

COL. ERNEST WALTER WEATE, ED, OBE.

20-8-1912 - 10-11-1983.

A BRIGHTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL STUDENT.

Ernest was born in Durrant Street, Brighton, Victoria, on the 20th. August, 1912 to Ernest Walter Weate, Printer, and his wife Mabel Sarah Weate, née Lush.

On page 2 of the 1926 Brighton Technical School Magazine "Sea Spray", it is recorded in the 1925 Honor List that Ernest Weate was awarded a School Council Scholarship. In the 1928 "Sea Spray", page 3, the 1926 Honor List records that Ernest Weate was awarded a Junior Technical Certificate, Pass Credit. Also in the 1928 "Sea Spray", page 3, the 1927 Honor List records that Ernest Weate was awarded a Senior Technical Scholarship – Engineering, (Evening), Page 4 of the 1928 "Sea Spray" records that Ernest Weate was awarded an Intermediate Technical Certificate, Pass.

The school record of Ernest Walter Weate, as recorded in the "Sea Spray" Magazine, indicates that he was a very intelligent and capable person who had the capacity to achieve impressive results in adult life.

Ernest did not take up the offer of a Senior Technical Scholarship to study Engineering in the Evenings. Instead, he enlisted in the Australian Militia Forces. His "Officer's Record of Service" records details of his early years "In the Ranks" in the Military Forces. He joined the 46th. Battalion on the 20th. August, 1930 – his 18th. birthday. His home address was 76 Durrant Street, Brighton, S5, and his former occupation was Law Clerk.

It would appear that Ernest Weate had chosen a career to which his mental and physical attributes were aligned. So began a steady rise through the Military ranks from Private in 1930 to Lieutenant Colonel when he retired in 1962. Upon retirement he was placed on the Retired List with the military title of Colonel.

Pages 135, 159, 169, 173, 175, 177, 180, 185, 188, 191, 196, 197. Officer's Record of Service. National Archives of Australia.



CAPTAIN ERNEST WALTER WEATE.

2/6th. Battalion 17 Infantry Brigade.

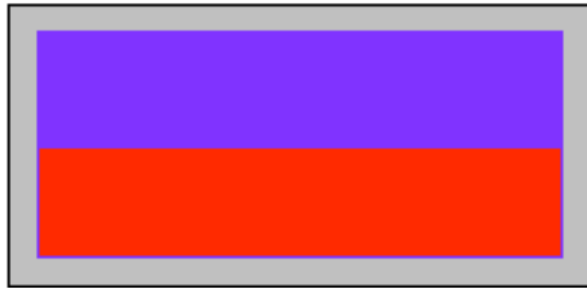
26th. October, 1939.

(Pages 159, 160. Officer's Record of Service. National Archives of Australia.)

Extracts from his extensive Record of Service are as follows :
 (Pages 175, 177, 221. Officer's Record of Service. National Archives of Australia.)

46th. Battalion – 3 Years.

Pte.	20 – 8 – 1930	1 – 12 – 1930.
Cple.	2 – 12 – 1930	24 – 12 – 1931.
L/Sgt.	25 – 12 – 1931	30 – 10 – 1932.
Sgt.	1 – 11 – 1932	18 – 9 – 1933.
Lieut. (on Prob.) 46 Battalion		10 – 9 – 1933.
Prob. Appointment confirmed.		
To be Capt.		6 – 1 – 1939.
Appointed Militia Adjt. 46 Battalion		1 – 10 – 1939.
Appointed Capt. 2/6 Battalion 6 Div.		13 – 10 – 1939.



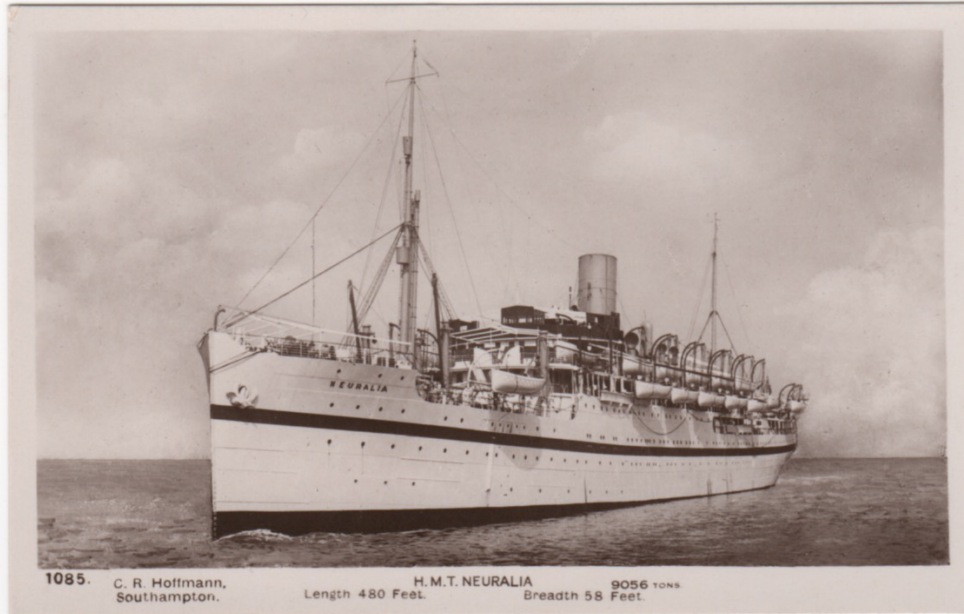
Unit Colour Patch of the 2/6th. Battalion,
 Australian Army, World War II.

Appointed Adjt. 2/6 Battalion 6 Div.	13 – 10 – 1939.
Relinquished appt. as Militia Adjt. 46 Battalion.	12 – 10 – 1939.
Appt. Major (T) Inf. A.I.F. and to remain seconded.	1 – 4 – 1941.
Appt. Major (T) Inf. A.I.F. and to remain Seconded in lieu of Notice in C.G. 131/41.	23 – 2 – 1941.
Relinquish (T) rank of Major.	23 – 10 – 1941.
T/Major	18 – 1 – 1942.
Major.	26 – 3 – 1942.
Lt. Colonel (Temp.).	28 – 8 – 1942.
Lt. Colonel.	1 – 9 – 1942.

Officer's Record of Service.

Pages 178, 179, 180, 181, 183. Officer's Record of Service. National Archives of Australia.

2/6 Battalion. Taken on Strength, Melbourne. 25 – 10 – 1939.
 To Puckapunyal 3 – 11 – 1939.



HMT NEURALIA.

THE VOYAGE TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

“On 11 April, (1940), General Blamey reviewed the whole Brigade at Puckapunyal. On 13 April embarkation cards were issued to all ranks. On 14 April, after Reveille at 4.30 a.m., the Battalion entrained at Seymour at 9.45 a.m., for Port Melbourne. Here they embarked on the transport *Neuralia*, a regular British trooper. Major Wood recorded in his diary that the behavior of the troops was excellent.

As for the *Neuralia*, there was according to Major Wood ‘a good area for us – bad for the troops’. According to Corporal John Loes of the Pioneer Platoon : ‘The tale went around the ship that she had been used as a horse boat. It should still have been in that trade ... A lot of the troops hadn’t been to sea before, and they were sick ... the cleaning up ... Old Sergeant Major Hilditch and I carted tubs of the stuff up from the bottom deck where HQ Company were. Anyway we eventually got it cleaned up and it smelt a bit better.”

Reference : “Nothing Over Us – The Story of The 2/6th. Australian Infantry Battalion”.
By Sir David Hay, CBE, DSO, MBE (Mil.). Page 27.
Published by the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT. 1984.

Overseas.

Disembarked at Kantara. Palestine. 18 – 5 – 1940.

Evacuated to 1 A.G.H. Gaza Ridge, (Tonsillitis) 23 – 5 – 1940.

Rejoin unit from 1 A.G.H. Gaza Ridge. 9 – 6 – 1940.

Qualified at Middle East Staff College, Haifa. 4 – 11 – 1940 to

22 – 2 – 1941.

Allotted for duty from 2/6 Battalion. 23 – 2 – 1941.

Embarked in Middle East 10 – 3 – 1942. Disembarked in Ceylon

24 – 3 – 1942.

Det. for duty to HQ A.I.F. Ceylon 26 – 3 – 1942.

Embarked Ceylon 12 – 7 – 1942. Disembarked Vic. 4 – 8 – 1942.

Australia ex SS Athlone Castle.

To be Lieut/Colonel Temporary remains seconded 23 – 8 – 1942.

Appointed A.A.G. Admin. A G's branch 28 – 1 – 1943.

Ceases to be rationed and quartered at LHQ Officers' Mess,

Greycourt. 10 – 6 – 1944.

Emplaned Amberley (Aust.) 14 – 6 – 1944.

Deplaned U.S.A. West Coast. 15 – 6 – 1944.

Emplaned U.S.A. East Coast. 23 – 6 – 1944.

Deplaned U.K. 23 – 6 – 1944.

Appointed A/AA and Q.M.G. during temp. absence of TX2045

Lt. Colonel Crisp M.P. 24 – 7 – 1944.

Relinquish apt. as A/AA and Q.M.G. 27 - 8 – 1944.

Re-allotted for duty with A.I.F. Reception Group U.K. as A.A. and

Q.M.G. and remains seconded 4 – 1 – 1945.

2/6 Aust. Inf. Battalion. Is appointed A.A. and Q.M.G. Staff of C.C.M.S.

31 – 3 – 1945.

AMF. From A.A. and A.Q.M.G. Staff of C.C.M.S. is appointed A.Q.M.G.

(QRTNG Sub Br. Adm. Service Control Br. Control Element of H.Q. O.K.H.

Control Commission for Germany. (B.E.). 24 – 5 – 1945.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY STAFF U.K.

Attached from L.H.Q. M/out to Control Commission for Germany (B.E.).

24 – 5 – 1945.

Re-allotted for duty with L.H.Q. "A" Branch A.A.G. from A.A. and Q.M.G.

and remains seconded.

M/O to Aust. Army Staff U.K. 24 – 5 – 1945.

Ceases to be seconded in and is transferred from 2/6 Aust. Inf. Battalion to

Gen. List and retains his posting A.Q.M.G. Qrtg. Sub. Branch Admin. Service

Control Branch, Central Element H.Q. O.K.H. Army Div. Control Commission

for Germany (B.E.). 1 – 4 – 1946.

Awarded Efficiency Decoration (E.D.). U.K. 14-11-1946.

(E.D. The Australian Efficiency Decoration).



Germany

World War II. Zones of Occupation 1946.

The German Instrument of Surrender ended World War II in Europe. The definitive text was signed in Karlshorst, Berlin, on the night of 8 May, 1945, by representatives of the three armed services of the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (OKW) and the Allied Expeditionary Force together with the Supreme High Command of the Red Army, with further French and US representatives signing as witnesses. The signing took place 9 May, 1945, at 00:16 local time. (Wikipedia).

The British Occupation Zone can be seen in the north-west corner of the map.
Dusseldorf is in the south-west area of the British Occupation Zone.

On the 31st. Day of May, 1947, Lt.-Col. Ernest Walter Weate, VX.73, Australian Army Staff (U.K.), signed a release in favour of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia, from all claims and causes of action arising out of his discharge in the United Kingdom, in lieu of returning to Australia to effect the discharge.

Appointment terminated in the U.K. 31 – 5 – 1947.

Active service in Australia 676 days, and O/S 1928 days.

Page 161, 163. Officer's Record of Service. National Archives of Australia.

AUTHOR'S NOTE :

In early 2018 I first became aware that Ernest Walter Weate, (the husband of my friend, Betty Weate), studied at Brighton Technical School between the years 1925 and 1928. I applied to the National Archives of Australia for a copy of Colonel Ernest Walter Weate's World War II Officer's Service Record. After several months, a copy of the record was electronically forwarded to me. Even though the 258 pages of the record contain detailed information about Ernest Weate's wartime postings, and some personal information, there is very little relating to his day-to-day activities, especially during his posting to Germany. In 1945 Earnest Walter Weate was seconded by the British High Commission in the United Kingdom, and posted to Germany.

Members of Ernest's family have recounted some of his responsibilities in Germany at the end of World War II. His primary role was to ensure that Australian Military personnel, and others, who had been prisoners of war during hostilities, received vital medical and psychological treatment to aid their recovery from their wartime incarceration. Also, to ensure their safe repatriation to their families in their home countries.

Not only was the monitoring of the food intake of former prisoners a crucial element of their recovery, some had to face traumatic experiences when told their wives had remarried during their time in the prison camps, believing them to be dead. Former prisoners, some of whom were 'skin and bone', had to be monitored for sexually transmitted diseases, and discouraged from freely fraternizing with the *fräul'eins* and *fraus* upon their release from the prisons.

Ernest was involved in another significant activity – he was required to liaise with the leaders of German industry to ensure the wheels of commerce started to turn once more to generate work and employment for the German people. Thousands of whom were starving and homeless. Even the occupation forces were rationed to 4 ounces of meat a week.

While serving in Dusseldorf, Germany, Ernest met an attractive, vivacious member of the British Field Ambulance Service, namely, Ethel Bradwell Perkins, known as Betty. They met at the Park Hotel, Dusseldorf, where Betty was on duty in the Officers' Mess. Betty's involvement in catering was exacting, as extreme care had to be taken to ensure that the German staff who worked in the Mess were treated fairly, to minimize any animosity which could lead to misappropriation or tampering with the food supplies.

Occupation personnel and German staff all received the same amount of meat each week – 4 ounces per person. During this period, some Allied Officers went in search of alternative food sources - pheasants, partridges and pigs, which were not up to expectation when cooked and served. Fishing in the Rhine River was not an option due to the large number of undetonated mines still in the water.

Upon the termination of his service in Germany, Ernest returned to England where his contact address was recorded as C/o Mr. T. J. Perkins, 17 Durban Road, Margate, Kent, England - Betty's home address. Ernest applied for, and was granted, permission to be discharged from the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia in England, rather than return to Australia for discharge. Ernest and Betty were married in England on the 20th. August, 1947 and returned to Australia at a later date.

It would appear that civilian life in Australia was not up to Ernest's expectations so, on the 22nd. March, 1951, Ernest Walter Weate, aged 38 years and 7 months signed an Attestation Form at the time of enlisting in the Australian Interim Army, having previously been Demobilized in England in 1947. His highest Educational Qualification was recorded as "Matriculation" and previous occupation was "Civil Servant, Foreign Office".

Extracts from Ernest's Record of Service, post 1951.

Pages 211, 212. Officer's Record of Service. National Archives of Australia.

Appointed from the R of O to the Interim Army in the rank of Major (H/Lt.Col.)
22 – 3 – 1951.

Commenced full duties of (LT – COL). 2 – 4 – 1951.

To be Major (Aust. Staff Corps). No. 3/37660. 1 – 5 – 1951.

To 3 Cadet Brigade. 11 – 6 – 1951.

Transferred to A.H.Q. from H.Q. 3 Cadet Brigade. 8 – 6 – 1953.

Commenced to perform the full duties of D/Qtg. (Col.) Q.M.G.
24 – 12 – 1956.

Ceased to perform the full duties of D/Qtg. (Col.) Q.M.G. Branch
18 – 1 – 1957.

O.B.E. Order of the British Empire. Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Ernest Weate,
E.D. 12 – 6 – 1958.

Attended Lectures in "The Elements of Government" at University of
Melbourne. 1957.

Commenced to perform full duties of D/Qtg. (Col.) (Q.M.G. Branch).
26 – 11 – 1958.

Ceased to perform full duties of D/QTG (Col.). 5 – 1 – 1959.

Furlough. Granted 3 months from 20 May, 1962 to 19 August, 1962.

School. 3/62. Attended Management and Work Study Course at RAAOC
school. 31 – 1 – 1962 to 9 – 3 – 1962.

Terminated S Comd. age for retirement. 20 August, 1962.
Placed upon RL (S Comd.) granted Military title of Colonel with permission to wear the prescribed uniform. 21 August, 1962.



Colonel Ernest Walter Weate ED, OBE.

20-8-1912 - 10-11-1983.



V301

**Certificate of Termination of Appointment
of an Officer**

This is to Certify

that the appointment of

Army No. 337660 Rank Lt Col Initials E.W. Surname WEATE
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

has been authorized to terminate and take effect from 20 Aug 62

Authority:— HQ S COMD 8188 Dated 30 Mar 62

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICER ON TERMINATION			
Height	<u>5</u> ft <u>6 3/4</u> in	Hair	<u>Brown</u>
		Colour of Eyes	<u>Blue</u>
Complexion	<u>Fresh</u>	Marks or Scars	<u>Nil.</u>
Specimen Signature		<u>E.W. Weate</u>	

SOUTHERN COMMAND Personnel Depo. [Signature] Commanding [Signature] Date

B
C
Acdy 27/8
B 30 AUG 1962

Address on termination:—
10 Tuxen Court
MOORABBIN. Vic.

[Handwritten notes]
MORABBIN
VIC
27 SEP 1962

This is to Certify that the appointment of Army No. 337660. Lt. Col. E. W. Weate has been authorized to terminate and take effect from 20 Aug. 1962.

Description of Officer on Termination.

Height 5ft 6 3/4 in. Hair Brown. Colour of Eyes Blue.
Complexion Fresh. Marks or Scars Nil.
Specimen Signature : E. W. Weate.

Authority : - HQ Southern Command 8188 Dated 30 Mar. 1962.
Placed upon RL (S Comd.) granted military title of Colonel with permission to wear the prescribed uniform.
Pages 230, 212. Officer's Record of Service. National Archives of Australia.

RECOMMENDATION FOR HONOURS OR AWARDS.

Army Number 3/37660. Rank LIEUTENANT-COLONEL.
Names ERNEST WALTER WEATE. Decorations E.D.
Unit and Posting. AUST STAFF CORPS. AQMG AHQ.
Date of Enlistment. CMF 20.8.30. ARA 22.3.51.

CITATION (to be completed by the initiating officer).

Place MELBOURNE. Date 29 JANUARY, 1958.

Lieutenant-Colonel Weate enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces in 1930, and was appointed to commissioned rank in 1933. As a Citizen Forces Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Weate served in administration appointments until his appointment to the Australian Imperial Forces late in 1939.

Lieutenant-Colonel Weate served in the Middle East with the Australian Imperial Forces, and on his return to Australia was appointed Assistant Adjutant-General at Land Headquarters. During the period of this appointment his enthusiasm and drive greatly inspired his subordinates.

In 1944 Lieutenant-Colonel Weate was selected for special duty as Liaison Officer with the United Kingdom Reception Group for released Prisoners of War from Europe. The successful establishment of this unit and the high standard of efficiency which it attained in its operations, both in England and the Continent, were due largely to the outstanding administrative ability of this officer. He was transferred to the Reserve of Officers in 1947, and in 1951 appointed to the Regular Army. In succession, as an Australian Regular Officer, he has held the appointment of Staff Officer Cadets and Commander 3 Cadet Brigade, and Assistant Quartermaster-General (Quartermastering) at Army Headquarters. In this latter appointment he has shown the same zeal and ability which distinguished him as an outstanding administrative officer when serving in the Australian Imperial Forces.

By his zeal, loyalty, and capable handling of the onerous duties associated with Quartermastering, he has contributed greatly to the successful functioning of the Directorate to which he is attached.

Recommended for the award of the OBE.
(Sgd.) R. E. Wade.
Major-General,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL.
29 FEB. 1958.

*(OBE - Military Division of The Most Excellent Order
of The British Empire).*



HONOURS AND AWARDS

12TH JUNE, 1958

APPOINTED AN OFFICER OF THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE
MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ERNEST WALTER WEATE, E.D.

C I T A T I O N

Lieutenant-Colonel Weate enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces in 1930 and was commissioned in 1933.

He served in the Middle-East with the A.I.F. and on his return to Australia, was appointed Assistant Adjutant-General at Land Headquarters.

In 1944, Lieutenant-Colonel Weate was selected for special duty as Liaison Officer with the United Kingdom Reception Group for released Prisoners of War from Europe. The high standard of efficiency the Group attained in its operations was due largely to the outstanding administrative ability of this officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Weate was transferred to the Reserve of Officers in 1947 and in 1951 appointed to the Regular Army. He has since held appointment as Staff Officer Cadets and Commander 3 Cadet Brigade and Assistant Quartermaster-General (Quartering) at Army Headquarters.

By his zeal, loyalty and capable handling of the duties associated with Quartering, Lieutenant-Colonel Weate has contributed greatly to the successful functioning of the Directorate.

Citation : Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest Walter Weate, E.D., Appointed an Officer of The Military Division of The Most Excellent Order of The British Empire. 12 June, 1958.

Courtesy of the Weate Family.



Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) Military Division

SKU: MED/023MIN

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MANUFACTURING COMPANY



UNDERTAKING TO PRESERVE OFFICIAL SECRETS.

(1) I, 3/37660, Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Walter Weate a member of the Australian Military Forces AQMG (Quartering), hereby undertake to safeguard all official information acquired by me in any way whatsoever in or from the Australian Military Forces, and undertake that I will not publish or communicate the same to any other person in any form whatsoever, except in the course of my official duties, whether during or after my services in or with the Australian Military Forces, unless specifically directed to do so by the Chief of the General Staff.

(2) I am fully aware that any act, omission or neglect on my part, which results or could result in an unauthorised person obtaining such information, may render me liable to disciplinary action.

(3) My attention has been directed to the provisions of the Commonwealth Crimes Act and the Defence Act relating to breaches of official secrecy and I understand that a person convicted of an offence against these Acts is liable to imprisonment up to seven years.

(Signature) E. W. WEATE

Page 242. Officer's Record of Service. National Archives of Australia.

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AUTHOR'S NOTE :

Members of Ernest Walter Weate's family can attest he faithfully complied with the requirements of the Commonwealth Crimes Act and the Defence Act. The knowledge they have of Ernest's activities whilst serving in the Australian Imperial Force, and while on secondment to the British High Commission, is the result of conversations with third parties. Also, it must be remembered that Ernest's wife also served in Germany at the end of World War II, and was aware of conditions there and some of Ernest's activities.

On the mantelpiece at the home of Ernest's daughter, there is an urn which was presented to Ernest at the end of World War II. Purportedly, the urn contains the ashes of Ernest's World War II Service Records. Presumably, the detailed records of his duties during his time in Germany at the end of World War II, and not a copy of his Officer's Service Records that were forwarded to me. The Service Records which I have do not contain any personal details of Ernest's day-to-day activities during the war.

APPLICATION FOR : FEMALE RELATIVE'S BADGE.

On 12 March, 1941, Mabel Sarah Weate, of 76 Durrant Street, Brighton, S5, made a claim to 3rd. District Records for Female Relative's Badges relevant to her two sons who had enlistment in World War II, namely -

VX 73 Captain Ernest Walter Weate who was serving in the 2/6 Unit, and

VX 4512 Sergeant Percy George Weate who was serving in the 2/6 Unit.

On 11 June, 1941, the two badges, together with 2 Stars, were duly forwarded by Registered Post to Mrs. Mabel Sarah Weate at 76 Durrant Street, Brighton, S5.

Ernest Walter Weate, born 20th. August, 1912, enlisted in the 46th. Battalion on the 20th. August, 1930, for the term of three years.

Percy George Weate, born 10th. August, 1914, enlisted in the 46th. Battalion on the 5th. September, 1932, for the term of three years.

It has not been confirmed that Percy George Weate was a student at Brighton Technical School.

Pages 165, 175. Officer's Record of Service. National Archives of Australia.
Attestation Form of Percy George Weate, World War II. National Archives of Australia.

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FURTHER READING :

The book "Nothing Over Us" The story of The 2/6th. Australian Infantry Battalion (WWII), by Sir David Hay, CBE, DSO, MBE (Mil.), and published by the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, in 1984, carries several references to the military career of Ernest Walter Weate.

PREFACE. PAGE ix.

"This book has been written to record the story of the 2/6th. Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF, from its formation in October, 1939, to its disbandment in January, 1946."

PAGE 1.

"The Battalion is formed. On 25 October, 1939, at 5 p.m., Lieut-Colonel A.H.L. Godfrey, MC, ED, Commanding Officer, Captain E.W. Weate, Adjutant, and Captain A.K. Browne, Quartermaster, marched in and established Battalion headquarters in the Commonwealth Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Building in the Showgrounds, Melbourne."

PAGE 2.

"We joined after we were told that Godfrey was going to be the commander. He got us all together and asked how many would join his new battalion. A good number did join. Godfrey was also able to draw on officers from other units such as the 46th. Battalion (Brighton Rifles), the 14th. Battalion (headquarters in Prahran), and the 29th. Battalion which had its headquarters in Fitzroy and two outlying companies, one at Leongatha and one at Korumburra."

(Previously, Ernest Walter Weate had joined the 46th. Battalion (Brighton Rifles) in 1930, and his brother, Percy George Weate had joined the 46th. Battalion (Brighton Rifles) in 1932).

PAGE 4.

"Among the city recruits was Bob Jackson who had been in the 46th. Battalion for some ten years and had become the Orderly Room Sergeant. Since his Adjutant there was Ernie Weate it was natural that he should follow Ernie to the 2/6th. where he became our first Orderly Room Sergeant."

PAGES 63 and 64.

"FIRST CAMPAIGN – WESTERN DESERT.

(December 1940 to March 1941).

Just before the Battalion left for the Desert, Major Hugh Wrigley had been appointed to command the 2/5th. Battalion. His place as 2i/c was taken by Major Wood; he in turn was replaced as OC A Company by Captain Lex Dean, the original 2i/c who had sailed with the Advance Party. Captain Ernie Weate had been transferred to AIF Headquarters and his place as Adjutant had been taken by Captain Keith Picken."

PAGES 497 and 499.

"Embarkation Roll – Original Battalion.

(Main Body – Departed HMT *Neuralia* – 14 April, 1940).

Battalion Headquarters.

VX 25 A.H.L. Godfrey MC, ED.

VX 73 E.W. Weate.

VX 171 H. Wrigley MC. Etc. etc.

Headquarters Company.

VX 4511 J. A. Watts.

VX 4512 P.G. Weate.

VX 4516 A. Allan. Etc. etc.

PAGES 533 and 567.

Nominal Roll – Full Battalion.

VX 73 E.W. Weate.

VX 4512 P.G. Weate."

PAGES 27 and 28.

"As for the *Neuralia*, there was according to Major Wood 'a good area for us – bad for the troops'. According to Corporal John Loes of the Pioneer Platoon :

The tale went around the ship that she had been used as a horse boat. It should still have been in that trade ... A lot of the troops hadn't been to sea before, and they were sick ... The cleaning up ... Old Sergeant Major Hilditch and I carted tubs of the stuff up from the bottom deck where HQ Company were. Anyway we eventually got it cleaned up and it smelt a bit better. I was a corporal at the time, so you got allotted a table and were responsible for it ... The first night out they gave us some beer tickets, and one of the gentlemen recruits – I think he might have come from Fitzroy – there were three of them in fact, they pinched the beer tickets ... of course there was a bit of an argument over that. They didn't get any more beer tickets for a week – I'll give you that in.

Private Bob Fox, of D Company, was also on the bottom deck :

When we left many of us were violently ill ... We lay on the scuppers up on deck and the Lascars, who were the crew, just hosed us down with their two inch water hoses next morning, and we used to slide around on the deck ... we didn't have enough strength to get out of the road.”

RETIREMENT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

As recorded in his “Certificate of Termination of Appointment of an Officer”, Ernest Walter Weate, retired from the Army on the 20th. August, 1962. Soon after he took up residence in a most attractive double-storey house close to the “Golden Mile” in Brighton, Victoria. It was at this house in 1982, that I first met Ernest during a visit there to see my friend, Betty Weate - Ernest's wife.

Ernest Walter Weate, Retired Colonel and Confidential Secretary, aged 71 years, died on the 10th. November, 1983 at Heidelberg West – the Repatriation General Hospital. He had suffered from Chronic obstructive airways disease for 10 years. Metastatic carcinoma prostate – 1 year. Ernest's body was cremated at Springvale Crematorium on the 14th. November, 1983.

The valour and dedication to duty shown by Ernest Walter Weate during his thirty-plus years in the Australian Military Forces is a record of which his school colleagues, and others, can be proud. The name “Ern Weate” appears in the “Roll of Honour” on page 42 of the 1945 Brighton Technical School “Sea Spray” Magazine. Ernest was a quiet achiever who can be remembered with great pride.

REFERENCES :

National Archives of Australia : B2458, 337660. Officer's Record of Service.
WEATE, Ernest Walter.

National Archives of Australia : B4747, 182949. WEATE, Percy George.

"Nothing Over Us". The Story of The 2/6th. Australian Infantry Battalion.
Author : Sir David Hay, CBE, DSO, MBE (Mil).
Published by the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. ACT. 1984.

"Sea Spray" the Magazine of Brighton Technical School. 1926, 1928, 1945.

Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria.
Birth Certificate of Ernest Walter Weate, 20 August, 1912.
Death Certificate of Ernest Walter Weate, 10 November, 1983.

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I wish to express my gratitude to members of Ernest Weate's family for their support and interest in this project to record the experiences of Ernest Walter Weate during his years at Brighton Technical School, and in the Australian Military Forces.

Researched by : Shirley Joy, née Parsons.
November, 2018.