

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

(AFFILIATED WITH ANZAC HOUSE)

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BOB KING
VERN LAIDLAW

DR. MICK DUNN
ALAN SHARP

** TENTH TIT - BITS, No. 17 MARCH, 1983. **

VALE COLONEL TED PALMER.

On the 5th August, 1982 Colonel Palmer died after a series of strokes. On learning of this some months later a notice was placed in the 'Sun' by our Secretary, however there are doubtless, some who are reading this sad news for the first time. Any words of mine would be superfluous as Murdoch Mc Millian obtained a copy of the address given at Ted's Cremation by His Honour Mr. Justice Selby and this is now reproduced.

" I am proud and grateful to have been asked to speak at this sad time. If I were asked to say what I thought were the most admirable qualities a man could have, I would find it hard to put them in what might be called an order of merit but they would certainly include courage, integrity, unselfishness and humility. These were qualities which Ted Palmer possessed in abundant measure.

I first got to know him well in New Britain in the dark days of the war - the first quarter of 1942. He had joined the survivors of the Rabaul garrison who were trying to make their way back to the New Guinea Mainland. As time went on, men grew weak with hunger, with fever and with deadly fatigue. Ted suffered with the rest of us but in his quiet way he showed us the true meaning of courage and of greatness. If a man became too weak to carry even the weight of his miserable pack, Ted would carry that pack in addition to his own. When we halted for the night and boiled the taro roots which were to be our evening meal, he would refuse to eat his pathetically small portion until he had tended the last of the wounded and desperately ill. When we set out in the morning, he stayed behind until he had treated the last of those who urgently needed his care. When his small stock of medical supplies ran out, he improvised with wonderful ingenuity. A tin of axle grease which he had found at an abandoned saw-mill became an ointment for tropical ulcers. He ground up coral and rusty nails and boiled them in water to make an iron tonic. It is only because of his unstinting help and his inspiration that many of us are alive today.

Throughout it all he never lost his sense of humour. One day as we were going down a winding, muddy track he missed his footing and fell down the steep slope, finishing up on the track below. When we reached him, he got to his feet, laughing, and said "I just thought I'd take a short cut."

Another time, when he was shaking with fever, he swam a fast-flowing river barely reaching the far bank. It was our third river crossing that day. As he lay, gasping for breath, he laughed again and said "To think I used to tell my patients that they must stay in bed for at least twenty-four hours after their temperature became normal."

His way of making light of things which seemed to us near disaster was one of the things by which he kept us all going when going seemed to be futile and all but impossible.

When we reached the stage where we could go no further, the men were gathered into three separate groups and every week Ted would visit each group, travelling by canoe and walking along the jungle track to tend and encourage the sick and wounded.

Desperately sick men were kept alive by the knowledge that he was coming and all their thoughts were "When will Major Palmer come?" and he never failed them.

In the long nights in New Britain, with no lights and no other way of passing the time, Ted and I would sit under the stars and talk for hours. Always his talk would come back to his family and his pride in them, and his love of them shone out. How fully that has been reflected in the patient care and understanding which his wife Lesley has given him in his long illness.

After he had been rescued and recovered his strength he served in Borneo where he was known as Jungle Ted and became a Legend amongst the sick and wounded.

Today some harsh things are being said of the medical profession but it is still a great and noble calling with a proud record of service. Ted Palmer typified all that is best and finest in that profession.

In Shakespeare's play "Julius Ceasar", Mark Anthony paid generous tribute to his former enemy, Brutus in words which are so often quoted.

" His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world "This was a man!"

Spoken of Ted Palmer, these words would be truly apt.

To his family, I offer my deep and sincere sympathy. May I offer you the small place of comfort which must come from the knowledge that all who mourn him today will always hold his memory with affection and great regard. To have known him has been a rare privilege. To have been regarded as a friend is something for which to be grateful for all my days."

At our Reunion meeting last year it was unanously carried that Ted Palmer be made the first honorary member of our Association and he was advised of this.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANZAC DAY, 1983.

Back to normal this year and as Anzac Day falls on a Monday we are expecting a great roll-up of country and interstate members to swell our ranks.

THE MARCH starts at 9.15am and this years order is navy, airforce, army.

We assemble in the usual place in Collins Street on the north side in front of Allan's Music Shop at about 10.30am.

OUR REUNION.

This is again to be held at the Travelodge on the corner of St Kilda Road and Park Street - almost directly across St Kilda Road from the rear of the Shrine grounds. Assembly time from 12 noon.

This proved to be an excellent location last year and it is to be hoped that we can keep our booking for many years to come.

The cost this year is to be \$12.00 per head excluding drinks.

THE AFTERS: The traditional hospitality of Bob and Marj King is again extended and those who can attend are assured of a most enjoyable time.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 1982 REUNION.

Because Anzac Day fell on a Sunday last year our numbers were down a little. Thirty-eight attended the Reunion luncheon and thirty-seven then marched. A rather good effort and as usual a fine spirit prevailed.

Keith Davey, in proposing the toast to the unit gave a great speech which involved just the right blend of humour and sincerity. We learned how he was "pushed" from the A.A.S.C. into the 10th Field Ambulance along with quite a few others but after the initial shock he never regretted the "push". His tribute to the mateship which has been carried on from the war years was well worth listening to.

President, Mick Dunn, thanked Keith and echoed his sentiments particularly praising the responsible attitude of members. He quipped that we should continue to "encourage" and "foster" this sense of responsibility before we get too long in the "tooth".

Wally Page responded on behalf of the two other interstate members who attended - Ted Nicholas and Bill Schlenker.

SOCIAL.

Jeff McGill proposed a change of venue for this year's Annual Picnic and the result was tremendous with over Sixty adults attending and grandchildren "everywhere"!

It looks like Jells Park will be our regular spot from now on.

Joe Strudwick issued invitations to members to attend the annual get together at Yarrowonga on the 22 - 24 October. No written report of this has been received but from the stories heard at the Picnic it was certainly a success.

LEGACY.

The association again made a donation of \$50.00 to Legacy.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Alan Sharp was made a Life member at the 1981 Reunion and President Mick, presented Alan with a tangible gift to mark this occasion accompanied of course with a few well chosen words. Alan responded in typical fashion making light of the excellent work done as Assistant Secretary and then Secretary.

He said that he enjoyed sitting with his "mates" instead of working at the head table for the first time in ten years.

TENTH TIT BITS.

To ensure continuity of this after my retirement, David James offered to supply the paper and Geoff Laidlaw offered to get the printing done and you can guess who is still the editor. So apart from postage we will still be able to produce this at no cost for another few years.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY.

Noel Norton agreed to act as Secretary officially (as he had carried out all the duties so well in the previous year) and this was welcomed by all. Noel has continued the good work this year although he says that his fishing has suffered slightly.

ATTENDANCE.

Members attending the Reunion were:-

Jack Bacon, Keith Davey, Roy Dickson, Ted Donovan, Dr. Mick Dunn, Keith Flintoff, Ray Frith, Gerald Frogley, John Hall, Arthur Holliday, Bob King, Geoff Laidlaw, Vern Laidlaw, Don Ludlum, Laurie Malkin, Ted Nicholas, Noel Norton, Des Rae, Joe Strudwick, Neville Stevens, Lionel Tulley, Ken Stanley, Bert Wise, Ron Woff, Ted Young, Don Brain, Doug Clements, Bob Crawford, Ken Gordon, Bill Schlenker, Alan Sharp, Ron Sincock, Bert Webster, Bill Sheppard, Cecil Kelly, Steve Langton, Ken Trafford, Wal Page and a fleeting but welcome "hello" from Dick Holmes.

There were twenty-one apologies including Arthur Rockett who rang from Brisbane, Dr. Ian Wilson who was with a medical team in China, Neil Gerrand - from U.S.A, Jack Stiglich who was in Heidelberg Hospital and who unfortunately has since passed on, Jock Drysdale who had recently had a stroke and Harold Grundy who was not well.

Our Treasurer, Vern Laidlaw has passed on the following tit bits from notes received with annual subscriptions.

John Grant was hospitalized on Anzac Day '82 but hopes to make it this year.

Len Martin still living at Seaford and still "working for a crust".

John Chenhalls and Arthur Batchelor both promised to try and attend this year.

Dr. Pat Lyttle is still at Goulburn (N.S.W.) and planned to take a month off to tour Darwin to Perth.

Merv Blow has retired and now living at Lower Plenty (Merv, that's where you always had plenty!) He hopes to be at the Reunion this year and made quite a nice donation - Thanks Merv.

Dr. Ross Hayter enjoyed a European holiday.

Dr. Alec Reith recently remarried - Congratulations Alec.

ATTENDANCE (CONT)...

Charlie Reddings sent a nice donation in the previous year and Vern says you are now well and truly financial, Charlie.

Ron Handley reached the final of his Golf Club Championship which was to be played on Anzac Day last year, don't know whether or not he won, but watch next year's issue for the exciting conclusion.

Merv Featonby, has again "promised" to attend!!

Great news of Bob Mitchell whose health and sight had improved following interocular lens implants - he's even able to play bowls again.

Vern was able to get to Ambon during one of his overseas "spud selling" trips and will enlarge further on this at the Reunion.

Ken Trafford has been hospitalized during the year but is slowly improving.

WELFARE.

Jack Bacon has again done a great years' work and we thank you Jack. However, we mostly get to hear of a members accident or sickness months after it has happened, so Jack again appeals for early advice of any member who may benefit from a visit and a word of encouragement.

LEST WE FORGET

Unfortunately the year has dealt harshly with our membership and it is with a great deal of regret that we add the following names to our Honour Roll:

Wal (Jock) Lovett	-	17.4.82
Colonel Ted Palmer	-	5.8.82
Frank Dobbie	-	20.3.76
Ern Milton	-	Date not known
P. Hill	-	" " "
Jack Stiglich	-	7.9.82
Ted Nicholas	-	19.1.83
Ron Sincock	-	5.3.83

A really sad year!!

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS AND/OR MEMBERS WIVES.

Mr. F. Marles,
23 Ascot Street,
CANLEY HEIGHTS. NSW. 2166.

April 1982.

Dear Mr. Young,

I was very pleased to get our newspaper, Tenth Tit Bits and read about all the fellows who are still with us but I am very sorry to hear about all those who have passed away. I was going through them and some of them bring back fond memories to me.

Well, I won't make Anzac day this year as I am tied up with St. Johns Ambulance. I am in charge of the division here and we are holding a class and the class gets examined on the 29th April, and there are lectures to attend on Thursday nights and between these things at the present time, I am flat out but I have retired from work.

If I am still going strong, I will be down next year to see the boys. The man I want to see is my old pal, Harold Grundy. I hope he is still getting around, and all I hope is that I am still alive by then. I am to have a gamble on Twelve months, but I hope I will be alive to make it.

I am very pleased to get Tenth Tit Bits as one does find out what is going on. Tell Vern to book accommodation for me next year and I will try to rally the boys from here to come down and join in with the boys. Give Bob King my regards, the last time I was down Bob and Mart were very good to me. This is a short note to tell you I am still getting around up here. Give my regards to all the boys.

I remain,

Pte. F. MARLES.

Thanks Fred - we hope you make it this year and that Harold Grundy is well enough to come also.

957 Gen George Patton Rd,
NASHVILLE. TN. 37221.

June 1982.

Dear Vern,

The Annual Report, Tenth Tit Bits reached me here today - sent on by the young couple who are looking after our Hawthorn home whilst my wife and I spend a year here in "The Hills of Tennessee" which is Carolyn's "home ground".

The report was very interesting, as it always is, more so than ever here - where news of "dear old Melbourne Town" and of Australia is scarce.

It is so good to hear news of so many men whom I loved and respected in those far off days and places. It is really sad to hear of the passing of some whom I knew well - this last year - Norm Douglas, Lindsay Sampson and Ted Monnow, real quality men.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS (CONT).

(Neil Gerrand's letter from Pg 6).

Carolyn and I are returning to our Melbourne home this August and I really hope to make the 1983 re-union.

Best regards and thanks,

NEIL GERRAND.

Hope we can still understand you Neil, but if your deep Southern accent is too strong you'll have to sing it. But be there.

7 Ajana Street,
NTH BALWYN. VIC. 3124.

June, 1982.

Dear Ron,

Re: Frank Dobbie, Sergeant Our Unit 1944/45

Unexpectedly, I had to be in Adelaide over the past weekend. In trying to contact Frank - whom I last saw just prior to my leaving Adelaide in 1955 - I learned that Frank died of a sudden coronary occlusion on March 20, 1976.

Perhaps few of the unit would remember him, but it would be nice for his name to be recorded in our "Lest We Forget" listing.

DAVID JAMES.

I'm sure there are many who remember Frank's distinguished appearance. Sorry to learn of his death but thank you for letting us know David.

1/71 Bruce Ave,
BEEFIELD. NSW. 2191.

September, 1982.

Dear Mr. Norton,

I have been trying to get in touch with Dr. Dunn (the president of your association) to let him know that Ted died on 5th August, after an illness lasting two years. Ted would have been delighted to be the first honorary member of the 10th field ambulance association.

I received your letter a few days ago because we left Camden some time ago. We moved to Sydney after he had the first "stroke". It was a mild one but affected his sight. We thought it would be nice to be near our daughter, who is a nurse and also our sons. They do not live in Sydney (one is a lecturer at La Trobe

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS (CONT)

University in Melbourne) and the other lives in Guroka, New Guinea. Nevertheless they both come to Sydney fairly often so it meant we saw them more frequently.

I suppose Ted had about twenty strokes in all over a long period. Each one left him with a little less mobility and until the end he knew fairly well what was happening to him so it was a very agonising time for him and for his family.

Mr Justice Selby who was with Ted in the jungles of New Britain gave a very moving address at his funeral. I intend to have some copies made of this and if you think the association would like to have one I will send it to you.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

LESLEY PALMER.

Receipt of this letter was very much appreciated and will be read with interest and understanding by all members.

P.O. Box 103,
YARRAWONGA. VIC. 3730.

September, 1982.

Dear Noel,

Thank you and the members of the Association for the wonderful thought and lovely basket of fruit sent to me during my recent stay in Hospital.

It was a sad week really, Jack Stiglich was buried the day I entered hospital and a friend I have worked with for twenty-nine years died the day I came out. He was in a bed just down the ward a bit but died on his way to Melbourne for further treatment.

I was very cheered to receive get well messages from Des and June Rae, Bob and Marj King and June Stiglich. Neville and Nancy Stephens came to visit me a couple of times, they had just returned from six weeks on the Queensland coast - it appears quite a few members of the unit and their wives spend the winter months there enjoying the warmer weather.

The annual weekend at Yarrowonga is due to be held on 23 and 24 October, so if you know of anyone wishing to come please get them to ring Bob King and I will get the names for booking purposes when I contact him early in the month.

Regards for now, Noel and remember me to anyone you come in contact with.

JOE STRUDWICK.

Anyone who belongs to the ANA knows you are well now Joe, after seeing a photo of you and your family in their recent newsletter. Congratulations on being made a Director of the ANA after 20 years as Secretary of the Yarrowonga Branch.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS (CONT)

23 Yandilla Street,
BALWYN. VIC. 3103.

January, 1983.

Dear Ron,

On behalf of my family and myself I would like you to convey to all members of the unit our sincere thanks for all messages of sympathy, etc received at the time of Jack's death.

Thanks to all who attended his service. It made us feel very proud that so many attended as a final tribute to a brave soldier who definitely faded away.

Yours sincerely,

JUNE STIGLICH.

Thank you June, sorry your letter last year arrived too late for publication. Jack was indeed fortunate to have such a close knit family to look after him for so long.

56 Liverpool Road,
KILSYTH. VIC. 3137.

January, 1983.

Dear Ron,

This is a short note for "Tit Bits", my secretary is in hospital with a broken hip and hasn't got the typewriter there!

On the way home from Cairns in October, we stopped off at Laurieton for a couple of nights. Went to see Jack Cox, who was playing golf, so Betty gave us Ron Handley's address and we went to find him. We spent a pleasant afternoon with Ron and Eileen. Would like to thank them for their invitation to a meal, but unfortunately time ran out.

Spent a pleasant evening with Jack and Betty, and listened to Jack playing the organ (all the old songs).

The following afternoon Jack, Ron and myself, played golf. Betty very kindly took Merle on a tour of the sights, a lovely afternoon.

Our thanks to them all for their hospitality.

I also called on Ted (Bluey) Stroud at Sorrento in November, he is just the same old Sgt. Cook, only a bit slower.

That's about it for now, regards to your good wife.

Sincerely,

BOB CRAWFORD.

Thank you Bob, and our very kind regards to Merle. Hope she is able to get about again soon.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS (CONT).

18 Pelman Ave,
Greenacre. NSW. 2190.

Dear Noel,

Your letter to hand a few days ago and very pleased to hear from you but very sorry indeed to hear of the death of Ted Nicholas. Re your request for copy of address by Mr. Justice Selby at the cremation of Ted Palmer, I contacted His Honor and he informed me he did not have a copy as he gave the original to Mrs Palmer.

On Tuesday last Kate and I called on Mrs Palmer at her home and had a long talk with her, she has been very ill and at the moment is not enjoying really good health, she has her daughter living with her at present so has some good company.

She gave me a copy of the address and it is attached hereto for you. Kate and I went to the service at the Crematorium and a very large number of his friends and patients were there, some even came from as far as Dubbo and Barker so he was very popular indeed. During the course of the address by His Honor he did mention that Ted was the C.O. of the 10th Field Ambulance and he mentioned the excellent work Ted did whilst with this unit.

I hope to be down for the march this year, we are thinking of going to New Zealand in March and then on to Hay and Griffith before heading to Melbourne. My son Clyde is now in Sale with Esso, he seems to like it okay.

We went to see them last November, the twins were 11 years old so gave them a surprise by arriving on their birthday. Whilst there, I called at the Bowling Club (naturally) and whilst there I met Merv Featonby, he is retired of course, and remained in Sale, we had a great old chat and one day he called for me and took me out to lunch at the local which I thought was terrific, he informed me that he hopes to make the march this year too.

I see Roy De-Jarlais often, he is not far from here at Roaselands, he is well. I do not hear from the other boys, I sometimes ring Bob James and have a yarn with him.

Bill Schlenker is at present in a nursing home at Rockdale, we called to see him one day but he seems fitter than me. Rose, his wife is not so well, she has a lot of blood pressure, we see her regularly and talk on the phone.

Well, Noel I will close now and hope to see you all on 25th.

Regards to all.

M.A. McMILLAN.

Murdoch, thank you very much for obtaining the Address for us and for representing the unit Association at Teds Cremation - we look forward to your letter each year.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS (CONT)

Sgt Bluey Straud,
2 Erlandsen Ave,
SORRENTO. VIC. 3943.

Hi Noel,

Long time no see No. 1 Taluata Beelonga my Village.

Well this is a few lines of a Comradeship built up by being together for a long time.

As you probably know that I have had a rough time over the last couple of years, a stay in hospital and a couple of operations and getting older all the time, but I'm going away from my news.

I had been up to Frankston to see the Specialist and travelling by bus and Taxi, I had just arrived home and was having a cup of tea when a knock came at the front door and a voice asked the wife if Mr Straud lived here. She said yes and who walked in but Bob Crawford. We were both covered with smiles and had a marvellous time till it was time for me to go up to the chemist, but Bob in his way took me up the street and then came back with me.

And on the way back he said, "Seeing as you have to go back to Frankston again next Monday I will come down and drive you up and bring you home again" as he did and all the way up and coming home we never let up talking about old times in the army.

Now how about that for good old 10th friendship. I will try my best to come to the picnic and renew some more old friendships.

TED (BLUEY) STRAUD.

Really great to hear from you Ted, sorry you didn't make it to the Picnic but I know it is not easy for you these days. We all wish you well.

10TH FIELD AMBULANCE.

I would like to thank all the boys and their family's, for all the happy hours you gave to Ted.

You were all a family to him that he really didn't have. There has been a hell going on inside him for more than 15 years, it was his choice not to have the medical help he so badly needed, the same as it has been his choice to have "peace at last".

Please be thankful that he is at long last "at peace" and remember him kindly.

Yours with thanks,

LILY NICHOLAS.

Bob King arranged a memorial service on behalf of our Association and a notice of this was placed in the "Sun". Thanks Bob.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS (CONT)

5 Corio Street,
BELMONT, VIC. 3216.

January, 1983.

Dear Noel,

Well, here we are again with what "news" there is in relation to "his nibs".

For a year or so, I have never felt better in regards my health.

Now about the Picnic I am afraid that that is out as my wife is not in good health. (Just on 79 years old) and I have my Church obligation at Corio Uniting Church to attend to.

As for the "Anzac Day" march I am afraid that that will be off also, as I cannot leave my wife home for the day. Our usual arrangements are not the same, as our daughter used to meet us in Melbourne in the morning of Anzac day, but unfortunately she no longer lives in a Melbourne Suburb.

Recently I purchased a book entitled "New Guinea - 1941 - 43" dealing with the conflict in New Guinea and New Britain, which included a lot of very interesting reading, also dealing with our Col Palmer and his hectic escape over the ranges in New Britain from the "Jap" forces.

I might say it is well worth buying. It deals with the conflict in the area bounded approximately by Buna, Gona, Uro Bay and Sangara.

On 31st October, 1982 on Channel 2, Reports from "Blameys Papers" were being disclosed and reference was made re the sinking of the "Hospital Ship - Centur" by the Jap submarine off the Queensland coast in which approximately 270 troops etc. had lost their lives.

Do you remember that it had the replacement unit for the 10th field ambulance. That was the reason that we had to go up to Lae and then carry on once again.

At the Sangara Mission station are the two graves of the two Mission sisters that had been betrayed by some natives and in due course were murdered.

Some officers and myself were shown the two graves by an "Albino" missionary who was over 6 feet tall and "snow white", he certainly looked unreal, one does not forget these incidents.

He told us a lot of information and how the Authorities in that area had found out who had betrayed the two Mission Sisters and were all duly hanged.

Please convey the kindest regards etc. to Mrs Harold Gaudion from my wife, Irene and I hoping that she is still maintaining good health in the later years.

Best wishes to all the Officers of our Unit and also to the rest of the "Boys" who make up the Unit of the 10th Aust. Field Ambulance in the Marches.

It's unfortunate that as time goes on the age principle catches up with all of us and our activities are greatly reduced as one gets older and we cannot do what we were capable of in yester year.

It's the "cuppa time" so I must close off and to the "cot".

Wishing the "boys" who make up the Unit as it is at the present time all the very best of health.

Cheerio,

ROY McKIM.

You've certainly got a way with words Roy and I'm sure your letter will bring back memories. Here's hoping your health continues to improve.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS (CONT).

7 Airlie Road,
MONTMORENCY. VIC. 3094.

January, 1983.

Dear Noel, (apologies if spelling incorrect)

Received the letter re "picnic" and "Tit-bits".

The picnic I cannot do much about regretably as these days I have no car and if I did it will still be sometime before I can drive again.

Re Tit Bits I am trying or hoping to help with this letter at least. On the morning of 28 April last year, my wife Dorothy and I set out to do our weekly supermarket visit. On the way just a few hundred metres from home we were involved in a motor car accident which resulted in the death of Dorothy, whilst I spent over 5 months in the Austin Hospital with multiple injuries.

I was discharged from hospital in October last, and am still involved in a heavy "Physio" programme.

I can now walk freely without crutches or stick, still have little movement on my right shoulder, hence the illegibly presented affair before you.

I appreciated the visits from Doug Potter and his wife and telephone calls from Harold Mollison and Vern Laidlaw.

I cannot see any reason for not attending the Re-union this year although marching is out (What a shame!)

Trust that Ron has an enjoyable trip as he goes overseas, and very best wishes to all old mates and to members of the association who after all are all old mates. So, looking forward to joining you on April 25th.

Yours fraternally,

ALEX MURPHY.

Alex, between my secretary and myself I think we have managed to decipher your writing and faithfully record it. Your effort in writing is very much appreciated and heres hoping you can get to the Reunion - I'm sure that Alex would appreciate it if someone could pick him up.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS (CONT)

P.O. Box 103,
YARRAWONGA. VIC. 3730.

February, 1983.

Dear Noel,

Like most of the 10th Aust. Field Ambulance wives, I seem to be the letter writer in the family. Joe says "You never shut-up".

In the notice about the February picnic - there was mention of the fact that there was very little news for the "Tit-Bit" - so I thought I had better do something about it.

As some of you now know, Joe retired from the Mulwala Explosives Factory on December 1st, 1982 and presently puts his time in Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays at his little office from 9.30am to 4.30pm - having a long weekend every weekend - that is finishing up at 4.30pm Thursday and taking up the pen again Tuesday 9.30am. Just enough to keep him out of mischief and put a bit more of the green stuff in the pocket.

In September last Joe had that "prostie" operation and fellas, you can still wear your bikinis after, because its all done internally now and no scars. He's as good as new again and cheeky as the devil. I won't tell you what he promised me every morning after he retired, - but I will tell you that since his dear old Mum of 93 years has come to live with us - he can't keep his promises - I keep on tellin him - I'll tell your mum.

In October Joe had a cyst removed from his upper jawbone and had 9 stitches inserted - it was quite successful and has healed over nicely. What wif Nana wif no teef and Joe with no teef - I had quite some job making up menus wif no chewin' or mulchin' for a few weeks - one thing - it fooled Joe - he couldn't bite my ears like he usually does.

Our Annual Yarrowonga October trip numbers were down for 1982. It was great to have June & Cathie Stiglich with us. We certainly missed Jack - he stoked our BBQ fire constantly for the year before and thoroughly enjoyed himself - so much so, that Graeme Coutts (the Proprietor of Skiland) was heard to remark "You'd think that bloody stuff grew on trees!"

Something we had wanted for a long time, was the boat trip across the Mulwala Lake on Saturday and landing on the N.S.W. side for a BBQ under the gum trees. Always when we had wanted to do this before, either the boats were in dry dock, having a paint or some jolly thing - but this time, the weather was perfect and everything available and in going order. Our party was the only one on board and so the boys took a little liquid refreshments and with the running commentary from the Captain on the bird life of the lake (the feathered variety), it all went down very well. And you know - June Rae didn't even get sea sick!!

After enjoying the delightful surroundings of green lawns, gum trees and water, we set sail again for home. Some of us had a sleep, some of us just kept soaking it up, some of us had a good old yarn before getting togged up again to go to the RSL Bistro for tea.

Sunday we called in on the church Fete at St. Andrews for Devonshire Tea and the girls then did some buying up from the various stalls. The park opposite (on the banks of the Lake) provides a great spot for a "spot", and liquid refreshments were again disposed of in a quiet and congenial manner.

Then the sad time for farewells - Everyone arrived home safely.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS (CONT)

Joe says he is going to edit this and knowing him, none of this will get through. Among those who travelled to Yarrawonga were Marge & Kruger King, Jock & Maisie Drysdale, June and Des Rae, Neville & Nancy Stephens, Marge and Jeff McGill, Rona & Gerald Frogley, Pat & Roy Dickson, June & Cathie Stiglich and we joined them.

Sorry we will miss you in February at the picnic, Joe has a busy week beginning with Monday driving to Ballarat in connection with A.N.A. and then to Melbourne on Tuesday for a Board Meeting and home to Yarrawonga on Wednesday - that's a lot of driving. So up and down on Sunday is just not on this time.

Behave yourselves and safe driving home.

See you in April for the Anzac Reunion.

JOE STRUDWICKS TYPIST. (Sylvia)

P.S. You asked for news of any kind - You got it!!

*No wonder Joe is always smiling, you're not just a pretty face Sylvia!
Thank you for not censoring this letter.*

BITS AND PIECES.

Both Jack Cox and Keith Davey have received a letter from their friends in Auburn, Ann and Yoost Pelupessy. It appears that they are not in very good financial circumstances and Coxy suggests that any of you who know them might like to get together at the Reunion and come up with an idea of helping them. Doubtless Vern will be able to add to this news.

Incidentally Coxy, they mentioned in Keith's letter that they are still waiting for the tape-recorder you promised them!!

Heard a whisper that either or both Dick and Bill Jones will be over from Tasmania visiting Cliff Watkins and will be at the Reunion.

Jack Chenhalls passed on the grim news that Alan Patricks home at Upper Beaconsfield was completely destroyed in the recent Bush Fires - Also heard that Ken Stanley's son lost his home in the same fires.

It was really good to see Glad White and June Stiglich (and some of their children and grandchildren) at our recent picnic. Both looked extremely well and passed on their regards.

Thanks to all our correspondents, your letters are really appreciated as without them Tit Bits would quickly lose its appeal.

Sorry I won't be with you on Anzac Day but will be there in Spirit.

Cheers for this year,

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 | | 40. Gerald Black | Feb. 1972 |
| 2. Jack Pigram | | 41. Jack McGill | 26.10.1972 |
| 3. Ted Dunnell | | 42. Alan Tate | 14.3.1973 |
| 4. Don Hiddleston | | 43. Arthur Hunt | 3.5.1973 |
| 5. Jack Kelleher | | 44. Arnold Lovell | 12.5.1973. |
| 6. Peter Todd | | 45. Harry Gaudion | 18.7.1973 |
| 7. John Bagshaw | | 46. Keith Goslett | 23.1.1974 |
| 8. Harry Cowan | | 47. Kel White | 15.4.1974 |
| 9. Dr. D. McFarlane | | 48. Charles Graigie | 12.9.1974 |
| 10. Albert De Lantye | | 49. John Osborne | 29.10.1974 |
| 11. Dr. S. McKenzie | | 50. Frank McArdle | 12.12.1974 |
| 12. Noel Smith | | 51. Alf Swales | 26.1.1975 |
| 13. George Morley | | 52. Ralph Hallum | 20.5.1976 |
| 14. Jack Thompson | | 53. Cyril Evans | 25.7.1976 |
| 15. Bernie Cousins | | 54. Jim (Bluey) Davis | 4.11.1976 |
| 16. Angus McKenzie | | 55. Sam Chaffey | 1976 |
| 17. Russel Behrens | 2.7.1957 | 56. Cliff Drury | 2.1.1978 |
| 18. George Jenkins | 1958 | 57. Bob Adeney | 20.3.1978 |
| 19. Harold Hay | 1960 | 58. Claude Capstick | 9.4.1978 |
| 20. Jack Spokes | 1960 | 59. Jim Drysdale | 24.5.1978 |
| 21. Bill Reid | 1961 | 60. John Stretton | 24.6.1978 |
| 22. Jim Lyall | 3.3.1961 | 61. Dick Rhodes | 10.11.1978 |
| 23. Norm Hart | 7.3.1961 | 62. Dr. John Sands | 23.1.1980 |
| 24. Bill Lynskey | 27.8.1961 | 63. Jack Bateman | 17.8.1980 |
| 25. Dr. H. Francis | 15.11.1961 | 64. Jack Wenke | 3.9.1980 |
| 26. Alan Fox | 20.11.1961 | 65. Roy Rasmussen | 10.9.1980 |
| 27. Ken Phillips | Feb. 1962 | 66. Tom Heaney | |
| 28. David Felstead | 11.5.1962 | 67. Ted Monnow | |
| 29. Eric Veith | 25.7.1964 | 68. Lindsay Sampson | 21.11.1981 |
| 30. Bob Smith | Jan. 1967 | 69. Norm Douglas | 9.1.1982 |
| 31. Dr. Alan Hewitt | 21.2.1967 | 70. Jack Best | 19.2.1982. |
| 32. Clarrie Sanders | 1967 | 71. Wal (Jock) Lovett | 17.4.1982 |
| 33. Martin Smith | 24.3.1968 | 72. Col. Ted Palmer | 5.8.1982 |
| 34. Alf Saunders | 20.3.1968 | 73. Frank Dobbie | 20.3.1976 |
| 35. Les Wilton | Feb. 1968 | 74. Jack Stiglich | 7.9.1982 |
| 36. Henry Uebergang | 23.7.1968 | 75. Ted Nicholas | 19.1.1983. |
| 37. Clive Mathews | April 1969 | 76. Ern Milton | |
| 38. Les Paul | April 1969 | 77. P. Hill. | |
| 39. Stan Murphy | 1970 | 78. Ron Sincock. | 5.3.1983. |
| | April 1971 | | |