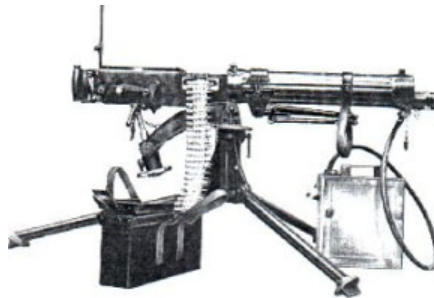


**THE 2/2ND AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN BATTALION
ASSOCIATION**

MUZZLE BLAST

MARCH 2012



www.2nd2ndmachinegunbn.com
muzzleblast22@gmail.com

2/2nd AUST MG BN ASSOCIATION

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Denis Riley, Di Symon

Hon. Member: Ralph Short

Deceased Hon. Life Members:

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John Cockram, Jim Cuddihy, Clyde Davy, Jim Dods,
Gerry Ferguson, Charles Gold, Nev Green, Norm Ihlein,
John Kenyon, Frank Lavan, Ian Mills, Les Reid, Mick Riley,
Bok Rowe, Keith Sloss, Reg Somerville, Lon Villiers, Wes Ward

We are hoping you will join the Battalion on

ANZAC DAY

Wednesday 25th April 2012

WREATH LAYING : 7.45AM

Meet in Barrack Street outside the Combined Services RSL Club. David Martin will lead 2/2nd members to the Cenotaph at 8AM sharp. Barrack St is 260 metres from Wynyard Station and 430 metres from Town Hall Station. The link below provides the map the location of the Combined Services Club

<http://www.combinedservicesrsl.com.au/location.htm> .

THE PARADE: By 10am

meet under the Battalion banner in Castlereagh Street, between King St and Martin Place and outside the MLC Building.

Non veterans are discouraged by the RSL from marching within the Battalion groups , unless assisting a veteran, though they 'will not be escorted away.' The 2/2nd MG Association has left the decision to join the Battalion in the march as an individual one. They do however stress the need for recognition of a code of attire (shirt with collar, preferably with tie, preferably with jacket for the men and 'modest' attire for women, preferably dress or suit, medals on right chest) and conduct during the march. If unsure of the protocols please contact Barry Izzard on 029672 7914 prior to the March

REUNION: 12 for 12.30

Your invitation and the details are on the centre pages 10 and 11

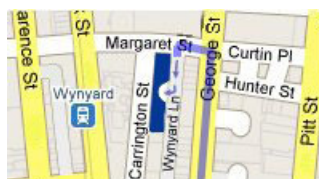
At The Menzies Hotel, 14 Carrington St, Sydney ph 0292991000

<http://www.sydneymenzieshotel.com.au/>

After the March, to be seated for lunch by 12.30

To allow for smooth running of the event, your intention to attend and payment should reach Denis Riley no later than Wednesday 18th April

PARKING Is available, closeby at Wynyard Lane Car Park (enter via Margaret St) \$25 weekend rate, for the day (payable only to the car park) from 6.30AM <http://www.wynyardlanecarpark.com.au/casual.aspx>



FROM THE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY MEETINGS, Members and Associates

are held on the *fourth Saturday of the month*.

As there is no meeting is held in April, the next is planned for Saturday 26th May 2012. Always :

at 11.30am, Roseville Memorial Club, 64 Pacific Highway, Roseville, conveniently opposite Roseville Station.

After the meetings we often enjoy lunch within the club or locally. You would be made very welcome.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Of \$20 are due annually. With the ANZAC Day invitation on page 11, the subscription payment options are provided.

If you are unsure whether you are currently a financial member we have published a reference list in this edition on pages 14 and 15

Jack RINALDI has been found! He lives with Pat at this address:

SIR JAMES TERRACE, 11 STAMP STREET, DECEPTION BAY, QLD 4508.

His nephew, Jim, reports that they have moved into a care facility and both are as well as can be expected, though they are both quite hard of hearing. If you wish to phone them it is best done through his nephew Jim Silk, or Willie, his wife, on 0733513655. They visit regularly and can pass on any messages. He still enjoys hearing about everyone and receiving the Muzzle Blast.

Adrian Simpson writes:

“It is suggested that any gunner living in or visiting that area may like to call on them. We are sure they will be very pleased to see you.

Jack was a highly respected member of B2. He had the vital job of calculating the range to the target, for our guns, especially at Alamein.

After the war they settled on the Sunshine Coast”

HISTORY of the DAWN SERVICE

an ANZAC tradition

What is now a universal tradition in Australia and New Zealand had simple beginnings in Albany Western Australia.

The initial service was held by Rev Arthur Earnest White. He had enlisted as a padre with the 44th Battalion, First AIF. They left Australia in convoy from the Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound at Albany in November 1914. Prior to embarkation, at 4am in that beautiful place, Rev White conducted a service for all of his Battalion. It was the first Dawn Service and the origin of the tradition



King George Sound from Mount Clarence http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_George_Sound

In 1919 Rev White returned to Australia and Albany as Rector of St John's Church.

As a result of his recollection of that service and his experiences of war, he was inspired to permanently honour the servicemen. He is quoted to have said "Albany was the last sight of land these ANZAC troops saw after leaving Australian shores and some of them never returned. We should hold a service (here) at the first light of dawn each ANZAC Day to commemorate them". On ANZAC Day, 1923 at Mount Clarence, overlooking King George Sound, Albany, he conducted the 'first Commemorative Dawn Service'. The words "as the sun rises and goeth down, we will remember them" were recited as a wreath was quietly floated out to sea.

It was such a moving experience for all the attendees, that quickly news spread and Returned Service Communities emulated the service in wider Australia and New Zealand.

http://www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/commemorations/commemorative_events/organise_events/Documents/21.pdf

[Mustafa Kemal Atatürk](#), president of Turkey from 1923 until 1938 is recognised by naming the entrance into Princess Royal Harbour as Ataturk Entrance.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_George_Sound

**AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT ONE of the 'BOYS' of the BATTALION,
HIS CHILDHOOD INTERNMENT and HIS LINK TO THE KOKODA TRAIL**

The book named **'The Architect of Kokoda'** by **Robyn Kienzle**, was discovered by Adrian Simpson. He recognised the surname of the author but the associated story was news. Robyn's Father In Law was Herbert (Bert) Kienzle. Herbert was Wally's brother. Their story is an interesting one, particularly as Wally served with the 2/2nds in the Middle East. There is another interest though, as Bert was a pioneer explorer and settler of the Owen Stanley Ranges of New Guinea who learned Motu, the native language, and employed the 'fuzzy wuzzies' who originated from various and not necessarily conciliatory tribes. Wally worked with Bert as Robyn's story below will attest. Whilst the 2/2nds did not serve on The Kokoda Trail (see the book: named by Bert), but they no doubt benefited from Bert's local knowledge, his expertise, and his ability to engage with the local people. The Australian government and the army sought Bert's counsel during the New Guinea Campaign.

Robyn wrote the following story for the Battalion members.

The book is a 'good read' available in hard and softcover and on iTunes



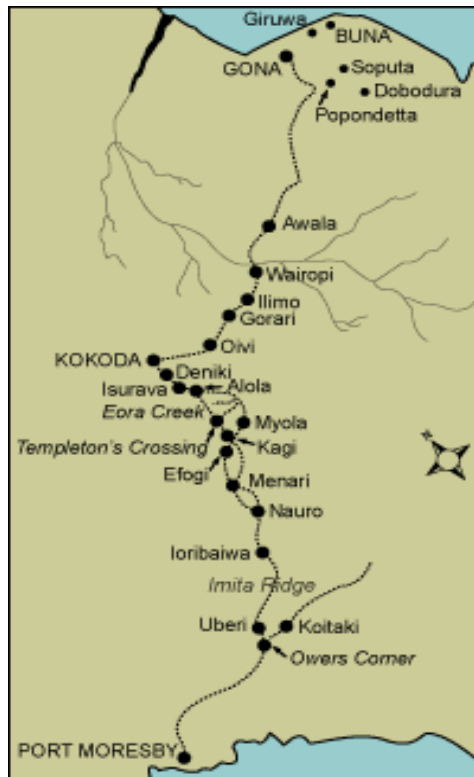
WALLACE ALFRED KIENZLE



Wallace Alfred Kienzle, called Wally or "the Kokoda Kid" by his army mates, was born in Levuka, Fiji in 1914 in rather tragic circumstances. His beautiful mother Mary, who was half English half Samoan, died only a few hours after his delivery leaving his father Alfred with four children the eldest of whom was Herbert, aged 9. Only a year or so later, Alfred married Hally Pearse, daughter of the well-known bootmaking family from Fremantle. Despite being of well established Australian stock, in 1917 when they decided to remove all persons with German connections and intern them as enemy aliens in camps in Australia, Wallace along with his stepmother and 3 siblings, was placed on a banana boat to Sydney then a train to Bourke where they were incarcerated in terrible conditions and treated like war criminals. Wallace would often bemoan in later

years that “ as a mere babe in arm I was torn from my home and thrown in a concentration camp”. They were joined in Bourke by their father Alfred who had been gaoled at Trial Bay in 1916. From Bourke they went to Molonglo where they remained until 1919. Times remained tough even when they were released as all their property & possessions were confiscated in Fiji so they were virtually destitute and spent some time in a Salvation Army Hostel.

After school, Wallace attended Hawkesbury Ag College where he developed a love of the land and cattle in particular, and would often visit his step family and other relatives in WA and around Echuca. In 1935, when he was 21 years old, Wallace accepted an offer from his older brother Herbert to join him working in the goldfields in the Yodda Valley near Kokoda in Papua New Guinea. So began a harsh but adventurous life for which Wallace with his strong constitution was well fit.



Kokoda Track map from

<http://www.wv2australia.gov.au/asfaras/kokoda.html>

In late 1936, Wallace was offered a job to join a prospecting party to explore the upper regions of the Fly and Sepik Rivers. This expedition, in which Wallace played a major part, was to be acknowledged as an epic journey and is considered as one of the most significant in the exploration of Papua New Guinea. While on the expedition, it was Wallace's job to keep the supplies up to the prospectors, including fresh meat which he obtained in the form of wild pigs and goura pigeons that he shot in the surrounding forests where they were quite plentiful. He became an excellent marksman and the story goes that at one stage when supplies were running low a group of natives raided the stores while he was absent from camp, threatening and scaring off all the expedition porters in camp. Wallace returned in time to see them disappearing into the distance, by now about one kilometre away. He was so incensed at their thievery that he took aim at one of the offenders - and hit him! Good shot or just bloody good luck? The thieves dropped the axes and knives they were carrying and hightailed it back to their village. Wallace followed them there where he found the culprit was a fellow called Arfiengim. He was not badly hurt, with only a flesh wound in the back of his shoulder but he literally did not know what had hit him! Even though they had observed Wallace shooting game, they had no idea the damage a bullet could do to a human, especially from so far away. Wallace applied first aid and the native soon recovered but they never again had trouble with these villagers trying to steal camp supplies. By the end of May 1937, they had to concede that there was no payable gold anywhere that they had searched but the expedition was later labelled.. "*the most ambitious and determined effort ever to find gold in the centre of New Guinea was over, with honour even if not with profit*".

Wallace returned to the Yodda where life continued as before for some years, as Bert and his family struggled to make money from gold and establish a rubber plantation. Then with the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, in 1940 Wallace headed south and joined up at Paddington where he was issued **Service Number NX23283 and allotted to the 2/2nd Machine Gun Battalion**. After a quick trip back to Papua to say farewell to family, on 28th January 1941, Wallace boarded the HMT "Aquitania" along with the rest of his battalion.

He wrote to his sister Elsa in America on the 2nd June 1941 that he had been through Palestine, Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jaffa with a week at Port Said, and he expressed concern that the problem with these many cosmopolitan centres is that they make a wonderful harbourage for fifth columnists. Of the region in general, he wrote “ *it is a country full of surprises and disappointments.... all the visions of grandeur of which we read at Sunday school were rudely shattered when the object of all the flowery literature was some dump of a place*”. Of Palestine, he notes with surprise that all the land from the sea coast to the mountains is truly beautiful arable land dotted with orange groves .He goes on to pen some comments that it is surprising were not obliterated by the censor.

“ As to cleaning up the Germans that wouldn’t be so hard if they put all the Aussies together with all the equipment and let ‘em go! Up to date Hitler has had his own way but he’ll meet his Waterloo soon. Anyway, I’m not going to pass any comment – there is already too much baloney and empty wind being used on the same subject”

On returning to Australia in February 1943, Bert convinced him to transfer to ANGAU* and come to New Guinea, hoping he would join him in the work he was doing on the North Coast of Papua, at Buna and Gona, but the administration had other plans and sent Wallace to Bougainville where his knowledge of the local people was needed to control the natives on the Numa Numa Trail **in their assistance of Aussies and US troops still struggling to drive the Japanese of the islands. He did an excellent job and was promoted to major.

After the war, in 1947, Wallace married Ailsa, Bert’s wife Meryl’s sister. He worked hard with his brother Bert developing their family property Mamba Estate with rubber and cattle and diversifying over the years into various other associated businesses. In 1979, when the Estates were sold, Wallace retired with Ailsa to their home at Clareville Beach where he passed away in 1989.

By Robyn Kienzle with extracts from her book “ The Architect of Kokoda” , the biography of Bert Kienzle

*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_New_Guinea_Administrative_Unit

**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numa_Numa_Trail

**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bougainville_campaign

INVITATION

ANZAC DAY LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2012

You are invited to join us at the Anzac Day Luncheon. We hope you will attend. The luncheon, which will be held again at the Menzies Hotel is always a wonderful event, a great chance to catch up with your fellow members – so If you have attended in the past or if you have considered attending, why not make it this year.

To allow for the smooth running of the event, notice of intention to attend and payment, should reach Denis Riley as early as practical, but not later than Wednesday 18th April

PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER Please send the form, from the facing page, and your payment to

Denis Riley

17 Lisa Crescent,

Castle Hill NSW, 2154.

Make the cheque out to

2/2ND AUST MACHINE GUN BATTALION ASSOCIATION

OR

DIRECT DEPOSIT to the association's bank account

Account Name	2/2ND AUST MACHINE GUN BATTALION ASSOCIATION		
Bank	WESTPAC	Branch	FRENCHS FOREST
BSB	032 123	Account	130 610

Put your name as reference on your deposit. Advise the treasurer by email, that you have made the payment, how much was transferred and what the payment was for. (eg Luncheon and Members Name)

Notify Denis Riley at email address:- denriley@hotmail.com

ANZAC DAY LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2012

Seating at 12.30 PM

I/We intend to attend this reunion-PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME(S)

I Prefer To Be Seated With (Optional):

The luncheon will be \$55 per head for Associates and guests.

**2/2nd Veterans, wives and widows are free of charge -
compliments of the association.**

**The hotel wishes to be notified of special dietary requirements,
including vegetarian option, prior to April 13th**

Please indicate the requirement and for whom:

(and/or email Di Symon: diandjohnsymon@bigpond.com)

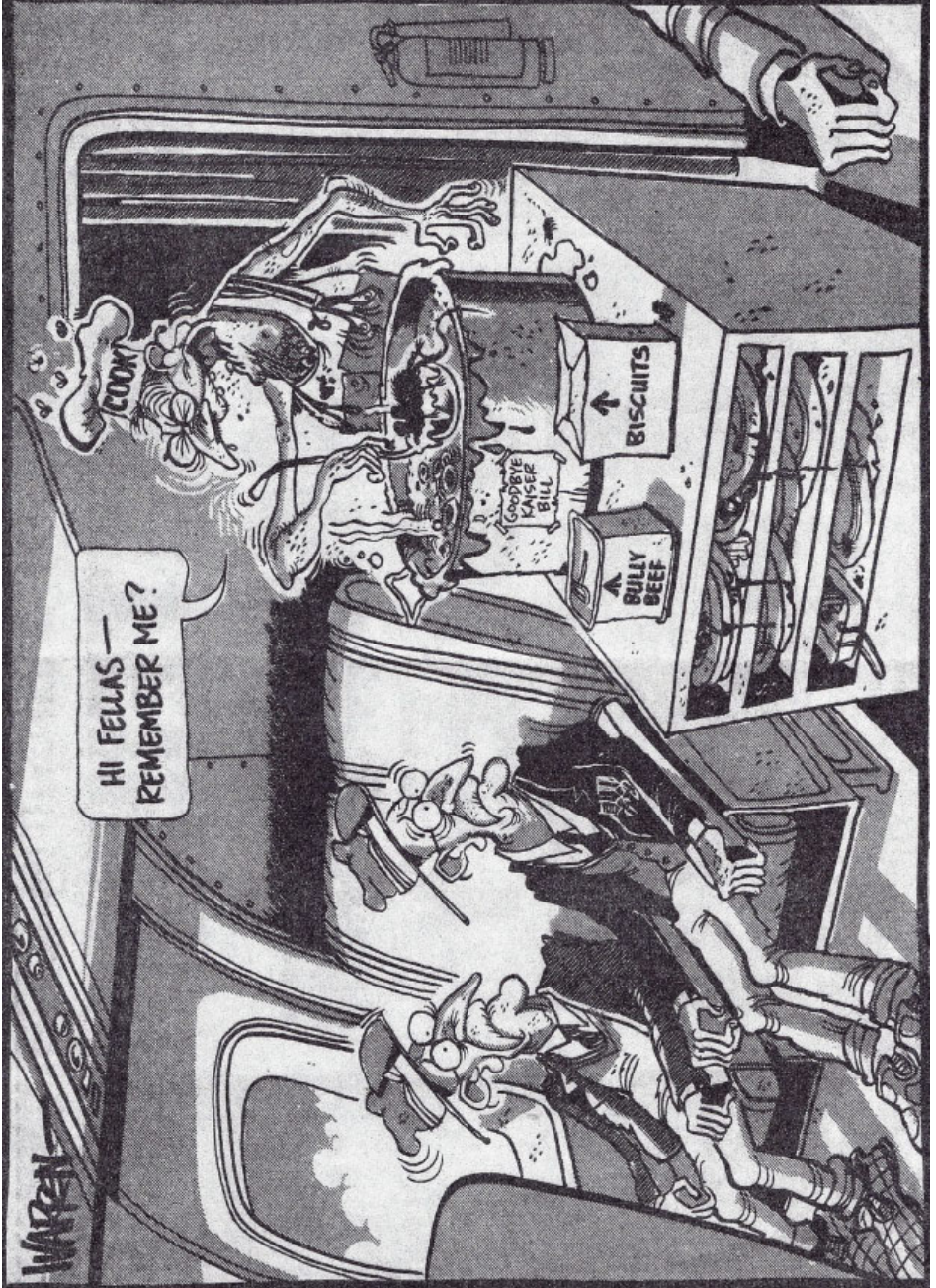
Annual Subscriptions of \$20

Subs can be included with your Luncheon remittance

**Subs paid in 2012 and prior to Anzac day will make you financial
to**

Anzac Day 2013.

Please nominate who you are paying subs for:



The Reunion Lunch Will Be A Whole Lot Better

AUSTRALIA FACING INVASION

Mr. Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia, in a broadcast to Britain last night "from the land that is preparing to meet an invasion," reiterated Australia's determination to fight by the side of the motherland until victory is won. Speaking from Canberra, Mr. Curtin said:—"While we watch the enemy approaching ever closer to our shores we remember how the people of Britain used the greatest weapon of all to hold off the invader—the weapon of an indomitable spirit. Like Britain after Dunkirk, we find that we have not enough arms, not enough aeroplanes. You did not have enough aeroplanes nor enough arms, but you did have the will to resist. It was the spirit of the people that freed Britain, and it will be the spirit of the Australian people that will not only save Australia but send us marching forward to victory.

"Dangerous days lie ahead of us, but under this threat the Empire is more united than ever before. The people of Australia have no illusions about this struggle. They know that this is not a fight for Australia, nor for the Empire, nor for any other section of the world, but a fight for the world itself. We are practical Empire patriots—practical demo-

ON THIS DAY

April 29 1942



This assurance of solidarity with Britain, which was given by the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Curtin, in spite of Japan's threat to his country, was clearly illustrated six months later when some of Australia's finest troops played a vital role at the battle of El Alamein.

crats; the Australians were the first Empire people to send their men away from their shores to fight for the Empire. They have always fought for the Empire, they have always fought for what is right, and always fought against what is wrong, because that is their nature. With their blood Australians have written many glorious pages of Empire history.

"We have a Commander-in-Chief, a great soldier, General Douglas MacArthur, and in Australia to-day the fighting men of Australia

and America march as one army under one leader. Faced with the threat of an invasion our armies are preparing to take the offensive. That is the Anzac spirit; that is the spirit that is inspiring the Empire and the United Nations to-day. It is a spirit that knows not defeat; it is for life itself we strive.

"This purpose abides with us. It keeps the Axis Powers in the west separated from their eastern partner. It is the blow that will prove the turning point in the total conflict. Australia is proud of its son-ship to the Motherland. In its loyalty it accepts the mantle that has come to it. It will inexorably, and with all that it has, stand side by side with you in upholding what we are, and working and fighting to the end, for victory."

FIVE EGGS A HEAD FOR APRIL

It has now been decided that the egg ration for April is to be increased to five for each person, though in some areas the fifth egg may not be obtainable until early in May. The bulk of the eggs will be home produced. Last year approximately 48,000,000 home-produced eggs passed through the stations of the Ministry, an increase of 15 per cent, and 71,300,000 were distributed.

CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS of THE 2/2nd MACHINE GUN BATTALION

MR. C.W. ALDRICK	MS. K. GRAHAM
MR. P. ANLEY	MRS. P. GRAHAM
MRS. E. BALLARD	MRS. M. GREEN
MRS. M. BARGWANNA	MR. A.J.W. GYLES
MRS. B. BEITZ	MRS. L. GYLES
MR. H. BOLTON	MISS S.L.F. GYLES
MRS. V. BOMFORD	MRS. K. HAGUE
MRS. P. BOURKE	MRS. D. HAMPTON
MRS. L. BOWAN	MRS. A. HARLEY
MRS. D. BOYDELL	MR. B. HARLEY
MR. T. BRAITHWAITE-LYNCH	MR. J. HARLEY
MRS. M. BROADHURST	MR. M. HARLEY
MR. R. BROADHURST	MR. W.A. HARLEY
MS. C. BROWN	MRS. D. HERMAN
MS. D. BROWN	MR. D. HERMAN
MR. M. BROWN	MR. M. HERMAN
MR. P.J. BROWN	MRS. M. HORAN
MR. R.A. BROWN	MR. L. IHLEIN
MR. R.L. BROWN	MR. O. IHLEIN
MRS. H. CALLAGHAN	MR. B. IZZARD
MRS. M. CHRISTIE	MRS. R. JACKSON
MRS. J. CHURCHYARD	MRS. M. JOHNSON
MS. K. FAHEY	MR. F.J. JORDAN
MRS. V. FAIRBAIRN	MR. S. KIRTON
MR. R.J. FITZSIMMONS	MRS. M. KNIGHT
MRS. C. FREEMAN	MRS. M. LADE
MS. D. GARD	MR. A. LAMB
MRS. M.G. GARLAND	MR. M.P. LAMB
MRS. T. GEANY	MRS. P.K. LAMB
MR. E. GEORGE	MR. R. LAMB
MRS. J. GOULDER	MS. B. LANE
MR. A. GRAFF	MRS. M. LANE
MRS. D.B. GRAFF	MRS. L. LARSSON
MR. J.M. GRAHAM	MR. M. LARSSON
	MRS. K. LASON

CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS of THE 2/2nd MACHINE GUN BATTALION

continued

MRS. A.	LAVAN	MR. R.	RIDYARD
MS. A.	LAVAN	MR. D.E.	RILEY
MR. A.M.	LAVAN	MR. I.G.	RILEY
MS. G.	LAVAN	MR. B.A.	ROBINSON
MS. M.	LAVAN	MR. I.	ROBINSON
MASTR. N.	LAVAN	MRS. D.	ROWE
MASTR. W	LAVAN	MRS. J.	SANDERS
MR. S.K.	LEES	MR. A.	SELMES
MR. P	LEMAR	MR. K.	SELMES
MR. P.	LYNCH	MRS. M.	SELMES
MRS. P.	LYNCH	MR. R.	SHORT
MRS. B.	MACKAY	MR. Adrian W	SIMPSON
MS. D.	MALONEY	MR. Anthony W	SIMPSON
MR. D.	MARTIN	MR. B.W.	SIMPSON
MRS. M	McCALLUM	MRS. D.	SMITH
MR. A.C.	McVEY	MS. M	SMITH
MR. G.C.	McVEY	MR. P.	SPEEDING
MRS. P.	McVEY	MRS. R.	SPEEDING
MR. R.G.	McVEY	MR. H.B.	STANILAND
MR. J.D.	MILLER	MRS. B.	STARKEY
MRS. H.	MONKS	MR. R.F.F	STEWART
MR. M.	MUIR	MR. A.	SYMON
MR. R.J.	MYERS	MRS. D.	SYMON
MRS. M.	NICHOLSON	MRS. H	SYMON
MR. E.	NUNN	MR. J.	SYMON
MRS. M.E.	OLIVER	MRS. A.	TEMPLE
MRS. W.G.	PARKHILL	MR. D.W.	THOMAS
MRS. M.	PATTERSON	MR. M.	THOMAS
MR. J.	PERRIN	MRS. R	TRIGGER
MR. L.C.	POOLE	MR. D.	WELLS
MRS. R.	PURDON	MRS. N.	WELSH
MRS. M.	REID	MRS. M.	WHELAN
MR. R	RICE	MR. J.	WHITE
MRS. I	RIDYARD	MRS. L	WHITE

Does the Hat or The Harmonica Help You

Recognise This Veteran?

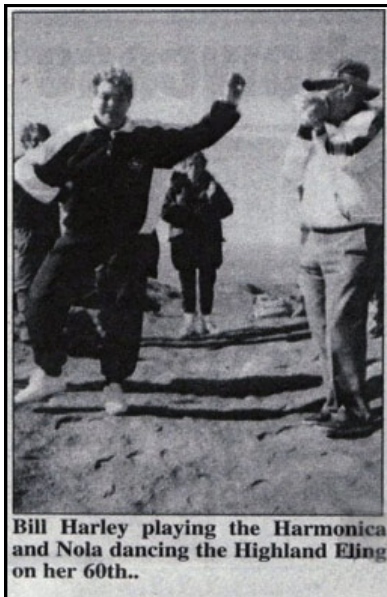
In her local newspaper on 23rd December 2011, it is reported how Nola Negus, a lover of dance, celebrates the art in a different place, at the beginning of each decade of her age.

Nola was 80 on December 15th 2011. For her 80th birthday she danced a solo to 'There's no business like show business at the local dance school concert.

For her 70th Nola climbed the Harbour Bridge. She performed 'Nola's Tap Step' under the flag at the top of the climb.

For her 60th, it is reported in the article, Nola climbed Uluru and performed the Highland Fling. Nola lives in Cowra, and so does Bill Harley who was also touring the area at the time. The photo confirms something we may not have known about Bill.... he is the harmonica player, who played during her dance routine on top of the 'Rock'.

Bill reports it "was the pinnacle of his music career"



VALE

Rev. Canon Raymond (Ray) Joseph BOMFORD

15.05.1924 – 13.01.2012



Ray had a Christian heritage being a young member of St John's Campsie with his widowed Mother, and a Grandfather with a legendary history as a Sunday School teacher.

Those who knew Ray would remember his accuracy and grasp of detail. Those skills translated into a reputation as the best lay secretary of the Sydney Synod, as well as his hobbies of philately, piano playing and 'train spotting'. During the occasional meeting, he was known to pause to listen to a passing train, then report the number of the train and how many minutes late it was.

When he was 18 he enlisted in the army, in 110 Brigade RAEME, to serve the last 2 years of WW11. Some time later, Ray was also made the honorary padre to the 2/2nd Machine Gun Battalion with whom he remained in contact for the rest of his life.

Ray studied at Moore College, graduating with first class honours in 1951. From Deacon and priest in 1952 he progressed through parishes in Toongabbie, Seven Hills, Girraween, Nowra, Mosman, and Springwood. Undoubtedly there would be 'Gunnery' in these various parishes.

Maureen and Ray had married in 1950, and raised five children, Jennifer, Stephen, John, Cathy and Janet. Maureen died in 1978. Five years later Ray married Verna. They lived in Parramatta where Ray was Rector and Senior Canon until his retirement in 1991.

Ray officiated at various weddings and funerals of the 'Gunnery' and on ANZAC Day. In Mosman he officiated at the marriage of Brigadier Sir Frederick Gal- laghan "Black Jack" s Marriage to Persia Porter in 1969

He is remembered for his diligence, his ability to remember names, his organisation, an ability to include people and get them involved, and his deep religious faith.

We are grateful for Canon Bruce Morrison's contribution to Ray's memorial by the eulogy he delivered at Ray's Thanksgiving Service, St John's Cathedral, Parramatta.

VALE

George MEHIELOFF NX167369



George enlisted in the Army turning 18 in 1942.

He was sent to Cowra Military Camp where the first Machine gun Training Btn was being formed where he was in the 1st Platoon of raw recruits. This was in September 1942 and after a little over 7 months of training he was sent on draft as a machine gun reinforcement with a number of others he had trained with.

This group arrived in Port Moresby in September 1943 and were posted to the 2/2nd Machine Gun Battalion. They joined the Btn at Buna where the battalions L.O.B.S (left out of battle) were and duly arrived in Finchhaven Where George was posted to "C" Company. He remained with "C" Company until the war ended.

There were 14 in this group and they were Ted Archer, W. Clark, Harry Crisp, "Bluey" Edmunds, Neville Fitzgerald, Kevin Granly, Bill Harley, Frank Lade, George Mehieloff, Allan Perry, Peter Pitazaris, Bob Scroop, "Tolly" Tolhurst, George Whiteman, "Snowy" Campbell, , joined us at Buna. He had come from the Training Btn after being claimed by his brother in B3

During most of the 1st Platoon of recruits training in Cowra, their Platoon Sgt was Sgt. Bill Vile, who was the first Sgt of B2 and had been sent back from the Middle east with Major Ken MacKay to train the recruits.

George came to Australia from Bulgaria with his parents about 1929. On his retirement about 1985, he returned to Bulgaria to visit his relatives and see the country which was still under communism. George was not impressed by what was a very strict police state.

Bill Harley ("taken from my memory")

Thank you Bill for your contribution

Thomas Guerin McNAMARA SX8494

VALE

18th. August 1917 - 29th. October 2011



Thomas Guerin McNamara, known to everyone as Guerin was born in Goolwa SA; the son of Thomas and Catherine McNamara. In the early years his parents ran a mixed farm in Macclesfield, SA.

Guerin loved working on his parents farm, in SA, as he had since the end of primary school, but was excited by the opportunity to join the war effort and joined the militia in 1937 and belonged to the 18th. Light Horse Regiment. When W.W.2 started he joined the Australian Imperial Forces and was sent to the Middle East with the 2/3rd. Machine Gun Battalion. He was very proud that he took part in the Battle of El Alamein. He was the Company dispatch rider and had a lifelong love of motorbikes. He had a couple of accidents and tried to convince the family that it was driving along rough tracks at night. The truth being that he drove into a wall in a Syrian village when he was drunk - he had been misled by the bad men in his unit from Kadina SA.

The second more serious accident occurred when again at night he drove into an unlit truck that was parked across the road. This delayed his return to Australia and as his Company was diverted to Singapore, they were captured and spent the remainder of the war as POW's. Some months later he returned to Australia aboard the Queen Mary and he talked about the ship for the rest of his life. After some time at home he was then sent to New Guinea with the 2/2nd Battalion spending ten months at Lae and Finchhaven. On his return to Adelaide he was told that his beloved mother had died just a couple of hours before he returned. His favourite sister, Kathleen had also died while he was in the Middle East. He was discharged in April 1944 due to his injuries and later revealed that this was the worst year of his life as his early return a year before the rest of the Macclesfield boys filled him with remorse and guilty feeling as he worried about their safety.

Prior to the war Guerin had courted Joyce Schmidt from Strathalbyn and upon his return they married in May 1945 settling at the family farm, Hillview and tried their hand at dairy farming. They had four children, Robert, Michael, James and Colleen. Robert served himself in Vietnam years later. They had nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Guerin and Joyce were married for over 60 years until Joyce passed away aged 90.

Guerin was a larrikin and a true gentlemen and he had many dear and lifelong friends that meant so much to him and the wider family. He was a keen gardener and in his twilight years it was a source of great pride and enjoyment. People who visited mostly left with an armful of vegetables or flowers.

In 2010 his health deteriorated and he entered the Kalimna Aged Care Hostel in Strathalbyn. His room was always full with visiting friends and family .

Guerin loved good food and conversation and he had strong interests and was able to chat with anyone, he loved books, music, sport, current affairs, politics and British comedy and he had an enquiring mind and kind heart that endeared him to so many people.

At the very large funeral service held at the Macclesfield Catholic Church the 2/2ND Machine Gun Battalion was represented by Paul LeMar Associate Member and son of Guerin's long time friend, Ossie LeMar decd (ex 2/2nd MG BTN).

Thank you Paul LeMar for forwarding your contribution to this memorial

LAST POST

It is with sincere regret that we report the passing of

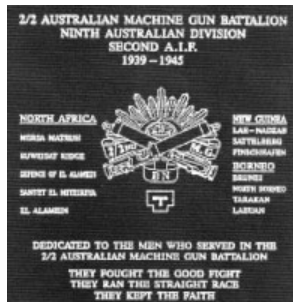
Rev. Canon Raymond (Ray) Joseph BOMFORD

George MEHIELOFF NX 167369

Thomas Guerin McNAMARA SX 8494

*To their families and friends,
members of the Association extend deepest sympathy*

*'They fought the good fight,
They ran the straight race,
They kept the Faith'*



LEST WE FORGET

ODE

(For The Fallen By Laurance Binyon)

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them