



“Sitrep, Over!”



DECEMBER 2014



Points of interest

- Photos of the Centenary Parade are on 9 & 10
- WO1 Darryl Kelly continues the story of Scotty Sloane in “Just Soldiers”
- WO1 Adrian Hodges has served very capably as RSM 10/27 Bn since 2012, but is now moving on to a new posting. His relationship with the Association has been a highlight of his time in S.A., and he writes to Rodney Beames on Page 8.

Inside this issue:

An Experience of War Major Geoff Jones	1
Christmas Message from The President RSARA	3
Just Soldiers WO1 Darryl Kelly	2
Keswick Barracks Memorial Garden	5
From the Secretary's Desk in 2014	5
Members List	6
A Farewell letter from the RSM 10/27 RSAR	8
2014 Centenary Parade	9 10

Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

An Experience of War

Part 10

Returning briefly to the privilege a medic enjoys in an infantry company, or any regimental unit for that matter, I briefly mention the bond that develops between a medic and the men he cares for. One should not assume that a bond of closeness would automatically exist, as it is something that is earned and will only come about through trust and mutual respect. This has been the case at least since Gallipoli when A.G. Butler the official historian wrote on the death of Simpson.

‘..... Conduct such as his, and the high standard set from the first in the rescue of wounded, gained for the stretcher-bearers what they desired – not a halo of sentimental eulogy, but the confidence of the men who fought and comradeship on terms of equality with them’.

A good medic will gain the confidence and respect of commanders and the men. He or she will frequently be confided in; for explanation of medical matters and even to discuss the most personal of matters. A medic's advice or opinion will often be sought before that of a padre.

Acceptance on equal terms does not come without a medic at all times demonstrating – courage, dependability, integrity, and discretion.

An enduring and prominent feature in any war is that given to misconception or mistaken belief. In World War 2 there was a misconception that Japanese soldiers couldn't fight, that they were bandy-legged, squinty-eyed and couldn't see in the dark. The Vietnam War produced its own misconceptions; one being that anyone dressed in black pyjamas was Viet Cong and should be shot on sight. To our surprise we found that most Vietnamese dressed this way.

A second misconception was that from the time of wounding on the Vietnam battlefield a soldier would be transported to hospital by helicopter and be on the operating table in less than 30 minutes. This may have been statistically correct but there were exceptions. Such an exception occurred on 10 September 1966.



Rick Bensley, Harry Prosser and Bob “Vic” Morrow on the Leave Truck at Nui Dat August 1966

C Company was leading the battalion's upward advance on the precipitous slopes of the 2,000 foot Nui Dinh Mountains. It was head down and bum up for us all while at the same time we were watchful of our arc to warn of enemy ambush. We were at the halt and brewing up when it happened; incoming machine gun and small arms fire ripped into 9 Platoon, the hard cracking sound of AK47s being unmistakable.

Bob ‘Vic’ Morrow was hit and a call for “medic” was shouted from the front, about 100 metres distant. The incoming fire was intense and 9 Platoon's return fire gave the impression that this was a significant contact. The platoon was without a stretcher-bearer so on hearing the call I went forward ducking and weaving downhill from tree cover to tree cover, all the while searching for the casualty. I was within metres of him and separated only by a large fallen tree when the direction and intensity of enemy fire increased and seeing bullets striking the ground nearby I felt that every shot was aimed at me. Having the choice of diving under the fallen tree or going over the top I chose the former and self-preservation. While tangled in branches and struggling to go forward I encountered Alan Kunde who had crawled over to assist me. Telling me that Vic's arm was shot away I passed to Alan a tourniquet with instructions to put it on him while I extricated myself.

Continues next month



A Christmas Message from The President Rod Beames



To quote the song, "Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas" and I'm sure glad its here.

One of the highlights of this time of year was the awards presentation evening for 10/27 Battalion RSAR, where I had the pleasure of joining the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Graham Goodwin, in unveiling the new Memorial Garden at Keswick Headquarters, in memory of all those who served, in particular, the 1st AIF 100 years ago. Our Association has worked very hard over the past few months to change an area of untidy shrubs and bushes into a place of honour and reflection. Once again we have done ourselves proud.

Its a good feeling when you reach the festive time of year and you can look up at the scoreboard and see just how many runs you've made and this year the Association has scored very well indeed.

Our web site has been taking hits (the right sort) and the interest amongst members has been encouraging.

From the Church Service, Gala Ball, brilliant Association lunches, support to the Battalion etc, to (just as important) reading the "Sitrep, Over!" and keeping up with who's doing what. There's been the occasional hospital visit and funeral, and this year we've celebrated a marriage and a birth (even if it was in the middle of one of our "Working Bees.")

If it reads like I'm "pumped" its because I am. Its been a most rewarding year and I am continually proud to represent the RSAR Association.

In closing I want to wish everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and a very prosperous and HEALTHY New Year.

Rod Beames

President RSAR Association Inc

...and from the Treasurer Alan Orrock



Easy maths:- $2 + 2 = 7$. $24 - 6 = 24$. 50% of 100 is 9. Like I said, easy!

Q. If Tommy has 45 shillings in his left pocket, and 3 and sixpence in his right trouser pocket, what does Tommy have?

A. Someone else's trousers.

Q. What is the square root of the some of 435 divided by 28 over 7 + 36,005 multiplied by a fried chicken?

A. A Chocolate chair. (Answers just come naturally to me!)

Sometimes when I get money into the bank account that doesn't add up, I just throw it away. It appears to work and really saves on paper.

I'd like to thank all the members for continually voting for me to be the Treasurer over the past 7 years, and hope you will continue to vote for me in the future. Have a great Christmas, and I'll write from prison.

Alan Orrock

Treasurer RSAR Association

**Just Soldiers****Trooper Sloan 'Scotty' Bolton DCM****Part 2**

The camp was awash with rumours of impending action. Stores were packed, orders were despatched, the soldiers were on the move. Just as the excitement reached fever pitch, the troopers of the light horse were told they were to remain in Egypt. Their disappointment was tangible. Irritated by the jeers of the departing infantry, Scotty pondered his decision to transfer to the light horse—had he relinquished his only chance of taking part in this war?

But the infantry had not fared well at Gallipoli and urgent reinforcements were needed. The light horsemen were to get their chance, but as infantry—the horses were unsuited to the terrain of the Gallipoli Peninsula so would stay behind in Egypt.

The 4th Light Horse landed in Gallipoli in early June 1915 and the troopers quickly realised that they had arrived on Hell's doorstep. Scotty was to spend his first, but sleepless night at Gallipoli on the slopes of a place aptly named Dead Man's Valley.

Disease was rife amid the squalor of the ANZAC trenches, with a large proportion of casualties the victims of dysentery and diarrhoea, rather than the bullets fired by Johnny Turk. Characteristically loath to report sick, many soldiers attempted to hide their illness, others had to accept that evacuation to a hospital was the grim eventuality.

The ANZAC Diggers firmly believed that leaving the line was akin to deserting their mates. Bolton, almost crippled by disease, fought on until late August when he could barely stand and eventually had to be evacuated as far as the 2nd Australian General Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt. Two weeks later he was released from the hospital and sent to the reinforcement depot at Helouan on light duties.

The 4th left the Peninsula on 11 December 1914. Back in Egypt, as they licked their wounds, the troopers faced the grim reality that 41 of their own lay beneath the rugged landscape of Gallipoli. Trooper Bolton rejoined his regiment on 2 January 1916, but the reunion was short-lived as Scotty was again stricken with disease—on 6 January he was readmitted to the hospital with mumps.



Bolton astride favourite mount, 'Monty'.
(Family collection)

In early 1916, the 4th Light Horse was split to serve on two fronts. Two squadrons were despatched to fight the Hun on the Western Front, while Scotty and the other troopers remained in the Middle East—convinced they were destined to be held perpetually in reserve or used to perform odd jobs at the whim of the British High Command.

Disease and sickness, particularly malaria, continued to spread through the light horse ranks. Yet again, Scotty Bolton fell victim. On his release from the hospital, Scotty returned to find the Desert Mounted Corps had been engaged in successive, but unsuccessful, attacks on the Turkish bastion of Gaza. General Allenby, Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Palestine, now turned his attention to the nearby town of Beersheba.

The strategic value lay not only in its proximity to Gaza, but also in the huge wells within its precincts. (Water, as

always, remained the currency of the Middle East. In the deserts of Palestine, wells were marked and valued in terms of the number of camels they could water. Some wells were marked as 100, some 1000, but the wells of Beersheba were marked as unlimited.) 'Z' Day was scheduled for 31 October 1917. On the afternoon of the 28th, Bolton was among the crowds of troopers who stood before the canvas water troughs, urging their mounts to drink.

Their desperation was fuelled by uncertainty—the next source of water was by no means assured and might be more than a day's ride away.

Part 3 in the January 2015 issue

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

KESWICK BARRACKS MEMORIAL GARDEN Sponsored by the RSAR Association and the Defence Bank, Keswick Branch



Early in 2014 the Co of 10/27 Bn asked Rodney Beames about the Association sponsoring a Memorial Garden at Keswick Barracks, where AN-ZAC Day and other commemorative services could be carried out. After many hours of hard work by members of the RSARA Committee and soldiers from 10/27 Battalion (especially WO2 Craig Thomson) the garden has now been officially opened and dedicated to "all those who serve."

At left is the Branch Manager of Defence Bank, Mr David Weeks presenting Rod Beames with a cheque for \$500, being their donation towards the project, and the other half \$750 was covered by the Association..

A brass plaque (featured on Page 9 of the November Sitrep) has been affixed to the granite stone that forms the main feature of the garden, in front of the newly planted lawn.



Above: Rodney Beames and Graham Goodwin officially unveiling the plaque in the Memorial Garden.
Right: MAJGEN Neil Wilson addresses the soldiers.



The soldiers of 10/27 Bn at the opening of the Memorial Garden. Promotions and awards were presented after the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque, with many soldiers be rewarded for their efforts throughout the year.



"Sitrep, Over!"

Official Newsletter of the Royal
South Australia Regiment
Association Inc

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Secretary David Laing
Riverglen Marina RSD 3152A
White Sands SA 5253

Phone 0407 791 822

davidlaing49@bigpond.com



www.rsara.asn.au

Find us on **FACEBOOK**



From the Secretary's Desk 2014

Some folk may call me macabre, but one of my first morning tasks is to read the Obituaries in the Advertiser. I've done it for years and I don't know why. I DO know I've found a lot of people in there I used to know, and it's sad that I found them that way. Some of my friends have passed on way too early (is there a RIGHT time to die?) and others seem to have fulfilled their dreams and then departed this mortal coil without notice!



I made a promise to myself a couple of years ago that I would take steps to look up some old school friends I hadn't seen for nearly 50 years, but friends who made an impression in my life. I wasn't in a real hurry to do this, but I was sorry I wasn't! A few months later, there in the 'Tiser was a friends name with whom I spent some years of my "wasted" youth. He was like a brother to me and we did everything together, from attend primary school as 10 year olds, right through to the end of high school about 6 years later. I saw him at the train station a few times on my way to work and we passed the minutes together, but drifted apart as our lives took different paths.

And there he was, his name in bold print, passed away suddenly at 62 years of age in 2011, leaving a grieving wife and family! It deprived me of my goal to renew our friendship, and I was devastated, to say the least, that I had let so much time elapse before I made up my mind to find him. It was then I made a genuine pledge to renew my efforts and find "old friends", before it was too late!

I had two friends in mind, and I thought of the last time we'd spoken, and where they would most likely be now. The first, a mate from my 20's was simple to locate. I "Googled" his unusual name and it produced a number of leads, the best being an email address of the company he owned in Newman, WA. Send email, find friend! Simple! We have spoken on the phone numerous times and regularly swap emails on birthdays and at Christmas.

The second (another high school buddy) was a little harder to find, but still successful. The last time we met he had just returned from a tour of Vietnam with the Royal Australian Engineers in 1968, so I once again turned to the internet and looked up the RAE website. To my joy, it named every soldier who had served in Vietnam with the Engineers, and strangely enough, included personal phone numbers. After a bit of trepidation I phoned the Victoria number, and the rest is, like they say, history!

I guess my message at this joyous time of year is that we shouldn't wait to see our friends names in the Obituaries to remind us of the good times in our lives. Friends are precious, no matter what stage of your lives they made their impression, and waiting too long to make contact can have results that are upsetting for all concerned. Your friends may be easier to find than you think, and it's certain they'll be happy to hear from you again, especially if they ARE real friends.

Seek out your old friends before it's too late, and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. They may not be here next year!

On another note, we now enter the Centenary Year of the Landings at Gallipoli, where our forebears etched a place in history for the battalions of the Regiment. Much has been said of the soldiers who carried our colours onto the dark sands of Suvla Bay, and up to the foothills of the Gallipoli Peninsular. We commemorate their bravery and valour, and pray our defenders never have to pay such a sacrifice for freedom again.

And in the same breath we salute those who continue to serve our country, both on home soil and overseas. And closer to home we bid a fond farewell to WO1 Adrian Hodges, RSM of 10th/27th Battalion since 2012, who is being posted to yet another challenging role, this time as RSM of 3rd Combat Signals Regiment. Adrian has worked closely with the Executive Committee of the Association to ensure our ties with the Regiment continue strongly into the future, and we commend him for his support and leadership over the past 2 years. Good luck and all the best, Adrian.

Finally, from me a BIG thank you to our erstwhile President Rod Beames who has worked tirelessly and so diligently throughout the year, overcoming all barriers in his quest to strengthen the ties between Association and Regiment. He has achieved so much in the past year, and I am proud to serve on his committee,. Thanks mate.

Cheers

David Laing

Secretary/Editor

PS Merry Christmas to Hans and to Joe. My no-longer lost mates.



MEMBERS LIST

Abareh, Wadi	SM	Gaborit, Lyndon	LM	Pach, Chol	SM	Field, Shirley	
Acton, Chris		Genovese, John		Paul, John		Gill, Maureen	
Adams, Aaron	SM	Gibson, Lindsay		Perkins, Bob		Gilmour, Helen	
Apostolides, Chris		Giles, John		Pollard, Barry		Hawking, Lorraine	
Attenborough, Geoff		Gill, Graham		Phillips, Don		Hook, Phillipa	
Ayles, Jeff		Gilmore, Graham	CoM	Phillips, Trevor		Hudson, Margaret	
Baldwin, Bob		Gordon, Frank		Payne, Bob		Jolly, Sandra	
Barrass, Mark		Hardy, Robert	SM	Parslow, Howard		Klopf, Josie	
Bates, Allan		Harrington, Malcolm		Preece, Brian		Laing, June	
Beames, Rod	CoM	Harrison, John		Ranger, Denis		Lampard, Kay	
Beckett, David	LM SM	Hawking, Don		Rathmann, John		Main, Raelene	
Bennet, Graham		Hawkins, Des		Rathmann, Norm	CoM	Marcus, Yvonne	
Bilsborow, Jason	SM	Haynes, Scott		Ramm, Hank		Lee, Anne	
Blackmore, William		Hogan, Mark	LM	Robertson, Jim		Mitchell, Roma	
Blake, Sam	SM	Hook, Alan	LM CoM	Rorie, Graham	SM	Phillips, Heather	
Blondell, Mark	SM	Hope, David		Rossetti, Lee		Sanderson, Lorraine	
Bloomfield, Max		Hudson, Mick		Sage, Andrew		Trogenza, Lyn	
Bourne, Ian	SM	Hudson, Rick		Salamon, Peter			
Boath, Ian		Humphrys, Jesse	SM CoM	Sanders, Ashley	SM	HONORARY MEMBERS	
Boothroyd, Lincoln	SM	James, Grant	SM CoM	Sanderson, Max		G. Goodwin CO 10/27 RSAR	
Boscence, Bob		Jeffrey, Scott	SM	Sands, Mike		J. Hill ADJT 10/27 RSAR	
Bras, Riley	SM	Johnson, Barry	LM	Sexton, Mark	SM	A. Hodges RSM 10/27 RSAR	
Broadbent, Robert	SM	Jolly, David		Sprigg, Rob			
Brookes, Phil		Jones, Brett		Staker, Cameron	SM		
Brown, Bruce		Keenan, Alan		Standing, Michael	CoM	LM denotes LIFE MEMBER	
Brown, Harry		Kilford, Brian		Stone, Eddie		SM denotes SERVING ADF MEM- BER	
Burton, Ray		Klopf, Alex	LM	Strain, Doug		# Denotes NEW MEMBER	
Carnachan, Ian		Klopf, Paul		Steer, Phil			
Chittleborough, Jeff		Laing, David	LM CoM	Stewart, Rob	LM		
Clyne, Lachlan	SM	Lampard, Ross		Stuart, Matthew	SM	191 members as at 29/11/14	
Cooke, Nat	CoM	Lee, Bob		Tiller, Garth			
Contibas, Nikolaus	SM	Lee, Pat		Thomson, Jim	SM		
Cotton, Bob		Lloyd, Elmer		Tolotta, Tarrant	CoM		
Cram, Kevin		Lockett, John		Trogenza, Norm			
Dart, John		Longstaff, Paul		Trezise, George			
Davey, John		Loveder, Peter		Ullrich, Andreas	SM		
Davey, Trevor		Main, Brian		Vella, Joe			
Davey, Jack		Marcus, Ray		Wake, Stephen			
Del Vecchio, Victor		Martin, Bob		Waters, Ian	LM		
Demasi, Nathan	SM	Matchett, Bill		Weightman, Aidan	SM		
Demosani, Tony		Mau, Mark		Westover, Rhys			
Domanski, Glenn		McCulloch, Don		Wheeler, Chris	SM		
Dubsky, Eddie		#McGree, Barry		Williams, Darrian	LM		
Dunn, Peter		McLachlan, Joshua	SM	Wilson, Graham			
Dunn, Bob		McMahon, Tyler	SM	Wilson, Neil			
Dunn, Jeff		McMullin, Jim		Wood, George			
Durdin, Russell		Meissner, Terry	SM	Woore, Phillip			
Durrant, Chris		Milde, Peter	SM	Yorke-Simpkin Reg	LM		
Edson, Roger		Mitchell, Barry		Zuromski, Paul	SM		
Elliott, Graham		Mitchell, David					
Elliss, Scott	SM	Morony, Frank	CoM	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS			
Eva, Keith		Moore, Jeffrey		Ayles, Denise			
Ewens, Mimi	SM	Moore, Terry	LM	Beames, Cheryl			
Field, Don		Moschis, James	SM	Carnachan, Dom			
Flanagan, Ted		Munro, Ron		Dart, Caroline			
Friday, Ross		Oliver, Peter		Demosani, Gail			
		Orrock, Alan	CoM	Elliott, Julie			
		Ockenden, Marc		Eva, Gail			
		Oswald, John					

PRO PATRIA 2014 COMMEMORATING SERVICE

The Regimental Journal "Pro Patria 2014" has been released by the Battalion. Compiled very diligently by WO2 Craig Thomson, it tells the story of the birth of the Regiment, up to the current time.

If you would like an emailed copy of the Journal in PDF form, please let the Editor know and a copy will be dispatched across the air waves. It contains a lot of our history, and lots of photos.



Private Gomad reckons.....



A Poem Me Dear Old Mum Taught Me!

A fart can be a pleasant thing, It gives the belly ease,
It warms the bed in winter, and suffocates the fleas.

A fart can be quiet, a fart can be loud,
Some leave a powerful, poisonous cloud

A fart can be short, or a fart can be long,
Some farts have been known to sound like a song.....

A fart can create a most curious medley;
A fart can be harmless, or silent, and deadly.

A fart might not smell, while others are vile,
A fart may pass quickly, or linger on a while.....

A fart can occur in a number of places,
And leave everyone there, with strange looks on their faces.

From wide-open prairie, to small elevators,
A fart will find all of us sooner or later.

But farts are all bad, is simply not true-
We must never forget..... Sweet old farts like you

Kinda brings a tear to your eye, don't it?

Mother Gomad



My wife said "Watcha doin' today?"

I said "Nothing"

She said, "You did that yesterday"

I said "I wasn't finished."

**Private Norman Gomad
wishes all our readers a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Mr Rod Beames

President
Royal South Australia Regiment Association Incorporated
c/o Riverglens Marina
RSD 3152A Jervois Road
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Dear Rod,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and the members of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Incorporated for your support and guidance offered to me as the Regimental Sergeant Major 10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment.

On commencing my appointment in January 2012, the camaraderie and support openly offered to me by the association humbling and at all times sincere. In particular, the comradeship offered to me by yourself and Mr David Laing gestures that will reside with me for a long time to come.

In 2015, I assume the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major 3rd Combat Signals Regiment; the Army's premier signals regiment. The regiment provides enhanced high readiness command, control, communications, computers and intelligence and combat services support to 3rd Brigade and its headquarters at all times, in order to effectively and efficiently enable command and control of the 3rd Combat Brigade in all circumstances. The regiment currently have a subunit on operations and is postured to deploy at short notice anywhere in the world should the need arise.

There is no doubt that I am thrilled to be assuming the role of Regimental Sergeant Major 3rd Combat Signals Regiment, however my confidence is derived from my exposure and experiences within this fine unit. I am a privileged soldier who has held the highest honor within your battalion, and I will treasure my memories had within the ranks of the 10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment.

*Pro Patricia,
AG Hodges*

AG Hodges
Warrant Officer Class One
Regimental Sergeant Major
10th/27th Battalion,
The Royal South Australia Regiment.
Keswick Barracks
KESWICK SA 5035

Mob: 0428 608 479
Email: adrian.hodges@defence.gov.au

17 November 2014

10/27 BATTALION RSAR CENTENARY PARADE

22ND NOVEMBER 2014



RSM WO1 ADRIAN HODGES CALLS
THE BATTALION ON PARADE



THE BATTALION MARCHES ON.



THE COLOUR PARTY & GUIDONS MARCH ON

10/27 BATTALION RSAR CENTENARY PARADE

22ND NOVEMBER 2014



COMMANDING OFFICER 10/27 RSAR LTCOL GRAHAM GOODWIN AWAITS THE ARRIVAL OF DIGNITARIES



THE PARADE FIRES VOLLIES

**MORE PHOTOS OF THE PARADE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE**

JUST CLICK HERE

