**ORAL HISTORY RECORDING**

TITLE: FRED SEABORN - 9TH FIELD AMBULANCE – SECOND WORLD WAR

INTERVIEWEE: FRED SEABORN

INTERVIEWER: RICHARD RAXWORTHY

SUMMARY:

DATE RECORDED: 21 AUGUST 1991

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START OF TAPE 24A

Identification: This is the 9th Australian Field Ambulance, AIF, Oral History Project, Tape 24A, 21 August 1991. I am talking to Fred Seaborn.

Where were you born and when?

In Sydney, 22 November 1920.

Can you remember your service number?

Yes, it was NX117547.

Did you grow up in Sydney?

Yes.

What part?

Crows Nest.

What school did you go to?

Naremburn and North Sydney Tech School.

Where did you start work?

Faye's Shoe Store, in the city.

Was it easy to get a job in those days, or very hard?

Not easy.

Your father was in work? It was during the depression time, wasn't it?

In and out. He was a boat builder, shipwright. He had a lot of off time, but did do a fair amount of work.

When he was off work, did he go on relief work, or that sort of thing?

He did a little bit, but there wasn't much relief in those days. It was dole coupons. One week in about 20 of them, or something like that, from the council.

What did you do at Faye's? Did you work in the shop?

I was a salesman in the shop and in the warehouse. When I came back from the war I became a manager with them.

Were you called up for compulsory military service?

Yes, called up, yes.

Where did you go first?

We went up to Ingleburn or Wallgrove.

About when were you called up, do you know?

Was it 1941? About 1941 I think it was.

Where was the unit?

Wallgrove ... or Ingleburn. I don't know now, I wouldn't be quite sure.

Can you remember being at St Ives at all?

Yes, I was at St Ives, yes.

I think you must have been at Ingleburn, then.

Probably, yes.

Do you remember the horse lines?

Yes, at Ingleburn, yes.

So, when you first arrived, can you remember who you saw first?

Not offhand, no.

Who was the commanding officer then?

Colonel Davies.

Did he ride a horse in those days?

He certainly did, old Pete. (laughs)

Do you remember the name of his horse?

Not offhand, no.

Was it Sally?

Sally, that's right, yes.

Do you remember the size of the feet on it?

I can remember his size, not the size of the feet of the horse.

What job did you get when you got there?

Just general trainee, that was all.

In what section?

B Company.

You were in the ambulance therefore.

Ambulance section, yes.

Did you get medical training there?

A little, not much, mostly field training.

Do you know how you managed to get placed in that 9th Field Ambulance?

No. It was just the luck of the draw. You just went in and went wherever they sent you. There was no selection, you didn't pick anything. That was all. We just went where we were sent.

Were you signed up at any other place before you were sent there?

At North Sydney Military Hall, I think it was. I did a medical there, then I went from there out to Ingleburn. That's right, yes.

Were you one of the ones that was let out after a short period of training and brought back again?

No. I stayed in all through.

At Ingleburn, do you remember the horse lines?

Yes, quite definitely.

Do you remember going on any bivouacs?

At Ingleburn, yes, we did. Down around off Wollongong, Mount Keira, Darkes Forest, a few of those.

Did you go out with horse transport at all?

They took some horse transport, but mostly it was trucks I think, from memory.

So what was your job on those bivouacs?

To keep out of trouble!

Did you go on foot?

We marched, yes.

Did you get any medical training at that time?

You got a little all the way through, but not a lot.

What, as a stretcher-bearer?

Yes, probably, yes.

When did you move from Ingleburn? Where did you go next, do you know?

I think we went to Frenchs Forest.

Were you camped out there?

Yes, we were camped out in Frenchs Forest.

Were you camped out at Ingleburn?

Yes, in huts.

At Frenchs Forest you were camped out in tents.

Yes, in tents.

Were you there for the bushfire?

Definitely, we fought the bushfires, with an 18-gallon keg. (laughs)

That was afterwards, was it?

One of the officers put it on for us. One of the officers went down the pub and bought a keg for the boys after they had been fighting the fires.

Someone said it was the locals who put it on.

No, they put a turn out on later. They put a turn out on after it was all over, in appreciation for saving a few of the homes.

Where did you go from Frenchs Forest? Did you go to St Ives at all?

Yes, we went to St Ives.

Where was that?

The Green Toad.

Were you living at the Green Toad, were you camped out?

No, we were camped at the Green Toad.

What about any of the other places? Were you at Pennant Hills Golf Club?

Yes, I was up there for a while, the Bankstown baths, yes.

Were you at Bankstown baths?

Yes.

Were you camped out there as well?

In the dressing rooms.

You were living in them?

Living in the dressing room, yes, right at the back of the pub.

What were you doing there?

Mostly it was where they held sick parades for the troops in the area. There was Captain Heffernan and my old football mate, Ross McCourt. They were the two officers that were there.

Can you remember when Colonel Bretherton took over from old Pete?

I think it was in Frenchs Forest.

Did you have anything to do with the horses before they got rid of them?

No, nothing to do with them, no.

You had nothing to do with the transport.

No, I was never in the transport section.

So where did you go next? Is that when you went to Wallgrove? Most of them went to Wallgrove, but not all of them.

I would have gone to Wallgrove with them, yes.

What was that like, at Wallgrove?

Wallgrove was quite okay. It was a proper Army camp. It had been there for years.

Were you there when they had that flu epidemic?

I don't think so.

A few of them have mentioned that there was a flu epidemic and lots of people were in hospital and they were running hundreds of people there.

No. I don't remember that at all.

So where next?

From Wallgrove we went to Brisbane, I think it was.

Did you go to Narellan first?

Yes, Narellan, yes.

How long were you there?

It wasn't such a long period. I can't remember.

Some of them were there for months and other were just there for a few days before they went.

No. It would be a few months, but offhand I can't remember.

Did you get any medical training during that period?

You got a little bit of medical training all the time, but not a lot at all. Particularly I was more out in the field, so I wasn't in the RAP, so you didn't learn that much at all. We were learning first aid rather than the sickness side, you know, how to stop bleeding, how to put on splints and all those sort of things. But not a great deal. There was very intermittent training with that.

On the train, did anything special happen on the train on the way to Brisbane or did you just go straight through there? Where did you go when you got there?

We went to Brisbane. I think we were at that little racecourse outside of Brisbane. Bendeema [Bundamba] was it?

The only one that I heard of was Ascot.

No, no, it wasn't Ascot.

Other people were at Grovely. There are Doomben, Eagle Farm and Ascot, and they are all together.

No, it wasn't one of those. It was another one.

What about Grovely camp. Were you out there?

I was at Grovely, yes. That was a proper army camp.

But you were at another racecourse, you think.

Yes, Bendeema [Bundamba, Ipswich], is it?

There is Bendemeer [Bundamba], yes.

Bendemeer [Bundamba], yes.

Wait a minute, you might have been in Bundamba, which is Ipswich.

No, we were on the way to Ipswich. It was on the road to Ipswich, but it wasn't that far out of Brisbane.

There is one at Bendemeer, but I thought that was in New South Wales.

No, that's outside of Brisbane.

How long do you think you were in Brisbane?

Two or three months.

Then where?

I think I got on a hospital train from there. I went with Major Heffernan.

Did you go north with a crowd and get held up by the floods?

We were held up at the Burdekin. We stopped at McKay. We were on the train to Rockhampton for several days. It is isolated there, north and south.

When the train went on, where did you end up?

After I left the train?

No, on the train.

We went to Townsville, then we went out on another trip to Long Reef.

How many times did you pick up, and where did you pick up the wounded?

We picked up at Townsville and I think we did a Cairns trip once too.

Where did you drop them?

Back in Brisbane.

Did you go right to the yards on the South Brisbane side and join up with the New South Wales trains, or what?

No. Not from memory, I don't think so.

So whereabouts did you bring them into Brisbane?

One of the main streets. Spencer Street, was it?

There's one on the south side and one on the north side.

I can't remember.

What sort of cases were you bringing down?

They were mostly Americans. They were walking wounded, mostly. There were a few on crutches and stretchers and different things, but mostly they were malarial types or something like tropical diseases or this nature of thing.

They were mostly American?

Mostly Americans, yes.

Did they have their own hospitals down there?

After they left the train, they would have gone to their own.

The train, that was a Queensland railways train, was it?

Yes.

Who was in charge?

Major Heffernan.

Were you a sergeant at that time?

Yes, I was a sergeant, yes.

So what was your job on the train?

More or less to organise the troops when we were loading or unloading. I had practically nothing else to do when the train was in transit. The boys used to look after the carriages and the patients. It was a routine job.

Did you have an orderly room and did you run it?

No. I lived in the last carriage at the back of the train where all the troop's gear was put, all their sausage bags.

The baggage car.

Yes.

So was there an orderly room somewhere else on the train?
No, there was no orderly room.

What about a dining car?

They had a dining car there, yes, but it was a pretty rough and ready type of thing.

Did you have your own cook?

Yes, Stan Loon was our cook, from memory.

How many did he have to look after? The whole train?

Not really. They used to bring food aboard, I think it stopped at McKay and somewhere else on the way down. That's a bit hazy. I know he couldn't cook for the lot.

Do you remember how many carriages there were? How many cars?

There were about eight, I think it was.

Was there an admin car, or was there only just a dining car?

There was just a dining car and a baggage car.

Were they sleeping cars, or were they specially fitted out as ambulance cars?

No. They were just an ordinary Queensland train. They had fitted them out with bunks for the patients and the boys had bunks, but there was nothing special about them at all.

How many high were the bunks?

I think they were only on the bottom, from memory, I don't think they were double tiered. I can't remember really.

Somebody has described to me the New South Wales one. Apparently there were three tier bunks on the New South Wales one. It was convertible. You could pull them down or put them up.

I don't remember that at all.

They used to think they could get six in each compartment. They were living amongst them.

From my memory it was a full train with bunks either side all the way down. There were no separate compartments off with so many like that.

I understand, yes. So it was an open carriage.

Open carriage, yes.

Were they pulled by two engines or one? Were they steam engines?

A steam engine which wouldn't pull your hat off. One trip to Townsville from Charters Towers, 120 miles, took eight hours. It was an empty train it was. It was four carriages long and go up a bit of a hill, uncouple the last four and pull that four on to a siding and then take that four back about five miles, get a bit of steam up and get them over the hill and then go and uncouple, go back and do the same thing. It took eight or 10 hours from the time we left Townsville.

Incredible. So how many trips did you do? Did you do three?

I thought there were more than three. There might have been only three, but I thought there were more. We finished up out at Tolga, I think, didn't we?

When you got to Tolga, did you leave the train there?

We were there at Tolga a while and I think we rejoined the unit at Ravenshoe.

All that time, can you think of any of the others who were on that train with you?

There were Jimmy Sykes and Ken Payne. I few of the boys offhand now. I think Jimmy Harrang, Jackie Rickert. I remember old mama Quinn, Stan Quinn. Alan Percival was there. Nugett was there. I suppose there were about 18 or 20 all together, but I can't remember the lot of them now.

Where were you living when you got to Tolga?

On the train.

I mean after the trains.

After the train we went to Ravenshoe and we were in tents there.

What were you doing there?

Just waiting for a trip over, from memory.

Did you get into trouble, or any of your people get into trouble with the Americans.

Not at Ravenshoe. No. I think there was a bit of a dust up at McKay at one time with a few of the boys, but it was only minor. At Townsville there was another bit of a dust up, which the CO was very, very crooked on.

But you didn't see any of that first hand?

No. It was my mates, but he was dealt with very severely. He was confined to barracks for 24 hours I think it was. He was a good man, the old CO.

What were you doing up there, just waiting?

We went to Oonoonba, I think it was, to a staging camp there, waiting for a boat to take us to New Guinea. We were there for quite a while. There were a lot of false alarms, but eventually we got away.

Where did you get to in New Guinea? Is there anything special you remember about the boat?

Yes. I got full the night before we landed. I was the only troop on the boat who knew two of the butchers, they were civilians and they invited me down to their rooms. I was late getting up on deck for parade. (laughs) That is the only thing I can remember. I was very unpopular with the rest of my mates.

When you got to Port Moresby, where did you go first?

Rigo Road, I think it was.

Where was that?

About 14 miles out of Port Moresby, from memory.

Is it up towards the [Buna] Falls or not?

Yes, up that way, yes.

Did you ever come across a bloke called John Rainbow?

Yes. Johnnie Rainbow, yep.

Do you know where the water supply was at that time, because apparently he was looking after it and he wasn't quite sure where it was.

No, not offhand.

They put him up there and he said he was up there for days swimming around keeping the inlet clear.

Was that the River Luloki? I forget the name of it.

There are some waterfalls there.

Up above the falls, yes.

Anyway, while you were at Rigo Road, how long do you think you were there? Did anything happen while you were there and what were you doing there?

We were basically just running an RAP service for the troops in the area, giving them their booster shots and all this sort of thing. They would come in and line up in queues. That is about all. I played a bit of football, of course.

Who gave the injections?

Mostly the officers. Captain Heffernan we had. He made me give them, which I was a bit scared of the first time, but after that there was nothing in it.

He showed you how to do it properly.

Yes. The old dart method with the finger and thumb. Put it straight in and then put the syringe on it.

You were good at darts, were you?

None of the fellows ever complained. I think they were frightened, I think.

How long do you think you were there?

I was at Rigo Road about few months, from memory.

Where next?

Lux Lane we went from there.

What was that like?

It was reasonable. It was a bit cooler climate, with the exception of Major Thomas, decided we should all have a bit of the few days up the Kokoda Trail. It wasn't very pleasant walking up the muddy mountainside. But he kept us in pretty good nick.

Did he put you on the mad mile?

No. That was Colonel Bretherton's baby. That was up in Wau that he had that built.

Did you go with Major Thomas to Tsili Tsili?

No, I wasn't up at Tsili Tsili.

Did you stay at Lux Lane and then you went to Wau, did you?

No. I went over to Lae. I think it was Nadzab and then Lae.

How did you get to Nadzab?

By truck, I think, from memory.

Nadzab by truck?

We came round by boat from Moresby.

To where?

To Lae. Then we were taken by truck at about 20 mile out to Nadzab.

Who was in that group? Who was in charge of that group?

Captain Curry and the Irishman John O'Rourke. He was out there with us.

Was he the fellow who wanted to get out up into the fighting?

No, that was poor old Major Holcombe, back in Australia. He was taking tonsils out without any anaesthetic.

Were you under Major Holcombe anywhere?

Yes. He was in charge of B Company for quite a while when we trained out at Frenchs Forest. He used to take us on route marches down there through Wakehurst Parkway, as it is now.

How did he go with his stiff leg?

He went extra well and we broke his heart. We came up the hill, we drove him and he used to drive us and swing that leg and go about 20 miles an hour. We were younger and we drove him up the hill and he had to stop and have a rest and he never took us again.

But when you went from Lux Lane, did you go directly around to Lae to Nadzab?

I am pretty sure it was direct from there, yes.

Do you remember the name of the boat that went round?

It might have been the Montague. I have an idea it was the Montague, but I wouldn't be sure though.

Can you remember who was with you?

At Nadzab?

On that trip round. How many of you there were.

I think practically the unit went round. I can't remember offhand. I thought most of the unit went round. A lot of the unit went round.

There were actually three groups, possibly even four groups went to Nadzab, different ways.

Yes. I remember our group we were there for quite a while.

Were you the first group to relieve the ones that were going up to Dumpu or were they the second group.

I think we were the first one. They went up to Dumpu and we relieved them.

But some came over by plane as well to relieve them.

No, we didn't come by plane. The only place we went by plane was when we were up at Wau.

When you went round were you the sergeant at that time?

Yes.

So you were in charge, apart from Curry.

Yes.

So when you got to Lae, were there any air-raids on the way round? Did you go straight round?

Straight round, no problems.

No weather.

No, weather was good.

One of them went into Milne Bay and I'm not quite sure which one.

No, we didn't go into Milne Bay.

They had bad weather and this mob went in. So when you got to Lae and they sent you up to Nadzab by truck, can you remember how the others had already gone to Dumpu. Did you take their place?

I think we took their place from memory, yes.

What was it like when you got there.

It wasn't too bad at all.

Was it native huts or was it tents?

We lived in tents and we had a hut put up for meals. We shared a big combined hut with the Americans for a mess hut. It was partitioned off.

What about the cases that you were evacuating?

If the weather was all right, they were attended by the MO and they went straight on to a plane over to Moresby. If the weather was bad, we kept them overnight there in bush huts on camp stretchers and got them away first thing in the morning on to the planes. But sometimes if the weather closed in over the mountains they wouldn't take them.

So if you were holding men in the evacuation posts over night, did you have a sleep down there? How many of you would sleep down there to look after them?

Only one or two. There were never that many. There might have been 30 or 40 men at the most. They weren't really bad. If they were really bad cases the MO would send them down to Lae to the AGH - I forget what AGH it was - for the night. Other than that he would keep them where we were if they were not too bad and send them on.

Was the actual loading of the planes done by you people or was it done by New Guineans?

Mostly done by American ambulances, American drivers. There were a few Australians there. The boys would give a hand lifting the stretchers on and off.

You didn't have any New Guinean native bearers?

Not bearers, no, not from memory. I think they were used mostly for cleaning up around the place and unloading the planes with the goods and things of this nature.

What sort of ambulances did you have?

The old butterbox type of ambulance.

You didn't use jeep ambulances.

No, they were full army ambulance type.

So things had changed by this time. I suppose the difference was when they could get through to Lae.

I should imagine so. The Americans had everything that opens and shuts as far as equipment went.

The people you were evacuating, who were they?

They were Australians, mostly.

From where?

From Dumpu and Shaggy Ridge further on.

What was happening? Were they being evacuated from Dumpu back to Nadzab?

Back to Nadzab, yes. Then from Nadzab they would be split up either back to Moresby or down to Lae. We didn't keep any there. They went on to either Lae or Moresby.

Did you have the one doctor with you all the time?

Yes.

Curry and O'Rourke, there were two of them.

Yes. They were the two. I don't think there were any changes there in my time. They were both there, yes.

Were there any badly wounded people?

We got some badly wounded ones, yes. They went straight on to the plane or straight down to the AGH at Lae.

Can you remember what you were doing particularly? You were in charge more than anything, were you?

I was in charge of the troops. My job is just generally field job to make sure that their cook was on the job and everything was under control and planes were kept tidy and the RAP was kept up to date. We didn't have a great deal to do. Sometimes patients came in on a plane and the MO would examine them and they might be gone in half an hour and there would be nothing else to do much for the day then.

Who was the cook?

Percival.

It wasn't Stan Loon.

No, Stan wasn't with us then, no.

So when did you leave there?

I left there to go back to Wau. I went back to Wau.

Do you have any idea why you went back there?

Yes, the football team got beaten and Smithy and I were brought back. The CO didn't like getting beaten. Colonel Bretherton didn't like getting beaten so we were brought back from Lae.

END OF TAPE 24A

START OF TAPE 24B

Identification: This is Fred Seaborn, side two.

I was just talking about how you got from Nadzab to Wau and you said you got a boat.

A boat across the river, then by truck from across - I forget the name of the little place over the other side of the river from Lae - but all the way up through the mountains through Bulolo right to Wau.

How long did that take?

A few hours. It was a very rough road. Lots of places were just those corduroy logs one after another, very, very rough and bumpy.

How many of you?

Only Jack Smith and I went on that trip.

Who was driving you.

I think it was one of our drivers sent down from Wau. I couldn't tell you who it was though.

So you got back to Wau, what was it like when you got there?

A reunion with the boys, and a beautiful spot. Sluggo said we had to be training the next afternoon, straightaway.

Sluggo.

Sluggo Elliott, Captain Elliott. He didn't get a lot of army protocol from the boys, but he was a champion fellow.

Did you know him from before?

No, I didn't know him, no.

So how did they know to get you up for football? Had your word gone before you?

I had played grade before I left Sydney. We had played a bit in Moresby and when we first went there, so they knew the form. Jack Smith was our number one player. He was down here with me so the CO said, 'Get both up here and I'm not getting beaten again', which I don't think we were.

What was Sluggo Elliott like as a coach?

Very good. He involved himself. He used to play halfback for us lots of times. He was a tough little bird, but a real good fellow.

Who did you play at Wau anyway?

I meant to bring the book in. I have a book at home with all the team's names. I think we played the second commander at one time. I can't remember the other group. But there were some big battalions. We had a pretty good side, but we were only a small show. We had a bit of talent in our crowd which made it a bit easier.

What was it like at Wau? Where did you live?

The sergeants were in an old house, about 100 yards down from the administration section. Most of the boys were in bush huts, I think, from memory. We had an old house, nothing palatial, just rooms with a bunk. So we did it pretty comfortable there.

What about the officers, where were they?

They also had a similar type of accommodation. I think they were up in the admin section,

There had been a hotel there, hadn't there?

There had been originally but it was burnt down. All that was left of the township itself was the vault from the bank. The rest of them had been raised and there was only these couple of big old homes owned by a German pre-war which was just out of Wau itself, on the side of a hill. It was a very nice spot.

What else did you get up to down there? Do you remember the newspaper that used to run?

The Bully Tin? Oh yes, our Bully Tin was Unit 1. The CO gave a prize for the best name for it. A lot of names were put in and the Bully Tin was the name that got the prize which was quite appropriate.

What else? Do you remember any sly grogging or home brewing?

Yes. The boys had a still there. The hygiene squad had a still which they had bought from a previous crowd that were there. They used to make a very potent brew, which the Yanks mostly bought for a pound a bottle. They used to test it by spilling some on the ground and throwing a match on it. When it blew up with a blue flame the Yanks said that was all right and they would buy it. But that was destroyed the night we left. The CO was not supposed to know nothing about it. He knew it was there all the time. He came round and said, 'We're going. Now go and smash the still, it has to be destroyed'. That was the night we left there.

I heard that some of the fellows were selling gold as well.

Three of the boys were panning a bit of gold and a couple of shrewdies were melting down copper coins and making gold rings.

But they were found out by a chemist we had, Ray Hayward. He was the sergeant. He used to test the rings with some acid and it would turn green. He said, 'That's not pure gold' so they didn't sell him any. But quite a few of them got a bit of gold out of there.

Some of them told me that the Americans used to fly in to buy it.

I think that could be, but there wasn't that much. There wasn't that much gold at all. The few bob they made out of it, the boys with the still made more money than they did.

What about Bulolo, did you get down there?

I only played football there, or came through it. I had never stayed there.

So what else was there at Wau?

There wasn't a great deal. Just a couple of things you remember. Just one time a little native boy blew himself up with a hand grenade and they brought him up, he was only about nine years old. They brought him up and the officers, Colonel Bretherton, Major Thomas, Captain Elliott all operated on him and amputated one arm off where the bone was all left. He was peppered and cut back. They had to cut all his toes off and we thought he would be dead over night. About five days after he was standing up on the stump of his foot and waving the stump of his arm at us. That was one of the things that stick in your memory, how hardy and tough those natives were.

Is there anything else you can think of.

Only myself, the best black eye in New Guinea. I would play in the commandoes and I tackled a fellow and I went in to tackle him. Somebody hit him before me and my eye and his head cracked. We were going off and Major Thomas said he would put a bit of sticking plaster on, you're all right. As soon as the game was over he raced in and said he wanted to put a few stitches in it for you. When I got up to the RAP there was a fellow on the table and they had shaved his head right off and they had just finished stitching right across the skull, about 14 stitches. I said to him with one eye, 'What happened to you?'. He said, 'I hit you'. He was the fellow I went in to tackle. He opened up like an egg shell. I didn't remember that part at all.

Is there anything else?

Not offhand, no. I think the night we got orders to move back and come out Colonel Bretherton had put on a ping pong tournament to amuse the boys and to stop lethargy. We were in the middle of that and he had just got beaten and he didn't like getting beaten. He was pretty cranky and they all went

crook because he got beaten, we should have let him win. The next thing he came round and stood fast. We thought, 'Hello, it's going to be on'. Instead of that he said we had to get ready to move and we had to be ready by seven in the morning. It was good news.

Where did you go?

Back into Lae to wait for a boat for a week or so. Then we got on the boat and we were home and into Brisbane.

How did you go from Brisbane?

By train back to Sydney.

Then where?

We got demobbed there. In Sydney I went out to outside of Newcastle, Rutherford. I was there until I came back for demobbing.

You didn't go anywhere else after that?

I don't remember. Did I go to Goulburn after that? Yes, I went to Goulburn. I went from Rutherford to Goulburn.

Kenmore Hospital.

Kenmore, yes.

What were you doing there?

Just the same thing. As a matter of fact I had charge of a big semi trailer with a team of fellahs. We kept all the wards supplied with wood, coal and coke for the laundry and all that type of thing. It was a good, manual occupation which kept us busy for most of the day. Then we played up after that.

Did you stay there until you were demobbed?

Yes. I went from there to the showground for demobbing.

What did you do after the war?

I went back to Faye's and stayed there until I retired about eight or nine years ago.

Can you think of any more stories? I remember Tom was talking about something that happened with the Americans there up at Rockhampton, was it?

Oh Rockie, yeah. I wasn't there, but the boys were out.

So it's not first hand.

No, it was some of my mates, Snowy Calwell. You would probably have heard of him in the records. Snow stood them up. There were about 25,000 Yanks and Snow and a few of the boys and somebody took his army hat. He stood on the Town Hall steps there and declared them all on. He got his hat back. Cheeky as they come. The other time was at Townsville when the boys got in a cafe there and they couldn't get served. They'd only serve the Yanks. Jackie Rickert and Butch Jones and a couple of the others took a bit of umbridge at this and tipped a tray of fruit drink over the Greek proprietor. He called the provos and they got arrested but the CO didn't do much to them.

Can you think of anything else?

No, that is about all.

Thank you very much, Mr Fred Seaborn.

Okay.

END OF TAPE - END OF INTERVIEW