

**MALAYA. R.O. YOUNG
OF TECOMA, VIC., CAN
BOAST HE IS THE FIRST
MEMBER OF THE A.I.F.
IN MALAYA TO
UNDERGO A SURGICAL
OPERATION. VISITING
HIM IS Padre Frederick
Hugh Bashford OF
MOLONG, N.S.W.**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

006375

Informal portrait of members of the 2/4 Casualty Clearing Station. Identified, left side of the table, front to back, NX70505 Lieutenant-Colonel (Lt-Col) Thomas Hamilton, Captain (Capt) Furocer (?), Lt Robinson and SX10761 Major (Maj) Alan Frank Hobbs. Centre back is 240062 (NX70685) Padre Frederick Hugh Bashford. Right side of table, front to back, TX2150 Capt John Sneddon Chalmers, Maj Phillips, TX6009 Capt Edgar Newton Lee and NX70473 Padre Bernard James Quirk. Capt Chalmers, (later major), died at sea, while a prisoner of war, on 14 September 1944.





Photo of (VX57167) Gunner Keith Johnson Dickinson who was a prisoner of war of the Japanese in Burma during the Second World War. On 12 September 1946, **Padre (Chaplain) Captain Frederick Hugh Bashford wrote to Gnr Dickinson's wife.** The letter describes the events leading up to, and the execution by the Japanese, of Gnr Dickinson on 2 March 1943. Includes statement describing Dickinson's escape from Thethaw camp with 2 other Australians, NX12243 Major Alan Mull and VX73838 Sapper Alexander John Bell.

SAW AUSTRALIANS MURDERED: NOT CALLED AS WITNESS

CANBERRA, Thursday. — Despite the fact that he is the sole surviving witness of the shooting down of eight Victorian artillerymen without a trial by the Japanese at Tavoy (South Burma) in June, 1942, an Australian Army padre has not been called to give evidence at the Manus war trials. He is Padre Frederick Hugh Bashford, now stationed at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Canberra.

Padre Bashford said to-day he had handed the Commonwealth Government affidavits of his experience, but had not been directed to attend the trials. He understood the evidence at the trials would be purely documentary, in order to avoid as far as possible the cross-examination of witnesses.

While two Japanese were standing trial for the atrocities which Padre Bashford witnessed, Rev. Bashford to-day was acting as chaplain to the presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church in Japan (Rt. Rev. Michael Yashiro), in a dedication service in St. John's, Canberra. He described Rev. Yashiro, whom he knew in Japan, as a "great power for Good in Japan."

Grim Story

Padre Bashford to-day told the grim story of his experience as a witness with the late

Brigadier A. L. Varley, of the shooting of eight Australians.

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"It was an incident which I shall never forget. Having talked to the men before they were shot, I knew them perhaps better than I ever knew anybody else," he added.

Padre Bashford said he arrived at the Tavoy compound two days before the eight Australians walked out. Two days later they were recaptured.

Ordered to Attend

Several days afterwards, with Brigadier Varley, he was called before Captain Shima, now on trial

at Manus, and instructed to be present at the execution. He told how, "all the events of that dreadful period were chronicled by Brigadier Varley in a little black book which he buried in the compound, and after the Japanese surrender, recovered and handed to the authorities."

Brigadier Varley was later drowned when an American submarine torpedoed a ship carrying hundreds of former P's.O.W. Brigadier Varley was then escorting the men from prison camps in Burma and Thailand to Japan for recuperation before repatriation.

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War Crimes Trials Open At Manus Island

Alleged Shooting Down Of Eight Artillerymen

Canberra, June 12.—Despite the fact that he was the sole surviving witness to the shooting down of eight Victorian artillerymen without trial by the Japanese at Tavoy, South Burma, in June 1942 an Australian Army Padre had not been called to give evidence at the Manus war trials. He is Padre Frederick Hugh Bashford, now stationed at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Canberra. Bashford said he was handed Commonwealth Government affidavits of experience but had not been directed to attend the trials. He understood evidence at the trials would be purely documentary in order to avoid as far as possible cross examination of witnesses.

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Bashford last week told the grim story of his experience as the witness with late Brigadier Al Varley at the shooting of the eight Australians. "Afterwards we conducted a joint funeral service over their bodies with the Roman Catholic chaplain of the camp," he said. He said Varley's death left him the sole surviving witness of the terrible incident. "It was an incident which I will never forget. Having talked to the men before they were shot I knew them perhaps better than I ever knew anybody," he added. Bashford said he arrived at Tavoy compound two days before the eight Australians one night walked out. Two days later they were recaptured and several days afterwards with Varley he was called before Captain Shina now on trial at Manus and instructed to be present at the execution.

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Publication of Names

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who were subjected to atrocities by Japanese soldiers who are now appearing before the Australian War Crimes Court at Manus Island should not be published the secretary of the Air Force Association, Mr. C. J. Austin, said today. Mr. Austin said the Association was concerned for the feelings of relatives.

"The A.F.A. feels that after so many years publication of the victims' names will lead to the needless opening of wounds in the hearts of their next of kin," Mr. Austin added. "We have received many protests on this matter."

The State president of the R.S.L., Mr. W. Yeo, said he had not received any protests. "While publication of the victims' names will probably upset the next of kin I would think they would receive considerable satisfaction from the knowledge that the atrocity perpetrators had paid for their crimes," he said.

Los Negros, June 12 (from A.A.P. special correspondent)—The Australian pressmen reporting the trials were told

last week of an instruction issued by Army Headquarters, Melbourne, that the names of murdered men may not be used in newspaper stories. The instruction had been conveyed to them by the officer commanding the first Australian war crimes section, Lieut-Colonel F. G. Fuller.

In the first case in which the two Japanese officers are charged with the murder of eight Australian soldiers next-of-kin knew that the men were shot by the Japanese. President of the Court, Brigadier K. R. Dunley, said that he had no power to order suppression of the men's names and certainly he had no power to disciplinary action against pressmen if they did not abide by the instruction.

Relieved of Court Duty

An Australian Army officer asked to

be relieved of duty as a member of the War Crimes Court so that there could be no suggestion of partiality. He was Major G. G. Schneider of Brisbane who was replaced by Major N. McLeod.

Major Schneider's name was included in the original convening order as one of five members of the court. In the meantime, however it had been discovered that the eight Australian soldiers were members of the 2/4 Australian Anti-Tank Regiment. Schneider commanded a battery of that regiment and six of the murdered men were under his command. Schneider immediately asked to be relieved of duty. Schneider was taken prisoner in Malaya and later worked on the Burma railway.

Leader of the Japanese defence team, Choji Nakayama, said he wanted to let the world know that the accused men were getting a fair trial. He added that Japanese accused of similar offences by their own Army would not get a comparably fair trial.

The two Japanese accused in the first case are Major Hiroshi Itou and Captain Hirayasu Rhina, both formerly of the Imperial Guards division which fought in the Malayan campaign in 1942. Their General Officer Commanding, Major General Takuma Nishimura, who was regarded as second only to Yamashita as the Malayan strategist will later be charged with murder and atrocities.

The fate of 26 Japanese soldiers, sailors and airmen from generals and admirals down to privates will be decided by the court. Hearing is expected to last from six to 12 months. Members of the court for the first case are Brigadier K. R. Townley (president), Lieut-Colonel N. F. Quinton, Major E. J. Gerlin, Major W. E. Clarke and Major N. McLeod. The prosecutor is Major Alex MacKay of Perth and the Japanese defence counsel is being assisted by Major G. Dickinson of Sydney.

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TAUGHT TO OBEY ORDERS, SAYS ITSUI

LOS NEGROS: He had been taught at military college to obey orders implicitly and at the risk of one's life, Major Hiroshi Itsui told the War Crimes Court here yesterday.

Itsui is charged jointly with Captain Hirayasu Shina with the murder of eight Australian POW at Tavoy (South Burma) in June, 1942.

Itsui's counsel, Yunosuke Kamimura, after examining him for five hours, had still not reached the stage where Itsui went from Sumatra to Burma and there committed the alleged crimes for which he has been charged.

Itsui sat motionless, with his back straight, during the whole hearing.

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Kamimura tendered copies of Japanese regulations for military disciplinary punishment and the code of criminal law of the Japanese army. He drew special attention to Article 57 of the regulations which he said dealt

Japanese army. He drew special attention to Article 57 of the regulations, which he said dealt with the punishment to be inflicted on a soldier who disobeyed orders.

When he asked Itsui if he knew the penalties under these regulations for disobeying a superior officer's order, Itsui replied: "In a theatre of war disobedience is punishable by death."

Itsui added that a soldier must obey orders immediately they are given, and not question whether the order was right or wrong. The officer giving him orders while his unit was stationed in South Burma was the late General Yamashita, the "Tiger of Malaya."

"If I had disobeyed his orders I would have been charged," Itsui said.

He claimed he had been given only about one hour's instruction in international law during the whole of his military career, and did not know that Japan had been a signatory to the Geneva Convention.

**FROM 1938-1945, REV. BASHFORD
WAS THE PASTOR OF ST. JOHN'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH, MOLONG, NEW
SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.**



1938 - 1945	Rev Frederick Hugh Bashford	1904	1950
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Death Of 8th. Division Padre

Canberra, November 6.—A former prisoner of war of the Japanese and resident Chaplain of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Padre Frederick Hugh Bashford (48) collapsed and died shortly after performing a wedding ceremony at Queanbeyan on Saturday.

Padre Bashford took ill while signing of the registry at the wedding of Mr. Robert Norton and Miss Betty May, which was taking place at Christ Church, Queanbeyan, and was assisted to the rectory where he died half an hour later.

Padre Bashford, Eight Division Chaplain and prisoner of the Japanese in Malaya, worked on the notorious Burma railway.

While in prison camp he was to witness the shooting of seven Australian soldiers by the Japanese. He collected details of the atrocities, including the names of the Japanese perpetrators in a small note book, which he buried in the prison compound. At the war's end he returned to the camp, dug up the note book and handed the information to the Australian War Crimes authorities.

Two Japanese were later found guilty of the atrocities at the Los Negros war trials.

Padre Bashford had been resident Chaplain at Duntroon College since early this year. He leaves a widow and two children, who live in Sydney.

TRIBUTE TO LATE PADRE BASHFORD

"Service was the watchword of Padre Bashford's life at the college." Major-General H. Wells, Commandant of the Duntroon Royal Military College, said yesterday.

General Wells was speaking at a memorial service for Padre Bashford in St. John's Church of England.

The service was attended by the staff and cadets of the college.

Padre F. H. Bashford was Senior Chaplain at the college until his sudden death in Queanbeyan on Saturday afternoon.

Major-General Wells said that Padre Bashford had devoted his life to service to God, his King and Country, his community, and his fellow men.

"The Padre was always willing to help wherever he could and was always happy while doing so," he said.

"It was this quality, more than any other, which earned him the high respect and esteem in which he was held by all at the college.

"In the all too short time he was with us he made a lasting place for himself in the college.

"If he had been spared a little longer he would have earned the love of all."

The service yesterday was conducted by the Rev. Archdeacon R. E. Davies.

He was assisted by the Coadjutor of Canberra-Goulburn, the Right Rev. Bishop K. J. Clements, and the Right Rev. H. Harrison, Presbyterian Moderator.

Other clergy present included the Rev. J. Baskin, a close friend

Other clergy present included the Rev. J. Baskin, a close friend of the late Padre Bashford, and the Rev. J. Rose, from Queanbeyan.

Lieutenant W. R. Phaup represented the Harman Naval Station. The R.A.A.F. at Fairbairn was represented by Flight-Lieutenant J. Guthrie.

Hymns sung during the service included, "Praise My Soul the King of Heaven," "For All the Saints, Who from Their Labours Rest," and the anthem, "Non Nobis Domine."

The remains of the late Padre Bashford will be cremated in Sydney after a service at St. Luke's Church, Mosman.

The registrar of births, deaths and marriages in Queanbeyan said yesterday that he had not yet received the marriage certificate of the couple married by Padre Bashford just before his death.

He said he did not know whether Padre Bashford had signed the certificate.

SUDDEN DEATH OF R.M.C. PADRE AFTER WEDDING SERVICE

Padre Frederick Hugh Bashford, 48, Senior Chaplain at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, died suddenly, half an hour after he had performed a wedding ceremony, in Queanbeyan on Saturday afternoon.

Padre Bashford complained of illness when he completed the ceremony and was assisted to the Queanbeyan Church of England rectory, where he died of a heart seizure.

He celebrated the marriage of Miss B. May and Mr. R. Norton, both of Queanbeyan, before he complained of his illness.

A special memorial service for Padre Bashford will be conducted by the Rev. Archdeacon R. E. Davies, in St. John's Church, at 2 p.m. to-day.

It will be attended by the staff of the R.M.C. and the Corps of Staff Cadets from the College.

The remains will be sent to Sydney to be cremated after a service at St. Luke's Church, Mosman, to-morrow.

The Sydney service is being arranged by relatives of Padre Bashford and will be attended by representatives of the Commandant of the College and the Army.

During the morning service at St. John's Church yesterday, Archdeacon R. E. Davies announced the death of Padre Bashford.

He said that his close personal friend, the Rev. John Baskin, of Canberra, would conduct the Evensong service at St. John's in place of Padre Bashford.

Padre Bashford is survived by his widow, a son, and a daughter, who are living in Sydney.

Padre Bashford was a prisoner-of-war in Japanese camps for four years and it is thought that had treatment he received may have contributed to his death.

He was known to most ex-servicemen in Canberra and held in high respect by them.

He first came to Canberra about a year ago as Senior Chaplain to the R.M.C.

He was made a Deacon in 1935 and ordained to the Anglican Priesthood during the following year. He first served in the Grafton and Bathurst dioceses where he became curate and later Rector at Lowanna, between 1935-37.

In 1937, he was appointed Vicar of Clunes and held that post until he became Rector of Molong in 1939, his last civil appointment.

In 1941 he joined the A.I.F. and became a member of the

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While a prisoner-of-war he was in the notorious Changi Camp and on the Burma railway. On one occasion he was forced to witness the execution of several Australian soldiers and, later, in an affidavit, gave evidence of this to the War Crimes trials.

After the war, Padre Bashford returned to Australia, but took up an appointment with the Occupation Forces in Japan. While in Japan, he met Bishop Yashiro, who visited Canberra this year as Bishop of Japan.

He remained in Japan until he was appointed to Duntroon where he has made a lasting impression.

The Commandant of the Col-

lege, Major-General H. Wells, said last night that the loss of Padre Bashford would be a great blow to the College.

"Although he had only been at the College for a short time he had won the highest regard of both the staff and the cadets at the College," General Wells said.

The president of the Legion of Ex-servicemen and Women, Mr. L. Bligh, said that the loss of Padre Bashford was a tragic one for Canberra.

"Every man who knew him had the greatest respect for him. He was a 'man' in every sense of the word," he said.