

LBDR James Menz

1/2/1946-18/2/1968



50 years on, a commemorative service was held at Jim's graveside.

Bruce Irvine has kindly supplied the following report and photographs of the occasion:

It was a memorable day for those of us who attended Marysville Cemetery at 8.30am and it was also to be a special day of acknowledgement for Jim's family, several of whom still live in the local area and were present to share the day with ex-servicemen who had served with Jim and who felt that they also lost a brother that day 50 years ago.



Members of 131 Div Loc Bty lay a wreath in Jimmy's memory. (L to R) Martin Holden (Honorary Member!), Peter Fuhrmann, John McFadden, Peter Hopper, Geoff Holden, Ian "Scotty" McNicol, Bruce Irvine, Bert Blink, Geoff Blackwell, Barrie Follington, Grahame Dignam and Warwick Brooker.

It was a beautiful morning down there and although only around 32 people attended, it was a very personal time for each of us present and sharing it with Jim's family (three brothers – Ron, Jack and Tony, niece - Marianne and family), wife Hellen and Marysville locals was indeed an honour in itself.

I MC'd proceedings and the first ray of sunshine over the trees that shone at the foot of Jim's grave at the start of the service said it all. He was with us in spirit.



Ron Jones, President of Marysville RSL, welcomed everyone to Marysville and spoke of Jim being highly respected in the local community.



Intimate accounts of connections to Jim were given by then Acting Sgt Peter Hopper and Gnr's Warwick Brooker and John McFadden who had been privileged to serve with Jim. There were others in attendance who also had served with Jim and most had travelled long distances to be at the service (e.g. Perth WA, far northern NSW, Adelaide SA and others from NSW, ACT and Vic).

Wreaths laying was led by Jim's brothers Ron, Tony and Jack and all those present from Det 131 Div Loc Bty stepped up to pay their respects.



Padre Warwick Brooker offered prayers and the Ode and the stillness of the beautiful morning in Marysville highlighted the minute's silence in memory of Jim.

Following the service many of us attended the Christ's Church service at Marysville and later that day had a quiet time of reflection at the church of St Thomas at Buxton where Jim's funeral had been held in 1968.



We then said our farewells to the Menz family and all went our separate ways, starting our journeys home which took some a while.

All in all, the 131 Divisional Locating Battery stood up in memory of our mate LBDR James Leslie Menz, KIA 18 February 1968 at that service, 50 years on.

Lest We Forget.

