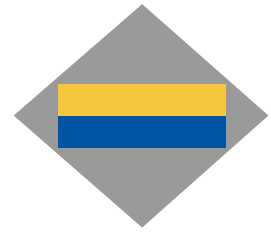


COMRADESHIP

www.2nd14battalion.org.au

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well, we are now well into 2017, a significant year for the 2/14 family with the 75th anniversary of the Kokoda campaign.

It was on the 13 February 1942 that Civil Law in Papua and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea was suspended and the territories were placed under the control of the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) until the end of World War II. This year, while remembering the brave Australian men who served in Papua and New Guinea, we should take time to remember the "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels" who stood beside and supported our men and became an enduring part of our history.

We have a date of **Saturday 26 August** approved for a service at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. We continue to work with our friends from the 2/16 and 39 Battalion Associations to create a memorable and moving tribute to all those who fought on the Owen Stanley Ranges.

We have also confirmed a date of **Sunday 6 August** with Yandina RSL for a Queensland service at the 2/14 memorial up there, followed by a lunch at the Yandina RSL. The RSL has been successful in receiving a grant to restore the 2/14 memorial and that work will be underway shortly.

But, before all that, we have a Schools Anzac service at the Kokoda Memorial, Ferntree Gully National Park at 11 am on **Wednesday 19 April**. This service was previously run by Legacy but they were unable to continue, so in true 2/14 tradition, a number of people stepped up and took it on. They include Chris Ingram, Michael Ralston and David Webb, with some wonderful support from our partner schools and Parks Victoria staff.

We then have our Reunion lunch on **Monday 24 April**, again at the historic Victoria Barracks. This will follow on from our morning service at 10 am at the 2/14 tree at the Shrine of Remembrance forecourt area. I do hope to see many of you at both those events.

As a result of continued efforts to press our case for a traditional **ANZAC Day March** format in Melbourne, we have gained approval to maintain the usual format in Melbourne for one more year, where family members can march with the 2/14 banner. Medals are requested to be worn by all marchers, and that aims to reduce the numbers of marchers to one per deceased veteran. Watch the 2/14 website and Facebook for details on form up details.

Regards,
Craig Iskov
President



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOKODA CAMPAIGN

The combined committee of the 2/14th, 2/16th and 39th Battalions in Victoria continues to work towards delivering a wonderful Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign.

Please set aside the morning of **Saturday, 26th August** for a Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Governor of Victoria has confirmed her attendance; a RAAF fly-over has been requested; and noted author and producer Patrick Lindsay is confirmed as MC.

A reception for veterans and their carer will be provided after the ceremony at a venue close to the event.

We have now compiled an invitation list for each Association. Obviously, the Veterans and widows will head these lists but we ask you to please inform people or groups who have may have an interest such as local politicians, schools, sponsors, trekking companies, local RSLs, Police groups, etc.

And most importantly, mark the date in your calendar!

2017 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE BY 30 APRIL 2017

Membership Subscriptions fall due on 30 April 2017 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 (\$30 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 2016 your membership subscription will not be due until April 2018.

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.

ANZAC DAY 2017

This will probably be your last chance to march behind the Battalion banner in the ANZAC Day March in Melbourne.

Over the past few years in Victoria, there have been on-going, sometimes heated, discussions about the role of the descendants of veterans in the ANZAC Day March, between the organisers of the March: the ANZAC Day Commemoration Council, (ADCC); the Kindred Organisations and Unit Associations (KO&UA) of the RSL; and the actual members of the KO&UA, made up of representatives of the various fighting units,.

The ADCC and the RSL see the March as primarily a march for veterans, and maintains that the place for descendants is at the rear of the March, behind marching veterans. This approach has resulted in the Boer War and World War I banners being marched in massed form at the beginning of the March, with descendants, without banners, at the rear. In its February meeting, the ADCC stated that in 2017, and future years, the WWII banners will also be marched in massed form, behind the banners from the older campaigns.

At the same time, the ADCC announced that the 2017 March *“should focus on the WWII Veteran community and promote this year as the 75th Anniversary of Australian involvement in pivotal battles and campaigns of 1942 - in particular Alamein, the Malayan/Singapore campaign, the Bombing of Darwin, the Kokoda Track/Milne Bay campaigns and crucial naval battles such as the Coral Sea.”*

Following a meeting of the organising committee for our own commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaigns, which includes representatives from 39th, 2/16th and 2/14th Battalions, then president of the 39th Battalion Association, Daryl Clarke wrote to Brig. Michael Annett, the secretary of the ADCC, identifying the inherent contradiction between focussing on the 1942 campaigns, yet presenting the WWII banners en masse. Daryl also pointed out that, unlike associations from the older conflicts, our battalion associations contain living veterans who, even if they are no longer able to march, still want to see their battalion banners accorded the respect they deserve.

The ADCC has subsequently agreed to maintain the original March protocols for 2017 only, provided that: **any unit marching with its banner MUST have a veteran with them, wearing their medals; and that such units must have only ONE descendant per deceased veteran, wearing the veteran's actual medals on their right breast.**

We have been told that these restrictions will be enforced strictly by the marshalls.



Veterans of 2/14 Battalion marching in 1991

2017 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 9.45 am, so marchers should be in position by 9.30 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 usual requests regarding forming up 6 abreast; neatness of attire; being old enough to march the full distance without assistance; NOT carrying photographs; and not pushing prams or strollers.

- **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).**

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 from the banner (4 students) and will carry the flags (2 students). They will be wearing their school uniforms, which are in the Battalion colours.

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.

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** at the corner of Palmerston Crescent & Kingsway in South Melbourne after the March. However, as the **Palmerston** has been sold, and we don't know if it will be operating on the day, a back-up booking has been made at **The Rising Sun Hotel** at 2 Raglan St, South Melbourne. Check with Trevor Ingram (phone: 04 1933 3347 or trevor.ingram@bigpond.com) closer to the day.

MELBOURNE REUNION

Monday 24 APRIL 2016

10am: Wreath-Laying Service 2/14 Battalion Tree, Shrine of Remembrance ***Note change of time***

A short service of commemoration will be held at the Battalion Tree, northwest corner of the Shrine of Remembrance (near the eternal flame) at **9.45 for 10.00 am Monday 24 April 2015.**

Please come along for a moment of quiet reflection before adjourning to Victoria Barracks for the Reunion Luncheon, later in the day. (There are several cafes in the area, for a quick cuppa before the Reunion.)

12 noon to 4pm: Luncheon, Officers Mess, Victoria Barracks, Wells Street, Southbank. 3006. (Adjacent to Miles Street)

We are grateful, once again, for the support of the Mess Committee at the Barracks in allowing us to hold our Reunion in such an historic venue.

Access is at the rear of Victoria Barracks where you will see the security checkpoint. As the security check takes some time, we need to commence arriving at the checkpoint from 11 am.

Please read the security requirements below.

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

Cost: \$65 per head.

Includes a superb buffet lunch. Drinks will be available at Mess prices.

Please see enclosed booking sheet for further information re dietary requirements.

Victoria 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 Friday, 14 April.

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), though parts of this area can be quarantined for buses transporting school children to the commemorative services. 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 Requirements

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.

EVENT CALENDAR 2017

Ferntree Gully Schools Service

11 am, Wednesday, 19 April, 2017
Dandenong Ranges National Park, Ferntree Gully.

2017 Tree Service

10 am, Monday, 24 April, 2017
2/14 Battalion tree near the Western Courtyard Shrine of Remembrance.

2017 Reunion

12 noon, Monday, 24 April 2017
Victoria Barracks
Enter from Wells St, Sth Melbourne

2017 Anzac Day March

Tuesday, 25 April, 2017
Assemble in Flinders St at 9.30 am

Committee Meeting

11.30 am, Sunday, 4 June 2017
East Malvern RSL

Queensland Reunion

10.30 am, Thurs, 27 July 2017
Riverside Receptions, New Farm

Kingsbury Services

Reservoir High & Austin Health TBC

75th Anniversary of Kokoda Campaign

11 am, Saturday, 26 August 2107
Shrine of Remembrance,
St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Perth 75th Kokoda Anniversary Service

11 am, Sunday 17 September 2017
Kings Park, Perth, WA

AGM and 1st Committee Meeting

10 am, Sunday 24 September, 2017
Rats of Tobruk Hall, 44 Victoria Ave,
Albert Park

Annual Pilgrimage

2 pm, Sunday, 24 September, 2017
Shrine of Remembrance

2017 Balikpapan Tour

Tuesday 26 September, 2107 to
Tuesday 3 Oct, 3017
Balikpapan, Indonesia

2/16th reunion luncheon

Sat 21st October
Old Hepburn Springs Hotel

QUEENSLAND REPORT

Yandina State School

Ken Boyne attended the final parade at Yandina State School in December and was impressed with the wonderful atmosphere at the school. Ken can be seen with 2/14 bursary recipients, Damon (winner), Latisha and Supattra (runners up).



Bursary winner Damon, with Latisha, Supattra and Ken Boyne



Helen Cook (r), Gloria Bisset (l) with students from YSS at the memorial

Yandina Memorial

The memorial commemorating the Battalion's stay in the district prior to embarking for PNG has fallen into a state of disrepair. We have found a wonderful supporter in the person of Helen Cook

of the Yandina/Eumundi RSL sub branch. Helen has recently received confirmation of a grant which will be used to fund the refurbishment in time for the 75th anniversary.

Thanks Helen!

We are planning a commemorative event for the 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign at the memorial on Sunday August 6th.

ANZAC Day

We will advise Qld members about the ANZAC Day March details when they are clearer.

At present, we will not be able to march as usual, as there will be no veterans participating.

ANZAC SERVICE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Ferntree Gully National Park

To be held near the Kokoda Commemorative Steps (1000 Steps) on **Wednesday, 19th April 2017** at 11 am.

The planning for this service, which previously was organised and presented by the Yarra Valley Branch of Legacy for 18 years, is progressing very well. A sub-committee of David Webb, Michael Ralston and Chris Ingram recently met with the Principals of many of the schools which will be attending. Kingsbury Primary School will be sending a contingent of 6th grade children and approximately 400 children in total will be attending. The Principals indicated that it is important for children to be aware of what ANZAC Day means, and that they like a military presence and a good speaker. We are working towards all these goals and will also be inviting various dignitaries, including local politicians and community leaders. We acknowledge the wonderful support of Parks Victoria in this venture.

We would also look forward to having some WWII veterans and other veterans of armed conflicts attend.

Members of the Association and others who receive Comradeship are cordially invited to attend; in fact your presence is essential to the success of this service. To assist with catering, as afterwards refreshments will be served, please let Chris Ingram know on Phone: 9578 5546 or chris.ingram@margni.com.

Reserved parking will be available in the National Park car park and Veterans and invited guests will be seated under cover. Parks Victoria will have a golf buggy on hand to ferry anyone who needs it to the guest area, so please come along and support this important occasion.



The remembrance area in the Dandenong Ranges National Park at Upper Ferntree Gully

KINGSBURY AWARDS 2016

Reservoir high School

We attended another successful awards night at the new Performing Arts Centre at Reservoir High School. It was a delight to take Vet Max Caldwell along with us; how sprightly he is. Unfortunately, we were deep in conversation in the car, and got lost, arriving 15 mins late. The new centre is very impressive. Thank you, Karen Brkic, for standing in for us until we could get there.

Max and I were sure our Kingsbury Scholarship winner, Matilda Fordjor, was from Norway or Sweden with a name like that, but to our surprise, the delightful Matilda was from Ghana, and her whole family were there. Matilda is going to do specialist medicine; an extremely talented young adult. Her essay appears elsewhere in this edition.



Max Caldwell presents Matilda Fordjor with her scholarship

I concentrated on talking about the students, and their future, before Max made the award. Matilda then told the story of the 2/14th and Bruce Kingsbury, so it all blended in well, for a change.

On the night, our 2015 Kingsbury Scholarship winner, Suny Salioski was announced as one of the new school captains for 2017. Well done, Suny.

I had a couple of parents come up and say how impressed they were, and a teacher I didn't know, also congratulated us, so we must be doing something right.

Michael Ralston

Kingsbury Primary School

Sue Davies and I represented the 2/14 at the Kingsbury Primary School awards night. Sue's daughter's Lauren and Sarah also attended together with Sarah's friend Simon.

Yoedhzer Nidup and Joshua Muir were the worthy recipients of the Bruce Kingsbury Achiever's Awards for 2016. Both have been proud to carry the Battalion banner in the ANZAC Day March. Below is the text of their "Thank You" to the Battalion for the Award.



Joshua and Yoedhzer with the Kingsbury Achiever's Honour Board

It was a good night and we had a chance to talk to Christine Campbell, the new Principal and the local MP Colin Hall.

David Webb

We, Yoedhzer and Joshua, are honoured to be the Bruce Kingsbury Award winners of 2016. This award encourages us to keep trying our best, as we will be going to High School next year.

The Bruce Kingsbury Award is very special to us. The story of Bruce Kingsbury was, and always will be a very inspiring and emotional story for all of us. The courage of Bruce Kingsbury reminds us to live up to expectations. His story will always be stored in our hearts because it will never be overwritten.

The Bruce Kingsbury Award is a massive accomplishment for us and when our names were called up we were extremely happy. We are also very proud of the others who received this award in the past. However, without the story of Bruce Kingsbury and the 2/14 Battalion in our minds and hearts we wouldn't be the people we are now. Bruce Kingsbury is our goal and our pride as he was a very courageous man and the memories of him won't be forgotten.

Thank you for attending our Grade 6 Graduation 2016 and for generously giving up your time to share Bruce Kingsbury's story.

Sincerely, Yoedhzer Nidup & Joshua Muir



Before Bruce Kingsbury was a soldier, he was a man. He was a man who stood by his own conviction and would not let any kind of adversity hold him back. In simple words, he took risks that had meaningful goals. He was a levelheaded man who cherished

comradeship and he made sure he invested everything he had and could do, whenever it was needed. It never mattered if it was needed at home or on the battlefield.

Bruce Steel Kingsbury, born on the 8th of January 1918, was the son of Florence Annie Steel and Philip Blencowe Kingsbury. His legacy is of much importance to us today. Not only does it show the kinds of sacrifices that were made on the battlefield during the Second World War, but it also tells society that heroes can come from anywhere, and from any walk of life. Bruce Kingsbury was born in Preston, Melbourne. He lived a simple life and he excelled greatly in all areas of it. After studying at Melbourne Technical College, on a scholarship, he managed to gain work in the printing industry. This shows his academic excellence. He lived a life of courage, and risk-taking. Kingsbury devoted his life to his comrades and completely laid down his life for them. He saw to his duty, despite the onslaught of attacks he and his battalion were facing. Kingsbury showed us that selflessness, taking initiatives and practicing dedication are all values that make us become better human beings. His sacrifice is well recognised because of the values he showed as he saw it through.

THE MAN

Bruce Kingsbury was a man who took lots of initiatives and risks. Kingsbury showed these values since a young age. He was an outstanding student at Windsor State School and his admirable academic achievements eventually earned him a scholarship to study at Melbourne Technical College. Bruce was a man who followed his own heart. He had always preferred life in the bush to helping his father with his real estate business. He, alongside his childhood friend, Alan Avery, left the city and found adventures in Piangli, Leeton and Wagga...

THE SOLDIER

During the battle at Isurava, the 2/14th Battalion was under heavy attack from the Japanese army. Their commander, Major General Horii was relentless with his pressing attacks. The 2/14th Battalion was at a loss with the Japanese troops outnumbering them at a ratio of six to one. On the 29th of August, after the Battalion had managed to hold onto their position for 2 days, the Japanese troops attacked their Headquarters hard. A counterattack was needed for the Battalion to regain their position. With bullets whistling over his head and shells raining around he and his comrades, Private Bruce Kingsbury decided to take the initiative and show "...a complete disregard for his safety" (Kokoda Historical) and help his Battalion regain their position. So with a Bren gun (which he had retrieved from the wounded Corporal 'Teddy' Bear) attached to his hip, Private Bruce Kingsbury shot through the enemy, and cleared a

BRUCE KINGSBURY

path for his comrades. Unfortunately, he was shot by enemies' sniper. His dear friend, Alan Avery laid his mate's body on his back, with hopes that he would make it. But war is ugly and predictable. Private Bruce Kingsbury died on the bloodied soil of Port Moresby on the 29th of August.

HIS LEGACY

Kingsbury's attainment of the Victorian Cross did not come easily. For a soldier to acquire the prestigious medal, they needed to have shown an immense and substantial amount of valour and bravery during wartime. The dedication that he had towards his comrades is what pushed him to make the courageous sacrifice. That particular sacrifice that he gave on the battlefield is what has shaped his legacy today. However, we must not forget that many others showed valour, bravery and selflessness on the bloodied battlefield. The blood and tears spilled during the battle were not from one man, and the turnaround from defeat to victory was not achieved by one man. The 2/14th Battalion, through a sturdy dependency and commitment to each other, fought through the attack from the enemy and achieved what they did. Kingsbury did help pave the way for this victory. His death will never be taken for granted. But all these men have also shaped their own legacies. Those who are not given awards and public appraisal need to be acknowledged for the pure selflessness and valiant attitude they also showcased. Many alongside Kingsbury perished in that battle, both enemy and allies.



In my opinion, selflessness, initiative taking and dedication are three of the most significant values that an individual could ever have. Taking an initiative is

going against all the physical barriers around you and making a decision despite these obstacles. One's mind needs to be firm and sturdy in order to understand selflessness and then show dedication. I chose these three values because this generation in particular does not have a good grasp on their importance. One cannot go through life without showcasing these values. They are integral to being a human being. An individual cannot approach a new part of their lives without taking initiatives. Success is mostly consists of taking initiatives and learning how to take risks and making sacrifices. Dedication and loyalty to duty can take an individual a long way. I come from a developing country, and have been exposed to many difficulties, either experienced by me or others. The dedication and initiative needed for me to become my best is something I find valuable. Selflessness helps me understand the importance of other lives, instead of focusing only on mine. For Kingsbury to have showcased these values, it proved to me their universality...

ABOUT ME

I initially wanted to apply for this scholarship because I was simply thrilled at the idea. I had not really envisioned that I would become so involved in the story of Private Bruce Kingsbury. The Scholarship became an opportunity for me to learn and witness, for myself, the gallantry and valour of Bruce Kingsbury. I had heard a lot about him, but I did not know much about him, as I had just moved from a different state.

I aspire to become an influential figure in society, either in the career fields of medicine or technology. There is something about sitting at a computer and creating the unimaginable that appeals to me. What I like about medicine is the ability that it gives us to prove illnesses wrong, and beat them at their own game. What really struck me about Bruce Kingsbury is that he never succumbed to the expectations that people had of him. He always managed to take an initiative and break out of the expectations that people had of him. He showed this with his family and with his comrades. Kingsbury's decision to enlist in the war was not supported by his parents, but he enlisted anyway. I find it difficult to break out of certain expectations that people have of me, yet Bruce Kingsbury excelled at it, even on the battlefield. Just like me, Kingsbury was a high-achieving student. However, he decided to pursue his passions instead of working in the printing industry. This has supremely taught me to live by my passion and my own realistic standards. Now, I have a different reason for applying for this scholarship. This scholarship will provide me with the financial support I need to pursue my studies, just as Bruce Kingsbury did. As a high-achieving student, I make it my goal to do the best that I can. This Scholarship will help me attain this goal. It will contribute to the carving of my future. This essay has taught me the importance of taking initiatives and selflessness.

Matilda Aboagye Fordjor

NEIL HOWELL AND THE 2/14TH INFANTRY BATTALION

It began with a note through the contacts page on the 2/14 Battalion Association website in early January this year:

"I have a copy of The Second Fourteenth Battalion. Thank you and the men of the 2/14th for the great sacrifices you have made. My copy is the SECOND printing (1949). The inside front cover contains the signature and address of a former Hon. Secretary of the 2/14th Battalion Association. I believe the name is JOHN STERLING, but I might be wrong about this. He lived in Ashburton. Could you please confirm the name, or provide the correct one. Thank you for your help, and I look forward to hearing from you. Neil Howell"

In the following email interchange between 2/14 Battalion Association president, Craig Iskov and Neil Howell, it emerged that Neil currently lives in San Diego, California and bought the book in New York over 30 years ago, to add to his collection on Australia in World War II. Having recently turned 70, Neil decided it was time to return this book to the Association.

It arrived with this note:

"We return this book to the 2/14 Btn Association, in tribute to those brave men. We shall not see their like again."

To make this book even more special, we already have John's personal copy of the companion book, *Men of the 2/14 Battalion*, which it will join in in the Memorabilia collection.

We appreciate and acknowledge Neil's efforts in returning this piece of our heritage to the Association and are left to ponder how this copy made its way to a bookshop in New York in the 1980s.

OBITUARIES

N252590/NX168913 PRIVATE KENNETH REGINALD ASGILL



Army records in Canberra show that **Kenneth Reginald Asgill** was born in Parkes on 1 May 1924. He was employed as an apprentice butcher when he was called up for compulsory Militia service on 23

April 1942 at Ashfield. He attested at the General Details Depot in Sydney and marched in to 31 Australian Infantry Training Battalion at Bathurst on 25 April.

On 22 October 1942 Ken was posted to 2 Australian Infantry Special Group for six weeks and returned to 31 AITB that had been redesignated as 30 AITB in an Army reorganisation on 3 December 1942. On 14 April 1943 he was transferred and marched in to 18 Australian Infantry Battalion.

The Defence Act precluded Militia troops from serving outside Australia so the Army was encouraging militia troops to transfer to the overseas volunteer force, the Australian Imperial Force. Ken transferred to the AIF on 27 April 1943 and was allocated a new enlistment number with an "X" indicating that he was a volunteer for overseas service.

On 16 September 1943 Ken marched in to the 5th Australian Army Reinforcement Depot at Sellheim, on the Burdekin River, inland from Townsville. After a period of hospitalisation for a skin infection, Ken finally embarked for Port Moresby on 31 October and disembarked on 4 November 1943. After a short period in the Reinforcement Reception Depot, Ken marched in to 2/14 Battalion and joined the Left Out of Battle (LOB) contingent in Port Moresby on 30 December 1943.

Ken spent periods in hospital with attacks of Malaria and Dengue Fever until the Battalion returned from the Markham Ramu Campaign on 8 January 1944 and he was posted to 10 Platoon in B Company. The Battalion embarked for Australia and arrived in Melbourne on 20 March 1944. After a short period at Watsonia Army Camp, the Battalion moved to Queensland for rest and rehabilitation and then training at Strathpine and Kairi Army Camps to assist American forces in a proposed seaborne landing to recapture the Philippines Islands.

This plan was changed when General MacArthur decided he didn't want the Australian Divisions. General Blamey set out plans to invade the islands by-passed by the Americans and 7th Division was given the task to land on the South-East corner of Borneo and capture the oil town of Balikpapan. Thus the training for sea landings

was not wasted.

On 25 May 1945, Ken embarked with the Battalion at Cairns and disembarked at Morotai on 13 June 1945. The Battalion then embarked for the Balikpapan landing which was successfully carried out on 1 July 1945. B Company led the advance up the coast to capture Seppingang airfield. The Company followed A Company to Manggar Airfield and consolidated the gains made there. By this time, Ken was a forward scout in his platoon, equipped with an Owen sub-machine gun.



Members of 2/14 Battalion landing at Balikpapan

A patrol by B Company on 7 July was heavily shelled by Japanese artillery causing a number of fatal casualties and another patrol on 9 to 11 August 1945 suffered several casualties which were the last battle casualties of the Battalion for the War.

The Battalion then became responsible for peace-keeping operations including the rounding up, disarmament, containment and repatriation of Japanese troops, destruction of enemy ammunition and explosives and administration of the civilian population on Borneo and the the Celebes (now Sulawesi) until Dutch troops returned.

Whilst later reinforcements were transferred to other Battalions for continuing service, Ken was among the Battalion members who embarked at Makassar in the Celebes on HMAS Kanimbla on 21 January 1946 for return to Australia. They disembarked in Brisbane on 4 February 1946 for return to home states. The 2/14 Battalion went out of the Australian Army Order of Battle and ceased to exist on 22 February 1946.



The Battalion, led by the band, marching past war-damaged buildings on their arrival in Macassar

Ken returned to Sydney where he was posted to the New South Wales General Details Depot until he was demobilised and discharged from the Australian Army on 19 June 1946.

Like many of his comrades, the tropical conditions took their toll and he suffered from the debilitating effects of various tropical diseases for some time after the War ended. However, he recovered enough to raise 9 children over the course of his

long life. As well as joining the RSL, Ken joined the 2/14 Battalion Association and kept in touch with events and news via the regular newsletter which he always looked forward to receiving.

He will be missed.

QX52024/A14542 Sergeant George Richard PRIESTLEY

Army records in Canberra indicate that George was born in Brisbane on 10 April 1925 when he enlisted in the Army on 19 May 1943 at the Recruit Reception Depot at Redbank where he attested. George then marched in to the 17th Australian Infantry Training Battalion at Tenterfield where he remained until 22 August 1943 when he was transferred to No 1 Australian Infantry Specialist Group to undertake mortar training. He graduated successfully on 19 September 1945.

George returned to 17 AITB until 28 December when he marched out to 13/33 Australian Infantry Battalion but on 5 January 1944 was then transferred again to 41 Battalion. On 13 May 1944 he was transferred to the Jungle Warfare Training Centre at Canungra after which he marched in to 2/14 Battalion. Posted to No 3 Mortar Platoon he joined the Battalion in North Queensland where it was training for the next stage of the War.

Initially, General MacArthur wanted Australian troops to be part of his force for the invasion of the Philippines but, at the last minute, excluded them to keep the landing force as American only.

General Blamey wanted Australian forces to play a strategic part in the continuing war to enable Australia to be a strong voice at the anticipated surrender table. As a consequence, the subsequent actions in which Australians took part in were labelled in many quarters as "the unnecessary war" because lives were lost that many felt should not have been.

The islands immediately north of Australia, in what is now Indonesia, and that had been bypassed by the Americans, were seen as an ideal objective by Blamey; in particular the oil-rich island of Borneo. The 9th Division were to capture the north of the island and 7th Division the oil port of Balikpapan and surrounding airfields at Seppingang and Manggar.

The Battalion was a part of a 7th Division force comprising 21 and 25 Brigades which landed at Balikpapan by sea on 1 July 1945. Thick, black oily smoke covered the area as the large oil storage tanks in the port were set on fire. The Japanese were slowly forced from their positions but fought hard.

The Mortar Platoon played an important part in the advance with concentrated accurate bombing of positions as the infantry moved forward. This support was vital as the Battalion advanced on Manggar which was defended by fanatical Japanese supported by large naval guns dug in to well protected bunkers. These positions were

heavily and accurately bombed by the platoon enabling the infantry companies to attack the positions and take the guns. This enabled the taking of Manggar airfield.



Members of the Mortar Platoon in operation at Manggar Airstrip

However, the Japanese were not done yet and a number of fanatical counter-attacks occurred and the Mortars again played their part with controlled accurate shooting.

With the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki the Japanese Emperor ordered his troops everywhere to surrender and an Armistice was effected on 15 August 1945. The Battalion moved into a peacekeeping role that entailed the apprehension and detention of Japanese survivors and the gradual return to the civilian administration of the pre-war Netherlands East Indies.

The Pioneer and Mortar Platoons played an important role in the location and disarming of booby traps, unexploded ammunition and bombs.

After several weeks the Battalion moved to the Celebes Islands (now Sulawesi) to continue this work including the repatriation of Japanese soldiers back to Japan. Unfortunately one of the problems that the Battalion had to deal with was the emergence of communist based rebels wanting independence for Indonesia.

In early January 1946, Netherlands East Indies Forces returned and the island was handed over to them. The work of the 2/14 Battalion was over and it prepared to return to Australia to be disbanded. For George, though, the job had not finished as he had not served long enough for early discharge.

As the 2/14 Battalion left for Australia, George was transferred from the Celebes to Rabaul in the Territory of New Guinea via Ambon and marched into the War Graves Unit in Rabaul on 30 January 1946. The Unit was responsible for the establishment of the Bita Paka War Cemetery in Rabaul and the recovery, identification and reinterment of all Commonwealth war dead from the New Guinea islands except the mainland.

On 17 April 1946 George was promoted to Corporal and then Staff Sergeant on 27 May 1946. He left Rabaul on 9 November 1946 and was discharged from the Army in Brisbane on 15 January 1947.

In searching for an ideal lifestyle back in "civvie street" George finally re-enlisted in the RAAF on

5 July 1954 at Amberley Air Base before moving to Richmond on 9 August that year for Recruit Training. On 2 November 1954 He was then transferred to Wagga to attend the RAAF School of Technical Training where he qualified as an Armament Fitter.

George was then posted to the Aircraft Research and Development Unit at Laverton Air Base, Victoria, on 5 September 1955 where he undertook more training and gained experience with a range of aircraft types and armaments.

He returned to Amberley on 1 October 1957 where he was posted to 482 Maintenance Squadron. On 18 August 1958 he transferred to No 1 Squadron which had just returned to Amberley from extended service in Malaysia flying Avro Lincolns on bombing missions against the communist insurgents. The Squadron was being re-equipped with the smaller more adaptable Canberra bombers and George was assisting on the armaments conversions.



A Canberra bomber releasing its payload

On 9 November 1960 George embarked for Penang in Malaysia where he was to join No 2 Squadron at Butterworth Air Base. No 2 had taken over from No 1 two years earlier and was flying the Canberras on bombing and ground support missions against the communists. He stayed with No 2 Squadron for 3 years until he returned to Amberley on 10 July 1963.

Here he was posted to 82 Wing and then, on to No 1 Operational Conversion Unit on 29 April 1968. The RAAF was acquiring the F111 swing wing bomber, but, because of some initial concerns with the technology, was equipping with the F4E Phantom.

However, on 17 December 1969, George landed in Vietnam and rejoined No2 Squadron which was still flying Canberra bombers on bombing missions attached to the US Air Force at Phan Rang Air Base. The RAAF greatly impressed the USAF and No2 Squadron was awarded the Vietnam Gallantry Unit Citation and the US Air Force Outstanding Unit Commendation.

George returned to Amberley on 8 June 1970 where he joined 82 Wing Headquarters staff before moving to 482 Maintenance Squadron on 1 February 1974. On 13 November 1974, after 20 years service with the RAAF Sergeant George Richard Priestley elected to retire and return to civilian life. He had spent a total of 24 years in the Army and Airforce uniforms of Australia and had served his country well in War and Peace time. He was awarded the following medals and awards:

1939-45 Star
Pacific Star
War Medal 1939-45
Australia Service Medal 1939-45
Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp 'VIETNAM'
Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasps 'PNG' 'SW PACIFIC'
Australian Defence Medal
Pingat Jasa Malaysia
United States of America Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device
Returned From Active Service Badge (WWII and Vietnam)

George continued to be an active member of 2/14 Battalion Association, regularly attending marches and reunions in Brisbane with his family.

He will be missed.

Lest we Forget

Ross Wilkinson, who prepares our obituaries, was grateful to Defence Force Records for their speed in providing access to George's RAAF records, so that a full eulogy could be presented at George's funeral in December.

INVITATION FROM 2/16 BATTALION

The 2/14th Battalion Association are cordially invited to join with the 2/16th Battalion Association following the Melbourne ANZAC march, at the **Palmerston Hotel** in Kingsway, South Melbourne for a bite to eat, a convivial drink and a chat. Reserved seating is available.

However, as the Palmerston has been sold, and we don't know if it will be operating on the day, a back-up booking has been made further along Palmerston Cres, at **The Rising Sun Hotel**, 2 Raglan St, South Melbourne. Check with Trevor Ingram (phone: 04 1933 3347 or trevor.ingram@bigpond.com) closer to the day.

As part of their **75th Anniversary of Kokoda** commemorations, the 2/16 has organised a tour that is fully 4WD transported and incorporates visits to both ends of the Kokoda Trail and the beach battle areas of Gona, Buna and Sanananda. Anyone interested in joining the tour, to be led by Frank Taylor, can find more details at www.kokoda.com.au

BALIKPAPAN 2017

The Expression of Interest forms were sent out in the last edition of Comradeship. To date there has been little interest in the Labuan/Sandakan extension so we have decided just to run with the Balikpapan program (1-7 October)

Individuals can of course make their own plans for Labuan/Sandakan if they wish. Please forward Expressions of Interest to Ian Hopley - SA representative.

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AROUND THE TRAPS

Greta, wife of **VX16833 Lionel L Smith**, has been in touch to advise of their change of address. They are now both in a nursing home – in Rosebud. Lionel had a stroke some time ago but is in reasonably good health and “*still has all his marbles*”



Greta and Lionel Smith with Lionel's portrait at the Shrine Syrian Exhibition in 2011

Hazel McCallum, passed away in January. She was the widow of **VX50259 Donal** (note only one d) **McCallum** who served with the 2/14th in Syria and Papua. Donal passed away in 1992. In his response to Donal and Hazel's son, Bill, Craig Iskov paid tribute from the Association in the following words: *People like your mother and father were such treasures of Australian history and they will always be in our thoughts.*

Long-time supporter of the Association, through his running of the Kingsbury Memorial Service in August each year, **Robert Winther OAM**, was honoured with the 2016 Shrine of Remembrance Medal at the Shrine Annual Dinner at Melbourne Town Hall in November, 2016. Robert as Veteran Liaison at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, now

part of Austin Health, has dedicated more than 50 years' service to this role. He has been the driving force of numerous projects at the Hospital including The Anzac Memorial Chapel, The Remembrance Garden and the Jessie Mary Vasey Labyrinth. Congratulations Robert! So well deserved.



Shrine of Remembrance CEO Dean Lee, Medal Recipient Mr Robert Winther and Chairman of the Shrine Trustees Air-Vice Marshal Chris Spence AO (Retd).

For those who supported the documentary: **Kokoda ... the Spirit Lives**, Patrick Lindsay reports that production is well under way, with the film crew travelling to PNG during February to film at Rabaul, Port Moresby and around the beachheads at Buna, Gona and Sanananda. Interviews with 18 surviving veterans have been completed, some of which can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K50_fZdOnz8

While the tax deductible crowd funding campaign has finished, there is still about 25% of the budget to be raised. Donations for the project can be made by contacting patrick@patricklindsay.com.au All donors will receive a limited edition collectible print.

ALBERT JACKA MEMORIAL SERVICE 2017

When 14th Battalion member and former Mayor of St Kilda, Capt Albert Jacka VC, MC and Bar, was buried with full military honours on 19 January 1932, 8 Victoria Cross winners were his pallbearers. It was fitting, then, that Keith Payne VC was the speaker and guest of honour at the 85th commemoration of Jacka's death at St Kilda Cemetery, and the reception at the Town Hall which followed it, on 15 January. Keith was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1969, for his courageous acts under fire during the Vietnam War.

Jacka was the first Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross during World War I, three weeks after the landing at ANZAC Cove. His Military Cross was awarded at Pozieres in France on 7 August 1916, for an action which the official historian, Charles Bean, described as the “most dramatic and effective act of individual audacity in the history of the AIF”. The bar was added for his bravery at Bullecourt on 8 April, 1917. Jacka was elected to St Kilda Council in 1929 and served as Mayor from 1930 until his death.

For many years, the 14th Battalion commemorated the anniversary of his death with a service at his grave; a tradition now maintained by St Kilda Council, in collaboration with the Descendants of 14th Battalion ‘Jacka's Mob’ and their president, Chris Waters.

This year, 2/14th Battalion Association was represented at the ceremony by President Craig, and Kay Iskov, together with Elaine and Michael Ralston.



Michael Ralston, Keith Payne VC, Chris Waters and Craig Iskov at Jacka's grave in St Kilda Cemetery