

Lieutenant Percival Roy REYNOLDS NX12527 (434770) 2/19 AIF Battalion

Percival Roy Reynolds (known as Pat) was born at "Burrawong," Cumnock, on 20 Aug 1917. His parents were Sylvanus Roy and Stella Reynolds who had seven children: Percival; Margot, born 1918; Clive born 1921, Diana, born 1923; Doris Vivienne, born 1924; Beverley, born 1925; and David, born 1930.

Sylvanus Roy Reynolds (known as Roy) lived at "Burrawong" with his parents, Sylvanus Partridge and Susan Reynolds. He had attended The King's School, Sydney, from 1904-09. Following his schooling, at nineteen years of age, Roy took over the Managership of "Burrawong" from his father. Roy married Stella Florence Jackson at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, in 1916.

Roy Reynolds served for 34 years on the Amaroo Shire Council, of which he was President from 1951-52 and 1953-55. He was a member of the Council of the NSW Graziers' Association and Secretary of the Church of England, Cumnock. After WW2, Roy and his two sons, Percival Roy and Clive, formed a partnership in 1954 to run the property, which became known as the Burrawong Grazing Company Pty Ltd. Sylvanus Roy Reynolds died, aged 66 years, at Orange, on 30 Sep 1956. His wife died, aged 90 years, as Stella Sherlock at Sydney, on 10 Aug 1981.



Pat Reynolds, along with his brothers, Clive and David, followed their father Roy, as well as other uncles and cousins, in the tradition of attending The Kings School, Parramatta. Pat attended as a Prep Junior from 1929 and completed his education in 1939.

The Molong Express & Western District Advertiser (WDA) - 20 Dec 1930, p10, stated:

"Sports Cup: Master Pat Reynolds, son of Mr and Mrs SR Reynolds, of 'Burrawong,' won the silver cup for the best all-round sport, including cricket, tennis, and football, at the junior home of The King's School, Parramatta. He also gained a prize for general proficiency at the school. The college boys are all home from school enjoying the Xmas holidays."

In 1934, Pat was a member of The Kings' School 1st Rugby Team and in 1935, he was a member of the 1st Cricket Team as well as the 1st Rugby Team. The *Molong Express & WDA* - 10 Jun 1939, p5, reported on a rugby game between the Militia and Cumnock at Hunter Caldwell Park, Molong. Pat Reynolds played for the Militia side and the result was Militia 22, Cumnock 3. Pat was mentioned as one of two players who *"hardly made a mistake."* A further report of a game between the Militia and Manildra in the *Wellington Times* - 19 Jun 1939, p5, reported:

"At Molong, playing for Militia against Manildra, P Reynolds, of Cumnock, was again outstanding in every department of the game. His goal kicking was exceptionally good."

Pat enlisted in the Australian Army on the 31 Aug 1939, in Molong. He was 21 years and 5 months old, single, 5 feet 8½ inches tall, and wore glasses. He served with the 54th Btn with the rank of Lieutenant until being seconded to the 2/19 AIF Btn on 1 Jul 1940. From 9 Sep to 5 Oct 1940, Pat attended a Junior Leader Course at Narellan, NSW.

The *Molong Express & WDA* - 25 Jan 1941, p14, reported:

"A farewell to AIF men, Lieut. P Reynolds, Signaller C Leary, Driver T Atkinson and Pte Badgery, all of whom were on final leave, was held at the Cumnock Picture Theatre. Mr George Black, in making a presentation on behalf of the gathering, commented on the fact that those young men who were leaving were doing so because they realised that their duty was to play their part in making the world a safe place for democracy. He presented each guest with a wallet on behalf of the Amaroo Shire Council. Marie and Coleen Hopper then made a presentation on behalf of the local Patriotic Knitting Club. Mr Mick Campbell, of Molong, also made a presentation to Lieut. Reynolds on behalf of the Molong Football Club, and in doing so recalled many happy events which had occurred during Pat's association with the Molong Club... Lieut. Reynolds then responded on behalf of his comrades and in a happy speech thanked the large gathering which had assembled to do them honor, the Council for their gifts, and the Knitting Club for their thoughtfulness in providing them with such useful articles...He concluded by humorously recalling events of his boyhood days spent in Cumnock. Mr S Roy Reynolds (Shire President) responded on behalf of the parents of the departing guests..."

Of the four men who were farewelled, only two made it back to Australia. Driver Tom Atkinson, NX58448 2/19 Btn, was killed by the Japanese, aged 35 years, on 19 Jan 1942, when his unit was ambushed at Bakri, Malaya. L/Cpl Brabazon Badgery, NX58441 2/19 & 2/27 Btns, was a Japanese Prisoner of War who worked on the Burma Railway, and died of illness, aged 25 years, on 9 Jul 1943 in Thailand. Signaller Claude Leary, NX57883 8 Signals Corps, became a Prisoner of War in Singapore on 16 Feb 1942. He spent 3 years in POW camps in Japan and returned to Australia on 2 Oct 1945.

Two of Pat's siblings, Able Seaman Clive Reynolds, S/8213, Royal Australian Navy, and his sister, Private Doris Vivienne Reynolds, NF464610, Australian Army Medical Women's Service, also served in the forces during WW2.

Lieut Reynolds embarked on 18 Feb 1941 at Sydney on *HMT Queen Mary* and disembarked at Singapore on 18 Feb 1941.

Photo: Lieut. Pat Reynolds with his back to camera, with Lieut. Colonel Duncan Maxwell NX12610, in Sydney 18 Feb 1941.



Immediately upon its arrival in Singapore, the 2/19th, as part of the 22nd Brigade of the 8th Australian Division, moved north to Seremban in southern Malaya, where it would train under tropical conditions.

Photo: Seremban, Malaya, June 1941. Members of the 2/19 Btn Rugby Football Team. In the background is the King George V School where part of the Battalion was quartered. Pat Reynolds, Captain of the team, is first on the left. AWM POO102.034



"The 2/19 Btn remained in the area until early September 1941, rotating between Seremban and Port Dickson on the coast. It spent most of September based around the airfield at Kluang, and on 3 October, began to move to Jemaluang on the east coast, preparing defensive positions. The 2/19th stood to arms on the night of 6 December 1941, but a month would pass before the first of its men were in action.



On 7 January, D Company was detached to form half a special force deployed to delay the Japanese approach to Endau, a town further north along the coast. One of its platoons was involved in a clash with the Japanese on 14 January.

D Company returned to the battalion in time for its redeployment to the west coast on 17 January. The 2/19th was rushed forward to reinforce the beleaguered 2/29th Infantry Battalion at Bakri. It held the vital crossroad there throughout 19 January, long enough to allow for the withdrawal of the remnants of the 2/29th and the 45th Indian Brigade from the direction of Muar." www.awm.gov.au/unit/U56062/

The following accounts are extracts from Lieut. Pat Reynolds' account of his experiences in Malaya from the book "The History of the 2/19 Battalion A.I.F." :

"18 Jan 1942 - The trip to Bakri: The 57 miles to Kluang were uneventful and as we reached here, the dawn was arriving and our air sentries kept their eyes open... At Ayer Hitam we turned onto the north and south road with three carriers preceding the convoy, and proceeded to Yong Peng where we turned towards Parit Sulong... We crossed the Simpang Kiri at Parit Sulong and proceeded along a virtual causeway... At last we came within earshot of the artillery fire; then we could hear the machine gun and rifle fire. Every man was now very much alert. My two trucks came up to the 65th Bty, who were firing on the Japs..."

At dusk the Btn closed in around Bakri with C Coy, forward of Bakri village, then B Coy, near the buildings and on the left flank. On the left flank and in rear of B Coy, across a muddy Bluka covered creek & about 300 yards away, was A Coy. Then D Coy, in rear with H.Q. Coy personnel completing the perimeter.

During this time we could hear M.G. fire in the area of the 29th Btn which went on all night. The 65th Battery, who were within our perimeter area, opened up with heavy fire during the night. The Japs returned the fire knocking out one of our guns... The shells were landing about 100 yards in rear of B Coy, so those of us not on sentry duty got what sleep we could. At one period during the night we heard heavy firing a long way to our rear. The Japs were attacking B echelon and killed over 20 of our men here, but our Vickers gunners did great slaughter in return.

"19 Jan 1942 - Information was received that approximately one Coy of Japs were attacking A Coy and Btn Headquarters. B Coy was ordered to make a flank attack with 3 platoons... With Japs pinning two sections down, L/ Cpl Dallas lead my right rear section to a fire position on the right flank, and kept the Jap position quiet. Meanwhile, I ordered the two sections pinned down to use grenades, than at my signal to rush forward and knock the Jap section out. Meanwhile, the Japs were using up quite a few mortar bombs on us but with very little effect. On my signal, both sections advanced on the Japs, bayoneting some. The section on my right again again was forced to ground by M.G. fire. I was signalling to my other section from amongst a heap of about 15 apparently dead Japs, when one of them, who was badly wounded and about 2 yards from me, pushed himself up on his left arm and in his right hand held a grenade. I immediately shot at him, the grenade in his hand exploding simultaneously, blowing half his head off. Two pieces of this grenade hit me, one under the right arm and the other on the side of the head, the latter meeting an irresistible force, bounced off. As I fell I called out to Sgt AA Small to 'push home the attack' which he evidently did successfully... With two others, I was sent to the Regimental Aid Post..."

“On the morning of 20 January, a torturous withdrawal towards Parit Sulong commenced. The force managed to fight its way through a succession of Japanese roadblocks, while constantly harried from its rear and from the air, but was halted by strong positions around the bridge across the Simpang Kiri River at Parit Sulong. With its ammunition exhausted, casualties mounting, and no chance of relief, the force struck out through the jungle for Yong Peng on the morning of 23 January. It was forced to leave its wounded behind; they were subsequently massacred by the Japanese. For his courage and leadership throughout the action, the 2/19th's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Anderson, was awarded the Victoria Cross.” www.awm.gov.au/unit/U56062/

Lieut. Reynolds was transferred by ambulance to a field hospital at Kulai on 24 January and then taken by ambulance to the 10th Australian General Hospital (AGH), Singapore. From Mon 26 Jan to Sat 7th Feb 1942, Lieut. Reynolds had five operations and two blood transfusions. Air raids and bomb explosions were constant. The hospital was hit by a bomb on Sunday 8 Feb and the patients were dispersed to other locations. On the morning of Wed 11 Feb, on board the small hospital ship *Woo Sooi*, Lieut Reynolds sailed out of Singapore Harbour. His last look at Singapore was to see one of the wharves a mass of flames. The British Commander Lieut. General Arthur Percival surrendered to the Japanese on 15 Feb 1942. More than 130,000 Allied troops, including more than 15,000 Australian soldiers, were taken prisoner. The 2/19th suffered the highest casualties of any Australian Army unit during the war, sustaining 620 dead and 197 wounded.

On 14 Feb the *Woo Sooi* arrived at Batavia and the patients were transferred to the *HMAS Kara Kara*. From Batavia the ship sailed to Colombo, arriving on 23 February where patients were transferred to the 12th AGH. Lieut. Reynolds spent nine weeks at Colombo receiving treatment and recuperation. He sailed for Australia on 27 April and arrived in Sydney on 15 May 1942. On 28 Aug 1943, Pat Reynolds' AIF service was terminated and he was placed on the Retired List. He was awarded the 1939/45 and Pacific Stars, Defence, War and Australia Service Medals. He is commemorated on the WW2 Honour Plaque on the Cumnock Memorial Gates and on the WW2 Honour Board at the King's School.

The Molong Express & WDA - 23 May 1942, p10, reported:

“Lieutenant Pat Reynolds, who arrived home in Cumnock on Saturday last, looks well, considering the nature of his wound. Pat, who is extremely popular in our district, has had a busy time answering the many welcomes received personal and otherwise. He, however, cannot hope for a complete recovery from his serious wounds received in combat in Malaya for some time. He returns to hospital after two weeks' leave for further treatment. We understand he will receive a public welcome home on Tuesday next.”

Back in Cumnock, Pat worked on “Burrawong” and was involved in raising money for the Australian Comfort Funds and was thanked for his splendid efforts by the Amaroo Shire Patriotic Committee at a meeting in September 1945.

The Molong Express & WDA - 17 May 1946, p11, reported that Pat was again playing football for Cumnock against Molong and that “Definitely the most outstanding man on the field, Pat Reynolds, Cumnock skipper and five-eight, played a sterling game.”

The Newcastle Sun - 12 Jun 1946, p11, reported: “Orange - Special trains and buses from up to 140 miles away brought thousands of people to Orange today for the League football match between England and Western Districts... Western Districts Captain, Pat Reynolds of Cumnock, is a football ‘curiosity,’ for he was wounded in Malaya and doctors told him he would never play again. He is President of the Cumnock Graziers Assn and Secretary of the R.S.L. Cumnock sub-branch.”

The English team defeated the Western Districts side. Pat continued to play football until September 1948, when he broke an arm during a match between Parkes and Cumnock. In 1949 he was President of the Cumnock Show society and in 1950, a member of Cumnock War Memorial Park Committee. From 1958-63, Pat was President of the Cumnock R.S.L. sub-branch.

Photo - Clive Reynolds, Secretary, left, and Pat Reynolds, President, right, Cumnock Show Society. *The Land* - 1 Apr 1949, p8.



Pat became engaged to Dorothy Nelle Fugler (known as Nelle) in January 1953. Nelle had served with the Women's Royal Australian Navy - WR/2244 from 9 Aug 1944 to 27 Feb 1946. On enlistment she was 18 years old, was 5 feet 2½ inches tall, had blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. Her mother Bertha Fugler, of Willoughby, was her next of kin (her father was deceased). She was stationed at various times at HMAS's Penguin, Kuttabul, Rushcutter, and Watson's Bay as a Writer (responsible for clerical duties) and later as a Radar Operator. After her discharge Nelle completed her nursing training at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. She was working at the Molong hospital when her engagement to Pat was reported in January 1953. They were married in the Chapel at the King's School, Parramatta, on 20 Apr 1953. They had three children: Phillipa, Roy and Belinda.



Percival Roy Reynolds died, aged 68 years, on 5 Dec 1985, at “Burrawong,” Cumnock. He was privately cremated in Orange. Nelle Reynolds is still alive at 97 years, and lives with her daughter Belinda at Moss Vale, Sydney.

Thank you to Roy Reynolds, son of Pat and Nelle, for photos and information of his parents.