

Soldiers tell stories in new book

"After about two hours of darkness 30 men were all in the tunnel waiting for the final breakthrough, when all of a sudden the guards started yelling ... we had no choice but to emerge from the tunnel and be placed under heavy guard ... we were interrogated for some time and then tortured."

THESE gripping words come from World War II prisoner of war (PoW) and Wagga resident Jack Calder, who features in the new book *Aussie*

Soldier up Close and Personal.

In the book Mr Calder, who will march in Wagga's Anzac parade for the first time today, tells of his escape from an Italian enemy camp in 1945.

Mr Calder was taken prisoner on July 17, 1942 and remained a PoW until he, and a Welsh soldier escaped in February 1945.

"Another fellow and myself escaped during an air-raid ... we fled down into Hungary," the 85-year-old said.

"We met some

Russian forces and were fortunate enough to attract a Russian doctor ... and we worked with her from March 1945 through to when the war ended in 1945."

He was discharged from the forces, at his own request, two months after returning home.

The author of the book, Denny Neave, said he compiled the book so people could understand the truth and reality of war.

"The men told of

some of the hardest things to imagine ... and very little is known about it," Mr Neave said.

More than 200 personal war stories told by veterans are featured in the book, which was officially launched last month.



Jack Calder (right)