

grow orchids. He became a member of the state orchid society and with Jim Cummings successfully exported orchid stems to America. After retirement he built extensive and successful vegetable gardens across the yard.

In retirement Bill and Coral undertook a number of journeys throughout Australia to attend reunions with his commando mates. These included some wonderful trips to Perth by car, train and plane.

He was always an avid reader but towards his latter years he became interested in listening to music and enjoyed nothing better than to sit of an evening on the back deck in his "thinking seat", having a glass or two of wine, often with his good friends and neighbours Guy and Marco.

As a husband, father and grandfather he was the best. He was devoted to Nanna and they were so fortunate to enjoy such a long time together. He wasn't overly demonstrative but you would often hear him referring to Nanna as "Lover Girl". Christmas holidays were always a blast for Graeme, Kim and Mark as the factory shut down for January and they always headed up the north coast where Bill and Coral ensured they had a fun time together. Bill was always there for the three kids when needed, just as he has been for all the grandchildren.

Pa and Nanna were recently separated for the longest time in their lives with Nanna in Lady Davidson Hospital and Pa in Royal North Shore. He said he wanted nothing more than to spend the back end of his life with Coral and his wish was granted as they were able to be together for a week at Terrey Hills Nursing Home before he passed away.

Husband, father, grandfather, soldier, sailor, manufacturer, company director, sportsman, mercer, boat

builder, handyman, gardener, designer, navigator, fisherman, innovator, lover of seafood, lollies, mandarins and a faithful friend who was always extremely generous to everyone he met.

Our Bill, our Dad, our Pa.

From Bill Coker's Eulogy, 4/6/10, as read by granddaughters, Jaime Siviour and Leanne Coker.

Bill joined us in Canunga in early 1943 and served in New Guinea and New Britain. A good soldier who was well known in the unit and respected as a former member of the 1st Independent Company. He received his discharge in October 1945. After the war Bill and Coral took an active part in the Association. He was President of the NSW Branch from 1953 to 1967 and Vice President for 15 years becoming a Life Member. He and Coral attended a number of our safaris.

We mourn the passing of an old comrade and a fine Australian.

Betty Devlin, Harry Handicott and Snow Went were present at Bill's funeral service on 4th June last.

Lest We Forget

Editor

VALE - HERBERT (BERT) WILLIAM PRICE TX2781

Bert as he was better know was born on the 17th June, 1920 to parents George and Alice Price. He had four brothers George, Bernie, John and David (Dec) and four sisters Flora, Dorothy, Rosemary and Kay.

He started school at Hastings, attended a number of schools finishing at Leprena. Bert enjoyed his school days. A bright lad, he loved to run and could run like a hare. He was always first at school even when he helped to milk the cows. He knew all the short cuts and was at home in the bush. He was always considerate

of others and got into his share of mischief as most young boys do.

Bert left school at 14 going to work at the Lune River sawmill and continued there until enlisting in the AIF on 1st July, 1940 at the age of 20. He was posted to the 2/40th, the Tasmanian Battalion. The 2/40th did their training at Brighton and were in Darwin when Japan entered the War on 7th December, 1941. Sent to west Timor the battalion with attached units known as Sparrow Force distinguished itself by putting up a brave fight for four days when the Japanese invaded Timor on 19th February, 1941.

Overwhelmed by the sheer weight of numbers the 2/40th had no option but to surrender. Somehow Bert managed to avoid being a POW and with a number of others went on to join the 2/2nd Independent Company who were in Portuguese East Timor. He was a good soldier and served his new company well until they made it back to Australia in mid December 1942. After a brief leave Bert joined the 2/12th Battalion and saw action in New Guinea and Borneo. He received his discharge on 14th December, 1945. While on leave Bert married his sweetheart Billie Blyth on 9th August, 1944. They had a loving family of seven children, Gaylene, Cynthia (Dec), Roseanne, John, Julie, Garry and Peter. Billie had a sister Betty who was the spitting image of her. When the trio went out together and people admired the ladies Bert would say 'I am married to both of them'. He had a great sense of humour. Bert worked with the Forestry Department until 1963 then spent his next 17 years with the Rural Fire Board until he retired in 1980 at the age of 60.

Bert was a great family man. A good sportsman he played footy with Port Arthur, participated in athletics and with

his running prowess winning many races and was also a good axe man. He was very keen on sailing and built several boats. He introduced his children into sailing and fishing which they loved. He also tried his hand at wrestling and enjoyed dancing. A versatile man indeed.

Bert was well known for his unlimited time and care for others throughout the community. He was a good speaker and a strong supporter of the RSL and Legacy. He was awarded an OAM for his services and received several certificates for his charitable efforts.

The family have fond memories of growing up in their early days in the Taranna Tasman Peninsula near Port Arthur.

On Bert's retirement they moved to Hastings and then built their home in Dover where they resided for the last 35 years. Bert and Billie were famous for their lovely gardens, Bert with his veggies and Billie with her flowers especially roses. Bert's veggies fed family and friends and his cattle.

They were blessed with many grandchildren and one great great grandchild all of whom they loved dearly. Bert was known affectionately to them as 'Poppy Bert'.

Billie's passing in 2007 was a great loss for Bert and the family. He did not enjoy the best of health for the next three years and passed away peacefully on 3rd June, 2010, 14 days short of his 90th birthday.

His funeral was held at the Dover Lawn Cemetery on 7th June, with a large attendance present to pay tribute to a great Tasmanian and Australian. His Eulogy was delivered by Mr Garry Doyle of the Dover RSL with the local Volunteer Fire Brigade forming a Guard of Honour.

Bert was a fine man and will be sadly missed.

May He Rest in Peace

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the Price family.

Bert never forgot the time he spent with the 2/2nd in Timor.

He and Billie worked hard to make such a great success of our Tasmanian Safari in Hobart in March 2000. Bert attended our Perth Safari in November 2003. He contributed to the Courier and was made a Life Member of the Association.

We mourn the passing of a good man.

Lest We Forget

J Carey

VALE – BERT BACHE VX115800

News of the passing of Bert on 7th June was received by Kel Carthew on the 18th June. He was advised by a relative of Sylvia's, Bert's wife, that Sylvia had passed away on June 2nd and Bert's death followed 5 days later. It came as a great shock to their many friends in South Australia including Kel. Bert who was born on 29th January, 1921 in Melbourne was 89. Both Bert and Sylvia who had been in ill health for some time had no children. Kel only came to hear of their passing through Leith Cooper where as it happened the nurse in his ward, as said earlier was a relative of Sylvia's.

Kel was unable to provide much information but did say that Bert and Sylvia were a lovely couple who had been married for 56 years and they both liked to travel and loved the opera. On a number of occasions they flew to Sydney to see the operas and they also visited Japan and other Asian countries.

In his working life Bert was an artist and did many advertising signs for IGA and the Commonwealth Bank. Bert was also a good speaker and Kel said he was an

outstanding President of the Commando Association in South Australia for many years. Bert and Sylvia attended a number of our safaris and until his eyesight failed in his latter years, always read the Courier. He had operations on his eyes at the Flinders Medical Centre and of course could not drive.

A notice appeared in the local paper on the 19th June advising of their deaths. They have donated their bodies to the University of Adelaide. A memorable service of celebration will be held at the Westburne United Church on a date to be fixed.

Bert's army records show that he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 3rd November, 1942 and joined the 2/2nd at Canunga and served in New Guinea and New Britain. A quiet capable man Bert was a good soldier and got on well with his section mates. He was discharged from the Army on 2nd July, 1946 with the rank of Sergeant.

We mourn his passing – May He Rest in Peace.

Lest We Forget

J Carey

Members will be sorry to hear of the passing of Helen Poynton on 10th May last. Helen had not been well for some time and was a courageous and talented lady. Helen had a farewell party on the 16th January at her home in York to meet many of her old friends for the last time. It was a very happy occasion. Helen and Joe were great people and loyal supporters of the Association.

Their Sunday barbecue days on the long weekend of January bring back happy memories to those who attended them.

Helen chose to have a private funeral.

God Bless Her