

"Sitrep, Over!"



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Editor - David Laing 0407 791 822

September 2017

Inside this issue:

10 Short Stories about WW2	2/3
Presidents Annual Report	4
Secretaries Annual Report	5
CPL Dave's Page	6
"Stone Cold" The Len Opie Story	8/9/10
Advocacy for all	11
Members List	12

2017 AGM

The 2017 Annual General Meeting at the SA Sea Rescue Squadron HQ on August 6th was attended by 42 members, wives and partners, and this was a great turn out on what promised to be a terribly wet and windy day. The rain was horizontal when we left to go home. Our Patron MAJGEN Neil Wilson was also a welcome attendee. The meeting started about 10 minutes behind time because everyone was so busy talking and catching up. Naturally.

Fees were once again set at \$20 for the coming year, and the Secretary moved a motion that all Committee positions should be for a tenure of 12 months before re-election. This motion was passed and carried unanimously.

The President and Secretary read their Annual Reports (on Page 4 & 5 of this edition) and a new member was elected to the Committee of Management (see Page 4)

A large amount of Association merchandise was sold, including a lot of our new Stubby Holders. These are only \$6 each (plus postage) and have proven very popular.

The AGM concluded with a lunch cooked by SRS HQ volunteers and a few beers between mates.

Letters

Dear David

Thank you for the newsletter.

Keep the luncheons going, please. Nothing is wrong with them. Margaret and I do like to attend, depending on other commitments.

One of my friends tried to attend, but was (apparently) knocked back. She and her husband really wanted to listen to 'Dogs Kearney'. Can 'outsiders' attend the lunches?

Are annual subs due yet? If so, how much and to whom do I send a cheque, please? Can we pay a couple of years in advance? The RAEME Association permits this to be done.

And it was bloody cold caravanning, but we enjoyed it. Our last trip.

Kind regards

Hank Ramm

I replied to Hank and advised him that non members were definitely welcome to all of our functions. It is my intention to ask Dogs Kearney to return in the near future and talk to us about some of his other marvellous books. Also, membership can be paid in advance, or members may wish to avail themselves of Life Membership, as lots of others have done. One payment of \$200 and never have to worry about it again.

Your subs can be sent to the Treasurer RSAR Association, David Hope, at 20 Katoomba Rd Beaumont, 5066.

Editor

Thank you

Hard copies of this newsletter are kindly printed by the office of Tony Pasin MP, Federal Member for Barker. We appreciate your support. Thank you Tony and Staff at the Murray Bridge office

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10. The Men Who Won TWO Victoria Crosses

Charles Upham VC & Bar



The Victoria Cross is the ultimate award for bravery in the British and Commonwealth armies. It has been awarded 1,357 times since its inception, and only three people have ever received more than one of them.

Captain Charles Upham was the only man to be awarded the Victoria Cross twice in World War II. He volunteered for the New Zealand army in 1939 and was commissioned the following year. He won his first Victoria Cross in May 1941, during the German invasion of the island of Crete

He led his platoon in an attack on heavily defended positions 2.7 kilometers (1.7 mi) away. During the attack, he destroyed two machine gun nests and an anti-aircraft gun with grenades. He then helped carry a wounded man away from the fighting and rescued a surrounded



New Zealand company. On May 30, he led his men on a flank to attack a group of advancing Germans, killing 22 of them with a Bren machine gun.

His second Victoria Cross was awarded the next year on July 25, during the first battle of El Alamein. During the defence of the Ruweisat Ridge, he ran forward through a hail of machine gun fire to lob a grenade into a truck full of German soldiers. He

then drove through the enemy lines in a Jeep mounted with a German machine gun, convincing Italian soldiers to push him out of soft sand.

During a bayonet charge, he was shot in the elbow and sustained a broken arm. By now, the Germans had surrounded the New Zealanders, but Upham kept on fighting until he couldn't walk.



Upham was always quiet about his bravery, telling a reporter in September 1945, "Naturally, I feel some pride in this distinction, but hundreds of others have done more than I did." He led a quiet life after the war, resenting publicity and dying at age 86 in November 1994.

Noel Chavasse VC & Bar

Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse, VC & Bar, MC (9 November 1884 – 4 August 1917) was a British medical doctor, Olympic athlete, and British Army officer from the Chavasse family. He is one of only three people to be awarded a Victoria Cross twice.



The Battle of Guillemont was to see acts of heroism by Captain Chavasse, the only man to be awarded the Victoria Cross twice during the First World War.

In 1916, Chavasse was hit by shell splinters while rescuing men in no-man's land. It is said he got as close as 25 yards to the German line, where

he found three men and continued throughout the night under a constant rain of sniper bullets and bombing.

He performed similar heroics in the early stages of the offensive at Passchendaele in August 1917 to gain a second VC and become the most highly decorated British officer of the First World War.

Although operated upon, he was to die of his wounds two days later in 1917.

Arthur Martin-Leake VC & Bar



Lieutenant Colonel **Arthur Martin-Leake**, VC & Bar (4 April 1874 – 22 June 1953) was a British double recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. Martin-Leake was the first of only three men to be awarded the VC twice.

Martin-Leake first served in the Second Boer War as a trooper in the Imperial Yeomanry. After his year of service was completed, he stayed on in South Africa as a civil surgeon. He then joined the South African Constabulary until he was forced to return home due to his wounds.

He was 27 years old and a surgeon captain in the South African Constabulary attached to the 5th Field Ambulance during the Second Boer War on 8 February 1902, at Vlakfontein, when he was awarded his first VC.

During the action at Vlakfontein, on the 8th February, 1902, Surgeon-Captain Martin-Leake went up to a wounded man, and attended to him under a heavy fire from about 40 Boers at 100 yards range. He then went to the assistance of a wounded Officer, and, whilst trying to place him in a comfortable position, was shot three times, but would not give in till he rolled over

thoroughly exhausted. All the eight men at this point were wounded, and while they were lying on the Veldt, Surgeon-Captain Martin-Leake refused water till every one else had been served.

He received the decoration from King Edward VII at St James's Palace on 2 June 1902.

On the outbreak of the First World War, Martin-Leake returned to service as a lieutenant with the 5th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, on the Western Front.

He was awarded his second VC, aged 40, during the period 29 October to 8 November 1914 near Zonnebeke, Belgium, whilst serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps, British Army.

His award citation reads:

Lieutenant Arthur Martin-Leake, Royal Army Medical Corps, who was awarded the Victoria Cross on 13th May, 1902, is granted a Clasp for conspicuous bravery in the present campaign: —

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty throughout the campaign, especially during the period 29th October to 8th November, 1914, near Zonnebeke, in rescuing, whilst exposed to constant fire, a large number of the wounded who were lying close to the enemy's trenches.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Army Medical Services Museum, Aldershot, England.

He was promoted captain in March 1915, major in November the same year, and in April 1917 took command of 46th Field Ambulance at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Martin-Leake retired from the army after the war and resumed his company employment in India until he retired to England in 1937. Although there is no record of his being a pilot, he was registered in 1939 as the owner of a de Havilland Moth Minor aircraft, registered G-AFRY.

During the Second World War, he commanded an ARP post.

He died, aged 79, at High Cross, Hertfordshire, UK in 1953

Following cremation at Enfield, Middlesex, Martin-Leake was buried in St John's Church, High Cross. He is commemorated with a plaque and a tree at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire.

Charles Hazlitt Upham, the NZ VC & Bar recipient married Mary (Molly) Eileen McTamney, who was, in fact a distant relative of Noel Chavasse, also a VC and Bar recipient.



I am again delighted to report that the Association has experienced another successful year. Our numbers have remained around the 200 mark and this puts us near if not at the top of South Australian Reserve Unit Associations.

We welcomed the members of the 10 Battalion Association which wound up its affairs in the past year.

We also welcomed the new RSM of 10/27 Battalion Warrant Officer Class 1 Ben Lipman.

We were able to support the Officers of the 10/27th Battalion when 6 volunteers from our ranks were called upon to supply and cook 2 BBQ lunches while the officers undertook an intense training weekend at Keswick Barracks.

We have continued our support for the Band and paid for miscellaneous maintenance of their instruments.

Our newsletter has kept our members informed and entertained, and I again thank David Laing, the editor, for his efforts.

The lunches on Sundays at the Hackney hotel have not attracted significant numbers even though we have had some excellent guest speakers. I am unsure as to what we can do about this.

The turn out for the Anzac Day march was about average. Not everyone wishes to march but the Association provides the opportunity and

support for members to participate.

This year, we added "stubby holders" to our catalogue of RSARA merchandise and these have proved extremely popular.

At this stage, the Committee has 2 events in the planning stages for the year ahead.

The Band has been invited to play at the 100 year anniversary of the Port Pirie RSL in October and the Association will be invited to attend.

It will be the 50th anniversary of the raising of the 43rd Battalion RSAR in 1967 and the 30th anniversary of the combining of the 10th and 27th Battalions to form our current operational 10/27 Battalion.

To celebrate these 2 momentous events, we will hold a formal dinner for members and partners on Saturday November 25th at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL Hall. I hope all of you will be able to attend. Further details as they come to hand.

In closing, I again acknowledge and thank our committee of management. The strength and success of our Association is directly proportional to the hard work of our secretary and committee.

Thank You.

Rodney Beames

RSARA President

NEW RSARA COMMITTEE MEMBER

At the recent AGM members were asked if anyone wished to join the Committee of Management. In the midst of the deafening silence, a solitary hand rose from the ranks, drawing everyone's attention. I think Colin Phillips raised his hand to ask a question, but that mistake has now afforded him a place on the Committee. A unanimous vote was quickly taken and Colin agreed to take on the role.

Colin joined the CMF in 1964 and was posted to 1 RSAR (which later became 10 RSAR) and served until 1974 attaining the rank of SGT. He later took up a posting with the Australian Army Cadets as an Officer of Cadets and served for a further 5 years. Colin said he is looking forward very much to working with the Committee of Management of the RSAR Association.

I start this report, my 8th as Secretary with the revelation that I have only attended 2 funeral services this year. Both for the same bloke. Let's all hope there are no more this year.

Our membership has increased to 227 members worldwide, although that number would be disputed by the Treasurer who says not everyone is financial.

The President has continued to lead by example, and although this year has been fairly quiet as far as support to the Regiment is concerned, we are still a long way from the end of the year, and we do expect more requests from the Battalion towards that time.

And while we're talking about the President, I'd like to remind you how this executive committee works.

The President leads the association from the front. Waving at the crowds, smiling at the girls.

The Treasurer sits in his milk bath (usually in Thailand or Peru), covered with OUR money and drinking Pimms and ice.

The Secretary is, as always, working his bum off in the engine room, shovelling coal and getting hot, but never flustered.



However, since I moved to White Sands on the River Murray 5 years ago, I planned to take a back seat in my role as Secretary, and Rod told me he'd take on some of my duties. One question? When will that start, Rod?

We now have 3 serving members of the Battalion on our Committee, being David Portakiewicz, Mark Blondell and Jesse Humphrys. All 3 have contributed immensely towards the running of the association, and we thank them for their support. In the future we expect the majority of the committee will be serving members of the Battalion.

I will continue in this role as long as I am able, and when that time comes, you can fight amongst yourselves for my job.

From time to time I get enquiries from members about "where do my annual fees go?" and what do SA rural, interstate and overseas members get for their buck?

ANSWER: *The Mission of the RSAR Association is to support and perpetuate the Regiment, and some of the ways we achieve this are:-*

- *Provide literary prizes for 10/27 Bn soldiers who have achieved excellence in their field during the year.*
- *Provide trophies for the same.*
- *Provide wreaths for ANZAC Day (\$140)*
- *Update Honour Boards at 10/27 Bn HQ every year*
- *Supply, prepare and serve BBQ lunches to 10/27 Bn soldiers returning from Annual Field Exercises.*
- *Provide support to the Battalion by supplying sponsorship for various Battalion functions, ie: 2014 Centenary Ball, 2014 Centenary Church Service at St Peters Cathedral.*
- *Provide funds and manpower for projects not funded by Defence, ie: The Keswick Barracks Memorial Garden.*
- *Provide funds for musical instruments and maintenance of musical instruments for the 10/27 Battalion Band which are not funded by Defence.*
- *Periodic donations to charities like Legacy and fundraisers like Tour de Legacy etc*
- *Payment of meals for Luncheon Guest Speakers ie: Peter Goers, Tim Hanna, Trent Burnard etc*
- *Payment of Room Hire for Luncheons*
- *Admin costs for printing and postage of newsletter "Sitrep, Over!" (20 hard copies)*
- *Association fees for Defence Reserve Association, of which we are a member*
- *Entertainment costs for visiting overseas soldiers*
- *Awards and "Thank you's" for help to the Association*

Once upon a time there was a king who wanted to go fishing.

He called the royal weather forecaster and inquired as to the weather forecast for the next few hours. The weatherman assured him that there was no chance of rain in the coming days.

So the king went fishing with his wife, the queen. On the way he met a farmer on his donkey. Upon seeing the king the farmer said, "Your Majesty, you should return to the palace at once because in just a short time I expect a huge amount of rain to fall in this area !

The king was polite and considerate, he replied: "I hold the palace meteorologist in high regard. He is an extensively educated and experienced professional. And besides, I pay him very high wages. He gave me a very different forecast. I trust him and I will continue on my way." So he continued on his way.

However, a short time later a torrential rain fell from the sky. The King and Queen were totally soaked and their entourage chuckled upon seeing them in such a shameful condition.

Furious, the king returned to the palace and gave the order to fire the professional. Then he summoned the farmer and offered him the prestigious and high paying role of royal forecaster.

The farmer said, "Your Majesty, I do not know anything about forecasting. I obtain my information from my donkey. If I see my donkey's ears drooping, it means with certainty that it will rain."

So the king hired the donkey.

And thus began the practice of hiring dumb asses to work in the government and occupy its highest and most influential positions.*

And the practice is unbroken to this date.



CPL Daves' Page

After my recent Prostate Exam, which was the most thorough examination I've ever had, the Doctor left the room and the nurse came in.

As she shut the door, she asked me a question I didn't need to hear.

She asked"Who **Was** That Bloke?

QUOTES FROM BRITISH MILITARY ANNUAL STAFF APPRAISALS

1. His men would follow him anywhere but only out of curiosity.
2. I would not breed from this Officer.
3. This man is depriving a village somewhere of its idiot.
4. This Officer can be likened to a small puppy - he runs around excitedly, leaving little messes for other people to clean up.
5. This Officer is really not so much of a has-been, more of a definitely won't-be.
6. When he opens his mouth it seems only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
7. Couldn't organise 50% leave in a 2-man submarine.
8. He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
9. He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
10. Technically sound but socially impossible.

CONTACT US!-

The Secretary, David Laing,
RSAR Association Inc
Riverglen Marina, RSD 3152A
White Sands SA 5253



0407 791 822

davidlaing49@bigpond.com

We're on the Web

www.rsara.asn.au


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Letters

These costs are in the thousands per year, and are proudly borne by the Association. Without your assistance, the moral of a proud Regiment would not be as high, and we can remain certain that the money we raise through fees, subscriptions and merchandise goes to a worthy cause. To perpetuate the Regiment.

Anyone who has a problem with that needs to see the Padre, and we currently have TWO amongst our members.

In finishing this report, I would like to thank Rod for his great leadership and friendship. I want to thank David Hope for taking on the Treasurers role at a crucial time, and I want to thank Norm Tregenza for carrying out his duties as Functions Officer, very ably supported by his wife Lyn.

And thanks to the rest of the committee, especially the serving members who combine busy private lives with Reserve training and their duties on this committee.

Finally, thanks to you, the members for continuing to support the Association, and the Regiment.

Pro Patria.

David Laing - Secretary RSAR Association Inc

Hi David,

I have been bewildered at the lack of support for the lunch meets. The venue is excellent and the meals good value. I have enjoyed the guest speakers but have cringed at times at the numbers there to hear them. But I am at a bit of a loss to identify why we don't get a greater attendance.

One thing maybe is the apathy of "old age". The lunches really are aimed at the older members of the association as we have more time on our hands to socialise but a lot of older people are in their comfort zone and just won't make the effort to get out. Generally some are happy to be "members" only, pay their dues, get the newsletter and be passive. **I think the newsletter is the vehicle that holds the association together.**

The serving members are probably busy on weekends with family and work commitments etc so I can understand why we don't get them to the lunches.

So back to the "oldies". How do we stimulate interest. Take my case; I am 75, joined the CMF in 1958 was in 10th Btn then RSAR and spent most of my time in recruit training. I recall I was in the 43rd Btn for some time. I know very few of the people who attend the lunches and I like to attend if I am in Adelaide. The attraction for me is to meet up with members of the association and enjoy their company and socialise. Since going to the functions I have met up with a few people that I did know from my CMF days. So what motivates me is the social aspect of the association. But that's me and it's not the answer to getting more along.

Now I know I haven't provided any answers. Maybe the next lunch meet should feature an open forum instead of a guest speaker. A group discussion may give us a few clues and points to follow up on. One thing that does occur to me is that there are probably other associations like ours who are experiencing the same problem. Who those associations are I have no idea but would it be worthwhile ferreting out these people and see if there is another way to get more people involved.

Ok so that's my bit. I am heading to Melbourne tomorrow and won't be back in for a couple of weeks. If I have any more thoughts on this I will be in contact.

Regards,

Chris Acton

STONE COLD - The Len Opie Story

Member Peter Loveder phoned me the other day for our annual chat, and mentioned the book he was reading. After going out and purchasing it myself (because Peter was too stingy to lend it to me,) I contacted the author Andrew Faulkner and he said he no problem but the call belonged to the publishers. So I looked up on the internet and found a preview. Here is the result. Editor.



LEN Opie hexed people. When someone crossed him — be it a relative trifle such as borrowing his gear without asking, or if they let him down in battle — they ran the risk of the Opie hex.

As a young private in World War II, Opie hexed a man in the New Guinea mountains. The jinxed man was killed a few days later. In Korea, Corporal Opie cast his spell when a “comrade” left him for dead in a blizzard. The man was later shot dead by a bullet that whizzed over Opie’s shoulder.

When Gough Whitlam restructured the army in the 1970s, tossing old Diggers such as Opie onto the scrapheap, Opie pointed the bone at him too. That particular hex failed. Or did it? After all, some claim the CIA had a role in the dismissal. Opie fought for the CIA in Vietnam. A comrade believed that association continued after the fall of Saigon.

Perhaps the hex was Opie’s little joke on all of us, joke that he took to the grave. It fitted with his sense of humour.

Consider the time he sat quietly through a dinner party when the conversation turned to the 1972 Andes airline crash survivors who turned cannibal. A female guest pondered: “I wonder what human flesh tastes like?” “Salty,” Opie said.

When recruits newly arrived in Vietnam said they had heard the Australians cut off their enemies’ ears to verify kills, Opie looked up from his dinner to say: “Well, you don’t expect us to lug their heads around in the jungle, do you?”

The Opie wit was dry as a lime burner’s boot. As dry as an Adelaide brickfielder. One day in 2008, he said he was on the way out. He was handing in his gear. Going west. And he wanted his story told ...

THE thin old man ferried weak cups of tea back and forth to the guest in his little lounge room. His dog Sally sat snugly on the stranger’s lap.

Opie produced copious records of his army life; voluminous albums, an extensive library, diaries, newspaper clippings, army documents ... his life in fragments.

It added up to a grand tale. A scarcely believable story of a remarkable South Australian. A soldier who carved a fearsome reputation in three wars, starting in World War II New Guinea and ending in Vietnam with the CIA.

A comrade, one so tough he butted out his cigarette in a US MP’s face, said he was a saint compared to Opie: “He made me look like a boy scout.”

Another reckoned Opie “killed more Chinamen than cholera” in Korea.

Old Diggers still talk of Opie’s proficiency with highly unorthodox weapons, including a sharpened shovel and piano wire ... but surely this old man sipping weak tea was no cold-eyed killer.

He charmed with oft-told anecdotes.

Funny one-liners. Caustic observations of army bumbler. Here in this humble living room, in this humble unit in Mitcham, a grandfatherly old man was telling his story, a story without flourishes, without fanfare.



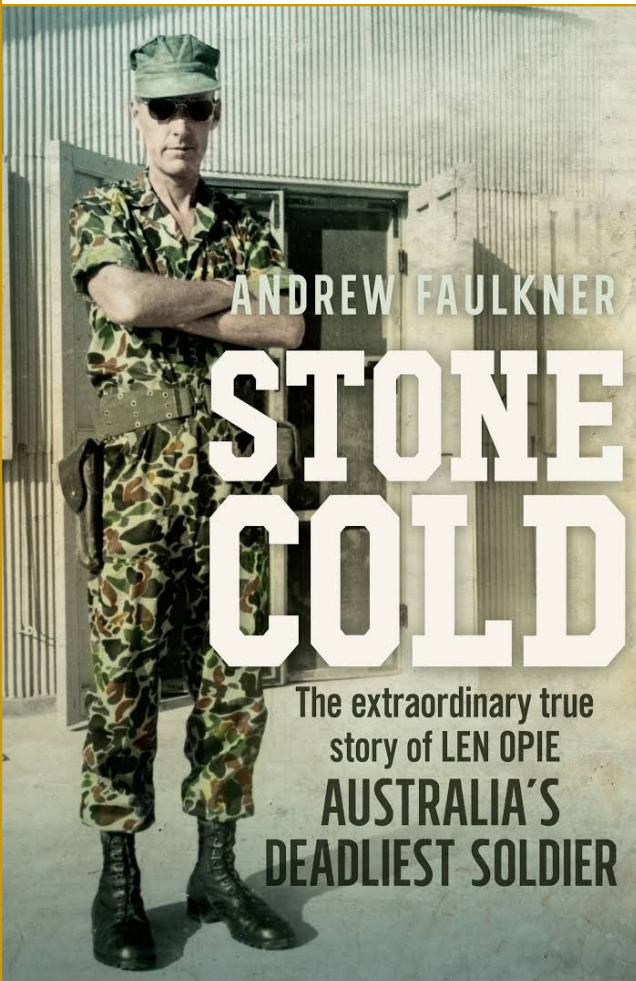
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Here is part of the Opie paradox. Here was a kindly, endearing and gentle old man. He hardly seemed the ice-cold and ruthless warrior of army legend.

For there is barely a South Australian Digger aged over 50 who has not heard of Opie. The legend had its genesis in the New Guinea highlands in 1943. It grew at Balikpapan, where the biggest Australian invasion force since Gallipoli stormed ashore to break the unbroken Japanese.

In Korea, Opie and his fellow Diggers did not lose a battle in chasing the North Koreans up and out of the South. When the Chinese came to North Korea's aid they were no match for Opie either. He almost single-handedly seized a fortified enemy hill that had held up to 3000 men. They gave him a Distinguished Conduct Medal. He should have had a Victoria Cross.



He excelled at Kapyong, when an Australian battalion took on a Chinese division. It was one of the Australian Army's finest hours. He was at the heart of the Maryang San victory; a battle that showed the Digger at the peak of his evolution.

"Their sheer guts is beyond belief," the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Hassett said of his men.

Opie immediately volunteered for Vietnam, which brings us to another Opie contradiction. This supreme infantryman took great pride in always being a volunteer, and never a regular soldier. In this we see the Digger legend writ small, for the ranks of the Australian legions sent to fight foreign wars were filled with citizen soldiers.

As head of training for the CIA-backed Phoenix program, Opie schooled the men who would fight for Vietnamese hearts and minds. He saw action again; a lot of action. There was barely a South Vietnamese paddy or river or hill not traversed by Opie in his three tours of Vietnam from 1966-71.

Here he stalked through an *Apocalypse Now* landscape of river gunboats, SEALs and Green Berets as the US plummeted to defeat with dishonour.

In the years afterwards Opie volunteered to fight in the Middle East. At 80 he wrote to the army asking to be sent to Afghanistan. The closest he got was giving a speech to 7RAR when it left for the front from Darwin in 2008.

Addressing a new generation of Diggers, he spoke of duty, regardless of the consequences. He spoke of honour. He said death was part of the game. "His visit made a huge impact on the team prior to

deploying into what was a new mission," 7RAR commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel David McCammon said.

Major Len Opie died soon after his return to Adelaide. He was 84.

THE Opie roll of campaign honours reveals a Digger of uncommon valour. A Digger in the finest traditions of the AIF. Cast in the larrikin mould, he railed against martinets and parade ground soldiers.

The Opie story reaches way, way back: As a cadet at St Peter's College, his instructors taught him all they had learned at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. One of his teachers had fought in the Boer War. Young Opie lapped it all up. He was a supreme fighter, be it hand-to-hand or with a .303, an Owen sub-machinegun, an M16, an M1 carbine, a Bren, a rocket launcher ... Opie was a master of all weapons. In all this he was the archetypal Digger. Yet his other traits were at the opposite pole to the Anzac legend.

He didn't drink, didn't smoke, rarely swore and was in no way a womaniser.

His chief love was the army, but he also loved trains — a room was devoted to model trains in his parents' house — and animals. Anyone who mistreated an animal ran the risk of being hexed. As did anyone who dared mistreat a prisoner.

Born in Snowtown, Opie was horrified when he saw a rabbit in its death throes during a bush spotlighting expedition in his youth. "The sight of that rabbit still haunts me," the old man said in 2008. "I've never shot anything other than people. But killing people

never really worried me.”

And he was rather good at killing people. “It’s easy to kill people but it’s hard to teach people to kill people.” When he was not fighting he was instructing. His legacy is imbued in the modern army — the highly trained modern army. Why was he such a good soldier? “I don’t know if I was a good soldier,” he said in an interview for the Australians at War Film Archive. “I only tried to be one. I used to say, when I was training people for Korea: ‘If you want to hate somebody, hate me.’ You know, you’ve got to focus your hate or desire on something so why not me, it doesn’t worry me. And afterwards if you come back and say ‘well, despite Opie I survived’ then that’s the thanks that I got.

“And I’ve never had anybody come after me from any of the wars I’ve been in looking for me, and I’ve known that to happen with some people.”



When asked in 2004 what, if anything, war proved, he said: “Well, we’re right and they’re wrong and you hope that the other side will make more mistakes than you do. That’s really what it amounts to. You don’t win a war, you only lose a war. Nobody ever really wins a war.”

RIDERLESS horse, gun carriage, rifle volley ... Opie’s full military funeral was a grand show. The Centennial Park chapel was brimming with brass and festooned with campaign ribbons.

Keith Payne VC said the nation had lost “a warrior soldier ... a soldier above soldiers ... The amount of training Len put into keeping other people alive and the example he set for the youngest generation of soldiers was outstanding.”

In his eulogy, Brigadier Laurie Lewis described Len as a “man of Sparta”.

A service was held in Tarin Kowt and an observation post was named the Len Opie OP. The biggest wreath came from the Diggers in Afghanistan. The soldiers’ message read: “Major Opie is an example and inspiration to us all. (His) actions and deeds ... helps us hold our heads high with pride as we try to live up to his example. May he rest in eternal peace.”

“Stone Cold” By Andrew Faulkner. Published by Allen & Unwin

Available in most good book shops RRP \$32.99 or online.

LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER

Daniel Tregenza will be Guest Speaker at the next RSAR Association Luncheon. Daniel is the son of members Norm and Lyn Tregenza and is a civil engineer who has worked on a number of large government projects., including the Torrens to Torrens Project. The subject will be **“General Considerations in the Planning and Delivery of Major Transport Infrastructure”**

Daniel will answer all the questions you never had a chance to ask about our transport infrastructure, including:

- Establishing the need for infrastructure - the planning phase
- Methods of Funding Infrastructure Expenditure
- Site Characteristics and their effect on Construction Solutions
- Stakeholder requirement incorporation
- Methods of Cost Estimation of Major Infrastructure
- Contractual Delivery Methods for Large Projects

Not the usual subject we deal with at our luncheons, but I assure you it will be of interest to all.

Venue: Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Road

Date: 29th October at midday (Don’t be late!)

Seniors Menu for under \$17. Drinks at members cost. ALL WELCOME, NOT JUST MEMBERS!!!

Strictly Reservations Only to **Norm Tregenza** on 0412 804 779

or email to normlyn@bigpond.com before 20th October.

No reservation. No seat.!!



At our recent AGM a presentation was given by RSARA member Scott Jeffrey on welfare and advocacy, and it's availability to all. Scott is recently retired from the Army after a long career, finishing with 10/27 Bn as Chief Clerk. Scott is now dedicating his time to ALL veterans, whether they have deployed overseas or not.

*He sends this report. **Editor***

Hi David

1. I run a complete advocacy service out to the Payneham RSL. This includes a reintegration program, of which there is Rehabilitation, Occupational Therapist, Child Psychs, Welfare referrals, Access to Federal and State government agencies, on a when required basis.

2. I also provide advice on discharge requirements with access to the ADF Transitions Cell. The advice is what I would normally provide to anyone who would have been discharging when i was the Chief Clerk. The advice is simple, to the point and the difference between the Admin discharge and Medical Discharge. a side note to this is that this is where a lot of the issues start. The members do not know who to turn to, they will not go to DVA as they are seen to be the enemy, they will not go to the RSL or the majority of ESOs as they are told al of the stories from the Vietnam Vets and the way they were treated, and the reasons just keep coming. All I can say is that the message needs to get out the these Veterans Centres are there for everyone.

3. Every second Thursday (next one is the 17 Aug then 31 Aug) I run a coffee catch up group. This is done out of the Payneham RSL and is run with the assistance of Soldier On. This is free of charge and is open to anyone. The whole idea is for a please for our brothers and sisters to come to and just chat about stuff. I try to ensure that we have reps from all of our supporting organisations at these events, so that if there is any need the appointments can be sorted then. I also provide the complete advocacy service during these times.

4. There is also access to the Payneham RSL's Wi-Fi for the clients to use for such roles as job search, email checking. However if they are caught on 'certain websites' they will be revoked from this service for min 3 months. I have one PC and one Laptop for these members to use, or indeed they can use their own devices. The Payneham RSL also has modern facilities for the use of other ESO's to use for the like of meeting, seminars and the like. I currently use Skype, Facetime internet and the phone to conduct interviews or vidcom seminars. This is very handy when i need to speak to my clients that are Rural, Regional, Interstate and overseas.

5. finally I provide an outreach service to our rural, regional, interstate and overseas members. This is the main reason why I wanted OUR ASSN to be involved. As the Bn is now covering all of SA, Broken Hill and parts of Tas, this means that we CAN provide real time support to them and their families. Unfortunately these are the members of our BN and ASSN that are missed. As you know I am a big advocate for the ARES but I am more of an advocate for ALL members, regardless of Service, Corps or type of service who reside in these hard to get places. If they have a computer or phone I can look after them.

As you can see I have been working on this concept for a while now. What I would like to see is that our Assn uses the Veterans Centres that we are creating in SA, but more importantly they all understand that regardless of where they love that we will always be here for them and in some cases more importantly their bloody families, as per normal they are the ones that are normally forgotten.

Regards

Scott Jeffrey

Mobile 0439963550

jeffro140274@gmail.com

Abareh, Wadi	SM	Genovese, John		Orrock, Alan		Yorke-Simpkin Reg	LM
Abel, Colin		Gibson, Lindsay		Ockenden, Marc		Zuromski, Paul	SM
Acton, Chris		Giles, John		Oswald, John		ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	
Adams, Aaron	SM	Gill, Graham		Pach, Chol	SM	Abel, Karen	
Apostolides, Chris		Gilmore, Graham		Paul, John		Ayles, Denise	
Attenborough, Geoff		Goodwin, Graham	SM	Perkins, Bob		Beames, Cheryl	
Ayles, Jeff		Gordon, Frank		Pexton, Timothy	SM	Carnachan, Dom	
Baldwin, Bob		Hardy, Robert	SM	Pollard, Barry		Dart, Caroline	
Bampton, Michael	BAND	Harley, Peter		Portakiewicz, Anthony	BAND	Demosani, Gail	
Barnaart, Philip		Harrington, Malcolm		Portakiewicz, David	BAND CoM	Elliott, Julie	
Bates, Allan		Harrison, John		Phillips, Colin	CoM	Eva, Gail	
Beames, Rod	CoM	Hawking, Don		Phillips, Trevor		Field, Shirley	
Beckett, David	LM SM	Hawkins, Des		Payne, Bob		Gatley, Graeme	
Bennet, Graham		Heath, Jonathon	BAND	Parslow, Howard		Gill, Maureen	
Benveniste, Sam	SM	Haynes, Malcolm	SM	Parsonage, James		Gilmour, Helen	
Bilsborow, Jason	SM	Haynes, Scott		Preece, Brian		Hawking, Lorraine	
Blackmore, William		Hewitt, Emily	BAND	Rado, Stephen		Hook, Phillipa	
Blake, Sam	SM	Hogan, Mark	LM	Ranger, Denis		Hudson, Margaret	
Blondell, Mark	SM CoM	Hook, Alan	LM CoM	Rathmann, John		Jolly, Sandra	
Bloomfield, Max		Hope, David	CoM	Rathmann, Norm	CoM	Klopf, Josie	
Bourne, Ian	SM	Horseman, Ian	LM	Rijken, Paul		Laing, June	
Boothroyd, Lincoln	SM	Hudson, Mick		Ramm, Hank		Lampard, Kay	
Boscence, Bob		Hudson, Rick		Robertson, Jim		Main, Raelene	
Bras, Riley	SM	Humphrys, Jesse	SM CoM	Rorie, Graham	SM	Marcus, Yvonne	
Broadbent, Robert	SM	James, Grant	SM	Rossetti, Lee		Lee, Anne	
Brookes, Phil		Jeffrey, Scott	SM	Russack, Jon		Mitchell, Roma	
Brown, Bruce		Johnson, Barry	LM	Sage, Andrew		Parkin, Audrey	
Brown, Harry		Johnston, Robert		Salamon, Peter		Phillips, Heather	
Burnard, Trent	SM CO	Jolly, David		Sanders, Ashley	SM	Sanderson, Lorraine	
Burton, Ray		Jones, Brett		Sanderson, Max		Tregenza, Lyn	
Buttars, Erik		Justin, Trent		Sands, Mike		Winger, Kathleen	
Campbell, Wenona	BAND	Keenan, Alan		Sexton, Mark	SM	HONORARY MEMBERS	
Carnachan, Ian		Kilford, Brian		Slater, Ian		T. Burnard CO 10/27 RSAR	
Chittleborough, Jeff		Klopf, Alex	LM	Slattery, Kimberly	BAND	J. Moulton ADJT 10/27 RSAR	
Clyne, Lachlan	SM	Klopf, Paul		Sniedze, Julie	BAND	B. Lipman RSM 10/27 RSAR	
Cooke, Nat	CoM	Koop, Joshua	BAND	Sprigg, Rob		LM denotes LIFE MEMBER	
Contibas, Nikolaus	SM	Laing, David	LM CoM	Staker, Cameron	SM	SM denotes SERVING ADF MEMBER	
Cotton, Bob		Lakin, Bruce	LM	Standing, Michael	CoM	BAND denotes serving 10/27 Band member	
Cram, Kevin		Lampard, Ross		Stone, Eddie		# Denotes NEW MEMBER	
Dart, John		Lee, Bob		Strain, Doug		ANNUAL FEES NOW DUE	
Davey, John (Jack)		Lee, Pat		Steer, Phil		Please post your Annual Fees	
Davey, Trevor		Lloyd, Elmer		Stewart, Rob	LM	to The Treasurer, RSAR	
Dawson, Trevor	BAND	Longstaff, Paul		Stewien, Peter	LM	Association, David Hope	
Del Vecchio, Victor		Loveder, Peter		Stuart, Matthew	SM	20 Katoomba Rd Beaumont	
Demasi, Nathan	SM	Main, Brian		Tiller, Garth		SA 5066.	
Demosani, Tony		Marcus, Ray		Thomson, Jim		Full \$20 pa	
Dew, Trevor		Marlin, Robin	LM	Tolotta, Tarrant	SM	Associate \$10 pa	
Domanski, Glenn		Martin, Bob		Tompkins, Ian		Serving Members \$0 first	
Dubsky, Eddie		Matchett, Bill		Tregenza, Norm	CoM	year, and \$10 per year whilst	
Dunn, Peter		Mau, Mark		Trezise, George		still serving	
Dunn, Bob		McCulloch, Don		Tucker, Belinda	BAND	EFT details on Page 1	
Dunn, Jeff		McGree, Barry		Ullrich, Andreas	SM		
Durrant, Chris		McLachlan, Joshua	SM	Vella, Joe			
Edson, Roger		McMahon, Tyler	SM	Wake, Stephen			
Elliott, Graham		McMullin, Jim		Warren, Chad	SM		
Elliss, Scott	SM	Meissner, Terry	SM	Waters, Ian	LM		
Eva, Keith		Milde, Peter	SM	Weepers, Nicole	BAND		
Ewens, Mimi	SM	Mitchell, Barry		Weightman, Aidan	SM		
Ferguson, Shane	BAND	Mitchell, David		Westover, Rhys			
Field, Don		Morony, Frank		Wheeler, Chris			
Flanagan, Ted		Moore, Jeffrey		Williams, Darrian	SM		
Fortune, Nigel	BAND	Moore, Terry	LM	Wilson, Graham	LM		
Gaborit, Lyndon	LM	Moschis, James	SM	Wilson, Neil			
Gallagher, Erin	BAND	Munro, Ron		Wood, George			
		Oliver, Peter		Woore, Phillip			

**10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment Band Report
Presented to the RSARA AGM 6th August 2017**

The Band has again had a very interesting and productive year. The band has supported its traditional tasks, including the ANZAC Day Dawn Services and Commemorative March, Junior Leaders Course graduation parades, and several commemorative services and Mess dinners. In total the Band has conducted 32 tasks so far this year.

Throughout the year the Band has been heavily involved in events to commemorate the Centenary of various campaigns during the first year of the First World War. These events have great significance to the 10th/27th Battalion, as many original members of the 10th, 27th, 48th and 50th Battalions AIF were heavily involved.

The Band also supported many high profile functions this year, including the Repatriation ANZAC Day Ball and anniversary celebrations of various RSLs throughout the state including the Mount Gambier RSL.

The Band has also supported overseas tasks over the past 12 months. The first overseas tasking saw CPL Shane Ferguson off to France as part of the Battalion's contingent to support that event. CPL Ferguson was the lead Side Drummer for the contingent. Various colour parties from all over Australia were sent in support of the French National Day, and various services. CPL Ferguson played an integral part in the funeral services of the Unknown Soldier at Polygon Woods Butt cemetery and the 3 unknown soldiers at Pozières.

The Band also supported the Australian Army Band contingent that featured at the World renowned Basel Tattoo in Switzerland. This was a significant event in the Band's history as it is the first time in over 15 years that a Regimental Band has been asked to support an Australian Army Band Corps contingent on an Overseas deployment. The Contingent was made up of 60 members from around Australia and was lead by the CO of Band Corps, LTCOL Craig Johnson.

The Band has also continued its strong push to recruit new members. The Band has enlisted 2 new members with a further 2 new members passing their auditions and awaiting enlistment dates. We even have one of our newest recruits present today PTE Christian Bennett who graduated from Kapooka 2 weeks ago. "He's the one styling the Kapooka issued haircut".

The Band continues to improve in leaps and bounds and their great work would not be possible without the continued support of the Association, especially its committee members. It has been the Associations support that has allowed the Band to continue its fantastic work. The Association helps with the maintenance of the Band's instruments and uniforms.

The Band will continue to remain extremely busy until the end of the year. The Band is tasked most weekends until the battalion Stand down period. Some of the tasks include Remembrance day, the Credit Union Christmas Pageant, 100 year Celebrations of the Port Pirie RSL, and the Anniversary celebrations of the Mount Gambier Training Depot.

SGT David Portakiewicz
Bandmaster
10th/27th Bn. RSAR Band



1917

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- ◆ KRUPP GUN (CAPTURED BY THE LIGHT HORSE)
- ◆ ARMY CADET DISPLAY
- ◆ ADF & STATIC MILITARY VEHICLE DISPLAYS
- ◆ ARTILLERY TRACTOR DISPLAYS
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Designed by Maggie Koyar