



# Action Front

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF 2/2 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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## EDITORIAL

### BRIGHTER ANZAC DAY FOR MELBOURNE.

#### Observance in Need of Overhaul.

Anzac Day has passed, and once again Melbourne has been presented with another dreary spectacle. The principle of Anzac Day is one that appeals to everyone, but it has passed from a commemorative day of Gallipoli in 1915 to a day when everyone remembers two wars.

Anzac Day prior to the advent of the 1939-45 war was a legacy from 1914-18. Thirty-two years have passed since the original Anzac Day, and it would present a difficult task to find any of that gallant band on the sunny side of 50. Another ten years and the majority of the first A.I.F. will be in their sixties.

Sooner or later, if the 1939-45 war had not have been, there would not be any Anzac Day; there would not have been any serving personnel of 1918 left. Anzac Day can now be carried on by the youth of the last conflict, and they should have a

great say in what form the observance of the day should take.

Very few members of the Second A.I.F., or the Navy or the Air Force, if it were put to a plebiscite, would wish the day to be carried on in the strict observance that marks Anzac Day in the State of Victoria.

Anzac Day has developed into a day where the sacrifices of the Australian Defence Forces are honoured for both wars. If the body, Anzac Day Commemoration Council, does not wish to alter its method of observance, then it rests with the Associations of World War 2 to fight for a day in which the sacrifices of the last war can be observed.

No one for an instant suggests that Anzac Day should be turned into a day where the main profiteers are hotels and places of amusement, but the time has arrived when the solemn rituals associated with Anzac Day should be dispensed with.

In N.S.W. the service is conducted in the early

## ANNUAL CABARET BALL

COCONUT GROVE - - - - FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1947

*Tickets and Reservations from Len Creed, LF 4428*

Tickets, 8/- per Single

part of the day and hotels open at 1 p.m. South Australia and Tasmania have similar arrangements.

In Victoria the procession and Shrine service could quite easily be held in the morning and the afternoon turned into a day where "old diggers" could meet at convivial gathering places. South Australia run an Anzac Day race meeting and the proceeds go to the various Returned Organisations in that State. Victoria could easily follow suit in that regard. Racing clubs were amongst the most patriotic public bodies during the war, and the controllers of racing would no doubt be equally generous in times of peace.

Anzac Day in Melbourne is in need of brightening up, and the drive must come from Associations of World War 2.

It is a poor person who cannot alter his opinion and an equally contrite council that cannot change its constitution.

### ANZAC DAY IN MELBOURNE.

In typical Melbourne April weather, rain, more than 300 members marched with the Regiment. It was a great showing in view of the transport tie-up in Victoria, and a pleasing feature was the great effort country chaps made to be in Melbourne on that day.

It rained in Perth also.

Major W. H. Hawkins writes to say that more members of the 2nd A.I.F. marched than previously. 6th Division Artillery were led by Lt.-Col. Hobbs. In the main it developed into a friendly argument between 2/2 and 2/3 personnel.

The Annual Re-union was held in the Artillery Depot, Melbourne, and the attendance was about 500. I cannot release the amount of beer consumed, but I can tell you it was drunk at the rate of 100 gallons per hour. That is not bad going.

The attendance brought to light many old faces, and especially welcome where the large numbers of ex-p.o.w's. It was really the first big gathering of the Regiment, and it would take too much space to list all that were present, but a special mention must be made of all those chaps who travelled in some cases many hundreds of miles to be present. From N.S.W. and South Australia and from far-distant country towns.

### HONOUR FOR "ACTION FRONT."

Unit Journal for Australian War Memorial.

"Action Front" has now gone to further fields. It has taken its place in the library of the Australian War Memorial at Canberra, along with the records of the Australian Military Forces.

"Action Front" has gone a long way since it was first printed in the days of Puckapunyal, and it is a signal honour indeed to find that now it has arrived at a stage when our journal finds its place among the volumes that tabulate the deeds and activities of the A.I.F.

Every member of the Association should feel that it is more glory to the regiment that he belonged to—the 2/2nd.

### BIGGER ACTION FRONT.

Action Front, in the next issue, which will be published in July, will blossom out into an eight-page journal. That is not a bad effort for a Unit Association, but the bigger size will depend on you.

An Open Column will be one of the new features, and you are asked to send your contribution in. You may not be in accord with the way things are at present. Let us have your point of view. Your summing up of the position will be read by ex-servicemen, people that understand your point of view. Who knows, you might have something.

Allan Freeman, who has recently had a book published on "Landlord and Tenant Regulations," will publish excerpts from his work. With the housing position as it is, this feature should appeal to everyone.

A business directory is being compiled. Where the members of the Regiment are and what they are doing. Mutual help is a great thing in these times, and if you are in business, buying things, selling goods, or whatever particular phase of profession or trade, remember you can help.

### BEHIND BAMBOO.

Book for Every Australian Family.

I have just finished reading "Behind Bamboo," written by Rohan Rivett, ex-prisoner of war of the Japanese. Written without any attempt at greatness, the book reaches its supreme heights because of its simplicity.

It tells the story of what the men of Australia's Eight Division suffered at the hands of their captors, their privations, treatment, humiliated in the eyes of their sadist captors, the depths of lower-than-animal moods of the Japanese, but over all it captures the spirit of the A.I.F. faced with its greatest adversity.

"Behind Bamboo" should find its place on the shelves of every Australian library and into every Australian home. There are very few Australian homes that did not have some tie with the war in the Pacific, and even if after reading "Behind Bamboo" you reckon if what the men went through tells only half the tale, it was enough to make us realise we owe a debt to those men that can never be repayed.

It will help to jog your memory what Japan owes to the Allies.

### ANNUAL BALL.

The Annual Cabaret Ball will be held at Coconut Grove, Chapel street, South Yarra, on Friday evening, June 13.

Tickets are 8/- single, and may be obtained from Len Creed, LF 4428. Reservations can also be made. There is an excellent orchestra, splendid supper, floor shows, ably compered. Will all help to make it a function. You must attend.

Tickets are limited, so book early. Make up a party and spend an enjoyable night at the Annual Cabaret Ball.

## PERSONALIA.

(By Len Creed.)

Easter Monday was a great day for meeting people. First I ran into Jack Dihm, who told me that his wife had presented him with a daughter. Father, mother and child all doing well. . . . Jack Harbor came from Lemnos for the races at Flemington. He looks well and is farming up Lemnos way. He had a fancy for Master Dash, and I trust you never had to walk home, Jack. It would have been a long way. . . . Next person I saw was the one and only "Baron" Griffith. He was following a system, and he had a card in his hand that looked a cross between a keyline form, gun programme, and barrage correction graph. . . . Ran into Vic. Maloney from the 2/6 Battalion. Vic. is known to almost everyone in the Association, and he was deep in discussion with "Plunger" Pumphries, known to all our members from Stalag, when Harold Laver happened to come along. . . . On the way home I ran across Jack Egan. Jack has been very ill, but is getting around new. He looks fair enough, but has evidently lost a lot of weight. . . . Met Arthur Dodd on the tram the other day. He is at the Glenhantly sheds, and he tells me he is the only one from the regiment at that depot. At Malvern are George Hibbert, Frank Toogood, Percy Prosser and Arthur Cottam. . . . "Snowy" Weller had a very unfortunate experience during the summer down at Elwood beach. Going along quite well with an attractive wench when it was time to go home. Some hound had "half-inched" his garments, and poor "Snow" had to travel to Clifton Hill with a borrowed sports coat over his bathing trunks. . . . Had converse with Bob Moore one day going into town per electric train. . . . Gave Craig Reed a wave from the train speeding through Balaclava. . . . Was about one step behind Col. Morley getting down Collins street, but as he turned into a "pub," I could not follow him in there. . . . George Martin has come south from Townsville to Melbourne. George intends to make a career for himself with his voice and is undergoing training before bursting upon Melbourne on the air and in other directions. We all wish you well, George. . . . Jack Tynan is the proud father of twins. . . . Last heard from Jackie Lewis was that he is now in Houston, Texas, U.S.A. . . . Jack Hannington and family at long last got away to England. He left Melbourne in March aboard the "Asturias." Before he went he asked me to give his best regards to all in the Association. . . . Engaged Ron Angus in chatter one day in Flinders Street. Ron was down from Tresco looking at Melbourne and was having quite a good spell in the bright lights. . . . Frank Sutton is a regular attendant at the Caulfield tracks. . . . Noticed Les Heron there one morning also. . . . Allan Freeman is the father of a son. . . . At Heidelberg Military Hospital are Les Ridge, Lou Barnett, Gil Smith, Harvey Hall, and Cas Carter. Visitors would be very welcome. . . . The column is a bit short this month, but it will be bigger next issue.

## UNIT WAR HISTORY.

## Good Response from Anzac Day Appeal.

On Anzac Night an appeal was made to members to contribute to the Unit War History. The response was good, but not good enough.

The Unit War History is intended to chronicle for posterity the activities of the best Artillery Regiment of the Second A.I.F.—your regiment, the 2/2, and it will only be as good as you can make it.

The Editorial Committee is finding it very difficult to make much progress at present, mainly because of the apathy of members. People do not want to lend their diaries. All right. But how about sitting down of an evening and writing out what you have in it about the "Crete Show." You must have something written in it about those Saturday afternoons at the Sugarloaf pub. Don't tell me there is nothing about building the road from the Danmap River, or the floods that surged down the Danmap. I have met close on twenty thousand who witnessed the ammunition ship blowing up in Suda Bay. You must have been one of them.

The bombing of Greece, the nightmare drives at Servia, Larissa, Lamia, Braillos. Come on, fellows that were drivers then.

Put it on to paper.

The leave days in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Nathanya, Cairo, Alexandria, Amiriya, Bardia, Tobruk, Benghasi, Barce, Ceylon. You could go on for ever. And those photos you took. They are wanted.

It is not any earthly use after the Unit War History is published you telling us that we are wrong. You're wrong in the first place. It is your fault mistakes will occur. It is a terrific job ensuring that all the details are correct.

Will you help?

The Editorial Committee, headed by Brig. W. E. Cremor, has urgent need of your contributions.

The Associate Editors and the phases they cover are listed below.

Brig. A. E. Arthur—October, 1939, to December 12, 1940.

Major G. McLee—December 12, 1940, to January 11, 1941.

Lieut. Len Creed—January 11, 1941, to March 30, 1941.

Major R. E. McPherson—Greece and Crete.

Capt. A. Freeman—Palestine and Ceylon.

Lt.-Col. R. F. Jaboor—August, 1942, to September, 1945.

Send your contributions direct to Brig. W. E. Cremor, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, or to any of the Associate Editors.

Now is the time to help.

## LIST OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following are new members of the 2/2 Field Regiment Association. They have joined since the publication of the last issue, which contained a full list of addresses.

Set yourself a quota of a new member a month

ATKIN, P., Dowling street, Dungog, N.S.W.  
 ATKINS, P. W., 320 Richardson street, Middle Park.  
 BAKER, R. H., 378 Maroubra road, Maroubra, N.S.W.  
 BALE, A., 9 Madden street, Albert Park.  
 BALFOUR, E., 32 Council street, Clifton Hill.  
 BARTLETT, C. H., 1 Hale street, East Kew.  
 BEATTIE, G. M., 61 Napier street, Fitzroy.  
 BETTS, J. H., Lerida Station, Cobar, N.S.W.  
 BILLINGS, A. V., 8 Fowler crescent, Newport.  
 BILSON, D. V., 206 Queen's parade, Clifton Hill.  
 BLAIR, S. D., 40 Pope street, South Melbourne.  
 BLEAKLEY, T. H., "Karangi," Brimpain, via Horsham, Vic.  
 BOWDEN, Geoff, 17 Chaucer street, Moonee Ponds.  
 BOWINS, C., 214 Union road, Ascot Vale.  
 BRIEN, L., 53 Hutton street, Thornbury.  
 BRONSON, E. A., 60 Upton road, Windsor.  
 BROWN, C., 194 Dow street, Port Melbourne.  
 BROWN, E. S., 211 Queensberry street, North Melbourne.  
 BURNS, P., 119 Beaconsfield parade, Northcote.  
 BURTENSHAW, E., Box 126, Inverell, N.S.W.  
 CALDON, N., East India avenue, Nunawading.  
 CAMERON, A. K., 15 Anderson street, East Malvern.  
 CAMPBELL, D., 18 Wellington road, Box Hill.  
 CHAPMAN, K. H., 108 Atherton road, Oakleigh.  
 CLARKSON, S., 33 Hanover street, West Brunswick.  
 COWIE, C., 46 Leves street, Altona.  
 DEMPSTER, G., 125 Mont Albert road, Canterbury.  
 DODD, A. H., 91 Ruskin street, Elwood.  
 DOWNS, Frank, 52 Carlisle street, St. Kilda.  
 DREDGE, J. P., 11 Carson street, Kew.  
 DUMMELOW, H., Hawsleigh avenue, East St. Kilda.  
 FARRELLY, D., 203 Montague street, South Melbourne.  
 FLANNERY, J., c/o Repatriation Commission, Elizabeth street, Melbourne.  
 FLEMING, J. D., 18 Loch street, St. Kilda.  
 FOWLER, M., 250 O'Grady street, Albert Park.  
 FRASER, R. K., 35 Balaclava road, East St. Kilda.  
 FRY, L. K., 30 Talbot street, Colac.  
 GILBERT, G., 108 Nimmo street, Middle Park.  
 GLOVER, O., 60 Nimmo street, Middle Park.  
 GRAY, W. H., "Hilltop," East Doncaster.  
 GREER, S., 174 Barkly avenue, Burnley.  
 GREET, R. S., 49a Henry street, Stepney, S.A.  
 GRIFFETHS, V., 115 Edward street, East Brunswick.

HALL, H., 222 Ross street, Port Melbourne.  
 HALLS, F. M., 30 Dawson avenue, Elwood.  
 HALLS, W. M., 30 Dawson avenue, Elwood.  
 HAMILTON, A. C., Burke road, Camberwell.  
 HANSTED, G. A., 9 Peel street, Kew.  
 HARRIS, F. C., 125 Barkly street, St. Kilda.  
 HEALY, N. A., 73 Carlingford street, Caulfield.  
 HILDER, K., 141 Morgan street, Wagga, N.S.W.  
 HOPKINS, J. L., Flat 4, "Kingston," Canterbury road, Toorak.  
 HOWATSON, N. L., 35 Henry street, Greenslopes, Brisbane, Qld.  
 HUGHES, W., c/o 36 Elizabeth street, North Richmond.  
 HUTCHINS, D. C., 25 Ross street, East Kew.  
 KING, C., 431 Napier street, Fitzroy.  
 LEES, J. H., 153 Kooyong road, Caulfield.  
 LEOD, E., 28 Bendigo avenue, Elwood.  
 LOUGHNAN, R., Mulwala, N.S.W.  
 LOWE, J., 25 Marriott street, Parkdale.  
 MAIR, A., 401 Collins street, Melbourne.  
 MARKS, D., 2 Nimmo street, Middle Park.  
 MERCER, A. S., 14 Cassillis street, Kogarah, N.S.W.  
 MUNDAY, N., 93 Rushall crescent, North Fitzroy.  
 McARTHUR, A., 4 Ellisson street, East Malvern.  
 McDONALD, H. W., 3 Kirkwood drive, Camberwell.  
 McMANUS, B., Bamawm Extension, via Horsham, Vic.  
 McPHERSON, S., 11 Trafalgar street, Mont Albert.  
 NOBBS, Capt., c/o C.T.A., Flinders street, Melbourne.  
 O'BRIEN, P., 31 Clapham road, Oakleigh.  
 PARCELL, S., 16 Benjamin street, Sunshine.  
 PRICE, D., 28 Hope street, Geelong.  
 PORSSER, P., 12 Grosvenor street, South Yarra.  
 RAFFIN, J. J., 42 St. Phillip street, East Brunswick.  
 RING, W., 113 Stanhope street, West Footscray.  
 ROBERTSON, Ken, 88 Gravesend street, Colac.  
 SCHERMANN, R. W., 282 Malvern road, Prahran.  
 SEARLE, L., 48 Edward street, North Geelong.  
 SHERRY, F., 96 McCrae street, Dandenong, Vic.  
 SMITH, Reg., 41 Beauchamp street, Preston.  
 SOMERVILLE, K., 14 Mater street, Collingwood.  
 STEVENS, L. F., Club Hotel, Lakes Entrance, Vic.  
 SUTTON, F. J., 25 Fitzgibbon crescent, Caulfield.  
 TAYLOR, A. W., Barwon Downs, Vic.  
 THOMSON, R., 7 Paget street, Hughesdale.  
 WALTON, E. S., 132 Victoria street, Brunswick.  
 WATSON, E. L., 61 St. Vincent street, Albert Park.  
 WELLER, A. J., Post Office, Bowser, Vic.  
 WHIMPEY, R., 65 The Avenue, Coburg.  
 WILLIAMS, H. O., 55 Munro street, Coburg.  
 WILSON, R. F., 41 Fraser street, West Brunswick.  
 WORTHINGTON, S. W., 74 Wellington street, St. Kilda.  
 YOUNG, R. C. L., 12a Munro street, Armadale,