



ISSUE 1/94

## **"MICE OF MORESBY" MEMBERS BULLETIN**

Welcome to the first issue of "Orderly Room Gossip".

Your regular support with appropriate items of interest, and particularly news concerning the whereabouts and general welfare of other members, will be the real measure of the members bulletin project. It is intended that "Orderly Room Gossip", (maybe a bulletin title more appropriate can be recommended for consideration --- any suggestions"), shall function through a sub committee planned to comprise a representative from each of the geographical areas. Refer to the membership roll with the GREEN PAGES. Notice on an early nominated volunteer is what is needed. So let Trevor have names A.S.A.P.

Our first volunteer is Eric Gresham (Central Coast) a "B" Coy, 11 Platoon member, who joined us at Strathpine and went on to serve at Bougainville and New Britain.

Eric reports: - Due to "Skeeter" Matthews initiative the Hunter Valley/Newcastle members get together twice a year about 11.30 am at Hamilton RSL and on the first Wednesday in April and November. With ladies attending and with some Sydney supporters. It is always a most enjoyable day. (For more information CONTACT "Skeeter" MATTHEWS or ERIC GRESHAM.

--- Eric with his wife, Marj, on a recent trip to visit family at Tamworth called on Ned KELLY and wife Alma Gunnedah). Ned had a by-pass late '93 They were made very welcome and the visit certainly cheered Ned up quite a bit. --- Eric and Marj were also pleased to have Ron NOSWORTHY and wife Betty (Long Jetty) visit them and Eric was instrumental in getting Ron and Billy BRADSHAW (Yagoona) along to the December AGM after a lapse of some years --- Good work, Eric! Ron loaned Eric his treasured copy of the Units Xmas 1943 Issue of 50/50 News. Many familiar names that were mentioned were discussed at some length, and Ron himself received a mentioned as a promising foot runner. (How many copies of 50/50 News still exist? Nave they been re-read of Late? --- Ricky RAND (Umina) was contacted and planned to attend the December meeting in Sydney but somehow got sidetracked, (Eric will no doubt follow up to see Rick is OK.) --- Tom DELBRIDGE (Berkley Vale) has generously proposed to donate his copy of "That Mob" to the Tuggerah Lake Memorial Club Library and the formal presentation to the President of the club is being arranged. Tom would like to know if any other member has done something similar. (Editors note: Mudgee RSL proudly displays a 55/53 Bannerette in its Memorabilia Cabinet in the club foyer.) ---

Congratulations to "Skeeter" MATTHEWS who has just been elected to the Association committee. "Skeeter" is already a busy lad involved in his St Johns Ambulance lecture duties, and in company with Nancy is busy with his Dancing, Tennis, Swimming, Cycling and Camping. We must get him to write a short article on his involvement with a Re-enactment Group, a bunch of volunteers, who in the uniforms of WW2 soldiers are a great demand mounting guards, and etc on the occasion of

ceremonial activities. --- Thank you, Eric for your above efforts as the Hunter Valley/Newcastle correspondent. – Well done !!!

BITS AND PIECES. Dave SMYLIE has moved to Queensland and his new address is in the amendments included with the Secretary's Newsletter. --- Clem TRETHERWAY (Kadina) South Australia reports that he and Colin DARBY are battling on --- George Nolan ("D") Coy) writes to tell of the get together of a few of our Victorian lads. Meeting in Bendigo on 30<sup>th</sup> November, George Bruce MITCHELL, JIM JASPER, Peter GROTTO, Neil HALLIWELL and after many years Paddy O'CONNELL with his wife (they travelled from Coleambally) joined them, plus Frank FARRELL. They had a great old chin wag and meet again in March. --- Alan WOODS, who is living in the Philippines with his wife Evelyn, has managed to survive the volcanic eruptions and typhoons and is hopeful of being with us on Anzac Day. He would be delighted to get letters from any of his old mates, so how about it fellows, the price of a stamp can bring a lot of pleasure.

"LOST SHEEP" Returning to the fold, a big WELCOME to Harry ELLIS (SCHOFIELD) ; Walter PETERSON (Cairns) ; Roy LEVY (Revesby); Lindsay WRIGHT (Cowra); Percy MILES (Campsie) Bill WORT; (Woy Woy); John St Clair SMITH (Clontarf, Queensland); Geoff MORRIS (Berkley Vale) ; Arthur PAYNE (Moorebank) and Allan HARPER (Frankston, Victoria). How many more "Lost Sheep' are out there?

Trevor HARPER & Joan will be in Europe and the UK for a six weeks break, leaving on 8<sup>th</sup> April. No doubt will be thinking of us all on Anzac Day, and hope to be in London on the day, and join in the observance of Anzac Day there. They had hoped to be able to visit the grave of Joan's uncle, who was killed at Messines on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1918. He was a member of the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion; but they will be on an organised tour, and the cemetery is just too far from Brussels to make a visit practical.

SICK PARADE. Fred DENNY reports that Alan (Tiny) HARPER is in hospital down Camden way, Fred WESTAWAY is in hospital at Bondi. For enquiries about them ring Bob QUINN on 02 505230. How about a cheerio card to them, please let us know of any other members not going so well.

THE JANUARY '94 BUSHFIRES. Special efforts were made at the earliest opportunities to contact our members in known bushfire high risk areas such as Como, Jannali, Bobbin Head, Narrabeen, Berowra, Blue Mountains, and Central Coast etc.. Fortunately, none of our members homes have been drastically affected by the bushfires, and our sympathies lie with those who lost so much. This is a blessed country, epitomised by the spirit of all who, on behalf of others, fought fires, supported them and gave so generously for the relief of the victims.

RETURN TO THE WESTERN FRONT 1993. Our old friend Bill DAVIES relates his impressions of a most moving and personal experience when he recently returned to the Western front in an article appearing in the February issue of "SALUTE" ---- the Official Journal of the T.P.I. ASSOCIATION. As a closing passage, Alan STEADMAN, State President of the T.P.I. has this to say about Bill:

"It would be remiss of me not to say Bill is the epitome of a true scholar, and gentlemen, having devoted his life to the needs of his family, his fellow man, and his country. I wonder, how many Australians realise the debt we owe to the likes of Bill, and in many cases dis make the Supreme Sacrifice to weld together this greatest is Island continents, known as Australia".

How worthy expressed of our good friend.

During Bill's tour of the Western front, he met up with a Frenchman, Yves FOHLENT, living in St., QUINTIN, who has been researching the history of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, WWI.. The following poem written by this young man contains a compassionate message of respect and great appreciation of the Supreme Sacrifice of Fallen Comrades of this great unit.

53<sup>rd</sup>

53<sup>rd</sup>

A number  
To remember.  
Percy to his cobbers,  
Who rest forever  
Near where they fought.

53<sup>rd</sup>

A number.  
All these Australian volunteers,  
Gallant fighters.  
At Fromelles, mown by enemy machine gunners, at Ploygon Wood, splendid winners,  
At Perrone in 1918, September,  
At Bullecourt in 1918, October,  
Last Battles, last slaughter,  
The death was so eager.

53<sup>rd</sup>

How many Diggers  
Of this unit were disabled forever?  
How many times this number  
Was inscribed on a grave from the Somme to Ieper.

53<sup>rd</sup>

A number  
Which hides the sorrow of Mothers.  
The grief of fathers,  
the loss of a lover.  
So many tears shed by sweethearts,  
So many dreams crushed forever.

53<sup>rd</sup>

A symbol number  
For me, a young French writer,  
Which haunts my heart  
Like a debt unpaid,  
Towards so many dead.

By YVES FOHLENT, St QUINTIN 1993

RON 'Spider' WEBB. It is a matter of real concern to members and the committee that 'Spider' lies in an unmarked grave in Pine Grove Cemetery, Wallgrove. An approach to Australian War Graves

Commission for assistance was not successful. However, alternative avenues are being investigated to have this distressing situation rectified.

#### 1993 CENOTAPH PARADE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Some highlights of the day. In acknowledgement of services of our Associate BUGLER, a gift of a unit plaque was made to our very good friend Harry WOODS, also a suitably engraved decanter with glasses was presented to our dedicated and highly respected secretary, Trevor HARPER. Another of our very good associates, and respected by all, is John RICHARDSON to whom we owe our special thanks for his presentation to us of a video record of the days proceedings.

REPRINT "THAT MOB" A special "Thank you" to Brian Budden, who showed up on the day, along with his father Frank's second book "CHOCOS" A special offer on the day of both books for \$30.00 was snapped up by many members. ---- PLEASE NOTE --- Only limited stocks are still available and may be purchased at the special price of \$15.00 each plus postage, so don't hold back if you are contemplating buying either or both of these books. --- SOUVENIRS----Whilst on the subject of 55/53 memorabilia items the following are still available: Tie Bars (6) \$2.50; Colour Patches (12) .50 cents; Book Marks (123) \$2.50; Place mats (18) \$2.00; Spoons (6) \$2.50; Bannerettes (8) \$6.00 and Battalion plaques with engraving (40) \$25.00 plus postage where applicable, except plaques which has postage included.

RETURN TO GRETA 4th DECEMBER. On a very wet windy morning, a party consisting of A Bell, H Lowe, W McLeod, V Piper, T Harper, H Matthew accepted the invitation extended by Arthur PAYNE a member of the battalion, to re-visit the old camp site at Greta. Arthur being a friend of the caretaker of the camp site had arranged access to the area. We visited the grenade throwing range, and the short firing range (the later we agreed had being built after we left the area in May 1942 and the hospital area at Silver City. Looking across the fields towards Mt Molly Morgan, it was easy to recall the early days of our army life, and the ghosts of many a parade and memory rose uninvited to mind. A most enjoyable day, and as this was the probably last opportunity to visit the place where so many of us were introduced to army life, a far call from our normal experience not to ne forgotten. Those who made the Greta trip particularly tank Arthur PAYNE & FRIENDS for making possible such an enjoyable occasion.

#### 14 BRIGADE ASSOCIATION – PLACEMENT OF TIME CAPSULE

Lt. Col. Doug ASPINALL, O.A.M., Secretary of the Royal New South (Wales) Regimental Council, representing the Regimental Colonel., Maj. Gen. Ray SHARP, A.O., R.F.D., E.D., (R.L.) on the occasion of placement of the placement of the Time Capsule in the St., John's Bishopthorpe Church, GLEBE, by the 14 Brigade Association on Sunday 12 December, during his address included the following message from Maj. Gen Sharp.

"I congratulate the 14th Brigade Association on the thoughtful step in it is taking today – the positioning of a time capsule for opening in the year 2042, the Centenary of the Kokoda Campaigns. Material which has been widely available for some time, leaves no doubt that there is good reason for an association, such as yours, to seek to have those that follow you understand more of the past achievements, and the values and standards you have espoused. We trust the portions of our Regimental writings to be included, will usefully complement these. I want all present at this placement and associated with the concept to know of the honour The Royal New South (Wales ) Regiment has in being entrusted with the Custodian and capsule Opening roles. We accept these as

proper duties and will, to the best of our ability, have them performed. The Regiment wishes well all those involved in the lodgement and in the years to come, The Opening”.

In order to appreciate the Royal New South Wales Regiments accepted involvement, both with the “Placement” and Capsule Opening”, the following extract is quite significant.

Reference: July 1993 issue of “Waratah Rifleman”. The newsletter of the Regiment.

NEW GUINEA 1942-43.

In these bitter operations, the ancestor units of the Royal New South Wales Regiment engaged were 2/1st, 2/2<sup>nd</sup>, 2/3<sup>rd</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup>, 55/53 Infantry Battalions. In recognition of the distinguished role taken by these units during these operations the Battle Honour “BUNA-GONA” is carried on the Queens Colour of the Royal New South Wales Regiment and the Battle Honours “SANANANDA and GONA” are included in the Regimental Roll of Battle Honours. ---- NOTE. It is proposed to reprint the article ‘New Guinea – 1942/43’ in full in the next issue of “Orderly Room Gossip”.

KOKODA MEMORIAL PROJECT. – A LIVING MEMORIAL TO AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS and PAPUA/NEW GUINEA NATIVES.

In April '94, Rotarians from the Central Coast of NSW will fly to Kokoda's grass airstrip to begin building the First Aid Station at the village of WAJU, 20 kms from the town. With local help they expect to build a Kit Clinic and Kit home for a health worker in two weeks. The major part of the project is construction of a new Health Centre in Kokoda township, two more village Aid Posts and a health Sub Centre. Completion could take up to two years. The National president of R.S.L., Maj. Gen. “Digger” James says, “We will do all in our power to promote and support the project within the State Branches and Sub-Branches, as well as to the Australian public at large.”

SPECIAL NOTE. All voluntary workers not only gave their services free; but pay all personal expenses, air fares etc.,

Rotary H/quarters has been approached to assist substantially in funding material costs. HOWEVER - -- THERE WILL BE URGENT NEED FOR OTHER DONATIONS FOR THIS WORTHY CAUSE, AND THOSE WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE APPEAL SHOULD FORWARD DONATIONS TO:

“KOKODA MEMORIAL PROJECT”

C/o Rotary/RSL Kokoda Memorial

Rotary House

PO Box 779

PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

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So, we come to end of our first issue of “Orderly Room Gossip”. This is your journal and only with YOUR support will we be able to continue to produce it. It is hoped to publish YOUR journal twice yearly to coincide with the mailing out of the Secretaries Newsletter. We need your input, anecdotes, news about members, and new grandchildren (and those who can boast of new children of their own, will get special mention). Have you been on a trip and seen an old mate, tell us so we can pass on the word.

FINALLY THIS IS AN EXPENSIVE PROJECT AND THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO ATTEND OUR ANZAC DAY AND CENOTAPH PARADE AND AGM, CONTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION FUNDS THROUGH THE COSTS OF THOSE DAYS. OTHER MEMBERS PAY THEIR SUBSCRIPTION OF \$5.00 AND OTHERS ---- WELL, SHALL

WE SAY THEY FORGET. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1994 ARE OVERDUE AND THOSE FORGETFUL ONES ARE ASKED TO SEND ALONG THEIR SUBS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SHOULD ANYONE CARE TO MAKE AN EXTRA DONATION, IT WILL BE VERY WELCOME. WE ARE TRYING TO DO THE BEST FOR ALL MEMBERS, YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL.

So for this time, good wishes, good health and remember,

LET A SMILE BE YOUR UMBERELLA.

The Orderly Room Clerk,  
EDITOR