

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

(AFFILIATED WITH ANZAC HOUSE)

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Laurie Malkin	9822 3595	Ken Gordon	9807 3942	Wattie Tully	9848 1891
Ron Woff	9583 0464	Les Williams	93793285		

LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs Glad White	Vern Laidlaw	Alan Sharp
Bob King	Dr Mick Dunn	Laurie Malkin
Jack Bacon	Ron Woff	Ted Young

TENTH TIT - BITS No. 34 APRIL 2000

MILLENIUM YEAR ISSUE

NOTICE OF OUR 55th REUNION

THE PLACE: Centra Motor Inn

We meet at the same location - Corner of St.Kilda Road and Park Street Melbourne - Opposite the Shrine.

THE TIME: From 11.00 a.m. **TUESDAY 25th APRIL** **THE PRICE:** \$25.00

THIS YEAR'S MARCH

We assemble in the same place as last year, ie. in FLINDERS STREET near the corner of RUSSELL STREET at 9.30am ready for a 9.40am start, and hope to see some interstate members this year.

You have probably noticed the increase in the cost of our luncheon this year and this does concern us. The new management of the Centra Motel is charging us \$29.50 and is immovable on this price. The committee has decided to subsidise the cost this year by \$4.50 which reduces the price to \$25. The meal provided last year was certainly better than previously and it is probably unreal to think that we would not be faced with an increase as most costs are on the rise. At the reunion we will discuss any alternatives you may suggest plus the possibility of raising our annual subscription to \$10.

REPORT ON ANZAC DAY 1999

THE 1999 MARCH

Twenty five members marched compared to 26 last year. The weather was perfect and the bands provided great marching music. We set off at 9.47am (9.50am last year) from the North side of Flinders Street at the Russell Street corner and reached the saluting base at the Shrine at 10.16am. we made it in only 29 minutes, compared to 34 last year. We were again proudly led by President MICK DUNN and ALEC REITH, and the banner carried by JUSTIN MURPHY, MICK DROHAN, DEAN FALLOW and PAM MCMILLAN.

The marchers included JACK BACON, ARTHUR BACHELOR, ROD BOUNDY, DICK HOLMES, DR MICK DUNN, DR ALEC REITH, DAVID JAMES, BOB KING, GEOFF LAIDLAW, DR JOHN LAWRENCE, DON LUDLAM, , ALAN PATRICK, DOUG POTTER, ALAN SHARP, WATTIE TULLY, TED YOUNG, RUSSELL THOMPSON, JOHN GRANT, IVAN GOLDSMITH, ARTHUR HOLLIDAY and RON WOFF. (Apologies to anyone omitted.)

THE REUNION

Although 'official' proceedings did not commence until 12 noon, early arrivals were able to watch the march on the TV set provided. Seventy three members and guests were given a warm welcome by President Mick Dunn. The Loyal toast was proposed by Dr Alec Reith then the traditional 2 minutes silence in honour of our deceased members was observed followed by the sounding of the LAST POST. We remained standing whilst the names of our 174 deceased members were read out by Secretary Dick Holmes and Assistant Secretary Ken Stanley. This solemn service was concluded by our President reciting the ODE "They shall grow not old" etc., "Lest we Forget". Reveille was then sounded.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following members: ALAN WILLIAMS, LES WILLIAMS, GEOFF FLOWER, ARTHUR ROCKETT, WALLY PAGE, LLOYD STEWART, JACK STANDERWICK, NEIL GERRAND, STAN LUCAS, MARGARET BRAND, RONALD NOTT, DR ALF BARNETT, BERT KENNY, ROY MARTIN, BOB CRAWFORD, DON BRAIN, MICK MORROW, PHIL SCANLON, JUNE REA and IRENE BEST.

The minutes of the 1999 Annual General were taken as read.

TOAST TO THE UNIT

The following toast was proposed by Dr Colin Copland.

President Mick, Committee Members, fellow members and their wives, it is an honour to be asked to speak to you and propose a toast to the unit and a pleasure to be with you for the 54th Anniversary.

I was living at the Women's Hospital as a final year medical student when the voice of R.G. Menzies announced over the radio that Australia, with Britain, was at war with Germany.

In 1940 I was a resident medical officer at the Alfred Hospital and in 1941 at the Children's Hospital in Melbourne. I married Luba in January 1941. Early in 1942 I joined the 10th Field Ambulance – my first experience of Army life. I was made to feel welcome in the unit and this impressed me greatly.

Looking back through the 'lest we forget' columns I recall with some emotion how good the members of the unit were. I want to share my memories of some of the members of the unit with you.

Sergeants **Jack McGill** and **Merv Featonby** were very kind to the "new boy".

Our Commanding Officer at the time, **Stan McKenzie**, was a fatherly figure whose bark was worse than his bite. I shall remain grateful to him for pointing out what AMR&O clearly stated (Australian Military Regulations and Orders).

To me as a medical officer directing Company drill was not my cup of tea. On one, occasion which many of you remember, I had to hurriedly replace Plan 1 with Plan 2 to prevent a collision between the company and a wire fence!

I remember sitting in the sun on an exercise in the Seymour region watching **Neil Douglas** drawing the landscape. He was an excellent artist. Later I believe he set up an Army Panoramic unit with one member only – himself. I did not see him again until about 1980 when he called me at home on his way to becoming "artist in residence" at Horsham Victoria.

Private Cook was prevailed upon by his company commander to accept a promotion to corporal. In the first day in charge of his squad he yelled "Squad! Attention" He was surprised at the result "Jeez – they did it!"

New Guinea

I was with a party of 20 from the unit to fly north over the range to set up an advance surgical unit with **Jim Yates** as surgeon at Buna. We arrived at the airstrip late in the afternoon and met the American pilot of the DC2 who had not yet begun shaving. He asked us where we fellows wanted to go, Dobodura or Popondetta, I knew, fortunately, and said Dobodura. He told us the tail controls were not working well and that a top sergeant was coming to have a look. They worked for a while, then the pilot announced "It's not quite right but we'll give it a go". The trip to Dobodura was uneventful but it was very cold in the plane.

We were accommodated overnight by the hospitable CO of an American Field Hospital and set off in the morning on the 20 kilometre long walk to Buna. On the way, we overtook a large party of native carriers who had put their loads down and were talking, shouting and gesticulating. At the head of the columns was an Australian ANGAU (Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit) officer who was leaning against a tree smoking. I questioned him about the commotion. He replied "Noise is no problem. It's if they are silent that there is a problem".

Most of the following 3 ½ years I spent as RMO of the 2/9th Battalion. I can assure you that in action it gave us a great confidence when we sent back sick and wounded to the 10th Field Ambulance.

I congratulate the members of the Unit who have kept the Association going and published the Tenth Tit Bits. I look forward to reading Les Williams' book. I am proud to be present with you at this annual dinner and enjoy the warm atmosphere which has existed since the very early days of the unit.

President Mick Dunn, committee members and their wives, life members, ladies and fellow members I give you the toast – The 10th Australian Field Ambulance A.I.F.

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

President MICK welcomed all present particularly the guests and thanked Colin for his humorous and thoughtful comments. He mentioned that as the names of the deceased are read, it is interesting the way some visions flash before you of some of the many named. He spoke of a memory he had of a photo of Major Ted Palmer with a very long black beard he had acquired as he led a party of troops to safety in New Britain after the Japs had landed in Rabaul. He soon became Lt. Col. and C.O of the 10th Australian Field Ambulance and a very fine one at that. He commented how he had the bottle tops of beer issued at Moratai taken off to avoid trading! Ted's one fault was that, although he had been able to walk hundreds of miles in the jungles of the tropics, he could not march along St.Kilda Road!!

WELFARE REPORT

JACK BACON had nothing to report – anything of note being mentioned in Tit-Bits.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

WATTIE TULLY reported numbers at Yarrowonga were falling off but the trip would be repeated in October '99.

ABSENT MEMBERS

VERN LAIDLAW reported on WALLY PAGE, GEOFF FLOWER, ARTHUR ROCKETT and KEITH BIRCHALL. He encouraged members going interstate to try and call on unit members. He also mentioned the regret felt by all who were at AMBON over the troubled times being experienced there.

DON LUDLAM spoke of BILL MULLIN and his sadness at BILL'S passing. Don had received a letter from NEIL GERRAND in Nashville Tennessee, U.S.A, who expressed thanks to the office bearers and committee for their continued efforts.

TED YOUNG reported that PHIL SCANLON was very sick, but on a happier note said that BERT KENNY and MICK MORROW were coming to the next reunion.

RON WOFF thanked VERN LAIDLAW for his untiring work for members of the Association.

LADIES CHEER SQUAD

There was a suggestion that instead of meeting on the bridge it would be more convenient to meet closer to the Shrine and so have less distance to walk to the reunion. The spot suggested being right at the turn from St.Kilda Road up to the Shrine – (I'm not sure whether this was agreed to).

LEST WE FORGET - 2000

Since our 1999 news letter we have learned of the following deaths:

Bill Potter	Date Unknown	John Yule	31/7/98	Earl Matthews	15/5/99
Dr Marshall Gratton	18/5/99	Geoff Flower	16/9/99	Andy McHattie	5/10/99
Laurie Peverill	6/11/99	Phil Scanlon	24/1/2000		

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

LETTERS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

The highlight of the last 12 months has undoubtedly been the publication and distribution of our unit history and on behalf of all members we say to LES WILLIAMS Congratulations on a wonderful book – we are truly proud and grateful for all your hard work. We also thank Rita for her help and tolerance

I asked Les to give us some idea of what was involved and his modest reply is as follows:

1 Balmoral Avenue
Strathmore Vic 3041
2nd February 2000

Dear Ron,

On the 21st of October last year Simon Chamaa of Chamas Printing delivered the first batch of “Care, Courage and Camaraderie”, the history of the 10th Australian Field Ambulance (A.I.F). Knowing that on the following day Kruger King and Wattie Tully and families were leaving for their annual Yarrowonga week end we had given the printer the 21st as the absolute delivery deadline. And to his credit he kept it. The following morning my wife Rita delivered the first batch of books to Kruger to take with him to Yarrowonga.

This was the culmination of two and a half years of work researching, gathering information, checking facts and figures with various libraries, three trips to Canberra, many visits to the State Library, Melbourne, about four full days at the Victoria Barracks and lastly collecting from various sources photos to illustrate the text. Many hours were spent with the printer Simon and many back home checking and rechecking. Even so a few gremlins got past us – Len Bryant’s name was excluded from the nominal Roll. He was never on a charge sheet, never went AWL and in all the papers I sieved through at the Barracks I never saw his name once. We did manage to get a holiday in Sydney, Nambour and Norfolk Island in 1998.

However the satisfaction is in knowing that now the unit’s history has been recorded for all of our remaining members, the descendants of our departed members and the wider public in general. If it had been delayed any later there is a great danger that much of what has now been recorded, apart from the brief war diaries at the War Memorial, would have been dispersed and lost forever.

Military Melbourne, a military bookshop in Izzett Street Prahran purchased several books and whilst there I met Carl Johnson of ‘The Old Tin Hat’, Bentleigh. Carl knew Jack Caldwell. Carl not only collects and displays memorabilia on the wars in which Australia has been involved but is building up a photographic data base of Australia’s participation in times of war. He is inviting anyone who has photos to submit copies to him for inclusion in his data base. The data base already has over 4,000 images. This is an excellent way to ensure that these photos will be preserved forever and will be available to anyone interested. WW1 photos will be shortly posted on the Internet. I gave him a copy of a studio photo of my father who was in the 24th Battalion and shortly any of our family, or anyone for that matter, will be able to see a brief description of my Dad together with his photo and details of his service. The copy photo will be preserved and again and will be available to relatives or any interested persons.

He is mostly interested in people – particularly if they can be named with Regt. Number, where taken and a caption if possible. He will pay copying costs and requires laser quality. I use Officeworks for copying photos and he says they are OK. Maybe best to get in touch with Carl and he will sort through and tell which photos he would like. He is working in conjunction with the RSL and has the blessing of the Aust

War Memorial but does not want to duplicate their data base of pictures. He has been through all the photos which I hold and indicated those which he would like to include in his data base. I thoroughly recommend members take advantage of his offer to record and preserve all photos of their service days. His telephone numbers are: Mob: 0413 944 245 and A/H: 9510 7868.

I am also including a list of addresses of people who have been in touch with me regarding the book so that you can add them to your mailing list.

Look forward to seeing you soon. Kind Regards
Les Williams.

27 Johnstone Street, GLENGOWRIE S.A, 5044

14 November 1999.

Dear Les,

Congratulations for a wonderful history of the 10th Australian Field Ambulance, the publication was magnificent and I thought the cover photo was terrific, as I still have the 1945 Xmas Card. Although I was not a member of the unit for a great length of time, I am very proud to have been associated with such great comrades. I have spoken to Jules Collard on the phone and had quite a few reminiscences. I have included an obituary report from the Scotch College magazine on Major Gratton as I am sure it will be of interest to the members.

I was recently reading a report of a past graduate student at LaTrobe University who had researched a document in Australian Archives Canberra where it stated that a former prisoner of war in Ambon, asserted that some men died as a result of experimental injections given to them by the Japanese. This claim was never proved or disproved and no Japanese was charged with that particular offence at War Crimes Trials. The matter was fully investigated by Lt. Colonel E.C Palmer of the 10th Australian Field Ambulance at Ambon who was inclined to believe the Japanese claim that they were with Australian and Dutch approval testing the potency of stocks of typhoid vaccine. Right or wrong Colonel Palmer's verdict was officially accepted – as he could not see how any harm could have come from an experiment such as they described.

I am a member of the Royal Australian Services Unit of S.A and at our next luncheon I will ask our librarian if they would like a copy of our history and if so will write to you.

My best wishes to all and again my congratulations Les,

Regards,

DON THURLOW.

Thanks for a most interesting letter Don. The obituary report will be available for reading at the reunion.

13th June 1999.

Unit1/11B Fifth Street, GAWLER S.A, 5118.

Dear Ron,

Thank you for the very pleasant surprise of your note of 8th June. I was blissfully unaware of the existence of the 10th Aust. Field Ambulance (AIF) Association until I received your letter and the 10th TIT-BITS.

Yes, I was a member of the 10th having been transferred in January 1945 from 110th AGH Perth, joining 10th Fld Amb. at Wongabel on the tablelands, as pathology technician, and of course then served with the 10th in Borneo and afterwards at Ambon.

My prior history is that I had been a laboratory technician with CSIR, now CSIRO at the Parkville Laboratory, and enlisted on the 4th June 1941, (17) and did basic training at Puckapunyal then three months intensive course at Sydney University Medical School and School of Tropical Medicine after which I was posted to 110 AGH at Hollywood, WA as sergeant pathology technician and remained there until transfer to 10th Fld. Amb.

My connection with Noel Smith is that we are cousins by marriage, as I married his cousin, Marjorie Roadknight, we were engaged in 1944, married in February 1946 after return from Ambon, we are still together and have 14 grandchildren and 7 great-grand children. So are starting to feel our age!

I was at Noel's bedside together with Clare, when he died in Royal Melbourne Hospital from cancer of the liver, which I am sure was caused by his service in Papua New Guinea, and repeated bouts of Malaria and I understand Black Water fever. From this my last contact with anyone from the 10th, was at Noel's funeral where I had a chat with Dr. Reith, who I understand was in practice at Black Rock.

The only other member of the 10th that I saw a few times was Gordon Vallance who I had known for some time pre war as we both grew up in Caulfield, Gordon was also pretty keen on Marjorie, but I won her.

Ron, sorry if this is a bit of a ramble, I am just jotting things down as the memories come flooding back to me, so I hope it all makes sense to you.

One memory is Noel Smith's 23rd Birthday which we celebrated in Ambon on 2nd January '46. If memory serves me correctly we held the party in a part of the hospital that had been set aside to handle any problems over the Christmas/New Year period, but none had occurred, I think it was the mortuary, with stretchers for any who had too much beer!

Ron, enough of my ramblings, I would like to be included in the membership of the 10th Australian Field Ambulance (AIF) Association, and certainly to receive TIT-BITS and news of other members and your functions, in the hope that I may manage to attend some time. I am also very interested in the book of the History of the Unit and would very much like to have a copy, please advise costs, etc. I have a number of photographs of the Borneo and Ambon days and even the ship James J Corbett that brought us home, will dig them out and have copies made to send you if of interest.

Many Thanks again for your letter Ron, and I look forward to hearing from you again, or any other members who may remember me.

Best Regards,

JULES COLLARD

I'm sure you will be remembered Jules. It is good to increase our S.A membership.

12th November 1999.

Dear Les,

Re: "Care, Courage & Camaraderie"

I was very pleased indeed to receive my copy of the History of the 10th Australia Field Ambulance (AIF) in WW2.

This book, I find is fascinating reading, certainly does bring back the memories, as well as upgrading my knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the 10th's long history.

You are to be highly commended and congratulated on this large task so very well done, the 'History' is excellent and very readable.

Obviously, as a side result of this book, and no doubt some help from another, perhaps Ron Woff; I received a phone call from Don Thurlow several days ago; it was a pleasure to chat with him and to realise that there is at least one other ex 10th FA man living in Adelaide.

Don also advised me of Major Gratton's recent passing.

Once again Les, Congratulations on a job well done.

Best Regards,
JULES COLLARD.

115 Bayswater Road, CURRAJONG QLD, 4812

October 1999.

Dear Mr Holmes,

Thanks so much for sending me a copy of the book of the unit, I can see quite a few names that I met. As you probably know, Bill Sheffield is my brother, so will ring my sister-in-law up to see if anyone has told her; my nephews may like a copy.

Bill now has Alzheimers, I was down in Sydney in August for my sister's 80th Birthday & Bill had no idea who I was, Pat puts him in a Nursing Home for a fortnight occasionally to give her a spell.

Thanks once again, all the Best for Christmas, the Year 2000 & to your family.

JEAN CLINCH.

VERN LAIDLAW

11 Tyrrell Street, BOX HILL NTH VIC, 3129

Please find cheque and application form for 10th Field Ambulance AIF HISTORY BOOK.

I'm not a member of the Association, but saw your notice in VETAFFAIRS Paper re the book. I was a patient of the 10th F.A at Oro Bay in 1943, so I'm interested in the unit history and I may know some of the personnel of the unit as quite a few of my friends at Barkers Rd, Kew Methodist Church joined the 10th F.A.

I am yours Sincerely,

KEITH O'REILLY.

10 Miala Street, LAKE CATHIE NSW, 2445

11/11/99.

"10TH Field Ambulance"

I am writing to tell you my book arrived today and please 'Congratulate' all who had a part in putting it together; great credit is due! I know John would have loved it; he missed you all as he always said he "considered you family; Unit boys were so close and friendships never varied over years".

We appreciated help we received when John had a heart attack in Melbourne; especially Vern & others that visited him; I can't believe that it's about five years now and will be three years this coming May 9th since he died with the tumour. Brendan and I will be thrilled that he has been remembered in this book and I will hand it on to Brendan and I know he will treasure it in the future; after I have enjoyed reading it.

Such a lot of names came back to me and remembering picnic outings and of course the lovely send off you gave us meant a lot. Please convey my thanks re book and wish everyone a "Happy Christmas" and "Good Health" in the Year 2000.

Hope I can get to Melbourne sometime in the future, health permitting.

Sincerely,
BETTY COX.

28/11/99.

To The Secretary
C/O 10th Australian Field Ambulance (A.I.F) Association

Dear Dick!

I am writing this letter of appreciation to congratulate Les and Rita Williams and the Executive and Committee of the 10th Aust. Field Ambulance (A.I.F) Association in compiling such an informative and detailed history of our beloved Unit.

It doesn't take much imagination to realise the hours of research and detail that Les put in with the help of yourself and committee plus those he sought out to assist compiling the history, to produce such a concise and entertaining account.

It certainly brought back memories to me personally in so many ways; things I had forgotten or wasn't aware of, as we were such a fragmented Unit over the war years in carrying out the responsibilities given to us in many pioneering tasks of evacuations.

In concluding, may I once again say "Congratulations" to all. It was a great privilege to serve with such a great group of men, who I hold with such great esteem in my heart; ours was indeed "Quite a unique Unit", one we were all proud to belong and serve.

After reading my copy, what an unexpected delight to learn that the "10th Aust. Field Ambulance" still exists within the current Australian Army. Once again, "Congratulations".

Kindest Regards to all,

LEN MARTIN

P.S I have taken the opportunity of speaking to Les and Rita offering my Congratulations, Len.

Thank-you Len for your heartfelt letter – you have expressed the feelings of us all.

19/4/99.

Dear Dick,

I must apologise for not keeping in contact with the Unit, I have greatly appreciated the newsletter you send out each year. I have great memories of the time we served together, even though we had some rough times.

Give my best wishes to all, a Big Hello to 'Bluey Percy Young'. We were together on the hospital train at Spencer Street while waiting to be discharged. There are some stories to tell of the fun we had while putting in time there. I must send an apology, will not be able to attend reunion.

Yours Sincerely,
LES (MO) ATKINS.

This is a first from 'Mo' – don't make it the last. We'd like to hear your stories Mo.

P.O. Box 103, YARRAWONGA VIC, 3730

17/3/99.

Dear Vern,

Sorry I will not be down this year to the luncheon. I am finding the ramps at Spencer Street Station too much for me to handle. I am so sorry because I love being amongst you all and will miss this close friendship which my dear Joe always treasured.

I am enclosing \$10 for subscription.

Say 'Hello' to everybody
Much Love to You All,
SYLVIA STRUDWICK

21 Duncan Street, PUNCHBOWL NSW, 2196

1/4/99.

Dear Mr & Mrs Woff,

Thank-you for sending me the 10th Field Tit-Bits No.33. I always enjoy reading it.

I'm sorry I cannot make it to Melbourne, it would be too difficult for me to get there, also too lonely on my own.

I've always enjoyed the ANZAC March in Sydney. My eldest son, Robert, will be marching with Les' medals.

Les always wanted to go to Melbourne for the march but never made it.
Thanking you for your letter,

IRENE BEST

Returned & Services League of Australia, ANZAC House, 4 Collins St, MELBOURNE VIC, 3000.

3 December 1999.

Dear Les,

You must have called at ANZAC House during my absence as I found your note and a copy of 'Care, Courage & Camaraderie' in my inward tray on my return from somewhere or another. Thank-you for donating it to our reference library where it will still be available for students of all ages to read long after we have left the scene. It's good history to which you were the major contributor and I congratulate you on your input and the final result.

Les, I'm supposed to be a historian but, despite having seen the 10th Field Ambulance banner in innumerable ANZAC Day Marches I was not aware until reading your history that you had been at Balikpapan. I'm ashamed of myself.

Once again, thank you Leslie and may you and yours have a great Christmas with many joyous years to follow.

With Kind Regards
Yours Sincerely,

K V ROSSI
(STATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT)

16/45 Cook Street, FORESTVILLE NSW, 2087

9th June, '99.

Dear Leslie,

I would be pleased to receive the 10th Field Ambulance Association newsletter as mentioned in the current issue of "VETAFFAIRS" and any news on DONALD LUDLAM if you can. I've tried to find his address over the years in Phone Books without any luck. We were good mates together in P/NG, and then the Unit split to become an A.I.F Unit.

My name is Stuart H.B Smith V132198. I declined the offer to transfer to A.I.F. and was transferred to the 15th FIELD AMBULANCE and spent a year in Bougainville till the end of the war.

I married late, in May 1965 and have 2 Daughters and 1 Granddaughter who is almost 2 years old now. I'm beginning to feel my 78 years. I was one of the Nursing Orderlies in the Team that was flown to set up an Operating Theatre close to the action at BUNA in the closing stage of that battle.

I have happy memories of many mates in the 10th F.A.

I wish you well in your efforts to keep the team together.

Yours Sincerely,
STUART SMITH.

After all this time! Great to hear from you Stuart. The balance of your letter will be published next year.

3/11/99.

Dear Les,

Greetings,

I have received and read the book on the Unit's history, and I want to thank you for all that you have done in producing this wonderful account of the doings of the 10th Field Ambulance. You must have spent days and weeks and months, and a lot of travelling to get this information and put it together in such a great way.

It has been an eye opener to me to read of the courage and endurance of the stretcher bearers in such trying circumstances. I of course heard the stories as the wounded were brought in but never realised just how difficult it was, as the only time I went forward from the base was the incident at Buna, mentioned in the book.

I feel I did very little in comparison, apart from trying to concoct something out of Bully Beef and biscuits. I think we made some sort of porridge out of the biscuits, but one thing we did was to keep the billy boiling so there would always be a hot drink for bearers and patients alike.

I did not go to Morotai or Balikpapan as I was 'wounded in action', playing football on the tablelands, and spent six months in hospital, finishing up at Heidelberg, where Capt Spring did the operation on my knee. I was on draft for return to the Unit when the war ended.

I feel proud to have and still do belong to the 10th Field Ambulance and I guess all are proud to have served under Ted Palmer and the other officers.

I trust this finds you well as I am, and I often think that the Lord watched over our Unit, as we had so few casualties.

Thank you again and God bless you,

DOUG POTTER.

Lovely to get your contribution Doug – this history has certainly stirred all our thoughts.

TO FULLY APPRECIATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FOLLOWING LETTER, YOU SHOULD RE-READ PAGES 111 AND 112 OF OUR UNIT HISTORY.

3 March, 2000.

Dear Dick,

We were very thrilled to speak with you and to learn of your connection and interest in Les's medical history in New Guinea in 1943.

I know you want only a few lines, but we thought that you and Vern might be interested in the following and we are happy for you to extract and print whatever you wish.

Les has often said that he owes his life to the men in the 10th Field Ambulance in Oro Bay and he has always spoken with gratitude and reverence of their care and compassion.

His brother, Eric, who was in the same unit, urged him to keep fighting and, with the wonderful help he was given, he was able to stay alive.

Les was 13 stone when he went to New Guinea. When he was well enough to walk to be weighed, he was less than 5 ¹/₂ stone. He spent 274 days in hospitals and convalescent centres in New Guinea, Queensland, N.S.W and Victoria.

Les did a rehab course in building, we operated as a building partnership for 30 years, building more than 100 houses and extensions.

Ill health forced him to retire from building in 1980, and, in July 1990, he was granted a T.P.I. In April 1992, he had 5 by-passes.

We married on 15.2.47 and have 3 sons and 2 daughters who are married and are all very healthy, happy and successful. The four eldest have 16 children between them.

Les is in reasonably good health and is able to dance, play golf and go fishing, and enjoys his family and grand-children. We had the 28 members of our family here for his 78th Birthday on 27.2.2000.

He has always appreciated all the care and help given to him, especially in Oro Bay, which enabled him to stay alive and to enjoy the subsequent years and happy experiences.

With very best wishes,

Yours Sincerely,
HELEN & LESLIE PUMPA.

The following members wrote short notes when sending last year's subscriptions: JACK ALLEN, GWEN BRYAN, ALAN SHARP, IVAN GOLDSMITH, DOUG POTTER, ACK-ACK KENNY, LOU COURTNEY and NEIL GERRAND.

BITS & PIECES

You will be sorry to learn that our President MICK DUNN lost his wife in December last year – On behalf of all members we send condolences MICK.

Congratulations to TED YOUNG on his elevation to PRESIDENT of his local PROBUS CLUB.

It would probably be easier to list the members who have not had a visit to hospital this year, but special thoughts go to LAURIE MALKIN, ALAN PATRICK, ALAN GADSEN, WALLY PAGE, DOUG JOHNS and all our other 'sickies'.

You can see by the number of letters, the interest our history has generated. Besides these we have been in touch with sons, daughters, wives, brothers, and friends of members, there has been a real resurgence of interest in our Association.

It's been a great year.

Cheers for this year,

RON WOFF
2/28 ALFRED STREET
BEAUMARIS VIC 3193

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

89	Bill Chapman	02/03/85	141	Cec. (MA) Kelly	20/05/94
90	Ron Vernon	May 1985	142	Bill (NANA) Dickson	14/09/94
91	Bill Allen	1985	143	Ken Sutherland	23/05/95
92	Bill Shepherd	26/10/85	144	Dr N. (BILL) Brand	24/06/95
93	Roy McKim	24/11/85	145	Ern Strevens	30/08/95
94	Harold Mollison	03/01/86	146	Frank Reid	14/12/95
95	Harry Tozer	1985	147	Steve Langton	19/01/96
96	Alan Kilpatrick	24/04/86	148	Dr. Ian Wilson	09/06/96
97	Ted (Bluey) Stroud	09/06/86	149	Bob James	20/07/96
98	Ray Frith	13/07/86	150	Ernie (PLUGGER) Utting	08/10/96
99	Ted Tyrell	15/07/86	151	Les Best	26/12/96
100	Leo (Mick) Rea	14/11/86	152	Bert Webster	27/01/97
101	Jeff McGill	20/11/86	153	Neville Stephens	16/02/97
102	Fr. Jim English	08/12/86	154	Keith Davey	27/03/97
103	A.G. (Mick) Arnott	01/01/87	155	Bob Roughan	97
104	Des Rea	09/04/87	156	Darcey Eccles	
105	Ray Meadows	01/07/87	157	John Cox	09/05/97
106	Eric Cornell	11/10/87	158	George Drysdale	04/06/97
107	Ron Crawford	04/11/87	159	Roy deJarlais	13/06/97
108	Bob Mitchell	09/01/88	160	Ted Donovan	20/07/97
109	Dave Johnston	14/03/88	161	Pop Cook	17/10/97
110	Ray Zumpe	09/12/88	162	L (Curley) Blyth	01/04/98
111	Stan Herbert	08/01/89	163	Dick Jones	18/04/98
112	Alan Furmston	25/09/89	164	Gerald Frogley	27/04/98
113	Jock Roe	07/11/89	165	Keith Flintoff	01/05/98
114	Ron Roberts	08/11/89	166	Bruce Young	16/07/98
115	Jack MacKie		167	Wally Bryan	03/11/98
116	Mick Vann		168	Alf Phillips	29/11/98
117	Norm Irvine	06/88	169	Bill Mullin	18/12/98
118	Dr. J.P. Lyttle	02/02/90	170	Jack Caldwell	24/12/98
119	George Bruce	04/90	171	Cecil (Ned) Matthews	28/12/98
120	Alec Murphy	17/08/90	172	George Brown	31/01/99
121	Bill Schlenker	21/08/90	173	Bill Potter	
122	Doug Clemens	28/09/90	174	John Yule	31/07/98
123	Joe Strudwick	31/10/90	175	Earl Matthews	15/05/99
124	Clem Winchester	03/12/90	176	Dr. Marshall Gratton	18/05/99
125	George Johnston	15/03/91	177	Geoff Flower	16/09/99
126	Dr. Gavin Johnson	29/08/91	178	Andy McHattie	05/10/99
127	Aub. Vimpani	19/09/91	179	Laurie Peverill	06/11/99
128	Jim Loveridge	01/12/91	180	Phil Scanlon	24/01/00
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	Murdock McMillan	25/07/93			
134	Eddie Sullivan	06/09/93			
135	Dr. George Marks	04/11/93			
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			

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Annual Subscription	\$5.00
Member's Luncheon	\$25.00
Guests's Luncheon	\$25.00
Herewith Total Cheque	\$ <u> </u>

To ensure that overbooking does not occur, applications must reach the Treasurer by April 17, 2000.

Treasurer: V Laidlaw
24 Belmore Road
BALWYN VIC 3103.

