

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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DATES...DATES...DATES

7-13 June, 2009	Antibes 6 Day Race (includes walk division) See http://www.6jours-antibes.fr/	Antibes, FRA
17-20 June 2009	Paris Colmar Classic	FRA
27-28 June 2009	Australian 24 Hour Track Championship See http://www.srichinmoyraces.org.au/events/24hour/	St Lucia, Brisbane, QLD
11-12 July 2009	English Centurions 2009 Qualifying event	Newmarket, England
31 July – 2 Aug 2009	Australian 48 Hour Track Championship See http://www.aura.asn.au/Caboolture_6-12-24-48.html	Caboolture, QLD
5-6 Sept, 2009	24 Heures de Saint Thibault	Saint Thibault des Vignes, FRA
19-20 Sept 2009	28 Heures de Roubaix	Roubaix, FRA
18 Oct, 2009	8 Heures	Etampes, FRA

NEWS ON OUR MEMBERS

A number of our Melbourne based members met for lunch last Sunday in Oakleigh and I took the opportunity for a photo shoot.



Ken Walters (C 26, Ian Jack (C17), Mike Porter (C9), Terry O'Neill (C18), Karyn O'Neill (C45), Stan Miskin (C23), Clarrie Jack (C4) and Tim Erickson (C13)

Peter Bennett (C24) has just finished a short European trip in which he competed once again in the Rouen 24 Hour walking race – and like last year when he won with a massive 214km, he won again this time with a distance of over 200km. I have had a quick email from him a couple of days ago in which he advised

*Have had a wonderful time culminating in winning the Rouen 24 hour which finished yesterday afternoon. Covered **over 200km** but do not have the exact distance (it was announced in French so I do not have a clue what it was). The organisation was fantastic and a very friendly bunch of fellow competitors. It is 6am here but I do not think I will be heading out for a training walk this morning. Now to Canberra , that is going to hurt!*

Peter amazes me with his continuing excellent ultra distance walking form, especially given that he does not specifically train for ultras but just does the occasional short racewalking training session as part of his busy working week in Brisbane.

MORE NEWS FROM THE 2009 AUSTRALIAN CENTURIONS 24 HOUR WALK

A final couple of informational items from our recent Australian Centurions Walk now that the lapsheets have been confirmed. Firstly, the following Australian Masters ultra distance walking records were set

Heather Carr	W55 All-Comers/Residential	50 km Walk	5:49:39
Caroline Mestdagh	W40 All-Comers	100 Km Walk	13:27:07
Val Chesterton	W65 All-Comers/Residential	100 Km Walk	17:52:04
Ian Valentine	M45 Residential	100 Km Walk	13:10:41
Caroline Mestdagh	W40 All-Comers	100 Miles Walk	22:40:27
Ian Valentine	M45 Residential	12 Hour Walk	92.027 km
Val Chesterton	W65 All-Comers/Residential	24 Hour Walk	115.578 km
Ian Valentine	M45 Residential	24 Hour Walk	161.810 km

Secondly, I have now published the official results from the associated Australian 100 km walk championships.

AUSTRALIAN 100 KM WALK CHAMPIONSHIP FOR MEN

1	O'NEILL, Terry	12:44:08
2	VALENTINE, Ian	13:10:41
3	SCHOORS, Rudy	13:14:53

AUSTRALIAN 100 KM WALK CHAMPIONSHIP FOR WOMEN

1	MESTDAGH, Caroline	13:27:07
2	PARRIS, Dawn	15:49:58
3	CHESTERTON, Val	17:52:04

CONTINENTAL CENTURIONS QUALIFIER, 23-24 MAY 2009, WEERT, NETHERLANDS

The Dutch Centurions website has the following detailed report from the annual Continental Centurions qualifying event, held late May in Weert. See <http://www.centurionverenigingnederland.nl/weer2009.htm>

On Saturday 23 May 2009, the Ollandse Lange AfstandsTippelaars (O.L.A.T.) hosted their 24th Walking Event in Weert in Holland. At 12 noon both the 24 hours and the 50 kilometer race walks started on the IJzerenmanweg in Weert. At 6PM the 100 kilometer race walk started and two hours later the 50 miles event departed from the same location. The course is on the road – first the walkers do one or more small 1.9 km laps around the school and shower building, then all distances turn onto a 6.295 km lap for the remainder of their race

Although the number of participants was impressive, the number of walker reaching their finish line was somewhat smaller. Due to the warm weather on Saturday afternoon (25°C) many walkers suffered dehydration or other related problems. Some, however, performed very well: there were **7 new Continental Centurions** to bring their number to **379**. German Alois Bschor finished first with 188 km followed by Dutch female walker Marleen Radder-Willems with 181 km. The fastest new Continental Centurion was Gerard Heunks in a fantastic 20:36:06. Also, there was one walker who obtained two titles: Swedish walker Christer Svensson became Honderdman 71 after 11 hours, 8 minutes and 59 seconds and walked on to do his 100 miles in just over 22 hours. Twenty walkers reached 100 miles or more within 24 hours. The cut-off distance for a Long Distance Walker stamp was 110 kilometer in 24 hours: 35 people achieved this distance.

The 24 Hour walkers were eligible for three different awards in their event

- Continental Centurion (100 miles within 24 hours)
- Honderdman (100 kilometer within 11 hours and 30 minutes)
- Stamp for the Long Distance Walker card (when walking more than 105 kilometer within 24 hours)



Photos of the Weert event from the Dutch Centurions website

All finishers in the 24 Hour event are shown below. The W/P column distinguishes whether the walker walked with a K.N.A.U. race walking license (W) or walked without a license (P).

24 hours / 100 Mile Walk		M/F	W/P	Club	Country	24H km	Total time	100M	CC
1	Alois Bschor	M	W	LG-Donau-Ries	GER	188,060	24:05:00	20:28:01	342
2	Marleen Radder-Willems	F	W	RWV	NED	181,765	23:56:00	20:55:26	140
3	Kris Hazenbosch	M	P	VOS Schaffen	BEL	166,772	23:58:00	23:07:10	377
4	Wim van Cappelle	M	P	OLAT	NED	166,772	24:03:00	23:06:56	369
5	Vincent Yeung	M	P	RWV	NED	164,826	23:53:00	23:19:00	339
6	Marcel Dekker	M	P	sv de LAT	NED	162,880	23:57:00	23:42:43	269
7	Marry Heuvelman-Goudriaan	F	P	WS'78	NED	162,880	23:49:00	23:31:30	358
8	Ton de Jong	M	P	OLAT	NED	162,880	23:57:00	23:36:14	379
9	Gerard Heunks	M	W	RWV	NED	160,934	20:36:06	20:36:06	373
10	Frank van der Gulik	M	W	sv de LAT	NED	160,934	20:53:37	20:53:37	343
11	Willy Vermeulen	M	W	RWV	BEL	160,934	21:38:51	21:38:51	337
12	Ties van den Berg	M	W	sv de LAT	NED	160,934	21:49:17	21:49:17	342
13	Frans Derijcke	M	W	OLAT	BEL	160,934	21:55:45	21:55:45	335
14	Marie-Paule Vandenaabeele	F	W	OLAT	BEL	160,934	21:55:45	21:55:45	374
15	Christer Svensson	M	W	AIX Växjö	SVE	160,934	22:09:06	22:09:06	375
16	Rob Frielink	M	W	RWV	NED	160,934	22:21:39	22:21:39	322
17	Ed Voogt	M	P	RWV	NED	160,934	22:44:30	22:44:30	376
18	Harm Voortman	M	P	sv de LAT	NED	160,934	23:00:27	23:00:27	365
19	Jan Asselberghs	M	P	OLAT	NED	160,934	23:12:24	23:12:24	378
20	Piet van der Kroft	M	W	RWV	NED	160,934	23:31:30	23:31:30	293
21	Trudy van der Meer	F	P	RWV	NED	156,585	24:02:00		357
22	Hans Pranger	M	P	OLAT	NED	152,236	23:53:00		371
23	Hanny Klumpkens	F	P	OLAT	NED	143,995	24:02:00		356
24	Ger Reneerkens	M	P	RWV	NED	137,700	24:08:00		125
25	Jef Glassée	M	P	Wiekevorstse St	BEL	135,754	19:49:00		
26	Peter van den Brink	M	P	OLAT	NED	116,869	18:47:52		
27	Ernst Westerhoff	M	P	OLAT	NED	110,574	15:24:00		281
28	Con Bollmann	M	P	RWV	NED	110,574	15:52:00		303
29	Frans Devoght	M	P	RWV	BEL	110,574	16:20:00		298
30	Tjark Pieter Dijkhuizen	M	P		NED	110,574	17:10:00		
31	Gerrit Nederlof	M	P	sv de LAT/RWV	NED	110,574	20:59:00		227
32	Michel van Krimpen	M	P	OLAT	NED	110,574	22:29:00		
33	Wil Stijnen	M	P		NED	110,574	22:29:00		
34	Jurgen Mol	M	P	w.s.v. Mol	BEL	110,574	22:33:31		
35	Jan Wintermans	M	P	DLS	NED	110,574	22:47:50		

On the shorter distance events there were fewer drop-outs. With lower temperatures in the evening hours, these walkers did very well, adding nine Kennedyvriend titles (50 miles within 12 hours) to the list to take the overall number to 340. Belgian walker Bernard Jacob claimed victory on the 100 km race, Dutchman Frans van den Berg won the 50 miles event and Boetje Huliselan finished first in the 50 km event. There were no entries in the 24 hours relay event or in the 50 kilometer event starting at midnight on Saturday night. Swedish walker Svensson is listed in the 100 kilometer list only because he is a new Honderdman: he did not walk this event (he did the 100 miles/24 hours) but he was eligible to obtain the Honderdman title in the 24 hours event.

I was particularly pleased to see our two newest Centurions **Caroline Mestdagh (C56)** and **Rudy Schoors (C55)** walking in the 50 Mile event – they recorded the same finishing time of 10:35:27.

100 km Walk		M/F	W/P	Club	Country	Time	Honderdman
1	Bernard Jacob	M	W	Embourgh	BEL	12:12:40	
2	Anton Nap	M	W	RWV	NED	13:10:14	
3	Pedro Huntjens	M	P	Unitas	NED	13:33:36	62
4	Rob van Stuivenberg	M	W	OLAT	NED	16:16:19	
	Huib van Broekhoven	M	W	RWV	NED	DNF	
	Jaap Visser	M	W	RWV	NED	DNF	
	Wim Veerman	M	P	RWV	NED	DNF	
	Christer Svensson	M	W	AIX Växjö	SVE	11:08:59	71 (N)
50 Miles Walk		M/F		Club	Country	Time	Kennedyvriend
1	Frans van den Berg	M		Sint Jansstappers	NED	9:51:57	299
2	Remco de Bruin	M		sv de LAT	NED	9:54:11	217
3	Herman van Buggenum	M			NED	10:18:50	332 (N)
4	Arie Boertjes	M		RWV	NED	10:22:41	242
5	Caroline Mestdagh	F		RWV	BEL	10:25:27	333 (N)
6	Rudy Schoors	M		RWV	BEL	10:25:27	334 (N)
7	Co de Jong	M		RWV	NED	10:57:30	252
8	Wim van Gemert	M		OLAT	NED	11:08:53	335 (N)
9	Mart Douven	M		OLAT	NED	11:08:59	306
10	Ronald Cuijlits	M		RWV	NED	11:01:47	336 (N)
11	Coert Peeters	M		sv de LAT	NED	11:13:05	337 (N)
12	Ernie Dorré	M			NED	11:22:22	338 (N)
13	Henk Vink	M		OLAT/WS'78	NED	11:26:23	277
14	Charles den Uijl	M		AAV36	NED	11:26:38	339 (N)
15	Jan Dinmissen	M		OLAT	NED	11:27:59	305
16	Harry van Ham	M		Grenslopers	NED	11:38:32	321
17	Bert Pakvis	M		w.s.v. Haaglanden	NED	11:45:28	330
18	Wil Ubben	M		KNBLO-regio Lim	NED	11:45:45	310
19	Piet Stevens	M			NED	11:46:54	340 (N)
20	Donny Meijerink	M			NED	12:29:15	
21	Peter Opgenort	M		Rust Roest Maaseik	BEL	12:56:10	
22	Peter Rijkers	M		OLAT	NED	13:53:30	
23	Erick Timmer	M		KNBLO	NED	14:04:24	
24	Henk Bartelds	M			NED	14:21:59	
25	Dirk Donders	M		OLAT	NED	14:24:52	
26	Marleen Ramakers	F			NED	14:38:54	
27	Timo Sariwating	M			NED	14:56:56	
28	Tanita Fermont	F			NED	15:17:22	
29	Rudy Pattinaja	M			NED	15:17:22	
30	Simon Pattinasarany	M			NED	15:17:22	
50 km Walk		M/F	W/P	Club	Country	Time	
1	Boetje Huliselan	M	W	OLAT	NED	6:02:13	
2	Ron Budy	M	P		NED	6:02:13	
3	Herman van der Pluym	M	P		NED	6:10:43	
4	Cor van der Heijden	M	P	OLAT	NED	7:08:59	
5	Onne van der Kraan	M	P	OLAT	NED	7:34:40	
6	Ingrid Tromp	F	P	OLAT	NED	7:50:41	

6 HEURES DE BERNOUVILLE, FRANCE, SATURDAY 9 MAY 2009

With most of the 24 Hour events finished for the first half of the year, May saw a number of 6 Hour events on offer in France and I am able to report on two of them. The first was early in the month and was held in Bernouville. You can read the full race report and view accompanying photos at <http://www.marchons.com/circuit-de-l-eure-2009.html>

This was actually one of three French long distance walks on offer on the same weekend - Lorraine walkers could race in Sainte-Menehould, northerners could race in Roubaix and those in the Normandy region could race in Bernouville. Overall, the three competitions saw some eighty athletes in action – talk about variety! Of course, one of the consequences of this is that the numbers are spread across three events and they all suffer accordingly from smaller numbers than might otherwise be expected.

This seemed to be the case in Bernouville where entries were small with 18 individuals and 4 teams. I think that the first team was running while the others were walking (excuse my French!). Of the individuals, Daniel Dien finished a lap ahead of Alain Costils and Alexei Rodionov with all three well over the 60 km mark – excellent walking!

Iryna Perevallo was the sole woman competing in the individual section and she finished 11th overall with 53.072km. She has qualified for the Colmar classic next month so this was probably a good hitout for her at this late stage.



Alexei Rodionov, Alain Costils and Daniel Dien in action in Bernouville (<http://www.marchons.com>)

1	66	Equipe (Team)	Morel Eric et Catherine	FRA	71,904 km	6:06:38	11,767 km/h
2	4	Dien Daniel	ASCA -CL	FRA	63,344 km	6:09:27	10,287 km/h
3	3	Costils Alain	SPN Vernon	FRA	61,632 km	6:04:55	10,134 km/h
4	2	Rodionov Alexsei	Neuilly sur Marne Athletisme	RUS	61,632 km	6:07:26	10,064 km/h
5	22	Equipe (Team)	B Thanron et F Lescure	FRA	58,208 km	5:59:57	9,703 km/h
6	6	Giraudeau Denis	PLM Conflans Ste Honorine	FRA	58,208 km	6:01:04	9,673 km/h
7	21	Equipe (Team)	A Foubert et A Cahen	FRA	58,208 km	6:03:35	9,606 km/h
8	1	Letessier Gilles	PLM Conflans Ste Honorine	FRA	56,496 km	6:00:03	9,415 km/h
9	12	Pasi Christian	P L M Conflans	FRA	53,072 km	6:00:00	8,845 km/h
10	16	Mauny Claude	NEUILLY-SUR-MARNE ATH	FRA	53,072 km	6:01:34	8,807 km/h
11	17	Perevalo Iryna (F)	Neuilly sur Marne Athletisme	FRA	53,072 km	6:01:45	8,803 km/h
12	20	Carcaillon Alain	CS CACL Paris	FRA	51,360 km	6:09:44	8,335 km/h
13	10	Pichon Jean	AM St Thibault des Vignes	FRA	49,648 km	6:00:13	8,270 km/h
14	5	Begin Jean Pierre	Sotteville	FRA	49,648 km	6:06:17	8,133 km/h
15	19	Fouquet François	AA Neufchatel en B	FRA	47,936 km	6:00:11	7,985 km/h
16	23	Equipe (Team)	S Bouillon et M Carcaillon	FRA	47,936 km	6:03:19	7,916 km/h

17	14	Rivière Sylvain	SPN Vernon	FRA	47,936 km	6:04:42	7,886 km/h
18	11	Begin Edouard	Sotteville	FRA	47,936 km	6:11:16	7,747 km/h
19	15	Jacquot Daniel	ASPTT Evreux	FRA	46,224 km	6:10:08	7,493 km/h
20	13	Spieser Jean Paul	Resda Vosges	FRA	41,088 km	6:01:06	6,827 km/h
21	18	Auvre Alain	NL Torcy le Grand	FRA	39,376 km	6:02:37	6,515 km/h
22	50	Foubert Dominique	Coureur	FRA	20,544 km	6:03:26	3,392 km/h

6 HEURES DE NEUILLY-SUR-MARNE, FRANCE, SUNDAY 31 MAY 2009

The second event on which I can report is the Neuilly-sur-Marne 6 Hour event which was held on Sunday 31st May. The event mix was quite interesting with 11 teams, 16 individual men and 3 individual women. The teams boasted some of the top ultra walkers and, not surprisingly, they filled the first 5 places before the first man, Daniel Faubert, finished with 56.425km. The first woman to finish was Iryna Perevalo once again, this time with 50.200 km.

1	LETOURNEAU Florian / THIBAUX Philippe	AC Château Thierry / CA Ay	64 725 m.	6:01:23	Team 1
2	HEINRICH Thierry / NAUMOWICZ Dominique	GAM Ligny / CM Roubaix	62 650 m.	6:03:36	Team 2
3	VARIN Sylviane / COSTILS Alain	SPN Vernon Athlé	58 500 m.	6:06:00	Team 3
4	DIEN Daniel / CARCAILLON Alain	CS CACL	56 425 m.	6:07:32	Team 4
5	FAUQUEUR Raymond / FAUQUEUR Corinne	US Dunkerque	56 425 m.	6:09:25	Team 5
6	FAUBERT Daniel	Versailles	56 425 m.	6:10:39	Men 1
7	BUNEL Pascal	NMA	54 350 m.	6:07:10	Men 2
8	VARAIN Francis / PELLERIN Alain	NL	54 350 m.	6:08:20	Team 6
9	BOVIN Laurent	CA Montreuil	54 350 m.	6:16:26	Men 3
10	VARAIN Cédric	AC Château Thierry	52 275 m.	6:01:24	Men 4
11	GICQUEL Bernard	PLM Conflans	52 275 m.	6:02:19	Men 5
12	GIRAUDEAU Denis	PLM Conflans	52 275 m.	6:03:27	Men 6
13	CHATILLON Dominique	NL	52 275 m.	6:04:27	Men 7
14	ANXIONNAT Claudine / MASY Antonietta	RESDA Vosges	52 275 m.	6:09:19	Team 7
15	MARECHAL Pascal / MARECHAL Corradina	AC Château Thierry	52 275 m.	6:09:51	Team 8
16	LABARRE Bertrand	CS Provins	52 275 m.	6:09:57	Men 8
17	BAUDRILLART Antonio	CSL Neuf-Brisach	50 200 m.	6:00:13	Men 9
18	CHATILLON David	NL	50 200 m.	6:08:30	Men 10
19	PEREVALO Iryna	NMA	50 200 m.	6:12:32	Women 1
20	VALCKE Andrian / BOSTON Emric	N	48 125 m.	6:08:59	Team 9
21	LEGRAND Gildan	AE Epernon	46 050 m.	6:07:12	Men 11
22	BOUILLON Solange / CARCAILLON Martine	N	46 050 m.	6:07:31	Team 10
23	CHABIN Frederic	Essonne Athlétic	46 050 m.	6:07:39	Men 12
24	PICOT Gérard	Rando Montfermeil	46 050 m.	6:11:58	Men 13
25	IMBRO Nathalie	SPN Vernon Athlé	46 050 m.	6:12:10	Women 2
26	BACCARERE Béatrice / LECUYER Jean Pierre	SPN Vernon Athlé	46 050 m.	6:12:53	Team 11
27	MERCIER Jean-Pierre	CSL Neuf-Brisach	46 050 m.	6:17:13	Men 14
28	CHAUVITEAU Daniel	AC Château Thierry	43 975 m.	6:00:12	Men 15
29	RYSMAN-MAISTRE Stéphanie	AMSTV	43 975 m.	6:01:27	Women 3
30	RIVIERE Sylvain	SPN Vernon Athlé	43 975 m.	6:02:19	Men 16

AND NOW ONTO THE PARIS-COLMAR CLASSIC

With all selection events completed, the Paris-Colmar organisers have published the list of entrants for this year's classic (see http://www.marchons.com/IMG/pdf/Les_partants_Hommes_Femmes_Promotion_et_Etapes.pdf). Here are the starters for the two main events which start on June 17th. If you have been following the European results in recent newsletters, the names will be familiar – they are top fields.

Men's Event – 459 km

1	OSIPOV Dimitri	RUS	Ind. St Pétersbourg
2	THIBAUX Philippe	FRA	CA Agéen
3	COSTILS Alain	FRA	SPN Vernon A.
4	NAUMOWICZ Dominique	FRA	CM Roubaix
5	FRECHENGUES Bernard	FRA	Sénart Combs Brie A
6	MARECHAL Pascal	FRA	AC Château-Thierry
7	VIT Philippe	FRA	AM St Thibaud des Vignes
8	PAILLE Stéphane	FRA	SA Mérignac

9	DIEN Daniel	FRA	CSCA Crédit Lyonnais
10	FAUBERT Daniel	FRA	UA Versailles ES
11	BUNEL Pascal	FRA	Neuilly sur Marne A
12	BIEBUCK Pascal	BEL	AC Renaix
13	THEVENIN Pascal	FRA	AM St Thibaud des Vignes
14	ELIEZER Jocelyn	FRA	AC Bouillante
15	VARAIN Cédric	FRA	AC Château-Thierry

Women's event – 318 km

20	VARIN Sylviane	FRA	SPN Vernon A
21	ALVERNHE Dominique	FRA	Montpellier A
22	ANXIONNAT Claudine	FRA	RESDA Vosges
23	DOLS Corinne	FRA	A. Feyzin A
24	PEREVALO Iryna	UKR	Neuilly sur Marne A
25	ATTIAS Dorit	USA	New-Jersey
26	GUIZONNE Jacqueline	FRA	AC Bouillante
27	QUINQUETON Bernadette	FRA	AM St Thibaud des Vign

PHIL ESSAM DELVES INTO AUSTRALIAN ULTRA HISTORY

Well known Australian ultra historian and part time ultra walker, **Phil Essam**, has recently gained access to the National Library historical records section and has been busy finding old newspaper articles on the colonial pedestrian feats of the 1800s. As he finds these gems, he is adding them to his [Ultra Legends website](http://www.ultralegends.com) which is well worth a visit and a bookmark for future reference. I can't reproduce them all in the newsletter but those with internet access can point their browsers to <http://www.ultralegends.com/aust-ultra-history-pre-1900/> to find the following fantastic links

[50 mile walker in Tasmania - 1847](#)

[Aust Ultra running - Pre 1860](#)

[Aust Ultra history - 1860 to 1900](#)

[Allan McKean and Others](#)

[Achievements for Wagers - 1875](#)

[Clarke v McKenny - 1896](#)

[Dr Benier - World Walker in 1899](#)

[Edwards - The Long Distance Walker](#)

[Edwards v O Leary' - 1883](#)

[French Walker - Adelaide to Melbourne 1898](#)

[Fremantle Go As You Please Contest - 1889](#)

[Hackford versus Gorman - 1892](#)

[Hackford versus Thomas - 1895](#)

[Notes from the 1800's](#)

[Sydney 6 day race - 1881](#)

[Flying Pieman](#)

[Walking in the 1880's](#)

[Walking against time - 1892](#)

[W Baker - 90 miles in 1880](#)

[W Edwards - 1885 in Perth](#)

[W Edwards - Trouble with the Law - 1883](#)

[W Edwards - General article](#)

[1896 - Victorian 50 mile racewalk](#)

[Another World Walker - 1898](#)

Well done Phil...you are a legend!

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON GORDON SMITH (C 1)

I was very excited to receive an email recently from NSW Bush Walker Belinda Keir who was wondering if NSW bush walking legend Gordon Smith was the same Gordon Smith who was Australian Centurion number 1. She had all his records from his Second World War Service and the name and service number matched my own archival copies, hence confirming that they were one and the same person. This has enabled me to update my biographical records on Gordon and I am pleased to reproduce this new extended writeup for everyone.

Gordon Archibald Smith, born 18 January 1902 in Burwood in NSW, was one of the most consistent racewalkers in NSW for a long period from the early 1920's right up to the outbreak of war.

Winning his first State Championship medal at 20 years of age, his 17 year career saw him accumulate 17 Gold and 5 Silver Medals in NSW State Championships, a silver in the 1935 Australian 50 km championship and a swag of State and Australasian records for distances from 15 miles upwards. The following list shows his wonderful championship record over this extended period.

1922	NSW 20 mile title	2 nd
1925	NSW 20 mile title	2 nd
1926	NSW 20 mile title	2 nd
	NSW 50 km title	2 nd

	NSW 15 mile title	1 st in 2:20:45 (New State road best time)
	NSW 50 mile title	1 st in 9:17:32 (New Australasian record).
1928	NSW 20 mile title	1 st in 3:23:23
	NSW 50 mile title	1 st in 9:24:08
	New state record for 15 miles	(2:18:15)
1929	NSW 50 km title	1 st in 5:10:27
	NSW 50 mile title	1 st in 9:28:49
	NSW 15 mile title	1 st in 2:08:10
	NSW 20 mile title	1 st in 3:15:31
1931	NSW 20 mile title	1 st in 3:07:49 (new State road best time)
	NSW 50 km title	1 st in 5:07:02
	NSW 15 mile title	1 st in 2:11:40
1932	NSW 50 km title	1 st in 5:35:08
1934	VIC 50 km title	3 rd in 5:01:32
1935	NSW 50 km title	1 st in 5:08:30
	AUST 50 km title	2 nd in 5:11:52
1936	NSW 30 km title	1 st in 2:56:15
1937	NSW 30 km title	1 st in 2:55:06
	NSW 50 km title	1 st in 5:28:03
	NSW 20 km title	2 nd in 1:55:03
1938	NSW 50 km title	1 st in 5:18:15



The start of the 1929 NSW 50 Mile championship. Gordon Smith is fourth from the left in the dark top.

But it was when the first NSW 50 Mile Championship was scheduled in 1926 that Gordon really found his forte. On this occasion, he was second to Victorian Jack Lewis ¹ who set a new Australasian record of 9:20:24. But in the next scheduling of this championship in 1927, he won easily and broke Lewis's record with an excellent 9:17:32.4. The following newspaper cutting gives some details of the walk

In winning the 50 mile road walking championship of N.S.W. last Saturday in 9hr 18min 32 2-5sec, G. A. S. Smith clipped 2min 51 3-5sec off the Australasian record. The contest was over a course from Sydney to Camden, and at the finish the winner was enthusiastically cheered.

Smith was faster throughout than last year. Harper retired before 15 miles, Stone at 19 miles, Darke at 25 and Kingston at 30. At 27 miles, Smith was ahead of the best previous record by 2min 23sec, and he established new figures from there right to the finish. The best previous figures were: 30 miles 5.24.29 Barrett (1926); 35 miles 6.27.02 Barrett (1926); 40 miles 7.24.6 Lewis (1926); 45 miles 8.26.9 Lewis (1926); and 50 miles 9.20.24 Lewis (1926). Smith also shifted various kilometres and "hours" records. ²

¹ See <http://vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/wv-jack-lewis.pdf> for further details of Jack Lewis

² Bert Gardiner Archives, Victorian Race Walking Club

Repeat wins in 1928 and 1929 stamped him as Australia's leading long distance walking exponent. Alas, although we do know that NSW 50 mile championships continued to be scheduled throughout the 1930s, the results are not available³. But given that he continued to win the NSW titles over the shorter distances during this period, we can assume that he continued to excel in whatever long distance events were available.

In particular, three outstanding long distance racewalks that Gordon did in 1937 and 1938 stand as his greatest achievements. More about these later on.

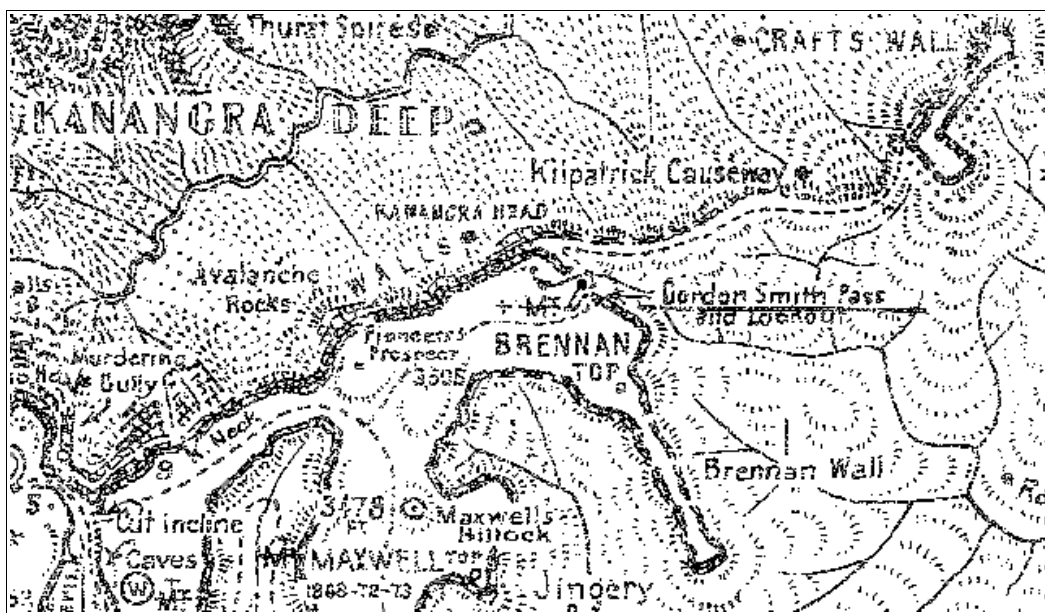
Like many walkers of the era, he also had an interest in bush walking and joined the Sydney Bush Walkers⁴ in 1928 as a foundation member. In the early days of the Club he pioneered, with fellow club members, a number of routes, some of which are now popular walks. They included the first traverse of the Gangerang, where his name was given to the pass leading to the range from Kanagra⁵ and the first trip down the Colo River.

In fact, he was one of the "Tiger Walkers" of Sydney Bush Walkers, a list that included Dot Butler and Max (Maxwell) Gentle (among others). The Tiger Walkers travelled light and fast in their explorations of new areas for which topographic maps did not exist. They were among the many who assembled information for the several Myles Dunphy sketch maps of the Blue Mountains.⁶

He used his knowledge and experience of walking, together with a capacity for detailed planning, to organise a number of very enjoyable trips for his club mates. It would have been much easier for him to go on long walks with a few strong walkers, but he usually preferred to take a large party of average, or even weak members. By good team work they were enabled to enjoy walks they could never have done on their own. He lead his parties by quiet guidance and encouragement, never by assertion: which capacity is perhaps the measure of true leadership. His unassuming manner and quiet persuasiveness endeared him to all who knew him.⁷

Gordon's name appears on two localities.

- When you venture towards Mt Cloudmaker from Kanangra Walls you descend **Gordon Smith Pass** off Mt Brennan as the last plateau of the Kanangra Walls massif.



3 When fire destroyed a Sydney pavilion in the 1970s, most of the archival materials of the New South Wales Amateur Walking Club were lost.

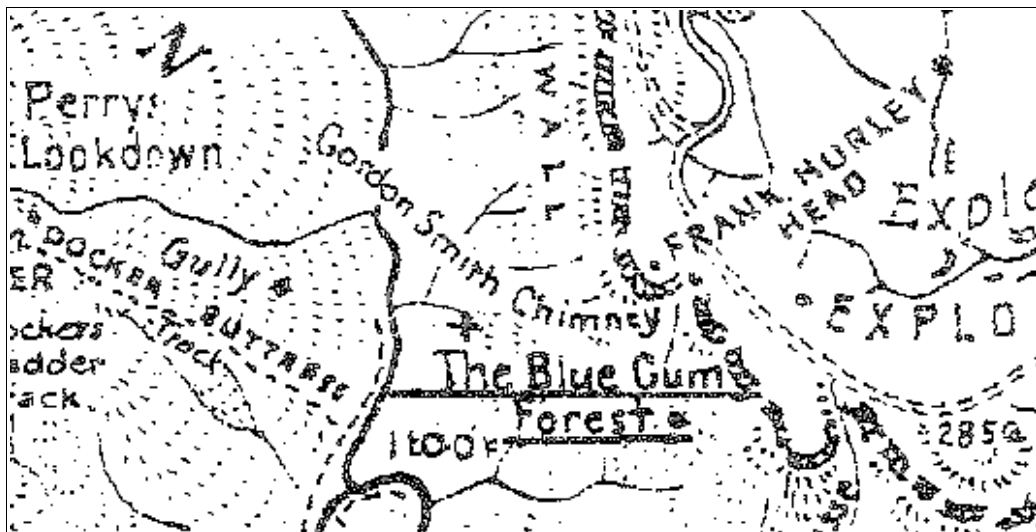
4 See <http://www.sbw.org.au/> for further information on the Sydney Bush Walkers

5 When Sydney Bush Walkers was formed in 1927, vast areas of now well known bushwalking country such as Kanangra Boyd National Park were still unexplored.

6 This and related information on the areas named after Gordon were written by Keith Maxwell (NSW Confederation of Bushwalking clubs) and passed onto me by Belinda Keir of the Sydney Bush Walkers

7 This information supplied by Belinda Keir of the Sydney Bush Walkers

- **The Gordon Smith Chimney** is a difficult pass to ascend from Blue Gum Forest up Banks Walls onto Mt Banks. Thus it is a pass through the high cliffs of the Grose Valley. The pass goes up between the Grose Walls and a tall separate block (to make the chimney) There may have been a rock fall so that this pass is now far less easy than when discovered. In January 1971 a Scout died from a fall while attempting to descend this pass at night. It was a difficult task to rescue his seriously injured companion.



And now to move swiftly to the sad end to this story. In June 1940, at 38 years of age, Gordon resigned from his Public Service position, said good bye to his wife and joined the long list of able bodied men who answered the call, enlisting in the 6th Infantry Battalion with the rank of Private. Soon he embarked to Singapore and was transferred to 2/19 Infantry Battalion on Intelligence Duties.



Paybook photograph, taken on enlistment in June 1940, of NX26819 Private Gordon Archibald Smith 2/19th Battalion, Australian Infantry ⁸

In February 1942, when Singapore fell to the Japanese forces, he was listed as Missing in Action. By 1943, this had been amended to 'Prisoner of War'. He was one of the unlucky prisoners who was transferred to Sandakan in Borneo. In what was one of the darkest episodes of the Pacific Theatre of the war, he and the other prisoners in that camp endured forced labour, beatings, torture, starvation and illness. In 1945, two groups of about 500 of the fittest prisoners were marched out of the camp to Ranau in what became known as the Sandakan Death Marches. ⁹ He died on 8 March 1945. ¹⁰ Of the 2345 Australian and British POWs who were imprisoned in this infamous camp in January 1945, only six survived. It is bitterly ironic that Australia's best long distance walking exponent should have died in such circumstances.

⁸ Source: <http://cas.awm.gov.au/photograph/P02467.160>

⁹ See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandakan_Death_Marches for further details of this infamous piece of Australian history

¹⁰ See <http://cas.awm.gov.au/photograph/P02467.160> for a brief summary of his war record and details of his last days



Klang, Malaya. 1941-11. Members of I Section Reconnaissance, 2/19th Battalion AIF, in the jungle near Jemaluang, studying their next move. Left to right: Private S. J. McAlister; ? Murray; Sergeant W. H. Tozer; Private V. P. H. (Vern) Benjamin; Gordon Smith (at rear).¹¹

When he died, the significance of his wonderful long distance walks of 1937 and 1938 faded and it was not until the early 1970s, when the Australian Centurions¹² were formed, that he was posthumously granted the title of the first Australian Centurion.

At the time of awarding him Centurion membership, the newly formed organisation had not been aware of his 1937 24 hour walk in which he completed 110 miles. So the official Australian Centurion records incorrectly show his 1938 walk as the first Centurion walk on Australian soil. Newspaper cuttings have since been found to confirm that his first 100 mile walk performance was in 1937. Details of his three extraordinary endurance feats of 1937 and 1938 now follow

1937, NSW 24 Hour Trial, Centennial Park, Sydney

1937 saw a unique event - a 24 hour walk. Smith was an enthusiastic starter and the brief reports state that he completed a distance of 110 miles 831 yards for an Australasian best. This was the first time that a walker had bettered the 100 mile standard within 24 hours in Australia in a judged walking contest . We can assume that he would have passed the 100 mile mark in a little over 22 hours.

Now onto 1938 when, in the space of one month, Smith completed 12 hour and 24 hour walks and shattered all existing records. His 12 hour walk resulted in new State records for 50 miles and 100 km and 12 hours. His 24 hour walk broke his own NSW State record set the previous year.

Sept 17 1938, NSW Amateur Walking Club 12 Hour Walking Trial, Centennial Park

The first of the two 1938 events was a 12 Hour Trial put on by the NSW Amateur Walking Club and staged in Centennial Park in Sydney. Along the way, he bettered his own 50 mile best time of 9:16, set in 1927 and went on to set a swag of new records. The final result showed him winning the event by over 5 miles.

1. Smith, Gordon	65 miles 781 yards	(50 miles in 8:50:25, 100 km in 11:21:30)
2. Barrett, H	59 miles 1367 yards	
3. Bebert, J.	57 miles 781 yards	
4. Gentle, M.	54 miles 414 yards	
5. Stannett, M	53 miles 1514 yards	
Sealed Handicap results:	M Gentle 1, H Barrett 2, J Bebert 3, G. A. Smith 4, M Stannert 5.	

The following newspaper article recorded his feat as follows

¹¹ Source: <http://cas.awm.gov.au/photograph/P00102.042>

¹² See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~austcent/index.html> for further details of the Australian Centurions

Sunday 18.09.1938
SMITH SETS NEW RECORDS
Walked 65 Miles in Twelve Hours

At 7:30 a.m. yesterday, G.A.Smith, State 50 km champion, started to walk in Centennial Park. He stopped 12 hours later. He had covered 65 miles 781 yards, broken two records and probably set a third.

Smith, who was engaged in a 12 hours time trial, displayed the best form of his career. He left the mark with five others and, walking continually throughout the day over a two-mile lap course, finished at 7.30 last night.

He soon left the others behind and made the pace so hot at the beginning that D. G. Stead was forced to retire after covering 18 miles, suffering with cramp in the leg.

Smith increased his lead with every circuit, and set new figures on two occasions and probably made a third one.

The first record came when he slipped past the 50 mile mark in 8:50:25, reducing his own 1927 figures by 16:35. He covered 100 km (62 miles 245 yards) in 11:21:30, setting a new State record for the distance.

With this added encouragement, he increased his pace to see the time out. This is the first occasion on which the event has been held in New South Wales and Smith's distance will be considered for record recognition.

He was remarkably fresh at the finish and said that he could have gone further. He will have an opportunity to do this on October 15, when he will attempt a 24 hour trial.

Smith finished with a lead of 5 miles 1174 yards from H. Barrett who was also walking strongly while J. Bebert, M. Gentle and M. Stannett finished in that order. Smith's times for intermediate distances were: 10 miles 1:40:45; 20 miles 3:24:40; 30 miles 5:10:35; 40 miles 7:00:25; 50 miles 8:50:25; 60 miles 10:53:01; 100 km 11:31:30

**WALKED FOR
12 HOURS**



HIS AVERAGE SPEED was nearly 6 m.p.h. for 12 hours, so Gordon Smith, New South Wales 50 mile and 24 hour walking champion, could be excused for wiping the perspiration from his brow during the New South Wales walking marathon on Saturday, in Centennial Park

Oct 15-16 1938

NSW Amateur Walking Club 24 Hour Walking Trial, Bankstown Oval

His second ultra distance walk of 1938 was just as astonishing. This time the NSW Amateur Walking Club used the hard asphalt track around the Bankstown oval and Smith improved by over 3 miles on his 1937 centurion performance.

Five men and a girl started walking the event at 10:37 a.m. on Saturday 15 October. All were members of the NSW Amateur Walking Club. The girl, Miss Mary Stoddart, a stockily built 22-year-old, had a reputation as a bush walker and hoped to establish a record for a 12 hours walk. Amongst the men, S. Sheedy was expected to drop out after 20 miles, it being his intention to establish a new NSWARWC record for that distance. The other contestants, all of whom hoped to stay on the track for the full time, were – G. A. Smith, D. D. Stead who was third the previous year, H. W. Barrett, an English walker who had previously competed in the London-Brighton walk and other events, and E. Mitchell.

Only a handful of officials and relatives and friends of the competitors were present to see the start. The men were initially bareheaded but there was a call for panama hats at around 11.30 a.m. from Mitchell and Stead. Sheedy and Barrett distained the head protection. They were refreshed at intervals with cups of tea, cocoa and glucose. Timekeepers and recorders worked in relays. Sheedy completed the first 5 miles in 45 min, 43sec with Smith and Barrett 4 laps back. Walking strongly, Sheedy reached his 20 mile mark in 3 hours 6 mins. 32 secs. to break the record by over 2 minutes and then retired. Smith began to draw away from the 48 year old Barrett while Stoddart walked her own race at the back of the field. Stead dropped out in the 143rd lap and Mitchell in the next, after covering about 38 miles. At a steady pace, Stoddart went round and round the track until she reached the 50 mile mark in 12 hours 16 minutes 45 seconds. Not surprisingly, she suffered from blistered feet and fatigue.

Barrett began to suffer from an ankle that was becoming worse with every step. He rested about 11.45 p.m. and had his ankle massaged with methylated spirits. He had then covered 58 miles and Smith was approximately 5 miles ahead of him. He made a gallant effort to continue, although in considerable pain, until he was persuaded to give in when he had done 78 miles. This left Smith on his own for the remainder of the race, to eventually complete a new Australasian 24 Hours Record distance of 113 miles 1309 yards..

Once the public realised it was illegal to charge for admission on Sundays, a large crowd gathered at the ground around midnight, after the closing of the Bankstown picture theatres. Many stayed through to the finish which was witnessed by a rowdy group of onlookers and supporters. After the race, Smith paid tribute to his masseur whom he said was a key factor in his success.

Again, the newspaper report says it all

Mon 17.10.1938
WALK RECORD IN 24 HOURS TRIAL
G. A. Smith's Effort NEARLY 114 MILES

Gordon A. Smith, of Summer Hill, set what officials of the New South Walkers Amateur Walking Club claimed to be the first official Australian record for a 24 hours road walking trial during the weekend by covering 113 miles, 1309 ½ yards at Bankstown Oval.

Apart from tiredness and several blisters on his feet, Smith showed little sign of his gruelling experience and finished his walk strongly. Smith averaged more than four miles an hour. Last year he covered 110 miles, 871 yards on the Centennial Park Circuit.

There was a large crowd at the ground at midnight, after the closing of the Bankstown picture theatres and there were a large number of people present at the finish yesterday morning.

Smith continued on his lone walk through the night and was given an ovation when he passed his previous best distance of 110 miles at about 9:45 am. He had then walked round the track 450 times in 23 hours, 12 mins 45 secs. He was suffering from the heat and frequently placed a panama hat filled with water on his head. He was given a great reception at the finish.

Smith attributed his fitness to careful massage treatment. He had three-quarters of an hour's massage by his trainer, Mr Victor Revelle, before he started, and said that his muscles were in fine condition. After the event he was again massaged on the limbs.

We remember Gordon as one of our greatest Australian walkers, as tough as they come and as game as can be. He may have died young but his memory lives on in various forms

- The Australian Centurions acknowledge him as Australian Centurion Number 1 and annually award the Gordon Smith Memorial Trophy to the best Centurion performance done on Australian soil.¹³
- The NSW Race Walking Club award the Gordon Smith Perpetual Trophy annually to the winner of the NSW 50 km racewalking championship.¹⁴
- He is represented on the honor roll of NSW bushwalkers and is remembered each year at a memorial at Splendour Rock in the Blue Mountains.¹⁵
- His name is remembered with the Gordon Smith Pass off Mt Brennan and the Gordon Smith Chimney, a difficult pass which ascends from Blue Gum Forest up Banks Walls onto Mt Banks.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Our honour board is currently being updated with the names of our 3 new Australian centurions and I have placed an order for some new silver and bronze medallions but our finances remain healthy and we can proceed with confidence through the year. Thanks to those who continue to support us so generously.

Incoming	Cathy Cox – donation	50.00
	Ian Valentine – order for 2 centurion tee shirts (incl. P/P)	36.50
	Ian Valentine – donation	63.50
	Stan Miskin – donation	50.00
	Mike Porter – donation	100.00
Outgoing	Postage and Photocopying	- 14.85
	Postage and stationery	- 11.00
	Centurion archives – photos, etc	- 31.30
	Racewalking Australia annual affiliation payment	- 68.00
	Engraving for Jack Webber and Farmer Trophies	<u>- 30.00</u>
Balance		1106.41

¹³ See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/%7Eaustcent/Gordon%20Smith%20Award.pdf>

¹⁴ See the Trophies Section of website <http://www.nswracewalkingclub.com/>

¹⁵ See <http://www.bushwalking.org.au/SplendourRock.html>

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Wow, another bumper issue for us all. I am excited on so many fronts – Peter Bennett's Rouen walk, Phil Essam's historical delvings, the upcoming Paris-Colmar classic and all the various undertakings in the ultra distance walking world.

Yours in Centurion walking

Tim Erickson (C 13)
Secretary, Australian Centurion Walkers Inc.
1 Avoca Cres, Pascoe Vale, Victoria, 3044