

## **"FAR AWAY PLACES..." (BURMA ..THE LONGEST WAR.)**

by BCS member, **Pat McEvoy**, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2002-10-29

(Recalling the eighty mile thrust across the Irrawaddy and the central Burma desert to storm the vital centre of Meiktila and hold it for three weeks in a state of siege, contributing largely to the defeat of the Japanese Army in Burma. Feb – Mar 1945)

"Home?"... What is Home?

Three years back and half a world away.

This hole in the ground, covered with logs and earth?

No, not yesterday, not tomorrow...

Just for the day... and night.

We forget our prayers...except when the shells fall..

But not the Pass-Word.. We still want to live.

Did we ever walk without sword-bayonet slapping our thigh?

Without kukri, and slung rifle?

Our friends, the enemy, we met before,

We beat them then..just.

So many died.

How can we survive this time?

They are all around us.. they will never give way.

The heat of central Burma!

How can we hope?

Take one day, at a time..one hour.

Our family? Here is our family,

Our troop, our comrades, our Sergeant..our sheet-anchor.

We are soldiers, this is our life.. we knew no other.

To do our duty, and survive.

This is the reality..

The world before, the world after..just a dream.

God gives Hope, and strength,

To those who endured.

We, the survivors, honour our comrades..

And our dead.