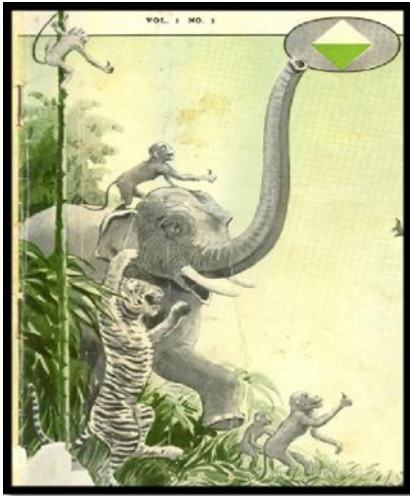


# Thumbs Up 2019



**The Annual Newsletter of the  
2/20th Battalion Association.**

[www.secondtwentieth.org.au](http://www.secondtwentieth.org.au)

 [2/20<sup>th</sup> Battalion](#)

## President's report



In October 2018, my wife Wendy and I drove to Ballarat to attend the National Service for the 75th Anniversary of Australian Work on Hellfire Pass and the Completion of the Thai/Burma Railway. The service was held at the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial at Ballarat on Tuesday 16 October 2018.

The introduction and welcome was given by Major General Mark Kelly AO DSC Repatriation Commissioner Department of Veteran Affairs, The Call To Remembrance by Lieutenant General Rick Burr AO DSC MVO Chief of Army and the Commemorative Address By The Honourable Darren Chester MP Deputy Leader of The House, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister For Defence Personnel, Minister Assisting The Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC.

It was a dull overcast day with slight rain, however the service was very well conducted and there was a very large attendance of official guests and families of prisoners who worked on Hellfire Pass and The Railway. I laid a wreath on behalf of our Battalion. At the conclusion of the service, a member of our Association, Kathleen Guyer approached me, her father was Thomas Guyer, a member of the 2/20th Battalion.

The Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial Canberra on Friday 15th February 2019 honoured brothers Corporal Roy Cotton NX52468 and Private Arthur Cotton NX36763 of the 2/19th Australian Infantry Battalion A.I.F. , who were killed in action during the Malayan and Singapore Campaign of January/February 1942. Our Association was well represented at the ceremony with the following members attending. Peter and Kathy Salter, James and Deidre Keady, Stewart and Jane Thompson, Roslyn Isles and Sharon Muir as well as my wife and I. At the ceremony I laid a wreath on behalf of our Association.

I encourage all our members to attend a Last Post Ceremony if in Canberra. The ceremony is held daily at the Australian War Memorial Courtyard commencing at 4-55pm, however it is better to be present at 4-45pm. Also the ceremony is televised daily on the A.W.M. website commencing at 4-55pm.

I look forward to catching up with everyone on ANZAC Day.

Dennis Baker.

## ANZAC Day March 2019



**Form up:** 11:00am in Kings St at the intersection of Pitt St.

The *estimated* march off time is **11:40am**.

### ANZAC Day Lunch & AGM.

We are at Tattersalls Club again this year. The lunch will commence at 12:45pm sharp.

Lunch will cost \$85, which will include a two course meal, beverages and Association Membership.

The address of Tattersalls Club is 181 Elizabeth St, Sydney, opposite Hyde Park.

## Information Overload

Like many of our members who have family war records, I have a great deal of information collected by my late father Frank Baker on the 2/20th Battalion. I have been going through files, envelopes, and letters from various people and organisations and have discovered a great deal of historical information. One such piece was in an envelope addressed to my father from Don Wall. The date on the envelope is illegible unfortunately. The contents in the envelope is a 56 page (typed) War Diary dated from 23 June 1940 to 28 November 1941.

Many of us no doubt have various documents/records from our fathers, grandfathers and uncles which may contain very personal and some more general information. I encourage everyone to read what they can, when they have time and to learn as much as possible of their relative's service. Also don't forget we have a 2/20th Battalion Facebook page and I invite all members to put information, photos etc on it.

## Comments from a millennial

One of my biggest regrets in life (so far) is not having the maturity to recognise the opportunity I had with my grandad David Thompson before he passed. At 12 he tried to sit me down and talk about his experiences. I was more interested in watching the football. At 20, Grandad would always want to chat, about me, and I never returned the interest. Now at 29, 8yrs after he has passed I find myself going through the Australian War Memorial online collections to find answers to questions I should have asked years ago.

The point of this reflection is to highlight that as years go by, we inevitably lose our most important sources of information. When the next generations come through it will soon be up to us to make sure we are in a position to share our stories and stories of others with them.

As a side point, the AWM online collections has some fantastic content, such as interviews of ex POWs reflecting on their time, including a number of 2/20th soldiers (David Thompson, Francis Baker and others)

James Thompson

## Gardens of Remembrance

A matter which may be of interest is that, it has been Australian Policy since 1922 to extend official commemoration to eligible Post-War deaths.

The NSW Garden of Remembrance was constructed adjacent to the Sydney War Cemetery, within the Rookwood Necropolis in the early 1960's. Family members of a veteran may apply for a memorial plaque to be placed in one of the specially created Office of Australian War Graves (O.A.W.G.) Gardens of Remembrance throughout Australia.



The website which provides eligibility criteria etc. is [www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-war-graves](http://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-war-graves). Certain veterans are automatically eligible including ex-prisoner of war.

## Proposed Visit to Bathurst NSW

On the 18/3/2019 I contacted David Mills President of the Bathurst R.S.L. Sub Branch to discuss a possible visit by our members to Bathurst to visit a number of sites within the Bathurst area associated with the 8th Division. Among other things they could arrange a Commemoration Service at the Broken Blade Memorial, a tour of the Memorial Walk Museum within the Bathurst R.S.L. Club complex. A group luncheon in a separate area within the bistro area of the club and visitation of other memorials within the area including Bathurst Army Camp War Memorial. I will raise this proposal at our luncheon on ANZAC Day to gauge interest in this possible activity.

Dennis Baker

## Broken Blade Memorial



The Broken Blade Memorial commemorates soldiers of the Eight Division most of whom trained at the former Army camp on Limekilns Road.

It pays tribute to the many soldiers of the Eighth Division who sacrificed their lives in the Malaya campaign and to the many survivors of the Division who still suffer the effects of the war and the ordeal of Prisoner of War Camps.

The column is shaped in the form of a blade. At the broken tip the figure "8" with a sword cross is incised, recalling the grim days of Japan's initial drive to the South on mainland Asia which eventually halted on the very doorstep of Australia.

# ANZAC DAY 2019

Lunch, Reunion and AGM  
Tattersals Club  
181 Elizabeth Street, Sydney  
12.30pm

Member's Name:			
Member's Address			
Member's Email Address:			
Member's Phone Number:			
Invited Family Guests:			
Dietary Requirements:			
ANZAC Day Lunch			
Members Lunch	\$85.00	<i>Per head (includes 2019 membership)</i>	\$ _____
2019 Membership	\$10.00	<i>If not attending the lunch</i>	\$ _____
Donations Thankfully Received	\$27.50		\$ _____
Singapore & Beyond	\$20.00	<i>Battalion History Book</i>	\$ _____
Battalion Tie	\$10.00	<i>(includes postage)</i>	\$ _____
Battalion Badge			\$ _____
Total			\$ _____

## RSVP NO LATER THAN THE 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019

Payment can be made to the Treasurer by either cheque or electronic bank transfer.

The Treasurer

2/20<sup>th</sup> Battalion

2/20<sup>th</sup> Battalion

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