



Edward (Ted) Percival Young, 2nd AIF 1942 - 1946
VX 139601, Private, 10th Field Ambulance
RSL member since 1945, Oakleigh Carnegie Life Member

Service in the Second World War

Edward (Ted) Percival Young was conscripted into the militia in 1942. Private Young was given basic training in Seymour, where, despite his appeal to the commanding officer that he wanted to be in an infantry unit, he was posted to 10th Field Ambulance. By January 1943 he was in New Guinea and in April, nineteen-year old Ted Young enlisted 'in the field' with the AIF for service in World War 2.

The 10th Field Ambulance served at Buna-Gona, Samarinda and in swamps and jungle at the foot of the Kokoda Track. Ted was at Oro Bay, then Lae then Finschafen. He took part in the first sea ambulance transport to bring wounded along the coast in barges at night from Finschafen and Lae.

After 18 months in New Guinea, and leave and further training in Queensland, Ted was next sent to Morotai in July 1945, an allied island base expanded in 1945 to support the Australian-led Borneo campaign. Six weeks after landing with the 7th Infantry Division, the War ended and the 10th Field Ambulance was sent to Ambon to help evacuate Australian Prisoners of War to Australia from what Ted described as the hell-hole the Japanese created there.

Post-service life

In civilian life Ted operated menswear stores at Hughesdale then Oakleigh until he retired. During working life he was a councillor in the Hughesdale ward of Oakleigh City Council. He holds membership of several clubs including the Rotary Club of Oakleigh of which he is a past president and now honorary member. While a reluctant starter with it, Ted Young became president of the 10th Field Ambulance Association and was a familiar figure as standard bearer for the unit at Melbourne's ANZAC day marches.

RSL membership

Ted Young joined the Caulfield RSL in 1945 while receiving his discharge from the Army in 1946. He moved to Oakleigh RSL where he was made Life Member in 1981.



Douglas (Doug) Pendergast, Royal Australian Air Force, 1957-1973
Flight Lieutenant, RAAF Combined Recruit Centre
Oakleigh - Carnegie RSL President 2018 -

Service in the Malayan Emergency

Doug Pendergast enlisted at RAAF Base Richmond in New South Wales at age 19 as a direct entry Motor Transport Driver. Posted to RAAF Headquarters Operational Command at Launceston in the Blue Mountains he ferried arms and ammunition to and from Operational Command Headquarters. During his 18 months posting his unit was called out to fight bushfires that devastated many small villages in the Blue Mountains.

He was next posted to RAAF Base East Sale in Gippsland, Victoria to No 2 Airfield Construction Squadron, the squadron having recently returned from Malaya after construction of RAAF Base Butterworth. Butterworth, in northern Malaya near Penang, was leased from the British by the Australian government in order to provide a base for the RAAF component of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR). When No 2 Squadron's Canberra bombers arrived in July 1958, Butterworth became the RAAF's most forward operational airbase.

Late 1959 saw Doug posted overseas to RAAF Base Butterworth to become part of the Far East Strategic Reserve forces during the first years of the Malayan Emergency. His duties in the daytime were to do semi-trailers loaded with heavy equipment from Prai Wharf, Penang to Base. Manoeuvring semi-trailers through kampungs (villages) and over portage bridges were often tiring journeys. To satisfy recreational needs for personnel at Butterworth, it was by Doug's initiative that recordings from Sydney radio station 2UE's broadcaster Bob Rodgers, were sourced and "with no experience he commenced Radio RAAF Butterworth".

Returned to Australia in 1964 Doug was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Keen to progress Doug undertook educational study and an Offshore Initial Training Course, graduating in 1966. Following acceptance, he was posted to Base Squadron RAAF Point Cook with the rank of Pilot Officer. He was ultimately promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant and posted to RAAF Combined Recruit Centre in Flinders Lane, Melbourne in 1970 as a Recruiting Officer during which he travelled throughout Australia on detachments.

Post-service life

Having served with the Royal Australian Air Force for 16 years, Doug resigned his commission and returned to civilian life. He worked on careers in real estate and was president of the Lions Club of Oakleigh. He was also a member of the Malaya & Borneo Club and a member of a Victorian branch of the RSL.

RSL membership

Doug Pendergast is the current president of the Oakleigh Carnegie RSL. He is physically fit, a keen sportsman and man who has a strong sense of community and dedication to his work as an operator.



Neil Robert Smith, Australian Army, 1967-1970
61924, Private, 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
Oakleigh - Carnegie RSL former Vice President

Service in the Vietnam War

Terranman born Neil Robert Smith volunteered for the Royal Australian Army after a company from 3RAR was deployed to Tamboon to help the recovery effort after the State's devastating bushfires in February 1967. A soldier's life seemed exciting compared to his employment in sales accounts administration with clothing manufacturer Cadbury at its Claremont works.

Undergoing initial recruit training he was assigned to the Corps and posted to 9RAR's 'A' Company. A new and inexperienced soldier with only a few NCOs, even more inexperienced officers were newly trained, certainly those at platoon level. From late 1968, 9RAR started a year-long tour of duty in Phuoc Hai conducting operations mainly in Phuoc Hai. As part of 1st Australian Task Force. Three months later on Goodwood, 'A' Company 9RAR engaged with Viet Cong forces. In the ensuing action, on 19 January 1969, Neil Robert Smith (DICK) SYMES was killed and Neil wounded. Neil was among three killed and five wounded from their platoon. He was evacuated to 1st Australian Field Hospital at Vung Tau where he was operated on for multiple fragmentation wounds and returned to Australia. It took him three months to walk again, he still carries small pieces of shrapnel in his body.

Post-service life

In post service life Neil settled in Melbourne where he worked for the Department of Works as a night watchman. He was involved with the Antarctic expedition as a member of the field trip in Antarctica in 1971. He was also involved in a field trip in Antarctica in 1971. He was also involved in a field trip in Antarctica in 1971.

RSL membership

Neil joined the Oakleigh Carnegie RSL in 1971. He has been a member of the RSL since 1971. He has been a member of the RSL since 1971.

