



55/53 Aust. Inf. Bn. Association
("The Mice of Moresby")



'Esque Ad Finem'
(All the way to the end)

President: Clyde Parsons
14A Seaview Crescent
Stanwell Park 2508
02 42944367 (H)
clyde@bigpond.net.au

Secretary: Beverley Dawson
22 Fay Street
Lake Munmorah 2259
02 43581998 (H)
miceofmoresby@live.com.au

(October 2012)

BATTALION NEWSLETTER & ORDERLY ROOM GOSSIP **LAST POST**

R Brown: L R Day: H R Healy: C A Merchant: L Wright: D L Brewster: E W Day: H G Lowe: G Gossen: T Denny: G Toombs: P Donovan: F Bilson: T R Cole.

LEST WE FORGET

To the families of our "Fallen Comrade "we extend our sincere sympathies and assure them that we are gathered together.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Presidents Report

Although our veteran numbers were down on previous years, we still managed to carry the battalion's banners with pride on Anzac Day. The luncheon that followed was well attended and was very enjoyable. Unfortunately, because of the venue we were unable to have the customary speeches.

This year the 7th December marks the 70th Anniversary of the battalion's actions at Sanananda in 1942 and we would love to have a really good rollup at the Cenotaph at 11AM and the NSW Leagues Club afterwards for lunch to help us remember our veterans and those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace. Please do your best to get there.

Regards

Clyde Parsons

Secretary's Report

How quick time passes, is an old cliché, but as the days go by how fast that seems to be.

Many events have passed and your committee has endeavoured to ensure that we had a representative attend as many as possible to remind those that we are present and that we will never forget your efforts and the efforts of the husbands, sons and family members that did their duty and remained behind.

We still have active 55 / 53 members veterans who work tirelessly in educating the children of our future in the theatre of WW11 mainly Papua New Guinea at the Kokoda Walkway these members are: Ray Gentles – Charles Jennings – Reg Chard. Congratulations fellows.

The year brings the 70th Anniversary commemoration of this action.

We will be holding our regular parade at 11am on the 7th December 2012 at Sydney cenotaph in Sydney followed by luncheon at NSW Leagues.

So if you are able to attend please complete the form and return to: Beverley Dawson 22 Fay Street Lake Munmorah 2259.

It is not a topic that I like to raise but it would be gratefully appreciated if when you are aware of a member passing that you could please contact the association as it is distressful when relative receives mail addressed to their departed loved one, something that we would like to avoid.

Any member family who would still like to receive the newsletter and become a member of the support group would be very welcome feel free to contact us on the above numbers.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of your mates, member 's of committee and the support group until we next meet.

Regards

Beverley Dawson

Two sections here not transcribed Last Post & Unit History can be found in other sources in this and other web sites.

December 1941 Japan launched an attack against the United States at Pearl Harbour and landed troops on the Malayan Peninsula. Japan's entry into the war altered the war dramatically, within 3 months Japanese forces had overrun Malayan and captured Singapore 15th February 1942.

January 1942 Australia had been at war for more than 2 years. Australia's battles had been fought in North Africa, The Mediterranean and the Middle East against German, Italian and Vichy French forces.

February 1942 Japanese aircraft launched two devastating raids on Darwin, for Australians the war became a far more immediate concern, invasion seemed a very possibility. While 1942 was the darkest of years for Australians, returning battle worn diggers from the war in the Mediterranean were soon back in action along the raw recruits on the Kokoda Track where they fought hard and drove the invading forces of the Japanese back and successfully defended our shores.

May 1942

The first Australian Prisoners Of War were sent to Burma, as time progressed they commenced work on the infamous Burma – Thailand railway. HMAS Australia was attacked during its' involvement in the battle of the Coral sea this battle and the Battle of Midway defeated the Japanese and stopped them from taking Port Moresby by sea.

May – June 1942

Three Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney harbour attacking the RAN accommodation ship "The Kuttabul".

July – November 1942

The Kokoda campaign lasted from July to November and brought the Japanese almost within sight of Port Moresby before they were compelled to retreat. Some 620 Australians lost their lives during the fighting along the track and more than a thousand were wounded.

August – September 1942

Japanese and allied forces fought a decisive battle at Milne Bay. They had underestimated the grit of the Aussie digger for they were there to ensure that they did not advance and thwart their expectation of advancing to Australia. After a gruelling Kokoda campaign the Australian troops were again in the forefront at Buna, Gona and Sanananda.

October 1942

Believing that a Japanese invasion was a very real possibility, many citizens undertook guerrilla training and volunteered. The 2nd World War saw a dramatic expansion of women's roles in the armed forces, with the creation of women's defence forces. The Army (WRAAC), Navy (WRANS) and Air Force (WAAAF) formed women services by the end of the war over 50,000 Australian women had enlisted as nurses, land army and other volunteer work to support the war effort.

December

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MATE

I've travelled down some lonely roads,
Both crooked tracks and straight,
An I've learned life's noblest creed,
Summed up in one word..... "MATE"

I'm thinking back across the years,
A thing I do of late,
An' this word sticks between 'me' ears,
You've got to have a "MATE"

My mind goes back to '43
To slavery an' ate,
When a man's one chance to stay alive,
Depended on his "MATE"

A' though it's all so long ago,
This truth I 'ave to state
A man don't know what lonely means,
Til' 'e lost 'is "MATE"

Extract from Mates by Cliff Burkitt

A TRIBUTE

I was in the first charge on the beach at Gallipoli,
I fought in the mud in that hell that was the Somme.

I was the seaman trapped on a blazing Destroyer in the North Sea,
I fought at Tobruk and El Alamein.

I am the airman who crashed and who lies in the wreckage, that will one day be found.

I was the jungle fighter, who walked Kokoda.

The prisoner of war who walked Sandakan, or was buried by his mate beside the Burma Railway

I was the nurse cut down in my prime by the barbarian's bullet.
I was the rifleman in the snow in Korea.

The digger who tripped a mine in Vietnam
I was the peacekeeper in a strange and foreign land.

I fell in battle... or returned only to have the battle rage nightly in my mind until I could fight no more.
I died for the cause that I held just, in the service of my country.

THAT YOU WHO LIVE MAY IN FREEDOM... I AM A PROUD AUSTRALIAN.

Adapted from a post WW11 tribute by a veteran of the Vietnam War

SOFTEN BOOT POLISH – When boot polish has become too hard, soften by heating, add a little vinegar and stir.-Nutmeg.

IRONING - Put a sheet of newspaper between the ironing blankets; this will keep the sheet firm and unwrinkled. Try it. It's really good

TRACING PAPERS - Over a gentle heat mix 1 oz. of Canadian balsam and one quarter pint of spirits of turpentine-, spread on good tissue paper with brush thinly-Gilbert.

WINDSCREEN DRESSING - This mixture is recommended for lessening the effects of rain on a car windscreen:

1 oz. water 2 oz. glycerine 1 dram salt Mix well and wipe over windscreen.

TO CLEAN A CARPET

Mix 1 teacup of ammonia and 1 teacup of turpentine in a bucket of hot water. Remove the dust from the carpet. Dip a cloth in the bucket, wring dry, and rub the carpet all over. It will remove all the dirt and grease spots. M.C.L.

ROUGH HANDS

Mix together equal parts of glycerine and lemon juice. Keep in a bottle by the kitchen sink, and after having the hands wet, rub a little of the mixture into them while still slightly damp. The addition of equal part of Eau de Cologne gives this a nice fragrance. -Lazy Daisy.

IN THE KITCHEN

PRUNE PUDDING

Slices of buttered bread made into sandwiches with mashed prunes. Half fill a pie dish with the prune sandwiches, make a custard with 2 eggs and 2 cups of milk, flavoured with lemon essence. Pour over bread. Grate nutmeg on top. Bake slowly till set.

BANANA AND CORN FLAKE BAKED DUMPLINGS

6 bananas, 2 cups of corn flakes Mash bananas, mix with corn flakes, vanilla. Form into dumplings. Place in a pie dish. Mix 1 cup of milk with 1 beaten egg, sugar, pour over dumplings. Dust with nutmeg. Bake till set in a moderate oven for about half an hour.

DATE AND CARROT JAM Take 3 lbs. dates. Stone and chop small. Peel 2 tbs. carrots and put them through the mincer. Cook with three quarters of a pint of water and 2 lbs. sugar. Boil 20 minutes. Add one-third of a teaspoon almond essence and simmer another 15 minutes. Pour off into jars, but do not cover until next day.

KOOKA'S KORNER where the Laugh 's on me

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

On some air bases the Air Force is on one side of the field and civilian aircraft use the other side of the field, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, "What time is it?"

The tower responded, "Who is calling?" The aircraft replied, "What difference does it make?"

The tower replied "It makes a lot of difference.

If it is an QANTAS flight, it is 3 o'clock.

If it is an RAAF plane, it is 1500 hours.

If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells.

If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3.

If it is a Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon."

Cartoons omitted

HARRASSMENT

A city lawyer was astounded by a client who bounced into his office, purple-faced.

"I've been getting threatening letters," he said.

"We can soon stop that," the lawyer assured him. "It's against the law. Who's been writing them?"

"The Income Tax Department"