

War Against Japan 1941-1942 (1988), *War Against Japan 1942-45* (1989) and *South Queensland in World War II 1941-1945* (1991). He was currently working on a book on the 2nd AIF's Middle East campaigns. His first book, *The Thirty-Niners*, was the most loved by readers; the most politically and strategically controversial was *The Unnecessary War: Island Campaigns of the South West Pacific 1944-45*.

Peter's varied experience as a financial and political journalist and editorialist, his intellectual credentials as a military historian, and his command and staff experiences in the Army Reserve, enabled him to be an incisive and measured reporter and commentator on defence and strategic issues. As a journalist of the old school he was also scrupulous about checking facts and quotes, using correct terminology and applying balance and context to his coverage – skills now rarely seen among the generalist journalists tasked to cover defence issues.

Peter was a loyal member of the ADA and an insightful source of guidance and advice on the conduct of the Association's public-interest guardian activities. He cared deeply about the defence of Australia and deplored the continual neglect of the ADF and wider defence responsibilities by governments of all persuasions. Informed public debate on defence issues will miss his professional and measured contributions and his departure leaves a particularly large gap in the *Courier Mail's* ability to cover defence matters properly. The Association offers its condolences to his children, Samantha and Nick and thanks them for Peter's long and dedicated service to the cause of Australia's defence. ♦

Vale George Douglas Jacklin

Longtime ADA member and staunch committeeman of the Mackay ADA Chapter, Doug Jacklin, died on 12 April 2007, aged 89. Born in Mackay in 1918 he grew up on the family sugar cane farm at Wallingford, between Pleystowe and Marian (about 20km west of Mackay). After secondary education at The Southport School to Junior Certificate level, Doug returned to take up a five-year fitting and turning apprenticeship at the Pleystowe sugar mill.

At the beginning of World War II Doug tried to join the RAAF but was classified as having a reserved occupation and ended up as a planning engineer on the Australian Cruiser Tank project. At the end of August 1942 he finally obtained a manpower release and enlisted in the Army and subsequently the 2nd AIF, where his engineering skills earned him the on-enlistment rank of Lance Sergeant in the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (AEME). After working in tank repair depots at Toowoomba and Wallangarra (the latter with no tanks), he attended officer training units at Woodside and Ingleburn and was commissioned as a lieutenant. For the rest of the war Doug served with 127 Australian Brigade Workshop in Queensland and at Cape Wom and other locations in New Guinea.

Doug was discharged at the end of March 1946 and, still suffering the effects of malaria from his service in New Guinea, he returned to the Pleystowe mill for three weeks to help prepare for the crushing season. He ended up staying for some forty years rising to the position of Chief Engineer. In

1962 the mill sent him on a study tour of the sugar industry in the West Indies, continental USA and Hawaii. Doug authored or co-authored nine papers for the Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (the last in 2002) and was awarded life membership of the society in 1970. At its 1977 conference in Brazil he also presented a paper to the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists.

A graduate of the Administrative Staff College in Mount Eliza, Doug was subsequently a founding and committed member of the Mackay branch of the Australian Institute of Management. Doug was also a long-serving and active member of the RSL and was Mackay District President for three years. His wartime experiences engendered a continuing interest in military technology and Australia being adequately defended – an interest that continued to be nurtured by his work in a major export industry. Doug was a foundation member of the Mackay ADA Chapter committee in 1981 and served on it for more years than anyone can remember. His commonsense contributions, reliability and loyalty were much appreciated by his fellow members.

The ADA was represented at Doug's funeral by the Chairman of the Mackay Chapter, Eric Eastment, and numerous Mackay members. The Association thanks Doug's family for his long, loyal and active service to the ADA and offers its condolences to his wife of nearly 65 years, Daphne, his children Paul and Rosslyn, and Doug's seven grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. ♦

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