

1994

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

(AFFILIATED WITH ANZAC HOUSE)

PRESIDENT

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Jack Bacon 803 1886  
Laurie Malkin 822 3595  
Ron Woff 589 1576

Noel Norton 29 4612  
Ken Gordon 807 3942  
Wattie Tully 848 1891

Bob King 359 6612  
Alan Sharp 878 4552

LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs Glad White  
Bob King

Vern Laidlaw  
Dr Mick Dunn

Alan Sharp  
Laurie Malkin

Ron Woff

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TENTH TIT - BITS No. 28                      APRIL 1994

NOTICE OF OUR 49TH REUNION

THE PLACE

TRAVELODGE MOTEL

Corner St. Kilda Road and Park St., Melbourne.  
(Opposite the Shrine)

THE TIME

From 10.30 a.m.

**MONDAY 25TH, APRIL**

THE PRICE

\$15.

Once again the venue is perfect, the price is right! and all that is now required is your attendance. If you would like to bring your son or grandson please contact VERN LAIDLAW at least one week in advance. The association is again paying the difference between the \$15. charged to members and the actual charge of \$17.50, but visitors will be asked to pay the full amount.

Travelodge is providing a special discounted room rate of \$79. a single or a Twin Share for members who wish to stay overnight and is also again making a room available for wives from 11AM at no charge. As you will see this is our 49th Reunion and one item for discussion will be what special activity can we plan for our 50th Reunion next year.

THE MARCH As forwarned in the Picnic Notice our assembly point for this years' March has been changed. We now meet in FLINDERS STREET on the NORTH SIDE close to RUSSELL STREET. The units immediately preceding us are the 2/4 and 2/7 Australian General Hospitals. The March starts at 9 AM and the Army is last to move off. The leader of 1st Aust. Corps. moves off at 9.45 AM and we should be in position before this time.

LAST YEAR Our members dropped to 29 marchers but this may have been because it was a Sunday and the starting time - 9.15 AM. However it was a fine morning and MICK DUNN and ALEC REITH led us for the 31 minutes it took to reach the SHRINE. This was five minutes faster than the previous year. Our Banner carriers were again BRADLEY KING, JUSTIN STEVENS, THOMAS McGRATH and DEAN FALLON. From our new starting point we should break the 30 minute mark this year!.

1993 REUNION Although the number of Marchers was down our Reunion numbers were steady. Forty eight (48) members were joined by DICK HOLME'S son BRENDON, NEVILLE STEPHENS'S grandson JUSTIN and the late HAROLD GRUNDY'S son KEITH. Four Interstate members were welcomed: Dr. BILL BRAND, BOB JAMES, MURDOCH McMILLAN and GEOFF FLOWER all from N.S.W. A special welcome was also given to Dr. IAN WILSON who brought Dr. EMMET SPRING; Dr. ALEC REITH and MERV. FEATONBY.

APOLOGIES were received from NEIL GERRAND, KEN GORDON, FRED MARLES, ALAN and LES WILLIAMS, STEVE LANGTON, DON BRAIN, BILL SHEFFIELD, DOUG POTTER, JOHN GRANT, WALLY PAGE and ARTHUR ROCKET.

TREASURERS REPORT VERN LAIDLAW reported that our current account stood at \$624.36 but accounts to be paid for "TIT.BITS" \$113.45 and the PICNIC \$71.00 would reduce this to \$510.91. Our investment account would increase to \$2834.53 as at May 1993. Auditor LAURIE MALKIN confirmed these accounts. Financial members numbered 95 plus 7 WIDOWS.

TOAST TO THE UNIT

President MICK invited Dr. JOHN LAWRENCE to propose this TOAST and JOHN opened with a tribute to previous members who had undertaken this task. He recalled the early days of 1940 when he arrived at SEYMOUR for a 70 day camp to be met by "MADMAC" and BOB CRAWFORD. The 70 days soon became 90 days and eventually 5 years! Early training was in the local hospital and then in the camp hospital at NAGAMBIE ROAD. Recollections included the influx of 'BOYSTOWN' and of officers including CAPTAIN COPELAND (JIMINY CRICKET), of learning to salute, route marches, catching rabbits and the resulting stew, the 'walk' to BONEGILLA and the later train trip through NSW to JIM BOOMBA, later to MARYBOROUGH and then LANDSBOROUGH. JOHN paid tribute to 'MADMAC' who really trained and prepared the unit well for what was to follow for us - but not for him. The sea voyage "overseas" held memories for all and John mentioned how he semaphored messages to his brother Harold who was on another ship in the Townsville Harbour. Then at last to NEW GUINEA and actual battle casualties as we served in the AGH at PORT MORESBY, it was there that he was introduced to night duty which became a frequent calling for him later. He was in the group which went to BUNA by plane - with no parachutes - and found real stretcher bearing with a nearby sniper not the happiest way to enjoy a day or night. After walking to POPONDETTA he contracted malaria and found himself back in MORESBY. From there he joined nine other unit members who flew to MILNE BAY and walked up the JACOBS LADDER of the ill-fated S.S. JACOB as it sailed out of the Bay and was sunk on its way to ORO BAY. This was when our first casualty occurred - the death of BRUCE PASCOE. JOHN and other survivors were picked up by HMAS 'BENDIGO' and later rejoined the unit at ORO BAY. He worked in the 'famous' camp hospital there and assisted with some of the SCRUB TYPHUS patients. He was seconded to the R.A.P. of a signals unit at MOROBE and mentioned the sea evacuation of patients back to ORO BAY.

After a malaria relapse on home leave he eventually caught up with the unit at WONGABEL.

When the call was made for the unit to be an A.I.F. unit he had personal reasons for remaining a militia-man, so transferred to the 15th FIELD AMBULANCE.

John recalled how proud he was to have been a member of the 10th FIELD AMBULANCE.

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

President MICK warmly welcomed the interesting TOAST and mentioned that he joined the 10th at WONGABEL. It was a problem to train the 10th who had such a good record in tropical diseases and the care thereof but any boredom was greatly relieved by the route marches to the LAKES - a day spent there - then return by trucks. These were greatly appreciated by the boys, but did not go down too well with the V.I.P's.'

We always enjoy MICKS' responses.

NEWS OF ABSENT MEMBERS The following were mentioned, mainly by VERN LAIDLAW. BERT WEBSTER, ANDY McHATTIE, DANNY BISHOP, LLOYD STUART, FRED MARLES, WALLY PAGE who sent a FAX which included his apology and the query "Any survivors still around?" an allusion of course to the S.S. JACOB sinking, RON HANDLY, BILL SHEFFIELD, KEITH BIRCHALL and CURLY BLIGH.

LEST WE FORGET We are saddened to report the death of eight (8) of our members during the year and they will be particularly remembered at our REUNION this year. EDDIE MOTT 16/6/93 MURDOCH McMILLAN 25/7/93 EDDIE SULLIVAN 6/9/93 DR. GEORGE MARKS 4/11/93 HAROLD LAWRENCE 18/1/94 DR. EMMET SPRING 21/1/94. HORRIE VIMPANI 22/2/94 and KEN CLINCH 13/3/94.

#### LETTERS FROM MEMBERS AND OTHERS

11 Waldron Street, Sans Souci 2219

20 January 1994

Greetings! I trust you are well and had a happy Christmas and are all now enjoying a great New Year. The family celebrated Christmas at my place and with ten grandchildren this is no mean feat. All went well and we had an enjoyable day. I can't say the same for NSW as a whole, with bushfires raging out of control along parts of the coast and into the mountain areas. Lots of damage resulted. N.S.W. owes a debt of gratitude to those interstate men and women who dropped everything and came to our aid.

BOB KING and I were asked to carry the Banner representing the Unit at the ENTOMBING OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER CEREMONY and I was asked to write a report on what took place - apart from the honor of being able to be present at such an historic event, I enjoyed spending a day or so with BOB, MARG and VICKI their daughter. There was a full bus load from Melbourne and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Regards to all,  
BOB JAMES

Here is Bobs' report:

Last year prior to the 11th November the Australian War Memorial on behalf of all Australians undertook to exhume the remains of an Australian Unknown Soldier from a Battlefield Cemetery in France or Belgium. While it was in this region of the World that Australia suffered it's greatest loss of life in War - The Memorial regarded the unknown soldier as a symbol of the sacrifice of all Australians who served and died in all conflicts.

To make this a national event the Memorial asked as many Ex-Service Associations as possible to form a guard of honor for the Unknown Soldier during the last stage of his journey up Anzac Parade to his final resting place in the Memorial Hall of Memory.

BOB KING and I were asked by our Association if we would undertake the job of banner bearers. We both agreed and considered it an honor to represent the 10th Fd. Amb. (A.I.F.) on this great occasion. Bob from Victoria and myself from N.S.W.

The ceremony was a solemn occasion carried out with due reverence befitting such an event. We who carried banners were lined along the entire Anzac Parade forming a guard of honor. The coffin was set on a guncarriage and as it passed we were able to reflect on this great moment when one unknown Australian soldier representing the thousands of young lives lost in battles around the World was in such close proximity. It was indeed a very moving experience as the cortege moved by us, the banner bearers in their turn fell in behind and became part of the procession and continued to the parade ground in front of the Australian War Memorial where we broke off to listen to the Service that followed. At the completion of the service the Unknown Soldier was carried into the memorial passing the pool of reflection and Roll of Honor and was layed to rest in the tomb at 11.AM. I feel that the Prime Minister summed up the purpose behind the interment of the Unknown Soldier very well. The reason being not to glorify war or peace, or to assert the Soldiers' character above the civilians' or one race or nation or one religion above another, or men above women or the war in which he fought and died above any other or one generation above any that was or will come later, but the unknown soldier honors the memory of all men and women who laid down their lives for Australia. This tomb is a reminder of what we have lost in war and what we have gained. We have lost more than 100,000. lives and with them all their love of this Country and their hopes and energy, but we have gained a legend - a story of bravery and sacrifice and with it a deeper faith in ourselves and our democracy and what it means to be an Australian.

*I'm sure we all thank the '2 BOBS' for representing us and BOB JAMES for this outstanding report.*

Following EDDIE MOTT'S death we received a note from his widow JEAN thanking the Association for the sympathy card and enclosing the following story which she had typed some years ago. Eddie apparently forgot to send it. Thank you JEAN, we publish it with very fond memories of EDDIE.

Early in 1943 a number of our unit were sent from ORO BAY to MOROBE on the north coast of NEW GUINEA for the purpose of evacuating patients by sea, first to our hospital at ORO BAY and then later to the A.G.H. at MORESBY. On one such trip we had to bring back replacements such as blankets and stretchers. One of our personnel, nicknamed "Mate", went down the coast with some patients, and on returning to MOROBE arrived at our holding camp on foot to get a jeep to go to the jetty to bring three packs of blankets to our camp. On arriving with the three packs he said two packs were to go to Q. Store and one to our tent. We of course became curious as to what was in the third pack. When opened in the tent it turned out to be a large carton full of packets of cornflakes!

It appears that on the trip back to MOROBE, the two packs of blankets were put on board the barge or small ship near the carton of cornflakes. We always travelled at night, and under cover of darkness the cornflakes pack was made to look like a pack of blankets. So our tent enjoyed cornflakes (a real luxury) for breakfast for three months! This was what we called "scrounging".

EDDIE MOTT

17 Ben Lexen Drive, Sunshine Beach, Queensland

14 - 2 - 94

Please find enclosed cheque for subs. also change of address. As you can see we have finally moved to sunny Queensland after many years of spending our winters there. Apologies for picnic day, we will be touring Tasmania.

Regards to all the boys,

Sincerely,

KEITH BIRCHALL

*We haven't given up hope of seeing you KEITH, the Transport boys need your support. What about a big effort for the 50th next year?*

10 Mialo Street, Lake Cathie, N.S.W. 2445

14 - 2 - 94

Attached find cheque for subscription. I fully intended to be in Melbourne for Anzac Day this year but now its only a 50/50 proposition as other commitments may force us to delay our Melbourne visit till later in the year. Life goes on much the same up here, golf, tennis, fishing - plus a lot of hard work at home - garden lawn etc. - a tough life but somebody has to do it I guess!! If I don't make it to the Reunion I wish you well for a good roll up and pleasant time.

Cheers,

JOHN (HORRA) COX

*If enthusiasum could be bottled and sold you'd be a millionaire COXY. See you when you do come down.*

Letters were received from the following members last year just too late for publication - JOHN GRANT, BILL SHEFFIELD, ARTHUR ROCKETT, DOUG POTTER and LES WILLIAMS - but were acknowledged at the Reunion. Most of the information contained in them is now out of date but the following extract from LES BEST'S letter is a worthy TIT-BIT:-

I often think of our SEA AMBULANCE experience when we were taken to FINSCHHAFEN by L.C.M. and landed on a coral outlet. I immediately dug a small slit trench, it was hard work but deep enough to protect my head and bum. The following morning we were strafed by a ZERO, before I could make it to the trench my late brother JACK beat me and I fell in on top of him. Next day he made his own trench!.

*It sounds as if that trench had the 'best of both' as well as 'both the BEST'S'.  
Thanks, Les.*

## BITS AND PIECES

The Social organisers BOB KING and WATTIE TULLEY report that although numbers were down this year at both Yarrowonga and the Picnic both of these events will definitely be on again. Yarrowonga weekend is the 4th weekend in October and either of the above members will be pleased to give details.

BOB and MARJ KING again invite members to the 'get together' at their home following the Reunion. Last year ANDY McHATTIE was brought from his nursing home for an hour or two and was the life of the party.

Many members donate an extra amount either when paying their subs. or paying for lunch at the Reunion - We say thank you to all and this gesture is greatly appreciated. ARTHUR ROCKETT from Queensland has been particularly generous and it is a shame that his eyesight has deteriorated too much for him to travel down now.

Among those who are sick is FRANK REID of KYABRAM. His wife NORMA advises that FRANK was recently admitted to a nursing home and is in a frail condition.

Members who have had a spell in Hospital include MICK DUNN who had two cataract operations, VERN LAIDLAW - a hip replacement, JOHN GRANT - fractured femur. Our Welfare Officer JACK BACON continues to do a great job.

During the year we were contacted by DR. STAN McKENZIE son of our former Commanding Officer, VERN invited him to our Reunion and he is going to come along and is sure of a big welcome.

One idea which has been suggested for our 50th Anniversary Celebration is that we hold our normal reunion on Anzac Day, which is Tuesday next year, but on the Monday we hold a luncheon to which wives and widow members are invited. Lets' have your ideas.

At long last MICK DUNNS' book has been finished - and is finished!. It is not to be published unfortunately. I believe that PAUL HOGAN tried to get hold of it to make another film - was thinking of calling it DIAL-A-DOC DUNN EE !

Thats enough for this time, keep smiling.

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

93.	Harold Mollison	03/01/86
94.	Harry Tozer	1985
95.	Alan Kilpatrick	24/04/86
96.	Ted (Bluey) Stroud	09/06/86
97.	Ray Frith	13/07/86
98.	Ted Tyrell	15/07/86
99.	Leo (Mick) Rea	14/11/86
100.	Jeff McGill	20/11/86
101.	Fr. Jim English	08/12/86
102.	A.G. (Mick) Arnott	01/01/87
103.	Des Rea	09/04/87
104.	Ray Meadows	01/07/87
105.	Eric Cornell	11/10/87
106.	Ron Crawford	04/11/87
107.	Bob Mitchell	09/01/88
108.	Dave Johnston	14/03/88
109.	Ray Zumpe	09/12/88
110.	Stan Herbert	08/01/89
111.	Alan Furmston	25/09/89
112.	Jock Roe	07/11/89
113.	Ron Roberts	08/11/89
114.	Jack MacKie	
115.	Mick Vann	
116.	Norm Irvine	6/88
117.	Dr. J.P. Lyttle	02/02/90
118.	George Bruce	4/90
119.	Alec Murphy	17/08/90
120.	Bill Schlenker	21/08/90
121.	Doug Clemens	28/09/90
122.	Joe Strudwick	31/10/90
123.	Clem Winchester	03/12/90
124.	George Johnston	15/03/91
125.	Dr. Gavin Johnson	29/08/91
126.	Aub. Vimpani	19/09/91
127.	Jim Loveridge	01/12/91
128.	Syd Biffen	20/04/92
129.	Harold (Tac) Grundy	03/05/92
130.	Harry Williams	09/11/92
131.	Eddie Mott	16/06/93
132.	Murdoch McMillan	25/07/93
133.	Eddie Sullivan	6/09/93
134.	Dr. George Marks	4/11/93
135.	Harold Lawrence	18/01/94
136.	Dr. Emmet Spring	21/01/94
137.	Horrie Vimpani	22/02/94
138.	Ken Clinch	13/03/94

Prohvan Drive/Pool

12<sup>th</sup> June  
1954  
1946  
10<sup>th</sup> 55  
→ 28/6/46  
Reunion Dr McKee  
Angus House  
1<sup>st</sup> City  
motel → 14/10/46