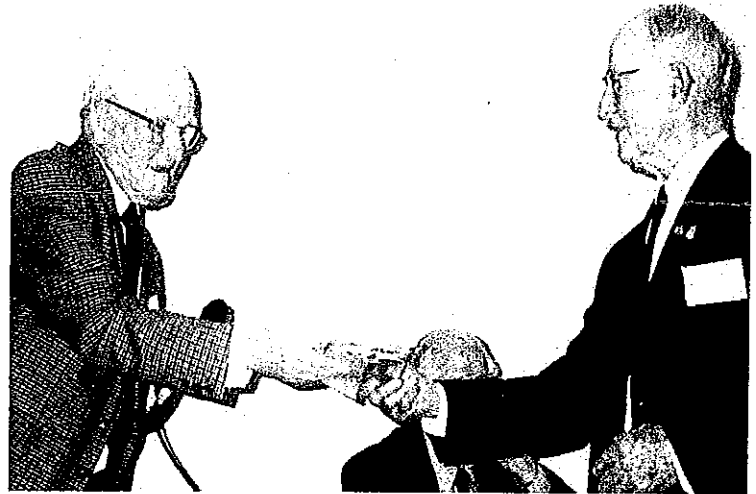




# 10<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance (A.I.F) Association

## VALE VERN

On the second of September last year we lost Vern Laidlaw who had given unrivalled service to our association. He was treasurer for 56 years and was presented with a special plaque by our late president Dr Mick Dunn on his resignation from that position in 2004. (see photo) At the 1980 reunion Vern was made a life member on the proposal of Keith Davey, seconded by Ted Donovan who both spoke eloquently of his "tremendous contribution as treasurer since inception". Vern also organised our luncheons, often giving the caterers extra potatoes. In addition to all this he successfully promoted the idea of including affiliate members.



Above photo: 2004 reunion – Dr Mick Dunn (left), Vern (right).

### PRESIDENT

Ted Young  
1 Dalston Road  
Oakleigh Vic 3166  
Phone: 9569 8393

### SECRETARY

Brendon Holmes  
12 Regal Ave  
Doncaster East  
Vic, 3109  
Phone: 0419896477

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Rhonda Holmes  
768 Mt Macedon Rd  
Mt Macedon Vic 3441  
Phone: 0418173023

### VICE PRESIDENT

Wendy Ward  
'Rosehaven'  
2/8 Baldwin Rd  
Blackburn Vic, 3130  
Phone: 9877 8027

### TREASURER

Trevor Ward  
'Rosehaven'  
2/8 Baldwin Rd  
Blackburn Vic, 3130  
Phone: 9877 8027

### COMMITTEE

Jack Bacon	9763 6737
David James	9899 1204
Ron Woff	9583 0464
Noel Norton	9889 4612
Les Williams	9379 3285

### LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs Glad White  
Mrs Margaret Holmes  
Alan Sharp  
Ken Stanley

Mrs Marj King  
Jack Bacon  
Ted Young

Ron Woff  
Les. Williams  
David James

**GREETINGS** – for our 65<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting and luncheon.

**ANZAC DAY 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2010 ACTIVITIES**

***THE MARCH***

*We assemble very similar to the last two years - in Swanston St. still between Flinders Lane and Collins Street – but this year on the opposite side of the road to last year. Our position is number 930 and we are due to step off at 9.40am. David Hall is again looking after transport - one car is organised. Look forward to seeing you from 9.30 onwards.*

*Transport for Veterans – can be arranged through RACV Public Affairs Phone number 9790-2990. Volunteers will pick you up from your home, drive you to the city and then in the parade to the shrine. At the end of the parade and ceremonies, your volunteer driver will transport you home.*

***OUR REUNION LUNCHEON***

*It is great to say once again – same place same time same price (\$40). It is still Seasons Botanic Gardens 348 St. Kilda Rd. from 11am to 4pm.*

**MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AS NOTED**

**10<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance (AIF) Association – Reunion ANZAC Day 2009**

**VENUE** - Seasons Botanic Gardens, 348 St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

A most convenient location for those marching and for the gathering of members to meet together to celebrate and reminisce socially over lunch, also for the conduct of the Annual General Meeting.

**MEETING** - Chairman and President Ted Young opened the meeting and warmly welcomed the assembly of members, affiliates and guests, enthusiastically welcoming new member Rod James, son of David James. A rousing rendition of Happy Birthday was sung for Stuart Smith, Don Ludlam and Allan Williams (92).

**APOLOGIES** - Trevor Ward presented the apologies: Les Atkins, Ivan & Olive Goldsmith, Don Ludlam, Bruce Rimington, Dr Ted Spring, Ken & Audrey Trafford, Cliff Watkins, Dr Murray Verso, David Bachelor, Margaret Biffin, Lynette Blackwood, Ann Cooper, Joan Davey, Janice Cherry, Wendy Cope, Suzanne Lace, Matthew Davey, Olive Gordon, Heather Mackenzie, Meryl Patrick, June Rae, Michael Rae, Audrey Trafford, Glad White.

**LOYAL TOAST** - Members stood to respect the toast to the Queen and Australia which was proposed by David James.

**THE MARCH** – Led by President Ted Young, 6 members, plus Affiliates and family members assembled in Swanston Street for the march to the Shrine. The march started at 9:45am and finished at 10:20. Last year there were 9 members marching. To the King family go our thanks as custodians of

the banner which this year was attended by Justin, Brad, Jackson and Devlin Murphy, Mitchell and Lachlan Holmes.

**REMEMBRANCE ROLL OF HONOUR** - Roll has been updated and was on view for all to see.

**REMEMBRANCE** - A period of silent reflection was observed as Brendon Holmes, Julie Mayberry, Wendy Ward and Vicky King read the honour roll of 230. The Last Post and Reveille brought our thoughts together with the tribute "they shall grow not old as we who are left grow old, LEST WE FORGET".

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 2009** - Wendy Ward reported on the Committee meeting held at Box Hill RSL. There were 16 Members and Affiliates at the meeting. A special mention of the bushfire victims was made. The minutes were taken as read on the motion of Ted Young, Seconded by Ron Woff.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP** - A special presentation of a Life Membership plaque was made to David James in recognition for his many years of service as Transport Officer to the 10<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance Association. David suitably responded.

**CORRESPONDENCE** -Relative items have been covered by the committee and embraced in the text of the following reports.

**10<sup>th</sup> TIT BITS** - This most valuable medium for keeping members in contact with each other and the association has been prepared by Ron Woff over many years. Ron recorded his appreciation for the assistance of his family in the preparation, collation and mailing. There were 127 mailed out this year.

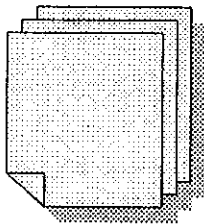
**TREASURERS REPORT** - Trevor outlined the salient items of the financial statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2009. In assuring the meeting that our finances are healthy, moved the acceptance of the report, seconded by Ken Stanley. Motion Carried.

**WELFARE, LEGACY & MEMORABILIA** - Jack Bacon reported that deaths were light this year. Jack also reported the passing of Stan Brogden, Bill Clinch & Ack-ack Kenny. Vern Laidlaw is currently in the Freemasons hospital with pneumonia. Jack moved the annual grant to Legacy of \$150.00 and seconded by Julie Mayberry. This was unanimously agreed on.

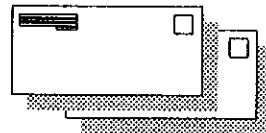
**TOAST TO THE UNIT** - Chairman Ted invited Rod Boundy to propose the Unit Toast. In order not to lose the mood of Rod's oratory, his toast is produced attached for those members unable to attend.

**GENERAL BUSINESS** - None to report this year.

**MEETING CLOSE** - President Ted Young thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the day as he brought the formalities to a close. Meeting closed at 2:40pm.



**LETTERS AND NEWS**



Meryl Patrick 10 Arundel Crescent SURREY HILLS, Vic 3127  
 My very best wishes for a happy re-union to you all, with apologies for my absence from the luncheon.  
 Sincerely Meryl Patrick  
 P.S. Tenth Tit-Bits is always a joy for my son and myself. Very many thanks to all.

Olive Gordon 23 Amber Grove Mt WAVERLEY, Vic 3149  
 Dear Trevor and Ron, Many thanks for sending me the 10<sup>th</sup> Tit -Bits. Best wishes for a great reunion.  
 From Olive Gordon

Joan Davey 4 Henry Street KOO-WEE-RUP, Vic 3981  
 Sorry Janice my daughter and I Joan are not able to make this year first time we have not been able to be with you all, we will miss you all. Give our love to Marg King and families and all the lovely people we sit with at luncheon all the Unit take care I am with the RSL here at

Koo-wee-rup we all meet Anzac day at 5:30 and all my children and grandchildren, being a Saturday makes it hard to come. Olive Gordon son brought her over to see me which was great. Janice son Casey is just the same has bad days. We wish the Stem cells will come here to help. Love to Esma and Ted Young. Love to all take care Joan Davey

Margaret Spring

Ted Spring sends apologies for being unable to attend the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Luncheon and sends his best wishes. Spirit willing but body not!! Margaret Spring

Mrs Audrey Trafford 25/2A Laughlin Avenue NUNAWADING, 3131

Dear Trevor, once again thank you to the Woff family for the 10<sup>th</sup> Tit-Bits – we've read from end to end and especially the article about Col McKenzie - truly a remarkable man. Unfortunately we are unable to attend the reunion and luncheon this year, but we'll be with you all in spirit and wishing we were there. Enclosed is a cheque for our annual subscriptions and donation kindest regards to everyone. Audrey Trafford

Cliff Watkins 31 Beach Road RHYLL, Vic 3923

Greetings Trevor - Cliff Watkins My apologies for non-attendance at the forthcoming (1909) reunion. Greetings to all the boys. Cliff

Vivian Reith 1 Shirley Court COWES, Vic 3922

Dear Ted, I am sorry I can't be present on Friday. It was always a great day for Alec. I am enclosing a cheque for your wonderful fund and also my subscription. I enjoy reading about "The Boys" and their latest news. Yours sincerely Vivian Reith

Eileen Handley 37/11 Aravcaria way ELANORA, QLD 4221

Dear Ted, Many thanks for the recent copy of 10<sup>th</sup> Tit Bits. The news keeps me up with the news which I enjoy reading Sincerely Eileen Handley

Les Atkins 2 Stanworth Court PRESTON, Vic 3072

Dear Ted, Ron and members of 10<sup>th</sup> great to get Tit Bits. Shocking to hear about Ambon be with you all in thoughts have a great day. Les Atkins

Ivan Goldsmith 13 Clarke Ave WARBURTON, Vic 3799

Dear Trevor, please find enclosed cheque for \$10 sub. I am sorry that i will not be marching in Melb. This year but will march here in Warby as my legs are not so good these days and also Olive has had a stroke and even though she has made a good recovery the day in Melb would be a bit much for her. Love to you and Wendy and congratulations to you both for what you are doing for the association. Ivan and Olive.

Dr Murry Verso, 4 Moorhouse Street CAMBERWEL, Vic 3124

Dear Trevor, I enclose a cheque for \$10 in payment of my annual subscription 2009. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend future annual meeting for, although i am in fairly good general health, i have some trouble with walking. I note with interest that Ross Hayter joined Angau when he left the unit as I also transferred there. It is also of interest that several of the people who were at University with me became medical officers in the 10<sup>th</sup>. They include Colin Copeland, Ian Wilson, Alec Reith, Alf Barnett and Ted Spring. All the best to you all. Murray Verso

Barbara Wagenknecht (daughter of Jack Standerwick)- 11 Brown Terrace BORDERTOWN, S.A. 526.  
19/01/2010 Mr Holmes, Dear Sir, this letter is to inform you that Dad passed away on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2010. He had an aneurysm in his stomach which sprang a leak and after two days of intensive pain, he slipped away in his sleep. Dad had a very healthy life, giving credit to the amount of honey he

ate. He was not on any tablets, much to the amazement of the nursing staff he could sleep right through the night without a pit stop and even the week of his death he drove to Kingston for fishing and all he got was sunburn!! I have enclosed his service order and eulogy which may be of interest. Dad always loved receiving the "Tit Bits" and would say "so and so" has died and there's only 15 of us left or whatever the member number was. Now he has joined those departed "brothers" of whom he spoke so much and so often. Obviously those years together made them all very close knitted. Yours faithfully  
Barbara Wagenknecht

Lynnette Blackwood (Daughter Col L.G.McKenzie) 35 Glen Ebor Ave BLACKWOOD, VIC 3130  
To you all of the 10<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance - Thank you for your invitation to be present at your Anzac day Luncheon, but i am unable to be with you on the day and i am sorry about that indeed. I always read with great interest your tenth tit bits (No43) and never fail to feel your prevailing ongoing spirit which continues to inspire us (who were children at the time) with profound gratitude for all of you who served and returned, and those who did not make it home again. I see a letter from Ross Hayler; as a trained Nurse I worked with Ross in his surgery in Albury in 1950's - and he joined the unit and never met my father so it is a strange coincidence. I am sure his move to Wingham on the stunning Manning River in N.S.W. will soon have a show of magnificent camellias!! I will be thinking of you all on the day i wish you well in the year ahead. Regards Lynnette Blackwood (McKenzie)

Heather McKenzie 554 Waverley Road MALVERN EAST, Vic 3145

Dear members, once again i must send my apologies but you will be in my thoughts on 25<sup>th</sup>. I think some members thought i was the author of "The Story Behind the Window" Tenth Tit-Bits No. 43. It was written and sent in by my sister-in-law Lynnette, the daughter of Col. L.G. McKenzie I am his daughter-in-law and sadly our relationship was fairly short. I knew most of the story but it was good to see it in print. Best wishes. Heather McKenzie

Email received from Liz Ray 19/05/2008 Daughter of Allan Williams

Hi, attached is the speech from my school's Anzac Day ceremony.  
Our Chaplain, Russell Armstrong, wrote it and the Year 12 school captains were involved in the presentation. One of the school captains is Patrick Dangerfield who has been drafted to the Adelaide Crows! Our school is Oberon High School in Geelong.  
If you need any more information, please let me know. Dad, Allan Williams, was excited and extremely pleased that the focus for the assembly was the "10<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance"! At the end everyone was saying what a lovely assembly it was, and no-one knew that they were referring to Dad! It was lovely for me also! Anyway, feel free to use whatever you want to from the speech.  
Regards, Liz Ray

### Oberon High School in Geelong's Service -

#### ANZAC Day 2008 Ceremony - Medical services in the wars

Anzac Day observances began when our nation, deep in grief, wanted and needed to honour the huge sacrifices made by so many Australians during the First World War, also known as the Great War, of 1915 to 1919. The name Anzac is of course an acronym, standing for Australian and New Zealand Army Corp. They called it the Great War because it was the first war, and they hoped the last, to affect so many people and so many countries. Sadly, this was not the case, and Anzac Day now remembers and honours the courage and the sacrifices of not just the original Anzacs and their families, but also many other Australian women and men involved in the Second World War of 1939 to 1945, as well as in other conflicts since then separated by time and geography: in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam in the 1950s to early 1970s; in the Gulf War of the early 1990s; and even now in East Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Solomon Islands.

Perhaps one of the most famous of the original Anzacs was John Simpson Kirkpatrick, a member of the 3rd Field Ambulance of the Australian Army Medical Corp, and it is on the role of the members of the Australian Field Ambulances and other medical staff that we would like to focus in this Anzac Ceremony. Simpson was famous for his work in the early weeks of the original landing at Gallipoli, carrying injured Anzac troops on his donkey to the dressing stations and field hospitals where they could receive the medical care that they desperately needed. Simpson was exposed to constant danger from the sniper fire and shells from Turks who were determined to defend their land, and he was killed by a machine gun attack while carrying two wounded soldiers on 19 May, only 24 days after he had landed on Anzac Day, 25 April.

His willingness to take the risks that he did on behalf of others, most of whom he didn't personally know, and to pay the ultimate sacrifice as he did that, has made him something of a hero who represents the best of what we like to think is part of our spirit of mateship.

In a similar spirit, and like almost all who served in the First World War, other members of the medical services also made sacrifices for others, and often worked under often appalling conditions as they did. Surgery was sometimes performed with basic supplies in operating theatres that were just tents, and the threat of disease and attack was ever present.

As was the case with Simpson, serving within an Australian Field Ambulance in World War II could also be at great personal sacrifice and risk. More than one in three of all members of the 2/12 Australian Field Ambulance lost their lives on active service, the highest ratio of any Australian military medical unit in the war. Some of these were killed when the hospital ship Centaur was torpedoed off the coast of Queensland in 1943 in a clear breach of international law.

Sadly, as we are still reminded, such breaches do occur during war. Like all other Anzacs who served with the Australian Imperial Force in the First World War, Simpson was a volunteer. Despite furious debate at the time, no Australians were conscripted to serve overseas, although they could be required to serve with the Citizens Military Force within Australia. Compulsory military service for duty within Australia was revived in 1939, shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War. All males aged between 18 and 30 were required to register, and those compulsorily called were referred to as Universal Trainees. There was to be no conscription for service overseas, but as the fear of a Japanese invasion of Australia increased a bill was passed in Parliament in February 1943 in which "Australia" was defined in such a way as to include New Guinea and the adjacent islands, obliging soldiers in the Citizen Military Force to serve in this region. Amongst those conscripted to serve were many who were nevertheless willing to fight, as well as others for whom it created a deep personal dilemma. Some of those conscripted were conscientious objectors to war, people who, for religious or philosophical reasons, were strongly opposed to the taking of another life. For them taking up arms went against core personal beliefs; but serving alongside other Universal Trainees as well as volunteers within the medical corps provided a way in which they could fulfil their military obligation to serve the country while respecting their own commitment to protect and save life rather than take it.

Allan Williams served as a Universal Trainee and conscientious objector with the 10<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance in New Guinea, and then in the Solomon Islands at Bougainville. He is one of two people that we know of from that group with a connection to the Oberon High community, the other being Lloyd Champion, and coincidentally today is Allan's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

His diary records provides interesting insights into the operation of their medical unit and some of the trials that they experienced. Working in a swampy tropical environment there were constant problems with torrential rains that flooded the tents that served as operating theatre & wards; rats whose bites spread the potentially fatal scrub typhus; malaria spread by mosquitoes; stretcher bearers who brought the wounded to and from their station, often carrying patients over long distances and for several hours.

At one time his diary records his own responsibilities including:

- record all admissions and discharges from the field hospital; writing up patient records; advising head quarters of deaths

- assist in the operating tent, sterilising and holding instruments for surgeons
- assist in wards with meals, drinks, feeding, and talking to distressed patients
- assist with burying the dead including digging graves
- sentry duty at night

Not surprisingly he notes several times that it was virtually a 24 hour a day job. A few particular references from his war notes help illustrate life in the Field Ambulance, and it is worth remembering as you listen that this was occurring not on the other side of the globe, but a mere 300 km beyond Australia's northern coast.

Of his 21 months active service in New Guinea we read: "Incident began just on dark and the first we knew was when bullets began to hit our tents and we sought shelter behind trees. The firing continued for some time and only ceased when the 25 pounder (guns) began firing out to sea."

"There were problems with evacuation of the wounded. Snipers were very active ... and it was dangerous to move around in the day outside our area. Snipers made nests in trees or coconut palms and fired on any movement."

"At the Dressing Station the Surgical Teams attempted to operate day and night (but) this proved impractical and was abandoned. The chief difficulties were the number of medical officers available, and with patients arriving day and night the Medical Officers and orderlies had to work day and night whether they were in theatre or not. For many days & nights I scarcely had any sleep."

"The 10 Field Ambulance had... a small airstrip hospital to hold patients pending evacuation by air to Port Moresby..., staffed by 3 Officers and 90 Other Ranks... When we took over on 10<sup>th</sup> January there had been no evacuations for 2 days and 200 patients were held. No planes landed until 14<sup>th</sup> January when 450 patients were held and 436 were evacuated."

"For a period I slept in the office area with a phone under my pillow to receive messages of air raids, and then had to sound the alarm so that staff could take precautions (such as) no lights in wards, etc. Some nights there was very little sleep with almost constant alarms... (However) the most dangerous raids were in the daytime and did a lot of damage."

Allan would likely consider his personal contribution very ordinary, but his family are proud of his example of serving his country while honouring his own strong beliefs about not taking another human life. It is the contribution of so many men and women in the medical services in all wars, and the valuable care that they provided to the wounded and sick, often at great personal risk, that we particularly honour this morning.

*Dear Liz, Thank you so much for sending this article, your school seems to be a very progressive one. I feel that this could be a model for future talks to be given by our members. Ron*



**PHOTO from ANZAC Day 2009 Oldest and Youngest members: John Grant (95 years young) cuddling beautiful Sam Waight (5 months, Kruger's great grandson).**

**LEST WE FORGET:**  
 Bert (Ack-ack) Kenny -  
 Jules Collard 3/06/2009  
 Vern Laidlaw 2/09/2009  
 Jack Standerwick 3/01/2010  
 Rod Boundy 14/01/2010  
 Danny Bishop 16/03/2010

**TOAST TO THE UNIT**

Sad to say Rod Boundy, who proposed such an interesting toast last year, died on the 14<sup>th</sup> January this year aged 91 years. Unfortunately we do not have a record of his speech but his son Wayne sent us a copy of his diary recording his activities prior to and during the war. Obviously he prepared a lot of his talk from this as it started off as follows; "Mr President, office bearers, life members, ladies and gentlemen. To be asked to propose the toast to this outstanding unit is indeed an honour. The 10<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, then and now has had a wonderful impact on my life". What now follows are extracts from his diary.

I was born in Ascot Vale on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 1918. My father passed away March 1919 – the flu epidemic of this time. Together with my 5 brothers and 2 sisters we were now lead by a wonderful lady, our mother. Loved by a united family and all who knew her.

(1937-1938) The situation in Europe was deteriorating rapidly. This situation was continually on my mind. During a conversation with my brother-in-law Ern Milton a senior lecturer with St John Ambulance he told me he was a member of 10<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance. He gave a glowing report on the unit. After much thought I presented myself to Head Quarters, situated in South Melbourne - enlisted 20<sup>th</sup> December 1938 Age 20.

(Early 1939) My first and only 'peace time camp' was at Mt Martha 10 days duration, beautiful country side, perfect weather under canvas – 8 beds per 12x14 tent. Slept on ground – hip holes and ground sheets. Our days were mainly in the field, stretcher drill, tent pitching and 1<sup>st</sup> aid lectures. The unit lived up to all expectations. The unit was horse drawn and remained so for my 2 years with the unit.

(November 1939) Mobilized for camp at Seymour, one month duration. Allocated job of private in QM store under W/O Les Wilton. We delivered stores to Puckapunyal at this time Pucka consisted of a few tents. 4<sup>th</sup> of December – my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Broke camp just prior to X'mas.

(approx. April 1940) Back to Seymour, 3 months duration - same site. Q.M. store again same routine more route marches. It was during this camp that we realised that a C.M.F. could not be sent out of Australian Territory. Enlisting in the A.I.F must be an individual choice. Decided to transfer to the NAVY or R.A.A.F 20<sup>th</sup> July our engagement.

The RAAF was accepted in July and was called up in December 20<sup>th</sup> for training in course no. 13- medical orderly training no. 12521 no.1 medical receiving station Laverton– received clothing etc. home for Christmas. We were housed in American style huts with beds and excellent amenities. Meals in permanent 'mess halls' - a home away from home. Training took place in well appointed lecture room.

(Mid 1941) Part of team to open the first Air force ward at the new Heidelberg Military hospital.

(November) Called back to Laverton, posted to Darwin and assigned to operating theatre duties.

(January 1942 and February) – Went down with Dengue Fever, my eyes were like balls of fire in a sick and sorry head. 16<sup>th</sup> February (Fall of Singapore) – eldest brother could be a P.O.W. 19<sup>th</sup> February (Darwin Bombed).

(January 1943) My posting south came through "Point Cook" all my records were lost – 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. I now found out that promotion to Corporal 1<sup>st</sup> December and Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> July 1942.

(OUR WEDDING DAY – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January) The events of the past 12 months had me wondering whether the special day would ever arrive. We were married in Balwin Methodist Church –



Canterbury. The girl who never missed a visiting day whilst I was in camp. The girl who had such a wonderful influence on my life - today as I write this note, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 09. This girl has been **my loving wife for: 66 YEARS**. We had 2 sons and 1 daughter, we now have our 5<sup>th</sup> generation.

26<sup>th</sup> November 1943 – instructed to report to 2 ED Sydney posted to personal depot, Pt. Moresby. On arrival reported to: Capt. Weldeman CO/ 304<sup>th</sup> American Medical Air Evacuation Squadron this led to a wonderful association with the Americans.

New Guinea Area 14 – on arrival in Pt. Moresby was directed to transit camp a few miles from strip. Here I met 8 other orderlies who were to report for duty with Americans. 5 Sergeants and 4 Corporals. The M.A.E.T.U. being formed in Melbourne. We met Capt. Wiedman, who briefed us on procedure. We no longer worked under the Red Cross, we would carry firearms – (38's), we would be issued with American 2 priority tickets. The highest outside brass and V.I.P. Typical of RAAF, we arrived for duty minus any flying gear and medical supplies. The captain arranged medical items from one of their stores and the issue of clothing and 38 revolvers from RAAF. We would now carry a log book and be put on air crew pay. We would assemble our own 1<sup>st</sup> aid kits. Our training was carried out over a few days using the (Aka). Army version of the D.C. 3. Full load 18 litters of 24 walkers or in most cases a breakdown of both. My first duty flight was Moresby – Lae return. Then followed flights to Brisbane carrying mainly “dark” Americans suffering mental disorders. Flying time approx:- Moresby – Townsville 4 hours refuelling etc ¾ -1hour, Townsville – Brisbane 4 ½ hours. Bad litter cases were restrained and heavily sedated with Sod. Amytal. To be alone with these men for 8 ½ hours left you rather tired and depressed. You wondered what the future held for them the one consultation was being a member of an American crew. The cabin door was always ajar and you had constant visit from crew members. Their concern was a great help. During one flight nearing Townsville, a walker stood up and quickly interfered with a light cable associated with the tail mechanism. Made contact with the cabin immediate inspection, - no affect on the landing, rectified when landed.

(September 1944) No. 1 M.A.E.T.U. arrived NADZAB at NADZAB. C.O. S/L Winston Kiel an excellent medical officer and friend.

(October 1944) Our association with Americans was now over - a wonderful experience.

(5<sup>th</sup> November 1944) LAE Hospital 2 days – Malaria. (10<sup>th</sup> December 1944) - Included in medical team – Mt Hagen. (11<sup>th</sup> December 1944 to 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1945) - Detachment Madang

(1<sup>st</sup> June 1945) – detachment Boucanville. (19<sup>th</sup> June 1945) – was last of original 9 to be posted south, home on extended leave. (15<sup>th</sup> August 1945 end of war in Pacific) – reported for duty. I decided I wanted “out” unless I could continue on flying duties. Unfortunately the diary records only that he resumed flying duties and amongst other places went to Singapore I seem to remember him saying that he met his brother there, safe after being P.O.W. his concluding toast to the unit is not recorded but certainly followed his opening remarks and was heartily joined by all.

### BITS & PIECES

Once again thanks to David James for supplying the paper and envelopes for Tit Bits. Also to Sarah and husband Chris for the typing and printing of Tit Bits. Also to my wife Joy for enveloping and keeping Sarah and myself on the ball. A special cheerio to Alan Sharp who is in Ashwood Cabrini Nursing Home room 232B – 54 Queens parade Ashwood phone number (03) 98352000, following a Heart Attack and a Stroke. At a committee meeting on 7/2/10 we accepted with regret the resignation of Rhonda Holmes as Assistant Secretary. Subject to your confirmation at the AGM this office will be accepted by Vickie King. Several other committee nominations will also be put forward. Wishing you all good health and happiness in the coming years.

Sincerely Ron Woff

#### **LEST WE FORGET**

They shall grow not 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



## LEST WE FORGET



1	Bruce Pascoe	08/03/1943	60	Bob Adeney	20/03/1978
2	Jack Pigran	04/07/1945	61	Claude Capstick	09/04/1978
3	Ted Dunnel	-/07/1945	62	Jim Drysdale	24/05/1978
4	Don Hiddleston	-	63	John Stretton	24/06/1978
5	Jack Kelleher	-	64	Dick Rhodes	10/11/1978
6	Peter Todd	-	65	Dr. John Sands	23/01/1980
7	John Bagshaw	-	66	Jack Bateman	17/08/1980
8	Harry Cowen	-	67	Jack Wenke	03/09/1980
9	Dr. DouglasMcFarland -	-	68	Roy Rasmussen	10/09/1980
10	Albert De Lantye	-	69	Tom Heaney	-
11	Dr. Stan McKenzie	30/11/1956	70	Lindsay Sampson	21/11/1981
12	Noel Smith	-	71	Lindsay Sampson	09/01/1982
13	George Morley	-	72	Norm Douglas	19/02/1982
14	Jack Thompson	-	73	Jack Best	17/04/1982
15	Bernie Cousins	-	74	Wal (Jock) Lovett	17/04/1982
16	Angus McKenzie	02/07/1957	75	Col. Ted Palmer	05/08/1982
17	Russel Behrens	1958	76	Ted Nicholas	10/01/1983
18	George Jenkins	1960	77	Earn Milton	-
19	Harold Hay	1960	78	P. Hill	-
20	Jack Spokes	1961	79	Ron Sincock	05/03/1983
21	Bill Reid	03/03/1961	80	Bill Jones	14/12/1983
22	Jim Lyall	07/03/1961	81	Charlie Worboys	23/12/1983
23	Norm Hart	27/08/1961	82	George Williamson	-
24	Bill Lynskey	16/11/1961	83	Dr. Joe Manton	30/05/1984
25	Dr. Harry Francis	20/11/1961	84	Les (Bull) Martin	12/07/1984
26	Alan Fox	-/02/1962	85	Neil (Bunny) King	31/07/1984
27	Ken Phillips	11/05/1962	86	Bill Sturge	30/03/1984
28	David Felstead	25/07/1964	87	John (Dooley) Garlep	11/10/1984
29	Eric Veith	-/01/1967	88	Tom Eadie	-
30	Bob Smith	21/02/1967	89	Dr. Adrian Paul	10/02/1985
31	Dr. Alan Hewitt	1967	90	Bill Chapman	02/03/85
32	Clarrie Sanders	24/03/1968	91	Ron Vernon	May 1985
33	Martin Smith	20/03/1968	92	Bill Allen	1985
34	Alf Saunders	-/02/1968	93	Bill Shepherd	26/10/85
35	Les Wilton	23/07/1968	94	Roy McKim	24/11/1985
36	Henry Uebergang	-/04/1969	95	Harold Mollison	03/01/1986
37	Clive Mathews	-/04/1969	96	Harry Tozer	1985
38	Les Paul	1970	97	Allen Kilpatrick	24/04/1986
39	Stan Murphy	-/04/1971	98	Ted (Bluey) Stroud	09/06/1986
40	Gerald Black	-/02/1972	99	Norm Irvine	-/06/1986
41	Jack Stiglich	07/09/1972	100	Ray Frith	13/07/1986
42	Jack McGill	26/10/1972	101	Ted Tyrell	15/07/1986
43	Allan Tate	14/03/1973	102	Leo (Mick) Rea	14/11/1986
44	Arthur Hunt	03/05/1973	103	Jeff McGill	20/11/1986
45	Arnold Lovell	12/05/1973	104	Fr. Jim English	08/12/1986
46	Harold Gaudion	18/07/1973	105	A.G. (Mick) Arnott	01/01/1987
47	Ted Monot	01/01/1974	106	Dea Rea	09/04/1987
48	Keith Goslett	23/01/1974	107	Ray Meadows	01/07/1987
49	Kel White	15/04/1974	108	Eric Cornell	11/10/1987
50	Charles Craigie	12/09/1974	109	Ron Crawford	04/11/1987
51	John Osborne	29/10/1974	110	Bob Mitchell	09/01/1988
52	Dr. Frank McArdle	12/12/1974	111	Dave Johnston	14/03/1988
53	Alf Swales	26/01/1975	112	Ray Zumpe	09/12/1988
54	Ralph Hallam	20/05/1975	113	Stan Herbert	08/01/1989
55	Cyril Evans	25/07/1975	114	Alan Furmston	25/09/1989
56	Jim (Bluey) Davis	04/11/1975	115	Jock Roe	07/11/1989
57	Frank Dobbie	20/03/1976	116	Ron Roberts	08/11/1989
58	Sam Chaffey	1976	117	Jack MacKie	-
59	Cliff Drury	02/01/1978	118	Mick Vann	-
				Dr J.P. Lyttle	02/02/1990

LEST WE FORGET

119	George Bruce	-/04/1990	178	Geoff Flower	16/09/1999
120	Alec Murphy	17/08/1990	179	Andy McHattie	05/10/1999
121	Bill Schlenker	21/08/1990	180	Laurie Peverill	06/11/1999
122	Doug Clenens	28/09/1990	181	Phil Scanlon	24/01/2000
123	Joe Strudwick	31/10/1990	182	Charlie Chitts	05/06/2000
124	Clem Winchester	03/12/1990	183	Bill Sheffield	15/06/2000
125	George Johnston	15/03/1991	184	Arthur Breadon	05/12/2000
126	Dr Gavin Johnson	29/08/1991	185	Alan Patrick	28/01/2001
127	Aub. Vimpani	19/09/1991	186	Bob (KRUGER) King	04/05/2001
128	Jim Loveridge	01/12/1991	187	Roy Simpson	29/05/2001
129	Sid Biffen	20/04/1992	188	Wally Page	09/08/2001
130	Harold (TAC) Grundy	03/05/1992	189	Don Braine	22/11/2001
131	Harry Williams	09/11/1992	190	Neil Gerrand	09/12/2001
132	Eddie Mott	16/06/1993	191	Jack Laffan	-/01/2002
133	Murdock McMillian	25/07/1993	192	Eric (SERGIE) Williams	22/03/2002
134	Eddie Sullivan	06/09/1993	193	Stan Lucas	01/04/2002
135	Dr George Marks	04/11/1993	194	Allen Hocking	14/04/2002
136	Harold Lawrence	18/01/1994	195	Merv Featonby	05/06/2002
137	Dr Emmet Spring	21/01/1994	196	Arthur Rockett	10/06/2002
138	Horrie Vimpani	22/02/1994	197	Gordon Lee	-
139	Ken Clinch	13/03/1994	198	John (JACK) Walsh	25/02/2003
140	John Hall	18/08/1994	199	Dr John Lawrence	25/04/2003
141	Cec. MA Kelly	20/05/1994	200	Allen Gadsden	05/10/2003
142	Bill (NANA) Dickson	14/09/1994	201	Neil Douglas	25/10/2003
143	Ken Sutherland	23/05/1995	202	Roy Dickson	02/11/2003
144	Dr N. (BILL) Brand	24/06/1995	203	Lloyd Stewart	01/12/2003
145	Ern Strevens	30/08/1995	204	Ken Gordon	21/12/2003
146	Frank Reid	14/12/1995	205	Dr. Alex Reith	29/02/2004
147	Steve Langton	19/01/1996	206	Doug Johns	09/07/2004
148	Dr Ian Wilson	09/06/1996	207	Merv Blow	05/08/2004
149	Bob James	20/07/1996	208	Norm Wall	06/12/2004
150	Ernie (PLUGGER) Utting	08/10/1996	209	Dr. Paul Matthews	09/01/2005
151	Les Best	26/12/1996	210	Laurie Malkin	27/01/2005
152	Bert Webster	27/01/1997	211	Arthur Bachelor	16/07/2005
153	Neville Stephens	16/02/1997	212	Jack Chenhalls	09/09/2005
154	Keith Davey	27/03/1997	213	Ron Handley	09/09/2005
155	Bob Roughan	1997	214	Len Allen	06/01/2006
156	Darcy Eccles	-	215	Noel Blake	2003
157	John Cox	09/05/1997	216	Geoff Dermer	14/01/2004
158	George Drysdale	04/06/1997	217	Dick Holmes	09/05/2006
159	Roy DeJarlais	13/06/1997	218	Len Martin	06/10/2006
160	Ted Donovan	20/07/1997	219	Lloyd Champion	31/12/2006
161	Pop Cook	17/10/1997	220	Geoff Laidlaw	27/01/2007
162	L (CURLEY) Blyth	01/04/1998	221	Doug Potter	01/02/2007
163	Dick Jones	18/04/1998	222	Maurie Edwards	26/02/2007
164	Gerald Frogley	27/04/1998	223	Jock Drysdale	25/06/2007
165	Keith Flintoff	01/05/1998	224	Bert Capes	05/10/2007
166	Bruce Young	16/07/1998	225	Dr. Mick Dunn	17/06/2007
167	John Yule	31/07/1998	226	Ron Moyle	02/10/2007
168	Wally Bryan	03/11/1998	227	Bob Crawford	04/01/2008
169	Alf Phillips	29/11/1998	228	Bill Clinch	19/08/2008
170	Bill Mullin	18/12/1998	229	Stan Brogden	14/09/2008
171	Jack Caldwell	24/12/1998	230	Bert (Ack-ack) Kenny	-
172	Cecil (NED) Matthews	28/12/1998	231	Jules Collard	03/06/2009
173	George Brown	31/01/1999	232	Vern Laidlaw	02/09/2009
174	Bill Potter	-	233	Jack Standerwick	03/01/2010
175	Earl Matthews	15/05/1999	234	Rod Boundy	14/01/2010
176	Dr Marshall Gratton	18/05/1999	235	Danny Bishop	16/03/2010
177	Phil Alwyn	01/09/1999			