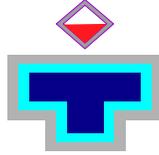


The Furphy Flyer in Mufti.



I HOLD FAST

Official Organ of the 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association Inc.

Postal address : 10B Somme Parade, Edithvale 3196

President Alan Macfarlane, OAM EM, 1 Philip St. Vermont 3133 Telephone 9884-9378

Vice Presidents : Doug Dobson and Alan Nicholson

Secretary, Michael Oakley; 10B Somme Parade, Edithvale 3196 Telephone 9772 3302

Treasurer, Roland Nicholson

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Janice Young 0414 782 557

Committee : Bob Clark, Keith Clark, Eric Elsdon, Robin Mitchell, Keith Anderson and Mark Quinn.

Assisting the committee. Vern Collier, Owen Lewis and Sandra Sharpe.

Editor, Frank Tyrrell, 19 Carramar Dr. Frankston 3199 Telephone 9789 4764

Vol 3, No. 32

Melbourne

February 2008

COMING EVENTS FOR 2008

Anzac Day March, Friday 25th April – Reunion at Pascoe Vale RSL.

Battalion Birthday Lunch, Friday 4th July at Pascoe Vale RSL

(the May "Furphy" will provide further details)

Annual General Meeting

(the May "Furphy" will provide further details)

2/24th's Shrine Pilgrimage – Sunday 19th October, 2.00pm

(Assemble 1.30pm)

(the August "Furphy" will provide further details)

9th Division's Shrine Service and Luncheon, Friday 24th October

(the August "Furphy" will provide further details)

Wangaratta Weekend Reunion, 7th, 8th & 9th November

(the May and August "Furphies" will provide further details)

Vale

Mrs Beattie Sleep (wife of Tickle) 12/1/2008

Mrs B Wycherly 16/1/2008

Max Frost TX706 1/2/2008

Rupert C Sheridan VX34990 11/2/2008

All members of the 2/24th Battalion Association offer their deepest sympathy and understanding to those bereaved by the passing of members of the association.

ANZAC Day March.

Please note, the meeting point for this year's Melbourne ANZAC Day March is again in Flinders Street on the **NORTH** side, (Saint Paul's Side) between Swanston and Russell Streets. Look for our Banner.

Time of assembly is 9.30 am for an approximate 10.00 am start.

We again welcome those marching to honour the memory of a deceased member of the 2/24th Battalion. Our President has asked that marchers uphold and respect the proud traditions of the 2/24th by following the directions of our leader and dressing appropriately; as smartly turned out as Dad or Grandad always looked.

The ANZAC Day Commemoration Council has asked us to pass on the following guidelines so that we will not only honour our fallen comrades and forebears, but will also help maintain the ANZAC tradition we are all so proud of :-

- All marchers should conform to forming up and marching 8 abreast.
- Veterans should march directly behind their unit banner, accompanied by a carer if needed. The carer should be of an age where they can directly assist the veteran.
- Next of kin should march behind the veterans and be old enough to march the full distance (1.8 km) without assistance.
- Next of kin representation should be restricted to 1 per veteran
- Attire should be neat and tidy out of respect for the fallen (torn denim, sporting attire, dirty joggers, etc are not appreciated).
- Carrying pictures of relatives is not supported.
- Next of kin are to wear medals on the right breast (left breast is reserved for the original owners).
- Veterans are requested not to join or leave the march other than at the Assembly or Dispersal points.

A transport vehicle for approximately 8 members has been arranged and we will endeavour to assist those requiring transport during the march.

For those interested in attending the ANZAC Day lunch at the Pascoe Vale RSL, could you please advise us so that catering arrangements can be organised. A phone call to our President, Secretary or assistant Secretary will suffice.

Congratulations.

Our President, Alan Macfarlane, has been nominated by the 9th Division Association and the RSL to lead the 9th Division in this years ANZAC Day March. This is a great honour for him and also the 2/24th Infantry Battalion Association

Alan is a respected leader, working tirelessly on many committees and associations. His concerns, compassion and respect for the men of the 2/24th, and the many widows, is something quite extraordinary.

Well done Alan, it is an honour that you thoroughly deserve.

Please note that an ANZAC Service, honouring all servicemen and women killed in the line of duty, will be held at St Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, 20th April at 11.00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Letters to our President and Secretary

From Lindsay Warden of Kippax ACT

I am writing to express my sincere thanks to Alan Macfarlane and Robin Mitchell for attending the funeral of my father, Ossie Warden, who recently passed away. The Association has provided a wonderful link to Dad's army mates and the wonderful memories he had of serving with the Battalion in the Middle East. This support and companionship really helped Dad through many years of sickness.

My mother is feeling a little lonely but is healthy and happy with many friends and relatives looking after her in Melbourne. She plans to move to Heathcote in 2008 to live with my sister Pam, when their new house is finished.

I noticed that Eric Edwards is looking for photos of service personnel killed in action. Dad's photos from the Middle East are currently held by my sister Pam who lives in East Keilor (9337 7813). If someone is able to identify the people in the photos they may be some of use to Eric.

Thanks again to you and the Association.

Thanks Lindsay, your father was a wonderful and very generous man to the Association with his support, time and donations. He will be missed.

Kay Tarczon, the celebrant at Ossie Warden's funeral, forwarded these words of tribute that were read out at the funeral

The following words refer to all defence personnel, those who served, and those who are currently serving our country overseas.

"It's the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press.

It's the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech.

It's the Soldier, not the politicians, that ensure our right to Life, Freedom and the Pursuit of Happiness.

It's the Soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag".

We received a Christmas Card from Mary Gleghorn of Belmont

Just a small donation to the Association. I love reading about the men of the 2/24th.

Len has been gone almost 28 years.

Thank you for your note Mary. Your support is much appreciated.

From Jean Diffey of Wangaratta

Dear Alan,

My son, Raymond, came across the names of two soldiers of the 2/24th when he was travelling up in Queensland.

Eric 'Nin' Lockyer – killed in action

Elliott 'Manny' Lockyer – served in Tarakan

He said they are buried in the scrub and I think he got a bit of a shock when they came across these two graves with their names and the 2/24th on their headstones. Maybe you remember them.

I hope you and Faye are well, I think you are battling the years very well, you are as straight as a dye. All the best to you both.

Thanks for your note Jean. Yes Eric and Elliott Lockyer were members of the 2/24th and both fought at Tarakan. Their numbers were WX34529 and WX40624. Eric was killed in action and died 16 May 1945.

From Alan Waterman of Rosebud

I was shot on the "left leg" on the 5th June 1945 on Tarakan, in D Company, 2/24.

Two surgeons at Moratai Hospital said the damage to my leg (from hip to knee) would have been caused by a "Dum Dum" bullet that hit me.

Having thought it over for some years I would be interested to know if any member of the Battalion has had a similar experience.

I can be contacted at 10/791 Point Nepean Road, Rosebud, 3939.

Good to hear from you Alan. I hope you are keeping well.

From Max Oakley of Geilston Bay TAS

I am hoping to get over for the ANZAC Day march again this year. I enjoyed the last one so much; it was great to see the boys again.

Wishing you all well and see you soon.

I'm sure the boys will enjoy seeing you Max. Nice to hear from you.

From Eric Edwards of Carnegie

Thank you for the insertion in the November issue of the "Furphy Flyer" in which you mentioned I was seeking anyone who had photos of service personnel who were killed in action. I had two replies each of whom sent me a photo. I was able to hand them over to Mrs Anne Levens, Manager of VicHeritage in January. She was very pleased to have them and undertook to post them back to their respective owners within a few days.

I thank Mr McGrath and Mr English for sending the photos to me to pass on to Mrs Levens.

Thanks Eric. I have included a further item from Eric regarding this project on page 9.

*From **Hec Frankel** of Pascoe Vale South.*

Our Secretary had received a request on the 16th December for 2/24th Lapel Badges. They were sent and Hec responds

Dear Michael, this is to express my thanks to you for your very prompt response to my request for your help. Not everyone is prepared to do this.

I received the badges today, Wednesday 19/12/07 and was able to complete the memorabilia frame (looks good) and have it delivered to the lady courier. I understand it will be in London on Friday, the 28th December and delivered to my aunt on Saturday the 29th December.

I appreciate your help in this matter as I realise that as Secretary you have lots of other things to deal with.

Thanks for your letter Hec. I know Michael appreciated your kind words. All the best to you.

*From **Mary and Danny Maher** of Albury*

.... We both enjoy reading the Furphy very much. Good luck to everyone for 2008.

Thanks Mary, best wishes to you both.

*From **Arthur Fitzpatrick** of Heyfield VIC*

In the last issue of the "Furphy Flyer", Doug Dobson mentioned he met me and we talked about the 2/24th Battalion Footy Team. I would like to mention that he also presented me with an enlarged, framed photo of the team that was taken at a restaurant in Syria, with all the names included.

This was much appreciated and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Doug very much.

kindest regards to all.

Thanks for your note Arthur, I'm sure Doug enjoyed doing it for you.

Doug also mentioned to me that it will be your 92nd birthday on the 18 March. Congratulations and the very best of wishes from all members.

*From **Jean Hiscutt** of Howth TAS*

Please find enclosed a donation towards the "Furphy Flyer".

Here in Tasmania we need rain, the dams on the farms are running out of water. We are still on the farm but don't do any farm work now.

We hope to do some travelling this year, might go up to Queensland, but not until the weather gets cooler.

I still enjoy reading the Furphy. Regards to all.

Lovely to hear from you Jean and thank you for your kind donation.

Wouldn't it be great if we could get some of the Queensland rain down south.

*We also received cards and notes from **Alan Rooke, Rayda Noble, Joy Pitts and Elizabeth Ryan.***

Joy is the daughter of Gil Duncombe and Elizabeth is his grand-daughter. Thank you both for your article on the ANZAC Day march.

A woman went to the Post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

"What denomination?" asked the clerk.

"Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman.

"Well give me 10 Anglicans, 10 Catholics and 10 Baptists"

I would like to thank Doug Dobson for this next item. He recommended a book about men who had lost their lives in war called 'FALLEN, The Ultimate Heroes' by Jim Main and David Allen. The thing that makes this book different is that it tells the stories of 115 elite Australian Rules footballers who were Killed in Action.

Two of the heroes mentioned were men of the 2/24th

Private Harry Comte played 104 games with St Kilda between 1930 and 1937. He was a fast and clever player who often out-thought and outplayed his opponents. In his debut year he was selected to represent Victoria against Western Australia and in 1933 was awarded the clubs best and fairest award.

Harry Conte was with the 2/24th at Tarakan where he was severely wounded in action and died in a makeshift military hospital. He was 36 years of age and is buried on the island of Lubuan in Brunei Bay, off the coast of Borneo.

Alan Killigrew, who played in the same team as Harry, often told the tale of how his mate scooped a handful of St Kilda Junction Oval turf to take with him to war. Possibly that turf is also buried with Private Comte at Lubuan.

Lieutenant John 'Jack' Shelton played 28 games with St Kilda between 1926 and 1929, and 7 games with South Melbourne in 1930. Jack was a tough character who relished hard football. A St Kilda historian, Russell Holmesby, wrote about a melee at Corio Oval in 1928 following the downing of a couple of Geelong star players and the Geelong caretaker. When the final bell went the St Kilda players, sensing trouble, tried to leave the oval hurriedly but, "Shelton and Stan Hepburn were engulfed on the field by swarming, shouting barrackers. The Geelong supporters had become an unruly and vengeful mob. Shelton was hit by an umbrella wielded with wounding purpose and suffered a torrent of abuse and blows. Another Geelong fan wrenched a picket from the fence and advanced on Shelton. Shelton smartly dodged the blow, grabbed the picket and held it to defend himself. A mounted policeman rode up, tore the picket from Shelton's hands and with arrogant urgency hustled Shelton and Hepburn up the race and into the rooms".

Lieutenant Jack Shelton was killed in Northern Africa on the 1st May 1941. He had proved himself a courageous soldier and was one of the first 2/24th Officers to be killed in action. As Colonel Spowers wrote at the time to Jack's widow, "He is such a loss to us, particularly at this time. He was a most gallant officer and lovable chap; always cheerful and ready to do anything to help. We all miss him very much and I do not know how to replace him in the very special job he had; one that required dash and courage and leadership, all of which he possessed".

Jack's son Bill continued the family's VFL traditions and played with Hawthorn where he won the 1959 Gardiner medal.

Jack's nephew, Ian 'Bluey' Shelton, played for Essendon as a champion centre half back between 1959-65.

The Shelton family also has a marvellous link with Australia's history.

Jack's father, Richard Shelton, was seven years old in 1866 when swimming in Hughes Creek at Avenel, near Seymour Victoria. A passing eleven year old boy noticed Richard was struggling to keep his head above the murky water and dived in to rescue him. Richard's parents were so thankful to the young boy who saved their son they presented him with a green sash.

The young boy was Edward Kelly, better known as Ned, and later to become Australia's infamous outlaw. Ned was wearing the green sash under his armour when he was gunned down at Glenrowan.

The following item was written by Ian Kelly of the Australian War Memorial. It was written following a study tour of El Alamein by the Imperial War Museum and the Australian War Memorial in September 2002.

2/24th Battalion and 621 Company on 10 July 1942

On 10 July 1942 near El Alamein, the Australian 2/24 battalion captured Rommel's 621 intelligence company. It was a key point in the war in North Africa, but even today, little is known of this vital action.

By June 1942, the Axis forces under Rommel had pushed the British Eighth Army back to the area of El Alamein, but had failed in an attempt to break the lines. In early July, the Allied Commander in Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck began a series of attempts to push back the Germans and Italians.

The Australian 9th Division was holding the north of the Allied line, not far from the town of El Alamein, and took part in all three of Auchinleck's pushes.

The first of these occurred on 10 July, with elements of the 9th assigned to take a series of high points in the area between the coast and the railway line, then sweep around to take Tel el Eisa station. These high points were important because of the flatness of the terrain. High points were affording the enemy good observation positions, and were preventing the Allies from observing enemy activities to the west.

The action was to be carried out by the 2/24 and 2/48 battalions, with the start point about four thousand yards east of the German and Italian positions. The three high points were designated Trigs 26, 23 and 33. The 2/48 was to take 26 and 23 then swing back to the south east to take the railway station, while the 2/24 took 33.

The advance began at 3:40am, but did not go entirely to plan. Moving up, some of the transport vehicles also became bogged in salt flats. Then, shortly after the start, an enemy aircraft dropped a flare, lighting up the area. The Australians stood stock still, but there was no action from the other side.

Before dawn, the Italians holding trig 26 awoke to discover they'd been overrun and captured. An Allied barrage was then put down on trigs 23 and 33 and the Italians at 23 were also quickly overrun. So far, the Australians had suffered no casualties.

What the Australians didn't know was that Rommel's best intelligence unit, 621 company, was operating very close to the front line, and would soon be overrun by the 2/24 battalion.

One of the problems in retelling this story is that it is impossible to pinpoint the exact location of 621 company at the time it was overrun. German, British and Australian records give no map references. There's been speculation that nothing was officially recorded for reasons of security, and that explanation seems reasonable. Most of the German accounts talk of 621 company being "by the sea", so it can be speculated that it was located some distance north of trig 33. In fact, there's very little detail on the incident at all. The Australian Official History talks about 100 Italian prisoners being taken some time shortly after 6:30am on the 10th, but nothing more. Presumably the 100 so-called Italians were in reality, Germans, members of 621 company.

The best picture of what happened at 33 comes from German sources, in particular, an officer on Rommel's intelligence staff, Hans-Otto Behrendt. His book *Rommel's Intelligence in the Desert Campaign* is a thorough investigation of what happened, and of the consequences for the Afrika Corps. Behrendt describes the capture of 621 company as a "catastrophe (with) serious consequences for Panzerarmee Afrika". He quotes a fellow officer who said Rommel was furious when he heard the news.

According to Behrendt's research it is clear the unit was established too close to the front line. 621 was commanded by one of Rommel's bright young officers, Captain Alfred Seebohm. Seebohm was not only an outstanding intelligence officer, he was also a high calibre fighting soldier, having twice extricated his company

from allied hands. Once he had been taken prisoner, but managed to escape (in January, 1942). But, his luck ran out on 10 July.

The problems for 621 began when the first of the Italians, the Sabratha Division, were overrun by the 2/48 at trig 26. They were taken by surprise, and many woke from their sleep to find themselves prisoners (there are reports that some of the officers were wearing pyjamas!). Then the Bersaglieri Regiment was captured at trig 23 (again by the 2/48). This left the German intelligence unit very exposed with nothing between them and the Australians.

Seebohm established his position close to the front line, much closer than was perhaps prudent, because he believed it would gain him the best results. The end for 621 came swiftly. At dawn under artillery fire and smoke shells, the 2/24 advanced on the German position, and at the same time, what were described by the Germans as British tanks encircled it. In the heat of battle, it appears the Germans got that bit wrong. There were no allied tanks in the area at the time, and it was almost certainly Bren carriers that the Germans saw.

Realising what was happening Seebohm set up a defensive perimeter and decided to fight, but against Bren guns, mortars and fire from heavy anti-tank weapons, the outcome was inevitable. Seebohm was seriously wounded, and died soon after being admitted to a military hospital in Alexandria. Although a small number of Germans escaped with some of their vehicles and monitoring gear, about 110 were captured along with most of their equipment, and most importantly, a large cache of intelligence. (A Company of the 2/24 that finally captured 621, was led by Everard Baillieu, a member of the prominent Melbourne business family. One of the Australian intelligence officers who interrogated the POWs was Murray Farquhar, who later rose to become Chief Magistrate of NSW before ending up behind bars after being found guilty of corruption).

So what was captured and did it help the war effort? There were many documents which revealed that the Germans were aware of such things as British call signs, map reference codes and radio codes. These were valuable in working out the allies' order of battle and identifying various units. There were other documents that revealed the Germans knew quite a bit about the allied movements. All this was learned by listening to the battlefield chatter, and proved the Germans were good at wireless intelligence and the British were a bit lax with their wireless security. And this, of course, is the major reason for Rommel managing to hold on in North Africa for so long. His supply lines were stretched; he was desperately short of tanks and, in particular, fuel. The allies knew almost exactly what he was up to because of Ultra - the intelligence gained from cracking the German Enigma codes. However, because Rommel also had good battlefield intelligence, it allowed him to remain a capable foe for longer than he should have.

There were two other important pieces of information gained from the capture of 621 company. The first was confirmation that the Germans had broken the American diplomatic code known as Black Code. The US military attach in Cairo, Colonel Fellers, had been faithfully reporting the state of the allied war effort to his superiors in Washington; unaware that the codes he used had fallen into German hands. Although it had been realised before 10 July that there was a security breach at the embassy, this was confirmation.

The other piece of information uncovered concerned the existence of a spy ring operating for the Germans in Egypt and called the Kondor Mission. This is another story in itself, and centres on the use of the novel "Rebecca" as a code key. Behrendt, however, says this particular ring was of little use to the Germans.

621 company was reformed in September, but was never again as effective as it had been. Although it had some further minor successes, the operation of 10 July meant that the allies adopted rigorous wireless discipline and security and used methods of deception. In his book "Bodyguard of Lies" Anthony Cave Brown describes the capture of 621 Company as **"quite the most important intelligence coup of the whole North African campaign"**.

This next item is something of which the Association can be very proud. It is a "copy" of the Freedom of the City document, presented to the 2/24th by the Rural City of Wangaratta in 1990. It currently hangs in the Council Chambers.



In pursuance of a Resolution
adopted unanimously by the Council
of the City of Wangaratta
on the sixteenth day of July, 1990
be it known to all persons that

The Freedom of the City of Wangaratta

has been conferred upon

"Wangaratta's Own" 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association

While such a grant carries with it only nominal material privileges it has for many generations been regarded as the highest compliment a Council may offer; and by custom, it has been reserved for outstanding occasions. Council acknowledges its appreciation of the contribution made by this Unit to community peace and national democracy and congratulates "Wangaratta's Own" 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association on its Fiftieth Anniversary since formation.

Now therefore the Council hereby directs that the title, honour and distinction shall be conferred upon all ranks of marching freely through the streets of the City of Wangaratta on all ceremonial occasions with drums beating, Bands playing and with Banner flying

Council trust that the Citizens of Wangaratta shall at all times ensure that the Grant of Freedom of the City shall be honoured and complied with.

The Common Seal of the Mayor
Councillors and Citizens of the
City of Wangaratta was hereunto
affixed the 27th day of October 1990
in the presence of
Mayor K Gleeson

Councillor V Gleeson

Town Clerk J Elward

This item from Eric Edwards is in addition to his letter on page 4 and explains why he was interested in photos of service personnel killed in action. Thank you Eric.

One day in September, 2007, my friend, Noel Huggan, told me that the State Government was seeking photographs of service personnel who had been killed in action. I promptly thought of the occasion when I, my friends, Rod Deering and Laurie Brown, and another chap in our company, William (Banjo) Paterson, obtained a day's leave to go to Tel Aviv in Palestine (now Israel). This was early in 1941 when we were camped at Dimra, near Gaza. It was raining rather heavily so we went into a café to have some lunch. We each had a meal of ham, eggs and chips. While we were seated around a table a street photographer came along and took a photo of the four of us. I still have that photo.

During March, 1941, we moved into Libya and several weeks later we were situated in defensive positions at Tobruk. Sadly, Laurie Brown and William Paterson were killed during the night 30th April / 1st May when the Germans made a big offensive. Rod and I were taken prisoners of war on 1st May, when we ran out of ammunition and had to surrender.

I showed the photo to Noel and he passed it onto Mrs Anne Levens, Manager of VicHeritage, and she told him she would like to meet me. She rang and arranged a time to call and in the meantime I looked through many of my old photos and found photos of ten more men who had been killed in action, though not all members of the 2/24th Infantry Battalion.

Anne invited me to attend a luncheon at the Savoy Hotel in December and asked me if I was willing to give a short talk about my POW experiences. I agreed to do so!

The luncheon was principally to acknowledge the valuable work done by volunteers who had devoted much of their time in working for the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. About eighty people attended the luncheon which was very tasty. Mr Robert Hulls, Attorney General for Victoria, was present to hand out certificates to those volunteers who had worked for more than ten years. I gave the talk and it seemed to be well received. At Anne's invitation, I handed out certificates to those volunteers, including Noel, who had worked for less than ten years. We were all given a wall calendar which several ladies asked me to autograph.

I was presented with a mug and copy of the book *Tobruk* by Peter Fitzimons. Altogether it was a pleasant and enjoyable function.

A Minister of Health opened a new Mental Hospital. While chatting with the Director, he asked what criteria was used to admit patients. The doctor said, "We fill a bath with water, then offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him, or her, to empty the bath". The Minister said, "Ah, I see. A normal person would obviously use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or cup".

"No", said the Director, "A normal person would pull out the plug. Umm, do you want a room with a view?"
(Thanks to *Dial Sight* for that one)

I went to a restaurant that serves "Breakfast at any Time". So, I ordered French Toast during the Renaissance.

The last fight I had with my wife was my fault.

My wife asked me "What's on the TV?"

I said "Dust"

*In the August 2006 "Furphy Flyer", **John McLeod** asked our readers for information about his late father, **Lt Roy McLeod**, VX25480. I have printed the subsequent letters, with their approval, to show the outcome of that request.*

*From **Frank Monotti**, of Brighton to John McLeod...*

I read the extract in the Battalion newsletter asking to hear from anyone who served with your father Roy. I did not actually serve with Roy as we were in different companies, but we were both at Alamein.

However, apart from that, we were in the same Officers' Mess when the Battalion was stationed east of Tripoli in north Lebanon, and consequently we were well known to each other.

During that period leave was granted occasionally, and on the occasion my leave was granted Roy also received his leave, and we spent several days together in Beirut and I remember Roy as a very good mate.

I can tell you that he was a respected and good officer, and you have every reason to hold his memory in the highest regard. I regret that I am not able to provide you with more information as being in different companies our experiences were not shared; but I do know that his colleagues and his platoon valued Roy as a good officer and platoon Commander.

I commanded B company for a period at Alamein until I was wounded. I did not return and was still in hospital for Christmas 1942; but I recovered and commanded A company in New Guinea. I am now 90 and still mobile. I wish you well and I am glad to be able to answer your enquiry and to have known your father.

From John McLeod to Frank Monotti

What a pleasant surprise to receive your reply to my enquiry. Thank you for the information included in your letter. Like all soldiers, my father never spoke of his time in the War, and it was only in recent times that I rummaged through Dad's army trunk, finding many negatives and letters from soldiers, etc..

Thank you for your kind sentiments regarding my father. I do hold Dad in the highest regard because he was a principled man in all his dealings in life.

In the future I intend, through the newsletter, trying to trace some of the soldiers, or relatives, of those I have letters from. I was pleased to read that you are still mobile and no doubt still in charge of things. I wish you continued good health and once again thank you for giving me contact with a small part of my father's history.

From Frank Monotti to John McLeod

Thank you for your letter. I understood that your father had been wounded after I had been evacuated, but post war I never caught up with him again.

I note your regard for your late father and confirm that he was a principled man and this is what created our friendship. I regret our paths did not cross again and I am glad to have been able to write to you. I will leave it to you if you wish to inform the Association that your enquiry produced my reply. That may encourage others to make enquiries in the "Furphy Flyer" about their relatives. My comments about your father are those of a friend who still has warm recollections of him.

From John McLeod to our Secretary

I was pleasantly surprised to receive the above reply from Frank Monotti who commanded B Company at Alamein. I wish I had started this a long time ago.

I still have numerous letters, photos, cards, etc that soldiers had written to my father from their hospital beds. In particular, a Jack Vertigan, who appeared close to Dad. Also I have a letter from Pt W G Scott who was in the 7th A.G.H Ward Palestine and another from D J McKee addressed to a person in Echuca, Victoria. It would be marvellous if anyone who may be connected with any of these soldiers would take the time to write to me at

N John McLeod
PO Box 620
Templestowe 3106.

2-24 Assoc - Mozilla Firefox

file:///G:/2-24%20table%20web/2-24tables.htm

Latest Headlines 1-Page MultiSearch E... SideStep Church GST & activity statem... Weather MyeBay JAJAH Metlink-Epping WaterR Trains

whitepages.com.au - Search for an A... 2-24 Assoc

2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association Inc
'I Hold Fast'

Contents

- [Home](#)
- [Who are we?](#)
- [Furphy Flyer](#)
 - [Current issue](#)
 - [Past issues](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Memorial Wall](#)
- [History of 2/24](#)
 - [North Africa](#)
 - [Pacific](#)
- [Committee](#)
- [Products](#)
- [External Links](#)
- [Site Map](#)

The 2/24th Battalion

Formed in Wangaratta when Major A. Spowers was appointed Lieutenant Colonel to command the 2/24th on 1 July 1940 as part of the 26th Brigade. The battalion remained active until disbanded in January 1946. During that time it served in the Middle East and New Guinea.

2/24th Reunion at Wangaratta 2007

Upcoming Events

- Event 1
- Event 2
- Event 3

© 2008 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association Inc

Done

start

2-24 Assoc - Mozilla F... G:\2-24 table web

EN

2:08 pm

Great News; the Association is developing an Internet web site.

Following discussions about the possibility of the Association having its own web page, our Secretary, Treasurer and Association member, Alastair Davison, have initiated the development of such a page. Alastair has put in a lot of thought and time into the project and we would like to thank him for his work.

The copy of the web site, shown above, is a 'dummy' version of the main page. The 'real' version is being developed to include: a short history of the battalion; diary events; past and current "Furphy Flyers"; a photo gallery of current and historical interest; links with other sites of interest (such as the Australian War Memorial, Veteran Affairs, National Archives, etc), committee members; products for sale and contact options.

Progress of the site will be notified in the "Furphy Flyer" and we will encourage you to let us know of any ideas that you feel may be worth including on the web site. For example, we will be interested in any photographs that you may have that would be of interest to a wider audience.

I know some of our members dislike the word "computer", but it is hoped the web page will attract the interest of the children and grandchildren of the men of the 2/24th. It may turn out to be the first point of contact for somebody trying to find out what their grandfather did in the war and if we can provide information and possibly photos, all the better.

However, fear not, the Furphy Flyer in Mufti will still be printed and mailed out to our very loyal Association members.

Subscriptions are now due

Please note that receipts will not be sent unless a reply paid envelope is enclosed with your subscription. All subscriptions and donations will be acknowledged in the Furphy Flyer in Mufti.

Subscriptions :

Arthur Loram, J L Hughes, F Seymour, Hec Frankel, A Rooke, Les & Nola Adams, Arthur Fitzpatrick, Janet Macfarlane, Max Oakley, Les Hansen, H Cornehl, Maureen Bedford, Danny and Mary Maher,

Donations :

Arthur Loram, J L Hughes, A Rooke, Lois Rourke, Mary Gleghorn, Alan Macfarlane, Jean Hiscutt

Memorial Wall Donation :

Les Hansen, H Cornehl, Maureen Bedford.

Magazines have been received from the following units and read with pleasure.

- H.M.A.S “Westralia” Association
 - 9th Australian Division Sappers’ Association
 - Dial Sight 2/7 Aust Field Regiment Social and Welfare Club
-

Congratulations

Congratulations to Len and Grace McKenna for celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 20 February. A very special occasion; best wishes to you both.

Wall Plaques

Our President has requested that anyone who has a 2/24th Wall Plaque and, is not using it anymore or has a surplus of wall plaques, could they please return it to the Association. Alan can be contacted on 9884 9378, hope you can assist.

Welcome to New Members

It’s with much pleasure that we welcome new Associate Members.

David Mair, grandson of John L Mair, VX38646; **David Wycherly**, son of R B Wycherly, VX28988; **Jamie Khan**, great nephew of Colin G Horman, VX64543; **Vicky Brown; Ross Abberfield; Mary Maher; Ralph Davies;** and **Maureen Bedford.**

A farmer named Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with a dog he doted on. The dog finally died and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, “Father, the dog is dead. Could you be sayin’ a Mass for the creature?”

Father Patrick replied, “I’m afraid not. We cannot have services for an animal in the church, but there’s a new denomination down the road, no tellin’ what they believe. Maybe they’ll do somethin’ for the creature.”

Muldoon said, “I’ll go right away. Do you think \$50,000 is enough to donate for such a service?”

Farther Patrick exclaimed, “Glory be to God! Why didn’t you tell me the dog was Catholic?”