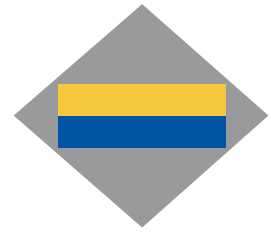


# COMRADESHIP

[www.2nd14battalion.org.au](http://www.2nd14battalion.org.au)

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



We certainly have had a busy few months taken up with activities and planning. In July I attended the 2/14 reunion lunch in Brisbane along with Past President Michael Ralston and his wife Elaine. As usual, Queensland representative Trevor Pryor, ably assisted by his wife Anne provided a wonderful day. It was lovely to catch up with 99 year old 2/14 veteran, Jack Thomson who had the audacity to win the raffled bottle of Scotch that I had my eye on. The guest speaker WO1 Ian D'Arcy then gave some very interesting insights into his lengthy and diverse military career.

Kay and I attended the re-dedication of the 2/14 plaque at Yandina in early August. The service was followed by a lovely lunch at the Yandina RSL. The 2/14 family greatly appreciate the work done by Yandina RSL and particularly by Helen Cook as the driving force. Helen obtained a

DVA grant and project managed the restoration of the plaque and surrounds, which is again a wonderful tribute to our men and the time they spent in camp near Yandina.

We also attended the Kokoda Day service at the Cascade Gardens Kokoda Memorial and caught up with many old friends and made some new ones. This venue is a wonderful tribute to those who served in Papua New Guinea and I highly recommend a visit if you are anywhere near the Gold Coast.

Of course, the big event in August was one we had been working on for nearly 2 years. The 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign was a joint project with our 2/16 and 39th Battalion Association colleagues. On the day we had over 500 people attend the service at the Shrine of Remembrance, where the Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Linda Dessau AM, was the guest speaker. With 16 WW2 Veterans and a host of VIPs including the former Governor General Michael Jeffery, Chairman of the Shrine Chris Spence and Federal and State MPs, the service was hosted by good friend of the 2/14, author and film producer, Patrick Lindsay.

Over 330 people then attended the luncheon at the RACV Club where former Governor General, Maj Gen Michael Jeffery gave the address. There were a number of highlights during the afternoon including lucky prizes and entertainment from Eddie Lewis. Eddie sang the song 'Kokoda Track', written and recorded by Slim Dusty to honour all those who served in the campaign. Many people heard the song for the first time and were moved by the performance.

The event committee had worked on tirelessly to ensure the day ran smoothly. On behalf of all 2/14 members, I want to thank those involved from the 2/14, 2/16 and 39 Battalions. I would like to especially thank our Sue Davies who, under great pressure carried out the vital role of committee secretary. All those who attended agree that it was a great success and put the 2/14 in the Australian public focus 75 years on from that critical campaign. Now it is up to each one of us to ensure that if we have a family member, a friend or a colleague that has any interest in Kokoda or wider Australian history, to introduce them to the 2/14 Battalion Association.

My best wishes to you all, and please stay in touch so that together we can continue the tradition of honouring all men of the 2/14 Battalion AIF.

**Craig Iskov**  
President

## 2/16 BATTALION REUNION

2/14th Battalion Association members are cordially invited to attend the 2/16th Battalion Association Reunion Luncheon on Saturday 21st October 2017 at 11.30 am Old Hepburn Springs Hotel, Hepburn - Newsted Road, Hepburn Springs

RSVP Trevor Ingram 0419 333 347 Email: [trevor.ingram@bigpond.com](mailto:trevor.ingram@bigpond.com)

## 2/14 BATTALION ASSOCIATION INC

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice** is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the 2/14 Battalion Association Incorporated will be held on **Sunday 24th September 2017 at 10.00 am** at the Rats of Tobruk Hall, 44 Victoria Ave, Albert Park.

Business to be conducted:

1. To receive and adopt the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th September 2016
2. To receive the President's and Secretary's Reports.
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Financial Report.
4. To elect Office Bearers for 2017/2018
5. To consider nominations for Life Membership.

Nominations are called for the following vacancies:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee (25 positions)

**Nominations are to be received by the Treasurer, 18 Khartoum St, West Footscray, 3012 no later than Friday 15th September 2017.** In the event that more nominations are received than there are vacancies, an election will be held.

An ordinary Committee Meeting will immediately follow the Annual General Meeting. Members and visitors are welcome.

This is your chance to become actively involved in the management of one of Australia's largest Associations of World War Two veterans, families and friends. Please get involved.

Committee meetings are scheduled quarterly on the first Sunday of the month at East Malvern RSL.

**The Annual Pilgrimage at the Shrine of Remembrance is held following the AGM at 2pm, 24 September**

## QUEENSLAND REPORT

### The ANZAC Day March

A small but enthusiastic group of 31 assembled on the banks of the Brisbane River for the 2017 get together.

We had only one WW2 veteran, Jack Thompson, in attendance. By Christmas, Jack will have "raised his bat" to celebrate a wonderful century. We were delighted to welcome a clutch of visitors from the deep south in the persons of President Craig Iskov, with wife Kay, and Elaine and Michael Ralston. All enjoyed the more intimate surroundings and most commented on the wonderful menu.

We all enjoyed the contribution of our guest, WO1 Ian D'Arcy OAM, RSM: 7 Combat Brigade. Ian spoke of the inspiration that veterans, such as those of the 2/14 Battalion, are to the modern day troops. I was pleased to hear, when I contacted WO1 Don Spinks, OAM, RSM: Army, who had recommended Ian, that Ian had been "over the moon" about his involvement in the day.

From the apologies received and other contacts, we expect a somewhat larger group to be available on the last Thursday in July, 2018.



Ella Brennan, Gloria Bisset and Peter Dornan



Craig Iskov, Jack Thompson, Ian D'Arcy



John Leask, Greg Dillon, Ken Boyne, Ann Pryor

### Rededication of the Yandina Memorial

On Sunday, August 6th, a service was held at Yandina to rededicate the Memorial there which commemorates the visit of the 2/14 Battalion in 1942, prior to its embarkation for PNG.

The Memorial had fallen into disrepair and the task of acquiring grants and arranging for repairs and restoration of the site was taken up by Yandina/Eumundi RSL Sub Branch member, Helen Cook. She culminated her wonderful efforts with the lovely service.



Catalaue Party mounts

Guest speakers were the captains of the Yandina State School, Mercedes and Shaun, who told the audience of the history of the Battalion's time in the district and the significance of the Memorial. They emphasised the wonderful relationship between the troops and the district residents and that, for so many, these families were the last they were to know.

They also stressed the responsibility of current generations to maintain the story and accepted that students of their school would be at the forefront of that in the local district. The assistance of choir members in the service demonstrated that commitment. Two students even gave a rendition of the Battalion Marching Song.



Yandina State School students

It was pleasing to see a significant number of 2/14 Associates in attendance, some attending their first event, others realigning with the Association, and others who are regulars.

Local dignitaries included; the President of Sunshine Coast and Region RSL, President of the Yandina/Eumundi Branch RSL, Federal Minister for Fairfax, a Sunshine Coast councillor, President of 2/14 Battalion Association and Principal, Yandina State School.

Please seek out the Memorial near 1 Tinarra Close, Maroochy River, if you're in the area.



Restored Memorial at Yandina

### Kokoda Day, Gold Coast Service

A number of Association members attended the Kokoda Day service at the Cascade Gardens on the 8 August.



Maj Gen Brian Howard addressed the gathering

It was a wonderful service highlighted by the address of patron of the Papuan Infantry Regiment (PIR) Association, Maj. Gen. Brian W Howard, AO, MC, ESM (Rtd). He spoke strongly about the efforts of those who fought along the Track under the most difficult conditions anywhere in the world. In what could have been inflammatory in some places, he was critical of the lack of "situational understanding" of the high command, mentioning Generals Macarthur and Blamey specifically. In this place, his comments drew a round of applause!

Trevor Pryor



## HUMBLLED BY QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY FANFARE



Music has been Howard Cornish's forte for more than six decades.

It has run through his genes, with his father, grandfather and great-grandfather having a knack for trumpets and bugles.

So it was no surprise to the 81-year-old's adoring wife "of 59 years, seven months and 14 days", Gwen, that he was recognised for his service to music, particularly through brass bands, with a Medal of the Order of Australia as part of the 2017 Queen's Birthday honours.

"I'm very humbled by it," Mr Cornish said.

For the past 69 years he has dedicated his time to eight bands – the Victorian Bands' League, Hawthorn City Band, Salvation Army Melbourne Red Shield Band, Melbourne Light Symphony, Preston Orchestra, Stonnington Symphony, Melbourne Symphonia and the Huffers and Puffers Retirees Band.

"It's quite exhilarating getting up in front of a big crowd. All you can see is a sea of faces, then they disappear into the dark when the

lights are dimmed and away you go," he said.

He was also the founding member of the Huffers and Puffers.

"We're a group of old codgers and we've been playing at nursing homes and retirement villages for 23 years," he said. "We bring a bit of joy and happiness."

Mr Cornish also plays the bugle at remembrance ceremonies for the Returned and Services League and funerals of ex-servicemen and women.

This article appeared in the Diamond Valley Leader on 12 June, 2017. Reprinted by kind permission.

The 2/14 Battalion Association has been the recipient of Howard's musical contribution on a regular basis over many years, as he performs the Last Post and Rouse at all of our memorial services in Melbourne. We extend our hearty congratulations to him on this well-deserved recognition.

*Brittany Shanahan*

## WEBSITE

**Have you checked the website lately?**

You'll find lots of information of relevance to the Association.

There's a complete list of the Honour Roll available under the History tab. If you have a copy of Men of the 2/14th, you'll find a Name index has been included under the Memorabilia tab.

**Go to [www.2nd14battalion.org.au](http://www.2nd14battalion.org.au) and bookmark it.  
Come back regularly to see what's happening.**

## EVENT CALENDAR 2017

### 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 Vic

### Annual Pilgrimage

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

### 2017 Balikpapan Tour

Tuesday 26 September, 2017 to  
Tuesday 3 Oct, 2017  
Balikpapan, Indonesia

### 2/16th reunion luncheon

Saturday, 21st October 2017  
Old Hepburn Springs Hotel

### Sydney 75th Kokoda Ceremony

10.30 am, Friday, 3 November, 2017  
Kokoda Memorial Walkway,  
Concord, NSW

### 2nd Committee Meeting

11.30 am, Sunday, 3 December 2017  
East Malvern RSL, Vic

## OBITUARIES

### VX44029 PRIVATE GEORGE EDWARD COLLINS



Army records in Canberra show that George Edward Collins was born in Malvern on 24 June 1920 and was living at Caulfield when he presented for enlistment at the Armadale depot. Men had to be aged at least 20 to enlist in the overseas volunteer AIF and George presented on his 20th birthday and listed his employment as a shop assistant.

He was medically examined, passed fit and was called up for service on 8 July 1940 where he attested at the Recruit Reception Depot at Caulfield Racecourse. After basic training George was transferred to the 3rd Engineers Training Depot at Dandenong on 18 July 1940 where he remained until transfer to 2/2 Pioneer Training Battalion at Hamilton.

On 1 February 1941 he was transferred to Darley for more infantry training with 6 Infantry Training Battalion. However, George must have shown some engineering skills as he was then transferred to the Engineering Depot at Puckapunyal Army Base on 28 February 1941. Whilst still at Pucka, George was then transferred to the 4th Reinforcements Group for 2/14 Battalion which was, by then, overseas in the Middle-East.

George embarked on 8 April 1941, arriving in the Middle-East on 3 May 1941, where he marched in to 21 Brigade Training Battalion. On 18 May 1941 George attended a Signals Training School until 5 July 1941, when he finally marched in to 2/14 Battalion. He was posted to the Signals Platoon.

At this time, the Battalion was on active service in Syria fighting the Vichy French forces including the French Foreign Legion. The Vichy forces had become aligned with Germany after the French surrender in 1940. The Battalion suffered its first battle casualties in Syria and the Signals Platoon were often under fire whilst repairing telephone cable frequently cut by enemy artillery fire.

After the French surrender in July 1941, the Australian forces remained in Syria as an occupying force until their requirement to return to Australia to meet the new threat in the Pacific. Embarking from the Middle East on 29 January 1942, the force spent many weeks at sea in the Indian Ocean while a political argument occurred between the British and Australian governments as to whether the force should be sent to Burma or returned to Australia. Finally they disembarked in Adelaide on 24 March 1942.

After Home Leave the Battalion reassembled in Queensland where it prepared for the forthcoming jungle campaign in Papua New Guinea. Finally, with minimal notice and great secrecy, the Battalion embarked for Port Moresby on 4 August 1942. On arrival, the Battalion moved to the foothills of the Owen Stanley Range at the beginning of the soon to be famous Kokoda Track.

The 39th Militia Battalion was heavily engaged trying to stop the invading Japanese at Kokoda and had withdrawn to the Isurava village where a defensive position had been established. The rifle companies of 2/14 and 2/16 Battalions started their mountainous trek on foot to relieve the 39th. The Signals Platoon followed with other elements of Battalion Headquarters.

The Japanese attack commenced against the 39th positions just as the forward elements of the 2/14 Battalion moved into the battlefield. Over the next several days, as more of the Battalion moved in to reinforce the 39th, it became more desperate. Finally, on 29 August an all-out Japanese attack overran C Company and threatened Battalion Headquarters just as the signallers arrived at the position.

Immediately they were ordered into the battle to restore the position. As they lined up to charge the enemy gathering for another attack, Private Bruce Kingsbury attached himself to their group with a Bren gun that had been passed on to him by the wounded Corporal Lindsay Bear. He flung himself at the massing enemy, killing many and dispersing the attack, but was himself killed, when he paused to reload the Bren.



*The rock near where Bruce Kingsbury VC died at Isurava*

Whilst this saved the day, it could not save the position and the next day the position was ordered to be abandoned. Some of the Battalion were stranded behind the rapid advance of the enemy and the signallers including George, became stretcher bearers bringing the wounded out with them. Over the next 10 days they

fought a magnificent withdrawal, until able to be replaced at Imita Ridge.



*View from the Kokoda Track looking towards Menari*

However, this was short-lived and, still understrength, the Battalion was ordered back into battle at Gona on the north coast where the Japanese were making a determined stand with their backs against the sea. The signallers spent their time either laying and repairing signal cables or acting as riflemen. Losses here were heavy but a photograph in the Battalion history shows George amongst the survivors after the battle.

Unfortunately George, like many of his comrades suffered heavily from malaria and was evacuated to Australia. Over the next several months he spent numerous periods in hospital including one occasion when he was charged with being absent without leave (AWL), only to be found in hospital.

Finally, on 24 July 1943, like others, George was medically downgraded. He marched out of 2/14 Battalion and was attached to 51st Garrison Company at Myrtleford Prisoner of War Camp. This duty entailed guarding the mostly Italian PoWs and escorting them to work on nearby farms. Apart from more time in hospital, he spent the remainder of the war here.

George had one final overseas duty for his country and was declared fit enough to be an escort for the return of the Italian PoWs to Italy. He left Sydney on 3 August 1945 and returned to Melbourne on 3 January 1946. On 13 February 1946 George was discharged from the Army at Camp Pell, Royal Park.

George lived in the Warragul area, running a local newsagency for many years. About 10 years ago, with the support of local businesses, he set up the annual George Collins Kokoda Award as a permanent reminder of the importance of the Kokoda Campaign to Australia. As a result over thirty secondary school students from the district have been sponsored to walk the Kokoda Track, and as Kokoda ambassadors, speak to community groups of their experiences in the year following their trek.

George joined the 2/14 Battalion Association and enjoyed the companionship of the Annual Reunions including the 2016 Reunion.

There are very few of them left and he will be missed.

**Lest we Forget**



## KINGSBURY ALUMNI

The second Kingsbury Alumni dinner was held on 20 July. We enjoyed good fellowship over dinner at the Darebin RSL. Our group was 18 in number and we welcomed a few “new faces”. The dinner was attended by four of our Alumni: Joshua Muir, Georgette Athanasopoulos, Ishrat Zaman and Andrijan Cvetanoski. It was most pleasing to see parents supporting our youngest Alumnists and coming to enjoy dinner with us.



Josh Muir with his father

Michael Ralston thoughtfully arranged to bring Max Caldwell to our dinner and he set up an “interview” session with Max. We learnt of what lead to him joining up and heard of his experiences during the war. Max was very generous with his time and gave all assembled insights as to what was happening to families such as his own in the war years. He also told us of his determination to serve overseas as soon as he could and how this resulted in him joining the 2/14 Battalion. These personal stories were a delight as well as a providing serious insight into one man’s personal involvement in World War II. We all enjoyed his words, many thanks to you Max!



Veteran Max Caldwell, with Michael Ralston

Our ‘door prize’ winners were Ishrat Zahman, Irene Athanasopoulos and Max Caldwell. Thanks to Wayne Bolton and

Kingsbury Primary School for sharing another set of graduation photos from over the years showing many of the Award winners.



Prize winner, Ishrat Zahman, with her mother.

An important initiative to come from this dinner meeting was to invite Alumnists to take guest roles at upcoming School and Association events. The list of events was circulated to all members. It is seen as important that the Alumnists are recognised as taking active roles as mentors for the students of both schools as well as learning more of the significance of the Association that sponsored them. The invitations and RSVP details to upcoming events were included in a special newsletter emailed to all Alumnists. The Association Trustees would also like to have some of the Alumni involved in the selection process for the winner of the Bruce Kingsbury Scholarship at Reservoir High School in the future.

It has also been mooted that our dinner meetings be held on different days of the week so that those of us with hectic schedules can attend as many dinners as possible. This will be put into effect. We plan to arrange 4 dinners each year, with newsletters being emailed to coincide with each event.



Kingsbury alumnus, Adrijan Cvetanoski

## THE CROSSES ON THE KOKODA TRACK

*Dedicated to young Anzacs*

We pass the crude wooden crosses  
on the wild Kokoda trail,  
They mark the graves of soldiers  
who have died, that we won't fail;  
Australia mourns her sons to-day,  
who were so strong and manly,  
They sailed away with buoyant hearts,  
to die on the Owen Stanley.  
They're resting on a jungle peak,  
'neath canopy of trees,  
And near them, just beside the track,  
are graves of Japanese  
Who met our men in battle  
for their greater Asia plan,  
And now beneath the jungle  
lies a dream of old Japan,  
Destroyed by sons of Aussie  
when they met the Rising Sun.  
Rest on, rest on, Young Anzacs,  
yours is a job well done.  
So we leave you on the mountain,  
with its canopy of cloud,  
As the leafy boughs hang o'er you -  
an everlasting shroud.

**Sapper H 'Bert' Beros, NX6925,  
2/6 Field Company, RAE, AIF**

*Bert notes: These graves are at Butcher's Hill, near Iorabaiwa, on the Owen Stanley Ranges, Papua. Beros travelled forward with the 2/16 Field Company after the withdrawal to Imita Ridge.*

## 75 YEARS AGO

### 2/14 BATTALION in the KOKODA TRAIL CAMPAIGN

#### BACKGROUND

First shots between the Japanese and Papuan Infantry Battalion forces in the Kokoda Trail campaign were exchanged on 23 July 1942. There followed the see-saw battle for Kokoda, which the Japanese took on 8 August; where they consolidated their position, tried to establish the size of the force ranged against them, and were somewhat distracted from 7 August by the landings by US marines on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

The 39th Battalion of the Australian militia, which had fought the Kokoda battles, took up position at Isurava on the track over the Owen Stanley Mountains that runs between Kokoda and Port Moresby.

Initially sent to defend the airfield at Kokoda, by 26 August, the 39th had been at Isurava for two weeks patrolling, and training under their new commander, Lt-Col Ralph Honner. As militia men, they were intended to be used on Australian soil, for home defence. Their role was supposed to be garrison duties at Port Moresby, but they were now in the process of learning soldiering on the job. However, 6 weeks at the end of a very long supply line was beginning to tell, and the 39th was in 'poor shape'.

On 16 August, as Ralph Honner took over the 39th, the 21st Brigade: comprised of 2/27 held in reserve, 2/16 following, and 2/14 leading the way, under Brigadier Arnold Potts, began the journey from Ower's Corner, 30 km out of Moresby, over the Owen Stanleys, to reinforce the situation. They were physically at the peak of fitness, experienced in battle and eager to get among the Japanese and sort them out.

There was, however, a third protagonist in this fight: the conditions in which it took place.

#### THE TRACK

The Track has been famously described by Kingsley Norris, senior medical of the 7 Division thus: *"Imagine an area of approximately one hundred miles long. Crumple and fold this into a series of ridges, each rising higher and higher until seven thousand feet is reached, then declining in ridges to three thousand feet. Cover this thickly with jungle, short trees and tall trees, tangled with great, entwining savage vines. Through an oppression of this density, cut a little native track, two or three feet wide, up the ridges, over the spurs, round gorges and down across swiftly-flowing, happy mountain streams. Where the track clammers up the mountain sides, cut steps - big steps, little steps, steep steps - or clear the soil from the tree roots."...*

*"About midday, and through the night, pour water over the forest, so that the steps become broken, and a continual yellow stream*

*flows downwards, and the few level areas become pools and puddles of putrid black mud. In the high ridges above Myola, drip this water day and night over the track through a foetid forest grotesque with moss and glowing phosphorescent fungi. Such is the...route for ten days to be covered from Ower's Corner to Kokoda."*



*"A little native track"*

By the time the 2/14 commander, Lt-Col Arthur Key reached Myola he knew he had a problem of immense proportions. At that time there were about 1100 fighting men heading up the track, who would have to be kept supplied with food and ammunition, but with a 6 day trek to get to Myola, and still 2 more days to reach Isurava. Key held the 2/14 at Myola for a few days while he tried to get something sorted. Air drops into Myola were a solution, but initially, much was lost, until successful techniques were developed. Getting the wounded out was going to prove even more challenging.

#### BATTLE OF ISURAVA

On 26 August, the four day battle at Isurava began, the 39th holding, while the 2/14 arrived, company by company and took up position. From the first, the battalion was fighting on territory not of their choosing, with the constant threat of encirclement. The 2/16 and 53rd battalions were deployed across the Eora Creek valley at Abuari to stop any Japanese flanking movements there, though two companies of the 2/16 were later used to cover the withdrawal to the Isurava rest house area on the main track. The fighting intensified over the course of the four days, until, on 29 August, the attacks were so fierce that there was a strong chance of C Company being overrun. It was at this point that Bruce Kingsbury made his valiant charge, firing the Bren gun from his hip through terrific machine-gun fire and clearing a path through the enemy, only to be cut down by a sniper's bullet when his patrol paused to regroup. For this he was awarded the Victoria Cross.





*The memorial at Isurava*

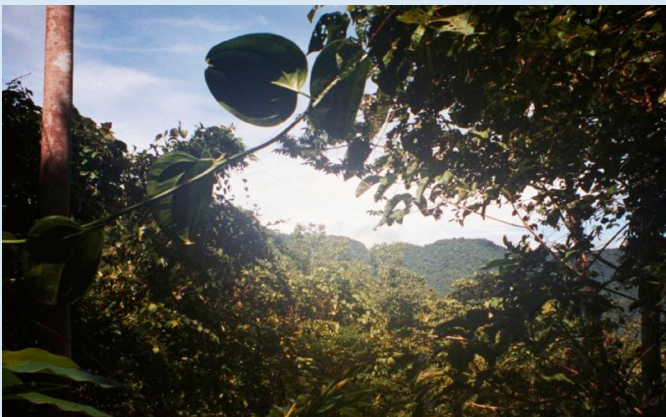
## ISURAVA

But his was not the only gallant action on that day. Charlie McCallum, covering his platoon's withdrawal further up the hill, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Lt 'Mocca' Treacy and Lt George Pearce were awarded the Military Cross and Cpl Lindsay 'Teddy' Bear, Pte Albert 'Snowy' Nielson and Pte Harold Wakefield, the Military Medal. Many years later, Alan Avery, himself an MM from the Syrian Campaign, put the action into perspective: Everyone who was up there should have got a medal that day.

On 30 August, realising they were outgunned and outnumbered, the decision to withdraw was taken, as Brigade HQ at Alola, too, had come under fire. Unfortunately, in the process, 172 men of the 2/14 were cut off. Many rejoined the battalion over the following days, but many remained lost for weeks, and some never returned, including the commanding officer, Lt-Col Arthur Key.

## FIGHTING WITHDRAWAL

Between 30 August and 20 September, the battalion fought a series of intense rearguard actions designed to slow the Japanese, and allow the evacuation of the wounded. The latter could not have been achieved so successfully without the vital contribution of the Papua New Guinean stretcher bearers, the 'fuzzy wuzzy angels'.



*Loribaiwa looking towards Imita Ridge, the furthest point of Japanese advance*

By 6 September the 2/14 and 2/16, now numbering about 400, out of the 1100 who had begun the advance, had fallen back to

just south of Efogi, (about half way between Kokoda and Moresby) where they were joined by 2/27, who had taken up position on Mission Ridge and Brigade Hill. (A total force of about 900 men.) It was here on 8 September, that a large Japanese force outflanked the Australian positions, including Brigade HQ, and Brigadier Potts called for an attack to relieve the situation, to which the 2/14 responded. By the end of the day, the 2/27 had been cut off, but the remnants of 2/14 and 2/16 were able to make their way back to Menari, and the Japanese advance had once more been delayed. Those killed that day included Charlie McCallum DCM.

On 17 September, the Japanese reached Ioribaiwa Ridge, just 60 km from Port Moresby, where, for the first time, Australian artillery, sited at Ower's Corner, had the Japanese within range, to the cheers of the remaining 2/14 troops. "Mix that with your rice" was the enthusiastic cry as the shells whistled overhead. The Japanese who had optimistically set off in July with 10 days rations, were now, nearly two months later, literally at the end of the road, defeated by the same problems of supply that had so hampered the Australian forces, and by the delays that the Australians had inflicted upon them. At this point, what was left of the 21st Brigade was relieved by 2 further brigades, the 25th and 16th, who would carry out the advance back across the mountains to the beachheads of Buna, Gona and Sanananda, on the north coast.



*The Australian 25 pounder gun at Ower's Corner. The diagram shows its firing range over Imita Ridge*

The roll of honour from the 2/14 Battalion for the action was 8 officers and 108 other ranks; fathers, sons, brothers who are mourned to this day; young men in their prime who sacrificed their future lives for the men they served alongside and the families they left behind. In physical conditions that tried everyman and his equipment to the limit, the Battalion had met a ruthless and implacable foe, representatives of an alien culture. For them, it was a desperate fight to preserve their country from an intolerable tyranny. The men of the 2/14 were in the forefront of that fight and acquitted themselves with the utmost honour.

*Jill Bear*

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## AROUND THE TRAPS

Back in May, Michael and Elaine Ralston represented the Association at the Shrine Ceremony to remember **Victory in Europe Day**.

Poor weather saw the function relocated to the Shrine Sanctuary at 11am, Monday 8th May 2017. A large crowd listened to The Air Force Brass Quintet Band, the M/C was David Blackwell, Chief Marshall of the ANZAC Day March, and the guest speaker was Mr Weston Bate OAM, a bomber pilot from WW2. Coffee, tea, and sandwiches were then had in the reception centre down stairs. A well run function by the RSL, there were many VIP Military people in attendance, including Maj General McLaughlin (ret) recently retired as President RSL.

We record with regret, the passing in late July, of Geoff, husband of Chris Ingram and son-in-law of 2/14 veteran **Cam Thompson**. Geoff was one of our readers at the Kokoda Concert a few years ago, and committee member, Chris served as a most efficient secretary for several years, until she needed to resign her post to care for Geoff during

his battle with cancer. Our thoughts are with Chris and her family at this sad time.

Also, **VX123279 Jack Wilmott** a veteran of 2/16 Battalion has passed away at the age of 97. Members may have met Jack at the 2/16 Victorian Reunions at Daylesford/Hepburn Springs.

Ian Hopley is taking a small group to Balikpapan later this year, including veteran Keith Lambert, who came to the Reunion this year, along with several of his family.



Keith Lambert speaking at the Reunion earlier this year

## 2017 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS - FINAL REMINDER

**(\$30 Single; \$40 Couple; \$50 Family)**

These fell due on **30 April 2017** and whilst many have already been received, we wish to remind those who are still outstanding to please send them in. As we cannot include a remittance form with this issue, please contact Karen Brkic directly by phone (03 9318 5394) or email (karenbrkic54@gmail.com). If you wish to pay directly by internet or bank transfer Karen, will provide banking details.

If you joined the Association between October and December 2016 your membership subscription will not be due until April 2018.

The very latest we can receive the 2017 subscription is the end of October 2017. If your subscription is not received by this date you are in danger of falling off the Membership list, which means you will no longer receive Comradeship. And we know you don't want that to happen.

Please note:

- **Payment for veteran membership is optional.**
- **Widows of 2/14 veterans are not required to pay the membership fee.**
- **Do keep us informed of changes of both street and email addresses.**