

"Sitrep Over!"



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc



Editor - David Laing

0407 791 822

CHRISTMAS Edition

December 2016

SS Warrimoo - A fascinating (TRUE) story

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The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix & brought the master, Captain John Phillips, the result.

The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LON 179° 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line."



Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ships position.

He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather & clear night worked in his favour.

At midnight the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many: The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & the middle of summer. The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter.

The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899. Forward it was 1 January 1900. This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different years, two different seasons but in two different centuries - all at the same time.

Sent in by David Mercer, SAMRA Association

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Think Piece - from Veterans SA

This month's Think Piece has been contributed by **Group Captain Phil Champion**.

Phil Champion joined the RAAF in 1983 commencing with No 10SQN for his first flying tour. Posted to No. 292SQN as an instructor, he returned to No 10SQN for a second flying tour. In 1991, Group Captain Champion was commissioned in the AE category. In 1993, he became Training Officer at the Australian Joint Acoustic Analysis Centre (AJAAC) at HMAS Albatross. Following promotion to the rank of SQNLDR in 1998 he was posted to the ADF Warfare Centre as a Joint Warfare Instructor. GPCAPT Champion completed the inaugural Australian Command and Staff Course in Canberra in 2001 and was posted to 11SQN as BFLTCDR. Promoted to WGCDR in 2004, GPCAPT Champion spent 1 year in MPG/SRG HQ as Staff Officer Capability Development before being posted to New Zealand to HQ Joint Forces as the ADF Embed from 2005-2008. This was followed by a posting with 92WG as Chief of Staff before becoming CO of No. 11SQN from 2009 to 2012. Following Unit Command, GPCAPT Champion was promoted and posted as the ADF Embed to the Supreme HQ Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons Belgium, where he oversaw NATO strategic operations in Afghanistan. He commenced as OC 92WG in January 2015 and is a member of South Australia's Veterans' Advisory Council.

The Unknown Soldier

The Australian War Memorial web-site provides us with the background to the Unknown Soldier who was recovered from Adelaide Cemetery near Villers-Bretonneux in France and interred in the Hall of Memory on 11 November 1993 to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the First World War. However, as we approach Remembrance Day in 2016; I cannot help but reflect on another unknown soldier.

The circumstances behind this soldier are far more nuanced and I don't know whether he died on the battlefields of the Great War or returned home to re-unite with his family. I first met this soldier a few years ago in a second hand store in Port Adelaide and I have reflected upon him ever since – young and clean-shaven, he looked full of optimism for the adventures that lay ahead. How is it that almost 100 years on, this soldier was once again separated from his family, hanging alone on the dusty wall of a



Port Adelaide second hand store, valued only for the aged convex glass and the ornate frame surrounding his lean Anzac torso?

Whether he survived the Great War or died, how is it that successive generations of this Unknown Soldier's family became separated from their loved one? I value this soldier for much more than the frame by which he is now bound. As a revered Anzac, he did not deserve such an inglorious resting place where prospective bargain hunters would be prone to discarding his photo as landfill for the prize of the convex glass and

frame. This was three years ago. I often reflect on this Unknown Soldier and sadly, his photograph may well now be landfill - decomposed like the bodies of so many others left behind on foreign battlefields. Sadly, this Unknown Soldier had no-one left to remember him and to tell his story.

The Great War brought much bad news; but families were strong and resilient. Marriages formed in the days of the Unknown Soldier's time tended more often to last. When bad news came, it was reconciled. As we know the passage of time is relentless; our lives have become more complex and societal cohesiveness has been tested. Strong, resilient and cohesive families are societies' glue; they connect us to our past and provide us with a compass for the future. When this aspect of society is strong, we are all strong. When it breaks down, unknown soldiers can proliferate.

I have a portrait of my own grandfather before he departed for the Great War and have done my best to instil in my own daughters the importance of remembering his service; albeit facilitated through some iPhone generation digitisation of the image. Will my daughter's children think the same about my service in Iraq and Afghanistan? As society continues to evolve, how do we ensure that the core Anzac values of service and sacrifice continue to resonate?

The Unknown Soldier.....continued

We have two more years to commemorate the Centenary of Anzac before the 11th of November, 2018. Should you find yourself in an antique shop, I challenge you to look for the Unknown Soldier. If you find him; pause! Ask yourself who he was. Did he come home or did he die in the Great War? Ask yourself what he became or what he could have become; who did he leave behind? You don't necessarily need to exhume him from his place of interment; but please remember and respect him with a minute's silence.

*For all the Unknown Soldiers interred alone on a foreign wall; we will remember them.
Lest we forget.*

Secretaries Report 2016

David Laing

It seems like only a couple of months ago that I was writing my 2015 Annual Report, and now here we are, doing it all again! A great deal has happened in my life since last year, and all of it has made me a wiser (and financially poorer) person.

I advised the RSARA AGM in 2015 that I was seeking a replacement to take over my position as Secretary after 8 years of transcribing stories, processing memberships and organising functions etc. I received a resounding round of applause from the crowd, and although it did my heart good to know my efforts were appreciated, I came away from that AGM feeling I hadn't achieved much in my goal to stand down. Move forward to 2016 and the AGM! Same deal, same crowd, same applause!!

Rod Beames took pity on me, and went to the RSL to drown his sorrows, and I carried on as Secretary. Rodney assured me he would make my job easier by delegating some of my duties as Secretary to other suckers er, members, and to a point that has worked. David Hope has taken over all membership business, Norm Tregenza will become Minutes Secretary when I can't make to the "big smoke" for committee meetings and Des Hawkins has taken the mantle of Historical Officer. I don't know if these new assistants have been run off their feet, but it certainly appears as though I have more time for myself.

And time is exactly what I need at the moment. My good wife decided to retire from the workforce after 17 years in the same job. I had previously advised her "I'll retire when you retire!" So, in late October we both withdrew our labour from the mainline job network! Things have been a bit strange since then, as the days just seem to melt together and every day feels like Sunday. NOT! My eldest daughter not only gave birth to my 5th grand child, but she bought a house that she wishes to completely renovate before moving in. BY CHRISTMAS! "Dad, you've got a Builders Licence and you're retired! Can you demolish this," and "can you build that!" Now my time is divided between the Murray Bridge RSL, RSL State Branch SA/NT Regional Coordinators duties, working on unfinished home projects, looking after customers who won't accept that I've retired, and commuting to Adelaide to build my daughters dream home! Lordy Lordy please help me!

But I digress. I would never abandon an organisation that has given me so much support, mateship and camaraderie over the past 40 years. The Regiment helped mould my life, and what I learned in my 7 years of service will remain with me forever. I know you all have similar stories to tell, and I'd love to hear them. You have my email address!

The RSAR Association has achieved so much for the Regiment since we formed, that certain aspects of the Battalion would find it hard without us! We provide unwarranted support to the Battalion by way of End of Exercise meals, BBQs, awards etc. and we provide support to the 10th/27th Battalion Band wherever we can. That support is recognised by all and sundry, and all it costs you, the members, is \$20 a year! Also giving fantastic support to the 10/27 Band is the 10th Bn AIF Association, which after many years of operation, is finally closing its books due to falling numbers. This venerable bunch of heroes have bequeathed many thousands of dollars to the band to purchase much needed equipment, and in doing so, continue their own legacy. We thank you all.

We will continue to "Perpetuate the Regiment" until we no longer exist. That is the Aussie way, and that is OUR way!

I thank "Beamsy" for his unwarranted support throughout the year, and I thank you, the committee and members, for being there when we needed you! We'll be back next year. Join us, won't you?

Have a safe and happy Christmas. Drink like there's no tomorrow, but let someone else drive you home! *Pro Patria*

David Laing - General Secretary, Editor "Sitrep, Over!"

10/27 Bn Soldiers Dinner Awards

The Battalion recently hosted a Soldiers Dinner at Keswick Barracks for serving members, and awards for outstanding achievements and exemplary service were presented by the CO and Representative Colonel Hieu Van Le. Awards were presented to the following soldiers.

Best Soldier - **SPR Tobias Carpenter** - 3 Fd Sqn

Best Junior NCO - **CPL Braedon Baulsch** - B Coy

Best Senior NCO - **SGT Jarred Philbey** -
3/9 Light Horse (SAMR) / Unit Recruiting

Best Officer - **CAPT Nick Skinner** - 8/13 Lt Bty

Best Shot - **CPL Benjamin Healy** - B Coy

Best Fitness - **LCPL Thomas Healey** - 3 Fd Sqn

The RSAR Association congratulates all who received awards on the night. Congratulations and well done and keep up the good work.



ABOVE: LT Peachey is presented with his Commission by Representative Colonel Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia



Members listen to Battalion 2IC Major Malcolm Haynes as he outlines the theme of the occasion

Continued on Page 10 & 11

End of Year BBQ - Sunday 18th December 2016



The End Of Year BBQ will be held once again at the Kibby VC Club at Keswick Barracks . As in previous years the RSAR Association will provide all the meat, bread, salads and desserts. All you have to bring is yourself and your wallet for a few drinks.

The Kibby VC Club bar will again be offering beverages at vastly reduced prices. This is the last opportunity of the year for you to socialise with other members, so please come along and enjoy yourselves.

We also welcome current serving members of the Battalion, including those from our attached units in the Armour, Engineers and Artillery. We'd love to see you there to have a sausage and a chat over a beer. And bring your kids. The Kibby VC Club have great children's facilities.

Please let us know if you'd like to attend (for catering purposes) by contacting our Functions Officer Norm Tregenza on 0412 804 779 or email of normlyn@bigpond.com

Date: SUNDAY 18th December 2016

Where: Kibby VC Club. Keswick Barracks (Where it was last year, Stemmy)

Timings: 1100 hrs - 1500 hrs

Dress: Yes

VALE John Lockett

It is with sadness and regret we advise of the passing of long time RSAR Association member John William LOCKETT. John passed away at home on 14th November 2016 aged 80 years.

4708803 John Lockett was originally a member of the 48th Battalion (Hindmarsh Regiment) but being employed by SA Railways in mainly rural areas, spent most of his military life serving with 43 Bn RSAR.

Our condolences go to John's family in this sad time.

The service to celebrate John's life was held on Saturday 26th November at the Peter Elberg Funeral Chapel at Flinders Park. The service was attended by RSARA President Rodney Beames and members of the Association..

Your duty is done. At ease.

Pro Patria



Scam Emails. Just part of the job.

Editor

As part of my role as General Secretary of the RSAR Association, my email address is on our Facebook page and on our official website. From time to time I receive emails from people wanting to track down a distant relative who may (or may not) have served with a South Australian Regiment at one time. I am happy to direct these inquiries to the correct portal, (and there are many) in order that they may continue their research.

At other times I get emails like the one below, asking for advice on who to communicate with.

Dear Mr Laing

I have been speaking to someone claiming to be Robert Clarkson Lt. Colonel. from the 12th 40th Battalion Royal Tasmania Regiment - Hampstead Barrack.. from the Royal South Australian Regiment.

I believe I am being scammed and wish to confirm if this person is indeed a part of the armed forces in Afghanistan (sic).

I realised confidentiality may be an issue but I believe I am being set up to be asked to send money or whatever to this man whom I believe to be a fake.

I need no details to be provided just a yes or a no.

Thank you for your trouble

Yours truly

*Robyn ******

The details were fairly easy to verify through a few phone calls and emails, and were passed onto the hapless lady who was obviously being set up by someone hopeful of depriving her of her savings. I replied and she thanked me accordingly.

Thank you David I am always careful and check these things. These people are liars and trip themselves up and I am not stupid (not that you said that - this Robert thinks that) I do check these things

Thank you again for your time now I know how to handle the scammer

Robyn

The Royal South Australia Regiment has a long and distinguished history, serving this country over many years, and many of its members have received awards and decorations for bravery and service, leaving none to doubt our heritage and history. There are those out there who would seek to be part of this proud history in order to make money or rip off unwary people. If you're reading this, just remember.....you're being watched!!!

Where did "Piss Poor" come from? Interesting history.

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot.

And then once it was full it was taken and sold to the tannery...

If you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor."

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



"Sitrep, Over!"

It's called "Growing Old!"

Another year has passed and we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter and winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago when life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand about 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to weddings, football games and lunches.
Now we go to funeral homes and after-funeral brunches.
We used to have hangovers, from parties that were gay.
Now we suffer body aches and wile the night away.

We used to go out dining, and couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags, come home and take a pill.

We used to often travel to places near and far.
Now we get sore asses from riding in the car.

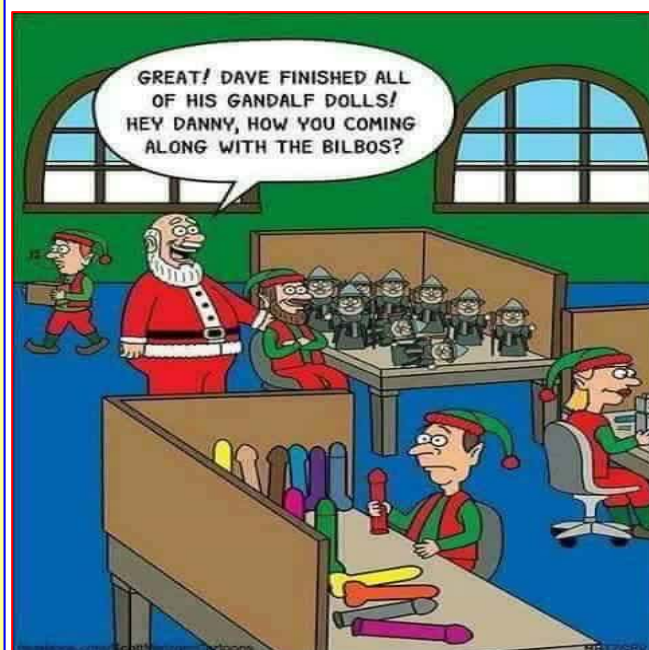
We used to go to nightclubs and drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night and watch the evening news.

That, my friend is how life is, and now my tale is told.
So, enjoy each day and live it up...*Before you're too damned old!*

Sent in by member David Jolly



Private Gomad reckons.....



HOW VERNON MET HIS END

Vernon works hard at the Phone Company but spends two nights each week bowling, and plays golf every Saturday.

His wife thinks he's pushing himself too hard, so for his birthday she takes him to a local strip club.

The doorman at the club greets them and says, "Hey, Vern! How ya doing?"

His wife is puzzled and asks if he's been to this club before.

"Oh no," says Vern. "He's in my bowling league."

When they are seated, a waitress asks Vern if he'd like his usual and brings over a Budweiser.

His wife is becoming increasingly uncomfortable and says, "How did she know that you drink Budweiser?"

"I recognize her, she's the waitress from the golf club. I always have a Bud at the end of the 1st nine, honey."

A stripper then comes over to their table, throws her arms around Vern, starts to rub herself all over him and says...

"Hi Vern. Want your usual table dance, big boy?"

Vern's wife, now furious, grabs her purse and storms out of the club.

Vern follows and spots her getting into a cab. Before she can slam the door, he jumps in beside her.

Vern tries desperately to explain how the stripper must have mistaken him for someone else, but his wife is having none of it.

She is screaming at him at the top of her lungs, calling him every 4 letter word in the book..

The cabby turns around and says,

'Geez Vern, you picked up a real bitch this time.'

A Christmas Message from the President



Its Christmas time again. I know. I've just wrapped some gifts for our 10/27 Battalion soldiers serving away from home on Christmas Day.

I have read the reports from our diggers in World War 1 and all wars ever since, and consistently, they appreciated news and gifts from home. This year we have 5 serving in Darwin and 1 in Baghdad, Iraq

2016 has been pretty good for most. Unfortunately we lost some association members but overall our numbers have grown and next year we will welcome members of the 10th Battalion AIF Association who have voted to wind up their operations after many years of service and camaraderie to their members.. This group has also made a substantial gift to the 10th/27th Battalion Band, and we thank them for their generosity.

The Association Committee of Management has tried to reach a balance in offering enough functions for members to get together while not over committing and have attendances drop.

I look forward to catching up with those attending our Christmas BBQ lunch at the Kibby Club, Keswick on December 18th.

To our country, interstate and international members, I understand that you can't make it, but the "stories" will be told again, anyway.

To you ALL, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Rod Beames

President
RSAR Association Inc

In the RAP



Just a quick note from the Committee and Members of the RSAR Association to Major Don Field (Retd) who has just returned from a spell in Flinders Private Hospital and Griffiths Rehab Hospital after contracting a viral lung infection. Don is a founding member of the RSAR Association, and with his lovely wife Shirley, has attended nearly every Association Function and outing over the past 8 years. Don is on the mend, and wishes to thank those who sent their regards while he was hospitalised.
On Parade, Major Field!



CONTACT US:-

The Secretary, David Laing,
RSAR Association Inc
Riverglen Marina, RSD 3152A
Murray Bridge SA 5253



0407 791 822

davidlaing49@bigpond.com

We're on the Web!

www.rsara.asn.au

MEMBERS LIST

Haynes, Malcolm	SM
2IC	
Haynes, Scott	
Hewitt, Emily	BAND
Hogan, Mark	LM
Hook, Alan	LM CoM
Hope, David	CoM
Horseman, Ian	LM
Hudson, Mick	
Hudson, Rick	
Humphrys, Jesse	SM CoM
James, Grant	SM
Jeffrey, Scott	SM
Johnson, Barry	LM
Jolly, David	
Jones, Brett	
Keenan, Alan	
Kilford, Brian	
Klopf, Alex	LM
Klopf, Paul	
Koop, Joshua	BAND
Laing, David	LM CoM
Lakin, Bruce	
Lampard, Ross	
Lee, Bob	
Lee, Pat	
Lloyd, Elmer	
Longstaff, Paul	
Loveder, Peter	
Main, Brian	
Marcus, Ray	
Marlin, Rob	LM
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	
Moore, Jeffrey	
Moore, Terry	LM
Moschis, James	SM
Munro, Ron	
Oliver, Peter	
Orrock, Alan	
Ockenden, Marc	
Oswald, John	
Pach, Chol	SM
Paul, John	
Perkins, Bob	

Pollard, Barry	
Portakiewicz, A	BAND
Portakiewicz, D	BAND CoM
Phillips, Colin	
Phillips, Trevor	
Payne, Bob	
Parslow, Howard	
Parsonage, James	
Preece, Brian	
Rado, Stephen	
Ranger, Denis	
Rathmann, John	
Rathmann, Norm	CoM
Rijken, Paul	
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	
Slattery, Kimberly	BAND
Sniedze, Julie	BAND
Sprigg, Rob	
Staker, Cameron	SM
Standing, Michael	CoM
Stone, Eddie	
Strain, Doug	
Steer, Phil	
Stewart, Rob	LM
Stewien, Peter	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
Zuromski, 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
Klopf, Josie
Laing, June
Lampard, Kay
Main, Raelene
Marcus, Yvonne
Lee, Anne
Mitchell, Roma
Parkin, Audrey
Phillips, Heather
Sanderson, Lorraine
Tregenza, Lyn
Winger, Kathleen

HONORARY MEMBERS

T. Burnard CO 10/27
RSAR
J. Moulton ADJT 10/27
RSAR
M. Reyne RSM 10/27
RSAR

LM denotes LIFE MEM-
BER
SM denotes SERVING
ADF MEMBER
BAND denotes serving
10/27 Band member
Denotes NEW MEM-
BER

224 members

as at 1/12/16

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	
Burnard, Trent	SM CO
Burton, Ray	
Buttars, 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	
Dew, Trevor	
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	
Fortune, Nigel	BAND
Gaborit, Lyndon	LM
Gallagher, Erin	BAND
Genovese, John	
Gibson, Lindsay	
Giles, John	
Gill, Graham	
Gilmore, Graham	
Goodwin, Graham	SM
Gordon, Frank	
Hardy, Robert	SM
Harley, Peter	
Harrington, Malcolm	
Harrison, John	
Hawking, Don	
Hawkins, Des	
Heath, Jonathon	BAND

10/27 Bn Awards continued



Former RSM of 10th/27th Battalion RSAR WO1 Michael Reyne has accepted a posting at 1 RAR and has left a large hole to be filled by his successor. He was presented with a Pace Stick & Case by Representative Colonel Hieu Van Le

The Pace Stick and Cover were donated by the RSAR Association and were handed to the Rep Col by Rodney Beames, RSARA President.

Incoming RSM is WO1 Ben Lipman, who is currently on his RSM's course. Rodney Beames and David Laing met Ben at the anniversary service for the Battle of Maryann Sang (Korea) at the RAR RSL HQ in October, and we look forward

10/27 Bn Awards continued



LT Millar receives his Commission



Sgt Robert Broadbent receives his award.



The CO 10/27 Bn and a young digger cut the Family Day cake.



A Christmas message to all Service personnel from the RSAR Association



This year we have seen a steady growth in member numbers, but we have also farewelled a couple of old mates who now serve with "that Regiment in the Sky!"

Our troops continue to serve overseas, and the changing face of the ADF now means our Reserve soldiers can be deployed into combat zones at any time, serving alongside their full time counterparts.

This is something the majority of Association members never had the chance to do. When the Vietnam War was at it's height, the government chose to liven up conscription, and send National Servicemen off to fight, rather than call on the many CMF Battalions already trained for the task.

War is never pleasing, and the fight against terrorism will be with us for a long time yet, so while we enjoy our democracy, we will depend on our serving men and women to defend our way of life.

On Christmas Day please spare a minute to thank those who go into harm's way to defend our way of life. Raise a glass and toast their dedication and bravery

To all those serving, whether at home, overseas or in peace keeping missions around the globe, we wish you all a happy and hearty Christmas, and pray for your quick and safe return home. You are the embodiment of the Australian way of life, and we thank you for your service.

Merry Christmas and Safe Travels