

A.M.Mcintosh

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28/12/77

History of 2/5 AGH

My comments can only cover the Showground pre Embarkation to when I left the Unit just before Greece to go 2/1 CCS.

In general I think th story good but a little dry, and needs more personal anecdotes, also there are some chronological errors. In second para of introduction we must put D.S.O. – M.C after Walter MacCallum.

On page headed 20 April 68 – Was Bill Kay pre-war a full Colonel and ADMS 1Div or a unit Commander and Lt.Co. in one Div? He certainly did not wear a uniform with tabs nor have a Red Hat band until well after formation. (see also Spirit of 2/5 -1- p5.

I can see no reference to John Kingsley being appointed Company Officer nor later Unit Registrar and promoted Major.

In Greta 2 – p12, Maj Powell, went as 2/IC not as CO.2 Anti Tank.

In Showground 1 – p 20 – George Stening was assisted by Cpts C.R.B. Blackburn & A.M. Macintosh. A lot of equipment was obtained from D.H.A.

On p4, p23 you might add after “embarkation went smoothly” – despite extreme heat and humidity. Carrying suit cases and bedrolls over half the length of the ship was very hard on the older officers like Lt.Co. A.C. Thomas, he was very grateful for help given by Maj. R.N.Bettington.

In Bombay 1 – p28 – some reference should be made to the amusing sight of Capt. A.L.Webb in charge of unloading Officer’s & Sister’s baggage from the holds, standing over the slow natives with his swagger stick and some knowledge of the language. (Vern Barling, I think could add to this). Then no reference is made to the fact that most Officers stayed in the Taj Mahal Hotel arriving and eating about midnight.

On the Saturday they were guests at the race meeting at the most beautiful race Track.

In December 2 – p32 – I take issue – we were part of but NEVER Starboard.

Last para p32 – after Nov 21. Nov 21 was the birthday of Keith Myers & Alex Macintosh, and they celebrated well but not wisely. As Macintosh was being put to bed by Bettington, Cutler, Blackburn and others. Maj. Bettington threw a life jacket which struck the OC Troops on his way to investigate as he rounded the corner. No official action was taken!

Kefar Bilu 3 – p40 – I have several photos of the celebrations & groups of ex9 Field Amb & George Stenings CCS if any use.

P40 – Benham’s death would seem to be out of chorological order. It was a net, I think, until after Kingsley became Registrar and Macintosh was back from Sarafand and was Company Officer.

The latter was chairman of the Board of Inquiry into his death.

K’far Bilu 7 – p44 – It should be stated Kingsley to Major and new Registrar. On bottom of the page it says me back – correct – but NOTE this was Jan 13, & Benham didn’t die until Jan 21.

K’far Bilu17 – p54 – Capt Alex Macintosh commanded all AANS personnel at the Funeral at the request of Matrons Fall & Best.

Maj. R.F. Melville was her fiancée and he stayed in Macintosh’s tent for a few days.

K’Far Bilu 27 – p64 – correction A.M. McIntosh, DDMS Eastern Command was a very good friend but NO relation of Capt. A.M. Macintosh.

Exit Alex Macintosh to 2/1 CCS thence to H.Q. 1 Aust Corps & thence 2/5 Fd Amb. As a Coy Commander & later Commanding Officer.

In this capacity he could again enter the story as later in Port Moresby he lent Belisario 300 men to build a protecting fence around Sisters Quarters