



REVEILLE

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RAAANT Newsletter – December 2019 Edition.

President's Message

Hello again from East Point, Darwin.

I trust you all had a safe and enjoyable festive season, and that this edition of *Reveille* finds you and yours happy, healthy (and wealthy) and ready for the year ahead.

I'm pleased to report that all is well within the Association and that we keep moving forward in terms of the sustainability of the Association and the Darwin Military Museum, although the financial surplus in FY 2018-19 could have been better. As I mentioned in the last edition, we continue to work through what often appears to be a never-ending agenda, again, I am pleased to report that we are making headway on all fronts.

Firstly, let me offer my most sincere thanks to the outgoing 2019 RAAANT Management Committee members Ms. Rhonda Purcell, Mrs. Nicole Kearney, Captain John Johnston (Retd) and Major Trevor Smith (Retd). Their contribution throughout 2019 was outstanding and they will be sadly missed. Thanks and welcome also to the RAAANT MC for 2020 to the new MC members, Ms. Chris Cates and Mr. Shane Wood. Having been re-elected President, I look forward to working with you and all members of the MC throughout 2020.

As was the case last year, we have made history this year by way of electing our first female Vice President, and having 50% of the Executive Management team female. It's good to see our organisation is attracting females to the fold and more importantly to the MC. So, welcome Sue and Chris – I think it's going to be another great year.

The last quarter of 2019 saw quite a few changes within the organisation's structure with the winding up of the DMM Trust. I'm pleased to report our financial situation remains strong, although the state of the NT's economy is starting to bite a little.

I'm also pleased to advise that our connection and working relations with the ADF remains strong with the ongoing support of the 8/12 Regiment RAA and the US Marine Rotational Force. I take this opportunity to thank Major David Thom of 8/12 for his support as our Liaison Officer in 2019 and welcome Major Adam White who has replaced Major Thom in the liaison role. Welcome also to WO



Peter Freund (RAN), who has joined us as a member and also as our liaison with ADF support organisations in 2020.

We are currently in the planning stages of another major event to be staged in August to coincide with the Back to the Track 2020 and the end of WW2 commemorations. But more about that from the Museum Director as the year progresses. We are also planning a 'Think Tank' day to discuss the Association and Museum's directions over the next five years. We will keep you informed as to developments.

On a personal note, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all RAAANT members for their support of my nomination as Senior Territorian for 2020. Being nominated was not only a great shock, but a great honour as well. Suffice to say being one of four finalists from the NT was truly amazing and something I will never forget. Likewise, being awarded Life Membership of the RAAANT came as a very pleasant surprise and honour, and I cannot begin to thank you all and to tell you how much it means to me. I am in very exultant company.

My/our congratulations go to Major James (Jim) Wright (Rtd) on being awarded Life Membership in 2019. An award richly deserved and well overdue I/we think.

In closing, I wish to thank the Darwin Military Museum team and volunteers for their untiring efforts on the Association's behalf. Without them and the effort they contribute it is doubtful our/your Association and Museum would be in the situation and condition they are. Again, many thanks and I look forward to working with you all in 2020.

Regards and best wishes for a terrific 2020.

Norm Cramp
RAAANT President

Secretary's Observations

Hello everyone from a very hot and humid Darwin!

Chris Cates, the new RAAANT Secretary here. For those who don't know me, I was previously on the MC and have been heavily involved with the Darwin RSL over the last few years. I work for Defence as an APS and I'm passionate about veterans and their well-being. Needless to say I'm excited to be once again involved on the MC.

Like Norm, I'd like to thank the outgoing RAAANT MC for their efforts and to wish those leaving the MC all the very best for the future. In particular, many, many thanks to the previous Secretary, John Johnston, and Assistant Secretary Rhonda Purcell, who left the Association's administrative area in a fantastic state. The 2019 MC was so effective and progressive that it will be a hard act to follow - but I'm sure the new MC will achieve all we set out to achieve.

A review of the Minutes of the MC meetings show the Association's monthly MC meetings in 2019 were well attended, positive and progressive with much business being discussed, actioned and



finalised. Having the two 'big ticket items' out of the way cleared the way for other important matters to be addressed and, as of early January 2020, we are heading in that direction.

Time did not allow for the MC to review the Association's Strategic Plan (SP) in 2019 in order to (attempt to) see into the future and to make the necessary plans to take the organisation forward. The plan now is to review the existing SP in February to refresh, update and present the RAAANT's aims and aspirations from the present to 2025. We have plenty on the agenda for this year, some items big and others not-so-big but all are important and are of value to the RAAANT's viability and sustainability.

Our plan is to remain involved with the ADF and its family and community networks again this year and provide what support we can. We will be participating, once again, in the ADF's Welcome to Darwin Expo in February and will play our part in the Bombing of Darwin activities. We are not sure if the Territory Tribute programme will be funded by the NTG this year, but if it is we will be a big part of it as we did last year.

We will continue our membership recruitment drive this year, as we all know attracting and retaining members and volunteers is hard and becoming harder each passing year – if not month! As such, if you know of anyone you consider a 'suitable person' for membership, please have them complete an application form (no fee attached) and forward same to me.

The Museum Director and our Grants Secretary, Mr. Peter Ingman, continued to work hard at securing grant funding from a wide range of entities including Federal, Territory and local government bodies. We have been most successful over the previous 12 months and we hope this trend will continue as without the grant funding, many of the projects would never have seen commencement or completion.

My personal congratulations to Norm on being a finalist in the Senior Territorian of the Year Awards and being awarded Life Membership of the Association. Both justly deserved. My congratulations also go to Jim Wright on being awarded Life Membership. It's good to see Jim has been recognised and rewarded for his involvement in and efforts on behalf of, the Association over many years.

Regards and all the very best for a wonderful 2020.

Ms. Chris Cates
RAAANT Secretary

Museum Director's Report

Greetings and salutations everyone, wherever you may be.

I hope your Xmas and New Year were safe and joyful occasions in the company of family and friends and that Santa brought you lots of wonderful 'goodies'. We started the festive season 2019 off in great fashion with the DMM/RAAANT Xmas party on 7th December. The party was well attended and was a most enjoyable evening and huge success with a spectacular array of fine foods and drinks thanks to the efforts of Sue, Rhonda and our newer RAAANT members, Vicki and Keith Frances. I/we cannot thank them enough for their efforts and their contribution toward spreading the Xmas joy.



Now that December has come and gone, I look back now and wonder where 2019 went, then I look ahead and think, 'let's go!'

Although we traded well enough in 2018-19, the visitor numbers overall were down again. I think this is a sign of the times as well as the economic climate in Darwin and across Australia, we envisage we will be able to 'weather the storm' throughout 2020 and, hopefully, beyond.

The key issues regarding the profitability and sustainability of the DMM are, mainly, the operating costs, the 'outstanding' cost being the air conditioning power consumption that accounts for \$200,000 per annum. Talks have been held with the various NT government departments regarding ways and means of reducing these costs via infrastructure alteration but there has been no physical progress as yet. Rest assured – we WILL keep trying. In that vein, it is hoped the installation of the two new chiller units will reduce the AC unit's operating costs, but to make any significant impact it would require at least a 25% reduction in costs – which I doubt can be achieved by this measure alone.

We had a few changes to the DMM guard throughout 2019 with Team Leader (and RAAANT MC member) Nicole Kearney, Taila Urvet and Nhormanne Alfaro all resigning within weeks of each other. I thank all of them for their efforts whilst employed with DMM and I wish them every success with all/any endeavours they may undertake in the future. On the other hand, I welcome new employees Jana (Yana) Konkolova, Rhonda ('Ronnie') Cavenagh, Michael van Birkel, Joshua Coles and Ethan Ashburton to the fold.

Other activities and development projects for 2020.

It's a bit early in the New Year to be able to present a detailed list of activities and events as, obviously, some events will not be our initiative. Suffice to say we are planning on presenting/achieving the following activities:

- Complete the restoration projects currently underway
- Present the inaugural Darwin Military Muster at the Darwin Military Museum in August
- Host some of the vehicles from Back to the Track 2020, the WW2 convey to commemorate the end of WW2
- Develop special, temporary, exhibitions such as elite (special) forces
- Develop new exhibitions based on sound and light and Virtual reality
- Work in conjunction with ADF family support and member mental health organisations to present R U OK Day and family fun days
- Continue our close working relationships with 8/12 Regiment etc
- Continue our close alliance with Darwin RSL, Legacy NT and Veterans Australia etc
- Maintain and expand our volunteer base
- Seek additional artefacts that not only have military history significance, but crowd attract appeal as well
- Seek additional specific project grants from all levels of government

As can be seen, it will be another busy year at the RAAANT and the DMM!

In closing, I offer my sincere thanks to the DMM team of Rhonda Purcell, Jayden Kearney, Joshua Cole, Jana Konkolova, Rhonda (Ronnie) Cavenagh and Michael van Birkel. Thanks also to DMM/RAAANT



volunteers Gaynor Lovett, Marina Lach, Peter Blackadder, Roger Harvey, Shane Wood and Peter Nuyens.

Thanks also to the RAAANT Management Committee members and Grants Secretary Peter Ingman for your support and efforts on behalf of the RAAANT and the DMM.

It wouldn't happen without you all!

Should you wish to contribute to *Reveille*, please forward the script to me at, norman.cramp@darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au

Norm (Hawk) Cramp,
Director, Darwin Military Museum



Collage of important Events Dec 2019

Top Left and Right: The Hon. Austin Asche AC, QC and Dr. Daryl Manzie AM., at the AGM.

Life Membership plaque presentation

2nd Row Left: Major James Wright (Retd)

Right: Mr Norman Cramp ASM, MA, MIM

3rd Row Left: Major Trevor Smith (Retd)

OAM, RFD.

Right: A few of the members attending the AGM

DMM Staff Christmas drinks.

Christmas decorations and party fare



HISTORICAL ITEM

THEIR NAMES LIVETH FOREVERMORE.

Short stories of four Territorians who never survived the Great War 1914-1918.

By Norman S Cramp.

Charles George Chapman. British Expeditionary Force, Middle East Command.

Charles Chapman, the son of astronomer Professor Robert William Chapman, CMG., MA., BCE., and FRAS., and Eva Maud Chapman of the Adelaide University South Australia, was born in Adelaide South Australia on 19th November 1891. At the time of his birth and when Charles enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) his parents and he resided at the High Street, Burnside, Adelaide.

Charles studied surveying and graduated from the Adelaide University and was registered as a qualified Surveyor in Adelaide in January 1913 and took a position with the NT Lands and Survey Department that year. After arriving in Darwin, he carried out surveys of land sections at the Daly River, one of which Albert Borella VC., MM. MiD., took out a lease over during the initial period of 'closer settlement' and agricultural development of the region. He effected a traverse of the Daly River to Brooks Creek in 1914 during the period of George Ryland's administration of the Lands Department.¹ He served in the role of Surveyor until 1914 at which time he enlisted in the AIF for overseas service.

Charles enlisted in Adelaide on 1st September 1914 at the age of 23 years. He was posted to E Company, 10th Infantry Battalion (a South Australian battalion). He embarked for overseas service on 20th October 1914 aboard the troopship *Ascanius* (A11). He was discharged from the AIF on 21st April 1915 due to gaining a commission with the Royal Engineers, Imperial (British) Army. He was Mentioned in Despatches (MiD) for bravery and was killed at Basra, Iraq on 16th April 1916.

He was awarded all three British Great War Medals and is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Dead panels 5 and 61 in the Iraq Memorial. His name lives on in Chapman Street, Rapid Creek being named in his memory and honour.

Percy Davies. Service Number 21469.

Percy Davies, the son of Sam Stephen and Kate Mary Davies, was born at Walsall, England in 1892. It is unclear as to when Percy and his parents arrived in Australia but it is known his parents were residing at 16 Denmark Hill, Upper Hawthorn, Victoria in 1915 when Percy enlisted in the AIF, although Percy nominated Sam Stephen Davies of **Pine Creek, NT** as his next of kin on his Attestation to Enlist in the AIF form.

Percy was employed as a Labourer prior to enlisting on 6th October 1916 at Darwin, NT (later confirmed at Brisbane) at the age of 23 years. He departed Darwin as a member of the 4th official contingent in October 1915 and was attached to the 35th Field Artillery Battery of the 9th Field Artillery Brigade, AIF

¹ The Northern Territory Archive Services (NTRS) has a file of Chapman's correspondence during this period, reference NTRS 2660.



with the rank of Gunner. After completing his basic training in Brisbane, he embarked for overseas service from Sydney on 11th May 1916 aboard the troopship *Argyllshire* (A8).

After arriving in England and completing his final training he was posted to the Western Front in France. He served with the battery during the fighting around Bullecourt, France, in October 1918 and died of wounds suffered there on 3rd October.² He was buried in the British Cemetery, Bullecourt, and is commemorated on the wall of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, the British War Cemetery Bullecourt and the Darwin Cenotaph.

Davies Street in the Darwin suburb of Moil is named in his honour.

Edmond Johnson. Service Number 2189.

Edmond (Ted) Woodward Johnson, the son of Frederick and Emma Julietta (nee Woodward) Johnson, was born at Hobart, Tasmania in 1897. Edmond's father, Frederick, was a train driver prior to he and Emma coming to the NT to take up a section of farming land on the Daly River. Edmond accompanied his parents and lived with them on their Daly River farm until 11th March 1916 when he enlisted in the AIF at the age of 19 years.

Prior to enlisting, he was employed as a Blacksmith's Assistant and after enlisting at Darwin, and nominating his parents who were residing at the 2 ½ Mile, Port Darwin as his next of kin, Edmond shipped out to Brisbane to undergo basic training before embarking for active (overseas) service. Following the completion of his basic training, he left Brisbane for Europe and the war aboard HMAS *Boorara* on 16th August 1916. At that time, he was ranked Private and was attached to the 4th Reinforcements, 47th Australian Infantry Battalion.

He served all of his war on the Western Front in France and was killed in action at Dernancourt, France, on 28th March 1918.³ His body was never recovered and as such he has no known grave. However, he is commemorated on the Australian National Memorial Villiers-Bretonneux Memorial, France, the Australian War Memorial Honour Wall Canberra and the Darwin Cenotaph (although his name was incorrectly spelt until 2015).

Edmond was awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Congratulatory Card British, the British War Medal and British Victory Medal following his death, however, his medals never made it back to Australia. All of his personal effects were lost at sea when the ship transporting them, His Majesties Australian Transport (HMA) SS. *Barunga* (A42) was sunk by a German torpedo on 15th July 1918.⁴

Johnson Park in Darwin is named in his memory and honour.⁵

John West Middleton. Service Number 683.

John West Middleton, the son of his Mother Salome Middleton of 79 Mayow Road, Sydenham, London, England, was born at Shanghai, China in 1882. He arrived in Sydney, Australia, aboard the SS.

² NAA: B2455, DAVIES P: SERN 21469: POB Staffordshire, England: POE Brisbane QLD: NOK (F) Davies Sam Stephen.

³ NAA: B2455: Johnson, Edmond: SERN 2189: POB Hobart TAS: POE Darwin NT: NOK (F) Johnson Frederick.

⁴ 'Edmond Johnson', *Territory Stories*, Northern Territory Library. Also see 'Edmond Johnson', NT Pioneer Register 4100, Genealogical Society of the NT.

⁵ *Northern Territory Dictionary of Biology*, p. 306.



Beltana on 18th January 1913. Prior to moving to Australia, John Middleton had been a student at the University College School, London, England, where school archives records show he was a student from 1910-1912.

John was keen boxer pre-war with one of his bouts, with L. Ferris, being recorded in the Darwin newspaper, the *Northern Territory Times and Gazette* on Thursday 19th March 1914 (page 7). The match was scheduled between Middleton and another boxer, J. Lavery, who failed to appear for the fight. Ferris stepped into the ring in Lavery's place and the fight was on. Although being a 'no-decision' fight, both men put on a good fighting encounter and were heavily applauded at the conclusion of the match.⁶

John left the NT for Sydney on the S.S. *Montoro* on 6th April 1914 and was never to return. He enlisted in the AIF at Green Hills, Queensland, on 9th June 1915, reportedly at age 23, and in his Will, he left all of his possessions to his friend Private Frederick George Woods of the 25th Infantry Battalion. He had previously served for six months in the Thursday Island Cable Guard before enlisting, at which time he put his age up to do so. He was in fact 18 years of age when he enlisted and embarked for overseas (active) service from Brisbane, Qld, on board HMAS *Aeneas* (A60) on 29th June 1915. Barely 20 days after enlisting and, one would imagine, with only a modicum of basic training under his belt, he disembarked at Alexandria, Egypt. From Alexandria he was transferred to the AIF's Mena Camp, Cairo, within sight of the pyramids.

He trained with his Unit, the 25th Infantry Battalion, at Mena Camp and was later posted to Gallipoli. He served on the peninsula until 12th October 1915 when he was shot in the head and died instantly. He is said to have been buried at Chalak Dere Cemetery, Gallipoli, about 1.5 miles north of ANZAC Cove,⁷ however, page 22 of his AIF service file⁸ records he was buried in the Embarkation Pier Cemetery, Gallipoli. In 2019, the author of this article located his grave in the Embarkation Pier Cemetery, Gallipoli. One interesting point regarding John West Middleton's grave is that his headstone reads 'Believed to be buried in this cemetery'.

John West Middleton is commemorated on the Darwin Cenotaph.



Left: John West Middleton's grave in the Embarkation Pier Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey. (Source: Author's collection).

⁶ *Northern Territory Times and Gazette*, Thursday 19th March 1914, page 7.

⁷ 'John West Middleton', Territory Stories, NT Library.

⁸ NAA: B2455, MIDDLETON, JOHN. SERN 683, POB Shanghai, China, POE Green Hills, QLD, NOK (Mother) MIDDLETON, Salome.



SPECIAL FEATURE

A Brush with (almost) Royalty. Morning Tea with Her Honour, the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran, AO, Administrator of the NT.

Our Retiring Secretary, CAPT (Retd) John Johnston RFD, ED, made an official call at Government House, Darwin on the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour Vicki O'Halloran AO on Monday morning 25 November 2019. In attendance was Aide-De-Camp SQNLDR Wayne Taylor, RAAF, who is well known to some of our Members.

Armed with a well-prepared brief prepared by our President Norm Cramp the meeting went extremely well. A copy of the RAAANT (Non-Financial) Report 2019 was presented to Her Honour. Her Honour had many questions.

One was about whether RAAANT received any Grants. I referred Her Honour to the Association's Annual Report where all Grants received during 2019 were listed. Her Honour was pleased to hear that after four and half-years of applying, the Australian Taxation Office had finally endorsed RAAANT as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) from 1 July 2009. We both had a chuckle about the back-dating because the ATO only endorsed RAAANT in September of this year!


One point Her Honour made from a previous life, is RAAANT should now consider applying for grants from members of Philanthropy Australia (www.philanthropy.org.au) particularly as RAAANT now had Australian Taxation Office Deductible Gift Recipient status.

After the formal part of the meeting concluded, Her Honour eagerly acceded to my request for some photo opportunities. One of the pictures is below.

Her Honour and John Johnston straddling the cannon in the Formal Garden of Government House, Darwin. Please note as the Guns of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery are the Colours (not banners as may be the case in other Army Corps) we certainly did not breach Regimental Protocol as we were not sitting on the cannon itself. Indeed, John Johnston got confirmation afterwards that all was in order from an expert – the RSM of an Artillery Regiment!

In conclusion, Her Honour requested me to pass onto the President a reminder to continue sending invitations to all RAAANT events/functions, even though she may have to decline on occasions due to other engagements.

John Johnston
6 December 2019



The NT Administrator, The
Honourable Vicki O'Halloran, OA
and CAPT John Johnston (Retd)
outside Government House, Darwin,
25th November 2019.

