was delighted when Geoff suggested showing me over his property. He must know every stump and boulder on the place for the Valiant negotiated the hills and dales at good speed without mishap. It was certainly an excellent way of breaking a long journey. Thanks for the nice vegetables Geoff!

.../7

(Bob James letter)

It is always a pleasure to have any of the fellows from Melbourne visit us and it was particularly good to see Vern last year. While Vern was here we were able to rally about seven of the Sydney guys together for a dinner in town. Amongst those present was Geoff Flowers' son Roger who came along to check out his fathers old mates. He later assured me that he enjoyed the night very much.

We were all very sorry that Ted Palmer and George Johnston were unable to be with us because of illness. I was speaking to Mrs. Palmer recently and she said Ted is still not well and is now in a nursing home at Campbell Town. George Johnston although having some trouble with arthritis is getting around quite ok.

Bob Mitchell after a spell of bad health and some surgery on his eyes is stabilising quite well and is back playing bowls again (which speaks for itself).

I thought we would have had an influx of you Melbourne blokes over for the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Harbour Bridge this week. At least we can look forward to seeing Bob and Marg King when Carlton play South Melbourne on their home ground in Sydney.

Have a great day on the 25th.

Kind regards,

Bob James.

Once again a letter full of news from our NSW correspondent - sorry to hear of the death of Jack Best who put up a great fight over a long period - You'd think that after 50 years they'd have something other than the Bridge to crow about!

Thanks a lot Bob.

LEST WE FORGET

I think it must be accepted that our list must grow a little longer each year and it is with regret that we record the passing of the following unit members during the year:

Tom Heaney)	We received advice of their passing from
Ted Monnow)	Dick Holmes but not the dates
Lindsay Sampson	21.11.1981
Norm Douglas	9.1.1982
Jack Best	19.2.1982

BITS & PIECES

Heard that Alan Sharp made a quick trip to Mexico during the year - could it be that his mission was to learn how to save energy!

Jock Roe has moved to Jerilderie and went 364 days without a beer but failed by the 1 day to make the full 12 months! Believe he has a first class vegetable garden but had a bit of bad luck recently. Collected a great amount of manure, stacked it ready to cart home, went for his trailer, returned to find the manure gone. And that's not Bull.

From the 4th Field Ambulance Newsletter of last year the following is reproduced - Thanks to Bert Newton.

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN PIDGIN ENGLISH

*Fader you belonga me fella,
You stop alonga Heaven,
Kingdom belonga you I come,
All I hearim tok alonga you,
Longa giraun allasame longa Heaven,
Today give me fella Kai Kai longa day,
Forgive wrong belonga me fella,
Me fella allasame forgive wrong belonga
other fella,
You no bringim me fella along try on,
Take away sumtin no good belonga me fella
You fella belonga Kingdom come,
Same power, same glory, allasame now,
allasame time.*

AMEN.

This brings us to the end of another Tit Bits, a special cheerio to all who are not enjoying the best of health, please let us know if we can be of help.

To all who are enjoying good health do your best to be at the Reunion.

Closing with another Pidgin English quotation:

Bai mi luk luk long ya puk puk.

Which I am reliably informed means "see you later alligator".

RON WOFF.

LEST WE FORGET

*They shall not grow old
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the Sun
and in the morning
We will remember them*

1	Bruce Pascoe		36	Henry Uebergang	April 1969
2	Jack Pigram		37	Clive Mathews	April 1969
3	Ted Dunnell		38	Les Paul	1970
4	Don Hiddleston		39	Stan Murphy	April 1971
5	Jack Kelleher		40	Gerald Black	February 1972
6	Peter Todd		41	Jack McGill	26.10.1972
7	John Bagshaw		42	Alan Tate	14.3.1973
8	Harry Cowan		43	Arthur Hunt	3.5.1973
9	Dr. D. McFarlane		44	Arnold Lovell	12.5.1973
10	Albert De Lantye		45	Harry Gaudion	18.7.1973
11	Dr. S. McKenzie		46	Keith Goslett	23.1.1974
12	Noel Smith		47	Kel White	15.4.1974
13	George Morley		48	Charles Graigie	12.9.1974
14	Jack Thompson		49	John Osborne	29.10.1974
15	Bernie Cousins		50	Frank McArdle	12.12.1974
16	Angus McKenzie	2.7.1957	51	Alf Swales	26.1.1975
17	Russel Behrens	1958	52	Ralph Hallum	20.5.1976
18	George Jenkins	1960	53	Cyril Evans	25.7.1976
19	Harold Hay	1960	54	Jim (Bluey) Davis	4.11.1976
20	Jack Spokes	1961	55	Sam Chaffey	1976
21	Bill Reid	3.3.1961	56	Cliff Drury	2.1.1978
22	Jim Lyall	7.3.1961	57	Bob Adeney	20.3.1978
23	Norm Hart	27.8.1961	58	Claude Capstick	9.4.1978
24	Bill Lynskey	15.11.1961	59	Jim Drysdale	24.5.1978
25	Dr. H. Francis	20.11.1961	60	John Stretton	24.6.1978
26	Alan Fox	Feb. 1962	61	Dick Rhodes	10.11.1978
27	Ken Phillips	11.5.1962	62	Dr. John Sands	23.1.1980
28	David Felstead	25.7.1964	63	Jack Bateman	17.8.1980
29	Eric Veith	Jan. 1967	64	Jack Wenke	3.9.1980
30	Bob Smith	21.2.1967	65	Roy Rasmussen	10.9.1980
31	Dr. Alan Hewitt	1967	66	Tom Heaney	
32	Clarrie Sanders	24.3.1968	67	Ted Monnow	
33	Martin Smith	20.3.1968	68	Lindsay Sampson	21.11.1981
34	Alf Saunders	Feb. 1968	69	Norm Douglas	9.1.1982
35	Les Wilton	23.7.1968	70	Jack Best	19.2.1982