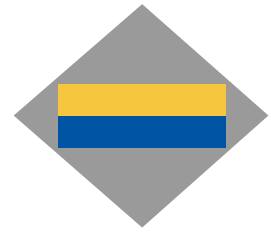


COMRADESHIP

www.2nd14battalion.org.au

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President's Report



2016 is shaping up to be a busy and challenging year with a number of events to celebrate the traditions and honour the men of the 2/14th Battalion. We have the wreath laying service at the 2/14 tree at the Shrine at 10.30am on Friday, 22 April; everybody is welcome to attend. We are well advanced with planning for the annual reunion lunch on Friday, 22 April which will again be at the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess in Melbourne from 12 Noon. Please be sure to bring your photo ID (Drivers' licence, Passport or Proof of Age) with you to gain admission to this operational defence base.

We then have the Anzac Day March on Monday, 25 April, and sadly the number of our veterans who are able to attend is dwindling. However, I am confident that the 2/14th will be well represented by kinfolk and friends in many locations around the country.

We will have the Queensland reunion lunch in Brisbane, in July and a number of school functions that we are involved in. Our moving and very special Annual Pilgrimage service will be held in the Melbourne Shrine Sanctuary on Sunday, 25 September at 2.00pm.

2/14 members are invited to join with our 2/16 and 39 Battalion friends in some of their events, so we will list those as they come up. Please make use of our website, www.2nd14battalion.org.au, to ensure you are up to date with these events.

I do hope to see you somewhere around the traps as we continue to uphold the spirit of the mighty 2/14th Battalion.

My best wishes to all,
Craig Iskov
President

WEBSITE

**Have you taken the opportunity to peruse our website:
www.2nd14battalion.org.au?**



At the moment it features Bob Nichols' memories of the Battalion's 1940 journey to the Middle East, aboard the luxury liner, the Aquitania. Similar articles are available in the Archive.

You'll also find the Roll of Honour, with details of where each soldier is buried or commemorated. If you've ever wondered whether your soldier of interest is mentioned in Men of the 2/14 Battalion, you can check the index to the book under the History button.

Keep up to date with the Events Calendar, and recent passings under Vale.

We'd like to build up the photo archive, so if you have any past or present photographs that might be of interest, we'd love to hear from you. Please email Craig Iskov at ckiskov@bigpond.com

2016 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE BY 30 APRIL 2016

Membership Subscriptions fall due on 30 April 2016 and we would be pleased to receive them by the due date. Please use the remittance form in this copy of Comradeship. To pay by internet please transfer to our **Bank Account: BSB 063000 Account No 0090 0598.**

Couple Membership (\$40 pa)

For married couples or partners who reside at the same address. One copy of Comradeship will be mailed four times per year. If you are kinship members, which includes in-laws you will also have full voting rights of the Association and be able to attend all services and reunions.

Family Membership (\$50 pa)

For couples and all children (including adult children) residing at the same address. One copy of Comradeship will be mailed four times per year. If you are a kinship member, which includes in-laws, all adults will have full voting rights of the Association and be able to attend all services and reunions.

Single Membership at \$25 pa

PLEASE NOTE: If you are an existing Single member you may add your spouse or partner and children, if you wish, without them having to apply as new members. Additional lines have been added to the remittance form, which is enclosed with this copy of Comradeship, to accommodate the extra names. Please include the ages of children if they are under 18.

If you joined the Association between October and December 2015 your membership subscription will not be due until April 2017.

Please note:

- *Payment for veteran membership is optional.*
- *Widows of 2/14 veterans are not required to pay the membership fee.*
- *Please keep us updated with changes of address, phone numbers or email addresses.*

Comradeship

With the recent changes to the cost of postage, the Association is looking to minimise the impact of these increases by offering Comradeship as an electronic copy, available by email. If you are happy to receive an electronic copy of Comradeship only, please circle the appropriate response on the Remittance Form.

MELBOURNE REUNION - Friday 22 APRIL 2016

10.30 am: Wreath-Laying Service, 2/14 Battalion Tree, Shrine of Remembrance

A short service of commemoration will be held at the Battalion Tree, northwest corner of the Shrine of Remembrance (near the eternal flame) at 10.15 for 10.30 am Friday 22 April 2015.

Please come along for a moment of quiet reflection before adjourning to Victoria Barracks for the Reunion Luncheon, later in the day.

12 noon: Luncheon, Officers Mess, Victoria Barracks, Wells Street, Southbank. 3006. (Adjacent to Miles Street)

This is at the back of Victoria Barracks where you will see the new security checkpoint.

As the security check takes some time, we need to commence arriving at the checkpoint from 11am.

Please read the security requirements below.

A ramp is available if access is required for wheelchairs or walking frames.

Cost: \$60 per head.

Includes a superb buffet lunch, beer, wine and soft drinks. Spirits at your own expense. Please see enclosed booking sheet for further information re dietary requirements.

Vic Barracks is an active military base and the number of people that can attend is limited, therefore it is necessary to return the attached booking form promptly as the first forms received will be assured of gaining entry. Final date for booking and payment is 14 April.

If you do not make a booking, you will not be admitted, as a list of guests needs to be provided in advance for security reasons.

Please make sure you have your **Driver's License** or **Passport** or other **government issued photo ID** with you on the day.

Dress Code: Smart Casual.

Master of Ceremonies: Rob Eden will be hosting the event as usual. Please contact him (0439 990 449) if there is something you would like to have included in the program.

Public Transport: Southbound trams from Flinders St, with the exception of Route No 1, travel along St Kilda Road to the Shrine of Remembrance. Disembark at tram stop 18 (Adjacent to Coventry Street)

Parking: 2, 3 and 4 hour car parking is available in Birdwood Avenue, (behind the Shrine). The City of Melbourne operates ticket machines and enforces parking restrictions in the area.

Parking for the Wreath-Laying Service will be available at the back of the Shrine on the grass, but you will need a permit which you can obtain by telephoning David Webb on 0417 442 299

SECURITY

The Department of Defence has strict security in place for admission to the Barracks. If you do not make a booking you will not be admitted.

Visitors to Victoria Barracks Melbourne are reminded that;

- **Government issued PHOTO ID is mandatory to obtaining access. Those who are unable to provide Photo ID will be refused entry.**
- **All visitors may be subject to a SEARCH of their carried items. Refusal may result in access being denied.**
- **Visitors will be escorted at all times whilst on base. We are not allowed to take photographs.**

Please phone Rob Eden on 0439 990 449 or David Webb on 0417 442 299 as soon as possible if you have problem with ID and we will assist you.

Queensland Report

Yandina State School

Once again 2/14 bursary award was presented at the graduation parade at the Yandina State School in 2015.

Students are given the opportunity to present a piece of writing reflecting on their research of the 2/14 Battalion and its link to the local area. Pictured are the 2015 winner and runner-up, Charlotte and Charlotte, with Gloria Bissett who joined Queensland rep, Trevor Pryor for the presentation.



Trevor Pryor, Charlotte, Charlotte & Gloria Bissett

ANZAC Day 2016

Veteran George Priestley has indicated that he is keen to participate in the ANZAC Day March this year and so our group should meet up in the usual spot toward the head of the March at around 9.30.

Details of any get together afterwards will be available from Trevor shortly.

2016 Anzac Day Commemorative March Assembly Plan (Melbourne)

Assembly Point

Flinders Street East (St Paul's Side), next to Federation Square.

Step Off - The 7th Division "step off" time is 10.50 am, somewhat later than usual, so marchers should be in position by 10.30 am at the latest. Look for the Banner.

Vehicles will be provided for all veterans who would prefer to ride and they will be brought to the assembly point. The vehicles will be labelled with the unit. There will be no open trucks or land rovers, just cars and maybe mini buses. Meet at our form up point, at the 2/14 banner, and we will arrange a vehicle for you if required. (Transport requests should be made as soon as possible. Please contact David Webb on 0417 442 299 or ceyreste@sme.com.au)

The March organisers make the following points:

- All marchers are requested to form up and march 6 abreast.
- Veterans are to march directly behind their unit banner, accompanied by one carer if needed. That carer should be of an age where they can directly assist the veteran. Veterans having

difficulty completing the March, and all WW2 Veterans, are encouraged to use the transport provided, but must remain in the vehicle until the March is completed.

- If a Veteran must fall out of the March, he or she should be directed to a Marshal for assistance. Unit Associations are to continue moving so as not to disrupt the momentum of the March.
- Descendants are to march behind the Veterans, and be old enough to march the full distance (approximately 1km), without assistance.
- Representation of your Veteran forebears is to be restricted to one descendant per Veteran and the descendant is to wear the Veteran's medals on the right breast (the left breast is reserved for the original recipient of the medals).
- Descendants are to dress in appropriate clothing, as your forebears would have done. Therefore, all marchers should wear neat and tidy clothing, out of respect for the fallen (torn denim, sporting attire, dirty joggers are not considered appropriate).
- The carrying of framed photographs of relatives, and the pushing of prams and pushers, is not permitted.
- Veterans are requested not to join or leave the March other than at the Assembly and Dispersal points.

We will march up to the forecourt of the Shrine past the VIP dais and perform an "eyes right" at the Eternal Flame, the banner and flag bearers will dip the banner and flags at the same point before the entire party left wheels past the Flame and disperses beyond the main flag poles.

Children from Kingsbury Primary School will hold the ropes with the banner (4 students) and will carry the flags (2 students). They will be wearing their school uniforms, which are in the Battalion colours.

Once again our comrades from the 2/16 Battalion Association have kindly extended an invitation to join them for lunch and/or drinks and a chat at the Lord Palmerston Hotel after the March. The hotel is located at the corner of Palmerston Crescent & Kingsway in South Melbourne.

The nearest parking will be at Federation Square car park. The RSL will also provide golf buggies at the entrance to the car park at the Russell Street extension to take veterans to the start of the March. Buses will be available opposite Simpson and his Donkey in Birdwood Avenue to return veterans to the City. Please note scooters are no longer available, so if you feel you are unable to march, cars are available. Golf buggies will also be along the March route in case of an emergency.

Awards Night, 2015

The awards nights for Kingsbury Primary School and Reservoir High were held on the same night, in December last year, necessitating some fancy work by the Association to ensure we could be in two places at once.

Craig Iskov, Michael Ralston and Rhonda Hunter were on hand at Kingsbury Primary to congratulate the recipients of the Bruce Kingsbury Achievers Award, Carolina Coppola and Georgette Athanasopoulos. In conversation after the awards ceremony, Georgette's grandmother reminded us that her son, John, Georgette's uncle, was one of the early recipients of the award, back in 1993, making it a proud family affair. Well done, girls.



Craig Iskov, Michael Ralston and Rhonda Hunter with Bruce Kingsbury Achievers' Award winners for 2015, Carolina Coppola and Georgette Athanasopoulos

Meanwhile, David Webb, Sue Davies and Jill Bear were in attendance for the Reservoir High Awards Night. These three enjoyed an evening of outstanding entertainment from the students, before being called on to award the Bruce Kingsbury Scholarship to Suny Salioski.



A jubilant Suny Salioski receives his award from Jill Bear and Sue Davies

The 2/14 Battalion Association values its relationships with these two schools very highly. We know that for our fathers' generation, many of whom left school reluctantly because of the financial constraints imposed by the Great Depression of the 1930's, educational opportunity was a privilege they were keen to promote.

Hearty congratulations and best wishes from all of us to these worthy 2015 recipients. Suny's award winning essay appears below.

Bruce Kingsbury Scholarship Essay - Suny Salioski

Private Bruce Steel Kingsbury was an Australian Solider who served in the Second World War for the great nation that we all call home, Australia. Bruce Steel Kingsbury, son of Phillip Blencowe Kingsbury and Florence Annie Steel, was born on the 8 January 1918 in the nearby Melbourne suburb of Preston. Growing up in the suburb of Prahran, at age 5 Bruce became close friends with Alan Avery who he would remain lifelong friends with and embark on a great journey together. Kingsbury attended Windsor State School as a young student and received results that were worthy enough to earn him a scholarship to Melbourne Technical College. Although Kingsbury qualified as a printer, he had also begun working at his father's real estate business, however this to Bruce Kingsbury was a job that he didn't particular enjoy. A few months later, after a change in occupation, Kingsbury had met up with his lifelong friend Avery and they both decided that they would go on an adventure, walking through Western Victoria and New South Wales. While trekking through Victoria and New South Wales, both Avery and Kingsbury worked on multiple farms. Eventually the pair arrived in Sydney several months later and made the decision to return to Melbourne on the first train back. Kingsbury resumed working as a real estate agent while Avery worked as a nurseryman. During this time the war in Europe had begun and started to escalate very quickly so Kingsbury and Avery both made up their minds to enlist. Even with the disapproval of his parents Bruce Steel Kingsbury signed up to the Australian Imperial Force on the 29 May 1940.

Kingsbury was originally assigned to the 2/2 Pioneers however requested a transfer to the 2/14th Infantry Battalion where his actions would lead to his legacy still being remembered to this very day but also coincidentally joining his friend Allen Avery. Kingsbury took part in many events including the North African Campaign, Syria-Lebanon Campaign, Kokoda Track Campaign.

However, his actions during the Battle of Isurava at Isurava, Papua New Guinea are the ones that allow his legacy to continue on and also being awarded the Victorian Cross. Once being positioned on the top of a hill in a defensive position that would soon be attacked by the Japanese Army. On the 28 August 1942 that Japanese had launched their offensive attack on the Australians. The Australian soldiers including Bruce Kingsbury were outnumbered by as many as six to one, however resisted strongly, being faced with the Japanese machine guns and intense hand to hand combat. On the 29 August the Japanese broke through the right flank pushing back the Australian with heavy fire and threatening to cut off their headquarters. The Australians soon began to prepare for a counter-offensive attack, which included Bruce Kingsbury. Running down the track Kingsbury's actions demoralised the Japanese, killing as many as 30 soldiers while forcing many others to find cover. The rest of the Australian group, inspired by the actions of Kingsbury continued on and forced the Japanese further back into the jungle. Tragically it was seen that Kingsbury had fallen to the ground being shot by a Japanese sniper on the 29 August 1942. Kingsbury's act of bravery inspired his fellow troops to engage in combat to force the Japanese back into the jungle.

Bruce Kingsbury's actions on the 29 August 1942 not only included bravery but also courage and honour. I myself would define bravery not only by the actions of someone but how they deal with a situation. By not being told what to do by his commander and having put the thought of others before himself Bruce Kingsbury charged into the jungle firing against the Japanese. I would also like to comment on what I believe was the mindset of Bruce Kingsbury. He decided that he would let his actions speak rather than words and not second guessing entering battle against the Japanese, as he valued the lives of others as well as his own not more or less but equally. As a student and a person of the 21st

century that is an attribute that I most deeply value, that of putting the needs of others before the ones of your own and assisting others in ways most possible.

Finally, a brief note about myself. My name is Suny Salioski and I am currently in completion of my Year 10 schooling at Reservoir High. A little connection that I believe that I and my family have with Bruce Kingsbury is not only the values that he believed in, putting the needs of others first; my own father and extended family relatives have been involved in the Army. My dad now 55 has told me many stories of the experiences that he endured at the age of 18-19 while in the Yugoslavian army. Even though there were no active wars going on, the training that he was put through still astounds me, especially having to trek in the Yugoslavian Mountains during the winter, waist deep in snow and only having a can of water and a loaf of bread to last him until the next stop over which in some cases may have been 3-4 days away. Another insight comes from my brother-in-law's brother, who sometime next year will be stationed in Iraq to serve under the jurisdiction of the Macedonian Army. Now, to me, my future aspirations are somewhat broad and not fully clear most likely due to my age and not knowing what to do in the future, however I have a great urge to somehow serve my country, Australia whether that be with the Army, Air Force or Navy. Career aspiration wise I have had thoughts of either entering the Business or Legal field of work or also being my own Property Developer and having my own Real Estate Agency associated with it. These are reasons why I decided to participate in the Bruce Kingsbury Scholarship, as not only the High School that I attend (Reservoir High) has a strong bond with the 2/14th Battalion but also, as stated before, the actions of Bruce Kingsbury truly did inspire me. Also coming from a family that does not come from a background with a massive financial background the scholarship will greatly assist in my further education in Year 11 and 12 at Reservoir High.

OBITUARIES

V7155/VX51106 GARDNER, LIEUTENANT VALENTINE GEORGE



Army records at the National Archives show that **Valentine George Gardner** was born in Euston, New South Wales, over the Murray River from Robinvale, on 14 February 1920. It was whilst working as a grocer and living in Mildura when he enlisted in the Army. His first name is recorded as **Valentine** in the **CMF** record and Valentine in the **AIF** file.

Initially Val joined the Citizens Military Forces (CMF) on 17 July 1940 and was posted to the 6th Battalion followed by service with 7th and 4th Battalions. During this time his leadership potential was recognised and he was promoted to Corporal.

He was in camp at Mt Martha when he volunteered for the AIF on 11 March 1941, and attested at Royal Park on 2 April 1941, whereupon he was posted to Bonegilla, to attend the Officer Training Course. He passed 'above average' with his potential as a weapons trainer recognised and an immediate future as a Platoon Commander.

On return to 4th Battalion at Darley, he was appointed as an acting Sergeant. After a further specialist training course he was transferred back to 6th Battalion where he was appointed to the rank of Lieutenant on 20 January 1942. On the 28 January he was posted to Toowoomba as a reinforcement for the 2/7 Battalion but after hospitalisation for a bout of influenza he was posted to the 8th Military District Training Unit in Queensland.

There is reference to him the Battalion histories as being posted to the 2/22 Battalion which was part of Lark Force in Rabaul but he said this never occurred, to his good fortune, as Lark Force was captured and prisoners largely killed with the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*.

On 6 August 1942 he was posted to 2/14 Battalion and marched in to be appointed as Platoon Commander of 18 Platoon in D Company. The Battalion immediately embarked for Port Moresby as the first of the AIF reinforcements for the beleaguered 39th Battalion on the Kokoda Track.

After the initial enemy landings on the North Coast,

39 Battalion was the only small force to hold the enemy advance until reinforcements could arrive to assist. Isurava was the most crucial battle of the entire campaign and was where 39 Battalion created important defensive positions after it failed to hold Kokoda government station.

The Japanese had landed with an estimated 12 days of supplies to support its overland push to capture Port Moresby. Their assault on 39 Battalion positions at Isurava commenced on 26 August 1942 and the forward elements of 2/14 Battalion began arriving onto the battlefield on 27 August. Over the next two days the entire battalion supported by 2/16 Battalion and 53 Battalion moved into the battle area to relieve the 39th who refused to go back.

The major push from the Japanese occurred on 29 January 1942 with pressure on various points on the defensive positions. On this day Bruce Kingsbury was to be posthumously awarded a Victoria Cross when, armed with a Bren Gun, he charged and repulsed an enemy attack on Battalion Headquarters. Charlie McCallum was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal when he supported the withdrawal of his Platoon, although wounded three times.

During the confused fighting on this day Valentine was wounded with gunshot wounds to his lower back and buttock that penetrated his abdomen. At the time, part of D Company had been cut off from the rest of the Battalion, and Val was faced with the choice of walking or getting left behind. After several days of agonising progress, the group arrived at Kagi, where Val was allocated a stretcher. During his further evacuation on stretcher by the respected Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, the famous photograph below was taken by Damien Parer.



Val was evacuated to Australia immediately for further treatment but the wound was to bring on further medical conditions that saw him assessed as being unfit for further military service. Valentine was discharged to the Retired Officers List on 24 October 1943.

Valentine was very modest about his limited military service but, unfortunately, the well-publicised photograph projected him and the 2/14 Battalion's Salvation Army Officer, Albert Moore, into the public realm as it has been used as the centrepiece for several memorials.

It conveys a simple but heartrending message of service in battle that hides its actual situation. Valentine later confirmed that it was actually posed by the famous photographer and Albert Moore stated that it was the only cigarette he ever lit as he was a non-smoker!

Valentine was interviewed on several occasions as a result of this photograph, the most recent being for a television program several years ago. On each occasion he became concerned about the attention on himself and asked that the footage not be used. His wishes were respected.

Regardless of this, Valentine will be remembered as being a member of the 2/14 Battalion and who was severely wounded in what was, perhaps, the most important battle for Australia in World War Two.

Following his discharge, Val worked in the repatriation office the Department of Veterans' Affairs, eventually becoming Assistant Commissioner of Repatriation. In this role, he reviewed appeals for those who had been declined a full disability as a result of their wounds. From his own experience, Val understood full well the price his fellow servicemen had paid. He never knocked back an application for a pension and, in the review process, always ruled in favour of the appellant. This humble and compassionate man died on 23 January, 2016.

V18739/VX85941 JENKS, SERGEANT STANLEY GEORGE

Army records in Canberra show that **Stanley George Jenks** was born in Swan Hill on 14 August 1921 and was living in there when he enlisted in the Army on 23 August 1941.

Initially, Stan joined the Citizens Military Forces (CMF) and, after initial training at the Recruit Receiving Depot at Royal Park (Camp Pell), marched in to the Army School of Mechanisation at Puckapunyal on 4 September 1941. The Army had recognised after the early Middle East conflict that it needed to expand its armoured capability.

Evidently, Stan showed an advanced degree of competence in the Armoured Corps because he was transferred to Land Headquarters in Melbourne on 16 December 1941 after the commencement of the Pacific War. This included posting to the Design Directorate in the Master General of Ordnance Branch at Fisherman's Bend.

The Directorate was involved in the design of an Australian Cruiser Tank and its weapons capability, and other tropical weapons, including the Owen Submachine Gun. During this time, Stan transferred his enlistment to the Australian Imperial Force on 17 July 1942 to facilitate his service overseas if the opportunity arose. It was during this time that Stan was promoted to Sergeant.



Australian Cruiser Sentinel tank, 1942

However, as the Pacific War progressed and the threat to Australia receded, the need for tanks in a jungle war was greatly reduced. Many units in the Armoured Corps were taken off the Australian Army Order of Battle and troops posted to infantry reinforcements. As a result, on 10 September 1944, Stan marched into 16 Infantry Training Battalion and then 4 Recruit Training Battalion at the Jungle Warfare Training Centre at Canungra in Queensland on 4 March 1945.

MacArthur had initially planned to use Australian troops to support his invasion of the Philippines but at the last minute decided to use US troops only. General Blamey had to find tasks for the Australians and, left to mop up the islands the Yanks left behind, the 7th Division was to land at Balikpapan in Borneo on 1 July 1945.

Stan marched into the 2/14 Battalion on 18 June 1945 and was posted as the Platoon Sergeant of 8 Platoon in A Company. Following the landings at Balikpapan, A Company took the lead in the advance to Manggar Airfield and the assault on the Japanese 6 inch coastal gun positions.

After the surrender, Stan moved with the Battalion to the Celebes on 30 September, where the Battalion was engaged in a post-war peace-keeping operation until Dutch forces returned to resume administration of their colony. On 21 December 1945, Stan marched out of the Battalion and departed Borneo on 6 January 1946. He was discharged from the Army in Melbourne on 18 January 1946.

Whilst only with the Battalion for a relatively short period, he enjoyed the companionship of the post-war Battalion Association, attending many annual reunions. He passed away on 28 November, 2015, aged 94.

VX67065

PRIVATE ROBERT GEORGE KNIGHT

Army records indicate that Robert George Knight was born in Adelaide on 13 January 1916 and enlisted in the Army at Royal Park in Melbourne on 9 December 1941.

Record of Bob's previous service is not available, but he marched into 2/14 Battalion as a reinforcement on 3 July 1942 and was posted to the Carrier Platoon. On arrival in Port Moresby it was recognised that the Bren Gun carriers, mortars and machineguns of each of the 7th Division infantry battalions could not be used in the mountains so they were detached to form the 7th Division Carrier Group.

The role of the Carrier Group was to provide a heavily armed mobile fighting force on the coastal flats around Port Moresby and a last line of defence in the event of the Japanese forces breaking through the Australian forces in the Owen Stanley Mountains.

Each Carrier, with its three-man crew, was armed with a Vickers machine gun, a Bren light machine gun, 3 Thompson submachine guns, 3 Lee Enfield rifles, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, a 2 inch mortar and bombs and a box of hand grenades. Each member of the crew had to be proficient with each of these weapons.

Following their failure to break through the final Australian defences in the mountains, the Japanese commenced a withdrawal to the New Guinea north coast. A special force called Chaforce, named after its commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Challen, was formed to harry the retreating Japanese and attempt to overtake and block their route to the coast.

The force of approximately 400 was formed by each of the Battalions (2/14, 2/14 and 2/27) of the 21 Brigade providing a Company of volunteers. Bob was one of these and was posted to 9 Section in 3 Platoon. Because of his weapons expertise in the Carrier Platoon, it is likely that he was the section's Bren Gunner.

The Japanese retreat was too fast for Chaforce to fulfil its role, and the Japanese were able to consolidate a strong defensive position around the north coast villages of Buna, Gona and Sanananda. The role of Chaforce changed and each of the three rifle companies were attached to one of the three infantry battalions of 25 Brigade (2/31, 2/32, 2/33).

The Company made up of 2/14 Battalion volunteers was attached to 2/31 Battalion and, in its unsuccessful attack on Gona on 22 November 1942, suffered a number of casualties. Bob was fortunately only lightly wounded and was able to remain on duty.

With the eventual fall of the three positions by January of 1943, in what has been described as the worst battlefield conditions of any battle anywhere in World War Two, Chaforce members rejoined the Battalion and returned to Australia.

A reorganisation of the Battalion occurred with a recognition of the conditions of jungle warfare and the Carrier Platoon changed to become the Medium Machine Gun Platoon. Its role was to provide close fire support to infantry attacks and general harassing fire on enemy positions.

Bob remained with the Platoon in its role in the Markham Ramu Campaign in New Guinea culminating in the defeat of the Japanese at Shaggy Ridge.

The Platoon's final battle was to support the Battalion's seaborne landing at Balikpapan on Borneo. Here it supported the attacks on enemy positions and the advance up the coast to the successful assault on Manggar Airfield. Finally it provided heavy fire support to resist enemy counter-attacks.

When peace was declared the Battalion moved to the Celebes (Sulawesi) to undertake peacekeeping operations and Bob and his mates took on a range of other administrative duties until their return to Australia. The Battalion embarked for Australia on 22 January 1946 but Bob remained until 26 April 1946 when he returned to Australia and was discharged from the Army.

Bob was 99 years old when he passed away in 2015.

SX33575

PRIVATE DONALD MAXWELL LAMBERT



Army records show that **Donald Maxwell Lambert** was born in Crystal Brook in South Australia on 16 October 1925 and was living there when he enlisted in the Army on 15 April 1944 at the Wayville Showgrounds.

His elder brother, Keith, was already serving with the 2/14 Battalion in 17 Platoon and, under the Army "claiming system", sought to have Don join him there. Don eventually marched into the Battalion on 28 March 1945 and was posted to 7 Platoon in A Company.

The Battalion moved to Morotai Island as the stepping off point for the planned 7th Division seaborne landing at the important oil port of Balikpapan on Borneo Island. The Battalion successfully landed on 1 July and commenced to force the Japanese out of the area with strong patrolling and a series of sharp actions.

The Japanese were defending the coastline, including Manggar Airfield, with six inch (150mm) naval guns in strongly entrenched emplacements. During one of these engagements, a number of 7 Platoon members were killed or wounded, including Don, who suffered a gunshot wound.

Whilst he was recovering and with the end of the war several weeks later, the Battalion moved to the Celebes to undertake peacekeeping operations and prepare the island for the return of the Dutch administration. Finally, the longer serving members were allowed to seek discharge from the Army.



2/14 Battalion arriving to take up a peacekeeping role in Macassar, Celebes, watched by the local population

The Battalion prepared to be disbanded and boarded HMAS Kanimbla on 22 January 1946 for return to Australia. However as Don was not yet eligible for discharge, he remained on transfer to another Battalion before finally returning to Australia and being discharged on 27 November 1946 in his home city of Adelaide.

OBITUARIES CONTINUED

In the September 2012 edition of Comradeship, we reported that Don and his wife, Mary had recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Don was posthumously awarded Life Membership of the RSL; a National recognition of his efforts in keeping the Crystal Brook sub-branch going for many years. He died in April 2014.

N7450/NX141901 THOMAS, CAPTAIN DONALD WILLIAM

Army records in Canberra show that **Donald William Thomas** was born in Newcastle, New South Wales, on 20 December 1918 and was living in Cardiff, a suburb of Newcastle, when he enlisted in the Army.

Initially Don joined the Militia or Citizens Military Forces (CMF) and was posted to the 16th Light Horse Machine Gun Regiment (LHMGR) as the machine gun component of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade. The Regiment was also known locally as the Hunter River Lancers.

At the start of the War, a volunteer force, the AIF, was raised to serve overseas as the regular army and the militia could not serve outside Australian Territory. So the militia became the backbone of Australia's home defence, particularly when the Japanese threat emerged and war broke out close to home.

Many of the Light Horse regiments became light armoured regiments equipped with armoured cars or light tanks, and the 16th LHMGR became redesignated as the 16th Motor Regiment (Hunter River Lancers). The regiment was posted to

guard the Australian coast in the Gympie region of Queensland.

Don gained his commission and was promoted to Captain whilst serving with the 16th MR and during this time, worried, as was the case with many militia troops, that he would not serve outside Australia, he transferred his enlistment to the AIF on 13 July 1942.

After the early battles in Papua and New Guinea, Australia was slowly gaining the upper hand and the Japanese threat to the Australian mainland was receding. By 1943 many of the Motor Regiments were being disbanded because it was recognised that the tropical islands north of Australia did not lend themselves to armoured warfare and these troops could be better used elsewhere.

In early 1943, after the Kokoda battles, the 2/14 Battalion returned to Australia to rest, recoup, reinforce and retrain for its next action. Following the disbandment of the 16th Motor Regiment, Captain Don Thomas marched in to the 2/14 Battalion on 16 July, 1943, and was posted to C Company as its Second-in-Command. At this point the Battalion embarked for the next Campaign.

The Company led the early advance up the Markham-Ramu Valleys after being flown into Nadzab. From Kaiapit, on to Shaggy Ridge, in the Finnesterre Mountains, active patrolling was the principal activity in support of the other battalions of 21 Brigade. The Company suffered casualties both from contact with the enemy and from tropical illness until withdrawn to Port Moresby and then Australia at the end of the Campaign in early 1944.

The Battalion then spent a long period in Queensland preparing for whatever the future

held. It eventually moved to Townsville to train for opposed sea-borne landings, when the Americans initially planned to use the 7th Division in the landing force to retake the Philippines. But, this did not eventuate, as the Americans decided to go it alone.



View from King's Hill towards Shaggy Ridge and the Finnesterras.

Left to mop up the islands the Americans had by-passed, the 7th Division was to land at Balikpapan in Borneo on 1 July 1945. On landing, C Company immediately took the lead in the advance up the coast to the Manggar Airstrip. The Company made rapid headway supported by a naval bombardment and assisted in the capture of Japanese heavy coastal artillery. At Manggar the Company fought off a heavy Japanese night time counter-attack.

When the end of the war was announced shortly after the Borneo Campaign, the Battalion went into peacekeeping mode, but Don marched out on 11 August 1945. Subsequently, he was reassigned and spent some time assisting in the repatriation of the survivors of the Japanese prisoner of war camp at Changi, in Singapore.

Don finally returned to Australia and was discharged from the Army on 3 April 1946. He died on 17 November, 2015.

Lest we Forget

MEMORABILIA QUERY

When going through her mother's effects, Lyn Bentley, daughter of VX68672 Leslie Ambler, recently found this interesting tribute to Australia's fighting forces in her mother's desk. It appears to be a coloured pencil drawing on cotton fabric measuring 60x50cm (23"x19"). Leslie had never seen it before, but wonders if it might have come back from New Guinea when her father returned home. She has since had it framed.

Leslie Ambler served with the Battalion in B Company HQ and the Pioneer Platoon during the Owen Stanley and Ramu-Markham Valley Campaigns, before being posted to the 13 Advance Ordnance Depot on the Atherton Tablelands in November, 1944.

Lyn would like to know where it came from; whether anyone else has anything similar; and if anyone has any idea who may have drawn it. Contact can be made with Lyn by phone on 03 5763 2413 or by writing to her at 21 Harrison Rd, Warrenbayne, 3670.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Map Ref.	Service No.	Surname	Initials	Service Area
1	WX13895	ALLENDER	CB	ME P NG
2	NX168913	ASGILL	KR	NG B
3	NX127152	BROUGHAM	PJ	NG B
4	VX92324	CALDWELL	GFM	B
5	QX29571	CALLAGHAN	JKW	P NG
6	VX44029	COLLINS*	GE	ME P
7	VX18984	COOK	LE	B
8	NX130073	CUNNINGHAM	CR	NG B
9	QX54237	DANIELLS	WN	NG B
10	NX79241	DOYLE	RJB	P NG B
11	QX38264	FRASER	RB	Jul-Dec 1944
12	NX144358	HUDSON	JH	NG B
13	WX13879	KEMP	PJ	ME P NG B
14	QX52401	LAKE	KNG	B
15	SX24140	LAMBERT	KRH	NG B
16	NX130911	MARQUET	HG	NG B
17	VX131684	McCARTIN	L	B
18	VX20543	MORALEE	N	Jun-Oct 1940
19	TX12253	O'HALLORAN	JR	NG
20	WX41141	PASCOE	CH	B
21	QX52024	PRIESTLEY	GR	B
22	NX116882	RIGBY	FC	NG B
23	VX146172	ROMER	JL	B
24	VX50929	SHANAHAN	ME	ME P
25	NX169154	SHARP	KV	B
26	VX118016	SMITH	WH	B
27	VX16833	SMITH*	LL	ME
28	VX16393	STEPHENS*	JW	ME
29	QX38669	THOMPSON	RG	May-July 1943
30	VX16377	THOMPSON*	CG	ME P NG B
31	VX142459	THOMSON	JT	NG
32	VX64855	TURNLEY	RA	P NG
33	NX146385	WHITE	LF	NG B

At the moment, there are 33 veterans who are members of the 2/14 Battalion Association.

As ANZAC Day approaches, we are proud to acknowledge the contribution of these men to the defence of Australia during World War II. The accompanying list includes only the areas in which they served with the 2/14 Battalion; for many, there was further service with other units. The list includes one veteran who served in all campaigns, Cam Thompson, (two others appear to have served in all campaigns, but joined the Battalion in the Middle East after the Syrian Campaign), four (*) who may be counted as "Originals", and eight who were with the Battalion through the dark days of the Owen Stanley Campaign (Kokoda Track) of late 1942.

If you are aware of any surviving 2/14 Battalion veterans who are not included in this list, we'd like to hear from you. Veteran membership is free and includes a subscription to Comradeship.

Service Area Key:
 ME = Middle East,
 P = Papua 1942,
 NG = New Guinea 1943,
 B = Balikpapan

"VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC" LUNCHEON

Dr Garth Pratten, who spoke about the Balikpapan Landings as our guest speaker at the 2015 Melbourne Reunion, will also speak on the Borneo Campaign at the "Victory in the Pacific" luncheon at the Australian Club in Melbourne on Thursday, 11 August, 2016.

Cost will be \$80 per person.

Please contact Craig Iskov (0428 737 788) or David Webb (0417 442 299) if you would like to attend.

EVENT CALENDAR 2016

Wreath laying service

Friday 22 April at 10.20 for 10.30am
 2/14 Battalion tree North-west corner of the Shrine of Remembrance

Reunion - Melbourne

Friday 22 April at 11.30am for 12 noon
 Victoria Barracks,
 St Kilda Rd. Melbourne.
 (Enter via Wells St, South Melbourne)

ANZAC Day March

Monday 25 April at 10.30am
 Step off at 10.50am
 7th Division form up at
 Flinders St East (St Paul's side)

Committee Meeting

Sunday, 5 June 2016 at 11.30am
 East Malvern RSL

Qld Reunion Lunch

Thursday 28 July
 Riverside Receptions
 50 Oxlade Dr, New Farm, Qld.
 Enquiries to Trevor Pryor at
 teepee_au@yahoo.com

Bruce Kingsbury Memorial Service

Friday, 26 August at 9.30am
 Reservoir High School
 855 Plenty Rd, Reservoir

Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital (Austin Health)

Friday 26 August at 11 am.
 Enter via Gate 9 300 Waterdale Road,
 Heidelberg West

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 25th September
 Venue & time TBA

Annual Pilgrimage

Sunday 25 September at 2.00pm
 The Sanctuary, The Shrine of
 Remembrance, Melbourne

2/16th Battalion Reunion Lunch

Saturday 15 October at 11.30am
 Old Hepburn Springs Hotel, Hepburn
 - Newstead Road, Hepburn Springs
 RSVF Trevor Ingram 0419 333 347
 Email: trevor.ingram@bigpond.com

Committee Meeting

Sunday, 4th December at 11.30am
 East Malvern RSL

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BAKTI HAJI ORPHANAGE IN BALIKPAPAN



The new shower and toilet block abutting the older facility

As reported in previous editions of Comradeship, the 2/14 Battalion Association and Coates Plant Hire, Indonesia have provided financial support to rebuild toilet and shower facilities at the Bakti Haji orphanage in Balikpapan.

Initially the scope of work was to repair the septic tank but this extended to rebuilding the toilet and shower block. As a consequence of the change to the scope of work, the costs increased considerably.

Coates Plant Hire, through the support of its resident Director, Russ Woods and his Executive Assistant, Devina Siregar, not only supervised this project but provided the additional funds to complete the work.

The project was completed just before last Christmas and the staff and residents at the orphanage are delighted with the result.

Our thanks go to Russ and Devina for their support and in particular to Russ who, despite being quite unwell of late, was able to keep his finger on the pulse of the project.

Our Association is keen to maintain an ongoing relationship with the orphanage and is exploring ways to do so. We will keep Association members informed on this matter.



Inside the new facility

KOKODA AND BEYOND: PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA 1942-1945

Victorian members may be interested in attending this one-day **conference** to be held from 8.30am - 5pm on Saturday, 16 April, 2016, at the Pompey Elliott Memorial Hall, Camberwell RSL, 403 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell. The conference is being convened by Military History and Heritage Victoria Inc.

The keynote speaker will be Dr Adrian Threlfall, author of *Jungle Warriors: from Tobruk to Kokoda and beyond*. Other speakers include Dr Peter Dean, editor of the Cambridge University Press WWII campaign series; Ian Pfennigwerth, Dr Mark Johnson, Neil Sharkey and Bill Halliwell.

Entry is \$50 for MHHV members and concession, and \$75 for general admission; includes morning and afternoon tea and light lunch.

Details and booking information can be found on the MHHV website at:

www.mhhv.org.au under "MHHV Events".

