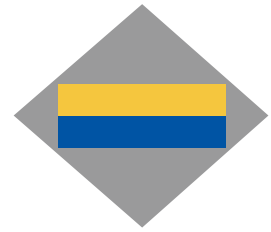


COMRADESHIP

www.2nd14battalion.org.au

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President's Report



One of my objectives, since becoming your President some 6 years ago, was to get this Association through the transitional period, where the baton of responsibility was passed from the Veterans (most of whom are now in their 90s) to their children, but also to retain the traditions of this proud Battalion. I believe I can safely say that this has now been completed, a successful blending of the traditional with the new. We are now looked upon in the wider community as an association going places, and a benchmark for all to follow. We will not be dictated to, or compromised by various elements of the Community at large, who put their own selfish interests above all others. We have not faded away like many other battalions, but have gone from strength to strength, with an Australian membership of just over 500; remarkably this includes 90 Veterans, and 170 widows.

Please continue to support us by attending as many functions as you can, and I am pleased to say that attendances have been up this year. You will find an events calendar in each issue of Comradeship, now being produced four times a year. Your committee is well aware that many of you are still in the work force, so 'thank you' for giving of your time. We know most of you do it in memory of a lost relative of the Battalion.

The History of the 2/14th Battalion book reprint has now been completed. 'Thank you' to the Bill Russell family, for allowing this to happen, and to all our members who have contributed and participated in this rewarding project. Recently, in November, the Battalion cemented its relationship with Sydney, by unveiling a plaque there at the Memorial Rose Garden in Concord, with four 2/14 Veterans in attendance.

We continue to foster ties with both the Reservoir High School and Kingsbury Primary school in Victoria; our Queensland Branch does a similar thing in that State. Why? Because the history of Australia's participation in WW2 is not that well known, and has not been taught well in our schools. We aim to change that. The Victorian Liberal Government has granted a considerable amount of money to upgrade The Ferntree Gully Kokoda Track Memorial, and our own Marg Briggs is co-ordinating our involvement, together with other units and Parks Victoria. Once again I thank all those members, the "quiet achievers", who rolled up their sleeves and got all the jobs done. I could not have done it without you. Have a great Christmas, and see you in 2012.

**Till the next time,
Michael Ralston, President.**

FORCES SWEETHEART A note sent in by 'Lights Out'

Remember Vera Lynn? What vet of WW II could ever forget her. She was the 'Forces Sweetheart.' Well, Vera at the age of 92 years released a collection of her War hits called, 'We'll Meet Again' that went on to become Number One, top of the charts, selling more CD's than the Beatles did on their return. Vera is the oldest person in the world to top the charts. A survey of the music stores was made, and apparently the sales of Vera's CD's was to all age groups, not just to the elderly.

Vera has handed her mantle of the 'Forces Sweetheart' over to a girl in her 20's, Hayley Westernra, who has been singing to the American Forces in the War Zones as Vera did. Hayley has a beautiful voice and sings songs similar to Vera. So there you have it. Now the challenge is to all you vets in their 90s, to send in your stories of what you have done. I am excluded as I don't turn 90 till next year!

KOKODA CAMPAIGN MEMORIAL SERVICE - GEELONG

The Geelong Branch of the National Service Association again organised a very moving service to commemorate the Battles of Isurava and Kokoda. The service this year was held on Sunday 28th August at Osborne House, North Geelong and was attended by approximately 300, with many service organisations being represented as well as local dignitaries. The 38 Bty, 2/10 Field Regiment provided the catafalque party, accompanied by the Geelong Memorial Brass Band led by Christina Bowden. Christina also played the Last Post and Reveille.

This year Cam Thompson, who is a Kokoda veteran, along with Norman Mattila, 2/27 and also a 2/14 Association Member attended the service. Cam laid the wreath on behalf of the 2/14 Battalion.

The keynote speech was made by Trevor Ingram, Victorian Representative of the 2/16 Battalion Association, who spoke movingly of the 2/16 Battalion's history and their involvement in the Kokoda campaign.

Afterwards we adjourned to the Vietnam Veterans Association club rooms at Osborne House where a convivial barbecue lunch was provided free of charge by the City of Greater Geelong for all those attending.



Norman Mattila (2/27 Bn), Michael Ralston, Trevor Ingram (2/16 Bn Assoc), Chris Ingram, Cam Thompson (2/14 Bn) at the Osborne House War Memorial, Geelong

OBITUARIES

QX29600 Corporal BOSHAMMER, Stanley

Stan was born in Toowoomba on 5 January 1921 and enlisted in the Army on 12 January 1942 at Chinchilla in Queensland. After initial training postings and then postings to 7th Pioneer Company and 2/31 Battalion, he marched into the 2/14 Battalion on 7 June 1943 where he saw active service in the Markham-Ramu and Borneo Campaigns

Stan's strong beliefs saw him posted to the band, whose members acted as stretcher bearers during active combat, apart from their ceremonial band duties. As a result of his active service in the tropics, Stan suffered from and was hospitalised with the usual diseases, malaria, dengue and dysentery.

Stan marched out of the Battalion on its cessation on 22 January 1945 and returned to Australia where he was attached to Land Headquarters until he was discharged on 10 April 1946.

Stan was an active member of the Queensland branch of the Association.

VX69856 Private HARGREAVES, Frederick John

Fred was born in Melbourne on 18 January 1913 and was living at Mortlake when he enlisted on 29 December 1941. After early recruit training he was posted to 2/14 Battalion and marched in on 3 July 1942, shortly before embarkation for Port Moresby.

He was posted to C Company which bore the brunt of the heavy Japanese attacks on 28 August 1942 at Isurava, where Fred was severely wounded.

Little is known of his later service as after spending considerable time in hospital, Fred left the battalion on 13 June 1943. It is believed that he spent a long period in recuperation before his eventual discharge from the Army on 28 May 1946.

WX15175/W11333 Staff Sergeant JORGENSEN, Selwyn George



Army records indicate that Selwyn was born in Albany on 28 February 1920 and was living at Subiaco when he enlisted in the Army at Claremont on 21 July 1941. He had previously enlisted in the CMF in May 1938 and was serving as a Sergeant with 44 Battalion at the time of his transfer to the AIF.

Selwyn, known as 'Shorty', was initially posted to the 3rd Infantry Training Battalion, from where he was variously assigned to 2/48, 2/11, 2/16 and again 2/11 Infantry Battalions, before finally being posted to 2/14 Battalion. He joined the Battalion in the Middle-East on 19 January 1942 and was posted to 7 Platoon in A Company.

He saw service with the Battalion in the Papuan and Markham-Ramu campaigns and was promoted to Corporal and made a section commander. After significant periods in hospital with a range of tropical medical conditions, Selwyn finally marched out of the Battalion on 8 September 1944.

Selwyn saw further service with the 7th Division Recreation Camp on Mototai and Balikpapan, and was promoted to Staff Sergeant before being discharged from the Army on 8 December 1945.

Selwyn went back to PNG with two of his sons around 12 years ago but found it difficult to pin down the details of his

experiences there. Last year, for the first time since Kokoda, Selwyn met up with Cyril Allender. Both West Australians, the two had joined the 2/16 at the same time and, together, been transferred to the 2/14 in the Middle East.

WX123426 Private RANSOM, John Theodore

Jack Ransom was born on 19 April 1920 in Fitzroy and was living at Thornbury in Melbourne when he enlisted in the Army at Watsonia Army Camp on 18 January 1943. He marched in to the Battalion on 30 May 1943 whilst it was training at Ravenshoe and was posted to 14 Platoon in C Company.

Jack was the nephew of one of the Battalion's oldest soldiers, Private Les "Pappy" Ransom who was one of the originals who served in every campaign with the Battalion.

John saw active service in the Markham-Ramu and Borneo Campaigns, and was wounded in 14 Platoon's attack on Japanese positions at Manggar Airstrip in the latter campaign.

VX22070 Private REED, Raymond

Ray was born at Beeac on 2 July 1918, and was living at Dandenong when he enlisted in the Army on 4 June 1940. He marched in to the 2/14 Battalion two days later and was posted to the Carrier Platoon.

The Platoon played an active role with the Battalion in the open country encountered in the Syrian Campaign where the carriers had an important support role and were frequently under enemy fire and bombing.

In Port Moresby this close support role was not possible and the platoon was detached to form the 7th Division Carrier Group along with the Carrier Platoons from the other battalions there. The group was heavily armed and played an important mobile defence and communication role around Port Moresby, releasing infantry for the Kokoda Campaign.

When Gona fell in December 1942, the Carrier Group was transferred to Wau to play a similar role there until May 1943, when the Group was disbanded and the Platoon could rejoin the Battalion in Australia.

On its return to the Battalion, the Carrier Platoon was formed into the Medium Machine Gun Platoon, providing effective offensive covering fire in battle. Ray served with the Platoon for the Markham-Ramu and Borneo Campaigns. He marched out of the Platoon on 10 September 1945 and was discharged from the Army on 12 November 1945.

THE SECOND FOURTEENTH BATTALION: A HISTORY OF AN AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR - By W.B. Russell

If you haven't already purchased your copy or copies, they are still available. The cost of \$60 includes post and packaging to anywhere in Australia and they are available to all members and friends of the Association.

You can order on the remittance form enclosed with this copy of Comradeship or you can contact Chris Ingram by telephone, (03) 9561 5790 or email chris.ingram@margni.com to order.

OBITUARIES -CONTINUED-

VX15794 Lieutenant Thomson, Alexander 'Sandy' Welsh



Alex 'Sandy' Thomson was born on 6 April 1918 at Ivanhoe in Melbourne. On 20 May 1940 he, and approximately 50 of his comrades from 5th Battalion, Victorian Scottish Regiment, enlisted in the AIF and marched in to the 2/14 Battalion. He was living at Kew at this time.

Sandy was posted to 15 Platoon in C Company where he was promoted to Corporal and made a Section Commander in recognition of his prior CMF service in the Victorian Scottish Regiment. He initially saw action against the Vichy French forces in Syria in hard fighting at Zahrani, where C Company was attached to 2/16 Battalion.

Returning to the Battalion, further hard fighting occurred at Jezzine, and it was here that Sandy was complimented by the Brigadier of 25 Brigade for his patrolling. However, at Damour on 7 July 1941, Sandy, by this time 15 Platoon Sergeant, was severely wounded and hospitalised. This wound kept Sandy out of the Kokoda and Gona fighting, where C Company was the first to meet the Japanese and suffered heavy casualties, particularly amongst the Officers and NCOs.

Sandy returned to the Battalion and was promoted to Lieutenant on 3 August 1943. He was initially posted to command 10 Platoon in B Company for the Markham Ramu Campaign, then was posted to command the Signals Platoon for the Borneo landings at Balikpapan.

After serving with the Battalion in its post-war peace-keeping role in the Celebes in Netherlands East Indies, Sandy marched out of the Battalion on 10 November 1945 and was discharged from the Army on 6 December 1945.

Sandy became an active member of the 2/14 Battalion Association and served as President in 1957-1958. For many years he was Honorary Auditor ensuring that the Treasurer scrupulously maintained the accounts for the members and the Welfare Fund. He assisted Jim McAllister and the Association produce the Battalion History's sister publication in 1990, Men of the 2/14 Battalion. He was one of several who spent many voluntary hours checking Army records to compile the Nominal Roll of over 3000 men who served with the Battalion which appears in the rear of the book.

For many years, Sandy managed the family steel fabrication firm, J F Thomson P/L, where he employed many of his fellow soldiers from the battalion, including Jack Kramme, Lindsay 'Teddy' Bear, Con Vapp, and, for a time, Stan Bisset.

He was a committee member for many years until recently and attended all functions on a regular basis. In recognition of his many contributions, he was appointed a Life Member of the Association which is the greatest recognition that the members can bestow.

VX14093 Captain (later Lieut Colonel) TRELOAR, Alan

Alan was born at Ivanhoe in 13 Nov 1919, the son of John Treloar, who was director of the Australian War Memorial from 1920 to 1952. Alan enlisted in the AIF on 6 May, 1940, following several years as a member of the Melbourne University Rifles (MUR), and marched into 2/14 Battalion as a lieutenant. At the time, Alan's enlistment was reported in the Melbourne papers, because it entailed his deferment of the 1940 Rhodes Scholarship for study at Oxford University.

Initially, Alan was a platoon commander in C Company, but he had trained on the medium machine gun with the MUR, in June he was selected to command the Mortar Platoon in Headquarter Company.

On 12 June 1941, during the action to capture Sidon in the Syrian Campaign, he was severely wounded in the thigh from an attack by enemy aircraft. Following his recovery, he was detached to 21 Brigade Headquarters.

On the return to Australia, Alan returned to the Battalion and was second-in-command of A Company during the Kokoda campaign. However, his wound had caused him great difficulty in the campaign, and he was posted to 7 Division Carrier Company in September 1942, serving as adjutant to Captain Ian Hamilton, before being promoted to captain, himself. On 12 Oct 1942, he was evacuated to Australia, and medically downgraded.

Alan was taken on strength by the Directorate of Military Operations and saw out the war in various staff positions, including the army intelligence corps and the Department of External Affairs.

Following the war, Alan continued his studies at Oxford, but maintained his service with the militia, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in command of the Glasgow University Officers Training Corps, while lecturing at Glasgow University.

Alan became one of Australia's greatest linguists and classical scholars, having direct knowledge of over 80 languages. In later life, his requests for birthday presents were for any book NOT IN ENGLISH! Following his appointment to the University of New England in 1960, Alan lived in Armidale, NSW, where he died in July this year.

VX15284 Sergeant YOUNGER, Albert Leslie

Albert was born 18 Feb 1918 at Wangaratta and was living at Merrigum when he enlisted at Caulfield on 16 May 1940. He was serving with 59 Battalion CMF at the time of his enlistment.

Albert marched in to the Battalion on 20 May 1940 and was posted to 8 Platoon in A Company and saw service in the Syrian, Papuan and Markham Ramu Campaigns.

He marched out of the Battalion on 2 Oct 1944 and was discharged from the Army on 13 October 1944 to return to farming.

Whilst Albert was a member of the Association, he had not been to any functions for a number of years.

BALIKPAPAN 2012

'Travel and Tour Hunters' is running another tour to Balikpapan, site of the 1945 Borneo landings, from 24 - 30 March, 2012.

The tour includes a stopover in Singapore, with visits to the Kranji War Cemetery and Changi Museum, and a tour of the prime World War II sites at Balikpapan. Contact Jane or Sally for more details or a brochure: phone 02 4933 0874, email enquiries@travellandtourhunters.com.au, or website www.travellandtourhunters.com.au

MEMORIAL PROJECTS

Two projects of interest to the Association are underway at the moment.

The State Government has provided \$1 million to Parks Victoria to upgrade the Kokoda Memorial Walk at Ferntree Gully National Park. Final plans are being drawn up, in consultation with the Battalions involved in the campaign, and the new Memorial Terrace, with enhancement of the 1000 Steps and Lyrebird Walks are exciting elements of the project. It is also hoped to build a Memorial Wall with Honour Roll of all those who died in the campaign and funds will be raised for this. Marg Briggs, our representative on the planning committee, has been involved in the Park project since its inception in 1996. It is hoped to have the Memorial in place for the 70th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign next year.



Cam Thompson and Marg Briggs (centre front) at Ferntree Gully National Park at the announcement of the Memorial Project with Environment Minister Ryan Smith, Treasurer Kim Wells, MPs Nick Wakeling, and Edward O'Donohue, , together with representatives of 39th and 2/16th Battalions.

The second is a fundraising project being undertaken by the Powerhouse Rugby Union Club for their new club rooms at Albert Park, to be named the Stan Bisset Pavilion. Stan, along with others in the Battalion, was a member of Powerhouse during the 1930s, and continued to be involved with the rugby union club for much of his life. Tax deductible contributions towards the building of the Pavilion can be made to the Rugby Foundation. Fill out the form at http://powerhouse.rugbynet.com.au/verve/_resources/RUGBY_FOUNDATION.pdf or contact The Secretary, Power House Rugby Union Foundation; Level 1, 139 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000.

From South Australian Representative Ian Hopley

Greetings from the land of the crow eaters.

I recently had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Joyce Smithson who is the sister of Warrant Officer Wilfred "Wofty" Noble VX 14780, also known to his family as "Book".

"Wofty" Noble fought with distinction in the Middle East and at Kokoda but unfortunately, was killed in action on the Kokoda Track on 11 September, 1942. He was posthumously awarded a mention in dispatches (mid). According to Col Blume many years later, the action for which Wofty was awarded a mid should have led to him being awarded a Victoria Cross.



Anna Hopley and Mrs. Joyce Smithson.

Mrs. Smithson, who is a spritely 91 year old, has been a member of the 2/14th Battalion Association for many years, enjoys receiving Comradeship and always attends ANZAC Day services.

In an amazing twist of fate, in 2006, Mrs. Smithson was watching the Adelaide ANZAC Day service on television. Part of the broadcast showed some film from Damien Parer's famous documentary "Kokoda Front Line". In one of the famous scenes, she clearly recognized her brother marching along the track and has since had still photos lifted from the film clip.

Wilfred "Wofty" Noble was one of 5 children of George and Daisy Noble. George, a Scottish migrant started Noble and Sons foundry which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary and is now a national company. "Wofty" worked for the family company and moved to Melbourne to head the Melbourne Branch. It was in Melbourne that he first became involved in the Powerhouse lacrosse team and the Brighton Yacht Club.

He joined the AIF on 11.5.40 and was posted to the 2/14th. He served with the battalion throughout the Middle East campaigns before returning to Australia. Mrs. Smithson recalls



"W/O Wilfred 'Wofty' Noble at Puckapunyal 1940

that her brother, and a number of battalion members including Ron Dredge, Stan Bisset and Bob Dougherty visited the Noble family in Adelaide prior to their embarkation to Queensland and Papua, which was unfortunately the last time they saw him.

Mrs. Smithson was sorry she was unable to attend the "Last Parade" in PNG in 1998 however we have recently provided her with the video of the trip which by coincidence has the Parer film clip of her brother walking on the track in it.

It is wonderful to see kinfolk members continuing to be interested and supporting the aims of our association, even after so many years and we wish Mrs. Smithson all the best for the future.



"Wofty" Noble as he appears in the Damien Parer film "Kokoda Front Line" with other 2/14th members

KOKODA KINFOLK TREK 2012

Forward notice that Aidan Grimes of 'Our Spirit' is proposing several treks to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Isurava. The main trek, from Kokoda to Owers Corner, will run between 23 Aug to 2 Sept, 2012 and include a visit to Popondetta. There is also a shorter trek from Kokoda to Isurava, return, followed by a visit in vehicles to the beachheads of Gona, Buna and Sanananda, which may appeal to those unable to contemplate the whole Track.

The tours are very well priced to appeal to kinfolk of those who fought along the Track. More details will appear in the next edition of Comradeship, or you may wish to contact Aidan directly on 0414 521 531 or aidangrimes@ourspirit.com.au

2/14 Annual Shrine Pilgrimage and Memorial Service

This significant event was held in the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne on the 18th September. All those present were moved by the solemnity of the occasion and also the venue. It certainly is one of the very special times for the 2/14th Association members in our calendar year.

A good crowd was in attendance, from veterans through to great grand children. The number of our "living legends" able to attend these occasions is diminishing rapidly and we very much appreciate the efforts of Bob Nichols, Cam Thompson, Jim Coy and their family members in getting to this ceremony. How great it was to see them there!



Cam Thompson, Jimmy Coy, Bob Nichols attended the Shrine Pilgrimage

President Michael Ralston gave the address and Vice President Rob Eden coordinated the day. The Battalion Roll of Honour was called by Gavon Armstrong, with the names of all those who died being read out in order of the Campaigns in which they fell. This was followed by a flawless rendition of the Last Post and Reveille by John Cornish.

For those who missed the occasion, do put 1.30pm, Sunday 16th September 2012 in your diary. The Annual meeting of the Association precedes the Remembrance Ceremony and it would be terrific to see a good roll up to that meeting as well.



John Stewart's grandson, Peter Skinner, and great-granddaughter, Rachael continue the tradition

Thank you to all those who attended and special thanks to Michael and Rob for ensuring that the day was such a success.

Gavon Armstrong

SYDNEY GATHERING

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Sydney, built to honour those who served in the Second World War, is one of the finest landscape memorials in the world. Here on November 4, the 2/14th Battalion Association held a ceremony to unveil a plaque honouring those of the battalion who gave their lives in the Kokoda campaign of 1942.

At the Memorial Rose Garden, at one end of the Walkway, Association President, Michael Ralston welcomed veterans and kinfolk, acknowledging by name veterans present and veterans who had sent their apologies. Comradeship editor, Jill Bear, presented a detailed summary of the battalion's activities on the Kokoda Track.

The director of the ceremony, Colonel John Moore then called on 2/14th veteran, George Russell, to unveil the plaque which reads:



George Russell enlisted from Warragul, Victoria and served in the 2/14th Battalion from 7 June 1940 to 24 July 1945. He is one of the few 'Middle East' veterans still with us.

The wreath for fallen comrades was laid by James Hudson. Cpl. Hudson joined the 2/14th on 11 June 1943 and served in both the New Guinea and Borneo campaigns. He went on to serve in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan.

The Ode was read by Les Cook, who joined the 2/14th on 13 September 1944

serving in the Borneo campaign. Les also went on to serve in the BCOF in Japan. Les resides in Canberra. In his working life he was a Commonwealth public servant, mainly in departments of minerals and energy.

Also present at the unveiling was 2/14th veteran Brian Cooke OAM, and veterans Dick Payten and Norm Ensor, both representing the Seventh Division Association.

A delightful addition to the day's program was the presence of three 'fuzzy wuzzies' and a Papua New Guinea Culture group. This group had been brought down from PNG principally for the Kokoda Flag raising ceremony held each year at the Kokoda Walkway.

After the unveiling, the group moved to the Ralph Honner Education Centre where they were welcomed by Alice Kang, Honorary Secretary, Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway and Manager: Marketing & Veteran Services, Concord Hospital, and Jill Bear spoke to the group about Ralph Honner's links with the battalion.

Morning tea and lunch were taken at the on-site café, after which our 2/14th Association New South Wales representative, Ron Inglis, conducted a memorials tour covering the Five Images of Kokoda at the Walkway followed by an inspection of the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Rookwood, the largest such cemetery in Australia.

A small group attended the Association dinner in the evening at the Burwood RSL Club, where Ron shared a most interesting presentation on war memorials in Australia and France.

The success of the day can be attributed to the work that Ron put in to organize the series of events that made up a very special day and enjoyable day of remembrance.



2/14 Veterans Jim Hudson, Brian Cooke, George Russell, Dick Payten (7 Div), Norm Ensor (7 Div) and Les Cook, with two of the visitors from Papua New Guinea, in the Memorial Rose Garden at Concord.

EVENT CALENDAR 2011

2nd Committee Meeting

Sunday, 4th December, 11.30 am
East Malvern RSL

Kingsbury Award

Wednesday, 7th December
Reservoir High School

Kingsbury Award

Monday, 19th December, 6.15 pm
Kingsbury Primary School

2012 (UP TO JUNE)

3rd Committee Meeting

Sunday, 4th March, 11.30 am
East Malvern RSL

Yarra Valley Legacy ANZAC Service for Local Schools

Wednesday, 18th April, 11.00 am
(to be confirmed)
Ferntree Gully National Park

Wreath-laying Service

Wednesday, 25th April, 11.00 am
2/14 Battalion tree, north-west corner
of The Shrine of Remembrance

Reunion – Melbourne

Monday, 23rd April, 12.30 pm
The Celtic Club
316-320 Queen Street, Melbourne

ANZAC Day March

Friday, 25th April
(Assembly details for Brisbane &
Melbourne in the next issue of
Comradeship)

4th Committee Meeting

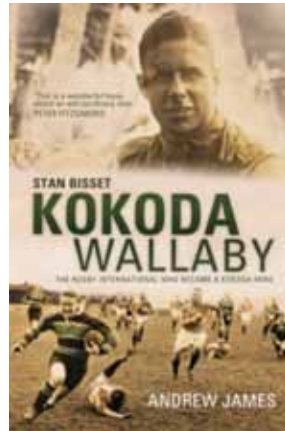
Sunday, 3rd June, 11.30 am
East Malvern RSL

BOOK REVIEWS

Prepared by Ross Wilkinson

Kokoda Wallaby

Andrew James
Allen & Unwin 2011 RRP \$32.99



"Stan Bisset was a real hero, both in battle, on the rugby pitch and in desperate armed combat against the Japanese during the Second World War.

As a member of the ill-fated 1939 Wallaby touring team to England, he was a rugby legend. In the Middle East and on the Kokoda Track, he was one of Australia's most distinguished and heroic combatants. But above all else, he personified so many attributes of the Australian soldier: moral and physical courage, compassion, selflessness, independence, loyalty, resourcefulness, devotion and humour."

Allen & Unwin website

"A great story that is long overdue in the telling." -Paul Ham
'Rugby is fortunate to have so many role models of the highest order. Stan Bisset is at the top of the game.' -John Eales, former Wallabies captain

'Stan Bisset, like this remarkable story of his life, is timeless.' -Patrick Lindsay

'Stan was a man before his time. His leadership, forward thinking and standards were second to none . . . This book is a fascinating and insightful read and I highly recommend it.' -Rod Macqueen AM, former Wallabies coach

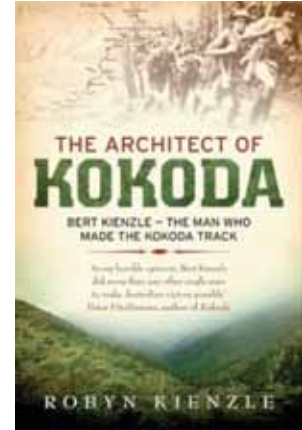
Andrew James is the son of Bill James who is well known to members of the Association as the author of the definitive guide to trekking the Kokoda Track. Andrew is a former Australian soldier who saw service in Afghanistan and since finishing his army service, has led a number of expeditions over the Kokoda Track.

The book is a reasonable account of Stan's life from his family environment, growing up, his active interest in sport; membership and involvement with the Power House youth club; selection for Victoria and Australia as a rugby player and his active, decorated role with the 2/14 Battalion in all theatres during World War Two.

The book is an excellent read for someone wanting to know about Stan Bisset but is let down by some fundamental mistakes in military facts surrounding the events of those times. Despite this, it should form part of any library on the Kokoda Campaign or the 2/14 Battalion.

The Architect of Kokoda

Robyn Keinzle
Hatchette Publishing Australia 2011
RRP \$35.00



"The Kokoda story continues to have a very powerful resonance with all Australians, and this book tells a unique part of it for the very first time. Bert Kienzle's vital role in Kokoda is acknowledged in all the published accounts but

until today no one has told his personal story.

If one person made the Kokoda Track that man was Bert Kienzle. Part Samoan and German/English, born in Fiji and raised in Germany and Australia, he was managing a rubber plantation and gold mine in Papua New Guinea at the outbreak of WWII. He surveyed and established the Track, and spent more time on it than anyone else throughout the campaign managing and organising the delivery of supplies and men along it.

This is the untold story of a true Australian war hero."

Hatchette Publishing website

There is fleeting reference to 2/14 Battalion's actions in the campaign and no mention of any 2/14 person, but this is still a vital reference to anyone with an interest in the development of the Kokoda Campaign. It is also a very interesting biography about a fascinating person.

Whilst Bert's involvement in the Kokoda Campaign as an ANGAU officer is well known through a number of publications including the Official Histories, the author, Bert's daughter-in-law, has had access to both his papers and much personal contact with Bert before he died. What has come to light through this book is that, whilst the early soldiers who served in that Campaign are adamant that it is titled Kokoda "Track", Bert Keinzle referred to it constantly and definitively as "Trail".

Bert was responsible for the provision, management and wellbeing of the carriers known affectionately as the "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels". It is clear through this narrative that he recognised the need to maintain good man management practices to ensure the cooperation and continuity of this resource for the campaign.

The author's husband, Soc, is a member of the Association and leads treks over the Track. His aim is to ensure that the correct location and history of the wartime track are preserved.

70 Years Ago

The armistice in the Syrian Campaign came into effect during the night of 11 – 12 July, 1941, but it was still a concern of the British that Germany might move through Turkey and attack Syria, Palestine and Egypt.

Consequently, in order to deal with this threat, the 2/14 Battalion was among the units deployed in garrison duties over the next six months. As well as ensuring civil order, the troops were involved in a programme of training, schools of instruction and leave to visit the many ancient sites around the country.

Initially the battalion occupied the area around Aley, in the range above Beirut, close to where they had been deployed just prior to the ceasefire. Then, in September, they moved north into the mountains north east of Tripoli and the area between Halba and Sir ed Danie.



Valley of the Bared River, northern Lebanon, near Quatie (El Quatie), where A Company was posted

Veteran Jimmy Coy remembers the beautiful ski resort at The Cedars. He had volunteered to learn to ski when a ski unit

was proposed for deployment in Europe. However, it was so bitterly cold, that the troops were relieved when the idea was dropped. For Cam Thompson, it was the beach camp at Eglise St Elie, south of Beirut, that holds his affection.

One of the major contributions of the British forces was the building of a railway linking Beirut and Tripoli. The bridges of this railway still stand, the rising sun badge clear evidence on many of them of the legacy left by the Australian engineers. Unfortunately, during the civil war of the 1980s – 2000s (the war the Lebanese mean when they talk about ‘the war’,) much of the track was destroyed, and it is no longer used.



One of the railway bridges built by Australian engineers. The rising sun badge is carved on the abutments

Another of the legacies left by the Australians is the commemorative panel, carved into the World Heritage listed Conqueror’s Rock beside the Dog River. It is in need of some maintenance, now, but

proclaims the role of the Australian Corps in the 1941 conflict, alongside stela (rock memorials) ordained by earlier conquerors: from Egyptian Ramses II in the 13th century BC, and Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar in the 7th century BC, through various Assyrian, Greek, Roman, Mameluk, Ottoman and French forces, to the declaration of a free Lebanon in 1943.



Conquerors Rock on the Dog River; the 1941 memorial is at bottom left.

While the garrison and training duties in which the battalion was involved were important, there was a degree of speculation among the troops about their next destination. Greece and Crete had fallen, but German General Rommel still held Tobruk under siege, so a desert deployment was expected. However, though they did not appreciate its importance at the time, the bombing of Pearl Harbour by the Japanese on 7-8 Dec 1941, was about to have a significant impact on the future of the battalion.

WHEN A VETERAN PASSES AWAY

When one of our veteran members passes away the Battalion Association is here to assist the family in any way possible. If it is the family’s wish we can present a eulogy at the funeral with particular emphasis on his war service. We also honour his war service by publishing an obituary in Comradeship so that old comrades and friends are informed.

But we can only do this if we know that a member has passed away, so we respectfully request that family members inform the Battalion Association in the event of their loved one passing away by contacting the Secretary, Christine Ingram at chris.ingram@margni.com or telephoning Chris on 03 9561 5790.

In case you did not know, widows will continue to receive Comradeship at no charge. Just keep us up-to-date with any changes of address and we will ensure that regular copies will continue to be sent.

SYRIAN CAMPAIGN at the SHRINE

The Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance currently has a display focusing on the Greece, Crete and Syrian Campaigns of 1941.

The exhibition incorporates contemporary portraits by Peter Wegner, celebrating the exploits of these brave Australians, in particular one of 2/14 veteran, Lionel Smith, who was present at the exhibition opening



The exhibition will run until 5 Feb, 2012.

Lionel Smith beside his portrait at the opening of the exhibition

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Around The Traps

John Smith, one of our newer Members, has volunteered to co-ordinate a function next year on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the 2/14th participation of the PNG Kokoda campaign. We look forward to the event.

Former Salvation Army chaplain, **Doug Watkins** (VX147608), has accepted "The Religious Role" for the Battalion. Doug recently presided at Sandy Thompson's funeral. You can contact him on 03 9898 8172.

Apologies for the recent events at Sydney were received from, **Kel Sharp** (NX169154), **Bill Parfrey** (VX61294), **Harry Allen** (VX16951), **Noel Pallier** (NX142877), **Les White** (NX146385), **Fred Rigby** (NX116882), **Col Newton Campbell** (VX146718), **Ernie Mewburn** (NX153338) and widows Thelma Turner, Zoe Sheehan and Margaret Jackson.

Peg Armstrong (widow of past President Ted Armstrong, and mother of committee member, Gavon) was recently sent to hospital, very ill, following 2 heart attacks. Our thoughts are with Gavon and his family, as we wish her a speedy recovery.

Next year is the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Kuttabul, the converted ferry struck by a torpedo in Sydney Harbour, in which 21 men were killed on 31 May, 1942. A commemoration ceremony is being planned and organizers would like to contact any descendants of the men, so they can be involved in this special event. Email ekelly@brightsolid.com if you have any relevant information.

Dinky Nichols is in the process of organising a display for the Robinvale Museum on Solidier Settlement Blocks. She would like photos of **Robert Power** (VX17398) and **Charley Williams** and wonders if we can help her. Robert Power saw service in ME and P and was wounded on 8.9.42 then transferred to 7 Infantry Training Battalion. There were two Charley Williams from the Mildura area in the Battalion. CW Williams (VX15465) saw service in ME, and left 2/14 in Sept 41, transferring to 2/8 Field Coy. CP Williams (VX22763) also saw service in ME, leaving in July 1941 for 7 Infantry Training Battalion. Anyone who can help can contact Dinky on Mob 0427 826 607 or Email: dnichols@ncable.net.au

Anyone with information about **George Tindall** (NX127280) or **Eric Suann** (NX78951), Cameron Miller, grandson of Eric 'Sandy' Miller, would like to contact you as these men served with his grandfather in the Medium Machine Gun Section from 1943. His email is Cameron.miller@hazelwoodpower.com

Mr L C Pearn, the widower of kinfolk member, Mrs I Pearn has let us know his wife died in May this year. She was the sister of **Mel** (TX4660) and **Mick Bennell** (VX15495) who both served in the 2/14th.

Alas another member of the 2000 Isurava Memorial Survey Team has passed away. **Doug McClean** (VX100098) was the other 39th member in the photo in the last issue of Comradeship. Doug was awarded the Military Cross as a result of action at Kokoda, and later became a paratrooper.

Queensland rep, Trevor Pryor was happy to accept an offer from Doug Henderson (Kokoda Challenge) to join a group going to PNG to meet the kids completing their trek. In the event, he was pleased that Keith Payne, who won the Victoria Cross in Vietnam, was there as well. Keith provided nursing assistance when Trevor fell and damaged his left knee. Since Trevor did the same thing to his right knee a few years ago, he is familiar with the drill required for a recovery - much rest and TLC from wife, Ann.



Keith Payne VC providing assistance to a wounded Trevor Pryor.

Veteran journalist, Harry Gordon, who wrote The Embarrassing Australian about the first aboriginal officer, **Reg Saunders**, is writing a new book to update Reg's story. This time he wants to include more detail about Reg's brother, **Harry** (VX18629), who was a member of 9 Platoon in 2/14 Battalion. If you can help Harry, contact Queensland rep, Trevor Pryor or the editor, Jill Bear and we'll put you in touch.

George Collins (VX44029), along with Bob Nichols and Cam Thompson, has volunteered to be part of the Victorian RSL Kokoda education and fundraising program to mark the 70th anniversary of the campaign next year. At Warragul High School, students write an essay about Kokoda and the winner/s receive the **George Collins Kokoda Award** (named after George who sponsored the first winner). This award sponsors the winner on a walk on the Kokoda Track. Money is raised locally to assist with the education of people living on/near the track and for the award. Each year George attends a fund raising dinner held at Parliament House, organised by Garry Blackwood, their local State member.

Any other veterans interested in helping with the RSL 70th Anniversary Appeal, should contact secretary, Chris Ingram.