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In Flanders Fields

BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Passing Parade

Brian Cooper passed away on 20 January 2018 aged 79 years. He joined the Army as a 9th Intake Army Apprentice vehicle mechanic in 1954. He served with RAEME through his career including a posting to 21 Const Sqn wkshops. Brian saw overseas service in New Guinea, Malaysia and Vietnam as Sgt with the Light Aid Det, HQ 1 ATF from Nov 1968 to December 1979 and again from January to June 1970. After retirement from the Army, Brian was a strong advocate for retired and wounded soldiers. He was a member of the Association.

Alfred (Fred) Allen passed away on 31 January 2018 aged 86 years. He joined the Army as a 3rd Intake Army Apprentice plumber in 1948. Fred served with 22 Const Sqn for 6 years before taking discharge in 1957. He was a member of the Association.

Colonel Rex Rowe OBE MID passed away 5 February 2018 aged 84 years. He served in Vietnam from January to May 1969 with 198 Works Section and then was Officer Commanding 1 Fd Sqn until January 1970. Rex was Mentioned in Dispatches for his outstanding work in Vietnam. He served as Commanding Officer of the PNG Engineer Battalion from 1970 to 1979 and was awarded an OBE for outstanding service in the New Year Honours list of 1978.

Albert William (Bert) Lane passed away on 27 February 2018 aged 78 years. He served in Borneo as a Sig with 1 Fd Sqn from December 1964 to June 1965 and in Vietnam with 103 Sig Sqn from April 1966 to May 1967. Bert was a tireless advocate for saving our National Flag and protocols. He was a member of the Association.

Brian Hinschen passed away on 27 February 2018. He served with 1 Fd Sqn, 1 FER and at SME as a dog trainer in Dog Wing.

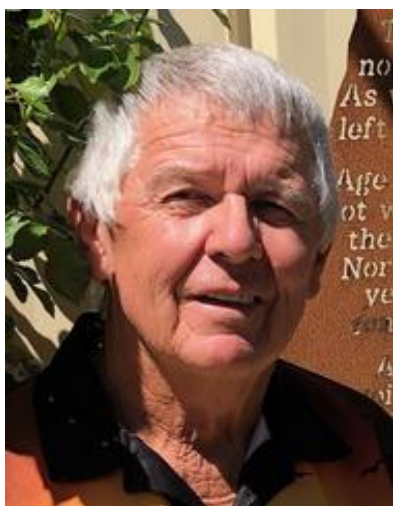
Lt Col Philip Cameron passed away on 24 March 2018 aged 88 years. He served in Vietnam with HQ AFV from November 1967 to November 1968 and again from January to February 1972.

Coral Donovan passed away on 6 October 2017. She was an honorary member being the widow of Keith Donovan, a WW2 veteran.

Sick Parade

John Williamson has been feeling very poorly lately and was in Pinjarra Hospital. He has since been moved to a nursing home as he is unable to walk.

MEETING OUR MEMBERS



Bruce Wiltshire

Bruce was born in Perth in 1945 and grew up in Geraldton after his family moved there in 1946. He attended Allendale Primary School and Geraldton High School. He has one brother, Russell.

Bruce was 15 when he started work with Wiltshire Bros as an apprentice Fitter & Turner working on boat and ship repairs, fuel installations and general engineering.

In 1967, Bruce was conscripted into the Army and after completing his recruit training and his initial employment training, he was posted to 32 Small Ship Squadron at Chowder Bay, Sydney. Bruce sailed on the Harry Chauvel to Vietnam from late 1968 to mid-1969.

On leaving the Army in 1969, Bruce returned to Geraldton to work until he moved to Perth and got his Marine Engineers Certificate at Fremantle Maritime College. He joined Total Marine Services and worked as a Marine Engineer in Offshore Oil Exploration.

Bruce married Cheryl in 1977 and they have 3 sons, Bruce, Paul and Matthew (Cpl at 13 Fd Sqn). Bruce and Cheryl currently live in Winthrop.



Coral Walters (nee McVeigh)

Coral was born in East Fremantle in 1962 and grew up in Melville attending Melville Primary School and Melville High School. She has two brother, Kevin and Allan (Deceased).

Coral was 16 when she started work as a bookbinder/table hand with Port Printer in O'Connor and with various printers over the years. In 2001 she started a nursing course.

Coral joined the Army Reserve in May 1981 and after completing her recruit training and initial employment training, was posted to 13 Field Squadron and worked in the Q Store. She left the Army Reserve in December 1994.

Coral married Stuart Walters in 1983 and have 2 children, Bradley and Katie.

Coral currently works as a Dental Nurse and enjoys travelling with Stuart when he goes overseas with his work and small-bore rifle shooting.

Coral and Stuart live in Lesmurdie.

ANIMALS IN WARS



Horses, Mules and Donkeys

Between the years 1840 to 1940 there was a steady trade of the 'Waler' horses to the British Indian Army. Originally from New South Wales the Waler, these horses were sturdy and hardy.

During the Boer War, Australia dispatched 16,314 overseas for use by the Australian Infantry Forces. The conditions of South Africa suited the Waler as the terrain and climate was very similar to that of the mid-west of NSW where many of the horses were sourced.

It is estimate that around 602,955 horses and mules fought on both sides of the Boer War. Australian soldiers were allowed to bring the Waler horses home at the end of the war.

In World War I, Australia sent 121,324 Walers overseas, 39,348 served with the 1st AIF mainly in the Middle East while the remaining 81,976 were sent to India.

The Waler again proved themselves suitable as war horses in the harsh climates of the Sinai Peninsula and Palestine. The Waler was front and centre in the now infamous 'Charge on Beersheba' by the Australian and New Zealand 4th Light Horse Division led by Brig Gen William Grant.

Due to the cost said to be incurred and possible quarantine restrictions, only one Waler is known to have to been returned home: 'Sandy' the mount for Major-General WT Bridges who died at Gallipoli.

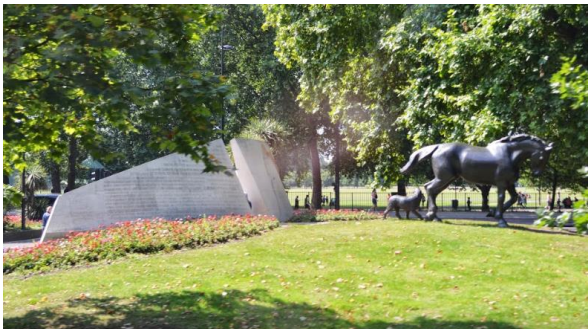
At the end of the war, 11,000 surplus horses were sold to the British Army as remounts for Egypt and India. Those declared unfit were destroyed by the Veterinary Unit attached to the Mounted Infantry Brigade, some of the light horsemen chose to destroy their own horses.

It is estimated that over 8 million horses, mules and donkeys died in “The Great War”



Light Horse Brigade in Palestine

In World War II, only 360 Walers were sent overseas and they were assigned to an American Cavalry Unit in New Caledonia. The horses were deemed unfit for jungle warfare and were sent to India where they served with the Chinese Army.



The Animals in War memorial at the Australian War Museum

Camels

Camels were used in the deserts as mounts for Australian and British light horsemen and as pack animals to carry supplies and munitions in support of the Light Horse Brigades.

Dogs

There is little written about the use of dogs in World War I, however it has been written that due to their intelligence and devotion to their handler, dogs were used to run messages, lay telephone cables, detect mines, dig out bomb covered victims, and acted as guard and patrol dogs.

Some of the dogs were used as medical or mercy dogs, carrying medic kits to wounded soldiers for self-treatment or to stay with severely wounded soldiers as comfort dogs until the soldier passed away.

Nothing could be found about dogs in World War II other than in May 1943, the 1st Army Experimental Dog Training Unit was deployed to Lowanna, NSW, inland from Coffs Harbour.

The Unit consisted of 17 trained soldiers, each with 2 trained dogs. Their experimental tasks were to train and test suitability for use in – carrying messages, scouting, guarding and sniper hunting.

Tracker dogs were used by Infantry Battalions during the 1950's to 1970's in Malaya, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

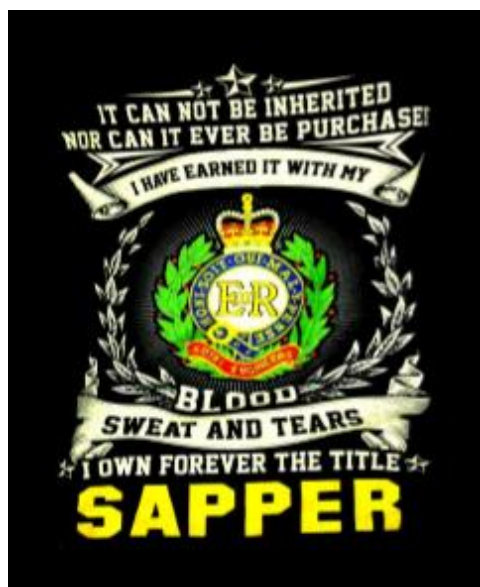
Dogs have since been deployed overseas with their handlers to Somalia, Bougainville, East Timor, Solomon Islands and Afghanistan as tracker dogs and explosive detection dogs (EDD).

Other Animals

Oxen, bullocks and elephants were used during WWI to haul stores and pull wagons loaded with munitions in large depot areas especially in Britain and India.

Smaller dogs and cats were allowed as pets and unit mascots to boost the morale of soldiers returning from the front line.

Pigeons and canaries were also used in WWI, pigeons as message carriers and canaries in the tunnels as a warning to the tunnellers that poisonous gases were present in the tunnels.



Two arms, two hands
Two steely bands
Beneath the Southern Cross I stand
A hero of my native land Australia!
Up the old red rooster
And more piss.

2CER News



Sappers from 2 CER are assisting Queensland police by searching several key locations in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games. These locations include official venues, the Games village and vehicles at designated checkpoints.

Maj Gen Paul McLachlan, commander of ADF support to the games commented that the ADF was providing specialised search capabilities that would partner with and enhance the local state police security arrangements



Pictures courtesy of Army Newspapers

Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk Seymour

Many of us probably started our army service doing recruit training as a nasho or served with 21 Const Sqn at Puckapunyal and visited Seymour at some time during your stay there.

The Shire of Seymour in Victoria have constructed a Commemorative Walk dedicated to all the service personnel and tracker dogs who served in Vietnam.



If you are travelling to Victoria, take the time to visit the Commemorative Walk and if you served in Vietnam, your name will be etched into the wall.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Association will be a general meeting on **Sunday 15th April**. Hopefully will find out all the good news for ANZAC Day including timings for our wreath laying service.

The following meeting will be on **Sunday 27th May** and then the AGM in July, date to be confirmed.