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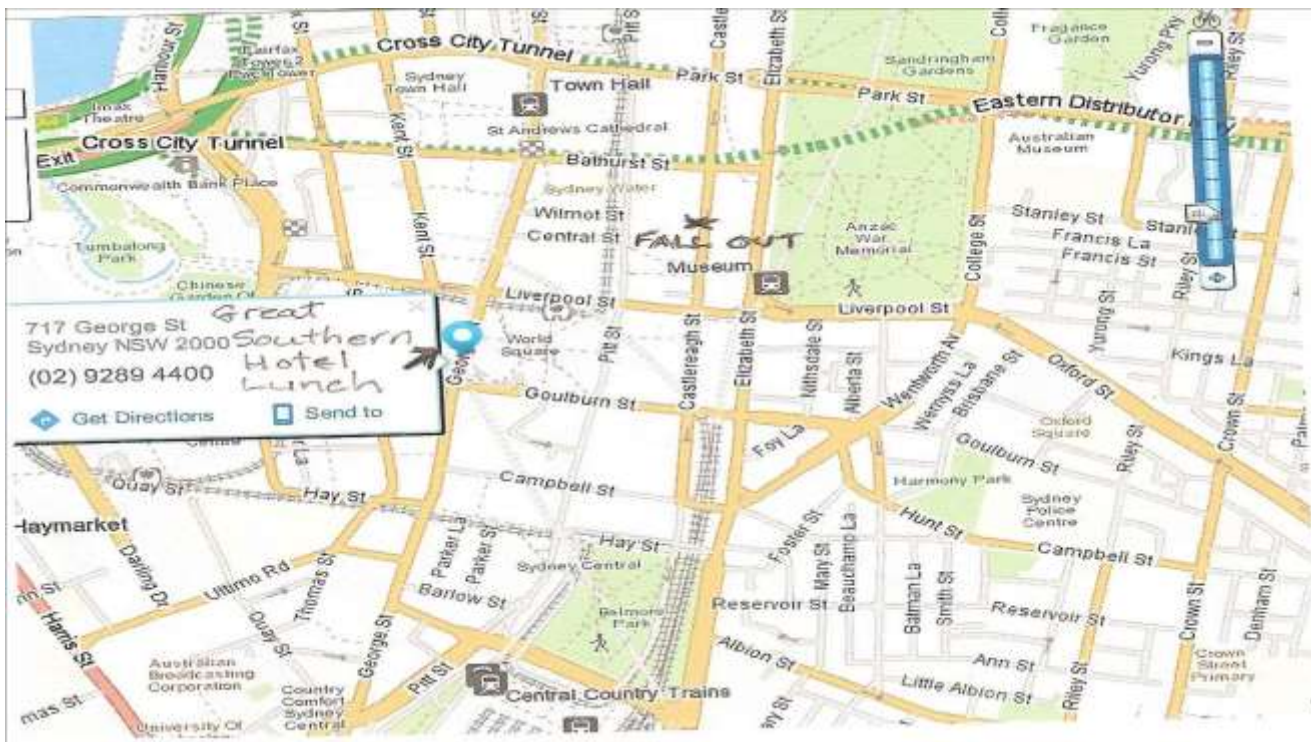
LEST WE FORGET

R Harris W Porter K Fitzsimmons P Brown D Walker G Henrys

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2014. There has been changes to your committee with Bryan Matthew being appointed to the position of treasurer replacing John Pringle who has held the position valiantly but now has decided to enjoy retirement.

Unfortunately, the loss of venue at the NSW leagues for ANZAC Day luncheon (due to the sale of the function room) has made it extremely difficult to find a venue in the city that has not been booked out for years. So this year's venue, which may be a bit further to travel, is nearer to Central Station for those who meet us at the luncheon. ANZAC Day luncheon will be at the GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL 717 GEORGE SYDNEY



SECRETARY'S REPORT

The time has come again another year went by so fast. All those who attended the wreath laying ceremony added to the remembrance significance of the occasion followed by luncheon at the NSW Leagues.

Unfortunately we have lost this venue due to closure of the function room so I had to arrange for other alternate venue for ANZAC Day luncheon at GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL 717 GEORGE ST SYDNEY.

I have included a map of the area to assist you in arriving there. I hope this does not cause you to much of a disadvantage. But due to it being ANZAC Day most other venues were already booked solid.

A wreath will be laid at the KOKODA TRACK CONCORD – SOUTH WEST ROCK – TASMANIA for those who cannot make it to Sydney and in remembrance for who served.

The committee would like to thank John Pringle for his good work during his time as treasurer and for the support he gave Bryan during his transition to the position of treasurer. Well done!

Let us not forget that next year is the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli. An all- out effort will be needed to ensure that they are remembered and that our digger's banners and supporters are there to celebrate this event.

Fall in and muster is at the corner of King & Castlereagh streets, from 10:00 march off will occur approximately between 10:30 – 1100 look for the mice of Moresby Banner



TREASURER'S REPORT

The association is surviving well, thanks to your continual support



THE DIGGERS

The men in jungle green marched on down the sunny street. The tall men and the short men, the slender men and the robust men swung on their way with the quiet, assured air that only soldiers' have who have learned to be soldiers by meeting the enemy in battle.

Joe and the cove behind him and Blue and the bloke with the scar on his jaw and the thousands like them who marched. These are the Australian Soldier, not one man but thousands of men, the vulgar and the fastidious, the quiet and the rowdy, the rough and the gentle. They know battle. They know the dirt and the misery, the courage and the comradeship, the weariness and the deep sleep.

They learned about these things in the Desert and in Greece, in Crete and in Syria, in besieged Tobruk and on the bloody sands of El Alamein. They met them, again in New Guinea, in the evil green of the jungle, where a snapping twig means danger and a careless step might mean death.

They will march on, these men, and some of them will die on other battlefields, and sickness and wounds will take many of them out of the battle line, and some will still live when peace returns to the world, but the Australian Soldier will be in the line at the last as he was in the line at the first. For though these men are part of the Australian Soldier he is more enduring than any of these men alone and he will live when they are dust-the thing they created that is bigger than themselves.

LEAD UP TO WORLD WAR 11

Australia went to war with an ill-equipped and incompletely trained Army, still home-bound by the provisions of the Defence Act. The 2nd AIF was, therefore, raised in a similar fashion to the 1st - from former soldiers, to civilians and volunteers from militia units.

WORLD WAR 11 - INITIATION

The outbreak of the war posed a difficult problem for the Government. The uncertainty of Japan's intentions and an Opposition opposed to both the raising of an expeditionary force and conscription for home defence, the contribution Australia should and could make to the war effort in Europe in terms of soldier numbers and composition.

The same problem did not affect the Royal Australian Navy or the Royal Australian Air Force who were not bound to home service by the Defence Act and already had personnel serving overseas.

On 15 September 1939 the Government announced the raising of an infantry division (later to become the 6th Division) 'for service at home or abroad as circumstances permit'. By late November it decided that the 6th Division should leave for the Middle East with the first elements departing in January 1940. Subsequently, approval was given in February to raise the 7th Division to increase Australia's contribution to a Corps.

The German's successful invasion of France and the Lowlands in May 1940 left Britain and the Dominions standing alone. This, with the ongoing uncertainty over Japanese intentions in the Pacific, changed both the Government's and people's attitude to the war to one of total commitment, including the raising of another AIF formation, the 8th Infantry Division.

By May one brigade of the 6th Division was already in Palestine, and two more convoys were on their way there. After inter-Government discussions one convoy continued to the Middle East while the other was diverted to England, subsequently to be reorganised into two infantry brigades.

It was also decided that the 7th Division should join the 6th Division, while the 8th Division would be sent to Malaya as garrison troops.

When Australia followed the British decision to reduce the number of Battalions in a brigade from four to three a train of re-organisation was started that provided enough resources to form a fourth AIF Infantry Division. The 9th Division was formed from the troops in Britain, together with others in the Middle East.

As a result of the experiences in Europe, an armoured division was raised in Australia at the beginning of 1941, the 1st Armoured Division, but it was destined never to serve outside Australia. Meanwhile, Japan continued her peaceful penetration of South-East Asia

WORLD WAR 11 - MIDDLE EAST

Change was soon to occur, with advance elements of the German Afrika Korps landing in North Africa during late February. Their advance forced the withdrawal of British and Dominion troops from most of their recently captured territory in Cyrenaica.

By 11 April, the 9th Division, 18th Infantry Brigade and British armoured and artillery units were besieged in Tobruk, with German forces as far forward as the Egyptian frontier.

Tobruk was heavily attacked on 30 April but, although a salient was forced on the defences, the garrison held firm. Another attack on 16 May was similarly defeated while the salient was steadily reduced by intense patrolling. During September and October the Australians were relieved for a well-earned rest. Some 3000 casualties had been sustained and 941 taken prisoner.

Following the entry of Japan into the war on 7 December 1941, the 6th and 7th Divisions returned to Australia. The 9th Division remained in the Middle East. Late in May 1942 reinforced Axis forces began to advance in the Western Desert, and by 20-21 June had recaptured Tobruk. They were finally halted by three days of intense fighting at the El Alamein defensive positions, only some 90 kilometres of Alexandria.

The 9th Division, then in Syria awaiting transport to Australia, was hurried forward to El Alamein. On 30 August the Axis forces again attacked but were defeated at Alam el Halfa. The German General von Mellenthin was later to describe this action as 'the turning point of the desert war'.

On 23 October the 8th Army attacked at El Alamein, the battle reaching a climax a week later. An attack by the 9th Division north toward the sea gained ground which successfully held against heavy German counter-attacks. After intense effort British armoured forces then broke out through the corridor originally secured by the 9th Division and by 9 November the Axis forces were in full retreat.

This success released the 9th Division to return to Australia, where it arrived in February 1943. Australian losses for the whole period of the El Alamein operations from 7 July were 5809, including 1225 dead, 3638 wounded and 946 taken prisoner.

WORLD WAR 11 - SOUTH EAST PACIFIC

Following September 1940 when Japanese forces entered northern Indo-China, the Australian Government had become most concerned about the security of Singapore. From October 1940, the British and Dominion garrison there was steadily strengthened, including the 8th Division (less one brigade) which arrived in February 1941.

In accordance with an agreement with the Netherlands East Indies made in early 1941, Australian battalion groups were landed at Ambon and Timor by mid-December 1941.

The Pearl Harbour attack was not the only Japanese operation in early December 1941. Japanese forces landed in Thailand and Malaya and attacked the Philippines. They advanced quickly, capturing Rabaul by 23 January 1942 and accepting the capitulation of Singapore on 15 February.

Both Timor and Ambon were overrun by the Japanese by 23 February 1942 (although some 300 Australians continued to harass them in Timor until withdrawn between December 1942 and February 1943). By 12 March the Japanese had taken Java.

Australian casualties in the campaign were 18,940, including 1,789 killed and 1,306 wounded

WORLD WAR 11 - SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

In December 1941 Australia's seven militia divisions were mobilised and, early in January 1942, Australia agreed to redeploy the 1st Australian Corps (6th and 7th Divisions) from the Middle East to the Far East. At about the same time the Port Moresby garrison was strengthened by two militia battalions and other units. The destination of 1st Australian Corps was changed to Australia following the fall of Singapore.

In March-April 1942 the United States formed the South West Pacific Command and, with Australia's agreement, General Douglas MacArthur was appointed supreme commander, with General Sir Thomas Blamey as his Commander Allied Land Forces.

The Japanese continued their campaign to seize New Guinea and on 21-22 July 1942 landed two infantry regiments with supporting troops at Gona and quickly moved inland to the northern start of the Kokoda Track.

They planned to advance across this tortuous path and take Port Moresby from the north. The small Australian forces in the Buna/Gona area, and later the 39th Battalion coming up the Track to reinforce Kokoda fought a desperate rearguard action but were pushed all the way across the mountains to Isurava. On 23 August, the 21st Brigade of the 7th Division was sent into action on the Track. Fierce fighting continued but after a desperate struggle the Australians withdrew closer to Port Moresby.

Meanwhile Milne Bay had been reinforced by Army and RAAF units under the command of Major General Cyril Clowes, which pre-empted a Japanese landing force attempt to capture the Bay as additional base from which to advance on Port Moresby. The Australian Army and Air force worked together to defeat the Japanese amphibious force. Two weeks after landing the Japanese withdrew their survivors. This was the first time in the Pacific War that a Japanese amphibious force had been defeated.

By 2 November the reinforced Australians had retaken Kokoda and on 11 November Japanese fighting units were forced to abandon Oivi. By 13 November the Australians had reached the Kumusi River. The battle for the Kokoda Track was over, although Japanese units continued to resist strongly in the extremely difficult terrain adjoining the coast around Buna, Gona and Sanananda until mid-January 1943.

By now, as in World War I, Australia was facing acute manpower problems from maintaining an Army of twelve divisions - a far larger number in proportion to population than Britain, America or Japan. Battle casualties and a high rate of tropical disease, particularly malaria and dysentery that had reduced the Army by the equivalent of a division

The provisions of the Defence Act, preventing conscripts from serving outside Australian territory, compounded the manpower problem. Many militia units were already designated as AIF since three-quarters of their strengths were volunteers. In February 1943, an Act was passed allowing the militia to serve anywhere in the South West Pacific Area below the equator.

ATTACK ON SYDNEY HARBOUR

In late May and early June 1942, during World War II, submarines belonging to the Imperial Navy made a series of attacks on the cities of Sydney and Newcastle in New South Wales, Australia.



On the night of 31 May – 1 June, three Ko-hyoteki-class midget submarines, each with a two-member crew, entered Sydney Harbour, avoided the partially constructed Sydney Harbour anti-submarine boom net, and attempted to sink Allied warships.

Two of the midget submarines were detected and attacked before they could successfully engage any Allied vessels, and the crews scuttled their boats and committed suicide. These submarines were later recovered by the Allies.



The third submarine attempted to torpedo the heavy cruiser USS Chicago, but instead sank the converted ferry HMAS Kuttabul, killing 21 sailors. This midget submarine's fate was unknown until 2006, when amateur scuba divers discovered the wreck off Sydney's northern beaches.

Immediately following the raid, the five Japanese fleet submarines that carried the midget submarines to Australia embarked on a campaign to disrupt merchant shipping in eastern Australian waters. Over the next month, the submarines attacked at least seven merchant vessels, sinking three ships and killing 50 sailors. During this period, between midnight and 02:30 on 8 June, two of the submarines bombarded the ports of Sydney and Newcastle. The midget submarine attacks and subsequent bombardments are among the best-known examples of Axis naval activity in Australian waters during World War II, and are the only occasion in history when either city has come under attack.

The physical effects were minimal: the Japanese had intended to destroy several major warships, but sank only an unarmed depot ship, caused minimal damage to Allied shipping, and failed to damage any significant targets during the bombardments.

The main impact was psychological; creating popular fear of an impending Japanese invasion and forcing the Australian military to upgrade defences, including the commencement of convoy operations to protect merchant shipping.

BOMBING OF DARWIN



The Bombing of Darwin, also known as the Battle of Darwin, on 19 February 1942 was both the first and the largest single attack mounted by a foreign power on Australia.

On this day, 242 Japanese aircraft attacked ships in Darwin's harbour and the town's two airfields in an attempt to prevent the Allies from using them as bases to contest the invasions of Timor and Java.

The town was only lightly defended and the Japanese inflicted heavy losses upon the Allied forces at little cost to themselves. The urban areas of Darwin also suffered some damage from the raids and there were a number of civilian casualties. The raid is often described as "Australia's Pearl Harbor". The Japanese raid was unlike the attack on Pearl Harbor in that it was launched against a nation that had already declared war on Japan (on 8 December 1941).

It was similar to the attack on Pearl Harbor in that it was a successful aerial surprise attack on a naval target that came as a great shock to the attacked nation. It has been stated that the number of bombs dropped on Darwin exceeded those dropped on Pearl Harbor.

At Pearl Harbor, 273 bombers dropped 457 bombs (including 40 torpedoes) weighing 133,560 kg., killing more than 2,400 people. At Darwin 205 bombers dropped 681 bombs weighing 114,100 kg, killing 235 people

The Government regards the attacks as most grave, and makes it quite clear that a severe blow has been struck on Australian soil. An account of the raid was published by the Australian War Memorial in December 1942 in "Soldiering on". [The raids were the first and largest of almost 100 air raids against Australia during 1942–43.



KOOKA'S CORNER

DAYS IN HISTORY

1770 Captain Cook first sights the east coast
1788 First fleet arrived in Botany Bay
1788 First British penal settlement at Botany Bay
1792 First land in Australia granted to James Ruse
1797 First flock of Merino sheep arrive in Sydney
1793 First school opens in Sydney colony
1840 Transport of convicts to NSW abolished
1882 First Cricket Match at SCG
1869 First white settlers arrive in Darwin
1825 Storage of food in tin can patented
1829 Captain Fremantle declares Swan River colony
1851 Gold discovered in Ballarat
1852 Sydney becomes a city
1861 First Melbourne Cup
1865 Salvation Army founded
1879 Milk was sold in bottles
1880 Ned Kelly sentenced to hang
1887 Port Arthur penal colony closed
1888 The drinking straw was invented
1893 First vote for women
1895 Waltzing Matilda first sung in public
1901 Australian flag first flown
1913 Canberra Australia Capitol founded
1914 Living wage in Australia 48 shillings a week
1916 2000 Australians lost – Battle of Fromelles
1933 Sydney first traffic lights installed
1966 Decimal currency introduced
1984 \$1 coin replaces \$1 note

THE LAUGH ON ME



Why don't tigers eat clowns? Because they taste funny!
What would we have if everyone in Australia drove a pink car? We'd have a pink car-nation!
Why do bees have sticky hair? Because they have honey combs!
Why does Tarzan yell? Because it hurts when he beats his chest
Why did the scarecrow receive an award? Because he was outstanding in his field
What did the grape say when the elephant stepped on it? Nothing It just let out a little wine.
What do you call a camel with no hump? Humphrey.
Why is Cinderella no good at sports?. Because her coach is a pumpkin, and she is always running away from the ball!

BELIEVE OR NOT

A duck's quack doesn't echo
Honey - only natural food that does not spoil
A group of owls is called a "parliament"
A cow drinks a tub full of water a day
Sheep outnumber humans in NZ
A newborn kangaroo is about 1" tall
Men can read smaller print than women
Women can hear better
You use 200 muscles to take 1 step
12 plus cows are known as a "flink"
A pregnant goldfish is called a "twit"

AUSTRALIA

You are the gold to my coast,
The vegemite to my toast,
The sea to the sand,
The beer in my hand,
The thong to my foot,
The Rhonda to my Kutut,
The Kanga to my roo,
The BB to my Q,
The WI to my FI,
The Harbour to my bridge,
The lamington's in my fridge,
The heat to my rash,
The grog to my stash,
The Holden to my ute,
Australia you're beaut.