



“SITREP, OVER!”



OCTOBER 2012

AUGUST 30 - OUR DARKEST DAY

SYDNEY, Aug 30, 2012 (AFP) -- Five Australian troops have been killed in two separate incidents in Afghanistan, defence officials said Thursday, in the worst day for Australian casualties since the war started.

The incidents, which included three deaths in an "insider attack" by an Afghan soldier, bring to 38 the number of Australian lives lost in the war.

Australia's acting defence chief Air Marshal Mark Binskin said the first incident occurred inside a patrol base near Tarin Kowt. "Three Australian soldiers from the 3RAR task group were shot and killed when an individual wearing an Afghan National Army uniform opened fire with an automatic weapon from close range," he told reporters.

Earlier Thursday, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said the attack occurred in the restive southern Uruzgan province where about 1,500 Australian troops are deployed.

In the second incident, two Australian special forces soldiers were killed Thursday morning when their helicopter crashed in Helmand province, in one of the worst days for Australian casualties since the Vietnam War.



Diggers - Lance Corporal Stjepan Milosevic, 40, 23-year-old Private Robert Poate and Sapper James Thomas Martin, 21, Lance Corporal Mervyn McDonald, 30, and Private Nathanael Galagher, 23 - latest Australians to be killed in Afghanistan. Pic Gary Ramage

The nation's latest casualties from the 10-year-long Afghan war, murdered Diggers 40-year-old Lance Corporal Stjepan Milosevic, 23-year-old Private Robert Poate, 21-year-old Sapper James Thomas Martin, and helicopter crash victims Commandos Lance Corporal Mervyn McDonald, 30, and Private Nathanael Galagher, 23, began the long journey home to Brisbane and Sydney.

The aircraft was joined by a second C-17 at Diego Garcia and the coffins went their separate ways, three to RAAF Base Amberley, near Brisbane, and two to RAAF Base Richmond, near Sydney.

The bodies of three diggers shot dead last week and two special forces sol-

diers who died in a helicopter crash hours later will return home to Australia today.

The fallen diggers will be honoured at ramp ceremonies in Brisbane and Sydney, attended by family members and defence force chiefs.

Lance Corporal Stjepan 'Rick' Milosevic, Sapper James Martin and Private Robert Poate were murdered in a so-called green on blue incident at a patrol base in Uruzgan province.

Adelaide Now





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Editor—David Laing 0407 791 822

OCTOBER 2012

Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

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NEXT LUNCH DATE

An association lunch will be held at the Royal Hotel, North Tce Kent Town on 12th October at Noon.

Bookings essential to **Norm Rathmann** 1 week prior on 0448 460 884

FUTURE WEBSITE

RSARA may consider developing a website to supplement the existing **Facebook** page. Before a decision is made the Secretary would like to hear from any member with experience in developing a website using WordPress or similar software.

CHANGES TO ANNUAL FEES - Serving ADF members

As of the AGM in early August all Annual Fees are now renewable. If you have already paid your fees, thank you. If you haven't, they can be renewed by EFT to:-

BSB 015 211 Account 482441406

(include your name as an identifier)

Cheques or Money Orders can be posted to the address at the bottom of this page.

MAIL SHOULD NO LONGER BE SENT TO THE PARA HILLS PO BOX!!!

At a recent Committee of Management meeting, some discussion was undertaken about the fees to be charged for new members currently serving in the ADF. We already have a number of serving 10/27 Battalion boys in our ranks, and our aim is to encourage more to sign up. The resolution was:-

The meeting came to the decision that Serving ADF Members would:-

- Pay **nothing** for the first year.*
- Pay only \$10 every year after that whilst still serving in the ADF.*
- Pay only \$100 for Full Life Membership (That's a saving of \$100.)*
- After they leave the service, their Annual Fees would revert to \$20 per year, or the fee payable by Full members at that time. This decision is to*

be reviewed as required.

This is great news not only for all serving members of the ADF but also for our Association. It has long been our goal to open up our membership to those who still serve our nation, and this new rule makes it far easier (and cheaper) for those in that role. It is hoped serving personnel will see the value of joining the only incorporated Association that truly represents the members of our Regiment.

FEE STRUCTURE for 2013

<u>Full Member</u>	\$20 per year
<u>Associate Member</u>	\$10 per year
<u>Serving ADF Member</u>	0 for 1st year - \$10 per year after that whilst still serving, then full fee.
<u>Associate of Serving Member</u>	\$5 per year whilst member still serves, then \$10 after that.
<u>Life Membership</u>	\$200 Full Member
<u>Life Membership</u>	\$100 for Serving ADF Member.

All other Life Memberships are 10 times the Yearly Fee of that member.

IMPORTANT - CHANGE OF RSARA MAILING ADDRESS

As of now all mail to the RSAR Association Inc (Metro) should be directed to the following address:-

**The Secretary, David Laing, RSAR Association Inc
c/o Riverglen Marina
RSD 3152A Jervois Rd
Murray Bridge SA 5253**

Mail should no longer be sent to the Para Hills address!!!



JUST SOLDIERS

Capt Benjamin Brodie Part 2

The men checked their weapons again. Most carried pistols, some carried clubs studded with nails and each of the raiders carried three or four bombs stuffed into the pockets of their tunics. As they waited till it was time to make their way to the assembly point, the heavens opened up, soaking the Diggers to the skin and creating a sea of viscous mud that clogged the soles of their boots. Volunteers of the YMCA and Salvation Army mingled with the troops, handing out cups of hot cocoa and coffee until it was time to go.

As the 18-pounders commenced firing, signalling the start of the raid, Brodie dispatched the officer and four Diggers to lay the forming-up tape. Seven minutes



AWM EZ0052. Wrapped in his overcoat, an unidentified Australian soldier sleeps in the trenches in the Bois Grenier sector



AWM E01209. An 18-pounder gun of the Australian Field Artillery dug in among the ruins of an old factory.

later, he sent out Sergeant Mudford's covering party.³ Using the tape as a guide in the dark, they took up positions in the German wire emplacements—a mere 45 metres from the enemy. The main raiding party moved out, passing through the gaps that had been cut in the wire. Suddenly, a flare burst above them, creating pandemonium as the pale light illuminated the battlefield. 'Go! Go! Go!' Brodie yelled, waving his troops forward.

The enemy attacked relentlessly with grenades and machine-guns.

Brodie stormed up to the parapet, urging the Diggers into the trench. As he directed his men towards shelter, a burst from a machine-gun hit him in the side and chest. He dropped to his knees, but continued to yell commands. The stretcher-bearers grabbed their fallen captain and frantically pushed shell dressings into his gaping wounds.

Brodie's second in command, Lieutenant Fell, went about setting the explosives, while Sergeant Nunn led a party along the trench to the left. Reconnoitring around a bend in the trench, Nunn saw a large enemy force moving toward them. The Germans had anticipated the incursion and planned on trapping the raiders before they could withdraw. Nunn sent a runner to Fell with a message, 'Germans coming, lots of them!' Fell immediately gave the order to withdraw. He then hurriedly made his way back to Brodie and knelt down beside the badly wounded officer, who by now had been placed on a stretcher with a knapsack supporting his head. Brodie grabbed Fell by the uniform, pulling him closer.

'Make sure you account for everyone before we leave, Fell', he muttered.

As they made their way back to their lines, Brodie repeatedly questioned his stretcher-bearer, Private Frew, on the state of his men. Frew reassured his patient that all was well, realising that although Brodie was gravely wounded, the officer's concern was not for himself but for the safety of his men. As they reached the protection of the parapet, a relieved Frew leaned nearer the officer's head. 'We've made it, Sir, we've...' But it was too late, Brodie was dead.

By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, Just Soldiers, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 35 to 40

Further stories from "Just Soldiers" will be contained in future editions of "Sitrep, Over!"



Letters to the Editor

In 2011 RSAR Association (Metro) donated \$200 to the Blue Lakes RSL Pipe Band, to be used in their trip to Belgium to play at the Menin Gate. Pipe Major Barry Ward wrote the following:-

Hi David

Just to keep the Association informed. The Pipe band trip to Ypres is nearly on. Only three weeks away and we leave on the 19th Sep.

They will play at the Tattoo on Sunday 23rd and play at the Menin Gate with the Tattoo massed band after the Tattoo, but we will supply the lone piper (Me) that night. We play as the “Last Post Ceremony” band on the Monday night when we will lay the wreaths. The Australian Rep will be Maj General Robert Dawson AM CSC who is the Aust Military rep to NATO and EU.

On the Tuesday we will do a Battle field tour of Flanders and play at one Australian and New Zealand War graves cemetery.

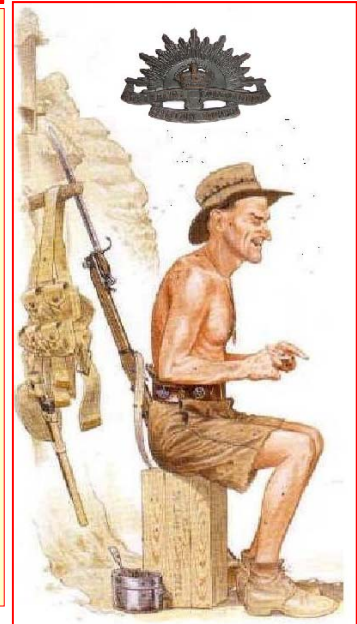
We will also visit and play at Fromelles.

Will send the photos etc to you when we return in October.

Regards

Barry Ward

Cpl Knuckles says..



IN THE RAP



Long time member Doug McDougall has had a brief stint in hospital, but is on the road to recovery, and is now domiciled at the Carinya Aged Care facility at 39 Fisher Street, Myrtle Bank. Doug's son Tony said his dad is a lot better than when he was in hospital, and would welcome visitors at any-time during the day. The residents do go on various outings, so a phone call to check Doug's whereabouts would be advisable beforehand. Carinya can be reached on 8130 6444.

Take care Doug!

If members know of a colleague or family member who are on the sick list and wouldn't mind some visitors please drop a line to the Secretary on his email or call him on 0407 791 822. Sometimes a visitor can mean a big difference to someone who is not in the best of spirits.

Last month I taught youse some manners stuff that me Mum taught me when I was just a nipper! Here's some about Personal Hygiene!!!

Never allow the dog to eat at the table, no matter how good his manners are.

While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this should be done in private, using ones OWN ute keys.

Even if you live alone, deodorant isn't a waste of money.

Extensive use of deodorant can only delay bathing by a few days.

Dirt and grease under the fingernails is a no-no, it alters the taste of finger foods, and if you are a woman, it can draw attention away from your jewellery.

....and finally.....

When sending the missus down the road with a petrol can, it's impolite to ask her to bring back beer as well!!!

See youse next month!!!

End Of Year BBQ

Sunday 16th December

Members are reminded of the details of the final association function for this year. This years BBQ will be held at the Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge on Sunday 16th December. The Association will charter a bus which will pick members up from Keswick Barracks (adjacent the Army Museum) at 1000 hrs and transport them to Sturt Reserve at Murray Bridge. The bus will return to Keswick Barracks around 1430 hrs, arriving there at approximately 1600 hrs. The entire cost of the bus trip will be subsidized by the Association.

Members should provide their own BBQ meat and salads, BYO drinks and chairs. Free BBQs are available for use at the reserve, however David & June Laing will have their houseboat “Tickety boo” moored on the river bank, and members are welcome to use the BBQ on the front deck of the houseboat if other BBQs are in use. (Or you could bring cold meats and salads) Toilets are available at the reserve.

Members wishing to travel on the bus are asked to contact Norm Rathmann on 0448 460 884 to reserve their seat before 1st November. There is limited seating available.

NOTE: THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE BUS FARE!

AMENDMENTS TO 2012 EVENTS CALENDAR

Please delete the following events from your 2012 Events Calendar:-
2nd December FUNCTION 3 & 14th December RSARA Lunch. Both events will be replaced by the End Of Year BBQ, detailed above.



HOW TO CONTACT US

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and have an email address, consider having
your newsletter delivered via the internet. Just
notify us of your email address.
It's that easy!

Find us on **FACEBOOK**

Letters to the Editor

Hi David,
An interesting find during one of my visits to the northern French battlefields. I did a double take when I saw it. The Army number is 4237.
My Army number is 423737. I've tracked down the history and Cpl Wallin enlisted in Victoria.
Enjoy your newsletters very much. Seems like you have an active association.
Regards
Phil Brookes
Runcorn, QLD



SGTs Mess - 10/27 RSAR - 1994



Rear L – R SGT LEONARD, SGT HAWKINS, MR WOOD, SGT FIRILI, SGT TWEEDALE, WO2 SCHULTZ, WO2 DIX, SGT MULLER, SSGT MARTIN, SSGT HILL, SSGT DALEY, SSGT WHELAN, SGT LOCKE, SSGT COLLINS, SGT HOPGOOD, MR MUIR
Centre L – R SGT DREWRY, SGT DART, MR BALDWIN, MR WESTON, MR VELLA, SGT SPENCER, SGT HASLETT, SSGT HARVY, SGT DUFFIELD, SSGT KING, SGT HARPER, SGT HARRIS, SGT TRUEL, SGT ROSS, SGT CAMILLERI, SGT LOVE, SGT WISEMAN, MR CHALSON
Front L – R WO2 GRAY, WO2 CADET, WO2 WAINWRIGHT, WO2 STOCKWELL, WO1 DAYMAN, WO1 LEVINE (PMC) LTCOL EVANS (CO) WO2 DABINET, WO2 ENGLER, WO2 AGER, SGT NOWAK, WO2 NOYCE

In 1994 the Sgt's Mess at 10/27 RSAR held a Dining In Night at Torrens Training Depot. Although a number of SNCO's did not attend the function, they still numbered 46 on the night. Up to date information from the battalion indicates there are 29 SNCO's currently serving, which shows how much the Battalion has decreased in size in only 18 years. A number of the personnel in the photo are members of the RSAR Association, including Des Hawkins, George Wood and Joe Vella, but the remainder of those in the photo are not. If you know of any former members of 10/27 RSAR and it's attachments who may wish to join us, please ask them to contact the Secretary.
Photo kindly provided by Des Hawkins

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy."
~ Benjamin Franklin