



Action Front

Official Journal of 2/2 Field Regiment Association

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Still Priceless

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1. PREPARE FOR ACTION:

We continue to be an active organization and we are proud to announce that progress has been made on the placement of a plaque at Brallos Pass in Greece commemorating the magnificent stand by the Regiment there in April 1941. Mel Johnson has summarized this in the Adjutant's Report.

As we quickly approach the centenary of the landings of Australian and New Zealand troops at Anzac Cove we need to be aware of the changes to the March this year and of the descendants of WW1 veterans marching at the end.

VALE

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.

VX50243 | M.P. Clancy

And to all members of the Regiment who died in
WW2 and have deceased since.

"Lest We Forget."

Rest Well Gallant Men

We, who are left, in gratitude, remember you still.

Our deepest sympathy goes to their loved ones and relatives.

And also

Beryl Whitehead, widow of Ivan, passed away in February.
Glen Rossi, son of Keith, passed away in November.

3. OPENING SHOTS:

As I listen to the strains of Mark Knopfler and Dire Straits playing the haunting "Going Home" (which I believe should be broadcast at the conclusion of every remembrance ceremony) I am reminded of the sacrifices of our forebears, whether they returned or died whilst on active service to their country in any of the conflicts Australians have distinguished themselves. And especially this year 2015, the centenary of the landings at Anzac Cove in the early hours of Sunday 25th April 1915, which has become the accepted day of remembrance for all Australians.

Many of us are descendants of participants in these conflicts, such as Judy Agar (Donovan) whose forebear was involved in the Boer War, probably many of us who had grandfathers or great grandfathers immersed in that terrible war of 1914-18 when there was much useless loss of life and decimation of a generation. My family was lucky enough to have a grandfather who returned relatively unscathed (I hope).

Then there is the reason for our existence: the 2/2nd Field Regiment of the 6th Division, 2nd AIF. We remember our fathers and grandfathers proudly as they have gradually slipped away. But we retain their memories, and I hope we will keep these alive and pass them on to our own descendants

4. ANZAC DAY, Saturday 25th April 2015.

THIS IS THE BIG ONE!
ONE HUNDRED YEARS SINCE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND TROOPS LANDED AT ANZAC COVE.

AS WE DID LAST YEAR WE WILL FORM UP IN FLINDERS STREET,
 OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCE TO St.PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

Look out for the banner and our slouch hats.

ASSEMBLY TIME: NO LATER THAN 0900 (0845 would be better).

Sue Shaw will once again take the Roll Call.

MARCH OFF SCHEDULED FOR: 0930.

Remember the following:

We try very hard to look professional and dignified.

We dress appropriately, shirts with collars and medals on the right breast
 (except veterans!)

We take pride in our banner and who carry it.

We look after our Veterans.

We try and march properly.

Sometimes it works better than others, but the resolve is, I know, always there.

IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT LAST YEAR, MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT THIS YEAR,
 BECAUSE NONE OF US WILL BE AROUND FOR THE 200th AND THE
 TRADITIONS OF ANZAC WILL ONLY BE KEPT ALIVE BY OUR EFFORTS.

LET'S TRY FOR MORE THAN 50 MARCHERS THIS YEAR!

WE'VE BEEN CONSISTENTLY ABOVE 40, SO LET'S TRY A BIT HARDER!

Also, this year, to celebrate Australia's second action of World War 1 (the landings at Rabaul were the first!) descendants of WW1 veterans are asked to form up at the rear of the March, but don't forget to register your intention to march by registering online at www.anzaccenatary.vic.gov.au

This is to assist in estimating the possible numbers to be involved in the March. However, clarity from the March organizers will be needed to find out which area to form up in Flinders Street, that is, either east or west of Swanston Street and at what times. The published information is confusing, to put it mildly. Do descendants with surnames of veterans starting with A-M depart at 1135 from Flinders St west or from Flinders St east at 1150? And what about N to Z? (Source: Mufti March 2015)

I will try and clarify this by Anzac Day, so if you have any questions ask me on the day (it will only be another thing to deal with on the day -think vehicles for veterans!)

I have also been endeavouring to organize a venue for a post March get together at the Chapel Street Artillery Depot without much luck. Hopefully there will be more news by Anzac Day (see also the Penultimate Bit).

5. RANGING IN: Another V.C.

Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird, MG

To be awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia (posthumous).

(reprinted from Cascabel April 2014, with thanks)

For the most conspicuous acts of valour, extreme devotion to duty and ultimate self-sacrifice at Ghawchak village, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan as a Commando Team Commander in Special Operations Task Group on Operation SLIPPER.

Corporal Cameron Baird enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in 2000, was discharged in 2004, and re-enlisted in 2006. In both periods of service, he was assigned to the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando). His operational service includes Operations TANAGER, FALCONER, BASTILLE and five tours on Operation SLIPPER. He was awarded the Medal for Gallantry for his service in Afghanistan in 2007-08.

On 22 June 2013, a Commando Platoon of the Special Operations Task Group, with partners from the Afghan National Security Forces, conducted a helicopter assault into Ghawchak village, Uruzgan Province, in order to attack an insurgent network deep within enemy-held territory. Shortly after insertion, Corporal Baird's team was engaged by small arms fire from several enemy positions. Corporal Baird quickly seized the initiative, leading his team to neutralise the positions, killing six enemy combatants and enabling the assault to continue.

Soon afterwards, an adjacent Special operations Task Group team came under heavy enemy fire, resulting in its commander being seriously wounded. Without hesitation, Corporal Baird led his team to provide support. En route, he and his team were engaged by rifle and machine gun fire from prepared enemy positions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Corporal Baird charged towards the enemy positions, supported by his team. On nearing the positions, he and his team were engaged by additional enemy on their flank. Instinctively, Corporal Baird neutralized the new threat with grenades and rifle fire, enabling his team to close with the prepared position. With this now isolated, Corporal Baird manoeuvred and was engaged by enemy machine gun fire, the bullets striking the ground around him. Displaying great valour, he drew the fire, moved to cover, and suppressed the enemy machine gun position. This action enabled his team to close on the entrance to the prepared position, thus regaining the initiative.

On three separate occasions Corporal Baird charged an enemy-held building within the prepared compound. On the first occasion he charged the door to the building, followed by another team member. Despite being totally exposed and immediately engaged by enemy fire, Corporal Baird pushed forward while firing into the building. Now in the closest proximity to the enemy, he was forced to withdraw when his rifle ceased to function. On rectifying his rifle stoppage, and reallocating remaining ammunition within his team, Corporal Baird again advanced towards the door of the building, once more under heavy fire. He engaged the enemy through the door but was unable to suppress the position and took cover to reload. For a third time, Corporal Baird selflessly drew enemy fire away from his team and assaulted the doorway. Enemy fire was seen to strike the ground and compound walls around Corporal Baird, before visibility was obscured by dust and smoke. In this third attempt, the enemy was neutralized and the advantage was regained, but Corporal Baird was killed in the effort.

Corporal Baird's acts of valour and self-sacrifice regained the initiative and preserved the lives of his team members. His actions were of the highest order and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

6. BOMBARDMENT.

THE THIRD BATTLE OF THE WAZZA: CAIRO 1940.

The first intimation that there had been another altercation in the infamous brothel district in Cairo following the two well reported incidents in World War I in 1915 came many years ago at a lunch at the Queensberry Hotel in Carlton when the late Bill Hull told me an illuminating story. It further aroused my curiosity when I came across a claim by 9th Division soldiers that they been involved in the SECOND Battle of the Wazza. I thought that could not be right: their's must be at least the FOURTH!

The 6th Division AIF were camped at Helwan and were given leave into Cairo. 2/2nd Field Regiment officers were ensconced in Shepheard's Hotel near the dubious district, junior officers allocated the penthouse suite, including the recently promoted Captain Ron McPherson.

He, being an Observation Post Officer, had signallers and various other troops under his command. They, being respectful and loyal, came and asked his permission to go on leave into the city.

"Are you going to the Wazza?" he asked.

"Oh no sir!"

But knowing his troops....."Well, even so, (unholstering his service revolver) you had better take this with you, just in case you run into trouble, but only use it in a dire emergency, and get back here with it if you can."

So the troops departed. We can only guess at who they were, but probably included some of the following: Sgt. Charlie Gilbert VX1077 (MM at Bardia), Bdr. Orm Tulloch VX709 (KIA Brallos April 1941), Gnrs. Bob Taunt VX984, Bill Hull VX11850 (DCM Crete), Vic Leech VX903, Jackie Lewis VX627 (16 years old), Frank 'Snowy' Weller VX15411, Joe Wiltshire VX596, Cliff Jude VX935 and possibly Lloyd Searle VX591 (who was often up to high jinks).

But of course they DID go to the Wazza, they DID get into trouble, and YES, the revolver WAS discharged!

There is no evidence of a riot, but...

They raced back to Shepheard's with MPs in close pursuit.

They got to the penthouse and breathlessly handed back the revolver to the Captain as the MPs broke in.

One of the MPs asked "Has that revolver been fired recently?"

In answer to that, Ron pointed the gun at the ceiling, fired three shots, and replied: "Yes!"

The MPs left -there were no charges!

Unfortunately, Shepheard's was burnt down, I believe, in the Suez Crisis in the 1950's, so we can't inspect the ceiling for lead poisoning. Bill Hull's exploits to win the DCM near Hania to cross through enemy lines on his motor-bike to bring back medical supplies for the RMO must have been something to behold. Charlie Gilbert went out under enemy fire to repair broken telephone lines in front of Bardia and richly deserved his Military Medal. In the same action Captain McPherson was awarded the Military Cross.

7. COUNTER BATTERY.

Night Driving Part 1, by Ubique.

The Second-in-Command turned on the first night driving exercise early in 1940 at Puckapunyal. In those early days, ample warning was given and there was much activity from 1600 hours onwards -drivers removing windscreens,

officers and sergeants collecting and folding maps, and gunners stowing vehicles with bedding so that their rest would be disturbed as little as possible. Signallers were 'netting in' their wireless sets, and all hands were busy gathering a snack either from private stocks or by scrounging from the cookhouse for consumption during the drive.

Headed by a vehicle bearing the sign 'Unlighted Military Convoy Following,' the regiment would start off after dark for a drive of several hours, which gradually increased with subsequent drives until they lasted right throughout the night. No lights were used and the courses picked became tougher as the drivers became more experienced.

Some civilian drivers meeting these convoys must have received very nasty frights when their lights blinded the army drivers with eyes accustomed to darkness. Tractors towing guns would veer across the road, as would very many of the hundred odd other vehicles. One unlucky civilian driver had his cargo of tomatoes strewn over the road after being grazed by several vehicles. To his amazement, there were no whole tomatoes on the road when he tried to collect them. He did not know that, lurking in the shadows were seventy odd gunners whose vehicles had pulled well off the road and halted whilst the others passed.

After a few such exercises, one troop of the regiment earned the name 'Crasher Troop.' Early one morning near Violet Town, its troop commander found that, in the first cold streaks of dawn, he had behind him not his own four guns and sundry vehicles, but those of another troop which started behind his and were not allowed to pass during the exercise. His complaints soon led to him being informed that had the next troop not passed his guns, they would still be halted near Seymour. He was then informed that one gun was wrapped around a tree, another overturned in a ditch, and so on until he had full details.

Honours went to the troop with all vehicles back in camp first. The booby prize was won by a troop which brought two guns in about 1700 hours. One cunning troop commander, faced with a night drive without maps, over very poor roads (if they could be graced with such a description), on a pitch black night and skirting a bushfire, scouted around his troop until he found a driver who had lived in the area of the exercise. The rest was easy. He had him drive his own vehicle leading the troop, with the result that he travelled on good roads for most of the journey, did not go near the bushfire, did not cross a rickety bridge, yet passed all the notified control points. His troop was in bed in camp before any others returned, even though the other troops had started ahead of his.

A prize must be given to the troop commander who led his troop out the back gate of Puckapunyal only to be confused by the lights of the camp and led them straight up to the main gate.

After a while, the exercises became a regular Sunday night affair - a first class method of checking who came back late from week-end leave, and a test of the sobriety of drivers.

Training in Palestine and Egypt did not leave much time for purely night driving exercises, but one memorable test occurred in the desert south of Cairo. The hazards were wadis and soft sand, darkness and lack of landmarks. The

course went out into the desert, round a faint red lamp at a designated map reference, and back to camp.

Each troop set off at its appointed time. Some got stuck in soft sand, some got to the red lamp without much trouble either by good management or good luck. But a large number of those who made the grade got there at the same time. While one troop was passing clockwise round the lamp, another would be going anticlockwise, and a third sweeping right through with some vehicles to one side and the remainder to the other.

In the midst of this milling confusion was the C.O. (2i/c of Puckapunyal days) vainly trying to identify those who went around the lamp in case anyone had the audacity to merely drive a short distance out from the camp, sleep awhile and then drive back.

Amongst the 'also rans,' one officer on loan from a sister unit found his vehicle stuck in soft sand beyond all efforts of those on board to free it. He was a fair way from camp when he decided to go back for assistance, so he made his way to an arab camp nearby. By means known only to himself, he persuaded the 'Wogs' to lend him a camel, and instead of walking, rode triumphantly in at dawn on the 'ship of the desert.'

8. THIS YEAR'S LUNCH: Sunday 8th November.

The Committee have tried very hard to keep the cost of this popular day down to a minimum and have decided to run some fund-raising efforts to offset costs with prizes such as CD's of the Regiment's (precised) history and the War Diary, along with some other goodies. The number of attendees at last year's lunch were a bit down on previous years, so please make an effort to be at this year's lunch to be held again at Waverley RSL's Sunset Room on Sunday 8th November

9. THE OBJECTIVE SHELLLED.

Alan Stewart's Diary.

I was very fortunate to be able to interview Alan Stewart late in his life. He had kept a diary of his days with the Regiment since he joined in 1939, which he loaned to me and I was able to transcribe. I think he was probably our last remaining 39er. It is fairly extensive, without being verbose, and fills many gaps that were never covered in the official history (along with many other facts that should have been). Alan was a lovely man and I feel it only fitting that I now publish his diary, albeit in instalments.

This first bit covers enlistment in 1939 through to the end of the Western Desert campaign.

I hope you enjoy it. I made a few corrections consistent with the official histories.

VX 691 A.T. STEWART 2/2nd Field Regiment.

CONVOY: US2: Melbourne to El Kantara (Egypt). April 15th to May 19th 1940.

Transports: Strathaird, Dunera (Y5), Etrick, Neurailla, Nevasa.

Warships: HMS Ramillies, battleship, (to Suez Canal)
 HMAS Adelaide, light cruiser, (to Perth)
 HMAS Sydney, cruiser, (Perth to Cocos Island)
 Suffren (French), cruiser, (Cocos to Suez Canal)
 HMS Kent, cruiser, (Colombo to Aden)
 HMS Liverpool, cruiser, (Aden to Port Sudan)
 HMAS Hobart, cruiser, (12th May near Aden)
 HMAS Yarra, sloop, (at Perth)
 HMAS Swan, sloop, (at Perth)
 HMS Decoy, destroyer, (Gulf of Aden to Suez)
 HMS Defender, destroyer, (Gulf of Aden to Suez)
 HMS Shoreham, sloop, (Aden to Port Sudan)

Ports of Call: Perth, April 21
 Colombo, May 3&4
 Aden, (6 hrs -no leave), May 12
 Suez, (passed through), May 17
 El Kantara, (Suez canal), May 19 (0030 hrs)

Camps & Movements.

Enlisted Oct 25th, 1939 at Chapel Street, East St.Kilda.

Camped at:

Showgrounds, Melbourne,	Oct 25 -Nov10
Seymour,	Nov 10 -Dec, 1939
Puckapunyal,	Dec, 1939 -Jan 28, 1940
"Pucka" to Holsworthy, NSW, Jan 28 -Feb 1, via Benalla, Albury, Holbrook, Gundagai, & Goulburn.	
Holsworthy,	Feb 1 -25.
Puckapunyal, (promoted L/Bdr Apr 5, 1940)	Feb 28 -Apr 14
Embarked on HMT Dunera,	April 14, disembarked, May19.
Beit Jirga, Palestine,	May 19-24
Deir Suneid	May 24 -June 26
1 st AGH Gaza Ridge	June 27 -July 7
Deir Suneid	July 8-17
Hadera district	July 17-28
Deir Suneid	July 28 -August 11
1 st AGH Gaza Ridge	August 12 -September 1
Deir Suneid	September 1-2
Palestine to Egypt	September 2-4
Via Beersheba and Ismailia.	
Helwan, (promoted Bdr Oct 21)	Sept 4 -Oct26
El Amiriya	Oct 26 -Dec 12
To Western Desert	Dec 12
Passed Mersa Matruh	Dec 19
Sidi Barrani (1 night)	Dec 19
Entered Libya at Fort Capuzzo	Dec 20
In action at Bardia	Dec 20 -Jan 5, 1941
Fall of Bardia	Jan 5
Bardia to east of Tobruk	Jan 10
In action at Tobruk	Jan 14
Fall of Tobruk	Jan 22
Moved into Tobruk	Jan 23
Left Tobruk	Jan 27
Took up position on & fall of Derna	Jan 30
Moved through Giovanni Berta	Feb 3
Camped near Cyrene	Feb 4

Camped 10 miles east of Barce	Feb 7-10
Benghazi surrendered	Feb 8, 1941
Moved into Barce	Feb 10
Bivouacked in Barce	Feb 10-16
Moved to D'Annunzio	Feb 16-24
Thus (effectively) ending 1 st Libyan campaign. Italian casualties killed, wounded & prisoners, 140,000 (Alan's figure –was probably more).	
"Return Trip"	
Moved back to Ain el Gazala,	
Bivouacked until	March 13
Arrived Bardia	March 14
Arrived Sidi Barrani	March 15
Arrived Mersa Matruh	March 16, Sunday
Returned to El Amirya, Egypt	March 22

10. JOTTINGS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

by Graham Montgomerie.

Our main social event for the year is our Ladies Day Luncheon, when I am usually able to round up a reasonable number for a good get together. It is the only occasion I am able to attend by hiring a disabled taxi to fit my wife in her wheelchair and me with my walker and my two large sons David and Stuart.

This time the reduced company present were SHIRL WILSON, her daughter JILL and her son JIM, ROSS FULLER, son MALCOLM and partner SHARON, my wife MARGOT, sons DAVID and STUART and myself (GRAHAM), making a total of 10. We were down on numbers because COLLEEN FRASER (IAN) had a medical appointment she couldn't change, GWEN GARDNER had a broken leg and GORDON DARLINGTON had influenza, otherwise he and his sons would have attended. We also missed ANTOINETTE JACKSON (ALAN) and son ANDREW who were apologies.

Hopefully this year we should have double the numbers if the planets align themselves properly. For some reason the day was always scheduled for a Friday when the Club is full and very noisy, so the lunch is going to be on a Wednesday when I am advised it will be a great deal quieter.

So put in your diaries WEDNESDAY, 28th OCTOBER 2015 at the Kirribilli Club, 1130 for 1200 (try not to be late!) Sydway Map 46 JK6, if coming by train get off at Milson's Point station, head west to Cliff Street and then north along that street and you're almost there. Try and make the effort to come -it's a good day.

Healthwise, COL BRAGG had to be operated to resolve fluid around his heart, but he tells me that all is well now. He is the only one to report a problem.

I contacted RSL HQ and was advised that the ASSEMBLY LOCATION IS HUNTER STREET at 0930 for this year's March. I will advise Cadet Sgt. TONY EVANS of the change, so hopefully the Waverley Cadets will be there waiting for us, unlike last year's fiasco.

Cheers for now,
Graham (Monty) Montgomerie.

11. DIARY DATES

Please put these dates in your diaries:

Saturday 25 th April	Anzac Day, form up 0845.
Sunday 24 th May	Battle of Crete Commemoration, the Shrine, 1200.
Tuesday 16 th June	Committee Meeting.
Tuesday 8 th September	Committee Meeting.
Sunday 25 th October	Greek 'No' Day.
Sunday 8 th November	76 th Annual Lunch.
Tuesday 8 th December	Committee Meeting.

And events to be held at the Shrine:

For further information contact the Shrine on (03) 9661 8100

or reception@shrine.org.au

12. ADJUTANT'S REPORT:

Plaque at Brallos Pass

Our Committee has been endeavouring to have a memorial plaque erected at the site of the two guns in Central Greece.

Over recent months we have been able to make contact with the Mayor of Lamia who has acknowledged the important role of the 2/2 Field Regiment in 1941. We have presented all supporting material to the municipality including having a second plaque cast in the Greek language.

If the approval is granted we have also indicated our wish to attend a dedication ceremony at the site. To give everyone the opportunity to travel to Greece we are asking for Expressions of Interest so that everyone has time to make the necessary plans to participate.

Please indicate your EXPRESSION OF INTEREST including numbers to Mel Johnson, Secretary on email dexta33@bigpond.com

As soon as we have positive information everyone will be notified.

Repatriation Hospital Anzac Day Service

This service is to be held on Thursday 23rd April 2015 at 10.30am and will include an unveiling ceremony for the completion of the Chapel Stained Glass project.

The Chapel project has taken 25 years and the Stained Glass project has taken eight years. The last four panels have now been completed and within each panel there are four images one of which is of our own Keith Rossi.

Everyone is always welcome to attend the Anzac Day Service but it would be especially fitting for as many as possible of our members to attend this special unveiling ceremony for Keith.

Website/Webmaster

The Committee has also been working to update and set-up a new website. We thank Sue Shaw who has done much preparatory work for this and has also offered to be the Webmaster which is great news.

This website will provide an easier way for members and others to access our news and information and also an opportunity to provide matters of interest to the site.

Mel omits to say how much hard work she and Terry Cole have put in to get this project to where it is at present and also the correspondence to the Australian War Memorial regarding another plaque to be placed there, as well as another at the Repatriation Hospital, Heidelberg.

Mel has written to, amongst others, the Australian Ambassador in Athens, the Mayor of Lamia, the Greek Ambassador in Canberra, as well as correspondence with the AWM and the Repat.

13. PERSONALIA.

Well, the last AF had only just landed in letterboxes when I got another delightful call from **SHIRL WILSON** and then a follow-up letter with another donation. And then another phone call to talk about the convoy ships and a new book by Peter Plowman about same. Thank you again **SHIRL**. It's always good to have a chat. I will definitely try and be up for the Sydney lunch in October to catch up.

Then a call from **CARMEL JAMES (JESSE)** saying she was moving to where she was not sure and requested to not be sent any more AF's. She mentioned that her son was in America -maybe that's her destination.

I'd just recovered from nephew **JAMES** wedding and Melbourne Cup Day to enjoy another letter from **MARIE McCOWAN** in Fletcher near Newcastle to say how pleased she was to see so many young people marching with the Regiment and enclosing a generous donation. Thank you Marie, and for your kind thoughts. Next cab off the rank was a welcome call from **GRANT BEDSON** letting me know his news: flooding, father's death, job loss (all bad I'm sorry to say), but also to tell me that he was sending me and Kim an e-mail of the book Action Front but without the photos. So if anyone wants a copy they can contact me or Kim to obtain such. Thank you **GRANT**, it compliments all the hard work you've done for the Association over several years. I still miss your input at committee level.

A big thank you to **SUE SHAW** for all the hard work she's put in to get our website off and running. Most of the rest of us were running around like chooks with their heads cut off wondering what to do. I was just sitting back in a daze (some might say I'm usually like that!)

I got a couple of e-mails from **STEVE BICKELL** asking me to contact him through something called LinkedIn. Sorry, can't log on with my steam driven computer (still waiting for Windows 10 to arrive!)

KIM was contacted by **DAVID JABOOR**, grandson of that illustrious 3rd commanding officer of the Regiment, **COLONEL ROY JABOOR**, wanting details of this year's Anzac Day March, so that he may get leave from his army unit to march with us. We would welcome your participation, **DAVID**, and hope you can come in uniform with both your medals and your grandfather's.

Maybe my nephews may turn up again to make it even more impressive.

KEITH ROSSI has been in hospital after being found collapsed at home. We all hope you are well and truly recovered Keith.

14. THE 75th ANNIVERSARY LUNCH NOVEMBER 2014.

Over 40 of us gathered again at the Waverley RSL for the Annual Lunch, to be entertained again by an off-the-cuff speech from Keith Rossi, who described his and a mate's antics in climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge and how they escaped the clutches of the military 'guarding' it and returned to Mosman.

As usual the food, refreshments and the company was of high standard. We ran our AGM and were pleased to welcome Anthony Gleeson to the committee. Kim Taunt again organized everything including the display of memorabilia, which seems to get bigger every year.

Those attending:

*committee

	Keith Rossi, patron (v)*
	Bill Rowe (v)
Karen Miller	Greg Miller
Ian Gleeson	Anthony Gleeson*
Rod Willcox	John Willcox
Pat Dare	Kim Sparkes
Win Stewart	John Cameron
Elizabeth Creed	Jack Edmonds
Phyllis Edmonds	Ted Fairweather
Ray Donovan	Frank Donovan
Terry Cole*	Denise Fetherstonhaugh*
Kim Taunt*	Mel Johnson*
Lachie McPherson*	Liz Lennie
Jane Cleverly	Robert Lennie
Pete Cleverly	Francesca Pezzimenti
Peter Charman	Emma Rossi
Cynthia Charman	Julian Rossi
Jan Earl	Bridie Cognognini
Elyssa Wilson	Andre Rossi
Derek Trewarne*	Sarah Tryde
Jenny Trewarne	Steve Bickell

15. PENULTIMATELY SPEAKING.

At our Association's Committee Meeting on Monday 2nd March it was my pleasant duty to present Bill Rowe with a Certificate of Life Membership. He and his wife Iris attended and we then settled down to a convivial discussion and a delightful repast. This included how and where the couple met and life after the war.

Thank you Mel for organizing the day.

In trying to organize the Chapel Street Depot as a meeting point after the March, the subject of the paintings of Bill Cremor and Brallos Pass by Sir William Dargie came up. It is known that they had hung in Frank Wood's restaurant and it is believed he lent them to the Depot. They are now claiming ownership of them, saying that Frank had given them which I find hard to

understand, as it is recorded that Sir William was guest speaker at 2/2nd's Dinner many years ago (I think at the Victoria Hotel downstairs) and signed the Brallos Pass painting and gave it to the Regiment.

Even though Frank was a Trustee of the Regiment, I'm quite sure he would not have given them to the Artillery Depot to hang in the Officers' Mess.

Apparently they are not in the Mess any more but in the Museum's area at the rear of the Depot, the Brallos Pass painting under lock and key. However, ownership should be cleared up and the paintings should be on display probably most suitably at the Shrine.

If Keith or Roger Wood know anything about this matter, I'm sure all members would be very grateful.

16. CEASE FIRING!

I don't like to talk about myself but a few of my rowing anecdotes should be recorded (especially for Monty's pleasure). Firstly, I got a bronze medal at the Head of the Schoolgirls Regatta, my Geelong Grammar crew of Year 10's won their B Final and would have beaten another 4 crews in higher divisions, and finally I did a somersault into the Barwon early one morning and the boat 'bit' me as I went over it. Much blood and pain. Oh, and Victoria won the King's and Queen's Cup for Interstate Eight-oared rowing!

Thank you to all donors including Shirley Wilson, Marie McCowan and to the other contributors to this issue, Mel and Monty.

Has anyone worked out who the author Ubique was?

Have I missed anybody? If so, accept my apologies please.

Cheers,

Lachie.

lachlan51@bigpond.com

33 Barrabool Road, Belmont, Vic, 3216, M: 040207 9515, T: (03) 5244 0262

The Office Bearers are:

Patron: KV Rossi.

Life Members: KV Rossi, FF Williams and Bill Rowe.

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