



ISSUE 2/97

“MICE OF MORESBY” – MEMBERS BULLETIN

Receipt of this newsletter to members towards the close of 1997 causes us to reflect on two major achievements of the year namely the acquisition of Sanananda Remembrance Station at the Kokoda Walkway site Concord and the location of a permanent “home” for the safe custody of 55/53 service memorabilia.

Sanananda Remembrance Station

Seventy-four members of the Association contributed to the appeal towards the station. Total amount of donations received was \$3,730 in varying amounts from \$200 down to \$10. After paying \$3,000 for the station the balance of the funds were applied towards the cost of printing presentation certificates with calligraphy name endorsements, printing of letters, postage, etc. for same.

Forty six of the members who were subscribers to the appeal together with family and friends were able to attend the official certificate presentation afternoon at the Kokoda Walkway and despite late afternoon showers those attending (in excess of 200) agreed it was a memorable occasion. Subscribing members unable to attend received their certificates by mail.

Members will be pleased to know that the Trustees of "Remember Publications" subsidised the various costs of the Presentation Afternoon tea costs by an amount in excess of \$1,300.

Acquisition of Memorabilia Storage Space

An initial approach made to the Victoria Barracks Army Museum for storage space of 55/53 memorabilia was not successful. However, we are now delighted to advise that the new Glebe Library (under the control of Leichardt Municipal Council) and situated on the corner of Wigram & Glebe Point Roads along from St Johns Church will be the repository for these valuable records of our service years. The area is significant to our cause as we are firm in the knowledge that a large proportion of the families of association members originate from the area, and that Forest Lodge Drill Hall as well as our Church, St Johns are also in close proximity.

The prospect of access to complete storage of records and presentation procedures display arrangements are all services we might well anticipate through the library facilities. At this juncture, it is appropriate that we should acknowledge the excellent assistance received from Mr Max Lolling (solicitor) for his help in our achievements so far.

(Editor: - Next step is to have the storage cabinet made and we may anticipate a renewed level of interest of members in passing over memorabilia and also future enrolments for an association support sub Group may eventuate)

Report on Gona Pilgrimage

by
Alex Bell

It was with short notice that our Association received an invitation for a representative to participate in the Gona Memorial pilgrimage to proceed to P.N.G. (3rd to 7th September '97). The original expectations were that this tour might be reasonably subsidised by the "Their Service - Our Heritage" programme promoted through the Dept. of Vet. Affairs. Unfortunately the tour was not assessed to fall within the guidelines of the programme and I volunteered to travel as your representative at my own expense.

Having already represented the unit in 1995 I found this further visit to P.N.G. enabled me to fit more pieces of the 42 Sanananda campaign 'Jig -saw' into place and so this tour experience was of great importance.

The programme was as follows: -

Wednesday 3rd September '97

Departed Sydney by Air Nuigini 8.35am service and after a Brisbane stop-over and a change of aircraft at Port Moresby we arrived at our Popondetta base; the "Oro" Guest House (best described as a back-packers 'rest centre) about 4.30pm. It was during that evening that I met a retired Anglican priest, Father Johnson from Victoria, who in previous years was the headmaster of Martyrs' Memorial High School, Popondetta.

Thursday 4th September '97

Packed tightly in a dilapidated transport vehicle our party travelled to Kokoda (approximately 40 miles in two and a half hours) over a very rough road. Arriving at Kokoda we were greeted by **Benjamin Ijumi**, the village chief (an old 'Martyrs' schoolboy). Warriors chanting ORO-ORO welcomed the group. We were then entertained by the village choir with a welcome song especially written for the occasion. This experience was followed by inspection of three memorials, the local War Museum, and then a visit to the memorial Hospital, (a Rotary/RSL project), where I was interested to find in the foyer a 14 Field Ambulance commemorative plaque.

Friday 5th September 97

This day we journeyed to Gona for the unveiling of a memorial plaque and handover of update refurbishing project of an old 'Aid' station to a medical clinic (another Rotary/RSL project). This was a big celebration for all parties concerned and Colonel C. Yagi (Officer Commanding the resident Australian Military Forces) HH representing Australian High Commissioner was honoured by being made a Village Chieftain and then he thrilled all the villagers in his "thank you" address by speaking to them in Pidgin. (This was acknowledged with great applause).

Saturday 6th September 97

We proceeded to Sanananda Point and moved on by motorised dinghies to the relocated village of Buna. NOTE: - As a result of the Mt Lamington eruption in the early 70' s, (with something like 4,000 lives lost), the direction of certain riverways to the north coast line, up till then usually subject to flooding, have now been diverted and the old village of Buna relocated several miles (kilometres) further west along the north coast line. Returning to Sanananda village mid-afternoon the usual sincere welcome was repeated by the villagers and I met one of the MOGAGI villagers, (brother of the previously adopted ' KEVIN MOGAGI and he took me to view our 55th/53rd Memorial plaque now suitably fixed on a concrete base. The plaque up to recent times was stored in a village hut being at risk of loss or damage until I arranged for it to be fixed during my 1995 visit. This plaque originally was taken to P.N.G. by Frank Budden in the 70' s and commemorates our "Fallen Comrades". On the return trip to Popondetta base I then positively identified the 'Big White Tree' of our 1942 Sanananda campaign days and made other observations about the original track and the location of Huggin ' s Road Block etc.

Sunday 7th September '97

Leaving Popondetta at 5.15am we emplaned for Port Moresby and utilised the re t of the morning by

having a guided tour of the Bomana Cemetery, provided by courtesy of the curator Peter Ainslie who is an ex-serviceman himself. We later boarded a 1.00pm flight for our return home, landing at Mascot Airport, Sydney at 6.00pm.

General

The tour group of 13 included representatives Infantry Battalions 3rd, 39th, 55th/53rd (Militia) and 2/27 (2 reps), 2/12 (A.I.F.), Artillery 2/5 Regiment, 2/4 Field Ambulance, 2/6 Armoured Regiment (4 reps), and 21st Brigade Sigs, and the participants were from; NSW (8) SA (2), Vic (2), and Tas (1).

Kokoda Track Walkway

" Victory in Pacific Commemoration Service 15th August 1997

A number of our association members were among the many hundreds who attended this commemorative service at Concord. Some of the references made during the service are given.

Rusty Priest - President of the NSW branch of the RSL referred to the Kokoda campaign (this included all actions from Port Moresby to the beaches on the north coastline of P.N.G.) as the most important campaign in Australian history.

"As it was, the saving of this nation from military isolation and likely invasion by the enemy and later in his remarks that it was his fervent hope " that the walkway, when completed would be identified as a National Memorial which it justly deserves. On this occasion the Eora Creek Remembrance Station was dedicated and Major- General Paul Cullen delivered the requiem (the resume of that particular action) and during his reflections said that all soldiers at that action as throughout all such engagement gave "Their Personal Best" and went on to state that Sir William Slim who ranks among the highest of military commanders claims that the Western World owes a great debt of gratitude to the commitment of Australian Servicemen during the Kokoda Campaign."

The afternoon tea which followed the service allowed ample time for fraternisation.

In response to complimentary copies of the 'Remember' booklet being forwarded to 3 very interested ladies the following information evolved.

1. **Valmai Litchfield** (daughter of our dear friend Bill Davies 53 Bn WWI) who now lives at 93 Tanamera Drive Alstonville N.S.W. has promised to search through her father's books and diaries where she believes she will uncover some memorabilia for our archives.

2. **Betty Humphries** (widow of Lt Bill Humphries 53 Bn WWI) has forwarded two newspaper clippings. The first regarding a RISING SUN collector's item. The rarest of all being the Badge made for officer 's desks reported to be worth more than \$200 each. Mr Ed Mathews curator of the Gold Coast Historical War Museum, being particularly interested in the same. - OR - a regular size Rising Sun with a number of a regiment embossed, which possibly refers to a unit that served at Gallipoli - values them upwards of \$20 each.

The second clipping was an article, by an American, **Kenneth J. Hagan**, Professor & museum director Emeritus at the U.S. Naval Academy who comments on Bergerud 's book "Beasts of the Jungle ', referring to the N.G. campaign as follows: 'The Australian' s skill and spirit surpassed that of the Japanese whose battle ethos or 'cult of death' demanded that they fight until they were either victorious or exterminated.'

3. A third lady, **Rosemary Philles** informs me that in the Presbyterian section of Riverstone Cemetery is a headstone to the memory of Lt/Col Kenneth Ward (53 Bn CO early ' 42). Despite Brigadier Potts opinion of the Battalion Col. Ward is on record as stating "That his troops would fulfil his optimism and acquit themselves in battle". (Editor: - A statement proved to be well founded as the P.N.G. Campaign progressed. Question: - Is there a member of the Association (53Bn) living near Riverstone who might photograph the headstone for inclusion in the association archives).

Football Jumpers for the youths of a village near Kokoda Area. - It is pleasing to note that the Rotary Club of Sydney in a newsletter to their members acknowledged this unit's donation towards the appeal.

Pittwater House School Cadets Unit

A small representative association group attended the school's Anzac Day Service on Friday 18th April '97. An inspiring address was delivered by the school's Foundation Executive Principal, Mr Rex Morgan MBE, and the excellent cadet colour parade was also a very moving presentation. A most interesting member of the invited guests was Mr John Morey who in the fifties and sixties held important ministerial and diplomatic appointments in Kuala Lumpur, Athens, Chile. His service in RAAF Bomber Command was in South Pacific and South-East Asia and he expressed great interest in the war history of the 55th/53rd Bn in P.N.G.

(Editor: - When he wrote to me some 10 days later he had picked out the unit marching on Anzac Day '97 and was impressed with our banners & turnout.

**'Z' Force - Dr. John Muller, Coffs Harbour
(further to page 4 - Orderly Room Gossip issue 1/97)**

'On a bus trip to the city just prior to Anzac Day 97 I noticed a gentleman wearing the distinguishing 'Z' force lapel badge and chatting with him learned that his father was a member of the 54th Bn WWI - the 4th Infantry component then of the famous 14th Infantry Brigade. With an exchange of later correspondence snippets of interest unfolded.

1. A newsheet issued aboard the Blue Funnel Troop Ship 10th July 1916 mentioned that Pte A.L. Davies, a 13th reinforcement to the 3rd Bn had died - an auction sale of his personal effects was held on the boat deck and £35 was raised to forward to his next of kin.
2. A copy of a poem in John's fathers hand writing related what must have been a " MINI" A.W.L. episode aboard the S.S. Runic with the returning troops then offshore at Fremantle 11th November 1918. Certain troops were taking a leave' break despite a ' no leave' period aboard ship
3. Jim sent me a book on loan covering the 'Z' force units WWII operations in the Sarawak-Borneo area, written by his mate Rowan E. Weddy. (Editor - North Coast members near to Coffs Harbour might like to contact John at 35 Beryl St - Telephone (066)522-608 and mention the name Alex Bell and I'm sure you will receive a warm welcome.

Associated Units and other Organisations

36th Battalion - Despite the almost buried saga of ' AIF versus Militia', Tom Hogan of Crookwell reports an article by a Henry Zouch of that town which President Keith Irwin refers to as a collection of 'bovine scatology ' moulded into a story he sent to the Crookwell Gazette, claiming that the Militia sat on their backsides" during their time in PNG'.

Keith responded with a fully merited broadside in their journal ' Marching On" and this response was totally supported by relations of members of the town.

14th Aust. Field Regiment - Publication " Gun Blast August '97' reports with due pride that contributions received to date for the "Owers Comer" Remembrance Station amount to \$5875.

It is interesting to notice that in their newsletter they have a section dealing with ' Service Pensions" which detailed the 27th March '97 means test limits for service pensions. In this area of interest our own association has initiated a plan to have several committee representatives attend a "Pensions" seminar conducted by RSL H.Q.'s in December '97, hopefully to offer later assistance to members but not trying to re-invent the wheel" so to speak. We will keep members informed.

7th Machine-Gun Battalion - "Gunners Gossip" issue 16 /97 was noted to cover the 50th Anniversary of A.G.M.' s of the Association and as usual is full of interesting personal snippets. Noted also is their members renewed interest in obtaining copies of their unit's colour patches.

The following fact and figures are recorded on the national Roll of Honour at the Australian War

4

Boer War	1899-1902	606
Boxer Rebellion	1900-1901	6
World War I	1914-1918	61 919

102,807

(Editor: - These statistics are verified in the centre pages of our 'Remember" publication.)

49th Battalion - Fred Cranston reports association interest increasing as result of new member recruitment following the formation of the linked 25/49 Royal Queensland Regiments - A.G.M; Anzac Day Service followed by a gunfire breakfast and the city march with some 30 members in attendance and the lunch at the Geebung RSL following.

July marked the Jacob's Will Annual barbecue with a short service and the usual ear-bas rung ' and photo sessions following. – Things for the 49th seem to be on the up & up. - Thank you, Fred, for the news.

39th Battalion - Jim Hardie 's efforts in the production of Good Guts" unit magazine are truly commendable. Recent activities include a statement of the units involvement in the P G campaign prepared by the museum curator Major Johnstone at Singleton Infantry centre for display at that location.

Of equal interest is the Association's success in having approval for the naming of a Kokoda Walkway Track at the National park, Upper Ferntree Gully (This walkway culminates with a 1000 step climb - interesting eh!) The opening and dedication ceremony was 17th August at 11.0 am and included the serving of tea and coffee at a 'Hop In' station in 1942 style.

Orderly Room Gossip acknowledges the correction noted by the 39th regarding the 55th Battalion role on the Kokoda Track in 1942 and congratulate their efforts of subscribing \$6,780 towards the Gona Memorial Medical Centre appeal.

Reveille July/August Issue page 14 covers comment of Colin Kennedy ' publication 'Port Moresby to Gona Beach ' on the unit period of active service in the Kokoda campaign 5/9/42 to 14/12/44 referred to as a hundred days campaigning". We suggest you check your local library to read this interesting book.

Reveille May/June Issue makes mention of the 3 Fuzzy Wuzzie 'representative Misima Lau-uli, Asutomo Sipupu both WWII carriers and the group interpreter/leader Benjamin Ijumi at the Sydney Anzac Day 97 March. Our Association contributed \$250 toward a total target figure of \$2,500 required to transport these representatives to Sydney. Their presence on this special day of remembrance was a special highlight.

Vet Affairs (August 97) The minister of Veteran Affairs announced that the Menin Gate Buglers would visit Australia to take part in Remembrance Day ceremonies this year. The nightly commemorative service (sounding of the last post) is carried out by buglers of Ieper, Belgium and date back to 1927 to honour the lives of 13,000 Australian troops who gave their lives between 1914 and 1918 in the battlefields around Ieper (also known as Ypres).

Vet Affairs (September '97) announces that Major General Paul Steven, former Army Chief of Personnel was to commence his appointment to the Repatriation Commission replacing Major General Fittock, well known to 55th/53rd members for his inspiring address delivered at St. John Glebe on the occasion of the dedication and laying up of our Banner on Sunday 7th May 1989. - Also, Major General 'Digger' James has been named by the Prime Minister a non-parliamentary delegate to next years' constitution' convention.

Association Member Jottings

Bill McLeod (Lake Munmorah) looking back through his memoirs of 1942 supplied the following extracts:

By June 1942 the Australian Army realised the danger of a Japanese landing at Milne Bay, and a small force consisting of A & C companies (55th Battalion) with a section of 'Vickers' and a detachment of American engineers was committed to proceed to Milne Bay to prepare defensive positions and map the area.

Prior to departure there was a dental parade and the dentists were instructed to extract any suspect teeth and no fillings were to be carried out. the dental surgery consisted of an eight-man tent with flaps tied back for maximum air circulation. Standing prominently next to the 'chair' was the foot pedal drill. (Bill was unable to avoid the loss of one tooth.).

The party departed Port Moresby on the old rusty tramp steamer 'Bonteco' (Bontekoe). - Even with the earlier prayers of the padre Please God look after these young men where they are going. We know, Oh Lord, that some may never come back.' (Some for sure had a feeling of being expendable.)

We were informed that the Milne Bay area was code named Fall River ' and on arrival we found the natives curious and friendly. Soldier contact was a change to them from that of the previous plantation owners and missionaries.

The area appeared to be a beautiful paradise with an abundance of coconut trees but it in fact was a perfect breeding ground for malaria and dengue fever, and many were to be counted as health casualties later on. '

The remainder of Bill's recall of that experience is given verbatim.

"The Australian troops got on well with the American engineers who immediately started to build the air strip. No red tape stood in their way. with interest, we watched them blow up each palm tree which was later bulldozed to the side of the strip. Flat metal strips were locked into each other to form a landing mat so the fighter planes would not bog in the soft mud.

At one stage, a warning was received at Milne bay that a large Japanese convoy was heading south from Rabaul and we were to prepare for a possible landing. Japanese reconnaissance planes were constantly over the area and they flew that low the pilots could be easily seen. They knew that we were there. many dog fights occurred over Milne bay after the air strip became operational. So here we were similar to other Australian troops that met the Japanese on the Kokoda Trail Just a couple of infantry companies ready to meet the invaders. I was issued with a Boyes anti-tank rifle to be used in conjunction with my .303 rifle. The anti-tank rifle was over 1.5 metres long, heavy to carry and fired a large bullet similar to a .303. I enquired as to my role with this weapon and I was instructed by the officer to fire at the enemy barges and sink as many as possible. Furthermore, to fight as long as possible and when about to be overwhelmed as we knew we would surely be, we were to take to the jungles and hills and make our way back to Port Moresby some 400 km away. Luckily the convoy headed towards Lae area and we were left alone.

The defensive positions chosen and maps made by our officers around Gilli Gilli Kobele (**K.B.**) Mission and Rabi village proved invaluable later on when used by the 7th and 18th brigades when the Japanese landing actually occurred on 25th August, 1942."

Les Marchant (Gordon) delivered the address for 1997 Anzac Day at St John 's Glebe and for this we do thank him. As others who have done so in the past will agree it is not an easy assignment although it is acknowledged as a great privilege. A few of Les' comments at that time are worth repeating.

This year there has been some controversy as to whether children should be allowed to march with their parents or grandparents on Anzac Day. I certainly feel they should be encouraged to do so if they so desire, to maintain through them the Spirit of Anzac for years to come."

"Speaking of education and the recent urge to concentrate more on the 3 R's - reading, riting, and rithmatic; whilst this is desirable I feel more time should be spent on teaching the other 3 R' s - respect, responsibility, and remembrance. We who are old salute the young who are going to take our

place and I am sure that with our guidance they will prove to be worthy successors. (Editor: - If you would like to have a full copy of Les' address a phone call to (02) 9642-6903 is all that is necessary.)

Milton Evans (Greenacre) As members will recall Milton has given many years to Scouting service and the 1st Wiley Park (Scottish) Scout Group of which he is patron had their Scout Hall destroyed by fire in 1995. A new scout hall at 33 Koala Rd Wiley Park was re-opened recently. The loss of premises did not mean that scouting stopped in the district. Lakemba and Punchbowl groups came to the rescue while fund-raising brought \$26,000 into funds to compliment an insurance payout on the old premises. Milton played a great part in ensuring that scouting did not suffer by giving imaginative support and encouragement to the dedicated officers and supporters of the group. (Editor: - No wonder with such a background that Milton is a 1st class barbecue chef at our annual picnic days) - Well Done!!

Joe Collett (Roselands) with his wife Mary attended a Cornish Festival in the Moonta Kadina, and Wallaroo area in South Australia to check out on family history. Apart from this successful experience Joe did what any good soldier does and followed instructions to use the geographical address of members and contacted Colin Darby and Clem **Tretheway (Sigs)** - greetings of goodwill **passing** in both directions. Tommy Sharman, Charlie Renouf, Bill Speirs, Frank Bilson and Warwick Davis please note for your efforts to drop a line to your old mates.

Alex Bennet (Kotara) dropped O.R. Gossip. a note regarding Rev Ridley's Gospel Tracts which have now been received to be included in our memorabilia collection. You might well ask who was Rev. Ridley. Well, Alex explains that when he went into camp at Liverpool in 1938, he was batman to the Rev. John G. Ridley M.C., the 14th Infantry Brigade Chaplain, who was awarded the Military Cross at Fromelles in WWI whilst serving Lieutenant in the 53rd Battalion. (Editor- Thank you Alex with this information on Rev. Ridley and your good intentions with assisting to gather in memorabilia. - See the special mention elsewhere on our plans for the safe custody of the unit 's records which now include videos, tapes, maps, documents and photo.)

Clarrie Meredith (Mermaid Waters) A mutual friend of Clarrie's and Alex Bell is Ted Fairfield of Mermaid Waters. An extract of his personal profile of Clarrie reads: -"Not only is he a good family man but one always willing ' to go the extra mile' to help a friend or neighbour. Outside the home Clarrie is an area controller for Legacy (54 War Widows), active in affairs of the local RSL, plays bowls, a committee man in the Local Theatre Organ Society and plays the pianola with the local Pedal Pushers Club.- Wife Alwyn has gardening and musical interests also.

Rev "Roy" Wotten (The Entrance) has made headlines again in the Central Coast Express Advocate with his wonderment of what happened to a redneck soldier by the name of Mick Harris who about 50 years ago presented him with a favourite reminder of his WWII years. The story unfolds, "I had to write Mick's love letters because he couldn't read or write so I said to him one day. - This is getting a bit much - we' d better do something about it." - "It was the hardest thing I've ever had to do." (Editor - What was the hardest Padre - the letter writing or teaching him to read and write!!)

Clem Pagett (Macksville) - was hospitalised early this year - brought to Sydney for a triple by-pass. When his mate Harold Jackson visited him, he caught Clem cuddling a 'Teddy bear Pillow ' to his chest - (We are told this helps the patient when they have a pain or get a cough) - Clem was embarrassed a little, which is hard to believe and he was anxious that the news about "Teddy" should not to be passed onto his wife Dorothy. Happy to report Clem is doing OK now, and no news of divorce action.

Les Corben (Hillville via Taree) Our membership network does work! Charlie Jennings of Canley Heights, when he had lost his great mate Bill (Commando) Morris who was a ' C' Coy boy who represented the

Coy in boxing, league and soccer, in fact any sport, he contacted Les to get in touch with Frances Morris to offer Frances whatever support was possible. Les has done a tremendous job already and will keep a watchful eye to the future. (Editor - As this segment was started I repeat again the membership network does work when the effort is made. - Well done Charlie & Les!)

Harvey Blundell (Carramar) wrote in of his observations while attending the Kokoda Commemorative Service, namely the meeting of 3 original 53 Battalion Signallers who firstly gained qualifications for service specialist pay at Koitaki and followed this by being disabled. Clem Robinson, one of the first wounded at Kokoda, and Roy Levy and Harvey Blundell (himself) falling victims to open heart surgery in later years. (Editor - Statistics can show up in strange sequences.)

Roger Smith (Rozelle) - A recently retired member of the Association Committee a few months ago was hospitalised for hip treatment. This was responsible for a clot development in the right leg. We are pleased to report that Roger is now back in good shape.

Bob McCracken (Beacon Hill) - A popular 'C' Coy Sgt in his day was recently given a rousing welcome into the Association ranks by Secretary Trevor Harper and can be anticipated as a regular attendee at future activities.

Bob Maxwell (Rosebery) Forwarded to O.R. Gossip. an extract of V.F.W., (an American publication, Veterans of Foreign Wars) on the history of the Poppy. Interestingly the article relates to the copywriting of the title 'Buddy' Poppy by V.F.W. which is responsible for sales of many thousands of poppies throughout America on a Saturday preceding Memorial Day. (Editor - Thank you for this research Bob and I look forward to a spare copy of V.F.W. in due course.)

Jack White (Kingswood) forwarded copy of an article Duntroon's Finest Hour ' giving the history of this ship which completed an incredible array of missions over its decade of service - particularly during WWII. It tells of an era when a first-class fare Sydney to Brisbane was £9.7.0 return or economy class £5.1.5 return. (Editor - We received a special bonus of a ' free' trip. - How lucky can you be!)

Jack McDermott (MacQuarie Fields) recently in paying subs up to the year 2000 mentioned that he has not had a clean run of good health for some time but retains a positive outlook and was boosted' by the good wishes from his old mates.

Adrian Nall (Cremorne) reports on having contacted Dave Kinner who lives at 15 Grant St Caloundra and was driver to Brigadier W. Smith 14 Inf Bde back in early months of 1942.

A COACH TOUR

It has been suggested that coach tour be arranged for next March/April of about 7 days to the Riverina or Mungo National Park. This was proposed last year; but the company involved pulled out, and now other arrangements are available. The cost would be about \$560.00 per person and would depart from Newcastle via Sydney, returning on the last day to Newcastle about 7pm. Anyone interested is requested to advise the Secretary or Harry Matthew as soon as possible to see what the response is. No definite commitment will be made until all details are available; but we need to know how many are interested to proceed.

MEMORABILIA.

You will have noted earlier in this "Orderly Room Gossip" that arrangements for the safe keeping and storage of unit memorabilia is proceeding and you are again asked to let us have those items you may have so that they can be preserved for posterity. What is the alternative resting place for your mementos?

SEASONS GREETINGS.

The President and Committee extends to all members and their families the best of wishes for a Joyful Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

