

## BRIG. MAXWELL'S ADDRESS AT YOUNG

### Unveiling Plaque in Honor of Colonel Anderson

Prior to unveiling the plaque at "Anderson Park," Young, in honor of Lieut-Col. Charles Anderson, V.C., M.C., Brigadier Duncan Maxwell, M.C., formerly of Cootamundra, said:

I have attended no function since World War II with more pleasure, and am deeply appreciative of the honor that is paid me in being asked to unveil a tablet to Lt.-Col. Charles Anderson, V.C., M.C. Pleasure comes from the fact that not only did we serve together in the 56th Militia Battalion and the 2/19 Bn., A.I.F., but that he was and is one of my greatest personal friends. At the formation of the 2/19 Bn., General Sturdee, who then commanded the 8th Aust. Division, gave him and me the right of selection of every one of our officers, and agreed to our request that 2/19 Bn. should be enrolled from the Riverina. After about six months training in Walgrove, Ingleburn and Bathurst-camps the 22nd Bde. group of which the 2/19 Battalion was a part, embarked on the Queen Mary for Malaya.

There it was soon found that we had to adapt our training methods to suit local conditions, and learn how to move troops, feed them and fight them in jungles, rubber, and among rice fields.

During that training the experience of Col. Anderson in German East Africa during the 1914-18 war was invaluable to us in Malaya. A year later when we met the Japanese, I think we can honestly say with pride that no troops in Malaya were better fitted to fulfil their role than the members of the original 8th Australian Division. Some of you may have read recently extracts from the report of the Malayan Commander; do not be misled. I served 7 months on Gallipoli and 2 years in France, but in neither of those theatres of war, did Australian troops fight with

neither of those theatres of war, did Australian troops fight with more gallantry and determination than in Malaya.

When at a day's notice I was called on to leave the 2/19 Bn.—a very sad day for me indeed—Lt. Gen. Bennett asked me who I would recommend as my successor.

"Major Charles Anderson," I replied.

"What?" he said. "He is one of the junior majors in the Division."

"There will be tremendous disappointment in the 2/19 if he is not given command, Sir," I answered.

Some months later, a day or two after the magnificent action at Bakri and Parit Sulong, during which Col. Anderson earned his V.C., I called to see Gen. Bennett.

As soon as he saw me he said: "I know one reason why you are here. It is to say 'I told you so.' Col. Anderson is the most gallant Bn. Commander in the Division."

Three months after we were taken prisoner I met a Japanese Regimental Commander with whom I had a long conversation. It turned out that he was my "opposite number" at The Causeway.

He told me his regiment had landed at Malacca.

"Then you fought at Bakri and Parit Sulong?" I asked.

"No," he replied, "there are four actions in Malaya in which I and my officers are glad we did not take part. Guron Road (where the Argyll and Sutherlands fought), Geuras, Bakri and Parit Sulong, and the action at the 41 mile post."

Three of those four actions were fought by Australians; and in one, Bakri and Parit Sulong, Col. Anderson was in command of the 2/19th and 2/20th Battalions.

And now in this difficult time of readjustment which is called 'Peace,' what do we find?

Charles Anderson, quietly and efficiently going on with his job, making his decisions, ready to help others, and living up to those ideals for which he has fought with such gallantry through two arduous campaigns.

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It is now my pleasant duty to unveil this tablet which bears his name.