



"Dedicated to Digger Heritage"

DIGGER



Photo: The sons and daughter of Arthur Charles Hall VC proudly stand beside their father's grave at St Matthew's Church, West Bogan, in Western NSW on the occasion of the renaming of the adjacent Coolabah-Brewarrina Road after their father, who lived and farmed nearby after his return from the Great War until his death in 1978. **Inset:** Arthur Hall, 54th Battalion, at Buckingham Palace in 1919 following his investiture with the Victoria Cross.

March 2012

No. 38

Magazine of the Families and Friends of the First AIF Inc

Edited by Graeme Hosken

ISSN 1834-8963

Answers to *DIGGER* Quiz No. 38

1. The 7th Brigade, in which the 25th Bn lost 965 men; the 26th Bn, 832; the 27th Bn, 742 and the 28th Bn, 939, with a total of 3 478 deaths. The 7th Brigade formed part of the 2nd Division. [*DIGGER* would like to have more articles on the 2nd Division – Ed.]
2. Lieutenant Alfred Edward Gaby, posthumously, for valour east of Villers-Bretonneux, 8th August 1918.
3. Lieutenant Albert Chalmers Borella, on 17th/18th July 1918 east of Villers-Bretonneux.
4. The 1st Brigade (1st to 4th Bns) landed between 7.30-8.00am on 25th April 1915.
5. Colonel Henry Normand MacLaurin MID.
6. Around 10am on 25th April.
7. Private 1485 Percy George Stafford. [A fascinating but rather shameful ‘service’ record! He was ruled ineligible for his service medals and the Memorial Plaque, but appears on the Roll of Honour – Ed.]
8. Private James Park Woods, 18th September 1918, near Le Verguier.
9. Cornish was in charge of the battalion cooks. He was regarded as ‘one of the strongest links in the chain of the battalion success’. [Medal citation extract.]
10. Lieutenant Colonel George Jameson Johnston, Commander 2nd Field Artillery Brigade.

Pozieres Memorial – After the recent recapture of Pozieres it was found that our battalion memorial there had been slightly damaged by shell fire, one of the stays to the cross, on which was engraved the word ‘Pozieres’, having been splintered and knocked off. Sgt Laing MM, who has taken a keen interest in the memorial, visited the old battlefield and brought the damaged portion of the woodwork back to the battalion as a souvenir. He also immediately had the memorial repaired in conformity with its original design, so that, with the exception of a few shrapnel marks on the beam, it is none the worse for the renewal of hostilities on that historic field. The damaged piece of timber is being forwarded to the war memorial as a souvenir.

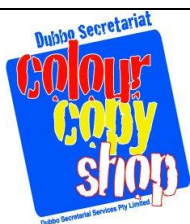
‘The Field Newspaper of the 24th Battalion’
Contributed by Margaret Clarke, Cardiff.

Family membership fee review

The committee has reviewed the Family Membership fee structure and is confident that a reduction in the current rate of \$50/\$40 (i.e. \$50 for the first member and \$40 for each subsequent member) to \$50/\$30 for regular family adult membership and \$40/\$20 for concession family adult membership can be achieved with little impact on the association’s overall finances. This new rate should apply to new and existing Family Memberships from 1st July 2012. Full details will be included in the renewal notice accompanying the next *DIGGER* issue and be available on the website by June.

DIGGER 38 contents

| | | | |
|---|-------|--|-------|
| Cover photo: Arthur Hall’s family at Coolabah | 1 | Pte Harold Robson, 12 th Bn | 43-44 |
| Trench Talk & contact/membership details | 2 | The discovery of the Shellal Mosaic | 45-49 |
| Second Battalion’s last men off Gallipoli | 3-7 | Pte Bertie Cooper, 16 th Bn | 50 |
| Bullecourt men: H Wilkinson & C Chalk | 8-16 | Major AS Hutchinson, 58 th Bn | 51 |
| Photo: Inside Buckingham Palace Hotel | 16 | War piano returns home | 51 |
| Red Cross Missing & Wounded Enquiry Bureau | 17-21 | Dedication of The Arthur Hall VC Way | 52 |
| Photo: 4 th Reinforcements/34 th Battalion | 21 | Beaumont-Hamel to Bernafay Wood | 53-57 |
| The Paris March, July 1916, and participants | 22-28 | Etched in Stone | 58 |
| L/Cpl Richard Gunter, 34 th Bn | 29-30 | <i>DIGGER</i> Quiz No. 38 | 59 |
| ‘To Kate’: A poem from the dead | 31-32 | Barford (UK): then and now | 59 |
| ‘Marginal truths’: Cpl Len Jones, 3 rd Bn | 33-39 | Birthplace statistics on AIF personnel | 59 |
| Developments at Bullecourt’s La Petite Croix | 39 | Answers to <i>DIGGER</i> Quiz No. 38 | 60 |
| Spr James Devine, 1 st & 4 th Tunnelling Coys | 40-41 | Pozieres Memorial (24 th Bn anecdote) | 60 |
| A driver’s day: Dvr HO Bastian, 9 th FCE | 42 | | |



DIGGER is printed in Dubbo by the Colour Copy Shop

For a top quality printing job at the right price, wherever you live, contact

Aaron McMillan by e-mail: pc@dubsec.com.au

or phone: 02 6884 5577

or visit the Colour Copy Shop website: www.dubsec.com.au