

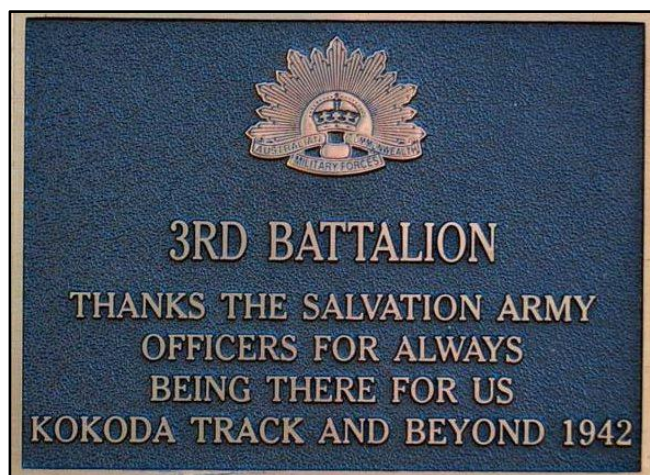
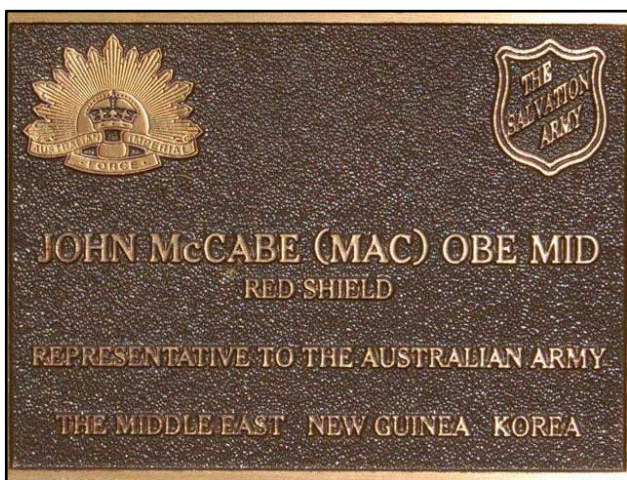


Stories from the Plaques No. 5: The 'Sallymen': Salvation Army Officers



While the focus of the Kokoda Track and Papuan campaigns usually centres upon the service personnel who fought there, there were others whose presence provided support of a very different kind. They too belonged to an 'army', and while not armed for many troops they were well-respected and admired. Overall, members of the Salvation Army won almost universal praise for their presence along the Track, and were welcomed by all ranks wherever they chose to 'set up shop'.

In the Walkway's Memorial Rose Garden, two plaques are specifically dedicated to the Salvation Army officers: one for Captain (later Brigadier) John McCabe OBE MID (Mentioned in Dispatches), and the other (donated by the 3rd Battalion) which thanked the Salvation Army officers 'for always being there for us [at] Kokoda Track and beyond 1942'. The plaques can be located at the South Arc (position 12) and South Wall (position 51/1) respectively.



Plaques in the KTMW's Memorial Rose Garden honouring the services of John McCabe OBE MID and all Salvation Army officers.

Who were these men, and what led them to be with the troops on the front lines, including the harsh New Guinea campaign?

The Salvation Army in Australia had a long history of providing spiritual and physical comfort to

Australian service personnel, stretching back to the Boer War and WWI. This continued into WWII, both within Australia (in cities and towns) and across many campaign locations where the 'Salvos' provided all manner of goods and services to Australian and Allied personnel (it should be noted that often Salvation Army staff collaborated with other organisations in establishing these centres).

They were deemed as 'Representatives to the Australian Military Forces', providing them with an official status. They were eligible for meals, quarters and transportation, plus the status of an officer, but not with military rank. While they were not paid by the government or military, they were subject to military law (one material benefit allowed them to be eligible for Repatriation benefits upon their return if they served overseas on active service). In 1942, it was reported that the Salvation Army had over 155 men and women attached to the services (seven were located in New Guinea), at a cost of £1,500 per week. By the end of the war, over 270 Salvos had been attached to service units.

Prior to the Kokoda campaign, many Sallymen had been with Australian troops in the Middle East and North African theatres of war, where their bravery under fire and resourcefulness had earned them universal respect among the troops. Here they established the popular 'Hop In' centres, where on-the-spot comforts (snacks, meals, hot and cold drinks) were offered, together with a place to relax. No matter if these facilities were large marquees or mobile vans, or hastily erected flimsies along the Track, they were characterised by the famous Salvation Army Red Shield logo displayed prominently. Whilst a religious organisation, the Salvos were respected and admired by battle-hardened troops for their pragmatic approach and non-judgmental practicalities.

During the Kokoda Track campaign, two Sallymen in particular were well-known, admired and respected by all who chanced upon them: Captain John 'Mac' McCabe, and Adjutant Albert Moore.

John McCabe was a Queenslander, who served close to 25 years with Australian troops in two conflicts and in peacetime. His father had died in WWI, and for a time he was in the militia before joining the Salvation Army. In WWII he 'enlisted' on 28 October 1940, at 26 years of age. In the Middle East was attached to various units within HQ 6 Australian Division in 1941. He returned to Australia in August 1942, but the following month was bound for New Guinea, where he quickly made his presence known with troops on the Kokoda Track.




John McCabe's photograph taken on enlistment. (NAA B4717, Item 1775200)

A.A. Form A. 216 (Complete in Triplicate) 2-1975 No. 16

CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE of the Sawaron Army
(Name of Association, etc.)

REPRESENTATIVE (OFFICER STATUS) WITH THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Photograph of Representative.



John Francis McCabe
(Name in full)
has been accepted for service with the Australian Military Forces as Representative of the
Sawaron Army
(Name of Association, etc.)

We hereby certify that we have medically examined
John Francis McCabe
(Name in full)
and find him to be classified Class 1 in accordance with Instructions for Medical Examination on Mobilization.

Wd) Cyril Fleckenhaft A.A.M.C.
Ed) T. McDonald A.A.M.C.

The conditions governing this acceptance are :-

(a) No pay or allowance will be granted by the Government of the Commonwealth.
(b) Free rations and quarters will be given only when the representative is attached to a Unit, etc.
(c) Free transport will be provided, if available, when the representative is travelling on matters connected with the Australian Military Forces.
(d) No personal equipment will be provided, except for a free issue of a steel helmet and anti-gas equipment when in the zone of military operations.
(e) Movement in areas of military control will be dependent on the military exigencies at the time and on the orders of the officer commanding the military area concerned.
(f) Whilst attached to the Australian Military Forces the representative will be granted the status of an officer, but not military rank.
(g) Uniform of Army pattern (for commissioned officers) may be worn, but will not be issued, or any financial allowance made available for their purchase, by the Government. Hat, collar, and rank badges of Army pattern will not be worn.
(h) Whilst on Active Service with the Australian Military Forces the representative will be subject to Military Law.
(i) Medical attention will be provided during the period during which the representative performs service with the Australian Military Forces.
(j) Representatives who are attached to and serving with the Australian Military Forces on active service overseas will be eligible for repatriation benefits under the same conditions and to the same extent as private soldiers of the Australian Military Forces serving overseas.
(k) The Government, except as stated in the abovementioned clauses, accepts no responsibility or liability in any way, monetary or otherwise concerning this representative.

Sawaron Army representative.
(Name of Association, etc.)

I agree to the above conditions.

Date *28-10-40* Place *Adelaide* *John Francis McCabe* Representative.
Date *28-10-40* Place *Adelaide* *Cyril Fleckenhaft* Witness.
Date *9.11.40* *W. J. ...* Secretary, Department of the Army.

HEADQUARTERS,
VICTORIA BARRACKS,
MELBOURNE.

This form will be carried at all times by the Representative to whom it is issued, and the loss of it will immediately be reported to the Headquarters of the Military formation with which he is serving. 2123-497

National Archives of Australia NAA: B4717, MCCABE/JOHN FRANCIS

John McCabe's enlistment details when he was accepted as a Representative with the Australian Military Forces in 1940. (NAA B4717, Item 1775200)

During his time on the Track, McCabe was the only philanthropic representative who walked the entire Track, where he assisted in various ways, including at regimental aid posts. Like other Sallymen (and members of other organisations like the YMCA and the Australian Comforts Fund [ACF] who were also represented in New Guinea), McCabe provided any type of practical support he could, including impromptu medical orderly duties or passing on official messages when communications were cut. More importantly, they provided basic commodities which the weary troops appreciated either returning from, or trudging towards, enemy lines.

However, like many of the troops in New Guinea, his time there was not without personal cost - he was hospitalised (on four occasions) to receive treatment for malaria, hardly surprising as these men endured the same conditions as those they were there to support. Following the Kokoda campaign, McCabe served further in New Guinea and then in the Solomon Islands until September 1945.

Post WWII, McCabe continued his work with the armed forces, his last 'post' being with Australian troops in the Korean War. He was later promoted to Brigadier and received an OBE for his work serving the needs of Australian troops. He retired in 1979, and died in 2009 aged 96.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P02038.143

John McCabe (front left) sorting through letters and other papers with the assistance of two soldiers. Providing pencils, paper and envelopes for the men to write home was one practical way the Sallymen could support front line troops. (AWM P02038.143)

Albert E. Moore was born in Melbourne in 1902, and joined the Salvation Army in 1922 (he recounted how he joined them to follow a young lady he fancied, who was a member of the Salvos). Like McCabe, in WWII Moore had been with Australian troops in the Middle East, where he had gained a reputation for the many personal risks he took to provide support and comfort to those under fire, or to secure scarce supplies scrounged from many sources.

He was 40 during the Kokoda campaign, but what he lacked in youthfulness he made up with sheer determination, courage and resourcefulness. After considerable lobbying, he persuaded Army chiefs to supply him with a force of native carriers whose 'unfailing faithful support' allowed him to establish his famous 'Hop In' centre close to the Golden Stairs (it had taken six days to trek to the location). Moore was particular known for the scones he baked, sometimes with weevil-infested flour, but he reasoned that, for men who were used to basic rations of bully beef and rock-hard biscuits, 'when you are hungry, sour grapes can taste sweet'.



Moore (right) with a colleague and local carriers, setting out to Myola with much-needed supplies for one of his comfort aid stops. (AWM P00525.059.001)

Apart from baking, he and his colleagues supplied tea, coffee, writing supplies, cigarettes, chewing gum and a place to rest, albeit temporarily on the way to, or from, the front line (which was often a short distance from his centre). Moore, like John McCabe, was also struck down with malaria. During the Japanese offensive, he was ordered to withdraw, an order he reluctantly accepted but quickly re-established his lean-to once the Australians pushed back the enemy.

Luckily, history has recorded much of the time Albert Moore was on the Track. After obtaining permission from the Battalion commander, Moore personally took photographs of many scenes (including the Golden Stairs), and of the men who fought along the Track. He also was famously filmed in Damien Parer's Kokoda Front Line! documentary, where one still which shows him lighting a wounded digger's cigarette. Meantime, newspaper articles across Australia regularly highlighted the work of the 'Salvos', including letters back to family members praising the work of the Sallymen along the Track (and during subsequent New Guinea and Southwest Pacific campaigns).

"SALVOS" ARE WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED

Service In N.G.


On Tuesday, the picture on the right appeared in The Herald. Today it was disclosed that the officer lighting a cigarette for the wounded digger "Somewhere in New Guinea," is Adjutant Albert Moore, a Salvation Army welfare officer.

He mentions the taking of the photograph in the following letter to Colonel E. C. Stallery, chief secretary of the Salvation Army, dealing with Red Shield activities in the area:—

"When I hiked over this country for four or five days, I found this stage where I am now located the most difficult and exhausting. I visualised the great blessing of a Red Shield Hut just here.

"At the end of our five days, I was halted, and instructed to proceed no further. I waited for nearly two days, saw sick and wounded men start on what I knew for them would be a seven-day trek, and as the position worsened my withdrawal, I fixed my mind and heart on the erection of something in the way of a Hut on that lonely stretch.

A Smoke For a Wounded Digger



In New Guinea

SALVATION ARMY SERVICE

POPULAR WITH TROOPS

HOT COFFEE IN ADVANCED AREAS

(By Our War Correspondent, Axel Olson)

Somewhere in New Guinea.— "Sloppy Joe's" is a tumbledown hut in one of the most advanced posts of a forward New Guinea area. On a distant ridge you can sometimes see the Japanese while you sit in the hut and sip hot coffee provided by the Salvation Army. "Sloppy Joe's" is one of the many huts established in the area by the Salvation Army, which is doing an excellent job in attending to the wants of soldiers.

Even in the most forward areas these huts have been set up, some with six stretchers, where soldiers on the track are assured of a comfortable night's sleep. Two Salvation Army men spend all their time visiting the various camps, and they walk for days

The red badge of 'Salvo' courage

Major Albert Moore was not a soldier in the Papuan fighting, except in the sense that he is a "soldier of the Lord," a major of the Salvation Army.

Standing out like beacons on the Owen Stanley track and right down to the Buna coast, raved with the comforts of tea, coffee, and small parcels for the troops, were the Red Shield huts of the Salvation Army, organised by dark-haired, dark-moustached Major Moore, as Deputy-Commissioner of the Welfare Department.

With him went a band of helpers the troops called "Good old Salvos! Always on the job and where they're wanted."

The Salvation Army sent Major Moore first to Syria. There he had a transport problem comparable with Papua. He packed his coffee and tea urns, his bags of comforts on the backs of mules and took them up the mountain tracks to where Australians were entrenched on a snow-clad mountain. The troops got their coffee.

Just behind the Japs

In Papua the "Salvos" shared the back-breaking rigors, the sweat and mud and danger of the trek across the Owen Stanley Range.

Contemporary newspaper articles provided those on the home-front with reassuring news that the 'Salvos' were providing practical and spiritual support to the troops. The article on the top left included the famous still from Damien Parer's documentary. (Source: Trove)



Albert Moore (right) provides a light to a wounded Australian soldier. This image was captured by Damien Parer in his documentary 'Kokoda Front Line!'. This image was widely circulated at the time in many Australian newspapers. It is also one of the sandblasted images on the Walkway's Memorial Centrepiece walls.
(AWM 013287)



Two contemporary images of Moore's facilities: (left) A Salvation Army tent near Uberi, with crude benches for seating. (AWM 027002); (right) An image from Albert Moore's own album. Moore (centre, standing) catered for both Australian troops and the New Guinea natives who carried wounded troops back to medical posts.

The basic nature of such comfort stops is evident! (AWM P00525.059.006)

Moore also kept meticulous diaries (which are now in the Australian War Memorial [AWM]) of his time in New Guinea, where his humanity and empathy is evident. 'I saw the great curse of war ...' he wrote as he approached Myola, watching the lines of wounded and ill Australian troops returning from the vicious fighting. Moore, like the troops he ministered to, suffered with them in the elements. He described the regular deluge of rain that engulfed all at the comfort stop he had

set up near the Golden Stairs, where 'it seemed that all heaven wept and poured its tears upon us.'

Although he was reluctant to leave New Guinea, the Salvation Army recalled him back to Australia, where he was posted to Perth until the end of the war. He admitted that, after his service in New Guinea 'where there was so much still to be done', his work post-Kokoda never had 'the same thrill' as his time overseas.

8 THE AUSTRALASIAN, October 17, 1942

"SIMPSON OF THE OWEN STANLEYS":

The Amazing Major Albert Moore of the Salvation Army

By BRIGADIER PERCIVAL DALE

MEN of the Second AIF are wondering whether a second Simpson has made his appearance among them in the jungles of New Guinea. The work of Maj Albert Moore, Salvation Army Red Shield officer from Melbourne, in caring for the wounded on the Kokoda rd having made a deep impression on all ranks.

It was on Gallipoli with the First AIF in 1915 that Pte Simpson, setting to work on his own initiative with a donkey he commandeered, earned a never-dying fame in Australian annals by conveying the wounded down the hillside to safety until the day when he was killed by an enemy bullet. "The bloke with the donk" became a legend with the original Anzacs, and a statue of both is near the Victorian Shrine of Remembrance.

In the midst of the New Guinea jungle, in a position close to the



with its booming chimes of Big Ben resounding around the Lebanon hillsides and "This is London calling! Here is the news!" Only those who were present could know what that touch of civilisation meant. Here, in another hour of deep need, the "Salvo bloke" had appeared again.

Refused Promotion

The constant praise from all ranks got very wearisome at times, and such remarks as these were common: "Good old Army!" "The Dad told us about 'Fighting Mac' in the last war, but now we know all about their services for ourselves."

One day after he had been some time on the Kokoda rd a whisper reached Maj Moore that he was to receive a promotion, and this revealing par from

High praise for Albert Moore's work in New Guinea as the 'Simpson of the Owen Stanleys' in this October 1942 newspaper article. Moore was treated as a hero on his return to Australia following his stint in New Guinea, and attended fund raising rallies for the Salvation Army. (Source: Trove)

Albert Moore and John McCabe were but two of the Sallymen at Kokoda (and beyond) but their actions typified the tireless work of the Sallymen. They shared the same living conditions, the same rations, the same dangers ... yet they saw themselves as providing essential services to men who (as Moore recalled) 'were making such tremendous sacrifices under most terrible conditions'.

Apart from the plaques in the Walkway's Memorial Rose Garden, the work of the Salvation Army officers is commemorated with a plaque near the Goldie River in PNG, while the [Rotary Kokoda Memorial Wall](#) (at Broadbeach) also features a panel featuring Albert Moore lighting the wounded soldier's cigarette. Meantime, the Salvation Army also continues to commemorate the efforts and assistance their staff provided during WWII (for example, the Hop In centre at the Robertson Barracks in Darwin is named the Albert Moore Recreation Centre.

The WWII Sallymen were consistently appreciated and celebrated along the Track at the time, which continues, and rightly so for their selfless devotion, courage and pragmatic 'get on with it' approach.

Lest We Forget.

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