



Digger will never forget

By TOM SEBO

WHILE former Army Sergeant George Hartnett says his memory isn't what it used to be, he will never forget the quarter of a decade he sacrificed in service of his country.

In his time, the 86-year-old has seen the worst humanity has to offer and helped to save thousands of lives.

He will be amongst the thousands of locals who will pay their respects today during the city's official Anzac Day services.

Mr Hartnett joined the Army as a volunteer in 1946, at the age of just 20, and was assigned to the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, despite having no previous experience in medicine.

The military desperately needed more medical personnel. The Second World War had not long ended and a recovery mission was underway in the Pacific to bring home wounded soldiers. However, with thousands of troops scattered throughout the region, it was not a small operation.

Mr Hartnett completed his training at the Concord Military Hospital and was taught everything he needed to know about combat medicine, including how to identify and treat wounds.

"The first training we got was mock casualties in the field out the back of the hospi-

tal," Mr Hartnett recalled.

"They taught you what to do, how to pick somebody up, we didn't have choppers in those days, it was just a case of going and getting them. The infantry would make the place secure and then we would go in and pick up the pieces."

Once his training was completed he was assigned to HMAS Kanimbla and went off to serve in the Pacific Islands. This included collecting Australian POWs from an American hospital in Japan and bringing them home.

Mr Hartnett recalled the terrible condition of the men, saying most of them were "stretcher cases", and the severe psychological issues they faced. He also went to England and brought home the men who served on HMAS Sydney.

After he got home from the Pacific he discharged from the Army. He re-joined a few years later in 1958, after the birth of his second child, and became an instructor at the Royal Australian Army Medical Unit, where he taught the logistics of combat medicine, including how to establish field hospitals.

He served for 15 years and saw a number of changes, by no means the least of which the introduction of helicopters to the battlefield and their subsequent use for extractions.

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DIGGER: Former Army Sergeant George Hartnett reflecting on his military service, which included recovering POWs from the Pacific after World War Two and providing medical support during the Vietnam War.

City to turn out in force for Anzac Day

By TOM SEBO

RSL Sub Branch president Gordon Wade is expecting big numbers for today's Anzac Day commemorations.

Hundreds of people attended the dawn service last year and more than a thousand were at the main ceremony.

Mr Wade said the people of Goulburn always turned out in force to show support for our

local Diggers and he didn't expect this year to be any different.

The dawn service will be held at 5.30am at the Cenotaph in Belmore Park and will be followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the War Graves in the Goulburn General Cemetery.

The Goulburn Soldiers Club's restaurant will be open at 6am and cater for the breakfast rush.

The Anzac march will begin at 11am sharp, with local Diggers, school students and Royal

Military College Duntroon cadets to make their way from the top end of Auburn St to the Cenotaph in Belmore Park.

The form up point is Manfred Park at 10.30am.

Goulburn Radio Cabs Co-op Society is donating its services to help some of the elderly World War Two veterans take part.

The main commemorative service will start in Belmore Park at the Cenotaph after the march. This year's address will be given

by Brigadier Will Taylor OBE, of the British Royal Marines. Following on from this, the annual Anzac Day Luncheon will be held at the Goulburn Soldiers Club. Tickets cost \$25 per head and are only available to ex or serving Defence Force members.

The War Memorial on Rocky Hill will be open today from 8am to 4pm. The Mulwaree High School Remembrance Library and Museum will also be open from 12pm until 3pm.

There will be two church services today, both of which will take place at 9am. One will be held in the Soldiers Chapel in St Saviour's Cathedral and the other at Sts Peter and Paul Old Cathedral.

A number of local pubs and clubs will also be holding games of two-up.

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