



(1)

My mother & father were married in Bendigo.
(Original Marriage certificate + copies of same.)

John Weatherall, my grandfather went to NZ when my father was five year old.

He must have visited Aust^{later} because he had interests in a mine, in a gully ~~with~~ we called (Bad's Claim Gully) We came from NZ in 1921.

Ray & I were the two children he rescued when the hotel was destroyed by fire.

Lysel & Hope were in Kyneton with Mother when Vic was born.

There is no doubt, that the effort of saving what he could, from the fire & building a shelter for the family, contributed to his death.

The fire started in the cellar which opened on the front veranda (over)

& was put down to perhaps, mice biting on wax matches that were stored there, but could have started from a smokers pipe, or some one who didn't want our family back in Aust.

Only when we have time to spare do we wish that we knew more of our parents, & gran parents lives. We lived in a different world, just as our descendants are changing to the world of today.

So perhaps I should write of my earliest memories, that started when I was two year old, when mother came to Aust. from N.Y. to visit granma Wilson who was very ill at the time, & uncle George Wilson had just returned from the first world war in 1919.

Sea travel wasn't kind to me & I remember those strawberry boxes that had to be emptied out the post-hole regularly, & the Doctors visit, while we were in Quarantine at Toronto, due to a flu epidemic at the time.

The Doctor came in a small boat + used the handles of the ships spoons + forks to inspect our throats.

Gran Wilson was an old lady in a rocking chair, I must have gone to do a bit of exploring, while mum was busy, because every time I met a neighbor Tom Mangan, he reminded that he found me paddling in the shallow water of a crossing below the Lyal bridge; while mother was searching the rooms of the old hotel. I have no memories of this, but remember all passengers being called out; to see seven whales spouting on our return trip to N.Z.

But perhaps I should have started when I first arrived at Tapanui N.Z. in 1917. I was a difficult birth + had to be revived, + because of this Mother always said that there must be ^{something} very special in my life for me. Tapanui, Making a snow man, Deer on our turnip patch, Dad, making + flying a kite with Ray + I.

a. Trip around traps with Dad when a big white ferret was caught at a hole under the fence, & a deer hunt with a neighbor & pack of dogs.

In Melbourne, a family trip to the zoo by tram, with a team of draught horses, pulling the tram over the last distance.

Uncle George Wilson met the train at Redesdale with horse & buggy & that was family transport to Lyal.

The Coliban river was deep on both sides of the road & full of croaking frogs.

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When the family came from N.Z. in 1921. my father must have known that he didn't have much time to establish a living, from a poultry farm + milking cows, as there wasn't enough land with the old hotel, for other stock, he built fowl houses + bought milking cows to sell eggs, + cream

When the old hotel was burnt the final time was spent in getting shelter for us under a tin roof.

After father passed away, the whole family had to help, he had built fowl houses + bought dairy cows for + income for the family, + installed a pump on the river to irrigate lucern

Memories

after my Grandparents were married in Sydney, in 1855 it would have been interesting to know how they travelled to Bendigo, where their first three children were born, before they went to N.Z. when my father was five year old. 100 years has too many memories to write down, so perhaps I should start with those times that I nearly wasn't here.

Firstly the doctor had to give me off birth.

Father had to re-raise Ray & I, when the old hotel was burnt. I was shearing down at Dartmouth near the S.A. border around 1940 - spending the weekend with Davis boys shooting down the back of their property with Mase & Kevin when Mason jabbed at a snake with the stock of his old Winchester - the bullet went between Kevin & I.



The Call to Arms

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLORS
AND BURGESSES OF THE
BOROUGH OF CASTLEMAINE

pay tribute to

William Henry Weatherall

who served in

THE WORLD WAR
1939-45

FOR GOD KING AND EMPIRE

We record gratefully our deep appreciation of your patriotic response to the Call of our Empire in the cause of freedom for all humanity in the Second Great World War

Given under the Seal of the Council of the Borough of Castlemaine, this 10th day of June, 1946

A. M. ...
MAYOR

.....
COUNCILLOR

R. W. Hague
TOWN CLERK



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
MOVEMENT ORDER

Serial No. 322

Date 8 AUG 44

No. **VX103372** Rank **CPL** Name **WEATHERALL W H** Unit **B Bn**

MOVEMENT TO FINSCHHAFEN

AUST INF BN (AIF)

VX103372 Cpl WEATHERALL W.H., moving to FINSCHAFEN
4 Aug 44, by ferry, to visit his brother's grave at
FINSCHAFEN, and returning on first available ferry.

H. B. ... Lt.
Asst/Adj **AUST INF BN (AIF)**

Approval granted by Lae Base at Angkor

This authorises you to move from ~~PORT MORESBY~~ to **FINSCHHAFEN** TO **LAE**

Reason for travel **RTU** FROM **FINSCHHAFEN**

Authority **LAE BSA**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. ~~EMBARK~~: EMPLANE: for **LAE** FROM **DREGER** at a time and place to be notified.
2. On arrival at PORT OF CALL you will report to MCO, who will arrange ~~YOUR~~ (ONWARD) movement to **UNIT**
3. If travelling by AIR, total weight of baggage MUST NOT EXCEED 50 lbs. (PERSONAL WEIGHT comprises the weight of body and dress in battle order.)
If travelling by SEA, personal equipment and baggage will be carried.
Eating Utensils, Net Mosquito, Blanket, Ground Sheet MUST be carried by personnel.
4. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
ATEBRIN: 12 TABLETS of Atebrin per individual shall be carried.

DISTRIBUTIONS

C/- NG DETAILS DEPOT
MCO
DRO
A
DAMS
MBSA
FILE

[Signature] SGT IXX/COL.
~~XX~~ NG DETAILS DEPOT DET
FINSCHYAFEN

MOVEMENT ORDER.

16 Sep 42.

- No. V65170 Pte. WEATHERALL W. proceeding to
CASTLEMAINE, Victoria on Seasonal Leave.
1. You will report to R.T.O. ADELAIDE RIVER at hrs on
 2. Mode of Travel RAIL to CASTLEMAINE, Victoria
Upon arrival in ADELAIDE you will report to R.T.O. who
will issue necessary warrant for onward movement.
 3. Approval has been granted by NT FORCE for 2 months clear
SEASONAL LEAVE EXCLUSIVE of travelling time.
 4. Unit 8 Aust Inf Bn.
 5. Authority ~~445~~ 2590/19/1 23 Aust Inf Bde.
 6. On conclusion of leave you will report to R.T.O. and/or
MOVEMENT CONTROL ADELAIDE who will issue necessary warrants
for return passage by RAIL & ROAD as available to DARWIN.
 7. Means of Identification: PAYBOOK and IDENTITY DISCS must be
carried by leave personnel at ALL TIMES.

DISTRIBUTION

R.T.O. ADELAIDE RIVER

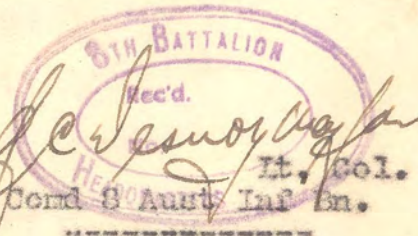
R.T.O. ALICE SPRINGS

R.T.O. ADELAIDE

Name of Soldier, V65170 Pte WEATHERALL W.

FILE

V65170 Pte Weatherall W. has no warm
clothing or a Clothes Ration Coupon
Book, as there are none available in
this area at the present time.



We honor
the Brave



We pray for
lasting Peace

TO

W Weatherall

from the Friends of

Mosquito Creek and District

In Grateful Recognition and High
Appreciation of Services

For God, King & Country

in the

Second Great World War

1939-45

James C. Doak President

J. H. Randall Secretary





Shire of Strathfieldsaye

Presented to

William Weatherall

The President, Councillors and Ratepayers of the
Shire of Strathfieldsaye, desire you to accept this
Certificate in recognition of services rendered with
Australian Forces in the sacred cause of

Freedom, Liberty and Justice

Given under the Seal of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye,

this *28th* day of *June* 194*6*



W. Letankervis President

P. Doak Councillor

M. Brennan Secretary

In recalling this chapter of my life covering the war years, it would not be complete, without mention of those years preceding the declaration of war.

History; taught in our little county school (Cyal State No 1346) gave us a firm belief in our Commonwealth of nations, & justice under the British Empire system.

The Honor Roll above our class-room door, included the names of men of foreign descent, who served Australia well during the Boer & World wars.

Every Monday morning we saluted our Australian flag & declared our Allegiance to King & Country & promised to cheerfully obey our Parents, Teachers & the laws.

I often felt the cheerful bit, could well have been left out; but obey we did, & I often thought of this, during army service when conditions were anything but cheerful.

September 2nd 1939 for those who lived through 1st World war, was a day of great concern.

Our Aunt had given us a cabinet Radio, which had spent some time away being repaired, it had just been returned & the first news broadcast we heard was Neville Chamberlain's speech telling of Germany's attack on Poland & Britain's declaration of War.

Our Mother was very upset, no doubt remembering the years of the 1st World war, & the return of her brother, who had suffered a German gas attack in the 29th Batt. in France. He never recovered good health & died at the age of 38 yrs.

2/ After the initial shock that Australia was again² involved in war, came the announcement that all help would be given to Britain

There were many who were dedicated to King & Country, but also those who thought that the war would be over in a few months, & took the chance to see the other side of the world. Both France & Germany had strong lines of defence. The Navys of the major powers had been limited by the League of Nations, but the raids on shipping by German U-boats came as a shock & food & supplies for Britain became a priority

1937 & 38 were severe drought years in N.S.W. & Vic but with some improvement in 1939 there was plenty of work at home & seasonal cropping & shearing on other farms. Rationing was in force & this encouraged me to have a charcoal Gas burner, built for the 1924 Buick I had at that time; a 4 gal. tin of clean hard charcoal replaced 1 gal of petrol (25 mls) About July 1940, an appeal for shearers in N.S.W. led to my local shearing mate of the previous year & myself heading north.

Gracross Office in Gilderdale offered Laurie Boyer a pen at Goolgumbra further north & myself a learners pen at 'Tulla' near Barham, so we had to go our own separate ways.

After "Tulla" our team came down to "Kamarooka"; wire netting bunks, & dirt floors, even in the cook-house,

We finished the shearing season locally & then back to the harvest ^{6 weeks shearing at Greenwold near Waggoner near SA border} & work at home routine:

By 1941 the war wasn't going well, for the Allies & with call ups being started, I decided to do my army training with the first local batch, so gave my address as Elphinstone

V.X. 103372
 Pte. W. H. Weatherall 3
 9 Pth. B. Coy.
 8th Batt. A.I.F.
 Aust.

My Army training commenced at Stagambie Rd camp on 3rd May 1941 near Seymour with the 38th Batt. (V. 65170) made up of men from Central Victorian towns. Training was based mostly on World War I tactics & lasted 3 months during which time we were given our injections etc. against smallpox & Tetanus & learnt Army routine. The high-lights of this camp were an Army exercise covering a couple of freezing nights at Avenel & Broadford, a trip home to Cmaire by Taxi to a week-end dance, & a train trip via Heathcote to Bendigo. For the Cmaire group on leave this entailed a ride in the guards van on the end of a goods train.

Our training finished early in August, & this left me free for the harvest & shearing season.

Some of the men from this training session joined the 39th Batt. which defended Port Moresby on the Kokoda trail, ^{later} but for a lot of us from country areas, it was the busiest time at home.

With Japans entry into the war, our unit was recalled to Mt. Martha on 17th Dec. 1941 & then moved to Dandenong, where we were camped near the intersection of the Dandenong - Cranston Rd. Most of our time there was spent digging trenches & laying barbed wire for the eastern defenses of Melbourne.

I attended a truck drivers course for a short time but decided to stay with my army mates when we knew we would be moving on & towards the end of Jan., we were moved to the 8th Batt. at Balcombe to replace the 18 yr. olds from that unit.

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4

I had chosen the girl who would share my future life + we had decided to marry at Easter; so when we were given 48 hrs leave before our unit was on the move, I wasn't going to let the Japs upset those plans.

Most Army moves are treated as an exercise, just to see how quickly things can be done, at the time I didn't know that we would be moving so quickly, + that I wouldn't have time to apply for the nine days special leave granted to newly weds.

Efforts to contact our unit failed + I returned to Balcombe by midnight on 5th Feb. to find everything in upheaval. The 8th Batt. was on the move, we immediately had to report to G. Store for upgrade of our gear, + shortly after midday were starting our train journey to northern Aust.

Troop movements were supposed to be secret, but there were brief farewells, as ~~the~~ train moved through Spencer St + Ballarat stations.

My travelling companions were, again mainly strangers, + while none of us knew what the future held, I was happy with the decisions I had made + the thought, that my younger brother, Vic. would take over the work at home. It came as a shock later to hear that he had been chosen for Air Force training + still later; that he had answered Army call-up the first leg of our journey finished at Terang in SA where we spent a night in tents.

The train journey to Alice lasted three days + two nights, I tried to see as much of the country as possible during daylight hours, but

don't recall details of our eating arrangements, we did however have one meal provided by the women of Quorn in S.A., This was done for all of the thousands of men, who were moved by train.

At Odnadata we saw teams of donkeys bringing in loads of magnesite, used in furnaces for the manufacture of steel, + a group of us, spoke to an old chap, who said he was Bob Buck + spoke of Lassetter + his gold search exploits.

Overnight in tents at Alice Springs, then a four day trip via truck convoy ~~to~~ via Barrow Creek, Barka Barka, Elliot + Larrimah, the track was rough + dusty the convoy stopped at intervals for brief rests + to change drivers, we saw the Devils marbells + our first desert Aborigines, who soon learned of the rest places for hand outs + they certainly looked as if they needed it.

From Larrimah the next 300 miles was by train in cattle trucks. A lot of our fellows were from farms + used to the smell of rattle, which was just as well, but we did get our share of black soot, from the engine as well,

As we moved north the country became tropical with frogs croaking + fire-flies flitting through the air at night.

We arrived at Noonamah south of Darwin on 17th Feb 42. none of us in very good shape, after our long trip. The effects of lare water, or over-exposed tin foods caused a real problem, but at least we did have shelter in tin huts for a few days. Noonamah, was a short time recovering from our medical problems, acquainting ourselves with the tropical climate, compass patrols, which sometimes

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entailed wading in water, sometimes up to our armpits for a couple of hours, & grass as tall as ourselves.

The Japs, left us alone when their (191 planes?) flew overhead for their surprise attack on Darwin. A lot of our chaps, thought that the American Air Force had arrived, until we heard the explosions of the bombing on Darwin.

We left Noonaman to erect a camp in snow tents on the western side of the highway, & then had to move to a new site near Howard Springs road, only our ground sheet & mosquito net for cover; the net didn't provide protection from the tiny sandflies (buffle ~~flies~~)

We then moved back to the 9 mile, & established defensive positions; still living, under our ground sheets thatched over with grass, & our beds constructed of bush material clear of the ground. Food was scarce, for some time our breakfast consisted of a teaspoon of unsweetened rice & a teaspoon of herring, & tomato sauce.

The expected Jap landing didn't happen but our time was taken up with day & night patrols, as well as work parties, when our turn came for duty; Battalion in the Brigade.

On patrol we always carried full equipment which included the old Lewis machine gun & magazines which task was shared by the whole section.

On one occasion while returning to our defensive position, I fell back to relieve a mate who was having a job to keep up.

Lewis guns aren't light. I then hurried to catch up with the rest of the section & hit barbed wire hidden in the grass, severe gashes to both legs; one, which became infected & didn't respond to the tuffle dye treatment of our R.A.P. An American anti-tank & anti aircraft unit joined us at that time & their medico cleaned up my wound with pure alcohol which left the bone below my right knee exposed. Back to our own doctor who wasn't pleased, but ordered no duties, & told me to bath wound in boiled hot water as often as possible, this I did & watched the flesh gradually grow back over the exposed bone again. For about six weeks, I missed out on any interesting trips or work parties, but kept our camp area tidy & the billy was always hot.

Jap. landings were expected with the high tides in March, but after they passed we settled into a quieter routine, our share of coast watch, working on Oil at Vestegs & helping unload Boats at night. Early in April we helped unload the "Marmutu" a merchant boat, that was later sunk by a Jap. submarine off the coast & the crew were machinegunned while trying to survive in the water.

We rapped a string of bombs while working at Vestegs, but luckily on the opposite side to our slit trenches. I thought at the time that perhaps the Japs wanted the railway for their own use. They did damage to the Oil tanks on the coast. Some time later they did hit the rail line near the water tank also the pipe line

+ our section got our share of the hits + pieces, as shrapnel. The noise + rocking of our slit trench was severe + one of our mates, got an 18" inch piece of pipe line, beside his shallow trench.

When the danger of invasion had passed, night raids were a nuisance rather than a danger. Some of our time was taken, helping to dig a Medical shelter + a pit to load gravel trucks for new roads, + a break at Berry Springs building Tennis Courts + cricket pitches as a rest center.

On work, such as this + road work with the 2nd 4th Pioneer Batt. our time was in shifts, which left us spare time to do as we liked, most of which I spent fishing when the tide was suitable. I decided to build a platform above high tide, to some trees near deep water to be clear of snags. This was done with two bearers in tree forks + cross pieces laced on with signal wire, which was available everywhere.

I was looking forward to some good fishing at dusk on my first evening, high tide about 1 foot to 18 inches below my platform, instead, I was completely drenched by a sheet of water, I didn't see the cause, but gave up the idea, of close to the water, high tide fishing. I caught a few nice fish here + at Tumbling Waters, where we did road work with the 2nd 4th Pioneers. I had several set lines, of up to three strands of signal wire, broken which I blamed on crabs, until I hooked a proper with a hook over 2 ft wide, needless to say the single wire line didn't stand the strain, + next time, we had the Bren Gun with us, but didn't get the same chance again.

Back at camp, we were doing Bayonet practice towards evening near the end of Sept, when a runner came from Batt. H.Q. + told me to hand in all, but personal gear + blankets, a group of five of us were going south on 3 months shearing leave. Other groups also left the battalion at various times, as we travelled to Alice Springs this time, everything had changed, instead of a bush track, a wide faced graded road, staging camps with mess huts fly proofed with hessian curtains + green vegetables grown from bore water. Then it was train again from the Alice to Melbourne, given leave passes at Camp Bell + directed to Grosco's Office nearby where I was allotted a shearing contract with the team at Terrinallon, a property owned by Lindsay Stikolas, of the Aspro product family. Grosco's wanted me to go to Tasmania, which I refused without an extension on my leave, "Stonefield" near Perth, the next shed, where I lo, had a helpers job at the homestead.

Leave expired + back to staging at Cowfield racecourse + then to Brigade training battalion at Watsonia, some office work + basic instruction to new recruits before going back to Darwin to our own unit.

At Watsonia our officers were from 2nd + 4th Pioneers (W.S.W) who were bombed by the Japs, while on their way to Timor, returned to Darwin + again raided on 19th Feb 1942. A Lieutenant Page volunteered for a dangerous mission, while at Watsonia, we learned later that he was caught + beheaded by the Japanese in Singapore harbour, placing mines on Jap. ships there. While at Watsonia, this unit had leave from Queensland, the only time we were able to be home together,

Back in Darwin, still a few Jap raids mostly at night
 + usually only three planes

usual Army routine, except for Guard Duty for our
 platoon at Adelaide River headquarters, when 8th Battalion
 were duty batt.

the battalion had shifted to many locations, south of Darwin
 + our last site was near the Marton Dam, before moving
 to Adelaide River on our way south, at one of the
 staging camps, a severe sand storm threatened to
 bury our gear.

Our unit arrived at Watsonia about the end of
 Sept. + after leave, left for Queensland early in
~~October~~

Our camp was at Kiarra near Atherton, most likely now
 under water where a dam has since been built
 It was a very sad time when news of Vic's death
 a Guisla, near Linchaven came early in December.
 There were bad bush-fires in Victoria at the same
 time, one only controlled on the Myrtle Creek, near
 home, it must have been a terrible time for
 Mother + Ray.

My section were given a job at Brigade
 headquarters, building a signal headquarters, supervised by
 a N.S.W. engineering unit officer, who gave myself, +
 J. Mills, the chance of transferring to his unit.
 We didn't like joining a NSW unit + leaving our
 mates.

We had another job at Brigade HQ before leaving
 Queensland. All rifles were recalled for inspection
 + three best marksmen from each Batt., had
 the job of correcting the sights alongside an
 armourer. A 25 yd range, if we scored a Bullseye with
 5 shots, the sights were alright, otherwise we kept firing
 + the rifle sights were altered until correct.

11

We left Queensland from Cairns on 19th May 1944 on the S.S. Rothe for N.G. Rowley out of sight of land, we were told that we were in the area where the Japs. had been defeated in the battle of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Great Sea~~ ^{the} ~~Highway~~ ^{Highway}. Seasickness, a brief stop at Milne Bay & along coast to Lae.

Lae was at that time an advanced supply base & we had some work with the Americans who had Army Ducks to unload ships where wharves were unsuitable.

We only had one sortie into the hills here where, there were still some Jap survivors, but none were contacted.

Unexploded booby traps, from earlier combat, were a more dangerous cause, for safety.

Our Platoon also had the honour of guarding the nurses quarters at the hospital, for a couple of weeks, they put on a dance at the end of our duty there, imagine a dance in Army boots. It was at Lae, that I also received Official recognition as a Lance Corporal, although I had often had charge of our section during Darwin & Watson's days, at times; as an instructor in basic training & when higher ranking N.C.Os weren't available.

I applied for leave to visit Vics' grave should we move up the coast near Finshaven & this was granted quite unexpectedly one evening. I was told to report to B.H.Q. where the C.O. jeep took me down to the coast, where a party of Engineers were going to some island & calling at Finshaven. Supposed to be a five hour trip under cover of darkness, but lasted 17 hours under a tropical storm of severe wind & rain.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
MOVEMENT ORDER

Serial No. 322

Date 8 AUG 44

No. VX103372 Rank CPL

Name WEATHERALL W H

Unit BA

This authorises you to move from ~~PORT MORESBY~~ to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ FINSCHHAFEN TO LAE
Reason for travel RTU FROM FINSCHHAFEN


Authority LAE BSA

INSTRUCTIONS

1. ~~EMBARK~~: EMPLANE: for LAE FROM DREGER at a time and place to be notified.
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(PERSONAL WEIGHT comprises the weight of body and dress in battle order.)
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 SGT IXX COL
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ NG-DETAILS DEPOT DET
FINSCHHAFEN

MOVEMENT TO FINSCHAFEN

■ AUST INF BN (AIF)

VX103372 Cpl WEATHERALL W.H., moving to FINSCHAFEN
4 Aug 44, by ferry, to visit his brother's grave at
FINSCHAFEN, and returning on first available ferry.

H. Peniche Lt.
Asst/Adj ■ AUST INF BN (AIF)

Approval granted by *Lee Lane* 22 August
ell

*This boat was a ferry from the N.S.W coast
I still wonder where they were headed + how
the fared after the left Finshafen.*

The enclosed copy of my movement orders cover the dates of that trip, but I did not follow instruction on arriving back at Nadzab, air field, finding my own way back to my 8th Batt position, only to find it washed out; with a few staff remaining. We floated our gear down river to another site. Our Dyak school teacher Walter Haslet had written to mother, after seeing Russ' grave; + I visited him at Lae Headquarters; he seemed to doubt me when I told him I had been to Funabaven, saying that no one, came or left Lae without coming across his desk.

While at Lae, I started a correspondence course on concrete engineering, + we also had lectures on the need for food + farm production, when the war ended.

We left Lae on 26th Sept 44 on the "Cape Victory" an American steel ship, + travelled north around the Admiralty Islands to avoid possible Jap submarines. Tom Strang in his book, lists the ship he travelled on as the "Carlos Carilla". The island of Emirau was north of Koroing, New Ireland, had been a Jap. Radio + sub. refueling base, had previously been Coconut plantations.

We did some coastal mapping there, + there was talk of night raids across to Jap. positions on New Ireland + N.C.O.'s study of aerial maps. Another Corporal was given charge of my section, + I was given charge of another section in the company, away from my own men I knew; + also knew, that they were expected to share anything that had to be done, I wasn't happy with my promotion; + asked to be relieved of it. A short time later I was cabled to Batt. headquarters + told that Manpower had ordered my release for farm work + that I would be in charge of a party leaving

for home. Three of these men were from my own platoon
a Tasmanian & two others from near Ballarat.

This was quite unexpected, although I had earlier
received a letter from J. Davis, that he would apply
for my release from the Army; I had written back
saying that I was overseas & in any case, when the
war ended, help needed at home, would have to
come first.

My group who left the Bett. grew to nine, at the airfield
& a senior Corporal took charge. The Douglas transport
plane flew to Green Island & then down between
New Britain & Islands to the east, occupied by
Japanees, just out of range of possible anti aircraft
fire. Before landing at Torikena in the Solomon Islands
the plane had to circle around two mountain
peaks, one a smoking volcano & then dive down
before leveling out for a landing.

American patrols were still engaged in fighting Japs.
on the hills nearby, every afternoon clouds would
form & then heavy rain, clearing again before
dark. The Americans also had open air pictures.

We were there for 11 days & then a Douglas Transport
took us, first stop Milne Bay then Cook Town, & down
the east coast of Aust.

Over the sea a wonderful trip; over land, worse
than sea-sickness. We saw Sydney from the air
before landing, & then discovered that Army Officers
would need some seats to get to the Melbourne Cup.
The Historians, decided to continue our journey
by train; but the rest of our group joined
us at Marshville staging camp, next day.
Bill Clarke from Talbot & I did have a walk
over the Harbor Bridge. Train to Melbourne &
discharge at Camp Pell. 17/11/1944.

8th Batt. A I F. Records
B. Company Sect. 9. 10 Platoon?

38th Batt. Camp. 3 mths. Nagambie Rd. Seymour. May to August 1941.
Some men from this camp volunteered later to go north
& ~~joined~~ 29th Batt defenders on the Kokoda trail.
We were recalled to camp after Japan bombed Pearl Harbour
& went to Dandenong.

late Jan. 1942. To ~~at~~ Balcombe to 8th Batt to replace 18 yr olds.
48 hrs final leave & left for Darwin on 5th Feb.
Arrived Noonamah 17th Feb. 2 days before Darwin
was bombed.

Lt Col. Nellis 21st Major Desmoy.
Moved north of Noonamah to camp in bush
then to positions at 9 mile
From there to Howard Springs Rd. camp in tents
- another 2 camp sites further south, some time near R.A.A.F.
& lastly to site near Manton Dam 38 mile.

& Adelaide River shortly before coming South to Watsonia
~~25th Feb 1942~~ Around middle of ~~March~~^{2nd April}, oil tanks destroyed while our section
was working on oil drums at Vestry's.

16th June. Raid across our positions near Parap.
1942. ~~Sept~~. Heading South on 3 mths shore leave
Returned to Caulfield; after a couple of weeks
to Watsonia Training Batt. of our Brigade
About March returned to unit at Darwin
with party of 2nd 8th Batt.

14th? Oct 1943. Left N.P. to Watsonia & leave before
going to Kairi, Atherton Tablelands
in Nov. Jungle training for 3 mths
another 3 mths after reinforcements arrived
(S.A.'s W.S.W. Las. Lt. Mus. + Queensland, mostly 19 yr olds).
Sailed for Lae on 19th May 1944 on Dutch ship Botthe
calling briefly at Milne Bay.

Emerau . Oct 4th - US steel ship Cape Victory.
 Nov 7th Air to Torokina, Bougainville, via Green Island.
 Nov 19th " " Milne Bay + Aust.
 Nov 22nd Discharge from Royal Park
 20th March 4th 23rd Brigade to Torokina

516 Australians killed 1572 wounded in Bougainville campaign

1997 Last day in April 30th Aust all over show.
 Keith McGarrity on air
 my section of P.B. Coy 8th Batt.

Army 1941-44

To honour the men of the
38th Battalion + 8th Battalion mates.

who fought against the Japanese
in the islands, just before the
end of 2nd World war. I need to
correct mistakes in the story as
it was printed in the Mail on 3rd March.

My initial military training with 38th at
Seymour from June 1941. (3 months)

Recalled to service after Japan
attacked Pearl harbour, but not
allowed a 2. AIF number. 38th

personally dug trenches + laid barbed
wire, east of Dandinong for the
protection of Melbourne.

Early in 1942, older men were
transferred to 8th Battalion +
~~sent to~~ ^{serged in} Darwin, Queensland

Jungle training, when terrible
fires swept the whole area around
Castlemaine + Sutton Grange + Elphinstone
about the time my younger brother
was killed near Finchhaven in
.29/46. Batt. on 5th Dec 1943.

Army 1941-44

~~After~~ Left Queensland to Lae, then to Emerau, an island north of New ~~Island~~ (Haveang).

I was called home from there by Man Power, the need for farms to produce food + probably shortage of help to recover from the fires.

Our group of 9 men + came home by plane, 11 days ~~in~~ in Sorokina Bougainville.

I was discharged on 11th Nov 1944