

Presidents Report for Year June 2016/June 2017.

Yet another year has passed with a host of completed activities, however the year did have its upsets with Sgt Rob Lowe absence with medical problems and Corporal Steve Wisbey's absence with pressures obvious during his new employment, restaurant and family commitments. Irrespective we managed to continue to present a good presentation with a living memorial of our own 7th Light Horse Regiment that we can be justly proud. It is now hoped our various troubles are behind us and I look forward to a full Trooper commitment in the forthcoming 2017/18 year. This year is of course the 100th Centenary of Beersheba and a number of events are planned in addition to our annual Breakfast at Club Menangle.

Camden show; Was our first public practical activity that was a great success, we combined with Camden RSL Sub-Branch with a display in the main Agricultural Hall, displaying WW1 Video/Photos, Weapons, Historical books, WW1 Maps, & Prints. The RSL School Children's sticker handouts were popular and all well received. Additionally Corporal Phillip Oliver, and Lance Corporal Fiona Williams, took their horses Max and Smiley, with horse trailer to the Show over both days. Phil and Fiona rode their mounts throughout various displays over the two days of the show in their 7th Light Horse AIF uniform with both Sam and Smiley in Light Horse Livery. They presented an excellent display during the Show and the Grand Parades.

I was requested to speak over the PA system about our Regiment in addition to being interviewed in the main arena while the parade was in progress. I cannot thank both Phil & Fiona enough for their help, turnout and dedication during the Camden Show; we have received many compliments from Show Organizers, and the general public on their turnout and professional presentation. During the Show I was approached by a Journalist Ann McIntosh who writes for a National Country Publication inquiring about our 7th Light Horse Regiment, its history and relevance of the Battle Honours GUIDON. I have supplied her with my research recently document that I am advised will be released later this (2017) year.

Anzac Day Services; Preparation for this event was time consuming, Phil & Fiona were very busy in preparation of the horses & our New Horse Float. The Sunday afternoon prior to the Monday Dawn Service Phil brought up the new trailer, in addition to his own containing the three horses Aladdin, Max, & Smiley. I met Phil on site where I was working with RSL and we erected a white Field Operational tent (Signifying WW1) with Tables & Stools from both Phil Fiona's collection to complement our static display with weapons photos etc. Phil also supplied hay & water for the horses and erected a portable stable area where the horses were held overnight, and after the dawn service prior to the street parade. (Both slept on site to secure our display and attend the horses. Two mounts Max & Aladdin were ridden around the crowd (App 9000 attended) during the dawn service with images being continually projected on the large TV screens at each end of the gathering. Thank you again troopers, well done. The Midday parade was led by with Phil leading Aladdin creating the Riderless Horse followed by Fiona Carrying the Australian National Flag, and me the Battle Honours Guidon in front of Camden RSL. Unfortunately during that parade I suffered a un-

expected severe pain in my right shoulder. Though I was able to finish the parade & ceremony, I ended up at the Doctors Surgery that afternoon being diagnosed with two torn *Cartilage Muscles and a burst Bursis*. That is a continuing problem where I am receiving injections to avoid surgery if possible. The Camden RSL Sub-Branch has donated \$500.00 to the Regiment Trust Account.

GUIDON; You would now be aware I was able to obtain an original LION on CROWN FINIAL for the GUIDON, originally used in the Hong Kong Police Force Royal Command Ceremonies prior to Communist Government taking control of that Country. I recently Attended Camden RSL Sub-Branch in Military uniform as Senior Ranking Officer of The Regiment to finalise and make complete the GUIDON being the Property of the Camden RSL Sub-Branch. However the Battle Honours GUIDON will remain in the Custody of The 7th Light Horse Regiment AIF Menangle Historical Troop while The Troop continues to be fully operational.

TRAINING WITH HORSES; At this time Phil and Fiona have the only three horses available to us for training exercise, and we are very fortunate for their continuing contribution. Phil and Fiona regularly ride their horses around the local area. In addition to rider training on their property in Exeter St Camden, to compliment those activities I have approached the Camden Council to see if we could have access to their Equestrian Park for future training.

CAMDEN EQUESTRIAN PARK; we have received permission to use the park for training when not in use for other equestrian activities. I have completed, & signed the required documents for **Key No 517**. Corporal Phillip Oliver now has signed for the key and it remains in his custody with the usual conditions for access to the park.

TRUST ACCOUNT; Bruce Christison CEO Club Menangle has finalised our Trust account to enable funds to be deposited on behalf of the regiment. **ACCOUNT NAME;** *7th Light Horse AIF Regiment*. Signatures to operate the account are to be any three of following; Len Carter President. Secretary Treasurer Steve Wisbey. Michael Brown Vice President and Bruce Christison CEO Club Menangle.

GRANT REPRESENTATIONS; I have prepared and submitted a request for a \$4000.00 Grant from Australian Government Dept of Veterans Affairs Commerative WW1 Grant Scheme. That application has been acknowledged with a decision expected late July August, 2017.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES TO RAISE FUNDS; Discussions have been held with *Belgenny Farm Friends Committee* for our services to be used in future presentation/visit days. Fiona & Phill have taken on the task of preparing a submission for those activities of Static & Practical demonstrations. If successful we will require a full attendance of members to assist not only in preparation prior to the day, but also on the day.

ARTIFACTS FOR STATIC DISPLAY. You will re-call I sent out an email earlier this year seeking assistance in the seeking out of WW1 pieces of equipment you may be able to find, or seek to purchase replicas) for our static display. One item of equipment that I feel would complement our display is a Replica WW1 Vickers Machine Gun from the UK. This weapon was used extensively with outstanding success by the Light Horse Machine Gun Regiments formed in 1916, and carried on Horses & Camels; however the cost is rather large and requires your collective consideration. The UK Model is supplied in 5 parts, Painted and is made out of timber complete with metal tank & rubber tube accessory, it and can be imported without Customs or Fire Arms Registry approval. **Total Price app \$1600.00 AUD.** The Australian manufactured is out of Plastic & Metal made in Qld but without Tank & Tube. **Price \$2100.00** but Fire Arms Registry Approval is required (though a replica), in addition it is only in grey colour requiring complete detail painting. This item as well as other we wish to obtain is mentioned for your future review and consideration. I have made some progress in relation to this matter.

DISCUSSIONS WITH CLUB MENANGLE & CAMPBELLTOWN COUNCIL "BEERSHEBA DAY";

Bruce Christison, our very helpful supporter and CEO of Club Menangle included me in discussions with executive members of Campbelltown Councils Infra Structure Management Committee. They have a plan to construct a memorial drive to enter the Trotting Track complex and also celebrate this 100 year of the charge on of Beersheba. In addition Club Menangle are also in the process of considering the clubs own memorial of a Light Horseman on his trusty Waler on the lawn in front of the memorial. I was requested to, and have submitted photos of what would be appropriate for those projects. It is also hoped both those memorials will be completed prior to the Clubs Annual Breakfast 2017.

Conclusion to sum up; this has been a busy year for members of the troop, and myself since the initial formation late 2013 when initially supported by Camden RSL Sub-Branch. We have participated in the 100 year centenary of WW1 in 2014, completed research and secured the Regiments GUIDON Battle Honours in the manufacture of the exact replica GUIDON complete with authentic Lion on Crown Furion. Subsequently full ownership of the Guidon & Finial has been passed to Camden RSL Sub-Branch in a formal ceremony, with custody remaining with the **7th Light Horse Regiment AIF Menangle Historical Troop** as long as the Regiment remains operational. Again this year sees the culmination of WW1 special 100 years Memorial Remembrance of the charge of Beersheba.

WHERE TO FROM HERE; it is now time to consider where we go from here. I will not always be available to assist in the various activities and fund raising programs required subsequently I therefore seek your co-operation with a concentration in developing Regiment membership generally. A number of new un-mounted but active members are required (possibly two) would help in assisting in future static displays and fund raising

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activities. To assist in obtaining younger members we could possibly consider the subsidising of ALHAssn membership, the purchasing of spare uniforms could be considered and issued to those members on a loan basis if necessary, we should consider the seeking of younger members who may be interested. Irrespective any new members must be keen and dedicated in upholding the aims and objectives of the Regiment. I leave that suggestion for you all to ponder with consideration prior to our next general meeting programmed to be held early to mid-July. Thank you again for your assistance and please give serious thought and consideration to what I have suggested.

Sincerely,

Len. Carter. President