

VICTORIAN



BRANCH

THE RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE

SERVING STILL

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Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
State President: B. C. RUXTON O.B.E.
State Secretary: PETER VENN M.B.E.
Address all mail to the Secretary

Ref: AD85/AS

15 January, 1985

Commander, 3rd Division

Commander, 3rd Military District

✓ Officer Commanding 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles

Honorary Secretary, 2/8th Armoured Regiment Association

Honorary Secretary, 13th Armoured Regiment Association

Honorary Secretary, 20th Pioneer Battalion Association

Mr J.A. Maynes, late 8th Australian Light Horse Regiment

Rowan Cost

Dear Major Docking

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION MARCH 1985: PARTICIPATION OF THE VICTORIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

The Committee for the 150th Anniversary of Victoria has suggested to the Returned Services League that the contribution of the military forces to the development of Victoria be recognized during the Anzac Day commemoration ceremonies.

While locally raised Army units have existed in the colony since 1854, these were largely Volunteer Corps of Cavalry, Artillery, Infantry and Rangers. The first unit with some sort of a regimental organisation, and with detachments throughout the whole of the then settled parts of the State was the Victorian Mounted Rifles, raised on 1 May, 1885.

The near coincidence of the Centenary of the Victorian Mounted Rifles and Anzac Day 1985 has led to the development of a plan to carry out the wish of the 150th Anniversary Committee, while recognising the 100th Anniversary of the Victorian Mounted Rifles.

The Victorian Mounted Rifles exist nowadays as an Army Reserve unit, 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles (8/13 VMR) located in North East Victoria and Albury, New South Wales. The unit nurtures the traditions of three Light Horse Regiments which were formed from detachments of the VMR in the decade following Federation. It safeguards the Guidons of those Regiments, on which are /2.

"The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance"

emblazoned the Battle Honours of the units and their successors in World War 2.
The units embodied in 8/13 VMR are:-

- . 8th Light Horse Regiment (Indi Light Horse)
2/8th Armoured Regiment (WW2)
- . 13th Light Horse Regiment (Gippsland Light Horse)
13th Armoured Regiment (WW2)
- . 20th Light Horse Regiment (Victorian Mounted Rifles)
20th Pioneer Battalion (WW2)

The plan is for all present and former members of VMR to participate in the Anzac Day March as a group, marching behind the 3rd Military District Band in the following order:-

- . Leader (a distinguished Light Horseman or Cavalryman to be invited)
- . WW1 veterans of 8 ALH and 13 ALH in Jeeps provided by the Victorian Military Vehicle Corps
- . 2/8 Armd Regt Association behind its banner
- . 13 Armd Regt Association behind its banner
- . 20 Pnr Bn Association behind its banner
- . 8/13 VMR, including the Horsed Troop, escorting the Regimental Guidons of 8 LH Regt, 13 LH Regt and 20 LH Regt

On arrival at the Shrine of Remembrance it is hoped that the Gidons will be displayed, under close escort, on the Northern steps, together with the Regimental Guidons, Colours and Standards of other Army units, and the Navy and Air Force.

The approval of all addressees is necessary to enable detailed planning to proceed and I am hopeful that you will be able to advise your approval before 1 February, 1985.

Yours faithfully,

Keith Rossi

K.V. Rossi, Brigadier

Chief Marshal Anzac Day Ceremonies.