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**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.



OPENING SHOTS

Welcome all to your September 2024 edition of Action Front, and please welcome a name familiar to the 2/2 and following tradition, another Jaboor. Sarah Jaboor has taken over the reins following Committee endorsement to become the new Editor of ACTION FRONT following her brother David.

Sarah had been assisting David put together ACTION FRONT for the past few issues whilst David was (and still is) heavily studying to attain his degree. David has held the position of Editor for eight years and was hoping to reach the 10-year mark but had to concede the reality of studying was really a full-time role combined with a new home and a young family. We congratulate and thank David for his fine commitment to producing ACTION FRONT for the past eight years and know he is not lost to the Association and will return to the committee following completion of his studies.

Malcolm Fallon, President.

Hi everyone! I'm delighted to be joining the Association's committee and hope to live up to the high standard set by David and every other ACTION FRONT editor since 1940. I'm a public servant and my limited military understanding comes from stories told by David and my dad, a few amazing books (I particularly enjoyed The Guns of Navarone by Alistair MacLean) and of course the Official History of the 2/2nd Field Regiment. What I lack in military know-how I hope to make up for with my genuine respect and admiration for the Regiment, the Association, and especially my grandfather Roy Jaboor.



In this edition The Sergeants Mess invites you to the regimental luncheon and AGM on Sunday 13 October, and provides the President's 2024 report.



85th AGM & Annual Luncheon

Sunday 13 October 2024

11.30am - 4.00pm

The Waverley RSL

161 Coleman Parade, Glen Waverley,

All Members and descendants of our

Servicemen warmly welcomed.



Personalia showcases profiles of Gunner Cecil Amber Leatham [left] and Gunner (Signaller) Walter Joseph Robert Sinclair [right].

In Bombardment we learn about a potential 2026 Shrine of Remembrance vault display and enjoy an excerpt from our patron, the Hon Richard Refshauge SC.



Finally, a YouTube video discussing the Association's Brallos Pass memorial, and an article about the Regiment's official history are included in Counter Battery.

Please follow the 2/2nd Field Regiment Facebook for all updates on future events and timings. For those not on Facebook, these details will also be published on the 2/2 Website.

Website: <https://www.2nd2ndfieldreg.com.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/2nd2ndFRA/>

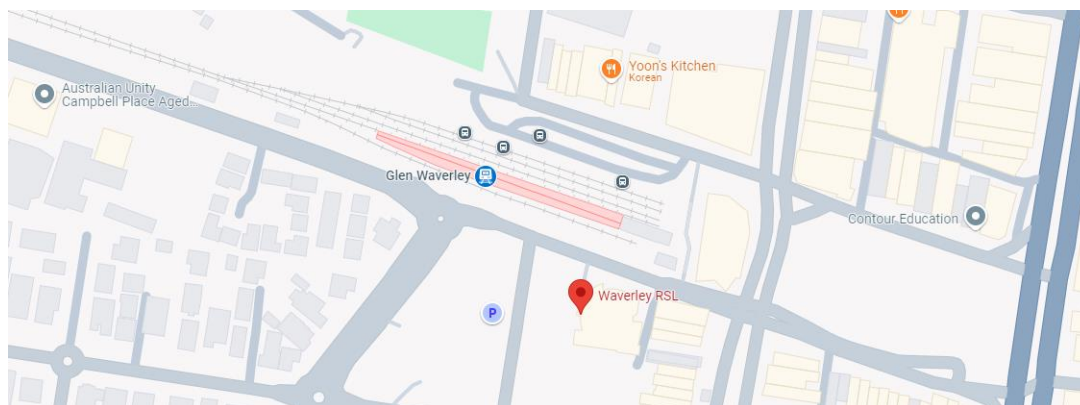


THE SERGEANTS' MESS

AGM lunch - Malcolm Fallon

We warmly invite you and your families to attend the 85th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon at the Waverly RSL in October.

The 85th consecutive 2/2 Field Regiment Association AGM luncheon of the Association will be held on **Sunday 13 October** 2024 at the Waverley RSL, Coleman Parade Glen Waverley commencing at 1130hrs, meeting to commence at 1200hrs. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/bdMuFLoH7h5UcRoJ7>



Over the past few years, especially since Covid, numbers have fallen dramatically to the point I am making a personal plea to members, family descendants and friends of the 2/2 to lift our numbers to get this annual event back on course.

The Committee has worked hard to keep the Association in a healthy state and to remain relevant in today's world, embracing technology in creating new website and Facebook pages, the now Annual lunch following the ANZAC Day march, remaining financially viable and much more. But we need your support, or we will go the way of other Units and die!

The luncheon is subsidised in an effort to encourage you to attend, a wonderful guest speaker, Dr. Peter Ewer has been engaged (Director of the documentary "Grecian Adventure" and renowned author). The AGM is a short affair to allow for plenty of time for fellowship and to meet old and new friends.

**Please note the Waverley RSL has advised due to government works with the rail project that there is limited parking around the immediate area of the RSL this year. I can advise there is underground parking at "The Glen" shopping centre which is about an eight-minute walk to the RSL. Alternatively, the rail service to Glen Waverley is still operational and is a two-minute walk to the RSL and depending on your circumstances may prove to be a better option. Please take a minute to read signs re parking as we don't want the active parking wardens issuing you a ticket.

Below is a poem by Ron "Skudda" Cowan published in the October 1990 edition of Action Front following the AGM meeting and luncheon.

*If I'm out of order, stop me
But these words I'd like to say
Regarding Keith, Phil, Bob Taunt and H. Day.
For years I've reaped the pleasure
Of reunions twice a year
But have never shown gratitude
Shook their hands or bought a beer
Tonight I want to thank them
And all Committees old and new
For their time, travelling and planning
All to benefit me and you.
The importance of these functions
Is increasing every year
It gives the old morale a lift
Swapping yarns and drinking beer.
So on behalf of every member
Our gratitude we all extend
Confidence in their judgement
Honoured to be their friend.*

Credit to Lee Fallon for making these old editions available on the Association's website.



Again, I cannot stress enough that we need to double our numbers attending to make this event and indeed the Association a viable proposition going forward. Cost for the 2024 luncheon has been kept to \$35.00 per person (2023 prices) which is heavily subsidised by the Association, drinks are available to purchase at bar prices.

RSVP with payment to Treasurer Kim Taunt no later than **Friday 4 October** 2024. Direct debit payment with name in reference section can be made in advance (and encouraged) to:

2/2 Field Regiment Association

BSB: 063 001

ACC: 0090 2130

REF: Surname of attendee(s)

The 2/2 Field Regiment Association was the first Association formed following WWII and is one of the few surviving Associations still in operation. We were also the first Regiment to print a newsletter (ACTION FRONT) upon formation of the Regiment and have the longest continuous newsletter still being published. The first ACTION FRONT, along with many others, have been scanned and are on our website at

www.2nd2ndfieldregiment.com.au

Recommend to family and urge them to attend and become interested in our history, and their own. Better still make up a family table!!!!

2023-24 Annual Report to Members - Malcolm Fallon

It is with pleasure I present my third annual report to Members of the activities of the 2/2 Field Regiment Association for 2023-24. (Also my report on activities for ACTION FRONT).

Your committee has continued to solidly represent the Association where applicable and uphold our Mission Statement of “...to Preserve, Study and in particular Promote the History of the 2/2 Field Regiment as part of Australian Military Heritage”.

The committee is committed to and has continued to work to our 5-year strategic plan (1922-27) with more projects either completed or nearing completion.

The Committee has carefully considered and taken the initiative in reducing the cost of the Annual Luncheon and has again heavily subsidised today. We ask that everyone here today makes an effort to reintroduce another family member for next year in an effort to increase numbers.

On ANZAC eve Historian Terry Cole and myself represented the Association at Oakleigh Grammar School's ANZAC Day commemoration. Terry presented an outstanding speech to 700 attentive students and staff re the 2/2 Field Regiment's commitment to the Greek and Crete campaigns. Terry then presented the Principal with a 2/2 Plaque with the “Banner bearers” for our standard receiving pens and lanyards as a token of thanks. The school's welcome and presentation was outstanding and left a lasting impression on both Terry and myself.

The ANZAC Day march this year was very successful with 30+ descendants marching with several supporters cheering along the route to The Shrine. For the second time in as many years the Association met for lunch following the march for a wonderful afternoon of catching up with old friends and making welcome new members for the first time (there was no 2-up though!). We have already rebooked the hotel for next year and would welcome you attending.

Following on from my report last year re The Shrine and a possibly display (further meetings see this project coming to fruition), it would assist The Shrine if anyone has memorabilia they would be willing to add either as a loan or permanent donation to The Shrine. It would be catalogued and well cared for whilst in their possession.



Let either **Terry Cole** or myself know if you have anything that could be used (**See separate article from our Historian Terry Cole**).

The 2/2 Field Regiment was formed on 13 October 1939 with the first "ACTION FRONT" produced in January 1940 at Puckapunyal, The Editor is always looking for material that may be of interest to us all. As a background, Action Front was I believe the first Regiment newsletter produced and has been continually produced since, certainly a record we should be proud of. We are in the process of scanning every issue we have in our possession and these will be available on our new website soon. **If anyone has the full set we would like to borrow them to ensure we have them all, they will be scanned and returned to you and will be well looked after. In particular the editions of the 1950-60's we do not have and keenly seek to scan and preserve.**

On the ACTION FRONT, we welcome **Sarah Jaboor** to the role of Editor (this being her first official edition). Sarah has taken over the role from her brother David who has held the position for the past 8 years. David has reluctantly stood aside from the role due to his continued studies, a growing young family and new homeowner.

We sincerely thank David for his long association as Editor of Action Front and his initiatives during that time, I am confident Sarah will add her touch to the role and leave her mark as the new standard. (See separate article in ACTION FRONT).

Available today is the proforma for you to take away and fill in re your father, grandfather, relative's Service history which we would like to use as a regular feature in Action Front, we hope you can help. There are 2 profiles to read in the latest Action Front

The Association has actively been involved in all the Greek commemorative days held at the Hellenic Memorial and The Shrine and laid a wreath at each event.

I wish to acknowledge the Committee members for their commitment and diligence in continually promoting the 2/2 Field Regiment and the Association at every opportunity.

We would also encourage some new younger committee members to bring some fresh eyes to the Association. Please consider putting your hand up if you have some spare time and looking to become involved, you will be made most welcome.

FINALLY, I am making an impassioned plea for more descendants to become involved in our Association even it is just the AGM and Annual Luncheon. With the work that has been put in over the past couple of years it would be devastating to see the 2/2 Field Regiment Association go the way of other associations and just die!!!! The 2/2 is one of the last surviving and we are better than that and for the minimum of ½ day a year we seek your support, more if you can afford a bit of your time. We are strong at present but we are all aging and we need to be pro-active and get more involved!

In closing I thank you all for your continued support of the Association and wish you well for the year ahead.



PERSONALIA

This issue of ACTION FRONT we feature two 2/2 Field Regiment profiles.

Gunner Cecil Amber Leatham – VX19104.

Cecil, better known as “Buster” was born in Wallasey, Cheshire, England 21 January 1919. Buster enlisted at Moonee Ponds on 28 March 1940 and records show that Buster was taken “on strength” and assigned to Battery 4 of the 2/2 Field Regiment.

At the date of enlistment Buster was married to Annie with one son and lived at 305 Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale, a suburb of Melbourne. Buster worked as a labourer around the Broadmeadows area both prior to enlistment and post his discharge from the army on 25 September 1944.

Buster and wife Annie went on to have two daughters and another five sons following his service. Having served in the Middle East, Greece and Crete, Buster was awarded with the 39/45 Star, African Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, ASM and the Greek Commemorative Medallion. Buster was a member of the RSL and a Life Member of the 39ers Association.

Gunner VX19104 C A Leatham can be found at “Line 640” in the Alphabetical Role of the 2/2 Field Regiment Role on our website, by following across this line, there is a direct link to Buster’s AWM service records which are publicly released by the Australian War Memorial.

Photos and details provided with thanks by Buster’s son, Rob Leatham.



Buster (2nd from left) with mates on the island of Crete

National Archives of Australia NAA: B883, VX19104



Gunner (Signaller) Walter Joseph Robert Sinclair – VX613

B (Beer) Troop, 3rd Battery (Gobi) Signals, 2/2 Field Regiment, RAA, POW 92192
18 May 1916 - 25 Jan 1945

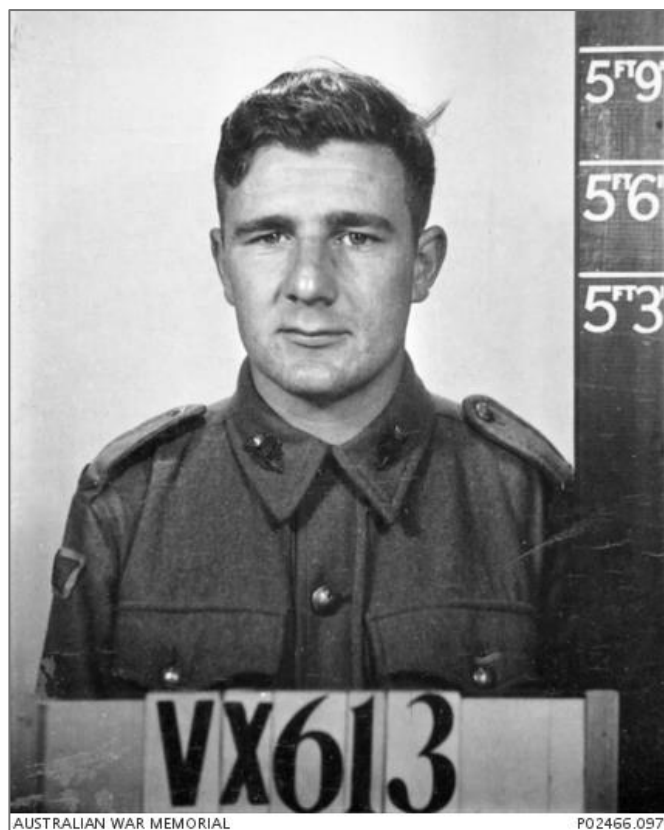
The following timeline of Gunner Sinclair's WW2 Army Service has been created by his niece Cheryl Anne Smith (née Gebbie) in 2020. It is a valuable insight and I thank Cheryl for sharing it with the Association.

1939-40

- 23 Oct Enlisted at No 7 Drill Hall East St Kilda
Occupation: Unemployed labourer.
- 11 April Training with 2/2 Field Regiment at Puckapunyal.
- 8 March Made Group 2 Signaller at Puckapunyal
- 14 April Departed Princess Pier, Port Melbourne on HMSY5 'Dunera' with 2/8 Battalion.
- 18 May Arrived El Kantara Palestine. Entrained on cattle trucks to Beit Jirja near Gaza. Camp in tents at Deir Suneid, Palestine with 2/1 Anti-Aircraft. Commanding Officer General Blamey. Pay 7/6 per day.
- Aug By road with guns and vehicles to Helwan, Cairo, Egypt with 16 and 17 Brigades.
- Oct Through Mena to Amiriya.
- 18 Dec Marched out.
- 19 Dec 1940 - 6 Jan 1941 at Bardia fighting Italians.
- 23 Dec 3rd Battery 'Gobi' mentioned in dispatches.

1941

- 3 Jan Battle of Bardia.
- 5 Jan Bardia captured.
- 6 Jan Defending Bardia against Italians.
- 7-8 Jan Equipment maintenance.
- 9 Jan Moved to within 15 miles of Tobruk.
- 10 Jan - 2 Feb 1941 at Tobruk fighting Italians.
- 18 Jan Moved to front line supporting 2/5 Battalion and British Cheshire Regiment.
- 25 Jan Battle of Tobruk. Filmed by ABC.
- 30 Jan First rest since 18th Dec.
- 31 Jan Maintenance.
- 1 Feb Church Parade.
- 2 Feb Marched out through Tobruk harbour to take Derna. Supporting 2/5 and 2/6 Battalion. Chased Italians to Giovanni Berta.
- 3 Feb On Benghazi Road. Bivouacked at El Fiada.
- 8 Feb Benghazi fallen - not needed. In reserve.
- 13 Feb Billeted at Barce. Prime Minister Menzies visits troops.
- 16 Feb Brigade Parade. Brigadier Savage compliments Brigade. Signallers tested for



- specialist pay of 2/- per day extra. From Barce through Madellina to occupy Monastery at D'Annunzio.
- 17 Feb Find own way to Aust Corps School of Signals at Camp Kilo 89 in Palestine (100 miles away) Truck to Tobruk. Boat to Alexandria. Slept at Mustapha Barracks.
- 23 Feb Left Alexandria by train to El Kantra, Gaza. Truck to Camp Kilo 89.
- 16 March Back to Amariya by train.
- 20 March Mersa Matruh with Regiment in barracks.
- 22 March Left for Alexandria. Back to Amiriya Camp.
- 23 March Based at Ikingi Maryut. Leave granted for most of 3rd Battery (Gobi).
- 31 March - 25 April 1941 Greek Campaign.
- 31 March Embark for Greece on 'Pennland' with 2/3 Field Regt, 2/4 and 2/8 Battalion and 6th Div HQ.
- 3 April Disembarked at Piraeus to Hassani Camp.
- 4 April Convoy towards Yugoslavia through Lamia. Bivouacked south of Vernia Pass. German declaration of war on Greece.
- 5 April Mt Olympus supporting 16 Brigade 3rd Battery (Gobi) supporting 2/1 Battalion.
- 9 April Good Friday. Withdrawal from Mt Olympus.
- 11 April Mikrovaltin.



- 12 April 2nd ANZAC Corps formed under General Blamey. Aliakmon River. Laid 10 miles of cable by hand.
- 15 April Withdrawal through Larissa and Lamia.
- 19 April Brallos Pass and Sperkhios River with 2/1 Infantry Battalion and 2/7 Field Ambulance.
- 20 April Thermopylae Line with 2nd NZ, 17 and 19 Brigade and a Battery of 2/1 Field.
- 25 April Destroy equipment. Only allowed 1 haversack - no blankets or spare clothing. Night march to Megara. Evacuated by barges to Destroyer 'Decoy' for Crete.

26 April – 29 May Crete Campaign

- 26 April Landed Suda Bay. Issued with Lee-Enfield Rifles and few rounds ammunition. Everyone temporarily Infantry. 2/ 3 and 2/2 Field Regiments to form as Infantry companies. 2/2 with 410 men and officers. Most 3rd Battery (Gobi) signallers in "Woods Own Rifles" under Captain Frank Wood. Based 7 miles south of Suda at Radio Station and Monastery.
- 5 May Bayonets issued.
- 20 May Invasion by German paratroopers at Maleme, Rethymnon and Heraklion.
- 21 May Shoot as many paratroopers as possible before landing.
- 25 May Based between Perivolia and Mournies.
- 26 May Withdrawal through Suda to Sfakia.
- 27 May Night march withdrawal because of bombing and strafing. Some could not keep going and became prisoners of war (POW). Continuous bombing and machine gunning from the air - too many dead to bury.
- 29 May - 1 June Evacuation from Sfakia. 15 000 evacuated. 12 000 left behind and taken prisoner including 3 000 Australians. 2/2 Field Regiment Casualties: 6 killed in action (KIA), 23 wounded in action (WIA), 56 POW.

My mother, Una (his sister), recollected that 'someone' came to their house in Port Melbourne and told them that Walter had been shot because he had frostbite and couldn't walk. They had prepared for his homecoming because the German POWs were returning from England where they had been repatriated after being released by American troops.

Based on this, and the fact that he is last reported in Stalag VIII B Teschen, Poland, it is probable that he was on one of the 'Long Marches' (also called the Death March) which occurred all over Germany and Poland towards the end of the war. In January 1945, most German POW were marched out of the work camps and Stalags in Upper Silesia away from the advancing Russians.

1941-44 Prisoner of War

- June Interred POW Camp Galatas. His best mate, Perce Nelson, died here as a result of an infected sinus.
- Unknown date Interred POW Camp Salonika Greece.
- Unknown date Transported by train in cattle trucks to VIIA Moosburg.
- 21 Aug Arrived Stalag V11A Moosburg (German POW Record Card) POW Number 92192.
- Unknown date Interred Stalag VIIA Moosburg (photo postcard to mother).
- 26 Nov Interred VIIA Moosburg (postcard to Aunt Vera).
- 14 April Transferred to Stalag VIII B Lamsdorf, Poland (German POW Record Card).
- 19 Sep Working at POW Work Camp E394, Timber Mill, Turawa, Poland (postcard to Aunt Vera).
- 26 Dec Back to main Camp Stalag VIII B Lamsdorf, Poland. Camp number changed to 344 (postcard to Aunt Vera).
- 11 Dec Transferred to VIII B Teschen, Poland (German POW Record Card).

Jan 1945 Missing, presumed dead

- No date - 2nd Echelon reported Missing (unaccounted for since cessation of hostilities) CL2434.
- Officially listed as Deceased 25 Jan 1945 Casualty List 2624.
- Commemorated on Face 10 at Athens Memorial, Phaleron War Cemetery, Greece - no known grave.
- Panel 17 Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour. Place of death: Austria, Cause of Death: Presumed.
- Australian War Memorial 147 Roll of Honour Cards 1939-45 War, AIF. Listed on POW Wall of Honour, Ballarat Botanical Gardens.



[SUDA BAY, CRETE. MAY 1941. TROOPS OF THE 6TH DIVISION LANDING AFTER THEIR EVACUATION FROM GREECE. | Australian War Memorial \(awm.gov.au\)](#)



It was the coldest winter on record and they were marched away from main roads and towns, often through mountains and snowdrifts. There was very little food and it mainly consisted of one meal of watery soup and a slice of black bread if they were lucky. They often slept on the ground or in open barns with few blankets. Fires were banned. Sometimes they were marched seemingly aimlessly, even doubling back on the way they had come. Stalag VIII B Teschen marched out on 20 Jan 1945.

Originally, they were supposed to march north to Stalag 344 Lamsdorf but they could not outpace the Russian advance so were forced to turn west into Czechoslovakia. Extremely severe weather conditions in the first stages resulted in many cases of frostbite. A hospital at Oberlangendorf treated 25 by amputation. The general route of the column was west through the southern tip of Upper Silesia, across the mountain ranges of eastern Sudetenland to Koniggraz. Eventually most of the men reached Koniggraz and were taken by train to Weiden. The Camp there was overcrowded so most were moved on to Stalag XIID at Nuremberg which they reached on 10 March 1945.

By referring to diaries of the march kept by some Teschen POWs, it appears that most of the marching groups were to rendezvous at Sternberk in Czechoslovakia about the 25th Jan. Taking into account the kilometres that they were forced to travel each day, it is plausible that this area would be where Walter died if the official date of presumed death is correct. However, although some diaries mention men being shot or dying on the march, these were mostly Russian prisoners and most diaries report that most sick men were transported to lazarettes (hospitals).

The following Australian Red Cross 'Missing Persons File' explains why the Australian War Memorial has the date as 25 January 1945 and place as Austria. Plain-English versions of the text are included in italics.

1/11/45

Enq. from Vic. on behalf VX934 W.D.H. Robbins, repat. POW, reg. inf. reg.a/n Vic. have adv. Brig. Langley, reg. that he ask BRCS if inf. could be obt. from Germany.

To England from Victoria on behalf of W.D.H Robbins, repatriated POW in regular infantry. Victoria have advised Brigadier Langley that he ask the British Red Cross Society if information could be obtained from Germany.

15/10/45

Cas. 3683 rep. No advice recovery received. VX934 Sgt. W.D.H. Robbins returned POW states Sinclair at 23/1/45 marched from Konig Hutte Ober-Silesia to Ronok (Rybnik). Last saw him there 25/1/45 Heard later was loaded on troop train to travel towards Vienna.

Repatriation Case 3683. Sergeant Robbins (returned POW) states Sinclair marched from Konig Hutte Ober-Silesia to Ronok (Rybnik) on 23/1/25. Robbins last saw Sinclair there on that date, and heard later that he was loaded on a troop train to travel towards Vienna.

21/10/46

Army adv.by phone - unaccounted for.

2/8/47

Caslist V.729 rep. prev. rep. Missing on 25/1/45 and is now for official purposes presumed to be dead. *The Army advised by phone that Sinclair went missing on 25/1/45 and is now for official purposes presumed to be dead.*

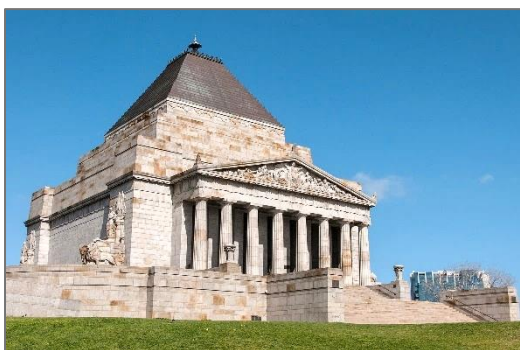
I acknowledge Walter Sinclair's niece, Cheryl Smith for providing this very extensive profile of her uncle. Your contribution is much appreciated.

LEST WE FORGET.



BOMBARDMENT

Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne vault display - Terry Cole



The 2/2 Field Regiment Association has had several discussions with the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne about a possible future display in one of the vaults under the main building. The theme of the display may be “The Anzacs Meet King Leonidas” and focus on the Thermopylae defence line of ancient Greece where King Leonidas and his 300 Spartans fought to the end defending Greece from the overwhelming forces of the Persian King Xerxes in 480BC. This same location, where the mountains meet the sea, was where the Anzacs of 1941 heroically resisted the German invasion of Greece. The Associations memorial plaque in the Brallos Pass forms part of the Thermopylae defence line.

A meeting at the Shrine on 5th August, 2024 confirmed that it is likely that this display will proceed during 2026. The date of 2026 is subject to major work on the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra being completed to permit the loan of several Sir William Dargie paintings of 1941 battle locations for the display.

Further reports about this proposal will be given as planning proceeds. However, there will be a need to lend, for display, original uniforms, artifacts and equipment of the time. Any diaries, maps or photos would be most appreciated for this important display which will last for 12 months.

A word from our Patron

Included below is an excerpt from a letter from 2/2nd Field Regiment Patron the Hon Richard Refshauge SC to Secretary Mel Johnson
“...great pride instilled for those who served and sacrificed from my father. My father was also very proud of ties with Greek communities, especially in helping with construction of the memorial in Anzac Parade, Canberra.”

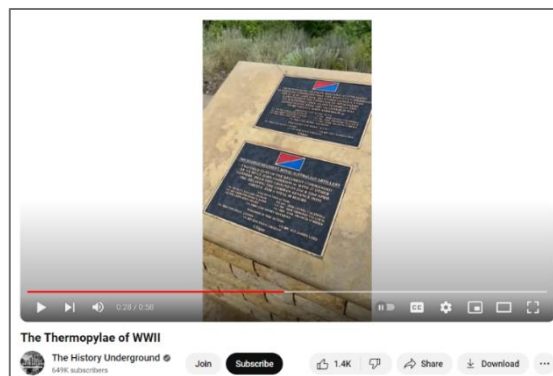
I’m sure Richard’s sentiments are echoed throughout our Association.



COUNTER BATTERY

YouTube Video in the Brallos Pass - Terry Cole

There is an American YouTube channel called “The History Underground” and they have published a short video entitled “Thermopylae in WW2”. It shows the Associations memorial in the Brallos Pass with a fairly accurate description of what occurred there. While the video only goes for a minute it is wonderful publicity for the 2/2 Field Regiment Association. The video clip has been live for 11 months and has received 16 thousand hits, or views. In that time the video has received about 31 comments from the public, all positive. The comments are worth reading.



There is a link to it on our website, but the link is also attached here and recommended for viewing. It saves a trip to Greece.

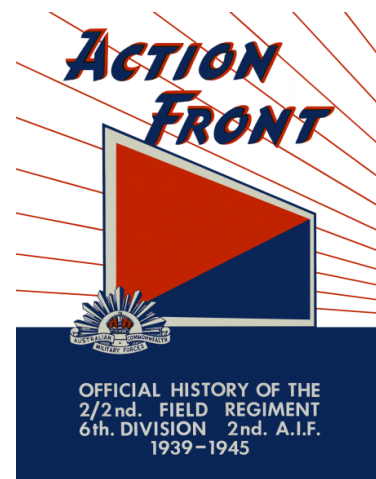
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_LT7dXo6rg



Official History of the 2/2nd Field Regiment - Terry Cole

The Association wisely sells a CD of the Official History of the 2/2nd Field Regiment to satisfy the needs of descendants to learn more about the Regiments history. An original copy of Action Front can be hard to find and yet many descendants wish to have a tangible memento of the Regiment for their family history.

I remember that my father (Gnr Leo Cole VX11937) did have a copy when it was published many years ago, but it disappeared, because I suspect he lent it to someone to read! I have been relying on my CD copy to study the Regiments history over the years, but what I wouldn't give to have that original copy back, hopefully signed by him and with his serial number hand-written under his signature.

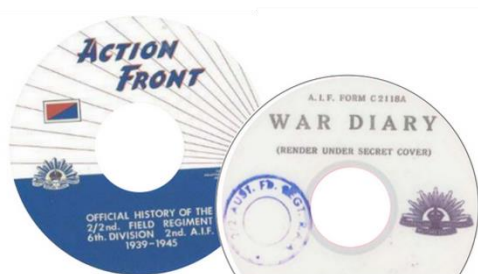


However, I was recently given an original copy of Action Front by a descendant of the Regiment who was downsizing house and knew I was active in the Association. I was extraordinarily fortunate and thankful for this kind gesture and also pleased that this copy stays in the 2/2nd "extended family". The book originally belonged to Leut P S Whitelaw (VX 97 of 4th Battery). But I have discovered more to this story. In the Regiments nominal roll Leut Whitelaw's father is listed as "J S Whitelaw, North Head Barracks, Manly, NSW". The foreword to the Regimental History, "Action Front", was also written by MAJOR-GENERAL J. S. WHITELAW, C.B., C.B.E. formerly M.G.R.A. and Colonel Commandant, Royal Australian Artillery, the same person.

I suspect that the Action Front book had a limited run of maybe 500 copies. Some copies are in major libraries such as the State Library of Victoria and possibly the Australian War Memorial. I wonder how many copies of Action Front are still held by direct descendants of the Regiment? It would be very interesting information.

Cease Firing!

Thank you again to all members for their support, contributions, and readership of Action Front. For those who can donate to the association, details are below.



Action Front

Official History of the 2/2nd Field Regiment, 6th Division 2nd A.I.F. 1939-1945 on CD-ROM

\$60.00 (includes postage)

2/2nd Field Regiment War Diary

Official documentation of the 2/2nd Field Regiment available on CD-ROM

\$60.00 (includes postage)

The Association can also be supported through a range of 2/2 souvenirs, full list available here: [Items for Sale - 2/2nd Field Regiment Association Inc. \(2nd2ndfieldreg.com.au\)](http://2nd2ndfieldreg.com.au)



Name Badge

Plastic name badge with emblem.
Your name and relationship to descendant.
Includes your supplied photo (.jpeg file preferred).

\$25.00 (includes postage)

Payment options:

Pay EFT 063 001 A/C 0090 2130, advise kimtaunt1951@gmail.com that you have made the payment, the item you are purchasing and your delivery address.

OR

Mail cheque payable to 2/2 Field Regiment Association 13 Surfers Avenue, Ocean Grove VIC 3226, and advise your purchase and address.

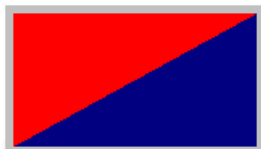


2/2nd Badge

Metal lapel pin

\$ 15.00 (includes postage)





2/2 Field Regiment Association Inc.

LIFE MEMBERS

1944	J.S. WHITELAW * CB OBE	NX112427
19	W. E. CREMOR* CBE OBE	VX86
19	R. F. JABOOR* OBE ED	VX90
19	Sir A. H. RAMSEY * CB CBE DSO ED	VX27
1954	C. F. ADAM*	VX28926
1959	N. McI. McMILLAN *	VX33344
19	C. F. COULSON*	VX878
19	L. C. CREED*	VX1070
19	D. M. DONALDSON*	VX919
19	P. J. AUSTIN*	NX121948
19	H. E. DAY*	VX773
19	F. F. WILLIAMS*	VX39986
19	W. H. QUITTENTON*	VX10420
1969	C. B. COLSON*	VX51444
1971	R. DALE*	
1975	L. G. PARKINSON * MBE	VX54
1977	F. H. WOOD* MBE ED	VX68
1983	K. V. ROSSI* AM OBE RFD ED	VX51628
1987	P. F. WORTHAM*	VX972
1993	R. K. TAUNT*	VX984
2015	W. J. H. ROWE*	VX141086
2016	K. TAUNT	
2019	L. W. McPHERSON*	
2022	T. M. COLE	

** Further to be added as information is identified and verified.



OFFICE BEARERS / COMMITTEE 2024-25

<u>PATRON:</u>	The Hon. R. C. REFSHAUGE, SC.
<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	MALCOLM FALLON M: 0417 32 6970 E: president.2nd2ndfieldreg@gmail.com
<u>VICE PRES.:</u>	DEREK TREWARNE E: vicepresident.2nd2ndfieldreg@gmail.com
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<u>COMMS:</u>	Ms. KIM SPARKES E: communications.2nd2ndfieldreg@gmail.com
<u>COMMITTEE:</u>	JOHN TREWARNE



Appendix A: Minutes of the September 2024 Committee Meeting

2/2 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 2/2 FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION HELD ON MONDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2024 AT ANZAC HOUSE, 4 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, Mel Johnson, Sarah Jaboor, Kim Taunt, Terry Cole

APOLOGIES: Kim Sparkes, John Trewarne

Moved Terry Cole **SECONDED** Derek Trewarne that the apologies be accepted **CARRIED**

MINUTES of the last meeting held on 4th March 2024 were accepted

MOVED Derek Trewarne **SECONDED** Terry Cole **CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING - Nil

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

The Hon Richard Refshauge SC - asking if he will continue on as Patron

David Jaboor - in his leave of absence acknowledging his work as editor to date

Sarah Jaboor - thanking for commitment to be editor.

Mt Duneed Mens Shed - thanking for donation of two honour boards

INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

The Hon Richard Refshauge SC- advising he is very pleased to continue as Patron

MOVED Terry Cole **SECONDED** Kim Taunt that the correspondence be accepted **CARRIED**

REPORTS

President - reported on attending a launch of the documentary "Grecian Adventure" which in part included input from some 2/2 Field Regiment veterans.

The editor Jim Claven who previously accepted an invitation to speak at the AGM advised he was unable to attend.



Mr Peter Ewer who was involved in the production of the documentary and a very renowned author of several books was invited to attend the AGM and accepted.
President Malcolm advised he will bring one of the honour boards to the AGM to display.

The meeting agreed that fellowship precede the AGM which is to be held at 12 noon and be followed by lunch and a presentation by our invited guest.

Whilst discussion was on the AGM Mel Johnson asked for the format of the notice of the AGM/Dinner be given a "face lift". Kim Taunt advised he will circularize the committee members for any input and suggestions.

With the upcoming AGM asked committee members if they wish to continue on in their positions.

Of course all positions will be thrown open at the AGM to follow proper meeting procedure

Congratulated Sarah Jaboor on taking up the important role of editor for Action Front

Treasurer - reported a credit balance of \$7464.54 as at 2nd September 2024.

The annual statement of accounts for year ending 30th June 2024 showed a credit balance of \$7805.28

Kim Taunt advised that there were 21 glasses in stock.
It was agreed to order 50 more coffee mugs

President Malcolm advised that in regard to copies of Action Front we are still without copies to scan from both 1950's and 1960's.

Mel Johnson asked if copies were sent to AWM, Canberra or other official establishments over the

years. Kim Taunt will forward the official mailing list from earlier days.

Contact be made with the AWM, Canberra to see if they have copies we can source.

MOVED Kim Taunt SECONDED Terry Cole that the Treasurers report be accepted **CARRIED**

Action Front

It was agreed that copy be sent to committee for checking in coming week ready for distribution to members on 13th September

Sarah Jaboor left the meeting at 12.06pm

KOUAC

Mel Johnson advised nothing to report

Other

Terry Cole reported that he, Malcolm Fallon and John Trewarne attended a follow-up meeting on 5th August with Neil Sharkey at the Shrine.



Very pleasing news that an exhibition is set for calendar year 2026 in what will be the 85th anniversary of the 2/2 Field Regiment being heavily involved in defending mainland Greece

The theme is to be “Anzacs meet King Leonidis” and to feature as a centre piece William Dargie artwork “the road to Lamia from Brallos Pass” and on loan from the AWM, Canberra. Other display items will be memorabilia, photos, stories, possible uniforms and a podcast produced by the 2/2 especially important that where possible items are original.

An official launch is to be conducted and ideally before Anzac Day

Terry has agreed to re-visit the Shrine to determine the actual space available for the exhibition and will also provide an update at the AGM/Dinner to all our members as well as asking for items that are suitable for the display. Terry will also prepare an article for inclusion in upcoming Action Front.

MOVED Kim Taunt SECONDED Terry Cole that the reports be accepted

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Terry Cole reported he had been given the book Action Front which had belonged to Lieutenant Whitelaw.

(VX97) of 4th Battery. Discovered further that the foreword to our regimental history Action Front was actually written by Major-General JS Whitelaw, CB, CBE and Colonel Commandant, Royal Australian Artillery who was the father of Lieut. Whitelaw

Extremely pleased that the copy Terry has acquired is to remain in the 2/2nd “extended family”. Also asks how many copies of Action Front are still held by direct descendants of the Regiment

Also spoke about the possibility of the battle on the Thermopylae Line being on the 2/2 Field Regiment banner and quoted from Action Front the chapter on Greece- A Tragedy of Heroism the following:-

“If the 2/2nd Field Regiment had had colours it would have been able to emblazon those colours the magic, centuries-old names of Thermopylae, Verria, Larissa and Megara, words symbolic of freedom from the first days of recorded history”.

MeL Johnson tabled an email forwarded to the committee on 24th June 2024 that the Financial Statements for the 2/2 Field Regiment Association Inc. be from 1st July to 30th June which brings it into line with the requirements of the Constitution and reporting responsibilities.



MOVED Mel Johnson SECONDED Derek Trewarne that the financial year be 1st July to 30th June
CARRIED

Malcolm Fallon - asked about costings to members for the AGM/Dinner.

It was agreed to keep the meal cost to \$35.00 per head with Association to subsidise the balance of the cost of the meal. Members to pay for their own refreshments.

The Association will pay for invited guests Steve and Mary Kyritsis and Peter Ewer

Advised also that subscriptions are due for payment - \$20 for each member

Presented pro-formas for possible criteria for Life Membership and Patron.

The discussion that ensued will be presented as the reference/guide to the next committee meeting for approval.

Mel Johnson asked if a Certificate of Appreciation could be included as a way of acknowledging members as well and was agreed to.

NEXT MEETINGS

AGM/Dinner 13th October 2024 at Glen Waverley RSL

Committee 3rd March 2025 - time to be confirmed

The meeting was declared closed by President Malcolm at 13.25pm

Mel Johnson

Hon Secretary

3rd September 2024

