



Issue 1/96

· MICE OF MORESBY. - MEMBERS BULLETIN

'REMEMBER' Booklet Launched

"Rusty" Priest officially launched the "Remember" booklet at the Association A.G.M. 8th December '95 and part of his remarks are worth quoting:-

"The NSW Branch of the RSL is pleased to be associated with "Remember" and we wish the production well. I congratulate all concerned with the production of this booklet, for their dedication, foresight and loyalty to their mates, in particular those who are no longer with us. I believe that this booklet, "Remember", which I now take great pleasure in officially launching, will assist the community in their search for knowledge, and help them remember, lest future generations forget, the sacrifices made, which gave all Australians their national ideals of courage, and sacrifice, and their principles of mateship, and I thank you for the privilege given me this morning to launch this Booklet."

Rusty's remarks were then followed by Mr. Noel Armstrong representing the Minister for Veterans Affairs Mr. Con Sciacca:-

"I endorse Rusty's comments about the need for the younger generation to be aware of your exploits, and the exploits of all Australians, who fought not only in World War II; but in other wars as well, and I have read this book "Remember", and it certainly will go a long way towards enlightening them on the various aspects of the services, which we already take for granted; but don't know too much about.

I am also the editor of "Vetlink", which is the NSW newsletter of Veterans' Affairs, and I assure you that we will be promoting this little booklet."

Resulting from the wide circulation of complementary copies of the booklet many important and encouraging comments were received, of which only two are quoted :-

"A veritable mine of information on subjects of which most ex servicemen and women know but little and the general public even less. There is no time limit to its usefulness" - Major Boland, Regimental Historian . Royal NSW Regiment.

"I congratulate you and your committee on a most valuable and well produced booklet. I will be able to use my copy frequently as a quick reference document" - Lt. General John Grey (Retired Chief of the General Staff).

SPECIAL THANKS

It is also appropriate at this time to place on record special thanks to the following

people who were responsible for the actual production of the research material into booklet form.

John Richardson (Support Group Chairman) and his wife Angela for their highly professional skills in providing photos, arrangement of, and necessary rewriting of certain copy to ensure a desirable plain language format for the booklet.

Mike and Daphne Fernandes of Genesis Production for layout & artwork and Brian Budden of Rebel Graphics for organising the printing of the 1st edition of the booklet.

The distribution (firstly through NSW) has been principally through RSL Sub Branches and with the help of the Dept. of Education it is anticipated that the "awareness" of remembrance will reach a more effective level by Anzac Day 1996.

Commemoration of V.P. Day BRISBANE August 15th 1995 Extracts of the Speech by Major General "Digger" James.

(copy submitted by Fred Bastock, a member of our support group)

"This day in 1945 marked the total annihilation of those two evils which convulsed the world for six long years, and terrorised individual nations and individuals for even longer. The bells pealed loudest on August 15. The crowds were most jubilant!" - - -

"Only by confronting with unbridled honesty the madness of Tojo and Hitler and the terror they inflicted on our world do we stand a chance of stopping it ever happening again.

And let us never forget that when those madness's were unleashed, we were the side that stood against them . When our men and women died in this war, they were the ones fighting despotism and barbarism.

Let us have no time for the revisionists in our midst with their flawed memories and expedient theories who would have it otherwise or who would cast our role in the colours of our aggressors.

As a nation we were spared invasion by the evils. Our soldiers, our sailors, our airman, our nurses and the women of our services met them and turned back in foreign jungles, on distant oceans and in the skies to our north."

Those members interested in obtaining the full copy of the address are invited to send a stamped, return addressed envelope to our Secretary Trevor Harper who will be pleased to oblige

Some New Flashes of the Day Newcastle Morning Herald Thursday August 16 1945

The Six Years War

WW II (Sep. 3 1939 - Aug. 14 1945) lasted 20 days short of 6 years.

Hotels Open Today - Given more Beer All hotels in the Newcastle District would be open during the usual hours today, the President of the U.L.V.A. (Mr P. I. Ryan) said last night. He added that extra beer had been received and it was anticipated that there would be sufficient to last all day.

Policeman Bad "Tough Job".

A handsome policeman on traffic duty when first news of the surrender was received was rushed by a bevy of girls one of which tried to kiss him. The officer was embarrassed but handled the situation calmly. He found it difficult to direct traffic with a pretty girl hanging on

to one arm and another making a desperate attempt to catch the other hand . The girl did not kiss the constable but one hugged him and then skipped away to join the celebrations. "It was the toughest job of the day.", he said.

Made a "Fair Cop" in Sydney "Game"

Sydney Wednesday - Symbolising perhaps more than anything else the spirit of Sydney's peace celebrations a uniformed policeman played 'two-up' with soldiers and civilians in a city street. There was a hush as the policeman walked to the centre of the ring and demanded the 'kip'. There was a gasp when he calmly proceeded to "head 'em" three times. He won 15/-, handed the boxer 2/- and walked away.

Letter to the Editor - Demand for Refund

SIR - The Army demands that a discharged soldier refund 50 pounds is a disgrace to the country. This man has been through enough. The mistake was not his; refunding should be the responsibility of the Army - Signed DISGUSTED.

The HOKEY POKEY became the Victory Dance

Everywhere there was a space and in places where there was not a space circles seemed to spring from nowhere and soon voices chanted "Oh! You do the Hokey Pokey" - -
-

Prewar Hours For Public Service

Public Service Board and union representatives announce the decisions to revert prewar working hours in the Public Service. This announcement was a revision of a decision made some years earlier for public servants to voluntarily work an extra half hour daily without payment.

Police Court News - Newcastle

Butcher Fined 7 pounds for having in his possession at Maryville on August 2nd three hams, a side of bacon, and eight pieces of bacon reasonably suspected of having been unlawfully obtained and 3 pounds for having in his possession four one- gallon tins of paint reasonably suspected of having been unlawfully obtained. Detective Duffell said Smith had told him that he had bought the articles from a man whose name he could not disclose . - -

Lost And Found

Lost 57 Butter coupons between Carrington and Bank Comer - REWARD 91
Young St Carrington.

Extract of the Editorial- Vol 1, No. 1 "CHOCO"

Official organ of the 53 Battalion N.G.F. - May 1942

Through the hearty co-operation of the C.O. (Lt-Col K H Ward) and his officers, also the untiring work of our chaplain and friend (Padre Wotton), it has become possible to produce this little paper, to be a record of the doings of our Battalion on active service here in Papua. We have the distinction of being the first Militia unit to leave New South Wales and by having this 'paper' handy size to post to our friends at home acquainted with our every deed.

We will welcome suggestions of any nature and criticism which is constructive. Items of interest to all in the Battalion will be printed in order of their interest merit.

This paper will succeed if we have full assistance from all ranks. signed Sgt. "Cappy" Bligh. Editor. (Ed. The same request still exists today for items to be included in ORDERLY ROOM GOSSIP 1996)

Another extract from "Choco" headed "ODDS & EVENS".

"The first beer tax was made by Disraeli when he was chancellor. Fresh revenue was needed to balance the budget. The tax was tried and it did so well that the next Budget Day, Disraeli made the house laugh by saying "I am pleased to tell you gentleman that we have drunk ourselves out of our difficulties."

- - - another snippet

It is rumoured that the Padre (Roy Wotton) came to H.Q. area with the fine intention of converting Lieut. Dellaca - - - The Padre has now been contaminated!

ARMY CINEMA UNITS - Moresby STYLE

Life as a member of an army cinema unit may not have been all skittles but nevertheless the unit did escape regular army routine. A 2/3 man crew away from Headquarters was after all autonomous, drawing rations each week as required. These were then stored in the truck along with bedding and of course the precious motion picture film.

A typical day would start around 7.00am, with someone starting the generator to boil water for a cuppa. An element mounted on a strip of timber, placed in a tin of water, was heated for the morning brew. A most expensive cuppa! After breakfast, the screen was dismantled, folded and packed away, cables wound in, the speaker taken down, film stored, bedding put back into the truck, generator hitched up to the truck, and off to the next site where the crew would usually arrive around noon.

If they were close to an American unit they could be assured of a good meal after which they would erect the screen and install the speaker! Cables would be run out and connected to the truck, the film wound and by 4.0pm or so everything would be in ship shape order for the night's show. Followed by an evening meal around 6.0pm. The crew might possibly string lights near the generator to organise for a quick game of two-up, crown & anchor etc to fill time till show time.

The show would start around 7.30pm, screening to hundreds of troops who had walked for miles, most with an empty four gallon drum on which to sit. The first item was an Australian newsreel (either Fox or Cinesound) and always well received. ("News From Home" newsreels came later). Then, into the feature, which went on uninterrupted providing the Japanese didn't come over to bomb the place. Prior notice of attacks were given in the form of a yellow alert, but normally screening did not stop until the red alert was given. Screening would resume when the all clear was sounded. During the non-screening, the troops would stay put and simply smoke - one wonders what this scene must have looked from the air, but we were never bombed. Perhaps the bombers were only concerned with their target, which, thank goodness,

they didn't appear to hit very often.

The Japanese never really did much damage to the Port Moresby area, considering the number of planes and raids that they sent over. Inspection of the seating area the next morning would reveal lots of shrapnel. It was amazing that no one was ever struck by the shrapnel coming down from the anti-aircraft shells.

Often picture nights attracted large crowds numbering in the thousands and the audience generally did not seem too concerned if they were seated on the wrong side of the screen, as quite likely they had seen the "feature" show somewhere before after all.

The importance of the picture nights to the morale of the men was never to be underestimated.

(Thanks to Geoff Masters, an 'old time projectionist' for material used in this article.)

FREEDOM WALL WACOL BARRACKS - BRISBANE

A Veteran Affairs project of the Australia Remembers year 1995. Your committee recently approved payment for a plaque to be mounted on the Freedom Wall. (Ed. Plaques are not restricted to the unit. Commemoration of fallen comrades personal plaques from families of ex-service personnel are allowed.)

ST. JOHN'S BISHOPTHORPE, THE GLEBE

In 1856, the parish of St. John's was established on the Glebe lands (land allotted to the church in the 1830's). It was given the 'olde Englishe' name of Bishopthorpe, because 'thorpe' means 'village', 'hamlet', or 'place' and the land was given to be used to support the bishop of Australia.

St. John is the writer of the fourth gospel in which he referred to as 'the beloved disciple' - he had a special place in Christ's affection, and the love of God is especially important to him. Three letters in the New Testament are also attributed to him.

At Glebe, a temporary church was built in 1856 till the present structure could replace it. The old temporary church was burned down, sad to say, in the 1970's.

Edmund Blacket and his associate, Horbury Hunt, designed St. John's, the original drawings being held in the Mitchell Library. Its somewhat stark exterior belies the warmth and colour of the interior created by the windows, the earliest dating from 1871 - a year after the church was opened and dedicated by the State Governor, the timber of the old well worn pews, and the colours of the 55th Bn, 1st AIF, all laid up at St. John's.

While thanking our Padre for the story on St. John's Church, Glebe; Orderly Room Gossip is delighted to pass on congratulations of Assn members to Heather Piper and Hugh Scott concerning the announcement of their engagement and their plans for marriage in the near future.

OUR CONTACTS WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

36th Bn.

In company with Anita & George Fetterplace (14th Field Regiment) Betty & Alex Bell were present at the "Sanananda Luncheon" (19 Dec) held at Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club following a ceremony at Martin Place Cenotaph. Funds for the luncheon being provided

from a D.V.A. grant similar to what we were allocated for our function on the 12th August. As usual we were given V.I.P. treatment and had a most enjoyable time with a great team of 36'ers and their ladies.

St. George The Saint- The Christian Knight (From 36 Bn)

It is not quite clear how St George came to be chosen as the patron saint of England. His fame had certainly travelled to the British Isles long before the Norman Conquest.

From as far back as 1896 when the 7th Volunteer Infantry Regiment (St George's Rifles) was formed in Australia, St George's Day was celebrated on 23rd April. This was a feature in the ceremonial life of the Regiment each year. On the Sunday nearest that date, the Regiment paraded in Review Order, each man wearing a red and white rose in his headdress. And after a church parade which was always held at St. James Church, Sydney, the unit marched to Sydney Hospital, where nurses passed along the ranks and collected the roses for use in the wards. It is interesting to note that St. Oswald's Anglican Church, Haberfield, where the Battalion's Colours are laid up, was also named after a warrior saint. It is fitting indeed for these two saints to be connected with the warriors of the 36th Bn.

39th Battalion - Newsletter "The Good Guts"

The 39th Bn Association Newsletter No. 90, at length reflected on the Mt Dandenong Kokoda Memorial Walking Track officially opened on Sunday 22nd October 1995. And the Sydney Kokoda Day Commemoration held at Martin Place Cenotaph November '95 on which occasion the guest speaker was Rev. Roy Wotton.

7th Machine Gun Battalion - Newsletter "Gunners Gossip" 70/95

Most of the information from this newsletter referred to the Associations "Australia Remembers" re-union Luncheon (166 attended including ladies).

The venue was the Ashfield RSL and the walls of the auditorium were decorated with Australia Remembers posters and on the stage was a magnificent array of memorabilia. The cenotaph of which was a "self standing" map of Australia cut from polystyrene with an overall three dimensional set of lettering "Australia Remembers" (the work of President Les Rudd). Special care was taken to ensure that Tasmania was not only attached but treated with equal skill and care - a truly impressive presentation.

The piece that attracted most interest was the Vickers Gun (from Victoria Barracks) and throughout the afternoon various members set themselves behind the gun testing their skills of bygone years.

49th Inf. Battalion (no formal Assn newsletter)

Fred Cranston's letter 10th Dec conveyed Xmas Greetings to the "Mice" to which we responded. A special "SANANANDA Day" Remembrance held on 7th Oct' 95 at Wacol Barracks was supported by some 70 members, while later the customary end of year B.B.C. was held at Jacob's Well (off the Gold Coast Highway). Note the Battle Sanananda plaque at Waco Barracks reads:-

"This memorial commemorates the battle of Sanananda The Battle was fought in New Guinea between November 1942 and January 1943 resulting in 2,700 Australian casualties. The following

Australian Army Units fought in the battle ."

HQ 16th Bde	HQ 30 Bde	HQ 18 Bde
2/1 BN	39BN	2/9BN
2/2 BN	49BN	2/10BN
2/3 BN	55/53 BN	2/12 BN
2/6 Armd Regt	2/1 Fd Regt	HQ21BDE
2/7 Cav . Regt	2/5 Fd Regt	36BN

"LEST WE FORGET"

7 Div Cav. Regiment Bulletin No. 80 Nov. 94

Mention was made of the Sanananda diary of Ben Love, now a resident of the War Veterans Home Narrabeen (Tel. 971-0787) cost \$5.50 including postage. The booklet is recommended as an easy reading document to which most members can relate. Interestingly the sale proceeds go to The Ageing and Alzheimer's Research Foundation. In excess of 500 copies sold (\$3700).

7 Div Cav. Bulletin No. 79 April 95

WE ARE SURVIVORS! (For those born before 1940...)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, Frisbees and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens; before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes . . . and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought " fast food" was what you ate in Lent, a "Big Mac" was an oversized raincoat and " crumpet" we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual careers, and when a "meaningful relationship" meant getting along with cousins and "sheltered accommodation" was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and young men wearing earrings. For us "time-sharing" meant togetherness, a "chip" was a piece of wood of fried potato, "hardware" meant nuts and bolts and "software" wasn't a word.

Before 1940, "Made in Japan" meant junk, the term "making out" referred to how you did in your exams, "stud" was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and "going all the way" meant staying on a double decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, Macdonald's and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day, cigarette smoking was "fashionable", "grass" was mown, "coke" was kept in the coal house, a "joint" was a piece of meat you had on Sunday and "pot" was something you cooked in. "Rock music" was a grandmother's lullaby, "Eldorado" was an ice cream, a "gay person" was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while "aids" just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

(N.B.) Alex Bell formed a close association with Frank O'Sullivan of 2/7th during the 1995

PNG pilgrimage .

11th Infantry Brigade in Bougainville 1945 Queensland Members To Note!

Secretary Dick Tellem advises that the next Brigade Association reunion will be held at KEDRON/WAVELL Services Club, Hamilton Rd CHERMSIDE Brisbane Sunday 7th July 1996 (11.00am - 4.00pm)

The name & address details for the following have been submitted for direct contact by Dick:- Clarrie Meredith, Lionel Herbert, Bert Johnson, Dave Novic, 'Ollie' Hardy, Ivan 'Cracker' Home. (Ed. Any member that attends this function please give a report for Orderly Room Gossip.)

REGIONAL NEWS

Central Coast

Volunteering was not expected behaviour for the 'average' fellow in the battalions but then readers would agree that most 55/53 members are above average. - For volunteering to keep in touch with 'mates' we must give a special salutation to Eric Gresham (with, we suspect a lot of assistance provided by Marj). In fact he does so well with detailed reporting that an apology is given for the abbreviated report made covering his outstanding efforts. - - Members (and those with partners) who were contacted by Eric claimed to be in reasonably good shape considering it is now 51 years after. These include Bill Franks, 'Stumpy' Johnson, Mick Riotto, 'Rajah' Jones, 'Tiny' McNiven, Charlie Renouf, Richard Irving, Roy Chapman, 'Padre' Wotton, Ken Coombes, Bill McLeod, and Les Royston. Others who have or are about to take 'holiday' breaks were Tom Delbridge, 'Skeeter' Mathews, 'Ned' Kelly, Ron Nosworthy, Mr McNamara, Tom Wrench and Lou Scott.

Other comments include; 'Ned' Kelly is a volunteer driver for the local health service, Gunnedah to Tamworth, has a particular interest in handicapped children as well as allocating liberal time to helping out at his local bowling club. - Tom Delbridge is awarded a special mention for assisting Eric Gresham with an update of D.V.A. service pension applications and for helping 'Ricky' Rand to get his 'medals'. Golfing hustlers are Les Royston and would you believe 'Padre' Wotton, the latter who is such a caring and capable person in so many ways has a occasional lapse of memory with simple additions when it comes to tallying his score card. He stops counting at the 15th hole or something like that.

Under the heading DID YOU KNOW! Ron Keogh who 'marched out' to higher service on the 6th November '95 was awarded the MBE for his services with the Customs Department and that Ron Nosworthy acting with great discretion is checking out information on Winston Judd's memorabilia collection - The Association Committee has also taken heed of a request made to endeavour to obtain 'media' exposure at our annual 'Cenotaph' parade particularly since we have the involvement of the Army Re- enactment Group 'boys'. - - 'Rusty' Priest's (NSW RSL President) attendance at a '95 AGM when he launched the 'remember booklet also brought favourable comment. - We must thank Trevor Harper, 'Skeeter' Mathews and Eric Gresham and their ladies who represented the Association at the funeral of Bill Morgan at Boolaroo, particularly 'Skeeters' effort as he had just experienced a 6 weeks hospitalisation as a result of shoulder trouble .

Bill McLeods cousin Nola Fisher chose a very special way to express thanks to Bill for his services during the war years. In sharing this poem of Bill's I feel Nola is saying it for so many others who are not so fortunate to have her special talent.

Dedicated To My Cousin Bill

I Thank You

From The Bottom Of My Heart
For Youthful Years So Sacrificed
For Us. Away From Happiness Enticed With
Fear Close By - Loved Ones Far Apart

I Thank You

For Moresby, Kumasi River And Milne Bay Owens
Comer, Kokoda Trail
Port Moresby, Sanananda, Bougainville
Torokina ., Rabaul And Every Plundered Day

I Thank You

For Kinship's Bond, The Kindly Word
Imprinted On A Child's Unerring Mind
Letters Traversing Space & Time
Prove Pen' s Peace Mightier Than War's Sword

Nola Fisher

To close off we can be assured that Eric made every effort to contact other members of the Central Coast Region who are listed in the Nominal Roll, and we can only assume without a positive report their time is taken up with 'bowls' or meeting at the local RSL for 'bingo'.

North Coast

Clem Pagett's wife Dorothy filling in for Clem writes:- Jim Rawlinson who is restricted to a wheelchair is progressing well (Don't know why he has the nickname 'Hot Shot') as is John Dickson after a 'waterworks' op. and Harold Jackson an 'eye' op. - We wish them a speedy recovery. Bill (Tojo) Tomlin recently received his 'gongs,' for BCOF Service and wore them with pride at a recent RSL meeting. Clem's mate, Gary, who is connected with Radio 2NVR took Clem along to Tamworth for the Annual "Country and Western" events where they interviewed many of the enthusiasts of this fast growing popular pastime.

A NOTE OF SERIOUS WARNING TO ALL CLEMS FRIENDS! (like Bob Ellis for example), who have contemplating a visit to Macksville and 'sharing' one with a pal. - - The incredible stock of 700 bottles bequeathed to Clem just 2 months ago has gone - and in that sense Clem is now in hands of the "LIQUID-ATOR" - UTIERLY & TOTALLY BANKRUPT!

New England

Neville White expects 'Ned' Kelly to call on him any time now for a 'cuppa; when he passes through on his way to Newcastle. Len Brown recalls an experience at Milne Bay when a member of 14 Platoon developed measles causing the whole of the platoon to be quarantined. This precaution was also carried out to protect the Papuans who had no experience with the illness and could therefore be fatally vulnerable if contaminated. Neville after a recent visit to Nelson's Bay realises that Len chose a lovely spot near Dutchies Beach to retire. That day was also interesting as it was the opening day for the annual competition for the local fishing fleet and the 260 vessels participating provided a most colourful spectacle.

West

Roy Hollis of Blaxland is in good shape and sends greetings to his mates. Bob Ellis is no longer a Blue Mountains resident and he can be contacted at 12 Rankin St Crescent Head 2440 Ph. (065) 66-03 14. He reports that his 'heart' has taken him in that direction to quote, "My fulltime enjoyment and happiness lies very much in an area adjacent to Kempsey". Best wishes to you Bob and we hope the new arrangements will help you to give up the 'grog' (Clem hopes so) and you'll look for 'tea with ilk and one sugar' instead. Merv Kelty recently moved from Gunnedah after 51 years in that territory and the Bathurst RSL Sub Branch now has him under 'surveillance'. The Secretary, Warren Holt, extend greetings on Mervin's behalf.

Back to Bob Ellis - Bob likes to think of himself as a 'father type' within the membership ranks (he's 82) and likes to recall names of old mates. In the officer group he names, Keith Chatterton, Fred Coote, Dick Wormsley, 'Speck' O'Donnell, Frank Budden and one who has just passed on, 'Pearly' Piper. He reflects on the Ryan Brothers who he remembers as never missing their evening prayers and Les Chin another one who he recalls with real affection. - I guess many of us do this from time to time - a roll call of the past! It's called "Lest We Forget".

Riverina

Stan Carlow of Cootamundra sent in a copy of the Cootamundra Herald reporting on the 1995 PNG pilgrimage of events and we thank him for that. Whilst he does not give us a report in great detail of 55/53 fellows in the Riverina, I know that both he and Jim Hocking do a good job of keeping in touch. Congratulations go to Jim Hocking's wife Shirley who not only gives service to the community as Mayor of Narrandera but in 1995 was re-appointed as Southern Country Vice-President of the RSL (NSW Branch)

Metropolitan Area

Harvey Blundell relates a story involving his old mate the late Bob Brown, an original of 53 Bn, who after the war years joined the PMG Staff as a clerk. Bob from the age of 12 was an avid stamp collector who in later years was the PMG Australian Manager of philately. Harvey's then wife Marjorie had saved all letters and envelopes sent home and years earlier on Bob's advice they were sold for a sum of \$200.

One of Harvey's enjoyments in life is to act as a tour guide. Tour at the Masonic Centre, corner of Goulburn & Castlereagh Sts. Tour times are 10.0am, Noon, and 2.0pm. Why not ring Harvey who will arrange a personal tour which takes about one and a half hours - No charge and all visitors most welcome.

Norm King reports that Alf Bertinshaw's wife Molly is now out of hospital and

progressing favourably whilst Alf himself has had two trips to hospital to locate and remove all the stones associated with a gall operation. Allan Francis is having trouble shaking off the effects of 'depression' and his wife feels a call from mates could be a good thing.

Ernie Frazer (couldn't kill this bloke with an axe) has given up his regular game of golf for the more sedate pastime of bowls. Roy Sullivan (ex transport) has become a keen fisherman and hauls in bream & black fish from the Georges River and he hopes to make Anzac Day. Doug Neill has been put on a new treatment for his 'DICKY TICKER' which he says is doing some good. Norm jogged Neill's memory on the time at the convalescent home (reported in December '43 "Fifty Fifty" news) when Doug made the framework for the 'washing up' basins. - The first time it was used it collapsed. Doug's defence being, and Norm quotes, "1943 was a bad year for termites". How many pioneers remember the story?

Other News

Congratulations to the 'Harper' family. - Trevor's step grand-daughter received a special achievement award from Premier Bob Carr at the Convention Centre Darling Harbour on Friday 16th February. She was one of three who topped the state in the subject of Mathematics in Practice in the 1995 HSC exam.

Ron Young (Tel. 439-4319) suffered a stroke some time back. He is 'out & about' physically in good shape and the doctor suggests his speech will back to normal within a few months. Ron's wife Thelma mentioned that telephone calls do a lot of good!

BOOKS WORTH READING

Some suggestions for a birthday (or such) gift when you are asked what you would like for a special occasion.

1) A Legacy of Laughs & Other Stories

by Clifford S. Johnston - Authors address Palace St, DENMAN 2328 - Book proceeds go to Legacy - Price \$20 (includes postage).

2) Sanananda Dec 42 - Jan 43

Diary of Ben Love 7 Div Cav. War Veterans Homes Narrabeen - Tel. 971-0787 - proceeds of book support Alzheimers Research Funding - Price \$5.50 (includes postage).

3) Fighting Patrol

Author W.H.J. (Bill) Phillips 13 Glenn Place, Yagoona 2199. Tel. 644-3441 Price \$50 (includes postage).

Also try the local council library for 'FAR ABOVE BATTLE' by Margaret BARTER.

Sgt Tom COLE'S EARLY SERVICE

Service Profile With 30th Bn

The 'Coles', father and son duo, joined A. Coy. 30 Battalion in 193S. - - Because young Tom signed on in August he was tagged as Tom Cole MK1, and his father who enlisted in September of the same year was known as Tom Cole MK2.

Our Tom Cole (MK1) when war broke out was then corporal and was transferred to a training Cadre within the 30th Bn as an instructor. (I would digress at this point to mention that many of the early 53rd & 55th members had similar service backgrounds.) By 1940 Tom Cole

(MK1) then Sergeant was transferred to the Mortar Platoon of the 30th Bn.

At Wallgrove camp in October 1941 an order from Army H.Q.'s was received, requiring the 30th Battalion to make available a certain number of officers, NCO's and men to be transferred to Ingleburn to join a new battalion formed to go to Port Moresby. So it was that Tom (MK1) left his them much loved battalion to join the 5S3 Bn.

After discharge Tom (MK1) joined with his father (MK2) (who despite his age & grey hair saw service with the 30th in New Guinea until 1944) and they re-opened the family plumbing business established by Grandfather Cole (MK•) in 1881. The business still operates today . (Ed. Those suffering with 'water works' problems should get a 'free quote' from Tom MK1 before they hop onto the operating table.)

Tom's loss to the 30th was indeed a positive gain to our battalion and many have benefited from a long & happy association with 'Dadda' Cole. (Ed. Thanks Warwick Davis for the information and we would like to have similar profiles from others, from time to time.)

SPECIAL NOTES

55/53 Bn Association Support Group

A gathering of some 14 people attended a meeting at St John's Glebe, Wednesday 13th March to discuss the development of the newly formed 55/53 Bn Association Support Group.

Officers appointed PRO. TERM were:-

President	Clive Parsons	Tel - 838-7840
Secretary	Lois Edwards	Tel - 660-6138
Treasurer	Warren Parsons	Tel - 838-7840

The following events were listed as a 'lead-up' to a more formal launching of the Support Group.

- 1) Anzac Memorial Service 7.00am 25th April 1996 - memorial adjoining St John's Church Glebe Rd Glebe.
- 2) Annual Church Service - 55/53 Bn Assn -10.30am 1st Sunday (5th) May '96.
- 3) An Inaugural Support Group Luncheon (date to be advised).

Stated within the proposed objectives of the Support Group are the words "Preserve & honour the history of the 55/53 Bn" - "uphold the traditions" - "support & care for the survivors" ----- THEREFORE

The groups initial support by "association" members involvement of young members of our families is of utmost importance.

SEE IT GETS OUR INTEREST & SUPPORT NOW!

ANZAC DAY EARLY SERVICE

All association members and families particularly those residing within reasonable distance of St John's Glebe are urged to support this occasion .

Service 7.00am followed by morning tea served in the vestry at St John's Church.

IF POSSIBLE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT & meet some of the new members of the Support Group .