



*Official Journal of 2/2 Field Regiment Association*

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## **OPENING SHOTS**

Welcome all to the final edition of Action Front for 2023.

Unfortunately the months between editions have been feeling progressively shorter over the years to the point where, despite my best intentions, this latest journal was not issued in time for the annual luncheon. My apologies for this oversight. We will ensure the timings are corrected before ANZAC Day 2024.

As announced by our President at the luncheon, I will be taking a leave of absence from the committee for 2024 while I complete my studies and hopefully free up some time.

A big thank you to the committee and membership for forwarding the information and articles available in this volume. Special thanks to Malcolm Fallon for the chat and the understanding about the necessary time off.

I would like to thank Sarah Jaboor for her help in compiling this edition of Action Front. This assistance has been greatly appreciated over the last two editions.

The Sergeants Mess contains a summary of the President's Annual Report to members for 2023.

We welcome back Personalia with a profile of VX621 Lieutenant Bruce Needham. Thank you to LT Needham's daughter, Carolyn, for the information.

Bombardment contains an article written by Malcolm Fallon on the Anzac Day march 2023.

Finally we continue the inclusion of Counter Battery with an interesting piece of 2/2 memorabilia in one of the most remote corners of Australia as could be expected, and ending on an original 1914 recipe for ANZAC biscuits.

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.**

## THE SERGEANTS' MESS

### Summary of the President's Annual Report to members 2022-2023

The Association acknowledges Bill Rowe, last known surviving member and regular at the ANZAC Day march and AGM/Annual luncheon. RIP Bill.

The Association has held several key events this year including the ANZAC Day march, which was highly successful with 39 descendants attending (including two families from NSW) and a social lunch afterwards, and the reduced-cost Annual Luncheon. The Association has also laid a wreath at all Greek commemorative days.

The committee has continued to uphold the Mission Statement; 'to preserve, study and in particular promote the history of the 2/2 Field Regiment as part of Australian military history'. This year, under the 5-year strategic plan (2022-27), the Association:

- Became an incorporated body and obtained an ABN
- Finalised the 'Dargie' Brallos Pass artwork with the Australian War Memorial
- Produced a virtual honour board
- Developed proformas for Serviceman Profiles
- Met with representatives of the Shrine of Remembrance to begin negotiations to have the Dargie paintings displayed at the Shrine with the Association assisting
- Developed a new website for the Association which is nearing launch date – thanks to Lee Fallon for leading this work, and Dale Munckton of Ace Communications for assisting.

Other initiatives of note:

- The Shrine is seeking memorabilia loans or donations to be catalogued and displayed. Please contact Malcolm Fallon or Terry Cole if you have anything you would like to contribute.
- The committee has produced a proforma that you can fill in with details about your father or grandfather's service history, which will be included as a regular feature in Action Front. This edition includes a

profile of Bruce Needham – thanks to Carolyn Jeffery for your contribution.

- Old copies of Action Front are being digitised for inclusion on the new website. The newsletter was first produced in 1940 at Puckapunyal, was one of the first Regiment newsletters produced, and has been continually produced since. If you have the full set the committee would like to borrow them to ensure all editions are included.
- The new website will provide opportunity for sponsorship, where businesses can place advertisements for a fee or kind, a practice dating back to 1947! Part of the proceeds would go to reintroducing scholarships for Veteran descendants, and possibly a kindred Greek school to study and promote the Regiment's campaigns.

## Personalia

Bruce Needham (1919 to 1984) was a clerk in Melbourne before enlisting on 23 October 1939 at the Melbourne Showgrounds. Bruce served in North Africa, Crete and PNG (Aitepe and Wewak), where attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and was decorated with the 1939/45 Star, Africa Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939/45, and Australia Service Medal 1939/45. After being discharged on 9 October 1945 Bruce established a successful importing and exporting business in Brisbane.



Carolyn (Bruce's daughter) writes that his service in WW2 and the friends he made were very important to Bruce, and possibly the best years of his life. Although he never talked about the war, she remembers him reading Action Front and flying to Melbourne to visit his wartime mates and attend the ANZAC day march.

Sadly, Bruce's Huntington's Disease (HD) became apparent in his late 40s and he left home when Carolyn was 18 and her brother (little Bruce) was 14.

In 2020 Carolyn placed a brick commemorating Bruce's service on the Memorial Walk at North Head, Manly. She visits to feel close to her dad, whose ashes rest in the waters of PNG after a long and hard battle with HD. Carolyn writes; 'the eternal fisherman, Bruce is now near the jungles that echo the other battles of WW2 that he also fought with courage, dignity and strength'.

A few years ago, Carolyn was given her dad's long-lost medals, so in 2024 Carolyn and her son and daughter plan to attend the ANZAC day march in Melbourne to honour LT Bruce Needham and his WW2 mates.

## Bombardment

- Malcolm Fallon

One of the better represented Associations at the 2023 March was the 2/2 Field Regiment Association. It was also a time for reflection for the Association as it was their first march without their last known Veteran Bill Rowe. Sadly Bill passed away suddenly late in 2022 at the grand age of 97. Bill was a regular and popular media target at the end of each march.

The 2/2 FRA had 39 descendants marching commemorating fathers, grandfathers and even great grandfathers. President of the Association, Mr. Malcolm Fallon said it was pleasing to see families remained committed to ANZAC Day and the 2/2 Field Regiment Association. It ensures our families will never be forgotten and old traditions still mean something to the younger generation. The Association is also grateful to Oakleigh Grammar School who supply our banner bearers, this year Arkie Stathopoulos, Natasha Kaniadakis, Dean Voutsas, George Zikas, Jessica Peraic and Georgia Christofi.

We have a great connection with the Greek Community which goes both ways and fosters a mutual respect as our soldiers fought valiantly in defence of Greece in WWII. Brallos Pass in Lamia, Greece was one of the renowned battles the 2/2nd participated in. Following the march, members gathered as their fathers did in the past for a "reunion". Nearly 30 attended the lunch at the Rising Sun Hotel in South Melbourne and following the success this year, will now hopefully become a regular addition to the calendar after the march. Mr. Fallon said he was hopeful the Association could reconnect with more 2/2nd Veterans descendants in the near future. We also welcomed descendants from NSW marching for the first time and looking to learn more, I think they enjoyed the experience!

The Association holds an Annual Meeting and Luncheon in late October each year and has a large display of memorabilia. Over 30 members attended in 2022 with 19 apologies noted. It is a wonderful opportunity for our community to get together and renew acquaintances.

Like many organizations COVID has had an effect on numbers recently but following the success yesterday we look forward with a great deal of optimism. We also have available lanyards, pens, CD's of the Regiments Official history book ACTION FRONT for sale. It is expected to soon have available more coffee mugs, puffer vests (ordered to size), and plaques with the Associations' badge Mr Fallon reported. We are also putting a lot of effort into establishing a new website with well over 100 hours already put into the project. It is hoped we can launch it in the near future. We would really like to hear from anyone with a connection to the 2/2nd and warmly welcome new members.

New members are encouraged to make contact either through the current website or directly with the President Malcolm Fallon, or our Secretary Mrs Mel Johnson.



**Counter Battery**

Saint John The Theologian Chapel- Prevelly, Western Australia

Thanks to Terry Cole for the write-up.

A recent discussion amongst the Committee queried the presence of 2/2 plaques and points of interest that may have been in Western Australia. This discussion led to Terry Cole's recollection of a donated pew in a small Greek Orthodox Church in Prevelly, near Margaret River.

The pew has a 2/2 colour patch on it saying it was donated by the 2/2 Field Regiment. It is a beautiful church built in the 1970s by Mr Geoff Edwards who was in the 2/11 Infantry Battalion (City of Perth), and who donated the church to the Greek Orthodox community of Western Australia.

Geoff served in the battle of Crete and was aided, like many others, after the battle by monks from the Monastery of Preveli on the South coast of Crete. Both the original monastery and the church near Margaret River overlook the sea.

Other pews were donated by other units of the 6th Div that served in the battle of Crete.

You can look this church up on [Google Earth](#) and [Facebook](#). It is a must see location if you are ever in the Margaret River area.





Google Maps ref: 2XCV+XH Prevelly, Western Australia

### Anzac tile/wafer recipe

*Editor's note: I tried this recipe (see image below) and they are true to the description: very, very hard tack biscuit. Those used to the store-bought ANZAC biscuits may be in for a shock, however both my wife and I agree that these grow on you after a while.*



The army biscuit, also known as an Anzac wafer or Anzac tile, is essentially a long shelf-life, hard tack biscuit, eaten as a substitute for bread. Unlike bread, though, the biscuits are very, very hard. Some soldiers preferred to grind them up and eat as porridge.

*Ingredients (sufficient for six biscuits)*

- 200 gm/1.5cups/300 mls flour
- 400 gm/3 cups/600 mls wholemeal flour
- 40 gm/5 tbs sugar
- 20 gm/3 tbs milk powder
- 1.5 gm/good pinch salt
- 220 mls water

Use self-raising flour. If self-raising flour are not available, sieve 10 grams of baking powder together with plain flour before adding other ingredients.

*Method*

Place flour, sugar, and milk powder in a large bowl and blend with finger tips. Form into pile and scoop out a well in the centre. Add all of the water in which the salt has been dissolved. Thoroughly work the flour from the inside of the well into the water until the whole is a mass of lumps of flour and water. Once the dough is formed, transfer it to a table top or pastry board and knead well into a hard dough, then rest for half an hour.

Next, roll the dough in 8 mm–thick sheets using a rolling pin and two 8–mm thick guides (wooden slats are ideal), the dough being rolled down between the two guides until the rolling pin rests on the guides during each traverse.

The rolled sheet of dough is then cut into 90 mm squares, preferably by pressing with the edge of a steel rule rather than slicing with a knife. The pressing action helps to join the top and bottom surfaces and will improve the lift on baking. A cardboard square, 90 mm on each side, can be used as a pattern to ensure uniformity in your tiles.

The biscuit squares should be 'docked' by having a regular horizontal and vertical pattern of holes pushed into them at about 18 mm spaces with a flat-ended pin or rod. Push it in until it bottoms, twist slightly, and then withdraw. Repeat at the next position. Each biscuit should have five vertical and five horizontal rows of docker holes, 25 holes in all. There are those at the Memorial who argue for 49 holes (7 x 7) as the authentic number of docker holes.

Place on a lightly greased steel baking sheet, with the biscuits about 6 mm apart, and form a wall around the load with scrap dough to avoid burning the edges of the biscuits. Bake at about 200 degrees centigrade for 30 to 40 minutes on a low shelf in the oven. Take care not to burn them. To achieve a suitable hardness in your biscuits, store for a time in an air-tight container.

### CEASE FIRING!

I took over as Action Front editor back in 2016. At the time I was a full-time student, new to the 2/2, and loved the challenge of a new project. There are elements of this journal that I have quite deliberately kept; some that have drastically changed; and some that have tried in vain to revive only to be surprised again on the occasion. I welcome any suggestions or feedback pertaining to the content or presentation.

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: [kimtaunt1951@gmail.com](mailto:kimtaunt1951@gmail.com)

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

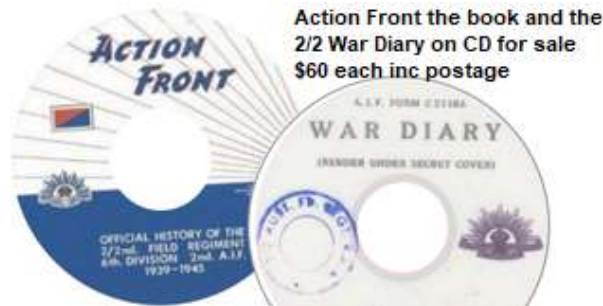


2/2 NAME BADGES  
\$ 25



2/2 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

BUMPER STICKER  
\$ 6.00 inc postage



Action Front the book and the  
2/2 War Diary on CD for sale  
\$60 each inc postage

EFT 063 001 A/C 0090 2130 and advise payment

to [kimtaunt1951@gmail.com](mailto:kimtaunt1951@gmail.com) and advise delivery address  
or mail cheque payable to 2/2 Field Regiment Association  
13 Surfers Avenue, Ocean Grove VIC 3226 and advise your address

Soldier on.

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Donations

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

† = Deceased

## Appendix A: Minutes of the September 2023 Committee Meeting

# 2/2 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC



### MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 2/2 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 AT RSL ANZAC HOUSE, COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

President Malcolm Fallon declared the meeting open at 11.00am

**MINUTE OF SILENCE** was observed to remember all veterans

**ROLL CALL:** Malcolm Fallon Derek Trewarne, Kim Sparkes, Terry Cole, Mel Johnson, John Trewarne, Kim Taunt

**APOLOGIES:** Nil

**MINUTES** of the last meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 were accepted

MOVED Terry Cole SECONDED Kim Taunt

**CARRIED**

#### **BUSINESS ARISING:**

Terry Cole advised that he had contacted the Seaford RSL in regard to having the 2010 plaque erected with or on the guns outside their clubroom. He is still waiting for a reply.

#### **INWARD CORRESPONDENCE**

RSL KOUAC - draft minutes from meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

#### **OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE - Nil**

MOVED Derek Trewarne SECONDED John Trewarne that the correspondence be accepted

**CARRIED**

#### **REPORTS**

President - as attached

Also asked that contact be made with Grant Bedson to advise him that the old site has been upgraded and replaced and to thank him for his dedication and work. Kim Taunt will make contact with Grant.

Everything from the old site has been transferred to the new site and will be ready by the AGM/Dinner.

Advised that separate email address will be created for executive positions which means a smooth transition with any changes to those positions.

Treasurer - reported a Credit balance of \$8052.01

Accounts passed for payment being deposit for AGM/Dinner and new website annual fee

Editor - Secretary has contacted Editor David asking for next edition to be issued in early October

MOVED Kim Taunt SECONDED John Trewarne that the reports be accepted

**CARRIED**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

John Trewarne moved that members pay for the meal and room hire separately as advised by the association and on the day pay for their own drinks.

It was agreed that everyone pays \$35.00 with the association subsidizing any difference for the meal.

The room hire and any other hire costs to be subsidized by the association.

Everyone to pay for their own drinks

\*Important that these altered costings are stressed in the official invitation to members and also as a separate advice in Action Front

MOVED John Trewarne SECONDED Derek Trewarne

**CARRIED**

Malcolm Fallon advised that he has made contact with a gentleman who has walked the Kokoda Track and who is happy to be a guest speaker at our AGM/Dinner - to be confirmed.

Mel Johnson advised that the bank signatories were updated on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 with an attachment to the AGM minutes to show the names and positions as requested by the CBA bank.

Derek Trewarne tabled an information sheet from the AWM Canberra in relation to ordering artwork.

\*Please make sure when ordering you have the correct detail **ART23843 "The road to Lamia, from Brallos Pass"** which is now officially on the AWM site and available for purchase on an individual basis.

Kim Taunt advised that the association has an ABN (Australian Business Number). The request through the Charities Commission was rejected and therefore donations to the Association are not tax deductible.

The ABN number will be retained as it is a requirement for any grant applications.

MOVED John Trewarne SECONDED Kim Sparkes that the ABN number be retained

**CARRIED**

Terry Cole has contacted Neil Sharkie at the Shrine of Remembrance in regard to hosting an exhibition of the Dargie artwork with 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026 as an appropriate time.

Tentative meeting date of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 with Malcolm Fallon, Terry Cole, Mel Johnson and John Trewarne to attend a meeting at the Shrine

Malcolm Fallon acknowledged Terry Cole for his admirable passion and commitment.

Malcolm Fallon indicated he is prepared to re-nominate as President and asked if the committee were all prepared to serve again - everyone indicated yes.

Derek Trewarne asked if the AGM/Dinner date this year could be altered as it clashed with an event that he and John are heavily involved in. Kim Taunt contacted the Waverley RSL and the 29<sup>th</sup> October was unavailable. The AGM/Dinner will be held as previously announced.

**Next committee meeting - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday March 2024**

There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 12.20pm