



"SITREP, OVER!"



Editor—David Laing 0407 791 822

NOVEMBER 2012

Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

• Inside this issue

- VALE –Bill Hately
- JUST SOLDIERS
- About Bill Hately
- Cpl Knuckles says.....
- End of Year BBQ
- Committee meeting
- Letters to the Editor
- Members List

CoM MEETING

A Committee of Management meeting will be held in the Memorial Room, ANZAC House, TTD on **Friday 23rd November 2012 at 1200 hrs.**

As this is the final meeting for 2012 all Committee members are urged to attend.

Advice to the Secretary on 0407 791 822.

Bill Hately. A good man. Gone too soon! R I P

Bill Hately passed away suddenly on 23rd September 2012 whilst on a tour of Turkey with his wife Jan and other members of the RSAR Association, South East Branch.

His funeral service was held on Saturday 6th October at Carinya Gardens in Mount Gambier, and was attended by many members of both South East and Metro Branches of the RSAR Association.

Metro Branch sent a floral wreath on behalf of all members.

I have been inundated with letters and emails from old colleagues and acquaintances of Bill, and have published just a few in this issue.

Bill was a well respected member of the RSARA and the South East community, and he will be missed by many, for many years.

The Committee of Management, on behalf of the Metro Branch of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc. extend our deepest sympathies to Jan and family on the sudden passing of Bill.

David Laing - Secretary, RSARA (Metro)



The Last Post



The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition which mark the phases of the day. Where "Reveille" signalled the start of a soldier's day, the "Last Post" signalled its end. It is believed originally to have been part of a more elaborate routine, known in the British Army as "tattoo", that had its origins in the 17th century. During the evening, a duty officer had to do the rounds of his unit's position, checking that the sentry posts were manned and rounding up the off-duty soldiers and packing them off to their beds or billets.

He would be accompanied by one or more musicians. The "first post" was sounded when the duty officer started his rounds and, as the party proceeded from post to post, a drum was played. The drum beats told off-duty soldiers it was time to rest - if the soldiers were billeted in a town, the beats told them it was time to quit the pubs. "Tattoo" is a derivation of doe den tap toe, Dutch for "turn off the taps", a call which is said to have followed the drum beats in many a Dutch pub while English armies were campaigning through Holland and Flanders in the 1690s. (It is also from this routine that American practice of "taps" or "drum taps" originated.) Another bugle call was sounded when the party completed their rounds, when they reached the "last post": this signalled the night sentries were alert at their posts and gave one last warning to any soldiers still at large that it was time to retire for the evening. "Last Post" was incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell and symbolises that the duty of the dead is over and that they can rest in peace.

Wikipedia.com



Letters to the Editor

About Bill Hately

Dear David

I have memories of boarding an old train carriage at Mount Gambier one Friday evening, in about May 1966, and stopping several times along the way to pick up more country gringos, who heaped themselves into more old carriages with varying amounts of what turned out to be grog. I was a young constable at the time and did not think along the lines of going to a CMF camp affected by 'the drink'. That view changed as the night got colder and there was no warmth available, except from a bottle of whisky or rum.

We arrived at the Adelaide Railway Station early in the morning and were shuffled to Torrens Training Depot, where we lolled about for what seemed a long time. That's where I first came to know (then) Sgt Bill Hately – our platoon commander for the next two weeks. We were bussed to Woodside and quartered in old red huts which hadn't been cleaned since WW II. Sgt Hately supervised the issue of stretchers, blankets and whatever else someone decided we needed and then ensured that we brought our quarters up to his standard – which was high.

All this happened during the time of conscription and the camp constituted about 700 personnel. I add that I was a volunteer and had joined 2 L of C Provost Coy about 18 months beforehand. I had not done a Recruit Camp when I was posted to Mount Gambier in mid 1965 as a probationary constable of police, hence the Woodside event in 1966.

During the camp, stuff ups occurred. (Can you believe it!) An example - we were supposed to spend a couple of nights at Murray Bridge, however the transport didn't arrive. Accordingly, we did our 'bush' camp in some scrub near the Woodside camp. It rained for most of the time and our red blankets and great coats got drenched. Sgt Hately gave us some hints on how to get them dry.

On one occasion, we were cleaning weapons and Recruit Carrigher (if that's how his name was spelt) had put cleaning fluid in a Coke can. For whatever stupid reason entered his mind, he offered it to Sgt Hately as a refreshment. Before anyone could stop him, Sgt Hately took a drink from the can and was subsequently hospitalised for a couple of days.

My overwhelming recollection was that through tough weapons training, field craft sessions and drill, Sgt Hately impressed me as a skilled, tough, determined, fair and really decent bloke who got us to operate as an effective and proud team.

If all at A Coy were like him I may have stayed with the CMF. As it was, we did a weekend camp at Nelson when I nearly died during ambush drills. We were on trucks with the hoops and side-boards up and I had an M60 across my lap . During an ambush, I tripped over the side of the truck I was on and landed flat on my back, with the M60 on top of me. Cpl (now Maj) Carmichael was our section commander. Years later, he told me he thought I *was* dead. That wasn't the problem though. That night, I was detailed to lay behind the M60, in the rain, well within earshot and sight of the officers and SNCO's bonfire and Saturday night drinks. Realising that some better times could be had, I retired from the CMF at Mount Gambier. I later rejoined in 1969, after I had returned to Adelaide.

Later in my Army life, I served as a staff officer in Personnel when Sgt Hately was commissioned as a PSO in the rank of Captain.

Capt Hately was just one of those men who, once met, could not be forgotten for all good reasons. Some personalities just fondly fasten themselves to your mind.

Kind regards

Hank Ramm



Jan & Bill Hately at the Reserve Forces Day Ball in Mount Gambier in 2011



JUST SOLDIERS

Captain Frank Bethune MC



AWM H01961. Captain Frank Pogson Bethune, MC,
1st Machine Gun Battalion, AIF.

With the collapse of the Russian Armies in 1917–18, more than seventy fresh German Divisions were deployed against the Allied front. In April of 1918, the German Army launched these troops in a last ditch effort to seize the Channel ports of France and cut off the British Expeditionary Force. If they were successful, they won the war, but standing between them and victory were determined Australian soldiers, who would rather die than admit defeat.

Frank Pogson Bethune was a quiet, unassuming clergyman from Tasmania. He enlisted in the AIF in Hobart on the 1 July 1915 with the rank of second lieutenant. For reasons of his own, Frank chose to take up arms instead of serving as a padre. He embarked for the training camps in Egypt in February 1916 and in late March, he boarded the troopship Transylvania bound for France. The reputation of the Australian Diggers' passion for hard soldiering and even harder play, had preceded them. The ship's captain was ordered to arrange not only for inoculations against typhoid, but was also directed to arrange inspections for venereal disease. The men were furious. They were here to fight, not to be treated like some second class citizen and the mood aboard ship became tense and uneasy.

With no padre aboard, Bethune requested permission to conduct a service for the troops. At the end of the service, the troops returned quietly to their bunks.

Bethune was promoted to lieutenant in August of 1916 and his unit was active in many of the campaigns on the Western Front. At times he was called upon to take temporary command of his company. In March of 1918, the German Army was on the move. The Australians were sure that a major enemy attack was brewing—and attack they did. As the Germans poured through gaps in the British and French fronts, some units were simply

obliterated. The Allies suddenly faced new German tactics. The enemy advanced in a 'flying wedge' formation, with bombers and machine-gunners up front and specially trained 'storm troopers' deployed to encircle and wipe out their enemy from the flanks. Many of the towns that earlier had been won with Allied blood were now lost to the enemy. When the city of Albert was seized by the German forces, they appeared invincible. The Australian Divisions were rushed to seal the breaches in the lines, but would it be too late?

One of the units at the fore was the 3rd Machine Gun Company. Their mission was to defend an area of the Ypres Salient known as Spoil Bank. On his reconnaissance, Bethune, commanding the company's No 1 Section, found his position to be untenable. His guns had a field of fire of no more than six metres and if the enemy attacked, the gun crews would be killed almost before they could bring their guns into action.

Bethune complained to his commanding officer and asked to be allowed to choose a better position. His request was denied. Orders were orders. As a matter of honour, Bethune asked if he could be placed in charge of the most dangerous post. This was agreed.

Lieutenant Bethune recorded:

Accordingly I ordered No 1 Section to be fallen in and told them that I was taking the guns to a position where there was no field of fire. I asked for volunteers to take a step forward. The only result was that the whole Section with soldierly precision, advanced with one step forward, so I was forced to make the selection. I am taking in three good men and three new ones, as I do not want too many of the old section to get scuppered if we get it in the neck, while at the same time we must be good enough to extract payment before we are blown out, and there are plenty of Mills grenades for the final flutter.

Part 2 next month



Letters to the Editor

from Frank Morony

Cpl Knuckles says...

G'day David

It's quite sobering to realise this photograph (below) was taken 54 years ago when I was 20 years old, so I forgive myself for being unable to recall many of the names. Names I do remember are Capt Frank Robertson (Guard Commander), yours truly Pte Frank Morony (front rank 3rd from left), Sgt Glenn Dennis (5th from left), Sgt Hannaford (drum major, extreme right), Cpl Stroet (rear rank 3rd from right). All of these erstwhile young men would now be well over 70 years of age and I wonder where they are now.

The photograph is on Torrens Parade Ground when 27 Inf Bn SA Scottish Regt mounted a ceremonial guard at Government House during the 1958 royal tour of Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen Mother, during her stay in Adelaide.

As you can see we carried the standard infantry weapon of the time, the .303 Lee Enfield rifle, with fixed bayonets.

The Queen Mother presented each member of the guard with a personally engraved pewter mug as a memento of the occasion. (I still have mine.)

Many members of the unit had finished three months full time National Service Training at Woodside and were completing a period of obligatory part-time service in the CMF.

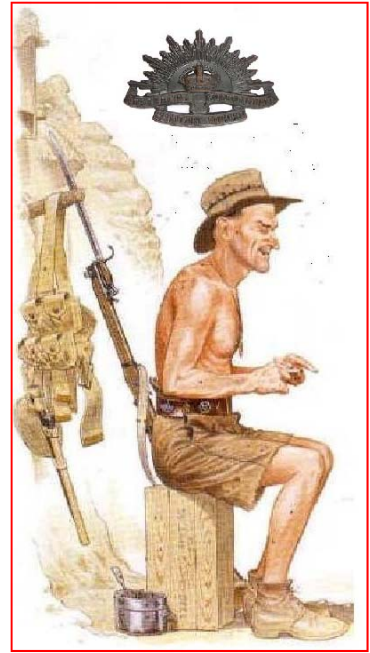
In 1958 27 Bn SA Scottish Regt was based at Southwark Training Depot, just behind the Southwark Brewery on Port Road. When joining the unit the requirement to wear a kilt was initially viewed with some trepidation, however it was with considerable nostalgia that most of us handed back our kilts when 27 Bn subsequently became 1RSAR and then 10RSAR, based at Torrens Training Depot.

Some of us eventually gained commissioned rank in RSAR.

They were good times.

Regards

Frank Morony



More Etiquette stuff from me Dad!!!

In the movies....

Crying babies should be taken to the lobby and picked up after the movie ends.

Refrain from yelling abuse at characters on the screen.

Tests have proven they can't hear you.

At weddings...

Livestock is a poor choice for a wedding gift.

For the groom, at least rent a tux. A tracksuit with a cummerbund and a clean football jumper can create a tacky appearance.

Though uncomfortable, say "yes" to socks and shoes for the occasion.

..on Driving Etiquette:

Dim your headlights for approaching vehicles, even if your gun's loaded and the roo's in your rifle sights...and finally.... When entering a roundabout, the vehicle with the largest roo bar doesn't always have the right of way!!!

See youse next month!!!



27th Infantry Battalion, SA Scottish Regiment. The Queen Mothers Royal Tour—1958



HOW TO CONTACT US

NEW ADDRESS:-

All correspondence to:
The Secretary, David Laing
RSAR Association Inc
Riverglen Marina
RSD 3152A
Jervois Rd Murray Bridge
S A 5253

Phone: 0407 791 822

E-mail: davidlaing49@bigpond.com

Alan Hook: adhook@bigpond.com

If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail, 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

re:- Bill Hately

Hi David,

I was shocked to hear of the sad news about Bill Hately! He was the CSM at A Coy 10 RSAR when I joined the CMF back in 1966. When we did the Reserve Forces Day in Mt. Gambier last year he looked so fit & appeared to have decades of life left in him! He impressed me as a soldier you would 'go over the top' with as he resembled what my impressions of a leader/soldier should be! Really sorry to see him go- another reality/shock to the system at how short our life expectancy can be.

Regards,

Bob Payne

oo00oo00oo

Dear David

I have clear and fond memories of Bill when I was a soldier in A Coy 10 RSAR, Mount Gambier, and he was our Platoon Commander during a recruit camp at Woodside in 1966. (That is another story in itself.)

You are absolutely right - he was very well respected and liked. As with so many others, he is a bloke I would have liked to have 'caught up' with again, but never will now.

Kind regards

Hank Ramm

(See story Page 2)

End Of Year BBQ - With a difference!

The Association currently has about 8 members living in or around the Murray Bridge/Mannum areas, so to give them a chance to attend our functions, the End of Year BBQ will be held in Murray Bridge!

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 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 cost of the bus will be ENTIRELY subsidized by the Association.

Anyone wishing to make their own way to Murray Bridge can do so. Directions are:- Enter the main street of Murray Bridge and turn RIGHT at the Bridgeport Hotel, the last building on the right before the bridge. Take the signposted road to Sturt Reserve.

Members should provide their own BBQ meat and salads, and 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. Toilets are also 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 10th November. NOTE: the bus fare is free.

Members travelling by bus are asked to meet outside the Army Museum at Keswick Barracks at 0945 hrs. Ample parking is available at the Barracks. The bus will return to the Barracks at approximately 1600 hrs. C U There!!!



MV Tickety boo



Members RSAR Association Inc (Metro)

Ayles, Jeff
 Attenborough, Geoff
 Baldwin, Bob
 Bates, Allan
 Beames, Rod
 Both, Ian **SM**
 Boscence, Bob
 Brookes, Phil
 Brown, Bruce
 Brown, Harry
 Carnachan, Ian
 Castle, Graham
 Chittleborough, Jeff
 Cooke, Nat
 Cotton, Bob
 Davey, Trevor
 Davey, Jack
 Demosani, Tony
 Dubsky, Eddie
 Dunn, Peter
 Dunn, Bob
 Durdin, Russell
 Elliott, Graham
 Eva, Keith
 Ewens, Mimi
 Field, Don
 Flanagan, Ted
 Fridday, Ross
 Genovese, John
 Gibson, Lindsay
 Giles, John
 Gill, Alan
 Gilmore, Graham
 Gordon, Frank
 Guerin, Rob
 Hawking, Don
 Hawkins, Des
 Hogan, Mark
 Hook, Alan **LM**
 Hope, David
 Hudson, Rick
 James, Grant **SM**
 Jeffrey, Scott **SM**
 Johnson, Barry

Jolly, David
 Jones, P
 Kilford, Brian
 Klopff, Alex **LM**
 Loveder, Peter
 Lockett, John
 Laing, David **LM**
 Lampard, Ross
 Lee, Pat
 Longstaff, Paul
 Main, Brian
 Marcus, Ray
 Morony, Frank
 Martin, Bob
 Matchett, Bill
 Mau, Mark
 McCulloch, Don
 McDougal, Doug
 McMullin, Jim
 Mitchell, Barry
 Mitchell, David
 Monro, Ron
 Moore, Jeffrey
 Oliver, Peter
 Orrock, Alan
 Ockenden, Marc
 Oswald, John
 Pollard, Barry
 Phillips, Don
 Payne, Bob
 Parslow, Howard
 Preece, Brian
 Ranger, Denis
 Rathmann, Norm
 Ramm, Hank
 Robertson, Jim
 Rossetti, Lee
 Sage, Andrew
 Salamon, Peter
 Sanderson, Max
 Sprigg, Rob
 Standing, Michael
 Steer, Phil

Stewart, Rob (Stewy)
 Tiller, Garth
 Thomson, Jim
 Tregenza, Norm
 Trezise, George
 Vella, Joe
 Wake, Stephen
 Waters, Ian
 Westover, Rhys
 Wheeler, Chris
 Wilson, Neil
 Wood, George
 Woore, Phillip
 Yorke-Simpkin, Reg

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

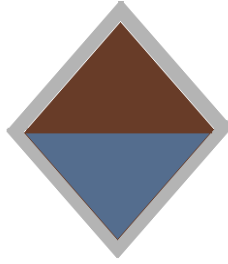
Caccilla, Carmen
 Carnachan, Dom
 Demosani, Gail
 Elliott, Julie
 Eva, Gail
 Field, Shirley
 Gill, Maureen
 Gilmour, Helen
 Hawking, Lorraine
 Hook, Phillipa
 Hudson, Margaret
 Jolly, Sandra
 Jones, Associate
 Klopff, Josie
 Laing, June
 Lampard, Kay
 Lockett, Mrs
 Main, Raelene
 Marcus, Yvonne
 McCullagh, Anne
 Mitchell, Roma
 Sanderson, Lorraine
 Tregenza, Lyn

Denotes New Member
LM denotes **LIFE MEMBER**
SM denotes **SERVING MEMBER**

125 members as at 01/09/12

If you have NOT paid your \$20 Annual Fees since the AGM in August, please forward a cheque of money order to the address on Page 5, or pay by EFT to BSB 015 211 Account 4824 41406. Include your name as an identifier.

THE 27TH BATTALION (SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT)



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2012

10.30 AM

SCOTS CHURCH NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE.

In November 1964 the Queen's and Regimental Colours of the 27th Battalion (South Australian Scottish Regiment) were laid up in Scots Church.

In 1983 the Queen's Colour, which carried the WW 2 Battle Honours of the 2nd/27th Bn and the 27th Bn SA Scottish Regiment, was stolen and never recovered.

As a result of a recent generous gift to the church, a replica of the Queen's Colour was manufactured in the UK and has now been installed in the church.

Scots Church intends to mark the occasion by conducting a Remembrance service on Sunday 11th November at 10.30 am to honour the service to the Nation, in peace and war, of the 27th Battalion 1st AIF, the 2nd/27th Battalion 2nd AIF, the 27th Battalion, the South Australian Scottish Regiment and the 27th Battalion RSAR.

As a former member of the Battalion, or a family member whose Father served with the Battalion, you are cordially invited to join the Scots Church congregation for this special service of remembrance and to witness the new location of the Colours.

DRESS REQUIREMENT. Jacket and Tie or Lounge Suit with Medals.

Family of deceased members may wear their Father's medals on the right breast.

If you are able to attend, please complete the details below and return *by 22/10/2012* as this will assist with seating and catering arrangements to:

Major (Rtd) D R Hawking OAM RFD

7 Verco Avenue

LOWER MITCHAM SA 5062

Email : donhawk@esc.net.au

NAME.....

NUMBER ATTENDING.....

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.....

(E.G. WHEEL CHAIR ACCESS OR HEARING LOOP SEATING)