

10TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD
AMBULANCE (A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION
(Affiliated with Anzac House)

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TENTH TIT - BITS

NO. 9

APRIL, 1975

MESSAGE FROM COLONEL E. PALMER, O.B.E.

Congratulations to all members of the Committee, past and present, on building up and maintaining a Unit Association which has certainly grown stronger with the passing of the years. Through 10th Tit-Bits they have kept the interest and loyalty of those of us who, because of distance, have only occasionally been able to join with you at Reunions.

It is fitting at this time to remember the wartime story of our Unit. Firstly the training in Victoria under Col. Stan McKenzie, which was to be so valuable later. Then the trek north to the various Queensland camps and the sea voyage to Moresby and Milne Bay. Moresby for most meant hard work at 9th AGH. Then our first experience of war in the tropics, Buna, Sanananda, and Popandetta. Followed by the long months at Oro Bay with alternating mud and dust and an occasional bomb, and the Small Ships work to Morobe and beyond. Our participation in the 7th and 9th division campaigns brought us to Lae and Finchhaven. After as long a continuous period in New Guinea as almost any unit, home to Australia, leave and almost a year on the Tablelands at Wongabel. Another voyage by ship to Morotai then by landing craft in convoy to Borneo and the landing at Balikpapan to the spectacle of the burning oil refinery. After the Japanese surrender the interlude in Ambon as part of the occupying force.

Each of us have many memories, foremost amongst which are memories of the comrades with whom these experiences were shared.

I personally find, as the years go by, I remember less and less of the hard and dangerous times and more and more of the friendships made, and the strong feeling of having belonged to a really good Unit.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Reunion.

Arrangements for Anzac Day - Friday 25th April

The March will be held, as is customary, in the morning and those of you who can still walk the distance are challenged to attend. We usually have about fifty marchers and that is not a bad representation from a Unit of our size - Let's aim for seventy this year!

Assembly point for the March is Bourke Street outside Gaunts the Jewellers - Opposite Myers - look for the Unit banner.

Assembly time - 10.45 a.m.

Remember - Colonel Palmer will be leading us this year.

Assembly point for the family cheer squads will as usual be the east side of St. Kilda Road near Alexandra Ave. There's a whisper out that some of the wives and daughters will be putting on a "bold-front" with T-shirts emblazened with 'Tenth Tit-Bits'.

OUR 30TH REUNION

Reunion Luncheon Reunion

Change of Venue

This year our Reunion and Luncheon will be held at -

<p>THE DORCHESTER ALEXANDRA AVENUE.</p>

For those of you who don't know Melbourne, The Dorchester is set in the Alexandra Gardens just over Princes Bridge on the banks of our magnificent Yarra River !

It is an ideal location and we are very grateful to Jeff McGill for arranging this venue for us.

Because of labour costs etc. the C.T.A., where we have held the last few reunions, wanted \$11 per head to cater for us this year. You will therefore be pleased with the Dorchester price of only \$6.50 per head.

Bob James reports that there are quite a number of the boys coming down from New South Wales with him this year including Col. Ted Palmer, Murdoch McMillan, Bill Schlenker, Bob Mitchell, Fred Marles and Jack Best.

So we want a big effort from all the locals to make this, our 30th Reunion, the best ever.

Reunion Continuation:

The now traditional "after" get together will again be held at Bob and Marj King's new home at 30 Princess Street, Fawkner. There is a rumour that Bob designed his new house especially to cater for this function and those who attended last year certainly believe this.

When we were having trouble arranging a venue for our reunion, Bob and Marj offered their home for the whole day and that was really a fine gesture, so see if you can get a leave pass to go to Bob's place after the reunion luncheon.

Dinner Dance Saturday 26th April.

To mark the 30th Anniversary of the formation of our Association, the Social Sub-Committee have arranged a Dinner Dance at The Dorchester on the Saturday night from 7.30 p.m. to midnight.

The cost of the evening is a modest \$11 per head including drinks.

Response to this evening has been very good and a great night is now assured.

There is still room for a few more couples, so do the right thing chaps and let your wife - and family - take a part in our 30th Reunion celebrations.

Contact one of the organisers urgently for further details -

Bob King	30 Princess Street, Fawkner 3060.	Phone 359 6612
Jeff McGill	33 Coates Street, Moorabbin 3183	" 97 5219
Jack Stiglich	23 Gandilla Street, Balwyn 3103	" 357 9227

Last Year's Reunion

Attendance last year was 70 members and one of the highlights was the showing of 35 slides converted from original war-time photos. Having them thrown up onto a screen certainly saves the old eyes, and there was many a laugh at the youthful appearance of most members.

This year Ted Young has arranged to have a further lot of photos converted to slides and so we can promise more nostalgia.

Noticed at the Reunion

Ex-banker - now retired - Ralph Hallum just couldn't keep away from the money, Treasurer Vern Laidlaw had Ralph busily engaged in counting the 'takings'.

The long and short of it! Ken Gordon talking to Allan Williams. But the story goes that Ken, in talking to Allan, was aware that another member had joined them. Without looking too closely at the newcomer Ken said to him "You remember Allan Williams" to which the 'newcomer' replied "I ought to, he's my brother!" Good on you Les. Maybe there was some excuse as Les is now minus that great moustache.

Heard another group discussing old times and all remembered the expression "up the square", but none knew its origin. So let's have the story of its origin - real or imaginary.

Ted Donovan had a group of the Transport boys cornered and was thrashing them with his escapades as a pest exterminator and possum catcher. Business has been a bit slack lately so Ted asks all you country chaps to bring a few possums down and let them loose in the suburbs on your way through!

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS RECEIVED SINCE 25th April, 1974.

"The Folly"

GUYRA. N.S.W. 2365.

26 June, 1974.

Dear Ron,

I was deeply shocked to learn of Kel White's passing. Please convey my deepest sympathy to all concerned.

In my mind you chaps are still a mob of shiny faced big kids and I find it hard to realize how time has passed. Perhaps I have expressed that poorly. It is hard for me to imagine what thirty years has done.

After thirty years in the bush you probably wouldn't know me and you may even find that I am a misfit amongst you successful city chaps.

If you are ever up this way having a look at V.A.C.C. investments call and see me (us) and I will take time off to have a scratch in the gravel with you.

Yours sincerely,
Geoff Flower

Explanation:

The reference to 'scratching the gravel' is because of my interest in lapidary.

15 Chesterfield Road,
EPPING. N.S.W. 2121.

12 August, 1974

Dear Alan,

I was just about to send down my subscription when I heard of the untimely and sudden death of Kel White and it stopped me in my tracks. I had not met Kel until he came to Sydney about a year ago and was most impressed by his friendliness and by his great enthusiasm for the job he was doing for the 10th Field Ambulance Association. I am sure he will be sadly missed but it is pleasing to know that others have volunteered to keep the Association moving.

I am hopeful that when I have a bit more time I will be able to get down to Melbourne and see some of my old friends in the unit.

I'm sure I have missed out on occasions on paying my sub so will enclose a cheque to make amends.

Yours sincerely,
Ronald Nott

Melbourne Legacy,
"Legacy House",
293 Swanston Street,
MELBOURNE. 3000.

20 August, 1974.

Dear Vern,

As the name of the Hon. Secretary of the 10th Field Ambulance Association is not known to us, I am writing to ask if you would convey to the members of the Association our sincere thanks for their generous donation of \$50 to our Junior Legacy funds. I have pleasure in enclosing our official receipt.

Please accept the warmest thanks of Legacy for your interest and support, and our assurance that this money will be faithfully used for the purpose for which it has been given - to assist widows of ex-servicemen and their children, whom it is our privilege to serve.

Yours sincerely,
W.A. Braidie (PRESIDENT)

1 Burns Street,
Spring Gully,
BENDIGO. 3550.

3 October, 1974

Dear Alan,

I'm writing to let you know of my change of address from Woorinen to Bendigo.

At the moment I am a retired gentleman with some golf and bowls to while away the time.

Being nearer Melbourne it will enable me to get to the reunion and march more often also we will be able to get to the picnic at Healesville next year.

Regards to all,

Eddie Mott

7 Ajana Street,
NORTH BALWYN. 3104.

24 October, 1974.

Dear Alan,

This letter confirms our telephone conversation today. Because of another meeting, I would be grateful were you to tender an apology for my non attendance to next Wednesday's meeting.

Following careful thought I have decided to tender to that meeting my resignation from the Committee and from my appointment as Welfare Officer. This decision is made, not from any unhappiness with either the Committee or the Association - you know the reverse is genuinely the case, but purely from my inability to devote the time and energy to undertake the tasks to my own satisfaction and, therefore, not in the manner that I believe I should be undertaking them. I recommend that the Committee accepts my resignation in the spirit in which it is tendered and that, in my place, appoints Clem Winchester as Welfare Officer.

Perhaps you would advise me the acceptance of my resignation and when it is confirmed as to who will be the Welfare Officer, I can arrange for the transfer of those records I hold and the transfer of responsibility for the Welfare funds and Bank account now in my keeping.

Very sincerely yours, and with my kind regards to the Committee,

David James.

David's resignation was accepted with regret and suitable letter acknowledging his efforts was sent.

Beach Street,
RHYLL. 3923.

17 February, 1975.

Dear Vernon,

I guess I should be writing to Alan Sharp but I haven't his address handy.

Just to give you the address of another 10th F. Amb. comrade viz.

Mr. W.W. (Bill) Jones,
71 Wentworth Street,
LAUNCESTON. TAS. 7250.

The last I heard of Bill he was not a well man. I guess he would appreciate a copy of "the 10th F. Amb. Tit Bits".

So sorry to hear of the passing of Frank McArdle. He and I were called to the RAMC Drill Hall in William Street the same night being the same age, for call up.

Regards,

Cliff Watkins

3 Kunzea Court,
MT. WAVERLEY. 3149.

2 March, 1975.

Dear Ron,

May I, through 10th Tit Bits, record the heartfelt thanks of Olive and myself for the many kindnesses shown to us when I was ill last year.

To suffer a stroke (albeit mild) is an extremely disturbing experience - to temporarily lose power of speech, control of limbs and the ability to write and sign one's name is just not funny. However, seven months have passed since I suddenly had to face up to the fact that it could, and in fact did, happen to me. I now feel I'm making a little progress - slowly, but at least I feel I'm heading in the right direction. I'm told that provided I do as advised I should eventually be "as good as I was" (however good that was).

Brighter spots during the time I was laid up were provided by the telephone calls, cards and visits received from some of my mates and members of their families. I was particularly pleased to receive the letter sent on behalf of the Committee and Members of the Unit Association. It hit just the right spot at the right time and helped a lot.

Regards to all,

Ken Gordon.

11 Waldron Street,
SANS SOUCI. 2219.

5 March, 1975.

Dear Alan,

Thank you for the letter of the 17th February.

I noted with interest the number of members and relatives you had at the Annual picnic at Healesville. It is wonderful how the fellowship continues and seems to strengthen as the years go by.

I would just like to say how much I appreciated and enjoyed my stay in Melbourne last year. It was great seeing the fellows again and just being together.

I can't thank you all enough particularly Vern and Allison Laidlaw for the hospitality during my stay with them at their home and for the opportunity of seeing Ballarat and Bendigo, with the lovely parks and places of interest, also the stop over at Vern's holiday cottage at Indented Heads on Port Phillip Bay. What a lovely spot for a holiday!

But I was most grateful for the opportunity of visiting Frank McCardle at his home in Ballarat. We spent a pleasant time with Frank and his wife that afternoon. How shocked I was when I learned that Frank had passed away just recently and we in Sydney extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. McCardle and her family at this time.

I would like to thank Bob and Marj King for a beaut evening in their new home. Bob and Marj open their home and their hearts to any of the members who care to come along and a great time is had by all.

Soon after getting back to Sydney I contacted the fellows here and we agreed to arrange a night together where we could discuss and plan the possibility of travelling to Melbourne for the 30th Anniversary of the forming of the Association. We met for dinner at the Masonic Club in Castlereagh Street, Sydney. I believe we had almost a 100% attendance and those who were not able to attend were obviously disappointed and tendered their apologies.

We were delighted to have as our guests Bob King and David James who flew in from Melbourne for the occasion. Thanks for the support of Bob and David. Colonel Palmer and Capt. Adrian Paul were both at the dinner and this made it a very special occasion as most had not had the opportunity of seeing one another in years. Jack Best who lives at Newcastle happened to be in Sydney on the night of the dinner and we were thrilled to see him, looking very fit. All together it was a wonderful night.

A short time back Bill and Laura Dickson stopped off at Sydney on their way back from the Gold Coast. Bill had booked a home unit at McMahon's Point on the shore of the harbour directly opposite the Opera House with a view of the Bridge. He said he didn't mind looking at the Bridge but the drive over it was an entirely different matter amongst all those crazy Sydney drivers.

It was great seeing "Nana" and Laura even if it was for only a day or so.

We were able to arrange for a few of the fellows to go out to dinner, namely Bill Sheffield, Bob Mitchell and myself. We had a pleasant night and talked about what was happening among the families in Victoria.

I must get this letter away Alan so will say Cheerio for now and hope to see you in Melbourne for Anzac Day.

Best Wishes,

Bob James

30 March, 1975.

Dear Ron,

As you know I spent most of last year on an extended holiday overseas to mark my retirement from work and had a really terrific time.

I left Melbourne on the MV Marconi and visiting some of the South Sea Isles on the way, reached Mexico and passing through the Panama Canal spent some time in the Caribbean, stopping off at different Pirate haunts and islands with famous names and steeped in history.

Then on to the Mediterranean where I took a cruise to Malta and the various islands, spending Anzac Day 1974 sailing around Greece. There was a South African group of ex-servicemen on board and they arranged an Anzac Day service which was well attended - at 6.30 a.m. too, so I was surprised at the number who gathered on deck for the service.

After this cruise I travelled from Italy across Europe, eventually arriving in London which became my headquarters and where I stayed for about three months. Had a few adventures on the way, in Lisbon when the revolution started and in Istanbul when the Cyprus flareup commenced. As they expected the Greeks to step in, we were under Martial Law and saw war from the other side with refugees travelling - rushing is perhaps a better word - both ways and innumerable accidents on the highways and miles of trucks, cars, tanks and troops, the congestion being so bad it took literally hours to travel ten miles.

However, I arrived safely in London and then we had the IRA bombings and scares to contend with although I must say the English people seemed to take it in their stride and there was no panic in any of the incidents.

From London I took various trips to the Continent visiting every country in Europe, including Russia, from Finland down to Spain and from France in the west to Turkey in the east.

Having so long to spend there I was able to take my time to really see many places I visited when I was overseas ten years ago on a much tighter schedule.

In September I was in Scotland and after staying some days in Edinburgh, I was leaving my hotel to return to London and at the hotel desk whilst booking out found myself standing next to Colonel Palmer who was on the same errand. He was on holiday with his son, whom I met, but unfortunately I was running close to time for my coach and only had a few minutes to talk. You can imagine how surprised and pleased I was to see him, especially as we so nearly missed each other.

On my return journey I was able to visit Teneriffe in the Canary Islands and Capetown in South Africa, but only had a brief glimpse at these ports.

After such a long holiday I was pleased to be home again with my own family, but still have itchy feet; but will have to win Tatts before I can afford such a long trip again.

I am looking forward to meeting all the chaps at the next reunion in a few weeks time.

Yours sincerely,

Laurie Malkin.

Annual Subscription

Your account is enclosed and you will notice that inflation has caught up with us also. The Committee will be seeking the approval of members at the Reunion to change the subscription from \$2 to \$3. In anticipation of this being agreed to we have made out the account for the new amount.

Social Activities

Report by the Social Sub-Committee - Jack Stiglich, Bob King and Jeff McGill.

SWAGMAN As you will know from the notice included in last year's 10th T.B. it was proposed that a night out at the Swagman Restaurant be held. The idea which originated at the unit picnic was to be a means of celebrating the fiftieth birthday of a number of members' wives and took place on the sixth of July last.

A total of sixty persons attended consisting of families and friends of unit members and from all reports a very enjoyable night was spent in spite of rather crowded conditions.

Using the night for family celebrations were Gerald and Rohna Frogley and family (son's 18th birthday), Bruce and June Remington and family (family engagements).

Actual members present were Jack Bacon, Bob Crawford and Jack Caldwell, Jack Chennells, Bill Dickson, Ted Donovan, Gerald Frogley, Ken Gordon, Harold Grundy, Ron Handley, Stan Herbert, Bert Kenny, Bob King, Vern Laidlaw, Steve Langton, Jeff McGill, Bruce Remington, Jack Stiglich, Joe Strudwick, Glad White, Ron Woff and Ted Young.

Editor's note: The highlight of this night was the re-enactment of the famous 'Remington Limp' by the originator himself - Bruce Remington.

YARRAWONGA As you may read the report on the weekend spent at Yarrawonga you may wonder why you did not receive an invitation to join us. To know whom to contact was a difficulty which was overcome by notifying all members who were at the Swagman and distributing to all committee members notices to be passed on to any members whom the committee thought may be interested.

It is realized that some members will be disappointed particularly after reading about the enjoyable weekend that was spent. For this we can only apologize and suggest that any member interested in joining in any future social activity give his name to either Jeff McGill, Bob King or Jack Stiglich. Incidentally, it is possible that another weekend at Yarrawonga may be arranged this year.

Prior to the night at the Swagman, Joe and Sylvia Strudwich had suggested to Kel and Glad White during a visit by the latter to Joe and Sylvia's that members have a weekend at Yarrawonga. This suggestion was discussed again during the night at the Swagman and it was decided that action be taken.

Joe and Sylvia submitted a timetable of notable events in the town and from this it was decided that the weekend of the 25/27 of October was the most suitable.

The majority of the troops were booked into the Highway Motel, (just over the road from Joe and Sylvia's), with an outpost consisting of Gerald and Rohna Frogley, Steve and Beryl Langton stationed at the Skiland just out of town.

The first to arrive were Bill and Laura Dickson who booked in at approximately 2.30 pm with the remainder of the Friday arrivals being completed by about 5 pm. A counter tea in town preceded a quick change before assembling at Joe & Sylvia's for a S.N.A.C.K.?, before leaving for the Belle of Belles Ball at Wilby about five miles from Yarrawonga.

Apart from unit members everybody within a radius of 500 miles crowded into the hall which caused the walls to bulge, but luckily they did not burst. Crowded conditions eased following the judging of the Belles and supper, resulting in some of the sardine effect being lost and giving a little more room to dance.

The ball finished at 2 am. and on the way home Joe stopped to show some of us his church. (Disused and purchased for building material). A suggestion was put that a church parade be held on the Sunday conducted by Father Donovan but failed to gain any support.

Saturday morning was a conducted convoy tour of the town which included churches, camping area etc., finishing at about 11 am. in the main shopping area giving the women in the party a chance to spend up. During this period the men patiently waited in a near by bar. Lunch at Joe & Sylvia's followed, disposing of the left-over snacks from Friday night.

Saturday afternoon consisted of a visit to the Bryant and May match factory, a convoy tour of the explosives factory at Mulwala and the area where the trees are grown to supply timber to the match factory then back to the Motel to prepare for dinner at the Mulwala R.S.L.

The night at the R.S.L. was perhaps the highlight of the weekend, as after an excellent dinner the remainder of the evening was spent dancing with some partaking of an occasional glass to revive oneself. Believe it or not there was plenty of room to dance.

Sunday was supposed to consist of a quick casserole dinner at Joe & Sylvia's, to enable the visitors to get away early but something went wrong, as it was well after four before the first of the group started to move off.

Roll call for the weekend was Bob and Marge King, Jeff and Marjorie McGill, Bill and Laura Dickson, Des and June Rae, Ted and Fay Donovan, Gerald and Rohna Frogley, Neville and Nancy Stevens, Jack and June Stiglich, Bill and Joy Shepherd, Bert and Elsie Kenny, Steve and Beryl Langton.

On behalf of all members, wives and children present, we once again offer Joe and Sylvia our heartfelt thanks for a magnificent weekend.

Answers to questions like - Why Nancy Stevens threatened to lock Neville out?
 Why Ted Donovan objected to his room being used
 as an assembly point?
 Why Des Rae wanted to form a breakaway movement?
 Why Bill Shepherd took a detour?

may be given at the Reunion.

Congratulations to our energetic Social Sub-Committee!!

ANNUAL PICNIC Our Annual Family Picnic was again held at Queens Park, Healesville on the 16th February, 1974. A total of about 100 attended, made up of twenty members, their families and friends. One thing that was most noticeable this year was that although it was a beautiful day not one of "the boys" went for a swim - age must be catching up!

We really missed Harold and Betty Grundy this year, don't let that happen again "TAC".

Talking to Eddie Mott at the picnic and learned that his daughter is married to Trevor LAUGHLAN the very promising Collingwood Cricketer who this year made the Victorian team and performed so well. Seem to remember that Eddie was a pretty good cricketer too.

The picnic is always a really happy family day, so make a note now for the third Sunday in February 1976 and we'll see you at Queens Park, Healesville.

10th Field Ambulance 1st AIF

We were again invited to the reunion of the original 10th, and Mick Dunn and I attended. Their numbers were down to about 20 but they really enjoy their reunion and we felt privileged to attend again.

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN OSBORNE	29.10.1974
FRANK McCARDLE	12.12.1974
ALF SWALES	26. 1.1975

Lest We Forget

Some of you will remember Major Bernard McColl who was with our unit for a short time. We learned that he died recently. Major McColl was president of the Fourth Field Ambulance Association from inception until his death and will be quite a loss to that Association.

General

As none of you supplied any items for our "Do You Remember?" section you deserve to go without! This can be the source of a lot of enjoyment for those who can't get to Reunions so I appeal again for any items under this or any other heading.

One memory came to mind recently when I had to buy a bandage and was staggered at the cost thereof. Do you remember how we marked out the Badington Courts with bandages?

Ralph Hallum suggested we run a "For Sale" column, he still has one slightly used but in good condition pair of army boots, original issue! which he reckons should bring a good price. How he got these past Harold Mollison is still a mystery.

That's all for this issue and don't forget to put in for that leave pass for Anzac Day right now -

See you all at The Dorchester !

RON WOFF

