



22nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION



TWENTY-SECOND'S

ECHO

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22nd Battalion Association

President: W. F. STURRICK

Vice-President: R. I. VAUGHAN

Vice-President: S. A. STAY

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

F. C. RUSSELL, R.E.M., 75 Kewee Avenue, East Melbourne, Vic.
(211 4622)

Committee:

*I. B. ARMSTRONG

*I. B. BENNETT

N. H. DOOLEY

C. F. HUGHESBAND

*L. B. SPILLAS

*M. F. WARDMAN

*General Past President

Foreword from the President

To the Members of the 22nd Battalion Association: 1st 4127

Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to address to you a foreword for the "Eagle" in this year, 1975, which marks the 60th Anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli, and of our Battalion's participation in one of the most remarkable campaigns in the history of any war.

According to "With the Twenty-Second", the Battalion relieved units of the First Division at "Johnson's Jolly" on September 6, 1915, and was engaged in action until the Evacuation on December 19 of that year. During this relatively short period our unit suffered 618 casualties, including 80 killed in action.

Military history records total Allied Casualties on the Peninsula 250,000 men, with Turkish losses at 250,000, such was the intensity of the Gallipoli Campaign.

It is a remarkable fact that of our present Association membership of 193, 70 "Anzacs" are still with us, which implies that they must be made of sterner stuff than those of us who served subsequently, and so we extend to them a special salute and wish them well at this particular point of time.

Our next gathering will be on Anzac Day and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, as we honor this Historic Occasion. We must be excused for reiteration of earlier sentiments but those of us who are able to attend must cherish gratitude to the Almighty that we are well enough to be able to do so, despite the years which have passed us by.

To our Members, whether based in the Country, Towns or Overseas, your Committee joins me in expressing Good Wishes for the New possible health and wellbeing.

W. F. STURRICK, President,
22nd Battalion Association.

14th April, 1975.

ANZAC DAY, 1975

Anzac Day Commemoration will be carried out in its usual form this year and plans for the march are unaltered. We assemble in Flinders Street, in front of the Gas Company's offices and the march will commence at 10 a.m. We are the first division of the A.I.F. to move off so that will limit our time together. Members are requested to be at the J.O.T. at 9 a.m., the battalion flag will be the pivot, and that will give us an hour only to fraternise.

We have to admit to the limitations of age, and even the shortened march is proving too much for most of our members—we had only 30 marching last year. Much as we regret to admit it, it does appear that our future participation in the march is problematical.

We were favoured by a number of visitors to our assembly and we are pleased to give them a mention.

Mrs. D. Sullivan of North Carlton has been a consistent supporter of ours for some years.

Mrs. Foustie—a daughter of Snow White of the 2/22nd—came along with her husband—ex-2nd A.I.F.

Geo. Ridgway, brother of Mark Ridgway, of Burleigh Heads, made himself known and fortunately contacted Ossie Cornell, who was glad of the opportunity to transmit his regards to his old wartime clobber.

J. Giroud—brother of Gerry Giroud—visited us to pass on regards to all, and to convey apologies from Gerry, who had to "miss-out".

Bill Graham of Pascoe Vale had to be an absentee, but sent greetings to battalion members by his twin sons, both ex-2nd A.I.F.

Bill Gray of Sydney, ex-23rd Bn., looked us up to convey the regards of Alex McDonald in Sydney. Bill has carried similar greetings from Alex on previous Anzac Days.

SHRINE PILGRIMAGE, 1975

CHANGE OF RENDEZVOUS

Our Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine will be held this year on SUNDAY, 11th MAY, 1975, at 3 p.m.

ASSEMBLY POINT will be at the Eternal Flame on the Lower Court of the Shrine, and from there will move up the steps to the Inner Shrine, where the service of Remembrance will commence at 3 p.m.

The attendance at last year's Pilgrimage was not at all representative of a battalion such as ours, but the ceremony was carried out with the reverence due to it, and President Wal Sturrock's address expressed the sentiments of all to "Departed Comrades".

Once again we are gathered at this Shrine of Remembrance to pay our tribute of respect to the memory of our Departed Comrades of the 22 Battalion, 1st A.I.F. and to all men and women who gave their lives in the service of this country wherever engaged.

We think first of those men who lost their lives serving with the 22nd Battalion during 1915-1918, and we remember sadly that those who did so had grown up in an era when there were very few motor cars, no radio or talking pictures and were, therefore, never to enjoy the amenities which have become part of our everyday lives.

Secondly, we remind ourselves that of the 8000 men who joined the Battalion, 844 were killed in action, and 4502 were either wounded, gassed, taken prisoner of war, etc., a total of 5406.

Of those who survived those "first war" years only 250 of us are still alive, but we remember with pride those with whom we worked, lived and

marched down through the subsequent years until injury, illness or age took its toll. *These comrades in arms also we miss sadly.*

Whilst we are intensely proud of our association with the men of our 22nd Battalion, we also pay tribute to all who fought and died at Anzac, in France and Flanders, in Africa and in the East.

We believe that where ever the average Australian may be, that on occasions such as this he feels a surge of National Pride in the memory of Departed Comrades. Courage, Endurance, Mateship and Humour are qualities we all admire and which have characterized Australians since the days of early settlement in this country.

The men and women of the A.I.F. were essentially the same as the tough pioneers who carved this Nation out of the bush.

The mysterious and nebulous quality we call "The Spirit of Anzac" is a blend of fact, folklore and tradition. We may be able to dissect each part of it, but we can never capture it. *Anzac is the Spirit which unites the great majority of Australians, and the men and women we honor here today created that Spirit.*

Without their sacrifices we believe the present standard of life and degree of freedom would never have been attained for ourselves, our children and our children's children. We should remember this, and while any of us remain alive we must never let their memory die.

"Lest We Forget."

W. F. STURROCK.

ANZAC DAY Northern Territory Style

Rev. John R. Mossop—son of the late Stan Mossop, No. 1611—now Brother Mark, B.G.S., a C. of E. Missionary in the Northern Territory and stationed at Katherine, N.T., has been good enough to furnish the following account of 1972 Anzac Day commemoration service in that area.

One of the happiest memories I have of my father, Stan Mossop, is that he was able to march (for the last time, as it turned out) in the Melbourne Anzac Day March in 1966—just after his 75th birthday. It was a great day for him—and for me too as I followed along behind the crowd trying to get some good pictures of him.

Naturally I was interested to see how Anzac Day would be commemorated up here in the Northern Territory. After a year here in Katherine as an Anglican Bush Brother I was asked to give the address at the service following the march on Anzac Day, 1972. You will all realise the significance of this to me, firstly because of my father, but also because, with Darwin, Katherine knew enemy attack in 1942. As I go about the back tracks of this 180,000 square mile parish I see many things that remind me of the servicemen and women who were stationed in the "Top End" during World War 2. Our meatworks here in Katherine occupies the site and some of the buildings of a military hospital. All along the Stuart Highway and in the bush nearby are the air-strips which saw great activity during the Second World War. Here and there, at Adelaide River, Green Ant Creek, Pine Creek, Mataranka and many other places, there are concrete foundations, with bolts forlornly sticking up, where large buildings once stood.

The Katherine Anzac Day Parade in 1972 was most impressive—a good march of some 100 ex-servicemen and women from our district,

with Scouts and Guides, all stepping out smartly and proudly. The service which followed at the Area School followed the familiar form and was conducted with the dignity fitting the occasion. Records provided the bugle calls, and the hymns, unaccompanied, were sung with great gusto. It always seems good to me that Anzac Day follows on so closely after Easter, with its message of Jesus' victory over death and the joyous hope that it brings.

One of our Northern Territory problems is that we have a large turnover in population — people come to work up here only for 2/3 years and then are transferred back to the South. As a result enthusiasms tend to wax and wane somewhat. Unfortunately this has affected our Anzac Day observances since 1972 — there has been only a Dawn Service in 1973 and 1974 — but it appears that something will be done for 1975 to ensure that march is held again.

This year, 1974, there was a good commemoration "up the Track" at the small township of Pine Creek. Following a Dawn Service at the iron mining settlement of Frances Creek, a march was held in Pine Creek, with an attendance of about 70 people, to "remember them".

By 25th April our weather is usually improving — the wet season is normally over, the tracks are drying out and people can get around again. The days are still hot (around 34° C.), with fairly high humidity, but the rain is just about gone. All in all, there is nothing to prevent us gathering to do our Anzac commemoration worthily.

From this you can see that we in the "Top End" of the Northern Territory are concerned to keep alive the Spirit of Anzac — albeit with some difficulty — but it is never forgotten.

MARK B.G.S. (J. R. Mossop).

1974 REUNION

The move to the C.T.A. Club in Flinders Street for our Annual Reunion Luncheon on 24th September, 1974, has received the approbation of all present, and, pending agreement by that club, the function this year will be repeated.

The appointments of that club leave nothing to be desired, and that factor added to the appreciation of members. It is worthy of note that at that reunion there were four members who had participated in the original meeting of returned members of the 22nd Bn. held in Sargent's Cafe, Elizabeth Street, in August, 1918. They were H. F. Vawdon, A. Robertson, R. Holdsworth and B. J. Vaughan.

From that meeting the 22nd Bn. Association emanated and in its early days all reunions were held in Sargent's Cafe. We can take pride that our Association has carried on since that time and now has a prominent position amongst our kindred associations.

Without in any way derogating our Melbourne members, a few comments on our country members who attended are given.

ARTHUR ROBERTSON of Hobart made the reunion his objective, and visiting relatives in Victoria secondary. Arthur has spent many years in London, where his son had a dental practice but who has now returned to Hobart, and Arthur has toddled back too.

GEOFF LITTLER of Devenport, Tas., has for years developed the "landable habit" of having urgent business in Melbourne around September each year. Geoff has great passion for a special brand of whisky and was generous enough to produce a bottle of his favourite, and very cordially paraded the reunion offering nips to all who thought fit. That bottle did not survive one round of handouts. We appreciate his action and those who partook thank him for his generosity.

DON HOLDSWORTH, now residing in Beaumaris, has the rare privilege of being the only known member to have revisited Anzac and to wander over that area unmolested by snipers or "chats", but the fleas are still there.

As he says, it was a most impressionable visit, and he was able to identify various points so well known to those of us who had been there.

BEN VAUGHAN carries his age without any apparent signs of physical deterioration. In fact he believes "anno domini". He now resides in Mount Waverley, and he and Don Lechte share their leisure time.

JOCK MALLOCH travelled by bus from Nathalia to be at the reunion. He says that that is much more comfortable than driving himself and allows him to ignore traffic hazards. Jock has an agricultural implement business in Nathalia and for recreation is Secretary of the local R.S.L. He represented the battalion at the funeral of Keith McRae in Echuca last September.

LES TURNER was much more venturesome than Jock Malloch for he travelled in his own car from Warrnambool and did the return trip the next day. Les was for many years a primary producer at Yoolong, a small place hidden in the wilds of Cape Otway.

JOE GREENE made the trip from Wangaratta to take his place at the reunion. Distance is no barrier for him and for years past he has attended our functions in Melbourne. It is recalled that in 1973 he came down by train for the Anzac Day March and it was an hour late in reaching Melbourne. However, he caught up with the battalion at the Shrine and of course was marked "present".

JIM YOUNG travelled all the way from Sorrento to be in it and stood up to the journey quite well. Age does not appear to be affecting him much; perhaps that may be due to the climate on the Mornington Peninsula. However, he has not had all the good luck. Some months ago he had the misfortune to figure in a motor collision and his auto became a complete write-off. Fortunately, no damage to him or Mrs. Young, who was a passenger.

Donations were received at the reunion from the following members:

R. Holdsworth	F. Lavender	W. Starrock
T. Hoare	L. Guthrie	B. Vaughan
D. Lechte	W. Leviston	F. Giroud
W. Freeman	B. Armstrong	H. Symons
O. Cornell	N. Dooley	H. Urquhart
F. Cline	C. Gold	J. Young
J. Malloch	L. Turner	C. Christie
L. Coburn	K. E. Moore	C. H. Johnson
T. Russell	J. Lovelace	W. Bailey
L. Smith	H. Vawdon	R. Batton
T. Mackenzie	W. De Boos	T. Seychell
A. Pocock	A. Robertson	G. Littler
W. Yelverton	J. Greene	

The spirit of "esprit des corps", which permeated the battalion on service, is as strong as ever, although now borne by a very much depleted number — now 193 all told — dispersed over Australia and overseas. That was exemplified at our last reunion when absentee members contributed \$150.50 to a function which, for various reasons, they could not attend.

The Association expresses its grateful appreciation for their participation.

C. E. Hildebrand, Blackwood	C. W. Hutton, Heidelberg
K. Sutherland, Camberwell	F. S. Baker, Woolgoolga, N.S.W.
J. R. Bennett, Mont Albert	H. L. Jackson, Kew

J. J. Shaw, School
 J. H. King, Berrigan
 R. Caspell, Kingswood
 D. S. Hughes, Berrigan
 J. Graham, Tarragulla
 J. W. Minton, De Winton, N.S.W.
 K. S. Anderson, Portland
 F. G. Robinson, Nappier
 T. T. Rowland, Rockingham, W.A.
 L. K. Speak, Elizabeth
 C. Day, Yarraville

M. Rodgers, British Woods, Qld
 A. Miles, Liverpool
 N. Jensen, Mission Road
 A. J. Mitchell, Ararat
 R. Andrew, Cleburn
 I. E. Smith, Geelong West
 T. Burrage, Neah
 A. Salmon, Caulfield
 C. F. Cox, Glen Irie
 A. Cameron, Clayton

Anzac Veterans Luncheon

In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Landing at Anzac, the Victorian Government has provided a luncheon for a representative gathering of Anzac veterans in the Great Hall of the National Gallery on Thursday, 22nd April, 1975. As the invitations had not been issued at the time of our going to press, we cannot report further, so will have to defer comment until our next issue.

VILLERS BRETONNEUX

No doubt the mention of Villers Bretonneux will revive memories of that town and the stirring events of 1918. It has again figured in our month.

Monsieur Louis Rinet is Chairman of the Franco-Australian Welcome Committee in that town and is actively working on the collections of mementoes and relics of the A.I.F. for inclusion in a museum which will be opened on Anzac Day 1975.

Mr Roland Pullen, an Australian press correspondent in Paris, contacted M. Rinet recently and the Melbourne "Herald" on 1st March published an article by Mr. Pullen setting out the objective and purposes of the museum and requested contributions from members of the A.I.F.

Nearly 60 years have elapsed since the battalion participated in actions around "Villers Bretonneux", before and after its capture from the Fritz by the A.I.F. on Anzac Day, 1918, and in particular the memorable "top-over" on 8th August, 1918, and the stunts which followed that event.

That is all history now, but the particular reason for the revival of memories of "Villers Bretonneux" is as follows.

Miraculous as it may appear, I have retained my A.I.F. uniform, minus boots, but for sentimental reasons could never bring myself to destroy it, so it has just remained — a favoured relic. In spite of its age, it is still in very good condition, the red and purple diamonds very prominent, and with damage only negligible. On reading the "Herald" article I decided immediately that this was a most propitious opportunity to have these articles reported in a very appropriate location for the rest of time.

By divine means — see to be disclosed — it has been safely transported to "V.B." and in no doubt, the "piece de resistance" of that museum, which will symbolise the A.I.F. and the 22nd Battalion will have a positive identification with it.

F.C.R.

We go on T.V.

On 1st August last year we had 24 hours notice from Channel "D" that they proposed putting on a special programme to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I on 4th August, 1914. We were invited to have a representation of our members at a session to be conducted at Anzac House on the morning of 2nd August. In view of the very short notice, an organised request to our members was not possible, but by urgent telephoned contacts we were able to have four members present to represent the 22nd Battalion. In all, about 30 veterans of W.W.I. assembled and commentators from Channel "D", together with sound equipment and cameras, interviewed a number of these present regarding their experiences in that war. Our representatives were Wil Sturrock, Fred Russell, Sid Kohn and Tom Mackintosh, and our contribution, by special request, was the rendering our battalion song, "W.G.T.B.G." Naturally, we had to "soft pedal" the real words of our motto, but from all accounts the rendition of our old song went over very well, despite rather doubtful harmony.

As the 4th August was a Sunday, the item was not put over on Channel "D" until the "24 hours" session on Monday, 5th August. We have been very agreeably surprised at the numbers who saw the session on TV, both members and our friends in the public. Wil Sturrock's grandson in Sydney saw it and very hurriedly rang Grandpa in Melbourne to let him know.

So the 22nd Bn. has achieved another distinction.

CASUALTIES

SID KOHN was in R.G.H. in February for an operation and was discharged within 14 days with his stamina only temporarily impaired.

DON LECHTE was also in R.G.H. undergoing medical care. During recent months he has had recurring periods of "no duty", but the latest necessitated a spell in hospital. He was discharged, in one piece, on 27th March.

LES SPEAK was in R.G.H. too for a hernia operation, successfully carried out in 10th March. Les has had a bad run for some months past with serious deterioration of his legs. His movements are very much restricted and he has had to resort to the aid of two walking sticks to maintain balance.

CHARLES FULTON of Adelaide is confined to his bed at home. Charlie suffered a stroke some years ago and has been immobile ever since. But his indomitable spirit still craves with customary greetings to his old associates.

STAN GILCHRIST suffered a minor stroke 12 months ago and has had to curtail his activities accordingly. However, he managed to attend the funeral of Jack Hocking in Footscray on 10th February and represented the battalion at that ceremony.

The "Grape Vine."

HAROLD VAWDON has acquired another distinction. The most important is, of course, the fact that he is the only member of the original committee still functioning. That covers 57 years. He and Mrs. Vawdon now reside in their home in Caulfield after 50 years of continuous occupancy, and boast nine grandchildren.

Harold spent his business life in Flinders Lane and was reputed to have known everybody in that area, and that was certainly demonstrated, for, when accompanying him on a stroll in the "Lane" he invariably was hailed by all and sundry with the Flinders Lane password, "Greetings". Last October Harold had acquired 50 years membership of the Soft Goods Club, and that body honoured him with the bestowal of Life Membership of the club and an accompanying gold medallion.

BRIAN ARMSTRONG is our liaison with Mrs. Durnford, widow of Padre Durnford, who is now living in Cottingham, East Yorkshire, England. The Padre died in March, 1969, at the age of 87. Mrs. Durnford writes that she wishes to maintain the contact with the 22nd Battalion and so carry on the sentimental attachment which had been so dear to the Padre during his subsequent lifetime.

LAURIE SMITH of Pascoe Vale refuses to give up, and although over 80 — by how much we won't say — is still very active in maintaining the surrounds of the Oliver Plunkett R.C. Church in Landells Road, Pascoe Vale.

W. E. SMYTHE (Snow), No. 1951, is now a resident in the Templemore Private Hospital, 50 Footscray Street, Templestowe. His state of health has necessitated continuous medical supervision, and he is comfortably enclosed there.

"Snow" will appreciate visits at any time.

MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS

Receipt is acknowledged from the following members:

F. Hopkinson, Fiji.	A. Robertson, Hobart.
G. Comeadow, Footscray.	A. Pocock, Ferny Creek.
H. L. Jackson, Kew.	F. I. Silver, Fairfield.
W. H. Scates, Urangan, Q'ld.	C. F. Monk, Coburg.
W. F. L. O'Connor, Lobeck.	D. Lechte, Mt. Waverley.
W. S. G. Wolff, Eaglemont.	W. Corbin, Forest Hill.
F. S. Baker, Cooloolga, N.S.W.	E. Draper, Footscray.
V. T. Handley, Warragul.	A. Salmon, Caulfield.
C. F. Cox, Glen Iris.	L. Binns, Jejarit.
A. Camper, Hawthorn.	A. G. Parry, Leongatha.
M. Ridgway, Burleigh, Heads, Q'ld.	W. T. Martin, Springvale.
L. Vanslow, Canterbury.	H. W. Heathcote, Blackburn.
J. B. Armstrong, Hawthorn.	W. Liston, Oakleigh.

FREE PRESS FIGHTERS

By courtesy of "The Age".

An article published in the issue of 5th August 1972.

The press has a great tradition. Without a free press to expose, to cast light in dark places, to prod those in a position to make reforms, our way of life today would be far different.

Best proof of that is the fact that in the world today there are countries where there is no free press. The way of life in those countries is not the way of freedom.

One of the greatest contributions made to the tradition of a free press was a poorly printed newspaper which produced only 171 issues over a period of almost four years.

Its name was *La Libre Belgique*.

It was produced in occupied Belgium during the first world war. It enlightened. It inspired. It was more than a newspaper. It was a battle standard never struck no matter how tattered it became in the battle.

It came into being under conditions which made its production and distribution the height of folly.

The course led almost certainly to the "tir national" the rifle range outside the city, and the posts facing the firing squad, or at best the rigors of the concentration camp.

These were the conditions under which *La Libre Belgique* came into being.

The Germans swept through Belgium in August in the great drive they believed would see them in Paris by the end of the month with the war won. Belgium's defence, thought impregnable, depended principally on the great forts ringing Namur and Liege. Their impregnability was a fallacy. Brussels was occupied.

The Germans were stopped at the Marne. Stopped in their drive towards the Channel. Deprived of the hopes of quick victory. With their vision of swift victory went all semblance of liberty in Brussels. The city rapidly became a vast concentration camp under a man who exemplified Prussian tyranny at its worst — Baron Von Bissing.

There were three men and a woman involved in the project. Only one was a journalist. Victor Jourdain, 74, for 30 years editor of *The Patriote*, which he closed down before the Germans set foot in Brussels, rather than submit to censorship. His daughter, his secretary, Eugene Van Doren, owner of a small cardboard factory. And, Abbe de Moor, a Jesuit priest, already with his life forfeit for helping Nurse Cavell smuggle allied soldiers out of the country, and as an agent for British Intelligence.

Jourdain wrote the first leader.

It read . . . "the aim of *La Libre Belgique* is to strengthen and encourage Belgian patriotism until the hour, still unknown, but certain, of the deliverance of our great bearded and glorious little country . . . to give our readers the opinions of competent military observers to keep them informed of the progress of the allies and of the increasingly desperate plight of Germany . . . to show to young men of age to carry arms the path of duty; to bring to their ears the echoes of the call of

King and Government . . . to combat defection and refute the calumnies hawked by the censored press against Belgium and her allies."

A distribution list was compiled, slowly, laboriously, until a thousand copies in small quantities could be dropped to trusted distributors. They decided that the distribution lacked something; the Kaiser should get one. So should Von Bissing.

The Kaiser presented no difficulty. His headquarters were at Spa, only 80 miles from Brussels. His could be posted. But Van Doren thought Von Bissing should get his straight from the press on publication day.

De Moor had a pretty sister. He bought a lilac-scented envelope and his sister addressed it in her distinctly feminine hand.

Half an hour later, a young orderly was confronted by a pretty girl, who handed him the envelope on behalf of her mistress . . . "you will be sure that his excellency gets it . . . it's a very personal matter," she said in halting German.

"I will hand it to him myself, Fraulein. Is there any answer?" "I will return for the answer tomorrow," she said.

A few minutes later, Von Bissing opened the pink envelope.

He began to read. His eyes popped; the old Heidelberg dueling scar formed a livid welt on a face almost purple with rage. It was February 1, 1915. *La Libre Belgique* was in business.

Von Bissing received his copy of every edition, hot off the press. What had been merely an annoyance, now turned into something more. It was defiance and insult *par excellency*. The secret police combed the city looking for the printing and distribution centres. All without result.

Issue 34 produced the paper's first martyr.

De Moor had barely escaped into Holland as the net closed on him, as it had to do despite all precautions. His distribution job was taken on by Philippe Baucq. Baucq's daring brought about his downfall. He was shot.

Issue No. 50 was something special. The front page was dominated by a cartoon of the Kaiser in Hell. Van Doren had hoped to have it in color, but production facilities were inadequate. Nevertheless, it was the talk of the city. It very nearly reduced Von Bissing to apoplexy.

By the end of 1915, distribution covered the entire occupied zone. There were depots in all the principal towns. In Charleroi, the depot was on the third floor of a building — the ground floor was secret police headquarters.

By the 62nd issue, circulation had reached 25,000. An issue 69 went into the final stages of its distribution. *Libre* very nearly died.

A crack counter-espionage team had managed to break through the security ring that had proven so effective. They rounded up more than two hundred people, and actually discovered the hidden printing plant. They missed Van Doren himself through a mere fluke which gave him a few seconds' break.

A mass trial was held at Charleroi. It was a travesty of justice. The defendants were deprived of legal representation. The judges, all German officers, worked as the judge advocate read from the pages of *Libre*. No actual death sentences were passed.

In some cases, the sentences amounted to death. The treatment the sentenced received in special concentration camps killed three of them within a year. The trial was remarkable for the defiant composure of the accused.

The man who had master-minded the operation was a paper death-camp convict. He had every reason to be pleased as he sat

watching the end of the troublesome gang. An orderly walked up to him with a sealed envelope. It was the curious remark of *Libre Belgique*.

One of the most infuriating aspects of *Libre* from Von Bissing's point of view was that no reference was ever made to the arrests made in connection with the publication.

The inference was that it was completely impervious to the efforts to suppress it, and that stories of arrests were administration lies.

A second coup by the police, and a second mass trial was held in Brussels on February 13, 1917. Forty-one people went on trial. There were no death sentences. — But only one acquittal.

While the trial was in progress the sentry outside had No. 111 pinned to the tail of his tunic by a daring archer. He acted as the first and only advertisement for *La Libre*.

Two weeks later, Von Bissing died. He was a broken man. His failure to suppress *Libre*, and the disgrace it brought in its wake (The Kaiser received every copy and showed his displeasure in savage reprimands) had taken its toll.

He was replaced by General von Falkenhausen. *Libre* welcomed him in these terms: "After a career of incompetency that would have had you discharged in disgrace had you not been a protégé of the idiotic top the Crown Prince, you have been sent as a bird of prey to live off the palpitating flesh of Belgium. We stamp on you as we stamped on that cynical chimpanzee, your predecessor."

Good strong stuff. Von Falkenhausen responded by asking Berlin to send somebody capable of doing what three brigades of secret police, assisted by the Charleroi cracks, had not been able to accomplish. Thirty men and four women, the very pick of the German counter-espionage force were recalled from all over Europe for the task.

Patiently they put together a mass of evidence. They picked up a minor distributor. Through him they unearthed others. They made no arrests. Gradually the trail took them to the printer.

On January 29, 1918, they swooped in force. Their investigations had led them to the identification of Fidelis, who was hanged. Dr. Van de Kerkhove. His was the invective that had hurt so much. They also identified "Ego" whose accurate articles on the progress of the war had done the German cause so much harm, and encouraged resistance.

Plus a hundred others.

They had editors, printer, and printing plant. This was the end of the defiance of *Libre*. The final suppression was front page news in Germany. In Brussels as the news was confirmed, it was greeted as a national disaster.

At the Kommandatur and police headquarters there was wild celebration. The Kaiser sent a telegram of congratulations, and a decoration. Von Falkenhausen threw a "party of parties" in celebration.

At the height of the festivities, an orderly walked in with a sealed envelope marked "Urgent." Von Falkenhausen opened it. It contained a copy of *Libre* No. 143.

When he produced *Libre*, some of the guests, he goes in schmutz and tokay, thought it was part of the celebration. . . . a few winking jokes. Von Falkenhausen soon disillusioned them. He crumpled up the paper, threw it on the floor and rushed out of the room following by the guard.

The front page was dominated by an **ANTHRAPOID** photograph of the Governor. The caption said: "An unexpected bonus on the occasion of our Birthday: our amiable Governor had thought to send us his autographed portrait. Who said the Governor won't speak!"

There was the usual savings article by Fiddis, the usual account of the waning of the German cause, by Ego, the man whose downfall they were celebrating.

Neither Fiddis nor Ego had ever been edited. That honor belonged to a man named van den Hout. He had taken over on February 27, 1917. This man was already an allied intelligence agent, under thirty, physically powerful, and possessed of a cold, dynamic energy.

Van den Hout later managed to get a printer capable of producing no more than the inside press. He managed to improve the distribution to a point that it had never reached before, with copies turning up in German prison camps and concentration camps.

Van den Hout's efforts helped those in goal. With *Libre* growing bigger, thus even it didn't appear logical that the caught were such big fish.

Fiddis managed to smuggle his articles regularly from prison. Ten of them appeared after his imprisonment, all aimed at von Falkenhausen, who was now drinking so much that he was not seen for days.

Von Falkenhausen received an ultimatum from the High Command. "Shut up *Libre*, or come home to shameful retirement."

He was roused to new heights of endeavor. For every one engaged before in searching for his tormentor, there were now five or six. In June, they broke through. The printer was caught with four thousand copies of No. 122 in his shop in the rue de Bordeaux.

He was grilled but even under torture could not tell anybody anything. To him, van den Hout was a nameless face. The Germans planted two agents in the shop. Van den Hout walked into the trap. What they wanted for him inside the shop he might have been taken. Instead, as he opened the door, they hung themselves on him.

As the German dream faded, von Falkenhausen became more and more fanatical, more and more ferocious in his actions, and more and more determined to wipe out *Libre*.

Van den Hout also redoubled his efforts. He established some means of obtaining quickly news of what was happening on the front. Within a week of the halting of the last great German offensive, he was giving at the "Strategic withdrawals". He duly chronicled the smashing of the Hindenburg Line. In October, *Libre Belgique* came out with the biggest headline in its history.

"COLLAPSE: The hour so ardently desired, so patiently awaited, has struck at last. Under the repeated blows of Foch, The Beast screams for mercy. This is Victory, decisive and complete. We are on the eve of debacle, of the final rout. The Empire is tottering, and may well crash. After four years of tyranny during which they subjected us to a reign of steel and blood, they are going, vanquished; vanquished at the Front by the force they thought would dominate the world; vanquished here by the heroic resistance of a whole people, who, in spite of all have held out to the bitter end . . ."

On November 12th, with the German troops in revolt, and von Falkenhausen a prisoner of his own garrison *La Libre Belgique* circulated openly for the last time.

The Editorial for *Libre* No. 171 was headed "OUR LAST ISSUE".

"How often during the four years of an existence an uncertain as it has been exciting have we thought about this last issue of *La Libre Belgique*? And here it is at last . . . our mission fulfilled, we can pass away. We swore that the German would find us facing him until the very last day, cost what it might. We have kept our promise faithfully."

DONATIONS

Our thanks and appreciation are recorded to our many donors who support the Association in memory of their departed relatives, and our comrades. Every donation has been acknowledged and we are pleased to append this list in the "Echer".

Mrs. M. Strachan, Corowa, N.S.W.	Mrs. J. Anton, Fairlight, N.S.W.
Mrs. E. L. Tostevin, Mildura.	Mrs. D. Boushig, Surrey Hills.
Mrs. A. McKay, Blackburn.	Mrs. G. Harvey, Toorak.
Mr. T. Jeffs, Won Wron.	Mr. J. R. Monog, Katherine, N.T.
Mr. E. A. McEvey, Preston.	Mrs. J. McKay, Main Beach, Qld.
Mrs. G. Fealy, Waratah, N.S.W.	Mrs. E. McRae, Echuca.
Mrs. E. Macdonald, Glenhantly.	Mrs. E. Tostevin, Mildura.

Received on Anzac Day, 1974.

Mrs. Paustie, Croydon.	Mr. S. Holman, Reservoir.
Mrs. D. Sullivan, Nis. Carlton.	Mr. S. G. Towler, Hawthorn.
Miss N. Baker, Caulfield.	Mr. N. L. Calton, Delemonte, Tas.

Obituaries

No. 212, JIM MOORE, who died at Kew on 11th January, at the age of 75, held the record of having been the youngest man in the battalion. He served with the unit on Gallipoli at the age of 15 and continued on service in France. In civil life he was a normal and had many occupations, all of a transient nature. He had been a permanent boarder at Gordon House in Little Bourke Street for many years.

No. 205, KEITH McRAE of Echuca died on September 1 at the age of 82. Keith had always been a staunch supporter of the Association, although he had rarely attended any of our functions. He was a consistent exponent of silent communication, for his regular contributions were only identifiable by his signature on a cheque. Jock Malloch of Nathalia represented the battalion at the funeral service in Echuca, which was followed by cremation at Fawkner.

No. 4516, A. G. PARRY (Pomper) died at Leongatha on September 24 — the day of our 1974 reunion. He had been the Hon. Secretary of the Meeniyan Sub-Branch R.S.L. for 17 years, from 1930 to 1947. He was made a Life Member of the R.S.L. in 1949, and in 1970 he received the R.S.L. Certificate for 50 years service to the R.S.L.

After a very short period in R.G.H. Heidelberg TED DRAPER passed out on 4th April and his funeral was at the Memorial Park Crematorium, North Altona on 8th April. W. Strarock, F. Russell and S. Gilchrist represented the battalion at that service and the R.S.L. Service was conducted by Mr. Schultz of the Footscray R.S.L.

LEST WE FORGET

1973		
828	E. L. PEUM, Concord, N.S.W.	November 23
894	G. H. DEALY, Warrumb. N.S.W.	November 25
1974		
1211	C. B. CHAMPION, N.S.W.	January 15
1341	I. DUNNIGAN, N.S.W.	February 18
1446	A. W. MILLER, Warrumboul.	March 7
4475	N. GARRETT, Bays.	March 21
4785	T. TAYLOR, R.G.H.	April 19
3980	C. H. PHILLAN, R.G.H.	May 2
3792	A. SUMMERS, R.G.H.	May 8
4312	A. F. COBBEN, Mt. Waverley	May 18
4255	T. W. CURRIEN, N.S.W.	May —
546	R. FORSTER, Camberwell	May 31
8185	B. W. FORD, R.G.H.	June 3
1395	R. WINDGOLD, R.G.H.	June 19
624	C. C. HUGHES, Clayton	June 22
689	B. A. SPENC, Newport	June 27
115	E. G. HINDON, N.S.W.	July 3
1716	C. F. HUGH, Corowa, N.S.W.	July 5
824	P. D. PARKES, N.S.W.	July —
614	E. C. COOKE, Box Hill	July 23
45	W. O'CONNOR, R.G.H.	August 18
35	K. McRAE, Echuca	September 1
2024	A. J. COBBEN, Frankston	September 2
458	J. T. FARRELL, R.G.H.	September 3
190	A. THOMSON, Brighton	September 5
477	F. G. HERRIGON, Richmond	September 18
429	A. CRIDDELL, Possum	September 20
51	W. S. G. WOLFF, Eaglemont	September 21
4516	A. G. FERRY, Langlands	September 24
585	J. HADLOW, Maitland, N.S.W.	September 28
6182	R. M. KEAM, R.G.H.	October 7
4312	F. W. ALDER, Fyson Vale South	October 28
4196	W. FORRES, Mar	December 11
5284	C. F. GLAWCCK, Elwood	December 14
1975		
212	J. R. MCGRIB, Keo	January 11
1199	J. A. ROBERTSON, Footscray	February 10
96	E. DRAPER, Footscray	April 4

TWENTY-SECOND BATTALION ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1974.

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
Bank Balance 5.5.8. 1/1/74	\$200.16	Printing "Echo"	\$233.78
Members' Subscriptions	494.50	Printing "Echo"	17.50
Members' Donations — Anzac Day	54.60	General Expenses	5.42
Anonymous Members' Donations — Reception	133.50	Printing and Stationery	5.47
Donations	302.40	Telephone	75.00
Interest — 5.5.8.	16.00	Donations — Legacies	310.00
Credit Balance — Reception 14/9/74	3.33	Utility — Gas	10.00
	50.71	R.S.B.	10.00
		Postages	30.00
		Bank Balance — 31.12.74	29.14
			245.13
			\$112.49