THE
SEVENTH
BATTALION

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

Allan Pedder
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 . . . "
The
Seventh
Battalion

7th BATTALION (1939-45) ASOCIATION
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 Command
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” Charlville, 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

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. Loughead (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, WD, 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.

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.

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” Costoloe (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 bombered 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, Minyup, 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 lunch 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 repellant” 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 detach­

ment, 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 interrup­
ted 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, Com-
mander, 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, neces-
sitating 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.

The Sergeant's Mess at Larrakeyah Barracks.

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

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 background.

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.

Right: 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.


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.

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.
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.

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**

Adjt — 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

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 semitropical 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 Savige, 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 Savige.

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 boundary 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 “Dunroon.” 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 Dunroon 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 PI, 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 331/3 yards freestyle, followed in order by a 331/3 yard breast stroke, an underwater swim, an exhibition by the US Navy in life-saving, a 100 yards freestyle, 331/3 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 Geerké. 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 Andresen 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.

"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.

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.

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. Kennedy, W. Sylvia, F. Woolcock, J. Landy, W. Burwood, E. Kirk, E. Gamble.

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 Andison, 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.


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 Mossigetta.

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 Savige'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 Torokina. 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 preceded 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 Capts 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,

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 Wearnes 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 Wakanui, 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 Buritsiatorara 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” Shiel e 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 firefight 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, whereupon, 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 H edt 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 W02 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, Alumwheeler, 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.
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 Pl 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.

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.


Two members of “C” Coy pose in front of their tent. Jim Baines and Jack Stevens.
The place to purchase razor blades, soap or tooth paste, etc.

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.

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


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.


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 tonight, 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: W02 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.
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

LEST WE FORGET
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.
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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

Jim Wright, one of the Vickers Machine Gun Platoon.

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.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

“Etched In Green” (Adelaide 1961) Graeme McFarlane

“The Final Campaigns” (Canberra 1963) Gavin Long

“The Green Fields Beyond” (Queensland 1975) Shawn O’Leary

“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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Raid No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>No. of Planes</th>
<th>Damage</th>
<th>Casualties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0958 &amp; 1158</td>
<td>18 Zeros, 54 Dive-bombers, 17 Heavy bombers</td>
<td>Major to town. Major to wharf. Minor oil installations damage. 6 vessels sunk, 3 damaged. RAAF buildings, 1 Hudson, 1 Wirraway.</td>
<td>238 plus kill 355 &quot;injured 23 planes lost 5 enemy planes destroyed, 5 others probably destroyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 Mar</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>8 Zeros</td>
<td>1 Hudson damaged.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>16 Mar</td>
<td>RAAF Base &amp; Bagot Rd Ack Ack</td>
<td>1330</td>
<td>14 Heavy Bombers</td>
<td>Considerable to buildings.</td>
<td>2 Killed 9 Injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>19 Mar</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>1140</td>
<td>7 Heavy Bombers</td>
<td>1 cottage destroyed.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>22 Mar</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>1051</td>
<td>1 Zero 2 Type 97 Single-Seater Fighters</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1 Enemy SS fighter shot down by P40s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>29 Mar</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>1213</td>
<td>7 Bombers</td>
<td>Craters in runway. 1 Wirraway damaged</td>
<td>1 enemy destroyed 1 &quot;possibly&quot; 1 &quot;probably&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>30 Mar</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>1532</td>
<td>7 Bombers, 5 Zeros</td>
<td>Slight to runway.</td>
<td>1 P40 destroyed 1 P40 damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>31 Mar</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>0350</td>
<td>7 Bombers, 12-15 Zeros</td>
<td>Slight to runway 20 Drums fuel oil destroyed.</td>
<td>1 Zero destroyed 1 bomber probably</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raid No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>No. of Planes</td>
<td>Damage</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>31 Mar</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>1049</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2 Apr</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>7 Bombers, 3 Zeros</td>
<td>Oil tanks destroyed, houses</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 Apr</td>
<td>Darwin Civil drome</td>
<td>1330</td>
<td>6 Bombers, 6 Zeros</td>
<td>Craters in area telephone lines</td>
<td>2 Killed, 2 injured, 3 P40s destroyed, 5 enemy bombers destroyed, 2 Zeros possibly destroyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>5 Apr</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>1259</td>
<td>7 Bombers, 7 fighters</td>
<td>Slight to runway</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>25 Apr</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>1430</td>
<td>24 Bombers, 12 Zeros</td>
<td>Pipeline pierced 1 brengun carrier, 1 ammunition truck &amp; 1 jeep destroyed, 2 Hudsons damaged Telephone &amp; power</td>
<td>2 Killed, 6 injured, 2 P40s, 2 Hudsons lightly damaged, 8 enemy bombers destroyed, 1 bomber possibly destroyed, 2 Zeros poss. destroyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>27 Apr</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>1237</td>
<td>17 Bombers, 9 Zeros</td>
<td>Buildings damaged craters in runway pipeline pierced</td>
<td>6 killed, 3 injured, 4 P40s destroyed, 3 enemy bombers, 4 Zeros destroyed, 2 Zeros possibly destroyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>13 Jun</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>1222</td>
<td>27 Bombers, 12 Fighters</td>
<td>1 Hudson slightly Fuel drums dest. pipeline in 2 places, craters in runway Telephone lines down.</td>
<td>3 P40s destroyed, 1 enemy fighter destroyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raid No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>No. of Planes</td>
<td>Damage</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>14 Jun</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>1330</td>
<td>18-25 Zeros</td>
<td>1 P40 destroyed</td>
<td>3 Enemy Destroyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>15 Jun</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>27 Bombers</td>
<td>Pipeline</td>
<td>4 Killed, 12 injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 Fighters</td>
<td>Phone lines, buildings</td>
<td>3 P40s lost, 2 damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6 Enemy Zeros destroyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Zero possibly destroyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>16 Jun</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>1231</td>
<td>27 Bombers</td>
<td>Civil and Army buildings and equipment destroyed.</td>
<td>1 killed, 11 injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25 Fighters</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 P40s lost, 2 damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 enemy bomber destroyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 enemy bomber possibly destroyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>25 Jul</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0920</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>Waterpipe, power &amp; telephone lines</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>26 Jul</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>1009</td>
<td>6 Bombers</td>
<td>3 houses destroyed</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>in 2 flights</td>
<td>2 houses damaged fuel lost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>27 Jul</td>
<td>Darwin &amp; RAAF Base</td>
<td>1027</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>Craters in runway pyrotechnics ignited. Searchlight at Knuckeys damaged</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>28 Jul</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>1352</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>Pipeline fractured craters in runway</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>29 Jul</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0539</td>
<td>5 Bombers</td>
<td>Power lines and searchlight repair depot.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raid No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>No. of Planes</td>
<td>Damage</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>30 Jul</td>
<td>Darwin RAAF</td>
<td>0450</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>Several buildings destroyed. 1 truck destroyed. Power lines down.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>30 Jul</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>1405</td>
<td>27 Bombers</td>
<td>112 drums oil &amp; 26 drums octane fuel burned. Runway, water main damaged.</td>
<td>1 killed. 1 P40 destroyed, 2 P40s damaged. 2 enemy bombers &amp; 6 fighters destroyed 7 others damaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20 Fighters</td>
<td>26 1 killed. 1 P40 destroyed, 2 P40s damaged. 2 enemy bombers &amp; 6 fighters destroyed 7 others damaged.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>23 Aug</td>
<td>Hughes Field</td>
<td>1242</td>
<td>27 Bombers</td>
<td>250 drums aviation fuel, 240,000 rounds .303 ammo destroyed. Craters in runway</td>
<td>1 P40 destroyed 2 P40s damaged 2 enemy bombers 6 fighters destroyed 3 bombers 3 fighters probably destroyed. 3 fighters damaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13 Zeros</td>
<td>303 ammo destroyed. Craters in runway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>24 Aug</td>
<td>RAAF Base</td>
<td>2154</td>
<td>2 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>24 Aug</td>
<td>Noonamah</td>
<td>2222</td>
<td>1 Bomber</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>25 Aug</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0005</td>
<td>2 Bombers</td>
<td>1 building damaged power and phone lines disrupted.</td>
<td>1 injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>27 Aug</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0447</td>
<td>6 Bombers</td>
<td>Direct hit on civil radio station. 2 other buildings damaged.</td>
<td>1 slightly injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>and</td>
<td>2 flights of 3</td>
<td>2 other buildings damaged.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0520</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 slightly injured</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>28 Aug</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0429</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>Railway line damaged</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raid No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>No. of Planes</td>
<td>Damage</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>30 Aug</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0240</td>
<td>6 Bombers</td>
<td>6 Bombers (2 flights)</td>
<td>Oil pipes damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>31 Aug</td>
<td>Cox Peninsular</td>
<td>0414, 0527, 0529 hrs</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>25 Sep</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0341</td>
<td>2 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>25 Sep</td>
<td>Livingstone</td>
<td>0548</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>14 drums oil destroyed Power lines dislocated</td>
<td>1 injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>Livingstone</td>
<td>0522</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>Crater in strip, water-pipeline fractured, phone lines down.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>27 Sep</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0435</td>
<td>2 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>27 Sep</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0544</td>
<td>2 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40,41, 42 &amp; 43</td>
<td>24 Oct</td>
<td>0442,0452,0457 Batchelor, Pell, RAAF Base &amp; Cox Peninsular.</td>
<td>12 Bombers in 4 flights</td>
<td>1 hut &amp; 2 water tanks at Batchelor</td>
<td>5 injured. 1 enemy plane crashed into the sea.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>25 Oct</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>1730</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>26 Oct</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0454</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>Don Hotel &amp; several houses damaged Power and Phones disrupted.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>27 Oct</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>0115</td>
<td>18 Bombers</td>
<td>East Point, Don Hotel Civil Drome &amp; South Point</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>23 Nov</td>
<td>Darwin &amp; RAAF Base</td>
<td>0300</td>
<td>18 Bombers</td>
<td>Craters in runaway</td>
<td>1 enemy &quot;Betty&quot; bomber destroyed (9 member crew)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raid No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>No. of Planes</td>
<td>Damage</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>26 Nov</td>
<td>Darwin Strauss &amp; Hughes</td>
<td>0320</td>
<td>12 Bombers</td>
<td>North end of runway, pipeline burst, phones down at Hughes. 1 Hudson damaged, 2 slightly damaged. Darwin, 2 houses destroyed, pipeline &amp; phones out</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>27 Nov</td>
<td>Hughes &amp; Coomalie Ck</td>
<td>0355</td>
<td>12 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>20 Jan, 43</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>2245</td>
<td>7 Bombers in 3 flights</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1 enemy “Betty” Bomber possibly destroyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>21 Jan</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>2155</td>
<td>2 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>2 Mar</td>
<td>Coomalie</td>
<td>1334</td>
<td>3 Bombers</td>
<td>1 Beaufighter</td>
<td>1 enemy fighter damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>15 Mar</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>1120</td>
<td>24 Bombers</td>
<td>Buildings and Railway line &amp; sheds. 2 oil tanks ablaze, 2,100 tons oil lost, Telephone and power lines disrupted</td>
<td>2 killed, 14 injured, 4 Spitfires destroyed, 6 enemy fighters &amp; 2 bombers destroyed. 9 fighters probably destroyed, 5 fighters, 3 bombers damaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>2 May</td>
<td>RAAF Base &amp; Floating Dock 1015 hrs</td>
<td>21 Bombers</td>
<td>RAAF Buildings Radio mast. Phones &amp; underground cables.</td>
<td>2 killed, 12 Spitfires destroyed, 2 Spitfires damaged, 8 enemy bombers &amp; 4 fighters destroyed, 1 bomber, 1 fighter possibly destroyed. 8 bombers, 2 fighters damaged.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raid No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Place &amp; Time</td>
<td>No. of Planes</td>
<td>Damage</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>20 Jun</td>
<td>RAAF Base &amp; Winellie 1045 hrs</td>
<td>2 Formations (1) 21 Bombers (Sally) 21 fighters (Zeke &amp; Haps) (2) 9 Bombers (Lilly)</td>
<td>Buildings destroyed and damaged. 60 drums oil destroyed. Power &amp; phones out. RAAF buildings strafed. Equipment destroyed.</td>
<td>5 Killed, 11 injured 2 Spitfires destroyed 1 damaged. 9 enemy bombers, 5 fighters destroyed. 8 bombers 2 fighters damaged</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>28 Jun</td>
<td>Darwin 1107</td>
<td>9 Bombers 9 Fighters</td>
<td>Vestey's and 1 truck damaged. 6 huts at East Point damaged or demolished.</td>
<td>1 Spitfire lost 3 severely damaged. 4 enemy fighters destroyed, 2 bombers probably destroyed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>30 Jun</td>
<td>Fenton 1230</td>
<td>27 Bombers 19 Zeke 2 Haps</td>
<td>1 fuel trailer, 5 tractors destroyed. Bomb repair shop, 12 B24 engines, emergency equipment and other equipment damaged or destroyed.</td>
<td>2 killed, 2 injured 3 B24s &amp; 1 Falcon destroyed. 6 enemy bombers, 3 fighters destroyed. 5 bombers 1 fighter damaged. 2 bombers probably destroyed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>6 Jul</td>
<td>Fenton 1202</td>
<td>27 Bombers 21 Fighters</td>
<td>3 B24s holed, craters in runway.</td>
<td>3 Killed. 1 B24 destroyed. 7 spitfires destroyed. 10 enemy bombers destroyed plus 3 fighters destroyed. 3 bombers, 1 fighter damaged.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>Fenton 2145 (3 flights)</td>
<td>9 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raid No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>No. of Planes</td>
<td>Damage</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>Fenton &amp; Coomalie</td>
<td>1112, 1142 hrs</td>
<td>9 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(3 flights)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>21 Aug</td>
<td>Fenton, Coomalie &amp; Pell</td>
<td>0307, 0348</td>
<td>18 Bombers</td>
<td>Officer &amp; Sgts' Messes destroyed command car &amp; weapon carrier damaged.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>Fenton &amp; Long</td>
<td>1455, 1600 hrs</td>
<td>9 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 Bombers</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>12 Nov</td>
<td>Darwin, Adelaide River &amp; Batchelor</td>
<td>0353, 0530 hrs</td>
<td>9 Bombers</td>
<td>4 motor vehicles</td>
<td>7 injured. 2 &quot;Betty&quot; bombers destroyed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOMINAL ROLL

VX68974  Absolom  T.K.
VX114152  Adams  C.A.G.
N453547  Adams  K.
Q127623  Adams  W.G.  AACC
VX137092  Adams  W.M.
V54674  Adamson  N.E.J.
V185112  Ahern  A.J.
VX67943  Aldred  W.J.
Q126531  Aldridge  T.K.
VX148883  Alexander  M.D.
VX68821  Alford  R.J.
VX65514  Aliendi  H.
VX137090  Allardiee  J.W.
VX69027  Allbeck  T.
VX66735  Allen  J.
VX150194  Allen  M.L.
VX89436  Allison  C.D.
VX176793  Anderson  A.H.
VX105372  Anderson  D.D.J.
VX68441  Anderson  L.T.
VX148987  Anderson  J.R.
Q127249  Andrews  S.E.
V220004  Andriske  L.S.
VX68026  Archer  R.  (KIA)
VX132774  Armstrong  E.A.
V68908  Armstrong  L.F.
V220051  Arnold  C.C.
V57243  Arnold  V.L.
VX63505  Arthur  L.J.
QX61931  Aspin  E.
QX51211  Asher  K.M.
T102123  Ashlin  B.
N463626  Atkins  F.J.
TX16064  Atkinson  A.F.
V311246  Atkinson  C.G.
VX61104  Atkinson  J.S.
V64777  Atwell  M.S.
VX69639  Aumann  R.A.
NX172588  Austin  J.J.
VX70427  Ayres  C.
Q269056  Baguley  R.
V220096  Baird  E.J.  (KIA)
V65586  Bailey  F.J.
V64838  Bailey  K.
WX25369  Bailey  R.H.
VX115944  Baines  J.L.  MID
VX67273  Baker  E.G.
V225087  Baker  F.R.
N454287  Baker  G.B.
V22989  Ballantyne  F.J.
VX137025  Ballock  D.G.
VX115921  Balshaw  M.W.
VX65148  Bamford  W.D.
N474537  Banks  D.
VX132951  Barbuto  T.
V57714  Barker  M.N.
V220062  Barker  V.E.
VX64717  Barclay  M.J.
VX111566  Barlee  F.A.C.
VX102702  Barlee  F.H.
VX115948  Barnes  G.S.  AACC
VX115936  Barnes  J.L.
VX29810  Baron  A.W.
V220112  Barraclough  A.L.
VX67457  Barrington  J.
SX39991  Bartlett  M.
VX70225  Bartlett  M.
VX1655  Bashman  W.G.
WX26483  Baskerville  N.T.
WX31586  Bassett  G.D.
VX77270  Bates  G.W.H.
VX17246  Bates  R.H.
VX7829  Baumann  A.C.C.
VX135061  Baumann  J.J.
VX66490  Baxter  J.J.
VX68601  Bayley  H.T.C.
VX63719  Beament  G.F.
V67062  Beams  W.R.
V220011  Beaton  G.E.
TX16194  Beck  R.
V64354  Beckman  K.E.
VX64445  Beer  E.W.
V220074  Behmsmann  L.H.
Q128345  Beitzel  S.H.
QX60222  Bell  H.G.
VX67897  Bell  S.B.
VX68387  Benbow  E.
VX66667  Bending  M.
VX67692  Bennett  A.
VX89415  Bennett  A.A.
(KIA)  MID
V64572  Bennett  H.W.
VX67380  Bennett  W.S.
V57545  Benson  F.C.
NX174699  Benson  S.C.
VX134827  Benton  G.M.
VX114148  Benton  B.
V225044  Berry  A.A.
VX135063  Berry  A.J.
VX135260  Berry  M.H.
VX66642  Berthon  P.
VX120843  Bevan  H.E.
Q14408  Billby  H.N.
VX63705  Billinghurst  G.L.
VX150190  Bilney  J.E.
VX133190  Bilton  S.G.J.
VX115911  Binney  F.D.
VX147775  Bird  K.T.S.
VX63641  Birrell  W.J.
VX89413  Blaby  J.J.
VX114147  Blaby  K.
VX148650  Black  A.M.
VX61386  Black  A.P.
V64432  Bland  F.E.  AACC
VX3234  Blay  E.G.
N456133  Blaydon  M.L.
VX148869  Blight  C.A.
VX149733  Block  S.W.
VX150404  Block  G.V.
N377638  Blyton  C.
TX450  Bonde  R.R.
V64372  Bone  D.H.
VX65014  Bongiorno  A.
VX89409  Boswell  J.L.
VX67333  Boyd  J.L.
VX67294  Brace  F.R.
VX66615  Bradford  C.J.
AACC
V185327  Bradshaw  A.G.
N167882  Bradshaw  G.A.
VX67198  Brainwood  H.
VX68374  Braker  L.A.
VX67252  Brannelly  J.P.
VX65442  Breakwell  J.
V121061  Breen  B.A.
VX67716  Breen  M.V.
VX66243  Brennan  F.W.
VX59456  Brennan  L.P.
VX148039  Brennan  M.R.
N203464  Brennan  W.J.
AEEM
T39208  Brickwell  H.P.
VX69546  Bright  A.E.
VX68925  Britt  A.W.
VX89420  Britt  R.W.
VX7888  Britt  W.A.
NX177077  Broadbent  K.
V57757  Brodie  F.J.
V68923  Brosnan  P.
N460752  Brown  A.
NX194350  Brown  A.J.
VX132538  Brown  F.M.
NX201920  Brown  F.M.E.
TX146500  Brown  G.C.
VX5012  Brown  H.V.
(Killed in air crash)
VX118507  Brown  J.L.
V507226  Brown  M.J.
N461272  Browne  A.J.
Nominal Roll (continued)

VX46439 Bucknell M.K.
V64571 Budich A.R.
VX63516 Bufton T.
V54720 Bulen T.S.
N162446 Bulmer K.C.
V54402 Burch F.
NX175342 Burge W.
NX3934 Burgess A.J.
SX39934 Burgess J.L.
VX67737 Burke E.
WX28898 Burkett K.R.
V508343 Burmeister L.
QX61127 Burnett G.W.
VX150157 Burns J.K.
V64657 Burns L.G.
V64659 Burns R.H.
V66649 Burns R.
V64658 Burns S.B.
VX68454 Burns S.C.
VX68309 Burrows R.H.
NX169137 Burton C.E.
VX62939 Burwood W.J.
VII14003 Bushby E.E.
NX195092 Bushell G.N.
N160906 Bussey G.T.
V69541 Butler B.A.
N463139 Butler D.W.
WX25405 Butler W.J.
VXI15946 Butling L.T. MID
V75423 Bysouth R.B.
VX145767 Cadd H.
VX146141 Cadman A.R.
VX65831 Cahill A.P.
V64661 Cahir T.V.
VX67341 Cain M.
VX69112 Cairns E.A.
N24522 Callan R.
V55933 Cameron A.W.
QX37486 Cameron C.F.
VXI137093 Cameron J.B.AACC
V220093 Cameron J.G.
VX114199 Cameron W.O.MID
SX19856 Campbell G.L.
VX66733 Campbell L.
V57443 Campbell R.
Q151164 Carey J.
VX67745 Carew S.J.
V66828 Carl B.
V216073 Carmichael H.
VX53938 Carroll J.W.
V64337 Carter A.W.T.
VX68590 Carter E.
T102660 Carter E.C.
VX135064 Carter R.T.
V216093 Cattanagh N.L.
VX42442 Cattell A.B.
QX268914 Cazzulino, F.
VX67638 Chambers D.
V66047 Chandler K.J.
VX134688 Chaplin F.M.
V58667 Chapman H.H.
NX170709 Chapman A.J.
VX115946 Chappell S.
VX32517 Chappell R.J.
VX60114 Charles N.L.
VX69664 Charleston W.H.
VX67445 Cheeseman A.J.
V668010 Chessim J.K.
SX11392 Chirgwin L.J.
V57547 Chong S.I.
V54890 Clark B.
VX66381 Clark K.D.
V690390 Clark R.C.
VX132944 Clarke A.T. (KIA)
VX619 Clarke H.J.
VX112102 Clarke R.H.
VX136688 Clarke W.R.
V220204 Cleroy J.W.
VX68231 Clifford E.K.
VX4202 Clifford G.C.
(VX136768 Clohesy L.J.B. MID
VX69796 Clohesy M.
V63216 Clohesy M.
V68317 Cocks A.D.M.
VX89445 Coker A.J.L.
VX64502 Colbert I.C.
V64438 Colbert T.
NX137470 Coleman V.
VX68104 Collins E.
VX64606 Comitti F.W.
NX27453 Condon H.H.
VX64166 Condor V.F.
VX64636 Connor R.C.
V64642 Connor W.
VX134512 Conquest M.L.
V196630 Considine A.J.
VX136531 Considine V.N.J.
NX45778 Constable S.G.
VX64264 Conway A.C.
VX67721 Conway L.F.
VX52123 Cook H.H.
V220089 Cook R.E.
VX64669 Cooper P.J.
TX14964 Cooper A.T.
VX89367 Corbould R.E.
QX39177 Corcoran H.S.
VX68074 Cornell S.R.
VX136523 Cossens O.J.
VX68153 Costelloe K.G.
NX170917 Cottée H.R.
VX148959 Coughlan M.F.
VX149732 Coughlan P.J.
Q34690 Cowan D.J.
V270864 Cowling J.E.
VX67192 Cowling M.
V225050 Cox D.E.
VX141252 Craig W.A.
V69134 Crankshaw W.C.
VX66702 Crawley A.W.
VX146730 Crawshaw W.G.
VX115848 Crebbin E.C.
VX67979 Cree C.H.
VX67639 Creely T.P.
VX89411 Cresy K.F.
V68950 Cresswell A.
NX175866 Cressy H.W.
N445074 Crew H.E.
WXX34516 Criddle M.
VX201970 Crittenden R.G.
NX177668 Croan A.J.
QX61226 Croarty M.J.
VX67348 Cronin W.E.
VX34246 Cross A.J.
V64683 Cross F.B.
VXI118508 Crossley K.
VX136692 Crothers A.F.
VX134798 Crozier A.M.
VX115918 Crute A.
VX149731 Cudmore W.M.
VX69373 Cummings J.W.
VX68399 Curren C.E.E.
VX66697 Currie W.P.
VX67227 Currie R.E.
VX132543 Curtis A.L.
N201178 Cusbert S.C.
VX137094 Dagge K.
VX68458 Dalrymple H.C.
VX93512 Dalton F.D.
VX132669 Dalton M.J.
V225060 Daly D.F.
VX67505 Daly G.E.
V54766 Dane L.A.
SX19272 Daniel J.A.
N156887 Daniel S.J.
VX115930 Danslow B.S.
VX55931 Darby G.
VX118509 Darcy F.J.
VX89383 Davenport E.J.
VX52554 Davenport W.
VX147654 Davern J.D.
V57860 Davey K.
SX20848 Davidson G.W. MID
VX65389 Davis A.E.
V58695 Davis L.R.
VX63030 Davis L.G.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal Roll (continued)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VX135065       Davis M.W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX68410        Davis N.H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX118510       Davis R.H.</td>
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<td>VX64738        Davis W.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX62111        Davis W.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VX151853       Davies E.F.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SX19272        Daviess J.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX67999        Daye P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX6480        Day H.L. AACC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VX66314        Daye C.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VX66313        Daye W.B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT16340       Dayton J.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VX67790       Deacon M.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VX89361        Dean H.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VX105373      De Baere. A.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VX93579        Dedman G.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q271226       Deegan C.P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>V54596        De La Fontaine E.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX135095      Delahoy R.G.</td>
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<td>VX67390       Delaney H.M.</td>
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<td>VX67974        Delaney P.J.</td>
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<td>VX118511      Dellar T.D.</td>
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<td>VX93879        Deller K.E.</td>
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<td>VX67634        Dempsey B.J.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>N160927       Dennett K.W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SX12992       Denton G.</td>
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<td>VX64400       Denyer M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX64707        Deutschs C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX67399        Dew S.N.</td>
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<tr>
<td>QX49084        De Weldon W.R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX180056       Dickenson L.H.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VX120845      Dickson A.G.G.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q28393        Diener R.F.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX66745        Dike J.E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX67507        Dillon W.J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TX4291        Dillon D.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX120844      Dishon W.L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX66922        Dixon R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX101710       Dodd F.T.</td>
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<td>V57869        Dodemaide V.A.</td>
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<td>VX52695        Dods D.V.</td>
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<td>VX147653       Doherty D.J.</td>
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<td>VX67717        Doherty J.M.</td>
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<td>VX89416        Doherty J.T.</td>
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<td>V57475        Doherty K.J.</td>
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<td>TX15223       Donaghy T.N.</td>
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<td>VX146673       Donald L.A.</td>
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<td>VX120846       Donaldson L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX137110       Dougherty B.G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VX134795      Dougherty M.I. (KIA) MID</td>
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<tr>
<td>WX33052       Douglas B.N.</td>
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<tr>
<td>V59108        Dow A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>V202124       Dow J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q270338       Falzon F.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*(Some names are marked as KIA or MID, indicating Killed in Action or Missing in Action, respectively.)*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal Roll (continued)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q22250 French J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NX162553 Fry F.J. (Chap)</td>
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<td>VX7209 Furlong A.H.</td>
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<td>VX11307 Furlong J.S.</td>
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<td>VX132559 Furlong R.F.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX62078 Gallagher A.J.</td>
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<td>VX67434 Gallagher L.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VX65663 Gallagher R.G.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX89389 Galleon W.F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D631 Galvin F.J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX150747 Galvin I.R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VX63480 Gamble E.J.</td>
</tr>
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<td>VX105375 Gange L.G.</td>
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Nominal Roll (continued)

VX89399  Henderson T.A.  VX147647  Hornsby L.G.  VX91114  Jones H.J.
VX686371  Henderson W.B.  VX5783  Horton D.J.  VX98385  Jorgensen L.A.
VX21567  Henley S.W.  VX451163  Hoskins H.A.  QX80430  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.
S6392  Hepner 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.  VX4024  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.
V54504  Hewitt H.W.  VX132540  Hunt L.A.  (Died OAS)
VX67249  Hibbert N.  VX201392  Hunt K.J.  V64590  Keens R.L.
VX31742  Hibbert P.D.  VX68451  Hunter C.A.  NX172157  Keep C.T.
V65733  Hickey L.  VX36411  Hunter F.S.  VX68579  Keil C.C.G.
V66681  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.
VX34081  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  Iredele V.W.  VX28806  Kemp A.J.
V64358  Hillier A.H.  VX80001  Irvine A.R.  VX135411  Kempton W.
VX132536  Hillier A.L.  VX134799  Irving A.L.  V67421  Kendall W.J.
VX127798  Hinchey K.J.  VX89358  Isaacs W.G.  VX61824  Kennedy A.S.
NX20013  Hinds J.F.  VX145608  Jackson H.E.  VX149282  Kennedy A.J.
NX173055  Hinnam 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  Jaenko 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.  VX68096  Jamieson C.A.  VX89418  Keogh R.A.
Q270322  Hodges L.E.  V114016  Jamieson J.  V57483  Kerr A.S.
SX31762  Hodges M.L.  VX149591  Jarrad H.R.  VX137272  Kettle A.
VX146367  Hodson G.W.  NX201599  Jeffrey C.J.  S114277  Kidd S.R.L.
VX62463  Hodson R.R.  VX67900  Jellef P.E.  VX65390  Killean B.C.
V64629  Hoffman B.G.  VX75655  Jennings I.F.  V57257  Killingbeck H.
SX29219  Hoffman L.A.  VX25418  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.
VX83969  Hollander 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.  VX155155  Johnston L.E.  V155164  Knight E.
MID  VX67680  Honey E.A.  VX127795  Joiner W.H.  Q268988  Knight J.B.
VX68539  Honey L.A.J.  VX57445  Jolley M.W.M.  VX68644  Knowles F.A.
SX12216  Hook F.G.  VX116015  Jolley R.R.  VX265459  Kowalski K.T.
QX59268  Hooper B. AAMC  Q152738  Jolliffe S.A.  VX115913  Krause N.O.
VX53245  Hooper W.B.  V220065  Jones A.C.  V64709  Krelle E.C.
N450997  Hopkins L.A.  VX136690  Jones A.J.  VX88990  Kuhne W.A.
NX176869  Hopson R.W.  VX200934  Jones A.R.  VX67592  Kummer J.G.
SX231  Hopton L.I.  VX134690  Jones C. M1D  VX88608  Labouree F.
VX67127  Hore E.C.  N263033  Jones C.  V64534  Ladlow D.E.
VX125019  Horne T.A.  V10180  Jones G.A.  VX120852  Lambert L.R.
VX148137  Jones G.A.W.  V64556  Lambert R.A.
Nominal Roll (continued)

QX42977  Murphy J.  SX33056  McLoughlan F.M.  V57898  Oaks N.W.
VX132537  Murphy R.J.  VX118513  McLoughlan F.H.  S33949  Ockenden L.F.
V225030  Murray C.E.  VX89424  McMahon A.D.  VX67409  O'Connell C.W.
V220059  Murray J.C.  VX89363  McMaistors 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.  VX149583  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  Oelsnizk W.W.
VX65656  McBean M.J.  VX88143  McPhee N.H.  SN10780  O'Farrell T.M.
SX38768  McCarthy M.K.  VX68834  McPherson N.O.  VX65046  O'Leary P.K.
VX132709  McCarthy S.F.  VX50210  McQuilter R.D.  VX134672  Oliver R.C.
VX114156  McCarthy T.S.  VX66566  McQuat J.J.  VX57252  Oliver W.M.T.
V57738  McCleary D.N.  VX89433  McRae A.L.  V63663  Ollington L.P.
V64321  McCleary K.L.  SX33115  McShane D.  Q131754  Olsen J.H.
V155189  McCleary T.S.  VX173614  McTaggart D.W.  Q63207  O'Reilly G.L.
NX39066  McClelland R.W.  VX225059  McTavish C.J.  VX225088  O'Reilly W.O.
VX202184  McCooey T.  VX89404  McWaters A.J.  VX137168  Orr J.C.G. ACC.
V22425  McCooey W.  VX89407  McWhirter A.A.  VX66710  Osborne H.W.
NX175310  McCormack J.H.  VX67105  Nannik A.  VX69619  O'Shanessy P.M.
VX69150  McCrickard R.H.S.  VX26519  Nash A. (KIA)  VX120856  O'Shea F.A.
VX115929  McDonald A.  VX507744  Naylor A.A.  VX57201  Osmond W.F.
VX173701  McDonald E.J.  VX32714  Naylor F.A.  QX61299  Owen A.W.
VX66725  McDonald J.  VX501048  Naylor I.J.  VX89382  Paech L.W.
VX89783  McDonald L.  VX180162  Neale A.C.  VX220138  Page D.E.
VX135070  McDowall I.A.  VX57097  Neden G.A.  VX120858  Page L.A.
VX89429  McEmry W.R.  VX57858  Needham S.J.  QX60549  Palmer S.G.
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VX150114  McGennisken L.P.  VX68730  Nelson D.M.  VX68070  Parkinson T.J.
VX136770  McGinty J.A.  VX64542  Nelson G.A.  VX57693  Parkinson M.J.
V57320  McGlynn M.E.  VX67631  Nelson J.A.J.  VX93029  Parsons S.W.
AAACC  McGraith J.H.  VX114148  Neville K.C.  VX67959  Passalaqua J.A.
VX65968  McGregor D.J.  QX58474  Newton N.L.  VX57273  Patton H.R.
V68348  McGregor W.H.  VX134831  Nicholls R.L.  QX132452  Pattell L.G.
VX78307  McGowan H.  VX105376  Nicholls J.A.  VX134890  Patullo H.L.
VX66541  McHugh R.H.  VX66449  Nicholson B.M.  VX503527  Payne E.G.
VX67837  McInnes W.O. MID  VX64615  Niidrie V.J.  VX63746  Payne P.E.
VX114145  McIntyre M.A.  VX63620  Nieman W.N.  VX114211  Peace D. AAMC
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T20584  McKenzie D.M.  VX67365  Noble M.A.  VX201720  Pears A.R.
V64360  McKenzie C.B.  SX28417  Nolan C.R.  VX58903  Pedder A.L.
VX68192  McKenzie D.J.  VX114149  Norman L.C.  SX11402  Pedder G.E.
VX220050  McKenzie I.M.  VX290  Norris J.J.  VX141358  Peel S.
VX69047  McKenzie J.A.  VX66976  Norris W.H.A.  VX68214  Pendlebury S.C.
VX64692  McKenzie M.S.  VX509301  North L.E.P. (KIA)  VX141308  Perkins J.R.
VX115928  McLean R.J.  VX63940  Norton J.  VN113720  Perkins K.D.
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VX67316  McLeod C.  VX65118  Nowell A.J.  NX172516  Peters L.R.
V57294  McLeod I.C.  VX151621  Nunn C.D.  VX68473  Peters R.J.
VX149784  McLeod L.W.  VX69411  Oakley C.R.  V151482  Petri A.
V64773  McKinnon D.F.  VX155206  O'Shea P.  VX67406  Pettigrew B.A.

Stan Tucker, Bill Shuttlewood and Rex Baguley were three of the “Sigs” attached to “D” Coy at Munda, New Georgia, British Solomons.
The funicular railway up Barges Hill, which rose to an approximate height of 2000 feet (600 metres) above the river valley.
Another view of the funicular 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 II

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.

General Kanda and his entourage arrive aboard the HMAS Diamentina, 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. |
| VX141055 | Pettitt K.T. | VX69499 | Raynor L.T. |
| VX148663 | Petty S.R. | VX65062 | Reddick B.A. |
| VX52512 | Petty R. AACC | VX89438 | Rees S. |
| VX89381 | Pfugler K.H. | VX68570 | Reeves T. |
| VX66902 | Phelan L.M. | VX66078 | Reeves E. |
| VX65628 | Phillips D. | VX93312 | Regent R. |
| VX149706 | Phillips L.J. | VX120849 | Reid A.C. |
| VX64668 | Phillips J. | VX89441 | Reid G. |
| WX29773 | Phipppard R.B. | VX115935 | Reid L.A. |
| QX50616 | Phipps R. (KIA) | VX230064 | Reid R.S. |
| SX29378 | Pickering D.M. | QX37512 | Reimer T.F. |
| VX61951 | Pickett K.J. | VX64500 | Renfrey W.N. |
| T20157 | Pilgrim G.T. | VX64388 | Rethus C.C. |
| V225108 | Pimmel L.J. | VX10130 | Reynolds J.F. |
| VX138620 | Piper A.E. | VX63671 | Rhodes P. |
| V64487 | Pitt E.J. | N361288 | Richards R.J.C. |
| SX31527 | Pitt F.A. | VX135242 | Richards S.J. |
| VX225031 | Poholke C.C. | VX68259 | Richardson J.P. |
| VX4774 | Poholke H.E. | VX148562 | Richmond J.C. |
| VX68132 | Pollard P.A. | VX54965 | Rickard A.J. |
| V180178 | Poole R.A. | VX64219 | Rigaldi J. |
| VX46488 | Powell C.J. | VX68295 | Rigby L.R. |
| VX148751 | Powell H.C. | VX6744 | Rigney J.V. |
| VX225357 | Powell J. | VX67410 | Riley H.J. |
| VX67037 | Power C. | VX64499 | Riley W.A. |
| VX21627 | Powlesland W.J. | VX192859 | Rinaldi V.P. |
| VX147652 | Pratt C.W.J. | VX171467 | Ring H. |
| QX4260 | Pratten L.P. | VX134948 | Ritson R.F. |
| TX15698 | Prestage H.G. | VX134949 | Robbie A. |
| VX67791 | Pretty J.C. | VX135412 | Robbie J.S. |
| V57609 | Pretty L.A. | VX66838 | Roberts I.S. |
| V57658 | Price J. | VX137273 | Roberts J.S. |
| V57593 | Price S.J.W. | VX114155 | Roberts W.L. |
| VX67733 | Proctor C. | VX68124 | Roberts R. |
| VX147706 | Browse K.A. | VX136771 | Robertson H.L. |
| VX48126 | Pryor T.W. | VX132534 | Robertson K.W. |
| VX56024 | Puller A.E. | VX201546 | Robertson L.M. |
| VX115942 | Pyle G.T. | VX66782 | Robertson P.B. |
| T34988 | Quarry R.J. | VX89391 | Robertson T. |
| V67980 | Quick A.N. | VX82779 | Robertson W.A. |
| N45841 | Quish W.M. | VX134974 | Robins M.W. |
| VX67191 | Radcliffe C.E. | VX137169 | Robinson C.H. |
| TX5151 | Radford A.A. | VX138671 | Robinson C.W. |
| VX138620 | Radford J.J. | VX57342 | Robinson K.W. |
| V175128 | Raleigh J.A. | VX64775 | Robinson L.N. |
| VX21933 | Randall G. | VX103427 | Robinson S.G. |
| VX67506 | Randles A.J. | VX106107 | Robson K. |
| VX89431 | Rankin F.H. | VX146013 | Rodgers R. |
| VX6245 | Ransome A. | VX62258 | Rodgers F.W. |
| V114012 | Rask A.J. | VX67178 | Rofe J. |
| VX89427 | Rauert N.A. | VX68394 | Rogers A.B. |
| VX64877 | Rawle E.W. | VX3171 | Rogers K.C. |
| VX66440 | Rawnsley C.R. | VX105377 | Rollaston K. |
| VX67852 | Rawson J. | VX271390 | Rooke G.H. |
| VX66232 | Rawson S.K. | N156285 | Roose R.S. |
| VX56504 | Roper R.C. | VX225065 | Roscoe T.C. |
| VX67081 | Rose A.D. | VX64411 | Rose C.H. |
| VX62014 | Rose J.A. | VX180188 | Rosewarne A.L. |
| VX68759 | Ross D.K. | VX132670 | Ross E.A. |
| VX40269 | Ross W.B. | VX69226 | Roulet T.J. |
| VX66071 | Rowe A.J. | VX134828 | Rowe C.W. |
| VX67411 | Rowe T.W. | VX506762 | Rowley A.G. |
| VX135071 | Rowney J.P.H. | VX64373 | Roy R.B.S. |
| VX88397 | Ruby R.G. | VX58109 | Rush G.P. (KIA) |
| VX57070 | Russell J.M. | VX220098 | Russell L.C. |
| VX115941 | Ryan E.G. | Q144621 | Ryan L.P. |
| VX64589 | Sadler R.M., DSO, MC, VM | VX120861 | Sampson A.J. |
| VX57541 | Sallman J. | VX67541 | Salmon E.R. |
| S112393 | Sanders L.W. | VX89426 | Sandford J.H. |
| Q135793 | Santacatarina F. | VX145153 | Saul C.F. |
| VX43046 | Savage K.G. | VX34911 | Savage J.I. |
| VX62605 | Saville R.J. | VX145708 | Sawyer J. |
| VX773350 | Scanlon J. | VX66593 | Scantlebury E.H. |
| VX68346 | Scarlett G.J.E. | VX68169 | Schillinger S.F. |
| VX64698 | Schlitz E. | VX189489 | Scott J.R. |
| VX63933 | Schilling H.R.C. | VX69393 | Schmidt L.A. |
| Q6209 | Schmidt A.R. | Q136621 | Schmidt K.F. (KIA) |
| VX145708 | Schofield E.W. | Q114303 | Scholz P.H. |
| VX7147 | Schulz E. | S89974 | Schulz P.L. |
| VX135264 | Schuld P.L. | VX89386 | Schurr C.H. (KIA) |
| VX65469 | Scott A.D. | VX78007 | Scott A.L. |
| VX78007 | Scott A.S. | VX68689 | Scott A. |
| VX65612 | Scott C. (KIA) | VX134511 | Scott C.W. (KIA) |
| VX89366 | Scott E.M. | VX67631 | Scott G.H. |
| VX118515 | Scott H.J. |
Nominal Roll (continued)

V66817  Scott J.C.  V64721  Smith P.V.
VX135072 Scott L.  VX143822 Smith P.W.
VX67017 Scott K.  NX172775 Smith R.B.
V66817 Scott K.  V112161 Smith R.D.
NX193518 Scott N.  VX89365 Smith R.E.
V69229 Skown C.G.  VX88622 Smith T.G.
VX115947 Searle A.  V68163 Smith V.N.
TX14764 Selridge M.S.  VX66360 Smithers D.E.
VX29293 Selridge W.J.  VX67027 Sommerville R.R.
VX89395 Serle R.C.  Q270550 Southey N.G.
V669635 Shawley S.  VX81421 Souther K.A.
S112481 Sheare G.G.  VX69336 Spear T.R.
SX26404 Shearer A.M.  VX149594 Spencer D.
VX40679 Shepherd V.G.  V64795 Sporn J.P.E.
VX132545 Shepperd R.T.  V64794 Sporn R.F.
V57447 Shergold W.C.  VX91859 Spring W.R. AAMC
VX89360 Shielde J.  VX68723 Stackpoole A.J.
VX147774 Shuttlewood W.A.  Q660379 Stanesby J.
VX67452 Sidbottom G.  V64704 Staye C.
V175143 Simmons G.J.  VX218838 Staye W.
VX150267 Simmons J.N.  VX65659 Stead E.J.
VX66978 Sinclair L.G.  VX105378 Steed R.R.
VX89402 Sinclair R.C.  VX68972 Stephens O.G.
VX65942 Silvester K.F.  VX68482 Stephens R.W.
VX63359 Simpson A.G.  VX62221 Stephenson E.
VX66433 Simpson G.A.  VX193385 Stephenson D.M.
VX67516 Sitch R.J.  VX78969 Stephenson R.T.
VX149994 Skehan J.P.  VX115945 Stevens H.W.P.
SX31630 Skelely D.T.B.  (KIA)
VX68889 Skinner A.A.  VX89396 Stevens J.L.
V225110 Slade C.H.S.  VX118516 Stevens J.W.
VX25917 Slater J.S.  VX105378 Stevens L.M.
QX41973 Slattery F.X.  VX193385 Stevenson D.M.
VX132827 Slattery R.O.  VX78969 Stevenson R.T.
V66913 Slavemaker S.  V64704 Stewart C.
VX67109 Smale G.A.  VX67027 Stirrat D.C. MID
VX68830 Smith C.C.  VX89422 Stirrat R.C.
VX123059 Smith C.G.  VX63274 Stobart P.
NX95326 Smith G.C.  VX118517 Stokan D.J.
VX40575 Smith C.W.D.  Q269445 Stokes R.
VX68183 Smith F.E.  T20791 Storay G.H.
TX4964 Smith F.O.  V23109 Stork C.E.
VX64835 Smith H.  V64592 Stork H.J.
VX68145 Smith H.A.  V68007 Stott A.L.
VX67870 Smith H.G.  VX67372 Straughan G.D.
VX114157 Smith H.W. (KIA)  VX68441 Street J.
V225063 Smith J.  VX57833 Strong J.G.
SX16858 Smith J.A.  VX57363 Strong R.W.H.
V54645 Smith J.B.  VX147658 Sullivan E.J. (Now Cadman)
V64594 Smith J.C.  VX89444 Sullivan P.W.
VX69102 Smith J.H.  VX16185 Summers R.A.
VX78528 Smith J.W.  VX147656 Summerscales A.F. AAMC
NX171748 Smith K.A.  VX67040 Sutcliffe H.J.
V220078 Smith K.D.  VX89377 Sutherland J.G.
(Died of illness)  VX66362 Sutton A.C.
NX168855 Smith K.O.  VX146171 Swallow J.A.
NX72634 Smith  VX89370 Swan N.J.
V185249 Smith  VX68163 Sweeny L.A.
VX60020 Smith  Sweeny R.J.
VX66850 Smith  Sweeting F.A.
VX67038 Smith  Swindell G.L.
VX66362 Smith  Sword B.J.
VX117846 Smith  Sydney N.
VX150115 Smith  (Now Brash)
V220058 Smith  Vykes R.R.
VX67937 Smith  Sylvia W.J.
VX147649 Smith  Tate F.T.
VX136526 Smith  Tate L.R.
VX15270 Smith  Tate S.C.
VX51619 Smith  Taylor E.F.
VX89394 Smith  Taylor J.R.
VX115934 Smith  Taylor R.A.
VX64951 Smith  Taylor T.A.
VX71198 Smith  Taylor T.J.
VX67510 Smith  Taylor W.J.
VX89362 Smith  Teasdale A.E.
V185341 Smith  Telfeson W.B.
VX148884 Smith  Tempel E.A.
VX149971 Smith  Templar A.G.
Q271324 Smith  Terrett F.H.
NX4129 Smith  Tesch A.W.
Q5355 Smith  Tesoriero G.
VX68327 Smith  Theodore K.A.
VX17550 Smith  Thomas A.J.L.
VX89393 Smith  Thomas D.J.
VX67136 Smith  Thomas G.E.
VX113679 Smith  Thomas G.E.
VX67136 Smith  Thomas J.H.
VX137091 Smith  Thomas O.E.
VX93270 Smith  Thomas E.J.
VX64511 Smith  Thomas G.J.
V57355 Smith  Thomas G.R.
VX137091 Smith  Thomas J.A.
(Died OAS1)  Thompson C.
VX66904 Smith  Thompson C.
VX57330 Smith  Thompson E.F.
VX67262 Smith  Thompson R.
Q53975 Smith  Thompson R.
VX136526 Smith  Thompson A.R.
VX66904 Smith  Thompson C.
VX67262 Smith  Thompson C.
VX57355 Smith  Thompson C.
VX93270 Smith  Thompson J.A.
Q53975 Smith  Thompson R.
VX49416 Smith  Tindall C.
NX170438 Smith  Tippett J.P.
VX66711 Smith  Tolame A.J.
VX141009 Smith  Tournier C.E.
VX150135 Smith  Town K.A.
Q147398 Smith  Towns G.
Nominal Roll (continued)

QX62859 Townsend A.J.
VX100659 Traeger J.G.
VX62922 Travers E.J.
QX69643 Travers T.C.
VX89428 Treadwell H.T.
VX68384 Treadwell K.
VX89440 Trembath J.
VX102013 Tribe J.A.
VX134867 Tschirpig L.V.
NX176582 Tucker G.M.
VX119523 Tucker S.W.J.
NX190969 Turnbull L.
VX67616 Turner A.W.
VX68596 Turner F.
NX171775 Turner J.M.
V55506 Turner S.W.
VX23190 Turvey J.W.
V64576 Tyers M.C.A.
VX63096 Tyers W.
VX141636 Tyter R.A.
NX172281 Umbach F.F.
NX172280 Underhill S.G.
NX169812 Urquhart C.G.
V225045 Uthenwoldt E.N.
VX105379 Van den Berg J.G.
VX120859 Vandenberg R.J.
VX69686 Vaughan W.J.
WX33824 Veale H.J.
NX201771 Veale K.W.
VX145102 Venables S.G.
V64655 Vernon R.S.
N16505 Vessey E.
V57400 Vereker D.W.
NX202251 Vetter R.M.
VX19391 Vidler W.J.
QX40921 Vogler R.H.
N440929 Wainwright A.W.
VX151725 Wait L.A.
V220077 Wakefield L.C.
SX19838 Wakefield S.A.
NX202356 Wakeford H.J.
WX27485 Walkenden J.H.
VX62153 Walker D.
VX68977 Walker J.
VX148040 Walker J.A. AAMC
VX68662 Walker J.T.
V57286 Wall B.K.
VX67984 Wallis H.A.
VX68282 Wallis W.J.
TX14751 Walsh P.J.
VX89410 Walsh R.J.
VX89400 Walsh W.
V57253 Walters A.G.
VX64197 Warner L.J.R.
V113740 Waters A.R.
VX68077 Waters G.H.
V64520 Waters S.D.
VX62673 Watkins W.J.
WX37426 Watson A.B. (KIA)
VX55824 Watson G.
V57376 Watson K.G.D.
T102644 Waxman W.
VX149772 Webb N.G.
N249568 Webster F.T.
V220048 Wedge B.H.
V220053 Wedge M.R.
VX66950 Weeks G.H. MID
Q15506 Weldon J.E.
VX132671 Wells J.F.H.
S41078 Wells M.
VX69655 Wells W.H.
Q269143 Wenck N.C.
VX135002 West A.W.
V54889 West G.O.R.
VX137096 West H.F.
VX57688 Westcombe M.
VX115917 Westgarth R.E.
V57865 Westley S.R.
VX47811 Westwood H.V.
S112481 Wheare G.C.
VX89390 Wheeler A.B.
VX115943 Wheeler N.L.
VX52622 Wheelon D.R.
VX67678 Whittaker R.E.
VX93971 White E.E.
VX68126 White L.J.
VX67612 Whitehouse H.F.
V57341 Whitford A.
V5870 Whitford A.E.
V180223 Whittington R.S.
VX120857 Wickham K.W.
VX68460 Wight N.F.
VX67933 Wigney L.G.
Q146070 Wilkinson G.
V220128 Wilkie J.E.
TX15200 Williams A.J.
VX67031 Williams C.
TX16108 Williams D.J.
N450137 Williams F.H.
V64722 Williams H.L.
VX66593 Williams J.
QX55829 Williams L.E. (Died OASI)
VX225009 Williams M.D.
VX89439 Williams R.
NX9201164 Williams W.R.
VX64417 Williamson J.F.
VX68429 Williamson N.
VX177050 Willis J.C.
V57603 Wills G.R.
VX11 Willmott J.W.
VX145732 Wilmoth J.A.
VX67079 Wilson L.G.W.
VX67964 Wilson R.A.
VX53913 Wilson W.
VX67954 Wilson W.
VX67950 Wilson W.A.
V64363 Wilton F.T.
VX42550 Wiseman E.J.
VX89364 Wishart H.L.
VX137097 Withell M.C.K.
N296755 Witherden R.D.
NX193386 Withington H.T.G.
V225114 Wood A.B.
VX63121 Wood A.E.
VW25716 Wood E.T.
VX119520 Wood J.A.
VX89417 Wood M.G.
VX67975 Wood N.L.
N168575 Woodbury T.B.
VX67670 Woodford L.A.
VX69327 Woodward W.W.
VX63102 Woolcock F.C.
VX135059 Woolard R.J.
VX140843 Wright G.A.
VX29742 Wright G.D.
VX89414 Wright J.L.
VX146200 Wright J.R.
VX67654 Yendle D.J.
N334828 Yewdall R.J.
VX132544 Young A.W.
VX115926 Young S.J.
VX137170 Zibell C.E.
VX118518 Zibell M.A.
VX115912 Ziersch R.A.R.
VX92834 Zimmerman A.W.
VX146344 Zimmerman J.P.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal Roll (continued) ADDITIONAL NAMES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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</tbody>
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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".