



“Sitrep, Over!”

OCTOBER 2018

“Sitrep, Over!”

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC



After 100 years of war, weather and vandals, the WW1 German Artillery Gun at Murray Bridge has been fully restored to battlefield condition and is now permanently housed at the RSL.

See the story on Pages 2 and 3.

2018 Formal Dinner

The Dining in Night numbers were down on last year, but that didn't prevent the guests from having a great night anyway. Phil Brookes and Joe Vella and their lovely wives came down from Queensland and Victoria just for the event, and were rewarded, along with other guests, with great food, great wine and greater camaraderie. A special presentation was made to LTCOL Trent Burnard by Association Secretary David Laing, and all the pics can be seen on Pages 4, 9 & 10.

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:
20 Katoomba Rd
Beaumont SA 5066

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Hard copies of this newsletter are kindly printed by the office of Tony Pasin MP, Federal Member for Barker.

Battalion support for WW1 Gun unveiling

On Sunday 16th September, the restored WW1 German Artillery gun was unveiled at the Murray Bridge RSL in front of a crowd of about 70 people. The gun was restored by the RSL and Murraylands Men's Shed to battlefield condition over an 18 month period, and is now on permanent display at the RSL, under cover for the first time in 100 years.

The gun was captured by soldiers from the 10th Battalion (including members from Murray Bridge) on the 18th September 1918, just two months before the wars end, so it was fitting the successors of that battalion, the 10th/27th, should participate in the event.

The RSL Memorial on the forecourt was blessed by RSL Chaplain Reverend Darren Lovell, and the Catafalque Party guarded the memorial during the service. Attention then turned to the WW1 Gun, and it was unveiled by the Mayor of the Rural City of Murray Bridge, Mr Brenton Lewis, and the CO of 10th/27th Battalion RSAR LTCOL Trent Burnard.



The 10/27 Bn Catafalque Party consisted of:
CPL Dingsdale
CPL Thomas
Pte Burnard
Pte Hornhardt
Pte Rochford
Pte Chaplin
Musn Bampton
Musn Skapin

Many favourable comments were made by the guests of their dress, bearing and drill, and they were a credit to their Battalion.

From the Murray Bridge RSL, Thank you.

Battalion support for WW1 Gun unveiling



RSARA Member in Bay to Birdwood



Hi David,
Here's RSARA member Howard Parslow at this morning's Bay to Birdwood rally. He's at the wheel of one of his Land Rovers (the other is immediately behind). As it's the 70th anniversary of Land Rovers, they scored a special place in the rally.

Thought you may want to share this in the newsletter, in case you're short of anything really newsworthy!

Lyndon Gaborit

Thanks Lyndon. Always happy to find room for members pics, although that's the worst cam job I've ever seen on a Land Rover. Please tell Howard I said so!

David

2018 Association Formal Dinner

The 2018 RSAR Association Formal Dinner was conducted on Saturday 13th October at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL, and was well supported by the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR. Great food and wine were enjoyed by all diners, including special guests LTCOL Trent Burnard and his wife Lou.

The evening was one of the last LTCOL Burnard would spend with members of the Association, and for his camaraderie and support of the Association was presented with a special gift by Secretary David Laing.

A piece of the original Torrens Parade Ground, "liberated" in 2001 by members of the regiment, was presented to LTCOL Burnard, and he said he was humbled to receive such an honourable gift.

Numbers were down on last year, so planning will start for the 2019 Formal Dinner very soon. Those who didn't attend missed out on a great night. We convey our thanks to Mr Vice, Des Hawkins, CLG RSL President Hank Dirksen and staff and especially to our interstate members who made the long treks from QLD and Victoria just for the occasion.



CPL Dave's Page

Two Aussies were out hunting in the outback and came upon a huge hole in the ground.

They approached it and were amazed at its size

The first said, "Wow, that's some hole. I can't even see the bottom. I wonder how deep it is."

The second said, "There's an old gear box over there. Let's throw it in and see how long it takes to hit bottom."

So, they picked up the gear box, carried it over to the hole, counted one-two-three, and heaved it in.

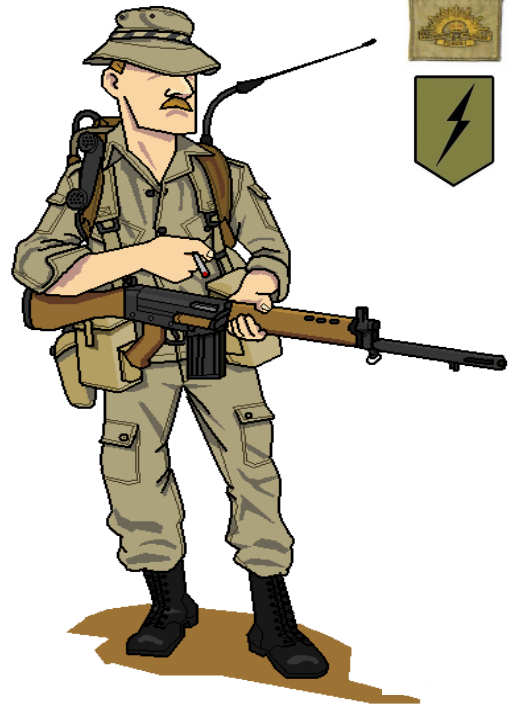
As they were standing there looking over the edge of the hole, a goat came crashing through the underbrush, ran up to the hole and without hesitation, jumped in head first.

While they were standing there staring at each other in amazement, they peered into the hole, trying to figure out what that was all about.

Just then an old farmer sauntered up. "Say, you fellers didn't happen to see my goat?"

The first hunter said, "Funny you should ask. We were just standing here a minute ago, and a goat came running out of the bushes doing about a hundred miles an hour and jumped head first into this here hole!"

The old farmer said, "Nah, that's impossible! I had him chained to a gear box."



Wanted: Humour for this page!
davidlaing49@bigpond.com

A mother and her young son were flying Delta Airlines from Atlanta to Detroit.

The little boy, who had been looking out the window, turned to his mother and asked,

"If big dogs have baby dogs and big cats have baby cats, why don't big planes have baby planes?"

The mother, who couldn't think of an answer, told her son to ask the flight attendant.

So the boy went down the aisle and asked the flight attendant,

"If big dogs have baby dogs and big cats have baby cats, why don't big planes have baby planes?"

The busy flight attendant smiled and said, "Did your mother tell you to ask me?" The boy said, "Yes, she did."

"Well then, you go and tell your mother that there are no baby planes because Delta always pulls out on time."

Carol, a blonde city girl, marries a Cornish dairy farmer.

One morning, on his way out to check on the cows, farmer John says to Carol, 'The insemination man is coming over to impregnate one of our cows today. I drove a nail into the rail above the cow's stall in the barn. You show him where the cow is when he gets here, OK?'

So then the farmer leaves for the fields.

After a while, the insemination man arrives and knocks on the front door.

Carol takes him down to the barn. They walk along the row of cows and when she sees the nail, she tells him, 'This is the one...right here.'

Terribly impressed by what he seemed to think just might be another ditzy blonde, the man asks,

'Tell me lady, how did you know this is the cow to be bred?'

'That's simple; by the nail over its stall', Carol explains very confidently.

Then the man asks, 'What's the nail for?'

She turns and starts to walk away and with complete confidence, says over her shoulder,

'I assume it's to hang your trousers on.'

CONTACT US

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FACEBOOK

We're on the Web
www.rsara.asn.au

It is with deep regret that we advise of the passing of beloved 'Rat of Tobruk', William (Bill) Thomas Corey OAM. Bill recently celebrated his 101st birthday.

The thoughts of the veteran community are with Bill's family, particularly his devoted children Don and Dianne and grandchildren Julia, Michael, Matthew, Keyte and Lee, and many friends at this difficult time.

Born in Riverton, Bill grew up in Walkerville and went to Adelaide High. He was working as a butcher when he enlisted in June 1940, aged 22. In August 1941 he took part in the famous Siege of Tobruk, a small town on the Libyan coast that was central to much of the fighting that took place in the Western Desert during World War II. The soldiers who held the garrison of the port of Tobruk during fierce fighting became known as the 'Rats of Tobruk'.

Bill went on to serve with the 2nd/43rd Battalion in El Alamein and Syria before returning to Australia in 1943 to fight against the Japanese in New Guinea before taking part in the campaign to re-capture Borneo from the Japanese in June 1945.

The first nuclear bomb was dropped on Hiroshima

VALE Bill Corey OAM



on 6 July 1945, the day before Bill's 28th birthday. He says it was that day he knew he would be going home.

Bill's military service is best summarised in his own words:

"Mateship is a big deal to me and always has been. However, after the war (World War II), I looked at mateship and Anzac Day differently. It was different because no longer was it a commemoration of the diggers of World War I, but to me it meant that I was going to see mates and chaps that I lived with for five years.

For the first few years after the war, Anzac Day was always hard for me, it brought back memories of my service, I even found it hard to sleep a couple of nights before the day. In those early days it wasn't so much about remembering the war, but meeting up with all the old chaps. But as time has passed Anzac Day has changed again for me. It has turned into a bitter sweet time as over the years most of them have passed on and I am just about alone.

I don't think I am anything special, but I think I am a link between now and that past. I get quite a lot of pleasure out of people asking me if I knew their father or grandfather who served with me in World War II. Talking to these people about their relatives gives me a lot of satisfac-

43 RSAR and the future.

Felix the Ram.

Aka, the 43rd Battalion Mascot.

After the short lived Pentropic concept in 1965, the delinking commenced to re-raise the former Battalions that had amalgamated to create the 1st Battalion, The Royal South Australian Regiment. One of the Battalions re-raised was the 43rd Training Battalion, RSAR. A vast number of the recruits were from the country, many being farmers' sons, and sons of cattle barons, who elected to use the six year CMF service option over the two year full time obligation regardless of their civilian status.

This congregation of soldiers had a common rural thread so while other units selected aggressive mascots like eagles and tigers, the 43rd Battalion, often referred to as the “Bushman's Rifles” selected a Ram with which most of the NCOs and other ranks could easily relate.

Many assumed, quite wrongly, that this had a sexual connotation, that the members were like Rams in a paddock at mating time, but this was not the case. The Ram was affectionately adopted as the mascot and took pride of place in the presentation of the Colours Parade at Adelaide Oval in 1972. The handler, SGT Geoff Gale, a farmer from South Monarto, provided the nickname “Felix” in honour of the 2IC Major Felix Fazekas who had been awarded the Military Cross during the war in Vietnam.

While we kept our smiles and thoughts private, we were impressed with the reports later from SGT Gale as to the reproductive prowess of “Felix the Ram”, and quietly and proudly remembered “that was our mascot”.

A depiction of the Ram, who would finish his service as LCPL Felix Bushman, wearing its coat at the Colours Parade, is seen here today, in the foyer of the 10/27 Battalion HQ building at Keswick Barracks, and while the Ram replica is not exactly as the one in the photograph, it gives a reminder of that auspicious day.

Rodney Beames, President RSARA



VALE Bill Corey OAM

continued

tion and they think it's wonderful as well. I also talk to school children often, they love hearing the war stories, but I only talk to them about our living conditions and what we ate etc.

When I joined the army we were a mixture of all different backgrounds and it was terrific how we just all melded into one and became good mates. A lot of chaps, who had life tough before the war discovered they were as good as someone else. I found everybody has good in them.

When I returned home I became a butcher again and eventually went into my own business. For 25 years I ran a butcher shop on Glen Osmond Road. Looking back I think getting back into work straight away helped me to deal with the war because I didn't have time to think about things. It was a good way of recovering.

In myself I am just Bill, but I do serve a purpose, seems as though I have been kept alive all this time to be a bridge for history in time.”

Bill took part in every Anzac Day march since his return in 1945.

Bill was always willing to visit school children and talk to them about his life's experiences describing himself as a 'bridge between generations'. Bill would speak to children about being descended from the 'Pioneers' who settled South Australia, his mother and father's World War One generation and what life was like for him as a child and then his reflections on his time as a 'Rat of Tobruk' with the 2/43rd Battalion during World War Two and his own life when he returned from the war. Including descriptions of the positive impact post World War Two European migration had on Australia, which was something he took a keen interest in as the local butcher on Glen Osmond Road.

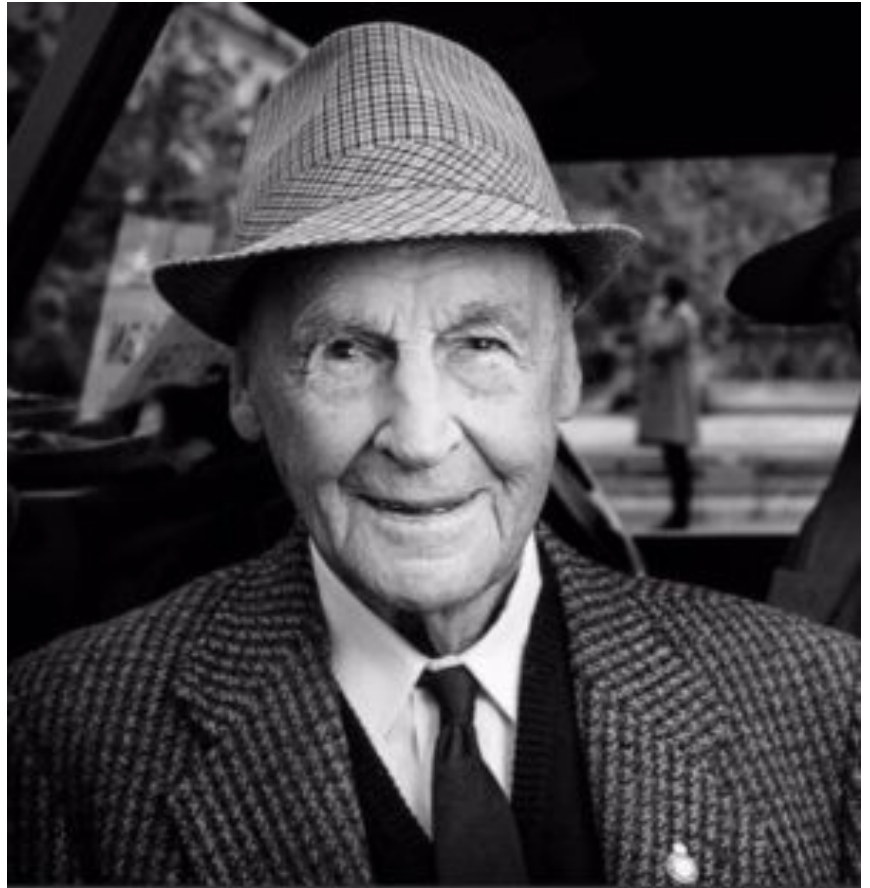
An unfailingly positive and optimistic gentleman, Bill has inspired thousands of children and adults alike. Just three weeks ago Bill made his final school visit to St Michael's College, where his talk and answers to questions held the history students captivated. His passion for passing on his life's experiences to the younger generations remain with him until his final days.

When the Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk was opened on 23 April 2016, Bill was chosen to join then Premier Weatherill and His Excellency, the Governor of South Australia, the Hon Hieu Van Le AC, to cut the ribbon and officially open our State's major contribution to mark the Anzac centenary.

On Monday 7 August 2017 Bill was joined by his family at a morning tea hosted by His Excellency at Government House to celebrate his 100th birthday.

Bill was an incredible South Australian and will be deeply missed.

Lest We Forget



2018 Association Formal Dinner



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