



Action Front

Official Journal of 2/2 Field Regiment Association

July, 1969

NEW EDITOR FOR ACTION FRONT

LEN CREED STEPS DOWN Committee Appoints Phil Wortham to Post

Len Creed, Editor of ACTION FRONT for many issues during World War II., and Editor of every edition since the end of the war, told the committee members at the June committee meeting that he would bring out the next issue of ACTION FRONT in July, and that it would be the last one for him, as far as being Editor was concerned.

The reasons were given to the committee by Len. He said, that after such a lengthy period, there had become a sameness about ACTION FRONT, and that as far as his personal work was concerned, the inroads into time was quite a factor.

In addition, as President of the Association, members could be excused for taking the viewpoint that the views expressed could well be interpreted as his personal one and not those of the Association in general.

He assured the committee that at all times he would be available to give Phil Wortham all possible assistance to see that ACTION FRONT was continued to be published at least twice a year in future.

All members of the committee spoke of the work that had been put into ACTION FRONT over a period spanning nearly 30 years by Len Creed.

YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT THE VICTORIA

LITTLE COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE, ON
FRIDAY NIGHT, 7th NOVEMBER, 1969

YOU WILL BE WELCOME,
ALONG WITH ANY FRIEND YOU MAY CARE TO BRING

Change of Date for Anzac Re-Union ASSOCIATION NOT TO BLAME

Many members have complained about a change of dates for the last Anzac Re-Union, but no blame could be levelled against the committee of the Association.

Following the last Anzac Re-Union in 1968, arrangements were made then for the 2/2 Field Regiment Association to have the Artillery Depot in 1969 again on Anzac Eve, a night on which we have held our Re-Union for many years.

Through no fault of the Association, this date was not recorded in the proper form and it was given to another Artillery Association.

Late in the piece we discovered this, and the immediate decision had to be made as to when we wanted the Depot. We could have had inadequate space on the night of Anzac Eve, but instead, the decision was made to hold the Re-Union on the evening of 23rd April.

We always held to the opinion that when the influence of the 2/2 Field Regiment started to fade at the Depot, there was the chance we would forfeit Anzac Eve for our Re-Union, so it didn't come as such a shock.

The latest information we have for the Annual Re-Union in 1970 is that the Depot will not take any applications until early in 1970, and that we will be considered for the date of Anzac Eve. However, on the "grapevine", we have learned that probably we will have to be content with having Anzac Eve for our Re-Unions on every alternative year.

More about the date later on.

ANNUAL DINNER AGAIN AT THE VICTORIA

The Date — Friday, 7th November, 1969

The Annual Dinner of the Regimental Association will again be held at The Victoria, Little Collins Street, Melbourne. This year it is as usual, on the first Friday in November, the 7th.

For the racing minded, it is the Friday after the Melbourne Cup, and for those who have heavy commitments during Cup week, in regard to social functions, it is the Friday after Derby Day.

As for a guest speaker, in Melbourne Cup week, it is best to ask someone who is busy, and this year Mr. L. V. Lachal, Secretary of the Victoria Racing Club, charged with the running of the Melbourne Cup, is our Guest.

However, it is not as V.R.C. Secretary that Mr. Lachal has been invited.

It is as Air Commodore L. V. Lachal, C.B.E., who during the war served the R.A.A.F. in several capacities. At one stage he was the Air Officer in Command, New Guinea, based at Madang.

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THE COLUMNS OF "ACTION FRONT" ARE OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, AND VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION OR COMMITTEE

Our original C.O., Sir Alan Ramsay, was at that time G.O.C., 5th Australian Division, and "Snow" Lachal worked in close contact with him. It is hoped, that this year, we will also have Sir Alan Ramsay with us.

The complete cost to members for the entire evening is \$6. Cocktails are served in the foyer of the Banquet Room from 6.30 onwards. Dress is informal, but if you want to give your dinner suit an airing that is up to yourselves.

Over the last couple of years our function has been eminently successful because a lot of members have brought along as their guests fellow servicemen, and also their sons.

In some cases, their boys have served their National training and are veterans of Vietnam, and by their appearance at our functions, without exception, they are a credit to their parents.

With the passage of time, that means as we grow older, your committee has often thought that the Annual Dinner will be the premier event of the year as far as the Association is concerned.

You can bolster that idea by making sure you attend this year's dinner: If you wish to bring a guest or guests along do so by all means, provided they have something in common with us.

Later, you'll receive a letter advising you of the Dinner, and when you receive it please fill it in promptly and return to the Secretary, so that we will know how we are going.

Lest We Forget

BOB PRICE

Bob Price, an original member of the Regiment, suffered a heart attack and passed away shortly after the last Anzac Re-Union. He served in 4 Battery throughout the entire war and he was one of the real "characters" of the Regiment.

To his widow and grown up family, the sympathy of the Association is extended.

H. ("Kelly") TIERNEY

After a long illness at the Repatriation General Hospital, Heidelberg. For those that never knew, the H stood for Harold, but of all the names he was ever called, "Bumblefoot" was the one he liked the best.

An original "A" Troop member, he was one of that famous group known as the "Ragged A . . . s". With his passing, those ranks are now very thin.

Whenever and wherever discussions on the lighter side of the war occur, they will always feature old "Bumblefoot". His recitations may not have been as "Banjo" Patterson wrote them, word for word, but his were far more direct.

At one stage, at Barce in Libya, Regiment Daily Orders carried the rider that as "long as I am in command of this Regiment, Lance Bombadier Tierney will never again appear upon a concert stage".

"Kelly" Tierney has now gone to the greatest stage of them all, his job here well done. So mote it be.

PASSED AWAY

At the last Annual Meeting, a minute's silence was observed to mark the passing during 1968-69 of the following:

BRIG. ANDY ARTHUR

MR. F. C. WATSON

MR. E. CHANDLER

MR. R. WESTNEAT

MRS. KERR

MRS. INGRAM, Snr.

MRS. J. HANDASYDE

MRS. R. DALE

MARCH WITH YOUR UNIT ON ANZAC DAY IN WHATEVER CITY OR TOWN YOU MAY BE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1968-69 TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Gentlemen,

I would like to present to this meeting, my report as President of the Association for the past 12 months.

It has been an active year, in which we have held a very successful Dinner, our roll up at the last Anzac Day March was excellent and the Re-Union last year was possibly one of the best attended that we have had.

In addition, the Regiment was represented at the Shrine of Remembrance on Commemoration Day last November and, for the record book, two Unit Associations of 6 Australian Division were present and we were one of them.

In regard to the Dinner which was held at The Victoria last November. In the Treasurer's report (it has been presented to this meeting) the satisfactory outcome of the night, but I would like to say at this stage that the success of that particular function depends greatly upon our Secretary, Mr. Neil McMillan.

Mr. McMillan is one of the Executives of The Victoria and through him we do get treated very well indeed, from the staff and also the cashier.

I feel the thanks of this meeting and the Association are due to Mr. McMillan for his efforts in this regard.

On the subject of the Dinner and our Guest Speaker Mr. John Turner, P.R. for the R.S.L. Our guest of honour was His Honour Mr. Justice Starke, an original member of the Regiment and our Guest Speaker was Mr. Turner.

I do not know whether he had a chip on his shoulder in that he made mention of the fact that he was number three on our list of people invited as guest speakers, but it would have been very evident to those present that there was a certain amount of antagonism between him and our Guest of Honour.

Justice Starke considered that Mr. Turner's speech was political and unsuited to the occasion, and he remarked to me: "If he continues on in that strain, then I will get up and so and so walk out".

I then asked Mr. Turner to break down the political angles of his talk, and he then said: "Your President has asked me to stop".

I never at any stage asked or requested Mr. Turner to stop his speech.

S. PISAREVSKY

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He left the Banquet Room almost immediately before myself or the Secretary could contact him. Later, the Secretary wrote to him thanking him for his attendance.

The speech which Mr. Turner presented in part was reproduced in an edition of "Mufti". In the next ACTION FRONT I will publish Mr. Turner's speech in full.

Gentlemen, I make no apology to this meeting or any other meeting, of my action at the Annual Dinner.

An ACTION FRONT was published last October and it is with regret that for the first time in 23 years there was no ACTION FRONT prior to the Re-Union and meeting tonight. Through March and April I was in and out of hospital on several occasions and there was no ACTION FRONT because of the lack of time, and even with the help of the elderly gentlemen above, you cannot get more than seven days in one week.

During the year, the committee met on six occasions, and the meetings were well attended. Mr. Tom Bentley resigned and his place was taken by Mr. John Chapman. Mr. Gil Smith recently resigned from the committee and rather than invite a member to join the committee, this vacancy has been left until tonight.

I would like to thank the committee very sincerely for the help and support that they have afforded me through the year.

On the subject of the Unit History, Mr. Adam has only a few copies left and when they are sold or disposed of, that will be the finish. If any member still requires one, I would suggest that he see Mr. Adam tonight.

The Ladies Auxiliary, through lack of interest and support from members, reluctantly disbanded during the year, but I hope that before long members can bring pressure to bear on their women folk to re-establish this Auxiliary. I would like to place on record at this meeting our appreciation of their efforts over the years to this Association.

Through a misunderstanding, we did not obtain the use of this Depot for Anzac Eve this year. During the past we have always tried to have the Re-Union and Annual Meeting on Anzac Eve, but we knew quite well that some day when the influence of the 2/2 commenced to wane at this Depot we would lose that particular night, and we had no option to hold the Re-Union tonight (Wednesday).

During the past 12 months we have lost several of our comrades.

It has been pleasing that during the past 12 months we have not had one call upon our Benevolent Fund. I would like to tell this meeting that if they do know of any member in indigent circumstances, that a temporary loan or financial assistance would benefit, to contact the Secretary.

FOR CEC. FORD AND "CIVVY"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
CAULFIELD CENTRAL R.S.L.

The funeral was making its way up a steep hill when it came to a busy intersection. A truck driver tried to stop but his brakes failed and the truck hit the hearse with great force.

The back doors flew open and the coffin shot out and down the hill at a terrific speed. At the bottom it careered across the street and into a chemist's shop where it crashed into the counter and the lid broke open.

Slowly the occupant sat up and said, "Can you give me something to stop this flamin' coffin."

FROM CEC. FORD FOR ACTION FRONT

During his retirement (Cec. became redundant to the P.M.G. in June) he is reading a new book entitled "The Pill's Grim Progress".

CHARLIE COLSON LIFE MEMBER

ELECTED AT LAST ANNUAL MEETING

Charlie Colson was elected unanimously a Life Member of the Association at the Annual Meeting last April.

Proposed by Sid. Raggett and seconded by Sandy McDonald, the motion when passed was greeted with great acclamation.

Charlie is the oldest member of the Regiment. He was one of the first to be at Seymour in the Quartermaster's Department in November 1939 and the job he did for the Regiment, 3 Battery in particular, in those early days, will never ever be forgotten.

Both Sid. and Sandy spoke about the service Charlie Colson had given and there were probably many more who desired to add to the remarks of that pair.

We all hope that we continue to see Charlie at the Re-Unions and so forth for many more years to come.

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PERSONALIA

JOTTINGS FROM NEAR AND FAR



In another part of this edition, you no doubt have been shocked to read of the passing of **Bob Price** and "**Kelly**" **Tierney**. Bob was indeed a character of 4 Battery and his counterpart in 3 Battery was "**Kelly**".

Bob Price was at the Anzac Re-Union looking as hale and hearty as anyone could possibly look. Still, with his roll neck sweater, he always had an aversion to wearing a tie—he was a 100%.

He told me once, he had had 36 years of people telling him what to wear and if he didn't want to wear a tie, he was — sure he wasn't going to.

Of all the yarns that "**Kelly**" **Tierney** could tell, his rendition of the "Shearer's Lament" was by far his best. I always wanted his version of it but it is too late now.

I can always remember Puckapunyal in 1939 in those old tin huts. According to Law, "Lights Out" means "Lights Out", but someone must have been kidding themselves that 40 grown men and youths could be kept quiet, just by simply turning out a couple of lights.

This is where "**Bumblefoot**" used to come into his own as he regaled the younger element with the story of life, true and untrue, and he kept the mob in fits. At the time, I was a Bombardier and N.C.O. in charge of the hut (big deal) and Kelly was a Lance Bombardier.

One night I was not there and evidently after "Lights Out" the R.S.M. Dennis Walsh burst in, turned the lights

on and demanded immediate quiet. He wanted to know if there were any N.C.O.'s in the hut.

After a while, Tierney said, "I have one bloody stripe on my arm if that makes me an N.C.O."

As it was only a temporary rank at the time, it didn't matter much that Tierney lost it for a while.

For those to whom it matters, "**Kelly**" had also served his time in the Chair of King Solomon.

On that matter, congratulations go to **Alby Willcox**. Grand congratulations at that.

Also to **John North**, recently mentioned in the Birthday honours.

Calling **Lloyd Searle**, down Geelong way. If he doesn't read this, could one of the Geelong Members pass it on to him when they see him. Recently at a one night stopover at Narranderra (N.S.W.) had a session with **Jack Goldsworthy** of the 2/3 Commandos.

Lloyd joined that unit from the 2/2 and Jack asked me to pass his regards onto Lloyd, when next I had contact with him.

Committeeman **Cec. Ford** has now reached the august age of three score years and five, which in the Public Service, means you are out. Cec. has plans for a very happy retirement which will include a lot of tennis and keeping up with the odd jobs Mrs. F. will find for him. We all wish you a happy retirement, old timer.

Conversing with **Jack Byrne** on the phone one evening, Jack admits to his age these days, but still has time during his work to get round and about and often comes across members of the Association. Asked me to pass on his best wishes to all.

Reg. Kirk is back in Heidelberg for a further operation. Trust all is well, Kirkie, and hope to see you up and about before long.

On the subject of old timers, **Ted Ross** has not been in the best of health for some time and "**Pappy**" was also at

Heidelberg for a while in the early part of the year. He is discharged now and back working on a property near Hamilton.

There was a query about the size of Plaques on Memorial Trees in the Gardens surrounding the Shrine of Remembrance. I forgot who asked. However, all the plaques have to be of a standard size.

Incidentally, anyone looking for the 2/2 Field Regiment Memorial Tree, it is on the slopes running down towards St. Kilda Road. If you walk from the Forecourt of the Shrine towards Dorcas Street, you should stumble over it.

You cannot miss it, it is the smallest tree there.

Col. Morley has now taken over a FORD Franchise and conducts his business under the name of **Morley Ford**. Deals in new and used cars. He can be contacted mainly at the Melbourne Office but if you buy a car at any of his establishments, make sure you tell the salesman to contact Col. himself and let him know he is dealing with a Member of the 2/2 Field Regiment Association.

It was rather pleasing at the Re-Union to see so many old timers after quite a few years. **George Williams**, just to mention one. There is no doubt that the style in which we hold the Re-Union has come to stay. For those that have not made it for a while, the doors are opened from about the 5.30 mark and a buffet dinner is served from about 7 p.m. to nearly 8 p.m.

At that time, the Theatre at the Artillery Depot is used for the Annual meeting and after that, the Re-Union boxes on, interrupted only by the Traditional Stand To at 9 p.m.

This year as our guests for a short time we had a contingent from New Zealand from the Cretan Association there, and they were accompanied by several members of the Melbourne Cretan Brotherhood.

They thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Enzedders, which included some of the famous Maori Battalion, preferred to march with a Unit that had served in Greece or Crete and they were very welcome with us.

Talking of such like, for those who are members of the Thirtyniners' Association, the Clubrooms at Carlton are by this time, all going well, licensed premises. See you at Palmerston Street, sometime??

R. K. TAUNT

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"NEVER SAY DIE"

Reprinted from L.S.A. Journal,
May, 1969

(By Charlie Stevens)

I heard recently of a man trying to get T.P.I. classification, not because he could not get, or do any work, but because he did not want to work.

What a contrast between him and our well-known member, Phil Trencher.

They have a dairy farm out from Nathalia. We were made very welcome and pressed to stay overnight. There is no doubt about the sincere welcome Norma would extend to any member and his wife.

Phil, a leg amputee, suffered a severe heart attack a short time ago and had to have a heart pacer inserted into his chest. The battery that operates the pacer is about the size of a cigarette packet and is inserted in the abdomen

just behind the right-hand side ribs. If he bends down the battery presses against the ribs and is very painful, to say the least of it. Phil also suffers from a hernia, so with this combination of disabilities he would be well justified in giving up hard work, but not Phil. He still runs his farm single-handed, milking 60 cows.

To make this possible he has built up platforms in his cow-bails, about 18 inches high. The cows step up on to these platforms and Phil is able to wash the udders and attach the milking machine fittings without bending down.

This is an outstanding example of what can be done if you have the will to "NEVER SAY DIE".

From N.S.W. Branch

A list of names of those who attended the March, and those who were at the Re-Union and the March:—

P. J. Austin, R. Allen, A. Bracken, C. Bragg, W. Bragg, A. Bright, R. Campbell, N. Chaseling, J. Curphy, R. H. Dale, C. R. Doney, J. Emmett, J. English, W. English, R. Fitzgerald, R. Flew, I. Fraser, H. Freeman, R. Fuller, N. Glover, J. Groves, H. Hardy,

E. Hinton, Arthur Howard, Aub Howard, J. Hunt, G. Hurps, L. Hustler, N. Johnson, E. B. Kelly, I. Leitch, L. McCusker, T. O'Sullivan, L. Parker, A. Rivett, K. Robinson, N. Taylor, E. Thorne, J. Turner, C. Wallace.

Those who did not attend Re-Union:
A Bicknell, T. Buckley, E. Daffy, T. Hassall, H. McLachlan, W. Murphy, N. Parker, S. Saber.

PERSONALIA (continued)

At the last Annual meeting, **Charlie Colson** was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected a Life Member of the Association. For once "Old Steak-face" was lost for words. It is terrific to see him Re-Union after Re-Union, Dinner after Dinner, looking so well.

Charlie Gilbert has said his adieu's to Yarroweyah and is now back in Melbourne for a while. Charlie plans later to hitch a caravan behind his car, place wife Mary gently in the front seat and set sail to see round Australia. There would not be many places left for him to see, I guess.

Had a drink with **Les Bearsdell** one evening in town in company with **Sandy McDonald**. Les is a member of the Rural Finance Commission, a body which is more or less a civil counterpart of the old **Soldier Settlement Commission**. One of the big projects the Commission has and it is a pet with them is the Heytesbury affair, down from Colac.

There are farms coming along all the time, mostly dairy farms, and Les is always on the look out for new settlers. Most of the members are too old to be tackling dairy farms now, but they could have sons or know of some worthwhile

young fellows. Well, you've now got the mail—Les Bearsdell is the one to see.

Sandy McDonald is now a member of the Wakool Shire Council and is their rep. on the Murray County Electricity Council, so any first Monday night in any month, you can find him at the new Alfury Hotel, Albury, on Council business. Col. Adam has a son in the Shire, so there Col., tell him, anything goes wrong, get onto McDonald's back;

A note from **Bernie Hordern**, received too late to pass onto the fellows. The reason he gave it to **Micky Drayton** to give to me at the Re-Union. Micky turned up 24 hours late. Bernie had extended an invitation to any of the members to have Breakfast and at their Mess in Victoria Street, Melbourne after the Dawn Service, and also after the March in the afternoon. Beer with the Sergeants of the 6 R.V.R.

It was all for "Buckshee", so see what you missed out. Blame Drayton for that.

It was pleasing indeed to see **Colonel Roy Jaboor** at the last Re-Union. The years have treated him very kindly indeed.

OFFICE-BEARERS

Following are the names and addresses of members of the Committee of the Association for the year 1969-70:—

President:

Mr. L. C. CREED,
21 Grandview Grove, Carnegie.

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. C. F. ADAM,
5 Power Street, Toorak.
Mr. D. DONALDSON,
55 Trevellyan Street, Elsternwick.

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. F. WILLIAMS,
23 Wellington Avenue, Beaumaris.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. N. McMILLAN,
207 Doncaster Road, North Balwyn.

Hon. Assistant Secretary:

Mr. H. DAY,
18 Pavo Street, North Balwyn.

Committee:

Mr. J. CHAPMAN,
Mr. H. S. CHARMAN,
Mr. A. COTTOM,
Mr. C. FORD,
Mr. V. W. GEDDES,
Mr. K. V. ROSSI,
Mr. R. K. TAUNT,
Mr. A. WILLCOX,
Mr. P. WORTHAM

Harell Day has been elected Secretary of the 17th Australian Infantry Brigade Association, so our ties with them are as strong as ever. Their President, **Mr. Alf King**, was one of our guests at the last Annual Dinner and he thoroughly enjoyed himself.

Well, fellows, that is the end of the roundabout. This is the last Personalia Column from yours truly. Over the decades, I do not think, I stepped on too many people's toes. If I did, most sincere apologies.

I hope that through this particular segment of **Action Front**, you have kept strong memories of your mates, of the friends you made from 1939 through to 1945.

It hasn't always been fun producing **Action Front** year after year. It hasn't always been easy, but since 1945, it has always been a pleasure and honor to have done something, no matter how small or big, to have tried to keep together that tremendous band of fellows who were responsible for reserving a place in history for the 2/2 Field Artillery Regiment.

I wish you all well.

God Bless,
LEN CREED.

THE BOOKLET "PROTEST"

Reviewed by John M. Turner

A Review of Protest Policies and Psychological Warfare

At the Dinner of the Regiment, held at The Victoria, Melbourne on 1st November, 1968, Mr. John M. Turner, Public Relations Officer of the Victorian Branch of the R.S.L., was our Guest Speaker. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Justice Starke, a member of the Victorian Judiciary.

During the course of Mr. Turner's speech, Mr. Justice Starke objected to the political nature, as he considered it was not the time or place for such a speech. To preserve the harmony of the evening, I asked Mr. Turner if he would break down the political angle. I did not request Mr. Turner to stop his talk, which he did. I believe that the subject of Mr. Turner's speech was a review of a booklet by T. P. Findlay, which is in the hands of all R.S.L. Sub-Branches and on sale to the general public.

Without comment or prejudice to anyone, an article by Mr. John Turner on this booklet, as printed in the December issue of "Mufti" — The Voice of the Victorian R.S.L. — is reprinted in this issue of ACTION FRONT.—Len Creed.

As many of you are aware, the League has for some years been pressing for the publication of a "White Paper" on the activities of the Communist party in Australia.

Obviously the Federal Government has been loath to do this, for several reasons. One, of course, is its disinclination to inform the party and its sympathisers of its knowledge of its infiltrations, and another is the fact that the Australian Communist Party is not a proscribed movement, and is legally entitled to nominate members for election to parliament.

The publication "Protest", by P. T. Findlay, is an ably presented and well-documented expose of the communist role in, and encouragement of, the anti-Vietnam war and anti-conscription movements in Australia.

Some of these "push their own barrows", but the majority appear to be "fronts" and strongly susceptible to the communist line.

THE LEAGUE'S "IMAGE"

The State executive of the League has officially requested your reviewer to discuss the booklet—and this I am happy to do—but before doing so I am concerned with our "image" as a democratic organisation.

Despite a strong impression in some quarters that the league is a body of reactionaries, supporters of the "establishment", and "fuddy-duddies" who have refused to keep pace with a changing world, these charges cannot be substantiated.

Certainly we make no apology for our allegiance to the Crown—to our institutions of the law, our insistence upon adequate defence of our country, and our determined opposition to those who would "sell us out".

For those things we stand, four-square.

In this booklet you will read of about eighty groups of "protesters" who demonstrate, hold public meetings, sit-ins, lie-ins (probably love-ins, too), etc., and oppose the Vietnam war and conscription.

THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

Nevertheless, we must accept the precept that in a democracy people are entitled to protest against custom or policy, and on matters about which they strongly disagree.

Whether these sections of the community decide to protest against wage injustices, inadequate pensions, the war in Vietnam or conscription—they are entitled to do so—so long as their opposition is conducted lawfully and without rioting or disturbance.

And we must also accept the fact that the Australian community is deeply divided—split as never before, with perhaps the exception of the 1917 anti-conscription campaign—on the rights and wrongs of our participation in Vietnam.

Also we must respect the views of many genuine, humane, just and upright people amongst us, who are horrified at the cruelty, bestiality and downright wickedness of the war in Vietnam, and the atrocities perpetrated by both North and South Vietnam (and some of their allies as well).

Public conscience has been aroused, just as it has been aroused to the horrors of the war in Nigeria, and the suffering and death of innocent children.

OUR TROOPS MUST BE SUPPORTED

Therefore one cannot in justice and truth come out and say: "Everyone who opposes Australia's commitment in Vietnam is disloyal and subversive".

This we cannot say, for if we do we undermine the priceless right of democracy to think and decide for ourselves—we are henceforth dumb, driven cattle.

However, there remains one essential fact which protestors of all kinds, shades and political opinions tend to overlook on the Vietnam question, and that one fact is paramount.

By the decision of a democratically elected Government, Australian troops are in action in Vietnam, and must be supported and encouraged by every Australian worthy of the name.

Should a section or even a majority of Australians disapprove of this undeclared war, then their remedy is recourse to the ballot box, not to rioting, assaults, disturbances, flag burnings and the like.

And very definitely the Australian people and their Government cannot permit the hold-up or deprivation of military stores destined for Vietnam, which could place our troops in real danger or distress.

People responsible for these acts — people supporting them—should be liable for the severest punishment.

Treason is treason, whatever guise it comes under.

THE DOUBLE STANDARD

Western Europe stands aloof from the struggle in Vietnam, and not one European country supports the United States —truly the "Lonely Giant" on the mainland of Asia.

Europe has its own problems at hand. It watched with apprehension the Russian take-over in Czechoslovakia, and Finland, Austria and Yugoslavia monitor their frontiers and the skies for the "Red Star".

The United Nations General Assembly is developing into some kind of a "Mad Hatters Tea Party".

It passes pious resolutions on Russia's intransigence, it tut-tuts about Vietnam, members take sides in Nigeria and supply the antagonists with arms, whilst the NATO nations make blood money by supplying ammunitions and stores to North Vietnam through the Port of Haiphong.

From 1964 to the end of 1967 810 ships entering the Port of Haiphong were from non-communist countries, and 611 were from NATO countries.

For the first five months of this year 49 arrivals were flying the British flag, out of a total of 61 ships from non-communist countries.

This situation could be described as Gilbertian, if it were not so serious.

Whilst U.S. and Australian troops confront a bitter and dangerous enemy, our "friends" do very nicely by trading with our opponents.

What sort of lunacy is this?

No wonder people lose their patience, and no wonder the protestors, who are not all loud-voiced agitators, use these facts with telling effect.

But the majority of the 80-odd groups oppose the war in Vietnam, oppose every citizen's obligation to assist or defend his country, parade the flag of the National Liberation Front at their demonstrations, because they are the dupes of an insidious and clever propaganda.

Some of us know some of these people. Some of us have met clergymen, professors at universities, and students who really believe they are fighting a cause. Others, for sure, are agitators, anarchists, and so "super-left" that the Australian Communist Party is appalled at what lies within its own "Pandora's Box".

For communist parties throughout the world find that many of their front organisations have fallen into the hands

of politically unsophisticated people who resort to violence and anarchy. An example in recent months was the student activity in France, whose avowed object was to overthrow General de Gaulle.

The project back-fired, and the French Government emerged stronger than it could reasonably have hoped to be.

Undoubtedly the real object—as well-known international agitators took part, including "Danny the Red", who seems to have a strange immunity—was to sabotage the peace talks in Paris. However, the students of the Sorbonne had some real causes for their antagonisms.

A WORLD PATTERN OF VIOLENCE

Never in our own lifetime have we witnessed such a global breakdown and erosion of the principles of decent public behaviour, defiance of governments, and confrontation of accepted authority.

A dark stain of violence runs through society, and it seems that courts almost bend over backwards to protect the wrongdoer and his rights, and certainly in the United States, excuse and justify looting, burning and assaults on the police forces.

In Mexico City itself, host to the Olympiad, the country was almost on the verge of being torn asunder just a few short days before the Games opened.

And in Australia, our late Prime Minister, Mr. Holt, was himself placed in considerable physical danger from rioters, egged on by one or two known anarchists, outside Kew City Hall.

The riot last July outside the U.S. Consulate in Commercial Road, accompanied by assaults on the police, burning of the American and Australian flags, smashing of windows, foul abuse, and the insulting flourish of the flags of the N.L.F., was serious, indeed.

At the time of writing, thousands of protesters gathered in London, with Australia House as their main target. One of the leaders is Tariq Ali, a foreign student and known preacher of violence, who uses England's policy of tolerance and sanctuary to incite revolt.

Included amongst a lot of shouting and yelling, the Australian flag was ceremonially burnt, whilst some yahoos kicked and ripped up wreaths on the Cenotaph. If ever people merited a belt over the ear with a baton—these last did.

A prominent churchman, Vicar-General Rt. Rev. Monsignor Clarke, said at a function recently: "I am very suspicious that there is some sort of organised campaign to defy authority." How right he is.

Fortunately there are men in our midst, like Mr. R. H. Arnold, Chief Commissioner of Police in Victoria, who is quoted in the newspapers and in "Police Life" as saying:

"So long as I am the Chief Commissioner of Police, I have no intention of allowing violence to get out of hand. I require it to be crushed in its incipient stages with all the force necessary."

Following the Commissioner's remarks there was a strange silence from the "weak-sisters" and "do-gooders" in our

midst, whom one would have expected to have launched tirades against police brutality—police states, 95 per cent of the population have no sympathy with mob violence.

One notable exception, however, was an editorial in a highly respected Melbourne daily rebuking the Commissioner.

Needless to say, many of its readers were astonished and dismayed, including your reviewer. Indeed, I re-read the editorial twice, and just cannot relate the policy of this responsible newspaper with the views expressed in its editorial.

In effect, the paper advocates, at any rate by inference, kid-glove treatment for law-breakers and rioters.

One day it may eat its words—for the written page remains forever.

A.I.C.D.—THE EVIL GENIUS IN AUSTRALIA

When one reads the booklet from cover to cover, the pattern and the plan of protest falls into place like bricks in a wall.

The central spider in the web is the organisation known as the "Association for International Co-operation and Disarmament" (A.I.C.D.).

From this parent body sprang the welter of protest organisations.

Even though we hope you will read the publication, discuss it with your friends and make your own evaluation, we will briefly outline the pattern of revolt.

In 1961 a congress organised by the World Federation of Trade Unions met in Moscow and called upon "the workers of the world to achieve the peaceful unification of Vietnam"—meaning, of course, that Ho Chi Minh and the National Liberation Front be given a free hand.

In June 1964 the Communist Party of Australia assembled for its own congress, and amongst a plethora of resolutions recommended—"the recall of Australian troops from Vietnam" and "no further interference in the affairs of Asian peoples."

From this congress the A.I.C.D. emerged with strength to take the leadership in the anti-Vietnam war campaign.

Later in the year delegates to the World Peace Council met in Brussels and A.I.C.D. took part.

We now saw the entry of various Churchmen into the lists. Some Anglican bishops and clergy sponsored a letter to the Prime Minister protesting against the war in Vietnam. No doubt some of these prelates were genuine in their beliefs that "war is wicked" and the Vietnam war, in particular, but unfortunately some of the signatories were people who sneered at our institutions, were prepared to comfort our enemies, and were closely connected with communist "fronts".

"STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION"

How tired we all are of this time-worn phrase—trotted out in conjunction with the other cliché of "imperialist warmongers". We heard it again when the various international communist parties

met in Moscow in 1965, and the resolution carrying unanimous priority was—"the struggle against imperialist aggression".

Now the groups set to work in earnest.

"THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE"

Churches, included in the World Council of Churches, professors and academics, some politicians, and some excitable university students, all entered the fray.

The communist party—itsself split into the Moscow and Peking fragmentations, was hard pressed to keep the various bodies pointing in the right direction.

Women took their part. The Union of Australian Women had an offshoot in the "save our sons" campaign, no doubt peopled by anxious mothers and wives who genuinely feared the prospect in front of sons and husbands.

Then came the "youth campaign against conscription", many members being students (whose call-up was deferred in any case) and who were prepared to see other young men die, so long as they could save their own skins.

We had the doubtful pleasure of viewing university teach-ins on TV, and yards of publicity in the Press.

Some shots of audiences indicated many individuals bearded like biblical prophets, and "drak" looking females.

STUDENT POWER

Within the last chapter this phenomenon is discussed. In some countries such as France students have revolted against injustices and intolerable conditions. The students of Sorbonne University had very real grievances against the French Government, which is now rapidly correcting such appalling situations as no writing desks, and overcrowding.

Some silly people love to generalise, and brand university students as wild-eyed anarchists who will join any protest.

We must renounce such hysterical and unverified statements.

Obviously the majority of Australian university students are serious, hard-working young men and women, whose goal is a degree. They ignore the vapourings and posturings of a tiny section of professional students who will never make the grade.

Certainly we will see members of the rat-bag section at demonstrations, sit-ins and other ins, influenced by some strange characters among their instructors (whose salaries we all help to pay).

As reasonable members of the community, we can only have one role to play—a constructional one.

Injustice, cruelty and poverty can, and must, be eliminated in a democratic system, through the medium of properly constituted bodies, through the Press, and by Parliament.

The fabric of society, product of centuries of struggle, must not be permitted to be torn down by anarchy and violence.

(Reprinted in full context from "Mufti", December 1st, 1968.)

2/2 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 23rd APRIL, 1969.

1968	Receipts	1968	Expenditure
\$527	Balance brought forward	\$561.28	\$16 Floral Tributes
\$329	Subscriptions	\$364.00	\$204 "Action Front"
\$155	Annual Re-Union	\$199.00	\$20 Legacy
—	Unit History	\$5.50	\$179 Annual Re-Union
\$9	N.S.W. Capitation Fees	\$10.00	\$60 Secretary's Honorarium and Expenses
\$63	Bank Interest	\$72.35	\$27 Postages and Stationery
\$431	Regimental Dinner	\$509.00	\$445 Regimental Dinner
			— Anzac Appeal
			\$2 6 Division Association
		\$561	17 Brigade Dues
			\$527.58 Balance carried forward
\$1514		\$1721.13	
			\$1721.13

TRUST ACCOUNT

\$1352	Balance brought forward	\$1576.35	\$20 To Trustees
\$98	M. & M.B.W. Interest	\$98.00	\$1576 Balance carried forward
\$146	Repaid to Trustees	—	
\$1596		\$1674.35	\$1674.35

BALANCE SHEET

\$3937	Accumulated Funds of the Association	\$4001.93	Commonwealth Savings Bank—
		\$561	General Account
		\$1576	Trust Account
		\$1800	M. & M.B.W. Debentures—
			Loan 830 G (at cost)
\$3937		\$4001.93	\$4001.93

F. F. WILLIAMS, Hon. Treasurer.

To the Members,

The above Balance Sheet and Statement of Receipts and Expenditure have been compared by me with the books and records of the Association and I believe them to be a correct and fair statement of the affairs of the Association as recorded in the books for the period from 17th April, 1968 to 23rd April, 1969.

P. D. GEORGE, B.Com., F.C.A., Honorary Auditor.

PILGRIMAGE TO 'PUCKA' VOTED BY ALL AS DAY TO REMEMBER

On Sunday, 4th May, the Regimental Association made the Annual Pilgrimage to Puckapunyal.

As it was the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment, the journey had rather a special significance.

Members and their families gathered in the Gun Club area, where the Club was thrown open to members, and barbecue facilities were arranged.

Many members made the effort, and prior to the ceremony, there was a very convivial gathering in the Gun Club. Jim Sutton, one who we had not seen for years was there. Cliff Clough came down from Albury, while Bill Kinsman, Secretary of the Seymour R.S.L., not only brought along "Bronco" Dowling and Roy Auton, to mention a couple,

also had the editor of the local Seymour paper with him.

Keith Rossi had made arrangements with the authorities of the Puckapunyal Military Area and the 3 Div. R.A.A. Band was in attendance. A catalfaque party was provided by 15 Field Regiment.

At the time, 3 Div. Artillery, under command of Colonel Peter Turner, was at their annual camp at Puckapunyal.

At the March to our memorial plaque, it was like old times. For some it was turning the clock back 30 years. Three Padres from 3 Div. R.A.A. attended, and later President Len Creed laid a wreath at the base of the plaque. After this, those in attendance filed past the memorial tree and plaque.

To those people who made the effort, and to those people who, through their organisation, made the day possible, the thanks of the Association is tendered.

KEEP YOURSELF FINANCIAL Subscription \$2 per year

Send direct to The Treasurer,
Box 1876, G.P.O., Melb., 3001

MARCH WITH YOUR UNIT ON
ANZAC DAY IN WHATEVER
CITY OR TOWN YOU MAY BE