



4 RAR Routine Orders

The routine reports and notices of the 4 RAR Assoc, Qld Inc

ISSUE 2 MAY 2017

The 4th Australian Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force (4 AIB, AIF) was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, it was recruited from New South Wales and together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division.



One of the many new displays at the 4 RAR Museum Annex at the Gold Coast War Museum depicts soldiers of 4 AIB, AIF in the trenches at Gallipoli facing towards "no man's land" in both winter and summer. The combined displays tell the story of the battalion at Gallipoli; their dress, weapons, ammunition, equipment, tools, rations and personal items. What cannot be displayed are the weather conditions, the smells, the knee deep water in winter, the smell of trench foot, the smell of latrines and the multitude of flies and rats in summer; the cold in winter and the heat in summer. What the display does cause us to imagine however, is the bravery, gallantry, determination, professionalism and certainly the hardships and sometimes hopelessness of those soldiers depicted wearing the colour patch of the 4th Battalion, white over green.



The display is the property of the 4 RAR Association, Qld Inc which complemented and assisted the efforts and finances put in by Bob Meehan OAM and Wally Greico, the combined curators.



The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. The commander of the 4th Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel A. J. O. Thompson, was killed the next day. At ANZAC, the battalion took part in the defence of the beachhead and in August, along with the rest of the 1st Brigade, led the charge at Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation of all Australian forces in December, 1915.

Please visit the Gold Coast War Museum which includes the 4 RAR Museum Annex at:

42 John Rogers Rd off the Springbrook Rd, Mudgeraba 4213

Phone (07) 5530 5222