

History of Enoggera Barracks

A somewhat lengthy history of the Enoggera Barracks written in 2003 by Bruce Martin, a 2/9th veteran and recontour, as an accompaniment to a series of pen and ink sketches of various buildings throughout the camp which can be seen here.

In 1824 a penal settlement was established at Redcliffe with 14 soldiers of the 48th Regiment of Line their women folk and about 2 dozen felons under orders from Parramatta to garrison the new colony. The local Ningi Ningi tribe later gave the camp the name “Humpy Bong” which means “dead houses” after the white mans abandoned buildings. They soon found that a lack of water and tropical disease from the mangroves made the place unsuitable. Subsequently the settlement was removed in 1825 to what we know as the Brisbane City Administration building at the southeast corner of George and Adelaide Streets at North Quay. In 1829 the women convicts were moved to where the General Post Office is in Queen Street. This was called the “Female Factory” and was later moved to Eagle Farm [Ascot] to keep the boys and girls from playing mothers and fathers.

Later units to garrison the emerging colony were the 3rd Buffs [1823] 40th Regiment [1824 on board the “Amity”] 57th Regiment [1826 under command of the infamous Captain Logan] 17th Regiment [1830] 4th Kings Regiment [1835] 28th North Gloucestershire [1839] 28th Regiment of Foot [May- June 1839 under command of Lt. George Gravatt] and the 80th Leicesters Regiment Lt. Oliver Gormon [July 1839 to May 1842].

Administration was under the control of the Governor of New South Wales through the Colonial Office in London. However, the commanding officers of these Regiments administered magisterial powers and floggings were commonplace and 10 hours on the treadmill at Wickham Terrace grinding grain was considered a light punishment. The new settlement soon had the reputation of being a worse place for cruelty than Van Diemen’s Land.

Officers had started to survey this new area and Captain Logan [1826-1830] was doing just this when some convicts killed him. They reckoned death by hanging was a God send as punishment ordered by Logan was such it even sickened his subordinates.

On 10th February 1842 in accordance with a directive from London the penal colony of Moreton Bay ceased to exist. Administration was under the control of the Governor of New South Wales through the Colonial Office in London. The settlement was thrown open to free settlers and ex-convicts or “ticket of leave” men so the prospect of getting first crack at the future CBD sites was greeted with great glee.

Captain John C Wickham was appointed as with the power of police magistrate and arrived in 1843. In 1847 Wickham took up residence at the former town house that Patrick Leslie had erected on the mouth of Breakfast Creek at Newstead. This house is now Heritage listed and well worth a visit. Overall control was still held by New South Wales via the 80th Leicesters who stayed until May 1842.

The Petrie family acquired large portions of the new colony from Lutwyche right out to Murrumba Downs. One purchase covered the lower part of Wharf Street down to where the Customs house was. Lots near the river at Kangaroo Point Mowbray Park Hawthorne and Bulimba were quickly taken up by others. William Pettigrew established a sawmill on the banks of the river in William Street near Alice Street. An Enid Downward wrote “in the late 1890’s growing on Pettigrew’s property was the biggest Bauple Nut tree [now called macadamia] ever seen”. It was said to be 70 feet [21 metres] high with a girth of 10 feet [3 metres]. By 1845 only a few British Regiments remained in the colony. The 99th Regiment of Foot was in New Zealand in the Māori wars but by 1849 it

was on Norfolk Island. Ensign I. Grime recorded the birth at Norfolk of Sarah Eliza Cain on 7th September 1849 according to records in the Tasmania Archives. The Regiment left from Hobart in 1851 for England.

A prominent name in surveying prior to and after the abolished penal rule was Lt. James Warner hence the name Warner Street in Fortitude Valley and the suburb of Warner. In his 1846 survey of the Stanley District Warner gave the local Jagera clan name “EUOGERA” to what we know as the Enoggera area. To the local tribe it “meant a place of waters” although it has been claimed to by an adjoining clan that the word was “YAUWAGAROO” meaning a place to sing and dance or “CORROBOREE”. It was part of the area where the Kabul tribe claimed and roamed roughly from Beenleigh the north of the Brisbane River to Caloundra and west to D’Aguilar.

By the 1850’s somewhere near the magazines at Inwood Road and Bugden Street a rifle range had been established by the locals as a protection measure and became known as rifle range reserve. This makeshift effort was probably on Frasers selected property and Bells Paddock adjoined. Civilians and Soldiers as well as Mounted Police used the facility here. In 1854 the Crimean War broke out and there was a flurry of unofficial volunteer groups using the site. It must be remembered that many of the settlers had come from a military background. Another rifle range had been established at Toowong.

In those days Frasers [Frazers] Road ran from Stewart Road across Bell Street [Wardell Street] then north west to where Prospect Street meets Samford Road. According to BCC historical place names authority Brian Rough the correct spelling should be FRAZER the middle Christian name of whom it was named after. Bells Paddock started near what became Browns Dip Road and Browns Dip Road had its origins at Gallipoli. A gully which had a dip in the terrain not unlike the one at the back of the old Remount Depot was defended with some obstinacy by a man named Brown. Bells Paddock ran west towards Taylor Range then cut towards Samford Road more or less on the same route of Lavarack Parade bounded by Bell Street [Wardell Street] to the east and Samford Road to north. It may have included where the RSL club is today as this area was a training ground for the 2/14th Light Horse before World War One.

In 1855 this Enoggera area came under control of the colony of Queensland and in 1860 was under some form of military control. At the rifle range in existence at this time a small magazine was established probably near what is O’Connell Place today. The whole area was used as a training area for the mounted police British soldiers such as the 12th Regiment of Foot many of whom would soon be off to the Māori War. About 1865 part of Bells Paddock became known as Rifle Range Reserve for this is where the old range shifted once muskets became obsolete. Lloyd Street once went due west [now Murray Road] over Taylors Range to link up at Settlement Road. Surveyors left from Enoggera camp in 1855/6 on trips into the Brisbane and Stanley Valleys with a mounted police escort. Malcolm Fraser’s grandfather had acquired land in the vicinity Kingaroy /Murgon.

Most of the 12th Regt who were stationed at Bulimba found the natives had become antagonistic to the settlers. The tribe that used the billabong called “Woolloongabba” for fishing had given the newcomers the impression that they were not welcome. The Beenleigh and Oxley tribe were restless too. Germantown [Nundah] and German Camp [Holland Park] was about as far as it was safe to go.

A form of a Police Force was established in Brisbane in 1842. Circa 1856 it was under the command of Lieutenant David Seymour late of the 12th Regiment of Foot. He became our 1st Police Commissioner in 1864. They trained in Bells and Rifle Paddocks in RIFLE RANGE RESERVE which is shown in the map of 1863 as being south of Banks Street in the Enoggera Parish of Stanley Shire to about where the Old Remount Depot and 5th Field Artillery were established in 1910. The state of Queensland came in to being on 6th June 1859 but it was in December 1859 the colony separated from New South Wales with the arrival

of Bowen. Captain Wickham had been offered the post of treasurer of the new state but he turned it down. Most British regiments were in New Zealand involved in the Māori Wars. From 1860 until 1866 elements of the 12th East Suffolk Regiment were the garrison for the new Colony.

When Captain Bowen proclaimed the State of Queensland it was “broke”. New South Wales had only given Bowen about 5 shillings and sixpence to put in the till. A reward for the discovery of gold was posted and was later claimed by Nash at Gympie in 1867.

Bowen realised immediately that a military force was needed and tried to get mounted infantry and artillery batteries raised. Bowen wrote to the Queen for some 24-pound cannons to protect Brisbane as the Russians had started to show its naval strength in the Pacific area.

On the 9th February 1860 a notice was placed in the “Moreton Bay Courier” attempting to create an unpaid Queensland Volunteer Defence Force.

They had to provide their own horses sabres rifles food blankets and other accoutrements. Ipswich had the honour of the first unit with a company of riflemen to serve the Infantry. Brisbane followed with one Regiment to be known as “The Brisbane Free Rifles” who trained at the Queens Gardens [Edward Street end of old Botanical gardens in Alice Street] Musgrave and Lang Parks [or “the flats below the Red Hill”]. They were to comprise 25 mounted infantry and two companies of men as light infantry with a HQ thought to be at Petrie Terrace.

1860 proved to be a busy year for the new Parliament. At its first meeting in 1860 the establishment of the Enoggera reservoir was approved and it was opened in August 1866. Prior to the official opening water had arrived from an upstand at the corner of Queen and George Streets.

A Lieutenant and 25 regulars from the 12th Regiment of foot [East Suffolk Regiment] arrived from Sydney in 1861.

In 1862 the “Brisbane Free Rifles” of the Queensland Volunteer Defence Force was under the command of Lt Col. McDonnell [of McDonnell & East]. There was also to be a company at Rockhampton and Port Curtis [Gladstone] but by 1863 most of the Queensland Volunteer Defence Force had disbanded due to dwindling numbers. In 1864 there is reference to the QVDF becoming renamed as Queensland Light Horse only to be once again disbanded in 1866.

In May 1862 the 12 cannons from Queen Victoria to defend the colony arrived on the “Clifton” but were ancient even then. It is believed that when the oldest gun No.50000 arrived on the “Clifton” it had a cannon ball in the barrel and is still there today. It can be seen at the Ninth Battalions Museum and Collectables Trust in Chauvel Street. The cannons were at first placed in Queens Gardens [lower end of Edward Street].

By 1st January 1864 the Police Force had grown to 150 both mounted and foot with 137 Aboriginal troopers and trackers. They trained at Rifle Range Reserve in Bells Paddock Enoggera and with the discovery of gold in Gympie in 1867 they were on escort duty from here. In 1864 the Queensland Volunteer Defence force were renamed the Queensland Light Horse in Ipswich and Brisbane but were disbanded in 1866 because of lack of enthusiasm.

The 1863 and 1864 maps show extensive landholdings by private citizens in Enoggera/ Gaythorne area. In 1863 a Captain Henry George Simpson selected 80 acres on lot 681. On a copy of 11th November 1868 survey map “1868 S1.655” there is a notation at top centre “sale at Brisbane 10th Aug COUNTRY lots” presumably in 1868. It is further noted he paid the balance owing “alienation 20.10 77”. Have you heard of Simpsons Road Bardon? That the purchase had any relevance to Simpson being in the British Forces or the failed Brisbane Free Rifles cannot be established.

In 1866 the Russian scare caused great unrest in Thursday Island and the 50th Queens Own regiment replaced the 12th until 1869. By 1866 one cannon was at the Observatory in Wickham Terrace and used as the 1 pm time signal and soon after [maybe 1867] another was in place on St Helena Island as a warning signal. Most signals were by semaphore in those days. Mr Farraday & Mr Edison and Messrs Bell Morse & Marconi had not got around to electrics and telegraphy in those days.

In March 1867 No 3 Company “The Spring Hill and Fortitude Valley Rifle Corps” was formed as an unpaid voluntary militia under the command of Lieutenant Charles Lilley. Later Lilley became Chief Justice and our 4th Premier and later donated the “Lilley Medal” for the highest result achieved in an Annual Scholarship Examination.

Lilley’s volunteers were offered in return for “5 years satisfactory service” ten acres of Suburban land which ended at bottom of the Long Hill on Kelvin Grove Road where Enoggera Creek crosses Bishop Street at the Glen or fifty acres of Country land. Yes, Newmarket Everton Park Grovely Oxley Bundamba Maleny Yarraman Kingaroy etc. What would its worth be today? Legislation was passed in 1868 to cover these grants to the Queensland Volunteer Rifle Brigade and they continued until 1874. Some 439 grants were issued.

They trained in the area known as Yorks or Yorky’s Hollow where a rifle range was established situated at the Normanby end of Victoria Park below the now Brisbane Grammar School and where the Hale Street Tunnel runs. In those days the water wandered down from the Normanby Herston and Kelvin Grove. It was a misty place from Autumn to early Spring and thus became known locally as Frogs hollow. Soon the rifle corps became known as “The Frog’s Hollow Rangers”. Ipswich became No. 2 Rifle Company and No. 4 Rifle was in Rockhampton.

The No.5 Rifle Company was formed in 1870 at Warwick No. 6 at South Brisbane and No. 7 at Maryborough. The latter two were disbanded in 1871. Gradually public apathy and absenteeism saw most of the local force dwindle away at the end of the 5 years.

By 1870 most of the British regiments had left Australia as the Colonial Office had more urgent problems throughout the Empire in Sudan and India. The Governor Colonel Blackall wrote to the Colonial Secretary Earl Granville that the volunteer force was about 500 and could easily be raised to 1000. The problem was there were only less than 150 old rifles and very little ammunition.

Bells Paddock in the 1870’s became a staging place for the drays and bullock teams as they pushed “the Old Northern Road” through to the goldfield of Gympie. There were “too many creek crossings on the Chermshire Road to Gympie”.

It was decided in 1876 we needed to continue with a defence force. There were Engineers and artillery brigades but no footsloggers. What little left of the Queensland Defence Force became the First Regiment of the Queensland Defence Force. It comprised 4 companies based in Brisbane and soon became known as the First Queenslanders. Recruitment picked up as Irish Scot and English Companies sprang into being. Inevitably a dispute arose among them and the Irish went alone. Nothing changes.

The Second Regiment was established in the major towns of the day such as Ipswich Maryborough Warwick Toowoomba and Rockhampton. Eventually the country areas expanded to 3rd and 4th Regiments but due to small population never grew as large as the First Queenslanders.

In 1878 there was another Russian scare and a rifle range was established in Victoria Park at the Normanby end. Some development took place at Lytton only to be abandoned but Regiments of Artillery as well as Engineers exercised there.

In 1879 firing a gun salute in Queens Park two soldiers were killed when the gun blew up.

Ithaca Divisional Board had the responsibility for the Ashgrove and Enoggera creek areas from 1880 but in 1887 went broke. Enoggera then had jurisdiction under the Enoggera Divisional Board.

By the mid 1880's Queensland had as a fleet the steam gunboats Gayundah Paluma and a torpedo vessel "Mosquito" and to patrol our long coastline we had the steam launches "Pippo" and "Laura".

In 1882 a building erected in 1864 became known as Victoria Barracks when it was used as the headquarters of the commander of the Queensland Volunteer Defence Force Lt Colonel Blaxland. A Committee of Enquiry later ordered by the government into the Defence force and headed by Colonel P. Scratchley found "there was a reluctance on those who have enrolled to devote time without receipt of payment".

In September 1883 Lt. Colonel George French from the British Imperial Staff was appointed the Commandant of the QDF. According to Caroline J Smith in her book "Rifles to Rocket launchers" he distinguished a paid force of men by calling them militia and the rest volunteers. The Latin translation of militia means to us "for defence of the country".

Among the many old photos held in the Ninth Battalions Museum is one showing in 1886 the Brisbane First Regiment of infantry parading in New Farm Park to receive its colours from Lady Musgrave. The colours show "Moreton Regiment" attached to its title.

In 1885 there was a scare of war with Russia and Cooktown received one of Governor Bowen's "Clifton" canons numbered 63911 cast in 1803. This one in Cooktown still fires wads of paper upon special occasions. It has a small brother a small chaser cannon which came from Captain Cooks "Endeavour". Townsville were also sent a cannon. Bowen got one in 1886 but disbanded in 1894 and this gun ended up in Townsville. One gun is thought to now be at the Fort Lytton Museum one at Lavarack Barracks and two at the Maritime Museum at South Brisbane. Cairns received a gun in 1887 but it was later sold to Japan for scrap. By the mid 1890's the units had disbanded. One formerly at 9 RQR Kelvin Grove Gona Barracks bore a 1797 casting mark numbered 50000 and showed it was cast by the Carron Foundry of Falkirk Scotland. When Kelvin Grove closed, this cannon was transferred to Enoggera with the Ninth Battalions Museum just below 9th Battalion RQR BHQ. About 1960 one cannon was dug up in an old rubbish dump in Bogan Street Newstead. The dump was then about to become the Firpo Neumann Oval home of Valleys Rugby League Club now called Allan Border Field.

In 1887 Major W. Snelling was in placed charge of the Infantry regiments and photos taken in that year show trainees including Engineers outside tents and on parade while in camp at Lytton. Other photos show artillery on parade at Shorncliffe.

In 1889 a railway line was constructed to Enoggera to serve Rifle Range reserve.

The 1896 maps and later ones show this on the Gaythorne end of Lloyd Street off Bell Street not Wardell Street. Bell Street had been known as this on early maps.

Some personalities from the days of the Frogs Hollow Rangers and QDF who served over the years included James Duhig [later Archbishop] Captain Harry Chauvel [later to command the 1st Light Horse Division in WW 1] Captain C Mein [later Chief Justice] Captain J McDonald [Post Master General] Lt. G Aspell [Home Secretary]. Lt C B White [later Lieutenant General] who planned the successful withdrawal from Anzac Cove. The Macrossan and McGroarty families spent time in the First Queenslanders as did Ned Hanlon who was responsible for the establishment of the Brisbane Mothers hospital and later Premier of Queensland in 1940's.

When the railway deviation was extended into the military camp on 21 March 1916 a creek mainly to service the 5th Hospital the station was called Rifle Range.

In 1891 the QDF elements mostly from Gympie were deployed to Barcaldine to assist the police in the shearers strike and QDF regiments such as Warwick Maryborough Rockhampton were placed on standby. It was in the strike that the Emu plume was first pinned to the slouch hat some say to identify those showing sympathy to the strikers.

The Queensland Government on the 10th July 1899 offered England 280 mounted Infantry and one Machine gun section at their own cost should they be needed to fight the Afrikaners When the Boers declared war on the 11th October 1899 many volunteered for service in the Boer war as the Queensland Mounted Infantry. The first contingent to leave Queensland in 1899 was the First Queenslanders who trained at Meeandah under the command of Lt. Colonel Percy Ricardo. 2703 men 150 officers trained at Enoggera with a retinue of some 3200 horses When the war ended in May 1902, they had lost 4 officers and 88 men. The first fatalities were Pte's Victor Jones and David McLeod on the 1st January 1900. In a painting by Oscar Frisram of the "Cornwall" he shows the former Queensland Defence Force gunboats "Gayundah" and "Lucinda" as the Queensland troops left Pinkenba for South Africa [courtesy of Newstead House on loan from Royal Historical Society in Commissariat Store North Quay]. A further three contingents left Queensland prior to Federation and six left after 1901 as Commonwealth troops thus making over 2000 to serve in South Africa. The first Commonwealth troops sailed in February 1902.

It was in the South African campaign that the Rising Sun badge of bayonets of which we are so proud first appeared. No arguments over who was responsible please.

There arose a great feeling of envy by the other colonial troops [or Officers] over the Q M I 's wearing of the Emu plume. So many attempts were made and resisted to have the plumes made official for all that the GOC had to step in and make it so. Ah! Those First NS W Lancers [later the 1st Aust Armoured Corps of WW 2 part of which lost their Bren Gun carriers to the Milne Bay mud]. That is a story for another day.

In 1991 a draft of our Australian Constitution was drawn up on around a table on the gunboat S.S. "Lucinda" in the Hawkesbury River and there are photos held in the Ninth Museum of this in the Newspapers of the Day. After Federation in 1901 one of the first Acts of the new Parliament in 1902 was a Bill to make the service of those mounted infantry in South Africa legal. At the same time our first small standing army came into being called Permanent Military Force. After WW 1 the name Permanent military Force changed to Australian Military Force with an Australian Instructional Corps in country areas training the CMF or Militia.

A GO 296/1903 states that “the 1st Queensland [Moreton] Regiment is now the 9th Australian Infantry Regiment [Moreton} 9AIR [Militia]”.

The numeral IX has a long history with Enoggera.

At the end of the South African Campaign Parliament had sent some of our army personnel to the Imperial Defence School in London. John Dudley Lavarack a student from Brisbane Grammar School was commissioned as a Lieutenant of Artillery in the PMF in 1905.

He was in the British Staff College at Camberley when WW 1 erupted. For his service in France in our artillery corps he was awarded a DSO CMG and mentioned in Despatches three times. The French gave him the Croix De Guerre. By WW 2 he had risen to Lt. General but took a reduction to Major General to take command of the Glorious 7th Division in 1940. He played a great role in the defence of Tobruk in 1941 with Brigadier Moreshead of the 18th Brigade and later was Governor of Queensland from 1949 until 1957. He was a great soldier so the RAA cannot all be bad. His young brother Rowley was alive in Townsville when the Lavarack Barracks were named after Sir John.

Federal legislation was passed in 1904 authorising the purchase of land for establishment of military camps throughout our land.

At the 1907 Imperial Defence Conference the Chief of Staff of Australia Forces was Colonel William Throsby Bridges who had been sent out previously by the Imperial General Staff. Bridges was later promoted to General. Major C B B White who had been attending the British Staff College succeeded him and he plays a larger role in our history. General Bridges was later to command the First Australian Division and was the Administrator of the Australian contingent. A sniper wounded Bridges at Gallipoli on the 15th May 1915 and he died on 19th. John Kirkpatrick bought it the same day Bridges was wounded Who was Kirkpatrick? An Englishman Kirkpatrick was the real name of “Simpson the man with the donkey”.

As a result of the 1907 conference the Prime Minister Alfred Deakin foreshadowed those two years of compulsory military training of two weeks per year was necessary. Cabinet then decided to bring Lord Kitchener out to advise us on the reorganisation of our emerging Army and the defence of the nation. Alfred Deakin had also decided in 1907 that we needed our own Navy.

A map drawn at the time showed Kitchener’s recommendations as to how we should defend ourselves from attack. His line ran from Maryborough to Goomeri taking in the Conondale Ranges to the Toowoomba range. It then ran in a southwest direction all the way to South Australia. It was he assumed that any attack would be from the North. Because of the weather in the Great Australian Bight steamships in the early 1900’s invariably used the Cape York route to Australia for economy and availability of coal. The map caused great consternation to those who lived below the line. Who would want to attack us from the North instead of Sydney or Melbourne? We have the Heads and the Collingwood down here, don’t we? Where is this Barrier Reef anyway? His longsighted judgement was to become in focus again after the 13th December 1941. In 1942 the line he drew 30 odd years before became known as the “Brisbane Line”. Politicians still have a field day about this. Ever heard of it?

Another of Lord Kitchener’s other recommendations included establishing Infantry Battalions and giving them numbers. He also insisted that every youth upon turning twelve years of age should attend for one year a weekly compulsory military instruction and that an Instructional Corps be used for that purpose.

A Lands Acquisition Act was passed in 1906 for the purchase of suitable land for military purposes. Consideration in 1907 was given to Strathpine Indooroopilly Lytton and Myrtle town for army sites but on 1st August 1908 a proclamation was gazetted for the purchase of 1235 acres 3 roods and 33 perches covering

Frasers Bells Rifle at Enoggera and Thompsons Paddock. Parts of the original fence along Enoggera creek past the old Magazines can still be seen. Several holes on the back of Ashgrove Golf Course are by grace and favour as they are still on Defence Department land. In December 1908 and June 1909 further acquisitions were made. The land at Enoggera was to enlarge the established rifle range and replace the existing one at Toowong then known as the Queensland Rifle Association Range. Enoggera Range then became the site of the annual Queen's shoot until it was closed in 1964.

Our population in 1909 was only about a 4.2 million.

We did not have a Navy at that time although Australians were serving on British ships "learning the trade". The guardians of our seas since 1891 were the China and East India British Naval squadrons. In that year the Australian Auxiliary Squadron R.N. came into being. In 1909 New Zealand offered to pay the cost of a "Dreadnought" if the British Admiralty would construct one to be stationed in our area. This stung the Australian States of NSW and Victoria. They agreed to share the cost of the purchase of one ship if the Australian Government made a similar offer. This the Commonwealth agreed to do and by

August 1914 our fleet stood at the cruiser "Australia" the light cruisers "Sydney" and "Melbourne" with the destroyers "Parramatta" "Yarra", "Warrego" and the submarines AE1 and AE2. There was the cruiser "Brisbane" still being built. It was the 4th October 1913 that the Federal Government took delivery of the "Australia" and shortly after that the "Sydney" later of "Emden" fame. At the outbreak of war our cruisers were placed under the control of the British Admiralty for the duration of the war and 1919.

Major R F Cowie in his "Investigation of the History of Enoggera" places Thompsons Paddock at Downfall Creek Chermside which today is called Marchants Park and 7th Brigade Park. In "Always Faithful" by F Cranston there are photos in 1915 of "tents in Thompsons Paddock" and another of tents in "Vidgen's Paddock" in 1916. C J Downward [C.A. 1864-1936] told Donald Downward that "Vidgen a carrier had a horse spelling paddock in an area at the corner of Webster Road and Rode Road". This may well have been it and may have included the grounds of the Prince Charles hospital.

2250 Pte John Nathan Emmett enlisted at Charleville on 25th October 1915 and was posted to 8 Squadron 2 Remount unit Enoggera on 11th November 1915 as a farrier and rough rider. The 42nd Battalion after training in Thompsons Paddock left by train on 3rd June 1916 from Rifle Range as did the 36th Battalion according to Google search in the War Museum. J Larty writes and has photos of 42nd Battalion tents in Thompsons Paddock in 1916. The National Archives in Melbourne 1914 -1918 also confirm this. Much of the area in Murphy's Road through to Newman Road back to Hamilton Road is under housing today.

On the 16th March 1909 work commenced on a Support and logistics area by clearing land from Samford Road to Frasers Road. A Rifle range stated to be west of Frasers Road was opened on 27th September 1909 1200 yards long with 50 targets. Later known as the Duncan Range it gained the nickname "Siberia". By 1910 the permanence of Enoggera Camp occurred with the erection of a building known as the School of Musketry. The Magazines at O'Connell Place the Small Arms magazine in Murray Street and the Remount buildings erected soon after. The design of these was the work of the Queensland Government Architect and his assistant Thomas Pye.

In 1911 the Remount facility started Rough Riding Schools with Sergeants in charge and by 1912 was firmly established in all the other sections. The original area in 1914 housed artillery medical corps and infantry not only light horse. A fire damaged portions of the store stables and Veterinary Surgeons hospice in March 1923. The chimney in the Farriers building has been removed.

A Compulsory Military Training Law was passed in 1907. In Charters Towers parades were held at St Mary's convent grounds and one boy Leslie Brown later served as a man in Belgium in the 47th Infantry and Machine gun battalions. Charters Towers was the second biggest city in Queensland and locals called the town "The World". In 1886 they had a stock market in the World as gold was "King". Many famous people in their day came from here.

The Southport School [C of E] had a Senior cadet's team and the name of William James Downward was in one of these. His name can be seen on their Roll of Honour for having served in WW 1. Ipswich the oldest Grammar School in Queensland and Toowoomba Grammar had Senior cadet teams as well.

What is now Anzac Square in Adelaide Street was once part of the "Normal School" [State]. There some of these compulsory training parades were also conducted. In 1914 boys from the Brisbane Grammar School Senior cadet team had won the Australia wide championship. They held training parades at the Normal school grounds after 4th August 1914 for recruitment before going off to fight. One of the lads in the Grammar School team was none other than Clarrie Wrench. At the time of his enlistment in 1915 at Childers as a private in the 9th Battalion he was a Second Lieutenant in the 4B [Maryborough] Senior Cadets training area. He was later to serve at Gallipoli and France eventually rising to the rank of Captain. In post war CMF he was promoted to a Major. Many of the boys from the Cadets on enlistment were soon promoted in rank with some as officers. Over the top as Cannon fodder until in 1918 the Australian General Monash was permitted to use his theory of immense bombardment prior to the blowing of the whistle to attack.

With the declaration of war, the Prime Minister Andrew Fisher [Labor] had stated to Mother England "Australia is with you to the last man and the last shilling". Our Victorian born Chief of Staff, Major C.B.B. White then sent a cable to London placing an expeditionary force of 20000 and the Navy at Britain's disposal. More about White at Gallipoli later on.

The young Australian Nation's part was a significant one. Three hundred and thirty-one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one went overseas to fight in this "war to end all wars". Two hundred and twenty-one thousand five hundred and thirteen were wounded and 59 thousand were killed. Many of these men trained and left our shores forever from Bell's Paddock. Our population was around 5 million and it took 20 years to build up to this again and then came WW2. In the First World War of 1914-1918 people died in their MILLIONS either directly or indirectly. Over 8million three hundred thousand military on both sides with over 5 million civilians losing their lives. It compares to the losses by both sides in Russia in World War 2.

Many of the Commonwealth Militia Forces drill halls at Grovely Kelvin Grove Sandgate Coopers Plains Annerley Wacol and Nambour were erected in circa 1914. Most are now only a memory except building No.4. Fortunately building No 4 the 1914 Sandgate Drill Hall lives on situated near Kedron Wavell RSL in Kitty Hawk Drive on Downfall Creek.

It is now the site of The Milne Bay Memorial Library and Research Centre. Thanks for this are mainly due to Major Patrick O'Keeffe OAM [Retd] former BCC Councillor Mr. Terry Hampson Mr. Terry Sullivan MP the Member for Stafford and last but not least the Kedron-Wavell R S L.

Prior to 1914 the 5th Artillery had occupied a series of buildings to the north of the Remount depot but they were replaced by the 13th Field Army Hospital. A fire almost demolished much of these in 1916 but one which originally was officers' quarters became the Nurses quarters. Today it Another building to survive was the Guard House which today stands alongside the 9 RQR Battalion Headquarters in Chauvel Street. The 13th was replaced by the 17th AGH but in 1919

another fire razed the wards. In 1920 there was another fire. It must be presumed no one had discovered how to start an earthquake as a means of removing Army property. The old Nurses Quarters is probably better known to many as the Old Regimental Headquarters. Currently it is the office of the Legal Services.

In late July and early August 1914, the 3rd [Port Curtis] CMF Infantry Battalion had been on exercise at Bell's Paddock. At the same time the 2nd Light Horse were bivouacked in the area above Samford Road where the Gaythorne RSL stands today. They also trained in the Bell's Paddock and Frasers military camp which extended beyond Taylor's Range to Settlement Road.

Just before the outbreak of the Great War the first troops to leave Cairns on the 8th August aboard the "Kowowna" bound for Thursday Island were some 9th Moreton CMF soldiers. One of these was a young Allan Norman who contracted dengue and was later rejected to serve in the AIF. Two Townsville lads in the Kennedy Regiment Jack Ramkena and Roy Benjamin joined the ship there. At Thursday Island on August 14th, they volunteered to go to the German possessions of New Guinea. Upon return to Australia both signed on in the AIF and joined the 9th Battalion. Lt. Ramkena later won an MC on the 2nd July 1916 and as a Captain lost an arm at Bullecourt in May 1917. He was the Patron of the Ninth Battalions Association from 1971 to 1973 when he died at Sunday Street Shorncliffe.

The raising of the 3rd Brigade prior had been put in place to the declaration of war in 1914 by General Bridges who told S MacLagan he was to be the Brigadier. All the Commanding Officers of the 16 Battalions in the Brigade had been advised of their appointment. MacLagan chose Lt. Colonel H W Lee to lead the 9th Battalion with Major W C Harvey as his Quartermaster. His Transport Officer was his son Captain HW Lee Junior and in command of "F" Company was Lt. H C Harvey. All of these were from the 4th Wide Bay Battalion. Prior to their arrival on the 21st August tents had been pitched in Bell's Paddock on the 17th and 18th. Recruits came mainly from South Queensland and Northern River initially as we only had newspapers and Morse telegraphy in those days. As news spread it became steady but was not the great flood that ensued until about 1917.

. The first Queensland troops left Pinkenba on 24th September 1914 for Egypt on the "Omrah". They were part of the 1st Division 3rd Brigade. It was not until November that the convoy was completed in Albany and set sail to write their name in our history. The major guardians of the convoy were units of the British trained Japanese Navy. On the way off Coconut Island, they saw the "Sydney" speed away to destroy the German cruiser "Emden".

After arrival in Egypt the 1st Division commenced tough training alongside the British troops who were defending Egypt against Turkish attack. It was thought that the Egyptians were leaning to the Turkish Empire and may join the Germans.

At Gallipoli some of the Light Horse were used as dismounted infantry and distinguished themselves at Quinn's Post and the Nek. The bulk of the Light Horse did not go to France. They died at Jerusalem and Beersheba as they defended Egypt and resisted the Turkish Empire in Palestine and Syria. Other CMF battalions of that era were the 4th [Wide Bay] 7th [Moreton] 8th [Oxley] 9th [Logan & Albert] 11th [Darling Downs].

The Light Horse in Queensland and Northern Rivers were finally disbanded in 1942 in a parade through Brisbane. They then became part of the 1st Armoured Corps as motorised regiments using Bren Gun carriers. When used at Milne Bay in August 1942 the carriers got bogged in the mud and were never used again.

in New Guinea. Post war they became 2/14th Qld Mounted Infantry but in 2006 they were banished and absorbed into our regular Army. A few years ago, one of our Generals said “you do not win battles on tradition”.

Before the landing on Gallipoli the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division were stationed on Lemnos Island at Mudros. General William T Bridges an Australian PMF man became the Divisional commander. He was wounded on the 15th May the same day as John Kirkpatrick “[AKA Simpson] the man with the donkey” was killed. Bridges died on the 18th and was later buried at Duntroon.

Initially the soldiers had a metal “A” for Australia about 20mm long issued that was worn on the right arm of their uniform jacket about 50mm from shoulder. It became apparent on Lemnos Island that for logistical purposes something else was required for identification. A few days before embarking for Gallipoli the 1st Brigade [NSW] chose the rectangle as a colour patch with green their Brigade [bottom] colour and Victoria chose red. The mixed states battalions of the 3rd Brigade chose a light blue Brigade colour.

This is how the Black over Blue colour patch to identify the South Queensland 9th Battalion came into being. So many of the men and senior officers serving in the 9th had attended Brisbane Grammar so the choice of colour for the 9th was an easy one. The school colours of the Brisbane Grammar School [the only one in Brisbane then] came from the light and dark blue colours of Oxford and Cambridge Universities. They had to make do with the material made available so the Royal blue became black. South Australia chose White over blue and West Australia Yellow for the 11th Battalion. Tasmania selected Purple for the 12th Battalion. Those who served on the Gallipoli peninsula were allowed to wear the old letter A on their colour patch as an honour.

Captain Duncan Chapman and J D Bostock of the 9th Battalion AI F were regarded as the first to put feet on Turkish soil at Gallipoli according to C W Bean the Commonwealth Official Historian. Our forces held their ground on the peninsula until the brilliant withdrawal plan on 15th November 1915 without loss of life. This was the concept of our old friend now Lt. General C.B.B. White. He devised a method of attaching cord to machine guns and rifles the ends of which were immersed in water containers. As the cord dried out and tightened pressure would make the guns fire intermittently so that the Turks would think the front was still occupied. The withdrawal was achieved with practically nil loss of life.

The losses for the battalion in the campaign were 626 of which 236 were killed in the field. In two days of fighting 10 Victoria Crosses were awarded on Lone Pine Ridge alone. After Gallipoli the 1st Division were spread around Suez before moving to France according to the 5th Battalion Diary. About this time the 9th battalion was split in two to form part of the 49th battalion. For some who would have preferred to stay with their cobbles this was still a sore point for many years after. Eduard H. Prove said this when the First Ninth Association handed its colours over to 9 RQR in a parade commanded by Major Patrick O’Keeffe at Kelvin Grove in 1970.

On 3rd March 1916 the Battalion moved to France and the Western Front as part of 1 Aust Corps and fought at Pozieres Moquet Farm [near Pozieres] Flers Ypres Bullecourt and Polygon Wood. In their battle casualties they only had 9 POW’s out of a total of 3453 casualties. Wounds accounted for 2039 with 778 killed in action. There were of course the dreaded gas casualties of 329.

Our Light Horsemen had trouble in the sand with their horses called Whalers so some of them were switched to using camels working with the British Camel Corps. The 1st Light Horse Brigade consisted of 1st Regt [NSW] 2nd [QLD] 3rd [Part Tas and Sth Aust] under command of Colonel Chauvel and some of these went to Gallipoli as dismounted infantry.

Pte 2250 John Nathan Emmett who had enlisted as a “rough rider” and saddlery maker in the 2nd Aust Remount Unit only served in the Middle East arriving in March 1916. Although official papers referred to him as a private, he was now called Trooper in 8 Squadron. From Palestine he wrote that was “it was cold as a mother in laws kiss some nights”.

Why not freeze. Turkey and Russia were next door. In 1939 our troops were issued with the same light uniforms that Emmett wore 30 years before. Our Intelligence Corps? I don't think so.

After Gallipoli the light horse were called the Anzac Mounted Corps., Chauvel was promoted to Lieutenant General and commanded the Desert Mounted Corps in Palestine and the Sinai Peninsula. In April 1916 the 4th and 12th Regiments of 4th Brigade light horse under Grant took part in their first charge as cavalry. The 31st October 1917 saw the famous charge of 2 LH Brigades at Beersheba.

In March 1915 a spur from Enoggera was taken into the camp and came in “across Samford Road near the creek”. The station was simply called Rifle Range when opened on 16th February 1916 and was only removed sometime in 1984. The remains of the earth platform can still be seen at the start of the 21st Field Squadron sheds in Foott Street ending near the gate at Samford Road. The spur was originally “for the purpose to bring people for rifle range practice” but also brought some wounded to the hospital from Gallipoli Palestine France and Belgium later on.

Sometime in 1916 at Enoggera camp the wounded Diggers had established on a piece of land a concert and a “moving picture theatre” which became known as “White City”. White City was somewhere north of Browns Dip Road possibly near where the Old Gymnasium is. It was sold by auction on 21st January 1919. There is also mention of “another theatre at Thompsons Paddock” {Chermside] in the publication by F Cranston. Browns Dip Road was so called after a QM named Brown at Gallipoli whose store was near the beach. The quality of food issued by the QM was a bit rank and so was found to be a Dip in the lottery. It must have made an impression on those who had to eat the stuff to get a street named after it.

In 1915/16 approx. 1000 acres of more land was acquired by the Army and one portion was Levitt Bros banana Farm who had expressed “concerns about stray bullets”. This was west by north of Taylors Range.

After peace on 11th hour of 11th day of 11th month 1918 some of the AIF did not get home until late 1919. Some of these were unlucky enough to volunteer and got bundled off to fight for White Russia in the revolution. Arthur O'Sullivan of the 10th Battalion won the VC in Russia in 1919. There is evidence of a fellow Australian named Maloney also being involved there.

Gradually the new military camp at Enoggera became known as Fraser's Paddock because of its size. Frasers Road in the 1890's ran in about the same line as Lavarack Parade. To locals Frasers Paddock was regarded as the area above Browns Dip [now Dorrington] end. Les Sellers who lived in Glenalva Terrace all his life from 1920 always knew it as Bells Paddock until he joined AIF in 1940. Local boys Dave Thornton now nearing 90 Merve Melrose of Grovely and

R.A.R. Regimental Sergeant Major Rod Slater who roamed these lands as barefoot boys always knew it as Bell's paddock but not our Military Giants. Bell is graciously remembered just near the Lloyd Street entrance in tiny Bell Place. Fame is such a fleeting thing.

In 1920 the Commonwealth Military Force came into being in a small way as few from the big cities who had served in the war wanted to give up spare time to a "Militia". In the rural areas of the states the response was only slightly better until the mid-1930's. The Depression claimed a few in the Permanent forces but like today there was little money to cater for a standing army. The new training base for the RAAF at Point Cook in Victoria was run on chewing gum and string.

Prior to 3rd September 1939 the pre-war militia 9/49th Battalion were guarding oil terminals magazines wharves Bribie and Moreton Island Coastal Artillery gun emplacements. As the war machine got into gear many of them answered the call to arms. Many of the volunteers when 2/9th Battalion was raised on the 13th November 1939 had been in the 9/49th Battalion and did their yearly training camps at Enoggera. It was the first Second Australian Imperial Force Battalion raised in Queensland at Redbank.

In late November they moved to Rutherford in NSW where 89 of the Vickers platoon, who had served pre-war in the 9/49th CMF Battalion, left to form "C" Company of the 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion.

The 2/9th nominal roll had a total of 4192 names of whom 307 died on active service. Total wounds were 971 many being wounded not once but up to three times. Until 1942 all their reinforcements passed through Gaythorne except for one batch. These trained at Grovely as 8th Divvy Reo's but Singapore fell and most ended up in the 18th Brigade. The 2/9th served under Brigadier Wynter on the Salisbury Plains at Lopcombes Corner in England guarding airstrips like Wollop until the Battle for Britain was considered to have been won. In late December 1940 they were sent to Palestine as General Erwin Rommel with his Afrika Corps had been sent by Hitler to push the British out Egypt. Hitler thought that if this happened the Turks would declare war on Britain. On the 21st March 1941 they captured the fort of Giarabub to the south of the port of Tobruk. Immediately after, they were rushed to Tobruk Cyrenecia [Libya] and spent from the 4th April until 29th August 1941 in the Salient there. Then it was off to Syria to guard the Turkish border in the snow just in case the Turks joined in with Herr Hitler. Back home and regrouping in March 1942 at Kilcoy they arrived in Milne Bay on 14th August in time for the battle for the harbour and the 3 airstrips there. After the Milne Bay show they took part in the battles for Buna Sanananda Cape Endaiadare Shaggy Ridge Papua-N.G. and the landing at Balikpapan in Borneo.

In July 1940 Blamey appointed Brigadier Wynter at his 18th Brigade 6th Division Headquarters at Amesbury Abbey Wiltshire England to command the Ninth Division and promoted him to Major General. He had three reinforcement battalions with him the 70th 71st and 72nd and they were renamed 31 32 and 33 battalions of the 25th Brigade. His other two Brigades were already being formed back in Australia at the same time as the three Brigades of the 8th Division. One of these the 2/25th Battalion was formed at Grovely in July as part of the 23rd Brigade. With the fall of Greece imminent in early 1941 another reorganisation saw the 2/25th replace the 2/32nd in the 25th Brigade and the 2/27th in the 21st Brigade as part of the 7th Division. They went to Syria in 1941. Thus both of these battalions escaped being captured by the Japanese in the Malayan debacle. They were joined after their withdrawal from Tobruk by the 2/9th Battalion of the 18th Brigade who had been in the Salient from the 4th April 1941.

Post war the 65th [Borneo Indonesia areas] 66th [New Guinea area] and 67th [Solomons Bougainville areas] Battalions were raised in the Pacific as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force to go to Japan. Reinforcements were trained at Enoggera and when the Korean War started, they became 1 2 and 3 RAR.

Subsequently all Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment except 4 5 and 7 RAR have served and trained at Enoggera at various times. 1 2 and 3 served in Korea and all had one or two tours in Vietnam. The 9th suffered 35 casualties in battles in Vietnam. 9 RAR had as a mascot a number of sheep all called Corporal John Macarthur [after the father of our merino flock] and acquired the name of "Sam the Ram". In 1990 after having been merged with 8 RAR the 9 disappeared off Battle Order when 8/9 RAR was disbanded. A Major General at that time did not believe in tradition.

In 1990 this area was renamed Gallipoli Barracks to honour those who once trod the area only never to return. Sandstone tablets with the words "Gallipoli" and "Barracks" on them were placed opposite one another at the entrance to Lloyd Street. Like the First War "Diggers" these have now disappeared and the Barracks is once again Enoggera.

You have reason to be proud of these Barracks.