

2/1 FIELD REGIMENT CLUB

KIBBLES POST

APRIL 2012

President

Deceased

Secretary

**John Hynes -
retired due to
ill health**

Treasurer

**O Pearce OAM
51 Tillock Avenue
DOBROYD POINT 2045
(02) 9798 5397**

VALE

Rex Olsson	Arthur Asher	

Major Rex Charles Olsson – NX11089

Rex Charles and Jack Colvin Olsson – identical twins – were born on 23rd February, 1919.

They grew up in the shadow of the Great War.

Their father, Charles Henry Olsson, had answered the coo-ee call and was posted to the 1st Battalion, 1st Australian Division, 1st AIF. He was sent to the Middle East and then the Western Front. He was seriously wounded, probably in the battle for Pozieres.

A second cousin was killed on the first day of the Gallipoli campaign.

Although they had a good and first hand idea of the hardship of war, they volunteered for the Commonwealth Military Force in 1936, the recruitment officer turning a blind eye to the fact that they were only 16 years of age.

They joined the 45th Battalion and studied for the Leaving Certificate whilst in camp. This brief flirtation with the Infantry ended when they transferred to the Artillery and in 1939, after war was declared, joined the 18th Field Brigade.

As they were still in the militia, and confined as a result to duties within Australia, they applied to join the international force, the 2nd AIF.

Rex was commissioned Lieutenant on 22nd April, 1940 and promoted to Captain in 1941.

He was posted to the 2/1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, a regiment with a distinguished record of service in the Middle East and Greece. Diverted to Australia instead of Europe after the outbreak of war in the Pacific, the regiment regrouped and retrained on the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland where Rex joined it before it was posted to New Guinea and the campaign for Aitape and Wewak in 1943-44.

Rex was, for a long period, a Forward Observation Officer for the 2nd/2nd Infantry Battalion. He was a keen artilleryman attached to an infantry battalion. The records suggest that he was adept and efficient at artillery fire. The Official War History of Australian mentions that on 22nd March, 1945 near Dagua Aerodrome (north eastern New Guinea) Captain Olsson conducted a successful night time shoot ranging guns in the moonlight to an enemy held ridge.

On 24th March, some 3 days later, Rex was ordered to give the infantry maximum artillery support. He brought down artillery fire along the ridge as a preliminary to the attack. Because of the difficulty of the position and the importance of the objective, he was given permission to use full Regimental support – 3 batteries (or 24 guns). Apparently the noise was unbelievable but an enemy machine gunner somehow survived and pinned down each platoon as it reached the top of the ridge. Rex watched Lieutenant Bert Chowne charge up the ridge hurling grenades with one hand and firing a submachine gun with the other.

Rex had a profound respect for the infantry. He said that if he had his way, every infantryman of whatever rank would be awarded a special medal, just for being infantry.

How prescient a comment, since, years overdue, the Commonwealth Government issued an Infantry Combat Badge.

Rex was Mentioned in Dispatches for distinguished conduct. He survived a brutal attack of malaria and other tropical diseases which kept him in hospital for more than a year.

When he was finally discharged from the army, it was with the rank of Major.

Rex studied Economics after the war, taking a doctorate in finance from New York University. After a period in practice as a Chartered Accountant, he took up the post of foundation Professor of Finance at the University of New South Wales, a position he held until his retirement. He was the University's Finance Manager for a number of years and chaired the company which controlled the University's superannuation fund.

He was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor and in 1990 was made a Member of the Order of Australia.

Rex passed away on 24th August, 2011, at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. His wife Betty and daughters Elizabeth and Annabelle survive him. Jack, his brother, survives him.

Rest in Peace.

Origin of the naming of “Kibbles Post”

Remembered by Ossie Pearce:

A reciprocate of Kibbles Post quite recently enquired about how the name came about. I thought many of you may also want to know this.

At an Anzac Day luncheon after the passing of Sam Kibble, the newsletter that Sam would write & distribute to the regiment members was a point of discussion. After much deliberation it was unanimously decided to name the future newsletters “Kibbles Post” in memory and appreciation of Sam’s work.

Ron Hartmann took over the editorship of the newsletter and with his knowledge and resources it became the edition that you recognise today.

Correspondence Received by Hon. Treasurer, Ossie Pearce:

Greece and Crete

DVA have published a book (220 pages), several photos of various members of the Regiment that went to Greece, the Germans made it a short stay. To obtain a copy ring DVA, Boyd Buffett, Phone (02) 9213 7673

Letter from Ken Kell

Dear Ossie

This is the book I spoke to you about – published first in 2001. As a smaller Edition, called “A Great Risk in a Good Cause”. I have highlighted CPL Willoughby and his brave group on Pages 202-203.

I do not know of any occasion when the quality of Australian soldiers is better acknowledged.

No urgency about its return.

Regards, Ken

Pages 202-203 - This is How it Happened (Crete)

“At this point, Capt Ralph Honner 2/11th BN, thought that it would be pointless to press the attack without tank cover. Then he heard that one of his forward platoons might have broken through the German Line into Perivolia and Honner felt he must go forward to support this platoon – as nine men led by Corporal Tom Willoughby went forward to give cover to advance with their Bren Gun, there occurred one of the tragedies of the 2/11th’s war on Crete. Honner ordered them to make for a stone wall around a well 20 metres from the German Line”.

“As the rest of the Company opened rapid fire on the trenches and the houses to quieten the enemy’s guns, Willoughby’s gallant team leaped from the ditch and started racing along a low hedge leading past the disabled tank to the well. Willoughby was nearly there before he fell – behind him the Bren Gunner went down – the next rifleman caught up the gun in passing and went on until he was killed, and so the Bren was relayed through the Section until it almost reached the well in the hands of the last runner; and he too was killed as he went down kneeling over it, guarding it even in death”.

Eight brave men were lost there. “They do not come any braver than this”.

The names of the brave men were:

Corporal Thomas Willoughby
 Private Francis Green
 Lance Corporal Arthur Dowsett
 Private George McDermid
 Private Charles Brown
 Private Colin Elvy
 Private Ronald White
 Private John Fraser

Reminiscent of Life & Service from Ken Kell (NX8116)

Briefly my background service history, I first enlisted in the Army in 1939 when WW2 was declared, I had just turned 17.

I sailed to the Middle East in the first convoy. My unit the 2/1 Field Regiment 6th Div 2nd AIF.

I was involved against the Italians in Libya, the Germans in Greece & later three campaigns against the Japanese in New Guinea. I was discharged in 1945 but after five years re-enlisted in the regular Army. I became an instructor with the 12 National Service training battalions from 1950-59.

I will briefly cover the events & circumstances which made the compulsory “call up” for military service necessary.

Ever since Federation back in 1901, successive Governments of Australia have had some very difficult decisions to make in regards to our defence needs. This has not been made easy for the reasons of, the vastness of our country, the isolation & the population at the time. However, most importantly decisions were impacted by the size of the federal budget expenditure allocated by successive governments.

During the 2nd half of the 20th Century they have been responsible for two very controversial decisions which have involved the introduction of compulsory military training & service from 1950-59 & also from 1965-72. Though the aim & role of each one being distinctly different.

The question to ask is “Were these decisions really necessary?”

For both these decisions were to affect the future of a large number of young Australians. In particular those who had put their lives on the line even though they had not volunteered to do so.

Generally speaking by the late 1940's the world was divided in to two ideological power blocs. The communist countries of both Europe & Asia were quite openly flexing their muscles with the intention of spreading their influence of control by either intimidation or force.

This of course was of great concern to the Western Alliance who were determined to try to prevent this type of aggression having success.

The large armed forces that had been available at the end of WW2 had long been demobilised & only a token force was now available for operations both here & overseas.

Commencing in Malaya in 1947 the “Chinese affiliated communists” commenced a ruthless campaign of intimidation & killing that was to last for the next 12 years at a cost of 12,000 lives. Their goal was to destabilise the Malayan society & replace it with a communist style government.

At the same time, communist uprisings were also occurring in neighbouring south-east Asian countries like Burma, India, Indonesia, the Philippines & also Indo-China.

Australia was asked to provide assistance to help quell the so called “state of emergency” due to the United Kingdom being heavily involved with defence concerns especially the Russian “Blockade of Berlin”.

So early in 1950, Australia responded by sending an RAAF transport squad to Malaya. Later it became a more substantial contribution that involved an increased role for

the RAF, Army combat units & Naval assistance. Soon to become part of the far-east strategic reserve.

To greatly add to our problems at this time, North Korean forces invaded South Korea. This was a much more serious situation & therefore the all 3 Armed Services were heavily involved. Initially with no. 77 Fighter SQD, troops from 3rd BN Royal Aust. Rgt & the HMAS ships Shoalhaven & Bataan.

So with the Government at the time confronted with a possible escalation of both these situations & a dangerous threat to our strategic security they decided to strengthen both the regular & part-time Defence Forces, the latter by the introduction of “compulsory military service”.

Due to Australian commitments in both Malaya & Korea these existing forces were being stretched to the limit.

However, the Government did impose special restrictions on where & how these National Servicemen could be used.

Initially they were to receive 3 months full time Basic Training. Then on completion recruits were transferred to strengthen Citizen Military Force or similar serving units for a further 2 years of part time service with specialised training. This was to be their main role “that of preparedness” to build the strength of the reserve forces should their mobilisation for urgent operational services be required.

In the meantime, the Korean campaign had developed into a full scale war.

With many nations involved it called upon the maximum use of all 3 armed services. It cost us heavily for those 3 years of involvement.

With the armistice being signed in 1953 & the Commonwealth forces being well in control of the terror situation in Malaya by the late 1950's the presiding Govt. decided to disband the National Service Training scheme in 1959.

With the Malaya emergency over & the creation of the new independent state of Malaysia took place & as a result a whole new dangerous situation came into being. It required a plan to bring together into a new Federation of States Malaya, Singapore, British North Borneo (Sabah), Sarawak & Sultanate of Brunei.

This move infuriated the communist leaning President of Indonesia Dr Sukarno for he considered that some of the territories should be part of the “Greater Indonesia”. So he immediately commenced actions of sabotage & subversion of British North Borneo.

The Indonesians had large forces under arms & were well equipped with Russian weapons. So 3 years later when Malaysia was officially declared a nation, Indonesia stepped up their operations even to the extent of landing “infiltrators” in force into mainland Malaysia. They were also using large numbers of regular troops to do this. Finally, when the situation became so critical Britain assured Malaysia that in the event of any further aggression on the mainland or Singapore that they would mount a counter-attack on Indonesian territory.

At the same time at this dangerous situation with Indonesia, developments were taking place in Indo-China. South Vietnam was under threat from their communist Northern Countrymen. Like in the case of North Korea the communists did so under the pretext of liberation.

America was the first to respond by sending “advisors”, then later with large armed forces to bolster the government of South Vietnam.
Australia followed with a training team & shortly later committed armed forces to strengthen the resistance to the communist north.

However contrary to belief, it was not the only serious situation in Vietnam that prompted the Government to re-introduce compulsory military service. It was their very grave concern at our troop’s clashes with Indonesian forces in both Borneo & Malaya. Plus the possible open conflict with Indonesia over the determination of Papuan New Guinea territory.

The big difference between the National Servicemen of the 1950’s & those called up after 1965 was that they were liable to serve 2 years full time service & to serve overseas in a combat role.

This was a great departure from all other wars or campaigns which Australia had been involved in. Previously our nation had always prided itself of being able to meet its obligations with “Volunteers” for overseas service. Though there are very few countries in the world that do not have some form of compulsory military obligation.

Relegated to history is the important role that our National Servicemen played in the operations in Vietnam. It is doubtful that Australia would have been able to meet its commitments which the government of the day entered into without them.

However, the decision to do so will always remain controversial.

What can be said is that the National Servicemen became an integral part of our Armed Forces. They did us “proud” & enhanced our reputation as a nation whose fighting spirit & professionalism is recognised as second to none.

As someone who was a volunteer in WW2 & also in the first period (1950-59) of National Service the most gratifying thing that impressed me was that even though some were reluctant & that some became embittered by the disruption to their civilian lives, that by the end of their 3 months basic training they quite openly admitted that they had enjoyed & benefitted from the experience.

They found that the service life of camaraderie was infectious. Many became NCO’s & officers in the CMF and some chose to join the regular Army as a career.

What I have covered has been an attempt to give you a broad outline of the events & circumstance that took place, including the reasons & influence that this had on the Federal Government’s decision to introduce Compulsory Military Service into the Australian defence capability.

Should our Nations’ security ever be seriously threatened again I do not think that there will be any hesitation of it being re-introduction for it is a most honourable commitment.

For all service sacrifice is based upon:

“The love of your family”

“The love of your friends”

“The love of your country”

Thank you for being so patient & listening to my story.

Sincerely, Ken Kell, NX8116

Updates on Members and wives of members from Ossie Pearce:

John Hynes has recently stepped down from the Secretary position after many, many years.

I would like to personally thank John for his contribution to the Association. He has been a great advocate and marvelous supporter of the 2/1st Field Regiment Association for which we are all very appreciative.

Regards, Os

Arthur Asher was an original in 1st Battery, his Army No NX3211. He lived in Springwood and in his later life was confined to a Nursing Home in the Blue Mountains.

He passed away 23rd February 2012 and was buried in Leura.

Robert Edger who was an original 2nd Battery, No. NX9042, late of Chester Hill and unfortunately we have lost contact. If anyone has any information on his whereabouts would you please contact Ossie Pearce.

I was very proud to receive the Order of Australia Medal Queen's Birthday List 2011. The medal was presented by Her Excellency, The Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO at Government House for my services to veterans.

***Editor's Note:** I'm sure everyone associated with the 2/1st Field Regiment will join with me in congratulating Ossie on this Award and will agree it has been well and truly deserved.*

ANZAC DAY 2012

Editor's Note: It would be appreciated if you could please contact Ossie on (02) 9798 5397 if you intend participating in this year's March – either walking or in supplied vehicles as unfortunately our numbers are rather few and we would like to determine if there will be any Marchers and whether we will need Sydney Boys' High School to carry the banner.

For any “would be marchers” we will assemble for March as usual Cnr. King and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney 9.00 am to 9.30 am. The Luncheon will be held at the same location as previous years (i.e. The Marque Hotel) at Railway Square (Cnr. George and Quay Streets) from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. Female relatives and friends are warmly welcomed and charges will be \$30.00 per head for members and widows and for all other visitors, male or female, \$45.00 per head.

Attached are various documents relating to our finances and those who keep those finances going.

Regimental Banner

We need to think ahead of what we will do about the Regimental Banner which is normally carried on the Anzac Day March. The need is to retain the banner in NSW.

One suggestion we have had is to put the banner in a glass frame, and with the permission of Sydney Boy's High, hang it on their Assembly Hall Wall; still retain it in Sydney and descendants could view it, with permission from the School of course.

Anzac Day Luncheon attendees 2011

A wonderful turnout on the day. Please accept our appreciation for your support:

Members of 2/1st

Ossie Pearce
John Hynes
Rex Olsson
Bob Ausburn
Alec Summerside
George Horwood
Neville Day
Marshall Currie
Tony Pazzi
Bob Hudson

Wives of the 2/1st

Joan Summerside
Betty Moroney
Pat Weekes
Marjorie Boaz

Family & Friends of the 2/1st

Elizabeth & Christian Thurston
Sue Neill & Lynelle Dawson
Cheryl & Bill Lawson
Lorraine Pearce & Karen Howard
Warren Fuller
Jennifer Weekes
Colin, Peg & Shirley Pazzi
Kathy Moroney & Pieta Hargans
Geoff, Amy & Jennifer Wilson
Owen Flood
Andrew Horsley
Kathryn & Ali Hudson
Kevin Currie
Shirley Lindsey
Nick Andriotakis

Friends/Family from the 2/2nd

Graham & David Montgomerie
Bruce Bragg & Sons
Ted Gavan
Ken Flew & Family
Ross Fuller & Family
Allan Jackson & Family
Shane Murphy
Andrew Hellfre

Donations from July 2010 to July 2011

Many thanks to our patrons who have generously made donations throughout the year:

E.M Miles
L.D Morrow
P. Becke
A. Noble
R. Hartmann
C. Thurston
P. Summerside
T. Pazzi
M. Currie
J. Hynes
G. Montgomery
W. Fuller
T. Hammond
G. Horwood
F. Hodgson
Mrs B. Hanson
Mrs B. Moroney

In memory of Lynette Fuller (wife of Ken Fuller) who passed away in February 2011 with her thoughts only of the 2/1 Field Regt. Mother to Warren who will be missed.

Statement of Income and Expenditure
2/1st Field Regt. Club Association
Year ended 30th June 2011

<u>Year 2010</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Year 2011</u>
8157.22	Balance b/forward	7073.32
955.00	Donations	795.00
2.10	Interest	1.40
<u>2550.00</u>	Anzac Day Function	<u>2400.00</u>
11664.32		10269.72
	<u>Expenditure</u>	
200.00	Donation: Banner Party	200.00
	Anzac Day – Sydney Boys High	
341.00	Kibbles Post – printing, postage	613.00
<u>4050.00</u>	Anzac Day – food, drink etc	<u>3881.50</u>
4591.00		4494.50

Cash Book Summary

Balance (2010)	7073.32
Plus: Income	<u>3196.40</u>
	10269.72
Less: Expenditure	<u>4494.50</u>
Credit	<u>\$5775.22</u>

Bank Statement as at 02/07/11

Cr. \$5775.52

Function Expenditure Breakup (\$4494.50)

Food	2520.00
Drinks	1041.50
Holiday Surcharge	-
Staff Gratuities	120.00
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$3681.50</u>

Ossie Pearce
Hon. Treasurer

This article appeared in a Newspaper towards the end of the war, in a section called “Close-Up – The Six Divvy digger”.....

In August 1939, Ted was an assistant in the spare parts department of a Sydney motor firm.

He was single, 22, played football on Saturday afternoons, had a few “pots”, went to the local pictures on Saturday nights, surfing on Sundays.

He had jointed the militia in a Field Brigade of Artillery at Marrickville, had attended a 10-day camp at Holdsworthy, had even been in a gun team at the practice shoots on the range.

Then came the war. Ted joined the AIF with a lot of his mates on November 7, 1939.

Ingleburn became his home, and his address was 2/1st Australian Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery of the Sixth Division, AIF. His number was in the NX8000's.

He embarked on the Orford, early in January, 1940, sailed out of Sydney Harbour right to Fort Tewfik, Egypt, as part of the first 20,000 to leave Australia.

He and his mates showed Egypt and Palestine the familiar Australian slouch hat and pleated service dress jacket of the first AIF again.

The regiment camped at Quastina, trained steadily at all kinds of artillery work. Some of the regiment went to Haifa, where they served as ack-ack crews, and were in action during the first enemy air attack on Haifa.

When the test came, before Bardia, early in January, 1941, the batteries of the regiment behaved as veterans, sent over the first shots that broke the defences of the Italian bastion.

Then followed the race across the desert in pursuit of the fleeing Italians, past the endless ranks of prisoners of war to Tobruk, more firing, more pursuing through Cyrenaica to Benghazi.

Ted by this time was a sergeant and had charge of a gun when the regiment came back to Mersa Matruh.

Three to four days' rest there and they were on the move again.

This time it was to Greece where, after a hunt around for guns that had come on another ship, they went northwards.

The regiment split into batteries, was put in support of the 16th Australian Brigade before Larissa.

The Germans came on and the gunners had to retreat, retreat, and retreat, stopping often to dodge the death dives of the relentless Stukas that roved, unopposed, up and down the retreat routes.

Men of the regiment will remember a day in “The Petrified Forest” when the Germans took a heavy toll. The reason for the name of that forest is a secret within the regiment.

Ted survived that and the final stand south of Athens, when the Germans were so close that it was too late to blow up the guns, and they had to smash them with picks and hammers and bury the breech blocks.

A destroyer took some of the regiment off to a Dutch ship. Some went to Crete, but escaped later.

The original 600 in the regiment had dwindled now to about 400. Some had been killed, others wounded, some were in hospital with desert sores or sandfly fever. Reinforcements filled the gaps when the regiment recuperated in Palestine again, this time in Quassa.

Ted made the most of any leave he had, visited the cafes and night clubs at Rishon, Tel Avid, Haifa, and went to see all the sights of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Majdal, Ascalon.

Ted had learned to jabber a little Arabic, to bargain with the Jewish and Arab shopkeepers, to consume dozens of magnificent oranges from the local groves, to admire the Jewish and Refugee girls in Tel Avid, Haifa and Jerusalem.

The war seemed “all right” until December 7, 1941 and Pearl Harbour, then Singapore. The AIF stirred, rumors flew round, and almost overnight the regiment began to pack up and move on the 500-mile journey to Suez and embarkation.

They knew they were sailing eastwards – some hoped they were going home.

But their journey ended “ in the steamy coastal jungles of Ceylon, believed to be the next on the Japanese list for conquest.

The guns of the 2/1 were set up and waiting the the Japs, but they never came.

Three months in Ceylon taught the regiment a lot about jungle conditions. Ted saw plenty of the country, drank tea and ate cakes in the roadside “boutiks”.

August, 1942, saw them back in Australia, welcome home marches through the Sydney streets, then a non-stop rush north through Brisbane to Townsville, across to Moresby, where the Jap was knocking at the back door. There was no jungle work for gunners for a month or two.

But there was for the “seasoned troops” – the 16th Brigade again.

They, with a militia detachment, stood up to the Japs at Ioribaiwa, hurled them back.

Ted missed that excitement. He was in hospital with malaria.

On his return just after Christmas, 1942, his mates told him how one of the regiment’s batteries had been flown by air to Wau, where they did a snappy job that saved the airstrip.

Men of the 2/1 Regiment had also been in the fighting round Buna and Gona, where their 25-pdrs had blasted Jap pill-boxes and a 3in. Jap naval gun.

That ended their active operations for a time.

The regiment returned to the mainland, did training on the Atherton tablelands.

Here the ravages of the New Guinea malaria, skin diseases, and an accumulation of the tough campaigning in Libya and Greece and Ceylon put Ted off the regimental strength for good.

He came to Sydney, married, and has found a job in a city motor firm. His service added up to 1738 days – 4 ½ years.

Now he gets letters from his cobbers in the “old show”. There are only about 80 to 100 of the original “mob” left in the ½

They and the others of the Sixth Division are back in New Guinea.

When someone praises them and says “Well done, lads”, they don’t know for certain whether it’s praise they’re getting or a description of their condition.

Some old Six Div. men were used as nuclei for new units.

Many of the privates and corporals who sailed away in the Orford and the other ships of those early convoys have become lieutenants, captains and majors.

By now they have been on active service for nearly 2000 days (nearly six years). They deserve more than a rest. Like Ted, who was lucky enough (some think) to crack up after 1700 days, the veterans of the Sixth, wherever they are, have earned a civvy suit, a job and their home life.

A.H. RICHARDS

Another article which appeared on the eve of an Anzac Day March.....

AIF’S FLYING GUNNERS – PART IN BIG MARCH TOMORROW

One of the units which will take part in the 16th Infantry Brigade March tomorrow morning is the 2/1st Field Regiment. It was actually the first Australian air-borne artillery.

This regiment has been in the 16th Brigade right from the beginning, but at times it had had to be separated from the brigade, for various reasons.

It first went into action with the Australians at Bardia, and then at Tobruk. The whole town of Barce surrendered to one officer and six men of the regiment, which later went to Greece. At Brallos it was so close to the Germans that it fired at them over open sights.

Members of the 2/1st Field Regiment were disappointed when the 16th Brigade went into action in the Owen Stanley campaign and they had to stay behind because, on account of the wildness of the country, the field guns could not be used.

However, they looked a long way ahead. They practiced dismantling field guns, putting them into transport aircraft, and reassembling and getting them ready for the time when they could fly over with their guns and put them into action that way.

When fighting got into the Buna area they did fly their guns across, and they used them in the battle for the beaches. This experiment was so successful that, when the Japanese threatened Wau and artillery was needed, one battery of the regiment was flown into Wau in Douglas transports. The men had to tumble the guns out of the planes and assemble them on the airstrip under machine-gun fire from the end of the airfield held by the enemy.

They got the guns into action and decimated a Japanese battalion that was moving down the tracks to Wau.

The Commander of Allied Land Forces in the South-west Pacific, General Sir Thomas Blamey, will be present when the salute is taken by the Governor-General, Lord Gowrie, during the march tomorrow.

Twenty-four wounded soldiers of the 16th Brigade, together with nurses, will view the march from the windows of Bebarfalds Limited, opposite the Town Hall.

Former prisoners of war who have returned to Australia are also invited by the firm to see the march from its premises. Those who wish to do so are advised to enter at the staff entrance, Park Street and ask for Miss Mary Sheraton, who will be the hostess.

Editor's Note:

Ossie has asked that I include a little bit about myself in this issue, although I am unsure as to why as I do not feel anything about me would be of particular interest to the reader's of Kibbles Post, but in an effort not to disappoint him I have put together the following:

I was born in Marrickville in December 1946 (yes, a "baby boomer"), my parents Keith and Marjorie Boaz having married in February 1946 after Dad's return from the war. I grew up around the Canterbury/Bankstown/St George area, attending Beverley Hills North Primary School and Beverley Hills Girls High School. I travelled overseas in 1966 where I met my husband, returned to Australia, married and had two beautiful daughters, who have in turn given me four beautiful grandchildren. We lived in the northern beaches area of Sydney until 1980 when we moved to the Lake Macquarie area of Newcastle for work reasons and have resided in this beautiful area since that time. I am now retired from work and spend my time babysitting, travelling (when I get time off for good behaviour babysitting!), reading and being thankful for the wonderful country we live in.

My dad, Keith Boaz, only became involved in the war towards the end of it and therefore only saw action in Aitape, New Guinea. Like most servicemen he never ever talked about his war experiences and it just went unsaid when I was young that you never asked about them. I guess in those days, during the 50's, it was all still too raw and they wanted to forget, not remember what they had been through.

I am however so glad that some 60 odd years on so many of the members of the 2/1st Field Regiment have actually put these memories down on paper. Reading their first hand accounts, they have allowed us to experience in some small way what they went through to ensure that we, the future generations, live in a free and democratic society and will never forget the price that so many of them paid.

My experience of Anzac Day growing up was always a happy one, my father, uncle and grandfather (who participated in WWI) would always take part in the March and my mum, auntie and grandmother would take myself, my brother and cousins into town where we would watch the March from the steps in Park Street, feeling such pride and excitement when the men came along with their various Regiments. I seem to remember in those days that Dad went to his reunion at the Graphic Arts Club in College Street and afterwards the women and kids would head off to the pictures in town which only opened after the March was over.

My next involvement with war was of course the Vietnam War when a number of young boys I knew were called up for National Service. Thankfully I did not personally know anyone who did not return but heard a number of stories about how a lot of them were affected from the trauma encountered during their tours of duty.

My dad and mum, upon retirement, moved to Newcastle to be close to us and the grandchildren. One of the first things Dad did upon establishing himself in Newcastle was to get in touch with members of the 2/1st Field Regiment who resided around the Newcastle area and I know that during the 1980-90's Dad and Mum regularly

socialized with these members and their wives and even enjoyed a number of bus trips and holidays together.

I did go to a couple of Reunion Luncheons that were held at the Gallipoli Club in Hamilton, Newcastle in November each year when a number of the members came up from Sydney for the event. I think 2005 was the last time this was held as there weren't enough members left to continue.

I don't know when Dad took over as Editor of "Kibbles Post", but I do know that at 80 years of age he went to Computer Lessons for Seniors and this enabled him and a friend to put the twice yearly editions of the Post together. Unfortunately he had been diagnosed with Lung Cancer in late 2004 and by 2006 he was too frail to put together the pre-march issue in time for Anzac Day 2006 and he asked me if I could help to put it together with the help of his friend, Greg. I was naturally only too happy to assist having worked in an office environment throughout my working life, but I must admit I did think it was going to be a 'one off event'!

The first issue Greg and I did took us about a week to put together from final draft to posting. Firstly we had to print on both sides of A3 paper which was no mean feat with the paper copier we had, which we had to stop and cool down before putting the paper back through for the second side. There were about 140-150 members who received it then and I think the first edition I did comprised about 36 pages each which took over the whole of Mum and Dad's dining room during collation. These then had to be stapled, folded into three, squashed between clamps overnight to enable them to post at the price of a regular envelope, mailing labels applied and finally posted. PHEW was I glad to get that out the way.....this one off event!

Anzac Day 2006 Dad was unable to March but my husband pushed him in a wheelchair and attended the Reunion with him (unfortunately it was only after he passed away that women were allowed to attend so I didn't get to join them). Dad passed away in December 2006 and one of his biggest worries towards the end of his life was who was going to help with the issuing of "Kibbles Post".

By this time however I felt honoured and humbled at being chosen to help with it, a Newsletter that had been going in one form or another since just after I was born, and after I met John Hynes and Ossie Pearce and realized how grateful they were for my help I was determined that I would continue on with it until they decided to send out the last copy. Sadly we may have come to that time, with John Hynes retirement as Secretary due to ill health, Ossie is virtually doing everything himself now in regards to getting news and information together regarding the various members and there are so few of them left that we are unsure as to whether this will be our last one. If you have anything to contribute please send direct to Ossie.

As for me, I have enjoyed every moment of my involvement with it, it is a lot easier these days as I have of necessity due to time restraints had to send it to a Printer for printing and now only have to compile it with Ossie's help, attach mailing labels and send it. I do feel my Dad would be proud of me to know that I have continued on with it until the 'last Post' is sent.

Cheryl Lawson, Editor