

FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL



The Official Journal of

THE 1st NINETEENTH

1/19 RNSWR ASSOCIATION

THE 2nd NINETEENTH


2/19 BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION



The crest of the Royal New South Wales Regiment, featuring a shield with a crown on top, surrounded by a wreath of olive and oak branches. The shield is set against a background of a sunburst. A banner below the shield reads "ROYAL N.S.W. REGIMENT".

I/XIX

Primus agat Primas - Fortiter et Fideliter



An illustration of a soldier in a hat and uniform, holding a rifle, standing in a tropical setting with palm trees. A small crest is visible in the top right corner of the illustration, featuring a diamond shape with a green and red design.

Fortiter et Fideliter
(Boldly and Faithfully)

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FRONTLINE

A DEFENCE SERVICE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

1ST/19TH BATTALION

THE ROYAL NEW

SOUTH WALES

REGIMENT

ASSOCIATION &

2ND/19TH BATTALION

A.I.F. ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS OF THE

AUSTRALIAN

DEFENCE

FORCES

RESERVES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Sadly, this edition of *FRONTLINE* starts off with a surfeit of bad news.

Friday, January 17 brought news of the passing, after a long illness, of BRIG Paul Blood, AM. Paul served in 1/19 RNSWR for five years from 1987 to 1992 before going to command 2/17 RNSWR and subsequently 5th Brigade. Paul had been battling his illness with courage and dignity for a long time. Paul was farewelled on Wednesday, 22 January at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Church at West Pymble in a joint NSW Police and Australian Defence Force funeral with his Military Eulogy being delivered by the Colonel Commandant of The Royal New South Wales Regiment, MAJGEN The Honourable Justice Paul Brereton AM RFD. That Paul was highly thought of in both his Police and Military roles was evidenced by the extremely large number of both Police and Military personnel in attendance. Leading the Army representation was our own MAJGEN Kathryn Campbell AO, CSC, Commander 2nd Division. The Association was represented by myself, Bob Pink, Ray Warden, BRIG Paul Couch CSC, RFD, COL John Brennan, LTCOL Maree Derrick, LTCOL Graeme Davis, LTCOL Tony Ang, MAJ Brett Cooper, MAJ Lee Monzo, MAJ Martin Pall, WO1 Warren Barnes OAM, WO1 Roger Rumbel and his wife Marlene, SSGT Don Kennedy and his wife Cheryl, SGT Jim Hurt and SGT John Burns. The congregation consisted of many more General Officers, Commanding Officers and all Army ranks. MAJGEN Brereton traced Paul's Army career during his Military Eulogy. As many of you will know Paul commanded Support Company during his years with 1/19 RNSWR and, as General Campbell said to me she served as the Battalion's RSO during his term of command. A composite Policeman, an outstanding Army officer and a devoted family man, Paul will be sadly missed.

The bad news continued to roll in with advice on Saturday, January 18 that BRIG David Leece, the immediate past president of the Royal United Service Institute, had been diagnosed with a blood clot on his brain, which was successfully removed only to have another clot form entailing a second operation. David is recovering well in hospital as doctors work to find the right medication regime to deal with his problem.

As the aftermath of the catastrophic fires becomes clear we have learnt that Association member, Bill Fogarty lost his house along with his large collection of military memorabilia at Adaminaby in the Snowy Mountains fire. Our thoughts are with Bill and his family.

Monday, 20 January saw Bob and myself attending a Memorial Service at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, for the late Olwyn Green OAM, widow of LTCOL Charles H Green DSO. Olwyn died on 27 November at the age of 96. Olwyn was a teacher, author, war historian and was particularly concerned with Australian involvement in the Korean War where her husband was killed. Olwyn was very involved with 3 RAR, which her husband had commanded in Korea and, needless to say, 3 RAR was well represented at the Memorial Service. A lovely lady who will be missed.

A slight lift in the doom and gloom was provided by the Australia Day Honours List which saw BRIG David Leece appointed a Member of The Order of Australia. The immediate Past President of the Royal United Service Institute was recognised for his work for veterans and the environment. Also, Mr Barry Grant, President of the Commando Association was awarded an Order of Australia Medal, also for his service to veterans.

Friday, 31 January brought news of the passing of Mrs Zlata Roser, wife of Piper Gary Roser, 1/19 RNSWR, after a four-year battle with cancer. Gary and Zlata had been together for 50 years.

February 15 was the Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore in 1942 and, in line with the arrangements negotiated by the President Emeritus of the former 8th Australian Division Association, the Last Post Ceremony (LPC) at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra honoured a former member of the 8th Australian Division who fell in the Malayan/Singapore Campaign. This year the soldier honoured came from 2nd/18th Battalion AIF and a wreath was laid by his family in his memory. The Association was officially represented by Bob Pink, Ray Warden and myself and Ray laid a wreath representing all of the Fallen from 2nd/19th Battalion. Also in attendance were a large contingent from the Crowe family led by matriarch Joy Bourke, who laid a wreath in memory of her father, SGT Frank McGrath, Andrew Donaldson who laid a wreath in memory of members of

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Rose Force, Di & Paul Elliott, Greg & Julie Coombs and Bruce Brideoake. Due to a lack of communication there was a deal of confusion regarding the arrangements and this has raised some concerns at the AWM. Members must remember that this is an OFFICIAL function and ALL arrangements must be co-ordinated through the Association. We have no desire to inhibit participation, what we want to do is ensure it is orderly. Failure to do this will result in the privilege being withdrawn. The same day (February 15) brought the sad news of the passing, in his ninety-first year of Colonel John Sutherland Haynes AM, OAM. A Memorial service for John held at St James Church, King Street, Sydney on 25 February where Bob Pink and I represented the Association and there was a very large assembly of friends and former colleagues, mainly from the Armoured Corps. John had a long and distinguished military career spanning 36 years and then a civilian "career" spanning the same period. One of John's significant claims to fame was his advocacy over nearly twenty years which resulted in the construction, on ANZAC Parade in Canberra, of the Boer War Memorial. A fitting memento of a life devoted to others.

The men and women of 1/19 RNSWR were called out when the Army Reserve was mobilised for Operation Bushfire Assist and Charlie Company were busily employed when the fires threatened Canberra and the Australian Capital Territory. Other members were deployed into all of the affected areas and I express our thanks to each and every one that participated in this call out. MAJ Ben Biddington was going to let us have a report and photos of Charlie Company but I do not know whether that has arrived as we go to press.

At the National Servicemen's Annual Commemoration, at the small segment of Bardia Barracks, Ingleburn that remains, on 23 February, Bob Pink and Alan Drinkwater laid a wreath in memory of the men of the 8th Australian Division AIF.

As this edition of *FRONTLINE* goes to press the COVID-19 pandemic that is sweeping the world is wreaking havoc with people's lives with the disruption of travel plans and the stupidity of some people clearing supermarket shelves with panic buying. Australia is among the countries best placed to deal with this crisis and all that is needed is common sense and attention to the warnings that are being given. I am concerned, as the pandemic spreads, that public gatherings are being curtailed or cancelled and as this edition is being typeset news has been received that the ANZAC Day March in Sydney has been CANCELLED. Naturally, this means that the Reunion Cruise has also been cancelled. A decision not taken lightly by RSL NSW but one taken with the welfare of veterans and their families very much in the forefront.

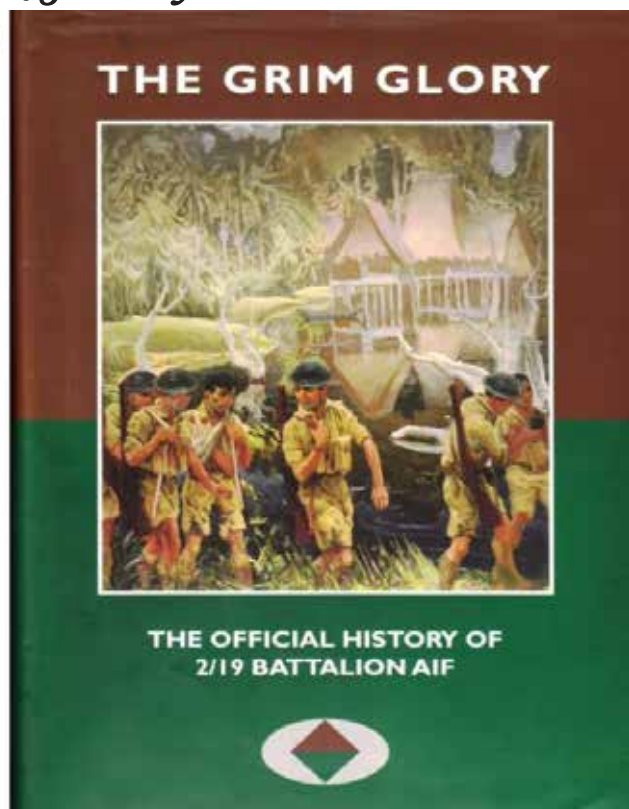
And a piece of positive news to conclude. Fred Power, 2nd/19th Battalion AIF celebrated his 104th birthday on 15 February. Well done Fred!

And a little bit of trivia sent to me by an overseas colleague

"Hope you had a great Palindrome Day - 02022020 - first in 909 years"

I urge all of you to take every precaution in these troubled times, look after yourselves and each other and may God hold you all in the palm of His hand.

Roger Perry



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Through the kind resources of
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1/19 RNSWR
Lieutenant Colonel
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VALE GOOD FRIENDS

EULOGY

by

Major General The Honourable Justice Paul BRERETON, AM, RFD
Colonel Commandant,
The Royal New South Wales Regiment
& The University of New South Wales Regiment



ON THE OCCASION OF
THE FUNERAL OF
Brigadier Paul Thomas BLOOD, AM
at
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Church
West Pymble NSW 2073
22nd January 2020

The river of the life of Paul Thomas Blood, which rose not far from here and, though it would stretch around the world, always had its centre of gravity nearby, was the confluence of three great streams: his family, and above all his beloved Tracey; the New South Wales Police; and the Australian Defence Force. All three were characterized by his devotion, his loyalty, his ethos of service – and his humour. Others have spoken movingly and eloquently of his family and his police service; I come to speak of the third stream of his life, his service in the Australian Defence Force.

As I have said, Paul had his origins close by. His family home was in Ryde Road, where he would reside almost all his life, until only a couple of years ago he and Tracey moved to their dream home, also nearby; tragically, they would have only a short time to enjoy it together.

Paul's primary education was next door, and his secondary education at St Aloysius College at Kirribilli, where he joined the St Aloysius College Cadet Unit and had his first exposure to military service. As has been the case with so many senior officers whose service originated in the Australian Cadet Corps, those foundational years taught him many life skills which equipped him for the future, but above all an ethic of service, a determination to strive for excellence, and the foundations of leadership. These were lessons which he would never forget; and his appreciation for them would be reflected in the support he afforded to cadet units when he had the opportunity to do so in years to come; in particular, the cadet units which were fostered by 2/17 RNSWR greatly appreciated his enthusiastic support, which no doubt reflected his own early experiences.

Those experiences led him to determine to pursue a second career as an Army Reserve Officer, and after leaving school, in 1985 he enlisted in the Officer Cadet Training Unit at 2nd Training Group, Ingleburn. Over the next 18 months he attended a training weekend each month and six-monthly camps, until he graduated in early 1986 and was commissioned an officer in the Royal Australian Infantry. As Second Lieutenant Blood, he was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry and posted to the then 17th Battalion, headquartered in Suakin Street, Pymble, commencing what would become a lifelong association with the Royal New South Wales Regiment, though perhaps not then foreseeing that he would one day command the successor of that battalion.

After eighteen months there, Lieutenant Blood, as he had by then become, was posted to the 1st/19th Battalion, where he served for the most of the next five years until 1992. During that period, he was promoted Captain. But as one who aspired for excellence, he sought greater challenges, and completed the gruelling selection requirements for 1st Commando Regiment, where he was first posted in 1992, and to which he would return on many occasions. Still, between postings to 1st Commando Regiment, in 1996 Major Blood, as he now was, returned to the 2nd/17th Battalion, as a company commander.

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Subunit command was followed by further postings in 1st Commando Regiment. In 2000, he deployed to Bougainville in the Peace Monitoring Group, for which he received the Australian Service Medal (with Bougainville clasp). There, as you have heard, he served with one Captain David Elliott who, as Minister for Police and Emergency Services, is with us today.

In 2000 and 2001, he returned to the 2nd/17th Battalion, as Battalion Second-in-Command. In 2002, he was in East Timor, as Timor Leste was then known, on secondment to the Australian Federal Police, for duty with the United Nations Police Contingent, East Timor.

Then, on 1 January 2003, on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he assumed command of the 2nd/17th Battalion of the Royal New South Wales Regiment. That he succeeded to command the unit in which his career had commenced was surprising only because, when many Army Reserve officers have to suffer postings to locations far removed from where they reside in order to gain a command, Paul - who lived in Ryde Road Pymble - somehow managed to secure repeated postings to the Pymble Depot, within small arms range of his home, successively as platoon commander, company commander, battalion second-in-command, and ultimately as Commanding Officer.

Of his command, his then Brigade Commander, later a General and now National President of the RSL, who apologises that he cannot be here, says he was the best Commanding Officer he had in the Brigade, and that but for his illness he would have made a fine commander of the 2nd Division.

On completion of his term in command, Paul returned to Special Operations Command, with responsibilities as the principal staff officer for development of reserve capability. And then he was a liaison officer to the United Kingdom Permanent Joint Headquarters, where he filled the role of a principal staff officer in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, for which he received the Australian Active Service Medal (with Iraq clasp). He was also the Special Operations Liaison Officer for a number of domestic response operations, and attended a course at the United States Joint Services Staff College.

In 2008, on promotion to Colonel, he became Director of Studies (Army Reserve) at the Australian Command and Staff College, where he was responsible for the military education of the next generation of unit commanders. Many of his students there would in turn become unit commanders.

His posting to the United Kingdom Permanent Joint Headquarters was an exceptional one for a Reserve officer, and is a mark of the regard in which he was held, and the confidence that was reposed in him, by the Army, as did his appointment in 2009, as Deputy Commander of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force on Exercise Talisman Sabre, Australia's premier joint exercise.

But the highlight of his military career would commence on 1st January 2011, when on promotion to Brigadier he assumed command of the 5th Brigade. It was a matter of pride to him that within that Brigade were then two battalions of the Royal New South Wales Regiment: the 1st/19th Battalion, in which he had once served, and the 4th/3rd Battalion.

The first great achievement of his command was the mounting of the 5th Timor Leste Task Group – the last rotation of that task group. While over the previous five years, the Reserve Brigades had become adept at force generating and mounting contingents for operations in the Solomon Islands, this was the first - and as it turned out only - occasion on which a Reserve Brigade HQ had entire responsibility for the much more complex task of forming, training and mounting the integrated task group that was deployed to Timor Leste. For this task he was uniquely equipped with his knowledge of East Timor from his police service there, and his by then well-established credibility across the regular as well as the reserve components of the Army. The mounting of the 5th Timor Leste Task Group represented the culmination of the Reserve's evolving role in force preparation over the very busy decade that had preceded it, and it was Brigadier Paul who presided over it.

Tragically, it was not long after this that he was diagnosed with the illness, through which he would courageously persist for the following eight years. But he did not allow it to keep him away from his command for long. With his interest and experience in domestic security, and in emergency response and management, he embraced the requirement for the reserve brigades to provide a credible domestic response force, and tuned the Brigade's processes, procedure and culture to do so. Under his command, the Brigade proactively responded to the Wagga floods in 2012.

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Then, towards the end of his tenure, in a precursor of current events, his Brigade led the ADF response to the New South Wales Bushfires in November 2013 although, unlike the current Reserve callout, on a voluntary, call-for basis. As members of the Brigade staff have commented, his command and leadership in those times have contributed in no small way to the success of the current Army Reserve-led Bushfire Assist operation, which he must have loved to know was happening. As a joint, multi-national large-scale operation with reservists at the core, it is something his creative mind would certainly have embraced. And as some of the current staff have observed, the DNA of his command is woven through the 5th Brigade's current response on Operation Bushfires Assist, both operationally and personally. Operationally, the current operation has launched significantly more smoothly and rapidly, and delivered greater early effects on the ground, because of the procedures and culture that he inculcated, and that still reside in the 5th Brigade of today. And personally, a number of key staff on the current operation worked, directly or indirectly, for Brigadier Paul, and as they have remembered and spoken about him in recent times, they have appreciated that they have been inspired by his leadership and personal example.

For his service as Commander 5th Brigade, Paul was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

After brigade command, he served at Forces Command as Reserve Training Advisor. Transferring to the Standby Reserve in 2017, he continued to serve, until the end, as an Assistant Inspector-General of the Defence Force, as member of a difficult and sensitive inquiry in which his discretion, his intelligence skills, and the combination of his policing background and knowledge of the special forces, proved invaluable.

And as a loyal member of the NSW citizen infantry, he continued his association with and support for the Royal New South Wales Regiment; most notably in June last year he was an active participant in the RNSWR Conference, when he also attended the Annual Regimental Dinner. His service to the Regiment is acknowledged by the presence here today of the representative of the Regiment's Honorary Colonel, the Governor of the State.

The range, variety and responsibility of the appointments he has held speak to a man who was widely respected across diverse components of the Australian Defence Force: by reserve and permanent components; by conventional and special forces. That is attested by the presence today of two Generals of the Army – Commander Forces Command, General Field; and Commander 2nd Division, General Campbell; and also by Deputy Commander Special Operations Command, Brigadier Short. He excelled in training, in operations, and in command.

About Brigadier Paul, there were no airs and graces. Nor was there any bravado or bombast, only quiet confidence and infective enthusiasm. He did not engage in self-promotion; he did not clamber over the backs of others to achieve success. Although when necessary he could have a hard edge, as a military commander sometimes must, he was not one to speak ill of others. He was more comfortable talking to the troops than he was speaking with generals; though he could walk with kings, he never lost the common touch. If he had any sense of his importance, it was undetectable. But he reveled in the company of and interaction with his staff, and he was delighted to be able to join them recently for a reunion.

As to his service in the last couple of years, I cannot improve on the words of a member of the team with whom he was working, who cannot be here, but who wrote:
I am very sorry that I will not be able to attend.

It was my great pleasure to have worked with BRIG Blood in the past, when he assisted me with evidence in an Inquiry. His depth of knowledge and experience across a range of subject matters, and his sense of humour and professionalism, will be sorely missed.

My heart goes out to Tracey – we never had the opportunity to meet, but my thoughts are with her and I know she will be well supported by the ADF and NSWPOL families.

Paul Blood's service to the Australian Defence Force and to the Army was continuous, and conspicuous. It was enabled by the co-operation of the New South Wales Police, and above all by the unstinting support and devotion of Tracey. To the annals of the Royal New South Wales Regiment, he has added lustre. He will be sadly and sorely missed – above all by Tracey and by his family, but also by we who had the privilege of serving with him. But he will be remembered, and his legacy is enduring, woven into the fabric of the Battalion and the Brigade that he commanded, and into the lives of the men and women whom he touched, influenced and inspired.

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VALE Colonel John Sutherland HAYNES AM OAM (Ret'd)

The Honorary Secretary of the New South Wales Lancers Memorial Museum Inc New South Wales Lancers Association, Lieutenant Colonel John HOWELLS, OAM, RFD, advised with great sadness "that I pass on news of the passing of our friend colleague and mentor Colonel John Sutherland Haynes AM OAM (Ret'd). John died peacefully at the Prince of Wales' Hospital after a short illness". John Haynes joined the Royal New South Wales Lancers in 1948 as a trooper, he was Commissioned in the Regiment in 1950.

Soon after he transferred to the Regular Army, serving in 13 different Royal Australian Armoured Corps units.

He did a tour of duty in Vietnam in the early 1970s.
The late 1970s saw him as Chief of Staff 2 Division.
His last posting was Inspector of Administration for the Army.

He retired from the Army in the mid 1980s and became the President of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association, New South Wales Branch (RAACA NSW), later serving as President of the National Association. In this role he instituted a number of successful initiatives for soldiers including the Army Combat Badge, the medal for National Service and the Australian Defence Medal. For these good works he was awarded the OAM.

At the opening of the Light Horse Interchange west of Sydney in December 2005, Colonel Haynes struck up a conversation with the then Prime Minister John Howard. They noted that the service of Australian Soldiers in the Boer War was not commemorated at a memorial in the nation's capital, Canberra.

The National Boer War Memorial project was born. Colonel Haynes gathered a group of volunteers initially under the banner of the RAACANSW and work started. Committees were formed throughout Australia, and funds raised. Those whose relatives had served in the war were encouraged to tell their stories and these were published on the Memorial Association's internet site, a place where all matter of material was to appear.

To garner support volunteers gave presentations to any group interested. A design competition was held. The designs submitted did not meet with approval, an amalgam of designs was agreed on. Then the costing came. For the result to be achieved a figure just short of \$4M was needed. Many thought this a bridge too far. Not John Haynes, he called on support from every quarter and eventually on 31 May 2017, His Excellency, General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia dedicated the memorial in Anzac Parade, Canberra.

For this effort, in the Australia Day honours 2019 Colonel Haynes was awarded an AM. Generous to a fault, he ensured that others on his committee were also honoured. Three received OAMs in the same honours list. And it was his insistence that as the AM and OAM were for different efforts, the OAM post nominal should in his case be retained regardless of protocol.

John is survived by his wife Gwen and every soldier who ever served in the Royal Australian Armoured Corps

TRIBUTE

by

Brigadier Phillip BRIDIE AM, ADC,

**ON THE OCCASION OF
THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR
Colonel John Sutherland HAYNES, AM
at
ST JAMES' CHURCH, SYDNEY
25TH FEBRUARY 2020**

- Firstly, Gwen on behalf of all veterans, the Defence Force & the RAAC we express our heartfelt sympathy on your loss and sincerely thank you for allowing your husband, John, to be such an integral part of the life of our Army & the Corps.

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- There are far too many luminaries here present to name but I will mention a couple as testament of Colonel John Haynes importance to the RAAC:
 - Dame Marie Bashir, Former Governor NSW
 - LTGEN Laurie O'Donnell, CGS 87-90
 - MAJGEN Roger Powell, HOC RAAC

In my search to do justice to John's military career I have communicated with numerous old soldiers bringing back a flood of memories, some of whom are here today. One of the challenges imposed on those trying to create a eulogy for some one of the ilk of John Haynes, who live to a much-fulfilled ripe old age, is that they outlive their contemporary compatriots. Thus, whilst we have copious information of his post service endeavours, there are but snippets of his service in uniform. In John's case this is exacerbated by being, in essence, a humble man. As one friend said: "*He didn't talk about himself – he was interested in you rather than himself*".

John Sutherland Haynes enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces or CMF on 15 July 1948 & retired from the Australian Regular Army on 30 October 1984, some 36 years later. His period of service encompassed immense change for the Army & his Corps; the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. He enlisted in an essentially WW2 Army, with the 2nd AIF officially disbanding the year prior, & a year before the creation of 1st Armd Regt, ARA in 1949. He joined the Corps when the Matilda was our main Battle Tank & the .303 was our service rifle.

As testament to the changing times, he had three different service numbers - 2138979, NX700433 & 237682.

John enlisted as a TPR in 1st RNSWL, which in fact was called the 1st Armd Regt before that name was handed over for the formation of the new ARA, 1 Armd Regt in 1949. He experienced a meteoric rise through the ranks being promoted to CPL in Oct 50 & then, after just five months, to SGT in Mar 51 before being commissioned as a Special Entry LT, aged 25, in Dec 51. He was promoted CAPT in 58, MAJ in 64, LTCOL in 69 & full COL in 77.

During his time, his service record shows he served in 20 organisations & from an Armoured Corps perspective served in numerous units including RNSWL, 6 NSWMR (NSW Mounted Rifles), 1 Armd Bde, 1 Armd Regt ARA (twice), 3/9 SAMR, 1 Fwd Del Tp, 4/19 PWLH, School of Armour & DARMD.

Ron Baikie remembers that during an RAAC function at the Lakeside in Canberra, where the Band ceremoniously played all the Unit marches & you stood up when yours was played – the story goes that John just stayed standing throughout.

Other significant postings included graduating from Staff College in 66, being CoS of both 3 & 2 Div, & serving in the Office of the CGS.

John was COL Inspector of Admin – Army before retiring aged 55 in 1984 to embark on further service to our veteran community for *another* 36 years.

His overseas service includes a visit to Vietnam in Aug 70 & over a year as Asst DA in Singapore 73 & 74.

- For his service he was awarded the following medals:
 - Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp Vietnam
 - Vietnam Logistic & Support Medal
 - Defence Force Service Medal with First Clasp
 - National Medal with First Clasp
 - Australian Defence Medal
 - Returned from Active Service Badge

& for subsequent service to the Veteran community he was awarded:

In 2005, the Medal of the Order of Australia "*For service to the welfare of veterans and serving members of the Australian Defence Force through a range of service and ex-Service organisations*"

In 2019, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia "*For significant service to veterans, particularly through the National Boer War Memorial Association.*"

Of course, this Statement of Service only provides a skeleton of dates & places on which to hang the essence of the man. Luckily John made a contribution to a book on the history of the School of Armour which MAJ Peter Branagan provided so, in John's own words:

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Personal Glimpses of the School an extract from **The AFV School, 70 Years of Training Australian Armour**

By TPR (later CAPT) John Haynes 1949 to 61

My first impression of the School was on arrival as a CMF (1st Armoured Regt AIF which became 1st RNSWL), for the Tank Gunner Course (Matilda). I was greeted warmly by a very dapper CAPT Syd Barber of WW2 fame & ex Jap POW. Syd & his wife Peg became great mates of mine (& Gwen) in later years.

I was put on the very first Crew Comd Course as a CAPT to test the water & report back to the CI about its suitability. It was a bloody tough course for me & I think for the CPLs. As far as I know it was then introduced as a regular item on the School courses agenda. As a result of my successful completion of the course I was awarded Crew Comd's Certificate Number 1. This was a great honour & has been a talking point throughout the following near 50 years of my involvement in things RAAC & RAACA.

On that course one of the WO instructors was WO2 John Cosgrove, the father of Peter our former CDF. John nearly lost a hand on my course when beside me in a Matilda the recoil broke away & kept going "south".

We were a bit short of training aids in those days (early '60's) so for inf/tank co-op training & Arty FO stuff we use a pump action .22 firing tracer onto a model battle scene as an excellent substitute.

I was the first OC of the 1st Forward Delivery Troop (Special) 1960-61. It was under the command of the School (I think Charlie Duke was the CI). Its Tp SSM was then famous & later much decorated WO2 Percy White. The Tp usually carried about 100 troopers including RAAOC & RAEME staff. We drew tanks from Army stock, loaded the kit (CES – Complete Equipment Schedule), zeroed the guns, ensured the tanks were three ways fit & from our holding of trained troopers we responded to 1st Armd Regt's request for any combination of tanks &/or crewmen. It was the classic armoured replacement system.

John later told friends of the time that the same Percy White was a youngster in John's crew & captured a lizard on the Pucka Range which he proceeded to exhibit as entertainment for anyone interested in watching until it eventually reared up & bit him - which everyone found much funnier. Percy White DCM was later RSM at 1 Armd Regt in the early 70's.

A couple of stories relate to John being proud of his time at DARMD where he was responsible for posting of personnel which would lead to their being deployed to Vietnam. Gerry McCormack said he first met John in 1967 when he was SO2 DARMD & John broke the news to the young LT's at the YO's course at Armd Centre about who would go to Cav & therefore most likely to deploy to Vietnam. And who would go to the Armd Regt, & of those, one who, *as a reward for doing so well on the course*, would remain at the Centre to do the Regimental Gunnery Officer's Course – Gerry! John said it was a reward, by Gerry could not believe his bad luck as no one thought that within 8 months C Sqn 1 Armd Regt would be kitted & spurred to go to Vietnam!!

John also recalled to friends, WO2 John (Chesty) Bond pestering him for a second tour with the Aust Army Trg Team Vietnam (AATTV) as Chesty was trying to save enough money to start a business with his brother. Of course, Chesty was unfortunately killed in action during that tour on ANZAC Day 1969. You wonder how those decisions played on John over the years.

John Howell's recalls as an OC in the Lancers being "roasted" by COL Haynes who was the then CoS 2 Div for not responding to an "attitudinal survey"; obviously poor attitude! Of course, John Howells worked closely with John Haynes for many years after that event but during his time with the RAACA, John again got a roasting when he incorrectly used the Aust Coat of Arms – John Haynes being a stickler for protocol!

I do like the anecdote of John being an eternal optimist – you had to be, to be as persistent as he was in pursuing what he thought was right, such as the Army Combat Badge, for which *he* himself wasn't entitled, or fighting for the welfare of fellow veterans through rivers of bureaucracy. As Geoff Pearce said: "*who, when they are in their 90's, buys a brand-new Mercedes Benz, not second hand but a brand new one*".

John Haynes served his time in the Army & the Corps with deep commitment to doing the right thing. As one, of many, said "*the great man's selflessness & humbleness shall always be remembered*." This echoes the sentiments of all that I spoke to & the attendance of you all here today stands testimony to the regard in which he is held.

COL John Haynes, AM was in every definition of the word a stalwart of the veteran community & the RAAC; for 36 years in uniform and then 36 years thereafter.

To cite Shakespeare "*He was a man, take him for all in all, We shall not look upon his like again.*"

We thank him for his noble service.

Lest We Forget

FRONTLINE



VALE MRS Zlata ROSER

18 JUNE 1947 – 31 JANUARY 2020

Gary Roser advised "It is with deep sorrow that I tell you of the passing of Zlata, my beloved wife and partner of 50 years, last night, Friday 31st January at 7pm. Zlata was only 72 years of age.

Zlata was in Westmead Hospital for ten days after suffering a brain seizure brought on by her pancreatic cancer.

Zlata is now in the arms of The Lord after a four year battle with cancer"

Zlata is survived by her loving husband Gary and family, Gary, Aleks, Jacqui, Nici, Bevan, Mara & William and was farewelled on Friday 7th February at the West Chapel, Rookwood Crematorium.

A wake was held following the service at the Chester Hill Bowling Club.

VALE MRS Jean Elizabeth TEERMAN

Late of Leeton NSW, Jean's Daughter in law Cheryl phoned 28 February advising of Jean's passing on 4th January 2020 in her 91st year.

Beloved wife of the late Roy Teerman. Dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of Neil (dec'd), Royce & Cheryl, Paul & Christine, Wayne & Sue and Glyness & Anthony. Cherished and adored nan to Kim, Dale, Scott, Grace (dec'd), Harley, Natalie, Matthew, Jared, Bradley, Kellie, Mikara, Eli; and great nan of her 17 great grandchildren.

Jean's brother served in 2/19th Australian Infantry Battalion during World War II.

Jean was farewelled on 11th January 2020 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Leeton and interred in the Leeton Lawn Cemetery.

VALE MRS Lurlene Adele STAFFORD

Following the 'Return to Sender' of the Association's February 2020 FRONTLINE Newsletter endorsed 'Deceased' subsequent enquiries revealed 'Del' was born on 27 September 1939 and had passed away on 9 July 2015 aged 75 years.

Late of Queanbeyan NSW adored wife of NX60214 Kenneth 'Len' STAFFORD 2/19 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF (deceased 25 OCT 1991).

Much loved mother and mother-in-law of Karen and Damian COBURN. Cherished grandmother of Gabriel Adele. Loved sister of Aileen, Kay (dec). and their families. Friend to many.

Del was farewelled at St Raphael's Catholic Church Queanbeyan on 15 July 2015.

FRONTLINE



Mrs Edna Olwyn GREEN, OAM

Late of Drummoyne NSW & Ivanhoe VIC, Olwyn was born on 21 September 1923 and sadly passed away on 27 November 2019 at the Austin Hospital Heidelberg VIC.

Widow of the late Lieutenant Colonel Charles Hercules Green DSO, Commanding Officer 2/11 Australian Infantry Battalion AIF (WW2) and Commanding Officer 3rd Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment (Korea) Killed in Action Korea 1 November 1950




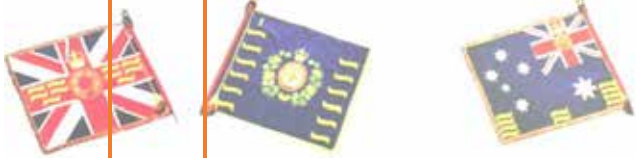
Teacher, author, war historian and lover of good food, wine and deep conversations. Loved mother to Anthea, grandmother to Alexander and Philip and great grandmother to Buckley, Finn, Elsbeth and Flora.

A Memorial Service for Olwyn was held on 20th January 2020 in the NSW Art Gallery Sydney.

Lest We Forget



COMING EVENTS 2020

SAT	25 APR 2020 1045h	CANCELLED - due to Corona Virus	ANZAC DAY SYDNEY <small>FOR UPDATES VISIT: www.rnsr.com.au REGION VENU: SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE</small>	Corona Virus	<small>Jacket & Tie Decorations & Medals</small> SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE
SAT	21 APR 2020 1000	CANCELLED - due to Corona Virus	ANZAC DAY CANBERRA	Corona Virus	<small>FUP 1030h & Step off 1050h Ainslie Football Club for Lunch After March Post: RFD, Dids, SYDN M: 0410 811 2919</small>
SAT	27 JUN 2020 1800		ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT OFFRS/WOS/SNGOS DINNER	Corona Virus	<small>Mess Dress / Coat & Tie Miniature medals</small>
SUN	28 JUN 2020 1030		ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE	Corona Virus	<small>Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals</small>
SUN	26 JUL 2020 0930		POZIERES DAY TO BE CONFIRMED	Corona Virus	<small>Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals</small>
SAT	15 AUG 2019 1045h		VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY	Corona Virus	<small>Refreshments after Service at the City of Sydney RSL Club 565 George Street SYDNEY NSW Coat & Tie Decorations & Medals</small>
WED	02 SEP 2020 1030h		77th ANNIVERSARY BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY	Corona Virus	<small>Coat & Tie - Decorations & Medals</small>
22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION DINNER WEEKEND – ORANGE NSW					
FRI	16 OCT 2020	 ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB 231-243 Anson Street ORANGE NSW 2800	The Association has reserved 30 rooms at the MERCURE HOTEL which adjoins the Ex Services Club Bookings Tele: 02 6362 5611 Email: hb038@accor.com PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT (CUT OFF DATE IS 01 OCTOBER 2020) The Format of the Weekend will include the MEET & GREET on Fri evening Saturday 17 OCT 20 Morning WREATH LAYING at Romani Barracks Afternoon PRESENTATION: "One Man's War & Other Gallipoli Art" by LTCOL Peter McGUINNESS MBE OAM RFD ED Afternoon ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Evening FORMAL DINNER		
SAT	17 OCT 2020				
WED	11 NOV 2020 1045h		REMEMBRANCE DAY	Corona Virus	<small>Decorations & Medals Refreshments after Service at the Combined Services RSL 5-7 Barrack St SYDNEY</small>

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PATRON
CHAPLAIN & LIFE MEMBER
CHANCELLOR

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DONATIONS



It is a pleasure to once again acknowledge the generosity of the following members which is gratefully received. Our Thanks folks !

SGT	Rick	AVERY
LTCOL	Gary	BELTRAME
MR	Warwick	BIRCH
MAJ	Robert	BUTT
MAJ	Harry	COLE
LT	Tom	COOPER
MR	Tony	FANNING
MAJ	Ken	FITZGERALD
CPL	Tom	FLETCHER
CPL	Edward	GIFFORD
PTE	Geoffrey	GREEN
LTCOL	Vin	HALLINAN
MR	Mick	HEYDON
MRS	Lynette	HISCOX
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LT	Peter	HUGHES
MRS	Beryl	IRWIN
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WO2	Roger	PERRY
WO2	Ron	RICHMOND
LTCOL	Geoffrey	STEVENTON
SGT	Bob	WADE
CAPT	Dennis	ZALUNARDO



NEW MEMBER

A very warm and sincere welcome is extended to the following new member who has joined since the last newsletter

MR Peter RYAN



CONGRATULATIONS



Sussex Inletter Weekly

Issue 739 1985-2024 YOUR GOLD COIN DONATION FOR COPY IS APPRECIATED Wednesday 19th February 2025

Fred Power turns 104!



On Saturday Fred Power arrived at the dining room with only the aid of his walker to celebrate with family and friends. Not bad for somebody turning 104! Born in Gunning in 1916, he lived and worked there until joining the armed forces in 1940, serving in Malaya and New Guinea. After the war he started a business, married Moira and lived at Miranda until moving to Sussex Inlet. They have two sons Gary and Ian, daughter-in-law Dee and grandchildren, Kristy and Cameron. It was a happy time on Saturday with lots of food and of course the birthday cake. When asked what his answer to his longevity was has said, 'Not dying'



With memories playing on the screen behind Fred blew out his candles, cut his cake and sneaked a raspberry off the cake. Seen here with sons, Gary and Ian and daughter-in-law Dee. We hope you enjoyed your day Fred.

FRONTLINE

CONGRATULATIONS



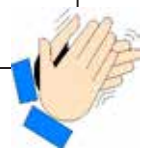
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SAFE ARRIVAL OF **Charlie William DAVIS FLACK**,

born on 14 January 2020 (same date as his Grandmother Marj Flack's) to his proud parents Mardi & Steven.
Pictured with his proud Grandmother Mrs Marj FLACK and Charlie's siblings L to R: Lola, Brock, & Tayla

Our thanks to his Aunt Lizzie for the photos !



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLAN McINTOSH !



Laura & Very Proud Dad



Ross & Sofia at Christening



Henry



Alan, Laura & Henry



Sofia Noella



Jessica, Sofia, William & Bronson

FRONTLINE

CAN YOU ASSIST ?



A former 1/19 RNSWR member has made enquiries if anyone could help him find a replacement plaque – see photo - which he purchased whilst serving in 1979. It is now looking a bit worse for wear.

**If you can assist please contact
Bob Pink M: 0414 907 427
with details and price**

*Get Well
Soon*



SICK REPORT



ROY SCHMIDTKE
Recuperating in Bankstown Hospital after a bad fall in early February and Roy sends his Best Wishes to ALL !

**The following members have been
on the Sick List and our Best
Wishes for their speedy recovery
and return to full health**

**CHAPLAIN LIEUTENANT COLONEL
THE REVEREND CANON
Colin AIKEN, OAM, RFD, ChStJ**

STAFF SERGEANT Roy SCHMIDTKE

CAPTAIN Dennis ZALUNARDO, OAM

FRONTLINE

OPERATION 'BUSHFIRE ASSIST 2020'

Our President Roger made reference in his December 2019 report to the call up of Reserve personnel as part of Operation Bushfire Assist 2020.

The two welfare Philanthropics (Everyman's Welfare Service and the Salvation Army's Red Shield Defence Services) were also called up for deployment by J08 at JOC in support of the ADF deployment.

Philanthropic Representatives were attached to Joint Task Force JTF 646 (Victoria) JTF1111 (SA & Tas) and JTF1110 (NSW).



I was deployed to JTF1110 and operated from HMAS Albatross. I serviced the personnel operating south to Mogo and west to the area along the Hume Highway from Balmoral Village south to Wingello.

The 7 RAR team at Wingello was replaced mid January by a team drawn from 1/19 RNSWR and I was able to catch up with them with the Everyman's Brew Truck a number of times thanks to the cooperation of WO2 Dave Flude (Bathurst) while the rest of the team were from the Canberra depot.

They were a keen team who did a great job clearing fallen and burnt timber off access roads and adjoining properties. They deserve new chain saws !

Their work delivered immediate benefits; within days of clearing Camden St on the eastern edge of Wingello, that street was being used by the RFS to defend against an outbreak from the Morton National Park.



The locals whom I met at each location were most impressed with the ADF effort.

The teams, particularly in the early days, were often working with limited resources and support but that did not stop them bringing credit on their units.

It was a privilege to be able to support both reserves and regular personnel, as well as RAN, RAAF and also the RNZAF personnel who were providing support from HMAS Albatross.

**Assistant Commissioner George Thomas
- Everyman's Welfare Service.**



Peter WATT & Brad COLLIS

Hi Bob

I apologise for getting back to you so late. I have attached a photo for you to consider adding to the next magazine and a bit of a story below.

1/19 Association Members Brad Collis and Peter Watt have been on a recent deployment together with the Clarence Valley District NSW Rural Fire Service Strike Team to Tamworth, working between Nundle and Nowendoc. Peter is from the Gulmarrad Brigade and Brad is from the Clarence Aviation Brigade. We completed a five (5) day rotation in mid January. We have both been active fighting fires in our own districts over the summer fire season.

Also, for your Seen Around The Traps article, I ran into Major Bill Shepherd in the Armidale Bowling Club on our way to Tamworth.

Regards

Brad

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDAL

MEDIA RELEASE 26 JANUARY 2020

PRIME MINISTER, ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Australia's brave fire, police, ambulance and emergency services volunteers and workers, along with Defence Force personnel and reservists and overseas personnel, will be eligible to receive a medal in recognition of their service and sacrifice during the current bushfire season.

The National Emergency Medal will be awarded to eligible emergency responders who have given sustained or significant service during the 2019-20 bushfires. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said while his priority was to help people and communities rebuild and recover from the bushfire disaster, it was also important that recognition was given.

"Today as we reflect on what makes our country the best place in the world, we also honour those Australians who have battled this devastating fire season, many of whom will be on fire grounds today protecting our communities from danger," the Prime Minister said.

"The response to the bushfire situation has been unprecedented with thousands of volunteer and paid responders working around the clock, day and night, week after week to protect property and save lives. "Their courage has been extraordinary, and it's a spirit which we must honour and celebrate this Australia Day and one which we will now formally recognise through the National Emergency Medal. "We will continue to do whatever it takes to support fire affected communities right across Australia to help them rebuild, recover and become even stronger."

Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ben Morton said while the detailed criteria for the National Emergency Medal will be determined in the coming months after consultation once the current crisis has passed, it is important that we acknowledge the extraordinary efforts and the sacrifice of our emergency services volunteers and personnel. "It is fitting we honour our emergency service personnel and volunteers for their selflessness, bravery, courage and sacrifice - Australia thanks you for your service," Mr Morton said.

The Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), agreed to a recommendation from the Morrison Government that the 2019-20 bushfires be declared a nationally significant emergency for the purposes of the Medal. The National Emergency Medal recognises service in response to a nationally-significant emergency. Events must be declared by the Governor-General under the National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011, including specific criteria for the award.

At the conclusion of the ongoing response to the bushfires, the National Emergency Medal Committee will provide further advice, as required under the Regulations, to enable the formal declaration of the Medal for the 2019-20 bushfires including the specific criteria for eligibility. The National Emergency Medal was established in 2011. More than 15,000 medals have been awarded to responders and volunteers to the 2009 Victoria bushfires that included Black Saturday and the Queensland floods that occurred over December to January 2010-2011, including Cyclone Yasi.

LAST POST CEREMONY - FALL OF SINGAPORE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA SAT 15 FEBRUARY



FRONTLINE

LAST POST CEREMONY - FALL OF SINGAPORE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA SAT 15 FEBRUARY 2020



LAST POST CEREMONY - FALL OF SINGAPORE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA SAT 15 FEBRUARY 2020



FRONTLINE

NATIONAL SERVICEMENS COMMEMORATION BARDIA BARRACKS INGLEBURN SUN 23 FEB 2020



FRONTLINE

NATIONAL SERVICEMENS COMMEMORATION BARDIA BARRACKS INGLEBURN SUN 23 FEB 2020



FRONTLINE

THE CHANCE TO HEAL

By Rod Hilliker,



Rod (centre) pictured with 2 Green Beret mates

Timorese veterans. It provides holistic health education, group engagement, peer support, pastoral care and historical commendation geared around immersion into Timor- Leste culture. An integral part of the programme was that our group sessions were conducted daily to learn about each other; its objective – to heal the emotional moral and spiritual wounds of veterans.

Day 1:

I met the team in Darwin.

Day 2:

Arriving at East Timor's capital city, Dili, I was accompanied by a group of veterans I'd met the previous night. Our military experiences varied. Several of us were ex-special forces, others from formations within the ADF having served in recent times. I had the pleasure of meeting Ian Hampel, a 95-year- old veteran who served with 2/4 Commando in Timor in 1942. Ian's gratitude was ongoing and said on several occasions that during operations against the Japanese, members of 2/4 Commando would not have survived had it not been for the help of the Timorese, including the criados – young males who would invariably assist Australian soldiers.

Nobody was prepared for the enthusiastic welcome we received from the Timorese, many of whom were former guerrilla fighters and veterans of the 24-year resistance war following the Indonesian invasion of 1975. It has been estimated that throughout this secret campaign, more than 200,000 East Timorese perished at the hands of their invaders and the brutal treatment they endured during that struggle. At Dili, we meet our security detachment from army and police who were to be our constant companions and welcome shadows.

The first to greet the group on TA7 was Xanana Gusmao, a former militant, and first President of Timor Leste. After being ushered into the VIP lounge for the official greetings, I soon discovered that Timorese speeches were seldom short. However, Xanana gave an impassioned speech for peace, leaving not a dry eye in the room. I soon learned that this was to be a feature of the overall Timor experience.

Day 3:

I attended official engagements; the first at the Presidential Palace of Timor Leste President Francisco Guterres, popularly known as Lu- Ola, who welcomed us individually and of course the obligatory speeches.

We shared lunch together later in the day at a training centre that educated orphan children. I sat beside a former guerrilla fighter, with the code name *Green Leaves*. We had language barriers which were overcome as old soldiers do: they overcome and adapt. So, we showed each other photos of our respective families and this barrier melted.

After lunch it was speech-time again and the presentation of wooden crucifixes. Scanning the room, I noted all our hosts appeared to have been given one, I noticed a young lady, meekly standing to one side. Making my way through the crowd, I approached this young woman and presented her with a crucifix. Instantly I was rewarded with a most beautiful smile that lit up the room. It was as though she had won the lottery.

Soon it was time for us to leave. Just prior to boarding our awaiting land rovers, the young woman, whom I now know to be Leila Auxiliadora da Silva, ran to me saying she had something she wanted to give me and presented me with a small tapestry which she had done. For once in my life, I was speechless at her generosity reaching out to a stranger. This encounter has left a lasting impression and a glimpse into the beauty of a young girl's heart. I may not be able to recall all the names of the places we visited, and which are still floating in my mind; but I will never forget that girl's gesture.

Later in the afternoon we were joined at the hotel by a group of university students who assisted us in preparing books and pens which were to be distributed as aid whilst on tour.

These remarkable kids had such unique personalities, are optimistic about the future and full of hope. I learned that the female-to-male ratio is 2 to 1 and that 60 percent of the population is less than 30- years old. This is the legacy of their tragic past.

We visited the World War II site where decades ago members of the Australian 2/2 Commando unit landed, informing the Portuguese garrison that they were there to stay, uncertain as to how they would be received, as strictly speaking Portugal was neutral. Fortunately, the Portuguese administration saw it their way.

In the evening we were hosted by the Australian Ambassador and his wife at their residence on the Dili waterfront and the Australian military community who made us feel very welcome with some of us renewing acquaintances with old mates.

This article originally appeared in the February edition of [St Pat's Matters](#).

Rod Hilliker shares his experience of the Timor Awakening Programme, a journey to heal emotional, moral and spiritual wounds of veterans.

TIMOR AWAKENING 7th PROGRAMME

In September 2018, I was selected to be part of the Timor Awakening programme or "TAT", as it became known, being the 7th programme of its type. This is open to veterans with or

without operational service. The programme consists of group sessions conducted daily and managed by Veterans Care for Australian and

FRONTLINE

Day 4:

We visited the Santa Cruz cemetery, the site of the Dili massacre in 1991. 250 East Timorese were killed, mostly high school children during a funeral procession. We were fortunate to have with us Max Stahl, the journalist who was filming for Yorkshire TV during that horrible event. He walked us through the event, step-by-step, even showing us where he buried his film for later retrieval. This film which highlighted the plight of the East Timorese people was instrumental in instigating the initiative to liberate Timor Leste.

We later went to the resistance museum and on to the infamous political prison. My new found- friend *Green Leaves* was our guide with a bright sense of humour. He had been an inmate at this prison and determined to share his experience with us. He spent two years in a shared cell about 2 x 3 metres with 13 other inmates. Their only respite was being taken out for interrogation. He described how he was in a group of 67 political prisoners who were sent to Jakarta; only 14 returned.

I stood for a few moments in that cell with him and I could see he was momentarily taken back to that time, and just as quickly offered me a hearty handshake as I squeezed his shoulder in acknowledgment. What I found astonishing was his capacity to forgive, impressing on us through our Australian Timorese interpreter, Jamie, that it was the only way to move forward.

Day 5:

Departing Dili, we made our way into the mountains, being introduced to the delights of the Timorese roads which have the capacity to traumatise even the most stout-hearted, suggesting the urgency to visit a sympathetic chiropractor at the earliest opportunity.

Our first stop was a remote two-room primary school complete with eager, cheeky kids. Here we handed out the first of the school books and pencils. We continued through areas in which Australian commandos had operated during World War II and gained a better appreciation for the terrain and its challenges which had the effect of tying down 20,000 imperial Japanese troops, a manoeuvre which eventually impacted on the war's outcome. We stopped at two ambush sites including the Dare site where a successful ambush was executed.

We continued on the road from Dili to Remexio, an administrative post in the Aileu District of East Timor. During World War II, this was another ambush site, which took out the Japanese commander known as the *Singapore Tiger* who was said to have been riding on a white horse at the time and on his first venture out of Dili. This was of interest to Mick Batchelor, as his father had been in that action. The significance of our visit did not escape him – visibly this man of the land was emotionally moved.

Later we visited a former stronghold where the coup of 2006 to 2008 was launched. It was led by Major Alfredo Reinado, the commander of the military police. This fort is situated on a plateau and dominates the village going back to the time when East Timor was a Portuguese colony. We had an opportunity to observe daily life in that rural area, with its open markets and village life. I saw Timorese pony trains being prepared for delivery of supplies deeper into more remote areas where the chewing of betel nut seemed mandatory.

Day 6:

We drove to Betano, the site of the remains of the Voyager wreck where 2/4 Commando was landed. It ran aground and had to be scuttled. The population of the district seemed to have turned out to pay their respects including a host of dignitaries. After the ceremony we had a chance to view the remains of the Voyager. Through the years the sea and the locals have laid claim, leaving only its engine.

We visited Raiak Leman Veterans University where more aid was delivered, and no effort spared to welcome us. It was not the type of university as we know it in Australia. But it was somewhere between a high school and a TAFE college providing students with hope for the future through basic educational opportunities. A local head man gifted another five acres of land to the veterans' care organisation for the purpose of extending the campus.

Day 7:

After passing a comfortable night at our Hotel (Uma Liurial), and following our morning session, we made our way through the Timorese countryside passing even more remote rural villages, being greeted along the way by all we passed and onto the location known as JAVA2, which in the time of the occupation evoked only fear for the Timorese as being sent to Java meant you would not be seen again.

Its true meaning only being realised when I stood overlooking its sheer cliff and pondered the unlikely chance of surviving a fall. We were told this was one of the preferred methods of disposing of dissidents. It is not known how many victims met their fate off this cliff. Today it's an eerie and peaceful place, the view is nothing more than spectacular. But I never saw any birdlife. I don't recall exactly if it was on this day or not, but we had been given a small black rock to carry. It was symbolic of what was troubling us in our lives with the intention of leaving it in this country some time before we left.

Ian requested we make a detour to Ainaro, the village where two priests were murdered and mutilated by the Japanese whilst celebrating Mass. We were mesmerised as Ian recounted his experience as his patrol passed through the village after the event. He described in detail his memories in front of that same altar – pointing to the door he had come through describing the vivid horror, as if it was only yesterday.

In the same village and perhaps 200 meters away stored in a large hall are remains of 2,500 Timorese victims. Each box draped in their nation's flag and where possible, their details displayed as a short narrative and the occasional photograph. We learnt that in each district there are similar sites and that regularly remains are uncovered and stored to give them some dignity.

We returned to Dili via a direct and more modern road absent in the main of potholes, but conscious of the road slides sometimes having to avoid boulders the size of small motor vehicles. It took around 30 minutes to reach Laugata beach site. Major Mike Stone described military actions experience in more recent times. On arrival our group was divided into two, going to separate accommodations for the night. The black volcanic sand and sunset being a welcome change to the dusty roads. Winding down in this environment was no problem.

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Days 8 and 9:

After breakfast, our group went to rendezvous with the other group at Likisa, located a little further along the coast for our morning session. From there we made our way along the coast road. I couldn't help thinking when the roads are complete, what a delight it will be to revisit, as the sea in contrast to the landscape must be seen to be appreciated. Stopping at a remote fishing village the people were eager to meet the Aussie vets.

Cutting inland we made our way to Balibo and the traditional Timorese welcome at Fort Balibo. There was time to visit the small museum known as Australia House dedicated to the memories of Australian journalists murdered during the early part of the 1975 invasion. It was the right place to leave Australian-style comments in the Visitors' Book.

I was directed to the site known as the Chinese House stopping briefly at a local store where witnesses stated five Australian journalists were to be executed. I walked through the now derelict building taking a few pictures for my records and said a prayer for their souls. My mood was transformed once I left this building which had been the memory of such horror and reminded of the Timorese gift of optimism which has a remarkably cleansing effect.

Some local children had been waiting outside to greet me in local dialect and broken English. Eager to meet an Aussie, they were not remotely interested as to why I was in this old house. I suspected however, they were motivated by curiosity as to the contents of my shopping bag which I gladly shared with them.

After dinner former fighters shared their experiences with us. Speaking to one of the Timorese veterans I asked her how did she manage to survive 24 years in the mountains? She said they had faith that the Australians would someday return to help them: 'all we had to do was hold out'. Placing her hand gently above my heart, she said that "the Australian Government turned away from us, but we always knew the Australian people supported them". I was grateful to be wearing dark sunglasses as I stared at her in admiration.

During our stay, some of us took the opportunity to attend Mass at Balibo. Chaplain Gary Stone, a man of great character assisting. Afterwards we left some aid at the local school returning briefly to the fort, and then onto Maliana Markets in the township stopping on the way at Nanura River to gain a better appreciation of border operations of 1999 to 2004 and the Calico Valley of 1942. Taking a detour on the way to visit the border with West Timor for a photo opportunity.

Officials from both sides were polite but business-like with Indonesian Area Commander, coming over to say hello. We had lunch later in a local restaurant in Maliana. The concept of fast food is non-existent in this part of the world, but despite this our hosts were delightful. So, we contented ourselves with our own company till we were fed. Walking around the dusty market didn't take all that long, on sale mostly local products and second-hand clothing. Seemed it was also a good season for betel nut.

Returning to Balibo in the afternoon, our group session's topic around the fire being forgiveness, forgiving others and oneself, sharing some deep and personal stories. My personal conclusion being that the price of retribution is too much for humanity to pay and a sense of wonder at my fellow human beings.

Days 9 and 10:

On the morning of 17 September, we meet at the Australian Memorial outside the gates of Balibo Fort. A memorial service being joined by the Timorese veterans, an emotional time, as we each were asked to remember someone close we had lost. And being a part of something bigger than yourself perhaps making the world a better place, for a while at least. Some of us gave a little of ourselves and some gave everything. There were short readings and a reflective sermon given by Padre Gary Stone. Both national anthems were sung and the chance to leave our black rock behind.

We left Balibo and made our way via the dusty coastal road. I was conscious of the rumble of the vehicles' tyres hitting the road and equally conscious of the silence as we remained quietly reflecting on what we had learnt stopping at a local craft market on the black sandy beach and opposite the Dutch Fort. Some took the opportunity to visit the local orphanage run by nuns to deliver more aid. And finally stopping at Dili Plaza; being left to our own devices for the remainder of the day to decompress. One of the boys started crying as he called home sobbing that he just wanted to speak to someone he loved. We all did.

That evening we were invited to the private home of Jose Manuel Ramos-Horta who had overseen the political wing during the resistance, and later became President of East Timor, and who in 1996 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Michael Stone walked us through the site where in 2008 Ramos-Horta was shot during an assassination attempt; two out of the three assassins being neutralised. He warmly welcomed us in the Timorese way, entertaining us with some light-hearted stories making sure his esky was full and that we were well fed.

On our final day as we split up into separate groups, some electing to walk up to the Jesus statue that overlooks the city – a walk not for the faint hearted, as I was soon to discover. We spent the remainder of the day in preparation for our departure. That evening we had our final circle time and the opportunity to farewell our new-found-friends at the Hotel Dili Plaza. It occurred to me that on this journey we had mixed with all levels of society, the one commonality being their dignity and desire to rebuild their country.

Early the next morning we made our way home, each enriched by the experience and deep in our own thoughts.

My gratitude goes to the support staff of this programme who inspired, motivated and at times challenged me. The programme gave participants the chance to spend time with like-minded individuals with similar life experiences, and in some cases the need to expel their demons.

Finally, I wish to state that I have witnessed true Christian faith that has taken root in this country and noted it is the type of faith I would like to adopt.

ROD HILLIKER NORTHMEAD, NSW

Ex 1 Commando Regiment

Rod Hilliker is a parishioner of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta.

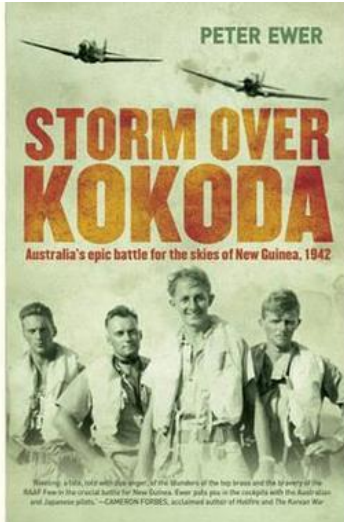
With thanks to St Pat's Matters.

STORM OVER KOKODA:

Australia's epic battle for the skies of New Guinea, 42

Peter Ewer

Pier 9, 2011, 256pp



Reviewer:
**JOHN
DONOVAN**

A potential reader picking this book up in a bookshop and reading the title might expect that that it would cover all of the events of the air war over Papua New Guinea during

1942. Unfortunately, that reader would be disappointed, as the story essentially ends with the Battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942. Despite the implication in the title, air operations in support of the Kokoda Trail campaign are not covered. Nor are the magnificent efforts of the RAAF in support of the Army at Milne Bay and operations over the Papuan beachhead battles of late 1942/early 1943, where airpower made a significant contribution.

That said, what is covered in the book is covered well, and in a readable style. This includes the early reconnaissance and bombing operations by Catalina and Hudson aircraft, and the fighter operations of Number 75 Squadron from its arrival in Port Moresby in mid March 1942 until the squadron was withdrawn in early May.

Dr Ewer provides useful background on the development of aviation in New Guinea between the world wars. He also makes some acerbic (but well sourced) comments about the development of Australian air power in the same period, summarising the broader treatment of this subject in his earlier work *Wounded Eagle: The bombing of Darwin and Australia's air defence scandal*.

Dr Ewer's unflattering comparisons between the products of the inter-war British aviation industry and those of the more free-wheeling US industry are a timely reminder of the need to ensure that

aircraft) that is capable of performing the task, rather than favouring the output of those with whom we might be more familiar or comfortable.

The inadequate assessments of Japanese aviation capability made between the world wars, and well into the second, emphasise the need for intelligence analysts to focus on facts, not prejudices. Japanese pilots were very effective, and their aircraft had significant advantages compared to allied aircraft (albeit they also had weaknesses that allied pilots learned to turn to their own advantage).

The final chapter recounts the fate of many of the protagonists, a sad proportion of whom died later in the war, too often in flying accidents. The fate of many captured airmen is also recounted; while their captors treated some reasonably, many received a cruel death. The remains of some were found in shallow graves after the war, while others have not yet been recovered.

While the focus of the book is on Australian efforts and those of their American allies, the Japanese are not neglected. Surely the adage that fortune favours the brave must apply to the Japanese naval reconnaissance pilot Nobuo Fujita, whose floatplane was carried to its operational areas in a submarine. Fujita made reconnaissance flights over Sydney, Melbourne Hobart and Auckland in February 1942. Later in 1942 he made a lone bombing attack on the American northwest, in an attempt to ignite forest fires. Wet conditions defeated him, but it is surely a just reward for his valour that Fujita survived the war, dying peacefully in 1997.

There are some minor quirks in the book. One Japanese formation appears as both the 25th Air Flotilla and the 25th Air Group, while it seems unlikely that the coastwatcher Leigh Vial walked from Port Moresby to the outskirts of Salamaua in twelve days (page 140). A flight to Wau and then walking across the Kuper Range seems more likely.



John Donovan worked in the Department of Defence for over 32 years, principally in the fields of intelligence, force development and resource management. He also served for several years in *the Australian Army Reserve*.

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NOR ALL THY TEARS

NX45804 Driver Herbert James McNAMARA. Carrier PI. HQ Cov. 2/20 Battalion A.I.F.

Continued from December 2019 Newsletter:

We booed Fitzpatrick every time he mentioned his Tropical Paradises and we booed Menzies every time he appeared on the screen. So much did we boo Menzies that Japanese Intelligence was said to have reported that Australia was on the verge of revolt against its tyrannical Prime Minister. But it was no help. With scarcely veiled scorn, we were congratulated on our luck in escaping alike the fighting over the other side of the hardships at home. The gentlemen soldiers! There was no consolation that here, in Malaya, the Tuan Besars looked on us as a bunch of roughnecks that had done more to damage European prestige than the Sixth Division had done in South Africa. Who would believe it? Didn't we ask for talcum powder in our parcels from home?

We could laugh at this when we, too, felt the weight of terrible war. Mid the roaring of guns and the swish of bullets, we felt that we, too, could say that we had been in it. That we, too, could talk over the counter about the places we had been. The horror of the seven days on the Island drove all such trifles into the background. Horror and slaughter left no place for soldiers back-chat. The tragedy that overwhelmed us brought us into a new world; a world strange and terrible, where everything we had ever cared for was racing to oblivion. Awaiting the fate we did not know, we surveyed an enemy sweeping with an easy confidence towards Australia. Could we hope that anything would stop the swift assault before it was too late? The enemy had floated an observation balloon before our eyes, as if in mockery, could there be anything to defy his mockery farther back? What reason had we to doubt his utterance: You have no need to write home as we will be in your co un try before the letters get there?

The News had taken this great burden off our hearts, had stood to us till this last fatal day, but with this relief, a new force came to the old taunt. Australia was saved, we could go home, but what would those at home think? Menzies Glamour Boys had left the gate open. We would go back to Australia, but would they want to see us? That thought followed rapidly on the new relief. Wavell's last words burned in our ears: It is certain that the troops on Singapore island greatly outnumber the Japanese that have crossed the straits It will be disgraceful if we yield our boasted fortress of Singapore to inferior enemy forces. Did that mean what those at home would think? If those that knew that the path to Australia was blocked by only one battalion, fewer than a thousand men, only partly equipped, covering a front of four miles, to a depth of over a mile, without barb-wire, mines or even minimum entrenchments, spoke of it in this way, what of

those who thought of it as an impregnable fortress, honeycombed with eighteen-inch guns? If those who knew that we could no longer send up 1926 model Wildebeests to screen the movements of troops, many of whom had never seen a



wheel six months before, spoke in that way, what of those who thought of it as the Gibraltar of the Pacific.

The Pommies never forgave that speech. Long months afterwards, when we had felt the worst of the horrors that awaited us, they commemorated it with a song as they marched to work: I walked along the Railway Line with blisters on my feet, With nothing but rice to eat, My misery nearly complete You could hear -em shout 'Come Out! Come Out! You've got a job to move about, You're one of the....2 that Wave]] left behind him. It is hard to imagine how heavily this weighed on our early months. Those that laughed at earlier gibes took this deeply to heart. I don't care what they say! Anyone I care about will be glad to see me and the rest can go to hell. I heard a man say at the Great World.

Right through the first year, the officers tried to stamp out this legacy of defeat. In his very last speech before we left for Thailand, Black Jack Gallegan dwelt on it, but it went deeper than words could reach. Always there was something to revive it. They themselves had boasted how a Japanese athlete was to run the whole distance down the coast to Malaya in an effort to beat Percival's record of two months. One of the Tuan Besars, an internee had boasted that he had refused an issue of Australian boots because they were "runaway" boots.

Just before we left Thailand there was a prisoner going round the camp giving news of Australia. He was an airman, he said, recently captured, and had not long since been in Australia. The Australian public viewed the fall of Singapore with disgust and anger. The Eighth Division stank from one end of the continent to the other. If the Militia had not held up the Japs in New Guinea it would have been all up, but the Eighth had let them walk all over them. The Sixth and Seventh Divisions were going to line the wharfs and boo the prisoners on their return. He was found to be an imposter. A prisoner who had been there all the time, who had decided to

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brighten up his monotonous life with a bit of humour. But his jest gave fresh weight to the feeling that the world would think that it was the impregnable fortress of Singapore that they should have been stopped. I remember a dawn service at the first anniversary of the Fall, when the Padre spoke of those who died. How much he stressed, as though it needed emphasis, that they had done all they could. If the dead needed so strong a defence what of the living?

That care had vanished now. It had just melted away. Why, we could not say. We only knew that we would be as welcome as could be. No longer did we think that the One-Eyed wonder should have pandered to our vanity in the midst of a crisis. We now gave no more thought to it than the jokes about the talcum powder.

As for the Tuan Besars, they were Tuan Besars no longer. No more could they summon a troupe of flunkies at the clap of a hand. They were just men, like us, battling for life and thieving for food. Beaten to work at high fever and bearing it with more patience than they had shown with a tardy servant, laughing at their meals and grinning at their oedematous stomachs. At Kanya one of them met an old Tamil servant and they both shed tears. White man, black man, rich man, poor man, inequality was only in the outer show.

And those dark days were gone too. No more would we be beaten to mad haste as we leapt over sharp stones to force weak bodies to do impossible tasks on empty stomachs, to breathe air that was fouled with rotting bodies, or sicken at the sight of water poisoned with disease, No more for us would sickness be the normal state or death a commonplace. Each year the Kwai Noi would wash through the mountains of green and each year bring it's swift and terrible death, but not to us.

Where water is clean and men are free, we would work in the sun and the rain and forget it all, And our nightmare voyage in the Bioki Maru was all in the past now, and the cold deep-seated terror of being swallowed up in a gulf of swirling water. The painful waiting for each slow mile to slide beneath us and bring us to firm land, and the sickness and the filth and the discomfort. And the hunger and the weakness and the dreary hours were all gone too.

Never again would we walk with almost bare feet through squelching, melting snow, or feel the sharp wind piercing our bones, or work under roofs of crumbling rock, or drag heavy pipes up cruel stairs.

And all the bash-artists were gone from our lives. The greatest and the least, they would trouble us no more. These few reformed villains in the camp would be all we would meet again. At any moment we would know the best. Each minute could bring a car from among the packed wooded hovels or an order to call a parade. All the fears and sufferings, all the agonised doubts of the bitter years, would end in one swift stroke, so we could

gaze into a future, sure that never in our lives would we again endure discomfort and misery greater than we had learned to scorn. You've heard the latest. I suppose? said someone. I suppose so. I've heard them all. But this one about the Lolly-Lopper getting orders to mark P.O.W on the parade ground so that they can drop food to us by parachute and Yes, That's been going on all day. Yes. But don't you know? He's out there now and he's bloody well doing it! I did not go out to see. T

Those days were over. No longer did we need to measure each hopeful sign in the fear that it would raise our spirits to drop them to despair. Out there, for anyone to see was a Japanese Camp Commandant obeying an order from our own troops. Our own men who were coming soon.

I let the thought torture me to ecstasy. I walked up and down the huts, grinning an answer to each excited comment. I got my mess-gear and strolled casually to the mess hut. Without impatience, I waited while the food was dished out and, for the last time measured with painful accuracy. I toyed with my issue, absorbing its taste, wondering how it would seem beside the food we dreamed about. The meal ended with a babble of excited voices. I took my gear to the tap, washed the gluey film of rice from it, and placed it at my bed-space.

Then I gathered the last remains of a towel and made for the concrete tub in which we could bathe. Every means of spreading labour over each creeping minute I seized eagerly. As if it were evening dress, I got into my loose khaki and strolled back to the hut.

There was a low, hoarse roar in the sky. The roar of a plane. They came over occasionally now. The sound that was almost continuous a few days before, was now enough to call up interest. My attention dwelt on it for a moment as it broke a faint gap in the silence.

Others had noticed it too and eyes were scanning the horizon. Almost in a flash it became deep and sonorous, and a thin, black line, broken by the silhouettes of engines, showed out of the blue. There was suppressed excitement now. Eyes were staring with a faint expectedness. Its heavy roar was now dominating all sounds and its bulk gleamed with a silver brightness. Right towards us it came, low and swift. Right over the very line of the camp, its flight was straight and steady.

Then in a moment its nose dropped down at a sharp angle, its engine gave a mighty roar and at once we knew that it was OUR plane. Almost at the roof of the huts it came down, and as its great wings spread over the camp the words "P.O.W. SUPPLIES" showed up in black and a tremendous cheer went up from among us. The camp was mad with excitement now.

To be continued.....

FRONTLINE DOWN MEMORY LANE



1/19 RNSWR OFFICERS' MESS INGLEBURN circa 1987

Our thanks to Major Robert BUTT, RFD, JP, who kindly forwarded his photo album containing a wealth of photos recording his retirement dinner which will be published in forthcoming issues