

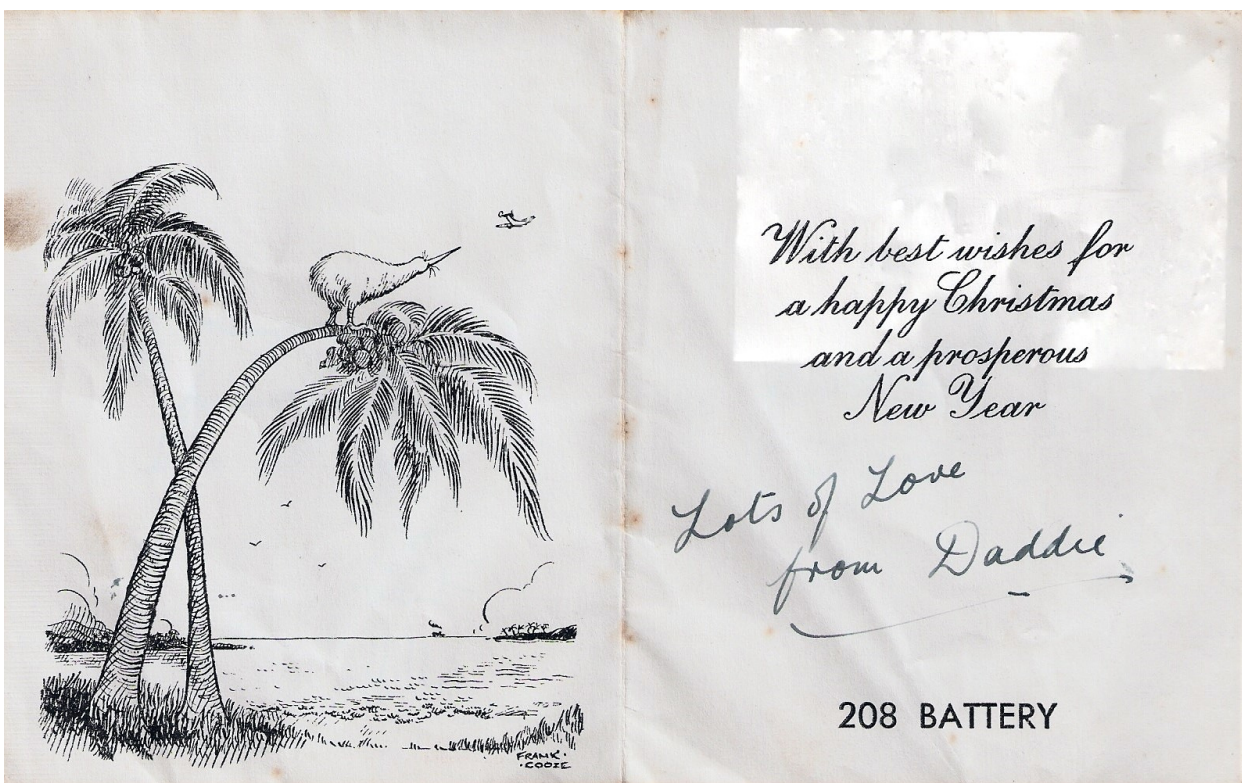
Allan Jackson War Service. (Extract from Jackson Family History Book)

Another two significant events occurred just over two years later, firstly, at 11 am on 8th December 1941, New Zealand also declared war with Japan, and secondly, six days later, Lorna Mary Jackson was born on 15th December 1941. The Second World War was now well and truly in force and by the NZ Gazette 25 March 1942, Allan's name was included in the ballot to be called up for Service. He was due to go to Egypt but at the last moment was held back for a second medical x-ray, because of the old operation scar on his lung. I can remember Allan building an air-raid shelter in the back garden of 216 St. Aubyn Street before he left. He subsequently entered Trentham Camp on the 25th June 1942.

At Trentham and Wellington, Allan trained as an Anti-Aircraft Gunner, even being posted on top of the Wellington Railway Station with a Bofors Gun, the first target that enemy bombers were likely to attack! Fortunately none came that far. He subsequently was posted to the 29th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment at Pauatahanui from which he was sent overseas on 4 November 1942. The Minister of Defence even sent a telegram (worry, worry bad news perhaps?) to say that he had arrived safely!



Family Group prior to Allan going off to War 1942



Xmas Card 1942

During the time that Allan was away, he sent two Xmas Cards together with numerous pencil drawings that Cora ironed flat and sewed into mini-books for Lorna and me.

The 3rd Division were sent to New Caledonia in November 1942 to train and help defend the island. The 29th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was part of this Division and Allan was in the 208 Battery. Allan was promoted to Lance-Bombardier on the 12 May 1943, which earned him an extra sixpence a day.



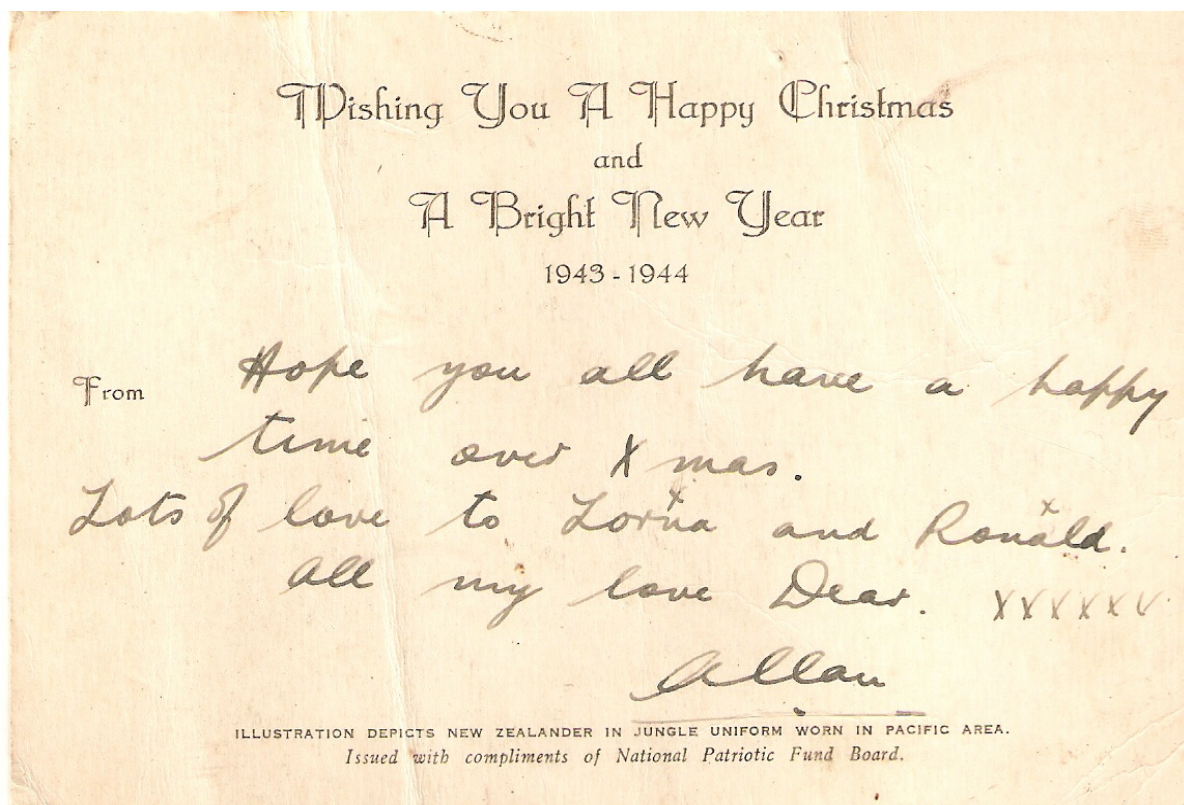
Allan Standing 4th from Right Sept 1943

It was not until the 27th October 1943 that Mono Island was attacked by the Division and taken. Their guns were quickly deployed to help in defending the island. One of the guns of the 208 Battery, nicknamed Ngaire, was credited with the only Japanese plane shot down over Mono Island. However, Allan was not in a later photograph taken of its gun-crew, so his gun must have been one of the others in

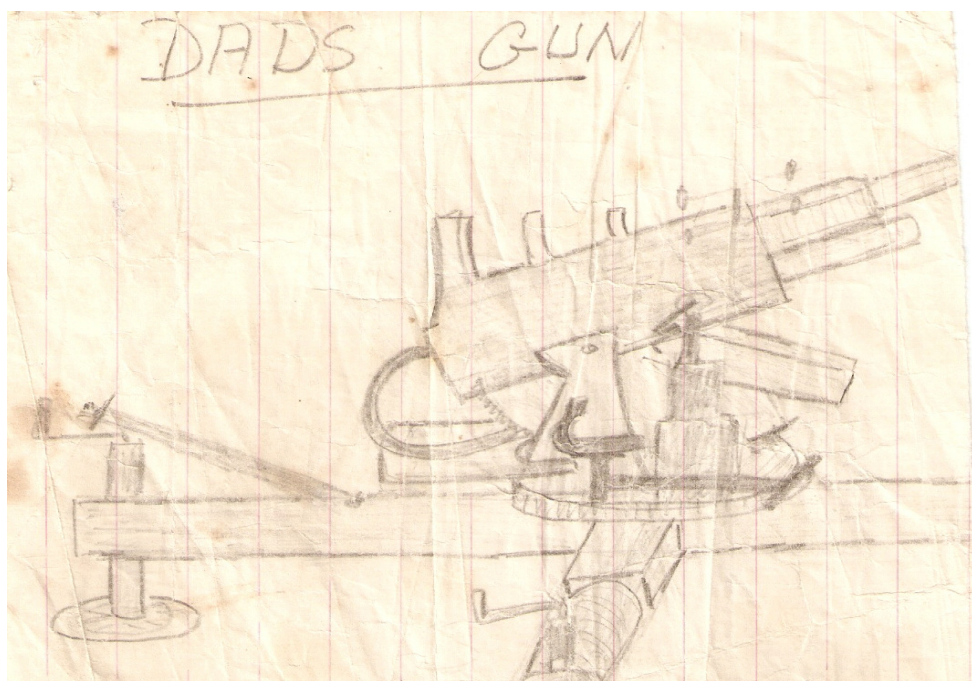


Beach at Mono Island 1943

the Battery.



Xmas Card 1943



Allan's drawing of his Gun

The next target was Nissan Island (one of the Green Islands) in the Solomons. This was attacked on the 15 February 1944, and subsequently taken from the Japanese. An airfield was quickly cut out of the forest and served to help isolate the enemy base at Rabaul. After this successful deployment it was decided to withdraw the 3rd Division from the Pacific to provide extra personnel for essential industries in NZ and to provide reinforcements for the 2nd Division in Italy. Accordingly about 3 months later, Allan left Nissan Island and returned to Bourail in New Caledonia.

Allan said they were given a devil's choice to work for essential industry or to go to Italy. He obviously chose essential work. After a very tough inspection of his belongings, he embarked on 6 June 1943 from New Caledonia in an American Destroyer which vibrated all the

way to NZ in only 3 days, berthing in Auckland. After paperwork at the Papakura Military Camp, he was transferred to Area 8 (New Plymouth), granted leave and was finally discharged on the 23 July 1944.(after 2 years and 30 days in the army). I recall an army truck pulling up outside our house and Allan jumping off with his kitbag. In it, as well as his normal kit, were tins of American cigarettes and peanuts.



Allan's War Medals

After the war, Allan received a Services Gratuity of £78-15s-6d and was entitled to five different medals. He actually received these years later in 1999 after requesting a copy of his personal file from the Defence Force. The essential work required Allan to travel to Ngaere (just south of Stratford) every week to work at the Cheese Factory. He did this for one season. This type of work continued in NZ until June 1946. I remember that he had purchased a motorbike to travel back and forth from New Plymouth, a very cold trip especially during winter.



Allan and the Ngaere Cheese Factory January 2000