



THURUNKA

September 2015

Newsletter of the
Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.
Patron: **MAJGEN R.P. Irving AM PSM RFD (Retd)**
Including the
Aust. Lines of Communication Signals Association



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Our Calendar - 2015

ER Corps Luncheon)	Fri	30 Oct	1200h	Kirribilli Club
Annual Memorial Service	Sun	08 Nov	1100h	Signal Hill Vacluse
Annual General Meeting	Sun	08 Nov	1230h	Paddington RSL Club
Remembrance Day	Wed	11 Nov	1100h	Cenotaph Martin Place
Rhumb Corps Luncheon	Wed	02 Dec	1200h	CTA Club
*Committee Luncheon	Sun	Dec 13	1200h	Mosman
THURUNKA A December edition		early-December		

* **TBA** Dates/details to be announced. ** **TBC** Dates/details to be confirmed.

NB: Dates and other details of events may change. They are constantly reviewed in an attempt to advise changes to members in a timely manner.

Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.

Your Committee Needs YOU!

See ASSOCIATION MATTERS inside for full details - NOW

RASigs

Eastern Region

Corps Dinner

Combined Offr/

Sgts function

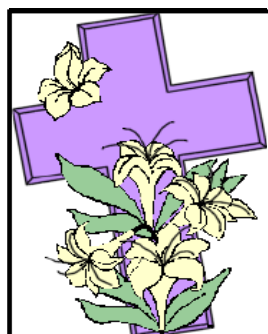
details inside



**AGM
2015**

Annual General Meeting

See details inside



**Annual
Memorial
Service**
Signal Hill,
Vaucluse.
details inside

**Rhumb Corps
Luncheon**

Wednesday, 2nd December, 2015

D R Davey Lounge

CTA Club Sydney

Cnr Castlereagh Street &
Martin Place

In this edition

Association Matters

- President's Report
- Your Ass'n needs your help
- Donation - Gallipoli Tour

Recent Events

- Battle for Australia - 2105
- COL Coyle - RASigs

Coming Events

- ER Corps Dinner - 2015
- AGM & Memorial Service

VALE/Sick Parade

Corps matters

- RASigs Reunion Yarra Valley
- 50th Anniversary Long Tan
- RASigs Reunion Vietnam

FYI includes

- The Lounge Suit
- Aus Svc Medal Clasp CT/SR
- Jack the Rooster
- Lofty Barry Logan's Plaque
- Kokoda Trek

Military History

- Governor's Speech

Tail-end Charlie

- The Bushmaster

Next edition

Copy for the next edition
Of THURUNKA must be in

The hands of the Editor

Mr K Forway

33 Oaks Avenue

LONG JETTY NSW 2261

Or by e-mail:

thurunka@hotmail.com

NO LATER THAN

13th November 2015

Association Matters

Association website:

<http://www.rasigs.com/nsw>

President's Report

First, given the number of apologies for the planned meetings on 21st March and 25th July 2015, we did well to conduct the meetings in the virtual medium of e-mails. I submitted the Minutes of those meetings for confirmation.

I have recently discovered a worth-while book on the history of radios used by the Australian Army, called 'Wireless at War – Developments in Military and Clandestine Radio 1895-2012' published by Rosenberg Publishing, available from the Australian War Memorial. See an article in the September edition of THURUNKA which links some of the Corps history in that book to the Waterloo Dinner held at ANZAC Cove this year to which your Association made a donation.

On Wednesday 2nd September, along with Norm McMahon and Ken Forway and a couple of the Lines of Communication members, I attended the Battle for Australia (BforA) Commemoration. The fly-past by the RAAF was a Hercules 130, a bit of a change from the Hornets of the past that zoom above Martin Place so fast you miss them. This year the Association was "promoted" to the southern side of the Cenotaph, with most of the dignitaries. The Governor of NSW, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) gave the address and it is one well worth reading. As your representative I was invited to lay a tribute at The Cenotaph. The BforA Association eschews the traditional wreaths on the basis of cost and waste so provides a sprig of wattle for anyone who wants as a tribute to the memory of the fallen.

Upcoming is the RA Signals Eastern Region Corps luncheon at the end of October. Elsewhere you will see details of the luncheon, to be held at The Kirribilli Club. All members of the Association are invited to attend, at your own cost.

Last year instead of the Eastern Region Corps Dinner it was decided to hold a Luncheon which was held in the President of the Upper House's dining room at NSW Parliament House. We were fortunate to be able to enjoy that venue thanks to MAJ Charles Casuscelli RFD, who as a sitting MP was able to host the luncheon. Unfortunately we are not able to enjoy that venue this year. Staff of the 145th Signal Squadron is organising the luncheon.

Looking further forward, on Sunday 8th November will be the Annual Memorial Service at the Signal Station, Signal Hill, Vaucluse, just north of Macquarie Lighthouse. The Service will commence at 1100 hrs. Please come along to join in and remember those of the Corps who have gone before us.

Following the Memorial Service, the Association's the Annual General meeting will be held. The AGM will open at 1230 hrs. We generally drive from the Memorial service to the Paddington RSL have a quiet little drink before the AGM and then get together for lunch in the Club bistro.

During the year the RA Sigs Association in South Australia has been attempting to get their dormant website up and running as a National website. So far, without not much progress. In the meantime your Association has created its own website to keep you informed on current and future events as well as having a presence of Facebook. Have a look at <http://rasigsassociationnsw.weebly.com/> and our Facebook page rasansw.

Certa Cito.

Mike

Mike McEvoy
Acting President



Welcome

Welcome to our new members. We trust that you all have a long and progressive membership in RASigs Ass'n (NSW).

Jason Warde
Matt Webb
Peter Sigal
Mal Rothe

8 Sig Regt
ex-301 Sig Sqn
ex-402 Sig Regt
ex-1 Sig Regt

Association Matters

Association website:

<http://www.rasigs.com/nsw>

Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.

Your Association needs your help

As stated in the last edition of THURUNKA, your committee needs revitalising to stay in touch with to-day's trends and progress. We are already on Facebook and developing our own website. So we are keeping up with social media.

BUT, we are wearing out our current committee members, who, quite frankly, are finding it harder, not necessarily to keep up with technology as to keep up with life itself. These committee members have served the Association and its members well for decades. For many of them, age and other commitments are overtaking them. There are already key vacancies and a number of the current committee members have indicated they will be standing down at the AGM in November.

Unless members take an active interest in the management of the Association and are prepared to serve on the committee, the Association is likely to fold and it could be as early as the next AGM.

Accordingly we would welcome expressions of interest from our membership to stand for the following positions, for which a brief position description is provided. Detailed position descriptions can be obtained from Mike McEvoy or Chris Ballantine.

President: The member will have contemporary service in the Corps at a senior supervisory or management level. They will be computer literate; have the ability to effectively represent the Association at public functions and Corps activities; have a good understanding of the principles of corporate governance and be committed to the effective management of the committee and the Association in general.

Vice President: The member will have a similar background and expertise as the President and assume the role in the absence of the President. The Vice President should understudy the President and aspire to that position in the fullness of time.

Treasurer: The member will be, ideally, a qualified accountant or an experienced book-keeper; be computer literate; to maintain the financial records which are subject to audit; bank all monies received and pay all approved accounts in a timely manner; manage the sale of merchandise and prepare financial reports annually and for all committee meetings. If you are interested in the position a spreadsheet is available to record all transactions and report the financial records.

Committee Member: Attend committee meetings; provide advice on matters within their area of expertise; undertake special projects and serve on sub-committees; assist in the administration of the Association and at activities such as ANZAC Day. There is room for more than two more committee members.

The committee meets about every six weeks, currently on a Saturday at the Kirribilli Club and the time commitment will depend on the position held. Generally 1-2 days per month would be required to be devoted to Association duties albeit that some months are free of Association activities.

What to do?

If you are interested in standing for the committee please contact the Acting President/ Secretary, Mike McEvoy on 0418 489 703 or at mmcevoy@bigpond.net.au.

Turn up at the AGM on the 8TH November at 1230hrs at the Paddington RSL and have your say and become part of your association's future.

We look forward to seeing you there and keeping your Association alive!

**If you are interested in standing for the committee please contact the Acting President/Secretary,
Mike McEvoy on 0418 489 703 or at mmcevoy@bigpond.net.au**



Association Matters...cont

Donation - Gallipoli Tour

We were invited to attend the Royal Australian Engineers' Waterloo Dinner, but, unfortunately, we had to decline. The Dinner was conducted at ANZAC Cove on 18th June, to coincide not only with the date of the Battle of Waterloo, but also the completion of Watson's Pier at ANZAC Cove in 1915. (The pier was named after Lt Stan Watson, the supervising engineer and a Sigs Offr; mentioned in an article in the December 2014 edition of THURUNKA).

The matter of the invitation was discussed at the March Committee Meeting but, unfortunately, no one from the Committee was able to attend to represent the Association. It was then suggested that the Association should mark the occasion and the best way to do this was to donate towards the toasting wine for the official toasts; the sum of \$150 was suggested. This was voted upon and carried. The donation was forwarded to the RAE Waterloo Dinner Committee. Below are only three of the many e-mails exchanged....ED.

The invitation:

From: Limmer, Deane LTCOL
23 April 2015
GALLIPOLI TOUR

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A few years ago, some members of the Royal Australian Engineers and their Association commenced planning for a Centenary Gallipoli tour. They decided to go in June as it would be quiet and the 18th of June represented the date of the inaugural Waterloo Dinner on the beach at ANZAC Cove. The RAE Association has enquired about an RASigs attendee; however it would be on a self-funded basis.

I am writing to enquire if there is interest within the RASigs Association for a member who may wish to attend to represent the Corps. I am not sure if any of the RASigs Associations may wish to financially support this tour.

Kind regards

Deane Limmer

Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer

Defence Force School of Signals/
Deputy Head of Corps



Lt Stan Watson, right, supervising the building of the pier. Note the pile-driver.

Our Response

From: Michael McEvoy
30 April 2015
To: 'Limmer, Deane LTCOL'
RE: GALLIPOLI TOUR

Deane,

Our Committee has approved the donation of \$150 towards a toast to both the RAE and RASIGS Corps at

the Waterloo Dinner on the beach at ANZAC Cove. We hope this, in the absence of a representative from our Association, will help cement the links between our Corps. Hopefully, some Australian red or port can be acquired for the toast with the donation.

Regards,

Mike McEvoy

Acting President

Royal Australian Signals Association
(NSW) Inc.

The Thank-you.

From: Limmer, Deane LTCOL
12 June 2015

To: 'Michael McEvoy'
RE: GALLIPOLI TOUR

Dear Mike,

I wanted to thank you and the members of the NSW Branch of the Association for their generosity of the donation to mark the Waterloo Dinner.

Thank you.

Deane Limmer

Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

Defence Force School of Signals



Do not forget our AGM

The date of the Association's AGM is set for Sunday, 8th November, 2015.

The timing and venue are planned to follow previous years; 1230hrs at the Paddington RSL club, cnr Oxford Street and County Avenue, Paddington (opposite Victoria Barracks).

Please refer to the attachment at the rear of THURUNKA for the Agenda for the AGM (with Nomination Form) and the Financial Statement.



Recent Events

Battle for Australia Day - 2015 Commemorative Service - Sydney

The Battle for Australia Commemoration, Sydney, was conducted at the Cenotaph, Martin Place on Wednesday, 2nd September, 2015 commencing at 1100hrs.

The Commemoration is held to honour those who served on land and sea and in the air repulsing the direct threat to Australia in 1942-1945. The Commemoration includes the Lines of Communication Association members, who used to hold their own Commemoration on 19th February for the Bombing of Darwin, now included in the Battle for Australia Commemoration at the Cenotaph. Those who are left will never forget.

The term 'Battle for Australia' was first used by Prime Minister John Curtin in an address to the nation on 18th February, 1942. When the war ended many ships, squadrons and army units commemorated those actions specific to themselves. Such occasions tended to fragment commemorations, with some units receiving greater emphasis than others. In more recent times veterans have felt that what is needed is one major commemoration to honour all service and sacrifice in the defence of Australia. In August 1998 a national committee was formed to consider the problem this problem and out of their deliberations the 'Battle for Australia Commemoration Day' was approved and is to be the first Wednesday in September each year.

The Service was attended by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), The Governor of New South Wales, and over 500 veterans, family, friends, supporters and general public. Although numbers may be down from previous years, it is over 70 years since the war ended and it is expected that the ranks have depleted.

The Master of Ceremonies was Mr David Cooper OAM and the Chaplain was Naval Chaplain Thi Lam. The Welcoming address was given by MAJGEN Warren Glenny AO RFD ED CSTJ, President of the Battle for Australia Association NSW Inc.

His Excellency, The Governor of New South Wales, was led by Pipers from The Scots College. His Excellency gave the Address, which is included in the Military History section of this edition of THURUNKA.

The choir was From Andrews Cathedral School and the Ode to the Fallen was given by two students from Tempe High School. The Catafalque was from HMAS Waterhen and the Band was from the NSW Police Service.

The weather was kinder than in previous years, neither wet nor windy, but calm and pleasant as the sun shone down on the northern side of Martin Place. The ceremony took longer this year and may have frustrated the organisers, but, owing to the pleasant



weather, was of no concern to the general attendee.

Our President did lay a sprig of wattle on behalf of our Association.

After the conclusion of the Battle for Australia Commemoration we retired to the CTA Club for Rhumb Corps Luncheon and discussed the events of the morning and many other topics that came to mind over a great steak and a good red.

Ken Forway



Colonel Susan Coyle *- RA Signals*

Congratulations to our Corps member....Well done, that person!

For your information, RA Signals officer and former CO 17th Signal Regiment, Colonel Susan Coyle, has been appointed as the Acting Commander,

Australian Task Group Afghanistan. Rear Admiral Trevor Jones (AUS) is Commander Joint Task Force 633, Afghanistan. Not the first hen (female chook) to command in Afghanistan as Major-General Simone Wilkie also had a senior command in Afghanistan some years ago!

Chris

Chris Ballantine



Do not forget our Annual Memorial Service - 2015.

The date of the Association's Annual Memorial Service is set for Sunday, 8th November, 2015. The timing and venue are planned to follow previous years; that is 1100hrs for the Memorial Service at Signal Hill, South Head.



Coming Events

The Royal Australian Corps of Signals Eastern Region Corps Luncheon - 2015.

You are invited to attend the 2015 Royal Australian Corps of
Signals Eastern Region Corps Luncheon

Hosted in the Water Terrace, Kirribilli Club,
Harbourview Crescent, Lavender Bay

Friday, 30th October 2015
12.00 noon for 12:30pm

Join members of the Corps and the Royal Australian Signal As-
sociation in a two course meal located on Lavender Bay with
stunning views of Sydney Harbour.

Cost

\$85.00 per person. Beverages, tea and coffee are included.

Dress

Gentlemen: Lounge Suit with Tie and Medals
Ladies: Day Dress with Medals

Parking

Limited parking is available at the Club at a flat rate of \$12.00
per vehicle

Payment

Electronic Transfer

Account Name:

Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.

BSB: 112 879 Account No. 126 925 501

Reference: Initials and Surname

Please include any dietary requirements and confirmation of
payment in your reply

Cost of the function is subsidised by the Royal Australian Sig-
nals Association (NSW) Inc.

Please Note

Association members, who are serving in the Defence Force,
must be of the rank of Sergeant or above to attend the luncheon.

RSVP

Monday, 12th October 2015

LT Elizabeth McFarlane

E-mail: elizabeth.mcfarlane@defence.gov.au



Annual Memorial Service and AGM - 2015

The date of the Association's Annual Memorial Service and AGM has been set for Sunday, 8th November, 2015. The timings and venues are planned to follow previous years; that is 1100hrs for the memorial service at Signal Hill, South Head and 1230hrs at the Paddington RSL club, cnr Oxford Street and County Avenue, Paddington (opposite Victoria Barracks). Please refer to the attachment at the rear of THURUNKA for the Agenda for the AGM (with Nomination Form) and the Financial Statement.

If anyone is considering nominating for the committee (which is encouraged), please contact the Secretary for a brief on duties and responsibilities.

Yes, it is now time to gather in the one place and find out how our Association has been progressing. Remember, it is YOUR Association and YOUR active involvement at the AGM will help form the future of YOUR Association. We will appreciate your attendance and input to help us plan and continue into the future.

After the formalities of the AGM, members and friends, spouses and partners so gathered retire to the bistro bar for light meals and cleansing refreshments. Come along and have *YOUR* say.





VALE - CAPT Ern Flint
MBE OAM ED (Ret'd)



11th January, 1927 - 3rd July, 2015, at his home in Coomba Park, NSW.

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of one of our long-serving members, Ern Flint.

Ern was passionate in what he did and achieved much in his life. During WWII he joined the US Army Small Ships as an apprentice seaman and after a month's training was posted to vessels used to take supplies to the pacific islands for the allied forces and bring back the wounded and dead. He was only 15 or so at the time; this would have been one of life's darkest experiences.

When he signed up at the Grace Hotel in Sydney he was sent to wharf 12 at Walsh Bay to join his ship. When he got there was no ship so he walked back and

told the recruiting officer. He told Ern to go back and look over the edge of the wharf. He did so and found a vessel 'not much bigger than a row boat'; that was his 'ship'.

After the war he joined the CMF and rose to the rank of Sergeant in NAN Tp in 2 Div Sigs along with such people as Barry Izzard, Jim Spain and later, Ken Myers.. He then continued service and rose to the rank of Captain in 8 Sig Regt, where he retired.

Later in life he started the US Army Small Ships Association (USASSA) with a few other ex-members of the USASS. The association rose to number over six hundred. He 'fought' with the Australian Parliament to have the members who served in the USASS to gain recognition of their service to Australia during the war. As late as this year he obtained the last award in recognition of these members' service. He also received the OAM for service to the veterans of Australia.

Ern was a driven man, who could be difficult at times and always had his point of view and wanting to share it with you. But he was a generous man and would do anything he could to help you.

Ern was an asset to Australia and will be missed by those he touched. Our condolences go out to his family, and particularly Amanda.

A few words for Ern.

Ern was OC of NAN TP, which was attached to an Engineer Squadron in 2 Div

Sigs, when I first met him. I had just finished my National Service Training and was interested in joining a signals unit.

Throughout the following years, Ern and I became good friends and we enjoyed not only army life but a very good social friendship as well.

When Ern raised the US Army Small Ships Association, he had quite a battle with the Australian Parliament for recognition of the job done by the members of that Association during the 2nd World War. His battle with life was a long one, for which he fought long and hard to overcome a lot of health problems. He fought a hard fight but in the end he lost the battle

In conclusion, Ern would help when he could BUT, all he would accept was 'THANK-YOU'.

Barry

Barry Izzard

VALE - Isabella Harding

Isabella the wife of Maj. Dave Harding (Ret'd), died on the 7th June. She had been in a nursing home with dementia for many years. I am passing this on to you so you can inform those ex-officers who served with Dave, as they always asked me how he and Isabella were going.

I am sorry to be the bearer of sad news.

Bill

Bill Jolly

VALE John Hyland

I have received notification of the passing of 3791275 John Herbert Hyland 110 Sig Sqn SVN 17/10/1968 - 14/01/1969

John passed away on 8/9/15 at the Wangaratta Hospital

Thanks to Mick O'Brien for the following notification.

I have just read in local paper from last week that John Herbert Hyland passed away and was buried at Benalla on 16th September, 2015. John was a member of 110 Sig Sqn in South Vietnam. I had never met John but apparently he had been ill for some time.

Mick

Mick O'Brien

Via Adam West
23/09/2015

VALE - Brian Fisher

Vale - 36776 Brian Robert (Gravel) Fisher

Malaya 1963-65

104 Sig Sqn SVN 07/01/1971 - 30/09/1971

I have received notification of the passing of 36776 Brian Robert (Gravel) Fisher.

Brian was a long term member of RASigs and the last SSM (total of five) who served with 104 Sig Sqn in South Vietnam. Also its SSM on returning to Australia, getting the unit bedded down - back into the peace time Army. He went on to be a Corps RSM and his last posting was at the School of Signals. In later years he looked after our 104 contact database and was always willing to assist members of RASigs, especially 104 guys, with getting medals, etc. He did a major submission to

Continued...

Army in recent years over the problems of many 103 and 104 Sig Sqn members not receiving the Army Combat Badge (ACB). Both units were 'Combat Arms', in South Vietnam and the only combat arms units that members did not automatically receive the ACB after 90 days! That submission is still being addressed (slowly) by Army and will be a lasting legacy to Brian, if successful.

RIP Soldier and Friend!

Denis

Denis Hare

Condolence messages for Brian's family can be passed to Mark Fisher (Brian's son) at: mfk12@gmail.com.

Thanks to Denis for letting us know.

Adam

Adam West
18/07/2015

VALE – Edward Wiggins

35498 Edward Rex (Rex) Wiggins

Britcom Base Sig Regt JPN;
Bricosat Sig Det Japan;
Commonwealth Contingent
Sig Sqn Inchon Korea;

AHQ Sig Regt

1st Ind. Inf. Bde Sig Sqn;

Wireless Tp Type F Malaya/
Singapore;

3 L of C Sig Regt;

2 Sig Regt;

6 Sig Regt;

800 Sig Sqn PNG;

OC 132 Sig Tp Wewak PNG;

110 Sig Sqn SVN;

125 Sig Sqn Nth Comd;

School Of Sigs;

Army Office Op Branch; and

D Comms ACT.

Thanks to Brian Macauley for the following notification:

I have just received information from Bill-Lofty- Sneddon that Rex Wiggins passed away on Tuesday night. Rex was a great member of our

Corps and served in Korea and Vietnam. He was a great friend to all who knew him. He served us well in the Corps. Rest in Peace mate.

Brian

Brian Macauley

Via Adam West

25/06/2015

VALE – Neil Davie

319379 Neil (Davo) Davie

I have received notification of the passing of Neil (Davo) Davie from Henry Stephenson on the RASigs facebook page:

Guys I have just been advised that Neil passed away late last week, possibly Thursday. I have contact details for his brother Ian.

RIP mate

Henry

Henry Stephenson

Via Adam West

06/07/2015

VALE - Paul Logan

1202433 Paul William Logan

I have received notification of the passing of Paul. Paul had cancer of the oesophagus and passed away 1 Jul 15. Thanks to Steve Hart for letting us know.

Paul is survived by his Daughter Sara; Son, Ben; Mother, Heather and Brothers David and Alan.

Condolences to Paul's Daughter:

Dr Sara Whitburn

1/410 Mont Albert Road

MONT ALBERT VIC 3127

Adam

Adam West

03/07/2015

Sadly, we have lost more valuable servants of the Corps and Country.

Lest We Forget

SICK PARADE



Norm McMahon

Our Senior Vice President, and Australian Line of Comms member, Norm McMahon, has not been too well of late. Here are the reports that we have received...

Chris reported...

Norm rang me this morning to advise that he is currently in Wahroonga Sanatorium suffering from severe bronchitis and a leaking heart valve. This is his second week in hospital and expects to be there for at least another week. Previously he had been in Queensland for several weeks, hence his non-availability.

Norm advised that he is unable to participate in Association matters until further notice – perhaps not until the AGM. ALoCSA now has only five veteran members in NSW.

Regards

Chris

Chris Ballantine

08/06/2015

Mike reported...

I visited Norm at the San today. He was in fine form giving the staff cheek.

The bronchitis is his main worry; he is improving but cannot seem to quite shake it. He has found a Physio to properly sort out his back so he is more comfortable. The two leaking valves in his heart are relatively normal for someone of his age (91), according to the heart spe-

cialist. When asked, the Dr said he would not operate anyway, because of his age, to which Norm said: "He wouldn't let them operate anyway".

He expects to be moved to Lady Davidson by week's end for another week. He reckons he can get better medical attention there for the bronchitis.

He had some ideas for how to improve things for the Association i.e. to get new members.

I look forward to his return to our meetings. He certainly plans to be at the AGM and

Continued...



Continued...

would attend the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony if he could work out how to get there by public transport.

Regards,

Mike

Mike McEvoy
09/06/2015

Mike reported again...

Colleagues,

I spoke with Norm to-day. He has been back home for two weeks after hospital with bronchitis. While in hospital they diagnosed two leaking valves in his heart, which they are unlikely to operate on. He is visiting his doctor tomorrow to determine a plan going forward. He was very pleased not to have to get from Turramurra to Kirribilli on Saturday for a Committee meeting; just have a day off.

Regards,

Mike

Mike McEvoy
14/07/2015

...And the Editor reports...

Norm attended the Battle for Australia Day Commemoration Service at the Cenotaph on the 2nd. Although he is now at home and out and about, he said that he is not the best, but slowly improving. He likes to get out and keep in touch with his mates while he can. He attended the Rhumb Corps Luncheon where we shared a bottle of good wine and old stories

over lunch.

It is good to see you back on your feet, Norm, and wish you well and have a speedy recovery.

ED.

Peter Stanbridge

Today, Dean Stapleton, Peter's nephew called and reported that Peter's condition has not changed in three years. His dementia has not progressed and he is in a perpetual state of contentment. The staff in the retirement home is taking very good care of him.

Regards,

Mike

Mike McEvoy
12/08/2015

LTCOL Peter Emery

Peter is out and about

I attended the 8th Signal Regiment Centenary Dinner and met up with Peter, ex-CO 8 Sig Regt.

ASIDE...For those who do not know Peter was the first (and only?) CO to command both a Regular Sigs Regt (7 Sig Regt) and an ARes Sigs Regt (8 Sig Regt)

Peter looked well and appeared quite his usual self. He did say that he was not a hundred percent but steadily recovering and feeling better than he has for a while.

We wish Peter well and that he recovers to full strength.

Ken.F

Ken Forway

Ken Beal

Thanks to Gavin Lee for the following:

Major (Ret'd) Dave Cave has just called me to inform me that Maj (Ret'd) Ken Beal is very, very sick with Cancer and may not last out the week.

Gavin

Gavin Lee
Via Adam West
22/07/2015

Noel Errol Thwaite

110 Sig Sqn SVN 19-08-1968 to 27-08-1969

Thanks to Noel's daughter for letting us know about her father.

My father has now been administered to Palliative Care Hospital Gordonvale Qld as of Wed 10th June 2015.

Noel received an award for 'outstanding soldier' (he was in his early 40s whilst most others were in their late teens/20s). I think he received this award during a parade at Singleton NSW.

He was a helicopter 'gunner' during his time in Vietnam Aug 1968-Aug 1969

Any correspondence can be sent to my e-mail address which I will relay to my father.

Thanking you for your assistance

Deborah

Deborah Thwaite
Well-wishes can be forwarded to Noel via:

Deborah's e-address: debthw@gmail.com; or The Gordonvale Hospital - PH: 07 4043 3100

Adam

Adam West
18/06/2015

WO2 Reg White (Ret'd)

Reg served in the CMF at Lidcombe with 8 Sig Regt. He has been reasonably fit for his age and it appears that the stroke may not have been as severe as it could have been.

Daughter, Sharon, writes...

On May 19th my father, Reg White, had a stroke after moving into a nursing home in Parkville; he was there three days. He then spent the next month in hospital and rehab. He moved back to Parkville and has been there since. He is getting stronger physically and knows he needs to be there. His speech has been affected, called Aphasia. He does say some things quite clearly, and then if something current he struggles to get the words out. He also knows he is having trouble. I find if I write things down he reads and understands quickly; if I say things he just can't comprehend as quickly.

I think his speech is a lot better than back in May, so maybe things will improve even more, time will tell.

He knows now how to use the TV remote but the telephone is quite another thing. If you wish to send him an e-mail, just send to me and I'll print it off for him. He will get a kick out of that.

Sharon

Sharon Hedley
sharonhedley@westnet.com.au

Sharon, please pass on our best wishes to your dad for a full recovery so he can continue to attend ANZAC Day in Sydney in the future.

Chris

Chris Ballantine
16/09/2015

Continued...



CORPS MATTERS

RASIGS Corps website: <http://www.defence.gov.au/army/RASIGS/default.htm>

RASigs National Reunion

Yarra Valley

9th to 14th Nov 2016:



Wednesday 9th Nov 2016

All attendees and members start to arrive in the Yarra Valley,

Get settled into caravan parks and accommodation,

Attend BBQ/meet & greet at Healesville RSL, Pick up gift pack

The rest of the day is free for you to explore the area.

Thursday 10th Nov 2016

Morning to your own devices; or Shopping for the ladies; or Healesville Sanctuary tour; or Winery tours.

Meet at Greensborough RSL at 3.00pm for BBQ and Drinks, Dinner?

www.rsl-greensborough.com
(03) 9435 1884

Friday 11th Nov 2016

– **Hire of buses for transport**

– **DVA Grants for whole day**

Attend Shrine of Remembrance for Tree/Plaque dedication or wreath laying.

This dedication should be no longer than 15 to 20 minutes.

Attend the Shrine for the Remembrance for the service.

Buses back to Simpson Bks for tour of RASigs Museum, DFSS & Barracks.

Sgts Mess for BBQ and Drinks in afternoon

Saturday 12th Nov 2016

– **Hire of buses for transport**

– **DVA Grants for events**

Visit the old area/site of Balcombe Bks for those who want.

Ladies tour of either Chadstone shopping centre or DFO.

Formal Dinner – RSL, Winery or MCG.

– **6.30pm for 7.00pm start**

Sunday 13th Nov 2016

Official parade in Healesville.

– 12.00pm start

Inspection of Troops by Reviewing Officer, Mayor, RSL, President of Association.

After parade, back to Healesville RSL

Official closing of Re-union

Monday 14th Nov 2016

Hand over to next State Association for next re-union

Good-byes and farewells.

Everyone heads home.

Gavin

Gavin Lee

President

RASigs Ass'n (Vic)

54 Stagecoach Cres

Sydenham

Melbourne VIC 3037

H: (03)9390 4171

M: 0425 722 347

E: gavin.lee18@hotmail.com

104 SIGNAL SQUADRON **50th Anniversary Reunion**

28th to 30th May 2016
(Saturday to Monday)

WEEKEND ON THE
GOLD COAST



At Twin Towns Services Club
(Coolangatta/Tweed Heads)

The 104th Signal Squadron 50th Anniversary Reunion 2016 is being hosted at the Twin Towns Services Club and Resort on the Gold Coast 28th to 30th May 2016 celebrating 50 years since the unit was raised on the 30th November 1965 for service in South Vietnam.

Full details from the website or the committee.

Reunion Committee 2016

Denis Hare	Ph: 07-5438 7512
	Mob: 0419-334 535
Don Sutherland	Ph: 07-3269 8298
Peter Thorne	Ph: 07-3285 4823
	Mob: 0409-633 353
John Bertini	Ph: 07-3397 1058
	Mob: 0429-491460

See Reunion Web Site at:

<http://2016.au104.org>

Re-union e-mail: reunion@au104.org

All Correspondence

104 Sig Sqn Reunion 2016

PO Box 115, Glass House Mountains,
Queensland, 4518

Proudly Sponsored by

Signals Vietnam Veterans Association
Queensland

A Letter from Little Pattie

Reunion Patron Little Pattie

Dear Veterans, Spouses, Partners, Friends and Members of the Royal Australian Corp of Signals,

Hello.....May I introduce myself? My name is Patricia Amphlett, professionally known as Little Pattie.

During the last few years, I've had the great pleasure of meeting some of you when I have attended and performed at previous reunions. Hopefully I'll meet you again next year when I attend a very special, huge reunion!

The nine-day event in 2016 will take place from 15th to the 23rd August. Every August is special for Vietnam Veterans, but August 2016 is VERY special. It will be the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

The 18th August, 1966 will always resonate with me; I will never forget that day. I was just 17 when I was invited by the government of the day to travel to Vietnam and sing for our forces; they were the best audiences in the world. It was during our afternoon concert at Nui Dat on the 18th August that I became aware of the "noisy activity" in the nearby jungle. The Battle of Long Tan had begun. I was evacuated quite quickly.

From the Iroquois helicopter, as we flew over the jungle, I saw thousands of "bright orange lights", the tracer bullets. We lost eighteen brave young Australians. The next day, when I visited our wounded at the 36th Evacuation Hospital in Vung Tau, I was very moved as I listened to our boys' heart-felt concerns about the plight of their mates, who were still fighting in the jungle. It was then that I began to truly understand why our Australian forces are the best in the world!

August 1966, a life changing experience for me. I'll never forget our boys, their smiling faces, their friendliness, and of course their very hard work under such difficult circumstances. And let's not forget their unique sense of humour! Yes, they will always be my heroes!

Here we are, preparing to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. I believe it will be a precious time for us all.

I will be honoured to share the camaraderie, the mateship, the laughter and the memories with you all.

I look forward to seeing you and of course, singing for you!

Yours Sincerely,

Best wishes,

Pattie

(Little) Pattie

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE TOUR/REUNION CONTACT:

www.buddhas-place.com



50th Anniversary Long Tan RASigs Reunion Vietnam

A gentle reminder:

DON'T FORGET!

All signals personnel, past and present, families and friends, the 50th anniversary of the battle of Long Tan with its nine-day tour/ re-union in Vietnam from 15th to 23rd August, 2016

More information and Registration can be found at Buddha's place. The e-address is:

www.buddhas-place.com

Other queries can be sent to:

rasigsvn2016@outlook.com

Robert

Robert "Stretch" Murdoch
Secretary
50th Anniversary Tour Vietnam

FYI

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DISCLAIMER: The thoughts and ideas and any views expressed in the articles of THURUNKA are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of The Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc. or the staff of THURUNKA. Nor are we able to attest to the accuracy of the information so contained. While contributions are welcome not all of them can be published. Those published may be edited for length and clarity. Contributions are acknowledged as from our source, unless otherwise informed. Contributions cannot be returned unless arrangements are made with the Editor prior to or upon submission of the contribution for publication. We encourage contributions and thank those who contribute to the pages of THURUNKA.

The Lounge Suit

We are seeing more often on invites 'Dress: lounge suit' instead of 'Dress: informal'. Have you wondered what it meant? Well, here is the definitive description. In line with the Annual RASigs' ER Corps Luncheon coming up, we include this article to help you with the correct dress if you are attending or other such functions in 'civvies'. You may wish to keep this for future reference...ED.

'Lounge suit' is an expression only seen on invitations as a dress code. In conversation the terms dark suit or business suit or possibly business dress or business attire are used. Lounge suits are worn for most business events, both day-time and evening and for many social events, such as lunches, receptions, dinner, weddings, christenings and funerals.

A three-piece suit consists of a single-breasted jacket, a single- or double-breasted waistcoat and trousers. When wearing a single-breasted waistcoat, the bottom button is always left undone. A two-piece suit consists of single-breasted or double-breasted jacket with trousers (no waistcoat). Belts should not be worn with a waistcoat or double-breasted suit.

A shirt with a turndown (not button-down) collar should be worn with a tie and the top button of the shirt must be done up. The most versatile tie knots are the four-in-hand and the half-Windsor; large Windsor knots should generally be avoided.

...And not forgetting the women....For day-time events women should wear a day dress, trouser suit, or skirt and jacket or coat. A neat, tailored look is best for business, with length on or just below the knee.

- See more at: <http://www.debretts.com/british-etiquette/british-behaviour/h/dress-codes/lounge-suits#sthash.zotm4Lvd.dpuf>.

From the 'Debretts.com' website.

If any female member has any direct enquiry concerning 'day dress' for the luncheon, please contact LT Elizabeth McFarlane directly.

E-mail: elizabeth.mcfarlane@defence.gov.au; or

Mobile: 0400 042 869



Australian Service Medal Clasp CT/SR

"The Director of Defence Honours & Awards (DH&A), along with the Defence Honours, Awards Appeals Tribunal (DHAAT) have indicated that the Commander Special Operations Command Australia (SOCOMAUST) has approved the awarding of the Australian Service Medal (ASM), Clasp Counter Terrorism and Special Recovery Duties (CT/SR) for eligible former members of 1 Commando Regiment.

For those former ARA RHQ 1 Cdo Regt members & 126 Sig Sqn ARA members, particularly the OC and 660 Signal Troop members and other ARA members who Supplemented the shortfalls of manning; who were on-call for CT/SRO Duties for at least 60 consecutive days from 12 Jan 1989 through to 2002, you are invited to apply for the Australian Service Medal Clasp CT/SR (ASM CT/SR), as a result of your Duties on a range of Australian Joint Service Plans [AJSP].

Those RHQ 1 Cdo Regt members who have served on-call from 1981 to the current time are also invited to apply for the medal. There was a number of former SASR Officers, WO and SNCO that are potentially entitled. The positions that have been identified are the following:

CO; OPSO; IO; RSM; Int SGT; and CPL CLK.

Applications should hold as much detail as possible and made through the Defence Directorate of Honours & Awards. It is highly recommended that your applications are submitted ASAP.

Go to this link to apply: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Content/Applications.asp> "

Paul

Paul Copeland
chook660@gmail.com



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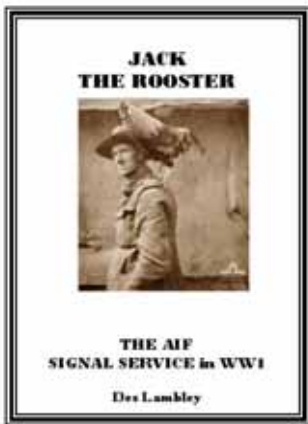
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COMMERCIAL & GENERAL PRINTERS

Des Lambley, a member and former secretary of our Association, has written yet another book on military history. Following the success of 'March in the Guilty Bastard' this book corrects history by formally compiling those deeds of Signal Services personnel and exposing them to the reading fraternity....ED.

JACK THE ROOSTER

This war will live in the memory of man not because of its horrors, but despite its horrors and because of its glories, its revelation of the love and self-sacrifice which ordinary men have for their fellow men.



ISBN: 978-0-9944054-0-1

- **Pastor LW Baker** Adelaide, 24th June 1917

Near Chuignolles on 25th August 1918, Sapper Findlay was in charge of a wireless station. During the operations four of the wireless men of the forward station became casualties. He went forward, re-established the station and adjusted the instruments. Though wounded in doing so he remained on duty until telephone communication was established.

It was entirely owing to his bravery, initiative and devotion to duty that communication by wireless was maintained at a critical period when other means had failed.

- **Major Gordon** 1 Div Sig Coy 15th October 1918.

There are Official War Histories, specific Corps and unit histories and a few memoirs by Signalmen, but the Signal Service as a unique group of men has been overlooked. CEW Bean even apologised for omitting them from his works. This book collects those men for the first time. *Jack the Rooster* and his keeper Farrell illustrate that these men were ordinary people doing extraordinary things in war. The several hundred citations for gallantry awards makes for compelling reading. They are humbling by their mass. The work tells of leadership and faith in a just cause. They set a wonderful example helping defend freedoms from tyranny. These men are the antecedents of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. – **Author**.

It is a fascinating read. - **Dr Chris Holt**, The University of Northampton, 2015.

Jack the Rooster is a little gem - a labour of love on the part of the author, well researched, with interesting things to say about the AIF's Engineer Signal Service. He also makes excellent use of statistical material. It is a most interesting and valuable piece of history.

- **Gary Sheffield** - Professor of War Studies, Wolverhampton University, 2015

NOW IN PUBLICATION

This soft-cover, perfect bound 440 page B5 book includes the names and details of 5728 Signal Servicemen. It has tables, illustrations & figures and 800 gallantry citations.

Commonwealth War Grave information for those who died on active service abroad is also a useful reference.

For expressions of interest in the purchase of a copy please e-mail:

deslambley@gmail.com

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!



FYI

(cont.)

Lofty Barry

Logan's Plaque

The following was posted on Buddha's Royal Australian Signals Message Board by Mike Custance.

Can you help? Mike writes....

I was a member of 110 Sig Sqn ex-709 Sig Tp [among other postings]

I would like to speak to anybody who was involved in the making of the plaque for Lofty Barry Logan that was placed upon the flag pole on Logan hill in 'Vungas'. Plus, can anybody shed light on its return to Watsonia.

The plaque has been removed and taken to NSW. I am trying to have it returned to its rightful place. It was apparently removed when the Regt was moved to Holsworthy. Barry, who served with me, was from Victoria and is interred at Springvale.

His Plaque was placed under a tree outside the No 1 building [The old 'Strad' building] at Watsonia. I am hoping that it can be returned and placed next to Sig McCarthy outside the School of Sigs. I will be contacting the RSM of the School for assistance.

If anybody can assist me with info, I will be most grateful.

I can be contacted at:

detmike@bigpond.net.au

Mike

Mike Custance

If you can help, please do not hesitate to contact Mike.

Adam

Adam West



Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Airservices Australia and Defence strengthen collaboration

Airservices Australia and the RAAF have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the operation of the Heron remotely piloted *Unmanned Aircraft System* (UAS) in Australian civil airspace. Commander of Surveillance and Response Group Air Commodore, Chris Westwood, and *Airservices Australia*'s Executive General Manager Air Traffic Control, Greg Hood, signed the MoA at a ceremony in Canberra. "The purpose of the MoA is to set out procedures for *Airservices Australia* and Air Force to work within, and allows the Heron to be safely flown in civil airspace without any significant impact on civil air traffic," Air Commodore Westwood said. The Heron is planned to fly in civilian airspace from Rockhampton Airport in late June, as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2015. This will be the first time the aircraft has flown outside of restricted military airspace in Australia.

Newsletter - Issue No. 11 - June 2015

Official Newsletter of the

Royal United Services Institute New South Wales



Army bids farewell to Chief

The Chief of the Australian Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO, officially handed over the command of the Army at a parade in Canberra on 15 May. After four years as the Army's Chief, Lieutenant General Morrison has passed command to Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, DSC, AM. Lieutenant General Morrison expressed his gratitude to his colleagues, friends and family for their support during his 36 year career which has included roles in Operation Lagoon in Papua New Guinea, INTERFET in Timor Leste; Commanding Officer of the Second Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR), Commander of the 3rd Brigade, and Commander, Forces Command. Lieutenant General Campbell has served as the Commander of the Joint Agency Task Force for Operation Sovereign Borders, overseen operations in the Middle East as Commander Joint Task Force 633 and commanded on operations in Timor-Leste. Lieutenant General Campbell officially took command of the Australian Army at 12:01am, Saturday, 16 May 2015. Lieutenant General Morrison's speech is available at: <http://army.gov.au/Our-work/Speeches-and-transcripts/Chief-of-Army-address-farewell>

Newsletter - Issue No. 11 - June 2015

Official Newsletter of the

Royal United Services Institute New South Wales



Chief of Joint Operations...

...welcomes Australia's strong partnership with NATO

The Chief of Joint Operations, Vice Admiral David Johnston, has recently welcomed the continuing strength of Australia's partnership with the NATO, including, through the ADF, its contribution to the NATO-led non-combat Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. During the NATO Chiefs of Defence meeting on 19 and 20 May, Vice Admiral Johnston represented the Chief of the Defence Force at a Military Committee meeting on the Resolute Support Mission. Australia remains one of the largest non-NATO contributors to the Resolute Support Mission, through a contribution of about 400 ADF personnel. This commitment continues to train, advise and assist the Afghan security ministries and Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF). Alongside Finland, Georgia, Jordan and Sweden, Australia was given the opportunity to become an 'Enhanced Opportunities Partner' by NATO in October 2014. This status reflects our long-standing contribution in Afghanistan and continued commitment to being a valued NATO partner.

Newsletter - Issue No. 11 - June 2015

Official Newsletter of the

Royal United Services Institute New South Wales



Poppy

On 21st April, 2015 My wife and I were invited and attended a memorial service at the *Blue Mountain District ANZAC Hospital* situated on the Great Western Highway, Katoomba.

The invitation was because Rachel had knitted 350 poppies to be arranged on the wall at the Hospital.



The day was a great success even though the weather was extreme; cold, windy and rainy. We were treated to a great day by the staff.....Barry Izzard



Military history



Governor's Speech

**Battle for Australia Day
- 2nd September, 2015**

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales gave this speech at the Battle for Australia Commemoration Wednesday 2nd Sep 2015....

I would like to pay my respects to the traditional owners of the land on which we gather, the Gadigal people, and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have served for this nation in every conflict and peace-keeping mission in which we have participated. I especially honour our Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion, almost the entire male population of the Torres Strait, who defended Australia from these islands - and the three war veterans presented with medals by our Prime Minister this week.

I acknowledge their living culture and affirm my respect for their elders, ancestors and descendants.

As Patron of the Battle for Australia Association, I am honoured to be invited to address you on this national day of remembrance [1].

On this day, we honour our servicemen and women on land, on sea and in the air who fought valiantly, alongside our allies, from the Battle of the Coral Sea and on the Kokoda Track until the end of the war was declared.

Just two weeks ago, we commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the Victory in the Pacific, here at the Cenotaph.

There would have been no Victory, without the tremendous efforts of our servicemen and women to protect our island nation and the lands of our neighbours to the North.

By March 1942, the Japanese held a line from Rabaul to Singapore, just a few hundred kilometres from the tip of Australia.

Soon afterwards, Prime Minister John Curtin declared: 'the fall of Singapore opens the Battle for Australia.' [2]

Today, we remember and honour those who directly carried the burden of defence of Australia through this war - and the many thousands killed in action, wounded or taken prisoner of war.

Around 17,000 had died in the War against Japan, serving in Malaya, Singapore, Timor, Papua New Guinea, Rabaul, Borneo, the Solomon Islands and the Philippines, often in the most appalling conditions.

Eight thousand died in captivity as prisoners of war from brutality, starvation and disease.

At home, in 1942 /43, Australia also faced loss of life and the threat of invasion.

Darwin, Horn Island in the Torres Strait and Broome were bombed [3], Newcastle was shelled, here in Sydney

midget Japanese submarines entered the Harbour, and a ship was torpedoed just off Nambucca Heads. [4]

The epic Battle of Kokoda was a critical turning point in the Pacific War when Australians fought a monumental, rearguard action against the Japanese across a tortuous jungle terrain. Their extreme courage prevented the enemy's access to Port Moresby, within easy striking distance of our nation.

We remember, also, with eternal gratitude, the loyalty and skill of those Papuan men who played a vital role in the battle. They carried supplies forward for the troops and then, as the number of troops who were wounded or fell sick increased, carried back to safety those who were unable to walk. [5]

We remember the villagers, dubbed by our Australian men the 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels' who carried and treated the sick and the wounded along the track. This year and each year, we welcome their representatives to this commemoration with gratitude and affection. Our nation will never forget their service.

It is also equally important that we reflect on and honour all our women and men who made their contribution on the home front - women, people in science and industry, the working people and the farmers. It was a time



when everyone looked after their mates and their neighbours, and did their bit to ensure victory.

By June 1943, the strength of women in service had grown to approximately 18,000 in the Australian Women's Army Service, 16,000 in the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force, 14,000 in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service and almost 9,000 in the Nursing Service.

In addition, many thousands of women on the home front worked in government munitions, shipbuilding and aircraft work, transport and communications, commerce and industry and in the rural sector, with the Women's Land Army filling critical labour shortages on our farms, ensuring supply of meat, vegetables and fruit.

Here, in our Harbour, Cockatoo Island Dockyard became a hive of activity with the conversion of

Military history

(continued)



passenger liners to troop transport and hospital ships and major repairs to warships.

The number of munitions factories increased from 4 in 1940 to 39 by June 1943. In total over 800,000 women were employed in industries which were normally staffed by men, yet were paid just a fraction of their wage.[6]

Resources and means of production were dedicated to winning the war, with John Curtin calling for austerity measures:

‘Austerity calls for a pledge by the Australian people to strip every selfish comfortable habit, every luxurious impulse, every act, word or deed that retards the victory march.’

As the world held its breath, and families suffered hardships, dislocations and loss of loved ones, others stepped to the fore:

- Legacy - looking after the

war widows and families

- The Returned and Service League – looking after the repatriated and returning servicemen
- The Australian Army Medical Women’s Services
- The Red Cross and the Voluntary Aid Detachment who all provided medical care and respite services.

Schoolchildren, too, did their bit - collecting paper, rubber and other recyclables, knitting socks and collecting items for care packages.

Despite the difficulties and hardships experienced on the home front, the Australians of that generation remember this time for its sense of unity, a time when people put their hand up, worked hard and pulled together. It was a case of “All in”.

It was a whole nation effort, Australians at their best, volunteering and working together, putting aside differences to look after each other and our neighbours, on the home front and to our nation’s North ...

That’s what we should pass to our children.

It provided the basis for what we are today – a united and resilient country. It is no accident that since this war, our nation has demonstrated an increasing commitment to the Pacific region, which all in our nation, during 1942 to 1945, worked to protect.

One of the objectives of the Battle for Australia Association is to educate the children of Australia about the momentous events of our national history between 1942 and 1945 ... and we thank the many school children for their involvement in the Service today ...

I congratulate the Battle for Australia Association for its commitment to honour the memory of our servicemen and women, the people of Australia, and of our neighbouring nations.

Notes

[1] On the 19 June 2008, His Excellency, Major-General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Governor General of Australia, proclaimed that

the “Battle for Australia Day” was to be a national day of Remembrance, to be held on the first Wednesday in September.

The Battle for Australia Commemoration Service honours those who served on land and sea and in the air repulsing the direct threat to Australia in 1942-1945.

[2] Curtin Press Statement 15 Feb 1942

- <http://john.curtin.edu.au/broome1942/curtin+pacific.html>.

[3] Over 200 lives lost in Darwin, 150 on Horn Island and almost 100 in Broome.

[4] At about 1:35pm off Nambucca Heads, New South Wales on 5 May 1943, two torpedoes fired from the Japanese submarine I-180 struck SS Fingal on the side of her hull. Fingal sank within a minute with loss of 12 lives.

[5] <http://www.ww2australia.gov.au/asfaras/kokoda.html>.

[6] www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/women-in-war-time.

FYI (CONT.)

Kokoda Trek/ Soldier-On Fundraiser

Tamara Meek is doing her bit for Soldier On. Can you help?...She writes...

My Dad, Greg Meek, said you might be able to help spread the word about a ‘Soldier-On’ Fundraiser my cousin and I are doing.

We are walking Kokoda in October and thought we could turn some of the huge

support we have received into donations for Soldier-On. So far we have raised over \$1100 and had some generous support from the Vietnam Veteran community.

We chose Soldier-On because they support serving and ex-serving members of the defence community. It is a topic close to my heart with Dad having served in Vietnam and my brother currently serving in the Australian Army.

Anyone interested can donate directly to Soldier On via the link below.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and a receipt is sent out. We update the link with our training progress so anyone interested can see what we’re up to.

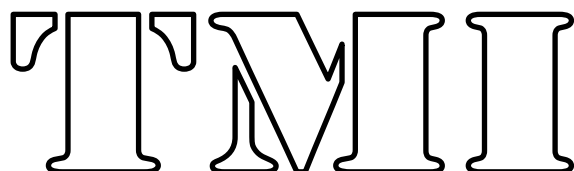
<https://soldieron.giveeasy.org/campaigns/kokoda-track-october-2015/>

Many thanks in advance,

Tamara

Tamara Meek

Via Adam West - 02/09/2015



Please note: There is no TMI column in this edition of THURUNKA as there is **too much information** filling its pages. Articles have had to be held over until the next edition of THURUNKA....ED.

TOO MUCH INFORMATION

Tail-end Charlie

The Bushmaster - infantry mobility vehicle

The 'JLTV' from Oshkosh Truck Company is to replace the 'Hummer' in the US army and it came across my desk so I researched it and wrote an article for THURUNKA. However, it was suggested that maybe we should balance it out with an article on the replacement vehicle for the Australian Army's Land Rover.

While researching this vehicle (when I find out its unpronounceable name I will do so), I recalled a discussion I had with another member concerning the BUSHMASTER. This vehicle has been in service (combat) in over a decade and is an Australian designed and manufactured vehicle from Thales (formally ADI). The Bushmaster has an impressive record and I have it on good authority that, although damaged in battle, there has not been loss of life to any person in the vehicle.

When damaged, the vehicles are returned to Australia and the damaged assessed and used to improve design. The vehicle is then repaired and returned to the frontline. Not many, if any, have been written off....ED.

But read on...

The Bushmaster 4x4 armoured vehicle is currently deployed in Afghanistan with the Australian Army. The Bushmaster armoured vehicle, developed by Thales Australia (formerly ADI) in Australia is in full production at Thales's protected mobility systems manufacturing facility at Bendigo, Victoria.

The Australian Army has tested the vehicle over thousands of kilometres in the extreme climatic conditions and terrain from sub-zero mountain areas to desert and tropical conditions in north Australia. In July 2002, the Australian Army awarded a contract to ADI for 300 Bushmaster infantry mobility vehicles in six variants: troop transport, ambulance, direct fire, mortar, engineer and command.

With a road cruise speed of 100km/h, the Bushmaster transports troops, quickly and comfortably and is suitable for deployment in complex, diffuse and lethal operational environments such as Iraq. The Bushmaster family of vehicles provides high-level protection against anti-tank mines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mortar fragments and small arms fire.



The vehicle was operationally deployed to Iraq in April 2005 and the US Army and Iraqi defence officials have expressed interest in the Bushmaster after observing its capabilities with the Australian Army

Bushmaster orders and deliveries

The first of 300 Bushmaster vehicles was delivered to the Australian Army in August 2004 and the vehicle was operationally deployed to Iraq in April 2005 and Afghanistan in September 2005. Deliveries completed in 2008.

The 500th Bushmaster vehicle was completed in October 2008.

In June 2006, the first batch of 152 troop transport variants completed delivery.

In February 2006, ADI signed a licensing agreement with Oshkosh Truck Corporation of USA to market, manufacture and support the Bushmaster for North American customers and countries eligible for foreign military sales. In January 2007, Oshkosh was awarded a contract by the US Marine Corps for two category II mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles based on the Bushmaster. The Bushmaster variant was withdrawn from the MRAP competition in August 2007.

In August 2006, the Royal Netherlands Army placed a contract for 25 Bushmaster vehicles, for operations in Afghanistan. For speed of deployment, the vehicles were supplied from those being built for the Australian Army. In August 2009, Netherlands placed an order for 14 Bushmasters, bringing total vehicle orders to 86.

In December 2006, the Australian Army ordered a further 143 vehicles. In August 2007, the procurement of another 250 vehicles was announced by the Australian Army and a further 293 vehicles were ordered in October 2008. Total procurement for Australia is 737 vehicles. The Australian Defence Force placed an order for 101 Bushmasters in May 2011. A further order for 214 vehicles was announced in July 2012.

In May 2008, under an urgent operational requirement, the UK placed an order for 24 Bushmaster vehicles for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 1,000th Bushmaster vehicle was delivered to the Australian Defence Force in June 2013.

In December 2013, the Jamaica Defence Force placed an order for 12 Bushmaster vehicles and a five-year support package. Deliveries will commence in 2015.

Japanese Ministry of Defence placed an order for four Bushmaster vehicles for its Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) in April 2014. The deliveries are scheduled to conclude by end of 2014.

The Bushmaster is obviously a world-class battle-proven vehicle that has had acclaims from governments that have seen the Bushmaster in action in Afghanistan, as they have placed significant orders. Who said Australians cannot design and build world-class combat materiel?...ED.

From <http://www.army-technology.com/projects/bushmaster/>





Australian Government
Department of Defence
Defence Materiel Organisation

FACT SHEET DMO LAND SYSTEMS

General Characteristics

Weight: 12,500 kg
Length: 7.18 m
Width: 2.48 m
Height: 2.65 m
Crew: 1 - with up to 9 passengers

Overall Performance

Engine:
Caterpillar 3126E
Operational Range:
800 km
Maximum Speed:
Over 100 km/h
Armament:
Gun ring for 5.56 mm; and
7.62 mm machine guns

Overview

The Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) is sustaining jobs in Australia and saving lives in Afghanistan. The locally produced vehicle can rapidly deploy up to ten battle-ready troops in all environments and is blast resistant. Its innovative cabin design gives it the flexibility to serve many roles.

Troop support

The Bushmaster is built to carry and sustain a nine-man infantry section, with room for one more passenger. It is fully air-conditioned and can store up to



250 litres of drinking water and a three-day supply of food.

Run Flat tyres

The Bushmaster carries one complete spare wheel and all fitted wheels have run-flat tyre inserts and a central tyre inflation system allowing them to continue travelling with punctures.

Mine Protection

The Bushmaster uses an armoured V-shaped hull to protect its passengers from landmines. The sloped sides on the bottom of the hull act to deflect an upward blast away from the vehicle. The external storage bins add extra protection for the crew.

Armour

The vehicle's welded one-piece shell is designed to protect troops against all small arms fire. Windows also carry similar ballistic protection. The Bushmaster's fuel and hydraulic tanks are positioned outside the crew's compartment to protect troops from possible

fires. There is also a protected emergency fuel tank so the vehicle will not be left stranded.

Purchasing & Support

The DMO is responsible for purchasing and supporting the Bushmaster PMV under LAND 116 Project Bushranger. It is delivering over 830 PMVs and more than 180 compatible trailers to Army combat units and Air Force Airfield Defence Guards. Seven variants of the Bushmaster have been purchased; troop, command, mortar, assault pioneer, direct fire weapon, ambulance and air defence.

For more information about this project visit www.defence.gov.au/dmo/lsd/land116/, or search:

Top 30 Projects Bushmaster.

DEFENCE MATERIEL ORGANISATION
www.defence.gov.au

Published: February 2012.



Do not forget!
AGM
2015

The AGM is on:
Sunday, 8th November, 2015
Commencing **12:30hrs**
at the **Paddington RSL**
cnr **Oxford Street and County**
Avenue, Paddington
(opposite Victoria Barracks).

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