



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA
Keeping the Spirit Alive

August 2018

Leadership and Courage in Dark Flooded Cave

Every day we turn on the TV, read a newspaper and listen to the radio or just chatting with friends or associates the topic or news item is bad, sad or in "Trump speak" false news.

What a joy it has been to see, read and hear the incredibly happy and marvelous rescue of the Thai soccer team and their coach.

It is something that not only has united the rescue teams down in the bowels of that frightening flooded cave complex but perceptively united the world during this time of urgent need and perception is reality.

It was as if everybody from all walks of life was urging the rescue teams on and hoping, wishing, praying that the monsoon rains would stop long enough to rescue these young people from what it seemed was almost an impossible situation.

When the team was first reported missing and missing for many days, it seemed like Thailand's answer to Picnic at Hanging Rock where it appeared that the team had been swallowed up and disappeared in the Tham Luang caves.

It was many days before the team was discovered in the cave system by a group of British divers.

That really was the start of this remarkable rescue and a testament of the human spirit but most importantly the technical issues and complexities in diving, crawling, climbing this labyrinth submerged cave system in the first instance to examine, treat and assess the young kids before any rescue attempt was to be considered.

Our own Adelaide Dr. Richard Harris and his dive buddy from WA, Dr Craig Challen, (pictured) were instrumental in this first assessment.

It's important perhaps at this stage to paint a bit of a picture as to how dangerous and complex this rescue mission was and how the power of the mind, confidence, training and experience can overcome almost any obstacle, physically, mentally and most importantly spiritually.

As an example, in the ADF a volunteer group of young people is selected every year to train for qualification as basic divers, clearance divers or as assault swimmers and, of those, a very high percentage do not get past

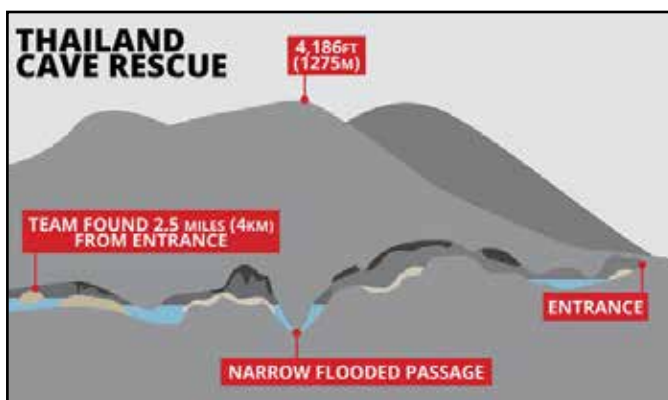


Illustration with thanks to Express UK

the initial stages of night diving let alone black water diving.

Whether it's the fear of the unknown, claustrophobia, anxiety, disorientation or vertigo some people are just not cut out for it and much of clearance diving is done in confined restricted dark spaces and assault swimmers do nearly all of their swimming at night in the dark.

When one now compounds all of these fears or phobias into narrow, muddy, dirty silt-affected small tunnels miles underground where there is only one way in and the reverse out, these layers upon layers of adverse conditions where the divers are almost living in a pelagic environment, moving through the cave system through touch and highly tuned adrenaline senses.

But it gets worse; many of these young kids can't swim and none have ever had any experience of scuba diving. Surely this would prove to be a major impediment in rescuing this group, but no, the Thai Navy Seals put them through what could only be described as "The Dummies Guide to Scuba Diving" which in itself is quite extraordinary, where individuals doing a basic diving course enjoy the introduction of being able to experience breathing underwater through a SCUBA kit in a clear, sun drenched Olympic swimming pool. Continued on page 2.

Leadership and Courage in Dark Flooded Cave



An absolutely amazing story of courage, commitment, the ability to operate under extreme pressure and, most importantly, everyone passionately focused on the end game through a prism of faith and hope irrespective of race, colour, religion or nationality.

Ordinary people doing extraordinary things in the interest of humanity and international goodwill which is a very pointed example of what we can do if we have a global focus on what is essentially good, rather than bashing the crap out of each other militarily, socially, politically or in our own environment.

Continued from page 1

These young people were introduced to this art in black water where 70% of adults normally fail.

That alone is an amazing feat but the real test will be when the rescue is attempted swimming out with an individual who has never dived, let alone in black water.

In diving in any capacity you normally dive with a buddy for safety purposes where he looks after your back and vice versa, looking for signs of trouble, to assist where necessary, where body language is important or a tug on the buddy line, but how do you do this with a young kid in tow not seeing him or judging his demeanor or most importantly signs of panic.

That was what worried many who had diving experience because they had experienced adults panicking in an Olympic pool during the introduction to diving phase let alone a young person never having dived being pulled along a dark narrow tunnel on a breathing face mask.

Enter stage right - our incredible South Australian Dr "Harry" Harris who administered a gentle shot of anti-anxiety drugs to calm their nerves before each individual swam out with their rescuer.

Damn, where was Dr Harris when I needed him? I completed my Assault Swimmers Course with 2 Commando in 1970 and there were many fearful moments where a turbo charged shot of Dr Harris's anti-anxiety drug would have been of enormous benefit. But when I think of those moments compared to what these kids and their

diving rescuers have been through I can only wonder in amazement how all of the team and their coach got out alive.

We need good ending stories. We need real heroes not sporting heroes. We need to look at what is good in this world. We all need to work at it in our own small way and in this case the highest accolade and recognition for all who were involved, in particular Dr "Harry" Harris who, in my view, deserves particular recognition.

Lastly and importantly I will leave you with a thought. How would you, as a coach or leader of young men trapped in the dark on a small ledge of rising flood waters for nine days without food or shelter, have been able to cope?

Not taking anything away from the rescuers, but that to my mind is the remarkable segment of this story. There really is something very special about this young coach who cannot be underestimated. An incredible example of leadership in the most difficult of situations that we can all learn from and, in particular, our military and political leaders who have been missing in action in making some of the hard calls.

We salute the coach and Dr Harris, both of whom should be considered for the nation's highest bravery awards.

Now that would be really good news!

- Michael von Berg

RARA installs a defibrillator with training on request

The RAR recently purchased a St John defibrillator in case the need arises. It is situated at the left hand end of the bar. All our committee members and volunteers will be trained in the proper use of the machine. Training will be available on request to anyone else including members on request. The more people who can administer help when required will benefit both the patient and the Association. Let's hope we never have to use it.

- Greg Dwiars, Club Manager



WHAT IS IT? Defibrillation is a procedure used to treat life threatening conditions which affect the rhythm of the heart such as cardiac arrhythmia, ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia.

The procedure involves the delivery of an electric shock to the heart which causes depolarisation of the heart muscles and re-establishes normal conduction of the heart's electrical impulse. The machine used to deliver this therapeutic shock to the heart is called a defibrillator.

The different types of defibrillators used include external defibrillators, transvenous defibrillators and implanted defibrillators.

FROM THE COMMAND POST



ADMISSION CRITERIA:
The following questions must all be answered "No" for a volunteer to be eligible for study entry:

Please Circle One

Does the volunteer have any significant illness?	Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Has the volunteer any known reactions to any of the study compounds?	Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Is the volunteer <i>unwilling</i> to give blood smears and blood samples?	Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Has written informed consent been obtained	Y	N

Some time ago the matter of mefloquine and tafenoquine acquired brain damage was considered responsible for the suicide deaths of several veterans was a concern to our Association at national level.

The individuals affected were ex-members of our Regiment.

I had no idea what mefloquine or tafenoquine was.

To better understand the issue I contacted Stuart McCarthy and Jane Quinn who were both leaders of the Australian Mefloquine and Tafenoquine Veterans website who had been fighting for veterans' rights in relation to some of the adverse reactions experienced by some and most importantly the suicides attributed to these drugs.

I have discussed this broadly with our committee members here in SA and to enable all to better understand the problem I thought it prudent to spell out the background and the complexities involved in what is a serious issue.

About 5000 ADF personnel have been prescribed mefloquine and tafenoquine (an anti-malarial drug) the majority (just under 3000) in a series of drug trials conducted by the Army Malaria Institute (AMI) in Bougainville and East Timor from 1998 to 2002.

The majority of these veterans are infantrymen and members of 1RAR, 2RAR, 3RAR, 4RAR and SASR.

Hundreds (possibly more than 1,000) are now likely suffering from serious, chronic illnesses resulting from the neurotoxic properties of these drugs, which are able to cause brain damage in a sizeable minority of users.

Affected veterans and their families are located throughout Australia, including regional areas. Because of the similarity of the psychiatric symptoms, quinoline exposure has been recognised as a *confounder of PTSD* and other neuropsychiatric disorders. A significant proportion of the apparent "chronic mental health/PTSD" problem in the veteran community is likely a reflection of unrecognised, untreated and/or mistreated brain damage from quinoline exposure.

This information was mostly hearsay and anecdotal so to further understand these symptoms I have managed to speak directly with 40 individuals who have been directly or indirectly affected; veterans, their spouses or partners, children of veterans, parents of veterans and, most importantly, peers of veterans and in particular those who resulted in suicides and the stories being told

are traumatic and heart breaking.

This firsthand information was the clincher in supporting this cohort and at the AGM of the RAR Association last year it was unanimously agreed to support the campaign to recognise that these trials were a major issue and needed support.

It has been proven internationally that Quinoline drug exposure is one of the key factors in the high rate of veteran suicides, as a result of the chronic neuropsychiatric symptoms and the lack of appropriate health care. This lack of recognition and appropriate care has also contributed to widespread family and relationship breakdowns, unemployment, financial hardship, incarceration, and homelessness.

In December 2016 it was proposed to the Minister for Veterans Affairs that the department fund a dedicated outreach and research program for affected veterans and their families. The outreach program would be conducted by suitably qualified health professionals experienced in brain injury. Simultaneously, dedicated medical-scientific research would assist those affected to be properly diagnosed and given access to brain injury rehabilitation services.

This proposal was rejected which was very unfortunate because Professor Sandy McFarlane here in SA had already put together a research project which would identify the issues and appropriate treatment.

Sadly the Senate Inquiry will determine that the protocols observed in the administering of these drugs to members of the ADF were seriously flawed. Documentary evidence held mainly "the mefloquine consent form" has the section "has written informed consent been obtained" ruled out and not by the individual who was subject to the trial. This is not what we expect of the ADF.

How often have many of us fronted up to a RAP needle parade, shirts off and a cocktail of drugs injected into our bodies by what appeared to be more a grease gun than a syringe but we were perfectly happy with that because we trusted our RMO, the RAP staff and the Army not to do us any harm. It's the way we were and the way it should still be but in this case where any side effects were known, they were not passed on to the recipient nor a consent obtained. Where suicide has resulted due to this drug and poor protocol it is a complete lack of care. Continued page 4.

Anti-malarial drugs under the microscope

Continued from pae 3

DVA in part is restricted on what support it is able to provide unless the Department of Defence admits liability, which has not been forthcoming. Soldiers assembled on a parade ground told by the commanding officer that if individuals did not accept these drug trials they would not be deploying and the officer not taking the drug himself if true is an utter betrayal and poor leadership.

The Government has been kicking back on this whole issue which was brought to the fore by Amanda Rishworth, Shadow Veterans Affairs Minister and Labour Senator Alex Gallacher of SA who is Chair of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee. Both



had been extensively briefed on the issues and thankfully through the support of the cross benches in the Senate, the Government had no option than to support the Inquiry.

The real issue that I see is that the misdiagnoses and mistreatment must be stopped urgently. Misdiagnoses of PTSD, Polar disorder, anxiety, schizophrenia and phobias treated by a cocktail of drugs are not helping individuals through no fault of their own having brain damage and not getting the correct treatment.

We hope that this inquiry will ensure recognition, effective diagnosis treatment and support, a dedicated outreach program and funded research and the cessation of human drug trials on ADF personnel. This must never be permitted again and the ADF must establish proper protocols in line with the broader community. It's just not good enough and no amount of prevarication, avoiding the issues or smoke and mirrors which are the wont of Defence when it finds itself in a tricky situation will be accepted by those sadly affected.

- Michael von Berg

Motorcyclists honour mate for disability claims assistance



45107 Cpl Murray Crittenden served in Vietnam firstly with 1RHU from 10 December 1970 to 13 February 1971 and then transferred to 3 RAR on 14 February and was posted as Section Commander in 11 Platoon D Company until on RTA 16 October 1971. He was an excellent NCO in all respects.

His greatest achievement was to come when he was an Advocate at the Plympton RSL for 20 years during which time he assisted and advised hundreds of veterans and their families in obtaining War Widows and Disability Pensions. For this dedication he was awarded the Pride of South Australian Award.

Murray entered hospital on Saturday 24 March with major stomach cancer and passed away one week later on Saturday 31 March.

I took two photographs at Murray Crittenden's funeral on Saturday April 14

One was of the group of six motor cyclists from the Military Brotherhood MCC who lead the hearse carrying Murray to his buried site in the RC Section of Centennial Park Cemetery on Saturday 14 April 2018. They wished to attend to acknowledge Murray's help and assistance in their claims for a disability allowances.



The second was taken during refreshments after the service. From left) are L T Clive Usher 11PI, Trevor Thompson Sp Sec CHQ D Coy, Dennis Russell 11PI, Peter Scott CO 3RAR, Jim Cooper A Coy and Colin Chapman 11PI. Lance Mossop 11 PI missed being in the photograph.

It was very honoured to give a short eulogy and recite the Ode. Bob Whelan recited the Ode at the grave site.
RIP Murray

- Peter Scott



Themed dinners have been a popular feature on Friday evenings at the RAR. Here Tim Karasoulos help prepares the lamb for the Greek night. Future dinner details appear on page 16.



Committee remains the same

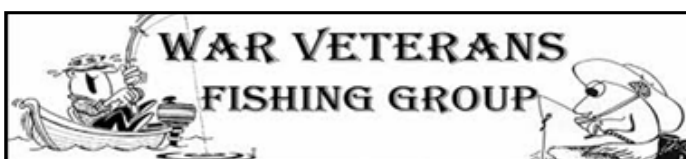
Good, I thought, there's no need to ask Bruce to take a photo of the 2018-2019 committee members because it's exactly the same as last year so all I have to do was find last year's photo and repeat it in this issue.

No such luck. The photo wasn't in the August 2017 issue but in the 2016 edition.

OK, Lynn and Carol (right) weren't present at this year's AGM, but it is a photo of all the dedicated current committee members with Patron Laurie Lewis (centre). Left from left: Ceremonial Officer Adrian Craig, Secretary Jim Stopford, Club Manager Greg Dwiar, Treasurer Mike Bevan, Patron Laurie Lewis, President Michael von Berg, Vice President Rodney Graham, Minute Secretary Lynn Graham and Membership Officer Carol Van Der Peet.

Below: The members who turned up. Those who didn't attend and didn't have a very good reason not to missed a great update. Where's Bruce Forster? Taking the photo.

- Penelope Forster



Fishing has been on the quiet side during the autumn and early winter season as our arranged country trips to **Port Victoria and Moonta Bay** were cancelled because of unsavoury weather conditions.

Our April trip to **Port Hughes** in April was cancelled owing to Anzac Day reunions around the country which depleted our numbers.

During July, four members went to **Elliston** to compete in the salmon



competition from the surf beaches in the area. The salmon did not appear in the large schools but there were plenty to be caught in the gutters not far from the beach. Jeff Barrett caught a 5.120kg fish and Greg Dwiar (Club Manager, pictured below) landed a 4.470 kg salmon.

Late **August** we will be returning to **Moonta Bay**; in September there will be a trek to **Port Augusta** to try for the annual Kingfish migration to the area for spawning; the group will be participating in **Veterans' Health Week** on September 22 -23; we will have a sinker-making day during October; and November will be the opening of the cockle season at **Goolwa**, which will include fishing the **Coorong** and the **Murray Mouth** for Mulloway.

Inquiries: Jeff 'Gadget' Barrett mobile: 0451 265 269 email: wvfgfishing@gmail.com or

John 'Spud' Murphy mobile: 0419 718 748 or home: 08 8386 0842 email: wvfgfishing@gmail.com



Nation thanks veterans on 65th Korean War armistice

IN recognition of the 65th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, Australian veterans were honoured at a national commemoration on 27 July 2018.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the nation reflected with gratitude on the service and sacrifice of some 18,000 Australians, including Army and Royal Australian Air Force nurses, who served in the Korean War and post-Armistice period.

"All three of Australia's armed services took part in the Korean War, which started in June 1950 when North Korea invaded the south," Mr Chester said.

"The invasion prompted the beginning of a war that pitted the Cold War powers of communist China and the Soviet Union against the United States and its allies, fighting under United Nations' auspices, in a massive military confrontation.

"Of the some 18,000 Australian personnel who served, Australia suffered some 1,500 casualties, including more than 350 who lost their lives and 30 who were taken prisoner. More than 40 Australians are still listed as missing in action."

Twenty-one nations provided military personnel, medical support or other assets to the United Nations effort in Korea, despite most still recovering from the impact of the Second World War.

"Australian sailors, soldiers, airmen and nurses made an important contribution to this international endeavour, with Australian service personnel earning widespread respect for their courage and endurance," Mr Chester said.

"The Armistice, signed on 27 July 1953, ended three years of fighting on the Korean peninsula. Australians remained in Korea, in a peacekeeping capacity, until 1957." Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for support and free and confidential counselling. Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 8 8241 4546). VVCS is a service founded by Vietnam veterans.

50th Anniversary of First Tour of Vietnam 1967/1968

3 RAR SA

The year so far has been busy with activities related to 3 RAR's First Tour of South Vietnam in 1967 and 1968.

In February we conducted 50th Anniversary Commemorative Services for Privates Robert Caston at Centennial Park on the 4th and then for Thomas de Vries van Leeuwen on the 18th.

Then in April we had a similar service at Mintaro on the 28th for Lance Corporal Roger Fisher; two days after the 50th Anniversary of his death (26 April 1968) at the request of his family.

In May we had a combined commemorative service for Sergeant Peter Lewis (KIA 13 May 1968) and Privates Alan Cooper and William Thomas (both KIA 26 May 1968) at Centennial Park on the 26th with Peter's service being delayed to enable members of his family to attend the National Coral/Balmoral Commemorative Service in Canberra on 13 May.

On November 5 we will conduct a commemorative service for Lance Corporal Anthony Quigley at Centennial Park.

On Sunday 13 May 2018 3 RAR and other units were presented with the Unit Citation for Gallantry for their actions during the Battles of Coral and Balmoral.

The National Commemorative Service was conducted in Canberra but state-based services were conducted in many state capital cities plus Townsville.

On a very sad note the CO 3 RAR during its First Tour of Vietnam, Colonel J. J. Shelton DSO, MC Retd., died after watching the presentation of the Unit Citation for Gallantry service on TV. Jim had been ill for some time before his death.

Fund Raising

Many of the team members who used to conduct sausage sizzles to raise funds for 3 RAR SA have advised they can no longer continue in that role so we have dropped that method of fund raising off our agenda.

We are now conducting Quiz Afternoons at the RAR Association SA clubrooms about twice a year with the first being on May 6 and our next on Sunday October 7 in the afternoon.

In addition our long suffering Neville and Margaret Cooper continue as our Merchandise Officers although stocks are being reduced in accordance with demand.

Social

In addition to our quiz afternoons we continue to conduct monthly lunches at the Lord Melbourne Hotel except November through to January.

As well as being good fun they also help with fund raising with raffles.

Long Khanh Reunion 6-8 June 2018

This Reunion was conducted in Adelaide over the period Wednesday to Friday May 6 to 8 with the Battle of Long Khanh being fought by 3 RAR and supporting arms and services on 7 June 1971.

The 6th included a Meet and Greet at the RAR Association SA clubrooms and the next day a commemorative service was conducted in the same venue. A highlight of the service was the laying of tributes by family members of the 3 RAR war dead from its



VIETNAM WAR 1963 TO 1973 INCLUDING THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE LINDEN PARK 18 AUGUST 2018

On Saturday 18 August 2018 the RAR Association SA will conduct a commemorative service for the Vietnam War 1963 to 1973 including the Battle of Long Tan at its clubrooms Beatty Street, Linden Park.

The service will cover the Australian Defence Forces involvement in the whole of the Vietnam War 1963 to 1973 as well as acknowledging the Battle of Long Tan of 18 August 1966.

The service will commence at 11.00 am and should take about 50 minutes and will include the Commemorative Address by President Michael von Berg MC, OAM with other key roles being performed by representatives of 6 RAR, the RAAC and 9 Squadron RAAF with support from 10/27 RSAR, Australian Army Band Adelaide, Defence Central Region, Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers and Pipe Major Des Ross.

A finger food light lunch will follow the service.

As a mark of respect of our war dead those attending the Service are requested to wear decorations and medals.

At this stage there will not be a Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Service at the state Vietnam War Memorial Torrens Training Depot in the morning of 18 August 2018 but the VVF SA traditionally conduct one in the afternoon.

- Adrian Craig, Ceremonial

Second Tour of Vietnam; for many it was a first time that they had been associated with such services.

Wing Commander Norm Goodall DFC Retd., the leader of the helicopter-gunship team during the Battle gave the commemorative address.

Lunch followed in the same venue before on the last day, Friday the 8th a lunch at the Glenelg Football Club.

As with the RAR Association, SA 3 RAR SA will be consolidating its commemorative services in the period 2019 to 2021 to:

Annually conducting the Korean War including the Battle of Kapyong on 24 April.

The 7th of October 2019 – Battle of Maryang San (2-8 October 1951).

The 7th of June 2020 – Battle of Long Khanh (7 June 1971).

The 16th of October 2021 – 50th Anniversary of Return to Australia of 3 RAR from its Second Tour of Vietnam – Canberra .

- Adrian Craig 3 RAR SA Rep

CEREMONIAL: Fewer observances in the future

2018 SO FAR

The RAR Association SA has decided to reduce the number of commemorative services it conducts to reduce the workload on organisers, support staff and principal guests.

This has been done in the main by consolidating commemorative services to:

April 24— Korean War 1950-1953 including the Battle of Kapyong.

August 18 – Vietnam War 1963-1973 including the Battle of Long Tan.

In addition the RAR Association SA will conduct commemorative services where there are multi-units involved such as the Battle of Hat Dich – February 19 on significant occasions such as 50th anniversaries.

Battalion associations will continue to conduct their own commemorations as they decide to do so.

Korean War including the Battle of Kapyong Commemorative Service 24 April 2018

The Service was conducted by 3 RAR SA in the RAR Association SA clubrooms and was an outstanding success.

The Commemorative Address was delivered by Col Peter Scott DSO Retd. and covered the whole of the Korean War and the Australian Defence Forces parts in that war.

Key players included John Jarrett President KORSEFA - poem The Memorial; Bob McIntosh AFC, OAM – The Ode; and Chaplain Troy Urlichs 7 RAR with the catafalque party and flag orderlies provided from C Company 7 RAR, bugler provided by 10/27 RSAR, choral by Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers and Pipe Major Des Ross. As usual we had the devoted support staff with catering and the bar.

ANZAC Day Adelaide 2018

This year some associations had a drop in numbers marching while others had their normal numbers boosted by reunions such as 3 RAR and 5 RAR.

The Plan for 2019 is to shift our vehicles to the rear of our group (Group 9 RAR and ASASR).

There may be a slight move of the Assembly Area because of the problems associated with the North Terrace tramline with some units on the north side of North Terrace needing to move to the southern side and into Pultney Street.

Commemorative Services for the Battles of Coral and Balmoral May 1968

Two battalions of the RAR (1 RAR and 3 RAR) and their members have been awarded the Unit Citation for Gallantry for their actions during the battles of Coral and Balmoral of May 1968. The major commemorative service was conducted by the AWM on Sunday 13 May 2018 in Canberra with other services being conducted in Adelaide and Townsville.

THE YEAR AHEAD – JULY 2018 TO JUNE 2019

Vietnam War including the Battle of Long Tan Commemorative Service 18 August 2018

The Service will be conducted by the RAR



Association SA in its clubrooms on Saturday 18 August 2018 commencing at 11.00 am. Key players will include the President RAR SA Michael von Berg MC, OAM, the Commemorative Address; Craig Haydock, President RAAC Vietnam Association SA – poem The Memorial; Wing Commander Norm Goodall DFC Retd. – The Ode; and Chaplain Troy Urlichs 7 RAR with the catafalque party and flag orderlies provided from 10/27 RSAR, bugler provided by the Australian Army Band Adelaide, choral Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers; and Pipe Major Des Ross.

50th Anniversary of the Battle of Hat Dich 3 Dec 1968 to 19 February 1969 on 19 February 2019

The RAR Assoc. SA will conduct the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Hat Dich at its clubrooms on 19 February 2019. Units with war dead from that Battle; 1 RAR, 4 RAR/NZ, 9 RAR, 1st Armoured Regiment, 3rd Cavalry Regiment and ASASR will have key roles in the Service.

Korean War including the Battle of Kapyong Commemorative Service 24 April 2019

This service will be conducted by 3 RAR SA in the RAR Assoc. SA clubrooms on 24 April 2019.

50th Anniversary of the Battle of Binh Ba 6/7 June 1969 – 7 June 2019

This service will be conducted as a national commemorative service in Canberra.

- Adrian Craig, Ceremonial

NEW PRACTITIONER SUPPORT SERVICE TO ASSIST IN VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

VETERANS in rural and remote areas will have improved access to mental health experts through a Federal Government initiative.

A new Practitioner Support Service (PSS) that will provide expert advice and consultation to doctors and agencies around Australia who are supporting and treating veterans with mental health issues, was launched on July 27 by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Darren Chester.

Mr Chester said that these professionals when working with veterans who have complex issues will now be able to gain access to a panel of highly experienced veteran and military mental health specialists.

"This initiative will strengthen the ability of health professionals and ex-service organisations across Australia to provide appropriate support to veterans in need," Mr Chester said.

"The service can be accessed by calling 1800 VET777 or through the Phoenix Australia website which also provides links to best practice and professional development.

In 2016, the Australian Government provided \$6 million to Phoenix Australia to establish the Centenary of Anzac Centre (the Centre) to target early intervention for mental health treatment for veterans. The Centre comprises a Treatment Research Centre and a PSS.

The Centre will investigate and test new treatments for PTSD and other mental health conditions and provide expert advice and support to mental health practitioners. Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for support and free and confidential counselling. Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 8 8241 4546). VVCS is a service founded by Vietnam veterans.

Comprehensive five-week tour for 100th Anniversary

Dear Members,
The name is Ron Milsom and I served with B Coy 6 RAR/NZ (69-70).

I would like to convey to you my experience of attending the Day 100th Anniversary at Villers Bretonneux.

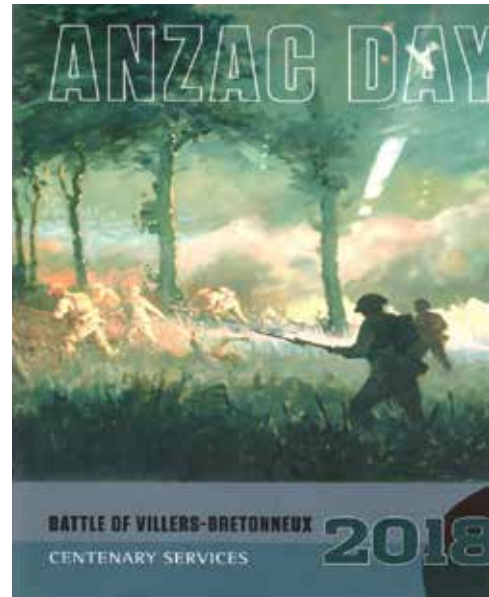
Without boring you, a quick introduction of our tour of France before arriving in Villers Bretonneux. Our journey commenced on 24th March 2018 departing Melbourne for Saigon & London (we were flying VN airlines). We then caught the train to Dover, catching the ferry to Calais. We picked up our hire car and headed across to Caen where we stayed for 5 days touring the Normandy Beaches.

From Caen we drove to Rennes in Brittany where we harboured up again for a further 3 days to tour the surrounding areas. Breaking Camp we drove to Saint Junien, a small village close to the village of Oradour Sur Glane. This village was destroyed by the Waffen SS on 7 June 1944 in retaliation for French Resistance activity. The village has been preserved in its destroyed state as a remembrance to those who unnecessarily suffered. We walked amongst the ruins and ghosts of the past.

Back on the road we drove to Montlucon where we took in some history and stayed in a 500 year old Chateau. From here it was off to Lyon, stopping to climb an extinct volcano with a Roman Temple at 1420m above sea level. The views were amazing but the air and wind was bitter (we took refuge in a cafe for a hot chocolate).

We had 5 days in Lyon enjoying wandering through the old medieval centre of town. We also did a side trip to Grenoble in the French Alps, storming the local bastille. The bastille museum is staffed by current serving members of the Alpine Regiment of the French Army and we met a soldier whose grandfather fought against the Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu.

From Lyon we headed north to Strasbourg, a city which doesn't know if its French or German. The luxury is you can catch the tram to Germany and have lunch, returning home in time for afternoon tea! From Strasbourg we drove into Germany and visited the



city of Heidelberg for 3 days and to experience good German culture and beer (beats the French bread, wine and cheese).

Leaving Heidelberg we drove to Namur in Belgium, this was only a way stop to break the journey to Villers Bretonneux.

We arrived at Villers Bretonneux on the 23 April, finding our quaint cottage in a small village close by. We headed to the National Memorial to collect our Day attendance passes. We had previously registered with DVA to attend but left home before they arrived. That evening we drove into Amiens to attend the Diggers Requiem, a concert that was part of the Week celebrations.

Anzac Eve was a rest day in preparation for a long night. Due to the high security we had to be at a shuttle bus pick up point at 12.30am to arrive at the memorial site for 0200. The service did not commence until 0500 but the crowd of 8000 were entertained by video documentaries, the Australian Army Band and Voices of Birrallee choir for the 3 hours prior to the service. The entertainment was well done but the cold air was a telling factor and made it somewhat uncomfortable (had we not worn our ski thermals we would have frozen). In attendance at the service was Prince Charles, Prime Ministers of France & Australia and several Australian Senators.



Left: Villiers Beatonnuet Memorial and (right) the cemetery from the memorial tower



of ANZAC landing in Gallipoli

Exhibits from the John Monash Centre showing all the battalions which served in WW1.

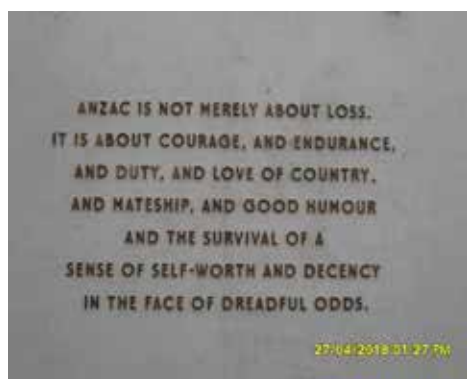


The service was very moving and paid honour and tribute to the 1000s of Australians who paid the supreme sacrifice (Lest We Forget). At the completion of the service we returned to the shuttle bus depot and drove home to our cottage, had a light breakfast and caught up on our sleep.

The next few days were spent touring the Somme area, its museums and many memorials. On the Friday we headed to the new Sir John Monash Centre at the rear of the National Memorial, Villers Bretonneux. The new centre is an amazing experience and recommended to all for a visit, don't miss the "Immersion Experience" that puts you in the centre of the battle for Villers Bretonneux on 24 April. We left France flying to my second home, Saigon, Vietnam. Our time here was to show Shirley (wife) Nui Dat and the surrounding areas where I served. The next morning we caught a mini bus to a place many of you would know, Vung Tau. We checked in to the "Grand Hotel", unfortunately the hotel is in need of TLC, but we stayed for the history.

The next day we caught up with a friend who runs tours out to Nui Dat, Long Tan Cross, Horseshoe, Dat Do, Long Hai Mountains and Baria. We were booked in to spend 2 nights in Vungers but we opted for the opulence of the Caravelle Hotel in Saigon (it had air-conditioning!). Our trip of 5 weeks came to a close on 3rd May when we arrived back in Melbourne.

Thank you for your patience in reading our France/Anzac Day Experience.



"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them."

Congratulations to Battalions 1 & 3

8 RAR

Before I commence my report, I would like, on behalf of the members of 8 Battalion here in SA, to commend the members of both 1 and 3 Battalions on the recent award of The Unit Citation for Gallantry for their actions at FSB Coral and Balmoral. Recognition of your deeds has been a long time coming, but, well done!!



ANZAC Day in the City of Adelaide saw a few local and some interstate members march and then go off to the Buckingham Arms Hotel for lunch after the March. Once again the fellowship enjoyed both at the March and the lunch was excellent. It would appear from the photo hereunder that one of the members marching was a trifle frivolous with his time during and after the march.



By the time you read this, the lunch at the German Arms Hotel will be history and we will be preparing for the Battalion Birthday and our AGM. This later event is to be held at the Buckingham Arms Hotel on Wednesday 8 August 2018. The AGM will see the reports from the President and Treasurer and the election of the Committee for 2018 – 2019. Attending the AGM does not mean a committee position, but it does make it easier for those on the committee to continue their good work for you.

Christmas lunch will be held at the Birkenhead Tavern at 1200 hours on Friday 30 November 2018 3/7 Riverview Street, Birkenhead. Once again, notification of your attendance for this event is essential. My contact details are both on the website and on the back page of this newsletter. If you change your contact details, please let me know so that information and the 8 Ball can get to you.

**- Ted Forward
President 8 RAR SA**

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FOR THE KOREAN WAR 1950-1953

Address given by Peter Scott at the Commemorative Service for Korea 1950-1953 on 24 April 2018

Firstly I acknowledge my colleagues and Veterans of the Korean War.

I was serving in 3RAR stationed in Japan when the Korean War broke out on 25 June 1950. I had been in Japan since March 1949 and the battalion was preparing to return to Australia when planning was instead redirected towards preparing to join the United Nations Forces in South Korea.

In the USA President Truman ordered the American air and naval forces to support the harassed South Koreans. Australia was the first country other than the United States to commit forces to go to the aid of South Korea.

On 29 June the Prime Minister of Australia, Robert Menzies, announced that the two RAN ships in Japanese waters - the destroyer Bataan and the frigate Schoalhaven - had been placed at the disposal of the UN. On the same day Commander British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) Lt Gen H C H Robertson instructed 77 (RAAF) Sqn based at Iwakuni to prepare for combat.

One week later mustangs of 77 Sqn was flying its first combat mission in escorting American B26s covering American B29's during an attack on the North Korean airfield at Yongpo near Hamhung. Five days later 77 Sqn suffered its first casualty when Sqn Ldr Graham Strout dived onto his target and failed to pull out.

On 1 July 400 infantrymen and a battery of artillery from the 24th (US) Division were airlifted to Pusan and on July 5 two infantry battalions with a heavy mortar platoon and a medical detachment were shipped to Pusan.

The first contact with the North Koreans occurred on July 5. The announcement that Australia would send ground troops to Korea came suddenly on July 26 without any detail. Eventually the government decided to send a battalion of 900 troops made up of those in BCOF, regulars serving in Australia and special enlistments mainly ex WW2 experienced diggers called K Force. 3 RAR was quickly orientated towards training for operations. The first thing I remember was the Americans visiting us and giving a briefing on the 2.36 inch and 3.5 inch RLs. Later 50 were arranged from US Army sources.

The battalion paraded by platoons to ascertain those volunteering for Korea. I remember only one of my 4 PI did not volunteer. He was sent to Tokyo for guard duty. He had a Japanese girlfriend and had WW2 service.

The battalion was brought up to strength, the new CO LT Col Charlie Green arrived and the battalion sailed for Pusan, Korea, on the Aitkin Victory on September 27.

3 RAR joined the other two British battalions to form the 27 British Commonwealth Brigade.

At this time the Americans had landed successfully at Inchon and captured Seoul.

Continued from page 12



Catherine Lambert (right) and The Terrace Singers



From right: Peter Scott, Attorney General Vicki Chapman, RARA Patron Laurie Lewis and Zak Jackman, representing Francis Bedford, Member for Florey.



Jeff Barrett, 3 RAR, (back view) who welcomed the guests, stands to attention as the catafalque party enters the RARA headquarters.



Left: John Jarrett, Korea South East Asia Forces Association; Mr Ham Korean Community President and Yum Lee, Korean veteran.

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FOR THE KOREAN WAR 1950-1953



Veterans (from left) Jim Levitt, Mike Woodley, Keith Thomas, Ray Aubert, Don Beard, 'Rocky' Anock, Peter Scott, Richard Lee, John Jarrett and Bob McIntosh. Not in photo Patrick Forbes.



Above: Peter Scott, Rocky Anock, and Dr Donald Beard were among those placed wreaths



Left: John Jarrett, Peter Scott, Donald Beard and Patrick Forbes with 7 RAR catafalque party members



Right: Bugler Musician Michael Bampton.



Above: Jeff Barrett, Chris Shannon and Rod Graham ready to place tributes near the cross.



Members of the catafalque party were from C Company 7 RAR



John Scully, Dr Donald Beard, Patrick Forbes and Attorney General Vicki Chapman

Right: Piper Des Ross 3 RAR SA playing the 3 RAR Quick March



COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FOR THE KOREAN WAR 1950-1953



Speakers from left: Bob McIntosh, who read The Ode; Peter Scott, who presented the address; Ken Duthie, who read the Presidential Unit Citation and Roll of Honour; John Jarrett, who read the poem "The Memorial"; and Chaplain Troy Urlichs who gave the Call to Worship, and the prayers.

Continued from page 11

The battalion, as part of the 27 British Commonwealth Brigade, advanced into North Korea and reached Chonju which was 40 km from the Yalu River and the border with Manchuria.

They had crossed the 38th Parallel 22 days previously. They lost their CO LT Col Charlie Green on 1 November when he was hit with a piece of shrapnel from an enemy shell which exploded in a tree near his tent. He was the first CO to be lost during operations since WW2.

A general UN withdrawal then took place as a result of some 18 Divisions or 180,000 men of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) entered North Korea during the last two weeks of October 1950. The enemy offensive commenced about a week later.

Lt Col Bruce Ferguson, who was 2iC 3RAR from 1949, was promoted and became the CO. During the withdrawal Australian Mustangs from 77 Sqn supported the diggers for the first time during their attack across the Taenyong River and one of my RMC class mates, Lt Eric Larson, was killed leading his platoon.

The Chinese were now in top gear and forced the UN to withdraw as winter arrived with below zero temperatures which froze bottles of beer and eggs in their shells.

The Chinese generally hid by day and attacked by night making it very difficult for the UN Forces to locate and assess their strengths.

At Chinnampo, the port of Pyongyang, two Australian destroyers, Warramunga and Bataan, helped evacuate 8000 UN wounded.

The UN then retreated some 200 miles in the next nine days reaching Uijongbu North of Seoul on December 23. On Christmas Day the brigade ate roast turkey, fruit cake and mincemeat. Then withdrew again.

The first Australians to be captured occurred early in January but were later released.

On February 27 our own Len Opie won his most Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM). 3 RAR was now advancing again North of Seoul when they were involved in the Battle of Kapyong for which the unit was awarded the US Army Presidential Citation. Our own Colonel Don Beard was RMO during this time.

Further advances followed to the general line of the 38th Parallel and it was then that I rejoined the unit as OC 3 PI under then Capt Jimmy Shelton. The 1st Commonwealth Division was formed on 28 July 1951 and for the first time in history commonwealth troops from Britain, Australia, Canada, India and New Zealand were part of an inter-dominion operational division under a unified command.

I was Intelligence Officer (IO) during the Battle of Maryang San in October 1951 and completed my 365 days along with the CO Lt Col Frank Hassett in June 1952. 1 RAR arrived in 1952 followed by 2 RAR to permit the three battalions of the RAR to be located and paraded on 21 March 1953 for the first time since being formed in November 1948.

At the same time Brigadier Tom Daly became the first Australian Commander of the 28th British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade

2 RAR and 3 RAR were present when the cease fire came into effect on 27 July 1953 immediately preceded by 2 RAR's very gallant defence of the 'Hook' and our Lt Col Patrick Forbes awarded the Military Cross (MC) for his outstanding personal courage as Pioneer Platoon commander in 2RAR.

77 Sqn had their Mustangs replaced by the Meteor jet aircraft during 1951 and continued to give very effective ground support and air superiority to UN Forces. Wing Commander Robert Macintosh was a sergeant pilot in 77 Sqn during these operations. Their achievements helped convince US President Truman that he should enter into a security treaty with Australia and the ANZUS treaty was born.

11 HMAS ships including two aircraft carriers and three air squadrons served in the waters off Korea during the three years of the war. They performed daring in-shore operations in the face of strong enemy coast artillery.

Australian casualties during the war were: killed, RAN 5, Army 293 including Slim Madden GC who died as POW, RAAF 41 for a total of 339. POWs Army 23 and RAAF 6. MIAs Army 23 and RAAF 20 and 805 Sqn 2 including one lost at sea.

- Peter Scott

Right: A few of the veterans of the battle who attended the opening standing outside the Museum after viewing the display. L to R: Larry Davenport, Artillery Signaller at Arty Tac, HQ 1TF who also spoke of his experience during the battle, Geoff Dunsford 3RAR, Ken Duthie 3RAR, Enrico Lepore 3RAR, Unknown, Peter Geelen 102 Fd Bty, Les Partridge OAM, former RSM 12 Fd Regt and Lt Col David Brook OAM 102 Bty Capt who opened the display.



Battles of Coral & Balmoral exhibition at Army Museum

A display of memorabilia from the Battle of Coral and Balmoral in Vietnam in May-June 1968 was opened on Wednesday 9 May 2018 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the battle.

The display in the Army Museum of South Australia was officially opened by Lt Col David Brook OAM (Rtd) who was Battery Captain and commander of the gun position of 102 Field Battery during the battle. When one of his 105 mm Howitzers was captured by the enemy from 7 NVN Division he and the Gun Position Officer, Lt Ian Ahearn threw a couple of grenades into the gun bay to recapture the gun.

Operation Toan Thang 1 was conducted from 12 May to 6 June 1968. It involved 1 Task Force deploying with 1RAR (CO Lt Col Phillip Bennett) and 3RAR (Lt Col Jimmy Shelton) supported by 12 Field Regiment to interdict enemy withdrawal routes some 20 km north of Bien Hoa in Area of Operation Surfers.

Our own late Governor of South Australia, Lt Gen Don Dunstan as a Colonel was Deputy Commander acting Task Force Commander during this operation. On May 18 he ordered C Squadron 1 Armoured Regiment equipped with Centurion tanks to the Area of Operations (From Nui Dat) and 3 RAR to occupy FSPB Balmoral.

A full description of the battle can be found in 'A Duty Done' by Lt Col (Retired) Fred Fairhead, pages 58-64.

On 12 May 2018 a most impressive Commemorative Service of the Battles of FSBs Coral and Balmoral was held at the Vietnam Memorial on the Torrens Parade Ground to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Battles. His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC Governor of South Australia attended and laid a wreath. Many other representatives of Federal and State Governments, Armed Services other ESOs attended and a few of the general public laid tributes.

A large crowd was present to hear the keynote speaker Dr Brendan Nelson AO Director of the Australian War Memorial followed by the reading of the Roll of Honour, reciting of the Ode and playing of Last Post and Rouse. Refreshments were served in the Torrens Drill Hall

- Peter Scott, 12 May 2018



Above The tributes laid at the Vietnam Memorial.

Above: Outside the Army Museum Keswick Barracks and next to a 105mm Howitzer similar to the one used by 12 Field Regiment in Vietnam are (left) Maj Les Partridge OAM, former RSM 12 Field Regiment and Lt Col David Brook OAM (Rtd) Battery Captain 102 Field Battery both in Vietnam in 1968.



Our RAR and 3RAR SA Pipe Major Des Ross who played the Lament after the Rouse. Vietnam Veterans in the background.

Governor hosts reception at Government House



Carmen Webster of Partners of Veterans; Chris Longfellow, President of Partners of Veterans; and Claudia Cream OAM, President of the War Widows Guild were among the guests.



The Governor His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC with (from left) RSL State President Bronson Horan, Paul Sunman, Chris Norman, Vietnam Air Force Association of SA President Thao Nguyen, Ros Hewton and Lloyd Stevens.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral, the Governor His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC hosted a reception for veterans of the battles and their partners and wives on Friday May 11.

After the Governor's address to the gathering, Mike Hainsworth, Pte 9 Sec12 Platoon and a committee member of the Vietnam Veterans' Federation SA Branch, gave the response:

He said: Firstly I would like to thank the Governor on behalf of my fellow Coral Veterans here for inviting us into your home tonight. It is indeed an honour.

The reason for Fire Support Base Coral being positioned where it was, was to interrupt the Viet Cong (VC) forces retreating from the much anticipated MINI TET attacks on Saigon. This is where I throw in my quip about 'Military Intelligence' being an 'oxymoron'. What we were faced with was hyped up NVA regiments (not VC) looking for a scrap, fully primed and on their way to Saigon.

The 12th of May 1968, the start of Operation Toan Thang, (Complete Victory) the fight for fire support base Coral, just like this Sunday, was Mother's Day.

There was a likeness to two other great battles of the past. The two I'm thinking of were the Battle of Little Big Horn, known as Custer's Last Stand, by all reports not a great success for the cavalry and Gallipoly. All three were attributable to not being able to establish the fighting area of their preference and/or a misunderstanding of the enemy's ability.

Custer had an overrated belief in what he and his cavalry could achieve, possibly on the wrong ground. Gallipoly, like Coral, where our troops were inserted into the wrong place, was at Anzac Cove in 1915, for Gallipoly, the best outcome there was the evacuation of the troops under cover of darkness.

Without taking anything away from battles of the past, there will may be no comparison with the hardship and



Charles Dolphin, 3 RAR, David Harding, 5 RAR, and Rod Hill, Task Force HQ Transport

the heroism displayed there.

At Coral we stayed and slugged it out for nearly six weeks until we had gained control of the area and instead of the NVA joining in an attack on Saigon the MINI TET they were a defeated force.

A sighting for the fire support base was impracticable due to lack of a proper recce, the Bell pilot would not come down to a sufficiently low level for our (1RAR) CO to identify a suitable landing zone. His reason was fear of getting his helicopter shot down.

It was all wrong from the start, an early insertion messed up by lack of choppers, troops did not get their feet on the ground until late afternoon

So like Anzac Cove we didn't have a good start and it went down hill sharply from there with a lack of time to construct a defensive position for the guns and mortar platoon, all the rifle companies were out set up in ambush sites for the night, totally unaware that the enemy had observed our arrival and was hastily making plans to boot us out.

There was one contact the first afternoon where 12 Platoon made contact, result one enemy was KIA.

In the early hours of the 13th May all hell let loose with ambushes being sprung and hordes of NVA troops attacking the FSPB position, over running a gun and the mortars position. The mortar men actually calling for their own artillery to fire on their position with splintex, luckily they all ducked in time.

The outcome was, that within one week of Mother's Day 1968, 19 Australian mothers had lost their sons.

Our training was for guerilla warfare, look for evidence of the enemy, search and kill or capture was totally reversed, it was defend at night against huge odds and patrol during the day looking to disrupt the enemy as much as possible. Proudly the members of the First Battalion RAR with support from other arms, Artillery, Armour and American air support, won the day.

for Coral and Balmoral veterans and friends



From left: Chris Ashenden, 7 RAR; Geoff Hanson; and Eric Ciracovitch OAM, Vietnam Veterans Federation committee member.



Mike Harvey and Peter Geelen with the 50 cent coin he initiated.

Far left: A close up of the coin.



Peter Geelen, David and Jan Brook and Les Partridge.



Waiter Dale Insall pours drinks for John Kennedy, Geoff Dunsford & Ray Ryan, Sgt in the Corp of RAEME on the HQ 1 ATF Nui Dat 1967/1968.



Di & Laurie Lewis with Premier Stephen Marshall



Carmen Webster, Partners of Veterans, (left); Chris Fellowship, President Partners of Veterans; and (front) Claudia Kaye Vadeikis

Former 5 RAR members provide escort



Above Tom Yeo (left), Kayleen McGuire (centre) and author (right) waiting their turn to move forward. Ian McDougall, who was wearing his miniature medals, answered many questions from locals and tourists as to the origin of the medals. Ian said: "It was very much a night I will remember for ever." Right: Waiting their turn to move forward.

**From Ian A McDougall
Former Corporal 4717396,
RAAMC Company Medic,
5RAR 66/67 Tour**

Basically, my story is about two former 5RAR members escorting a lady who wished to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, for a relative of hers who was killed in WW1. Tom Yeo, the other 5RAR member I refer to, did 2 Vietnam tours, was in the Paras (possible SAS) and ended up as a WO1 in the Corps.

Back in January 2013, I received an email, as follows: "I'm J... V.... out of Belgium and organising an historical project of World War I in which Rex Warneford won a Victoria Cross for destroying a Zeppelin in 1915 above the city of Gent in Belgium. I'm searching for relatives of Rex Warneford. Perhaps you can help me further on this? I'm teaching in a technical high school and we replicated the plane with which he flew around an original still running motor. Greetings and thanks for any help".

After responding to the message, I ascertained that the sender had obtained my name from one of many genealogy websites on which I have posted family details.

I am writing a separate article on this matter, but my wife and I made arrangements to travel to Belgium for the centenary of "Warneford's heroic escapade. While in our travel agents office, my eye caught sight of a brochure offering "Anzac Trips" in Europe.

Further enquiries revealed that an "All Quiet on the Western Front" tour commenced in Paris on the very day we planned to arrive there, so we elected to join it.

On May 16 this year, we met up with the other tour members (another 26 Australians) and the tour leader - Steve Roberts, a former member of the Royal Military Police, now a WW1 historian - see <https://uk.linkedin.com/pub/steve-roberts/35/938/555>.

And we all enjoyed the evening meal together. I learnt that there were three other Vietnam Veterans

in our group, including Tom Yeo, a one-time fellow RAR member, who had made two tours of duty there, although neither with 5 RAR.

The next day, after breakfast, we were all on the bus heading for Ypres, the only city in Belgium not captured by the Germans in WW1, although they came very close to the city outskirts.

This was to be our base for several days while exploring the surrounding former battlefields and war cemeteries. Steve proved to be a very capable and informative tour guide and, in the days we spent with him, we all learned a great deal about the victories and sacrifices of our WW1 service personnel.

On the first evening in Ypres, most of us visited the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing - a war memorial in Ypres, Belgium, dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres.

Salient of World War I and whose graves are unknown. Following the Menin Gate Memorial opening in 1927, the citizens of Ypres wanted to

express their gratitude towards those who had given their lives for Belgium's freedom.

Hence every evening at 20:00, buglers from the local fire brigade close the road which passes under the memorial and sound the "Last Post".

Except for the occupation by the Germans in World War II when the daily ceremony was conducted at Brookwood Military Cemetery, in Surrey, England, this ceremony has been carried on uninterrupted since 2 July 1928.

On the evening that Polish forces liberated Ypres in the Second World War, the ceremony was resumed at the Menin Gate despite the fact that heavy fighting was still taking place in other parts of the town (from Wikipedia).

The ceremony there was very moving, and conducted with great dignity. A number of wreaths were laid by various people honouring (possibly) a family member who fought, fell, and whose body was never recovered.



at Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium

Hundreds of people attended the event – people of all ages, many of them young, liked to lay a wreath at Menin Gate during the next two nights we were staying in Ypres.

One lady, Kayleen McGuire, had lost her great uncle in the area and requested Steve's help to organise a wreath for her.

Her relative was 4035 Sergeant Thomas Joseph DUGGAN, 15th and 47th Battalion, MM, killed in action 12 October 1917, Zonnebeke, Belgium, age 22, no known grave - his name is recorded on the Menin Gate. A search through the Australian War Museum records revealed:

Roll of Honour: Thomas Joseph Duggan, Service Number: 4035. Rank: Sergeant. Unit: 47th Australian Infantry Battalion. Service: Australian Army. Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918. Date of death: 12 October 1917. Place of death: Belgium. Cause of death: Killed in action. Age at death: 22

Place of association: Huon, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

Source: AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War, Army

Two days later, on 20 May 20, Steve Roberts announced that the wreath laying Kayleen had requested would be conducted that evening. Kayleen asked Tom Yeo and I to act as escorts for her – an honour we both accepted with gratitude.

After the evening meal, Steve guided a group of us to Menin Gate where we were introduced to the officials who explained the procedure to Kayleen, Tom and me. The rest of our party took up strategic positions for photographic opportunities.

From memory, the three of us were the fourth party to move forward to lay the wreath, with possibly three more following us. When our turn came, the three of us moved in line abreast from one side of the Gate to the opposite side, laid the wreath, then in single file, returned to the side from whence we had come.

It was a very stirring and proud experience for me, and I thank Kayleen for asking me, and Tom Yeo, a former soldier with much service experience, for being my escort partner.

Graveside Gatherings

In July 9 RAR conducted graveside gatherings for three men of D Company 9 RAR killed in July 1969 during Operation Matthew in the far north of Phuoc Tuy.

The first was conducted at the Whyalla Cemetery on the 6th for Lance Corporal Richard Abraham of 10 Platoon KIA 6 July 1969. In the photo below Richard's younger brother Peter is behind his headstone wearing the checked shirt with his daughter Kimberley to his left.

The second was conducted at Centennial Park on the 11th for Corporal Bruno Adamczyk and Private Beresford Paul Edwards; both of 11 Platoon and KIA 11 July 1969. In the photo below Bruno's younger daughter, Michelle is wearing a black jacket and blue jeans on the right of Bruno's grave.

Lunch at local hotels followed each of the graveside gatherings.

The Future In November 2018 9 RAR SA will have a Dolphin Cruise on the Port River.



In 2019 9 RAR will mark its 50th Anniversary of its Tour of Vietnam with commemorative services

for its war dead from the tour of November 1968 to November 1969 and will finish the year with a

50th Anniversary Return to Australia Reunion in Canberra in late November.
- **Adrian Craig, 9 RAR Rep**

SPOTLIGHT ON REGIMENTAL DINNER 2018



Left: Caterers in the kitchen putting the finishing touches to the meals.

Right: RARA SA Membership Officer Carol van der Peet with Infantryman Co-Editor Penelope Forster .



Barman Malcolm Allen

Caught on candid camera



*Left: Are you sure I ordered this?
Above: I didn't see that on the menu*



Mrs Ceremonial Sandra Craig, Penelope Forster and Denise Whelan

SPOTLIGHT ON REGIMENTAL DINNER 2018

The Regimental Dinner again proved to be a popular event with guests dressing in keeping with the occasion.

Right: Guest speaker "Dogs" Kearney Denise Rowe, RAR Association President Michael von Berg, and Lynne Graham and Vice President and Rodney Graham.



Below: Dr Donald Beard, Mrs Beard and Peter Scott



Let: Ken Duthie at the table set for Absent Friends.

Right: Donald and Margaret Beard and Peter Scott.

Below: "Dogs" Kearney, Bob Whelan and Ken Duthie.

Photos: Bruce Forster.



Brenna Chia, Louise von Berg, Denise Rowe and Michael von Berg.



Cathy Graham, Kristy Graham, Kay Crooks and Ken McCorman



Above: Arthur and Michelle and Petra & Tony Boyce..

Right: Peter Scott and Fred Fairhead.



Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2018-2019

Patron Laurie Lewis AM

Elected Positions

President Michael von Berg MC OAM 0411 870 055
mvb@michaelvonberg.com
 Vice President Rod Graham 0427 977 145
rodg2@bigpond.com.au
 Secretary Jim Stopford 0400 191 801
jbstopford@bigpond.com
 Treasurer and Webmaster Mike Bevan 0416 106 578
mikeb3@netspace.net.au

Appointed Committee Positions

Manager - Club Greg Dwiar 0412 644 749
gregdwiar@gmail.com
 Manager - Ceremonial Adrian Craig 8263 4784
as.craig9rar@bigpond.com
 Welfare Officer Robert Whinnen 0413 189 558
whinnens@gmail.com
 Membership Carol Van Der Peet 0415 242 084
3RARSA@gmail.com
 Trojan's Trek Director Moose Dunlop OAM 0408 088 886
moose@trojanstrek.com
 Schools Military History Officer Ken Duthie 0418 806 172

Voluntary Positions

Manager - Bar Chris Shannon 0414 797 250
 Editor - Infantryman Penelope Forster 0419 856 946
penelopeforster01@gmail.com

Battalion Representatives

1 RAR John Genovese genovese@bigpond.net.au 0403 010 180
 2 RAR Malcolm Allen mal@aladdco.com.au 0451 374 133
 2/4 Vacant
 3 RAR Adrian Craig as.craig9rar@bigpond.com 8263 4784
 4 RAR Chris Pepper 0406 830 228
 5 RAR Mos Hancock moswhan@bigpond.net.au 0414 566 212
 5/7 RAR Chris Shannon thinktank2002@hotmail.com 0414 797 250
 6 RAR Vacant
 7 RAR Robert Whinnen whinnens@gmail.com 0413 189 558
 8 RAR Ted Forward adrienne.ted.forward@gmail.com 8235 1625
 9 RAR Adrian Craig as.craig9rar@bigpond.com 8263 4784

RAR (SA) RSL Sub-Branch

President Rod Graham 0427 977 145
 Secretary Greg Dwiar 0412 644 749
 Treasurer Steven Roberts 0408 108 643

Headquarters and Clubroom

13 Beatty Street, Linden Park, SA 5065

Phone: (08) 8379 5771

Website: www.rarasa.org.au

Email: rar01@internode.on.net

FRIDAY NIGHT BAR ROSTER AUG - DEC

MEAL		BAR
AUGUST		
LIGHT MEAL	3	SPIKE
<u>FAMILY FRIDAY</u>	10	BOB W
LIGHT MEAL	17	KARA
<u>LONG TAN DAY</u>	18	TBA
LIGHT MEAL	24	CHRIS
LIGHT MEAL	31	ADRIAN
SEPT		
LIGHT MEAL	7	SPIKE
<u>FAMILY FRIDAY</u>	14	BOB W
LIGHT MEAL	21	KARA
LIGHT MEAL	28	ADRIAN
OCT		
LIGHT MEAL	5	CHRIS
<u>FAMILY FRIDAY</u>	12	BOB W
LIGHT MEAL	19	SPIKE
LIGHT MEAL	26	KARA
NOV		
LIGHT MEAL	2	ADRIAN
<u>FAMILY FRIDAY</u>	9	BOB W
LIGHT MEAL	16	CHRIS
LIGHT MEAL	23	SPIKE
RAR XMAS DRINKS	30	KARA
DEC		
LIGHT MEAL	7	ADRIAN
LIGHT MEAL	14	CHRIS
<u>RAR XMAS DINNER</u>	21	BOB W
<u>CLUB CLOSED XMAS</u>	22	XMAS
<u>CLUB REOPEN</u>	11	JANUARY

Infantryman criteria

- Articles and photos are always welcome. Email to President Michael von Berg on mvb@michaelvonberg.com and Editor Penelope Forster at penelopeforster01@gmail.com for consideration.
- MUST:** Copy in 10pt Word. Photos separately as jpgs. Subject line for article and photos should match i.e. Infantryman memorial.
- Phone Nos: (08) 1123 4567 mobiles XXXX XXX XXX - four numbers (space) three numbers (space three numbers).
- Numbers: 1 to 9 in words and 10 onwards in numbers. Also 1st, 2nd etc. Dates should include the day of the week.
- Dates: Saturday March 10 - but Saturday 10 March 2018 so the numbers don't clash

Thanks - Penelope Forster, Editor