

Greetings, former all ranks!, and the compliments of the season to you all.

ANZAC DAY, FRIDAY 25TH APRIL 1986

Melbourne - The march commences at 10.00 a.m. and our assembly point is in Collins Street, outside the Regent Theatre, just up the hill from Swanston Street. The same procedure as last year will apply, ex-AWAS may march, so you ex-Siggies, fall in behind the banner, you will be most welcome. The banner will be in position early, so look out for the rallying point. The leaflet giving details of the march will be included with this edition of IMI for all Victorian addresses. For television viewers, a potted history of the Unit has been provided, so hopefully we will get good coverage. The order of the march this year is to be Navy, Army, Air Force.



After the march, arrangements have been made for us to gather at the Sig-Depot, Albert Road, near the corner of Aughtie Drive, Albert Park, just past the South Melbourne Football Ground. As we had last year, we will have our own assembly point in the Hall and you may purchase whatever food or drink you desire, or bring your own rations if you prefer. It is convenient and members can look up or meet with members of other sig. units if they so desire. And we would again stress - ladies are most welcome, and we will be happy to see ex-AWAS, friends and families along at the gathering.

Just to clear up one point of confusion that has existed for some years at the Drill Hall, please understand that there is no obligation on the part of ASWG members to pay a subscription to the Signals Association, whose table is placed strategically across the entrance to the Hall. Members may, of course, join if they like, but note that payments for meals and refreshments and for subscriptions to the ASWG Association are to be made at points inside the Hall. Repeating, admission to the Hall for ASWG members is free.

Come along and meet up again!

Families and friends may care to gather at a point opposite the Police Hospital in St. Kilda Road, or those running late or those desirous of cutting down the length of the journey may like to join the march from there.

Sydney - Bill WILLIAMS says:

"To all members, male and female, of ASWG.

Roll up and march behind your unit banner. Make 1986 a bumper year. The usual notices will appear in the following newspapers: Sun, Mirror, Herald and Telegraph, 21st to 24th April.

The assembly point: in Hunter Street, between Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street.

The reunion after the march at the Paragon Hotel, Circular Quay.

For the last four years, we have been honoured by Drum Major Ken DUNCAN and his band, who have entertained us at the Paragon from about 5.00 p.m. to 5.45 p.m. The band goes under the name of the "Bankstown City Pipes and Drums" and they sure stir the feelings. What is more, Ken and his band will be there again this year.

Last year, the costs worked out at about \$6 per head, whether your preference is for Scotch, beer, mixed drinks or soda water - a great time at bargain prices. We run our own till in the back bar during the afternoon and this is a really good arrangement. There is a snack bar in the hotel where you can get a hot meal or sandwiches at reasonable prices. So, what more could you want, with great company and the privacy of your own bar, especially reserved for the ASWG reunion. A special call to arms to Ted Tank NOBLE, Pat SPICER, Smokey PRITCHARD, George MEATON, Stewey ROLFE, Ron DAINER and many others - you have been A.W.L. too long."

Well, folks, Bill has spelt it out for you, so you Sydney-siders, get right in there and have a tremendous time, and thank you, Bill, for the job of organizing the show, which you have done so efficiently for so many years. If anyone wants to know more, Bill's telephone number is 389-1706. (We have had a whisper that the Melbourne heavies, Dave CHARLESWORTH and Bob EDWARDS have made tentative plans to report.)

Perth - There is no doubt that we will be represented in that fair city - Han will be there, so what about a few others to back her. Jean has done a mighty job as our representative in the West and it would be most heartening for her to have some ASWGians marching with her. Reunion of the Sigs Association will be held at 109 Sigs Squadron Depot after the march. If you don't wish to go into the city, what about marching with the Canning District R.S.L. A good day is assured. 7.30 a.m. assembly in Albany Highway, Cannington, 8.30 service, followed by march back to the R.S.L. Club, where all the action takes place. Give President, Bert NEIL, a ring for further details (277-6016).

Brisbane - Assembly point behind the Treasury Building in Elizabeth Street and march with the Sigs behind the new unit banner. The reunion takes place after the march at the Kelvin Grove Barracks. Bill ESDAILE, Taringa, is a fine upstanding adviser in these matters.

So most capital cities are catered for, what about each of us availing ourselves of the opportunity to meet and greet our comrades of many years ago. This editor fellow would be most appreciative to get plenty of news of these gatherings.

1985 OPEN DAY AT WATSONIA

Unfortunately, I have no record of any of our members attending this gathering, so no report is submitted.

HON. TREASURER, BOB EDWARDS, REPORTS

Steve has once again suggested I give an account of the financial status

of ASWG. The following statement covers the year ending 31st December 1985.

We commenced the year with a bank balance of \$1,319. During the year, we had the following receipts:

Subscriptions	\$ 615
Welfare donations	33
Donations	42
Sale of car stickers	4
Sale of ASWG badges	109
Refund on purchase of badges (contra)	110
Donations to reunion (1984) costs	25
Interest - bank	49
Interest - fixed term deposits	217
Term deposit redemption	1,891

	3,095
Add bank balance	1,319

	\$4,414

Of these funds, we incurred expenses as follows:

Printing Ink Emma Ink	\$ 323
Postage	304
Unit Banner for Queensland	300
Welfare	25
Cost of ASWG badges (see contra)	425
Investment in fixed term deposit	2,108

	\$3,485

After meeting those expenses, and if my arithmetic is correct, the balance left in the bank is \$927, and our hon. auditor, Keith BUCHANAN, will vouch that the bank book with the ANZ Bank does indeed disclose this sum. The balance is apportioned as follows:

General funds	\$ 365
Welfare funds	562

In addition, we have the following fixed term deposits:

General funds	\$1,084
Welfare funds	1,564

I think you will agree our Association enjoys a healthy financial position.

Bob EDWARDS, Hon. Treasurer by default.

While I am putting pen to paper, I want to remind readers that Steve MASON is our editor and his address is 30 Jacqueline Road, Mount Waverley, Victoria, 3149. Dave CHARLESWORTH is our president. There are some occasions when members mistake me for the editor. I just do not have the talents Steve displays when editing Ink Emma Ink and all of us owe Steve a great big "thank you" for keeping this Association alive over many years since he took over from the late Rod WRIGHT and before him Werner MIEBACH. It is in order to keep sending news to me when sending your annual subs.

I ensure all correspondence is promptly passed on to Steve. With best wishes to you all.

Bob EDWARDS."

'Radio Snakepit'

CORRESPONDENCE AND NEWS

Gwen (Eades) MANN brought her subs up to date, settled for a car sticker and a brooch, and gave us the following news of successful gatherings organized by the Council of ex-Servicewomen's Associations of Victoria - "You may be interested to know that the Council of ex-Servicewomen's Associations of Victoria held a reunion weekend for ex-servicewomen on the weekend of 16-17 December 1985.

It began with the dedication by Nancy Wake, the highest decorated ex-servicewoman in Australia, of a memorial stone with three bronze plaques, in a flower garden in the King's Domain, on Saturday afternoon. About 2,000 ex-servicewomen attended. In the evening, a splendid banquet, attended by more than 1,000 ex-servicewomen, was held at the Southern Cross Hotel, Melbourne, and on Sunday a spit roast at the Ferny Creek Reserve was attended by about 700. Alas, this event was a little marred by rain, but a good time was had by all despite the damp and the "togetherness" in a huge marquee. A three piece band played lots of old W.W.2 songs and the food was excellent.

This reunion was about the last of the special events arranged for the celebration of the bi-centennial of Victoria."

Thank you, Gwen, on all scores, and it is pleasing to hear of the fine response to those activities.

Keith INGLIS advises that he and Norma have purchased a few acres at Strathfieldsaye, 5 kms from Bendigo, and are in the process of building a new home there and establishing a market garden. Some vegetables have already hit the market. Best wishes, Keith, in the new venture, not a surprising move when one thinks back on your reputation for tomato growing in Moresby just those few years ago. Thanks for your seasonal greetings to all members, which are certainly reciprocated.

Another interesting letter has arrived from Reg (Josh) HISCOCK, who, along with much appreciated Christmas greetings, reported that he "showed the photos of the last Melbourne Anzac Day march, which Dick THOMPSON had sent to me, to Hance LEGERE, who recognized "the Scot" and Alan SMITH, who he had met in Darwin whilst serving with the Canadian contingent.

I had a warm feeling even before I opened a bottle of Mildara Coonawarra, when I noticed on the accompanying information sheet that the wine maker was Jack SCHULTZ. I am to go to Geneva for the second time this year before retiring from I.C.A.O. at the end of 1985, and that will take some adjustment to a slower tempo of life. Hance also retires, probably in the first quarter of 1986.

You don't have to be a V.F.L. footballer to cop injuries - a return tennis shot resulted in 25 stitches in the nose (the Ed. could be very unkind here, but at least tell us what hit it!), and after climbing Mt. Mansfield in Vermont, I apparently tore a knee ligament which requires a deal of physiotherapy.

We have had a fantastic and late fall this year with the usual lovely colours.

I came across an article in the Bulletin on "Donald FRIEND", who was with C.B., and enclose it." Thanks, Josh, for your news, greetings and the article, which we will reproduce later on, and will be of great interest to our C.B. friends, and our best wishes for a very happy retirement, which hopefully will include an odd trip back to Australia.

Delighted to receive seasonal greetings from Esma and Harry COOMBS and a good parcel of news (but some not so good). Come in, Esma - "Many thanks for the November IMI and I think it's probably the best edition yet, and I've had them all. It's great to see members from 40 years back take an interest after so long and really appreciate what you and your committee are doing to keep the unit alive.

Harry and I have had a very busy and traumatic year and look like having a quiet Xmas which is alright for a change.

Quite a few friends and Harry's ex army mates have visited us and it's always nice to see them. We went on an Asian tour to Singapore, Thailand, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Macau and China for 22 days in September and enjoyed the luxury accommodation and fine food immensely. Thailand is a very interesting country and nice people. We took a lot of photos and have a nice record of our trip. However, on returning home, found we had been burgled which is a most unpleasant experience, and definitely took the shine off our holiday. We have now replaced our stolen stuff and feel a lot happier, but will stay put for a while after this.

We are expecting some family after Xmas from Melbourne, and later in the New Year the youngest son. Our daughter will be the only one for Xmas Day; Dianne recently returned from Cairns as a cane tester, which she does as a seasonal job. Kevin, our third son, was up in August with his wife, Dawn, and baby son, Adam, nearly two. We get to see our family at least once a year and then we do come down to Melbourne in between when time permits.

Harry and I continue to enjoy lawn bowls and it is a great social game and activity. I gave tennis up 12 months ago because of a bad back, but had already started bowls, but I still miss playing.

Regarding Dave CHARLESWORTH's back yard banana growing, ten years ago, the year we moved to Queensland, I was successful in getting a small hand of bananas on my tree which was growing against a brick wall facing the west, and also got a photographer from the local paper to take a photo and it was written up in the next week's issue. That took seven years of waiting and hoping to get a crop and two weeks later, after the bananas appeared, we shifted to the Gold Coast, so at least I had the satisfaction of seeing them, though small, actually appear.

Wilma and I enjoy our life on the coast here and play cards once a week together with my old tennis group.

Our new Casino looks like being a winner and is most interesting as a building. Not a cheap place to visit regarding bets on the tables, but the machines might be alright.

I still keep in touch with Norma PURCHASE (Hibbert) and Gwen BAKER (Cox) and would like to say hello to Kath PERRY, Flo GENDERS, Nance GIBSON, Kath McDONALD, Freda WHITING, Lorna CLARK and Les STYLES.

The verse sent by Lorna CLARK from W.A. was terrific and I personally related to the complete writing; very clever!

My main reason for writing at this time is to order a colour patch badge and find enclosed cheque covering badge, postage and subs.

I had one of the original badges from Albury but that was stolen with an army badge when we were broken into last September. I am so happy I can buy another as I valued mine after all those years and it was unique. I wore it every Anzac Day and quite a few comments were made about it, so you had better come up with a new one for me!

I am getting writer's cramp so all the news at present, hope you are keeping well, Steve, and that you have a lovely Xmas with your family.

With regards from Esma and Harry COOMBS."

Esma wrote a later letter to Treasurer Bob, who admitted senile decay in forwarding a second brooch in error, but gladly the age of the entrepreneur is not dead - Esma sold the second badge to Trevor HICKEY and forwarded the proceeds. Esma also sent along a hello to Stasia (Lil Maher) GREGORY, Norma (Andrews) SMITH and Maisie DEED.

Thank you, Esma, for your worthy stewardship, your subs, greetings and news, and we are pleased to hear that things have settled down at home again now.

A welcome letter to hand from Robby "Grandpappy" ROBERTSON, seeking a colour patch brooch and telling that he has had his eye fixed up and that the Paragon last Anzac Day provided its usual good day. Robby has experienced a marvellous spring, but the rapid growth brought pollen and hay fever, etc. - doctors and chemists did a roaring trade. Robby called in some very efficient four footed Victas to keep the undergrowth under control. His local R.S.L. sub-branch, of which he was a foundation member, sounds a great little organization, providing good service and funds for deserving causes. Thanks, Robby, for your news, and for your best wishes - I am quite sure you will make that 2,000 mark, and we will see you at the Paragon or Young & Jacksons, as you say, neighbouring suburbs by then.

And from the irrepressible Bill SCHLEUSENER - "Season's greetings to the whole shebang. Please note my new address, which maybe will be Emoh Ruu until the visit to the big set room in the sky. Please post the enclosed to Ron TAPP and tell me his address. I enclose some coin of the realm for the Paul Keating of the organization. Best wishes." Thanks, Bill, for that breezy message, and "Paul" sends his thanks too, and our best wishes to you.

Good news from Laurie "Flossie" WEST, who sent along a photo taken at the Armistice Day service at Heidelberg, where Laurie was the central figure laying the wreath and giving the address to the assembled 500 dignitaries. Later on he organized the annual Christmas function, at which he was M.C., and all went very well and the recipients were and are most grateful for all the work that Laurie puts in at the hospital to make life easier for them. We will try to reproduce the photo for you all, and also an article from "Mufti" on this very active Work Group. Laurie added that he and Flo were going along pretty well at present and had heard from Dot and Alby PEARCE, who were also making good progress after recent illness. Greetings, Dot and Alby, and well done, Laurie - thank you for your compliments re IMI and your warm greetings - "If there is anything I can

do for our old unit, let's know. All the best to the folk who I had the pleasure of knowing during the war years."

And a good collection of signals from our reliable Sydney correspondent and this editor's mentor on his Sydney visits, Nev WINTIN - "I could fill a book with motor car problems but most times I get there - just as well humans don't need new radiators. Frank SCALLY sent me a cutting about our type of work in Cyprus - (see later pages). We have had our usual week at Merimbula with Lou and Alan FLANNERY and as usual there were laughs aplenty, but the weather was unkind - rain in part of every day. After we left, Lou and Alan continued on for another week, during which Hughie really turned it on - 5 1/2 inches in one 24 hour period, resulting in many of the roads being floodbound. On the way down, we had a pleasant lunch with Vince and Dot RIGNEY at beautiful Depot Beach, and unsuccessfully sought Lee PARKER, who was in Canberra.

Sydney has had more than its share of rain and the fishing has been correspondingly poor. I met Tom CONSIDINE recently and found him well, although regretting that he didn't get to the Melbourne reunion. (Greetings, Tom!) Frank SCALLY asked if anyone could give him Jack TIMBERLAKE's address (this editor fellow would also like it!). We had the pleasure of Julie's (O'SULLIVAN) company recently when she had to attend a conference of Chaplains in Canberra. During her few days in Sydney, Julie and Pat THOMPSON managed to call on Frank SCALLY, who no doubt would have been happy to chat about old times. Gwen and I plan a trip to Melbourne in April and hope to be there for Anzac Day. Oh yes, back to Julie - she and Val (Black) GLENNON called into Springwood Bowling Club and had a yarn to Geoff and Joy (Roberts) DAY. All the best to all." Thanks, Nev, for your news, greetings (Christmas and usual), for your kind hospitality when I am in your fair city, and that priceless tape you sent me. By way of explanation, Nev sent me a tape containing some wonderful anecdotes on the game of cricket, including the famous after dinner speech by Humphrey TILLING on the four ages of a cricketer. I might say that I played the tape several times in the car travelling to and from work and caused some concern to drivers of adjacent cars with great laughter from the sole occupant of my car. Thanks mate!

Nance GIBSON kindly sent along seasonal greetings and later rang to give Bev (Marriott) DIXON's new address in Melton, where her daughter resides. Welcome back in, Bev.

Nance expressed pleasure at reading IMI, especially news of Frank SCALLY. My editorial apologies to Florence FINDLAY, who has in fact appeared at previous AWAS quarterly gatherings.

Nance made the point that it was great to hear news of members, particularly those who had disappeared from the scene for some years, but, in order for that to happen, a signal has to be got through to that editor fellow.

Well said, Nance, our keys are always open - and you don't need that distinctive transmitting style of Charlie MUIR. Our best greetings to you too.

Others who kindly sent along cards of greeting were:

Robby ROBERTSON - "To the executive and members of the Association - you have done a wonderful job over the years. All the best for now and years to come. Subs enclosed." Thanks Rob. Pat and Jack BUTLER - "I am selling my practice in June 1986 and will continue part time for a further nine months to hand over. IMI most enjoyable. I enclose Bev MARRIOTT's

new address. Cheers." Florence FINDLAY - "Please note my new address. I enjoy reading news from members of the unit, and was very happy to buy a badge from Peg at our reunion lunch. Christmas greetings and regards." Bill CARSE - "I retired in February 1985 - a great time since." John and Lynden GOOLD (our wonderful word processor and her husband) - "Greetings to all". Marian (Kennedy) and Norm KAUFMAN - "A spell in hospital prevented our trip to Queensland for last winter. Am well again and enjoying life at St. Leonards. Son, Philip, left Madagascar early in the year and is working in China with a Chinese crew of surveyors in the Yellow River. He had a trip home in November when he stocked up on thermal underwear to cope with -20 degrees temperatures - the river freezes over. Best wishes." Ivy and Frank JENKINS - "Best regards. We enjoy IMI very much and think the paper a credit to you all." Betty (widow of Geoff) HOPKINS - "Best wishes to you all." Lillian and Brian BATTERHAM - "Retirement is a busy life but to be highly recommended. We still enjoy golf and have travelled around a bit to tournaments. Son, David, is still in Canada, fourth child is under way, but we haven't seen our Canadian grandchildren yet. Other son, Geoff, has moved into a new house in Glen Waverley. Daughter, Faye, has completed first year part time Science at Chisholm Institute, whilst working at C.S.I.R.O. We baby sit 4 1/2 year old Bryan on a couple of days plus a week and he brings us much joy. I put in a lot of time in the garden, which I find relaxing and enjoyable. May 1986 be very rewarding." Jean and Bob EDWARDS - "All the best for the season." Win and Harold ORME on a beautifully hand made card, containing not only the well known Orme copper plate calligraphy but a hand painted beach scene in water colours - the Orme beach residence?? Well done, Harry - "Our family have moved around during the year. Lorraine and Paul have moved to Greenbank and Joyclyn with daughter Jane to a new house set on Toowoomba's hard red soil. Stephen and Judy are to transfer from Thursday Island to Ayr. Greetings to all."

So, a collective thank you to you all for the news and your greetings, which are warmly reciprocated.

A big swag of "subscription" letters, which has brought a healthy glow to the Treasurer's handsome features, and very welcome snippets of news. Norm CADDEY - "Thanks for the Newsletter." Kath STEVENS - "A brooch too, please." Esma COOMBS (news in a separate letter). Margo FIELDING - "So pleased that colour patch brooches are available - subs and brooches for me and my sister, Gloria LAMB. Great to receive IMI, what a great job you boys do, keeping us up with the news, thanks for the wonderful effort and dedication over the years. Best wishes particularly to Dave and Peg. Regards." Harden CODD - "No news, as I have been overseas for most of the year." George and Flo (Genders) HAMILTON - "We still exchange greetings with Sadie (Winnett) COLES, who sadly lost her husband, Jack, last August." Bill and Joan SAMMON. Rita and Owen JONES - "All is well and we are grateful for our health. Happy and healthy 1986 to all." Joyce (Evans) GERAGHTY - "I have changed address from Forster to Narrabeen as my dear husband required medical treatment. He lost his battle just after Christmas. He was ex-RAAF and enjoyed reading IMI. I would love a unit badge and do keep up the good work." Eileen (Brownie) CHENHALL - "I received my unit badge from Val BLACK - good to be wearing the old colour patch again. Would like to see more of the old (Brownie's underlining, please, not the editor's) faces at our quarterly get togethers at the Bowlers' Club, Sydney." Frank NYE - "A sub after all this time. Family of five sons, three daughters-in-law, eight grandchildren keep us busy. One son is still at home and he builds hot rods and my wife and I enjoy driving one of his cars on club outings. He won the top national car award last Easter in Canberra from 900 cars. I like the garden, have a couple of averies with nice parrots, and go to our permanently sited caravan at Burrumbeet to chase redfin when we are able. I enjoy reading

the newsletter. Hello to anyone who remembers me." Sheila ROBINSON - "Thanks for a newsy paper. I am an "IN" and not an "ERT" sort of Robinson." Muriel (Saunders) CHANTER - "Thanks for a great newsletter. I enjoyed reading it immensely, news of people I haven't heard of in years. Sorry to hear of Pat DAINER's passing. Looking forward to next newsletter. Congratulations on your efforts." Elaine (Dally) ATKIN - "Please send a badge. Lloyd and I are retiring into Warracknabeal after the harvest, our new house is nearly completed. The harvest was interrupted many times with thunderstorms. Sad news that Joan (Tonkinson) PRIDDLE's husband, Perc, died in May last year. Interested to hear of mini reunions in Melbourne - I have been in Melbourne on those days but Country Delegates Bowls meetings in Prahran have tied me up. One day I hope to make it. Always look forward to IMI, keep up the good work. Greetings to all." Eileen (Bray) KEMP - "Thank you for continuing supply of IMI, greetings to all." Lance KIDD - "Retired now after 45 years with Carlton and United Breweries. Best wishes to all my old mates." Shirley (Bell) BURT - "And a brooch please." Walter O. SMITH - "News, none!" Olga (Browning) PATTERSON - "Hope this is enough for subs and a brooch." Sylvia SMITH - "Husband, Ron, and I toured for six months around Australia, met up with Ella PUMPHREY and husband at Pinjarra and they are well and looked after us marvellously." Sydney CRAWCOUR - "Returned to Canberra." Les "Spike" PEARMAIN - "And a badge please."

Well, that's a great parcel of information. Thank you to you all. Our condolences to Sadie, Joyce and Joan in their sad losses. A special welcome in to Frank NYE, and if addresses for Joan PRIDDLE and Ella PUMPHREY could be forwarded, we could make good use of them.

Since writing the above, Nance GIBSON has informed me of Elaine ATKIN's sad news - that her husband, Lloyd, passed away suddenly just when they had moved into their new home and were about to take things easier. Our thoughts are with you, Elaine. Nance also reminded me about the quarterly lunch for the girls, which is held on the third Wednesday in the months of February, May, August and November. I must admit that I had planned to crash the February gathering, but a trip to Sydney on the day spoiled plans.

Ran into Frank MERANGE in Queen Street, he was well, travels up to work at George Paterson's each day from Mornington. Travel takes three hours a day, but he and Joy are well settled in that part of the country so well known to Aswegians. Frank was wondering whether a three or four day week might not be a bad idea but he was not sure that he could structure his job so, and he was sorry that he had not been able to meet up with Arthur KRUGER on his recent visit to Melbourne.

This editor fellow received a very nice letter from Marion, wife of Stan WINN, in which she says - "Stan is away in Queensland for a few days, so, in enclosing a money order for subs, I wanted to enlarge a little on Mic SANDFORD, whose name was mentioned recently by Josh HISCOCK. It was my good fortune at C.B. to be secretary to Mic and our own W/Cdr. Roy BOOTH for about two years in Brisbane, so my comments may be of interest to Josh if you could forward them to him. (Ed. - Marion kindly enclosed a stamp to do just that, but as an edition was coming out I am including them here so that all can read them.) Mic was a most remarkable and gifted young man and could not be forgotten by those who knew him. W/Cdr. BOOTH sent me the cutting from "The Times" and the information on the eulogy delivered at the Memorial Service, which I attended in Sydney. (See later pages.) Cheers, best wishes and thanks." Thank you, Marion, for your thoughtfulness and I hope we have been of some assistance to the C.B. secretary with some addresses.

LEST WE FORGET

Alan (Terry) NEAVE, who died on 23rd January 1986 - kindly advised by Doc YOUNG through Dave CHARLESWORTH.

J.A. (Joe) MONKS, NX136349 - kindly advised by Nev WINTIN.

Ern POTTER, who died on 27th May 1985 - kindly advised by his widow, Jean (Beckett) POTTER, who wrote - "Ern died in Concord Hospital following bypass surgery for a heart condition. A wonderful husband and father to our four children, all grown up and married with children of their own. I don't know what I would have done without their support. Many thanks for IMI, it's great to keep in touch with old friends. Keep up the good work. Sincerely."

NEW ADDRESSES REQUIRED PLEASE

Joe MALONE (Victoria), Ella PUMPHREY (W.A.), Cec UNTERRHEINER (N.S.W.), Vince REYNOLDS (Queensland), Jean EVANS (N.S.W.), Alan JARMAN (Victoria), Mick BENSON (Victoria - moved to Brisbane?).

Good to get Peg (Gladstone) ROBINSON's new address in Mandurah, W.A.

NEWS FROM THE R.S.L. AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Anzac Sunday Service will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday 20th April 1986 at 11.00 a.m. All members and their families are cordially invited to attend.

It is planned for Service Colours from the three Armed Services to be paraded at the Service.

Royal Australian Signals Association (W.A.) reports:

The publishing of our Corps History has been further delayed and Vol. 1 is now scheduled for this year.

As part of Corps Week, the inaugural wreath laying ceremony was held on Sunday 10th November 1985 at the War Veterans Home in Mt. Lawley. 30 members joined the uniformed serving members to honour the fallen of the Corps. Note diaries 9th November 1986 for this year's ceremony.

Royal Australian Signals Association (Qld.) reports:

Newsletters have been published and distributed in March, July, October and December.

Corps Week activities on 10th November 1985 consisted of a Church Service at Enoggera Barracks Chapel, followed by a barbeque.

Well, folks, that's it for now, best wishes to you all, successful gatherings on Anzac Day, plenty of news back to the publishing house, and your subs to Treasurer Bob.

Cheers now!

Mr. Bob Edwards,
Treasurer, A.S.W.G. Association,
18 Wave Street, Hampton, Vic. 3188.

I enclose cheque/money order/postal order/cash to the value of
\$ for:

Annual subscriptions (at \$2 per year) \$
Car Stickers (at 20 cents each) \$
Brooches (at \$2.50 each plus postage) \$

\$

My name My recent news:

My full postal address:

.....
.....
.....

LATE LATE NEWS :

Jingling notes to hand from Keith PAYNE- "Retired from the Public Service earlier this year and have started a new career in computer and electronic security. If you want an anti-bugger see me and have your telephone checked.", Lee PARKER- "Thoroughly enjoyed the country music festival in Tamworth; hope the brooches are selling well", Jean HILLIER- " and a brooch too please". Thanks folks for your news and funds, and a warm welcome back to Australia to Keith. Jean POTTER kindly answered our call for Thelma (Drummond) HANCOCK's address- 19 Johnston St., Geraldton 6530. Thank you, Jean and welcome back in Thelma.

Nance GIBSON reported in on the Melbourne AWAS quarterly gathering, which was as enjoyable and successful as its predecessors. Margaret GRIFFIN, Betty DAVIES, Pam YOUNG, Rona HILLIER, Jean HARVEY, Melva CONSTABLE, Mavis SMITH, Kath McFARLANE, Florence FINDLAY, Peg GILLIES, Anna COWAN, Margaret SHERRY, Gwen MANN, and Nance answered the roll call. Note, girls, the next gathering is on Wednesday, May 21st.

There will be an AWAS Signals Reunion Luncheon at Travel Lodge on 24th April 1986. Where is Joan Wray SKURRIE?- can anyone help? Thanks, Nance for your welcome signals.

This Editor fellow attended a gathering at Anzac House on 26th Feb. to hear plans for Anzac Day, and again, was most impressed with the work and detail which is put into the function. Costs of the March are considerable, with the RSL picking up a bill for about \$10,000, covering seating, canned music, printing and portable toilets. As it is the Navy's 75th anniversary, they will lead this year, and Cdr. VEALE, who was a serving member in the Navy's first year, 1911, heads the March. He has achieved 92 years.

40 bands are expected and 20 will march twice. Marching music will be at a tempo of 110, and an innovation is that station 3 MBS (FM) will broadcast marching music at the same tempo for

for the period of the March. So, if you care to bring along your FM portable radio, any shortage of bands will not worry us. And for you Marathoners, the march from the Town Hall to the Shrine is timed to take 24 minutes, with an extra 2 minutes added for a southerly wind- just thought you would like to know!

COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Royal Australian Signals Association (WA)

200 members and growing.

Signals combined reunion on Anzac Day after the March at Signals Drill Hall, 321 Lord St., East Perth.

Death of William BEGGS, ex-ASWG IN November 1985.

The history of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals is progressing. It will appear in two volumes, the first up to 1948 when the title 'Royal' was bestowed on the Corps and the other more recent history. The following companies have assisted in financing the project: Plessey, L.M. Ericsson, Thorn EMI and Sanders, and further funds are to be raised from subscribers, who must contribute a minimum of \$30, for which a copy of the volume is provided and a printed acknowledgement in Volume 1. Subscriptions must be made before May 31st 1986, and should be forwarded to S02 Officer Management D Comms A, Russell Offices, Canberra ACT 2600. Please make out cheques to RA Sigs General Purpose Fund.

Royal Australian Corps of Signals- Newsletter and magazine, 'Signalman'.

The former contains detailed troop movements- promotions etc. and general information, and the latter many interesting articles on a wide range of subjects- technical, general, humorous and historical. Please see me for a look at the copy.

RA SIGS. ASSOCIATION QLD.- Newsletter, 'THE COMMUNICATOR'.

To celebrate its 40th anniversary next year, 7 Sig. Regt. is planning a 'Return to Cabarlah' during the Australia Day week end in January 1987.

Annual General Meeting 2nd April 1986, 140 Sig. Sqn. Lines at 7.30 pm.

The Director of Communications -Army, invited the President and members of the Aust. Special Wireless Group Association to a ceremony renaming Watsonia Barracks, Simpson Barracks on 20th. March, but regretfully we couldn't get a representative.

That's it for now folks. Cheers, good gatherings and many scoops for this Editor fellow.....



NAMES?

KEITH HAYES

? HELLINGS

KEITH SIMPSON

NOEL DUCK.

?

Donald Friend and the art of ageing with wit

Back in his homeland from Bali, for reasons of health, Donald Friend at 70 tends to be impatient with modern western life. But, RON SAW finds, the distinguished painter is more than ever wry, bawdy and witty.

DONALD FRIEND is having another retrospective exhibition. He had one when he was 60; now he's 70 and he says he won't have one for 80 but he probably will.

You get the impression reading his press file that he spends his life having retrospectives, coming home from Bali and giving interviews to people who want to write his "profile." But this retrospective is only his second and, if he has come home from Bali four times, it has usually been for medical treatment. Certainly there have been scores of interviews, as befits one of the nation's most distinguished artists.

For 13 years, Donald — somehow it does not seem right to use his surname — lived in Bali and loved it. He loved the sights and sounds, the people and their ways; he found all that pale brown skin beautiful, sensual, erotic. To him it was much more fleshy, could inspire more of the human emotions of bawdiness and humor and certainly more lust than the pale goosepimples and freckles of his homeland. He liked wearing a sarong and sleeping out in his garden when he felt like it.

In this Elysium he found suddenly that he was growing tired quickly more often, that his temper was short and savage, that he was thirsty more often and more terrible than even the most dedicated tosspot. So once more he came back to Sydney, this time to die.

And the doctors told him to, please, not be an ass. He was far from hale and hearty: he had not only emphysema but also diabetes. He was, however, far from the grave.

"I'm not worried about all that now," he says. "I'm not worried about a retrospective. I'm 70 and I don't much like it but what I do like is painting life here and now and thinking and earbashing. What I can do now is here in this little house."

The little house is what might have been chopped off the end of a terrace, set back maybe 10m from a side street in Paddington, New South Wales.

The grass is mostly run amok because he is, after all, no longer bouncing on the balls of his feet. But there are blue-and-white and red-and-white petunias and scarlet impatiens; the bulbuls suck the nectar from a flowering magnolia and all this, plus what must be the



Donald Friend at work in his Sydney home

last low non-picket wooden front fence in the world leaves you somewhere between close inner suburbia and a shabby pleasance.

He paints this and other Paddington sights from time to time and three works done in the past six months — from

what might be called his Post-Second-Retrospective period — are in his retrospective at the Holdsworth Galleries in Woollahra.

When he found time to do them only he could know, for he is working busily illustrating three books — one of them by me — for the designer-publisher Richard Griffin.

He works on the top floor of his house and calling him on the telephone is fraught with hazard. The phone is downstairs and, for reasons which are obscure, there is no upstairs extension. So those who call him at times other than the luncheon-cocktail hour are given the impression that some species of cross-grained beast has leaped from the receiver to flesh its teeth in their eardrums.

His attitudes to modern western life tend to be, at best, impatient. But artistically he

is, more than ever, wry, bawdy, witty. Much of his world is fantasy and fun but you get the impression that it has never changed much.

For some time in World War II he was attached to the Central Bureau — a sort of intelligence outfit staffed by an odd collection of artists, poets, musicians and writers. His job was to decode Japanese cyphers and he cracked none at all. To hear him talk about it is to imagine that somebody is giving a reading of Graham Greene.

Somehow, too, he manages to examine (or imagine) sights and situations which any healthy wowser would consider scandalously lustful and paint them without prurience.

On Melbourne television, he was once asked: "Are you obsessed with male genitalia?" Purse-lipped Florentines probably asked the same question of Michelangelo.

Well, said Donald, the thing about male genitals is that pretty well all the males on Earth have them and: "How strange they'd look if I painted them — say, in the bath. Say, YOU in the bath — without genitals."

Possibly it's all the result of trauma.

In Sydney in the 1940s, Donald was living in a gracious old house — Merioola — in Rosemont Avenue, Woollahra. What had been the ballroom was occupied by a spinster lady we shall call Mary Charles — an artist who wore those round, brimless, bedizened hats called toques, and wide cloaks. The rest of the house was filled by a noisy and raffish crew of poets, artists, writers, actors and others of that kidney.

The light-switch in each of the rooms was operated by a long cord terminating in a knob and somebody, either an apprentice vulcaniser or an importer of dildoes, one day replaced the knob on Donald's chord with a remarkably life-like rubber penis.

In a fury, Donald flung the thing out of his window and it was found by a neighboring dachshund.

She loved it on sight and thereafter carried it most everywhere she went, chewing it thoughtfully when at rest, offering it — as other dogs offer tennis balls — to people she liked, among them an Englishwoman of great presence and fashion called Lady Julia Carrot.

Perhaps a day after the petulant flinging of the penis, Mary Charles (toqued and cloaked half to death) came back to Merioola from a holiday and saw in the garden, the dachshund chewing something frightful. She shooed the dog, poked the thing with her umbrella, gasped, then ran inside to call the CIB.

"There has been," she said, "a murder here at Merioola. How do I know? Well, there's a . . . relic here. Part of a body. No, not a hand. Not a foot. No, young man, I can't describe it to you. Come and see for yourselves. NO, not an ear . . . Why? Because I'd rather not think about it, let alone describe it. Send detectives at once."

The demons arrived and agreed that the relic — now covered with mud, twigs, canine saliva and odd passing ants — was grisly indeed and a sergeant had scooped it up with a shovel when

Lady Julia showed up demanding sternly to know why Rosemont Avenue was choked with cops. And: "What's that you have there on that shovel?"

"It's nothing you'd want to see, ma'am," said the cop. He tried to put the shovel under his jacket.

"Nonsense. Show it to me at once."

She snatched the shovel and inspected its burden with distaste that changed quickly to insouciance.

"Oh, that thing," she said. "I know all about that."

"It's Donald's." □

OBITUARY

Mr A. W. SANDFORD

BP advances in Mediterranean

Mr. Martin Stevens writes:

Mic Sandford's sudden death on Sunday, at the age of 54, shocked his friends all over the world. Businessman, soldier, traveller, scholar—he was above all a warm and vigorous cosmopolitan, whose explosive energy was always at the service of others.

Alistair Wallace Sandford was the only son of the late Sir James Wallace Sandford, and grandson of one of the founders of the State of South Australia. He was educated at St. Peter's College, Adelaide, and Balliol College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar in 1938.

On the outbreak of war, he joined the Australian Imperial Forces, serving in Crete, Syria and North Africa, and later in New Guinea, Borneo, the Philippines, Japan and Germany. He reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

On demobilization, he joined British Petroleum, first in Switzerland and Germany, then for nine years in London. In 1958, he went to Italy as Chief Representative of the BP interests, becoming Vice-President of B.P. Italiana S.p.A. He retired ten years later, and was elected president of Promofund S.A., a merchant bank controlled by the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas, and the Banca Commerciale.

Sandford's drive was a chief factor in the build-up of B.P.'s strength in the Mediterranean. He also played a leading role in the British community in Italy, working for the British Council, and as Treasurer of the Keats Shelley Society. He was appointed C.B.E. in 1968.

Mic lived splendidly in Rome, but his special love was Il Bacio, his Quattrocento Villa near Florence. He is to be buried in the chapel there, on the property for which he did so much.

He had often been in pain during the last year, but this was never allowed to interfere with his legendary house parties or his generous deeds, public and private. He was a great and good man, whose life will be a happy memory for many, both young and old.

THE SUN-HERALD, JAN 10, 1971

A gentle being dies

All his many friends will be very sad to hear of the death of Australian Mick Sanford.

This occurred at his beautiful villa outside Florence last Sunday. There was the usual house party of guests and it was a sudden event.

Mick Sanford was last in Australia in March and I remember at the time he was suffering rather badly from asthma. He loved his time here after so many years away and was becoming involved in the world of banking after all those years when he was head of Petro-
leum in Italy.

All of us, his friends, will miss this good, intelligent and gentle being — a man of ability and achievement, and a good companion.

PER FAVOUR MARION WINN

COSIA. For 24 hours a day the antennae of the Ninth Signals regiment, deep in the Cyprus mountains, pluck radio traffic from the airwaves of the Middle East, the Mediterranean and North Africa.

A key post in the global chain of electronic listening stations set up by Britain, the United States, Australia and Canada after the last war, it is hardly surprising the regiment is surrounded by secrecy.

Signals Intelligence or Sigint, has become the predominant espionage art since the last war. The Americans employ more than 120,000 in Sigint work, which covers eavesdropping on communications and electronic signals such as radar.

The British contribution, based originally on considerable wartime success in cryptography, employs up to 20,000 people with a budget of about £300 million (\$600 million) a year.

The Cyprus regiment is the key base for much of the Middle East.

The capability of Sigint, using listening posts, aircraft, ships and satellites, is said to be such that Soviet tank commanders are regularly recorded giving orders.

In the past 20 years the Cyprus unit is known to have monitored the Israel-Egypt conflict in 1967 and the approach of the Turkish fleet to Cyprus in 1974.

The Times

PER FAVOUR FRANK
SCALLY VIA NEV WINTIN

Rehabilitation Work Group at AGH

The Work Group at Heidelberg is a small community of 130 and is run by a Committee of its members.

Three members of the executive recently talked enthusiastically of the Group's function and the practical work it has been doing for years.

Mr Laurie West, 61, Acting President has been with the Group for 10 years, Mr Arthur Johns, 57, the Secretary has been coming for two years and Mr Ken Schneider, 61, the Treasurer has been with the Group 14 years.

Laurie, Arthur and Ken talked of how the Committee and Group meet to organise the work and activities.



LAURIE WEST AT A.G.H. ON
11th NOVEMBER 1975

Informal activities include barbecues for members and residents of the local RSL village in the fine weather, and Bingo sessions in winter.

The formal work comes from commercial packing contracts. The payments from these contracts are used to assist causes selected by the Group. One striking example of their support is the flagpole and memorial plaque that was the focus for the November 11th Remembrance Service at the Hospital.

A recent contribution was a large barbecue area near the Rehabilitation Unit for use by the hospital patients and staff. On November 13, at the Story Writing and Art Competition

presentation their generosity was extended to another worthy cause, "The Sir Edwards Dunlop Medical Research Foundation."

In presenting a cheque of \$1000 to "Weary" Dunlop, Ken Schneider said "The Group could not think of a more worthy cause than the search for answers to some of the problems facing the veterans."

Laurie, Arthur and Ken are very committed to the importance of the work group. Arthur sees it as an outlet and opportunity to contribute and meet friends. Laurie commented "We all work together here."

MAURICE BIGGS is a war poet, not in the sense that he writes only of war, but because war has stirred him to a deeper and fuller utterance than he could have found in peace. The "Poems of War" making up the first section of this book were written in Palestine, Syria,

Greece, and New Guinea, and they express the strange life of the soldier, with its background of alien countries and the sharp awareness and naked emotions that flourish on the borderlands of death. Perhaps the most perfect expression is of the soldier's eternal longing for home:

"He came from where the Murrumbidgee runs
Through golden paddocks of
obesant hay,
And grass more sunny than this
Cretan pass."

The "Poems of Peace" are the stuff of which the soldier's dreams are made. These have a more delicate harmony, the poignant beauty of love and youth. With the "Poems of War" they form the contrasting pattern of life as it has been lived by the young men of today and, as Maurice Biggs's first publication, they form also a literary promise for the future.

POEMS OF WAR AND PEACE

By
MAURICE BIGGS



TO
MY COMRADES, ALIVE AND DEAD

Battle-dress

Flowers of red have sped us on our way;
And songs have sped us: with a wild content
In our proud purpose, that ourselves we've sent
To trade in tragedy and yet be gay;
Old shrines we knelt to have been closed forever;
And Love, the Judas-lipped, has slipped away;
Laughter and truth and beauty, these will stay,
Candles to light our holiest endeavour.

What tinselled might of banners to our hand?
None, save the daring colours of the skies,
Shall throng the thunder of our enterprise,
And write the name of Victory in the sand!
Then will our hearts be thankful in that hour,
When, where the cold earth's torn and churned to
pain
By bayonets shaped from ploughshares once again,
Beauty will spring up virile as a flower.

At sea,
January 1941.

Spring Offensive 1941

In where the smoke runs black against the snow,
And bullets drum against the rocks, he went,
And saw men die, with childish wonderment—
Where bayonets glitter in the sudden glow,
And sleek shells scream, and mortars cough below:
There tanks lurch up, and shudder to a halt
Before the superb anger of the guns:
Then flares go up—the rattle of a bolt—
Rifles stutter—and voices curse the Huns . . .
And then, he jerked and toppled to the ground,
His ears too full of noise, his eyes of light;
His scattered cartridge clips glint brassy-bright;
A Vickers cackles madly from a mound . . .
Then is God satisfied with blood,
Or is some dying Jesus retching in the mud?

Oh, where the red anemone brims over
To swarm in brambled riot down a rise,
There we will lay him, lay your widow'd lover,
And wipe the poor burnt face, and gently cover
The look of startled wonder in the eyes . . .
Let Beauty come, let her alone
Bemoan those broken lips with kisses from her own!

Greece,
April 1941.

Today

Today you never came! . . . with laughing eyes,
Glanced at by love, framed in a sweet surprise;
Today—my heart has grown so weak and cold,
(Clutched by a sickening sun, that's now too old
To give me warmth to fill my empty room);
Today—my proud head's bowed within the gloom
Of streaming tears, anear that crumbling shrine
Of guilty vows that we had built—where th' whine
And bloody kick of merciless bullets came!

Why, then, is all happiness wrapt in shame
By the cursèd kiss of war? Why's everything
That we had held so dear, when peace was king,
And ruled in fond dominion over all,
Taken and twisted at the violent call
Of pain, that all things, all things want to die? . . .
Today you never came—I wonder why!

113 A.G.H., N.S.W.,
July 1943.

What the Bullets Sang

I saw Death, once, sprawled in the sunny grass,
His bullets spilled, his rifle flung away,
Oblivious to the chattering Vickers guns . . .
He came from where the Murrumbidgee runs
Through golden paddocks of obeisant hay,
And grass more sunny than this Cretan pass.

What was the song—what did the bullets sing?
Was it to have the spirit's old desire—
Storm up a skyey fortress, all alone,
Buttressed with bannered clouds, where lost
winds moan,
Where thunder thrills down peaks of plashy fire,
And, conquering, be reckoned as a king?

Or did the bullets sing another hymn?
Was it of home, and rivers that he knew;
And Peace, and clean-limbed Love, and Free-
dom's sons,
Far from the mutinous grumbling of the guns,
The stench of rotting men that made him spew,
And steel more strong than body's heart and
limb?

Palestine,
June 1941.

Hate

You ask me why I hate you? . . . Whom I've heard
Laughing in silvern timbre on your way
(I dare not trust to mind 'twas yesterday),
With Beauty, all crimps and pomps, quite undeterred
By prate of war and foolish hint of guns.
You used to say that Love was surely king,
And Laughter was his jester. How you'd sing,
At Beauty's knees, high, fluting orisons!

Now there are dead men rotting in the mud,
The stench of powder and the wail of shell;
Beauty, laughter, and love are lamps gone dry;
Men oath the name of Christ and curse His blood;
Our little side of Heaven's sold to Hell. . . .
You ask me why I hate you? . . . That is why.

Brisbane—En route to New Guinea.
January 1943.

POEMS OF WAR — BY THE LATE
MAURICE BIGGS, IMI'S FIRST
EDITOR.