

**55/53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association—  
Support Group  
ORDERLY ROOM REPORT  
MARCH 2017 (1-2017)**



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

**President: Arthur Perry**  
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**Treasurer: Bryan Matthew**  
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**Secretary: Peter Dowling**  
17 Swan St  
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**Presidents Report**

Since our last meeting things have been very quiet. The December Lunch was not well attended but I think having it on a Friday keeps a lot of people from being in attendance. The committee are taking steps to fix this problem.

**Our next function is ANZAC Day. You will be advised of the time and where we start the march. If you cannot make the March, please come to the lunch. Hope to see you all there on ANZAC day.**

**Arthur Perry**



AT JACK PRICE'S FAREWELL 19 Dec 2016  
L-R Bob Pink, Arthur Perry, Ken Wheeler & Noel Selway

**LEST WE FORGET**

**NX114338 PRIVATE Jack Price 55/53 A.I.B. AIF**

Jack was born in Sydney on 22 September 1922 and sadly passed away Fairfield Hospital on 9 Dec. 2016. He served in the Militia prior to enlisting in the 55/53 AIB at Sydney on 21 Aug. 1942. One of the Mice of Moresby, he served in New Guinea and Bougainville and following War's end he was discharged on 3 June 1946.

Jack was the beloved father and Father-in-law to Denise and Noel Selway. And Jacqueline and Stephen Peacock, and cherished Grandfather to Heather and Malcolm. Luke Mathew, Michelle and Great Grandfather to Hannah. Jack was farewelled at Rookwood Crematorium on 19 Dec. 2016. Mr Ken Wheeler from the Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch delivered the RSL Tribute and Mr Arthur Perry represented the 55/53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association and Bob Pink the 1/19 NSWWR Association. (Source: *Frontline Defence Service Journal Vol 15 No 4 Dec 2016 page 7*)

# ORDERLY ROOM REPORT



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

Hi Mice Descendants,

As some of you are not on Facebook can you please get your numbers to me for the lunch. Please see attached information including lunch booking form for posting to our Treasurer who will pass these onto me to arrange final lunch numbers.

If you are unable to return the form but will be attending please RSVP your numbers to us and pay cash on the day either to Bryan our Treasurer, Peter our Secretary or Arthur our president.

Note : children's meals will be provided along with any specific requirements for meals including lactose or gluten free

Margaret Perry has kindly offered to arrange seating for your group so if you have a group of 25 or even 10 you will be seated together. Please get these numbers to us so this can be coordinated as soon as possible. Thankyou Margaret.

Also wheelchairs will be arranged for any diggers who need them I need these numbers by March 15 please.

Form up place is the same as last year just at the end of Philip St (between Hunter & Martin Place) on the map which is attached, indicated by number 16 in the green circle. Please look for our Mice Yellow banner.

A quick return email to any of the committee would also be appreciated if you are participating in the march so we can ascertain numbers expected.

Queries to the day to myself on 0437818834 or via return email [robdennydpa@gmail.com](mailto:robdennydpa@gmail.com)

**Rob Denny**  
Media Manager 2 March 2017

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*An extract of the minutes from the Committee meeting held at Granville RSL on 25 Feb. 2017.*

**Present:** Arthur Perry, Maureen Perry, Margaret Perry, Ross Berghofer, Peter Dowling, Reg Chard, Fred Denny, Rob Denny. Carol Fraser, Carole Matthew, Bryan Matthew.

**Apologies:** Ray Gentles, Charlie Jennings, Beverley Dawson, Kevin Dawson, Damian Dawson, Clyde Parsons, Marilyn Dowling, Peter Beacroft, Col Twomey, Mark Edwell, Sandra Berghofer.

**Opening:** The meeting declared open by the President Arthur Perry at 1100 hrs. After a minutes silence Arthur welcomed all present. Ray Gentles was a late apology as he has been not well in the past few days.

**GENERAL MEETING held 15 October 2016:** Minutes of the General Meeting held 15 October 2016 as distributed were confirmed as correct. Proposed by Peter Dowling, seconded by Margaret Perry; carried.

**Business Arising:** Nil; matters to be discussed under General Business.

**Correspondence:** Bryan tabled a letter from Peter Beacroft. Peter Dowling reported that he had received a number of letters and emails concerning soldiers in the battalion and from family members offering contributions to the archive and future website of the Battalion Association. Moved Arthur seconded Carole Matthew, carried.

**Treasurers Report:** Bryan Matthew (Treasurer) tabled his financial report as followed.

<b>Opening Balance of Cheque Account</b> (as at 15 October 2016)	\$ 1,443.78
<b>Income:</b> from Sanananda Day Luncheon and donations.	\$ 1,045.02
<b>Expenses:</b> Sanananda Day Luncheon, and sundry expenses	\$ 1,366.02
Balance as at 31 Jan 2017	\$ 1,122.78
<b>Term Deposit Balance</b> as at 15 April 2016	\$ 9,962.97
Less \$1200.00 paid into Cheque A/c 7.3.16 Plus Int. \$43.92 Bal. as at 21.1.2017	\$10,006.89
Total Funds: as at 31. Jan 2017	\$11,129.67

Bryan spoke favourably concerning the various expenditures and incomes. Bryan suggested that the issue of maintaining income should be discussed in General Business; Proposed: Bryan Matthew; Seconded by Ross Berghofer, carried.

**Social Media Liaison Report:** Rob Denny reported that the face book page continues to be successful. He is organising the a new page Face Book page regarding the events on Anzac Day this year. Proposed: Rob Denny, Seconded: Margaret Perry.

**Future Website:** Peter Dowling advised material for the Website continues to grow with donations of stories and photographic images is continuing. at Veterans Affairs Sydney as to procedures for funding

#### **General Business:**

##### **Great Southern Hotel:**

**Anzac Day Luncheon ; Floor plan - Name Cards** Rob Denny has received word that many people who attend the Luncheons at the hotel do not come back due to the fact they are unable to sit with their family. Rob suggested one way for remedying this is to have **place cards** for seating. This means developing a floor plan and a member of the committee to organise the Place Cards and organise with the Hotel to place the cards on the tables according to the floor Plan. This is a great initiative and after discussion it was agreed to proceed. Thank you Rob. Margaret Perry volunteered to take on the very important job. **Cost of Luncheon:** Rob advised that the cost per person on Anzac Day will be \$35.00 per person including \$10.00 suggested donation. (See below). This will assist in payment of other expenses of the Association.

**Microphone:** Reg Chard will bring along the portable PA system which is used at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway.

##### **ANZAC MARCH**

##### **Anzac Day 2017:**

Arthur Perry reported that it is very likely that the 2017 march will follow the same route as it did this year. i.e. follow Elizabeth Street to William St. More information will be provided as when the RSL provides updates. The details will be sent out asap (People receiving standard mail will receive the details with the Orderly Room Report in March). The assembly area will probably in Phillip St between Martin Place and Hunter St.

**Wheelchairs for Veterans;** We wish to make the march accessible to as many veterans as possible. Thank you to Rob Denny for making enquires to have Wheel Chairs delivered to the assembly position and pick up at the Great Southern Hotel afterwards. The cost is \$40.00 for each chair which will be paid for by the Battalion Association Support Group.

**Banners being transported to from March;** Ross has obtained a golf bag which was successful in carrying the Banner for the Cenotaph Ceremonies last December. Another golf bag will be required for the Honour Roll Banner. Arthur advised that Damian will be able to manage with the smaller Honour Roll banner without a golf bag to carry it.

##### **Other General Business;**

**Changing the Date of Commemoration of Sanananda Day;** Rob Denny advised that feedback from Face Book is that many more people would be able to attend the Commemoration if it was held on a Saturday. The number of people attending the lunch has been declining over the past few years. After lengthy discussion the veterans present and the committee supported changing the day from Friday provided that the day was the 7th December or earlier. Not after the 7th December. Arthur is to make enquiries with the RSL (trustees of the Cenotaph), if the Commemoration could be held on a Saturday.

Due to space considerations the full copy of the minutes are available from Peter Dowling.



**Military Medal**

## Military Cross/ Military Medal

During WWII every soldier who went into action in the battalion received this medal many years after returning home these included ; 1939/45 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal and Australian Services Medal Frontline Medal. Many soldiers who fought on the Kokoda Track and Beach-head battles fought with extraordinary courage and bravery.

However only a few were recognised for their action and were awarded British Medals; the Military Medal (ordinary ranks) and Military Cross (for officers). Many many more brave soldiers of the unit should have been recognised likewise but were not. below are some details of all soldiers in the Bn who were recognised.

### Lionel Joseph Burgess MM (NX90672)

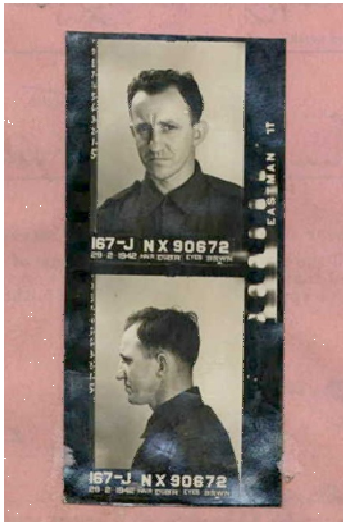
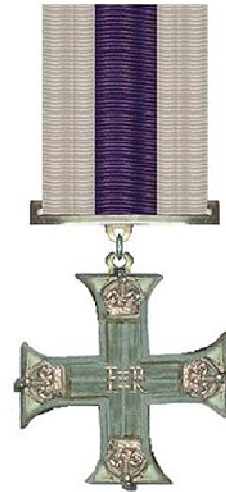


Photo courtesy Aust Archives

NOMINAL ROLL Service Record	
Name:	BURGESS, LIONEL JOSEPH
Service:	Australian Army
Service Number:	NX90672
Date of Birth:	16 Dec 1906
Place of Birth:	AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND
Date of Enlistment:	24 Feb 1942
Locality on Enlistment:	RANDWICK NSW
Place of Enlistment:	PADDINGTON NSW
Next of Kin:	BURGESS, ANNE
Date of Discharge:	18 Sept 1945
Rank:	Private (Corporal)
Posting at Discharge:	21 Australian Works Company (55/53 Bn 26.5.42 to 13.6.44)
WW2 Honours and Gallantry:	Military Medal [1945]

**CITATION:** “Cpl BURGESS is attached from A.A.O.C. in capacity as bootmaker. He proceeded forward to operational area with the Bn on 5 Dec. 42. Later owing to heavy battle casualties and evacuations due to malaria, it was necessary to call upon all available personnel for duty in forward trenches. On Dec. 28, when the leader of the section to which Cpl BURGESS was attached, had been evacuated, he took command. Shortly afterwards the enemy attacked the section area, killed the mortar O.P. near him, and forced several members on one flank to withdraw. Cpl BURGESS however, remained at his post and killed 3 Japanese for certain, and by his cool and controlled action, enabled the position to be held until reinforced. In addition at later stages, he fulfilled various other duties for which he had not been trained - for some days cooked for a company, producing excellent meals in the forward area and so helping to maintain morale. Throughout his 15 months association with the unit, his conduct has been without fault and an example to all ranks. He has been ever willing to forward the units welfare even at the expense of his own convenience.” Corporal Burgess Died 20 July 1983.

NOMINAL ROLL Service Record	
Name:	GOODWIN, LEONARD FRANCIS
Service:	Australian Army
Service Number:	NX27977
Date of Birth:	12 Dec 1918
Place of Birth:	LEETON, NSW
Date of Enlistment:	4 Jun 1940
Locality on Enlistment:	KINGSTON
Place of Enlistment:	PADDINGTON, NSW
Next of Kin:	GOODWIN, JOHN
Date of Discharge:	19 Dec 1945
Rank:	Lieutenant
Posting at Discharge:	2/4 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
WW2 Honours and Gallantry:	Military Cross ; (Commonwealth of Australia Gazette: 21 February 1946, p.408)
Prisoner of War:	No



**Military Cross**

**LEONARD FRANCIS GOODWIN NX27977**

The 55/53 Bn War Diary shows Lieutenant Goodwin MM was taken on strength on 18.11.1943 as a General Reinforcement. He remained with the battalion until 16.12.1944 on the eve of departure to Bougainville. He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and courage in New Guinea (Bougainville). I have not found the citation, however the notice held by the Australian War Memorial states that the MC was presented to Lieutenant Goodwin on 25 January 1949 at Admiralty House, Sydney.

**Oliver Ernest Hardy MM NX167978 (N375278)**

NOMINAL ROLL Service Record	
Name:	HARDY, OLIVER ERNEST
Service:	Australian Army
Service Number:	NX167978 (N375278)
Date of Birth:	20 May 1923
Place of Birth:	PILLIGA, NSW
Date of Enlistment:	4 May 1943
Locality on Enlistment:	BURREN JUNCTION
Place of Enlistment:	LIVERPOOL, NSW
Next of Kin:	HARDY, FLORENCE
Date of Discharge:	12 Dec 1947
Rank:	Sergeant
Posting at Discharge:	55/53 Battalion
WW2 Honours and Gallantry:	Military Medal
Prisoner of War:	No

**Oliver Ernest Hardy MM** Was a member of the 55/53 Battalion Association up until he died on 14 January 2012 at Rockhampton. After the war he lived at Coonamble, Scrimshaw and Winton (details from Queensland Country Life 10.2.2012).

His widow is Barbara who is living at Frenchville in Queensland. Oliver won the Military Medal for courage and disregard for own personal safety in New Guinea. He was presented his Military Medal on 15 March 1950 at Government House, Sydney. He was then living at Glenco,

### Cecil Duncan McKinnon MM NX82457

NOMINAL ROLL Service Record	
Name:	MCKINNON, CECIL DUNCAN
Service:	Australian Army
Service Number:	NX82457
Date of Birth:	10 Aug 1911
Place of Birth:	BALLINA, NSW
Date of Enlistment:	6 Jan 1942
Locality on Enlistment:	EDEN CK
Place of Enlistment:	PADDINGTON, NSW
Next of Kin:	MCKINNON, DUNCAN
Date of Discharge:	14 Jan 1946
Rank:	Sergeant
Posting at Discharge:	55/53 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
WW2 Honours and Gallantry:	Military Medal
Prisoner of War:	No



Cecil McKinnon and his brother Hugh enlisted in the 55/53 Battalion on 6 January 1942. Hugh was killed at Sanananda on the 19.12.1942, being the second battle the battalion was engaged in against the Japanese. Cecil's daughter Kay is a member of the Battalion Association Support Group. (Thank you to Kay for sending the photograph). Sergeant McKinnon was awarded the Military Cross for Courage and skill of high order Bougainville April/May 1945. He was presented with his medal by the Governor General at Admiralty House, Sydney on 21 January 1948. He was then living at Erskineville. Cecil died on 11 January 1990 aged 78 and was then living at Canley Heights, NSW.

### JOSEPH WILLIAM WILKINSON MC QX44159 (Q32791)

NOMINAL ROLL Service Record	
Name:	WILKINSON, JOSEPH WILLIAM
Service:	Australian Army
Service Number:	QX44159 (Q32791)
Date of Birth:	6 May 1916
Place of Birth:	MACKNADE, QLD
Date of Enlistment:	Unknown
Locality on Enlistment:	INGHAM, QLD
Place of Enlistment:	Unknown
Next of Kin:	WILKINSON, ELSIE
Date of Discharge:	13 Feb 1946
Rank:	Lieutenant
Posting at Discharge:	55/53 Battalion
WW2 Honours and Gallantry:	Military Cross
Prisoner of War:	No

Very little information could be located about Lieutenant Wilkinson. He was awarded the Military Cross for Gallantry and courage BOUGAINVILLE Jan-June 1945. The Governor of Queensland presented the Military Cross to him at Government House, Brisbane on 25.10.1949. He was living at Codelia via Ingham, Qld at the time. Lieutenant Wilkinson died at Herbert River (Ingham) Queensland on 19 August 2008.

## JOHN GREGORY MOORE MM NX127343

NOMINAL ROLL Service Record	
Name:	MOORE, JOHN GREGORY
Service:	Australian Army
Service Number:	NX127343 (N19560)
Date of Birth:	3 Aug 1916
Place of Birth:	WEST MAITLAND NSW
Date of Enlistment:	29 Jul 1942
Locality on Enlistment:	WEST MAITLAND NSW
Place of Enlistment:	PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Next of Kin:	MOORE, ARTHUR
Date of Discharge:	3 Jan 1946
Rank:	Sergeant
Posting at Discharge:	55/53 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
WW2 Honours and Gallantry:	Military Medal
Prisoner of War:	No

**Sergeant John Gregory Moore** was awarded the Military Medal for Cool and Deliberate outstanding conduct; STEPHENSONS RIDGE (Bougainville). The medal was presented to him at Government House Sydney by the Governor of NSW. on 26 February 1947.

John (Jack) Gregory Moore died on 3 August 2010, formerly of Blakehurst NSW.



Recommended for Immediate Award of Military Medal (MM)  
NX127343 Sgt John Gregory MOORE 55/53  
Aus Inf Bn (AIF)

Date of Birth: 3 Aug 1916 Date of Enl:  
29 Jul 42 CMF 27 Oct 41  
Next of Kin: (wife) June Catherine MOORE.  
27 Challis Ave Potts Point NSW

**CITATION:**

Ref map SORAKEN 1/2500  
On 24 April 45 Sgt MOORE was acting platoon Commander leading the advance through heavy swamps towards STEPHENSON'S RIDGE NORTH BOUGAINVILLE.

He observed that the track along which his company was advancing was guarded by enemy strip wires and booby traps. Realizing that there was a strong Jap position in close proximity of the platoon advance. Sgt. Moore went forward personally to reconnoitre the position and approaches. He was fired on by the enemy, receiving a perforated wound in the leg.

Despite his wound and intensity of the enemy fire he remained in the position with complete disregard for his own safety until he had accurately located and pinpointed the enemy dispositions and then made his way back to the platoon.

Although weak from loss of blood he continued to direct and drive home the attack; only when the position was captured did he allow himself to be evacuated. In the fire fight that followed, five enemy were killed and the remainder forced to withdraw from the position, allowing our advance to continue. Sgt. Moore's action undoubtedly prevented the enemy from reinforcing and allowed our troops to penetrate the enemy defences of PORA PORA.

**MICHAEL FRANCIS PAICE DCM NX73320**

NOMINAL ROLL Service Record	
Name:	PAICE, MICHAEL FRANCIS
Service:	Australian Army
Service Number:	NX73320
Date of Birth:	10 Jan 1919
Place of Birth:	TEMORA NSW
Date of Enlistment:	28 Nov 1941
Locality on Enlistment:	GRIFFITH, NSW
Place of Enlistment:	PADDINGTON, NSW
Next of Kin:	PAICE, DOROTHY (wife)
Date of Discharge:	24 Jan 1946
Rank:	Private
Posting at Discharge:	55/53 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
WW2 Honours and Gal- lantry:	Distinguished Conduct Medal
Prisoner of War:	No



*Photo courtesy of Aust. Archives*

According to the Daily Advertiser, Griffith, 14 Jun 1945, Page 1; *"Private Michael Francis Paice of Griffith, has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for showing courage and determination during a patrol action. He was third scout when his patrol came under heavy Japanese fire. The, leading scout was killed, and he went to the assistance of the patrol commander, also hit and brought him back despite heavy fire"*. His medal was presented to him on 27.3.1947 when he was living at Griffith NSW. Michael Paice died at Griffith in 1956.

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 Newspaper Cutting; Fred Denny . It is a transcript from a newspaper from the Camden District. It came from Cheryl Chiddy daughter of Merv.

**CAMDEN SOLDIER WON COMMISSION IN FIELD;** Serving in the same infantry platoon, three Camden district soldiers survived the fierce jungle fighting at Sanananda—then one of the Japanese New Guinea strongholds—during December.

R (Bruce) Ferguson of Camden, then a Lance-Sergeant, won his commission in the field and is now a Lieutenant. Private Arthur Wheeler (Camden) and Private Aubrey Butchers (Spring Creek) were well in the fight. Japanese snipers and others in well entrenched strong-posts were an early source of danger to the Australians. During the close-quarter fighting which followed, it was a matter of fate for each individual.

The battalion in which the three Camden lads fought was comprised mainly of members of the Citizen Forces when it arrived in New Guinea last year. The boys completed their first major engagement with flying colors. Reports now reaching Australia state that our own and enemy difficulties ... .. Private Butchers who contracted illness in the jungle, was invalided to Australia. Aub is most modest about the part he played in the battle. "We got a lot of snipers," was his ... admission, apart from praising the work of his comrades through the campaign. The well camouflaged Japanese snipers in trees were most difficult to detect.

On one occasion Corporal Merv Chiddy of Thirlmere, won praise for his keen eyesight and shooting when he knocked a troublesome sniper from a tree at a range of 350 yards. Another corporal from Thirlmere was wounded in the shoulder and... Every time he attempted to crawl towards the Australian lines, he encountered Japanese so he stayed in the jungle. On the third day a patrol from his own unit which included Private Butchers found the wounded man and brought him to safety. *(Ed. Bruce Ferguson later became the Mayor of Camden).*