

Vale Reg Griffiths. NX417 5

It is with much regret we advise of the death of Reg on 4th September last. Reg, our oldest member turned 93 on 6th June this year. He battled courageously against cancer over a long period but it beat him in the end. Reg was with the Australian Army Service Corps, which was attached to Sparrow Force's 2/40th Battalion. At the time of the Jap invasion of West Timor he was 2 I.C. of the field bakery and as he later said "When the Japs landed the bakery closed and I baked no more bread." However he had grown up in the bush and was used to handling guns and rifles and soon adapted to his new role as an infantryman. Reg was one of the lucky ones who made it to Beco, eventually crossing the border and joining up with the 2/2nd in March 1942. He spent the next nine months serving in D. Platoon under Don Turton whom he admired greatly. After returning to Australia Reg, who was then 35 years old, went on to serve in many units before his discharge in April 1944 through ill health. Reg always retained his interest the Association, was a loyal and generous supporter of the Association and kept in touch with Don and Ralph Conley up until his death. In a letter to the Courier in September 1999 he tells of his walk over Tulleys Hill near Luton on his 92nd Birthday. Not a bad effort for an old digger! He was then living alone and doing his own cooking. He often walked near the Murrumbidgee River for exercise where the blue gums were growing and the birds singing. The Association offers sincere condolences to his daughter, Jenny and family. Lest we forget.

Jack Carey.

N.B. Jenny has kindly provided a resume of her father's life.

Vale Reginald Clarence Griffiths.

6.6.1907 - 4.9.2000.

Dad was born in Junee a son of a farming family. Aged 12 years Dad left school to seek his fortune. He travelled and worked his way to the Riverina where he tried his hand at share farming with his brother Hessel and his dad with growing rice. Dad had numerous farms during his life, with fruit, sheep and wheat, but it was when he had a menswear store in Leeton, N.S.W. was where he met Miss Hilda Beaupert. Dad married Hilda in 1934 and they spent 64 happy years together.

Dad enlisted on the 4.8.1941 and served until 6.4.1944. On enlistment Dad was a baker by trade and the first month of army life was spent in a bakery in Alice Springs after travelling there by the old "Ghan" train. He then went on to Darwin in the A.A.S.C. a member of Sparrow Force. Dad served in Timor from 8. 12.41-1 1 . 12.42 mainly with the 2/2nd Independent Company, being evacuated on the Dutch destroyer "Tjerk Hiddes" arriving in Darwin after 26 hours at sea being away 1 year 3 days. Dad served in several camps in Australia, including Birdum, Mt. Isa, Townsville, Brisbane and The Canungra Jungle School, before being discharged on the 6.4.1944 due to ill health. Dad was a member of the R.S.L. for 50 years. Returning to Leeton after the war, Dad set about earning a quid. My earliest memories are of a fruit farm in Yanco where Dad grew oranges and peaches, from there he had a soldiers settlers farm in Coleabally with sheep and wheat. Dad eventually sold this farm and retired in Leeton. As time marched on Dad took care of Mum when she had continuous strokes until her death in 1998. This year Dad had the biggest battle to fight, cancer. The disease claimed my dad on the 4.9.2000. Dad fought with all the courage and determination he had always portrayed throughout his life in all areas that he held dear. My fondest memory of Dad will always be watching him march each Anzac Day with his mates. Dad, you are now in Glory with your mates, Mum, and your family, now is the time for rest. At peace.

Your loving daughter, Jenny.

It is with much regret we advise of the passing of the following ladies: Mrs Peggy McPhee, Queensland, Widow of Ian Mrs Pat Giles, W.A., Widow of Bernie Mrs Betty McDonald, W.A., Widow of Bob Mrs Maizie Clayton, W.A., Sister of the late Dick McKenzie.

All were loyal supporters of the Association.

The Association extends deepest sympathy to the families of the bereaved.

J. Carey.
