

ON PARADE - ERL MILITARY HISTORY NEWS

NEWSLETTER No. 11 JUNE 2009 Croydon Library

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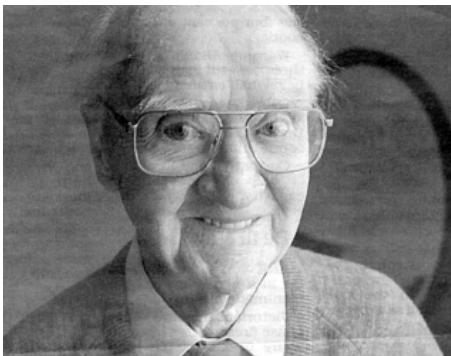
In this issue:

1. Welcome message
2. Last Australian WW1 soldier dies aged 110
3. Military News
4. Events coming soon
5. Military History group meeting dates
6. New Military History books in the library
7. Do you have a Military History badge, photograph or item that you need identified?
8. Military History websites
9. Identify the badges
10. Trying to trace family history?

Welcome to the latest edition of “On Parade”. Those who attended the meeting in April sat in silence and listened with great interest to Ted Gibbs speak about his 2 tours of operations over Germany during WW2. It had to be the quietest I have ever seen the group. I have recorded the talk and am in the process of transferring it to a CD. At our next meeting on the 26th June we have a speaker who was a Royal Marine present at D-Day 1944. There is plenty of news on the military front with the start of the Fromelles recovery and the saddest news is the passing of Australia’s last WW1 soldier, Jack Ross aged 110. Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on the 26th.

Last Australian WW1 Soldier Dies aged 110

Australia’s last surviving WW1 Veteran John “Jack” Ross passed away on the 3/6/09 aged 110. Mr Ross was the last of the 417,000 Australian soldiers who served in the First World War. He enlisted in February 1918 and was posted to a wireless and telegraph section in Australia . His brother Harrie had been injured fighting in France. Mr Ross also served during WW2 in the Volunteer Defence Corp’s, He then went on to work in the railways for 45 years. His passing is truly the end of an era in one of Australia’s greatest chapters in history.



Photograph courtesy DVA



Photograph courtesy www.bhs.tased.edu.au



Photograph courtesy AWM

LEST WE FORGET

Military News

Greatest Victory for Gurkha Soldiers

At Long last the Ghurkha soldiers serving in the British Army have been given recognition of the highly valuable service they have given to that nation. After many years of petitioning, they have finally been given the well earned right to settle in Great Britain after 4 years of service. Gurkhas have served in the British and Indian military since 1857. This decision has been back dated for all Gurkhas who served before 1997.

ADF War on Stupidity

Since 2006 more than eight times the number of Australian soldiers have died accidentally or from natural causes than in war. Top brass are so alarmed by figures showing how many troops are injured and killed in accidents well away from the front line that they have warned soldiers against "irresponsible stupidity. The concept of work hard, play hard must not be confused with irresponsible stupidity which can creep into non-operational and off-duty activities," Chief of the Army, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, told **ARMY NEWS**. The injury rate for troops, on and off duty, is more than 40 times greater at home than it is at the front.

80 soldiers have been killed in accidents compared with 10 combat related deaths and a total of 2612 have been badly hurt by accidents or illness compared with about 70 wounded in Afghanistan since April 1, 2006.

18 WWII Bombs found under Football Field!

Workers doing reconstruction work to a German football stadium in Stuttgart have unearthed 18 WWII bombs believed to have been dropped during 1944 when the area was part of the Mercedes-Benz car plant. During the reconstruction, workers had to lower the ground level up to 1.5 metres for the new playing field and that was when the bombs were found. Munitions experts removed the bombs but there was a possibility that more might be discovered as the rest of the ground work continued.

New find at Auschwitz

Workers doing conservation work near the ruins of one of the crematoriums at former Auschwitz Concentration Camp have found a large number of items they believe belonged to people who perished in the camp. Hundreds of personal items including jewellery, mementos, toys and baby bottles have been located. It is believed the items belong to some of the 430,000 Hungarian Jews who died in the camp between May and July 1944. Around 1.1 million people died in Auschwitz during WW2. The items will undergo conservation and then go on display in a new exhibition.

Looking for Sandakan – Ranau POW Photographs

The Australian War Memorial is looking to find the photographs of 10 servicemen who died at Sandakan-Ranau POW camps to complete its photographic collection of all the Australians who died there. Out of a force of around 2,700 allied POW's, 1787 were Australian. Only 6 Australians survived out of the 2,700 POW's.

The Servicemens' details below are the ones the AWM has no photograph for:

VX34071 Driver Walter Russell **Bills**, No. 1 Company, AASC

VX38066 Gunner Frederick William **Bruce**, 4th Anti Tank Regiment

NX45146 Private Stanley **Chapman**, 2/10th Field Ambulance

VX23670 Private Thomas Ignatius **Harrington**, No.1 Company, AASC

VX19059 Private Howard **Hewitt**, 2/18th Battalion

19225 Bandsman Henry A **Kelly**, HMAS Perth

VX33942 Private Matthew John **Larkins**, 2/19th Battalion

VX38709 Gunner Norman Pope **MacLeod**, 4th Anti Tank Regiment

Honorary Lieutenant Norman Kenneth **Sligo**, RNVR attached Australian Imperial Force

VX38422 Signalmen Clifford Roy **Wren**, 8th Division Signals.

If anyone has a photograph of one of these servicemen please contact the Australian War Memorial.

Check out **Ancestry** and **Find My Past** online FREE at all ERL libraries -
<http://www.erl.vic.gov.au/family/family.htm>

Events coming soon

Meeting Military Historical Society of Australia (Vic)

Next meetings 25/6 & 23/7/09. Ph. 97495829

Croydon Historical Society Mt.Evelyn History Group, for details contact, karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com

Meeting Croydon Historical Society

Next meeting 7th July. Ph. 92945648

Croydon Historical Society Mt.Evelyn History Group

For details contact, karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com

Military History Group Meeting dates 2009

28th August , 30th October and 4th December.

All meetings are on a Friday at 2pm. Croydon Library

Some of the new Military books in your library

Shattered Anzacs by Marina Larsson

On the Home Front by Kate Darrian-Smith

Valkyrie: the plot to kill Hitler by Phillip Von Boeselager

Destroyer Captain by Adm. James Stavridis, USN.

The Missing Years by Stu Lloyd.

The Gamble by Thomas E. Hicks

Hell's Heroes by Rodger Maynard

The Faces of World War II by Max Hastings

Do you have a Military Badge, Photograph or Item that you would like identified?

Why not bring it along to one of the meetings of the Military History Group and let us help you with your search!

Military websites for you to look at

<http://sandakan-deathmarch.com>

www.aussiesoldier.com.au

www.battlefield-tours.com/archive_pictures.htm

www.battlefield-tours.com/index.htm

www.britishlegion.org.uk

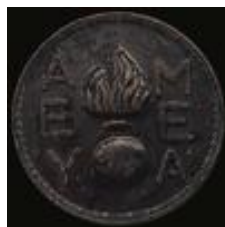
www.scrapbookpages.com

www.normandiememoire.com/NM60Italien/nmeh/accueil.php

www.militaria.name/index.php

www.ww1photos.com/AIF.html

Identify the Badges



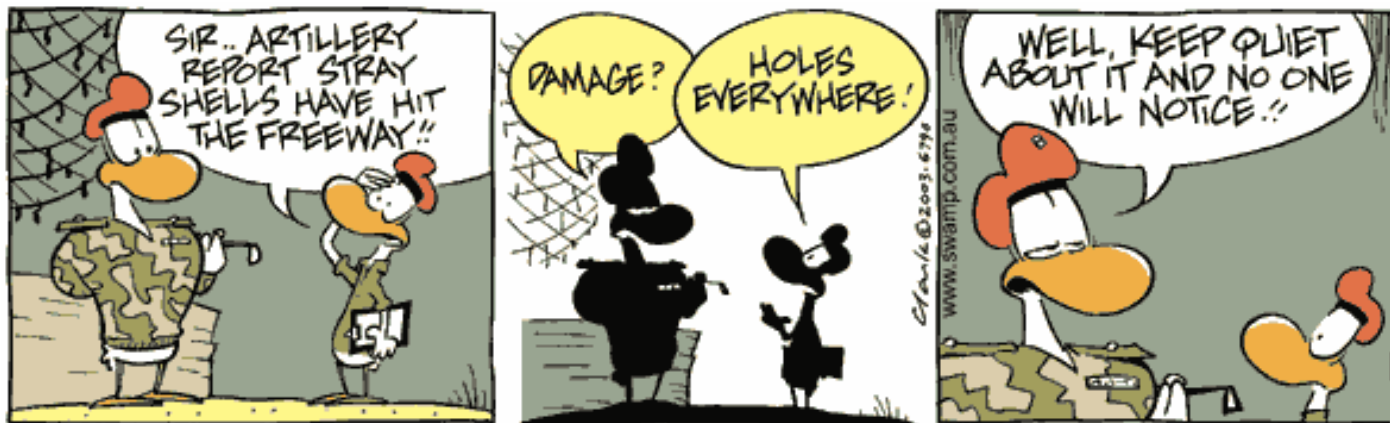
Answer to last edition's badges L-R

U.S. Navy SEAL, Aust Army Ammunition Technician, U.S. Navy Command Insignia, 27th Artillery Regiment?!, WW2 Victorian Air Raid Precautions Engineer

Trying to Trace some Family History?

Eastern Region Libraries have **Ancestry** and **Find my Past** available **free of charge** for you to use at any of our libraries. You need to make a booking for one of our computers. Not sure where to start? We also offer Family History training and Military History training on the Internet for a reasonable charge.

Ask us what we have to offer you.



Many thanks to Garry Clark for his kind permission in letting us reprint his great Swamp cartoons.

Visit his website to view some more. www.swamp.com.au

(All opinions expressed in this newsletter are that of the Author/Editor, Alan Bennett and are not necessarily those of the organisation)