

by **Ted Pitts**

I knew I had them somewhere , but where? After turning the house inside-out there was great joy but I found them in poor condition so I had them enlarged and enhanced.

It would be as well to know that in those days the A&GRS was a cluster of timber and iron huts that were bitterly cold in winter with one pot-belly stove per hut to keep us warm. You can imagine the Canteen, which served hot drinks and pies, was well patronised.

Contractors were called in to cement in place the base footings of all the masts. Two work teams were then formed, comprising four men to each team with one driver and an old weapons carrier supplying materials.

I had three men including myself up the tower with one man on the ground sending up frame parts and bolts by rope. The conditions at the time were horrendous as the ground was low lying paperbark country and was wet and boggy. Our lunch was sent out from the Airmen's Mess and we had a canvas covered area to escape from the elements.

Of the masts, some 20 in all were finished ahead of time and we were congratulated by the C.O.

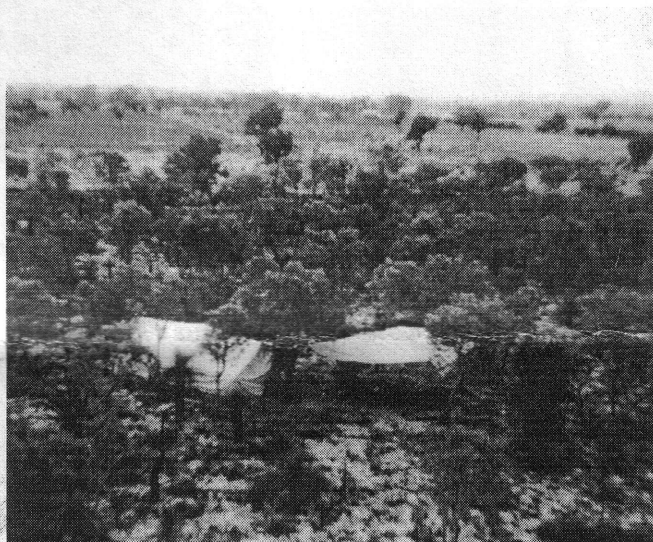
In the beginning ...(the very beginning).....



Ted Pitts (right) and mates enjoy a graduation drink outside the 'Bucks Head' Hotel in Ballarat.



Inspecting the dreadful conditions in which the erection crews had to work.



(Above) Under canvas. Shelter from the elements at 3TU 1948.



(Left) Morning smoko. Ted pours the tea while LAC Wittmer stokes up the fire.