

2/1 FIELD REGIMENT CLUB

KIBBLES POST

ANZAC DAY 2006

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VALE

R Barbour	A Simkins	
D Mascord	E A Fuller	
C H Clarke	F B Thornborough	
W H Evans	G A Sugars	
A Kirwan	A Elder	

From the Hon Secretary

Some random memories occasioned by a few of the names in the previous and current VALE

Again names and faces evoke not only memories but sadness and gladness. Sadness because they have "marched out" for the last time.

Gladne~ for one knew them once when they were young warriors who strode the world with pride - even a touch of arrogance for they were good and they knew it.

KEITH BROWN

Known throughout the Regiment as "Ab" or "Abby" - I always claimed his parents left him in the sun too long. An original with 2nd and 51st Batteries.

One of the best "gun layers" in the Regiment but remembered particularly for his ever present "grin" his good humour and his always helpful attitude

In and out of action he was a calm cheerful gun crew member who could be relied on at all times (post-war a strong and devoted committee man).

BRUCE BRYANT

Ken Kell has contributed an obituary for Bruce. My initial memory was of a young somewhat bewildered ~g bloke who was picked up by one of our signals trucks not far from Owers Corner (the star of the Kokoda Track)

How he managed to wrangle a transfer to the Regiment remains a mystery.

Suffice to say he became an efficient keen gunner proud to wear our colour patch in post-war years, a stalwart supporter of the Club.

(More about Bruce in Mailbag)

ALAN MUNCASTER

Alan joined the Regiment in the Middle East and became an efficient gun-crew member to-gether with his brother (long since "marched out") in another Troop.

Alan was not keen on officers or N.C.O.'s with one exception - his NO1 Bill "Sooty" Greenhalgh whom Alan would have followed anywhere.

Post-war he took little interest in the Club. He became a talented accountant, who was, as I understand/regarded as such by one "K. Packer".

In recent years, however, as with many others, I received on each Anzac Eve a phone call from Alan. I would hear "G-Day Cobber" and would know it was Alan who would invariably take issue with Steve Jack as to who were the gun-sergeants when the gun position was attacked at Soputa.

The conversation would end with a wish for a good re-union but he would never attend. He, however, I firmly believe derived some comfort & pride from his time with the Regiment.

BRIAN KITCHEN

An original who was commissioned and left the Regiment in the Middle East. I met him in 1942 outside Gona where he was part of Brigadier Dougherty's Brigade Group.

I believe his time at Gona did not help his subsequent ill-health.

WE lost contact with him in the post-war years but like many others he was in contact with us in more recent years.

FRANK CHARD

Joined the Regiment in the Desert in time to sail for Greece where he went into "the bag".

In "Six years in Support" we had him down as "K.I.A." but he proved us wrong by appearing at the Regiment's 50th Anniversary luncheon. I was about to read his name out when fortunately somebody remarked that he had just walked in.

I endeavoured to get Frank to write about his experience as a "P.O.W." but we had left it too late.

I have always regretted that "Six Years in Support" did not make provisions for our "POW" stories

He died in his 90's - a long time supporter of the Club.

HARRY PARKER

An original, who after Greece, was extremely lucky to rejoin the Regiment.

Harry wrote a most interesting story on the sinking of the "Costa Rica" and his subsequent rescue by H.M.S. Hero.

In post-war years a consistent supporter of the Club - visiting Ned Lynch from time to time.

RICHARD BARBOUR

"Dickie" Barbour was one of the bright young "Reos" who joined at Moresby late '42 early '43. He went to 1st Bty where he became a first-class "Ack".

Des Ryan who joined with Dick never failed to praise Dick's intellectual strengths.

In post-war years he proved Des right, becoming a Queens Counsel and subsequently a District Court Judge.

Dick remained a faithful supporter of the Club and attended most Anzac Day re-unions.

DOUG MASCORD

Doug joined the Regiment in the Middle East and served later with distinction in the heavy fighting around Buna.

Doug never forgot the Buna show - his service there possibly contributed to his more recent ill health.

On returning from New Guinea Doug transferred to the R.A.A.F. and reached the rank of Flying Officer.

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On returning from New Guinea Doug transferred to the R.A.A.F. and reached the rank of Flying Officer. Now unfortunately his widow.

We remember these men and those listed but not mentioned with pride and affection. They served their country and their Regiment with courage and pride.

For those listed but not mentioned in detail perhaps others might care to write a remembrance for a later issue of "kibbles Post".

John Hyne

ANZAC DAY MARCH AND REUNION

Rex Olsson will lead the Regiment

Assemble at the usual spot at the corner of King and Castlereagh Streets at 9 to 9.30am where Admittance Tickets for the Reunion will be on sale at **\$30 for members and \$45 for visitors**. Tickets will also be on sale at the reunion site.

The reunion will be held in the restaurant on the ground floor of the Country Comfort Hotel on the north-west corner of George Street and Quay Street the site of the old Saunders Jewellery shop. For those coming by train, take the Devonshire Street subway and go the full length to the escalator which will lead to the footpath near the entrance to the Hotel. Cars can set down and pick up passengers in Quay Street. Since the restaurant is on the ground floor there will be no steps or stairs to navigate.

The bar will open at 11.00am and will close at 4.00pm and we are assured that the food will be of the usual good quality. Male relatives and friends are welcome.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the 2/1Field Regiment Club will be held on the 25th April 2005 at the Country Comfort Hotel, George Street corner of Quay Street, Railway Square, commencing at 12.30pm.

Business

- 1 Apology
- 2 To adopt the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
- 3 Correspondence relative to the AGM
- 4 Annual report
- 5 Treasurer's report and balance sheet as at 30th June 2005 (as advised in Kibble's Post October 2005)
- 6 Election of
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Committee (5)
- 7 Vote of thanks to outgoing executive and committee
- 8 General business relative to the 2006 Annual General Meeting

From Ossie Pearce

PHIL HATTON has moved from Banks Lodge to other accommodation.

I visited Phil recently, he looks very well, certainly doesn't look his 89 years. Must have been those five years he spent in those P.O.W. camps in Italy and Germany. It cost him \$113,000 to get into Banks Lodge and then \$33 per day. Since a recent change with Veteran Affairs they now pay ex P.O.W. the daily fee. His address is Nunyora United Aged Care, Level 2, Room 8, 8 Neilson Avenue, Peakhurst, 2210. Phone No. 9533 8180.

MARSHALL CURRIE is still living at St Clair. My daughter, Lorraine, drove me up there for the day. We all went to St Mary's Leagues Club, had a very nice time, including the Air Conditioner at the Club. Marshall looks absolutely fantastic, he turns 90 years on the 6th July. He does all his own cleaning, cooking, shopping, laundry etc. and to think that his whole left side has been affected with paralysis. He lives at 171 Bennett Road, St Clair. Phone No. 9670 4554.

TONY POZZI now lives in Queensland, 185 McDonnell Road, Margate. Phone 07 3889 3662, another that will soon be 90 years on 10th July. My youngest daughter, Karen, met him when she called to see Norrie Jones in hospital, from all reports Tony looks at least 10 years younger, must have been the hours he spends swimming every morning.

NORRIE JONES has had a continuance of his bad luck health wise. The bone of his left leg perforated his pelvis, damaged his bowel and bladder. The operation was carried out end of January at Holy Spirit Hospital, Chermside. The bone in the leg was removed from the pelvis down to two inches above the knee. The pelvis was patched

and in place of the bone in the upper leg, a stainless steel wire mesh (don't know the technical name) was inserted and all the remaining sinews and tissue will grow around the "mesh". His leg will be 5 inches shorter. He will be returning to Caloundra on Tuesday, 9th February and will be living with his daughter at the City Centre Motel Caloundra, Phone 07 5491 9982. He and Tony Pozzi have both booked accommodation at the Country Comfort Hotel, Sydney for Anzac Day.

Kibbles Post Mailing List. The figures are at present 97 members, which includes 39 that sailed on Orford and 58 who joined a little latter, made up as follows: NSW 76, Queensland 8, Victoria 10, Tasmania 1, ACT 1, WA 1.

Greek Cross. I have been following this up on many occasions, it's got to such that the Greek Consul rang me and said when we hear anything we will call you. The last action was that he was in Athens over Christmas and he called on Army HQ. They agreed with him and said we should have it and they have recommended such to the committee, which decides. He told me this on the 9th January when he returned so we just have to wait, it if happens it happens.

Revelle January/February

Section on Serving Families Page 276 Photo Ernest Smith, P.O.W. Greece, 1st Battery, NX 9014 E.G. Smith joined the Regiment at Ingleburn as one of the 1st Reinforcements who sailed with the Regiment on January 10th, 1940 on the Good ship Orford

Donations. Further donations have been received from, Mrs. Bev Simpson, Arthur Wade, Ken Kell, L (Bluey) Walker Marie Newman. George Fricke, The Estate of "Splinter" Bartlett. Anne Monten.

Mail Bag

August 25 2005

2 Ross Street
Plympton Park SA 5038
Phone 08 82767294

Email; chatterchatte@optusnet.com.au

J. Hynes
5A/30 Milson Road Cremorne NSW 2090

Dear John,

It Is sad to be writing to you to tell you that Alan Elder (John Alan) died on 18 August 2005, aged 84 (born Sep 6 1920) at the War Veterans' Home, Myrtle Bank in Adelaide, and It has also been sad to read In Kibbles Post of others who are becoming frail, and "marching out" (to use the expression Alan used at times.)

Alan was suffering advanced Parkinson's disease, and after always marching on Anzac Day, and attending dawn services, this year he was unable even to go In the bus, as he

had been doing for the last few years.

It might not be coincidence that on the eve, 14 August, of the 60th anniversary of VP Day, Alan decided to stop all food and fluids, so ending for family and friends many years of friendship, for our family a friendship that began the day he and my father enllst~, 15th October 1941, taking Alan and George Monten eventually Into 2/1, via 13th field trainng Battery, NCO course Puckapunyal, 1942...there Alan and George became friendly with Ken Field, and Keith Godfree (who Is in a Melbourne rehabilitation centre currently, you possibly hear from him), Vern Shenu (? spelling, also not sure if he was 2/1.)

My mother Jean and I are enclosing a small donation, In appreciation for getting news In Kibbles Post, also for your willingness to talk about soms of the war history that neither my father nor Alan talked much about- only about the funny incidents, very rarely anything about their active service. It has been good to meet George Watts, who I think now Is the last surviving South Australian who was in 2/11 A year or so ago, George Watts lent us a book, James Wieneke, *6th D/v. Sketches: A/tape to Wewak* - his brilliant sketches and what he wrote gave us more of a picture of that last campaign, and Alan was very moved and Impressed whenit was leant to him.I am enclosing copies of a few pages. (you might know ofit, Printed 1940 John Sands, Sydney)

ONE special thing for Alan was having his Philippines Incident published Kibbles Post Anzac Day 2002 Issue, "A Holiday with the Yanks" - unfortunately this story was told after his wife died (April 2000), because Elva always wanted to know, could not understand why he would not tell all, when it got to 50 years plus after the war. Maybe some way could be found to see if there are any surviving American veterans who remember some of these 2/1 Aussles joining them for a while. I have approached some journalists here, thinking It could be an Interesting war story, but none have picked It up...world war 2 Itself seems to be fading fast, overshadowed now by this war on terror, Iraq ad so on (and I think too for Australians world war 2 Is also overshadowed by world war 1, by Gallipoli, with that overshadowing the biggrer part of world war 1...nelther Monash nor Blamey are household names!)

On the Philippines, In a biography of General Blamey George Watts lent me, It amused me to think of Alan and the others being army who did set foot In the Philippines (and saw action too, eg history Is that no Australian land army forces did so...

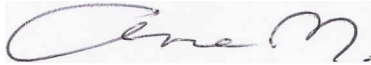
The 60th anniversary has come and gone, and I wonder If there will be anyreference to the surrender on 13th September 1945...anyway, I would like to thank you all, and I heard Prince Charles at a British commemoration saying to the veterans that they will all be missed, that those who survived the war then became the bedrock for all that has followed. I think that applies in spades here. I have noticed that the Brits and Americans consider world war 2 forces as a very special generation, many going to war after childhood and youth during the Depression years, also on top of world war 1...Alan told me that his mother did not want him to join up, that his father, a highly decorated world war 1 veteran never spoke a word about that war, which at the time they joined up was about going to fight In Europe (they thought they would go to the Middle East, but then came Pearl Harbour etc.)

Enough though. We will continue to look forward to keeping In touch through Kibbles Post, and for my part, I am Interested In any Ideas that might come from children of veterans, so If any 2/1 veterans' families are also Interested, maybe WE could make contact, a thing I am happy to do with anyone, as per address and phone details.

I marched on Anzac Day this year, joining with 6th Div 2/3, where some other children of veterans were marching...due to flu, my mother and I could not go to the 60th anniversary commemoration service and afternoon tea the State government arranged, and neither could Alan, and I am told quite a few others...

I hope you are keeping well, and again, thank you, with a wish for all the best for all the survivors from 2/1.

Sincerely,



Anne Monten,
on behalf of Jean Monten, war widow of George Monten, SX14883, ex 2/1)

1. Hynes,
5a/30 Milson Road, CREMORNE.N.S.W. 3900

Dear John,

It is that time of year when I send off a donation to the 2/18th Field regiment in memory of my late Dad - Arthur (Splinter) Bartlett. The Anzac Day reunion always meant so much to Dad and it was a day he eagerly awaited. "Nothing like a drink and a few stories with your old mates" he would say. So, on your special day this year enjoy the wonderful comradeship you have nurtured over the past years and please remember that all my family think you are a great bunch of guys who served your Country so well.

Have a great day and may God bless

Regards , //

Roslyn Hogan
15 Merelynnne Ave
West Pennant Hills NSW 2125

MEMORIES OF HAPPY TIMES

For some 14 years, 1984-1998, Norm and I went to Dunbogan in July. Mostly Keith and Betty Brown joined us there and we stayed in the unit under Horrie & Daphne Crossfield's House. Norm and Keith went up to have happy hour with Horrie every evening before dinner as Horrie always had a large stock of home brew on hand.

At that time there were several other army men well known to Norm and Keith in the area – Geoff Mudge, who I think was Welfare Officer for Laurieton R.S.L. at the time and lived at Lake Cathie; Cedric and Val White of Port Macquarie, Rex and Marge Palmer of Camden Head and George and Heather Lauder of Diamond Head. Many lunches and dinners were enjoyed at Laurieton R.S.L. Club and also much conversation.

At 6 times others came to join us for a few days – Eddie and Hazel Sutton from Wingham, George and Joan Thompson from Newcastle and George Martin from Dubbo. Norm celebrated his 70th birthday at Laurieton R.S.L. Club in September 1989.

Last year Rex Palmer died, the last of those men so well known to us to pass on. However that is life when we get into our eighties and we were fortunate to have had such happy times together, when the world seemed a more settled and happier place.

Marie Newman

Enclosed is a photo taken at the Anzac Day Reunion in 1959 with the boys then looking young and handsome (names on back of photo).

O0o0o0o0o0o0o

Unit 140, P..... Village
Empire Bay Drive
DALEYS POINT NSW 2257

The Secretary
2/1 Field Regiment Club

Dear John

How the years have flown – I love receiving Kibbles Post, so many names mentioned from time to time bring back fond memories of Ward 24 all those years ago.

Tony Pazzi's report on his tour to France and England made me think of the happy – if not wild times we had back in 1943 or so – Slim, Isobel, Paz and yours truly – many faces come to mind with the different reports.

Few would remember me from all those years ago, but to any that do "Hi!"

Since Slim died I have lived here and I'm happy, although I have a few health problems. I'm enclosing a small cheque towards your expenses.

Sincerely
Bev Simpson (widow of William Calder "Slim" Simpson).

PS. I am now aged 80 so please excuse scrawl. To you John, a Merry Christmas.

Ken Kell
7 Castle Court
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Dear Ossie

Just a short note, and if you don't mind, pass this Vale on to Johnny Hynes if he has not already got one for Bruce Bryant.

Tony Pazzi seems to have thoroughly enjoyed his trip. You made a very good choice in supporting him. I've always had a very high regard for Tony, and he always looks as if he has never aged. He and Col Warrington were always great mates and I think their friendship went back to school days.

Good on you for writing the article on Ceylon, and as a point of interest when we finally received any – 1st Battery was given two 18 PDRS MK II and 48 rounds of ammunition. One went to "B Troop" with Bluey Cansdell as the No. 1 in charge and "A Troop" the other, which was allotted to me (and I may be wrong but I do not remember the other batteries receiving any).

I that bit of a book I wrote for my families benefit, I mentioned that we were sited on either side of a beach cover on the coast – the shortest distance forward from the new airstrip where the rest of 1st Battery was located. We were positioned on this beachhead, with this limited amount of ammunition, and it was stressed on us that we were to make every round count. A company of infantry would be made available to support us. I had a full gun crew of 6 and was supplied with rations on a weekly routine. We build our gun pit on the fringe of trees and beach and used coconut logs to strengthen the side and weapon pits.

Our aim was to try and slow their landing up, by attacking their barges from both positions. We took over an unoccupied brick building just near our gun position, and got stuck into it. I cannot remember the names of my gun crew except (2), Pudden Jones and "Duke" Millard. We had an independent role, and we thoroughly enjoyed it. The only event of note was the night a snake visited our sleeping area and bit "Duke" on the shoulder – I operated by slashing two deep gashes on his bite, with a razor blade we always carried under our puggaree, and a tourniquet with the bootlace we also had for that purpose. We killed the snake and sent him off to the local Ceylonese Doctor with it, to see if he needed any special help. The Doctor said it was non-poisonous – much to his relief. However he had a great dry sense of humour and used to bare his should and invite people to inspect the place where the cobra bit him. The first time I cut his shoulder it was not deep enough so I had to do it a second time for the blood to flow freely. It left very distinct marks. Nothing ever eventuated but nothing has ever been mentioned about the role the 2 x 18 pdrs had played.

I was sorry to see "Keith Brown" and "Skull" Fuller amongst the passing, both good chaps. It's funny I cannot remember Skull Fuller's Christian name, however his brother in the Air Force earned the title "Piggy back Fuller". He was a pilot flying an Avro Anson, when another chap crashed a plane on top of him. He landed them both, some feat.

I've included this book on the SAS. You may find it interesting to read.

Sorry I missed the donation in April

Frank Mattox was also a wonderful staunch member, and had a particular soft spot for old "A Troop" members. He not only attended a lot of reunions but also a lot of funeral services.

VALE

Bruce Bryant transferred to the 2/1 Field Regiment after our unit was sent to New Guinea for the first time in 1942. He had enlisted for service in the AIF, but was posted to the 53rd Militia Infantry Battalion.

He was one of the young soldiers of that unit, who were insufficiently trained and poorly led that tried to stop the initial thrust by the Japanese on the Kokoda track.

He did his job well and became one of our many valued members. After the war he became one of the regular participants of the Anzac Day Parades and Luncheon Reunions, except for time that he spent in Europe and England in the 1950's.

He was a Dental Mechanic by profession, and a highly regarded one.

His passing like all before him reduces the ranks of those fine men we knew, and who were all part of our large regimental family. He will be missed but not forgotten.

Regards Ken Kell

Regimental History

A part of the story by as seen through the eyes of

Ossie Pearce

3rd November 1939 we left Victoria Barracks & signed our Attestation Papers that we would serve King and Country for the duration of the war. 12 months thereafter and that evening we moved into the Ingleburn Camp - the 2nd A.I.F. was in being.

We left Quastina, our first camp on the Plains of Abraham in Palestine in April and went into the Sinai Desert to Bir Asluj, there was a Minaret, as the prayer towers were named, the Imran, and a Moslem Priest called the faithful to prayers. It was DESERTED.

Inside the Australian Light Horseman had left their messages and initials carved into the plain stone walls, some of the messages were very irreverent to Mahomet the camel driver and as was a laborious one stating why Mohammedans men wore "Allah catcher pants".

At Bir Asluj the 18 Pounder Guns and 4.5 "howitzers were proved" and we fired fire tasks in competition with the 4th Regt. R.H.A., A British Regt. With a history going back several hundred years and many wars.

We handed our 18 Pounders & 4.5' s over to 2/2 Aus. Fld. Reg, we were the only Field Regt that took guns away from Australia, at the camp called Julis, it was 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

At the time the gunners and drivers who did the transfer of our guns wore their heavy great coats telling the Victorian gunners, "you think Melbourne is cold - wait until you go to Bir Asluj" and drove off with a smirk on their tanned faces.

At Julis there were rumours of embarkation rolls being drawn up and troopships waiting at Haifa to take us the 3 day journey to the Port of Marseille in France as we were to follow the route that the first A.I.F. had taken to France in 1916 when they left Egypt.

It was only a rumour or furphy "after all" and we moved camp to Dur Sunaid for a few weeks and heard all the B.B.C. news of how the Germans drove through the Allied Forces and the tragedy of Dunkirk and the fall of France.

The General consensus was we would have given Fritz a headache; the wiser ones kept their counsel and thought our turn will surely come and surely it did, 12 months later in Greece and Crete.

We were an Artillery Regt with NO GUNS and to everyone's surprise we left yet another camp and jointed the 2/4 Battalion and became X & Y Anti Aircraft Regiment to train A & B troops of 18th Battery and A & B Company of 2/4 Battalion becoming X Regt and Y Regt 2nd Battery C & D Troop jointed C & D Company of 2/4th and trained with on light anti aircraft guns.

X Regiment trained on 3.7 heavy anti aircraft guns Y Regiment trained on Bofors guns.

The 2/4 Battalion was already in Nu Gazi when we arrived and we were introduced to the new pattern webbing, just a great heap of unconnected webbing straps and pouches which caused us to be completely helpless.

The 2/4 boys moved in amongst us and in no time we had for the time being become infantrymen, we were lectured on formations, hand signals etc. then taken out in the countryside and practiced our lectured training in the field - then we moved to Haifa, X Regiment was training on the (A site section of 3.7 at the Breakwater of Haifa

harbour.)

X Regiment camped in a disused hospital 5 miles out of Haifa township opposite a massive oil refinery (Socony Vacuum Ltd)

which received oil pumped from Iraq via 3 foot wide steel pipeline - the refinery received crude oil only, turned it into petrol, diesel etc.

The boys asked and questioned why were we camped in such close proximity to the refinery as it presented huge target, a huge petrol tank farm covering many acres, four great concrete retorts belonging to the cracking plant.

The answer was that the Italian Air Force couldn't cover the distance from Rhode Island and Intake a safe return to their base at Rhode Island. Well they did and caught us napping, 30, three engined heavy bombers caught us training on the A site guns

A wonderful sight in perfect formation, the gunners on the height finder calling the height and computer gunners calling the fuse length and the loaders loading imaginary shells into the breech, then the Sgt. who was instructing us, a Yorkshire man, said loudly "I don't think we have that many bombers in the Middle East and blew 3 blasts on his whistle thus sounding the alarm.

The gun pit had only one entrance and the English gunners rushed to man their guns, we Australians had been ordered we had to evacuate the gun pit when an alarm sounded, the result was the 3 ft entrance jammed with cursing gunners, the pommies trying to get in as ordered and the Diggers trying to get out as ordered.

There were more raids and we were better organised and ordered to evacuate the hospital and move to the crusader Port of Acre to the close by stud farm and lived in the open in the old fowl yards. Now fully trained anti aircraft gunners we were stationed at Port Fouad, the beautiful suburb on the Suez Canal opposite Port Said, a great period, plenty of leave and 3 shifts a day, the 2/4th boys had left us to return to 6th Division 19th Brigade at Helwan on the opposite side of the Nile to the Pyramids, you woke in the morning with sun rising behind them coming up in the east. We had followed and also rejoined the 6th Division at Helwan. Plenty of leave at Helwan to Cairo at night, then we received our brand new 25 pounder gun Howitzer, 1940 had been eventful, we trained hard, then off to Ikingi Mariut. We were now living fully active service conditions and could move towards the enemy in 12 minutes.

All equipment was beside us as we slept and on an alarm we were ready to go. Guns

were ready, limbered up stacked with ready use ammunition and attached to the tractors the infantry Battalions, engineers, field ambulance - a whole division ready at last to take part in the war. It was now 20th December 1940

Footnote: Brigadier Dunne, Royal Artillery had stated to us in a parade at Bir Asluj, that we had beaten the 4th Royal Horse Artillery Regt in our shooting competition and he would be very happy to take us into action as a fully trained unit. That was in May 1940 the only reason the Australians and New Zealanders had been kept out of action was the lack of equipment to fight with.

More Regimental History **This version from Pudden Jones**

Reminiscing of Haifa and Acre. In 1940 in the month of June, the climate is good, we had been moved away from the disused hospital due to danger from Italian long range bombers to a deserted government experimental chicken farm where we camped in the open. There were many Eucalyptus trees growing there, so it was a nice little bit of Australian flora to make us happy.

A thousand years or more the Phoenicians had built a huge water aqueduct built up on viaducts carrying water to Acre. Of more recent times was a man made hill built by Napoleon's Army so his artillery could shoot down into the Port of Acre. The Royal Navy of Nelson's time used their guns to help defend the centuries old Fort. Acre was built by the crusaders, the walls were 35 to 40 foot thick and almost as high. There was a Turkish bath heated by the sun and the roof was full of glass prisms which reflected the sun's rays laterally across the rooms and not onto the users. The decorations were all of Arabic origin and done in tiles very mosaic and beautifully done.

The food was very bad in that period so leave official and unofficial was greatly sought after to get a good feed etc. We slept on bed-boards and under mosquito nets as Dengue fever and Malaria was prevalent.

"Lord Haw Haw" knew of us and told us on his "Germany Calling" programme that the

Australians living in the experimental farm would very soon be bombed, so you can see the German intelligence via their 5th column was well informed.

About 4.30am one morning, after his threat we would be bombed. The air raid alarm, a note on the bugle - G was the note - the reaction was a sight to see with gunners running flat out to the lit trenches with their Mosquito nets tangled around their heads and shoulders. The noise what had caused the alarm was a Sunderland flying boat taking off from the Acre. Taking off on its dawn patrol we had never heard it before and never heard it again. X Regt was taken by the local bus company to the B site 3.7 anti-aircraft guns at Haifa Harbour breakwater 3 days a week. On one of our off training days the Italian long range Caproni bombers bombed the town of Haifa and the Naval stores - stores and fuel dumps and the town of Haifa and killed a lot of people including a Jewish school bus. X Regt was ordered to Haifa to salvage Royal Navy stores.

I was two hours by the time we reached the navy stores. It was an awesome sight, everything appeared to be burning and the fire hoses had no water pressure. The hoses leaked from bomb splinter holes. The first job we got was to roll 20 Torpedo warheads, 750 pounders of explosives in the warheads of the 21" Torpedos and they were very warm because of the close by fires and according to the Petty Officer who was controlling the effort told us they were unstable because of the heat. On ground. X Regt men about 30 odd pushed a railway tanker with the fires burning on one side of it with a soldier, a 2/4th Private sitting of the three foot long arm of the tankers safety valve as the X Regt men pushed it past the flames to safety

A FEW NAMES THAT Cissie Pearce remembers at the 'Shos' LBradley, A Asher, G Fricke, J Johnstone, K Kell, R Judd, B Kitchen, M Lordelte H Martin, A Moroney, D Nix, Toni Pazzi, H Saunders, E Hewitt, W Prudius, Jweekes, J Stewart.

More Correspondence from the Secretary.

In September 2005 Os Pearce and I attended at "Gleebooks" the launch of Ted Fulton's memoir "No Turning Back".

It encompasses Ted's pre-war sojourn in New Guinea, his war with the Regiment and with Angua and his post-war return to Papua/New Guinea.

Ted's daughter, Elizabeth Thurston, referred graciously to me as "The keeper of the spirit of the Regiment" and to Os as the man "who knew more of the Regiment and the men who made it than any other person."

The book is a tribute to Ted who was one of our oldest but one of our most vigorous soldiers. His time behind enemy lines from virtually 1942 to 1945 with Angau makes enthralling reading.

At times in 1943/45 he would have come close to some of our forward O. Ps in the mountains.

Published by Pandanus Books it is a good buy and joins other regimental memoirs held by me for the Regiment.

Elizabeth Thurston, who loved/loves her father and his Regiment, deserves great praise for her enthusiasm, tenacity and sheer hard work.

John Hynes

An important Message from the Hon. Secretary.

I discussed, after Anzac Day 2005, with Lionel Hyam, the future of the 2/1 Field Regiment Club.

Lionel ("Solly") ex 1st Bty and original (or near to) the Club's first Treasurer, at my suggestion, gave me four pages of thoughts and possible recommendations.

Our committee at last meeting agreed that I should prepare a precis of Lionel's contribution for inclusion in this edition of "Kibble's Post".

Unfortunately space limitations precluded this intention - will ensure it is in next edition of the "Post".

John Hynes

**Further
From Hon. Secretary**

Bev Simpson widow of Bill ("Slim") Simpson wrote to-gether with a generous donation. Her letter is in this edition of "Kibble's Post" (I hope).

Bev Mentioned ward 24 at "Yarralla" (113TH AGH) in 1943.

I have the happiest memories of that ward. I claim to be the first of the regiment to arrive there.

It was essentially a "malaria" ward and I gave it a great "wrap", with the consequence that the ward was virtually taken over by the regiment.

Bev was the "AMWS" (formerly V.A.D)? and "Isobel" was, I think the ward sister. Tony Pazzi would know for sure.

I fell in love with Bev (a common condition for me in those days) and well remember dining at the "Cedar Room" at the old Hotel Australia (without leave passes).

"Slim" (William Calder) was a lucky man to win Bev, believe me.

John Hynes



RHQ types Wewac 1945 can you recognize a face



Who remembers this Zero at the end of Aitape airstrip



L to R – Joye Noakes, Hank Woodland, Rex Palmer, K Brown and self (Norm Newman) – 2/1 Regiment Reunion 24/5/49

STOP PRESS