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**22nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION  
ECHO**

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No 74

**ANZAC DAY WORLD WAR 1 ASSOCIATIONS' COMMEMORATION  
MARCH 25 APRIL 2017**

*The 22nd Battalion Association, together with other kindred active WWI Unit Associations, will march behind their Unit Banners from the assembly point at the Monash Monument adjacent to the roundabout at the intersection Birdwood Av. and Government House Drive (Melway 2FJ10). The route will be along Birdwood Av towards the Shrine and terminate on the lawned area of the Botanical Gardens, near the entrance to the Visitors Centre, and opposite the Shrine.*

*A Commemorative Service will be conducted with an address by a distinguished person.*

*Assembly is at 8 AM for commencement at 8:30 AM. Marchers (not young children) should be respectively attired and family veteran-forebear's Medals worn on the right breast. Personal Medals on the left breast.*

### **ANZACS "FADING AWAY"?**

*The decision of the Anzac Day Commemoration Council (ADCC), to again this year relegate WWI descendants, representing their forebears, to the rear of March en masse and not behind their respective Unit Association Banners is again denigrating the "ANZAC SPIRIT" and the memory of those in whose name the March has been held since its inception in 1918 in Melbourne. It makes a mockery of the nominated "Anzac Day Commemoration March" and by stealth, instigating an "Australian Defence Forces March".*

*This is inexplicable, happening during the ANZAC CENTENARY (2014-2018), when the Centenary of WWI is being commemorated to honour the men and women of World War 1 that by their deeds were the genesis of Australia's nationhood.*

*All this heralds the end of WWI families wanting to respect the wishes of their veteran forebears, namely to march in commemoration of them and identified as such behind their particular Unit Association Banners.*

*At every Anzac Day Commemoration March since its inception the 22nd Battalion Association has represented the 5000 men of the Battalion that served in it during the Gallipoli and Western Front campaigns. Family descendants of the 22nd Battalion have represented these men with pride since the death of the last 22nd veteran Charlie Mance who died in 2001 aged 100.*

### **2017 "ONWARDS AND UPWARDS"**

*The 22nd Battalion Association, with more than 200 hundred descendant family members is, together with*

*kindred active WWI Battalion Associations, committed to commemorating the men of their Battalions by a dedicated March on Anzac Day so as to respect their stated wishes and march behind their individual Unit Banners.*

***Members of the 22nd Battalion Association in particular are urged to fulfil this commitment by participating in this March, thereby ensuring we hold firm "the baton handed down to us" together with the "SPIRIT OF ANZAC", the legacy of our WWI forebears. By doing this we truly "will remember them".***



**MONASH MONUMENT**

*Acting in this way will also confirm the prophetic words of Winston Churchill, London, December 16, 1918:*

*'We must look forward one hundred, two hundred, three hundred years, to the time when the vast continent of Australia will contain an enormous population; and when that great population will look back through the preceding periods of time to the world-shaking episode of the Great War, and when they will seek out with the most care every detail of that struggle, when the movements of every battalion, of every company, will be elaborately unfolded to the gaze of all, when every family will seek to trace some connection with the heroes who landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula, or in the other great battles of*

IAN RUSSELL HON. SECRETARY/TREASURER

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## Following the Twenty-Second

The First World War through the lives of an Australian infantry Battalion

### 22nd Battalion Association



Upon their return from Europe and the Great War in 1919, the former soldiers of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion met and formed the Battalion Association to keep alive the Anzac spirit and legacy of mateship that was forged on the beaches and cliffs of Gallipoli and which defined the Australian through the tough fighting in France and Belgium, and beyond. As the years have passed the legacy has now been past to the relatives of the men that fought within the Battalion, under the stewardship today of Ian Russell, son of 524 Pte Fred Russell, the Honorary Secretary of the Association from its inauguration in 1920 until his death in 1978.

Each year the Association remembers those that served and marches on Anzac Day in Melbourne. In addition the Association produces an annual newsletter entitled the '22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Association Echo', taking the name from the publication of the same title that the Battalion produced on active service in 1918 until the troops returned home.

*The Website [www.anzac-22nd-battalion.com](http://www.anzac-22nd-battalion.com) is a valuable source and repository for contributions from Association members.*

*There is a section for the 22nd Battalion Association shown opposite.*

*It has been established by Greg Stephens, grandson of George Stephens MM (2394) 22nd Battalion.*

*I visited Greg at his home near Weybridge UK last year and was pleased to meet his father Bob Stephens, a contemporary of a 22nd father.*



**Ian Russell and Bob Stephens**

**"Let us now praise famous men...."  
(Ecclesiasticus..)-22nd Battalion 1 AIF**

**THE 22ND-IN THE BEGINNING**

The following are extracts from Fred Russell's personal papers (22nd Battalion 524).

"On 8 May 1916 the 22nd marched to Broadmeadows Station entraining for Port Melbourne to board the transport "Ulysses" for a destination unknown. This same ship four years later, brought a few of these 'original men' back from England.

There was much speculation as to the Battalion's destination, but on 9 June "Ulysses" berthed at Alexandria, Egypt. "Unofficial" disembarkation resulted in few remaining on-board and so the 22nd made its first acquaintance with this Egyptian city and returned in the 'early hours' much wearier from the experience.....

On 10 June the 22nd went by train to Zeitoun, via Cairo, then marched to the camp at Heliopolis. At last we were well amongst the sands of Egypt and the contrast between it and our own country was most striking. Such a barren waste of sand is hardly to be imagined. Our camp was named 'Aerodrome Camp' and was only about 1/4 miles from the outskirts of Heliopolis one of the modern suburbs of Cairo.

Numbers of the 1st Australian Division who were wounded and were in hospital in Cairo came up to our camp looking for friends of theirs amongst our Units. These were the first wounded I had seen and we all were eager to hear them talk of their experience at the Dardanelles. It can easily be imagined how we hung on their words trying to gain some information on what we would have to undergo when we were under fire for the first time.



**22ND BATTALION 'PERCHED' ON PYRAMID**

We started drill in earnest, up at 5 am, parade from 6 till 9:30 then rest and escape the midday heat. Parade again 5 till 7 and then finish for the day. The training was hard but had a good effect on the men with the result they were as fit as could be. The heat certainly was very trying on one day it was 123 deg. F.

Our first pay, in Egypt was in Egyptian piasters, was soon spent in the bazaars of Cairo. The notes were about the same size as ours and printed in 4 or 5 languages.



**22ND MEN- SPHINX, PYRAMID**

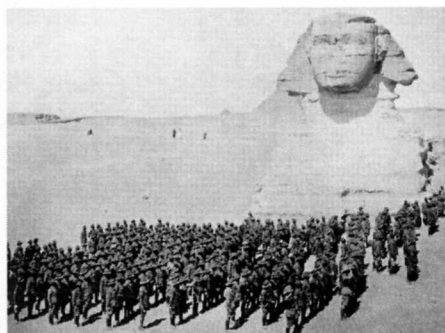
I visited the Pyramids for the first time and gazed awestruck at their colossal size and diversity of the ages which seemed to permeate the atmosphere thereabouts. there were hundreds of our men about mostly of my own Brigade, who being recent arrivals, were out there for the first time. Many and varied were the comments made, from the students of Egyptology who seemed transfixed gazing at them, to the casual soldier who considered they would make a lovely ornament to hang on a watch-chain.

For my own part I class myself amongst the students and could scarcely believe that I was looking upon "The Pyramids", these ancient relics of Egypt's past glories.



**"MOUNTED 22ND MEN"**

The 22nd's excursion to the Pyramids were 15 miles away and at 5 one evening it set out with Colonel Crouch and the Band leading.. Along the Mena Road the Battalion persevered, with the Pyramids always looming apparently just ahead. For hours the march continued, but just about midnight a halt was called on the site of what had been the 1st Divisions camp. In the morning Church Parade was held in the shadow of the Sphinx.



**CHURCH PARADE**

## THE BATTALION'S MOQUET FARM 1916

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After the heavy losses at Pozieres there was no respite and the 22nd moved north to Mouquet Farm, commonly called "Moo Cow Farm" a German stronghold surrounded by a system of concealed tunnels constructed by the enemy.



MOQUET FARM TODAY

On 26 August 1916, the 22nd's B Company moved forward at 4:45 a.m. into shell holes on the left flank of the main attack. Under a good barrage, the Company left its trench in Indian file and wheeled by platoons in the desired positions.

Capt. Harold Smith (formerly 23rd Battn.) and Lieut. N. L. Cumming (formerly 24th Battn.), who, with Lieut. Harold Rodda, were the officers in charge, led No 5 and 6 platoons to link up on the objective with the 21st, but a nest of German gunners at the junction point caused heavy casualties. Capt. Smith was soon wounded, but continued to do splendid work till he was killed. Lieut. Cumming penetrated to the objective with the handful of men who had survived the fire and fought a bombing action until he was severely wounded. Being then unable to regain our lines, this officer was taken in by German stretcher-bearers and it was not

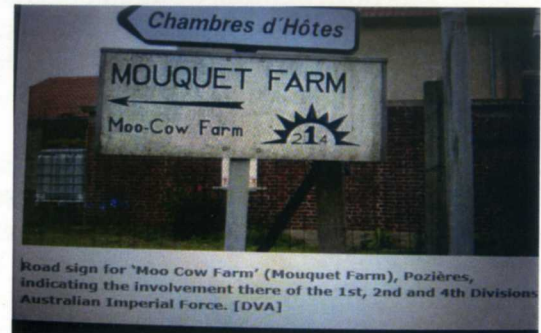


On 5 August 1916. Lieut. Rodda was the only unwounded officer, and he assumed command of the Company. Hostile artillery was now heavily shelling the main attack, which met with a stubborn resistance, and was confronted with the cunning tunnel defenses, of which mention has been made earlier. By means of these, the 21st Battalion was attacked in rear, and almost hemmed in. Not only were their losses heavy, but it was impossible to clear the ground of wounded.

Owing to their flank position, and the fact that theirs was a shell-hole, and not an organized trench-line, "B" Company of the 22nd escaped with lighter casualties than at one time seemed probable, and the survivors maintained their allotted flank until relieved at 2 a.m. on 27th August.....

**The 22nd Battalion had thus taken part in its first full-scale offensive during the First War with more of our Brigade (sic 6th) lost than any other spot in France.**

In a letter home, Major MacKay says, 'our chance to prove ourselves has come at last-not for my part that I have been eagerly looking forward to it-but now that it has come I trust we may all prove ourselves worthy of the name of our troops made for Australia in their landing at Anzac'. Leading from the front, Major MacKay was killed as the 22nd, within the 6th Brigade, successfully achieved their objectives and the Pozieres Heights.



The 22nd's success came at a heavy price and as Capt. Gorman, author of "With The Twenty-Second" said, 'in Pozieres sleep more of our Brigade than in any other spot in France'. The Battalion lost 33 Officers and 763 other ranks. 1 Anzac Corps suffered 23,000 casualties at Pozieres and Moquet Farm.

After the fighting at Pozieres and Moquet Farm the 22nd battalion erected a wooden cross in memory of the brave Officers and men killed in action. This is now an exhibit in the Australian War Museum



MOQUET FARM MEMOTIAL

Sources: "With the Twenty-Second"  
"Following the Twenty-Second"

**"SONS OF WILLIAMSTOWN"**

**MAYOR OF HOBSONS BAY COUNCIL PETER HEMPHILL, MRS HEMPHILL, HON. SEC. 22ND BATTN. ASSN. IAN RUSSELL AND WIFE GLENDA**

*Towards the end of 1917, Cr William Henderson took on the task of listing those boys and men from Williamstown, Spotswood and Newport who had enlisted for WW1. As the war continued he also set out to compile a photographic record of the 265 local men who had made the supreme sacrifice.*

*While gathering photographs from the families, Cr Henderson heard stories of terrible loss and grief. His untiring work was noted as a labour of love.*

*The portraits of these men were framed and are mounted in a handsome Blackwood cabinet and hangs in the foyer of the Williamstown Hall.*

*As a significant number of these men were killed in action in France in 1915/16 the 22nd Battalion Association was invited to the launch of "Sons of Williamstown" by the Mayor of Hobsons Bay Councillor*

**Member Badge**

*The Member Badge below can be cut-out and inserted in a plastic holder available from most Stationers*

*The badge can be worn on Anzac Day and other appropriate occasions.*

**58TH BATTALION MEMORIAL UNVEILING AND DEDICATION SERVICE**

**MEMORIAL- AIDEN GUERIN 22ND BATTN. BANNER BEARER AND IAN RUSSELL**

*On Saturday 8 October 2016 at Queens Park Moonee Ponds the dedication and unveiling of the Memorial commenced with a procession of WW1 Battalion Banners, led by the 5/6 Battalion. Pipes and Drums and a Catafalque Party.*

*A 'Laying of Crosses" was conducted in front of the Memorial each representing the battles inscribed on it. Ian Russell acted on behalf of the 22nd Battalion Assn. in this role.*

**STOP PRESS Villiers Bretonneux France Musée Franco- Australien.**

*Fred Russell gave his 22nd Battalion uniform to the Museum in 1975 and it was the first response to the appeal for such.*

*Administrator Melanie has recently advised. that in view of this, his uniform will be displayed in the permanent exhibition of the new Franco-Australian Museum opening on 12 April 2017. The 22nd Battalion and the Russell family are honored.*



**CURRENT FRANCO-AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM- FRED RUSSELL'S UNIFORM**



**ANZAC DAY 2016-WWI ASSOCIATIONS' SERVICE AT "COBBERS' STATUE**