

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

**(AFFILIATED WITH ANZAC HOUSE)**

*Brendan*

**PRESIDENT**

Dr. Mick Dunn  
27 Eglinton Street  
KEW VIC 3101  
Phone: 853 7035

**SECRETARY**

Dick Holmes  
58 Belgravia Ave  
BOX HILL NTH 3129  
Phone: 857 7418

**ASST. SECRETARY**

Ken Stanley  
73 Corhampton Road  
NTH BALWYN VIC 3104  
Phone: 859 1536

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Ted Young *by phone*  
1 Dalston Road  
OAKLEIGH VIC 3166  
Phone: 569 8393

**TREASURER**

Vern Laidlaw  
24 Belmore Road  
BALWYN VIC 3103  
Phone: 859 2995

**COMMITTEE**

Jack Bacon 803 1886    Noel Norton 29 4612  
Laurie Malkin 822 3595    Ken Gordon 807 3942  
Ron Woff 589 1576    Wattie Tully 848 1891

*100%*    *2 trips to Hospital July 95*  
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. 29                      APRIL 1995**

**NOTICE OF OUR 50TH REUNION**

**THE PLACE    TRAVELODGE MOTEL**

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

**THE TIME**    From 11.00 a.m.                      **TUESDAY 25TH, APRIL**

**THE PRICE**    \$18.

As you are well aware by now, this years' REUNION is very special - not only is it our 50th Reunion, but it is also the first time we have invited our Ladies to join us. We have planned a great get-together with plenty of nostalgia and good humour. So far there has been a great response from members and we are certain to have a full house!

There would be few W.W.2. Unit Associations as old as ours and this in itself is something to be proud of.

Alan Sharp was able to produce from the records held by him confirmation that our first reunion was held at the Prahran Drill Hall on 28 June 1946 so we proudly celebrate our 50th this year.

The historic entries reproduced below tell the story: -

Office Bearers elected at First Reunion held at Prahran Drill Hall

28-6-46

President	Dr. S McKenzie
Secretary	K. White
Auditor	R. De Jarlais
Committeemen	M. Featonby
	C. Winchester
	E. Strevens
	E. Stroud
	L. Martin

First Committee Meeting held at ANZAC House Collins Street, Melbourne at 8. PM 14-10-46.

10 AUST. FD AMB 28/6/46

CASH IN HAND

DONATIONS

Dr. S.A. McKenzie	1	0	0
Mr. K. Flintoff		5	0
Mr. R. Frith		5	0
Mr. A.G. Phillips		5	0

FEES RECEIVED AT DOOR

137 Persons 5/- per head 34 15 0

CASH RETURN BEER 5 10 6

TOTAL £ 42 0 6

CASH IN HAND £ 42 0 6

EXPENSES £ 41 2 3

BALANCE - 18 3

PROFIT OF 18/3

THIS YEARS' MARCH We assemble in FLINDERS STREET near the Herald Building at 9.30 AM and are hoping for a record roll-up, though advancing years make this harder to achieve. If you are fit it is really worth the effort.

The following minutes are reproduced in full to avoid the necessity of reading them out at the reunion.

**10TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE (A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION  
REUNION ANZAC DAY 25TH APRIL 1994**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

Held in the Domain room of the Travelodge Motel, St Kilda Road, Melbourne at 11.45 AM.

THE MARCH 36 members marched (29 last year) under a sunny sky on a reasonably calm Monday morning.

We set off from a new assembly area on the north side of Flinders Street, just west of Exhibition St at 10.05 am, led by President MICK DUNN assisted by ALEC REITH the banner was carried by JUSTIN and BRADLEY MURPHY, assisted by PAMELA MCMILLAN, THOMAS McGRATH, DEAN FALLON and ERN STREVENS.

We passed the saluting base at 10.40 - 32 enjoyable minutes later (1 minute slower than last year).

**RE-UNION**

52 members attended the lunch and general meeting. We also welcomed DR. MALCOLM McKENZIE son of COL. McKENZIE, PETER DRYSDALE, DAVID HALL, BRENDON HOLMES, DENNIS STEVENS and KEITH GRUNDY, DR. MURRAY VERSO was also welcomed.

LOYAL TOAST

President MICK DUNN opened the meeting and called on MERVYN FEATONBY to propose the Loyal Toast.

LEST WE FORGET

President MICK DUNN called on the members to stand for the traditional 2 minutes silence in honour of departed comrades concluding with "Lest We Forget".

LAST POST

The Last Post was not sounded. (someone forgot the tape!)

HONOUR ROLL

Secretary DICK and Assistant Secretary KEN shared the reading of the names of 138 deceased members.

INTERSTATE MEMBER

RON HANDLEY was the only interstate member this year.

APOLOGIES

DR. BILL BRAND, DR. IAN WILSON, LLOYD STUART, KEN GORDON, JACK COX, GEOFF FLOWER, NOEL NORTON, and STEVE LANGTON.

MINUTES OF LAST RE-UNION 25TH APRIL 1993

Secretary DICK read the minutes of the last reunion. Confirmed on motion of DAVE JAMES and seconded by JACK BACON.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer VERN reported that the membership of the Association was 87 (95 last year) plus 6 widows (7 last year) i.e. 93 (102 last year).

He reported that the current account balance of \$624.36 at the start of the year had decreased to \$537.97 at today.

The investment account had increased from \$2,744.65 to be \$3,009.00 today, auditor LAWRIE MALKIN confirmed these figures.

He also reported on the co-operation of Travelodge in keeping the meal cost to \$17.50 (for visitors) and \$15.00 for members - subsidised by the Association on the decision of the March 94 Executive Committee. Two free rooms were available for wives during today and a special room rate for overnight visitors. No luncheon charge was made to the Interstate members.

This report was received with appreciation to VERN on the motion of JACK ALLEN, seconded by JOHN GRANT.

10TH TIT BITS

Editor RON commented that he greatly missed the annual contribution of MURDOCH McMILLAN who passed away in July 93. He expressed appreciation to his family production team.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was in 10th Tit Bits except letters from LEW COURTNEY, DR. A.J. BARNETT, ARTHUR ROCKETT and MARY LAWRENCE (widow of HAROLD).

## TOAST TO THE UNIT

President MICK invited DR. ROSS HAYTER of Yackandanda to propose the toast to the unit.

Ross's Toast:-

"Thank you for the privilege and the honour to propose this most important toast.

The tenth were, by its nature, a most fragmented unit whilst on active service, and that is the only time in which I was involved with you, and then for only a period of eighteen months out of almost five years of army service.

On the day of my enlistment as a re-enforcement to the 8th Division, a shy youth insisted to the senior sergeant major at Sydney Showground that I wished to join the Medical Corps. He commenced by being even more insistent that I go into signals because of my four years of experience as a bank clerk. However my persistence persuaded him finally and that was the nucleus of my medical career. To my good fortune Singapore fell not long after enlistment and I was spared the horrors of Changi, Burma railway, etc.

To Queensland as part of the 22nd Field Ambulance and the "Brisbane Line", of which, I understand, the 10th was also a part. After twelve months in Queensland under quite vigorous training by then Major, TED PALMER, it was off to New Guinea as a general re-enforcement.

During our Queensland training it appeared that whilst on a route march or such, every time we came to a steep hill, our Major would decide that it was just the place to carry a patient - so we marchers became stretcher bearers.

To New Guinea Christmas 1942, at sea in the hospital ship Manunda - even dancing on board in our heavy boots with nurses, many headed for 2/7 AGH at Moresby. In Moresby, at Murray Barracks, often bored with the inactivity, GEOFF FLOWER and I went AWL one afternoon to see his brother JIM who was camped up above Rouna Falls at Segiri. We met up with some difficulty and as the usual afternoon torrential thunder storm broke over us he suggested we stay the night and go down next morning. GEOFF was agreeable but I insisted we get back to camp. I could see myself being shot as a deserter. We did get back and found that we were embarking by sea at dawn next morning with the 10th. To our relief BOB JAMES and BOB MITCHELL as well as TED PALMER were with us. My early recollections of Oro Bay are vague but I can well remember two incidences. Our first job was unloading ammunitions off a small vessel in the harbour, well camouflaged by an overhanging tree. Then one of the ASC "boys" taking a 303 shot at the nose of a huge croc. No doubt the bullet just tickled him and we were amazed at the power of the huge animal as he lashed the water in his irritation.

At one stage I worked as a nursing orderly at an Allied hospital in a mission church. A poor American had just had his piles operated on. He needed a blood transfusion and in changing the bottles over I placed the new bottle of blood on the altar. The missionary admonished me and my reply still sticks in my mind - "Christ would not object!".

Oro Bay to Soputa, remember that dreadful track and how we straggled! I believe our officers were criticised for allowing us to behave so badly.

From Soputa to the Sanananda track - our first real experience of war. We so called non-combatants soon acquiring rifles as we too were sniper targets.

That track, its flooded corduroy road broken and twisted - four people were not adequate to carry one man, six or eight were required. In my fatigue the words of that old hymn "Breathe on me breath of God and fill me with life anew" kept coming back to me. The flood waters carrying maggot infested bodies of Japanese, the sons of poor Japanese parents who will know, one day, that their loved ones will never come home.

That camp on a slightly elevated knoll, and down the back the latrine. I ventured off that path, only to be stopped as I saw the trip wire of a booby trapped hand grenade in front of me.

Back to Soputa to work in the field hospital which had been hastily moved from the high river back into the nearby jungle after being bombed by the Japanese in spite of all the Red Cross insignia displayed. Then 10 inches of rain that night, our surgeons operating in nearly two feet of water. Next morning we took a meal (how did those cooks manage anything) to the patients in stretchers just slightly above water level. We were in water half way up our shins.

My next recollection is on a happier note. We were on Sanananda Point waiting for a barge to take us back to Oro Bay. Somehow a crate of tin peas was dropped and those near enough grabbed a can. Cold tinned peas have never tasted as good.

Oro Bay the camp hospital and the scrub typhus ward will always haunt me as it was here that a grave mistake was made by me and the officers of our unit. A malaria slide report came back from the pathology tent stating "heavy infection, recommend I.V. Quinine immediately". Today I.V. means only one thing to me - intra-venous, but having been brought up in a home where the family clock had Roman numerals, I gave the patient four quinine - he died that night.

On a light side, remember the American concert party who were performing in a partly completed ward with a wire mesh floor. An air raid alert - the concert party disappeared but we watched as the search lights came on and picked up the bombers immediately. It was our first experience of radar controlled search lights. Our Ack-Ack disposed of the bombers very quickly.

Whilst at Oro Bay TED (now Colonel) PALMER took us on several bivouacs into the surrounding areas. His theme was "Time spent in reconnaissance is never wasted". I enjoyed these immensely and still do this type of activity.

Now up the coast, first to Morobe - no swimming allowed - "if the crocs and sharks don't get you the barracuda will". I was sent to look after a native hospital across the harbour and this stimulated my interest in this type of work. Then sea ambulance transport followed up to Tambu and Nassau Bays, then Lae. Remember DR. JOHN SANDS and his incredible ability to move casualties by his organisation of any ship in Lae Harbour.

Then on to Finschhafen and Dreger Hafen, where GEOFF FLOWER shot the missionary's pig. No pig was ever scrubbed, gutted, cooked and eaten so quickly. All evidence of his dastardly act had to be destroyed. Also at Dreger I recall KEL WHITE, setting up his xylophone by hanging eight beer bottles along a branch of a tree and filling them with varying amounts of water to tune them. He said he was a trainee piano tuner before enlisting.

My short army career with the 10th ended here. I transferred over to ANGAU to be trained to run native hospitals. This I enjoyed immensely and led me to my life in medicine.

In summing up, I came into the 10th as a re-enforcement, never did I feel an outsider, comradeship was there from the beginning. What formative years they were and how lucky we were to have the leaders that we had - TED PALMER, EMMET SPRING, ADRIAN PAUL, BILL BRAND, IAN WILSON, FRANK McARDLE, BOB MITCHELL, BOB JAMES, MERV FEATONBY to name just a few. All gave us a wonderful example which I'm sure has helped develop our characters in the full lives which we have and by the grace of God continue to enjoy. Compassion was a trait shared by all who served in the unit. In particular I must mention the welfare work which has been and still is carried on tirelessly by members of the unit in peace time, in hospital visiting and general support for those less fortunate than ourselves. All other associations to which I belong are always looking for new and young members. That is not for us but is great to see the sons of some of our members coming along to these re-unions. I hope that they will be inspired by their fathers to continue the welfare works.

With pride and pleasure I propose this toast to the 10th Field Ambulance of the A.I.F."

### PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

President MICK warmly responded to the toast. He commented on the attendance and the various places that the unit had to assemble for the march, from Queen Victoria Market to beside Flinders St Railway Yards.

He also mentioned the various venues for the Re-union and made comments on the advancements in medicine such as hip replacements, plastic eyes, transplants, and the like. He also thanked the Committee for their work throughout the year and also all the members at the luncheon for behaving like true gentlemen.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

WATTIE TULLY reported on the successful Yarrawonga trip in October 93 though numbers were slightly down. He made a plea for a better attendance in October 94. It was agreed that \$100.00 would again be available towards expenses.

### PICNIC 1994

WATTIE TULLY made similar comments as for Yarrawonga and advised that Sunday 19th February 95 was next years date.

### WELFARE

JACK BACON reported that 10th Tit Bits had all the news except that KEN GORDON is very ill.

### LEGACY DONATION

MERVYN FEATONBY moved, seconded by JACK BACON, that \$100 again be given to Legacy - agreed.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

After much discussion and very many suggestions the following amended motion was agreed to:- "That a 50th Anniversary Re-union luncheon be held on Anzac Day 1995, after the march as usual. Invitations to be issued to members, wives or partners, sons of members who have already attended a luncheon, and all widows."

The arrangements were left in the hands of the Committee who should note:-

- 1 Travelodge desirable venue for at least 100.
- 2 Interstate members.
- 3 RSVP 30 days in advance.
- 4 Possible payment in advance.
- 5 If 100 is accommodation limit then first in only to be accepted.

DR. MALCOLM McKENZIE SON OF COLONEL STAN McKENZIE

DR. MALCOLM McKENZIE expressed appreciation at being invited to attend the Re-union and to say a few words.

He noticed a contact when MURDOCH McMILLANS funeral notice was in the press.

He said that his father had a great admiration for the 10th and wanted it to be the best. MALCOLM was only a lad during the war but remembered his father set high standards and did not suffer fools lightly. He remembered his dad talking of night marches. COLONEL McKENZIE died 38 years ago and MALCOLM had only graduated 3 years before COLONEL McKENZIE died. MALCOLM said many thanks for the invitation to be here.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

PRESIDENT MICK DUNN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 2.15 PM.

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LEST WE FORGET

Three members have died since our last issue and we respectfully record their passing JOHN HALL 18/8/94 CECIL(MA) KELLY 20/5/94 BILL(NANA) DICKSON 14/9/94. Also we received a letter from the son of our NSW members BILL CHAPMAN advising that BILL died on 2/3/85.

LETTERS OF INTEREST

The response this year has been so great that I just could not fit them all in. Sincere apologies to those who missed out mainly the later ones - hopefully some will make it next year.



P.O. Box 242, (1 Shirley Ct) Cowes, 3922

13 - 2 - 95

I expect you will recall the time when the 10.F.A. was involved in a research project whose objective was to attempt to discover the vector which carries Scrub Typhus - this all occurred when we were at WONGABEL on the ATHERTON Tableland. (FORDE'S FATTENING PADDOCK).

BOB BECK, who was in charge of the Malaria Control Unit that was then living with us, was given the job of trapping native animals in the BELLENDEN KER ranges using large wooden traps, box like shape, which didn't in any way harm the animals, mainly things like bandicoots, native cats, native rats, possums etc. 'These traps' were laid out late afternoon, inspected next morning and any animals trapped brought back to 10.F.A. where I had the job of anaesthetising them, this done, the animal was laid out on a white sheet whilst one entomologist combed through their fur whilst the other caught fleas and parasites with a soft brush dipped in methylated spirit and so transferred them to small separate bottles - blood was then drawn from the big vein running down the inside of the hind leg. I'm not quite sure what happened then but I think both blood and animal were sent up to one other of the A.G.H.'s then at ROCKY CREEK and from there to the Hall Institute at the Royal Melbourne Hospital for antibody 'determinations' etc. - what the final results were I don't know, the vector is today believed to be a mite of some kind.

My own particular interest in this is that (although I've never been able to check up on dates). I developed a fever which was later diagnosed as primary atypical pneumonia and also that MISS DORA LUSH an M.Sc. graduate working as the Hall Institute on Scrub Typhus died from it whilst working there.

kindest regards,  
ALEX REITH

*Thanks ALEX - A "MITEY" interesting story.*

26 Ivy Street, Hampton 3188

February 1995

Thank-you for the notice regarding the unit picnic. In response to your request of an experience had while in the unit, I enclose the following (others probably had similar experiences).

At Balikpapan I, with others (sorry I have forgotten their names) was attached to a commando unit 200 strong. They operated about two miles ahead of the front line. One night I could not get to sleep as we were expecting a counter attack.

I knew that as a christian nothing could happen to me unless it was my Lord's will and His will is always best. I committed myself to the Lord in prayer and in a few minutes I was asleep. I knew that without my God I would have been just as scared as anyone else.

I am reminded of the saying. "There are no atheists in foxholes".

Regards,  
ARTHUR BACHELOR

*Look forward to seeing you NORMA at the reunion ARTHUR.*

58 Belgravia Avenue, Box Hill North, Vic. 3129

14 - 2 - 95

One day at LANDSBOROUGH the duty N.C.O. called out for me and instructed me to report to the acting C.O., MAJOR JOHNSON. I duly entered his tent office and was informed to my complete surprise that a signal had been received from A.A.H.Q. with instructions that I was to be permitted to proceed to Brisbane by the first train on 8 October 1942!

Dressed in my uniform and newly dyed jungle green belt, gaiters and haversack I arrived in Brisbane. There were many stares from soldiers in khaki!

This trip had been arranged by my sister MEG who was then a sergeant at A.A.H.Q. She introduced me to various "brass hats" including COLONEL STEELE who confirmed that I was going to NEW GUINEA and said "Be sure to take a tin of Johnson's baby powder!"

Two days after my return we were instructed by the QM to take all surplus blankets to a canvas covered 3 ton truck where we heaved them in. When my turn came to toss mine in the Q.M., LES WILTON couldn't hold his curiosity any longer and said "how did you get leave to Brisbane?" so I said "My sister organised it!" Astonished he said "what's her name?" I said "Meg" to which he said "I used to go to school with a MEG HOLMES at Canterbury". He then said "How would you like to go and see her again?" Next thing I was up in the truck and the blankets kept coming in and I was told to keep low and was covered over! In due course the truck with QM proceeded out on the Bruce Highway and when at a sufficient distance from camp I was uncovered and so got to WOOLLOONGABBA where we handed in all the blankets and then went to see MEG at A.A.H.Q.!

If you recall seeing a grey Chevrolet sedan staff car circling Ascot race course the day before our departure it was MEG who came to say farewell and, sworn to secrecy, I was told exactly where we were to be sent with the alternatives should circumstances alter it.

DICK HOLMES

*Sounds like a real "undercover" story Dick.*

"Strathalan" Erskine Road, Macleod 3085

February 1995

Here are two items that may be of interest.

(1) "Up the Square" - how it started. We were at JIMBOOMBA, A. & B. companies out on exercise - H.Q. back at base, first midday meal, those two popular sergeants, JOHNNY CALDWELL and JACK CHENHALS left their mess and came in with us. My old pal, the late DON HIDDLESTON and I started talking "aliens in our mess, down with invaders, death to all, especially sergeants. We'll have a bloody square." This tirade went on right through the meal. Then when I went out on my round on the water cart (imagine the anguish of old Col. S.A. at this description) I started calling out "Up the Square".

(2) When we were at LANDSBOROUGH we used to go into CALOUNDRA for our water. This day the late MURDOCH McMILLAN was driving. A storm broke, rain, hail and trees flying through the air. One tree jammed under our front wheels - we came to a sudden stop. MURDOCH turned to me and said "Am I as white as you Pop?" My reply, "If I'm any whiter than you MURDOCH, I sure am white!"

All for now fellows,

"Up The Square"

RAY (POP) COOK

*When the twenty or so of us joined the 10th at Landsborough (from the 4th F.A.) the call of "Up The Square" was often heard, but when asked what it meant, no-one seemed to know - mystery solved!*

3 Jane Street, East Bentleigh, 3165

8 - 2 - 95

The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels.

The NEW GUINEA native quickly earned this title by helping the Armed Forces carrying stores and equipment through most difficult terrain and atrocious weather conditions. Sure footed, strong and dependable they were most worthy of the name.

My story begins as one of four stretcher bearers - shoulder carrying a badly wounded soldier from the fighting zone back to our hospital unit consisting of canvas tents in the jungle. We were tired but glad to reach our site safely.

Because of sudden heavy rain, a large pool of muddy water about a foot deep had formed in front of the admitting tent. Some planks of wood about 20 feet long had been placed on the quagmire. Two of our bearers had gone to report or do something - I don't remember.

Nor can I remember how or why I was placed in the position of having to carry the rear end of the stretcher. I always had to be wary of two man carriage because of my weak left hand. As there was no one else handy I must have thought I could manage the short distance.

Half way across my left hand was losing its grip. I was horrified with the thought that our patient was certain to be dumped in the mud - when - out of no where, silently and in an instant a strong hand grasped the left shaft of the stretcher and I saw a mop of curly hair by my side - A Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel.

A true Guardian Angel had come to save our patient from a terrible fate. And for over fifty years, I have cherished the memory of how I too was saved from an everlasting nightmare of what might have been.

So I'm glad indeed to be able to relate this happy story - forever grateful that the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel also had his eye on me.

DON LUDLUM

*A truly lovely story, wonderfully told - look forward to 'hearing' from you at the Reunion DON.*

73 Burke Road, East Malvern, 3145

10 - 2 - 95

It was very late November or early December 1942 - location PORT MORESBY - I had just been issued with a one man tent whereas most of the others had missed out. Obviously there was a reason. I am not that dull. I soon found out. I was paraded and told to stand-by for action within the next forty eight hours. MAJOR FRANCIS had been instructed to select a group of six. If my memory serves me correctly JACK CALDWELL was one - BILL STURGE another - for the life of me I cannot remember the others. Twenty two hours later the seven of us arrived at Wards Aerodrome MAJOR FRANCIS was asked where we were going - the answer being he did not know - neither did CALDWELL. I was the only one not to ask where but on arrival at the Aerodrome I asked our American pilot where we were going and he replied DOBODURA. I asked him how long it would take and he told me - he also told me there were enemy fighter planes in the sky area. I then quietly returned to MAJOR FRANCIS and our group and asked him where we were going - answer he did not know. I replied to him and the others - "Well sir we are going to DOBODURA in a DC twin engine Douglas plane scheduled to take off immediately the cloud clears in the gap in the Owen Stanley ranges - our departure should take place within the next thirty minutes - thirty two minutes later we took off. Shortly after arrival in DOBODURA Major Francis took me to one side and whispered to me - AYLWIN keep me informed on anything you hear. The following day our group was in BUNA.

I think we were the first group within the Unit to see action in NEW GUINEA, but I could be wrong. I try to forget my war time experiences rather than recall.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP W AYLWIN

*A great story with your usual flair Phil. Thank you*

64 Norbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield, 3808

10 - 2 - 95

In order to improve our lifestyle during the prolonged periods of "waiting for the next move" within our close knit Unit, I somehow was unofficially elected as the 10th Australian Field Ambulance (A.I.F.) "Thief".

This dubious role involved quite an assortment of tasks, such as:

Scrounging gelignite from the U.S. Army to be used as bait for fishing at MOROBE (NEW GUINEA).

Pinching fly-wire from an R.A.A.F. Quarter Master's Store, near SEPPINGANG (BALIKPAPAN) for our cook-house.

Raiding the Central A.A.S.C. bulk store for Baking Powder so that our worthy cooks may provide us with scones, buns, etc., as a supplement to Bully Beef "Speed Balls".

Sneaking into a U.S. Army Dump, after dark, when the armed guard went off to listen to the news on a nearby radio. *Reason:* To relieve the U.S. Army of a few surplus Army-Issue "Cots", plus a quantity of their "Jungle Ration" cartons - containing chocolate, powdered milk, canned nuts, etc. All items were heaved over a high, barbed wire protective fence to another 10th Australian Field Ambulance A.I.F. member's waiting arms below. This happened at MOROTAI, prior to our embarking for BALIKPAPAN.

#### *Shuttlecocks:*

As most of our blokes know, we had many hours of pleasure playing badminton (with plywood "bats", made by ARTHUR HUNT and EDDIE MOTT).

It all began at LAE (NEW GUINEA), when many of us were waiting to return to AUSTRALIA for much needed leave late in 1943. "We would all be home for Christmas", according to those "in the know". But no such luck! "Home for Easter" instead - so again, disappointment. However, during our long months of waiting, a Badminton Set "appeared". Many of us enjoyed swatting the only shuttlecock about until it disintegrated.

I was asked to find further supplies.

Subsequent searching proved to be fruitless. However, we discovered a few groups of Chinese Market Gardeners on the outskirts of LAE who had chooks. There, we grabbed some discarded feathers. With the aid of some suitable corks and spools of sticking plaster, I devised a method of improvising a suitable shuttlecock which flew fairly truly in outside conditions. Also, our feather supply was supplemented by some "bird loving" infantry blokes, who shot a few white "cockies" for the cause.

We then went home on leave after Easter 1944. After our well earned leave, we were sent up to the Tablelands for "Jungle Training" at WONGABEL. Here, we hopped into the badminton business once more, and many courts were laid out.

I was made the "Unit Shuttlecock Maker", and visited surrounding farms in the quest for feathers. I remember sitting on the edge of my bed once, surrounded by feathers, corks and sticking plaster - making my daily production. Without warning, the "inspection party" manifested itself, headed by COL. PALMER.

"Good morning, CORPORAL PATRICK, how's it going?"

"Oh, very well, thank you sir!" (springing off my bed to attention, amidst a flurry of white feathers)!

"Keep on with your good work!"

After WONGABEL, we were shipped off to MOROTAI. There we made temporary camp until further orders. During our stay, some "bright spark" announced that he had seen three large crates marked, "SHUTTLECOCKS - U.S. ARMY", at the wharf. Naturally I arranged with a more co-operative member of our Transport Section (probably KEITH DAVEY ?) to grab a 3-tonner and drive us to the wharf. After surreptitious surveillance, we noticed that the "bright spark's" observation was correct. However, our thieving had to be delayed until the waterside workers (U.S. Army Negro Unit), went off for their midday "chow". There was also a large negro sitting on one of these precious crates which made things a little awkward! I found out that his mates referred to him as "The Judge" - he was always sitting on a "case!".

As soon as the coast was clear, we moved in and grabbed the three cases. Total shuttlecock count was now in excess of 2,000! They were then taken back to be absorbed into the 10th Australian Field Ambulance (A.I.F.) store holdings. From that day until our departure from AMBON, we never ran short of shuttlecocks!

The moral of this story is: *"Whether you like it or not, you must have a "thief" in your midst, so that your nest may always be feathered!!!"*

ALAN PATRICK

*I was a tent-mate of ALANS for some months at ORO BAY and can vouch for his "Acquiring Ability" - we lived rather well!*

31 Beach Road, Rhyll, 3923

7 - 2 - 95

As Unit Postal Orderly the task was not at all monotonous. When at LAE (N.G.). I was given permission to take the mail to DREGERHAFEN to our Evacuation Post. Three of us (not all 10th F.A. boys) waited for 2 hours at the unmanned airstrip at the LAE until a D.C.3. arrived. "Yes", said the U.S. pilot, "I'll take you", making his load of 26 Personnel (Most pilots wouldn't take more than 21 or 22). Gaining speed on the runway, suddenly the pilot jammed on his brakes and fortunately we stopped before the deep creek. "Too many on board", "I couldn't lift the plane", the pilot said. So the 3 of us had to de-plane! It left a nasty feeling of possible consequences. An hour later we got going. But arriving at DREGER the pilot announced an air alert (Japs. in the area). For half an hour while we circled we could see the U.S. fighters leaving the strip about one every minute. As one fighter rose into the air, another was ready to start its run. At last we were permitted to land. A second nasty feeling in the same afternoon! What if a Jap. fighter had got through to us. The slow DC3 would have been an easy target!

All in a days work,

CLIFF WATKINS

*Glad you AND THE MAIL got through unharmed CLIFF. I'm sure many remember receiving tins of fruit cake from home that were "Peppered" with shrapnel.*

17 Hart Street, Port Macquarie, N.S.W. 2444

12 - 2 - 95

Here is my note that may be of interest. GEOFF MCGILL, NEVILLE STEPHENS and self were attached to 7th Division Commandos during the landing at BALIKPAPAN.

Our trenches on this particular night, covered each side of a path, up a steep hillside. At daybreak stand-to the booby-trap covering this path exploded followed by a great rustle through the KUNAI grass, then a rifle shot from NEVILLES' trench. What appeared to be a wrestling match was taking place. I said to GEOFF "I'm not waiting for the bloody Jap. to jump me I'll give him a burst." GEOFF being our old infantry man convinced me to wait. I'm sure glad I did for the wrestling match ended, and NEVILLES' relieved voice boomed out, "Its only a bloody pig".

By the way NEVILLES shot was on target as a great trail of blood was noticed at daybreak.

Yours Sincerely,  
RON HANDLEY

*Thanks Ron, as you know, NEVILLE has been in hospital for some months now but this will make him smile.*

8 Robinson's Road, Baxter, 3911

14 - 2 - 95

Mental Telepathy.

In NEW GUINEA I was running a small forward out-post and was very soon joined by a small detachment of Salvos with tea making equipment - condensed milk tins with wire handles as usual. What a good job the Salvos did in these situations!

A native "boy" made the tea and demonstrated his ability to count correctly. One morning he came up to me and said "Tappeta, five Jap-man be stop along bush". There was rifle-fire a few minutes later. When the patrol returned they told me "There were five of the .....s out there. We got three but the other two got away."

I asked the "boy" how he knew about the Japs, and why could he say "five?" He smiled, tapped his head, and said "Me know, Tappeta me know."

Creepy isn't it?  
IAN WILSON

*Glad you mentioned the work of the 'Salvos' IAN - some pleasant memories there.*

42 Graham Place, Box Hill 3128

20 - 2 - 95

It was one very noisy night on the beach at BUNA. Two of us had travelled down from MOROBE overnight, courtesy of the Sea Ambulance Service - an American L.C.T., and a cargo of sick and wounded who had been involved in the fighting in the SALAMOA - LAE area. I can't remember who the other member was - it may have been DICK RHODES.

We were not able to get a boat back to MOROBE, there were no rides to be hitched that day so we were left to sleep, on the beach that night.

We were about 200 yards north of the busy wharf area, all so different from the time some months earlier when we were involved in the BUNA, SANANANDA, GONA operation.

Darkness came suddenly as is the custom in the tropics. Work continued on the wharf with all lights blazing, lots of shouting and vehicles coming and going constantly. In the event of an air-raid the orders were that lights were not to be extinguished until bombs were actually falling.

Well, a raid did occur that night and the sirens screamed, making enough noise to be heard in MOROBE. Work continued on the wharf.

It soon became obvious that this was for real, not just an odd plane flying high in the attempt to disrupt work without doing any material damage.

There were a number of planes and one that really got our attention appeared to be heading directly towards the two of us. We made desperate but futile attempts to scoop out a hole in the sand while the decidedly unpleasant, shrill whistle of bombs followed by the big bang came closer and closer. The last bomb to come in our direction landed between us in the sea. We were more than somewhat relieved that it was slightly off line, or the allied war effort might have been deprived of two loyal, albeit undistinguished soldiers. The bomb actually landed beside a tent, created a big hole in the sand and blasted four blokes, asleep on stretchers, out of their comfortable cots, or maybe they were already out!

The way in which the sand absorbed the blast was quite extraordinary. I can't remember just how we got back to the unit, but we did get there, to the calm of the beautiful harbour at MOROBE and the magnificent tropical beach across the road from our camp. Oh yes, and the dengue.

HORRIE HAMER

*A lot of memories in this one HORRIE and a better ending than the film "On The Beach".*

P.O. Box 806, Ringwood, 3134

February 1995

Following on to my address at the reunion luncheon three years ago where I told the story of a Japanese prisoner bought in to our aid station at Dunns' Post suffering from a compound fracture of the femur I now relate the second segment.

The following day the prisoner was to be transferred to our camp hospital at SOPUTA. With the native carriers ready with the stretcher on their shoulders, there was a delay in getting away. The person in charge of this evacuation gave the order "Drop the stretcher" and to a man, as though the exercise had been well rehearsed, the bearers dropped their shoulders inwards and took one pace sideways and let the stretcher with the Jap. on drop to the ground.

I was some yards away at the time and I could see the pain suffered by the Jap. expressed in his face, but he never uttered a sound.

Regards,

JOHN GRANT

*It certainly wasn't part of the stretcher drill we practiced!*

1123 Grevilles Road, Wendouree, Vic. 3355

February 1995

Being of a gentle nature I wasn't involved in many interesting events. My philosophy was to do as little as one had to as seldom as one had to. But what I would like to put on record is the special mateship I made in the army and the pleasing part is that those who are still living remain special mates 50 years on. This isn't exactly what you asked for DICK, although it is nice and sharp.

Regards,

RON MOYLE

*If we didn't know you better we'd believe you 'FARMER'.*

80 Bedford Street, Aberdeen, N.S.W. 2336

February 1995

Just a small note about a funny little thing that happened on the Tablelands before we went to BORNEO. We had a chap in the Unit by the name of MERTON MALONEY, a bit of a character he was. We got our beer rations twice a week Cairns Beer plenty of it.

Well this night MERTON got pretty drunk and sicked up in front of our tents. One of the boys saw it, he went and found an earth worm about 6" long and as thick as your little finger and put it in the sicked up mess, the look on MERTON'S face when he saw it, he did not know what to think. Later that morning we saw MERTON lined up on the sick parade with the worm on a stick. We never ever found out what the doctor thought of the worm.

Give my regards to all of our mates in the 10th Field Amb. I often think of them.

BOB ROUGHAN

*Who could forget MERT, fag hanging from his mouth, boasting of his MAXWELL CAR. Beaut to hear from you BOB.*

### BITS AND PIECES

Travelodge (our reunion venue) are again providing us with a room for use by our ladies. This will no doubt be very handy for any who want to change or freshen up after watching the March.

Travelodge are also offering a special rate for members who wish to stay over on Monday night 24th. Costs are \$89, or \$99 including breakfast, Single or Twin Share.

Our Reunion will be in the same rooms as normal but these have been re-named 'Domain' and 'Albert'.

Authors of unpublished letters so far received are, ROSE SCHLENKER, NORMA REID (Frank is still in Kyabram Nursing Home unable to walk or talk) JACK COX, DR. MURRAY VERSO, ALF PHILLIPS, GEOFF FLOWER, BILL SHEFFIELD, LLOYD CHAMPION, DR. ALF BARNETT, STAN LUCAS, JACK CHENHALLS, LES WILLIAMS, DR. BILL BRAND, TED YOUNG, JACK CALDWELL, WATTIE TULLY, LLOYD STEWART, ERN STREVEN, GEORGE BROWN, DOC HOLLIDAY, BOB JAMES.

Owing to the changed nature of the Reunion BOB and MARJ KING advise that it will not be possible to have "THE AFTERS" this year.

We will miss NEIL GERRAND'S cheery face this year as he is now living in NASHVILLE TENNESSEE U.S.A.

TED LEE is well and sends greetings to all from W.A.

ERNIE STREVEN was at the picnic and will be at the Reunion but is suffering a serious throat complaint and cannot speak, so you will understand his silence. He still manages to smile.

JACK BACON advises that quite a few members have had hospital trips and we say a special cheerio to all who are not well.

Looking forward to a great Reunion.

Till next 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	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 Lyll	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.	Bill Chapman	02/03/85
44.	Arnold Lovell	12/05/73	90.	Ron Vernon	May 1985
45.	Harold Gaudion	18/07/73	91.	Bill Allen	1985
46.	Keith Goslett	23/01/74	92.	Bill Shepherd	26/10/85

93.	Roy McKim	24/11/85
94.	Harold Mollison	03/01/86
95.	Harry Tozer	1985
96.	Alan Kilpatrick	24/04/86
97.	Ted (Bluey) Stroud	09/06/86
98.	Ray Frith	13/07/86
99.	Ted Tyrell	15/07/86
100.	Leo (Mick) Rea	14/11/86
101.	Jeff McGill	20/11/86
102.	Fr. Jim English	08/12/86
103.	A.G. (Mick) Arnott	01/01/87
104.	Des Rea	09/04/87
105.	Ray Meadows	01/07/87
106.	Eric Cornell	11/10/87
107.	Ron Crawford	04/11/87
108.	Bob Mitchell	09/01/88
109.	Dave Johnston	14/03/88
110.	Ray Zumpe	09/12/88
111.	Stan Herbert	08/01/89
112.	Alan Furmston	25/09/89
113.	Jock Roe	07/11/89
114.	Ron Roberts	08/11/89
115.	Jack MacKie	
116.	Mick Vann	
117.	Norm Irvine	6/88
118.	Dr. J.P. Lyttle	02/02/90
119.	George Bruce	4/90
120.	Alec Murphy	17/08/90
121.	Bill Schlenker	21/08/90
122.	Doug Clemens	28/09/90
123.	Joe Strudwick	31/10/90
124.	Clem Winchester	03/12/90
125.	George Johnston	15/03/91
126.	Dr. Gavin Johnson	29/08/91
127.	Aub. Vimpani	19/09/91
128.	Jim Loveridge	01/12/91
129.	Syd Biffen	20/04/92
130.	Harold (Tac) Grundy	03/05/92
131.	Harry Williams	09/11/92
132.	Eddie Mott	16/06/93
133.	Murdoch McMillan	25/07/93
134.	Eddie Sullivan	6/09/93
135.	Dr. George Marks	4/11/93
136.	Harold Lawrence	18/01/94
137.	Dr. Emmet Spring	21/01/94
138.	Horrie Vimpani	22/02/94
139.	Ken Clinch	13/03/94
140.	John Hall	18/08/94
141.	Cec. (MA) Kelly	20/05/94
142.	Bill (NANA) Dickson	14/09/94