

Anzac Day Activities in Sydney

The Wreath Laying on Anzac Eve was attended by 13 members: Norm ALLEN, Alf DAVIS, Coral and Sandy HINDS (Victoria), John LAIRD (A.C.T.), Joy LINNANE, Dennis MOORE, Allan OSBORNE, Diana PARKER (Tathra), Aub ROBERTS, Lester TRUEX (Victoria), Marion WINN and Madeline CHIDGEY. It was great to see Coral and Sandy here for their first Anzac Day in Sydney with C.B., also Diana Parker from beautiful Tathra; and of course Lester Truex who is a regular welcome visitor from South of the Border. As usual, we paraded with personnel from "Z" Force and A.I.A.

Once again we had perfect Autumn weather for the MARCH, with 32 marchers, the Banner being carried by Sandy Hinds and Dennis Moore. Marchers were: Norm ALLEN, Bruce BENTWITCH, Sid CAREY, Michael CASEY, Madeline CHIDGEY, Alan Cornish, Bill ESTEP, Gordon GIBSON, Joyce GRACE, Dave GEYER, Coral and Sandy HINDS, Frank HUGHES, Norma KEELING, Stan KING, John LAIRD, Noel LANGBY, Vic LEDERER, Joy LINNANE, Brian LOVETT, Dennis MOORE, Doreen MCPHERSON, Mac MARONEY, Reg MURPHY, Allan OSBORNE, Diana PARKER, John SHOEBRIDGE, Lester TRUEX, Jim WILLIAMS - and the last two were visitors: Martin Flynn of Berkshire, England, was a R.A.F. Flight Engineer in a Lancaster Squadron; and a Polish gentleman, Gus Sirotzki, now living at Rockdale. Gus was in the Polish Sunset Underground, attached to a British Royal Dragoon Corps. Captured by the Germans, he escaped to Switzerland and thence to England. Gus came to Australia after the War and served for over twelve years in the Australian Army at Maralinga. So -- if you want to meet interesting people, join us on Anzac Day!

Eve SCOTT, who was unable to join us, sent a telegram of good wishes for the day.

Seventy people signed the Attendance Book at the Reunion at Phillip's Foote: Les McCLEAN, Gordon, Sue & Katy GIBSON, Bruce BENTWITCH, John SHOEBRIDGE, Lil and Alan CORNISH, Brian LOVETT, David POWDRELL, Mr. & Mrs. OLD (can't make out their given names), Marjorie and Arthur MILLS, Judy & Tony CARSON, Meg & Allan OSBORNE, Jim WILLIAMS, Margaret and Len CARRIGG, Noni McNAUGHT, Ruth & Karin MacDONALD, Doug GILLESPIE, Joyce GRACE, Doreen MCPHERSON, Betty and Mac MARONEY, Norma & Jacky KEELING, Claire MOSS, Jock CAMERON, Bill ROBINSON, Sheila GREGORY, Alan LANGDON, Percy PLEDGER, Marion WINN, Martin and Valerie FLYNN, Betty & Clarrie HERMES, Flora and Alf DAVIS, Lester TRUEX, Margaret McCAFFERTY, Frank HUGHES, Peggy & Dennis MOORE, Diana PARKER, Coral and Sandy HINDS, Bill ESTEP, Joy LINNANE, Gwenda & Aub ROBERTS, Joyce & Michael CASEY, Bill KALBFELL, Athol WHYBURN (who had a toe amputated just two weeks earlier!), Vic LEDERER, Nobby CLARKE, John LAIRD, Keith STRINGFELLOW, Don COVENTRY, Dave GEYER, Madeline & Ron CHIDGEY, Diana SEYMOUR. Two signatures I can't make out - have lost the art of deciphering! If I have left anyone out, I apologise.

The gathering is always happy and congenial, and seems to get better every year. It is a great pleasure for us to have Australian Intelligence Association members and friends to enjoy with C.B. personnel the fun, food and fellowship at Phillip's Foote. And we Sydneysiders really appreciate the visits of those from far afield - Coral & Sandy, Mac, Percy and Lester from Melbourne; Clarrie, John and Vic from the A.C.T.; Brian, Athol, Dave, and two Dianas from 'out of town' N.S.W. Thanks to all of you for travelling such distances, and not forgetting Mac's wife Betty and Clarrie's wife Betty.

When the period between 'sightings' of especially remembered colleagues can be as long as 42 years, to meet them again on Anzac Day brings great pleasure and depth of feeling. Judy (ROE) Carson, Bill KALBFELL, and Clarrie HERMES were with us for the first time and many memories were stirred, also Diana (MATTHEWS) Parker & the HINDS.

We missed Florence ESTEP and heard from Bill that she has had some health problems, and now hope, with them, that the current treatment will be successful. Alf BOBIN has been in and out of hospital in Gympie, but despite being below par, he has been organising with Daisy the issue of the W.U. Newsletter.

Gordon Gibson, our Secretary, passed around a sheet containing a list of proposed doings for the Bicentennial Celebrations. He would like to have any comments and suggestions sent to him at 7 Lindsay Close, Pymble, 2073. The wording for the proposed plaque at 21 Henry Street has been approved by the Executive Committee, and the unveiling will take place on a date to be fixed, between Thursday 28th April and Monday 2nd May, 1988.

Information has been received that George HOLLAND of Edithvale, Victoria, passed away on 16th March last year. George was a member of the Association for many years and we regret the belated announcement of his death.

We would very much appreciate any news concerning our members, even if you think we may already have it. It is not easy to keep informed when we are so scattered, so if you have any news at any time, please let us have it.

We are sorry to report the death of Jock MCCORKELL at the age of 68, and we are grateful to Ted Brown, Stewart Southam and Geoff Patience for notifying us. Jock was famous in Aussie Rules football for many years, as shown in newspaper tributes. Stewart recalls that Jock was "a great asset to our Brisbane CB side when we fielded a team". Our sympathy is extended to Jock's family and friends in their loss.

We also extend sincere sympathy to John LYONS of Tamworth in the loss of his wife, after 50 years of happy marriage.

Norma Keeling has received news that Marjory HENDERSON of Evans Head has had a spell in hospital, and husband George has had another brush with cancer but is improving.

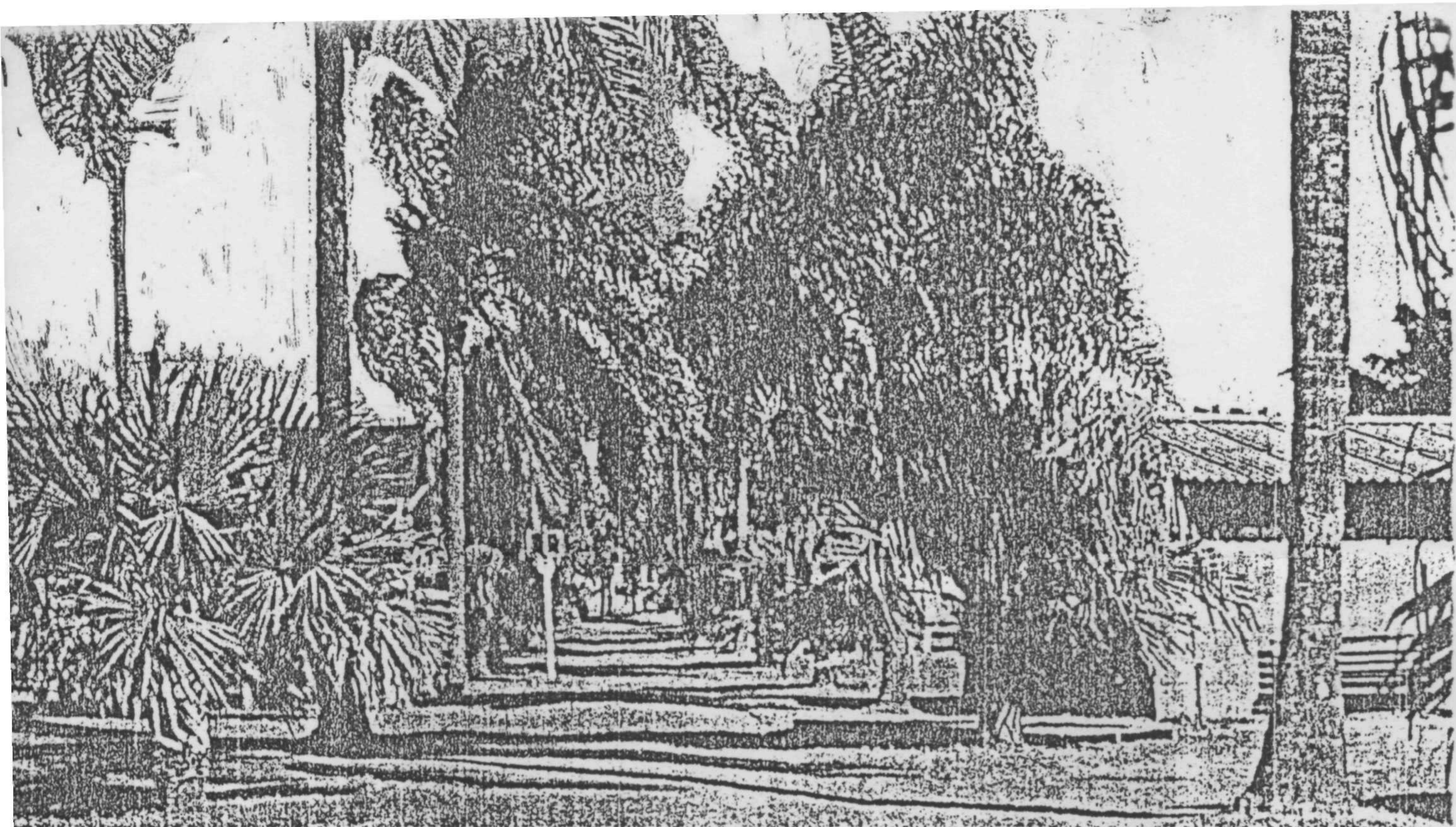
Gordon Gibson thought he was busy, though retired, till he received a letter from Geoff PATIENCE, who surely must be one of the busiest men in Victoria. Just to hear of all his interests and involvements makes me feel like a sloth. Some of us could benefit from one of his continuing activities as he writes, "I am still a Trustee of the Caulfield Racecourse so tell the boys or girls when they come to Melbourne, pick a race day at Caulfield and they can be my guest". Thanks, Geoff.

We admit that our photographic section would not be acceptable to any of the "glossies" but we hope that you enjoy it. It's the best we can do with old photographs and copies of copies! Of course, we would appreciate the loan of more photographs which would copy well for sharing with us all in the Newsletters.

To those on the sick list, our best wishes for a great improvement in health.

Remember, we want to see you all for THE BIG REUNION NEXT YEAR!

Madeline Chidgey, Publicity Officer.



ASCOT PARK—IN THIS CASE UNUSUALLY DESERTED. HERE 'ROUND THE CLOCK, MEN AND WOMEN OF SIS MADE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORY.

EIGHT HOURS PER DAY

At Ascot Park SIS performed its assigned duties. There, concentration prevailed. Visiting brass was probably encouraged to, and undoubtedly did, get the impression of a laboratory where myopic scientists strained brains to arrive at different conclusions. Actually most sections combined the aspects of such a laboratory, a grammar school, and the Ford assembly line. The work often provided the sort of thrill known only to scholars and labyrinth walkers. Independent and individualistic characters of several nations were always around to provide local color. Men inclined to intellectual speculation of one sort or another were provided with ample material by the presence of comely and genial Australian AWAS and WAAF, and by WACS, too . . . i.e., if she looks like that in *that*, how would she look in civvies?



Each morning at eight, commuters such as these arrive to work from Camp Ascot around the corner.



"Your pass?" It got to be such a habit, that SIS workers reached for a pass at every gate they saw.



Officers patiently waiting for the lunch-time bus to Gregory Terrace. It always seemed at its last gasp, but sooner or later it came coughing over the crest of the hill.

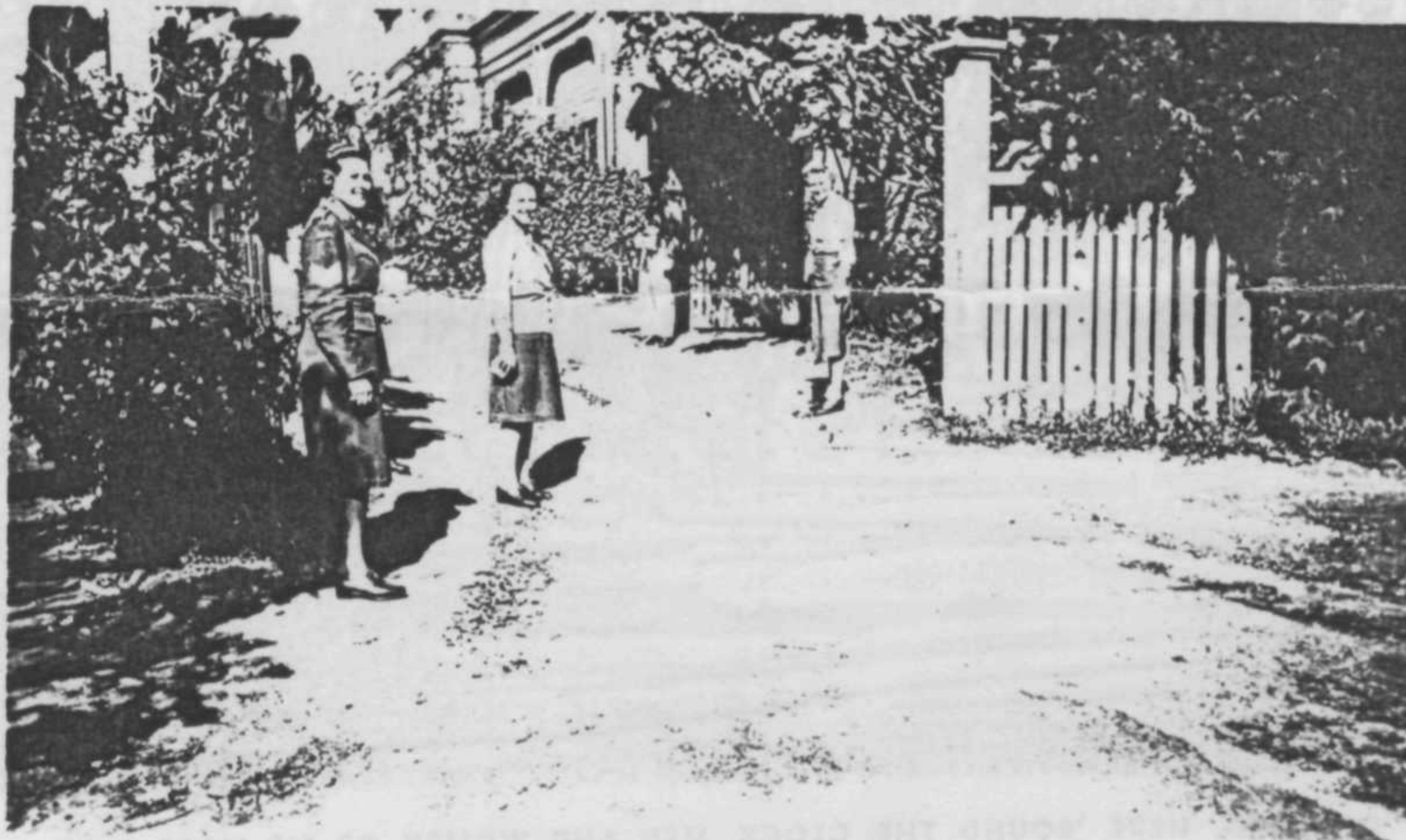


Tea-time is the pause that refreshes in Australia, and practical internationalism also. Talk was of social activities, of next Saturday's races, of that furlough, even of work.

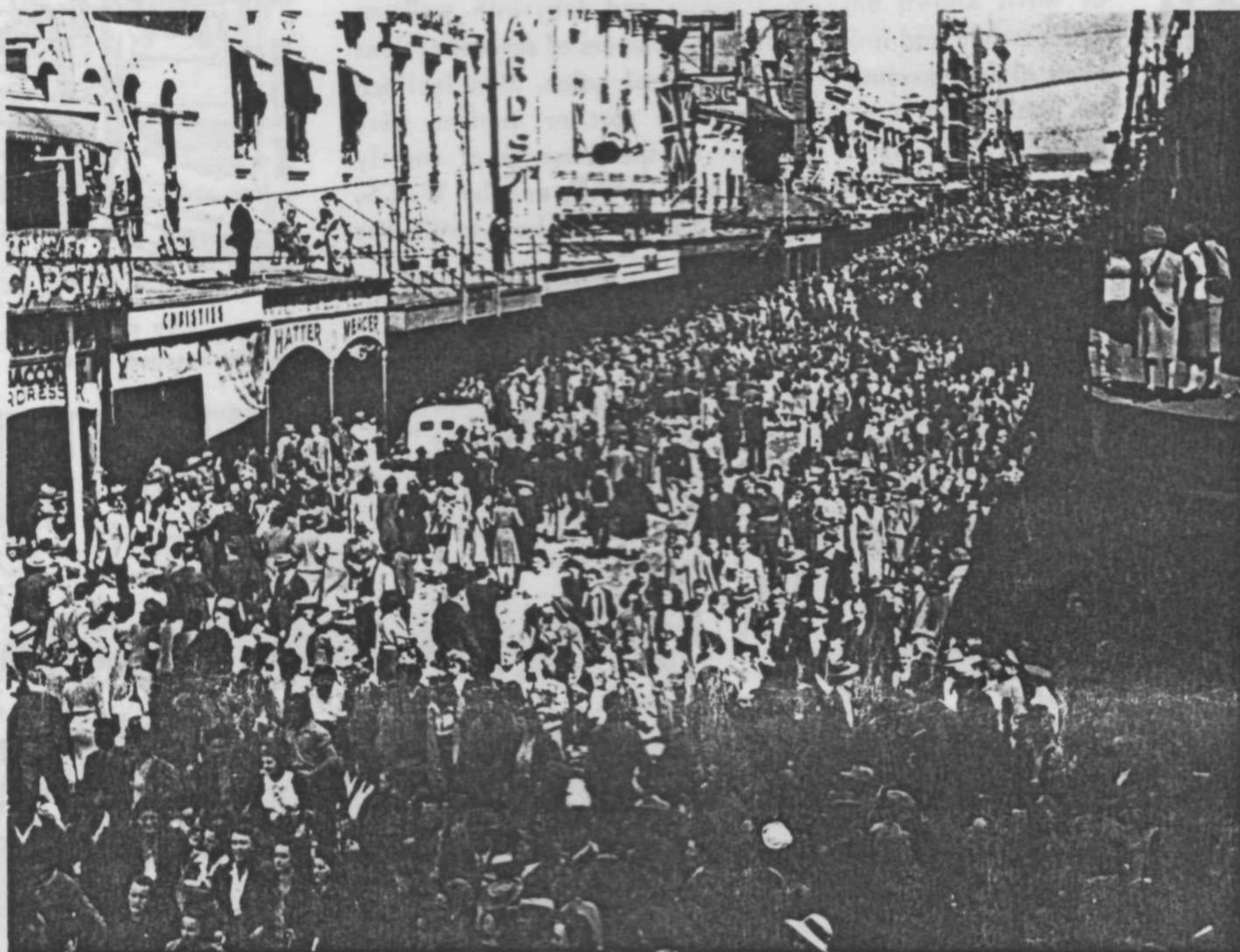
A page from "S.I.S. RECORD"

Can you identify anyone?
 Sybil Beck, Jack Potter,
 Edith Wallace, Colin Wilson
 ?

More from Helen (Frizell) Kenny



Joy Grace, Helen (Frizell) Kenny, Betty (Paterson) Lording



Queen Street, Brisbane.

No prizes for knowing when and why.



Another 'story' - this time from RAY EDDOLLS, one of the "Brisbane Twelve".

I arrived at Central Bureau in April 1944 with eleven other youthful Oxbridge under-graduates, all disguised as Warrant Officers Class II and sweltering in British Army battle dress. We had been recruited from university for a six-month course in military Japanese at Bedford, and after selection for attachment to the Australian Army had undergone a short period of square-bashing at the I Corps depot near Rotherham. Then followed a fascinating journey to Brisbane across the North Atlantic (aboard the Queen Mary), the United States (by train) and the wide Pacific (by air - from San Francisco). We were later reinforced at CB by another six Tommies, but the "Brisbane Twelve" managed somehow to retain a separate identity.

My recollection of our work at CB is rather vague, possibly because the daily routine of translation in the hut in Ascot Park was overshadowed by the powerful impressions of life in the sub-tropics. I was delighted by the seemingly continuous sunshine, the wooden houses on stilts and the warmth of what the locals referred to as winter.

I remember the small huts at Kedron Park, where we were accommodated until February 1945, and the heavy meat diet at the sergeants' mess there. I also recall the enormous cockroaches with which we shared tents beside the racecourse at Ascot before the great push north to Luzon in mid-1945.

Not all of us remained in Brisbane, however. My old school-mate Cyril James was transferred to Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, not long after our arrival in Queensland: another of the Twelve, Peter Hutt, got himself posted north to "the islands" and no doubt became more of a soldier than I ever was.

The rest of us toiled on at CB and enjoyed our weekly days-off, often spending them at Redcliffe or "down the coast" at Surfers', which was easily reached by U.S. Army truck from Ascot. So idyllic was our life, in military terms, that I remember being puzzled by the remark of an Australian sergeant at Kedron who said he felt sorry for us. He was not being ironic though: we were very young, after all, and so far from mother's tender care.

I could go on and on, but I dare not risk the editor's wrath. Suffice it to say that the wonderful Brisbane experience was re-lived by nine of the Twelve in September 1984, when they met at a reunion in Manchester. I was not there, having emigrated to Victoria from Liverpool in January 1950, but I consider myself the most fortunate member of the group in one respect: I am now about to retire to the Redcliffe Peninsula!

Ray Eddolls
(VB 14426395)

[Thank you, Ray, for re-awakening impressions and memories of]
[our young lives in Brisbane.]
[We can now look forward to seeing you there in your retirement]
[if we are able to arrange an invasion from the south for CB]
[Bi-Centennial Celebrations in 1988.]

PROPOSED BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS 1988

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S Y D N E Y

1. Monday, 25th April: Anzac Day March and Reunion at Phillip's Foote.
2. Wednesday, 27th April: Midday Barbecue at Lane Cove River Park.
Food to be provided by Association. B.Y.O.G.
Souvenir in form of appropriately inscribed
glass to be given to each attending member.

B R I S B A N E

3. On date to be fixed, between Thursday, 28th April, and Monday, 2nd May:

Official unveiling of Commemorative Plaque at 21 Henry Street, Ascot,
followed by Picnic in Ascot Park.

N O T E S

1. The following Americans have already indicated their intention to take part in the Anzac Day March and Reunion: Joe Richard, Maury Coombs, Abe Sinkov, Henry Ephron. Others are expected.
2. The programme of functions for ALL American Veterans visiting Australia for our Bicentennial Celebrations has been worked out by the Travel Service in consultation with the R.S.L. It will be necessary to arrange for ex C.B. Americans to be freed from engagements set down on their programme to allow them to attend the above functions.
3. Mac Maroney has been asked to accept the position of contact person for celebrations to be arranged whilst the Americans are visiting Melbourne.

Your comments and suggestions on the above proposals are cordially invited.

For the Executive Committee

Gordon Gibson
Hon. Sec.