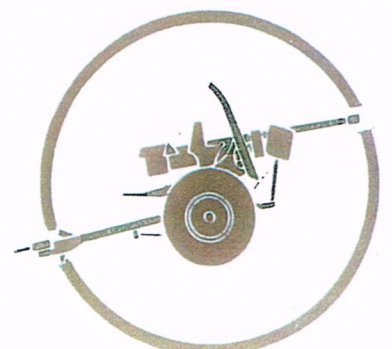
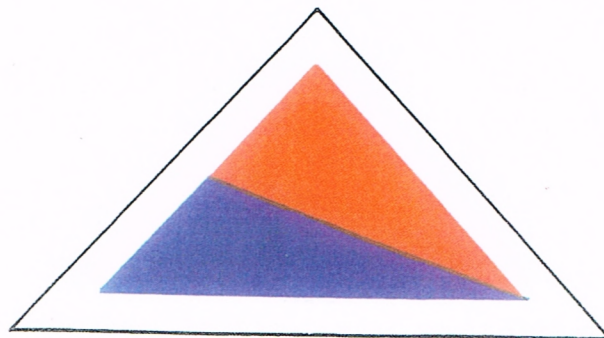
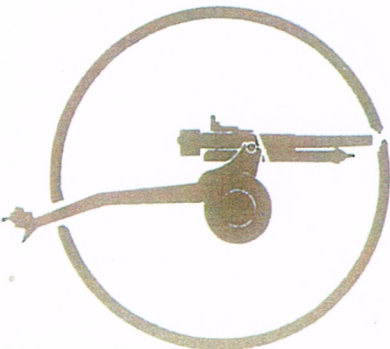


# SCRATCH GRAVEL



**102 T.A. REGT.  
122 L.A.A. REGT.  
554-555 L.A.A. BTYS  
ASSOCIATION**



# SCRATCH GRAVEL 2023

## From the Secretary's Desk.....

Welcome to the Scratch Gravel for 2023.

## Anzac Day 2022

A few years ago, the members who had met up at the NSW Masonic Club before the March, hadn't made it back from the Club to our assembly point before we moved off. That year, we only just moved around the corner and stopped again, so there was plenty of time to assemble the banner before our actual March commenced.

The March of 2022 however was a little different. Once again we were asked to move off before our members had made it from the club but this time, it became the actual start of our March. I think this was the first year since my first March in 1997 that we moved off early.

After a valiant attempt was made to assemble the banner whilst maintaining our position in the March, we were eventually told to go to the back of the Allied Veterans and Descendants group, so until one other group ended up moving in behind us, we were actually bringing up the rear of the March. From what I am told though, there was a silver lining to having been sent to the back of the March because there were some good shots of us on the telecast.

Thank you to the 9 participants (7 actual members and 2 ring-ins) who represented us in the March.

At the Reunion...

The initial plan was for us to have the Anzac Room again but I was contacted by Julie from Club York after I had sent out the Scratch Gravel advising that she had put us into the Bligh Room. This wasn't really an issue as there was plenty of space in the Bligh Room for the 9 members who attended the Reunion.

The videos of the old Marches & Reunions were played again.

We had the platters at the 2022 Reunion but during one of my chats with Julie just before Anzac Day, she asked if we would be interested in having pizzas instead of the platters. This option was discussed and it was agreed that we would go with pizzas for the 2023 Reunion.

It wasn't a good year for the Millers as sadly, Tony advised that his son and also Tony & Keiran's brother and their sister in law passed away through the year.

In addition, John Taylor's wife and Luke's mum, Glenda passed away.

Maybe it was a touch of the 'too much detail' but John told us where he was conceived.

We also had a parade of the walking wounded. John had a quintuple heart bypass through the year, Tony had shoulder surgery and was in a sling on the day and Travis Edwards, who was already on dialysis and on the kidney transplant waiting list because his kidneys aren't working, was diagnosed with Thyroid cancer.

As social media has essentially become the major form of communication, it was decided that we should have a private Facebook Group. The group was setup and initial requests to join the group were accepted all during the Reunion. How efficient was that!!!

Special thanks again to Travis & Jack Edwards who provided the prize and conducted the Raffle. This year, Tony Miller had the winning ticket.

## General

Our private Facebook Group is called **102 Tank Attack Regiment Descendants**, with Travis Edwards, Tony Miller and Luke Taylor as Administrators. Send a request to join and one of the Administrators will be happy to add you to the group.

Travis Edwards has provided an update on his health issues. One of the consequences of having to go through the cancer treatment was that he had to be removed from the kidney transplant waiting list. Travis has been given the all clear after the surgery & cancer treatment and he is now back on the transplant waiting list. In Travis' words - *Not too bad considering.... but the road is long as they say.*

Travis also advised of some sad news. His Uncle Lindsay, who was a regular of the March and Reunion until a few years ago, passed away in January following a stroke on Christmas eve. He spent some time at Westmead Hospital before going back to the nursing home in Westmead basically in palliative care. Lindsay continued to deteriorate in condition over the next week & appeared to be in no pain, but Travis said that he was sure that not being able to speak clearly or move the right side of his body surely had a distressing impact on him. Lindsay passed away peacefully with Travis' mum & sisters, Travis, Lindsay's kids Andrew & Cassandra & some other family members spending many hours sitting with him & supporting him in his room during the last week or two. Travis said that watching him waste away & die slowly wasn't easy, much the way Lindsay's mum Connie had passed away in 2019. They had a nice service with many family members from Bathurst & further away coming to celebrate him & share some funny stories from his life.

Photos from the Anzac Day 2022 have been added to the Gallery, so even if you have checked out the website previously, it is worth a visit to our web site - **[www.scratchgravelaustralia.com](http://www.scratchgravelaustralia.com)**.

You can navigate around some areas of the site without logging in but to access other areas such as the Photo Gallery, you will be prompted to enter the following login details...

Username: **scratchgravel**

Password: **anzacday**

I am always after more photos to be included in the Photo Gallery. If you have some photos and you are able to scan them, you can email them to me. Alternatively, you can send them to me in the regular mail or if you are coming to the next Reunion, bring them with you. I will then scan the photos and arrange for the scanned versions to be uploaded to the Photo Gallery. Let me know if you want your photos returned and I will send them back once they have been scanned.

We also would really like to hear from you if you can contribute additional stories, news clippings, etc, as one of the aims of the website is to provide a repository of your shared memories. Where possible, I will also include them in an edition of the Scratch Gravel.

## ***\*\*Important Reunion News\*\****

***The 2023 Reunion will be held at Club York (Bowlers Club of NSW).***

This year's Reunion will be as follows...

- ❖ You will have to ask at the front desk on your arrival at Club York which room we are in as Julie from Club York won't be able to confirm the room until closer to Anzac Day. If I do find out beforehand, I will post the room name on our new Facebook Group.
- ❖ The pizzas will be delivered to the room at 1:00pm.
- ❖ We will pay for our drinks as we go and as with the previous few years, a kitty will be made available for the drinks then whenever someone needs to go to the bar they will grab some money from the kitty.

*It would be appreciated if you could let me know beforehand that you will be coming to the Reunion so that I can get an idea of the numbers. My contact details are on page 6.*

Finally, I hope to see you on Anzac Day.

Regards,

*Jan Forwood*

(Secretary)



# ANZAC DAY REUNION

**Location:** *Room To Be Advised\**  
**Level 2**  
**Club York** (Bowlers Club of NSW)  
99 York Street  
SYDNEY

**Time:** 12.30 pm

Food will be served at 1.00pm

**Donation at the Door:** \$20.00

**Raffle:** Travis & Jack Edwards are organising the Raffle again. The prize is a \$50 gift voucher. Raffle tickets will be sold at the Reunion, with the winner also drawn at the Reunion. Your support of the raffle is always greatly appreciated.

*\* Ask at the front desk on arrival at Club York.*

## Respect for the Regiment forever



There are still 8 Limited Edition **102 TA Regiment / 122 LAA Regiment / 554-555 LAA Batteries Association Tie** available for purchase at the next Reunion (or from Ian afterwards) for \$30.

All descendants of original Regiment men are eligible to purchase and wear the Association Tie to continue the proud respect of our fathers.

## STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR 2022 REUNION

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Door Donation	\$140.00	Catering	\$265.00
Other Donations	\$199.70	Bar	\$161.50
Raffle	\$60.00	Printing & Postage	\$149.70
Bank Interest	\$0.23	Bank Fees	\$35.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$399.93</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$611.20</b>

**Bank Balance**                      **May 2021: \$2309.96**                      **June 2022: \$2098.69**

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### Committee

	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone / Email</b>
John Taylor (Chairman)	454 Terrace Road Freemans Reach NSW 2756	p: 02 4579 7410 m: 0416 252 500
Ian Forwood (Secretary)	18 Myrtle Street Granville NSW 2142	p: 02 9637 8751 m: 0402 531 685 e: iforwood@ihug.com.au
Travis Edwards		
Tony Miller		m: 0411 100 001

Ernest Buckley (Ted's son), our main contributor to the Scratch Gravel advised that his mother Norma had passed away. He has provided the following information, including his mother's involvement in the war effort...

### Women working for the War Effort in Australia and The American Red Cross



Unfortunately, my mother Norma Buckley passed the Day after Anzac Day 2022 aged 94.

My mother did work for the War Effort from an early age. She was working in a clandestine type of operation at the Steelo Factory at St Peters in Sydney. In the front of the factory was where they produced Steelo Soap Pads but behind this scene at a rear location, was the production and installation of the steel components of Camouflage Netting produced for the Australian Military.



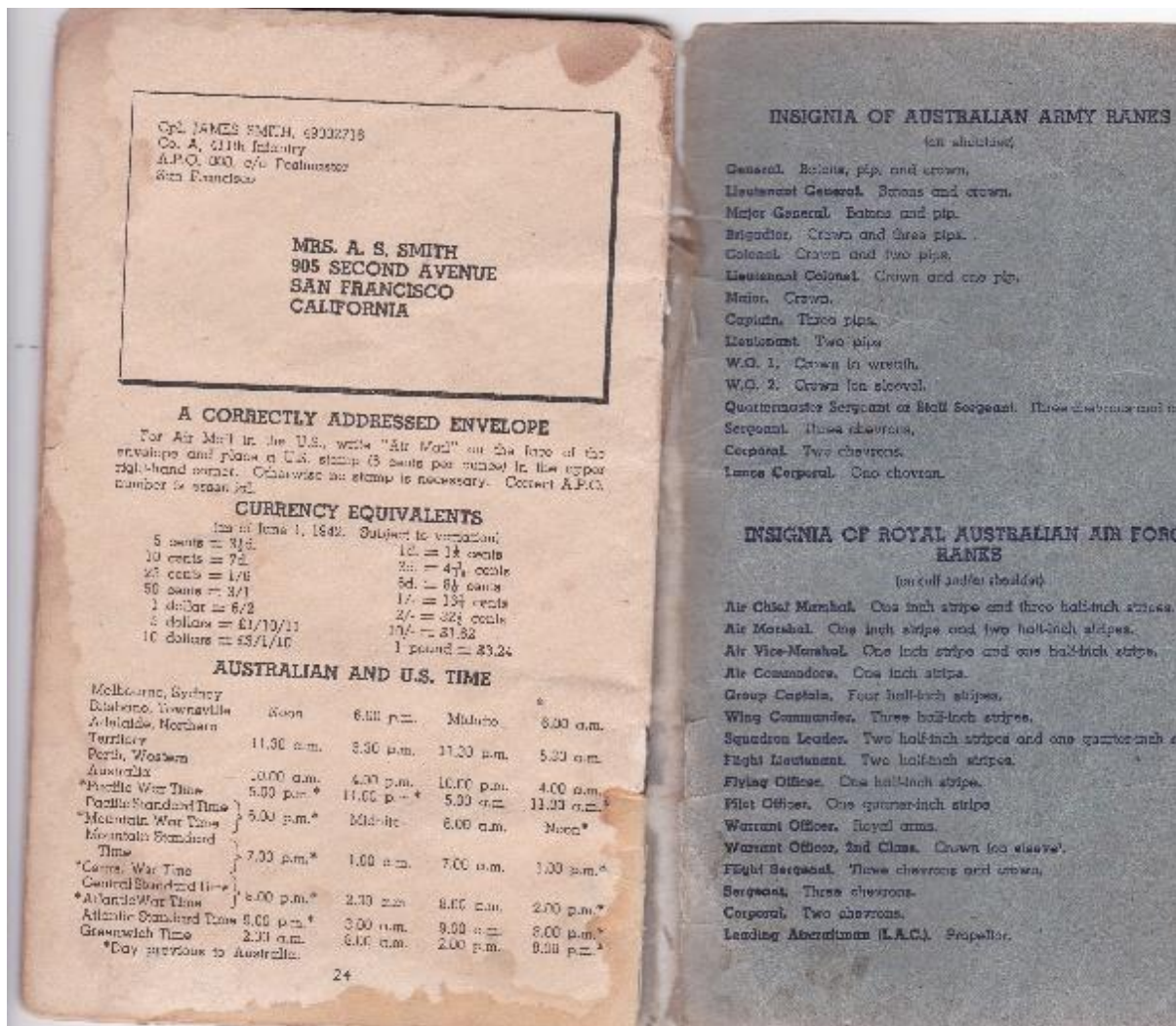
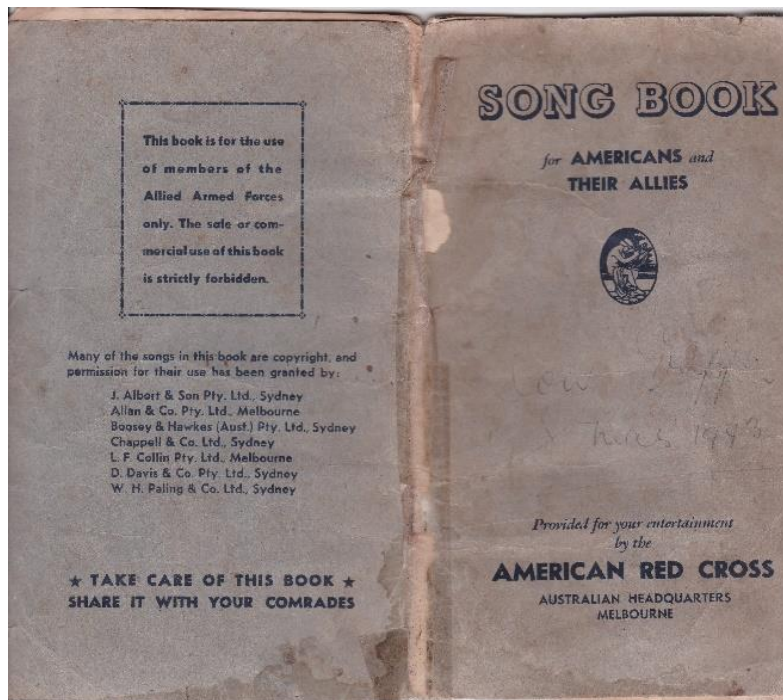
Photo of Norma and Ted Buckley outside the Northern ramp at Central Station, Sydney.

Cont...

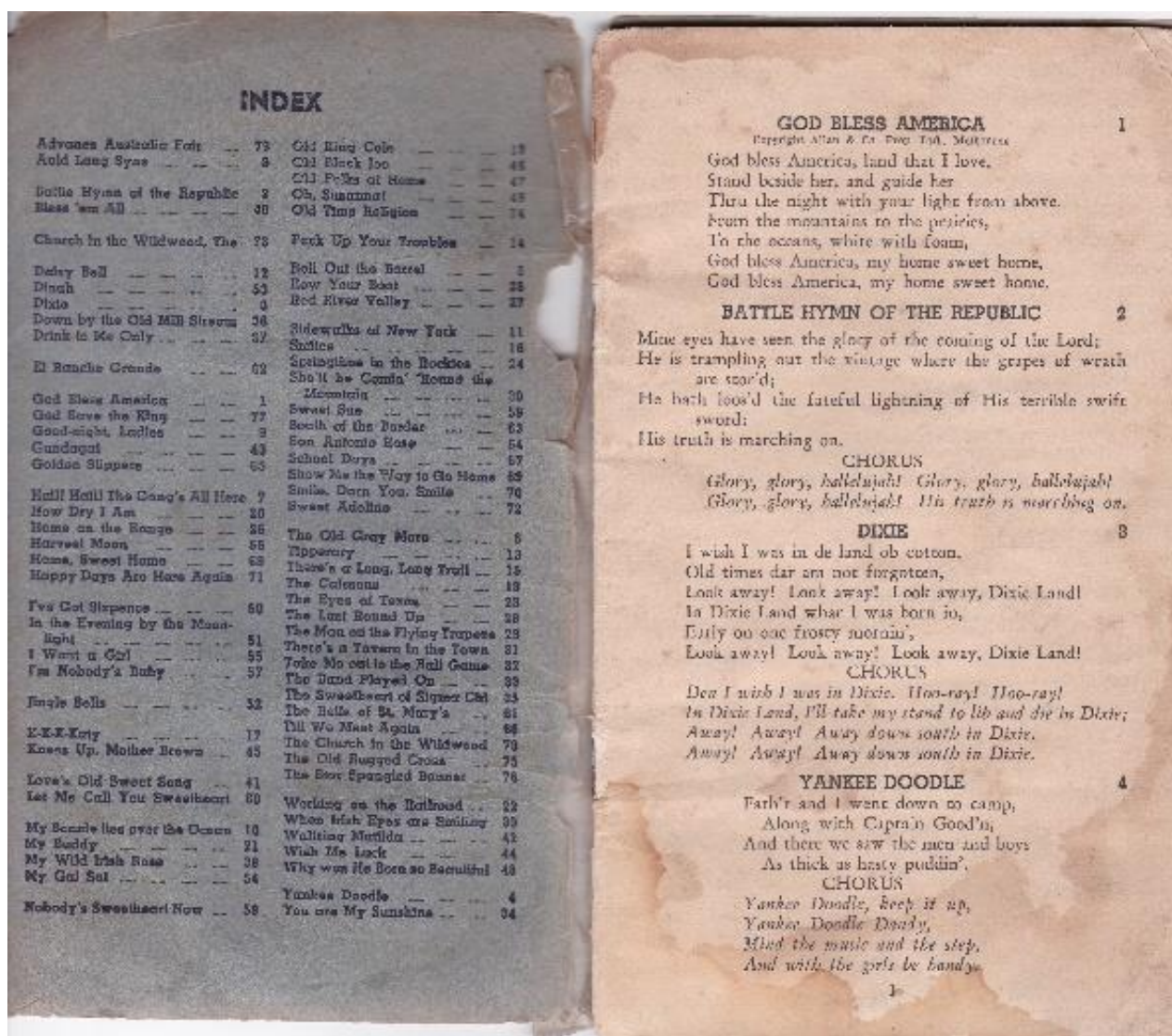


From previous page...

My mother carried out other War Work for the Military and the War Effort. In her papers, I located a Song Book for Americans and their Allies, Australian Headquarters, Melbourne.



Cont...

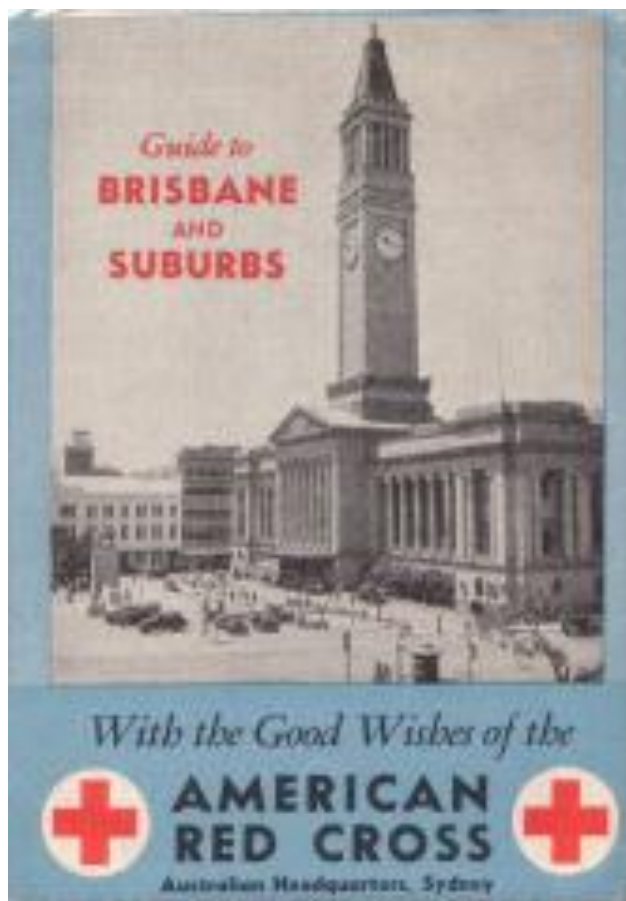


The American Red Cross (ARC or AMCROSS) in Australia during WW2 became the largest Hotel and Restaurant Chain in Australia at the time and was headed by Norman H Davis, with its headquarters in Sydney NSW.

The ARC Service Club in Sydney was at 165 Phillip St, Sydney. It was open 24 hours a day and had 232 beds which cost 9 pence per night. Breakfast cost 9 pence with lunch and dinner listed at various prices. Showers were free and there was a barber on site seven days a week. Clothes pressing, billiards, table games and reading and writing facilities were also available.

The ARC Centre opened in Sydney in 1942 and following on Melbourne, Cairns, and Charters Towers in QLD.

From previous page...



My mother's cousin, who was from Sydney, joined the American Red Cross and was assigned to New Caledonia and worked for the Americans. It was here that she met and later married an American Serviceman and lived in the United States, close to Washington (see the Video - American Red Cross Camp New Caledonia 1944).



Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt (ARC) greeted by Mrs Jean Macarthur at Archerfield Airfield on the South Side of Brisbane 1944.

Cont...

From previous page...



# 2022 REUNION

## ROLL CALL

(Apologies for misspellings)

Ian Forwood, Jack Edwards, Travis Edwards, Tony Miller, Matthew Ray, John Taylor, Luke Taylor.

## DONATIONS / APOLOGIES

Peter Allan, Ian Forwood, Victor Larkin, Keiran Miller, Paul Hahn.

## WE REMEMBER

C.T. Healey (who passed away a few years ago), Lindsay Edwards.

✂ -----

## UPDATE CONTACT DETAILS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

✂ -----

## INABILITY / DONATION DETAILS

I will be unable to attend our 2023 Reunion

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Note:

**When sending a cheque please make payable to...**

102nd Tank Attack Regiment or 554/555 LAA Batteries.

**If making a Direct Deposit...**

**Account Name:** 102<sup>ND</sup> TANK ATTACK REGIMENT 554/555 LAA BATTERIES ASSOCIATION  
**BSB:** 762107  
**Account Number:** 00134663

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