

The Borneo Bugle



BORNEO PRISONERS OF WAR RELATIVES ASSOCIATION OF WA INC
A MUTUAL GROUP TO HELP KEEP THE SPIRIT OF SANDAKAN ALIVE

October 1st 2005 Volume 4, Issue 2

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OUR NEXT MEETING
SUNDAY OCTOBER
16th 2005
AT 10.00AM
IRWIN BARRACKS
KARRAKATTA

SANDAKAN MEMORIAL DEDICATION SERVICE

by Ken Jones

Including the 40 invited guests it was estimated that 300 people attended the service held on Sunday 28th August. There was some apprehension in regard to the weather but fortunately, it cleared during the morning and the ceremony proceeded without interruption.

Speeches were made by Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD, Mr. Allan Cresswell and Mr. Bob Brackenbury . Mr Keith Jones read the Association's Ode and Jodi Bavin read a poem " DO THEY REMEMBER ME?"

Captain Andrew Robinson, the Chaplain of 16 RWAR, gave the prayers and the consecration of the Memorial.

"MAY GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, GUARD AND KEEP THIS MEMORIAL AS OUR MONUMENT TO THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.

MAY THOSE WHO SEE IT BE ALWAYS REMINDED OF WHAT IT REPRESENTS, AND PRESERVE THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIFE FOR OUR FREEDOM.

AMEN"

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Sandakan Memorial Dedication Service - Kings Park Western Australia Aug 28 2005
Photo courtesy Allan Cresswell

SANDAKAN MEMORIAL DEDICATION SERVICE — continued from Page 1

The Linties Choir and an ensemble from Carine Senior High School very ably provided anthems, hymns and psalms throughout the service including the Wreath Laying. Eighteen wreaths were laid by the official party and many others by families and friends. A special wreath was laid by Cathy Depiazzi and her niece Tayla Smith in honour of Julia Smith, Cathy's mum and a long serving member of our Association. The wreath also honoured Julia's dad who died at Sandakan.

The Act of Remembrance was conducted, in conjunction with the Bugler, by Mr. Ian Mulholland and the Catafalque Party from 13 Field Squadron mounted the Honour Guard.

The President, Mr. Allan Cresswell, appointed Carine Senior High School the guardians of the Memorial with these words-

“WE, THE BORNEO PRISONER OF WAR RELATIVES ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, APPOINT THE CARINE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AS THE WARDEN OF THIS MEMORIAL TO OUR FALLEN SERVICEMEN AND CHARGE YOU TO GUARD THIS SACRED TRUST NOW PLACED IN YOUR KEEPING”.

This was accepted by the Headmaster and the Senior Girl and Boy on behalf of the School with these words-

“WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CARINE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, ACCEPT THE CUSTODIANSHIP AND IN DOING SO VOW THAT WE WILL HONOUR THE SACRED TRUST NOW PLACED IN OUR KEEPING”

We have received many messages, both verbal and written, congratulating us on the design and the location and we are indebted to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority in allowing us the privilege of having our Memorial in Marri Walk. But none of this would have been possible if we had not received the initial support from the State RSL, the WA Ex POW Association and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority. This support enabled us to confidently seek funding from various sources in the Government and private sectors. And again, it would not have been possible if the majority of the members and some of the general public had not donated sufficient funds to ensure success.

My thanks to the sub-committee of Rhonda Miller, Keith Jones and Allan Cresswell and to my good mates the Engineers, Rod Neaves and Rein Loo, who all gave willingly of their time.



Dedication Address by Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD at Memorial Dedication Service

Photo Courtesy Allan Cresswell

President's Corner

by President Allan Cresswell

What a great Memorial Dedication Service on Sunday August 28 2005! It was very fitting that the memorial was built and dedicated in the sixtieth year since the last of our soldiers were tortured, starved and murdered at Sandakan and Ranau. It is also so important to recognize and acknowledge that although it is over sixty years since family and friends saw these servicemen for the last time, we do still remember them. Many of the parents, wives, brothers and sisters of these fine heroes of Borneo have also passed on. But the children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and other family members and friends still hold dear the memory of the these men and the ultimate sacrifice they made under such terrible circumstances. By providing a perpetual memorial in Kings Park to the POWs of Borneo ensures that the continuing and subsequent generations of Perth do remember and that they also have a central place to reflect on those sacrifices made.

Many people approached our members after the memorial service to say what a fine memorial and such a wonderful dedication ceremony it was. These included many officials from various kindred associations who appreciated the commitment, planning and effort to achieve such a wonderful memorial built in such a fine location. But through all the years of fundraising, designing, planning, organising and the memorial service preparation one name stands out in all aspects. That is of our secretary, Ken Jones. Ken is to be commended for the initiative and drive to ensure that this project came to fruition and that it would be a success. That Ken's dad is commemorated in NSW and does not appear on the WA Honour Roll of our memorial makes us even more appreciative of the time and effort given by Ken. On behalf of all those Sandakan servicemen and all their families, well done Ken!

A special feature at the service was the involvement by the Carine Senior High School who were officially appointed as the custodian of the Sandakan Memorial.

Many organisations, members of our association and non-members contributed both to the design and construction of the memorial, with donations and contributions made and with the Dedication Service formalities. Our sincere thanks go out to them all. Well done everyone!

On Friday August 19th 2005 my wife, Jean, and I had the privilege to attend the Merdeka Day 2005 Commemorative Dinner held at Whitfords Tavern in Hillarys. The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association of Australia invited us both to attend the Commemorative Dinner to represent our association at this function. It was an excellent evening and the fellowship and mateship extended to us by these servicemen who served in Borneo and Malaya during various confrontations was so appreciated.

I also had the privilege to attend the Merdeka Day Service held at Kings Park on Wednesday August 31st, which was also conducted by The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association of Australia. After the service I was invited to attend a BBQ held in Kings Park.

The Sandakan Ceremony at Boyup Brook was held this year on Tuesday 13th September. Our Association was represented by Bob Brackenbury, Jodi Bavin, Ben and Kath Hart, June Edwards and Allan Cresswell. Our Association banner was on display at the ceremony and a wreath was laid on behalf of our Association by myself. Excellent items were presented by the three Boyup Brook schools on the Sandakan POW story as well as the Sandakan scholarship winner, Jordan Nix, presenting his winning essay. We also had the privilege to meet Anthea Matanjun who was the 2004 Scholarship recipient from Kota Kinabalu who attended Boyup Brook from Sabah with her mother. The Sandakan Exhibition was also on display at Boyup Brook with Ryan Rowland and Joe McLaughlin producing an abridged version of the exhibition that has just returned from Sabah. The exhibition in Sabah was at the invitation of the Sabah Government and as part of the 60th Anniversary of VP Day. Well done to all those associated with the exhibition. Congratulations to the Lions Club of Boyup Brook and Lion Grant Wardle for a successful and well presented ceremony.

Please do attend our next meeting to be held on Sunday 16th October 2005, commencing 10.00am.

VALE JULIA SMITH

We regret to inform members of the passing of our member, Julia Smith. Julia was the daughter of Gunner George Edward Bundock of the 49th Battery, 48th Light Anti-Aircraft, Royal Artillery who died at Sandakan. Julia passed away whilst on holidays in England. We offer our sincere sympathy to Michael and to all of Julia's family and friends.

Julia's POW Profile on her father appeared in the June 1st 2003 edition of the *Borneo Bugle*.

RIP Julia



Jodi Bavin and Bob Brackenbury laying a wreath at the Boyup Brook Memorial to the memory of Ted Keating and his mate Don Marshall

Photo courtesy Allan Cresswell

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Membership subscriptions became due on the 1st July and to date there are a number of members who are yet to renew their subscriptions.

Also, some members who generously donated to the Memorial have not paid their subscriptions. Would they please advise the Treasurer if they would prefer to have the \$15.00 deducted from the donation or if they intend to subscribe separately.

Please contact Colin Prior- Ph: 08 9271 7663 E-mail: cprior@westnet.com.au

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome eleven new members since our last 'Borneo Bugle':-

Trevor Rowley, son of **Sapper Bernard Rowley** of 2/6 Field Park Company RAE and Trevor's wife **Kaye**.

Betty Matthew, niece of **Private William Earnshaw** of 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion and Betty's son **Ashley**.

Dianne Edmonds, niece and **Bernard Dorizzi** nephew of **Private Gordon Dorizzi**, **Private Herbert Dorizzi** and **Private Thomas Dorizzi** all of 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion.

Susan Kinsella, granddaughter of **Sapper Eric Gardner** of 2/6 Field Park Company RAE, Susan's husband **Brendan** and their daughter **Dearne**.

Kevin Milne, nephew of **Sapper Gordon Milne** of 2/6 Field Park Company RAE and Kevin's wife **Joan**.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY OF SANDAKAN MEMORIAL DEDICATION SERVICE

Photos by Mick Ryan, Tony Williamson and Allan Cresswell

The photographs on the following two pages show various highlights of our Sandakan Memorial Dedication Service held at Kings Park Western Australia on Sunday August 28 2005.



OC SSM and Catafalque Party Prior to Commencement of Service



Wreath Marshalls: Tom Joynes, Colin Prior, Bob Brackenbury and Harry Wrangmore Prior to Commencement of Service



The Official Party and Part of the Crowd in Attendance



Wreath Laying by Mr Michael Keenan MP



Wreath Laying by Hon Ray Halligan MLC



Wreath Laying by President Returned and Services League of Australia WA Branch Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD



Wreath Laying by Allan Cresswell



Wreath Laying by Head Boy and Head Girl Carine Senior H S



Wreath Laying by Cathy Depiazzi and her niece Tayla Smith



Wreath Laying by the General Public



Custodianship of Memorial to Carine Senior High School



Catafalque Party at the Memorial



Our Member Trixie Sullivan Admiring the Memorial



Head Boy Stuart Hartmann and Head Girl Hollie James

POW Profile - Continued from Page 8

collected food, fishing handlines and fuel over a few days then set off in one of the thirty-foot boats. They soon found the engine running hot, as they had forgotten to open the water-cooling valve. Once open the motor cooled and they were heading for open sea. An approaching sandbar became their obstacle as the boat was steered to starboard instead of port. They became stuck on the sandbar with a tide running out. Their efforts to push the boat off the bar were to no avail. They then arranged the boat so that it appeared that it had drifted from moorings. They then crept back into camp. The Japanese later considered that the boat had drifted off from the jetty and no punishment was necessary. From then on the trio titled themselves, "The Three Musketeers".

They were transferred with "E" Force to British North Borneo in March 1943. Enroute to Sandakan they stayed for a period of time at Kuching. One night they went under the wire and made contact with British civilian internees who were formerly from Sandakan. There they were provided with maps from Harry Keith, the former conservator of Forests, and supplied names of trusted contacts by the former Commissioner of Police, Major Rice-Oxley. A note was supplied by G Brown recommending that assistance be given by their contacts in Sandakan and he also suggested the best escape routes from there.

At Sandakan "E" Force was placed initially on Berhala Island and the trio went about making their contacts to arrange for an escape. The camp intelligence officer heard of the escape plans and offered to lead the escape and he took possession of all material the group had gathered. The plan was to steal canoes from the nearby leper colony and meet up with Allied Forces by island hopping, hiding in the day and paddling at night.

On the night of the planned escape the intelligence officer advised the group they were not going because of weather conditions and the escape plans would work better if commenced from the mainland, where they were about to be transferred to. Next morning at roll call six soldiers were missing including the intelligence officer and two other lieutenants. The "Three Musketeers" were called to the hut of the senior officer, Captain Richardson, who advised that it was decided that the three lieutenants would go in their place instead. "Snowy" later wrote, "We said nothing, turned on our heels and never spoke to the officer again". This escape group successfully returned back to Australia although the intelligence officer died in the Philippine Islands.

Later at the main Sandakan Camp and the three were still making plans for escape using local police and civilian help. In the meanwhile the underground movement collapsed and resulted in many arrests. The Japanese became aware of the "Three Musketeers" contact with civilians and various notes being exchanged between them. They were arrested by the Japanese Military Police, the Kempei Tai. For many months they were severely bashed and tortured at Sandakan before being sent to Kuching to undergo a military trial. Many Australian Soldiers and civilians were discovered to be part of various escape plans and involved in the use of radio receivers and the smuggling of food, medical supplies and money.

At Kuching they were again bashed for months and Ted Keating died as a result of the shocking treatment he received. A Japanese Tribunal found Don and Carl guilty of planning to escape and Don received a four year sentence whilst Carl received two years. They were transported back to Singapore and interned in the infamous Outram Road Gaol. Both were in solitary confinement and later Don died from disease and malnutrition. 'Snowy' demanded that he be allowed to be in Don's cell when he heard that Don was gravely ill but he could not help him any further. A true mate to the end! During the closing months of the war Carl was transferred to Changi where limited medical supplies were available.

The move to Outram Road in a way did save "Snowy's" life, as those who remained behind were to perish at Sandakan, on the shocking Ranau marches or were murdered at Ranau. Only six escaped from the marches to tell the horrors of the events there.

"Snowy" never discussed his POW days with his family or friends, possibly as a way of blocking out the memory of losing two of the best mates a man could have.

Carl returned to Elsie and another two girls; Kerry Ann and Carolyn Joy, were born. They lived in a War Service home he built in Applecross. "Snowy" stayed in the Army for another 15 years and ended his career as a Warrant Officer 1st Class.

In civvy life he became the 'live in' building caretaker of Millar's Timber & Trading, supervising the cleaners and attending to the building tenants requests for him to fix "everything". When Millers closed down their St Georges Terrace office, "Snowy" went with them to the new operations in Kewdale and stayed there until he retired.

Elsie passed away three years ago and the tight knit family, his girls, saw that he was looked after. His ability to care for himself after Elsie's passing became a problem, and he was prised by his doctor out of the Applecross house and into Lodge care. Every week 'his girls' and their partners visited him. He was never short on visitors.

Each year a Sandakan Day is held at the Sandakan Tree in Kings Park and at the last service the Governor presented Carl with a certificate acknowledging 'his service to our country' during World War Two.

He passed away on April 9th 2003 with 'his girls' and grandchildren around him.

RIP 'Snowy'

POW PROFILE



**Carl Edgar “Snowy”
JENSEN
Sapper WX9682
2/6th Field Park Company
R.A.E.**

**Taken from a larger article written by Clive Rosser
for display at the Sandakan Exhibition 2003**

Carl Edgar Jensen was born to Danish parents at Fremantle WA on 25th March 1911. His father was a seaman from the port town of Sonderborg on the island of Als in Denmark, who had jumped ship in Fremantle. After a period of prospecting he sent home a gold nugget requesting his family arrange and pay passage to Australia for a young woman that he and the Jensen family in Denmark knew. She arrived in Western Australia and they wed.

The union produced three sons followed by three daughters and Carl was the youngest of the boys. The family resided in North Fremantle and his father was manager of the German Club in High Street Fremantle. He spoke fluent German. After the outbreak of the 1st World War anti German sentiments were running high. The local police suggested the family leave Fremantle until the war was resolved. The club was later vandalised.

During World War One, Carl, as a schoolboy, spent time in both York and Nannup and he developed a great love of the country life. At school he developed his skills at Aussie Rules Football and played with the North Fremantle ex Scholars. In the early 1930's he played three seasons with East Fremantle League team, resulting in playing for the premiership team in 1933. He then left them to go mining in Kalgoorlie as football players were unpaid and work was hard to find.

Carl ended up in Geraldton where he drove a provisions truck from Geraldton out through to the station country and up to Carnarvon. In between he captained the Fire Brigade 'A' Grade Football Team to an undefeated premiership in 1937. At Geraldton he was living at the Esplanade Hostel and he started courting the owner's daughter, "Elsie".

When Carl returned to Perth, "Elsie" followed him and resided with Carl's mother. Elsie had just turned 21 years and the wedding arrangements were on the agenda when Carl arrived home and advised that he had been successful in his application for a position at the Shell Oil Company depot in North Fremantle. But they only took married men! A wedding between Carl and Elsie was hastily arranged. Then ten months later in 1939 Patricia Maria Jensen was born.

In 1941 Carl signed up to serve for his country and after a few weeks of basic training, left on the troopship *Zealandia* bound for Singapore. Needless to say the "Snowy" nickname came from his mane of blonde hair. He formed a bond with two other West Australians, Ted Keating and Don Marshall, and they were inseparable. Ted, like Carl, was married and had a daughter and a son, whereas Don was still unmarried. It was a true Aussie mateship that had its strength in times of adversity, which they were later to experience. All had spent time on the West Australian Goldfields.

Singapore fell to the Japanese and the trio became POW's, vowing to look after one another and determined to escape and return to their families.

The three mates were sent to an island, Pulau Bukum, on a working party at the damaged refinery of the former Asiatic Petroleum Company. The Japanese wanted the refinery back in working order, especially the blending plant for aviation fuels. Whilst pretending to repair the diesel engines they made sure they would never work again by removing vital parts. Sabotage, yet the Japanese suspected nothing, just such incompetence by Australians!

They also serviced the two motorboats that carried stores from the mainland. Here was an opportunity to escape. They

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