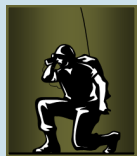




# “Sitrep, Over!”



NOVEMBER 2014



## Points of interest

- The Christmas BBQ will be held at Keswick Barracks Sgts Mess on Sunday 14th Dec 2014. Full details on Page 3.
- Letters to the Editor feature on Page 9.
- The RSARA sponsored Memorial Garden at Keswick Barracks. Story Page 9.
- The RSARA Luncheon featuring Mr Peter Goers OAM was a great success. See story Page 10.

## Inside this issue:

**An Experience Of War - Maj Geoff Jones** 1

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Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

## An Experience of War

## Part 9

Our task was to clear the battlefield and to bury the enemy dead. We did this with respect and with much black humour. Big John Winstone, whose ready wit and irreverent remarks would often break the tension, looked up and said *“Makes you feel like a meat pie, doesn't it!”* This said as nearby, a watch was souvenired from the wrist of the mutilated remains of an enemy soldier, whose entrails lay at his side. I hasten to say that this was all perfectly normal. Black humour has sustained Australian soldiers through all wars and souveniring from the dead has long been part of war. The message here is not to wear your finest jewellery into battle.

Our respectful intentions were soon strained as digging in the wet clay soil with an entrenching tool was very hard going. The first bodies to be interred were buried singly but the remainder were brought together and buried in pairs or even threes and fours and this in shallow graves. When we patrolled through the area a few days later the remains were exposed; heads, arms and legs had broken through the ground and stiffly pointed to the sky, wild animals had begun to devour many of them.

It was about this time when tension was at its height that we experienced a joy of mateship and humour.

The enemy was lurking nearby and the darkness was as black as pitch. The only light from fire -flies – strangely, looking like tracer bullets. The company occupied a perimeter of about 50 metres radius. Platoon machine gunners manned their posts and peered into the blackness, alert and suspicious of every sound, their nerves taut. A radio operator in the centre of the perimeter was sending reports to battalion headquarters in a hushed tone. 100 men lying on the wet ground under nylon hutchies – trying to settle down but with nerves like strained fencing wire.

The American comedian, Stan Freberg had a comedy routine in the 1960's that featured two lovers - John and Marsha. Big John Winstone, a first class soldier and genuinely funny man who I referred to earlier – had by coincidence, a girlfriend at home in Australia named Marsha.



John Winstone and Marsha at Enoggera prior to embarkation

John was hutchied up with another bloke who in the tension of the night and with a whispered rising inflection called out, *“John?”* Thinking of home perhaps, John answered *“Marsha!”* This was picked up by the blokes in the next hutchie, *“John” – Marsha* and onwards around the perimeter; *“Johhnn” – “Maarsha”*. As it was passed on so did an erotic inflection of *“Johhhnnnn” – “Maaarrshha”*. This built to a crescendo of erotic fantasy. We started to giggle, stifling it at first but then not able to contain ourselves. We

laughed and giggled and for a few minutes we forgot the dangers of ‘Charlie’ lurking in the dark. The tension was broken and with sentries posted we settled down for a good sleep.

In the morning there was no sign of the enemy. They withdrew in the night, probably in the belief they had been subjected to a new form of psychological warfare.

*Continues next month*

## INSPIRATIONAL BRAVERY

For example, Corporal "Snowy" Howell fought a one-man action in holding off the enemy with bombs and bayonet until he was severely wounded at Bullecourt on 6 May 1917. His action "was witnessed by the whole battalion and greatly inspired them in the subsequent successful counter-attack".



Corporal George "Snowy" Howell receives his Victoria Cross and Military Medal from King George V on 21 July 1917

There was also Sergeant William Ruthven who fought at Ville-sur-Ancre on 19 May 1918. There, when most of the officers became casualties, he virtually took command of his company. During the advance, he single-handedly attacked enemy posts. His citation read, "Throughout the whole operation he showed the most magnificent courage and determination, inspiring everyone by his fine fighting spirit, his remarkable courage, and his dashing action."

Not all the notable heroes of the AIF were VC holders. Lieutenant Colonel Norman Marshall, who had joined up as a private, received the Distinguished Service Order on three occasions, as well as the Military Cross. Typically, at Villers-Bretonneux in 1918, "with total disregard of danger he passed up and down not only his own lines but the lines of the other battalion encouraging all ranks by his confident bearing, voice and action". This officer inspired "the courage and determination of his men". In a tight corner, wrote Charles Bean, "The mere knowledge that Norman Marshall was in charge would give confidence to all Australians who were aware of the fact."

Australians still remember their war heroes. But the great heroes thrown up by the First World War, men such as the VC winners, Jacka, Murray, Cherry, and others, together with the multiple award winners like Black, Maxwell, Norman Marshall, and George Hammond are no longer household names. New names were added to the roll of heroes during the Second World War, and later. Today alongside the enduring story of Simpson and his donkey, many may recall Sister Vivian Bullwinkel, who survived a massacre and years as a prisoner of

## VC WINNERS

## Final Part

war, and "Weary" Dunlop, the famous prisoner-of-war doctor.

It seems that those now best remembered from the wars are mostly from among the non-combatants.

Perhaps today we look past the fighting soldiers for the type of qualities and inspiration that are needed in peacetime. Consequently we risk forgetting what the front-line soldiers had to overcome and endure and how among them there were those who could step forward and provide leadership, comfort and inspiration even just to carry on, in the most bloody and demanding battles of the Great War.

### Author

*Peter Burness is Senior Curator, Gallery Development, at the Australian War Memorial.*



The original grave of Captain Percy Cherry, VC, MC, at Lagnicourt, France. "His leadership, coolness and bravery set a wonderful example to his men ... Wounded ... he refused to leave his post and there remaining, encouraging all to hold out at all costs, until this very gallant officer was killed."



# RSAR Association Inc

## 2014 Christmas BBQ

**WHERE: KESWICK BARRACKS SERGEANTS MESS**

**WHEN: SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER 1000 HRS - 1400 HRS**

**AMPLE FREE PARKING**

**ALL WELCOME**

**ALL MEAT AND SALADS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE BY  
THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**

**ALL DRINKS CAN BE PURCHASED AT MESS PRICES ON  
THE DAY.**

**YOU NEED BRING ONLY YOURSELF AND YOUR WALLET**



For catering purposes please contact Norm Rathmann on [normgeelong@yahoo.com](mailto:normgeelong@yahoo.com) or 0448 460 884 before 1st Dec.





## The Man With The Rifle Knows

Men may argue forever on what wins their wars  
And welter in cons and pros,  
And seek for their answers at history's doors  
But the man with the rifle knows.

He must stand on the ground on his own two feet  
And he's never in doubt when it's won  
If it's won he's there: If he's not it's defeat,  
That's his test when the fighting is done.

When he carries the fight, it's not with a roar,  
Of armoured wings spitting death,  
It's creep and crawl on the earthen floor,  
Butt down and holding his breath.

Saving his strength for the last low rush,  
Grenade throw and bayonet thrust:  
And the whispered prayer before he goes in,  
Of a man who does what he must.

And when he's attacked, he can't zoom away  
When the shells fill the world with their sound,  
He stays where he is and loosens his spade,  
And digs his defence in the ground.

The ground isn't ours till he's there in the flesh,  
Not a gadget or bomb, but a man,  
He's the answer to theories which start afresh,  
With each peace since War began.

So let the wild cycle of argument rage,  
On what wins as war comes and goes,  
Many new theories may hold the stage,  
But the man with the rifle knows.



## Odd WW2 Facts

- Among the first 'Germans' captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.
- Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 United States and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands. 21 troops were killed in the assault on the island..... It could have been worse if there had actually been any Japanese on the island.

**Just Soldiers****Trooper Sloan 'Scotty' Bolton DCM****Part 1****The Beersheba Charger**

AWM A05741. Broadmeadows, Vic, 20 October 1914. New recruits to the AIF pause for a mug of tea during training in camp.

In the frenzied patriotic fervour that greeted the outbreak of World War I, the cream of Australia's youth rushed the recruiting depots across the nation. In the Victorian city of Geelong, a fresh-faced 21-year-old engine driver with a distinct Irish accent took the oath to serve his adopted country.

His name was Sloan Bolton, although he preferred to be known by his quirky nickname, 'Scotty'. Allocated initially to the 14th Infantry Battalion, Scotty Bolton was sent to the vast training camp that sprawled like a small city over most of the Broadmeadows area. On their arrival, Scotty and the other new recruits were tasked to rig their tents. They were a bell-shaped design, meant to sleep four men, but to their amazement they were to be the sleeping quarters for ten men. Sleeping on the cold hard ground proved difficult for the recruits on their first night. Scotty was initially allocated to B Company, but the day after his arrival, he was, to his surprise, assigned to the military police (MPs). He was even more astounded to learn this posting was for 14 weeks.

The primary role of the MPs was to watch the hotels and discourage the Diggers from becoming drunk. Secretly, Scotty would have preferred to be one of those being watched. He despised his role as a policeman and applied to return to B Company but it was too late as the battalion had a new commander.

In an adjacent camp, within sight of the infantry soldiers, were the light horse regiments. Scotty noted with deepening interest the cocky swagger of the troopers and the spit and polish of their leather as they rode their Walers over the grassy paddocks.

Eventually, driven by envy and inspired by the sight that greeted him daily, Scotty applied for a transfer to the 4th Light Horse Regiment, which was designated as Divisional Cavalry.<sup>3</sup> His request granted, Scotty became a member of a unit that saw itself as one of Victoria's finest. Bolton soon received his first taste of the grand overseas adventure for which he had volunteered. The 4th Light Horse went into training in a makeshift camp spread across the shifting sands of Egypt, in the shadows of the pyramids. Here the light horsemen sharpened their skills and refined that fighting prowess later to make them famous. In their off-duty hours the troopers indulged in the sights, sounds and various forms of entertainment that nearby Cairo had to offer. No sooner had the sands of Egypt acquired a familiar feel than there was a stirring within the Division.

**Part 2 next month**

*By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, Just Soldiers, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 15 to 26*





## "Sitrep, Over!"

Official Newsletter of the Royal South  
Australia Regiment Association Inc

### HOW TO CONTACT US

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White Sands SA 5253

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[davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com)



Find us on **FACEBOOK**

[www.rsara.asn.au](http://www.rsara.asn.au)

## NEW ARMY CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS

The Australian Multicam Camouflage Uniform (AMCU) was launched in Brisbane in September at the Chief of Army's Exercise. The AMCU, which comes in field and combat variations, uses the Australian Multi-Camouflage Pattern to take our soldiers from the bush, to the desert and into the jungle. It's also made locally in Victoria, Australia. Townsville's 3rd Brigade - Australian Army will be the first to receive the AMCU next month.

Visit [www.army.gov.au](http://www.army.gov.au) to read all about the AMCU.



# MEMBERS LIST

"Sitrep, Over!"

Page 7

Abareh, Wadi **SM**  
 Acton, Chris  
 Adams, Aaron **SM**  
 Apostolides, Chris  
 Attenborough, Geoff  
 Ayles, Jeff  
 Baldwin, Bob  
 Barrass, Mark  
 Bates, Allan  
 Beames, Rod **CoM**  
 Beckett, David **LM SM**  
 Bennet, Graham  
 Bilsborow, Jason **SM**  
 Blackmore, William  
 Blake, Sam **SM**  
 Blondell, Mark **SM**  
 Bloomfield, Max  
 Bourne, Ian **SM**  
 Boath, Ian  
 Boothroyd, Lincoln **SM**  
 Boscence, Bob  
 Bras, Riley **SM**  
 Broadbent, Robert **SM**  
 Brookes, Phil  
 Brown, Bruce  
 Brown, Harry  
 Burton, Ray  
 Carnachan, Ian  
 Chittleborough, Jeff  
 Clyne, Lachlan **SM**  
 Cooke, Nat **CoM**  
 Contibas, Nikolaus **SM**  
 Cotton, Bob  
 Cram, Kevin  
 Dart, John  
 Davey, John  
 Davey, Trevor  
 Davey, Jack  
 Del Vecchio, Victor  
 Demasi, Nathan **SM**  
 Demosani, Tony  
 Domanski, Glenn  
 Dubsky, Eddie  
 Dunn, Peter  
 Dunn, Bob  
 Dunn, Jeff  
 Durdin, Russell  
 Durrant, Chris  
 Edson, Roger  
 Elliott, Graham  
 Elliss, Scott **SM**  
 Eva, Keith  
 Ewens, Mimi **SM**  
 Field, Don  
 Flanagan, Ted  
 Fridday, Ross  
 Gaborit, Lyndon **LM**  
 Genovese, John

Gibson, Lindsay  
 Giles, John  
 Gill, Graham  
 Gilmore, Graham **CoM**  
 Gordon, Frank  
 Hardy, Robert **SM**  
 Harrington, Malcolm  
 Harrison, John  
 Hawking, Don  
 Hawkins, Des  
 Haynes, Scott  
 Hogan, Mark **LM**  
 Hook, Alan **LM CoM**  
 Hope, David  
 Hudson, Mick  
 Hudson, Rick  
 Humphrys, Jesse **SM CoM**  
 James, Grant **SM CoM**  
 Jeffrey, Scott **SM**  
 Johnson, Barry **LM**  
 Jolly, David  
 Jones, Brett  
 Keenan, Alan  
 Kilford, Brian  
 Klopff, Alex **LM**  
 Klopff, Paul  
 Laing, David **LM CoM**  
 Lampard, Ross  
 Lee, Bob  
 Lee, Pat  
 Lloyd, Elmer  
 Lockett, John  
 Longstaff, Paul  
 Loveder, Peter  
 Main, Brian  
 Marcus, Ray  
 Martin, Bob  
 Matchett, Bill  
 Mau, Mark  
 McCulloch, Don  
 #McGree, Barry  
 McLachlan, Joshua **SM**  
 McMahon, Tyler **SM**  
 McMullin, Jim  
 Meissner, Terry **SM**  
 Milde, Peter **SM**  
 Mitchell, Barry  
 Mitchell, David  
 Morony, Frank **CoM**  
 Moore, Jeffrey  
 Moore, Terry **LM**  
 Moschis, James **SM**  
 Munro, Ron  
 Oliver, Peter  
 Orrock, Alan **CoM**  
 Ockenden, Marc  
 Oswald, John  
 Pach, Chol **SM**  
 Paul, John  
 Perkins, Bob  
 Pollard, Barry

Phillips, Don  
 Phillips, Trevor  
 Payne, Bob  
 Parslow, Howard  
 Preece, Brian  
 Ranger, Denis  
 Rathmann, John  
 Rathmann, Norm **CoM**  
 Ramm, Hank  
 Robertson, Jim  
 Rorie, Graham **SM**  
 Rossetti, Lee  
 Sage, Andrew  
 Salamon, Peter  
 Sanders, Ashley **SM**  
 Sanderson, Max  
 Sands, Mike  
 Sexton, Mark **SM**  
 Sprigg, Rob  
 Staker, Cameron **SM**  
 Standing, Michael **CoM**  
 Stone, Eddie  
 Strain, Doug  
 Steer, Phil  
 Stewart, Rob **LM**  
 Stuart, Matthew **SM**  
 Tiller, Garth  
 Thomson, Jim  
 Tolotta, Tarrant **SM**  
 Tregenza, Norm **CoM**  
 Trezise, George  
 Ullrich, Andreas **SM**  
 Vella, Joe  
 Wake, Stephen  
 Waters, Ian **LM**  
 Weightman, Aidan **SM**  
 Westover, Rhys  
 Wheeler, Chris  
 Williams, Darrian **SM**  
 Wilson, Graham **LM**  
 Wilson, Neil  
 Wood, George  
 Woore, Phillip  
 Yorke-Simpkin Reg **LM**  
 Zuromski, Paul **SM**

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ayles, Denise  
 Beames, Cheryl  
 Beames, Taryn  
 Carnachan, Dom  
 Dart, Caroline  
 Demosani, Gail  
 Elliott, Julie  
 Eva, Gail  
 Field, Shirley  
 Gill, Maureen  
 Gilmour, Helen  
 Hawking, Lorraine

Hook, Phillipa  
 Hudson, Margaret  
 Jolly, Sandra  
 Klopff, Josie  
 Laing, June  
 Lampard, Kay  
 Main, Raelene  
 Marcus, Yvonne  
 Lee, Anne  
 Mitchell, Roma  
 Phillips, Heather  
 Sanderson, Lorraine  
 Tregenza, Lyn

## HONORARY MEMBERS

G. Goodwin CO 10/27 RSAR  
 J. Hill ADJT 10/27 RSAR  
 A. Hodges RSM 10/27 RSAR

**LM** denotes **LIFE MEMBER**  
**SM** denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**  
**#** Denotes **NEW MEMBER**

191 members as at 24/10/14

And if you haven't paid  
 your fees, please do!  
**WE KNOW WHERE  
 YOU LIVE!**



Fees are due on or after the August AGM each year, and that means that some of you are now in arrears. You can pay your fees by sending a cheque or money order to the address on Page 6, or transfer the amount via EFT to:

**BSB 015 211**  
**Account 482 441 406**  
**In the name of Royal South**  
**Australia Regiment Association**  
**Inc.**





Private Gomad reckons.....



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thank you



Dear David

Many thanks for your support recently following Allan's passing.

Your many phone calls and attendance at Allan's funeral were greatly appreciated, as were your words during the eulogy.

Regards

*Maureen, Lisa and Darren Gill*

Dear Mr Laing

I wish to thank you and your association for your efforts in helping me trace my grandfathers service record with the 10th Battalion AIF.

Although my grandfather was estranged from my father for a number of years, he left his medals and a number of other items of memorabilia to us when he died last year.

The people at the Central Army Records Office were more than helpful, and I thank you for putting us in touch with them.

Regards

*Katrina Robertson (nee Burdett)*



## KESWICK MEMORIAL GARDEN sponsored by the RSAR Association

In early 2014 President Rodney Beames was approached by 10th/27th Battalion CO LTCOL Graham Goodwin and RSM WO1 Adrian Hodges about the possibility of the RSAR Association sponsoring a Memorial Garden within Keswick Barracks, to pay homage to those who had gone before and those who continue to serve with the Regiment. The Association consented, a plan was agreed on and work commenced in earnest. **Phase 1** saw a planning and consultation period where personnel laid out the location of the proposed garden, and made plans to clear it of existing shrubs, bushes and unwanted garden furniture. **Phase 2** had Rod Beames, Norm Tregenza and David Laing arrive to spend at least 8 hours clearing the area. Thankfully, member Norm bought along his mate Dave Standish and his Kanga front end loader. This machine made very short work of the task and within 2 hours we had achieved our goal. **Phase 3** was to lay new lawn and a concrete slab where large rocks were to be the base of a memorial plaque provided by the Association. This work was ably carried out under the supervision of Rodney Beames by Jesse Humphrys and some mates from 10th/27th Battalion. (The concreting work was well under way when Jesse received a call that his wife had decided to have their baby, and Jesse had to hastily depart. What a way to get out of work, eh?) **Phase 4** was to affix the new brass plaque to the base stone, and officially dedicate and open the garden.

Thanks to all concerned who gave their time for this project, especially Rod Beames, Norm Tregenza, Dave Standish, WO2 Craig Thomson, Jesse Humphrys and the soldiers from 10/27 Bn. The Memorial Garden and Plaque is located alongside Defence Bank, which is adjacent to the 10/27 Bn HQ building at Keswick Barracks.

David Laing, Rodney Beames, Norm Tregenza and Kanga owner David Standish clearing the site.



Detail of the brass Memorial Plaque



## HE CAME, HE SAW, HE CONQUERED.

### RSARA Luncheon featuring Peter Goers OAM

Sunday 19th October saw a record turnout of 60 members, wives, partners and friends attend the last 2014 luncheon, with the Hackney Hotel being the new venue. Our Special Guest Speaker was Mr Peter Goers OAM, who had the members in tears at stages of his presentation, and enthralled them with tales of his life as a young boy on holidays on the Yorke Peninsula. Peter joined us for lunch and then held the crowd in awe during his 30 minute talk, which reflected on his support of the veterans community and the injustice done to the Vietnam Veterans on their return to Australia.

The Hackney Hotel proved to be a marvellous new find, and members were delighted with the ambience of the room plus the assistance given by the staff on the day. We definitely recommend the Hackney Hotel for any function that requires good food, good service and excellent decor. A big THANK YOU to Peter for his support of the RSAR Association too!

