

POST-WAR



Action Front

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF 2/2 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

APRIL, 1946.

"Action Front," after accompanying the regiment through the war years during its sojourn in various parts of the globe, has now returned to take up its post-war position as the official journal of 2/2 Field Regiment Association. It proposes to keep you in touch with the latest news and views and other matters affecting the ex-members of the regiment. The aim is for an issue every six weeks.

EDITORIAL

PREFERENCE OR PREJUDICE.

During those war years we dreamed and discussed our hopes and fears of a post-war world, and now that we are back to see how many of those were nebulous. Speaking broadly—a dangerous practice—we find a world bewildered by the sudden transition from war to peace and evidence everywhere of the inevitable selfishness of a vast majority of the populace striving to hold any advantage they may have gained and grasping fresh opportunities to the detriment of their fellow man and the ex-serviceman.

Truly "he jests at scars that never felt a wound," and this doctrine, coupled with the public's notoriously short memory, is causing a few to doubt the desirability of extending some preferences to us in return for war service, and many of the preferences granted have been negated by the lack of imagination (or interest) on the part of some politicians and persons in positions of responsibility.

However, there are a number of statutory preferences available to all of us, and it behoves us to insist on our rights to them, not merely for our homes' own sakes, but for our families and the country. The sooner our homes and occupations are satisfactorily re-established, then the sooner

we become good citizens, and, once back into the life we knew before the war, the quicker we will be able to carry on the job we started; to assist our fellow men.

The assistance of the other fellow was possibly the greatest guiding factor that led us to don uniform, and now that we have exchanged our uniforms for a civilian suit, our ambitions must stay unchanged. A booklet entitled "Return to Civil Life" is worthy of careful study, and is available at Rehabilitation Section, 8 Degraeves street, Melbourne, and at all Discharge Depots.

Apart from statutory preferences, it is in our power to wield a strong and practical preference within the association. An article appears elsewhere in this issue on Employment, and we can extend this principle in our everyday lives—using a member of the association to repair a wireless set, telling him where he can rent a flat, and learning from him where one gets bottled beer and cigarettes, or where you can get a bet on.

The present divergence of opinion and lack of understanding between civilian and serviceman is creating prejudice in lieu of preference, and until that gap is bridged it is imperative that we retain our unity in the fight to regain a normal happy existence, just as we were united in action.

WORK AND OTHER EVILS.

The association, by its constitution, has pledged itself to assist members in regard to employment, and in the implementation of this policy it has appointed Allan Freeman as employment officer, with strict instructions to get on with the job. His address is C/o. Legal Aid Bureau, 318 Post Office place, Melbourne, and the telephone Central 1061.

Amongst ex-members of the regiment are men from practically every trade or profession except medicine or dentistry, and we are in a position to apply a strong measure of preference not only in obtaining employment for ex-members, but in giving assistance in other ways.

As an insert to this issue are three slips, and we would like the co-operation of members in filling them in. Would you kindly fill in one slip and put it in the mail to the employment officer, and with the other two, find two ex-members of the regiment, and endeavour to get them to do the same thing.

An employment register is being compiled, and if you want an employee (or employer) ring Allan Freeman and he will get you one.

The same applies to those with their own businesses who want clients or those connected with an industry or profession who perhaps are looking for business. A business directory appears on page 4 as a start for people who perhaps may find the names and the callings of use.

Future issues of "Action Front" will have a classified advertisements section in which you may have inserted free of charge any advertisement requesting or offering help in anything you may wish, including employment. So if you wish to buy a pet dog, want a building contract, a job on a Saturday afternoon, or have a job to offer, let the assistant secretary know, and you have 1000 men and their wives, sweethearts and drinking cobbers to help you get it.

Don't forget to fill in those slips.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

At the special general meeting which was held on February 5, 1946, in accordance with the original constitution the following were elected as office-bearers:—

President:

W. E. Cremor, c/o. University of Melbourne, Melbourne. F1460.

Vice-presidents:

W. R. G. Hiscock, 8 Haverbrack avenue, Malvern. Cent. 5889.

R. F. Jaboor, 43 Denham street, Hawthorn. Haw. 1079.

Secretary:

R. E. Z. Nankivell, 63 Coppin street, East Malvern. UL3512.

Assistant Secretary:

Allan Freeman, c/o. Legal Aid Bureau, 318 Post Office place, Melbourne. Cent. 1061.

Treasurer:

Len Creed, 5 Elster avenue, Elsternwick, S.4. LF4428.

Committee:

G. M. Lee, W. Quittendon, F. Jewell, J. A. Girvan, J. Sherwan, J. Egan, J. Pring, C. F. Adam, Eric Turner.

An amended constitution was adopted, and we feel now that the association should go ahead by leaps and bounds.

We aim for an active interest from everyone who served with the regiment, and in another column of "Action Front" we've attempted to show you our ambitions.

It's your job to see that we attain all our objects, and to coin a phrase,

Help Us to Help You.

PERSONALIA.

A feature of our post-war "Action Front" will be a personal column in each issue. As it is impossible for any one person living in Melbourne to keep abreast with all our members, it is urged that everyone becomes a gatherer of personal items and drop a line in the post to any member of the editorial committee—Allan ("Butch") Freeman, Bob Nankervell, or Len (Joe) Creed, whose telephone numbers or addresses appear elsewhere in this issue.

You know the sort of stuff we want. Bill Smith is in Caulfield Hospital, Joe Brown is about to be engaged or married. Claude Cohen has started up as a ladies' hairdresser, or Tom Brown is betting S.P. at Young and Jackson's. In fact, any little paragraph at all.

So let us go. Sandy McDonald was down in the city the other week from Kerang. He has promised to load his truck up with some of the lads from Swan Hill, Woorinen and other places nearby and cart them down to Melbourne on Anzac Day. . . . Not so good for a Scotsman, as there is free travel for country clients for the Anzac Day march. . . . Noticed Frank Gyngell standing with a very vacant look on the Flinders Street Station the other Saturday morning. . . . Seen very regularly at the races: Charlie Coulson, Baron Griffeth, Charlie Jager, Jack Egan, Ron Telford, C. C. McLaren, Johnny Orr, and hosts of others. . . . Frank Sutton, who started his Army career as a batman for Frank ("Splinter") Williams, is still "batting" on. This time it is a racehorse, Siesta. . . . George ("Slapsie") Hibberd is down on the training list for Fitzroy. . . . It is gleaned that Frank ("Snowy") Weller might be a candidate for the same team. . . . Wally Walpole has gone into the farming business up around Sale way. . . . Charlie Gilbert is in a grocery emporium in the same district. . . . Eric L. ("Scout") Capper (to be smart and dapper is to be laundered like Capper) is selling cars, trucks, etc., under orders from the Disposals Commission. . . . "Mort" Barwick is still dashing around at the Rehabilitation in Degraeves street. . . . Fred

Sherry, the ex-bootmaker, is concerned with a bus business around Dandenong. . . . "Butch" Freeman becomes a licensed barrister and solicitor in Victoria as from May 1. . . . From Sydney comes the news that H. L. ("Happy Harry") Sutton has transferred his affections from the grog to the women. . . . Eric Winstanley was seen with a brand new bride in Collins street, at great pains to create the impression of years of married bliss. . . . Jack ("Unk") Ryan was seen down a manhole repairing telephones, now it is under the orders of the P.M.G. . . . Others now receiving orders from the same firm are R. T. ("Uncle Dick") Eason, Bob Price, Alf Bickell and Gil Smith. . . . Eric King, who spent the greater part A.W.L. in Germany, at afternoon tea with Mrs. King.

ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS.

At the time of going to press, final arrangements for the Anzac Day celebrations had not been completed by the R.S.L., so members will have to glean details from the daily press.

The regiment will be marching as a unit. Wherever the forming-up place for the 6th Division is, look for the regimental flag and rally to the standard. This is the first peacetime march of the "old firm," so be sure and make it a definite date.

On Anzac night a reunion and smoke night will be held in the Armadale Drill Hall, Maben place, Armadale. If you are coming by train, go to Malvern station, turn back to Glenferrie road, north to Wattletree road, and then to your left. About 300 yards along and Maben place is on your right. If the mode of transport is the tram, take an East Malvern tram in Swanston street and ask the conductress to put you off at the Armadale Drill Hall.

In these days of rationing the beer will perhaps not be as plentiful as one would like, but there will be enough for everyone. The entrance fee to see what the inside of a drill hall looks like is 4/-, so make our first Anzac Day reunion a bumper one.

THE ASSOCIATION.

The association for ex-members of the regiment, formed some time ago, is now functioning in full swing. It can, however, only carry on by every ex-member joining up and becoming a live participant in the affairs of the show and seeing that he is financial.

The treasurer is Len Creed, and the address for the receipt of subscriptions (5/- per annum) is 5 Elster avenue, Elsternwick, S.4, Victoria.

A strong committee has been formed to carry out the objects of the association, which are clearly defined in the constitution:

(a) To enable ex-members of the regiment to meet together, to maintain contact with one another, and to conduct social gatherings with that object.

(b) To assist ex-members of the regiment in regard to employment.

(c) To relieve ex-members of the regiment and their families in distress of any kind.

(d) To obtain and use funds for these and other purposes.

(e) To do any other things which may be held by the committee or a general meeting of members to be in accord with the spirit of the A.I.F., provided that always the association is non-political and non-sectarian.

On the question of who can join. Any person who was a member of the 2/2 Field Regiment at any time is eligible, subject to the approval of the committee. Victorian residents of the 2/1 and 2/3 Field Regiments are also eligible, and any other fellow who is an ex-gunner whose unit has not an association. The percentage of outside members joining the association has been defined in the constitution.

Every member wants to make himself a canvasser for the association. When you meet anyone, tell him about the association, find out his address, and get him to drop a line along to the secretary or treasurer.

Set Yourself a Quota of a Member a Month.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

This feature, as stated elsewhere in this issue, is to give you a guide of what different professions and industries the members are in, and anything they can do in the way of service to you or perhaps get some work done will be gladly given.

Accountants.—S. F. Weller, General Mica Supplies, Hoddle street, Abbotsford. P. D. George, 15 Service street, Caulfield.

Building.—J. Egan, 68 Male street, Brighton.

Engineering.—R. E. McPherson, 9 Uvadale grove, Kew.

Florist.—N. McMillan, 16 Minto street, East Kew.

Fruiterer.—Ray Donovan, Prahran Market, Prahran.

Furniture.—Fred Johnston, Johnston's Furniture Store, Fitzroy.

Printers' Supplies.—Des. Cox, Spicers and Detmold Pty. Ltd., Lonsdale street, Melbourne.

Rehabilitation.—Brig. W. E. Cremor, University of Melbourne, Melbourne. M. G. Barwick, 8 De-graves street, Melbourne, C.I.

Solicitors.—W. R. G. Hiscock, 64 Elizabeth street, Melbourne. Allan Freeman, Legal Aid Bureau, 318 Post Office place, Melbourne. T. D. Armstrong, Upwey, Victoria.

We require: Radio mechanics, architects, tradesmen of all descriptions, entertainers, etc., so be sure and fill in your form.

HOSPITAL VISITORS.

An important function of the Red Cross during the war years was that of hospital visitors. Many of our lads have been through Caulfield Repat. Hospital, and some are in there at present.

They would greatly appreciate a visit or perhaps a letter, and it is intended to have a hospital visitors' column each issue.

It is to be sincerely hoped that it will become a NIL RETURN, but at present we are sorry to say the regiment is represented at Caulfield by W.O. (II.) Tommy Lewis.

Re-Union—Anzac Night—Armadale Drill Hall

Printed by Wilke and Co. Pty. Ltd., 19-47 Jeffcott St., Melbourne.