



Night at the Museum 2021

by GRAEME SMITH



The NATM was the first time the Museum had been opened to the public at night. NATM was held over two nights from 6pm- 10pm. Besides having the Galleries open there was World War 2 Movietone newsreels playing, storytelling by Volunteer Bob Wise, WW1 bell tents erected, one was a working WW1 kitchen the other was a Working WW1 Headquarters tent, the parade ground had vintage and modern military vehicles on display, Curatorial items were on display in the Artillery shed and the Army Band Perth were playing some great Military music. The Museum was also able to supply the public with some refreshments during their time at the museum, there was a coffee van and ice cream van. We also had a sausage sizzle manned and cooked by Museum volunteers. A lot of planning had gone on behind the scenes between Army Staff and

Curatorial to make this event possible. The response from the Volunteers to assist on the night was fantastic. Approximately 500 hundred people came through the gates on the Friday night and about 450 on the Saturday night. People were able to book on line or just pay at the gate as they entered and marketing for this event was first class. Once again, a lot of people didn't realize that WA had an Army Museum until they saw it advertised on either Facebook, Website or received an event flyer. This event was a great success with the Museum raising about \$12k and all of this money goes back into the Museum to help keep it running. I would like to thank all volunteers who helped with this activity and the Army staff for making this possible.

The Museum is hoping to have another NATM in 2022.





AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA MANAGEMENT

Museum Manager
Maj. Henry Fijolek

**Museum Assistant
Manager**
Capt. Stephen Muir

Museum Curator
Steven Sinclair

Museum Deputy Curator
Richard Bennett

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Bruce Hamling
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Geoff Murray
Lisa Devlyn

Marketing Manager
David Baker

From the Museum Manager



As the end of the year approaches we must not only look back to see what we have achieved, but also to look forward to the changes and challenges that 2022 will bring.

2021, due to COVID, could have been a lot worse than it actually was. We all could have quite easily given in to the situation where we reduced our tempo and slackened off with the perfect excuse that COVID was to blame, but that did not happen and mostly in part to the fact that we have pride in the museum and the hard work it has taken to bring the museum standards into what they are today. I congratulate all the volunteers and applaud all the volunteers for that pride and hard work whether you work in the curatorial, workshops, administration or gallery sections. I must also congratulate the Board of Directors for their hard work also. They have consistently participated in the planning and execution of the operations of the museum alongside the Army to produce the exceptional results we have achieved.

Next year will see changes to the museum especially in the Army staff. As most of you are aware I will be retiring from Army service at the end of 2021 with my replacement being the current Assistant Manager Captain Stephen Muir. Captain Muir has been here for a couple of years

progressively understudying the Managers duties and also carrying out his own duties as the Assistant Manager. Captain Muir came to us highly recommended and respected within Army and brings with him a vast amount of experience and skills. These attributes are exactly what is needed to enable the museum to continue to grow and develop into the future. I wish him well and after working with him for the past couple of years I know the museum will be in safe and steady hands. Captain Muir will take charge on the 01 January 2022 so that when you return from your Christmas break you will have a new Manager. My discharge date is on the 20 January 2022 so I will also be around the museum until then.

The new Assistant Manager will be Captain Sean Collopy who I have had the pleasure of knowing for many years within Army, he too comes highly recommended and regarded within Army. And I also wish him good luck. The rest of the Army staff will remain unchanged.

If you will be unable to attend the end of year volunteer function I would like to thank you for supporting myself and Army during my posting at the Australian Army History Unit and my 17 years as Manager. The museum has grown and matured during those 17 years to become highly regarded within Army and the community and it is all thanks to the dedication and hard work of us all as a team. Well done and many thanks.

Major Henry Fijolek
AAHU
Manager AAMWA

From the Chairman



COVID has again caused a hiccup over the last 12 months, however, we are still keeping our head above water!

The board was fortunate to welcome Lisa Devlyn as a new member after the AGM

– Lisa is already up to her elbows in work for the museum!

The museum held a number of events throughout the year:

- **Night at the Museum - 16/17 April -**

These two nights were a great success and the addition of the Army Band Perth, the volunteers in period uniform, military vehicles past and present and the old Movietone newsreels greatly contributed to the entertainment. See separate article in this magazine.

- **Family Days - 8/9 October** - These two events featured the volunteers and horses from the Kelmscott Pinjarra 10th Light Horse Memorial Troop, military vehicles from the past and volunteers in period uniform. In addition, several the museum's weapons were on display. See separate article in this magazine.

- **Army Open Day - 31 Oct** - This one day event was a resounding success. The display of current equipment by 13th Brigade units drew in excess of 1200 visitors. The shop and sausage sizzle had outstanding sales.

The success of all these events would not have been possible without the support of our volunteers – a very big thank you to all who contributed, in fact, thank you to all those who volunteered for the year!

On volunteers – can you please let the Duty Officer know if you cannot attend on your rostered day – we have unfortunately had several Sundays when we had a deficiency in numbers to meet the minimum requirements to open.

The museum is still awaiting material for Compulsory Training for 2022 and hope that we may be able to start this training before the end of this year. See weekly notes for start dates of this training – remember – you cannot attend the museum without completing this training!

Don't forget the Xmas party on the 19th December – put your name down if you are attending to help with catering.

Finally, thank you to all the board members for their support and hard work during this year.

Graeme Smith
Manager AAMWA



LEST WE FORGET

VALE

Mark Stephens • John Mackay • Ken Crane • Tony Cuming

New Meets Old

On the 7th of August 21 the Royal Western Australia Regiment (RWAR) celebrated its 61st Birthday of the formation of the Regiment (60th anniversary delayed in 2020 due to Covid). The Regiment consists of 11Bn RWAR, 16th Bn RWAR and the 28th Bn RWAR which some time ago was amalgamated with the 11TH Bn to form 11/28th Bn RWAR. All the units of RWAR have their origins in ANZAC units and early Australian colonial units and the RWAR is today part of 13 Bde based at Irwin Barracks in Karrakatta Perth

Prior to the event being held, the Army Museum of Western Australia was approached as to what history or artifacts that the museum had and could provide/display at the event to contribute to the celebration and history of the units of the Regiment.

After much discussion and in-depth research in the museum it was suggested that perhaps the preserved past Colours of the 3 Bns which are held in the museum collection of laid up unit colours could form part of the overall occasion. The theme of the suggestion was the presence of the current and the past, a celebration of history and the present.

So, on the morning of the 5th Aug the laid up colours for 11Bn, 16th Bn and 28th Bn were removed from the museum display cases and

moved to Irwin Barracks, the home of 13 Bde where the celebration would happen on the 7th of August.

On the evening of the 7th Aug the function was held with the principal guests of three past Bde Comds and the current Comd Brig Brett Chaloner CSC.

The laid up colours where displayed across the floor of the drill hall where the function was held. (In the order of the battalions that make the RWAR).

In the photo you will see that the current battalion colours hang from the roof above the old colours of the Bns.

This rare photo is we think quite unique given the age of the laid up colours and paraded with the current colours of the three Battalions of the RWAR.

It was a significant event that was well received and the colours attracted great interest and questions as to their history and background.

This event is an example of the contribution that the Army Museum of WA and Army History Unit was able to make to a very special event within Army.



New meets Old

LAID UP COLOURS IN ORDER (L - R)

1. 1st infantry (WA Volunteers) 28th May 1896 – later 11th Inf Bn
2. Reg Colour – 1st & 11th Bn 1911
3. Reg Colour – 11th Bn 1929
4. Queens & Reg Colour 16th Bn 1951
5. Queens Colour 28th Bn 1921 & Reg Colour 28th Bn 1927

SUSPENDED ABOVE – the actual current Bn Colours in order: 11Bn, 16Bn, 28Bn.

Vernon Lorimer – Artist And Illustrator

by STEPHEN SINCLAIR (Curator)

On the 29th of Sep 21 the WA Army Museum opened its Vernon Lorimer art display. In the presence of over 40 guests the WA Commissioner of Dept of Veterans Affairs Mr Peter King formally opened the display along with the refurbished VC display.

The museum has owned the collection since 1990 when the 5th Military District Office handed them over to the museum. Since then, the art works have been stored away in the archives. Their quality and artistic content screamed out for an exhibition and so 9 months was spent in preparation for the public display of these wonderful works.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

No 2960 Vernon Lorimer enlisted at Maryborough on 31 March 1915 and embarked on HMAT A31 Ajana on 31 May 1915 as a member of 5 Field Ambulance. On enlistment he gave his profession as Artist.



During the war, he served most of his time in 5th FD Ambulance where he was able to see the actual results of war and its aftermath and human impact. At the end of the war Lorimer was commissioned

and transferred to the Australian Artillery as a 2/Lieutenant just after the Armistice.

He is known as an early 20th century Melbourne trained cartoonist, illustrator, and commercial artist. Most of Lorimer's illustrative work was done for the NSW Bookstall Company.

He began illustrating their books in 1908; a second followed in 1913, while serving in WWI he contributed to a servicemen's anthology. Eleven



known illustrated books appeared after the war, in 1919-25, with his busiest period being 1922-23.

During his period in 5 FD Ambulance and whilst recuperating in hospital he drew numerous illustrations of the patients in

the process of recuperating and rehabilitation.

His art works contain several themes based on his experience. They vary from humour, naughty, serious to life like and trauma.

The WA Army Museum holds 22 of Vernon Lorimer's pieces of artwork which we believe is the biggest single collection in Australia of his works.

VICTORIA CROSS GALLERY

The WA Army Museum has over the last 4 months refurbished the VC gallery to accommodate the security display case for the 4 VC's that are in the museums care:

- Martin O'Meara VC WW1 - The Somme – still on loan to the national Irish Museum
- Percy Gratwick VC WW2 - El Alamein
- Tom Starceвич VC WW2 - Borneo
- William Chase VC – Afghanistan 1881
- The case will also hold the actual miniature medals that belonged to Hugo Throssell VC won in WW1 at Gallipoli – Hill 60. His VC is held at the AWM

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

The underlying theme to the Lorimer display and the reopening of the VC gallery is the ever-present problem of PTSD. The artworks of Lorimer, the recognition of service together with the highest



awards for gallantry bring together two significant elements in this dilemma.

The focus on the lives of:

- Martin O'Meara VC – Remained in institutional care until his death
- Hugo Throssell VC - Death by suicide
- Gen. Harold (Pompey) Elliot – death by suicide

The effects of military service and the impact of PTSD subsequent on the lives of those who have served.

The hidden events of WW1 where not recognised as what we now know as PTSD but generally referred to as 'Shell Shock'. The sad thing of history is that it's taken 3 generations to understand it and the effects on the individual's life, society and most importantly families.

The exhibition tries to place this problem in the minds of those who visit and see the illustrations of Lorimer and his views and thoughts through his artwork.

Yours,

Stephen Sinclair

Curator



Annual General Meeting, 3rd October 2021



The Directors L to R: Peter Dennis, Dianne Hornby, Garry Hugo, Lisa Devlyn, Bruce Hamling, Geoff Murray, Graeme Smith

The Annual General Meeting of the Army Museum of WA Foundation (AMWAF) was held at the museum on Sunday 3rd October 2021 at 10.00am, with a small group of museum volunteers present.

After presenting the Annual Report and the Treasurer's report, the main order of business was

the re-election of Foundation directors, by rotation and the election of a new director to fill a vacancy.

The following directors were re-elected:

- Peter Dennis
- Geoff Murray

Lisa Devlyn was elected as a director of the foundation to fill an existing vacancy.

Awards To Maj. Henry Fijolek And Capt. Wayne Gardiner

by CAPT. STEVE MUIR



On the 26th of May 2021 the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia hosted the Director General Future Land Warfare,

Brigadier Ian Langford, DSC and bars and Major General Simon Stuart, Head of Land Capability. The reason for their visit was to present awards to two of the most influential and prominent members of the Army staff at the AAMWA. Wayne Gardiner was presented with a Federation Star for 40 years' dedicated service, and Major Henry Fijolek was presented with an Army Gold level commendation.

The Federation Star is a clasp added to the Defence Long Service Medal, and replaces the

first four clasps. Additional Federation Star clasps are added for subsequent clasps. As it is rare for a service member to complete 40 years in uniform, this is a great achievement and we salute Wayne for his long and dedicated service. It is worthy of note that two of our volunteers at the AAMWA, Mr Stephen Sinclair and Mr Greg Wilson have also been awarded the Federation Star.

The citation for the award of the Army Gold level commendation to MAJ Fijolek reads, in part, "In addition to expertly preserving the substantial and nationally significant collection at the Museum, the volunteers' dedication and commitment has, under your leadership, permitted the Museum to maintain an operating tempo that could not be sustained by the Army staff members alone."



Maj. Gen. Simon Stuart presenting the award to Capt. Wayne Gardiner



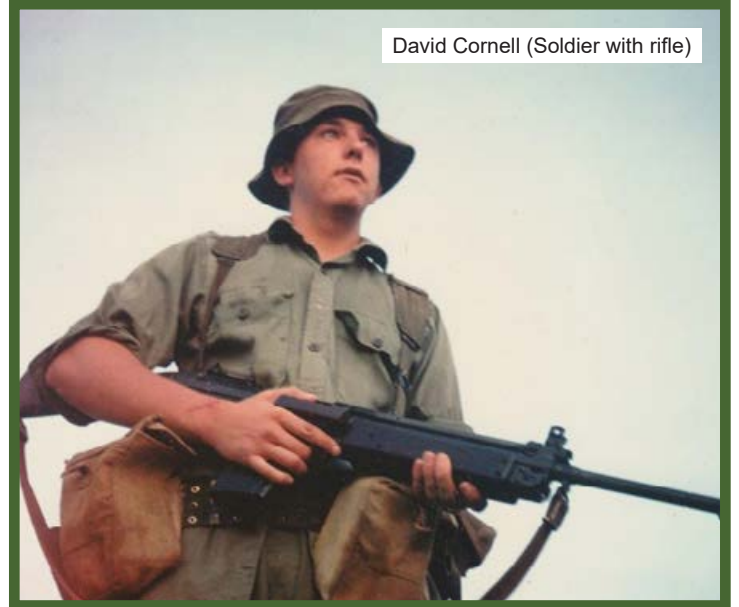
Maj. Gen. Simon Stuart presenting the award to Maj. Henry Fijolek



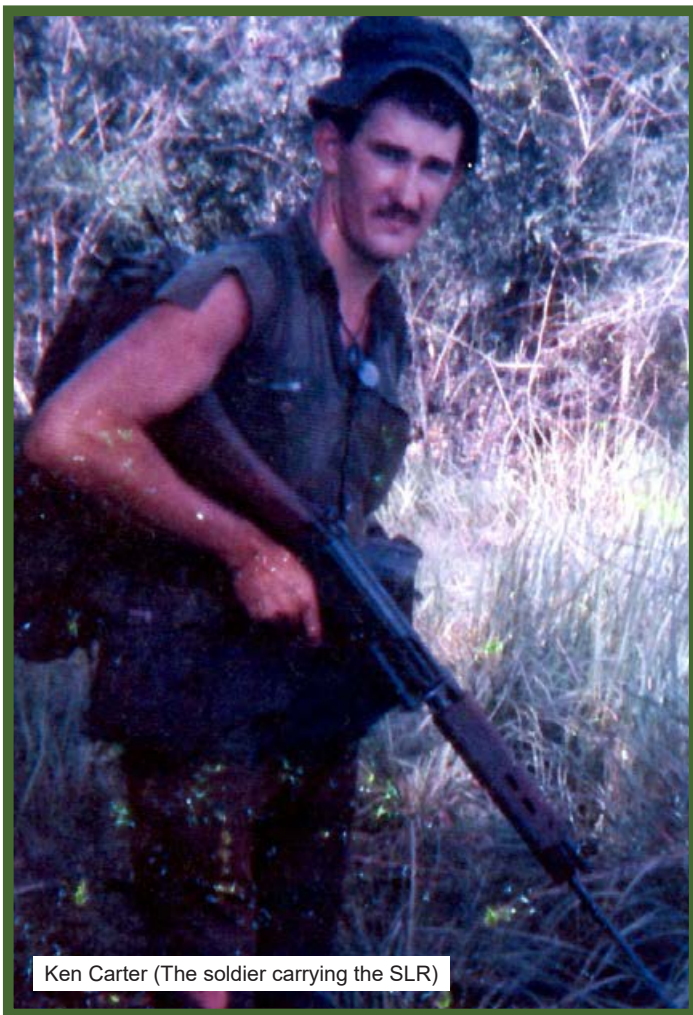
Spot a Vietnam Veteran



George Sulc (The soldier middle rear in the yellow shirt)



David Cornell (Soldier with rifle)

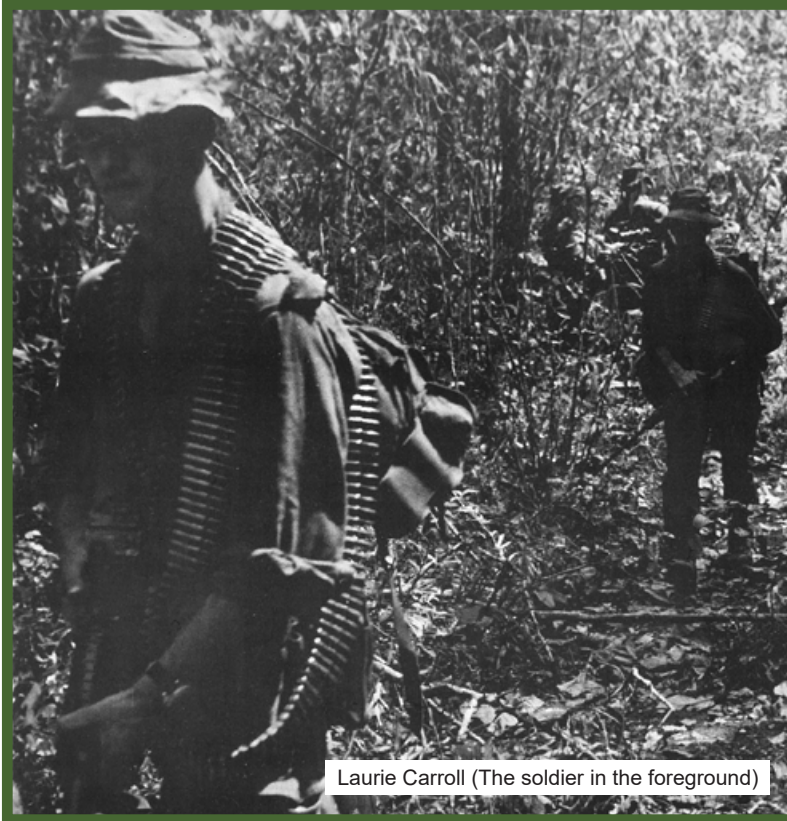


Ken Carter (The soldier carrying the SLR)

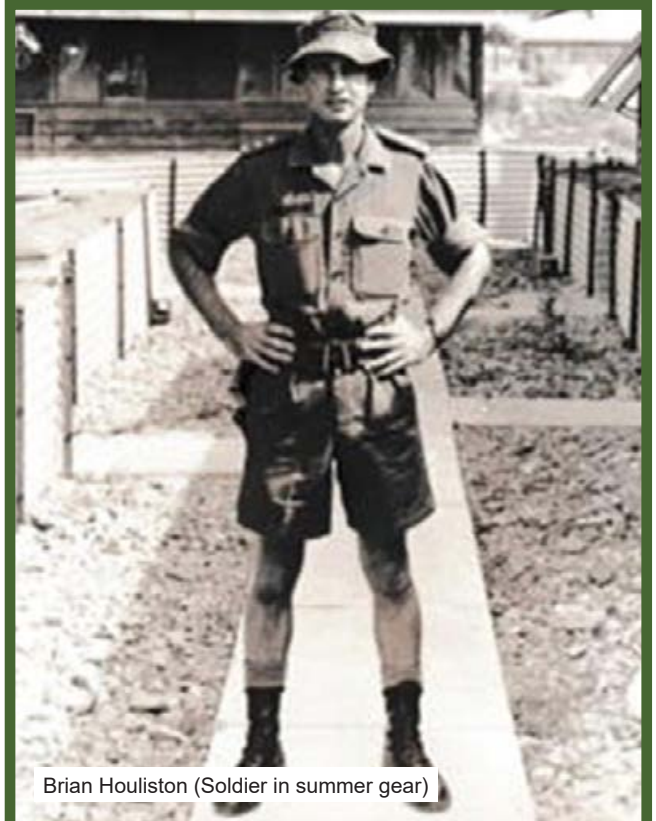


Geoff Murray (The soldier inspecting the CAR-15 commando rifle)

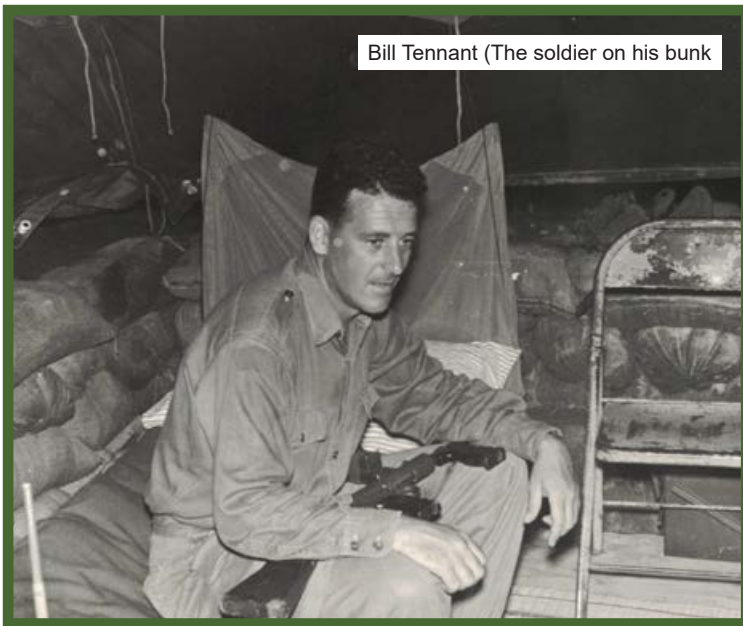
Spot a Vietnam Veteran (continued)



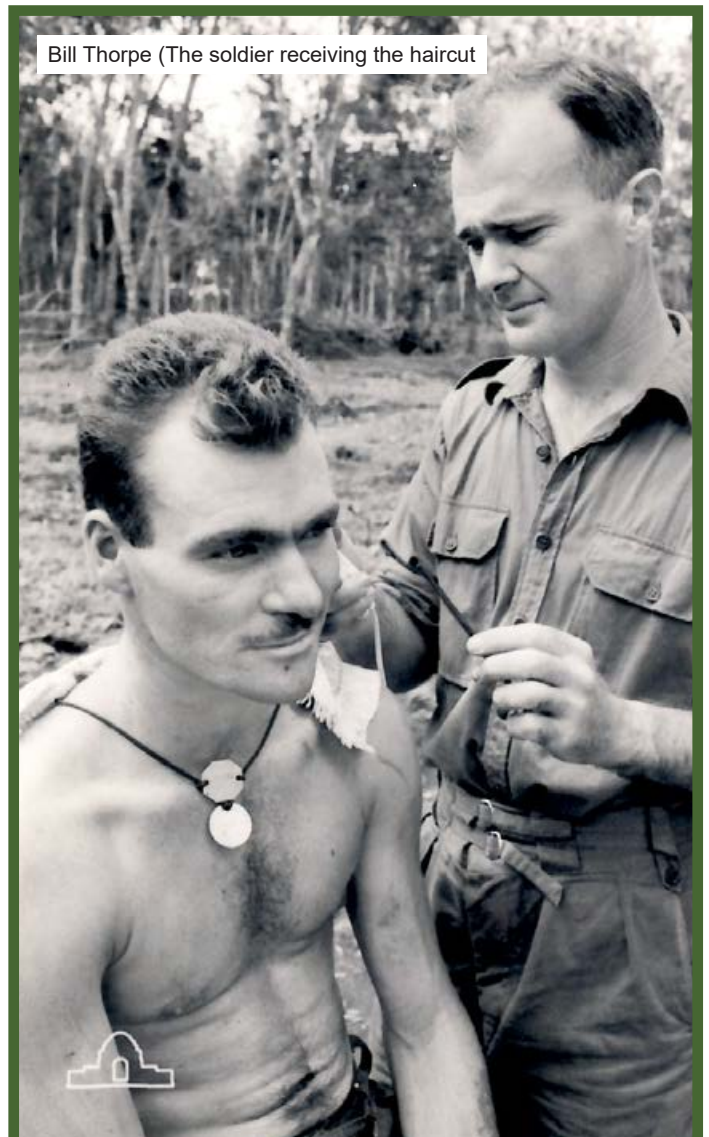
Laurie Carroll (The soldier in the foreground)



Brian Houliston (Soldier in summer gear)



Bill Tennant (The soldier on his bunk)



Bill Thorpe (The soldier receiving the haircut)



Bob Coventry (Hard-to-see soldier on a Huey)

The Story of the Twelfth



The photo is of G & H Company 12 Battalion. Both these companies were raised in Western Australia. They completed the training with 11 Battalion at Blackboy Hill. E & F companies of 12 Battalion were raised in South Australia, with the remainder raised in Tasmania.

12 Battalion embarked from Hobart, 20th October 1914 for Egypt via Albany, arrived Albany 28th October then departed Albany 1st December with convoy. 12 Battalion arrived in Alexandria on the 10th December 1914.

G & H companies embarked for Egypt on the 2nd of November 1914 on the "Medic" from Fremantle and arrived in Alexandria on the 13th of December 1914 and then joined 12 Battalion to complete the battalion's strength. 12 Battalion disembarked for Lemnos on the 2nd of March 1915.

The Pyramid photo is of G & H companies taken during the period of 14th of December 1914 and the 1st of March 1915.

The Officer shown in the foreground of the photo, centre and shorter in stature and referred to as "the little officer" is the company commander Captain Joseph Lalor, grandson of Eureka Stockade fame Peter Lalor. Sadly, Joseph Lalor was killed during the landing on Gallipoli on the 25th April 1915.

Ref: AWM – 12 Bn War Diaries

"The Story of The Twelfth" – L. M. Newton

History of Captain Joe LALOR

Born: 12th August 1884 at Richmond, Melbourne, Victoria

Educated: Xavier College, Kew, Victoria

Married: Soldier, of Military HQ, Perth, Western Australia and Elgin Street, Hawthorn, Melbourne, Victoria

Killed in action on 25th April 1915 at Baby 700, central ANZAC sector, Gallipoli, aged 30.

Joined the Royal Navy as a boy and deserted. Served in the French Foreign Legion and possibly fought in South American revolutions. (Bean V1 p291), (Coulthard-Clark, 'From Eureka to Gallipoli', in Defence Force Journal Jan/Feb 1984).

His first commission was granted in 1909 and he was appointed to the permanent forces in 1910. He was stationed for some time at Kalgoorlie as Assistant Brigade Major and made numerous friends in military and private circles during his Goldfields sojourn. Later he was appointed Brigade Major at Perth and joined the A. I. E. F. as a captain.

The late Captain Lalor originally served in the French Foreign Legion and was stationed in Algeria. The 'British Australasian' to hand by yesterday's mail from London states: - 'Mrs J.P. Lalor, who is staying at Clapton, England, is the wife of Captain J.P. Lalor, now with the Australian Expeditionary Force in Egypt.' (Kalgoorlie Miner 6 May 1915).

'When two companies of West Australians were raised to supplement the Tasmanian contingent, Captain Lalor was placed in charge of them and carried out the work of their instruction during the training at Blackboy Hill camp. Most of the captain's service was in Victoria and commenced as early as 1909, when he was a 2nd Lieutenant in the

Victoria Rangers. Captain Lalor was a born fighter. He travelled a good deal and was once attached to the French Foreign Legion in Algeria. He also visited South America and took part in two revolutions amongst some of the minor republics. He is described by his brother officers as a most interesting and likeable man. He spent in this state something like 2 ½ years and about 18 months ago was married.’ (Kalgoorlie Miner 6 May 1915). ‘Unconventional in everything, he was one of the parties to a ‘White Wedding’, not 18 months ago and spent his honeymoon on the shores of the Swan.’ (Orange leader 21 May 1915).

Killed at about 3.30pm, 25th April, 1915.

‘Morshead made his platoon left form and move across to Lalor’s left. Lalor waved his hand and moved his own line to join Morshead’s. Fire was coming from the lower knolls down near the beach. Lalor stood up to see and resolved to charge forward. ‘Now then, 12th battalion,’ he cried and as he said the words, a Turkish bullet killed him.

Captain Lalor’s son and only child, Peter, also attended Xavier College, (1921-1930), served in the Army Cadets and was killed in the Second World War.

Dignity for the Fallen (Courtesy of “The Herald”, Sept. 18 2021)

Story by KAITLEN ROWNEY



A local author has helped identify another World War I digger who spent more than 100 years in an unmarked

grave. Andrew Pittaway, who works as a records officer at Freo council, collected diaries, letters, oral histories and photos from World War I while writing his book Fremantle Voices of the Great War.

During his research he learned of 7000 graves in France and Belgium belonging to unknown Australian soldiers. Intrigued, he joined Fallen Diggers Incorporated, which gathers evidence to identify missing World War I and World War II military personnel so their families can know of their final resting places. “During the war, diggers would sometimes take the identity tags off their fallen comrades as proof of death, but the bodies were still buried in graves marked as unidentified”, Mr Pittaway said.

Searching for evidence of identities involves looking through eyewitness reports, burial information and war unit diaries to build cases. FDI also trawls through archival documents from the Australian War Memorial and the national Archives of Australia. The evidence must then be presented and approved by the Australian and British governments and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It can take up to three years for a case to be concluded.

Recently Mr Pittaway and fellow volunteer Dennis Frank successfully identified Albert Nicholson from Broken Hill, NSW who died on August 3, 1918. He was a part of the 15th division artillery and was killed at the bloody battle of Villers – Bretonneux.

“We do get asked at times to look for the burial places of specific soldiers”, Mr Pittaway said. “The unfortunate reality is that many soldiers do not have any information about how they died and so proving where they are buried is very hard. When we are researching a specific soldier, we do find information regarding other missing soldiers, so we mark those names down for further research”, he said.

In 2014 Mr Pittaway’s first successful identification of an Australian soldier was Frederick Graham from Fremantle, who died near Ypres, Belgium in 1917. This inspired him to continue searching for others, doing the research whenever he has time alongside his role at the council. “We know how much it means to the families even 100 years or more later”, Mr Pittaway said.

Veterans Affairs minister Andrew Gee thanked Fallen Diggers as well as the Graves Commission for their work in recovering Australian war casualties. “The quest to identify Albert’s grave brings the number of Australian First World War soldiers which Fallen Diggers Incorporated has helped identify to 36, bringing closure to families of our fallen and allowing us to know the resting places of those soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country”, Mr Gee said.

Family Day

On Friday, 8th October and Saturday, 9th October the museum held a Family Day on the premises of the Artillery Barracks, Fremantle.

The theme of the two-day event was to showcase the museum to members of the public and the following attractions added to the atmosphere -

- The Kelmscott Pinjarra 10th Light Horse Memorial Troop,
- Volunteers in period uniform,
- Military vehicles past and present,
- World War 2 Movietone newsreels,
- Weapons handling,
- Galleries open for a walk through

The recent formal opening of the Lorimer Exhibition and the new Victoria Cross gallery were viewed enthusiastically by visitors. The Lorimer exhibition features 22 art works completed by World War 1 soldier Vernon Lorimer whilst the VC gallery currently holds 4 original VC medals, awarded to:

- William CHASE, 2nd Anglo – Afghan War 1880
- Martin O'MEARA, 9th & 12th August 1915 WWI (currently on loan to the National Museum of Ireland)
- Percy GRATWICK, 25th & 26th October 1942 WWII
- Les STARCEVICH, 28th June 1945 WWII

These 4 medals are soon to be on permanent display.

Popular amongst the younger visitors was participating in the "Scavenger Hunt" to identify various exhibits within the galleries and particularly finding that hidden and mischievous owl "Henry", the museums' current mascot. Also popular was the weapons display, which allowed visitors to handle various weapons, including a number of machine guns and a replica 50 cal. machine gun set up as an "Anti-Aircraft" weapon.

Overall, the event was a great success netting the Foundation financially a boost of approximately \$2,000. Many thanks to all the volunteers that gave of their time to assist in the functioning of the event.



GHOSTLY TALES

Ghostly Tales No 1

By Private Danielle Taylor, ex Admin Clerk.

During my time at Artillery Barracks, I have had a couple of encounters of the ghostly kind. There was often the feeling that you are not alone.....

Saturday Morning Smoko

My first ghostly encounter was on Saturday mornings. You could set your watch by this one, 10.00am on the dot would have a strong smell of cigarette smoke. At first I thought it was the arrival of our volunteers, however after checking the office quite thoroughly this was not the case. I was indeed alone. This continued for many months until a volunteer was sitting with me chatting, 10.00am came as did the smell right on time. The volunteer noticed the smell. As I was used to the 10.00am smell, I would joke "Oh, that's my smoking ghost friend right on time". The volunteer was in disbelief so they checked the office and to their surprise realised there were only the two of us present. Oddly enough this was the last time my smoking ghost visited.

Ghostly Tales No 2

By Private Danielle Taylor, ex Admin Clerk

The 75th Anniversary Visit

February 2018 on a Friday night. A security person and I were conducting the security checks at Artillery Barracks. We were on the western side of the main museum building near the lecture room. We were walking along together chatting and it was a warm summer evening. I felt a pulling back feeling on the bottom of my trouser leg, I thought perhaps my pants had caught on something. I stopped to check however there was nothing obvious that I could see so we continued to walk. I had an odd prickly feeling on the back of my neck. We continued to walk and out of the corner of my eye was some sort of light or movement. We stopped and turned to face the doors between the lecture room and the archives area. There was what looked like a greyish light or outline of something or someone. We stood looking at the object and the security said they could see a greyish WW2 nurse in uniform and I saw a greying light or outline of something or someone. By now that prickly feeling was from head to toe. We headed for the Burt Street gate, I could not shake that prickly feeling until I was in my car and driving away.

The following day I came to work and checked the area thinking maybe it was a mannequin, but it wasn't. I was telling one of the volunteers about my experience and to my surprise he told me that this weekend was the 75th anniversary of the Banka Island massacre and there was a memorial day on the Sunday for this event. Coincidence maybe, who knows, however I never saw it again.

Ghostly Tales No 3

By Dianne Hornby

As a Volunteer Duty Officer, it is my task to open the museum and turn on the lights and videos. One Sunday, as I was opening the World War I gallery, I had a very strange experience.

To set the scene, there were only 3 of us in the whole museum complex at the time – the Army Officer in the Administration building, a volunteer at the gate and myself. Having worked night shift as a nurse for many years, I could probably be considered an "open-minded sceptic". Where many of my colleagues had experienced unexplained incidents, I had never seen or heard anything supernatural but did not doubt the veracity of their stories.

I had just unlocked the doors, started the videos and was walking out of the room, when I heard something hit the floor behind me. In front of the cabinet depicting the trench at Gallipoli was a rock about the size of a 20-cent piece which definitely had not been there moments before. Initially, I checked the ceiling and walls to see if it could have fallen from there but could see no evidence of a hole that big. Then I checked my shoes in case it had been stuck there and flicked out, but the tread was too small to have accommodated a rock of that size. Being a bit creeped-out, I picked it up and said out loud "I'm taking this outside, ok?" In hindsight, I probably should have hung onto it as evidence! I was rather surprised that I didn't really feel scared or threatened in any way. I like to think of it as a "Hey, I'm here!?" I should confess that I sing loudly as I open up just because it's a bit quiet and creepy so perhaps it was more of a "Stop singing, we can't stand it anymore!!"

PDSA Dickin Medal



The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) was founded by Maria Dickin and she established the Dickin Medal in 1943 for any animal displaying conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty whilst serving with British Empire armed forces or civil emergency services. Three Australian animals have been awarded the Dickin Medal, the latest being the dog Kuga and below is his story:

Kuga (2007 – 2012) was a Belgian Malinois military dog serving with the Australian Army. In 2011 Kuga was shot five times whilst grasping an insurgent fighter with his mouth, while on patrol in Khas Urozgan, Afghanistan. Kuga died in 2012 of complications from the wounds despite veterinary treatment. In 2018, Kuga was awarded the Dickin Medal, considered the Victoria Cross for Animals.

Kuga was born on 23 April 2007 and began training with the Australian Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) in January 2008, aged eight months. He was assigned to his handler, who cannot be named for security reasons, in April 2009 and in June 2010 they deployed to Afghanistan for their first tour.

On 26 August 2011, during the pair's second tour, a SASR patrol was airlifted by helicopter into Khas Urozgan District in central Afghanistan, with a mission to locate a high value Taliban. Unknown to the patrol was that an ambush had been established by the Taliban fighters.

Kuga's handler, ranked Sergeant, let Kuga off-lead to patrol ahead and scout. Kuga went to the left and ahead, then down a creek bank. While Kuga was swimming across the creek, the Taliban engaged him with automatic gunfire. The handler observed rounds hitting the water around the dog, which continued to the other side of the creek. Kuga left the water and charged at the shooter, grasping onto him. The shooter then targeted Kuga directly with his AK-47 rifle, hitting him with at least one round. Kuga released his grip on

the Taliban fighter who then escaped but not before targeting the dog again, ultimately hitting him five times; twice in the ear, once in the toe, once in the cheek (which exited through the neck) and once in the chest, which exited the shoulder and broke his upper-left leg. Kuga also received shrapnel wounds to his lower spine.

The Australian patrol had been well alerted to the ambush and began to engage the insurgents. The handler observed Kuga lying on the ground injured, near the bank of the stream. The handler called Kuga, who responded by slowly crawling to and entering the water and swimming over to re-join the handler, who provide immediate first aid and an emergency medical evacuation was called for.

Kuga was evacuated and then treated by veterinary staff in Afghanistan, Germany and Australia, with the aim of rehabilitating him. However, the stress and injuries were too much and he died on 24 July 2012. Kuga's death is officially recorded as 'Died of Wounds'.

On 26 October 2018, Kuga was posthumously awarded the 71st Dickin Medal for bravery by the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA). The medal was received on Kuga's behalf by a Victoria Cross recipient, Mark Donaldson VC, who was also a special forces dog handler, along with another military dog Odin. A spokesman for the PDSA said, "The reason Kuga received the medal was he was just so courageous. He saved the lives, without doubt I think, of that patrol."

Mark Donaldson said, "I personally am of the opinion that he saved lives that day. The ambush would not have been sprung early enough so they would have stumbled into the killing zone. If you take Kuga out of the equation, with reasonable doubt they wouldn't have known that the enemy was there."

Kuga's handler said, "I'm pretty proud of what Kuga did that day. He's the one who chose to go forward, he's the one who chose to take bullets for both me and my mates. Ultimately that enabled me to come home to my family."



Trip to Gallipoli August 2015

by GEOFF MURRAY

I served with the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (nicknamed The PIGS) from 1969 to 1970, with service in South Vietnam in 1970. It was at one of our battalion reunions in Darwin in 2000 that a good mate of mine, Geoff Lawson, suggested that we should go to Gallipoli in August 2015. As most Aussies who visit Gallipoli do so to coincide with Anzac Day, I asked him why we should go in August and why in 2015 and so he told me this story:

To the best of our knowledge, there had only been three 7th Battalions in the Australian Army, the 7th Battalion A. I. F. from World War I, the 2nd 7th Battalion A. I. F. from World War II and our 7th Battalion RAR from the Vietnam War era and our battalion had always had an affiliation with the 2nd 7th and the 2nd 7th had an affiliation with the original 7th and we considered they were our “grandfather” and “father” battalions. At Gallipoli in August 1915, on the same day, four members of the original 7th, our “grandfather” battalion, were awarded the Victoria Cross at the battle of Lone Pine and Geoff’s idea was for us to travel to Gallipoli in August 2015 to commemorate those four brave soldiers.

I thought this was a great idea and over the following ten years or so we continued talking about going to Gallipoli and in 2013 we started getting a group together, mostly PIGS with wives/partners etc and eventually we made up a group of about 25 to travel to Turkey.

As the departure date neared, I did some research on these four soldiers, Captain Frederick Tubb, Lieutenant William Symons, Corporal William Dunstan and Corporal Alexander Burton. I found that three soldiers, Tubb, Symons and Dunstan had survived the Battle of Lone Pine (Capt. Tubb was later killed on the Western Front in 1917, Lt Symons and Cpl Dunstan survived the war) but Corporal Burton was killed in the battle. Due

to the ferocity of the fighting, Australian troops were never able to regain the trench where he was killed and his body was never able to be recovered, with his name commemorated on the Lone Pine Cemetery wall. This struck me as terribly sad, that a very brave young soldier, who had been awarded the Victoria Cross had nothing but his name on a wall, so I was determined that when we reached Gallipoli, I would find his name and try and commemorate his service and heroism.



The Lone Pine cemetery, with the wall in the background

We arrived in Istanbul in late July 2015 and did all the usual sightseeing in what turned out to be a wonderful city, with the people very friendly and interested in our reasons for wanting to visit Gallipoli. We travelled to the peninsula on August 4th and spent the rest of that day and the next day visiting all of the battle sites and cemeteries that we had heard about so much and we were struck with just how difficult the terrain was that we encountered and we marvelled at how difficult it must have been for our young soldiers to cope with the terrain, the heat and of course the thousands of enemy trying to kill them.

The next afternoon, 6th August we arrived at the Lone Pine cemetery where the service was to be held, starting at 1700hrs. This service was a joint Australian, New Zealand and Turkish service to commemorate all those soldiers from both sides

who had paid the ultimate sacrifice and was to be attended by General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, CVO, MC (Retd) Governor-General of Australia, living Victoria Cross recipients Keith Payne VC, Mark Donaldson VC, Ben Roberts Smith VC and Daniel Keighran VC, as well as other dignitaries. Sir Peter had served in Vietnam at the same time as 7RAR did and was quite familiar with our PIGS nickname, so one of his aides had obviously informed him that there was a group of 7RAR PIGS from Western Australia in attendance. When he arrived at the cemetery he walked around chatting to people in the stands and when he saw our group, sitting there with our maroon caps on, he called out loudly "So where's this bunch of PIGS from WA?" It was certainly a thrill to meet and chat with the Governor-General and was one of the highlights of my trip. I was further honoured after the service to be able, with my mate Geoff Lawson, to lay a wreath to honour the fallen. Once again, a highlight of the trip.

Immediately after the service, I went to the Honour Wall at the back of the cemetery to find Corporal Burton's inscription and looked and looked and,

suddenly, there it was, so I immediately placed a couple of poppies next to it on the wall. We had all been given small wooden crosses to place on graves, so I wrote the following inscription on mine: "Corporal Burton A.S. V.C. Well done Digger, thank you for your Service and Sacrifice" and placed it next to his inscription and I felt so proud that I had been able to commemorate his service in that way, exactly 100 years to the day since he had been killed in action. Amongst many highlights, this was truly the ultimate highlight of the entire trip for me and one I will never forget.

Since that Gallipoli trip, whenever I attend Anzac Day or Remembrance Day services and I hear the sounds of the "Last Post" being played and the words of "The Ode" being recited, I tend to think of three things: The mates I lost in Vietnam, the many many thousands of men and women who didn't make it home from battlefields around the globe, and I think of Corporal Alexander Burton VC, a very brave young soldier whose remains still lay in a collapsed trench on the Lone Pine battlefield.



Corporal Burton's Inscription on the Lone Pine Cemetery wall, Gallipoli, Turkey



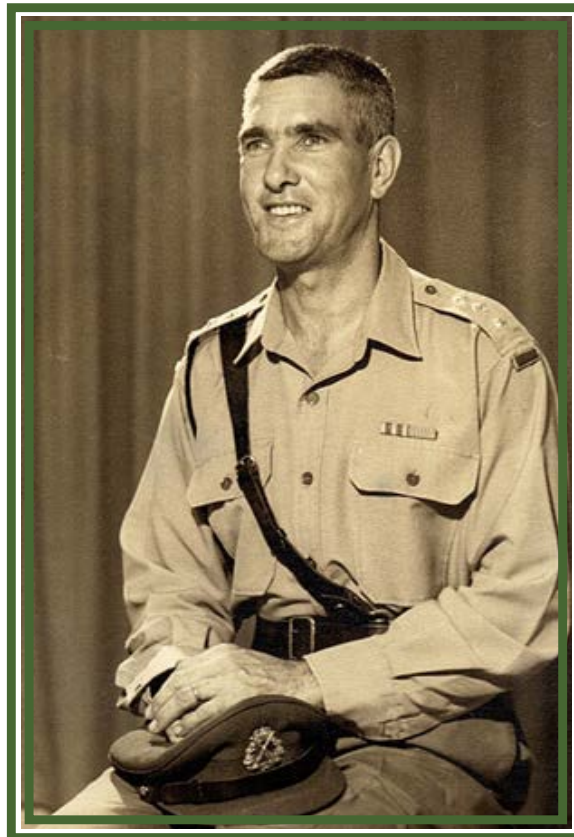
*Corporal Alexander BURTON V.C.
P.S. The Victoria Cross on his tunic was obviously added later*

Vale John Mackay

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of past volunteer John Mackay, who was a museum volunteer for many years and who had a very varied and interesting army career. Peter Shugg, a current volunteer wrote a story for the museum magazine, detailing some of his past service and unfortunately John passed away before we could publish it. However, the AMWAF board considered it would still be appropriate to print Peter's article on this amazing man and it follows below:

John Mackay Past Volunteer

By Peter Shugg



I recently caught up with John and had a chat about his remarkably interesting life and particularly his experiences in both the British and Australian Army. A book could be written about him and his experiences. The following is a small section of his life.

John was born in 1927 and lived in Kensington close to the Randwick Racecourse. His father was an engineer, whose work took him to the UK. John's family joined him in 1937. John lived in South London and experienced the Blitz of the 1940's and recalled as a young lad that it was quite exciting.

He was staying with his auntie and was told to go to the cellar as there were 'dogfights' overhead.

"Ack Ack' guns in the nearby park were silent in case they hit one of their own planes. Anyhow, John snuck out to see the excitement in the sky. The fighters were only specks, but left trails in the sky. He then had to run to the cellar as cannon shells rained down around him. He remembered the terrific noise of the bombs exploding and he thought they were close by, then later found out they could have been two miles away.

An unexploded bomb was found next door and they had to move out. He was living in Bedford Hill at the time. You may have seen the famous photograph of the bus up ended in a huge crater. That was just down the road from John's home. At the time many people were sheltering in the underground when it received a direct hit and

many died from the explosion and some drowned as the water supply was damaged.

It was decided he should move from London to Wales for safety. As a result, he was caught up in the first blitz in Wales. They had to shelter in Cardiff Castle, and he saw the fire brigade filling their tanks from the moat.

One early morning while walking he became tangled in the telegraph wires that had toppled over during a raid.

John mentioned that later in the war he counted on one day 23 V1 flying bombs heading for their unknown destination.

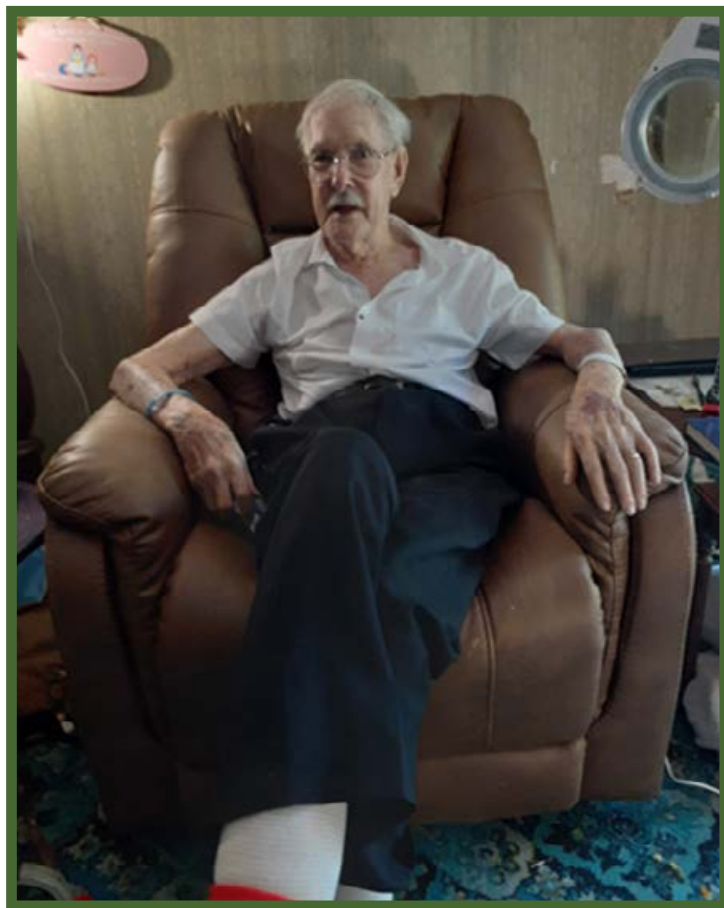
At the age of 17 he joined the East Surrey Regiment and completed the Signalers' course. He was posted to a Regimental Holding Company in Toulon, in southern France where he carried out roadblocks and escort duties. He was temporarily attached to a Prisoner of War Camp where he could use his new signaling skills.

After three of four months he was transferred to another reinforcement company at the Cairo Airport Neopolis awaiting on call to the 2nd Battalion who were posted in Haifa, Palestine.

At 3.00am they were woken up as urgency was required. There was trouble in Greece. We were issued with three of four bandoliers of ammunition. After this urgency we had to 'hurry up and wait,' for a troopship. This took several days. A troopship arrived and sailed to Greece where a civil war had broken out and joined the 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment who were operating in the mountain area of Northern Greece.

While being a dispatch rider he was hit by a truck and found himself in hospital. He met a young man whose name was Mosely, whose father was well known in Britain.

Following demobilization from the British Army he moved to Perth in 1947.



John worked as an underground miner at the North Kalgurli Mine Top Shaft which dropped to a depth of 1200 feet. It has now been engulfed by the "Superpit."

In August 1950 a call for ex-servicemen was made to form "K Force," to reinforce 3 Battalion RAR in Japan. He left Kalgoorlie and found himself outside the barracks in Francis Street at 7.30 on a Monday morning with about 200 others. Within three days he was refreshing his skills in Seymore, Victoria and joined A Coy 3 RAR three weeks after they landed in Korea. After a series of battles, they ended up 25 miles from the Yalu River and this is where the newly arrived Chinese forces decided to show them the way south. It was at Kapyong April 1951 while operating as part of the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade and alongside the 2nd Battalion Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry where fierce fighting took place. John was wounded badly and was flown to Japan for treatment.

He returned to Australia and as he was unfit for the infantry was posted to Springhill Ammunition Depot at Spencers Brook out of Northam. He enjoyed this posting.

Once he had recovered from the wounds, he returned to 3 RAR in October 1952. He then found himself involved with trench warfare and fighting for ground dominance.

In January 1953, during the fearful cold, he was a member of a fighting patrol and became involved in a major clash with the enemy and was again wounded. In the early hours, the enemy were collecting their dead and wounded. They found John and he became a Prisoner of War. This ensured a series of experiences including the Interrogation Camp, prison cells, caves, and bunkers. They were carried further north, mainly by ox cart. There were plenty of moans and curses in several languages. John recalled Poms, Columbians, Puerto Ricans and Americans together over a long period.

In April 1953, one night his life suddenly changed. He was cleaned up, wounds treated, given new clothes and a haircut. He and others were taken out of the bunker in which they had been kept, loaded into a Russian Jeep type vehicle which was heavily adorned with air panels and travelled south in daylight. It was an exchange of sick and wounded as a precursor to the main Prisoner of War exchange, John, being among the lucky ones. Again, it was off to Japan for hospital treatment, before returning to Australia.

He was admitted to Hollywood Repatriation Hospital for the removal of bullets from his chest. It was here that he met his future wife a nursing sister. They married on the 1st May 1954, the start

of 54 years of happiness in which time they had two children.

John joined the CMF and he worked with the railways and the Education Department during this time. In 1968 he was selected to spend a period of just under a month with the task force in Vietnam on full time duty. He was attached to 7RAR and 3RAR. Not to miss an opportunity he was invited to be part of a patrol which was expected to be relatively safe. However, things turned out differently. He was in the rear protection group behind the "killer group" when the Viet Cong came unexpectedly from behind. An M79 was fired and hit the tree above John and claymores were fired which set fire to the surrounding grass. Luckily, the action ceased and there were no serious injuries. When he left the CMF he had reached the rank of Major.

When John retired from teaching with the Education Department, he bought a taxi and drove until the age of 79 when he finally retired. John then became a volunteer at the Army Museum from October 2008 until September 2017. He was a valued member due to his knowledge and experiences from World War Two, Korea and Vietnam which he shared with other volunteers.

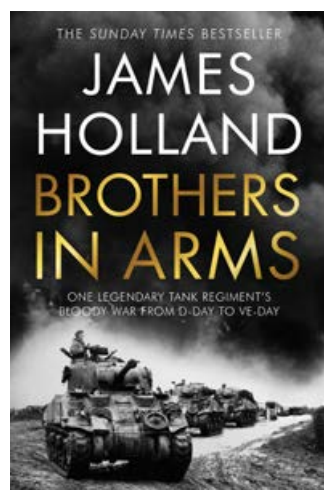


John's medals that he applied for and received, there are various others to which he would be entitled.

BROTHERS IN ARMS By JAMES HOLLAND

Published by Penguin Books UK, 2021

Book review by Mark Ryan



James Holland a British author and military historian has written over 20 well received books covering a variety of military history topics.

Brothers in Arms, published in 2021 and released in Australia in the last few months is his latest.

Brothers in Arms follows one British Armoured Regiment, the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry (SRY) from its landing in France on 6 June 1944, to its final days with surrender of Germany in May 1945.

The SRY was a Territorial Army Regiment from Nottinghamshire, which in 1940, was initially deployed to Palestine as a mounted cavalry unit, then converted to a Coast Artillery Regiment to serve during the first siege of Tobruk in 1941 and then in 1942 converted again, this time to an Armoured Regiment. In this latter role it served at the battle of El Alamein and through the remaining battles in North Africa, before returning to the UK in late 1943 to begin training for the invasion of France. The Regiment had the highest number of battle honours of any other British Army Unit in WWII with 30 honours, 16 of those since D Day. During its campaign in NW Europe in 1944/45 it lost 148 men killed and 299 wounded in its 11 months in action, a tally that amounted to 40%

of the Regiment and 150% of the total serving in tanks at any one time (one tank troop alone suffered the loss of 5 troop leaders in those 11 months).

In the book the author skilfully follows the experiences of a number of personnel who served in the Regiment, from the CO to Squadron Commanders, to Troop Leaders to tank crewman and even the unit Padre, while at the same time linking these experiences to the operational and strategic 'picture' that was unfolding at the time during the critical battles in NW Europe that led to ultimate defeat of Nazi Germany.

The personal experiences of these men as they fought through France (the SRY was in the first wave ashore on Sword beach on D Day) Belgium, Holland and Germany are captured well and allow the reader to develop a better understanding of the operations and daily life of an Armoured Regiment that was equipped with Sherman Tanks and primarily tasked with providing close armoured support to the infantry (the SRY was part of an Independent Armoured Brigade that was allocated in support of a variety of Infantry Divisions and Brigades, throughout the period).

I found the book to be well written and totally engaging. It has good maps, photos and some great information in the appendices that provide useful general and technical data on unit organisation and on tank characteristics.

This book will definitely have a permanent place in my home library.

BOOK REVIEW



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