

80th YEAR OF PUBLICATION.



Action Front

Official Journal of 2/2 Field Regiment Association

Volume LXXX, No 1.

April 2020

Still priceless.

MOVING UP:

OPENING SHOTS	1
VALE	2
BOMBARDMENT	2
THE SERGEANTS' MESS	5
CEASE FIRING!	7

OPENING SHOTS

Welcome all to 2020. At time of writing the world is in some turmoil over the Covid-19 pandemic, and I imagine this is affecting our members in different ways. I open with this as a historical marker, and as a note of solidarity with any reader or their families who may be impacted. On behalf of the committee, I extend a particular nod to members of older age, those with health issues, and those challenged by mass closures and product shortages.

The ANZAC Day march this year has been cancelled throughout Australia, and the dawn service will go ahead to no crowds. I understand that the service will be televised. I appreciate that this will be disappointing for our members as for most Australians, but I hope Australians take this ANZAC Day in isolation as a chance for quiet, individual reflection on the day's meaning. We'll be back in full parade strength for 2021.

In Bombardment you will find write ups from our new president, Derek Trewarne, on Greek 'OHI Day' and the Battle of Crete & Greece Anzac Veterans & Descendants Reunion, and check the Sergeants' Mess for Mel's accounts of the 2019 Luncheon and AGM, and for an update on communications about Greek war graves and memorials.

Good soldiering.

VALE

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

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

Lest We Forget.

BOMBARDMENT**Greek 'OHI Day' ('No Day') Commemorative Service 28th October 2019**

Greek 'OHI Day' or ('No Day') is a significant day in modern Greek History. On October 28, 1940, in response to a demand from the Italian Ambassador in Athens to unconditional surrender, Greek Prime Minister Metaxas said 'Oxi', which means "no" in Greek! Italy then invaded and so began the Greek campaign, which officially culminated with the Battle of Crete in May 1941. A well trained and resourceful Greek Army drove the much larger Italian Force out of Greece, and it wasn't until Germany invaded in April 1941 that Greece finally succumbed.

The following pictures were taken at this year's Commemorative Service at the Shrine.



2nd/2nd Field Regiment Association Wreath



Wreaths were laid at the Australian Hellenic Memorial (Domain Gardens)



The Ceremony in the Central Sanctuary of the Shrine at the Stone of Remembrance.



At the luncheon that followed the ceremonies, there was a presentation to the RSL Hellenic Sub Branch of a print showing the gallant but badly damaged Greek Warship [L-67 'Adrias'](#) as it limped into the Port of Alexandria, to the resounding cheers of Allied sailors lining the decks of ships at anchor.

Report and pictures by Derek Trewarne

Battle of Crete & Greece Anzac Veterans & Descendants Reunion

On Sunday 6th October, our Association Secretary Mel Johnson and I attended a reunion for veterans and descendants of the Anzacs who fought in the Battle of Crete and Greece. The reunion took place in the Education Centre of the Shrine and was hosted by the Federation of Messinian Organisations in conjunction with the Battle of Crete and Greece Commemorative Council.

There was only one veteran in attendance, 97-year-old Norman Maddock, who served with the 2nd A.I.F. 2nd/7th Infantry Battalion. Norman spoke briefly about his wartime experience on Crete, and was full of admiration for his commanding officer, [Colonel T.G. Walker](#). Colonel Walker had the chance to be evacuated, but returned to his men at Sfakia when he realised they would be left behind after the last evacuation ships departed for Egypt.

Another speaker was Ms Jenny Cotton, Deputy Commissioner, Victoria Clients' Benefits Division of the Department of Veteran Affairs. Jenny spoke about the good work being done by the reunion's organisers and explained how she had recently discovered Norman Maddock had had his medals stolen, so kindly arranged a replacement set for him in time for the reunion.



There were quite a number of brief but moving tributes from descendants of veterans. Peter Ford, the son of a New Zealand veteran, has produced a booklet entitled 'One Man's Battle' about his father's wartime experience in Greece, Crete and Egypt, and the lasting effect it had on him and his family after the war. Peter's father Lance Corporal Frank Ford served with the NZEF 22nd Infantry Battalion and was involved in the heavy fighting in defence of the Maleme Airfield on Crete.

Another speaker discussed her father who served with the 2nd A.I.F. 2nd/6th Infantry Battalion and became a P.O.W., imprisoned in 'Stalag 18A' in Austria. The speaker noted that a web site has been established for descendants of the P.O.W.s who were imprisoned there and who wished to keep in touch with each other.

Podcaster Megan Spencer spoke about her grandfather Corporal Harry Spencer, a 'Thirty Niner', who served with the 2nd A.I.F. 2nd/7th Infantry Battalion and was taken prisoner on Crete. Megan was commissioned by the Australian War Memorial to produce a six-part series about remembrance. Recorded over two years in Europe and Australia, the series tells the story of her grandfather's experience, which was typical of the many other ANZAC P.O.W.s, both during their years of captivity and the years after their return. I have since listened to one sixty-minute segment of the series and found it most thought provoking.

All in all, it was a very interesting afternoon, and I am very grateful to the organisers for providing a forum which resulted in the many stories and experiences of veterans as told by their descendants. A common thread was the desperate situation faced by the underequipped Anzacs and the sacrifice and bravery of the Greek and Cretan people both during the invasion, and in the years of German occupation which followed.

Derek Trewarne

The AGM was conducted with the following elected/re-elected

President	Derek Trewarne
Vice-President	Malcolm Fallon
Secretary	Mel Johnson
Treasurer	Kim Taunt
Editor	David Jaboor
Communications	Kim Sparkes
Committee	Terry Cole and John Trewarne

Life Membership - Lachlan McPherson

Kim Taunt made the presentation which was accepted by Jane Cleverly (sister of Lachlan) who acknowledged the dedicated work of Lachlan to the 2/2 Field Regiment Association.

He served as President and also Editor of Action Front for many years. Lachlan had a vast knowledge of our veterans sharing many of their stories and of their service. He was always to the fore in making sure we respected the Anzac Day March - in step, proper lines and dress to carry on the proud traditions that our veterans had created when they marched.

We thank you Lachlan.

ANZAC DAY Saturday 25th April 2020

Dr Robert Webster President RSL Victoria has announced that the Anzac Day 2020 Dawn Service and March have both been cancelled to the general public due to the Covid19 crisis. Stay home, stay healthy.

Communications

In January we received an email from David O'Brien whose relative was of one of those killed at the guns at Brallos Pass. David will be visiting there in July and also wished to visit the graves of the men on the memorial.

The official location by way of Google earth co-ordinates, detailed directions from Lamia to the mountain pass and the War Grave Cemetery in Athens have been provided to David.

Terry Cole advised that the Phaleron Commonwealth War Graves in Athens has a memorial wall where the men are listed on the wall. The Secretary Mel Johnson has since checked and except for one* all other veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice in all of Greece are commemorated on the memorial wall. According to the official website of the cemetery there are 2028 Commonwealth servicemen from WW2 buried or commemorated in the cemetery - unfortunately 596 of the burials are unidentified.

Further to this we now have another memorial with five veterans from the 2/2 Field Regiment who were killed at Mournies on Crete. This memorial was erected by the Battle of Crete Council, Melbourne with assistance from the village of Mournies and

the local civic authorities and dedicated in August 2019.

With the Mournies and Brallos Pass memorials we now have twelve of the twenty veterans who were killed in Greece commemorated on plaques.

*Memorial wall at Suda Bay Cemetery, Crete

Visit to Brallos Pass

Thank you to David Jaboor who gave a presentation of their family visiting the Brallos Pass memorial in Central Greece. Also to Sarah Jaboor for her article in the previous Action Front of their visit.

CEASE FIRING!

Thank you again to all members for their support, contributions, and readership of Action Front. For those who can donate (any amount) to the association, the EFT details are:

Account Name: 2/2 Field Regiment Association

BSB: 063 001

Account No: 0090 2130

Please advise your payment by email: kimtaunt@optushome.com.au

Soldier on.

The Office Bearers are:

Life Members: VX773 Harell E. Day[†]. VX51628 Keith V. Rossi AM OBE RFD ED (Ret'd)[†], VX984 Robert K. Taunt[†], VX39986 Frank F. Williams[†], VX63 Frank H. Wood MBE[†], VX972 Phil F. Wortham[†], VX141086 Bill Rowe, Kim Taunt, and Lachlan McPherson.

Patron: Justice Richard Refshauge

Victoria

President: Derek Trewarne, E: trewarne@bigpond.net.au

Vice President: Malcolm Fallon, E: fallon05@bigpond.net.au

Secretary: Mel Johnson, E: dexta33@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Kim Taunt, 57 Marianne Way, Mt. Waverley, 3149.
E: sales@dataforms.com.au M: 0423 672 987 P: (03) 9802 4000.

Communications: Kim Sparkes, E: silver196@gmail.com.
<http://www.2nd2ndfieldregiment.org.au/>

Editor: David Jaboor E: [djabor@gmail.com](mailto:djaboor@gmail.com)

Committee: Terry Cole, Derek Trewarne, John Trewarne, and Malcolm Fallon.

New South Wales

President: Colin Bragg

Secretary: Graham (Monty) Montgomerie. P: (02) 9456 6365

Vice-President: Ross Fuller

Donations

The 2/2nd Field Regiment Association extends its thanks to all donors since last edition.

† = Deceased