



Official Journal of 2/2 Field Regiment Association

Volume LXXXIII.

April 2023

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VALE

The President, Committee and Members of the 2/2 Field Regiment Association are deeply saddened by the passing of Life Member and our last known surviving WW2 Regiment member Mr. W. (Bill) J. H. ROWE on 30 November 2022, aged 97 years.

Those who attended the 2022 Regimental Dinner and AGM were fortunate enough to hear Bill provide an outline of his drafting and enlisting which was done at Sturt Street, South Melbourne. Bill's training was done at Holsworthy, NSW and Canungra, Queensland. Bill went onto serve at Milne Bay and Lae in New Guinea, to be recalled again to serve at Wewak.

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

VX 141086 William (Bill) J.H. Rowe
April 30 1925 - November 30 2022

Lest We Forget.

The Association sends their deepest condolences to Bill's daughter Robyn and the rest of the Rowe family.

OPENING SHOTS

Welcome all to Action Front 2023.

This is a historic edition, being the first official journal of the 2/2 Field Regiment Association *Incorporated*. The Committee extends its thanks to all members for their questions, interest, and overall engagement in the incorporation process, and for voting in this new chapter in the Association's history.

The time-poor reader is encouraged to skip to The Sergeant's Mess on Page 3 for their administrative and logistics instructions around the ANZAC Day march.

Your stout editor will again be calling the time, and thanks all members to keep the formation as together as possible for the duration of the march. The march tends to be noisy, the 2/2 is always the farthest from the nearest (competent) drummer, and keeping in formation is not something we're used to day-to-day. Your attention for the 20 minutes would be very much appreciated.

First, some nostalgia:

Derek Trewarne has found what is highly likely to be an original 2/2 lapel badge, belonging to his father.



Our President has had a photograph of LtCol R.F. Jaboor enhanced and coloured. It's supposed that Roy was the Association's first Patron (until his passing in 1984), which the Committee is confirming via their collective archives. Any assistance with this would be appreciated.



Bombardment contains a summary of the minutes from the March 2023 Committee Meeting.

Thanks are extended to Sarah Jaboor for her assistance finalising this edition.

Good soldiering.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS

We have received from the Chief Marshal final approved Order of March which is also available on the RSL site.

We are able to march behind our banner within the 6th Division as per normal which is very pleasing.

Assembly time: 0915h

Assembly location: **Collins Street East (of Swanston St) on the South side.**

Dress: Formal, with enclosed footwear.

Step-off is scheduled for 10.10am.

Oakleigh Grammar are going to be the banner bearers and David Jaboor our Drill Master.

As we all know step-off maybe earlier or later for any manner of reasons.

Hopefully on the day a floor member may be prepared to do the Roll Call. I will have paper and pen ready.

Anzac Day admin

Photographs at the Anzac Day March are not permitted however it is acceptable to have a Lanyard with a photo – occupational health and safety ruling.

As a way of including members and assisting our editor with content for Action Front, members (two each edition) are being asked to provide an account of a family veteran either in paragraph or point-dot form. For guidance a template is available on our website.



Bill Rowe and family after the 2022 Anzac Day march

Thank you to President Malcolm who has supplied and donated lanyards and pens which will be for sale with all proceeds going directly to the Association.

Bombardment

A Committee Meeting was held on Monday 6th March at Anzac House on Collins Street: summary of topics discussed is outlined below.

The President was invited to attend Greek Independence Day on 25th March at the Hellenic RSL, where he intended to lay a wreath. Arrangements for the Anzac Day march were discussed (see above), and a request will be made for the Anzac Day march television commentary to include our last known veteran Bill Rowe.

Terry Cole offered to make a carry/storage box for the regiment's artwork, and it was agreed that this form part of a loan/grant application in addition to publishing material about the role of the 2/2 in the Greek campaign, and publicising the Brallos Pass Memorial to be included in future Victorian State Government Anzac study tours. The memorial was recently tended to by caretaker Dimitris Harazanis, who thanked the committee for the opportunity to be involved in recognising the important role that the 2/2 played in April-May 1941.

On the topic of grants, the 2/2 is now eligible to apply for Victorian Government Grants as an Incorporated Body. An information session was held on 8th November 2022 discussing grant programs including:

- Victoria Remembers
- Veterans Capital Works
- Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour

Applications for these programs are closed as of 31st January, but more information is available on www.vic.gov.au.

On a similar note, the President reported that an effort will be made to meet with Mr Lee Tarlmaris MLC, South-East Metropolitan to assist with State Government funding applications.

The new Incorporation Certificate and Constitution were tabled, with the Secretary acting as the authorised person representing the Regiment for Consumer Affairs Victoria. The Secretary will check whether donations to the regiment are tax-deductable, and it was agreed that individuals purchase the colour patch from the 2/2 and then purchase their own plaque and engraving, and artwork was discussed (details below).

The next AGM will be Sunday 22 October, with Committee meetings on 19 June and 4 September.

Counter Battery

Discussed at the Committee Meeting was the Dargie artwork. Captain Sir William Alexander Dargie CBE (1912-2003, pictured right) was an official Australian war artist during WWII and a renowned Australian painter.

He won the Archibald Prize, Australia's premier award for portrait artists, on eight separate occasions. Although he is known especially for his portraits, he also painted other works, such as smaller interior views, landscapes and still lifes. More than 500 of his paintings, drawings and sketches are in the collection of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.



The regiment holds the following artwork:

- ART23483 - "the road to Lamia from Brallos Pass", a copy from the Dargie original (The AWM were delighted to have the original returned to them, so pleased in fact they provided copies to the Wood family and the 2/2 Field Regiment Association)

- ART23488 - "Brallos Pass, 2/11 Btn position, a copy from the Dargie original - Mel Johnson holds this
- VX86 - Brig W.E. CREMOR, CBE-ED, an original by unknown artist - Mel Johnson holds this

It was a stipulation in the late 1970s that the original ART 23438 and the CREMOR painting be kept together, and with the removal of Swan Street barracks both were claimed by the Chapel Street barracks in Prahran. No digital versions of Dargie's wartime paintings could be found to include in this publication, however a 1945 sketch of Brallos Pass is depicted below:



Looking towards Mount Parnassus. It was near here, in the Brallos Pass, that units the ANZAC Corps fought a fierce rearguard action against a German armoured attack during the British withdrawal from Greece in 1941

Prints (with or without frames) can be ordered from the AWM with payment from each person to confirm the order - <https://www.awm.gov.au/>

Also of note is an Australians at War Film Archive video recording of a 2003 interview with Philip Wortham, who served with the 2/2nd Field Regiment and the 4th Field Brigade. A short section of the transcript at the 24-minute mark relating to Wortham's experience at Brallos Pass is included below:

We were sort of in the shadow of Mount Olympus and it was about that time that General Blamey took over, he was under the command of General Wilson, an English General. Blamey summed the situation up and he took over the Australian and New Zealand Division and that is how we formed the new Anzac line. It was called the Anzac line then. Coincidentally it was formed on Anzac Day.

In the meantime the Greek Army on our flanks are ended. They were overwhelmed so they surrendered. We were left and the retreat started then. We got back to Brallos Pass and that was the last stand. We had two guns up on a bluff, not my troop but another troop, and they kept the Germans at bay, they kept firing and firing.

The full video is available here:

<https://australiansatwarfilmarchive.unsw.edu.au/archive/94>

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

The regiment can also be supported through a range of 2/2 souvenirs.

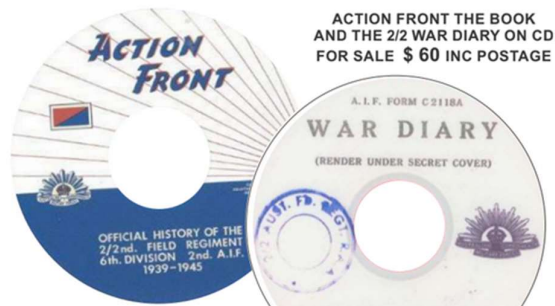


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to kimtaunt1951@gmail.com and advise delivery address

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13 Surfers Avenue, Ocean Grove VIC 3226 and advise your address

Soldier on.

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Donations

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

† = Deceased