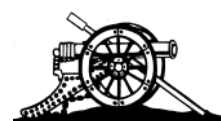
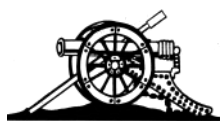


CASCABEL

Journal of the
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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Heading Home: Anzac Coy troops wait for takeoff onboard a Hercules bound for Australia

Courtesy Army News. Photo by Lt-Commander Darren Mallett

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Current Postal Addresses

All mail for **the Association**, except matters concerning Cascabel, should be addressed to:

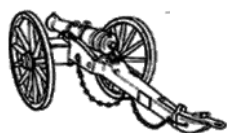
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CASCABEL



FORMER PATRONS, PRESIDENTS & HISTORY



FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978

First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT: BRIG P Alkemade RFD

PATRONS and VICE PATRONS:

1978

Patron: LT GEN The Hon Sir Edmund Herring
KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, ED

Vice Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE, DSO, ED

1982

Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE, DSO, ED

Vice Patron: MAJ GEN N. A. Vickery CBE,
MC, ED

1999

Patron: BRIG K. V. Rossi AM, OBE, RFD, ED

Vice Patron: MAJ GEN J. D. Stevenson AO, CBE

2008

Patron: BRIG K. V. Rossi AM, OBE, RFD, ED

Vice Patron:

PRESIDENTS:

1978 MAJ GEN N. A. Vickery CBE, MC, ED

1979 MAJ GEN J. M. McNeill OA, OBE, ED

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

1988 BRIG K. V. Rossi AM, OBE, RFD, ED

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

2004 MAJ N Hamer RFD

JOURNAL NAME:

CASCABEL - Spanish - Origin as small bell or Campanilla (pro: Kaskebell), spherical bell, knob like projection.

CASCABLE - English spelling.

ARTILLERY USE:

After 1800 AD, it became adjustable. The breech is closed in large calibres by a CASCABEL(E) screw, which is a solid block of forged wrought iron, screwed into the breech coil until it pressed against the end of the steel tube. In the smaller calibres, the A bore tube is carried through to form the CASCABEL(E)

[Ref: "Text Book on Fortification Etc", Royal Military College, Sandhurst, by COL G. Philips, RE, 4th Ed, Ch-1, P9, para 28, 1884].

[Source: COL Alan Mason, Vic, May 1993].

CASCABEL HISTORY:

The name was put forward by the first editor, LTCOL Rob Gaw, and accepted because of its unique and obvious Artillery connection.

ASSOC LOGO: LAPEL BADGE:

Our Assoc Logo and Lapel Badge is the 1800 AD 9 Pdr Waterloo Field Gun. Copy is taken from Device, Badge and Motto of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, as approved in 1833, by HM King William IV.



The Badge is a copy of the left arm brass gilded gun once worn by GUN SGTS above the chevrons on each arm. Brassards worn by IGs at North Head were embroidered with this insignia. It differs from the logo in that the badge has been cast with the rammer in a different position and the end of the trail has been reduced in length. Selected by MAJ Warren Barnard, 1984 Association Committee.

RAA ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC COMMITTEE

President:	Maj Neil Hamer RFD 9702 2100
Vice President:	Lt Col Jason Cooke 9705 1155
Immediate Past President:	Maj Merv Taggart RFD, ED 9773 3730
Secretary:	Mrs Rachel Decker 9578 5205
Assistant Secretary:	Maj Robin Smith RFD 9435 6352
Treasurer:	SSGT Reg Morrell 9562 9552
Curator:	SSGT Brian Cleeman 9560 7116
Webmaster:	Maj Carl Sarelius
Members:	Capt Peter Wertheimer OAM RFD WO2 Lionel Foster SSGT Ernie Paddon
Cascabel Editor:	WO2 Alan Halbish 9587 1676
Representatives:	Maj Garry Rolfe 2 nd /10 th Light Bty RAA WO2 Lionel Foster (10 Mdm Regt Assn)
Honorary Auditor:	Maj David J Osborne

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2/10 Light Bty 38 Light troop 8 Chapel St St Kilda	9526 4222
22 Light Troop 65 Princes Hwy Dandenong South	8710 2407

CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

The contents of CASCABEL Journal are determined by the editor. Articles or opinions of authors & contributors are their own, and do not necessarily represent or reflect the official position of the RAA Assn (Vic) Inc, Australian Army, the committee, the editor, staff or agents.

Article style, clarity and conciseness remain the responsibility of the article owner or author.

Submissions for the **July 2013** issue are required no later than **1 June 2013** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

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The President Writes

The new year has started off in its usual fashion. The Association has been quiet, but a number of activities are being planned. ANZAC Day activities are still uncertain as I write. I will try to keep you advised as time goes by. With changes to 2/10 Lt Bty, an Infantry CO and a new Brigade Commander, decision making is a little uncertain at the moment.

The 2nd/10th Light Battery RAA fired the Australia Day Salute. The salute guns were used, of course; we did not have a battery right with the mortars as was suggested by the usual comedians. The battery does not have many 105 trained personnel left. The future ceremonial requirements could be interesting.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Brig Peter Alkemade as Colonel Commandant (Southern Region). I think I have got the title correct; it is a little confusing with the new establishment throughout Australia.

I also thank Brig Neil Graham for his support given to the Association during his time in office.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting will be placed on our website. These minutes will be up-dated each year as soon as possible after the meeting, but will not be confirmed and accepted until the next AGM.

Also a précis of the Committee minutes will appear in each issue of Cascabel. As this decision was made only recently, it may not be practical to start with this issue. *Unfortunately, it wasn't.*

These decisions were made to keep the members informed about their Association.

As I mentioned previously, the Gunner Dinner was well attended last year and it will be conducted again this year.

A number of other activities are being planned, so please take note of the Parade Card at the back of the journal.

Do not forget to notify me if you change your email address so that I can keep you informed about the Association.

Neil Hamer

MAJ (Retd)

Membership Report

Current Membership as at 27 Feb 13

Life Members	193	(195)
Annual Members	42	(41)
Senior Annual Members	13	(13)
Affiliates	29	(30)
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	9	(10)
Libraries	4	(4)
RSL's	4	(4)
Total	294	(296)

New Members

We welcome LBdr Barrie Raymond Osborne as an Annual Member.

The usual reminder about the proforma on the **last page below the Parade Card.**

If you have not already done so, it would be appreciated if you would provide the information requested so that our files can be kept up to date. This proforma should also be used to notify us of any changes in the future.

Neil Hamer Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100

MAJ (Retd) 0419 533 067

Membership Co-ord

Email: nhamer@bigpond.net.au

LONG-STANDING MEMBERS RECOGNISED

For some time the Association Committee has been discussing how deserving members of the Association could be recognised for their extraordinary time, effort and continued service given to the members of the Association.

WO2 Lionel Foster did the initial research and brought to the Committee a number of suggestions for discussion. The discussions were vigorous, searching and at times quite heated.

No member of the Committee rejected the idea of recognising deserving members; the discussion revolved around what name would be given to the membership category, who should decide which members should be officially recognised, what time of the year the presentations should be made and how many of these deserving members we should have at any one time

To avoid unnecessary changes to the Association Constitution the name decided upon is:

HONORARY MEMBER FOR LIFE.

Lionel Foster designed the Medallion and the design was approved by the Committee.

Recommendations for nomination may be made

by any member of the Association to the Committee.

If the Committee approves of the recommendation, the nominee/s are put to a General Meeting for approval.



The Medallions would then be presented at a general meeting, or some other special occasion such as St Barbara's Day.

The number of Medallions to be presented was not determined, but, as it is considered to be a rare privilege to be nominated and to receive a Medallion, it should not be considered to necessarily be an annual event.

Because this is the first occasion that the Medallions were presented, four nominations were

accepted at the 2012 AGM, and the Medallions presented at the Transitional Dinner.

The recipients were, in no special order, Maj Merv Taggart, SSgt Reg Morrell, Maj Robin Smith and SSgt Brian Cleeman.

Congratulations to all and very many thanks for their support given, and still given, to the Association.

The greatest love story of all. The dedication and devotion demonstrated by a woman who stands by her terribly injured soldier lover. **Essential viewing** at <http://youtu.be/cisdGleZ5LU>

Col Van T Barfoot, a Medal Of Honor recipient who bucked bureaucracy and refused to take his flag pole down. <http://youtu.be/82AzMAPErZs>

Skylon spacecraft: 'Revolutionary' engine design tested. This link DOES NOT refer to the Aust A Bond <http://www.forbiddenknowledge.com/videos/technology/alan-bond-aviation-breakthrough--travel-to-anywhere-on-earth-within-4-hours.html>

Bridge over the river Kwai. How the area looks now and what it was like during the war years. http://youtu.be/O_zeoPU3Lks

International Space Station tour. This is the first video I've seen that gives an excellent view of the inside of the station. <http://www.wimp.com/orbitaltour/>

From the Colonel Commandant



It is too early to make a useful report on the changes affecting the new Light Battery, however I am sure that all those involved are working to their best ability to make the transition successful. The transition will take time and in the current environment will make large demands on the soldiers. Under these circumstances I feel that the BC needs to be given some breathing space to complete the process. I have every confidence that the challenge will be met and that the end result will be positive, but as we all know it will take time and quiet support from the broader family of the RAA.

The challenge of change is affecting the entire RAA. I had the opportunity to visit the School of Artillery recently and was briefed on the issues involved in bringing new equipment and especially new systems into service. The equipment and systems being fielded are more complex and capable than those they replace and so demand new skills, resilience and aptitude from the soldiers who will deploy them. While this has been true every time new

equipment comes into service the scale of change being undertaken makes this exceptionally challenging. Command and control, communications, surveillance, target acquisition, delivery and logistics systems are all changing at the same time. I'm pleased to see that the School is meeting the challenge and providing the Regiment with gunners who are both technically adept and who can maintain the proud traditions of the RAA in the delivery of fire support.

I look forward to a more direct involvement with the Association and looking at events and activities that will be able to give members further insight into the developments throughout the Regiment. I also look forward to meeting many members at the forthcoming RAA luncheon.

Ubique

Peter Alkemade



'A' Fd Bty in action.

Note the lonely little mortar between the two guns!

'A' Field Battery is currently equipped with M777A2 155mm Howitzers.

These guns have currently not seen operational service with the Australian Army.

Introducing the CO of 5/6 RVR

Lt Col Matthew Burr

Lieutenant Colonel Matt Burr was born in Melbourne on 15 January 1970. He enlisted in the Australian Army as an apprentice in 1986. He graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1993 and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.



Lieutenant Colonel Burr was initially posted as a troop commander to 145th Signal Squadron. A posting as a platoon commander and Second in Command Charlie Company at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion followed. In 1997 Lieutenant Colonel Burr completed a Graduate Diploma of Information Technology at Swinburne University.

In 1998 Lieutenant Colonel Burr was promoted to Captain and posted as Manager Army Information Systems Group – Melbourne. He was subsequently appointed the Operations Officer at 139th Signal Squadron (7th Brigade) in 2000.

During this time Lieutenant Colonel Burr deployed as a United Nations Military Observer to UNTAET. Upon return from East Timor Lieutenant Colonel Burr was then appointed J6 of JTF 643 for the 2001 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. In 2002 Lieutenant Colonel Burr transferred from the ARA to ARes and was posted to 108th Signal Squadron (4th Brigade) as Second in Command.

Colonel Burr was promoted to Major and posted to Melbourne University Regiment as Operations Officer. Lieutenant Colonel Burr was appointed Officer Commanding of 108th Signal Squadron in 2005 and was awarded a Divisional Commander's Commendation for his performance as this independent subunit commander.

During 2008 and 2009 Lieutenant Colonel Burr was appointed as the Senior Instructor of Reserve Training Wing at the Defence Force School of Signals. Lieutenant Colonel Burr has also held a posting as a Career Manager at Army Personnel Agency-Melbourne.

In 2010 Lieutenant Colonel Burr was promoted and posted as the SO1 Training at HQ 4th Brigade. During this time Lieutenant Colonel Burr fulfilled the role of Colonel Training and implemented the evaluation of collective training within 4th Brigade.

Lieutenant Colonel Burr transferred to Royal Australian Infantry Corps in 2012 and was appointed Commanding Officer of the 5th/6th Royal Victorian Regiment in June 2012.

Lieutenant Colonel Burr is currently employed with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. His primary roles include responding to emergencies as a specialist Heavy Rescue Technician and a Category Two Urban Search and Rescue Operator. He deployed as part of the Australian response to New Zealand's Christchurch earthquakes in 2011.

Lieutenant Colonel Burr is married to Narelle and has two young sons, Harrison and Benjamin. Lieutenant Colonel Burr's interests include cycling and swimming.



A message from the Battery Commander
2/10 Light Battery RAA
5th/6th Battalion
Royal Victoria Regiment
Major Garry Rolfe CSC

A warm welcome to all members of the Gunner family from all members of 2/10 Light Battery, as we enter the sixth week of the 2013 training year. We have got off to a flying start with mortar based capability and transition to the new light battery structure under command 5th/ 6th Royal Victoria Regiment.

The first support task for the Light Battery was to provide a catafalque party and bugler to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the death of Albert Jacka VC (former Mayor of St Kilda) at the St Kilda General Cemetery on 15th January 2013. The extended members of the Jacka family who travelled from all parts of the country and descendants of the 14th Battalion 'Jacka's Mob' commended the professionalism of the catafalque party under command of Sgt Wolfgang Wessner and fine rendition by bugler SSgt Alan Kirkman.

On the 26th January 2013, 2/10 Light Battery fired the 21 Gun Salute on the occasion of Australia Day at the Shrine of Remembrance. Once again the professional display of ceremonial gun drill, dress and bearing and adherence to timings when firing blank rounds to mark this national celebration reflected just one of the many capabilities of the RAA, specifically the Battery. A large crowd gathered to observe the salute and responded with thunderous applause concluding the event followed by a great show of curiosity and interest in the Guns.

Following on from the salute it was back to training to complete the Battle Fitness Assessment (BFA) and Force Preservation Training package (Army wide mandatory training). The weekend concluded with Battalion level physical training, Commanding Officers address, welcome to the Battalion parade and Barbecue. It was at this parade on behalf of all ranks 2/10 Light Battery I presented to the Commanding Officer the cartridge case from the first blank round fired at the Australia Day Salute.

During the welcome parade the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Burr formally welcomed all ranks 2/10 Light Battery into the

5th/6th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment. The Commanding Officer presented individual

members with the black and red Battalion flash for the puggaree and Battalion shoulder patch. This occasion marked a significant event in Artillery in Victoria. While this shift has generated much discussion in the white lanyard community I commend all ranks within the Battery for their enthusiasm and professional approach to their duties. For many Battery members it is just training as usual. For the command group and key

personnel it means significant work to align and embed the Battery within Battalion.

On a personal note when I reflect back to the Transitional Dinner in late 2012 it was a great honour to receive the Commanding Officer's sword by the outgoing Commanding Officer of the 2nd/10th Field Regiment,

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Cooke and with it I proudly carry forward the customs and traditions of the Royal Australian Artillery in Victoria.

Today I attended the Rotation 30 (Operation Anode to the Solomon Islands) Family Day activity at Simpson Barracks. The Battery contribution to this deployment is one Officer, one Sergeant and fourteen Other Ranks. We must not lose sight of the contribution made by our members from the Battery on this deployment and continue to provide whatever support in whatever way, shape or form we can to them and their families during this period of deployment.

While this figure represents a notable contribution from the total Battery strength, the Battery still maintains the capability to provide a joint fire team, command post, and mortar tubes to deliver timely and accurate offensive support to the manoeuvre arm commander. In addition the introduction of the Joint Fires and Effects Co-ordination Centre (JFECC) provides additional capability to the commander.



2013 sees the introduction of the 2nd Division Joint Fires Cell. This cell provides indirect fire technical capability and management of trade related matters by supporting all Light Batteries. I will provide greater detail about the Joint Fires Cell in the next edition.

What does a typical parade night look like in a Light Battery? Well probably not much different to when many of our readers were in training. The night commences with first parade roll call and administration. The first period of instruction is physical training – PT! This is a great opportunity



LtCol Burr welcoming a member of the Bty.

to develop not only fitness, but is required to maintain the demands of the delivery of our skillset and generate and maintain sub unit morale. It is also a great opportunity to exercise the leadership of the JNCO's. The second and third periods may include a variety of presentations and typically detachment or Battery level CPX training. The Joint Fire Team (FO party) utilises the simulation technology and indirect fire virtual training capabilities in the IFOT room, command post revises technical fire mission drills and the Mortars deploy within the close training area. The Battery

has the luxury of training facilities at Sargood Barracks at Chapel Street and Monash Barracks, Doveton. Following the final administrative parade it's off to the Mess to spend time with mates. The Battery has a combined all ranks Mess operating in both depot locations.

2013 will be a busy year in all respects – then this is nothing different to previous years and nothing new to what we are accustomed. We will still have the demands of courses, field and barracks training, administration, governance and outcomes to achieve as part of the force generation cycle under plan Beersheba. With resource limitations never before have we been asked to be creative and think outside of the box to achieve the intent. I know collectively we can do it.

I ask all ranks not to lose sight of the support our families provide, our civilian commitments and other hobbies and interests we have in life. As we all know without the support from all parties we cannot provide individual or collective capability to the Battery, Battalion or Army.

Take care and stay safe.

Ubique

GR

I wish to thank Maj Rolfe for this excellent article and look forward to further contributions in future editions. Ed

Additional information from Maj Rolfe.

During 2013 a series of Mess Symposiums will be held at the Battery each quarter. The Symposium is an opportunity to gather informally in the Mess and a fine opportunity to catch up with current and past members of the Regiment. The Symposium is open to all ranks and features a range of RAA topics including guest speakers, displays of current equipment and any items of interest related to Artillery. Dress is casual, drinks at bar prices and nibbles provided. More information to follow as it comes to hand.

A Royal Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the U.S. , English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of Officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, the English learn only English. He then asked, 'Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French? Without hesitating, the British Admiral replied,

'Maybe it's because the Brit's, Canadians, Aussie's, South Africans, and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German.' You could have heard a pin drop.

Courtesy Wo2 Max Murray

Editors Indulgence

Our next Journal in July marks the **30th anniversary of Cascabel**. If anyone would like to make a comment re this auspicious occasion, please email me before the beginning of June and I will ensure your comments are published.

I have prepared a brief! history (9 pages) of all editors associated with its publication, which includes their comments upon taking up the position.



I must apologise for a grave error in our previous journal (114). On page 42, a stupid copy/paste error meant the first one third of the text was repeated as the last one third. In an attempt to atone from this stupidity, **I have included an emended version of the text on page 29 and included a link for anyone who wishes to read the entire transcript.**

I thank Maj David Osborne for pointing this out.

I received the following from WO1 Christopher Jobson, our Ceremonial Guru.

Dear Sir,

The Cascabel January edition's 'Did You Know' item, on the rank of bombardier, contains a mistake and it's not a fault on the part of Editor. The item has been correctly copied from my book, Looking Forward, Looking Back, and is a mistake made by the books publisher (who, otherwise, did a very good job). The item/book's text incorrectly states: "In 1929 the Royal Artillery upgraded the rank of bombardier to replace that of corporal and introduced the new rank of lance bombardier. The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery followed suit in 1924". My manuscript (correctly) stated: "In 1924 the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery did away with the rank of corporal and replaced it with that of bombardier; the new rank of lance bombardier was then introduced". In my other book, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Customs and Traditions, it (also correctly) states: "In 1920 the Royal Artillery altered the rank structure for other ranks with the introduction of lance bombardier and the replacement of the rank of corporal with bombardier. The Royal Australian Artillery did not adopt the revised structure until 1924".

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Jobson.

Thank you for the clarification, Chris. ed

When you open the Cascabel page on our web site (artilleryvic.org.au), you will now find a link near the top of the page called "Quick Links". Clicking on this takes you straight to the bottom of the page where you will find a further link to a table I have prepared showing the links I've used in each journal since 107. I've included this to give easy access to anyone who has missed viewing them or would like to revisit any particular topic. I hope you will find it useful and it will be updated each quarter. You will also find a link to our last AGM—Nov '12

Had a phone call "out of the blue" late Jan from Graham Kluver. Many of you will remember him as Sig Sgt at Batman Ave and Dandenong. I told him I would mention his call in Cascabel and could he send me "brief" details of his service career. The following is Graham's response and I thank him for his contribution to this journal.

Hi Alan, my apologies for not getting back to you sooner, but here is the information that may be of use to you:

I joined the CMF as it was called in April, 1964.

111520 Gnr Kluver was placed in 5 Fd Regt RAA, Kelvin Grove as a Signaller in the CP of 13 Bty.

Promoted to LBDR in 1966 and to BDR in Feb 1967. (still a Signaller and Driver for the CP)

Transferred to Melbourne in late March 1967 and joined 2 FD Regt Batman Avenue as CP Sig for HQ.

Promoted to Sgt in August 1968 as SIG SGT for HQ Bty. (Replaced BBBBiiiiLL BBBrrreennaann). Remember him???

Transferred to HQ BTY 2/15 Fd Regt at Dandenong in 1976??? when 2 Fd and 15 Fd amalgamated. Incidentally, I was the ONLY person moved from Batman Avenue to Dandenong. Everybody else stayed at Batman Avenue.

Promoted to SSgt in 1977 as Signals Supervisor for the Regiment (still at Dandenong).

Transferred back to Brisbane in February 1978 and returned to 5/11 Fd Regt at Annerley. Kelvin Grove was no longer an Artillery base!!! Took up Position as Sig Supt for Regt there, unfortunately upsetting a Sig Sgt who was earmarked for the position!!!

Promoted to WO2 in 1983, firstly as Signals Officer as there were no officers available to do the job properly on a regular basis. A bit frightening really as I had to report DIRECTLY to the CO if there were any problems in getting working comms throughout the Regt. The CO used to say if you do not get me comms, this Regt cannot operate. I attended all the Officers O groups and some of the Officers were none too happy about it too!!!

Was then made BSM HQ Bty at Annerley for a short time, before being posted BSM of 14 Bty at Ipswich in 1986, but was really unable to fulfil this role very effectively.

As I could not get home from work in Brisbane until after 6.00pm and it was up to a 60 minute drive to the depot (depending on traffic), I was not able to be there well before parades and to make matters worse, my civilian manager would not let me get away with the Battery for annual camps, so I missed 2 periods of BSM in the field!!! Bastard he was, but finally shrunk back after I brought the matter to the General Manager and Human Resources, with me threatening to take the matter to the Qld Rep for the Reserves who went to Canberra every month to report on Reserve numbers and recruiting!!! I was in a semi Govt organisation and the GM did not like the idea of having to explain if the matter was raised by politicians!!!

Returned to Annerley in 1988 as Assistant Recruiting Officer working with a WO1. Position was listed as Trg WO. At this time, I would go away on exer-

cises as Sig Supt for the Regt but increasingly was given the role as Safety Officer which my WO1 had been doing and now retired. Sick of being caught on the hop trying to do two jobs, I used to go on exercise ready to be Safety Officer as I found it easier in the field (getting older). No "Stand To" at Dark and Dawn and who was game to challenge a WO2 who was the CO'S rep when it came to firing the guns. Mind you, you had your arse in a sling if YOU allowed a round to go outside the Safe Impact Area, although you were NOT responsible for gunnery errors if the round was directed to fall into the Safe area. But being a GUNNER, you never let your mates down and I always enjoyed the Gun Sgt's hospitality at all times. In fact, the young Officers as Sec O's used to feel a lot happier when I was around. Fortunately never had an error that was not safe!!

In 1997, became part of ARES Recruiting but still attached to now 11 Fd. 5 Fd now separate on northern outskirts of Brisbane.

In 1998, was detached from 11 Fd and became part of 1 ARU which was a waste of time if you ask me. Also at that time, 11 Fd Regt became part of 1 Fd Regt RAA, which as you know was the biggest stuff up to affect Reserve Regt's. And as events turned out, I was in the perfect position to see how bad it really was!!

In January 1999, I was detached out of 1 ARU and posted to 1 Fd Regt RAA at Enoggera. The ARA guys did not know how to handle a Gres WO2 at HQ, especially when they tested me as Safety Officer and I obtained 100% when most of their guys had a few hassles and were deemed "unsafe" and had to re-sit the tests at a later date. However, in the field they accepted me as professional in my position and I saved a few Gun Sgts from being in deep "do do" had they fired that round. The CO (Col Jones) asked me during a break in the firing at Shoalwater Bay how long had I been in the Reserves. When I told him over 35 years continuously, he replied "I was only born that long ago!!" We got along very well as most Warrant Officers do with senior Field Officers.

On 13th November 1999, I handed in my gear as I had reached my "use by date", only to be approached by the RSM two days later for an extension to look after the Admin side of things at Singleton whilst 104 Bty trained prior to being posted to Timor. I was also required to be their

Safety Officer every time they wanted to fire the guns during their anti-terrorist training in the field.

So in mid December, 1999 (just before Christmas), I handed in my gear for the last time and finally hung up my boots after more than thirty-five and a half years of serving in the forces.

I hope this gives you some insight of how the Army was a major part of my life and I loved every minute of it.

Graham Kluver

WO2 (Retd).

Finally from me.

Maj Rolfe informs me that 4 Bde will not be marching Anzac Day, but the Chapel St Depot **will be open** for the Dawn Service & Gunfire Breakfast. As final arrangements will not be made, probably until mid April, I will email all on my mailing list & hope that many of you will attend.



The Royal Australian Navy is celebrating 100 years since the creation of the first Naval College in Australia, at Osborne House in Geelong.

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Warren Snowden has joined those marking the college's centenary and paid tribute to those who have taught Australia's naval officers over the past

100 years.

"This centenary event recognises the opening of the college which was a significant milestone for both the Australian Navy and in Geelong's history."

Prior to 1 March 1913, Navy Cadets were sent to England for Officer Training. The Australian Navy sought to have cadets trained at home so as not to lose their "Australian-ness", but the facility at Jervis Bay in NSW was not due for completion for another two years. Osborne House was selected as a temporary facility to become the first Royal Australian Naval College.

The ceremony was attended by the Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN who inspected a guard contingent from HMAS *Cerberus*, local Naval Cadets and the Navy Band. Vice Admiral Peter Jones AO DSC RAN also delivered an address on the history of the Royal Australian Naval College.

"Some of our most distinguished naval officers including Admirals Collins and Farncomb, and Captain Waller were first trained in this building. Osborne House is an incredibly important link in Australian Navy history," said Mr Snowden.

The Naval College was based at Osborne House until 1915, after that it served as a Naval Convalescent Hospital, the home of Australia's first submarine fleet, a training base during the Second World War and the headquarters for the Shire of Corio for some 50 years.



The diary of Lt. Keith Batiste concludes with Part 5, courtesy of RUSIV (Royal United Services Institute of Victoria)

1ST OCTOBER 42. Lecture by Intelligence cove; think the "big show" must be fairly close now. Our Xmas Cards arrive from Alex; send mine away; training continuing. One of our Bombers is returning from a raid when suddenly it dives into a hillside; we all scatter; but it hits in front of us; a terrific sheet of flame; £25,000 and five men vanish into thin air; the crew didn't have a chance. Ammo dumping at night.

2ND OCTOBER 42. Longs streams of transport move up the roadway. Spend the night working with the 40th Royal Tank Regiment; practising F.O.O. work. They give Norm & I a Valentine Tank each to play with for the day. We will act as Tank Commander; F.O.O. etc; it's certainly a full time job. You have to work the wireless; give & direct the fire of the troop; give fire orders to the gunner in the tank itself; direct the driver & work the machine-gun & smoke mortar. Spend the best part of the day tearing over the sand dunes in the Valentine practising. Have afternoon tea with the Tank Wallahs.

3RD OCTOBER 42. We move up again at last light tonight; so as not to make Jerry suspicious we are to occupy our old positions in Death Valley (.26). As we proceed along the road a German Heinkel apparently on a recce patrol streaks over our heads. We must have made a beautiful target but he couldn't have had any bombs on board. Machine-guns open fire from both sides of the roadway; but he is so low that they miss him.

Move into old position at 1930 hours.

4TH OCTOBER 42. During the day we fire concentrations; at night parties go over & dig gun-pits at Ack (*Ack: phonetic alphabet reference to 'A' or alternate position*) position. General digging-in & building of Doovas.

5TH OCTOBER 42. Capt John Lord (*TX2064 Captain John Lord, born 18th September 1916 in Hobart, enlisted 13th May 1940, discharged 2nd November 1945*) comes over as Troop Commander & establishes an O.P. on 22. Our position is part of the salt marsh; very wet & uncomfortable.

6TH OCTOBER 42. Orders to give the gunners as much rest as possible; swimming parades are organized; the front is fairly quiet. Jerry shells Tel-Elisa station areas but nothing comes any closer to us.

7TH OCTOBER 42. Night firing again from 2000 hrs to 0300; very little sleep; 90 down to the beach to see the graves of Sgt Wilson; Bdr Griffiths & several others; the Padre has had white crosses erected. Beer ration of two bottles per man; Ken comes over & has a glass after the evening meal.

8TH OCTOBER 42. Night firing; harassing concentrations on Jerry's forward positions. German plane shot down into the sea. Canteen goods replenished.

9TH OCTOBER 42. Parties still digging & completing position Ack; night firing; several Stuka raids; nothing very close. Padre was in pill-box when it received a direct hit from a bomb; had one eardrum split otherwise nobody hurt. Go out with Ken (*Possibly NX12365 Captain K. MacKay, MBE, born 17th February 1917 in Sydney, enlisted 27th March 1940, discharge date not known*) & have a look through the German Tanks around Tel-Elisa; the stench is terrific; the partly-charred corpses of the crews are still in some of them. The Anti-Tank guns certainly make a good job of them.

10TH OCTOBER 42. Guns & supplies moving up; Tanks appearing in echelon areas. Night firing; digging. We are all wondering when the balloon will go up.

11TH OCTOBER 42. Routine concentrations; night firing, digging.

12TH OCTOBER 42. Large formations of our bombers wing their way over escorted by clouds of fighters; there are dog-fights everywhere; there must be hundreds of planes in the air at once; the O.P. tells us that the bombers are giving him merry Hell, Good show.

13TH OCTOBER 42. Behind our lines the general atmosphere of activity is increasing; hear that the 50th English Division arrived also the New Zealanders are moving up on our left flank. Fellows coming back from leave talk about hundreds of new tanks down near Alex.

14TH OCTOBER 42. Dumping ammunition on position "A" now completed; gun pits well under way & camouflaged; cannot obtain enough sandbags to make a really decent job. Jerry planes bomb a bathing party. Reported that part of ammo

dumped at Pos A. has become waterlogged & the charge bags are wet; all has to be replaced. Work all night in the mud replacing it; cold & pretty miserable.

Beer issue came in & so we have a bottle to revive us.

15TH OCTOBER 42. John Lord taken ill with Yellow Jaundice & Dysentery; going up to the O.P. to take over from him. Shell an enemy O.P. in the "Clover Leaf" area.

16TH OCTOBER 42. The air offensive has started; all say our bombers & F/bombers are carrying out sorties & offensive sweeps over the German lines; there are so many of our fighters in the air that Jerry is frightened to come up; the German positions up on the Rahman track are a seething mass of flame & smoke as the bombers unload their eggs; it must be hellish to be inside it; that will teach these swine to bomb women & children; wonder how they like it – I'll bet the Ities are bomb happy" already.

17TH OCTOBER 42. Ordered to establish a new O.P. on Hill 33. Certainly thought we had seen the last of that place, it's a regular "hot spot". Leave after dark in the carrier & reach there O.K.; the Sigs lay telephone lines & dig slit trenches; heavy mortar exchanges going on at the bottom of the hill; some of the German mortar bombs must be almost 6". Communications established & we turn into bed; Artillery duels all night & a certain amount of harassing fire; the line of fire is right over the hill & every few seconds shells scream overhead; very hard to sleep.

18TH OCTOBER 42. Programs for the barrages we are to fire in the forthcoming offensive have arrived from R.A.A. & there's a lot of work to be done; two of our guns are sent back to O.W. (*Ordnance workshops*) to have new barrels fitted; we are so close up at the gun position that we can see the German positions quite clearly; several batteries of 4.5 [inch] guns move in nearby: English R.A.; there are guns everywhere; my word Jerry is going to get it in the neck properly this time.

19TH OCTOBER 42. Our O.P. on .33 is shelled fairly heavily – we are not very happy; there are only two of us in it; myself & a Signaller; can't afford to have the Sgt there as well in case Jerry gets a direct hit. The shelling continues on & off all the morning; but he doesn't get us. Receive orders to

report to Van Der Kelen (VX13933 Captain Peter Winston Van Der Kelen, born 2nd December 1915 in Armadale, Victoria, enlisted 2nd May 1940, discharged 19th February 1946) for secret orders. Wait until dark & then go back to B.H.Q. The O.P. is very uncomfortable; you can barely crouch in it & cannot even stick your head outside the camouflage net; we have to urinate in beer bottles & then throw them out; the flies are terrible.

See Van; who goes over the plan of the forthcoming offensive with each of us separately. The Army Commander has laid down that Rommel will be destroyed together with his forces; in their present positions; his plan is not to drive him back but to destroy. There are to be two Corps; the 30th & the 13th; we (the 9th Aust Div) come under command of 30th Corps. The forces to be employed are 9th Aust Div, 51st Highland Div; 50th Div; South African Division; New Zealand Div; a Brigade of Free French, 4th Indian Division & 64th Division. The 40th & 10th Armoured Divs 7th Armoured Div & - ?? In all we have 1200 tanks including a large number of Shermans & Grants; new types of mobile guns & a few other hush hush surprises for the old Hun. In all six Infantry Divisions; as against the German 8; one of which – the 90th Light Div – is motorized. The 21st Panzer and 25 are split up with the Italian armour & are fighting in three battle groups each comprised of part Italian Armour; with Panzer units to back them up. It is estimated that Rommel has only 600 Tanks under his command; which gives us a numerical superiority of two to one. Some of the Itie divisions are their best troops i.e. Pistoia; Littorio & units of the Bersaglieri. (*Described elsewhere by Lt Batiste as 'a famous (?) Italian regiment that did everything at the trot (double) including surrendering!'*)

Our main objective is to make Rommel think the attack is going to come from the South; whereas in reality it will come from the North; our sector. And the Australians are to be given the job of making the "break through". It is estimated that the enemy have sufficient petrol; oil & lubricants; food etc to last him 12 days; after which he will be hard pressed to supply his mechanized forces with food, petrol & other essential commodities.

There are to be three phases in the operation; firstly the "breakthrough"; secondly the "mopping up" & once our armour has been passed through his anti-tank screen & minefields; the break out of

our armour into the open country beyond Rahman. It's going to be a hard scrap but we have; at long last; guns & tanks – and aircraft which are at least the equal if not better than Jerry.

20TH OCTOBER 42. Our guns move to postn "A". Back at the O.P. very little to do; our guns are not to fire & disclose their new positions.

21ST & 22ND OCTOBER 42. Final preparations. Zero hour to be 2140 hours tomorrow night. Go down to the guns to give a hand. Our Inf. move up and lay in trenches camouflaged all day.

22ND OCTOBER 42. Zero hour; a terrific roar & a blinding blaze of light runs around the horizon as far as the eye can see as 800 of our guns open up; the noise is terrific; for the first 20 mins. We concentrate on the German Artillery. A low rumbling in the distance is our barrage landing on him. It must be sheer hell over there.

For 30 mins the strafe goes on & thousands of shells scream away toward the Axis lines. Then there is a sudden silence of an hour; our Infantry are taking up their positions for the attack; nothing is happening over the German side; he must still be bewildered at the sudden hail of shells that hit him. Away in the distance gun-flashes light the sky; we wait; then there is a scream & a roar & we all dive flat; several heavy shells throw large columns of mud into the air; a 75 whistles over us & bursts about 20 yards behind right in line – too close for comfort, shrapnel thuds into the ground; Tin Hats go on; out in front tracer bullets flash across the dunes. The German Artillery is coming to life now & heavy shells come over at regular intervals. Time for our barrage; order fire; & again the terrible cacophony of sound seems to press you into the earth; behind us a Bofors gun fires streams of tracers across .25 to show the Infantry the direction of attack; Mortars flame into action & hundreds of machine-guns open fire; an American War Correspondent comes sliding down the side of a dune; the blast from one of our guns sends his tin hat sailing into the air & deafens him; he nearly walked into the muzzle!

One of Jerry's batteries are ranging on to us and every few minutes a shell wails overhead & bursts in the graveyard behind us; several pieces of shrapnel drop around us; a jeep comes tearing up with coffee to keep us awake – as if anyone could go to sleep!

In an area of about 1000 yards square are our 36 guns; we have one gun for every 60 yards along the whole front (later officially given as 1 gun to every 23 yards of the front) down to the Qattara Depression.

A truck comes careering past full of white-faced Italians; ambulances come up; Ammunition trucks arrive; already along the front 500,000 shells have been fired. Hill 33 is being shelled fairly heavily by enemy guns further up the coast. A searchlight has been erected in front of our gun position as part of a deception plan; it is to shine on some dummy figures in the hope that Jerry will think the attack is coming along the sand dunes. The searchlight is switched on & we curse it thoroughly; as it is bound to "draw the crabs". A Stuka dives down & plants a stick of bombs out in the flat; apparently he was aiming at our gun-flashes. Parachute flares blaze out across .25; as our bombers wade into him; we can hear the rumbles of the explosion. More Jerry bombers come over in an effort to knock our guns out; some of them drop "Molotov Breadbaskets" & the small fragmentation bombs go off like a lot of fire-crackers.

There is a large flash of flame as one of our medium guns has a premature; it blows up & wipes out the crew; across on Jerry's side of the line there are several large fires burning; think we must have hit some of his vehicles.

The barrages and concentrations continue through the night. No sleep. At dawn Jerry counter-attacks; we laze away on defensive fire tasks.

24TH OCTOBER 42. Tactical situation very confused; 24th got about 200 Jerry prisoners – don't think they took too many; a lot killed. Aircraft everywhere; our planes are literally blasting the Luftwaffe out of the air.

Our troops consolidate ground won; hear casualties very heavy; German counter attacks only small scale affairs at this stage; tonight we attack again; Two of our lanes shot down; one in flames; our bombers are blasting hell out of him. Fighters strafed the Jerry guns behind 33 which have been shelling us.

The Barrage goes down again; the sky as far as the eye can see is lit up by the flashes of hundreds of guns of all calibres; again the Infantry go forward; some Germans are reported to have given themselves up as prisoners to the Dummy figures

out in the flat!

Stukas dive-bomb the mediums. We hear all objectives have been partially taken; the South Af's; N.Z.s missed on a couple of small patches; 9th Aust Div also missed one position. Ammo coming up regularly.

A German 75 Battery (Italian?) shell us but all rounds land plus of us though directly in line; all night German bombers arrive overhead dropping bombs at the gun-flashes; our night fighters shoot one down. Stuka rear gunner fires a burst of cannon shells into us; we grovelled in a trench & cursed him soundly; landed all around; but no one hit; no sleep. German Artillery blasting hell out of our Infantry; our bombers go over regularly every two hours in batches of 18 or 36; the Rahman track & supply line is a mass of dust & smoke as they unload their bombs. German 88 gets a direct hit on one of our bombers; he comes down in flames; our O.P. opens fire on the German "Flak" guns.

25TH OCTOBER 42. German counter-attacks increasing; later we hear that in all he launched 33 counter attacks; full scale shows; & numerous small ones rather hastily organised. As soon as he comes over the top our guns concentrate on him & lay down a wall of bursting shells which he can't pass through to get at our Infantry. Those who do get through are quickly accounted for by the machine-guns.

One of "U" troop's guns received a direct hit; one man killed; Jerry 88 & 105mm guns shelling along the flat; one of our ammo trucks receives a direct hit and all the shells on it blow up – what a firework display; there is nothing we can do but watch it; it's just in front of "B" troop's gun; the gunners are all laying flat in their pits with shells flying everywhere.

Blaze away nearly all night; have three hours sleep; Jerry again bombing our gun-flashes; can't hear the bombs coming down above the roar of the guns; prisoners now up to 700 on the 26th Brigade front; dead Germans everywhere; more counter attacks; all repulsed.

26TH OCTOBER 42. John Lord contracts dysentery; go up to the O.P. on 33 & take over. The tactical situation is so confused that we don't fire on any targets out in front. Ring through to Battery Command Post for a corrected fighting map – they

don't know the situation themselves, even R.H.Q. are in the dark; see a convoy of about seven vehicles coming in behind a dune from the direction of the front, can't make out whose they are, according to the map they should belong to the 90th German Light infantry division. Lay the guns on them as we had previously registered a target in the same area. Ring for permission of HQ to open fire. Not granted, think it might be the 2/2nd Pioneers, who cut through to the coast.

They were the 90th L. I. Word has just come through that the whole Division has pulled out, smashed their way through the Pioneers & with the help of a few tanks of the 15th Panzers, made good their escape, leaving only a small rearguard.



A German 88mm gun dug in. Photo by Keith Batiste, with the annotation 'best gun of the war in anti-tank role'.

A large smoke screen has been thrown down by our mortars, out beyond it there is a hell of a scrap going on between our tanks & his. Can count six tanks on fire – look like ours but they are so mixed up it's hard to say. Visibility practically zero, though salient features discernible are occasional flashes from Jerry's 88mm air-burst shells ranging onto the supporting Infantry. Fighting goes on through the night. Jerry harassing fire on O.P. area.

27TH OCTOBER 42 TO 16TH DECEMBER 42. 2/8th Regt. in action throughout Alamein Offensive. No record kept.

Regiment withdrawn after break-through to Palestine in time for Xmas Leave in Jerusalem.

9th Australian Division

"WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ASK YOU WHAT YOU DID IN THE WAR DADDY – IT WILL SUFFICE TO SAY – "I MARCHED WITH THE 8TH ARMY".

WINSTON CHURCHILL 1942

"THEY FOUGHT THEMSELVES AND THE ENEMY TO A STANDSTILL UNTIL FLESH AND BLOOD COULD TAKE NO MORE – THEN THEY WENT ON FIGHTING."

WINSTON CHURCHILL DEC.1942

ONE THOUGHT I SHALL ALWAYS CHERISH "UNDER MY COMMAND FOUGHT THE MAGNIFICENT 9TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION".

GENERAL ALEXANDER, G.O.C. 8TH ARMY DEC. 42

I COULD NOT HAVE MADE THE BREAKTHROUGH IN THE NORTH WITHOUT MY 9TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

LORD (GEN) MONTGOMERY, G.O.C. I/C OF ALAMEIN

These quotations were handwritten at the end of the diary, a few pages after the daily narratives ceased.



Lieutenant Keith Batiste, Alexandria, 1941



Lt Gen Montgomery (wearing slouch hat) shortly after taking command of the Eighth Army in August 1942. Lt Gen Morshead, 9th Division Commander, is standing to his right, facing the camera.



Australian machine gunners



RUSI recently recognised the bequest from Lieutenant Batiste by placing a certificate in a prominent place in their library.

Shown here are the Chairman of the Library Committee MAJGEN Mike O'Brien CSC and FLT LT Brian Surtees.

*Thanks to RUSI for allowing us to publish
Lieutenant Batiste's diary. ed*

TK Gunners salute on St Barbara's Day

WO2 Andrew Hetherington

ARTILLERYMEN from 102 Coral Bty deployed with 7RAR Task Group in Tarin Kot celebrated Saint Barbara's Day with their Afghan National Army artillery colleagues on December 4.

Saint Barbara is the patron saint of artillerymen worldwide, and on the day, gunners pay homage to fallen comrades.

Battery Commander Maj Eugene Shanasy said the event also had another purpose.

"We wanted to take the time to get to know the members from the Tarin Kot-based Afghan National Army 4th Kandak Canon Tolay [Battery] and develop some unity in the Afghanistan-based gunner world," Maj Shanasy said.

"On this day we traditionally promote our soldiers and acknowledge them for their efforts."



Patron: 7RAR TG's Maj Eugene Shanasy celebrates Saint Barbara's Day with ANA BSM Asnodin, of the 4th Kandak Canon Tolay.

Photo by WO2 Andrew Hetherington

Maj Shanasy said the day improved the working relationship his men already had with the ANA Canon Tolay.

"I have a warrant officer, a sergeant, two gunners and a joint fires team who will become more involved with their training in the coming months," he said

"We'll assess their current competency level and develop a continuation training program that will become ANA-led.

"Our goal is for the ANA to have a coordinated gunnery system which can support their operations into the future."

Bdr Luke Roberts was promoted by 7RAR Task Group CO Lt-Col Malcolm Wells.

"It was a surprise to be promoted today. It's my first time deployed over-seas and today was something I won't forget, along with celebrating Saint Barbara's Day on operations," he said.

Battery Sergeant Major Asnodin, of the 4th Kandak Canon Tolay, said it was a good experience having his men working with their Australian artillery advisers.

"My soldiers are now very professional due to the work of the Australians," BSM Asnodin said.

Aussies pass on knowledge Capt Sean Childs

THE success of the Afghan National Army's School of Artillery in Kabul can be testament to the dedicated professionalism of the Australian Artillery Training and Advisory Team (ATAT).

The school is autonomous in the provision of basic artillery training to Afghan National Army recruits, with training inclusive of three disciplines: guns, fire direction and fire support.

ATAT's Sgt Ross Edwards said the team's focus was now providing advice on training concepts, programs and over-all governance procedures, while mentoring day-to-day courses continued.

"The particular skills we are advising them on include bringing the gun in to and out of action in

the field," Sgt Edwards said.

Artillery Training and Advisory Team CO Lt-Col Nick Wilson said Australia's work with the school would have an enduring effect on Afghanistan's transition to self-sustained security responsibility.

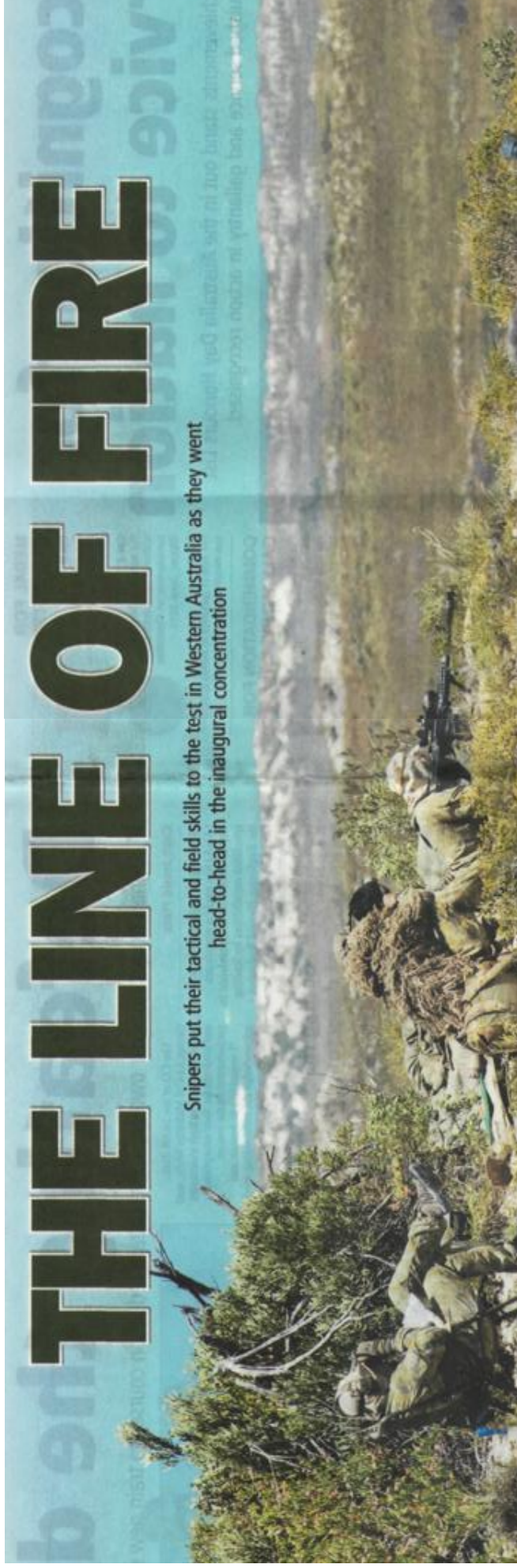


Skill set: ANA soldiers conduct artillery training at the School of Artillery in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Photo by Cpl Christopher Dickson

"Ultimately we can see the fruit of that now, with those trained soldiers being fielded to operational kandaks and those operational kandaks being utilised either in the fight or at least supporting ISAF and ANA operations," he said.

"I would see that continuing into the future, noting that around a thousand per year are trained at the school. The skill base of the ANA artillery will continue to develop as a result."



HEARTS were racing as 20 snipers from Socomd and Forcomd darted between positions, firing at long range and moving targets for the inaugural SASR sniper concentration in Perth.

The course tested sniper pairs over a period of two weeks late last year in all areas of sniper skills, with an emphasis on tactical sniper and field craft skills.

Units from 1RAR, 2RAR, 5RAR, 6RAR, 2 Cdo Regt and SASR took part. Members of 3RAR and 7RAR could not attend due to operational commitments.

SASR Sniper Cell supervisor Sgt S hosted the competition with the assistance of SASR sniper supervisors, a 2RAR sniper supervisor and a School of Infantry Sniper Cell supervisor to conduct and score different events.

The competition tested snipers in all skills required of a modern operational sniper pair with a total of 19 different scored events. Extra sniper training was also conducted with an emphasis on learning from SASR sniper experiences -tactics, techniques and procedures gained over the past 10 years of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Timor Leste and other areas, to ensure a

hand back of sniper skills from Socomd to Forcomd.

Each sniper pair was required to compete with their 7.62mm sniper rifles. The team leader used an Accuracy International SR98 or Sig Sauer Blaser Tac2 with a 7.62mm barrel. The number two sniper or observer used either KAC SR25 or HK417 7.62mm rifles.

Other weapons used by all snipers included the Sig Sauer Tac2 Blaser .338 Lapua and .50 M82A2 Barrett rifles for long-range sniper field firing against reactive targets out to 2000m.

Throughout the competition sniper pairs were tested in a variety of conditions and environments, including engaging targets by day and night using day scopes, thermal scopes and night-vision equipment against moving targets in urban settings and rural field firing. All snipers were required to wear their normal combat equipment and sniper cam and concealment gear throughout the activities.

Throughout the concentration each unit briefed the group on sniper issues

such as the training in their units, employment of snipers within their organisations, equipment holdings, operational lessons and enemy tactics, techniques and procedures. The briefs high-lighted some common experiences and shortcomings which will be later used to improve sniper training and equipment issues.

Sgt S outlined to the group the future direction of sniper training.

"SASR provided a future sniper development brief and sniper rationalisation overview to enhance and inform the direction that SASR Sniper cell is pursuing," he said.

"By providing for simpler sniper systems this would result in cost savings across Army. I believe that rationalising all ADF snipers' weapons and equipment in line with current Socomd sniper practice is an important step in improving wider Army sniper capabilities."

Overall, the winning sniper pair was the one that displayed a higher level of field craft and shooting abilities across 19 scored activities during the two weeks.

The second placed sniper pair from 2RAR was only 97 points behind the winners from SASR, which put huge pressure on the SASR team to do well in the live-fire stalk activity.

"This reinforces to me that the School of Infantry Sniper Cell courses and Sniper Cell supervisors from individual regiments are maintaining a very high standard," Sgt S said.

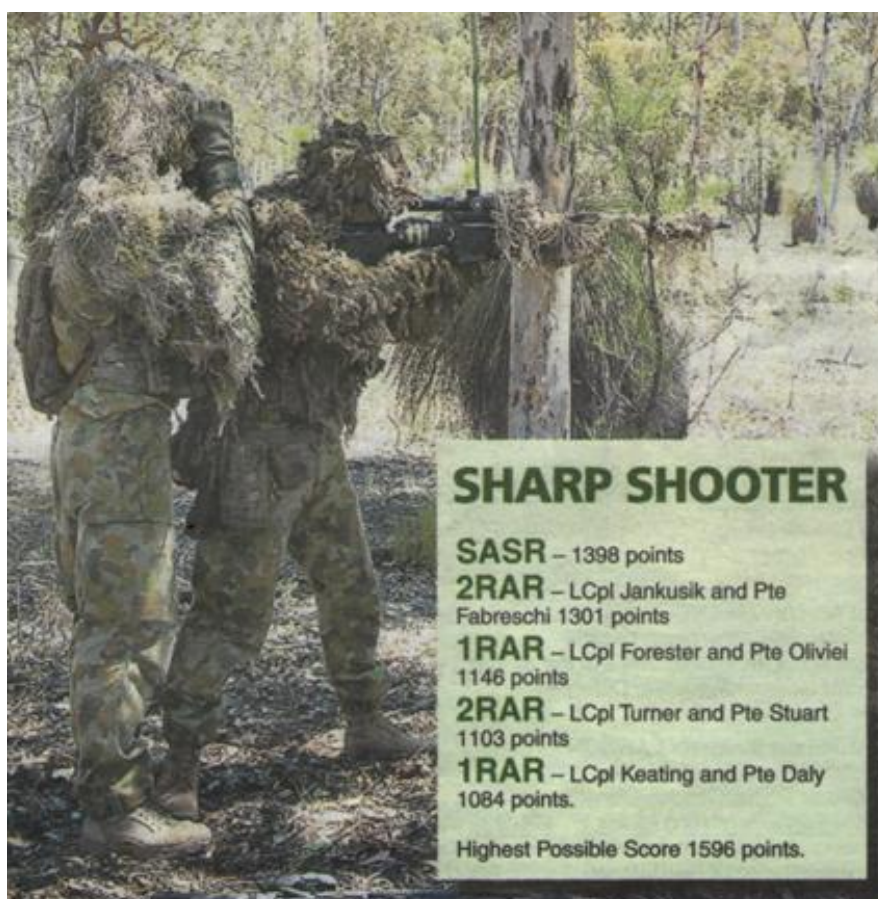
It was a very challenging two weeks for all snipers involved and will result in the enhancement of sniper skills with-in the Army. The winning sniper pair received a trophy, which will be held at SASR.

The intent is to conduct the activity again in mid-November this year and include units that missed out.

The number of attending snipers will be limited to 24 snipers (12 pairs) from Socomd and Forcomd.

TESTING THEIR SKILLS

- Static and snap range serials with physical activities to ensure snipers maintained a higher heart rate during the shoots out to 800m.
- Moving targets by day out to 400m.
- Night moving targets with thermal scopes against robotic targets. I • Run shoots with firing from alternate positions.
- Long range timed engagements out to 2000m using .338 Blaser and .50 Barrett sniper rifles by day and night.
- Observation activities using binoculars and spotting scopes which involve located military items hidden within an area within a set amount of time.
- Range estimation activities which involved snipers using their skills minus laser range finders to gauge the range to a number of targets then engage those targets.
- Live fire stalks over three hours conducted in an urban and rural environment wearing all sniper field equipment. This activity is the culmination and ties together all the snipers skills, with a higher point scoring system.



New Generation Veterans

We honour our old veterans, we honour them
with pride,
And read of all the horrors they have carried deep
inside,
We know they served in Asia or New Guinea's
highland rains,
Vietnam or in Africa where many men were slain.

We know that fateful landing on Gallipoli's dark
shore,
Wherever Aussies fought, we know there are so
many more,
But now a new young generation needs our help
as well,
They too have been to war and suffer with their
private hell.

Though losses are not classed as great, their fears
are just the same,
Those electronic hidden bombs, still injure, kill or
maim,
They fight against an enemy they find so hard to
see,
Who mingle in the market place, then cause much
tragedy.

Insurgents in Afghanistan hide in the rough
terrain,
Or roaming in Iraq, where, wearing robes they
look the same,
The suicide stealth bombers, don't care who they
hurt or kill,
Then, with their own beliefs, they try to break our
forces will.

Our fighting Aussie spirit shows on any foreign
land,
They're in the skies, they're on the sea, or on the
desert sand,
Now many are returning with the horrors they still
see,
And living with their nightmares, suffering
bureaucracy.

I know on ANZAC Day, we all remember with a
tear,
But ALL vets, young or old, they need our help
throughout the year,
Support and listen to their stories, when they do
get told,
Let's honour our NEW veterans, just like we do our
old.

David J Delaney 10/02/2010

MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA - MILITARY DIVISION

WO1 David Ross LEHR

For meritorious service as RSM of the
2nd/10th Field Regiment, JTF 635
Operation Anode Rotation 13, and the
1st Field Regiment



CONSPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL

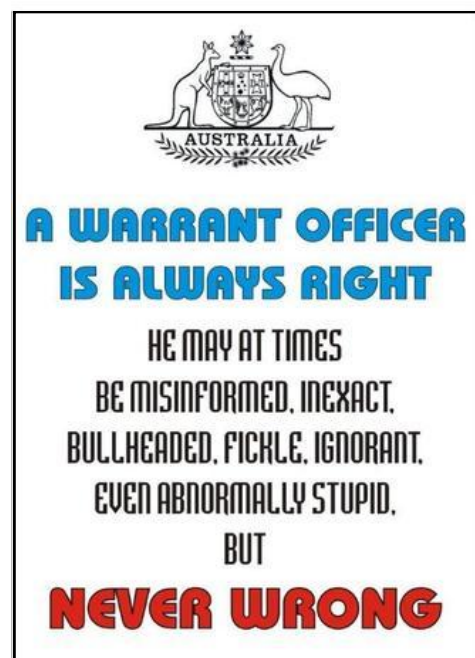
Maj Lloyd Alexander JENSEN

For meritorious achievement as the
Quartermaster and Battery Com-
mander Combat Service Support
Battery, 4 Regt RAA in 2011.



Courtesy Army News

*Congratulations to both of these
outstanding Gunners. ed*



Our brave saviours of Wau

More than 100 diggers were killed in the little-known but decisive Battle of Wau in Papua New Guinea in WWII, writes David Buckwalker.

A SMALL contingent of Australian soldiers risked their lives to fend off an overwhelming Japanese advance in Papua New Guinea during World War II.

If they failed, it could have prolonged the war by more than a year.

The settlement of Wau was valued for its airstrip that was a supply line for the Australian 'Kanga Force'. Well-known for its guerrilla tactics, Kanga Force was made up of men from the local militia force and members of 2/5 Independent Coy. Supporting Kanga Force elements troops from 2/6 Bn.

CO of 2/6 Bn Lt-Col Jim Wood's after-action report painted a desperate picture.

"A serious situation, which would have probably led to the loss of Wau and the valley, was averted by the splendid stand of A Coy under Capt Bill Sherlock, who was killed. This stand enabled reinforcements from Port Moresby to be landed in Wau," Lt-Col Wood wrote.

"The general disposition of the battalion was bad; owing to either wrong information or failure to correctly appreciate the position, Kanga ordered a dispersal of the battalion, which prevented any chance of a successful attack. At no time was the battalion under one command and companies were asked to do the work of battalions."

In 2011, Pte Eric Noakes, a former member of 2/5 Independent Coy, said: "If the Japs only knew how few we were they would have walked into Wau any time. When you work it all out, they were all in the wrong place."

On January 14, the bulk of 2/6 Bn landed at Wau's tiny airstrip as reinforcement and was dispersed over a wide area covering trails leading to Mubo. The companies ended up many days march from each other and had poor, communication.

On January 27, the under strength A Coy 2/6 Bn and a platoon of 2/5 Independent Coy, commanded by Capt Sherlock, were tasked to defend against a suspected Japanese patrol of 300.

On January 28 at 6am, it was intended for them to patrol up the ridge to follow it to Mubo to link with two other companies and contact the Japanese patrol, which the men now knew was actually 3000-strong.

At dusk on January 27, 9 PI sent out an eight-man listening patrol and about 1am they heard Japanese coming.

A Bren gunner opened up but the gun jammed, warning the Japanese of the Australian presence. The Japanese attacked with mortars and machine guns. A salvo hit 9 PI, killing Pte R Hamilton and wounding three others.

Capt Sherlock's 100 Australians were distributed at Wandumi with 8 PI and 9 PI up front, the commandos in between and 7 PI behind company HQ.

At 5.30am, after sustained enemy fire, the company was forced to move 300m down the hill. Sherlock kept the company on high ground to pick off enemy below and make themselves difficult targets.

Communications with HQ Kanga were lost and 9 PI was pinned down.

Multiple patrols were sent out to reinforce from the nearby Black Cat area but their numbers were too small against the Japanese.

At Sam, many planes left Port Moresby, because of

bad weather only one flight landed.

At 1.10pm, 10 PI B Coy 2/5th Bn arrived after a six-hour forced march to reinforce Capt Sherlock's group.

At 2.30pm, the Japanese firepower from 500m directly in front with grenades and machine guns was so intense that 9 PI was overrun. Capt



Bold actions: Capt Bill Sherlock was killed in the Battle of Wau, Papua New Guinea, in 1943.
Photo provided by the Australian War Memorial

Sherlock immediately led a bayonet charge with one section of 10 Pl. More casualties were sustained.

Capt Sherlock told brigade: **1445** - "Badly in need of water and men soon." **1455** - "Cut off and look like being overrun."

1510 - "Things very hot, any help sent may be too late. One platoon overrun and am countering now."

1525 - A signal to Port Morseby from Brigade said, "Enemy attacking in force Wandumi about four hours from Wau. Our company isolated this area, sending coy from Wau to Wandumi to support. No reserve force left in Wau. You must expedite arrival of troops this area."

1540 - "Only 40 men left." **1700** - "Game was on again, more people coming over the hill, Japanese now engaging our position with grenades and mortars." **1700** - Eight engineers arrived with badly needed supplies and carried back some of the wounded.

A hotchpotch group of HQ staff, cooks and other men from the 2/5th Bn, led by Maj Duffy, arrived from Wau. After crossing the raging river, they engaged the enemy with Brens. Brigade major Maj R Muir reported: "Sherlock's position was thick with Japanese and enquired any news of reinforcements. Japanese were passing on the left and still pouring down past the trig point like ants. More casualties sustained."

1800 - Capt Sherlock's last message was, "Don't think it will be long now. Close up to flank and front, about 50 yards in front."

At this time Maj Duffy gave covering fire and Capt Sherlock's group withdrew to a defensive position on a knoll above the river. They were subjected to mortar and machine gun fire all night.

In the morning the Japanese attacked from the front and flank, advancing shoulder-to-shoulder supported by fire from the rear. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Japanese and they managed to withdraw to cross the Bulolo River.

The company was forced to fragment and a group with Capt Sherlock found a fallen log over the river to cross but Japanese machine guns opened up. Capt Sherlock rushed up the bank, killing one gunner, but the second gunner killed him. More casualties were sustained.

On January 29, weather cleared and 60 flights



landed at Wau under Japanese mortar and small-arms fire.

Massive battles were fought between the Japanese and 2/5 and 2/7 Bns, and by January 31 the Japanese were retreating.

If the Japanese had arrived a few hours earlier or the weather had not cleared, the Japanese would have had Wau. Without the stalling action by Capt Sherlock's group the war in New Guinea would have been extended by possibly another year.

Of the 2500 Japanese who made it to the Wau valley less than half made it out.

During the three-month Kokoda campaign about 600 Australian were killed. During the three-week Wau campaign more than 100 diggers died.

Soldiers said Capt Sherlock should have been awarded a Victoria Cross. Instead he was awarded a Mention in Despatches.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

An edited version of President Obama's speech prior to the reading of the citation.

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon, everybody. Please be seated.

Today is particularly special. Since the end of the Vietnam War, the Medal of Honor has been awarded nine times for conspicuous gallantry in an ongoing or recent conflict. Sadly, our nation has been unable to present this decoration to the recipients themselves, because each gave his life -- his last full measure of devotion -- for our country. Indeed, as President, I have presented the Medal of Honor three times -- and each time to the families of a fallen hero.

Today, therefore, marks the first time in nearly 40 years that the recipient of the Medal of Honor for an ongoing conflict has been able to come to the White House and accept this recognition in person. It is my privilege to present our nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, to a soldier as humble as he is heroic: Staff Sergeant Salvatore A. Giunta.

During the first of his two tours of duty in Afghanistan, Staff Sergeant Giunta was forced early on to come to terms with the loss of comrades and friends. His team leader at the time gave him a piece of advice: "You just try -- you just got to try to do everything you can when it's your time to do it." You've just got to try to do everything you can when it's your time to do it.

Salvatore Giunta's time came on October 25, 2007. He was a Specialist then, just 22 years old.

Staff Sergeant Giunta, repeatedly and without hesitation, you charged forward through extreme enemy fire, embodying the warrior ethos that says, "I will never leave a fallen comrade." Your actions disrupted a devastating ambush before it could claim more lives. Your courage prevented the capture of an American soldier and brought that soldier back to his family. You may believe

that you don't deserve this honor, but it was your fellow soldiers who recommended you for it. In fact, your commander specifically said in his recommendation that you lived up to the standards of the most decorated American soldier of World War II, Audie Murphy, who famously repelled an overwhelming enemy attack by himself for one simple reason: "They were killing my friends."

This medal today is a testament to his uncommon valor, but also to the parents and the community that raised him; the military that trained him; and all the men and women who served by his side.

So, please join me in welcoming Staff Sergeant Salvatore A. Giunta for the reading of the citation.

MILITARY AIDE: The President of the United States

of America, authorized by act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded, in the name of Congress, the Medal of Honor to then Specialist Salvatore A. Giunta, United States Army.

Specialist Salvatore A. Giunta distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty,

in action, with an armed enemy in the Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, on October 25, 2007.

While conducting a patrol as team leader, with Company B, 2d Battalion Airborne, 503d Infantry Regiment, Specialist Giunta and his team were navigating through harsh terrain when they were ambushed by a well-armed and well-coordinated insurgent force.

While under heavy enemy fire, Specialist Giunta immediately sprinted towards cover and engaged the enemy. Seeing that his squad leader had fallen, and believing that he had been injured, Specialist Giunta exposed himself to withering enemy fire and raced towards his squad leader, helped him to cover and administered medical aid.

While administering first aid, enemy fire struck Specialist Giunta's body armour and his secondary weapon. Without regard to the ongoing fire, Spe-



cialist Giunta engaged the enemy before prepping and throwing grenades, using the explosions for cover in order to conceal his position.

Attempting to reach additional wounded fellow soldiers who were separated from the squad, Specialist Giunta and his team encountered a barrage of enemy fire that forced them to the ground. The team continued forward, and upon reaching the wounded soldiers, Specialist Giunta realized that another soldier was still separated from the element. Specialist Giunta then advanced forward on his own initiative. As he crested the top of a hill, he observed two insurgents carrying away an American soldier. He immediately engaged the enemy, killing one and wounding the other. Upon reaching the wounded soldier, he began to provide medical aid, as his squad caught up and provided security.

Specialist Giunta's unwavering courage, selflessness and decisive leadership while under extreme enemy fire were integral to his platoon's ability to defeat an enemy ambush and recover a fellow American soldier from the enemy.

Specialist Salvatore A. Giunta's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Company B, 2d Battalion Airborne, 503d Infantry Regiment and the United States Army.

The following was sent to me from WO2 David Troedel in Queensland. It is a very interesting take on the presentation ceremony for SSgt Salvatore Giunta. ed

The Third Row

The very sad part about this email is, that ALL the recipients will NOT forward it to those they are connected with. Most will take a look at it, and then delete it because it MAY be controversial. And, that is the problem with the world we live in today. Most are not willing to admit to how bad things are right now and are unwilling to step up and be heard. Think about this. The Third Row?

www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=hxlcVAEj0sM&vq=large

Giunta receiving the Medal of Honor

Please see below a statement issued on behalf of Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith VC, MG in response to News Limited reporting on 11 February 2013:

On Monday, 11 February 2013, News Limited publications published an article claiming that I am leaving the Australian Army to pursue a business career. Regrettably, the article was inaccurate and I feel it needs to be corrected.

I have not resigned from the Special Air Service Regiment and remain a member of the Australian Army who is proud to continue serving with the SASR.

Over the course of 18 years in the Army, I have accumulated a substantial amount of leave and plan to take some of that leave this year. Contrary to News Limited reports, my plan to take leave is not linked to my operational tempo and is, rather, a case of wishing to spend some time with my family and needing to clear some leave.

I will not discuss the period of leave I intend to take or my plans during this time, as I consider these personal matters. Like any Army member, I remain a serving member whilst on leave.

I find it disappointing and unfortunate to have to share details of my personal circumstances, however I feel it is important I do so in order to correct the inaccuracies in these reports and to reaffirm my commitment to the SASR, the Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Like any member of the ADF, there will come a time for me to move on. However, if and when that time comes, I will remain connected to the SASR, the Army and the ADF **and will not quit or walk away as News Limited reporting has suggested.** (My emphasis; ed)

While I accept the public responsibilities of holding the Victoria Cross for Australia, I strongly believe that some aspects of my personal and family life remain private and I thank those members of the Australian media and public who have respected these wishes.

Courtesy Defence Media Operations

An excellent short film of ARTILLERY IN ACTION



Artillerie.mp4

Courtesy WO1 John Mottershead

"Air Story" out of Vietnam

By Lawrence E. Pence - Colonel, USAF (Ret)

For most servicemen who served in Vietnam, the Freedom Bird was that civil airliner which took them back to the land of the big PX at the end of their tour. Mine was a bit different sort of Freedom Bird.

In mid-1967, as a junior Air Force Captain, I was detailed to 7th AF Hq in Saigon as an Air Technical Intelligence Liaison Officer, short name: ATLO (the "I" gets left out, as people look strangely at anyone who calls himself an ATILO, thinking he is somehow related to Atilla the Hun). My job was to provide 7AF and the air war the best technical intelligence support that the Foreign Technology Division of AF Systems Command (my parent organization) could provide, in whatever area or discipline needed. Also I was to collect such technical intelligence as became available. This was a tall order for a young Captain, and this assignment provided much excitement, including the Tet Offensive.

At that time, Operation Rolling Thunder was underway, the bombing of military targets in North Vietnam. The weather in NVN was often lousy, making it difficult to find and accurately strike the assigned targets, so a radar control system was set up to direct the strike force to their targets. This system was installed in a remote, sheer-sided karst mountain just inside Laos on the northern Laos/NVN border. The site could be accessed only by helicopter or a tortuous trail winding up the near-vertical mountainside, so it was judged to be easily defensible. The mountaintop was relatively flat and about 30 acres in size. On it was a tiny Hmong village called Phu Pha Ti, a small garrison of Thai and Meo mercenaries for defense, a helicopter pad and ops shack for the CIA-owned Air America Airline, and the radar site, which was manned by "sheep-dipped" US Air Force enlisted men in civilian clothes.

Both the US and NVN paid lip service to the fiction that Laos was a neutral country, and no foreign military were stationed there, when in reality we had a couple of hundred people spread over several sites, and NVN had thousands on the Ho Chi Minh trail in eastern Laos. This particular site was called Lima (L for Laos) Site 85. The fighter-bomber crews called it Channel 97 (the radar frequency), and all aircrews called it North Station, since it was the furthest north facility in "friendly" territory. Anywhere north of North Station was

bad guy land.

The Channel 97 radar system was an old SAC precision bomb scoring radar which could locate an aircraft to within a few meters at a hundred miles. In this application, the strike force would fly out from Lima Site 85 a given distance on a given radial, and the site operators would tell the strike leader precisely when to release his bomb load. It was surprisingly accurate, and allowed the strikes to be run at night or in bad weather.

This capability was badly hurting the North Vietnamese war effort, so they decided to take out Lima Site 85. Because of the difficulty of mounting a ground assault on Lima Site 85, and its remote location, an air strike was planned. Believe it or not, the NVNAF chose biplanes as their "strike bombers!" This has to be the only combat use of biplanes since the 1930's. The aircraft used were Antonov designed AN-2 general purpose "workhorse" biplanes with a single 1000hp radial piston engine and about one ton payload. Actually, once you get past the obvious "Snoopy and the Red Baron" image, the AN-2 was not a bad choice for this mission. Its biggest disadvantage is, like all biplanes, it is slow. The Russians use the An-2 for a multitude of things, such as medevac, parachute training, flying school bus, crop dusting, and so on.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonov_An-2

An AN-2 just recently flew over the North Pole. In fact, if you measure success of an aircraft design by the criteria of number produced and length of time in series production, you could say that the AN-2 is the most successful aircraft design in the history of aviation! The NVNAF fitted out their AN-2 "attack bombers with a 12 shot 57mm folding fin aerial rocket pod under each lower wing, and 20 250mm mortar rounds with aerial bomb fuses set in vertical tubes let into the floor of the aircraft cargo bay. These were dropped through holes cut in the cargo bay floor. Simple hinged bomb-bay doors closed these holes in flight.

The pilot could salvo his bomb load by opening these doors. This was a pretty good munitions load to take out a soft, undefended target like a radar site. Altogether, the mission was well planned and equipped and should have been successful, but Murphy's Law prevailed. A three plane strike force was mounted, with two attack aircraft and one standing off as command and radio relay. They knew the radar site was on the mountaintop, but they did not have good intelligence as to its pre-

cise location, It was well camouflaged, and could not be seen readily from the air. They also did not realize that we had "anti-aircraft artillery" and "air defense interceptor" forces at the site. Neither did we realize this.

The AN-2 strike force rolled in on the target, mistook the Air America ops shack for the radar site, and proceeded to ventilate it. The aforementioned "anti-aircraft artillery" force - one little Thai mercenary about five feet tall and all balls- heard the commotion, ran out on the helicopter pad, stood in the path of the attacking aircraft spraying rockets and bombs everywhere, and emptied a 27-round clip from his AK-47 into the AN-2, which then crashed and burned.

At this juncture, the second attack aircraft broke off and turned north towards home. The "air defense interceptor" force was an unarmed Air America Huey helicopter which was by happenstance on the pad at the time, the pilot and flight

down-wash stalled out the upper wing of the AN-2. Suddenly the hapless AN-2 pilot found himself sinking like a stone! So he pulled the yoke back in his lap and further reduced his forward speed.

Mean-while, the Huey flight mechanic, not to be outdone in the macho contest, crawled out on the Huey's skid and, one-handed, emptied his AK-47 into the cockpit area of the AN-2, killing or wounding the pilot and copilot. At this point, the AN-2 went into a flat spin and crashed into a mountain-side, but did not burn.

A couple of firsts: (1) The first and only combat shoot down of a biplane by a helicopter, and (2) The first known CIA air-to-air victory.

As an addition to this story, there is a painting of this shoot down on prominent display at the University of Texas Dallas Research Library in Richardson Texas. Also, the throttle quadrant from the downed AN-2 is displayed along with other Air America memorabilia.



mechanic having a Coke in the ops shack. When holes started appearing in the roof, they ran to their Huey and got airborne, not quite believing the sight of two biplanes fleeing north.

Then the Huey pilot, no slouch in the balls department either, realized that his Huey was faster than the biplanes! So he did the only thing a real pilot could do -attack! The Huey overtook the AN-2's a few miles inside North Vietnam , unknown to the AN-2's as their rearward visibility is nil. The Huey flew over the rearmost AN-2 and the helicopter's

Have you ever seen an Air America one kilo gold bracelet? Not many of those around. Last year, the CIA finally turned over all of the Air America records to UTD. There was a reunion of dozens of CIA and Air America personnel at the event which included several panel discussions open to the public. The helicopter involved was actually a civilian Bell 205 which looks like the Bell UH-1H or Huey.

WJY

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

(An edited) **ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE CHIEF OF ARMY, LT GEN DAVID MORRISON at the NATIONAL Security institute 12 Oct '12**

Now, as the Chief of Army, I am its main public advocate and champion in the public domain, and hence when I speak to audiences similar to this I am prepared right at the outset to say how deeply I understand the respect and affection that Australians of all walks of life, and across all age groups, feel for their Army. That respect has been earned by the deeds of successive generations of Australian men and women who have put service before self at their nation's call in war and peace.

And I wish at times that the general public would understand better the complexity of the organisation and how important consistent funding and support for it is, but be assured that I am incredibly proud to lead it.

However as much as I love the Army, my purpose today is not to indulge in either nostalgia nor sentimentality. Yes the Army is one of our most treasured and revered institutions, but now I want to talk to you about it as an instrument of national power and as a substantial piece of public infrastructure. It is a large and complex organisation with a very distinct culture and ethos, but despite its mastery of violence it is a surprisingly fragile organism in some ways. Its capability must be painstakingly built up and nurtured, and this takes significant time and public funding. Yet its capability can be relinquished disturbingly rapidly if it is not carefully developed and sustained.

Now, both Peter (Lt Gen (Retd) Peter Leahy) and I, as a current Chief of Army and a former Chief of Army, have seen the capability and numerical strength of the Army fluctuate widely during the course of our three-decade plus careers. Right now the Army's in great shape. We have steadily rebuilt our capital base through prudent investment by this Government and the previous government since the East Timor crisis of 1999. We are far better equipped than we have been at any time during my career and we are in the midst, budget constraints notwithstanding, of the most significant re-equipment program since the end of the Vietnam War.

Our soldiers have been exposed to sustained operations across the spectrum, from war fighting in lethal environments through to peacemaking and support, as well as pure humanitarian relief. Our ranks are seasoned by combat and led by junior officers and NCOs with significant operational experience. This is

an intangible asset that few armies in the world possess in such abundance. And, of course, I hope that that potential for the guarding of Australia's future and is not squandered.

In short, I think we are about the right size and that our modernisation plan is sound, being derived from a sober assessment of both the changing character of war and the tectonic shifts in the global system associated with the rise of China and India, assertive Islamic militancy directed against the West, rapid population growth manifested as intensified urbanisation, a changing world climate and what seems to be a semi-permanent global economic crisis.

One of the Government's most pressing stated objectives is the restoration of a budget surplus. And as a Service Chief I understand the context in which I must operate to assist them in that endeavour.

As you have all undoubtedly observed in the media, this year's budget contained significant reductions in real Defence expenditure. There was some alarmist, and not entirely accurate, commentary likening the state of our Defence Force to that on the immediate eve of the Second World War when we were in a parlous state.

That analogy was based on a raw comparison of the share of the Defence budget as a portion of gross domestic product in each era, and it is not that simple.

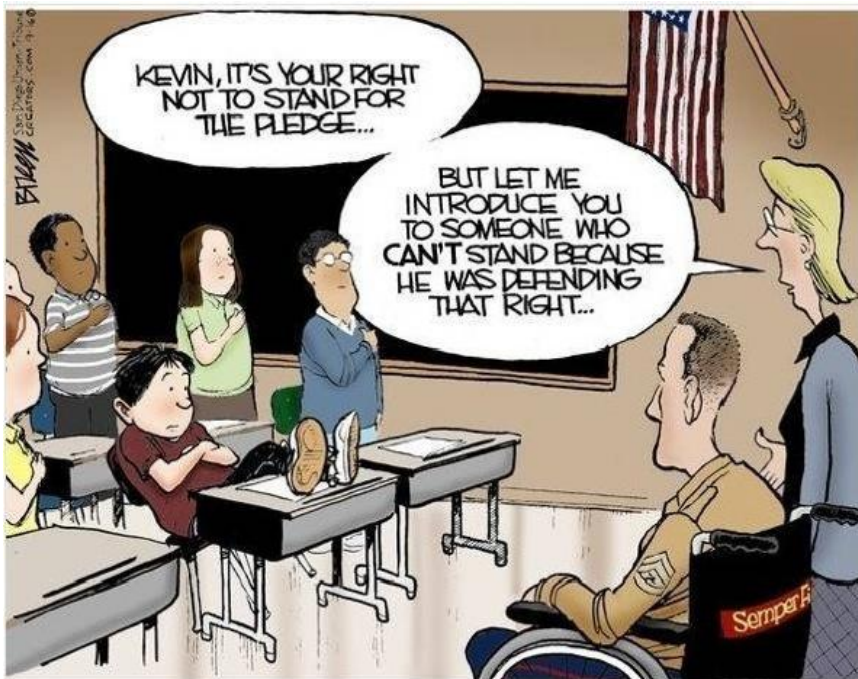
I can only speak for Army, but we are in substantially better shape than we were in 1939, or indeed, than we were when I first joined in 1979. And I also know that this is the consensus of my Navy and Air Force colleagues because of the significant and expensive remediation of all our Services that took place after the strategic shock of East Timor in 1999.

Now, in the remainder of my time today I will explain why implementing Army's currently approved modernisation plan, called BEERSHEBA, actually represents both sound fiscal policy as well as strategic prudence. Good economics reinforces good strategy, and produces sound public policy.

To read the entire transcript, please go to:

<http://www.army.gov.au/Our-work/Speeches-and-transcripts/National-Security-Lecture>

Courtesy Department of Defence - Army



Courtesy Sgt Eddie Evans

Very soon we may see ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans Day, Remembrance Day and other important Military Parades banned because of those who do not/WILL NOT share and join our way of life.

STAND UP FOR OUR COUNTRY AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR IT SO YOU MAY LIVE IN PEACE AND HAVE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ARE NOT RULED BY A SUPPOSED "RELIGION".

REMEMBER SO MANY OF THEM ARE STILL VOLUNTEERING FOR MILITARY SERVICE SO THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO LOOK OVER YOUR SHOLDER EVERY 5 MINUTES..!!!!

China's new aircraft carrier! Wow!

These aircraft carriers look formidable and of ultra modern design. There are reports the 1st Chinese aircraft carrier is under construction and could enter service around 2015 or earlier. It won't be long before we see the real thing. Defense analysts are waiting; watching anxiously.



SNOPES: Origins: In August 2011, China's first aircraft carrier began sea trials. Given that this ship is a refurbished former Soviet aircraft carrier, not the catamaran-style design show here, and China reportedly plans to build "up to three additional clones of the carrier" in the long term, it's unlikely the picture

displayed here is a conceptual image of "a new ultra modern Chinese concept carrier" currently engaged in building a craft like the one shown here, or has any plans to do so. The origin of these images is unknown to us and may have no connection with the Chinese military.

SNOPES: Last updated 10 August 2011

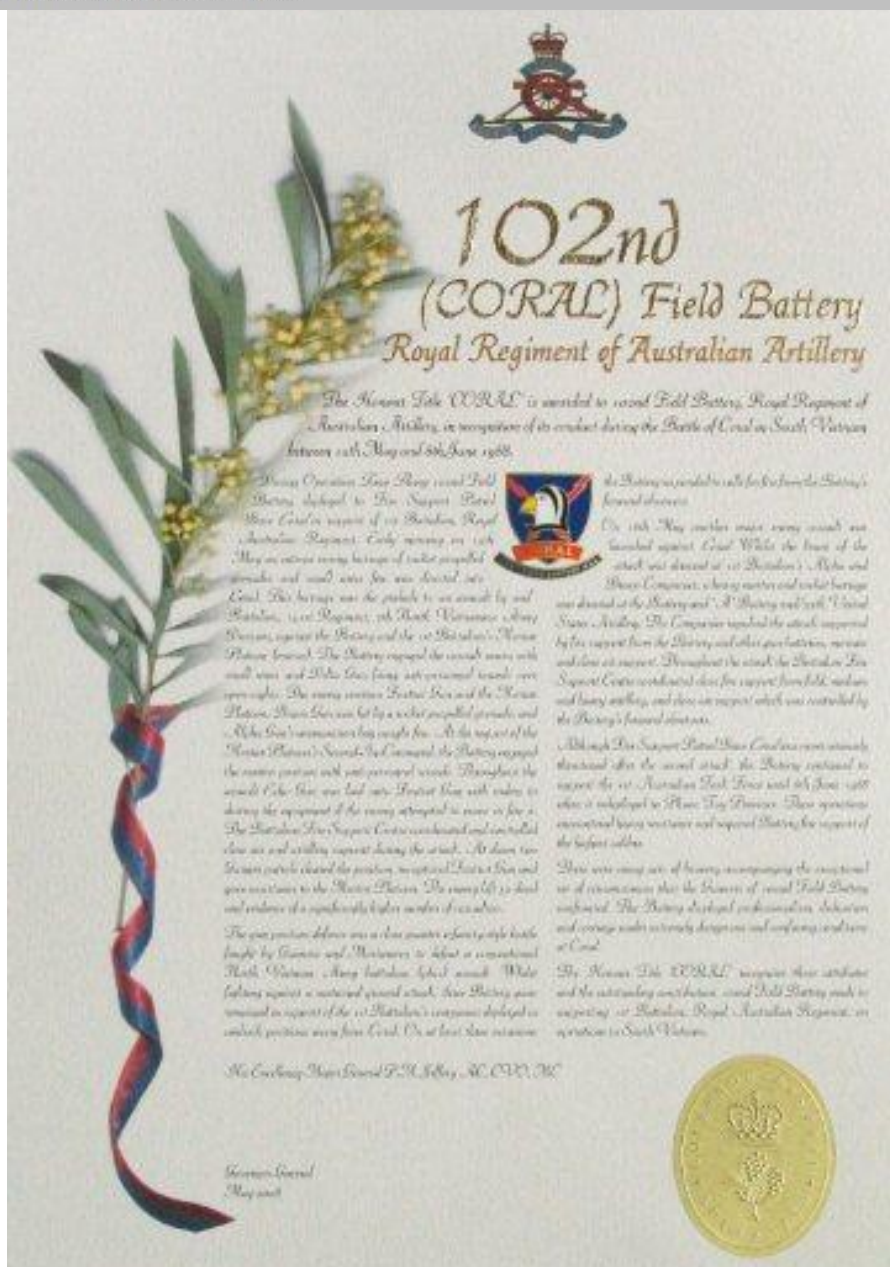
Draw your own conclusions! ed

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL TO HOLD HISTORIC DOCUMENT

The Royal Australian Artillery Regimental Committee (RAARC) in its July meeting discussed the need to preserve the unique Honour Title Scroll awarded to 102 (CORAL) Field Battery RRAA by the Governor General during the 40th Anniversary Commemorations of the Battle of Coral. Preservation of the Scroll is a critical issue since it is the only document of its type in Australia and possibly the world, and as such is priceless. Three numbered copies have been made; one is held at 8/12 Medium Regiment, one at the School of Artillery and the third at the Australian Army Artillery Museum at North Fort.

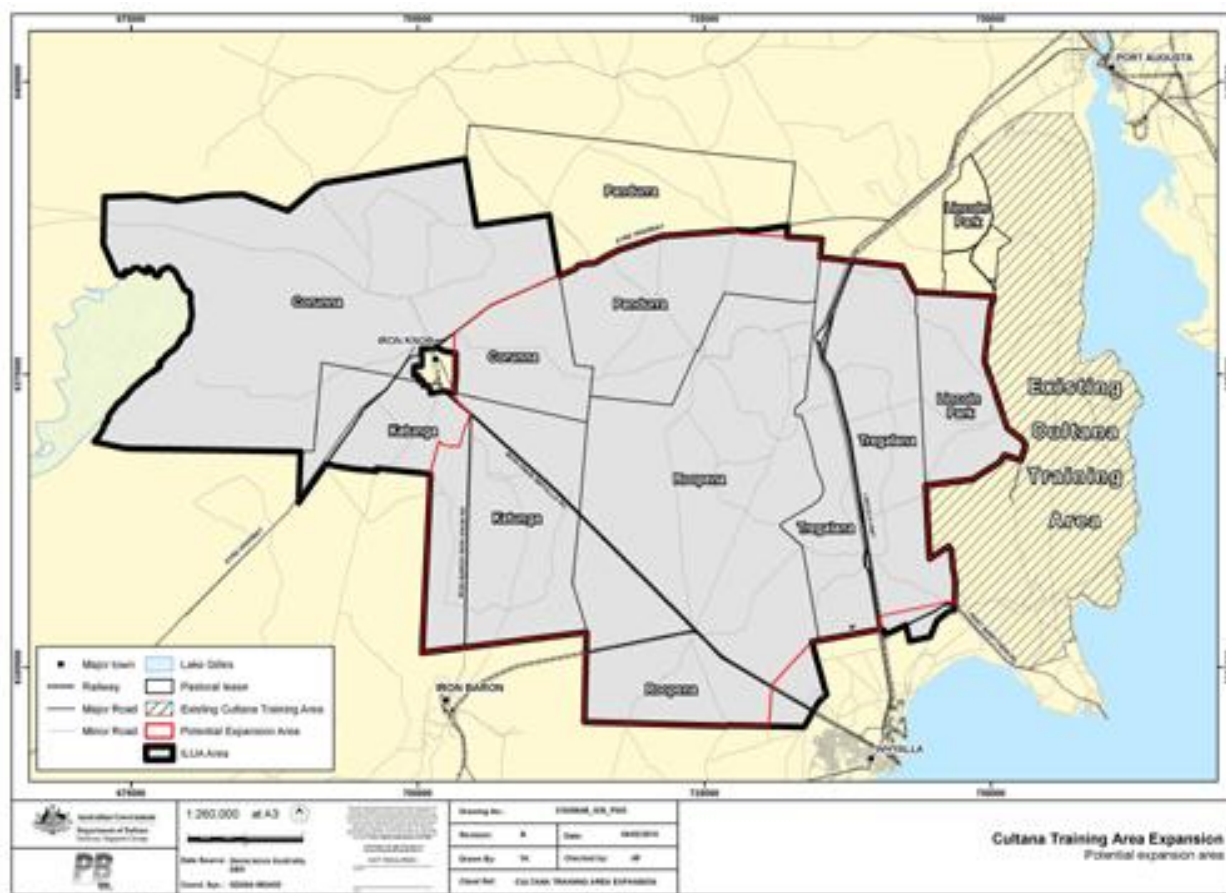
The original was held by 8/12 Medium Regiment in Darwin but sadly the appropriate preservation environment could not be provided and the document began to deteriorate. Discussions about display and presentation of the scroll were started with the Australian War Memorial (AWM) and although the AWM cannot display the scroll they have agreed to hold and preserve it for two years. The scroll will be held in the Research Centre and, on request, will be available for viewing by members of 102 (CORAL) Field Battery RRAA and for research purposes. The Research Centre can be accessed with the assistance of the AWM staff.

The RAARC is disappointed that the scroll cannot be displayed but the loan to the AWM will guarantee its preservation and conservation in the short term. The AWM has also offered to provide advice regarding appropriate storage and display needs for the scroll to ensure its long term preservation. Responsibility for providing the long term display environment and its location will need to be determined.



“The expansion remains important to the nation as it will provide Defence with a much-needed large-scale training area located outside of the wet sea-

Further information is available on the Cultana Training Area Expansion Project website at <http://www.defence.gov.au/id/cultana/>



Did you know!

The 1RAR Shovel



When the departing Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), was reviewing his Unit farewell parade in Korea in 1953, he was disgusted with the standard of the drill and was reported to comment that he "could have done better with a shovel". The acting RSM cried out "Prove it". With this the CO, and the warrant officers and senior NCOs headed for the Sergeants' Mess where the CO was put through a variety of drill movements armed with a shovel.

On completion of the "display" the CO ordered that the shovel be packed up and returned to Australia. It has remained in the Battalion's Sergeants' Mess ever since. On each new CO's first visit to the Mess it is brought out and he is put through a series of Lee-Enfield .303 rifle drill movements with the shovel.

Courtesy WO1 Chris Jobson

Political Correctness (PC) Has Gone Stark Raving Mad

Let's get it straight, once and for all
Soldiering is tough and is no Fancy Dress Ball
So bugger PC ; military service is about preparing for war
Regular, Conscript and Reservist; you all know the score

No matter your cause or religion, you obey the bugle's call
No special favours, be you straight, gay, left handed, short or tall
Nor if you're black, white or in between with a definite tan
Providing you do your job, nobody gives a damn
Just remember, an oath to serve the Nation you did swear
It didn't include parading of uniform in controversial Fairs
The national cloth is not a tool to pursue a minority aim
Nor should it be used by politicians as part of the political game
Have we forgotten that soldiering is serious and can be quite grim?
Splintering the Force with controversy would be an unforgivable sin

So a message for those with personal crusades
By all means, stand up and have your say
But you can do better by using your bloody heads
March in Mufti and continue to honour the military thread

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

Do you agree/disagree.

I welcome your opinions and I'll publish them in the next journal. ed

Another of Lt Reg Kidd's memoirs. Enjoy.

BOUGAINVILLE - AUSTRALIA'S FORGOTTEN CAMPAIGN

By Lt Reg Kidd - 4 Bty. 2 Aust Field Regt (AIF)

The devastation caused by the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 signalled the end of Japanese military activity in the Pacific. It brought to a close a war that Japan could not win and with the benefit of hindsight saved the loss of many thousands of combatants, although the civilian casualties in Japan were horrific.

Much has been written for and against the use of these atomic bombs. However the cessation of hostilities on Bougainville was, with again, the benefit of hindsight, a blessing in disguise for the Australian Army.

The Bougainville campaign was heading towards a critical stage. It was being severely affected by a number of factors including -

- The extremely wet July 1945 which brought most of the fighting to a standstill washing away parts of the Buin Road carrying troops and supplies south from Torokina and flooding river crossings and immobilising jeep supply train over the long line of communication from Torokina to the Mivo river where the major fighting was taking place.
- The casualty rate had been steadily climbing as the Japanese resistance stiffened. In the eight months of fighting the Australian formations had suffered over 2000 casualties including 500 killed in action. Additionally over 4000 personnel had been hospitalised suffering malaria, dengue, scrub typhus and skin diseases.
- The Australian troops were badly in need of relief after eight months of action, but the supply of reinforcements was a mere trickle. War Historian, Gavin Long indicated that over 7500 troops were waiting in Townsville for shipping to take them to Bougainville and

Wewak, including the 13th Fd. Regt. required to stiffen the artillery activity in the southern sector. But no shipping was available as it had all been directed to the Philippines for the American campaign there. Indeed only the bare level of supplies and munitions was being received at Torokina.

- The Japanese were being forced back to the southern tip of Bougainville to an area around their main base at Buin - but Japanese raiding parties were active all along the Buin road attacking supply trains, unit camps and engineers repairing the road which was being systematically booby trapped and mined. This necessitated troops being withdrawn to protect unit headquarters.

By contrast the Japanese supply lines were much shorter and their base at Buin was heavily defended with emplaced artillery and strong points ready for a fight to the death. It is clear that the further the Australians advanced the heavier would be the Japanese resistance and the higher the casualties.

Gavin Long, the war historian, in the official history of the Bougainville campaign in the Australian War Museum's publication 'The Final Campaigns' stated -

'the task undertaken by II Aust. Corps was too great for its resources. When its offensives opened the Japanese were in greater numerical strength than that part of II Aust. Corps on Bougainville. In eight months of fighting the Japanese lost about three sevenths of their number, but in August 1945 they were still so strong that the reduction of Buin would have undoubtedly involved longer and costlier operations than those already endured.'

The reasons for the Bougainville campaign are still unclear even sixty years after the cessation of hostilities. General Blarney's instruction to Lt. Gen. Savage - commanding II Aust. Corps cautioned against being drawn into a major campaign - which caution seems to have been largely ignored or misinterpreted. But the overriding consideration is to what extent did the campaign accomplish anything which assisted the Allied defeat of Japan? The answer is that it did nothing! In fact, it seems to have been a

means of keeping Australian troops in the field to fight a politically motivated campaign, the results of which have never been properly analysed or appreciated.

But what of the Japanese side of this campaign. Fortunately, we have been able to learn of their problems through a debriefing exercise conducted by the Intelligence Section of 23 Aust. Inf. Bde. after the cessation of hostilities. I have a copy of this excellent fifty page report which was not accepted by 3 Div. HQ. It obviously upset them because it contained some criticisms of the Australian conduct of the campaign. In his foreword to this report entitled 'The History of the Japanese Occupation of Bougainville - March 1942 to August 1945' Brigadier Simpson - Comdr. 23 Aust. Inf. Bde. states -

'This history has been compiled from a series of interrogations and discussions with Japanese Army and Navy Staff Officers. As all Japanese documents were destroyed in June 1945 in anticipation of the final decisive battles, all information has been received verbally and no documents have been produced to substantiate statements made by these Officers.

When the reasons for the compilation of this document were given to Lt. Gen. Kanda and his staff, almost without exception they appeared willing to co-operate. They gave the impression of frankness and sincerity in all their statements. 19 Feb. 1946'.

After their defeat on Guadalcanal the Japanese army withdrew up the chain of islands in the Solomon's Group and finally assembled on Bougainville with units in the north at Buka, in the east at Kieta but with the main concentration at Buin in the south. They had no air support and were cut off from their main supply bases at Rabaul and Truk. However they had over 67,000 well trained troops and plenty of supplies as well as anti-aircraft and field artillery and a large number of barges.

The Japanese pinned their hopes on reinforcements from Japan which they were sure would eventuate, although they realised that an American landing was imminent.

When the American 1st Marine Corps of two Divisions landed at Torokina in November 1943, it caught the Japanese completely by surprise. They never expected a landing in strength at this location which was only lightly defended.

The American force established a large heavily defended perimeter around Torokina with two 'all weather' airstrips from which they could bomb Rabaul and other Japanese bases further to the north.

A first Japanese counter attack was easily turned back with heavy casualties for the attackers. The Japanese withdrew and began to organise a major counter attack which was commenced on the 8th March 1944. Initially it had some success but was eventually beaten off by American tanks with heavy casualties on both sides. The Japanese then withdrew to the Bonis Peninsula, in the north - Kieta in the east with the main force numbering about 44,000 troops returning to the Buin area in the south of the island.

Over 35% of the Japanese force was now engaged in tending their gardens growing vegetables and tropical fruit to supplement their fishing and they were becoming almost self sufficient supplementing the 1000 tons of rice that had been stockpiled. But there was still an acute shortage of anti-malarial drugs. Malaria was their greatest problem. Japanese submarines frequently called at Buin to unload medical supplies and technical equipment but this was the only contact they had with the outside world apart from wireless communication with Rabaul.

The Japanese were now content to wait for reinforcements from Rabaul or Japan which they were certain would eventuate. On their part the Americans stayed mainly inside their perimeter, having accomplished their task of immobilising the Japanese and showed no signs of mounting a campaign to eliminate them. This virtual truce was maintained from about April 1944 to November when the Australian 3rd Division, augmented by two additional Brigades and Independent Commando Companies relieved the American Americal and 37th Divisions who were destined for the Philippines campaign. In effect almost two divisions of Australian troops

were engaged - probably the greatest number of Australian troops so far committed to any Island campaign.

The Japanese army made little of this alteration until the Australians commenced to patrol aggressively, north towards the Sorakan Peninsula, east along the Numa Numa trail but with the main activity south along the Buin road towards the Japanese main base.

The Japanese fought bitterly but were forced to withdraw back towards Buin where they would have to make their final stand. Their plan, elaborated by Lt.Gen. Kanda, was to disrupt the advancing Australian forces by sending raiding parties deep behind their lines to attack supply trains and isolated units and to raid vehicle parks and supply dumps and to booby trap and mine the Buin road. In the meantime, Buin was being heavily fortified with strong points and Lt.Gen. Kanda indicated that he had over eighty guns to emplace around Buin with a plentiful supply of ammunition.

The cessation of hostilities in August 1945 took the Japanese completely by surprise and they needed several messages from Rabaul before they would entertain a surrender. In fact, the Japanese Command stated that the 17th Army was not defeated. They suffered no humiliation because of the surrender. The war was stopped by the Emperor and they had to obey his command. If anyone apart from the Emperor had ordered the surrender they would not have obeyed, but would have carried out their General's order to fight to the death.

At the conclusion of the Bougainville campaign 24,000 well armed Japanese troops were interned on Fauro Island just to the south of Bougainville, many more than the Allied intelligence sources had previously considered to be the Japanese strength on Bougainville at the commencement of the Australian campaign. In all the Japanese lost 43,000 of the original garrison of 67,000 assembled on Bougainville early in 1943, mainly through battle casualties and illness — but they still had a large well equipped fighting force to confront the advancing Australian troops.

The reduction of Buin would have been a bloody battle and as stated previously, would not have accomplished anything apart from disquiet among the Australian public, who were largely kept in the dark as to what was happening on Bougainville and the climbing casualty rate.

In conclusion we can all be thankful that the war ended when it did, although the way in which it ended will always be a topic for discussion with support and criticism for the use of the atom bomb.

Supporting data taken from -

'The Final Campaigns' by Gavin Long Published by the Australian War Museum

'The History of the Japanese occupation of Bougainville - March 1942 to August 1945*' Compiled by 23 Aust Inf Bde. Intelligence Section

Department of Defence Media Release

21 December 2012

ADF participation in Mardi Gras

Australian Defence Force members will march in uniform at the Sydney Mardi Gras in 2013.

Defence personnel have participated in the Mardi Gras since 2008 but the volunteer contingent of soldiers, sailors and airmen and airwomen will march as a formed body for the first time in the Mardi Gras parade on 2 March 2013.

The decision coincides with the 20th anniversary of the removal of the ban on homosexuals serving in the military and demonstrates the ADF's desire to reflect the community it serves.

Diversity is a strength and asset for today's employers, and Defence is no exception. Workplace inclusion for all ADF members is a high priority for the organisation as it undergoes cultural change through the Pathway to Change strategy.

Defence is working on a number of initiatives to further enhance and support diversity in the ADF workforce, including an Ambassador Network and Diversity Strategy. In addition, Air Force has recently introduced diversity handbooks for lesbian, gay and bisexual members and commanders, and Defence will look to roll this out for the rest of the organisation.

Twenty years after the removal of the restrictions on homosexual members, Defence continues to support and improve diversity in the Australian Defence Force.

Media Contact:

Defence Media Operations: (02) 6127 1999 21 December 2012

ANZMI
Australian & New Zealand
Military Impostors



John (Jack) Anthony Hines of Oxenford, Queensland was born on the 1 April 1944. Being born on that date does not mean that he is an April Fool's Day buffoon, however having read the information supplied by Hines to us, we believe these twins are the ultimate Grand Masters of April Fools. We don't really have to say much, because they allowed themselves to be photographed in Brisbane, Queensland on ANZAC Day 2012 which stirred the Veteran community more than any other case we have completed. As you read about the remarkable career of the Hines twins. Savour the detailed information about **"Military Assessment Surveillance Keep (MASK)"**, "Cherry Red Boots", "Battle Axes" and the blackest of "Black Ops".

John Hines of the Hines twins was contacted to ascertain who they served with, and where and what all the ribands and medals were awarded for. Hines replied in exquisite detail, we have included excerpts from various emails. Jack Hines wrote:

**"LIST OF COMBAT, SKIRMISHES AND SERVICE
WHILST SERVING WITH THE MILITARY ASSESS-
MENT SURVEILLANCE (sic) KEEP OF JOHN
ANTHONY HINES SERIAL NO. 2192192.**

1. Injino, 2. Wessels/Marchinbar/ Badu Islands at the top of Australia, 3. Borneo, 4 Sarawak, 5. Indonesia, 6 Maylasia, 7. Vietnam – North and South, 8

Laos, 9 Cambodia, 10 Thailand, 11 Madagasca, 12 Mozambique, 13, Chasng priates to islands between Madagasca/Mozambique, 14 Serria Leone, 15 Chad (twice), 16 Lybia (twice), 17 Algiera, 18 Niger, 19 Botswana, 20 Zambia, 21 Rhodesia/ Zimbabwe, 22 South Africa (3 times)

**MEDALS AWARDED TO ME DURING SERVICE
WITH MASK**

1. 18TH LAA Artillary Regiment Medal (Lost and had to be made up), 1. Special Forces Black Ops Medal, 2. Commando Regiment Medal, 3. Special Commando Neck Madelian, 4. Reserve Medal, 5. 2 Ais-tralian Medals from the UK, 6. 1 Australian Forces Medal from the UK, 7. Voluteers Cross from the UK for completing 4 missions, I completed seven, 8. Police Medal (later replaced two bravery medals – read book), 9. National Meal, 10. Active Service Medal, 11. Australian Active Service Medal, 12. The Vietnam Medal, 13. Australian Service Medal, 14. 3 Gallantry Medals of which I only have one, 15. Borneo Service Medal, 16. Thailand Service Medal, 17. Cambloda Service Medal, 18. South East Asia Medal, 19. Indonesian Service Medal, 20. Mo-zambique Servide Medal, 21. Madagasca Service Medal, 22. Serra Leone Service Mecal, 23. Chad Service Medal (twce), 24. Liybia Service Medal (took some time), 25. Botswana Service Medal, 26.

Comat Readiness (US Medals), 27. Weapons Efficiency (USA), 28. Infantry Combat Badge, 29. Golden Jubilee Medal, 30. Citizen Military Forces Medal, 31. Centenary of Federation Medal, 32. Wilson Medal for being wounded 3 times but only got one, 33. Mertiours Award For Outstanding Service from UK, 34. Excellence in Military Taicte Awad from UK, 35. 3more medals CARO/MAS owe me but I couldn't be bothered applying for.

I have made no attempt to fix the many spelling errors. This is how it was presented by Hines (ed)

UNIT CITATIONS IS A RECOGNITION OF AN ACT OF COURAGE AS A WHOLE UNIT AND RECOGNISED BY THE UNIT LEADER.

1. Borneo (Written up by Toby),
2. Laos/Cambodia (Witten up by Toby and Ray Simo)
3. Zimbabwe (Written up by Flip (Doc) Decker

This list may look quite awesome, but most of these medals were due to service in other foreign countries the UK and the USA. It took some effort to extract medals from foreign lands, sometimes years but medals from our Australian TEC (The Executive Committee) were asked for and received without question. The Gold wings represent having dropped from 20,000 feet more than 5 times and the dagger represents skills with hand cutting weapons. Silver wings represent over 50 jumps into foreign lands and during practice. The three Citations and Infantry Combat Badge speak for themselves.

My brother wore only half of his compliment of recognitions, as most of them went missing over 40 years. His crossed rifles represent a marksman, but the original issue was cross Browning 9 Millimetre Pistols.

I served my country with distinction for 16 years, until I was unable to return to MASK because of injuries, then I had to wait another 22 years before I could say anything. I am so very happy that I was able to tell my mother and father of our deed, before they died, my father last November and my mother of the brain – although alive in a Home. They both wept when told."

The real military History of the Hines Twins

Both John and George enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) on 7 November 1963 with the 18 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. They transferred to 1 Commando Company CMF on 5 February 1965, were awarded their Green Beret on 10 October 1965 after passing the required Green Beret tests. We know John was discharged at his own request on 14 March 1967 and that George was discharged on 31 May 1967. Neither joined the Australian Regular Army nor did they serve overseas on active service. We have John's service record confirming his limited military career.

As evidenced in the photograph the Hines twins have produced elaborate "props" to support their false military history and they actually marched in Brisbane last ANZAC Day 2012 wearing their false trinkets. They are both falsely wearing the Infantry Combat Badge on the wrong side and upside down. The gold wings they are wearing appear to be that of the United States Navy/united States Marine Corps. On the left breast they are wearing an Australian Army Parachute Badge which is worn on the upper right arm.



Many of the medal ribands worn are obsolete and some cannot be found on medal charts or medal books. They have most likely randomly purchased the ribands and medals from a medal shop or Military enthusiasts Swap Meet.

Both Hines brothers are falsely wearing Australian Active Service Medals and Vietnam Campaign medals. Wearing those medals and claiming to be a Returned Veterans is an offence against the Defence Act 1903 Part IV Sections 80A and 80B, both offences attract a maximum fine of \$3,300 or six months prison or both. The only medal they may be entitled to is the Australian Defence Medal.

Summary and conclusion.

We have not launched an in depth prosecution to prove the Hines twins are liars, frauds, wannabes

and cheats because their antics and their statements speak for themselves. Not only do these Buffoons falsely claim to be “Black Ops” secret agents but they have the audacity to march with genuine veterans on ANZAC Day. John Hines is a name dropper, naming numerous famous soldiers to support his deception and of course all of named are now conveniently deceased.

But that’s not all, these despicable Buffoons have assailed the Department of Veterans Affairs with false claims and forged documents in a bid to be awarded benefits. Their level of intellect is astonishingly low whilst their audacity soars beyond comprehension. Here is John Hines final words with the usual threats well known to all wannabe idiots.

“Firstly, I would like to state that according to my Solicitor, I don’t have to tell you anything and it was his view for comments, remarks, newspaper articles and or investigations, to be allowed to go ahead, then we would own the newspapers and litigate every person who had a hand in extending the stress and anxiety levels these slanderous remarks had done to the psychological and psychiatric and mental condition to myself and my brother. Waiting 40 years to come out so-to-speak and get hit with such a tirade of abuse”

John Hines

THE HINES BROTHERS HAVE NO HONOUR AND NO INTEGRITY. THEY ARE WANNABES IN THE EXTREME

This is published in the public interest, particularly that of the Vietnam Veteran Community. All information presented here is fact and the truth. Reports from private citizens are supported by statements of fact and statutory declarations.

EDITORS NOTE

The above is an edited version of the information on the ANZMI Web site.

Anyone wishing to read the complete article can do so at: <http://www.anzmi.net/hines/hines.html>

The site also includes the fantastic array of medals the Hines say they have earned.

Courtesy WO1 John Mottershead

Minister for Defence Science and Personnel and Senator for Western Australia – Media Release – HMAS Toowoomba deploys for the Middle East

28 December 2012

The Royal Australian Navy Anzac-class frigate HMAS Toowoomba set sail today for a six-month deployment to the Middle East after an emotional farewell from her home port of Fleet Base West in Western Australia.

Crew members of HMAS Toowoomba wave goodbye as they depart Fleet Base West for a six-month deployment to the Middle East.

Toowoomba will take on duties with Operation Slipper when her crew of 180 men and women arrives in the Middle East. The frigate will relieve HMAS Anzac, which has been in the region for the past six months

Operation SLIPPER is Australia's military contribution to the international campaign against terrorism, maritime security in the Middle East Area of Operations and countering piracy in the Gulf of Aden.



The sensor in the sky

Unmanned aerial vehicle provides real-time information on battlespace to planners in Afghanistan

Capt Sean Childs

INTELLIGENCE, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) are the corner-stones of a modern commander's battlespace tool kit.

The Shadow, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), is a sensor in the sky over Afghanistan, with Shadow Group 2 providing ISR in Uruzgan since late last year.

Shadow Group 2's Battery Commander, Maj Scott Lehmann, said the Group spent seven weeks training for deployment at the Woomera Test Range in South Australia before being certified.

"The UAV role here in Tarin Kot is to provide the commander and his staff situational awareness across the battle-space, through the persistent capability we have within our payload," Maj Lehmann said.

"The UAV allows the planning staff to get up-to-date information on the battlespace."

The aircraft is flown from a ground control station by an air vehicle operator, while a mission payload operator manipulates the camera and ancillary sensors.

Information collected is passed to the mission command centre, where images are analysed and higher command requests for information are met.

Shadow Group 2's Mission Command Centre OIC Sgt Sue Osborn, said the technical proficiency and skill required of Shadow's operators was demanding, with data flow and external variables constantly impelling quick, accurate decision making.

Multiskilling is the norm for the team at Shadow Group 2.

"I am an unmanned aerial vehicle operator and I'm dual-hatted with a number of tasks as a flying instructor and a mission commander," Sgt Osborn said.

"I also fly and pilot the aircraft as an air vehicle operator or as a payload operator".

Shadow Group 2 provides ISR for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and coalition partners in Tarin Kot.



Surveillance: Aircraft technicians and crew chief Cpl Tyrone Tynan prepares a Shadow UAV for a mission in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan. Photos by Cpl Christopher Dickson

The Shadow also provides infrastructure support to the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP), contributing to the transition of Afghanistan's security responsibility to the ANSF.

"With the ANA and ANP we provide an overwatch capability, allowing coalition force assets a

timely response to any incidents or application the ANA require to complete their mission," Maj Lehmann said.

Shadow Group 2 has 45 Australian personnel, drawn from the 132nd Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Battery, 20 STA Regt from Enoggera Barracks.

Courtesy Army News

In late Nov last year, I received the following email from Afghanistan.

Sir,

By way of introduction I am **WO2 Ken Williams and currently the BSM of 132 BTY**, serving over-

seas. I have served with 131 BTY as a Surveillance operator in (1999 East Timor), again as a Svy Det Commander (Timor 2002), and a SGT Weapon Locating Radar (Iraq 2006). My people would like to send the "CRACKER" to your people so as you can have a better understanding of what the NEW locators are doing in THEATRE.

To that end I would like to gain a better understanding of the History of 132 BTY, as I continually have junior soldiers asking the history questions and I don't have all the answers.

Our people would also like to name the "compound" that we reside in, to a 132 theme. As 131 has the Menz Club and Checkley Annex. Does 132 have anything of the sort.

Or possibly you could put me in contact with one of your readers, possibly Mr Percy Cooper as I was reading your Christmas edition 2010.

Your assistance in this will be appreciated.

Regards,

KEN WILLIAMS

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 2

BSM TU 633.8.7

I have put Ken in contact with WO2 Craig Cook and trust he has been able to give assistance.

The "Cracker" Ken referred to is a newsletter published by their staff and can be read here.



AFGHAN CRACKER Ed 1.pdf

It provides interesting reading about their duties, accommodation and leisure activities and contains many photos of the Bty members.

This is their first edition and I expect there will be more to follow.

Further information about the Bty can be read at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/20th_Surveillance_and_Target_Acquisition_Regiment,_Royal_Australian_Artillery and at

<http://www.army.gov.au/Who-we-are/Divisions-and-Brigades/Forces-Command/6th-Brigade/20th-Surveillance-and-Target-Acquisition-Regiment>



I received the following poem from Sgt Piers Foa (it came as Piers thoughts re the downgrading of reserve Artillery) and his brief history in a subsequent email.

"As far as dates are concerned, it's all a bit hazy now, but working things out logically, 12 NS, (Holsworthy), must have been 1955/6, so I would have been with 16HAA(Dee Why, Sydney), 1956 to about 1960 (maybe), then I transferred down to Melbourne, and was given a new number, prefixed with a three...BUT....I never ever committed it to memory, and I was at Batman Ave from about 1960 till perhaps 1965....during which time, I got married to a Qld. girl, (friend of a mate in the Sgt's mess), we had a "full dress blues" wedding back in Sydney, and half the mess travelled up for the occasion.....That fell apart about 17 years and three kids later !!!"

"Loving the country life-style with new bride of twenty eight years standing, and another member of the Regt. is Leo Nette, who is also up here."

"Robyn and I run boarding Kennels, raise goats for meat, and we are the local wild life shelter.....hence our trading name of Foas' Ark, (my son threatens to sue me !!) We both love a drink of wine.....if ever you come up this way....look us up, you will be most welcome, oh....and I also belong to the RSL in Wang !!"

A Gunners Lament

It started with "Chocko's", or "Nasho's" I think.

Called-up, and kitted before you could blink,

Posted to units that no longer exist, Some we remember, others we missed

"Civvies", we were, as we trained on the guns enlisted, or drafted.... we're Artillery sons

From big "Three' Sevens", Bofors, and more
To twenty five pounders, we formed a great corps,

"The Right of the Line", will no longer be found
as our guns fall silent....oblivion bound.

"Beersheba", became the word of demise
As "pollies" decided to economise

Our history, our pride is no longer unique
because Canberra decided IT is "ubique" !!!

Soldiers will face the new Physical Employment Standards Assessments next year

ALL serving soldiers will need to complete the new Physical Employment Standards starting next year.

Soldiers will be given at least six weeks lead-up training to help pass the Physical Employment Standards Assessment (PESA).

Maj Ryan Holmes, of Army HQ, said completing PESA would ensure soldiers could effectively and safely perform their roles.

"PES will replace the Combat Fitness Assessment, but the Basic Fitness Assessment will still remain for soldiers to be AIRN compliant" he said.

Before attempting PESA, soldiers will still need to pass their BFA.

"Next year is an evaluation period for Army. There will be a no detriment for soldiers who are already trade qualified."

Any soldiers failing the PESA in 2013 will be provided remedial training and support from unit PTIs and Combat Fitness Leaders to pass on a future attempt.

"Recruits and trainees will need to pass their PESA before leaving Kapooka, RMC or IET," Maj Holmes said.

From 2014 unit commanders will manage their people to ensure all personnel are employed in a role they can safely perform.

"If an individual can't pass their PESA after multiple attempts, then as a last resort, they may need to be employed in a non-trade role or consider for a corps transfer," Maj Holmes said.

The application of PES for the Army Reserve is still under development and is due for release by the end of this year.

Tpr Stephen Gavin, of Australia's Federation

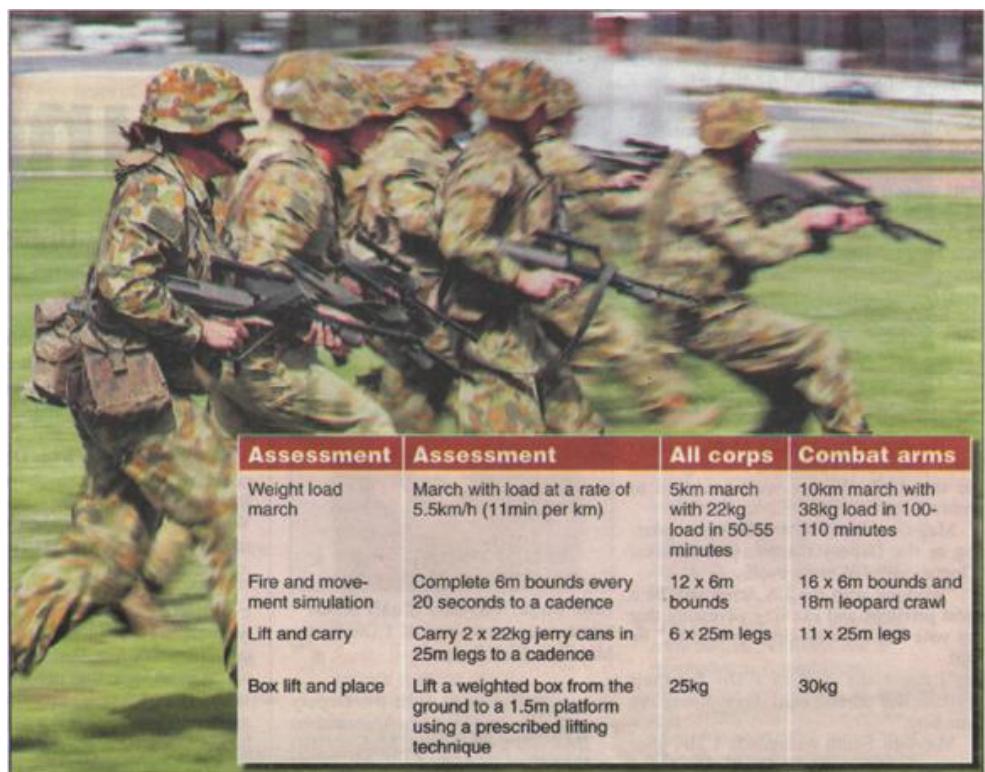
Guard, was part of an all-corps PESA demonstration in Canberra on November 26.

"The jerry can carry PESA was the hardest. I know that I'm going to have to do 11 laps for the combat arms test," he said.

"It's not cardio intense; it tests technique."

Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and the University of Wollongong developed the standards over the past six years.

Dr Daniel Billing, the project leader from DSTO's



Assessment	Assessment	All corps	Combat arms
Weight load march	March with load at a rate of 5.5km/h (11min per km)	5km march with 22kg load in 50-55 minutes	10km march with 38kg load in 100-110 minutes
Fire and movement simulation	Complete 6m bounds every 20 seconds to a cadence	12 x 6m bounds	16 x 6m bounds and 18m leopard crawl
Lift and carry	Carry 2 x 22kg jerry cans in 25m legs to a cadence	6 x 25m legs	11 x 25m legs
Box lift and place	Lift a weighted box from the ground to a 1.5m platform using a prescribed lifting technique	25kg	30kg

Job fitness: Soldiers from Australia's Federation Guard undertake the fire and movement activity during a PESA demonstration in Canberra. Photo by LS Paul Berry

Human Performance and Protection Division, said the scientists collected data on what was required of all soldiers in the field.

"Then we looked to group the tasks by physical capacity and understand which particular tasks were the most demanding," he said.

"There's a lot of background work that has gone into the measurement and quantification to ensure the tests you see on the ground represent the appropriate baseline tasks of all Army personnel."

Courtesy Army News Dec 6 '12

New rounds seek and destroy enemy armour

Capt Andrew Shipton

ANTI-ARMOUR shells are set to return to the gun-line after a successful test firing of new artillery rounds.

The new top-attack anti-armour rounds, known as SMArt 155, deploy two sub-munitions in flight that independently target and attack heavy or light armoured vehicles in an area up to 35sqkm.

Once fired, the German designed round releases sub-munitions at heights up to 1500m, which descend under parachute and use infrared sensors and radar to scan for targets.

When a target is located the sub-munition fires an explosively formed projectile at the softer armour on top of the vehicle.

Gunners from 102 'Coral' Bty assisted in the firing of nine of the new rounds from M777A2 155mm Howitzers at the Proof and Experimental Establishment, at Port Wakefield near Adelaide from August 27-31.

DMO personnel collected data of barrel pressure, muzzle velocity, flight trajectory and sub-munition performance.

The trial also included ammunition inspection and fitment of electronic time M762A1 fusing.

The data collected will allow the new rounds to be introduced into service early next year.

Establishment OC Maj Mike Hartas said it was one of the more complex trials the unit had completed this year.

"The data collection requirements and ensuring that all the questions that needed to be answered could be answered from the one trial has meant my staff have worked hard for a number of months," he said.

"A trial such as this one needs to be done right the first time due to complexity and cost."

Once a fire mission is called with the SMArt 155, the gun line only needs targeting information and to set the fuse before firing.

Dynamic Trials Officer WO2 Mark Nipperess said the simplicity of the ammunition was its strength.

"SMArt 155 will add to the capability offered by gunners through a highly advanced munition," he said.

"The ammunition is simple to employ but intelligent enough to know which targets are not operational or have been hit through previous fire missions, and therefore keep scanning for a new target."



Bombs away:

The first SMArt 155 round (pictured inset right on firing) detonates in the target area. The gun detachment of 102 'Coral' Bty and DMO personnel involved in the shoot (inset left).

Courtesy Army News Dec 6 '12

Reconnaissance specialists are highly regarded in infantry circles and only strong leaders with good soldiering skills can hope to keep up.

(We support them, so let's learn about them. Ed)

Cpl Mark Doran reports for Army News.

Sleep was a luxury for reconnaissance specialists from Army and Air Force during the second 35-day Advanced Reconnaissance Course at the School of Infantry from October 8 to November 9.

The new development course trains junior leaders from corporal to captain to be reconnaissance patrol commanders, platoon sergeants and platoon commanders, and effectively lead small teams in the planning and execution of reconnaissance and surveillance tasks.

Employed in RAR battalions, reserve units and Air Force airfield defence guard units, reconnaissance personnel rely heavily on stealth and teamwork to provide timely and accurate information on the enemy and terrain.

WO2 Paul Dehnert is the Reconnaissance WO of the School of Infantry's Tactics Wing. He says the course is continually evolving and patrol commanders receive the quality training previously missing from the reconnaissance trade.

"We focus heavily on planning and preparation for small team tasks," he says.

"During the first three weeks we instruct on orders, mission planning, the Individual Military Appreciation Process (IMAP), route selection and identification, and bridge building and ford classification.

"The students also learn about the role of the Reconnaissance Surveillance and Sniper (RSS) Platoon and its relationship with the battle group and their involvement in the Staff MAP."

Practical activities on the course include a 24-hour navigation exercise on day two, followed by a standard operating procedures training day where the patrols have the opportunity to shake out as small teams and practise mission profiles in the barracks.

During the field phase of the course, reconnaissance and surveillance missions are led by corporals who are assessed as patrol commanders while the platoon commander, sergeant and students controlling the command post are assessed on their management of the deployed elements.

WO2 Dehnert says the navigation exercise is an excellent leveller. It gives the students an insight into their drive, motivation and character, as they are out bush by themselves facing challenging terrain by day and night.

"The students are also diagnostically tested during the opening week in other skill sets they should be proficient in, such as the all-arms call for fire and the battlefield commentary," he says.

"The observations we have noted show many of the soldiers attending the course are well prepared and have had a lot of operational experience, but they haven't had a lot of time to develop as junior leaders within their trades or even within their own rank." "Officers on the course participate in the tasks as patrolmen to gain an insight and appreciation of what they are asking their soldiers to do and subjecting them to in real time."

Officers on the course participate in the tasks as patrolmen to gain an insight and appreciation of what they are asking their soldiers to do...

-WO2 Paul Dehnert, Recon WO, School of Infantry

Kiowas from 6 Avn Regt and Bushmasters from 12/16LHR provided insertion and extraction support for the 19 students and seven staff on the recent high-tempo course.

A detailed insertion and extraction agency brief is given to pilots and drivers by the patrol commanders as part of the full mission profile, which gives them a chance to meet and discuss any issues or problems.

WO2 Dehnert says knowledge and a thorough understanding of MAP is important, as a reconnaissance specialist needs to be a platform commanders can bounce ideas off.

"They also contribute equally to the decision making and planning process while providing relevant advice to higher commanders," he says.

"Preparation for this course should include

physical conditioning, a review of current intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance and RSS doctrine, along with map marking, overlays and military symbology skills."

Rest is a bonus during the course and is often dependent on the students meeting several milestones and delivering product within set time frames, which keeps it as realistic as it would be within an operational environment.

Cpl Ernest Hocking, of 6RAR, has been in the Army just over seven years with deployments to East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. He says the exposure to advanced reconnaissance tactics is a highlight of the training.

"IMAP was challenging and there were a few late nights with the planning for RSS operations," he says.

"For soldiers planning to do this course I definitely recommend revision of armour identification and military symbology as well as doing the four-week fitness program to boost your fitness."

WO2 Dehnert says there is a reliance on technology, night-fighting equipment, sensors and airborne assets, inescapable facets of the reconnaissance specialists' trade.

"The military is a technically driven field of endeavour, particularly in the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance space," he says.

"What we can't ever replace however, is the 'boots on the ground', by having a well trained reconnaissance soldier providing the ground truth of what is actually happening on the objective to the commanders of the battle group, combat team or brigade.

"We are aiming to turn out mentally agile, multi-skilled platoon members. In the future, if reconnaissance platoons are to become truly platform neutral, these people will be capable of being inserted into an operating environment by foot, vehicle, air or maritime assets, then provide commanders a real force of choice outside of special operations.

"So it is back to basics in some areas on the course, with skills such as writing orders, sketching, producing an accurate patrol diary and navigating with a compass rather than relying on a GPS - so if technology fails, the patrol can still function and achieve mission success."

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence – Aspen Medical signs up to support Reservists

18 December 2012

Aspen Medical has become the first private medical organisation to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Australian Defence Force (ADF), in support of Reservists across all of its Australian operations.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, said the MOU will form a strong basis for further cooperation between Defence and Aspen in managing a shared workforce.

"This MOU will ensure an easier release process when Reservists are called to serve. It will also assist them in dealing with the competing priorities of family, employer and of Defence," Senator Feeney said.

Aspen Medical is an Australian-owned company that specialises in providing health solutions in remote and austere environments as well as metropolitan areas. It is currently one of the largest on-base providers of healthcare services to the ADF, both across Australia and in operational zones. Aspen provides medical practitioners and allied health professionals to all 52 ADF facilities across Australia and delivers the 'Care of Battle Casualty' first aid training course to all ADF personnel deploying to the Middle East.

Deputy Head Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division, Commodore Robert Morrison, and Aspen Managing Director, Glenn Keys, signed the MOU.

Commodore Morrison said Reservist health professionals provided Defence with a significant capability. "The vast majority of Defence's health professionals are Reservists. As such, it is critical to ensure we have a solid relationship with private and public sector organisations that employ them in a civilian capacity," he said.

Mr Keys said Aspen valued the unique contribution Reservists brought to Aspen.

Aspen Medical was presented a Defence Reserves Support Council Employer Support Award in June this year.

This article is the Feature Story taken from the December 2012 edition of Mufti

Two volunteers whose visits are regular as clockwork at ANZAC House in Melbourne are Keith Rossi and Fred Pratt.

Keith is RSL Victoria's near-legendary Historian. He served in the Army from 1937 to 76, both as a regular soldier and a Reservist, seeing action in World War II and Vietnam and rising from the rank of Private to Brigadier. He joined the RSL in 1943, and served on the State Executive for 34 years from 1977.

Keith amassed his vast knowledge of Australia's service units first as Deputy Chief and then Chief Marshal at Melbourne's 1976 to 2000 ANZAC Day parades and then answering enquiries from veterans' descendants. At least one enquirer ("a Major") thought Keith actually was the official RSL historian, so he decided to take on the job. A three-and-a-half days a week commitment soon became five days, and includes providing Wednesday morning tea for everyone in ANZAC House (including visiting writers; thank you, Keith).

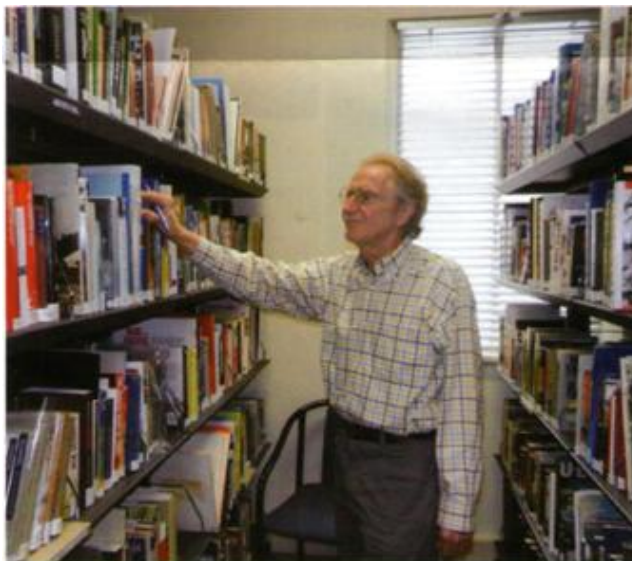
Why does he do all this? "There's a sense of



Keith Rossi the Historian at his desk in ANZAC House.

repaying Australia for what Australia has done for me," he says. "The bonus is, you get more out of it than you put in. It's nice to have people say "You are helping me".

Fred Pratt is RSL Victoria's Librarian and, like Robin Hiern, a community volunteer with no previous RSL ties, but who is dedicated to his task. Fred came to the RSL by way of



Volunteer Fred Pratt is delighted by his role as RSL Victoria's Librarian.

"There are in fact more than 14,000 RSL volunteers working across Victoria, for an annual total of almost 1.3 million hours."

Volunteering Victoria and says he and the RSL are an excellent fit, because history is another of his interests.

Fred's in his office at ANZAC House every week-day from 9 am to 2 pm, taking phone enquiries, receiving and cataloguing books and other archival material and showing a handy talent for coaxing (free) review copies of books from publishers. Does he enjoy his volunteering role? "I love it – I love the location, the people, the community feeling," Fred says. "I look forward to coming in every day"



The Battle of the Han

During the Korean War, HMAS Murchison saw action few Navy warships experience.

SGT Dave Morley reports.

ENGAGING in duels with tanks and infantry isn't the normal role of a Navy warship, but it is one in which HMAS Murchison made a name for herself in 1951.

Murchison, in company with a number of other Commonwealth war ships, made several incursions up the Han River between North Korea and China

"We fired another 10 rounds and got the truck and all the infantry."

On September 28, RADM George Dyer, USN, boarded Murchison to see how she operated in a shore bombardment role.

Mr Joyce said they were only 1800m off the north bank when they were hit by small-arms and three-inch mortar fire.

"A three-inch mortar round hit the port side hull and that was our first hole in the ship," he said.



FEARLESS: HMAS Murchison made a name for herself during the Korean War in a unique role.

Photo: Seapower Centre

during the Korean War.

Former ordinary seaman Sieve Joyce, now 79, was the number one loader on 'A' mount's left gun and said the estuary needed to be charted because there were no bridges left intact over the river.

"General Macarthur had the idea of an amphibious invasion up the Han River to cut off retreating Chinese and North Korean armies," he said.

Murchison had only been in Korean waters for two months when she made her first foray up the river.

Mr Joyce said they saw two T-34 tanks, an ammo truck and about 20 enemy infantry soldiers.

"But a T-34 spotted us first and fired on us so 'A' gun put two armour-piercing rounds into the tank at a range of a mile and the other T-34 look off," he said.

"We had no room to turn so we dropped anchor and used the starboard screw to turn us as the tide came in.

Then both four-inch mounts and all the Bofors guns fired on North Korean infantry positions and wiped them all out on our way back."

Two days later Murchison went back for more. Mr Joyce said it was quiet where they'd been fired on previously, but as they dropped anchor and turned, someone noticed a haystack that wasn't there before.

"Inside it was a T-34 tank so we hit it with two rounds of armour-piercing, then four rounds of star shells to set the haystack alight," he said.

"As the crew climbed out the Bofors opened up on them.

"Then they hit us with five-inch artillery, four-inch tank rounds, three-inch mortars and heavy machine guns.

"We were holed six times above the waterline, one by one the Bofors guns shut down as the hydraulic lines were cut by small-arms fire, and the motor cutter and whaler were riddled."

Murchison's four-inch guns were firing at a rate of 21 rounds a minute, a rate of fire only surpassed by HMS Amethyst, of Yangtze River fame, which had managed 22 rounds a minute.

CO Murchison, LCDR Allan Dollard decided the ship couldn't wait to lift anchor, so he ordered the cable cut and the anchor left behind.

This incident became known as the Battle of the Han.

Mr Joyce said Murchison rescued a downed US airman from a minefield on October 22, 1951.

"We later had a long boat come alongside with a cylinder of ice cream for the ship," he said.

"On another occasion we captured a Chinese soldier, our only POW. "The motor cutter was fired on by some enemy soldiers, so the Bofors on the ship replied and this bloke surrendered to the boat crew."

After Murchison's last patrol before returning to Australia in January 1952, she received a signal from a British Admiral in the cruiser HMS Belfast.

The message read: "I dislike the thought of continuing the war without Murchison, but I will now have to accept it as fact."

was selected in December 2011 as the preferred vehicle for development and testing under the Manufactured and Supported in Australia option of Project LAND 121 Phase 4.

Mr Clare said the Hawkei protected mobility vehicle combines speed with safety for Australian soldiers on the battlefield.

"This year the Government allocated \$38 million for further development and testing of the Hawkei," Mr Clare said.

"Under this agreement Thales will supply six prototype Hawkei vehicles and one trailer for testing and evaluation."

The delivery of the Hawkei prototype vehicle and trailer is an important milestone for Project LAND 121 Phase 4.

"The Hawkei was manufactured at Thales's Bendigo facility, which has been producing Bushmasters since 2003," Mr Clare said.

"The team of 50 working on the Hawkei are part of a team of 210 here at Bendigo. They do a very important job. The work done here in Bendigo is saving lives in Afghanistan."

The remaining five Hawkei vehicle prototypes are expected to be delivered by June 2013.

Over the next year these vehicles will undergo an extensive testing program, including communication system integration testing, reliability growth trials, survivability testing and user assessments.

Project LAND 121 Phase 4 is a \$1.5 billion project that seeks to provide up to 1,300 protected and unprotected light vehicles.

Newest Hawkei prototype delivered

13 December 2012

Minister for Defence Materiel Jason Clare today congratulated Thales Australia on the delivery of the latest Hawkei vehicle and trailer prototypes.

This prototype is the first to be delivered under Stage 2 of Project LAND 121 Phase 4.

Made by Thales Australia, the Hawkei



The latest rotation of combat troops deploy to Afghanistan wearing Australian-made Multicam uniforms

TROOPS operating outside the wire in Afghanistan will soon be wearing Australian-made Multicam uniforms providing a stronger garment better suited to the Afghan environment.

Defence Materiel Minister Jason Clare announced on October 22 that the uniform had been issued to 7RAR soldiers and Airfield Defence Guards deploying to Afghanistan.

Based on feedback from Australian troops, the new uniforms feature a number of modifications and stronger fabric compared to the US design that has been in use for the past two rotations.

Mr Clare said it was the best uniform for the work Australian soldiers did in Afghanistan.

"It provides better concealment and makes it easier for our soldiers to do their job," he said.

"The feedback I've received from troops has been very positive."



About 3600 sets of the new uniforms have been ordered at a cost of almost \$780,000. Another 5500 uniforms will be ordered later this year for soldiers deploying in 2013.

The original uniforms were purchased quickly from the US to get them out to the soldiers on the ground.

Last year Defence purchased a licence from the US manufacturer to make the uniform locally and to create a unique Australian version of the Multicam camouflage pattern.

Three patterns were developed and underwent testing in a range of environments as well as considering feedback from soldiers before the final selection was made.

"They [soldiers] have told me this is the uniform they want and the Australian industry has delivered," Mr Clare said.



Detailed research and newly uncovered information helps two veterans give a comprehensive summary

BOOK REVIEW

Vietnam: The complete story of the Australian War

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

RRP: \$55

Reviewer: Cpt Mark Doran

THE Australian experience in South Vietnam divided the nation more than any other conflict and remains one of most difficult - and controversial - wars we have fought.

On the 50th anniversary of Australia's first involvement comes Vietnam: the complete story of the Australian War, which is a book for anyone who wants to comprehend why we went to war.

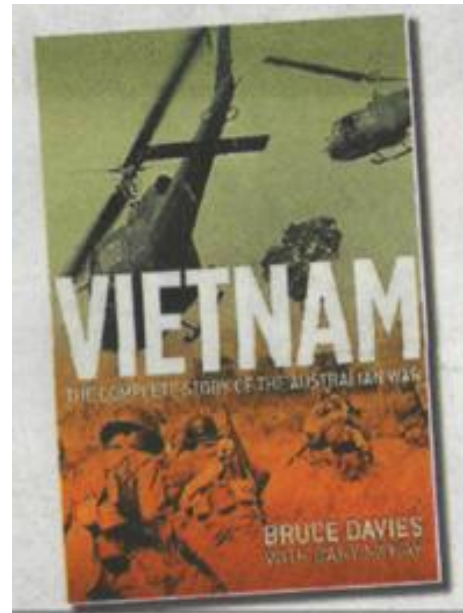
Australian veterans Bruce Davies and Gary McKay take readers on a journey back to the frontline as they retrace the footsteps of soldiers and politicians, villagers and the enemy in a meticulously researched new history of the Vietnam War.

What some considered in 1962 to be an expedition to support democracy against communism became a drawn-out war which seemed to have no end.

For Davies and McKay, the history of Vietnam - its wars, colonial domination, its search for freedom and its subsequent loss - speaks to an Australian anxiety of a very small population far from the centre of an empire to which it was firmly committed.

The rise of Japan, the War in the Pacific and the postcolonial independence of the people of Southeast Asia, coupled with the mercurial influence of Ho Chi Minh and the rise of communism, form the background to the commitment of Australian forces.

Vietnam shows the challenges Australians and



their allies faced against a dogged enemy.

The authors' new archival research in Australia and the US raises questions about the operational performance of both sides, and recently discovered documents shed new light on the enemy's tactical thinking.

Bruce Davies saw operational service in South Vietnam in part of every year between 1965 and 1970. He served with 1RAR and twice with the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam as an adviser with ARVN infantry in 1 Corps and the Mike Force in Pleiku. He was Mentioned in Despatches in 1970 and received a Commendation for Distinguished Service in Vietnam in the end of war list.

Gary McKay was a national serviceman who served in South Vietnam as a rifle platoon commander with 4RAR in 1971. He was seriously wounded in the last major engagement by Australians in the war, where he was also awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

Courtesy Army News Oct 25, '12



Minister for Defence Science and Personnel ADF members on Border Protection operations honoured

Wednesday, 12 December 2012.

A group of Defence personnel have become the first to be awarded the Operational Service Medal for their service on Border Protection operations with Operation RESOLUTE.

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, and the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, attended the presentation ceremony held at HMAS *Coonawarra* in Darwin.

The Australian Operational Service Medal – Border Protection was established to properly recognise members of the Australian Defence Force and civilians involved in all forms of operational service, including border protection operations since 1997 and those who continue to be involved through Operation RESOLUTE.

Minister Snowdon highlighted the importance of the new medal in recognising the men and women who protect our borders.

“This is a significant event for thousands of ADF personnel who have been protecting Australian sovereignty under challenging conditions for a number of years,” Minister Snowdon said.

“This award provides worthy and just recognition for all of those involved in border protection operations, from Navy, Army, Air Force and civilian authorities.”

The Operational Service Medal will replace the Australian Active Service Medal and Australian Service Medal for future operations. It will have both an ADF and civilian variant.



The Operational Service Badge will accompany the Operational Service Medal. It serves a similar purpose to the current Returned from Active Service badge as it will recognise those who have returned from operational service.

The Operational Service Medal will be awarded to ADF members for service on operations recommended and approved as warranting recognition.

Each declared operation will be recognised by the standard medal with a unique ribbon for each operation in the same way as the United Nations Medal is awarded.

The Operational Service Medal – Border Protection ribbon will feature a central ochre stripe flanked by one blue and one green stripe.

The civilian Operational Service Medal will have the same medal design but with its own unique ribbon. Clasps will be issued to denote separate operations.



Rules for Kicking' Arse:

Rules for the Non-Military

Make sure you read #10

Dear Civilians,

We know that the current state of affairs in our great country has many civilians up in arms and excited to join the military...

For those of you who can't join, you can still lend a hand. Here are a few of the areas where we would like your assistance

1. The next time you see any adults talking (or wearing a hat) during the playing of the National Anthem- kick their arse
2. When you witness, firsthand, someone burning the Australian Flag in protest - kick their arse.
3. Regardless of the rank they held while they served, pay the highest amount of respect to all veterans. If you see anyone doing otherwise, quietly pull them aside and explain how these veterans fought for the very freedom they bask in every second. Enlighten them on the many sacrifices these veterans made to make Australia great. Then hold them down while a disabled veteran kicks their arse.
4. If you were never in the military, DO NOT pretend that you were. Wearing dress uniforms or Jungle Fatigues (DPCUs), telling others that you used to be 'SAS'. Collecting GI Joe memorabilia, might have been okay when you were seven years old, now, it will only make you look stupid and get your arse kicked.
5. Next time you come across an *Air Force* member, do not ask them, 'Do you fly a jet?' Not everyone in the Air Force is a pilot. Such ignorance deserves an arse-kicking (children are exempt).
6. Next time the Australian Flag passes by during a parade, get on your damn feet and pay homage to her by placing your hand over your heart. This includes arrogant politicians who think someone may be offended. Quietly thank the military member or veteran lucky enough to be carrying her - of

course, failure to do either of those could earn you a severe arse-kicking.

7. 'Flyboy' (*Air Force*), 'Grunt' (*Army*), 'Squid' (*Navy*), etc., are terms of endearment we use describing each other. Unless you are a service member or vet, you have not earned the right to use them. Using them could get your arse kicked.
8. Last, but not least, whether or not you become a member of the military, support our troops and their families. Every religious holiday that you enjoy with family and friends, please remember that there are literally thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen far from home wishing they could be with their families. Thank God for our military and the sacrifices they make every day. Without them, our country would get its arse kicked.
9. It's the Veteran, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press. It's the Veteran, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech. It's the Veteran, not the community organizer, who gives us the freedom to demonstrate. It's the Military who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.
10. AND ONE LAST THING:
If you got this email and didn't pass it on - guess what - you deserve to get your arse kicked!

I sent this to you, not because I didn't want to get my arse kicked BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE SPECIAL TO ME AND I KNOW YOU WILL NOT BE OFFENDED AND ARE PROUD TO BE AN AUSTRALIAN AND WILL FORWARD THIS ALSO.

THANK YOU

WE LIVE IN THE LAND GIRT BY SEA, ONLY BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE AND HONOURABLE!

IN GOD WE TRUST

If you don't stand behind our troops, PLEASE feel free to stand in front of them!

Courtesy Mike Prowse



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS? OR WHERE THIS IS?

This statue currently stands outside the Iraqi palace, now home to the 4th Infantry division. It will eventually be shipped home and put in the memorial museum in Fort Hood, Texas.

The statue was created by an Iraqi artist named Kalat, who for years was forced by Saddam Hussein to make the many hundreds of bronze busts of Saddam that dotted Baghdad.

Kalat was so grateful for the America 's liberation of his country; he melted 3 of the heads of the fallen Saddam and made the statue as a memorial to the American soldiers and their fallen warriors.

Kalat worked on this memorial night and day for several months.

To the left of the kneeling soldier is a small Iraqi girl giving the soldier comfort as he mourns the loss of his comrade in arms.

Do you know why we don't hear about this in the news? The media avoids it because it does not have the shock effect. But we can do something about it.

We can pass this along to as many people as we can in honour of all our brave military who are making a difference.

Courtesy SSgt Ernie Paddon

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery guard drill & crowd control

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=nYCPbP_a46I

The GREAT FLIDINI

<http://www.milkandcookies.com/link/45516/detail/> Steve Martin on the Johnny Carson show 1992

The Ho Chi Minh Trail today

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-laos/>

Letter from an airline pilot:

He writes: My lead flight attendant came to me and said, "We have an H.R. on this flight." (H.R. Stands for human remains.) "Are they military?" I asked.

'Yes', she said.

'Is there an escort?' I asked.

'Yes, I've already assigned him a seat'.

'Would you please tell him to come to the flight deck. You can board him early," I said.

A short while later, a young army sergeant entered the flight deck. He was the image of the perfectly dressed soldier. He introduced himself and I asked him about his soldier. The escorts of these fallen soldiers talk about them as if they are still alive and still with us.

'My soldier is on his way back to Virginia ,' he said. He proceeded to answer my questions, but offered no words.

I asked him if there was anything I could do for him and he said no. I told him that he had the toughest job in the military and that I appreciated the work that he does for the families of our fallen soldiers. The first officer and I got up out of our seats to shake his hand. He left the flight deck to find his seat.

We completed our pre-flight checks, pushed back and performed an uneventful departure. About 30 minutes into our flight I received a call from the lead flight attendant in the cabin.

'I just found out the family of the soldier we are carrying, is on board', she said. She then proceeded to tell me that the father, mother, wife and 2-year old daughter were escorting their son, husband, and father home. The family was upset because they were unable to see the container that the soldier was in before we left. We were on our way to a major hub at which the family was going to wait four hours for the connecting flight home to Virginia .

The father of the soldier told the flight attendant that knowing his son was below him in the cargo compartment and being unable to see him was too much for him and the family to bear. He had asked the flight attendant if there was anything that could be done to allow them to see him upon our arrival. The family wanted to be outside by the

cargo door to watch the soldier being taken off the airplane. I could hear the desperation in the flight attendants voice when she asked me if there was anything I could do. 'I'm on it', I said. I told her that I would get back to her.

Airborne communication with my company normally occurs in the form of e-mail like messages. I decided to bypass this system and contact my flight dispatcher directly on a secondary radio. There is a radio operator in the operations control centre who connects you to the telephone of the dispatcher. I was in direct contact with the dispatcher. I explained the situation I had on board with the family and what it was the family wanted. He said he understood and that he would get back to me.

Two hours went by and I had not heard from the dispatcher. We were going to get busy soon and I needed to know what to tell the family. I sent a text message asking for an update. I saved the return message from the dispatcher and the following is the text:

'Captain, sorry it has taken so long to get back to you. There is policy on this now and I had to check on a few things. Upon your arrival a dedicated escort team will meet the aircraft.

The team will escort the family to the ramp and plane side. A van will be used to load the remains with a secondary van for the family. The family will be taken to their departure area and escorted into the terminal where the remains can be seen on the ramp. It is a private area for the family only. When the connecting aircraft arrives, the family will be escorted onto the ramp and plane side to watch the remains being loaded for the final leg home. Captain, most of us here in flight control are veterans. Please pass our condolences on to the family. Thanks.'

I sent a message back telling flight control thanks for a good job. I printed out the message and gave it to the lead flight attendant to pass on to the father. The lead flight attendant was very thankful and told me, 'You have no idea how much this will mean to them.'

Things started getting busy for the descent, approach and landing. After landing, we cleared the runway and taxied to the ramp area. The ramp is huge with 15 gates on either side of the alleyway. It is always a busy area with aircraft manoeuvring every which way to enter and exit. When we

entered the ramp and checked in with the ramp controller, we were told that all traffic was being held for us.

'There is a team in place to meet the aircraft', we were told. It looked like it was all coming together, then I realized that once we turned the seat belt sign off, everyone would stand up at once and delay the family from getting off the airplane. As we approached our gate, I asked the co-pilot to tell the ramp controller we were going to stop short of the gate to make an announcement to the passengers. He did that and the ramp controller said, 'Take your time.'

I stopped the aircraft and set the parking brake. I pushed the public address button and said, 'Ladies and gentleman, this is your Captain speaking I have stopped short of our gate to make a special announcement. We have a passenger on board who deserves our honor and respect. His Name is Private XXXXXX, a soldier who recently lost his life. Private XXXXXX is under your feet in the cargo hold. Escorting him today is Army Sergeant XXXXXX. Also, on board are his father, mother, wife, and daughter. Your entire flight crew is asking for all passengers to remain in their seats to allow the family to exit the aircraft first. Thank you.'

We continued the turn to the gate, came to a stop and started our shutdown procedures. A couple of minutes later I opened the cockpit door. I found the two forward flight attendants crying, something you just do not see. I was told that after we came to a stop, every passenger on the aircraft stayed in their seats, waiting for the family to exit the aircraft.

When the family got up and gathered their things, a passenger slowly started to clap his hands. Moments later more passengers joined in and soon the entire aircraft was clapping. Words of 'God Bless You', I'm sorry, thank you, be proud, and other kind words were uttered to the family as they made their way down the aisle and out of the airplane.

They were escorted down to the ramp to finally be with their loved one.

Many of the passengers disembarking thanked me for the announcement I had made. They were just words, I told them, I could say them over and over again, but nothing I say will bring back that brave

soldier.

I respectfully ask that all of you reflect on this event and the sacrifices that millions of our men and women have made to ensure our freedom and safety in these USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand nations.

Courtesy SSgt Reg Morrell

Minister for Defence – Visit to Landstuhl

On Thursday 21 February I visited the Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre and Fisher House in southern Germany.

Landstuhl is a United States military hospital utilised by the Australian Defence Force to provide care and treatment for Australian personnel being medically evacuated from Afghanistan and the Middle East Area of Operations after suffering serious wounds.

Since 2001, 58 ADF personnel have been airlifted to Landstuhl for specialised treatment and stabilisation prior to their aero-medical evacuation to Australia.

Landstuhl has a staff of over 2,200 military and civilian personnel, 8 operating rooms, 145 inpatient beds and 18 intensive care beds.

Fisher House, co-located with the Landstuhl health facility, provides a free, 'home away from home' for relatives of patients evacuated to Landstuhl.

Fisher House has provided crucial support to the families of evacuated Australian troops.

In June 2012, the Australian Government donated \$225,000 to the Fisher House Foundation in recognition of this support.

I thanked the Commanding Officer of Landstuhl, Colonel Barbara Holcomb, for the excellent medical treatment and support the United States has provided to Australian troops.

I also thanked the Manager of Fisher House, Ms Vivien Wilson, for all the support provided to the families of Australian service men and women.

The care of wounded, injured and ill current and former military personnel should rightly be a high priority for the Government and the Australian community.

This care will become an increasingly important focus of Australia's time in Afghanistan.

Diggers defend killer Commando Sergeant Paul Cale

DIGGERS have fiercely defended an Australian warrior who strangled a Taliban commander during hand-to-hand battle in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Paul Cale, an elite soldier from Sydney's 2 Commando Regiment, was forced to kill an enemy fighter with his bare hands when his platoon was ambushed while on a mission in the restive Chora region.

The Commando, known as "JJ" to his army mates, yesterday spoke out for the first time about the fated night-mission which motivated him to develop a world-leading close-quarter fighting course.

As readers expressed mixed responses to the story online, Sgt Cale and his fellow Commandos strongly defended his actions.

"I have to live with my actions every moment of every day," Sgt Cale told news.com.au today.

"It's my life. It's something that happened to me.

"These are the facts of war.

"When countries go to war this is what happens – there's nothing pretty about it."

After the incident, during his 2007 deployment, the 44-year-old martial artist dedicated himself to developing the Australian Commando Integrated Combat package, which is now being used to train US Special Forces.

News.com.au yesterday revealed that Sgt Cale, one of Australia's toughest men, had been poached by the US military after showing his program to US army chiefs at an international skills symposium.

One Special Forces operative, who fought alongside Sgt Cale throughout his 2007 deployment, today spoke out about losing a mate who was fatally shot in a similar ambush.

"JJ had already begun instructing CQC (close quarter combat) before his '07 deployment. I was

on one of his first courses," he said.

"A real warrior who lives and breathes his art and one of the nicest blokes I've met.

"For all you bleeding hearts out there that think these Taliban are pleasant, gentle souls, in a very similar scenario on that same deployment JJ and Australia lost a warrior when he was shot and killed making entry into a compound."

Another Commando, who served alongside Sgt Cale in 2010, said he had been "instrumental" to



An Australian Commando, Paul Cale (centre, masked) and Bram Connolly at the 2010 battle of Zabat Kalay.

Photograph: Courtesy of Bram Connolly.

his platoon's survival during the protracted battle of Zabat Kalay.

That mission saw two Commandos wounded and nine valuable Taliban targets killed.

Five Commandos also received Gallantry awards for their actions.

Former Yankee Platoon Commander with Delta Company, Major Bram Connolly – who was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal before leaving the defence force – said Sgt Cale had taught his men "critical skills".

"He was instrumental in the platoon being able to use both lethal and less than lethal force while engaged in room combat," he said.

"The techniques taught by Paul to disarm enemy combatants and retain our own weapons was a

critical skill that enhanced our strategy of working within the local population in support of the Afghan partner force.

"Paul was a great Platoon Sergeant and his guidance to the young soldiers kept them grounded during our deployment.

"He ran CQF training every second night for both our platoon and the American SF."

Sgt Cale said that while the response to his story was overwhelmingly positive, he said too many Australians misunderstood our country's role in the conflict.

"I fought alongside Muslims and we were great friends," he said.

"We were there supporting them in establishing the rule of law.

"The only thing we're fighting is extremism and people who believe they have the right to harm others for the sake of their beliefs.

"We're there protecting them and helping the Afghans who have stayed in their country and are fighting for the peace and security of their country."

Since its 2010 implementation, the course created by Sgt Cale at Sydney's Holsworthy Barracks has changed the way our top troops train for modern warfare.

"Out of that (2007) event I realised that what we're teaching is north compared to south ... so I reconstructed the entire CQF (close-quarter fighting) program," he said.

"They were basically looking at what we do and when one of their Navy Seals saw our program ... he said it was 18 months ahead of anything they'd ever seen in the world.

"The US Special Forces guys sent their instructors over here to work with me through our entire package and went back to the States and introduced it into their package."

The father of two, who used his civilian martial arts training to develop the program, will soon split his time between the US and Australia as he delivers it to the Green Berets with business partner, former Western Australian police detective, Bleddyn 'Taff' Davies.

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

FRONTLINE soldiers and Navy crew are among 5200 service staff punished, fined and jailed for deserting since Australia joined the Iraq War.

Up to 10 defence force personnel have been reported AWOL (absent without leave) every week since 2003, according to ADF figures.

A record 782 went missing during Australia's deployment in Iraq in 2003 while 780 had abandoned the force in the lead-up to the war, following the 9/11 attacks.

Almost 20 personnel had been jailed since 2004, 32 had their rank reduced and more than 1900 faced thousands of dollars in fines and were given extra duties.

The ADF would not reveal how many people had been arrested by military police after being reported AWOL.

Private Alex Curtis, who served at Victoria's Puckapunyal army base, was arrested at an airport last year trying to flee the country.

Mr Curtis, 25, said he was assaulted by a higher-ranking soldier and went AWOL after pleas for help were ignored by the army hierarchy. He was forced to serve 24 days in detention before being allowed to leave the force.

A Queensland family raised the alarm when it was revealed an infantryman from Brisbane, who served in Timor, **was thrown into military lockup for not getting the appropriate leave to attend his own wedding last year.**

Convicted AWOL personnel face up to 12 months in jail.

More than 5370 punishments have been handed out since 2004.

Australia Defence Association executive director Neil James defended the ADF's treatment of AWOL soldiers.

"Thousands of people leave jobs but, in the case of the ADF, personnel have a contractual agreement with the country," he said.

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel



Spot on: *Zero Dark Thirty* shows that an action sequence needn't be all running and gunning with its authentic representation of the raid on Osama Bin Laden's compound.

A tense thriller

Film offers an objective look at the hunt for Bin Laden

Zero Dark Thirty

Directed by Kathryn Bigelow

Starring Jessica Chastain, Jason Clarke and Joel Edgerton

Reviewer: John Wellfare

OSCAR-winning director Kathryn Bigelow has gone where few in the entertainment industry would dare to tread with *Zero Dark Thirty*, giving an authentic representation of the "enhanced interrogation" techniques and real-world spy games on the road to find Osama Bin Laden.

ZDT follows Maya (Chastain), new to the CIA at the start of the film and assigned to the team on the hunt for Bin Laden. As the hunt drags on through the years, Maya becomes increasingly convinced al Qa'eda courier Abu Ahmed al Kuwaiti is the key to finding the notorious terrorist leader.

Maya transforms from over-whelmed but stoic newbie to cynical intelligence veteran throughout one of the most plausibly written and acted character arcs ever seen on film.

With Bin Laden located, the film follows the team

of Devgru operators sent to raid his compound in Pakistan. This final 40 minutes will surely go down as one of the great sequences in war-film history for its exceptionally realistic representation of the raid.

It helps that Bigelow has been subtly amping up tension throughout the second act of the film, so viewers feel the stress and high stakes personally as the SEALs methodically clear the compound.

Soldiers will recognise and appreciate the subtle touches that make this sequence so authentic. Anyone who's read up on the raid will also appreciate the extent to which ZDT accurately portrays the sequence of events.

The film has stirred up controversy as some have interpreted its representation of interrogations as justifying torture, but the film is very deliberate in its objective viewpoint. This is not a good guys against bad guys film - it presents its facts and leaves it to filmgoers to decide how they feel about them.

ZDT is almost three hours long and it's light on action for the first two hours, but superb pacing, a strong script and brilliant acting keep it from ever being boring. The action over the final 40 minutes serves as the perfect climax to one of the most intense thrillers ever made.

Technology again at its best. View the link to see the latest in a military shot gun. Near the end of the film, you will see that it can even fire a specially developed grenade out over 150m.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4ebtj1jR7c>

Courtesy WO1 John Mottershead.



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (1 PAGE)
ISSUE DATE: 14 FEBRUARY 2013

71st COMMEMORATION OF THE BOMBING OF DARWIN – NEW MEMORIAL WALL TO THE ALLIED FALLEN LISTING 1672 NAMES INCLUDING CIVILIANS OPENS

NEXT MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2013

The Royal Australian Air Force paid a terrible price for their defence of Northern Australia in World War II.

559 names from the RAAF are listed on the Darwin Military Museum's new Memorial Wall. And the aircraft most of them died in was the Hudson bomber.

However Brian Winspear AM, who arrives in Darwin shortly to open the Wall alongside the NT Chief Minister Hon Terry Mills MA, owes his life to these twin-engine aircraft. "They were a tough plane and took a lot of punishment," he says. "It's just that they were no match for the Zero fighters of the Japanese Navy and Army if they got onto us. And lots of the missions we flew, especially those attacking enemy ships, met with lots of anti-aircraft fire."

Now 92 and living in Hobart, Brian was doubly lucky in those desperate days of early 1942. His aircraft, with him as air gunner and wireless operator, flew out of Koepang West Timor on 18 February 1942 when it was decided to evacuate RAAF personnel from there in the face of the Japanese onslaught. He wrote in his own book later:

"With two other repaired Hudsons, overloaded with 23 men each, we evacuated most of our ground staff from Koepang to Darwin, leaving at 3 am to dodge the Japanese air raids. The aircraft was so heavy it took over half an hour to reach cruising height and five hours to reach Darwin. Shortly after we left the Penfui 'drome (aerodrome), it was attacked by a dozen Japanese bombers and dive bombers".

At the end of this long trip, they approached Darwin soon after dawn. At ten that morning, the town was attacked by the 188 aircraft of the Japanese carrier force. Brian survived the raid unscathed, and its follow-up attack at midday, and went on to more missions, although many of his mates fell in battle.

In his time in Darwin he will be noting with sadness the number of Hudsons on the Wall. "It was a remarkable little bomber," he says. "Just outclassed and the only thing we had at the time."

The Memorial Wall opens in a private ceremony next Monday 18 February and will be open to the public during normal visiting hours from 9:30 am on that day.



AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



2014 NATIONAL GUNNER DINNER

When:
Saturday, 23 August 2014

Where:
The Event Centre
20 Minchinton Street
CALOUNDRA QLD 4551

The Event: 3 Hour Dedicated Military Concert by the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra
1:30 pm to 5:00pm

3 Course Dinner with 3 Hour Drinks Package followed by Port
Includes a Wind and String Quintet to provide light background dinner music
6:30 pm to 12:00 Midnight

Costs: \$145.00 per person

Bookings: Essential



Wives
and
Partners

Most Welcome

The Australian Artillery Association is proud to host this wonderful, entertaining and memorable event
A special event bringing Gunners of all eras together to share in this momentous occasion

This is a Once-in-a-Lifetime event for all Gunners to gather in one location and enjoy a First Class event

DON'T MISS OUT

(2 INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED EX RAA GUNNERS FROM THE USA AND SCOTLAND)

MINIMUM NUMBER: 400 - MAXIMUM NUMBER: 950

For further information visit: www.australianartilleryassociation.com

or call Graham on 0411 141 580 or Kim on 0417 422 427

The full details at this stage are at:

http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com/2014_national_gunner_dinner.htm

Those already registered as attending are at:

http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com/2014_national_gunner_registered_attendees.htm

This will be one of those “Once in a Lifetime” events and I personally can’t wait to rub shoulders with lots of Mates from the other Batteries. Ubique, Kim McGrath

DAVID FEENEY: Okay, well, welcome everybody. Today I have the privilege of being here with the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, the Chair of the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal, Mr Alan Rose and the Director of the Australian War Memorial, the Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson.

Today I am pleased to announce that the **Defence Honours Awards Appeals Tribunal** has completed its Inquiry into unresolved recognition for past acts of naval and military gallantry and valour. This has been a matter that has vexed the community for quite some time. Whether we can and whether we should retrospectively award Victoria Crosses decades after a particular event or events.

This important question will be answered today. A Victoria Cross is, of course, as you would be familiar awarded only for the most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of sacrifice or valour or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy. The inquiry focused on the following 13 personnel: Gunner Albert Neil Cleary from Army, Midshipman Robert Ian Davies from Navy, Leading Cook Francis Bassett Emms of Navy, Lieutenant David John Hamer of Navy, Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick of Army, Lieutenant Commander Robert William Rankin of Navy, Ordinary Seaman Edward Sheehan of Navy, Leading Air Crewman Noel Irvine Ship of Navy, Lieutenant Commander Francis Edward Smith of Navy, Lieutenant Commander Henry Hugh Gordon Dacre Stoker of the Royal Navy and Leading Seaman Ronald Taylor of Navy and last, but not least, Captain Hector MacDonald Laws Waller of Navy.

As you would appreciate this was no easy task. It was an inquiry with implications not just for the families of the 13 personnel, but also for Australia's Honours and Award System itself. To make sure that we had a systemic approach at looking at the awarding of retrospective Victoria Crosses I referred the matter formally to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal on 21 February 2011. Headed first by Emeritus Professor Dennis Pearce, the role of chair then later passed to Mr Alan Rose who is here with us today. The tribunal committed to giving careful and comprehensive consideration to the matter and, indeed, that they have. The report of the inquiry was handed to me only a few short weeks ago on 6 February.

Today I will announce the recommendations of that report and the Government's response. This was a wide-reaching inquiry. It involved a nationwide call for submissions with some 166 submissions from 125 individuals and organisations in relation to the 13 personnel I have just named. Now, just over two years on from when their work began, we can release the findings and the Government's response.

The tribunal has made six recommendations in its report which will be publicly released today. Recommendation one called for no action to be taken by the Australian Government to award a Victoria Cross for Australia or any other form of medallic recognition for gallantry or valour for any of the 13 individuals named in the terms of reference. I have accepted this recommendation.

The second recommendation to government was that a Unit Citation for Gallantry be awarded to HMAS Yarra. It is a privilege to be able to accept this recommendation and I will speak further on this point in just a moment.

Recommendation three was that the names of the ships HMAS Perth, Rankin, Sheehan, Waller and Yarra be perpetuated in the Royal Australian Navy after the present named ships are decommissioned. I have accepted this recommendation to the extent that it does not constrain the Chief of Navy as the lead custodian of the Royal Australian Navy's heritage. Most notably, this includes his or her right to make recommendations for the naming of Australian warships. These ship names will be included in future considerations.

Recommendation four were other proposals to recognise the gallantry of some of the individuals such as a permanent or rotating exhibition at the Australian War Memorial be explored further. I have accepted this recommendation. I have asked the Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson to explore proposals to this end and I will invite Dr Nelson to speak further on this point in just a moment.

You can read the full transcript at this link. ed

<http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/2013/03/01/parliamentary-secretary-for-defence-transcript-press-conference-on-the-governments-response-to-the-inquiry-into-unresolved-recognition-for-past-acts-of-naval-and-military-gallantry-and-val/>

This is the quiz presented by Col Graham Farley at our Gunner Luncheon Wed 6 Mar. Answers next Issue or go to our web site where the answers are given in part 2 of the luncheon YouTube links.

GUNNER LUNCHEON QUIZ 2013

1. What sized formation, unit or sub-unit would fire a "UNIFORM TARET"?
2. In Vietnam, the term "DUST OFF" was associated with what activity?
3. Brigadier rank is a crown and three stars. What did a Brigadier-General have in WW1?
4. The Yeramba was a 25-pr SP gun on which tank chassis?
5. Give the rate intense for a 25-pr. For those who fired the 5.5", you may answer for that equipment.
6. What was the name of Hitler's dog in WW2.
7. On Queen Elizabeth's accession the shape of the "crown" was altered. Its name?
8. When lines of fire are parallel what is the area covered by concentrations for a battery?
9. Can you give a plausible origin for the "red tabs" on the collars of Colonels and above?
10. The BP card AF B 250 was two sided. What was on the back?
11. What are the director skirt colours for P Bty Q Bty & R Bty?
12. A minefield must always be covered by both observation and?
13. 2nd/12th Fd Regt served at the Siege of Tobruk, how many guns did they take in and how many did they bring out.
14. What was the nickname of the volunteer battery at Hastings in 1890 and with what were they equipped.
15. What was the rating of the generator for the 3 MK 7 Mor Loc Rdr ?
16. When 10 Fd converted to Mdm, who was the CO.
17. What is the bore diameter of the 25 Pr. What is the diameter of the clearance gauge and what was the calibre in metric measurement.
18. There are 4 axes and lines from which all ballistic angles are measured. What are they:
19. The angle of projection is measured between;
20. How many mils in a "four knuckle" hand subtension?

Parade Card
as at 1 March 2013
March 2013 to February 2014

January 2014	May 2013	September 2013
22. Cascabel Issue 118 posted	21. Committee Meeting	17. Committee Meeting
26. Australia day Salute		
	June 2013	October 2013
February 2014	5. Reservist Luncheon	4. Gunner Dinner
18. Committee Meeting	18. Committee Meeting	9. Cascabel Issue 117 Posted
		15. Committee Meeting
March 2013	July 2013	
6. RAA Luncheon	7? Reserve Forces Day March	November 2013
19. Committee Meeting	9. Cascabel Issue 116 posted	7. Annual General Meeting
	16. Committee Meeting	8. Golf Day
April 2013		19. Committee Meeting
8. Cascabel Issue 115 posted	August 2013	
16. Committee Meeting	18. Church Parade. Healing the Wounds of War	December 2013
25. Anzac day	20. Committee Meeting	4. St Barbara's Day
? Visit to South Channel Fort		8. Annual Church Parade
		? 2/10 Bty Family Day
		11. Committee Meeting
Note: This Calender is subject to additions, alterations and deletions.		

Change of Personal Details

Rank	Surname and Post Nominals	DoB
Address		
Telephone Mobile Email		
Additional Information		