

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

(AFFILIATED WITH ANZAC HOUSE)

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Alan Sharp Ron Woff
Laurie Malkin

T E N T H T I T - B I T S N O . 2 4 - A P R I L 1 9 9 0

Our 45th Reunion will take the same format as last year and with your help it will be another success.

Same place

Same time

Same price

The place - Travelodge Motel on the corner of St. Kilda Road and Park Street, Melbourne, right opposite the Shrine.

The time - From 11.30 a.m.

The price - \$15. Actually the luncheon will cost the Association \$17 per head but the difference will be subsidised from the higher interest earned on our modest funds during the year!

The idea of a luncheon reunion is a winner, particularly as we get older and driving at night becomes less enjoyable.

At the recent picnic Jack Allen suggested that the Unit Association provide a room at Travelodge Motel for wives of members to use whilst the reunion is in progress. Jack relies on his wife NANCE to drive him in and feels that more members would attend if this facility was offered. We thought it was worth trying and a room has been booked in the Association's name for the use of the ladies. So 'girls' if you come to town with your husband by car, train, plane or bus you'll be welcome at the Motel. Some of our widows too may like to take the opportunity to freshen up after watching the march.

Last year 52 members sat down for lunch. Three interstate members - LLOYD STEWART, JACK COX and MURDOCH McMILLAN were welcomed as were three members who had been A.W.L. for a long while, namely RON MOYLE, ARTHUR BREADEN and JACK LAFFIN. Whilst quoting statistics (Tit-Bits to you!) the three oldest members present were MERV FEATONBY, LAURIE MALKIN and JOHN HALL, all in their early eighties and the two youngest were MICK MORROW and TED YOUNG both 64 years.

JACK CALDWELL'S toast to the unit was extremely interesting covering experiences from 1938 when he first joined the unit to the end of the war. He mentioned early unit members such as MORLEY, WILTON, LINDLEY and others met for the first time at the South Melbourne Drill Hall - followed by camps at Mornington and Seymour where he particularly remembered artist NEIL DOUGLAS and T.V. Comedian ALAN ROWE. Captain MANSON was his officer - on mounted horse - he was later lost when the Hospital Ship "CENTAUR" was sunk. Names and places continued - NAGAMBIE ROAD camp - Major STANLEY MCKENZIE, BONEGILLA, JIMBOOMBA, MARYBOROUGH, LANDSBOROUGH, route marches at TOWNSVILLE, MORESBY, Colonel TED PALMER, more route marches, DOBODURA, BUNA, SOPUTA, POPONDETTA, SANANANDA, ORO BAY, MOROBE, NADZAB, LAE, DREGER HARBOUR, FINCHHAVEN, ATHERTON TABLELANDS, MOROTAI, BALIKPAPAN and AMBON. JACK concluded by saying "We had some great times together, some under stress, some of pathos as we remember our three comrades who did not return. It was an honour to have been a member of the 10th Australian Field Ambulance."

Two suggestions were forthcoming for this years reunion, the first from NEIL GERRAND that we have an extra break during the luncheon to move around and talk and the second from STEVE LANGTON that members wear readable name tags.

THE MARCH

The claim to be the fittest must go to the 42 who marched last year enjoying the beautiful weather Melbourne turned on and the music from a Scottish Pipe Band. President MICK DUNN led us, ably assisted by ALEC REITH, MERVYN FEATONBY and LLOYD STEWART. Two of BOB KING'S grandsons carried the unit banner which was appreciated. This year we assemble as usual in COLLINS ST. midway between SWANSTON and ELIZABETH STS. but much earlier than usual. We could move off as early as 9.45 a.m. and 1st CORPS lead all W.W.2 services. The reason for the early start is to finish by 12.10 p.m. when all T.V. Channels commence broadcasting the dawn service live from GALLIPOLI. So we'll see you at 9.45 a.m. - make the effort. Incidentally we are arranging to have a T.V. set at the REUNION.

THE AFTERS - MARG and BOB KING again invite members to meet at their home after the REUNION.

LEST WE FORGET

Inevitably we have lost some of our mates during the year and mourn the passing of - AUB. VIMPANI, ALLAN FURMSTON, RON ROBERTS, JOCK ROE and Dr. J.P. LYTTLE. We also learned from JACK LAFFIN that in years past JACK MACKIE, MICKY VANN and NORM IRVINE had passed on.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS, WIVES AND WIDOWS

(Written to various committee members and edited for TIT-BITS)

Alice Springs

28.5.89

At the moment we are on our way round the west coast through Perth, back home in about four months.

About this time each year we pack the caravan and head north to SURFERS and NOOSA playing bowls and visiting family but decided on a change this year. Haven't seen many of the boys over the years - have been wondering how they all are. We are busier now than when working as our youngest

daughter lost her husband 18 months ago - with two youngsters 4 and 7 years - we are up to Aspendale once or twice a week to help out. Pushing off tomorrow for KUNUNURRA so will close with best wishes. KEITH BIRCHALL.

As you don't appear to head North until after Anzac Day what about coming to the Reunion Keith. You can then see all your old mates.

31 Beach Road, Rhyll 3923

June '89

When holidaying at Lakes Entrance we went to Orbost and were surprised to meet a cousin of EARL MATTHEWS. He still lives out at the same house in GRIEBONOW'S ROAD on the NEWMERELLA side of the Snowy River.

EARL is crippled with back trouble. His wife died some years ago with cancer and he has five daughters. He is able to spend some of his time with one or two of them who live in Canberra. EARL'S phone no. is (051) 54 1867. I contacted him and he sounded chirpy despite his back trouble. I asked him if he had received 10th TIT-BITS and he said "not for a while but I liked getting them." Remembering you had lost track of him I obtained his mailing address which is Box 309, ORBOST 3888.

EARL sends his greetings to all his mates of the 10th FIELD.

sincerely CLIFF WATKINS.

Thanks to our old mail-man Cliff and greetings to Earl.

11 Waldron Street, Sans Souci, 2219

18.12.89

I spoke to GEOFF FLOWER on the phone recently. He and JOYCE seem to be well considering they have moved yet again.

Also spoke to LES BEST and he and his wife IRENE are still able to get about. The last time I visited CHARLIE REDDINGS I was quite impressed with the way he looked. Charlie must now have had his 80th birthday. He is quite mobile and looks after his home and garden. My family are well spread out at the moment but believe me it is quite a gathering when we all get together with 10 grandchildren plus the rest of the family.

I certainly would like to join you all again for the 25th April next but will confirm this later. Kind regards, BOB JAMES.

We all hope you can make it Bob.

Box 97, P.O. Canley Heights, 2166

29.1.90

I have received all your Tenth Tit-Bits and really enjoy getting them. I would love to get down to Melbourne for Anzac Day to see some of the team - that would be very exciting. The only thing against it is the accommodation - could anyone arrange to put me up for the night? If I do get down I would need to be met at the station as I don't know much about Melbourne. I lost my wife on July 20 last year - died of a heart attack - so I am living by myself now. My daughter is in Brisbane but I have some good friends here. Hoping to hear from you, FRED MARLES.

Can we have a volunteer to help Fred out. If so please advise Ted Young on 569 8393.

Southport

1.2.90

By way of keeping you informed we have sold up here and on the 19th February will be returning to Melbourne. It will be a wrench leaving here but Tempis Fugits on and having spent 5 years here it is time to rejoin the family. We shall be staying with one of our daughters whilst looking for a house - preferably in the Dandenongs. The address for communications is C/- Mrs. C. Minter, "Monreale", Sassafras Creek Road, Sassafras, 3787. Best regards. SYD BIFFEN.

*Did you get a good price from the Japs Syd?
Welcome back - see you at the reunion.*

42 Cathcart Street, Goulburn, 2580

6.2.90

I am sorry to inform you that my husband DR. J.P. LYTTLE died on February 2nd after a month's illness. He was always sorry that he couldn't come to any reunions, living too far away. Yours sincerely. C.I. LYTTLE.

21 Duncan Street, Punchbowl, 2196

8.2.90

I will be unable to attend either the picnic or the reunion due to health problems. It seems I will never get to Melbourne to see you all, but my memory of our boys who came to Sydney, and we were able to entertain, will live with me forever.

After six angiograms, two open heart operations and an almost fatal attack of Legionairs Disease I am now on the list for another angiogram etc. I reckon I am creating some sort of record. My wife IRENE not to be outdone has also had an angiogram and is now waiting open heart surgery.

I have just phoned Ward 310 at Concord Hospital (Repat.) re KEN CLINCH. He had a heart attack just before Xmas and was rushed to Scone Hospital, since then he was sent to Concord by air ambulance, he is awaiting the results of his angiogram.

The elusive GEOFF FLOWER as at last contact now lives at Lot 8, Fernhill Road, Inverell, 2260.

I will say cheerio, regards to all the boys and I wish the Association all the best for the future. Yours sincerely, LES BEST.

No wonder Medicare is having a tough time! Great to hear from you Les - thanks for Geoff's address, he's had more moves than a chess board.

18 Pelman Avenue, Greenacre, 2190

12.2.90

Haven't much news this time as we have not done much in the last 12 months. I have had cataracts off left eye and had a hernia done. Must be cracking up in my old age, will be 69 on 5/3/90 so we are all getting older. I have not seen any of the troops here of late, see ROY DE JARLAIS at times and often see ROSE SCHLENKER, had a letter from BILL in Queensland, he seems to be O.K. All being well KATH and I will be down for the 25th so hope to see you all then. Kindest Regards, MURDOCH McMILLAN.

We certainly look forward to that Murdoch, thanks once again for writing.

C/- 3 Geoffrey Drive, Kilsyth, 3137

25.2.90

We are currently in Melbourne and were able to attend the picnic which we enjoyed very much. Before we left the Gold Coast we had a visit from RON and EILEEN HANDLEY. Lovely to see them and we had a good chat. Then on the way down we called on JOE and SYLVIA STRUDWICK at Yarrawonga. Nice to catch up with them and to see Joe taking some nourishment.

We went to Cairns last year as usual, nice and warm. BOB enjoyed his golf as he always does. Reading about TOM BREADEN in last years TIT-BITS BOB recalled the lecture by Captain COPELAND (JIMINY CRICKET) when he asked 'PRIVATE FINN' a question and wondered why everyone laughed. Good to read ANDY MCHATTIE'S letter about the little train from JIMBOOMBA to BEAUDESERT. It was known to the boys as the "SPIRIT OF SALTS" after its father the "SPIRIT OF PROGRESS".

Cheerio for now. MERLE CRAWFORD - FOR BOB.

You are a good correspondent Merle - thanks for the stories.

Treasurer VERN LAIDLAW receives a few notes with subscriptions and last year GEORGE BROWN, JACK STANDERWICK, BERT WEBSTER and ALAN PATRICK sent regards to fellow members - ALAN'S note is reproduced for your enjoyment.

Dear VERN, Apologies for not presenting myself at this year's gathering - MERYL had an accident. She fell off the running-board of the truck (stationary) whilst cleaning the windscreen prior to going to the local tip - she loves such outings! Anyhow, as she fell, she badly gashed the underside of her left arm - no shell dressings were available so she improvised with the chamois which stemmed the blood flow, but ruined the chamois. She's quite O.K. again after 14 stitches and is at present chopping the firewood. Best wishes to all, ALAN.

Hope she can still put the prawns on the barby mate!

This year a note apologising for not being able to get to the picnic was received from JOYCE MALONEY for husband MERTON also enclosed was a generous donation of \$25.

Thanks Mert. Regards from all to the 'Oberon Kid'.

Lot 20, Maule Street, Wingen, 2337

8.3.90

I was recently in Concord for investigation for coronary by-pass operation. It was considered the likelihood of relieving my angina pains was such that it did not warrant the risk of open heart surgery. So I have to depend on medication. I was in touch with LES BEST whilst in Sydney and he and BOB JAMES were going to visit but I came home before they decided on a date. BOB ROUGHAN came over to see me at home - he lives at Aberdeen some 30-40 kms. away. He is an expert at growing tomatoes and brought over a couple of cartons for us. BILL SHEFFIELD is having a few problems with his diverticulitis but otherwise keeping well. Give my regards to all the chaps as another year passes and I am unable to see them. KEN CLINCH.

Take good care of yourself Ken - thanks for your letter - Regards from all down here.

YARRAWONGA TRIP 1989

I'm in more strife than the early settlers with this report. Normally SYLVIA STRUDWICK writes a saga that makes Saturday's Age look small. This year she delegated the job to no less than three people and I have one report from JUNE REA and ESMA YOUNG and another from JACK ALLEN. What a popular weekend this is. Not wishing to offend the writers of either report I'll summarise by saying that the usual outings and gatherings were attended and a really happy time had by all. The motel accommodation has been booked again for this year and 'first timers' should contact TED YOUNG for details.

FAMILY PICNIC FEBRUARY 1990

In ideal weather conditions another successful picnic was held at Jell's Park. Numbers were down slightly but were sufficient to continue this event. Your support next year would be appreciated.

BITS AND PIECES

VERN LAIDLAW retired last year but didn't know how to fill in his time so returned to work three days a week! He has worked in the potato marketing field most of his life and donates a bag of spuds to the motel each year to make sure we have an adequate serving at the reunion.

WAL PAGE sends regards to all - he has just moved to C/- 35 Abigail Street, Hunters Hill, 2110.

KRUGER KING is still competing in R.S.L. swimming competitions.

TACK GRUNDY has recovered well from a stroke and it was good to see him at the picnic.

DR. MICK DUNN is currently writing a book on his experiences as a Medico over the years but don't worry he's not using real names. If your book turns out to be too long MICK you can always remove its appendix!

That's all for another year, keep smiling, 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	08/03/43	55. Sam Chaffey	1976
2. Jack Pigram	04/07/45	56. Cliff Drury	02/01/78
3. Ted Dunnel		57. Bob Adeney	20/03/78
4. Don Hiddleston		58. Claude Capstick	09/04/78
5. Jack Kelleher		59. Jim Drysdale	24/05/78
6. Peter Todd		60. John Stretton	24/06/78
7. John Bagshaw		61. Dick Rhodes	10/11/78
8. Harry Cowen		62. Dr. John Sands	23/01/80
9. Dr. Douglas McFarland		63. Jack Bateman	17/08/80
10. Albert De Lantye		64. Jack Wenke	03/09/80
11. Dr. Stan McKenzie		65. Roy Rasmussen	10/09/80
12. Noel Smith		66. Tom Heaney	
13. George Morley		67. Ted Monot	01/01/74
14. Jack Thompson		68. Lindsay Sampson	21/11/81
15. Bernie Cousins		69. Norm Douglas	09/01/82
16. Angus McKenzie	02/07/57	70. Jack Best	19/02/82
17. Russel Behrens	1958	71. Wal (Jock) Lovett	17/04/82
18. George Jenkins	1960	72. Col. Ted Palmer	05/08/82
19. Harold Hay	1960	73. Frank Dobbie	20/03/76
20. Jack Spokes	1961	74. Jack Stiglich	07/09/72
21. Bill Reid	03/03/61	75. Ted Nicholas	10/01/83
22. Jim Lyall	07/03/61	76. Ern Milton	
23. Norm Hart	27/08/61	77. P. Hill	
24. Bill Lyskey	16/11/61	78. Ron Sincock	05/03/83
25. Dr. Harry Francis	20/11/61	79. Bill Jones	14/12/83
26. Alan Fox	Feb.1962	80. Charlie Worboys	23/12/83
27. Ken Phillips	11/05/62	81. George Williams	
28. David Felstead	25/07/64	82. Dr. Joe Manton	30/05/84
29. Eric Veith	Jan.1967	83. Les (Bull) Martin	12/07/84
30. Bob Smith	21/02/67	84. Neil (Bunny) King	31/07/84
31. Dr. Alan Hewitt	1967	85. Bill Sturge	30/03/84
32. Clarrie Sanders	24/03/68	86. John (Dooley) Garlep	11/10/84
33. Martin Smith	20/03/68	87. Tom Eadie	
34. Alf Saunders	Feb.1968	88. Dr. Adrian Paul	10/02/85
35. Les Wilton	23/07/68	89. Ron Vernon	May 1985
36. Henry Uebergang	Apr.1969	90. Bill Allen	1985
37. Clive Mathews	Apr.1969	91. Bill Shepherd	26/10/85
38. Les Paul	1970	92. Roy McKim	24/11/85
39. Stan Murphy	Apr.1971	93. Harold Mollison	03/01/86
40. Gerald Black	Feb.1972	94. Harry Tozer	1985
41. Jack McGill	26/10/72	95. Alan Kilpatrick	24/04/86
42. Alan Tate	14/03/78	96. Ted (Bluey) Stroud	09/06/86
43. Arthur Hunt	03/05/73	97. Ray Frith	13/07/86
44. Arnold Lovell	12/05/73	98. Ted Tyrell	15/07/86
45. Harry Gaudion	18/07/73	99. Leo (Mick) Rea	14/11/86
46. Keith Goslett	23/01/74	100. Jeff McGill	20/11/86
47. Kel White	15/04/74	101. Fr. Jim English	08/12/86
48. Charles Craigie	12/09/74	102. A.G. (Mick) Arnott	01/01/87
49. John Osborne	29/10/74	103. Des Rea	09/04/87
50. Dr. Frank McArdle	12/12/74	104. Ray Meadows	01/07/87
51. Alf Swales	26/01/75	105. Eric Cornell	11/10/87
52. Ralph Hallam	20/05/75	106. Ron Crawford	04/11/87
53. Cyril Evans	25/07/75	107. Bob Mitchell	09/01/88
54. Jim (Bluey) Davis	04/11/75	108. Dave Johnston	14/03/88

109. Ray Zumpe	09/12/88	114. Aub. Vimpani	1989
110. Stan Herbert	08/01/89	115. Jack Mackie	
111. Alan Furmston	25/09/89	116. Mick Vann	
112. Jock Roe	07/11/89	117. Norm Irvine	
113. Ron Roberts	08/11/89	118. Dr. J.P. Lyttle	02/02/90