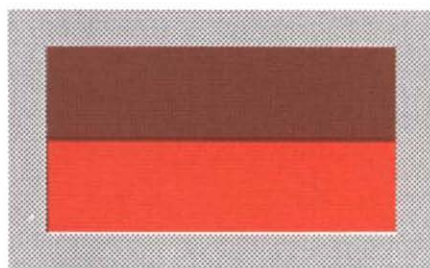


THE SEVENTH BATTALION



Allan Pedder

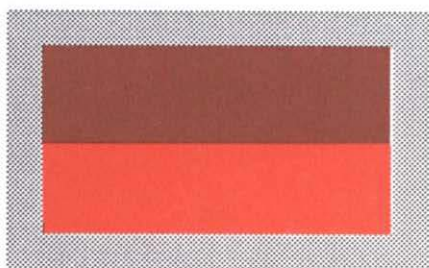


A
BRIEF HISTORY
AND PICTORIAL RECORD
OF THE
SEVENTH
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION
(AIF)
(1936-1945)



THE SEVENTH BATTALION

1936-1946



Allan Pedder

DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY
OF
FALLEN COMRADES

*"They gave their lives. For that public
gift they received a praise which
never ages and a tomb most glorious
— not so much the tomb in which
they lie, but that in which their fame
survives, to be remembered for ever
when occasion comes for word or
deed . . . "*

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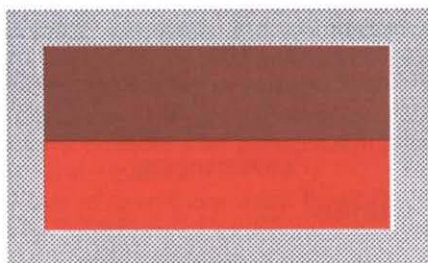
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The
**Seventh
Battalion**



**7th BATTALION (1939-45)
ASSOCIATION**

**MELBOURNE
1989**

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INTRODUCTION

Now that military history in Australia is an area of considerable significance, and ready to take its place in the overall historical agenda, this is an attempt to tell the story of the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF).

Forty-four years after the event could be considered by some as being too late to commit these events to paper; others could say that the subject is one that should be forgotten, but the more one considers the matter, the more obvious it is that some record should be made for the sake of future generations. It was therefore decided that this brief history of the battalion be compiled.

It is a great pity the work was not completed many years ago when memories were fresher and participants more numerous, and compiled by somebody more capable. However, this is an attempt by one who does not profess to be an historian nor a writer, but considers the facts should be recorded before there is nobody left, who served with this battalion, to compile it.

The story does not have the sustained drama, nor glamour, so richly deserved by many other more battle-worn battalions of the Australian Army, but it is a story based on the lives of men who served their country in peace and war.

As history goes, it is but an insignificant drop in the ocean of all unit histories ever written, but nevertheless, is of great significance to those who served therein.

Originally the battalion was wholly a Militia unit, but by the middle of 1943, most of the members had volunteered for service in the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF). There always was, however, a percentage of personnel of Militia status. These men were an integral part of the unit, and the fact that they did not or could not volunteer for service outside the prescribed area, did not detract from their ability and loyalty.

The war-time lives of members were lived largely under strange and uncomfortable conditions of extreme heat, dust, torrential rain, violent storms and jungle swamps, coupled with malaria and other tropical diseases, with ultimately, the mental and physical strain of battle and contact with the enemy.

Of all the personnel who passed through the battalion over the years, it is obvious that not all could be mentioned, and it is hoped that those who are mentioned and whatever happened to them, could have, or might have happened to any other.

It is hoped that all who read these pages will glean some idea on what service life was like with the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF).

FOREWORD

TO ALL WHO SERVED
IN THE
7TH AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION (AIF)



It is a privilege to write the foreword to this concise history of our Battalion. This book, with its facts, illustrations and recollections by the men who took part in the events, will refresh our memories of those years which, with the passage of time, has grown dim.

The book is about young men, some of whom left young families behind when they volunteered to give up their freedom for those who had been deprived of it.

It is also about young men who, with inadequate training and inadequate equipment, were given tasks which placed their lives, unnecessarily, in jeopardy.

Nobody glorifies war. It is wasteful and destructive. The only thing that comes beneficially out of it is the creation of comradeship, the development of initiative in all and a mateship that develops and lasts for ever.

This book is written in memory of those who lost their lives, or who were maimed physically or mentally, and those who mourned them and remembers all those who loved and cared for the men of the battalion.

I am appreciative of the opportunity I had to be with the unit, even if it was far too short a time from my point of view. I feel that I was able, in a small way, to contribute to its build up to what proved itself to be a good battalion that did everything that was asked of it and did it well.

I was and am proud of the Battalion.

John Wilmoth,
Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret)

ABBREVIATIONS

AASC — Australian Army Service Corps
Ack Ack — Anti Aircraft
Adj — Adjutant
AIC — Australian Instructional Corps
AIB — Australian Intelligence Bureau
AIF — Australian Imperial Force
AMF — Australian Military Force
ANGAU — Australian & New Guinea Administrative Unit
Aust Inf Bn — Australian Infantry Battalion
AWL — Absent Without Leave
Bde — Brigade
BHQ — Battalion Headquarters
Bn — Battalion
Cav — Cavalry
CGS — Chief of the General Staff
C in C — Commander In Chief
CMF — Commonwealth Military Force
CO — Commanding Officer
Coy/s — Company/Companies
Dent Unit — Dental Unit
Det — Detachment
DID — Distribution, Issue Point
Div — Division
DSO — Distinguished Service Order
DZ — Drop Zone
ED — Efficiency Decoration
Engrs — Engineers
Fd Amb — Field Ambulance
Fd Coy — Field Company
Fd Bty — Field Battery
Fd Regt — Field Regiment
FOO — Forward Observation Officer
GOC — General Officer Commanding
HMG — Heavy Machine Gun
Hvy Mortars — Heavy Mortars
IO — Intelligence Officer
KIA — Killed In Action
LMG — Light Machine Gun
L of C — Lines Of Communication
MC — Military Cross
MMG — Medium Machine Gun
MO — Medical Officer
Mtn Bty — Mountain Battery

ABBREVIATIONS

NCO — Non Commissioned Officer
NEI — Netherland East Indies
OC — Officer Commanding
OCTU — Officer Cadet Training Unit
OR/s — Other Rank/s
PIB — Papua Infantry Battalion
PITA — Projectile Infantry Tank Attack
Pl/s — Platoon/Platoons
Pl Comdr — Platoon Commander
"Q" Store — Quartermaster Store
QM — Quartermaster
RAP — Regimental Aid Post
RMO — Regimental Medical Officer
Regt — Regiment
RSM — Regimental Sergeant Major
SMG — Sub Machine Gun
SO — Signals Officer
S & T — Supply And Transport
2 i/c — Second In Commnd
Sigs — Signals
Sect — Section
TEWT — Training Exercise Without Troops
USAAF — United States Army Air Force
VD — Volunteer Decoration
YMCA — Young Men's Christian Association

ARMY RANKS

Pte — Private
L/Cpl — Lance Corporal
Cpl — Corporal
L/Sgt — Lance Sergeant
Sgt — Sergeant
S/Sgt — Staff Sergeant
WO2 — Warrant Officer Second Class
WO1 — Warrant Officer First Class
2nd Lt — Second Lieutenant
Lt — Lieutenant
Capt — Captain
Maj — Major
Lt Col — Lieutenant Colonel
Col — Colonel
Brig — Brigadier
Maj Gen — Major General
Lt Gen — Lieutenant General

CHAPTER 1

The North West Murray Borderers

The 7th Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF) really first came into being with the reconstruction of the Australian Army Militia Forces after World War I.

Prior to 1918 and stemming from the reorganisation of the Australian Army in 1912, there did exist on the Order of Battle of the Australian Army, a unit designated the 66th Infantry, which in 1913 became known as the 66th (Mount Alexander Regiment) Infantry. In 1918 this unit was redesignated the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment (Mount Alexander Regiment), a title it carried until 1921 when, by Divisional reorganization of that year, the units known as the 2/7th and 2/21st Infantry, became the 7th Battalion.

After 31 July, 1929 though, the 7th Battalion ceased to be maintained as a separate identity and was linked with the 38th Battalion, to become the 38th/7th Battalion. However, on 9 November, 1936, in accordance with Australian Army Order (AAO) 83 of 1937, the 7th Battalion was once again unlinked from the 38th, to be the 7th Battalion. By the same AAO, the territorial title of "North West Murray Borderers" and the Regimental Motto "Cede Nullis" (Yield To None) was adopted.

It is worthy of note that at the official raising ceremony in Mildura, approximately fifty members of the 7th Battalion AIF, 1914-18 were in attendance. Among them were Sir George "Gunner" Holland and Sir Gilbert Wyatt, both former Presidents of the Victorian Returned Servicemen's League. Others included Jim "Doc" Guthridge, who at the time was the Manager of London Stores, George "Snowy" Deacon (Max Deacon's father) ex-RSM, "Darky" Charville, Sir Albert Coates, later famous for his work with POWs at Changi Prison, Bob Hillard, a local Mildura solicitor, and "Stretch" Sullivan, who was a B Coy stretcher-bearer.

On the raising of the battalion in 1936, individual hat and collar badges were adopted and took the shape of the sultana vine (grape growing being principal industry of the Sunraysia area at the time). The badge contained the Arabic numeral "7" in the centre, between in chief, an Imperial crown, and in base, a scroll with the motto resting upon it, bore the title of the Regiment.

It was customary at the time, for a colour patch to be worn on the upper sleeve of the tunic. That worn by this unit was the same that had been worn by the 7th Battalion AIF, 1914-18, which consisted of two bars, rectangular in shape, with one on top of the other. The top was brown and the bottom red, and was commonly known as "Mud over Blood."

The new unit also perpetuated the War Service of the original 7th, and the Battle Honours they steadfastly and proudly carried on the

Regimental Colours for their exploits in the Great War of 1914-18. These Honours are Somme 1916-18, "Pozières," "Bullecourt," "Ypres 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," Broodseinti, Passchendaele, "Lys," Epehy, France and Flanders 1916-18, Helles, "Krithia" Anzac, "Landing at Anzac," Defence of Anzac, Suvia, Sari Bair-Lone Pine, Gallipoli 1915, Suez Canal 1915-16. Only those Battle Honours shown in parenthesis are emblazoned on the Regimental Colours.

The 7th Battalion formed part of the 6th Brigade, which in turn was part of the 4th Division. Companies of the original unit were established at Mildura, Merbein, Wentworth, and Red Cliffs with their own individual parade grounds until approximately 1938, when the Drill Hall, at present used by 8/7th Royal Victorian Regiment, was built.

Initially the new CO, Lt Col Fred Goucher, a WWI veteran who operated a fruit block at Birdwoodton, set up his HQ in a grain and chaff store opposite the Mildura Railway Station in 7th Street. Capt Skirratt of the AIC, was his Adjutant, with Capt Findley as CMF counterpart.

Other AIC men appointed to the battalion were: Capt Bill Greer, Capt Theo Redhead, WOs Norm Rowell, Tom Eltham, Steve Brett, and "Snowy" Graham. Early CMF members, some of whom joined the AIF during the war years were: Maj W. Osmond, Capt W. Bowring, Capt J. Hughes MM, Capt H. Robinson, Capt V. Ellis, Capt N. Eddy, Capt F. Oldham, Capt Blair (AAMC), Capt J. Weir (KIA ME), Capt G. Badger, Capt A. B. Gray, Capt R. Gray, Lt M. Jolly, Lt W. Gibson, Lt C. Ellis (KIA with 2/7 Bn in PNG), Lt Don Healy, Sgt H. Iredale, Sgt M. McGlynn (Snr), Sgt Les Jolly, Sgt "Nugget" Lawton, Sgt J. Barnes, Sgt W. Brown (POW Malaya), Cpl Les Hanlon, Cpl A. Draper, Cpl J. Loughhead (KIA AIF), Cpl A. Roberts and Cpl "Snowy" Roberts. There are other names that come to mind, but putting a rank to the name is impossible after such a long time: Pender, Morier, Warren, Maj McLeod, Archer, Hillman, Cater, Wagstaff and Whitaker, are in this category, to name a few.

Lt Col Hugh Conran was the second CO to be appointed. He, with Capt Findley, later took the 39th Infantry Battalion to New Guinea. After Conran came Lt Col R.M. Sadler DSO, MC, VD, who was then 48 years old, and had served with 25 Bn AIF as a Lieutenant during WWI. He was still CO when 7 Bn moved to the Northern Territory in 1942.

In pre-war, as in the post-war CMF period, training consisted of one night parade per week, which was conducted on sites such as Appleby's Paddock and the No. 1 Oval in Mildura; courses for NCOs and those wishing to become NCOs, with TEWTS for officers. It was usually culminated by an annual camp of fourteen days. A few weekend bivouacs were also conducted over the river from Mildura

at a place called Gol Gol. It was here, also, that the first exercise in live firing was carried out.

In the first instance, Merbein members paraded with D Support Company in Mildura, but later became B Coy and then paraded at Merbein. A Coy was established at Red Cliffs, and C Coy formed at Wentworth, with weekly parades held in the old jail. Mildura also housed the band.

Equipment of the period consisted of that which was left over from the Great War, and by this time was rather obsolete and inadequate, preventing training to be very effective. This did not, however, prevent the men from utilising that which was available with great enthusiasm. In spite of these setbacks, exercises at battalion level still took place.

One little anecdote, which demonstrates the situation at the time, occurred during a training exercise. There was to be a dawn attack, and an enthusiastic NCO was briefing his troops. "For the purpose of the exercise," he said, "those trees over there are to be considered the enemy. For the purpose of the exercise, those sapplings you have in your hands are rifles. For the purpose of the exercise, those logs over yonder are the artillery."

It was then that he noticed the Padre listening in to his briefing. "Padre," he said, "this is a danger area and you are not supposed to be here. What are you doing here anyway?"

"Sergeant," replied the Padre, "for the purpose of the exercise, I am here to bury the dead."

Rations were also a bone of contention to the troops. Rations were of inferior quality, and lacked variety. When prepared by the cooks, who were still learning their trade and who were hard pressed to produce anything but stew, the result left much to be desired.

There was an old saying, probably dated from WWI, which went something like this:

"What's on for breakfast?"

"Stew."

"What's on for lunch?"

"More stew."

"What's on for tea?"

"More flamin' stew!"

The first fourteen-day camp the battalion underwent was in 1937 at Seymour, in Central Victoria. A special train was organised to depart from Merbein at 8pm, and as was the custom, a large crowd of locals were in attendance to farewell the troops.

The establishment at the time consisted of BHQ, the Band, three rifle companies and a Support Company of Vickers machine-gunners. B Coy, located at Merbein, and C Coy from Wentworth, both entrained at Merbein and then proceeded to Mildura to pick up the contingent from that city, before moving on to Red Cliffs where A Coy was located.

Many stops on the journey to Seymour were made, and soldiers being what they are, made many visits to hotels which usually are located adjacent to the railway stations. The train eventually arrived at Spencer Street station for lunch, but again many of the men missed the midday meal in preference to the "amber" type, after which it was just a leisurely run up to Seymour, finally arriving at about 4pm.

After unloading all stores, etc, a march to their final destination some five miles distant was accomplished. Following a long and mostly sleepless night and much imbibing of the amber fluid on the way, some found the march to camp rather heavy going.

It is now very difficult, after fifty years, to find anything recorded that relates to the efficiency or the effectiveness of training during this first camp. Some of the members who attended recall that at times it was cold and wet, especially during the night exercises. One other thing that is remembered is the fact that Seymour was not a very friendly town, which most likely was because another Regiment had been camped in the same area some weeks before, and had run riot in the town. Unfortunately this was a common occurrence during the years that followed, and did not endear the local population to the military.

7th Battalion continued in this fashion, up to the beginning of hostilities in 1939, and camps were held at other locations such as Broadmeadows and Mornington.

It has already been written that in 1939, Australia was better prepared for a military role than at any stage in her peacetime history. There was a fairly well-trained Militia force of some 80,000 men, with a hard core of combatant officers who had served in World War I and who, still under the age of forty-five, were young enough to instruct and lead.

Admittedly, the force was ill-equipped, but it contained strength and depth, having been recruited for the prime purpose of self-defence of the mainland and adjoining mandated territories. On the outbreak of war in 1939, it appeared that the main theatre of operations would be on the continent of Europe and the Middle East. Britain, at the time, did not know what was required, and perhaps mindful of the memories of the force Australia sent her during WWI, stated that she did not want Australia to send a large contingent.

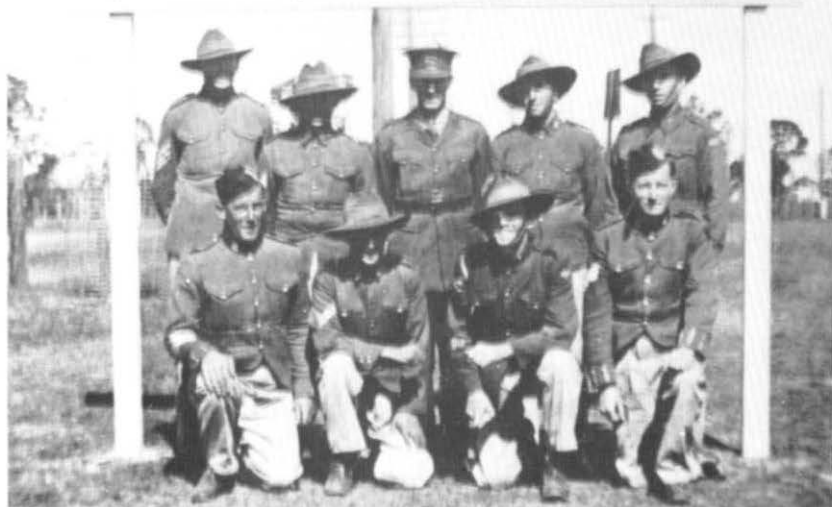
Together with this unenthusiastic attitude, and the needs for the home defence of Australia in the event of Japanese aggression, the Commonwealth Government decided on 15 September, 1939 to start recruiting for a force of 20,000 men for service at home or abroad, as circumstances arose.

The 7th Battalion, as was the case with other Militia units, tried to volunteer en masse for overseas service, but was rejected on the grounds that it was needed for the defence of Australia.



Henry Lawson, Henry Mackay and Roy Leabeter. The uniforms of the period are clearly depicted. Henry Lawson is wearing the walking out dress and the other two the every day uniform of breeches and puttees. The period is pre-WW2 and is thought to be 1938.

CENTRAL TRAINING — DEPOT —



Liverpool NSW after the commencement of WW2 but not before Militia Uniforms were withdrawn. Those in front are wearing working dress trousers. The two men on each end of the front row are wearing the Glengarrie and tunics of a Scottish Regiment.



"B" Coy lines, Nagambie Road.



A sports meeting at Balcombe — Tom McCarthy winning the 880 yards.



The Regimental Band in pre-war days. Some of the known members at the time were: N. MacDonald, F.T. McCormack, H. Busch, J. Webb, J.S. Joy, N. Scott, A. Joy, W. Ewart, M. Dais, L. McLeod, A. Steedman, R. Campbell, C. Harris, A. Hillier, J. Radford, N.C. McLeod, O. Felsted, R.S. Graves, P. Ferguson, J.G. Walker and H. Bysouth.



Norm MacDonald leads the band through the street of Seymour.



At an NCOs School, Balcombe 1941. Left to right — Jack Harrop, Joe Heley, Ray Ruby, Reg Steed.



Occupants of a tent in camp at Nagambie Road.



6 Platoon "A" Coy as it was then known, comprising, from left to right; *Rear Row:* Cpl Drew, Pte Comitti, Pte Irvine, Pte Hurse, Pte Carter, Pte Elliott, Pte Crossley, Pte Dewhurst. *Centre Row:* Cpl Schurr, Pte Hastings, Pte Smith, Pte J.E. Clay, Pte Shubert, Pte Lyons, Pte Whitford. *Front Row:* Pte W. Clay, L/Cpl Denyer, L/Cpl Wilton, Sgt Goodison, Pte Morgan, Pte Lester, Pte Lewis.

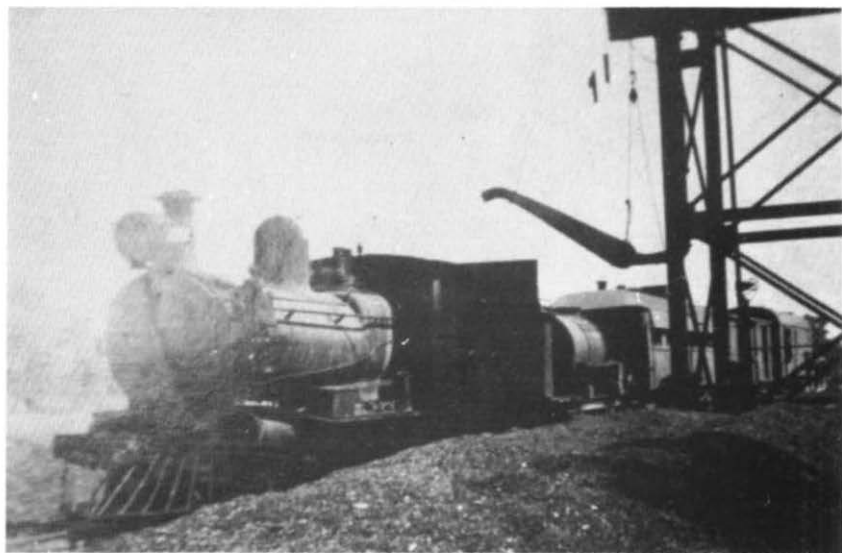


This picture was taken at Blairgowrie, Sorento, about January, 1942. It is of some of the typical AIF troops who joined the 7th Battalion at Hallam on February 5th, 1942. The oldest was 19 at the time. From left to right (with approximate ages), *Back:* Trevor "Barney" Lupton (17), Mick Whitehouse (16), Arthur "Darky" Irvine (16), Col Thompson (14), "Jewy" Riley (16). *Front:* Bill O'Connell (16), Bruce Pettigrew (15), Jack Dyke (19), and at extreme front is Keith "Curley" Costollloe (18).

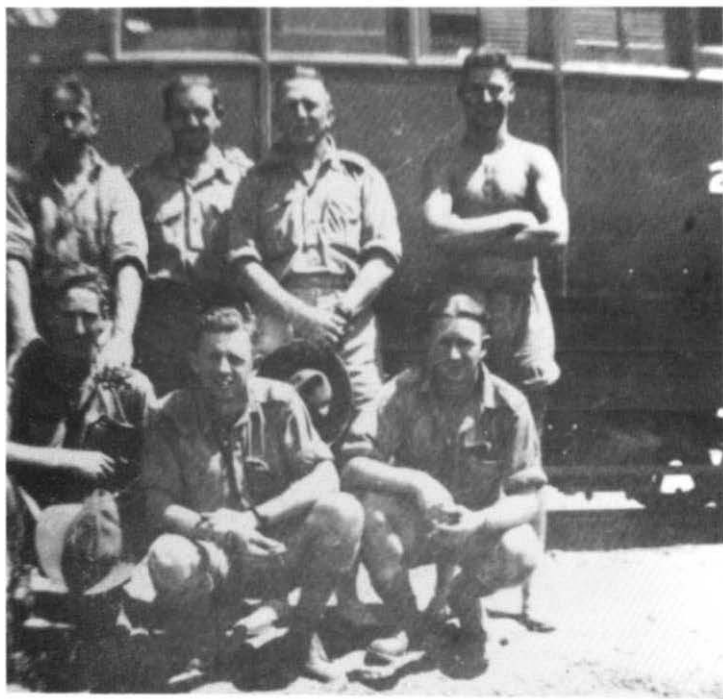
At least one — Colin Thompson was "reclaimed" by his parents and discharged. Bruce Pettigrew was also found out and transferred to a non-combatant area.



Taken at Dandenong February, 1942 prior to "Operation Overland". Having been told that they would soon be in a tropical area and that it would be more comfortable without hair, members of "B" Coy joined the "Skin head brigade". Some of those recognizable area, "Darkie" Irvine, "Sharkie" Chambers, "Bluey" Maskell, "Jewy" Riley, Bruce Pettigrew and "Occles" Bill O'Connell.



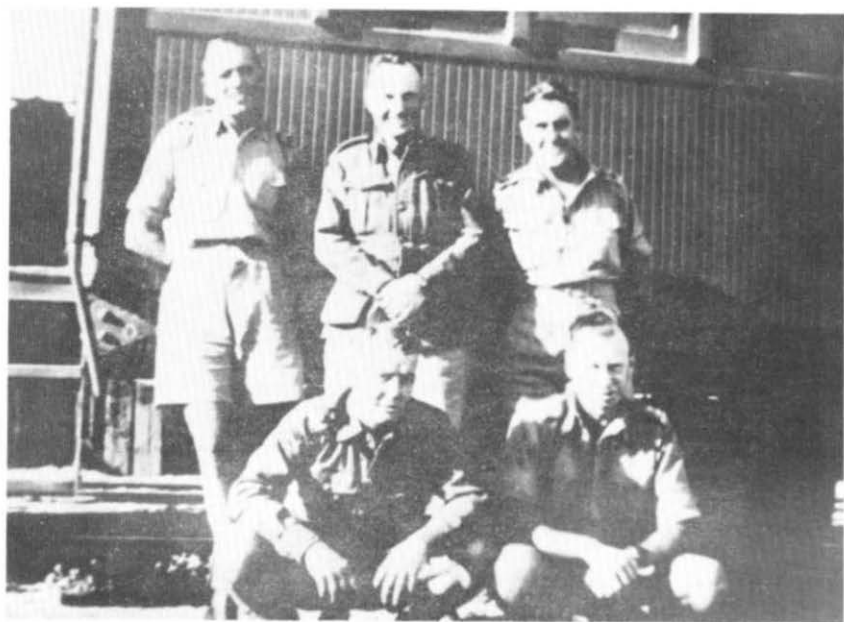
Our means of transport — Adelaide to Alice Springs — at the time a novel, but uncomfortable means of transportation.



Another of the many stops enabling Tom Creeley, "Sandy" Meyers, Vic Ellis, Mick Thorne, "Lofty" Howson, Alan Randle and Gerry Daly to stretch their legs.



At one of the many stops which gave the men a chance to stretch their legs and offered also, a chance to meet some of the locals. Here Graham Moulton, Leo Clohesy, "Tich" Cheeseman and "Bluey" Riley (front) socialize with a local stockman and his son.



Len Norman and Fred Longmore with three other, who at this far distant time remain unidentified, take a rest on the way to the NT.



Quorn, South Australia. In front of the railway station in February, 1942. The Ladies of this town excelled and were famous for the meals served to troops passing through on their way to and from the Northern Territory.



At Hawker, en route to the Northern Territory. This was one of the many stops made, enabling in this instance the men to socialize with a couple of local girls.



The township of Alice Springs as it was in February 1942. The overnight stop here enabled the troops to shower for the first time in days, eat something other than "Bully Beef", take in an open-air picture show and sleep before moving on.



A very familiar sight for travellers on the Highway from Alice Springs to points North. Even in the hurry to get to Darwin, the convoy stopped for a closer look at this now famous landmark.



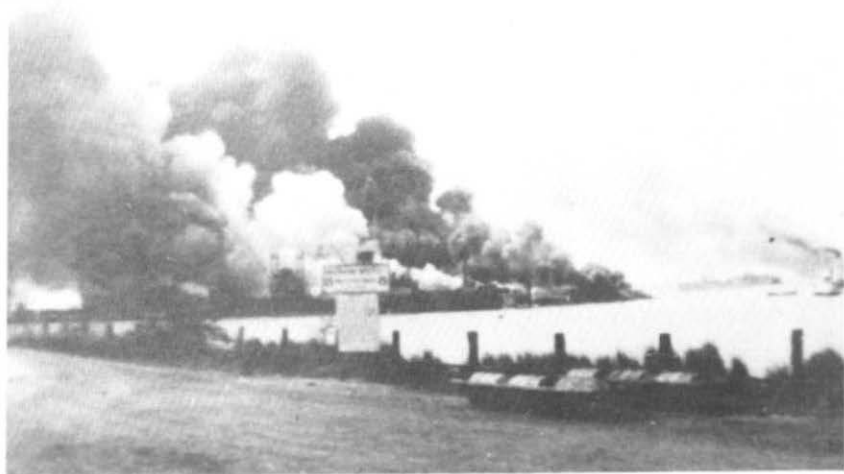
Transport loaded on the "flat-top" cars at Larrimah, which was the point of transferring everything that came through, from Motor transport to the Railway, and vice versa on the return journey, south.



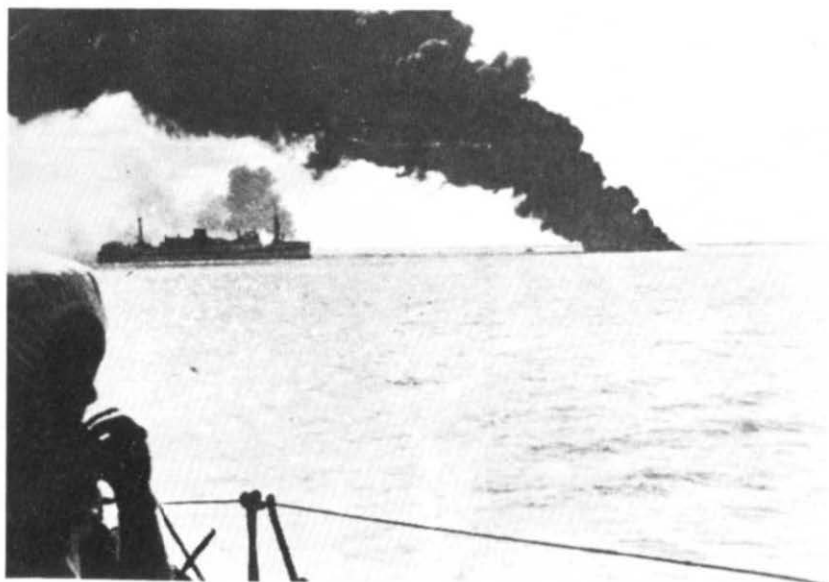
Trucks which formed in convoys to bring stores and equipment from the Southern States through Alice Springs and via Mt Isa in Queensland, after being unloaded at Larrimah. Troops also were carried in this type of vehicle, usually with 18-20 men per truck.



Manton Dam as it looked in 1942. The construction of this project was commenced in 1939, but poor equipment, labour troubles, and faults in the rock foundation caused much delay. The first water flowed through the pipeline to Darwin about 75 km further north, in March, 1941. The pipeline ran above ground for most of the way and was always a source of hot water for most of the day.

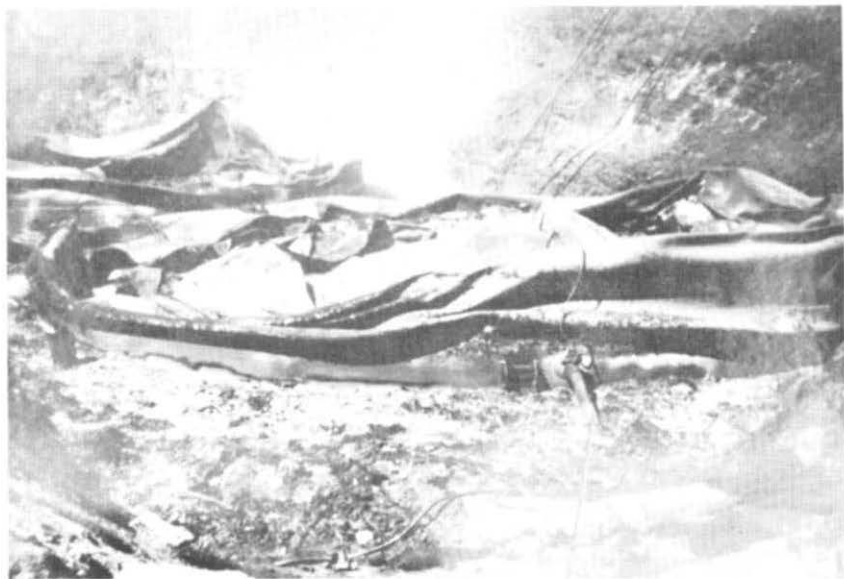


Darwin was bombed on the 19th of February, 1942 and there were a further 63 air-raids in the area during the 19 months of service by the 7th Bn, up to September, 1943. The top picture is of a number of vessels burning at the wharf and the bottom picture shows the USS "Peary" and an Australian Hospital Ship burning in the harbour.





During one of the raids on Darwin the oil tanks were hit. The top picture shows fire fighters endeavouring to stem the blaze and the bottom picture shows the collapsed tanks after the fire.





One of the many bombed out buildings in Darwin.



A group of 7 Bn Officers inspect the damage to the Darwin Hotel.

From early October, the Militia was called up in two drafts, each of 40,000 men, for a period of thirty days continuous training. Early in 1940 the pattern was repeated, but this time for ninety days duration. Militia units were then brought up to strength by the introduction of compulsory training, when the government called up fit young men in their twenties. These new recruits were officially known as "Universal Trainees."

Most of those called up and allocated to the 7th Battalion came from the districts of Sunraysia, but others from the districts around Nhill, Hopetoun, Warracknabeal, Rainbow, Jeparit, Donald, Murtoa, Minyip, Rapinyup and Horsham, were allocated to the battalion. There were also some from Maryborough and Kyneton. The first thirty-day camp in which the battalion participated was at Mt Martha on the Mornington Peninsula, but the first ninety-day camp, where the universal trainees were to participate, was at Balcombe.

Militiamen wore their own distinctive-type uniform, and this consisted of a slouch hat with the regimental badge on the turned-up side, the cavalry unit still wore the plume as well; a tunic without a collar and fastened at the neck also bore the regimental badge, and was trimmed with red or green piping. This tunic was worn with breeches, with long puttees or leggings, and brown boots.

On the entry of the universal trainees to the system, all troops were issued with the AIF-type tunic and long slacks. At the same time, all regimental badges were withdrawn and replaced by the "Rising Sun" hat and collar badges issued to the AIF. This made the only noticeable difference between an AIF volunteer and a CMF conscript, being that the AIF personnel wore the metal "Australia" insignia on their tunic epaulets. The introduction of the same pay system also reduced the daily pay of a CMF pre-war volunteer private soldier from eight shillings a day to five.

As might be expected, the outbreak of hostilities saw quite a transformation within most Militia units, and the 7th was no exception. With the opening of recruiting for the AIF and other Services, an immediate flood of transfers of officers and men took place. This was to continue throughout the proceeding months until there were very few of the pre-war personnel remaining.

During 1940 and through 1941, many personnel changes occurred with a continuous stream of trainees joining and departing the unit. On 13 April, 1941 the battalion again entered camp for a further training period of ninety days. This time the site was at Nagambie Road, a few miles out of Seymour. By this time, the establishment of an infantry battalion had been altered to consist of BHQ, HQ Coy, four rifle companies — A, B, C and D, and a support company known as E Coy. When this camp came to a conclusion, most of the officers and NCOs, together with a few ORs, were placed on a full-time basis. Those not in this category were returned to civilian life

to continue their normal occupations until called up again in December, 1941. The full-time duty members were transported to Balcombe to be utilised in the training of further recruits. It is of interest to note that by August, 1941 the total strength of Militia stood at 173,000 men, quite a considerable force for a nation the size of Australia. Approximately 45,000 of this force was serving at this time on full-time duty.

Throughout the whole period of Australian military history, 1941-42 marks the time during which the greatest stress was placed on the Australian High Command. The news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in Hawaii was a great shock to most Australians, but initially there was little dismay. It took about two months for most of the adult population to realise the seriousness of the situation. This was brought home to them by the fall of Rabaul on 23 January, 1942, and things certainly turned grimmer when the Japanese launched their attack on Singapore on the night of 8 February, and decidedly more grimmer when the defenders surrendered a week later.

The islands of N.E.I., now known as Indonesia, were only a few weeks away from being over-run, leaving Australia next in line for possible invasion. On the fall of Ambon and the Celebes, Darwin was within range of land-based bombers, not to mention the carrier-based planes which had attacked Pearl Harbour.

Towards the latter part of 1941, the Naval and Air Forces available in Australia were, for the most part, non-existent. The only force available was the Army, mostly Militia, who in the main were not fully trained nor fully equipped, but nevertheless had to be deployed for the defence of mainland Australia. It was therefore not surprising that the 7th Battalion was due for a move.

CHAPTER 2

To the Northern Territory

On the entry of the Japanese into the war, the 7th Battalion was still encamped at Balcombe on the Mornington Peninsula, about sixty kilometres from Melbourne. The battalion was immediately placed on a war-time footing and allocated a defensive position in the Dandenong area, about sixteen kilometres due east of Mordialloc on Port Phillip Bay, and twenty-four kilometres due north of Watsons Inlet on Western Port Bay. This position formed part of the overall defence of Melbourne some thirty-two kilometres to the north west.

The move to this position was completed by 15 December, 1941 and at the time the posted strength of the unit was 36 officers and 376 other ranks. Troops were coming and going at a fast rate, with recruits being engaged in basic training and the remainder occupied digging weapon pits, and setting up barbed wire entanglements with trip wires out in front. This type of activity continued through to 25 January, 1942 when 440 other ranks were marched out to the 8th Battalion. The troops remaining were kept busy putting further recruits through their paces and revetting and finishing existing projects.

By 2 February, word had filtered down through the grape vine that a move was soon intended, but the destination was yet still unknown. All eighteen-year old lads were then transferred out to the 38th Battalion.

On 5 February, the 7th Battalion received its first AIF reinforcements. Several hundred of these men, who had enlisted for overseas service on or about 7 December, 1941 had been undergoing basic training at a village close to Bacchus Marsh, some forty kilometres from Melbourne. This place was called Darley, and will be remembered by all who did their training there. On 2 January, 1942 most of these troops were entrained at Bacchus Marsh and headed for Port Melbourne, where most thought they were on their way to the Middle East.

Unfortunately, much to their dismay, they were embarked on the Paddle Steamer "Weeroona" and sailed for Port Arlington, Queenscliff, Ocean Grove, Point Lonsdale, Portsea and Sorrento, there to join other troops who had been digging trenches in the sand dunes. A further shock was in store for them, for after about five weeks of further basic training, on 5 February they were transported to Dandenong to join the 7th Battalion. To say that this was a disappointment at the time would be a great understatement. To have volunteered for service overseas, and having enlisted in the AIF for that purpose (Militiamen were restricted at that time to serving in Australia and PNG) it was a gross insult to be posted to a

Militia unit. It certainly did nothing for their morale, but when, falsely as it turned out, they were advised they would be going north and into action within a few weeks, most reconciled themselves to their fate. Some though, went AWL.

This certainly was a busy time for the Administrative and Quartermaster staff. Other units, then in camp along the Mornington Peninsula, had called for volunteers to join the 7th. Men were therefore arriving at all times during the day and night. They came from other infantry battalions such as the 5th, 6th, 14th, 23rd, 32nd and 46th, and all had to be brought up to date with their "Q" issues.

Those personnel who had not had leave for some time, and who could be spared from duty, were despatched on leave. Then on 14 February a movement order, code-named "OVERLAND" was released authorising 7th Battalion to proceed overland by rail and road to 7 Military District in the Northern Territory.

Trucks and equipment were still arriving at the battalion from Ordnance Depots and being allocated to various companies, but finally personnel from A Coy, some from C Coy together with a platoon of E Coy, detachments of HQ Coy and some BHQ elements were ready to move.

On Monday morning, 16 February, 1942 the epic journey began. The first draft consisting of 275 men, with their equipment and vehicles, moved out of the area by road to Dandenong railway siding where they entrained. Reveille was at 0330 hrs with breakfast being served at Spencer Street railway station, after which the draft moved on again via Geelong to Ballarat for lunch, Horsham for the evening meal, then on to the Adelaide Showgrounds for breakfast before once again moving on to Terowie. Capt Vic Iredale, OC A Coy, was the Officer-in-Charge of the first draft, which was also accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col R.M. Sadler, DSO, MC, VD.

At Terowie, the vehicles accompanying the draft were loaded that evening for on-movement to Alice Springs. These vehicles were to be accompanied by their driver and relief driver on the flat-tops of the narrow gauge railway. After an overnight stop the troops boarded the antiquated carriages of this railway, and "iron" rations were to be available consisting of "bully" beef and "dog" biscuits. This was the norm, except when the train stopped at Quorn for lunch. Here a great feast was organised by the womenfolk of the town, and was greatly appreciated by the men. All troops who subsequently passed this way were dined in the "Royal" manner, and will never forget the hospitality of the people of Quorn.

It was also the norm, when travelling these slow moving trains through this area, for troops to obtain a billy of hot water from the engine driver to make a brew of tea.

There were three other drafts to depart in this manner, before the whole battalion was on the move. The second draft, under command

of Capt J. Hughes, MM, consisted of D Coy, HQ E Coy, and HQ Coy details. The third draft, commanded by Capt K. Blaby, consisted of the remainder of C Coy, a platoon of E Coy, HQ Coy details and BHQ elements. The fourth and final draft was led by Capt V. Ellis and contained B Coy, a platoon of E Coy and the remainder of HQ Coy and BHQ.

It was during this journey that the battalion learned of the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese on 19 February, 1942.

The arrival at Alice Springs afforded an overnight rest for the troops, and enabled the vehicles, which were to be driven by unit personnel to Larrimah, to be unloaded.

Reveille was quite early the following morning, and after breakfast, prepared by the cooks of the staging camp at Alice Springs, the convoy of over seventy trucks was ready to move.

The troops were loaded into three-ton trucks, with about eighteen men to each, and driven by personnel of the Australian Army Service Corps, for the tedious trek over a barely definable track that followed the telegraph line through the scrub. It was hot and dusty and because of the urgency (an invasion of Australia was thought imminent), there were no routine stops made. It was go as fast as possible, and should one need to answer the call of nature, it was down with the trousers and perch over the tailgate of the moving vehicle, hoping for the best! As time went on and the bore water took its effect, this was no mean feat to accomplish. One vehicle driven by Private Bill Norris actually overturned, injuring a number of the occupants.

The first night out from Alice Springs, after having travelled approximately 300 kilometres, camp was made on the side of the track at Barrow Creek. Similar progress was made for the next two days until the convoy arrived at the railhead of the Darwin rail line at Larrimah. Those who travelled this journey will no doubt recall names like Tea Tree Wells, The Devil's Marbles, Tennant Creek, Banka Banka, Renner Springs, Elliott, Newcastle Waters, Dunmarra and Daly Waters.

On 24 February the first draft entrained on the now defunct, but well known "Leaping Lena" at Larrimah for Noonamah, an area located some forty kilometres from Darwin. After numerous stops for water for the engine, and a swim for the troops in the Adelaide River where the draft was held up, due to the engine being required for another train bringing refugees south from Darwin, the ultimate destination was finally reached at 1930 hours the following day. There was no accommodation available for the men, so they spent the night under the stars. Fortunately it did not rain, even though it was in the middle of the "wet" season.

In the Northern Territory there is hardly any difference between the Summer and Winter climates, the seasons being divided into only "Wet" and "Dry." The temperature is hot and humid through-

out the entire year, and a variation of only one hour of daylight between the seasons occurs. During the "Wet" from November to May, the daily downpour can be almost relied upon, making the entire countryside practically inaccessible. Creeks become torrents and what roads there were at the time, became quagmires. The humidity increases and the nights become warmer, with bugs and mosquitoes in abundance. And so it was to these conditions, that members of the 7th Battalion were introduced on their arrival at Noonimah.

The battalion was allotted to the 23rd Brigade, which at the time was commanded by Brigadier E.F. Lind, who had been in command of the brigade from its inception at Bonegilla in 1940. Units of the brigade were originally the 2/21st, 2/22nd and 2/40th Infantry Battalions, but were at this time either fighting for their lives on Timor, behind enemy lines, or had perished in the initial onslaughts on Ambon and Rabaul.

The task of setting up camp for the remaining drafts to follow was the first priority, but with the "Wet" season in full swing, the heat and humidity was taking some getting used to. Shortage of rations did not help the situation, and tempers were getting a little frayed at the edges, nevertheless by the time the second draft had arrived, the camp area was better than it had been.

As if to celebrate the coming together again of the battalion in its new location and environment, after a long and sometimes uncomfortable arduous journey of around 4000 kilometres, a severe tropical storm hit the area on 29 February. This made the total of 1037 all ranks of the unit wonder what was next in store for them.

It was not long before platoon training was in full swing, with all spare time available taken up in the construction of a sports ground. The training was now being entered into with much more enthusiasm by all concerned; it was realized that the war situation was most serious, and that there should be an attempt by all ranks to get in more training to fit themselves for the, as was thought, imminent invasion.

On 5 March, Captain J. Thompson and 20 Platoon of E Coy were the advance party of the first of many moves to be made by the battalion during its tour of duty in the Northern Territory. Before the move, however, Maj Osmond, second-in-charge of the battalion at the time, had an idea of setting up a canteen for the troops, but was at first frustrated by the absence of any official finance being available. It appears that on the occurrence of the air raid a few days earlier, all Bank Managers in Darwin had gathered up their securities and cash, about £300,000 worth (nearly half belonging to the Commonwealth Bank which payrolled the troops in the area) and hurriedly left Darwin for Alice Springs. It is said, that even a week after their managers had departed, the staff had had no word from them. Three weeks later, all staff were employed in labour

gangs, cleaning the streets of Darwin, and would probably have been still there three months later, had it not been for one of the clerks hitch-hiking to Alice Springs, and demanding some attention.

The financial problem for Maj Osmond and the 7th Battalion was temporarily overcome by borrowing the sum of one hundred and forty pounds from the officers and NCOs, thus enabling a small but effective canteen to be established.

Arrival of the first batch of mail on 2 March was a great morale booster. This, coupled with the fact that a concert party arrived to put on a show, even though it rained, did much for general feelings.

The troops were now settling in to their new environment, with digging trenches, forming roads throughout the camp area, and bayonet training thrown in for good measure keeping them busy.

Night manoeuvres were introduced about this time, which in turn introduced everybody to the local mosquitoes. The mosquito repellent issued by the "Q" Store, had a citronella base, and it seemed to attract rather than repel. It was most ineffective, with the exposed parts of the body becoming targets for the mosquitoes, using their sting so proficiently. Nights in the bush, and on guard, were an absolute hell.

To further enhance the training schedule, and to act as some sort of entertainment, a boxing tournament was organised. This resulted in Pte Knight defeating Pte Sydney, Pte Deacon defeating Pte Wilson, Pte Rose fighting a draw with Pte Mayne, Pte Chambers defeating Pte Sword, Pte La Rose defeating Pte Roe, Pte Rowe defeating Cpl Sutherland, and Pte Buckley winning from Pte Barnes. All who watched reckoned the night's entertainment was quite a success.

The first picture show to arrive in the area on the evening of 8 March was greeted with much enthusiasm, but as is the case with most armies, one should be wary when things start to get comfortable. Here was no exception, for the first of the many moves the battalion was to make in the next eighteen months, was ordered for the very next day. This move was only thirteen kilometres further up the main highway towards Darwin. At first the site didn't impress, but a swim parade to the Elizabeth River close by made things quite different.

Another boxing tournament was held on 14 March. This was also the day the battalion was honoured by the visit of Major General Sir Iven Mackay.

Results of the boxing were:

Pte Brainwood defeated Pte Deacon, Pte Belshaw defeated Pte Fenton, Pte Young drew with Cpl Vidler, Pte Jones defeated Pte Dougherty.

Rain interrupted further bouts, but not before Ptes Colbert and Baily, two heavy-weights, gave an exhibition in the manly art of self-defence.

Rations were still in very short supply, with cigarettes and tobacco being extremely scarce, but the "smokes" situation was relieved by the issue of one ounce of tobacco per five men, and six only ready-made cigarettes each. Non-smokers, of which there were a few, were in great demand. However, on 19 March a further issue at the rate of one ounce of tobacco per man, followed by another issue a few days later had the situation under control.

On the night of 24 March, the first of many working parties moved out of camp at 2315 hours, and headed for the docks in Darwin. The job was to unload a convoy of ships, which had been forced back to port by the war situation having deteriorated in the area in which they were bound. This was to prove a bonanza for the men of the 7th; the cargo contained, among other things, cans of Californian cherries, peaches and other items not previously seen in this area. Needless to say, the men rose to the occasion, and soon had their share of the contents.

One story relating to this era, surfaced during the compilation of this history:

After scrounging tinned fruit and vegetables etc, from the available sources when on a working detail, it was the normal practice to take these items back to our defensive area for future use.

Our particular method for storage was to dig a hole, line it with a wooden box, place our "goodies" inside and place a lid over the top. The cache would then be covered with grass and twigs as camouflage. Remembering that the grass was usually close to two metres high at this time of the year and quite prevalent throughout the entire area, it was quite a good means of storage.

Imagine our consternation, when returning to camp one day, to find the entire area had been cleared of grass by burning. Our first thoughts, naturally, were for our cache of "goodies". World War 3 would have commenced right there and then, if we could have found those responsible for the fire, because our entire store was ruined.

It was not long before another move was in progress. This time a little further up the road towards Darwin to what was to become the defence area, in the event of an invasion. Enormous holes were dug in the ground reminiscent of the trenches of World War I. No structures above ground level were permitted, so during the entire period spent in this location, troops slept on the ground in their allocated areas. Working parties were still being carried out, but in between time holes had to be dug, weapon pits established, and scrub cleared from the front of all defensive positions.

Further working parties to the town area of Darwin were still being supplied by personnel of the 7th Battalion, and these were mostly for unloading ships, or unloading trucks plying between ships and the various stores areas in the Darwin area. They were quite popular with the troops, for they were the source of augment-

ing the meagre rations. The supply of foodstuff through the normal channels consisted of mainly rice, and a commodity called herrings in tomato sauce. It was referred to as "goldfish," "shark repellent" or "dog's vomit" and at the best of times would have been rather unpalatable, but to have this dished up for nearly every meal, every day, for a lengthy period was very hard on the palate. It is difficult to say how many such consecutive meals were served up to the troops, with the cooks excelling themselves by thinking up different menus to include rice. For instance: boiled or fried rice mixed with herrings in tomato sauce for the main course, followed by boiled rice or rice pudding for dessert. To this day, at reunions or other gatherings, figures like 98 to 150 consecutive meals of "goldfish and rice" are quoted.

The CO of the battalion, Lt Col Sadler, had been acting Brigade Commander since the departure of Brigadier Lind, resulting in Maj Osmond acting as CO. OC of companies at this stage were: Capt McInnes, HQ Coy; Capt Iredale, A Coy; Capt Ellis, B Coy; Capt K. Blaby, C Coy; Capt Hughes, D Coy and Capt Thompson, E Coy.

Capt Hughes and his company were soon to move out to Darwin, to be attached to 7 MD for the defence of that headquarters. Night patrols by remaining members of the battalion were commenced to locations known as the Twin Sisters Water Hole, and Marlow Lagoon. At about this time, the Ack-Ack Platoon farewelled their Platoon Commander, Lt G.A. Jones, and Lt Scholtz marched in to be appointed IO. He replaced Lt Crothers who was allotted to C Coy.

When Brigadier Dougherty arrived, exercises at the battalion level commenced and were designed to improve the physical standard and stamina of the troops, and to practice officers in receiving and carrying out orders. On one such exercise, to add realism to the occasion, the Japanese made an air attack on the area through which the battalion was moving (close to the RAAF Base in Darwin).

Night patrolling was still being conducted and had been extended to include the Wells Creek area, in the vicinity of the Elizabeth River. On one of these patrols, Very lights were observed, and further patrols were organised to investigate, but nothing unusual was found. Listening posts were set up, but although the lights were again observed, still nothing was found.

It was now getting on towards the last week in April. D Coy had rejoined the battalion and it was time for another move, this time to a previously occupied site, further down the track. To sleep in a tent again was quite a luxury, but the duration of the stay at this location was rather short, for the area had been earmarked for the construction of one of the many airstrips to be built along the north-south road. This area was later to become Livingstone Field, named after Lieutenant John D. Livingstone, a P40 pilot of 9 Squadron

USAAF, who was the first casualty at the newly constructed strip. He overshot the strip after being damaged in a "dog fight" with a Zero. He smashed into the trees and died in the resulting inferno.

Other airfields to be constructed in the area were Sattler — the first one encountered when proceeding south from Darwin. It was named after Flt Lt Sattler, 13 Squadron RAAF, whose unescorted Hudson bomber was lost over the Banda Sea, north of Timor on 13 January, 1942. 13 Squadron was stationed at Laha in Ambon, at the time, but between the 20th and 31st of January, 1942 the battered Hudson Squadrons (2 and 13) were flown out, taking nearly all the air crews and ground staff back to Daly Waters in the Northern Territory. In May, 1942 they were relocated at RAAF Base Darwin and the newly constructed Hughes Field, respectively. Hughes Field was named in honour of Lieutenant C.W. Hughes who was killed at Darwin on 19 February.

Strauss Field was the other airstrip just north of Livingstone, on the same side of the road. It was named in honour of Captain A. Strauss, USAAF, also killed in action against the Japanese, and another P40 pilot.

It was common practice for members of the battalion, when camped in close proximity to these airfields, to count the number of planes, both fighters and bombers, on take-off, and to recount them on their return. Also, on many an occasion, members of the battalion had a grandstand view of the "dog fights" between P40s, and later on, Spitfires, and the Japanese.

An incident that occurred at one of these airstrips is probably worthy of mention:

"When proceeding along the main North-South Road on the back of a truck, travelling towards Darwin, during a day when an air raid on Darwin was occurring, one of the many things I still remember about being in that area took place.

At a point where the road runs parallel with the airstrip, then known as Livingstone Field, I and the blokes on the truck were amazed and, to say the least, somewhat apprehensive, to see an aircraft flying low, straight down the road towards us, gradually losing height as it came.

Our driver must have seen the aircraft at the same time as us, for the truck lurched to the left and came to a sudden halt on the airstrip itself.

The Kittyhawk did a wheels down emergency landing on the road and rolled to a halt right opposite where we were now standing. Everybody raced over to the aircraft as the pilot slid back the canopy over the cockpit and commenced to climb out. I could only marvel at the coolness of the fellow as he said, "Has anybody got a cigarette?"

His aircraft had been damaged in a dog-fight with a Zero and he had headed for the closest and most convenient place to put it down."

After departure from the Darwin area of 49 Fighter Group USAAF, 76 and 77 Squadrons RAAF occupied Strauss and Livingstone fields until replaced by 452 and 457 Squadrons RAAF respectively, with their Spitfires. 54 Squadron RAF also served in the area and operated from Sattler Field.

Again reappointments were being made to the officer structure. Lt Col Sadler announced that he was being promoted, and was to take up a new appointment as the Commander of the L of C Area. Maj Osmond was again acting CO. Lt Keens was relocated from D Coy to HQ Coy. Capt Hughes left the unit to go south. A few days later Maj Osmond also departed south, then Maj J.N. Henry marched in and was appointed 2 i/c of the battalion and therefore Acting CO. Capt Lang was moved from Transport to 2 i/c A Coy, and Capt L.I. Hopton marched in to take up the appointment of OC D Coy.

A note in the unit war diary at this date states that Cpl Alan Joy was placed in charge of all plumbing, and that part of 9 Platoon A Coy would be detached as a working party, under Lt M. McGlynn to proceed to Larrimah. Here they would be employed unloading vehicles arriving from southern and eastern States via Alice Springs and Mt Isa. The platoon remained in this location until early July.

One little anecdote that came out of this sojourn, is a story of four members of the platoon who had been detached from the main camping area to a location some four hundred yards out in the bush. It was their duty to man an anti-aircraft, light machine gun detachment, which consisted of one single tent and a Hotchkiss mounted on a tripod in a circular pit close by. It is important to mention here that the Hotchkiss was not familiar to many at the time, and had been used in World War I by the Light Horse units. It was certainly not a weapon that any of the four members concerned in this saga knew anything about.

Our four heroes had been sitting around their area for about a week, just playing cards and "spine bashing" as was the favourite pastime of the day, when their peace and quiet was rudely interrupted by a head appearing at the door of their tent shouting, "Action Stations!" One of our heroes, who was sitting furthest from the door, and who was a little hard of hearing, replied, "We haven't got your flamin' axe," whereupon the figure at the door of the tent made more of its bulk visible, to reveal it was none other than the RSM, turning purple in the face and finding it difficult to contain his rage. He once again shouted, "Action Stations," galvanizing one of the crew, at least, into action by racing out of the tent to man the gun.

This gallant soul sprang into the pit, grabbed the cocking handle of the Hotchkiss and pulled it to the rear to cock it, but to his amazement, and much consternation of the RSM, the working parts dropped out the rear of the gun fell in a scattered heap on the ground.

Our four reluctant heroes were immediately relieved of their cushy job and returned post haste to the rest of the platoon unloading trucks. Following this episode, the entire personnel of the

camp gained more experience with the Hotchkiss on the firing range the next day!

On returning to the battalion, now camped at the Bagot Road area adjacent to the Darwin RAAF Base, members were to find that many changes had taken place in their absence. One of the most effective changes to occur at this time, was the appointment of VX11 Lt Col J.A. Wilmoth as the CO.

On 17 March, 1942 General Douglas MacArthur, on his way to Melbourne from the Philippines, landed at Batchelor Airfield. He was soon to take up his command as Supreme Commander, Allied Powers, South West Pacific Area. His new command structure was finalised on 18 April, 1942, but in the meantime the planning staffs had considered the threat to the north. The Australian Chiefs of Staff identified three likely moves by the Japanese against Australia: south-east from PNG to the east coast of Australia; south-east from N.E.I. (Netherland East Indies) to Darwin; south-west from N.E.I. to West Australia. It was estimated that the attacking force would consist of two divisions, supported by four aircraft carriers carrying 200 planes, plus heavy cruisers and one hundred shore-based aircraft from their bases at Koepang, Ambon and Namlea. This attack was estimated to occur between the last week in March and the first week in April.

Counter measures required to stem this invasion was estimated to be at least three aircraft carriers with escorting heavy cruisers, destroyers and a submarine squadron; one Army division plus strong anti-aircraft defences; three fighter squadrons and perhaps seven other type squadrons.

It is interesting to note that a greater part of the air reinforcements did arrive in Darwin, but none of the proposed Naval force. However, a new Army Commander was appointed — Maj Gen Edmund Herring, former GOC 6 Div AIF, left Adelaide on 27 March, 1942, a little more than a week after arriving back from the Middle East to take up his Command, henceforth known as Northern Territory Force, and this covered the whole of north-west Australia from the Kimberleys to Mt Isa. He had been given greater authority than previous commanders, with the promise of more troops and increased supplies. He had an awesome task ahead of him, on the face of what was believed to be imminent invasion. His methods to achieve some rapid changes could be described as herculean; ruthless replacement of suspect officers; introduction of AIF veterans, Brigadiers R. King and I.N. Dougherty, as Commander of 3rd and 23rd Brigades respectively; dissolution of the old 7 Military District Headquarters, and immediate redeployment of his forces, coupled with a vigorous training programme.

By the time the 19th Brigade moved into the area in May, 1942 General Herring was reasonably satisfied that his men would fight.

With the troops becoming more and more acclimatised to the environment, sport of all kinds flourished. Football was most popular, but cricket, boxing, swimming, athletics and tug of war, being some of the other kinds which became routine features of everyday life. On Monday 7 June, 1943 Northern Territory Force sponsored its most ambitious sporting project — a picnic race meeting at Adelaide River. Brig Potts chaired the race committee; horses were borrowed from the Herbert Brothers' Station at Koolpinyah and Humpty Doo.

Thousands turned out to bet and watch the Bulldust Stakes, the Staff Scurry, the Navy, Army and Air Force Handicaps, and the Northern Derby. All proceeds went to the POW Fund.

General Herring, concerned at the low morale of his command, gave new impetus to the efforts of people like the Presbyterian padre, Chris Goy, who obtained his own projector and showed films. As many as 600 troops would attend a single screening. Mobile film units were later added to the entertainment circuit, and the 6th Division Concert Party visited the area.

The lot of the men was gradually improved, but it was a male only area, and the lack of female companionship made life rather lonely and monotonous. In the early days, it was exciting when the Japanese were over fairly regularly, and for a short while when an invasion was expected, with little time to worry about flies and mosquitoes. It wasn't a tough life compared with the combat areas of New Guinea, but at times it sure was boring.

Many a time troops would hitch a ride as far as 50 kilometres just to see a picture show, and then fail to get a ride all the way home necessitating walking and arriving back at camp at some ungodly hour of the morning.

In the meantime, a commando-type platoon, under Lt H.F. Knights was formed from C Coy personnel, and proceeded to Winnellie for an arduous, but interesting training course. It was 18 May before they were to return to the battalion. On that same day, A Coy proceeded to Noonamah as a working party for a period of eight days. They were, of course, less their 9 Platoon whose members were still at Larrimah.

On the day A Coy's duty at Noonamah ceased, a battalion parade was held for the purpose of calling for volunteers from the CMF personnel to enlist in the AIF. From January, 1942 as a result of Japan's entry into the war, Militiamen had not been permitted to transfer to the AIF. When this situation was revoked, and when applications were finally issued to individuals to encourage them to join, there followed months of official "rangling" as to the form the new regimental numbers for these personnel would take. At first it was proposed to prefix the existing numbers with the letters "VXM". When this was severely criticised, a direction was issued

that the letters "VX" would be used, and that 1,000,000 would be added to the original "V" number. This idea was wisely abandoned when it was realised that V12346 would become VX1012346. Finally it was conceded that those enlisting would get a "VX" number from the normal block of AIF numbers.

This haggling, plus the belated arrival of what was felt should have been the initial decision of the government, at the beginning, was unfortunate and harmful, as it discriminated between CMF and AIF, in many minds.

That there did exist two separate types of enlistment and thus two separate armies, is something that should never have arisen in the first place. The term "Chocolate Soldier" resulted from this, a rather derogatory term that caused more discontent amongst both Militiamen and AIF personnel of integrated units, than any other single thing.

At this stage it is prudent to say that there was a steady rate of enlistment of CMF members from this time onwards. On the other hand, the term "Choco" was to change from derogatory term, to a title to be proud of. Some men were determined to retain their original "V" number, just to show that here was one matter on which the Army could not order them to change. Not even the C-in-C could make them volunteer, and they were going to revel in this freedom. Whether there were any such thoughts or action from men of the 7th Battalion is not relative to this narrative, but should there be any personnel in this category, one should take one's hat off to them for their determination.

31 May saw other departures from the unit. Padre Milligan gave his last sermon at Church Parade, and Lts Knights and Scholly departed having been reclaimed by their former unit.

Officer appointments as at 1 June were:

CO — Lt Col J. Wilmoth

2 i/c — Maj J. Henry

Adjt — Capt C. Jones

IO — Lt D. Healy

SO — Lt K. Neville

Company Commanders:

HQ Coy — Capt W. McInnes

A Coy — Capt V. Iredale

B Coy — Capt V. Ellis

C Coy — Capt K. Blaby

D Coy — Capt L. Hopton

E Coy — Capt J. Thompson.

This was also the day B Coy moved out to Noonamah as a working party, and one platoon from each of the other companies moved out to Pine Creek. Working parties were now a normal part of the daily routine.

7 June could be earmarked as a day to remember, for it was on this day that a fierce bush fire broke out on the eastern boundary of the camp area. Eventually approximately 500 men were utilized before the fire was brought under control.

Two days after this incident, C and D Coys moved out to the Byno Bay area on exercise. They were followed two days later by A and B Coys. On their return to camp at the completion of the exercise, they were informed that another move to the Fortress area was to commence on the following day. The 7th Battalion moved into an area vacated by the 19th Battalion at Bagot Road, adjacent to the RAAF Base, and were to remain there until relieved by the 8th Battalion on 19 July.

During the month of June, General Sir Thomas Blamey, Commander, Allied Land Forces, South West Pacific Area, suggested that Timor should be either recaptured or evacuated, only to be told by MacArthur that resources were not available. In December the Americans themselves briefly considered an attempt to retake Aru, Tanimbar and the Kai Islands. Then on the 7th of that month, the Australian CGS, Lt Gen Sir John Northcott, noted that a divisional operation for the recapture of Timor was under consideration. By this time though, all available strength was being committed at the savage battles of Gona and Buna in PNG, and it was apparent that the line of advance by the Allies would continue through that area, and not N.E.I. This spelt the end for guerilla operations in Timor and, though not immediately apparent, the end of Darwin's chances of becoming a major war base.

Maj Gen Herring ended his term of Commander in the Northern Territory on 11 August, 1942 and went on to greater things in PNG. He was succeeded in turn by Maj Gen J.E.S. Stevens (August 1942 to March 1943) and Maj Gen A.S. Allen (March 1943 to October 1944).

In July, 1943 the field force in the Northern Territory reached a strength of three infantry brigades (12th, 13th and 23rd), plus the 6 Cav Regt and 2/8th Independent Field Company.

The men of the 7th Battalion, however, were oblivious to all this and moved back to be part of the 23rd Brigade. The 39 Mile Camp was to be permanent home until 25 March, 1943.

During the next eight months, normal infantry training was carried out, with frequent battalion and brigade exercises, necessitating marching long distances over long periods. One such exercise lasted for six days and was considered by all who participated, to be the "daddy" of them all. Working parties were also a familiar form of duty. One such party consisted of thirty-five men from each of A and D Coys, and thirty from E Coy, under the leadership of Capt Vic Iredale, being utilised to attempt to bring the Southport track up to "wet weather" standard.

Then came the day when the unit lost some of its best known officers. Some of them were nominated to proceed to the 23rd Brigade Training Battalion in New South Wales as instructors. They were: Capt V. Iredale, Capt K. Blaby, Lt B. Benton, Lt Hanlan, Lt L. Donald, Lt T. McCarthy and Lt C. McLeod. Seventeen NCOs were to accompany them.

Australian Rules football was always a great way to build "esprit de corps" throughout the unit, and offered a chance for the battalion team to show off its prowess. On 29 November, the 7th Battalion team met a team from 2/8 Tpt Coy AASC. The final scores were 7 Bn — 7 goals 11 behinds, to the Tpt Coy 9 behinds.

Around about this time, it was notified to all ranks that the RAAF was urgently in need of personnel, and was calling for volunteers from all units to be enlisted in that service. Thirty-four men of the 7th made application and were subsequently given a medical examination and IQ test at Noonamah. It is not recorded how many were actually inducted into the RAAF, but it is known that Bob Summerville and Ken McMasters were successful. Both went to Canada with the Empire Training Scheme.

One other aspect of training that probably stands out in the minds of those who participated, and that is the beach landing exercise conducted in Darwin on Mendal Beach during the month of December, 1942. This exercise lasted for over a week and necessitated the participants being billeted at Larrakeyah Barracks. It didn't last long enough though, as far as the troops were concerned, for the Barracks did offer sleeping accommodation indoors and eating in proper messes, sitting at tables on chairs — quite a luxury. Some members will remember running foul of the Portuguese man-of-war that frequented the waters thereabout.

Christmas came and went, with the usual Army tradition of the officers serving the troops at dinner. On Boxing Day a cricket match against the 8th Battalion took place. The scores of 92 runs and 7 wickets for 85 (dec) by 8 Bn, and 101 and 3 wickets for 77 by 7 Bn, resulted in a win for our battalion. Cpl Bob Taylor scored 25 runs and Cpl "Skinny" Sutherland 48.

One of the better jobs to come the way of the 7th was when on 30 December, one hundred men were required to form a construction team to erect a rest camp at Berry Springs. The camp was ready for occupation by 15 January, and the remainder of the battalion moved in for a week's rest.

Yet another Australian Rules football match was played, this time against Advance HQ on 28 January. 7 Bn had a field day winning 22 goals 23 behinds 155 points, to 3 goals 1 behind 19 points. It is well to remember that besides football and cricket, the battalion had men interested in many other sports. One such event was the tug of war which was made up of some big men. The coach of one of these teams was W02 McRae and included Sgt R. Hudson,



The remains of one of the aircraft hangars at the RAAF Base in Darwin.



Another shot of a bomb damaged building. The Post Office and Postmasters Residence.



The Bank of New South Wales after a bombing raid.



This is what remained of a building, situated near Larrakeya Barracks in Darwin.



The Sergeants' Mess at Larrakeyah Barracks.



Nightcliffs, where a number of 7th Bn members were situated.



The Locomotive Sheds of the Northern Territory Railways in Darwin, near Parap.



The junction of the North-South Road and Parap Road, showing the Police Station on the corner.
Vestey's Meat-works can be seen in the back ground.



11 Platoon "B" Coy. *From Left to Right, Back Row:* Silv Slitz, Graham Moulton, Andy McLennan, (Unknown), Noel Dew, Kevin Dagge, "Tackle" Block, "Snowy" Ellis, Keith Ellis. *Centre Row:* Cliff Farrell, Bill Bennett, Arthur Bennett, Kay Moore, Eric Hunt. *Front Row:* Stan Bell, Eric Euthenwoldt, Maurie Coughlan, Noel Williamson, "Scobie" Gross, Peter Stobart and Pat Coughlan.



Vickers Gunners at a live firing exercise.



At one stage, during the wet season and during the early months in the North, all sorts of devices were used. Donkeys were tried in carrying stores and equipment through the most impenetrable areas. The idea was not a success and was soon discontinued.



Left: Laundry Day. Tom Creeley, Keith Gray, "Ripper" Jamieson, Eric Thompson and Gerry Daly, doing their washing. Empty kerosine tins made good boiling utensils. Washing mainly consisted of shirts, trousers, shorts, towels, socks and sock tops.



Bruce Gross and Maurie Coughlan show off a rock python.



Tom Creeley and Mick "Lofty" Howson soon after their arrival at Noonamah, trying to look fit, but soon found out how un-fit they really were after their first route march.



Standing: Jack Baxter, Harold Smith, Allan McDonald. *Front:* "Sharkie" Dave Chambers, Noel Dew, Frank Binney, Jack Woods.



Alan Kenneday in front of one of the many anthills.



Mick Thorne, Porky Kummer, Jack Mill, Theo Pryer and Les "Onions" Conway. Note the dress of members at the time. As they are depicted is exactly how they went on parade at the time.



"B" Coy Mail day in Darwin. Jack Baxter, in centre is dishing out the mail from a wheelbarrow. From left: Noel Williamson, Pat Coughlan, Arthur Bennett, Eric Hunt, Bryan (Doc) Doherty, Noel Dew, Lofty Green, Ron Currie, Eric Euthenwoldt, Jack Baxter, Bill Wilson, Frank Binney, Vern ('Tackle') Block, Cliff Farrell.



This is "D" Coy's area of responsibility during the 7th Battalion's time in the Fortress Area of Darwin. These positions were hurriedly prepared when it was thought that an invasion by the Japanese was imminent.



George Straughan, Ted Clifford and Ken Garth.



"C" Coy members at either Berry's Springs or Howard Springs. Both of these springs were most popular with the troops.



Alan Roe, John "Darkie" Atkinson and another with Roger Walsh and Jim Boswell, all of "C" Coy.



A few of the "C" Coy fellows with their first beer issue in the Northern Territory. *From left to right, standing: Mick Irwin, George Town, "Rosco" ? and Ivan Milbourne. Front, L to R: Jack Lemon, Bill George, Bernie Reddick and Garry Hayes.*



"B" and "C" Coy members surrounded by pandanas — 1942.



Bush carpentry — "C" Coy's Messing Area, early in 1942.



Some of "C" Coy. *From left to right, rear:* Ted Clifford, George Ryan, Mick Walsh, Ted Rawle, Doug McGregor. *Front:* Peter Berthon, George Straughan, "Shorty" Weeks and Ken Garth.



More of "C" Coy: "Darky" Atkinson and Roger Walsh. "Darky" along with "Noisy" McEwan were credited with being the persons to fire the first shots of the 7th Bn at the Japanese on Bougainville.



This is typical of the manner in which all members existed during March 1942, at the 11 Mile post (McMinns). The battalion was dug-in astride the North-South Road and expecting an invasion from the Byno Bay direction. No structure of any kind was permitted above the ground. This is how the troops slept of a night and then removed or hid anything that might be visible from the air.



Adelaide River, on the banks of which, during the "Dry" season, numerous market gardens were established.



"Home on the range" with weapons mostly of 1914-18 vintage, the troops did their best, whilst the Armourer did a mansized job after seeing the results of the shoot.



Lewis Guns, the automatic light machine gun of an infantry section of the day. It was a long time before the men were to see a Bren-Gun which was issued to members of the AIF in the Middle East.



A bomb crater on the RAAF airstrip. Members of "B" Coy are *front*: "Bluey" Farley; *at back from L to R*: "Bluey" Maskell, Eric Thompson, "Darkie" Irvine, "Bluey" Riley and Bill O'Connell. The RAAF area was riddled with these craters as it was the main target for the Japanese bombers.



The semi-jungle type growth is typical of the area of Acacia Gap. "B" Coy members, *L to R*: Bill Dillon, Alan Randle, "Tich" Cheeseman, Alan McDonald, Gerry Daly, Athol Teasdale, Ron Currie and "Bluey" Farley, Eric Euthenwoldt, "Lofty" Green, Dave Chambers, Jock Glen, Arthur Rose and Bill Holmes.



A typical tent, in this case without a fly, which was also typical during the dry season. The occupants: *back, l to r*: Graham Moulton, Jack Baxter, Kevin Dagge. *Front*: Silv Slitz and Vern "Tackle" Block.



One of the advantages of living in an area where there are no females, was to be able to wander around naked. This is a typical example. Sgt. Bert Miatke is the subject.



Lt Dave Edwards, who at this time was the Tpt Officer, was the last of those members who came into camp in April, 1941 to be still with the unit in March, 1946.

Sgt R. Downey, Cpl J. Harr, Pte W. Norris, Pte S. Block, Pte R. Ferrari, Pte R. Morris, Pte P. Delaney and Sig A. George. They were successful on many occasions.

Back again to cricket when a match against 103 Anti Tank resulted in another win for 7 Bn by 7 wickets and 7 runs. Yet another game of football was the much talked about game against 2/11 Fd Regt who considered themselves invincible. Much money changed hands as a result of this game, with the Artillery wondering where they had gone wrong. Our battalion won 15 goals 10 behinds 100 points, to 5 goals 4 behinds 34 points. Goal kickers for 7 Bn were: McEniry (5) Spears (4) Hubble (3) Sutherland (2) and O'Donnell (1).

A week of guard duty for one officer and thirty other ranks relieved the monotony of the normal training that was being carried out continuously. It was considered that one was rather lucky to be selected for these detachments.

A list of officers and their appointment as at 3 April, 1943 reveals that there were a few shortages on the establishment:

CO — Lt Col J. Wilmoth

2 i/c — Maj J. Henry

Adjut — Capt C. Jones

IO — Lt D. Healy

Sig O — Lt K. Deller

TO — Lt D. Edwards

OC HQ Coy — Capt W. McInnes

OC A Coy — Capt O. Leng

OC B Coy — Capt R. Roberts

OC C Coy — Capt W. Cameron

OC D Coy — Capt L. Hopton

2 i/c A Coy — Capt A. Shearer

2 i/c B Coy — Capt R. Gunn

2 i/c C Coy — Lt L. Norman

2 i/c D Coy — Lt L. McKinnon

3 Pl — Lt A. Burgess

4 Pl — Capt R. Leabeter

5 Pl — Lt C. Adams

6 Pl — Lt R. Keens

10 Pl — Lt J. Duncan

12 Pl — Lt K. Neville

13 Pl — Lt H. Smith

14 Pl — Lt M. Elliott

15 Pl — Lt P. Hart

16 Pl — Lt A. Crothers

17 Pl — Lt F. Longmore

18 Pl — Lt C. Griffin

A/A Pl — Lt J. Turvey

Det to HQ NT Force — Capt V. Ellis

RMO — Capt A. Mears, AAMC

Chaplain Class IV — Chap F. Fry

Lt I.M. McKenzie was to march in from 2/108 AGT Coy AASC — to be appointed 9 Pl, A Coy on 19 April.

It was from 3 April that the battalion became an AIF unit, having attained the necessary 75% AIF enlisted personnel on strength. The summary of AIF and CMF was now:

AIF — 25 offrs 482 ORs

CMF — 3 offrs 162 ORs.

The unit was now designated 7th Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF).

The football team celebrated this event by defeating 19 MG Bn, 13 goals 3 behinds 81 points to 8 goals 8 behinds 56 points. And again, this time at cricket, by 5 wickets and 37 runs. Cpl "Skinny" Sutherland took 3 wickets for 25 runs and Pte Ron Zeirsch, 2 wickets for 9 runs. Cpl Spears made 44 retired, and Cpl Horrie Hubble, 27. Another cricket match against 2/13 Fd Amb resulted in a first innings win by 5 wickets.

It was time for another move, and considered by this well trained, super fit, efficient body of men as a welcome change to their normal routine existence. It was undertaken with great aplomb. The term "Mobile" as affixed to modern day units of the Australian Army was certainly appropriate to this unit!

The cricket team was successful in winning the 23 Brigade cricket competition by defeating 11 Anti Tank, who scored 105 in their first innings, and 133 in their second. 7 Bn scored 186, and 2 for 59 respectively. Cpl "Snowy" Sutcliffe scored 55 and S/Sgt Laurie Jorgenson 34. Cpl Spears took 6 for 38 and 4 for 19.

Maj I.R. Duffy now marched in to the unit from 107 AGH, and was just in time to participate in a GOC's parade.

Unfortunately, this was the period when the battalion suffered its first fatality. On 28 May, 1943 Cpl George C. Clifford, a section leader of 9 Pl, A Coy suffered a fatal heart attack whilst playing football on the old civilian aerodrome in Darwin. He was interred at Berrimah, but his grave is now located in the war cemetery at Adelaide River. The second fatality occurred only about six weeks later when Cpl Les. G. Gange died on 9 July, 1943. He also is interred in the war cemetery at Adelaide River.

By 13 July, the time spent in the Fortress area had run out, when the advance party departed to rejoin the 23rd Brigade at the 39 Mile Camp. By the 17th the move had been completed.

The battalion enjoyed another period of relaxation at Berry Springs Rest Camp from 25 July. During this period a reconnaissance was conducted to the Cox Peninsula for the purpose of making corrections and adding detail to existing maps.

Yet another opponent for the yet undefeated football team was found in the form of 28 Aust Inf Bn who had recently arrived in the area from West Australia. They were members of the 13th Brigade consisting of the 11th, 16th and 28th Battalions, who later served in New Britain. Unfortunately the 28th Battalion was no match for the 7th and the final scores will speak for themselves. 7 Bn — 20 goals 22 behinds 142 points, to 28 Bn — 3 goals 5 behinds 23 points.

By 31 July the battalion had received a number of new officers — Lt L.W. Paech, Lt S.J. Brindley, Lt J.J. Perry and Lt G. Rush were graduated from OCTU. Marched in from units of 13 Brigade were Lt R.B. Phippard, Lt K.R. Burkett and Lt J.H. Walkenden. Lt K. Robson had joined from 8 Bn, and Lt W.A. Kuhne had been appointed IO.

The occasion of a battalion parade was the opening of a Canteen by the then Governor-General of Australia, Lord Gowrie. The following is an extract from a report by a journalist in attendance:

"SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA — His Excellency the Governor-General opened the first serviceman's club to be built in the Northern Territory. Nothing so elaborate or commodious as this club has appeared in any other operational area in Australia. In many respects it eclipses even the largest of the city hostels.

Built and equipped by Canteen Services at a cost of 20,000 pounds, it is intended primarily for troops who are cut off from recreation huts and other amenities of the larger centres. These men live and train unbrokenly in semi-tropical bush, with few comforts and only slender resources for entertainment and recreation. The club will provide them with far more than they could have hoped for — with more, indeed, than the average soldier can find anywhere.

With its ice-cream bar and soda fountain, its cafeteria, there one can buy grills, hamburgers, fish and chips, and such delicacies as asparagus on toast and salmon mayonnaise; its fern-hung dining room and lounge, large enough to seat 400 men at a time, and its wonderfully equipped recreation room. It is one of the most astonishing sights that the territory has to offer.

Standing in 10 acres of its own ground, it is laid out under palms and gums in the form of two wings. One is given up wholly to the games. There are three billiard tables, two badminton courts and half a dozen table tennis sets, and every other conceivable indoor game.

500 Meals at a Sitting: This wing leads to the soda fountain and cafeteria, both of which are on most modern lines. The soda fountain has a serving capacity of 5,000 drinks and 70 gallons of ice-cream a day, and the cafeteria can supply up to 500 meals at a single sitting. A plate of ice-cream or a glass of ice-cream soda costs one penny, and the men will be able to buy a three-course meal including a grill for a shilling. Needless to say, Canteen Services does not expect to run the club at a profit. The cafeteria joins up with the wing which contains a dining room and lounge. The dining room is bright as an ordinary military mess as it could be. Brightly coloured tables, which will seat four at each, are overhung by small palms suspended from cross beams and the open sides of the wing give a view of the palms which surround the entire building.

The lounge is provided with chairs and writing tables.

A concert and picture theatre is being built nearby, and it is even hoped to construct a swimming pool. The grounds already contain a sports oval, near which hot and cold showers are being installed.

The club is a personal triumph for Lt Janson of Maroubra Beach, Sydney, the officer in charge of Service Clubs in the territory. He was one of the small group who suggested it seven months ago, and it has been built largely to his design. Among those who have helped him in planning and equipping the club are Sgt Ivan Baker of Glenelg, Sgt Ron Brockman of Busselton, and Cpl Pat Sullivan of Lismore.

Two more clubs are being built in the north-west area on a similar basis, and one of them will be opened before the end of the month. An officers' club is also nearing completion."

It is worthwhile mentioning that as soon as all this began to happen, 7 Aust. Inf Bn (AIF) was relieved in the Northern Territory. For nineteen months in the area, apart from the few picture shows and travelling concert parties, the battalion had to rely on the YMCA, Red Shield tent or hut for recreational purposes, the facilities of which were rather sparse.

On 13 September, 1943 the whole battalion was transported to the Daly River area, in the vicinity of the Mission, for a few days

rest, before the first draft departed from Adelaide River by road and rail for the southern States.

On the way south from Adelaide River, where John Wilmoth said farewell to his battalion before taking up his new appointment as Commandant, OCTU, Woodville S.A., it was a vastly different situation from that which prevailed on the way to the Northern Territory in February, 1942. By this time the entire surface of the highway had been widened and sealed with bitumen. The transports available for movement of troops were the semi-trailer type and much more comfortable to ride in. There was the added luxury of being able to stop every fifty minutes for a rest. Overnight camps had been established at convenient intervals, where the troops on arrival could shower, have an evening meal, with breakfast in the morning before setting out on the next leg of the journey.

The first draft consisted of A and C Coys, and movement from Adelaide River was on 22 September, 1943, for the 400 kilometre journey to Larrimah for the first overnight stop.

On arrival at Alice Springs, all marvelled at the organisation of kit bags, withdrawn all these months before, being reunited with their proper owners. Winter dress was also issued to the men at this point.

Another memorable happening was on the arrival at Quorn, where again the ladies of the town turned on a sumptuous meal. This action apparently happened for all troop trains passing through this town.

After a few days in Adelaide, all drafts came together for on-movement to Melbourne and 24 days glorious leave. After an arduous, and for the most part monotonous tour of duty, everyone agreed that leave wasn't hard to take.

In comparison with the original figure of 1037 all ranks who departed Melbourne in February, 1942 the posted strength of the battalion on returning to Victoria after nearly twenty months in the Northern Territory was 28 officers and 644 other ranks.

As a result of a general election for the Federal Government on 21 August, 1943 the Australian Labor Party was returned to government with a majority in the Senate, the first time Labor had enjoyed such an advantage since 1916.

During this election campaign, the government promised to reduce the size of the armed forces. Even in the previous year, it had become apparent that Australia could not support an Army of 12 divisions, and an Air Force of 73 squadrons. So when the War Cabinet met on 1 October, 1943 it decided to drop the 73-squadron plan, and to release 20,000 men from the Services and 10,000 personnel from munitions and aircraft industries.

On completion of the period of leave, further personnel from the 7th Battalion were released to return to the land, or to essential industries. Coupled with this action and the announcement of reduc-

tions to occur in the services, a very strong rumour spread through the battalion that the unit was to be disbanded. However, the rumour was proved false when Lt Col G.M. Norris, a former member of 2/6 Inf Bn was appointed as CO.

Before this chapter closes on the Northern Territory, a couple of incidents from members' own personal recollections are produced.

From Lt L.W. Paech: During one of the many platoon exercises that we carried out in the NT, many miles from nowhere, my platoon was moving through the bush, when to our immediate front we heard strange noises. Not knowing what to expect, I directed one section to the right and one to the left in a circling action, whilst I, with the remaining section proceeded straight ahead.

It wasn't long before we came upon a bunch of men wearing what appeared to be Japanese uniforms. We were about to set upon these strange looking people, when hurriedly from out of the bush bounded an Australian sergeant, to quickly explain that the group was not what they appeared to be, but members of an island raiding party, training in preparation for a mission to the islands to the north of Australia."

From Jack Stevens of 14 Pl, C Coy: "One of the things that is still present in my mind from the days spent in the Northern Territory, is when the Japanese were sending over their night bombers. As we were camped very close to the end of one of our airstrips, we would be woken up with a jolt by the sounds of gun fire. It seemed that when our fighters gained altitude, they would fire a burst of their guns to make sure they were working.

When we got used to this racket, we would stand outside the tent and watch the proceedings. Of course we could only hear the planes, but had a good idea where the action was by following the tracer bullets through the air. Quite a show."

CHAPTER 3

Atherton Tablelands

After the first leave in twenty months, battalion members reported back to Watsonia in the area which is now known as Simpson Barracks. It was nowhere near as well accommodated as it is now; tents had been erected throughout the area, and a few "thunder box" type latrines installed, with the usual ablution and laundry troughs scattered here and there.

Within a few days, an advance party of one officer (Lt Max Elliott) and twenty-nine other ranks (including the author), moved out by rail to north Queensland. A and C Companies followed. The move naturally was by troop train, and perhaps a small explanation is warranted here, to explain the difference between a troop train and an ordinary passenger train. On a troop train, every available space is occupied for the whole of the journey, and one slept where one sat. For the benefit of your mates, you kept your boots on at all times. Favoured spot for an uninterrupted sleep was the luggage rack in each compartment, but you had to be very quick to get this! Three times a day it would be necessary to join the mad rush for meals, usually consisting of the inevitable sausages and mashed potatoes. These were either served at tables erected on the platform of the station, or in the Refreshment Rooms en route. After the meal, sometimes instead of it if one was lucky, there might be a pub close handy, and it might have some beer, and one might get a drink!

Although usually "Out of Bounds," the pub, to many, was a challenge as well as a temptation. The scene at the time of departure, when the whistle blew, was not without a bit of humour as stragglers joined the train in a mad last minute dash, sometimes with arms and pockets laden.

To the men of the 7th Battalion, not knowing where they were bound, the journey was an exciting experience, even with all its discomforts. It brings to mind one little episode related by Sgt Reg Downey:

"We stopped at a place about 15 miles out of Brisbane, I think it was called Yeerongpilly, but there was no way of getting into Brisbane, so when we rolled out of camp like ants out of a nest, we climbed on board a truck before the poor fellow driving could say no, and asked him to take us to Brisbane. Naturally he objected strongly, but after a little "gentle persuasion" to make it worth his while, he decided to take us to the tram terminus at Moorooka. Getting back to camp was another story.

There were four of us who stayed together — Ted Benbow, John Freeman, "Monty" McMahon and myself. We had a very enjoyable afternoon, but had to be back at camp by 6pm because we were moving out again that night. We ran for the last bus going that way, but Ted and "Monty" missed out. John and I caught it on the move.

When we arrived back, feeling very contented with life, Lindsay McKinnon, who was the Platoon Commander, told me to fall in with the troops. Having

called for a marker, and having given the order "Fall in," I took one pace backwards, only to disappear down a ditch which just happened to be behind me. When I crawled out, there was nobody in sight. It took me a few seconds to realise that I had come out the wrong side and the boys were behind me.

Lindsay took a rather dim view of that, being about the only sober one amongst us, and decided there and then that my services were no longer required.

Just at that moment, a big black Rolls Royce pulled up about fifty yards away, with the driver wearing a long white coat and a peaked black cap. Lindsay must have thought the Governor-General had arrived, for he had the platoon presenting arms.

When the driver opened the door, Benbow got out and "Monty" fell over on top of him. They both yelled greetings to the boys, and really broke the whole show up. Not even Lindsay could handle them and gave it away in disgust! We did eventually get away that evening."

The journey to the Atherton Tablelands took six days, with the 7th occupying a site formerly utilised by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn of the 9th Division. The camp site is today covered by the Tinaroo Dam. The trip up was from Watsonia to Spencer Street, on to Seymour for a meal, with a further one at Albury and a change of trains from the wider Victorian gauge, to the standard 4' 8½" gauge in New South Wales. Breakfast was at Gosford, with other meals at Gloucester and Kempsey, arriving at Yeerongpilly for breakfast the following morning.

Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton and St Lawrence were stopping places on Day 4, with Bowen and Lampton being meal stops on Day 5. Cairns was the breakfast stop, with lunch at Mareeba, to arrive at camp by mid-afternoon. A six-mile hike from Kairi Railway Station was included, just to put everybody in the right frame of mind.

A and C Companies arrived at their new location on 12 November, and by the 25th the rear party, under Lt Dave Edwards, arrived to make the unit complete once more. The War Diary did record that the Officers' Mess was burned down on the 16th, but the beer was saved!

From the first instant, jungle training was the order of the day, and it soon became evident to all and sundry why the Tablelands had been selected for this purpose. Thick rain forest, with almost continual drizzle in the mountains and surrounding district made it ideal.

Routine wasn't without its lighter side though, as sports which included swimming in the Barron River was a favourite pastime.

Cpl A. McDonald entered, and won the tennis tournament conducted by the Methodist Church in Atherton, and cricket was again played against 8 Bn, with our battalion winning by 8 wickets and 139 runs.

On 7 December, 23 Brigade was inspected by Maj Gen S. Savige, who was GOC 3 Div at that time. He was also apparently impressed by the steadiness of the troops on parade.

Lt Gen E. Herring, Maj Gen Savage, and Brig A.W. Potts, paid a visit to the battalion area on the 22nd. They inspected the Guard of Honour, and General Herring stated that he was very pleased with the standard of training, keenness and bearing of the troops.

Christmas, 1943 was an elaborate affair compared with the previous one spent in the Northern Territory. For one thing, there was plenty of beer available, even though it was a brew of Cairns origin.

Breakfast on the big day consisted of porridge, bacon and eggs, with plenty of tea with fresh milk, and even sugar. Dinner was roast poultry, baked potatoes and green peas, topped off with an evening meal of cold meat, salad, fruit and jelly with custard. It was indeed a day enjoyed by all.

On New Year's Day, the 3rd Division sports meeting was held on the 23rd Brigade sports oval. Our battalion scored the most points to win the championship. Lt Peter Bush, being the Sports Officer, was presented with the pennant by Lt Gen Savage.

Interspersed with all this activity was the inevitable Australian Rules football, and cricket matches against other units in the area. All and sundry were encouraged to attend and spur on their respective unit teams. 7 Bn defeated HQ 1 Aust Corps at cricket by scoring 133 for 6 wickets, to 126 for 6 wickets.

Some of the football games were against such units as 27 Aust Inf Bn who had joined 23 Brigade in December, 17 Fd Amb, 2/2 Fd Regt, and our arch rivals, 2/7 Aust Inf Bn. There was also 2/6 Aust Inf Bn, 8th Battalion, and 2/11 Aust Inf Bn.

An extract from the Melbourne "Sporting Globe" newspaper of Wednesday 21 June, 1944 is repeated as a matter of interest. (It should be noted that Australian Rules football was actually played on 2 April at Wondecla, being a return match played and won by 7 Bn on 19 March. Scores in the first match were: 7 Bn — 18 goals 16 behinds 124 points to 2/11 Bn 12 goals 18 behinds 90 points. A final match between the two sides was arranged for Sunday 16 April, and was a great disappointment to all when it had to be cancelled due to 7 Bn's impending move).

AIF AND MILITIA TEAM CLASH IN HECTIC GAME

"This match must have been a real 'hot hell' — tough hard game with a hairline finish, and the keenest rivalry between players and spectators.

Picture the set up. It would have been first down loses, and the last man up is a 'dingo.' Even the loss of a few weeks in transmission does not take the edge off the story — an all-in football clash in which an AIF unit beat a crack Militia team.

B. Cameron writes from 'up there' —

Yesterday in the damp, green jungles of the North, 5000 troops witnessed an unforgettable struggle. Winners were a well known West Australian battalion of the AIF.

High ranking officers and privates and others jostled for positions around the boundry of an improvised arena. The surrounding trees swayed with the load of more agile types of spectator, and roofs of trucks were heavy in demand as vantage points.

Unbeaten in two years, the Militia team were favourites. Time and time again their short passing, handball and flawless team work had demoralised the most formidable opposition.

From the first whistle, however, there were indications of something more than a close struggle.

Although they had no answer for their opponents' skilled positional play, the AIF by virtue of their marking and pace were within a few points of the Militia at the first change.

The second quarter had the huge crowd roaring with excitement. Spectacular high marking, long kicking and flashes of brilliant individual play were outstanding features of this thrilling battle.

Just before half time, the AIF produced a series of irresistible drives and, at the bell, had gained a grimly disputed lead of four goals.

In the third quarter, both sides rose to even greater heights. The physical clashes alone would have brought city spectators to their feet. Here, however, the assumption of a standing position had already been necessitated by the lack of seating facilities.

This term, however, the Militia team were on top. Exploiting the loose-man to perfection and giving dazzling exhibitions of team work and accurate short passing, they had the AIF badly rattled. Fighting back with real courage, the AIF could do little to stem the tide, and at the last change the Militia had converted a four goal deficit into a three goal lead.

The last quarter had the crowd in a frenzy as the virtually beaten AIF side struck back with a burst of inspiring football. The Militia hung tenaciously to their lead but, as time slipped by, the scores crept closer.

With time-off to play, the scores were level. All over the ground players hurled themselves into the game in an effort to gain the decision. Pandemonium broke loose as, driving forward in a do-or-die effort, the AIF snatched victory by a few points.

In a game well up to Victorian League standards, well known Les Hardiman and carnival representative, Herb Screaigh (both AIF) were very effective. Real star of the game, however, was a lad named Edwards, who played on the AIF back line. A product of the Army football system, he was never beaten. Throughout the afternoon he thrilled the crowd with his sensational high marking.

The Militia were always a powerful, polished combination and, even though defeated, were responsible for an outstanding exhibition.

Many of the men playing with Army teams today would, in normal times, be representing League and Association clubs. Consequently, it is not difficult to follow the reason why these Army football matches can provide such high entertainment."

The 5th of February saw the return to the unit of the ever-popular Padre Fry, who had been away for a period of four months. Many a Protestant had attended his services in preference to their own denomination. He was an inspiration to all with whom he came into contact.

On 9 February, C Coy was assigned to carry out a training exercise at 3 Division Jungle Training School. It was unfortunate during this exercise that VX67519 L/Cpl A. "Dixie" Dunbar was accidentally killed.

The first of a number of reinforcements were soon to arrive at the battalion. Forty-six marched in from Canungra on 1 March, with an additional one hundred and twelve arriving on the 9th. At a count of men on a battalion parade held on 22 March, it was revealed that there were now 32 officers and 635 other ranks on parade.

Reinforcements were still arriving, and the figure of those posted to the battalion showed on 13 April that there were now 36 officers and 737 other ranks.

Another member of the battalion was accidentally killed when a truck in which he was travelling to Cairns on a 3-day leave, overturned on the dangerous mountain road. He was VX66745 Pte J.E. Dyke, a member of B Coy whose members, led by Pte D.J. "Lofty" Howson, raised £100, which was later forwarded to the mother of the deceased.

Then the day most members had been waiting more than two years for, finally arrived. A muster parade was held in each company to advise the men they were going overseas.

The camp was a hive of industry, with everybody packing and getting prepared. The list, showing full marching order that each soldier was required to carry, is as follows:

On the Man

Knife and Lanyard

Identity Discs and paybook. Book 83., Wallet WP

Field Dressing — Mess tin QP type.

Dress

Socks pr

Badges chevron

Shirt JG

Titles Australia

Trousers JG

Cover Breech Rifle Muzzle

Boots AB

Gaiters

Web equipment

Singlets Cotton

Drawers Cotton

Hat KF with band and chin strap, colour patch.

Badges hat.

To be carried in Haversack

Mugs enamel

Tins mess in cover

Knife, fork and spoon

Rations emergency
dehydrated

Unexpired portion of days
ration

Towel

Pullover

Prs Socks 2

Holdall

Soap

Safety razor and blades

Brushes hair

Brushes shaving

Brushes tooth

Comb

Sterilizing outfit, anti
mosquito lotions

To be carried in Pack

Helmet steel (attached)

1 blanket in ground sheet
tied around pack

Tents mosquito

2 shirts JG

1 pr boots and 1 pr bootlaces

Housewife

2 Singlets cotton

2 Drawers cotton

Sheets ground with blanket
tied around pack

Gas Cape

Towel

Surplus, such as greatcoat SD etc will be placed in kitbags, instructions for disposal of which will be issued later.

2 blankets to be withdrawn.

Finally on 23 April, 1944 between the hours of 2200 and 2300, troops departed camp by vehicle for the Tolga Railway Station. Three trains conveyed 7 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) to the port of Cairns for embarkation aboard the SS "Duntroon." A rear party of 3 officers and 32 other ranks, plus Mr R.H. McHugh, the YMCA Representative, were left to return stores and leave the area in inspection order.

By 0700 hrs the next day, all personnel of the 7th, 23rd Brigade Headquarters, and Corps Headquarters were on board. Two personnel who had been AWL, but returned just before the unit marched out of camp, were dealt with by the CO's orderly room. They were privileged to attend the Anzac Day ceremony conducted on 25 April.

The Duntroon sailed for New Guinea at 0930 on 24 April. At 1130 hrs on the 26th, the ship arrived at Milne Bay, moved inside the boom and berthed beside ships already in the harbour, there to remain until the 28th, when she moved outside the boom in preparation for departure to Oro Bay. At 1500 hrs she re-entered the boom to re-berth. At 0615 hrs on 30 April, she finally departed for Oro Bay, arriving there in the evening of the same day at 2300 hrs. Yet another day was spent at Oro Bay, before sailing at 0800 hrs on 2 May, to arrive at Lae the same night at 2345 hrs.

CHAPTER 4

Overseas

Early on the morning of 3 May, the 7th Battalion at last set foot on New Guinea soil and was allocated an area some miles inland from the port of Lae. Whoever had chosen this site was either inexperienced in the job, or had a grudge against the unit. The site was in the middle of a low lying area resembling a swamp more than a camp site. Mud more than a foot deep was quite prevalent, making it necessary for much hard work to be done such as board-walks to tents and kitchen areas, and building roads so that vehicles would not get bogged.

Fortunately, the stay in this area was of rather short duration. After the CO, Adjt, QM, IO and I Sgt had carried out a reconnaissance to Wau in the Central Highlands, and the rear party had arrived aboard the vessel, "Van Derliz" on 19 May, an advance party moved out to Labu for on-movement to Wau by road. All members of the battalion had concentrated in that area by 1 June.

Wau, as far as climate was concerned, was just about the best one could ask for. Being high in the mountains, it was quite cool at night, necessitating the use of blankets, certainly something not necessary in the jungle of the lowlands. Nor was it necessary to use mosquito nets. All in all, a very pleasant place to be a garrison soldier, if indeed one had to be a soldier at all.

It was about this time that Capt Keith Blaby and Lt Leith Donald, who had left the unit in November, 1942 arrived back at the battalion. Capt Blaby was appointed OC A Coy on the departure of Capt Bob Shearer for the mainland. Leith Donald took over 7 Pl. Cpl M.S. "Mick" McKenzie left to attend OCTU, and Cpl H.J. "Snowy" Sutcliffe left to become an instructor at the Training Battalion in New South Wales. Lts Smith, Firth and Kemp paraded to the Brigadier in reference to being released from the Army. It was apparently Government policy to reduce the armed services, and anyone with specified civilian qualifications could be claimed by their former employer if it was deemed necessary.

A farewell parade was also held on the Wau airstrip in honour of the departure of Maj Gen Boase, Commander 5 Div.

With plenty of time on their hands, all companies undertook the organising of their own concert party, with each being judged to ascertain the best. C Coy won this honour. At the performance given by A Coy, it was a privilege to have Maj Gen M.G. Whitelaw, a former member of the original 7th Battalion AIF (1914-18) visit the unit. Max Deacon, son of the former RSM of the original 7th, was afforded the honour of accompanying the General to the performance.

After much patrolling to the Black Cat Mine and the Mubo area, and after a very pleasant two and a half months in the highlands, the battalion departed once more for Lae. This time, however, to a much better prepared camp site formerly occupied by 2/8 Cav Commando Regt, and a battery of 2 Fd Regt.

Here again the men were required for working parties at HQ Lae Base, as well as trying to improve their own area.

On 1 September, Lt Col Norris left by air to reconnoitre the area to which another move was soon to occur. This was to a small island group known as the Treasury Islands, at that time occupied by 93 US Divisional HQ commanded by Maj Gen Johnson. Lt Col Norris also flew to Munda, another US base on the island of New Georgia, where the 369 US Regt was stationed.

Soon after the return of the CO to Lae, a warning order was promulgated for the pending move to the Solomon Islands area. By 2 October, the US troopship "Cape Victory" had arrived and loading of 23 Brigade's stores and equipment commenced. 7 Bn embarked on 9 October, with the rear party of 8 Bn. The ship sailed via Finschhafen, en route to Emirau Island where 8 Bn was stationed. After unloading the stores belonging to 8 Bn, the "Cape Victory" departed 17 October for Stirling Island, arriving at 1400 hrs on the 19th.

During the course of this voyage, members of the battalion were to learn of the accidental death, in an aeroplane crash, of the CO, and VX5012 Capt Howard V. Brown. The accident had occurred some time before, but the men were not to learn of it until Lt Alexander of 23 Brigade HQ came aboard the "Cape Victory" at Emirau Island.

Lt Col Harry L.E. Dunkley MC, was appointed the new CO and arrived at the battalion on 11 November. He had previously served with 2/6 Aust Inf Bn in its Middle East campaigns, and with 2/7 Aust Inf Bn during the Salamaua-Wau operations in 1943. He was one of the growing number of officers who had risen from the ranks to command battalions since the beginning of the war.

On arrival at Stirling the battalion disembarked, with the exception of D Coy which sailed for Munda on 21 October, 1944.

After disembarkation, A and C companies were allocated the eastern end of the island, while HQ and B companies the western end. The following day, however, B Coy moved to the centre of the island, and C Coy again moved to Mono, the larger island of the group.

The group of islands had been captured from the Japanese on 27 October, 1943 by the 3rd New Zealand Division, who had long since moved out. Only a few Americans remained to man the port facilities, and to operate the air strip.

Whilst on patrol on the island of Mono, a party led by Sgt Kevin F. Cresp of 14 Pl, captured the last remaining Japanese who, after being clothed and fed, was escorted by his captor to Acorb Island by air for interrogation.

C Coy was ultimately relieved on Mono by A Coy just before Christmas 1944. Of all the Christmases spent in the Army, the one on Mono, whilst a member of A Coy, was the most memorable. Mono is only a small island with, at that time, only one small village of about 100 people. They were beautiful, brown skinned, fun loving Polynesians who were raised in the Christian faith.

It was our privilege to have the village choir visit the camp area for a performance of carol singing. They sang firstly in their own language, and then in English, with the audience of "hard nut" soldiers listening spellbound.

Coy HQ with two platoons were camped on the foreshore of a natural bay at a spot where a fresh-water stream flowed into the sea. A substantial wooden bridge had been built across the stream and this structure was utilised by both soldiers and native children as a diving platform. Water polo and swimming was also a means of passing "off duty" hours.

Another very pleasant duty was the task of augmenting the daily rations for both troops and villagers, by fishing in the bay. The natives supplied a lakatoi (outrigger canoe) and the troops the means of fishing — hand grenades. The natives would paddle the canoe for about 200 metres from the shore, and the duty party would drop their grenades over the side. The resulting explosion would stun the fish, and the natives would jump over the side to retrieve them. It was usually quite a job to restrain the enthusiastic natives from entering the water before the grenades had exploded.

As with everything else, all good things must come to an end, for by the middle of January, 1945 A Coy was again moved back to Stirling Island.

On 27 January, 1945 a swimming carnival was organised, with teams from the US Navy, US Army and our battalion. The meet consisted of ten events commencing at 1330 hrs with the first event being the 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ yards freestyle, followed in order by a 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ yard breast stroke, an underwater swim, an exhibition by the US Navy in life-saving, a 100 yards freestyle, 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ yard backstroke, a diving championship, 200 yards freestyle, a novelty egg and spoon race, and 300 yards relay (6 man teams). Unfortunately we came second to the US Navy, with the US Army running third. Those swimming for 7 Bn were: Event 1 Dougherty, Townsend. Event 2 Brannelly, Wells. Event 3 Geerke. Event 5 Wickham, Garth. Event 6 Cahill, Francis. Event 7 O'Shea, Stirrat. Event 8 Tyers, Sitch. Event 9 Francis. Event 10 Wickham, Stirrat, Pedder, Doherty, Sitch, Townsend. No other detail was recorded on the events.

On the demise of Capt Brown, Capt Wallace O. Cameron, a member of the battalion from pre-war days, was appointed OC D Coy. He was later to represent the battalion on a visit to Hombo Mumbo, to meet the Governor of Fiji.

In the meantime, life for D Coy on Munda was quite pleasant. The company was being supplied from American sources, and rations included ice-cream every day. Many sporting activities were also organised here. A tennis tournament against the US Navy and US Army was billed as a mini "Davis Cup." Representing 7 Bn were Charlie Krelle, "Digger" Midgley, Roy Phippard, Ron Ziersch and Geoff Midgley. 7 Bn won the tournament easily. A cricket match against the local population, and a boxing match against the Americans, in which Basil Carl played a major part, were some of the other sporting activities.

Basketball was most popular and teams from each platoon and Coy HQs were matched against each other. Basketball was also played against the American black personnel who were camped adjacent, and taught the finer arts of the sport to those lucky enough to get a game.

With D Coy on Munda was a detachment of 7 Bn Sigs, and their task was to maintain communications with Battalion HQ on Stirling, to operate the 100-line switchboard at the US HQ, and to keep telephone lines in the area in working order. This detachment was led by Lt C.F. Cameron, ably supported by Cpl W.L. Roberts and by signalmen such as Ron Harford, Ron Ziersch, Ron Burrows, Geo Isaacs, Keith Bird, Bill Shuttlewood, Syd Holland, Stan Tucker, Rex Baguley, Ken Adams, Keith Alexander, Ken Lawn, Ron Wilson, Keith Stackpole, Harold Cook, Henry McGauchie and Allan Pedder. Some of these men were relieved by others mentioned, and did not spend the whole time in that location.

Back at BHQ on Stirling, it was now considered appropriate for a new Reconnaissance Platoon to be formed should a recce of the neighbouring island become necessary. Lt George L. Nicholson MM, was appointed Pl Comd, and members were recruited from volunteers from all companies. George Nicholson was a former sergeant with 2/11 Aust Inf Bn and later returned to that battalion to serve out his time in the Army. Other rank members of the platoon were personally interviewed by the CO to ascertain their suitability for the job, and were later instructed in the use of Pidgin English. Approval was also sought and eventually granted for the platoon to scout around Turube Island, but for some unknown reason this mission was cancelled. Lt Nicholson did, however, take some of his platoon on a patrol to Choiseul Island. His account of this patrol is as follows:

"The patrol left Stirling by PT boats to investigate the number and condition of Japanese troops crossing the straits from Bougainville to Choiseul. PT boats had sunk many Japanese landing craft in the straits, and this was evident by the sight of a wrecked craft lying abandoned on the reef.

The patrol was landed at a village called Sasamunga, and in the approved style, was inhabited by old men only. On the following day, young men began to appear and the party set out by canoe, up the west coast of Choiseul.

A man by the name of Ramon was the head scout, and the skill at handling the boats, the happy athletic native and their cadence count as the call came

for more speed, is something still not forgotten. Somewhere up the coast, the patrol landed and went on by foot through the thick scrub, on a barely definable track, to a spot further up the coast where a stop for the night was made on another small island just off shore. Using this island as a base, I and the head scout went a little further north and identified Japanese troops on the beach. After observing these troops for some time, a return journey to the start point on the island of Choiseul was made. We were welcomed in the approved style by the villagers, this time including women and children. Through Ramon, the head man of the village requested a couple of hand grenades, which were duly given. In the evening, after "fishing" in the local lagoon, the whole village including members of the patrol feasted on fish.

The patrol was picked up by PT boat, three in number, the Commander of which had been given permission to engage "targets of opportunity." That night the PT boats cruised up the coast to the earlier mentioned beach where the enemy had been observed, to blast the hell out of the area. The run back to Stirling was early morning, and it has been rumoured since, that one of the PT boats on that expedition was commanded by a fellow named "Kennedy."

The book by Gavin Long titled "The Final Campaigns" makes mention of a patrol of eight days duration that concluded on 2 December, 1944 by saying:

"The party into Choiseul, where there were some 700 Japanese, consisted initially of Sub-Lieutenant Andreson and Sgt L.G. Selmes, both experienced scouts who knew the Solomons well, and a Signaller. For eight days ending 2 December, 1944 a patrol of the 7th Battalion from Mono Island, led by Lieutenant Rhodes (RANVR) of the AIB, and Lieutenant Nicholson of 7 Aust Inf Bn, moved about on Choiseul guided by Andresen's native scout."

It is known that other patrols to neighbouring islands took place, because former members of the battalion have related their experiences to the author, but no written record can be found as to the destination and details of such patrols. It is recorded, however, that the posted strength of the battalion at this time was 39 officers and 859 other ranks, the strongest it had been since the early days of 1942.

Again 7 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) was due for a move, and on 10 April, 1945 the Advance Party under Lt Smith, with twenty members of A Coy, departed by air for Torokina. From then on, and throughout the entire month of April, personnel were transported by various means to Bougainville.

General Sir Thomas Blamey, who had been appointed Commander, Allied Land Forces, South West Pacific Area in 1942, disagreed with General MacArthur's opinion that the by-passed Japanese were "strategically impotent" and would "wither on the vine." He pointed out that they had tied up six American divisions and part of a seventh, and were now tying up three Australian divisions, and part of a fourth. He therefore decided to order the destruction of the enemy where that was possible without many casualties, and elsewhere to aim at containing the enemy in a restricted area, by the use of a smaller force. One of these restricted areas was the Solomon Islands, of which Bougainville formed a part, and was the farthest region in the South West Pacific Area reached by the Japanese during their thrust in 1942.



10 Pl Football Team, Darwin, 1943. *Back:* Lt Herrick Smith, Tony Bongiorno, Jack Mills, Wally Field, Andy Scott, Perc Richardson, Henry Payne, "Lap" Page, "Bull" Ferrari, Dick Crozier, Mick Thorne, Lyaal Butling. *Front:* Rex Allen, Les Lambert, Harry Heathcote, Jack Barnes, Stan Howe, Fred LaRose, Charlie Rose, Bill Holmes.



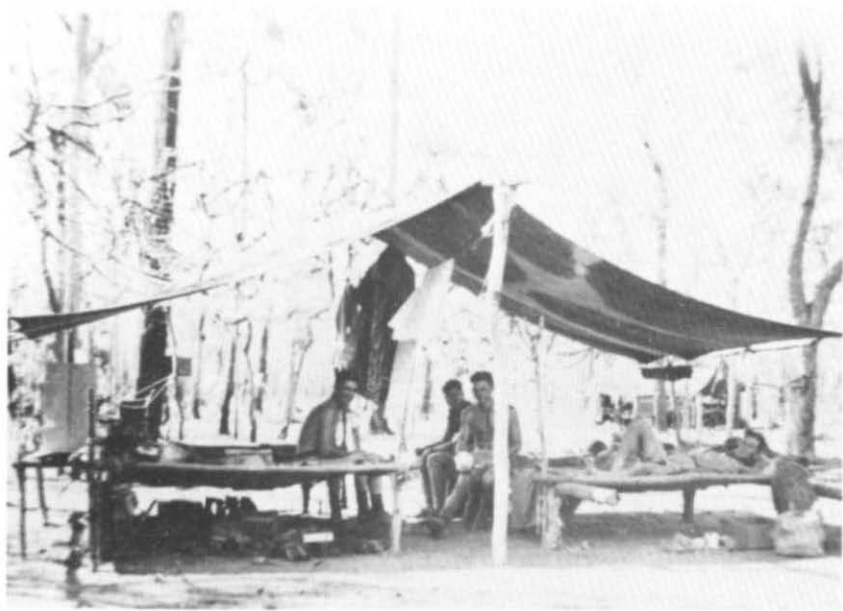
11 Pl Football Team, Darwin. *Back:* Eric Thompson, Noel Williamson, Lt Neville, Vern "Tackle" Block, Wes Block, Scobie Gross, Charlie Krelle, Maurie Coughlan, Kevin Dagge. *Front:* "Doc" Dougherty, "Snowy" Ellis, "Dinga" Bell, Bill Bennett, Jack Wood, Cliff Farrell, Reg Steed.



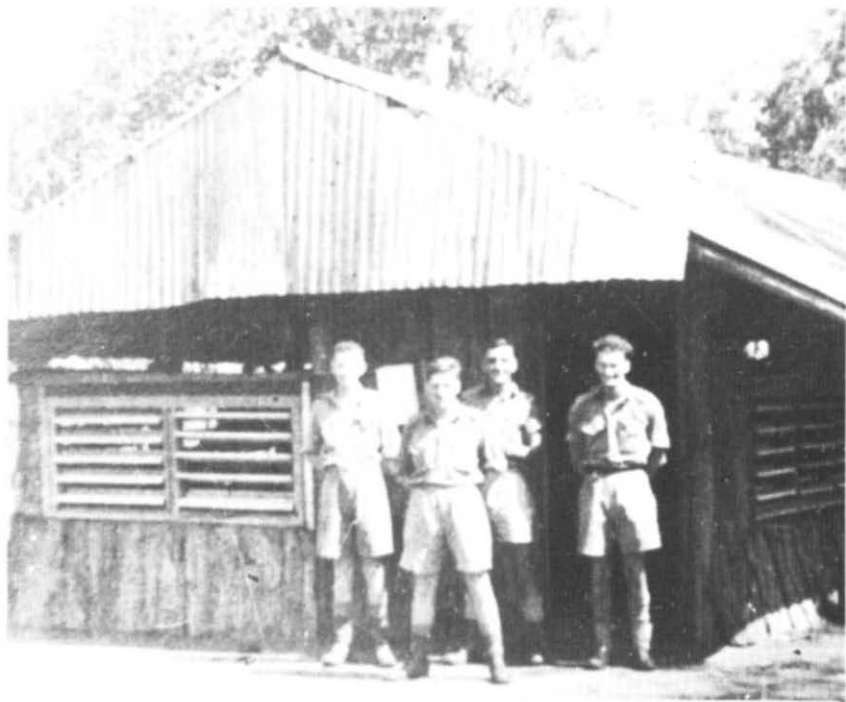
"The Army marches on its stomach" is a catch phrase often heard. Plenty of "Spud Barbers" are required. Here are three in action. L to R: Athol Teasdale, G.L. "Bluey" Farley, and Bill "Tich" Wilson.



One of the better type Mess Huts, built at the 39 Mile, where the battalion spent most of the wet season from November, 1942 through to May, 1943. It was the most permanent site occupied during the whole tour of duty in the Darwin area. Even though the men were more comfortable in this area than perhaps most others, it did not prevent them from spending many days and nights in the bush on battalion and brigade exercises. The battalion left this area on many occasions to take up duty in other areas, but nearly always returned to this site.



Another area in which the battalion spent a lot of time was the 36 Mile. This was a dry weather camp and not as elaborate as the 39 Mile.



Members of the Battalion Orderly Room Staff in front of BHQ. From left to right: Fred Parker, Jack Kelly, Keith Crossley and Harold Cook.



Through the trees — one of "B" Coy campsites — probably on a Sunday as some troops seem to be doing their washing.



On the Southport Road: Various attempts were made to upgrade the Southport Road, but the wet always won.



The victorious 7th Aust Inf Bn (AIF) team which defeated the 2/11 Aust Fd Regt side in Darwin. This was a match to be remembered, against a side which considered itself invincible. Much money changed hands on the result. The 7th won 15 goals 10 behinds to 5 goals 4 behinds.

Standing: Maurie Coughlan, Gerry Daly, Arthur Irvine, Malcolm McBean, Pat Frawley (Trainer), Bill McEniry, Charlie Krelle. *Kneeling:* George Bates, Ted Stead, Alan Joy, Bruce Gross, Bill O'Donnell, Jack Baumann, Ken Wickham, Lindsay Reid, Jack Wood. *Sitting:* Ian Andison, Horrie Hubble, Jack Sutherland, Harold Sutcliffe, Basil Carl (boundary), Monty McMahon (Goals).



Peter Rush (with back to the camera) and his partner contest the "Crosscut saw" event at the 23 Bde Sports.



A good way to clear a cricket pitch (One Indian and 7 Chiefs).



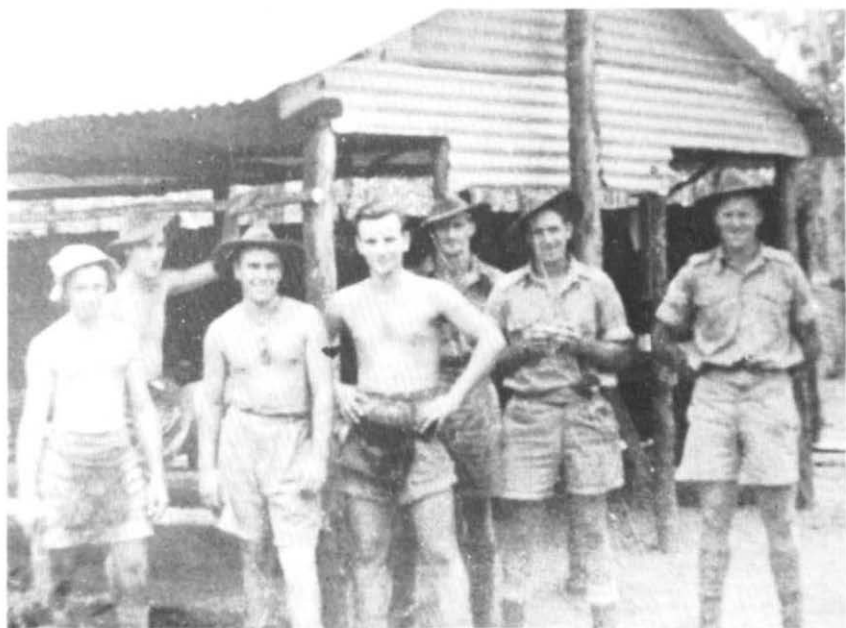
Allan "Buck" Rogers and Adolph Namnik pose on the same billet, where the transport platoon took up residence in 1943.



Captain Ray Roberts, when OC B Coy, just one of the crowd which saw the 23rd Brigade Sports Meeting in Darwin, 1942.



Captain "Bluey" McInnes and Lieutenant Tom McCarthy take a break.



Members of the Pioneer Pl. Norm Keillor, Roy Britt, "Spag" Branelli, Abbey Woods, Jim Smith, "Podge" Henderson and Bob Hudson.



20 Platoon "E" Coy members in 1942. This company was broken up and its members dispersed throughout the battalion. From left to right in this picture are: F. McLoughlan, A. Searle, R. Williams, P. Sullivan, J. Burns, L. Dickinson, A. Kenneday, W. Sylvia, F. Woolcock, J. Landy, W. Burwood, E. Kirk, E. Gamble.



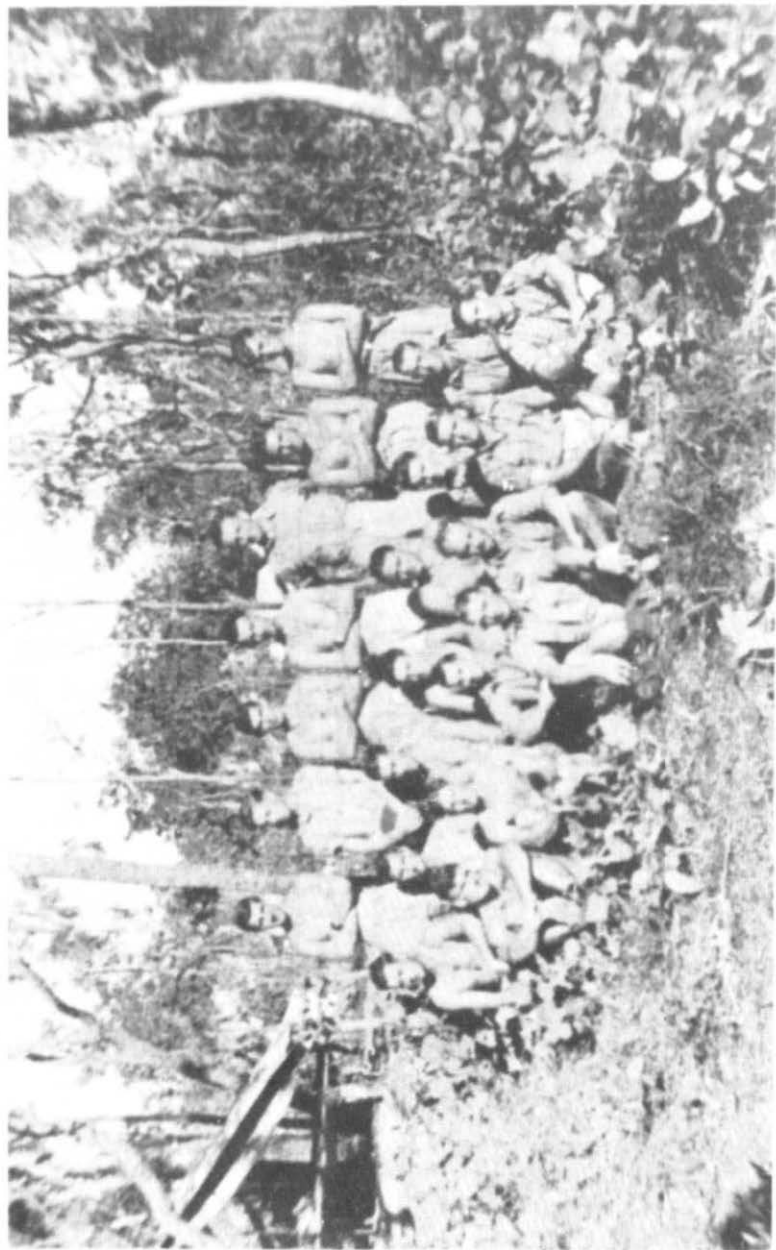
Members of the Tank Attack Platoon on Stirling Island in 1945. T. Jobson, K. George, T. Taylor, J. Baumann, R. Reid, L. Hunt, W. Burwood, A. Fraser, J. Burns, P. O'Leary, J. Grundy, T. Kirk, K. Silvester, A. Searle.



The most popular Spiritual Leader of the 7th Battalion, Father "Paddy" Fry, was held in high esteem by all ranks.



From L to R: Paddy O'Leary, Allan Rogers, Fred Woodcock, Bill Burwood, Alan Sampson, Alan Kenneday and Ernie Beer, on the edge of a "Slit Trench". These trenches were the only protection available during an air raid.



Photographs of "D" Coy are few and far between. This is one of the few that still exist. It is of 16 Pl. in the NT.



Transport Platoon members take time out to have their picture taken after a game of sport. From L to R: Stan Young, Jack Haar, Bob Corbould, Bob Hill, Col Griffin, Dave Edwards, Ian Jenkins, "Dolly" Marshall, Jack Sawyer. *In front:* "Grundy" McMasters, A.A. Benney, Dave Ladlow and Jack Treager.



A mixed bunch from "B" Coy, from left to right: Bryan "Doc" Dougherty, Tony Bongiano, Gerry Daly, Noel Dew, Jack Mill and Harold Smith.



Enjoying a morning cup of tea in the bush are: Captain A. Meares (RMO), Captain (later Major) C. Jones (Adj) and Lieutenant D. Healy (IO).



Bugler and Despatch Rider, Ian Anderson, died at Repat General Hospital about 1943.



Henry Payne, a member of "B" Coy, prepares for guard duty. Henry continued to serve after the war and attained the rank of WO1 with RAEME.



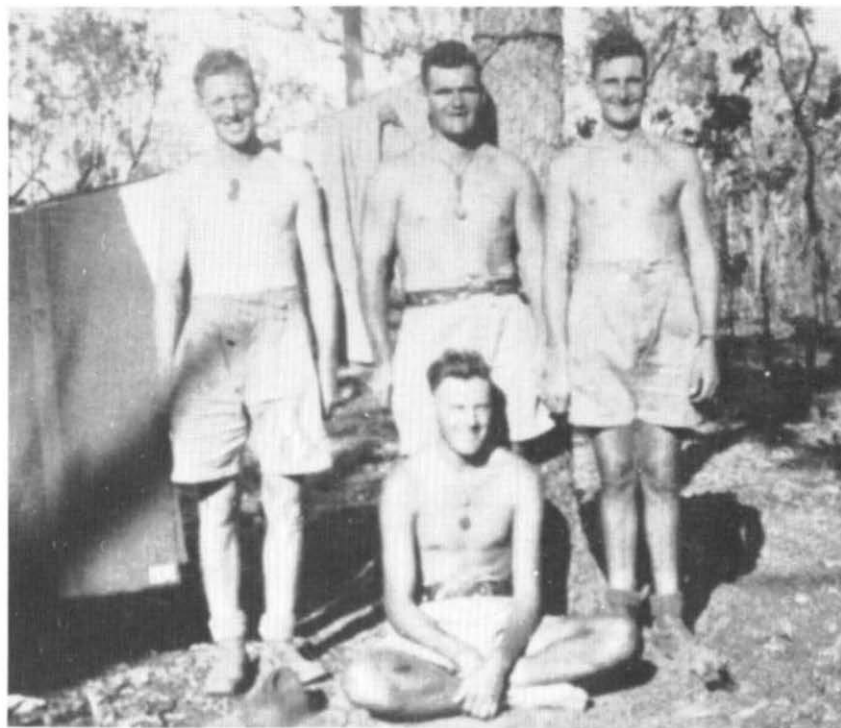
Members of the Ack Ack Pl. (Anti Aircraft) a very necessary commodity in the early parts of 1942, but this platoon was broken up eventually and the members re-allocated throughout the battalion.



HQ Coy Cooks and kitchen helpers, "Mogga" Morris, Lindsay Day, Rupe Vandenberg, "Tassie" Miers, Dave Joseph, "Duke" Mackie and Joe Arthur.



The Regimental Police on parade. Bill Grainger, George Kennedy, Bert Hoyles, Bill Oelsnik and Ken Lawes.



"Bluey" Gleeson, Ken Hateley, Norm Wheeler and Doug Bone — "C" Coy members.

The island of Bougainville, these days, is synonymous with copper mines operating in the region, but when the Australian troops relieved the Americans in 1944, not many people knew of its existence. The island, about 200 kilometres long and probably 65 kilometres wide at its widest point, is dominated by a volcanic range about 2600 metres at its highest point. This is of course Mt Balbi.

The coastal strip is no more than 16 kilometres and in places much narrower. The whole island at that time was covered with thick rain forest, with a smattering of minor areas cleared for cultivation. The annual rainfall is extremely high at about 2540 millimetres.

An American force had landed at Torokina on 1 November, 1943 in Empress Augusta Bay, but by 1944 had little interest in Bougainville, other than a minor base for their advance northwards to the Philippines. They had decidedly defeated the Japanese in two counter attacks of March, 1944 from which time an unofficial truce had existed.

The intelligence assessment of the total strength of the Japanese on Bougainville was very inaccurate. The Americans believed there were about 12,000 enemy, but the Australians thought 25,000 was nearer the mark, and estimated that approximately 35% of the force was employed on gardening and fishing, 15% on transport duties, 30% on the sick list, and only 20% in the forward area. The actual strength was later ascertained at between 37,000 and 40,000 troops, including 7000 sailors and some "elite" marines.

Gardens were known to grow sweet potato, corn, eggfruit, beans, peanuts and green vegetables. Pawpaws, bananas, coconuts and pineapples were plentiful, and each unit had their own chickens. The policy of concentrating on food production had been made so much easier, because the Americans had not pressed to extend their area of occupation.

Australian intelligence had been aware as early as August, 1944 that only 250 tons of food and no reinforcements had been received by the Japanese. There was virtually no way in which General Hyakutake and his men could receive reinforcements. Allied supremacy at sea and in the air was absolute.

The Japanese force on Bougainville was concentrated in three main areas — the Buka Passage in the north, Numa Numa and Kieta in the east, and in the south, Buin and Mossigetia.

On 6 October, 1944 Maj Gen W. Bridgeford, GOC 3 Div opened his HQ on the northern edge of Empress Augusta Bay. This was followed six weeks later, on 22 November, by 2 Aust Corps HQ. The Corps was commanded by Lt Gen S. Savige, who had under command, 3 Div (7th, 15th and 29th Brigades) plus the 11th and 23rd Brigades. Of these only Brig Potts' 23rd Brigade (7th, 8th and 27th Infantry Battalions) had seen no action against the enemy.

From the beginning, the shortage of shipping was quite a problem for the Australian Commander being, it was said, due to the require-

ments of the Americans in their operation against the Philippines. This shortage was to remain with the logistic support throughout the entire campaign, so much so, that at Christmas, 1944 the force was down to three days rations, with some other smaller quantities being held by the units.

The constant shortage, however, did not deter the Australians from altering the pace of the war, when final relief of the Americans had been completed by mid-December.

The initial thrust by the Australians came on 29 November, 1944 when 9 Inf Bn (7 Bde, 3 Div) took over from the Americans in the Doiabie area, some 16 kilometres inland along the Numa Numa Trail at a place called Piaterapaia. After an hour's sharp fight, Little George Hill was in their possession. On 18 December, 1944 Artillery Hill fell to the 9th Battalion, which placed them on the feature next to Pearl Ridge.

On 30 December, 1944 all four rifle companies of the 25th Battalion which had taken over from the 9th, converged on Pearl Ridge, and by mid-afternoon on the following day, the enemy had been cleared from the ridge.

It was the Corps Commander's ultimate aim to destroy the enemy in southern Bougainville, but he did, however, intend to retain close control over the subordinate formations and units under command. He stipulated that no force exceeding one battalion would be committed to an attack without his prior approval, and he detailed how the offensive was to be carried out.

One of General Savage's earliest tasks was to curb the enthusiasm of Brig Potts who had served with the 16th Battalion AIF in 1914-18, and who had been CO of 2/16 Inf Bn in 1941/42. Brig Potts had also commanded the 21st Brigade during the campaign on the Owen Stanley Ranges in 1942, but had been relieved of his command under adverse circumstances, and had reason to believe he had been badly treated by General Sir Thomas Blamey and Lt Gen E. Herring. Brig Potts was now keen to get on with the job. It was natural for him to seek an active role for his troops, for some of his men had been in the services for nearly four years, and had not been in action against the enemy.

From his HQ on Green Island north of Bougainville, Brig Potts outlined a series of tasks he thought his troops could be usefully employed in doing, and urged that at least one of the following should be executed:

1. General reconnaissance of neighbouring enemy territory.
 2. An operation against Choiseul, where some 700 Japanese were believed to be at large.
 3. An operation against northern Bougainville at Buka Passage.
 4. An operation against Buka Island.
- All of these suggestions were rejected.

CHAPTER 5

Action At Last

By 3 May, 1945, the battalion had commenced to move to an area previously occupied by 47 Aust Inf Bn, on the outskirts of Toro-kina. At the time, a list of senior appointments within the unit showed:

CO — Lt Col H. Dunkley
2 i/c — Maj C. Jones
Adj — Capt G. Davidson
IO — Lt D. Edwards
SO — Lt K. Deller

Coy Ocs
HQ Coy — Capt F. Barlee
A Coy — Capt K. Blaby
B Coy — Capt W. McInnes
C Coy — Capt W. Cameron
D Coy — Capt R. Roberts

It was becoming obvious that 7 Battalion was now on Bougainville for a purpose other than its normal garrison duties. Colonel Dunkley had done a reconnaissance by plane, over Berry's Hill area and on returning to base had discussed the situation with Brigadier Potts. Arrangements were then made for the CO to visit 27 Battalion on Pearl Ridge. The next day a party led by Lt Leith Donald, moved out to observe the operations as well.

On 7 May, Capt Davidson also visited the 27th Battalion area and a HQ Coy cable laying party were busy laying cable up to the Numa Numa Trail.

Sports were still being organised to keep the men fit and active. Company exercises were also being organised. One two-day exercise through swamps described as "too thin to walk on and too thick to swim in", was carried out by each company in turn.

On the lighter side, a football match between 7 Bn and 84 Wing RAAF was played. Even though it was the first game the team had played in nine months, and with many of the former players having departed the unit, much talent was still available. 7 Bn won 12 goals 10 behinds to 3 goals 8 behinds. Rankin, Reid, Hubble, Rogers and Sitch were the best players for the battalion.

Many other sports were also organised, with volleyball and basketball being most popular. B Coy defeated D Coy, 63 to 38 at basketball, D Coy had a win over A Coy 36 to 28 and in a return match, D Coy defeated B Coy, 28 to 18. The Signals platoon also had a victory over the Band, 21 to 12.

In volleyball, A Coy defeated D Coy 21 to 2, the Officer's team defeated an Officer's team from Brigade, 4 games to nil, but the tables were turned in a return match, when the Brigade officers won 2 games to 1.

It was noted at this time that as a result of a friendly game of football, the Adjutant was seen hobbling around the unit area, due he said, to some tough tactics during a game.

The 11th of May saw a further party leave the unit area for the 27th Battalion area, to observe operations, and on 15 May the CO

summoned all NCOs to a lecture on tactics on Pearl Ridge. This lecture was preceeded by a discussion by the IO, utilising a sand-table model of the area concerned.

On 18 May, tabloid sports were introduced in the afternoon, after church and a battalion parade. A, B, C and D Coys each supplied nine teams. The team to gain the highest points would be declared the winner and receive a prize of £6. HQ Coy and BHQ were also to field teams, but would compete the next day. No. 5 team of A Coy was eventually declared the winner with a very good score of 61 points.

On Tuesday, 20 May, forty personnel, including Cpts Cameron, McInnes and Norman and Lt Deller, returned from leave in Australia, and the Pioneer Platoon left for the Numa Numa Trail at Roadhead, to assist in the construction of a funicular railway up Barge's Hill.

Eight officers and twelve Other Ranks attended a demonstration of flame throwers at the 8th Battalion. At Bosley Field, Pte Wilson was successful in winning his bout in an area Boxing Tournament, but Pte Basil Carl, in his bout, was defeated on points. (Not a very popular decision either). Then on 25 May a Battalion Operational Instruction No. 27 was released, stating that 7 Bn would relieve 27 Bn on Pearl Ridge by 4 June.

All the exercising and sporting activities came to an abrupt halt as men busied themselves with the final preparations for movement to the so called "sharp end".

On 2 June, 15 Pl of C Coy, left Torokina for the Pearl Ridge area, in order to receive final instructions for the takeover role of the PIB Patrol at Mapia. During the same day, the Adj and IO visited 27 Bn to discuss the proposed takeover of 27 Bn's B and D Coy patrols. Capt Blaby also made a reconnaissance flight over Pearl Ridge and the enemy positions along the Numa Numa Trail.

At this time, it is worthy to note, a notice appeared in Unit Routine Orders Part 1, to the effect that a letter had been received from the Secretary of the 7th Battalion AIF Association, offering assistance in any matter that would benefit the 7th Aust Inf Bn (AIF). In reply to this letter the CO had requested that a number of Unit Flags be forwarded. This resulted in the following reproduced letter being received from Mr J Guthridge:

"To CO
7th Aust Inf Bn (AIF)
Dear Sir,

4 May, 1945

I have just posted five flags addressed to you today. I trust they reach you safely. We are proud to have the privilege of presenting these flags to your battalion. We know that the colours, we thought so much of, are in safe hands. I can only add that with these flags go all the good wishes and regards of the "old" Seventh.

Kindest Regards,
Yours Sincerely,
J. Guthridge."

It was proposed that D Coy would not be involved in the takeover from the 27th, but would be eventually transported by corvette to make a landing on the east coast of Bougainville, to establish a firm base in the vicinity of Asitavi Point.

B Coy was to march out to an area close to the Wakunai River, establish a firm base, to patrol along the river towards the east coast and finally to meet up with D Coy, after they had made their landing. To this end, 11 Pl, B Coy moved out of their area at Torokina for Pearl Ridge.

The main body of the battalion, consisting of the IO, Assistant Adjutant, 2 i/c's of companies, with 6, 7, 9 and 14 Platoons, also moved out for Pearl Ridge. This move entailed a rough trip by road along the Laruma River, for a distance of approximately 22 kilometres. The road, such as it was, crossed the river on 25 occasions before finishing at Roadhead, at the foot of Barge's Hill.

Barge's Hill, which rose almost perpendicular for about 460 metres, had been named in honour of Pte E. Barge, a stretcher bearer (of Yass, NSW), who had been killed in action as a member of a platoon which attacked Little George Hill on the 29th of November, 1944.

It was most difficult but necessary to carry everything up this hill in a zig zag fashion, on a single walking track, but the climb was a pipeopener to what lay ahead across the treacherous Numa Numa Trail. On reaching the top of Barge's Hill, there was a suitable jeep track, leading along the ridges through Piaterapaia, Little George Hill, Artillery Hill and on to Pearl Ridge.

Initially, BHQ was established on Artillery Hill, as was a detachment of 23 Bde Sigs. Rear BHQ was set up at Roadhead, with ancillary units such as 10 Bty, 4 Fd Regt, Det 23 Aust Fd Coy, Det 243 Aust Sup Dep Pl, 8 Fd Amb and a detachment of 14 Aust Independent Provost Platoon.

HQ Coy was located on Martin's Knoll, a feature about 1000 metres along the track from the top of Barge's Hill. A Coy established its HQ on Smith's Hill, but was minus its 7 and 9 Pls, which were located along the Choko Ridge Track leading to Sisivie. 7 Pl was at Keenan's Ridge about a mile south of Sisivie, and 9 Pl was located about two kilometres distance back along the track from 7 Pl.

B Coy moved on to Berry's Hill, a feature named after Major H.J. Berry of 11 Bty, 4 Fd Regt, and was accompanied by 3 Pl, 101 Aust Hvy Mortar Coy.

C Coy, less its 15 Pl, was in position on a spur known as Tiernan's Spur, named in honour of Lt J.A. Tiernan of the 27 Aust Inf Bn (AIF), about 1000 metres north-east of Berry's Hill. 15 Pl was covering a position known as Mapia, some 1500 metres further north-east of its company headquarters.

Under command of 7 Bn was B Coy, PIB, which at this stage was located adjacent to BHQ on Artillery Hill.

On 4 June, 11 Pl, B Coy (less a patrol led by Lt Bonde, which was to find a suitable site to establish a firm base for B Coy on the Wakunai River), took over the standing patrol duties of the 27th Battalion, where the enemy were in positions a few hundred metres in front on the next knoll.

On the next day, 15 Pl, C Coy, led by Lt Max Elliott, made first contact with the enemy, when Pte H.R. "Noisy" McEwan and Pte J.S. "Darkie" Atkinson killed two Japanese from ambush. A patrol of six men from 13 Pl, C Coy, led by Lt Norm Baskerville, accompanied by Lt Morgan and one other soldier from the Artillery Unit acting as FOO, encountered enemy positions along Tiernan's Spur, where an estimated ten enemy were engaged in combat. Two Japanese were killed and an LMG captured.

During 6 June, a patrol of nine men from 7 Pl, A Coy, led by Lt Leith Donald, moved on enemy positions at Sisivi and engaged with E Y rifle and LMG fire. One Japanese was killed.

In the meantime, Lt Bonde had reported that his patrol had located a suitable area for the establishment of a company perimeter, together with a DZ. He also reported the presence of pro-Japanese Kanaka along the Wakunai River to the coast.

D Coy, at this time, were still waiting at Torokina for their intended landing to occur. And so it was that 7th Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF) assumed operational control of the Central Sector of Bougainville.

On 7 June, Lt Peter Rush and five ORs of 12 Pl, B Coy, accompanied by a Native Scout, Sgt Keopili, left their standing patrol area to reconnoitre enemy positions to the north-east. These positions were found to be unoccupied and the enemy had left some equipment and several rifles. Two freshly dug graves were also found. This feature, from then on, was called Rush's Knoll.

Up forward, with C Coy, Lt Norm Baskerville and four men of 14 Pl, made a reconnaissance to endeavour to find a track between two features, but were thwarted by the steepness of the terrain down to the creek.

By late afternoon of 7 June, another patrol from 7 Pl, A Coy, again led by Lt Donald, had arrived at Sisivi to observe the movements of the enemy. During the execution of this task, the patrol was fired upon by HMG and LMG. Fortunately there were no casualties.

In the meantime, C Coy, less 15 Pl, had completed the takeover from 27 Bn on Tiernan's Spur. They had a patrol, led by Lt Baskerville, with Sgt Carl Armstrong and nine ORs, accompanied again by Lt Morgan and one OR from the Artillery, move along the spur to contact the enemy, who were in bunkers and fox-holes astride the track, approximately 300 metres forward. Contact was

made and one Japanese killed. Unfortunately Lt Morgan was also killed.

At about this time a Flt Lt N.C. Sandford of the AIB, a former plantation manager on Bougainville, who was operating along the east coast of Bougainville, trying to find a suitable landing place for D Coy, reported striking the enemy in force at Kevisia, north of the only suitable place for a landing. HQ 23 Bde had considered the matter and had advised 7 Bn that the landing operation would be deferred.

During the night 8/9 June, artillery harassed the enemy on Tiernan's Spur, just forward of C Coy. During the day an air drop of supplies was successfully carried out on Martin's Knoll, the location of HQ Coy. 7 Pl, B Coy, PIB, had relieved 15 Pl at the patrol base of Mapia. During the same day, Capt Wal Cameron, OC C Coy, with five ORs and the scout Sgt Keopili, made a reconnaissance of an area known as New Vivie, seeking the most suitable approach route for an attack on the enemy positions.

Three-inch Mortar were now in position at Berry's Hill and able to range on the enemy positions forward of C Coy during the morning. In the afternoon, 13 Pl moved forward by about 100 metres along Tiernan's Spur, but were fired upon by two LMGs. Pte M.E. Newburn was slightly wounded. His mates told him he would never have to part his hair again as he had one permanently now.

Artillery, Mortars and MMGs continued to harass the enemy. During the night shots were exchanged between 13 Pl and the enemy, resulting in one Japanese being killed. During the afternoon of the 10th, a patrol of 14 Pl, killed one Japanese collecting food. Later in the day a message was received from BHQ ordering C Coy to launch an all out attack on the enemy the next morning, however, at 0600 hours on 11 June, 14 Pl themselves, were attacked by the enemy, resulting in one Private being killed. Then at 1000 hours, following Artillery, Mortar and MMG fire, 13 Pl, led by Sgt Arthur A. Bennett, attacked. They were assisted in the attack by the use of flame throwers, being used for the first time. The attack came via the left flank and cleared a feature 200 metres forward of 14 Pl. Forward elements continued the advance for a further 100 metres clearing the bunkers they encountered with grenades. Nine of the enemy were killed, with some equipment and documents being taken. The equipment included a sword, considerable medical gear, six rifles and one Owen sub-machine gun. In this action, four of 13 Pl were killed. Sgt Bennett showing outstanding courage. Those killed were:

VX89415 — Sgt A.A. Bennett

VX134795 — L/cpl M.I. Dougherty

WX37426 — Pte A.B. Watson

VX89386 — Sgt C.H. Schurr (Died the next day of wounds received.)

Wounded was:

VX67252 — Pte J.P. Brannelly.

At 1000 hours on the 12th, Colonel Dunkley decided to move his headquarters closer to the action, so BHQ was closed at its original location and reopened at a position known as Little Hunt Hill, quite close to Berry's Hill. He was now about 1000 metres from his forward troops.

At about this time, Lt Elliott and six ORs, patrolled the New Vivie area where they encountered approximately eight enemy, killing two.

Next day, 13 June, Lt Elliott and his 15 Pl attacked and captured the positions around New Vivie, killing another five of the enemy. Another Japanese was killed by a patrol led by Sgt "Mick" Walsh and five men, during the reconnaissance of the Wearnes Hill area, observing enemy held bunkers. A dum dum bullet was found in the dead man's haversack.

Meanwhile, Major Keith Blaby, (recently promoted), led a patrol from A Coy to Sisivi and found the area unoccupied. The enemy had apparently abandoned their positions during the night of 11/12 June. Some equipment had been left behind and nine freshly dug graves were discovered. 9 Pl moved from their original position at Keenan's Hill to occupy these former enemy positions at Sisivi, but after remaining for only a few hours, decided that they could stand the stench no longer and dug fresh positions about 100 metres further north.

On 14 June, a patrol of nine ORs from 7 Pl, led by Lt Donald, left their base at Keenan's Ridge, to reconnoitre enemy positions at Tokua. The patrol was accompanied by scout Avarau and was for a period of two days. During that time six to ten enemy were encountered in four dugouts astride the track. When fired upon the patrol immediately returned the fire and killed two Japanese.

By midday on this same day word had been received at BHQ that the proposed landing by D Coy had been cancelled. The company then moved up to a location on Pearl Ridge.

B Coy had, after two and a half days of hard march over kilometres of rugged terrain, arrived at their patrol base on the Wakunai River.

The battle for Wearne's Hill was now hotting up. On the night of 15/16 June, Artillery and Mortars had harassed the enemy. Twelve Corsairs bombed and strafed the feature. Then, with Artillery support, 15 Pl moved in. After a heavy fire-fight, the enemy was forced to withdraw from two features, allowing an advance of some 500 metres, with more documents and equipment being captured. Later, the advance continued to the third feature, but heavy LMG and rifle fire from the enemy in bunkers drew a halt to the advance. Only one enemy body was found, but 15 Pl had suffered two men killed and three more being wounded. Those killed were:

VX134511 — Pte C.W.K. Scott

WX34085 — Pte M.K. Gurney.

Those wounded were:

VX66642 — Pte P. Berthon

VX65968 — Pte D. McGregor

N385432 — Pte M.E. Newburn.

The next morning, following accurate Artillery and Mortar fire, 14 Pl moved forward to engage the enemy on the third feature, but also met heavy opposition. The Platoon Commander, Lt Baskerville, and four ORs were wounded, but the action had accounted for two enemy being killed, two more probably killed and an LMG knocked out. Later, a patrol to the left flank, reported seeing eight to ten enemy reinforcements moving into positions at the rear. Artillery and Mortar fire was called down on these positions and continued throughout the night of 17/18 June.

Out with B Coy on the Wakunai, patrols were gathering much topographical information, whilst their first air supply drop was not a great success. Many of the stores missed the DZ and landed in the river and surrounding jungle, however most of the stores were recovered. The pilots who flew the aircraft later reported that the DZ was less than favourable.

It was now time for D Coy to start the relief of C Coy. 18 Pl moved up to relieve 14 Pl.

Meanwhile, in the A Coy area at Sisivi, a patrol of fifteen ORs, led by Lt Ian McKenzie of 9 Pl, had returned to base after observing eight to ten enemy at Tokua. The patrol had engaged and killed three. The natives in the area had stated that the enemy at Buritsiorara had extensive gardens and that vegetables were taken from there to Pipipaia in hand carts, along the main Kiap Road. The next day, another patrol, led by Lt Donald, ambushed a party of eight enemy on the Ibu track, north of Tokua. The enemy were equipped with short rifles and were carrying cooking gear. Four were killed. Documents taken gave information of an 81 Infantry Regiment flag-raising ceremony set for 14 July.

Back at Wearne's Hill, the relief of C Coy was still in progress. D Coy HQ and 17 Pl had relieved C Coy HQ and 15 Pl. By 1700 hours D Coy was on the job when WO2 "Digger" Shiele and nine ORS made a reconnaissance of the enemy positions on Wearne's Hill, seeking a suitable approach route from the flank. The following day, 18 Pl attacked the extensive enemy positions and after a fierce fire-fight the position was taken, losing two men in the process. Another man was wounded. 17 Pl moved through 18 Pl and encountered accurate enemy sniper fire, losing yet another man killed and two others wounded. Those killed were:

VX117297 — Lt F.R. Longmore

VX68026 — Cpl R. Archer

QX136621 — L/Cpl K.F. Schmidt

VX115945 — Pte H.W. Stevens (Later died of wounds received.)

Wounded were:

VX115935 — L/Sgt L.A. Reid

N464373 — Pte G.N. Bushell.

B Coy had by this time, settled into their base at the Wakunai River and had commenced patrolling activities to the Buritsiotorara area. One patrol, led by Lt Peter Rush, had made contact with the enemy, killing one, but was immediately fired upon by two LMGs and rifles. Another patrol, led by Lt Bonde, whilst seeking a suitable ambush post along the Asiuepaia — Buritsiotorara Track, encountered fifteen enemy. The patrol killed two before the remainder quickly dispersed, firing indiscriminately as they went.

Throughout the entire area now under control of 7 Bn, patrolling continued daily. One patrol from 16 Pl D Coy of ten ORs and led by Lt Murphy, in the Wearne's Hill area, killed one Japanese. A PIB patrol in the Mapia area contacted five enemy digging in and killed two and wounding two more. Another patrol, led by Sgt Midgley, located the enemy on a spur running west of the main ridge at Wearne's Hill. Bunkers were observed, but no movement was apparent. Another PIB patrol, returning to their base at Mapia, encountered three enemy and killed one. A 16 Pl patrol in front of their own positions, killed another Japanese.

On 22 June, two stretcher cases, being carried out from the Wakunai River area by natives, while climbing Berry's Hill, were fired upon by PIB on an adjacent hill. Fortunately no one was injured, but it did cause a bit of a stir at the time. It appears that the PIB on Rush's Knoll, upon seeing the torches of the carrying party (it was dark at the time), thought an attack was being launched by the enemy on Berry's Hill. One of the stretcher cases apparently slipped off his stretcher in the confusion and tumbled down the steep slope on the side of the track, and could not be found. This information was relayed back to BHQ, whereup, the CO instructed Lt Ben Cattell to take out a patrol to see what could be done.

"I remember it was as black as the inside of a cow's stomach, and raining. The track was muddy and slippery, so when I arrived at the place where the stretcher case was last seen, rather than flounder around in the dark and perhaps lose someone else, I decided to settle down on the narrow track for the night and resume the search at first light. In the meantime I sent the original stretcher party, now nearly exhausted, on to Berry's Hill.

After things settled down, voices could be heard and after ascertaining that they were speaking English and not Japanese, my men located the wounded man. He was accompanied by one of the escort party and I think it was Normie Hedt who had stayed with him during the ordeal. I immediately sent a runner back to BHQ to have the original bearer party come out and collect the wounded man.

The poor native carriers were absolutely exhausted when they arrived and were being verbally harangued by their WO2 from ANGAU. This Warrant Officer was about knee high to a grasshopper, but had the vocabulary of a bullocky. The air was purple when Padre Pilkington arrived on the scene. He could not help but hear the foul language and prevailed upon me, as senior bloke present, to have the ANGAU bloke moderate his language. I'm afraid I had to inform the Padre that had I intervened, there would have been no

further movement for any of us that night and suggested that the matter be taken up in the morning in the comfort of Berry's Hill.

Strangely enough, that WO2 and I were to meet many years later after we had both been discharged. It turned out that he was our local garbage collector, and I'm sure that night in question, became our common link."

The next day, 23 June, 8 Pl, A Coy departed their area on Smith's Hill to establish a patrol base south of Tokua, from where they would commence operations against the enemy towards Tokua.

Late on the following day, after an Artillery program had been brought down on the feature forward of 16 Pl D Coy, that platoon moved forward and occupied previously held enemy positions. Four Japanese bodies were found. C Coy then moved through to dig in on these positions. D Coy patrols continued to operate forward of these new C Coy positions and located an abandoned Japanese HQ. Some documents and equipment had been left behind. Probing patrols later contacted the enemy located in extensive positions on Centre Hill. It was not considered that Wearne's Hill was clear of the enemy.

On 25 June, another move was completed in the Tokua area. 8 Pl, A Coy had relieved 9 Pl, which had then returned to Smith's Hill.

The next day, a fighting patrol of 16 Pl, D Coy, met heavy opposition from the enemy while digging in on Centre Hill. This resulted in N452780 Pte W.J. Lord and VX69654 Pte K. Gunter being killed, and the following men wounded:

QX50617 — Pte W.O. O'Rielly

VX68730 — Pte H.J. Nelson

VX68130 — Pte J. Macintosh

VX148988 — Pte F. Sporn

V64795 — Pte J.P. Sporn

QX40269 — Pte W.B. Ross

VX68830 — Cpl C.C. Smith.

The day after this disaster, following an air strike by twelve Corsairs, in which bombs fell very close to our own three-inch mortar, 18 Pl, D Coy, moved forward to encounter further heavy fire from Juki and LMGs. This resulted in WX26519 Cpl A. Nash being killed. Also wounded were:

VX88574 — Cpl G.R. Midgley

QX57097 — Pte G. Neden

VX63619 — L/cpl W.J. Evans (Later died of wounds received.)

A withdrawal was organised to allow further Artillery and Mortar fire to be brought down on the position. Later, patrols probed both flanks, but the enemy had not been dislodged. On the 30th, a further air strike was called for. Then, 16 Pl, supported by Artillery and Mortars, attacked and drove the enemy from the forward slopes. Two Japanese were killed. Patrols continued to harass the enemy, but in doing so came under heavy HMG and LMG fire from the

bunkers of the main positions. Another man was lost and three others wounded. Killed was:

VX89360 — WO2 V.G. Shiele

and those wounded were:

VX118511 — Pte T.D. Dellar

VX66124 — Pte G.F. Harrison

NX71972 — Pte D.R. Hill.

It was soon after this action, that while moving out to relieve their patrol at the Mapia area, a PIB patrol, against the advice of Capt Ray Roberts, OC D Coy, moved up the trail towards Centre Hill. They made a hasty retreat when fired upon. One PIB soldier received a bullet on the buckle of his webbing equipment.

In the meantime, 7 Pl, A Coy had moved from their patrol base at Keenan's Ridge, to join Company HQ and 9 Pl on Smith's Hill.

At Wakunai, a patrol, led by Lt Rush had ambushed a food-carrying party on the track north of Buritsiotorara, and killed three of the enemy. Another patrol had what might be called an exciting experience. Led by Sgt Leo Clohesy, it set out on 27 June to examine and set up an ambush on the coastal track. On the 28th, with ten others, including a native scout, Sgt Clohesy set up a patrol base about 2000 metres from the coast. Leaving the stretcher bearer, the two signallers with the wireless set, a man on the bren gun and the native scout, the rest of the patrol moved out on their allotted task. That evening the signallers reported to company that the patrol had not returned. The next morning, the patrol base was attacked by an estimated fifteen Japanese. The five occupants fired back, but withdrew, leaving their packs, the wireless set and the bren gun, behind. The native scout had been killed in the first onslaught.

As the four men were making their way back to company, Sgt Clohesy had returned to base with the rest of the patrol, only to find about ten Japanese in occupation. The patrol attacked and drove off the Japanese, killing one and probably two others. All the gear was recovered.

Another patrol, consisting of ten ORs and Lt Bonde, whilst seeking a suitable ambush site along the Asiuepaia — Buritsiotorara Track, encountered fifteen to twenty Japanese. The patrol killed two, but the remainder quickly dispersed, firing as they went. One other patrol, led by Capt F.H. Barlee, returning from ambushing in the Ibu-Asiuepara Track, killed four Japanese out of a party of six, carrying food.

8 Pl, A Coy was still patrolling from their base south of Tokua.

During the month of June, 1945, the battalion had been in constant contact with the enemy throughout its entire area of responsibility. Much work had been done on improving and repairing the jeep track from the top of Barge's Hill to Berry's Hill. Road extensions from the foot of Berry's Hill to the summit had been

completed, due mainly to the efforts of Sgt Bob Hudson and the men under his control. The track down Berry's Hill to Tiernan's Spur had also been greatly improved and the two hundred and eighty metre rise of Berry's Hill had had 1000 steps cut into it.

A funicular (cable operated) railway up Barge's Hill was under construction and would be completed possibly by the middle of July. Supplies being still hauled up the hill by manpower and cable. A magnificent job was being done by all concerned.

Native scouts and guides had become very popular with members of the battalion who came in contact with them, as they were giving excellent service and assistance. The work of Supili, Keopili, Alum-wheeler, Willisilli, Atula and Avaru would be remembered for years to come.

The following is a report compiled by Lt Col Dunkley on 2 July, 1945, and forwarded to 23rd Brigade:

FUTURE OPERATIONS

In the Wearne's Hill area, two known defensive positions remain, the second being 200 yards from the present objective. From captured documents, this position seems likely to be that of Advance Headquarters, 2 Bn, 81 Regt.

Deductions — From general observations and reports just to hand from native scouts, it appears that the enemy is delaying our advance at all costs, while reinforcements move into Base Point 2 and Tokopenapaia area. Fresh troops are reported in these areas — at least 50 at Tokopenapaia.

He has apparently shortened his L of C in the Tokua-Sisivi area and reinforced Buritsiorara. The speed with which he located and attacked our patrol base at Saddle Mountain area, suggests co-operation with local pro-Japanese Kanakas.

Although enemy dead in the vicinity of Wearne's Hill are not in first class physical condition, they are far from emancipated or ill clothed.

All enemy killed in the Buritsiorara area are well fed and in excellent condition, and clothing, although worn, is neatly repaired.

A wide variety of fruit and vegetables were carried by these men. The enemy is particularly aggressive and quick to retaliate in this area.

Enemy morale is generally good, one noticeable exception being after the air attack of 16 June, when a very strong position was vacated, weapons being left in pits and bunkers.

Despite the reinforcing of reserve L of C positions, it is felt, when he is finally evicted from Wearne's Hill area, he will not try to regain lost ground, but will continue to man delaying positions along the Numa Numa Trail.

No difficulties exist in the extension of the jeep road to post 14 and thence to the coast, if required.

The co-operation by B Coy, PIB, has been satisfactory. Better results are obtained when working in close support of our troops than when given an independent role.

2 Aust Mtn Bty took over from 10 Bty, 4 Aust Fd Regt on 29 June, 1945 and have proved both effective and co-operative. No difficulty would be experienced in moving the Bty as far forward as a jeep track went.

3 Pl, 101 Hvy Mortar have one mortar forward and have given useful support.

The Tank Att Pl has provided men to man two flame throwers. Training is now complete and men move forward tomorrow to Wearne's Hill. One flame

thrower, used in action by C Coy, failed to move defenders from a very deep bunker — thin fuel was used at fairly long range. Thickened fuel will be used in future, although vegetation was cleared successfully from approaches to the bunker by thin fuel. A combination of two flame throwers, one with thick and the other with thin fuel is to be tried.

Supply is good, the "Q" side giving very little trouble. The funicular railway will be finished some time next week and has already eased the carrier situation.

Road Maintenance — Owing to continual rain, this is a problem, but not an insurmountable one.

L/T is established with Post 14 (Wakunai) and Tokua should be on line within a few days. The Sigs now look after more than 70 miles of line and are doing an excellent job.

G2 (Air) has been very helpful in arranging air co-operation and air photos. Unfortunately the latter were obliques and did not reveal the expected results.

Casualties — the total number of "kills" recorded are verified up to 1800 hours on 4th July, 1945 and now stand at 72. There are also 6 probables and 10 wounded.

Our losses are 15 killed and 29 wounded. Most of the wounded will return to duty in the near future, many are back already. Fortunately, the Japanese grenades have not been very effective.

Enemy casualties are conservative, the low proportion of "wounded" to "killed" being due to the fact that the body not being left on the ground, two or more witnesses are usually required before a claim is admitted."

To start off the new month of July, Sgt Keopili, led a D Coy patrol on to Centre Hill, around the left flank, to cut the enemy's L of C at the rear. Later North of Centre Hill, he and Capt Roberts were watching and waiting to capture a Japanese Sergeant-Major, but the bren gunner thwarted their plans by shooting the Japanese.

On 2 July, Sgt John Freeman and sixteen ORs ambushed to the rear of the enemy positions and killed one Japanese. Documents were taken from the body. The next day when again active at the rear of the enemy positions, Sgt Freeman and men of 17 Pl were held up by a bunkered LMG, but they managed to kill another Japanese.

On this same day, but out at the Wakunai River, Capt Barlee with fifteen ORs departed their patrol base to recover the body of the native guide who had been killed when on patrol with Sgt Clohesy a week previous. The patrol came across one Japanese sunbaking. He was promptly shot.

At this time the CO decided to rest D Coy from the Wearne's Hill action and replace them with C Coy. This change over was completed by 6 July.

8 Pl, A Coy were still active from the patrol base in the Tokua area and were conducting patrols north of Ibu.

On the night of 5/6 July, Artillery continued to harass the enemy on Centre Hill and at approximately 1600 hours on the 6th, Sgt Keopili, Capt Cameron and 15 Pl, stalked up the hill from their positions on the north side of Centre Hill, only to find that the enemy had withdrawn. The positions were found to be well sighted and very extensive. A Juki had been used from one of the bunkers.

14 Pl were called forward to consolidate and it was later that investigations revealed five bodies, six rifles and one Owen sub-

machine gun had been left behind. Examination by the RMO of one of the bodies further revealed that flesh had been cut from each leg.

Another Japanese was killed by a patrol led by Sgt Roy Sitch, with members of 15 Pl, accompanied by Sgt Keopili, when moving north towards North Hill for about 300 metres, made contact with a Japanese listening post.

The next day, WO2 Horrie Hubble, with a section of 14 Pl, made contact with the enemy at approximately the same spot. The section was fired upon resulting in VX134973 Pte Len B. Hateley being killed and VX66771 Pte Trevor Fimister wounded. The patrol accounted for one Japanese killed and one other probably killed.

Meanwhile, B Coy on the Wakunai, were still patrolling extensively, but found no enemy between their firm base and the river junction 450 metres downstream.

8 Pl, A Coy, were also still active. Lt Neil McPhee, accompanied by Lt Donald, led a patrol of ten ORs, which ambushed eight Japanese in gardens at Nasisipok. Five of the enemy were killed and one other probably killed. This patrol also reported that Ruravo was clear of the enemy and that the local Kanakas were assisting our troops.

Back on North Hill, on 10 July, 14 Pl, C Coy, with a new Platoon Commander, Lt Horrie Bell, moved forward along the ridge towards North Hill where they encountered heavy opposition from twelve to fifteen Japanese. The platoon members killed one Japanese, but lost VX132944 Pte Alf T. Clarke. VX89418 Pte Ron A. Keogh was wounded. 13 Pl with one MMG, moved up to a spur on the left flank to harass the enemy, but later, all patrols were withdrawn to enable the positions to be engaged by Artillery and Mortar fire. One other Japanese was killed as a result of this action and another probably killed.

Further patrolling by a section of PIB found the positions very extensive and were the main enemy positions on North Hill. Further patrolling by members of C Coy was carried out during the day, with one from 13 Pl being fired upon by about six rifles.

15 Pl and sections of PIB continued patrolling to the rear of the enemy, but received heavy opposition. Total casualties inflicted by these patrols amounted to three enemy killed and two probably killed.

The 13th of July could have been said to have been living up to its "devil's number". C Coy were continuing their patrol activities prior to an air strike, when the Corsairs appeared over the target area three hours earlier than expected, forcing one patrol at least, to beat a hasty retreat.

A later patrol reported that the enemy positions had been vacated. Five bodies were found. Then at 1000 hours, 13 Pl moved onto these recently vacated positions to give support to 15 Pl, which was to attack the main enemy positions from the flank.

At 1100 hours the attack began, with 15 Pl driving out the enemy after a heavy fire fight. Two 15 Pl members were slightly wounded, but seven Japanese were dead. A patrol was organised to move along the track and after proceeding for about 200 metres encountered the enemy. Two more Japanese were killed.

C Coy now paused to consolidate. The next day patrols reported that the ridge was clear of the enemy. The enemy had relocated on the next feature, about 150 metres along the track. This feature was later to be known as Cameron's Hill.

Observation posts were established and the enemy harassed from the end of the ridge. Unfortunately, it was in this vicinity that Sgt Keopili, the native scout, who had given such invaluable service, was killed. He was participating on a reconnaissance with 7 Pl, PIB, endeavouring to locate positions from which grenade dischargers could be used.

Changes were again about to occur in the disposition of the battalion. It was ordered that A Coy would relieve B Coy on the Wakunai. D Coy would take over in the Tokua area from 8 Pl, A Coy and B Coy would proceed to the Numa Numa Trail area to ultimately take over from C Coy. However, before these changes took place, Lt Ian McKenzie, with 9 Pl, A Coy, proceeded on a three-day patrol to reconnoitre and harass the enemy in the Ruravo area. At 0605 hours on 14 July, the patrol engaged six enemy holding a spur with LMG. Two Japanese were killed. At the conclusion of the patrol, the platoon moved back to join the rest of the company on Smith's Hill.

On 18 July, with B Coy on the Wakunai River, Lt Bonde with fifteen men of 11 Pl, departed their base for a two-day reconnaissance and ambushing patrol to the Kukuwabi area. They were accompanied by scout Aratura and after setting up an ambush site, made contact with four Japanese visiting the gardens. One of the Japanese was killed.

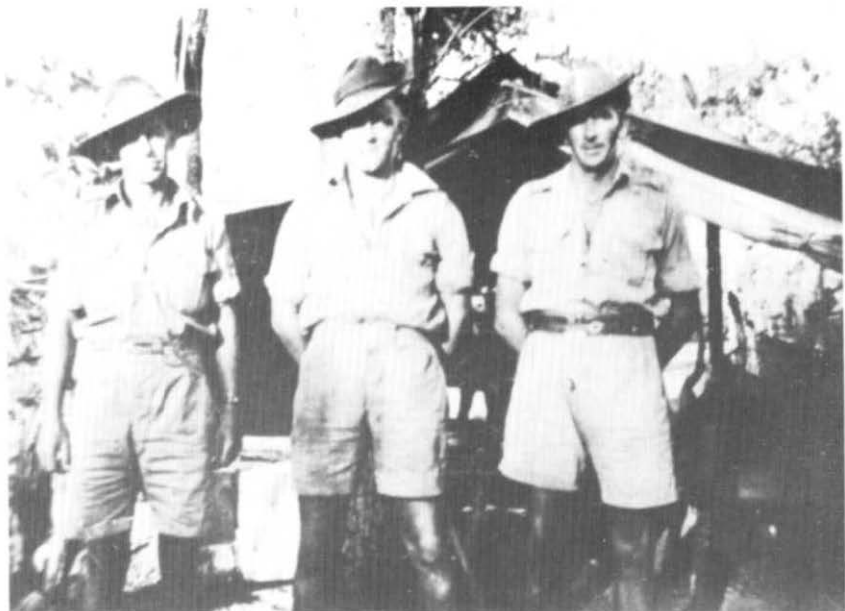
The relief of B Coy by A Coy on the Wakunai River commenced with 7 Pl, A Coy, relieving 12 Pl, B Coy. By the 21st of July, the operation was completed when 8 Pl, A Coy replaced 11 Pl, B Coy. 8 Pl had been relieved by 17 Pl D Coy at Tokua.

In the meantime, it had been reported to BHQ through natives in the area, that the enemy was believed to be moving from Ibu to Buritsiotorara to gather food. It was also reported that the natives had killed one Japanese.

Back on Cameron's Hill, Artillery and Mortars continued to harass the enemy positions, from where sniper fire was becoming more prevalent. Notwithstanding, C Coy kept up their patrol activities. One patrol, led by Sgt Armstrong, moved forward to an observation post at the end of North Hill and encountered an enemy ambush party of three, all of whom were killed. It was found that the dead Japanese were in possession of Australian rifles and four hand grenades.



Members of the Signals Platoon in Darwin, from Left to Right, *Rear*: Meg Withell, Bill Hubert, Hux West, Henry McGauchie, "Dasher" Dean, Stan Howden, George Isaacs, Eric Parker, Len Hillier, Ron Burrows, Arch Berry, Roland Carter, Tony George, Bill Roberts, Jack Manley, Jack Duffy. *Front*: Keith Bird, Keith Alexander, Harold Cook, Bert Faux, Sid Holland, George Leamon, Ken Deller, Albert Young, Jack Stackpoole, Stan Tucker.



*Percy Gooch, Perc Delaney and Col McTavish, three other members who made up the compliment of No. 1 Mortar. Percy Gooch later became the Sgt. of the P1 when Andy Fatt took over as CSM on the death of "Digger" Shiele.



No. 1 Mortar (without sights) with the Nos 1, 2 and 3, post for the camera. This detachment represented to Battalion on a number of Brigade and Divisional Sports meeting and was detach to every Company of the Battalion during its existance.



Two members of "A" Coy pose in front of their tent. Alec West and Des Dougherty in the Northern Territory.



"A" Coy HQ Cricket Team. *From Left to Right:* Eric Ross, John Sutherland, Laurie Jorgenson, Ron Ziersch, Bill Comitti, Albert Young, Bill Birrell, "Nugget" Laughton, Dinnie Heenan and Jim Radford



The £20,000 canteen, built for the troops at the 39 mile and opened by Lord Gowrie in August, 1943. A very modern complex containing everything the troops could desire. Unfortunately, 18 months too late for members of the 7th Battalion to appreciate to the fullest. The Battalion moved out of the area soon after the opening.



The "I" Section on parade, *Back:* Frank Harris, "Tiny" Morris, Frank McLoughlan, John Glasson, Dave Edwards. *Front:* Con Rethus, Bernie Tellefson, George Pile, Jack Baxter and Dave Harvey.



In the "A" Coy cook house at the 36 mile, 1942. *From Left to Right:* Alan Dickson, Lou Armstrong, Jim Wilkie, Bill Griffin and the CQMS Laurie Jorgensen.



Victor "Digger" Schiel, commonly known as the "Black Prince" and CSM of HQ Coy.
Roy Leabeter, who held the rank of Captain, and S/Sgt. Ron Nichols, CQMS of HQ Coy.



Terry Bufton, "A" Coy driver.



Left to Right: CSM "Yabby" McRae, Lt. Herrick Smith, Lt. Norm McDonald. Front: Lt. "Scotty" McLeod.



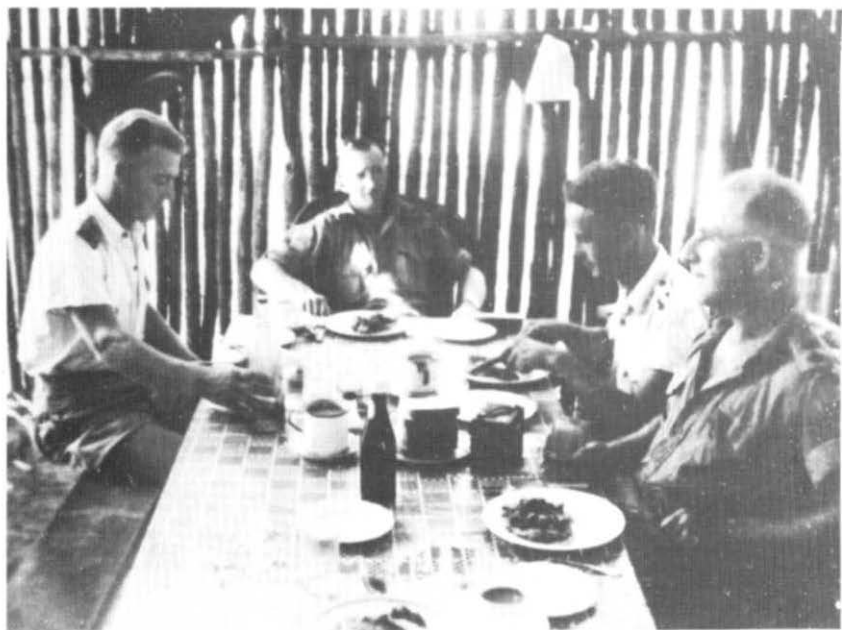
Two members of "C" Coy pose in front of their tent. Jim Baines and Jack Stevens.



1942 — some of 12 platoon. *Left to Right, back:* Col Smith, Harold Smith, Bill Alfred, Arthur Rose, "Snowy" Gordon, "Darkie" Harding, Keith Gray, "Jewy" Riley, Ken McCleary. *Centre:* "Sharky" Chambers (crouched centre). Tom Creeley, Gerry Daly, Bill Dillon. *Sitting:* Rex Allen, Joe Heley, "Darkey" Irvine, Jack Dike, "Snowy" Jamieson, Eric Thompson. *Extreme Front:* "Occles" O'Connell, "Scotty" McLeod, Alan Randle, Jock Glen.



The place to purchase razor blades, soap or tooth paste, etc.



Inside the Officers Mess. Lt. "Topsy" Turvey, Capt. Bill McInnes, an unknown officer and Lt. "Mustard" Keens.



Basil Vericker, a member of the Sig. Pl.



Meg Withell, another Sig. Both taken in the Northern Territory.



Sometimes it was necessary to augment the rations, so a shooting party would be organised to bag some of the wild game. Here Bill Galleon, Bob Summerville, Dinny Heenan, Bill Mayer, Doug Harkin, Dave Smithers and Ray Drew are seen on their return to camp.



A typical row of "Thunder Boxes" with Dinny Heenan, Norm Wood, Arch Curtis and Lou Armstrong in action.



Bill Elliott, Dinny Heenan (again) and Laurie Jorgenson.



Members of 9 Pl. "A" Coy receive their first official beer ration. *From Left to Right, Rear:* Bill Birrell, Bill Norris, Max Deacon, Alan Crute, George Clifford, "Snowy" Powlseland, Cliff Power. *Front:* Rob Roy, Dave Smithers, Eddie Davenport, Eddie Honey, Hugh Smith, Allan Pedder.



Reg Lynch, W. W. "Gary" Tyers, Val Considine, "Bluey" Robins, Alec West, Bill Griffin, Frank Harris and Ken Hinchly. Members of "A" Coy in the Northern Territory.



17 Platoon, D Coy members, *from Left to Right*: D. Daley, D. Davern, ?, W. Oelsnik and F. Hallam.



Left: Capt. Vic Iredale OC "A" Coy in the Northern Territory.



Right: Sgts. Jack Russell and Peter Rush. "A" Coy, 1942.



The MMG Cricket Team. Jack Bahr, Morrie Comarty, Neil McPherson, Auber Jones, "Porky" Reid, Allan Schmidt, George West, Bernie Faulkhead, and Mick Scott.



More of the MMGs in Ashley Reid, Stan Hobbs, Ross Smith, Allan Sampson, Harry Esmore.



Left to Right, back: Arthur Rose, Sgt. Reeves, Eric Thompson, Athol Teasdale, Gerry Daly. Front: Rex Allen, Alan Randle, Jack Dike, "Blue" Farley, at McMinns.



The "Q" Store Staff in Darwin.

By this time, a suitable approach had been found to the enemy positions, by way of the left flank. On 18 July, at 1200 hours, 13 Pl, led by Lt K.C Neville, ably supported by 15 Pl, with artillery and mortar fire, successfully attacked. After a heavy fire fight, the enemy finally abandoned their positions, leaving seven dead. Cpl Roger Stirrat claimed the sword of a Japanese Lieutenant, who was also carrying an American watch and a pistol. Among the equipment captured was a Juki HMG, which had been giving quite a lot of trouble previously, new clothing, including American type gaiter and a small lighting set.

15 Pl moved into these positions to consolidate. Later in the afternoon, a patrol observed five enemy north of Cameron's Hill, but a further patrol to the same area, reported that they had found two vacant positions 350 metres forward.

On 20 July, a patrol occupied positions further along the track after receiving light opposition. Further patrols along the creek running through these new positions had named that creek Charlie Creek.

Artillery and Mortars continued to pound the area ahead of C Coy's positions until on 23 July, 14 Pl moved forward unopposed to occupy positions consisting of five fox-holes and many lean-tos. A patrol pressed forward for a further 180 metres before being fired upon, resulting in SX39934 Pte John L. Burgess being wounded.

During the night of 23/24 July, sentries on Berry's Hill, reported having heard the sounds of an aeroplane engine in the direction of the Numa Numa Plantation. When this fact was relayed to HQ 2 Aust Corps, it was learned that it was quite a routine matter for enemy aircraft to visit Bougainville from adjacent Islands, during the full moon .

A change over of the companies in the forward area was carried out during the day of 24 July. C Coy being relieved by B Coy. 12 Pl, B Coy took over from 14 Pl, but before departing the area, C Coy patrols located and engaged an enemy extensive area, some 250 metres up the track. There were no casualties.

On this same day, a patrol from 9 Pl, A Coy, led by Lt McKenzie, departed their base on the Wakunai River, to reconnoitre for five days in the area along the east coast of Bougainville, where the Wakunai River flows into the sea. By this time too, members of the Mortar Pl and MMG Pl had arrived in the area to give support to A Coy as there was now a large force of ANGAU natives operating in the vicinity and the role of A Coy had been extended to include the protection of these natives.

At Tokua with D Coy, a patrol led by Sgt Freeman had returned to base after having not seen any enemy movement, but yet another patrol of 8 Pl, PIB with members of 16 Pl, reported having encountered a strong enemy force on a ridge, 250 metres from the firm base at Nasisipok. This patrol had attacked and killed eight of the enemy

and probably killed five more. Lt Edgar, the Platoon Commander was wounded when the enemy returned fire with an LMG.

Another patrol of PIB engaged the enemy at the same spot on the day after, killing one more. Another patrol from 16 Pl contacted a force of probably thirty Japanese in a defensive position at Nasisipok area. One Japanese was killed, but when returning to base, the patrol was fired upon by an LMG. VX134830 Sgt H.K. Midgley was killed. Q131657 Pte C.E. Stanley and VX38168 Pte A.T. Goulay were wounded. A native scout was also wounded.

With the relief of C Coy completed, 12 Pl, B Coy, commenced patrolling to reconnoitre the enemy positions on Cameron's Hill. Then on 27 July, with Artillery and Mortar support advanced on the enemy, only to find that the positions had been abandoned. These positions were indeed very extensive, consisting of twelve well-made bunkers having crawl trenches connecting.

With further patrolling the company was soon in contact with the enemy, which was now located about 350 metres further along the track.

The next day B Coy and 7Pl, PIB patrols engaged the enemy and on the following day further contact was made. This activity had increased the body count by three. The enemy were now situated on a V shape spur and armed with automatic weapons. Then on 31 July, again with Artillery and Mortar support, 10 Pl advanced and occupied the forward enemy positions. Heavy opposition was later encountered from more very extensive positions on the spur. Two of the enemy were killed, with one other being probably killed. One other was wounded. B Coy sustained three fatal casualties in VX135262 Pte S.G. Lowe, NX173614 Pte D.W. McTaggart and QX50616 Pte R. Phipps. This feature was named McInnes Hill after the OC B Coy.

On the Wakunai River, a patrol led by Lt Leith Donald left A Coy to investigate a native report that the enemy was moving into the area known as Evian, located approximately 1500 metres south-south-west of Buritsiotorara and using it as a staging camp.

Another patrol, this time led by Lt Neil McPhee, ambushed six enemy moving in the direction of Buritsiotorara. Four were killed. One of those killed was a Captain, and all were well dressed and carrying packs.

Lt Ian McKenzie's patrol to the east coast returned to base to report it had observed enemy in strength at the village of Teikon. Lt Donald's patrol had also returned to report that it had ambushed ten Japanese at first light on 27 July, at Evian. It had killed seven.

At Tokua with D Coy, Lt Ken Deller led a patrol to Ibu and Nasisipok, but saw nothing of the enemy. On 3 August, 18 Pl relieved 16 Pl at the base just south of Nasisipok. Lt Lindsay McKinnon took another patrol of twelve ORs to Ibu, where it observed two huts and bunkers, facing south along a track to

Tokua. Outside these huts three Japanese were digging a garden. The patrol engaged, which resulted in all three Japanese being killed. On their way back to base, they were fired upon, but no casualties were incurred.

Maj Stevensen, OC 2 Aust Mtn Bty, was in the area at this time, and accompanied by Capt Ray Roberts, OC D Coy with a patrol from that company, moved out of their base for Nasisipok, for the purpose of registering a mortar strike on the area. Unfortunately, the range was in excess of the capabilities of the mortars. The Mountain Battery as a result of this, moved from their location on Pearl Ridge to Berry's Hill enabling the strike to be carried out.

On the same day, Lt Donald and eighteen ORs left Wakunai Base area to reconnoitre the Japanese headquarters at Resiopaia in the Numa Numa area, where they observed the enemy's activities. During the patrol, Supili the native scout, while receiving information from the bush Kanakas, was followed by a Japanese party led by pro-Japanese Kanakas. Realising he was being followed, Supili stalked the Japanese and killed three, whereupon the Kanakas took to the bush and fled. As the patrol was withdrawing about an hour later, heavy firing was heard from the direction of the action.

Back at the Wakunai River base area, scouts on reconnaissance to the north bank of the river, just north of the base area, were fired upon. A later patrol, seeing the tracks of the enemy in the area, made it apparent that there was increased interest by the enemy in the Wakunai River base.

Another patrol again led by Lt McKenzie, ambushed a party of Japanese moving along the Kiap Road to Ibu, accounting for five of them; they were dressed in new clothing and were armed with short rifles. Yet another patrol, led by Lt McPhee went out to seek the enemy in the Pipipaia area, but observed that the area was used by the enemy for staging purposes only. Movement was heard on the Asitavi Track and one Japanese killed.

A further patrol of ten other ranks, with Lt Donald in charge, set up an ambush in the Ibu area, but after waiting six hours without any sign of the enemy, returned to base.

The situation on McInnes Hill was still producing extensive patrolling in order to gain knowledge of the local topography, and to reconnoitre the enemy positions. 12 Pl had moved to a location in the vicinity of Charlie Creek to establish a base to ambush along the enemy's lines of communication. Ambushes were set up daily, during daylight hours, and booby traps set during the night.

Extracts of a further report by the CO to Bde, dated 2 August, 1945 reads:

"From determined efforts to defend Nasisipok and promptly reinforcing of his positions there, following casualties, it is apparent that the enemy places a high value on the rich gardens in the area.

On the Numa Numa Trail, he continues to fight a stubborn rear-guard action, but was caught napping twice, by the deviation of our usual procedure of attack. He seems determined to hold his last defensive position west of

Charlie Creek, in strength. An air strike, arranged for Aug 6, may change his mind. If he still remains in position, further harassing by mortars etc. will take place, as this position appears stronger than usual in fire power and siting.

The value of varying the procedure for attack of defensive position, was illustrated by the ease with which strong positions were over-run on 22 July and 27 July. Both these attacks followed a dawn artillery programme. Past procedure was a night of harassing stepped up by 0930 hrs, with infantry advance at about 1000 hrs. The enemy, apparently in both cases, moved to reserve positions 100 to 150 yards in the rear during the hours of darkness to avoid harassing fire.

Future Operations: The GOC 2 Aust Corps visited this area on 2 Aug, and appeared satisfied with the operations generally. He gave permission for the unit to continue present tactics along the Numa Numa Trail.

It is intended to maintain a company forward on this trail. A Coy will be given their chance to take over this role in approximately a fortnight. All companies will then be blooded in this type of operation.

In Tokua area, one gun of 2 Mtn Bty will be installed, and fighting patrols will be accompanied by a FOO. It is anticipated that this will enliven the war for all enemy in Ibu-Nasisipok sector. Present tactics of lightly equipped fast-moving patrols in Wakunai area will continue.

PIB — Valuable assistance has been given by this coy. Confidence and enthusiasm now being shown by the Pl Commanders.

2 Pl, Hvy Mortar — have commenced operation, maintaining one mortar forward on the Numa Numa Trail.

2 Mtn Bty continue to give maximum support.

Admin — Progress is being made in preparation for takeover of Roadhead by S & T Branch, 2 Aust Corps.

Amenities — First showing of pictures at Berry's Hill on 2 Aug 45, was attended by approximately 50% of troops available. A further showing to-night, will accommodate those who missed out the previous night. This service is greatly appreciated by all ranks.

War Graves — Personnel of this unit recovered all bodies from the local cemetery at Post 12, for transport to Torokina.

Med 8 Fd Amb continues to give sterling service. It is proposed to relieve the RMO at Post 13 for a short rest, by a relieving MO from this unit.

Engrs — a platoon of 23 Fd Coy are now moving into Post 5. Track improvement to Tokua, recce of possible jeep track to Tiernan's Spur and track improvement to Wakunai are under way.

Rations continue to be of high quality.

Morale Very high. Troops have never appeared fitter, mentally and physically."

Artillery and mortars continued to harass enemy positions during the night, until 1100 hrs on 3 August. 12 Pl supported again by artillery and mortar fire, occupied McInnes Hill. The positions were found to be rather extensive, consisting of nine bunkers. Some documents and one LMG were captured. 11 Pl moved up to consolidate. Later in the day a patrol from 12 Pl, forward of Charlie Creek, observed movement over the creek. Pte Arthur Rose ended the Japanese soldier's career. The Japanese was carrying white gloves and US Navy cutlery.

B Coy now consolidated on McInnes Hill and established a strong base for future operations along the Numa Numa Trail. This feature dropped about 75 metres to Charlie Creek, which at this point was about nine metres wide, and normally fast-flowing at a depth of one

to one and a half metres. A standing patrol was set up on the west bank and accounted for one Japanese killed later in the day.

Sgt Clohesy, in charge of a patrol along Charlie Creek, was looking for a suitable crossing place. High cliffs on both sides made it most difficult. A suitable crossing was located and later patrols crossed over to reconnoitre enemy positions.

At about this time it was decided that further changes in the disposition of the battalion be made. C Coy was to relieve D Coy at Tokua by 12 August. D Coy was to replace A Coy at the Wakunai by the 19th, and A Coy was to relieve B Coy on McInnes Hill by the 25th.

Things were hotting up in the B Coy area, as 12 Pl crossed Charlie Creek under cover of artillery, mortar and small arms fire, and occupied the positions which the enemy had abandoned during the fire plan. It was apparent that they had left in quite a hurry, for they had left fresh food in dixies, and had left much valuable equipment and documents. Only one Japanese body was found.

11 Pl consolidated the area and later a patrol from 12 Pl moved further east along the trail, located and killed a Japanese sentry. When returning to base in the B Coy area, a patrol from the PIB located a party of Japanese bathing in the creek. Ten of the enemy were killed.

On 9 August, enemy snipers fired upon 11 Pl, but fortunately nobody was injured. During the night of 9/10th, artillery harassed the enemy positions forward of 11 Pl and the following morning after a short firefight, the enemy withdrew to more defensive positions, upon which further artillery fire was brought down.

Information was now received by telephone from 2 Aust Corps, that the Japanese were considering surrender, and that no further casualties were to be suffered, no more than is necessary to sustain the present situation. Col Dunkley advised his troops to suspend all operations against the enemy, unless attacked. He further advised that leaflets were to be dropped in the Japanese areas.

Unfortunately, the enemy had not yet received word of the impending surrender, and on 13 August, 11 Pl was fired upon by LMG and rifle fire, resulting in V220096 Pte E.J. Bahr being killed. 10 Pl immediately attacked the enemy and drove them from their positions. Wounded in this action were VX63216 Sgt L.J.B. Clohesy, VX137110 Pte B.G. Dougherty, and VX66711 Cpl M.B. Thorn. 12 Pl consolidated on the feature and forty five metres further forward an enemy LMG was knocked out. Artillery was called down on the enemy positions, but a Vickers machine gun, which had been established in the B Coy area, drew fire. A bunker from which the LMG had been silenced, was destroyed by PITA.

From the Australian edition of "Guinea Gold" dated Wednesday, 29 August, 1945 came a report headed, "Rest Period for Island Troops."

It read: "The period of calm that has been called, 'the rest period,' continues on Bougainville as both sides await the activity that will follow the surrender signing in Tokyo, when plans for the reception and concentration of Japanese troops can be implemented.

Bad weather during the last two days has prevented pilots of the RNZAF Corsairs from observing the Japanese trek to assembly points, but infantrymen of the 7th Battalion reported that the enemy has vacated a forward position on the Numa Numa Trail."

On 15 August, the Prime Minister of Australia announced that the surrender term offered to the Japanese by the Allies had been accepted, but enemy snipers were still rather active in the 12 Pl area. VX67404 Pte H.G. "Bluey" Riley was wounded.

10 Pl relieved 12 Pl on the 17th, and a single Japanese was observed in the enemy positions. Movement was again seen when 12 Pl relieved 10 Pl on the 18th. The Japanese could be heard chopping, but no movement was seen.

10 and 12 Platoons continued to alternate in observing the enemy until 27 August when they were withdrawn to McInnes Hill. On the 29th, Lt Peter Rush and ten other ranks began the move of B Coy back to Roadhead, and ultimately Torokina.

Preparations were now underway for the whole battalion (less one company to remain in the forward area) to re-group with 23 Brigade at Torokina. D Coy was allotted the task of acting as guard and staging detachment for the Japanese, who would move overland from the Numa Numa Plantation area on the east coast of Bougainville, to compounds established on the west coast at Torokina. D Coy was to establish bases at both McInnes and Berry's Hill, and at Roadhead. No movement of Japanese was expected before 16 September.

This was the situation when the statistics of battle casualties were released. 7 Bn had lost 23 personnel killed in action, with a further 52 being wounded. They had accounted for 181 Japanese killed, and had probably killed another 17, with at least 11 more being wounded.

On 8 September, Lt Gen Kanda signed the surrender terms at 2 Corps and by the 16th, 7 Bn, less its D Coy, moved back to Torokina. On 13 September, 17 Pl moved out from Pearl Ridge to McInnes Hill in preparation for the first draft of Japanese. On the 17th they received their first batch of five, including an officer and interpreter. This was the first of 1200 Japanese to pass through this check point emphasising the fact that the war was really over.

The campaign on Bougainville had led to much adverse publicity in the Australian press. It had been implied, on some occasions, that the troops were generally opposed to the operations and in some cases, reluctant to carry out instructions. If this was the case, it certainly was not apparent with the 7th Battalion. As a matter of fact, in the book "The Final Campaigns" by Gavin Long, it is stated

that 7 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) entered the fray with enthusiasm. This had been the men's chance of showing their worth, and had done it well.

The following are two more anecdotes, recalled by men who were there.

From Lt Ben Cattell: "When not with the forward mortar crew, the remaining members of the platoon were dug in on Berry's Hill, from where they carried supplies of bombs to whichever crew was in action. One day, a 25-pound round from 10 Bty 4 Fd Regt dropped short on Berry's Hill, just as Sgt Mick Cudmore was sitting on an upturned drum constituted as a latrine.

Mick's blokes vow that he was back in their dugout, properly dressed, before the last echoes of the explosion had drifted away. Remembering that trousers did not have zips in those days, only a row of buttons, Mick must have created some sort of record, which these days would get his name in the Guinness Book of Records. Not all hazards of war were inflicted on us by the enemy. Our own people had a go every now and then."

From Bill Wells: "Two days before 'Digger' Schiele was killed in action, he and a member of the Bn 'I' Section arrived at Base Point 3, and asked for four volunteers to form a patrol. For the first time in my Army life, I broke my resolution never to volunteer for anything. So together with 'Nipper' Williams, Jack Petty, Geoff Wilson, 'Digger' and the 'I' bloke we set off on our mission, which was to find and check out a Japanese trench and bunker system.

It was estimated that the job would take about three hours. Some time later the patrol made its way along a creek bed with Williams and Wells out in front. The going was rough and progress slow, and for my part the tension high as we approached the area in which our objective lay. All of a sudden, 'Nipper,' who was out in front at the time, suddenly crouched down on the track and started to make vigorous pointing motions towards a large tree, which had fallen across the track and creek. I swear the hairs on the back of my neck stood up like quills, expecting to see the enemy at any moment. Unfortunately I couldn't see a damned thing. 'Nipper's' strange signals puzzled me, but under the circumstances I couldn't call out, so 'Digger' indicated that I should go forward to see what was going on.

Very carefully, I made my way up to where 'Nipper' was and he pointed to the biggest, fattest, blackest death adder, perched on top of the log, over or under which we had to go. Talk about nerve-racking. Fortunately the snake slithered off into the jungle and we proceeded until about 200 yards further on, we came to an area which obviously was our objective, for we could see that the undergrowth had at one time been cut down, but was now starting to grow again. This extended for about 100 feet up the slope, where we could also see, just faintly, where some earth works had been done.

'Digger' signalled that we, 'Nipper' and myself, were to work our way up the slope, with the rest of the patrol giving covering fire if necessary. Our moment of truth had come for it seemed almost suicidal to move up that slope. However, I remember us both nodding to each other, knowing only too well that it was up to us.

After what seemed an eternity, expecting to see a Japanese head appear over the side of the earthworks, or have a grenade roll down on us, we finally slithered over the edge of a trench.

As it turned out, the bunker system we were in had long been abandoned, but the experience will remain in my memory for ever."

CHAPTER 6

The Beginning of the End

It was not long before things settled down to normal routine at Torokina. On 18 September the Australian Rules Football team again swung into action on the playing field, defeating a team from Corps Signals. It apparently took them a while to get their act together though, for at half time they were eight goals down.

Final scores were: 7 Bn — 10 goals 12 behinds 72 points, to Corps Sigs 10 goals 5 behinds 65 points. Best players were: WO2 Hubble, Sgt McEniry, Cpl Rankin and Pte Wickham.

On 20 September, Col Dunkley moved up to Berry's Hill to supervise the surrender of the Japanese. Capt Roberts and Lt Edwards went to McInnes Hill and brought back to Berry's Hill, two Japanese officers, after which the first main body of 151 Japanese arrived at McInnes Hill during the morning. The following day, the 21st, they were moved to Berry's Hill where Lt Col Yamamoto, Chief of Staff Officers, 38 Brigade, formerly surrendered all Japanese in the Numa Numa area to Lt Col Dunkley.

In the meantime, a further party of 146 Japanese had arrived at McInnes Hill on the 21st. The next day a further 150 arrived, with the last party of Japanese coming through on the 30th, by which time D Coy had fostered 1291 Japanese in 12 days.

Information was received that 7 Bn would move to Fauro Islands, which was a group to the south of Bougainville; some 18,000 Japanese would be concentrated here prior to their repatriation to Japan.

During the 1st and 2nd of October, D Coy completed their move to Torokina to join the remainder of the battalion which had been involved in the sports carnival in the Base area. Some of the results were recorded as:

Cricket: 7 Bn — 99, lost to 8 Bn 7 for 191.

7 Bn — 7 for 79, lost to 17 Feb Amb 2 for 131.

Football: 7 Bn — 14-8-92 points, defeated 8 Bn 11-12-78 points.

Basketball: 7 Bn defeated Brigade Group A 73 to 35.

7 Bn defeated 7 Bn B team 50 to 27.

Softball: 7 Bn A defeated Brigade Group A 13 to 6.

7 Bn defeated Laundry 15 to 3.

Volleyball: 7 Bn A lost to Brigade Group 1 — 7 to 21, 21 to 11, 11 to 21.

7 Bn B lost to 8 Bn A — 11 to 21, 12 to 21.

7 Bn A defeated 7 Bn B — 21 to 7, 21 to 11.

At first it was thought that only one company would be needed at Fauro, but by 25 October, news had been received that the complete battalion would be required.

Lt Gen Kanda was informed of this intention, and he re-affirmed that he would obey implicitly all orders given to him.

A conference was then called by the CO to discuss with his officers the finer points in relation to administration and control of the Japanese on Fauro Island. The battalion was to move as soon as accommodation became available. When it was revealed that 7 Bn had been promised electric lighting, refrigeration, a mobile cinema, a field bakery, and probably some hospital beds with sheets, it was generally agreed that obviously a mistake had been made somewhere higher up.

In the evening of 8 October, a memorial service was conducted in the Patterson Chapel at Torokina. The Brigade Commander and representatives from all units under command, and in support during the operations conducted by the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF), were in attendance.

The following day, Brig A.W. Potts DSO., MC., Comd 23 Bde, visited the unit and addressed a parade of all ranks. He indicated that it would be the last opportunity he would have of talking to members of the battalion, and expressed the hope that he would meet many of them again in civilian life.

It had been established by this time, that now the war was over, not everyone would be discharged at once. To cover this exigency, a points system was devised whereby each individual would have a certain number of points. The exact method of obtaining this final figure has been long in obscurity, but on 10 October, thirty NCOs and men, with 200 points and over, were marched out to the 7th Brigade holding camp for on-movement to Australia for discharge. It was with very mixed feelings that these men left their comrades, for some had been together for more than four years, and this would be the last time some would see each other for many years. Some have not yet been sighted at the time of writing, but the search still goes on.

To augment the numbers depleted by the departure of this draft, 234 personnel with low points, from the 7th Brigade, were marched in, with a further batch of 40 from 2/8 Commando Squadron arriving a few days later.

By the 11th, advance parties from all companies had departed for the Fauro Islands accompanied by Maj Ces Jones, 2 i/c of the battalion.

Lt M. Elliott, with 120 other ranks who had 175 points or more, departed the unit for discharge. Information was received that officers and men of the 15th Brigade, with low priority points, would be transferred to 7th Battalion, which was now fast becoming a cosmopolitan group and not resembling that which had been in existence since 1942.

Volunteers were now called for the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, and many members of the battalion joined this force.

They were to concentrate in Moratai before movement to Japan.

Volunteers had also been called for the formation of an Interim Army. Four members left 7 Bn to join 55/53 Aust Inf Bn which was headed for Rabaul, and these were Ptes A.L. Pedder, K.A. Lawn, L.G.C. Wilson and H.J. Wakeford. Of these, Pedder and Wakeford later joined the Occupation Force. Other members to join BCOF were:

- Cpl M.B. Thorn
- Pte H. Smith
- Pte K. Goodall
- Pte E.J. Sullivan (Cadman)
- Pte R.H. Burrows
- Cpl D. McGregor
- Cpl T.A. Taylor
- Pte B.R. Lowers
- Pte A.G. Watson
- S/Sgt R.W. McClelland
- Sgt L.A. Maudouit
- Pte M.J. Deacon.

It was a very slow process moving the battalion to Fauro. On 15 October, fifteen personnel from BHQ, and eighty from HQ Coy were first to move, and because it was taking so long for movement to occur, it was decided on the 21st that the Japanese would assist to move some of the battalion by barge. The CO, Adjt, IO, Asst Adjt and the Orderly Room Sergeant travelled by launch, with the rest of the party embarking by barge. The party left Torokina at 0230 hrs with the launch arriving 0830 hrs, but it wasn't until 1630 hrs that the barge tied up at the pier.

Other units which were included in this move to make up the group were Det 23 Fd Coy, Det 17 Fd Amb, Det 2 Corps Sigs, 42 Aust Int Corps, 243 Aust Sup Dep Pl, 82 Dental Unit. All were to be situated at a place called Kariki, with BHQ and HQ Coy. The rifle companies were to be located at Poyana Bay.

Personnel continued to leave the battalion as their points came up, and were replaced by those with lower points. The Japanese were also beginning to arrive.

Eventually the saw mill was completed and timber became available. The jetty at Poyana Bay was completed and movies were screened throughout the area. The first film was "Don Juan Quilligan" and not more than 50% of the men had seen it twice previously.

On 4 November a further 600 Japanese arrived from Torokina compound, and one of the Japanese officers was summoned to appear before the Atrocities Commission. He thought better of the outcome and committed harakiri by using a penknife.

It was about this time that a number of graves were discovered on the neighbouring island of Ballale. This discovery led to a widespread search for the Japanese members of a naval construction

unit responsible directly, or indirectly, for the death of an estimated 500 European prisoners of war. It was believed at the time, that the 432 bodies which had been exhumed, were those of British artillerymen from Singapore, who had been brought to the island for construction work on the airfield. Those who had not been killed by malnutrition and Japanese brutality, had perished in air-raids by Allied planes, which pounded the island during 1943.

To make the search for those responsible for this outrage more difficult, the Japanese unit had been transferred to Rabaul during August, 1943 and had later been broken up to reinforce other construction units.

A little excitement occurred on 19 November when, in the middle of the night, all personnel were required to stand by their beds while a spot check was made throughout unit lines. Nobody was saying why this was necessary, but it became quite obvious, when a Maj Pullen arrived with his staff to investigate the loss of £1900 from the payroll.

Another little episode brought the Escort Platoon into its own when it repelled a midnight attempt by an unarmed hungry Japanese; he was trying to get some rations from the distribution point, and when discovered headed for the sea with such momentum, that it seemed likely he would reach home without having to swim! Unfortunately for him, he ran too close to an Australian wielding a mean paddle. When apprehended, he became remarkably amenable, and remained a naked "guest" of C Coy for the remainder of the night. C Coy had now increased its tally of prisoners to two, the first being on Mono Island almost a year before.

It was now the 1st of December, and many of the personnel had changed. The old timers who read this will not recall any of the names which appeared on the list of officers.

These were:

CO — Lt Col Webster

2 i/c — Capt G.C. Maconachie

Adjt — Capt W.G. Foster

Island Adjt — Lt W.A. Kuhne

Sig O — Lt C.F. Cameron

OC HQ Coy — Capt E.M. Griff

OC A Coy — Lt J.B. Boyle

OC B Coy — Lt R.W. Kitney

OC C Coy — Capt W.H. Scott

OC D Coy — Capt A.H. Brown.

Only two of these were from the original list of officers with the battalion at the conclusion of the war.

On 9 December, 286 personnel from the 8th and 27th Battalions joined the unit to replace 253 men who had not had leave for eighteen months or more, and were marched out to the 8th and 27th Battalions which were now returning to Australia. The next day an additional 186 personnel from the 8th and 27th joined the 7th.

Christmas Day, 1945 was celebrated quietly. Church Services were conducted in the forenoon, followed by a lunch consisting of soup, turkey and ham, pudding and preserved fruits. The only thing to mar this feast that was enjoyed by all, was a heavy downpour.

It could be said that the New Year arrived with a bang, as one pound of TNT exploded in close proximity to the Officers' Mess. Nobody claimed responsibility, and nobody was injured.

On 5 January, 1946 a Japanese Major, who had been reduced to the ranks for stealing a watch last November, escaped from the Japanese prison compound and gave himself up to the authorities on Central Bay. He had considerable evidence to impart regarding the war atrocities, and would give his evidence to the Commission later on. Also at about this time, three Japanese found guilty of murdering their officer, were executed by a Japanese firing squad.

The time had also arrived for 800 Japanese naval personnel to depart for their homeland. The aircraft carrier "Hosho" arrived at Central Bay from Wewak. It departed the following day with the first of the Japanese to be repatriated from the island. Four days later, another aircraft carrier, the "Kutsururi" arrived to repatriate a further 5000 Japanese servicemen to Japan. They were to travel via Torokina, departing Central Bay on the 27th. Two more ships arrived and departed for Japan on 17 February. The number of Japanese now being held on Fauro Island was approximately 4000, and these were to depart on the 25th. The battalion was now out of a job.

It was on 7 March that the American troopship "Winchester Victory" arrived at Central Bay to load stores and low point personnel for Rabaul. It sailed on the 11th with 13 officers and 136 men of the 7th Battalion on board.

The last entry in the War Diary stated that on 20 March, 1946 a further 7 officers and 5 other ranks marched out to Rabaul. As the result of further research, it was found that when S/Sgt R.L. Nicholas marched out for discharge on 18 January, Lt Dave M.W. Edwards had the dubious honour of being the last remaining member of the 7 Bn personnel who had come into camp on 13 April, 1941.

Records show that the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF) was officially taken off the War Establishment of the Australian Army from 11 May, 1946 having been there from 9 November, 1936. For its efforts during the Bougainville Campaign, it was granted the Battle Honour of "Liberation of Australian New Guinea."

In most cases the happy and amusing incidents which are ever the accompaniments of a soldier's life, as well as others not so amusing, indeed some sad, some tragic and some depressing, have all become memories, memories which it would be hard to eradicate — if only one wished to.

From the many enquiries about the compilation of this record, it is plain, more than forty years later, that most who shared these experiences do not wish to forget. Rather do they wish for all and sundry to know, that the war of so many years ago, will be etched on their memory for the remainder of their lives.

If this record serves to refresh that memory in the minds of those who served, then the effort will have achieved its purpose.

POST SCRIPT

The 7th Battalion (1939-45) Association

Even though the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF) was officially disbanded on 10 May, 1946, in reality it did not die, for there exists today, and we trust until the day the last member dies, an Association of former members of the battalion and their families.

This Association was formed soon after the conclusion of the war, by a gathering of members at Port Melbourne, and the seeds were sown on what today is a proud and active unit association.

The main aim of the Association is to keep the members together in friendship, and to assist any member or their family, who at any time may find the going a little tougher than the rest.

Every year, the members have met at reunions just prior to Anzac Day, and have been represented at every Anzac march since 1946. It now boasts branches at Mildura, Maryborough, more recently one in Adelaide (SA), and a small representation in Perth (WA) and Sydney (NSW).

All agree that our Association was born from the comradeship of war-time service, and is an essential and valuable part of after-service life.

ROLL OF HONOUR

*"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man
lay down his life for his friends"*

Pte I A Andison
Cpl R Archer
Pte E J Bahr
Sgt A A Bennett
Capt H V Brown
Pte A T Clarke
Cpl G C Clifford
Pte J E Dike
Pte M I Dougherty
L/Cpl A M Dunbar
Pte W J Evans
Cpl L G Gange
Pte K Gunter
Pte M K Gurney
Pte L B Hateley
Pte R Keenan
Lt F R Longmore
Pte W J Lord

Pte S G Lowe
Pte D W McTaggart
Sgt H K Midgley
Cpl R Nash
Lt Col G M Norris
Pte L E P North
Pte P Phipps
WO2 V C Schiele
Pte K F Schmidt
Sgt E H Schurr
Pte C W K Scott
Pte K D Smith
Pte H W P Stevens
Pte J A Thomson
Pte A B Watson
Pte L E Williams
Pte J P Zimmerman



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The compilation of this brief history would not have been possible had it not been for the assistance of members of the 7th Battalion (1939-45) Association in lending their much valued photographs and diaries, together with their recollection of events. It is not possible to acknowledge them by name, but in its stead to have this page inserted as a testimony to their much appreciated efforts.

A few though, must be mentioned for their invaluable assistance. Firstly, Ted Clifford, who resides in Canberra, for introducing us to the Staff of the Australian War Memorial and paving the way for commencement of the research carried out.

Then, Tom McCarthy and Roy Leabeter, for their willingness to research the pre-war Militia days, thus contributing to the Chapter on that period.

A mention is appropriate to Harold Cook who rendered invaluable assistance in the compiling of notes from the Unit War Diary, as did Brian Eagles, who supplied the transport from Melbourne to Canberra and return.

A special mention to Mick "Lofty" Howson, who did much work on the reproduction of photographs used. And to Bill Sherriff, whose effort in editing the initial draft, is greatly appreciated.

Our special gratitude to Spicers Paper Ltd. who are proud to have been associated with this publication.

To each and everyone of you — THANK YOU.



The author, Allan Pedder, a member of 9 Pl. "A" Coy at this time, but in 1945 transferred to the Signals Pl. HQ Coy.



The Governor General (Lord Gowrie) inspects members of "D" Coy on the battalion parade in honour of the official opening of the £20,000 Canteen at the 39 Mile.



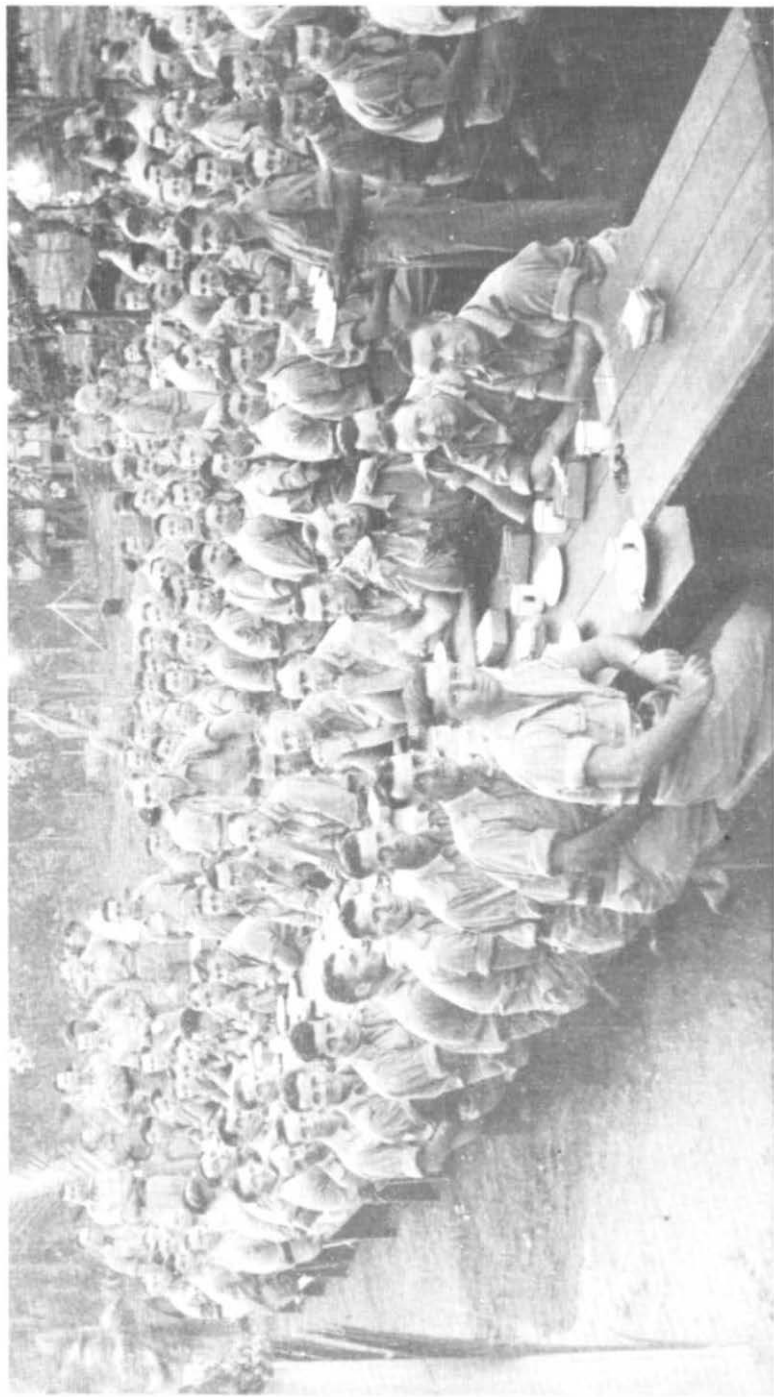
TX4202 Cpl George C. Clifford died in Darwin on the 28th May, 1943. He was the first member of the 7th Battalion to die on active service and was buried at Berimah, just South of Darwin. His remains are now interred at the Adelaide River War Cemetery.



Another member of the 7th Battalion to die in the Northern Territory was VX105375 Cpl Les G. Gange. He is also interred at the Adelaide River War Cemetery.



The Mortar Platoon, dressed in their "Sunday Best" pose for the camera at the 39 Mile in Northern Territory, just prior to returning South for leave.



Two photographs of a "HQ" Coy formal dinner in 1943, when the battalion was billeted in houses in the Fortress area of Darwin.





Another of the photographs that make up the entire members of "HQ" Coy, at a formal dinner, when billeted in the empty houses of the Fortress area of Darwin in 1943.



Bugler Tab McLeod blows Reveille. On the Atherton Tablelands, the bugle at early hours of the morning was bad enough to wake up to, but to suffer the bagpipes of the 27th Aust Inf Bn (AIF), camped opposite, was hard on the nerves.



Some of the lucky ones were granted three days leave in Cairns. This is how the town looked in 1944.



Typical of the entire area occupied by the 7th Bn on the Tablelands is this one depicting members of "B" Coy mustering for a swimming parade.



Another form of recreation needs no explanation. Members of "A" and HQ Coys pass the time while not on duty.



Members of 17 Platoon "D" Coy, Dan Davern and Ivan Ray.



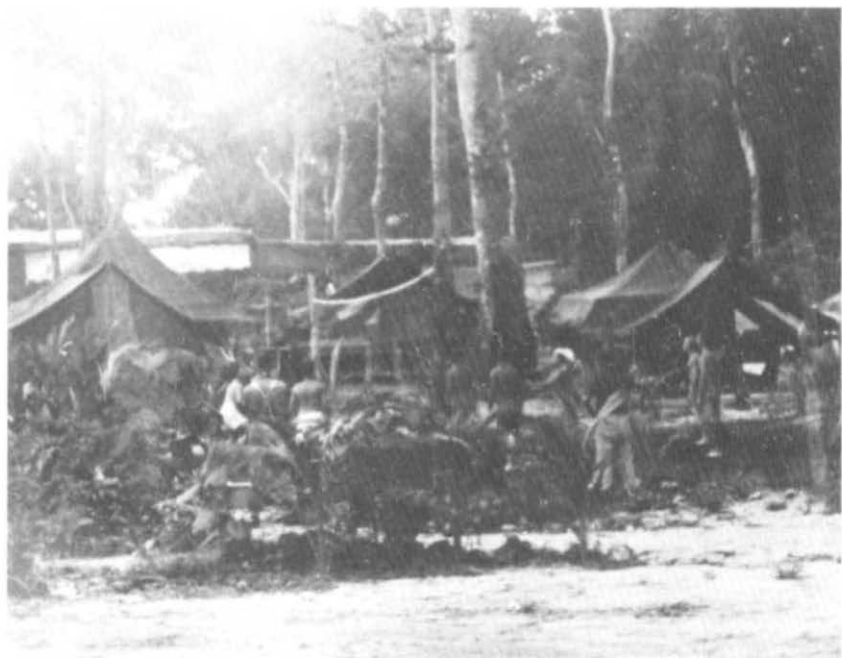
Other members of 17 Platoon at Wau, PNG, July 1944. Those known are S. Langham, G. Pitt, D. Davern, T. Green, ? Farr, F. Slattery, and Fred McLoughlan.



Peter Berthon, Ken McGregor, Ken Garth, Ted Clifford with two other members of "C" Coy, at Wau, NG.



Auber Jones and Harry Esmore in the opening of their tent. Harry was a man who could run all day and represented the Bn in the one mile and five mile running races.



Battalion Headquarters area on Stirling Island in the Treasury Group, South of Bougainville. The 7th battalion, less "D" Coy were located in this area from October, 1944 to April, 1945.



Members of "A" Coy on Mono Island, another of the Treasury Group, enjoy Xmas fare 1944. From L to R (standing): Dinny Heenan, Eddie Davenport and Arch Curtis. Sitting: Ron Hastings, "Tich" Gamble and Don Leffler.



Members of "A" Coy on Mono Island, another of the Treasury Group, enjoy Christmas fare, 1944. From left to right (standing): Dinny Heenan, Eddie Davenport and Arch Curtis. (Sitting) Ron Hastings, "Tich" Gamble and Don Leffler.



Above and Below: On and Off parade whilst on Stirling Island.





Doug "Digger" Menzies of 9 Pl "A" Coy. From Mackay, Queensland, one of the youngest members.



Jim Wright, one of the Vickers Machine Gun Platoon.

Basil Carl, a member of "D" Coy, who was also one of the Boxing fraternity and represented the 7th Bn on a number of occasions.



Tom McCarthy and Fred Longmore, both Lts and Platoon Commanders in "D" Coy.





Jack Drew, Albie May, Fred Brown, Brian Eagles, Bill Campbell, Frank O'Shea and Jack Wells.
All members of 9 Pl "A" Coy.



On Stirling Island, members of the Signals group, including 23rd Brigade Sigs, played cricket in their spare time. *From L to R are, (standing):* Max Deacon, Joe Dynes, ?, George Isaacs, Meg Withell, Len Hillier, Ron Harford. *Sitting:* ?, Hux West, ?, Stan Howden.



Bernie Reddick of "C" Coy, with an unknown American on Stirling Island.



Signallers on Mono Island. *From L to R:* Harold Cook, Harry Trough (23 Bde), Joe Dynes (23 Bde) and Albert "Brigham" Young.



Ian S. Jackson, now living at Blackburn in Victoria, was a member of 18 Pl, "D" Coy on Bougainville. The photo was taken after the war in Melbourne.

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- "The Unnecessary War" (Melbourne 1985) Peter Charlton
- "The Shadows Edge" (Melbourne 1988) Alan Powell

APPENDIX 1

Air Raids on the Darwin area — 19 Feb 42 to 12 Nov 43

Raid No.	Date	& Place	Time	No. of Planes	Damage	Casualties
1 & 2	19 Feb	Darwin	0958 and 1158	18 Zeros, 54 Dive-bombers, 17 Heavy bombers	Major to town Major to wharf Minor oil installations damage. 6 vessels sunk, 3 damaged. RAAF buildings, 1 Hudson, 1 Wirraway.	238 plus kill 355 "injured 23 planes lost 5 enemy planes destroyed, 5 others probably destroyed
3	4 Mar	RAAF Base	1200	8 Zeros	1 Hudson damaged.	Nil
4	16 Mar	RAAF Base & Bagot Rd Ack Ack	1330	14 Heavy Bombers	Considerable to Buildings.	2 Killed 9 Injured
5	19 Mar	Darwin	1140	7 Heavy Bombers	1 cottage destroyed.	Nil
6	22 Mar	Darwin	1051	1 Zero 2 Type 97 Single-Seater Fighters	Nil	1 Enemy SS fighter shot down by P40s
7	29 Mar	RAAF Base	1213	7 Bombers	Craters in runway. 1 Wirraway damaged	1 enemy destroyed 1 " possibly " 1 " probably "
8	30 Mar	RAAF Base	1532	7 Bombers, 5 Zeros	Slight to runway.	1 P40 destroyed 1 P40 damaged
9	31 Mar	RAAF Base	0350	7 Bombers, 12-15 Zeros	Slight to runaway 20 Drums fuel oil destroyed.	1 Zero destroyed 1 bomber probably

Raid No.	Date	& Place	Time	No. of Planes	Damage	Casualties
10	31 Mar	RAAF Base	1049	3 Bombers	Nil	Nil
11	2 Apr	Darwin	1600	7 Bombers, 3 Zeros	Oil tanks destroyed, houses	Nil
12	4 Apr	Darwin Civil drome	1330	6 Bombers 6 Zeros	Craters in area telephone lines	2 Killed, 2 injured 3 P40s destroyed 5 enemy bombers destroyed, 2 Zeros possibly destroyed.
13	5 Apr	RAAF Base	1259	7 Bombers 7 fighters	Slight to runway	Nil
14	25 Apr	RAAF Base	1430	24 Bombers 12 Zeros	Pipeline pierced 1 brengun carrier, 1 ammunition truck & 1 jeep destroyed. 2 Hudsons damaged Telephone & power	2 Killed, 6 injured 2 P40s, 2 Hudsons lightly damaged 8 enemy bombers destroyed, 1 bomber possibly destroyed, 2 Zeros poss. destroyed.
15	27 Apr	RAAF Base	1237	17 Bombers 9 Zeros	Buildings damaged craters in runway pipeline pierced	6 killed, 3 injured 4 P40s destroyed 3 enemy bombers 4 Zeros destroyed 2 Zeros possibly destroyed.
16	13 Jun	RAAF Base	1222	27 Bombers 12 Fighters	1 Hudson slightly Fuel drums dest. pipeline in 2 places, craters in runway. Telephone lines down.	3 P40s destroyed 1 enemy fighter destroyed.

Raid No.	Date	& Place	Time	No. of Planes	Damage	Casualties
17	14 Jun	Darwin	1330	18-25 Zeros	1 P40 destroyed	3 Enemy Destroyed
18	15 Jun	Darwin	1250	27 Bombers 15 Fighters	Pipeline Phone lines, buildings	4 Killed, 12 injured 3 P40s lost, 2 damaged 6 Enemy Zeros destroyed 1 Zero possibly destroyed
19	16 Jun	Darwin	1231	27 Bombers 25 Fighters	Civil and Army buildings and equipment destroyed.	1 killed, 11 injured 3 P40s lost, 2 damaged 1 enemy bomber destroyed. 1 enemy bomber possibly destroyed.
20	25 Jul	Darwin	0920	3 Bombers	Waterpipe, power & telephone lines	Nil
21	26 Jul	Darwin	1009	6 Bombers in 2 flights	3 houses destroyed 2 houses damaged fuel lost	Nil
22	27 Jul	Darwin & RAAF Base	1027	3 Bombers	Craters in runway pyrotechnics ignited. Searchlight at Knuckeys damaged	Nil
23	28 Jul	RAAF Base	1352	3 Bombers	Pipeline fractured craters in runway	Nil
24	29 Jul	Darwin	0539	5 Bombers	Power lines and searchlight repair depot.	Nil

Raid No.	Date	& Place	Time	No. of Planes	Damage	Casualties
25	30 Jul	Darwin RAAF	0450	3 Bombers	Several buildings destroyed. 1 truck destroyed. Power lines down.	Nil
26	30 Jul	RAAF Base	1405	27 Bombers 20 Fighters	112 drums oil & 26 drums octane fuel burned. Runway, water main damaged. Hudson damaged	1 killed. 1 P40 destroyed, 2 P40s damaged. 2 enemy bombers & 6 fighters destroyed 7 others damaged.
27	23 Aug	Hughes Field	1242	27 Bombers 13 Zeros	250 drums aviation fuel, 240,000 rounds .303 ammo destroyed. Craters in runway	1 P40 destroyed 2 P40s damaged 2 enemy bombers 6 fighters destroyed. 3 bombers 3 fighters probably destroyed. 3 fighters damaged.
28	24 Aug	RAAF Base	2154	2 Bombers	Nil	Nil
29	24 Aug	Noonamah	2222	1 Bomber	Nil	Nil
30	25 Aug	Darwin	0005	2 Bombers	1 building damaged power and phone lines disrupted.	1 injured
31	27 Aug	Darwin	0447 and 0520	6 Bombers 2 flights of 3	Direct hit on civil radio station. 2 other buildings damaged.	1 slightly injured
32	28 Aug	Darwin	0429	3 Bombers	Railway line damaged	Nil

Raid No.	Date	& Place	Time	No. of Planes	Damage	Casualties
33	30 Aug	Darwin		0240	6 Bombers (2 flights)	Oil pipes damaged
34	31 Aug	Cox Peninsular 0414, 0527, 0529 hrs		3 Bombers	Nil	Nil
35	25 Sep	Darwin	0341	2 Bombers	Nil	Nil
36	25 Sep	Livingstone	0548	3 Bombers	14 drums oil destroyed Power lines dislocated	1 injured
37	26 Sep	Livingstone	0522	3 Bombers	Crater in strip, water- pipeline fractured, phone lines down.	Nil
38	27 Sep	Darwin	0435	2 Bombers	Nil	Nil
39	27 Sep	Darwin	0544	2 Bombers	Nil	Nil
40,41, 42 & 43	24 Oct	0442,0452,0457 Batchelor, Pell, RAAF Base & Cox Peninsular.		12 Bombers in 4 flights	1 hut & 2 water tanks at Batchelor	5 injured. 1 enemy plane crashed into the sea.
44	25 Oct	Darwin	1730	3 Bombers	Nil	Nil
45	26 Oct	Darwin	0454	3 Bombers	Don Hotel & several houses damaged Power and Phones disrupted.	Nil
46	27 Oct	Darwin	0115	18 Bombers (6 flights)	East Point, Don Hotel Civil Drome & South Point	Nil
47	23 Nov	Darwin & RAAF Base	0300	18 Bombers (6 flights)	Craters in runaway	1 enemy "Betty" bomber destroyed (9 member crew)

Raid No.	Date	& Place	Time	No. of Planes	Damage	Casualties
48	26 Nov	0320 Darwin Strauss & Hughes		12 Bombers (4 flight of 3)	North end of runway, pipeline burst, phones down at Hughes. 1 Hudson damaged, 2 slightly damaged. Darwin, 2 houses destroyed, pipeline & phones out	Nil
49	27 Nov	Hughes & Coomalie Ck	0355	12 Bombers (4 flights of 3)	Nil	Nil
50	20 Jan, 43	Darwin	2245	7 Bombers in 3 flights	Nil	1 enemy "Betty" Bomber possibly destroyed.
51	21 Jan	Darwin	2155	2 Bombers	Nil	Nil
52	2 Mar	Coomalie	1334	3 Bombers 12 Fighters	1 Beaufighter	1 enemy fighter damaged
53	15 Mar	Darwin	1120	24 Bombers (Betty) 25 Fighters (Zekes & Haps)	Buildings and Railway line & sheds. 2 oil tanks ablaze 2,100 tons oil lost Telephone and power lines disrupted	2 killed, 14 injured 4 Spitfires destroyed. 6 enemy fighters & 2 bombers destroyed. 9 fighters probably destroyed, 5 fight- ers, 3 bombers damaged.
54	2 May	RAAF Base & Floating Dock 1015 hrs		21 Bombers (Betty's) 20 Fighters (Zekes & Haps)	RAAF Buildings Radio mast. Phones & underground cables.	2 killed 12 Spitfires destroyed 2 Spitfires damaged 8 enemy bombers fighters destroyed. 1 bomber, 1 fighter possibly destroyed. 8 bombers, 2 fighters damaged.

Raid No.	Date	& Place	Time	No. of Planes	Damage	Casualties
55	20 Jun	RAAF Base & Winellie 1045 hrs		2 Formations (1) 21 Bombers (Sally) 21 fighters (Zekes & Haps) (2) 9 Bombers (Lilly)	Buildings destroyed and damaged. 60 drums oil destroyed Power & phones out. RAAF buildings strafed. Equipment destroyed.	5 Killed, 11 injured 2 Spitfires destroyed 1 damaged. 9 enemy bombers, 5 fighters destroyed. 8 bombers 2 fighters damaged
56	28 Jun	Darwin	1107	9 Bombers 9 Fighters	Vestey's and 1 truck damaged. 6 huts at East Point damaged or demolished.	1 Spitfire lost 3 severely damaged. 4 enemy fighters destroyed, 2 bombers probably destroyed.
57	30 Jun	Fenton	1230	27 Bombers 19 Zekes 2 Haps	1 fuel trailer, 5 tractors destroyed. bomb repair shop, 12 B24 engines, emergency equipment and other equipment damaged or destroyed.	2 killed, 2 injured 3 B24s & 1 Falcon destroyed. 6 enemy bombers, 3 fighters destroyed. 5 bombers 1 fighter damaged. 2 bombers probably destroyed.
58	6 Jul	Fenton	1202	27 Bombers 21 Fighters	3 B24s holed, craters in runway.	3 Killed. 1 B24 destroyed. 7 spitfires destroyed. 10 enemy bombers destroyed plus 3 fighters destroyed. 3 bombers, 1 fighter damaged.
59	13 Aug	Fenton	2145	9 Bombers (3 flights)	Nil	Nil

Raid No.	Date	& Place	Time	No. of Planes	Damage	Casualties
60	13 Aug	Fenton & Coomalie 1112, 1142 hrs		9 Bombers (3 flights)	Nil	Nil
61	21 Aug	Fenton, Coomalie & Pell 0307, 0348		18 Bombers	Officer & Sgts' Messes destroyed command car & weapon carrier damaged.	Nil
62	15 Sep	Fenton & Long 1455, 1600hrs		9 Bombers	Nil	Nil
63	18 Sep	Fenton		9 Bombers	Nil	Nil
64	12 Nov	Darwin, Adelaide River & Batchelor 0353, 0530 hrs		9 Bombers	4 motor vehicles Power, water & Phone dislocated. Railway workshops, power station & 1 dwelling damaged.	7 injured. 2 "Betty" bombers destroyed.

NOMINAL ROLL

VX68974	Absolom T.K.	VX115921	Balshaw M.W.	VX133190	Bilton S.G.J.
VX114152	Adams C.A.G.	VX65148	Bamford W.D.	VX115911	Binney F.D.
N453547	Adams K.	N474537	Banks D.	VX147775	Bird K.T.S.
Q127623	Adams W.G. AACC	VX132951	Barbuto T.	VX63641	Birrell W.J.
VX137092	Adams W.M.	V57714	Barker M.N.	VX89413	Blaby J.J.
V54674	Adamson N.E.J.	V220062	Barker V.E.	VX114147	Blaby K.
V185112	Ahern A.J.	VX64717	Barclay M.J.	VX148650	Black A.M.
VX67343	Aldred W.J.	VX111566	Barlee F.A.C.	VX61386	Black A.P.
Q126531	Aldridge V.N.	VX102702	Barlee F.H.	V64432	Bland F.E. AACC
VX148883	Alexander K.J.	VX115948	Barnes G.S. AACC	VX3234	Blay E.G.
VX68821	Alford R.J.	VX115936	Barnes J.L.	N456133	Blaydon M.L.
VX65514	Aliendi H.	VX29810	Baron A.W.	VX148869	Blight C.A.
VX137090	Allan T.R.	V220112	Barraclough A.L.	VX149733	Block S.W.
VX69027	Allardice J.W.	VX67457	Barrington J.	VX150404	Block G.V.
VX66735	Allen J.	SX39991	Bartlett M.	N377638	Blyton C.
VX150194	Allen M.L.	VX70225	Bartlett M.	TX450	Bonde R.R.
VX89436	Allison C.D.	VX1655	Bashman W.G.	V64372	Bone D.H.
NX176793	Anderson A.H.	WX26483	Baskerville N.T.	VX65014	Bongiorno A.
VX105372	Anderson D.D.J.	WX31586	Bassett G.D.	VX89409	Boswell J.L.
VX68441	Anderton L.T.	VX77270	Bates G.W.H.	VX67333	Boyd J.L.
VX148987	Andison I.R. (Died OAS)	WX17246	Bates R.H.	VX67294	Brace F.R.
Q127249	Andrews S.E.	V57829	Baumann A.C.C.	VX66615	Bradford C.J. AACC
V220004	Andriske L.S.	VX135061	Baumann J.L.	V185327	Bradshaw A.G.
VX68026	Archer R. (KIA)	VX66490	Baxter J.J.	N167882	Bradshaw G.A.
VX132774	Armstrong E.A.	VX68601	Bayley H.T.C.	VX67198	Brainwood H.
V68908	Armstrong L.F.	VX63719	Beament G.F.	VX67198	Brakey L.A.
V220051	Arnold C.C.	V67062	Beams W.R.	VX68374	Brannelly J.P.
V57243	Arnold V.L.	V220011	Beaton G.E.	VX67252	Brannell J.
VX63505	Arthur L.J. AACC	TX16194	Beck R.	VX65442	Breakwell J.
VX115931	Asplin E.	V64354	Beckman K.E.	V121061	Breen B.A.
QX61211	Asher K.M.	VX64445	Beer E.W.	VX67716	Bren M.V.
T102123	Ashlin B.	V220074	Behsmann L.H.	VX66243	Brennan F.W.
N463626	Atkins F.J.	Q128345	Beitzel S.H.	VX59456	Brennan L.P.
TX16064	Atkinson A.F.	QX60222	Bell H.G.	VX148039	Brennan M.R.
V311246	Atkinson C.G.	VX67987	Bell S.B.	N203464	Brennan W.J. AEME
VX61104	Atkinson J.S.	VX68387	Benbow E.	T39208	Brickwell H.P.
V64777	Atwell M.S.	VX66667	Bending M.	VX69546	Bright A.E.
VX69639	Aumann R.A.	VX67692	Bennett A.	VX68925	Britt A.W.
NX172588	Austin J.J.	VX89415	Bennett A.A. (KIA) MID	VX89420	Britt R.W.
VX70427	Ayres C.	V64572	Bennett H.W.	V57888	Britt W.A.
Q269056	Baguley R.	VX67380	Bennett W.S.	NX177077	Broadbent K.
V220096	Bahr E.J. (KIA)	V57545	Benson F.C.	V57757	Brodie F.J.
V65586	Bailey A.D.	NX174699	Benson S.C.	V68923	Brosnan P.
V64387	Bailey K.	VX134827	Benton G.M.	N460752	Brown A.
WX25369	Bailey R.H.	VX114148	Benton B.	NX194350	Brown A.J.
VX115944	Baines J.L. MID	V225044	Berry A.A.	VX132538	Brown F.M.
VX67273	Baker E.G.	VX135063	Berry A.J.	NX201920	Brown F.M.E.
V225087	Baker F.R.	VX135260	Berry M.H.	TX146500	Brown G.C.
N454287	Baker G.B.	VX66642	Berthon P.	VX5012	Brown H.V. (Killed in air crash)
V22989	Ballantyne F.J.	VX120843	Bevan H.E.	VX118507	Brown J.L.
VX137025	Ballock D.G.	Q144408	Billby H.N.	V507226	Brown M.J.
		VX63705	Billinghurst G.L.	N461272	Browne A.J.
		VX150190	Bilney J.E.		

Nominal Roll (continued)

VX46439	Bucknall M.K.	Q268914	Cazzulino, F.	VX148959	Coughlan M.F.
V64571	Budich A.R.	VX67638	Chambers D.	VX149732	Coughlan P.J.
VX63516	Buften T.	V66047	Chandler K.J.	Q34690	Cowan D.J.
V54720	Bullen T.S.	VX134688	Chaplin F.M.	V270864	Cowling J.E.
N162446	Bulmer K.C.	V58667	Chapman H.H.	VX67192	Cowling M.
V54402	Burch F.	NX170709	Chapman A.J.	V225050	Cox D.E.
NX175342	Burge W.	N155864	Chappel S.	VX141252	Craig W.A.
NX3934	Burgess A.J.	SX12282	Chappel R.J.	V69134	Crankschaw W.C.
SX39934	Burgess J.L.	VX60114	Charles N.L.	VX66702	Crawley A.W.
VX67737	Burke E.	VX69664	Charleston W.H.	NX146730	Crawshaw W.G.
WX28898	Burkett K.R.	VX67445	Cheeseman A.J.	VX115848	Crebbin E.C.
V508343	Burmeister L.	VX68010	Chessum K.J.	VX67979	Cree C.H.
QX61227	Burnell G.W.	SX11392	Chirgwin L.J.	VX67639	Creely T.P.
VX150157	Burns J.K.	V57547	Chong S.L.	VX89411	Cresp K.F.
V64657	Burns L.G.	V54890	Clark B.	V68950	Cresswell A.
V64659	Burns R.H.	VX66381	Clark K.D.	NX175866	Cressy H.W.
V66649	Burns R.	V509300	Clark R.C.	N445074	Crew H.E.
V64658	Burns S.B.	VX132944	Clarke A.T. (KIA)	WX34516	Criddle M.
VX68454	Burns S.C.	VX619	Clarke H.J.	NX201970	Crittenden R.G.
VX68309	Burrows R.H.	V112102	Clarke R.H.	NX177668	Croan A.J.
NX169137	Burton C.E.	VX136688	Clarke W.R.	QX61226	Cromarty M.J.
VX62939	Burwood W.J.	V220024	Cleary J.W.	VX67348	Cronin W.E.
V114003	Bushby E.E.	VX68231	Clifford E.K.	WX34246	Cross A.J.
NX195092	Bushell G.N.	TX4202	Clifford G.C. (Died OAS)	V64683	Cross F.B.
N160906	Bussey G.T.	VX69769	Clinch C.	VX118508	Crossley K.
VX69541	Butler B.A.	VX63216	Clohesy L.J.B. MID	VX136952	Crothers A.F.
N463139	Butler D.W.	VX63917	Clutterbucks H.T.	VX134798	Crozier A.M.
WX25405	Butler W.J.	VX89445	Cocks A.D.M.	VX115918	Crute A.
VX115946	Butling L.T. MID	VX89384	Coker A.J.L.	VX149731	Cudmore W.M.
V57423	Bysouth R.B.	VX64502	Colbert I.C.	VX89373	Cummings J.W.
VX145767	Cadd H.	V64438	Colbert T.	VX68393	Curran C.E.E.
VX146141	Cadman A.R.	NX137470	Coleman V.	VX66697	Currie W.P.
VX65831	Cahill A.P.	VX68104	Collins E.	VX67227	Currie R.E.
V64661	Cahir T.V.	VX64606	Comitti F.W.	VX132543	Curtis A.L.
VX67341	Cain M.	N276453	Condon H.H.	N201178	Cusbert S.C.
VX69112	Cairns E.A.	N24166	Condor V.F.	VX137094	Dagge K.
N24522	Callan R.	V64636	Connor R.C.	VX68458	Dalrymple H.C.
V55933	Cameron A.W.	V64642	Connor W.	VX93512	Dalton F.D.
QX37486	Cameron C.F.	VX134512	Conquest M.L.	VX132669	Dalton M.J.
VX137093	Cameron J.B. AACC	V196630	Considine A.J.	V225060	Daly D.F.
V220093	Cameron J.G.	VX136531	Considine V.N.J.	V67505	Daly G.E.
VX114199	Cameron W.O. MID	N455738	Constable S.G.	V54766	Dane L.A.
SX19856	Campbell G.L.	VX64264	Conway A.C.	SX19272	Daniel J.A.
VX66733	Campbell L.	VX67721	Conway L.F.	N156887	Daniel S.J.
V57443	Campbell R.	VX52123	Cook H.H.	VX115930	Danslow B.S.
Q151164	Carey J.	V220089	Cook R.C.E.	VX55931	Darby G.
VX67745	Carew S.J.	VX64669	Cooper P.J.	VX118509	Darcy F.J.
VX68828	Carl B.	TX14964	Cooper A.T.	VX89383	Davenport E.J.
V216073	Carmichael H.	VX89367	Corbould R.E.	VX52554	Davenport W.
VX53938	Carroll J.W.	QX39177	Corcoran H.S.	VX147654	Davern D.J.
V64337	Carter A.W.T.	VX68074	Cornell S.R.	V57860	Davey K.
VX68590	Carter E.	VX136523	Cossens O.J.	SX20848	Davidson G.W. MID
T102660	Carter E.C.	VX68153	Costolloe K.G.	VX68389	Davis A.E.
VX135064	Carter R.T.	NX170917	Cottee H.R.	V58695	Davis L.R.
V216093	Cattanagh N.L.			VX63030	Davis L.G.
VX42442	Cattell A.B.				

Nominal Roll (continued)

VX135065	Davis M.W.	VX66959	Downes R.C.	V103758	Farish A.
VX68410	Davis N.H.	TX2672	Downey R.J.L.	VX64485	Farley G.R.
VX118510	Davis R.H.	V506877	Downey W.R.	NX176021	Farley R.M.
V64738	Davis W.A.	VX66551	Downing R.	VX66492	Farrar D.
VX62111	Davis W.W.	VX66483	Downing T.E.	VX146075	Farrar F.F.
VX151853	Davies E.F.	VX137198	Doyle M.T.	VX136688	Farrell C.M.
SX19272	Daviss J.A.	SX19656	Drake R.J.	VX135067	Farrell H.
VX67699	Dayle P.	VX89387	Draper P.S.	V57560	Fatt A.J.
V64680	Day H.L. AACC	VX125018	Drew H.R.	VX120848	Faulkhead H.
VX66314	Daye C.J.	NX201463	Drew J.W.	V180069	Faux D.W.
VX66313	Daye W.B.	QX61413	Drinnen B.T.	VX105374	Faux H.L.
T16340	Dayton J.H.	NX12425	Duffy I.R.	VX66452	Feehan M.K.
VX67790	Deacon M.J.	V80060	Duffy R.J.	V55048	Felsted F.O.
VX89361	Dean H.J.	VX127182	Dugard W.L.	VX59764	Fenaughty E.J.
VX105373	De Baere, A.D.	QX56506	Dullahide J.R.	NX48088	Fenton C.R.
VX89357	Dedman G.C.	VX67519	Dunbar A.	VX70231	Fenton W.O.R.
Q271226	Deegan C.P.		(Accidentally killed)	VX62546	Ferguson R.J.
V54596	De La Fontaine E.S.	VX114153	Duncan J.A.	V225049	Fernandes C.A.
		VX5174	Dunkley H.L.E. DSO, MC, MID	VX115919	Ferrari R.
VX135095	Delahoy R.G.	VX68167	Dunlop L.M.	V316085	Fewster W.H.
VX67390	Delaney H.M.	VX68159	Dunn H. AACC	VX136971	Field W.O.
V64724	Delaney P.J.	VX68200	Dunn T.	SX11669	Fimeri F.W.
VX118511	Dellar T.D.	V57792	Durrant S.R.	VX66771	Fimister T.
VX89379	Deller K.E.	V190512	Duscher A.J.	Q136601	Finger E.
VX67634	Dempsey B.J.C.	VX56260	Dutton H.C.	VX68160	Finley G.
N160927	Dennett K.W.	VX148697	Eagles B.C.P.	VX102700	Firth H.J.
SX12992	Denton G.	VX116788	Eaton J.E.	V58741	Fisher A.F.
V64400	Denyer M.	V66691	Eddy L.J.	SX31623	Fisher C.K.
V64707	Deutscher C.	VX89359	Edwards D.M.W.	VX67924	Fisher J.C.
VX67399	Dew S.N.	VX115940	Edwards J.A.	V180070	Fisher J.P.
QX49084	De Weldon W.R.	VX134513	Edwards R.J.	VX65706	Fishley L.D.
V180056	Dickenson L.H.A.	V68956	Egglestone J.D.	VX69055	Fleming J.E.N.
VX120845	Dickson A.G.G. AACC	N442453	Eggleton T.H. AEME	SX11460	Fletcher A.J.
Q28393	Diener R.F.	VX63793	Eklon H.E.	V503001	Fletcher K.G.
VX66745	Dike J.E. (Accidentally killed)	WX35788	Elder D.J.	V030001	Flitton R.
VX67507	Dillon W.J.	VX148582	Ellam A.F.E.	V280049	Floyd L.E.
TX4291	Dillon D.D.	VX89397	Elliott M.H. MID	VX120860	Fogarty A.F.
VX120844	Dishon W.L.	VX123593	Elliott W.E.	VX68462	Fogarty A.P.
VX66922	Dixon R.	VX66956	Ellis C.	VX34984	Fogarty E.P.
VX101710	Dodd F.T.	VX67974	Ellis J.D.	DX955	Foletta A.C.
V57869	Dodemaide V.A.	SX11515	Ellis J.D.	VX69808	Forbes A.H.
VX52695	Dods D.V.	TX5205	Ellis K.R.	V220124	Forbes L.J.
VX147653	Doherty D.J.	V57328	Ellis V.C.	VX90684	Ford H.A.
VX67717	Doherty J.M.	VX67548	Ellwood A.J.	QX62895	Fowler S.H.
VX89416	Doherty J.T.	VX147648	Enterkin A.	VX58654	Fox A.M.
V57475	Doherty K.J.	V66533	England A.M.F.	V114017	Francis A.J.
TX15233	Donaghy T.N.	VX120847	Esmore H.	VX134869	Francis J.F.
VX146673	Donald L.A.	V225085	Evans E.V.	VX67906	Francis W.H.
VX120846	Donaldson L.	QX56026	Evans J.R.	VX68597	Frankhauser L.H.
VX137110	Dougherty B.G.	VX63619	Evans W.J. (KIA)	V69077	Franklin A.
VX134795	Dougherty M.I. (KIA) MID	VX135066	Ewart W.J.	V56430	Franklin E.A.
WX33052	Douglas B.N. AAMC	WX33399	Eyden E.	V185166	Franklin H.C.
		NX122708	Eyles O.M.	VX69497	Fraser W.A.
V59108	Dow A.	V68077	Fall W.T.	VX69497	Frawley P.J.
		Q270338	Falzon F.	N454771	Frazer C.R.E.
				VX89430	Freeman J.W.R.

Nominal Roll (continued)

Q22250	French J.	VX118512	Glew A.H.	VX69342	Hall W.A.
NX162553	Fry F.J. (Chap)	NX172357	Glover E.V.G.	VX67757	Hally G.W.F.H.
VX7209	Furlong A.H.	V180082	Glow A.H.	V225057	Hallam F.S.
VX11307	Furlong J.S.	NX177533	Goff R.	N80779	Hambly A.H.
VX132539	Furlong R.F.	VX132541	Gooch P.T.	VX89368	Hammerton G.H.
VX62078	Gallagher A.J.	V64755	Good A.K.	VX148635	Hanemann L.H.
VX67434	Gallagher L.W.	NX175816	Goodall K.H.	VP4424	Hanlon L.B.
VX65663	Gallagher R.G.	V69274	Goode A.J.	WX19200	Hanna L.
VX89389	Galleon W.F.	NX85140	Gooley C.J. MID	VX89380	Hansberry A.V.D.
D631	Galvin F.J.	VX67887	Gordon A.W.	Q109151	Hansen R.F.
VX150747	Galvin I.R.	V65814	Gordon R.	TX14651	Hanson P.T.
VX63480	Gamble E.J.	VX63577	Gordon R.W.	VX67822	Hanson E.H.
VX105375	Gange L.G. (Died OAS)	N29040	Gore R.V.	VX67022	Hanson R.W.
VX64505	Garner S.J.	VX134759	Gorin H.A.V.	V64374	Harding R.L.
TX3707	Gardiner R.A.R.	VX194388	Gorman P.R.	VX146854	Harding R.S.
S111040	Garratt J.J.	N435115	Gouch J.R.	VX116495	Hardy G.L.
VX115915	Garraway A.	VX66774	Gould C.H.	SX38701	Harford R.T.
VX120850	Garraway A.G.	VX68168	Gourlay A.P.	VX137133	Harkin D.H.
VX134797	Garraway C.F. AACC	QX41625	Gow A.	VX134832	Harmer F.A.
V220110	Garraway L.R.	V508047	Graf H.F.	V64616	Harper J.L.J.
VX65829	Garth K.G.	Q121818	Graham J.P.	V57564	Harrip J.P.
VX115915	Gathercole B.	TX5833	Granger W.M.	VX68392	Harris E.J.
VX135305	Gathercole H.	VX67349	Granger W.	VX127796	Harris F.G.
VX135261	Gathercole K.W.	VX147941	Gravell K.	S47523	Harris G.
V225070	Gaulke M.A.E.	S110137	Graves C.N.	WX37698	Harris J.A.C.
VX65117	Gawne P.D.	VX67432	Gray K.R.	V57564	Harris J.P.
VX120851	Gedling A.J.	VX6740	Gray L.G.	SX31940	Harrison A.M.
N436493	Geercke M.J.	V513485	Gray R.L.	VX66124	Harrison G.P.
VX137482	George A.D.	VX34597	Greaves C.A.J.	V57640	Harstedt H.H.L.
V508062	George K.	VX67665	Green E.V.	SX4857	Hart P.M.
VX66674	George W.H.	VX89372	Green L.	VX89401	Harvey A.D.
S43633	Germein D.J.	V175067	Green L.E.	V57239	Harvey A.K.
V220120	Geyer E.I.	V220064	Green P.J.	VX115910	Harvey N.C.
V175057	Gibbens E.C.	NX192808	Green T.F.	TX5276	Hassel M.T.
WX38276	Gibbs D.	VX63331	Greenslade C.F.	VX149995	Hastings R.E.
VX147892	Gibson A.K.	V41463	Greer W.	VX134793	Hateley L.B. (KIA)
VX89432	Gibson J.S.	VX141073	Grenfell P.J.	VX89434	Hateley M.C.
NX71972	Gill D.R.	VX33791	Griffin C.F.	V64711	Hateley S.L.
VX135140	Gill F.H.	V220068	Griffin C.J.	S24679	Havard F.J. AACC
NX136968	Gillard R.	VX62276	Griffin J.H.	Q34051	Hawes N.B.
VX68842	Gillatt B.S.	VX137132	Griffin W.W.	VX115924	Hawtin E.G.
VX65032	Gillespie F.P.	VX68179	Groom W.C.	TX16147	Hayes A.B.
V36399	Gillett D.S.	VX66539	Grossman R.C.	VX66347	Hayes E.G.
V180081	Gillies T.J.	VX63078	Gundry J.	VX67920	Hayes G.C.
NX194511	Gilmore R.W.M.	VX39038	Gunn R.W.	VX65608	Healdene J.
V64734	Giovanni A.M.	VX69654	Gunter K. (KIA)	NX5992	Healey D.G.
Q6108	Glanville R.H.	VX68062	Gunther H.K.	VX89421	Heathcote H.B.
V225021	Glare R.F.	S112088	Gurney B.R.	VX66328	Hedger R.K.K.
S114200	Glasson A.J.	WX34085	Gurney M.K. (KIA)	VX148138	Hedt N.A.
VX115937	Glasson J.L.	VX134068	Haar J.	VX151622	Heenan D.J.
V66713	Gleeson G.D.	VX150134	Hagan K.F.	V57566	Heley L.T.
VX137111	Glen J.	VX147651	Hagley W.C.	N257342	Hellyer K.T.
V36402	Glenister H.A.	VX61583	Hall J.H.G.	V66731	Hems K.L.
V57477	Glenister H.W.	QX62894	Hall L.F.	V56003	Henderson C.
		VX148563	Hall R.J.	VX89425	Henderson L.W.
		VX67987	Hall S.		

Nominal Roll (continued)

VX89399	Henderson T.A.	VX147647	Hornsby L.G.	VX91114	Jones H.J.
VX68371	Henderson W.B.	V58783	Horton D.J.	VX89385	Jorgensen L.A.
VX21567	Henley S.W.	N451163	Hoskins H.A.	QX60430	Jose G.R.
VX67650	Hennessy H.L.	VX89376	Howden S.R.	VX69462	Joseph D.
NX223	Henry J.H.	VX67454	Howson D.	V64255	Joy A.S.
TX14789	Henry C.	VX134868	Hoyle H.R.	VX61725	Juffs W.G.
S53392	Heppner H.E.	VX89403	Hubble H.G.	V64531	Kay C.J.
VX149529	Heraud M.J.	VX127797	Hubble J.L.	Q272221	Kay J.R.
VX68151	Herbel L.S.	TX4024	Hudson R.G.	VX67696	Kaye R.E.
VX67249	Herbert W.A.D.	V57345	Hughes J.	VX6118	Keating F.
VX62531	Hetherington J.C.	VX150136	Hunt E.R.	V69160	Keenan R. (Died OAS)
V54504	Hewitt H.W.	VX132540	Hunt L.A.		
VX67249	Hibbert N.	NX201392	Hunt K.J.	V64590	Keens R.L.
VX31742	Hibbert P.D.	V68451	Hunter C.A.	NX172157	Keep C.T.
V66733	Hickey L.	V36411	Hunter F.S.	VX68579	Keil C.C.G.
V66581	Hickford F.J.	VX89622	Huntley C.R.	V57637	Keilor N.J.
QX57815	Hicks D.	VX151891	Huntly G.P.	V57575	Keller I.C.
N452243	Higgins L.C.	VX70631	Hurley C.	N298527	Kelly A.E.
NX171886	Higgins M.L.	VX64427	Icely W.W.	QX52970	Kelly D.S.
WX34081	Higham J.A.	VX68836	Inglis W.J.	VX89355	Kelly J.J.
V69282	Hill A.L.	VX141225	Innes L.R.	VX89412	Kelly M.K.
VX135069	Hill R.E.	VX133267	Iredale V.W.	VX28806	Kemp A.J.
V64358	Hillier A.H.	VX68011	Irvine A.R.	VX135411	Kempton W.
VX132536	Hillier A.L.	VX134799	Irwin A.L.	VX67421	Kendall W.J.
VX127798	Hinchey K.J.	VX89358	Isaacs W.G.	VX61824	Kenneday A.S.
NX200213	Hinds J.F.	VX145608	Jackson H.E.	VX149282	Kennedy A.J.
NX173055	Hinman N.H.	V507629	Jackson I.S.	VX148097	Kennedy C.W.
V250127	Hitchens R.	VX66349	Jackson W.E.	VX134796	Kennedy E.W.
VX136524	Hobbs A.K.	Q138474	Jaenka E.R.	VX149592	Kennedy G.A.
QX61023	Hobbs F.J.	VX115914	James A.P.	VX20133	Kennedy H.S.
VX89437	Hobbs S.C.	VX138045	James C.	SX13519	Kent W.E.
S43844	Hockley R.S.	VX68069	Jamieson C.A.	VX89418	Keogh R.A.
Q270322	Hodges L.E.	V114016	Jamieson J.	V57483	Kerr A.S.
SX31762	Hodgson M.L.	VX149591	Jarrad J.H.	VX137272	Kettle A.
VX146367	Hodson G.W.	NX201599	Jeffrey C.J.	S114277	Kidd S.R.L.
VX62463	Hodson R.R.	VX67900	Jelleff P.E.	VX65390	Killeen B.C.
V64529	Hoffman B.G.	V57655	Jennings I.F.	V57257	Killingbeck H.
SX29219	Hoffman L.A.	WX25418	Jobson T.A.	VX66243	King F.W.
TX8374	Hogan T.C.J.	T102917	Johnson B.	VX122360	Kinna B.E.
V66737	Hogan V.	N23650	Johnson H.E.	VX115927	Kirk E.E.
V225001	Holland A.C.	V58864	Johnson R.	VX66462	Kirk R.
VX89369	Holland S.H.	N230578	Johnson W.J.	VX115775	Kirk T.M.
V508420	Holloway F.J.	V58804	Johnson W.R.	Q268274	Kluver F.G.
V36489	Holmes J.A.	VX61624	Johnston W.D.	VX33807	Knight A.F.
VX67919	Holmes W.E.J.	V155155	Johnstone L.E.	V155164	Knight E.
	MID	VX127795	Joiner W.H.	Q268988	Knight J.B.
VX67680	Honey E.A.	V57445	Jolley M.W.M.	VX68644	Knowles F.A.
VX65839	Honey L.A.J.	VX116015	Jolley R.R.	Q266549	Kowalski K.T.
SX12216	Hook F.G.	Q152738	Jolliffe S.A.	VX115913	Krause N.O.
QX59268	Hooper B. AAMC	V220065	Jones A.C.	V64709	Krelle E.C.
VX53245	Hooper W.B.	VX136690	Jones A.J.	VX88990	Kuhne W.A.
N450997	Hopkins L.A.	NX200934	Jones A.R.	VX67592	Kummer J.G.
NX172689	Hopson R.W.	VX134690	Jones C. MID	VX68068	Labourne F.
SX231	Hopton L.I.	N263033	Jones C.	V64534	Ladlow D.E.
VX67127	Hore E.C.	V10180	Jones G.A.	VX120852	Lambert L.R.
VX125019	Horne T.A.	VX148137	Jones G.A.W.	V64556	Lambert R.A.

Nominal Roll (continued)

VX68519	Lambert C.D.	NX172705	Lowers B.R.	VX134830	Midgley H.K. (K1A)
VX66838	Lamperd L.A.	N43821	Lowes A.	VX67749	Miers F. AACC
VX63436	Landy J.J.	V57312	Loy L.J.	VX120854	Milbourne I.M.
NX202072	Lane J.E.	VX68288	Lupton T.G.	VX115938	Milbourne R.A.
V220036	Lang C.F.	VX89398	Lynch K.P.	Q270041	Miles R.K.
NX175556	Langham S.B.	VX64894	Lynch R.C.	VX89435	Mill J.L.
VX64252	Laphorne A.L.	V505933	Lynn H.A.	VX67047	Miller J.D.
VX67655	Larke L.C.	VX147655	Lyons A.F.	VX136691	Miller J.P.
VX66540	LaRose G.F.	VX147145	Lyons P.J.	VX14396	Miller J.M.
Q135435	Last V.B.	VX67054	Macarty M.V.	V175094	Miller R.A.
N181933	Latta L.L.	VX89388	MacDonald I.A.	VX68176	Miller T.
V57274	Lattin W.C.	V57293	MacDonald N.T.	V145529	Milligan A.W.R. (Chap)
VX89423	Lawes K.J.	SX11502	Mackenzie D.R.	VX89442	Mills C.J.
VX148961	Lawn K.A.	Q104063	Mackenzie D.B.R.	Q250006	Mills R.D.
NX194303	Lawrence W.G.	VX63449	Mackie F. AACC	V220002	Minter R.L.
VX68187	Lawson W.C.	VX68130	Macintosh J.	VX6072	Mitchell A.L.
V57472	Lawton A.	SX12881	MacPherson N.J.	VX89356	Mitchell F.R.
VX114151	Leabeter R.	VX134963	Maggs J.G.	VX66481	Mitchell P.W.
VX68597	Leach A.	V64329	Mahney P.	V220057	Mitchell R.A.
VX89378	Leamon G.H.	V225104	Male J.	TX2701	Mitchell R.V.
V57449	Lee A.W.	VX65498	Mallyon V.K.	VX67855	Mitchell S.J.
VX119722	Lee J.L.	VX67605	Maloney J.P.	VX115932	Monk W.D.
V68968	Lee K.F.	VX67346	Maloney W.	VX66839	Moody A.G.
VX105593	Lee R.J.	VX65521	Mancer R.W.	N464147	Moody R.G.
Q131690	Leesye S.M.	VX120861	Manley J.W.	VX67802	Moore F.J.
VX67865	Leffler D.	TX14838	Mansfield M.S.	VX115922	Moore K.N.
VX135060	Lemon W.J. AACC	VX115916	Marchant R.M.	WX40064	Moore R.J.
WX114146	Leng O.G.	VX89406	Marr A.	VX149523	Mooring K.J.
VX69478	Lenon A.T.	VX27613	Marsden H.J.	V69035	Moran A.R.
VX66922	Leslie R.	VX137112	Marshall A.J.	V221817	Moran G.H.
VX66752	Lewis G.	VX64958	Marshman A.A.	V69034	Moran J.P.V.
V68969	Lewis L.C.	V114008	Martin F.W.	WX25472	Morgan E.F.
SX12489	Liddle H.	VX65749	Martin J.H.	SX19591	Morris F.J.
NX194337	Light R.S.	VX67677	Maskel W.P.	NX202091	Morris N.
N153645	Lilley F.N.	VX69002	Mason H.J.	V66391	Morris H.G.
VX115925	Lillis V.C.	V61018	Mason R.S.	V57381	Morris H.R. AACC
VX89405	Limon W.J.	VX194062	Matienne A.	VX134829	Morris R.W.
VX68581	Lindsay G.E.	VX141254	Mathews R.W.	V57450	Morrison M.D.
V64540	Lisle D.	VX63355	Maudouit L.A. (Later Modway)	V69337	Morriss S.G.
V220056	Litchfield L.H.	VX135221	May A.E.	V64412	Morse R.J.
VX120853	Little R.K.	VX137095	May R.L.	V64477	Morton H.
V305235	Livingstone D.	VX67926	Mayer W.L.	V64482	Morton T.R.
VX23281	Lloyd C.	VX61779	Mayne R.J.	VX148960	Moschetti W.H.
VX67004	Loats S.R.	VX68186	Mayneham B.J.	V58882	Moss R.
T21069	Lockwood H.F.	VX66373	Meadows A.E. AACC	NX202227	Motbey C.J.
NX172435	Logan A.C.	VX64992	Meares A.D. AACC	V57586	Mott E.J.
VX117297	Longmore F.R. (K1A)	NX79322	Medcraft W.	V220019	Mottram H.B.
VX68186	Loorham	V21654	Medland N.R.L.	V9922	Mottram F.R.
N452780	Lord W.J. (K1A)	V220023	Mellberg P.J.	V148476	Moulton G.B.
NX172707	Lordgrove A.H.	VX93426	Menkhorst P.J.	N156410	Muddle H.J.
N440493	Lording E.J.	QX61187	Menzies D.	VX89419	Mullins P.G.
V57262	Loughed P.	N385423	Mewburn M.E.	Q270855	Murdock J.A.
VX67114	Loveday C.F.	V57270	Miatke B.W.	V220031	Murnane W.J.
VX115939	Lowe N.E.	VX88574	Midgley G.R.	V64563	Murphy B.P.
VX135262	Lowe S.G. (K1A)				

Nominal Roll (continued)

QX42977	Murphy J.	SX33056	McLoughlan F.M.	V57898	Oaks N.W.
VX132537	Murphy R.J.	VX118513	McLoughlan F.H.	S38949	Ockenden L.F.
V225030	Murray C.E.	VX89424	McMahon A.D.	VX67409	O'Connell C.W.
V220059	Murray J.C.	VX89363	McMasters K.D.	VX67032	O'Connell G.G.L.
Q132456	Murray N.C.	V57298	McNally H.W.	N55331	O'Connell G.M.
VX67811	Myers A.M.	VX149593	McNamara W.L.	Q126585	O'Connor V.D.
VX149858	McArthur J.R.	VX132535	McPhee C.R.	VX135263	O'Donnell W.J.
TX5666	McBean B.H.	VX120855	McPhee G.M.	VX132950	Oelsnik W.W.
VX65656	McBean M.J.	VX88143	McPhee N.H.	S110780	O'Farrell T.M.
SX38768	McCarthy M.K.	VX68834	McPherson N.O.	VX65046	O'Leary P.K.
VX132709	McCarthy S.F.	VX50210	McQualter R.D.	VX134672	Oliver R.C.
VX114156	McCarthy T.S.	VX66566	McQuat J.J.	V57522	Oliver W.M.T.
V57738	McCleary D.N.	VX89433	McRae A.L.	VX63663	Ollington L.P.
V64321	McCleary K.L.	SX33115	McShane D.	Q131754	Olsen J.H.
V155189	McCleary T.S.	NX173614	McTaggart D.W. (KIA)	VX66207	O'Reilly G.L.
NX39066	McClelland R.W.			QX50617	O'Reilly W.O.
NX202184	McCoey T.	V225059	McTavish C.J.	V225088	O'Reilly W.J.
N22425	McCoey W.	VX89404	McWaters A.J.	VX137168	Orr J.C.G. AACC
NX175310	McCormack J.H.	VX89407	McWhirter A.A.	VX66710	Osborne H.W.
VX69150	McCrickard R.H.S.	VX67165	Namnik A.	VX69619	O'Shannessy P.M.
VX115929	McDonald A.	WX26519	Nash A. (KIA)	VX120856	O'Shea F.A.
NX173701	McDonald E.J.	V507744	Naylor A.A.	V57201	Osmond W.F.
VX65725	McDonald J.	WX32714	Naylor A.F.	QX61299	Owen A.W.
VX89783	McDonald L.	V501048	Naylor I.J.	VX89382	Paech L.W.
VX135070	McDowell I.A.	V180162	Neale A.C.	V220138	Page D.E.
VX89429	McEniry W.R.	QX57097	Neden G.A.	VX120858	Page L.A.
VX63834	McEwan H.R.	V57858	Needham S.J.	QX60549	Palmer S.G.
SX38634	McFarlane A.J.	VX150069	Needs R.B.	V55479	Parker F.H.
VX89374	McGauchie H.J.	VX70753	Neil G.	VX66570	Parker E.S.
VX150114	McGenniskien L.P.	VX59731	Neilson C.	SX19374	Parkin K.F.
VX136770	McGinty J.A. AACC	VX68730	Nelson D.M.	VX68079	Parkinson T.J.
V57320	McGlynn M.E.	V64542	Nelson G.A.	V57693	Parkinson M.J.
V64643	McGrath J.H.	VX67631	Nelson J.A.J.	VX93029	Parsons S.W.
VX65968	McGregor D.	VX114148	Neville K.C.	V67959	Passalacqua J.A.
V68348	McGregor D.J.	NX193550	Newman K.W.	V175116	Paterson R.W.
VX78307	McGregor W.H.	QX58474	Newton N.L.	V57273	Paton H.R.
VX66541	McGowan H.	VX134831	Nicholas R.L.	Q132452	Pattell L.G.
B2/39	McHugh R.H.	VX105376	Nicholls J.A.	VX134890	Patullo H.L.
VX67837	McInerney L.	V66449	Nicholson B.M.	V503527	Payne E.G.
VX114145	McInnes W.O. MID	WX1938	Nicholson G.L.	VX62876	Payne H.G.
VX64561	McIntyre M.A.	V64615	Niddrie V.J.	VX63746	Paul P.E.
T20584	McIvor A.A.	VX63620	Nieman W.N.	VX114211	Peace D. AAMC
V64360	McKenzie D.M.	VX118514	Nixon K.W.	V64586	Peake W.D.
VX68192	McKenzie C.B.	VX67365	Noble M.A.	NX201720	Pears A.R.
VX220050	McKenzie D.J.	SX28417	Nolan C.R.	VX58903	Pedder A.L.
VX69047	McKenzie I.M.	VX114149	Norman L.C.	SX11402	Pedler G.E.
V64692	McKenzie J.A.	VX290	Norris J.J. (Killed in air crash)	VX141358	Peel S.
VX115928	McKenzie M.S.	VX66976	Norris W.H.A.	VX68214	Pendlebury S.C.
V225117	McLean R.J.	V509301	North L.E.P. (K1A)	VX141308	Perkins J.R.
V55370	McLean W.A.	VX63940	Norton J.	V113720	Perkins K.D.
VX67316	McLennen A.	V64482	Norton T.R.	VX115949	Perkins N.
V57294	McLeod C.	QX63932	Nott A.	V57272	Peters F.J.A.
VX114144	McLeod I.C.	VX65118	Nottle W.	NX172516	Peters L.R.
VX149784	McLeod L.W.	VX151621	Nowell A.J.	VX68473	Peters R.J.
V64773	McKinnon D.F.	VX69411	Nunn C.D.	V151482	Petri A.
TX2119	McKinnon L.M.	V155206	Oakley C.R.	VX67406	Pettigrew B.A.



11 Platoon B Company from back (left to right): Darkie Bulmer, Aub Martini, Doc Doherty, Wes Block, "Blue" Phipps, George Bradshaw, Frank Ballantyne, Kevin Newman, Pat Coglein, Morrie Coglein. Centre: Stan Andrews, ?, Doug McShane, Doug Carey, Vern Block, ?. Behind: Frank Binney, Morrie Moran. Front: Ray Rooke, Wingey Pitt, P. Higgins.



Stan Tucker, Bill Shuttlewood and Rex Baguley were three of the "Sigs" attached to "D" Coy at Munda, New Georgia, British Solomons.



The fenicular railway up Barges Hill, which rose to an approximate height of 2000 feet (600 metres) above the river valley.



Another view of the fenicular railway up Barges Hill (about halfway). Prior to this masterpiece being built all equipment, ammunition, food and supplies, as well as dismantled motor vehicles, had to be carried up the zig-zag track. Barges Hill was approximately 2000 feet high.



One of the Jeeps with crew. These carried supplies along the Numa Numa Trail, as far as Berry's Hill, one of the vehicles man-handled up Barge's Hill after it had been converted to a "Jeep" track.



Another feature of the Numa Numa Trail. With constant rain it was at most times, hard to traverse.



The Numa Numa Trail, which leads across the centre of Bougainville to the East. A jeep track was later constructed all the way from top of Barge's Hill to Berry's Hill, about 5 miles! The vegetation has been literally blasted away by the constant Artillery Mortar and blasting by aircraft on the enemy, as the 7 Bn advanced.



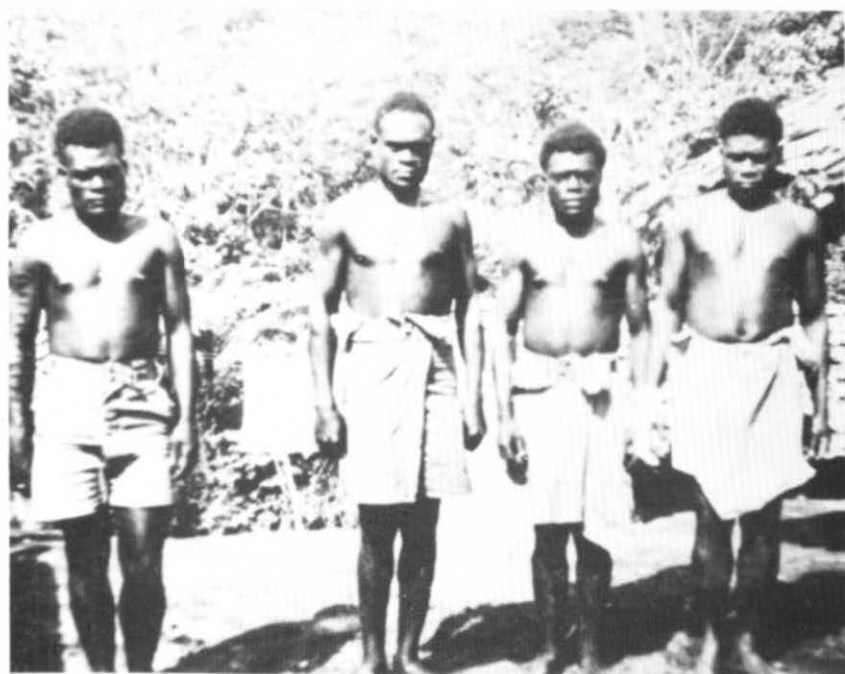
Members of "D" Coy on Bougainville, 1945. L. Floyd, F. Slattery, T. Green, D. Davern, S. Langham and G. Pitt, with two other unknowns.



There's always time for a cup of tea and the YMCA or Salvation Army were always there to supply.



Lt Col Harry Dunkley and some of his officers.



Four of the Native guides and Scouts, Emirau, Willy Silly Supili and Hois, who were considered part of the Battalion.



Jack Wells and Bill Jackson, do their bit to widen the Numa Numa Trail.



Widening the Numa Numa Trail took lots of man hours and hard work. Sgt Bob Hudson and his merry men, with assistance from members of the Mortar and MMG Platoons did an excellent job.



The Sigs had over 70 miles of cable to maintain on Bougainville, as well as supplying radio communication with the rifle companies. Some of the large compliment of men needed to maintain these activities: Stan Tucker, Jack Manley, Bill Roberts, Henry McGauchie, Ron Ziersch, Albert Young, Harry Dean, Noel Wenck, ?, Eddie Schofield, Jack Stackpole, George Isaacs and George Leamon.



Sel Bietzel, Pat Walsh, George Baker, ?, George Leamon, Ron Ziersch, Keith Alexander, Tony George, Stan Howden, Bert Faux and Harold Cook, after a game of volley-ball.



Artillery Hill on Bougainville, so named because of the large number of Artillery strikes called down upon it to dislodge the enemy.



A view of Mt Bagana, a very active volcano which scared the daylights out of nearly everybody when it erupted to greet the 7th Battalion members on Bougainville in April, 1945. It became affectionately known as "Old Smokey" or "Smokey Joe" as it continued to shake the area on a number of occasions.



The ANGAU Camp at the bottom of Barges Hill.



A further view of the Numa Numa Trail, with one of the permanent positions.



Three of the young Lieutenants, Harry Veale, Roy Phippard and Cliff Cameron.



This is a Japanese "Zero", used for dropping surrender leaflets over enemy territory. The leaflets called upon the enemy forces to surrender. This aeroplane was from Buin in the South of Bougainville and was flown to Piva Airstrip at Torokina for the occasion.



War graves at Torokina, Bougainville. The grave on the left is that of Captain Brown, OC "D" Coy, who was killed in an aeroplane crash in 1944.



Graves of the 7th Battalion members when located at Torokina. P.R. Phipps and S.G. Lowe, both members of "B" Coy.

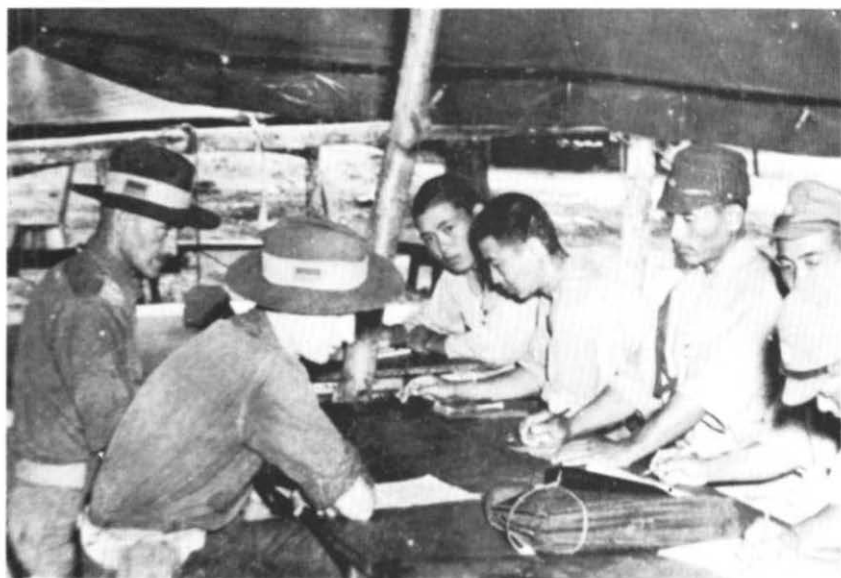


The Signals Platoon had been dispersed over the Solomons area for several months (Treasury Island Group, New Georgia Group, then Bougainville) and finally grouped as a Platoon again on Fauro Island.

Left to Right (back row): Harold Cook, Ron Wilson, Bob Burns, George Leamon, Rex Baguley, Brian Johnson, Bill Shuttlewood, Meg Withell, Harold Dean, Tony George, Noel Wenck, Pat Walsh. *Sitting:* K.J. Leen (attached), George Baker, George Isaacs, Stan Tucker, Keith Alexander, Stan Howden, Lt Cliff Cameron, Ron Ziersch, Sel Beitzel, Jack Manley, Ron Harford, Keith Bird. *Front:* G.J. Gorman (attached), Ken Adams, W.D. Myers (attached), Albert Young, Jack Stackpole, Syd Holland.



General Kanda and his entourage arrive aboard the HMAS Diamantina, to sign the surrender documents — Bougainville, 1945.



Major Ces Jones and Capt Bill McInnes, allocate the work tasks for the day to the Japanese.



A view of Fauro Island with the main camp area at Central Bay. On the right background is the island where most of the Japanese were quartered. Each day they would arrive by barge, be allocated their duties and return in the evening to their own island camps. Fauro Island, the final base of 7 Bn before it dispersed to "civvies".

Nominal Roll (continued)

VX89392	Pettigrew W.G.	VX69195	Ray I.	N156285	Rooke R.S.
VX141055	Pettitt K.T.	VX69499	Raynor L.T.	VX65054	Roper R.C.
VX148653	Petty S.R.	VX65062	Reddick B.A.	V225065	Roscoe T.C.
VX52512	Petty R. AACC	VX89438	Rees S.	VX67081	Rose A.D.
VX89381	Pluger K.H.	VX68570	Reeve T.	VX64411	Rose C.H.
VX66902	Phelan L.M.	VX66078	Reeves E.	VX62014	Rose J.A.
VX65628	Phillips D.	NX93312	Regent R.	V180188	Rosewarne A.L.
VX149706	Phillips L.J.	VX120849	Reid A.C.	VX68759	Ross D.K.
VX64568	Phillips J.	VX89441	Reid G.	VX132670	Ross E.A.
WX29773	Phippard R.B.	VX115935	Reid L.A.	QX40269	Ross W.B.
QX50616	Phipps R. (KIA)	V230064	Reid R.S.	V69226	Roulent T.J.
SX29378	Pickering D.M.	Q237512	Reimer T.F.	VX66071	Rowe A.J.
VX61951	Pickett K.J.	V64500	Renfrey W.N.	VX134828	Rowe C.W.
T20157	Pilgrim G.T.	V64383	Rethus C.C.	VX67411	Rowe T.W.
V225108	Pimmel L.J.	NX10130	Reynolds J.F.	V506762	Rowley A.G.
VX138620	Piper A.E.	V150051	Rhodes P.	VX135071	Rowney J.P.H.
V64487	Pitt E.J.	VX63671	Richards R.J.C.	VX64737	Roy R.B.S.
SX31527	Pitt F.A.	N361288	Richards S.J.	VX88397	Ruby R.G.
V225031	Pohlke C.C.	VX132542	Richardson J.P.	VX58109	Rush G.P. MID
V64774	Pohlke H.E.	V68259	Richmond J.C.	VX57070	Russell J.M.
VX68132	Pollard P.A.	VX148562	Rickard A.J.	V220098	Russell L.C.
V180178	Poole R.A.	V54965	Rigaldi J.	VX115941	Ryan E.G.
V64488	Powell C.J.	V64219	Rigby L.R.	Q144621	Ryan L.P.
VX148751	Powell H.C.	VX68295	Rigney J.V.	V64336	Sadler R.M.
V225357	Powell J.	VX6744	Riley H.J.		DSO, MC, VD
VX67037	Power C.	VX67410	Riley W.A.	VX64589	Sampson A.J.
VX21627	Powlesland W.J.	V64499	Rinaldi V.P.	VX120861	Sallman J.
VX147652	Pratt C.W.J.	NX192859	Ring H.	VX67541	Salmon E.R.
QX42060	Pratten L.P.	NX171457	Ritson R.F.	S112393	Sanders L.W.
TX15698	Prestage H.G.	VX134948	Robbie A.	VX89426	Sandford J.H.
VX67791	Pretty J.C.	VX134949	Robbie G.	Q135793	Santacatarina F.
V57609	Pretty L.A.	VX135412	Roberts I.S.	VX145153	Saul C.F.
V57658	Price J.	V66838	Roberts J.S.	N249411	Savage K.G.
V57593	Price S.J.W.	VX137273	Roberts W.L.	VX62605	Savidge J.L.
VX67733	Proctor C.	VX114155	Roberts R.	NX177330	Saville R.J.
VX147706	Prowse K.A.	VX68124	Robertson H.L.	VX145708	Sawyer J.J.
VX48126	Pryor T.W.	VX136771	Robertson K.W.	VX66593	Scanlon J.
V56024	Puller A.E.	VX132534	Robertson L.M.	V68346	Scantlebury H.E.
VX115942	Pyle G.T.	NX201546	Robertson P.B.	VX68169	Scarlett G.J.E.
T34988	Quarry R.J.	V66782	Robertson T.	V64698	Schultz S.F.
V67980	Quick A.N.	VX89391	Robertson W.A.	V189489	Schilling H.R.C.
N45841	Quish W.M.	VX127794	Robins M.W.	QX63933	Schneider L.A.
VX67191	Radcliffe C.E.	VX134974	Robinson C.H.	Q6209	Schmidt A.R.
TX5151	Radford A.A.	VX137169	Robinson C.W.	Q136621	Schmidt K.F. (KIA)
VX136620	Radford J.J.	VX136771	Robinson K.W.	Q114303	Schoefield E.W.
V175128	Raleigh J.A.	V57342	Robinson L.N.	VX7147	Scholz P.H.
WX21933	Randall G.	V64775	Robinson S.G.	S38974	Schulz E.
VX67506	Randles A.J.	VX103427	Robson K.	VX135264	Schulz P.L.
VX89431	Rankin F.H.	VX106107	Roche J.	VX89386	Schurr C.H. (KIA)
V64259	Ransome A.	VX146013	Rodgers R.	VX65469	Scott A.D.
V114012	Rask A.J.	V62258	Rodgers F.W.	VX78007	Scott A.L.
VX89427	Rauert N.A.	VX67178	Rofe J.	VX66869	Scott A.S.
VX64877	Rawle E.W.	VX68394	Rogers A.B.	VX65612	Scott A.
VX66440	Rawnsley C.R.	SX3171	Rogers K.C.	VX134511	Scott C.W. (KIA)
VX67852	Rawson J.	VX105377	Rollaston K.	VX89366	Scott E.M.
VX66232	Rawson S.K.	N271390	Rooke G.H.	V57631	Scott G.H.
				VX118515	Scott H.J.

Nominal Roll (continued)

V66817	Scott J.C.	V64721	Smith P.V.	VX146171	Swallow J.A.
VX135072	Scott L.	VX143822	Smith P.W.	VX89370	Swan N.J.
VX67017	Scott K.	NX172775	Smith R.B.	V185294	Sweeny L.A.
V66817	Scott K.	V112161	Smith R.D.	VX68163	Sweeny R.J.
NX193518	Scott N.	VX89365	Smith R.E.	VX66020	Sweeting F.A.
V69229	Scown C.G.	VX68522	Smith T.G.	VX68650	Swindell G.L.
VX115947	Searle A.	VX68163	Smith V.N.	VX67038	Sword B.J.
TX14764	Sellers M.S.	VX66360	Smithers D.E.	VX66362	Sydney N. (Now Brash)
VX92939	Selvidge W.J.	VX67027	Sommerville R.R.	VX117846	Sykes R.R.
VX89395	Serle R.C.	Q270550	Southey N.G.	VX150115	Sylvia W.J.
VX69635	Shanley S.	VX68142	Soutter K.A.	V220058	Tarr A.L.
S112481	Sheare G.G.	VX69336	Spear T.R.	VX67937	Tape F.T.
SX26404	Shearer A.M.	VX149594	Spencer D.	VX147649	Tate L.R.
VX40679	Shepherd V.G.	V64795	Sporn J.P.E.	VX136526	Tate S.C.
VX132545	Sheppard R.T.	V64794	Sporn R.F.	VX15270	Taylor E.F.
V57447	Shergold W.C.	VX91859	Spring W.R. AAMC	VX51619	Taylor J.R.
VX89360	Shiele V.G. (KIA)	VX68723	Stackpoole A.J.	VX89394	Taylor R.A.
VX147774	Shuttlewood W.A.	V64704	Stanesby J.	VX115934	Taylor T.A.
VX67452	Sidebottom G.	QX60379	Stay E.C.	VX64951	Taylor T.J.
V175143	Simmons G.J.	VX48389	Stayte W.	VX71198	Taylor W.J.
VX150267	Simmons J.N.	VX65659	Stead E.J.	VX67510	Teadale A.E.
VX66978	Sinclair L.G.	VX105378	Steed R.R.	VX89362	Tellefson W.B.
VX89402	Sinclair R.C.	VX68972	Stephens O.G.	V185341	Tempest E.A.
VX65942	Silvester K.F.	VX68482	Stephens R.W.	VX148884	Templar A.G.
VX63359	Simpson A.G.	Q62221	Stephenson E.	VX149971	Terrett F.H.
VX66343	Simpson G.A.	NX193385	Stephenson D.M.	Q271324	Tesch A.W.
VX67516	Sitch R.J.	V57896	Stephenson R.T.	N64129	Tesoriero G.
VX149994	Skehan J.P.	VX115945	Stevens H.W.P. (KIA)	Q5355	Theodore K.A.
SX31630	Skelly D.T.B.	VX89396	Stevens J.L.	VX68327	Thomas A.J.L.
VX68689	Skinner A.A.	VX118516	Stevens J.W.	NX17550	Thomas D.J.
V225110	Slade C.H.S.	SX19432	Stevens L.M.	VX89393	Thomas G.E.
VX25917	Slater J.S.	NX193385	Stevenson D.M.	VX67136	Thomas G.E.
QX41973	Slattery F.X.	V57896	Stevenson R.T.	VX113679	Thomas J.H.
VX132827	Slattery R.O.	VX67027	Stewart C.	VX67136	Thomas O.E.
V66913	Slaymaker S.	VX89422	Stirrat D.C. MID	VX137091	Thomson E.J.
VX67109	Smale G.A.	VX63274	Stirrat R.C.	VX93270	Thomson G.J.
VX68830	Smith C.C.	VX118517	Stobart P.	V64511	Thomson G.R.
VX123059	Smith C.G.	VX115933	Stokan D.J.	V57355	Thomson J.A. (Died OAS)
NX95326	Smith C.T.	Q269445	Stokes R.	VX66904	Thomson R.S.
VX40575	Smith C.W.D.	T20791	Storay G.H.	V57330	Thompson A.R.
VX68183	Smith F.E.	V23109	Stork C.E.	VX67262	Thompson C.
TX4964	Smith F.O.	V64592	Stork H.J.	Q53975	Thompson F.E.
VX64835	Smith H.	VX68007	Stott A.L.	QX49416	Thompson R.
VX88145	Smith H.A.	VX67372	Straughan G.D.	NX170438	Thompson V.
VX67870	Smith H.G.	VX68441	Street J.	VX66711	Thorne M.B.
VX114157	Smith H.W. (KIA)	V57833	Strong J.G.	VX141009	Thuren A.
V225063	Smith J.	V57363	Strong R.W.H.	VX150135	Timms K.W.
SX16858	Smith J.A.	VX147658	Sullivan E.J. (Now Cadman)	Q147398	Tindall R.S.
V54645	Smith J.B.	VX89444	Sullivan P.W.	V225075	Tink R.
V64594	Smith J.C.	TX16185	Summers R.A.	NX169405	Tippett J.P.
VX69102	Smith J.H.	VX147656	Summerscales A.F. AAMC	V67052	Toleman A.J.
VX78928	Smith J.W.	VX67040	Sutcliffe H.J.	VX68063	Tournier C.E.
NX171748	Smith K.A.	VX89377	Sutherland J.G.	QX53980	Town K.A.
V220078	Smith K.D. (Died of illness)	N226035	Sutton A.C.	VX66334	Towns G.
NX168855	Smith K.O.				

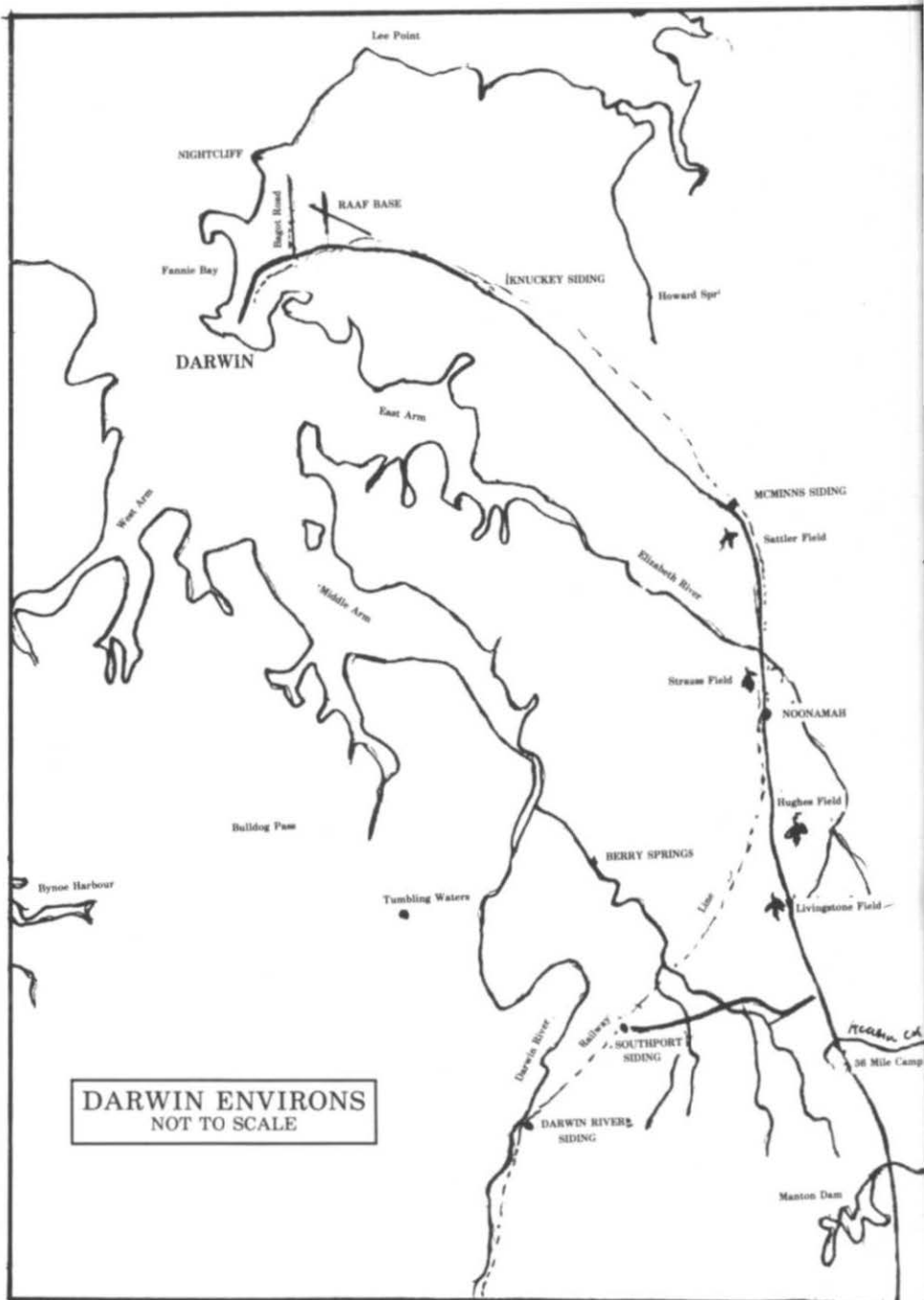
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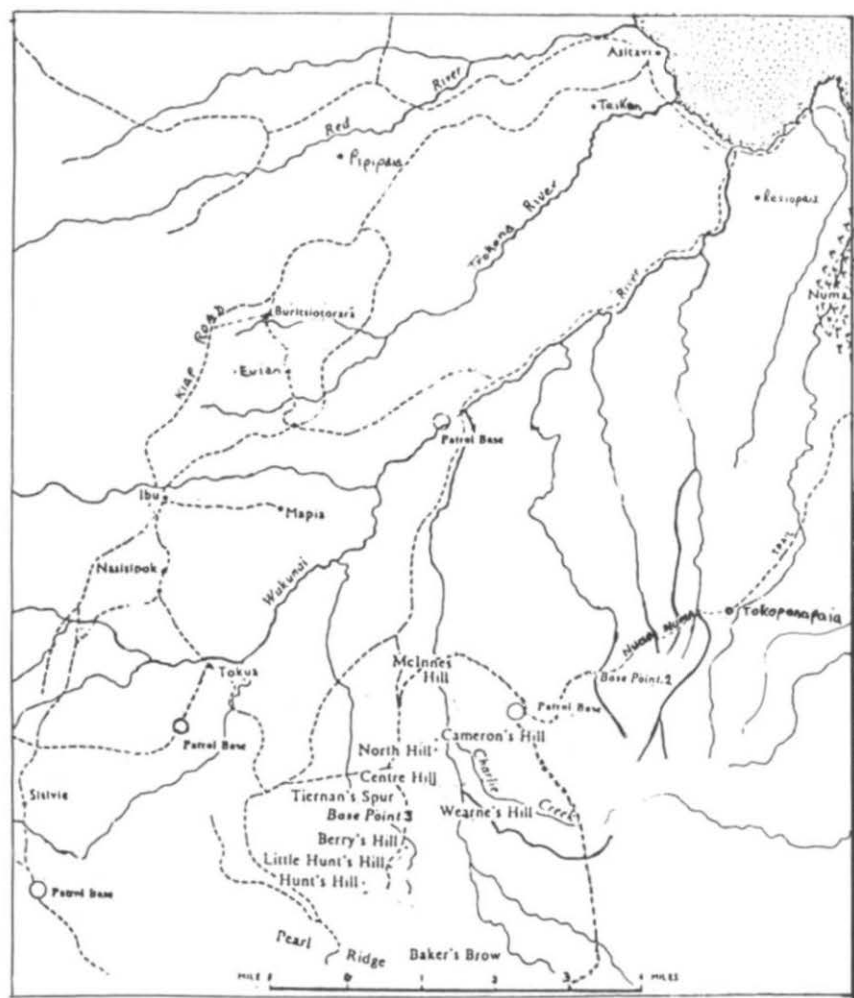
QX62859	Townson A.J.	VX68282	Wallis W.J.	TX16108	Williams D.J.
V57251	Traeger J.G.	TX14751	Walsh P.J.	N450137	Williams F.H.
VX100659	Trall R.	VX89410	Walsh R.J.	V64722	Williams H.L.
VX62922	Travers E.J.	VX89400	Walsh W.	VX66593	Williams J.
Q269263	Travers J.E.	V57253	Walters A.G.	QX55829	Williams L.E. (Died OAS)
VX69643	Travers T.C.	VX64197	Warner L.J.R.	V225009	Williams M.D.
VX89428	Treadwell H.T.	V113740	Waters A.R.	VX89439	Williams R.
VX68384	Treadwell K.	VX68077	Waters G.H.	V69130	Williams W.R.
VX89440	Trembath J.	V64520	Waters S.D.	NX201164	Williamson J.F.
V180213	Tribe J.A.	VX62673	Watkins W.J.	V64417	Williamson N.
VX134867	Tschirpig L.V.	WX37426	Watson A.B. (KIA)	V68429	Willis J.C.
NX176582	Tubman G.M.	VX55824	Watson A.G.	NX177050	Wills G.R.
VX115923	Tucker S.W.J.	V57376	Watson K.G.D.	V57603	Willmott J.W.
NX190969	Turnbull L.	T102644	Waxman R.J.	VX11	Wilmoth J.A.
VX67616	Turner A.W.	VX149772	Waywood R.B.	VX145732	Wilson L.G.W.
VX68596	Turner F.	SX37096	Webb N.G.	VX67079	Wilson R.C.A.
NX171775	Turner J.M.	N249568	Webster F.T.	VX67964	Wilson T.J.
V55506	Turner S.W.	V220048	Wedge B.H.	VX53913	Wilson W.
VX23190	Turvey J.W.	V220053	Wedge M.R.	VX67954	Wilson W.
V64576	Tyers M.C.A.	VX66950	Weeks G.H. MID	VX67950	Wilson W.A.
VX63096	Tyers W.W.	Q15506	Weldon J.E.	V64363	Wilton F.T.
VX146136	Tyter R.A.	VX132671	Wells J.F.H.	VX42550	Wiseman E.J.
NX172281	Umback F.F.	S41078	Wells M.	VX89364	Wishart H.L.
NX172280	Underhill S.G.	VX69655	Wells W.H.	VX137097	Withell M.C.K.
NX169812	Urquhart C.G.	Q269143	Wenck N.V.	N296755	Witherden R.D.
V225045	Uthenwoldt E.N.	VX135002	West A.W.	NX193386	Withington H.T.G.
V57873	Vandenberg J.G.	V54889	West G.O.R.	V225114	Wood A.B.
VX105379	Vandenberg R.J.	VX137096	West H.F.	VX63121	Wood A.E.
VX120859	Vann A.S.W.	V57688	Westcombe M.	W25716	Wood E.T.
VX69686	Vaughan W.J.	VX115917	Westgarth R.E.	VX119520	Wood J.A.
WX33824	Veale H.J.	V57865	Westley S.R.	VX89417	Wood M.G.
NX201771	Veale K.W.	VX47811	Westwood H.V.	VX67975	Wood N.L.
VX145102	Venables S.G.	S112481	Wheare G.C.	N168575	Woodbury T.B.
V64655	Vernon R.S.	VX89390	Wheeler A.B.	VX66760	Woodford L.A.
N16505	Vessey E.	VX115943	Wheeler N.L.	V69327	Woodward W.W.
V57400	Vereker D.W.	VX52622	Wheldon D.R.	VX63102	Woolcock F.C.
NX202251	Vetter R.M.	VX67678	Whitaker R.E.	VX135059	Worland R.J.
VX19391	Vidler W.J.	VX89371	White E.E.	VX140843	Wright G.A.
QX40921	Vogler R.H.	VX68126	White L.J.	WX29742	Wright G.D.
N440929	Wainwright A.W.	VX67612	Whitehouse H.F.	VX89414	Wright J.L.
VX151725	Wait L.A.	V57341	Whitford A.	VX146200	Wright J.R.
V220077	Wakefield L.C.	V5870	Whitford A.E.	VX67654	Yendle D.J.
SX19838	Wakefield S.A.	V180223	Whittington R.S.	N334828	Yewdall R.J.
NX202356	Wakeford H.J.	VX120857	Wickham K.W.	VX132544	Young A.W.
WX27485	Walkenden J.H.	VX68460	Wight N.F.	VX115926	Young S.J.
VX62153	Walker D.	VX67933	Wigney L.G.	VX137170	Zibell C.E.
VX68977	Walker J.	Q146070	Wilkie G.	VX118518	Zibell M.A.
VX148040	Walker J.A. AAMC	V220128	Wilkie J.E.	VX115912	Ziersch R.A.R.
VX68662	Walker J.T.	TX15200	Williams A.J.	VX92834	Zimmer A.W.
V57286	Wall B.K.	VX67031	Williams C.	VX146344	Zimmerman J.P.
VX67984	Wallis H.A.				

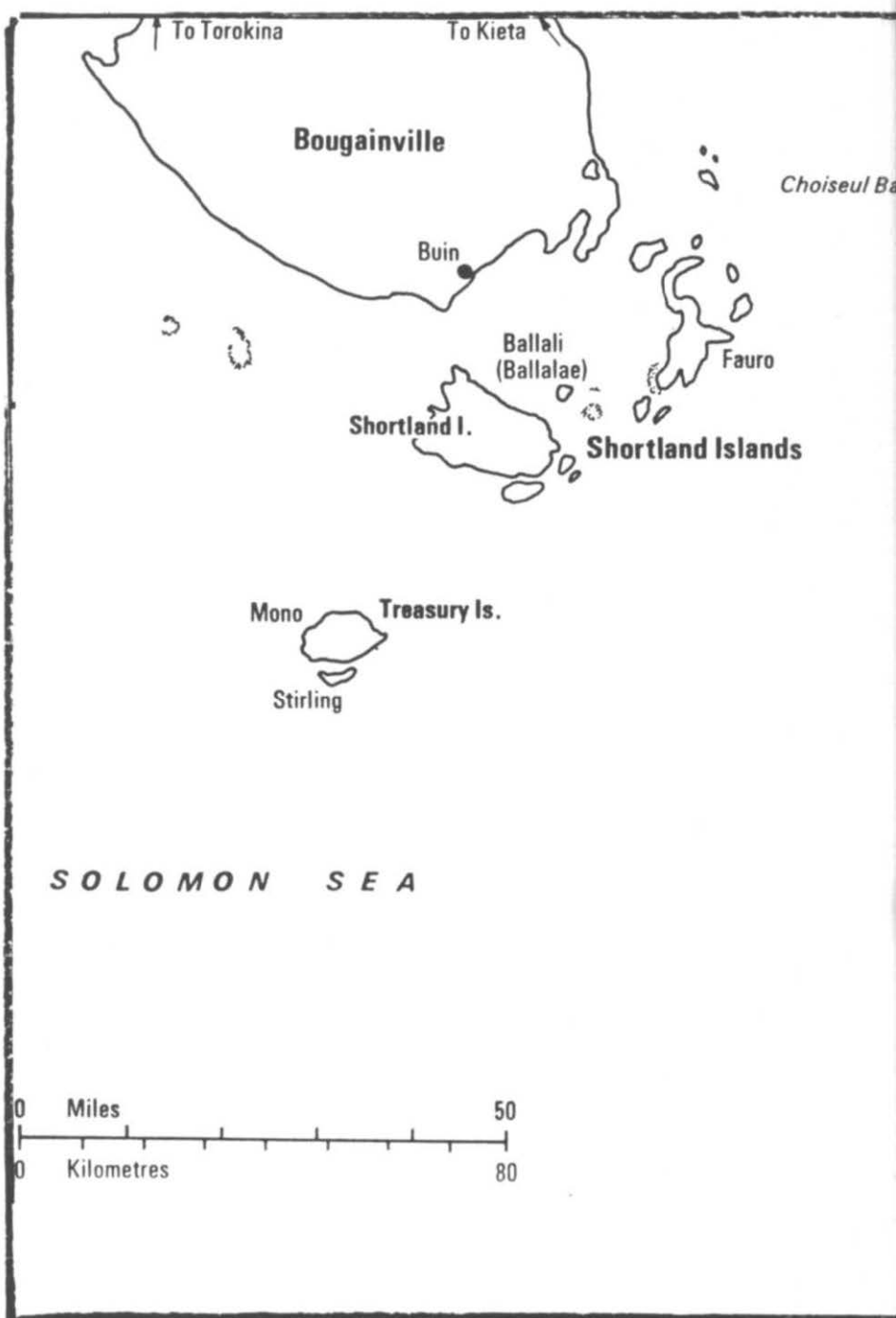
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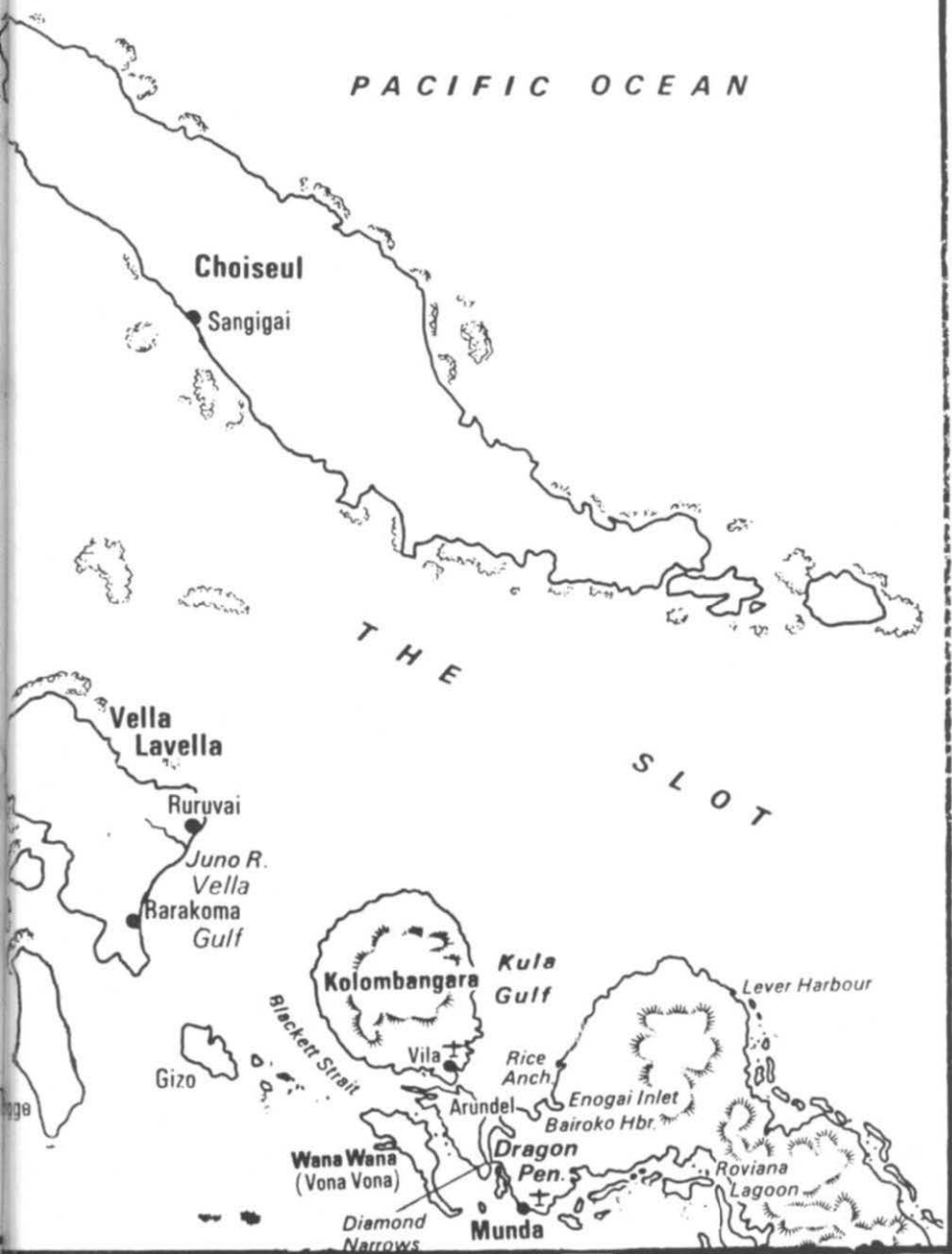
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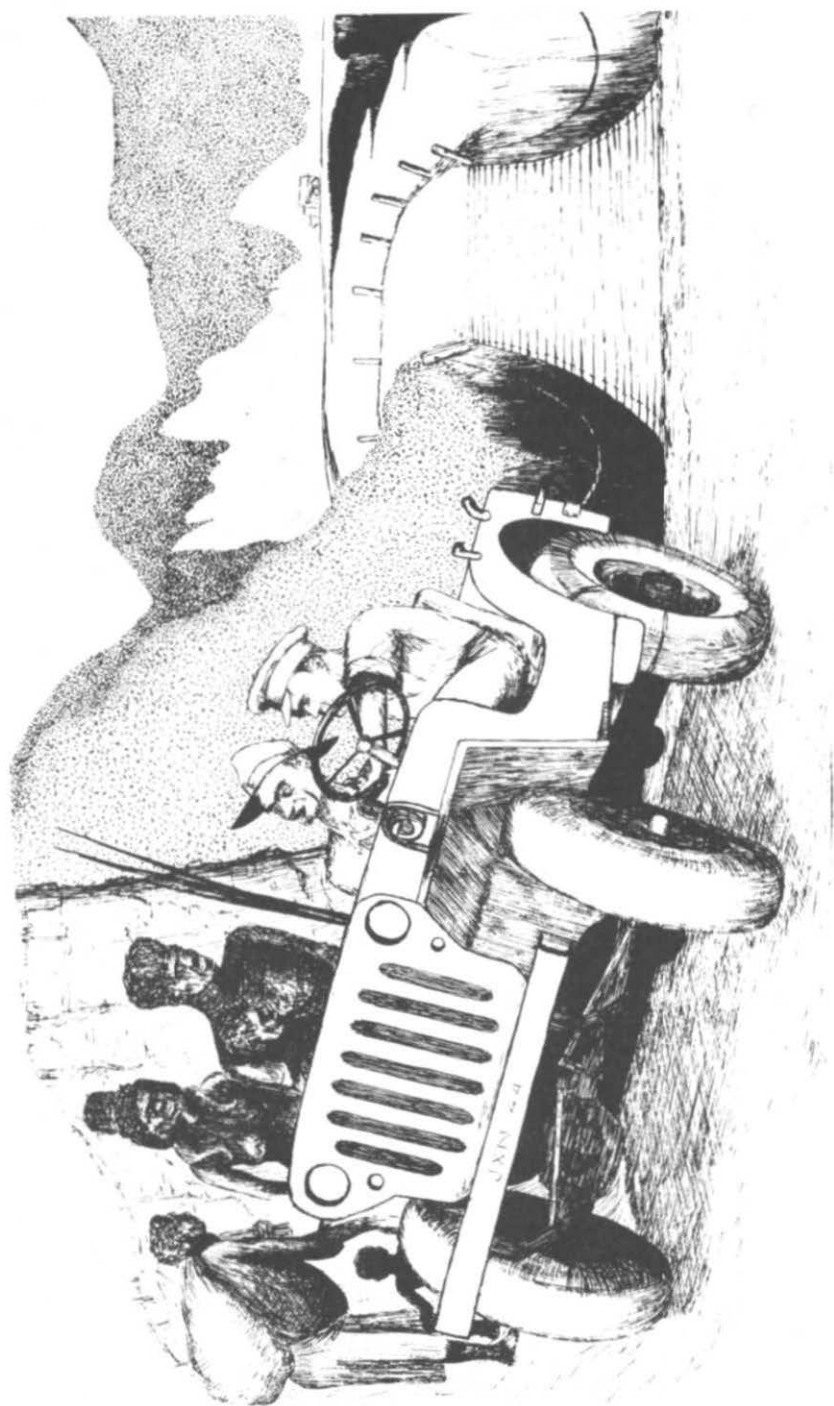
















The Author

Enlisted at the age of sixteen in the Militia with 58th Battalion at Essendon, Victoria, in 1939. Seconded to HQ 15 Brigade in February 1940, and transferred to 53rd Ack-Ack Coy, RAE, in March, 1941.

Enlisted AIF in July, 1941 and joined 7th Battalion in February, 1942.

After the war served in the Interim Army with 55/53rd Infantry Battalion (AIF) in Rabaul, before joining the British Commonwealth Occupation Force for service in Japan. Joined the Regular Army in March, 1948 and was discharged in October, 1953.

Enlisted in the CMF in 1965 and served on FTD until rejoining the Regular Army in October, 1968. Served in Vietnam during 1970 and was again discharged in March, 1975.

Between enlistments, was employed by Hoyts Theatres Ltd. and the Royal Melbourne Hospital Central Linen Service and Group Laundry. Was Secretary of the 7th Battalion (1939-45) Association for a number of years and is the current editor of the Association's official journal "On Parade".