



ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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519

REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER MEETING (9/11/11)

November 11 is Remembrance Day so it was fitting that the theme of our November Meeting should be war related. In particular our three speakers focused on the early years of the Second World War. Graham Docksey spoke on his quest to photograph the graves of war dead of the 2/23rd Australian Infantry Battalion (Albury's Own). This quest has taken him to Egypt, Libya, Papua New Guinea, Labuan as well as all states of Australia. He has obtain photographs from Israel, Italy and Ambon in Indonesia.

Graham displayed the number of graves in the war cemeteries that he has visited and the number of 2/23rd Battalion graves in each. Despite the Battalion spending many months under siege at Tobruk, it was at El Alamein that the greatest number of casualties occurred with 67 marked graves and 19 names of those with no known resting place inscribed on the memorial wall.

Almost all the cemeteries are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), an organization to which Australia and other British Commonwealth countries contribute.

Graham's plan is to place the results of his project on a web site for the 2/23rd Battalion Association and to enhance the current display at the Army Museum Bandiana.

Doug Hunter too spoke about the 2/23rd Battalion, describing two marches through Albury in 1940. He also described a march by troops of the 23rd Brigade of the 8th Division on 'Greek Day,' 28 February 1941 and the subsequent fate of these men.

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

14 DECEMBER 2011

7.30pm at Commercial Club

Albury

Members' Show & Tell night

Annual Christmas Dinner

Elizabeth Room, Albury
Commercial Club

Friday 16th December at
6.30 for 7pm.

Hot buffet & Dessert

\$35 per person

and a gift to the value of \$5.00
for Kris Kringle.

All members and friends are
welcome.

Numbers to June Shanahan by
14 Dec 6025 1324

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25

Family: \$33

Corporate: \$50

Research undertaken \$25 first hour.

Enquiries in writing with \$25

History Meetings: 2nd Wednesday
of the month 7.30pm at Commercial
Club Albury.

Committee meets 3rd Wednesday of
the month 5.15pm at Albury
LibraryMuseum.

A&DHS website:

www.alburyhistory.org.au

Joe Wooding spoke of the Air Raid Precautions organization and other civil defence organizations formed in Albury's community response to the threat of war.

TOUR OF DISTRICT CEMETERIES

Three members of A&DHS, John and Helen Livsey and Doug Hunter, joined with fifteen district folk on a tour of four cemeteries in the Gerogery/Burrumbuttock district on Sunday 6 November. The tour was organised by Rupert Paech of Walla Walla and took in Gerogery General, St Peters Lutheran, Bethel Lutheran and Burrumbuttock General Cemeteries.

Gerogery General Cemetery is located 4km west of the present village. When the cemetery was gazetted it was on the edge of the then village. In 1880 residents of the village moved to be closer to the recently arrived railway leaving Gerogery West, as it is now known, almost deserted. The cemetery is zoned on a denominational basis and has about 20 marked graves. Included is a large Watson family grave overgrown with creeper. The cemetery has several recent graves.

From Gerogery we moved to St Peters Lutheran Cemetery. This is a private cemetery adjacent to the St Peters Church. St Peters is believed to be the first Lutheran congregation in NSW, established in 1869 by the original trekkers from South Australia. The earliest burials date from that time. Parishioner, Noel Salzke, gave a commentary on the cemetery that has been in use for 140 years. The inscriptions on some of the early headstones are in German. One unique grave marker is not stone but a single slab of timber 600 mm wide and 150 mm thick. The inscription was of raised lettering achieved by carving away the surround-



Watson family graves at Gerogery General Cemetery. Samuel Watson purchased the Gerogery Run from Aimee Huon in 1869. The property was reduced in size by closer settlement and the Watsons farmed the portion known as Gerogery East for many years.



Headstone of G August Schulz (1823-1893), one of the earliest graves in Burrumbuttock General Cemetery. The inscription is in German. This grave is in the Lutheran section of the cemetery which is in current use. Several other graves are located in the grassed area in the background. These are sections belonging to other denominations and no longer in use.

ing wood. A century of weathering has almost obliterated the inscription. To one side of the cemetery is a stone structure which was originally the pastor's residence, one room of which doubled as a school room.

Bethel Lutheran is a fine brick edifice constructed in 1926 replacing an earlier timber structure dating from 1871. The 1871 church had miraculously survived the bush fire that devastated the district in 1905. Parishioner, Paul Jarick, was our guide to the cemetery and kindly opened the hall for us to enjoy our afternoon tea.

Burrumbuttock General Cemetery is adjacent to the Holy Cross Lutheran Church. This cemetery which is marked on a 1886 map covers a large area. It is zoned according to denominations, but only the Lutheran section is maintained and used. There are about five marked graves that are just visible in the long grass of the remainder of the cemetery.

The day ended before the rain and thunder, that had been threatening all afternoon, arrived.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS (ARP) IN ALBURY DURING WORLD WAR II

Talk by Joe Wooding

When trolling through a post-war Council report relating to the Botanical Gardens, the location of two air raid shelters was revealed. Visions of thick reinforced concrete bunkers with sturdy steel doors sprang to mind and needed to be investigated. Research was to paint a rather different picture.

Although this country was suffering casualties and was on a war footing during the two years since Prime Minister Menzies in 1939 had pledged Australia's support for Britain in its war with Germany, the conflict seemed far removed from Albury. Overnight, that perception changed with Japan's day of infamy when it attacked the United States at Pearl Harbour on December 7th 1941.

By the end of March 1942, Singapore had fallen, both Darwin and Broome had been bombed and General MacArthur had uttered his immortal words. "I shall return" to the people of the Philippines. On 1 June, Japanese midget subs attacked shipping in Sydney Harbour. Suddenly these were very dark and desperate days, not only for our country and our way of life, but indeed our very existence.

This brief report mainly focuses on the preparations made by Albury people in the face of this threat. A much broader coverage from this era is contained in a 1992 publication by Bruce Pennay titled, *'On the Home Front: Albury during the Second World War* which covers physical, economic and social changes during the war years.

The fear of air attack was all consuming and various organizations sprang up to augment existing services. These included the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC), another the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) along with first-aid units. Women's groups also formed, but the major responsibility fell on the Air Raid Precautions (ARP).

In Albury, the ARP was headed by the Chief Warden, Alderman D G Padman, Mayor of Albury throughout the war and his deputy Mr A C Sellars. The ARP divided the town into six wards or sections: North, South, East and West, and Albury Central 'A' and 'B'. Central 'A' was bounded by Smollett, Young, Crisp and Olive Streets. Central 'B' was Olive, Smollett and Crisp Streets to the Bungambrawatha Creek.

Each ward was controlled by a senior warden, patrol officers and house wardens, all distinguished by red or yellow arm-bands. Sixteen aid posts, several casualty clearing stations and ambulance service points were established and their locations published. The Grammar School, Sars Hotel (now Northside, cnr Union and Urana Roads) and Albury High School were to be emergency hospitals. The responsibilities of various medical personnel, including a mobile doctor, were also published, as were the locations of wardens' shelters and dry sand for residents to use in case of incendiary attack.

With the government reluctant, indeed unwilling, to concede that an air strike was possible so far from the coast no financial assistance was provided. Alderman Padman pointed out that Albury

was a very appealing target with its railway yards at the change of gauges, large military camps, the Hume Dam and the river crossings both road and rail, all to no avail.

Consequently, the onus fell heavily on the locals, who resorted to every conceivable enterprise to raise funds, including appeals, dances, stalls of all varieties, including the Red Cross selling tulip bulbs and their flowers, donated to Albury by the Dutch people 5 years earlier. Euchre parties, fashion and pet parades, ugly man and Miss this and that pageants were staged. There were wood and produce auctions, sporting events, rag, waste paper, rubber, metal, clothing, bottle and penny drives. Corn sacks and wheat bags were in great demand for sand bagging. There was even a shilling drive when residents were asked to donate a shilling if unable to contribute collectables. The *Border Morning Mail* provided a maths lesson for its readers when it pompously pointed out that 4,000 shillings amounted to 200 pounds. The Regent Theatre ran an aluminium matinee. 'Any aluminium article will admit you' proclaimed the advert. Hopalong Cassidy and Popeye the Sailor were screened.

ARP strategies were formed and well advanced during 1941, but always short of funds. The first reference to air-raid trenches was found on 3 January 1942. They were to be dug diagonally (zig zag) about three feet wide at the top, sloping to a narrower base and about four feet deep.

Albury trench digging in the first few months of 1942 is best described as frenetic. Almost daily, the *Border Morning Mail* called for volunteer diggers at various locations, heaping praise on those prepared to do the hand blistering hard work. On 2 March, 260 men reported for duty, but by 30 March, when only 14 turned out, "Albury Men Fail Again" the paper reported, lambasting those who had shirked their duty, exposing helpless women and children to danger.

Virtually every school had trenches, including the Convent, Woodstock, Grammar School and the Newtown Orphanage. At Albury High School, student Ian Chick received a nasty leg injury from a pick while digging at his school. A number of businesses, including the Woollen Mills, Mates Ltd, Dalgety's and the Ambulance Station all provided their own trenches at the rear of their properties. The veggie garden at the hospital was a casualty when trenches were dug on both their Dean and Smollett Street frontages. A number of residents also excavated their own. The picture of Jim Dav-

enport's Young Street shelter appears in Howard Jones' book *Magic Memories of Albury*. Jim assures me they were not very comfortable and a breeding pond for mosquitoes after it rained.

Albury Municipal Council resolved on 4 February 1942, to allow air raid shelters to be constructed in parks and gardens under the supervision of the curator and engineer. A month later, the curator reported: "that three air raid shelter trenches had been completed in the Botanic Gardens and Dean Square and trenches would comfortably shelter 260 persons." No details of individual sites or numbers in each were given. On 19 March, the curator again reported, "that another shelter trench had been dug and this would shelter about 40 persons." Again no location was given.

On 28 May 1942, council resolved to notify fifteen listed land owners that their properties might be entered and air raid shelters constructed. It is not known if this actually occurred, but it was reported that the council was to dig 2,500 yards of trench on vacant land in the municipality. The armed forces stationed at the Showground and the Sportsground also dug trenches. And the Bungambrawatha Creek was regarded as safer than being caught in the open.

With all this sub-surface accommodation becoming available, there had to be a way of warning people of impending danger. Naturally, it was air raid sirens. With government help still unavailable, Mrs Alf Waugh, with a small band of helpers, raised enough funds to purchase five sirens to supplement the one already in existence on top of the recently completed New Albury Hotel. The latter was not easily heard in some parts of the town and especially indoors. Electrical Engineer, Lyle Ferris, well known for his role in the *Uiver* landing a few years earlier, was charged with locating and installing the five new sirens. Locations chosen were: top of Pemberton Street, Schubach between Rau and Kenilworth Streets, cnr Smith and Frauenfelder Streets, cnr Hovell and Macauley Streets and cnr Guinea and Olive Streets. The system was operated from the Ambulance Station.

Members of the Voluntary Air Observers' Corps (VAOC) established a post, firstly in the CML building in Dean Street, then in 1944, at Billson Park where a four post tower and platform was erected. This was near the cnr of David and Perry Streets. Local observers included Patricia Strachan (nee Angel) who accompanied and sometimes substituted for her sister Peggy. Patricia remembers there was "little overhead traffic to report." [Mrs Beatrice Thorman was another local observer. Her VAOC badge is held at the 8/13 VMR Regt Collection at Bandiana and



Volunteer Air Observer's badge presented to Mrs Beatrice Thorman of Albury.

Air observers reported all air activity, friendly as well as enemy. On one occasion in June 1945 an observer at Tallandoon reported an aircraft flying low in the vicinity. This led to the eventual location of the site in the mountains between Eskdale and Dederang where a Beaufort Bomber on a training flight from East Sale crashed with the loss of all four crewmen.

has recently returned from a two-year travelling exhibition developed by Museums & Galleries NSW.]

Numerous mock air-raid and siren tests were held. It seems that military and civilian authorities were not always aware of each other's agenda. Several times air raid trials clashed with military parades. On one occasion a military band marched from the Salvation Army hall in Kiewa Street swinging into Dean Street playing rousing music. When quizzed about his motives, the band master was quoted, "as most apologetic, believing the siren to be a car horn malfunction."

On 30 May 1942, a packed crowd in Dean Square witnessed the detonation of high explosive and incendiary devices conducted by three Sydney based fire officers to give residents a realistic idea of what to expect from an air-raid and the basics of what to do.

Many businesses played their part. Commercial Club members made stretchers for the ARP using canvas supplied by Maples furniture store. They also joined with the CWA and various church groups to manufacture camouflage nets for the troops.

With all this doom and gloom prevailing, the town had one bright spot. On 11 November 1939, Miss June Hore of Albury decided to do her patriotic best, launching a song and dance group to raise funds to help with the war effort. Sixteen

other young ladies soon joined and with Mrs R H McDonald as Hon Secretary, and Mrs P D Burrows as Hon Treasurer, the "Victory Vanities Business Girls Revue" was born. Miss Raie Langley became the producer and mother figure while Mr Jack Carter became accompanist and Mr Les Pogson conducted the orchestra.

The first production was staged on 12 March 1940 at the Plaza Theatre before a packed audience of 700. The revue played at numerous venues around the district, including the military camps. They were extremely popular and greatly admired. They continued to perform throughout the war and their efforts considerably boosted the patriotic funds. Lt Col Evans, CO of the 2/23rd Battalion (Albury's Own) declared that the girls too, had earned the title 'Albury's Own.' In 1944, in a forerunner to 'A Farmer Wants a Wife,' the girls received a marriage proposal. A West Australian correspondent confided in the *Border Morning Mail* that he had seen some very fine talent in the "Victory Vanities" and some very fine looking girls as well. He was a farmer, five foot eleven, dark eyed and sincere. Success or failure has not been established.

On a more somber note, and with seventy years of hindsight, we should all be grateful that the adequacy of the trenches and the various preparations never had to be tested for the purpose for which they were built.

[Jan Hunter, in her book *Building the Neighbourhood: Central North Albury 1920-1950*, Triple D Books 2007, tells of the ARP wardens and home air-raid shelters in that part of the town.]

WWII MILITARY PARADES IN ALBURY

Extract of a talk by Doug Hunter

Albury has witnessed military parades for 100 years. The biggest parades were during the Second World War when thousands of soldiers were training at Albury Showground, at Bonegilla and Bandiana.

Two notable parades involved the 2/23rd Infantry Battalion (Albury's Own). This battalion was raised at Albury Showground. Some of the soldiers were Albury boys, but most came from metropolitan and rural Victoria.

On 25 September 1940, the battalion marched through Albury streets on the way from Showgrounds to Bonegilla; In the battalion history the author noted:

At 8.50 a.m. in full marching order, with fixed bayonets and headed by the band we moved out from the Albury camp on the 12 mile march to Bonegilla via Wodonga. ... The day was warm and in the streets of Albury cheering crowds watched their own battalion move out. The local press was

not slow to comment on the thoughtfulness of the commanding officer who had mapped the slightly longer route, passing along Dean Street to Wodonga Place through the town, especially to allow residents to see the men.

On Sunday, 3 November 1940, the 2/23rd Bat-



Regimental Colour presented to the 2/23rd Infantry Battalion (Albury's Own) by the citizens of Albury. The Colour was placed in the Council Chamber throughout the war. It was returned to the Battalion Association in 1947 and laid up in St Matthews Church. It was lost in the fire that destroyed the church in 1991 and was replaced by a stained glass window in the rebuilt church.

Photo: *Mud and Blood*, Pat Share (ed) 1978

talion paraded at the Albury Sportsground for presentation of drums by Commercial Club and a regimental colour by citizens of Albury. The regimental colour was made at David Jones in Sydney.

Following the proceedings at the Sportsground, the battalion marched along Dean Street for another ceremony. The *Border Morning Mail* carried this description:

Although the men had been standing for hours, the return march to the embarkation point was carried out with the same precision as on the initial march. It was scheduled to halt at the Town Hall and before it came into sight a guard of honour was drawn up across the footpath. When Albury's Own had passed the Town Hall it halted, two companies on either side of the Colour Party and facing the building. On the steps, clad in his robes of office, the Mayor (Ald Padman) and the Town Clerk

(Mr R Collings) also robed, awaited the arrival of the colour bearers.

They approached smartly bearing aloft the beautiful silk gift that had just been consecrated.

Lt Col Evans, the CO, stood at attention as the treasured token of the town's esteem was handed over. The Mayor, addressing Col Evans said, "I take from you the colour to be in the safekeeping of the Town Hall till you return to claim it."

To which Lt Col Evans replied, "When we come back I will send an escort party up here to retrieve it."

And Albury's Own passed on to the mistiness of the future.

The *Border Morning Mail* also carried an article which gives an indication of the civilian organisation that had evolved quickly as part of the war effort:

CONVOY'S JOB

Key unit of the Day

The motorised convoy of the Albury Motorised Emergency Services really provided the key to the spectacular events of the day by transporting the whole of the battalion from and to Bonegilla.

It was a tremendous task that the commander, Mr A Newnham, set the volunteer unit, but it was carried out without a hitch.

The battalion heard reveille at the usual hour, breakfasted, fell in and marched to the Murray Valley Highway. Right on time the long line of empty cars and lorries was in position and with no trouble or confusion the men advanced company by company, occupied the vacant seats and were whisked away.

The convoy presented a stirring sight as it travelled, military fashion, at stated intervals between vehicles. It was really a military manoeuvre performed by civilians and to the generous hearted men and women who performed it the town owes a debt of gratitude.

At one stage it appeared as though there would be too much transport, but such was not the case, as the capacity of each car and lorry had been worked out and was strictly adhered to.

GREEK DAY PARADE

On 28 February 1941, another much larger parade passed through the streets of Albury. About 3,000 troops took part in a march to recognise the heroic resistance of the Greek nation to an Italian invasion in October 1940. In doing so Greece

joined Britain in the war against Hitler and Mussolini at a time when Britain was desperately short of allies, France having surrendered three months earlier. Greek Day celebrations were held in a number of cities and towns in Australia.

Extract from *Border Morning Mail* Saturday March 1 1941.

Albury's buildings looked down on a stirring sight yesterday [Friday 28 February 1941] as the population turned out in spectacular fashion to view the magnificent march of the bronzed A.I.F. men from Bonegilla.

Down the street strode the men, tin hats glinting dully in the sun, boots thudding rhythmically against the bitumen, and bayonets in formation of a veritable forest of steel.

And the people formed a living emotional avenue for the march. Flags fluttered, hands waved and streamers soared across the marching column as the men went down the street.

It was a great day and a great march, and Albury will long remember its celebration of Greek Day, 1941, as something outstanding in its history.

The march was as efficiently managed as it was stirring to gaze on, and punctuality was observed to the second.

From 10 o'clock in the morning, transport after transport in a moving stream roared along the road from Bonegilla to Albury via the Hume Reservoir, and discharged their khaki-clad cargo at Newmarket.

Within two or three hours there had gathered a vast assemblage of soldiers. Sprawled along the roadside for a distance of more than a mile the men lounged in comparative ease while their later comrades arrived and fell into their allotted positions for the march.

As far as one could see, khaki covered the environs of the road, and along the asphalt stood the army trucks which had performed the intricate task without falter or mistake.

About 2.30 in the afternoon the order to "fall in" sounded along the expanding line, and movement stirred the roadside as sections and companies shifted into marching position. Soon the column of threes, interrupted by their bands and flashing instruments, was lined for over a mile on the road.

With the rattle of drums and a few terse orders, the battalions moved off under a brilliant sun, which brought perspiration easily to the brows under the shading but hot brims of the steel helmets.

Down the shady avenue of trees along Young street the men wheeled from the old Sydney road and turned into spectator-lined Dean street, to the accompaniment of tumultuous welcome from hundreds of pupils of the public school grouped at the corner. ...

The crowd stood and gazed, wondering at the numbers and fitness of the men whose bronzed features and limbs blended with the khaki of their shorts and shirts in a picture of military efficiency.

It was a tribute to Australia in arms, the sign of a nation on the warpath for the dear ideals of liberty. And the people were amazed that this young nation, of which they were proud citizens, could weld its men into such a magnificent fighting force in a seemingly short space of time.

Tobruk, Bardia, Benghazi, and other North African towns have seen the replica of these men multiplied by the thousand - those citadels fell. What deeds shall these men accomplish?

WHAT DID THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THE 'GREEK DAY' BATTALIONS?

In anticipation of an attack by Japan, plans were made to secure the airfields on the islands to Australia's north: Rabaul in New Britain, Ambon and West Timor. The latter two were in the Dutch East Indies. It was decided to send a battalion to each. Each force was given a bird name: Lark, Gull and Sparrow.

On 8 December 1941, Japan entered the war with a surprise attack on the US base of Pearl Harbour. It also unleashed a land, sea and air onslaught on British and Dutch possessions in South East Asia.

RABAUL 2/22nd Battalion (Lark Force)

The 2/22nd Battalion came under air attack on 4 January 1942, eight months after its arrival in Rabaul. On 23 January Japanese troops landed at several points on the coast and overran the Australian defences. The troops were ordered to withdraw and the withdrawal became badly confused. About 300 members of the 2/22nd evaded capture



Men of the 23rd Infantry Brigade who marched through Albury on 28 February 1941 to celebrate Greek Day. This Brigade was posted to Timor, Ambon and Rabaul to defend vital airfields. Sadly they were overrun by the Japanese air, sea and land onslaught in early 1942. Less than a third survived the war.

and made their way south along the coast where they were eventually pick up by Government luggers and other boats and returned to Australia.

Very few of those taken prisoner on Rabaul survived the war. About 200 captured men were massacred by the Japanese at Tol Plantation. A

greater tragedy however, occurred when the *Montevideo Maru*, a Japanese transport ship was torpe-

doed and sunk in June 1942. It was carrying 1100 POWs and 200 civilian internees from Rabaul. Among those who died was the band of the 2/22nd Battalion who had all been members of the Brunswick Citadel of the Salvation Army.

Albury boy Clive Marshall was taken prisoner at Rabaul. He was fortunate to have been transported to Japan on another ship and returned home after the war. Another original member of the 2/22nd Battalion, Tom Mitchell of Towong Hill, was serving with the HQ of the 8th Division at Singapore when he was captured. He also survived the war.

AMBON 2/21st Battalion (Gull Force)

The 2/21st Battalion, with some artillery and support troops attached, landed on Ambon on 17 December 1941. They joined about 2,800 Dutch East Indies troops. These were native troops with Dutch officers, but were poorly equipped and trained. The whole force was spread thinly around the island in anticipation of a Japanese landing. Japanese air-raids began on 6 January 1942 and continued till the landing on 30 January. The Japanese had complete air and naval superiority. In four days of fighting the outnumbered Australian and DEI forces were quickly forced into isolated pockets. Communications between HQ and sub-units and between DEI and Australian commanders broke down completely.

There was confusion about decisions to surrender. Australian commanders met several times with the Japanese to try to determine the situation. In these instances the Japanese troops acted very correctly, honouring a flag of truce. Finally

all troops surrendered on 3 February. On 19 February, Japanese planes using the airfield on Ambon raided Darwin.

For reasons not completely clear, in the fortnight following the surrender, 300 Australian and Dutch POWs were selected at random and executed. The remainder were subjected to a brutal regime in prisoner-of-war camps on Ambon and other islands. Three quarters of the Australians captured on Ambon perished.

TIMOR 2/40th Battalion (Sparrow Force)

Following the Japanese entry into the war, 2/40th Battalion was rushed to West (Dutch) Timor, arriving 10 December 1941. Japanese troops invaded Timor by sea and air on 20 February 1942 and after three days of fighting, but with no hope of reinforcement or resupply, the Australian force surrendered.

About 80 members of the 2/40th Battalion evaded capture and joined an Australian force in East (Portuguese) Timor where they conducted a guerrilla campaign for a year before being evacuated to Australia.

Prisoners-of-war on Timor were not treated as badly as those on Ambon or Rabaul, but 2/40th still lost a quarter of its men during its 3½ years of captivity.

A YEAR AFTER GREEK DAY

So one year after the march, almost all who took part were dead, or were struggling to evade capture, or were beginning a long period of captivity which many would not survive.

Surely, the journalist who wrote in such optimistic terms, "What deeds shall these men accomplish?" could not, in his wildest nightmare, have imagined the future for these men.

For Albury, and the nation as a whole, the euphoria of February 1941 had evaporated in the year that followed, a year that saw:

- Defeat in Greece & Crete
- Tobruk under siege
- Pearl Harbour
- Fall of Singapore
- Loss of Rabaul, Ambon & Timor

These were desperate days in Australia

Lest we forget

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

By John Craig

Descent: Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) Journal September 2011.

- Using parish registers for Irish/Australian research;
- Events calendar November 2011-January 2012.

Links 'N' Chains: Liverpool Genealogical Society Journal October 2011.

- The last soldier of Pheasant Wood, Fromelles.
- Borderline News: Wodonga FHS Newsletter* November 2011.

- Christmas traditions around the world;
- Christmas gathering at the 'Stump' 14 December 2011.

Stockman's Hall of Fame Newsletter September 2011.

- Unsung hero: Mary-Anne Davidson (nee Battley) 1877-1930;
- Poem: "Old Comet Mill" by Jack King alias "Eliot the EMU."

Murrumbidgee Ancestor: Wagga Wagga FHS Journal October 2011.

- Wagga Jewish families in mid-twentieth century;
- Are you a Lemon? Descendants sought of William Lemon, March 1822.

The Valley Genealogist: Bega Valley Genealogical Society, Vols 1-2-3 2011.

- Society holds CD collection NSW Police Gazettes 1862-1925. Also various Victorian Police Gazettes 1855-1924 Vol 1;
- 125th Anniversary of *Ly-ee-Moon* disaster at Green Cape Vol 2;
- The Grealy family - farmers, miners, shopkeepers, Vol 3.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES VALUATION DAY

June Shanahan again headed up the Society's effort in conducting a valuation day. This year it was conducted jointly by the Wodonga and Albury Historical Societies in conjunction with City of Wodonga for 2011 Seniors celebrations. It was held at Art Space Wodonga.

There was a steady stream of collectors throughout the day seeking valuation and advice on the care of their items from Elizabeth Stevens, well known antique dealer & valuer and radio presenter.

When expenses had been covered our Society benefited to the tune of \$175. Many thanks June.

WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY HOUSE?

Members might find this series which screens at 8p.m. on Monday on ABC1 of interest. Melbourne-based archaeologist and cultural heritage expert Adam Ford zigzags his way through archives, family albums, interviews, data bases, and home movies. Meeting social historians and relatives of past owners along the way, he pieces together a past that isn't recorded in the history books.

Ford has 20 years' experience as a professional archaeologist, having investigated a range of sites in Australia and around the world, including the site of Ned Kelly's last stand, prehistoric desert camps, Cold War rocket bases, medieval castles and desert island shipwrecks.

ADVANCED NOTICE

Albury & District Historical Society and Wagga Wagga Historical Society are planning a joint meeting at Henty on Sunday 11 March 2012.

A range of attractions including a guided tour of the Henty Cemetery and a visit to the Headlie Taylor Header and Blacksmith shop are being arranged.

Please place this date in your diary for the New Year. More details in the next Bulletin.
