



ISSUE 1/97

“MICE OF MORESBY” – MEMBERS BULLETIN

POSITIONS VACANT (Unpaid Advertisements)

We start the 1997 issue of 'Orderly Room Gossip' with a few articles or suggestions for putting your particular skills to good use.

Position No. 1

A Nuclear Warden posting! be careful, the equipment list for each warden which should be ready at all time is: -

1. Gas Mask
2. Tomahawk. to be carried in belt
3. Stirrup pump. to be carried over left shoulder
4. Extension ladder. to be carried over right shoulder
5. Long-handled shovel, to be carried under left arm
6. Rake, to be carried in left hand
7. Scoop, to be carried in right hand
8. Whistle. to be carried in mouth, lanyard around neck
9. Webbing belt. to be worn around waist. with 10 hooks
 - six (6) for carrying sandbags
 - four (4) for carrying buckets full of sand
10. Two wet blankets to be carried around neck
11. Flashlight to be hung around neck
12. Steel helmet

13. Two-way radio (walkie -talkie) with 36 ft aerial
14. Sand in all pockets
15. Small ship's anchor, to be dropped when warden wishes to stop
16. Large broom, to be inserted in the only remaining space so that warden may sweep ground of radio-active dust as he proceeds

(Editor - Salary arrangements to be discussed after physical test at 1st interview)

Position No. 2 (Voluntary)

If you are young enough an opportunity is available to give service back into the community.

The Mysterious Justices of the Peace

Did you know 1945 was the 800th anniversary of the first commissioning of custodians of the peace, later called Justices of the Peace. (Their commissioning was over the signature of the Monarch of the Day.) In those 800 years the office has spread from England around the world. A Justice of the Peace may be called upon to witness a signature on a statutory declaration, receive and take an oath associated with an affidavit witness a signature on an affirmation, witness a signature on an application form for a Seniors Card.

The J.P. will not be called upon to sit on (or behind) the Bench unless already in the employ of the courts. So long as the J.P. can read the words Statutory Declaration Affidavit Affirmation, or any other title on the page they are able to witness such document and know what oath must be given.

The place and date of signing will be affixed At No Charge. Note a J.P. cannot witness an application for an Australian Passport.

(Editor - These brief notes are taken from a paper prepared by Reverend Robert W. Hume President of the NSW Justices Association. - Age requirements are over 21 and under 75 years. Just in case you are thinking of filling such an important public office, I wonder how many members are J.P. s.

If you are how about owning up.)

Position No. 3 (overseas)

An exceptional opportunity to enjoy a tourist type life style in beautiful tropical surroundings.

Qualifications - to be Multi-Lingual - including Pidgin English

A teaching appointment in outlying village- no bureaucratic interferences Assignment - to put a little religion into the primitive natives (No special length of service; in fact, you might never get back!)

1 t Teaching Assignment

The Lord's Prayer (pidgin english)

Our Father which art in heaven

pappa belonga me pfella, he stop on top side

Hallowed be thy name

Same belonga you, 'e good fells to me

Thy Kingdom come

You catchum place belonga you

Thy will be done on earth

S' pose you like me fella can do somethin'
as fella can do irn down below

As it is heaven

Alasame on top side

Give us this day our daily bread

You give ' im fella kia kia alonga day

And forgive us our trespasses

And s' pose me fella makirn somethin no good makim you cross

As we forgive those that trespass against us

Alasame me fella no cross alegeder e done somethin no good
along a me fella

And lead us not into temptation

S pose me fella makim somethin no good you frita me

But deliver us from evil

Bit loosum alesarna thing 'e no good

For Thine is the Kingdom

Cos alegeder number one place belonga you

The Power and the Glory

You strong fella to me, you savvy olas (Clas - chuch)

Forever and ever - Amen

Allatime finsh

(Editor - the printing of future positions vacant will depend on the application
for this trial run)

18 Bn Memorial Rifle Club
(Registered with the National Rifle Assn of Australia)

Although a comparatively new club it has great success because of a wide range of options it offers the SHOOTERS - included among the choices available is Service Rifle 303 - in fact there is a 303 SMLE shoot on the 13th April and because of age you just might like to be a spectator. If so ring Douglas (019) - 390281. The club shoots are held at Hornsby Rifle Range (any Saturday or Sunday afternoon) Rosalind St, Hornsby behind Mt Wilga Hospital - map ref. Gregory's 77 82.

Target shooting is a skill which challenges the body and the mind (and the machine). Is this your preferred option to golf or bowls? If so don't be bashful - step forward and taste before you buy! (I have more information to pass on if you contact me on 9642- 6903)

'Z' Special Unit

The origin of this force goes back to 1942 and its history is fascinating: -

Objectives

- 1) Gathering Intelligence
- 2) Offensive Action
- 3) Organising and support of 'guerrilla' units and
- 4) Recovery of selected personnel from enemy occupied territory.

Operational Areas

Group 'A' - Northern Celebes Macassar Strait, Borneo China area (including Malay French Indo-China and China Coast

Group 'B' - Molluccas and Celebes Group 'C'

- Dutch New Guinea

Group 'D' - All islands south and east of Java including Flores and Banda Seas Group

'E' - Siam Malaya and Sumatra in conjunction with SOE Special Force

136 which operated out of Calcutta and Kande.

(Editor. Any member who would like a little more information please send a stamp addressed envelope with request direct to me 1/11 Tennyson Rd Greenacre.)

A friend, Les Bailie of South Hobart has sent me a 7-page Precis of his service as a similar operation with Plover Force then 'Z' Force before transferring to 'M' Special Unit.

Refer to page 2 VETAFFAIR Dec. 96 for contact address etc.

VETLINK Nov 96

Peter Jones (Albion Park Rail) whose researches led to identifying grave sites of Privates Pendleton & Mears at Somme Farm Cemetery, Belgium (see page 8 of Orderly Room Gossip issue 2/96) is hot on the trail again to have Lieutenant Reginald Brinsmeads name moved from Menin Gate, as he is convinced this soldier is buried in a grave at Bostaveme Wood War Cemetery in Belgium.

Lt Percy Ralph MM 53 Bn WWI

Mr 'Brig' Ralph residing at Cambooya, Qld is the nephew of Lt P. Ralph WWI and met up with our Frenchman friend Yves Fohlen who 'authored' a book on Lt Percy Ralph based on letters sent home from trenches in France. The title of the book is "He Came From Australia" and The Forward below appearing over my name as Association President is in fact the work of our good friend John Richardson.

(Editor. I believe when the book is published in due course that member will be seeking to obtain a copy as this work is rather unique being principally in 'letter' style format. - see page 8 of Orderly Room Gossip issue 2/96)

He Came From Australia

by Yves Fohlen

Forward

Percy Edgar Ralph a 24 year old farmer from Bourke (NSW) would have been the last to consider that 81 years after his death he could become a model for Australian who have answered their country's call to go to war.

But Yves Fohlen has chosen well in using Percy's letters from the trenches of France to tie together his book dedicated to the memory of those young Australians who fought and died during the First World War and to explore the special qualities of courage, sacrifice and mateship which we call the Anzac spirit.

Percy's self-effacing notes home to his family are national treasures. Yves, a distinguished French historian-author, uses them well to highlight the impact Anzacs had on events so long ago so far from the land of their birth. Little wonder that the spirit of Anzac has grown stronger by the year as more about its genesis has come to light.

The circumstances of how Yves came to write **He Came From Australia** after a chance meeting in France with Percy's nephew, 'Brig' Ralph, leads one to the conclusion that here is a book which was destined to be written.

Percy Ralph (Military Medal) was a member of the 53rd Battalion and Yves' book therefore adds to the proud history of the 55/53 Battalion.

May I say to Yves on behalf of the 55/53 Battalion Association and all Australians -
Thanks Mate!

Alex Bell, President, 55/53 Battalion Association

Ernest Corey - 55 Bn WWI

Recipient of 4 Military Medal Awards

Corporals Corey's reputation is unique as he was the winner of a Military Medal on 4

occasions: -

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|-------|
| Bullecourt | May 1917 | No. 1 |
| Polygon Wood | Sept. 1917 | No. 2 |
| St Peronne | Sept. 1918 | No. 3 |
| Hindenburg Line | Oct. 1918 | No.4 |

Quoted: - By Reputation Corporal Corey was right up there with Victoria Cross winners when it comes to self-sacrifice and devotion to his mates.

Ernest Corey returned from the war to settle in Cooma as a rabbit digger and he died peacefully in 1921 in a Queanbeyan Nursing Home and was buried in Canberra with full military honours.

Lieutenant-Colonel (Percy) Woods 55 Bn WWI

(Born 1885 - Deceased 1937)

Although commissioned in the Militia in 1909 he enlisted for WWI in the 3rd Battalion at Randwick in 1914. He was again commissioned in Egypt in the field after 5th Division transferred to the 55th Battalion and was then posted as adjutant; Major (March 1917) and Lt/Col (August 1917) taking over command of the unit.

He was awarded the MC in January 1917, DSO January 1918 Bar to DSO December 1918 and was mentioned in despatches 5 times.

During his time as CO the battalion gained many honours in various military displays apart from its outstanding record in front line service. In one of Wood's letters home to a friend he comments.

"The Turk is a good fighter and is very fair to us he is game and brave and very cool he will take a bullet with no trouble but Johnnie Turk does not like the bayonet - if you can get close enough to him, he will go for his life."

In after war years he commanded the 55th Bn Militia and became Patron of the 55 Bn Veterans Association.

Inscription on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Westminster Abbey in London reads

"Beneath this stone lies the body of a British warrior unknown by name or rank brought here on Armistice Day, November 11, 1920, in the presence of His Majesty King George V, his

Ministers of State, the Chiefs of his Armed Forces and a vast number of the nation. Thus, are commemorated the many multitudes, who during the Great War 1914-1918, gave the most that man gives, life itself for God, for King and country for loved ones for home and Empire, for the sacred cause of justice and freedom of the World. They buried him among KINGS because he had done good towards God and towards His House."

(Editor. - would be worthwhile to check our own memorial at Canberra (Unknown Soldier WWII) for like wording. - Who'll volunteer to check it out?)

'A Day at a Time'

Extract from a diary 2274 V.C. Bonaba 55th Bn Infantry

Victor Bonaba enlisted at 21 years of age in January 1916 with later discharge in January 1920 due to hospitalisation.

His service was 3 years 351 days of which overseas service was 3 years 83 days.

(Editor. - Victor Bonaba was the father-in-law of Ellis Fuller Secretary 36 Bn and included in other information kindly forwarded was the Xmas menu of the 55th in France The CO being Lt/Col Woods MC whose short profile appears elsewhere. Thank you, Ellis, for all the interesting material supplied.)

August 31

1918 We had just received order to move up tonight - "Fall In "and every man struggles into place - Roll call for four right turn quick march and off we go. After some time, we came to an old track behind a hill and not far from the HUN. We drop down exhausted to rest briefly before a 3am "Stand Too" then a quick meal of cold stew and tea then "Fall In" - the officer announces you will be moving off in a few minutes, but I don't know where to or what's doing.

Next halt is assembly point in Sunken road the 3 battalions are assembled. We get the order to move forward and after 200 yards a HUN barrage comes down. Order! "fix Bayonets 5 round load" we advance at the double while every heart is thumping with

excitement. Into a thick wood were enemy machine guns & snipers are concealed. Letting us have a storm of bullets and our men are falling like wheat before a scythe. We go into their first line of trenches and we speak at the HUN in foul language.

Three men are killed next to me and another's head is nearly shaved off with concussion.

Over the top and away we go to the next objective. Our part has been played & Peronne has been captured. The price - out of our own battalion of 400 we now number 95. We settle down and have a meal of Bully & bread salvaged from haversacks of fallen comrades & we sleep the best part of the day.

We file out that night returning to base to the original assembly point - warm stew bread and tea and all this is followed by a TWO-DAY REST

NEWS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

7 Machine Gun Bo

The November Luncheon of the unit was an enjoyable gathering offering the usual opportunities for strengthening valued associations. Following a request made to President Les Rudd we now have a photograph of a stage centrepiece used at the units Australia Remembers Reunion lunch last year to put away with our memorabilia. The centrepiece display was a map of Australia cut from polystyrene with 3-dimensional lettering "Australia Remembers 1945-1995". The whole piece was Les's work and must have been a real test of patience and certainly positive proof of his affection for all what 7 MG stands for.

14th Field Regiment "Gun Blast" issue Nov. 96.

Our congratulations to the gunners for obtaining sponsorship of the Owers Comer Memorial Walkway Station - Concord Sydney. This issue was rich with the usual individual member snippets.

49th Infantry Battalion

Fred Cranston reports "The Association Lives On" and mention their recent Sanananda Memorial Service was well attended: by 80-90 members veterans & serving members plus family.

The re-organisation more afoot in the 49th Royal Queensland Regiment is due for a major change. From July 1st '97 its title will be 25/49 Bn - Coys C & D and part HQ's. Stationed at Toowoomba with the balance of unit a(t) Enoggera. The total strength 700 men. to be 250

regulars - 150 ready reserve and 300 general reserve.

7 Aust. Div. Cavalry Regiment Nov 96 issue No. 82.

Ken Springer U.S. Medic writes to thank 7 Div. Cav. for the hospitality extended during a recent trip to Australia. - quote "The memory of your camaraderie still brightens each day." Ken's unit (Huggins Road Block) and 7 Div. Cav. were in close situation at Sanananda with Ken's talent 'as a medic being a benefit to all.

(Editor. This contact caused 55/53 to write to Ken to help in our efforts to 'touch base' with a member of 126 U.S. Inf. Regt who was there on the 7th Dec. '42. Ken's response was almost immediate with an assurance he would act promptly in the hope of assistance to our unit's enquiry.)

39th Battalion

The last issue of the "The Good Guts" was a special GONA edition associated with units' achievement in having a progress amount of \$3,500 donation towards their target sum of \$5 000 for the Gona Memorial - a great response!

Memorial Services to commemorate usual Kokoda Day were held - Sunday 11th August Melbourne and in Brisbane and were well supported by members. Thank you Jim Hardie for keeping us up to date with your association activities.

ASSOCIATION MEMBER PROFILES

Profile Milton James Evans (Greenacre) was born at Bangalow where he attended school and enjoyed a firm Methodist upbringing on the family farm. Just before joining the army when he acquired a truck and turned his talents to operating a small 'carrying' business.

Enlisting in the 41st Battalion Militia in the late 40's, he was then transferred to 53 Bn until October '42 when he was assigned to New Guinea force for a time later to come back 55/53. Malaria, as with others caught up with Milton and he was discharged late '43.

45 years association with Scouting recently earned him an award of an attractive plaque recognising his work in that field Since the age of 18. As has been a member of MUIOOF and recently received a special 50 year jewel in appreciation.

The most memorable event in his life was in 1976 when he joined a party of Scout friends on a 12 hour journey to the South Pole.

Milton even today is a dance enthusiast and is an expert at the fireplace on the occasions of association picnics.

Profile Adrian Nall

Adrian joined the 55/53 Militia late '39. On an account of his age he missed out with an early application to join the AIF in 1940. By September '41 with his special talents "DIT DIT DAH DAH" etc, he had passed through progressive ranks to be commissioned as a Lieutenant. Adrian well remembers setting up a forward Sig. centre at Owers Corner and the Sig. section then being quickly recalled for the Sanananda stint. Adrian also became a long time casualty to Malaria and after returned to civvy street become involved with the manufacture of electronic equipment.

During a hospital 'top Over' he met an attractive nurse Meryl and decided she was the one and has never looked back since. Meryl's service experience has been well documented in personal diaries and an important part relates to her time in Singapore when the 2/14 took care of the 8 Div. POW's. In 1945 Meryl & Adrian returned to PNG and well remember the special occasion when they visited the Sogeri War Cemetery.

Adrian has a cousin, a Sergeant in 14 Fd Regt.; and a brother a pilot serving with the RAAF.

Profile W. A. (Bill) Saville WOII CSM 'B' Coy 53 Bn later NI726 Lieut. ANGAU (Clarrie James (Dubbo) has provided this profile)

Following the Civil Administration turmoil in Moeresby Feb. '42. Bill along with Sgts Harry Jacka, Bill Ryan, John Sherlock, Bill Moses together with Cpl Clarrie James were recruited as patrol officers. proceeding to Wau via Lakekarnu River area, to Bulldog - Wau supply line then by goat track over the Owen Stanleys.

At the end of August '45 instructions had moved Bill and Clarrie in the direction of Salamua towards Lae and back to Wau. Places like Goroka, Maralinin (Markham Valley) Chivasing Arane (New Britain) were part of their 'stomping field'.

Summing up comments generally - hair raising experiences - dodging hostile natives and Japs'. Clarrie says Bill was a damned good soldier, played hard but was always there when the chips were down.

(Editor - This report just briefly touches their experiences. Grab Clarrie at the next reunion to get the total story with much greater accuracy.

Profile Stan Cannon (Goonellabah)

Stan served with 14 Bde Transport who flew to Lae from Milne Bay where the Brigade was finally discharged. On the plane trip, the transport boys met us with Scottish Forestry unit. On arrival at Lae they were then taken under the caring wings of the 2nd Marine Air Wing who considered them to be undernourished. Fresh vegetables and meat were on the

menu and a cash handout of US \$14 to boot. The pay back of the cash turned out to be on the NEVER NEVER plan. The work plan was for the Scottish Forestry boys to cut logs and 14 Bde Tpt to handle the transport of same to the A.G.H. and other units.

Stan at a later stage drove the water truck for 53/55 Bn and on occasion provided transport for our boys on Picture Night. Stan and Agnes have just celebrated 50 years of marital bliss and I'm sure we all wish them all the best for the year ahead.

Australia Day Awards

Members will be pleased for 'Rusty' Priest NSW RSL President who recently received an A. M. in the Australia Day list.

Geoff Stonehouse of D. V. Affairs also was mentioned for O. A. M. in the same issue.

Stan Sly (Canberra) makes headlines in the pages of "Despatches" a publication of the War Memorial Canberra. The article refers to the restoration of Type 88 Japanese Anti-Aircraft Gun which 'featured', you might say during the Sanananda Buna Gona campaign.

The article reported allows Stan to get his thoughts across: "And Mr SA Sly of Campbell Act another Sanananda survivor." says

"All units and brigades that attempted to take Sanananda suffered unbelievable and unacceptably large casualties but unquestionably carried out orders from higher command - 'take Buna today' or 'take Gona today' and similarly with 'take Sanananda today' not knowing the true position of what was involved. This anti-aircraft gun could well have been the one that knocked out the tank just yards from the 'Big White Tree' so well known to us who served at Sanananda." (Editor - Anyone who knows Stan in sport or otherwise knows he always gives a good serve and has done so again on this occasion.)

Richard Stanley (40396 Ft/Lieut Kotara Heights) in a 'thank you' note re the 'Remember' booklet with great pride reported that his father in the very early stages of WWI was a member of the Naval/Army Expeditionary Force which was quickly despatched to certain Pacific Islands to rid these areas of German Forces then in occupation. A citation for his father's group "I might say that the men under my command acted splendidly and courageously in performing their duties - signed Lieut. Commander R.G. Bowen, Naval & Military Exped. Force Rabaul.

Richard reports his dad later reached the rank Sergeant with the 17th Battalion. At the outbreak of WWII Richard himself was a member of 55/53 Militia based at Marrickville depot. - Thanks

Richard

Oliver Hardy (Golden Beach) didn't make the Dec. '96 reunion as he attended a memorial service to a commando group which comprised the second 'raid' party on Singapore. His cousin Jack was a member of that raid party and was executed by the Japanese. A true story says Ollie.

His mate Peter Williams and he were wounded at the same time. Peter's wound was in the cheek of his backside and in fact he was not aware of it at the time. A mate says 'There's' blood on the arse of your trousers.'. Peter remarks 'Are you sure it's just blood!'.

Vi Hall (Lake Cathie) Sister of our past member John Prescott donated the rug raffled at the Dec. '96 reunion luncheon and we express our sincere appreciation for her great effort. Vi's dad was a Lieutenant in the 13th Bn WWI. And in true traditional fashion Vi joined the WAAA.F in WWII. Presently she runs a 40 member friendship group of WAAF's and at the monthly coffee shop meeting there is much laughter. Maybe Vi will pass on some of the wild stories the girls share together (uncensored of course). At the same time, we would like to know what the official objectives are. – How about it Vi?!

Stan Carlon (Cootamundra) Stan recently took a few minutes break away from the paddock where he was preparing to round up sheep for the stockyards to telephone and report on a 55/53 Bn plaque presented to Kapooka training Centre some years past, which was unfortunately misplaced. Stan was quick to 'get into gear' to track it down and has the President of the Wagga Wagga RSL sniffing around the camp barracks to solve the problem.
(Editor - Stan's the type you only have to ask once. Thank You - Stan!!)

Harold Jacobs (Lilli Pilli) relates an incident back in 1942 on the track Poppondetta to Sanananda. Having received warnings of the possibility of likely enemy sightings behind Australian defences, Harold leading his section heard of soft voices from off the track.

Investigation revealed that a Padre standing ankle deep in mud was holding a church service. His small congregation were wearing tin hats and carrying 303's and it all added up to a strange sight to Harold.

When the service was completed Harold moved towards the Padre as a stray bullet hit and killed one of the men. The Padre moved to the dead man and Harold pulled the Padre down into the mud face first. - Padre yells, "Let me go. He needs me!" Harold's immediate response was "Lots of people are going to need you keep down or you could be the next pigeon!" Harold

reflects he must have seemed crude and rude discourteous and lacking sensitivity to the Padre and would like to meet him again to apologise as it worries him. -- BUT THERE IT IS – THAT’S HOW IT WAS!

Correction

The name Jim Loneragan (Macksville) page 13 issue 2/96 should read Jim Longbottom (Coogee). Editor apologises to those concerned. Referring to the same story:

- **Nev White (Singleton)** writes to clean up the details.

"I can remember the incident clearly being in the boat following the one which was accidentally blown up and causing the casualties. It was early in 1942 when I was on a training course at Studley Park. As I embarked for PNG in May I suggest the accident occurred in March/April. The unlucky boat, whilst it was crossing the water (a dam in a paddock) picked up the electric wire which lead from the training officer who had the instrument for detonating the gelignite which was placed in the water. The boat prow pulled the end of the electric wire (with the gelignite attached) up under the boat. After the boat was seen to have passed the spot where the gelignite had been placed, the training officer judged it was safe and the explosive was detonated.

Naturally the exercise was abandoned but as already reported one died and four were injured. In my boat, we were all drenched but otherwise unharmed.
(Editor - Thank Nev for clearing up the details)

Ned Kelly (Gunnedah) reports heavy raining 'over' but floods waters rolling in.

Clem Pagett (Macksville) recently at Kareena Private Hospital Sutherland for a heart by-pass operation was regularly checked on by his mate Harold Jackson (Como) and others including the son of Bob Ellis. Due to a recent family history research by a cousin Clem was informed that he probably has 'Royal Blue" blood running through his veins. Harold says Clem had better not put on 'airs and graces' as he knows too much about him going back to 'Light Horse' and '**Biscuit Bomber**' days in New Guinea.

Jack Symonds (Minto Heights) also did time at Strathfield Private Hospital for a By-Pass and despite some uncomfortable after effects is now making out OK.

Peter Wright (Summerland Point) had a rush trip to Strathfield Private Hospital to get another by-pass and for some time things were stacking up against him but with his usual grit he

was determined at the time not to meet his cousin 'Peter' at the Pearly Gates. His mate Les Madden was always close to the phone with words of encouragement on everybody's behalf.

(Editor - All three tell stories that the nurses were head over heels' (heels) about them! - What do you think or better still what do the wives think are the true facts of the matter.)

Bill Tomlin "Tojo" (Nambucca Heads) reports overdue progress with application for TPI pension.

Clarrie Lee kindly gives a composite report on the boys at the RSL village Narrabeen. A total of some 1300 residents Four of our members enjoy a happy lifestyle. They are: -

Viv Nightingale (Resident 14 years) is a director of the Bowling Club of the complex and says "wouldn't leave even if I won the lottery."

Les & Norma Firth Both keen bowlers and Les (Silver) is a club champion and pennant player (has been residents of the village 9 years) and his enquiries about Warren Lane & Le Gower indicates he'd appreciate a letter or phone call from either.

Herb Ward original 53 Bn (17 years President) Had a By-Pass in 1995 and is happy with results. Herb mentions that **Bill Harrison** on 8 Div reinforcements directed from Singapore to Pt Moresby joined 53rd then 39th is also in the village but not in good health.

(Editor – Thank you for the good coverage on the boy's. Hope you will give a progress score on them for the next issue)

E.D.A. Association

A new association has been formed and is known as The Extreme Disability Adjustment - E.D.A. Group.

Member presently do no(t) qualify to receive the T.P.I. pension because of: -

- a) Previous 10-year work record and not being
- b) Retirement age 65.

The will be dedicated to change this situation because health wise most E.D.A.'s have illnesses of a more serious nature.

Interested persons should contact Jack Newman of Wollongong (042) 283-919.

How Lucky Can you Be

(Related by Ray
Harris)

Recently I read in a magazine a request for a photo or poster of a B17 Flying Fortress. This started a train of thought.

The Story

We were camped at Bootless Inlet to cover a possible landing site for Japanese. When we lined up for our evening meal a burst of bullets came through the area. We quickly dropped behind any available cover and as you can imagine all sorts of thoughts raced through our minds. Had a party Japs got behind us or what?

Explanation

The machine-gun fire that raked our mess line was friendly. It happened that a Flying Fortress had undergone a routine maintenance service and was taken upstairs to do a proving flight. They put the plane through its paces and in the course of same a .50 calibre gun was fired. But due to altitude condition the grease or gun oil had frozen

But as they came to land the lubricant thawed. So, the triggers were still depressed and we copped the burst through our camp area. Nobody was killed or wounded. What a fluke!

Next morning American officers from the unit involved expressed their regret about this unusual happen in g. But all's well that ends well.

Alex Bennet (Kotara) submitted the following story.

I think it was just outside Moresby where morning after morning breakfast was just baked beans. - Before leaving Australia I got to know a soldier attached to us but because he was a university student he didn't go to PNG with the battalion.

Around Christmas time that year I received a parcel from him with a note saying he had used some of his food coupons and periodically bought these tins for me. And there it was a parcel of nothing else but tins of baked beans.

(Editor - My personal experience was to go home on leave and mother puts before me something special that she had been saving and knew I would enjoy. - "Herrings in Tomato Sauce" - I'll bet there are many more members with similar experiences. - Alex - and Thank You for your story)

To all those who have helped with stories I say thank you indeed! To those who have yet to contribute I say COME ON! DON'T HOLD BACK! You're sure to provide a laugh or take someone along memory lane with your reminiscence. Remember! - Stories about children, grandchildren - 'lovers' if you dare are all welcome.
