



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 27 June 2013

CELEBRATING INGLEBURN'S PROUD MILITARY HISTORY

Heritage Minister Robyn Parker today celebrated the state heritage listing of Ingleburn Military Precinct with Campbelltown MP Bryan Doyle and community members.

Ms Parker was also joined by 90-year-old veteran, Mr Dick Payten, who completed his first week of training at the base.

Mr Payten joined the armed forces in Sydney on 8 May 1941 at the age of 20 and completed his first days of training at Ingleburn.

"Ingleburn Military Precinct was placed on the state heritage register in recognition of its significance as the first military training camp for WWII and the place where the first Australian troops to see active service in WWII were formed," Ms Parker said.

"For the generations of ex-servicemen, like Mr Payten, who have passed through the camp either en route to active service or for national training, this precinct and former parade ground holds symbolic meaning," Ms Parker said.

"The Mont St Quentin Oval was the first parade ground created specifically for WWII troops at the camp and was where the troops were formally farewelled.

Mr Doyle said the NSW Government is committed to conserving and caring for places of heritage significance and I'm delighted to be joined here today by Mr Payten.

"The military heritage precinct is associated with several units which gave distinguished service in WWII including the 16th Brigade of the 6th Division of the Second AIF, the first Australian unit to see armed conflict," Mr Doyle said.

"Another associated unit is the 2/13th Battalion, also known as the 'devil's own' or the 'rats of Tobruk' for their determined fighting during the Siege of Tobruk, North Africa.

"The Ingleburn Military Heritage Precinct was established in 2002 as a national memorial, providing a focus for memorial and commemoration days.

"The establishment of the precinct is a way of consolidating some of the remaining heritage assets into one area – it contains memorials, the guard house and cell block, the former chaplain's and post offices and three huts," he said.

After finishing his training in July 1941, Mr Payten sailed on troop carrier the Queen Elizabeth and was stationed in Palestine with the 7th Division of the 2nd Australian Imperial Force in Field Artillery.

He served multiple years of active service in the Middle East before returning to Australia when Prime Minister John Curtin reconvened troops to fight the Japanese.

After three months back on home soil, Mr Payten was sent to New Guinea where he spent the next 17 months. Then, after a brief time back in Australia, he was posted to Borneo in 1945.

Mr Payten is currently the President of the 7th Division Association which has a memorial in Ingleburn Military Heritage Precinct where the Division was formed in 1940.

In 2010 he received a Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to veterans and legacy.