



Thumbs Up 2023

The Annual Newsletter of the
 2/20th Battalion Association
www.secondtwentieth.org.au

[2/20th Battalion](#)

2/20th Battalion Association President's Report 2023

On Friday 29th April 2022, Stewart Thompson, Wendy and I attended the funeral of John Love. A member of our association who passed away on the 18th April 2022. The service was held at Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens and Crematorium and the service was well attended; I spoke briefly about John.

Wendy and I attended the VP Day Commemoration service at the Cenotaph Martin Place Sydney on the 15th August 2022.

Later in August Wendy and I were on a road trip in which we visited a number of places heading up the NSW North Coast and into QLD, on the trip we drove into Murwillumbah to locate the Sandakan Memorial Walkway, which is in a park (Remembrance Place) outside the Tweed Shire Council Offices. The walkway contains plaques and information boards which provide excellent information on the Death Marches. Two of our 2/20th Battalion Servicemen are commemorated here, Private Donald Haigh Lee NX46082 of B Force and Private Victor Robert Raison of F Force. Below is one of the information boards.

SANDAKAN - RANAU
 Death Marches North Borneo Jan. 1945 - June 1945

Locality map of Singapore, Borneo and the Philippines

ONLY SIX (6) AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS SUCCESSFULLY ESCAPED & SURVIVED

- NX42191 Pte V Bonnell
- NX14390 One O Campbell
- NX03967 Pte N Short
- NX43378 Rtr R Beathwaite
- NX19750 1/8de W Moohan
- NX17355 W/2 W Stipovich

There were 103 Servicemen (that's known) from this district who were POWs in Sandakan, none survived. They were:

NX32141 Pte E C Alexander	2/8 Inf Bn	Died 07/04/1945
NX32205 Pte J F Anderson	2/8 Inf Bn	Died 10/06/1945
NX46095 Pte R C Bruce	2/10 Inf Asslt	Died 30/03/1945
QX17585 W/2 J Chapman	2/3 Ord Store	Died 05/07/1945
NX60715 Dte J T Clennell	8 Div Sig Cmn	Died 15/03/1945
NX46082 Pte G H Lee	2/30 Inf Bn	Died 04/06/1945
NX32255 Pte A L Lever	1/18 Inf Bn	Died 02/06/1945
NX48071 Pte H Longbottom	1/30 Inf Bn	Died 11/02/1945
QX21556 Pte H D McCallum	2/20 Inf Bn	Died 17/04/1945
NX53184 Pte V R Raison	2/20 Inf Bn	Died 02/06/1945

Service Records

ALEXANDER, Edward C Name: ALEXANDER, Edward C Australian Army Service Number: NX32141 Date of Birth: 4 Oct 1918 Place of Birth: Sydney NSW Date of Enlistment: 28 May 1943 Locality of Enlistment: Manildra NSW Name of Regiment: 2/8th Inf Bn Name of Force: 2nd Australian Force Name of Ship: HMAS Sydney Date of Death: 7 April 1945 Age: 27 Place of Death: 20th Inf Bn Reason for Death: Killed in Action Place of Burial: 20th Inf Bn Cemetery, 20th Inf Bn, 20th Inf Bn	LEE, Victor Name: LEE, Victor Australian Army Service Number: NX46082 Date of Birth: 14 Nov 1915 Place of Birth: Leeton NSW Date of Enlistment: 18 Aug 1943 Locality of Enlistment: Chisham Creek NSW Name of Regiment: 2/30th Inf Bn Name of Force: 2nd Australian Force Name of Ship: HMAS Sydney Date of Death: 28 May 1945 Age: 29 Place of Death: 2/30th Inf Bn Reason for Death: Killed in Action Place of Burial: 2/30th Inf Bn Cemetery, 2/30th Inf Bn, 2/30th Inf Bn
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of World War II

Officially Opened and Dedicated on 15th August 2010 by PROFESSOR R. BRAITHWAITE BSc, IQM, MSc, IQM, PhD (Monash)

In Memory of all Australian and British Servicemen who died on the Sandakan - Ranau Death Marches or in POW camps, also the local inhabitants and natives who risked their lives to give food and medicines to the POWs.

TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL

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On Thursday 29th September 2022, I attended the renaming of Harbourside Haven Nursing Home and Hostel in Shoal Bay to Harbourside Haven Gardens. The formerly Hostel 2 will be known as Richardson House, after Bart Richardson, who had been a resident there for more than 20 years. In 2011 Bart was elected the prestigious “Eminent Resident” in recognition of his contribution to residents. I spoke at this renaming ceremony on behalf of Bart’s Family and our Association.



Above photo was taken during the Renaming Ceremony of Harbourside Haven Nursing Home and Hostel to Harbourside Haven Gardens. Louise Rice, Bart’s Granddaughter was in virtual attendance seen on the righthand side of the table on the green Ipad

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Vale Jimmy.

On Friday 21st October 2022, James Keady, Stewart Thompson, Annette Bugitti (Lynch), Wendy and I attended the funeral service of Jimmy Fawcett (James Horrocks Fawcett), Jimmy was 81. James Keady spoke at the service on behalf of the 2/20th Battalion Association.

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Private Jack Sidney Orr NX53745 of B Force.

On Friday 18th November 2022, Wendy and I attended The Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial Canberra. This ceremony honoured Private Jack Sidney Orr NX53745 who had transferred to the 2/20th Battalion during captivity and was on B Force nominal roll. Private Orr died stealing food on the 27th March 1945. His story is mentioned on Page 333 of Singapore and Beyond which details the circumstances of his death. I laid a wreath at this ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony I spoke to a fellow who was standing beside me and who had also laid a wreath.

I asked if he was a family member, he replied no, I am U.S. Army and the person beside is U.S. Navy. We are here today as a group visiting the Australian War Memorial. I said to him my father was a POW in Japan when the two atomic bombs were dropped ending the war in the Pacific. I said I am grateful to the U.S. for ending the war which allowed the prisoners to be released. The young U.S. Army man looked at me and said “No we are indebted to you sir; Australia is a great ally of the U.S.” and we shook hands.

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The 81st Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore was on Wednesday 15th February 2023, Stewart Thompson and James Thompson attended The Last Post Ceremony on this day which was held at the Australian War Memorial. This ceremony honoured Gunner John Francis Godfrey Alford NX45906 who died on the 23rd January 1942, 2/15th Field Regiment, which was part of the 8th Division.

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I look forward to see you on ANZAC Day.

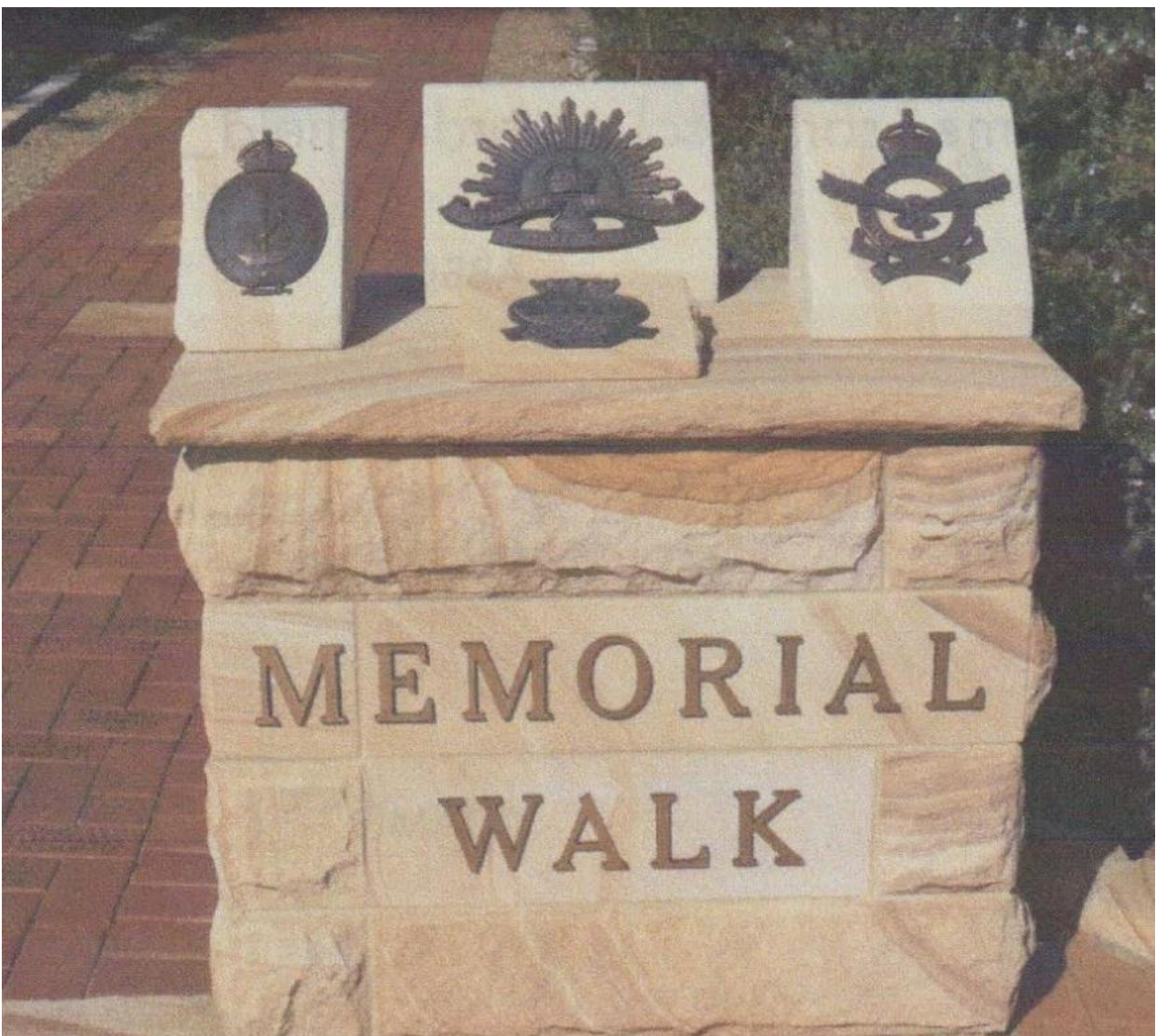
Dennis Baker
President 2/20th Battalion Association.

Item of Interest

The Australian Memorial Walk honours those who have served and supported the Defence of Australia in peace and in war. The paved pathway links five monuments erected to remember the major conflict periods in Australia's history, Colonial, World War 1, World War 2, Post World War 2 and Peace Keeping.

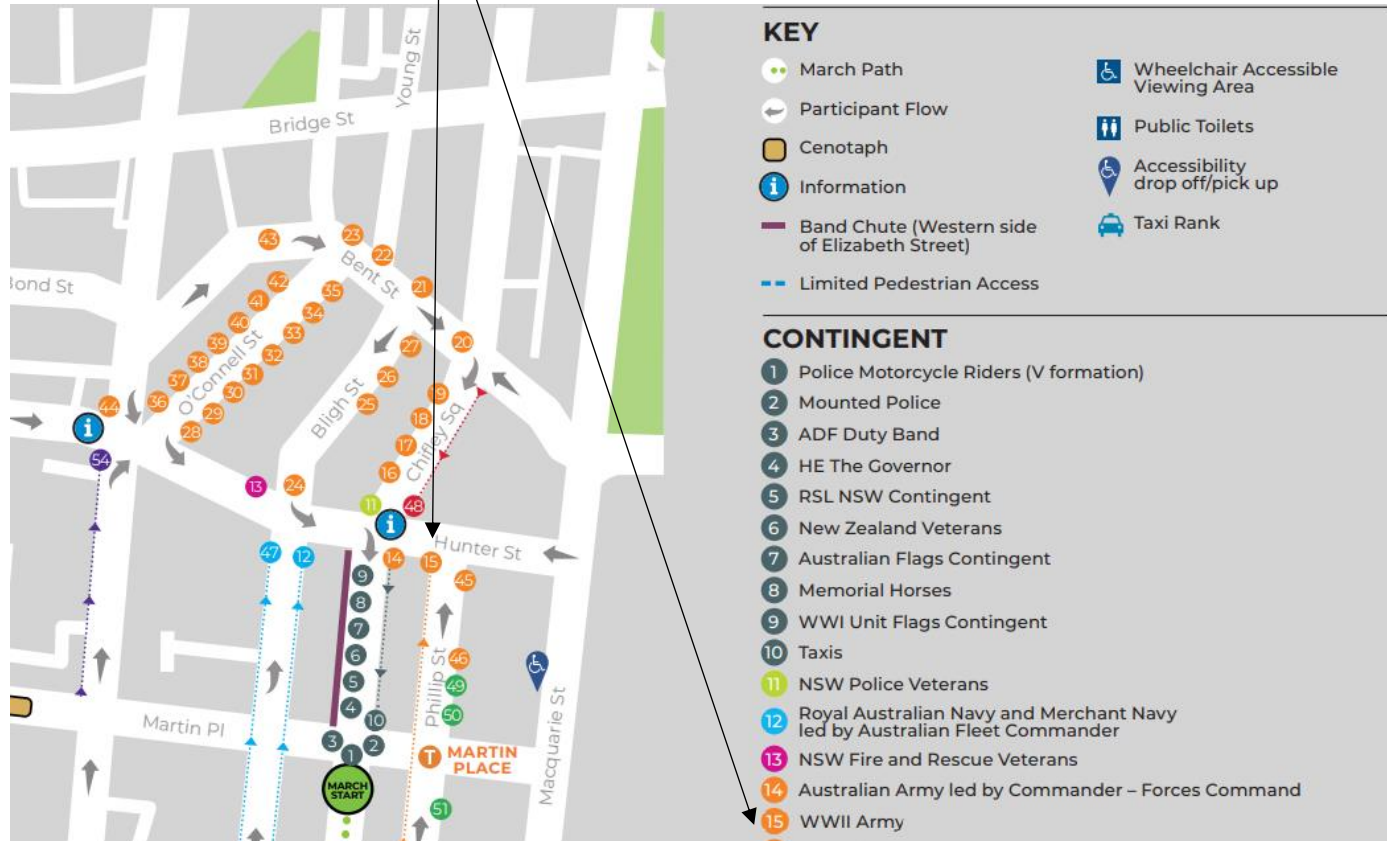
The Memorial Walk is located on North Fort Road Manly NSW. The entrance to the walk is about 100 metres east from the carpark. It is marked by a sandstone plinth (the photo). Follow the path for 100 metres and you will come to the beginning of the pavers marked by dual sandstone plinths. Individuals can donate an inscribed paver to the walkway, cost \$70.00. For further information about ordering pavers, please visit the [Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company's website](#).

I would like to thank Janet Rowlands, one of our members, who advised me of the Memorial Walk and who had donated a paver to her father Private Robert Pegrum NX26500 and also her uncle Private Reginald Pegrum NX33393, both of the 2/20th Battalion.



ANZAC DAY MARCH 2023

This Anzac Day, we will be marching behind the 8th Australian Division AIF banner. We will meet up on Phillip Street, corner of Hunter Street at 9.00am.



Please see the following information regarding our Annual General Meeting and luncheon after the march.

ANZAC DAY LUNCH 2023

You would have all received an e-mail explaining the issues we face with our Annual Anzac Day Meeting and Luncheon at the Tattersalls Club.

As advised in the e-mail, the minimum charge for events on Public Holidays is \$7,500. If we have 66 guests this year (as per last year), the cost per head would be \$113.64.

To date (14th March), responses received suggest that so far, we have 64 attendees (possibly 66). Based on confirmed numbers (64), the cost per person (based on the minimum charge of the Tattersalls Club) is \$117.18. The cost charged to members will be \$90 and the Association will pay the difference to make up the minimum charge of \$7,500 (\$1,740). The optimum result would be getting 70 attendees which would mean that the Association will only be "out of pocket" \$1,400. The maximum capacity of the Tattersalls Club room is 75.

We will include our future Anzac Day lunches as an item in the Annual General Meeting Agenda this year, so please have a think and come this year armed with suggestions.

Please complete the form on the next page as instructed.