



Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

"Sitrep, Over!" When did it all start?

When I took over from the late Tom McCullagh as Secretary of the RSAR Association in 2008 I was given the task of "looking after the books" by then President Alan Hook. "Just for a couple of years," he said. "It'll be fun," he said. Alan waltzed into my house at Prospect with 2 green Woolies bags full of paperwork. "Here you go!" Old mate Tom wasn't into computers, so everything was written down and photo copied.

Alan used to put out a newsletter whenever he could find enough interesting content to keep members enthralled. It was sans colour (just black and white) and was 2, sometimes 3 pages. I figured that if I was to spend time making up a newsletter, it may as well be in colour and of substantial content. But first.....the paperwork!

So, with a goal in mind I set out putting everything onto spreadsheets and data bases, and a bit later on launching the new newsletter and a Facebook page, and then through Frank Morony starting up a very informative website.

Well, 12 years later I'm still here, and still banging away at this keyboard. The website is looked after by Jesse Humphrys, a serving member of 10/27 Bn, and former CO Trent Burnard and members of the Band now add most of the content to the Facebook page.

I now add as much interesting content to this journal as I can, and I'm constantly assisted by members who forward stories and photos of interest. As well as that, **I NEED AN ASSISTANT TO HELP WITH THIS NEWSLETTER**. It's time for me to take a break, but because this work is monthly I'd like someone with Publisher skills to give me a hand.

If you think you have the skills and would like to help out, please drop me a line. You'll never look back! It'll be fun!

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Do we need to advertise?

At the December RSARA Committee meeting we packed Christmas parcels for our soldiers overseas during Christmas. Recording it for posterity (and 9 Brigade) was **SIG Andrew Foote**, (at right) a Channel 7 News Camera Operator/Editor, who took pics and interviewed President Rod Beames for a video to be presented to the COMD 9 Brigade to show him what we do. An initiative by SGT Mark Blondell, the video and pics will go a long way to showcase our support for the Regiment. Well done Andrew and Blondie.



The Charleville WW1 Gun

The picture shows a 75mm Turkish gun that stands in the memorial park on Wills St in Charleville, Qld. This gun, number 452, is one of the many war trophies allotted to Australia after World War One (WWI). The story of its capture is both interesting and unique. Following is an account taken from the official history of the A.I.F. in Sinai and Palestine, and the unit histories of the 5th and 7th Light Horse Regiments..



Following the breakthrough on the coast, three mounted divisions were galloping up the Plain of Sharon on the 19th of September 1918. By the 22nd of September the Turkish 4th Army that was opposing the General Chaytor's force, including the ANZAC Mounted

Division, was forced to retire or be cut off. As a result the ANZAC Mounted division was required to cross the Jordan River for the third time to advance on Amman and cut off Turkish garrisons in Maan and Arabia.

After successfully establishing bridgeheads and clearing the rearguard from the foothills, Chaytor's force was on the march to Gilead. By 7pm on the 23rd the New Zealanders had captured Es Salt. At 6am on the 25th of September, the New Zealanders and Ryrie's 2nd brigade moved on Amman with Cox's 1st brigade in close support. The ANZACS were keen to even the score following their fighting at Amman earlier in the year. They probed forward with good work being done by the 5th Light Horse Regiment (LHR) in capturing two redoubts. After an attempt by the Canterbury Mounted Rifles to gallop the Turkish defences, the advance slowed. The 1st LHR had been cooperating with the New Zealanders on the left and were improving their ground. The 3rd LHR was also put in on the left and the assault became general.

In Gullett's official history it is stated that, a daring reconnaissance by Lt. Stanley of the 7th LHR revealed some dead ground within eighty yards of the Turks main line of defence. Stanley, with Captain Williams led a small force of thirty five and took the Turks by surprise capturing nine officers, 97 other ranks and seven machine guns. According to Gullett, this was the decisive incident of the assault as it smashed opposition to the 7th and eased resistance to the 5th LHR. As a result, "C" Squadron of the 5th LHR was able to enter the town at 1.30pm and Colonel Cameron declared it clear of the enemy at 3.20pm in a message to Brigade.

Following the capture of Amman, "B" Squadron less one troop, of the 7th LHR proceeded to the Leban Station according to Regiment's history, to observe the Turk's movements. A wounded Turk found at Leban, reported that the enemy was in strength at Ziza, part of the force moving up from Maan that was between 5,000 and 6,000 in number.

According to Colonel Cameron's report the 5th LHR less one squadron moved out at 5am on the 28th of September. The advanced troops halted some 700 yards from the Turkish positions at Ziza. The Turkish commandant advised that whilst he wished to surrender to the Australians, he considered that they did not have sufficient numbers to protect his force from the 10,000 Bedouin and Arab tribesmen that surrounded Ziza.

Because the Main force had previously been spotted from the air as it moved to Ziza, arrangements had been made to

The Charleville Gun. Continued

bomb the Turks that evening. Cameron was keen to prevent this happening. As his signallers had by now repaired the telegraph wires, Cameron was able to discuss the situation with Chaytor's chief staff officer, Colonel Browne.

As a result, Ryrie was ordered to join Cameron with all available troops. However, Browne had difficulty in contacting the airmen's headquarters. In a further effort to prevent the Turks being bombed, Cameron sent Lt. Crawford to place the Regimental Report Centre Sign and White Strips in the rear of the Turkish trenches. It wasn't necessary as the raid had been successfully cancelled.

Meanwhile, Ryrie, who only had the 7th LHR available was quickly on the move. Ten miles had been covered at the trot and canter when a further message was received from Cameron that the situation was critical. The pack horses were left behind and the remaining five miles were covered at the gallop reaching the 5th just in time before dark.

Richardson wrote in the 7th Regiment's history, "The 5th Regiment was concentrated, waiting reinforcements while the Turks in their trenches were standing to arms holding off the Arabs with shell and machine-gun fire. The vulture appearance of the Arabs, who had spoilt our operations at an earlier date and who were now willing that the British should do the fighting and they the looting, will not be readily forgotten."

On his arrival, the Arab chiefs crowded around Ryrie and urged him to attack the Turks whilst promising to support the Australians. But Ryrie had experienced their failure to keep their word previously. He too was concerned about the fate of the Turks if they surrendered their arms as his force was still too small to provide protection. So he took the unusual step of joining forces with the Turks for the night to await reinforcements in the morning.

Having advised the Turks of his intentions, he then ordered two sheikhs to accompany him. He then led his two regiments through the Arabs into the middle of the Turkish position. There he told the Turks to retain their arms and hold their trenches against the tribesmen and that the light horsemen would stand by in support. He then told the two sheikhs that if their men attacked during the night, they themselves would be immediately shot. They quickly sent out messengers to inform their followers.

During the night, the Australians and the Turks exchanged their food, made chappaties and boiled their quarts on the same fires, after years of fighting each other. Throughout the night, the Turks still fearful of being slaughtered by the Arabs stood to arms and fired bursts from their machine guns and rifles to which the Australians shouted encouragement. Richardson states that "C" Squadron of the 7th LHR had to use the Hotchkiss rifles several times to prevent the Arabs breaking through.

In the morning the New Zealand Brigade arrived and took over the protection of Ziza while the 5th LHR less one squadron and "C" Squadron of the 7th LHR were detailed to take the prisoners to Amman. A few hundred Turks were allowed to retain their arms as additional protection until they reached Amman. Approximately 5,000 Turks were captured at Ziza.

The number of guns captured at Ziza varies between the various accounts. Gullet has it at thirteen, Capt. Wetherell recorded 18 in the 5th Regiment's unit history and Colonel Richardson shows 17 guns amongst large quantities of other materiel. Whatever the number, this truly was a remarkable incident.

Other guns listed as captured at Ziza by the 5th LHR were given to Bundaberg, Cairns, Dalby, Hughenden, Laidley, Maryborough, Pittsworth and Roma.

Strange Facts about the US Civil War

The American Civil War changed the future for that nation. Over the next few weeks we'll tell you about some of the stranger things to occur during that brother-against-brother-conflict. Editor.

For many American historians, the Civil War is the climax in the story of how the United States came to be what it is today. But it's also a source of some bizarre and surprisingly cool trivia.

1. Lincoln's first solution to slavery was a fiasco

Early in his presidency, Abe was convinced that white Americans would *never* accept black Americans. "You and we are different races," the president told a committee of "coloured" leaders in August 1862. "But for your race among us there could not be war. . . It is better for us both, therefore, to be separated." Lincoln proposed voluntary emigration to Central America, seeing it as a more convenient destination than Liberia. This idea didn't sit well with leaders like Frederick Douglass, who considered colonization to be "a safety valve...for white racism."

Luckily for Douglass (and the country), colonization failed spectacularly. One of the first attempts was on Île à Vache, a.k.a. Cow Island, a small isle off the coast of Haiti. The island was owned by land developer Bernard Kock, who claimed he had approved a black American colony with the Haitian government. No one bothered to call him on that claim. Following a smallpox outbreak on the boat ride down, hundreds of black colonizers were abandoned on the island with no housing prepared for them, as Kock had promised.

To make matters worse, the soil on Cow Island was too poor for any serious agriculture. In January 1864, the Navy rescued the survivors from the ripoff colony. Once Île à Vache fell through, Lincoln never spoke of colonization again.

2. Hungry ladies effectively mugged Jefferson Davis

The Confederacy's image hinged on the notion that the rebellious states made up a unified, stable nation. However, the hard times of war exposed just how much disunity there was in Dixieland. Civilians in both the North and South had to cope with scarcity and increased food prices, but the food situation was especially bad in the South because outcomes on the battlefield were directly linked to the CSA's currency - rising food prices were hard enough to deal with without wild fluctuations in what the money in your pocket could buy.

Invading northern troops, of course, poured salt on the wounds of scarcity, burning crops and killing livestock. But in Richmond, Virginia, those who couldn't afford the increasingly pricey food blamed the Confederate government. Hungry protesters, most of whom were women, led a march "to see the governor" in April 1863 that quickly turned violent. They overturned carts, smashed windows, and drew out Governor John Letcher *and* President Jefferson Davis. Davis threw money at the protesters, trying to get them to clear out, but the violence continued. So, he threatened to order the militia to open fire, which settled things down pretty quickly.

3. The Union used hot air balloons and submarines

The balloons, directed by aeronaut Thaddeus Lowe, were used to spot enemy soldiers and coordinate Federal troop movements. During his first battlefield flight, at First Bull Run, Lowe landed behind Confederate lines, but he was rescued.

The Union Army Balloon Corps got no respect from military officials, and Lowe resigned when he was assigned to serve, at a lower pay grade, under the director of the Army Corps of Engineers. In all, the balloonists were active for a little under two years.

In contrast, the paddle-powered *Alligator* submarine saw exactly zero days of combat (which is why it can't officially be called the *U.S.S. Alligator*). It suffered from some early testing setbacks, but after some speed-boosting tweaks, it was dispatched for Port Royal, South Carolina, with an eye towards aiding in the sack of Charleston. It was to be towed south by the *U.S.S. Sumpter*, but it had to be cut loose off of North Carolina on April 2, 1863, when bad weather struck. Divers and historians are still looking for the *Alligator* today.

But the undersea capers don't end there. A few months after the loss of the *Alligator*, the CSA launched their own submarine, the *H.L. Hunley*, named after its inventor. The *Hunley* attacked and sank the *U.S.S. Housatonic* off the coast of Charleston, making it the first submarine ever to sink an enemy ship. The only problem is that it also sank soon afterwards, and all eight crewmen drowned.

Letters/Emails to the Editor

From time to time I receive comments, mostly favourable, about the work we do as an Association. Some are emailed to me and others are posted on our Facebook page. In the December 2019 issue we featured a story about the Committee members packing some Christmas Care Packages for our soldiers on deployment overseas during Christmas. I received quite a few comments about that subject., plus others.

On Facebook,

Roy Harrop said *"Merry Christmas lads for the great work you do a good job well done carry on."*

Tee Naolis Tee said *"I've been fortunate enough to receive one of these before it was appreciated by me & the lads around I shared it with well done guys."*

Ray Te Hau said *"we are so proud of you guys!"*

Pea Bea said *"When my husband was in Namibia, he gratefully received a Christmas cake from home, liberally doused in alcohol to keep it moist. The boys sat in the hallway of their barracks and ate it..*

Being away for Christmas is hard on the troops. Thank you for your efforts. They will be appreciated, and remembered many years later."

By email:

Max Carmichael (VIC) said

G'Day David,

Read the latest SITREP with interest, and noted the piece on under age soldiers in the US Forces. Last week there was a book launch here in Ballarat which I was unable to attend, however the book is titled 'The Lost Boys' the author Paul Byrnes. His work tells the story of numerous Australian boys who enlisted in the AIF (underage) some of whom were subsequently killed in action. If you are interested in reading their story, and perhaps including a report in a future SITREP, please contact Tracey at Ballarat Book City on the e-mail address I have provided.

Thanks again for the SITREP it's a damn good effort to put together such an informative newsletter.

Regards

Max Carmichael

Bruce Lakin (NSW) said

Hi Editor & Secretary David,

Another great edition!

Many Thanks,

Merry Xmas Greetings to you and yours.

With my best regards,

Bruce Lakin

Geoff Lawrie said

Another good effort David.

Best wishes to you and your family and I hope you have a well-earned break over Christmas.

Cheers, Geoff Laurie

Phil Brookes (QLD) said

Hi David,

As usual, you have again excelled. What a brilliant background and added photos to the reunion; bloody marvellous. What also impressed was you identifying the envelope in Paul's hand.

Many thanks and I owe you a Coopers or two. Hope to catch up with you in Adelaide next year.

Best wishes and a very happy Christmas to you and June.

Phil (Editors comment: Make that a carton of Coopers, Phil!)

Shirley Field said *Hi David. Reading Sitrep ,saw your "How are you Shirl, Veronica and Heather" Family, Friends and Interests keeping me busy a lot of the time. 67 years will take time to get over but I am trying hard. Thank you for your thoughts. Merry Xmas to you and all Dons mates. Shirl Field.*

AWARDS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER

At the 10/27 Battalion final Parade for 2019, 25 promotions were carried out and a number of awards were presented. RSARA Committee member Mark Blondell was presented with the a Soldiers Commendation for his exemplary work as Platoon Sergeant with Bravo Company, and to top that he was presented with the Most Outstanding Senior Non Commissioned Officer award.

Well done Sergeant Blondell. You're a great role model for your men and women.



ABOVE: Sgt Blondell and Catafalque Party at the Dardenelles Memorial in September.

RIGHT: Sgt Blondell is congratulated on receiving his awards by the Commanding Officer 10th/27th Battalion RSAR, LTCOL Peter Morgenthaler.

PRIVATE TED'S HUMOUR

Meet SX 0001, Private Sidney Hubert Ichabod Ted. 10th Battalion AIF. Ted joined the AIF at the age of 6 but lied about his age, as Teddy's were supposed to be 8. He was one of the first ashore at Gallipoli and later saw service and action in France and Belgium, etc.

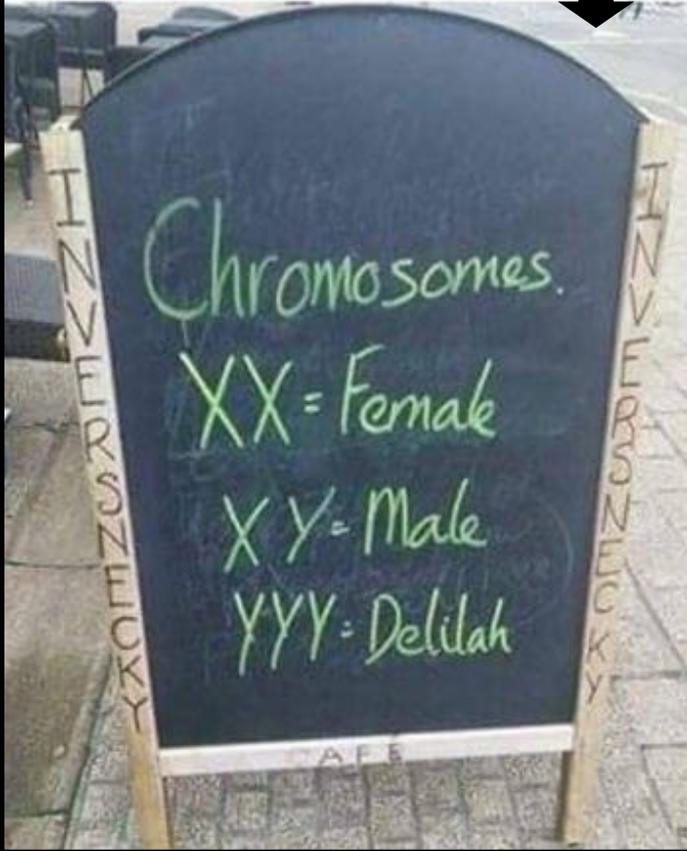


Private Ted represents the Spirit of ANZAC, and he's joined our editorial staff to make you laugh. Welcome Ted!

Our new Joke Teller welcomes any contributions to this newsletter. Simply send them through to the Secretary for inclusion.

Thanks.

Only the over 50's will get this 😂

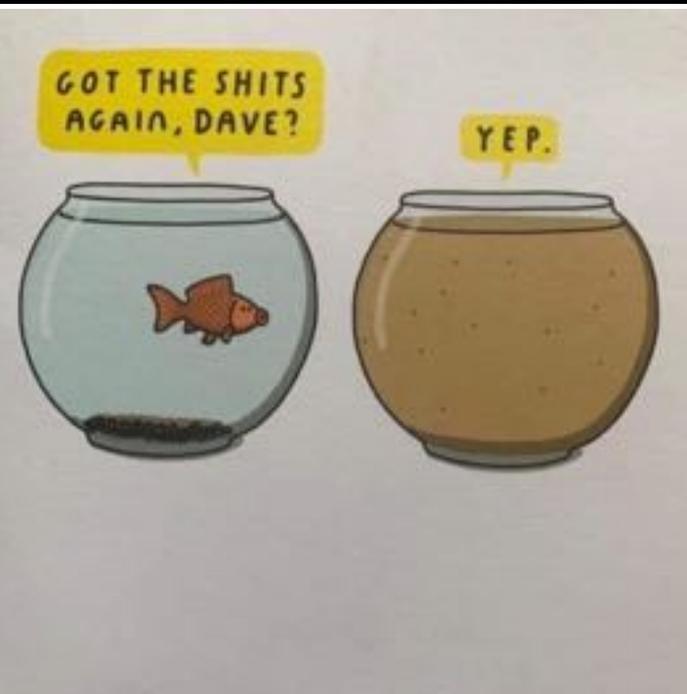


Now here's a wife in a million!

Wife: I'm heading to the store, do you want anything?

Husband: I want a sense of meaning and purpose in my life... I seek fulfilment and completeness within my soul... I want to connect to God and discover the spiritual side of me...

Wife: Be more specific, Beer or Vodka?



I miss being the age I was when I thought I would have my life together by the time I was the age I am now!

Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.



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Find us on
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www.rsara.asn.au

Hard copies of this newsletter are kindly printed by the office of the *Member for Barker, the Honourable Tony Pasin MP*, in Murray Bridge.

Some members don't have internet access or email, therefore the only way we can keep them informed is by snail mail hard copies. This is made much easier thanks to Tony and his hard working staff.

Thank you Tony Pasin MP and Staff.

Fees and Merchandise can be paid by EFT through the following *Bendigo Bank* account:

RSAR Association

BSB 633 000

Acc. 1616 585 88

Cheques etc can be mailed to David Hope at:

The Treasurer RSAR Association

20 Katoomba Rd

Beaumont SA 5066

MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

NEW BASEBALL CAPS - \$15

POLO TOPS - \$45

LAPEL BADGES - \$10

STUBBY HOLDERS - \$6

Regt Assoc Shields - POA

NAME BADGES - \$20

ASSOC CLOTH PATCHES - \$15

.....AND MORE. Contact the Secretary or President for details of purchase etc

EDITORIAL

Well, here we are again! We made it through the "silly season" and are ready for what the world throws at us again!

In early February we'll feature the details about the Battalion Skills Training Exercise at RAAF Base Edinburgh on 1st & 2nd February, where our combined Associations will feed the masses.

Usually during this type of exercise we are screaming for volunteers right up to the day, but this time it was a little different. From the time the call went out in early October 2019, it took only about 10 days and we had nearly 30 folk on the books, most willing to give up a weekend to help, and the rest able to work either the Saturday or Sunday. This was a fantastic effort from our members and the members of our kindred associations, and I thank you sincerely for your support. We'll have some pics in the February edition.

Closer to home, about 40 members and their partners/wives and children attended the RSARA End of year BBQ at the Roy Inwood VC Club on 15th December 2019. Old acquaintances were renewed and war stories were retold, some with different endings than last year! President Rod Beames addressed the members and mentioned the recent Christmas packages sent to our troops deployed over Christmas, and said they would help the soldiers through this time without their families. He thanked the Association members for their support during the year and said after a couple of years instability our association was now in a strong financial position to be able to support the Regiment into the future. Rod wished everyone a happy Christmas and said he looked forward to continuing his work into 2020.

Going back just over 40 years ago, and in late August 1976 I left the sanctity of 10 RSAR at Torrens Training Depot and started a job with a security company, where I was to spend the next 15 years. I left the CMF to concentrate on my career, and so the story went on.....

At about the same time the talk was that women were now allowed to serve in Infantry units, and I had my own ideas about that, but the night I went back to hand in my uniforms and equipment to the QM, a young female soldier was sitting in the ORs Mess having a drink with the boys. She won't last long, I thought!!

That soldier was Mimi Kusmuk, and her story is on Pages 14 & 15.

Cheers

David Laing - Editor

Ballarat Ranger Military Museum

One of our kindred associations is the Ex 22 Royal Victoria Regiment Association, and they work on similar systems as us, except they don't have a current serving battalion. Their Secretary/Treasurer/Editor (sounds like me!) Neil Leckie is also the Manager of the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum, and has invites anyone passing through Ballarat to call in for a look around . You won't be disappointed.

Officially opened in 1989, the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum is home to a unique collection of local military history. The museum houses a collection of militaria belonging to units which have served Ballarat and district dating back to 1858 when the Ballarat Volunteer Rifle Regiment was formed. Among the displays is the Long and Efficient Service Medal to a former Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Sleep that was awarded in 1881, uniforms of Ballarat's WW1 and WW2 soldiers and modern day memorabilia.

Donations of 8/7 RVR memorabilia and other military items are welcome.



ABOVE: A World War One display case

LEFT: VC Corner showing replicas of the 10 Victoria Crosses awarded to men of 8/7 RVR's predecessor battalions.

The Museum can be found at 1812 Sturt St, Alfredton VIC 3350 which is a suburb of Ballarat Vic.

Entry is by Gold Coin Donation.

Neil Leckie can be contacted on 0400 573 802. Tell him I sent you.



End of Year BBQ



End of Year BBQ



End of Year BBQ



End of Year BBQ



40 Years of Service



"The Army is no place for women! And the Infantry is DEFINITELY no place for women!"

Those were the type of words going around the ORs Mess at Torrens Training Depot back in 1976. *"They'll never handle the stress!" "The Army will have to build new toilets for them!" "It just won't work!!"*

Later that year a young lady marched in to 10 Bn RSAR. It was Mimi Ewens, then Kusmuk. The rest is history, and 40 years later Beryl has been presented with her Federation Star, signifying 40 years service in the ADF.

Not many service folk stay in the forces long enough to qualify for this award, and even less females, so this recognition is considered exemplary.

Mimi joined the RSAR Association in 2010 and has been a loyal member ever since, attending most of our End of Year BBQs and Annual General Meetings.

I caught up with Mimi at the last End of Year BBQ and asked her for a bit about her service history.

Here's what she wrote.....

I was enlisted at the Defence Force Recruiting Centre in Pirie Street ADELAIDE on the 18th of August 1976 as F425640 Recruit Mimi Kusmuk as a WRAAC in the CMF and the first female to be posted to 10 RSAR at Torrens Training Depot. My first night at the unit was to report to the Recruiting Officer who were both young Lieutenants Genevieve and Growden, they gave me a tour of the depot and tried to figure out where to post me within the unit.

The first suggestion from them was to try out the unit Q-store and see if I liked that type of work. I wasn't convinced after one night and really didn't like it, as I was doing administration in my civvie job and wanted to try out something completely different, so I asked if I could give the Signal Platoon a go.

I was introduced to the members of the signal platoon and shown the types of equipment we were using at that time within the army. But first of all I had to be trained in basic soldier skills preparing me for my recruit course. I was then posted to Support Company as a signaller.

My first CSM was WO2 Jim Thomson and my OC was MAJ Don Hawking. The first night I was taken to the ORs Mess, The Roy Inwood VC Club by my platoon members was an eye opener. On the first night as I entered the guys would yell out "Gentlemen lady present in the mess," which would give the guys the hint to watch their language. Eventually I became accepted in the mess as one of the boys, but the guys were quite polite in my presence.

The following year we were joined by two more female members to the Signal Platoon, PTE Pat BERGEMAN and PTE Beryl ROWE (now MAJ Beryl ROWE).

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the unit and I was eventually promoted to the rank of SGT. I am still serving with 40 years of service and I have been posted to several other units; with a short time doing full time service with AUR.

Mimi Ewens (nee Kusmuk)

40 Years of Service



Letter to the Editor

As you may be aware from the EOY BBQ photos, Mimi & I were sort of reminiscing about the old times in 10Bn. Sig Pl. before she moved on.

There was one memorable incident she raised after all this time that occurred when Sig. Pl were attending a range practice at the Murray Bridge Complex in the late 70's I think. Dawn had broken, I had moved outside the tent where I noticed a lizard basking in the morning sun.

Now for whatever reason I felt the need for a little payback – grabbing the lizard I re-entered the tent and stuffed the lizard inside one of Mimi's GP's and then waited outside the tent.

As the other Pl. members started to stir – Mimi proceeded to put on her GP's – there was no need for Reveille to be played that morning the "scream" of terror was enough to wake the camp.

I have a feeling our then CSM Jim Thomson may have come to investigate the disturbance. It has taken some 42 years for her to finally find out who the culprit wassorry Mimi but could not resist it at the time, it was priceless, if only I had a photo.

Cheers

Des Hawkins



10 RSAR Sig Platoon 1977. L to R: Pte. Ray Dennis, Lt. Chris Moore, Cpl. Mick Hudson. Pte. Mimi Kusmuk, Cpl. Peter Salamon, Pte. Des Hawkins & Pte. Peter Dodd (kneeling)

New Direction for RSM

In last years newsletter we bade farewell to our 10/27 Bn RSAR RSM, WO1 Ben Lipman, as he moved on to his next posting in Townsville with 2 RAR.

The 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) is an amphibious light infantry battalion of the Australian Army, part of the 1st Division Amphibious Task Group based at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville.

2 RAR (Amphib) RSM, WO1 Jason Sten, hands over the ceremonial 'Black Pace Stick' to the New 2 RAR (Amphib) RSM, WO1 Ben Lipman



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hello,

SA Former Officers: Invitation to join the Keswick Barracks Officers' Mess

Following a recent change to the constitution of the Keswick Barracks Officers' Mess (KBOM), I write to extend an invitation to former officers living in Adelaide and South Australia to join the KBOM as an Affiliate Member.

KBOM Affiliate membership provides you with the opportunity to be an active member of the mess and attend functions at the same cost as Ordinary members. The key restrictions are that you cannot hold a key mess appointment and you cannot vote or make proposals as a member during General Mess Meetings. There will also be some Official Functions scheduled each year that are open to serving ADF members only, however these will be advised in advance.

Affiliate membership is an excellent way to maintain your links with an active Officers' Mess and the KBOM is in a very healthy state with around 170 current members, an active social program and a very strong financial position. The Committee has developed an interesting and diverse program of events for next year. Please find our 2020 social calendar attached.

In 2020, Affiliate membership is offered to former ADF Officers at a very low annual fee of \$80, regardless of the rank you held whilst serving.

To apply for membership, simply email the Secretary kesofficersmess.secretary@defence.gov.au with an expression of interest or if you have any other queries.. Please also feel free to pass this information on to anyone you might know who may be eligible to apply for this category of membership (all Affiliate memberships are approved and maintained at the discretion of the KBOM Committee).

I'd also like to advise that, after a two year tenure, I am handing over the role of President of the Mess Committee (PMC) to Lieutenant Colonel Trent Burnard. I know Trent is keen to continue this initiative to re-engage with former serving officers.

Please have a safe and enjoyable Christmas Break with your family and I look forward to joining you in the mess as a fellow member next year, should you choose to join.

Kind Regards,

Jake

JR Kearsley, CSM
Colonel
President of the Mess Committee
Keswick Barracks Officers Mess
KESWICK SA 5035

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi David,

Just want to pass on my thanks to you and the team that did all the work at the BBQ last Sunday. It's always great to catch up with some of the blokes that were part of the unit some 60 years ago. Come to think about I know I was there all that time ago and so was Bob Cotton. I sometimes wonder how many of that "vintage" are still about. In those days we were in the 10th battalion.

Regards and all the best for Christmas.

Chris Acton

