



"Last Post" sounded using the Anzac Bugle of the band of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars attended by flag bearers, AFP Sergeants Shane Austin and George Argenti.

Historic bugle sounds at Cyprus dawn service

Anzac Day took on special significance this year for the AFP contingent serving with the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces Australian Civilian Police contingent on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. Derek Gough reports:

ON Sunday 25 April 1993, the Australian Civilian Police Contingent to the United Nations Force in Cyprus conducted the traditional celebration of Anzac Day with a dawn service at Wayne's Keep Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery which is located within the United Nations Protected Area in Nicosia.

For the dawn service the cemetery was guarded by two gate sentinels

Police Sergeants Peter Murphy and Simon Hicks while Police Sergeants Shane Austin and George Argenti were the Australian and New Zealand flag bearers flanking the cenotaph. The headlights of two United Nations patrol vehicles spotlighted the simple cross adding a final touch which in total presented a ceremonial vista of solemn dignity.

The landings of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps at Gallipoli in 1915 were part of a bold plan to open a second front during WWI but it resulted in dismal failure at a huge cost to Anzac, French and British troops. However, for Australia it was neither a victory nor a defeat but the baptism of a young nation through the horrors of war.

The celebration of Anzac Day each

year is in memory of those soldiers who landed on that foreign shore so many years ago and in continuing memory of those thousands of other Australians since, who have laid down their lives in the service of their country.

The day is also a celebration by Australians of that special bond that exists between mates who have served their country together on foreign fields.

This year the Anzac Day dawn service in Cyprus was particularly poignant, due largely to the fact that by contrivance and happy coincidence, the Anzac Bugle of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars (4RIH) was 'in-country'.

The QRIH Regimental Band was on tour from the regiment's base in Germany and with the kind permission of the commanding officer, Lieutenant

Colonel Bellamy and the skill of their bugler: Corporal Paul Thomas, the original Anzac Bugle sounded the *last post* and *reveille* during the service.

The Anzac Bugle had been presented to the QRIH by the Australian Light Horse in 1959. It bears two inscriptions, the first being:

"Presented to 2nd Light Horse Regiment, Australian Imperial Forces (Queensland) by Catriona, Donald, Sheila and Desmond Cameron (Ipswich) August 1914 PRO REGE ET PATRIA"

The Light Horse took the bugle to WWI where it first sounded men to arms at Gallipoli. It was used for each battle cry of the regiment thereafter and was played during the conduct of Anzac burial services.

In 1959 the 2nd Light Horse Regiment was amalgamated and their regimental bugle was presented to The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars (an affiliated regiment), apparently in appreciation of the fact that they had fought alongside Australian troops during numerous campaigns from the time of the Boer War.

The QRIH were formed in 1958 by the amalgamation of two distinguished British Cavalry regiments, the 4th Queen's Own Hussars raised in 1685 and the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars raised in 1693. Both regiments had colourful histories including among many historic events, their charge against the Russian guns at Balaklava - the charge of the Light Brigade. They were also original members of the 'Desert Rats', a name given by Montgomery to his 8th Army during the allied campaign in North Africa during WWII.

In more recent times the regiment played a vital role as a key armoured unit in the 1991 Gulf War. In 1896 their most famous member joined the regiment, a young lieutenant by the name of Winston Churchill. In 1939 he was appointed their honorary colonel and remained so until his death.

The 8th Hussars first served alongside Australian troops in the Boer War in South Africa and subsequently in France (1914-1918), North Africa (1940-1942) and Korea (1950-1951).

The 4th Hussars likewise served with Australians in France and North Africa as well as in Greece (1941) and Malaya (1948-1951). The 4th Hussars

also served with the 2nd New Zealand Division in Italy during 1944-1945. Following the amalgamation of the 4th and 8th Hussars, the newly formed QRIH fought alongside Australian troops in Brunei and Sarawak during 1962-1964.

The 2/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry Regiment, ARES (2/14 QMI), are affiliated to The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars (QRIH) to this day.

The dawn service was attended by 30 Australians and more than 100 guests including the acting Australian High Commissioner, Mr Peter Edwards and his wife Anne, the United States representative Ambassador Lamb and the UN Force Commander in Cyprus Major General Minehane. Music was provided by the full band of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars under the baton of WO1 David Cresswell.

I was privileged during the wreath laying ceremony to perform the recital of "The Anzac Story", and a special touch was added as the regimental piper of the Canadian Royal Horse Artillery, Master Gunnery Sergeant Colin Norris played a piper's dirge while he meandered ghostlike between the headstones in the early morning mist.

Wreaths, beautifully prepared by Police Sergeant Sharon McTavish, were laid by Police Commander Harry Bryant, Mr Edwards and General Minehane in memory of all Australian and New Zealand servicemen and servicewomen who made the supreme sacrifice for their country.

Police Sergeants Serge Aquilante, Bob Corrigan, Mal Holst and Doug Child laid wreaths on the graves of the four Anzacs who are buried at the cemetery and the Greek Veterans Association also laid a wreath in memory of Anzacs who lost their lives during the tragic campaign in Greece.

Following the dawn service the contingent welcomed the guests to a 'gunfire breakfast' at the HQ UNFICYP Officers' Mess where the traditional servings of Bundaberg Rum, coffee, billy stew and Anzac biscuits helped to take away the early morning chill.

During the afternoon, members of the Australian police contingent entertained more than 200 guests at their mess for refreshments. Along with traditional Anzac Day activities, raffles were held for Akubra and slouch hats which are very popular in Cyprus among all nationalities.

In the evening a 'flag parade' was held at HQ AUSTCIVPOL and more than 100 servicemen and women plus the Australian police contingent assembled in 'mufti' for the ceremony. The 'parade' was fallen-in on the right markers, Commander Harry Bryant and Superintendent Ken Hunt before being dressed and inspected by 'RSM' Mal Holst. Police Sergeant Serge Aquilante then recited an emotional rendition of Banjo Patterson's *Clancy of the Overflow* followed by the lowering of the Australian flag and the recital of *Binyons Lines* to the accompaniment of the bagpipes.

It was a fitting end to a magical day.



The UN Australian Civilian Police contingent in Cyprus together with three Australian servicemen attached to the British Army.