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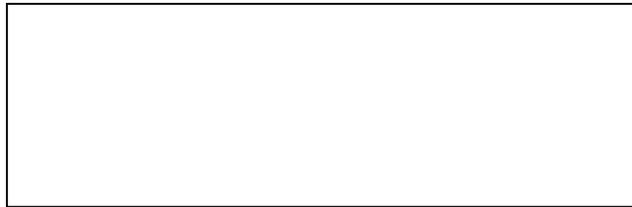
Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc

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Patron: His Excellency William Cox AC RFD ED Governor of Tasmania;
President: J Wadsley Secretary: K Black; Project Officer/Editor A Howard

President's Report

I trust that all our members have had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and are all looking forward to an exciting new year for FOSW. The wet and warm weather has been kind to the trees on the Avenue and many are showing significant growth. Even some which seemed almost dead are showing signs of life. The grass has also been growing frantically, and just this last week the Council has mown the Avenue after ensuring that the seeds have all dropped. Thanks must go to the Hobart City Council and Project Hahn who continue to show their commitment to the Avenue by maintaining the area so well. The committee was grateful to be invited to a Christmas BBQ with the Council and Project Hahn staff, where the efforts of all those involved was recognised.

Preparations are well in hand for the next dedications to be held on 15th February 2006 and I would encourage all members to attend. We will be dedicating approximately another 40 plaques with the major group near the southern end of the Avenue. At this ceremony, we will be privileged to have the Commissioner of Police Richard McCreadie, in attendance to dedicate a tree. More details are in this newsletter. The Avenues project is also progressing well and Adrian Howard, Project Officer, is in the midst of preparing the first draft of the community self-help kit, which will be trialled later this year with 10 avenues selected from around the State. Staff of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens are also providing expert input to the kit and will have been visiting some of the avenues to make preliminary inspections of trees.

Donations continue to come in for both plaques and general funds. The level of interest and support we are receiving is quite amazing and it is wonderful that the work of FOSW is seen as such an important activity for the local community. As the year progresses and more dedication ceremonies are held we hope that other people will learn of our work and the significant cultural heritage that is the Soldiers Memorial Avenue.

John Wadsley

Avenue Now Mown

For those of you who have noticed the steady growth of grass and apparent disappearance of plinths, good news. This week the HCC has mown the Avenue and WFD workers are now brush cutting around the trees and plinths and removing the slash. This will be at least an annual process and will improve the health of the grasslands, promoting the growth of native grasses and improving their capacity to compete against introduced species. In addition, all the stumps of removed gums are now being ground.



This is a section of the Avenue near trees 271 and 275. The central section has been mown and the grass closer to the trees and plinths will be brush cut. The amount of green is quite surprising for this time of year and reflects the good rainfall during spring and early summer, with the occasional top-up since.

The WFD crews have been hard at it right through January installing plinths for February plaques, removing gums felled by the HCC tree unit and doing other clean up work along the

Avenue. Well done to all concerned. Without their efforts, the Avenue would be in a very sorry state. It is wonderful to see the Avenue really emerging as a physical presence once again. For those who have not visited for some time, we suggest a visit to see this transformation.

Dedications February 15th 2006

This is the 87th anniversary of the 2nd planting on February 15th 1919.

The list of plaques to be dedicated appears below. This group of plaques is largely funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund. Some plaques are being funded by family donation and one by Tasmania Police.

Parking: For parking you may use either Davies Avenue, *the Domain Tennis Centre* car park or the TCA carparks. A bus has been arranged with the Defence Service Organisation and will be available to transport people to the sites of individual dedications.

1st Group (*in list in italics*) The Bus will leave the TCA South Car park at 9am to go to 381,353,351,333 and 325. If you are unable to make your own way due to age or infirmity, the bus is there for your convenience. It will return to the South Car park after these dedications.

2nd Group (**in list in bold**) will leave from the Southern TCA car park and go down the Avenue for these dedications returning to the car park.

Other dedications from 9:30 the bus will run a loop service from the Southern CTA car park to the main dedication area on the southern section of the avenue. After the dedications the bus will run from the dedication site back to the Southern TCA car park.

Morning Tea (from 10:40am) is being hosted by the Hobart City Council at the Domain Tennis Centre, just opposite the Southern TCA car park.

Provisional Times for Plaque Dedications on February 15th 2006.

Individual dedications by Family

Time	Tree#	Serviceman
9.05	381	381 L/Sgt (Alfred) George Speed 40th Bn Killed in action 17/4/1918
9.05	353	353 Gnr Russell Williams 2nd Bde AFA Killed in action 17/10/1917
9.05	351	351 Tpr Roderick Noel White Weaver 3rd Light Horse Killed in action 4/8/1916
9.10	333	333 Cpl David Leslie Clyde Absolom 40th Bn Killed in action 13/10/1917
9.10	325	325 L/Sgt Charles Edward Smith 40th Bn Killed in action 12/10/1917
9.20	212	212 Pte Albert Robert Blackmore 12th Bn Died of sickness 2/11/1918
9.20	196	196 Sgt Tasman Contencin Jackson 26th Bn Killed in action 3/10/1918
9.20	123	123 Pte Charles Walter Forster 12th Bn Killed in action 23/9/1918
9.40	96	96 Pte Victor Tasman Lisson 26th Bn Killed in action 29/7/1916 [Note Commissioner McCreadie representing Tasmania Police will also attend)
9.40	92	92 Pte Arthur Stanley Eyles 26th Bn Killed in action 29/7/1916
9.40	90	90 Pte James Keith Yaxley 12th Bn Died of wounds 28/7/1916
9.40	83	83 L/Cpl Claude Vernon Harrison 12th Bn Killed in action 23/7/1916
9.40	80	80 Pte Gordon Frederick Williamson 12th Bn Killed in action 19/8/1916
9.40	76	76 Spr John Henry Cleary 3rd Field Co Aust Engineers Killed in action 22/7/1916
9.40	75	75 Pte Percy Gladstone Moate 53rd Bn Killed in action 19/7/1916
9.50	58	58 Pte Harold George Bidgood 26th Bn Died of sickness 9/11/1915
9.50	56	56 Pte Vincent Bowman 12th Bn Killed in action 9/8/1915
9.50	38	38 Pte Frank Hubert Evans 15th Bn Killed in action 4/8/1915
10.00	510	510 Sgt Frank Rupert Bennett 40th Bn Died of disease 4/11/1918
10.00	463	463 2/Lt Edward Huon Atkinson 12th Light Horse Died of war injuries 23/7/1918

Group to be dedicated as part of the **main ceremony starting at 10:15am.**

Time	Tree#	Serviceman
10.30	72	72 Pte Stanley Byfield King 31st Bn Killed in action 20/7/1916
10.30	79	79 Pte Frank Donaldson 12th Bn Killed in action 25/7/1916
10.30	78	78 Pte James Purcell Bowerman 12th Bn Died of wounds 1/8/1916
10.30	87	87 Capt Keith Heritage MC 19th Bn Killed in action 26/7/1916
10.30	86	86 Sgt Russell Charles Creed 20th Bn Killed in action 27/7/1916
10.30	82	82 Pte George Harold Thomas 12th Bn Killed in action 23-26/7/1916
10.30	71	71 Pte Errol Vere Walch Moore 1st Bn Killed in action 24/7/1916
10.30	70	70 Pte Francis Joseph Whelan 60th Bn Killed in action 19/7/1916
10.30	68	68 Pte Frederick Dale 59th Bn Killed in action 19/7/1916
10.30	67	67 Pte Walter Harold Carr 52nd Bn Died of wounds 7/7/1916
10.30	66	66 Cpl Cecil Norman Salisbury 52nd Bn Killed in action 10/7/1916
10.30	64	64 Spr Victor Capstick 3rd Field Co Aust Engineers Killed in action 22/7/1916
10.30	63	63 Pte Robert Ernest Westbury 12th Bn Died of sickness 24/4/1916
10.30	60	60 Pte Frederick Stanley Farrell 12th Bn Died of sickness 29/12/1915
10.30	59	59 Pte Albert Harrex 15th Bn Died of sickness at sea 29/12/1915
10.30	55	55 L/Cpl Harry (Henry) Alexander 2nd Bn Wiltshire Regt Killed in action 14/10/1915
10.30	54	54 Gnr Roy Douglas Keane Cheverton 3rd Bde AFA Died of sickness 9/11/1915
10.30	50	50 Dvr Alfred George Bartley 10th Co AASC Died of sickness 4/9/1915
10.30	46	46 Pte Edward Churchill Terry 12th Bn Died of wounds 14/8/1915
10.30	42	42 Pte Charles Ernest Maxfield 12th Bn Died of sickness 10/8/1915
10.30	26	26 Pte Frank Rudolph Rometch 20th Bn Killed in action 2/1/1917

Thanks very much to Boral Construction Materials Group for the provision of concrete and WFD participants and Project Hahn for the labour in installing the plinths.

2/Lt Edward Huon Atkinson

Edward Huon Atkinson came from a large family as one of eight children. His father, Henry Dresser Atkinson and brother, Henry Bruni Atkinson were clerics. In 1918 his parents were living in Augusta Rd at 'Brookside' and his brother was based at the Holy Trinity Rectory in North Hobart.

Edward was a well-travelled and experienced man having travelled the world as a sailor, served in the Southern African War and worked as a mining engineer and surveyor. On enlistment he was in Sydney apparently visiting his fiancé Jeanne Wilkinson. They decided not to marry until his return and it seems she never was to marry. Jeanne remained close to the Atkinson family throughout her life.

Edward enlisted in Sydney with the 12th Light Horse as Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant, served on Gallipoli and was promoted to Squadron Sergeant Major, then Regimental Sergeant major with a commission in December 1916. As well as participating in various battles, he served with the 1st Light Horse and in a number of training roles before contracting phthisis. This term is now little used and described the wasting and bodily atrophy caused by tuberculosis. He was one of many on service in the Middle East who contracted and died from the disease.

His family was informed that he was ill and returning though not when. His brother was prompted to write the following letter.

Holy Trinity Rectory

Hobart Tas
March 19, 1917

Major J H Lean

Base records

Dear Sir

I have received your communication of the 13th inst in regard to my brother Lt E H Atkinson. I had a cable message from him saying that he was returning to Australia, and giving no particulars. Would you please be kind enough to let me know if you get any information as to his departure from Egypt or probable arrival in Australia.

the above is my address now, not East Devonport

Yours faithfully

H B Atkinson

At this point he had already left Egypt eleven days earlier arriving in Melbourne on 25th April 1917. The commander of the ship that returned him sent this letter on his arrival in Melbourne.

c/o Navy Office
Melbourne
25th April 1917

Mrs Atkinson

"Brookside"

Newtown Tasmania

Dear Madam

I was officer commanding troops on the transport that brought your son (Lieut. Edward Atkinson) to Melbourne today. He requested me to write to you about his health. Poor chap he is making a grand fight to get rid of that terrible disease "Phthisis" which he contracted on service at the front. He is really very weak and the medical staff think he may do better if he goes to NSW this time of year. I don't want to alarm you, Mrs Atkinson, but I think if you could manage to come over and see him, after you have found out exactly where he is resting, which can be done through Defence Department Hobart or Melbourne. His case may take a serious turn and you would, I feel sure desire to be near him.

He is a fine fellow and I have admired him very much, in fact we all have.

I pray that only the best may happen and that you may have your boy back safe and strong.

Believe me dear Madam

Yours sincerely

L S Bracegridle

Commander RAN

Edward was subsequently discharged in July 1917 and returned to family in Hobart where he died on 23rd July 1918. This obituary appeared two days later in The Mercury.

At Holy Trinity Rectory, Hobart, on Tuesday evening, there died Lieutenant E H Atkinson, brother of Rev H B Atkinson. The deceased soldier was born at Long Bay, Channel Tasmania, and spent his early years at Stanley, North West Coast. He afterwards went to sea, and served in vessels trading between England and North and South America. On the outbreak of the South African war he went to Cape Town, and enlisted in Hoyston's Horse. He went right through the war, and afterwards received the King's and Queen's Medals. After the declaration of peace, Lieutenant Atkinson went onto the service of Werner, Beft and Co; was one of the mine managers in Johannesburg, and spent several years afterwards in N E Rhodesia. He then returned to Australia, and followed his profession of civil engineer in New South Wales until the outbreak of war, when he enlisted in the 12th Light Horse regiment. He gained rapid promotion,

and saw service for six months on Gallipoli, and was a member of the covering party for the evacuation. Afterwards he served in the Sinai campaign, and was present at the battle of Romani, at Mageebra, and the occupation of Rafa. All the deceased's promotions were gained in the field, from trooper to lieutenant. Mr Atkinson was serving with the Palestine column when he contracted the disease which has resulted in his death at the early age of 42. The second son of the Rev H D Atkinson, at one time rector of Stanley, the gallant soldier has carried on an honourable record, for in his death he is the sixth of the sons of the rectory of Stanley to give his life in this war, the others being two sons each of Revs. R. Penty and H. H. Anderson, and one of the Rev. A. E. Hutchinson. The funeral leaves Holy Trinity this (Thursday) afternoon.
Mercury July 25th 1918 p6

Further Plaque Donors

(We trust everyone who has donated to a specific plaque has been acknowledged. If not, apologies and you will be in the next issue.)

In memory of:

Cpl David Leslie Clyde Absolom 40th Bn Tree#333: Graham Absolom
 B Company 12th/40th Bn Canteen: donation for 2 plaques for men of the 12th and 40th Bns.
 2/Lt Edward Huon Atkinson Tree #463: Mary Hume
 Sgt Leslie John Birkett 12th Bn Tree#241: John C Birkett
 Claremont RSL Women's Auxiliary
 Trooper David Barclay 3rd Light Horse Tree#104: W A Perkins
 Pte Arthur Staley Eyles 26th Bn Tree#92: Laurence Smith, E A Sharman, Lance Fowler
 Pte Vincent Bowman 12th Bn Tree#56: Vincent Bowman
 Lt Percy Binns 2nd Bn Tree#491: Michael Davie
 Bmdr John Daly Kilmartin 6th Bde AFA Tree#257: Barbara Sattler and family
 Pte Eric Charles Seabrook 52nd Bn Tree#149: Phil Skinner
 Pte Charles Walter Forster 12th Bn Tree#123: Freya Broomhall

April Dedications

With a combination of Tasmanian Community Fund monies and family donations, the following plaques will be installed on April 23rd and April 25th 2006. We have the capacity to install a few more plaques but if you wish to have a plaque installed you should contact FOSW on (03) 6234 4396 or at info@soldierswalk.org.au by March 17th. Earlier would be preferable to allow sufficient time for finalising text and producing the plaques.

Central Section and others Sunday April 23rd

22

241	Pte Leslie John Birkett	12 th Bn	Killed in action	5/5/1917
244	Pte Stanley Morgan Hubbard	52 nd Bn	Died of wounds	7/9/1916
245	Pte Ernest Edgar Casbourne	40 th Bn	Killed in action	5/5/1917
248	Pte Clement Southwell Keen	12 th Bn	Killed in action	5/5/1917
249	Pte Claude Tasman Parker	12 th Bn	Killed in action	5/5/1917
254	Pte Alfred Daniel Williams	12 th Bn	Killed in action	5/5/1917
256	Pte Patrick James Kelly	3 rd Tunnelling Co	Killed in action	17/8/1917
257	Gnr John Daly Kilmartin	6 th Bde AFA	Killed in action	1/6/1917
258	Cpl Herman Eric Paton	12 th Bn	Died of wounds	29/5/1918
259	Pte Newton Frederick Seymour Lane	50 th Bn	Killed in action	8/6/1917
260	Pte Lionel Garlick	12 th Bn	Killed in action	7/6/1917
261	2/Lt Clyde Bowman Pearce	52 nd Bn	Killed in action	10/6/1917
263	Lt William Vivian Keats	52 nd Bn	Killed in action	10/6/1917
266	Pte John Goudie	2 nd Bn Otago Regt	Killed in action	2/8/1917
270	L/Cpl Charles Bates	52 nd Bn	Died of accidental	28/6/1917

			injuries	
272	Spr Alfred Chaplin Jones	3 rd Fd Co Engineers	Died of wounds	22/08/1917
276	Cpl Robert Stanley Thorpe	52 nd Bn	Died of wounds	13/09/1916
284	Pte Roy Cecil Glover	52 nd Bn	Died of wounds	8/12/1916
288	Pte Stanley Hinchcliffe	12 th Bn	Killed in action	15/04/1917
264	Pte Robert Stanley Lord	15 th Bn	Killed in action	8/08/1915
267	Pte Henry Thomas Scott	12 th Bn	Killed in action	25/04/1915
271	LCpl Vivian Cyril Brooke	12 th Bn	Died of wounds	4/05/1915

Other plaques so far

4

178	Pte Walter Leslie Cragg	1 st Pioneer Bn	Died of wounds	1/6/1916
104	Tpr David Barclay	3 rd Light Horse	Killed in action	4/8/1916
91	Pte Robert Nelson Jackson	29 th Bn	Killed in action	29/7/1915
74	Cpl William Douglas Leitch	3 rd Mobile Ordnance Workshop	Died of disease	4/5/1919
491	Lt Percy Binns	2 nd Bn	Killed in action	13/08/1918

At Aquatic Centre, Anzac Day 9am 14

Tree	Name	Unit	CoD	DoD
3 <i>missing</i>	<i>L/Cpl Wilfred John Crane</i>	12 th Bn	<i>Killed in action</i>	25/4/1915
5	L/Cpl Percival Thomas Conlan	9 th Bn	Killed in action	25/4/1915
6	Pte William Henry Hodgkinson	1 st Bn	Died of wounds	1/5/1915
7	Pte Leonard Hawkins	12 th Bn	Killed in action	25/4/1915
8	Pte Archibald James Hutchinson	7 th Bn	Killed in action	24/5/1915
9	Pte Harry Lynch	12 th Bn	Killed in action	25/4/1915
10	Unknown: will seek to establish	identity		
11	Pte John Thomas Quamby	12 th Bn	Killed in action	25/4/1915
12	Pte Thomas William West Swift	12 th Bn	Killed in action	25/4/1915
13	Pte George Kenny Buckpitt	12 th Bn	Died of wounds	5/6/1915
14	Pte Herbert Harold Shearing	15 th Bn	Killed in action	9/5/1915
15	Pte George Albury Hunt	15 th Bn	Died of wounds	6/5/1915
16	Pte William Joseph Keenan	1 st Bn	Killed in Action	2/5/1915
17	Pte Robert Yeaman Parker	15 th Bn	Unknown	July 1915

November Wine Fundraiser

Another successful fundraising effort with \$435 raised. Thanks to all who purchased. Another wine fundraiser will be considered later in the year.

The Avenues Project

Research is underway identifying newspaper and magazine descriptions of the planning and planting of Avenues around the State. In addition to identifying Great War avenues, the research has uncovered descriptions of the planning for a number of Second World War Avenues including at Woodbridge and in Hobart along the new highway from Cornelian Bay to Berriedale both in the early 1950s. A complete list of the Avenues will be published in the next newsletter along with descriptions of some. Great interest in being shown in many centres including Longford, Randall's Bay and Beaconsfield. Colin Smee of the Beaconsfield RSL sub-branch recently had a good outcome with Aurora agreeing not to remove trees on the beauty Point road that were part of the original avenue. As with Kempton some years ago, Aurora were more than willing to change their plans once they were made aware of the importance of the trees. Part of the project's aims is to log all the avenues and provide information to councils, the state government and organisations such as Aurora so that the existence of the Avenues is clear to all concerned. We would like to acknowledge the support of the Local Government Association

of Tasmania for contacting councils on our behalf and the various Historical Societies around the State that have provided information.

English links

A West Hobart resident and BushCare participant, Wally Mounster, has been corresponding with a friend in England for many years and last year sent his friend, who is interested in military history, a map of the Soldiers Memorial Avenue. A big thanks to R F Gentry of Braintree, Essex for his donation of £25.

After the End: the Final Operations of the 40th Bn

On 3rd October 1918 the 40th Bn left the fighting line for the last time. The work of the battalion as a fighting unit was soon over with the declaration of the Armistice on 11th November. The first issue for the unit was to find useful tasks before repatriation.

“The problem of the winter was to find occupation. The war was over, and with it the need for military training. Drill was accordingly cut down to the barest minimum for discipline and administration and the care of clothing and equipment, with an occasional route march for exercise. The AIF education scheme came to take the place of military training, and this was the theory of it: some men would go to a special corps school in France and others to a corps workshop for technical training: many more would



Evening pastime in the billets of the 3rd Division at Querries.

go to England for training and experience in all manner of commercial and industrial establishments, and at special agricultural schools; and the remainder would be supplied with lectures, teachers, books, and other necessities for study at their quarters in France. It was a fine scheme, but the staff work was defective. An elaborate inquiry was made into the needs and desires of every man in the unit. The first difficulty was that nearly every man wished to become either a wool-classer or a motor engineer, but with a little persuasion nearly everyone was fitted with some reasonable plan of training for civil life, either in England or with the unit. Then the real hitch occurred. The arrangements for placing them in England hung fire. Instructors would come for fifteen men to get ready to take a farming course in England; the fifteen men were chosen, and got ready, and remained ready until the spring – when they mostly took their places in the drafts returning to Australia rather than wait any longer. Those who waited generally got the experience they wanted in the end; but it was too late to help in the problem of winter occupation. The education scheme with the unit was handicapped in various ways. There was no suitable accommodation. Most classes had to be held under very miserable conditions in rough sheds, generally

with an earth floor, and often with no windows. Tables and seats were rare, and the cold at most times through a Somme winter made study almost impossible. Further we got little help from outside the unit. Worst of all, no material arrived. Books did not begin to come till the winter was half over. It was impossible to get even a text-book for the teacher. Stationery was also so delayed that makeshifts were bought in Abbeville from battalion funds.

It was impossible, then, to supply the teaching required, but if anyone in the Battalion could teach nay subject without books he was put to it, and a class resulted. Some quite good classes were held. Lieut Downie, with his usual versatility, contrived a long and successful course in farming, relying solely on

FOSW24

memory; and when an old motor was obtained after persistent effort, Lieut McMillan held a series of classes in motor engineering which were always crowded. But any subject, however remote from practical utility, might be used. The English banking system was the subject of a course of ten lectures, and Private J H B Walch, with the help of chalk and horribly realistic diagrams, kept a small class interested in physiology.

The total effect educationally of the Battalion's efforts was no doubt negligible, but the main result was attained of keeping a good proportion of all ranks fairly busy during the mornings."

(Picture from Australian War Photographs AIF Publications Section, London 1919)

FOSW's first patron Frank MacDonald MM joined one of the contingents heading to England for special training. Before the war, Frank had trained as a stationmaster's assistant (unpaid) helping out at a siding on the North West Coast near Ulverstone. This included telegraphy skills. In the 40th Bn, he was for much of the time the leading OR in the signals section. Frank went off to the British School of Telegraphy and after week presented himself for examination. The chief instructor was flummoxed, warned him he would need to be able to read more than 50 words a minute to pass. Frank exceeded that, as was expected by him at least. He spent the next few months touring the English racing circuit living off his winnings before going back to London to join his draft for the return voyage. Those left with the battalion had another task in hand; accounting for the stores and dealing with claims for damage.

Beyond the elaborate preparations for the sending off of each quota with records, arms, clothes, and equipment complete for every man, there were two special jobs that occupied the last month or two in France –closing accounts with the villagers and handing in battalion stores to D.A.D.O.S.

Claims for damage were a regular feature of very period of billets, but Tours was unique. The village had had many troops billeted there, and we were the last. No doubt many claims for damage, real or imaginary, had been made in the past, and many of them without result. We were the last chance, and we were Australian. Here was a forlorn hope to pay for the war generally, and the claims came pouring in. The claims divided themselves into three classes –

- 1. Clear cases of damage or loot, which had to be aid for substantially, though not always to the amount of the claim.*
- 2. Cases where there was damage and we were partly to blame, but the amount of claim was greatly exaggerated.*
- 3. Ridiculous and extravagant claims on the flimsiest grounds. These included most of the larger claims, running into thousands of francs.*

The first class was paid mostly by voluntary contributions of the companies concerned. A substantial claim against one company was proved only as the first quota was marching out, and the contribution of the men in the quota was collected a month later and sent back from England.

The second class was settled chiefly by candles, skilfully handled by Lieut Garrard and others. The supply of candles had always been short of our needs all through the fighting time right up till the end of 1918. Then mysteriously ample supplies began to appear, and we revelled in candles. As the days lengthened, stocks mounted up, and encumbered the Q.M.'s store, and the Q.M. took the thought to refuse further supplies. Then the Q.M. thought again, and he let the stocks go on growing. Candles were scarce and dear in the village shops, and much valued b the villagers. And it was found that a few pounds of candles, with a little tactful speech, settled claims of 40 or 50 francs, with great satisfaction on both sides. So Lieut Garrard went his rounds with a packful of candles on his back, and the claims of Class 2 mysteriously melted away.

To Class 3 we said "No" firmly, and passed them over, with a brief but forcible expression of our sentiments, to the skilful hands of Mr Brissenden, the divisional claims officer. Needless to say, we heard no more of them.

The return of battalion stores was a much more solemn affair. Nearly everyone was worried by it to some



extent, but the concentrated responsibility fell in the end on the Quartermaster. Everything that had ever been issued to us in France had to be accounted for in some way – either handed in to D.A.D.O.S. or struck off by proper authority before the final ceremony of return to Ordnance. With the gear in actual use there was not as a rule much trouble. The Lewis Gun

Pa

FOSW24

Officer and Signalling Officer could be trusted to have not only the stores they ought to have but a great deal more that they ought not to have; and only a little care was needed to see that the surplus was discreetly lost at the proper moment.

Transport Section of the 40th Bn Claremont 1916 *The Transport men also were equally sure to have all the gear they wanted (and a little more). But in the outfitting of a battalion according to War Office Regulations, and extraordinary number of articles were included – particularly in harness and transport gear – for which no one had any use. These had promptly been lost in the Flanders mud at the first opportunity. No requisition had ever been put in to replace them, and their existence had been forgotten. Their purpose in life in some cases had never been known. So when the careful Q.M. came back from a visit to D.A.D.O.S., armed with an encyclopaedic list of everything that had to be accounted for, the Transport men found themselves called upon to produce an article as to which. they had not the faintest idea whether it was a piece of harness, a fitting of a limber, a blacksmith's tool, or an instrument of veterinary science. As the end approached, stories went about of quartermasters and adjutants and commanding officers of expiring units being brought back to France to clear up the deficiencies, and a shade of gloom fell across Battalion Headquarters, though the M.O, Captain J R Reed, specially organised a jazz-band to combat depression. But the Q.M., Captain Horler passed the ordeal with flying colours, and the Battalion went out with a clean sheet in the matter of stores. Of course, we found afterwards that we had taken rather more trouble than was usual or necessary; but it helped to keep us occupied and to enliven the dreariness of billets at Tours-en-Vimeu*
(Picture from 40th Battalion Souvenir Album Hobart 1916)

Scanner

A big thanks to Chris Oakes and the Lindisfarne RSL sub-branch for donating a Canon flatbed scanner. This is coming in very useful as it is small enough to transport easily, runs off a USB cable into a laptop so from now on if you have photos that are precious to you, we can come to you and scan them without them leaving your living room.

Bravo Company 12th/40th Battalion

Last year this Reserve unit, based at Warrane, held a fundraiser quiz night and among other causes, the Soldiers Memorial Avenue, was a prime focus for the night. We recently received a cheque from O/R Canteen fund for \$550 with the funds to be committed to two plaques, one each for a 12th and a 40th Bn soldier commemorated on the Avenue. These will be dedicated as part of the large group on April 23rd.



Tidy Towns Category Winner

In 2005, the Soldiers Memorial Avenue was entered in the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Awards in the Spirit of Australia category. This category recognises the restoration of cultural heritage as important to our nation and a key aspect of keeping Australia beautiful. On December 9th, 2005 at the annual awards event, Friends of Soldiers Walk was announced as the winner in this category. the award was presented by Hon Bryan Green, Minister for Infrastructure, Energy and Resources.

Thanks

Thanks to Mike Wilkie, Chris Oakes, John Wadsley, Kirsty Black and John Panton for all their work on Sunday February 5th in installing many of the plaques due for dedication on the 15th. Thanks to Retlas Foundry for their fine work in getting all the plaques ready for the day.
A Howard Avenues Project Officer