



"Sitrep, Over!"



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

NOVEMBER 2015

Approaching Events

Port Pirie RSL Museum visit - 8th November

The tour of the Port Pirie RSL and Museum is to go ahead on Sunday 8th November. A FREE bus will depart Keswick Barracks (Near ARMY Museum) at 0945 hrs, travel to Port Pirie arriving around 1245 hrs. Have lunch, visit the RSL Museum and depart Pt Pirie around 1500 hrs, arriving back at Keswick Barracks at approximately 1800 - 1830 hrs.

Anyone wishing to travel on the bus, please contact the Secretary David Laing on davidlaing49@bigpond.com or 0407 791 822 **ASAP**

End Of Year BBQ - 13th December

The RSAR Association End Of Year BBQ is to be held at the "Kibby Club" at Keswick Barracks on Sunday 13th December 2015.

Timings are:

Commence: 1100 hrs. Bar Open

Lunch: 1200 hrs

Concludes: 1500 hrs. Bar Closed

All meat and salads will be provided **FREE OF CHARGE** by the RSAR Association, and drinks are at members expense. All members, including SERVING members are invited to attend and catch up for the last time this year. **ALL WELCOME!**

You need only bring yourselves and your wallet.

Please reserve your place (for catering purposes) by contacting the Secretary on the numbers provided on Page 6.

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DID YOU KNOW?

During WW2 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 a lot worse if there had actually been any Japanese on the island. **Oops!**



This newsletter is edited and published by David Laing 0407 791 822. The content of this newsletter is not necessarily the opinion of the RSAR Association or its committee or members. If any offence is taken to any of the stories in this newsletter, please contact the Editor

JUST SOLDIERS

Bombardier Cecil Edwards, MM

The Artillery Signaller

The concussion of exploding shells rocked their senses. The screech of artillery fired from the field guns of both sides was deafening . . . but communications had to be maintained.

Cecil Francis Edwards was barely nineteen when Great Britain declared war on Germany. Cec was among the first to join the long queues of young Australian men eager to volunteer to serve their King and country. Like most of his generation, the lad didn't much fancy walking—only swagmen travelled long distances on foot—so he had no desire to become an infantry 'foot-slogger'. He was rather impressed by the style and look of the uniforms worn by the light horsemen and artillerymen, with their leather boots and leggings, tailored jodhpurs, spurs and bandoleers. However, it was the prospect of working with both horses and the big guns that swayed him to choose artillery.



AWM ART19842. Power, H Septimus, First Australian artillery going into the 3rd Battle of Ypres Painting—oil on canvas London 1919, 50.4 x 91.3 cm. This work shows a team of six horses, three mounted and three led, struggling through thick mud pulling a heavy 18 pounder gun on the limber. Six other soldiers on foot are helping to haul the gun, all moving away from the viewer. Septimus Power has captured the dash, the urgency, the immediacy of guns being moved to give fire support on the battlefield. You can almost hear the sound of mud sucking on the hooves, the gasping of the horses, the slap of leather, and creaking of axles, and the shouts of men. And you can imagine the sounds of the great battle beyond and sense the danger towards which the gun team is headed.

He was assigned to No 2 Battery, 1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade, as a gunner (a member of a detachment that loads and fires artillery guns).² The battery was a mix of raw recruits and trained militia soldiers. It was equipped with the quick-firing 18-pounder field guns which could hurl a high explosive shell or shrapnel-filled projectile nearly six kilometres. To the gunners, the 18-pounder was the perfect 'killing' machine and they developed a love for, and devotion to their guns that no woman could ever understand. 'Into action, out of action; load, unload; action left, action right; mount, dismount!' While at times it seemed as though

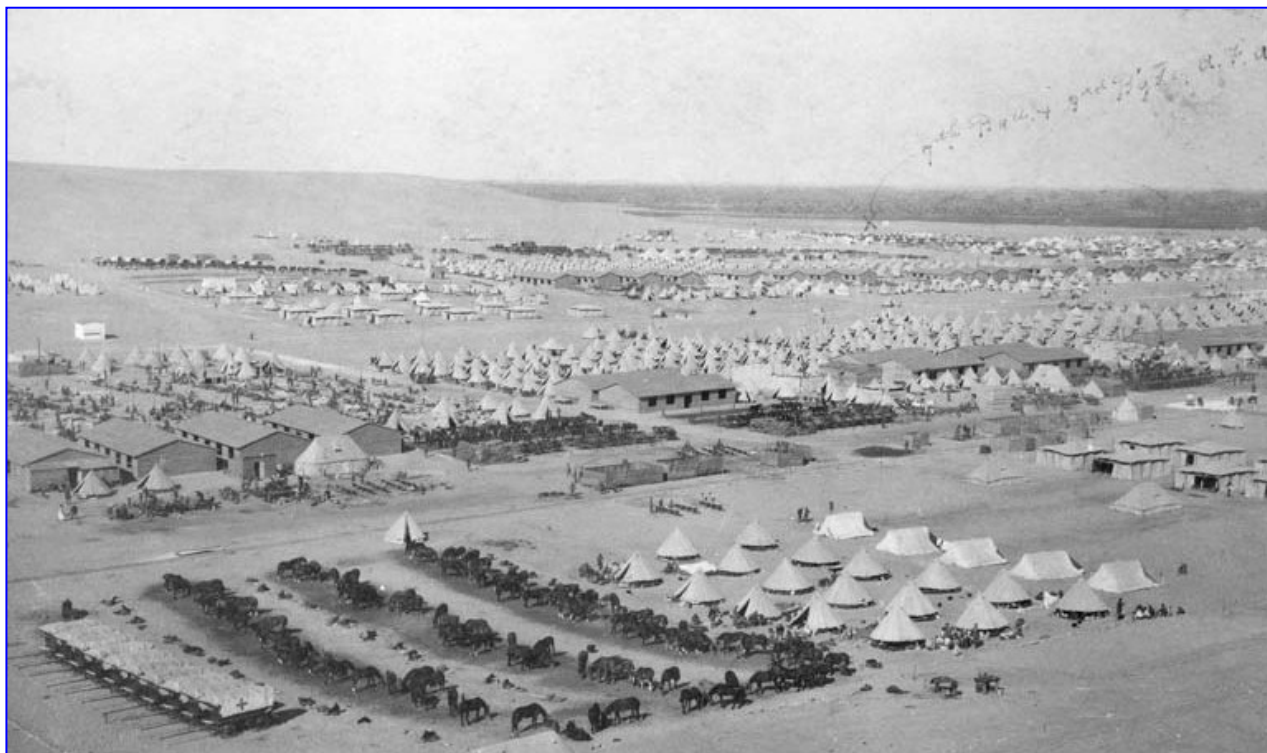
their training would never end, the enthusiastic new recruits accepted the long hours of instruction and discipline without complaint, acutely aware that the German gunners would be equally well drilled and share the same determination to survive. Time passed quickly and within a few weeks the first contingent of soldiers of the fledgling AIF was

embarking on ships for what most believed would be the opportunity of a lifetime. Cec waved enthusiastically to the crowds of families and friends standing shoulder to shoulder on the docks as they bid farewell to departing loved ones. As the troopship passed through the Heads, he took a long, last look at the city he called home, eyes fixed on the familiar Sydney skyline until it was out of sight. Cec wiped a tear from his eye as he pondered whether he would survive this war to see his beloved home and family again. Life on board ship was no holiday. There was plenty of work to be done. Horses needed to be fed, watered and groomed, stables kept clean and guns maintained... and there was more training. Of relative importance was the need for cross-training. Young Edwards laughed as he looked at the telephone handset. 'Why do I need to know how to use this, Sarge? I'm a gun number.' 'So that when some Hun blows your mate's head off, you can take over his job, you dumb ass', the sergeant replied sarcastically.

Cec soon appreciated the value of the additional training and listened intently, keen to learn these new skills. His hard work and enthusiasm led to his becoming a very competent signaller.

As time passed and the ship steamed closer to its destination, the men's eagerness to enter the war against the Germans increased to almost fever pitch. But it seemed the Hun was not to be their first opponent. Turkey had entered the war as an ally of Germany and the Diggers were now bound for training grounds in

North Africa, not England as many had thought.



AWM P00117.001. Mena Camp, Egypt. This photo represents about one fifth of the whole encampment.

By the time the ships began their transit of the 160-kilometre-long Suez Canal, the convoy had been at sea for some six weeks, and there was much excitement as the men caught their first glimpse of mystical Egypt. For several days and nights, as they moved slowly through the Canal, an exchange of shouting and cheering between the Australians on board the ships and the Indian troops camped on the banks filled the air. Until now, the Indians and their English officers had not been aware the Australian force was on its way.

In early December 1914, the brigade disembarked at Alexandria, a Mediterranean seaport, north-west of Cairo. From here they were transported by train to Mena Camp, a vast 'city' of tents in the shadow of the great pyramids.

Continued next month.

By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, *Just Soldiers*, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 73 to 82

MEMBERS LIST

Abareh, Wadi **SM**
 Abel, Colin
 Acton, Chris
 Adams, Aaron **SM**
 Apostolides, Chris
 Attenborough, Geoff
 Ayles, Jeff
 Baldwin, Bob
 Bampton, Michael **BAND**
 Barnaart, Philip
 Bates, Allan
 Beames, Rod **CoM**
 Beckett, David **LM SM**
 Bennet, Graham
 Benveniste, Sam **SM**
 Bilsborow, Jason **SM**
 Blackmore, William
 Blake, Sam **SM**
 Blondell, Mark **SM CoM**
 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
 Butters, Erik
 Campbell, Wenona **BAND**
 Carnachan, Ian
 Chittleborough, Jeff
 Clyne, Lachlan **SM**
 Cooke, Nat **CoM**
 Contibas, Nikolaus **SM**
 Cotton, Bob
 Cram, Kevin
 Dart, John
 Davey, John (Jack)
 Davey, Trevor
 Dawson, Trevor **BAND**
 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**
 Ferguson, Shane **BAND**
 Field, Don
 Flanagan, Ted
 Fridday, Ross
 Fortune, Nigel **BAND**
 Gaborit, Lyndon **LM**
 #Gallagher, Erin **BAND**
 Genovese, John
 Gibson, Lindsay
 Giles, John
 Gill, Graham
 Gilmore, Graham **CoM**
 Gordon, Frank
 Hardy, Robert **SM**
 Harrington, Malcolm
 Harrison, John
 Hawking, Don
 Hawkins, Des
 Heath, Jonathon **BAND**
 Haynes, Scott
 Hewitt, Emily **BAND**
 Hogan, Mark **LM**
 Hook, Alan **LM CoM**
 Hope, David
 Horseman, Ian **LM**
 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
 Koop, Joshua **BAND**
 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
 Portakiewicz, Anthony **BAND**
 Portakiewicz, David **BAND CoM**
 Phillips, Don
 Phillips, Colin
 Phillips, Trevor
 Payne, Bob
 Parslow, Howard
 Preece, Brian
 Rado, Stephen
 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**
 #Slater, Ian **BAND**
 Slattery, Kimberly **BAND**
 Sniedze, Julie **BAND**
 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**
 Tompkins, Ian
 Tregenza, Norm **CoM**
 Trezise, George
 Tucker, Belinda **BAND**
 Ullrich, Andreas **SM**
 Vella, Joe
 Wake, Stephen
 Waters, Ian **LM**
 Weepers, Nicole **BAND**
 Weightman, Aidan **SM**
 Westover, Rhys
 Wheeler, Chris
 Williams, Darrian **SM**
 Wilson, Graham **LM**

Wilson, Neil
 Wood, George
 Woore, Phillip
 Yorke-Simpkin Reg **LM**
 Zurowski, Paul **SM**

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Abel, Karen
 Ayles, Denise
 Beames, Cheryl
 Carnachan, Dom
 Dart, Caroline
 Demosani, Gail
 Elliott, Julie
 Eva, Gail
 Field, Shirley
 Gatley, Graeme
 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
 T. Moore ADJT 10/27 RSAR
 M. Reyne RSM 10/27 RSAR

LM denotes **LIFE MEMBER**
SM denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**

BAND denotes serving 10/27 Band member
Denotes **NEW MEMBER**

215 members
 as at 28/10/15

This month we welcome two new members, both from the 10/27 Band
Erin Gallagher
Ian Slater
 Welcome guys!



Private Gomad reckons.....



.....and while you're thinking about that.....



Law of Biomechanics - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Supermarket Law - As soon as you get in the smallest line, the cashier will have to call for help.

Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

Law of the Result - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

A Message from Across the Sea

I received this email about 4 days ago from England.

Dear Mr Laing,

I am trying to source a cap badge for the RSAR (Scottish regiment) I served there in Adelaide from 1969.73. Now residing in England I have tried to obtain this badge before to wear on

Remembrance Sunday.

Could you please advise me.

Sincerely,

Harry Lawrence. UK

I responded and asked the writer if he required the badge of the 27th SA Scottish Regiment or the Royal South Aus-

tralia Regiment. Once that was sorted I popped an RSAR badge in the post, along with an Application for Membership.

Hopefully they will both reach England before November 11th, and Harry can wear his new RSAR badge with pride, and we "may" have a new member.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Royal South Australia
Regiment Association Inc

All correspondence to:-

RSAR Association

The Secretary David Laing

Riverglen Marina RSD 3152A

White Sands

S.A. 5253

davidlaing49@bigpond.com

0407 791 822



We're also on the Web!

Find us at:

www.rsara.asn.au



The above **Sound Post** in front of Adelaide's South African War Memorial was unveiled at an event on 13 July 2014. Each of the authentic narratives on the sound post is briefly introduced by local dignitaries, followed by narratives put together by Dr Anthony Stimson. Each narrative has been recorded by professional actors descriptively in "voices from the past style" and in a couple of instances also verbally emulating the content of a letter written to families back in South Australia.



1899



1902

THE SOUTH AFRICAN BOER WAR

The Memorial

Introduction by His Excellency
Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR,
Governor of South Australia

The Battles

Introduction by Brigadier Tim Hanna AM,
State President of Returned & Services
League of Australia

The Conditions

Introduction by
Brigadier Robert Atkinson AM RFD,
Royal Australian Army Medical Corps

The Commemorations

Introduction by
Mrs Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AC CVO MBE,
the 33rd Governor of South Australia